



# NORFOLK

# BRANCH 5 NEWS

July 2011

## BRANCH INSTALLS NEW OFFICERS

## WE NEED YOUR COOPERATION

Branch 5 installed its new officers during the monthly meeting last month. These shipmates will serve the branch during the Association Year 2011-2012 which runs from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012. New branch officers are:

President—Jack Schwartz

Vice President—Ed Klavenski

Secretary/Treasurer—Tom Leisher

Board of Directors—Bill Combs, Bob Fillmore, Mark Dugo, Hoppy Dellert and Jack McGrath.

Unit information is on page 7.

The Association Year just completed was a busy one for the branch. Our Americanism Committee report to be judged at the East Coast Regional Convention, while not as large as some previous years, will be quite impressive. Branch 5 shipmates did a lot work with the Honor and Remember flag; we participated in the Memorial Day ceremony onboard USS WISCONSIN; we had our annual wreath laying ceremony at the Lone Sailor statue which draws a larger and larger turnout each year; we participated in other special ceremonies; and had the overall winning essay in the East Coast Region; had a cleaning detail go to Town Point Park to clean and wax the Homecoming statue, Lone Sailor statue and the bronze letters at the Armed Forces Memorial. The list is long and the work done was rewarding and good for our community.

Our Public Relations report will be impressive also, thanks to the work we did and the publicity we received by working with the Honor and Remember Flag; cleaning and waxing the Homecoming and Lone Sailor statues and the letters at the Armed Forces Memorial; our annual picnic/ballgame results in our name on the scoreboard at Harbor Park and even our trip to Colonial Downs gave us publicity by having our name printed in the program. Much of our Americanism activities were reported on TV Channels 2, 10, 13 and 14.

We have shipmates volunteer at the Naval Medical Center and assist with bingo at the Veterans Hospital and several of our shipmates do a great deal of volunteer work in the community helping their shipmates and neighbors.

Hopefully, we will see some awards at the Regional Convention.

Last month, when the newsletter was taken to the post office for mailing, we were told that in order to be eligible to mail at the non-profit rate, the ads would have to be deleted. Rules are that the ads have to be directly related to the organization in order to maintain our non-profit eligibility. All our ads are from members of Branch or Unit 5 but that doesn't matter.

A cost analysis was done to determine which way would be most effective for the branch. Do away with the ads, lose that income along with some discounts we are getting or keep the ads and pay the post office the higher rate. We also considered that if we removed the ads, we would have to keep the newsletter to at least 6 pages to make it worthwhile which would not reduce the cost of printing.

All in all, it was obvious that the least costly and most advantageous way for us to go was keep the ads and pay the higher cost of mailing.

This is where you come in. Do you have email? Right now, about 85 members of the branch and unit read the newsletter online at [www.frabran5.org](http://www.frabran5.org) rather than receiving a printed newsletter by mail. We urge you to email the secretary <[secrbr5@cox.net](mailto:secrbr5@cox.net)> and agree to read the newsletter online thereby saving:

- \* cost of mailing
- \* cost of printing
- \* using less paper
- \* read the newsletter (in color) at least a week before you would get it in the mail.

**Meeting Info**

Branch 5 meets in the VFW Hall, 5728 Barteo St., Norfolk, VA. The next meeting will be held at 1000, 26 July 2011. The Board of Directors meet at 0930, the same day. All members are invited to attend.

**BRANCH OFFICERS  
2011—2012**

**President:** Jack Schwartz 588-2050  
**VP:** Ed Klavenski 467-8745  
**Secretary/Treasurer:**  
 Tom Leisher 853-1586  
**Jr.Past:** Ernie Fearn 233-9916  
**Parliamentarian:** Mark Dugo 318-3729  
**MAA:** Howard Dellert 480-3937  
**Chaplain:** Ralph Holcombe 484-7403

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**IN THIS MONTH'S  
CENTER RING!**

The following shipmates have completed a five-year anniversary as members of the FRA. This qualifies these shipmates for continuous membership awards. Shipmates, if you come to the meeting this month, the Branch President will be more than happy to present you with your well earned award. Let the Branch Secretary know you are present so he can prepare the award.


