

The Patriot Reader

VETERANS COUNCIL OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY

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Newsletter Editor Michael Rothfeld



Volume 1, Issue 7

Newsletter Date: June, 2012

Message from the Chairman



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Fellow Veterans

The evening of June 9 was an incredible evening. For those who attended this years Battle of Midway Commemorative Dinner had the opportunity to witness some of this nations greatest living heroes. This year we were fortunate to have 16 Battle of Midway Veterans attend along with 4 Midway Veterans widows. Medal of Honor recipient Robert Ingram was again our special guest as was 12 former POW's, 17 Wounded Warriors and numerous other Veterans from the Battle of Normandy. The event also recognized Veterans from the Korean War, Vietnam War, and the current Global War on Terrorism.

The guest speaker for the evenings event was Admiral Mark Ferguson, Vice Chief of Naval Operations. His message discussed the similarities between the bravery displayed by these special Veterans during the Battle of Midway to the heroics of the servicemen and women now serving in conflicts abroad. Admiral Ferguson also provided a "State of the Navy" by providing an overview of the current operations and how our brave warriors are doing more with

less and continue to bring the fight to the enemy. Following Admiral Ferguson's remarks, a special gift was presented to each Battle of Midway Veteran by the Admiral as Master of Ceremonies Arthur Crofton read aloud their bios. It was a very moving occasion.

Following the Admirals keynote speech and the Battle of Midway Veterans awards, the POW's were recognized as Arthur Crofton read each ones harrowing experience as a captive and internment in a POW camp. Each POW Veteran received a thunderous standing ovation from the 831 attendees as their months and years in captivity were told by our Master of Ceremonies.

Other Veterans including our Wounded Warriors were recognized for their service and all were applauded appreciatively by those attending.

The pageantry and attendance is unmatched anywhere in the country in honoring our Battle of Midway Veterans. The Navy League Council at Mayport is in its 15th year of celebrating and honoring these Veterans. This being the 70th anniversary of the turning point battle of the Pacific, it was a very special occasion.

As I have become personally acquainted with many of these BOM Vets, each of them have told me this is the highlight of their year and they look forward to it with anticipation all year.

This year for the first time we had an essay contest with JROTC and Sea Cadets participating. The first place winner from the Sea Cadets was PO3 Luke Mahan from the St. Augustine Battalion, NSCC . First place winner from the JROTC was Cadet Nicole Thatcher, NJROTC- Nease High School. Each cadet received a \$1000 scholarship.

Another highlight of the evening was young 12 year old Faith Miller as she sang " You Are Our Heroes" to our Veterans and at the conclusion of the evening, she sang Lee Greenwoods " God Bless The USA" accompanied by a male vocalist and the Southeast Region Navy Band.

Many pictures of the evenings event are on the second page of the newsletter

Bill Dudley, Chairman
Veterans Council of St. Johns
County



Special Points of Interest

- Korean War
- Jacksonville Ladies
- Tim Chiu, Marine
- Vets 4 Vets
- Veterans History Project
- Pentagon Channel

The 70th Anniversary of the Battle of Midway Dinner

June 9, 2012 Renaissance Resort Hotel



Photos by Rick Rees, SJC VSO and Michael Rothfeld



Christopher Thompson, CFP®, CRPC®
Vice President - Investment Officer
1000 Sawgrass Village Dr., Suite 103

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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

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Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home Earth Day Tree Planting



April brought us both Earth Day and Arbor Day. Two active duty sailors, LSC Luis Moreno and AOC Steve Leonard, helped the residents celebrate by planting a tree out front. The residents selected a lemon tree in hopes of one day having lemonade. Prior to the tree being placed in the ground, our own Dorothy Claeboe placed a box containing the names of all the residents present at the ceremony underneath the tree. Each resident attending took turns throwing in a handful of dirt. Thank you to The VP10 Chiefs Mess for the donation of the tree and for helping us to get it planted!



Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home Veterans celebrate with the Navy Band

Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans' Nursing Home celebrated National Nursing Home Week in May. This week is set aside every year to celebrate who we serve. Clyde E. Lassen continued with the annual tradition of celebrating this week through competition. The Veterans, staff and families of the Alpha Houses had to defend last year's champion title against the Delta Houses' team. The Delta Houses' Veterans, staff and families pulled it out in the end and won this year's title of National Nursing Home Week Champion. Each day had different all day events, which included trivia, scavenger hunts and navigating a sports course. We even had an all day bingo event where our Veterans joined Glenmoor's residents at their facility for bingo then welcomed them here to our facility after lunch. The winner was announced on Friday at our fabulous cookout provided by the Vietnam Veterans of America. The Navy Dixieland Band provided the afternoon entertainment and closed out our fun week, especially for our dancers!



State Veterans' Home Receives National Honor

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla. – The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs (FDVA) held a public ceremony honoring the designation of the Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans' Nursing Home as a LEED Gold certified building by the U.S. Green Building Council. The plaque installation ceremony was held Wednesday, June 13 at the 120-bed skilled nursing facility in St. Augustine, Fla.

The 95,500 square foot veterans' home, which opened in September 2010, incorporates extensive landscaping, recycled materials in its construction and uses less water and energy than conventionally designed facilities. It is also a tobacco free campus for residents, staff and visitors.

What: Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certification ceremony, Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans' Nursing Home

Who: Mike Prendergast, Executive Director, Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs
Diane King, Administrator, Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans' Nursing Home

When: Wednesday, June 13, 2012, 2:00 p.m.





SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

APR 17 2012

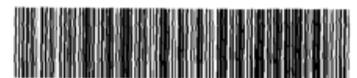
MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
CHIEFS OF THE MILITARY SERVICES
COMMANDANT OF THE COAST GUARD
COMMANDERS OF THE COMBATANT COMMANDS
CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU
GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
DEFENSE
ASSISTANT SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR, ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT
DIRECTORS OF THE DEFENSE AGENCIES
DIRECTORS OF THE DOD FIELD ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: Establishment of Uniform Military Funeral Flag Presentation Verbiage

Effective immediately, flag presentation verbiage for military funeral honors ceremonies conducted by the Department of Defense will be standardized. The following verbiage will be used when presenting the American flag during the funeral service:

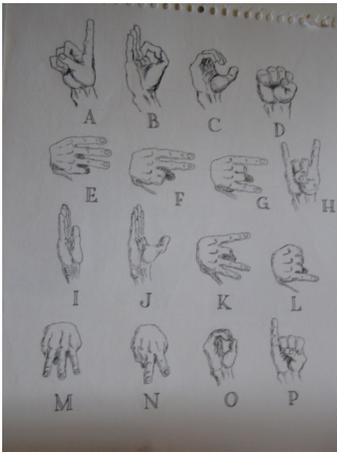
“On behalf of the President of the United States, (the United States Army; the United States Marine Corps; the United States Navy; or the United States Air Force), and a grateful Nation, please accept this flag as a symbol of our appreciation for your loved one’s honorable and faithful service.”

The Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness will ensure that this guidance is incorporated in the next revision of Department of Defense Instruction 1300.15, “Military Funeral Support.” The United States Coast Guard is invited to use the same verbiage.



OSD002918-12

Florida Programs & Projects, Inc. (FVPPI) is proud to announce that its documentary, *Prisoners of War: Stolen Freedom* has been selected to be broadcast on the Pentagon Channel. We will let everyone know broadcast dates as soon as we are notified.



