

Scuttlebutt

August, 2024

Branch/Unit 269

**Goose Creek
South Carolina**



National website: [Fleet Reserve association.org](http://fleetreserveassociation.org)

<http://facebook.com/groups/frabrandandunit269>

Southeast region: frasoutheastregion.org

Branch 269 website: fra269gc.org

Branch President's Corner

Shipmates

Shipmates

We were privileged to have Phyllis Hughes of the Dorchester Heritage Center speak to the branch, The Dorchester Heritage Center will host "The Wall that Heals" the Vietnam's War Veterans Memorial, Oct 17-24 at the Dorchester Heritage Center in Ridgeville.

Congratulations to Shipmates John Lookabill 50 years and Ray McKinley 10 years on their continuous membership award pins.

As you all know We will host the 2024 Southeast region convention Sep 24-27 this will require a lot of work on the 1st Tuesday of the month we have a meeting of the committee, I would encourage all hands to attend to see if you might be able to assist .

Yours in Loyalty, Protection and service

Ken Hutchison, President, Branch 269

BRANCH OFFICERS

President – Kenneth Hutchison Vice-President - Donald Barton
Treasurer - PNP Don Mucheck Secretary - Cindy Bryan
Jr. Past President – Harry Nettles

BRANCH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PNC Laurie Bailey Tim Bailey Skip Chilton
Steven Koch Ronald Lamon Tom Lawson
Glenn Little William Maloon Rob Melton
Bobbi Sutton Larry Pepper Ken Wallace

Chaplain – Bobbi Sutton
Legislative Affairs – PRPSE Fred Bolz
Parliamentarian – PNP Don Mucheck Historian-Mike Sparks
By-Laws PRPSE Fred Bolz Youth Activites-Donald Barton
Master-at-Arms-Glenn Little Ways and Means-Larry Pepper
PRelations/Newsletter- John Tharp
Webmaster PNC Laurie Bailey
Newsletter - John Tharp Essay Contest PNC Laurie Bailey
Membership – Ken Wallace

LOW COUNTRY HOME, LLC

99 Wisteria Road- (843) 569-2692
Home Chairman – Ken Wallace
Admin Secretary-Bobbi Sutton Financial Sec-Steven Koch
Director – Sue Peters Director-PNC Laurie Bailey
Director -Dee Wallace Director – Gail Bolz
Director -John Tharp Director -Rob Melton
Director – Skip Chilton Director – Tim Bailey

LAFRA UNIT 269

UNIT OFFICERS

President – Trish Chilton Vice President – Marilyn Tharp
Secretary Yvonne Wallace Treasurer- PRPSE Gale Nathan
Jr Past President – PRPSE Gail Bolz

Board of Directors

PRPSE Gail Bolz Kathy Sorenson
PNP/NFS Pat Suckow Theresa Milligan
Linda Cox Ann Griffith
Sue Peters Anne Barton

LAFRA UNIT 269

Appointees & Committee Chairs

Chaplain – Theresa Milligan Amer/Pat – Anne Barton
Sergeant-at-Arms VAVS – Theresa Milligan
Kathy Sorenson
Welfare/Rehab Parliamentarian-PRPSE Gail Bolz
Publicity- Debra Breeze Ship's Store --Trish Chilton
Hospital – Theresa Milligan
Membership Marilyn Tharp Unit Activities -- All Members
Youth Activities—Anne Barton

Madam President Tidbits

Hello Auxiliary Members:

Hello Auxiliary Members:

Our July meeting was our first since elections and all committee chairperson's have been assigned and have assumed their duties.

I am looking forward to working with all of you. This year I would like to work on retention, membership and attendance at our meetings and functions.

BUNKO will be on August the 18th at 12:30.

The unit will be participating at the snack table at the VA Clinic on Rivers Ave – August the 20th, 8:00 to 1300. As usual, the unit will be helping at our golf tournament September the 7th. October 4th the unit will have a CAKE auction at the fleet at 1800.

The Vietnam Wall (The wall that Heals) will be at Dorchester Heritage Center (964 Highway 78) Ridgeville on October 17 – 20th.

