



NORFOLK

BRANCH 5 NEWS

September 2011



Pictured above is Branch 5 President Jack Schwartz proudly holding the three award winning ribbons Branch 5 won at the recently completed East Coast Regional Convention.

Branch 5 won first place in Hospitals/Welfare/Rehabilitation and in Public Relations. We took second place in Americanism-Patriotism.

Our two first place entries will be judged at the National Convention in Kansas City in October. Hopefully, our November newsletter will have some good news for you.

MORE AND MORE SHIPMATES have agreed to read this newsletter on line at www.frabranch5.org. By doing so, they are saving paper, printing costs as well as costs to mail the newsletter. You will see the newsletter earlier by reading it online rather than waiting for a copy to come in the mail. It's a win, win situation. Email the Editor at secrbr5@cox.net to get on the email list. You will be notified each month when the newsletter is posted online.



HARNESS RACING AT COLONIAL DOWNS

(Editors Note - I know, I know. It's a sleigh, not a cart like in harness racing but it's the closest piece of clip art I could find.)

On Sunday 16 October, Branch 5 will return to Colonial Downs, this time for Harness Racing. Cost is \$36 each for the rent of a suite and the buffet. Cost also includes tax, gratuity, general parking, a program and tip sheet, a race named in our honor and a winner's circle presentation. The buffet will include:

Soft rolls and butter

Mixed green salad

Roasted herb chicken

Fresh pulled pork BBQ with Cole slaw

Baked beans and Pasta salad

Chef's Potatoes and Chef's choice of vegetables

Bread pudding and Assorted Cookies

In addition to these items, they feature another buffet table with specially themed items.

Contact Tom Leisher (853-1586) to make a reservation. Cutoff is 27 September, the date of our next meeting.

**Meeting
Info**

Branch 5 meets in the VFW Hall, 5728 Barteo St., Norfolk, VA. The next meeting will be held at 1000, 27 September 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
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.

15 Years—Carroll Baust and Daniel Reilly
 55 Years—Ralph Holcombe




**BRANCH 5
BREAKFAST BUNCH
MEETS AT
"GRUMPY'S"**

The Branch 5 Breakfast Bunch (Branch 5 shipmates and Unit 5 ladies) will meet at 0900, Saturday, 1 October 2011 at Grumpy's, 995 Providence Square Shopping Center, Virginia Beach. The shopping center is located at the corner of Kempsville and Providence Roads. Best entrance into the shopping center is off Kempsville Road. Their phone number is 474-0880.

The motto at Grumpy's is "Come Grumpy...Leave Happy!!!" Grumpy's has a varied menu including Breakfast Sandwiches, Pancakes, French Toast, Omelettes, and Entrees. Example: 2 eggs, 2 strips of bacon or sausage patties, home fries or grits and toast is \$4.95.

Comes join us for breakfast! Hopefully, this time, there won't be a hurricane!



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JAPAN SURRENDERS

The formal surrender of the Japanese Imperial Government, the Japanese Imperial General Headquarters, and all Japanese and Japanese-controlled armed forces wherever located, was signed aboard the battleship USS Missouri (BB-63) at 0908 on **2 September 1945**. Looking down upon the ceremony, to present a reminder of an earlier occasion on which Japanese truculence had been humbled by American sea power was the American Flag which had flown over Commodore Matthew Calbraith Perry's flagship USS Mississippi (Sidewheel Steamer) when he steamed into the Bay of Yedo (Tokyo Bay, as it was known after 1868) in 1853. An interesting sidelight concerning this 31-starred flag was the circumstance of its being framed in reverse, as a result of the obverse side's having suffered such decomposition from mildew that it had been necessary at some time in the flag's history to back that side with cotton batting.

Acting on behalf of Emperor Hirohito and of the Japanese Government, Foreign Minister Mamoru Shigemitsu signed first for Japan. The next to affix his signature to the surrender document was General Yosshijiro Umezu, Chief of Staff, Japanese Army Headquarters, who signed for the Imperial General Headquarters. Both Japanese emissaries, as well as the various Allied representatives, signed two documents - one for the Allies, and a duplicate to be retained by Japan.

As Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, General of the Army MacArthur, attended by Lieutenant General Jonathan M. Wainwright, defender of Bataan and Corregidor, and by Lieutenant General Arthur E. Percival, British commander at Singapore at the time of the Japanese conquest of that base, signed next. Both generals, recently released from a prison camp near Mukden, Manchuria, had been especially invited by General MacArthur to witness the surrender of Japan.



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THE SECOND PRESIDENTIAL ASSINATION

James A. Garfield was shot in Washington, D.C. on July 2, 1881 by Charles J. Guiteau at 9:30 a.m., less than four months after taking office as the twentieth President of the United States. Garfield died eleven weeks later on September 19, 1881, the second of four Presidents to be assassinated, following Abraham Lincoln and preceding William McKinley and John F. Kennedy. His Vice President, Chester Arthur, succeeded Garfield as President.

Garfield, conscious but in shock, was carried to an upstairs floor of the train station. One bullet remained lodged in his body, but doctors could not find it. Young Jim Garfield and James Blaine both broke down and wept. Robert Todd Lincoln, deeply upset and thinking back to the death of his father, said "How many hours of sorrow I have passed in this town."

Garfield was carried back to the White House. Although doctors told him that he would not survive the night, the President remained conscious and alert. The next morning his vital signs were good and doctors began to hope for recovery. A long vigil began, with Garfield's doctors issuing regular bulletins that the American public followed closely throughout the summer of 1881. His condition fluctuated. Fevers came and went. Garfield struggled to keep down solid food and spent most of the summer eating little, and that only liquids.

On September 6, Garfield was taken to the Jersey Shore to escape the Washington heat, in the vain hope that the fresh air and quiet there might aid his recovery. Garfield was propped up in bed before a window with a view of the beach and ocean. New infections set in, as well as spasms of angina. He died of a massive heart attack or a ruptured splenic artery aneurysm, following blood poisoning and bronchial pneumonia, at 10:35 p.m. on Monday, **September 19, 1881**, in Long Branch, New Jersey. The wounded president died exactly two months before his 50th birthday. During the eighty days between his shooting and death, his only official act was to sign an extradition paper.

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Most historians and medical experts now believe that Garfield probably would have survived his wound had the doctors attending him been more capable. Several inserted their unsterilized fingers into the wound to probe for the bullet, and one doctor punctured Garfield's liver in doing so. This alone would not have brought about death as the liver is one of the few organs in the human body that can regenerate itself. However, this physician probably introduced Streptococcus bacteria into the President's body and that caused blood poisoning for which at that time there were no antibiotics.

DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH: Someone who is basically good hearted but lacking social graces and respect for the law. Origin: The phrase is clearly a metaphor for the original unpolished state of diamond gemstones, especially those that have the potential to become high quality jewels. It is more commonly expressed in the form 'rough diamond'. The first recorded use in print is in John Fletcher's *A Wife for a Month*, 1624:

"She is very honest, and will be as hard to cut as a rough diamond."

DIAMONDS ARE FOREVER: Origin: De Beers have used this as a slogan since 1948, and continue to do so. The notion wasn't a new one. In Anita Loos' book *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*, 1925, there's the line:

"So I really think that American gentlemen are the best after all, because kissing your hand may make you feel very, very good but a diamond and safire bracelet lasts forever."

Cars Most Stolen: Nationally — and for the first time since 2002 — thieves preferred domestic makes over foreign brands, the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) reported on 2 AUG. Ford took three spots, Dodge two, and Chevrolet held one. Here's the NICB's top 10 list, which uses 2010 data that it took till now to crunch. (Use https://www.nicb.org/newsroom/nicb_campaigns/hot-wheels to search the most-stolen cars in your state). You'll notice that while American carmakers have a presence on the national list, it's still top-heavy with foreign makes...

Honda Accord (1994)

Honda Civic (1995)

Toyota Camry (1991)

Chevrolet Pickup Full Size (1999)

Ford F150 Series/Pickup (1997)

Dodge Ram (2004)

Dodge Caravan (2000)

Acura Integra (1994)

Ford Explorer (2002)

Ford Taurus (1999)

Why are older-model Hondas and Toyotas in such demand? Two reasons...

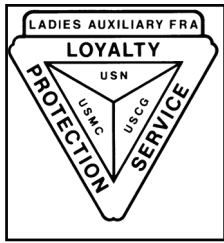
1. Certain models of older cars and trucks are popular with thieves because of the value of their parts, the NICB says. Makes sense: Hondas and Toyotas were top-selling vehicles in the '90s, and their owners tend to drive them into the ground. Hence, a big market for replacement parts.

2. Improved technology is one of the keys to lower theft rates, the NICB says. Of the nearly 52,000 Honda Accords stolen in 2010, over 44,000 were models made in the 1990s, compared with fewer than 5,700 that were produced since the year 2000.

The NICB has four suggestions for how to prevent your car from being stolen, and only one of those doesn't involve technology...

- **Common sense:** Lock your car and take your keys. Sounds blindingly obvious, but as the NICB notes, many thefts occur because owners make it easy for thieves to steal their cars.
- **Warning devices:** Having and using a visible or audible warning device can ensure that your car remains where you left it, the NICB advises. Although who among us hasn't been annoyed by those blaring car alarms – and ignored them?
- **Immobilizing devices:** This is the fancy term for a —kill switch, and it's one of the two best options if you're buying a new car. These devices will range from fuel cut-offs to smart keys, and the NICB says they're extremely effective.
- **Tracking devices:** Also proven very effective, tracking devices now go far beyond the LoJack commercial of a few years ago. Some systems employ telematics, which combine GPS and wireless technologies to allow remote monitoring of a vehicle, the NICB says. If the vehicle is moved, the system will alert the owner, and the vehicle can be tracked via computer.

The sinking of the TITANIC in 1912 and the LUSITANIA three years later are commonly thought of as two of the greatest maritime disasters of all time. Yet, the German ship Wilhelm Gustloff carrying mostly civilian refugees and sunk in the Baltic Sea in the closing months of World War II claimed more than twice as many lives as both ships combined. It was the greatest marine disaster in history and most Americans probably never heard of it. With all cabins occupied and passengers jammed into passageways, the GUSTLOFF got underway at 1230 on 30 January 1945 for Kiel and Flensburg in western Germany. There were over 6,000 passengers--more than three times above capacity. Most were women and children, elderly men and about 1,200 wounded soldiers.



UNIT 5 NEWS

UNIT OFFICERS 2011—2012

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: Trish Skinner and Stella Martin.

HAPPY LA FRA ANNIVERSARY!

Celebrating anniversaries with the LA FRA **this** month is: Lizora Harrison (26 years). Thank you for your continued support!

On August 23, Unit 5 members met at 10 am at VFW Post 4809 Hall at 5728 Bartee Street, Norfolk. We will meet again on September 27 at 10 am at the same location. Please join us as we help as many of the needy area organizations as we can.

THERE WILL BE NO MEETING ON OCTOBER 25 DUE TO THE FRA NATIONAL CONVENTION IN KANSAS CITY, MO. Flo-Marie Holcombe, Carolyn Combs and Mary Lou McKinley will represent Unit 5.

Carolyn Combs filled in as Chaplain for Claire Klavenski and draped the Charter for PRPEC Veronica "Ronnie" Teixeira, Unit 60, who passed away on August 16 and for our Past Chaplain Elsie Hostman who passed away on August 17. We will really miss our dedicated Charter Member Elsie.

Many school supplies were donated for the children of the AIDS patients at EVMS. George Wessell, Judy's husband, came to our meeting and picked up the supplies. Thank you George.

In September we will furnish small items to fill shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child - toys, puzzles, pencils, note pads, hair ribbons, toothbrushes and toothpaste, etc. Also at the September meeting, we will bring in the Christmas Cards addressed to Any Service Person and signed with your name or Unit 5 Ladies Auxiliary Fleet Reserve Association.

Judy has a new AIDS patient with 2 teenagers for us and we will begin doing things for them beginning January 1.

World AIDS Walk is December 2 and we will furnish cookies for the participants. If you would like to help, please bring your cookies to our November 22 meeting.

For Thanksgiving, we will give a donation to the Norfolk Food Bank.

In December we will support the Albert G. Horton Cemetery Wreath Society.

Upcoming Dues Renewals: PAT SCHOLTEN

HAPPY 59th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY TO ROBERT AND LIZORA HARRISON ON SEPTEMBER 6!!



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