



# OZARK EMPIRE, BRANCH – 316, INC.



## FLEET RESERVE ASSOCIATION

*Representing Enlisted Personnel of the  
U.S. NAVY \* U.S. MARINE CORPS \* U.S. COAST GUARD*

4028 S. Kentwood Ave.  
Springfield, MO 65804 \* (417) 861-9926

### FEBRUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

IN CASE OF ILLNESS OR DEATH OF ANY SHIPMATE  
PLEASE NOTIFY THE BRANCH CHAPLAIN OR  
SECRETARY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

#### BRANCH OFFICERS

President:	Robert Turner	307 Southview St., Willard, MO 65781	(417)838-4991
Vice Pres	Virginia Swayne	3660 S. Cox Ave. Apt 3202, Springfield, MO 65807	(417)880-7872
Secretary:	Chuck Ewy	4028 S. Kentwood Ave., Springfield, MO 65804	(417)861-9926
Treasurer	Frank Parker	847 S Jonathan Ave. Springfield, MO 65802	(417)838-7698
Chaplain:	Don Brunk	2478 W. Nottingham St., Springfield, MO 65810	(417)840-4717

#### BRANCH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

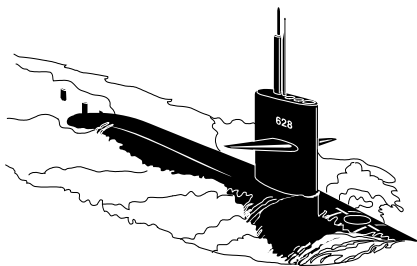
JrPP:	Tom Newsom	3215 W. Wick St., Springfield, MO 65810	(417)569-9871
Bd. Of Dir.	Teri Jeske	3786 W Roxbury St., Springfield, MO 65807-8795	(417)413-8606
Bd. Of Dir.	Jim Grier	714 S. Stratford Dr., Springfield, MO 65809	(417)350-3888
Bd. Of Dir.	Nolan Moody	4334 W. La Siesta St., Springfield, MO 65802	(417)894-0083
Bd. Of Dir.	Norma Wright	2975 W. Village Terr., Springfield, MO 65810	(417)830-0682
Bd. Of Dir	Bernie Daum	264 Meadowview Rd., Galena, MO 65656	(757)620-2113

#### EVENTS FEB 2026

- Feb 1 – Nat Freedom Day
- Feb 2 – Groundhog Day
- Feb 4 – Hug a GI, Philippine-American War Memorial Day, USO B-Day (1941)
- Feb 12 – Lincoln’s B-Day
- Feb 13 – Women Marine’s B-Day (1943)
- Feb 14 – Valentine’s Day
- Feb 16 – Washington’s B-Day, President’s Day
- Feb 17 – Mardi Gras
- Feb 19 – USCG Reserves B-Day (1941)
- Feb 26 – Branch Meeting

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

- Mar 26 – Branch Meeting
- Apr 23 – Branch Meeting
- May 28 – Branch Meeting
- Jun 25 – Branch Meeting



**“SHIPMATES”  
YOU ARE WANTED  
AND WELCOME  
AT BRANCH 316’S  
MEETINGS**

#### NEXT MEETING:

4th Thursday Feb 26, 2026  
(1700) Meal  
(1800) Branch Meeting  
American Legion Post 639  
2660 S Scenic Ave.  
Springfield, MO. 65807



## BRANCH 316'S WEB PAGE ([frabr316.org](http://frabr316.org))

**NEXT MEETING:** Our next meeting will be Thursday, FEBRUARY 26, 2026, and will commence at 1800. We will meet at American Legion Post 639, 2660 S. Scenic, Springfield, MO, 65807. Our meal will be provided by the Branch at 1700.

**LAST MEETING:** S/M President Robert Turner called Branch 316's meeting to order at 1800 IAW Article 12 Sec 1214 National C&BL. Members in attendance were: Jim Gallion, Frank Parker, Joe Newton, Don Brunk, Robert Turner, Nolan Moody, Teri Jeske, Virginia Swayne, Charles Ewy, Richard Seiferd, Belinda Brown, Jim Grier, and Don Weiss. We had two guests: Mary Ewy and Tabitha Mittag CO of the Greater Ozarks Sea Cadets. S/M Chaplain opened the Bible and gave the opening prayer. All Shipmates repeated the "Pledge of Allegiance" to the flag and the "Preamble to the Constitution of the FRA". A motion was made by S/M Don Brunk to dispense with reading the minutes of last meeting, NOVEMBER 22, 2025, and approve as they were published verbatim in the DEC 25/JAN 26 Newsletter. Motion seconded by S/M Teri Jeske and passed.

### STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

#### AMERICANISM/PATRIOTISM

- S/M Norma Wright reported that we had 53 essays, Plaques on order and we had 18 winners.

#### HOSPITAL – S/M Don Brunk reported:

- Chuck Ewy had knee replacement surgery.

#### MEMBERSHIP:

- NOVEMBER REPORT – 0 New members, 0 Transfer-Out, 2 Transfer-In, 1 Reinstated, 0 Deletions, 4 Suspensions, 119 Total active members, 6 Members past due, 113 Members in good standing.

#### PUBLIC RELATIONS –

- Jim Gallion stated he is working on the report. Mattie Morris was interview at the Wreaths Across America at the Missouri Veterans Cemetery.

#### VETERANS SERVICE – S/M Belinda Brown reported:

- No Report

#### YOUTH – S/M: Joe Newton Reported:

- CO of Sea Cadets reported that they have enrolled 17 cadets and gave a run down on the Cadets activities.

#### COMMUNICATIONS - S/M Charles Ewy reported:

- NED Memo 1-26 (Branch nominating resolution for PRPNC Brian Jones for the 2026-2027 NVP.)
- NBR 41-26 (Appointment to the Nat Comm. On Budget, Finance, and Audit Comm.)
- NBR 42-26 (Approval of the Proposal for the 98<sup>th</sup> FRA/93<sup>rd</sup> Auxiliary of the FRA Nat Conv. Las Vegas, NV)
- Dir of Member Development (3<sup>rd</sup> Qtr. 2025-2026 Membership Report).
- NED Memo 2-26 (Branch nominating resolution for NVP Sha'ron D Martin for the 2026-2027 NP)
- Secretary presented the results of the 2025 National Convention. Branch 316 received a check for \$771.89.

#### TREASURERS REPORT –

- S/M Frank Parker gave the report. All bills paid. S/M Robert Turner made a motion to accept the Treasurers report. Seconded by S/M Belinda Brown and passed.

#### UNFINISHED AND DEFERRED:

- None

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- S/M Secretary made a motion that Branch 316 take the second checking account for the branch and change it over to the 2026 HeartLand Regional Convention. And then take over the profit Branch 316 made for the National Convention as seed money. At the end of the 2026 HL Convention pay back the \$771.89 to the branch. Motion seconded by S/M Don Brunk and passed.
- S/M Frank Parker that Ozark Empire Branch 316 donate \$500.00 to the Ozark Honor Flight, Motion seconded by S/M Virginia Swayne and passed.
- S/M Secretary made a motion that Ozark Empire Branch 316 donate our annual \$1000.00 to the American Legion Post 639. Motion seconded by S/M Virginia Swayne and passed.

#### GOOD OF THE ORDER:

- S/M President made a presentation to S/M Secretary of the FRA Membership Drive 2025-2026 lapel pin for recruiting 3 new or reinstated members.
- Motion by S/M Jim Grier to adjourn the meeting, seconded by S/M Teri Jeske and passed.

Chaplain did the closing Prayer and closed the Bible.

Meeting Adjourned 1843

Next meeting will be FEBRUARY 26, 2026 at 1800

#### UPCOMING EVENTS:

#### SHIPMATES OF BRANCH 316:

FRA 2026 HeartLand Regional Convention Springfield, Mo.

SAVE THE DATE AUGUST 23 TO 27, 2026

**NEW MEMBERS:**

Welcome Back – Robert Duff

TRANSFER-IN: None

MEMBERS WHO HAVE RENEWED THEIR DUES: Richard Seifred, Pamela Warner-Dawes, and Donald Weiss.

MEMBERS WHO ARE PAST DUE: Craig Baird, Charles Christianson, Richard, and Christina Smith.

MEMBERS WHO ARE READY TO RENEW THEIR MEMBERSHIP AS OF December 31, 2025: None

MEMBERS WHO ARE READY TO RENEW THEIR MEMBERSHIP AS OF January 31, 2026: George King, Bert Kortum.

MEMBERS WHO ARE READY TO RENEW THEIR MEMBERSHIP AS OF February 28, 2026: James Hawthorne, Terry Morgan, and Charles Pence.

