



# NORFOLK

# BRANCH 5 NEWS

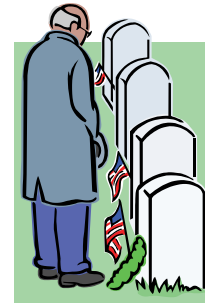
May 2011

## **BRANCH 5 WILL PRESENT AN HONOR AND REMEMBER FLAG AFTER THE MEETING THIS MONTH**

The meeting this month on Tuesday, 24 May will begin at **0930** instead of the usual 1000. It will be a short meeting, hopefully lasting no more than 30 minutes. As soon as the meeting is concluded, the hall arrangements will be reconfigured and guests arriving a little early will be met and welcomed.

**Branch 5 will present a personalized Honor and Remember Flag to the family of CPL Sean A. Osterman, USMC. CPL Osterman served with USMC 2nd Recon Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force in Afghanistan. CPL Osterman was on his 2nd deployment to Afghanistan and had only been in country for a few weeks when he was mortally wounded on 14 December 2010 while leading his platoon in Helmand Province in southern Afghanistan. He was evacuated to Kandahar and then flown to Landstuhl Medical Center at Ramstein Air Force Base in Germany, where he died 16 December with his parents and sister at his bedside.**

The flag presentation ceremony will be held at **1030**, 24 May. The family has graciously consented to media coverage and TV and the newspaper has been invited. Also expected to attend is George Lutz, founder of Honor and Remember and members of the Honor and Remember Virginia Chapter. Members of the Gold Star Mothers of American, Hampton Roads Chapter also have been invited.



## **MEMORIAL DAY ACTIVITIES**

### **WREATH LAYING AT LONE SAILOR AND SERVICE ONBD WISCONSIN**

Branch 5 will conduct its eighth annual Wreath Laying and Two-Bell Ceremony at the Lone Sailor statue in Wisconsin Square next to the battleship on Saturday, **28** May 2011 at 1030. Branch 5 was successful in getting the City of Norfolk to place a flagpole near the monuments and fly the Honor and Remember flag below the U. S. Flag. This is a significant symbol to be sure everyone remembers those who died in the line of duty. We will try to have some Gold Star Mothers attend the ceremony again this year. Parking is available in the city parking garage across from Nauticus. We'll find a place for lunch after the ceremony for anyone who wants to go.

On Memorial Day, 30 May, Branch 5 will assist the City of Norfolk and the WISCONSIN Association with the ceremony at 1600 onboard WISCONSIN. Branch 5 members will conduct a Two-Bell ceremony during that service. The service will be followed by a concert at 1800 in Town Point Park featuring the Virginia Symphony. We hope to make this an annual event since we are no longer doing the ceremony at the Medical Center.

**Meeting Info**

Branch 5 meets in the VFW Hall, 5728 Barte St., Norfolk, VA. The next meeting will be held at 0930, 24 May 2011. There will be no Board of Directors meeting this month.

**BRANCH OFFICERS  
2011—2012**

**President: Jack Schwartz 588-2050**  
**Vice Pres: Ernie Fearn 466-7008**  
**Secretary/Treasurer:**  
**Tom Leisher 853-1586**  
**Parliamentarian: Mark Dugo 318-3729**  
**MAA: Howard Dellert 480-3937**  
**Chaplain: Ralph Holcombe 484-7403**

*Branch 5 News* is published monthly by Norfolk Branch 5, FRA and is distributed free of charge to Branch 5 members.

*Branch 5 News* Editor is PNP Tom Leisher. Norfolk Branch 5's mailing address is 4912 Cape Henry Ave., Norfolk, VA 23513.

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E-mail: [secrbr5@cox.net](mailto:secrbr5@cox.net)  
Website: [www.frabranch5.org](http://www.frabranch5.org)



**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 next meeting, 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.

30 Years—Edward Markowitz

35 Years—Earl Hunt



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**WORKING PARTY**

Shipmates and Ladies of Branch and Unit 5 recently scrubbed and waxed the Homecoming statue and all the bronze letters of the Armed Forces Memorial in Town Point Park. The same was done to the Lone Sailor statue in Wisconsin Square. Left to right—Tom Leisher, Myriam Leisher, “Hoppy” Dellert, Jack Schwartz, Sandy Baker, Ed Klavenski and Claire Klavenski. Photo taken by Karen Rudd, Manager, Public Arts, City of Norfolk.



