



**NORFOLK**

# **BRANCH 5 NEWS**

*August 2010*

## **BRANCH 5 BATS .1000 AT REGIONAL CONVENTION**

During the course of the year, members of Branch 5 perform acts of patriotism, help their shipmates in one way or another and we do our best to get the name of the Fleet Reserve Association out to the public. To encourage such activities, the FRA presents annual awards at both the regional and national levels. First you have to win at the Regional Convention. This year, Branch 5 submitted four reports for consideration.

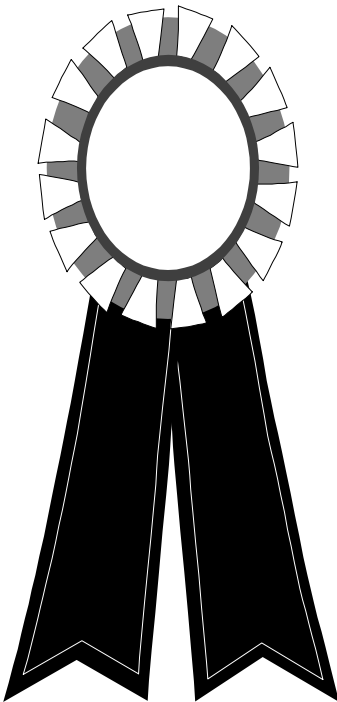
At the recently completed East Coast Regional Convention held in Richmond and hosted by a regional committee, Branch 5 walked off a big winner. We are in Group III (branches are grouped by membership numbers) and we took first place in two of the three categories that we entered and second place in the other.

Americanism-Patriotism (second place); Public Relations (first place); Hospitals/Welfare & Rehabilitation (first place)

In addition to winning in those categories because of the superior contents of our committee reports, Shipmate Hoppy Dellert was selected as Shipmate of the Year for Hospitals/Welfare and Rehabilitation. Shipmate Hoppy does so many things for so many people both with the FRA and within the civilian community, they cannot be listed here. Suffice it to say, Shipmate Hoppy is a generous, compassionate shipmate and we are proud to have him as a member of Branch 5.

While all this shows the dedication of Branch 5 members this year, winning, at least the regional level, is not a new thing for us. This sort of thing happens year after year to one degree or another and Branch 5 is expected by other branches in the region to win at least three or four awards every year. It's a reputation that is difficult to maintain but somehow we manage to do it.

The convention was fun as usual. Shipmates Tom Leisher and Ralph Holcombe represented Branch 5. The best thing about these conventions is getting to see shipmates from all over the region—Virginia, North Carolina, Maryland, Delaware and the District of Columbia. Your new Regional President will be Chris Slawinski of Branch 181 and our nearly monthly visitor from Branch 293, Darrell McKinley is the new Regional Vice President.



**Meeting Info**

Branch 5 meets in the VFW Hall, 5728 Barteo St., Norfolk, VA. The next meeting will be held at 1000, 24 August 2010. The Board of Directors meet at 0930, the same day. All members are invited to attend.

**BRANCH OFFICERS  
2010—2011**

**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.

Articles may be reproduced with acknowledgement of source.

Publication of advertising in *Branch 5 News* does not constitute an endorsement by Branch 5 nor the FRA.

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 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.


25 Years—Gerald Haddock



Pictured above (top) is newly elected Regional Vice President Darrell McKinley and 2009-2010 Branch President Ernie Fearn displaying the ribbons awarded at the Regional Convention. Two first place and one second place.

The bottom picture shows Regional Vice President Darrell McKinley and 2009-2010 Branch President Fearn presenting Shipmate of the Year Hoppy Dellert with his well deserved award.

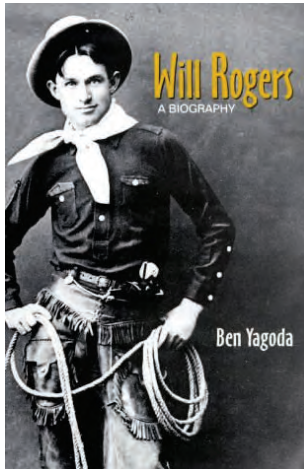
**Chiefs Construction Company**  
Your Satisfaction is Our Goal



Roofs Siding Fences Decks  
Minor Electrical Plumbing  
No Job Too Small

Serving Tidewater and Gates County, N.C.

Don St. John NC 252-435-5390  
Branch 5 Member VA 757-642-7131



Will Rogers was quite the cowboy, with all the wisdom of simple, honest folk. His words still ring with common sense today...

