



## Scuttlebutt

Branch/Unit 269 Goose Creek, South Carolin

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)

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

Southeast Region: [frasoutheastregion.org \[https://frasoutheastregion.org\]](https://frasoutheastregion.org)

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

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

**MEAL HOURS FOR THE HOME: Lunch Hours Mon-Fri 1100-1330. Dinner Hours Mon-Fri 1700-2000**

### From the Home Managers

To our members, the Home managers would like to thank the members who have been coming in more frequently lately. People we used to see once or twice a week are coming in almost daily.

We just want to say thank you and let you know that we see you and appreciate you.

From Larry, Bob and Don

### Branch President's Corner

The monthly meeting was held recently with numerous items being discussed. Memorial Day is fast approaching and we will need people to assist us in putting flags on the graves at Plantation Memorial Cemetery at 8:00 in the morning on Memorial Day. At 10:30 we will be holding our Memorial Day service at the Fleet Home. All are encouraged to attend.

The first round of nominations was held and all positions have at least one person running. If you have a shipmate who you wish to nominate, we encourage to attend our next meeting at which we will have the nominations and then the election.

Last, I would like to encourage all members to participate in Home activities. We are the members who keep the home alive.

Yours in Loyalty, Protection and Service

Don Barton

Branch 269 President

### Tidbits from the Unit President:

At our April meeting we had our first round of nominations for the officers of 2026-2027. Descriptions of the duties of each office are in the Unit manual, which you can find on the web site, or you can check with me.

Results of the first round of Nominations were:

- President – Pat Suckow, Kim Vandiver
- Vice President -- Debbie Breeze
- Secretary -- No nomination
- Treasurer – Gale Nathan

Second round of Nominations and Elections will be conducted at the May meeting. All are reminded – if you cannot attend the meeting, and you wish to be considered for any of the above offices, or for **Board of Directors**, you MUST submit in writing a letter stating you are willing to serve if elected. Please email the letter to me.

All members should always have membership cards with them when in the Fleet Home. Cards should be shown to duty bartenders when being served. All guests should be signed in the logbook.

Also, thank you to all who have donated food to the VA Clinic. It is most appreciated and we are continuing with this project for our Veterans. But please check the expiration date, the clinic will not accept outdated products.

Also, the VA is in need of Bus Passes- The cost is \$7.00 which is only good for one day (all day). If you wish to donate please place in an envelope and place it in the Auxiliary Membership box and I will receive it

## Dates to Remember

- May 19 -- Auxiliary Luncheon at FRA Home, 10:30  
May 19 -- General Meeting and Elections, 5:30. Be sure to bring membership card!  
May 23 -- Memorial Day Ceremony at 3:30pm at McAllister-Smith Funeral Home  
May 25 -- Memorial Day Ceremony at 10:30am at the Fleet Home with indoor picnic after.  
June -- NO MONTHLY MEETING  
June 5 -- Installation of 2026/2027 Unit Officers  
July 4 -- Indoor Picnic. Unit will raffle a basket  
July 27-31 -- SER, Warner Robins, GA

A letter was received from the Charleston-Ralph Johnson VAMC thanking Unit 269 for the food pantry donation of groceries and for the snack table (this thank you note is also for the Shipmates and SUBVETS).

Congratulations and best wishes to all who have a birthday, anniversary or membership milestone and may those in need of prayers feel the strength of those around you and the entire Auxiliary family.



In Loyalty, Protection & Service  
Pat Suckow, NFS/PNP  
Unit 269 President Elect  
Auxiliary of the FRA  
[lafranspat@gmail.com](mailto:lafranspat@gmail.com)

Cell (843) 452-4719

Your challenging work and success will clear a path for those who follow you

## Branch Treasurer's Report

### February 28 — March 27, 2026

General Checking	\$ 2,641.91
Savings	\$ 5,199.62
Convention Checking	\$ 0.00
Certificate of Deposit	\$ <u>12,357.60</u>
TOTAL	\$20,199.13

## BRANCH MEMBERSHIP/RETENTION

**Membership and Retention: Ken Wallace**

**Total active members: 706**

**Transfer Out NPD [2]:** Elijah Cales, Raymond Cotton

**Transfer Out DEC [4]:** Robert Ken Curtis, Christian LaForce, Thomas Lawson, Robert Shober

**New Join/Reinstated [8]:** Kevin Archila, Louis Bishop, Steven Cain, Peter Finne, R. Scott Freligh, Nathaniel Nelson, Edward Stank, Robert Timm

**Past Due [10]:** Bryan M Alfaro, Jennifer

Beilstein, Larry Fowler, Larry Mole, Jaiden Moore, Robert Newton, Kevin Patton, William Teague, Joe Travis, Gary Williams

**Ready to Renew [44]:** John Aguilera Jr., Herbert Anderson, Darryl Barrickman, Jeffrey Bolduc, Edward Bowles, Ronald Chambers, David Chapman, Richard Davies, James Delaney, Solomon Eagles, Jerry Espiritu, James Evans, Roger Fincher, Jericho Garcia, Earl Ham, James Harrison, Thomas Holcombe, David Horton, John Ingram, Daniel Johnson, Roy Kingdom, Valerie Kohr, Stephen Kolbe, Robert Koscianski, Ray Marshall, Donald Moseng, John Murphy, Daron Myers, Russell Nichols Jr., Stephen Nogle, Gerald Ott, John Pontieri, Santos Riduca, Linsey Rogers, Thomas Scott, Savannah Sellers, Cecil Skipworth, Robert Sollo, Michael Sparks, James Stover, Ernest Sweat Jr., Robert Temple, Richard Wise, Jack Wrbanich

**Active Unit Members: 200**

## UNIT MEMBERSHIP/RETENTION

- 30 days past due [3]: Joseph Holman; Katherine Sparger; Nancy Vella
- 60 days past due: [3]: Robert J. Kirkley Sr.; Francis Perillo; Patty A. Russell
- 90 days past due [1]: Robert E. Horne
- Active Members: 200

## BRANCH CHAPLAIN

### Hospital/Welfare/Rehabilitation:

- **Two-Bell for** LCPL Joseph K. Perillo, TMC(SS) Robert Kenneth Curtis, QM2(SS) Christian Louis LaForce, FTCS(SS) Thomas W. Lawson, FTCS(SS) John Edward Newby, FTCS(SS) Robert Lawrence Shober, TMC(SS) Dustin Carter Darnell, TMC Robert Leon Hulsey, SKCS(SS) Harold Crawford
- Tim Bailey was in the hospital for surgery on 6 April. He is home recovering.
- Walt Deal is recovering from double pneumonia.
- Rick Wise has shifted to maintenance chemo on a 5-week cycle vice every 3 weeks.
- Roger Gibson is recovering from gall bladder issues.
- Cecil Rash is recovering from partial leg amputation.