(Illustrations by Giles Norrington)



DAV Chapter 6 Installs New Officers

Disabled American Veterans Chapter 6 recently installed their new Chapter Officers for 2012-2013. The new slate of Officers include: Commander - A.J. Sartin, Adjutant - Art DuBois, Senior Vice – Judy Davis, Junior Vice – Shawn Prentiss, Treasurer – Ben Meggitt, Officer of the Day – Joe McDermott and Chaplain – William Tatel. Installing Officer for the Installation was Michael Isam. DAV Chapter 6 meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at the St. Augustine South Clubhouse at 7 pm. New members are welcome to attend for further information contact Commander A.J. Sartin at 904-824-3833, FloridaDude@bellsouth.net



Michael Isam, (right) congratulating new Commander A.J. Sartin

Submitted by:
 Judy Davis
 160 Laguna Court, St.
 Augustine FL 32086
 Cell – 814-4284
 Home – 797-2686



L to R: Bill Tatel, Joe McDermott, Ben Meggitt, Art DuBois, Shawn Prentiss, Judy Davis, A. J. Sartin and Michael Isam



Veterans' Nursing Homes of Florida

Any person interested in residency can be referred through a [VA Medical Center](#). Candidates must be veterans with qualifying war or peacetime service, be a resident of Florida for one year immediately prior to applying for admission and must require long-term care in a skilled nursing facility. For [admission information](#) you may contact the nearest [County Veterans Service Office](#) or [FDVA Service Office](#). Veterans with service-connected disabilities or veterans unable to afford nursing home care will be considered first for residency. You are welcome to contact the Admissions Coordinator for the Home in which you are interested for additional information. Tours are always available.

Purpose:

To provide skilled or intermediate type nursing care and related medical care in VA or private nursing homes for convalescents or persons who are not acutely ill and not in need of [hospital care](#).

Admissions Criteria:

[The State Veterans' Nursing Home at Daytona Beach, Land O' Lakes, Pembroke Pines, Port Charlotte, Springfield and St. Augustine have the following general admissions criteria.](#)

The veteran must be:

- (1) a veteran as determined under Chapter 1.01 (14), Florida Statutes.
- (2) a resident of Florida and have been a resident for one year prior to application.
- (3) in need of nursing home care for a condition which requires services which fall within the level of care for which the home has resources and functional ability to provide.



St. Johns County
Public Library System

The St. Johns County Public Library System has partnered with the Library of Congress's Veterans History Project. They are looking for volunteers willing to conduct audio or video interviews with veterans. If you are interested in participating in this effort to preserve the stories of our local heroes, please contact Amy Ackerman @ 904-827-6960, aackerman@sjcfl.us at the Bartram Trail Library or Mikki Sampo @ 904-827-6940, msampo@sjcfl.us at the Main Library.

*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



Drake's raid of St. Augustine

**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:

The Pentagon Channel:

<http://www.pentagonchannel.mil/>

All VA Forms online:

www.va.gov/vaforms

All VA Benefits by subject and alpha:

www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/benefits

VA Benefit Fact Sheets:

www.vba.va.gov/VBA/benefits/factsheets/index.asp

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

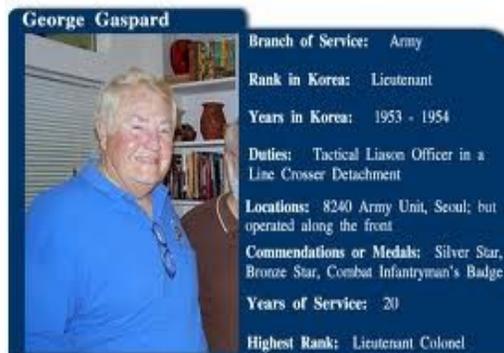
Rick Rees, Assistant VSO

Heather Andrews, Assistant VSO

Tammy Shirley, Office Specialist

Before & After, George Gaspard

Col. Gaspard served his country for 23 years. He fought in Okinawa as a Marine in 1944, he served in Korea from 1953-1954, and in Vietnam from 1962-1972.



Col. Gaspard was made a Distinguished Member of the Regiment, US Army Special Forces in 2010 and is also in the Fort Benning Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame. George Gaspard currently lives in St. Johns.

