



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]

Auxiliary 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/) [https://www.facebook.com/groups/FRABRANCH269/]

Branch President's Corner

Shipmates, Welcome to 2026. I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable holiday. We had our first meeting of the year on January 12 and inducted a new member Adam Hare Jr. Everyone be sure to welcome him when you see him around. During the meeting, we conducted routine business of the Fleet occurring in the past two months, several bills were paid, the audit was conducted and all accounts were accurate.

Several important upcoming events are on the calendar. On January 31 the CPR-AED class will be taught at the Fleet with most of the Home staff being trained. On February 7th the FRA Southeast Region Mid-Year Meeting will be conducted at the Fleet. More on the meeting can be found at FRA269GC.org. Everyone is welcome to attend so please come out and support. Also, in early January the bar and kitchen floors were retiled.

Thank you for all of your support in all of our activities we've had in the past and in the future. Please attend our monthly meetings for the Branch and Unit.

Yours in Loyalty, Protection and Service
Don Barton
Branch 269 President

Tidbits from the Unit President:

February is the month of **love and hearts**.

- We are looking to visit and donate lap robes to residents of Victory House later this spring. Marilyn Tharp has been designated to liaison

with the facility. All members and Shipmates are encouraged to make/buy. Our goal is to present one to every resident in need.

- Toys for Tots Motorcycle Run at the Harley Davidson Dealership was a success with 204 drivers and 79 passengers participating. 376 toys were collected.
- Toys for Tots Shopping Trip was done on Dec 6 at Walmart. Funds donated by the Branch, Unit, Misfits, Ornament Sales, Vietnam Vets, and individuals were combined to purchase 266 toys.
- Tri-county overall Toys for Tots results – 55,000 toys donated with 2,200 families served. This means 5,000 kids' Thanks to all who helped/participated.

Please Note:

We will no longer be the Ladies Auxiliary of the Fleet Reserve Association – but will now be known as the Auxiliary of the Fleet Reserve Association. As with anything, this change must go through certain legal hoops, but you should expect the change to take place as early as Feb 1. Please also be aware we will NOT be addressed as AFRA or LAFRA. **Checks and any other correspondence should henceforth be addressed to the “Auxiliary of the FRA” or “Auxiliary of the Fleet Reserve Association.”**

- The date for our February Auxiliary Luncheon (11:30) and Meeting has been changed to February 10th at 5:30. All future Unit meetings will now start at 5:30**

vice 6:00; meetings will still be held on the same Tuesday of each month as current.

- Mid-Year Meeting will be held at Branch 269 Home on February 7. Meeting will begin at 9:00 am. The Regional President Ronalee Klase will conduct the meeting. Please mark your calendars.
- Unit Yard Sale will be March 20/21. Let Debbie Breeze know if you plan to participate
- The next Unit Luncheon will be held Tuesday, February 10, at 11:30, at Olive Garden. Please RSVP to Debbie Breeze.
- February 8 – Super Bowl at the Fleet – do not forget your tickets
- February 14 – Valentines’ Day

Also, thank you all who have donated food to the VA Clinic. It is most appreciated and we are continuing with this project for our Veterans.

Congratulations and best wishes to all who have a birthday, anniversary or membership milestone and may those in need of prayers feel the strength of those around you and the entire Auxiliary family.



**In Loyalty, Protection & Service
NFS Pat Suckow, PNP
Unit 269 President**

WEEKLY DRAWING AT THE HOME

12/30: Jericho Garcia; [Branch], NOT signed
1/6: Paul McHugh [Branch], NOT signed
1/13: Patricia L. Martin [Unit], NOT signed
1/20: Edward Whitely [Branch], NOT signed
1/27: Marvin Brigman [Branch], Signed no present
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

November 27—December 27, 2005

Cash in Bank – Checking	\$ 4,148.15
Cash in Bank – Convention Checking	\$ 0.00
Cash in Bank – Savings	\$ 5,196.42
Cash in Bank – Certificate of Deposit	\$12,236.11
TOTAL	\$21,580.68

BRANCH MEMBERSHIP/RETENTION

Membership and Retention: Ken Wallace

Total active members: 717

Transfer Out [7]: Melvin Baker Sr., Ron Cochran, Samuel Joyner, Richard Lomberk, Georgia Roellig, Cesar Sam, Walter Zeigler

New Join/Reinstated [3]: Adam Hare Jr., Charles Lowry, Cubit Robinson

Past Due [15]: David Aldrich, Gary Arquisola, Oscar Diano, Wendy Holman, Dominador Jimenez, Roger Little, Willie McDonald, Timothy McNally, Richard Nolan, Ray Phillips Jr., Lyndon Porter, Garry Radwick, Edward Stank, Jason Tatge, Guy Travaglio

Ready to Renew [39]: Matthew Aguilera, Bryan Alfaro, Mariela Anderson, Elizabeth Baker, Robert Bear, Jennifer Beilstein, Ginger Bevis, Thomas Brown, Elijah Cales, Raymond Cotton, Terrie Ehlich, Francis Evans, Larry Fowler, John Glass, Marion “Wayne” Hall, Tommy Hellems, Sarah Ihme, Sammy Jackson, Gavin Karelitz, Allen Katen, Alan Lincoln, Daniel Mckiernan, Verne Merrill, Larry Mole, Daniel Montgomery, Jaiden Moore, Eugene Morris, Charles Moss, Patrick Murphy, Robert Newton, William Nieschalk, Carla Passmore, Kevin Patton, William Riley, David Taschner, William Teague, Joe Travis, William Trotman, Gary Williams

Term [6]: Johnny Aldea, George Gilford, Richard Harbold Jr., Anthony Mazza, Robert Temple, Martin Tinsley II

- **Active Unit Members:** 195

UNIT MEMBERSHIP/RETENTION

- 30 days past due [3]: Sandra Beilstein, Karen Hightower, Brenda Kraus
- 60 days past due: [4]: Elriede Campbell, Tammy Cappadona, Justin Highberger, Elizabeth Mullins
- 90 days past due [1]: Rhonda McNally
- Active Members: 195

BRANCH CHAPLAIN

Hospital/Welfare/Rehabilitation:

- The Charter was draped for PRPSE John “Jack” Melford.
- A Two-Bell was conducted for Shipmates YNCM Martin Tinsley II, HMCM Dan Heath Jr. and MMCM(SS) Jay Rowland III.
- Terry Trump's wife, Lucy, passed away December 3rd.
- Bob Sollo had shoulder surgery and is doing well.

- Dave Harvey will have an heart ablation procedure on 23 Jan to correct his arrhythmia.
- Rick Wise had his first chemo therapy January 7th and so far has had no side effects.
- Tom Ishee is recovering well after the serious fall on his bicycle in November.
- Jerry Stout has a recurrence of skin cancer near his left kidney and will be having treatment for that.
- Tom Lawson is home and constantly on continuous oxygen.
- Ken Curtis is at home with Palliative Hospice care.

Shipmates or Unit members please contact:
Branch Chaplain S/M Bobbi Sutton @
843.541.2823 or 843.879.9473
Unit Chaplain Theresa Milligan @
843-535-2757

Home Committee Report

Cash Audit as of **10 January 2026** is as follows:

Checking Account balance	\$ 5,553.18
Savings account	\$50,475.34
Credit Card account available	\$27,633.46
Pending Check/Cash for deposit	\$ 2,058.25
Registers/Cash Funds	\$11,500.00
	Total funds \$99,220.23
	Net Profit (Loss): DEC \$18,095.68
	YTD \$76,535.49

Building and Grounds/Special Events/and

Manager’s Report: (full report in minutes at the end of the newsletter)

- Super Bowl party is scheduled for 8 Feb.
- Tile installation in the kitchen and behind the bar has been completed.
- Only Managers are authorized to write on the Home Managers event calendar.

