



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 \[https://www.fra.org\]](https://www.fra.org)

LA-FRA National: [Ladies Auxiliary of the Fleet Reserve Association \[https://la-fra.org\]](https://la-fra.org)

Southeast Region: [frasoutheastregion.org \[https://frasoutheastregion.org\]](https://frasoutheastregion.org)

Branch 269 website: [FRA Low Country Branch & Unit 269 \[www.fra269gc.org\]](http://www.fra269gc.org)

FRA Branch and Unit 269 | Facebook [\[https://www.facebook.com/groups/FRABRANCH269/\]](https://www.facebook.com/groups/FRABRANCH269/)



OLD FASHIONED NAVY BREAKFAST

FRA branch 269 will sponsor an Old Fashioned Navy Breakfast on **12 April, 0900-1100** at the Home. **Cost: \$12.00** Contact email for more info: frabranh269@comcast.net

Branch President's Corner

Once again, it's that time of year to nominate and elect your Branch Officers, Board Members, and Home committee members, As always I am requesting that all members consider stepping up and participating in the management of your Home. Membership continues to decline both locally and nationally We need to continue to recruit new members.

Don't forget the Old Fashioned Navy Breakfast \$12 per person on 12 April and the BBQ Smoker drawing, come out and enjoy your Home.

Yours in Loyalty, Protection and Service
Ken Hutchison

Madam President Tidbits

Hello Auxiliary Members:

Our February meeting went well. We are having an indoor yard sale on March 29th. We will set up on the 28th from 1200 to 1900. The sale will start at 0800 and end at 1300.

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

We are preparing to restart visiting nursing homes to visit with patients and help with whatever is needed.

We did visit the VA Clinic on Rivers Ave, February 25th to pass out snacks and assist patients.

We will be helping with the golf tournament March 22nd.

We are working on approval of our updated By-Laws and Standing Rules.

Will be looking forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting.

Trish Chilton, Unit President
Yours in Loyalty, Protection and Service

WEEKLY DRAWING AT THE HOME

2/4: Robert Brinson [Branch], not signed; 2/11: Edward Whitely [Branch], not signed; 2/18: Tammy Cappadona [Unit], not signed; 2/25: Robert Zimmerman [Branch], 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
DECEMBER 28, 2024 – JANUARY 27, 2025**

Operations: \$ 5,613.02
Savings: \$ 5,184.55
Certificate of Deposit: \$ 11,838.30
Convention Checking: \$ 3,434.58
Total: \$26,070.45

**BRANCH MEMBERSHIP REPORT
S/M Ken Wallace**

- New or reinstated members: 2
- Transferred into Branch 269: 1
- Transferred from Branch 269: 7
- Members past due: 13
- Ready to renew: 50
- Suspended members: 8
- Total Members: 765 end of Jan

BRANCH MEMBERSHIP/RETENTION

Membership and Retention: Ken Wallace

Total active members: 768 end of Feb

New Join/Reinstated [2]:

- Roy Jessup, Thomas Shepart

Transfer In [1]:

- Lee Rudbart

Past Due [13]:

- Mashelle Ames, Randall Bolin, Angela Chapman, Everette Coats, Tim Cowan, Michael Genalo, Ronald Houde, William Hunt, Samuel Jenkins Jr., Jahleel Jones-Valentine, Jon Simmons, Jacob Sobeck, David Thomas

Ready to Renew [50]:

- John Aguilera Jr., Bryan Alfaro, Mariela Anderson, Robert Bear, Jennifer Beilstein, David Button, Frank Carroll Jr., Shannon Cason, Rick Collins, Richard Davies, Terrie Ehlich, Francis Evans, Larry Fowler, Jimmie Gambrell, Jeannette Gombash, Nathan Gottsch, Robert Hedin, Kevin Henry, John Hills, Robert Hudspeth, Charles Humbard, Robert Hughes, Robert Isaman, Raymond Jaekle, Francis Jones, Robert Koscianski, Ronald Laqua, James Lewis, Alan Lincoln, Joe Lunn, Walter Mabe, Heather McGuire, Robert Mixon, Janet Mizer-Brunner, Ron Morgan, Eugene Morris, Patrick Murphy, Robert Mustain, Nathaniel Nelson, Stephen Nogle, Don Ort, Cody Schaefer, Michael Scott, Kevin Sedgley, Robert Simmang, David

Southall, Daniel Speight, Wayne Stella, John Tharp, Samuel Williams.

