

Scuttlebutt
September, 2024

Branch/Unit 269
Goose Creek
South Carolina



National website: fra.org
<http://facebook.com/groups/frabrandandunit269>
Southeast region: frasoutheastregion.org
Branch 269 website: fra269gc.org

Branch President's Corner

Shipmates

Time is going by quickly before long the Southeast region convention will be here (9/24-26).

A lot still needs to be completed. The next SER planning meeting will be Sep. 3rd at 18:00. All members are encouraged to attend. come out and see if you can help on the 25th. We will have a BBQ dinner. Come out and meet some of the SER convention attendees, \$15 a plate.

Check out our freshly painted banquet room, Thank you Tim Bailey, Ray Stanfield, Keith Laster, Ken Ealy and Tom Wilbanks for all you do.

Congratulation to John(Nick) Nichols on his 10yr continuous membership pin.

We will have an indoor picnic Labor day.

Yours in Loyalty, Protection and Service
Ken Hutchison

BRANCH OFFICERS

President – Kenneth Hutchison Vice-President - Donald Barton
 Treasurer - PNP Don Muccheck Secretary - Cindy Bryan
 Jr. Past President – Harry Nettles

BRANCH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

| | | |
|-------------------|----------------|--------------|
| PNC Laurie Bailey | Tim Bailey | Skip Chilton |
| Steven Koch | Ronald Lamon | Tom Lawson |
| Glenn Little | William Maloon | Rob Melton |
| Bobbi Sutton | Larry Pepper | Ken Wallace |

Appointees and Committee Chairs
 Chaplain – Bobbi Sutton
 Legislative Affairs – PRPSE Fred Bolz
 Parliamentarian – PNP Don Muccheck
 By-Laws PRPSE Fred Bolz Youth Activites-Donald Barton
 Master-at-Arms-Glenn Little Ways and Means-Larry Pepper
 PRelations/Newsletter- John Tharp
 Webmaster: Nick Nichols
 Essay Contest PNC Laurie Bailey
 Membership – Ken Wallace

LOW COUNTRY HOME, LLC

99 Wisteria Road- (843) 569-2692
 Home Chairman – Ken Wallace

| | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Admin Secretary-Bobbi Sutton | Financial Sec-Steven Koch |
| Director – Sue Peters | Director-PNC Laurie Bailey |
| Director -Dee Wallace | Director – Gail Bolz |
| Director -John Tharp | Director -Rob Melton |
| Director – Skip Chilton | Director – Tim Bailey |

LAFRA UNIT 269

UNIT OFFICERS

President – Trish Chilton Vice President – Marilyn Tharp
 Secretary Yvonne Wallace Treasurer- PRPSE Gale Nathan
 Jr Past President – PRPSE Gail Bolz

Board of Directors

| | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| PRPSE Gail Bolz | Kathy Sorenson |
| PNP/NFS Pat Suckow | Theresa Milligan |
| Linda Cox | Ann Griffith |
| Sue Peters | Anne Barton |

LAFRA UNIT 269

Appointees & Committee Chairs

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Chaplain – Theresa Milligan | Amer/Pat – Vacant |
| Sergeant-at-Arms | VAVS – Theresa Milligan |
| Kathy Sorenson | |
| Welfare/Rehab – Sue Peters | |
| Linda Nichols | Parliamentarian-PRPSE Gail Bolz |
| Publicity- Debra Breeze | Ship's Store --Trish Chilton |
| Hospital – Theresa Milligan | |
| Membership Marilyn Tharp | Unit Activities -- All Members |
| Youth Activities—Anne Barton | |

Madam President Tidbits

Hello Auxiliary Members:

Our August meeting went well, however, we need to recruit more members to attend the meetings. And we need to **ALL** work harder to retain the members we have.

BUNKO will be August 18th a 12:30

An appointed committee will be reviewing our Bylaws during the month of September.

As usual, the Unit will be helping at our golf tournament September 7th. October 4th the Unit will have a CAKE auction at the fleet at 1800.

The Vietnam Wall (The Wall That Heals) will be at the Dorchester Heritage Center (964 Highway 78) Ridgeville on October 17-20.

Trish Chilton

Unit President

Yours in Loyalty, Protection and Service

WEEKLY DRAWING AT THE HOME

Names drawn lately: 7/30 – Larry Born, not signed; 8/6 – Hazel Hacker, not signed; 8/22 – Terri Kornick, not signed; 8/27 – Wendy Holman. not signed.

