

The Patriot Reader

VETERANS COUNCIL OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY

CHAIRMAN BILL DUDLEY

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SECRETARY GEORGE APRIL

TREASURER GEORGE MCCREA

Newsletter Editor Michael Rothfeld



Volume 1, Issue 12

Newsletter Date: November, 2012

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Message from the Chairman



Fellow Veterans,
November is shaping up to be one of our busiest months for Veterans activities. Our planning for this years Veterans Day ceremony downtown at Francis Field on 12 Nov. is now nearly complete. Our keynote speaker will be RADM Sinclair Harris, Commander, US Navy Southern Command and US Fourth Fleet .Our program this year has been expanded to include the JROTC units from several local high schools.

In other area programs to honor our Veterans, the COA is hosting a program to honor our Korean War Veterans on Nov 9 at the River House. The program will begin at 11:00AM and lunch will be served to all Veterans free, courtesy of FVPPI of Coquina Crossing. We have several great speakers for this program. Our featured speaker will be L/Col. Jim Vanairsdale.

On Nov. 11 the Lighthouse Maritime Society will be hosting a Veterans Day reception at the Lighthouse at 3:00 PM. This is a free event.

Monday, Nov 12, a Veterans Day ceremony hosted by the City of St. Augustine Beach and the St. Augustine Civic Associ-

ation will be held at 3:00 PM at the Veterans Memorial at Lakeside Park. All non-profit organizations that cater to Veterans and Veterans organizations are welcome to set up a booth to advertise your organization.

This year our Veterans Council took over the Wreaths Across America program with the goal of assuring every marker and headstone in our National Cemetery here in St. Augustine was decorated with a wreath this Holiday Season. I am pleased to announce that under the untiring leadership of our Vice Chairman Dam Blackman and his committee, they have reached their goal. The committee have sold in excess of 1400 wreaths, assuring that all 1218 grave sites at our National Cemetery will be adorned with a wreath this year. A special program announcement will be in next months Patriot Reader newsletter. A big Bravo Zulu to Dan and his team.

On Nov. 6, our Veterans Council will receive a county proclamation from the County Commissioners. The Veterans Council will also present an award to the Commissioners for their support of all our Veterans over the past year. I would encourage all who can, to make the time available at 9 AM on 6 Nov to

show our support and appreciation to our County Commissioners.

This past Wednesday, Oct 24 , I was pleased to attend along with Ben Meggitt, the celebration of the second anniversary of our Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home. The keynote speaker was FDVA Executive Director Michael Prendergast. It was a beautiful day and the ceremony was held out of doors in the center courtyard.. I was pleased to be able to provide the Nursing Home with an American flag recently flown in a forward battlefield area in Afghanistan, thanks to the efforts of Captain Roy Undersander, Executive Officer, NAS Jacksonville.

Please plan to attend as many of the Veterans Day programs as possible this year to allow the community to thank you for your service and to thank the community for their support.

*Bill Dudley
Chairman, Veterans Council
of St. Johns County*

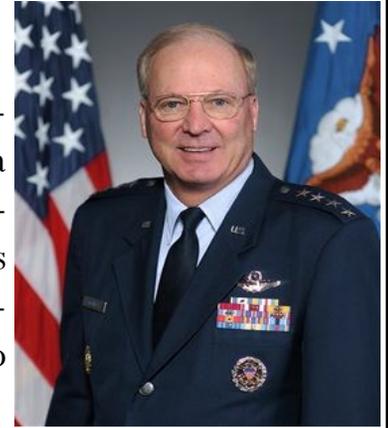


Special Points of Interest

- FL Natl Guard Foundation
- Jacksonville National Cemetery
- Bataan Death March Survivor
- Marine Detachment # 383
- Jax Week of Valor
- AUSA Meeting
- Filipino American Veterans Society
- RADM "Mac" Showers
- Wreaths Across America

HONORING GENERAL MCKINLEY

The men and women of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs congratulate Gen. Craig McKinley as he retires following a distinguished 35-year career. The Florida National Guard conducted a retreat ceremony at its headquarters in St. Augustine on his behalf Oct. 19. McKinley, a Jacksonville native and Florida National Guardsman, was the first Chief of the National Guard Bureau to hold a position on the Joint Chiefs of Staff.



General McKinley received his commission in 1974 as a distinguished graduate of the ROTC program at Southern Methodist University. He has served in numerous assignments in flying and operations, as well as command positions at group, wing, sector and field operating agency levels. His assignments include Commander, 1st Air Force, Air Combat Command, and Commander, Continental U.S. North American Aerospace Defense Command Region, Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. He has served as the Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans and Programs, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Washington, D.C., and Director, Mobilization and Reserve Affairs Directorate, U.S. European Command, Stuttgart-Vaihingen, Germany. General McKinley is a command pilot with more than 4,000 hours, primarily in the T-38, F-106, F-16 and F-15. Additionally, General McKinley has been pilot in command in the C-131 and C-130 operational support airlift aircraft.



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Howard O. McGillin, Jr.
Colonel, US Army (Retired)
Attorney and Civil Mediator

**Fairbanks & McGillin PL Attorneys
and Counselors at Law**

Practice focusing on Estate
Planning (Wills/Trusts), Probate,
Elder and Veterans Law and
Small Business Law

Offices just off CR 210W
13 Nature Walk Parkway, Ste 103
St. Augustine, FL 32092
904-687-1140

WWW.FMPLLAW.COM

Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home

Patriotism is our motto



Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans' Nursing Home Celebrates!

The residents of Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans' Nursing Home attended a luncheon especially for us at the VFW on US 1 South in St. Augustine. We all ate too much and had a great time. Our photo, below, made in front of the huge Sherman tank out front says it all.

We also had the opportunity to take part in a very special ceremony. Jordan Janssen, a Nease High School senior, is one of our student volunteers and spent much of her summer here with us. She will be joining the United States Air Force and wanted our residents to be a part of her swearing in ceremony. One resident in particular, Colonel Josephine Candella (USAF Ret.) was asked by Jordan to conduct the ceremony and swear her in. Col. Candella as well as the residents and staff were honored to be able to take part in such a ceremony.

The nursing home's second anniversary ceremony was held on October 24th with a huge birthday party following the ceremony. Miss Faith Miller sang a patriotic song beautifully. Colonel Mike Prendergast, our FDVA Executive Director, was inspirational in his speech as the keynote speaker. A flag that had been previously flown over Afghanistan was presented to the residents. Mr. Ned Ross and his crew provided the "oldies" music for the after party where sno-cones, popcorn and cake were served. All had fun in the sunshine during the ceremony and party in our beautiful courtyard.

A Country/Western theme day was held complete with a chili cook off and country music. One of our nurses won the chili cook off due to the level of "spiciness" of her chili.

Team Spirit Tailgating party was enjoyed by all in preparation for the Florida/Georgia game, complete with a cook out. All the residents and staff were decked out in their finest Gator or Dawg attire.