Trish Chilton

Unit President

Yours in Loyalty, Protection and Service

WEEKLY DRAWING AT THE HOME

Names drawn lately: 6/18 – Charles Walker, not signed.
6/25 – Jaqueline Paxton, not signed; 7/2 – Benjamin Kluth, not signed; 7/16 – Lawrence Case.

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 – 7
Transferred into Low Country Branch 269 – 2
Transferred from Branch 269 – 0
Ready to renew –
Past Due - 14
Suspended members - 8
Transferred to the Staff of the Supreme Commander - 0
Total members: 778

Membership/Retention: Ken Wallace

Total Members: 787

New Join: Earl Ham, Valerie Kohr, David Harvey, Lionel Mackey, Arthur Robinson, Arthur Sattler, Stephen Woodside

Ready to renew: John Cardno, Jordan Carver, Joshua Chandler, Albert Godwin, William Haney, Daniel Jamison Jr., Charles Lewis, Y. L. Little, Mitchell Nappier, Casey Preece, Henry Pridgen II, Michael Quigley, Richmond Smith, James Spence. Craig Wold,, Jerry Jerry Young

Past Due: Darrell Boggs, Robert Clark, Terry Corley, Harold Crawford Jr., Carter Crosson, Fredrick Daughtery, Charles Hughes Jr., Stephen Kovacs Jr., Timothy Kuehhas, Derrick Mihanovich, John Pontieri, Robert Ramsey, Santos Riduca, Michael Schilevert, Michael Sparks, Mark Tracy

Suspended: Mike Ciesielko, William Mcardle, Kenneth Murphy, Michael Patterson, Rocky Puffer, Sheri Ragan, Cubit Robinson, Larry Tarzwell, Melvin Wright

Unit Membership and Retention:

Past Due 30 Days: Scott Huber, Isla Janney, Mona Lozen

60 days late: None

90 days late: Marjorie Gottsch

Prayers for the family of: PNP Bob Beese, SHCM Dennis Cox, SHCM Wade Reed, EMCS(SS) Thomas Lindberg

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

BRANCH TREASURER'S REPORT

Operations	\$ 5,321.20
Savings	\$ 4,677.24
Certificate of Deposit	\$ 11,561.71
Total	\$ 21,560.15

Branch Continuous Membership – August, 2024

Edward O'Connor (52)	James Houchin (25)	Bill Sellers (14)	RONNIE JONES (4)
Robert Bailey (50)	David Kiger (25)	Richard Troy (14)	BOB SEGAL (4)
Charles Szad (50)	Stuart Erlandson (23)	David Farley (10)	JOHN ADAM (3)
Edward Fisher (47)	Dana Johnson (23)	John Nichols (10)	BOB BROWNING (3)
Carrol Watson (47)	Larry Larkins (23)	Mark Erwin (9)	SCOTT COOK (1)
David McCann (46)	Carl Miller (18)	Owen Bower (8)	KEVIN DEISE (1)
Robert Kirtley (44)	Linwood Murrow (18)	Ray Bryant (8)	PACIFICO DELA FUENTE (1)
Robert Bryant (39)	Chad Parsons (17)	Helen Breen (7)	GLENN KALGH (1)
Brendan Goff (36)	Robert Zauner (16)	Charles Ethridge (6)	GORDON LONG (1)
Jay Rowland II (36)	Charlie Hudson (14)	Harry Nettles (6)	JERI LARSON (1)
Howard Anderson (26)		PETER ANDRUCHOWSKY (4)	ORLANDO MANINGDING (1)

Unit 269 Continuous Membership, August, 2024

Barbara Timmons (44)	Jacqueline Verheyen (10)	Jessica Murphey (5)	GRIFFITH (3)
Martha Wilcutt (38)	Loretta Dailey (9)	Margie Rothrauff (5)	SHIRLEY TROSPER (2)
Cacey Anderon (25)	Linda Vinson (8)	Gina Horne (4)	JACKOB BECKER (1)
Libby Adams (24)	Ann Tolentino (8)	Lori Ryan (4)	SARAH SCOTT (1)
Tonia Miller (14)	Mildred Kosclanski (6)	Deborah Breeze (3)	
Benita Kinlaw (10)			

From the newsletter editor: John Tharp (843-709-8520)

Email: tharpj@sc.rr.com

REMEMBER THAT WE DO HAVE A WEBSITE: FRA269GC.ORG

CONTACT ME IF YOU NEED A PRINTED COPY. SEPTEMBER WILL BE THE LAST PRINTED NEWSLETTER SENT BY SNAIL MAIL DUE TO THE HIGH COST OF STAMPS.

