

Scuttlebutt
February,
2022

Branch/Unit 269
Goose Creek
South Carolina



Branch President's Corner

Good day Shipmates,

Well January has not been a disappointment weather wise. And prayers of an early spring are bountiful. We have seen some small improvements of the home, starting with the banquet room where a group of volunteers came in and replaced numerous stained and broken ceiling tiles. Also, Shipmate Glenn Little went a step further and replaced all the A/C filters throughout the building. If this gets out early enough, we will be holding a field day at the home beginning at 0900 on Saturday January 29. We sure could use some help. It is also convention time, and I will be attending the essay grading session for the Southeast Region next month. The essays we heard at our last meeting were some of the bests I have helped grade in my tenure as Branch President. Those students did an excellent job and have a firm grasp of what the Founders intended for our great nation. Well done to all who helped to make this a success. We need more participation at the home. Every year it becomes a little more challenging to pay the bills and your participation will make that task easier. Drop by and have a lunch or hey, better idea, join us for our monthly meeting and have dinner. Sounds like a good plan. Stay safe and healthy,

In Loyalty, Protection and Service,

President Harry Nettles

LAFRA UNIT 269

UNIT OFFICERS

President – PRPSE Gail Bolz Treasurer – PRPSE Gale Nathan

Secretary – Marilyn Tharp Vice President – Anne Barton

Jr. Past President – Linda Cox

UNIT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Annie Bain Trish Chilton Benita Kinlaw
Kathy Sorenson NP Pat Suckow
Theresa Milligan RVPSE Lee Nettles

Fleet Reserve Association, Low Country Branch 269

National website: <http://www.fra.org>

<http://facebook.com/groups/frabbranch269>

Southeast region: frasoutheastregion.org

BRANCH OFFICERS

President – Harry Nettles Vice-President - Ken Hutchinson
Treasurer - PNP Don Muecheck Secretary - John Tharp
Jr. Past President – Nate Nathan

BRANCH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRPSE Laurie Bailey Tim Bailey Don Barton
Cindy Bryan Skip Chilton Robert Gay
Ron Lamon Glenn Little Larry Pepper
Bobbie Sutton Ken Wallace

Chaplain - Bobbi Sutton Legislative Affairs – PRPSE Fred Bolz

Parliamentarian – PNP Don Muecheck Historian - Mike Sparks
By-Laws – PNP Don Muecheck Youth Activities – Donald Barton
Master-at-Arms-Glenn Little Ways and Means – Larry Pepper
PRelations – John Tharp Essay Contest – PRPSE Laurie Bailey
Membership – Cindy Bryan Amer/Pat – PRPSE Laurie Bailey
WEB Master – PRPSE Laurie Bailey

LOW COUNTRY HOME, INC.

99 Wisteria Road - (843) 569-2692

Home Chairman – Nate Nathan

Admin Secretary-Bobbi Sutton Financial Sec- Donald Barton
Director – PRPSE Gail Bolz Director –Cindy Bryan
Director - Linda Cox Director –RVPSE Lee Nettles
Director – John Tharp Director – Skip Chilton
Director – Marilyn Tharp Director – Tommy Wilbanks

Home Manager – PNP Don Muecheck and Larry Pepper

Hours of Operation

Mon-Thur 1000-2200 Fri 1000-2400
Sat 1000- 2400 Sun 1000 – 2000

LAFRA UNIT 269

Appointees & Committee Chairs

Chaplain – Theresa Milligan Amer/Pat – Benita Kinlaw
Sergeant-at-Arms VAVS – Theresa Milligan
Kathy Sorenson Anne Barton
Welfare/Rehab –Annie Bain Ship's Store -RVPSE Lee Nettles
Benita Kinlaw
Publicity – Anne Barton Hospital – Theresa Milligan
Parliamentarian— Linda Cox Membership – Anne Barton
Youth Activities—Anne Barton Unit Activities— All Members
PRPSE Gail Bolz

Madam President Tidbits

Hi Auxiliary Members,

The Holidays are over, and I hope everyone had a great Christmas and a great start on the New Year. May we all have a good year and enjoy good health. My thanks to everyone that contributed to our "Toys for Tots" program, your efforts once again made this a successful program. We also want to thank our Friday night fleet members and guests for helping with our unit in purchasing 50\ 50 tickets. If you missed our unit meeting, here are some highlights. We draped the charter for Mae Williams who passed away on December 08, 2021. National President Pat Suckow is under the weather. Get Well soon, we missed you at the unit meeting. The unit has several items to sell in our ship store. Come down to the Fleet and look in our cabinet, our newest item is the Cookbook, which has recipes from our members.

