

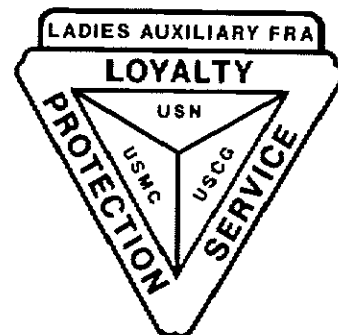
Volume 64 – Issue 1  
January / February 2010  
Branch / Unit / Club 91  
WWW. FRA91 .ORG  
E-Mail fcfi@bellsouth.net  
Branch/Club (904) 264-2833  
fax (904) 264-5888

Member of  
 **Clay County**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

# The Navigator



**WE ARE:**  
**NAVY**  
**MARINE CORPS**  
**COAST GUARD**



President: Jim Robbins 269-2136

Vice: Dave Schnupp 771-7441

Chaplain: Frank Royal 923-5371

Funeral Svc. Duane Wild 771-8381

Membership: John Pregler 772-1392

Treasurer: Frank Andrews 262-6178

Secretary: Todd Richter 778-1565 or 1-800-566-0420



NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT 3583  
Jacksonville, FL

Fleet Reserve Association  
First Coast Branch #91  
5391 Collins Road  
Jacksonville, Florida 32244

## Podium

Hello Shipmates!!! Good-bye to 2009 and welcome to 2010, a New Year and the beginning of a new decade. It is at these times we all look forward with anticipation for a better year (decade) than we have just had. Some of us have made new resolutions for the new year and I have renewed the one that I told all of you about last year. That resolution is more of a challenge but I feel it is one that should stand once again. My resolution/challenge is for all of us to become more proactive with the FRA and of course Branch 91. It is very important for us to keep up with all that is going on legislatively. We need to keep in touch with our legislators and let them know our feelings in regards to upcoming actions. We need to be vigilant, keeping watch and never letting our guard down. This is the only way we can protect what we have not only for ourselves but for all veterans and all who are serving now. Along with this we need help for our causes by signing up more members for the FRA who will work with us on these issues. Numbers do count and they add to our clout when we go up to the Hill to speak on these issues. To everyone who is all ready involved and proactive with the FRA, a special thank you. Now let us work on getting others involved.

Below is a list of New or Reinstated members from January through this printing. Please greet them with Branch 91 open arms! As I close I send out best wishes and the hope of a great new year to each and everyone.

Until next time, I remain in Loyalty, Protection and Service,

Jim "Robbie" Robbins

(904) 269-2136

[sigr@bellsouth.net](mailto:sigr@bellsouth.net)

## New FRA Branch 91 Members for 2009

Robert Clinton Adams	Jeffrey Doughty	Ronald J Kneip	Benjamin L Roman
Russ Adkins	Megan E. Dubreuil	Michael Knoblett	George R. Ross
Joseph Allemand	Allan W. Edwards	Robert Krejci	Edgardo Sanchez
Harouna Anne	Tom D. Elder	Gary E. LAFrance	Charles P Saxer
Keith Arnold	Robert A. Eppich	Steven R. Lane	Jeff A. Schmidt
William T. Bailey	Darin D. Estep	Carleton Ledoux	"Pastor T. Scott Schuesler, GSM2"
Michael L. Balkcom	Louie E. Faircloth	Robert J Lewis	Pete Schulmerich
Gary L. Barman	James Andrew Ferretti	Terry W. Logan	Thomas E. Seibert
Tabatha Basco	James A. Fowler	Roy A. Long	Kathy Sharp
Maurice Batey	Robert D. Garrett	John Edward Malseed	David L. Shaw
Jarrett J. Berry	Amanda George	Thomas M. McAndrew	Warren S. Slane
Clinton L. Beverly	Roy Gerhardt	Ron McClain	William Paul Smalley
Burney Bivens	Peggy Gibbs	Edward A. McDowell	Jack D. Smith
Clayton Kennard Bizzell	Rex A Gill	Charles L. McKenzie	Robert W Smith
Lance Boolher	Lawrence Goetz	Bill McQuouian	Paul A. Stewart
Larry K. Briggs	David P. Grant	Craig P. Mehler	Sarah L Tech
Frederick J. Burgman	Joseph Grim	Leonard W. Mincey	Paul R. Thomason
Robert Burnell	James Hampton	Matthew T. Murcin	Robert Turner
Jose J. Cabassa	Lejeune D. Harpe	Robert I. Nemecek	Thomas Turner
Leonardo D. Cajusay	Diane Lynn Hartin	John Newman	"Thomas J Utley, III"
Katie Carole Callaway	Ron Henningfeld	Susan M. Niehaus	John Vazquez
Jane L. Campbel-Waters	Harold Highley	Richard C. O'louglin	Timothy J. Veitch
Bienvenido T Censon	James M. Hill	David H. Olmos	Richard Verne
Trenton J. Clements	Larry Hodges	Dan A. Patrick	Shawn C. Vernon
Douglas E Cole	Carlton D. Hood	Floyd Patterson	James M. Voakes
Allyson C. Coley	Robert William Huebner	David L Peters	Raymond H Walker
Robert Floyd Collins	Mark E. Huffinan	Zachary A Post	Paul E. Watchorn
Robert Collins	Kenneth W. Hyde	James A. Pugh	Michael Whipps
Todd Corsi	Joseph James	Kelly Quinn	Theresa W. White
Luis A. Costoso	George M. Jensen	Ramon Ramos	John R. Whitlet
Ed Crawford	Chester L. Johnson	Ronald E. Rickenbrode	Danny T Williams
Charles P. Cross	Henry Jordan	Robert C Riggle	Ethan L. Williams
David W. Decil	Kathleen Kalyan-Barden	David C. Rittenhouse	Charles D Woodring
Donald U. Dillavou	Joseph L. Kines	David Rivera	Duane J. Zaleski
Janice Dion-Ratterree	William A. Kley	Raymond Rivera	

# What has Branch 91 done in 2009?

Branch 91 is a Nationally Chartered Veterans organization under the National Fleet Reserve Association umbrella. One of the missions of the FRA is to fight for benefits for active and retired members of the sea services. Another mission is to give back to the veteran and local community that sustain us.

