

FRA, LOW COUNTRY BRANCH 269

<http://www.fra269.org>

BRANCH OFFICERS

President – Larry Cox
553-9025
Treasurer – Laurie Bailey
Vice-President – Fred Bolz
797-3515
Secretary – Darlene Hines
824-2589
Jr. Past President – Larry Starland

BRANCH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mike Black	Mark Hunter	Mike Sparks
Doug Cattell	Bill Korbisch	Bobbi Sutton
Bill Farmer	Bob Lopez	John Tharp
Perry Friend	Don Parks	Jim Williams
Chuck Hines	Larry Pepper	

APPOINTEES & COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Chaplain – Bobbi Sutton 879-9473	Historian – Laurie Bailey
Master-at-Arms – Eric Bourgeois, Chuck Hines, Mark Hunter	Audit – John Tharp, Perry Friend, Bill Korbisch
Amer/Pat – Larry Starland	Ways & Means – Don Parks
Membership – Chuck Hines	Youth Activities – John Tharp
By-Laws – Chuck Hines	Legislative Affairs – Fred Bolz
Public Relations – Bob Lopez	WEB Master – Kelley Hines
VAVS – Fred Bolz	

LAFRA UNIT 269

UNIT OFFICERS

President – Nancy Bullis
296-4644
Secretary – Linda Cox
553-9025
Vice-President – Pearl Korbisch
747-7194
Treasurer – Mary Lopez
696-5828
Jr. Past President – Rusty Wenzel

UNIT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Gail Becker	Linda Jones	Nancy Vella
Pat Bischoff	Elsie Sexton	Rusty Wenzel
Sue Cattell	Marilyn Tharp	

APPOINTEES & COMMITTEE CHAIRWOMEN

Chaplain – Pat Bischoff 764-0927	Youth Activities – Marilyn Tharp
Membership – Pearl Korbisch	Amer/Pat – Linda Cox
Sergeant-at-Arms – Faye Pyatt	Unit Activities – Gail Nathan
Publicity – Mary Lopez	VAVS – Sue Cattell
Welfare – Gail Bolz	Audit – Nancy Vella
Merry Widows – Betty Harris	

BRANCH PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Welcome to 2012. If you are reading this you have another chance at another great year! It all depends on what you do with it. How about making those New Years resolutions? Here are some guidelines that may help make them work:

- (1) Be realistic by setting achievable goals.
- (2) Describe your resolutions in specific terms.
- (3) Break down large goals into smaller ones.
- (4) Find alternatives to a behavior that you want to change, and make this part of your resolution plan.
- (5) Above all, aim for things that are truly important to you, not what you think you ought to do.

I can think of two resolutions that are very easy to make and accomplish.

- (1) Resolve to recruit one new member for the FRA, Branch or Auxiliary, or both!
- (2) Resolve to be more active in your Branch or Unit. It's easy to do, is satisfying and makes a difference.

No special events are scheduled in January so everyone has an opportunity to relax and catch your breath after this past holiday season. Remember the home is a family atmosphere and a wonderful place to bring the family for a relaxing evening.

You will recall that the National Winner of the FRA essay contest last year was Trinh Chu, sponsored by Branch 269 and received over \$15,000 in cash and bonds. The Branch received well over 100 entries for the 2011-2012 essay contest. I am looking for volunteer judges that will determine the local winners this year. These young citizens put forth a great effort and we owe them equal effort in judging their entries. We will meet at the home at **1200 Saturday January 7th**. Branch and Auxiliary member are strongly encouraged to assist.

See you at the Fleet and we'll talk again next month.

In Loyalty, Protection and Service,
Larry Cox

BRANCH TREASURER'S REPORT

Checking	\$13,017.26
Savings	\$4,532.84
Total	\$17,550.10

Deepest sympathy is extended to the family of

Bruce M Barclay, LCDR, USN-Ret

James J. Rogers, Jr, BM1, USN-Ret

Robert C. Blihar, BMCS, USN-Ret

Shane Shenton, PO1, USN-Ret

who transferred to the

Staff of the Supreme Commander

BRANCH & UNIT CHAPLAINS' PEW

Our prayers and best wishes to those who may be in poor health. Anyone knowing of any illness or death among our Shipmates or Auxiliary members please contact **Branch Chaplain Bobbi Sutton @ 879-9473** or **Unit Chaplain Pat Bischoff 764-0927**.