November and December will bring even more exciting happenings!



Our VFW Luncheon



Flag Presentation



Halloween celebration



Col. Mike Prendergast at Lassen's second anniversary celebration



Swearing in ceremony of Jordan Janssen



Dan Hughes, Chairman; Jacksonville National Cemetery Support Committee



Chairman Dan Hughes

Hi! If you have not visited our National Cemetery in Jacksonville, you need to put that on your schedule to visit. This way you will be able to see for yourself how beautiful the cemetery is. I took care of a veteran this week that had no one left to take care of him. His step-grandson wanted nothing to do with him so a friend asked me to take care of it. We had his body cremated and then we mixed both his ashes with his wife's as per his wishes. They were both taken to our Jacksonville National Cemetery and put into the upright columbarium. Out of respect for this veteran and his wife we made arrangements for a Chaplain along with an Honor Guard to give them a proper send off to their final resting place.

As a committee and individuals we implore you to carry in your car a couple of the National Cemetery Pamphlets. All of the information that a veteran will need to know about the end of life and the options available to him are in those pamphlets. With the pamphlet and a quick trip to the Jacksonville National Cemetery to see for yourself how beautiful it is will put your mind at rest. Every time I visit the Jacksonville National Cemetery, I am continually amazed at how beautiful it is. As you stand in front of the Administration Building you can view lush green grass and row upon row of head stone alignment. It is simply beautiful. Let me say at this time that Greg Whitney and his staff deserve a great big thanks for a job well done.

Let me end this note with this. Always be prepared to help a veteran and his family in need. Please carry your National Cemetery Pamphlets in your car and be prepared to help a veteran and his family when that time comes. In closing, I continue to ask for your support. The work that you do makes a difference in the projects that we have before us to accomplish in that they ultimately are tied directly to the success of our Jacksonville National Cemetery.

Yours through veterans, Daniel V. Hughes



400 N. Ponce de Leon Blvd.—St. Augustine, FL 32084-3587

904-829-2201— fax 904-829-2020— 800-997-1961

www.herbiewiles.com

The House That Trust Built

Upcoming Veterans Celebrations

Thursday, November 8, 10:30 am. Special Viewing of: Korea: Forgotten War, Remembered Heroes. In the Meeting Room, Ponce de Leon Mall. Sponsored by Haven Hospice.



Friday, November 9, 11:00 am, at River House, COA , 179 Marine St., St. Augustine. Hosted by COA, Veterans Council of St. Johns County and Florida Veterans Programs & Projects, Inc. Please join us as we celebrate all veterans, hear Dr. Henry Moreland, Commander of the Korean War Veterans Association of Jacksonville and LTC Jim Vanairsdale speak about "Korea: 60 Years After, what we should remember". All attending veterans will be treated to a complimentary lunch courtesy of FVPPI.

St. Augustine will celebrate **Veterans Day 2012 on Monday, November 12 at the Events Field (Francis Field)**. The program will begin at 1030 hours with the Nease High School and Bartram Trail High School Drill Teams performing their competitive routines. The featured speaker will be Rear Admiral Sinclair M. Harris, Commander of U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command and U.S. 4th Fleet Commander. We will honor all living veterans from WW II through Iraq and Afghanistan, to include JUST CAUSE, GRENADA, and SOMOLIA. We will also include the ceremonial "ringing of the bell" for all veterans that have passed on since Veterans Day 2011. This event is sponsored by MOAA & the SJC Veterans Council..

Veteran's Day Celebration at **St Augustine Beach**, the City of St. Augustine Beach and the St. Augustine Beach Civic Association cordially invite you and your organization to attend a ceremony honoring those who have served and are serving our community on **Monday, Veteran's Day November 12, 2012.**



The service will be held at the Veteran's Memorial in Lakeside Park starting at 3p.m. and ending at 4 p.m. with non-profit agencies set up before and after to offer information to our Veterans and Active Duty Personnel. Parking is available on site

The event will have 3 informative and dynamic speakers. The speakers will be Colonel Lisa Craig, Florida National Guard; Bill Dudley, Ret. USAF, Chairman, Veteran's Council of St Johns County; and Daniel McCarthy, National Director Special Projects Wounded Warrior Project. We will also have performances by the Ancient City Pipe and Drum and the Marsh Creek Chorale.

Our purpose is to celebrate & give thanks,

www.VeteransIsland.com

Welcome to Florida's Veterans Island! - Doesn't that Name sound WONDERFUL !!

The name "Veterans Island" will be a Salute to all Active, Retired, and Former Military Personnel in the State of Florida and the United States of America and those who died, defending our Country.

The island that is being named, is a 37 mile stretch of Barrier Island, stretching from Naval Station Mayport, south to Porpoise Point. (The Navy at Mayport covers 3,409 acres and is the third largest Naval Facility in the continental United States)

Included on the Barrier Island is Mayport Beach, Atlantic Beach, Neptune Beach, Jacksonville Beach, Ponte Vedra Beach (PGA Tour Headquarters), North Beach, Vilano Beach, and Porpoise Point.

This Barrier Island doesn't have a name yet.

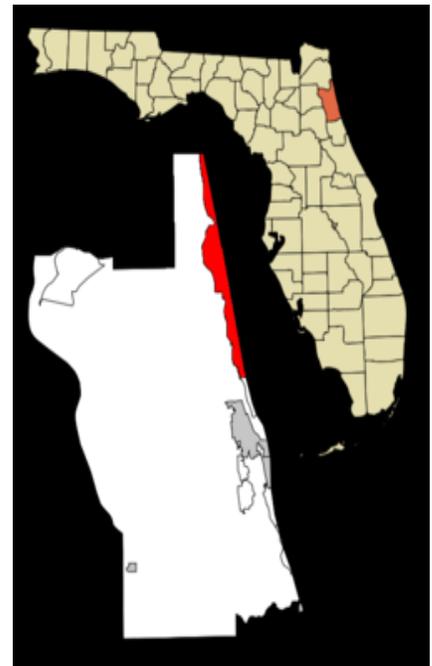
Please push for the name "Veterans Island"

This will be the last chance to do this - ...EVER In America!!

Let's make sure it gets a Proud Name and a name that reflects on the MILLIONS of America's Veterans.

Note: We already have several area streets & a school, and other places named San Pablo.

Let's do something FOR AMERICA !