Old Business:

- S/M Ryan Stevenson is a new Home Director.
- Branch/Unit will host the 2026 Mid-Year on 7 Feb at the Home.
- Cleaning day rescheduled to Mon, 2 Feb@1300

New Business:

- Future Home improvements suggestions are replacing ceiling tiles and installation of ultraviolet lights in the HVAC system
- Looking into a professional kitchen cleaning

service for monthly deep cleaning

Upcoming Events:

- Mid-Year Meeting 7 Feb w/setup on 6 Feb
- Super Bowl Party 8 Feb
- Valentines Day 14 Feb
- Mardi Gras 17 Feb
- St Patrick’s Day 17 Mar

Americanism/Patriotism - PNC Laurie Bailey

(full list in the Home minutes at the end of the newsletter)

- 2 Feb Groundhog Day
- 4 Feb USO Birthday [1941]
- 13 Feb Women Marines Birthday [1943]
- 14 Feb Valentines Day
- 16 Feb President’s Day
- 17 Feb Mardi Gras
- 18 Feb Ash Wednesday
- 19 USCG Reserves Birthday [1941]

This info located on [FRA269 website homepage.](#)

THIS INFO IS PRINTED LARGER AT THE END OF THE NEWSLETTER

These awards will be presented at the monthly meeting on February 19th at 7:00 pm

2025-2026 FLEET RESERVE ASSOCIATION [FRA] BRANCH 269 AMERICANISM/PATRIOTISM ESSAY CONTEST AWARDEES	
1st Place -	Grade 7 = No 1 st Place winner Grade 8 = Adrian Phan, Thomas C. Cario Middle Grade 9 = No 1 st Place winner Grade 10 = Isabella Coeyman, Overall Winner- Academic Magnet High School Grade 11 = Brynn McSwain, Hanahan High School Grade 12 = Michel Trugillo, Hanahan High School
2nd Place =	Grade 7= Angeline Mejia Maldonado, Divine Redeemer Catholic Grade 8 = Carly Alvarez, Divine Redeemer Catholic Grade 9 = Nicole Quick, Berkeley High School Grade 10 = No 2 nd Place Winner Grade 11 = Ella Spagnolia, Hanahan High School Grade 12 = Grace Marsaa, Ashley Ridge High School
3rd Place	Grade 7 = David Chinchilla-Perez, Divine Redeemer Catholic Grade 8 = Mackenzie Cook , Divine Redeemer Catholic Grade 9 = No 3 rd Place Winner Grade 10 = No 3 rd Place Winner Grade 11 = Victoria Kane, Hanahan High School Grade 12 = No 3 rd Place Winner

Newsbytes: The Fleet Reserve Bulletin

The Newsbytes are sent during the month from National to all FRA members via email. A direct link to Newsbytes is on the FRA269 Home Page

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Newsbytes January 2, 2026

- ⇒ Strongest Recruiting Results in 15 Years
- ⇒ Take the 2026 FRA Survey
- ⇒ One Household, One Set of Benefits
- ⇒ Participate in VA Toxic Exposures Survey
- ⇒ Springfield, MO National Convention Pictures

Newsbytes January 9, 2026

- ⇒ Veterans Cemetery Grants
- ⇒ Defense Spending Proposal
- ⇒ Combat Roles Review
- ⇒ VA Apportionment Changes

Newsbytes January 16, 2026

- ⇒ FRA Attends Lunday Installation
- ⇒ Veterans Health Hearing
- ⇒ Disability Ratings Review
- ⇒ DoW Innovation Push
- ⇒ Recruiting Momentum Lessons

Newsbytes January 23, 2026

- ⇒ Frontline Fraud Roundtable
- ⇒ USS Gerald R. Ford Living Conditions
- ⇒ Fee Transparency At The VA
- ⇒ CHCBP Coverage Option
- ⇒ 1095-B Access Update
- ⇒ Expanding FRA Outreach

Newsbytes January 30, 2026

To be posted in March

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

Get your current and past newsletters and see upcoming events. To stop your current printed copy contact webmaster@fra268gc.org

Use the Branch and Unit Membership Boxes outside the office for new member and renewal applications. When you recruit a new member ensure all of their information is correct on the application. Place the new application/renewal 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 up to 40: \$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

The Security Corner

Provided by: George Birmingham [ET1(SS) USS H.L. Stimson SSBN655—G/SY1/G 69-74, USSVI-Holland Club Carolina Piedmont Base]

AI in Appliances

Welcome back! Last month we started our AI journey with an overview of AI technology in our digital world. The presence of AI in computers, both in desktops and laptops, and mobile devices like iPhones, iPads, Android phones, and Google phones is probably not unexpected.

But the advancement of AI is not limited to just what we recognize as traditional computers and mobile devices. Now they will be a part of your appliances, from smart refrigerators that will monitor your food supplies via built-in cameras (and even re-order for you), to laundry, and even (*gasp!*) your morning coffee routine! And the Internet of Things (IoT) devices we are probably still getting comfortable with are now beginning to include AI technology in their designs. Here is an article that provides an overview of AI in home appliances:

How AI is revolutionizing the home appliance industry

So now we have passwords to change for our home appliances as well. The article link below describes Samsung's approach to appliance security:

Samsung's AI-Powered Home Appliances Are Becoming More Secure with Knox Matrix

At this point we all probably have embraced the use of strong passwords, use of the newer passkey technology, changing passwords often, keeping our personal data out of cloud storage, and using apps that save sensitive data only to our devices. But what about security in a growing AI world? Here is an article that I think provides a good overview of AI and Cybersecurity. It's a bit lengthy, but worth the read:

AI in Cyber Security: Risks of AI

I hope this information enables you to be a wiser shopper at the appliance store on your next purchase. And when you go for that mid-night snack and open that AI-enabled refrigerator door, be sure to dress appropriately!

DID YOU KNOW??

+++++

3-second tech genius: Missed a special photo because your camera took too long to open? Here's a neat trick. On **Android**, double-tap the **power button** to launch the camera. On **iPhone**, swipe left on the **lock screen**. Whoop whoop, no unlocking, no menus, just point and shoot.

3-second tech genius: The next time you need to print something, don't dig through menus. On **Windows**, press **Ctrl + P** to open the print menu instantly. On **Mac**, press **Cmd + P**. This works in most documents, spreadsheets and web browsers.



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

VA News by VAVS Branch Representative PRPSE Fred Bolz

VAVS Minutes and Newsbytes are posted on the bulletin board.

Understanding presumptive service connections

What is a presumptive condition and how does it impact your VA disability benefits? In this episode, the SITREP covers what a presumptive condition is, when applying for VA disability, and how it can impact your claim. Watch the current SITREP to learn more. [Watch](#)

COLA Increase

The 2026 Veterans disability compensation rates are in! Starting Jan. 1, 2026, all compensation benefit rates have been increased by 2.8% to match adjustments made to Social Security benefits. This increase impacts disability benefits, clothing allowance, dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC), as well as other assistance programs.

