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FRA *today*

FLEET RESERVE ASSOCIATION



LEARNING FROM THE PAST

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Featured

18 LEARNING FROM THE PAST

In an exclusive interview with *FRA Today*, Dr. Charles Neimeyer shared his perspective on the importance of preserving history. As director of the Marine Corps' History Division, he's particularly focused on capturing the history that Marines are making each and every day.



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LOYALTY, PROTECTION AND SERVICE

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ON THE COVER

PFC Harold Schultz was recently identified as one of the Marines who raised the second flag over Mount Suribachi during World War II. He was captured in Joe Rosenthal's famous image, but never claimed to have been part of that historic moment. He humbly took his secret to his grave. Photo by Sandy Jones.

Nameless Faces



Lauren Armstrong

THIS MONTH'S FEATURE STORY highlights the Marine Corps' History Division and the role it plays in preserving and promoting the rich heritage of the Corps. In the service's 241-year history, no image has resonated more than the Pulitzer Prize-winning photo of the flag being raised over Mount Suribachi. During my interview with Dr. Charles Neimeyer, director of the USMC History Division, much of the conversation centered on the recent efforts to correctly identify the six men portrayed in Joe Rosenthal's iconic image. None of their faces are visible in the famous photo, which was part of what makes it so compelling. Though none of the men sought acclaim or credit, they were young men who had human fears, pride in their service and a powerful commitment to their nation. They each had loved ones back home. They each had a unique background and very personal history, but are only known to most of the world as the Marines who raised the flag.

Accurately determining the names of those famous Marines took decades and it all came to light because of the persistence of two amateur historians. A great story appeared in the Omaha World Herald in 2014 that outlined their journey to the truth, which is available at dataomaha.com/media/news/2014/iwo-jima/.

Those six Marines aren't the only faces to appear in print without proper identification. The photo of a nameless veteran appeared on page 12 in the September issue of FRA Today. It was a stock photo, purchased by FRA to highlight the article about homelessness among military veterans. Since it appeared, I've come to learn that this veteran does, indeed, have a name and a history.

His brother, Shipmate Ralph Stephens (Branch 166, Virginia Beach, Va.), let me know that the photo was of AM3 Gary D. Stephens (right). Gary served in the Navy (1960–1964) and passed away 16 years ago. I don't know more than that about Gary, but the photo alone seems to indicate that he'd faced some personal challenges following his military service.



These two instances have reminded me how easy it is to take people at face value. We often make assumptions about the people we see in the media and in our everyday life. Whether we're drawing conclusions about political candidates, envying one of the rich and famous celebrities we see on the cover of a magazine, or avoiding someone on the street because they don't look like us — we all make assumptions about others. I'm making a pledge to look more closely at those faces, nameless or well-known, and remind myself they are living, breathing human beings with families and feelings and challenges, just like the rest of us.

Lauren Armstrong is FRA's Director of Communications and serves as the Managing Editor of *FRA Today*. Please contact her at lauren@fra.org.

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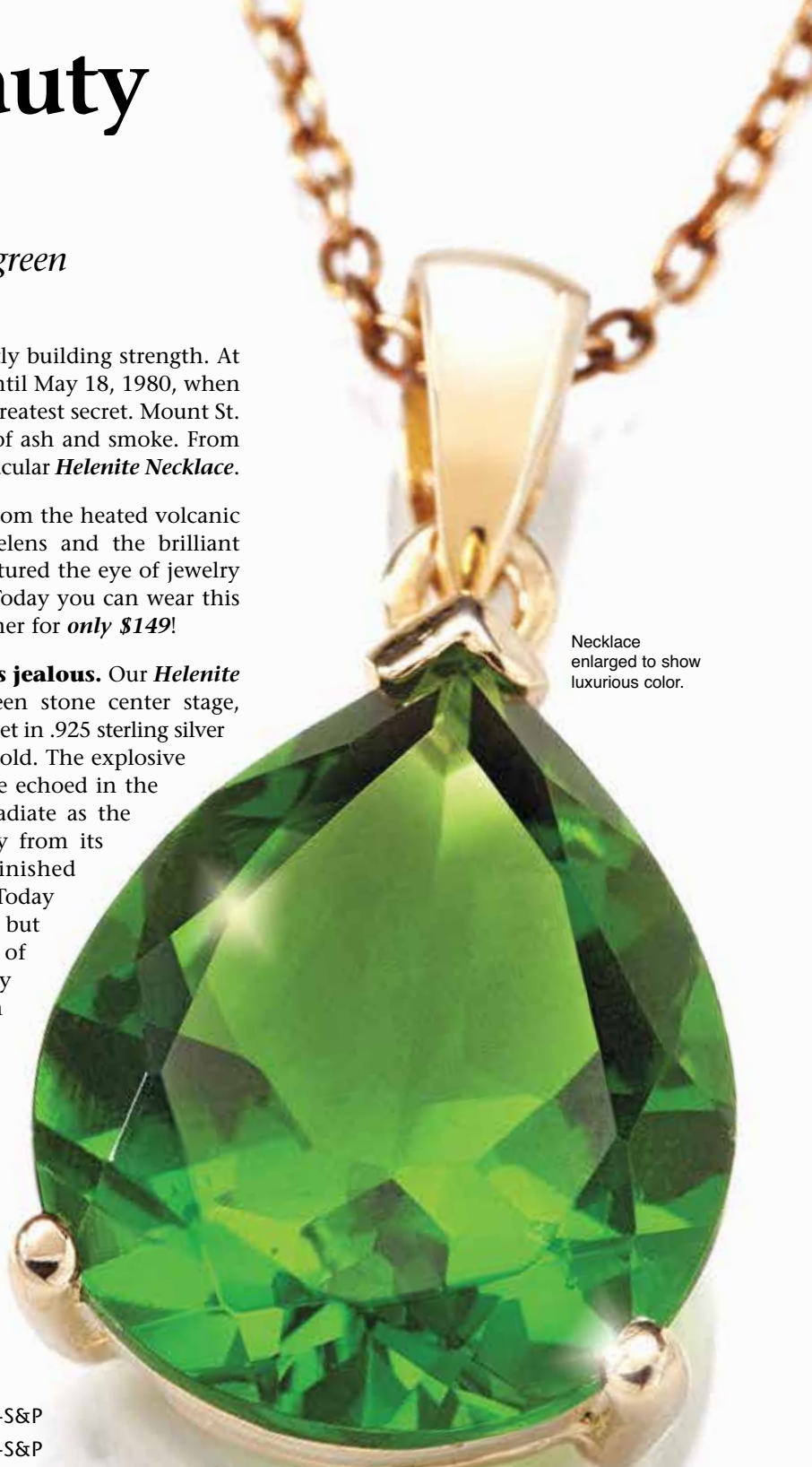
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Senior Enlisted Leadership of the 21st Century

“A Chief is a mentor, advocate and always a receptive listener.”



Tom Snee

IT HAS BEEN A NUMBER of years since many experienced the “initiation rituals” bestowed upon many of us old salts as we climbed the ladder to become Chief Petty Officers (CPOs). During those years, the selection process has evolved and today’s Chief Petty Officers in the Navy and Coast Guard must demonstrate leadership, especially in community involvement, educational pursuits, in- and out-of-rating knowledge, damage control proficiencies and non-traditional leadership assignments. Today’s CPO training, while not the sole measure of the perfect leader, is creating solid enlisted leaders and providing a greater value for our military services. Consider the following timeline as the senior enlisted leadership ranks have developed over the years.

According to the Coast Guard’s Chief Petty Officer Academy website (<https://www.uscg.mil/cpoacademy/History/cpoahistory.asp>), the enlisted workforce received virtually no standards of leadership and management training prior the 1950’s. “World events and technological progress forced changes in the Nation’s conventional thinking and political strategies. The end of the Second World War brought significant budget and manpower cuts without subsequent reductions in global threats. Both the Asian and European Theater remained active in the face of Communism’s global spread while both continents relied upon the economic stability of the United States. Responsibility for leadership and knowledge of sensitive information expanded from the officer corps into the enlisted workforce as result of global operational theaters, advanced technology, and smaller fighting forces.

“Along with the spread of communism, significant retention issues

plagued the military in the late 1940s and early 1950s. Increased technical responsibility and an advancement system with a plateau at E-7 caused significant problems in electronic, mechanical, aviation, and rocket technology fields as E-7’s supervised E-7’s.

...more than 50 percent
of today’s senior
enlisted hold
a Master’s degree.
The enlisted personnel
being recruited today
are older and are more
educated than those
who came before.

Facing the inability to advance or increase their quality of life, many enlisted members sought opportunity in a growing national economy. Public Law 85-422 was enacted May 20th, 1958 creating the E-8 and E-9 pay grades specifically to combat this trend. Each branch of the service was left to develop and train the new roles as they are not described within the law.”

