

**Scuttlebutt**  
**January, 2023**

**Branch/Unit 269**  
**Goose Creek**  
**South Carolina**



Fleet Reserve Association, Low Country Branch  
National website:  
<http://facebook.com/groups/frabranh269>  
Southeast region: [fraseastregion.org](http://fraseastregion.org)

**Branch President's Corner**

Shipmates

We have enjoyed a very busy and rewarding December,

We participated in the Pearl Harbor remembrance day ceremony,

We raised around \$3500 and purchased 391 toys for the annual Toys for Tots program

,A successful children's Christmas party with 15 children

On December 17 members attended the Wreaths across America

We had a well attended Branch Christmas party

With Christmas just a few days away and New Years just around the corner, I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy ,healthy and prosperous New Year.

Most important please take a moment to remember our active duty Sailors, Coast Guard and Marines deployed around the globe keeping us safe and protecting our way of life,

Yours in Loyalty ,Protection and Service

Ken Hutchison

**BRANCH OFFICERS**

President – Kenneth Hutchison Vice-President - Donald Barton  
Treasurer - PNP Don Muecheck Secretary - John Tharp  
Jr. Past President – Harry Nettles

**BRANCH BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

NC Laurie Bailey	Tim Bailey	Cindy Bryan
Skip Chilton	Ron Lamon	Tom Lawson
Glenn Little	Larry Pepper	Bobbi 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 – NC Laurie Bailey  
Membership – Cindy Bryan Amer/Pat –NC Laurie Bailey  
WEB Master –NC Laurie Bailey

**LOW COUNTRY HOME, INC.**

99 Wisteria Road - (843) 569-2692

Home Chairman – Skip Chilton

Admin Secretary-Bobbi Sutton	Financial Sec- Cindy Bryan
Director – Ken Ealy	Director –NC Laurie Bailey
Director - Linda Cox	Director – Tim Bailey
Director – John Tharp	Director – Trish Chilton
Director – Marilyn Tharp	Director – Ken Wallace

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**

**UNIT OFFICERS**

President – Anne Barton Treasurer – PRPSE Gale Nathan

Secretary – Marilyn Tharp Vice President – Trish Chilton

Jr. Past President – Linda Cox

**UNIT BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Theresa Milligan	Sandra Houle
Kathy Sorenson	PNP Pat Suckow
Alvin Cales	Judy Dziedzicki
Alvin Cales	Linda Cox
Ann Griffith	Presilla Wilbanks

**LAFRA UNIT 269**

**Appointees & Committee Chairs**

Chaplain – Theresa Milligan	Amer/Pat – Ann Griffith
Sergeant-at-Arms	VAVS – Theresa Milligan
Kathy Sorenson	Anne Barton
Welfare/Rehab – PNP Pat Suckow	Ship's Store -Trish Chilton
PRPSE Gale Nathan,	Presilla Wilbanks
Publicity – Anne Barton	Hospital – Theresa Milligan
Parliamentarian— Linda Cox	Membership – Trish Chilton
Youth Activities—Anne Barton	Unit Activities -- All Members

## Madam President Tidbits

Greetings to all my LA FRA family. I wish you all a happy and safe Christmas!

The Unit purchased a wreath to toss during the ceremony commemorating the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Thanks to all for your contributions to Toys for Tots. 231 toys were purchased for a total of \$3,128.66 spent. Overall, we have filled over 1900 bags at the toy factory.

During this month, we participated at the Wreaths Across America ceremony. And also we assisted with a very successful Children's Christmas Party.

Fifteen of us met at the Barony House in Moncks Corner to celebrate the holidays during lunch. A fun time for all!!!

Thank you for your kindnesses. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Anne Barton

Unit 269 President

Yours in Loyalty, Protection and Service,  
Anne Barton

## WEEKLY DRAWING AT THE HOME

Names drawn lately: 11/29 – Milton Willoughby, not signed; 12/6 – Harold Trosper, not signed; 12/13 – John Lookabill, not signed; 12/20 – James Hutton, not signed.

You 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 hours, on the day of the drawing. The drawing is held every Tuesday night at 2030 hours.

