

Business Spotlight



MY ST. AUGUSTINE: Mission: To promote patriotism and love of country

Two of the mission objectives of the Veterans Council of St. Johns County are to preserve the history of veterans and to educate today's youth about the sacrifices veterans have made for them.



William Dudley
Chariman, Veterans Council of St. Johns County

To accomplish this, the Veterans Council has produced five documentaries featuring stories of local veterans' service.

Preserving this history is only the first part of this mission. The council involved college students from Flagler College and from the Art Institute of Jacksonville in three of its documentaries. The students interviewed, filmed and edited the documentaries and interacted with the veterans.

The documentaries shared the stories of local veterans who served in World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

Other documentaries told the stories of four Northeast Florida veterans who were held captive in three wars, and, lastly, the story of K9s for Warriors.

To this end, the Veterans Council has donated the five documentaries to the University of Florida

(where it is featured on its new online digital military library website), Flagler College and the University of North Florida.

All the documentaries have been broadcast on WJCT TV, the PBS affiliate in Jacksonville, and the Prisoners of War documentary was broadcast to millions of servicemen and women worldwide on the Pentagon Channel.

The documentaries premiered locally at Flagler College Auditorium, the Main Library in Jacksonville, or at the Anastasia Baptist Church on Anastasia Island. These premieres included local students, high school student essay contests and high school choruses.

The council hopes to promote patriotism and love of country by involving itself in programs with students.

In addition, the Veterans Council of St. Johns County publishes and distributes a monthly newsletter, "The Patriot Reader," to thousands across the country. The newsletter features stories and pictures of local veterans and stories of interest to veterans.



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Thanks to the University of Florida, everyone can now see the stories the Veterans Council has preserved online:

"World War 2: Serve & Protect"

From a small senior community near St. Augustine, Florida, over 30 veterans came together to share their stories. Produced by Flagler College TV Workshop Students and directed by Michael Rothfeld.

<http://bit.ly/2moXO5u>

"Korean: Forgotten War, Remembered Heroes"

This special documentary created by the students of the Art Institute of Jacksonville spotlights the stories of five First Coast Korean War veterans. Directed by Dr. Nadia Ramoutar; produced by Michael Rothfeld and the Veterans Council of St. Johns County.

<http://bit.ly/2iH90L2>

"Vietnam: Service, Sacrifice & Courage"

Northeast Florida Vietnam veterans contributed their tender, often hurt feelings to shape this project. The Vietnam veterans were not like the WWII or Korean War veterans we had worked with on our previous documentaries. The Vietnam veterans were more actively involved in watching, suggesting and directing us to tell their true stories. What emerged shows the veterans to be just like you and me. They fought in an unpopular war and yet returned home to lead normal and successful lives. They could be, and are, your neighbors, friends and relatives. This documentary was produced by Michael Rothfeld and Bill Dudley and was directed

by Josh Wallace and filmed and edited by the students in the Flagler College Communications Department.

<http://bit.ly/2lbbAqv>

"Prisoners of War: Stolen Freedom"

The film compares the stories of four American servicemen through their time as prisoners of war in three major 20th century conflicts: World War II, Korea and the Vietnam war. Their stories are supported by archival motion pictures and photographs obtained at the U.S. National Archives as well as through sketches and memorabilia collected by each of the men. Their stories are less about atrocity than they are about the survival of the human spirit and the camaraderie that helped each man survive years of incarceration. Each story is followed by spectacular recounts of their days of release. Produced by Michael Rothfeld, Bill Dudley and the Veterans Council of St. Johns County. Directed by Eric Flagg.

<http://bit.ly/2mi7Bxn>

"K9s for Warriors: Unleashing the Underdogs - The K9s for Warriors Story"

Today's generation of warriors have been deployed more than any other before. This documentary highlights a unique program that pairs dogs and veterans in a training program, and ultimately as companions, to show appreciation and assist in healing of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Directed by Dr. Nadia Ramoutar, produced by Michael Rothfeld, Dr. Nadia Ramoutar, Bill Dudley and the Veterans Council of St. Johns County."

<http://bit.ly/2laT8P6>

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DID YOU SERVE? St. Johns County Veterans Resources

Veteran Services of St. Johns County

Assists veterans and their dependents in applying for benefits to which they are entitled under Federal or State Law or Regulations by reason of Active Military Service in the Armed Forces of the United States.

Location: 200 San Sebastian View, Suite 1400
Info: 904-209-6160

Veteran Outpatient Clinic

Provides a broad range of general and specialized medical, psychiatric, nursing, women's health, social work and ancillary services for the primary care patient in a community-based clinic. This clinic serves acute and chronically ill eligible veterans aged 18 to greater than 100 years.



Location: 195 Southpark Blvd.
Info: 904-829-0814

St. Johns County Health and Human Services

Assists families and individuals in leading healthy, stable lives and achieving the maximum level of self-sufficiency possible.

Location: 200 San Sebastian View, Suite 2300
Info: 904-209-6140

Bayview Assisted Living at the Pavilion

A full-service, assisted living community that allows each individual resident to maximize the highest level of functionality and quality of life in the least institutionalized setting. Skilled nursing and rehab services, on-site outpatient therapy and home health services.

Location: 161 Marine St.
Info: 904-584-1669

K-9s for Warriors

Provides service dogs for American veterans struggling with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Location: 114 Camp K9 Road
Info: 904-686-1956

Regional Veterans Resources

American Veterans Department of Florida
Info: 386-362-1701

US Department of Veteran Affairs / Jacksonville Vet Center
Info: 904-252-3621

S STAR Veterans Center
Info: 904-723-5950

US Department of Veteran Affairs / Homeless Assistance
Info: 877-424-3838

North Florida Community Action Agency / Veteran Assistance
Info: 905-632-1470

City of Jacksonville / Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program
Info: 904-630-3471

Jacksonville VA Outpatient Clinic / Diabetes Management
Info: 904-475-5926

Lake City VA Hospital
Info: 386-755-3016

Malcom Randall VA Hospital / Gainesville
Info: 352-356-1011

American Red Cross / NE FL Chapter / Services for Military and Families
Info: 904-358-8091

American Red Cross / NE FL Chapter / Mayport Naval Station
Info: 904-246-1095

Military OneSource
Info: 800-342-9647

Navy Family Service Center, NAS Jacksonville
Info: 904-542-5145

Volunteers of America of Florida / Ben Singleton Center / Danese Court
Info: 904-405-1045

Challenge Enterprises of North Florida
Info: 904-284-9859

Clara White Mission / Education Training Program
Info: 904-354-0862

Clara White Mission / VET Per Diem Residential Transitional Housing
Info: 904-354-0862

River Region Human Services / Family Intervention Services
Info: 904-899-6300, Ext. 4100

After Deployment (online resource)
Info: afterdeployment.dcoe.mil

Mental Health Resource Center / Psychosocial Rehabilitation Services
Info: 904-745-0042



*Information provided by United Ways of Northeast Florida 2-1-1

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