



FLEET RESERVE ASSOCIATION

MO-KAN BRANCH & UNIT 161

FEBRUARY 2020

~ BRANCH OFFICERS ~

PRES RAY SCHILLY 816-419-5068
 1stVP BARRY WHITE 816-205-5191
 2ndVP JERRY LICKTEIG 816-699-2786
 TREA DON GAGE 660-831-0780
 SECY ED DELAFUENTE 816-718-4353
 10120 Craig Dr, Overland Pk, KS 66212
 edjen4258@yahoo.com

~ UNIT OFFICERS ~

PRES DIANE SCHILLY 816-726-8373
 VP JOANN POMMERER 816-358-3742
 TREA PAT WENTWORTH 816-333-5590
 CHAP DORIS FRI 816-878-1720
 SECY ERNESTENE COMBS 816-847-6562
 1008 SW Foxtail Dr, Grain Valley, MO 64029
 bilgerat@sbcglobal.net

EDITOR: TONY CHAMPAGNE (tonyro58@gmail.com)

WEB SITE: fra161.org

Meetings are held at 1900 the first Wednesday of each month at the DAV Chapter 2 Home (14605 E. US 40 Hwy. Kansas City, MO located between Noland & Phelps Roads). The DAV kitchen staff offers daily specials or you can order from the menu – \$4 to \$14.

BINGO for the residents of the Home Care Unit at Eisenhower VA Medical Center are generally held the third or fourth SATURDAY of each month. The BINGO crew will meet at TENPENNY in Leavenworth for lunch around noon. Call S/M QUINTERO at 816-260-0435 for definitive information.

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 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ *IN MEMORIAM* ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



Our national symbol and Branch 161 are saddened because the following Shipmate recently joined the Staff of the Supreme Commander



LEVON M. TAYLOR, HM3, USN, RET – Raytown, MO
 NOEL E. WINFIELD, FTCM, USN, RET – Sun City West, AZ

★ ★


FEBRUARY
MEETING HIGHLIGHTS
COMMITTEE REPORTS

Americanism-Essay:
 Regional essays will be judged 22 February at the DAV.

Americanism-Patriotism:
 The next National Holiday will be 17 February.

Membership:

The Branch had 317 members with 313 in good standing as of 31 January.

Finance & Audit:
 The Mid-Year finance report shows the Branch remains solvent.

Youth Activities:
 Sea Cadet CO said a few members will participate in the commissioning ceremonies of USS Kansas City in San Diego on 20 June.

Public Relations:
 No report.

Hospital & Welfare:
 Reports received that S/Ms Levon TAYLOR and Noel WINFIELD recently joined the Staff of the Supreme Commander.

MOTION: To donate \$25 each to the NCR Essay Fund in their memory; *seconded; passed.*

Veterans Service:
 January BINGO at the Leavenworth VA HCU was cancelled; next BINGO will be 15 February.

The following are recognized by MO-KAN Branch 161 for their continuous years of FRA membership during the month of February:

AYVERSONE, Elphird	16	BAKER, James	32	BROWN, Wayne	37	CHISHKO, Louis	46
COX, Lawrence	28	DIPAOLA, Paul	46	DONNELLY, Wayne	42	ELLIOTT, Garrett	45
FOLEY, James	35	FOX, Arthur	34	GAGE, Donald	43	HAMM, Clifford	40
HUDNELL, James	31	HUNTER, Charles	19	HUTCHINSON, Floyd	28	JACOBS, Arrol	42
KELLEY, Douglas	31	LICKTEIG, Bernard	20	MORRIS, Richard	21	NAPPIER, James	41
PHELPS, Robert	23	PRIDEMORE, Larry	16	ROE, Marsden	40	SCHLEGEL, David	30
SUMPTER, Scott	02	THOMASSON, James	37	WILSON, Glenn	20		

Your continued membership is what helps the FRA impact the thinking on Capitol Hill.
We could not do it without you!

Communications:

S/M Secretary read all communications; no action.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer gave his report and identified bills to be paid; checking account balance was \$2,906.51.

MOTION: To pay bills; *seconded; passed.*

Unfinished Business:

The 2020 North Central Regional Mid-Year will take place at the Holiday Inn Airport South in Bloomington, MN, 16-17-18 April. Call 952-884-8211 for reservations.

