



FLEET RESERVE ASSOCIATION

MO-KAN BRANCH & UNIT 161

MARCH 2024

BRANCH OFFICERS

PRES LARRY BORGMEYER 573-230-6919
1stVP ED DELAFUENTE 816-718-4353
2ndVP RICHARD GRINDEL 816-210-0595
TREA KEVIN FLIPPIN 816-244-9158
SECY JERRY LICKTEIG 816-699-2786
9170 Alpha Ridge, Trimble, MO 64492
jerry@msginc.org

UNIT OFFICERS

PRES DORIS FRI 816-878-1720
VP JOANN POMMERER 816-358-3742
TREA PAT WENTWORTH 816-509-6381
CHAP DONNA LICKTEIG 816-769-7744
SECY ERNESTENE COMBS 816-847-6562
1008 SW Foxtail Drive, Grain Valley, MO 64029
bilgerat@sbcglobal.net

EDITOR: Tony Champagne (tonyro58@gmail.com)

WEBSITE: fra161.org

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

BINGO for the residents of the Home Care Unit at Eisenhower VA Medical Center is scheduled for the fourth SATURDAY of each month around 1300. The BINGO crew usually meets at Tenpenny in Leavenworth at 1100 for Lunch prior to entertaining the players.

📅 MARCH 📅 MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Americanism-Essay:

Regional judging is complete; should have results during April meeting.

Americanism-Patriotism:

The next National Holiday observance will be Memorial Day, 27 May.

Membership:

The Branch had 244 members with 243 in good standing as of 29 Feb.

Finance & Audit:

The annual audit is due during the June meeting prior to Installation of Officers.

Youth Activities:

None.

Public Relations:

None.

Hospital & Welfare:

None.

Veterans Service:

BINGO at the VA HCU in Leavenworth was conducted by S/Ms LICKTEIG and COMBS 24 February. Next BINGO is scheduled for 23 March

Communications:

S/M Secretary LICKTEIG read communications. No action required.

Treasurer's Report:

S/M Treasurer reported the Branch has \$2,208.56 in the checking account and on current bills.

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

Unfinished Business:

None.

New Business:

✍️ **MOTION:** To donate \$50 to the Branch hosting the 2024 NCR Mid-Year; *seconded; passed.*

Good-of-the-Order:

The membership was reminded that nominations of Branch Officers for the 2024-25 Association year opens during the April meeting.

Members 30 days past due:
MENKHUS, THOMAS

Members 60 days past due:
None

Members 90 days past due:
CAPEK, JOHN JR

? **QUESTION:** did any of you listed in the *Status Report* receive renewal notices?

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 245.

UNIT NEWS

Ernestene Combs

Just a friendly reminder that the Mid-year Conference will be held April 6-9, 2024 in Springfield, MO. Hope to see you there.

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

BEALL, Martin	01	BOGERT, Richard	40	★CABY, David	51	DAVIS, James III	06
DODD, Eugene	01	ELLIOTT, Steve	32	GARRIGUES, Ned	28	GEORGE, William	35
GURLEY, Dale	35	HALL, Robert	45	HARDEN, Louis	43	HENDRICKSON, Jas	47
HOLTMANN, Paul	37	KORTUM, Joseph	45	LICKTEIG, Leon	02	LILLIG, Bernie	08
O'BRIEN, George	33	PISHKO, Patrick	44	PULLIAM, Darrell	33	RAGAN, Larry	20
ROSE, Elmer	38	SANDERS, Gary	17	SCHERMAN, Ernest	25	VOSS, Henry	04

LET THE FRA DIE; KI\$\$ YOUR BENEFITS GOODBYE!

The new date for the pilgrimage has been scheduled for July 3, 2024; if you are planning to attend, detailed information can be found on the website or in the March *Triangle*.

Our new National Vice President is Kelly Pena. Her project is to "Engage". Part of this is to keep our members current and active by supporting the organization, recruiting new members, and helping others.

Nominations of officers for the coming year will be open at the April and May meetings. Elections will be held at the June meeting, along with the installation. The next meeting will be on April 3; see you there.

Happy Birthday to those of you with March birthdays ... we hope your day was enjoyable.

To those suffering an illness, get well soon. And to those who have lost loved ones, our prayers and sympathies go out to you.

Please notify the Secretary of any change of address or phone number. If you have any questions, please notify an officer listed in the heading of this newsletter.

Past Due 30 Days:

Sarah L. Jenkins

Past Due 60 Days:

RVPNC D. J. Hopkins

Dorothy A. Sanders

Alline D. Shaw

Past Due 90 Days:

None

Dropped for non-payment:

None

Transfers-out:

None

If your dues have been paid please disregard.

New Members/Transfers-in:

None

To be renewed:

Janet S. Cook

Lee A. Beard

Larry M. Combs

Rhea B. Davidson

Ruth A. Gindling

Joann D. Pommerer

Deborah Rivas



FRA President Urges Congress on Veteran Priorities

John Handzuk, National President of the Fleet Reserve Association recently testified before Congress, addressing key concerns affecting veterans nationwide. Handzuk emphasized the need for effective implementation of the PACT Act to protect service members from harmful toxins encountered during duty. He highlighted concerns about the VA's new electronic health records system, urging prompt resolution to prevent medication-related risks for veterans.

Concurrent receipt legislation, specifically the "Major Richard Star Act," received strong support from Handzuk, who stressed the injustice of reducing retirees' pay due to disability.

