



Scuttlebutt

Branch/Unit 269 Goose Creek, South Carolina

You can read all newsletters at [269 Branch/Unit 269 Newsletters](#)

Fleet Reserve National: [FRA National Home](https://www.fra.org) [https://www.fra.org]

LA-FRA National: [Ladies Auxiliary of the Fleet Reserve Association](https://la-fra.org) [https://la-fra.org]

Southeast Region: frasoutheastregion.org [https://frasoutheastregion.org]

Branch 269 website: [FRA Low Country Branch & Unit 269](http://www.fra269gc.org) [www.fra269gc.org]

FRA Branch and Unit 269 | Facebook [https://www.facebook.com/groups/FRABRANCH269/]

Branch President's Corner

On July 4th, we had our annual indoor picnic. I am proud to announce that it was a great success. We had nearly 200 people in attendance. I also want to thank the ladies of the Auxiliary for the patriotic decorations. I hope that all our future events are as well attended.

The monthly meeting was held on July 17th. We initiated Don and Faye Wright. We discussed a bylaw addition to reflect the charging of ten dollars (\$10) postage fee for any pin that is requested mailed to member. This will be voted on at the next meeting. Lastly, we will be celebrating the Coast Guard Birthday on Friday August 1st at 1800. Please attend if possible.

Unfortunately, Bobbie Sutton's daughter passed on July 17th. Please remember her in your prayers.

We had our annual picnic on July 19th with the Sub Vets. Over 90 people enjoyed the festivities even if it was very hot.

Don Barton

Yours in Loyalty, Protection and Service

Thoughts from Your Unit President:

I hope that all of you are enjoying the summer months and trying to stay cool. Our first meeting on July 15 was very productive, many concerns were covered.

One being donating to help to ensure that the animals of Berkeley, Dorchester and Charleston County can enjoy simple things that make their stay at the shelter a "little less stressful." Pet food (dog and cats), toys, leashes, cleaning supplies and

laundry detergent. Also used blankets, sheets, and towels.

Also let us begin with a start on helping our schools and children with supplies to help in their daily work. Notebooks, #2 pencils, loose leaf paper, Crayola crayons, pens, lunch boxes, and other items. A box will be set up on the bar side for both donations.

We had an installation of one of our newest board of Directors, Linda Nichols - *Congratulations!*

Each month I will try and help with a little tidbit of back to basics—remember to carry a membership form with you, (you never know when you might meet someone who would like to join).

Whether as individuals or as unit, we often forget to remember who we are. We need to go back and read our C&BLs and ask questions. It is through teamwork that our Unit will hold together. Just a few people cannot do everything.

Our 77th Regional Conventions is coming up on Sept 22-26 in Warner Robins, Georgia. It is a great time to bond with other Auxiliary and Shipmates.

Next auxiliary luncheon will be on Aug 19th, 2025 @ 11:30 O'Charley's in Summerville. All Shipmates and members are invited.

As I close, I want to send my thoughts and prayers to our members and their families who are facing health challenges or mourning the loss of a loved one. To those celebrating birthdays, anniversaries, or any special occasions this month. May the summer months bring you good health, recruitment opportunities, and memorable events.

In Loyalty, Protection and Service
NFS Pat Sukow, PNP



WEEKLY DRAWING AT THE HOME

7/1: Francis Perillo [UNIT] not signed
 7/8: Virginia Stamey [Unit] not signed
 7/15: Louis Leal Jr. [Branch] not signed
 7/22: Peter Andruchowsky [Branch] not signed
 7/29: Albert Schwartz [Branch] not signed

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 on the day of the drawing. The drawing is held every Tuesday night at 2000.

Branch Treasurer's Report**May 28, 2025 – June 27, 2025**

Cash in Bank – Checking	\$ 7,411.92
Cash in Bank – Convention Checking	\$ 20.03
Cash in Bank – Savings	\$ 5,189.71
Cash in Bank – Certificate of Deposit	\$12,115.81
TOTAL	\$24,737.47

BRANCH MEMBERSHIP/RETENTION**Membership and Retention:** Ken Wallace**Total active members:** 733 end of July**New Join/Reinstated [8]:**

- **JUNE:** Herbert Anderson; Michael Greenfield; Daniel Johnson; Stephen Kolbe; Daron Myers; Matthew Shelton; Robert Sallo
- **JULY:** Donald Warren

Past Due [15]:

- Richard Bishop, Donald Blackwelder, Michael Delich, Michael Dellenbach, Richard Glass, David Horton, Stephen Jeffery, Lonnie Kenney, Howard Luper, Robert Richardson, Arthur Robinson, Cecil Skipworth, Michael Sparks, Timothy Thrower, Brad Wonderliing

Ready to Renew [34]:

- John Adams; Mark Archambean; Bobby Barbee; Bobby Beck, F. Owen Bower; Dillon Brown; Robert Bryant; John Cardno; Michael Cline; Kevin Deise; Pacifico Dela Fuente; Mark Erwin; Elmer Feeser; Matthew Frazier; Harold Herrington; Charles Hollowood; Ronnie Jones; Douglas Jordan; Jeri Larson; Lewis Leal Jr.; Gordon Long; Chris Ludwig; Richard Miley; Mitchell Nappier; Michael Quigley; Sheri Ragan; William Ragan; Cubit Robinson; Bob Segal; Brian Sims; Robert Sowards; Thomas Sullivan Jr.' Robert Vehorn, Jerry Young.