Today, the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard have their own respective senior enlisted leadership training. That training pipeline is intended to greatly expand the future roles, training, education, and managerial duties of the E-7, E-8, and E-9 communities.

Chief of Naval Operations Admiral John Richardson recently stated that more than 50 percent of today’s senior enlisted hold a Master’s degree. The enlisted personnel being recruited today are older and are more educated than those who came before. These collegiate specialties are particularly noticed in the disciplines where leadership and technological applications are required.

The Senior Enlisted Academy’s (SEA) mission is to train and prepare senior enlisted leaders. For the past 35 years, SEA has created a stronger professional network and fostered a greater sense of responsibility among its graduates. Its motto says it all: **“Leadership, Excellence and Success through Knowledge.”**

The SEA’s success will be measured by the quality of its graduates from all of the services, as well as international students who attend as part of exchange programs with other nations. CNO Richardson recently stated that other nations’ senior Navy leaders are envious of the quality of leadership and training the United States provides its senior enlisted communities.

I believe senior enlisted leaders in the 21st century must embrace a philosophy of collaboration with their brother and sister leaders in all branches of service. Leadership is not a science, but rather a behavior to model in the service to others. Its consequences, whether positive or negative, will depend upon its execution to benefit others.

Tom Snee is FRA’s National Executive Director and can be reached at NEDFRA@fra.org.

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Aerographers Mates Memories

I was an enlisted AG/commissioned officer, who served more than 40 years. I know that you had more material than could be used, but it would have been nice, for history's sake, to have had a short paragraph on the Aerologists/Aerographer Mate's that made a difference in WWII.

My first LPO AGC John P. Bleclie, USN (Ret.), now 95 years old and living with his daughter in Virginia, was one of the early "wanderers of the Gobi." I served in USS Glacier (AGB-4) with him in 1959-62, making three trips to the Antarctic, where a mountain range is named after him.

Thank you for telling our story.

Chuck White



Is FRA Truly Democratic?

In your "Convention 101" article (October 2016 *FRA Today*), you say that "FRA is one of the most democratic organizations." I'm not sure that is a true statement. As a long-time member and retired Navy chief petty officer, I cannot be a "delegate" because I am not in an FRA branch. I'm just a Member at Large (MAL).

I don't understand why being an MAL causes me to be less of a member than one who belongs to a branch. It sounds as if my personal choice to be an MAL makes me a lesser member.

I treasure your magazine, but if you want me to be more supportive of your ideas, I won't recommend changes because you've already classified me as a non-entity. You should change your comments on "democracy" and rules on being a "delegate" to conform to your actual practices. Shame on you.

Ed M.



FRA Response: *Thanks, Shipmate. You make an excellent point and I suspect your comments reflect the sentiments of many MALs. There have been discussions about allowing MALs a stronger voice in the Association, but there have been no resolutions to make that change in FRA's Constitution. Hopefully, your comment here will advance that conversation.*

SBP/DIC Offset

Is there any effort being made to eliminate the SBP/DIC offset for Veteran's survivors? We finally received the concurrent receipt of Retired Pay and VA Disability Pay for retirees, but what about our spouses? It doesn't seem to make any sense to not have the same benefit applied to surviving spouses.

Thank you for your outstanding work on behalf of our Shipmates, Retirees, Veterans and spouses.

Clair Sheffield

FRA Response: *FRA has long sought the elimination of the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP)/Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) offset for widows and widowers of service members (H.R. 1594/S. 979). This offset, also known as the "widow's tax," impacts approximately 63,000 widows and widowers of our Armed Forces. FRA strongly believes these survivors should receive both SBP and DIC benefits without the current dollar-for-dollar offset.*

Currently this offset is more than \$1,200 a month for many survivors. It should be noted as a matter of equity that surviving spouses of federal civilian retirees who are disabled veterans and die of military-service-connected causes can receive DIC without losing any of their federal civilian SBP benefits. In 2008, Congress enacted the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA), which increased gradually and now pays approximately 25 percent (\$310) of the offset. Unfortunately the legislation that authorizes the SSIA benefit expires on October 1, 2017. FRA supports extending the SSIA and continued increases to help our widows and widowers. The House version of the FY 2017 Defense Authorization Bill (HR 4909) extends the SSIA for one-year and the Senate version (S. 2943) makes SSIA payment permanent.

FRA Disaster Relief Fund

I have received Disaster Relief for the recent flooding in Baton Rouge, La., and wish to thank everyone involved with the distribution of the checks. I truly understand the meaning of Loyalty, Protection and Service.

Leon Perkins

FRA Response: *The FRA Disaster Relief Fund is designed to assist shipmates who, like you, find themselves in challenging situations. Please see page 14 to learn more about FRA's support of shipmates in need.*

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John Davis

Congress Back to Work on NDAA and Budget

AS YOU RECEIVE THIS issue of *FRA Today*, Congress will be returning to the Capitol following the 2016 elections to hopefully complete work on the FY 2017 budget and National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The House passed its version of the NDAA (H.R. 4909) on May 26, and the Senate passed its version of the NDAA (S. 2943) on July 14. A conference committee was appointed to resolve the differences between the two bills. Key committee members, the chairmen and ranking members of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees recently had a “closed door” meeting to resolve the two versions. The “Big Four” are Chairmen Sen. John McCain (Ariz.) and Rep. Mac Thornberry (Tex.) and Ranking Members Sen. Jack Reed (R.I.) and Rep. Adam Smith (Wash.). None of the legislators provided any specifics about discussions, but Senator McCain stated, “Obviously money is one of the issues.”

It is unclear how much progress is being made in agreeing to provisions of a final Defense Authorization bill. What is clear, current and former service members have much to lose if the final NDAA is approved by

the House and Senate and signed into law by President Obama. Efforts to have a final vote on the FY 2017 Defense Authorization bill (H.R. 4909/S. 2943) before October 1 have failed. It now appears that the NDAA final vote will also occur during a “lame-duck” session in November following the election. FRA members have been asked to communicate with their legislators through the FRA Action Center and urge them to do all they can to ensure the following proposals are eliminated in the final bill:

- Drastically higher health care fee increases;
- Sharp cuts to housing allowances (BAH) cuts that would cost many \$10,000-\$20,000 per year or more;
- A fourth consecutive year of limiting military pay raises below the average civilian pay increase; and
- Significant cuts to active duty end strength.

FRA members and FRA staff have reminded legislators and their staff that similar personnel and benefit cuts in the 1970s and 1990s caused retention problems. We should not make the same mistake again. It may not be too late to use the Action Center (action.fra.org/action-center) to weigh in on these issues.

ACTIVE DUTY ISSUES

Continuing Resolution Passes

The new fiscal year begins October 1st, yet Congress has not completed work on any of the 12 Appropriations (spending) bills for FY 2017. With 3 days remaining before a government shutdown, Senate Democrats were joined by a few Senate Republicans and defeated a Continuing Resolution (CR)—a temporary spending measure that would keep the government operating until December 9, 2016. The following day the House and Senate finally passed a 10-week CR (H.R. 5325) to fund the government through December 9, 2016 and avoid a partial government shutdown. President Obama quickly signed the legislation into law, which includes \$1.1 billion to respond to the Zika virus. The CR contains the full-year Military Construction/Veterans Affairs (MilCon/VA) spending bill, and \$500 million in flood relief for Louisiana and other affected states. Funding for the Flint, Michigan water crisis will be included in a bill to be passed during a “lame-duck” November session. Only 4 of the past 42 fiscal years has Congress passed spending bills without the need of a CR.

Congress will pass an omnibus spending bill for the other 11 appropriations bills, in a “lame-duck” session following the November election.

Pentagon to Remember the September 11th Attacks

The 15th anniversary of the world’s deadliest terror attack was recently remembered during special services and events in New York City and throughout the U.S. President Obama spoke at a Pentagon ceremony. Defense Secretary Ash Carter and General Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, attended the event.



Photo by The White House

Nearly 3,000 people were killed in New York City, Pennsylvania and at the Pentagon during terrorist attacks carried out by al-Qaida, a Muslim militant group founded by Osama bin Laden. One hundred and eighty-four people perished at the Pentagon when an American Airlines jetliner slammed into the five-sided building in Arlington, Virginia. Bin Laden was later killed by U.S. military forces in Pakistan during a May 2011 raid authorized by President Obama.

FRA Meets with House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi

National Executive Director (NED) Thomas J. Snee along with representatives from other military and veteran service organizations (VSO) met with House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (Calif.) to voice and support the Commission on (veterans) Care's recommendations for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) healthcare. The House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees (see page ??) recently held separate hearings on the Commission's final report.

