

The Patriot Reader

VETERANS COUNCIL OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR MICHAEL ROTHFELD



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Newsletter Date: February, 2012

Message from the Chairman



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I would like to express my appreciation to all our Veteran's organizations that have contributed to this month's newsletter, **The Patriot Reader**. There are some excellent and informative community articles which indicate how active and engaged your veterans are in your community.

ing very hard to prepare for this event and we need to be sure we are there to support them and express our appreciation for their hard work.

Please put a place marker on June 9th on your calendar. That is the date we will be celebrating the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Midway.

The commemorative event is being held at the Renaissance Hotel, World Golf Village again this year. For those who attended last year's gala event, you know what an emotional and exciting evening it was as we paid tribute to these National Treasures, our Midway Veterans. Last year's attendance was 636. This year we are expecting over 1000.

There will be a complete write up in next month's newsletter giving all the details of the event and how to purchase tickets. I can assure you an evening you will not soon forget.

I will be brief in my remarks this month so as to allow room for some great pictures of our Feb. 16 program at Flagler Auditorium. I look forward to seeing all our Veterans there on Thursday evening. Let's fill the auditorium.

*Bill Dudley, Chairman
Veterans Council of
St. Johns Co. Inc.*

The big event coming up on the week of 13 February is our 450th program at Flagler College Auditorium on **Thursday, 16 February 2012 at 7 PM**. Be sure to mark your calendar and plan to attend and bring a family member and friends. Your 450th Military Commemoration Committee has been work-

Special points of interest:

- 450 Military History
- MACV SOG, Special Forces
- Agent Orange Quilts
- USS Houston Model on display
- IRS info for Not for Profits
- Wreaths Across America, 2012
- FL VA Important links

Pictures of the 450 Military Show "To Arms" follows on page 2

To Arms!! 450 Years of Military History of St. Augustine

On Thursday evening, February 16th, the 450 Years of Military History of St. Augustine was presented at the Flagler College Auditorium.

For nearly 450 years, St. Augustine has hosted military forces under a variety of flags. In 1565, the Spanish called the first muster of citizen soldiers in North America. Next, the British and Hessian troops, based in St. Augustine, held back American invasions during the War of Independence. Following that Spanish troops defended the town from invading Americans during the Patriot War.

When Florida became a U.S. Territory, Americans had to secure the town from Seminole attack. During the 1860's. St. Augustine was held first by the Union, then the Confederacy and then again by the Union. Though the flags flying from the ramparts have changed, the Castillo San Marcos has never fallen in battle.

Since its founding, military forces have been constantly present in our city. This fact has allowed St. Augustine to remain the oldest continuously occupied European settlement in North America.

(Below are some pictures of local veterans and citizens in period costume during the performance)





Clyde E. Lassen VA Nursing Home

Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans' Nursing Home has had two exciting events. The Elk's Lodge of Mandarin began working last summer on having Recreation come perform for our residents and families. Recreation is a non-profit organization whose main service is to America's Veterans Affairs Medical Centers and State Veterans Homes. Since 1983, Recreation has provided the only continuing, live, therapeutic entertainment presence in our nation's VA medical centers. The performers arrived early to set up their performance area

and spent quality time with our Veterans. Their highly energetic show of music and dance was very well received by the residents who joined in by laughing, clapping and even dancing in their chairs.



Our second main January event was a special visit by the Florida Alternative Breaks, which is a volunteer student organization from the University of Florida. This student organization's members spend their academic breaks immersing themselves in volunteer opportunities. Over the recent long weekend, fourteen students joined our residents in fun and helpful activities. The extra attention was well received and very much enjoyed by all.



Jacksonville National Cemetery

Thank you St. John's County Veterans Council for the hard work that you do in supporting our veterans. As of January 11, 2012 our Jacksonville Veterans National Cemetery was open to receive cremains. This new section has 7,000 niches. These upright columbaria complete the method of burial except for a scatter garden which we hope will be forth coming. Our National Cemetery has always been

open from day one for in ground remains as well as casket burial.

We have several ongoing projects at the cemetery. These projects are very important to the future of our National Cemetery and will also add to the beauty of it. Some of those projects are the installation of a Carillion Bell Tower, new road and Veterans Memorial Center.

Our Jacksonville National Cemetery Support Committee welcomes your support. We are a 501C charitable organization and any contributions are most welcome. At the present time we have buried roughly 4000 veterans and family members. We must never forget the sacrifices made for the freedoms that we enjoy.

Yours through veterans,
Daniel V. Hughes, Chairman;
J.N.C.S.C.



Agent Orange "Quilt Of Tears"

Agent Orange "Quilt Of Tears"

The Quilts draw national attention to the plight of Veterans affected by Agent Orange used during Vietnam. They are called the "Quilt of Tears" for the many tears that have been shed by & for these victims.

Both living and dead, they have been forgotten and this is our way to give them the honor and respect they so richly deserve. The Quilts have a life of their own and speak

for themselves, adorned with victim's pictures, their service information, their Agent Orange health status, etc, etc. Love, pain and sorrow can be seen in each block. One veteran stated that "The "Quilts of Tears" was the most moving piece of art he had seen since the WALL in Washington, D.C.

We believe that when the Veteran is created the citizen should not be laid aside!

The Quilts draw national attention to the plight of

Veterans affected by Agent Orange used during Vietnam. Family members & friends of these victims are encouraged to submit quilt blocks in honor of their loved ones. The blocks are then sewn into quilts that are displayed at various veterans reunions and functions across our country making sure our heroes are not forgotten.

Please visit their website:

<http://www.agentorangequiltotears.com>



Marine Corps League, Oldest City Detachment #383, St. Augustine, Florida, December 17, 2011

A handful of days before Christmas Day, 2011, your local Marine Corps League gave Christmas to 630 local needy children!

Whatever the Marines do, they do it well, and this past Christmas was no exception. The goal of "Toys for Tots" is to deliver, through a new toy at Christmas, a message of hope to the less fortunate youngsters that will assist them in becoming responsible, productive, patriotic citizens. On December 17th, last year, this act of generosity and kindness was on display by your local Marine Corps League. Doors at the Elks Lodge, St. Augustine, officially opened at 10:00 that morning; however, Moms and Dads with their children were lined up all the way to the back of the parking lot since 6:30am waiting in anticipation. In total, 630 kids walked away with a smile from ear to ear.