You must be a member of the Branch or Unit in good standing and you must be signed in the log. You can sign up until 1800 hours, on the day of the drawing. The drawing is held every Tuesday night at 2030 hours.

BRANCH MEMBERSHIP REPORT

New or Reinstated Members – 2

Transferred into Low Country Branch 269 – 2

Transferred from Branch 269 – 0

Ready to renew – 14

Past Due - 17

Suspended members - 8

Transferred to the Staff of the Supreme Commander - 3

Total members: 777

Membership/Retention: Ken Wallace

Total Members: 777

New Join: Mark Archambean, Gary Clinefelter, James Crump, Lewis Leal, Dean Nimocks, Sheri Ragan

Ready to Renew: Charles Clore, Jack Collier, Robert Crenshaw, Christopher Gilbreath, James Graham Sr., George Johnson, Jeff Latourelle, Ronald Litzenberger, Wade Reid, Donald Rickert, Joseph Shea, Franklin Shoenberger, Earl Spurlock, William Sullivan

Past Due: Darrell Boggs, Paul Close, Terry Corley, Arthur Di Filippo, Charles Hughes Jr., Timothy Kuehhas, Derrick Mihanovich, John Pontieri, Robert Ramsey, Santos Riduca, Michael Schilevert, Brian Sims, Robert Sowards, Michael Sparks, Fred Sprague, Mark Tracy, Joseph Weber

Suspended: Robert Clark, Harold Crawford, Carter Crosson, Fredrick Daughtery, Ronald Hoadley Jr., Stephen Kovacs Jr, Lewis Miller

Unit Membership and Retention:

Past Due 30 Days: Ann Griffith, Scott Sarah

60 days late: Melissa Molina-Mattix, Joan Wilson

90 days late: Scott Huber, Isla Janney

**Prayers for the family of: PNP Ronald Hoadley Jr., TCMC
(SS) Thom Beach and GMMC Lewis Miller**
 Bob Browning had hand surgery.
 Jerry Stout had an infusion on July 16th.
 James Grant will have surgery on left leg.
 Robbie Roberts has an aneurysm in his stomach.
 Shipmates or Unit members please contact
Branch Chaplain Bobbi Sutton @ 843-879-9473
Unit Chaplain Theresa Milligan @ 843-535-2757

| <u>BRANCH TREASURER'S REPORT</u> | |
|---|---------------------|
| Operations | \$ 6,366.53 |
| Savings | \$ 4,678.20 |
| Certificate of Deposit | \$ 11,561.71 |
| Total | \$ 22,606.44 |

Branch Continuous Membership – September, 2024

| | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Benjamin Kluth Jr. (59) | Charles Clore (24) | Donald Heinle (17) | JAMES GRAHAM SR. (3) |
| Donald Hanley (53) | Merrell Peterson (24) | Herbert Franklin (16) | CLARENCE PEIFER (3) |
| Kenneth Cowles (50) | Kenneth Seal (24) | Michael Fusari (16) | EARL SPURLOCK (3) |
| Donald Rickert (40) | Franklin Shoenberger (24) | Rodney McKanna (15) | GEORGE JOHNSON (2) |
| Willard Burton Jr. (38) | Ron Workman (24) | Michael Hadbavny (14) | KEVIN CRAWFORD (1) |
| Joseph Shea (36) | James Sherrow (23) | Michael Sosa (12) | CHRISTOPHER GILBREATH (1) |
| Larry Born (32) | Jack Collier (22) | William Cox (11) | MICHELLE GOAD (1) |
| Robert Crenshaw (28) | Ronald Litzenberger (19) | Vernice Smith Jr. (11) | RICHARD HARBOLD JR. (1) |
| William Martin II (28) | Sam Pennington (19) | Dale Brannen (9) | JEFF LATOURELLE (1) |
| Michael Clemens (25) | Parke Manuel (18) | Donald Langdon (9) | |
| William Sullivan (25) | Wade Reid (18) | James Bellemare (5) | |

**Unit 269 Continuous Membership
September, 2024**

| | | | |
|---|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Jordan Highberger (2) Karen Hubert (5) | Janice Highberger (5) | Robin McKeown (10) | CARMELLA DAY (20) |
|---|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|

**ATTN: DONATIONS NEEDED FOR SOUTHEAST REGION CONVENTION HOSTED BY
BRANCH AND UNIT 269**

Our upcoming Convention is quickly coming up and we need your help by donating items for our gift baskets, welcome (ditty bags), and our hospitality room. If you work or know of businesses that want to get their name out there and support us, ask them to donate small items like pens, magnets, note pads or other advertising items and bring them to the Fleet Home to put them in boxes set up in the bar area. We have gift baskets to prepare and the topics are Wine, Tea and golf. Also snacks and sodas for the Hospitality Room. So if you are out shopping, pick up an item or two for these topics and drop them off at the Fleet Home. Every little bit helps to defer the costs of putting on a convention.