If you have any remarks or suggestions for the newsletters please let me know.

YOUR BIRTHDAY

If you are a Branch 269 or Unit 269 member, come on in to the Low Country

William Adams (1)	Dale Brannen (9)	Jody Sutton (14)	Roberta Sutton (22)
Michael Hadbavny (1)	Loye Bryant (9)	Johnny Brown (16)	Lawrence Denapoli (23)
Bonnie Laseter (2)	Lonnie Donahue (9)	Ann O'Brien (16)	Lynnette Jordan (23)
Parke Manauel (2)	Dustin Darnell (10)	Harold Starn (16)	Lori Marshall (23)
Larry Born (3)	Michael Cline (10)	Robert Wise (17)	Daniel Speight (23)
Charles Hughes Jr. (3)	James Highberger (10)	David Thomas (17)	John Keile (25)
Stephen Jeffery (3)	Ronald Hoadley Jr. (10)	Bruce Bailey (18)	Roberta Kiley (25)
Jerry Young (3)	Bobby Barbee (11)	Danielle Carroll (18)	James Harrison (26)
Solomon Eagles (4)	Neta Fewox (11)	Gerald Fraser (19)	Charlie Hudson (27)
Seven Edmund Sr. (4)	Fredrick Daughtery (13)	Merle Knapp (20)	Lee Lepretre (27)
Norma Jean Houck (4)	Darrell Boggs (12)	Jay Rowland II (20)	Brandon Pruett (28)
Thomas Krieger (4)	Robin Corkill (12)	Bill Sellers (20)	William Ragan (28)
Timothy Kuehhas (4)	Terrie Ehlich (12)	William Besco (21)	Thomas Clark (29)
William Hunt (6)	Todd Walker (12)	Marion Clark (21)	William Freligh (30)
Fred Sprague (6)	William Mullins (13)	James Delaney (21)	Harold Trosper Sr. (30)
James Vinson (7)	Sheila Shea (13)	Alan Dempster (21)	Pacifico Dela Fuente (31)
Yvonne Aguilera (8)	Joan Wilson (13)	William Roberts (21)	Robert Ramsey (31)
Bruce Garrabrant (8)	Debra Bortell (14)	Fredrick Bolz (22)	Grady Scott (31)
Carol Mustain (8)	Charles Pyatt (14)	David Lyle III (22)	Tine Marine Willis (31)



On August 14, the nation celebrates Navajo Code Talkers Day, a commemorative holiday established in 1982 to recognize the vital contributions of Navajo Code Talkers during World War II.



Aug. 7 is Purple Heart Day. On that day in 1782, George Washington established the Badge for Military Merit – forerunner of the Purple Heart. The award we know today was created in 1932, the bicentennial of Washington's birth.



Home Committee Input

Home Committee Input

Cash Audit as of 15 July 2024 as follows: Savings account \$26,438.11; Checkbook balance \$12,311.64; Credit Card account \$18,721.40; there is \$0.0 in pending deposits. Total cash on-hand \$68,972.15.

Financial Audit for the month of June 2024 as follows: Savings account \$26,439.11; Check account balance \$13,385.54; Credit Card account \$8,110.14. There was a Net Profit for June of \$7,757.71.

Building and Grounds/Special Events Manager's report:

Next Golf tournament will be 7 September 2024 followed by meal and awards at the Branch Home. Maximum number of teams will be 23.

The indoor picnic at the Home on Thursday, 04 July 2024 was well attended.

The banquet room will be closed for painting July 27th thru August 3rd. The foyer will be painted July 29th; please use the side entrance facing the motel for access to the Bar area during the painting of the foyer. Larry Pepper has a team of volunteers to remove/install wall hanging items in the banquet room.