Hello All: As we move towards building a second home in St. Johns County for one of our wounded warriors (Gunny John Hayes next door to Tyler Southern's home) Homes for Our Troops has announced an expansion of their tremendous support to returning injured veterans and their families. I would encourage everyone to get the word out on this new program.

Thank You, Michael Pullium

Homes for Our Troops - "Home Award Program"

Dear HFOT Families, Friends, and Supporters,

We are excited to tell you about an expansion to Homes for Our Troops mission. We have recently added a "Home Award Program" that will allow us to provide the "American Dream" of home ownership to a broader population of deserving Americans; our nation's **wounded and injured Veterans** and to the **spouses of our fallen service members**, completely mortgage-free.

As an organization, we feel as though our nation's Veterans, especially the wounded and injured and Gold Star families have paid enough through their service and sacrifice and it's time for us to give back. We give back by providing mortgage-free homes to our deserving military families that would not normally qualify for our original "Specially Adapted Home Program."

Homes for Our Troops will soon begin receiving donations of homes that are currently owned by national banks. These top-quality homes are in move-in condition and located throughout the country. The banks want to donate these homes to HFOT for Veterans and their families, mortgage-free! We would like to help as many applicants as possible and need your help in disseminating this word. Please share this email with anyone you know that could potentially qualify for the Home Award Program.

Basic Qualification Criteria

- You are a Veteran that sustained injuries during combat or while deployed in support of combat operations after September 11, 2001.
- You are Widow/Widower or dependent of a service member due to injuries sustained in combat or while deployed in support of combat operations after September 11, 2001.
- You plan to make your new "HFOT Home Award" home your primary residence for a minimum of three years.
- You accept the responsibility of home ownership and have the resources to maintain a home. (ongoing maintenance and upkeep, taxes, utilities etc.)

Potential Home Award Candidates: Please fill out the open application using the link above and provide the required documentation to start the application process. The open application gives you the opportunity to become pre-qualified for a "Home Award Program" home by the selection committee. When we receive notification from our banking partners that a home becomes available that fits the criteria you specify, we will send you an email notification with all the information on the home(s). You will then have seven (7) calendar days to notify Homes for Our Troops if you want one of the homes on the list.

I am sure you may have some questions about this program; please feel free to visit our web site, www.homesforourtroops.org/homeaward or to contact us at HAP@homesforourtroops.org.

Thank you for your continued support of the Homes for Our Troops mission, we look forward to being able to provide more Veterans and their families the "American Dream" of home ownership through our "Home Award Program."

HOME AWARD PROGRAM CONTACT INFO

Carlo Gaita

Home Award Program Manager

Cheryl Wick

Program Support Representative

Email: HAP@homesforourtroops.org.

Phone: 508-823-3300





From Jim Vanairsdale, LTC USMC, ret.

June marks the 62nd anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War, a three-year conflict that claimed 4 million lives, over 36,000 of them American. Their selflessness and sacrifices have gone unnoticed for too long.



No time between June of 1950 and July of 1953 was a "good" time to serve in the Korean War. Combat veterans who fought in the deadly outpost wars in 1953, who dug in to hold strategic hills in 1952, who chased the Communist enemy back north in 1951, and who held perimeters in the early days of the war in 1950 - each had to endure their own unique hardships, as well as fight overwhelming numbers of enemy troops. The entire Korean War was a series of cold, bloody and forgotten events and battles that claimed many lives. To this day, not all of our war dead and missing have been returned.

In February of this year, I travelled to the Marine Expo West held in Camp Pendleton and while there visited a booth hosted by the Department of Defense 60th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee. Since last year, events have been held by "KW60" in many states to thank and honor all the Veterans of the Korean War. Also under this program, Korean War Veterans can register to receive a personalized Certificate of Appreciation signed by the United States Secretary of Defense. Locally, veterans registered and their service was honored at recent gatherings.