In addition NED Snee urged Leader Pelosi to support the "Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act" (H.R. 969/S. 681) that would clarify a presumption for filing disability claims with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for ailments associated with exposure to Agent Orange herbicide during the Vietnam War. The House bill was introduced with 131 original co-sponsors, and now has 335, which is more co-sponsors than any other bill currently in Congress. A similar provision has already passed the House as an amendment to the MilCon/VA Appropriations (H.R. 4974).

NED Snee said "Congress should recognize 'Blue Water' veterans who served off the coast of Vietnam were exposed to Agent Orange." The legislation authorizes presumptive status for VA disability claims associated with exposure for this group of veterans. These veterans are an aging segment of the population and we must ensure that they are able to receive the full proper care and benefits now, to continue and make, a major difference in their quality of life in their remaining years.

Other legislators in attendance include Reps. Tulsi Gabbard (Hawaii), Tim Walz (Minn.), Beto O'Rourke (Texas) Seth Moulton (Mass.), Mark Tanako (Calif.), and Dina Titus (Nev.).

Members can weigh in on the Agent Orange Blue Water Navy issue as well as other veteran's issues through the FRA Action Center (action.fra.org/action-center/).



Official portrait of U.S. Representative and Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi

Sense of Congress on Agent Orange/Blue Water Navy Issue Introduced

Congresswoman Elise Stefanik (N.Y.) and Senator Chuck Grassley (Iowa) have introduced a non-binding Sense of Congress (H. Con. Res. 161 and S. Con. Res. 51 respectively) expressing support for those who served in the bays, harbors, and territorial seas of the Republic of Vietnam between January 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975. Service members should be presumed to have been exposed to the toxin Agent Orange and should be eligible for all related Federal benefits that come with such presumption under the Agent Orange Act of 1991.

These non-binding measures, if passed, would show Congressional support for the Blue Water Navy veterans and hopefully, will convince the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide this presumption by regulation.

Military Construction and Department of Veterans Affairs (MilCon/VA) appropriations bill (H.R. 4974) that passed the House included an FRA-supported amendment to extend presumptive service-connection for conditions associated with Agent Orange exposure to Blue Water Navy Vietnam veterans. This provision was later dropped from the legislation.

FRA is also still supporting the "Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act" (H.R. 969/ S. 961) sponsored by Congressman Chris Gibson (N.Y.) and Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (N.Y.) respectively. The House bill has 335 co-sponsors, more than any other bill currently in the House.

Members are urged to use the FRA Action Center (action.fra.org/action-center/) to weigh in on House and Senate Sense of Congress (H. Con. Res. 161 and S. Con. Res. 51) and pending legislation (S. 681/H.R. 969).



VETERANS/RETIREE ISSUES

House Passes VA Reform Bills

Three FRA-supported bills passed the House, two by voice vote and the third by roll call vote (357-0). The "Vet Connect Act" (H.R. 5162) authorizes the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to disclose medical records to non-VA healthcare providers. This would provide more open communication between two or more doctors providing care for the same service member.



Photo by SNEHIT/Shutterstock

The "Veterans Emergency Treatment Act" (H.R. 3216) would require that a veteran requesting medical treatment at an emergency room of a VA medical facility receives a medical screening to determine if an emergency medical condition exists. This would ensure the veteran receives prompt care. Lastly, the "No Veterans Crisis Line Call Should Go Unanswered" (H.R. 5392) directing the VA to develop a plan to ensure each telephone call, text message or any other form of communication that is received by the Veterans Crisis Line (VCL) is answered in a timely manner. A study this past May shows approximately 35 percent of VCL calls were diverted to back up centers, which are staffed by personnel who are typically less experienced dealing with Veteran issues. All three bills will now make their way to the Senate for further consideration.

USFSPA Legislative Update

One of the thornier issues FRA has supported is reform of the Uniform Services Former Spouse Protection Act (USFSPA). The Act was intended to offer some financial protection to certain former spouses of service members. It allows states to divide military disposable retired pay as marital property upon divorce. USFSPA allows some former spouses (through a court order) to be awarded a share of military retired pay, either from the member or by direct payment from DFAS (Defense Finance and Accounting Service). In some cases spouses obtain medical care and certain other benefits. The Act was passed in 1983 and there have been no significant changes enacted. This year the House and Senate National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA-H.R. 4909/S. 2943) both contain identical provisions that reform USFSPA by requiring former spouse awards to be based upon member's grade/years of service at the time of divorce (not retirement). The provision only applies to future divorces.

FRA wants to further prohibit state courts from issuing orders to make retired pay available for a former spouse before the service member retires, as well as supports the publication of a handbook and website to enhance understanding of USFSPA.

SVAC and HVAC Reviews Final Report of Commission on Care

The Senate Veterans Affairs Committee (SVAC) and the House Veterans Affairs Committee (HVAC) held separate hearings to discuss the Commission on Care's recommendations for improving how the VA provides healthcare to veterans. The Commission released its final report this past June 2016, with 12 of 15 commissioners endorsing the report's 18 recommendations. The Commission is a bipartisan and independent commission charged with evaluating the entire Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) healthcare system and offering recommendations for improving it. Following the VA's delays in care crisis, which HVAC helped expose in 2014, the agency has endured a number of additional healthcare-related setbacks. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) placed VA healthcare on its "High Risk List" in 2015, and an independent review to fix the department's problems would require "no less than a system-wide reworking" of the Veterans Health Administration.

The hearings allowed Senators and Representatives to directly hear from the commission's chair and vice chair about the report and its recommendations for improving veterans' access and quality of care. VA Secretary, Robert McDonald, testified at the SVAC hearing and expressed overall support with the final report. He believes the Commission recommendations suggest "Validation of the course we have been on." FRA welcomes the Commission's final report as a starting point for the President, Congress, the VA, and other veterans organizations to all work together to improve VA health care delivery.

For additional information on these hearings Shipmates can go to the September 8, 2016 issue of *Military Update* (Column 37-16) located on the FRA website (www.fra.org).

75th Anniversary of Attack on Pearl Harbor

December 7th, 2016, marks the 75th year since the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor — an attack designed to disable the U.S. Pacific Fleet. The impact was indeed profound, but certainly not disabling. In fact, the "sleeping giant" was awakened and the United States of America went to war! December 7 was, indeed, a day of "infamy." Centered around National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, there is a series of historic events taking place with theme to "Honor the Past. Inspire the Future." The "Greatest Generation" will be honored and celebrated. The youth of our country will march and pay tribute to the fallen and the survivors.

For a complete list of Pearl Harbor events, visit <http://pearlharbor75thanniversary.com/home/>
Or consider remembering December 7th in your own way in your own community. Please share photos of your remembrance with *FRA Today*.

VETERANS/RETIREE ISSUES

VA Homeless Vets Update

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recently awarded approximately \$300 million more in grants under the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF). The funding helps thousands of very low-income veteran families across the nation who are permanently housed or transitioning to permanent housing. The SSVF grant program provides access to crucial services that help prevent homelessness for Veterans and their families.

SSVF funding has been awarded to 275 non-profit organizations in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The funding supports outreach, case management and other flexible assistance for veterans. These grants are key elements of the VA's implementation of the Housing First Strategy that enables vulnerable veterans to secure or remain in permanent housing. A list of SSVF grantees is located at: www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf.asp.

"Since 2010, the Housing First Strategy has helped cut veteran homelessness nearly in half," said VA Secretary Robert A. McDonald. "Housing First is why 360,000 Veterans and family members have been housed, rehoused or prevented from falling into homelessness over the last five years. SSVF helps homeless veterans quickly find stable housing and access the supportive services they and their families need."

In fiscal year (FY) 2015, SSVF served more than 157,000 participants and is on track to exceed that number for FY 2016. As a result of these and other efforts, veteran homelessness is down 47 percent since the launch of the Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness in 2010. Also, since 2010 more than 360,000 veterans and their family members have been permanently housed, rapidly re-housed, or prevented from falling into homelessness by VA's programs and targeted housing vouchers provided by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

In 2010, the VA established a goal of eliminating veteran homelessness by 2015. The data shows a 17 percent decrease in veteran homelessness between January 2015 and January 2016 and a 47 percent decrease since 2010. HUD and VA have a wide range of programs that prevent and end homelessness among veterans, including healthcare, housing solutions, job training and education. In FY 2015, these programs helped 99,000 veterans. For more information on VA veterans homelessness programs go to: www.va.gov/homeless/

For more information about the SSVF program, visit: www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf.asp

House Passes Veterans Legislation

The House passed the "VA Accountability First and Appeals Modernization Act" (H.R. 5620) sponsored by HVAC Chairman Jeff Miller, that would reform the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability benefits appeals process. This is a top priority for FRA. The bill also strengthens protection for whistleblowers and improves accountability for employee misbehavior. The bill was amended on the House floor to also provide veteran status for reservists with 20 years or more of service, who do not otherwise qualify for full veterans' benefits.

