



Scuttlebutt

Branch/Unit 269 Goose Creek, South Carolina
843.569.2692



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/]

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

BUY A BRICK \$100.00 each
 Be part of the history of the
 FRA, LOW COUNTRY HOME
 Contact Larry Pepper **843.569.2692**
Buy a Brick for the Wall form for a brick

John Doe USN 1975-1995	In Memory of John Doe USMC 1942-1949	Jane Doe Navy Wife The Hardest Job
------------------------------	--	--

I challenge all members to recruit one new member. It's not that difficult - we meet sea service people all the time. Keep an application in your car, you never know.

The Southeast region convention is being held in Warner Robbins GA 27/29 July and I hope to see several Branch 269 members attend.

Yours in Loyalty, Protection and Service
Ken Hutchison

Tidbits from the Unit President:

Auxiliary Members:

WOW a second year and it is an honor to serve as your Unit President for 2026-2027. On June 7, 2026, Shipmate Wayne Suckow honored us by being the installing officer for Unit 269. Even though we did not have a June meeting I would like to remind everyone that there is a membership box hung on the wall as you enter the home. This box is for Auxiliary information, suggestions, membership applications, and renewals. Please, place everything in the box, do not place it in the past down log.

Elections completed, Officers installed and ready for a new year: The **unit officers** are:
Vice-President Debbie Breeze, **Secretary** Gale Nathan PNC, and Marilyn Tharp, **Treasurer** Gale Nathan PNC, **Chaplains** Theresa Milligan and Linda Nichols.

Committee Chairpersons: Nellie Kirtley - Americanism/Patriotism, Sue Peters - Welfare,

Branch President's Corner

Shipmates,
 As we look forward to a prosperous and rewarding new year, I would like to congratulate Past President Don Barton and his officers, Committee Chairs and board members as well as Home Committee Chair PNC Laurie Bailey and the home members for a very successful year'
 As we all are aware our membership continues to decline. I am establishing a new committee (recruitment/retention) who a much younger newly retired Ryan Stevenson will chair. That said

Theresa Milligan - Hospital/VAVS, Activities - Anne Barton. **Board of Directors:** Marilyn Tharp, Ann Griffin, Sue Peters, Linda Nichols, Anne Barton, JonAnne Sattler and Kim Vandiver.

Please remember our goals which are matters pertaining to Welfare, Social and Patriotic work for the benefit of the Fleet Reserve Association. I know the biggest issue with our units is membership. This has been going on for years. All members please, if you have any suggestions and are unable to attend meeting just drop me a line or two.

Next auxiliary luncheon will be on July 14, 2026 @ 11:30am at the Home (all Shipmate are welcome too).

Next Auxiliary meeting will be July 14, 2026 @ 5:30pm at the home.

As I close, I want to send my thoughts and prayers to our members and their families who are facing health challenges or mourning the loss of a loved one. Also to those celebrating birthdays, anniversaries, or any special occasions this month.

In Loyalty, Protection & Service
Pat Suckow, NFS/PNP
Unit 269 President
Auxiliary of the FRA
lafranspat@gmail.com
Cell (843) 452-4719

Your challenging work and success will clear a path for those who follow you.

From our Unit Chaplain

Birthday cards were sent to members. Prayers for Ms. Anne Barton as she undergoes treatments and Benita Kinlaw (surgery for pacemaker). Remember to please contact Unit Chaplain Theresa Milligan 843-535-2757

Branch Treasurer's Report April 28 — May 27, 2026

General Checking	\$ 2,931.48
Savings	\$ 5,201.79
Convention Checking	\$ 0.00
Certificate of Deposit	\$12,477.62
TOTAL	\$20,610.89

BRANCH MEMBERSHIP/RETENTION
Membership and Retention: Ken Wallace
Total active members: 707

Transfer Out NPD [3]: Michael Brown, Kyle Fitzpatrick, Adam Padgett

Term DEC [7]: Dustin Darnell, Jaiden Moore, John Newby, Robert Newton, William Teague, Joe Travis, Gary Williams

New Join/Reinstated [10]: James Bargmann, William Castleberry, Darryl Greene, Adam Jensen, Anthony Kniffin, Howard Luper, Brian Sims, Dana Solomon, Christopher Wingate, Peter Wizes

Past Due [14]: John Aguilera Jr., Barry Alfaro, Darryl Barrickman, Jennifer Beilstein, Richard Davies, James Evans, Larry Fowler, Robert Koscianski, Larry Mole, Donald Moseng, Stephen Nogle, Savannah Sellers, Ernest Sweat Jr., Robert Temple

Ready to Renew [46]: William Ambler, Herbert Anderson, Dwight Bain, Edward Bowles, Carson Burgess, Ludwig Burkle, Lester Callahan, Ronald Chambers, David Chapman, Clayton Harold, James Crump, James Delaney, Patrick Dermody, William Dunsing, Roger Fincher, Jericho Garcia, Joseph Giannetto, Terry Gomez, Earl Ham, James Harrison, Harvey David, Harold Herrington, David Horton, John Ingram, Daniel Johnson, Larry Knutson, Julian Lemley, Ray Marshall, Raymond McKinley III, Michael Mercer, John Murphy, Daron Myers, Gerald Ott, John Pontieri, Santos Riduca, Linsey Rogers, Daniel Ryan, Arthur Sattler, Grady Scott, Thomas Scott, Cecil Skipworth, Robert Sowards, Michael Sparks, James Stover, Jeffrey Wilmoth, Jack Wrbanich

UNIT MEMBERSHIP/RETENTION

- Active Members: 204
- 30 days past due [0]: none
- 60 days past due: [2]: Linda Harris; Charlotte Johnson
- 90 days past due [1]: Joseph Holman
 - * Reinstated: 1 * New: 1
 - * Non-payment: 3 * Deceased: 1

BRANCH CHAPLAIN

Hospital/Welfare/Rehabilitation:

- Rick Wise recent scans are favorable but he has nodules in his lungs.
- Bill Hayes had a 3-way bypass on June 25th.