Suspended [15]

- **June:** F. Dale Brannen; Nathan Gottsch; Raynond Jackle; Robert Mixon; Ron Morgan; Raymond Pease; Cody Schaefer; Robert

Simman; Samuel Williams, James Bryon Couch; Jerry Frohbieter; Walter Mabes; Randy Reed; Donals Snead; David Southall

- **Active Unit Members:** 190

UNIT MEMBERSHIP/RETENTION

30 days past due [0]: none

60 days past due: [1]: Dawna B. LaTourelle

90 days past due [0]: none

BRANCH CHAPLAIN**Hospital/Welfare/Rehabilitation:** PNC Laurie Bailey (for Bobbi Sutton)

- Bobbi Sutton's daughter, Becky, passed away due to cancer.
- Two-bell was held for 8 Shipmates (see minutes for names)
- Draped the charter for JrPNP John Handzuk.
- PRPSE Don Gibson passed away July 3rd.
- See minutes for more S/M illness information

Shipmates or Unit members please contact:

Branch Chaplain S/M Bobbi Sutton @**843.541.2823 or 843.879.9473****Unit Chaplain Theresa Milligan @****843-535-2757****Home Committee Report**Cash Audit as of **11 July 2025** is as follows:

Checking Account balance	\$19,216.42
Savings account	\$20,458.14
Credit Card account available	\$16,841.14
Pending Check/Cash for deposit	\$1,100.00
Cash Register 1—Day	\$250.00
Cash Register 1—Night	\$250.00
Cash Register 2	\$250.00
Games change fund	\$4,000.00
Cash box change fund	\$750.00
Safe amount	\$6000.00
Total funds	\$69,115.70

Building and Grounds/Special Events/and Manager's Report:

- Labor Day Indoor Picnic—1 Sept 2025
Home closes at 1800—1 Sept 2025
- Next golf tournament tentatively 27 September
- Additional \$10,000 allocated to savings

Membership and Security:

- - Headquarters reported that we have 734 active Branch members
- There are 190 active Unit members.

New Business

- Motioned passed to replace the small TV in the meeting room with at least a 75". Not to exceed \$600.

Good of the Order:

- Next pill party will be October 11.
- Our next Home Committee meeting will be 1800, on 18 August 2025..
- One final reminder, if you bring a Non-Member to Home, please remember to sign them into the Guest Log.

Laura Bailey, Home Committee Chairman

Americanism/Patriotism - PNC Laurie Bailey

Updates on Branch Essay Contest for the 2025 A/P contest will be placed on the website soon.

- 4 August- U.S. Coast Guard Birthday [1790]
- 4 August- Vietnam Conflict Began [1964]
- 14 August- National Navajo Code Talkers Day
- 14 August- VJ Day [Japanese Surrender [1945]

Newsbytes: The Fleet Reserve Bulletin

The Newsbytes are sent throughout the month from National to all FRA members via email. A direct link to Newsbytes is on the FRA269 Website Home Page to gain access to the Newsbytes

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Newsbytes June 27, 2025

- ◇ Celebration of Life for JrPNP Handzuk
- ◇ FRA Advocates for VA Funding Fee Reimbursement
- ◇ Congressional Hearing: Challenges Facing VCL
- ◇ Congressional Hearing Examines TAP
- ◇ VA Processes Disability Claims in Record Time

Newsbytes July 4, 2025

- ◇ Support The Saves Act
- ◇ Easy USID Renewal for Navy Retirees and Families
- ◇ VA's SQUARES Tool Expands to Save Veterans' Lives
- ◇ A New Era in Military Recruitment

Newsbytes July 11, 2025

- ◇ FRA Veteran Services Impact Survey Results
- ◇ VA Staff Reductions Proceed
- ◇ FRA Urges VA to Sustain Legal Services Funding
- ◇ Pact Act Roundtable Round 2
- ◇ VA Expands Burial Benefits

Newsbytes July 18, 2025

- ◇ Senate Passes The VA Home Loan Program Reform Act
- ◇ Coast Guard Hero
- ◇ FRA Member Daniel Del Monte Goes Over the Edge
- ◇ Key Provisions of the \$456 Billion VA Budget for FY26

Newsbytes July 25, 2025

- ◇ Bipartisan Push for Major Richard Star Act in NDAA
- ◇ ACES Act Heads to President's Desk
- ◇ VA Improves Community Care
- ◇ Coast Guard's 235th Birthday on Capitol Hill

FLEET RESERVE ASSOCIATION 97/92 NATIONAL CONVENTIONs 3-8 NOVEMBER 2025

will be held at

Oasis Hotel and Conference Center
2546 N. Glenstone Ave.

Springfield, Missouri

Ph# 417-866-5253.

Room rates are \$119 per night; more for suites.

Newsletter #1

Newsletter #2

Newsletter #3

Newsletter #4

DID YOU KNOW??

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Battery boost: If your phone's nearly dead and you've only got 20 minutes, plug it in and switch on **Airplane mode**. This shuts off Wi-Fi, cellular and Bluetooth, basically all the stuff that quietly drains power. With fewer background processes, your phone can focus on charging faster.

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3-second tech genius: Take a screenshot. On iPhone, press the Side button + Volume Up. On Android, it's usually the Power button + Volume Down.

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3-second tech genius: Watching YouTube on PC? Press **K** to pause or play, **J** to rewind 10 seconds and **L** to fast-forward 10 seconds. You can also tap **M** to mute or unmute, and **F** to enter full screen mode. Nice. +

MEAL HOURS FOR THE HOME
Lunch Hours Mon-Fri 1100-1300.
Dinner Hours Mon-Fri 1700-1900
FRA Low Country Branch & Unit 269

Big Transformation Coming to VA – New Health Record System

The new electronic health record system – known as the Federal EHR – will be used at all VA medical facilities as early as 2031. Thirteen new sites launch in 2026, more than doubling the number currently using the Federal EHR.

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VA Resources, we're here for you.

- For any questions/requests, **1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411)** is always the right number.
- **Veterans Crisis Line: 988** and press 1, Chat, or Text 838255
- **Vet Centers: 1-877-927-8387**
- **Homeless Veteran Resources: 1-877-424-3838** or Chat
- **Ask VA**
- **Schedule a 1-on-1 Appointment with a VA Benefits Expert**
- For non-urgent questions, use the **VA Health & Benefits App** or **MyHealtheVet** secure messaging to schedule an appointment, refill prescriptions, and access medical records.

