

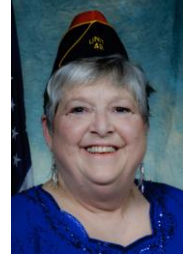
**LADIES AUXILIARY of the
FLEET RESERVE ASSOCIATION**

the TRIANGLE JUNE Edition

From the Desk of the NATIONAL PRESIDENT

On Thursday, 22 April, FRA NP Gary Blackburn and I attended the Pinnacle Award reception at Capitol Hill. NP Gary presented Virginia Senator Jim Webb the FRA's highest honor "in recognition of his leadership in enacting the post 9/11 GI Bill, efforts to improve care for wounded warriors and work to clarify that TRICARE beneficiaries meet requirements for health care coverage mandated by the new health care reform legislation." (Quoted from FRA news briefing 4/23/2010)

On the Saturday scheduled for Pilgrimage, the rain and clouds threatened all day. Despite the forecast, the National President's tea was well attended and we had a great time. I would like to offer my sincere thanks to PNP Doreen and her granddaughter, Suzie for a job well done.



After a rather roundabout ride to Arlington Cemetery, we all met at the Mast of the Maine. The National Marshall, PRP EC Aida Littlejohn conducted an outstanding service. Ed Dockery and Bob Washington performed the two-bell ceremony followed by Taps. This never ceases to move me.

We then proceeded to the Tomb of the Unknowns. As we walked along the path, there was a large contingency of World War II Veterans with the Honor Flight volunteers coming and going to the Tomb. We all took the time to shake each and every hand of these veterans many of them in wheelchairs and thanked them for their service. Many of us shed tears.

As I stood at the top of the stairs and listened to the Guard issue the instructions, I had butterflies in my stomach. The thrill of placing the wreath will live with me forever. It was hard to keep my composure as the bugler played Taps once more. Many of the WW II veterans in wheelchairs were sitting close by and many of them made every effort to stand and salute. It was incredible!!! God bless America!

That night we traveled to Charleston, SC to attend the USS Hobson Memorial and reception. We spent another day there sightseeing. Then we headed to Fort Mitchell, KY for the NC midyear. One of the many advantages of this job is seeing the country. It was awesome.

While in DC, I was able to visit the Naval Hospital in Bethesda. PRPs Gini Larson, Helen and Virgil Courneya and PNP Ginny Schmidt went with me. We met Judith Carlisle who is a Case Manager for Navy Safe Harbor. She introduced us to 2 of the enrollees who gave us a lot of insight to the program. One of them, Judi Boyce, took us on a tour of the living quarters and gave us more information. Culinary Specialist Seaman Judith "Judi" Boyce has been diagnosed with moyamoya disease, a rare, progressive cerebrovascular disorder caused by blocked arteries at the base of the brain. She has been chosen to participate in the Warrior Games to be held in Colorado Springs, CO. At present, she is working in the kitchen at the Pentagon, but eventually will fulfill a dream of serving on the Chef's staff of the White house.

NP Gary and I visited Bethesda again upon our return to DC. While in Chicago to visit my grandchildren, I will visit Great Lakes. Before the SC Convention, we will visit Brooke Medical Center in San Antonio, TX. I am preparing another article about Navy Safe Harbor in the very near future.

Many units continue to have problems with acquiring an EIN number or filing the 990N e-postcard. As I have reported earlier, I easily obtained the EIN number for Unit 42; however, when I tried to file the e-postcard, I had problems. After several unsuccessful attempts and consulting Finance Officer Paul Rigby, I contacted IRS. There can be several reasons for difficulties, but for the most part they are easily solved. In my case, Unit 42 was not listed as a tax exempt organization (an error easily corrected on the phone).

Please contact me if you have any problems with either the EIN number or the 990N e-postcard. Since I have spoken with the IRS, I have been able to resolve some of the issues. Every Unit must obtain the EIN and file the 990N so please do not neglect this obligation. If we do not file for three years, we will lose our tax exempt/non profit status.

Remember:

- Delegate forms must be filled out and returned. Please remember to appoint a proxy/alternate proxy if no one from your unit is attending the conventions. Be sure and check the box that allows a delegate to be seated. Let the delegates know how you feel about a resolution so the vote will be cast correctly.

- New officers' forms should be submitted immediately after election even if they are the same officers as last year. Make address corrections and/or email and phone changes. As per C&BL, Unit PCT checks will be withheld if officers' reports are not submitted by 31 July.

- Committee Reports may be judged on the Regional level, but only the Unit Report will be judged at National Convention. It would be nice if we could have 100% participation for the Unit Report since it is the only one to be done.

Check out the website: www.la-fra.org. We are updating it as information from the units comes in. The National Convention newsletter is posted as is the TRIANGLE.

