



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

APRIL 2026 NEWSLETTER

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

BRANCH OFFICERS

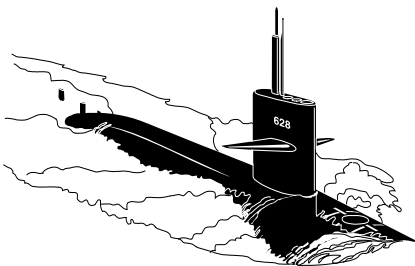
President:	Robert Turner	307 Southview St., Willard, MO 65781	(417)838-4991
Vice Pres	Virginia Swayne	3660 S. Cox Ave. Apt 3202, Springfield, MO 65807	(417)880-7872
Secretary:	Chuck Ewy	4028 S. Kentwood Ave., Springfield, MO 65804	(417)861-9926
Treasurer	Frank Parker	847 S Jonathan Ave. Springfield, 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 APR 2026

- Apr 1 – CPO Grade Est. (1893)
April Fools Day
- Apr 9 – Nat Former POW Recognition Day
- Apr 11 – Submarine Force Day (1900)
- Apr 13 – Nat Borinqueneers Day
- Apr 15 – Income Tax Deadline
FRA/Aux Scholarship Deadline
- Apr 18 – Doolittle Raid Over Tokyo (1942)
- Apr 19 – Patriot’s Day
- Apr 22 – Earth Day
- Admin Professional’s Day
- Apr 23 – Branch Meeting
- Apr 24 – Arbor Day
- UPCOMING EVENTS**
- May 28 – Branch Meeting
- Jun 25 – Branch Meeting
- Jul 23 – Branch Meeting



NEXT MEETING:

4th Thursday Apr 23, 2026
(1700) Meal
(1800) Branch Meeting
American Legion Post 639
2660 S Scenic Ave.
Springfield, MO. 65807

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



BRANCH 316'S WEB PAGE (frabr316.org)

NEXT MEETING: Our next meeting will be Thursday, APRIL 23, 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: Charles Ewy, Don Brunk, Jim Gallion, James Blanton, Frank Parker, Teri Jeske, Joe Newton, Nolan Moody, Jim Grier, Belinda Brown, Melvin Johnson, Robert Turner, Don Weiss, Virginia Swayne, and John Waggoner. 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, FEBRUARY 26, 2026, and approve as they were published verbatim in the MARCH 26 Newsletter. Motion seconded by S/M Virginia Swayne and passed.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

AMERICANISM/PATRIOTISM

- No Report. S/M Treasurer received a thank you note from Lucas Cardenas for being selected as a winner in the 2026 Americanism Essay Contest.

HOSPITAL – S/M Don Brunk reported:

- We had one S/M who reported to the Staff of the Supreme Commander (S/M Thomas McGuire 3/8/2026)

MEMBERSHIP:

- NOVEMBER REPORT – 0 New members, 0 Transfer-Out, 0 Transfer-In, 0 Reinstated, 0 Deletions, 1 Suspensions, 116 Total active members, 1 Members past due, 115 Members in good standing.

PUBLIC RELATIONS –

- Jim Gallion reported he had made the presentation of the check to the Christian Cty Sherriff's Department in memory of the 2 slain deputies.

VETERANS SERVICE – S/M Belinda Brown reported:

- No Report

YOUTH – S/M: Joe Newton Reported:

- He and President Robert Turner attended the March Greater Ozarks Division U.S. Naval Sea Cadets
- CO, Tabitha Mittag stated the upcoming Drill Dates: (April 24 - 26 [2 night overnight]); May 30- 31; June 13 – 14; and August 14 – 16 (2 night overnight).
- Cadets have asked for training to cover: Medical, Wilderness Survival, Land Navigation, and Color Guard

COMMUNICATIONS - S/M Charles Ewy reported:

- Received a thank you card from Community Partnership for qtr donation to the Veteran Bridge Housing.
- Received the FRA Qtr. Income Statement.
- Received the FRA Qtr. Balance Sheet.
- NP Serial Letter # 3-26 (Convening of the NBD Mid-Year Meeting)
- NED Memo 6-26 (Post Board Meeting Minutes)
- Audit Report from CPA's & Advisors dated October 23, 2025.
- NED Memo 7-26 (NBR 38-26 Resolved to accept the CPA's Letter dated October 23, 2025.
- NED Memo 9-26 (Change to Employee 401K Plan) NBR 40-26 Resolved - To approve changes as recommended by BF&AC effective 1 Jan 2026.
- NED Memo 10-26 (PCI Project Notification).
- CH of VSF Mick Fulton's Letter soliciting qualified, motivated, and interested candidates to fill the positions.
- NED Memo 11-26 (Changes to the FRA C&BL & SR).
- NED Memo 12-26 (FRA's Ship Store will close 9 March 2026).
- NED Memo 13-26 (Continuous Membership Certificates will be sent to Branch Secretaries for printing and distribution.
- NP Serial Letter 4-26 (Est. of a Grant & Donation Ad-Hoc Committee).

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:

- S/M Don Brunk reported that to have a blood drive you need 40 people to sign up. The earliest they have available would be in June. It was suggested, to contact all other Veterans Organizations to do a combined drive.