S/M Tim and Laurie Bailey are finalizing purchase and installing a chair rail in the banquet room. We will request funds NTE \$500.00 at the Branch Meeting to purchase the Materials.

S/M Pepper reported that our "Goose" will be received in August. There will be trading cards with a picture of the Goose on the front and some useful FRA 269 information on the back side for trading.

Membership and Security:

We are adjusting to new people selected last month and making sure all tasks are getting done.

New Business: John Tharp is contacting local Coast Guard folks to set up Annual Birthday celebration 2 August at 1800.

Good of the Order: Our next Home Committee meeting will be at 1300 on 12 August 2024.

One final reminder, if you bring a Non-Member to Home, please remember to sign them into the Guest Log.

Ken Wallace, Home Committee Chairman

The 1st quarter of 2024 the Branch has four new Life Members.

Congratulations to Julian Czeiszperger, John Nichols, Crystal Koch and Lionel MacVey!!!

These members have received their Life Member Certificates from National.



Unit 269 President Trish Chilton (center) awarded Marilyn Tharp (right) and Theresa Milliagan (Left) with their 15 year continuous membership pins.

John Lookabill (right) was presented his 50 year continuous membership certificate and pin.

(Left) Raymond McKinley III was presented with his 10 year continuous membership pin.



(Left) Dean Nimocks (Tin Car Sailors) and Don Pace (Second from Left) (American Legion Post #166 – Americanism Chair) Presented Certificate of Appreciations from their perspective organizations for the performing a two bell ceremony for two Navy Shipmates that were transferred to the Staff of the Supreme Comander.

(Center) President Ken Hutchison, (Far right- Bobbi Sutton) (Branch Chaplain) and (Second from Left) Glenn Little (Branch Sergeant At Arms)



Happy 234th Birthday US Coast Guard!!

Cake Cutting on Friday, August 2 at 1800



We will have a cake cutting with all of the active duty and coast guard retirees.



Mark your calendar, watch for
 details, watch for additions

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

August, 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Subvet Eboard	2 Coast Guard Cake Cutting Ceremony 1800	3
4 Free Pool	5	6	7	8 Subvet Mtg 	9	10
11 Free Pool	12 Home Committee 1300	13 Unit Meeting 1800	14 LCCC 1900 VJ Day – Japan Surrenders (1945)	15 Branch Mtg 	16	17
18 Free Pool	19 VVA MTG	20	21	22 MCL Mtg 	23 MOAA 1100	24
25 FREE POOL	26 	27	28	29	30	31

WWI Marines who became the service's first Medal of Honor aviators



2nd Lt. Ralph Talbot (left) and Gunnery Sgt. Robert G.



Illustration depicting the Oct. 14, 1918 battle. (Naval History and Heritage Command)

The aviation and intelligence branch of the U.S. Army Signal Corps was evolving into the Army Air Service, when, on March 10, 1918, the Navy Department ordered four land squadrons to aid the British in bombing operations against German targets.

By early July, Navy and Marine aircrews — trained at French, British and Italian aerodromes — were ready and eager to enter the fray. But there were still no aircraft for them to fly. Considering the equipment shortage, many crew members were loaned out to RAF squadrons to gain combat experience.

Flying the Liberty DH-4 — British-designed de Havilland bombers with American-built Liberty V-12 engines — with the RAF's No. 218 Squadron on Oct. 2, U.S. Marine Capt. [Robert S. Lytle](#) and [Gunnery Sgt. Amil Wiman](#) flew at dangerously low altitudes to deliver food and supplies to endangered troops. The duo also joined in two bombing raids.

The following day, the exhausted crew was spelled by [2nd Lt. Ralph Talbot](#) and [Gunnery Sgt. Robert G. Robinson](#), who flew numerous bombing sorties over the subsequent days.

Born in Weymouth, Massachusetts, on Jan. 6, 1897, Ralph Talbot studied at Yale before taking an interest in aviation. When war broke out he joined the Navy in October 1917, but transferred to a second lieutenant's commission in the Marine Corps Reserve to see more action.

Talbot's bombardier, Robinson, was born in Wayne, Michigan, on April 30, 1894, and had been wounded on the ground before being reassigned to Talbot's back seat.