We are trying something new this month. I have asked NED Joe Barnes to submit a monthly article to the TRIANGLE of interest to the Auxiliary. Many members do not receive legislative information and this is one avenue to make that possible.

In Loyalty Protection and Service
Cynthia Rodham Tuck
National President

From the office of the National Vice President.....



Auxiliary Members

I am now knee deep in lettering writing, doing spreadsheets and updating next of kin addresses for our Lifetime Members. I have completed six regions so far and it has been an eye opening project. We truly have lost contact with our members not only through national rosters but through the Units.

During the letter writing process, I have mailed out over five hundred forty letters for these six regions and on a good day I will receive replies that make my day with small notes from our members. Just a few notes: "Still alive and kicking," from a member who is 93 years young. Another member will be receiving her fifty year pin in July and she is ninety-five years old. Yet, in receiving these nice notes there is another aspect to this that I receive many undeliverable letters returned with no forwarding addresses.

We have lost many members through death. Our Lifetime members have not been reported by the Units because we have failed to keep in contact with our members. Some family members have responded to the letters to notify us that their family member is deceased. For instance some members have been deceased dating back to 1999 through 2010. This is very sad because we have dropped the ball on these members.

We will do everything possible to try to find out the status of these very special members and I have been fortunate that Doris Fri, RPNC is assisting in using her computer skills to search for our members. It has been truly helpful. We are also reporting member deaths to the National Chaplain- John Neal and MSA- Kathy Gallagher. I will notify the Unit by email if there is an address for the Unit Secretary otherwise I will send a letter to each Unit.

Hopefully by the time we go to National Convention in September we will have more information on our Lifetime members.

In Loyalty, Protection, and Service,
Helen A Courneya
National Vice President



I wish to thank the members of the East Coast for electing me your Regional President. Our place in the Auxiliary is strengthened by the outstanding work the East Coast units perform in the true sense of Loyalty, Protection and Service. I have had the opportunity to visit many units and I find them to be in good working order; ready, willing and anxious to be of service. The units have found some unique ways of helping others, such as, adopting schools and providing back packs and snacks during back pack weekend. They have adopted needy families and give them monthly rewards. They recognize the achievements of students at local schools and celebrate holidays with residents of nursing homes, group homes, orphanages and hospitals.

There are some honors afforded to the Regional President, among them are the institution of a new unit. I was so very pleased and honored to institute Unit 182 Triangle into the East Coast Region. It was a ceremony I will forever remember.

Membership is everyone's responsibility. Let's do all we can to increase our membership and retain the members we have.

Yours in Loyalty, Protection & Service,
Debra E. Washington, ECRP



From The South Central Regional President:

My year is half over and I still have units to visit. So far, I have visited Units 11, 92, 94, my own unit 159, 203, 222, and tried to visit 227. While on the way to Springdale, AR. Unit 227, the weather turned on us. It started snowing like crazy. By the time we reached Springdale we were covered. When we left Texas it was sunny and mild. The meeting was cancelled due to weather and we had to stay another day to wait for the weather to get better.

Finally getting to attend Pilgrimage in Washington, DC, I attended the reception to honor Senator Jim Webb's (VA.) receiving the 2010 Pinnacle Award for his efforts to improve the quality of life for veterans, military personnel and their families.

I'm looking forward to visiting the rest of the units in my region and hear what good things they are doing for their community. The members have shown my shipmate husband and I their generosity and kindness and we thank them for that.

In Loyalty, Protection and Service,
Stoney Vance SCR

DONATIONS

NATIONAL PRESIDENTS PROJECT

Unit 101
 Unit 219
 Unit 259
 Unit 5
 Unit 226
 Unit 300
 Unit 67
 Unit 291
 Unit 84
 Unit 18
 Unit 11
 Unit 181/Debra Washington
 Unit 324
 Unit 275
 Unit 386
 Susan Thomas
 Marjorie Pitcher
 Unit 313
 Unit 61
 Unit 175

NAT PRES PROJECT. (cont) IN MEMORY OF

PNP NITA DELESDENIER

B.J. Walz
 Janet Normand/
 Joyce Olafson
 PNP Robert Beese
 Wm.& Flo Marie Holcomb/
 Sandy Wood
 Lydia Smith
 Gail Doloway
 Tony Tonelli
 Bill and Arlene Hemmingway

LAFRA SCHOLARSHIP

Unit 313
 Unit 226
 Unit 296

NP SCHOLARSHIP

Unit 313
 Unit 226
 Unit 296
 Unit 67
 Past Nat. Pres. Club
 PNP Club/In memory of
 PNP Nita DeLesdenier

