



TO ALL BRANCH, UNIT AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Board of Governors: Tuesday Feb. 6th @ 9 AM

Board of Directors: Monday Feb. 12th @ 4 PM

Branch Meeting: Wednesday Feb. 14th @ 5 PM FRA

National website: <http://www.fra.org/>

Club/Branch info website: <http://www.club170.org>

Hey all, Shipmates, Unit and Club Members, I hope that this newsletter finds you all in the best of health and enjoyment of your lives!! February has crept up on us so here we are.

Starting this past November, the military exchanges started allowing ALL veterans access to buy from online. I encourage all veterans to log onto the military exchanges website, verify eligibility and start using that benefit.

In the military news, there is a bill that was passed that helps reduce obstacles for military folks of all kinds to obtain a CDL. Here is the gist:

On the last day of session for calendar year 2017, Sen. John Cornyn (Tex.) praised the House passage of the "Jobs for Our Heroes Act" (S.1393). A bill he sponsored that was championed in the House by Rep. Rob Woodall (Ga.) to reduce barriers for active-duty military, reservists and veterans applying for Commercial Driver's Licenses (CDLs). The bill would streamline the application process to these applicants.

There is currently a shortage of CDL drivers and this bill is intended to speed up the process to fill these vacancies. Additionally, it would allow states to permanently waive license requirements for current service members and Reserve Component members, if they have military experience driving a comparable vehicle. The bill goes to President Trump, who is expected to sign it into law.

The National Convention for 2018 is announced and will be in San Antonio, Texas. I encourage all Unit and Branch members to attend. It will be held September 23rd-September 30th, at the Omni Hotel. Here is the address: 9821 Colonnade Boulevard, San Antonio, TX 78230 210-691-8888.

We have a very sick Shipmate, S/M Past President Ron Vukasin. Let's keep him and his family in our prayers as he heals from his ailments. God Speed Shipmate.

We now have a VSO (Veteran Service Officer) in our branch. This person, Jeannie Ebert, services ALL veterans' requests for benefits. She comes to us with a wealth of knowledge and ability to get the job done. Her hours are Monday and Thursday, 11-12 and 1-2. Appointments are available and requested. Her number is 425-309-6787. Please leave one message only if you receive her VM, as she is very busy and will get back to you ASAP...

I am keeping the suggestion box as a note on the bulletin. Not sure if you all are aware, but we have a suggestion box in the Club. That is used to make any suggestions, criticisms or praises, all alike. Please feel free to use it to let us know how we are doing and what changes you would like to see. We take all of them to heart. **ALL** suggestions are handled by the Board of Governors. I explained in my last newsletter all the boards and how we are operated. Understand that all the members, Unit, Club and Branch alike handle ALL concerns and deal with them as a team, not one individual, so please give your thoughts, concerns and praises alike. We like to hear from you!!

Leadership is not something that comes easy to many people and for many it is a trait that is learned and honed over many years. I am very proud of our leaders of our Branch, Directors, Auxiliary, and Governors. I want to personally thank ALL the people that step up and make our club/unit and branch the best it can be,

As I wrap up this letter I want to thank you all for reading it, coming to the Branch, Auxiliary, and Club 170 and participating and enjoying spending your time with us. Be kind to each other and let's continue to make this year special. May God Bless all of you, our wonderful city of Everett, our Armed Forces, and the United States of America...

In Loyalty,
Protection and Service
Irving Salsbury
President, Branch 170