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IN MEMORIAM

YNC Robert L. Bastian, U.S. Navy, Retired
1920-2013
Past National President



September 6, 2013

National President's Serial Letter No. 7-13

From: National President
To: National Mailing List

FRA Past National President Robert L. Bastian joined the staff of the Supreme Commander on September 1, 2013.

It is requested that all Branches of the FRA drape their Charter and Branch colors at their next Branch Meeting in accordance with Section 2707 of the FRA Rituals. It is further requested that Branches conducting the Two Bell Ceremony (Section 2703 of the FRA Rituals) include dedication to Shipmate Past National President Bastian.

PNP Bastian grew up in Wabasha, Minn., and enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1941. During his nearly 20 years of active service, Bastian attained the rate of Chief Yeoman, serving at a variety of duty stations at sea and ashore, in the U.S. and overseas. His career culminated in his four-year assignment to the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations and he transferred to the Fleet Reserve in September of 1960.

Shipmate Bob joined the FRA in 1952 and became an active member in Branch 4 (Washington, D.C.). During his first year as an FRA shipmate, he was elected to the branch's Board of Directors and, during his 61 years in the FRA, he continued to make significant contributions to the Association at all levels. He held every possible branch office; chaired and was a member of numerous branch, regional and national committees; served as East Coast Regional Vice President (1962-1963) and Regional President (1963-1964), National Vice President (1969-1970) and National President (1970-1971).

National President Bastian was a strong advocate for a strong national defense and led FRA in its quest to ensure equitable pay, allowances, housing and benefits for all military personnel. He also advocated for the expansion and protection of earned rights and benefits for military retirees. During his tenure as national president, FRA supported a \$2.4 billion increase in military pay, which was approved by Congress in advance of all-volunteer force that would take effect in 1973.

FRA also opened its membership to women and members of the U.S. Coast Guard during Bastian's term of office and he also experienced other unique events: He was a guest at the launch of Apollo 14 from Cape Kennedy and attended a White House Sunday worship service a guest of President and Mrs. Nixon.

PNP Bob will be remembered as a shipmate's shipmate. He was deeply committed to the FRA and was proud to have attended every national convention since 1959 ... with the exception of the one that coincided with the birth of his son. He was easily recognizable in his red hat and bright red jacket. His dedication to Loyalty, Protection and Service extended beyond the FRA and was evidenced by his active involvement with a variety of other fraternal and community organizations. An active member of St. Joseph Catholic Church, Bob volunteered at weekly bingo games and was a member of the Knights of Columbus. Even into his 90s, Bob regularly volunteered with the Hagerstown Police Department and Hagerstown Community College, and often helped FRA widows with paperwork and regularly drove them to medical appointments. In addition to FRA, he also held memberships in the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Catholic War Veterans and the Navy Cryptologic Veterans Association.

FRA offers its sincere sympathies to Shipmate Past National President Bastian's family and friends.