



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]
Branch 269 website: [FRA Low Country Branch & Unit 269](http://www.fra269gc.org) [www.fra269gc.org]
FRA Branch and Unit 269 | Facebook [https://www.facebook.com/groups/FRABRANCH269/]



COME JOIN US TO CELEBRATE THE KENTUCKY DERBY
 AT FRA LOWCOUNTRY HOME
 99 WISTERIA ROAD, GOOSE CREEK, SC
 SATURDAY, MAY 3, 2025
 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM

TICKETS ARE \$1.00. TICKET SIGN UP SHEET IS BEHIND THE
 BAR AT LOWCOUNTRY HOME
 ENJOY MINT AND BLACKBERRY JULEPS, DERBY HORS
 D'OEUVRES AND TRUE DERBY DESSERTS!!
 ALL ARE ENCOURAGED TO WEAR FANCY HATS AND SPRING
 ATTIRE. THERE WILL BE PRIZES FOR THE BEST HATS. MEN
 ARE ENCOURAGED TO WEAR HAWAIIAN OR SPRING SHIRTS.



Congratulations for Continuous Membership as of April 2025 [# of yearS]

Charles Gravley [40]	James Delaney [25]
Edward Fretschel III [25]	Tommy Wilbanks [20]
Bertil Johnson [15]	Roy Kindgom [15]
Frederick Wolstencroft [15]	Lawrence Coats [5]

NOMINATIONS for BRANCH Officers, Board and Home Committee will take place in April with elections in May. Check the attached minutes to see who were nominated for positions at the April General Assembly meeting.

Branch President's Corner

Congratulations to PNC Laurie Bailey on being selected as the FRA Shipmate of the Year — well deserved,

Nominations for branch officers, board members and home committee members were conducted at the April meeting. A second round of nominations followed by elections will be conducted at the May general assembly meeting.

The annual Memorial Day program Monday May 26th starts with placing U.S. flags on Veteran's graves at Plantation Memorial Gardens at 08:00 followed by the Memorial Day service 10:30 at the home featuring retired Warrant Officed Bob McPherson as the guest speaker with an indoor picnic to follow.

Don't forget the Kentucky Derby party Saturday 3 May 1700-2000 with games, food, drinks and fun for all. Come out and enjoy **YOUR** branch home.

Madam President Tidbits

Hello Auxiliary Members:

Our April meeting was conducted on Tuesday the 15th. We had the final reading of the changes to the By Laws and Standing Rules which were

approved and forwarded to the branch. They were ratified by the Branch.

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

The Pilgrimage is coming up in May for anyone who would like to attend.

Nominations for Unit Officers for 2025-2026 were conducted. Next month will be final nominations and voting. We will be looking forward to seeing everyone there. Remember to bring your membership card to vote.

The next Ladies Luncheon will be at 1130, May 13th at the Home. The Unit meeting is at 1800.

Trish Chilton, Unit President

Yours in Loyalty, Protection and Service

WEEKLY DRAWING AT THE HOME

4/1: Richard Wise [Branch], unsigned;

4/8: Phillip Smith [Branch], unsigned;

4/15: Michael Holman [Branch], unsigned

4/22: Timothy McNally [Branch], unsigned

4/29: Harvey Belcher [Branch], unsigned

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

February 28, 2025 - March 27, 2025

Operations:	\$ 7,226.78
Savings	\$ 5,286.64
Certificate of Deposit	\$11,838.30
Convention Checking	\$ 20.03
Total funds	\$24,271.75

BRANCH MEMBERSHIP/RETENTION

Membership and Retention: Ken Wallace

Total active members: 752 end of Mar

New Join/Reinstated [3]:

- Darryl Barrickman, James Evans, Savannah Sellers

Past Due [22]:

- Jennifer Beilstein, Shannon Cason, Rick Collins, Terrie Ehlich, Nathan Gottsch, Kevin Henry, John Hills, Robert Hudspeth, Robert Isaman, Raymond Jaekle, Ronald Laqua, Heather McGuire, Robert Mixon, Ron Morgan, Eugene Morris, Nathaniel Nelson, Cody Schaefer, Michael Scott, Kevin Sedgley, Robert Simmang, Daniel Speight, Samuel Williams

Ready to Renew [39]:

- Richard Bishop, Donald Blackwelder, Roy Brosseau, Ronald Chambers, Joseph Chapman III, Richard Davies, James Delaney, Michael Delich, Michael Dellenbach, Dana Disinger, Solomon Eagles, Lewis Flader, Richard Glass, Cynthia Hannah, James Harrison, David Horton, John Ingram, Stephen Jeffery, Lonnie Kenney, Jones Kersey, Howard Luper, Richard Mabe, Walter Mabe, Ray Marshall, Russell Nichols Jr., John Pontieri, Robert Richardson, Santos Riduca, Arthur Robinson, Joseph Schepisi, Thomas Scott, Cecil Skipworth, David Southall, Michael Sparks, David Stevens, Timothy Thrower, Marc West, Richard Wise, Brad Wonderliing