Proposed Veterans Island in **RED**

Please eMail the St. Johns County Commissioners:

Cyndi Stevenson - District 1 bccd1@sjcfl.us

Ron Sanches - District 2 bccd2@sjcfl.us

Bill McClure - District 3 bccd3@sjcfl.us

Jay Morris - District 4 bccd4@sjcfl.us

Ken Bryan - District 5 bccd5@sjcfl.us

Please write to Florida Governor Rick Scott

Governor Rick Scott 400 S Monroe St, Tallahassee, FL 32399, (850) 488-7146

Please write to the State of Florida Senators & Representative

Senator Bill Nelson

716 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON DC 20510

(202) 224-5274

Senator Marco Rubio

317 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON DC 20510

(202) 224-3041

Representative John Mica - 7th District

2187 Rayburn HOB

Washington DC 20515-0907

(202) 225-4035

Number of Veterans in the Nation 23 Million *

Number of Veterans in Florida: 1,683,899 *

Number of Veterans in St. Johns County 17,845 *

~ Totals from the Veterans Administration in 2010 ~

A total of 1,346,000 Veterans gave their lives for this Country - 1775 to Present

Thanking You In Advance,

A. J. Sartin

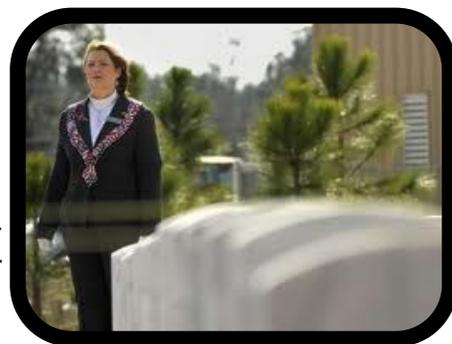
403 17th Street , St. Augustine, FL 32084

(904) 824-3833

The Jacksonville Ladies

Mission Statement: NO veteran will be buried alone in the Jacksonville National Cemetery

Objective: To honor those who have served our nation: to assist, accompany and promote a sympathetic relationship with Veterans and their families at the internment services as needed and to be present when family and friends are unable to attend.



In September of 2008, a new volunteer service was formed for the Jacksonville National Cemetery. At the Dedication Ceremony the Jacksonville National Cemetery Support Committee suggested that local women's organizations take on this "Last tribute" to our Veterans that will be buried in the cemetery. The Jacksonville Ladies started meeting in November 2008 and were present for the first internments that began on January 7, 2009. This non-profit volunteer program shadows the Arlington Ladies, a volunteer group of military wives and lady veterans at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia, whose service began in 1948.

Veterans with no family in attendance are of particular concern and the Jacksonville Ladies will be present when family or friends are unable to attend the services to ensure no veteran will be buried alone. The intent of participation by the Jacksonville Ladies is strictly not to interfere with funeral services, but rather to support any Veteran or Veteran's widow or family during a time when they feel the loss of a loved one. One Jacksonville Lady will be present to honor and attend each veteran service at the cemetery as requested by the family. A condolence card will be presented to the families and the Jacksonville Ladies will affirm that they are there to assist, accompany and promote a sympathetic relationship with Veterans and their families.

Membership and participation in the Jacksonville Ladies is strictly voluntary and not limited to military service related women and is not connected to membership or participation in any other affiliation. Members are obtained through word of mouth and participants will volunteer for specific dates depending on their availability with morning and afternoon shifts available. Up to four volunteers may be assigned to a specific date to cover the possibility of multiple funeral services running simultaneously.

There are no monetary dues required for membership in the Jacksonville Ladies, those have been paid by those whom we now honor. However, we do ask for your participation at least once a month at services.

The first service begins as early as 8:30 am and can take place every thirty minutes with the last service ending by 2:30 pm from Monday to Friday.

There is no minimum or maximum number of times a volunteer may participate; however, training is mandatory before being put on the schedule.

The Jacksonville Ladies will wear a uniform consisting of a navy blue suit with a patriotic collar and Jacksonville Ladies nametag at all services and events so they can be clearly identified. Volunteers will demonstrate a sincere desire to support Veterans and their families, and exhibit a willingness to honor those who have served this nation.



Heather Andrews,
Training at Ft.
McClellan, 1974

HEATHER ANDREWS
US ARMY 1974 -1978



Heather Andrews, St
Johns County Veterans
Service Officer

WOMENS ARMY CORPS / MEDICAL CORPS

I ENTERED THE US ARMY DURING MY LAST YEAR IN HIGH SCHOOL FROM A SMALL TOWN IN VERMONT, ST. JOHNSBURY. I WAS NOT YOUR TYPICAL ANYTHING AT THAT TIME IN MY LIFE, SO I FELT THE ARMY MIGHT JUST NEED ME! AFTER ALL, THE VIETNAM WAR WAS PART OF MY LIFE EVERY NIGHT ON THE CBS EVENING NEWS, AND I REALLY FELT IT WAS WHAT I WAS SUPPOSED TO DO. MY MOM HAD TO SIGN PERMISSION FOR ME TO

JOIN!

I WAS THE FIRST FEMALE FROM ST. J TO EVER ENLIST IN THE UNIFORMED SERVICES AND THE FIRST FROM ST JOHNSBURY ACADEMY IN MY CLASS OF 1974.

I RECEIVED TRAINING FOR BASIC AT FT. MCCLELLAN IN THE **DRY** COUNTY OF ANNISTON ALABAMA.

FORTUNATELY FOR ME I HAD BEEN AN ATHLETE, SO I THINK THIS MADE GETTING THROUGH EASIER. MY DRILL SERGEANTS WERE SOMETHING ELSE, A FEMALE LAST NAME "RUFF" AND ONE OF THE FIRST MALE DRILL SERGEANTS PRIOR TO THE "JOINT" BASIC WITH MEN & WOMEN. OUR TRAINING INVOLVED FIRING AND QUALIYING ON M-16 (EXPERT) AND WE WERE PUT THROUGH OBSTACLES COURSES LIKE THE "MEN".

FROM MY BASIC TRAINING I WENT TO FT. SAM HOUSTON SAN ANTONIO TEXAS FOR TRAINING TO BE A RADIOLOGY TECH, WHICH I ACCOMPLISHED AND RECEIVED A 2 YEAR ASSOCIATE DEGREE FROM BAYLOR UNIVERSITY. I WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE GONE TO GERMANY WITH MY BUDDY THAT I JOINED THE ARMY WITH, HOWEVER, HE WAS TRAGICALLY KILLED IN A CAR ACCIDENT AND MY LIFE IN THE ARMY BECAME THAT OF BEING ASSIGNED TO FT. BRAGG, NC IN A COMBAT SUPPORT UNIT.

I WAS ASSIGNED IN 1975 TO THE 28TH COMBAT SUPPORT HOSPITAL; 44TH MEDICAL BRIGADE.

THIS WAS THE BRIGADE THAT WAS IN VIETNAM, SO I SERVED WITH MEDICS, DOCS NURSES PILOTS AND ALL OTHERS WHO HAD BEEN TO VIETNAM AND BACK. I HEARD A LOT OF STORIES, AND SERVED WITH A HUGE AMOUNT OF HEROES FROM THE MEDICAL CORPS!

I LEARNED TO DRIVE A DEUCE AND A HALF, CHANGE OIL, TIRES, AND ALL OTHER THING ASSOCIATED WITH THE MOTORPOOL. OH WHAT FUN!!!