During 2009 Branch 91 has continued to generate revenue due to personal member donations and fundraising activities at the Branch home. These include bike runs, Special Events, Friday dinners, Monday Burgers, Jack Pot Bingo, Video Machines, sponsored Parties, Pull Tab Bingo and more. While each of the events do not generate a lot of revenue, over the course of a year every dollar adds up and generally every dollar raised is turned around to support a worthwhile event or events. This could not be possible without the unselfish support of volunteers that do the grunt work required to make each event possible and for that we thank each and every person that volunteers for these events. We also wish to thank our members for visiting our Branch Home and patronizing our Club or coming to the events that we provide or participating in fundraising events to raise money for these local projects.

One of Branch 91's local missions is to donate a reasonable amount of donated or fundraising revenue to assist local charities. To this end Branch 91 has supported the following local and national charities:

Greater Jacksonville USO  
Children's Home Society  
NJROTC  
Shiners Circus  
DAV Veterans Picnic  
Unit 91 Children's Parties  
Bikers against Child Abuse  
Florida Council

Jingle Bell Jam  
National FRA Essay Contest  
Local Athletic Associations  
Coast Guard Family Day  
American Legion Events  
Unit 91 Food Baskets  
Other FRA Branch events  
Branch Picnics

During 2009 Branch 91 has donated about \$21,000 to support the local and Fleet community. The lion's share of this money came from instant bingo. This is in addition to the excessive cost of maintaining and keeping the doors to this rather large facility open 365 days a year for the benefit of our members.

Some other worthwhile things we do is the annual Unit 91 Memorial Day grave marker flags. We have expanded the Children's play area out back, have erected a large awning for members during Picnic events and in general have made a large number of improvements to the Branch Home to make our facility more usable and enjoyable for our members. In additional we provide a Thanksgiving and Christmas Dinner for the enjoyment of our members.

We will from time to time ask for volunteers to help with a worthwhile event and solicit your support. Every little bit helps either for your Branch, Unit or Club and the local community.

# Club 91

Welcome to 2010 at the Fleet Reserve Club of Jacksonville.

Hope everyone had a nice Christmas and New Years. Now back to business! Our dinners are starting back up in January, and I know I am looking forward to the Friday nights I don't have to cook or clean!

We will be starting a NEW lunch on Tuesday's this year. From 1-4pm we will have BLT's to order. Thanx to Helen Bair and Linda Baessler for taking this task on for us.

I want to thank the bartender's and door guys for all their help last year in making 2009 a huge success. I would also like to thank all of our members for coming out and showing their support and trying to help keep our club a place we all want to come back to!

As always, we have a lot of new and old entertainers coming to the Fleet to keep us Danc'in, so make sure you check your calendars and come show your support.

Don't forget every month the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday from 2:00 – 6:00 we have Pickin N Grinnin. Grab your instrument of choice and come play along.

February 13<sup>th</sup> we will be celebrating Valentines Day, so get your sweetie and come have some fun at the FRA 91 Club.

Until next time,  
Tara Moore  
Club Manager


**Starting on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2010**  
**FREE Drink IF**  
**You become a NEW Member of Branch 91**  
**(reinstatements don't count)**  
**ALSO**  
**FREE Drink**  
**For the SPONSOR IF**  
**The NEW Member is ACTIVE DUTY**  
**AND**  
**The NEW Member is present and over 21 years of age**

1 free drink per event and limited to Well Drinks, Domestic or Draft beer. Soda for under 21 tears of age

# SPECIAL ACTIVE DUTY APPLICATION

\*\*\*\*\*USE ONLY IF ACTIVE DUTY AND HAS NEVER BEEN A MEMBER OF THE FRA\*\*\*\*\*

FLEET RESERVE ASSOCIATION BRANCH 91



The Fleet Reserve Association, A Congressionally chartered, non-profit organization that represents the interests of the Sea Service community before the U.S. Congress, would like to extend an invitation to all active duty personnel at NAS Jacksonville to visit our facility at 5391 Collins Road. Just 3 miles from the main gate.

**Why FRA?** FRA works to preserve and enhance benefits and quality-of-life programs for members of the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard. We represent the enlisted perspective in dialogue with members of Congress, giving voice to our members' concerns. Loyalty, Protection, Service. Representing the interests of the enlisted members of the United States Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard.

**What to do at FRA Branch 91?** We are an exclusive, Members only, Family Friendly, Biker Friendly Veteran's Association with a broad range of membership categories available. Events in no particular order for members:

NASCAR Every Sunday or as Scheduled Beginning In February - Pinochle Tournament every Saturday at 1pm - Live Local Entertainment every Friday and Saturday Evening 8pm Till - Instant Bingo Everyday - Jackpot Bingo Every Wednesday Evening - NFL/College Football/other sports events with 8 Televisions (All Big Screens) - Florida/Georgia Game Chill Cook-off and Party - Bluegrass Jam every Other Saturday Afternoon -NFL Championship (SB) Party - New Year's Eve Party - Jingle Bell Jam Children's Fundraiser every December - Free Thanksgiving Dinner - Free Christmas Dinner - Free Memorial Day Picnic - Free Independence Day Picnic - Free Veterans Day Picnic - FRA Birthday Dinner In January - Installation Dinner In June - Saint Patrick's Day and September-fest USO Fundraiser (Biker event) - Fish Fry the First Friday of each Month except December - Italian night the second Friday of each month except December- Steak Night the Third Friday of each Month Except December - Taco Night the Fourth Friday of each Month Except December - Free Children's parties (Easter, Halloween and Christmas) - Saint Patrick's Day Party and Dinner - Monthly Birthday Parties - Quarterly Ribs by the rack - Halloween Party - Dart League every Tuesday during season - and much More.

