



GEM STATE GEMS

Gem State Branch 382

Fleet Reserve Association

www.fra382.org

fra-nwregion.org

www.fra.org

May 2025

News from the Branch

President:

Greetings Shipmates,

Another month has come and gone. April Showers bring May Flowers? Not many showers so we'll see. Nominations and Elections were completed at our April meeting. Installation Ceremony will be conducted at our May 10th meeting. Please plan to attend.

Your Branch #382 Staff for the next year are:

Branch President: Shipmate Bill Hall

Branch Vice President: Shipmate Dave Eastland

Branch Secretary: Shipmate Roger Christopher

Branch Treasurer: Shipmate Tom Flanik

Board of Directors: Shipmate Jim Shadwick

Shipmate Chuck Crooks

Shipmate Dave Swickard

Shipmate Steve Loop

Shipmate Richard Cress

Chaplain: Shipmate Chuck Crooks

Master at Arms: Shipmate Don Franklin

Upcoming events:

Parade America (Nampa) May 17th

Check our website (www.fra382.org) for details. Please attend and help support our float and the FRA.

Northwest Regional Convention -

September 5th - 7th on Whidbey Island hosted by BR397.

Room rates are \$185.00 + tax. Check the website for details

National Convention - November 4th - 7th in Springfield, Mo. Room rates are \$119.00 + tax. More information will be promulgated when it is available.

At our April meeting a motion was made, seconded, and approved to transfer Branch #382 to the West Coast Region. We feel our efforts, programs, and productivity

would be better represented in the west coast region.

As ground maintenance gets underway for the season I want to thank Shipmate Don Franklin for his dedication to this project. Please donate an hour of your time to help out. we meet at the branch house at 0845 each Wednesday. We are usually finished by 1030.

Stay in touch with our Shipmates.
Let us know how we can help.

In Loyalty, Protection & Service,
Bill Hall
President Branch 382
(208) 695-1664

News from the Branch Vice President:

Hello to all of the Branch shipmates

I am Dave Eastland recently elected to the vice president slot. Please bear with me as I learn the duties of this office. I am open to any ideas especially concerning new recruitment of new members. I sincerely hope we have a really good year this coming year. Have a good day everyone.

In Loyalty, Protection, and Service,
Dave Eastland
Vice President Branch 382
(208) 475-4064

Branch Events:

May

Month of the Military Caregiver
National Military Appreciation Month
01 - Silver Star Service Banner Day
01 - Loyalty Day
01 - National Day of Prayer
04-10 Public Service Recognition Week
06-12 National Nurses Week
06 - Kilroy Coffee Klatch at the Warhawk
Air Museum (10 AM)
07 - Coffee at the Roastere (1 PM)
08 - Victory in Europe (VE) Day
10 - Branch Meeting (10 AM)
10 - Mother's Day Celebration at the
Warhawk Air Museum (10 AM - 5 PM)
11 - Mother's Day
12-17 - Armed Forces Week
13 - Children of Fallen Patriots Day
14 - Coffee at the Roastere (1 PM)
17 - Armed Forces Day
21 - Coffee at the Roastere (1 PM)
26 - Memorial Day
26 - Memorial Day Flyover & \$5 General
Admissions - Warhawk Air Museum
(9 AM - 5 PM)
28 - Coffee at the Roastere (1 PM)

June

PTSD Awareness Month
03 - Coffee Klatch at the Warhawk
Air Museum (10 AM)
04 - Coffee at the Roastere (1 PM)
06 - D-Day
08-14 - National Flag Week
11 - Coffee at the Roastere (1 PM)
12 - Women Veterans Day
14 - U.S. Flag Day
14 - Branch Meeting (10 AM)
16 - Father's Day
18 - Coffee at the Roastere (1 PM)
19 - Juneenth
23 - Coast Guard Auxiliary Birthday
(86 Years)
25 - Coffee at the Roastere (1 PM)
27 - PTSD Awareness Day

Branch Birthdays:

May

09 - Robert Baisden
21 - Roger Christopher
25 - Donald Vaughn
31 - William Heyob

June

01 - Charles Caviani
03 - Roy Cagnacci
12 - Stephen Loop
18 - Wayne Burian
23 - Dale Kosobud
28 - Marie Givens
30 - David Odom

This Day in U.S. Navy History:

May 2, 1945 - During the bitter ground fighting on Okinawa, Japan, Hospital Apprentice Second Class Robert E. Bush is administering plasma to a wounded Marine when Japanese soldiers attack his position. Using his pistol and a carbine he finds nearby, the corpsman beats back the enemy, killing six attackers despite losing an eye in the engagement. He refuses treatment for his own wounds until sure the Marine he tended is evacuated. For his actions above and beyond the call of duty, Bush is awarded the Medal of Honor.