WE SUPPORTED THE 82ND AIRBORNE AND WHEN THEY WENT TO THE FIELD, SO DID WE. I LOVED IT, IT WAS AN EXPERIENCE I WILL NEVER REGRET, AND WOULD DO AGAIN ANY DAY!

I AM PROUD TO SAY I AM A VETERAN. THERE WERE MANY YEARS I TOLD NO ONE. NOW I WEAR IT LOUD AND PROUD.

FLORIDA NATIONAL GUARD FOUNDATION – WHAT WE ARE DOING



The Foundation is currently working with organizations like the Yellow Ribbon, American Red Cross, Operation Homefront, local Elks organizations and VFW's to provide assistance to our Soldiers and Airmen.

With the ongoing demands placed on the Florida National Guard, many of the members of the Florida National Guard have been on multiple deployments. These deployments, along with the depressed economy, have placed a burden on our Soldiers and Airmen.

To support our mission, the Florida National Guard Foundation must actively engage in fund raising. Our funds are then distributed to members of the Florida National Guard and their families during times of emergencies. Additionally, we support our Wounded Warriors and honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. We are also proud of our commitment to preserve the rich history of the Florida Army and Air National Guard.

Since July 2009, as a 501(c) 3, the Foundation has responded to the needs of over 700 members in support of our mission statement. Additionally, we have helped provide basic needs such as food, gasoline and housing to our Soldiers and Airmen facing hardship from unemployment after their deployment. The demand of our personnel will continue this year with over 2,500 soldiers returning from a year long deployment and with an anticipated 30% returning to no jobs.

The Foundation's funds go directly to the members in need and we are proud our records indicate that in this past fiscal year only 11% of our donations went towards administrative overhead. In fiscal year 2011 we anticipate 95% of all proceeds will go directly to our Soldiers and Airmen.

If you need assistance and have served or will be serving in either of these two operations, please contact us.

Florida National Guard Foundation

Office: 904-827-8519

Fax: 904-827-8655

Email: NGFLFoundation@ng.army.mil

The Jacksonville National Cemetery

The Jacksonville National Cemetery currently consists of approximately 80 acres of land that provides 8,115 full casket gravesites, including 7,300 preplaced crypts, 5,100 in-ground cremation sites and 4,608 columbarium niches.



Interior of Administration Building



The Ossuary, an underground container used for scattering of cremated remains



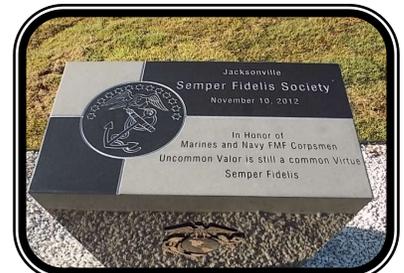
The Columbarium has over 4600 niches



The Reflection Pool is located outside the Administration Building



Plaque with the names of the original Jacksonville National Cemetery Board of Directors



The Marine Corps Monument is the first monument installed at JNC

Pictures submitted by Jacksonville National Cemetery Director Gregory Whitney

I met Mr. Coon at the Rolling Thunder Ride Home 2012 POW/MIA Ceremony in Americus, GA. Mr. Coon is fully alert and recalls his heroic story completely.

By MANNY GAMALLO World Staff Writer

SAPULPA — As a youngster, Phillip Coon enjoyed traipsing endlessly in his bare feet across farm fields during Oklahoma's hot and humid summers.



Photo by Michael Rothfeld

He didn't know it then, but those experiences were preparing him for what would soon become the worst ordeal of his life.

Those fancies of youth, he said, helped him become a survivor — a survivor of the infamous Bataan Death March in the Philippines during April 1942.

After months of fighting the Japanese in defense of the Bataan Peninsula, an overwhelmed allied force of 75,000 troops — 60,000 Filipino and 15,000 American — were forced to surrender on April 9, 1942.

Bedraggled, hungry and thirsty, those prisoners were forced to march in sweltering jungle heat more than 60 miles to prison camps.

Denied food and water, thousands never made it. Many men collapsed during the march, and they were either left to die at the roadside or were murdered outright by Japanese troops.

It has been estimated that of the 75,000 men who began the march, only 54,000 survived.

Scores more would die in Japanese prison camps, where food and medicine were scarce.

"They went hog wild on us" during the march, Coon said of the Japanese.

"You could hear them shooting stragglers," he said, "and you could hear the screams of those who were being bayoneted to death."

"We couldn't turn around to see what was happening. We had to keep marching or otherwise the Japanese would poke us in the ribs with a stick. That hurt."

'We are not barbarians'

When he enlisted in the Army in 1941, Coon, who stands 5 feet 4 inches tall, weighed 145 pounds.

After more than three years as a prisoner of war of the Japanese, his weight had dropped to 90 pounds.

Coon, who turns 91 next month, is a full-blood member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. He attended the former Euchee Mission School in Sapulpa and the Haskell Indian School at Lawrence, Kan.

After he graduated from Haskell, he joined the Army, opting for service in the Philippines to become a jungle fighter. He arrived in the Philippines in October 1941 and was stationed at Manila.

Coon, a private first class with the 31st Infantry, soon found himself in the thick of battle just days after the Dec. 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, when the Japanese invaded the Philippine Islands.

Coon was among 100,000 allied troops who were sent to defend the Bataan Peninsula.

They were outnumbered, however, and following weeks of intense fighting, they surrendered to the Japanese, who assured them, "We are not barbarians."

But what they said and what they did were two different things.

Coon said the Japanese were worse than barbaric and that "they got what they deserved" at the war-crimes trials that followed the war.

He said a few Japanese guards during the march were lenient and would let prisoners sip water from a nearby stream.

But, for the most part, he said, the guards were strict and brutal.

If natives lined up along the march route with tins of water to give to the prisoners, the Japanese would rush up and slap the tins out of their hands, Coon said.

'Hell ships'

Some prisoners tried to escape, he said. He doesn't believe that any survived, because the jungle was infested with snakes, particularly pythons.

Coon was marched to the San Fernando prison camp, where he and other prisoners were crammed into railroad boxcars for a trip to Camp O'Donnell, another prison camp.

Many men died in the boxcars.

Coon lost many of his friends, but he said none was as dear to him as Jacob Cornsilk, a Cherokee Indian from North Carolina who he had met in the U.S.

Cornsilk died of malaria. "He was a big guy who went down to nothing when he died," Coon recalled.

"After he died, I tried not to get close to anyone again."

To see and hear Mr. Coon's interview go to: <http://vimeo.com/39342692>

The November-December AXPOW bulletin is out: <http://www.axpow.org/files/bulletin/nov-dec12.pdf>

*Veterans Council of St. Johns County,
"Helping All Veterans"*

The Veterans Council of St. Johns County welcomes article submissions from all County Veterans & organizations. Articles should be of interest to all and veterans related. Submissions may be edited &/or shortened and used if space permits.