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VA Disability Compensation Increase 2026

The estimated Cost-of-Living-Adjustment for 2026 based on projections from the Senior Citizens League is in. VA will release the official payment schedule later this year. **GET THE DETAILS**

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Access Peer Support Anytime, Anywhere

Vets4Warriors offers 24/7 confidential peer support year-round to make sure no Veteran or member of the military family feels alone. **GET SUPPORT**

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Suicide Prevention Training: Preventing a Crisis Before It Occurs

Blue Star Families' Blue Star Support Circles is a free program designed for anyone who wants to understand suicide and stress due to combat, military life, and Veteran challenges. If you are having thoughts of suicide, call **988**, then PRESS 1 or visit **<https://www.veteranscrisisline.net>**.

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ACCESS THE TRAINING

VA Resource Navigator: Quick Guide to All Your VA Benefits

Easily find VA resources and program information, including web links, phone numbers, and QR codes with VA's Resource Navigator. **ACCESS THE NAVIGATOR**

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Branch/Unit 269 website: fra269gc.org !!!!

Get your current and past newsletters and see upcoming events. The website has allowed a drastic decrease in the number of printed and mailed newsletters resulting in saving money. Contact me **webmaster@fra268gc.org** if you want to stop your current printed copy.

Use the Branch and Unit Membership Boxes outside the office for new member and renewal applications. When you recruit a new member ensure all of their information is correct on the application. Place the new application/renewal in an envelope (available at the box) and place inside the "Membership Box". **Nothing concerning membership will be placed in the pass down log.**

Life Membership ages and dues

Active duty: \$400.00	Ages 40 & younger: \$450.00
Ages 41-50: \$425.00	Ages 51-60: \$390.00
Ages 61-70: \$340.00	Ages 71-80: \$260.00
Ages 81-99: \$200.00	

Ages 100 and older: **FREE**

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VA announces expanded burial benefits

July 10, 2025 - 1:00 pm

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs announced today it has temporarily expanded burial benefits for certain Veterans, per the **Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act**.

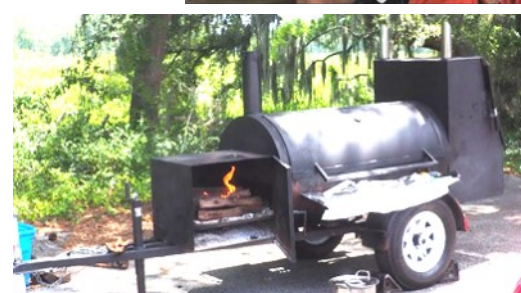
The new law specifies eligible Veterans are those who are discharged from VA-provided medical or nursing care to receive VA-provided hospice care at their home and who pass away between July 1, 2025, and Oct. 1, 2026.

Previously, Veterans who died at home under VA hospice care after discharge from VA-provided medical or nursing care were not always eligible for a full VA burial allowance. The Dole Act addresses that gap.

VA is working hard to fully implement the many provisions of the Dole Act," **said VA Secretary Doug Collins**. "We're excited to offer this expanded benefit, which better supports Veterans who choose to spend their final days at home, surrounded by their loved ones."

Families and caregivers of Veterans receiving hospice care at home following discharge from VA-provided medical or nursing care are encouraged to contact their local VA for information about eligibility and how to apply for burial benefits. Visit **VA burial benefits** or call 800-827-1000 for more information and see here for **details on the legislative language authorizing this change**.

Combined FRA 269 & Charleston Base SUBVETS Summer Picnic July 19, 2025 - 95 attended



BRANCH 269

BRANCH OFFICERS

President: Don Barton
Vice President: Steve Koch
Secretary: Sarah Ihme
Treasurer: PNP Don Muckeck
Jr. Past President: Ken Hutchinson

BRANCH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PNC Laurie Bailey	Tim Bailey
PRPSE Fred Bolz	Larry Pepper
Ron Lamon	Tom Lawson
Glenn Little	Ken Wallace
Bobbie Sutton	Johnny Brown
David Mattingly	John Tharp

APPOINTEES & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

By-Laws: PRPSE Fred Bolz
Chaplain: Bobbi Sutton
Essay Contest: PNC Laurie Bailey
Legislative Affairs / VAVS:
PRPSE Fred Bolz
Master-at-Arms: Glenn Little
Membership: Ken Wallace
Parliamentarian: PNP Don Muckeck
Public Relations: John Tharp
Ways and Means: Larry Pepper
Webmaster: Nick Nichols
Newsletter: Nick Nichols
Youth Activities: Ed Peters

AFRA UNIT 269

UNIT OFFICERS

President: NFS Pat Sukow, PNP
Vice President: Debbie Breeze
Secretary: Amy Osborne
Treasurer: Gale Nathan, PNC

UNIT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRPSE Gail Bolz	Kathy Sorenson
Sue Peters	Dee Wallace
Ann Griffith	Linda Nichols

APPOINTEES & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Amer/Patriotism: Linda Nichols
Chaplain: Theresa Milligan
Hospital: Theresa Milligan
Membership: Debbie Breeze
Parliamentarian: PRPSE Gail Bolz
Publicity: Debbie Breeze
Sergeant-at-Arms: Kim Vandiver
Ship's Store: Sue Peters
Unit Activities: All Members
VAVS: Theresa Milligan
Welfare/Rehab: Sue Peters
Youth Activities: Anne Barton/
Gale Nathan

LOW COUNTRY HOME, LLC

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

Frabranh269@comcast.net

Home Chairman: PNC Laurie Bailey
Admin Secretary: Sarah Ihme
Financial Sec: PNP Don Muckeck
Director: Sue Peters
Director: John Tharp
Director: Tim Bailey
Director: Dee Wallace
Director: Ken Wallace
Director: Kim Vandiver
Director: Ken Hutchinson
Home Managers: Larry Pepper
Bob Zauner
Don Garrand



NFS Pat Sukow, PNP conducts the Installation of Linda Nichols as a Unit Director



President Don Barton & Secretary Sarah Ihme Initiate and Pin new members S/M Don Wright & S/M Fay Wright