1. Never slap a man who's chewing tobacco.
2. Never kick a cow chip on a hot day.
- 3.. There are two theories to arguing with a woman . Neither works.
4. Never miss a good chance to shut up.
5. Always drink upstream from the herd.
6. If you find yourself in a hole, stop digging.
7. The quickest way to double your money is to fold it and put it back into your pocket
8. There are three kinds of men: The ones that learn by reading. The few who learn by observation. The rest of them have to pee on the electric fence and find out for themselves.
9. Good judgment comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment.
10. If you're riding' ahead of the herd, take a look back every now and then to make sure it's still there.
11. Lettin' the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier'n puttin' it back.
12. After eating an entire bull, a mountain lion felt so good he started roaring. He kept it up until a hunter came along and shot him. The moral: When you're full of bull, keep your mouth shut.

#### ABOUT GROWING OLDER...

**First** ~ Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it.

Web Design  
Web Maintenance  
Brochures  
Newsletters  
Spreadsheets  
Word Documents  
Databases  
Business Cards

**(757) 477-2354**

Computer Solutions for the Small Business,  
Church, Civic League or Organization  
LA FRA Unit 5 Member

**Second** ~ The older we get, the fewer things seem worth waiting in line for.

**Third** ~ Some people try to turn back their odometers. Not me; I want people to know 'why' I look this way. I've traveled a long way, and some of the roads weren't paved.

**Fourth** ~ When you are dissatisfied and would like to go back to youth, think of Algebra.

**Fifth** ~ You know you are getting old when everything either dries up or leaks.

**Sixth** ~ I don't know how I got over the hill without getting to the top

**Seventh** ~ One of the many things no one tells you about aging is that it is such a nice change from being young.

**Eighth** ~ One must wait until evening to see how splendid the day has been.

**Ninth** ~ Being young is beautiful, but being old is comfortable.

**Tenth** ~ Long ago, when men cursed and beat the ground with sticks, it was called witchcraft. Today it's called golf.

**And, finally** ~ If you don't learn to laugh at trouble, you won't have anything to laugh at when you are old.

Branch 5 thanks Shipmate Jack Kavanaugh for this interesting information. Shipmate Jack probably got this information first hand from Will Rogers.

# YOU'RE RETIRED. YOUR MONEY ISN'T.

**You may have given up your traditional job, but your retirement money still needs to work.**

To help ensure your retirement stays on track, you need a clear picture of your investments. Moving your accounts to Edward Jones can give you a more focused view, and having a single statement allows you to help make sure all your investments are working together.

To learn why consolidating your retirement accounts to Edward Jones makes sense, call your local financial advisor today. We'll meet with you face to face to help you achieve your financial goals.



**Adam Messer, CFP® AAMS®**

Financial Advisor

1642 Pleasure House Road

Suite 103

Virginia Beach, VA 23455

757.460.6754

[www.edwardjones.com](http://www.edwardjones.com) Member SIPC

**Edward Jones**

MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

## KENNEDY AND PT-109 (Naval History in August)

Despite having a bad back, Kennedy was able to join the U.S. Navy through the help of Captain Alan Kirk, the Director, Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) who had been the Naval Attache in London when Joseph Kennedy was the Ambassador. In October 1941, Kennedy was appointed an Ensign in the U.S. Naval Reserve and joined the staff of the Office of Naval Intelligence. Kennedy attended Naval Reserve Officers Training School at Northwestern University in Chicago, Illinois, from 27 July through 27 September. After completing this training, he entered the Motor Torpedo Boat Squadron Training Center, Melville, Rhode Island. On 10 October, he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant, Junior Grade. Upon completing his training, he was ordered to the training squadron, Motor Torpedo Squadron FOUR, for duty as the Commanding Officer of a motor torpedo boat, PT 101, a 78- foot Higgins boat.

Seeking combat duty, Kennedy transferred on 23 February as a replacement officer to Motor Torpedo Boat Squadron TWO, based at Tulagi Island in the Solomons. Kennedy took command of PT 109 on 23 April 1943. On 30 May, several PT boats, including PT 109 were ordered to the Russell Islands, in preparation for the invasion of New Georgia. After the invasion of Rendova, PT 109 moved to Lumbari. From that base PT boats conducted nightly operations to interdict the heavy Japanese barge traffic resupplying the Japanese garrisons in New Georgia and to patrol the Ferguson and Blackett Straits near the islands of Kolumbangara, Gizo, and Vella-Lavella in order to sight and to give warning when the Japanese Tokyo Express warships came into the straits to assault U.S. forces in the New Georgia-Rendova area.