May 7, 1942 - The Battle of the Coral Sea begins on 7 May, when surface ships under the command of Royal Navy Rear Admiral John G. Crace attempt to intercept a Japanese invasion force bound for Port Moresby, New Guinea. Bombed first by land-based Japanese bombers and later mistakenly attacked by Army Air Forces aircraft, the foray proves unsuccessful. Meanwhile, on board the aircraft carriers Lexington (CV-2) and Yorktown (CV-5), aircraft launch for an attack against the Japanese Close Support Force escorting the Port Moresby invasion force. These aircraft send the Japanese light carrier Shoho to the bottom, which prompts Lieutenant Commander Robert Dixon, skipper of Scouting Squadron (VS) 2, to radio the electrifying message "Scratch one flattop!" Concurrently, Japanese aviators damage the oiler Neosho (AO-23) and sink the destroyer Sims (DD-409). On board the oiler, Chief Watertender Oscar V. Peterson overcomes his wounds to close bulkhead stop valves, helping save the lives of shipmates. Severely burned, he soon dies, and later is awarded a posthumous Medal of Honor for his actions. The ship he fought so hard to save, fatally damaged, is scuttled on 11 May.

May 11, 1945 - During the fighting on Okinawa, Japan, Pharmacist's Mate Second Class William D. Halyburton, Jr., rushes to the aid of a wounded Marine, shielding the leatherneck's body with his own while tending to his injuries. The corpsman is mortally wounded and receives the Medal of Honor posthumously for his heroic sacrifice.

May 13, 1862 - With the captain of the tug Planter ashore in Charleston, South Carolina, an entirely African American crew led by Robert Smalls seizes it, steams past Confederate batteries and forts saluting with its whistle, and then turns it over to Onward, a Union ship operating as part of the blockade off the city.

May 15, 1862 - Corporal John Mackie, the first Marine to earn the Medal of Honor, was commended for service in the USS GALENA during action against Confederate shore batteries at Drewry's Bluff which blocked the James River approaches to Richmond.

May 16, 1968 - When his company comes under attack by North Vietnamese forces in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam, Hospital Corpsman Third Class Donald E. Ballard braves enemy fire to reach a wounded Marine. As the Marine is being placed on a stretcher, an enemy soldier throws a grenade that lands nearby. Ballard unhesitatingly hurls himself upon it. Luckily, it doesn't detonate, and he continues treating casualties. For his willingness to risk his life for his comrades in arms, he receives the Medal of Honor.

SGT. JOHN FREEMAN MACKIE FIRST MARINE TO BE AWARDED THE MEDAL OF HONOR

John Freeman Mackie (October 1, 1835 – June 18, 1910) was a United States Marine Corps sergeant during the American Civil War. He was awarded the nation's highest military decoration for valor—the Medal of Honor, for his actions aboard the USS Galena during the battle with Confederate Marines and artillery batteries at Fort Darling near Richmond, Virginia, on May 15, 1862. He is one of the first two Marines to be awarded the Medal of Honor, and is considered to be the first Marine to receive the Medal of Honor in the history of the Marine Corps.



Mackie enlisted in the Marine Corps from New York on April 24, 1861. His first assignment was with the Marine Detachment on board the USS Savannah. He was promoted to corporal on March 1, 1862. On April 1, he began serving on the ironclad warship USS Galena. On May 15, a five-ship Union Navy squadron, including the Galena, steamed up the James River to test the defenses of the Confederate capital, Richmond, Virginia. After reaching a bend in the river upstream of Dutch Gap, the squadron encountered submerged obstacles and heavy fire from two battalions of Confederate Marines positioned on the banks of the river and artillery fire from Fort Darling atop Drewry's Bluff about eight miles below Richmond. Mackie commanded 12 Marines on the gun deck. The fort's artillery batteries inflicted severe damage on the Galena and forced the Union squadron to turn back. During the battle (which would come to be known as the Battle of Drewry's Bluff), most of Galena's naval gun crew was killed or wounded. Mackie led a group of Marines who took over operation of the guns for the remainder of the battle. On November 1, he was promoted to orderly sergeant. In June 1863, he was assigned to the USS Seminole.

On July 10, 1863, Mackie was awarded the Medal of Honor (Navy version) for his actions aboard the Galena on May 15, 1862. Mackie was particularly mentioned for his "gallant conduct and services and signal acts of devotion to duty". On October 11, 1863, he received the medal by U.S. Postal Service mail while aboard the Seminole which was anchored off Sabine Pass, Texas. Mackie was presented the Medal of Honor during a ceremony on the quarterdeck of the ship. He was honorably discharged from the Marine Corps on August 23, 1865, in Boston.