When the kids entered, they were immediately given a cookie and a diet drink. Next they had their pick of a game before entering the big

room. Entering this room is where you see their "eyes light up." There were dolls of all description, bicycles, remote controlled cars & trucks, two foot tall stuffed (there were smaller ones too) animals, skateboards, balls of all types, and other toys only your imagination can think of. Ages of our youngsters ranged from near newborn to early teens.

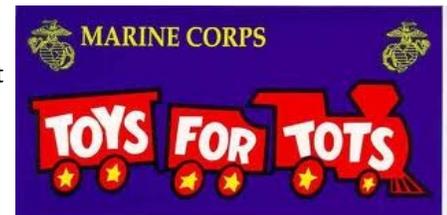
Toys and cash for this fabulous program are donated by local citizens and merchants in St. Johns County. Huge, well marked donation boxes were strategically placed throughout the county that had to be emptied often. The logistics of collecting and storing these toys is no small feat, but the Marines, as usual, did it. Our citizens and local merchants responded well as there were literally thousands of donated toys that ran into the thousands and thousands of dollars.

There are many merchants to thank for this program, but the major contributors were Northrop Grumman,

Wal-Mart, and Hess Corporation. The list is so numerous.

Many Marines contributed to this project; however, there's one deserving special recognition. That's Gary Maguire. Gary serves as the Chair for the program, gets in his truck and collects all the toys, and supervises the toy distribution the day of the event. Gary has done this for years, and without his leadership, the program would not be as successful as it always is. Thank you Gary!

If you wish to participate in this heart-warming experience for 2012, you may do so. Go to www.mclfl383.org for details on who to contact and how to go about it. Your donation will be enjoyed by a needy "Tot"!



The Traveling Vietnam Wall



For the past 3 years FVPPI (Florida Veterans Programs & Projects, Inc.) hosts an annual "Honoring Veterans" event the weekend before Veterans Day in November. From 2007 through 2010 the event was held at the Flagler College Auditorium. Last November FVPPI switched venues to the larger Anastasia Baptist Church. By all accounts this event, honoring our local ex POWs, was a huge success. One of our highlights at that show was the *Traveling Vietnam Wall*. The Wall is brought into St. Johns County under motorcycle escort and Vietnam veteran Thomas Twigg maintains the Wall.



As a member of the 101st Airborne in Vietnam, Thomas Twigg did his duty and completed his mission. Now this disabled veteran and his wife, Dee, have a personal mission. The Twiggs intend to bring the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall to people all over the country who cannot travel to Washington, D.C. For the Twiggs, it is imperative that all veterans and their family members have the opportunity to seek some closure in return for answering the call of duty. Financial and physical hardships should not hinder this.

To fulfill this mission, Tom and Dee have constructed a replica of the Wall that stands 8-feet tall and 46-feet long. The scaled size allows it to be displayed indoors as well as out. And, because the names are closer together, despite the smaller size, the impact is huge. "It hits you all at once," says Tom. "It brings back the reality of what it cost us to be over there."

The Central Florida residents have been traveling since 1995, displaying their replica Wall at community events, schools, VA Hospitals and other locations.

You can contact Tom at: Thomas_Twigg@yahoo.com

We at FVPPI are tentatively planning our next veterans event on Saturday November 4, 2012 and expect to premier a new documentary, "Commitment to Honor". The film will tell the story of our Vietnam Era Veteran's doing great things to assist our current war veterans who share many of the same experiences of modern warfare. Through personal narratives, archival footage, home video, media footage, and live action we hope to bring together a cohesive story that shows the adversity that soldiers coming home must endure and how they are doing it successfully with the help of their veteran brothers & sisters.

We will keep you all informed on this event as we know more. We will again invite all veterans groups and organizations to display their groups activities at a free lobby table. Last year the event was attended by over 1000 people.





NEWS RELEASE



- **Free Lifetime Military Entrance Passes to Florida State Parks for honorably discharged United States veterans who have service-connected disabilities.**

- Proof of identification, service-connected disability, honorable discharge and veteran or retired military status are required. Satisfactory written documentation to prove eligibility includes: Personal identification (i.e.: driver license) and

- Current official documentation from the Department of Defense, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Veterans Affairs or an appropriate branch of one of those agencies, naming the bearer as having sustained a service-related disability, and
- Most recent DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, showing the named individual's Character of Service as Honorable, or
- Other current official documentation from the Department of Defense, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Veterans Affairs or an appropriate branch of one of those agencies, naming the bearer as veteran, or retired military.

- **Free Lifetime Military Entrance Passes for surviving spouses and parents of deceased members of the United States Armed Forces, National Guard or reserve units of the U.S. Armed Forces or National Guard who have fallen in combat.**

- Proof of spouse or child having fallen in combat and proof of spousal or parental relationship are required. Satisfactory written documentation to prove eligibility includes:

- Personal identification (i.e.: driver license) and
- The DD Form 1300, Report of Casualty, showing the Place of Casualty was a combat or war zone on the Date of Casualty, the Circumstances indicate that the casualty was due to enemy action and the Interested Person/Remarks indicates the bearer is the spouse or parent of the military member who has fallen in combat, or
- The final DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, showing the date of death as the same date as the date of separation, and
- A marriage certificate or license, birth or death certificate, or adoption papers showing the bearer as the spouse or parent of the military member who has fallen in combat.

For more information on FDVA, visit www.FloridaVets.org



Salute to Veterans Dance

In honor of all veterans, the St. Johns County Public Library System invites everyone to a Veterans Salute Dance! On Sunday, February 26, from 2:00pm-5:00pm, veterans, their families, and all members of the community are invited to the Council on Aging River House, located on the Matanzas River at 180 Marine Street, St. Augustine, FL 32084. Enjoy light refreshments, a cash bar, and dancing to WW II-era music provided by *E.T. Swings the Thing* live band. Generously sponsored by all St. Johns County Public Library Branch Friends of the Library groups, we invite you to kick up your heels at this event honoring all United States veterans! Questions? Call 904-827-6925.