VALife Program Celebrates Three Years

VALife is proudly celebrating its three-year anniversary, as well as a significant milestone. Since its launch in 2023, VALife has provided over \$2.2 billion in total coverage to more than 70,000 Veterans, offering peace of mind and financial protection to those who have served our country.

VALife offers up to \$40,000 of whole life insurance coverage to Veterans, with guaranteed acceptance for Veterans age 80 and under with a service-connected disability rating from 0% to 100%. There are no medical questions to answer and premiums do not increase. [Learn more and apply today.](#)

Increased Cost Grants

VA has increased building and materials costs grant amounts for severely disabled Veterans and Service members eligible for Specially Adapted Housing to adapt their homes. VA wants to ensure that Veterans maximize their benefit no matter when they decide to adapt their existing home or build or buy an adapted home. [Learn More.](#)

Enrollment verification for VA Education benefits required starting January 2026

Starting in January 2026, all Department of Veterans Affairs education beneficiaries, **including Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance (Chapter 35) students will be required to verify their enrollment each month to receive their benefit payments.**

Please note that you must verify your enrollment for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to begin processing your monthly benefit. Once verified, payment processing can take five to seven calendar days.

You can learn more about the different enrollment verification methods in this video or [the Verify Your School Enrollment webpage](#). If you have questions about your enrollment, please contact your School Certifying Official. You can find their contact information listed on the [GI Bill Comparison Tool](#).

One VA: one standard of excellence for Veterans

We're reforming VA health care to ensure there's only one standard across all 1,300+ VA medical facilities: the best possible care and outcomes for those who have worn the uniform. [Watch](#)

VA hospitals recognized for reducing physician burnout

"We want all VA employees — especially physicians — to show up for work feeling motivated and go home feeling fulfilled each and every day," said VA Secretary Doug Collins. "This recognition is proof our efforts to continually improve the work environment across the department are succeeding."

[Learn more](#)

5 American Flag Half-Staff Days for 2026

Mark your calendar with these important American Flag Half-Staff dates...

Sun, May 3	National Fallen Firefighters	Sunrise to Sunset
Fri, May 15	Peace Officer Memorial Day	Sunrise to Sunset
Mon, May 25	Memorial Day	Sunrise to Noon
Fri, Sep 11	Patriot Day	Sunrise to Sunset
Mon, Dec 7	Pearl Harbor Remembrance	Sunrise to Sunset

Items needed for Curbside Delivery For Our Veterans at the VA Hospital

Proteins:

- Tuna Cans
- Chicken Can
- SPAM Can or other potted meat
- Bean Cans: pork & beans, black beans, kidney beans, navy beans, beanie weenies
- Bag Dry Beans
- Jar Peanut Butter

➤ Soup/ or Stew:

- Cans

➤ Sauce

- Jar or Can Red Marinara Sauce or Alfredo Sauce

➤ Pasta:

- Package or Box of Pasta noodles

➤ Rice:

- Package or Box of Rice

➤ Vegetables:

- Mixed Cans: corn, green beans, mixed, greens

➤ Fruits:

Mixed Cans: peaches, fruit cocktail, pineapple, apple sauce

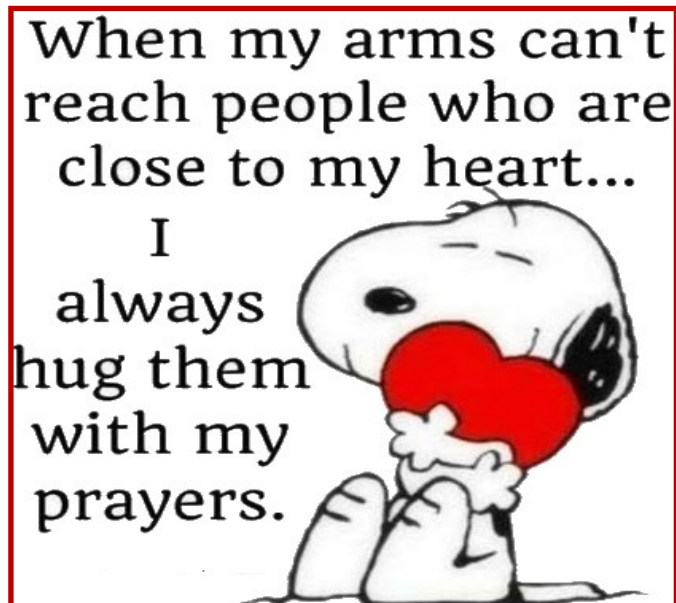
➤ Ready Meals:

- Mac & Cheese
- Hormel Microwave Meals
- Top Ramen
- Box/Bag Instant Potatoes

➤ Cereal:

Box/Bag of Cereal----May substitute 4-5 small cereal boxes----May substitute 5-6 oatmeal, cream of wheat, or grits packets

- GIFT CARD \$5.00 OR \$10.00 NOT MORE—PLACE IN Auxiliary box



Oyster Roast

“A Shell of a Good Time Awaits!”

You're Invited!

Join us for an unforgettable Oyster Roast filled with fresh oysters, delicious options, and great company. **Bring your friends and family and savor a classic coastal tradition!**

Date: February 7th

Time: NOON til 5 PM

**Location: AFTER BATTERY 120 SAWDUST LANE,
DORCHESTER SC**

Event Highlights

- All-you-can-eat local oysters
- Hearty Southern FROGMORE STEW
- NON-SEAFOOD AVAILABLE

Tickets & Details

- At the Door: \$20 Adults to 12 Year-olds
- Children under 12 \$10

What to Bring

- Oyster knife & gloves if you want. “We have knives”
- Appetite and a love for good times!

Questions? Contact 812 773-1312

Don't miss out on this festive feast, helping USSVI Southeast Conference —“see you at the Oyster Roast!”



FRA SOUTHEAST REGION MID YEAR MEETING

7 FEBRUARY 2026

FRA LOW COUNTRY HOME, 99 WISTERIA ROAD

GOOSE CREEK, SC 29445

HOSTED BY FRA LOWCOUNTRY BRANCH AND UNIT 269

NEWSLETTER # 1

Shipmates and Auxiliary Members of the FRA Southeast Region, you are cordially invited to the FRA and LAFRA Southeast Region's Mid-Year Meeting on 7 February 2026. There are numerous hotels within driving distance of the branch home but if you want to stay close, the Quality Inn of Goose Creek is right next door and has rooms for \$70.00+fees/night. Arrival - 6 February 2025, Meeting Saturday - 0900, 7 February 2025, Departure - 8 February 2025.

If you choose to stay at the Quality Inn of Goose Creek, the address is 103 Red Bank Road, Goose Creek, SC 29445, Phone # - (843) 203-8426. Please make reservations by 1 February 2026 and mention FRA Mid Year.

Any questions can be directed to Point of Contact PNC Laurie Bailey (843) at 843-813-3430 or email at lauriebailey21@gmail.com.

S/M Adam Hair Jr. was initiated as a new member of Branch 269 by President Don Barton and Secretary Sarah Ihme.



Continuous membership pins were given to S/M Bruce Tucker for 25 years and S/M Frank Strunk for 10 years. Pins were presented by President Don Barton.



All pictures for the General Assembly Meeting can be viewed at 260115 Branch 269 Meeting

Award Pennants received from the National Awards were placed on the Branch flag.



S/M Ed Peters presented the Branch with plaques from two teams sponsored under Youth Activities.



