

ARE YOU ON FACEBOOK

If you are on Facebook and want to be in contact with us and see what is going on with our home and branch, then LIKE us on Facebook. Go to the search bar and type in: FRA Branch 269. When the list comes up with FRA Branch 269 name, click on it and our page will come up. Press "LIKE" and your request to join will be approved by our administrator in a few days.

WELCOME ABOARD SHIPMATES

Ellen Bassett Christopher Cottie Joe Lockabill

BRANCH MEMBERSHIP REPORT

New or Reinstated Members	3
Transferred into Low County Branch 269	2
Transferred to the Staff of the Supreme Commander	3
Suspended members	4
Members past due	12
Transferred from Branch 269	2
TOTAL MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING AS OF 8 APR, 2015	937

BRANCH 269's DINK LIST

Past due: Brian Cruz, Dave Geene, Earl Gross, Gavin Karelitz, Marion Lingat, Jon McCain, James Rebar, Joseph Schmitt, Robert Simmang, John Steele, Bradley Wadycki.

Suspended: Ricky Collins, Robert Collins, Richard Mahlie, William Reed

BRANCH 269 MENTORING PROGRAM

The FRA Low Country Branch 269 Mentoring Program desperately needs volunteers to be mentors for new shipmates and who would need to be available for the new member throughout the first year to provide answers to any questions that they might have about the FRA and Branch 269. This program does not take up a lot of time so if you want to find something to start with to get involved with the Branch, this is it! To sign up for this program, please contact Laurie Bailey at lbailey009@sc.rr.com or leave a message in the pass down log with name, e-mail and phone number if you want to provide it.

BRANCH TREASURER'S REPORT

Operations	\$ 5,722.00
Savings	\$ 4,579.59
Certificate of Deposit	\$10,831.00
Total	\$20,414.16

FRA HOME TREASURER'S REPORT

Building Fund	\$21,851.91
Savings	\$ 19.58
Checking	\$ 5,784.20
Credit Card Receipts	\$ 1,157.91

MERRY WIDOWS LUNCHEON

The Merry Widows will meet March 8, at 11:30 a.m. at the FRA Home.

UNIT 269 LUNCHEON

The next Unit lunch will be held Tuesday, March 15, at 11:30, at TJ Burgers: 214 St. James Street, Goose Creek

MADAM PREZ'S TIDBIT

The famous groundhog has predicted an early spring and, lo and behold, he may be right. The Japanese tulip tree across the street from me is full of blooms. Not going to put my jacket away yet tho, just in case. We had the best time so far at the Valentine's Day visit at Quality Care Nursing Home. Along with the usual sweet treats, Tyler and the ladies handed out silk roses, cards and boxed Valentine chocolates. We sang love songs and a couple of the ladies were inspired to dance to Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy with Gail Bolz. What a hoot. The rocking chair raffle has begun. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. The drawing will be held at the joint Month's/Father's Day breakfast in June. The Yard Sale/Bake Sale/Car Wash will be held on April 23. More information will be provided in the days ahead. We've received information concerning a need for various items for the women vets at the VA hospital. A collection box is just inside the door at the FRA. Items needed are sports bras, new Hanes Her Way undies, socks, body location, and personal hygiene products. Thank you in advance for helping them out. Sarah Lookabill Campbell was initiated into the LAFRA. Welcome Sarah. The Tennessee Caucus is fast approaching. It will be held March 17 and 18 in Gatlinburg. If you are interested in attending, you can contact RPSE Pat Suckow for more information. The next Merry Widows lunch is Tuesday, March 8 at 11:30 am at the Home. The next Unit lunch is Tuesday, March 15 at 11:30 am at TJ Burgers on St. James Avenue. The next regularly scheduled General Assembly meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 15 at 6:30 pm.

Happy Birthday and Anniversary to all members having one in March.