Suspended [13]:

- Randall Bolin, Everette Coates, Tim Cowan, Kenneth Cowles, David Graminski, William Hunt, Samuel Jenkins Jr., Jahleel Jones-Valentine, Franklin Osburn, John Popa, Robert Rose, Jon Simmons, Jacob Sobeck

Active Unit Members: 190

UNIT MEMBERSHIP/RETENTION

30 days past due: Frederick J. Kiley, Roberta V. Kiley

60 days past due: Maria Luisa Gulick, Colleen E. McCain, Susan S. Westbury

90 days past due: none

BRANCH CHAPLAIN

Hospital, Welfare and Rehabilitation: Bobbi Sutton

Two-Bell Ceremony for four shipmates: FTCM (SS) Marty Sessler; DTC William Jenkins; POCS Felix Canbanting; SMCM Robert Rose
Shipmates or Unit members please contact:

**Branch Chaplain S/M Bobbi Sutton @
843.541.2823**

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

MEAL HOURS FOR THE HOME

Lunch Hours Mon-Fri: 1100-1300.

**Dinner Hours Mon-Fri: 5:00 pm-9:00 pm
Weekly Menu can be found on the website:**

FRA Low Country Branch & Unit 269

Home Committee Report

Cash Audit by S/M S. Koch and R. Sutton on
12 April 2025 as follows:

Checking Account balance	\$21,525.70
Savings account	\$10,455.51
Credit Card account	\$20,785.22
Pending Check/Cash for deposit:	\$ 1,518.00
Total funds	\$64,584.43

There was no March 2025 Financial Statement Available for this meeting.

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

- The hot water heater needs to be replaced. Awaiting formal cost estimates.
S/M Koch motioned, S/M L. Bailey second: Allocate, not to exceed, \$15,000.00 to replace the existing water heater. To be presented at the next GA meeting. Motion carried.
- Reported we have a 20-year-old refrigerator needing replacement.
- S/M Pepper is looking into another Brick purchase. Contact him if interested.

Looking ahead:

- April 27th we will honor the USS HOBSON with a ceremony at the home.
- Plans are to have a Kentucky Derby Party on May 3rd at the home. Signup sheet at the bar.
- The next Golf tournament will be on June 28th followed by lunch and awards at the Home.

Membership and Security:

- Headquarters reported that we have 752 active Branch members as of 4 April. 3 key cards have been issued.
- There are 190 active Unit members.
- S/M L. Bailey moved and Lady VanDiver seconded to change the time of the Home Committee Meeting from 1300 to 1800. Motion carried.

Good of the Order: our next Home Committee meeting will be Monday, May 12th at 1800.

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

- 1 May: May Day
- 5 May: Cinco DeMayo
- 8 May: VE Day [1945]
- 10 May: Coast Guard Band Established [1942]
- 11 May: Mother's Day
- 13 May: Navy Nurse Corps Established [1908]
- 15 May: Peace Officers Memorial Day
- 17 May: Armed Forces Day
- 26 May: Memorial Day

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.

New member applications and renewal applications should 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	

VA ASKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

Shipmates and Auxiliary, are you retired with little to do during the day?

Ever though of VOLUNTEERING at the local VA facilities: R.A. Johnson VAMC - N. Charleston VA Clinic - Goose Creek VA Clinic [NWS}. You will be helping our Disabled Vets at these facilities.

If so there are easy to do tasks at all facilities:

- Call Reminders to patients
- Escort Patients to appointments, give directions
- Coffee cart duties
- Volunteer Driver and other various tasks.

If interested contact

**PRPSE Fred Bolz [843.270.0345] or
Volunteer Services [843.789.7230**

Newsbytes: The Fleet Reserve Bulletin

The Newsbytes are sent throughout the month from National to all FRA members via email.

There is a direct link to Newsbytes on the FRA269 Website Home Page so if you accidentally delete the email use this information to gain access to the Newsbytes

=====

Next Generation USID Card

If you don't have the NextGen ID card, but an "old style" ID card (DD Form 2, DD Form 1173, DD Form 1173-1 or DD Form 2765(blue, pink or tan ID)) you will still be able to access a base for now!

It's important for military retirees/dependents/surviving spouses to know, at some time in the future, these old forms of ID will **not** be valid to access a military installation, and you will **need** issuance of the NextGen ID card. This will be true even if your old ID card has an INDEF expiration date on it - the ID will still be **invalid**. DoD has not specified a date when this will happen, and we have no idea how much advance warning you will get before you must have the NextGen ID card. Social media and word of mouth, however, you receive information, we are hearing the deadline **may** be on 1 Jan 2026. We understand DoD will formally announce.