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

darlene.hines@comcast.net

Motion – S/M C. Hines seconded by S/M Friend to accept Standing Rule #1 as written. Voice vote, carried.

Motion – S/M C. Hines seconded by S/M L. Bailey made motion to accept proposed Home bylaw Article 802.3 as written. Hand vote, 5 yeas, 10 nays, not carried

HOME FINANCIAL REPORT

NOVEMBER '11

NET PROFIT	\$5,330.09
BUILDING FUND	\$20,897.89
SAVINGS	\$3,662.80

UP COMING EVENTS

Mark your calendar, watch for details, watch for additions

Monday nights – Stop by & see if the “Salty Dogs” are in the house

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

Saturday nights, 1930hrs – In-House 8-ball Tournament

Dec 31st – New Year's Eve

Feb 5th – Super Bowl Party

Feb 11th – Valentine Dinner

Subject to change and additions.

MADAM PREZ'S TIDBIT

By the time you read this the Holidays will be over. Hope you all had a very Merry Christmas.

Looking forward, we are going to be buying Girl Scout cookies to send to the troops. Also the essays will be read and voted on January 7th at 12pm. Unit members are invited to come and participate in the reading and voting.

We are looking for new ways to raise money so we can continue to help those in need. We did end up making Christmas baskets for 8 families this year and they were very grateful. Any ideas for fundraising are welcome. Come to the meetings and bring your ideas. We are talking about putting together a Valentine Basket for raffle so if you have anything to add to it, please let us know.

We still have some 2 year planners for sale for \$3 each. Lady Linda Cox is the woman with the key to get to them, so when you see her get your planner.

So far we have 22 new members. Remember....recruit, recruit, recruit. This is your organization, so please participate.

Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who work so hard to make all that we do happen.

Next meeting is January 17th at 7pm. See you then.

Yours in L/P/S,
Nancy

UNIT CONTINUOUS MEMBERSHIPS

Neta Fewox 44yrs	Myranda Stone 9yrs	Heather Wenzel 3yrs
Rusty Wenzel 33yrs`	Patricia Keeler 5yrs	Susan Buxton 1yr
Dorothy Nephew 19yrs	Marguerite Descoteaux 5yrs	Kenneth Laplante 1yr
Dorothy Brace 13yrs	Kimberly Sparkman 4yrs	Francis Sease 1yr
Taffy Clark 9yrs	James Slotterback 3yrs	Myles Spence 1yr

MERRY WIDOWS SUPPORT GROUP

The Merry Widows Support Group will meet on January 10th at 11:30am at the FRA, Home.

We will have a buffet luncheon, make plans for 2012, have a book exchange, and door prize. If time permits, well will play a game. Invite a friend.

We had a wonderful attendance for the December meeting. It was a lot of fun. Thanks again for all who attended.

Yours in Loyalty, Protection, & Service,
Betty Harris - 552-1416 or C# 412-6753
e-mail: jewelbettyh09@hotmail.com

FROM THE DESK OF SIR AMERICIS PATRIOTIS

It was January, the winter of 1777; the British had set up winter camp in New York City. 1776 wasn't a good year for General Washington and the Continental Army. They had lost the battles for New York City. Cornwallis was in hot pursuit as the Continental Army retreated across New Jersey and as they retreated, the army got smaller due to desertions and expiring enlistments. Washington hoping to gain an advantage, managed to get what was left of his army across the Delaware River. In a stroke of luck for General Washington, General Howe, the overall British Commander ordered the British Army to go into winter quarters. On December 14th, the pursuit stopped, and several out-post were established in northern New Jersey by the British. There was a lull in the war.