Send to: mrothfeld@anyveteran.org



Old military planes sit behind a fence off of US 1

**The Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc. is a
Not For Profit Florida Corporation.**

Our formation date was July 4, 2001 in a proclamation issued by the St. Johns County Commissioners. It is composed of representatives of the various veterans' organizations within St. Johns County.

The Veteran's Council will work with city and county governments and other local organizations to achieve the mutual goal to provide a central agency to assist in the coordination and presentation of matters concerning veterans and veterans activities in St. Johns County.

The Veteran's Council will endeavor to precipitate, stimulate and assist various organizations as they perform patriotic events. One of the major purposes is the promotion and education of national patriotic matters.

**The St. Johns County Veterans Council meets the last
Thursday of the month at 7 pm at the Elks Lodge,
1420 A1A So., St. Augustine.**

**Visit our Website: www.veteranscouncilofstjohns.org
(please note the NEW web address)**

Important Online Veterans Links:

Veteran/Military Web sites

**[Www.amervets.com/warlib6/
warlib6.htm](http://www.amervets.com/warlib6/warlib6.htm)**

**Links to Air Force, Army, Boats/Ships,
Choppers, Gulf War, Korean War, Ma-
rines, Vietnam, WW I & WW II and
hundreds more**

**Veterans Service Office
1955 US 1 South, Suite 550
St. Augustine, FL 32086**

(physical location)

*The VSO Office is located in the St. Johns County Health
and Human Services complex, behind the VA Clinic.*

*The office is open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily,
Monday through Friday excluding holidays.*

*Service is by appointment.
Phone: 904-209-6160 Fax: 904-209-6161
Joseph McDermott, CVSO
Rick Rees, Assistant VSO
Heather Andrews, Assistant VSO
Tammy Shirley, Office Specialist*

The locally produced *Vietnam documentary, Service, Sacrifice
and Courage* has received **75,582** views to date on YouTube.

You can view part of it at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H8Cs6Th7Vnc>



Florida Veterans Programs & Projects, Inc. in association with Rolling Thunder Florida are making available free copies of its "Prisoners of War: Stolen Freedom" documentary to all Veterans Groups. Just contact Michael at: 904-829-0381 or mrothfeld@AnyVeteran.org and I will mail them or meet you to give you as many free copies as you need. Our goal is to have as many people see the documentary as possible.



AJ Sartin

The Journey

by AJ Sartin

In September 1967, I was happy and care-free working as a DJ at a Radio Station and Engineering at the PBS TV Station in Roanoke, VA. Then the next month, I was running in formation at Fort Bragg, singing “I want to be an airborne ranger, I want to live a life of danger....” Time has a way of changing, real fast!

Another example: One day I am enjoying a cold Miller High Life in Texas, Zip Code 78234....and in a flash of time, I am drinking Ba Moui Ba in Pleiku, South Vietnam APO 96318. I just know Ba Moui Ba was brewed with formaldehyde!



Enough of that – I was assigned to the 52nd Aviation Battalion, and to the 119th Assault Helicopter Company, 94th Medical Detachment, stationed at Camp Holloway, just a few clicks from beautiful downtown Pleiku, and across town from Pleiku Air Base.

Camp Holloway was one of the oldest helicopter



119th AHC Huey

bases in Vietnam. It was opened in August of 1962 by the 81st Transit Company (C-21) which later became the 119th Aviation Company. Camp Hol-

loway also had the distinction of being the highest permanent Helicopter Base in the country with a field elevation of 2640 feet MSL. Joining us at Holloway was the 189th AHC and the 170th AHC.

During my time in Vietnam, I was on flight status with the 119th and also worked in the Camp Hol-



94th Medical Detachment

loway Dispensary or on Security Patrol.

All I will say about my job as a Medic.... is I am Proud that I was a Medic and I did the best I could to help the guys with the equipment and supplies I was provided. I still visit with these troops almost every night.

Upon getting my Rotation Orders (sorry about the pun), I immediately asked for a renewal of my 1st Class Flight Physical....that way at sunrise on Saturday, May 17th 1969, when I arrived back at McChord Air Force Base and then Fort Lawton, I didn't have to spend an extra day going through all the physical stuff...all I had to do was go to a debriefing, put on dress greens, and head to Seattle/Tacoma International Airport.



AJ in Vietnam, ready for the security detail

Upon returning to Roanoke, Va. on Sunday; I spent the day visiting with my family and believe it or not...the next day, I returned to the Air Chair on WROV – nothing like getting right back on the horse.... (My Radio/TV name was Marty Shayne)

I retired from Broadcasting in 2011 after 48 wonderful years. Broadcasting and Electronics were my hobby, so you might say I never worked a single day.

I will end by saying WELCOME HOME – and God Bless our Military!



Camp Holloway from the air

750, 990 & 1231

What's significant about these numbers? Let's take them in reverse order:

1231 is December 31, the end of this year. 990 is the number of the family of IRS forms all exempt organizations must file annually to preserve their exempt status. No, 750 is not your credit rating. Rather, **750** is the number of dollars you may save if your exempt organization has NOT filed any forms **990** for three consecutive years!

The Pension Protect Act of 2006 required all exempt organizations, not just those with more than \$25,000 in gross receipts, to file an information return with the IRS. For these smaller exempt organizations (Veterans' groups in particular), the IRS created a website to allow your treasurer to enter your organization's Federal Employer Identification Number, verify your organization's name, address and contact person, check a couple of boxes and submit the return. Not hard, but far too many failed to file at least this simple return; now the IRS is revoking their exempt status. At least seven local organizations received such notices in September (for failure to file 2006, 2007 and 2008 information returns). The IRS doesn't care if you subsequently filed returns for 2009 and later years.

To reinstate the exempt status for your organization, you must resubmit (on an updated IRS Form 1023 (for charities) or Form 1024 (for most Veterans' organizations) your application for exemption. Most of the answers can be copied from your original application. You must update your current and past three years' financial information and provide current officers and directors' information. Depending on which section of the Internal Revenue Code you qualify for, there may be quite a few additional schedules to complete.

Should your small exempt organization be able to file for reinstatement before December 31, the organization may be able to qualify for a reduced fee of \$100 (normal fee can be as high as \$850, thus the savings of \$750) and retroactive reinstatement of exempt status.

This retroactive reinstatement can be very important to your donors—if your organization eventually gets it's act together, but does not get retroactive reinstatement, not only must the organization pay income taxes but your donors' charitable deductions are subject to audit and disallowance!

You may check on the status of your exempt organization's filings by going to the following websites:

<http://www.irs.gov/Charities-&-Non-Profits/Exempt-Organizations-Select-Check>

<http://www.irs.gov/Charities-&-Non-Profits/Reinstatement-of-Tax-Exempt-Status-after-Automatic-Revocation>

If you still have questions, you may e-mail or call me.