When nine German fighters attacked the British flight during a raid on Ardoye on Oct. 8, Talbot and Robinson flew alone to aggressively engage the enemy planes and were credited with shooting down one.

On Oct. 14 the Marines finally had the aircraft numbers necessary for C Squadron, First Marine Aviation Force, to launch the Day Wing's first independent operation from France's Le Fresne

Aerodrome, with Capt. Lytle leading eight aircraft against German railways and yards located in the Belgian city of Thielt.

One plane dropped out with engine trouble, but the rest dropped 2,000 pounds of bombs on target. On the way back, the Marines came under attack by 11 German fighters.

Signaling his pilots to tighten up their formation, Lytle and Wiman fought off the leading German aircraft, then sent the second one spiraling out of control.

Meanwhile, two bombers had fallen behind due to engine trouble and the Germans were singling out one of them — crewed by Talbot and Robinson. A round fired from the German fighter struck Robinson, shattering his left elbow and leaving his arm hanging by a single tendon.

Robinson fought on until a cartridge jammed in his weapon. Seeing his gunner's plight, Talbot turned on his attackers, only to suffer jammed guns as well. Talbot's aggressive move, however, bought Robinson enough time to clear his weapon's jam using just his right hand.

Robinson resumed firing and may have struck one of the enemy planes before being hit again, this time in the stomach and thigh. He then collapsed unconscious on the DH-4's cables.

With great difficulty, Talbot manhandled his plane around to fly headlong at another German aircraft, bluffing the enemy pilot into turning away. Talbot then dived low and crossed the lines at an altitude of just 50 feet.

Not wishing to force-land his riddled bomber with his bombardier suffering from 13 wounds, Talbot flew on to the Hondschoote Aerodrome, which he knew had a field hospital.

There, the surgeon-general of the Belgian army took a personal hand in successfully grafting Robinson's arm back on.

Talbot's aircraft was also patched up in time for him to fly it in the Marines' next raids on Oct. 17 and 18. On Oct. 25, however, Talbot and 2nd Lt. Colgate W. Darden, Jr. were taking the plane up for an engine test when they failed to clear a bomb embankment trench at the end of the field.

The plane flipped over, throwing Darden clear with serious injuries, but trapping Talbot in the cockpit as it crashed into a pile of bombs and exploded in flames, killing him. Talbot was 21 years old.

On Nov. 11, 1920, Talbot and Robinson were both awarded the Medal of Honor for their actions on Oct. 14, 1918, making them the first two Marine aviators to receive the award.

Robinson eventually recovered from his wounds and lived until the age of 80. He died at his home in St. Ignace, Michigan, on Oct. 5, 1974.

One-third of US military could be robotic by 2039:

The 20th chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff believes growing artificial intelligence and unmanned technology could lead to robotic military forces in the future.

“Ten to fifteen years from now, my guess is a third, maybe 25% to a third of the U.S. military will be robotic,” said retired Army Gen. Mark Milley at an Axios event Thursday launching the publication’s Future of Defense newsletter.

He noted these robots could be commanded and controlled by AI systems.

Advancements in technology and changes in the nature of war will enable militaries worldwide to make smarter and faster decisions, Milley said.

He was careful to clarify the difference between the nature and character of war. The former, he said, involves human activity and acts of politics.

“One side is trying to impose its political will on the other by the use of organized violence,” said Milley.

He noted this aspect of war rarely changes.

The character of war, however, involves tactics, technologies, weapons systems and leader training. Milley said that while these dynamics often change, the world is currently experiencing the biggest fundamental shift in human history with the rise of AI and robotics.

He cited the transition from the Civil War musket to the rifle as a prime example of a transformation that forever altered the landscape of armed conflict.

The country that implements these technologies the quickest for military use will gain the most decisive advantages over its adversaries, Milley said.

For America to maintain its supremacy as the world’s most lethal military, Milley believes it must not only adapt quickly but also in ways that might cause seismic shifts in operations.

Milley said current U.S. policy stipulates a human must always be involved and in charge when it comes to military robots and their use of lethal munitions. He explained the current thinking is that humans possess an ethical framework for decision-making that should be prioritized above all else.