Thanks: The Convention Committee

YOUR BIRTHDAY IS IN September- 2024

If you are a Branch 269 or Unit 269 member, come on in to the Low Country Home **on your birthday** for a

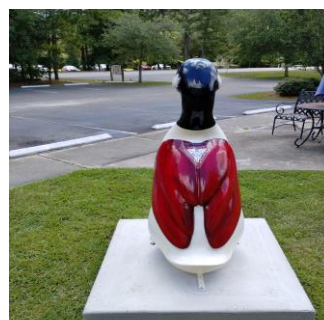
FREE BIRTHDAY LUNCH

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Edward Fisher (1) | Charles Gravley (7) | Michael Cousino (14) | Bob Browning (22) |
| Jeffrey Hamm (1) | Richard Hair (7) | Thomas Jennings (14) | Holly Gordon (22) |
| Thomas Irvine (1) | Kenneth Hutchison (7) | Tammy Miller (140) | Clarence Hall (22) |
| Robert Richardson (1) | Danny Trapp (7) | Linda Nichols (14) | John Paul (22) |
| Paul King (2) | Robert Hedin (8) | James Wilcutt Jr. (14) | PRPSE Gail Bolz (23) |
| Carla Passmore (2) | Robert Stancik (8) | Robert Mixon (15) | Raymond Clark (23) |
| Debrah Rullman (2) | William Hunter (9) | Edward Bowles (16) | Annie Bain (24) |
| Joseph Shea (2) | Paul McHugh (9) | Ernest Sweat Jr. (16) | Michael Femen (24) |
| Cody Schaefer (2) | John Glass (10) | Linda Vinson (17) | Benita Kinlaw (24) |
| Robert Windrow (2) | Gary Hinks (10) | Thomas Chilton (18) | Curtis March (24) |
| Dennis Lanier (3) | Robert Lopez (10) | Anna Brown (19) | Raymond McKinley III (24) |
| Alan Lincoln (2) | Daniel Mckieman (10) | Patrick Demody (19) | Jeanette Walker (24) |
| Cecil Skipworth (3) | Nancy Sandefer (10) | Brian Murphy (19) | Scott Salisbury (24) |
| Charles Szad (3) | Joseph Taschner (10) | Don Pace (19) | Everette Coates (26) |
| Jeffrey Kirksey (4) | David Greeno (11) | Wayne Suckow Jr. (19) | Bruce Tucker (26) |
| Kimberly Vandiver (4) | Robert Stodola (11) | Walter Mabe (20) | Oscar Diano (27) |
| Jack Wrbanich (4) | David Taschner (11) | Michael Markiewich (20) | William Dunsing (27) |
| Scot Huber (5) | Tim Cowan (12) | Donald Snead (20) | Thomas Evans (28) |
| Wanda Seay (5) | William Lindler (12) | James Turner Jr. (20) | Louis Goehring (28) |
| Byron C ouch (6) | Michael Steele (12) | Milton Willoughby (20) | Joseph Perillo (28) |
| Robert Curtis (6) | Randall Bolin (13) | Robert Bear (21) | Mary Johnson (28) |
| Jimmie Gambrell (6) | Kevin Scott (13) | Michael Clemens (21) | Donald Blackwelder (30) |
| Allen Katen (6) | Mike Sroka (13) | Michelle Goad (21) | Earl Goodall (30) |
| Larry Knutson (6) | Gary Thomas (13) | Robert Ingebretson (21) | Michael Neff (30) |
| Dennis Cox (7) | Jason Anderson (14) | Robert Rose (21) | |

The City of Goose Creek has a "Goose" program within the city. For a cost (donations) we got our "Goose",

Check out all of the many "Goose". The Branch and Unit has their own "Goose".

It is in the lawn portion on the side of the building. Check him out. He now has a hat on.