PT 109 commanded by Kennedy with executive officer, Ensign Leonard Jay Thom, and ten enlisted men was one of the fifteen boats sent out on patrol on the night of **1-2 August** 1943 to intercept Japanese warships in the straits. The boat was creeping along to keep the wake and noise to a minimum in order to avoid detection. Around 0200 with Kennedy at the helm, the Japanese destroyer Amagiri traveling at 40 knots cut PT 109 in half in ten seconds. At impact, Kennedy was thrown into the cockpit where he landed on his bad back. As Amagiri steamed away, its wake doused the flames on the floating section of PT 109 to which five Americans clung: Kennedy, Thom, and three enlisted men. Kennedy yelled out for others in the water and heard the replies of five members of the crew. Although they were only one

**MEMORY LANE**  
**SPORTS**  
NFL MLB NHL NBA NCAA

*Creating memories one season at a time!*

4554 Virginia Beach Blvd., Ste 770 Virginia Beach, VA 23462 Phone: (757) 671-1785	3300 Princess Anne Rd., Ste 743 Virginia Beach, VA 23456 Phone: (757) 368-0913
---	--

2020 Atlantic Ave.  
Virginia Beach, VA 23451  
Phone: (757) 422-1855

hundred yards from the floating piece, in the dark it took Kennedy three hours to tow one crewman and help another back to the PT hulk. Unfortunately, two crewmembers were killed in the collision with Amagiri.

Because the remnant was listing badly and starting to swamp, Kennedy decided to swim for a small island barely visible (actually three miles) to the southeast. Five hours later, all eleven survivors had made it to the island after having spent a total of fifteen hours in the water. Kennedy had given one a life-jacket and had towed him all three miles with the strap of the device in his teeth. After finding no food or water on the island, Kennedy concluded that he should swim the route the PT boats took through Ferguson Passage in hopes of sighting another ship but had no luck, Kennedy had spotted another slightly larger island with coconuts to eat and all the men swam there with Kennedy again towing one. Now at their fourth day, Kennedy made it to Nauru Island and found several natives. Kennedy cut a message on a coconut that read "11 alive native knows posit & reef Nauru Island Kennedy." He purportedly handed the coconut to one of the natives and said, "Rendova, Rendova!," indicating that the coconut should be taken to the PT base on Rendova.

Kennedy again attempted to look for boats that night with no luck. The next morning the natives returned with food and supplies, as well as a letter from the coast-watcher commander of the New Zealand camp, Lieutenant Arthur Reginald Evans. The message indicated that the natives should return with the American commander, and Kennedy complied immediately. He was greeted warmly and then taken to meet PT 157 which returned to the island and finally rescued the survivors on 8 August.

Kennedy was later awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal for his heroics in the rescue of the crew of PT 109, as well as the Purple Heart Medal for injuries sustained in the accident on the night of 1 August 1943.

## Copies and More

COPIES ~ FAX ~ NOTARY  
MAILBOXES ~ SHIPPING

FedEx ~ UPS ~ USPS

Western Union Money Transfers

Bill Pay (Verizon.. Etc..)

Typing Services - Resumes - Flyers

Lamination - Binding

Packing and Shipping Supplies

Business Cards

Rubber Stamps - Notary Seals

DVD and VHS Movies

Personalized Gifts

Hours of Operation - 9AM - 6PM Mon thru Sat

7649 Granby Street (Wards Corner)

Norfolk, VA 23505

Phone# (757) 489-8309 ~ Fax# (757) 489-8310

copies and more2006@yahoo.com

www.copies-and-more.com

**\$3 OFF**

**RUBBER STAMP ORDER**

Limit one coupon per person

Coupons Code: FRA  
Coupons cannot be combined.

**\$3 OFF**

**UPS/FEDEX SHIPMENT**

Limit one coupon per person

Coupons Code: FRA  
Coupons cannot be combined.

## U. S. NAVY HISTORY

Starting in next month's newsletter and running in several issues there will be an article, short version because of lack of space, about the history of the U. S. Navy covering the:

American Revolutionary War

Barbary Coast

War of 1812

Mexican-American War

Civil War

Spanish-American War

WWI

WWII

Cold War

Some of this will be old hat to some of you but some might be new too. In any case, we'll get a big picture of what our Navy has done over the years.