We are planning a yard sale for May 14, 2022. You can donate \$10 for a table of your own and donate 2 of your items to the auxiliary, and we will have a reminder and more information in our monthly meetings to come. We are having Bunco on February 27, 2022, at the Fleet. Our next meeting will be on February 15th at 6:00pm and our unit luncheon will be at the Olive Garden, 11:30am same day. Come join us, we would love to see you.

Yours in Loyalty, Protection and Service,
PRPSE Gail Bolz

WEEKLY DRAWING AT THE HOME

Names drawn lately: 1-4 – David Dux, not signed;
1/11 – Frank Hixenbaugh, not signed; 1/18 Kersey Jones, not signed; 1/25 – Larry Pepper, signed.

BRANCH MEMBERSHIP REPORT

New or Reinstated Members – 2
Transferred into Low Country Branch 269 – 0
Transferred from Branch 269 – 0
Ready to renew – 14
Members past due – 11
Suspended members - 7
Transferred to the Staff of the Supreme Commander – 5

Member and retention: **Ken Wallace/ Advisor Jr. Past**

RPSE Laurie Bailey

Active. 856

New Join Morgan Gallapis and Craig Vanderbilt

Ready to renew: Matthew Aguilera, Arthur Di Filippo, David Dukes, Michelle Dukes, Carlos Echeverry, Randy Haas, Benjamin Harman, Jon McCain, Phillip Obie, Randall Rush, Franklin Seitz, Robert Shurling,

Past Due: Bill Ansel, James Bishop, Dennis Doerr, Matthew Gilbert, Melvin Harper, Robert Hockman, Kevin Holland, Nicholas Kopanski, Theresa Mullis, Matthew Ratiff, Kim Smith, George Thiebaud, James Walker, Amy Wood

Suspended: Sulu Marshall, Ryan Rennert

Unit Membership and Retention

To be Renewed by Feb 28: Lisa Berezny, Michael Berezny, Bill Bradshaw, Joseph Holman, Sierra Hood, David Hughey, Troy Pringle, Deborah Rullmann, Kit Sparger, Nancy Vella, Tine Marie Willis.

Jan 31: Enreicka Alston, Diane Carroll, Maria Gulick, Robert Kirkley, Nichole Nettles, Colleen Pelloni, Steven Pelloni, Troy Pelloni, Douglas Richards, Walter Spiller, George "Skip" Wach, Susan Westbury.

December 31: Sandra Peeples, Connie Singletary.

Past Due: Tammy Robinson, Robert Samples, Kyla Singletary, Maureen Williams, Toby Hunter, Wanda Brown, Nichole Echeverry, Mary Horton, Rita Johnson, Rhonda McNally, Ann Sabo.

Suspended: Karl Farber, Denise Smith.

BRANCH & UNIT CHAPLAINS' PEW

**Deepest sympathy is extended to the families of: YNCS
Richard Brownwell, HMCS Clearance Brown, BMC
Clifton Carr, BMC Randolph Turner, EWCS George
Williams, TCMC Warren Kratz and ENC William Bevis**

Anyone knowing of any illness or death among our Shipmates or
Unit members please contact:

**Branch Chaplain Bobbi Sutton @ 843-879-9473 or
Unit Chaplain Thesera Milligan @ 843-535-2757**

BRANCH TREASURER'S REPORT

Operations	\$ 12,626.51
Savings	\$ 4,648.84
Certificate of Deposit	\$10,961.18
Total	\$28,236.53

FRA HOME TREASURER'S REPORT

Checking Account	\$ 6,400.95
Credit Card account	\$ 1,396.89
Building Fund	\$ 6,439.78
Total	\$25,853.37

