



FLEET RESERVE ASSOCIATION

MO-KAN BRANCH & UNIT 161

MARCH 2020

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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, However, **BINGO HAS BEEN SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. AFTER THE CONCERNS OVER CORONA VIRUS SUBSIDES, WE WILL RESUME.**

★
 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ *IN MEMORIAM* ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



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



CARL C. CONARD, CPO, USN, RET – Country Club, MO

★ ★



MARCH MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Visitors for the March meeting included: AEC Richard THOMAS, Geri MITCHELL, and Chris HAYWORTH. Sea Cadets from the Harry S. Truman Squadron presented and posted colors during opening ceremonies for the meeting

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Americanism-Essay:

Regional essays have been judged.

Americanism-Patriotism:

The next National Holiday will be 25 May; Memorial Day.

Membership:

The Branch had 313 members with 310 in good standing as of 29 February.

Finance & Audit:

Addendum to the Mid-Year finance report: 2019 charitable expenditures from the Branch charitable account was \$14,928.41. Donations from the regular account were not available.

Youth Activities:

Upcoming Sea Cadet activities were reported.

Tour of the DAV facilities by TNC staff for feasibility of holding Christmas parties will be 5 March.

Public Relations:

No report.

Hospital & Welfare:

Reports received that S/Ms Carl CONARD recently joined the Staff of the Supreme Commander.

MOTION: To postpone a donation to the NCR Essay Fund due to absence

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

BOGERT, Richard	36	CABY, David	47	CARTER, Ken	29	COMBS, Don	05
CRANE, Don	34	DAVIS, James III	02	ELLIOTT, Steve	28	FERRINGTON, David	44
GANN, Dale	38	GARRIGUES, Ned	24	GEORGE, William	31	HALL, Robert	41
HARDEN, Louis	39	HENDRICKSON, James	43	KORTUM, Joseph	41	LILLIG, Bernie	04
O'BRIEN, George	29	PULLIAM, Darrell	29	RAGAN, Larry	16	★RODGERS, William	60
ROSE, Elmer	34	SANDERS, Gary	13	SCHERMAN, Ernest	21	SHELTON, Robert	22
SIEG, John	43	STUTTS, Wesley	43	WISE, Cletus	41		

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

WAY TO GO BILL!!!

of the Treasurer; *seconded; passed.*

Branch members conducted the Two Bell Ceremony during memorial services for S/M Levon TAYLOR, 29 February.

Veterans Service:

February BINGO at the Leavenworth VA HCU was conducted the 15th by S/Ms QUINTERO and N. COMBS, with the help of Debbie Palmer; BINGO has been suspended during the all-out-war on *Coronavirus*.

Communications:

S/M Secretary read all communications; no action.

Treasurer's Report:

No report.

MOTION: To postpone payment of 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.

A supply of FRA garrison hats have been ordered for members who want them.

New Business:

MOTION: To run full-page ads in the 2020 Regional and National Convention Journals; *seconded; passed.*

Good-of-the-Order:

None

STATUS REPORT

Members 30 days past due:

ARMOUR, ELIZABETH
BEVFODEN, DONALD L.
MARLIN, PETER J.

Members 60 days past due:

None

Members 90 days past due:

BOUTZ, EVERETT A.
VEHEC, DR KEN
WHEELER, MARLIN

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

New members:

None

Transfer out:

None

Membership now stands at 313.



UNIT NEWS

Ernestene Combs

We had 10 members attend the March meeting. To the ones who could not attend, you were missed.

During the month of April we will begin nominations for officers in the coming year; elections will be held in May and the installation held in June.

The 2020 pilgrimage has been cancelled. The Mid-Year will be in Bloomington, MN, April 17-19. For info on reservations please get in touch with one of the people listed in the newsletter — or call the hotel at (952) 884-8211 and mention the Fleet Reserve Association convention. We will be staying at the Holiday Inn Bloomington Airport South, 1201 West 94th Street, Bloomington, MN 55431.

For all of you celebrating a birthday in March we wish you a very *Happy Birthday*. And to those who are ill, get well soon. If you have recently lost a loved one, our prayers and sympathies are with you.