Home Committee Input

Cash Audit as of 10 August 2024 as follows: Checkbook balance \$8,407.07, Credit Card account \$14,453.98, Savings account \$26,441.35; there is \$1,143.50 in pending checks. Total cash on-hand \$61,945.90.

Financial Audit as of 31 July 2024 reflected the following balances: Checking Account \$8,344.08, Regular Savings Account \$26,439.11, and Credit Card account \$21,248.08. Net profit for the month of July was \$3,015.31; Year to Date is \$10,773.02

Building and Grounds/Special Events Manager's report: The painting has been completed in the banquet room, foyer, and the banquet room bathrooms. S/M Tim Bailey has replaced all of the electrical outlet covers and switches. He is in process of installing chair railing in the banquet room.

The August 4th Coast Guard birthday celebration was well attended.

The funeral service for TCM (SS) Thom will be on Saturday the 17th at 1000 at Carolina Memorial Gardens; following the service there will be a celebration of life

Membership and Security: Headquarters reported that we have 777 active Branch members as of 01 August. There are 187 active Unit members. S/M Cindy Bryan reports we have five new members who have been issued key cards. at the Home at 1200.

There will be an indoor picnic on Monday the 2nd of September, to celebrate Labor Day. Desserts and donations are welcomed.

The next golf tournament will be on Saturday, the 7th of September, followed by lunch and awards at the Home.

The "Goose" has been ordered and should be received later this month or the first of next.

New Business: S/M Zauner reported the cost of painting the bathrooms in the bar area, quoted to be \$350,00 per bathroom. Motion was made and approved by the Committee members to allocate, NTE \$700.00.

S/M Koch requested we discuss changing the time of the Tuesday drawing from 2030 to 2000. After discussing it, a Motion was made and approved by the Committee members to change the drawing from 2030 to 2000, and implemented beginning September 3rd.

Good of the Order: our next meeting will be Monday, September 16 at 1300,

One final reminder, if you bring a Non-Member to Home, please remember to sign them into the Guest Log.

Ken Wallace, Home Committee Chairman.



The surrender of the Empire of Japan in World War II was announced by Emperor Hirohito on 15 August and formally signed on 2 September 1945, ending the war.



On September 11, 2001, 19 militants associated with the Islamic extremist group al Qaeda hijacked four airplanes and carried out suicide attacks against targets in the United States. Two of the planes were flown into the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City, a third plane hit the Pentagon just outside Washington, D.C., and the fourth plane crashed in a field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. Almost 3,000 people were killed during the 9/11 terrorist attacks, which triggered major U.S. initiatives to combat terrorism and defined the presidency of George W. Bush.



The United States' National POW/MIA Recognition Day is observed across the nation on **the third Friday of September each year**. Many Americans take the time to remember those who were prisoners of war (POW) and those who are missing in action (MIA), as well as their families.



Gold Star families are those who have lost a loved one while serving the nation. The term "Gold Star" originated during World War 1 and signified a family that had lost one of its members in combat. The last Sunday of September is designated as Gold Star Mother's Day. In 2011, the observance was renamed to include the recognition of Gold Star family members. American Gold Star Mothers was founded in 1928 by Grace Darling, a Gold Star Mother, along with a group of 25 other grieving mothers.



Mark your calendar, watch for
 details, watch for additions

Friday nights – 1930 hrs – Scotch Doubles, 8-ball Tournament

September, 2024

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|------------------------|---|---|----------------------------|---|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 Free Pool | 2 Labor Day Indoor Picnic 11:30 | 3 | 4 | 5 Subvet Eboard | 6 | 7 Golf Tournament |
| 8 Free Pool | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 Subvet Mtg  | 13 | 14 DAV Meeting 1000 |
| 15 Free Pool | 16 Home Committee 1300 | 17 Unit Lunch 1130 Unit Meeting 1800 | 18 LCCC 1900 | 19 Branch Mtg  | 20 | 21 |
| 22 Free Pool | 23 VVA MTG  | 24 | 25 | 26 MCL Mtg  | 27 MOAA 1100 | 28 |
| 29 FREE POOL | 30 | 30 Sojourners 1900 | 31 | 27 | 28 | 29 |

Navy recruiting rebounds, but falls short of boot camp goal



The Navy will meet its goal to sign up 40,600 recruits by the end of September thanks to several new recruiting programs, but the crush of last-minute enlistments means it won't be able to get them all through boot camp by next month.