**Shipmates or Unit members please contact:**

**Branch Chaplain S/M Bobbi Sutton @**

**843.514.2823 or 843.879.9473**

**Unit Chaplain Theresa Milligan @**

**843-535-2757**

**(Home Minutes at the end of the newsletter)**

**Home Committee Report**

Cash Audit as of **14 March 2026** is:

Checking Account balance	\$ 3,419.47
Savings account	\$ 50,487.78
Credit Card account available	\$ 3,770.84
Pending Check/Cash for deposit	\$ 1,149.75
Registers/Cash Funds	\$ 1,500.00
Cash Reserve Fund	\$ 6,000.00

**Total funds \$ 66,327.84**

Net Profit (Loss): March (\$ 5,492.07)

**Building and Grounds/Special Events/and**

**Manager’s Report:** (full report in minutes)

There will be a Memorial Day indoor picnic on May 25th.

FRA HQ reports 706 active Branch members and 200 active Auxiliary members.

**Old Business:**

The Kentucky Derby party will not be held this year.

**New Business:**

The installation of Officers will be on Friday June 5th.

**Upcoming Events:**

May 25th Memorial Day:

0800 flags placed on graves

1030 Ceremony at the Home followed by Indoor Picnic

June 5th Dinner and Installation of Branch Unit officers

July 4th Indoor Picnic

**Good of the Order:**

23 May at 1000 Next cleanup day

**Americanism/Patriotism - PNC Laurie Bailey**

01 May – May Day

01 May – Loyalty Day (reaffirmation of loyalty to the US)

01 May – Silver Star Service Banner Day

05 May – Cinco De Mayo

08 May – VE Day (Victory in Europe Day, 1945)

10 May – Mother’s Day

10 May – Coast Guard Band Established (1925)

13 May – Navy Nurse Corps Established (1908)

15 May – Peace Officers Memorial Day

16 May – Armed Forces Day

**Newsbytes: The Fleet Reserve Bulletin**

The Newsbytes are sent to all FRA members from National via email. Here is a direct **LINK**

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**Newsbytes April 3, 2026**

- ◇ Convenience in VA Virtual Care
- ◇ War Powers Clock Ticks
- ◇ Military Suicides Declined
- ◇ Partial Claim: VA Home Loan
- ◇ Coast Guard Readiness Eroding
- ◇ Written Consent Survey

**Newsbytes April 10, 2026**

- ◇ VA Requests Record \$488 Billion for FY2027
- ◇ Military Child Care Reforms
- ◇ VA 100,000 New Enrollees in 2026
- ◇ EHRM Accelerates
- ◇ Coast Guard Rescues Family
- ◇ Written Consent Survey

**Newsbytes April 17, 2026**

- ◇ FRA Attends House Leader’s Roundtable
- ◇ FRA Mid-Year Meeting
- ◇ \$469.5 Billion FY27 MILCON-VA Bill
- ◇ VA Claims Backlog Hits Historic Low
- ◇ Transition Gaps for Justice-Involved Veterans

**Newsbytes April 24, 2026**

- ◇ FRA Attends VSO Roundtable
- ◇ FRA Mid-Year Activities
- ◇ DoW Budget Request
- ◇ Hung Cao Named Acting SECNAV

**BRANCH/UNIT 269 WEBSITE - [fra269gc.org](http://fra269gc.org) !!!!**

Get your current and past newsletters and see upcoming events. To stop your current printed copy contact [webmaster@fra268gc.org](mailto:webmaster@fra268gc.org)

**BRANCH/UNIT 269 MEMBERSHIP INFO  
REMINDER: ALL MEMBERSHIP FORMS / DUES ARE  
TO BE PLACED IN THE RESPECTIVE MEMBERHIP  
BOXES BY THE HOME OFFICE DOOR.  
THIS APPLIES TO BRANCH AND UNIT**

The Branch and Unit Membership Boxes outside the office are the only place to leave 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”. **The pass down log will not be used for anything concerning membership.**

Branch Life Membership ages and dues

Active duty: \$400.00	Ages up to 40: \$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

## The Security Corner

Provided by: George Birmingham [ET1(SS) USS H.L. Stimson SSBN655—G/SY1/G 69-74, USSVI-Holland Club Carolina Piedmont Base]

### What Are AI Scams? A Guide for Older Adults

Greetings shipmates! By now we have all experienced the constant stream of phishing e-mails, the instant messages that arrive unsolicited, and much more. In the early days of these attacks, we developed our own defenses to avoid getting scammed. This was primarily through detection of tell-tale clues left by the scammer. These included the use of poor grammar, unusual sender addresses or phone numbers, unexpected pop-ups on our PC screens, and outrageous demands or charges meant to scare us. And then there are the phone calls... But we learned to detect this and did our best to stay safe.

However, as the digital world we live in has rapidly embraced AI-technology, the game has changed. Grammar is nearly spotless and believable, images have become accurate and error free and much more.

Voice cloning makes the caller more believable. The following article describes things you should be aware of to keep your defense strong and hopefully prevent you from getting scammed by these new methods:

### What Are AI Scams? A Guide for Older Adults

You may also want to utilize sites that provide up-to-date information about scams, and fraud tactics, in this new, AI-enabled, world:

<https://scamicide.com/> (I have mentioned Scamicide in previous articles, as it provides a daily “Scam of the Day” newsletter via e-mail – I highly recommend it!)