Suspended [8]:

- Robert Burnett, Alan Dempster, Clyde Edington, William Korbisch, Robert Pulos, Charles Riggs, Terry Sprague, Thomas Wunder

Active Unit Members: 190

UNIT MEMBERSHIP/RETENTION

30 days past due: Sandra K. Peeples

60 days past due: Judy S Dziedzicki, Christopher M Gillespie, Joseph D Tascher, Linda J Villa, Linda G Walton

90 days past due: Angela S Clark, Lori A Marshall

BRANCH CHAPLAIN

Hospital, Welfare and Rehabilitation: Bobbi Sutton

Prayers for the families of:

- S/M Frank Schoenberger EMCS on the passing of his wife this week
- We will hold a Two-bell ceremony next month for EMC Charles M. Riggs, EMCS Thomas Wunder, MS1 Donald Rickert, and MRCM David Graminski.

Binnacle List:

- Ken Curtis is receiving hospice care at home. Roger Rader slipped on ice and fell, resulting in a fractured wrist, a broken hip, and a stomach issue. He underwent surgery which went well. He is now home with home health. Butch Bryar was in the hospital with bronchial pneumonia and is home now. Jerry Stout's PICC line and wound vac have been removed, but he continues to experience health issues. Rick Wise had chest and abdomen CT scans showing no sign of cancer. John Lookabill had a heart catheterization. Everything was clear and now he will be scheduling a valve repair. Dave Harvey will be having neck surgery on February 26. Al Stoll is in Room 3 at the skilled nursing section at the Villages at Summerville rehab center. Bill and Becky Roberts are living in the Villages

Shipmates or Unit members please contact:

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

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

HOME MEAL HOURS HAVE CHANGED

Lunch Hours Mon-Fri: 1100-1300.

Dinner Hours Mon-Fri: 5:00 pm-9:00 pm

Home Committee Report

Cash Audit by S/M S. Koch on **14 February 2025** as follows:

Checkbook balance	\$ 11,278.41
Credit Card account	\$ 5,743.11
Savings account	\$ 10,453.82
Pending Check/Cash for deposit:	\$ 635.00
Total funds	\$ 39,610.34

Bank Statement for December 2024 reflected a loss of \$6,600.88 for the month and a cumulative loss for the year 2024 of \$3,312.88 [0.56%]. Bank Statement for January 2025 reported a loss of \$3,745.55 [9.86%]

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

- The new dishwasher and one fryer have been installed; the second fryer needs to be replaced but was held up pending discussion by the Home Committee to proceed [Discussed and approved.]

Looking ahead:

- On March 17th for lunch and supper the kitchen will offer corned beef and cabbage to celebrate St. Patrick's Day.
- The next Golf tournament will be on March 22nd followed by lunch and awards at the Home.
- There will be an old-fashioned Navy Breakfast at the Home from 0900-1100 in April.
- Also checking 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 765 active Branch members as of 3 February.
- There are 190 active Unit members.

Good of the Order: our next Home Committee meeting will be Monday, March 17 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 Updates on Branch Essay Contest

⇒ The Branch Essay Contest Awards will be presented at the March 20 General Assembly meeting. To view the recipients click [HERE](#).

Dates in History February/March

- Mar 1: Coast Guard transfers to the Department of Homeland Security [2003]

- Mar 3: National Anthem Day
- Mar 3: US Navy Reserve Birthday [1915]
- Mar 4: US Navy Band Established [1925]
- Mar 5: US Navy Seabees Birthday [1942]
- Mar 9: Daylight Savings Time begins
- Mar 13: National K9 Veterans Day
- Mar 14: Navy Act of 1794 was signed authorizing the construction of six frigates marking the birth of the modern US Navy.
- Mar 17: St. Patrick's Day
- Mar 19: Start of the Iraq War [2003]
- Mar 20: First day of Spring

Branch/Unit 269 website: fra269gc.org !!!!

Use the site to get your current and past newsletters and see upcoming events. With all the information now on the website the number of printed and mailed newsletters have been reduced. Contact me at webmaster@fra268gc.org if you are currently receiving the printed copy and want to stop it.

For new member applications and renewals applications use the Membership Box outside the office. If you recruit a new member ensure all of their information is correct on the new member application. After verifying it is complete, place the new application or renewal 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 40 & younger: \$450.00
Ages 41-50: \$425.00	Ages 51-60: \$390.00
Ages 61-70: \$340.00	Ages 71-80: \$260.00
Ages 81-99: \$200.00	
Ages 100 and older: FREE	

IMPORTANT ENOUGH FOR ONE MORE TIME

Legislative Service Item

TRICARE For Life Enrollment Fees, Cost Shares Part of New Budget Report

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has once again targeted TRICARE for Life (TFL) in its biennial report outlining options for reducing the deficit.

