



Scuttlebutt

Branch/Unit 269 Goose Creek, South Carolina

You can read all newsletters at [269 Branch/Unit 269 Newsletters](#)

Fleet Reserve National: [FRA National Home](#)

LA-FRA National Website: [Ladies Auxiliary of the Fleet Reserve Association](#)

Southeast Region: [frasoutheastregion.org](#)

Branch 269 website: [FRA Low Country Branch & Unit 269](#)

[FRA Branch and Unit 269 | Facebook](#)

Branch President's Corner

Shipmates,

Low Country Branch 269 has the honor of having Medal of Honor recipient Major General James Livingston as a life member. Major General Livingston was inducted at the general meeting Thursday evening.

November continued to be busy and rewarding. The 100th year National Convention was held in Alexandria VA. It appears Low country Branch 269 is one of the best. We did very well winning the following awards.

Committee - Chair - Award

Americanism/Patriotism:

- PNC Laurie Bailey - 1st place & Shipmate of the Year

Veterans Affairs

- PRPSE Fred Bolz - 1st place

Public Relations

- S/M John Tharp - 1st Place

Youth Activities

- S/M Don Barton - 1st Place

Congratulations Shipmates for your outstanding work

December will continue to be very busy,

- 10:00 Dec 7: WWII Remembrance on board Yorktown
- 13:00 Dec 8: 2- bell service for TMC Mosley
- 11:00 Dec 14: Wreaths across America (Carolina Memorial Gardens)
- 17:00 Dec 19: Branch Christmas Party (Prime Rib \$25 per person)

Yours in Loyalty, Protection and Service
Ken Hutchison

You can read more about the National Convention Report, Resolutions Adopted, and FRA Budget and Finance in the November General Assembly Meeting attached at the end of this newsletter.

Madam President Tidbits

Hello Auxiliary Members:

We continue to work on retention, membership and attendance at our meetings and functions.

We completed our review of the By Laws and Standing Rules.

Three members will be going to the Yorktown, December 7th for Pearl Harbor Wreath Ceremony.

Shopping for Toys for Tots will be December the 8th at 0800 at Walmart's in Goose Creek.

March 22nd is the next golf tournament.

November 24th was the Toys for Tots Motorcycle ride.

Wreath Across America will be on December the 14th at Carolina Memorial on Rivers Ave.

The Adult Christmas Party is December 19th at 1800 (6 PM). The Children's Christmas Party will be December 21st at 1200-1400 [12-2pm].

The Ladies Christmas Luncheon is December 17th at 1130 at Oscars in Summerville.

Trish Chilton, Unit President

Yours in Loyalty, Protection and Service

The Auxiliary gives a heartfelt thank you for the 2 anonymous donations for the Angel Tree. The 2 military families have 4 children who will receive presents through the Angel Tree program.

Note from the Scuttlebutt Editor

As a note of introduction, I am Nick Nichols MTCM(SS) Ret. I joined Branch 269 in 2014. I'm also a member of Charleston Base SUBVETS, DAV and VVA.

I have recently completed my turnover with John Tharp and am now the Branch newsletter editor in addition to being Branch webmaster. For the past 10 years John has done a great job providing you with very informative newsletters each month. I will do my best to continue providing that same great service to our shipmates.

When possible, the minutes of the last Branch 269 BOD and General Assembly will be attached to the end of the newsletter. You may see notes in specific sections of the newsletter to view more information in the Minutes.

If you have something you would like to see in YOUR newsletter please let me know. All I ask is your input be to me by the 3rd Monday of each month for the next edition. Send your inputs to me at:

webmaster@fra269gc.org.

Linda and I wish each of you a very Blessed and Merry Christmas season.

THE WEEKLY MENU IS NOW POSTED ON THE HOME PAGE OF THE WEBSITE

WEEKLY DRAWING AT THE HOME

Names drawn lately: 11/5-Robert Bryant, not signed; 11/12-Gordon Williams, not signed; 11/19-Donald Langdon, not signed; 11/26-Lori Marshall, 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 on the day of the drawing. The drawing is held every Tuesday night at 2000.