Friday Dinners are low cost. Other Dinners are professionally catered except Thanksgiving and Christmas which are prepared by the shipmates. Did I mention that it is free to members and guests including Active duty and reserve members.

Volunteer opportunities of numerous types available to document your community service.

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
 New Member Name                      Date                      Received By  
 Proud sponsor of the Greater Jacksonville USO.

## SPECIAL ACTIVE DUTY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION.

NEW: \_\_\_ Br. of Service: \_\_\_ Rank/Rate: \_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ (LAST) \_\_\_\_\_ (FIRST) \_\_\_\_\_ (MI)  
 CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

SSN# \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_ SPONSOR: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ Check one Visa \_\_\_ M/C \_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Cost = **\$30.00 TWO YRS,**

Amount Paid with Application: \_\_\_\_\_ Received by/Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# NEW YEARS EVE PARTY

Catered Food. Midnight Champaign Toast. Party Favors. Music by JTO (Just Too Old). Tickets on sale at the Bar. Happy Hour Prices ALL Night in backroom!

**Doors Open at  
7PM**

**When:**

**Thursday**

**December  
31st**

**How Much:**

**\$20.00 per  
person**

**Where:**

**Fleet Reserve  
5391 Collins  
Road**

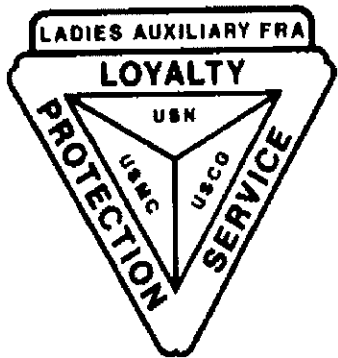
## **BENNY'S HAIRCUTS**

**Haircuts were donated by Benny to help raise funds for our Branch Home.**

**This being said, you should make a similar donation as you would if you got your hair cut elsewhere. Tips are always welcome too!**

**You should also become a member if your not already.**

**Thank You**



**Board of Directors Meeting**  
 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month  
 7:00 pm

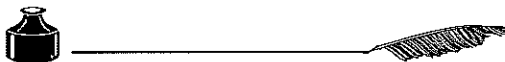
**General Assembly Meeting**  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month  
 7:30 pm

**First Coast LA FRA Officers 2009-2010**

President: Sandra Robbins  
 Vice President: Linda Moore  
 Secretary: Jackie Davis  
 Treasurer: Pat Garwood  
 Jr. Past President: Helen Bair

\*\*\*\*\*

Chaplain: Anna Reneer  
 Americanism: Tammy Davis  
 Welfare: Irene Schulman  
 Hospital: Helen Kelley  
 Youth Activities: Janet Pierotti



**Do you know someone who is eligible to be a member of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Fleet Reserve Association?**

**LA FRA Membership:** Membership in the Ladies Auxiliary of the Fleet Reserve Association shall be limited to spouses, parents, grandparents, sisters, brothers, children, stepchildren and grandchildren not less than 16 years of age of members of the Fleet Reserve Association and widows, widowers, parents, grandparents, sisters, brothers, children, stepchildren and grandchildren not less than 16 years of age of persons who were members at the time of death or eligible to be members of the Fleet Reserve Association at the time of death.

If you do, please sign them up. Use the membership application below. Dues are \$15.00 per year.



NAME IN FULL \_\_\_\_\_

(First) (Middle) (Last)

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

(City) (State) (Zip + 4)

(Telephone - Area Code + Number) (Birthdate(\*\*Used for Security Verification))

(Status: Circle one)

I am the: Wife / Husband / Mother / Father / Sister / Brother / Widow / Widower / Daughter  
Son / Granddaughter / Grandson / Stepdaughter / Stepson / Grandmother / Grandfather

of \_\_\_\_\_

(Serviceman's Full Name) (Rate) (USN, USMC USCG)

(Check the correct statement which fits sponsor's eligibility)

I certify that the above information is true and accurate and that my sponsor is a member of the FRA Branch \_\_\_\_\_ or is a MAL

I certify that the above information is true and accurate and that my sponsor was eligible for membership at the time of death.

Applicant's Unit Preference: 91

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (Applicant's Signature)

Proposed By: \_\_\_\_\_ Member # \_\_\_\_\_ Unit # \_\_\_\_\_

Send application and payment to: First Coast LA FRA Unit 91, 5391 Collins Road, Jacksonville, Fl. 32244  
 Make check payable to: LA FRA

Ladies Auxiliary of the Fleet Reserve Association First Coast Unit 91



The Unit President:

It is my hope that everyone had a great holiday and that the new year will bring each of you joy and happiness.

I really need to go over one really important thing in regards to membership. The last reports are showing a lot of our members on the thirty-sixty-ninety day lapsed listing. We are finding that when these members are contacted they say "I have my card and it says that I am current to 2010/20011". We believe that when they received their card, they cut it out but did not send in their payment. Un fortunately your membership card is not valid until the payment has been received and posted. Once you are past 90 days, you are dropped from the books as current and you will no longer be known as a member. We do not wish to lose any of our members so please send in your payment as soon as you receive your bill with your new card. If you need further info, please call us and we will be glad to help answer your questions.

Thanks to everyone who participated in our annual "Remembrance Tree" Project. Once again the tree was the focal point of the meeting room.

At the December General Assembly, the drawing was held for the \$100.00 Visa Gift Card. The recipient was Peter Schulmench, a sailor stationed at NAS JAX. Congratulations to Peter and thanks to all who donated to this Chaplain's Project.