The December 2024 report highlights savings that could be achieved by introducing a TFL enrollment fee or minimum out-of-pocket cost requirements. Similar concepts have been presented in **CBO reports**, which are issued every two years to provide information to lawmakers

confronting budgetary challenges.

You are requested to contact your House of Representatives and Senators to ensure our elected officials understand the intense opposition to TFL fees. Retirees already have fulfilled all the requirements to earn their health care benefit, and you will fight any attempts to cut it, including fee increases designed to shift costs from DoD to seniors who rely on TFL.

While no current legislation proposes TRICARE fee increases, we should take these threats seriously given pressures on the DoD budget and precedent for such proposals. From FY 2013 to FY 2017, retirees have had to put forth great efforts that **helped to block** five consecutive administration budget request proposals for TFL enrollment fees.

Some details on the options included in the CBO report:

TFL Enrollment Fee

TFL enrollment is automatic once a beneficiary starts paying Medicare Part B premiums. There is no enrollment fee or monthly premium for TFL coverage.

A CBO proposal would require Medicare-eligible beneficiaries who choose to enroll in TFL to pay an annual enrollment fee of \$610 for individual coverage or \$1,220 for family coverage. The enrollment fees would be indexed to grow at the same rate as average Medicare costs in later years.

TFL Cost Sharing

The other CBO measure affecting TFL would introduce minimum out-of-pocket requirements, including an \$850 deductible -- TFL would not cover any of the first \$850 of a beneficiary's Medicare cost-sharing. For the first \$4,250 in total medical expenses each year, Medicare would pay its 80% (or \$3,400) while the TFL beneficiary would be responsible for the full \$850 not covered by Medicare.

After the deductible was satisfied, TFL would cover only 50% of the next \$7,650 in Medicare cost-sharing. This means TFL beneficiaries could face up to \$4,675 in cost-sharing per year. Similar to the enrollment fee proposal, cost-sharing requirements would increase annually at the same rate of Medicare cost increases.

Protecting Your Earned Benefit

The options outlined in the CBO report come from various sources including past proposed

legislation or budget proposals, congressional offices, federal agencies, and the private sector. "As a collection, the options are intended to reflect a range of possibilities, not a ranking of priorities or an exhaustive list," the report states. "Inclusion or exclusion of any particular option does not imply approval or disapproval by CBO, and the report makes no recommendations.

{FOR PREMIUM AND LIFE MEMBERS: Transitioning into Medicare/TRICARE for Life}

Our nation must fulfill obligations to those who serve a full career in uniform. We must fight any proposal that increases costs to seniors who rely on TFL for their health care. The TFL benefit was a key component of the compensation and benefits package that sustained the all-volunteer force throughout two decades of war.

We need to be mindful and closely monitor for any signs that CBO's concepts have gotten traction. The administration budget request, due in February but sometimes delayed during the first year of a new administration, will likely give us our first glimpse at any potential proposals to increase TRICARE fees. Look for updates on these and other legislative issues in the FRA Newsletters and NewsBytes, and register at the FRA **Legislative Action Center** so you can take part in upcoming grassroots efforts designed to preserve service-earned benefits.

Submitted by: F. Donald MucHECK
FRA Past National President
FRA Low Country Branch 269

S/M Sarah Ihmes, Branch Secretary has written a letter to her Congressional Representatives and expressed her views pertaining to the proposed Tricare change discussed in the above article from S/M MucHECK. If you would like to send a letter she has made hers available for you to use all or any portion you would like to. You can find the letter at these links:

Tricare Proposed Change Letter **WORD/.docx**
Tricare Proposed Change Letter **PDF**

Newsbytes: The Fleet Reserve Bulletin

The Newsbytes are sent throughout the month from National to all FRA members via email .
If you accidentally delete the email use the link above to read them again.

MORE SECURITY TIPS

Seniors are prime targets for scammers

Your local media outlets will often run stories on this topic, so some of the topics discussed in the links below will be familiar to you, but others may show how scammers continue to adapt and change their approach. They play on your fears to achieve their goals – to get your money and personal information for identity theft.

Here are a few thoughts...