## **BRANCH 5 IS GOING TO COLONIAL DOWNS**

Branch 5 will hold its annual “trek to the track” on Sunday, 17 July 2011. Again this year, we will be resplendent in our Sky Suite. Colonial Downs deluxe corporate suites include a spectacular view from our own private balcony, self-service betting terminal, closed circuit televisions, all you can eat buffet, tended cash bar and a private bathroom.

The menu includes:

Soft Rolls & Butter  
Mixed Green Salad  
Roasted Herb Chicken  
Slow Smoked Homemade Fresh Pulled Pork BBQ  
Cole Slaw & Baked Beans  
Pasta Salad & Chef’s Potatoes  
Chef’s Choice of Vegetables  
Bread Pudding & Assorted Cookies

Our Sky Suite packages include:

Admission, General Parking  
Bar Snacks  
Official Race Program and Tip Sheet  
Public address welcome announcement  
A race named in honor of Branch 5  
Winner’s Circle Presentation

The cost for all this luxury and tons of fun with your shipmates is \$30 per person. Contact Shipmate Tom Leisher (853-1586) with any questions or simply make a check payable to Tom Leisher and mail to 4912 Cape Henry Ave, Norfolk, VA 23513. Please include your phone number and e-mail address. There is limited seating so please reserve early. Branch and Unit members and immediate family members **ONLY**.

Cut off date is 5 July 2011.

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## **DID YOU MISS YOUR APRIL NEWSLETTER?**

Well, the Post Office lost it! That’s right. The newsletter, for those of you who get it in the mail, was taken to the Post Office on 8 April 2011. It was mailed early last month because the editor was going out of town for a week and he wanted to be sure the newsletter got out so Branch 5 Shipmates could make reservations for the ballgame/picnic.

Well (again), it just didn’t work out. Those who have provided email addresses saw their newsletter. They are notified by email when the newsletter is posted on Branch 5’s website <[www.frabran5.org](http://www.frabran5.org)> and are able to read it online and in color.

You just never know how things will go. It’s one of those “best laid plans of mice and men” kind of thing. But there’s a lesson to be learned here. If you have email and are not being notified to read the newsletter online, you should give the Branch Editor your email address. Send it to <[secrbr5@cox.net](mailto:secrbr5@cox.net)> The editor will add you to the online list and you will be notified each month when it’s posted.

For those of you without email, we will continue taking it to the post office each month and cross our fingers.

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**Edward Jones**  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

# BRANCH ELECTIONS THIS MONTH

The election of officers will be held at this month's meeting. These shipmates will lead our branch for the next association year, 1 July 2011 through 30 June 2012. It's important that you come out and vote. Participation is the heart beat of the branch.

Those willing to serve again are essentially the same shipmates from this past year and we really need to see some new blood on the Board of Directors. Its a good place to start. It doesn't take any skill or special knowledge. It only requires a little interest in what the branch is doing and how things work in the FRA. There are several vacancies to be filled. You can be nominated from the floor prior to the election this month.

A reminder: Our board meetings are very interesting but you don't have to be on the board to attend. All meetings in Branch 5 are open to all members to attend.

Please come this month and cast your vote. Every vote counts and in our case, its definitely true.

This is the report of the nominating committee that reported to the assembly at the April meeting. The following shipmates were nominated and are willing to serve:

President—Jack Schwartz

Vice President—Ed Klavenski

Secretary/Treasurer—Tom Leisher

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

There is room for several more Board members. Come to this month's meeting and vote.

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I have kleptomania, but when it gets bad,  
I take something for it.

I am a nobody. Nobody is perfect.  
Therefore, I am perfect.

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On the **14th day of June, 1777**, the Continental Congress passed the following resolution:  
"RESOLVED, That the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes alternate red and white - that the Union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation."

We are told that previous to this, in 1776, a committee was appointed to look after the matter, and together with General Washington they called at the house of Betsy Ross, 239 Arch Street, Philadelphia.