Branch Continuous Membership -- February, 2022

Kenneth Adam	57 yrs	Allen Katen	25 yrs	Robert Henry	14 yrs	Robert Mixon	4 yrs
Douglas Perkins	45 yrs	Richard Brown	24 yrs	Arthur Robinson	14 yrs	Jerry Stout	4 yrs
David Adams	44 yrs	William Hall	23 yrs	Jennifer Beilstein	13 yrs	Patrick Murphy	3 yrs
Paul March	44 yrs	Merle Melling	23 yrs	Lleqellyn Brennen	13 yrs	Jqson Reifsnyder	3 yrs
Norris Nathan	44 yrs	Lawrence Case	22 yrs	Wallace Williams	13 yrs	Lyle Smith	3 yrs
Thomas Britton	43 yrs	James Moseley	22 yrs	Bruce Whipple	12 yrs	Steven Thompson	3 yrs
Francis Evans	43 yrs	Eugene Morris	21 yrs	John Hills	11 yrs	Bettysue Wintgens	3 yrs
Charles Campbell	42 yrs	William Roup	21 yrs	Marion Hall	10 yrs	Robert Laird	2 yrs
Lewis Miller	42 yrs	Ginger Bevis	19 yrs	Ron Morgan	10 yrs	Janet Mizer-Brunner	2 yrs
Keith Suiter Sr	42 yrs	Brian Brooks	19 yrs	George Fulmer	9 yrs	Larry Mole	2 yrs
Donald Peterson	41 yrs	Elmer Mullins	19 yrs	Charles Baylor	8 yrs	Mitchell Nappier	2 yrs
Larry Fowler	40 yrs	Richard Jones	17 yrs	Michael Scott	8 yrs	Dennis Rash	2 yrs
Marvin Meistrell	40 yrs	Fred Busch	16 yrs	John Byrd	7 yrs	Robert Simmang	2 yrs
George Scharf	40 yrs	Sammy Jackson	16 yrs	Gordon Sarver	7 yrs	Matthew Douty	1 yr
Albert Stoll	40 yrs	Tom Lufkin	16 yrs	John Bullock	6 yrs	Anthony DyeEnreicka Alston	
Ernest Chesoulis	39 yrs	Robert Bear	15 yrs	James Schaefer	6 yrs	Cory Grimm	1 yr
John Glass	37 yrs	Johnny Brown	15 yrs	George White	6 yrs	Daniel Huckaby	1 yr
Walter Deal	30 yrs	Robert Hudspeth	15 yrs	Mark Johnson	4 yrs	Ronald Laqua	1 yr
Thomas Woodall	30 yrs	Robert Stodola	15 yrs	Daniel Mckierman	4 yrs	Harley Perry	1 yr
Loye Bryant	29 yrs	Vedonna Sutton	15 yrs	Verne Merrill	4 yrs	Thomas Shepard	1 yr
Kent Davis	26 yrs	James Wilcutt	15 yrs				

Unit 269 Continuous Membership – February, 2022

Dorothy Grooms	40 yrs	Teri Korinek	10 yrs	Enreicka Alston	2 yrs	Allan Patton	1 yr
Dianne Carroll	15 yrs	Joseph VonBrincken	10 yrs	Arilla Cotton	2 yrs	Colleen Pelloni	1 yr
Esther Ellisore	15 yrs	Tricia Hughes	5 yrs	Francis Perrillo	2 yrs	Steven Pelloni	1 yr
George Wach	12 yrs	Vicky Blihar	7 yrs	Robert Kirkley	2 yrs	Troy Pelloni	1 yr
Karen Kopczynski	11 yrs	Margaret Benjamin	6 yrs	Colleen McCain	1 yr	Douglas Richards	1 yr
Maria Luisa Gulick	11 yrs	Susan Westbury	5 yrs	Lee Nettles	1 yr	Walter Spiller	1 yr
Mary Korinek	10 yr						

One of our members has found a real nice cruise book for the USS America 1976 in Florida from an estate sale.

He would like to find out if anyone would like this book.