Based on this, we strongly encourage everyone with an old-style ID card to get a NextGen ID card now!

There are several ways to make an appointment to get a new ID card.

- (1). You can visit the RAPIDS ID Card Office Locator website to find the closest office and either call them to make an appointment or
- (2). schedule your own appointment using the website. <https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/> To make an appointment using this site select the "ID Card Office Locator & Appointments" block.
- (3). You **may** be able to renew your ID card online and have it mailed to you, no waiting in line! You select the "Family ID Cards" block on the website at the link above. Below are the requirements to renew a card online:
 - Sponsor must be a CAC holder or have a DoD Self-Service Logon username/password
 - Must be requesting a renewal of an active USID card
 - Sponsor and Cardholder must have email

addresses listed in DEERS that they have authorized DoD to use for contacting them

- Sponsor's personnel status must extend at least 30 days into the future
 - Cardholder has a photo saved in DEERS taken in the last 12 years
 - Cardholder's mailing address is present in DEERS and is in United States or Overseas.
 - USID cards cannot be shipped to PO Boxes
- If you have an old-style ID card, you can get the new NextGen ID at any time - do it now!

=====

APRIL HIGHLIGHTS

Newsbytes April 4, 2025

TRICARE's Virtual Health Care
Next Generation USID Card
DoD Eyes Major Cuts to MTFs

Newsbytes April 11, 2025

FRA Attends Beyond The Pact Act Roundtable
Congress Addresses Claims Backlog
VA Upgrades Contact Centers
TRICARE Policy Eases PCM Access After a Move

Newsbytes April 18, 2025

Costly Challenges from PACT Act Claims Errors
Bolster Sea Services Recruitment
Navy Families Sues Privatized Housing Company
FRA Midyear Board Meeting

Newsbytes April 25, 2025

Medal of Honor Recipient Reenlists
TRICARE For Life Handbook
Commissary Doorstep Delivery
FRA Mid-Year Board Meeting Events

FLEET RESERVE ASSOCIATION 97/92 NATIONAL CONVENTIONS 3-8 NOVEMBER 2025

The 97th FRA and the 92nd Auxiliary FRA National Conventions will be held 3 to 8 November 2025:

Oasis Hotel and Conference Center
2546 N. Glenstone Ave.
Springfield, Missouri
Ph# 417-866-5253.
Room rates are \$119 per night; more for suites.

MORE SECURITY TIPS & TECH NOTES

Find your Wi-Fi network password in Windows and Apple devices

In our digital world, passwords are the rulers of the domain. And when you misplace one, especially your Wi-Fi password when adding a new device, it can cause that OMG! moment for many of us.

I recently had a friend who had gone through an Internet provider switch, and the new router was installed and configured by the new ISP's installers. Apparently during that work, he either misplaced or discarded the paper he had the Wi-Fi password recorded on. And now he was installing a new Wi-Fi device, which needed that password. Fortunately, his existing devices were all connected, including a Windows 10 desktop. So, using the procedure(s) described in the links below, he was able to retrieve his Wi-Fi password and successfully add the new device to his network.

If you find yourself in similar circumstances, these links will help:

Find your saved Wi-Fi passwords on iPhone or iPad

Find your Wi-Fi network password in Windows



&

MyHealtheVet

Recognizing a Heart Attack

Knowing the signs could save a life

Getting help right away during a heart attack can save your life. Know the signs so you can act fast.

Learn More

Make the Most of Your VA Appointment

Your medical appointments are valuable time with your health care team. We want you to feel prepared so you can make the most of that time.

Get tips on preparing for appointments

Are You at Risk of Gout?

Gout is a form of arthritis that's easier to control than others. Getting early treatment can help prevent future pain and joint damage.

Learn more about preventing gout pain

Check Your VA Claim

Easily check the status of your VA claim or appeal on VA.gov. You can upload documents and download decision letters all in one place.

Learn more about claims on VA.gov

2025 VA Benefits Guide Online

Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents, Survivors, and Caregivers 2025 Edition

DOWNLOAD NOW

Unlocking Veteran Tax Exemptions Across States and U.S. Territories

Most U.S. states and territories provide tax benefits for Veterans, their families and survivors. Check out this state-by-state guide detailing tax benefits and exemptions available to Veterans.

ACCESS THE GUIDE

Women Veterans Step-by-Step Guide to Benefits and Services

Women Veterans, family members, caregivers and survivors, here's a step-by-step guide on how you can apply for your earned benefits and services.

GET YOUR BENEFITS

Free Mental Wellness App for Veterans, Families

Unlock free membership to Innerworld, a peer social support mental wellness app. Become an anonymous avatar in a community built for Veterans and their family members.

DOWNLOAD NOW

Take this Self-assessment to Find Support Designed For You

Veterans are often the first to help others and may find it hard to ask for help themselves. If you or a Veteran you know needs support, don't wait. Reach out.