The House also passed "Veterans Mobility Safety Act" (H.R. 3471) by unanimous voice vote. This FRA-supported bill, sponsored by Rep. Jackie Walorski (Ind.), requires the VA to set standards for providers of automobile adaptive equipment, such as wheelchair lifts, reduced-effort steering, and braking systems. The bill also includes provisions authored by Rep. Sean Duffy (Wis.) to improve care for veterans with hearing aids by allowing certified hearing aid specialists to provide certain services.

Both legislative proposals will go to the Senate for further consideration. Members can weigh in on the "VA Accountability First and Appeals Modernization Act" (H.R. 5620) through the Action Center (action.fra.gov/action-center).

Veterans Can Now Apply for VA Health Benefits by Telephone

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recently finalized a regulation that allows veterans to complete VA health care applications by calling 877-222-8387. VA employees will walk former service members through the process, including information about copayment requirements or availability of third-party insurance.



Photo by Gajus/Shutterstock

Previously, the agency required veterans to either apply in person or provide a paper application to the VA. That system was plagued by problems and created a backlog of 847,882 applications, which included more than 300,000 submissions from now-deceased veterans. The VA Inspector General released a report on the backlog a year ago, and the VA took steps to improve the process that included removing the requirement for veterans to physically sign the paperwork. It also tried to clear the backlog by starting with 30,000 combat veterans who should have qualified for benefits but were mistakenly placed in the system. According to the department, veterans can continue to apply for benefits in person.

The FRA Legislative Team is National Executive Director Tom Snee, Director of Legislative Programs John Davis, Assistant Director of Legislative/Veterans Programs Brian Condon and National Veterans Service Director Chris Slawinski.

FRA CONGRATULATES THE FOLLOWING shipmates who have become Life Members during the third quarter of 2016. The listing also includes their branch number or their designation as a Member-at-Large (MAL). Call 1-800-FRA-1924 to learn how you can become a Life Member of FRA.

July

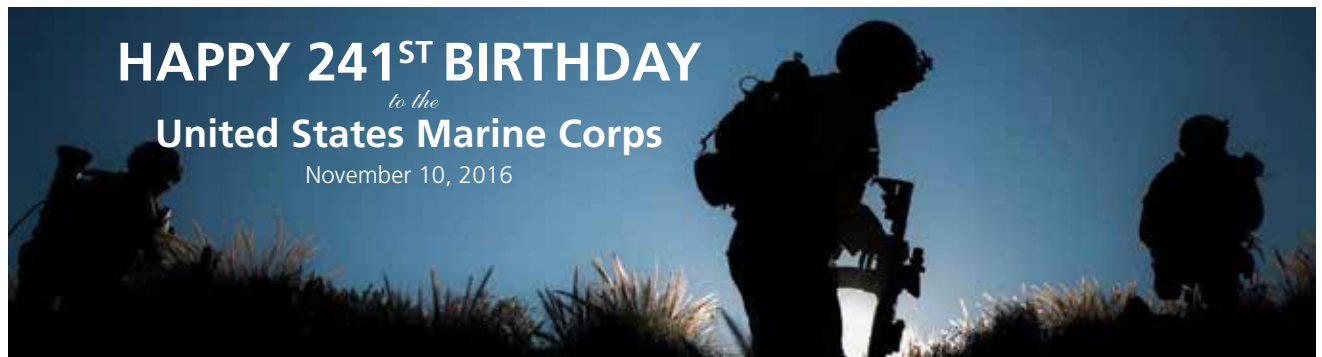
Roosevelt Collins	MAL	Charles Glaser	MAL	Sebastian Riccobono	014	Leo D. Esposito	MAL
Richard Greene	MAL	John C. Adams	MAL	Robert B. Bennett	046	Howard J. Beckett	024
Joseph F. Maline	183	William P. Fitzpatrick	MAL	Jerome M. Rolfson	136	Hugh D. Rowe	024
Paul R. Stalnaker	281	Donald Burris	MAL	Terry D. Scott	MAL	James P. Dolge	367
Seybourn E. Hopper, Jr.	112	Michael Martus	024	Edward A. Grunwald	024	John D. Lookabill	269
David Karl Melges	038	Bryan Mckernan	024	Dennis M. Murphy	276	Carl G. Hare	060
Duncan Paul Disharoon	093	James C. Holmes	269	Dominic B. Osboro	154	Arthur A. Delao	175
William E. Dicus	MAL	Robert F. Ducharme	212	Casey T. Batorne	154	Freddie D. Goddard, Jr.	210
Charles L. Murphy	029	David E. Booth	161	Robert K. Rhodes	022	Angel Otero	136
Charles E. Hudson	MAL	Vincent Wirkman	MAL	Albert R. Burchi	161	Nancy Franklin	024
Tobias L. Vanesselstyn	024	Michael K. Hoeth	053	Samuel E. Teleshuk	040		

August

Melchor V. Garza	060	Paul J. Thonis	MAL	Ezekiel D. Brown	147	John Ray Kenney	024
Arthur Clapsaddle	MAL	John T. Jones	382	Ray A. Borchert	014	William Neal Liebman	MAL
Aaron A. Turner, Jr.	047	Cynthia L. Jones	382	Gerald L. Farr	269	Harry B. Purden	MAL
JERRY L. HOESE	MAL	Victor R. Billings	MAL	Randolph V. Turner	269	Mark Francis Dwyer	276
William J. Kowall	261	James Webb Sampson	008	Steven Dawes	MAL	Eduardo G. Monteclaro	064
Alan W. Gilbreath	094	Frank M. Clark	275	Margaret M. Palmer	046	Hans E. Hannus	MAL
Jeffrey K. Hatcliff	049	Monte R. Briggs	092	Michael B. Cole	245	Perry Southall Benson	MAL
John M. Niland	269	James G. Stalnaker	281	Avelino R. Aquisap	154	Robert H. Champion	MAL
Gerald D. Davis	MAL	David M. Edwards, Sr.	315	Russell G. Slez	MAL	Earnest M. Hall	202
Hans Putz	MAL	Earnest Beaty	187	John W. Cormier	MAL	Miguel Rodriguez	046
Arthur C. Ellison	038	Jamie D. Sauvageau	MAL	Benjamin C. Anderson	008		
James C. Janney	289	Elton F. Hazen	MAL	Richard B. Cushing	117		
Lewis W. Strause, II	014	Richard W. Ronnow	MAL	James A. Franklin	MAL		

September

Angel G. Luna	261	Gregory J. Deweerd	298	Ricardo B. Cayabyab	084	Alan R. Walsh	MAL
Henry W. Hansen Jr.	130	Scott R. Blatt	MAL	Mack J. Seitz	101	William S. Grant	099
Norman L. Whinery	162	Terrance M. Roughton	046	Raymond C. Walker	188	Adam Winovitch	175
Orlando G. Esteban	154	Ronald D. McKinnon	093	Charles A. Smith	099	Joseph E. Sullenger	161
Daniel A. Dicitlo	MAL	Ramon M. Monsale	064	Steven L. Cleland	MAL	Richard D. Nall	126
Howard B. Miles	269	Martha J. Huff	175	Frank W. Leuschen Jr, Jr.	238	John C. Darneille	MAL
John L. Hall	166	William E. Cassin	098	Charles W. Hodge	070	William F. Martin, II	269
Timothy Leitzell	MAL	Dominador Yalung	MAL	Johnny C. McElfresh	MAL	Steve Scudder	029
Cecil T. Edwards	161	Robert P. Lombard	MAL	Michael L. Hubbard	020		



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Disaster Relief Support

RECENTLY THE COUNTRY EXPERIENCED some terrific storms with tremendous amounts of rain and flooding. Some of our shipmates across the country sustained damage to their homes and personal property. FRA shipmates are eligible for Disaster Relief Support upon request. Here are highlights of the program and some examples of assistance.

FRA's Disaster Relief Program was established to provide financial aid to members, widows of deceased members, and/or immediate families who have been stricken by a disaster. A disaster is defined as a single sudden physical event of a catastrophic nature such as floods, fires, typhoons, hurricanes, windstorms or earthquakes, which cause severe damage to property. In 2005, Hurricane Katrina was categorized as one of the most horrific storms that ravaged the south of the United States. Many shipmates had devastating losses of property and personal belongings. They applied for and were approved to receive financial assistance through the Program.