The following link comes from Regions Bank:

[Common Scams Targeting Senior Citizens](#)

This next link contains a number of videos of actual scam calls, and is hosted by the non-profit Business Fraud Prevention Group at

<https://businessfraudprevention.org>.

telephone-scams

There have seen increasing numbers of suspicious iMessages and texts from political candidates, banks you have never done business with, and other suspicious entities. So how do we deal with that source of non-phone call scams?

Here is an article from Apple on the safest way to delete such messages without exposing your devices to harmful content:

<https://support.apple.com/guide/iphone/block-filter-and-report-messages-iph203ab0be4/ios>

What is interesting is that when deleting a message on an iPhone you can delete and report as spam, but if you are on an iPad, you can only delete unwanted messages, but no way to report as spam. Maybe one day apple will fix that...

And finally, our e-mail address is often used when shopping on-line, and with our banks, our utility providers, and merchants we shop with frequently for notifications. When breaches occur then our e-mail addresses are exposed and thus other scams will likely follow. Here is a site you can use to see if your e-mail address has been compromised in a breach:

;-)-have i been pwned?

The primary function of Have I Been Pwned? since it was launched is to provide the general public with a means to check if their private information has been leaked or compromised. Visitors to the website can enter an email address, and see a list of all known data breaches with records tied to that email address. The website also provides details about each data

breach, such as the backstory of the breach and what specific types of data were included in it.

So, think for a moment how many sites you log into with your e-mail address as your username, and the password that goes with it. Do you ever use the same password for multiple sites? This suggests that changing passwords often is a good practice.

Check your primary address to see if it was exposed in any breaches. Most have had their primary email address for several years, so don't be surprised by what you find. Needless to say, you may find you need password changes for critical accounts like credit cards and on-line banking, which you should be doing anyway out of habit.

Keep your AV up to date.

Those annoying "pop-up" ad boxes that you can't get off your screen without going to another page to explain why they are annoying are the worst seem to be part of this.

Attackers Hijack Google Advertiser Accounts to Spread Malware

Smishing Disables iPhone

"A dangerous smishing campaign is targeting Apple iMessage users, using social engineering to disable the messaging service's built-in phishing protection. The attack could expose millions of users, but you can stay safe by changing one security feature."

This Phishing Attack Disables Your iPhone Security: Here's How to Protect Yourself

How to Create the Perfect Password

By now, we all know that for our computers, and now even our mobile devices, Anti-Virus (AV) protection is a must have. We all get those never ending streams of spam/phishing e-mails and now even things like iMessages and SMS texts come from those looking to get into those digital devices that form our digital lifestyle. The goal is to get our digital keys – those passwords we value so much.

The following articles will provide information on how to create a secure password that will make it more difficult for hackers to crack:

How to Pick the Perfect Password

How Do I Create a Strong and Unique Password?

5 Ways to Build Better Passwords

BRANCH 269 CONTINUOUS MEMBERSHIP—MARCH 2025

Charles Riggs	57	Laurie Bailey	27	Paul McHugh	19	Sheri Ragan	9
Ronald Vanco	56	Arthur Brown	27	Bryan Wright	19	Donald Barton	8
William Cole	54	Richard Davies	27	Donald Wolfe Jr.	18	William Bryar	8
Donald Mucheck	51	Mark Heck	27	Jereome White Jr.	17	Kenneth Gray	8
Frank Carroll	50	Marvin Wiands Sr.	27	Stephen Nogle	16	Ralph Bates	7
Robert Mustain	50	Robert Moore	26	Ray Stanfield	16	Timothy Thrower	7
Joseph Ondo Jr.	50	Larry Pepper	26	Dennis Lanier	15	Jack Wirick	6
Thomas Clark	49	Donald Tingle	26	Jeanette Gombash	14	Walter Mabe	6
Robert Koscianski	47	Carl Chinn	25	Danny Trapp	13	Ernest Sweat Jr.	3
Donald Barvilchak	42	Richard Duprey	25	Lawrence Fletes	12	Mike Ciesielko	2
Jimmie Gambrell	39	David Johnson	25	Wayne Stella	12	Robert Hedin	2
Bruce Garrabrant	39	Thomas Lawson	25	Ronald Walston	12	Charles Humbard	2
Francis Jones	39	Gary Gardner	24	Arthur Hance III	11	Cubit Robinson	2
John Aguilera Jr.	36	Martin Sessler	23	Don Ort	10	Lionel MacVey	1
Charles Ivey	36	Charles Day	22	Frank Yeager	10	Donald Moseng	1
George Miller	36	Donald Detwiler	20	Howard Hogue	9	Edward Peters	1
Robert Hughes	31	Robert Harris	20	Leo Kelley Sr.	9	Lyle Smith	1
James Lewis	30	John Tharp	20	Joe Lunn	9	Jody Sutton	1