BRANCH TREASURER'S REPORT

October 1 - October 27, 2024

Operations:	\$ 6.430.21
Savings:	\$ 5.181.29
Certificate of Deposit:	\$11.699.19
Total:	\$23.310.69

BRANCH MEMBERSHIP REPORT

S/M Ken Wallace

New or reinstated members: 6
Transferred into Branch 269: 0
Transferred from Branch 269: 0
Ready to renew: 38

Members past due: 9
Suspended members: 10
Transferred to the Staff of the Supreme Commander: 0
Total Members: 773

BRANCH MEMBERSHIP/RETENTION

Total active members: 773

New Join/Reinstated: Benjamin Becker, Mike Ciesielko, Justin Mingie, Marlene Silva, Dennis Ward, Jodi Wright

Past Due: Bob Browning, Scott Cook, Christopher Gilbreath, James Graham Sr., George Johnson, Glenn Kaelgh, Michael Neff, Harry Nettles, William Sullivan

Ready to Renew: Matthew Aguilera, Barbara Aler, Mashelle Ames, Randall Bolin, Robert Burnett, Angela Chapman, Everette Coates, Tim Cowan, Dustin Darnell, Alan Dempster, Judy Duncan, James Fleming, Michael Genalo, James Heath, Terrell Heath, Willy Hecker, William Hunt, James Hutton, Samuel Jenkins Jr., Dominador Jimenez, Jahleel Jones-Valentine, Christopher Kelley, Gary Landry, Kenneth Lux, David Markyvech, Ray Phillips Jr., Robert Pulos, Garry Radwick, Jon Simmons, Thomas Skorepa, David Smith, Jacob Sobek, John Stroman, Jason Tatge, David Thomas, Robert Traynor, Bruce Tucker, Gordon Williams

Suspended: Jordan Carver, Joshua Chandler, Robert Clements, Albert Godwin, William Haney, Daniel Jamison Jr., Y Little, Casey Preece, Richmond Smith, Joseph Wiehl

Active Unit Members: 190

UNIT MEMBERSHIP/RETENTION

30 days past due: Ryan S. Adams, Tyler W. Adams, Allyson B. McDermott, Cynthia S. Young

60 days past due: Danielle Carroll, Jordan L. Highberger, Donald L. Whitely

90 days past due: None

BRANCH CHAPLAIN

Prayers for the family of:

- There was a two-bell ceremony for GySgt Jack D. Porter and OSCM Robert A. Clements at the Nov. meeting.
- There will be a two-bell ceremony for TMC James Moseley on Sunday 8 December at 1300 at the Fleet. All Hands are invited to participate.
- Karen McKenna's father passed away.

- PRPSE Fred Hill of Branch 290 received his orders 27 Oct 24 to report to the Staff of the Supreme Commander.
- Members recently hospitalized are Chris LaForce, Ken Curtis, Ronnie Vandiver, Leo Bailey, and Tim Bailey.

Shipmates or Unit members please contact:

**Branch Chaplain S/M Bobbi Sutton @
843-879-9473**

**Unit Chaplain Theresa Milligan @
843-535-2757**

Home Committee Report

Cash Audit by S/M S. Koch and R. Sutton on **15 November 2024** as follows:

Checkbook balance	\$17,478.51
Credit Card account	\$11,694.05
Savings account	\$26,448.00
Pending Check/Cash for deposit:	\$ 1,731.00
Total funds	\$68,851.51

Financial Audit as of 31 October 2024

reported Net Profit for October of \$1,507.95 and \$3,258.48 Year to Date (YTD).

Building and Grounds/Special Events/and Manager's Report:

- S/M Pepper said he is still in search of alternative company for next year's liability insurance.
- We celebrated Veterans Day on November 11th with an indoor picnic at the Home; plenty of food and desserts.
- Successful Golf Tournament on November 16th was a success followed by lunch and awards at the Home.
- SUBVETS are hosting a fundraiser on November 22nd, 1700 to 2030 at the Home; Granny's Baked Spaghetti dinner and/or Regular Spaghetti dinner including Garlic bread and salad. \$17.00 per person. Feel free to bring a dessert to share.

Looking ahead:

- There will be a Two Bell Ceremony at the Home on December 8th for TMC James Moseley at 1300.
- The adult Christmas party will be on Thursday, December 19th. Social hour: 1730. Meal: 1830. Cost is \$25 per person for a prime rib dinner.
- The children's party will be on the Saturday December 21st at 1300.

- The next Golf tournament will be on March 22nd followed by lunch and awards at the Home.

New Business:

- There is discussions begun to see if there is any interests in a Valentines Day Party on February 14th 1800 – 2100, \$25.00 per couple at the Home.
- Also to see if there is any interest in a Kentucky Derby Party May 3rd at the Home.

Membership and Security: Headquarters reported that we have 773 active Branch members as of 01 November. There are 190 active Unit members.

Good of the Order: our next Home Committee meeting will be Monday, December 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.

Americanism/Patriotism - PNC Laurie Bailey

November 28 - Thanksgiving Day

- ◆ The deadline for the Essay Contest for the Charleston area is December 1st for 7th through 12th graders.
- ◆ Members are requested to join the Facebook Group "FRA Branch and Unit 269".
- ◆ S/M Ken Hutchinson presented PNC Laurie Bailey with a Certificate of Appreciation for the Fleet Reserve Association Branch 269 Americanism and Patriotism Committee Southeast Region Award First Place for 2023-2024 and selected as Shipmate of the Year.