Fast forward to August 2016 and an identical storm hit the Baton Rouge, LA area. Between 25 to 30 inches of rain fell over a period of three days. In Lafayette, LA, where several members of Branch 371 reside, more than 15 to 20 inches of rain flooded the area. Flash flooding inundated several FRA shipmates' homes. Both the Amite and Comite Rivers rose to a new record high of over 4.5 feet, which destroyed tens of thousands more homes. Many of them were not located in flood zones. The Federal government estimated more than 160,000 properties were affected by this massive surge of water.

In an effort to locate FRA members affected by this devastating flooding, Shipmate David Thompson, Regional Vice President for the South Central

Region and President, Branch 371, in Baton Rouge set out on a mission along with other FRA leaders to survey the area and find shipmates who had damaged property. Using maps of flooded areas, the team established a list of 50 names. They tried every means necessary to contact the members but with phones out and property uninhabitable, it was an enormous job to locate everyone. The team had to drive through streets crowded with mountains of flood debris to check on each house for approximately 40 shipmates, including some members who lived more than 120 miles away. A total of twelve members were assessed to have suffered significant damage to their homes and personal property. Each shipmate applied for a grant from the Disaster Relief Fund and received assistance with clean up and temporary living arrangements. Collectively they received grants totaling \$19,500.

The Disaster Relief program falls under the administration of the Regional Presidents who appoint a Regional Chairman, Disaster Relief and Rehabilitation. The Chairman will investigate each request for a grant, including Members-at Large residing in the region. Based upon the Chairman's

recommendation to the Regional President, the final approval is authorized by the FRA National President and then processed by the Finance Officer.

Funding for the Disaster Relief Program is derived from several sources, including but not limited to branch and personal donations from members of the association as well as donations from the general public.

If you would like to make a donation to FRA's Disaster Relief Program, go to the website: www.fra.org and click on DONATE. Select the "Disaster Program" and designate the amount of your contribution. You can also contact FRA National Office on 1-800-372-1924 x1 and speak to a Member Services Representative to make your contribution or mail your donation by check made payable to FRA, 125 N. West Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

An integral aspect of membership is camaraderie and commitment to the care and attention to those in need. The FRA has a strong sense of service to others.

Penny Collins is FRA's Director of Membership Development and a member of FRA Branch 24 in Annapolis, Md. She can be reached at penny@fra.org.



Penny Collins

Photo by Jimmy Broussard



In front of Branch Secretary Leon Perkin's house. Left to right: Shipmate Neill 'Chip' Smith receiving his check, Branch 371 Vice President Jay Johnson, Branch President Thompson, and Shipmate Lee Perkins receiving his check.

Photo by David Thompson

An example of what so many neighborhoods looked like. Many homeowners did not have flood insurance, as they do not live in a designated flood zone.



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Hal Travers

He was a Navy photographer who served with me on USS Randolph (CVS-15). Please contact PHCM Bob Adams (Ret.) at 417-634-3391 or 417-693-2123.

CDR Joseph Green, SC, USN

Last known duty station was as a SUBSAT Division Officer at TRIDENT Refit Facility, Navy Submarine Base, Kings Bay, Ga., in 2001. Please contact CPO Rodney D Chapman (Ret.) at dublin98@bellsouth.net

All *Looking For ...* notices must be submitted in writing. Members can submit requests via email to Lauren@fra.org or in writing to FRA Looking For, 125 N. West St., Alexandria, VA 22314. Questions regarding *Looking For...* submissions should be directed to 1-800-FRA-1924, ext. 126.



REUNIONS

USS Duluth (LPD-6)

September 6–10, 2017, Duluth, Minn. Contact John Adams, 924 Creekside Dr., Brookhaven, PA 19015, 484-766-3715 or john.adams@ussduluth.org

USS Harry E. Yarnell (DLG/CLG-17)

November 3–6, 2016, Myrtle Beach, SC. Contact Glen Hunsberger at Hunsberger@yahoo.com

USS Tattnell (DDG-19)

September 17–22, 2017, New Orleans, La., Contact Dick Harmon, 386-235-8723 or dharmonlpga1@aol.com

All reunion notices must be submitted in writing. Members are authorized one free reunion posting/year and can post reunions online at www.fra.org, submit via email to VictoriaD@fra.org or in writing to FRA Reunions, 125 N. West St., Alexandria, VA 22314. Please include your FRA member number and a daytime phone number. Questions regarding reunion submissions should be directed to 1-800-FRA-1924, ext. 124.



FRA
Your Mission - Your Voice

When you put on one of these...

you were given guarantees in return for your service.

Now Congress wants to take them back!

FRA defends those benefits and ensures that key decision makers on Capitol Hill understand the military and veterans' perspective. America's security depends on you, and FRA believes that you should be able to depend on the promises that Congress made to you in return for your service.

Reunions are a Great Recruiting Opportunity!

IF YOU'RE HOSTING OR attending a reunion, please consider how many prospective FRA members will also be there! FRA has published a prospective member brochure with an information request form. You can easily talk through benefits of membership with the prospect using this brochure and offer *NewsBytes* or one of the FRA guides, provided by filling out the information card.

These work great for one-to-one conversations with someone who you know is eligible for membership (at least one day of enlisted service in the Navy, Marine Corps or Coast Guard). You can request these brochures or other items for your reunion from Penny Collins at 1-800-372-1924 (ext. 123) or penny@fra.org. Reunions are great places to recruit. If you'd like additional information or ideas for your reunion, please contact Penny!

◀ The FRA prospective member brochure is a great tool for recruiting new members.

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How Well Did You Sleep Last Night?

Did you toss and turn all night? Did you wake up with a sore neck, head ache, or was your arm asleep? Do you feel like you need a nap even though you slept for eight hours? Just like you, I would wake up in the morning with all of those problems and I couldn't figure out why. Like many people who have trouble getting a good night's sleep, my lack of sleep was affecting the quality of my life. I wanted to do something about my sleep problems, but nothing that I tried worked.

The Pillow Was the Problem

I bought every pillow on the market that promised to give me a better night's sleep. After trying them all, with no success, I finally decided to invent one myself. I began asking everyone I knew what qualities they'd like to see in their "perfect pillow." Their responses included: "I'd like a pillow that never goes flat", "I'd like my pillow to stay cool" and "I'd like a pillow that adjusts to me regardless of my sleep position." After hearing everyone had the same problems that I did, I spent the next two years of my life inventing MyPillow.



Mike Lindell
Inventor & CEO
of MyPillow®

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MyPillow will extend
our money back
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March 1st



In the early days, Mike and his family spent countless hours hand-making each MyPillow. This hard work and dedication to "doing it right" helped MyPillow become a classic American success story.

MyPillow® to the Rescue

Flash forward eleven years and MyPillow, Mike Lindell's revolutionary pillow design, has helped 12 million people improve the quality of their sleep. MyPillow has received thousands of testimonials from customers about how MyPillow has changed their lives.

"Until I was diagnosed with various sleep issues, I had no idea why my sleep was so interrupted throughout the night. I watch Imus each morning and heard endless testimonials about MyPillow. I took his advice and ordered a MyPillow. Now I wake up rested and ready to conquer the day ahead. Thank you for helping me remember what it's like to sleep like a baby!" - Jacqueline H.

Lindell has been featured on numerous talk shows, including *Fox Business News* and *Imus in the Morning*. Lindell and MyPillow have also appeared in feature stories in major magazines and newspapers across the country. MyPillow has received the coveted "Q Star Award" for *Product Concept of the Year* from QVC, and has been selected as the Official Pillow of the National Sleep Foundation.

MyPillow's patented interlocking fill allows you to adjust the pillow to your individual needs regardless of sleep position.



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Michael Lindell



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And besides, we don't even know Harlon
Belle insisted as she slid the paper from
the kitchen, her eyes fixed on the photo,
"The Photograph's impact spread like a shock wave. That same Sunday,
The New York Times launched into a piece de-
scribing the visual vocabulary of photography as a familiar language and a city where
The receptionists at major newspapers reported something unusual: the
of the photo's appearance. Their switchboards were jammed with
after seeking reprints. Soon publishers reported something unusual: the
one featuring the photograph "In Color!" while another promised
on heavy paper, suitable for framing!" They couldn't print enough.

No one knew who the flagraisers were, but Joe Rosenthal was an instant
celebrity. On February 27, the Times ran a huge photo of Joe, identify-
ing him as the photographer "who has earned nationwide praise for his
picture."

Mr. A.B.R. Shelley of Raleigh, North Carolina, saw the photo and
immediately wrote a letter to the editor of the Times, who published it on
February 28.

... its classic tri-
great ancient statues be
replicated before him he labored through the long night. By dawn, he had
The next morning, Sunday, February 25, millions of Americans were
similarly transfixed by the image. People would always remember when
they were the moment they saw the photo, as others would later remember
President Kennedy's death. The flagraising photograph signaled victory and
hoped, a counterpart to the photos of sinking ships at Pearl Harbor that had
Men and women bent down sleepily to their doorsteps, took one look
and called back into the house, "Hey, look at this!"
City pedestrians handed three cents to a street news vendor, took one look
steps, then turned back and bought another copy.