Navy Vice Adm. Rick Cheeseman said the service will fall about 5,000 sailors short of its target to get all of the recruits into the 10-week training course at Great Lakes, Illinois, by the end of the fiscal year. While they have signed initial contracts, many are months away from getting into boot camp or into the fleet.

The Navy hasn't been able to hit its total recruiting goal now for two years in a row. And those gaps are hurting its ability to fully staff its warships. The Navy is short about 22,000 sailors to fill billets on ships, and the vast majority of those — about 20,000 — are in the lowest ranks.

“We have not gotten to the point where we can't do things — I want to make sure that's clear,” Cheeseman said in an interview with The Associated Press. “We're all working together to make sure our ships are ready to do the things we ask them to do.”

All of the military services have struggled in the past several years to attract recruits in a tight job market, where companies are willing to pay more and provide good benefits without the demands of service and warfighting. It is also difficult to find young people who can meet the military's physical, mental and moral standards, which have strict limits on drug use and criminal convictions.

Last year, for example, the Navy, Army and Air Force all failed to meet their recruitment goals, with the Navy falling short by about 6,000. The Marine Corps and tiny Space Force have consistently met their targets. This fall, all but the Navy are on track to make their numbers and have largely rebounded without some of the more dramatic steps the Navy has taken, including accepting recruits with very low test scores.

The latest surge in Navy recruiting has given Cheeseman and other leaders optimism that the changes made to bring in more sailors are beginning to work. And he predicts full success next year.

“We have rebounded so significantly over the last four to five months, so that I really have phasing problems,” Cheeseman said. “Because we were short October through February, we're trying to push all these people through at the end.”

As a result, he said, boot camp is operating at capacity, and he'll only be able to get about 35,500 through by the end of September.

One of the key recruiting changes was the Navy's decision in December 2022 to greatly expand its pool of applicants by wooing young adults with very low test scores, then bring in recruits who don't have high school diplomas or a GED — both rare steps that the other services greatly limit or avoid.

Cheeseman said that roughly 17% of its recruits this year are so-called category 4 — the lowest end of the test scale. That percentage is much higher than the military norm.

For the most part, the services limit the number of category 4 recruits to no more than 4% of their enlistment totals or refuse to let them in at all. The Navy, however, has argued that it needs those lower-scoring recruits to fill a large number of jobs that involve intense manual labor.

Recruits who score 30 or below on the Armed Services Qualification Test are category 4, and Cheeseman said the Navy had been taking young men and women who scored between 10 and 30 out of a possible 99. Recently, however, he said they stopped letting in those who score between 10 and 20, "because I just don't need them anymore." But the Navy continues to take those who score between 20 and 30.

Taking lower-performing recruits has traditionally raised concerns about potential discipline problems or other issues down the road.

Navy recruiters found some success attracting people without high school diplomas or their equivalent, as long as they scored above 50. That change, made early this year, has brought in about 400 recruits. Many of them, said Cheeseman, score pretty well on the aptitude test, with an average of about 63.

The other major change was the launch of a new Future Sailor Preparatory Course, modeled after one set up two years ago by the Army, which has had significant success. The Navy began its program in April 2023 and so far about 2,900 sailors have gone to the academic course and at least 1,850 have completed it. About 300 have gone through the physical fitness course.

The prep course is for recruits who don't do well academically or on the physical test and it provides three weeks of instruction that can then be extended to up to 90 days

Cheeseman is optimistic as he looks ahead, saying the Navy has increased its staffing at boot camp so that it will be able to handle the full mission over the next year.

"Our recruiters are killing it. They're doing great. They're crushing the mission," he said. "We're trending in the right direction. I'll be able to sustain the numbers we need starting October 1st to make 40,600 next year. No problem. We're

ready to go."



The following pages are on the information on the Traveling Wall (The Wall That Heals), that will be in Ridgeville. If you are interested in helping out as a volunteer at the Wall during its time in Ridgeville there is a schedule that you can call William Blakely to tell him the date and times you can volunteer.



THE WALL THAT HEALS

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL REPLICA & MOBILE EDUCATION CENTER



A PROGRAM OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL FUND
FOUNDERS OF THE WALL

The three-quarter scale Wall replica is 375 feet in length and stands 7.5 feet high at its tallest point. Visitors will experience The Wall rising above them as they walk towards the apex, a key feature of the design of The Wall in D.C. Visitors are able to do name rubbings of individual service member's names on The Wall.

The mobile Education Center exhibit includes: digital photo displays of "Hometown Heroes" - service members whose names are on The Wall that list their home of record within the area of a visit; digital photo displays of Vietnam veterans from the local area.