## THIS STORY COMES UNDER THE HEADING OF

## CAN YOU BELIEVE THIS?

A federal judge in Denver has ruled the Stolen Valor Act is "facially unconstitutional" because it violates free speech and dismissed the criminal case against Rick Strandlof, a man who lied about being an Iraq war veteran. On 16 JUL U.S. District Judge Robert Blackburn issued his decision ruling, "The Stolen Valor Act is declared to be facially unconstitutional as a content-based restriction on speech that does not serve a compelling government interest, and consequently that the Act is invalid as violative of the First Amendment." Strandlof, 32, was charged with five misdemeanors related to violating the Stolen Valor Act - specifically, making false claims about receiving military decorations. He posed as "Rick Duncan," a wounded Marine captain who received a Purple Heart and a Silver Star. Strandlof used that persona to found the Colorado Veterans Alliance and solicit funds for the organization. Actual veterans who served on the board were suspicious of his claims and the FBI began investigating. Robert Pepin, Strandlof's attorney, the ACLU of Colorado and the Rutherford Institute, a nonprofit civil liberties group, all filed briefs with Blackburn contesting the Stolen Valor Act. They argued that simply lying is not illegal. The Stolen Valor Act prohibits people from falsely claiming they have been awarded military decorations and medals. The act, signed into law in 2006, carries a punishment ranging from fines to six months in prison. Assistant U.S. Attorney Jeremy Sibert had argued false statements made by Strandlof are not protected speech because they damaged the reputation and meaning of military decorations and medals. [Source: The Denver Post Felisa Cardona article 16 Jul 2010]



# 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: Robin Carrillo

## HAPPY LA FRA ANNIVERSARY!

Celebrating anniversaries with the LA FRA **this** month is: Maria Corbe (1 year). Thank you for your continued support!

Unit 5 began its new year on July 28 with seven members present. President Flo-Marie Holcombe presided at the meeting.

Chaplain Elsie Hostman reported on the cards and hospital visits she and the members had made during the month. We are so sorry that we lost our very good member and past Vice President, Donna Fearn. Donna passed away on June 29. We will miss her very much for all her help and she was our contact with Judy Wessell at EVMS.

At the Regional Convention in Richmond in July, we received First Place for our Unit Report in our Group. Our Report will be judged at the National Convention in Spartanburg, SC in September. Thanks to all of you who made it possible with your help and ideas for projects. We also received a Certificate of Appreciation from our Regional President, Debra Washington.

We remembered our adopted AIDS patient, Jayne on her birthday with a gift and a card.

Thank you to Becky Black for contributing books to the Unit. They were given to the Friends of the Library.

We will again collect school supplies for the children of the AIDS patients. The supplies are needed and are very much appreciated. Any help you can give us would be appreciated. Items needed are composition books, notebook paper and binder, pencils, pens, glue, folders. Your help in the past has been great. Thank you so much.

Membership Renewals coming up are Sandy Baker, Gaye Paquet, Marian Byrtus, Concepcion Evers and Helen Harris.

**HAPPY 58TH ANNIVERSARY** to Lizora and Robert Harrison!! Hope you have many more. We joined the Branch for a presentation by Willard Smith, Executive Director of Vetshouse, Inc. They have served homeless veterans since 1992. They provide transition housing, food, clothing counseling and other assistance. They participate in the Community Rewards sponsored by Food Lion Stores. With your MVP card you can designate the Vetshouse (code 252278) and they can earn cash through your purchases. We will be helping them with paper towels, toilet tissue and cleaning supplies next month.

Pam Klavenski CMT  
757-434-1379

*Coastal Massage  
Therapy*

762 Independence Blvd., Suite 768, Virginia Beach, VA 23455  
pklavenski@coastalmassagetherapy.com www.coastalmassagetherapy.com

---

Branch 5 News

Norfolk Branch 5  
Fleet Reserve Association  
4912 Cape Henry Ave  
Norfolk, VA 23513

---

Non-Profit Org. U.S. Postage PAID Norfolk, VA Permit No. 311
--

Dated Material

**FLEET RESERVE ASSOCIATION APPLICATION**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Rate/Rank: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Branch of Service \_\_\_\_\_ Status: \_\_\_\_\_ : Branch Pref: 005  
(USN,USMC,USCG) (Active, Retired, Reserve, Vet)

Recruited by: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card: VISA/MASTERCARD (Circle One) # \_\_\_\_\_

Expires: \_\_\_\_\_

Pay yearly dues (\$30) by check, money order, or credit card. Payable to FRA and mail to:  
Branch 5 Secretary, 4912 Cape Henry Ave, Norfolk, VA 23513

**LADIES AUXILIARY, FRA APPLICATION**

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit Pref: 005

I am the (wife) (sister) (widow) (daughter) (mother) (granddaughter) (grandmother) (stepdaughter)  
of: \_\_\_\_\_

(service members full name, rate, (USN, USMC, USCG))

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Yearly dues (\$15) by check or money order. Payable to LA FRA and mail to:  
Unit 5 Secretary, 1716 Providence Road, Elizabeth City, NC 27909

**There is not a man or woman, on active duty or retired from the Armed Forces of the United States,  
who at this very moment is not deriving some benefit achieved through the efforts of the FRA**