Remember that Steak Night returns on the third Friday or each month in January.

As I close for this newsletter, I send my sincere sympathies to those in sadness, get well wishes to those who are ill, best wishes to those celebrating happy occasions and thinking of you wishes to everyone.

With warm regards, I remain in Loyalty, Protection and Service,  
Sandra Robbins, President Unit 91

Membership Assessment

The Unit is proud of all the projects that it does and is constantly working to make funds to ensure that these endeavors continue. This is the reason for this "Membership Assessment". Please help the Unit to continue with its Americanism projects by participating in our new fundraiser.

Please fill out the short form below and send to First Coast LA FRA Unit 91, 5391 Collins Road, Jacksonville, FL 32244 your remittance. Make checks out to LA FRA Unit 91.

Please count the following:

Number of doors in your home \_\_\_\_\_

Number of windows \_\_\_\_\_

Number of lamps \_\_\_\_\_

Number of closets \_\_\_\_\_

Total Number of above items \_\_\_\_\_

Now multiply that number by \$ 0.10

Amount of Tax \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Deadline for payment of the Assessment is April 1, 2010.

Membership Milestones

The Unit will be celebrating its 63<sup>rd</sup> year in service as a LA FRA Unit soon. At the February meeting it will be acknowledging those members who have reached the following milestones with their years of service pins:

10 Years

- Patricia Bristow
Betty Calef
Mary L. Frazier
Joan Jones
Edith H. Roth
Dorothy Vieira

15 Years

- Bobbie V. Magnussen
Linda T. Moore
Bobby Ann Phillips
Sandra P. Schuhr
Lydia A. Windham
Lois M. Wymbs

20 Years

- Betty H. Carr
Sibyle I. Davis
Betty J. Gurney
Ethel M. Jones
Maria L. Rouillard
Anna M. Shumaker
Betty J. Spinger

25 Years

- Christine M. Brackin
Vickie Hoverson
Joann Kersting
Johnnie Pierce
Elizabeth A. Utley

30 Years

- Mary Sue Analage
Eunice Suit
Clarice W. Thomas
Mary J. Vickers

35 Years

- Marie Bailey
Marion Berry
Janet Pierotti
Louise Valliere

40 Years

- Geraldine Fox
Doris H. Heald
Catherine J. Link
Barbara Shaffer

45 Years

- Rita T. Ennis
Frances R. Wetzberger

Those unable to attend may request their pin be sent to them by contacting the Unit's secretary at (904) 269-2136. Thank You for keeping your membership current.

## First Coast Unit 91 Annual Scholarship 2010

In accordance with Standing Rule #32, each year in the month of June, the members of Unit 91 award a five hundred dollar (\$500.00) scholarship to a Unit or Branch member or the son, daughter, stepchild, or grandchild of a Unit or Branch 91 member. This is done in accordance with the following guidelines:

A) A cut off date for applications shall be 31 March of the year it is to be presented.

B) The monies received shall be used for tuition, registration or other fees at an accredited school of advanced education or University designated by the student for the ensuing year. If for any reason the scholarship cannot be used as specified, it shall be returned by the college concerned to Unit 91 and it will be awarded to the alternate candidate. In no case is this to be given to applicant for other uses.

Those wishing to receive an application may request one by calling the Unit Secretary Jackie Davis at (386) 697-4278 or Unit President (904) 269-2136. Applications requests may be made by mail at: LA FRA Unit 91, 5391 Collins Road, Jacksonville, Fl. 32244.



### Joint Birthday Celebration 2010

You are cordially invited to the  
**64th Birthday Celebration of First Coast FRA Unit 91  
and the  
63rd Birthday Celebration of First Coast LA FRA Branch 91  
on Saturday, January 30, 2010  
at the FRA Branch 91 Home located at 5391 Collins Road  
Jacksonville, Florida 32244  
Cocktail Hour: 5:00 pm  
Dinner: 6:00 pm  
Dress: Semi-formal (NO Jeans)  
Menu:  
Tossed Salad  
Roast Pork with Mashed Potatoes  
Vegetables  
Rolls and Butter  
Birthday Cake**

*Donation: \$10.00 per person*

**Reservations Required (Cut-off Date Wednesday, January 27, 2010)**

(Tickets will be available at Branch Home. See the Bartender)

*Please Come Join In The Celebration!!!*



### Lunch and Dinner Bunch

Please join our group on the third Tuesday of each month at designated time.

January 19, 2010  
11:00 am  
Olive Garden  
Youngerman Circle

February 16, 2010  
11:00 am  
Honey B's  
Hwy 17/Paces  
Island

March 16, 2010  
7:00 pm  
Ruby Tuesday's  
Wells Road

April 21, 2010  
11:00 am  
Ham's  
Roosevelt Blvd/St.  
John's Av

Come Join In the  
Fellowhip

President: Sandra Robbins (904) 269-2136

Vice President: Linda Moore (904) 772-7606

Secretary: Jackie Davis (386) 697-4278

Treasurer: Pat Garwood (904) 594-6259

Chaplain: Anna Reneer (904) 771-0802

## Remembrance Tree 2009

*The holidays bring all of us to remembering special times and places in our lives. Our thoughts are of those who have touched or are touching our lives with their love. To these special people we dedicate this Remembrance Tree.*