He would send it to anyone that wants it. Please contact me at tharpj@sc.rr.com or 843-709-85210 if you are interested.



Welcome Aboard two new members that were initiated into Branch 239

Center Craig Vanderbilt and Stephen Taylor. If you see them around the Fleet welcome them aboard.

YOUR BIRTHDAY IS IN FEBRUARY - 2022

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

Sierra Hood	02/01	Alvin Cales	02/07	Carson Burgess	02/15	Kim Smith	02/22
Margire Rothrauff	02/01	Charlie Calas	02/07	William Korbisch	02/15	Jaqueline Brooks	02/23
Jerry Stout	02/01	William Maloon	02/07	Jerome White Jr	02/15	Donna Cassavaw	02/23
Barbara Berger	02/02	William Patton	02/07	Dwight Bain	02/16	Benjamin Larvie	02/23
Mark Johnson	02/02	Kathy Sorenson	02/07	Peter Cosgrove	02/16	Franklin Shoenberger	02/23
Kelly Rusboldt	02/02	Santos Riduca	02/08	Bonita Martin	02/16	Libby Adams	02/24
George Thiebaud	02/02	James Spence	02/08	Robert Newton	02/16	David Johnston	02/24
Douglas Jordan	02/03	Mary Korinek	02/09	Jean Jones	02/17	Don Clark	02/25
James Kennedy Sr.	02/03	Allyson McDermott	02/09	Robert McNeish	02/17	Carl Miller	02/25
Joe Lunn	02/03	Steven Gearhart	02/10	Franklin Osburn	02/17	Perry Riley	02/25
Randall Rush	02/03	Deborah Breeze	02/11	Melvin Harper	02/18	James Baker	02/26
Betty Harris	02/04	Charles Campbell	02/11	Ronald Lamon	02/18	Julia Detwiler	02/26
Richard Nolan	02/04	Roy Massey Sr.	02/11	Stephen Nogle	02/18	Ronald Conner	02/27
Melissa Curtis	02/05	William Riley	02/11	Kenneth White	02/18	David Cox	02/27
Richard Day	02/05	Richard Troy	02/11	Gale Nathan	02/19	Carter Crosson	02/27
Michael Delich	02/05	John Cardno	02/12	Carroll Watson	02/19	Carol Eustace	02/27
Barry Gordon	02/05	Patrick Murphy	02/12	Helen Breen	02/20	Joseph Glavan	02/27
Faye Graham	02/05	Francis Jones	02/13	James Longo	02/20	Heather Ivey	02/27
Charles Harris	02/05	Joseph Patrick	02/13	Ralph Brown Jr	02/21	Cecil Rash	02/27
Mitchell McCain Jr	02/05	Daniel Ryan	02/13	George Fulmer	02/21	Robert Reilly Sr	02/28
Benjamin Bollard	02/06	James Sherrow	02/13	Terrell Heath	02/21	Franklin Seita	02/28
James Siroky	02/06	Julian Lemley	02/14	Richard Koehler	02/22	Olin Thomas	02/29
Timothy Bailey	02/07	George Roberts	02/14	Edward Potts	02/22	Mervin Wiands	02/29
Alexander Bodo	02/07	Darryl Watson	02/14	Brian Sims	02/22	Daniel March	02/29

This page is the winners of the National Essay contest!

The following five pages are all of the 1st place winners.

These will be forwarded to the Southeast Region which will be graded in Crossville, TN at the Mid Year in February

Interesting reading of what students write about this year in:

FRA BRANCH 269 AMERICANISM/PARIOTISM ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

1ST PLACE

7 TH Grade	Therese Ludlam	Charleston Catholic School
8 th grade	Phillip Kravchuk	Thomas C. Cario Middle School
9 th grade	Micah Dusenberry	Christian High School
10 th grade	Mercy Fletcher	Goose Creek High School
11 th grade	Jessie Mae Chubb	Hanahan High School
12 th grade	Bernard H. Brown	St. John's High School

2ND PLACE

7 th grade	Benjamin Avenot	Thomas C. Cario Middle School
8 th grade	Anuoluwa Oladimeji	Northwoods Academy School
9 th grade	Alana Braxton	Ashley Ridge High School
11 th grade	Marjan Nathani	Hanahan High School
12 th grade	Alexa Carnahan	SC Connections Academy School