20 Years—Anthony Gambelli  
 25 Years—Raymond Taplin  
 30 Years—Chester Luzier, Thomas Mislán, Corbett Mullins and Jim Smith

**COLA Outlook**

In a column entitled “Retirees Eye 3.5% Raise!”, Mike Causey Federal News reports that “Long-dormant inflation (is) suddenly on the rise, (and) federal, military and Social Security retirees are looking at a possible January cost of living adjustment of 3.5%. And if living costs continue to climb, the raise could be even bigger.”

The exact inflation index driving the adjustment will not be known until mid-October - and missing from the article is any reference to possible future COLA formula reductions as part of major spending cuts under discussion by a panel headed by Vice President Joe Biden in conjunction with raising the federal debt ceiling by early August. Stay tuned.

Editor’s Note: Undoubtedly, you will read this information in other publications and also undoubtedly, it will change with all the budget talks going on. However, this is very important to all of us so it is also published here.



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**BRANCH 5 BREAKFAST BUNCH**

There will be a meeting of the Branch 5 Breakfast Bunch at 0900 Saturday, 30 July 2011 at Pancakes ‘N Things, 4408 Indian River Road, Chesapeake. Indian River Road from Military Highway as if you were going to the old Ford plant.

Well, its not exactly a meeting. Its more like a BS session, telling stories (all true of course) while having a really good breakfast with shipmates and ladies from Unit 5.

## BORN IN JULY

### Martin Van Buren

Only about 5 feet, 6 inches tall, but trim and erect, Martin Van Buren dressed fastidiously. His impeccable appearance belied his amiability--and his humble background. Of Dutch descent, he was born in 1782, the son of a tavern keeper and farmer, in Kinderhook, New York.

As a young lawyer he became involved in New York politics. As leader of the "Albany Regency," an effective New York political organization, he shrewdly dispensed public offices and bounty in a fashion calculated to bring votes. Yet he faithfully fulfilled official duties, and in 1821 was elected to the United States Senate.

By 1827 he had emerged as the principal northern leader for Andrew Jackson. President Jackson rewarded Van Buren by appointing him Secretary of State. As the Cabinet Members appointed at John C. Calhoun's recommendation began to demonstrate only secondary loyalty to Jackson, Van Buren emerged as the President's most trusted adviser. Jackson referred to him as, "a true man with no guile."

Van Buren devoted his Inaugural Address to a discourse upon the American experiment as an example to the rest of the world. The country was prosperous, but less than three months later the panic of 1837 punctured the prosperity.

In 1837 the panic began. Hundreds of banks and businesses failed. Thousands lost their lands. For about five years the United States was wracked by the worst depression thus far in its history.

Declaring that the panic was due to recklessness in business and over expansion of credit, Van Buren devoted himself to maintaining the solvency of the national Government. Inclined more and more to oppose the expansion of slavery, Van Buren blocked the annexation of Texas because it assuredly would add to slave territory--and it might bring war with Mexico.

Defeated by the Whigs in 1840 for reelection, he was an unsuccessful candidate for President on the Free Soil ticket in 1848. He died in 1862.

Editor's Note: Martin Van Buren's biography is printed here because of those that died in July, he is one of the least known.



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## DIED ON THE 4TH OF JULY

**John Adams, 2nd President: 1797-1801** along with **Thomas Jefferson, 3rd President: 1801-1809** both died on the same day, July 4, 1826, the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. **James Monroe, 5th President: 1817-1825** also died on July 4th but a year earlier than Adams and Jefferson.

Other Presidents of the United States who died in July are **Zachary Taylor, 12th President: 1849-1850;** **Andrew Johnson, 17th President: 1865-1869;** and **Ulysses S. Grant, 18th President: 1869-1877.**

Presidents who were born in July are two of the latest:

**Gerald Ford, 37th President: 1974-1977** and **George W. Bush, 42nd President: 2001-2009**

Odd how that works out. Those that died in July are 18th and 19th Century Presidents while those who were born in July are 20th and 21st Century Presidents.