<https://www.aarp.org/money/scams-fraud/>  
<https://consumer.ftc.gov/scams>  
<https://www.consumerfinance.gov/consumer-tools/fraud/>

While we don't necessarily want to dedicate our lives to fending off these technologically-enabled scammers, knowledge is power, and hopefully making ourselves more aware of these new techniques will keep us as safe as we can be.

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### DID YOU KNOW??

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**Before you pay for a TV repair or buy a new**

**one, try this.** Unplug your TV completely from the wall. Use the actual power cord. Wait a full 60 seconds. Then hold the power button on the TV itself, not the remote, for 30 seconds while it's still unplugged. Then plug it back in. This forces a full capacitor drain and hard reset that the on-screen restart option never actually does. It fixes frozen screens, dead pixels, audio sync issues, and apps that stopped loading. TV repair technicians call it a “hard discharge.”

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**3-second tech genius: Google Maps** lets you download an entire city to your phone, so it works with zero internet. Open the app, search a city, tap the three dots in the top right, hit Download offline map. Road trips, international travel, dead zones on the highway. Your maps still work. Your directions still work. The \$15-a-day international data plan does not spark joy. This does.

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**3-second tech genius: Most routers broadcast two networks, 2.4 GHz and 5 GHz.** Some devices default to 2.4 GHz because it has a longer range. But if you're in the same room as your router, 5 GHz is a ton faster with less interference. In your Wi-Fi settings, look for your network name with a 5G label and switch. Same password usually. No joke, your ping will drop, and your download speed will shoot up.

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**Your camera roll is full of duplicates:** Every time you edit a photo on iPhone, it saves the original AND the edit. Silently. For years. **Open the Photos app > Collections > Utilities > Duplicates > Merge.** Most folks find hundreds and free up GBs instantly. **Android?** Path varies, but try the **Gallery app > Menu > Clean out > Delete duplicate pictures.**



### VA News by VAVS Branch Representative PRPSE Fred Bolz

VAVS Minutes and Newsbytes are posted on the bulletin board.

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### **Request your military service records (including DD214)**

Access your VA records and documents online to more easily manage your benefits.

**Request Your Military Service Records  
(including DD214) | Veterans Affairs**

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**VA pension benefits**

VA pension benefits are available to some wartime Veterans and their survivors—find out if you're eligible to apply.

**VA Pension Benefits | Veterans Affairs**

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**VA burial benefits and memorial items**

VA burial benefits can help service members, Veterans, and their family members plan and pay for a burial or memorial service in a VA national cemetery. Family members can also order memorial items to honor the service of a Veteran. Find out how to apply for the burial benefits you've earned, and how to plan for a burial in advance or at time of need.

**VA Burial Benefits And Memorial Items | Veterans Affairs**

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**VA housing assistance**

VA housing assistance can help Veterans, service members, and their surviving spouses to buy a home or refinance a loan. We also offer benefits and services to help you build, improve, or keep your current home. Find out how to apply for and manage the Veterans housing assistance benefits you've earned.

**VA Housing Assistance | Veterans Affairs**

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**Help for Veterans who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless**

We can help you find safe shelter, support, and long-term housing.

**Get help if you're homeless or at risk of becoming homeless**

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**VA health care**

With VA health care, you're covered for regular checkups with your primary care provider and appointments with specialists (like cardiologists, gynecologists, and mental health providers). You can access services like home health and geriatric (elder) care. And you can get medical equipment, prosthetics, and prescriptions. Apply for and manage the health care benefits you've earned.

**VA Health Care | Veterans Affairs**

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**VA disability compensation**

VA disability compensation (pay) offers a monthly tax-free payment to Veterans who got sick or injured while serving in the military and to

Veterans whose service made an existing condition worse. You may qualify for VA disability benefits for physical conditions (like a chronic illness or injury) and mental health conditions (like PTSD) that developed before, during, or after service. Find out how to apply for and manage the Veterans disability benefits you've earned.

**VA Disability Compensation | Veterans Affairs**

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**VA education and training benefits**

VA education benefits help Veterans, service members, and their qualified family members with needs like paying college tuition, finding the right school or training program, and getting career counseling. Learn how to apply for and manage the education and training benefits you've earned.

**VA Education And Training Benefits | Veterans Affairs**

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**VA life insurance**

VA life insurance can offer financial security for Veterans, service members, and their spouses and dependent children. Explore your options, manage your policy, and file claims to get the insurance benefits you've earned.

**VA Life Insurance | Veterans Affairs**

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**5 exercises for balance**

Strengthen your legs and hips with balance training exercises from a VA physical therapist.

**Watch this video to get started at home**

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**VA resources for women's health**

Women are the fastest-growing group of Veterans. Find the information you need about conditions and treatments specific to women.

**Learn more about women's health on the Veterans Health Library**



**President Don Barton and S/M Sarah Ihme presents Continuous Membership pins to S/M Ernest Culbreath [5 years] and PRPSE Fred Bolz [30 years].**