*Shiq Bradford*

*Kimberly Caswell*

*Cecilia Bailey-Cooper\*\*\**

*Jim Frye*

*Earl W. Gonce*

*Linda M. Gonce*

*Paul S. Gonce*

*Virginia F. Gonce*

*Sally Haas*

*Donald H. Houverson*

*Archie Johnson*

*Bryon Johnson*

*Clarice Lancaster*

*Kay Lancaster*

*Kay Lancaster*

*Tomas F. Lancaster*

*Marie Lake*

*Alice Mergenthaler*

*Mary Ellen Mergenthaler*

*Bobbie Magnussen*

*Lillian Manzo*

*Louis Manzo*

*Joe Marmaud*

*James F. McNamara*

*Kelly Moore*

*Jackie Picanso*

*Dad Barney Rawles*

*Mom Charlotte Rawles*

*Ken Reneer*

*Edith Robbins*

*James R. Robbins Sr.*

*Ray Smith*

*Alan Turner*

*"God Bless Our Troops"*

*\*\*\*denotes deceased Unit member in 2009*

## Military Update: Health care reform bills won't hurt veterans

[http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/dp-local\\_milupdate\\_1130nov30.0.657763.story](http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/dp-local_milupdate_1130nov30.0.657763.story)

By Tom Philpott 9:49 p.m. CST, November 29, 2009

The national health care reform bill passed by the House last month and the Senate version to be debated in early December pose no threat to current health care benefits provided to military families, retirees or veterans, say advocates for these beneficiaries as well as congressional committee staffs.

The House-passed Affordable Health Care for America Act states that "nothing" in the bill "shall be construed as affecting" authorities used by the departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs to provide TRICARE programs or VA health care.

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), the Fleet Reserve Association of America, the American Legion and other veterans' service organizations have studied the legislative language of both bills. Their own reviews, and assurances they've received from relevant committees, give them confidence that the bills won't affect benefits or fees charged by TRICARE or VA, nor will these beneficiaries be exposed to any new tax liabilities.

"We have not talked to anybody — Republican, Democrat, anyone in the [Obama] administration or serving in Congress — who is trying to do anything to affect military people" as part of national health care reform, said Steve Strobidge, MOAA's director of government relations.

Steve Robertson, legislative director for the American Legion, said he has assurances from the armed services committees, veterans' affairs committees and congressional leaders that health reform will not affect TRICARE programs or VA health care.

"My comfort level is pretty high," Robertson said.

Confusing the issue for many beneficiaries has been an e-mail being passed among military retirees that warns falsely that the Congressional Budget Office has drafted legislation to attach new fees to TRICARE for Life, the prized insurance supplement relied on by Medicare-eligible retirees.

The e-mail is filled with misinformation. CBO has no authority to draft legislation. CBO did release a report last December presenting options for holding down federal health care costs; a few of those options would raise fees on military retirees and veterans. But neither the Obama administration nor any members of Congress have embraced any of these ideas.

"Every day I get to answer e-mails from people who are still telling me that this 'CBO legislation' is moving through rapidly," said Robertson.

Other military retirees and disabled veterans are worried by news reports that national health care reform will impose an excise tax on "Cadillac" health insurance programs. Will that include TRICARE or VA health care? It will not, say service groups and informed congressional staffs.

Strobidge noted that the Senate bill doesn't contain the same specific language as the House bill to shield TRICARE programs and VA health benefits.

However, the Senate bill's provision to allow an excise tax on "applicable employer-sponsored coverage" lists, among government plans, only the Federal Employees Health Benefits Plan for possible inclusion. Finance committee staffers have explained that this was intentional to shield TRICARE and VA health care benefits .

"There are lots of people out there who would like to raise military fees" on health benefits, Strobidge said. "But they are not trying to do it in this legislation."

The only real threat to military and veteran benefits posed by national health care reform, he continued, is the likelihood that it will add to federal budget deficits and the national debt which is now \$1.4 trillion. That will increase political pressure, over time, to curb federal entitlements, including military health care and retirement plans.

Given that pressure, MOAA has been pressing Congress to define in law that military members and retirees have earned through service certain unassailable rights to promised retirement and health care benefits.

"What we're concerned about is that budget pressure will drive arbitrary decisions. That is what has hurt us in the past," said Strobidge. Congress should take steps to spell out what military folks have earned.

"If you don't have any rules to rely on," he said, "when the budget tidal wave comes it will sweep you away."

Contact Tom Philpott at [milupdate@aol.com](mailto:milupdate@aol.com).

## Members Due for Renewal in January & February of 2010

The following memberships are due for renewal in January and February 2010. If you know someone on this list please contact them about renewing their dues. If someone is deceased please notify Duane Wild, our Funeral Services Officer. If your name is listed in error due to recent renewal, please disregard. If in doubt call Todd Richter the Secretary.