## BRANCH MEMBERSHIP REPORT

New or Reinstated Members – 5  
Transferred into Low Country Branch 269 – 2  
Transferred from Branch 269 – 0  
Ready to renew – 19  
Members past due – 8  
Suspended members - 6  
Transferred to the Staff of the Supreme Commander – 3

Membership/Retention: Ken Wallace

Total members: 807

**New Join/Reinstated:** Charles Mewshaw, Ray Phillips Jr

**Ready to Renew:** David Button, Peter Cosgrove, John Flynn, James Fricks, Charles Harris, Thomas Irvine, Heather Ivey, Gerald Jackson Jr., Stephen Jeffrey, Gavin Karelitz, Michael Markiewich, Danny Mills, Daniel Montgomery, Charles Pyatt, Richard Sparger, Rita Stiegelmeier, Stephen Taylor, William Teague, Todd Walker,

**Past Due:** Jason Cole, Eric Collins, Jerry Huffines, John Johnson Jr., William Patton, George Thiebaud, Mark Tracy, Peter Wizes

**Suspended:** Christian Beilstein, Benjamin Bollard, Darry Greene, Rick Gueringer Sr., Rosemary Mansfield, Kenneth White

## Unit Membership and Retention

**To be Renewed by Jan 31:** Cheryl Antley, Vicky Blihar, Laurie Douty, Esther Ellisor, Maria Luisa Gulick, Tricia Hughes, Robert Kirkley, Karen Kopczynski, Mary Korinek, Teri Korinek, Colleen McCain, Nicole Nettles, Walter Spiller III, Joseph VonBrincken, Susan Westbury.

**Dec 31:** Donna Cassavaw, Sandra Peebles, Michael Perillo, Carol Traynor.

**Nov 30:** Judy Dziedzicki, Barbara Kenney, James Miller, Amanda Reid, Robert Reynolds, Robert Samples, Maureen Williams.

**Past Due:** James Caraviello, Melanie Caraviello, Julia Detwiler, Patricia Pruitt. Jeff Barnes, Tina Bohannon, Jean Jones, Rosalie Lawrence, Jody Oliver, Kendra Sumner. Arthur Lee, Patty Russell.

**Suspended:** (None)

**BRANCH & UNIT CHAPLAIN'S PEW**

Prayers for the family of David "Scotty" Adams,  
Gordon Smith, Jimmy Kimbrell and James Boylin  
Shipmates or Unit members please contact  
Ken Ealy Breathing, David Wood – By-pass

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

**BRANCH TREASURER'S REPORT**

Operations \$ 14,266.58  
Savings \$ 6,422.66  
Certificate of Deposit \$ 11,010.70  
Total \$28,295.68

**FRA HOME TREASURERS REPORT**

Checking Account \$ 14,266.58  
Credit Card Account \$ 7,445.58  
Building Fund \$ 6,420.32  
Total \$ 34,657.82

**Branch 269 Continuous Membership –January, 2023**

Theodore Martin (53)	Thomas Gray (30)	Robert Block (16)	Charles Harris (6)
Thomas Wunder (51)	Danny Mills (28)	Mark Fiorey (16)	Rick Collins (5)
Cecil Rash (50)	John Flynn (25)	Robert Isaman (16)	Dennis Green (5)
Donald Siron (50)	Bruce Brown (24)	Ronald Redondo (16)	Kevin Patton (5)
Thomas Irvine (49)	Olin Thomas (24)	Jack Bullis (15)	Gordon Hobgood (4)
Oscar Edrada (47)	Duane Henriksen (23)	James Farley Jr (15)	Stephen Jeffery (4)
William Tague (44)	Paul Reece (23)	Frederick Woodley (15)	Rita Stiegelmeier (4)
Nestor Derecho Jr. (42)	Richard Sparger (23)	Raymond Cotton (14)	Todd Walker (4)
Don Heywood (41)	Larry Starland (23)	Heather Ivey (14)	Clint Ferrell (3)
Don Clark (40)	Joe Travis (23)	J. D. Porter (14)	William Nieschalk (3)
Robert Newton (40)	Charles Pyatt (22)	William Galloway (13)	Milton Willoughby (3)
Robert Rose (39)	Ronnie Vandiver (22)	Tommy Hellems (13)	Lawrence Willoughby (3)
Ronald Walston (39)	Marion Clark (20)	Ronald Houde (12)	Thomas Brown (1)
Wayne Swieh (38)	Robert Reilly Sr. (20)	Gary Williams (12)	Stephen Taylor (1)
David Cornelius (37)	Steven Koch (19)	Thomas Blizard (11)	
Daniel Montgomery (37)	Michael Markyvech (19)	Felix Cabanting (9)	
James Fricks (33)	Grady Langley (18)	Bruce Seltzer (8)	
David Button (30)	William Riley (17)	John Shaak (8)	

