



# NORFOLK

# BRANCH 5 NEWS

January 2012



## **THE BRANCH 5 BREAKFAST BUNCH**

### *IS NOW THE BRANCH 5 LUNCH BUNCH*

For the past 10 years or so, members of Branch and Unit 5 got together for breakfast on the Saturday morning following the monthly meeting. It usually turned out to be the same people each month and we also started running out of ideas of where to go.

**The Branch 5 Lunch Bunch** concept was born to open up a much bigger list of places that serve lunch. We should have no problem visiting new places and expanding our horizons when it comes to putting chow in front of us.

Our first outing will be at P. F. Chang's Bistro, on Thursday, 19 January 2012 at 1200. Please come between 1145 and 1200. They do not seat parties until 75% of the group are present. We gave them an estimate of 15. The reservation is in the name "Tom Leisher".

P. F. Chang's is located at 4551 Virginia Beach Blvd in the Town Center area. They are on the corner of VB Blvd and Central Park Ave. There is a parking garage about one block off the boulevard on Central Park Ave.

## **OPSAIL 2012 IN NORFOLK**

Operation Sail, Inc. (OpSail) and the U.S. Navy announce the participation of five historic U. S. ports in the forthcoming 2012 events that will commemorate the bicentennial of the War of 1812 and the birth of The Star-Spangled Banner. The ports include New Orleans, Norfolk/Hampton Roads, Baltimore, and Boston. Events in 2012 will also include New York City's Fleet Week.

Norfolk and the Port of Hampton Roads will host the OpSail flotilla from June 6-11, 2012, in conjunction with Norfolk's annual Harborfest celebration.

"As home to the largest Naval Base in the world and site where many of the battles of the War of 1812 were fought, Norfolk and the Port of Hampton Roads are particularly honored to host this event that recognizes the history of our U. S. Navy", said Paul D. Fraim, Mayor of Norfolk. "We understand and appreciate the significance of maritime history and events like OpSail that are tremendous opportunities to educate and enlighten our citizens, especially our youth, about our history and the importance of our military forces."

Norfolk has hosted several major tall ship events since 1964. The most recent, Sail Virginia 2007, commemorated the 400th anniversary of the Jamestown Landing. OpSail 2000 Virginia, which Norfolk organized on behalf of the port of Hampton Roads, took place in celebration of the new millennium "OpSail 2000 marked the first occasion that the national organization Operation Sail, Inc., partnered with ports outside New York City," said Karen Scherberger, Executive Director of Norfolk Festevents, the local organizing body for the 2012 event. "To be invited twelve years later by OpSail, Inc., and the U. S. Navy to host the 2012 program reconfirms the Port of Virginia's strength and ability to host such events of national and international significance."

**Meeting  
Info**

Branch 5 meets in the VFW Hall, 5728 Barteo St., Norfolk, VA. The next meeting will be held at 1000, 24 January 2012. 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**  
**Vice Pres: Ed Klavenski 467-8745**  
**Secretary/Treasurer:**  
 Tom Leisher 853-1586  
**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.

5 Years—Phyllis Bouis


10 Years—Elpidio Cachero and Clarence Provaznik

15 Years—Dawn Richardson

45 Years—Floyd Jones



Branch 5 officers for 2011-2012 left to right: PNP Tom Leisher, Secretary/Treasurer; Jack Schwartz, President; Ed Klavenski, Vice President.



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## TUNNELS UNDER SAIGON

The tunnels of Cu Chi are an immense network of connecting underground tunnels located in the Cu Chi district of Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon), Vietnam, and are part of a much larger network of tunnels that underlie much of the country.

The Cu Chi tunnels were the location of several military campaigns during the Vietnam War, and were the Viet Cong's base of operations for the Tet Offensive in 1968. The tunnels were used by Viet Cong guerrillas as hiding spots during combat, as well as serving as communication and supply routes, hospitals, food and weapon caches and living quarters for numerous guerrilla fighters.

The tunnel systems were of great importance to the Viet Cong in their resistance to American forces. American soldiers used the term "Black echo" to describe the conditions within the tunnels.

For the Viet Cong, life in the tunnels was difficult. Air, food and water were scarce and the tunnels were infested with ants, poisonous centipedes, scorpions, spiders and vermin. Most of the time, guerrillas would spend the day in the tunnels working or resting and come out only at night to scavenge for supplies, tend their crops or engage the enemy in battle.

Sometimes, during periods of heavy bombing or American troop movement, they would be forced to remain underground for many days at a time. Sickness was rampant among the people living in the tunnels, especially malaria, which was the second largest cause of death next to battle wounds. A captured Viet Cong report suggests that at any given time half of a People's Liberation Army Force (PLAF) unit had malaria and that "one-hundred percent had intestinal parasites of significance".

[Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cu\\_Chi\\_Tunnels](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cu_Chi_Tunnels)  
Nov 2011]

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## TIDEWATER AREA COUNCIL SCHOLARSHIP

The FRA Tidewater Area Council, made up of Branches and Ladies Auxiliary Units throughout the area, sponsors a scholarship each year to family members of branch or auxiliary members belonging to the council. Family members of Branch 5 members are thus eligible for this scholarship. Criteria for selection:

- Enrolled/ Accepted in an accredited institution of learning
- Provide a transcript of high school or college
- Write a 300-500 word essay "What a College Education means to me"
- Be sponsored by a member of the Tidewater Area Council

Completed applications must be submitted not later than 1 June to the sponsoring branch. Please contact Branch 5's Secretary (853-1586) for the application

**If you move, please inform the Branch Secretary, either by email <scrbr5@cox.net> or mail the change to 4912 Cape Henry Ave., Norfolk, VA 23513. The secretary will**

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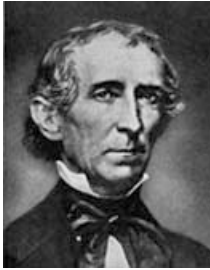


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## JOHN TYLER

1790-1862

In 1840, Tyler was chosen running mate to the Whig presidential candidate, William Henry Harrison, and they waged their victorious “Tippecanoe and Tyler too” campaign. One month after his inauguration Harrison died, and on Apr. 4, 1841, Tyler became the first Vice President to succeed to the presidency. His antipathy toward many Whig policies soon became apparent (he had never concealed it), and a rift developed between him and Henry Clay, the party leader.

After his second veto of a measure creating a national bank with branches in the states (on the grounds that it violated the constitutional rights of the states), his cabinet, except for Daniel Webster, resigned (Sept., 1841). Webster stayed on as Secretary of State until the negotiations for the Webster-Ashburton Treaty with the British were completed (May, 1843). Bitterly denounced by the Whigs and with few friends among the Democrats, Tyler became a President without a party.

Nevertheless he accomplished much toward the annexation of Texas. Abel P. Upshur, Webster's successor, was killed when a gun on the U.S.S. Princeton blew up, and John C. Calhoun continued Upshur's negotiations for a treaty with Texas. The treaty was rejected by the Senate. Tyler then supported a plan for a joint resolution to annex Texas and had the satisfaction of seeing it accepted by Texas just before he left office in 1845. The completion of annexation was brought about under James K. Polk, Tyler's Democratic successor.

Tyler, nominated by a small Democratic faction, had withdrawn from the 1844 election. In Feb., 1861, he presided over the unsuccessful conference at Washington that attempted to find some last-minute solution to avert the Civil War.

After his presidency he lived in retirement in Virginia until the outbreak of the Civil War, when he emerged briefly as chairman of a peace convention and then as delegate to the provisional Congress of the Confederacy. He died on **January 18, 1862**.

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## RUTHERFORD BIRCHARD HAYES

Hayes was born in Delaware, Ohio, on Oct. 4, 1822. A graduate of Kenyon College and the Harvard Law School, he practiced law in Lower Sandusky (now Fremont) and then in Cincinnati. In 1852 he married Lucy Webb. A Whig, he joined the Republican party in 1855. During the Civil War he rose to major general. He served in the House of Representatives from 1865 to 1867 and then confirmed a reputation for honesty and efficiency in two terms as governor of Ohio (1868–72). His election to a third term in 1875 made him the logical candidate for those Republicans who wished to stop James G. Blaine in 1876, and he was nominated.

The result of the election was in doubt for some time and hinged upon disputed returns from South Carolina, Louisiana, Florida, and Oregon. Samuel J. Tilden, the Democrat, had the larger popular vote but was adjudged by the strictly partisan decisions of the Electoral Commission to have one fewer electoral vote, 185 to 184. The national acceptance of this result was due in part to the general understanding that Hayes would pursue a conciliatory policy toward the South. He withdrew the troops from the South, took a conservative position on financial and labor issues, and urged civil service reform.

Hayes served only one term by his own wish and spent the rest of his life in various humanitarian endeavors. He died in Fremont on Jan. 17, 1893.

GENERAL ORDER, No. 4  
NAVY DEPARTMENT  
January 14, 1863.

The following Proclamation of the President is published for the information and government of the officers and others of the Naval Service.

GIDEON WELLES,  
Secretary of the Navy.

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS, on the twenty-second day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two, a Proclamation was issued by the President of the United States, containing, among other things, the following, to wit:

"That on the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever, free; and the Executive government of the United States, including the military and naval authority thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of any such persons, and will do no act or acts to repress such persons, or any of them, in any efforts they may make for their actual freedom.