FVPPI: an update on our latest project

Florida Veterans Programs & Projects, Inc. has just completed filming interviews for its 2012 documentary project. The students of the Douglas Anderson School of the Arts in Jacksonville who have been filming, interviewing and editing have learned a great deal about the hardships and sacrifices today's troops have made for all of us.



Michael Rothfeld

The working title is: "*Commitment to Honor*". If all goes as planned FVPPI will again meet with Anastasia Baptist Church to make arrangements to premiere the documentary and to produce a show "Honoring Veterans" of St. Johns County. Our target date is Saturday November 4, 2012.

I have below a summary of who was interviewed and a little about them.

Jerry Majitech: Two tour SGT in Iraq who was wounded when his Humvee was hit by an IED. He was burned over 90% of his body. He is now a representative of the WWP and has aspirations to work on Wall Street. →



Mike Pullium: Vietnam Veteran who is active in the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Assoc. and Homes for Our Troops. He was instrumental in the building of the home for CPL Tyler Southern USMC. Interviewed at his place of business, at the home of Tyler Southern, and also interviewed at the moving Vietnam Wall. ←

Tom Crawford: Vietnam Vet and home builder. Also instrumental in building of the CPL Tyler Southern home. Interviewed at Crawford Estates; his subdivision for lower income homes in St. Augustine. →



Anne Freund PhD: Author of "Taming the Fire Within: Life After War". Expert on PTSD. Interviewed in a clinical office. →

Jose Figueroa: CPL USMC served in Fallujah. Provided stories of Iraq experience. Interviewed at the National Guard Armory in St Augustine.



The McLendon's: Husband and wife spoke about deployment, war and its effect on their marriage. Interviewed at National Guard in St Augustine.

Two SGT's from the PIO/PAO at the National Guard in St Augustine, interviewed in the motor pool. ←

Various members of Rolling Thunder have been followed and have provided sound bytes from the Vietnam Wall and Tyler Southern's home opening.

The film will tell the story of our Vietnam Era Veteran's doing great things to assist our current war veterans who share many of the same experiences of modern warfare. Through personal narratives, archival footage, home video, media footage, and live action we hope to bring together a cohesive story that shows the adversity that soldiers coming home must endure and how they are doing it successfully with the help of their veteran brothers & sisters.

*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 & veterans related. Submissions may be edited &/or shortened and used if space permits.

Send to: mrothfeld@anyveteran.org



Castillo de San Marcos

Important Online Veterans Links:

usshouston.org [website of the USS Houston](#)

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

Federal Benefits for veterans, dependents & survivors, 2011 ed: http://www1.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book.asp

Registry-based site designed to help present and past military personnel and their families find each other and keep in touch. Dynamic online community.
<http://www.militaryconnections.com>

Reminder, the above links are not active, they have to be cut and pasted into your web browser to work .

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)

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

Then and Now, SGM Ray Quinn, US Army, ret.



Ray Quinn in 1988 as Operations and Training Noncommissioned Officer for Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, Florida Army National Guard. Retiring in November of 1995, stayed on and served as Director of Executive Services (protocol) until 2008. He has been involved in many volunteer organizations to include serving as Chairman

of the St. Johns County Veterans Council. Most recently he was appointed as interim County Commissioner for St. Johns County and currently serves as a member of the St. Johns County Planning and Zoning Agency .

Ray also serves as Vice President for Veterans Affairs First Militia Chapter, AUSA





Marine Arrogance: submitted by Harry Manford



Saepius Exertus, Semper Fidelis,
Frater Infinitas
Often Tested, Always Faithful,
Brothers Forever.

Marine Arrogance

A Marine Sergeant wrote this in response to an army guy who posted a comment on the Marine Corps site that he was sick and tired of "Marine arrogance".

The Sergeant says...

"I think that's what makes Marines special, if only in our own minds, is that elusive Quality of Esprit De Corps. It's the fact that we, as individual Marines, don't feel that we are individual Marines. When we wear our uniform, when we hear our Hymn, when we go into battle, we are going with every other Marine who ever wore the uniform.

Standing behind us are the Marines who fought during the birth Of our nation. We're standing with the Marines who fought in WWI and gave birth to the legend of the "Tueful Hunden", or "Devil Dogs". We are standing with the Marines who took Iwo and Tarawa and countless other blood soaked islands throughout the Pacific.

We are standing with the "Frozen Chosin" and our beloved Chesty Puller. We are standing with the Marines who battled at Hue City and Khe Sanh and the muddy rice paddies of South East Asia. We are standing with the Marines who fought in Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom and now, are fighting in Afghanistan.

Like real brothers, their blood courses through our veins, and when we go into battle, we would rather lay down our lives than be a disappointment to them.

We carry on our backs, their legacy, their deaths and their honor. We carry that for the rest of our lives.

The Marines Corps uniform doesn't come off when our active duty is over. We wear it daily in our attitude, and our love of Corps and country. We wear it on our tattoos and our bumper stickers. We wear it in our hearts.

It's why, no matter where we are in the world, on November 10th, every Marine celebrates the Marine Corps birthday. It's why we'll never be an army of 1. It's why we never stop being Marines. It's why, for most of us, being a Marine isn't something we were. It's something we are.



It's the most important part of who and what we are. Some say we're arrogant. We say we're proud. We have a right to be proud. We are the United States Marines, the most feared and ferocious group of warriors to walk the face of this earth.

When Americas' enemies formulate their battle plans, they plan on going around Marine units, because they know d-mn well that they can't go through them. We are what other branches wish they were.

We are the modern day Spartans. This isn't bragging. It's written in the battle history of our country. When there's a parade and the Marines march by, everyone pays a little more attention. Some say "arrogance". We call it "pride". It's why, in a crowd of service men, you can always spot the Marine. Why are Marines special? I don't know. We just are.
Semper Fidelis

Coquina Crossing Troop Support by The Coquina Veterans

The Coquina Veterans is an extremely active St. Johns County organization with 80 veteran members. These veterans cover the span of WW II, Korea, the Cold War Era, Vietnam, and Desert Storm. The Coquina Veterans directs its activities towards its membership first, and then, secondly, it has taken on an outside project called "Coquina Crossing Troop Support", or simply "Troop Support."