**Unit 269 Continuous Membership –January, 2023**

Neta Fewox (55)	Dorothy Nephew (30)	Carol Traynor (11)	Alvin Cales (1)
Beulah Wenzel (44)	Michael Perillo (11)	Sandra Peeples (3)	Donna Cassavaw (1)



Branch & Unit tossing wreaths at the Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

Left: Branch President Ken Hutchinson and NC Laurie Bailey toss a wreath for Branch 269

Unit member Marilyn Tharp tosses a wreath for Unit 269



***YOUR BIRTHDAY IS IN JANUARY- 2023***

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**

Peter Andruchowsky (1)	Cory Grimm (8)	Jason Tatge (14)	Susan Westbury (23)
Robert Bryant (1)	Judith Highberger (8)	Charles Day (16)	Gordon Hobgood (24)
Lori Ryan (1)	Steven Koch (8)	Robert Samples (16)	Robert Kirkley (24)
Kith Timmons (1)	James Lewis (8)	Ronald Walstron (16)	Harvey Belcher (25)
Donald Garrand (2)	Donald Rickert (8)	Harry Kirk (18)	David Mayeres J. (25)
Ann Griffith (2)	Barbara Aler (9)	Clarence Peifer (18)	Kirk Owen (25)
Rosemary Clark (3)	Paul McFall (9)	Perry Friend (19)	Lawrence Coates (26)
Karen Kopcynski (3)	Wade Reid (9)	Norman Jones (19)	Ronald Hacker (26)
Robert Moore (3)	Thomas Beach (10)	Darrell Mckeown (19)	Daniel Lehman (26)
Vicky Blihar (4)	Francis Bohannan (10)	Alan Chambers (20)	Terrence Mummert (26)
Richard Duprey (4)	Lorraine Carver (10)	Mark Howell (21)	George White (26)
Chris Ludwig (5)	Gary Gardner (11)	Arthur Robinson (21)	Tommy Wilbanks (27)
Billy Fowler (5)	Jacqueline Paxton (11)	Martha Pyatt (22)	Robert Henry (28)
Chris Ludwig (5)	Bobby Beck (12)	Thomas Scott (22)	David Farley (29)
Roy Brosseau (8)	Clyde Edington (13)	Kelley Hall (23)	Leo Kelley Sr. (29)
David Graminski (8)	Michael Struve (14)	Edward Stank (23)	



Operation [Desert Storm](#) was the **first major foreign crisis for the United States** after the end of the Cold War. On Aug. 2, 1990, [Saddam Hussein](#) led a well-equipped Iraqi army into Kuwait, a major supplier of oil to the United States.



75 YEARS OF GIVING TOYS.

Branch and Unit members pose with the 391 toys that were bought with the donations from members, Branch and Unit and the donation of toys from members.



From the Home Committee Chairman – Skip Chilton

### Home Committee Meeting News December 2022

Cash Audit conducted with following reported: Checkbook Balance \$17,329.37, Credit Card Account \$11,861.02 Savings Account balance \$6,423.18. \$340.00 in pending deposits. Total cash on hand \$46,513.57.

Financial Audit We have not received the financial statement for November from the accountant, no report.

There was a life screening at the Home on the 13<sup>th</sup>. The manager said we have Christmas parties scheduled for every weekend in December. We had a very good weekend; all parties that were scheduled went well. We have received our property taxes \$4,724.00, due in January. S/m Pepper said as soon as he can get a locksmith to open the old ATM he will put it up for sale.