FIND THE RIGHT RESOURCES

Beware Scammers Targeting Special Compensation, Purple Heart Recipients

Increased financial compensation and the visibility of Purple Heart recipients can attract scammers looking to exploit Veterans. These tips can help you protect your benefits.

BRANCH 269

BRANCH OFFICERS

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

BRANCH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PNC Laurie Bailey Tim Bailey
Skip Chilton Steven Koch
Ronald Lamon 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
Parliamentarian: PNP Don Mucheck
Public Relations: John Tharp
Ways and Means: Larry Pepper
Webmaster: Nick Nichols
Newsletter: 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

Frbranch269@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: Kim Vandiver
Director: John Tharp
Director: Rob Melton
Home Managers: PNP Don Mucheck
Larry Pepper
Bob Zauner



S/M Marlene Silva was installed as a new member of Branch 269 by President Ken Hutchison, Secretary Sarah Ihme & Master-at-Arms Glenn Little.

PNC Laurie Bailey, PRPSE Fred Bolz and PNP Don Mucheck were presented membership retention pins by President Ken Hutchison.



PNC Laurie Bailey was presented with the FRA Shipmate of the Year—The Leonard D. “Swede” Nelson Award for 2024-2025 for her positive contributions to the Americanism-Patriotism program by President Ken Hutchison.



USS HOBSON DD-646/DMS- 26 MEMORIAL SERVICE HELD APRIL 27, 2025



PROTECT YOUR BENEFITS

Prepare for VA's secure sign-in changes

In 2025, you'll need to start using a Login.gov or ID.me account to sign in.

Why this matters to you

After January 31, 2025, you won't be able to sign in to VA websites or apps with a My HealthVet user ID and password. After September 30, 2025, you won't be able to sign in with a DS Logon username and password.

What you can do

Create a Login.gov or ID.me account now

We encourage you to create a Login.gov or ID.me account now. If you already have one of these accounts but haven't yet used it, start now so you have time to get used to it before the change. With Login.gov or ID.me, you'll have access to all the same information and services you use today.

What's changing for VA sign-in accounts in 2025?

We're moving to a simpler, more modern, sign-in experience in 2025, with 2 secure sign-in account options (**Login.gov** and **ID.me**).

Here's what will change for Veterans and beneficiaries like you:

After **September 30, 2025**, you won't be able to sign in with a **DS Logon** username and password.

✦ You'll have 2 sign-in account options that meet modern security standards:
a **Login.gov** or **ID.me** account. You'll be able to use your account to sign in to VA.gov, VA mobile apps, and any other VA online service to manage your VA

benefits and care.

You'll need to use a unique email address and set up multifactor authentication for your account as part of the requirements of both **Login.gov** and **ID.me**.

Will I have to add multifactor authentication with this change?

Yes. Both **Login.gov** and **ID.me** require multifactor authentication (MFA) as part of the account set-up process. This extra layer of protection helps us make sure that it's you trying to use your sign-in account—and not someone pretending to be you.

Multifactor authentication is a common practice for many websites and apps. You may already use it to access your email, bank account, or social media accounts.

When you set up our **Login.gov** or **ID.me** account, you can choose the multifactor authentication option that works best for you.

It's always your choice whether you want to get an account. Your choice won't affect your eligibility for VA benefits or health care in any way. If you don't get a **Login.gov** or **ID.me** account before we remove the **My HealthVet** and **DS Logon** sign-in options, you won't be able to access your VA information or manage your benefits and care online.

Prepare For VA's Secure Sign-In Changes | Veterans Affairs

BRANCH 269 CONTINUOUS MEMBERSHIP—MAY 2025

John Casner Jr.	69	Cynthia Hannah	28	Kenneth Hutchison	21	Robert Richardson	3
Byron Couch	54	Darlene Hines	28	Brian Cecil	18	Edward Whiteley	3
Phillip Smith	54	Jones Kersey	28	Cheryl Cecil	18	William Besco	2
Roy Massey Sr.	53	Robert Weber Sr	28	Michael Sparks	18	Donald Garrand	2
Clarence Hall	52	Ronald Chambers	26	David Stevens	18	Albert Horne	2
James Giordino	50	Kirk Owen	26	Solomon Eagles	17	Fred Lentz	2
Donald Snead	49	David Cox	25	Scott Benson	16	Timothy Kuehhas	2
Gerald Starr	48	David Greeno	25	Mark Hunter	14	Darrell Boggs	1
Robert Shober	44	Gary Hinks	25	Richard Lawwell	13	Joseph Chapman III	1
John Ingram	43	Lonnie Kenney	25	Richard Glass	10	Terry Corley	1
James Stover	38	Richard Mabe	25	Paul Misuraca	10	Dennis Essenmacher	1
Merle Melling	34	Timothy Reed	25	Marc West	8	Charles Hughes Jr.	1
Roland Kring	32	Jerry Espiritu	24	Robert Curtis	7	Derrick Mihanovich	1
Russell Nichols Jr.	31	James Harrison	24	Charles Murray	7	Robert Ramsey	1
Raymond Pease	31	Paul Langan	24	Jeffrey Hamm	6	Joseph Schepisi	1
John Popa	31	Keith Laster	24	Michael Fremem	5	Mark Tracy	1
Douglass Potter	31	T. H. Tollison	22	John Pontieri	3	Brad Wonderling	1
Santos Riduca	29						