The 2020 NCR Convention will be held 2-3-4 August at the Inn at Grand Glaize, Lake Ozark, MO. Call 573-348-4731 for reservations. Be sure to mention the Fleet Reserve Association convention.

New Business:

A committee of three visited a hotel in Hannibal, MO for suitability of holding the 2021 NCR Convention. We'll have a decision in April.

Good-of-the-Order:

None

STATUS REPORT

Members 30 days past due:

None

Members 60 days past due:

BOUTZ, EVERETT A.
VEHEC, DR KEN

WHEELER, MARLIN

Members 90 days past due:

KEKAHABAH, CURTIS C.
SHICK, JOEL

REMINDER: Dues renewals sometime come with extraneous information from NHQ and are easily overlooked; also, reports from National run a month late.

New members:

BULLOCK, DANIEL P.
ADC, USN, RET
MONAGHAN, CAREY J.
AZ2, USN, VET

Transfer out:

None

Membership now stands at 317.



UNIT NEWS

Ernestene Combs

We enjoyed having RPNC Peggy Watkins attend our February meeting. To the ones who could not attend, you were missed.

We hope everyone enjoyed a happy holiday season.

NOTICE: There have been problems with the new software for membership and it should be resolved soon. In the meantime, please check your membership card and make sure it is up-to-date; we don't want to inadvertently drop you from the

roster. If you have any questions please get in touch with one of the Unit officers listed on page one. The new address for sending dues payment is:

LAFRA National Financial Secretary
106 Hyrne Drive
Goose Creek, SC 29445-7331

To those who are ill, get well soon. Those of you who have lost loved ones, our prayers and sympathies are with you. Congratulations to all of you on your birthday or anniversary.

Past Due 30 Days:

RVPNC D.J. Hopkins
Patty Mahaffy
Alline D. Shaw

Past Due 60 Days:

None

Past Due 90 Days:

None

Dropped for non-payment:

Brenda L. Bryant

Transfers-out:

None

If your dues have been paid please disregard.

New Members/Transfers-in:

None

To be renewed:

Beverly J. Dempsey
Marie Fulmer
Edna Lampkin
Lorna M. Schneider



Life Membership Application



"I wish to apply for Life Membership in the Fleet Reserve Association. I hereby certify that I am eligible. I fully understand the provisions of the Life Membership Program."

Name: _____ Rate/Rank: _____ Current FRA Membership No.: _____

Address: _____
Street Lot/Space City State Zip Code

Phone: () _____ Date of Birth: _____ Social Security No.: _____ FRA Branch No.: _____
Optional

Service: USN USMC USCG Status: Active Reserve Retired Veteran Spouse's Name: _____

Your E-mail Address: _____

Recruited By: _____ Member No.: _____ Branch No.: _____

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

FRA dues are not tax deductible as charitable contribution for Federal income tax purposes, however, they may be tax deductible under other provisions of the Internal Revenue Code.

Lifetime Membership Payment Plan <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Year <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Years Eff. Date: _____ Month Year	Payment Options: <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Discover <input type="checkbox"/> American Express <input type="checkbox"/> Check or Money Order Enclosed Amount: _____ Credit Card No.: _____ Exp. Date: _____ Signature: _____
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FRA ■ 125 N. West Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-2754 ■ Phone: 703-683-1400, Toll-Free: 1-800-FRA-1924 ■ www.fra.org

The Bosn's Pipe

The VA Asks for Delay of New Presumptive Conditions Related to Agent Orange Exposure . . .

The Department of Veterans Affairs recently sent a report to the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees explaining their concerns with the scientific evidence behind the link between bladder cancer, hypothyroidism, parkinsonism, hypertension and exposure to Agent Orange herbicide. The VA claims that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine did not identify any "definitive causal links" between Agent Orange and the diseases. The VA is now awaiting the results of its own study. The National Academy of Medicine has already established an association between Agent Orange exposure and these four diseases. The FRA is supporting the Fair Care for Vietnam Veterans Act (H.R.5610), which would increase the presumptive conditions linked to exposure of the Agent Orange herbicide to include parkinsonism, bladder cancer, hypertension and hyperthyroidism. FRA Members are strongly urged to use the **FRA Action Center** to weigh in on this important legislation.