**President Don Barton presents a Retention Pin to S/M Ken Hutchison noting his FRA recruiting efforts.**



**USS HOBSON (DD-646/DMS-26) MEMORIAL SERVICE**  
See all Hobson pictures at: [260426 FRA USS Hobson Memorial](#)



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

<b>MAY 2026</b>						
<b>SUN</b>	<b>MON</b>	<b>TUE</b>	<b>WED</b>	<b>THU</b>	<b>FRI</b>	<b>SAT</b>
					1	2
<b>3 Free Pool</b>	4	5 CINCO DE MAYO  <u>1800-2000</u> Sons of Confederacy	6  <u>1900-2100</u> Sojourners	7  <u>1800</u> SUBVETS BOD	8	9  <u>1000</u> DAV Mtg
<b>10 Free Pool</b>	11	12	13  <u>1830</u> Bowling Dinner	14  <u>1900-2100</u> SUBVETS Mtg	15	16  <u>1000-1200</u> MILFRAT Mtg
<b>17 Free Pool</b>	18  <u>1800-2000</u> Home Committee	19  <u>1130</u> Unit Lunch  <u>1730</u> Unit Mtg	20  <u>1800-2000</u> Radio Club	21  <u>1800</u> Branch BOD  <u>1900</u> Branch Mtg	22	23  <u>1530</u> Memorial Day Service @ McAlister- Smith Funeral Home
<b>24 Free Pool</b>  <u>31 Free Pool</u>	25 MEMORIAL DAY <u>0800</u> Flags on Graves  <u>1030-1500</u> Memorial Day Service & Indoor Picnic	26	27	28	29	30  <u>ALL DAY</u> Wedding

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

## JUNE

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2 <u>1730</u> Unit Audit  <u>1830-2030</u> Son's of Confederacy	3 <u>1900</u> Sojourners	4 <u>1800</u> SUBVET BOD	5 <u>1800</u> Branch/Unit Installation & Dinner	6
7 Free Pool	8	9	10	11 <u>1900</u> SUBVETS Mtg	12	13 <u>1000</u> DAV Mtg
14 Free Pool	15 <u>1800-2000</u> Home Committee	16 NO UNIT LUNCH OR MEETING	17 <u>1800-2000</u> Radio Club	18 <u>1800</u> Branch BOD  <u>1900</u> Branch Mtg	19	20 <u>1000-1200</u> MILFRAT Mtg
21 Free Pool	22 <u>1730</u> VVA Mtg  <u>1900</u> Carolina Coins Mtg	23	24	25 <u>1800-2000</u> Marine Corps League	26	27
28 Free Pool	29	30				

**BRANCH 269 CONTINUOUS MEMBERSHIP—MAY 2026**

Life Members in **BOLD**

<b>John Casner Jr.</b>	<b>71</b>	Ronald Chambers	28	David Stevens	20	William Besco	4
<b>Phillip Smith</b>	<b>56</b>	Kirk Owen	28	Solomon Eagles	19	<b>Donald Garrand</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Roy Massey Sr.</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>David Cox</b>	<b>27</b>	Scott Benson	18	<b>Albert Horne</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Clarence Hall</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>David Greeno</b>	<b>27</b>	Mark Hunter	16	Fred Lentz	4
<b>Gerald Starr</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>Gary Hinks</b>	<b>27</b>	Richard Lawwell	15	Joseph Chapman III	3
John Ingram	45	Richard Mabe	27	Ralph Utermark	15	<b>Dennis Essenmacher</b>	<b>3</b>
Thomas Scott	41	<b>Timothy Reed</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>Paul Misuraca</b>	<b>12</b>	Thomas Holcombe	2
James Stover	40	Jerry Espiritu	26	Marc West	10	Valerie Kohr	2
<b>Merle Melling</b>	<b>36</b>	James Harrison	26	Charles Murray	9	Linsey Rogers	2
Roland Kring	34	Paul Langan	26	Jeffrey Hamm	8	Herb Anderson	1
Russell Nichols Jr.	33	Keith Laster	26	<b>Michael Fremen</b>	<b>7</b>	Michael Greenfield	1
Santos Riduca	31	<b>T. H. Tollison</b>	<b>24</b>	Earl Ham	7	Daniel Johnson	1
Cynthia Hannah	30	<b>Kenneth Hutchison</b>	<b>23</b>	John Pontieri	5	Stephen Kolbe	1
<b>Darlene Hines</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>Brian Cecil</b>	<b>20</b>	Robert Richardson	5	Daron Myers	1
Jones Kersey	30	<b>Cheryl Cecil</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>Edward Whiteley</b>	<b>5</b>	Robert Sollo	1

**UNIT 269 CONTINUOUS MEMBERSHIP—MAY 2026**

Joan V. Acosta	43	Dawna B. LaTourelle	5	Jayne L. Campbell	4	Troy R. Perpruner	2
Sandra J. Rader	26	Sandra M. Houle	4	Christopher A. Cove	2	Robert Beilstein	1
Elizabeth A. Norris	19						

**YOUR BIRTHDAY IS IN MAY 2026**

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!!!** Auxiliary members in *ITALICS*

John Byrd	1	Frank Carroll Jr	11	<i>Beverly G. Shaffer</i>	19	<i>Kathlene R. Sparger</i>	25
Daniel Wall	1	John Parnall	11	<i>Krystal A. Shaffer</i>	20	<i>Barbara E. Sullivan</i>	25
<i>Dee Wallace</i>	2	Warren Sparks	11	Vernice Smith Jr.	20	Robert Zauner	25
Edward Gentile	2	<i>Dylan N. Adams</i>	12	Peter Finne	21	John Autrey	26
Michael Hanna	3	David Dux	12	Hugh Graham	21	Ronald Brunner	26
Brian Steffen	3	Howard Luper	12	Mark Tracy	21	<i>Lorena M. Claxton</i>	26
Richard Glass	4	Crystal Koch	13	Matthew Frazier	22	Edward Fretschel III	26
Bill Ansel	4	Rhonda D. McNally	13	Ralph Mummey	22	Robert Ladue	26
Robert Warder	4	Stephen Jackson	14	Keith Suiter Sr	22	Edward Stover	26
Abigail Hinshelwood	5	John Johnson Jr.	14	Joe Travis	22	John Nichols	27
<i>Franklin Kiley</i>	5	John Pontieri	14	Jack Wirick	22	Wallace Williams	27
<i>Austin Pimental</i>	5	Douglas Potter	14	Oscar Edrada	23	Laurie Bailey	29
Michael Sparks	5	Frederick Sorenson	14	Craig Vanderbilt	23	Jack Collier	29
<i>David M. Emerson</i>	6	Bryan Wright	14	<i>Tyler Adams</i>	24	Richard Davies	30
Russell Hale	6	Sammy Jackson	15	William Galloway	24	<i>Laurie Douty</i>	30
Marie Sehl	6	Elmer Mullins	15	Raymond Jackle	24	Albert Godwin	30
Marc West	7	Donald Barton	16	Roy Knight	24	Tom Lufkin	30
Charles Clore	8	Michael LeCompte	16	Charles Wright	24	Scott F. Sarah	30
Rocco Losito	9	William Woodsmall III	17	<i>Lawrence M. Fowler</i>	25	Jerry Walton	30
<i>Tonia Y. Miller</i>	9	Elmer Feeser	18	Robert MacPherson	20	John Lambert	31
<i>Sandra Beilstein</i>	10	Edward Astle	19	<i>Rebecca G. Moseley</i>	25	Don Ort	31
<i>Charlotte B. Johnson</i>	10	David McCann	19	Delores Rucker	25		