UNIT 269 CONTINUOUS MEMBERSHIP—MAY 2025

Joan V. Acosta	42	Elizabeth A. Norris	18	Dawna B. LaTourelle	4	Jayne L. Campbell	3
Gail A. Bolz	18	Sandra J. Rader	5	Sandra M. Houle	3	Christopher A. Covell	1
						Troy R. Perpruner	1

YOUR BIRTHDAY IS IN MAY 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!!!**

John Byrd	1	John Parnall	11	Beverly G. Shaver	19	Kathlene R. Sparger	25
Daniel Wall	1	Warren Sparks	11	Krystal A. Shaffer	20	Barbara E. Sullivan	25
Dee Wallace	2	Dylan N. Adams	12	Vernice Smith Jr.	20	Robert Zauner	25
Edward Gentile	2	David Dux	12	Hugh Graham	21	John Autrey	26
Michael Hanna	3	Howard Luper	12	Mark Tracy	21	Ronald Brunner	26
Brian Steffen	3	Crystal Koch	13	Matthew Frazier	22	Lorena M. Claxton	26
Richard Glass	4	Rhonda D. McNally	13	Ralph Mummey	22	Edward Fretschel	26
Gary Landry	4	Stephen Jackson	14	Keith Suiter Sr	22	Robert Ladue	26
Bill Ansel	4	John Johnson Jr.	14	Joe Travis	22	Edward Stover	26
Robert Warder	4	John Pontieri	14	Jack Wirick	22	John Nichols	27
Frederick J. Kiley	5	Douglas Potter	14	Oscar Edrada	23	Wallace Williams	27
Michael Sparks	5	Frederick Sorenson	14	Craig Vanderbilt	23	Laurie Bailey	29
David M. Emerson	6	Bryan Wright	14	Tyler Adams	24	Jack Collier	29
Russell Hale	6	Sammy Jackson	15	William Galloway	24	Richard Davies	30
Marc West	7	Elmer Mullins	15	Raymond Jackle	24	Albert Godwin	30
Charles Clore	8	Donald Barton	16	Roy Knight	24	Tom Lufkin	30
Rocco Losito	9	Michael LeCompte	16	Charles Wright	24	Scott F. Sarah	30
Tonia Y. Miller	9	William Woodsmall	17	Lawrence M. Fowler	25	Jerry Walton	30
Sandra Beilstein	10	Elmer Feeser	18	Robert MacPherson	20	John Lambert	31
Charlotte B. Johnson	10	Edward Astle	19	Rebecca G. Moseley	25	Don Ort	31
Frank Carroll Jr	11	David McCann	19	Delores Rucker	25		

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

MAY 2025						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 <u>1800</u> SUBVETS BOD	2	3 <u>1000-1200</u> DAV Mtg <u>1700-2000</u> Kentucky Derby
4 Free Pool <u>1200-1400</u> Baby Shower	5	6	7	8 VE DAY 1945 <u>1900</u> SUBVETS Mtg	9	10 <u>TIME UNK</u> Wedding
11 Free Pool MOTHER'S DAY	12 <u>1800</u> Home Committee	13 <u>1130</u> Unit Lunch <u>1800</u> Unit Mtg	14 <u>1830</u> Bowling Banquet	15 <u>1800</u> Branch BOD <u>1900</u> Branch Mtg	16	17 ARMED FORCES DAY <u>1000-1200</u> MILFRAT
18 Free Pool	19	20	21 <u>1800</u> Radio Club Mtg	22	23	24
25 Free Pool <u>1200-1600</u> Bunko	26 MEMORIAL DAY <u>1030-1400</u> Memorial Day Service followed by Fleet Indoor Picnic	27	28	29	30	31 Time Unk Graduation Party

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

JUNE 2025						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Free Pool	2	3	4	5 1800 SUBVETS BOD	6 D-DAY 1944 1730 - ? NNPTC CTOA	7
8 Free Pool 1230 - ? Bunko	9	10	11	12 1900 SUBVETS Mtg	13	14 FLAG DAY 1000 DAV Mtg
15 Free Pool FATHER'S DAY	16 1800 Home Committee	17 1130 Unit Lunch 1800 Unit Mtg	18 1900 Purple Heart	19 1800 Branch BOD 1900 Branch Mtg	20 TIME UNK Wedding Setup	21 0900-1100 MILFRAT 1500 - ? Wedding
22 Free Pool	23 1730 VVA Mtg 1900 Carolina Coins Mtg	24 1900 Sojourners Mtg	25	26 MCL	27	28 FRA GOLF TOURNAMENT
29 Free Pool	30					

**FRA LOW COUNTRY BRANCH 269 BOD MEETING
APRIL 17, 2025**

Shipmate President Ken Hutchinson called the regular Low Country Branch 269 meeting to order at 1800, Thursday, April 17, 2025, in accordance with FRA Rituals.