Shipmates we need you to renew your membership. If you need any assistance. Please notify Secretary Ewy at 417-861- 9926. (If no answer please leave a message) or e-mail me at [cmewy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cmewy@sbcglobal.net). Please contact me if you have sent in your dues and are still in arrears, so I can get it corrected. -

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS, ARE TERMINATED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES: Grant Dorrell, Brandon Graff, Thomas Griffith and Marvin Tulla.

THE FOLLOWING MEMBER HAS REPORTED TO THE “STAFF OF THE SUPREME COMMANDER”: None  
SHIPMATES IN GOOD STANDING, WITH 50 YEARS OF CONTINUOUS MEMBERSHIP NO LONGER HAVE TO PAY DUES:

VISITATION: Shipmates, if you are sick or confined to bed, please let us know so one of the following S/M’s can come and visit you. Contact: S/M Chaplain – Don Brunk (417-840-4717), S/M Secretary – Chuck Ewy (417-861-9926) or S/M President – Robert Turner (417-838-4991).

**FEBRUARY 2026 CONTINUOUS MEMBERS: We want to congratulate the following members of Branch 316 for their continuous membership in the FRA.**

Patrick Bryan	05 Yrs.	Charles Ewy	48 Yrs.	Billy Harris	52 Yrs.
James Hawthorne	02 Yrs.	Terry Morgan	27 Yrs.	Gary O’Dell	29 Yrs.
Charles Pence	01 Yr.				

**WE WISH EACH SHIPMATE, WHO HAS A BIRTHDAY IN FEBRUARY, A HAPPY BIRTHDAY:**

Robert Adams	94 Yrs.	Dale Duke	70 Yrs.	Jonathan Ewbank	77 Yrs.
Philip Fogle	86 Yrs.	Christopher Hill	52 Yrs.	Bert Kortum	66 Yrs.
Barry Ralls	72 Yrs.	Lowell Sanders	58 Yrs.	Virginia Swayne	65 Yrs.
Robert Turner	73 Yrs.	Pamela War-Dawes	75 Yrs.		

If, any of these are incorrect, please notify Branch Secretary.

*Charles B. Ewy*  
Charles B. Ewy  
Secretary Branch 316

**SHIPMATES**  
**OZARK EMPIRE BRANCH 316**  
**WISH EACH OF YOU A**  
**VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR**

**NEWS FROM THE  
GREATER OZARKS DIVISION SEA CADETS  
FROM CO TABITHA MITTAG**

**FEBRUARY 7 AND 8,  
MARCH 6 TO 8 (OVERNIGHT FRIDAY AND SATURDAY PLUS ANNUAL  
INSPECTION WITH OUR Regional Director)  
April 24 to 26 (OVERNIGHT FRIDAY AND SATURDAY)  
MAY 30 AND 31**

**PICTURES FROM DECEMBER AND JANUARY DRILL ACTIVITIES  
DECEMBER WAS:**

- **Swim qualification practice at the Neosho Freeman Family YMCA,**
- **Wreaths Across America,**
- **Stop at the Air and Military Museum of the Ozarks**
- **4 Christmas Parades**
  - **Neosho**
  - **Carl Junction**
  - **Goodman**
  - **Seneca**

**The photo in the van, has 6  
cadets all getting their  
afternoon nap en route to a  
parade.**



## JANUARY WE:

- Attended a social dance with VSM Joplin



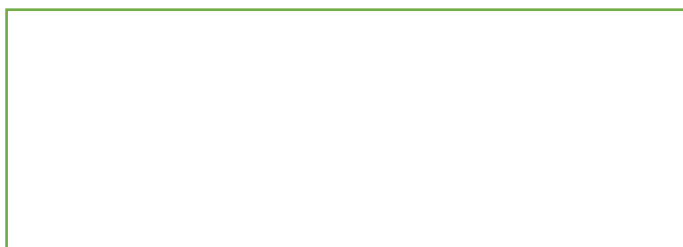
- Volunteered at Hope Kitchen, in partnership with Youth Volunteer Corps Joplin, for 8 hours to prep, cook, serve and fully clean up a meal and restaurant for 100 people in need in the Neosho community. Cadets prepared from scratch recipes in small groups.



- Night patrolling and simulated Range at Camp Crowder.



**OZARK EMPIRE FLEET RESERVE**  
4028 S. KENTWOOD AVE.  
SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI 65804-6517  
"RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED"



USS Samuel Gompers AD-37  
1967 - 1995  
Your Name and Rank here  
Years Served

**Don Brunk's 5<sup>th</sup> Ship**