Betsy Ross was a young widow of twenty-four heroically supporting herself by continuing the upholstery business of her late husband, young John Ross, a patriot who had died in the service of his country. Betsy was noted for her exquisite needlework, and was engaged in the flag-making business. The committee asked her if she thought she could make a flag from a design, a rough drawing of which General Washington showed her. She replied, with diffidence, that she did not know whether she could or not, but would try. She noticed, however, that the star as drawn had six points, and informed the committee that the correct star had but five. They answered that as a great number of stars would be required, the more regular form with six points could be more easily made than one with five. She responded in a practical way by deftly folding a scrap of paper - then with a single clip of her scissors she displayed a true, symmetrical, five-pointed star.

This decided the committee in her favor. A rough design was left for her use, but she was permitted to make a sample flag according to her own ideas of the arrangement of the stars and the proportions of the stripes and the general form of the whole. Sometime after its completion it was presented to Congress, and the committee had the pleasure of informing Betsy Ross that her flag was accepted as the Nation's standard.

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**ID Card Numbers Update:** Starting on 1 JUN, as part of a campaign to protect service members, their families and retirees from identity theft, expired cards will be replaced by cards with a new and unique 10 digit identification number. (This number will also be the service member's Geneva Convention ID number). The first 9 digits of that number will identify the sponsor and the remaining 2 identify the individual person. DoD expects the full roll out to take approximately 4 years. There will also be an 11 digit DoD for every person who qualifies for any DoD benefits. Below you can find the FAQ that DoD has sent out. **So far nothing in their roll out indicates what a retiree should do since his or her ID card never expires:**

**Q1. Why is the SSN being removed from DoD ID Cards?**

A1. These changes are consistent with the overall DoD policy to reduce the use of the SSN and reinforce the growing DoD Culture of Protection for Personally Identifiable Information (PII). Consistent with this, the planned changes are designed to reduce the risk of identity theft to the DoD ID card populations while maintaining continuity of DoD business processes.

**Q2. What is changing on the card?**

A2. SSNs will be systematically removed from DoD ID cards. When current cards expire, they will be replaced with new cards having a DoD ID Number printed in the Social Security Number field. In addition to the DoD ID Number, DoD beneficiaries will have a DoD Benefits Number printed of their card.

**Q3. What is the DoD Identification Number and its purpose?** A3. The DoD ID Number is a unique ten (10) digit number that is assigned to every person with a direct relationship with the DoD (as determined by having a record in DEERS). It is a number that already exists and is 21 commonly known as the Electronic Data Interchange Person Identifier (EDI-PI). Dependents have their own DoD ID Number. The DoD ID Number will be used to support Geneva Convention requirements as well as other DoD operations and business processes.

**Q4. Who will have DoD ID Numbers on their ID cards?** A4: Every DoD ID card will have a DoD ID Number printed on it. Dependent ID cards will not have the DoD ID Number of their sponsor, just their own number.

**Q5. What is the DoD Benefits Number?** A5. DoD beneficiaries will also receive a DoD Benefits Number which will enable improved access to their benefits while reducing reliance on the SSN. The DoD Benefits Number is an eleven (11) digit number that will be used to determine eligibility to receive benefits. The first nine (9) digits are common to the sponsor. The last two (2) digits identify the specific person. The DoD Benefits Number will be printed only on ID cards that convey benefits. The DoD Benefits Number is not in either the bar codes or the integrated circuit chip.

**Q6. Will the SSN still be in the bar codes?** A6. The SSN will continue to be in the bar codes for now. The SSN Reduction Plan calls for the SSN to be removed from the bar codes beginning in 2012.

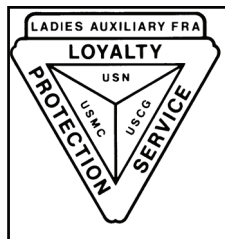
**Q7. When should I go get a new ID card?** A7. Individuals will receive a new card upon expiration of the current card. Starting in June 2011, ID Card issuance facilities will begin issuing DoD ID Cards without the SSN appearing on the card. Please note that until the cards expire, current cards will remain active and will not need to be replaced.