3rd PLACE

8 th grade	Talan Hugger	Thomas C. Cario Middle School
9 th grade	Henry J. Domingo, III	Fort Dorchester High School
11 th grade	Ryleigh Conville	Hanahan High School
12 th grade	Andrea Fletcher	Goose Creek High School

Overall winner Jessie Mae Chubb Hanahan High School School

**Why I Am Proud To Be An American
By Therese Ludlam
Grade 7, Charleston Catholic School
Charleston, SC**

I am proud to be an American. Being an American sounds like hope. It makes you feel extraordinary. As an American, I have many freedoms. The Bill Of Rights gives me freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of the press, and more. Some countries do not have these freedoms. Another reason I am proud to be an American is because of our diversity here. Our country is, in my opinion, the most diverse place in the world. Many religions and races can be found in America. In America, we have so much great history to be thankful for and to learn about. I have life. I have liberty. I have the pursuit of happiness. In America, I am given life because of the men who fought for me. Without them, I probably wouldn't be alive today. Liberty. Again, the men who fought for this country gave their all to give us liberty, They did not stand down and they never gave up. The pursuit of happiness. Today, I am free to do what I need to be happy. Another reason I am proud to be an American is women's rights. In the past, women couldn't vote. They couldn't do many things. Girls couldn't go to school. In some countries, they still can't. As an American, I am allowed all of the women's rights. Without the great heroes in the past, I wouldn't have had that chance. Whenever I think of the word "America", I just think of the word "free". What is it to be free? To be free is to do what you want to do. It's to have the right to be a human being. Imagine you lived in a country where, for example, you could only have two kids. One boy, one girl. Imagine if you lived in a country where women couldn't vote or have any rights. What are you? You aren't free. But in America, the men who died and fought for us gave us that chance to be free, They gave me the chance to be a proud American.

**Why I Am Proud To Be An American
By Phillip Kravhuk
Grad 8, Thomas C Cario Middle School
Mt. Pleasant**

I am proud to be an American because it means that I am not restricted to certain values or standards. I am proud to be an American because I have fun freedom over myself, my religion, and my future. I am proud to be an American because I am free to choose what I do in my day and how my life will go. I am proud to be an American because I can sleep, knowing that I am in a country that may not be perfect, but one that aims to support its people. I am proud to be an American because I live in a country that strives every day to better the lives of their citizens and all who depend on them. I am proud to be an American because of the rich history of acceptance, unity and liberty this country has. I am proud to be an American because of its diverse history and ancestry. I am proud to be an American because I know that we aren't perfect, but we strive to keep peace, liberty and freedom in this country. For these reasons, I am proud to be American.

Why I Am Proud To Be An American
By
Micah Dusenberry
Grade 9, Christian High School
Lake St. Louis, MO

In Katharine Lee Bates' ever so famous song, *America the Beautiful*, words of courage boom into the ears of countless Americans as they hear the iconic lyrics, "America, America, God shed His grace on thee." These lyrics help remind us that God has blessed this country and we should be proud of it and of the forefathers that made our country so unique and special. I'm proud to be an American because of the veterans who risked it all for this country, the religious history and freedom of the USA and the opportunities we have as Americans.

The first reason I'm proud to be an American is because of the veterans, living and deceased, who served the country with bravery. These veterans give me the courage to do anything! I'm fortunate to grow up in a household where I get to talk to veterans about their service. Hearing the stories that they tell is thrilling! I believe we should be proud of these veterans, because they were brave for this country.

Another reason I'm proud to be an American is for the religious background and freedom our country has had and has today. Historically, one of the primary reasons that the USA was formed was to give people religious freedom and to practice Christianity. As a Christian, I believe that it is important to be proud of this country simply because of the religious freedom it has for its people.

Third, I am proud to be an American because of the opportunities it provides. The USA is, and has been, a very welcoming country to immigrants. Part of the reason the USA is so appealing to so many immigrants is because they have a chance to get a new start in a new land. America also provides opportunities for education and work, including other Americans such as homeless and poor people getting what they need.