Technology doesn’t have morality, he said.

Barracks not up to snuff? Use this new Marine Corps QR code



Marine Corps Gunnery Sgt. Rigoberto Saucedo with 8th Communications Battalion, II Marine Expeditionary Force Information Group, II MEF, inspects a barracks room during a service-wide inspection on Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, in February.

The Marine Corps has released a new system that will allow Marines to make barracks maintenance requests through a QR code on their phone.

The [QSRMax system](#) is part of a larger initiative within the Marine Corps to improve Marines' quality of life during service, dubbed "[Barracks 2030](#)," with the goal of improving barracks, making management more accessible and modernizing barracks buildings.

The new system will allow Marines to submit their requests to USMCMMax through a QR code on their phone. QSRMax then sends the maintenance request directly to the barracks and building managers on the base.

"This restructuring increases transparency and accountability while enhancing communication between Marines and maintenance personnel," the announcement said.

Maintenance requests can now be tracked through this system, allowing Marine Corps leaders to see recurring problems in the barracks.

A 2023 Government Accountability Office [report](#) revealed the poor living conditions of the barracks that hundreds of thousands of service members reside in. The GAO found safety and health concerns like sewage overflow, broken windows, inoperable fire systems and vermin.

There is a lack of [accountability](#) in the Department of Defense for these conditions that negatively impact quality of life, morale and readiness, the report and past Military Times reporting found.

"The introduction of QSRMax marks a new chapter in facilities maintenance within the Marine Corps, characterized by efficiency, transparency, and responsiveness," the announcement said.

Earlier this year, [lawmakers](#) called for increased accountability for the barracks issues that plague the military, not just the Marine Corps. In a February hearing, members of the House Armed Services Committee's readiness subcommittee questioned Brendan Owens, the assistant secretary of defense for energy, installations and environment.

Rep. Michael Waltz, R-Fla., chairman of the committee's readiness panel, challenged why no leader was relieved or fired over the conditions, citing how it would demonstrate to others how "unacceptable" this issue is.

"I don't think anybody on this committee or any of you are expecting our service members to live in the Taj Mahal," Waltz said in the hearing. "But this is disgusting. This is unsatisfactory."

Owens said in the hearing that the military will implement 28 out of the 31 recommendations from the GAO report to improve barracks' conditions.

Receiving the necessary [funding](#) for improving the Marine Corps barracks remains an obstacle as well.

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Sailors can now wear regular clothes when they eat in shore galleys



The Navy is revamping its clothing policy for sailors at its shore galleys — relaxing the rules and standardizing policy across the service.

Going forward, sailors may wear most civilian clothes to shore galleys if the sailor is in a non-duty status — provided that the clothing is clean and does not contain “offensive language or pictures and aren’t overly revealing,” [according to the Navy](#).

This is a departure from previous policy, which allowed installation commanding officers to set their own dress codes for shore galleys. The service said it found these policies were inconsistent and potentially “overly restrictive,” possibly limiting sailors from using the shore galleys.

“We want to ensure those eating at our galleys enjoy a comfortable dining experience and that starts with their clothing,” Leslie Gould, Director of Fleet & Family Readiness, said in a Navy news release. “We know that our Sailors have busy lives and may be fitting their meals into a hectic schedule. If they’re on their way to the gym or out running errands, we don’t want restrictive clothing policies to discourage them from dining at our galleys.”

Clean gym attire is authorized, and closed-toe shoes as well sandals are both allowed. While board shorts are permitted, bikinis and speedos are not, according to the policy.

Those in military uniform must adhere to the proper uniform guidance.

“Navy schoolhouse students or recruits may be subject to additional dress code requirements without waiver to this policy,” the guidance said. “Students should be afforded the opportunity to dine in relaxed civilian attire, if the curriculum allows.”

There are 80 shore galleys in the Navy.

VA urges lawmakers to approve \$15B to fund budget gap or risk delays, cuts to veterans' benefits and care

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs on Thursday said Congress must move quickly to approve supplemental funding for the agency to close an estimated \$15 billion spending gap through fiscal 2025 to avoid delays and cuts to veterans' benefits and care.