Shipmates or Unit members please contact:

Branch Chaplain S/M Bobbi Sutton @
843.514.2823 or 843.879.9473
Unit Chaplain Theresa Milligan @
843-535-2757

(Home Minutes at the end of the newsletter)

Home Committee Report

Cash Audit as of **13 June 2026** is:

Checking Account balance	\$ 4,441.48
Savings account	\$ 50,496.22
Credit Card account available	\$ 6,773.52
Pending Check/Cash for deposit	\$ 1,528.00
Registers/Cash Funds	\$ 1,500.00
Cash Reserve Fund	\$ 6,000.00
Total funds	\$ 70,629.22

Net Profit (Loss): May (\$6,080.10)
YTD \$3,600.28

Building and Grounds/Special Events/and Manager's Report: (full report in minutes)

- White linen tablecloths will be purchased when finances permit.
- Bricks will be available for purchase for the home quarterdeck.
- The Home thanked the SUBVETS for their donation.
- Stephanie is the new kitchen manager. Jeff will help with Friday nights and special events.

Upcoming Events:

- 4th of July Lowcountry Boil tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 on the day of the event. Purchase tickets at the bar.
- Next Home Committee meeting 13 July 1800.

Newsbytes: The Fleet Reserve Bulletin

The Newsbytes are sent to all FRA members from National via email. Here is a direct **LINK**

Newsbytes May 29, 2026

- ◇ O&M Cliff Looms
- ◇ VA Trust Hits High
- ◇ Dining Overhaul Begins
- ◇ Troops Face Tracking Risk
- ◇ FRA Marks Memorial Day

Newsbytes June 5, 2026

- ◇ Star Act Petition Surge
- ◇ Troops Tracked In War Zones
- ◇ VA Fast-Tracks Prosthetics
- ◇ Navy Fires Yokosuka Triad

Newsbytes June 12, 2026

- ◇ Veterans Omnibus Package
- ◇ War Department Rename
- ◇ EHR Reaches Midwest
- ◇ Record Claims Output

Newsbytes June 19, 2026

- ◇ Marine Valor Honored

- ◇ Informed Consent Push
- ◇ Postcard Scam Warning
- ◇ Foreclosure Relief Launches
- ◇ PreCheck Fee Waiver

Newsbytes June 26, 2026

- ◇ Star Act Blocked Again
- ◇ FRA Advances Consent and EHRM Work
- ◇ VA Releases FY2025 Benefits Report
- ◇ Pentagon Drops Commissary Privatization
- ◇ House Delays VA Omnibus

BRANCH/UNIT 269 WEBSITE - fra269gc.org !!!!

Get your current and past newsletters and see upcoming events.

**BRANCH/UNIT 269 MEMBERSHIP INFO
REMINDER: ALL MEMBERSHIP FORMS / DUES ARE
TO BE PLACED IN THE RESPECTIVE MEMBERSHIP
BOXES BY THE HOME OFFICE DOOR. THIS
APPLIES TO BRANCH AND UNIT**

The Branch and Unit Membership Boxes outside the office are the only place to leave 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". **The pass down log will not be used for anything concerning membership.**

Branch Life Membership ages and dues

Ages up to 40: \$600.00	Ages 41-50: \$570.00
Ages 51-60: \$535.00	Ages 61-70: \$475.00
Ages 71-80: \$380.00	Ages 81-90: \$260.00
Ages 91-99: \$145.00	Ages 100 and older: FREE

The Security Corner

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

Using a VPN – You may get more than you ask for...

Greeting Shipmates! This month we will take a look into an interesting turn of events regarding VPN use.

In January, 2020, I wrote an article on VPN use and the pros and cons of their use. Generally speaking, a Virtual Private Network (VPN) protects your digital privacy by creating an encrypted "tunnel" for your internet traffic, hiding your IP address, and preventing ISPs or hackers on public Wi-Fi from monitoring your activities. It secures sensitive data, masks your physical location, and

provides enhanced, though not absolute, anonymity.

Ahh, masking your physical location. That has to be a good thing, right? Well, not so fast! The article link below takes you to an article from March 26th of 2026 that discusses how your constitutional rights against government spying on you may be at risk, depending on congressional action:

Using a VPN May Subject You to NSA Spying

So, this is something we may we may well want to keep up with as Congress makes their decision about this law. The provision was set to expire on April 20th, 2026. At the time I write this, the outcome of congressional actions on this matter is unknown. Regardless, I would recommend that you remain aware of this issue to see if it was modified to protect American citizens. Also, if you are a VPN subscriber, be sure you know where the VPN exit servers are located, just in case they are in a foreign country. There have been VPN providers who do exit in a foreign country. I happen to use Norton 360's VPN and I can see what location I am observed to be at that moment.

If in doubt, you can use one of the following tools to see what your location appears to be when you are on a VPN:

- **IPLocation.net**: Uses multiple databases for a comprehensive search.
- **NordVPN IP Lookup** : Offers a straightforward tool for identifying IP locations.

And remember this, you are not paranoid if they really are out to get you!

DID YOU KNOW??