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**Edward Jones**  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

## SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

The Army, Navy, and Marine Corps were established in 1775 in concurrence with the American Revolution. The War Department, headed by the Secretary of War, was established in 1789 and was the precursor to what is now the Department of Defense. This was followed by the founding of a separate Department of the Navy in 1798.

The decision to unify the two Executive Departments of War & Navy, based on the experiences of World War II, led to the creation of the National Military Establishment led by a Secretary of Defense, as provided in the National Security Act of 1947.

The War Department was renamed to Department of the Army, the title of Secretary was changed to Secretary of the Army, and a separate Department of the Air Force under the Secretary of the Air Force was created. In 1949, an amendment to the National Security Act of 1947 further consolidated the national defense structure in order to reduce interservice rivalry by making the Secretaries of Army, Navy and Air Force inferior and subordinate to the Secretary of Defense. In addition, the National Military Establishment was then renamed to Department of Defense.

The Secretary of Defense (SecDef) is the head and chief executive officer of the Department of Defense of the United States of America. This position corresponds to what is generically known as a Defense Minister. Under the direction of the President, the Secretary of Defense has per federal law (10 U.S.C. § 113) authority, direction and control over the Department of Defense, and is further designated by statute as the principal assistant to the President in all matters relating to the Department of Defense.

The Secretary of Defense is in the chain of command for all Department of Defense forces; i.e. Army, Navy, Air Force & Marine Corps; for both operational and administrative purposes. Only the Secretary of Defense (and the President) can authorize the transfer of forces from one Combatant Command to another. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is the principal military adviser to the Secretary of Defense, and to the President, but the Chairman is not in the chain of command. The Secretary of Defense is appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate, and is a member of the Cabinet and the National Security Council.

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An individual may not be appointed as Secretary of Defense within seven years after relief from active duty as a commissioned officer of a regular component of an armed force. Secretary of Defense is a Level I position of the Executive Schedule and thus earns a salary of \$199,700 per year.

The longest-serving Secretary of Defense is the late Robert McNamara, who served for a total of 2,595 days. The shortest-serving Secretary of Defense was William Perry Clements, Jr. who served for a total of 39 days.

[Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United\\_States\\_Secretary\\_of\\_Defense](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Secretary_of_Defense) Jun 2011]

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## Arlington National Cemetery Update

The Executive Director (ED) of the Army National Cemeteries Program has established a call center in order to immediately address family member concerns regarding burial discrepancies at Arlington National Cemetery. Families with questions or concerns regarding their loved ones buried at Arlington National Cemetery should call (703) 607-8199. The call center will be open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. To 5 p.m. (ET).

In addition, a toll-free phone number has been established to ease the burden for people who may be calling long distance to make funeral arrangements at Arlington National Cemetery. The new toll-free number is 1 (877) 907-8585.

For more information on funeral arrangements and eligibility, visit the Arlington, National Cemetery website <http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil>.

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## Tongue in Cheek

This phrase clearly alludes to the facial expression created by putting one's tongue in one's cheek. This induces a wink (go on - try it), which has long been an indication that what is being said is to be taken with a pinch of salt. It may have been used to suppress laughter. 'Tongue in cheek' is the antithesis of the later phrase - 'with a straight face'.

The term first appeared in print in 'The Fair Maid of Perth', by that inveterate coiner of phrases, Sir Walter Scott, 1828:

"The fellow who gave this all-hail thrust his tongue in his cheek to some scapegraces like himself."

It isn't entirely clear that Scott was referring to the ironic use of the expression. A later citation from Richard Barham's *The Ingoldsby Legends*, 1845 is unambiguous though:

He fell to admiring his friend's English watch.

He examined the face,

And the back of the case,

And the young Lady's portrait there, done on enamel, he

Saw by the likeness was one of the family;

Cried 'Superbe! Magnifique!' (With his tongue in his cheek)

Then he open'd the case, just to take a peep in it, and

Seized the occasion to pop back the minute hand.