The FRA has signed onto a letter to

President Trump, with several other associations, requesting that he intervene and add these ailments to the list of Agent Orange presumptive conditions for disability benefits immediately.

House Passes PAWS Act . . .

The House unanimously passed the Puppies Assisting Wounded Service Members (PAWS) for Veterans Therapy Act (H.R.4305). It is intended to assist veterans struggling with PTSD and other mental health challenges through service dog training therapy. Committee testimony on the measure, noted that mental wellness does not have a one-size-fits-all solution, which is why the VA must provide innovative and out-of-the-box treatments to help veterans combat these invisible illnesses. Companionship and unconditional love offered by man's best friend can have powerful healing effects on men and women from all walks of life, including our men and women in uniform. The went to the Senate for further consideration.

Deputy VA Secretary Dismissed . . .

Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie terminated his next in command Deputy Secretary James Byrne, due to loss of confidence. Byrne was confirmed by

	regular	you pay
Active Duty:	\$400	\$300
Under Age 40:	\$450	\$337.50
Ages 41-50:	\$425	\$318.75
Ages 51-60:	\$390	\$292.50
Ages 61-70:	\$340	\$255
Ages 71-80:	\$260	\$195
Age 81-100:	\$200	\$150
Over 100:	Free	

Reminder! The Branch pays 25% of your life member dues. Call the Branch Secretary for details.

the Senate 11 Sept. 2019. Prior to his assignment as Deputy Director, Byrne served as acting deputy secretary and general counsel for the VA. Before coming to the VA, he served in the Office of the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction. Byrne was a Marine Corps infantry officer.

COMING EVENTS

- Sat. 22 Feb. 2020: 1100 Quarterly Membership Luncheon at DAV.
- Wed. 4 Mar. 2020. Reg. Br. & Unit Meeting 14605 E. US 40 Hwy.
- Wed. 1 Apr. 2020. Reg. Br. & Unit Meeting 14605 E. US 40 Hwy. Nomination of 2020-21 Branch Officers open.


TONY CHAMPAGNE - EDITOR
1008 SW FOXTAIL DR
GRAIN VALLEY, MO 64029

MO-KAN BRANCH & UNIT 161
SERVING ENLISTED SEA SERVICES
Since 1953

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
KANSAS CITY, MO
PERMIT NO. 2942

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



 **FRA Membership Application**

Membership is open to all current or former enlisted members of the Navy, Marine Corps or Coast Guard. My signature below certifies that I fulfill the eligibility requirements and want To join the FRA. Annual dues includes a subscription to *FRA Today* magazine.

RECRUITED BY: (Optional Information)
Name: _____
Member No: _____ Branch No: _____


Name: _____ Rate/Rank: _____ Birth Date: _____
Address: _____
Street Apt/Lot City State Zip
Dates of Service: from _____ to _____ SSN (optional): _____ Phone: () _____
Service: USN; USMC; USCG; Status: Active; Reserve; Retired; Veteran Membership Pref: Branch No. 161

SPECIAL OFFER
for
NEW MEMBERS
\$64 for two years

Previous FRA Member: No Yes If yes; previous Member No. _____
Spouses Name: _____ Your E-mail Address: _____
Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____
Dues: 1 yr \$40; 2 yrs \$64 (new members); 2 yrs \$75; 5 yrs \$180 Check enclosed

Pmt Options: Visa; MC; AE; Discover; Cr. Card No. _____ Exp Date: _____
Mail to: Address on Newsletter or; 125 N. West St.; Alexandria, VA 22314 Make check payable to: FRA

JOIN THE AUXILIARY FRA; Membership Application (Dues \$20)



Name in Full _____
First Middle Last
Address: _____
Street Apt/Lot City State Zip
Date of Birth: _____ Phone: () _____ Unit Preference: _____
I am the: spouse ; widow(er) ; parent ; grandparent ; sibling ; child ; grandchild (all include "step")
Of _____
Service Member's Name Rate/Rank USN - USMC - USCG
Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____
Proposed By: _____ Member No: _____ Date: _____

VERIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY
The above named Service Member is a member of or, at time of death, was eligible to be a member of Fleet Reserve Association Branch number _____ Verified by: _____ Date _____
Unit Secretary