Past Due 30 Days:

Daniel A. Fri
PRPSC E. Jane Holtmann

Past Due 60 Days:

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

Past Due 90 Days:

Marlene M. Juhasz

Dropped for non-payment:

None

Transfers-out:

None

Thank you all for your support. If your dues have been paid please disregard the *Past Due* notice.

New Members/Transfers-in:

None

To be renewed:

Larry M. Combs
Rhea B. Davidson
Ruth A. Gindling
Joann D. Pommerer
Teresa A. Stephenson
RPNC Barbara L. White

The Bosn's Pipe

SASC-P has Hearing on Personnel Issues

— The Senate Armed Services, Subcommittee on Personnel held an issues related hearing and had Pentagon officials testify. The FRA submitted a written statement for the record on items of concern to Shipmates. The FRA statement included the association's opposition to scheduled annual pharmacy and treatment co-pay increases, restricting retirees and military dependents from selected Military Treatment Facilities and proposed drastic cuts to military medical staff. The FRA statement urged the subcommittee to expand concurrent receipt and increase Congressional oversight of the Defense Department's suicide prevention program.

Among the many topics discussed, Pentagon officials spoke of "rightsizing" the Military Health System with a focus on readiness. DoD officials assured members of the subcommittee that the agency will continue to closely monitor MTFs and

make any necessary adjustments. Members can go the [FRA Action Center](#) to weigh in on expanding concurrent receipt and expressing opposition to restricting retirees and military dependents from obtaining health care services at select MTFs.

FRA Urges SecDef to Re-consider Changes to DoD Childcare Centers for USCG Families

— The FRA has dispatched a letter to the secretary of defense urging him to reconsider his decision to restrict attendance at child development centers for kids from Coast Guard families. Press reports indicate that one of the unintended consequences in this changed policy is that as many as 1,000 children of active-duty Coast Guard families could lose their spots at base child development centers. The association believes it is important to provide adequate child-care at all military installations. The FRA advocates that DoD should increase funding for child development centers rather than restrict usage. The association also wants to ensure funding parity with DoD on pay, benefits and housing for Coast Guard personnel. At a recent House Appropriations Committee hearing, Coast Guard Commandant Admiral Karl Schultz expressed serious concerns about the changed DoD CDC policy.

VA Notice on Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

— The Department of Veterans Affairs has issued a statement that the Veterans Health Administration is working closely with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services and other federal agencies to monitor and respond to the current outbreak of COVID-19 in the United States. The VHA is operating in accordance with CDC guidance and is actively participating in response efforts in local communities to address the outbreak.

The VHA has a comprehensive plan in place to protect the health of

everyone who visits or works at VA facilities. The Emergency Management Coordination Cell has been activated and is responding to this rapidly changing situation. Supply chain measures are in place, negative airflow beds are available across VHA facilities, and COVID-19 testing kits are available. The VHA is reinforcing adherence to the standard, contact, and airborne precautions, which include the use of personal protective equipment. Healthcare personnel evaluating or treating a patient suspected or confirmed to have a COVID-19 infection have been directed to use these precautions.

The VHA is constantly communicating with employees about the importance of common-sense behaviors for reducing the spread of this illness, such as washing hands for at least 20 seconds, avoid touching their faces, covering coughs and sneezes, getting vaccinated against the flu, avoiding other people who are sick and encouraging employees to stay home if they are sick.

In addition, the VHA is heavily encouraging veterans to call their local medical center before they visit the facility and telling them to consider using VA telehealth. The VA's telehealth providers can evaluate patient's symptoms to make a diagnosis and provide comprehensive care from a telephone. Go online for more information on telehealth.

— COMING EVENTS —

Wed. 1 Apr. 2020. Reg. Br. & Unit Meeting 14605 E. US 40 Hwy. Nomination of 2020-21 Branch Officers open.

Fri-Sat. 16-17 Apr. 2020: NCR Mid-Year Conf. Bloomington, MN unless cancelled????

Wed. 6 May 2020. Reg. Br. & Unit Meeting 14605 E. US 40 Hwy. Election of 2020-21 Branch Officers take place.

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

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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