Charles Sweeney, who later dropped the atomic bomb on Nagasaki,
would write that his Catholic mother allowed only two images to be hung
on the family's dining-room wall: Jesus and FDR. Until the morning she saw
the flag photo, that is: She framed it and hung it as the revered third icon on
the wall.

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LEARNING FROM THE PAST

John W. Gardner, who served as Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare under President Lyndon Johnson, once said, “History never looks like history when you are living through it.” That’s particularly true of military history. A single battle can turn the tide of war or a seemingly simple event can resonate with the entire world, but the long-term impact is rarely known immediately.

Perhaps no other service embraces its history and heritage like the United States Marine Corps. From the Corps’ establishment as the Continental Marines on November 10, 1775, to today’s Marines who are at the tip of the spear, the Marine Corps’ rich heritage has been, and continues to be, carried by every Marine who ever wore the Eagle, Globe and Anchor.

FRA Today recently had the opportunity to interview Dr. Charles P. Neimeyer, the director of the Marine Corps’ History Division, and he shared his perspective on the importance of history in determining the future of our nation’s fighting force. In his conversation, he emphasized that documenting USMC history isn’t just about preserving photos and documents; it’s also about using the past as a roadmap for charting the future.

FRA Today: Marine Corps history is part of the service ethos and is a big part of what creates ownership in the service. How does history impact today’s Marines?

Dr. Neimeyer: You can ask any Marine ... ANY Marine ... and he or she knows the Marine Corps’ birthdate. I don’t think you can say that about the other services. Our traditions and heritage inform young Marines on our culture and that begins in recruit training. They are taught from day one that they are not only representing today’s Marine Corps; they are also representing those Marines who came before them. Every Marine has this looming historical perspective looking over his shoulder, saying, “Don’t let me down. Those before you didn’t.”

Every Marine is a Marine first and then identifies with his or her MOS [Military Occupational Specialty]. There’s a saying that every Marine is a rifleman. It’s your job to be a Marine first and then exercise whatever other special skills you might have. Every Marine is ready to be back in the infantry if needed. This connection to our roots helps bind all Marines to one another and to those who came before.

FRA Today: Why is it important to document USMC history?

Dr. Neimeyer: Of all the services, the Marine Corps emphasizes its history and heritage the most. Doing so allows us to assess the

lessons learned and we sometimes use history to formulate plans for the future. For example, during the Anbar Awakening in the Iraq War, we looked at the Combined Action Platoon (CAP) initiative from the Vietnam era. It’s a program where Marines worked with indigenous personnel to provide security. Many elements of the CAP were used in Iraq.

There’s something to be learned from each [episode of history]. Capturing history tells us what we did and why we did it. It’s helpful to capture the lessons from the past.

FRA Today: How do you determine what’s historically significant?

Dr. Neimeyer: You can’t always tell immediately what will be historically significant. That usually comes to light later, when other evidence is collected and the long-term impact of the action is clearer.

For example, the Iwo Jima flag-raising was really a sidebar to the real story [of securing the militarily significant island]. Often these sorts of events happen early and there’s usually a lot of combat to come. We try to collect as much as possible so we have as much material on hand as possible when we write the collective history later on. We won’t know how critical a component is until later when history reveals itself.

Essentially each unit records its own history. Every unit submits a command chronology of its activities



and these reports are kept in our archives. Operations in combat zones are reported every 30 days and non-combat activity is reported every six months. We also gather oral histories from a cross-section of key personnel in the unit, from both officers and enlisted personnel. We keep all this documentation on file and combine it into what becomes the official record. It gets published as a definitive history of the Marines' activity. When it's finished, the cover has an Eagle, Globe and Anchor on the front and I always say that emblem on the front means it's accurate.

FRA Today: How do you handle Corps events that aren't particularly positive? How are those documented in the history books?

Dr. Neimeyer: Even unpleasant or unfavorable events are documented in the command chronology. Not every detail of every investigation gets included, but we certainly don't shy away from unfavorable events.

And like all historical events, we try to learn from them, like the Ribbon Creek incident at Parris Island. [In April of 1956,] several Parris Island recruits drowned when they were improperly supervised during their training. It's important to remember there wasn't a lot of recorded detail at the time of the tragic event. We didn't hide it and much of what we learned came after the fact, when context and details could be assessed.

FRA Today: What do you find most enjoyable about your position as director of the Marine Corps' History Division?

Dr. Neimeyer: I enjoy the research and revealing new information that needed to come to light; finding things that change the story. The recent development in the Iwo Jima flag-raiser story is a prime example.

We've recently learned that one of the men in Joe Rosenthal's iconic image of the flag raising on Mount Suribachi had been misidentified. The man believed to be Navy Corpsman John Bradley was really another previously identified flag raiser, PFC Franklin Sousley. The person previously believed to have been Franklin Sousley in the Rosenthal photo turned out to be a heretofore unknown Marine, PFC Harold Schultz.

As you may know, there were two flags raised over Mount Suribachi. Everyone who witnessed the first

flag-raising has a very clear memory of it. It was 1030 local time, the Marines had taken the mountain, there were horns blowing and people cheering. The idea was that the second, larger flag would replace the original and go up as the first flag was coming down. It's the second flag-raising that Rosenthal captured and became an iconic symbol for the Marine Corps, but the time and details of the second flag going up are a bit fuzzy. Nobody had a clear recollection of the exact time.

Bradley had been part of the first flag-raising and, in the moment, nobody bothered to clarify which flag he'd help hoist ... and Schultz never made any claim to the honor. The true identity was determined from film footage of the second flag-raising. Schultz's personal combat gear was configured in a unique way and that's how we were ultimately able to identify him. The error was discovered thanks to painstaking work

Raising the First Flag on Iwo Jima by SSgt. Louis R. Lowery, USMC, is the most widely circulated photograph of the first flag flown on Mt. Suribachi.





Joe Rosenthal's "Gung Ho" photo, taken shortly after the iconic flag-raising photo, was used to help identify Harold Schultz.

by two amateur photo historians in 2014. It took us 71 years to correct the original error in identification. All those Marines are deceased now, but I like to believe their next of kin will be happy to know that we finally got the story right.

The Rosenthal image doesn't show faces. They are all facing away, which is exactly the point. It was a team effort; no individual is recognizable in the action. I think it's remarkable that Schultz never came forward. Neither Bradley nor Schultz wanted personal acclaim or credit, which is indicative of that generation. They just did their job.

Schultz was a Marine for less than three years. He was seriously wounded after the flag-raising and left the service as a result of those wounds. He moved to Los Angeles and spent the next 40 years as a postal worker. He lived a very quiet life.

Rene Gagnon was one of the Marines in the iconic photo and was asked to identify the

others. He named five of the six as he knew them, but initially honored Ira Hayes' wish to remain anonymous. He identified Hayes only after directly ordered to do so and, as a result, the three surviving flag-raisers — identified then as Gagnon, Hayes and Bradley — were recruited to represent the "All Together Now" theme of the 7th War Bond sales tour. It was one of the most successful in the history of the War Bond program.

President Roosevelt invited these Marines to return to the states and support the War Bond drive. Roosevelt died in the interim and Truman was only eight days into his term of office when the Marines come to the White House. They raised the Iwo Jima flag over the Capitol and made a big deal of it.

As I said before, the flag was really a sidebar to history, but the history it represents and the human element of that event had a tremendous impact on World War II and the Marine Corps.



JOHN WAYNE: WESTERN GREAT

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


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FRA Today: What's the most challenging part of your work?

Dr. Neimeyer: The administrative responsibilities of the job are staggering. We're sometimes asked to find things that we can't. An enterprise-wide effort to catalog every detail is tremendously difficult and we are often undermanned and underfunded. Granted, we are a smaller service, but we only have about 30 people handling all of the Marine Corps' history. In contrast, the Army has several hundred employees working on its combined historical effort.

We only have four historians on our staff, all of whom are civilians. There are no active duty Marines assigned to the History Division. When we have several units return from overseas deployments simultaneously, we often ask Reserve augmentees to assist in creating those oral histories. It's important to capture these critical histories right away, before people forget the finer details. We have about 14 Reservists ... from colonel to sergeant ... that deploy on request.

When the Montford Point Marines were in Washington, D.C., to be honored with the Congressional Gold Medal [June of 2012], we activated our team to interview these men who lived an important chapter in our Corps' and our nation's history. We got some great oral histories and that effort was tremendously successful because of our augmentees.