+++++

PC running low on storage? If you need a few extra gigabytes fast, clear out temporary files. Go to **Settings > System > Storage > Temporary files**, select what you don't need, and click **Remove files**. Just look at your **Recycle Bin** and **Downloads** folders first, so you don't accidentally delete anything important.

+++++

3-second gadget genius: Tired of your phone autocorrecting a name? When your spelling pops up above the keyboard, tap it. Your phone learns it and stops "fixing" it.

+++++

Add emergency contacts: Make them visible on your phone's lock screen, so first responders know who to call. On **iPhone**, open **Health > Medical ID**, add your contacts, and enable **Show When Locked**. On **Android**, go to **Settings > Safety and emergency > Emergency contacts** and toggle **Show on Lock Screen**.



**VA News by VAVS Branch Representative
PRPSE Fred Bolz**

VAVS Minutes and Newsbytes are posted on the bulletin board.

=====

VA Aims to Cut Prosthetic Wait Times by 40 percent

As reported June 11 by Derricke Dennis for *Military Times*, every year, thousands of military veterans receive prosthetic limbs through the VA. It's a process that can take weeks, sometimes months, for approval, purchasing, fittings, and therapy before an eligible veteran receives one. But as of April 2026, the federal government has streamlined the process with an eye toward efficiency, cost, and convenience. Among the changes: case reviews by a contracting officer would be waived except for the most expensive prosthetic limbs; and local purchasing agents would be able to source prosthetics from area suppliers, eventually cutting wait times by as much as 40 percent.

Read More..

=====

Fraud Alert: Beware the "Veterans Savings Program" Postcard Scam

On June 10 the VA released an alert regarding a new scam targeting veterans. The latest tactic involves sending fraudulent postcards claiming you (or your spouse) are entitled to "extra VA benefits" or additional payments, including CHAMPVA, TRICARE, and dental coverage, regardless of a VA disability rating. Don't fall for it. These scammers claim to be affiliated with VA. They might instill a sense of urgency, pressuring you to contact them as soon as possible, or within five days. Their goal is to get you to call the number provided. Once you do, they will often use flattery and praise regarding your

military service to gain trust. The scammer will attempt to obtain personal identifying information like your Social Security Number, bank account details, or other sensitive information. Never give this information over the phone or on the internet. VA is monitoring the situation and urges you to remain vigilant against these fraudulent attempts to steal personal identifying information. Refuse to engage; do not call unverified numbers; and hang up. Refuse to engage; do not call unverified numbers; and hang up immediately if you are contacted by unsolicited numbers.

[Learn More...](#)

=====

Small Daily Rituals, Big Results for Your Mind and Body

For veterans and their caregivers, some of the most effective habits are also the simplest. Small, daily acts of self-care can add up to real results. Whether you're managing a health condition, supporting a loved one, or just looking to feel more like yourself, these five habits are a great place to start: Make sleep a priority; give yourself time for a healthy breakfast; get outside in the fresh air; stretch, do yoga, or practice breathing exercises each evening; and treat yourself to a long, hot bath.

[Read More...](#)

=====

A Coordinated Response to Support Aging Homeless Vets

In fiscal year 2024, almost half of all veterans enrolled in VA healthcare were 65 or older. By fiscal year 2035, the number of veterans aged 85 and older is expected to increase by 66 percent. Within this broader population, a growing subset of aging veterans is experiencing or facing homelessness for the first time in their lives—due to factors like rising housing costs, complex medical needs, income loss, or lack of family support. With the number of aging and disabled homeless veterans expected to increase, VA launched the Homeless Aging and Disabled Veterans Initiative to bring together housing assistance, healthcare, and supportive services through the Housing and Urban Development-VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) and Geriatrics and Extended Care (GEC) programs. The initiative helps connect older homeless and disabled veterans with complex health needs to

stable housing, case management, community-based care, and services that support long-term health, independence, and quality of life.

[Learn More...](#)

=====

VA Launches Partial Claim Program to Help Vets Avoid Home Foreclosure

On June 15 the VA launched the VA Partial Claim Program, a new effort to help veterans facing financial struggles avoid foreclosure and stay in their homes. Here's how it works: Mortgage servicers identify veterans who are in default and might be able to qualify for the Partial Claim Program; servicers place qualified veterans on a three-month trial payment plan to assess their ability to stay current on their loan. When a veteran successfully completes this trial period, the mortgage servicer will pay the overdue amount on the mortgage to make the veteran current again. VA will then pay that same amount to the mortgage servicer. Servicers must repay VA when the loan is paid in full, refinanced, or the property is sold. Veterans having difficulty reaching a resolution with their mortgage servicer can contact VA at 877-827-3702, option 6.

[Read More...](#)

=====

When you send a message on My HealtheVet Important dos and don'ts

Sending a message on My HealtheVet is a secure and convenient way to communicate with your VA health care team. But unclear messages can result in confusion and frustration. Try these tips for effective messages.

[Learn more](#)

=====

Know your vision benefits

Are you unsure about what vision benefits are covered? Find out about your vision care and how to schedule an exam.

[Learn about VA vision benefits](#)

=====

Exercise for upper back pain

Movement is one of the best ways to treat back pain. If you suffer from upper back pain, the Veterans Health Library has a program to help you manage your pain, speed healing, and prevent future flare-ups.