UNIT 269 CONTINUOUS MEMBERSHIP—MARCH 2025

Patricia Wlazxlinski	56	Carol A. Eustace	18	Rebecca G. Moseley	6	Lorraine Carver	3
Deborah L. Rullman	21	Nancy Vella	18	Joseph Holman	5	Frederick J. Kiley	3
Katherine R. Sparger	21	Marilyn Tharp	16	Tina Marie Willis	5	Roberta V. Kiley	3
						Beatrice Murphy	2

YOUR BIRTHDAY IS IN MARCH 2025

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!!!**

William Ambler	1	Jerry Espiritu	8	Richard Harbold Jr.	17	Barbara A. Moyer	24
Robert Mustain	1	Robert Massey	9	Donald Tingle	17	Martin Sessler	24
Hubert Pearce Sr.	1	Howard Anderson	10	Robert Jaeger	18	Patricia D. Day	25
Roger Adams	2	Michael Dellenbach	10	Chad Parsons	18	Virginia B. Stamey	25
Sarah Ihme	2	David Harvey	10	Edward Smith Jr.	18	Timothy McNally	26
Tina C. Smith	2	Linda Lunn	10	Jennifer Beilstein	19	Gerald Monnat	26
Robert Zimmerman	2	Johnathan W. Price	10	Jeff Latourelle	19	Eugene Morris	27
Richard Mabe	3	John Adams	11	Anne S. Barton	20	Richard Bishop	28
Darlene Hines	4	Stuart Erlandson	12	Gary Williams	20	Don Heygood	28
Eugene Lemieux	6	Dorothy A. Grooms	12	Scott Benson	20	Betty Hilliard	28
Gordan Sarver	6	Earl Hamm	13	John Pardo	21	Michael Black	29
Jerry Frohbieter	7	Connie R. Chinn	14	Sheri Ragan	21	Mark Tompkins	29
Bertil Johnson	7	Joyce E. Hillsman	15	Cynthia M Clark	22	John Murphy	30
Dana Johnson	7	Wayne Swiech	15	Merle Melling	22	William Nieschalk	30
Ronald Laqua	7	Kenneth Wallace	16	Arilla Cotton	24	Robert Crenshaw	31
Michael Moore	7	Samuel Williams	16	Frank Hixenbaugh	24	Kenneth Cowles	31



Branch / Unit 266 General Assembly meeting held at the Home on 20 Feb.



Branch Vice President Don Barton, Secretary Sarah Ihme and Master At Arms Glenn Little present new members to the Branch



S/M David Mattingly was installed as a new member of Branch 269 by S/M Secretary Sarah Ihme.



S/M Lee Rudbart was installed as a new member of Branch 269 by S/M Secretary Sarah Ihme.



S/M Lee Rudbart was presented with his 5 year continuous membership pin by S/M Secretary Sarah Ihme. Lee had been a MAL.

2024-2025 FLEET RESERVE ASSOCIATION (FRA) BRANCH 269 AMERICANISM/PATRIOTISM ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS		
AWARDS WILL BE PRESENTED AT THE MARCH 20 GENERAL ASSEMBLY MTG		
1 st Place -	Grade 8	Nichole Quick, Berkeley Middle School
	Grade 9	Isabella Coeyman, Academic Magnet High School
	Grade 10	Tyonica Eva Ravenel, North Charleston High School
	Grade 11	Audrianna Amara, Hanahan High School
	Grade 12	Christian Sinclair, North Charleston High School
2 nd Place -	Grade 9	Cynthia Bender-Nunn, North Charleston High School
	Grade 10	Diego Osequera, North Charleston High School
	Grade 11	Mayan Ali, Hanahan High School
3 rd Place -	Grade 9	Alyssa Mackenzie Reeves, North Charleston High School
	Grade 10	Anastasia Barton, Berkeley High School
	Grade 11	Jaydon Davis, Hanahan High School
Overall Winner -		Audrianna Amara, Hanahan High School

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 – Scotch Doubles, 8-Ball Tournament