The military has been a leader in breaking down race and gender barriers. The Montford Point Marines were the Corps first black Marines and are an example of people not being treated fairly, but doing well in spite of the prejudice. They set an example that was key when the services did officially racially integrate [in

1948]. The Montford Point Marines moved us a step closer to equality and integration in combat arms.

Just like the Ribbon Creek incident, we can't change the past, but we can learn from it.

FRA Today: What would you like readers to know about history in general?

Dr. Neimeyer: There's a difference between history and lore. History is factual data that can be proven. Lore is a story that can't be confirmed or denied. For example, it is Marine Corps lore that the red "blood" stripe down the trouser leg of Marines' dress uniform was awarded to officers and NCOs for their bravery at the Battle of Chapultepec, but there's no documentation of that. That doesn't mean lore is bad and it's not wrong to repeat lore. We just need to be sure we don't abuse it. Lore has great value in that it reinforces the customs and traditions; it just needs to be taken with a grain of salt.

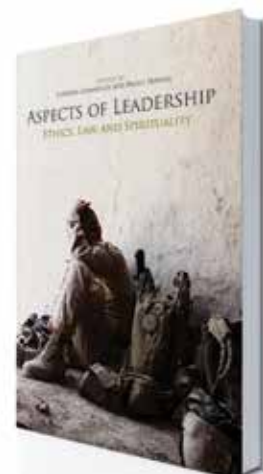
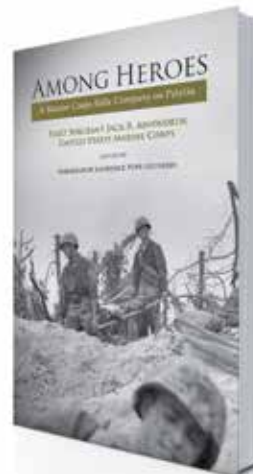
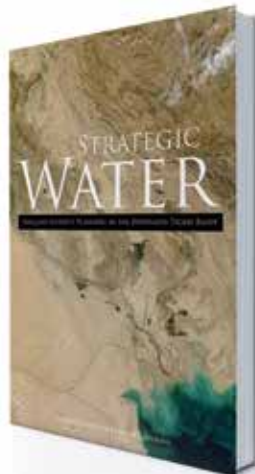
FRA Today: What would you like folks to know about the USMC History Division?

Dr. Neimeyer: Our job is to preserve, promote and publish USMC history. We write and publish nine or 10 books each year, as well as a biannual history magazine of scholarly articles. The History Division was created in 1919, when the Corps was trying to figure out what to do with all the accounts and artifacts from World War I. Ninety-eight percent of everything we've published since then is currently available online. And since it's public domain, all the information is available at no charge.

We used to be the History and Museum Division, but the National Museum of the Marine Corps [in

The USMC History Division offers free digital downloads of its published materials at <https://www.usmcu.edu/?q=node/366>.

Hard-copy versions are also available for purchase.





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Photo by Patrick Breen/flickr

The National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico, Va., opened in 2005 and is now one of the top tourist attractions in the state.

Quantico, Va.] was created in 2005 and is now an independent entity that reports to the president of Marine Corps University. The Marine Corps Heritage Foundation supports the museum's mission and efforts. The History Division supports the museum in the creation of its written materials, such as story boards and plaques. We're involved as the Museum is in its second phase of construction, which is expected to be complete in early 2019.

As we collect and catalog the Corps' history, all two-dimensional materials, (photos and documents) come to us here in the History Division. If it's three-dimensional, it goes to the National Museum of the Marine Corps.

If folks have questions about the Marine Corps, I invite them to visit www.history.usmc.mil. There's a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page that's downloadable to print. The customs and traditions page is very popular, but people should remember that the FAQ page is more about lore than history!



Charles P. Neimeyer is the director of the United States Marine Corps' History Division. Previously he was Executive Director at Regent University, (Washington, D.C.). Before that Neimeyer served as Academic Dean as well as Professor of National Security Affairs at the Naval War College, and Professor of History at the U.S. Naval Academy. He is the author of numerous publications, including his most recent book published by the Naval Institute Press in 2015, *War in the Chesapeake: The British Campaign to Control the Bay, 1813-1814*.



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NAME	BRANCH	NAME	BRANCH
Africa, James H, MUCS, USN	MAL	Mapes, Robert J, AFCM/RET, USN	093
Amato, Kelly A, ADRC, USN	022	Matthews, Thomas B, BM2, USN	040
Bair, Margaret J, MUCS, USN	MAL	PRPNE/NENG, McDonough, James J,	186
Bardsley, Marion E, AMEC, USN	018	ABC, USN	186
Bartimo, Ralph M., PH1, USNR	254	Meyer, Martin H, CTOCS, USN	MAL
Bauman, Donald C, HMC, USN	182	Mook, Donald G, EMCM(SS), USN	269
Bennett, Richard E, AZCS, USN	MAL	Muse, Mintry R., MSC, USN	067
Bidwell, Jack R, SKC, USN	124	Nolan, Edmund V., EMC, USN	042
Blackburn, Leslie T., SGT, USMC	162	Oliver, Harold R, IC1, USN	276
Bryson, Raymond, HTCM(SW), USNR	015	Parsons, Llewellyn, HMC, USN	327
Busch, Clarence K, AMSC, USN	015	Phelps, Charles E, HM1, USN	MAL
Butler, Francis W, CDR, USN	093	Preston, Ralph A, CAPT, USMC	099
Chatman, Norman W, HMC, USN	290	Proud, George, LCDR, USN	101
Conklin, Frank B, MMI, USN	001	Purpuree, Victor L.m., BMC, USN	068
Depaemelaere, A G, HMC, USN	070	Rainey, Louis Perry, SKCS, USN	MAL
Dube, Arthur E, UT1, USN	136	Saling, Louis C, MMC, USN	182
Dus, Frank J, BM1, USN	MAL	Schallmo, Nelson J, EN1, USN	MAL
Emory, Erwin C, CPO, 163		Schoenecker, Ralph J, ADRC, USN	136
Fincher, Troy N, BMCM, USN	042	Schweder, Ronald C, AMCS, USN	028
Flowers, Donald M, HMC(SS), USN	MAL	Seaberry, Benny J, RMC, USN	310
Franklin, James A, OS1, USN	104	Selby, Mayo W, OMC, USN	227
Fritts, Frank, SK2, USN	123	Smith, Marvin C, ICC, USN	207
Girardin, Kenneth F., POCS, USN	MAL	Smith, Dennis G, AFCM, USN	097
Gleisner, Roland L.	376	Spence, Harold, YNC, USN	MAL
Golden, Dewey J, ADRC, USN	146	Strickland, Robert L, AVCM, USN	091
Hadfield, John W, SKCM, USN	MAL	Tarvin, Douglas A, BMCM, USN	061
Hamman, John A., ADC, USCG	281	Taylor, Clyde J, YNC, USN	120
Harmon, William F, HMC, USN	072	Thompson, Roy A, MRC, USN	055
Holley, Benjamin P, RM1, USN	089	Tubergen, Theodore A, HMC, USN	182
Howe, Robert H, ENC, USN	221	Vollmer, Frank A., USN	029
Hunter, George R, LIC, USN	335	Wainwright, William J, EMC, USN	MAL
Hyde, David, PO1, USN	015	Walín, Carl W, STCM, USN	022
Kauffman, John H, HMCS, USN	040	Walters, Michael D, CTO1, USN	136
Kearley, James C, ADCS, USNR	091	Ward, Robert J., BTFN, USN	346
Lachica, Basilio M, PO1, USN	006	Wardwell, George A, RMC, USN	042
Lansdale, Charles A, MTC, USN	182	Weaver, William Houston, CS1(SS), USN	269
Lemons, Wayne L, GMGC, USN	MAL	Webster, Robert A, SKCM, USN	MAL
Lester, Daniel, USN	170	Werntz, Bryan William	124
Lileks, Wayne G, CTCS, USN	212	Younce, William S, CPO, USN	086
Lloyd, Earl E, PNCS, USNR	MAL		
MacMullen, John H., LCDR, USN	201		
Manning, Richard J, CSC, USN	136		

Names in **red** indicate 50 year continuous members.
Names in **bold** indicate past national officers.



*The toll of the ship's bell
reminds us of the reverence
we owe to our departed Shipmates
and to those who guard the honor
of our country
upon the sea,
under the sea,
in the air
and upon foreign soil.
Let it be a reminder
of the faith they
confide in us.
Let us who gather here
not forget our obligations
and in silence
breathe a prayer
for our absent Shipmates.*

Veterans and Active Personnel Set to Get Free Survival Food.

Farmers vow to keep up with the rush to supply all service members who call toll free and beat the deadline to claim up to four free 72-hour survival food kits.