Disability compensation and pension benefit payments to veterans scheduled to be delivered by Oct. 1 are "at risk of being delayed," if the VA does not receive an estimated \$3 billion to address a budget shortfall for the remainder of fiscal 2024, which ends Sept. 30, said Terrence Hayes, the VA press secretary. He also said the VA might be forced to cut veterans services and care in fiscal 2025 if Congress does not agree to increase the agency's \$369 billion spending plan. A \$12 billion budget shortfall is projected next fiscal year without the additional funds.

"If the Veterans Health Administration does not receive additional funding, VA will continue to provide high-quality health care to veterans — but will make adjustments to remain within the current budget for fiscal year 2025," Hayes said.

Demand for VA services exceeded expectations as a record number of veterans now seek VA services and benefits, he said. At the same time, the VA is reporting higher prices for prescription drugs and more hiring costs to fill critical vacancies at VA hospitals and clinics. Democratic lawmakers from the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs committees expressed support Thursday for providing the funds to cover the shortfall, while some Republican members criticized the VA for not anticipating higher spending needs.

"More veterans and their families are accessing their earned benefits than ever before, and they should not be shortchanged. This is a cost of war, and I will continue working to do right by each and every one of them," said Sen. Jon Tester, D.-Mont., who is chairman of the Senate VA Committee. But Rep. Mike Bost, R-Ill., chairman of the House VA Committee, accused VA Secretary Denis McDonough and other VA leaders of misleading lawmakers in testimony at budget hearings in the spring.

"This is not just fiscal mismanagement. It is strategic whiplash," Bost said about the \$15 billion shortfall through 2025. Chief financial officers from the Veterans Benefits Administration and Veterans Health Administration apprised lawmakers this week of the anticipated budget shortfall and their expectations for additional funds, the VA said. Rep. Mark Takano of California, the top Democrat on the House VA Committee, said he is encouraging fellow lawmakers to work with the VA to cover the shortfall and ensure benefits to veterans continue. "Spending conversations for [fiscal 2025] are still very much ongoing, and there is time to address this like adults before the next fiscal year. We will need to have the hard, honest conversation of how we will pay for health care that veterans have earned," he said. But Takano said he continues to be concerned

about rising costs for covering private health care for veterans who seek non-VA medical services in their communities. Veterans are able to get treatment from private health care providers related to injuries and illnesses from military duty if the needed services are not readily available at VA facilities near their homes. Takano warned a cost shift is underway to the private sector that risks reducing the quality of care at VA hospitals and clinics. “I have been sounding the alarm for months about the push for privatization through community care, and how community care is more expensive and has far less oversight than direct VA care,” he said. Hayes said the agency will not continue its recent pace of hiring at VA hospitals and clinics to meet veterans’ demand for more services following passage of the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act, or PACT Act. The law provides medical care and monthly disability compensation to veterans diagnosed with diseases connected to toxic exposures from burn pits, radiation at weapons testing sites, and aerial spraying of Agent Orange and other herbicides. Since the PACT Act became law, more than 710,000 veterans have enrolled in VA health care, Hayes said. Additional funds from Congress will enable the VA to fill vacancies and new positions in critical areas, he said. “VA will continue to strategically hire in several key areas, such as mental health care and at targeted locations — such as locations with ongoing increases in health care enrollees,” Hayes said. The VA does not have a hiring freeze, he said. However, some VA nurses held a rally in Washington last month to protest what they described as a national shortage of nurses at VA hospitals and clinics. “The VA is working closely with Congress and the White House Office of Management and Budget to resolve these potential shortfalls in a way that prevents any adverse impacts on veterans and allows us to continue to deliver care and benefits to veterans at record rates,” Hayes said.



Hiroshima is a city in Japan that was **devastated by an atomic bomb in 1945**¹²³⁴. It was the first city in the world to be struck by an atomic bomb¹. The bombings killed between 129,000 and 226,000 people, most of whom were civilians². Despite the tragic past, Hiroshima has rebuilt and become a symbol of peace, resilience, and hope for a nuclear-free world³



Nagasaki after the bomb and the images to the right are Peace Park which was established during the rebuild of the city.