John Mountcastle

John_mountcastle@yahoo.com

(904) 687-5668

Wounded Warrior Project: Rotary Club of North Jacksonville

Thomas Toomey initially served in the USMC and subsequently crossed branches of the military service and joined the US Army. He then: served with the 3rd Infantry Division based out of Ft. Stewart GA: was stationed in the Middle East; and, was injured in Ramadi Iraq as a result of a suicide bomber causing an explosion. This severe wound / injury crushed his dominant shoulder resulting in a combined medical amputation and reattachment. Thomas now suffers from certain physical limitations and post-combat stress injuries. Mr. Toomey and his wife Rebecca (they are married almost ten years) have four young daughters: Caitlyn (eight years old); Peyton and Tommi (seven); and, Riley (five). Retired from the US Army, the Toomey family moved back home to Jacksonville Florida. He then successfully completed the Wounded Warrior Project (“WWP”) TRAC Program in Jacksonville which “honors and empowers wounded warriors”. He is a proud Member of the WWP Alumni Group, graduating in 2011 after having a productive year at WWP. Thomas was recently hired by US Congressman Ander Crenshaw’s Office in Jacksonville to serve the North East Florida Veterans Community as a “Veterans’ Constituent Liaison Fellow”.

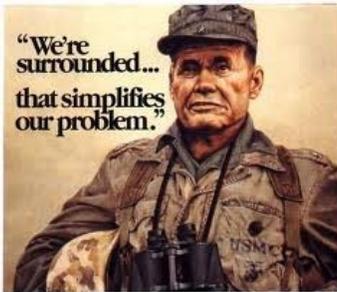




OLDEST CITY DETACHMENT 383
ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA



**Happy 237th
Birthday
MARINES**



Marine Corps League Detachment 383 meets the 1st Tuesday of each month at 1900 hrs, at the St. Augustine Elks Lodge 829

1420 A1A So., St. Augustine 32080. Phone 904-461-0139,

mclfl383.org

Jacksonville: Northside land that was the site of a Revolutionary War battle and almost became an upscale housing development will be preserved in its natural state after the Jacksonville City Council backed a \$7.1 million purchase of 846 acres near Thomas Creek.

The Battle of Thomas Creek was fought in 1777. It was the southernmost battle of the Revolutionary War.

EAGLE SCOUT DOMENIQUE OLESEN

2012 MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

“GOOD CITIZENSHIP AWARD RECIPIENT”

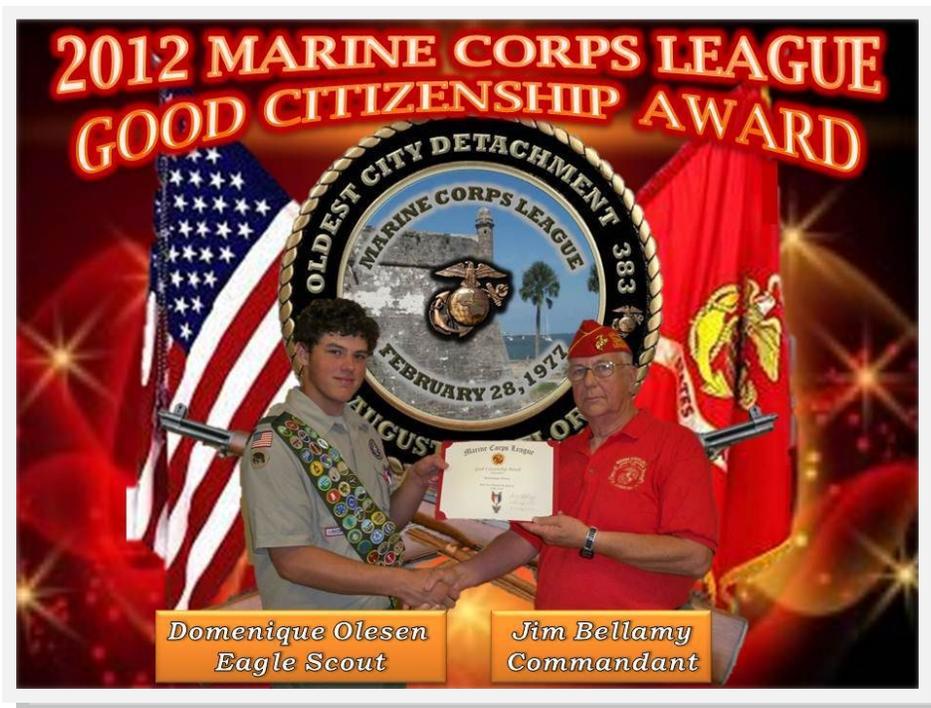
“Do a Good Turn Daily”...is a core Scouting precept. It seems that lately most of the media is devoted to material things that are not made in America. Do they know that character is still made in America? Too often our young citizens are cast in a dark and negative shadow, and good citizenship is seldom recognized.

The essence of character that is “still made in America” is Eagle Scout Dominique Olesen. Dominique is the 2012 recipient of the “Good Citizenship Award” presented by the Oldest City Detachment #383, Marine Corps League, St. Augustine, FL. This award is in recognition of such character that mirrors the spirit of the United States Marine Corps motto Semper Fidelis (“always faithful”).

Currently a student at Nease High School, Dominique is advancing towards a May 2013 graduation date that will springboard him into college life - sights are set on perhaps Florida State or NOVA Southeastern. Once again Dominique will be pursuing another set of milestones towards his goal of an environmental science degree with expectations of a career in fish and wildlife management.

A typical small town kid, no way! Dominique has the cultural experience of other parts of this globe by living the first eight years of his life in Germany, Norway, Ireland and England. In addition to all of his studies and extracurricular activities, where does he find the time for sports, fantasy football, fishing, bike riding and a lead on a TV production film crew – did I mention the Boy Scouts of America too?

With the great scholar, scientist, inventor and statesmen Benjamin Franklin as his inspiration, and the coveted ranking of Eagle Scout within his resume, congratulations Eagle Scout Dominique Olesen – character “made in America.”



You're All Invited

**Please join us to Celebrate and
Honor ALL Veterans**

When: Friday November 9, 2012

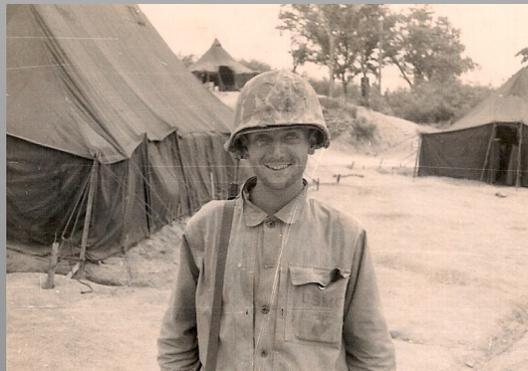
Where: COA, 180 Marine Street

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Topic: The Korean War

**Complimentary Lunch: Provided by
FVDDI to all veterans**

Information: call Mary Lou, 209-3646



LTC Jim Vanairsdale,
USMC, ret.
Picture taken in Korea



Wreath Sponsorship Form

*Sponsored wreaths are placed on the grave markers at state, national veterans cemeteries as well as local cemeteries each December. Wreaths may be purchased online at www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org If you wish to make your sponsorship with a credit card please visit our website for a secure online transaction.