MARCH 2025						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 <u>1800-2200</u> Knights Party
2 Free Pool	3 NATIONAL ANTHEM DAY	4	5 <u>1900</u> Sojourners	6 <u>1800</u> SUBVETS BOD	7	8 <u>1000</u> DAV Mtg <u>1500-2000</u> Ellison Party
9 Free Pool DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS	10	11	12 <u>1800</u> Purple Heart Mtg	13 <u>1900</u> SUBVETS Mtg	14	15 <u>1000-1200</u> MILFRAT
16 Free Pool <u>1200-1600</u> Bunko	17 <u>1300</u> Home Committee	18 <u>1130</u> Unit Lunch <u>1800</u> Unit Mtg	19 <u>1800</u> Radio Club Mtg	20 <u>1800</u> Branch BOD <u>1900</u> Branch Mtg with Essay Winners Awarded	21 <u>1900</u> Williams BDay Party	22 FRA GOLF TOURN
23 Free Pool <hr/> 30 Free Pool	24 <u>1730</u> VVA Mtg <u>1900</u> Carolina Coins Mtg <hr/> 31	25 NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR DAY	26	27 <u>1900</u> MCL	28 <u>1200-1900</u> UNIT Yard Sale Drop-Off & Setup Only	29 VIETNAM VETERANS DAY <u>0800-1300</u> UNIT YARD SALE

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 – Scotch Doubles, 8-Ball Tournament

APRIL 2025						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2 <u>1900</u> Sojourners Mtg	3 <u>1800</u> SUBVETS BOD	4	5 <u>1000-1200</u> DAV Mtg
6 Free Pool <u>1600-2000</u> Waring Party	7	8	9 FORMER POW RECOGNITION DAY <u>1900</u> Purple Heart	10 <u>1900</u> SUBVETS Mtg	11 SUBMARINE FORCE BIRTHDAY	12 <u>0900-1100</u> Good Old Fashioned Navy Breakfast \$12 pp
13 Free Pool PALM SUNDAY	14 <u>1300</u> Home Committee	15 <u>1130</u> Unit Lunch <u>1800</u> Unit Mtg	16 <u>1800</u> Radio Club Mtg	17 PATRIOT'S DAY <u>1800</u> Branch BOD <u>1900</u> Branch Mtg	18	19 <u>1000-1200</u> MILFRAT
20 Free Pool EASTER	21	22	23 <u>1800</u> Radio Club Mtg	24 MCL	25	26 <u>1600-????</u> Savage Party
27 Free Pool <u>1330</u> Hobson Memorial Service	28 <u>1730</u> VVA Mtg <u>1900</u> Carolina Coins Mtg	29	30	31		

**FRA LOW COUNTRY BRANCH 269 BOD MEETING
FEBRUARY 20, 2025**

Shipmate Vice President Donald Barton called the regular Low Country Branch 269 meeting to order at 1800, Thursday, February 20, 2025, in accordance with FRA Rituals.

Board Members present were:

William Maloon	Bob Zauner	Nick Nichols	Donald Barton
Ronald Lamon	Skip Chilton	Kenneth Wallace	PNP Don Muccheck
Glenn Little	Steven Koch	Larry Pepper	Sarah Ihme
Tom Lawson	Bobbi Sutton		

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

FRA National Convention delegates voted to remove Section 401(e), which previously allowed branches to exempt members facing financial hardship from paying annual dues. Moving forward, all members must pay their dues unless the branch votes to cover the cost for them. One affected member, S/M Ronald J. Houde, was identified. A vote was held, and all members were in favor of the branch covering his dues. The motion carried.

The Mid-Year Conference will be held on Friday, February 21, in Jacksonville, FL, at Branch 91.

Two outdoor FRA flags were ordered for our flagpole. PNP Don Muccheck recommended allocating no more than \$400 for this purchase. S/M William Maloon motioned to approve this amount, seconded by S/M Bobbi Sutton. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Americanism/Patriotism – PNC Laurie Bailey
Essay Contest awards will be presented at the March General Assembly meeting on March 20.

By-Laws: PRPSE Fred Bolz/PNP Don Muccheck
Nothing to report

Legislative Service and VAVS: PNP Don Muccheck
The VA Report and NewsBytes are posted on the bulletin board.

Hospital, Welfare and Rehabilitation: Bobbi Sutton
Four members will be honored with a two-bell ceremony, which will take place next month.

Youth Activities: Don Barton

A request was received from Stratford Football Activities to purchase an advertisement featuring our logo on 100 T-shirts for football games. The shirts will be worn by players, and some will be distributed to the audience. The advertisement cost is \$450. S/M Bobbi Sutton motioned to approve the purchase, seconded by PNP Don Muccheck. The motion carried unanimously.