In Loyalty, Protection and Service

Roz Mathis – President – Unit 269

FRA BRANCH BY-LAWS REVIEW – SECTION 4, ARTICLE 410(a) – (d)

Duties of the Branch Secretary

Section 410(a) – Duties of the Secretary: The Branch Secretary shall keep membership records, prepare all Branch correspondence and maintain all permanent Branch records. The Secretary shall take minutes of all Branch and Board of Directors meetings and shall maintain a permanent record of all such minutes.

Section 410(b) – The Branch Secretary is authorized a petty cash fund not to exceed fifty dollars (\$50.00) per month, for the purpose of handling miscellaneous expenditures in the execution of secretarial duties. All expenditures will be documented by the presentation of a receipted bill or other acceptable record to the Branch Treasurer.

Section 410(c) - The Branch Secretary shall perform duties as prescribed within Article 12 of the C&BL and the Administration Manual of the FRA.

Section 410(d) – The Branch Secretary shall receive a secretarial expense fee in the amount of twenty-five cents per month for each member of the Branch in good standing as reported in the monthly membership report from the National Financial Secretary.

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

tharpj@sc.rr.com

Motion: S/M RVPSE C. Hines, seconded by S/M Lookabill to pass the Amendments to the Unit's By-Laws as read. Voice vote and carried

Motion: S/M RVPSE C. Hines, seconded by PNP Muccheck for 1st reading of Resolution of Section 1313 of the C&BL for Units not conducting business if the Branch is suspended.. This was the 1st reading.

Motion: S/M PNP Muccheck, seconded by S/M Lookabill to donate \$200 to the VA to assist in bringing the Miracle Band to Charleston for a free concert on May 7. Voice vote and carried

HOME COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Hello Shipmates and Ladies,

Looking forward to another successful month at the Home. Last month we had the best January in a couple of years. Looks like we are on track for another good month. The main reasons we are starting to move forward successfully are due to three factors as far as I can tell. First, we have a good management team running the operations of the Home....thanks Larry, thanks Don. Next, our staff are taking it up a notch in service, thanks to Rita and Justin in the kitchen and all the ladies behind the bar and some doing both, thanks. Last, but never least, YOU, the members of the Home. Volunteering for just about anything that needs doing around here, and participating in the functions that are offered at the Home. Without the members, there wouldn't be a Home.

We have a few events coming up. Various parties are being scheduled for the Ballroom and I don't have those events at this time. Field day should be the 12th of March, we'll send an e-mail out to all prior to the 12th.

Shipmate President Laurie Bailey has appointed PRPSE Fred Bolz to fill the remainder of shipmate Dave Rein's term to the Home Committee. We welcome Fred to the Committee and feel sure he will add strong character and insight that will benefit the Low Country Home.

Until next month....

LPS Nate Chairman, Home Committee

FIELD DAY AT THE HOME

2ND SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH

Our FRA home is a beautiful building and is used by many organizations such as the Marine Corps League, Vietnam Veteran's Association, Submarine Veteran's and we host many other activities in our banquet room and bar area. We want to keep our building nice and clean to continue bragging about our home and offer it to our members and others. We hold a field day (I know you all remember field day with the white glove test?) on the 2nd Saturday of each month starting at 0900 until we finish. It doesn't require the cleaning of a white glove test but it does need light cleaning inside and landscaping work done on the outside. So won't you join us if you can. Remember the saying, "Many hands make light work!" that is true in this case.

Special Note: If you are a smoker, can you please throw your cigarette butts in the cans designated for this use? It's not much fun to pick up trash in our parking lot and see so many cigarette butts on the sides and back of the building where the butts were just thrown down on the ground.

THANK YOU!!!

Branch Continuous Memberships – March, 2016

Charles Riggs	48 yrs	James Lewis	21 yrs	Charles Day	13 yrs	Charles Woodward	5 yrs
Ronald Vanco	47 yrs	Robert Gochbauer	19 yrs	Donald Detwiller	11 yrs	William Cool	3 yrs
Eugene Allen	46 yrs	Laurie Bailey	18 yrs	Robert Harris	11 yrs	Lawrence Fletes	3 yrs
Bill Gussler	46 yrs	Arthur Brown	18 yrs	John Tharp	11 yrs	Wayne Stella	3 yrs
Donald Muccheck	43 yrs	Richard Davies	18 yrs	Jesse Cumbee, Jr.	10 yrs	Ronald Walston	3 yrs
Frank Carroll, Jr.	41 yrs	Frank Davis	18 yrs	Paul McHugh	10 yrs	Mel Wriht	3 yrs
Joseph Ondo, Jr.	41 yrs	Douglas Catell, Sr.	18 yrs	Bryan Wright	10 yrs	Charles Corrigan	2 yrs
Frank Potts	41 yrs	William Farmer	18 yrs	Ronald Kozlowski	9 yrs	Arthur Hance III	2 yrs
Thomas Clark	40 yrs	Mark Heck	18 yrs	Dennis Lanier	9 yrs	Terrence Mummert	2 yrs
Bill Dempsey	39 yrs	Charles Moss	18 yrs	Wayne McDaniel	9 yrs	Patrick Scott	2 yrs
James Kennedy, Sr.	38 yrs	Mervin Wands	18 yrs	John Phillips	9 yrs	Donald Donofrio	1 yr
Robert Koscianski	38 yrs	Allen Wells	18 yrs	William Stevens	9 yrs	Doug Huffine	1 yr
Tommy Garrett	37 yrs	Robert Moore	17 yrs	Donald Wolfe	9 yrs	Robert Jonason	1 yr
Marvin Flanagan	36 yrs	Larry Pepper	17 yrs	Lawrence Kramer	8 yrs	Don Ort	1 yr
Kenneth Miller	31 yrs	Donald Tingle	17 yrs	Pete Martellini	8 yrs	Melody Phillips	1 yr
Bruce Garrabrant	30 yrs	Carl Chinn	16 yrs	Jerome White	8 yrs	Alexander Robertson	1 yr
Francis Jones	30 yrs	Thomas Lawson	16 yrs	Stephen Nogle	7 yrs	Richmond Smith	1 yr
John Aguilera, Jr.	28 yrs	William Pitts	16 yrs	Ray Stanfield	7 yrs	Ronald Swackhamer	1 yr
Willard Clark	27 yrs	Richard Duprey	15 yrs	Michael Sutton	7 yrs	Larry Tarzwell	1 yr
Charles Ivey	27 yrs	Gary Gardner	15 yrs	Jeannette Gombash	5 yrs	Randy Wagg	1 yr
Richard Alkire	26 yrs	Chris Ludwig	15 yrs	Debra King	5 yrs	Charles Watkins	1 yr
Kathryn French	24 yrs	Michael Welch	15 yrs	Michael Neff	5 yrs	William Watts, Jr.	1 yr
Robert Hughes	22 yrs	Martin Sessler	14 yrs	James Vanderheiden	5 yrs	Frank Yeager	1 yr

Unit Continuous Memberships – March, 2016

Patricia Wlazlinski	47 yrs	Katherine Sparger	12 yrs	Madline Morrin	6 yrs	Melvin Kozlowski	2 yrs
Wilman March	38 yrs	Margaret Jones	10 yrs	Frederick Kiley	4 yrs	Jeanne Nyberg	2 yrs
Shelia Schafer	20 yrs	Carol Eustace	9 yrs	Roberta Kiley	4 yrs	Lisa Berezny	1 yr
Carroll Sandefer	18 yrs	Nancy Villa	9 yrs	Kevin Sorenson	4 yrs	Michael Berezny	1 yr
Barbara Hayes	15 yrs	Mathilda Greeawalt	7 yrs	Suzie Vandiver-Brill	4 yrs	Peggy Byrd	1 yr
Lori Ryan	15 yrs	Marilyn Tharp	7 yrs	Irma Naples	3 yrs	Deborah Delaney	1 yr
Deborah Rullmann	12 yrs	Mae Williams	7 yrs	Margaret Hines	2 yrs	Willonette Steed	1 yr

2016 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE ----- 10% OFF MEMBERSHIP DUES

Again this year the branch is holding a membership special offer on any new membership, extension of a current membership, and lifetime memberships. The offer is for 10% off the membership dues the member pays the full price up front then the branch will reimburse the 10% amount back to the member. This offer runs from 1 February – 15 March, 2016. POC's are Shipmate President Laurie Bailey at 843-813-3430 for general questions and Shipmate Secretary John Tharp at 843-709-8520 for application processing. Applications can be found at the Home. If you renew your membership or sign up for a lifetime membership directly through National during this membership drive period, please call Shipmate John Tharp and let him know so he can verify and process your discount.

WEEKLY DRAWING at THE HOME

Names drawn lately: 2/2 – Kieth Schnebel, not signed; 2/9 – Gary Dobson, not signed; 2/16 L. Denopi, 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.

NATIONAL MAILING LIST

Shipmates, if you do not want any mailings from our National Office either by regular mail or electronic mail, you can call National Headquarters and they will check the block on your profile to stop these mailings.

NOTIFYING THE BRANCH WHEN A SHIPMATE PASSES AWAY

Our Chaplain, Bobbi Sutton is very good about searching for the passing of shipmates on the internet and arranging for our Two Bell Ceremony with the family. We want to honor our departed shipmates but sometimes we don't get the notification from the family until there isn't enough time to arrange the ceremony and get the word out to all our members. We are requesting our branch members as they make their final arrangements to advise their wives or husbands to make a note in their wishes to notify our branch Chaplain as soon as possible of their passing so we can arrange for this honor to be performed at the church or funeral home. You can leave a note for her at the Home or call her at (843) 879-9473.

YOU SAY IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY IN MARCH!

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**. It's your choice from the lunch specials of the day. If your birthday falls on a weekend, stop by Friday or Monday.

William Ambler	03/01	Jermaine Milford	03/08	Phyllis Harring	03/18	Martin Sessler	03/24
Novella Howerton	03/01	Robert Massey	03/09	Margaret Hines	03/18	Patricia Day	03/25
Donald Mook	03/01	John Potter	03/09	Robert Jaeger	03/18	Barbara Timmons	03/25
Hubert Pearce Sr.	03/01	Howard Anderson	03/10	Edward Smith Jr.	03/18	Timothy McNally	03/26
Roger Adams	03/02	Leonard Chapman	03/10	Jennifer Beilstein	03/19	Gerald Monnat	03/26
Holly Bishop	03/02	Michael Dellenbach	03/10	Barbara Hathaway	03/19	Charles Welch	03/26
Millard Driscoll	03/02	Alan Miles	03/11	Richard Kaminsky	03/19	Thomas Jordan	03/27
Deborah Delaney	03/03	Timothy Sparks	03/11	Frederick Koenig	03/19	Eugene Morris	03/27
Richard Mabe	03/03	Michael Berezny	03/12	Jeff Latourelle	03/19	Richard Bishop	03/28
Steven Smith	03/03	Stuart Erlandson	03/12	Scott Benson	03/20	Don Heywood	03/28
Jesse Cumbee Jr.	03/04	Dorothy Grooms	03/12	Bob Karth	03/20	Betty Hilliard	03/28
Lisa Friend	03/04	John Harrington	03/12	Gary Williams	03/20	William Wynn	03/28
Darlene Hines	03/04	Jimmy Legg	03/12	Thomas Davis	03/21	Michael Black	03/29
John Merrell Jr.	03/05	Burton Williams	03/12	John Pardo	03/21	Mark Tompkins	03/29
Eugene Lemieux	03/06	Randall Riley	03/13	William Allen	03/22	Norman Walker	03/29
Phillip Obie	03/06	Wayne Swiech	03/15	Cynthia Clark	03/22	Barbara Bohannon	03/30
Gordon Sarver	03/06	James Bishop	03/16	James Griffin	03/22	George Dale	03/30
Lewis Steed	03/06	Kenneth Wallace	03/16	Merle Melling	03/22	Mary Brady	03/31
Dana Johnson	03/07	Charles Ealey	03/17	Marie Schuessler	03/22	Robert Crenshaw	03/31
Jerry Espiritu	03/08	Patricia Hair	03/17	Martha Willcutt	03/22	Ducharme, Anne	03/31
Mae Williams	03/08	Wayne McDaniel	03/17	Isla Janney	03/24	William Hunnell	03/31
Claudia Hucks	03/08	Donald Tingle	03/17	Barbara Moyer	03/24		