In a crisis, your number one need is food. But not just any food. What everyone needs is a supply of real good-for-25-years survival food that you can rely on when the time comes that food is scarce.

Well, right now – in what is truly an unprecedented move – thousands of 72-hour survival food kits are being given away by a company called Food4Patriots to readers of this publication, as long as they call a special toll-free hotline and beat the program deadline.

“This is all happening because we’re worried that some people in Washington may want to control more than just guns and ammo,” explained Tim Boyle, a spokesman for the company. “We already know that some of those folks may want to take away our guns. What’s next?”

It’s already been reported that there is an effort underway to determine how much survival food is currently available and exactly where it is stored. Truthfully, we don’t really know why this information is being gathered, but it’s got a lot of folks pretty concerned. After all, you don’t ever want to rely on others to keep your family fed in a crisis.”

Experts say that everyone needs at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food on hand. So, to help

ensure all personnel have emergency food available when they need it, Food4Patriots is giving away up to four 72-hour survival food kits to any active or retired service member who requests them.

Understand, this is real food and it’s ready in minutes. It not only tastes good, it’s good for you – unlike the MREs you’ve probably had. Plus, this food lasts for 25 years, far longer than MREs.

Each kit contains enough meals for three days. You’ll get four servings each of such familiar dishes as Liberty Bell Potato Cheddar Soup, Blue Ribbon Creamy Chicken Rice, Travelers Stew, and the always-loved Granny’s Homestyle Potato Soup.

The usual price for the 72-hour kit is \$27.00 plus shipping. But, through this special offer, personnel who act quickly can receive as many as four free kits and pay only a \$9.95 shipping and handling fee for each kit claimed through this offer.

Boyle pointed out that the foods in these kits are all packed in durable, re-sealable Mylar pouches that guarantee they’ll stay fresh and delicious for at least 25 years. Because the last thing you need is food that’s gone stale or is filled with bugs and maggots.

In an emergency, a 72-hour kit could actually save your life. In fact, many folks like to keep a kit or two in the trunk of their car – just in case.

“We’re trying to ensure none of these brave folks gets left out, but they have to hurry as we only have a limited supply of 72-hour kits we can give away,” Boyle warned. This survival food giveaway will be ended no matter what at midnight, December 31, 2016.” ■

HOW TO GET YOUR FREE 72-HOUR SURVIVAL FOOD KIT



Retired and active personnel from all branches are rushing to claim up to four free 72-hour kits before the deadline.

Food4Patriots is committed to giving up to four free 72-hour kits to all personnel who calls toll-free **1-800-599-8405** or visits **FreeFood35Kit.com**.

If you wish to claim up to four free 72-hour survival food kits, you must do so immediately. Call toll-free **1-800-599-8405** and give the agent the approval code shown below or visit **FreeFood35Kit.com**. Provide your delivery instructions and agree to pay the \$9.95 shipping and handling fee for each kit claimed. It really is that easy.

Approval Code: **72FREE**

Toll-Free Hotline:

1-800-599-8405

Or Visit

FreeFoodKit35.com

Deadline: 12/31/2016



Please note: Food4Patriots says they will continue to give away these 72-hour kits for as long as their supplies last. Unfortunately, due to media exposure, their phone lines may be busy when you call. The company advises that if this happens, you should just keep calling and you will get through.

BRANCH 8 VALLEJO, CALIF.

During the West Coast Regional Convention, PNP Gary Blackburn recognizes Shipmate Robert "Bob" Smith on his 50 years of continuous FRA membership, while his wife Betty proudly looks on.

BRANCH 6 BALTIMORE, MD.

Branch President Clarence Logan, Sr. (left) and Shipmate Anthony Jackson (right) present a Certificate of Appreciation to Grand Master Riley Hawkins of the Riley Hawkins Karate Club for his continued support at branch functions. He and his staff and students were also recognized for the support they've shown to our military veterans and their families.

BRANCH 186 HERNANDO, FLA.

Florida Governor Rick Scott recently recognized several FRA shipmates who represent the Sunshine State's more than 1.5 million honorably discharged veterans. Shown (l to r) are Branch Secretary Bob Huscher, Shipmates Jack Townsend, Fred Daniels, Branch President Florence McCann, Chaplain Paul Kimmerling, Vice President Tim Donovan, Shipmates Don Peters, Norman King and Treasurer Bill Rossfeld.

BRANCH 162 NEW ORLEANS, LA.

PRPSC Dave Field poses with two graduates from the Marine Corps JROTC program at the New Orleans Maritime & Military Academy. Cadets Tyler McNabb (left) and Alexys Wright (right) received MCJROTC medals and gift cards, provided by Branch 162.

BRANCH 208 JACKSONVILLE, N.C.

Shipmate Delbert "Jack" Glover accepted his 35-year continuous membership pin from Shipmate Mark Rogers.

BRANCH 275 PLACERVILLE, CALIF.

Americanism Essay Contest winners were recognized during a special ceremony. Shown (l to r) are Branch Americanism Chairman Bud Sweet; Jessica Schnabel (1st Place Local, 2nd Place Regional, 9th Grade); Grace Mauro (1st Place Local, 1st Place Regional, 2nd Place National, 8th Grade); Ashley Gruenwald (1st Place Local, 2nd Place Regional, 7th Grade); Kenacie Hansen (1st Place Local, 2nd Place Regional, 10th Grade); and Samuel Trowbridge (1st Place Local, 2nd Place Regional, 11th Grade). Not Pictured are Rachel Chu (1st Place Local) and T. Gary Saich, Branch Assistant Americanism Chairman.

BRANCH 37 PORTSMOUTH, VA.

Shipmate Clyde Toler (center) was named the 2016 East Coast Region's Shipmate of the Year in Public Relations. He was recognized by Branch President William Hansen (left) and Shipmate Edward Kracker (right).

BRANCH 105 OWENSBORO, KY.

Shipmate President Harold Phillips (left) is recognized for his 50 years of continuous FRA membership by Branch Vice President Jerry Millay.

BRANCH 1 PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Branch 1 President Charles Rainey, Pat LaRose and Branch Secretary, Randy Brown preformed the Memorial Day Ceremony and laying of the wreath on the pier of Sector Delaware Bay Coast Guard Station, Philadelphia, Pa. Standing by (center) to throw the wreath is S/M William Rutledge, and far right Branch 1 2nd VP Thomas Groeber, with the USCGC William Tate moored pier side.

BRANCH 166 VIRGINIA BEACH, VA.

Branch members met with Tidewater Community College Representative Alexandra Rice to establish a scholarship for student veterans.

NE/NENG REGION

During the NE/NEng Region Convention (August 2016), RPNE/NEng Donna Jansky presented 50-year membership cards and pins to PNP George P. Hyland and Shipmate John A. Sullivan.

BRANCH 178 MONTEREY, CALIF.

Shipmate Dan Presser prepares for Memorial Day ceremonies on Coast Guard Pier, Monterey, Calif.

To submit a photo for *Shipmate News*, please e-mail a photo as an attachment in jpeg format to FRAToday@fra.org or mail a high-quality photograph to *FRA Today*, 125 N. West Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. Please include a brief description of the photograph and include the names of those pictured. Laser prints and scanned copies of photographs cannot be accepted.

MEMBERS OF THE LAFRA have participated in numerous activities across the globe during the past year. Here a just a few of those moments:



▲ Members of LAFRA Unit 154(Baguio City, Philippines) after their induction and initiation ceremony.



◀ PNP Diane Hoover and PNC Sylvia Wainio



▲ PNP Cindy Rodham Tuck congratulating PRPNE Sue Hershberger on her 50 years of continuous Auxiliary membership.



◀ Welcome aboard at the 2016 National Convention in Spokane, Wash. Seated (l to r) are FRA PNP Jim Eblen (who has since joined the staff of the Supreme Commander), LAFRA PNP Ruth Eblen, FRA PRPSW Mick Fulton, Nadine Braudaway, Marilyn Quesnel, Sharon Schreiber, Deana Lewandowski, (standing, l to r) FRA RPSW Don Kelley and John Quesnel.



▲ Valley of the Sun Unit 163 (Phoenix, Ariz.)



▲ NP Helen Courneya and escorts at the Tomb of Unknowns during the LAFRA Pilgrimage



◀ Eileen Hyland holds the Bible as RPNE/Neng-Elect Bobbie Seidel is installed. PNC Ellen Kotheimer (left) and PRPNE Sue Hershberger (right) also participated in the ceremony.



◀ Homeless Veteran Stand, sponsored by Branch and Unit 274 (Reno, Nev.)

Correction

The photo of the North Central Region's convention that appeared on the Auxiliary page in the October issue identified LAFRA National President Karen Snee without her surname. *FRA Today* apologizes for this oversight and any confusion it may have caused.

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