Public Relations:

S/M John Tharp has submitted a picture to *FRA Today* of Major General Livingston accepting his Lifetime Membership and Pin.

Branch/Unit 269 now has a website: fra269gc.org !!!!

Please look at this site to get your current and past newsletters and see upcoming events.

The Branch and Unit would like to eliminate the printed newsletters to save money since everything is on the website. Please contact me at the above email if you are currently receiving the printed copy and want to stop it.

NEW INFORMATION: There is a Membership Box outside the office with a container for new member applications and renewals applications. If you recruit a new member ensure all of their

information is correct on the new member application. Once the new application or renewal is complete place it in an envelope (available at the box) and place inside the "Membership Box". Nothing concerning membership will be placed in the pass down log.

Life Membership ages and dues

Active duty: \$400.00 Ages 61-70: \$340.00
Ages 40 & younger: \$450.00
Ages 71-80: \$260.00 Ages 41-50: \$425.00
Ages 81-99: \$200.00 Ages 51-60: \$390.00
Ages 100 and older: **FREE**

RECENT NEWSBYTES of interest

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VA Expands Gravesite Benefit

An outer burial receptacle (OBR) is typically placed in a gravesite before a casket is lowered, helping to maintain cemetery grounds by preventing the sinking of headstones and surrounding soil. For more information on visit:

<https://news.va.gov/135598/va-expands-outer-burial-receptacles-benefit/>.

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TRICARE Open Season Starts Soon

TRICARE Open Season begins Monday, Nov. 11, 2024. If you are a TRICARE beneficiary, this is the time to enroll in a health plan or change health plans for coverage starting Jan. 1, 2025. You can make these changes through Tuesday, Dec. 10. For more information, please go to:

<https://newsroom.tricare.mil/News/TRICARE-News/Article/3944525/qa-what-to-know-as-tricare-open-season-begins-nov-11>

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House Passes Bill for Veterans, Caregivers, and Survivors

The House passed (389-9) the "Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act" (H.R. 8371). This legislation, introduced in May in the House, will expand VA-assisted living programs, improve caregiver support, remove unfair penalties for surviving spouses, and address a host of other FRA legislative priorities. The act is the result of months of negotiations and engagement with House and Senate Veterans' Committee leadership and staff.

Key provisions in this 315-page bill include:

- **Allowing the VA to carry out a pilot program to provide assisted living services to**

eligible veterans (H.R. 1815/S. 495).

- **The Elizabeth Dole Home and Community-Based Services for Veterans and Caregivers Act** (H.R. 542/S. 141)**The Veteran Caregiver Application and Appeals Reform (CARE) Act** (H.R. 4518/S. 1792

- **The Improving Whole Health for Veterans with Chronic Conditions Act** (H.R. 4150/S. 1954

- **Reversing penalties for surviving military spouses who remarry before age 55.**

Please use the FRA Action Center to urge your Senators to support this legislation.

[Click here to take action.](#)

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Trump Announces His Pick to Run VA

President-elect Donald Trump announced that he will nominate attorney and former U.S. Representative Doug Collins (Ga.) to serve as the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Collins served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 2013 to 2021. He is a Baptist minister who has served in the Navy and Air Force Reserve. Collins, 58, holds a master's degree in divinity from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and was a pastor of a church for 11 years. He served as a U.S. Navy chaplain for two years in the late 1980s. After the September 11 attacks, he joined the U.S. Air Force Reserve as a chaplain. Collins deployed to Balad Air Force Base in Iraq for five months in 2008. He remains a colonel in the Air Force Reserve.

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Photos of the 2024 FRA National Convention!

The 2024 FRA National Convention was a celebration of leadership, fellowship, and fun, and now you can experience it all over again through our photo gallery! Highlights include impactful business meetings that shaped the future of our organization, inspiring moments with key speakers who brought fresh perspectives and motivation, and the unforgettable *Roaring Twenties* Welcome Party, where attendees dressed to impress in dazzling vintage attire and danced the night away.