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

tharpj@sc.rr.com

The monthly Scuttlebutt (newsletter) is sent to all members of the Branch and Unit in October and April by snail mail. If you are not receiving the newsletter by email or by snail mail please contact me. If your email changes please contact me with the current email address. You may also go to our Branch website: www.fra269 and check out the monthly newsletter on line. This newsletter is a means of communications with the members on all events happening within the Branch, Unit and Home.



Shipmates receiving their continuous membership pins: (right to left) Donald Peterson (35 years), Eugene Morris (15 years), Paul Viering (15 years) and John Hills (5 years)



Students receiving their Essay contest awards for "What Does the United States Flag Stand For"



Members and guests enjoying "Visions of Elvis" at the Fleet



New shipmates John Caddell and John Autry helping with field day. Next Field Day is Saturday, March 12



Members of the Submarine Veterans and Branch 269 paying last respects to LCDR David Rein at the Fleet on February 12, 2016

DO YOU HAVE A SEA STORY OR FIELD STORY TO TELL?

Every Sailor, Marine or Coastie has a memorable event or two that they love to tell to another shipmate at the bar or dinner table and we would love to hear those stories if you wish to tell them. Please send us a story or two of your best memories and we will print them in our newsletter and read one at a monthly meeting. Write a short paragraph or two and e-mail them to lbailey009@sc.rr.com with the subject line SEA/FIELD STORY FROM (NAME). You can also mail the stories to our home address (FRA Low Country Branch 269, Attn: Laurie Bailey, 99 Wisteria Road, Goose Creek, SC 29445) or leave in the pass down log at the FRA Home in an envelope marked Attn: Laurie Bailey. These stories are history and we want to honor your memories by preserving them.

SHIPS STORE ITEMS FOR SALE

Did you know the branch has a ships store at the home? We have many wonderful items for sale and this is where you can get your branch vest for meetings and ceremonies, FRA ball caps, T-shirts, hard copies of by-laws, etc. The ships store is located in the bar area of the home in the glass case and if you see anything you want in it, just ask the bartender to help you.

If you need to order an FRA branch cover, please contact John Tharp at 843-709-8520 or email tharpj@sc.rr.com. You may also go on line at website: <http://keystoneuniform.cap/fleet-reserve-cap.html> to order these caps. The basic cap is \$26.95, shipping and handling is \$8.00; lettering on the cover for Branch 269 is:

**LOW COUNTRY
BRANCH 269
GOOSE CREEK, SC**

Cost of the embroidering is \$.60 per letter. If you want a cover keeper it is \$4.00. Total cost of the cap is \$53.95, however, you will have it for a lifetime of attending Branch and FRA functions.

UP COMING EVENTS

Mark your calendar, watch for details, watch for additions.

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

Saturday nights – 2000 hrs – In House 8-ball Tournament

March 6	Massing of the Colors – Branch and Unit Participating
March 12	Field Day at the Home – 0900
March 14	Vietnam Veteran’s Chapter 780 Meeting
March 15	Unit 269 General Assembly Meeting
March 17	Branch 269 General Assembly Meeting
March 24	Marine Corps League Meeting
August 25-27	Southeast Region Convention, Gatlinburg, TN
October 9-16	2016 FRA/Auxiliary National Convention, Jacksonville, FL

ALL EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

NAVY TRUISMS

SUBMITTED BY SHIPMATE JOHN LOCKABILL

- A sailor will walk 10 miles in a freezing rain to get a beer but complain about standing a 4 hour quarterdeck watch on a beautiful, balmy spring day.
- A Sailor will lie, cheat and scam to get off the ship early and then will have no idea where he wants to go.
- Sailors are territorial. They have their assigned spaces to clean and maintain. Woe betide the shipmate who tracks through a freshly swabbed deck.
- Sailors constantly complain about the food on the mess decks while concurrently going back for second or even third helpings.
- After a cruise, a Sailor will realize how much he misses being at sea. And after retiring from the Navy considers going on a cruise and visiting some of our past favorite ports. Of course we’ll have to pony up better than \$5,000 for the privilege. Just to think, Uncle Sam actually used to pay us to visit those same ports years ago.
- You can spend three years on a ship and never visit every nook and cranny or even every major space aboard. Yet, you can name all your shipmates and every liberty port.
- Campari and soda taken in the warm Spanish sun is an excellent hangover remedy.
- PO2/E-5 is almost the perfect military pay grade. Too senior to catch the crap details, too junior to be blamed if things go awry.
- Never be first, never be last and never volunteer for anything.
- Almost every port has a “gut.” An area teeming with cheap bars, easy women and partiers, which is usually the “Off-Limits” area.
- Contrary to popular belief, Master Chief Petty Officers do not walk on water. They walk just above it.
- Sad but true, when visiting even the most exotic ports of call, some Sailors only see the inside of the nearest bars/clubs.
- Also under the category of sad but true, that lithe, sultry Mediterranean or Asian beauty you spent those wonderful three days with and have dreamed about ever since, is almost certainly a grandmother now.
- A Sailor can, and will, sleep anywhere, anytime.
- Yes, it’s true, it does flow downhill.
- In the traditional “crackerjack” uniform you were recognized as a member of Unites States Navy, no matter what port or part of the world you were in. Damn all who want to eliminate or change that uniform.
- The Marine dress blue uniform is, by far, the sharpest of all the armed forces.



SUBVETS ARE LOOKING FOR SUBMARINE QUALIFIED MEMBERS

Welcome to all Submarine qualified personnel to join the U.S. Submarine Veterans, Inc, Charleston Base. Next meeting is March 10, 2016 with the kitchen open at 1700, social hour at 1800 and meeting at 1900.



Rocking Chair Raffle



Unit 269 currently has a raffle for a rocking chair. Winning this great chair you can have a beer and sit on your front porch and observe all the neighbors.

Tickets are \$1.each or 6 tickets for \$5.

March 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Sons of the Confederate Veterans 1900 WING Night	2 Pizza Night	3 1800 Sub-Vets Board Meeting	4 2000 Karaoke with Becky	5
6 Free Pool	7	8 Merry Widows Luncheon 11:30 FRA Home	9 Pizza Night	10 1900 Sub Vets Meeting	11 2000 Karaoke with Red Fraley	12 Field Day 0900
13 Free Pool	14 Vietnam Veterans Chapter 780 Meeting 1800 Home Committee 1900	15 Unit Lunch 11:30 at the Home 1800 UNIT BOD 1830 UNIT Gen. Assembly Mtg Wing Night	16 Pizza Night	17 BRANCH BOD 1800 BRANCH Gen. Assembly Mtg. 1900	18	19
20 Free Pool	21	22 Sojourners 1830	23 Pizza Night	24 Marine Corps League Meeting 1900	25 2000 Karaoke with Red Fraley	26
27 Free Pool	28	29	30	31		

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202 Towhee Drive
Summerville, SC 29485

WE'VE GONE GREEN!!!!

NEWSLETTERS ARE ONLY MAILED IN APRIL & OCTOBER UNLESS YOU REQUEST YEAR ROUND MAILING

Shipmates AND auxiliary members, If you **WISH** or **MUST** have the monthly newsletter by "pony express" you **MUST** request it. The Branch has voted to cut printing and mailing expenses. Our monthly newsletter is available online at www.fra269.org. If you don't own a computer, you obviously cannot see the newsletter online. To receive it via "pony express", you **MUST** submit **IN WRITING** your request to have it mailed.

What is **IN WRITING?** Put your name on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board at The Home or mail your request to the Branch Secretary.