We are continuing to have a Brick sale. They will be placed on the wall of the foyer. This is a great way to show someone your appreciation for their service. It is \$100/brick and will also help the Home.

PRPSE Fred Bolz submitted in writing a proposed change to the home By-Laws to change Section 901 to include the following sentence:

“The changes as amended shall be promulgated in the Branch Newsletter prior to the next regularly scheduled Branch meeting.”

The Home Committee reviewed and voted to recommend approval to the BOD.

A unit member has made a donation to the Home of \$4,000 to help with the Bills. Also a generous donation from a member was made for the Children’s Christmas Party. It is much appreciated. There is a scheduled purging of the pill barrel on the 7<sup>th</sup> of January and a field day on the 14<sup>th</sup> of January. Both at 1000. Everyone is welcome. Pass the word.

One reminder: If you bring in a non-member to the Home insure you sign them into the guest log.

Use your Home. Make next year better.

Skip Chilton

Home Committee Chairman



The United Nations General Assembly designated January 27 – the anniversary of the liberation of [Auschwitz-Birkenau](#) – as [International Holocaust Remembrance Day](#).

**The following is from FRA National**

**This information from National explains the emails or phone calls you will receive in the near future. This is to notify everyone of the centennial book and our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.**

There are many scams going around this time of year. As a reminder FRA will never ask you or shipmate to purchase gift cards of any kind and definitely not amazon gift cards. FRA is involved in outreach to our member by USPS and email. We are asking for our shipmate assistance in updating their membership information. We did the same thing about 4 years ago. In that time, many Shipmates have changed address, phone numbers, and or email address. In order to have the best possible contact information we are working with Publishing Concepts to update our membership contact information as well as produce a book to commemorate our upcoming centennial.

You and your fellow shipmates may get an email National Executive Director Christopher Slawinski

The email will From: **Christopher J. Slawinski, Fleet Reserve Association**

<[noreply@publishingconcepts.com](mailto:noreply@publishingconcepts.com)>

Subject: Verification for Fleet Reserve Association Members

Please note that the above email is legitimate. Your contact information will not be shared with anyone other than the Fleet Reserve Association. FRA is working with Publishing Concepts to produce a book in 2024, they are collecting stories from shipmates and giving those who participate the option to purchase the centennial book and centennial FRA branded shirts, hat and memorabilia. The intent is to help raise awareness about FRA's Centennial, renew former members and provide an opportunity for shipmate to share their personal stories about their time in the Sea Services and the Fleet Reserve Association.

**Please help spread the word that this is a legitimate member update outreach.**






In early 1968, the North Vietnamese military commander [General Vo Nguyen Giap](#) chose January 31 as the occasion for a coordinated offensive of surprise attacks aimed at breaking the stalemate in Vietnam. Giap, in coordination with North Vietnamese President [Ho Chi Minh](#), believed that the attacks would cause Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) forces to collapse and foment discontent and rebellion among the South Vietnamese population.

Furthermore, Giap believed the alliance between South Vietnam and the United States was unstable—he hoped the offensive would drive the final wedge between them and convince American leaders to give up their defense of South Vietnam.

Mark your calendar, watch for details, watch for additions

Friday nights – 1930 hrs – Scotch Doubles, 8-ball Tournament

<b>January, 2023</b>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <b>New Years</b>	2 <b>VVA 1700</b> 	3 Sons of the Confederacy 1830	4	5 <b>SubVet Eboard meeting</b>	6	7
8 Free Pool	9	10	11	12 SubVet Mtg 	13	14 <b>DAV 1000</b>
15 Free Pool	16 Martin Luther King Day  Home Committee 1800	17 Unit Lunxh 11:30  Unit Meeting 1800	18 <b>Purple Heart Meeting 1900</b>	19 Branch mtg 	20	21
22 Free Pool	23	24	25	26 MCL Meeting 	27	28 <b>USCGC Blackthorn (WLB-391) Sinking (1980)</b>
29 Free Pool	30	31  Sojourners Meeting 1900				

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

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit  
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Permit no. 417  
Charleston, SC

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!!!**