Board Members present were:

PNC Laurie Bailey	Bob Zauner	Nick Nichols	Donald Barton
Ronald Lamon	Skip Chilton	Kenneth Wallace	PNP Don Muckeck
Glenn Little	Steven Koch	Larry Pepper	Sarah Ihme
Tom Lawson	William Maloon	Tim Bailey	Ken Hutchinson

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Americanism/Patriotism – PNC Laurie Bailey
Will report at the general assembly meeting.

By-Laws: PRPSE Fred Bolz
Will report at the general assembly meeting.

Legislative Service and VAVS: PRPSE Fred Bolz
Will report at the general assembly meeting.

Hospital, Welfare and Rehabilitation: Bobbi Sutton
We will have a two-bell ceremony for FTCM Marty Sessler, DTC William Jenkins, POCS Felix Canbanting, and SMCM Robert Rose.

Membership and Retention: Ken Wallace
Will report at the general assembly meeting.

Youth Activities: Don Barton
Will report at the general assembly meeting.

Public Relations: John Tharp
Will report at the general assembly meeting.

Ways and Means: Larry Pepper
Will report at the general assembly meeting.

Golf: Larry Pepper
Will report at the general assembly meeting.

Budget and Finance: Don Barton
Will report at the general assembly meeting.

Home Committee Report: Ken Wallace
Will report at the general assembly meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

We need to redo the Bylaws, which will be presented at the August meeting. PNP Don Muceck, PRPSE Fred Bolz are two members of this committee. S/M Sarah Ihme and S/M Steve Koch were also appointed to this committee

April is the nominations month for officers, Board of Directors, and Home Committee at the General Assembly. The Board can have up to 12 members. The Home Committee includes a Chairman, Financial Secretary, and Admin Secretary, all of whom must be Branch officers. The committee can have 5-8 Directors, with up to 4 being Auxiliary members. Elections will be held next month.

PNP Don Muceck received a receipt from S/M Nick Nichols for paper and stamps in the amount of \$101.99. PNP Don Muceck moved that he be reimbursed this amount. The motion was seconded by S/M Tim Bailey and carried by a unanimous vote.

PNP Don Muceck received the rewritten Unit 269 bylaws. He has reviewed the document and found no conflicts of interest with the FRA National, Regional, or Branch Constitution and Bylaws. PNP Muceck moved that these Bylaws be approved. The motion was seconded by PNC Laurie Bailey and carried by a unanimous vote.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

USS Hobson Memorial Service will take place at the Home on Sunday, April 27th at 1330.

Kentucky Derby party will be at the Home on Saturday, May 3rd. There is a sign-up sheet behind the bar for \$1 per person. Bring cash for games, raffles, and other fun activities.

The Veterans Club of Del Webb Cane Bay will have MajGen James E. Livingston MOH, USMC, (ret) as guest speaker on May 12th, 1:00 – 2:30 pm. You must confirm your attendance by May 5th. A flyer with the information has been sent to our members.

Retired Warrant Officer Bob McPherson will be the guest speaker for Memorial Day. More information will be put out as the event gets closer.

The FRA National Convention will be held from November 3 to 8 in Springfield, Missouri. We have no word on the Regional Convention yet.

PNC Laurie Bailey will be presented with the Sailor of the Year award at the General Assembly.

Meeting adjourned at 1818.

FRA LOW COUNTRY BRANCH 269
MEETING OF APRIL 17, 2025 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Shipmate President Ken Hutchison called the regular meeting of Low Country Branch 269 to order on Thursday, April 17, 2025, at 1900, in accordance with Article FRA Rituals.

Visitors: The Ladies Auxiliary was present.

Shipmates Initiated: Marlene Silva

Minutes: Minutes have been published in the newsletter. Motion to accept.

Communications: Regional assessments for membership came in and were turned over to Don Muecheck for payment.

Treasurer's Report:

The report for the period of February 28 – March 27, 2025 is as follows:

General Checking: \$7,226.78	Savings Account: \$5,186.64
Certificate of Deposit: \$11,838.30	Convention Checking: \$20.03
Total: \$24,271.75	

We have the SE Region assessments, which still need to be paid. It is due before June 1. The membership was 728 and calculated at 30¢ per person, which comes to \$218.40. PNP Don Muecheck moved that the assessment be approved. Motion was seconded by S/M Don Barton and carried by a unanimous vote.