**Q8. Will I be able to use these new numbers once I get a new ID card?** A8. The transition to the use of these new numbers, away from the use of SSNs will take place over time. Because cards will be replaced upon expiration, it will be approximately four years until all cards are replaced with the DoD ID Number, and where applicable, the DoD Benefits Number. The key is to ensure that there is no lapse in service to DoD personnel during the transition period.

**Q9. Where can I get a DoD ID Card?** A9. Individuals eligible for a DoD ID Card can contact the nearest ID Card Issuance facility (Real-time Automated Personnel Identification System (RAPIDS) site) or go to [www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/owa/home](http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/owa/home) to find the nearest location. Over 1,500 RAPIDS sites with over 2250 workstations worldwide issue identification cards.

**Q10. What documentation is required to receive an ID Card?** A11. Two valid original forms of ID from the OMB I-9 document list. One must be a federal or state issued photo ID. Visit <http://www.uscis.gov/files/form/i-9.pdf> for more information.

**Q11. My doctor's office always uses my ID card with SSN as proof of my TRICARE eligibility. How will my doctor validate my eligibility?** A14. The eleven (11) digit, DoD Benefits Number, is currently associated with the beneficiary's SSN within DEERS. Medical providers will use the DoD Benefits Number on new ID cards. DEERS will recognize this number and the process will be transparent to both the beneficiary and the provider.



# UNIT 5 NEWS

## UNIT OFFICERS

**2010—2011**

President:	Flo-Marie Holcombe	484-7403
Vice President:	Carolyn Combs	416-1983
Secretary:	Mary Lou McKinley	252-338-3061
Treasurer:	Claire Klavenski	467-8745
Chaplain:	Elsie Hostman	467-7723
Sergeant-at-Arms:	Myriam Leisher	853-1586

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Congratulations to the ladies celebrating a birthday next month: Nan Gapter, Janet Bartlett and Debra Zachary.

## HAPPY LA FRA ANNIVERSARY!

Celebrating anniversaries with the LA FRA this month are: Margaret Fisher (22 years); Mary Lou McKinley (22 years); Debra Jones (21 years); Donna Horsfall (4 years); Marjorie Stevens (4 years) and Stella Martin (42 years); Virginia Noble (1 year). Congratulations ladies!

Eight Unit 5 Members met on April 26, 2011 at the VFW Post 4809 Hall, 5728 Bartee Street, Norfolk. Our May 24 meeting will start at **9:30 am** at the same place.

At 10:30 am, we will join Branch 5 for an Honor and Remember Flag presentation to a family whose son was killed in Iraq. Everyone is invited to join us for our regular meeting and this moving flag ceremony.

Thank you notes were read from Jayne for her Easter dinner, from Hope Lutheran Church for the Kids Cafe food and from People in Need for the hygiene items.

Flowers were sent to Elsie Hostman, our Chaplain. We hope she will be back with us soon.

One member participated in Special Olympics Local Games for six counties.

We all receive Christmas cards from organizations. We would like to send Christmas cards to our men and women in Afghanistan this year. Just address the cards to "Any G.I.". You can write a message and sign your name or sign Unit 5 Auxiliary of the Fleet Reserve Association. The deadline is the September 27 meeting.

Items to fill the Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes deadline is September 27 also. The list of items needed was in last month's newsletter.

Claire Klavenski's daughter works for the USO. They need items to fill Care Packages for Wounded Warriors who are returning from Afghanistan and Iraq. A motion was made by Claire Klavenski that we donate \$250 to the USO. The second was by Myriam Leisher and the motion carried.

Nominations for Officers for 2011-2012 were opened and will be re-opened at the May 24 meeting with election. Flo-Marie Holcombe was nominated for President. Board of Directors nominated were Jodi Munroe, Sandy Baker, Myriam Leisher, Claire Klavenski and Mary Lou McKinley.

See you May 24 at **9:30 am** for our meeting and on May 28 at the TIDES ball game!!

Widows in Unit 5 have their "FRA Today" magazine paid for by the branch. Any widow in the unit may have this monthly magazine, published by our national headquarters, delivered to your home.

Any widow wanting the magazine (free of charge) must contact the Branch Secretary by phone (853-1586) or email <secrbr5@cox.net> not later than Sunday, 5 June 2011.

**Pam Klavenski CMT**  
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