In conclusion, I'm proud to be an American because of our veterans, because of our religious freedom, and because of the opportunities it provides to so many people.

**Why I am proud to be American
By Mercy Fletcher
Grade 10, Goose Creek High School
Goose Creek, SC**

Just like any other country, America has a long history, filled with good and bad moments. This all started in 1492 when Christopher Columbus first sailed to America, and American civilizations started to appear. Continuing in the centuries following, America saw an Independence War, Civil War, and participated in two global wars. Each and every action taken by America was done to provide citizens with freedom. Not every effort was successful, and some even became mistakes. Yet, the veterans and soldiers before us, risked their lives for the good of America. America is the prime example of learning from mistakes to provide a better tomorrow, for this reason, I am proud to be an American.

Starting with that first voyage taken by Christopher Columbus, we can see this pattern. Columbus wanted to find a faster passage to India, and he ended up in America. Columbus was blind to the fact that he had discovered America. He went around calling the Native Americans, "Indians" becoming America's first mistake. Later in history, we see the controversy faced during the time of the Vietnam War. This war plagued many Americans, citizens argued over whether we should send our troops to Vietnam. Protests both peaceful and not, broke out. During this time, there were moments to be ashamed of such as Kent State. Yet, it has been said many times that our greatest mistakes become our greatest lessons.

America has faced its own issues and can easily be personified as a human. Just like any of us, we have to make mistakes to become better. America is our voice, through democracy we make the decisions. We have to own up to the mistakes that we as a country made. Being proud is taking responsibility for mistakes. America will continue to make mistakes, but each day we will grow. One day, we will achieve the utopian society, sought after. This will be achieved by accepting our past, our history. I am proud to be an American, because we have the ability to change history, to create a better future for more generations.

Why I am proud to be American
By Jessie Mae Chubb
1st place Grade 11, Hanahan
Overall Winner

Why am I proud to be an American? It's a question that I've never really considered, That's one of the honors of being an American; we don't have to question our rights. Millions of people aren't guaranteed these basic rights and basic safeties that we Americans take for granted every day. We have protected freedom of speech, freedom of press, the right to a fair trial by jury and not once do most of us question if they'll be taken away. We don't have to. That's one of the reasons why I'm proud to be an American. We safeguard our liberties for every citizen, upholding the ideals that our country was founded on.

This isn't to say that America is a perfect country. There is no good without bad and, as such, there is no perfectly good country. Our ideals hold contradictions, there's prejudice in places that preach freedom; it's to be expected as we are all flawed human beings. However, one of the most important details of our country is the power that everyday people can use to enact change. We can affect the world around us. We can improve conditions, lives, things large and small. We can strive for a better tomorrow and make strides towards it instead of endlessly hoping for change. Americans have a unique chance for change, something that few other countries can claim. This power to reform our country is another reason that makes me proud to be an American.

These two ideas together form into something powerful. Americans have the freedom to speak their mind, to criticise what they believe could be better without worry of persecution from higher powers, then make steps towards achieving that perfect ideal. One without the other means little; but together? Together they can change a person's life, change a country, change the world. Together, people can enact huge changes in America and, in the end, that's what makes me truly proud to be an American.

Why I am proud to be American
By Bernard H. Brown
Grade 12, St. John's High School
North Charleston, SC

Since its birth in 1776, the United States has always been a powerhouse and well respected among the world's biggest nations. America was built on the backs of brave and hard working men and women that assembled the foundation for future generations and I'm thankful to call this country home. I am proud to be an American because of these three reasons: freedom, opportunity, and diversity.

When people, both foreign and from the U.S., think of America, the first thing that comes to mind is freedom. In America, citizens don't have to think twice before voicing their concerns to their local representative or practicing their religion without being arrested. I know that in several other countries around the world however, this is not the case. Thanks to the powerful military of the United States, we won't have to worry about losing our freedom any time soon.

Another reason I am so proud to be an American is because of how successful we are as a country. With that success brings economic opportunities that aren't available to other nations. No matter what field you look at, there is an opportunity always arising for it. That is why so many people and businesses are moving to America.