Continuous Membership:

April 2025

Charles Gravley – 40 years
James Delaney – 25 years
Edward Fretschel, III – 25 years
Tommy Wilbanks – 20 years

Bertil Johnson – 15 years
Roy Kingdom – 15 years
Frederick Wolstencroft – 15 years
Lawrence Coates – 5 years

Committee Reports

Americanism/Patriotism – PNC Laurie Bailey

Dates in History April/May

17 April – Patriots Day
18 April – Doolittle Raid Over Tokyo (1942)
20 April – Easter
22 April – Earth Day
23 April – Administrative Professional's Day

25 April – Arbor Day
01 May – May Day
05 May – Cinco De Mayo
08 May – VE Day (1945)
10 May – Coast Guard Band Established (1925)
11 May – Mother’s Day
13 May – Navy Nurse Corps Established (1908)
15 May – Peace Officers Memorial Day
17 May – Armed Forces Day
26 May – Memorial Day

The Essay Contest for next year will be released over the Summer. The information will be on the National and Branch websites.

By-Laws: PRPSE Fred Bolz

The board ratified the Auxiliary’s Bylaws for the Unit. PNP Don Muccheck will set up a bylaw committee meeting.

Legislative Services and VAVS: PRPSE Fred Bolz

Minutes of the VAVS are posted on the board.

Hospital, Welfare and Rehabilitation: Bobbi Sutton (presented by PNC Laurie Bailey)

We will have a two-bell ceremony for four shipmates, FTTCM Marty Sessler, DTC William Jenkins, POCS Felix Canbanting, and SMCM Robert Rose.

Membership and Retention: Ken Wallace

Total active members: 752

New Join/Reinstated: Darryl Barrickman, James Evans, Savannah Sellers

Past Due: Jennifer Beilstein, Shannon Cason, Rick Collins, Terrie Ehlich, Nathan Gottsch, Kevin Henry, John Hills, Robert Hudspeth, Robert Isaman, Raymond Jaekle, Ronald Laqua, Heather McGuire, Robert Mixon, Ron Morgan, Eugene Morris, Nathaniel Nelson, Cody Schaefer, Michael Scott, Kevin Sedgley, Robert Simmang, Daniel Speight, Samuel Williams

Ready to Renew: Richard Bishop, Donald Blackwelder, Roy Brosseau, Ronald Chambers, Joseph Chapman III, Richard Davies, James Delaney, Michael Delich, Michael Dellenbach, Dana Disinger, Solomon Eagles, Lewis Flader, Richard Glass, Cynthia Hannah, James Harrison, David Horton, John Ingram, Stephen Jeffery, Lonnie Kenney, Jones Kersey, Howard Luper, Richard Mabe, Walter Mabe, Ray Marshall, Russell Nichols Jr., John Pontieri, Robert Richardson, Santos Riduca, Arthur Robinson, Joseph Schepisi, Thomas Scott, Cecil Skipworth, David Southall, Michael Sparks, David Stevens, Timothy Thrower, Marc West, Richard Wise, Brad Wonderliing

Suspended: Randall Bolin, Everette Coates, Tim Cowan, Kenneth Cowles, David Graminski, William Hunt, Samuel Jenkins Jr., Jahleel Jones-Valentine, Franklin Osburn, John Popa, Robert Rose, Jon Simmons, Jacob Sobeck

Active Unit Members: 190

Youth Activities: Don Barton

The schedules for the Goose Creek Recreational games are being posted on the board.

Public Relations: John Tharp

No report.

Ways and Means: Larry Pepper

Get your 50/50 and steak dinner tickets.

Golf: Larry Pepper

The next golf tournament will be on June 28th. We can only have 23 teams.

Budget and Finance: Don Barton

Home Committee Report: Ken Wallace

Cash Audit by S/M S. Koch and R. Sutton on 12 April 2025 as follows: Checking account balance \$21,525.70, Savings account \$10,455.51, and Credit Card account available balance \$20,785.22; there is \$1,518.00 pending deposits. Total Cash on hand is \$64,584.43.

There was no March 2025 Financial Statement available for this meeting.

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

S/M Pepper reports our water heater needs to be replaced. He is awaiting formal cost estimates at this time.

MOTION S/M Koch made a motion, seconded by S/M L. Bailey, to allocate, not to exceed \$15,000.00, to replace the existing water heater; this will be a recommendation presented to the General Assembly at our next meeting. Motion carried.

S/M Pepper also reports that we have a 20-year-old refrigerator that needs replacing. S/M Pepper is looking into another "Brick" purchase; if interested, contact him.

On April 27th, we will honor the USS Hobson with a ceremony at the Home.

We are moving forward with planning a Kentucky Derby Party on May 3rd at the Home. Watch for details and announcements.

The Next Golf Tournament will be on June 28th, followed by lunch and awards at the Home.