**FRA LOW COUNTRY BRANCH 269  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
APRIL 16, 2026**

Shipmate President Don Barton called the regular Board of Directors meeting of Low Country Branch 269 to order at 1800, Thursday, April 16, 2026, in accordance with FRA Rituals.

**Board Members present:**

PRPSE Fred Bolz	Bobbi Sutton	Don Barton	PNP Don Muckeck
PNC Laurie Bailey	John Tharp	Steve Koch	Glenn Little
Sarah Ihme	Larry Pepper	Ken Wallace	Ken Hutchison

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

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Americanism/Patriotism:** PNC Laurie Bailey  
Report at General Assembly

**By-Laws:** PRPSE Fred Bolz  
Report at General Assembly

**Legislative Service and VAVS:** PRPSE Fred Bolz  
Report at General Assembly

**Hospital, Welfare and Rehabilitation:** Bobbi Sutton  
Two-Bell at the general for LCPL Joseph K. Perillo, TMC Robert Kenneth Curtis, QM2 Christian Louis LaForce, FTCS Thomas W. Lawson, FTCM John Edward Newby, FTCM Robert Lawrence Shober, TCM Dustin Carter Darnell, TMC Robert Leon Hulsey, SKCS Harold Crawford

**Membership and Retention:** Ken Wallace  
Report at General Assembly

**Youth Activities:** Ed Peters  
Report at General Assembly

**Public Relations:** John Tharp  
Report at General Assembly

**Ways and Means:** Larry Pepper  
Report at General Assembly

**Golf:** Larry Pepper  
Report at General Assembly

**Budget and Finance:** Glenn Little  
Report at General Assembly

**Home Committee Report:** PNC Laurie Bailey  
Report at General Assembly

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Bylaws changes will be read at the General Assembly.

A report of the USS Hobson memorial ceremony will be given at the General Assembly.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

April is the month for nominations for officers, Board of Directors, and Home Committee positions. The second round of nominations and the elections will be at the May General Assembly meeting.

Invoice received to reimburse S/M Ken Wallace for two months of VA snacks totaling \$264.02.

- **MOTION:** PNP Don Muccheck moved, and PNC Laurie Bailey seconded to reimburse S/M Ken Wallace \$264.02. Motion carried.

Invoice received for assessments due to the Southeast Region Secretary totaling \$693.00.

- **MOTION:** PNP Don Muccheck moved, and PRPSE Fred Bolz seconded to pay assessments of \$693.00. Motion carried.

Invoice received to reimburse the FRA Home for four steak dinners and four key cards totaling \$104.00.

- **MOTION:** PNP Don Muccheck moved, and S/M Ken Hutchison seconded to reimburse the Home \$104.00. Motion carried.

SUBVETS are having a picnic on May 16<sup>th</sup>.

## **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Flags will be placed on graves at Plantation Memorial Gardens on Memorial Day, May 25. Assistance is needed to transport the flags to the cemetery.

PRPSE Fred Bolz moved to adjourn, and PNC Laurie Bailey seconded. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 1807.

**FRA LOW COUNTRY BRANCH 269  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING  
APRIL 16, 2026**

Shipmate President Don Barton called the regular meeting of Low Country Branch 269 to order on Thursday, April 16, 2026, at 1900, in accordance with FRA Rituals.

**Visitors:** Auxiliary members

**Shipmates Initiated:** none

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

**Communications:** Received a thank-you letter for our \$1,000 donation to the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center for Patient Programming.

Received a thank-you letter for our donation of snacks for the coffee cart at the Ralph H. Johnson VAMC North Charleston Clinic.

**Treasurer's Report:**

The report for the period of February 28 – March 27 is as follows:

General Checking: \$2,641.91

Savings Account: \$5,199.62

Convention Checking: \$0.00

Certificate of Deposit: \$12,357.60

Total: \$20,199.13

All bills received to date have been paid.

**Continuous Membership:**

**April 2026**

Donald Cady – 55 Years

Gerald Ott – 20 Years

Lewis Flader – 35 Years

Jaqueline Brooks – 15 Years

Frederick Bolz – 30 Years

Robert Yancey – 10 Years

Alan Lincoln – 30 Years

Ernest Culbreath – 5 Years

John Keile – 25 Years

Arthur Raymond – 5 Years

Terry Trump – 25 Years

Michael Rikard – 5 Years

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Americanism/Patriotism** – PNC Laurie Bailey

Dates in History April/May:

18 April – Doolittle Raid over Tokyo (1942)

19 April – Patriots' Day

22 April – Earth Day

24 April – Arbor Day

01 May – May Day  
01 May – Loyalty Day (reaffirmation of loyalty to the US)  
01 May – Silver Star Service Banner Day  
05 May – Cinco De Mayo  
08 May – VE Day (Victory in Europe Day, 1945)  
10 May – Mother’s Day  
10 May – Coast Guard Band Established (1925)  
13 May – Navy Nurse Corps Established (1908)  
15 May – Peace Officers Memorial Day  
16 May – Armed Forces Day

A Memorial Day ceremony will be held on May 25, 2026, at 1030 at the Home. Before the ceremony, flags will be placed on Veterans’ graves at Plantation Memorial Cemetery at 0800. All members are encouraged to attend both events.