When you combine freedom and opportunity, you get diversity. When multiplying that diversity by the sheer size of the United States, it is no reason why America is nicknamed the Melting Pot. I am so thankful and humble to be an American because even though i did not come from the most financially fortunate family, I know that millions of people that aren't from America would do anything to be in my shoes.

America is a well known winner. Just by looking back in the history books, the United States has always been among the best, if not the best. This is why I am proud to be American. We are so great because we are not perfect. Though America has lost some battles, no matter what happens, our flag was, and will always be, still there.



Ohio-class guided-missile submarine USS Georgia (SSGN 729), operating in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of operations, conducts a brief stop for personnel near Limassol, Cyprus, Jan. 15, 2022

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Navy must dedicate forces to pushing back against Russian activity throughout the European theater in the coming weeks, two lawmakers said, even as the world’s focus is on Ukraine’s land borders with Russia and Belarus.

Sen. Richard Blumenthal and Rep. Joe Courtney agreed that a strong show of force from the Navy — particularly in the undersea domain, where Russia has focused its modernization efforts — could help deter Russia from its overall effort to assert itself in the region or to stop a small conflict from growing into something larger.

The two Connecticut Democrats spoke Jan. 24 at a virtual event hosted by submarine builder General Dynamics Electric Boat.

Russian President Vladimir Putin “will test us in every single place that he can. He’s doing it right now in Ukraine: he wants to restore the hegemony over countries that formerly were part of the Soviet Union; bring back Ukraine into Mother Russia; conduct a hybrid war of military actions, cyber-attack and misinformation. And part of his overall strategy is to bolster undersea warfare and thereby push the United States, try to divide allies, and create instability,” Blumenthal said in response to a question regarding how naval forces could help get Putin to back down in Ukraine.

“Undersea warfare — because we’re talking about the Mediterranean, about the Black Sea as potential areas of tension and conflict — is very much in play even though it isn’t directly involved in the confrontation in the Eastern Ukraine area or Crimea or in the northern borders of Ukraine, which represent perhaps the greatest immediate threat in Belarus, where Putin is amassing forces right now,” he added.

The senator said he agreed with President Joe Biden’s statement that U.S. troops should not be sent into Ukraine to fight, but he said strengthening and bolstering NATO capabilities in the region would be important, as well as finding other ways to show strength “around the world in other areas where we go head-to-head with the Russians.”

He added that the U.S. should also focus on economic sanctions against Russia, including export controls on semiconductors and other technologies Russia needs to keep its economy going; disconnecting Russia from the international financial system; supplying more arms to Ukraine so the country can defend itself; and getting NATO allies, especially Germany, united in their efforts to respond to Russia.

Though the world’s focus has been on Ukraine’s border with Russia to the east and Belarus to the north, Russia announced last week that it would hold a series of large naval drills in all its geographically dispersed fleets, upping the ante in its standoff against the West.

“The drills are intended to practice navy and air force action to protect Russian national interests in the world’s oceans and to counter military threats to the Russian Federation,” the defense ministry said, adding that they will start this month and run through February in the Mediterranean, North Atlantic and Pacific.

Just the day before that announcement, the U.S. Navy announced its guided-missile submarine Georgia was in Cyprus for a port call — an unusual move, announcing the location of this large submarine loaded to the gills with conventional missiles, that in recent history has only been done to send a message to Russia or North Korea.



The Navy is making chaplains a permanent part of destroyer crews

In a nod to the mental health needs of guided-missile destroyer crews, the Navy is starting to make [chaplains](#) a permanent part of the warship's force.

The effort began last month in the always-busy Japan-based U.S. 7th Fleet.

There, Destroyer Squadron 15 assigned one of the uniformed religious leaders for each of the squadron's eight destroyers, making them a permanent part of the ship's company.

Before that, chaplains were farmed out to destroyers during workups and deployments as visiting "ship riders," according to Naval Surface Forces.

"The mental health of our Sailors is a top priority for the Surface Force," command spokesman Jarred Reid-Dixon said in an email. "We identified the need to assign chaplains aboard destroyers to help build Sailor resiliency across the Fleet."