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

FEBRUARY						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Free Pool	2	3 <u>1900-2100</u> Trivia Night	4 <u>1800-2000</u> Sojourners	5 <u>1800-1900</u> SUBVETS BOD	6	7 <u>ALL DAY</u> FRA SER MID YEAR MEETING
8 Free Pool <u>1500-2300</u> Superbowl Party	9	10 <u>1130</u> Unit Lunch <u>1730-2000</u> Unit Mtg <u>1900-2100</u> Trivia Night	11 <u>1200-1400</u> Purple Heart	12 <u>1900-2030</u> SUBVETS Mtg	13	14 <u>1000-1200</u> DAV Mtg
15 Free Pool	16 <u>1800-2000</u> Home Com- mittee	17 <u>1900-2100</u> Trivia Night	18 <u>1800-2000</u> Radio Club Mtg	19 <u>1800-1900</u> Branch BOD <u>1900-2100</u> Branch GA Mtg	20	21 <u>1000-1200</u> MilFrat Mtg
22 Free Pool	23 <u>1730-1900</u> VVA Mtg <u>1900-2100</u> Carolina Coins Mtg	24 <u>1900-2100</u> Trivia Night	25	26 <u>1800-2000</u> Marine Corps League	27	28 1200-2400 Farrell BDay Party

MEAL HOURS FOR THE HOME
Lunch Hours Mon-Fri 1100-1330.
Dinner Hours Mon-Fri 1700-2000

Mark your calendar, watch for details, watch for additions
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 Friday nights – 1930 – Scotch Doubles, 8-Ball Tournament

MARCH						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Free Pool	2	3	4 <u>1900-2100</u> Sojourners	5 <u>1800-2000</u> SUBVETS BOD	6	7
8 Free Pool DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME	9	10	11 <u>1300-1500</u> Purple Hearts	12 <u>1900-2100</u> SUBVETS Mtg	13	14 <u>1000-1200</u> DAV Mtg <u>1200-</u> Golf Tournament
15 Free Pool	16 <u>1800-2000</u> Home Com- mittee	17 <u>1130</u> Unit Lunch <u>1730</u> Unit Mtg	18 <u>1800-2000</u> Radio Club	19 <u>1800</u> Branch BOD <u>1900</u> Branch Mtg	20 <u>ALL DAY</u> Unit Setup Yard Sale	21 <u>ALL DAY</u> Unit Yard Sale <u>TIME UNK</u> Crawford BDay Party
22 Free Pool	23 <u>1730</u> VVA Mtg	24 <u>1900</u> Carolina Coins Mtg	25	26 <u>1900-2100</u> Marine Corps League	27 <u>1030-1300</u> Military Officers Association	28
29 Free Pool <u>TIME UNK</u> Baby Shower	30	31				

BRANCH 269 CONTINUOUS MEMBERSHIP—FEBRUARY 2026

Douglas Perkins	49	Robert Melton	27	Bruce Whipple	16	Llewellyn Brennen	7
Norris Nathan	48	Lawrence Case	26	John Hills	15	Bettysue Henderson	7
Thomas Britton	47	Eugene Morris	25	Marion Hall	14	Patrick Murphy	7
Francis Evans	47	Ginger Bevis	23	Charles Baylor	12	Larry Mole	6
Keith Suiter Sr.	46	Sammy Jackson	20	Lucinda Bryan	12	Janet Mizer-Brunner	6
Larry Fowler	44	Tom Lufkin	20	Michael Scott	12	Matthew Douty	5
George Scharf	44	Carla Passmore	20	John Byrd	11	Ronald Laqua	5
Ernest Chresoulis	43	Robert Bear	19	Gordon Sarver	11	Charles Moss	4
Barry Gordon	42	Johnny Brown	19	John Bullock	10	Terrie Ehlich	3
John Glass	41	Robert Hudspeth	19	James Schaefer	10	John Johnson Jr.	3
Walter Deal	34	Robert Stodola	19	George White	10	Mariela Anderson	2
Thomas Woodall	34	Robert Henry	18	Daniel Mckierman	8	Tim Henson	2
Loye Bryant	33	Jennifer Beilstein	17	Verne Merrill	8	Sarah Ihme	2
Allen Katen	29	Wallace Williams	17	Jerry Stout	8	Rick Collins	1


UNIT 269 CONTINUOUS MEMBERSHIP—FEBRUARY 2026

Karen Kopczynski	15	Joseph VonBrincken	14	Walter Spiller III	5	Faye Graham	3
Mary Korinek	14	Francis Perillo	6	Teresa Hagan	4	Patty Russell	3
Teri Korinek	14	Robert Kirkley Jr.	6				

YOUR BIRTHDAY IS IN FEBRUARY 2026

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!!!** Auxiliary members in *ITALICS*

Thomas Britton	1	Timothy Bailey	7	James Sherrow	13	Tony Jones	21
Lionel Mackey	1	Alexander Bodo	7	Valerie Kohr	14	<i>Robert Beilstein</i>	22
Lionel Macvey	1	Charlie Calas	7	Julian Lemley	14	Daniel Johnson	22
Larry Mole	1	William Maloon	7	Daryl Watson	14	Franklin Shoenberger	23
<i>Margie Rothrauff</i>	1	Anthony Mazza	7	Carson Burgess	15	<i>Elizabeth 'Libby' Adams</i>	24
Jerry Stout	1	<i>Kathy Sorenson</i>	7	Jerome White Jr.	15	David Johnston	24
<i>Barbara Berger</i>	2	Santos Riduca	8	Dwight Bain	16	Linsey Rogers	24
Kelly Rusboldt	2	James Spence	8	<i>Bonita Martin</i>	16	Don Clark	25
T. Tollison	2	Steven Gearhart	10	Robert Newton	16	Carl Miller	25
Jacqueline Brooks	3	Bryan Alfaro	11	Robert McNeish	17	Dean Nimocks	25
Joe Lunn	3	<i>Debbie Breeze</i>	11	Melvin Harper	18	Perry Riley	25
Richard Mucheck	3	Roy Massey Sr.	11	Ronald Lamon	18	Jonathan Starry	25
<i>Betty Harris</i>	4	William Riley	11	Jaiden Moore	18	James Baker	26
Richard Nolan	4	George Roberts Jr.	11	Stephen Nogle	18	<i>Steven Rusboldt</i>	26
Melissa Curtis	5	Richard Troy	11	<i>Mary Korinek</i>	19	David Cox	27
Richard Day	5	Patrick Murphy	12	<i>Gale Nathan</i>	19	<i>Carol Eustace</i>	27
Michael Delich	5	Edward Whiteley	12	Carroll Watson	19	Cecil Rash	27
Barry Gordon	5	Francis Jones	13	Ronald Bowers	20	Robert Reilly Sr.	28
<i>Faye E. Graham</i>	5	<i>Roberta Kolbe</i>	13	Helen Breen	20	<i>Daniel March</i>	29
Mitchell McCain Jr.	5	Joseph Patrick	13	<i>Denise Hunt</i>	20	Olin Thomas	29
<i>James Siroky</i>	6	Daniel Ryan	13	Terrell Heath	21	Mervin Wiands Sr.	29