Washington knew he had to do something, but what. Morale was down in the army and public confidence was fading. He decided to attack the British garrison in Trenton New Jersey on December 26th. Late Christmas Day, combating rain, sleet and snow the army again crossed the Delaware River. The crossing completed by 3:00 AM the army marched toward Trenton. At 8:00 AM the attack commenced, catching the British Regiment of Hessians by surprise the battle was soon over. The British Commander Brigadier General Mercer, fell mortally wounded during the fight, the British surrendered with a loss of 22 killed and 918 captured. Washington lost 4 men killed and 8 wounded. The triumph at Trenton bolstered public morale, increased enlistments, and instilled new confidence in the Continental Army. But General Howe was pissed. He commanded General Cornwallis with 8000 troops to again pursue Washington.

Re-crossing the river on 30 December, Washington unites his command and prepares to face the advancing British. Cornwallis splits his forces leaving 1200 men at Princeton and another 1200 men at Maidenhead while his main force chases Washington. Washington eluded Cornwallis. The resulting campaign culminated with an American triumph at the Battle of Princeton on January 3, 1777. Cornwallis heads back to winter quarters. Assessing his tired army's condition, Washington decides to also enter winter quarters at Morristown. Things are looking up and that's where I come in to the picture; the editor of the Philadelphia Lantern is sending me to Morristown to report on the Army during its time in winter quarters. Just my luck, Morristown, why did I become a reporter? You're Servant A/P

JANUARY 2012

Lunch: Monday – Friday 1100-1330
Dinner: Monday – Thursday 1700-2100
Dinner: Friday – Saturday 1700-2200

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1 New Years Day Home is Open 1000hrs to 2000hrs FREE POOL	2	3 WING NIGHT	4 Pizza Night 1800 - Vietnam Vets	5 1900- Sub Vets Exec Meeting	6 2000 – Poweroke	7 2000 – Poweroke
8 1000hrs to 2000hrs FREE POOL	9	10 1130 – Merry Widows luncheon @ FRA Home WING NIGHT	11 Pizza Night	12 1900- Sub Vets Meeting	13 2000 – Poweroke	14 0900 – Field Day 1200 – Home Committee Meeting 2000 – Poweroke
15 1000hrs to 2000hrs FREE POOL	16	17 1130 – Unit luncheon @ Red Bank Club 6:30 – UNIT BOD 7:00 – UNIT General Assembly WING NIGHT	18 Pizza Night	19 1800– BRANCH BOD 1900- BRANCH General Assembly	20 2000 – Poweroke	21 2000 – Poweroke
22 1000hrs to 2000hrs FREE POOL	23	24 WING NIGHT	25 Pizza Night	26	27 2000 – Poweroke	28 2000 – Poweroke
29 1000hrs to 2000hrs FREE POOL	30	31 WING NIGHT	Feb 1 Pizza Night 1800 - Vietnam Vets	Feb 2 1900- Sub Vets Exec Meeting	Feb 3 2000 – Poweroke	Feb 4 2000 – Poweroke

BRANCH CONTINUOUS MEMBERSHIPS

Congratulations!!! This is your anniversary month.