[Try this exercise program](#)

**INSTALLATION OF BRANCH AND UNIT 269 OFFICERS
JUNE 7, 2026
See all the pictures at [Branch & Unit Officer Installation](#)**



Installation Officer PNP Don Muechek installs Ken Hutchison (President), Wayne Suckow Jr. (Vice President and Nate Nathan (Home Committee Chair)



Unit Installation Officer/Branch 269 Vice President Wayne Suckow Jr. installs NFC Pat Suckow PNP (President)



Branch Installation Officer PNP Don Muechek installs the Officers and Board of Directors for Branch 269: Ken Hutchison (President), Nate Nathan (Home Committee Chair), PRPSE Fred Bolz, Tim Bailey, Art Sattler, John Tharp, Bobbie Sutton, Glenn Little.



Unit Installation Officer/Branch 269 Vice President Wayne Suckow Jr. installs the Officers and Board of Directors for Unit 269: NFS Pat Suckow PNP (Unit President), Debbie Breeze (Unit Vice President), Sue Peters, Marilyn Tharp, Kim Vandiver



Branch Installation Officer PNP Don Muechek installs the Officers and Board of Directors for Branch 269: Ken Hutchison (President), Wayne Suckow Jr. (Vice President), Ernest Culbreath, PNC Laurie Bailey, Larry Pepper, LC Mills, Ed Peters, Ken Wallace, Sarah Ihme (Secretary)



Unit Installation Officer/Branch 269 Vice President Wayne Suckow Jr. installs the Officers and Board of Directors for Unit 269: Gale Nathan PNC (Unit Secretary/Treasurer), Anne Barton, Linda Nichols, Theresa Milligan

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

JULY 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 <u>1900-2100</u> Sojourners	2 <u>1800</u> SUBVETS BOD	3	4 Independence Day <u>1130-1500</u> Celebrate 250 Years of America In- door Picnic
5 Free Pool	6	7 <u>1800-2000</u> Sons of Confederacy	8	9 <u>1900</u> SUBVETS Mtg	10	11 NO DAV Mtg <u>Time TBD</u> Birthday Party
12 Free Pool	13 <u>1800</u> Home Com- mittee	14 <u>1130</u> Unit Lunch <u>1730</u> Unit Mtg	15 <u>1800-2000</u> Radio Club	16 <u>1800</u> Branch BOD <u>1900</u> Branch Mtg	17	18 <u>1000-1200</u> MILFRAT Meeting <u>1600-</u> Birthday Party
19 Free Pool	20	21	22	23 <u>1800-2000</u> Marine Corps League	24	25
26 Free Pool	27 <u>1730</u> VVA Mtg <u>1900</u> Carolina Coins Mtg	28	29	30 <u>Time TBD</u> Memorial Service	31	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> 2026 SOUTHEAST REGION CONVENTION Warner Robbins GA 80th FRA & 78th AUX FRA </div>						

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

AUGUST 2026						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 Free Pool	3	4 <u>1800-2000</u> Sons of the Confederacy	5 <u>1900-2100</u> Sojourners	6 <u>1800-2000</u> SUBVETS BOD	7 Purple Heart Day	8 NO DAV Mtg
9 Free Pool	10	11	12	13 <u>1900</u> SUBVETS Mtg	14 VJ Day [1945]	15 <u>1000-1200</u> MilFrat Mtg
16 Free Pool	17 <u>1800</u> Home Committee	18 <u>1130</u> Unit Lunch <u>1730</u> Unit Mtg	19 <u>1800-2000</u> Radio Club Mtg	20 <u>1800</u> Branch BOD <u>1900</u> Branch Mtg	21	22 <u>TBD</u> Wedding
23 Free Pool	24 <u>1730</u> VVA Mtg <u>1900</u> Carolina Coins Mtg	25	26 <u>1830</u> Bowling Mtg	27	28	29
30 Free Pool	31					

BRANCH 269 CONTINUOUS MEMBERSHIP—JULY 2026

Life Members in **BOLD**

Willie Thompson Jr.	64	Douglas Craig	30	Michael Black	17	Thomas Sullivan Jr.	7
John Groover	60	James Spence	29	Rick Carlson	17	Henry Pridgen II	6
James McKinney	59	Roger Rader	28	Gordon Gingras	15	William Woodsmall III	6
Hugh Graham	56	Raymond Clark	27	Norman Jones	15	Mitchell Nappier	4
John Lookabill	52	William Ambler	25	Harold Starn	13	Gary Clinefelter	2
David Johnston	47	Wayne Suckow Jr	25	Craig Wold	12	Dean Nimocks	2
Frederick Hooker Jr.	43	Kenneth Farrell	24	Winfield Meadows	11	Sheri Ragan	2
Barry Gordon	42	Michael Struve	24	Ralph Rohrssen	11	David DeChants Sr.	1
Harry Kirk	42	David Dux	23	William Scheer	10	Rogelio Fulgencio	1
Michael Andrews	38	Brian Koller	23	Robert Vehorn	10	Peter Garrison	1
Thomas Jennings	33	Jerry Young	23	Lindsay Nelson	9	David McNeely	1
Robert Ingebretson	32	Robert Zimmerman	23	Charles Lewis	8		
Richard Miley	32	Charles Wright	22	Alan Chambers	7		
Steven Geary	31	Ronald Snyder	19	Michael Cline	7		

UNIT 269 CONTINUOUS MEMBERSHIP—JULY 2026

Betty H. Harris	53	Kimberly D. Vandiver	9	Tammy K. Miller	5	Steven J. Rusbolt	2
Annie S. Bain	26	Joyce E. Hillsman	9	Presilla L. Wilbanks	5	Charles A. Covell	2
Patricia D. Day	19	Curtis J. March	7	Suzanne L. Peters	4	Cathleen Brady	1
Rosamond T. Milligan	17	Sheila E. Shea	6	Virginia B. Stamey	4	Roberta Kolbe	1
Brian J. Marrale	15	Lawrence M. Fowler	5				

