



GEM STATE GEMS

Gem State Branch 382

Fleet Reserve Association

www.fra382.org

April 2018

News from the Branch

President:

Welcome to April. I am pleased to say that most on the Binnacle list have recovered. However, Shipmate Nungesser is still recovering from a broken leg. Our thoughts, prayers and assistance are with him and Linda.

As we move into April we meet a different set of projects. Spring means outside! The Back Country Horseman have offered to do some repairs on our building, in place of the next breakfast. I think we should cook breakfast for them.

We have also discussed grounds keeping. It was decided that the branch members will mow, trim, and keep up our own grounds this year. Shipmate Crooks has donated a riding mower for this endeavor. We have good trimmers, weed sprayer and hand tools so we should be set. All we need are some dedicated branch members to commit to a week of grounds keeping. The more who sign up the less work on any one person.

Keep in mind our upcoming Regional Convention, August 17-18, 2018 at the Riverside Hotel in Boise. See our website www.fra382.org for details as they become available.

Our ladies unit needs more members. If your spouse is not involved, please encourage them to become an active member.

Next meeting - Saturday, April 14, 2018 @ 10 AM.

In Loyalty, Protection & Service,
Bill Hall,
President Branch 382

News from the Branch Vice

President:

Greetings, fellow shipmates. We have made it through another winter and are looking forward to a nice pleasant spring.

Thankfully, I don't have anyone on the Binnacle list this month, but there are some of our shipmates still fighting off the lingering

effects of that nasty Upper Respiratory Infection that have been around all winter. They are in our thoughts and prayers as they continue to recover.

We have the honor of congratulating Shipmate John LeBlanc this month for attaining 25 years of continuous membership in the FRA. Well done John. If you are at the next meeting we will present you with your 25-year pin.

The Branch also received a new member this past month. Shipmate Don Franklin, USN Vet, has joined the FRA and Branch 382. When you see Don, please introduce yourself and give him a hearty handshake. Welcome aboard Don

I know you probably get tired of hearing it for me, but I will continue to harp on it. Other shipmates are out there; we just need to seek them out and get them into Branch 382. Keep looking shipmates. You are doing a good job; just keep at it.

I hope to see you all at the next meeting or at Wednesday coffee. Till we met again, a parting thought:

"The best way to cheer yourself up is to try to cheer somebody else up"----Mark Twain

In Loyalty, Protection, and Service
Danny Hunt
Vice President Branch 382

Branch and Unit Events:

April

- 01 – April Fool's Day
- 01 – Easter
- 01 – Rank of Chief Petty Officer is established
- 07 – Passover Ends
- 14 – Branch and Unit Meeting
- 22 – Earth Day

May

- National Military Appreciation Month
- 01 – Silver Star Service Banner Day
- 08 – Victory In Europe Day
- 11 – Military Spouse Appreciation Day
- 12 – Branch and Unit Meeting
- 13 – Mother's Day
- 19 – Armed Forces Day
- 28 – Memorial Day

Branch Birthdays:

April

- 05 – Phillip Halstead; Tanner Streicher
- 06 – Donald Matthews; Terry Thomas
- 07 – Cindy Jones
- 09 – Ron Thompson
- 10 – Vera Flanik
- 14 – Jim Shadwick
- 16 – James Radford
- 21 – Randall Barham; Brandy Gehrls
- 28 – Andrew Morales

May

- 10 – Jack Conrad
- 21 – Roger Christopher
- 25 – Donald Vaughn
- 27 – Charles Giefer
- 31 – William Heyob

This Day in Naval History:

April 1, 1893 - Navy General Order 409 establishes the rank of Chief Petty Officer.

April 5, 1951 - During the Korean War, Hospital Corpsman Richard De Wert is killed in action while administering first aid to an injured comrade. He is posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

April 10, 1963 - During diving tests, USS Thresher (SSN 593) is lost with all hands east of Cape Cod, Mass., including commanding officer and 17 civilian technicians.

April 12, 1945 – President Franklin D. Roosevelt dies at Warm Springs, Ga. Besides being the nation’s longest-serving president, he also was an Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

April 17, 1915 - Chief Gunners Mate Frank Crilley, a naval diver, rescues a fellow diver who had become entangled at a depth of 250 feet during salvage operations for USS F-4 submarine that had sunk March 25, 1915, with the loss of her entire crew. For his heroism on this occasion, he is awarded the Medal of Honor in 1929.