[Don't miss these incredible memories](#)

BRANCH 269 CONTINUOUS MEMBERSHIP—DECEMBER 2024

Dustin Darnell - 44	Robert Lopez - 25	George Bradstreet - 19	Judy Duncan - 11
Everette Coates - 36	Larry Nicodin - 25	John Hoyt - 19	Harvey Belcher - 10
Charles Hines - 36	David Markyvech - 24	Barbara Aler - 15	Butch Clift - 8
Tim Cowan - 32	William Mullins - 24	Randall Bolin - 14	Willy Hecker - 7
Earl Goodell - 32	Perry Friend Sr. - 21	Alexander Bodo - 12	Michael Delich - 6
Ralph Mummey - 32	Denise Barnes - 21	Joseph Patrick - 12	Raymond Cotton - 5
Mark Chapman - 25	Gavin Karelitz - 21	Robin Corkill - 11	Lewis Leal Jr. (1)

UNIT 269 CONTINUOUS MEMBERSHIP - DECEMBER 2024

Neta Fewox (55)	Brenda Hiers (25)	Joy Lambert (10)	Judy Dzedzicki (5)
Betty Harris (50)	Dee Wallace (20)	Shelagh Lammer (10)	Holly Gordon (5)
Joan Acosta (40)	Anna Brown (15)	Maryln Mucheck (10)	Kkelly Hall (5)
Dorothy Nephew (30)	Isla Janney (15)	Tammy Robinson (10)	James Highberger (5)
Nancy Sandler (30)	Elsie Sexton (15)	Chun Stanfield (10)	Scott Huber (5)
Carol Bailey (25)	Loretta Dailey (10)	Michael Dubay (5)	Mildred Koscianski (5)

YOUR BIRTHDAY IS IN DECEMBER 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!!!**

Michael Dubay (1)	Nestor Derecho Jr (10)	David Karrick (15)	Michael Perrillo (23)
Howard Hogue (1)	John Popa (10)	Grady Langley (15)	Donald Hanley (24)
Boyd Davis (2)	Robert Pulos (10)	Pat Suckow (15)	Janice Highberger (25)
Francis Evans (2)	George Scharf (10)	Lynette Gonzalez (16)	Wayne Stella (26)
Karen Hubert (3)	Clemmis Floyd (11)	Dorothy Nephew (16)	Brian Adams (27)
Patricia Chilton (4)	Dominador Jimenez (11)	John Bullock (17)	Rick Collins (27)
Steven Geary (4)	Patty Russell (11)	Deloris Cox (17)	Clint Ferrell (27)
Robert Melton (4)	Carl Chinn (12)	James McKinney (18)	Christopher Covell (29)
Maureen Gonzalez (5)	Robert Shoher (12)	Theresa Milligan (18)	Derrick Mihanovich (29)
John Groover (5)	Earl Spurlock (12)	Elfriede Campbell (19)	William Trotman (29)
Robert Harris (6)	David Cornelius (13)	Francis Perillo (19)	Anita Wright (29)
Garry Radwick (6)	David Horton (13)	Robert Sowards (19)	Eddie Beasley (30)
Frank Strunk (6)	David Button (13)	Robert Bailey (20)	Charles Murray (30)
Ann Tolentino (7)	Brenda Hiers (14)	Terry Sprague (20)	Joseph Weber (30)
Donald Barvilchak (8)	Frederick Hooker (14)	Ronnie Vandiver (20)	Kim Hamiltor (31)
Eearly Griffin (8)	Susan Pardo (14)	Lucinda Bryan (21)	Colleen McCain (31)
Earl Milligan (9)	Butch Clift (15)	Joseph Holman (21)	Frank DeCampo (23)
Terry Trump (9)	Ralph Deeter (15)	Merrell Peterson (21)	

[SEE MORE PICTURES](#) of the MC celebration



John Tharp cuts the cake for the Marine Corps Birthday celebration.

[SEE MORE PICTURES](#) of the meeting



S/M Sarah Ihme was installed as Secretary at the Board of Directors meeting.

[SEE MORE PICTURES](#) of the Branch meeting



NT Carolyn Whitaker PNP is presented with her 35-year pin by NFS Pat Suckow PNP.

[SEE MORE PICTURES](#) of the picnic



During the Veterans Day Indoor Picnic, there was a cake honoring the 100th Birthday of the Fleet Reserve Association.



At the Branch 269 Meeting on Nov. 21st, Major General James E. Livingstone, MOH Recipient, was presented with a Life Membership in the FRA and Branch 269. PNP Don Muccheck pinned him with the FRA pin. PNC Laurie Bailey was presented the FRA Southeast Region Shipmate of Year Award by S/M Ken Hutchison, Branch 269 President. S/M Ken Hutchison, PNP Don Muccheck and PNC Laurie Bailey were presented with membership retention awards.