YOUR BIRTHDAY IS IN JULY 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*

Ray Bryant	1	James Schaefer	9	Kevin Crawford	20	Gavin Karelitz	26
Michael Rikard	2	David Smith	9	Sarah Harry	20	<i>Mona L. Lozen</i>	26
<i>Rosie M. Soderlund</i>	2	<i>Joan V. Acosta</i>	10	John Hoyt	20	James Stover	26
Michael Fusari	3	Mark Fiorey	10	Timothy Reed	20	Randy Bognar	26
Jeffrey Muniz	3	John Hills	10	Michael Sosa Jr.	20	Craig Farr	27
Nathaniel Nelson	4	William Bryar	11	Keith Laster	21	Bruce Brown	28
Thomas Shephard	4	William Campbell	11	Larry Nicodin	21	Ernest Culbreath	28
Gerald Starr	4	James Giordano	12	Matthew Perry	21	Matthew Aguilera	29
<i>Jacqueline M. Verheyen</i>	4	Ludwig Burkle	13	Paul Reece	21	<i>Joy Lambert</i>	29
Ray Marshall	5	Mark Hunter	13	<i>Cathleen Brady</i>	22	Ronald Snyder	29
<i>George H. Ellison</i>	6	James Kint	13	Ernest Chresoulis	22	Robert Weber Sr.	29
David Kiger	6	Mariela Anderson	14	Mitchell Nappier	22	Lester Callahan	30
Charles Lewis	6	Willy Hecker	14	<i>Sandra K. Peeples</i>	22	Walter Deal	30
Janet Mizer-Brunner	6	Gordon Long	15	William Pye Jr	22	Jericho Garcia	30
Edward O'Connor	6	<i>Melissa Molina-Mettix</i>	15	Gregg Schneider	22	Robert Mastriion	30
Carey Baxley Jr.	7	Mark Erwin	16	<i>Camela T. Day</i>	24	Denise Barnes	31
Paul Brown	7	<i>Teri L. Korinek</i>	17	Donald Siron	24	Thomas Brown	31
Merle Knapp	7	Russell Nichols Jr.	17	Ray Stanfield	24	Jamaal Goss	31
Lewis Flader	9	Tim Henson Sr.	19	<i>Patricia A. Wlazlinski</i>	24	John Lemieux	31
David Menefee	9	Justin Mingie	19	<i>Julie Becker</i>	25	Thomas Sullivan Jr	31
Michael Scott	9	David Calderhead	20				

BRANCH 269

BRANCH OFFICERS

President: Ken Hutchison
Vice President: Wayne Suckow
Secretary: Sarah Ihme
Treasurer: PNP Don MucHECK
Jr. Past President: Don Barton

BRANCH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PNC Laurie Bailey Tim Bailey
PRPSE Fred Bolz John Tharp
Larry Pepper Ed Peters
Glenn Little Ken Wallace
Ernest Culbreath LC Mills
Bobbie Sutton Artie Sattler

APPOINTEES & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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

Auxiliary of the FRA UNIT 269

UNIT OFFICERS

President: NFS Pat Suckow, PNP
Vice-President: Debbie Breeze
Secretary: Gale Nathan PNC /
Marilyn Tharp
Treasurer: Gale Nathan PNC

UNIT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sue Peters Kim Vandiver
Marilyn Tharp Anne Barton
Linda Nichols Theresa Milligan
Ann Griffith JonAnne Sattler

APPOINTEES & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Amer/Patriotism: Nellie Kirtley
Chaplain: Theresa Milligan/
Linda Nichols
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

LOW COUNTRY HOME, LLC

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

Frabranh269@comcast.net

Home Chairman: Nate Nathan
Admin Secretary: Sarah Ihme
Financial Sec: PNP Don MucHECK
Director: Sue Peters
Director: Kim Vandiver
Director: Ernest Culbreath
Director: John Tharp
Director: Bobbi Sutton
Director: Linda Nichols
Director: Debbie Breeze
Director: Nick Nichols
Home Managers: Larry Pepper
Bob Zauner
Don Garrand



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

Auxiliary of the FRA Unit269 is now collecting for the Victory House in Walterboro

In addition to lap robes, they need



1-Gripper-type socks



2-T-shirts

3 Pajama Bottoms



4-Word Search books



"ATTENTION ALL HANDS"

**FLEET RESERVE ASSOCIATION BRANCH 269
AND AUXILIARY OF THE FLEET RESERVE
ASSOCIATION UNIT 269, GOOSE CREEK, SC**

**PROUDLY ANNOUNCES
"CELEBRATING 250 YEARS OF AMERICA"**

**SATURDAY, JULY 4, 2026
11:30 AM - 3:00 PM**

**AT FRA LOWCOUNTRY HOME, 99 WISTERIA ROAD,
GOOSE CREEK, SC**

**COST IS \$10.00/PERSON
PURCHASE TICKETS BEFORE THURSDAY, 2 JULY 2026 AT
LOWCOUNTRY HOME**

**COME JOIN US FOR AN INDOOR PICNIC OF
LOW COUNTRY BOIL, SALADS, TEA, AND DESSERTS
WEAR PATRIOTIC CLOTHES AND A DESSERT CONTEST WILL
BE HELD AFTER THE PICNIC**



