



FLEET RESERVE ASSOCIATION

MO-KAN BRANCH & UNIT 161

APRIL 2021

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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.**

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



- RALPH L. FITCH, LIC, USN, RET — LaCygne, KS
- ALFRED C. BOWMAN, AE1, USN, RET — Maryville, MO
- WALLACE L. PRINCE, ABEC, USN, RET — Bethel, MO
- RICHARD MORRIS, SKCM, USN, RET — Raymore, MO
- WAYNE A SHELNUT, CWO, USN, RET — Covington, GA
- DANIEL P. McCARTY, GYSGT, USMC, RET — Rocky Mount, MO

★ ★



APRIL

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

S/M President WHITE initiated Rick GRINDEL into the FRA and Branch 161.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Americanism-Essay:

Awaiting results from NHQ.

Americanism-Patriotism:

The next National Holiday observance will be Memorial Day, 31 May.

Membership:

The Branch had 284 members with 282 in good standing as of 31 March.

Finance & Audit:

The annual audit will be conducted after election of officers in May and the June meeting.

Youth Activities:

S/M QUINTERO will work hockey games to raise funds until the season ends in April followed by a smattering of events until October.

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

BENTZ, David	31	BEUSSINK, Ted	10	BOLEY, Carl	39	BRANHAM, Wallace	35
COMBS, Michael	13	COX, Gordon Sr	01	EIFERT, Alfred	30	FELLOWS, Hurley	45
FLIPPIN, Kevin	30	HALL, Burl	27	HEFFEL, Edward	42	KATZENBERGER, Al	25
KELSEY, Edward	21	KRUMP, Michael	20	KUHN, Thomas	27	LACY, Ronald	25
MAYBERRY, Jesse	35	MCARTOR, Frank	45	PIPPIN, Jack	42	PRINCE, Wallace	25
★RECTOR, Carol	52	SAMPSEL, John	31	SINGER, Jerry	06	SKEENS, Donald	24
TAYLOR, James	32	TEGMEYER, Darrell	40	THOMPSON, Ronald	25	TURNHAM, Joel	03
★VARGO, Walter	54						

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

Public Relations:

S/M C. SANDERS visited veterans in Lexington 19 March; attended funeral services for another veteran; picked up goods from Price Chopper and delivered to Community Services.

Hospital & Welfare:

Word was received that S/Ms Ralph FITCH, Alfred BOWMAN, Wallace PRINCE, Wayne SHELNUTT and Daniel McCARTY recently joined the Staff of the Supreme Commander.

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

Veterans Service:

BINGO at the Leavenworth VA HCU remains on hold during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Branch continues to donate funds for one monthly session. With a little luck and enough vaccines, we should be able to resume BINGO and other events soon.

Communications:

S/M Secretary had none for action.

Treasurer's Report:

S/M Treasurer said the Branch had \$3,354.25 in the checking account and gave a list of the bills due.

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

Unfinished Business:

A shelter for the annual Branch picnic is reserved for Sunday, 29 August in Armstrong Park in Grain Valley.

New Business:

The following were nominated for 2021-22 Branch Officers and BoD:

- President WHITE
- 1st VP LICKTEIG
- 2nd VP BORGMEYER
- Secretary KLINGER
- BoD: SHICK, C. SANDERS
- QUINTERO, GRINDEL, NARRON,
- DeLaFUENTE.

Good-of-the-Order:

S/M RPNC LICKTEIG mentioned that the 2021 FRA National Convention has been moved to Spokane Valley, WA.

STATUS REPORT

Members 30 days past due:
CHISHKO, LOUIS B.
SCHLEGEL, DAVID R.

Members 60 days past due:
None

Members 90 days past due:
None

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 284.



UNIT NEWS
Ernestene Combs

Six Unit members were able to attend the NCR Mid-Year Conference. A shipmate about the USS Cole when it was attacked gave a very interesting PowerPoint presentation during the opening ceremonies.

Nominations of new officers began during the April meeting; elections will be held in May followed by the installation in June. We hope many of you can make it to a meeting and share your ideas and vote.

Wishing those of you with an April birthday a very *Happy Birthday*. We hope you were able to enjoy your special day.

If any of you have been affected by the COVID virus we certainly hope you are either over it or are healing. And to those who may have another illness, get well soon; please stay safe and healthy, especially during this widespread pandemic.

If you have recently lost a loved one, our prayers and sympathies are with you.

Past Due 30 Days:
Beverly J. Dempsey

Past Due 60 Days:

PNP Jeremy D. Davenport
Matthew G. Davenport
Betty M. Dulebohn
Daniel A. Fri

Past Due 90 Days:

None

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 notices.**

New Members/Transfers-in:

Lorna Holguin (reinstated)
Gerald W. Shaw (reinstated)

To be renewed:

Deborah K. Davenport



THE BOSUN'S PIPE

President Releases FY2022 Budget

Outline ... President Biden released the FY2022 budget outline to Congress. The president plans to ask for \$715 billion in discretionary spending for DoD for the next fiscal year, which would be a 1.6 percent increase over the current year. The Pentagon has responded to a Military Coalition letter that the FRA signed onto. The letter urges the Pentagon not to include a new TRICARE fee increase in the budget. The DoD response indicates that there will be no TRICARE fee increase in the Biden Administrations request. In addition, the outline indicates that active-duty service members will receive the full scheduled active-duty annual pay increase. Senator James Inhofe (Okla.) Ranking Member, Senate Armed Services Committee has recommended a 3-5 percent increase in the FY2022 Defense Budget.

The outline indicates that spending

for the VA will increase 8.2 percent over the current fiscal year. The outline increases funding for the Electronic Health Record implementation, suicide prevention – 75 percent increase, homelessness assistance and toxic exposure research. The outline wants the VA to hire 334 new processors to support claims for new Agent Orange presumptive conditions and reduce the pandemic-caused disability claims backlog. A more detailed budget is expected in May or June. The FRA will continue to monitor the legislative process to ensure adequate funding for both agencies and make sure there are no cuts in earned benefits.

The "Caring for Survivors Act"

Senators Jon Tester (Mont.) and John Boozman (Ark.) have introduced legislation to adjust monthly benefits for family members and survivors of veterans who lost their lives in service to our country. Senate Bill (S.976) seeks to increase payments for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) to be in line with the payments made to surviving spouses of other Federal employees (55 percent). The rate of compensation paid to survivors of service members who die in the line of duty - or veterans who die from service-related injuries or diseases - has been minimally adjusted since its establishment in 1993. DIC payments which are currently 43% of retiree benefits, lag behind payments from other programs by 12 percent.

COMING EVENTS

Wed. 5 May 2021. Reg. Br. & Unit Meeting at 14605 E. US 40 Hwy. Election of Officers.

Sat. 15 May 2021. Qtrly Membership Luncheon at 14605 E. US 40 Hwy.

Wed. 2 June 2021. Reg. Br. & Unit Meeting at 14605 E. US 40 Hwy. Installation of Officers.



Purple Heart X 2

Tony Quintero USS Liberty, 1967; Keith Lorensen USS Cole, 2000
Meet and shake hands at the 2021 NCR Mid-Year

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MO-KAN BRANCH & UNIT 161

SERVING ENLISTED SEA SERVICES
Since 1953

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
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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