Membership and Security: Headquarters reported that we have 752 active Branch members as of 04 April, and three key cards have been issued. There are 190 active Unit members.

MOTION S/M L. Bailey, seconded by Lady Van Diver, to change the time of our Home Committee Meeting from 1300 to 1800. **Motion Carried**

Good of the Order: our next Home Committee meeting will be Monday, May 12th at 1800.

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 was conducted on Tuesday, 15 April.

We had the final reading of the Bylaws and Standing Rules. They will be passed to the Branch for reading at the General Assembly.

We reminded everyone of the Hobson Memorial on the 27th at the fleet. It will take place at 1330. We had nominations for officers for 2025-2026. Next month we will have the second round of nominations and vote on Officers.

The Pilgrimage is coming up in May for anyone wishing to attend.

The next unit luncheon and meeting will be on May 13th.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

A motion to replace the water heater, not to exceed \$15,000, was made by S/M Steve Koch. The motion was seconded by PNC Laurie Bailey and carried by a unanimous vote.

April is nominations for officers, board of directors, and home committee. The second round of nominations and elections will be at the May General Assembly meeting.

President: Donald Barton

Vice President: Steve Koch

Secretary: Sarah Ihme

Treasurer: PNP Don Muccheck

Board of Directors: PNC Laurie Bailey, Tim Bailey, Larry Pepper, Ron Lamon, John Tharpe, Tom Lawson, PRPSE Fred Bolz, Glenn Little, Bill Maloon, Ken Wallace, Bobbi Sutton, Rob Melton.

PNC Laurie Bailey moved that the nominations be closed. Motion was seconded by William Maloon and carried by a unanimous vote.

Home Committee Chairman: PNC Laurie Bailey

Home Committee Admin Secretary: Bobbi Sutton

Home Committee Financial Secretary: PNP Don Muccheck

Directors: Kim Vandiver, Julien Czeiszperger, Sue Peters, Rob Melton, John Tharpe, Amy Osborne, Dee Wallace, Ken Wallace, Tim Bailey, Sarah Ihme, Ken Hutchinson

GOOD OF THE ORDER

The USS Hobson Memorial Service will be held at the Home on Sunday, April 27th at 1330. Six organizations will participate, with PNP Maria Behm as the keynote speaker and Regional President Jerry Anger in attendance. Byron T. Addison of the Carolina Show Band will perform the National Anthem. On Saturday, April 26th, members will depart at 1100 to place the wreath at the monument and reconvene at the home at 4:00 PM to set up for the service. Hobson

survivor families have been invited, with a few expected to attend. Member participation is encouraged for all activities during this event.

The Kentucky Derby party will be held at the Home from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM on Saturday, May 3rd. A sign-up sheet is available behind the bar for \$1 per person. There will be Derby-themed food and drinks. Please bring cash for games, raffles, and other fun activities. A prize will be awarded for the best hat.

The Veterans Club of Del Webb Cane Bay will have MajGen James E. Livingston MOH, USMC, (ret) as guest speaker on May 12th, 1:00 – 2:30 PM. You must confirm your attendance by May 5th. A flyer with the information has been sent to our members.

PRPSE Fred Bolz, PNC Laurie Bailey, and PNP Don Muccheck received membership retention awards.

PNC Laurie Bailey was presented with the Sailor of the Year award.

Meeting adjourned at 2001.

April 2025 Home Committee Input

Cash Audit by S/M S. Koch and R. Sutton on 12 April 2025 as follows: Checking account balance \$21,525.70, Savings account \$10,455.51, and Credit Card account available balance \$20,785.22; there is \$1,518.00 pending deposits. Total Cash on-hand is \$64,584.43.

There was no March 2025 Financial Statement available for this meeting.

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

S/M Pepper reports our water heater needs to be replaced. He is awaiting formal cost estimates at this time.

MOTION S/M Koch made a motion, seconded by S/M L. Bailey, to allocate, not to exceed \$15,000.00 to replace the existing water heater. This will be a recommendation presented to the General Assembly at our next meeting. Motion carried.

S/M Pepper also reports we have a 20-year-old refrigerator the needs replacing.

S/M Pepper is looking into another "Brick" purchase; if interested, contact him.

On April 27th we will honor the USS Hobson, with a ceremony at the Home.

We are moving forward with planning a Kentucky Derby Party May 3rd at the Home. Watch for details and announcements.

Next Golf Tournament will be on June 28th, followed by lunch and awards at the Home.

Membership and Security: Headquarters reported that we have 752 active Branch members as of 04 April and three key cards issued. There are 190 active Unit members.

MOTION S/M L. Bailey, seconded by Lady Van Diver, to change the time of our Home Committee Meeting from 1300 to 1800. **Motion Carried**

Good of the Order: our next Home Committee meeting will be Monday, May 12th at 1800,

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.