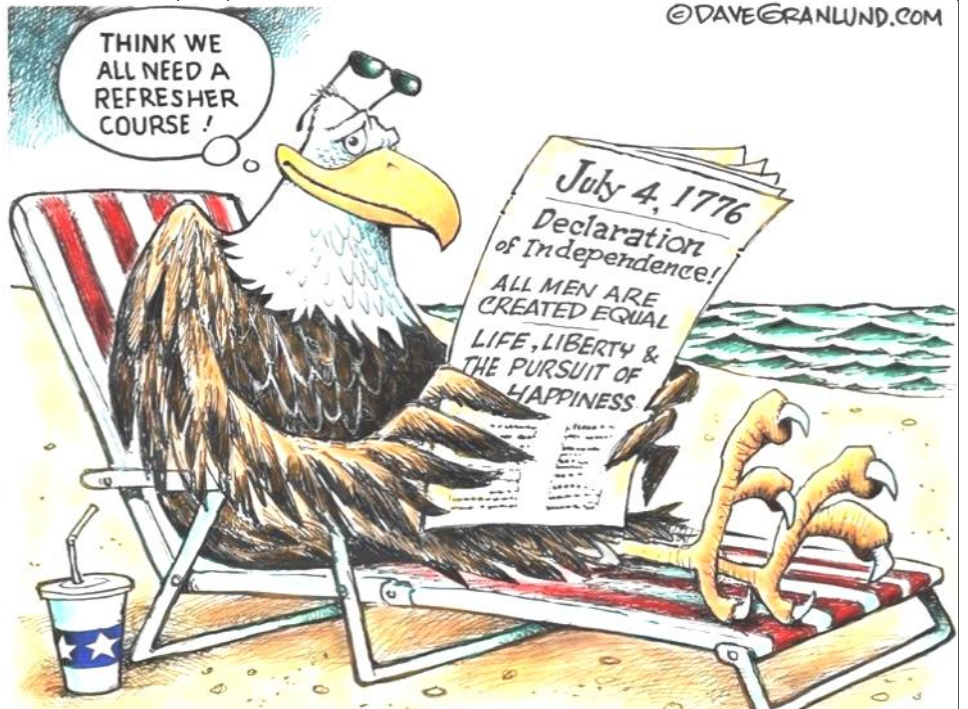
**WHERE DID
THESE DAYS GO?**



 ROTARY PHONE 2 points	 CONSOLE TV 5 points	 STEREO SYSTEM 4 points	 MIXER 3 points	 THERMOS 2 points
 LAWN CHAIR 3 points	 WAGON 2 points	 CRACKER JACK 2 points	 45 RPM RECORD 2 points	 LUNCH BOX 3 points
 DRIVE-IN SPEAKER 3 points	 FLOWER GLASSES 2 points	 SHAG CARPET 3 points	 EASY-BAKE OVEN 3 points	 FUNYUNS 2 points
 DOOR-TO-DOOR SALESMAN 5 points		 8mm MOVIE CAMERA 4 points		

HOW MANY DO YOU REMEMBER?

©DAVEGRANLUND.COM



“The 56 Brave”

Have you ever wondered what happened to the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence?

Five signers were captured by the British as traitors, and tortured before they died. Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned.

Two lost their sons serving in the Revolutionary Army; another had two sons captured. Nine of the 56 fought and died from wounds or hardships of the Revolutionary War. They signed and they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor. What kind of men were they?

Twenty-four were lawyers and jurists. Eleven were merchants, nine were farmers and large plantation owners; men of means, well educated, but they signed the Declaration of Independence knowing full well that the penalty would be death if they were captured.

Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter and trader, saw his ships swept from the seas by the British Navy. He sold his home and properties to pay his debts, and died in rags.

Thomas McKean was so hounded by the British that he was forced to move his family almost constantly. He served in the Congress without pay, and his family was kept in hiding. His possessions were taken from him, and poverty was his reward.

Vandals or soldiers looted the properties of Dillery, Hall, Clymer, Walton, Gwinnett, Heyward, Rutledge, and Middleton.

At the battle of Yorktown, Thomas Nelson, Jr., noted that the British General Cornwallis had taken over the Nelson home for his headquarters. He quietly urged General George Washington to open fire. The home was destroyed, and Nelson died bankrupt.

Francis Lewis had his home and properties destroyed. The enemy jailed his wife, and she died within a few months.

John Hart was driven from his wife's bedside as she was dying. Their 13 children fled for their lives. His fields and his gristmill were laid to waste. For more than a year he lived in forests and caves, returning home to find his wife dead and his children vanished.

So, take a few minutes while enjoying your 4th of July holiday and silently thank these patriots. It's not much to ask for the price they paid. Remember: freedom is never free!

It's time to remember that patriotism is not a sin, and the Fourth of July has more to it than beer, picnics and baseball games.

The 4th of July is fast approaching and a reminder of the sacrifices our Founding Fathers endured is appropriate at this time. We owe a great debt of gratitude to them as we do all our men and women that have served in the military, especially the families that lost loved ones in our wars. We should not vilify them; we should honor them.