It will be open 24 hours a day and free to the public. The Wall That Heals honors the more than three million Americans who served in the U.S. Armed forces in the Vietnam War, and it bears the names of the 58,281 men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam.

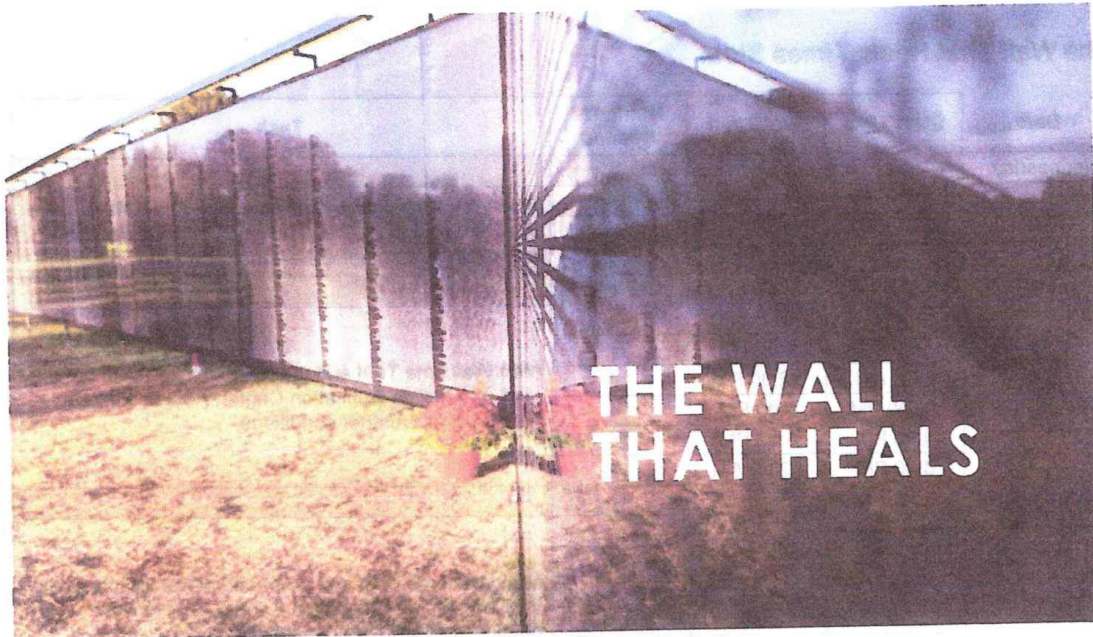
October 17 – 20, 2024
Dorchester Heritage Center
Site: 964 Highway 78,
Ridgeville



**Dorchester
Heritage
Center**

 [LEARN MORE](#)





The Wall That Heals Volunteer Requirements

General Volunteers

General event volunteers will greet and direct visitors, assist with finding names located on The Wall That Heals, and assist in the mobile Education Center. Volunteers should be good listeners, willing to engage with everyone and let visitors tell their story. The Wall that Heals will be open 24 hours a day; and staffed with volunteers at all hours.

Volunteer positions require standing and walking around the mobile Education Center and at The Wall. Volunteers can sit and take a break in the designated volunteer check-in area during their shift. These are not seated positions and volunteers need to wear appropriate clothing for the weather.

Volunteer assignments may include:

- Standing at several points along The Wall That Heals for assistance and welcoming all visitors.
- Directing visitors around the exhibits on display at the mobile Education Center.
- Assisting visitors in locating names in Directory of Names book and providing brochures on such topics as Women and Chaplains on The Wall, In Memory Program, and Wall Facts.
- Ensure decorum is observed at The Wall to provide a respectful reflective setting for all.

Wall Volunteer requirements

- The minimum age for volunteers is 18. (Volunteers must sign a waiver)
- Volunteers are strongly encouraged to attend a 1-hour training session at 6 PM Wednesday, October 16, held at The Wall That Heals.
- If you require a seated position to volunteer due to physical limitations, please email coordinator.dhsc@gmail.com or w.blakely@scdchs.com. There is limited seated positions.