Bruce A Ackley	Alton M Eakin	Ralph G Kurtz	Roy W Ryan
Darla Afable	Joseph P Eilerman	Charles A Landschoot	Simeon P Sanchez
Joseph Allen	Netito L Espejo	Steven R. Lane	Donald R Satterfield
William H Anderson	Claude H Faircloth, JR	Robert J Luce	Richard E Schafer
Michael E Askins	David Faithful	Robert W. Lusen	Jeff A. Schmidt
Thomas G Auletta	Delden E Farrington	Floyd G Lyghtle	John W Seibert, Jr.
Joseph A Bailey, III	Marion Finnerty	Anthony J Maria	James L Sharp
William T. Bailey	John C Forbes	Corey Martin	Kathy Sharp
Americo D Baldasso	Kenneth D Frontz	William B Martin	James A Singleton
Thurman E Ballard	David B Garner	James L McCain	John F Skidmore
Clyde Barber	John Gemery	Bill McQuouian	Dewey L Stewart
Tabatha Basco	Alan Golding	Richard A. Michael	Charles H Stock
Edward V Beckman, Jr.	Harry Golicher	Stephen E Mikos	Calvin T Storey
Carol Ann Bergal	Paul C Goshorn	James E. Moore	Richard A Stout
Dean Berger	Rock M Greene	Woodrow W Moore	Leland R Straley
Danny W Bishop	Carlo J Grisanti	Clarence D Moss	James D Strickland
Juan M Blanco	Donald Richard Gurney	Ernest A Muffley	Lyndal H Sweeney
Dennis L Blegen	Douglas B Hall	George Edward Nelson	Arthur N. Tank
James H. Boatright	Thomas E Hall	Daniel E Neumann	James F Taylor
Terence J Brady	Michael Haloostock	Nancy A. O'Bryhim	Joseph E Tetreault
Sam W Brown	Roy L Hanks	Thomas J O'Connell	Edward Tonges
Richard A Brownlee	Robert G. Harding	Richard A Oliver	Carl G Towery
Frederick G Buerman	Leonard K Hash	Charles W Owens	Paul Troszak
Donald Bult	Clifton L Henning	Steven N Parker	Thomas J Utley, III
Linda Lou Burton	Roger L Holmes	William S Partridge, Jr.	Robert J Vess
Jack H Cairel	Floyd E Horn, Jr.	William F Pascoe	Moses L Vigil
William D Carr	Mark E. Huffman	Joseph F Pataranick	Maurice Wayne Vincent
Gary D Casey	Virgis Hughes	David L Peters	Glendell A Walls
Darci Castillejos	Kenneth W. Hyde	Robert B Peterson	Thomas B Warner
John H Chandler	J L Icard	John R Pisecco	Frederick C Watchorn
Richard H Cozine	Johnny M Isaacs	Ed Pitre	Douglas Wesley
Roland Cuevas	James B Jelkes	Wilfred L Popour	Winfield J Whitcomb
Charles Currie	Kelvin Jones	Quillie A Ramsey	Dennis R White
John W Davitt	Ralph T Jones	Deveron William Reaves	Rodney E White
Mary E Decker	Kathleen Kalyan-Barden	John S Rectenwald	Theresa W. White
Timothy R Desain	David Kane	Daniel W Redding, Jr.	Alton Williams
Matthew Devito	James P Keith	Frederick E Renckert	Julie Yeager
Lawrence A Drake	James W Kelley	Jeff P. Rice	Francisco Gerardo Zayas
Dennis D Dudley	Michael Kirkham	John W Rosa	
Laurence C. Durham	George Kraskowski	Lavonne E Rose	

## Lapsed Memberships in November & December of 2009

The following memberships have Lapsed in November and December 2009. If you know someone on this list please contact them about renewing their dues. If someone is deceased please notify Duane Wild, Our Funeral Services Officer. If your name is listed in error due to recent renewal, please disregard. If in doubt call Todd Richter the Secretary.

Edison F Allen	Stephen Dunn	Lance A Lewis	George A Shurick
Mary L Angelo	John W. English	Melvin Allen Loper	Matt D. Smith
John Bagby	Joseph F Garrett	Willaim E. Lukander	Earl M Stallings
Gary L. Barman	Billy Green	Glenn McClintock	H Stubblefield, Jr.
Richard A Barnett	Toney Guyette	Guy E McMillan	Mario P Urbano
Neal A. Bell	Kenneth Hansen	Jarrett M. Mushaben	Ernest Velazquez
Billy Bowen	Rex C Harris	Garnett William Neil, Jr.	Ronald M Walsh
Charles Buchikos	SHERRI DIANNE KOSLOW	Richard A Patrick	
Loren H Caughron	Martin H Lacy	Harold A Saly	
Frank J. Contee	Kerby W Latham	Resty D Sapuan	

# Peacoats

## One of God's Better Inventions

You remember them: those ton and a half monsters that took the annual production of thirty-five sheep to make. Those thick black rascals with black plastic buttons the size of poker chips. The issue coats that drove shore duty chief petty officers stark raving nuts if they caught you with the collar turned up or your hands in your pockets.

"Hey, you rubber sock, get those damn hands outta them damn pockets! Didn't they issue you black leather gloves?" So, you took your hands out of your pockets and risked digital frostbite rather than face whatever the Navy had in store for violators of the 'No Damn Hands In Peacoat Pockets' policy. There's probably a special barracks in Heli full of old E-3s caught hitchhiking in sub-zero weather with hands in peacoat pockets.

As for those leather gloves, one glove always went missing. "Son, where in the hell are the gloves we issued you?" We? I don't remember this nasty, ugly so-n-so being at Great Lakes, San Diego, Orlando or Bainbridge when the 'jocks and socks' petty officers were throwing my initial issue sea bag at me and yelling, "Move it!!" As for the gloves, once you inadvertently leave one glove on a bar stool or on the seat of a Greyhound bus, the remaining glove is only useful if a tank rolls over the hand that fit the lost glove.

In the days long ago, a Navy specification peacoat weighed about the same as a flat carload of cinder blocks. When it rained, it absorbed water until your spine warped, your shins cracked and your ankles split. Five minutes standing in the rain waiting on a bus and you felt like you were piggy-backing the Statue of Liberty. When a peacoat got wet, it smelled a lot like sheep dip. It had that wet wool smell, times three. It weighed three and a half tons and smelled like 'Mary had a little lamb's gym shorts.

You know how heavy a late '50s pea coat was? Well, they had little metal chains sewn in the back of the collar to hang them up by. Like diluted Navy coffee, sexual sensitivity instruction, comfortable air-conditioned bungalows, patent leather plastic-looking shoes and wearing white hats configured to look like bidets, the peacoat specification has been watered down to the point you could hang them up with dental floss. In the old days, pea coat buttons and grocery cart wheels were interchangeable. The gear issued by the U.S. Navy was tough as hell, bluejacket-tested clothing with the durability of rhino hide and construction equipment tires. Peacoats came with wide, heavy collars. In a cold, hard wind, you could turn that wide collar up to cover your neck and it was like poking your head in a tank turret.