BRANCH 269

BRANCH OFFICERS

President: Kenneth Hutchison
Vice President: Donald Barton
Secretary: Sarah Ihme
Treasurer: Don Muckcheck
Jr. Past President: Harry Nettles

BRANCH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PNC Laurie Bailey Tim Bailey
Skip Chilton Steven Koch
Ronald Lamom Tom Lawson
Glenn Little Rob Melton
Bobbie Sutton Larry Pepper
Ken Wallace

APPOINTEES & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

By-Laws: PRPSE Fred Bolz
Chaplain: Bobbi Sutton
Essay Contest: PNC Laurie Bailey
Legislative Affairs: PRPSE Fred Bolz
Master-at-Arms: Glenn Little
Membership: Ken Wallace
Newsletter: Nick Nichols
Parliamentarian: PNP Don Muckcheck
Public Relations: Rob Melton
Ways and Means: Larry Pepper
Webmaster: Nick Nichols
Youth Activities: Donald Barton

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

UNIT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

APPOINTEES & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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

LOW COUNTRY HOME, LLC

99 Wisteria Road,
Goose Creek SC 29445
843-569-2692

Frabranch269@comcast.net

Home Chairman: Ken Wallace
Admin Secretary: Bobbie Sutton
Financial Secretary: Steven Koch
Director: Sue Peters
Director: PNC Laurie Bailey
Director: Tim Bailey
Director: Dee Wallace
Director: PRPSE Gail Bolz
Director: John Tharp
Director: Rob Melton
Home Managers: PNP Don Muckcheck
Larry Pepper
Bob Zauner



**National Pearl Harbor
Remembrance Day
December 7, 2024
Flag at Half-Staff**

WE'VE GONE GREEN!!!!

The Branch now has a website:

fra269gc.org

With this website you can get the newsletter by the end of the month instead of waiting for the printed copy which is sent after the first of the month.

FROM DFAS Retired and Annuitant Pay

Dear Retiree:

Tax season is quickly approaching and that means you are probably gathering important documents and verifying your information is correct. While you have those important documents handy, it's a good time to make sure your loved ones know about your Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) coverage.

You can view your Retiree Account Statement (RAS) on myPay to see the type of SBP coverage you selected. Make sure that your family knows what the Survivor Benefit Plan is and what they will need to do to start payments:

<https://www.dfas.mil/startsbp>

After checking your RAS, if the SBP coverage shown no longer applies to your current life situation, please see our website for what steps to take:

<https://www.dfas.mil/changesbp>

We also have a new checklist to assist when a military retiree passes away. This is a very useful tool that we suggest adding to your important documents. Download the PDF here:

<https://www.dfas.mil/reportdeath>

Editor Note: For some strange reason almost every time I'm at the Fleet someone will ask me a question about computers or software. I am fortunate in that as editor for my boat association newsletter there is one shipmate who submits technical articles each month. He also sends me regular Computer/Internet Security info. Here's a three I thought you might like. If I get good comments on it, I will publish an article of this type each month. Comment to me at webmaster@fra269gc.org.

Fake Websites and other scams

This month we are going to take a look at how to spot a fake website, and other similar scams. This content comes from two websites called Simply Geeky, and MakeUseOf. You can sign up to receive their newsletters if you have that interest. As with all articles offering advice the following applies:

Be sure to do your own careful research before taking action based on anything you find in this content."

With the rise of the AI Chatbot nation, and the rapid embracing of AI into computers, browsers, search engines, and now even operating systems, we need to sharpen our defenses to spot fakes of all types. Here are two articles that delve into one of the more common places where fakes can be used to deceive us. And the threat actors out there in the digital domain are using AI to boost their success rates. The following articles are taken from the Simply Geeky website:

- [How To Spot A Fake Website](#)
- [The Different Ways Fake Websites Scam You](#)
- [Why Social Media Is Still Packed With Scam Ads, and How to Spot One](#)
- [Here's How I Check if a QR Code Is Safe to Scan](#)
- [Is ScamAdviser Legit? Here's What You Need to Know](#)

Our digital worlds can be a place of learning, socializing, sharing, and safe e-commerce. But like most anything, there are those seeking to subvert its intended purpose to support their

own ends. So be aware of what you see on the Internet, what you get in e-mails.

Don't Sell Your Old Phone or Laptop Without Doing These 10 Things First

By Chris Kaufman published Jan 8, 2024

If old phone or laptop data falls into the wrong hands, you'll have to do more than spring-clean before heading to the recycling center.

<https://www.makeuseof.com/dont-sell-old-phone-laptop-without-doing-these-things-first/>

USB-C explained: How to get the most from it (and why it keeps on getting better)

USB-C and other high-speed protocols can push data to warp speeds. Here's how to make the most of the current standards and what lies ahead.


Now that you're used to seeing co-workers, family, and strangers at coffee shops, offices, and planes using the oblong USB-C connector, it's time to see just what this promising standard can do today and tomorrow. As we approach its 10th birthday, the USB-C plug is now part and parcel of just about every new laptop, phone, and tablet made. Even MacBooks, iPads, iPhones, and Chromebooks now have USB-C ports, at least living up to the first part of its full name: Universal Serial Bus.