The military provides daily basic needs for our men and women in uniform; however, it's a misconception everything is provided. Then, Patty Worsham, a Coquina Crossing resident, approached the Coquina Veterans with a concept on how to make the life of our combat men and women in Iraq and Afghanistan more pleasant, even if just a little. The Coquina Veterans agreed. Patty, then singlehandedly, spearheaded a humanitarian effort to gather and ship parcels of those little niceties of life that you and I take for granted. It's things like dental floss, chewing gum, shampoo, finger nail polish, beef jerky, magazines, cheese & crackers, and on and on and on. The name of this program became "Troop Support."

Troop Support quickly blossomed from concept to actuality. At first, the number of parcels shipped were few, but it quickly grew to a couple dozen a month. Because the concept was so solid, Patty had little problem obtaining the merchandise needed from our local businesses, but the logistics of storage and getting the boxes packed and labeled for shipment became an issue. So, 'packing parties' were developed whereby members of the Coquina Veterans and community residents stepped forward to help. Of recent, the number of monthly shipped parcels has lowered; however, since October, 2006, over 1,100 parcels have been packed and shipped to the front lines in Iraq and Afghanistan. These parcels represent over 12,000 pounds of merchandise with a shipping cost exceeding \$11,000.



Patty wasn't done. Through her communications with service personnel connected to the front lines, she learned two more things were needed. First, for those cold winter nights in the innermost mountainous reaches of Afghanistan, watch caps were needed to keep the head and ears warm. A group of Coquina Crossing ladies called the "Madhatters" answered the question by getting together to knit caps. Over 300 caps for both our troops and village children were hand knitted and shipped through Troop Support.

Second, it was learned many of the badly wounded were cold while enroute from battlefield to hospitals in Landstuhl (Germany) and Walter Reed. So, another group of Coquina Crossing ladies gathered to make quilts to warm these wounded warriors while in transit to hospitals. Each quilt is hand made and autographed by the maker. There were over 65 quilts made, and each wounded Marine or soldier gets to keep that quilt for life.



You might ask, "Where does all the money come from?" Strictly donations! Local businesses have been very generous and for the past 3+ years, the Coquina Veterans have picked up the shipping tab. But more is needed, and donations are gladly accepted as this program is ongoing.

Donations are accepted through a tax exempt corporation called Florida Veterans Programs and Projects, Inc., a creation of Michael Rothfeld, another Coquina Crossing resident. Although this 501-c-3 not-for-profit corporation was not created expressly for Troop Support, it became an excellent financial means to funnel Troop Support donations. Because of this corporation's tax exempt status, all donations are tax deductible.

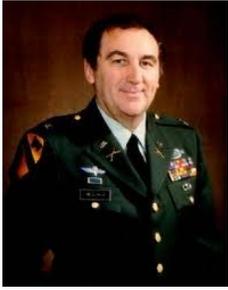
It's easy to see that although Patty and the Coquina Veterans have put Troop Support together, it is a total community effort. Without the support and blessing of the residents of Coquina Crossing, this program would not have reached the level of success achieved. For that, the patriotic citizens of Coquina Crossing are to be thanked.

Should you wish to help with your donation, you may contact:

Harry Manford	904-827-1573	rem183@bellsouth.net
Jack Ernissee	904-825-2166	2papajack@bellsouth.net
Michael Rothfeld	904-829-0381	mrothfeld@anyveteran.org

Thank you for your future support.

Chase-Rescorla Scholarship



Rick Rescorla

The **Chase-Rescorla Scholarship Fund (CRSF)** Annual Dinner is rapidly approaching and we are receiving the applications for the Scholarship to be awarded at this year's Dinner on March 24, 2012. This year we have fourteen (14) applicants for the five (5) \$1,000 scholarships to be awarded. The CRSF Board of Directors will be meeting in February to interview the candidates and determine the finalists for this year's awards.



Leo C. Chase

The CRSF pays for the student's college expenses related to tuition, books and educational related expenses. To date, since 2005, the CRSF has awarded over \$30,000 to local students through the generous donations and sponsorships from our local community as well as the Allied Veterans, Scheidel Foundation, American Legion, AMVETS and many others. Any group or individual who wants to assist with the fund raising can get more information on our website www.chaserescorlafund.com or by calling one of the contacts listed on the website.

The March 24, 2012, Scholarship presentation will be held at the St. Augustine Elks Lodge #829, 1420 A1A South at 6:00 pm. The keynote speaker will be Brigadier General Holsey Moorman (US Army ret.) who in addition to being heavily involved with the community in Palm Coast also is a mentor to high school youth.



This year the CRSF is blessed to have Sergeant Major Ray Quinn (US Army ret.) and St. Johns County Sheriff David Shoar as Master of Ceremonies. A special honor this year is the participation of Mrs. Susan Rescorla widow of Rick who will be present to sign her new book "Touched by a Hero." The book will be available to purchase at the dinner with all proceeds going back to the Scholarship Fund.

The Dinner will be catered by the Elks Lodge and this year we will have choices for the meal that include Prime Rib, Seafood and/or Chicken. Reservations are requested and tables are available to reserve for groups. Information and costs are available on our website. You can reach our reservation specialist Sgt. Ann Lawton who will take your reservations and meal orders via phone. You can reach her at (904) 209-3453 or (904) 669-1719. Tickets are \$40.00.



The CRSF has a newly redesigned website that introduces our new logo which emphasizes the Scholarship as well as the 1st Cavalry which Leo and Rick served with at Ia Drang, Vietnam. There is more history and background available on our website at www.chaserescorlafund.org and we have introduced our Facebook page at ChaseRescorlaFund and hope you will "like" us.

