Meetings are held at 1900 the first Wednesday of each month at the DAV Chapter 2 Home (14605 E. US 40 Hwy. Kansas City, MO located between Noland & Phelps Roads). The DAV kitchen staff offers daily specials or you can order from the menu – $4 to $14.

BINGO for the residents of the Home Care Unit at Eisenhower VA Medical Center are generally held the third or fourth SATURDAY of each month. The BINGO crew will meet at TENPENNY in Leavenworth for lunch around noon. Call S/M QUINTERO at 816-260-0435 for definitive information.

In Memoriam

Our national symbol and Branch 161 are saddened because the following Shipmate recently joined the Staff of the Supreme Commander

LEVON M. TAYLOR, HM3, USN, RET – Raytown, MO
NOEL E. WINFIELD, FTCM, USN, RET – Sun City West, AZ

February Highlights

Committee Reports

Americanism-Essay: Regional essays will be judged 22 February at the DAV.

Americanism-Patriotism: The next National Holiday will be 17 February.

Membership: The Branch had 317 members with 313 in good standing as of 31 January.

Finance & Audit: The Mid-Year finance report shows the Branch remains solvent.

Youth Activities: Sea Cadet CO said a few members will participate in the commissioning ceremonies of USS Kansas City in San Diego on 20 June.

Public Relations: No report.

Hospital & Welfare: Reports received that S/Ms Levon TAYLOR and Noel WINFIELD recently joined the Staff of the Supreme Commander.

MOTION: To donate $25 each to the NCR Essay Fund in their memory; seconded; passed.

Veterans Service: January BINGO at the Leavenworth VA HCU was cancelled; next BINGO will be 15 February.
The following are recognized by MO-KAN Branch 161 for their continuous years of FRA membership during the month of February:

AYVERSONE, Elphird 16 BAKER, James 32 BROWN, Wayne 37 CHISHKO, Louis 46
COX, Lawrence 28 DIPAOLA, Paul 46 DONNELLY, Wayne 42 ELLIOTT, Garrett 45
FOLEY, James 35 FOX, Arthur 34 GAGE, Donald 43 HAMM, Clifford 40
HUDNELL, James 31 HUNTER, Charles 19 HUTCHINSON, Floyd 28 JACOBS, Arrol 42
KELLEY, Douglas 31 LICKTEIG, Bernard 20 MORRIS, Richard 21 NAPPIER, James 41
PHELPS, Robert 23 PRIDEMORE, Larry 16 ROE, Marsden 40 SCHLEGEL, David 30
SUMPTER, Scott 02 THOMASSON, James 37 WILSON, Glenn 20

Your continued membership is what helps the FRA impact the thinking on Capitol Hill.
We could not do it without you!

Communications:
S/M Secretary read all communications; no action.

Treasurer’s Report:
The Treasurer gave his report and identified bills to be paid; checking account balance was $2,906.51.

MOTION: To pay bills; seconded; passed.

Unfinished Business:
The 2020 North Central Regional Mid-Year will take place at the Holiday Inn Airport South in Bloomington, MN, 16-17-18 April. Call 952-884-8211 for reservations.
The 2020 NCR Convention will be held 2-3-4 August at the Inn at Grand Glaize, Lake Ozark, MO. Call 573-348-4731 for reservations. Be sure to mention the Fleet Reserve Association convention.

New Business:
A committee of three visited a hotel in Hannibal, MO for suitability of holding the 2021 NCR Convention. We'll have a decision in April.

Good-of-the-Order:
None

STATUS REPORT

MEMBERSHIP:

Members 30 days past due:

Members 60 days past due:

Members 90 days past due:

Transfer out:

Reminders:

REMINDER: Dues renewals sometime come with extraneous information from NHQ and are easily overlooked; also, reports from National run a month late.

New members:

Transfer out:

None

Membership now stands at 317.

UNIT NEWS

Ernestene Combs

We enjoyed having RPNC Peggy Watkins attend our February meeting. To the ones who could not attend, you were missed.

We hope everyone enjoyed a happy holiday season.

NOTICE: There have been problems with the new software for membership and it should be resolved soon. In the meantime, please check your membership card and make sure it is up-to-date; we don't want to inadvertently drop you from the roster. If you have any questions please get in touch with one of the Unit officers listed on page one. The new address for sending dues payment is:

LAFRA National Financial Secretary
106 Hynre Drive
Goose Creek, SC 29445-7331

To those who are ill, get well soon. Those of you who have lost loved ones, our prayers and sympathies are with you. Congratulations to all of you on your birthday or anniversary.

Past Due 30 Days:

RVPNC D.J. Hopkins
Patty Mahaffy
Alline D. Shaw

Past Due 60 Days:

None

Past Due 90 Days:

None

Dropped for non-payment:

Brenda L. Bryant

Transfers-out:

None

If your dues have been paid please disregard.