<p align="center"><u>BRANCH 269</u></p> <p><u>BRANCH OFFICERS</u> President: Don Barton Vice President: Steve Koch Secretary: Sarah Ihme Treasurer: PNP Don MucHECK Jr. Past President: Ken Hutchison</p> <p><u>BRANCH BOARD OF DIRECTORS</u> PNC Laurie Bailey Tim Bailey PRPSE Fred Bolz John Tharp Larry Pepper Ron LamON Tom Lawson Glenn Little David Mattingly Johnny Brown Bobbie Sutton Ken Wallace</p> <p><u>APPOINTEES & COMMITTEE CHAIRS</u> By-Laws: PRPSE Fred Bolz Chaplain: Bobbi Sutton Essay Contest: PNC Laurie Bailey Legislative Affairs / VAVS: 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: Ed Peters</p>	<p align="center"><u>Auxiliary of the FRA UNIT 269</u></p> <p><u>UNIT OFFICERS</u> President: NFS Pat Suckow, PNP Vice-President: Debbie Breeze Secretary/Treasurer: Gale Nathan, PNP</p> <p><u>UNIT BOARD OF DIRECTORS</u> Kathy Sorenson Sue Peters Theresa Milligan Ann Griffith Linda Nichols Dee Wallace</p> <p><u>APPOINTEES & COMMITTEE CHAIRS</u> Amer/Patriotism: Linda Nichols Chaplain: Theresa Milligan Hospital: Theresa Milligan Membership: Debbie Breeze Publicity: Debbie Breeze Sergeant-at-Arms: Kim Vandiver Ship's Store: Sue Peters Unit Activities: All Members VAVS: Theresa Milligan Welfare/Rehab: Sue Peters Youth Activities: Anne Barton/ Gale Nathan PNC</p>	<p align="center">LOW COUNTRY HOME, LLC 99 Wisteria Road, Goose Creek SC 29445 843-569-2692 FrabranCh269@comcast.net</p> <p>Home Chairman: PNC Laurie Bailey Admin Secretary: Sarah Ihme Financial Sec: PNP Don MucHECK Director: Tim Bailey Director: Kim Vandiver Director: Sue Peters Director: John Tharp Director: Dee Wallace Director: Ken Wallace Director: Ken Hutchison Director: Ryan Stevenson Home Managers: Larry Pepper Bob Zauner Don Garrand</p> 
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**These awards will be presented at the
monthly meeting on February 19th at 7:00 pm**

**2025-2026 FLEET RESERVE ASSOCIATION [FRA] BRANCH 269
AMERICANISM/PATRIOTISM ESSAY CONTEST AWARDEES**

- 1st Place -** Grade 7 = No 1st Place winner
Grade 8 = Adrian Phan, Thomas C. Cario Middle
Grade 9 = No 1st Place winner
Grade 10 = Isabella Coeyman, Overall Winner- Academic Magnet High School
Grade 11 = Brynn McSwain, Hanahan High School
Grade 12 = Michel Trugillo, Hanahan High School
- 2nd Place =** Grade 7= Angeline Mejia Maldonado, Divine Redeemer Catholic
Grade 8 = Carly Alvarez, Divine Redeemer Catholic
Grade 9 = Nicole Quick, Berkeley High School
Grade 10 = No 2nd Place Winner
Grade 11 = Ella Spagnolia, Hanahan High School
Grade 12 = Grace Marsaa, Ashley Ridge High School
- 3rd Place** Grade 7 = David Chinchilla-Perez, Divine Redeemer Catholic
Grade 8 = MacKenzie Cook, Divine Redeemer Catholic
Grade 9 = No 3rd Place Winner
Grade 10 = No 3rd Place Winner
Grade 11 = Victoria Kane, Hanahan High School
Grade 12 = No 3rd Place Winner

**FRA LOW COUNTRY BRANCH 269
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
JANUARY 15, 2026**

Shipmate President Don Barton called the regular Board of Directors meeting of Low Country Branch 269 to order at 1800, Thursday, January 15, 2026, in accordance with FRA Rituals.

Board Members present:

PRPSE Fred Bolz	Ron Lamon	Ken Wallace	Don Barton
PNC Laurie Bailey	John Tharp	Sarah Ihme	Steve Koch
Tim Bailey	David Mattingly	Ken Hutchison	PNP Don Muccheck
Larry Pepper	Glenn Little		

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Americanism/Patriotism: PNC Laurie Bailey
Report at General Assembly.

By-Laws: PRPSE Fred Bolz
Report at General Assembly.

Legislative Service and VAVS: PRPSE Fred Bolz
Report at General Assembly.

Hospital, Welfare, and Rehabilitation: PNC Laurie Bailey (for Bobbi Sutton)
Two-Bell at the general assembly for HMCN Dan Heath, Jr., YNCM Martin Tinsley, II, MCPO Jay Rowland, III, and PRPSE John "Jack" Melford.

Membership and Retention: Ken Wallace
Report at General Assembly.

Youth Activities: Ed Peters
Report at General Assembly.

Public Relations: John Tharp
Report at General Assembly.

Ways and Means: Larry Pepper
Report at General Assembly.

Golf: Larry Pepper
Report at General Assembly.

Budget and Finance: Glenn Little
Report at General Assembly.

Home Committee Report: PNC Laurie Bailey
Report at General Assembly.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Night at the Harbor (Charleston Port and Seafarers Society): PNC Laurie Bailey provided details on the February event. The Board agreed that no donation would be made at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Ratify the email vote allocating \$300 for food for the Mid-Year meeting.

- **MOTION:** PNC Laurie Bailey moved, and PRPSE Fred Bolz seconded to ratify the \$300 allotment for food for the Mid-Year meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Invoice received to reimburse S/M Keith Laster for 15 polo shirts for resale for \$339.26.

- **MOTION:** PNP Don Mucheck moved, and PRPSE Fred Bolz seconded to reimburse S/M Keith Laster \$339.26. Motion carried unanimously.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

The Mid-Year meeting will take place on 7 February at 0900. The second newsletter will be sent out soon. All members are encouraged to attend.

CPR/AED Class will be held on 31 January, 0900 – 1200.

SUBVETS Fish Fry will be on 31 January, 1200 – 1700.

A Branch Representative is needed for the VA Clinic in North Charleston on the second Wednesday of each month from 0900–1300. PRPSE Fred Bolz volunteered to serve, and additional volunteers are requested to assist as needed.

Members interested in purchasing a t-shirt or vest may sign up using the sheet located in the cabinet.

The Board is seeking members who provide tax preparation services and are willing to assist Branch members. PNP Don Mucheck stated that he prepares taxes and can assist as needed.

Plaques were received from Goose Creek Recreation from the teams that we sponsored last year.

Six awards were received from SE Regional, which will be presented at the General Assembly.

Motion to adjourn made by PRPSE Fred Bolz, seconded by S/M Glenn Little. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 1819.

**FRA LOW COUNTRY BRANCH 269
GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING
JANUARY 15, 2026**

Shipmate President Don Barton called the regular meeting of Low Country Branch 269 to order on Thursday, January 15, 2026, at 1900, in accordance with Article FRA Rituals.

Visitors: Auxiliary members were present.

Shipmates Initiated: Adam Hare, Jr.

Minutes: Published in the newsletter. The minutes stand as approved.

Communications: Received a resolution supporting Sha'ron Martin for FRA President, 2026–2027. Received a thank-you letter from Berkeley High School Future Business Leaders of America for our donation.

Treasurer's Report:

The report for the period of November 27 - December 27 is as follows:

General Checking: \$4,148.15

Savings Account: \$5,196.42

Convention Checking: \$0.00

Certificate of Deposit: \$12,236.11

Total: \$21,580.68

All bills received to date have been paid.