Hope to see you there. Michael Pullium President Chase Rescorla Scholarship Fund
mpullium@panda-engrs.com (904) 814-7638



**This is a message from the Army
Casualty Assistance Office , USAR, and
ARNG Military Funeral Honors Office.**



WHAT:

**CLARIFICATION ON FLAG PRESENTATION
DURING MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS**

PURPOSE:

To debunk a recent rumor of changes to the script used during the presentation of the US Flag during MFHs

BACKGROUND:

There have been several rumors recently of changes to the script used during the presentation of the US Flag during Military Funeral Honors (MFHs). These rumors are completely false, as there have been no changes to the script.

GUIDANCE:

AR 600-25 (Salutes, Honors, and Visits of Courtesy) refers to FM 3-21.5 (Drill and Ceremonies) for execution of Funerals.

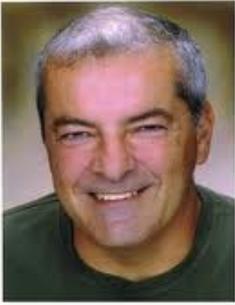
Chapter 14-5q and 14-6d state: Upon presentation, the CAO renders appropriate remarks such as, "Sir/Ma'am, this flag is presented on behalf of a grateful nation as an expression of appreciation for the honorable and faithful service rendered by your loved one."

The DA Pam 638-2, para 10-11(b(1) states with regard to presentation of the FLAG CASE: "This flag case is presented on behalf of the Secretary of the Army ..."

CMAOC strongly recommends following the FM script during MFHs to ensure standardization.

Be advised that the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) is developing a script to be used by all Services for MFH flag presentations, but it is not expected to be finalized until mid year 2012 at the earliest. Additional guidance will be provided by CMAOC once the OSD script has been released.

Dan Blackman is currently the Military Funeral Honors Coordinator for the State of Florida.



1st Lt. Tom Waskovich, 1969 Vietnam, (St. Augustine Beach)

The article below is an excerpt from the book, "Running Recon", by Frank Greco and details the actions of a key operator on the first Top Secret mission to block the Ho Chi Minh

Trail in 1969. Lt. Tom Waskovich was the commander of the SOG Commando team that was on Bright Light duty at that time. (Bright Light was the code name for a SOG team that was on duty for 7 days, 24/7, and had the mission to rappel in on top of SOG teams that ran into trouble and reinforce them, and/or to rescue air crew from aircraft that were shot down).

This is one of the most successful SOG missions and Lt. Waskovich played a key role in destroying 6 NVA trucks with a recoilless rifle and an M60 machine gun.

Operation Nightcap/Spindown

Operation Nightcap occurred in the third week of March 1969. Hatchet Force Company A was helicoptered into Laos under heavy air support and secured a small hilltop overlooking Highway 110, the two separated by a small river named the Dak Xou, Company A troops had brought a 90mm recoilless rifle with them to knock out trucks trying to sneak past them at night. However, intense barrages of enemy machine gun and mortar fire kept them

down for most of the night. Among the many who were wounded was the recoilless rifleman, for whom they needed a replacement. 1st Lt. Tom Waskovich, the One-Zero of RT South Carolina, was on Bright Light duty at Dak To, and when he heard someone was needed to operate the recoilless rifle he volunteered to go in.



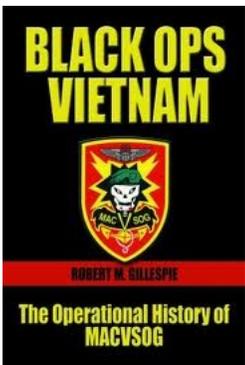
1st Lt Tom Waskovich

Once in, they soon realized that the enemy was using the barrage of fire to keep the Hatchet Force's head down as trucks sneaked past their location. Waskovich was able to spot one of the trucks sneaking past at night and nailed it with the recoilless rifle, blocking the road and backing up trucks behind it, turning them into additional targets for the recoilless rifle. Shortly after that the Hatchet Force used a Starlight scope to spot the NVA



In 1969, Waskovich was awarded the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry from Col. Ngo The Linh, commander of the South Vietnamese special commandos.

trying to fill the bomb craters on the road and get the destroyed trucks off the road, and then raked them with .50-calibre machine gun fire. Eventually the number of casualties forced the Hatchet Force to be extracted, but not before inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy by direct fire and air support and putting a serious crimp in the supplies moving across that part of the Trail. A week later Operation Spindown went into the same location with similar results.





**AMERICAN LEGION POST 194
MEMBERSHIP DRIVE
TOSHIBA LAPTOP GIVEAWAY**

\$10.00 DONATION

**Drawing: Sunday March 4, Time: 3 PM Place: 1029 W. Pearl Street,
Saint Augustine, Fl. 32084**

**NEW 15.6-inch Windows 7, \$350.00 value, Wireless, Webcam w/face
recognition, Bluetooth & Media Card Reader**

Model: Satellite C655D-S5303

**Tickets available at the office call: 904 829-8189 / request tickets by
mail with check or money order payable to: A.L. Post 194**

Need not be present to win

2nd Annual Poker Run May 12, 2012, for the Residents of the Clyde E Lassen State Veteran's Nursing Home!!!



Registration begins at the VFW Post 2391 at 0930, KSU at 1100.

\$10.00 per rider or \$15.00 per rider and passenger

Breakfast will be offered at \$5.00 a plate.
(Pancakes, scrambled eggs, w/choice of sausage or bacon)
50/50, Raffle, and Music

Poker Cards will be given out at:

- VFW Post 2391, 6184 US-1 South, St Augustine, FL 32086 (904) 797-5267
- AMVETS #45, 1030 East SR206 St. Augustine, FL 32086 (904) 217-4848
- AMVETS Post #59, 5959 North Oceanshore Blvd Palm Coast, FL 32137 (386) 597-2917
- VFW Post 8696, 47 Old Kings Road North Palm Coast, FL 32137 (386) 446-8696
- AMVETS #113, 2525 N US Highway 1 Suite A Bunnell, FL 32110 (386) 263-2972

!!!This event is open to all riders!!!