BRANCH 269 CONTINUOUS MEMBERSHIP—AUGUST 2025

Edward O'Connor	53	Howard Anderson	27	Bill Sellers	15	Bob Segal	5
Robert Bailey	51	James Houchin	26	Richard Troy	15	John Adam	4
Charles Szad	51	David Kiger	26	David Farley	11	Kevin Deise	2
Edward Fisher	48	Dana Johnson	24	John Nichols	11	Pacifico Dela Fuente	2
Carroll Watson	48	Larry Larkins	24	Mark Erwin	10	Gordon Long	2
David McCann	47	Carl Miller	19	Owen Bower	9	Jeri Larson	2
Robert Kirtley	45	Linwood Murrow	19	Ray Bryant	9	Orlando Maningding	2
Robert Bryant	40	Chad Parsons	18	Helen Breen	8	Chris Ludwig	1
Brendan Goff	37	Robert Zauner	17	Charles Ethridge	7	Cubit Robinson	1
Delores Rucker	37	Randy Bolin	15	Peter Andruchowsky	5	Ryan Stevenson	1
Jay Rowland II	33	Charlie Hudson	15	Ronnie Jones	5		

UNIT 269 CONTINUOUS MEMBERSHIP—AUGUST 2025

Barbara Timmons	45	Tonia Miller	15	Mildred Kosclanski	7	Ann Griffith	4
Martha Wilcutt	39	Loretta Dailey	12	Jesssica R. Murphy	6	Shirley Trosper	3
Cacey M. Anderson	26	Benita S. Kinlaw	11	Margie Rothrauff	6	Jackob Becker	2
Margie Rothrauff	26	Jacqueline Verheyen	11	Gina Horne	5	Sarah Scott	2
Barbara Sullivan	26	Linda Vinson	9	Lori Ryan	5	Amy Osborne	1
Libby Adams	25	Ann Tolentino	9	Deborah Breeze	5		

YOUR BIRTHDAY IS IN AUGUST 2025

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!!!**

William Adams	1	Lonnie Donahue	9	Harold Starn	16	George Gilford	23
Michael Hadbavny	1	Dustin Darnell	10	Robert Wise	17	John Keile	25
Robert Brinson	2	Michael Cline	10	Robert Bailey	18	James Harrison	26
Bonnie Laseter	2	James Highberger	10	Danielle Carroll	18	Charlie Hudson	27
Parke Manauel	2	Bobby Barbee	11	Gerald Fraser	19	Ralph Utermark	26
Larry Born	3	Neta Fewox	11	Benjamin Klugh Jr.	20	Lee Lepretre	27
Jonathan France	3	Todd Walker	12	Jay Rowland II	20	Brandon Pruett	28
Stephen Jeffery	3	Robin Corkill	12	Bill Sellers	20	William Ragan	28
Jerry Young	3	Terrie Ehlich	12	William Besco	21	Phil Smith Jr.	28
Solomon Eagles	4	William Mullins	13	Marion Clark	21	Thomas Clark	29
Steven Edmund Sr.	4	Shelia Shea	13	James Delaney	21	William Freligh	30
Norma Jean Houck	4	Ryan Stephenson	13	William Roberts	21	Willie McDonald	30
Thomas Krieger	4	Debra Bortell	14	Fredrick Bolz	22	Harold Trosper Sr.	30
James Vinson	7	Charles Pyatt	14	David Lyle III	22	Pacifico Dela Fuente	31
Yvonne Aquiera	8	Jody Sutton	14	Roberta Sutton	22	Grady Scott	31
Bruce Garrabrant	8	Johnny Brown	16	Lawrence Denapoli	23	Tine Willis	31
Carol Mustain	8	Elizabeth Mullins	16	Lynnette Jordan	23		
Loye Bryant	9	Ann O'Brien	16	James Evans	23		

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO FRA LOW COUNTRY BRANCH 269 BYLAWS

The First Reading of the proposed changes to the FRA Branch 269 Bylaws was read at the FRA Branch 269 General Assembly Meeting held on Thursday, July 17, 2025.

The proposed amendments to the FRA Branch 269 Bylaws will be presented and voted on at the FRA Branch 269 General Assembly which will be held on Thursday, August 21, 2025, as follows:

CHANGE 1

Article IX, Section 904: Change this section to reflect Section 904(a) and add a new Section 904(b) to read as follows:

“Article IX, Section 904(b). The Board of Directors may expend a sum of money not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000) periodically for the sole purpose of restocking Branch membership pins and medallions as requested by the Branch Secretary.”

CHANGE 2

Amend Article X, Section 1006 relating to Americanism Essay Contest awards to reflect as follows:

“Article X, Section 1006. Americanism Essay Contest awards shall be in the form of gift cards. There shall be up to six Third Place in the amount of \$75.00, six Second Place in the amount of \$100.00, five First Place in the amount of \$200.00, and one overall winner in the amount of \$500.00.”

Rationale: In the past the Branch awarded six First Place winners an amount of \$200.00 each and one overall winner an additional amount of \$500.00 for a total of \$700,00 that the overall winner received. This amendment reduces the amount of award money dispensed to First Place winners by \$200.00.

CHANGE 3

Amend Article X, Section 1007 relating to Branch officer hat pins by adding a new sentence at the end of the section to read: “These officer hat pins are the property of FRA Low Country Branch 269.”

Rationale: In the past the Branch had some officers who refused to return their pins at the end of their tenure in office believing the pins belonged to them. These officer hat pins are quite expensive to replace.

CHANGE 4

Article X, Section 1002 reads: “Any member of the Branch who successfully completes 5, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, and 70 continuous years in the FRA shall be presented with the applicable pin at a Branch meeting in their anniversary month or mailed to them, if required. Cost of the pins and mailing to be defrayed by the Branch.” All remaining portions of the section remain intact.