Continuous Membership:

December 2025

Dustin Darnell – 45 Years

George Bradstreet – 20 Years

David Markyvech – 25 Years

John Hoyt – 20 Years

William Mullins – 25 Years

Frank Strunk – 10 Years

Bruce Tucker – 25 Years

William Trotman – 5 Years

January 2026

Oscar Edrada – 50 Years

Ronnie Vandiver – 25 Years

Nestor Derecho, Jr. – 45 Years

William Riley – 20 Years

David Cornelius – 40 Years

Ronald Houde – 15 Years

Daniel Montgomery – 40 Years

Gary Williams – 15 Years

Charles Pyatt – 25 Years

David Lyle, III – 5 Years

Larry Starland – 25 Years

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Americanism/Patriotism – PNC Laurie Bailey

Dates in History January/February

- 19 January – Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 28 January – Observance of USCGC Blackthorn Sinking
- 01 February – National Freedom Day
- 02 February – Groundhog Day
- 04 February – Hug a GI and Philippine-American War Memorial Day
- 04 February – USO Birthday (1941)
- 12 February – Lincoln’s Birthday
- 13 February – Women Marine’s Birthday (1943)
- 14 February – Valentine’s Day
- 16 February – Washington’s Birthday
- 16 February – President’s Day
- 17 February – Mardi Gras
- 18 February – Ash Wednesday
- 19 February – USCG Reserves Birthday (1941)

Essays were read and graded. The winners will be notified tomorrow, and it will be posted on our Facebook and website. Winners will be presented with awards and certificates at next month’s meeting.

By-Laws: PRPSE Fred Bolz

The bylaw regarding honorary membership was read at the November meeting. One revision was made for clarification, and the updated bylaw was read. The membership voted to approve the bylaw and forward it to the Chairman, National C&BL Committee.

Legislative Service & VAVS: PRPSE Fred Bolz

VAVS minutes and Newsbytes are posted on the bulletin board.

Hospital, Welfare, and Rehabilitation: PNC Laurie Bailey for Bobbi Sutton

We will have a Two-Bell for Shipmates YNCM Martin Tinsley, II, HMCM Dan Heath, Jr., and MCPO Jay Rowland, III.

Jay Miller Rowland III, 79, departed on Eternal Patrol on Thursday, January 11. His memorial service is on Thursday, January 29th at 1300 at the FRA Home.

Terry Trump's wife, Lucy, passed away on December 3rd.

Bob Sollo had shoulder surgery and is doing well.

Dave Harvey will have a heart ablation procedure on 23 Jan to correct his arrhythmia.

Rick Wise had his first chemotherapy on January 7th and so far has had no side effects.

Tom Ishee is recovering well after the serious fall on his bicycle in November.

Jerry Stout has a recurrence of skin cancer near his left kidney and will be having treatment.

Tom Lawson is home and constantly on continuous oxygen.

Ken Curtis is at home with Palliative Hospice care.

Membership and Retention: Ken Wallace

Total active members: 717

New Join/Reinstated:

December 2025 – Mark Feathers, Tony Jones, Matthew Perry

January 2026 – Adam Hare, Jr., Charles Lowry, Cubit Robinson

Past Due: David Aldrich, Gary Arquisola, Oscar Diano, Wendy Holman, Dominador Jimenez, Roger Little, Willie McDonald, Timothy McNally, Richard Nolan, Ray Phillips, Jr., Lyndon Porter, Garry Radwick, Edward Stank, Jason Tatge, Guy Travaglio

Ready to Renew: Matthew Aguilera, Bryan Alfaro, Mariela Anderson, Elizabeth Baker, Robert Bear, Jennifer Beilstein, Ginger Bevis, Thomas Brown, Elijah Cales, Raymond Cotton, Terrie Ehlich, Francis Evans, Larry Fowler, John Glass, Marion “Wayne” Hall, Tommy Hellems, Sarah Ihme, Sammy Jackson, Gavin Karelitz, Allen Katen, Alan Lincoln, Daniel Mckiernan, Verne Merrill, Larry Mole, Daniel Montgomery, Jaiden Moore, Eugene Morris, Charles Moss, Patrick Murphy, Robert Newton, William Nieschalk, Carla Passmore, Kevin Patton, William Riley, David Taschner, William Teague, Joe Travis, William Trotman, Gary Williams

Term NPD:

December 2025 – Kevin Deise, Pacifico Dela Fuente, Chris Ludwig, Cubit Robinson

January 2026 – Johnny Aldea, George Gilford, Richard Harbold, Jr., Anthony Mazza, Robert Temple

Term Dec:

January 2026 – Martin Tinsley, II

Active Unit Members: 195

Youth Activities: Ed Peters

Plaques were received from Goose Creek Recreation for the donations last year.

Public Relations: John Tharp

Meeting information was submitted to the Summerville Journal and Berkeley Independent.

Ways and Means: Larry Pepper

Get your 50/50 and steak dinner tickets.

Golf: Larry Pepper

The next golf tournament will be on 14 March, 0900 tee time.

We will have a Super Bowl party on Super Bowl Sunday; 30 tickets remain.

Budget and Finance: Glenn Little

Balances as of 10 JAN 26: Total Cash Balance \$21,580.68; Total Branch Inventory \$4,063.67;

Net Worth Branch 269: \$25,644.35

The next quarterly audit is scheduled for March 2026.

Home Committee Report: PNC Laurie Bailey

Financial Reports

Balances as of 10 JAN 26: Checking \$5,553.18; Savings \$50,475.34; Credit Card \$27,633.46;

Pending Deposits \$2,058.25; Registers/Change Funds \$11,500.00; Total Funds \$99,220.23

Net Profit (Loss): December \$18,095.68; YTD \$76,535.49

Building and Grounds / Special Events Manager's Report:

AED/CPR training will be 31 January. The kitchen and bar staff will be attending this training.

Super Bowl party is scheduled for 08 February.

Tile installation in the kitchen and behind the bar has been completed. The final bill has not yet been received; the quote was less than \$6000. The prep table has been installed and paid for.

SUBVETS will host a Fish Fry on 31 January.

Only Managers are authorized to write on the Home Manager's event calendar.

Bartenders are required to obtain TIPS Certification. This is completed online, costing about \$40 per person, and is valid for three years.

Workers' compensation liability insurance is \$2,897.00. General property liability is \$7,027.00.

The liquor liability bill has not yet been billed.

Old Business

The new Home Committee Director is S/M Ryan Stevenson.

Branch and Unit 269 will host the 2026 Mid-Year meeting on 7 February 2026 at the Home.

Cleaning has been rescheduled to Monday, 2 February at 1300. Branch funds have been allocated for food, with an estimated evening meal cost of approximately \$15.00.

New Business

S/M Frank Strunk has suggested starting a Chess Club at the FRA. This item was tabled pending further discussion with the committee.

Suggestions were made for future Home improvement projects, including replacing ceiling tiles and installing ultraviolet lights in the HVAC system to prevent mold.

A professional kitchen cleaning service is being looked into for monthly deep cleaning.

Final inventory has been completed, and items have been numbered.

Upcoming Events

Mid-Year Meeting – 7 February 2026 – set up the Friday before

Valentine's Day – 14 February 2026

Mardi Gras – 17 February 2026

St. Patrick's Day – 17 March 2026 – decorate and raffle off a basket of cheer

Good of the Order

Next clean-up day: 2 February 2026 at 1300

Next meeting will be held: 16 February 2026 at 1800

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

The Board of Directors approved an allotment of \$300 for Mid-Year meeting food and approved reimbursement to S/M Keith Laster of \$339.26 for 15 polo shirts for resale.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

CPR/AED Class will be held on 31 January, 0900 – 1200.