Arthur Miller 43yrs	Larry Starland 11yrs	Frederick Woodley 4yrs
Theodore Martin 42yrs	Ronnie Vandiver 11yrs	Robert Williams 4yrs
Karl Humbertson 40yrs	Rodney Carter 9yrs	Val Daschle 4yrs
Tom Wunder 40yrs	Marion Clark 9yrs	Fred Knight 4yrs
Walter Rydzy 37yrs	Jerome Ferneding 9yrs	Ron Minton 4yrs
Salvatore Leonti 36yrs	Jerry Morgan 9yrs	Jack Bullis 4yrs
Murrell Wilson 33yrs	Robert Reilly 9yrs	J.D. Porter 3yrs
William Teague 33yrs	Olin Thomas 9yrs	Stephen Bolz 3yrs
Nestor Derecho 31yrs	James Johnson 8yrs	Winfield Meadows 3yrs
Thomas Seymour 30yrs	Michael Markiewich 8yrs	Peter Cosgrove 3yrs
Robert Rose 28yrs	Keith Schnebel 8yrs	Benjamin McDonald 3yrs
Wayne Swiech 27yrs	John Magnan 7yrs	Heather Ivey 3yrs
David Cornelius 26yrs	Grady Langley 7yrs	Richard Kaminsky 3yrs
Alex Gordon 26yrs	Joseph Larose 7yrs	Mark Rocheck 2yrs
Robert Stadler 19yrs	William Ahner 6yrs	Lee Coats 2yrs
Danny Mills 17yrs	William Riley 6yrs	William Galloway 2yrs
Bruce Brown 13yrs	Stan Rhorer 6yrs	Tommy Hellemms 2yrs
Donald Keen 13yrs	George Williams 5yrs	Edward O'Donnell 2yrs
Richard Sparger 12yrs	Robert Block 5yrs	Cliff Barnes 1yr
Joe Travis 12yrs	Robert Collins 5yrs	Carl Hollis 1yr
Paul Reece 12yrs	Mike Donovan 5yrs	Gary Williams 1yr
Carol Fulton 12yrs	Mark Fiorey 5yrs	William Luse 1yr
Daniel Sease 12yrs	Bobby Grassman 5yrs	Mark Garrison 1yr
Jeffrey Peternel 11yrs	Theodore Nesbitt 5yrs	Chris Olson 1yr
Charles Pyatt 11yrs	Ronald Redondo 5yrs	

HAVE YOU RENEWED??? PLEASE DO, IF YOU HAVE NOT!!

BRANCH 269's DINK LIST

Past due: Charles Baylor, David Bell, Matthew Bender, Stephen Bolz, Robert Bradshaw, Claud Bunn, Roy Carver, Ricky Collins, David Guarino, James Gulick, Patrick Hirsch, Samuel Jenkins, Michael Jenson, Michael Kay, Raymond Kiley, Randy Krahn, Patricia Lambert, Ivan Lewis, Nathaniel Mizzell, Dewitt Morgan, John Muessig, Terrence Mummert, John Nance, Phillip Obie, Robert Oyer, Robert Rebeck, Earl Duane Rigg, Ernest Stewart, Barry Stitely, James Strohm, Max Tremblay, Christo Yarina

Suspended: Randy Clark, James Doman, Raymond Dyson, Andrew Finn, Michael Glynn, Lowell Mills, Thomas Reiff, Wade Rourk, Robert Scheffler

ANNUAL SHORT STAY PICNIC

May 18 & 19, 2012

The FRA Branch 269 picnic will be held on 18 & 19 May 2012 at Short Stay. Call Short Stay at 1-800-447-2178 or (843) 761-8353 to reserve **your** accommodations. These are on a "first come, first served" basis, and we're competing with all Short Stay customers. The Branch is not blocking/reserving any accommodations. Act quickly!

RAFFLE FOR

WW II HONOR FLIGHT GUARDIAN

The Branch is entitled to provide one guardian on the next Honor Flight on April 21, 2012 after the \$2500 donation that was made. This \$500.00 valued seat is being raffled off. Tickets are \$5.00 each. Date of drawing March 23rd. **ALL PROCEEDS WILL BE DONATED TO THE WWII HONOR FLIGHT.**

If you know someone you want to be a guardian, buy a ticket in their name. Put your name down as the seller.

The winner must be truly willing to be a guardian and must meet the criteria. It takes time, not just the day of the flight and you must be able to take care of the WWII veterans assigned to you. S/M Larry Starland can answer more of your questions.

YOU SAY IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY!

If you are a Branch 269 or Unit 269 member, stop by the FRA, Low Country Home **on your birthday** for a **FREE BIRTHDAY LUNCH**. It's your choice from the lunch specials of the day. If your birthday falls on a weekend, stop by Friday or Monday.