Thanks to L.R. Vaughn. Greer, SC

**FRA SOUTHEAST REGION BYLAWS RESOLUTION NO. 1 SOUTHEAST REGIONAL COMMITTEE
ON BYLAWS AND STANDING RULES**

Whereas, Article V, Section 513 states:

“SECTION 513. The Regional Committee on Hospitals, Welfare, and Rehabilitation shall foster and maintain good relations between the Fleet Reserve Association and the Southeast Region hospitals, extend praise and recommendation to those members and Branches that have rendered outstanding service and ensure that Shipmates and dependents are receiving the full benefits of existing laws and regulations”; and

Whereas, at the 97th FRA National Convention held in Springfield, Missouri, FRA C&BL Article VIII, Section 816(b) was changed designating additional duties of the Hospital, Welfare, and Rehabilitation Committee; and

Whereas, Southeast Region Bylaws Article V, Section 513 does not adequately address the changes made at the FRA National Convention; now therefor be it

Resolved, that FRA Southeast Region Bylaws, Article V, Section 513 be deleted and a new Section 513 be added to read as follows:

‘SECTION 513(a). The Hospitals, Welfare, and Rehabilitation Committee shall manage and oversee the FRA Southeast Region VA Volunteer Services (VAVS) Center for Development and Community Engagement (CDCE), providing education and outreach of the same to th membership of the FRA Southeast Region, including VA MHA policy and regulations associated with this program, to report on the number and activities of FRA designated VAVS/SDCE representatives in the Southeast Region and medical facility; to solicit Branches to promote Shipmates to become VAVS/CDCE representatives or volunteers and become involved in department of veterans affairs/services, medical facilities, national veteran cemeteries, or veteran homes, and to annually recognize outstanding service by a Shipmate in service to veterans in the area of hospital, welfare, and rehabilitation.

SECTION 513(b). The Committee shall foster and maintain good relations with the Fleet Reserve Association and the Southeast Region hospitals, extend praise and commendation to those members and Branches that have rendered outstanding service and ensure that Shipmates and dependents are receiving the full benefits of existing laws and regulations,

This is to certify that this resolution was proposed at a meeting of the Regional Committee on Bylaws and Standing Rules on April 16, 2026, distributed, read, debated, and adopted by unanimous vote through e-mail on April 23, 2026.

F. Donald Muckeck
F. Donald Muckeck
FRA Past National President
Chairman, FRA SER BL&SR Committee

**FRA SOUTHEAST REGION BYLAWS RESOLUTION NO. 2 SOUTHEAST REGIONAL COMMITTEE
ON BYLAWS AND STANDING RULES**

Whereas, FRA Southeast Region Bylaws, Article V, Section 517 states:

“SECTION 517(a). The Regional Committee on Veterans Services.

SECTION 517(b). Committee members shall be either VA accredited as Veterans Service Officer (VSO) representing FRA or designated as an FRA Representative or Deputy Representative for the VA Voluntary Service (VAVS) program at a VA medical facility.

SECTION 517(c). To oversee the FRA VSO and VAVS programs, providing education and outreach of same to the membership of the Association, including the policies and regulations associated with these programs; to report on the number and activities of FRA accredited VSO representatives and representatives in the VAVS program in each region; to solicit branches and Shipmates to become involved in departments of veterans affairs/services on the state, local or national level, including VA regional offices, medical facilities, state of national veteran cemeteries or veteran homes, and to annually recognize outstanding service by a Shipmate in service to veterans. When the need for assistance is beyond the capacity of the local branch, the Branch President shall make a report to the Regional Chairman and Regional President with appropriate recommendations.

SECTION 517(d). It shall solicit the cooperation of branch chairman of this committee and instill the importance of this committee at the branch level,

SECTION 517(e). The Chairman shall make an annual report to the delegates at the Regional Convention”; and

Whereas, at the 97th FRA National Convention held in Springfield, Missouri, FRA C&BL Article VIII, Section 820 was rewritten; and

Whereas, FRA Southeast Region Bylaws, Article V, Section 517 does not adequately define the Committee’s duties; now therefor be it

Resolved, that FRA Southeast Region Bylaws, Article V, Section 517, be deleted in its entirety and a new Section 517 be substituted as follows:

“SECTION 517(a). The Regional Committee on Veterans Service,

SECTION 517(b). Committee members shall be VA accredited Veteran Service Officers representing the FRA in the Southeast Region. Duties of the Committee shall be: to oversee the FRA Veterans Service programs, providing education and outreach of same to the membership of the Association, including the policies and regulations associated with the program; to report on the number and activities of FRA accredited VSO representatives and programs in the Southeast Region, to solicit branches and Shipmate in the Southeast Region to become involved in departments of veterans affairs/services on the local, state, or national level, including VA regional offices, and to annually recognize outstanding service by a Shipmate in service to veterans in the area of Veteran services.

SECTION 517(c). It shall solicit the cooperation of Branch chairman of this committee and instill the importance of this committee at the branch level.

SECTION 517(d). The Chairman shall make an annual report to the delegates at the Southeast Regional Convention.”

This is to certify that this resolution was proposed at a meeting of the Regional Committee on Bylaws and Standing Rules on April 16, 2026, distributed, read, debated, and adopted by unanimous vote through e-mail on April 23, 2026.

F. Donald Mucheck
F. Donald Mucheck
FRA Past National President
Chairman, FRA SER BL&SR Committee

FRA LOW COUNTRY HOME COMMITTEE MEETING

JUNE 15, 2026

S/M Nate Nathan called the FRA Low Country Home Committee meeting to order at 1800 on Monday, June 15, 2026.

Board Members Present: Shipmates Nate Nathan, Sarah Ihme, PNP Don Muccheck, Ernest Culbreath, John Tharp, Bobbi Sutton, and Nick Nichols; Ladies Sue Peters, Linda Nichols, and Debbie Breeze

Other Members Present: Shipmates Home Manager Larry Pepper, Ken Hutchison, PRPSE Fred Bolz, PNC Laurie Bailey, Tim Bailey, and Lady PNC Gail Nathan

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

- **MOTION:** S/M Sarah Ihme moved, and Lady Linda Nichols seconded, that the minutes be approved. Motion carried.