SUBVETS Fish Fry will be on 31 January, 1200 – 1700.

A Two-Bell Ceremony will be held at the Home for S/M Jay Rowland, III at 1300 on Thursday, January 29th.

The USS Hobson Memorial Service will be on Sunday, 26 April 2026.

Unit Report: NFS Pat Suckow, PNP

Toys for Tots Shopping Trip was done on Dec 6 at Walmart. Funds donated by the Branch, Unit, Misfits, Ornament Sales, Vietnam Vets, and individuals were combined to purchase 266 toys.

Tri-county overall Toys for Tots results – 55,000 toys donated with 2,200 families served. This means 5,000 kids had a nice Christmas. Thanks to all who helped/participated.

We will no longer be the Ladies Auxiliary of the Fleet Reserve Association – but will now be known as the Auxiliary of the Fleet Reserve Association. Checks and any other correspondence should henceforth be addressed to the “Auxiliary of the FRA” or “Auxiliary of the Fleet Reserve Association.”

Our February meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 10th at 5:30 PM, with the luncheon the same day. This date change is for February only. Meeting time will be 5:30 PM going forward. Meetings will continue on the Tuesday prior to the third Thursday each month.

Also, thank you to all who have donated food to the VA Clinic. It is most appreciated, and we are continuing with this project for our Veterans.

Southeast Region Awards for first place were presented to Youth Activities, VAVS, Hospital Welfare and Rehabilitation, Americanism and Patriotism, Public Relations, and Veterans Services.

The Two-Bell Ceremony took place.

Meeting adjourned at 1957.

Auxiliary of the FRA, Unit 269
FRA Home, Goose Creek, SC
Minutes, January 13, 2026

President, Pat Suckow NFS/PNP, called the regularly scheduled General Assembly meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

Visitors: (None)

Drape the Charter: (None)

Roll Call of Officers. President Pat Suckow NFS/PNP, Vice President Debbie Breeze, Secretary/Treasurer Gale Nathan PNC, Co-Secretary Marilyn Tharp, and Chaplain Theresa Milligan were present. Jr Past President Trish Chilton was absent.

Roll Call of Board of Directors. Kathy Sorenson, Ann Griffith, Linda Nichols, and Dee Wallace were present. Sue Peters was absent.

Other members attending: Laurie Douty, Deloris Cox, Kim Vandiver, Anne Barton.

New Member Initiation. None.

Minutes for November were presented and approved as published.

Membership Report. Debbie Breeze.

Members as of April 1 -- 182; Reinstated - 7; New - 18; Transferred In - 0; Transferred Out – 0; Resigned – 0;

Non-Payment – 9; Deceased – 2; Ineligible – 1; Other – 0; Active Members – 195.

Treasurer's Report. Gale Nathan.

October (Corrected)

Balance brought forward: \$14,913.50. Disbursements: \$421.75. PCT Auto Deposits: \$362.50. Other Deposits: \$1,847.00. Checking account balance \$16,701.25. Savings: \$3,162.74. Balance on hand: \$19,863.99.

November

Balance brought forward: \$16,701.25. Disbursements: \$4,255.00. PCT Auto Deposits: \$125.00. Other Deposits: \$900.00. Checking account balance \$13,471.25. Savings: \$3,163.00. Balance on hand: \$16,634.25.

December

Balance brought forward: \$13,471.25. Disbursements: \$164.05. PCT Auto Deposits: \$100.00. Other Deposits: \$867.75. Checking account balance \$14,274.95. Savings: \$3,163.27. Balance on hand: \$17,438.22.

Bills to be paid: None.

Chaplain Report: Theresa Milligan.

15 Birthday cards

2 Get Well

1 Check-up call to Hazel Hacker (recent fall)

Hospital Report: Theresa Milligan
(No hospital visits required.)

VAVS Report: Theresa Milligan
No report.

Correspondence: Marilyn Tharp.
No correspondence received

Activities: (All Members).
Gale Nathan: 50/50 – \$90.00 (Oct)
50/50 -- \$57 (Nov)
50/50 -- \$65.00 (Dec)
Kathy Sorenson: Friday 50/50's – \$313.00 (Nov)
Gale Nathan: Golf Tournament –\$355.50 (Nov)
Kathy Sorenson: BUNKO – None

Americanism/Patriotism: (Linda Nichols)

Jan 19	Martin Luther King Jr Day
Jan 28	Observance of USCGC Blackthorn Sinking (1980)
Feb 1	National Freedom Day
Feb 2	Groundhog Day
Feb 4	Philippines/American War Memorial Day
Feb 4	USO Birthday (1941)
Feb 12	Lincoln's Birthday
Feb 13	Women Marines' Birthday (1943)
Feb 14	Valentine's Day
Feb 16	Washington's Birthday
Feb 16	Presidents' Birthday
Feb 17	Mardi Gras

Audit: (Sue Peters, Kim Vandiver)
Audit conducted on Jan 10. All records were found to be good and in order.
Next audit date has not been set.

Publicity: (Debbie Breeze)
No report.

Welfare / Rehabilitation: (Sue Peters)
Pat Suckow reported that VA Clinic supplies are still being collected. Thanks for your donations.

Youth Activities: (Anne Barton, Gale Nathan)
No report.

Ship's Store: (Sue Peters)
No report.

Unfinished Business:

We are looking to visit and donate lap robes to residents of Victory House later this spring. Marilyn Tharp has been designated to liaison with the facility. We currently have seven lap robes donated. The daughter of Linda Nichols has made one and is in the process of making two more. All members are encouraged to make/buy more. Our goal is to present one to every resident in need.

Toys for Tots Motorcycle Run at the Harley Davidson Dealership was a success with 204 drivers and 79 passengers participating. 376 toys were collected. Funds collected will be used by LawRiders for further toy purchases. Those who worked the registration desk were: Pat Suckow, Gale Nathan, Trish Chilton, Theresa Milligan, Brenda Frye, Marilyn Tharp, Linda Nichols, John Tharp and Nick Nichols. Keith Conway of the LawRiders/MC League also participated.

Toys for Tots Shopping Trip was done on Dec 6 at Walmart. Funds donated by the Branch, Unit, Misfits, Ornament Sales, Vietnam Vets, and individuals were combined to purchase 266 toys. Unit Shoppers were Linda Nichols, Marilyn Tharp, Kim Vandiver, Brenda Frye, JonAnne Sattler, Pat Suckow, Gale Nathan, Cathy Brady, Kathy Sorenson, Theresa Milligan. Branch shoppers were Nick Nichols, John Tharp, Artie Sattler, and Bobbi Sutton.

Tri-county overall Toys for Tots results – 55,000 toys donated with 2,200 families served. This means 5,000 kids' Christmas was made brighter. Thanks to all who helped/participated.

New Business:

Kim Vandiver made a motion to contribute \$308.00 as cost-share for holiday meal. Motion seconded by Anne Barton and Dee Wallace. Motion carried.

Theresa Milligan made motion to amend Unit Standing Rules to reflect the Unit will no longer fund membership dues of those members who meet the criteria of 20 years continuous membership combined with 80 years of age; with the stipulation that those currently covered by this SR will be grandfathered. Motion seconded by Anne Barton. Motion carried.

Unit Yard Sale will be March 20/21. Let Debbie Breeze know if you plan to participate.