Budget and Finance: Don Barton

We will have an audit next month.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Essay contest winners will attend the March General Assembly meeting, where finger foods will be provided.

S/M Ronald Lamon has American flags available for anyone in need.

S/M Nick Nichols requests timely updates on any Branch position changes to ensure accurate newsletter updates.

S/M Steve Koch motioned to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by S/M Bobbi Sutton. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 1817.

**FRA LOW COUNTRY BRANCH 269
MEETING OF FEBRUARY 20, 2025 GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Shipmate Vice President Donald Barton called the regular meeting of Low Country Branch 269 to order on Thursday, February 20, 2025, in accordance with FRA Rituals.

Shipmates initiated: Shipmates David Mattingly and Lee Rudbart were present for initiation. Shipmate Lee Rudbart also received a continuous membership pin.

Continuous membership:

December 2024

Janet Mizer-Brunner – 5 years

Larry Mole – 5 years

Lee Rudbart – 5 years

Robert Simmang – 5 years

John Byrd – 10 years

Gordon Sarver – 10 years

Bruce Whipple – 15 years

Lawrence Case – 25 years

John Glass – 40 years

Keith Suiter – 45 years

Minutes: Posted on the entrance table and published in the newsletter. No corrections to be made and will stand as approved.

Communications: We received two thank you letters this month. One was from the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center thanking us for the donations of the men's and women's coats that were presented last month. We also received a thank you letter from the Goose Creek Police Department for our donation to their Safety Pup Program.

Treasurer's Report:

The report for the period of December 28 – January 27, 2025 is as follows:

General Checking: \$5,613.02

Certificate of Deposit: \$11,838.30

Total: \$26,070.45

Savings Account: \$5,184.55

Convention Checking: \$3,434.58

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

The Mid-Year meeting will be held in Jacksonville, FL on February 21st. It is hosted by Branch and Unit 91. The essays that were sent to the Branch will be graded and sent to the region during this meeting.

PNP Don Muccheck is working on the Hobson Memorial Service which is scheduled for Sunday, April 27 at the FRA Home.

Two outdoor flags were ordered for our flag pole. We will replace the old flags when we receive them. Funds were requested and approved by the Board of Directors for \$400. S/M Bobbi Sutton motioned to approve the expenditure, seconded by S/M Glenn Little. The motion carried unanimously.

Committee Reports

Americanism/Patriotism – PNC Laurie Bailey

The Branch Essay Contest Awards will be presented at the March 20 General Assembly meeting.

Dates in History February/March

February 22: George Washington's birthday (1732)

February 23: Marines raise the flag on Mount Suribachi during the battle of Iwo Jima (1945)

March 1: Coast Guard transfers to the Department of Homeland Security (2003)

March 3: National Anthem Day

March 3: US Navy Reserve Birthday (1915)

March 4: US Navy Band established (1925)

March 5: US Navy Seabees Birthday (1942)

March 9: Daylight Savings Time begins

March 13: National K9 Veterans Day

March 14: Navy Act of 1794 was signed authorizing the construction of six frigates, marking the birth of the modern US Navy.

March 17: St. Patrick's Day

March 19: Start of the Iraq War (2003)

March 20: First Day of Spring

By-Laws: PRPSE Fred Bolz/PNP Don Muecheck

No changes to be made.

Legislative Services and VAVS: PNP Don Muecheck

The VA Report and NewsBytes are posted on the bulletin board.

Hospital, Welfare and Rehabilitation: Bobbi Sutton

We will hold a Two-bell ceremony next month for EMC Charles M. Riggs, EMCS Thomas Wunder, MS1 Donald Rickert, and MRCM David Graminski.

Ken Curtis is receiving hospice care at home. Roger Rader slipped on ice and fell, resulting in a fractured wrist, a broken hip, and a stomach issue. He underwent surgery which went well. He is now home with home health. Butch Bryar was in the hospital with bronchial pneumonia and is home now. Jerry Stout's PICC line and wound vac have been removed, but he continues to experience health issues. Rick Wise had chest and abdomen CT scans showing no sign of cancer. John Lookabill had a heart catheterization. Everything was clear and now he will be scheduling a valve repair. Dave Harvey will be having neck surgery on February 26. Al Stoll is in Room 3 at the skilled nursing section at the Villages at Summerville rehab center. Bill and Becky Roberts are living in the Villages.