To Sign Up as a Volunteer go to <https://dorchesterheritagecenter.com/the-wall-that-heals/>

The Wall That Heals Times Slots

| Date | Start Time | End Time | Numbers Needed | Task |
|------------------|------------|----------|----------------|--|
| Wednesday | | | | |
| | 2:00 PM | 6:00 PM | 14 | Man Welcome Tent and greet and assist visitors at the Wall and Mobile Education Center, Able to work outside in all weather conditions |
| | 6:00 PM | 9:00 PM | 14 | |
| | 9:00 PM | 12:00 AM | 12 | |
| Thursday | | | | |
| 10/17/2024 | 12:00 AM | 4:00 AM | 4 | Man Welcome Tent and greet and assist visitors at the Wall and Mobile Education Center, Able to work outside in all weather conditions |
| | 4:00 AM | 8:00 AM | 4 | |
| | 8:00 AM | 12:00 PM | 14 | |
| | 12:00 PM | 4:00 PM | 14 | |
| | 4:00 PM | 8:00 PM | 14 | |
| | 8:00 PM | 12:00 AM | 12 | |
| Friday | | | | |
| 10/18/2024 | 12:00 AM | 4:00 AM | 4 | Man Welcome Tent and greet and assist visitors at the Wall and Mobile Education Center, Able to work outside in all weather conditions |
| | 4:00 AM | 8:00 AM | 4 | |
| | 8:00 AM | 12:00 PM | 14 | |
| | 12:00 PM | 4:00 PM | 14 | |
| | 4:00 PM | 8:00 PM | 14 | |
| | 8:00 PM | 12:00 AM | 12 | |
| Saturday | | | | |
| 10/19/2024 | 12:00 AM | 4:00 AM | 4 | Man Welcome Tent and greet and assist visitors at the Wall and Mobile Education Center, Able to work outside in all weather conditions |
| | 4:00 AM | 8:00 AM | 4 | |
| | 8:00 AM | 12:00 PM | 14 | |
| | 12:00 PM | 4:00 PM | 14 | |
| | 4:00 PM | 8:00 PM | 14 | |
| | 8:00 PM | 12:00 AM | 12 | |
| Sunday | | | | |
| 10/20/2024 | 12:00 AM | 4:00 AM | 4 | Man Welcome Tent and greet and assist visitors at the Wall and Mobile Education Center, Able to work outside in all weather conditions |
| | 4:00 AM | 8:00 AM | 4 | |
| | 8:00 AM | 12:00 PM | 14 | |
| | 12:00 PM | 2:00 PM | 14 | |



Dorchester
Heritage
Center

ST. GEORGE SOUTH CAROLINA

William Blakely
Secretary / Treasurer

101 Ridge Street
Saint George, SC 29477

w.blakely@scdchs.com (843) 696-0155

SCRANTON, Pa. — A Pennsylvania ammunition plant that makes a key artillery shell in Ukraine’s fight against Russia has managed to boost production by 50% to meet surging demand, with more capacity set to come on line.

Government officials revealed the increase in production this week as they showcased the historic factory’s ongoing, \$400 million modernization.

The Scranton Army Ammunition Plant cuts and forges 2,000-pound bars of steel into 155mm howitzer rounds that are then shipped to Iowa to be packed with explosives and fitted with fuses. From there, many of them make their way to the fight in Ukraine, where they are highly sought.

The Scranton plant, along with two other ammunition plants in nearby Wilkes-Barre, recently increased production from 24,000 rounds per month to 36,000 rounds per month. Three new production lines are under development that will allow the Scranton facility to churn out even more of the critical munitions, the factory’s top official said.

“Right now we’re concentrating on 155. That’s pretty much all we’re concentrating on,” Richard Hansen, the Army commander’s representative at the plant, said Tuesday while giving news outlets a tour of the sprawling factory grounds near downtown Scranton.

“We’re working really hard to ensure that we achieve the goal that the Pentagon has established.”



Richard Hansen, the Army commander's representative at the Scranton Army Ammunition Plant, leans on a display during a plant tour Tuesday. (Matt Slocum/AP)

The U.S. has sent more than 3 million 155mm artillery rounds to Ukraine since Russia invaded the country in 2022, according to government figures. Earlier this month, the White House announced another \$125 million in weapons to assist Ukraine in its military operations against Russia, including 155mm shells.

The Scranton factory began life as a locomotive repair shop at the beginning of the 20th century before the Army bought it and converted it into a production facility for large-caliber artillery for the Korean War. It's been operated by General Dynamics since 2006 under contract with the U.S. government, which owns the plant.

Officials are about halfway through one of the biggest modernization projects in plant history, with about 20 projects underway. Tuesday's tour included a new production line with a sleek new machine that will do the job of three, helping maximize use of space at the 500,000-square-foot factory.