The things were warm, but I never thought they were long enough. Standing out in the wind in those 'big-legged britches' (bell bottoms), the wind whistled up your cuffs and took away body warmth like a thief. But, they were perfect to pull over you for a blanket when sleeping on a bus or a bus terminal bench. Every sailor remembers stretching out on one of those oak bus station pews with his white hat over his face, his head up against his AWOL bag and covered with his peacoat. There was always some 'SP' who had not fully evolved from the apes, who poked you with his billy club and said, "Hey, you! Get up! Waddya think yer doin'? You wanna sleep, get a room!"

Peacoats were lined with quilted satin or rayon. I never realized it at the time, but sleeping on bus seats and station benches would be the closest I would ever get to sleeping on satin sheets. Early in my naval career, a career-hardened (lifer) first class gunner's mate told me to put my ID and liberty card in the inside pocket of my peacoat. "Put the sonuvabitches in that gahdam inside pocket and pin the damn thing closed with a diaper pin. Then, take your heavy folding money and put it in your sock. If you do that, learn to never take your socks off in a cathouse. Them damn dockside pickpockets pat 'cha down for a lumpy wallet and they can relieve you of said wallet so fast you'll never know you've been snookered. Only an idiot will clam-fold his wallet and tuck it in his thirteen button bell bottoms. Every kid above the age of six in Italy knows how to lift a wallet any fool pokes in his pants. Those little locals learned to pick sailor's pockets in kindergarten. Rolling Bluejackets is the national sport in Italy."

In Washington DC they have a wonderful marble and granite plaza honoring the United States Navy. Every man or woman who served this nation in a naval uniform, owes it to himself or herself to visit this memorial and take their families. It honors all naval service and any red-blooded American bluejacket or officer will feel the gentle warmth of pride his or her service is honored within this truly magical place. The focal point of this memorial is a bronze statue of a lone American sailor. No crow on his sleeve tells you that he is non-rated. And, there are further indications that suggest maybe, once upon a time, the sculptor himself may have once been an E-3 white hat. The lad has his collar turned up and his hands in his pockets. I'm sure the Goddess of the Main Induction laughs at the old, crusty chiefs standing there with veins popping out on their old, wrinkled necks, muttering, "Look at that S.O.B. standing there with his collar up and his damn hands in his pockets. In my day, I would have ripped that jerk a new one!"

Ah, the satisfied glow of E-3 revenge. Peacoats -- one of God's better inventions



# About the Society

Copied from the Web site of the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society ([www.nmcers.org](http://www.nmcers.org)). Here you will find a little history and information about the Society, what services we have available for eligible recipients, where to find the nearest Society location, and information on how *you* can help us help those in need.

Founded in 1904, the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society is a private non-profit charitable organization. It is sponsored by the Department of the Navy and operates nearly 250 offices ashore and afloat at Navy and Marine Corps bases throughout the world. The Society was incorporated in the District of Columbia and has its headquarters in Arlington, Virginia. It is managed by a Board of Directors whose members are active duty or retired members of the Naval Services, or spouses of active duty or retired members of the Naval Services.

*The mission of the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society is to provide, in partnership with the Navy and Marine Corps, financial, educational, and other assistance to members of the Naval Services of the United States, eligible family members, and survivors when in need; and to receive and manage funds to administer these programs.*

The Society provides financial assistance to eligible recipients in the form of:

- Interest-free loans and grants to meet emergency needs
- Needs-based scholarships and interest-free loans for educational purposes.

In addition, the Society offers the following services:

- Budget Counseling Services
- Food Lockers at some locations
- Infant Layettes - "junior seabags" and Budget for Baby Seminars
- Thrift Shops
- Visiting Nurse Services.

*Our Vision: We are a private, non-profit, volunteer, service organization. As a Center of Excellence, we are committed to ensure that all available resources are used to assist personnel of the Naval Services - active, retired, and their eligible family members - to achieve financial self-sufficiency and find solutions to emergency needs.*

The Society can help:

- **Active duty and retired active and reserve component Navy and Marine Corps personnel**
- Eligible family members of the personnel listed above to include active and reserve component personnel who died on active duty or in a retired status
- Reservists on extended active duty greater than 30 days
- Indigent mothers (65 years or older) of deceased servicemembers who have limited resources and no family to provide for their welfare
- Ex-spouses "20-20-20" (unremarried former spouses whose marriage to a servicemember lasted for at least 20 years while the servicemember was on active duty)

More than 3,000 trained Volunteers, both ashore and aboard ships, accomplish the major portion of the Society's work. They are supported by a small cadre of employees. The Society enjoys an active partnership with the Navy and Marine Corps and benefits extensively from the active involvement of the command structure at the bases where the Society maintains a presence. The commanders themselves, as well the senior enlisted leadership, chaplains, and family service center personnel, play an important role in the conduct of the Society's business.

Although sponsored by the Department of the Navy, the Society is a non-profit organization whose programs are totally funded by charitable contributions. The work of the Society is supported by an annual fund drive conducted by the Navy and Marine Corps, and by a direct mail campaign of the Navy and Marine Corps retired community. Both fund drives are conducted under the auspices of the Secretary of the Navy. All contributions are returned to clients in the form of relief or educational assistance. Overhead expenses are covered by proceeds from the Reserve Fund established during World War II.

Contributions to the Society are deductible under Section 170(b)(1)(a) of the IRS Code. The Society is exempt from Federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Code.

## RETIREE ORDERING AND ELIGIBILITY

If you are retired military, and eligible for other medical services, you are authorized to receive up to 3 pair of Standard Issue spectacles per year.

- 1 clear pair of
  - S-9 / male,
  - S-8 / female, or
  - S91A / male or female
- 1 tinted pair of
  - S-9 / male,
  - S-8 / female, or
  - S91A / male or female
- 1 clear pair of half-eye in lieu of 1 clear pair of bi-focals  
[you may have 1 clear pair of distance glasses in conjunction with your half-eye glasses]

If you are less than 50 miles from a military health clinic with optometry services, you should take your prescription for spectacles to them so that they may measure you for proper fit. They will order your spectacles from the appropriate facility.