Addressing fraudulent practices targeting veterans seeking VA benefits, Handzuk advocated for legislative action to prevent exploitation.

Suicide prevention efforts and support for homeless veterans were highlighted, along with opposition to burial restrictions at Arlington National Cemetery.

In his testimony, Handzuk underscored FRA's unwavering commitment to advocating for veterans' rights and well-being, urging Congress to prioritize these critical issues.

US Navy Memorial Announcement

The United States Navy Memorial in Washington, DC, recently completed work on the Delbert D. Black National Chief's Mess. This significant development holds special importance for the FRA as Delbert D Black, the namesake of the exhibit, was not only a member of the FRA but also the first Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON). The Delbert D. Black National Chief's Mess is a prominent feature within the Visitors Center at the Navy Memorial. It offers an immersive experience, educating visitors about the pivotal role of a Navy Chief Petty Officer, highlighting its rich history, and emphasizing the immense responsibility and respect associated with the position. Moreover, the exhibit serves as a unique meeting place for CPOs and CPO selectees from commands worldwide.

For those planning a visit to Washington, DC, to explore its historical sites, the United States Navy Memorial offers an additional attraction worth experiencing. The Delbert D. Black National Chief's Mess promises to provide visitors with valuable

HONORARY MEMBERS DEBBIE PALMER, BETTY RHODEN & JANE HINKLEDIRE
ASSISTED S/M SECRETARY JERRY LICKTEIG & S/M PRESIDENT LARRY
BORGMEYER WITH DELIVERING TURKEYS TO NILES HOME FOR THANKSGIVING



insights into the integral role of Navy Chief Petty Officers and their contributions to the nation's naval heritage.

Leadership Shake-Up Raises Concerns in Navy and Marine Corps

Two significant leadership changes occurred within the military, raising concerns about readiness and confidence in the overall naval and sea services. Firstly, the Navy relieved the commander of the USS Ohio, a ballistic missile submarine, and the third submarine skipper to be removed in seven months. Secondly, two commanders at the West Coast Infantry School of the Marine Corps were fired on the same day. These abrupt changes in leadership could disrupt operations, training schedules, and potentially impact the morale and effectiveness of the units involved.

The frequent dismissal of high-ranking

officers from critical positions within the Navy and Marine Corps raises questions about the readiness and stability of the naval and sea services. Such actions may erode confidence in leadership and highlight underlying issues within these respective branches. Maintaining strong leadership is vital for ensuring operational readiness and effectiveness, particularly in units responsible for strategic deterrence and combat training.

As the Navy and Marine Corps navigate these leadership changes, restoring stability, and addressing any underlying concerns will be paramount. Clear communications and swift action to address disruptions will be crucial in maintaining confidence in the overall readiness and effectiveness of the naval and sea services. These developments underscore the importance of leadership accountability and the need for ongoing efforts to uphold high standards within

the military.



COMING EVENTS

Wed. 3 Apr. 2024. Reg. Br. & Unit Meeting 14605 E. US 40 Hwy. Nominations for 2024-25 Branch & Unit Officers open.

Sat-Tues 6-9 Apr. 2024. NCR Mid-Year Oasis Hotel Springfield, MO.

Wed. 3 Apr. 2024. Reg. Br. & Unit Meeting 14605 E. US 40 Hwy. elections of 2024-25 Branch & Unit Officers.

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



I certify I meet the FRA eligibility requirements of being a current or former enlisted member of the Navy, Marine Corps or Coast Guard.

Service: USN USMC USCG Status: Active Reserve Retired Veteran

NAME	PHONE
RATE / RANK	DATE OF BIRTH (MM/DD/YY) SSN (optional)
STREET ADDRESS	SPOUSE'S NAME
SUITE / SPACE / LOT	<input type="checkbox"/> Branch # _____
CITY	<input type="checkbox"/> Closest Branch <input type="checkbox"/> Member-at-Large
STATE ZIP CODE	Are you a previous FRA member?
EMAIL ADDRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, previous member# _____

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS

All memberships includes a subscription to *FRA Today* magazine, a \$40 value.

- 1 Year / \$40.00
- 2 Years / \$64.00** SPECIAL OFFER FIRST TIME MEMBERS!
- 2 Years / \$75.00 (for renewing or reinstating FRA members)
- 5 Years / \$180.00

PAYMENT OPTIONS

- Master Card Visa Discover
- American Express Check-enclosed

CREDIT CARD NO. _____ EXP. DATE _____

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Join the Auxiliary of the FRA: Membership Application

Name in full _____
First Middle Last

Address: _____
Street City State Zip+4

Phone: () _____ Date of Birth _____

Email _____

The following service member information validates this application:

★

SERVICEMEMBERS FULL NAME RATE/RANK USN/USMC/USCG

- I certify that the information is true and accurate and that my sponsor is a member of Branch _____ or MAL
- I certify that the information is true and accurate that my sponsor was eligible for membership at time of death.

Unit preference _____ Applicant's signature _____ Date _____

Recruited by _____ Member # _____ Unit/Branch _____

Verified by _____ Title _____ Unit/Branch _____ Date _____

★ I am the:

Wife	Mother
Sister	Father
Daughter	Widow
Stepdaughter	Widower
Husband	Granddaughter
Brother	Grandson
Son	Grandmother
Stepson	Grandfather

\$25	1 Year
\$50	2 Years
\$75	3 Years
\$100	4 Years
\$125	5 Years