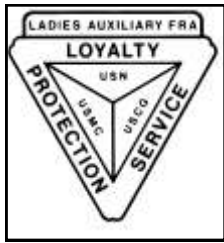
## JOHN PAUL JONES, GREAT NAVAL HERO

As an officer of the Continental Navy of the American Revolution, John Paul Jones helped establish the traditions of courage and professionalism that the sailors of the United States Navy today proudly maintain. John Paul was born on **July 6, 1747** in a humble gardener's cottage in Kirkbean, Kirkcudbrightshire, Scotland, went to sea as a youth, and was a merchant shipmaster by the age of twenty-one.

Having taken up residence in Virginia, he volunteered early in the War of Independence to serve in his adopted country's infant navy and in 1777, raised, with his own hands, the Continental ensign on board the flagship (Ranger) of the Navy's first fleet. He took the war to the enemy's homeland with daring raids along the British coast and the famous victory of the *Bonhomme Richard* over HMS *Serapis*. After the *Bonhomme Richard* began taking on water and fires broke out on board, the British commander asked Jones if he had struck his flag. Jones replied, "I have not yet begun to fight!" In the end, it was the British commander who surrendered.

Jones is remembered for his indomitable will, his unwillingness to consider surrender when the slightest hope of victory still burned. Throughout his naval career Jones promoted professional standards and training. Sailors of the United States Navy can do no better than to emulate the spirit behind John Paul Jones's stirring declaration: "I wish to have no connection with any ship that does not sail fast for I intend to go in harm's way."

John Paul Jones died on **July 18, 1792** at his residence, No. 42 Rue de Tournon, Paris, France. John Paul Jones would have hated his first funeral in 1792, but the second in 1906 was a top brass naval affair. President Teddy Roosevelt himself gave the eulogy. That was after the US government dug up the mummified remains of the American naval hero and reburied them in Annapolis, MD.



# UNIT 5 NEWS

## UNIT OFFICERS 2010—2011

President:	Flo-Marie Holcombe	484-7403
Secretary/ Treasurer:	Mary Lou McKinley	252-338-3061
Chaplain:	Claire Klavenski	467-8745
Sergeant-at-Arms:	Myriam Leisher	853-1586

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Congratulations to the ladies celebrating a birthday **next** month: Patricia Scholten, Claire Klavenski, Nicada Blackburn, Carol Popa, Virginia Noble, Marge Hornshaw, Karen Plackett and Tina Winkler.

## HAPPY LA FRA ANNIVERSARY!

Celebrating anniversaries with the LA FRA this month are: Debra Zachary (36 years); Carolyn Combs (30 years); Elizabeth Black (27 years); Jodelle Munroe (14 years); Gaye Paquet (4 years) and Patricia Scholten (43 years). Thank you for your continued support!

Unit 5 met on June 28, 2011. Our next meeting will be at 10:00 am on July 26 and all are invited.

Our required audit was done at 9:30 am by Jodi Munroe and Mary Lou McKinley and everything was in good working order. Then the meeting was called to order at 10 am by President Flo-Marie Holcombe.

PRPEC Ralph Holcombe was Installing Officer for President Flo-Marie Holcombe, Secretary/ Treasurer Mary Lou McKinley and Board of Directors Myriam Leisher, Sandy Baker, Claire Klavenski and Jodi Munroe. He also presented Claire Klavenski her past Treasurer's pin and Myriam Leisher her 25 year membership pin.

A motion was made by Mary Lou McKinley that our support of a new AIDS patient from Judy Wessell at EVMS will begin in January 2012. We have remembered Jayne for two years on her birthday, anniversary and all holidays. The second was by Jodi Munroe.

You all are invited to join us on July 26 as we begin our new year. We will begin planning our projects for the first half of the year and we need some new ideas. Our annual Unit Report for 2010-11 has been submitted and the winners will be announced at the Regional Convention in Roanoke, Virginia July 28-30. Flo-Marie Holcombe and Mary Lou McKinley will represent Unit 5 at the Convention. It is amazing how much we have accomplished this past year when you see it on a report. We won First Place in our group last year and hope for another First Place this year.

Upcoming Dues Renewals are Shirley De-Woody, Lizora Harrison, Cindy Skinner, Tina Winkler, Margaret Fisher and Robin Carrillo.

Welcome to new member Michael Weston.

After the meeting, we joined the Branch members at Lone Star to celebrate!



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Branch 5 News

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