A ceremony honoring the USS Hobson will be held on April 26, 2026. PNP Don Mucheck will put out more information.

**By-Laws:** PRPSE Fred Bolz

Bylaws changes will be read under Unfinished Business.

**Legislative Service & VAVS:** PRPSE Fred Bolz

VAVS minutes and Newsbytes are posted on the bulletin board.

**Hospital, Welfare, and Rehabilitation:** Bobbi Sutton

Two-Bell for LCPL Joseph K. Perillo, TMC Robert Kenneth Curtis, QM2 Christian Louis LaForce, FTCS Thomas W. Lawson, FTCS John Edward Newby, FTCS Robert Lawrence Shober, TMCM Dustin Carter Darnell, TMC Robert Leon Hulsey, SKCS Harold Crawford. Walt Deal is recovering from double pneumonia.

Rick Wise has shifted to maintenance Chemo on a 5-week cycle instead of every 3 weeks.

Roger Gibson is recovering from gall bladder issues.

Sonny Rash is recovering from having part of his leg amputated.

Tim Bailey is going home from the hospital tomorrow.

**Membership and Retention:** Ken Wallace

**Total active members:** 706

**New Join/Reinstated:** Kevin Archila, Louis Bishop, Steven Cain, Peter Finne, R. Scott Freligh, Nathaniel Nelson, Edward Stank, Robert Timm

**Past Due:** Bryan Alfaro, Jennifer Beilstein, Larry Fowler, Larry Mole, Jaiden Moore, Robert Newton, Kevin Patton, William Teague, Joe Travis, Gary Williams

**Ready to Renew:** John Aguilera Jr., Herbert Anderson, Darryl Barrckman, Jeffrey Bolduc, Edward T. Bowles, Ronald Chambers, David Chapman, Richard Davies, James Delaney, Solomon Eagles, Jerry Espiritu, James Evans, Roger Fincher, Jericho Garcia, Earl Ham, James

Harrison, Thomas Holcombe, David Horton, John Ingram, Daniel Johnson, Roy Kingdom, Valerie Kohr, Stephen Kolbe, Robert Koscianski, Ray Marshall, Donald Moseng, John Murphy, Daron Myers, Russell Nichols Jr., Stephen Nogle, Gerald Ott, John Pontieri, Santos Riduca, Linsey Rogers, Thomas Scott, Savannah Sellers, Cecil Skipworth, Robert Sollo, Michael Sparks, James Stover, Ernest Sweat Jr., Robert Temple, Richard Wise, Jack Wrbanich

**Term NPD:** Elijah Cales, Raymond Cotton

**Term Dec:** Robert Curtis, Christian LaForce, Thomas Lawson, Robert Shober

**Active Unit Members:**

**Youth Activities:** Ed Peters  
Nothing to report.

**Public Relations:** John Tharp  
Nothing to report.

**Ways and Means:** Larry Pepper  
Get your 50/50 and steak dinner tickets.

**Golf:** Larry Pepper  
No news on the golf tournament due to base restrictions.

**Budget and Finance:** Glenn Little  
The next audit will be before the installation.

**Home Committee Report:** Jr. Past President Ken Hutchison (for PNC Laurie Bailey)

Financial Reports:

Balances as of 14 March 26: Checking \$3,419.47; Savings \$50,487.78; Credit Card \$3,770.84; Pending Deposits \$1,149.75; Registers/Change Funds \$1,500.00; Cash Reserve Fund \$6,000.00; Total Funds \$66,327.84

Net Profit (Loss): March (\$5,492.07)

Indoor picnic for Memorial Day, May 25<sup>th</sup> and July 4<sup>th</sup>.

The comedy show will be held this weekend.

A summons was received naming the Fleet Reserve as a defendant in a motor vehicle accident case. Legal counsel will likely be required, and a response is due within 30 days. A motion was made to authorize the Home to take all necessary actions in response to the summons, including retaining legal counsel, and to use funds from the cash reserve fund as needed.

No further information was reported regarding the SLED matter.

A live wreath will be taken to the USS Hobson Memorial around noon. A service will be held on Sunday, April 26, 2026, at 1330.

The Kentucky Derby party will not be held this year.

A motion was made to reinstate weekly Tuesday activities.

Next cleanup day: 23 May 2026 at 1000.

Next meeting: 18 May 2026 at 1800

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

On Saturday, April 25, 2026, members will depart the Home at approximately 1115 and arrive at the Battery around 1200 to place a live wreath at the Hobson Memorial. The Hobson Memorial Service will be held on April 26, 2026, at 1330. Assistance is needed the day before to help set up the banquet room for the event. National President Rick Fetrow will be the keynote speaker, and PNP Pat Suckow will offer remarks on behalf of the FRA Auxiliary. Several veterans' organizations will participate in the wreath presentation. Two youth groups will also attend and will provide desserts for the reception following the service.

Branch Bylaws changes were read.

- **MOTION:** S/M Wayne Suckow moved, and S/M Glenn Little seconded to approve FRA Branch 269 By-Law Change Article VII Section 702(b). Motion carried.
- **MOTION:** S/M Glenn Little moved, and S/M Ken Hutchison seconded to approve FRA Branch 269 By-Law Change Article VII, Section 706(a). Motion carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

The Board of Directors approved allocating \$264.02 for VA snacks, \$693.00 for Southeast Region assessments, and \$104.00 for steak dinners and key cards to reimburse the Home, for a total of \$1,061.02.

- **MOTION:** PNC Laurie Bailey moved, and PRPSE Fred Bolz seconded to approve these allocations. Motion carried.

Motion was made to accept the Treasurer's report.

- **MOTION:** PNC Laurie Bailey moved, and PRPSE Fred Bolz seconded to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

April is nominations for officers, board of directors, and home committee. The second round of nominations and elections will be at the May General Assembly meeting.