New Members/Transfers-in:

None

To be renewed:

Beverly J. Dempsey
Marie Fulmer
Edna Lampkin
Lorna M. Schneider
The VA Asks for Delay of New Presumptive Conditions Related to Agent Orange Exposure . . .

The Department of Veterans Affairs recently sent a report to the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees explaining their concerns with the scientific evidence behind the link between bladder cancer, hypothyroidism, parkinsonism, hypertension and exposure to Agent Orange herbicide. The VA claims that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine did not identify any "definitive causal links" between Agent Orange and the diseases. The VA is now awaiting the results of its own study. The National Academy of Medicine has already established an association between Agent Orange exposure and these four diseases. The FRA is supporting the Fair Care for Vietnam Veterans Act (H.R.5610), which would increase the presumptive conditions linked to exposure of the Agent Orange herbicide to include parkinsonism, bladder cancer, hypertension and hyperthyroidism. FRA Members are strongly urged to use the FRA Action Center to weigh in on this important legislation.

The Bosn's Pipe

President Trump, with several other associations, requesting that he intervene and add these ailments to the list of Agent Orange presumptive conditions for disability benefits immediately.

House Passes PAWS Act . . .

The House unanimously passed the Puppies Assisting Wounded Service Members (PAWS) for Veterans Therapy Act (H.R.4305). It is intended to assist veterans struggling with PTSD and other mental health challenges through service dog training therapy. Committee testimony on the measure, noted that mental wellness does not have a one-size-fits-all solution, which is why the VA must provide innovative and out-of-the-box treatments to help veterans combat these invisible illnesses. Companionship and unconditional love offered by man's best friend can have powerful healing effects on men and women from all walks of life, including our men and women in uniform. The went to the Senate for further consideration.

Deputy VA Secretary Dismissed . . .

Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert Wilkie terminated his next in command Deputy Secretary James Byrne, due to loss of confidence. Byrne was confirmed by the Senate 11 Sept. 2019. Prior to his assignment as Deputy Director, Byrne served as acting deputy secretary and general counsel for the VA. Before coming to the VA, he served in the Office of the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction. Byrne was a Marine Corps infantry officer.

—— COMING EVENTS ——

Sat. 22 Feb. 2020: 1100 Quarterly Membership Luncheon at DAV.


FRA Membership Application

Membership is open to all current or former enlisted members of the Navy, Marine Corps or Coast Guard. My signature below certifies that I fulfill the eligibility requirements and want to join the FRA. Annual dues include a subscription to FRA Today magazine.

RECRUITED BY: (Optional Information)

Name: ________________________________
Member No: ____________ Branch No: ______

Name: ____________________________________________ Rate/Rank: ______ Birth Date: ______

Address: __________________________________________ ___________________________________________________ __________
Street    Apt/Lot    City   State Zip

Dates of Service: from____________ to ____________ SSN (optional): ______________________ Phone: (       ) ___________

Service: [ ] USN; [ ] USMC; [ ] USCG; Status: [ ] Active; [ ] Reserve; [ ] Retired; [ ] Veteran Membership Pref: Branch No. 161

Previous FRA Member: [ ] No [ ] Yes If yes; previous Member No. ____________________________

Applicant’s Signature: ____________________________ Your E-mail Address: ______________________

Dues: 1 yr $40[ ]; 2 yrs $64[ ] (new members); 2 yrs $75[ ]; 5 yrs $180[ ] Check enclosed[ ]

Pmt Options: [ ] Visa; [ ] MC; [ ] AE; [ ] Discover; Cr. Card No. ____________________________ Exp Date: ______

Mail to: Address on Newsletter or; 125 N. West St.; Alexandria, VA 22314 Make check payable to: FRA

SPECIAL OFFER for NEW MEMBERS $64 for two years

JOIN THE AUXILIARY FRA; Membership Application (Dues $20)

Name in Full ____________________________________________
First    Middle    Last

Address: __________________________________________ __________________________________________
Street    Apt/Lot    City   State Zip

Date of Birth: __________________ Phone: (       ) ____________________________ Unit Preference: ______

I am the: spouse [ ]; widow(er) [ ]; parent [ ]; grandparent [ ]; sibling [ ]; child [ ]; grandchild [ ] (all include “step”)
Of ____________________________________________
Service Member’s Name Rate/Rank USN - USMC - USCG

Applicant’s Signature: ____________________________ Date: ____________________________

Proposed By: ____________________________ Member No: ________ Date: ______

VERIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY
The above named Service Member is a member of [ ] or, at time of death, was eligible to be a member of [ ] Fleet Reserve Association Branch number ________ Verified by: ____________________________ Date ______

Unit Secretary