Chaplains have also been billeted to the destroyers Fitzgerald and Spruance in San Diego, and a plan known as the "DDG 51 Initiative" aims to embark chaplains on all destroyers by 2025, Reid-Dixon said.

Military chaplains span denominations and work to look after the spiritual and moral well-being of troops and their families, conducting religious services and providing counseling.

"We care for everybody," Lt. Timothy Delaughter, a chaplain for the Japan-based Combined Task Force 71, said in a Navy release announcing the new initiative. "A chaplain can provide confidentiality through conversations, counseling and support." Chaplains are already part of the guided-missile cruiser and aircraft carrier fleet.

Responding to a request to place chaplains on destroyers, the Chaplain Corps came up with strategies to increase the command's budget and recruit chaplains who would be specifically billeted to destroyers, said Capt. Daniel Mode, 7th Fleet's chaplain, in the release.

"Keeping Sailors healthy and resilient is a critical leadership priority," he said.

U.S. 7th Fleet appears to be a good place to start.



Happy Valentines Day!!!!

Take care of your loved one on Valentines Day



Operation Homecoming – 591 POWs were released from POW camps in Vietnam

On January 27, 1973, [Henry Kissinger](#) (then assistant to the President Richard Nixon for national security affairs) agreed to a ceasefire with representatives of North Vietnam that provided for the withdrawal of American military forces from [South Vietnam](#). The agreement also postulated for the release of nearly 600 American prisoners of war (POWs) held by North Vietnam and its allies within 60 days of the withdrawal of U.S. troops.¹



**Women Marines
celebrate their 79th Birthday on
February 13, 1943**



**February 19 the United States Coast
Guard Reserves will celebrate their
birthday.**







Established in 1941



Raising the Flag on Iwo Jima is an iconic photograph of six [United States Marines](#) raising the U.S. flag atop [Mount Suribachi](#) during the [Battle of Iwo Jima](#) in the final stages of the [Pacific War](#). The photograph, taken by [Joe Rosenthal](#) of the [Associated Press](#) on February 23, 1945, was first published in Sunday newspapers two days later and reprinted in thousands of publications. It was the only photograph to win the [Pulitzer Prize for Photography](#) in the same year as its publication, and was later used for the construction of the [Marine Corps War Memorial](#) in 1954, which was dedicated to honor all Marines who died in service since 1775. The memorial, sculpted by [Felix de Weldon](#), is located in [Arlington Ridge Park](#),¹² near the Ord-Weitzel Gate to [Arlington National Cemetery](#) and the [Netherlands Carillon](#). The photograph has come to be regarded in the United States as one of the most significant and recognizable images of [World War II](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendar, watch for details, watch for additions
 Friday nights – 1930 hrs – Scotch Doubles, 8-ball Tournament
 Saturday nights – 2000 hrs – In House 8 ball Tournament

February, 2022						
Black History Month						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Sons of the Confederacy 1830	2 LCCC meeting 1900	3 Sub Vets eBoard Meeting		
6 Free Pool	7 VVA Mtg 1800 	8	9	10 SubVet Mtg 	11	12 DAV 1000
13 Free Pool	14 Happy Valentines Day Home Committee 1800	15 Unit 269 Meeting 1800	16 Purple Hearts	17 Branch Mtg 	18	19
20 Free Pool	21	22 Sojourners Meeting 1900	23	24 MCL Mtg 	25	26
27 Free Pool	28					

Low Country Scuttlebutt
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Branch 269, Fleet Reserve Association
99 Wisteria Road
Goose Creek, SC 293445-3472

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Shipmates AND auxiliary members, if you WISH or MUST have the monthly newsletter by "pony express" you MUST request it.
The Branch has voted to cut printing and mailing expenses. If you don't own a computer, you obviously cannot see the newsletter online. To receive it via "pony express", you MUST submit IN WRITING your request to have it mailed.
Put your name on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board at The Home or mail your request to the Branch Secretary. tharpj@sc.rr.com

NEWSLETTERS ARE SENT EVERY MONTH

WE'VE GONE GREEN!!!