If you are more that 50 miles from a military health clinic with optometry services, you may follow these instructions to order your glasses.

- Open the **form DD771** found at our web site, and save it to your computer.  
[this form is created to save the information you type into it]
- Please fill out the top section with your “name, “retiree”, and last 4”, along with your shipping and contact information. About halfway down the form, please indicate which standard issue frame you desire. Make sure to save the form with the information you added.
- Print the partially completed form, and take this with you to your eye exam.  
Ensure that the examining facility writes the prescription, and includes your pupillary distance (PD) on the form.
- If your examining facility needs eyesize, bridge or temple information, they may find this on our web site
- If you currently have Standard Issue frames please provide the frame size and temple length. (found inside the frame)
- There must be a **DD771** for each request for eyewear.
- Send the following information to NOSTRA:
  - One copy of the completed DD771 form,
  - A photo copy or scanned image of you military ID card
  - Your mailing address and a daytime phone number and email address if available.
- You may submit your order for eyewear by email, fax or standard mail.
  - Email your order to: [NOSTRA-CustomerService@med.navy.mil](mailto:NOSTRA-CustomerService@med.navy.mil)  
---or---
  - Fax your order to: 757-887-4647.  
Make sure you write: “Retiree Order” on the fax.  
Please call NOSTRA Customer Service at 757-887-7611 / 7152 / 7299 / 7476 right after you send your fax to insure we received it and that all the information is included to fabricate your orders.  
---or---
  - Standard Mail to:  
NOSTRA  
160 Main Road, Ste 350  
Yorktown, VA 23691-9984

You may also call [NOSTRA Customer Service Department](#) if you have any problems or questions.  
You may email us at: [NOSTRA-CustomerService@med.navy.mil](mailto:NOSTRA-CustomerService@med.navy.mil)

Our Customer Service hours are M-F, regular business days, from 0630 to 1700, Eastern Time.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>January 2010</h1>						
<div style="border: 1px dashed black; border-radius: 15px; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">           EVERY SATURDAY PINOCHLE TOURNAMENT 1PM         </div>						
<b>3</b> BMW Breakfast Canasta 1pm	<b>4</b> TRIVIA 7pm Unit BOD 7pm Bonanza Burgers Noon-4pm	<b>5</b> BLT's 1-4pm Darts	<b>6</b> Bingo 6:30pm	<b>7</b> Benny's Haircuts 10am-2pm Call First	<b>8</b> Italian Dinner 5-8pm The Lyons Band	<b>9</b> Club/FRA BOD 9am Ronnie Powell TJ's DJs
<b>10</b> Canasta 1pm	<b>11</b> TRIVIA 7pm Unit GA 7:30pm Bonanza Burgers Noon-4pm	<b>12</b> BLT's 1-4pm Branch GA 7:30pm Darts	<b>13</b> Bingo 6:30pm	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Steak Dinner 5-8pm Roscoe Caine	<b>16</b> Pickin n Grinnin 2-6pm Ronnie Powell
<b>17</b> HOGS Canasta 1pm BACA ?	<b>18</b> TRIVIA 7pm Bonanza Burgers Noon-4pm	<b>19</b> BLT's 1-4pm Darts	<b>20</b> Bingo 6:30pm	<b>21</b> Benny's Haircuts 10am-2pm Call First	<b>22</b> Taco Buffet 5-8pm Ghost Radio	<b>23</b> TJ's DJs
<b>24</b> BACA 3-6pm Canasta 1pm	<b>25</b> TRIVIA 7pm Bonanza Burgers Noon-4pm	<b>26</b> BLT's 1-4pm Darts	<b>27</b> Bingo 6:30pm	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Stark Naked	<b>30</b> Bill & Bob Show
<b>31</b> Canasta 1pm						

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>February 2010</h1>						
<b>7</b> BMW Breakfast Canasta 1pm Super Bowl Party Covered Dish Start 4pm KICK-OFF 6 PM	<b>1</b> TRIVIA 7pm Unit BOD 7PM Bonanza Burgers Noon-4pm	<b>2</b> BLT's 1-4pm Darts	<b>3</b> Bingo 6:30pm	<b>4</b> Benny's Haircuts 10am-2pm Call First	<b>5</b> Fish Dinner 5-8pm Painted Horse	<b>6</b> Club/FRA BOD 9am Pickin n Grinnin 2-6pm TJ's DJs
<b>14</b> Canasta 1pm	<b>8</b> TRIVIA 7pm Unit GA 7:30PM Bonanza Burgers Noon-4pm	<b>9</b> BLT's 1-4pm Branch GA 7:30pm Darts	<b>10</b> Bingo 6:30pm	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Italian Dinner 5-8pm Road Patriots	<b>13</b> Matt Altman
<b>21</b> HOGS Canasta 1pm BACA	<b>15</b> TRIVIA 7pm Bonanza Burgers Noon-4pm	<b>16</b> BLT's 1-4pm Darts	<b>17</b> Bingo 6:30pm	<b>18</b> Benny's Haircuts 10am-2pm Call First	<b>19</b> Steak Dinner 5-8pm Chrome Heart	<b>20</b> Pickin n Grinnin 2-6pm Ronnie Powell
<b>28</b> Canasta 1pm	<b>22</b> TRIVIA 7pm Newsletter To Printer Bonanza Burgers Noon-4pm	<b>23</b> BLT's 1-4pm Darts	<b>24</b> Bingo 6:30pm	<b>25</b> Label Newsletter	<b>26</b> Taco Buffet 5-8pm Finders Keepers	<b>27</b> TJ's DJs

EVERY  
SATURDAY  
PINOCHLE  
TOURNAMENT  
1PM