Vincent Tamburrino 1/01	James Lewis 1/08	Perry Friend 1/19
Joy McGuinness 1/01	Thomas Huffcut 1/08	Norman Jones 1/19
Frank Bohannan 1/01	Ginger Bevis 1/08	Frank Davis 1/20
Lori Ryan 1/01	Steve Koch 1/08	Melanie Branham 1/21
John Schafer 1/02	Jeremy Leal 1/09	Arthur Robinson 1/21
Carl Hollis 1/02	Paul McFall 1/09	Bruce Whipple 1/22
Rosemary Clark 1/03	Wade Reid 1/09	Gary Theriault 1/22
Robert Moore 1/03	Barbara Aler 1/09	Faye Pyatt 1/22
Martin Riley 1/03	Ellen Kaeser 1/09	Thomas Scott 1/22
Nathaniel Mizzell 1/03	Thomas Beach 1/10	William Lindler 1/23
Karen Kocczynski 1/03	Skip Wach 1/10	William Bevis 1/23
Richard Duprey 1/04	Gary Gardner 1/11	Joseph Beneventano 1/23
Vicky Blihar 1/04	Bobby Beck 1/12	Edward Stank 1/23
Joey Carnley 1/04	Robert Kline 1/13	Michael Kay 1/25
Robert Lambert 1/05	Yoshie Kelly 1/14	Jamie Johnson 1/25
Billy Fowler 1/05	Karen McDaniel 1/14	George Gruber 1/25
David Hartkemeyer 1/05	Michael Struve 1/14	Kirk Owen 1/25
Robert Hayes 1/05	Dean Dupont 1/15	Donald Lozen 1/25
Robert Isaman 1/05	Clarence Lammers 1/15	Linda Walton 1/26
Chris Ludwig 1/05	Alan Laberge 1/15	Brian McQuown 1/26
Phillip Euper 1/06	Dianna Ogle 1/15	Jonathan Jordan 1/26
Cori Janney 1/06	Robert Samples 1/16	Kenneth Farrell 1/26
Roy Brosseau 1/06	Maria Lewis 1/16	Terry Mummert 1/26
Thomas Chase 1/06	Charles Day 1/16	Everett Summers 1/27
Albert Buck 1/07	Margo McGraw 1/17	Dianne Woodward 1/27
Robert Stadler 1/07	Val Coggins 1/17	Edward Feidt 1/28
Samuel Cosimano 1/07	Harry Kirk 1/18	Fred Knight 1/28
Gerald Farr 1/08	Herbert Franklin 1/18	Robert Shoecraft 1/28
David Graminski 1/08	Marty Gavin 1/18	Willard Burton 1/29
Arlie Cunningham 1/08	Kimberly Sparkman 1/18	Michael Welch 1/30
Michael Hadbavny 1/08	James Lyda 1/18	Rusty Wenzel 1/30
Judith Highberger 1/08	Dennis Rash 1/19	Angela Walker 1/31

NEW YEARS EVE PARTY

Tickets are now on sale. This year **JB & Harmony** will be on stage.

Tickets are now \$30.00. Cash bar, Party Favors, Hors d'oeuvres, Champagne at Midnight, and Breakfast. Doors open at 1900hrs (7:00pm).

Seating chart will be used, so buy early and get a good seat.

SUPER BOWL- February 5th

Super Bowl Sunday is February 5th. Your Low Country Home is planning a Super Bowl blast. There will be an open bar with lots of munchies and a surprise for someone every time the score changes.

There's a sign-up sheet at the bar. Check at The Home for further details.

Valentines Day Celebration February 11th

Special dinner and more. Check next month's newsletter and fliers at the home for more details. Fliers will be posted in January

BRANCH MEMBERSHIP REPORT

New or Reinstated Members	9
Transferred into Low Country Branch 269	0
Transferred to the Staff of the Supreme Commander	0
Suspended members	11
Members past due	40
Transferred from Branch 269	0
TOTAL MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING AS OF 30NOV11	928

WELCOME ABOARD SHIPMATES

New, Reinstated, & Transferred Members

Richard Dougherty	Michael LeCompte	Thomas Rice
Richard Hebert	Roger Little	Mary Tozzolino
William Hunnell	Joseph Perillo	Larry Walton

WEEKLY DRAWING at THE HOME

Names drawn lately: 11/29 – Doug Cattell, Sr, not signed; 12/6 – James Sherrow, not signed; 12/13 – James Miller, not signed; 12/20 – Richard Hebert, not signed;

You must be a member of the Branch or Unit in good standing and you must be signed in the log. You can sign up until 1800 hours, the day of the drawing. The drawing is held every Tuesday night at 2030 hours.