On August 6 and 9, 1945, the Allies dropped [atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki](#), respectively. On August 9, the [Soviet Union declared war on Japan](#). The Japanese government on August 10 communicated its intention to surrender under the terms of the [Potsdam Declaration](#).

The news of the Japanese offer began early celebrations around the world. Allied soldiers in [London](#) danced in a [conga line](#) on [Regent Street](#). Americans and Frenchmen in [Paris](#) paraded on the [Champs-Élysées](#) singing "[Don't Fence Me In](#)". American soldiers in [occupied Berlin](#) shouted "It's over in the Pacific", and hoped that they would now not be transferred there to fight the Japanese. Germans stated that the Japanese were wise enough to—unlike themselves—give up in a hopeless situation, and were grateful that the atomic bomb was not ready in time to be used against them. [Moscow](#) newspapers briefly reported on the atomic bombings with no commentary of any kind. While "Russians and foreigners alike could hardly talk about anything else", the Soviet government refused to make any statements on the bombs' implication for politics or science.^[4]



Today commemorations of V-J Day are tempered by somber remembrances of the lives lost in the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. However, on August 14, 1945, when news broke of Japan's surrender to Allied forces, spontaneous celebrations broke out around the world.



Vance credits service in Marine Corps for teaching him ‘how to live like an adult’



WASHINGTON — Long before J.D. Vance became the Republican nominee for vice president, he was known as Cpl. James D. Hamel, a combat correspondent in the Marine Corps. Vance, now a senator from Ohio, enlisted after graduating from high school in 2003 and served for four years, including a six-month stint in Iraq beginning in late 2005. The experience “taught me how to live like an adult,” Vance wrote in his memoir, “Hillbilly Elegy.”

It also reportedly makes him the first Marine veteran to be a vice-presidential candidate. “It was the Marine Corps that first gave me an opportunity to truly fail, made me take that opportunity, and then, when I did fail, gave me another chance anyway.” — J.D. Vance Vance, 39, served with the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point in North Carolina, according to his service record. He enlisted, never having run a mile continuously or knowing how to manage money. “When I joined the Marine Corps, I did so in part because I wasn’t ready for adulthood,” Vance wrote in his book. “I didn’t know how to balance a checkbook, much less how to complete the financial aid forms for college.” By the time Vance was discharged, he said he could run three miles in 19 minutes and had learned how to compare banks, shop around for a loan and make wise financial decisions. “It was the Marine Corps that first gave me an opportunity to truly fail, made me take that opportunity, and then, when I did fail, gave me another chance anyway,” Vance wrote. He spent his service working in public affairs, writing about Marines and taking photographs of their work, escorting civilian news reporters and speaking about happenings on base. In Iraq, he embedded with different units to get a sense of their daily routines and wrote a story about a crew keeping KC-130J tankers in the air. He also waded into unprotected Iraqi territory with a civil affairs unit to meet with locals. “I was lucky to escape any real fighting,” Vance wrote of his deployment.

In his last nine months in service, Vance said he unexpectedly became a media relations officer at Cherry Point — a position typically reserved for the most senior Marines. The job involved liaising with news media, considered the “holy grail” of Marine Corps public affairs with the “biggest audience and the highest stakes.” “The experience taught me a valuable lesson: That I could do it. I could work 20-hour days when I had to. I could speak clearly and confidently with TV cameras shoved in my face. I could stand in a room with majors, colonels, and generals and hold my own. I could do a captain’s job even when I feared I couldn’t,” he wrote. He earned several awards in uniform, including a Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal and Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, according to his service record. Vance said he left the Marines in 2007 with a sense of purpose and a catchphrase — “Giving it my all” — that was repeatedly drilled into him by the Marine Corps. He took the mantra to heart the first time he ran three miles, in a “mediocre” 25 minutes. A senior drill instructor greeted Vance at the finish line,

told him, “If you’re not puking, you’re lazy” and ordered him to sprint back and forth. “I was heaving, barely able to catch my breath,” Vance wrote. ““That’s how you should feel at the end of every run!” he yelled. In the Marines, giving it your all was a way of life.”