Mark your calendar, watch for details, watch for additions
 Unless noted otherwise all meetings are in the large room
 Where no time noted group has room for entire day
 Friday nights – 1930 – Scotch Doubles, 8-Ball Tournament

AUGUST 2025						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 <u>1800</u> Coast Guard Birthday Party	2 <u>ALL DAY</u> Memorial Service
3 Free Pool	4 <u>US COAST GUARD BIRTHDAY 1790</u> <u>VIETNAM CONFLICT BEGAN 1964</u>	5	6	7 <u>1800</u> SUBVETS BOD	8	9 <u>1000</u> NO DAV
10 Free Pool	11	12	13	14 <u>VJ DAY 1945</u> <u>1900</u> SUBVETS Mtg	15	16 <u>1300</u> NASCAR PARTY
17 Free Pool	18 <u>1800</u> Home Committee	19 <u>1130</u> Unit Lunch <u>1800</u> Unit Mtg	20 <u>1800-2000</u> Radio Club	21 <u>1800</u> Branch BOD <u>1900</u> Branch Mtg	22	23 <u>0900-1100</u> MILFRAT
24 Free Pool <u>1200</u> Bunko <u>31 Free Pool</u>	25 <u>1730</u> VVA Mtg	26	27 <u>1900</u> Bowling Meeting	28 <u>1900</u> MCL	29	30

Mark your calendar, watch for details, watch for additions
 Unless noted otherwise all meetings are in the large room
 Where no time noted group has room for entire day
 Friday nights – 1930 – Scotch Doubles, 8-Ball Tournament

SEPTEMBER 2025						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 LABOR DAY <u>1100-1400</u> Fleet Indoor Picnic	2	3	4 <u>1800</u> SUBVET BOD	5	6
7 Free Pool <u>1230-1600</u> Bunko	8	9	10	11 PATRIOT DAY <u>1900</u> SUBVETS Mtg	12	13 <u>1000</u> DAV Mtg <u>1600-2130</u> MCL
14 Free Pool	15 <u>1800</u> Home Committee	16 <u>1130</u> Unit Lunch <u>1800</u> Unit Mtg	17 <u>1900</u> Purple Heart	18 <u>1800</u> Branch BOD <u>1900</u> Branch Mtg	19 NATIONAL POW/MIA REMEMBRANCE DAY	20 <u>1000-1200</u> MilFrat
21 Free Pool	22 <u>1730</u> VVA Mtg	23	24	25 <u>1900</u> MCL	26	27 <u>0800-????</u> Golf Tournament
28 Free Pool	29	30				

**FRA LOW COUNTRY BRANCH 269 BOD MEETING
JULY 17, 2025**

Shipmate President Don Barton called the regular Low Country Branch 269 meeting to order at 1800, Thursday, July 17, 2025, in accordance with FRA Rituals.

Board Members present were:

PNC Laurie Bailey	John Tharp	David Mattingly	Steve Koch
Ronald Lamon	Ken Wallace	Donald Barton	Sarah Ihme
Tom Lawson	Glenn Little	PNP Don Muccheck	

Other members present were Ken Hutchinson, Bill Maloon, and Nick Nichols.

Minutes: Posted on the entrance table. Motion to accept.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Americanism/Patriotism – PNC Laurie Bailey
Will report at the general assembly meeting.

By-Laws: PNP Don Muccheck (for PRPSE Fred Bolz)
We had a bylaws review, and PNP Don Muccheck will report on that at the general assembly.

Legislative Service and VAVS: PNC Laurie Bailey reported VAVS (for PRPSE Fred Bolz)
Will report at the general assembly meeting.

Hospital, Welfare and Rehabilitation: PNC Laurie Bailey (for Bobbi Sutton)
Will report at the general assembly meeting.

Membership and Retention: Ken Wallace
Will report at the general assembly meeting.

Youth Activities: Ed Peters
Will report at the general assembly meeting.

Public Relations: John Tharp
Will be sending information to the newspaper.

Ways and Means: Bill Maloon (for Larry Pepper)
Will report at the general assembly meeting.

Golf: Bill Maloon (for Larry Pepper)
Will report at the general assembly meeting.

Budget and Finance: Glenn Little
Will report at the general assembly meeting.

Home Committee Report: Laurie Bailey
Will report at the general assembly meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

There was a discussion regarding the mailing of membership pins to members who request them, specifically the cost of postage. PNC Laurie Bailey made a motion, seconded by PNP Don Mucheck, that the Branch absorb the cost of the pin itself, but charge \$10 for postage to members who request one. The motion carried unanimously.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

There was a discussion on joining the Unit in their donation drives supporting local animal shelters and schools. It was decided that Branch funds are designated for the welfare of shipmates, while Unit funds support community outreach. Although the Branch cannot contribute cash, members are encouraged to donate items in support of the Unit's efforts.

The charter will be draped at the General Assembly meeting for JrPNP John Handzuk.

S/M Bill Maloon motioned, and S/M Tom Lawson seconded that the meeting adjourn. The motion carried by a unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 1820.

FRA LOW COUNTRY BRANCH 269
MEETING OF JULY 17, 2025 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Shipmate President Don Barton called the regular meeting of Low Country Branch 269 to order on Thursday, July 17, 2025, at 1900, in accordance with Article FRA Rituals.

Visitors: The Ladies Auxiliary and Brodie.

Shipmates Initiated: Don Wright, Fay Wright

Minutes: Published in the newsletter. The minutes stand as approved.

Communications: We received a thank-you letter from All-American T-Shirts for our advertisement on t-shirts for Stratford High School's football team.

Treasurer's Report:

The report for the period of May 28 – June 27, 2025 is as follows:

General Checking: \$7,411.92	Savings Account: \$5,189.71
Certificate of Deposit: \$12,115.81	Convention Checking: \$20.03
Total: \$24,737.47	

All bills received to date have been paid.