President: Ken Hutchison  
Vice President: Wayne Suckow  
Secretary: Sarah Ihme  
Treasurer: PNP Don Muccheck

Board of Directors: Ernie Culbreath, PRPSE Fred Bolz, PNC Laurie Bailey, Tim Bailey, Larry Pepper, Artie Sattler, LC Mills, Glenn Little, John Tharp, Ed Peters, Marlene Silva, Ken Wallace, Bobbi Sutton

A recess was taken between nominations.

Home Committee Chairman: Nate Nathan  
Home Committee Finance Secretary: PNP Don Muccheck  
Home Committee Admin Secretary: Sarah Ihme

Directors: Sue Peters, Kim Vandiver, PRPSE Fred Bolz, Ken Hutchison, PNC Laurie Bailey, Tim Bailey, Ernie Culbreath, John Tharp, Ken Wallace, Dee Wallace, Bobbi Sutton

## **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

SUBVETS are having a picnic on May 16th.

Committee reports are due no later than June 2026.

VFW Post 10256 will host their Memorial Day Service on Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1500 at McAllister-Smith Funeral Home. There will be a wreath placing during the service.

### **Unit Report:**

Thanks to the SUBVETS for their generous donation to the VA Clinic. We received a thank-you letter from the VA Clinic. They are also looking for donations for bus passes. If you can donate a pass, please put the donation in the Auxiliary membership box.

Thanks to everyone for participating in the yard sale.

The first round of nominations was held this month, and the second round will be next month.

We plan to go to the Victory House in August. Donations are appreciated.

The future of FRA Unit 269 was discussed during our meeting.

Our general meeting will be on May 19<sup>th</sup>, and the Ladies' luncheon will be on the same date at the Home.

S/M Ken Hutchison was presented with an award for recruiting or reinstating ten members.

The Two-Bell Ceremony took place.

Meeting adjourned at 2002.

## FRA LOW COUNTRY HOME COMMITTEE MEETING

APRIL 13, 2026

S/M Ken Hutchison called the FRA Low Country Home Committee meeting to order at 1800 on Monday, April 13, 2026.

**Board Members Present:** Shipmates Ken Hutchison, Sarah Ihme, PNP Don Muccheck, John Tharp, Ken Wallace, and Ryan Stevenson; Ladies Kim Vandiver, Sue Peters, and Dee Wallace

**Other Members Present:** Shipmates Larry Pepper and PRPSE Fred Bolz

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the March meeting were approved as posted, with no corrections or objections.

- **MOTION:** PNP Don Muccheck moved, and S/M Ken Wallace seconded, that the minutes be approved. Motion carried.

### Financial Reports

S/M Ken Hutchison assisted PNP Don Muccheck with the cash audit.

Balances as of 14 March 26: Checking \$3,419.47; Savings \$50,487.78; Credit Card \$3,770.84; Pending Deposits \$1,149.75; Registers/Change Funds \$1,500.00; Cash Reserve Fund \$6,000.00; Total Funds \$66,327.84

Net Profit (Loss): March (\$5,492.07)

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

Indoor picnic for Memorial Day, May 25<sup>th</sup>.

The comedy show will be held this weekend.

A summons was received naming the Fleet Reserve as a defendant in a motor vehicle accident case. Legal counsel will likely be required, and a response is due within 30 days.

No further information was reported regarding the SLED matter.

### Membership and Security:

FRA HQ reports 706 active Branch members, 200 active Auxiliary members

### Old Business

On Saturday, April 25, 2026, a live wreath will be taken to the USS *Hobson* Memorial around noon. A service will be held on Sunday, April 26, 2026, at 1330. Other veterans' organizations have been contacted, with some confirming participation. Food will be provided after the service at an approximate cost of \$215. These funds have already been allocated.

The Kentucky Derby party will not be held this year.

- **MOTION:** Lady Dee Wallace moved, and Lady Kim Vandiver seconded, that this year's Kentucky Derby party be canceled and resume next year as able. Motion carried.

### **New Business**

The installation of Officers will be June 5<sup>th</sup>.

A motion was made to authorize the Home to take all necessary actions in response to the summons, including retaining legal counsel, and to use funds from the cash reserve fund as needed.

- **MOTION:** S/M Sarah Ihme moved, and S/M Ryan Stevenson seconded, that the Home hire legal counsel and use the cash reserve fund as needed in responding to the summons. Motion carried.

A motion was made to reinstate weekly Tuesday activities.

- **MOTION:** PNP Don Muckeck moved, and S/M Ken Wallace seconded, that weekly Tuesday activities be reinstated. Motion carried.

### **Good of the Order**

Next cleanup day: 23 May 2026 at 1000.

Next meeting: 18 May 2026 at 1800

- **MOTION:** Lady Kim Vandiver moved, and Lady Sue Peters seconded, that the meeting adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 1828.

Auxiliary of the FRA, Unit 269  
FRA Home, Goose Creek, SC  
Minutes, April 14, 2026

President, Pat Suckow NFS/PNP, called the regularly scheduled General Assembly meeting to order at 5:35 pm.

**Visitors:** (None)

**Drape the Charter:** (None)

**Roll Call of Officers.** President Pat Suckow NFS/PNP, Vice President Debbie Breeze, Secretary/Treasurer Gale Nathan PNC, Co-Secretary Marilyn Tharp, and Chaplain Theresa Milligan were present. Jr Past President Trish Chilton was absent.

**Roll Call of Board of Directors.** Kathy Sorenson, Sue Peters, Ann Griffith, Linda Nichols, and Dee Wallace were present.

**Other members** attending: Anne Barton, Nellie Kirtley, Kim Vandiver, and Eva Sollo.

**New Member Initiation.** (None).

**Minutes** for March were presented and approved as published.

**Membership Report.** Debbie Breeze.

Members as of April 1 -- 182; Reinstated - 13; New - 22; Transferred In - 0; Transferred Out -- 0; Resigned -- 0; Non-Payment -- 14; Deceased -- 2; Ineligible -- 1; Other -- 0; Active Members -- 200.

