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IN MEMORIAM
BMC T. I. King, U.S. Navy, Retired
1919-2013
Past National President



November 7, 2013

National President's Serial Letter No. 2-14

From: National President
To: National Mailing List

FRA Past National President T. I. King joined the staff of the Supreme Commander on October 18, 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 King.

Shipmate King was born in Elizabeth, N.J., on May 18, 1919 and attended elementary, middle and high school in Carteret, N.J. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy on December 28, 1936, in New York City and received his boot training at the U.S. Naval Recruit Training Center, Newport, R.I.

Shipmate King's 22-year naval career included tours of duty aboard the USS *Gridley* (DD-380); USS *St. Louis* (CL-49); USS *Rowen* (DD-782); USS *James E. Kyes* (DD-787); and USS *Hickman County* (LST-825.) His tours of sea duty were interspersed with duty at Naval Beach Group Detachment ACB-1, the Naval Amphibious Base and Naval Amphibious Training Unit, both in Coronado, Calif.

On December 1, 1958, Shipmate King was transferred to the Fleet Reserve component of the U.S. Navy and eight years later he was placed on the retired list. His follow-on civilian career was spent in the automobile industry in sales, management and maintenance.

Shipmate King joined FRA in 1957 as a member of San Diego Branch 9 and, in 1961, he transferred to Chula Vista Branch 61. He became very active in Association affairs, serving as branch chaplain in 1963-1964 and the following year as branch president. In 1964, he was elected editor of the branch bulletin, *The Loudspeaker*, and served continuously as editor, with the exception of two years when he served as Southwest Regional Vice President (1978-1979) and Regional President (1979-1980). During his membership with Chula Vista Branch 61, he served on many branch committees, 11 years as secretary- treasurer, 24 years as a member of the branch board of directors and a second term as branch president.

Shipmate King has served on many regional and national standing committees, including three continuous years as chairman of the National Patriotic Holidays Committee. During his many years as a committee chairman and member of the National Board of Directors, his progressive thinking and motivating leadership, combined with his attendance at national conventions, propelled him to election to the office of National Vice President at the 1984 national convention in Honolulu, Hawaii. His talents, prior performance and dedication to FRA earned the confidence of the membership and led to his elevation to National President in 1985.

King accepted with gusto his responsibility to travel widely on behalf of FRA. In addition to visiting each region, he also made five trips to Washington, DC. Each of those visits was planned around a major annual FRA event and, during each one, King spent at least a week working in the National Headquarters offices. He attended FRA's congressional reception in honor of the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy in September of 1985, the gala "Navy Recruiters of the Year Week" in January of 1986; the Ladies Auxiliary annual pilgrimage to Arlington National Cemetery in May; and the exciting "Sailors of the Year Week" in July. During these visits, he had ample time to call on congressional, government and military officials. As National President, King was an amiable and effective FRA ambassador of good will.

National President King advocated a strong, comprehensive national defense for our nation. He believed the best deterrent to war is to be fully prepared to win a war, and felt that this required a viable sea service arm second to none, manned by motivated personnel superior to all. He supported the recruitment of qualified personnel for our all-volunteer force and assuring that all military personnel and their families receive a standard of living equal to that which they defend for other Americans. Under his guidance, FRA actively supported and worked toward these goals.

Shipmate King resided in Eugene, Oregon. He was also a member of the Masonic Order, American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars.