



# FLEET RESERVE ASSOCIATION

REPRESENTING ALL ENLISTED PERSONNEL USN - USMC - USCG

AKRON-CANTON BRANCH 324

FEBRUARY 2003



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**TREASURER:** H. G. BRYAN

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**NEXT MEETING:** Will be held on Sunday 23 February 2003 at the Army Reserve Training Center, 3120 Parkway St. NW, Canton, OH. Doors will open at 1:30 PM, meeting starting at 2:30 PM. In case of illness or death please notify one of the above Officers. \*\*\*\*\*

**NCRP DONALD GAGE:** The visit of the Regional President was well received, he addressed the Shipmates under the "Good of the Order" . He spoke on various topics that were of interest to the Shipmates. It was a shame we had such a small turnout for his visit. We had four Officers and one member. \*\*\*\*\*

**TREASURER:** Shipmate Wimbley resigned as Treasurer, Shipmate Bryan was elected to serve remainder of 2002-2003 Treasurer's Term. \*\*\*\*\*

**MEMBERSHIP:** 190 Total, 1 past due-189 members in good standing. **PAST DUE** Marlon Talbott, please renew Shipmate, We need you. We have nine members that need to renew. Please check the date on the right hand corner of your newsletter. This will tell you when your dues are due. \*\*\*\*\*

**SPACE SHUTTLE COLUMBIA TRAGEDY:** The Shipmates of Branch 324 extend our sympathy to the families and fellow Astronauts of the Crew of the Shuttle Columbia who perished when the Shuttle disintegrated upon re-entry. It reminds us that no matter where our Service Men and women serve, they are putting themselves in harms way. \*\*\*\*\*

**CONCURRENT RECEIPT BILL:** In a meeting with representatives from FRA and other military and veterans organizations, key staffers confirmed that longtime concurrent receipt champion Rep. Michael Bilirakis (Fla) will reintroduce concurrent receipt legislation in the 108th Congress when it convenes on 7 January 2003. The bill number will probably again be H.R. 303, and FRA salutes Honorary Shipmate Bilirakis for his tireless advocacy on this very important issue. \*\*\*\*\*

When the 107th Congress adjourned every unpassed bill introduced during its tenure died. The 108th Congress then begins with a clean slate. FRA and other organizations will then work to ensure that legislation addressing issues like concurrent receipt and reform of the Survivor Benefits Plan (SBP) and the Uniformed Services Spouses Protection Act(USFSPA) are introduced. \*\*\*\*\*

**FROM AN ARTICLE ON:** WASHINGTONPOST.COM: "David S.C. Chu, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, said VA disability compensation is intended, not to supplement military pensions, but to compensate disabled veterans who leave the military after a few years' service and do not qualify for full military pensions. \*\*\*\*\*

Military retirees with disabilities who qualify for pensions, Chu said are more than adequately compensated without VA benefits. Their pension benefits are already the most generous in the United States and fully indexed annually for inflation. Military Retirees also receive lifetime care and other benefits, he said. \*\*\*\*\*

The bottom line is, we don't see the problem for which \$58 billion of taxpayers money over the next 10 years is required to solve, Chu said. Makes one wonder where some people get their information. \*\*\*\*\*



**NORTH CENTRAL MID-YEAR  
INDIANAPOLIS BR 130**

Indianapolis, Indiana Branch 130 will be the host of the 2003 mid-year conference. The conference is scheduled for the 11th to 13th April 2003. In planning your visit, if you come by air make it your plans to rent a car. The motel is about 35 miles from the Indianapolis airport. The motel has no shuttle. Cabs and limos are expensive, starting at \$1.75  $\frac{1}{4}$ mile.

Branch 130 has arranged to block 74 rooms at the Comfert Inn in Greenwood, IN. All rooms no matter of size are \$62.50. To make reservations of your room and request special needs, call the motel at 317-887-1515. In booking your room state that you are attending the FRA Conference, that is how the blocked rooms are listed. The confirmation number for the blocked rooms is 13463, and the manager's name is Mark Hinton. All Reservations have to be made by March 1, that is the deadline for holding the rooms. The motel only has 74 rooms, so the entire motel is ours.

If more people wish to attend the conference and the motel is booked by 1 March or you make your plans after the deadline date, there are 2 other motels within walking distance. These are the Lees Inn-317-865-0100 and the Intown Suites at 317-865-0920. I have no idea of the prices, so you are on your own.

The morning schedule for the Conference will start at 0800-1200 Friday, registration, coffee & donuts and socializing. Saturday 0800-1200, same thing. During the socializing time frame, plans are being considered to offer those that wish to play golf, can do so at one of 2 nearby golf courses or those that wish not to play and would like a tour of downtown Indianapolis is being researched for transportation costs and opening times of some of the museums. The tour being planned will take you to the USS Indianapolis Memorial, USS Spruance Memorial, Congressional Medal of Honor Memorial, World War Memorial, American Legion Mall (Location of the State & National Headquarters) and a trip around the circle of the Soldiers and Sailors Monument.

From noontill we get tired or mid-night, whichever comes first, move to the VFW Post 5864 in Greenwood which is about a mile from the motel. There at the OPost, depending on the weather we can have a cook out in the shelter House or inside for finger foods and sandwiches and conduct our business.

For the Friday evening meals, we can order from the Post's evening menu. All meals are less than \$12.00. The cost of your banquet meal is \$10.00. You will be paying the Banquet meal when you register.

If you have any further questions or concerns, you can contact me at 765-537-2628 or e-mail me at [vamotor@hotmail.com](mailto:vamotor@hotmail.com)

Keith Ray EN1 (SW)  
USN RETired  
President Branch 130

Comfert Inn is off I-65 at Greenwood Exit