

Fleet Reserve Association
Pensacola Branch 22
P.O. Box 36439
Pensacola, FL 32516-6439

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DECEMBER 2004-JANUARY 2005 BRANCH & UNIT 22 BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Branch & Unit General Meetings are held each month on the 2nd Monday at 1900

Location: AMVETS Post 292, 955 Dog Track Road, Tel. (850) 453-9109

FRA National Headquarters Toll Free Number 1-800-372-1924

In case of illness or death, please call Shipmate Chaplain Reggie Wilson (850) 433-7474



From Your President

Ahoy Shipmates! First, let me give you all a quick update on our quest for a new Branch Home. We are now accepting bids from engineering firms, and have hired a surveyor, so the clock is finally ticking and we are moving forward with the tedious process of jumping through all the legal hoops ensuring there are no last minute surprises on the horizon. If you get a chance, drive out Navy Blvd, and turn onto Coast Road, between Brews Brothers and Arby's. It's the vacant lot on the left behind Brews Brother's parking lot. We'll have plenty of room to grow there.

Next, we just wrapped up our four-week stint of cooking Sunday morning breakfast at the AMVETS Post, and our next cooking slot is January. Come out and have eggs to order, bacon, sausage, pancakes, grits, hash browns and SOS. The coffee is hot, and the sea stories are hotter! Thanks to Bob Montgomery, Mark Kilgore, Les Raske, Dane Ruth, Don Settell, Ben Ganis, Bob Hall, and the lovely ladies of LAFRA Unit 22 for coming out and making our four-week run a success.

Finally, I extend to all Shipmates and Ladies my best wishes for a joyous and Blessed Christmas. I asked Santa for a new Branch Home for the New Year, and I think he's a Member at Large, so we'll keep our fingers crossed. Until next newsletter, I remain yours in Loyalty, Protection, and Service.

-Jim Richmond-

BRANCH 22 OFFICERS 2004-2005

President

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Secretary/Treasurer

JrPRPSE Mark A. Kilgore
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Junior Past President

Don Settell

Board of Directors

Tom Bulger
Bill Eaton
Ben Ganis
Dick Gelinas
Bob Hall
Don Krauss
Walter Phillips
Les Raske
Dane Ruth
Joe Sykes
Reggie Wilson



From Your Secretary

Shipmates, the recovery from Hurricane Ivan has been and continues to be a very slow process for us all. I would be truly remiss if I did not publicly recognize Shipmate Ralph Pierson (Southeast Region Hospitals, Welfare, & Rehabilitation Chairman), Regional President Southeast Charles Blair, National President George Kaye, and National Financial Secretary Jerry Sweeney for their rapid response to our requests for FRA Disaster Relief Fund assistance. A heart felt BRAVO ZULU!!

Our membership continues to slowly recede both at the National and Branch levels. Remember the strength of the FRA and its effectiveness on Capitol Hill are our membership numbers. We have seen a great many successes recently; but, there is still much more to do. At the Branch level we have lost 75 members this year so far and have dropped below 1,400 due primarily to non-renewals. Each Shipmate is a recruiter, and I challenge you to make every effort to recruit at least one new member in 2005.

To all our Shipmates and Ladies, I wish you a joyous Holiday Season and a Happy New Year!

Yours in Loyalty, Protection & Service,
-Mark Kilgore-

Welcome Aboard!!

New Members: Shipmates Roy L. Heckman and Brandon Waugh

Reinstated: Shipmates Perry G. Byron, Eddy R. Hattabaugh, George L. Shellman, and Edward E. Sims

In Remembrance

With deepest regret we announce the following Shipmates who are now serving on the Staff of the Supreme Commander:

MCPO William E. **Burns**, USN(Ret.)
CPO Robert R. **Donald**, USN(Ret.)
MCPO Stanley J. **Durapau** Sr, USN(Ret.)
CPO John F. **Goeke**, USN(Ret.)
CPO Roy A. **Moulder** Jr, USN(Ret.)
LCDR James L. **Townsend**, USN(Ret.)
CPO Donald K **Yankey**, USN(Ret.)

Our deepest sympathies are extended to their families and friends.



FROM MADAM PRESIDENT

We trust that most of us have seen our insurance adjuster and will soon be on the road to recovery. I'm sure it's going to be some time before our neighborhoods and city get back to normal.

We want to thank everyone who came out and made our Thanksgiving Lunch a success. Your support is much appreciated, events like this is where we get our funds to support our auxiliary welfare and other programs throughout the year. A special thanks to our AMVET Sisters who pitched in to help.

Hazel Fatheree, Dorothy Sundberg, and Wilma Payne were our final members to be accepted in the Life Membership Program. Congratulations Ladies!

January 1st will be the beginning of a new year, and we hope a good one for our organization. We are expecting to be able to start a new Branch Home soon. A lot of ground work is still to be done, but hopefully it won't be much longer. We would like all of you to be a part of our plans, so come out to our meetings and support our Branch & Unit. Join us in this adventure, we need you!