In other words, the older rectangular USB Type-A plugs we are so used to are slowly going the way of the dinosaur. This evolution is happening faster in some arenas than others. For example, the latest Mac Pro desktop has no fewer than eight USB-C ports for anything from sending video to a display to charging a phone.


Much more about this new innovation [HERE](#)



Mark your calendar, watch for details, watch for additions
 Unless noted otherwise all meetings are in the large room
 Where no time noted group has room for entire day
 Friday nights – 1930 hrs – Scotch Doubles, 8-Ball Tournament

DECEMBER 2024						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Free Pool <u>1200-1600</u> Bunko	2	3	4	5 <u>1800</u> SUVBET BOD	6 <u>1700</u> SUVBET Christmas Party	7 <u>1100</u> Pearl Harbor Day Wreath Laying on Yorktown ----- MCL Christmas Party
8 Free Pool <u>1300</u> Two-Bell for TMC James Moseley	9	10	11 <u>1100</u> Purple Heart	12	13 Copeland Party	14 <u>1100</u> Wreaths Across America ----- <u>1000-1200</u> DAV ----- Mulligan Men
15 Free Pool <u>1600</u> Private Celebration of Life	16 <u>1300</u> HCM	17 No Unit Meeting	18 <u>1800</u> HOA	19 <u>1900</u> Branch-Unit Christmas Party	20 <u>1700-2030</u> Chili Dinner \$17 SUBVET Fund Raiser	21 <u>1200-1400</u> Branch-Unit Children's Christmas Party ----- <u>1700</u> Vaughn B'day Party
22 Free Pool	23 <u>1730</u> VVA ----- <u>1900</u> Carolina Coin	24 CLOSE @ 1800	25 CLOSED 	26	27	28 FAAP S
29 Free Pool Private Party	30	31 CLOSE EARLY				

Mark your calendar, watch for details, watch for additions
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 Where no time noted group has room for entire day
 Friday nights – 1930 hrs – Scotch Doubles, 8-Ball Tournament

JANUARY 2025						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 HAPPY NEW YEAR'S DAY 	2 1800 SUBVETS BOD	3	4 0730-1000 Breakfast @ the Fleet \$17 SUBVET Fund Raiser
5 Free Pool	6	7	8	9 1900 SUBVETS	10	11 1000 DAV Mtg
12 Free Pool	13	14 1130 Unit Lunch 1800 Unit	15 1900 Purple Heart	16 1800 Branch BOD 1900 Branch	17 1700-2030 BBQ Dinner @ the Fleet \$17 SUBVET Fund Raiser	18 1700-2030 Fish Fry @ the Fleet \$17 SUBVET Fund Raiser
19 Free Pool	20 MLK Day Inauguration Day 1800 Home Committee	21	22	23 MCL	24	25
26 Free Pool	27 1730 VVA 1900 Carolina Coins	28 1900 Sojourners OBSERVANCE OF USCGC BLACKTHORN SINKING	29	30	31	

FRA BRANCH 269 BOD MEETING
November 21, 2024

Shipmate President Ken Hutchison called the regular meeting of Low Country Branch 269 to order at 1800, Thursday, November 21, 2024, in accordance with Article FRA Rituals.

Board Members present were:

PNC Laurie Bailey	Skip Chilton	Kenneth Wallace	Donald Barton
William Maloon	Glenn Little	Steven Koch	PNP Don Muccheck
Ronald Lamon	Tom Lawson	Ken Hutchinson	Sarah Ihme
Robert Melton	Bobbi Sutton		

Minutes: Posted on the entrance table. Motion to accept.

NEW BUSINESS

S/M Sarah Ihme was installed as Fleet Reserve Association Branch 269 Secretary by PNC Laurie Bailey.

The Pearl Harbor Memorial Ceremony will be held at the Yorktown on 07 DEC 2024 at 1100. S/M Ken Hutchinson and S/M Rob Melton will represent FRA Branch 269 on the Yorktown for this event.

The Tenth Annual “Wreaths Across America” will hold a Wreath Ceremony at Carolina Memorial Cemetery in North Charleston and Beaufort National Cemetery in Beaufort at 1100 on 14 December 2024. We contributed 10 wreaths to each cemetery and will participate at the Carolina Memorial Cemetery in the “Garden of Valor” section. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

There will be a Two Bell Ceremony at the Home on December 8th at 1300 for TMC James Moseley at 1300.

Our December meeting will be the Christmas Party on December 19th. Social hour will be 1730 and we will eat at 1830 or 1900. PNP Don Muccheck moved that dinner tickets be sold at \$25 each which S/M Steve Koch seconded.

We will do a White Elephant gift exchange at \$20 during the Christmas Party.