The plant employs about 300 people, according to a General Dynamics spokesperson. Some of them have been there for decades running the equipment that cuts the steel, heats it to 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit, and forges, machines, washes and paints the finished shells. Each round is manually inspected at each step to ensure it meets specifications.

"We want it go where we point it," Hansen said. "We want it to go as far as we need it to go to do its job. Lives depend on it — the lives of the gun crew, the lives of innocent civilians depend on this round doing exactly what we want it to do out in the field."

Navy's oldest operational warship wraps up its longest patrol in 5 years

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Sailors in their dress whites manned the rails of the amphibious command ship USS Blue Ridge as it steamed into Tokyo Bay on Tuesday, concluding its longest deployment in five years. More than 200 friends, family and coworkers gathered pierside around 5:30 p.m. to greet the Blue Ridge as it pulled into its homeport. Backed by lively music from the U.S. 7th Fleet Band, the crowd cheered and waved signs with messages like “Welcome Back Papa!” and “Together Again!” while sailors waved back from the ship’s deck. The Blue Ridge — the Navy’s oldest operational warship and the 7th Fleet’s flagship — left for patrol on June 4 and over the next 77 days traveled nearly 10,000 nautical miles, with stops in Malaysia, Palau, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, said commander Capt. Nicholas DeLeo. During their port calls, the Blue Ridge’s crew, which includes 7th Fleet command elements, met with foreign dignitaries and military counterparts to discuss regional security and joint operations, DeLeo said pierside on Tuesday. “It’s really just a chance to build on those allies and partnerships and just really focus on what kind of things can we do together in the future,” he said.

The Blue Ridge can act as a mobile command center during fleet operations, but during peacetime it often serves as an envoy for diplomatic and humanitarian efforts. During the Manila stop, the head of 7th Fleet, Vice Adm. Fred Kacher, met with U.S. Ambassador to the Philippines MaryKay Carlson, Philippine fleet commander Rear Adm. Renato David and Lt. Gen. Arthur Cordura, vice chief of staff for the Philippines’ armed forces. Kacher and Blue Ridge officers held similar meetings — sometimes referred to as “Big Top Receptions” — in Palau and Vietnam. In Cam Ranh, Vietnam, DeLeo and other senior officers visited the site of a U.S. Army helicopter lost during the Vietnam War, which continues to be excavated by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency.

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excavated by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency.

The ship also joined the exercise Valiant Shield in the Philippine Sea alongside the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan and other 7th Fleet warships, June 7-18.



Sailors standby on Pier 9 to help moor the USS Blue Ridge at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, Tuesday, Aug. 20, 2024.

The Blue Ridge is well known for its numerous port calls; sailors sometimes call it the “admiral’s yacht” since it often visits exotic locales. But this year’s trip was just the second full deployment for the ship since 2019, when it visited 11 ports in nine countries over 114 days. The Blue Ridge in 2020 made stops in Japan, South Korea and Thailand, but its deployment was cut short when the Navy curbed operations due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The ship last summer marked its first full deployment since the pandemic, with 40 days at sea and stops in Brunei, Indonesia, the Philippines and Singapore. Such visits are often a first for the Blue Ridge crew, which includes more than 1,400 sailors. For Petty Officer 1st Class Lugene Johnson III, a culinary specialist, all seven of this year’s stops were a personal first. “I’ve always heard that when you get a chance to go to the Blue Ridge, you go — you can’t pass that up — and I found out why,” Johnson, of Chicago, said pierside on Tuesday. “We hit a lot of amazing countries, and I found out what the Blue Ridge does; it was a great opportunity to see the partnerships being built.” Beyond visits with foreign dignitaries, the crew also typically participates in community relations and volunteer events. Petty Officer 2nd Class Kyndra Sisayaket, of Pasco, Wash., said her role as a French horn musician with the 7th Fleet Band meant she could play in places she never dreamed of. “We meet a bunch of people during these performances and just get to share music with everyone in these countries,” she said, adding that a concert in Thailand, where her family is originally from, was one of the most memorable moments. Now that the Blue Ridge is home, the crew deserves some much-needed rest and relaxation, DeLeo said. “[The Blue Ridge] is a ship that requires a lot of maintenance,” he said. “Now that we’re home, we can focus on some of those things, but I think reuniting with our families right now is first and foremost on our minds.”