Pearl Harbor Day - December 7th Services will be held in the Naval Aviation Museum at 11am, all are invited to attend.

We have had three deaths since our last bulletin went out: Chris Ashby, Alice Driggers, and Evelyn Oyler. These ladies will be greatly missed by all; and, to their families and friends we extend our heartfelt sympathy. To those who are ill, we hope you will soon be on the road to a full recovery; and to those having lost loved ones, our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Children's Christmas Party - Saturday, Dec. 18th, at AMVETS Post 292!!! A list will be on the Post door, so sign-up your child or children. If you can't get to the post, call me at 456-3251, and I will be glad to sign them up. The cut-off date is Dec. 14th - this only gives us 4 days to get prepared, so no reservations after 6pm Tuesday. We will be wrapping gifts and stuffing stockings on Friday afternoon Dec. 17th at AMVETS and we'd appreciate your help (time will be announced at our next meeting on Dec. 13th). Donations of candy, cookies, and stocking stuffers will be accepted. We are in need of 3 or 4 elves to help with the crafts and party. If you have a child between 11-15 yrs. who would like to help, give me a call. Our Special Guest for this party will be Santa and Mrs. Claus, and he just may have his BIG BAG of Toys with him.

-Gracie Vincent-

UNIT 22 OFFICERS 2004-2005

President

Gracie Vincent
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Chaplain

Garrie Phillips
(850) 456-6273

Hospital Chairwoman

Susan Forcier
(850) 455-0612

Board of Directors

Sue Blackmon
Marge Boyer
Georgette Chivington
Dot Cresswell
Glenda Eaton
Merline Petrich
Garrie Phillips
Louise Wilson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. FRA Widow's Medallions:

a. At the October Branch General Meeting the Shipmates voted to change Standing Rule 8 from "Floral Tributes" to "Shipmate Tributes". Therefore, in lieu of flowers at funeral/burial services the Branch conducts an FRA Membership Pin and, if applicable, a Widow's Medallion will be presented.

b. At the November Branch General Meeting the Shipmates voted to "Issue (Widow's Medallions) at Branch expense without engraving to Widows of Branch 22 Shipmates in Good Standing at the time of their Death." Please contact the Branch Secretary for more information.

2. The Southeast Region Mid-Year Meeting will be 11-12 February 2005 (Fri & Sat) at the Quality Inn Island House on St. Simon's Island, GA. For more information, contact the Branch Secretary.

3. The Southeast Regional Convention will be 11-13 August 2005 (Thursday thru Saturday) at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Macon, GA. For more information, contact the Branch Secretary.

4. Our USS DES MOINES bell that was in front of our Branch Home for so many years is now on its way to Wisconsin. Shipmate Lou and LAFRA PNP Betty DeCleene picked it up on November 14th to take it to Milwaukee where it is hoped that the second USS DES MOINES will be re-located for a museum. Thanks to the Shipmates that helped to load it in their van!

A Special Note: "Special thanks to each and everyone in Branch 22. We thank you so much for your love, kindness and sharing in our loss of my Beloved Husband, Father, Grandfather and Great Grandfather Louis F. Petrich Sr. God Bless Each and Everyone, Merline and Family."

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

(All events at the AMVETS Post 292 unless otherwise noted)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>TIME</u>
December 3 rd	"A-B-C Night" (formerly "Birthday Bash") (\$4.00 Donation)	1700-1830
December 4 th	Escambia County Veterans Roundtable (VFW Post 706)	1000
December 7 th	Pearl Harbor Commemorative Service (Naval Aviation Museum)	1100
December 13 th	Branch & Unit 22 Board of Directors Meetings	1800
	Branch & Unit 22 General Assembly Meetings	1900
December 14 th	Cut-Off Date for Reservations for Children's Christmas Party	1800
December 16 th	Steak Night (\$9.00)	1700-1830
December 18 th	Children's Christmas Party	1100-1300
December 25 th	Christmas Day	
December 31 st	New Year's Eve Party (For more info, call AMVETS at 453-9109)	2000-????

Welcome Aboard 2005!!

January 1 st	New Year's Day	
January 7 th	"A-B-C Night" (formerly "Birthday Bash") (\$4.00 Donation)	1700-1830
January 7 th -8 th	Georgia/South Carolina Coordinating Council Meeting, Rome, GA	
January 10 th	Branch & Unit 22 Board of Directors Meetings	1800
	Branch & Unit 22 General Assembly Meetings	1900
January 17 th	MLK Jr. Day (<i>Federal Holiday</i>)	
January 20 th	Inauguration Day	
	Steak Night (\$9.00)	1700-1830
January 22 nd	Escambia County Veterans Roundtable (VFW Post 706)	1000

Special Notes:

1. Every Saturday there is music & food (\$2.00 Donation) 1500-1800
2. Every Sunday morning there is a great breakfast at a reasonable price!! 0900-1200

"FRA Serving the Sea Services & You Since 1924"