**~NO ATTITUDES~NO DRAMA~
~NO MISBEHAVING~**



We are an Association of Combat Veterans from all branches of the United States Armed Forces who ride motorcycles as a hobby. Our mission now is to support and defend those who have defended our country and our freedoms. Our focus is to help veteran care facilities provide a warm meal, clothing, shelter, and guidance, or simply to say "Thank You." and "Welcome Home."

Our membership is comprised of Full Members (those with verified combat service) and Supporter Members (those who have non-combat military service, and have a sincere dedication to helping veterans). We have members from nearly all 50 states and living abroad. Many members continue to serve in our Armed Forces, with several serving in combat areas now.

We sponsor and/or participate in many motorcycle-related charity events each year, and as a non-profit organization, donate to various veteran care facilities and veteran charities.

It was a busy year for the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association Chapter 20-2. We have donated to or participated in many programs including the Florida Veterans Programs and Projects, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the Clyde E. Lassen Veterans Nursing Home, and the St. Augustine Homeless Veterans Stand-Down.

We also donated to the Healing Heroes Network, Joe's Sock Fund for Homeless Veterans, VFW Post 54 and VFW Post 4833. For 2012, we have already donated to the USO of North Carolina for the Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home which will be on March 31, 2012.

The Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association – Veterans Helping Veterans.



The **first 200** riders/passengers receive a ride T-Shirt with paid registration

5th Annual

POW/MIA Remembrance Ride

- A JSO escorted event

March 31, 2012

Location: ADAMEC Harley Davidson, Baymeadows Location, Jacksonville, FL.

Cost: \$25.00 donation per rider / \$10.00 donation per passenger.

Registration: 08:30 or pre-register via our website at

www.rollingthunderjax.org - click on "Ride Registration" link.

POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony: 10:00 with special guest speakers:

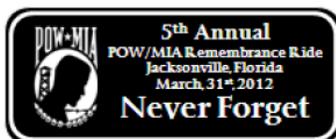
Pam Cain, Karoni Forrester, and Jo Anne Shirley – National League of POW/MIA Families.

Activities: 50/50 raffle, various prize giveaways, lots of good food and drink , and an auction for an original painting by artist, Duffy Soto of Lake City. View some of his work:

http://jacksonville.com/news/metro/2008-12-05/lake_city_man_learns_to_soar_with_his_art

Ride: Kick Stands Up at 12:00.

Entertainment: Live Music.



Ride Patch



Rolling Thunder® Inc. 501(c)(4) non- profit organization, State registration no. CH34065. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING 1-800-435-7352 REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.

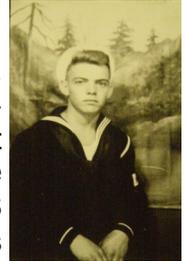
Editors Note: Bill Ingram, a survivor of the sinking of the USS Houston, was one of the featured veterans in the locally produced documentary, “Prisoners of War: Stolen Freedom”

Used with permission of the Editor from “The Blue Bonnet”, Newsletter of the USS Houston CA-30 Survivors Association and Next Generations

Unveiling of the USS Houston CA-30 Model a Big Success



On 17 November 2011 USS *Houston* CA-30 Survivors David C. FLYNN, Howard BROOKS, and Bill INGRAM, as well as former crewman Ray KESTER were among the over 80 people who gathered at the National Museum of the US Navy in Washington, DC to celebrate the installation there of a magnificent 14-foot-long scale model of USS Houston CA-30. After a special ceremony, attendees applauded as



Bill Ingram at 17 years

mounted lights blinked on inside the new case for the first time in public, illuminating the beautifully restored 1929 model of USS *Houston* CA-30 by renowned model builder Horace E. Boucher. Ed Furgol, Director, Naval History and Heritage Command provided speaker introductions at the installation ceremony. Speakers included: RADM Jay DeLoach, USN (Ret.); Royal Australian Naval Attaché LCDR Carl Holmes, RN; Dana Wegner, Curator of Ship Models, Naval Sea Systems Command; and our Association’s Executive Director John Schwarz. Built around 1929 in New York City by the highly acclaimed H. E. Boucher Manufacturing Company, the wood and brass model today is a part of the collection of the Naval Sea Systems Command, which includes some 2,500 ship models, Mr. Wegner explained. Horace Before its installation in the museum, the model had been moved several times. Beginning in 1961, the Navy loaned Boucher’s model to the BB USS *Texas* in Houston, Texas. While there, it was damaged, and its case was lost, Wegner said. Boucher had been lead model maker at the Washington Navy Yard until 1905, when he resigned and founded a model production firm which developed a reputation as the top model-building studio in America, Wegner said. The *Houston* model is now one among several of the best examples of Boucher’s work at the National Museum of the USN, which displays it in the Pacific section, “In Harm’s Way: The US Navy in World War II” exhibit. According to Wegner, “(Back in 1929) it probably took three model builders one year to complete.” The 3-man team that had worked under Wegner to recondition the model took some 1,100 man hours to completely disassemble, repair, repaint, and re-rig the *Houston* to bring it back to its original condition, Wegner said.



Bill Ingram

In 1996, the model was brought into storage at the Naval Surface Warfare Center in Bethesda, MD. Association founder Otto Schwarz and Wegner discussed a plan to recondition the model back then, but the idea became dormant, Wegner explained. It wasn’t until June 2010 when Otto’s widow, TRUDY SCHWARZ alerted her son JOHN SCHWARZ to one of Otto’s old files. (Otto Schwarz died in 2006.) John Schwarz contacted Wegner and “enthusiastically picked up where his father had let off some 14 years earlier,” Wegner said. “Ethically bound,” Wegner and his team of model restoration experts “were careful to preserve Boucher’s intent, and except for the flag at half-mast, it looks exactly like it did when the US Navy obtained it in 1929,”