FRA, LOW COUNTRY HOME, Inc.

99 Wisteria Road

(843) 569-2692

Home Chairman – Chuck Hines

Larry Starland – Vice Chairman

Darlene Hines – Financial Sec.

Bobbi Sutton – Admin Sec.

John Tharp – Bldg. & Grounds

Linda Cox – Special Events

Larry Cox – Security & Mbr.

Laurie Bailey – Director

Rick Sparger – Director

Bob Lopez – Director

Jim Williams - Director

Trustees: Fred Bolz – Nate Nathan – Larry Pepper

Home Manager – Crystal Boyd

Hours of Operations

Mon-Sat 1000-2400 * Sun 1000-2000

Happy Hour – 1600-1900 Mon-Fri

FROM THE HOME COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

We're coming up on a new year! You should be reading this post in time to purchase your tickets to the really big New Year's Party at The Home. The cost is \$30.00 per person and includes heavy hors devours, party favors, champagne, breakfast, cash bar, and entertainment by JB and Harmony. Worried about driving? Get a room at the Quality Inn at the FRA rate of \$69.00.

The Super Bowl Party is our next really big event, on Sunday the 5th of February. It is also a ticketed event. Check with your bartender at The Home for details.

The Home Committee has received several bids to perform some of the "heavy" field day tasks. Those tasks will be performed by contractors or casual labor in the future. We'll still conduct a "scaled back" field day each month prior to the Home Committee Meeting. All Hands are invited! Our next field day and meeting are January 12th at 0900 and 1200 noon, respectively. Hope to see you there!

In Loyalty, Protection and Service
Chuck

HOME COMMITTEE MEETING

MOTION S/M Sparger seconded by S/M Williams made a motion to accept price increases to some Ala Cart Menu items. Motion carried.

MOTION S/M Williams seconded by S/M Bailey made a motion to recommend to the Branch General Assembly that they approve the proposed Home Bylaw change, article 802.3. This change authorizes the Home Committee to spend more than \$2000 under EMERGENCY conditions. Motion carried.

*Note: This motion was not carried by the general assembly.

MOTION S/M Williams seconded by S/M Tharp made motion to pay Christmas bonuses to Home employees. Motion carried.

WE'RE GOING GREEN

YOU MUST REQUEST SNAIL MAIL

COPY OF MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Shipmates and Auxiliary members, if you **WISH** or **MUST** have the monthly newsletter by snail mail (comes to you in the mail box in front of your house); you **MUST** make your request to the Branch by March 1st.

The Branch has voted to cut printing and mailing expenses. Our monthly newsletter is available online at www.fra269.org. If you don't own a computer, you obviously can not see the newsletter online. To receive it via snail mail, you **MUST** submit **in writing** your request to have it mailed.

What is **In writing?** Leave a note in the Pass Down Log at The Home; put your name on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board at The Home (until March 1st); or mail your request to the Branch Secretary, Darlene Hines, 137 Thousand Oaks Circle, Goose Creek, SC 29445.

BRANCH SPECIAL EVENTS

CARIBBEAN CRUISE ABOARD THE NORWEGIAN SUN – departing on 17 March 2012 from Port Canaveral, FL. Current rates of \$579.00 to \$899.00 (tax not included) per person. Example, mid-ship balcony \$807.10 + \$115.06(tax) per person. A \$250.00 deposit per person is required at time of reservation. **Contact Jan Austin at (843) 856-4607 ext 15612.** Tell her you're with the FRA. Also, tell Jan whether you're interested in motor coach transportation to and from Port Canaveral. This transportation will be available based upon demand. **Jan's email: jeaustin@mailaaa.com**
Questions? Chuck.hines@comcast.net