Charleston Base Submarine Veterans will be holding eight fundraisers for their Southeast Convention. Four of these fundraisers will be at the FRA Home. The first fundraiser will be Friday, November 22nd 1700 – 2030.

Major General Livingston Medal of Honor recipient will be presented with a Life Membership card and pin at the General Assembly meeting.

S/M Bobbi Sutton moved to allocate \$170 for the Children's Christmas party which is in the budget. All members present are in favor.

PNC Laurie Bailey requests reimbursement for certificates from National and postage for the Essay Contest totaling \$89. PNP Don Mucheck seconded this.

PRPSE Fred Bolz had been doing the hard charger award. S/M Ken Hutchinson will be asking someone to take over and do this once every six weeks.

Youth Activities: Don Barton

S/M Don Barton recommends \$1,000 for Toys for Tots. This will be discussed at the General Assembly meeting.

Golf: Larry Pepper

The next golf tournament will be March 22.

Hospital, Welfare, and Rehabilitation: Bobbi Sutton

There will be a Two-Bell ceremony for three shipmates at the General Assembly.

S/M Rob Melton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 1825.

**FRA LOW COUNTRY BRANCH 269
MEETING OF NOVEMBER 21, 2024 GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Shipmate President Ken Hutchison called the regular meeting of Low Country Branch 269 to order on Thursday, November 21, 2024 at 1900, in accordance with Article FRA Rituals.

Continuous membership:

None

Shipmates initiated:

Medal of Honor Recipient Major General James E. Livingston, USMC Ret was presented with a Lifetime Membership to the Fleet Reserve Association Branch 269. PNP Don Muccheck gave a brief synopsis of Major General Livingston's accomplishments and presented the life membership award and a Fleet Reserve Association pin.

Minutes: Posted on the entrance table and published in the newsletter.

Communications: No communication to be read.

Treasurer's Report:

The report for the period of October 1 – October 27, 2024 is as follows:

Operations Account: \$6,430.21	Savings Account: \$5,181.29
Certificate of Deposit: \$11,699.19	Total: \$23,310.69

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NATIONAL CONVENTION REPORT:

Newly elected and installed National Officers

National President Maria A. Behm of Land of Ozarks Branch 32
National Vice President Richard Fetro of Santa Clara Branch 101

Past Regional President Northwest Pete Lazaretti of Seattle Branch 18 withdrew his nomination for the office of National Vice President.

Awards

Lowcountry Branch 269 did very well. We took four first-place awards. These awards went to Americanism and Patriotism, Public Relations, Veterans Services, and Youth Activities. PNC

Laurie Bailey was selected as Shipmate of the Year in Americanism and Patriotism and received the Leonard D. "Swede" Nelson Award.

Resolutions Adopted

The resolution to delete FRA free membership to disabled veterans and financial hardship. Branches must now pay their dues to retain them in the FRA.

Resolution to discontinue a roll call vote once a candidate receives a majority of votes when the Chair declares him/her duly elected.

Resolution for the annual FRA National Convention to exceed not more than four days duration.

The resolution deleting the Finance Officer as a National Officer of the FRA since he is a hired employee vice an elected official.

The resolution to change the Silver Anchor Squadron Award to any member of the FRA or the FRA Auxillary who obtains 50 new or reinstated members from a Lifetime Achievement to within a five-year period award becoming effective on November 30, 2024.

The resolution reflecting that the FRA National Headquarters designated office manager will assume succession of duties while the National Executive Director is absent from the National Headquarters and also delineates that the finance officer shall be the finance, disbursing, and purchasing officer of the Fleet Reserve Association and shall work directly at the discretion of the National Director.

All other resolutions presented were either ruled not in order or rejected.

FRA Budget and Finance

A two-third majority vote adopted the FRA National budget for fiscal year 2025 of \$2,271,756.00.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Americanism/Patriotism – PNC Laurie Bailey

November 28 – Thanksgiving Day

We had a wonderful Veterans' Day at the Branch and in Arlington at the National Convention.

The deadline for the Essay Contest for the Charleston area is December 1st for 7th through 12th graders.

Members can request to join the Facebook group “FRA Branch and Unit 269” to see updated information about the post.

S/M Ken Hutchinson presented PNC Laurie Bailey with a Certificate of Appreciation to Fleet Reserve Association Branch 269 23-24 Americanism and Patriotism Committee Southeast Region Award First Place and selected as Shipmate of the Year.

By-Laws: PNP Don Muccheck

Nothing to report

Hospital, Welfare, and Rehabilitation: S/M Bobbi Sutton.

There will be a two-bell ceremony for GySgt Jack Porter, OSCM Robert A. Clements, and TMC James Moseley.