Mackie and Sergeant Pinkerton Vaughn (USS Mississippi, 1863) were the first Marines to be awarded the Medal of Honor.

Mackie eventually married and settled near Philadelphia. He died at the age of 74 and is buried in Arlington Cemetery, in the Drexel Hill section of Upper Darby, Pennsylvania. At Drewry's Bluff, now within Richmond National Battlefield Park, a marker is posted which features Mackie's Medal of Honor action.

Medal of Honor citation

Rank and Organization: Corporal, U.S. Marine Corps

Born: 1836, New York, N.Y.

Accredited to: New York

G.O. No.: 17, 10 July 1863

On board the U.S.S. Galena, in the attack on Fort Darling, at Drewry's Bluff, James River, on May 15, 1862. As enemy shellfire raked the deck of his ship, Corporal Mackie fearlessly maintained his musket fire against the rifle pits along the shore and, when ordered to fill vacancies at guns caused by men wounded and killed in action, manned the weapon with skill and courage.

Pinkerton R. Vaughn

Pinkerton Ross Vaughn Sr. (1839 – August 22, 1866) was a United States Marine Corps sergeant who served during the American Civil War. He was the second Marine to be awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions aboard the USS Mississippi during a battle with Confederate artillery batteries at Port Hudson, Louisiana, on March 14, 1863.

Vaughn was born in Downingtown, Pennsylvania in 1839, the son of Matthew Vaughn and Ann Vaughn.

He enlisted for military service as his nation was descending into secession and civil war. After enrolling in Philadelphia in October 1860, Vaughn officially mustered in with the U.S. Marine Corps at the Marine Barracks in Philadelphia on October 31. During his service, he obtained the rank of sergeant and served aboard the USS Tennessee and USS Mississippi. The steam-powered and 17-gun warship USS Mississippi was part of the U.S. Navy fleet commanded by Admiral David Farragut that battled with Confederate artillery batteries on March 14–15, 1863, shortly before and prelude to, the Union army's battle and siege of Port Hudson, Louisiana.

On July 10, 1863, Vaughn was awarded the Medal of Honor (Navy version) for his actions during the night of March 14 aboard the Mississippi. He was "commended for zeal and courage displayed in the performance of unusual and trying service while the vessel was aground and exposed to a heavy fire". He was honorably discharged in Philadelphia on November 7, 1864. Vaughn and Sergeant John Mackie (USS Galena) were the first Marines to

be awarded the Medal of Honor. While Mackie was the first Marine nominated to receive the award, Vaughn was the first to physically receive the award.

Vaughn returned home to Pennsylvania after he was discharged, and secured work as a brakeman with a trolley company in Philadelphia. On May 18, 1865, he married Elizabeth A. Getty in Philadelphia. A native of New Jersey, she was a daughter of Andrew and Ann Getty. Their only child, Pinkerton Ross Vaughn Jr., was born in February 1866. On August 22, 1866, Vaughn was severely injured in a trolley car accident and died later that day. He was interred at Philadelphia's Laurel Hill Cemetery on August 27. The West Chester Village Record reported on his death as follows:

Fatal Accident - On Wednesday, the 22nd, while the 3d stock train on the Penna. rail road was going east, one of the brakemen named Pinkerton R. Vaughn, was struck on the head by an overhead Bridge west of City Avenue, causing death in about 40 minutes. He was 25 years old and leaves a wife and one child. He was buried from his late residence 32d and Bearing St. West Philadelphia. Mr. Vaughn served all through the war in the navy and received a medal of honor from the War Department for bravery while in action. It seems hard that he should meet so untimely a death. M.S. Chalfont of West Chester was the conductor on the train. The parents of the deceased reside at Downingtown.

Medal of Honor citation

Rank and organization: Sergeant, U.S. Marine Corps.

Born: 1839, Downingtown, Pa.

Accredited to: Pennsylvania.

G.O. No: 17, 10 July 1863.

Citation:

Serving on board the U.S.S. Mississippi during her abandonment and firing in the action with the Port Hudson batteries, 14 March 1863. During the abandonment of the Mississippi which had to be grounded, Sergeant Vaughn rendered invaluable assistance to his commanding officer, remaining with the ship until all the crew had landed and the ship had been fired to prevent its falling into enemy hands. Persistent until the last, and conspicuously cool under the heavy shellfire, Sergeant Vaughn was finally ordered to save himself as he saw fit.