Delores Cox made a motion to change monthly Unit meetings to start at 5:30 vice 6:00; meetings will still be held on the same Tuesday of each month as current. Anne Barton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Good of the Order:

President Suckow asked all members to seriously consider serving in the 2026/2027 year. Specifically – the positions of President and Secretary need filled. Also, numerous committee chair positions need help. With all the talent of Unit members, there should be no need to keep recycling officers, or for one person to chair multiple committees. This is your Unit – step up. Job descriptions can be found at [LA_FRA.org/unit manual/duties](http://LA_FRA.org/unit%20manual/duties).

We will no longer be the Ladies Auxiliary of the Fleet Reserve Association – but will now be known as the Auxiliary of the Fleet Reserve Association. As with anything, this change must go through certain legal hoops, but you should expect the change to take place as early as Feb 1. Please also be aware we will NOT be addressed as AFRA or LAFRA. Checks and any other correspondence should henceforth be addressed to the “Auxiliary of the FRA” or “Auxiliary of the Fleet Reserve Associaton.”

Nomination Resolution for National President for Laurie A. Starkey was presented. (Copy attached.)

Mid-Year Meeting will be held at the Branch 269 Home on February 7. Meeting will begin at 9:00 am. This will be conducted by the Regional President Ronalee Klase. Please mark your calendars.

Dates to remember:

February 8 – Super Bowl at the Fleet – don’t forget your tickets

February 14 – Valentines’ Day

The next Unit Luncheon will be held Tuesday, Feb 10, at 11:30, at Olive Garden. Please RSVP to Debbie Breeze.

The next Unit meeting will be held Tuesday, February 10, at 5:30 at the Fleet.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

FRA LOW COUNTRY HOME COMMITTEE MEETING

JANUARY 12, 2026

PNC Laurie Bailey called the FRA Low Country Home Committee meeting to order at 1757 on Monday, January 12, 2026.

Board Members Present: Shipmates PNC Laurie Bailey, Sarah Ihme, PNP Don Muccheck, Tim Bailey, John Tharp, Ken Wallace, Ken Hutchison, and Ryan Stevenson; Ladies Kim Vandiver and Dee Wallace

Other Members Present: S/M Larry Pepper, Bob Zauner, Don Barton, and Fred Bolz

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the December meeting were approved as posted, with no corrections or objections.

- **MOTION:** S/M Tim Bailey motioned, and S/M John Tharp seconded that the minutes be approved. Motion carried.

Financial Reports

S/M Ken Hutchison assisted PNP Don Muccheck with the cash audit.

Balances as of 10 JAN 26: Checking \$5,553.18; Savings \$50,475.34; Credit Card \$27,633.46; Pending Deposits \$2,058.25; Registers/Change Funds \$11,500.00; Total Funds \$99,220.23

Net Profit (Loss): December \$18,095.68; YTD \$76,535.49

- **MOTION:** S/M Ken Hutchison motioned, and Lady Kim Vandiver seconded to accept the Financial Reports. Motion carried.

Building and Grounds / Special Events Manager's Report:

AED/CPR training will be 31 January. The kitchen and bar staff will be attending this training.

Super Bowl party is scheduled for 08 February.

Next golf tournament will be held on 14 March with a 0900 tee time.

Tile installation in the kitchen and behind the bar has been completed. The final bill has not yet been received; the quote was less than \$6000. The prep table has been installed and paid for.

Fish Fry will be held on 31 January.

Only Managers are authorized to write on the Home Manager's event calendar.

Bartenders are required to obtain TIPS Certification. This is completed online, costing about \$40 per person, and is valid for three years.

Workers' compensation liability insurance is \$2,897.00. General property liability is \$7,027.00. The liquor liability bill has not yet been billed.

Membership and Security

FRA HQ reports 717 active Branch members and 193 Unit members

Old Business

The kitchen and bar tile installation has been completed.

The new Home Committee Director will be S/M Ryan Stevenson.

Branch and Unit 269 will host the 2026 Mid-Year meeting on 7 February 2026 at the Home. Cleaning has been rescheduled to Monday, 2 February at 1300. Branch funds have been allocated for food, with an estimated evening meal cost of approximately \$15.00.

New Business

S/M Frank Stunk has suggested starting a Chess Club at the FRA. This item was tabled pending further discussion with the committee.

Concerns have been raised about the quality of some of the food being served.

Suggestions were made for future Home improvement projects, including replacing ceiling tiles and installing ultraviolet lights in the HVAC system to prevent mold.

A professional kitchen cleaning service is being looked into for monthly deep cleaning. A checklist will be made for nightly cleaning.

Final inventory has been completed, and items have been numbered.

Upcoming Events

Mid-Year Meeting – 7 February 2026 – set up the Friday before

Valentine's Day – 14 February 2026

Mardi Gras – 17 February 2026

St. Patrick's Day – 17 March 2026 – decorate and raffle off a basket of cheer

Good of the Order

Chairman PNC Laurie Bailey thanks everyone who participated in the Home inventory.

Next clean-up day: 2 February 2026 at 1300

Next meeting will be held: 16 February 2026 at 1800

- **MOTION:** S/M Tim Bailey motioned, and S/M Ken Hutchison seconded, that the meeting adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 1843.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership is open to all current and former enlisted sea service (USN, USMC, USCG) personnel.

Member benefits include:

- A legislative team fighting for your pay and benefits on Capitol Hill
- Use of the Action Center at www.fra.org to share your opinions directly with Congress
- Eligibility for you and your family to apply for the FRA education scholarships
- Access to expert staff to answer your legislative questions
- Representation on disability or other VA claims
- Discounts on products and services
- Camaraderie with other service members

Your dues include a subscription to the association magazine. *FRAtoday* is your most reliable source of association information. Topics covered are: military pay, health care, and benefits. Some great association information and items of interest to you and your family are included.

In addition to the magazine, please choose to receive any or all of the following member benefits:

- NewsBytes:** the weekly email newsletter update of legislative and association activities
- Personal Affairs:** a booklet to assist in organizing your most important documents

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

Service: USN USMC USCG

Status: Active Reserve Retired Veteran

NAME _____

PHONE _____

RATE / RANK _____

DATE OF BIRTH (MM/DD/YY) _____ SSN (optional) _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

SPOUSE'S NAME _____

SUITE / SPACE / LOT _____

Closest Branch Member-at-Large

CITY _____

Branch # _____ Centennial Branch

STATE _____

ZIP CODE _____

SPONSOR'S NAME & MEMBER ID# _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

Are you a previous FRA member?

No Yes, previous member# _____

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS

- 1 Year / \$40.00
- 2 Years / \$64.00 Centennial Special Offer**
(for New Members to FRA - \$24 first year + \$40 annual dues)
- 2 Years / \$75.00 (for renewing or reinstating FRA members)
- 5 Years / \$150.00 (\$20 Savings)
- Life Membership \$ _____

PAYMENT OPTIONS

- Master Card Visa Discover
- American Express Check-enclosed
- Life Membership Installment (1st payment is \$50 + 11 equal monthly payments automatically debited from a credit/debit card.)

CREDIT CARD NO. _____ EXP. DATE _____

SIGNATURE (REQUIRED) _____ DATE _____

Age	Amount
Active Duty.....	\$400
Ages 40 and younger...	\$450
Ages 41 to 50.....	\$425
Ages 51 to 60.....	\$390
Ages 61 to 70	\$340
Ages 71 to 80.....	\$260
Ages 81 to 99.....	\$200
Ages 100 and older.....	FREE
<i>Your Mission • Your Voice</i>	



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