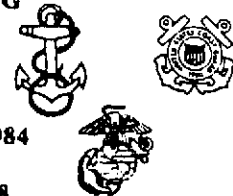




FLEET RESERVE ASSOCIATION
 REPRESENTING ALL ENLISTED PERSONNEL USN - USMC - USCG
 AKRON-CANTON BRANCH 324



OCTOBER 2002

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NEXT MEETING: Will be held on Sunday 27 October 2002 at the Army Reserve Training, 3120 Parkway St. NW, Canton, Ohio, 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. **NOTE:** The road construction around the area is finished, so there is easy access to the Center.

FRA MEMORIAL: If you get this newsletter in time, we hope you can attend the dedication. The directions were in the September newsletter. The National President will be in attendance. I would have had this out sooner but due to other issues, it was impossible.

MEMBERSHIP: 197 total members, 3 past due, 194 in good standing. **PAST DUE:** Chester Chapman, Gary Horsfall Jr and Edward Long. **NEED TO RENEW:** JC Bonham, JR Colazzo, George Rishel, Richard Sellers and Marlin Talbott. Thanks to the 11 Shipmates who have renewed their dues. Paid 5yr discount dues- Joseph E Costain, paid 3yr discount dues Joseph A Prusacik. If you have sent in your dues, please accept our thanks. **CONGRATULATIONS:** To Peggi Schmidt who was presented her 5yr Membership Guard by S/M Vice President Vechter.

NATIONAL Convention; The 75th FRA National Convention is now in the History book. It was held in Kissimmee, FL. Results of election: **NATIONAL President,** Ralph Schmidt-Br 246 Chicopee, MA, **NATIONAL VICE PRES:** Joseph Maez-BR 274-High Sierra, **NATIONAL EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:** Joseph Barnes-BR 181-Arlington, VA was selected by the National Board of Directors to serve out the two remaining years, vacated by the retirement of Chuck Calkins. **NATIONAL FINANCIAL SECRETARY:** Jerry Sweeney-Potomac Region BR 207 was elected to a three year term. He said he would retire after this term.

The resolution to allow non-career Shipmates into the FRA was again brought on the floor. It was ruled out of order by the C&BL, so was again defeated.

The 2003 Convention will be in San Diego, CA and the 2004 National Convention will be in Dallas, TX.

VETERANS DAY BALL: The Alliance Elks Lodge is hosting their annual Veterans Day Ball. **DATE** 9 November, **TIME:** 6-7:30 PM Dinner, Auction-8 PM, Dance 9 PM. **BAND:** DON BURNS. **COST:** \$35.00 per couple. If you would like to attend please **CONTACT:** GENE RISLEY PH# 330-823-8415. The address of Alliance Elks Lodge is 606 Glamorgan St. Alliance Ohio.

Shipmate Risley is a Shipmate From Br. 324. He is home recuperating after being in intensive care for five days. He had to have metal staples removed from his spine. They were put in there because of injuries he recieved while engaged in action against the enemy.

FRA BR 324 WEBSITE. www.peiglar.com/fra324.html The website at National is www.fra.org

U.S. NAVY BIRTHDAY: (1775) October 13th
COLUMBUS DAY HOLIDAY: 14 October
HALLOWEEN: 31 October

FRA BRINGS SHIPMATES' VIEWS TO CONGRESS

As the knock of the gavel announced the beginning of the first session of the 107th Congress, FRA shipmates walked the halls of Capitol Hill with a firm grasp of the key issues and a focus on a narrow set of far reaching legislative goals.

As America declared war on terrorism and the House and Senate Office Buildings reopened after anthrax attacks, FRA continued its important work of advancing the legislative agenda of the enlisted Sea Service community. Your shipmates on the Legislative Team walked Congress' halls with the Association's 2002 Legislative Agenda in hand and kept the concerns of FRA's members in the center of all relevant debate.

FRA was a key player in the movement to make full funding for concurrent receipt a reality this year. With an intensive lobbying effort in both houses of Congress, FRA helped push full concurrent receipt to the top of Congress' agenda. The result is unprecedented support for legislation addressing this in Congress. FRA also joined forces with other military and veterans associations, as well as members of Congress, to rebuff veto threats made by the White House. The outlook for concurrent receipt and increased benefits for America's disabled military retirees has never been better.

Securing full funding for DOD's health care program and an additional targeted pay raise for the Sea Service personnel fighting the War on Terrorism were Association priorities. As during past sessions of Congress, FRA advocated a fair pay raise proposal

based on results of the Association's 1999 study on military pay. FRA continued to emphasize that in addition to an across-the-board pay raise, senior and mid-grade personnel need to receive financial incentives to remain in uniform and end the drain on senior enlisted leadership that has hindered the Sea Services during the past decade.

In addition to concurrent receipt and pay, FRA has lobbied hard for the introduction of new legislative initiatives including dislocation pay for retiring servicemembers and allowing families and dependents of military retirees to keep the final month's retired check after the retiree's death.

It was during this session of Congress that FRA said goodbye to some old friends and allies. The Commandant of the Coast Guard, Adm. James Loy, retired and Adm. Tom Collins became the new commandant. FRA Shipmate Vincent W. Patton III retired as the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard and Master Chief "Skip" Bowen, also an FRA shipmate, has been named to act as MCPOCG until a replacement can be selected. Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy James Herdt also retired and Shipmate Terry Scott assumed the office of MCPON.

FRA continues to work hard on behalf of its membership and keep the issues of the enlisted Sea Service community in the forefront of all debate in Congress that affects them. The Association's ability to remain strong on Capitol Hill, however, lies with strong grassroots support and your efforts to recruit and retain members.