Continuous Membership:

June 2025

Dan Heath – 50 Years	Dennis Hazel – 25 Years
Roy Knight – 50 Years	Howard Miles – 25 Years
Perry Riley – 50 Years	George Roberts, Jr. – 25 Years
Joseph Dick – 40 Years	William Roberts – 25 Years
Harold Herrington – 35 Years	Daniel Ryan – 25 Years
Gareld Landis – 35 Years	Robert Windrow – 25 Years
Martin Tinsley, II – 35 Years	Bobby Beck – 20 Years
Roger Adams – 25 Years	William Dunsing – 20 Years
Dwaynne Ashline – 25 Years	Mike Sroka – 20 Years
Ludwig Burkle – 25 Years	Charles Hollowood – 5 Years
Joseph Giannetto – 25 Years	Charles Walker – 5 Years

July 2025

Hugh Graham – 55 Years	Ralph Rohrssen – 10 Years
Bobby Barbee – 45 Years	Henry Prigden – 5 Years
Steven Geary – 30 Years	William Woodsmall, III – 5 Years
Winfield Meadows, Jr. – 10 Years	

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Americanism/Patriotism – PNC Laurie Bailey

Dates in History July/August

- 21 July – Guam Liberation Day (1944)
- 27 July – Korean War Armistice (1953)
- 30 July – WAVES established (1942)
- 04 August – U.S. Coast Guard Birthday (1790)
- 04 August – Vietnam Conflict Began (1964)
- 14 August – National Navajo Code Talkers Day
- 14 August – VJ Day (Japanese Surrender 1945)

By-Laws: PNP Don MucHECK (for PRPSE Fred Bolz)

Branch Parliamentarian PNP Don MucHECK delivered the report of the Branch Bylaws Review Committee. The committee met at the FRA Home on Friday, May 23rd, 2025 at 1600. Attendees included PNP Don MucHECK (Chairman), Branch Bylaws Committee Chairman PRPSE Fred Bolz, Branch President Elect S/M Don Barton, Branch Vice President Elect S/M Steve Koch, and Branch Secretary S/M Sarah Ihme. Committee Member PNC Laurie Bailey was unavailable but submitted input for consideration. The committee conducted a full review of the Branch Bylaws. PNP Don MucHECK read the corrections and/or amendments to the general assembly. These will be presented next month at the General Assembly meeting for review and vote.

Legislative Service & VAVS: PNC Laurie Bailey reported VAVS (for PRPSE Fred Bolz)

Our VA hospital has earned a 5-star rating, and all associated clinics are performing well. There are several programs available for veterans to participate in, offering opportunities for involvement and support. The VA Volunteer Services program plays a vital role in assisting with a wide range of needs for our veterans.

Hospital, Welfare, and Rehabilitation: PNC Laurie Bailey (for Bobbi Sutton)

Our Chaplain, Bobbi Sutton, lost her daughter, Rebecca, to cancer. Please remember Bobbi and her family in your prayers.

Two-bell will be held for Shipmates YNCS Byron Couch, RMC Donald Snead, DTR1 Jerry Frohbieter, RMC Randy Reed, MCPO Raymond Pease, WTC F. Dale Brannen, FTCS Albert Stoll, and CWO4 Ralph Mummey.

We will drape the charter for JrPNP John Handzuk.

PRPSE Don Gibson passed away on July 3rd.

FTCS(SS) Albert 'Al' Stoll, 80, departed on Eternal Patrol at the Victory House in Walterboro on 5 July 2025. Al will be inurned at Beaufort National Cemetery. The family will have a reception at 1130-1330 on July 25th at the FRA Home. They have requested the FRA Two-Bell Ceremony and the SUBVET Eternal Patrol Bell Tolling to be conducted at the beginning of the reception.

Al Dempster's service was held on 14 June with 30 SUBVET/FRA members/spouses attending. The FRA conducted the Two Bell and SUBVETS conducted the Eternal Patrol Bell Tolling.

Walt Deal's 4-year-old great granddaughter Alana, is recovering from open-heart surgery.

Moon Mullins had a stroke and is in Trident Hospital as of 8 July.

Rick Wise is running a low-grade fever.

Ron Snyder is recovering well from his late May heart.

Rick Carlson has been diagnosed with a main blood vessel rupture behind his left eye causing him to have double vision.

Ken Curtis is at home with Palliative Hospice care coming to the house several times during the week.

Bill Roberts is living in the Villages assisted living in Summerville.

Kit Sparger is at home and according to her son, Rick Jr., she is doing OK. Continuing to do treatments and so far, looks positive.

Membership and Retention: Ken Wallace

We are losing more members than we are bringing in. If you know anyone eligible for membership, please invite them to join.

Total active members: 733

New Join/Reinstated:

June: Herbert Anderson, Michael Greenfield, Daniel Johnson, Stephen Kolbe, Daron Myers, Matthew Shelton, Robert Sallo

July: Donald Warren

Past Due: Richard Bishop, Donald Blackwelder, Michael Delich, Michael Dellenbach, Richard Glass, David Horton, Stephen Jeffery, Lonnie Kenney, Howard Luper, Robert Richardson, Arthur Robinson, Joseph Schepisi, Cecil Skipworth, Michael Sparks, Timothy Thrower, Brad Wonderliing

Ready to Renew: John Adams, Mark Archambean, Bobby Barbee, Bobby Beck, F. Owen Bower, Dillon Brown, Robert Bryant, John Cardno, Michael Cline, Kevin Deise, Pacifico Dela Fuente, Mark Erwin, Elmer Feeser, Matthew Frazier, Harold Herrington, Charles Hollowood, Ronnie Jones, Douglas Jordan, Jeri Larson, Lewis Leal Jr., Gordon Long, Chris Ludwig, Richard Miley, Mitchell Nappier, Michael Quigley, Sheri Ragan, William Ragan, Cubit Robinson, Bob Segal, Brian Sims, Robert Sowards, Thomas Sullivan Jr., Robert Vehorn, Jerry Young

Term:

June: F. Dale Brannen, Nathan Gottsch, Raymond Jaekle, Robert Mixon, Ron Morgan, Raymond Pease, Cody Schaefer, Robert Simmang, Samuel Williams

July: Byron Couch, Jerry Frohbieter, Walter Mabe, Randy Reed, Donald Snead, David Southall

Active Unit Members: 188

Youth Activities: Ed Peters

Will be taking over youth activities from S/M President Don Barton.

Public Relations: John Tharp

Nothing to report.

Ways and Means: Bill Maloon (for Larry Pepper)

Get your 50/50 and steak dinner tickets.