Name:		Cemetery ID Number FLNSA
Address:		
City:		
State:	Zip :	Sponsoring Group ID Number FLVCSJC01
Phone: ()		
Email:		

Cemetery Designation: **St. Augustine National Cemetery**

Sponsoring Group Contact: Daniel Blackman sgm500@gmail.com or 904-669-6423

Sponsorship	Price	Quantity	Total
Individual= 1 Wreath	\$15.00		
Family= 4 Wreaths	\$60.00		
Small Business= 10 Wreaths	\$150.00		
Corporate= 100 Wreaths or more	\$15.00 each wreath		
Grand Total			

****WE REGRET WE ARE UNABLE TO ACCEPT GRAVE-SPECIFIC REQUESTS****

Please make checks payable to: **Wreaths Across America™**

**Mail check and form to: c/o Daniel Blackman (WAA), St. Johns County Veterans Service Office
P.O. Box 2117, St. Augustine, FL 32085-2117**

Questions? Call (904) 669-6423 or (904) 540-1630

Thank you for your Sponsorship and joining us in our mission to Remember, Honor and Teach!

Please note that **all sponsorships are sent directly to the location and
no wreaths are sent to the individuals purchasing sponsorships.**

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA is an IRC§501(c)(3) exempt non-profit Maine corporation, FEIN 20-8362270, registered (# CH34722) with the Florida Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Contributions are deductible from taxable federal income as charitable donations under IRC§170 and/or IRC§6115. Wreaths Across America™ does not use professional solicitors. 100% of funds received benefit the mission: to purchase wreaths to lay at the gravestones of Veterans. More information may be obtained from our website [http:// www.wreathscrossamerica.org](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org). A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. The toll-free number of the Department is 1-800-HELP-FLA (435-7352)—calling from within the State of Florida or (850) 488-2221—calling from outside Florida.



The Pearl Harbor Survivors of N.E. Florida Chapter 6 and the Sons and Daughters of Pearl Harbor Survivors First Coast Chapter 2, Invite all Organizations of the St. Johns County Veterans Council to attend the Installation Ceremony of a Memorial to be placed in the Jacksonville National Cemetery on November 10th 2012 at 1300 hours. This Memorial is donated by PHS, N. E. Florida Chapter 6 in memory of all those who perished in the attack on Pearl Harbor, Territory of Hawaii on December 7th 1941. Several Pearl Harbor Survivors will be in attendance. Water and a light snack will be provided

FLORIDA: Our Veterans

- Florida is the most veteran-friendly state in the nation. If you are a veteran, thank you for your service. If you are the spouse or family member of a veteran, a special thank you for your dedicated support.
- Florida has the third largest population of veterans in the nation after California and Texas with more than 1.6 million veterans – 12 percent of the Sunshine State’s population 18 and over.
- Wartime veterans make up about 75 percent of Florida’s total veteran population (1.2 million).
- There are more Vietnam-era veterans than any other wartime category in Florida with more than 449,000.
- There are more than 231,000 veterans of Afghanistan and Iraq who claim Florida as their home of record.

Florida has more than 140,000 women veterans.

*In honor of our
Nation's Local Veterans;
Fleming Island High School NJROTC
2nd Annual Veteran's Appreciation Dinner*

All veterans of any military branch are cordially invited to attend a spaghetti dinner / ceremony at Fleming Island High School.

HOSTED BY: Fleming Island High School NJROTC

WHEN: 7 November 2012

WHERE: Fleming Island High School's cafeteria

TIME: 1800-2000 hours

WHO: Military Veteran + one guest. (EAT FREE)

Any additional guest is \$5.00 per person

This person must accompany the Veteran and guest

WHY: To show the respect our honored Veterans deserve.

PLEASE RSVP TO veteransdinner2012@gmail.com by November 2, 2012

TO RESERVE YOUR SEAT, PLEASE ADD THE MILITARY VETERAN'S RANK AND FULL NAME, THE BRANCH SERVED, YEARS SERVED, AND GUEST'S NAME (OR ADDITIONAL GUEST'S NAMES WHO ARE PAYING). ALSO, ADD A POINT OF CONTACT NUMBER OR EMAIL.

*MAXIMUM SEATING CAPABILITY IS THE FIRST 500 WHO RSVP.

THIS DINNER IS FOR ALL VETERANS; ACTIVE DUTY, RETIREES, OR ANY WHO HAVE SERVED HONORABLY.

**November 07, 2012
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
University of North Florida
University Center
1 UNF Drive
Jacksonville, Florida 32224**



Service members, veterans and their families are invited to the University of North Florida for a Veterans Summit to build dialogue across Jacksonville regarding the challenges and needs of our veterans and better determine ways the City of Jacksonville can help.

First Militia Chapter, Association of the United States Army, General Membership Meeting and Dinner will be Thursday, November 15. Social Hour at 6pm followed by Dinner at 7pm. Location: Officer's Club, St. Francis Barracks, 82 Marine Street, Saint Augustine Cost is \$14 per person, the attire is casual, and the public is invited.

A "Fish and Grits Dinner" will be served consisting of fried fish, grits, hush puppies, baked beans, coleslaw, iced tea and lemonade -- with homemade blueberry cobbler for dessert! An alternate entree of grilled chicken is available with advance request. Special guest speaker, Col. Lisa G. Craig, President, First Militia Chapter AUSA, will address the audience with information regarding the most recent AUSA National Meeting.

Advanced reservations are required and must be made no later than Thursday, November 8, by calling Ms. Rebecca Gibson at [\(904\) 823-0646](tel:9048230646) or email rebecca.j.gibson@us.army.mil



We Honor Veterans

"It's About Living in a Country that is Free"

November 8, 2012

Special viewing of "Korea: Forgotten War, Remembered Heroes"

10:30 am

The Meeting Room, Ponce de Leon Mall

Veteran's History Project

Collaboration with St. Johns County Public Library

Opportunity for Veterans to record their military experience

and have it archived at the Library of Congress

Veteran's can record their experience with trained volunteers at the Library
or in their home

Family Outing for Families of Fallen Soldiers

January 12, 2013

11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

In collaboration with Survivor Outreach Services

All branches of military

19 Northern/Central Florida Counties

Grounds of Haven Hospice

4200 NW 90th Blvd., Gainesville, FL



St. Augustine Offices
200 Southpark Blvd., Ste 207
St. Augustine, FL 32084
904-810-2377

Geo-graphics



The Filipino American Veterans Society of Greater Jacksonville



cordially invites you to its

1st Annual Military / Veterans Appreciation Gala

November 10, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.

**University of North Florida University Center
12000 Alumni Drive
Jacksonville, FL 32224**

Attire: Mess Dress / Black Tie / Formal Ticket- \$ 48 (Prepaid)

CONTACT:

**Nick Chan (904) 994-1064 • Linda Limon (904) 476-5314
Rudy Alcantara (904) 655-9420 • Zeny Arzaga (904) 210-7084**



Ticket No _____

The Filipino American Veterans' Society
of Greater Jacksonville
cordially invites you to its

1st Annual Military / Veterans Appreciation Gala



November 10, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.