"That the Executive will, on the first day of January aforesaid, by proclamation, designate the States and parts of States, if any, in which the people thereof, respectively, shall then be in rebellion against the United States; and the fact that any State, or the people thereof, shall on that day be in good faith represented in the Congress of the United States, by members chosen thereto at elections wherein a majority of the qualified voters of such States shall have participated, shall, in the absence of strong countervailing testimony, be deemed conclusive evidence that such State, and the people thereof, are not then in rebellion against the United States."

Now, therefore, I, ABRAHAM LINCOLN, President of the United States, by virtue of the power in me vested as Commander-in-chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, in time of actual armed rebellion against the authority and government of the United States, and as a fit and necessary war measure for suppressing said

rebellion, do, on this first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and in accordance with my purpose so to do, publicly proclaimed for the full period of one hundred days from the day first above mentioned, order and designate as the States and parts of States wherein the people thereof, respectively, are this day in rebellion against the United States, the following, to wit:

Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, (except the parishes of St. Bernard, Plaquemines, Jefferson, St. John, St. Charles, St. James, Ascension, Assumption, Terre Bonne, Lafourche, St. Mary, St. Martin, and Orleans, including the city of New Orleans,) Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia, (except the forty-eight counties designated as West Virginia, and also the counties of Berkeley, Accomac, Northampton, Elizabeth City, York, Princess Ann, and Norfolk, including the cities of Norfolk and Portsmouth,) and which excepted parts are for the present left precisely as if this Proclamation were not issued.

And by virtue of the power and for the purpose aforesaid, I do order and declare that all persons held as slaves within said designated States and parts of States are and henceforward shall be free; and that the Executive government of the United States, including the military and naval authorities thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of said persons.

And I hereby enjoin upon the people so declared to be free to abstain from all violence, unless in necessary self-defense; and I recommend to them that, in all cases when allowed, they labor faithfully for reasonable wages.

And I further declare and make known that such persons, of suitable condition, will be received into the armed service of the United States to garrison forts, positions, stations, and other places, and to man vessels of all sorts in said service.

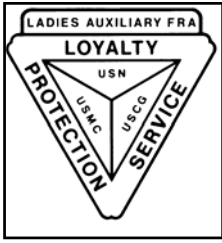
And upon this act, sincerely believed to be an act of justice warranted by the Constitution upon military necessity, I invoke the considerate judgement of mankind and the gracious favor of Almighty God.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the city of Washington this first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the eighty-seventh.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

By the President: WILLIAM H. SEWARD,  
Secretary of State.



# UNIT 5 NEWS

## UNIT OFFICERS 2011—2012

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

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## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Congratulations to the ladies celebrating a birthday **next** month: Patsy McGrath, Flo-Marie Holcombe and Betty Conner.

## HAPPY LA FRA ANNIVERSARY!

Celebrating anniversaries with the LA FRA **this** month are: Myriam Leisher (26 years) and Joyce Wilson (4 years). Thank you for your continued support!

Members of Unit 5 met on December 27. Our next meeting will be on January 24, 2012 at 10:00 am at VFW Post 4809 at 5728 Bartee St., Norfolk. Please join us as we make plans for activities and projects until June. We need some new ideas and would love some help.

President Flo-Marie Holcombe met Dee King from the American Red Cross and delivered the 400 Christmas Cards we signed for our Troops. One member rang the Bell for four hours for the Salvation Army. A total of \$1,295 was collected that day.

Julie Crook delivered 25 filled shoe boxes for the elderly. They contained puzzle books, lotion, note pads and pens, nail files, socks, and other items for women and men.

Our adopted AIDS patient received a Christmas Card and a gift card. Unit 5 shut ins were remembered with a card to let them know we were thinking of them.

Communications: Thank you notes were received from the Second Calvary Baptist Church for school supplies; from Eastern Virginia Medical School for the cookies we gave for World AIDS Day; from the Food Bank of Southeastern Virginia for our \$100 donation. We received a Christmas Card from Jackie Scarbro, East Coast Regional President. Portions of the Regional President's Newsletter were read.

A letter was received from the East Coast Regional Treasurer about assessments for Unit 5. A donation of \$10 per delegate is due by February 15, 2012. We have three delegates, so we owe \$30. Assessments are needed when the balance in the Treasury falls below \$1,000.

Membership Dues will be \$20 per year, payable in advance, not to exceed five years, effective JANUARY 1, 2012.

The Mid Year Meeting will be March 22-24, 2012 at the Holiday Inn, Fayetteville, NC. Room rates are \$89 plus tax per night. This includes free breakfast. Call 910 323-1600 for reservations. Tell them you are members of the Fleet Reserve Association.

Upcoming Dues Renewals: Maria Corbe and Bonnie Kelly.

Hope to see you on January 24, 2012 at 10 am.  
A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!!

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