Bill Ingram on the right



Bill with dark sweater & survivors

Wegner explained. “We were inspired by the sentimental role the model plays commemorating those lost aboard gallant *Houston* in 1942, and by the model’s symbolic role in the minds of the survivors and next generations. This model has a soul,” Wegner said. In an email, Mr. Wegner further discussed the unique significance of the *Houston* model’s flag. “While a few times we have mounted flags at half-mast for ships lost, the USS *Houston* model is the only one at the Navy Museum. As far as I can tell, the half-mast tradition began when the Navy displayed our model of the USS *Maine* in the Capitol rotunda in February 1898.” USS *Houston* family in attendance included: Ann DuHaime, Teresa REILLY, Trudy SCHWARZ, David and Donna FLYNN, How-



SHIP OF GHOSTS

"CAPTIVATING...UNFORGETTABLE...A COMPELLING BOOK FOR ANYONE INTRIGUED BY HARROWING TALES OF COURAGE AND THE IRREPRESSIBLE WILL TO SURVIVE." —USA Today
JAMES D. HORNFISCHER
Author of *The Last Stand of the Tin Can Sailors*

ard and Sylvia BROOKS, Bill INGRAM, Matt and Jane (STEFANEK) Matthews, Pam (CRISPI) FOSTER, Ed and John SCHWARZ, Dana and Kathleen CHARLES, John and Sue (PAPISH) KREUTZER, Fulton, Laura, and Sandra FLYNN, John CARLYLE, Stanley Michael AUFIERO and his team that built and installed the beautiful mahogany display case were also on hand for the official installation activities. Many thanks to all those who contributed funds for the production of the beautiful display case. Contributing writer: R. Dana Charles, Association vice president and correspondent (Son of the late H. Robert Charles, USMC survivor). MELESKI, Eugene and Sean FREY, John SIGNORIN, James FIORI, Helen PRUZAN, Juan and Lisa ARROYO, Michael and Valerie AUFIERO, Peter and Martha BOTA, John and Marilyn MURTHA, Bill LYNCH, Raymond KESTER, Warren and Lorraine HARTDORN, Jonathan VERHOEVEN, Craig JOHNSON, Benjamin and Frances WEINER, Francis IPPOLITO, Thomas FORD, Lawrence FRASIER, Kenneth T. and Patrick STEFANEK.

Thank goodness for our Survivors, spouses and widows. Seventeen months prior to November 17, 2011 one widow (Trudy Schwarz) handed to us Next Generationers another one of those rare USS Houston CA-30 Survivors Association and Next Generations opportunities of a lifetime. It was, of course, the original CA-30 ship model project. As with any project or initiative, with it comes expectations, challenges, and blood, sweat and tears that can lead to tremendous gratification or disappointment. Thankfully, with this project came gratification! On November 17th, our expectations were not merely met, they were significantly exceeded as the most beautiful model imaginable of our beloved ship was unveiled in its new, fabulously custom built case in its new home, the National Museum of the U.S. Navy at the Washington Navy Yard in our nation's capital - Washington, D.C. What a glorious affair the unveiling was! The Navy planned out a very nice tribute program including many military protocols, the model unveiling itself, then a professionally facilitated "round table" where our survivors and shipmates in attendance (Ingram, Flynn, Brooks, Kester) were able to speak to the audience on various topics from recollections of their own personal experiences. It was a fascinating program with which everyone seemed overwhelmed. For those who could not make it, we will provide ample visual coverage at our upcoming reunion. I would like to express to you how honored I was to be able to speak on behalf of our organization at the ceremony. The entire effort was a true team accomplishment that clearly demonstrates what we can do when we properly pool our collective talents, effort, hearts and souls into something so directly related to our Association's mission. Major initiatives such as this do require our collective efforts. Anyone anywhere near the Washington D.C. area must come and see the model. You will be very happy you did! Or build it into a future, special trip as there is so much else to see in this area. Relative to our Association alone, we have the following things in and around the nation's capital area: between 6 to 12 of our men lying at rest in Arlington National Cemetery, a permanent marker in the cemetery commemorating the USS Houston CA-30 and the HMAS Perth, the Asiatic Fleet Room and one of our models in the Navy Memorial, another ship model and the Rooks Fountain on the campus of the US Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD, in addition to the permanent scholarship administered from there.



Bill on the POW set

From the desk of the Executive Director
John Schwarz

Photo # NH 53588 USS Houston during the 1930s



Florida Exempt Organizations Filing Deadlines

The IRS requires organizations exempt from federal income taxation to file annual returns. Depending upon the organization's gross receipts (not net receipts or net surplus/deficit), each public charity must file Form 990 by four and one-half months after the end of their fiscal year (May 15th for calendar year filers):

- * 2011 Gross Receipts are normally \$50,000 or less, create an account then file form 990-N at <http://postcard.form990.org/>
- * 2011 Gross Receipts normally more than \$50,000 but less than \$200,000, with total assets less than \$500,000, may file [form 990-EZ](#) or [form 990](#)
- * 2011 Gross Receipts normally more than \$200,000, or with total assets more than \$500,000, must file [form 990](#).

In addition to filing forms 990-EZ or 990 (but not 990-N), certain schedules must be completed (bold items are frequently required of Veterans' exempt organizations):

- A. Public Charity Status and Public Support**
- B. Schedule of Contributors (most often, retained with workpapers, but not filed)
- C. Political Campaign and Lobbying Activities
- D. Supplemental Financial Statements
- E. Schools
- F. Statement of Activities Outside of the U.S.
- G. Supplemental Information Regarding Fundraising or Gaming Activities**
- H. Hospitals
- I. Grants and Other Assistance to Organizations, Governments and Individuals in the U.S.
- J. Compensation Information
- K. Supplemental Information on Tax-Exempt Bonds
- L. Transactions with Interested Persons
- M. Non-Cash Contributions**
- N. Liquidation, Termination, Dissolution or Significant Disposition of Assets
- O. Supplemental Information to Form 990**
- P. Related Organizations and Unrelated Partnerships

2011 Gross Income (not Gross Receipts) from an unrelated business (a trade or business, regularly carried on, that is not substantially related to the charity), file [form 990-T](#) Exempt Organization Business Income Tax Return. For more information, please see [IRS Pub 598](#) and [instructions for form 990-T](#). The exempt organization may also be required to file quarterly [form 990-W](#), Estimated Tax on Unrelated Business Taxable Income for Tax-Exempt Organizations.