NEW BUSINESS:

- S/M President read a nomination letter recommending S/M Charles Ewy as Branch 316's 2025 – 2026 Nominee for the Frank J. McPherson Memorial Award. S/M Belinda Brown made the motion it was seconded by S/M Virginia Swayne and passed.
- S/M President instructed the nominating committee to start soliciting shipmates to fill the branch officer positions and the BOD positions for 2026 - 2027. They are to submit nomination at the April 23 meeting. May 28th the elections will take place and then June 25th meeting installation will take place. This is IAW Branch 316 C&BL.
- S/M Belinda Brown made a motion that Branch 316 donate \$450.00 to sponsor a High School Junior from Nixa to attend the Hwy Patrol Training. S/M Teri Jeske seconded the motion and it passed.
- A request was made by CO Sea Cadets that Branch 316 donate \$185.00, to a Sea Cadet, whose family cannot afford the Cadet Registration Renewal Fees. S/M Joe Newton made the motion that Branch 316 donate \$185.00 dollars to the Sea Cadet in need, Seconded by Don Brunk and motion passed.
- S/M Jim Grier made a motion that Branch 316 donate an additional \$1000.00 to the GODSC. S/M Joe Newton Seconded the motion and it passed.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

- S/M President and S/M Secretary presented S/M John Waggoner with his 20 year continuous membership pin and certificate.
- S/M Jim Blanton addressed the Assembly.
- S/M Nolan Moody has been nominated for the Lt. Governor for Senior Volunteer Service Award.

Chaplain did the closing Prayer and closed the Bible.

Meeting Adjourned 1911

Next meeting will be APRIL 23, 2026 at 1800

UPCOMING EVENTS:

SHIPMATES OF BRANCH 316:

FRA 2026 HeartLand Regional Convention Springfield, Mo.

SAVE THE DATE AUGUST 23 TO 27, 2026

WE NEED HELPERS FOR OUR CONVENTION. COME TO OUR NEXT MEETING AND SIGN UP TO HELP SUPPORT YOUR BRANCH.

NEW MEMBERS:

Larissa Jackson

TRANSFER-IN: None

MEMBERS WHO HAVE RENEWED THEIR DUES: George King, and John Waggoner

MEMBERS WHO ARE PAST DUE: James Hawthorne, Bert Kortum, Charles Pence.

MEMBERS WHO ARE READY TO RENEW THEIR MEMBERSHIP AS OF MARCH 31, 2026: None

MEMBERS WHO ARE READY TO RENEW THEIR MEMBERSHIP AS OF APRIL 30, 2026: Tom Newsom, and Jessy Portis

MEMBERS WHO ARE READY TO RENEW THEIR MEMBERSHIP AS OF MAY 31, 2026: Norman Basham, Sabrina Bonnette, Matthew Stewart, and Steven Young

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. 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: None

THE FOLLOWING MEMBER HAS REPORTED TO THE "STAFF OF THE SUPREME COMMANDER": S/M Thomas McGuire.

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).

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

James Burger	33 Yrs.	Stephen Hagenhoff	07 Yrs.	Arnold Moldenhauer	41 Yrs.
Thomas Newsom	11 Yrs.	Jessy Portis	01 Yr.	Russell Reagin	35 Yrs.
Daniel Schillinger	02 Yrs.	Greg Shilts	19 Yrs.	Terrell Staple	47 Yrs.
Joseph Taylor	02 Yrs.				

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

Donnie Brunk	80 Yrs.	Susan Crosby	77 Yrs.	Dale Fanning	90 Yrs.
Carl Jansen	82 Yrs.	Clorissa Jones	29 Yrs.	Joseph Kramek	44 Yrs.
Madelyn Morris	22 Yrs.	Russell Reagin	84 Yrs.	Al Wagner	85 Yrs.
Gary Wind	73 Yrs.	Norma Wright	88 Yrs.		

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

Charles B. Ewy

Charles B. Ewy

Secretary Branch 316

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

FRAHEADQUARTERS **1/800-FRA-1924**

DFAS RETIRED PAY CUSTOMER SERVICE

(USN/USNR) **1-800-321-1080**

DFAS (USN/USMC Active Duty/Reserve) **1-888-332-7411**

COAST GUARD (Customer Service) **1-866-772-8724**

VA MAIN NUMBER **1-800-827-1000**

TRICARE FOR LIFE **1-866-773-0404**

NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER IN MISSOURI

(serves all branches of service) **1/314-801-0800**

For requests for DD-214, lost military records, etc.

VETERANS CRISIS LINE **1-800-273-8255**

Press 1

Borrowed From Branch 161 NewsLetter

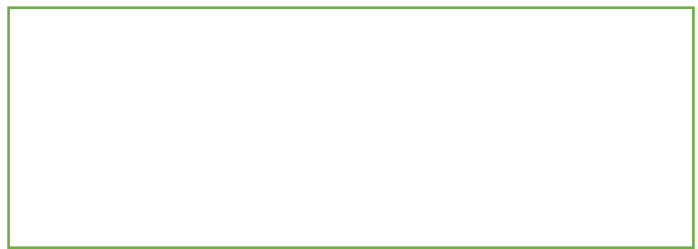


Presentation of Ozark Empire Branch 316's donation to the Christian County Sheriff's Department in memory of the 2 slain deputies.



Secretary Chuck Ewy presenting Shipmate John Waggoner with his 20 year Continuous Membership Pin and Certificate.

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



Teddy Verfurth's 2nd Ship
USS SARATOGA (CV-60)