University of North Florida University Center
12000 Alumni Drive
Jacksonville, FL. 32224



Ticket No _____

Attire: Mess Dress Uniform / Black Tie / Formal

Ticket: \$48 (PREPAID)

The St Johns County Public Library System and Haven Hospice are working together to gather and collect the stories of our nation's greatest resource: our local heroes.



There are two ways you can take part in this project. If you are a veteran who would like to be interviewed or you would like to volunteer to conduct interviews you can contact:

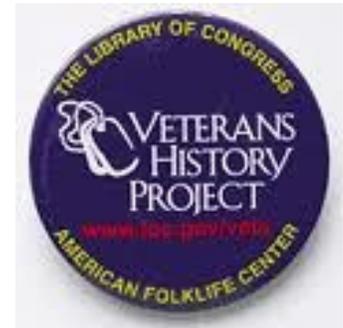
Amy Ackerman: aackerman@sjcfl.us, 904-827-6960, Bartram Trail Library

Mikki Sampo: msampo@sjcfl.us, 904-827-6940, Main Library

Kathy Furney: jkfurney@havenhospice.org, 904-810-2377, Haven Hospice



The United States Congress created the Veterans History Project in 2000. The Mission of the VHP is to collect, preserve and make accessible the personal accounts of American wartime veterans so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the realities of war.



Resource information from the Florida Dept. of Veterans Affairs

Locate Military Records

<http://www.archives.gov/veterans/>

Federal Benefits for Veterans & Dependents Guide

http://www1.va.gov/OPA/publications/benefits_book.asp

Florida Veterans' Benefits Guide

<http://www.mydigitalpublication.com/publication/?l=1&m=1509>

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

www.va.gov

eBenefits: Gateway to Benefit Information

<https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits-portal/ebenefits.portal>

VA Claims Information

<http://www.vba.va.gov/VBA/>



Jacksonville

Semper Fidelis Society

Marines and Navy FMF Corpsmen Memorial

National Cemetery Dedication

Jacksonville, Florida

November 10th 2012, 1100 hrs

Narrator: Welcome Remarks

Narrator: Have all stand

***Presentation of the Colors:** Jacksonville University NROTC Color Detail

***National Anthem:** Sung by Priscilla Johnson

***Invocation:** Capt James Mennis USN Ret

Narrator: Recognize and thank organizations in attendance, especially the Patriot Guard, mention Ron Noble of Noble Monument (Army Vet and Purple Heart Recipient Vietnam)

Comment on why the decision was made to place a memorial at the NC; thank all the donors,

Introduce the speakers.

Speaker One USN: Captain Wilson USN (Former FMF Corpsmen and Vietnam Veteran)

Speaker Two USMC: TBD

Narrator: Unveiling/Dedication (Vets from WWII, Korea, Beirut, Vietnam and Iraq and Afghanistan called up to stand by as the monument is unveiled and dedicated)

Marines Hymn: Sung by Priscilla Johnson

Bugler: Taps

Narrator: Retire the colors

Narrator: Closing comments

Narrator: Thank all for coming and special thanks to all that make this possible...Semper Fidelis!

Hello everyone, This is Mike Showers, Mac's son. My apologies for not reaching out to each of you personally. I am writing this email message to alert you of Mac's death at 1:15 PM today, Friday October 19, 2012. Dad passed away peacefully at Virginia Hospital Center in Arlington, VA where he was admitted early this past Tuesday morning.



RADM D. M. "Mac" Showers, USN-Retired

by Ronald Russell, Updated 29 August 2009

(The following originally appeared in *Veterans Biographies*, distributed during the annual Battle of Midway commemoration in San Francisco, June 2006)



In August 1940 Mac Showers joined the Naval Reserve while in his senior year at the University of Iowa, where he majored in journalism and political science. He was commissioned as a USNR ensign in September 1941 and commenced active duty with the 13th Naval District headquarters (Com 13) in Seattle. At Com 13 he was introduced to the world of naval intelligence while a member of the district intelligence officer's staff.

In February 1942 he was transferred to Pearl Harbor and to the staff of Commander Joseph Rochefort, who was to become one of primary architects for the stunning victory at Midway. Rochefort was in charge of the Combat Intelligence Unit at Pearl, known generally in the history books as "Station HYPO." HYPO was tasked with breaking the Japanese navy's radio code, analyzing the intelligence derived, and providing CINCPAC (Admiral Nimitz and his staff) with the best possible view of the enemy's battle plans. Rochefort was a master of the art, and under his supervision the cryptanalysts at HYPO ultimately divined virtually the entire Japanese operations order for Midway before the battle commenced. Ensign Showers was an intelligence analyst working closely with the unit's cryptanalysts and Japanese linguists. He was specifically responsible for extracting key data from each intercept, plotting the movements of the Japanese ships en route to Midway, and preparing graphic presentations of such movements for delivery to CINCPAC.

The remarkable success of the HYPO team, with support from a similar operation in Australia, was the fundamental key to the "Miracle at Midway." As it turned out, the quality of the intelligence delivered to CINCPAC by Ensign Showers and his comrades was nearly perfect—Admiral Nimitz stated after the battle that with regard to the initial Japanese air strike on the atoll, his staff's prediction for its arrival had been off by only five minutes on the clock and five degrees on the compass!

Mac Showers remained a fleet intelligence specialist throughout the war, after which he transferred to the regular Navy. He retired in 1972 and commenced a second career with the Central Intelligence Agency, where he served until 1983. In 1986 he was instrumental in securing a posthumous Distinguished Service Medal for Joseph Rochefort, who had received no awards for his vital achievements at HYPO in 1942.



General George S. Patton

“An army is a team. It lives, eats, sleeps, fights as a team, this individuality stuff is a bunch of bull....”

“If a man does his best, what else is there?”



“If everyone is thinking alike, someone isn’t thinking”

“Lead me, follow me, or get out of my way.”

“May God have mercy upon my enemies, because I won’t”

“Wars may be fought with weapons, but they are won by men”

“I am a soldier, I fight where I am told, and I win where I fight”

Once a SOLDIER



ALWAYS a SOLDIER

Please don't forget to send your articles or Veteran organization information for the Veterans Council of St. Johns County Newsletter to Editor Michael Rothfeld at: mrothfeld@anyveteran.org

We want to tell everyone about where you served, who you served with, any interesting or exciting battles you were in, etc. We also want to know what you are doing now, what veterans groups you belong to, how to join, when they meet and what they do.

The views expressed in The Patriot Reader Newsletter articles, submissions and spotlights are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Veterans Council of St. Johns County or the editors of The Patriot Reader. It is the purpose of this periodical to share a variety of information that pertain to local veterans and their organizations.