Florida requires exempt organizations that solicit funds (other than membership dues) to file [form 10100](#) annually, one year from the date of their initial date of compliance with F.S. 496, with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs.

[Professional solicitors](#) and [Professional Fundraising Consultants](#) must also register before conducting activities within the state. Filing fees are based upon gross revenues.

To determine the status of your exempt organization, go to Florida's Gift Givers Guide, <https://csapp.800helpfla.com/cspublicapp/giftgiversquery/giftgiversquery.aspx>.

Unincorporated exempt organizations must [register their Fictitious Name](#) with the Florida Secretary of State, and [renew this registration](#) every five years.

Incorporated exempt organizations must [register their corporate status](#) with the Florida Secretary of State, and [renew \(updating their officers, etc.\)](#) annually, before May 1.

While the Florida Secretary of State requires payment of fees at filing, penalties for late filing are not imposed upon exempt organizations. To determine the status of your exempt organization, go to www.sunbiz.org

St. Johns County has a [local business tax](#) that may be levied on exempt organizations having [electronic games](#) or other significant

assets. Tax is due on September 30.



**IRS has updated the Charities & Non-Profits tab on their website,
www.irs.gov**

A new online search tool allows users to select an exempt organization and check certain information about its federal tax status and filings.

Exempt Organizations Select Check is an on-line search tool that allows users to select an exempt organization and check certain information about its federal tax status and filings. It consolidates three former search sites into one, providing expanded search capability and a more efficient way to search for organizations that:

1. Are eligible to receive tax-deductible charitable contributions (Publication 78 data),
2. Have had their tax-exempt status automatically revoked because they have not filed Form 990 series returns or notices annually as required for three consecutive years (Auto-Revocation List), or
3. Have filed a Form 990-N annual electronic notice (e-Postcard).

Beginning in February 2012, Exempt Organizations Select Check data will generally be updated on the third Monday of each month for automatically revoked organizations and organizations eligible to receive deductible contributions, and weekly for Form 990-N (e-Postcard) filings. In addition to searching for a particular organization, users may download a complete list of each of the three types of organizations through Exempt Organizations Select Check.

Treasurers' & officers of all exempt organizations should go to <http://apps.irs.gov/app/eos/> to verify items 1 and 3, and that their organization has not had their tax-exempt status revoked. After clicking on the above link, click on each button (described in 1, 2 & 3 above) to search for your organization. Ideally, 1 & 3 should report your exempt organization, and 2 should fail.

Search criteria include the Federal Employer's Identification Number (FEIN), Name, City, State, Country and deductibility status—most should be "PC" for Public Charity. Click on the highlighted field name for a definition of that field's data.

For technical questions about filing your 990-N return electronically, call the IRS e-Help Desk at:
1-866-255-0654.

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.



Wreath Across America update St. Augustine National Cemetery

www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org

In 2007, the Worcester family, along with veterans, and others who had helped with their annual Christmas wreath ceremony in Arlington, formed Wreaths Across America™, to continue and expand this effort, and support other groups around the country who wanted to do the same. This nonprofit organization continues the Arlington tradition, as part of its mission to Remember, Honor and Teach.



In 2011, Wreaths Across America and our national network of volunteers laid over 320,000 memorial wreaths at 741 locations in the United States and beyond. They accomplished this with help from 1185 fundraising groups, corporate contributions, and donations of trucking, shipping, and thousands of helping hands. Our annual pilgrimage from Harrington, Maine to Arlington National Cemetery is known as the world's largest veteran's parade, stopping at schools, monuments, veteran's homes and communities all along the way to remind people how important it is to Remember, Honor and Teach.



Precedes that place a wreath at one of the many participating cemeteries, help support fundraising partners, educational and veteran's services outreach. The Wreaths Across America program is a 501 (c) (3) exempt non-profit Maine corporation and your contribution is fully tax deductible.



This year's local Wreaths Across America program is being conducted and sponsored by The Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc. We welcome all to join us at our local event here at the St. Augustine National Cemetery on **Saturday December 15, 2012** at noon. The Wreaths Across America location leader is Mr. Daniel Blackman and he can be reached at (904) 669-6423 or sgm500@gmail.com. If you would like to participate or sponsor a fresh evergreens wreaths at this location we would be most grateful. To sponsor a Wreath please go to www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org or call for a sponsor form from one of our many supporters.

References for Veterans

(taken from e-florida News, FL Dept. of Veterans Affairs)

Florida Veterans' Benefits Guide: www.FloridaVets.org -- then click on "Benefits Guide"

Federal Benefits for Veterans & Dependents Guide: http://www1.va.gov/OPA/publications/benefits_book.asp

Florida Veterans Foundation: www.FloridaVeteransFoundation.org

Employ Florida Vets, veteran employment resources: <http://veterans.employflorida.com/portals/veteran/>

Florida's Veteran Service Organizations: www.floridavets.org/organization/commanders.asp

Florida Department of Military Affairs: <http://dma.myflorida.com/>

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA): www.va.gov

Returning OEF/OIF/OND Veterans (VA): <http://www.oefoif.va.gov/>

National Resource Directory - for wounded warriors: <http://www.nationalresourcedirectory.gov/>

Post-9/11 G.I. Bill and Veteran Education Benefits: www.gibill.va.gov

National VA Homeless Hotline - 24 Hour: Toll Free at 1-877-424-3838

Veterans Crisis Line - 24 Hour: Toll Free at 1-800-273-8255, Press 1, www.mentalhealth.va.gov

Social Security Administration: www.socialsecurity.gov

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve: www.esgr.mil

Florida Veterans' Business Assistance: www.floridasbdc.com, www.fptac.org

Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses: www.osd.dms.state.fl.us

Center for Women Veterans: <http://www1.va.gov/womenvet/>



St. Johns County Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley led the veterans into Chambers and can be seen on the extreme left, (see arrow) although only his face is visible.

Representatives from major veteran service organizations lead the Florida House of Representatives in the Pledge of Allegiance during the opening day of the 2012 Legislative Session in Tallahassee, Jan. 9, 2012. *Courtesy photo.*