Membership and Retention: Ken Wallace

Total active members: 765

New Join/Reinstated: Roy Jessup, Thomas Shepard

Transfer In: Lee Rudbart

Past Due: Mashelle Ames, Randall Bolin, Angela Chapman, Everette Coates, Tim Cowan, Michael Genalo, Ronald Houde, William Hunt, Samuel Jenkins Jr., Jahleel Jones-Valentine, Jon Simmons, Jacob Sobeck, David Thomas

Ready to Renew: John Aguilera Jr., Bryan Alfaro, Mariela Anderson, Robert Bear, Jennifer Beilstein, David Button, Frank Carroll Jr., Shannon Cason, Rick Collins, Richard Davies, Terrie Ehlich, Francis Evans, Larry Fowler, Jimmie Gambrell, Jeannette Gombash, Nathan Gottsch, Robert Hedin, Kevin Henry, John Hills, Robert Hudspeth, Robert Hughes, Charles Humbard, Robert Isaman, Raymond Jaekle, Francis Jones, Robert Koscianski, Ronald Laqua, James Lewis, Alan Lincoln, Joe Lunn, Walter Mabe, Heather McGuire, Robert Mixon, Janet Mizer-Brunner, Ron Morgan, Eugene Morris, Patrick Murphy, Robert Mustain, Nathaniel Nelson, Stephen Nogle, Don Ort, Cody Schaefer, Michael Scott, Kevin Sedgley, Robert Simmang, David Southall, Daniel Speight, Wayne Stella, John Tharp, Samuel Williams

Suspended: Robert Burnett, Alan Dempster, Clyde Edington, William Korbisch, Robert Pulos, Charles Riggs, Terry Sprague, Thomas Wunder

Active Unit Members: 190

Youth Activities: Don Barton

A request was received from Stratford High School Football Activities to purchase an advertisement featuring our logo on 100 T-shirts for football games. The shirts will be worn by players, and some will be distributed to the audience. Shipmate Don Barton recommends allocating \$450 for 100 T-shirts. The advertisement size is approximately equivalent to two business cards. PNP Don Mucke motioned to spend \$450 for the Stratford Football Youth Program, seconded by S/M Glenn Little. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Relations: John Tharp

Pictures were sent in to the FRA today from the Toys for Tots Marine Corps Reserve campaign. We had 326 toys sent in from the Branch, Unit, and members.

Ways and Means: Larry Pepper

Get your 50/50 and steak dinner tickets.

Golf: Larry Pepper

The next golf tournament will be on March 22nd at 0900 followed by lunch and awards at the Home.

Budget and Finance: Don Barton

The next audit will be at the beginning of March. If anyone else is interested in assisting, let S/M Don Barton know.

Home Committee Report: Ken Wallace

Cash Audit by S/M S. Koch on 14 February 2025 as follows: Checking account balance \$11,278.41, Savings account \$10,453.82, and Credit Card account available balance \$5,743.11; there is \$635.00 in pending check/cash for deposit. Total Funds On hand \$39,610.34.

Bank Statement for December 2024 reflected a loss of \$6,600.88 for the month and a cumulative loss for the year 2024 of \$3,312.88 (0.56%), Bank statement for January 2025 reported a loss of \$3,745.55 (9.86%).

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

The new dishwasher and one fryer have been installed; the second fryer needs to be replaced but was held up pending discussion and approval by the Home Committee to proceed (Discussed and approved).

On March 17th, the kitchen will offer corned beef and cabbage to celebrate ST Patrick's Day.

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

There will be an old-fashioned Navy Breakfast at the Home from 0730 to 1100 in April.

Also to see if there is any interest in a Kentucky Derby Party on May 3rd at the Home.

Membership and Security: Headquarters reported that we have 765 active Branch members as of 03 February. There are 190 active Unit members.

Good of the Order: our next Home Committee meeting will be Monday, March 17 at 1300, One final reminder, if you bring a Non-Member to Home, please remember to sign them into the Guest Log.

Unit Report: Trish Chilton

Our meeting went well. We discussed our Yard Sale on March 29th. We will set up the 28th from 12-7 and the sale will start at 0800-1300 on the 29th. We are trying to start going back to nursing homes to visit with the patients. We are working on approval of our updated By-Laws.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Essay contest winners will attend the March General Assembly meeting, where finger foods will be provided.

S/M Nick Nichols spoke on behalf of the Submarine Veterans, Dave Harvey, and the committee that assisted him, expressing gratitude to the FRA for our support of their conference. The event was a great success, with 86 of the 90 registered attendees participating. Guests enjoyed attending the SUBVETS Charleston Base meeting and spending time at the Fleet.

The meeting adjourned at 1933 on February 20, 2025.