Financial Reports

Shipmates PRPSE Fred Bolz and Bobbi Sutton assisted PNP Don Muccheck with the cash audit.

Balances as of 13 June 26: Checking \$4,441.48; Savings \$50,496.22; Credit Card \$6,773.52; Pending Deposits \$1,528.00; Registers/Change Funds \$1,500.00; Cash Reserve Fund \$6,000.00; Total Funds \$70,629.22

Net Profit (Loss): May (\$6,080.10); YTD (\$3,600.28)

Building and Grounds / Special Events Manager's Report:

The SUBVETS fish fry will be held on 27 June.

Fourth of July Lowcountry Boil tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 on the day of the event.

The gaming machines have been returned.

White linen tablecloths will be purchased when finances permit.

Bricks will be available for purchase for the Home entrance.

The Home thanked the SUBVETS for their donation.

Old Business

None

New Business

Stephanie is the new kitchen manager. Jeff will continue to help with Friday nights and special events.

A discussion was held on the day and time of the Home Committee Meeting.

- **MOTION:** S/M Nick Nichols moved, and S/M John Tharp seconded, that we continue to hold the Home Committee Meeting on the Monday before the third Thursday at 1800 each month. Motion carried.

Good of the Order

Members were reminded to direct any concerns to the appropriate manager and were encouraged to attend Home Committee meetings.

The committee discussed future themed events, continuation of Friday night karaoke, and the need for volunteers for a Special Events Chairman. No action was taken.

A banner recognizing the nation's 250th anniversary was presented and will be displayed at the bar.

S/M Bobbi Sutton continues to update the Binnacle List, and S/M Nick Nichols will assist.

A committee will meet on 3 July 2026 to prepare for the Fourth of July event, and volunteers are being sought.

Next meeting: 13 July 2026 at 1800

The meeting adjourned at 1910.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Member benefits include:

- A legislative team fighting for your pay and benefits on Capitol Hill
- Use 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 fellow service members

Your dues include a subscription to the association magazine. *FRA*today 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 meet the FRA eligibility requirements of being a current or former member of the US 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 # _____

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)
- 2 Years / \$75.00 (for renewing or reinstating FRA members)
- 5 Years / \$180.00 (\$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 _____

LIFE MEMBERSHIP	
Age	Amount
Ages 40 and younger...	\$600
Ages 41 to 50.....	\$570
Ages 51 to 60.....	\$535
Ages 61 to 70	\$475
Ages 71 to 80.....	\$380
Ages 81 to 90.....	\$260
Ages 91 to 99.....	\$145
Ages 100 and older.....	FREE
Your Mission • Your Voice	



1600 Duke Street, Suite 300
Alexandria, VA 22314-2754

Phone: 703-683-1400 Toll-Free: 1-800-FRA-1924

www.fra.org





BENEFITS OF FRA MEMBERSHIP

The Fleet Reserve Association represents and serves all current and prior U.S. Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard service members and their families. Here are just a few of the benefits our members enjoy.

Advocacy

The FRA's highly respected legislative team ensures that your voice is heard and understood on Capitol Hill. We fight for the pay and benefits of active duty, reserve, veteran and retired members of the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard. Check out www.fra.org/ActionCenter to review the current issues and lend your voice to our shared mission. The FRA also has veteran service officers who assist veterans with filing their claims and appeals to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Branch Affiliation

Almost every state in the U.S. has at least one FRA branch, and several branches are located overseas. The FRA branches foster camaraderie among fellow sea service members and strive to keep Shipmates informed about changes in local policy as well as to support local veteran and youth activities.

FRA Publications

The FRA produces a bimonthly magazine, FRAtoday; a weekly email newsletter, NewsBytes; call-to-action emails, Making Waves; and quarterly e-newsletters for active-duty members, OnWatch.

Education Scholarships

The FRA Education Foundation provides more than \$90,000 in scholarship funds each year to sea service personnel, FRA members and their dependents. The funds are applicable toward tuition at trade schools, community colleges and four-year universities.

Disaster Relief

The FRA facilitates relief to fellow Shipmates during times of need. Shipmates who have suffered losses due to natural disasters, have received more than \$100,000 in aid.

FRA Life and Health Insurance Programs

As an FRA member, you are eligible for excellent coverage at affordable group rates by participating in the FRA-endorsed insurance programs. You can request information by calling 800-424-1120, or by following the links on the Membership Benefits page online at www.fra.org/benefits.

Savings Marketplace

The FRA Marketplace offers unique discounts on things like travel, restaurants, electronics, movie and event tickets, shopping, and more! Discounts are accessible through your myFRA membership profile on www.fra.org or by calling 1-800-683-2886 and providing your FRA member ID number.

VA Volunteer Service

FRA members volunteer thousands of hours at Veterans Affairs hospitals through the VA Center for Development and Civic Engagement, bringing assistance and companionship to veterans and service members who are in VA medical centers. For more information, call 800-FRA-1924, extension 113.

USAA Visa Rewards Program

Members can apply for the only credit card that supports the FRA. With a low APR, no annual fees and some great rewards programs, you will see why a credit card from a bank built on military values is better. Apply today at www.usaa.com/fra or call 877-372-8722.

USAA Financial Services

The United Services Automobile Association (USAA) provides competitive products, award-winning service and the convenience of banking and investments to active-duty military, veterans and their families. The FRA endorses USAA and its preferred financial services. Best of all, joining USAA is free and you can pass the benefits along to your children. Find out more information at www.usaa.com/fra or call 877-372-8722.

Take advantage of some of these benefits and your membership will pay for itself!