

## Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc. Minutes of November 30, 2017

**Officers present:** Chairman Bill Dudley; Secretary Michael Rothfeld, Vice Chairman Ray Quinn,  
Absent Treasurer John Mountcastle

**Chairman Dudley** called the meeting to order at 1900 hours

**Chairman Dudley** led the Pledge to the Flag, **Vice Chairman Ray Quinn** gave the Invocation

Last month's **Minutes** were approved as amended

The **Treasurer's Report** was approved as read by Chairman Dudley

**Introduction of Guests:** Debbie Johnson, CPL Bruce Cline, Officer Kilo. Baker County Veterans Council President Larry Porter

### **Speakers:**

**Cynthia Thompson, Coordinator Veterans Treatment Court St Johns**, spoke about the VTC goal of helping veterans with problems which led to their involvement in the criminal justice system. She then spoke about treatment, how to enter program, what to expect, support, mentors, and lastly benefits to the veteran and the community. Volunteer veteran mentors are needed, contact John Leslie for more info.

**Eric Heineman, Debbie Johnson, CPL Bruce Cline and K9 Office Kilo**, spoke about its non-profit goals of providing K9 unit equipment & assistance to those that protect and serve. K9s are used for drug & bomb detection, & locating missing persons.

The Veterans Council donated \$ 500 to K9s United, those wanting to donate online: [www.K9sUnited.org](http://www.K9sUnited.org)

### **Committee Reports:**

**Mac:** spoke about how to get a VA Health Care Card and also how to get a Veterans ID card issued by the VA

**Ray Quinn:** Thanked everyone on behalf of himself & Judy Davis for another successful year for WAA. Ray will ask for volunteers to meet the wreath truck and for unloading & cleanup. AAR on Parade, another success. FL Veterans Hall of Fame will soon be accepting nominations for the HOF 2018 Inductees.

**Steve Spickelmier:** briefed all on the Jax National Cemetery Support Committee, giving new golf cart to the Jax Ladies. The NE FL Veterans Council is now the Duval County Veterans Council, there is a new 5 Presidents of 5 surrounding counties Veterans Council uniting to help all NE FL veterans. 9 Flags donated by local veterans' groups donated to the Jacksonville Veterans Memorial Arena.

**Kathy Church:** updated Council on MIAP statistics and announced the next Call to Honor in February.

**Chairman Dudley:** Veterans Day events in St Augustine and the Beaches were very successful, would like more organizations to participate. FPL surprised a local veteran by installing Christmas lights on his house.

### **New Business:**

**Good of the Order:** Mike Cassata told group that there were POW Flag ceremonies at Daytona, Jax Arena & EverBank  
Larry Porter- Veterans Day in Baker County Honored 55 Vietnam era veterans

**Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.**

The next meeting of the Veterans Council will be on **Thursday, December 28**, 7 pm in the Health & Human Services Building, 200 San Sebastian View.

### **Future speakers:**

**December 28, Lynn Brannon**, Building Healthy Military Communities

**SSG Ben Watford**, "The Warriors Peer Group"

**January 25, 2018- Mike Mitchell**, Jacksonville University Veteran Students Coordinator

**Alison Simpson**, Historian FL National Guard

**February 22, Leigh Devane**, Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home

**April 26, Thomas Richardson**, Asst Director, Veterans Employment & Training Service (VETS)