April 24, 1906 - Reburial Commemoration Ceremony for Capt. John Paul Jones is held at the Naval Academy. At the ceremony, President Theodore Roosevelt delivers a speech in honor of the legendary Revolutionary War naval captain.

April 26, 1869 - As a post-Civil War push for re-enlistments, the Good Conduct Medal, then called Good Conduct Badge, is authorized by Secretary of the Navy Adolphus E. Borie.

April 30, 1789 - Congress establishes the Department of the Navy as a separate cabinet department. Previously, naval matters were under the cognizance of the War Department. Benjamin Stoddert is named as the first Secretary of the Navy.

Honoring John Henry (“Dick”) Turpin, Chief Gunner’s Mate, USN. (1876-1962)



John Henry Turpin was born on 20 August 1876. Enlisted in the Navy at New York City on 4 November 1896, he was a member of USS Maine’s crew when she was destroyed by an explosion in February 1898. He survived that disaster, and the boiler explosion on USS Bennington in July 1905, as well as serving on several other ships before he left active duty in 1916. Recalled to service when the U.S. entered World War I in April 1917, on 1 June of that year, Turpin became Chief Gunner’s Mate on USS Marblehead, one of the Navy’s first African-American Chief Petty Officers. He served actively in that rank until transferred to the Fleet Reserve on 8 March 1919. John Henry Turpin retired as a Chief Gunner’s Mate on 5 October 1925.

When not serving on active duty, Turpin was employed at the Puget Sound Navy Yard, Bremerton, Washington, as a Master Rigger. He also qualified, in his civilian capacity, as a Master Diver. From 1938 through World War II, he voluntarily made inspirational visits to Naval Training Centers and defense plants. John Henry Turpin died on 10 March 1962.

Passing of RPNC Rosemary Posekany



Rosemary Ellen Posekany, age 66 of Greenville, died Thursday, March 15, 2018 from injuries sustained in an automobile accident in Illinois. She was born January 6, 1952 in Grand Rapids, the daughter of Howard and Mary (Heitz) Petersen. Rosemary graduated from Grand Rapids Junior College and, after her mother posed the question "What are you going to do with your life? Have you considered the military?", enlisted in the United States Navy. She rose to the rank of Chief... Petty Officer, retiring after 20 years of active duty. She was especially proud to have served the last four years of her career aboard the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier. She was a life member and national officer of the Fleet Reserve Association (FRA), a life member of the VFW Cleveland-Wolverton Post 3749, a life member of the Disabled American Veterans, and a longtime member of the Ray Booth American Legion Post 101. She was a much-loved fixture at the Wyoming Veterans Affairs Health Care Center, where she volunteered every Thursday. Her devotion to bettering her community and world wasn't limited to Veterans causes. She was an active member of St. Charles Catholic Church and a member of the Per Gradus Club. She had a passion for reading and literature and loved the ten years she spent working at the Alvah N. Belding Memorial Library. She had an infectious laugh and wonderful sense of humor, and positively impacted many lives. Rosemary loved to travel the world. While stationed in Iceland, she met the love of her life, Marty Posekany. A devoted husband, Marty survives, along with her step-children, Andrew (Misty) Posekany of North Pole, AK and Belinda (Bobby) Hogan of Muldrow, OK; grandchildren, Shawneanna, Sky, Ashley, Lloyd, Rex, Chloe, Dawson, and Riley; siblings, Michael (Phyllis) Petersen of Dowogiac, Raymond (Cindy) Petersen of Wyoming, and Maryanne (Chris) Rogers of Grand Rapids; Marty's siblings, Darby (Rhonda) Posekany of Arlington, TX and Rae (Brian) Foulk of Vinton, IA; nephews, Joseph, Jeffery, Andrew, and Benjamin Petersen David Rogers, and Zachary and Alexander Posekany; niece, Taiya Stevens; and many other relatives and countless friends. The Mass of Christian Burial for Rosemary will be celebrated at 11:00 am Wednesday, March 21, 2018 at St. Charles Catholic Church, Rev. James Wyse presiding. Visitation will be Tuesday from 5:00 to 8:00 pm at Hurst Funeral Home, where the Rosary will be prayed at 7:30 pm. Private interment will be in Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Grand

Rapids. Memorial contributions in her honor may be given to the FRA Education Foundation (125 N. West St., Alexandria, VA 22314) or the FRA NCR Essay Fund Corporation (3810 Wheatridge Drive, St. Joseph, MO 64506). Envelopes for both will be available at the funeral home.