Karen McKenna’s father passed away.

Chris Laforce is in the hospital.

Members recently hospitalized are Ken Curtis, Ronnie Vandiver, Leo Bailey, Rick Wise, and Tim Bailey.

Membership and Retention: Ken Wallace

Total active members: 773

New Join/Reinstated: Benjamin Becker, Mike Ciesielko, Justin Mingie, Marlene Silva, Dennis Ward, Jodi Wright

Past Due: Bob Browning, Scott Cook, Christopher Gilbreath, James Graham Sr., George Johnson, Glenn Kaelgh, Michael Neff, Harry Nettles, William Sullivan

Ready to Renew: Matthew Aguilera, Barbara Aler, Mashelle Ames, Randall Bolin, Robert Burnett, Angela Chapman, Everette Coates, Tim Cowan, Dustin Darnell, Alan Dempster, Judy Duncan, James Fleming, Michael Genalo, James Heath, Terrell Heath, Willy Hecker, William Hunt, James Hutton, Samuel Jenkins Jr., Dominador Jimenez, Jahleel Jones-Valentine, Christopher Kelley, Gary Landry, Kenneth Lux, David Markyvech, Ray Phillips Jr., Robert Pulos, Garry Radwick, Jon Simmons, Thomas Skorepa, David Smith, Jacob Sobeck, John Stroman, Jason Tatge, David Thomas, Robert Traynor, Bruce Tucker, Gordon Williams

Suspended: Jordan Carver, Joshua Chandler, Robert Clements, Albert Godwin, William Haney, Daniel Jamison Jr., Y Little, Casey Preece, Richmond Smith, Joseph Wiehl

Active Unit Members: 190

Home Committee Report: Ken Wallace

The cash audit was performed by S/M Steve Koch and S/M Bobbi Sutton on 15 November. The results are:

Checkbook balance: \$17,478.51

Credit card account: \$11,694.05

Savings: \$26,448.00

Pending check/cash for deposit: \$1,731.00

Total: \$68,851.51

Financial Audit as of 31 October 2024 reported Net Profit for October of \$1,507.95 and \$3,258.48 Year to Date.

The Golf Tournament on November 16th was a success followed by lunch and awards at the Home.

SUBVETS are hosting a spaghetti dinner fundraiser on November 22nd, 1700 to 2030. The SUBVETS fundraisers are open to the public.

There will be a Two Bell Ceremony at the Home on December 8th for TMC James Moseley at 1300.

The adult Christmas party will be on Thursday, December 19th; the children's party will be on Saturday, December 21st.

The next Golf tournament will be on March 22nd followed by lunch and awards at the Home.

The next Home Committee meeting will be Monday, December 16 at 1300.

If you bring a Non-Member to Home, please remember to sign them into the Guest Log.

Youth Activities: Don Barton

S/M Don Barton moved that we donate \$1,000 for Toys for Tots. The motion was seconded by S/M Steve Koch and all were in favor.

Public Relations: John Tharp

A picture of Medal of Honor Recipient Major General Livingston accepting his Lifetime Membership will be sent to FRA Today.

Ways and Means: Larry Pepper

50/50 and steak tickets – get your tickets

Budget and Finance: Don Barton

The quarterly audit will be conducted early December.

Unit Report: Trish Chilton

Our meeting went well. We completed reviewing our ByLaws and standing rules.

On November 24, the Unit will participate in the Toys for Tots motorcycle ride at the Harley Dealer on Dorchester Road. We will have 8-10 people participating.

We draped the charter for 30 days for Fred Hill PRPSE.

Our December meeting will be the Ladies' luncheon on December 17th at Oscar's. The Christmas Party is on the 19th of December.

Good of the Order:

S/M Sarah Ihme was installed as Secretary at the Board of Directors meeting.

On December 7th, we will do the Yorktown WWII celebration. S/M Ken Hutchinson and S/M Rob Melton will attend along with anybody else who wants to attend.

December 14th is Wreaths Across America at the Carolina Memorial Gardens. We will meet at 1100. The Branch and the Unit will be putting wreaths on Veterans' graves.

We will have a Two-Bell Ceremony for TMC James Moseley at 1300 on December 8th.

The Christmas party is on the 19th and the Children's party is on the 21st of December.

PRPSE Fred Bolz had been doing the hard charger award. S/M Ken Hutchinson will be asking for a FRA member to step up and make this presentation. They are currently using one of the Chiefs from NNPTC.

Awards were presented for the Regional and National Conventions.

S/M Don Barton presented S/M Ken Hutchinson, PNC Laurie Bailey, and PNP Don Muecheck with membership retention awards.

The two-bell ceremony took place.

The meeting was adjourned at 2007, November 21, 2024.