Golf: Bill Maloon (for Larry Pepper)

The next golf tournament will be on September 27, 2025.

Budget and Finance: Glenn Little

The Budget and Audit Committee met June 3, 2025 at the Low Country Home to conduct the quarterly audit by reviewing the bank statements and inventories as required by the Branch Bylaws. Committee members are Donald Barton, Chairman, Bobbi Sutton, and Glenn Little. Also present were Ken Hutchinson and Steve Koch. Ron Lamon was absent. There were no discrepancies noted in the Treasurer's records. All checks are accounted for.

Cash balances of Low Country Branch 269 for the 4th Quarter ending May 31, 2025, are as follows:

Checking Account: \$7,185.15	Savings Account: \$5,188.81
Certificate of Deposit: \$11,975.99	Conference Funds: \$20.03
TOTAL CASH BALANCE: \$24,369.98	

The Budget and Audit Committee also conducted an audit of the Branch's current stock inventory as follows:

Postage Stamps: \$00.00	Pins, Medallions & Miscellaneous: \$2,650.00
Resaleable Items (Hats, Shirts, Jackets, etc.): \$2,743.00	
TOTAL BRANCH INVENTORY: \$5,393.00	

Assets of FRA Low Country Branch 269:

Cash Balance: \$24,369.98	Stock Inventory: \$5,393.00
NET WORTH Branch 269: \$29,762.98	

The next quarterly audit for June 2025 through August 2025 is tentatively scheduled for September 2025.

Home Committee Report: PNC Laurie Bailey

Financial Report:

FRA Branch 269 Home Funds Audit Report as of 11JUL25 is as follows: Checking Account Available Balance \$19,216.42, Savings Account Available Balance \$20,458.14, Credit Card Purchases Account Available Balance \$16,841.14, Pending Cash / Check Deposit Amount \$1,100.00, Cash Register 1 – Day Amount \$250.00, Cash Register 1 – Night Amount \$250.00, Cash Register 2 Amount \$250.00, Change Fund for Games Amount \$4,000, Change Fund in

Cash Box Amount \$750.00, Change Fund in Safe Amount \$6,000.00. Total Funds are \$69,115.70.

Building and Grounds/Special Events Manager's Report:

We have received donations for kitchen equipment. Because of the donations, the managers transferred \$10,000 from the operating fund into the savings account.

We will have a Labor Day picnic on September 1st. The Home will close at 1800.

The next golf tournament is tentatively scheduled for September 27th.

SUBVETS/FRA picnic will be this Saturday, July 19th.

Membership and Security:

S/M Darlene Hines has been helping S/M Larry Pepper keep track of key cards.

The FRA Headquarters reported 733 Branch members and 187 Unit members.

Old Business:

We have updated our Home bylaws to add a section on the Kitchen Supervisor's duties. We have a new kitchen supervisor, Lorraine Carver.

The bartenders received a raise on July 1st.

New Business:

S/M Ken Hutchinson was appointed as Deputy Home Chairman.

Ladies Sue Peters and Kim Vandiver are our events set-up and take-down team. Other members need to assist with helping this team.

We reminded everyone to read the Home bylaws. These are located on our website.

We set up the Home Events Calendar.

S/M Nick Nichols presented a proposal for a new television. We will be purchasing a 75" flat screen TV for the banquet room.

Good of the Order:

Our next pill party will be on October 11th.

Our next home committee meeting will be at 1800 on August 18th.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

The Board of Directors discussed the policy regarding membership pins and postage. It was noted that there had been some confusion after word circulated that recipients were required to pay \$10 for postage. No such policy was found in the current bylaws or previous meeting minutes. After the discussion, it was recommended that any member eligible for a membership pin may receive one upon request. If the pin is to be mailed, the recipient will be responsible for a \$10 postage fee. This change will be reflected in the Branch Bylaws. S/M Bill Maloon motioned and PNC Laurie Bailey seconded that we accept the recommendation. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

The Coast Guard birthday is Monday, August 4th. On Friday, August 1st at 1800, we will have a cake cutting at the Home for the Coast Guard's birthday. S/M John Tharp will be contacting the local Coast Guard Commander with information.

Unit Report: NFS Pat Sukow

We're collecting donations to support local animal shelters (pet food, toys, leashes, cleaning supplies, blankets, etc.) and school supply donations for local students (notebooks, pencils, Crayola items, lunch boxes, etc.). We have bins in the bar area for donations.

We also had the pleasure of installing our newest board member, Linda Nichols.

Each month, I'm working to return to the basics and share reminders to help the membership. Let's all make an effort to work together. Remember to carry applications with you. You never know who you might meet. I encourage everyone to review our Constitution and Bylaws and ask questions. It is through teamwork that our Unit will hold together. Just a few people cannot do everything.

The 77th Regional Convention is Sept 22–26 in Warner Robins, GA.

Our next luncheon is Aug 19, 2025, at 11:30 AM at O'Charley's—shipmates and all members are welcome.

The Charter was draped for JrPNP John Handzuk. The charter will be draped for 30 days.

The two-bell ceremony took place.

There being no further business to come before the General Assembly, the President announced that the meeting would adjourn with all shipmates standing and bowing their heads for one minute in silent tribute to our departed shipmates.

Meeting adjourned at 1947.

BYLAWS REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT

This is the report of the Branch Bylaws Review Committee. The Committee met laws. at the FRA Low Country Home on Friday, May 23rd, 2025, at 1600 to review the Branch Bylaws.

In attendance were Branch Parliamentarian PNP Don Mucheck, Chairman; Branch Bylaws Committee Chairman PRPSE Fred Bolz; Branch President-Elect Shipmate Don Barton,; Branch Vice President-Elect Shipmate Steve Koch; and Branch Secretary Shipmate Sarah Ihme, Members. Committee Member PNC Laurie Bailey was unavailable but submitted her input.

The Committee reviewed all Articles and Sections of the bylaws with the following corrections and/or amendments reflected as follows:

Article V, Section 501(b), Change the word “then” to reflect “than”. Grammatical error. No further action is required.

Article VII, Section 702(b), Third line from top has the word “policies” misspelled. It is spelled “polcies.” Typographical error. No further action is required.

Article IX. Section 904. The committee recommends amending this section to reflect “904(a)” and add a new section 904(b) to read as follows:

“Section 904(b). The Board of Directors may expend a sum of money not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000) periodically for the sole purpose of restocking Branch membership pins and medallions as requested by the Branch Secretary. “

Article X, Section 1002. Sixth line from the top has the word “Gold” misspelled. It is spelled “God.” Typographical error. No further action is required.

Article X, Section 1006 states: “American Essay Contest Awards shall be in the form of gift cards as awards. There shall be up to six Third Place in the amount of \$75.00, six Second Place in the amount of \$100.00, six First Place in the amount of \$200.00, and one overall winner in the amount of \$500.00”.

It is recommended that this section be changed to read as follows:

Section 1006. “American Essay Contest Awards shall be in the form of gift cards as awards. There shall be up to six Third Place in the amount of \$75.00, six Second Place in the amount of \$100.00, five First Place in the amount of \$200.00 and one overall winner in the amount of \$500.00”.

Rationale: In the past, the Branch awarded six First Place winners an amount of \$200.00 each, and one overall winner an additional amount of \$500.00, for a total of \$700.00 that the overall winner received. This change reduces the amount of award money dispensed for First Place winners by \$200.00.

Article X, Section 1007. Change the word “the” in the first line to reflect “their.”
Typographical error. No further action is required.

Add a new sentence at the end of Section 1007 to state: “These officer hat pins are the property of Branch 269.”

Upon completion of reviewing the bylaws, PNP MucHECK addressed the duties of the new incoming officers, proper procedures to follow in conducting meetings, and covered various aspects of parliamentary procedure,

Submitted by:

F. Donald MucHECK

PNP F. Donald MucHECK
Committee Chairman
Branch Parliamentarian

FRA LOW COUNTRY BRANCH 269 HOME COMMITTEE MEETING

JULY 14, 2025

PNC Laurie Bailey called the Low Country Branch 269 Home Committee meeting to order at 1800 on Monday, July 14, 2025.

Board members present: PNC Laurie Bailey, PNP Don Mucheck, Shipmates Sarah Ihme, Tim Bailey, Ken Hutchinson, Ken Wallace, and John Tharp; Ladies Sue Peters, Amy Osborne, Dee Wallace, and Kim Vandiver.

Other members present: Shipmate Vice President Steve Koch, Shipmate Nick Nichols, and Home Manager Shipmate Larry Pepper.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the June meeting stood approved as posted with no corrections or objections.

Financial Reports

FRA Branch 269 Home Funds Audit Report as of 11JUL25 is as follows: Checking Account Available Balance \$19,216.42, Savings Account Available Balance \$20,458.14, Credit Card Purchases Account Available Balance \$16,841.14, Pending Cash / Check Deposit Amount \$1,100.00, Cash Register 1 – Day Amount \$250.00, Cash Register 1 – Night Amount \$250.00, Cash Register 2 Amount \$250.00, Change Fund for Games Amount \$4,000, Change Fund in Cash Box Amount \$750.00, Change Fund in Safe Amount \$6,000.00. Total Funds are \$69,115.70.

Building and Grounds / Special Events Manager's Report:

There will be a Labor Day picnic on 01 September. S/M Manager Larry Pepper requests closing the home at 1800 on this day.

- **MOTION:** S/M Tim Bailey motioned and S/M John Tharp seconded that the home closes at 1800 on Labor Day. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

The next golf tournament is tentatively scheduled for 27 September.

An additional \$10,000 was allocated to our savings account this past month. We have received generous donations to replace kitchen equipment and were able to transfer these funds back into savings. If an emergency arises in the future, we can request to pull some of these funds out of savings.

The SUBVETS/FRA picnic will be this Saturday.

Membership and Security:

Darlene has been helping S/M Larry Pepper with keeping track of keycards.

FRA Headquarters reports 734 Active Members and 187 Unit Members.

Old Business

Home By Laws update: The revised Home Bylaws, including new Section 606 on the Home Supervisor's duties, were distributed by PNP Don Mucheck. These had been approved at a prior meeting.

Kitchen Supervisor update: Lorraine has been doing a good job in the kitchen.

Bartenders' raise update: The raise took effect on the first of July.

New Business

Set the time and date of the 2025-2026 FRA Low Country Home Committee Meetings

- **MOTION:** S/M Ken Hutchinson motioned and Lady Kim Vandiver seconded that the meeting be held at 1800 on the Monday before the General Assembly meeting. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Assignment of Deputy Home Chairman (person who will lead meetings if Home Chairman is absent): PNC Laurie Bailey appointed S/M Ken Hutchinson. S/M Ken Hutchinson accepted this appointment and all agreed.

Assignment of Event Set up/Decorating Team: Ladies Sue Peters and Kim Vandiver

Assignment of Event Take Down/Clean Up Team: Ladies Sue Peters and Kim Vandiver, with other members assisting.

Set up funding to reimburse committee members who purchase decorations/food for events and want reimbursement. This will come from operating funds. Submit receipts to Larry Pepper.

Reminder to have and read the Home Bylaws. No update required.

Set up of Home Events Calendar. Discussed dates and holidays that the Home, Branch, and Unit want to support.

S/M Nick Nichols presented information regarding the purchase of a new television to replace the small television set in the meeting room. The current television is small and difficult to see. A larger version would allow for the viewing of sports for parties, giving presentations, showing pictures at events, etc.

- **MOTION:** S/M Ken Hutchinson motioned and S/M John Tharp seconded that we allocate not to exceed \$600 for 75" TV, cables, and mount. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Good of the Order

The next pill party will be on October 11.

Our next Home Committee meeting will be at 1800 on 18 August 2025.

- **MOTION:** S/M Ken Hutchinson motioned and S/M John Tharp seconded that the meeting adjourn. Motion carried by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 1855.