PILGRIMAGE

Unit 202
 Unit 101
 Unit 219
 Unit 259
 Unit 5
 Unit 226
 Unit 67
 Unit 102
 Unit 18
 Unit 11
 Unit 181
 Unit 364
 Unit 61
 Unit 40
 Unit 238
 Unit 156

IN MEMORIAM – LEST WE FORGET

Deceased members for the month ending April 30, 2010

12 Podlewski, Marie	53 Cowfer, Kathryn M	126 Kolsom, Norma J	216 Kilby, Elsie M
14 Field, Della V	53 Opon, Eleanore J	126 Peter, Yasuko	222 Picard, Mary A
14 Roquemore, Gloanne	53 Phipps, Mary A	136 Joringdal, Gladys R	226 King, Sarah S
18 Jones, Elvah M	53 Reid, Lillie E	161 Warner, Glenna D	229 Mesina, Josephine
20 Way, Bertha N	53 Ritzwoller, Edith	162 Ryan, Lillian A	234 Ray, Laura J
22 Kuryllo, Mildred R	54 Drumheller, Easter	162 Sorrells, Adeline L	282 Autry, Jo A
22 Stone, Lera M	89 Branham, Joann	175 Cater, Helen K	324 Cappo, Beatrice M
28 Eldred, Elsie K	105 Barr, Essie E	208 Settlemyer, Sallie L	339 Wallace, Betty M
36 Graupmann, Aldine J	101 Harris, Rae	208 Wallace, Bea A	

CANDIDATES FOR NATIONAL OFFICERS:

National President: Helen A. Courneya endorsed by Unit 21, 28, 50, 59, 66, 86, 101, 102, 127, 137, 181, 217, 229, 230, 215, 241, 275, 291, 296, 358, 361, 382

National Vice President: Gini C. Larson endorsed by Unit 181, 382

National Vice President: Terry Farr endorsed by Unit 147

National Executive Secretary: Doris Fri endorsed by Unit 66, 300, 382

East Coast Regional President: Karen Snee

North Central Regional President: Lisa Barton

South Central Regional President: Karen Smith

Southwest Regional President : Beatrice Demmel

The SBP/DIC Offset

By John R. Davis

FRA's Director of Legislative Programs

The Fleet Reserve Association (FRA) believes strongly that current law is unfair in reducing military SBP annuities by the amount of any survivor benefits payable from the DIC program.

If the surviving spouse of a retiree who dies of a service-connected cause is entitled to DIC from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and if the retiree was also enrolled in SBP, the surviving spouse's SBP benefits are reduced by the amount of DIC. A pro-rata

share of SBP premiums is refunded to the widow upon the member's death in a lump sum, but with no interest. This offset also affects all survivors of members who are killed on active duty.

Pending Legislation

FRA is supporting "the Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act" (HR 775) sponsored by Rep. Solomon Ortiz (Tex.) and identical legislation in the Senate S. 535 sponsored by Senator Bill Nelson (Fla.) that repeals the SBP/DIC offset. Both bills have stalled in Committee. Rep. Walter Jones has circulated a discharge petition on HR 775 to bring the bill to the House floor for a vote. A majority of members of the House must sign the petition before the bill is sent to the floor. Please use the "Action Center" on FRA's web site (www.fra.org) to urge support for these legislative proposals.

Recent Legislative Improvements

Last year the President signed legislation to regulate tobacco products (HR 1256), which also includes two important provision to increase the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance paid to widows affected by the SBP/DIC offset. Previous law limited the allowance to only \$50 per month for 2009, with increases to \$100 in FY2014. The new legislation increases the allowance to \$150 per month in 2014, and gradually increases to \$310 per month in 2017. The current monthly DIC payment is \$1154.

Two Different Programs

SBP and DIC payments are paid for different reasons. SBP is purchased by the retiree and is intended to provide a portion of retired pay to the survivor. DIC is a special indemnity compensation paid to the survivor when a member's service causes his or her premature death. In such cases, the VA indemnity compensation should be added to the SBP the retiree paid for, not substituted for it. It should be noted as a matter of equity that surviving spouses of federal civilian retirees who are disabled veterans and die of military-service-connected causes can receive DIC without losing any of their federal civilian SBP benefits.

Widows Court Win in SBP/DIC Case

The Department of Defense (DoD) recently issued a Memorandum to Director of Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) regarding the status of Sharp v United States in which three military surviving spouses sued to receive both Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) payments without offset, based on their re-marriage after age 57 and being otherwise entitled to payments under both programs. The US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit ruled in favor of the plaintiffs. The DoD Memorandum states that the Department will comply with the court's decision without further appeal, and will treat all similarly situated surviving spouses the same as the plaintiffs. This court victory coupled with DoD refusal to appeal could be the first step in an effort to eventually completely repeal the SBP/DIC offset.