**Treasurer's Report.** Gale Nathan.

Balance brought forward: \$14,668.95. Disbursements: \$136.18. PCT Auto Deposits: \$187.50. Other Deposits: \$1,733.00. Checking account balance \$16,453.27. Savings: \$3,164.05. Balance on hand: \$19,617.32.

Bills to be paid:

Theresa Milligan -- Snack Table -- \$94.20

Debbie Breeze -- Garment Racks for Yard Sale -- \$74.52

Gale Nathan -- Ink Pens w/Auxiliary name -- \$33.69

**Chaplain Report:** Theresa Milligan.

19 -- Birthday cards

2 -- Get Well cards for Annie Baine, Benita Kinlaw

2 -- Sympathy cards to Gale Nathan and Kyrstal Shaffer on passing of Beverly Shaffer

**Hospital Report:** Theresa Milligan

No hospital visits needed

**VAVS Report:** Theresa Milligan

There will be a baby shower on May 13 at the N. Charleston VA Clinic.

Karen Cook is new volunteer representative for snack table scheduling, etc.

Letter received from the Charleston-Ralph Johnson VAMC (534) thanking Unit 269 for the food pantry donation of groceries and also for the snack table.

**Correspondence:** Marilyn Tharp.

No correspondence received

**Activities:** (All Members).

Gale Nathan: 50/50 – \$70.00 (February), \$80.00 (January)  
Gale Nathan: Golf Tournament cancelled due to security issues  
Sue Peters: Ship's Store -- \$64.00  
Debbie Breeze: Yard Sale -- \$902.00, plus \$184 food sales

**Americanism/Patriotism:** (Linda Nichols)

April 15 -- FRA/Auxiliary Scholarship Deadline  
April 18 – Doolittle Raid Over Tokyo (1942)  
April 19 – Patriots Day (1894)  
April 22 – Earth Day (1970)  
April 24 – Arbor Day (1872)  
May 1 -- Loyalty Day (Reaffirmation of Loyalty to US) (1921)  
May 1 –Silver Star Service Banner Day (2010)  
May 5 – Cinco de Mayo  
May 8 – VE Day (Victory in Europe) (1945)  
May 10 – Mother's Day (1914)  
May 13 – Navy Nurses Corps (1908)  
May 13 – Peace Officers Memorial Day (1962)  
May 16 – Armed Forces Day (1950)

**Audit:** (Sue Peters, Kim Vandiver)

Audit was completed with no discrepancies.  
Next audit will be on June 2

**Publicity:** (Debbie Breeze)

No report.

**Welfare / Rehabilitation:** (Sue Peters)

Sue urged everyone to help collect items for upcoming Victory House visit.

**Youth Activities:** (Anne Barton, Gale Nathan)

Anne reported that she continues to support the FBLA at a local High School. So far she has donated over \$200.00 of personal funds

**Ship's Store:** (Sue Peters)

Let her know if you need a shirt. Next order will be sent in July. Shirts are \$24 each.

**Unfinished Business:**

The President reminded everyone that we will continue to collect food supplies for the VA Clinic pantry. The SubVets should be especially thanked for all their contributions.

Marilyn Tharp reported that she has not yet set date for visit to Victory House. It was decided August would be an ideal timeframe for the visit.

President Suckow reminded all committee chairs to complete their annual reports soon.

It was decided to rotate manning at the VA Snack Table. Theresa Milligan, Dee Wallace, and Ann Griffith will handle the April session. Sue Peters, Pat Suckow, and Gale Nathan will handle the May 26 session. Theresa will work up a list of available dates for the following months.

Debbie Breeze thanked everyone for their help, their participation, and their support during the yard sale. She also expressed thanks to the shipmates for providing food for sale at lunchtime.

Debbie Breeze made a motion to change meeting start time to 6:00 vice 5:30. Dee Wallace seconded the motion. Motion carried. After further discussion the motion was rescinded.

### **New Business:**

Theresa Milligan made a motion to allot \$250 for purchase of items for the VA Baby Shower. Motion was seconded by Debbie Breeze. Motion carried. Dee Wallace and Theresa Milligan will do the shopping.

All members should have membership cards with them at all times when in the Fleet Home. Cards should be shown to duty bartenders when being served. All guests should be signed in the log book.

Results of the first round of Nominations were:

President	– Pat Suckow, Kim Vandiver
Vice President	-- Debbie Breeze
Secretary	-- No nomination
Treasurer	– Gale Nathan

Second round of Nominations and Elections will be conducted at the May meeting. All were reminded – if you are not able to attend the meeting, and you wish to be considered for any of the above offices, or for Board of Directors, you MUST submit in writing a letter stating you are willing to serve if elected. It was further discussed that if no one steps up to serve as Secretary, the duties will be divided between several members as follows:

1. Treasurer will become Secretary/Treasurer. She will perform all duties normally associated with the Treasurer, plus she will receive and process membership applications.
2. One member will be appointed to send email messages to members.
3. Another member will be responsible for recording minutes of the meetings.
4. Another will send (US Mail) all correspondence to members who have no email.
5. Others will be identified as needed.
6. If you are willing to serve in any capacity, please let President Suckow know.

### **Good of the Order:**

Dates to remember:

April 26 -- Hobson Memorial Ceremony at Fleet Home, starting at noon. Members should wear white.

May 19 -- Auxiliary Luncheon at FRA Home

May 19 -- General Meeting and Elections, 5:30. Be sure to bring membership card!

May 23 -- Memorial Day Ceremony, McAllister-Smith Funeral Home

May 25 -- Memorial Day Ceremony, Fleet Home

June -- NO MONTHLY MEETING

June 5 -- Installation of 2026/2027 Unit Officers

July 4 -- Indoor Picnic. Unit will have basket to raffle

July 27-31 -- SER, Warner Robins, GA

The next Unit Luncheon will be held Tuesday, May 19, at 11:30. Please RSVP to Debbie Breeze (843-343-5489) so proper seating can be available.

The next Unit meeting will be held Tuesday, May 19, at 5:30 at the Fleet.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.