



**Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc.
Minutes of December 29, 2017**

Officers present: Chairman Bill Dudley; Secretary Michael Rothfeld, Treasurer John Mountcastle, Vice Chairman Ray Quinn
Chairman Dudley called the meeting to order at 7:01pm

Chairman Dudley led the Pledge to the Flag and SGM Ray Quinn gave the invocation.

Last month's Minutes were approved as presented at the meeting.

The Treasurer's Report was approved as amended at the meeting.

Visitors:

Tom Priest, Marine Corps Detachment 383, St Augustine

David Lydon, VSO Flagler County

Speakers: None

Committee Reports:

Joe McDermott, Sr SJC VSO: Mac spoke about the new VA ID card, when available and how to get one.

Marines at Camp Lejeune: drinking water soon to be a presumptive if time there meets requirements, more to come.

Out patient medical and drug co-pay soon to rise. Fisher House soon to have another one in FL, in Bay Pines.

Veterans can now pre-qualify with the VA National Cemetery.

Michael Rothfeld, Secretary: The VC has a new website address: <http://www.veteranscouncilsjc.org/>

Copies of VC documentaries to be given to Flagler, Clay, Putnam & Duval schools and libraries

Kathy Church, MIAP FL: Update, next interment will be in March in Lakewood National Cemetery. Over 14,000 cremains have been interred by MIAP nationwide.

Ray Quinn, WAA: recent Wreaths Across America Ceremony at St Augustine National went well. 250 wreaths will be carried over to next year but about \$ 10,000 will have to be raised. Young Marines, Boy and Girl Scouts assisted with wreath laying and are learning about veterans sacrifices. Ray will be stepping down from this position.

Chairman Dudley: 2016 was a good year for the VC, a summary of events, activities and programs follow. This will be elaborated in the February Patriot Reader: July 4th events, formulation of Vets4Cops with Sheriff Shoar, Veterans Day Weekend events- Parade, Military Film Festival and Lee Greenwood concert, raised \$ 5,000 for new DAV van, weekly veterans radio show on WSOS, initiating a Veterans Treatment Court in St Johns County, Wreaths Across America, working with County on new VA CBOC, and the Homeless Veterans Standdown at St Augustine Elks Lodge 829, the Patriot Reader-newsletter of St Johns County veterans enters its 6th year of publication, the VC now has a website and Facebook page where veterans can share their stories, and pictures.

New Business: The Elks Lodge is offering free lunch to veteran on the third Monday of the month.

Fred Dupont is working with Boy Scouts in providing Flag disposal drop off boxes for the county.

The Veterans Council will have a table(s) at the January 14th Military Ball. Please contact Chairman Bill Dudley (anuday00@aol.com) for tickets and more information.

Meeting ended at 8:18 pm

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 26, 2017, 7 pm, Elks Lodge # 829, 1420 A1A S., St. Augustine

Respectfully submitted by Michael Rothfeld, Secretary, Veterans Council SJC