Please disseminate the "KW60" information so that those who served during this "Forgotten War" can be given honorable recognition for their service. The veteran is a relative, a friend, a neighbor or someone you meet at the grocery store. So when you meet them, be glad that you are privileged to live in this Country and proud to be an American. Our military is the reason we have this amazing Country in which we live. They will always be the reason.



KOREAN WAR

On June 25, 1950, North Korea launched a surprise attack as its troops crossed the 38th parallel and invaded the Republic of Korea and the United Nations Security Council unanimously condemned this invasion.

This action of aggression ignited an epic struggle between the forces of freedom and democracy and tyranny and despotism. On, June 27, 1950, the Security Council recommended member states provide military assistance to the Republic of Korea. The same day, President Harry S. Truman ordered U.S. air and sea forces to help the South Korean régime announcing that the U.S. would counter "unprovoked aggression" and "vigorously support the effort of the Security Council to terminate this serious breach of peace." In 1948, President Truman had already signed an Executive Order securing the full integration of America's Armed Services. Thus, America went to war in Korea for the first time in her history with a military that reflected her diversity.

The Korean War was the first test of the United Nations' resolve to stand against tyranny in all its forms. Many Nations banded together with the United States and South Korea in a remarkable display of solidarity to turn back naked aggression and stem the tide of communism.

The goal of the Chinese and North Koreans was to completely annihilate their enemy. They failed in their mission. Instead, allied troops displayed great tenacity and determination as they fought their way causing tremendous enemy casualties in the process. Amazing feats of accomplishment and endurance took place. Against overwhelming odds, including massive numbers of enemy and extreme cold temperatures, allied participants succeeded in avoiding annihilation by fighting their way out of deadly traps set by the Communist enemy. Meanwhile, thousands of U.S. Navy personnel miles away at sea were involved in close air support efforts for the ground

forces. As one Navy veteran commented, "I did not have anyone shooting at me, but I assure you it was just as cold 25 miles out to sea as it was in the hills and valleys of Korea."



In the United States, the war was initially described by President Harry S. Truman as a "police action". It has been referred to in the United States as "The Forgotten War" or "The Unknown War" because the issues concerned were much less clear than in other conflicts, such as WW II and the Vietnam War.

The Korean War was a victory for the United States and the United Nations. The Armistice ending the war was signed on July 27, 1953, and remains in effect today to remind us that we must remain vigilant against the forces of tyranny and oppression.

We must never forget the selfless sacrifices of those who fight to ensure the freedom and prosperity we enjoy today. Our troops set aside their own comfort, safety and aspirations to answer the call to arms, and at a time when our Nation was still exhausted from the horrors of World War II. The Korean people know that their survival and subsequent prosperity is nothing shy of a miracle, and they have never forgotten that if American President Harry S. Truman had not made the decision to send American soldiers when the Korean War broke out, the Republic of Korea might not even exist today. Today the Republic of Korea stands as a modern, prosperous, vibrant democracy because of the courage and selfless sacrifices of our Military. Their spirit is alive and strong. They shall not be forgotten nor was their death in vain.

KOREAN WAR COMMEMORATION

In the 2011 Defense Authorization Bill, the Department of Defense 60th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee was authorized. The goal of this Committee is to thank and honor Korean War Veterans for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States, including members of the Armed Forces who were held as prisoners of war or listed as missing in action, and to pay tribute to the sacrifices and contributions made on the home front by the people of the United States - their families and especially those who lost loved ones in that war. Another goal is to commemorate the key events of the war and educate Americans of all ages about the historical significance of the Korean War. Organizations all across the Nation can be part of this effort to pay tribute to these heroes.

<<http://koreanwar.defense.gov/>> <http://koreanwar.defense.gov> View events that have been hosted and sponsored by KW60. <<http://koreanwar.defense.gov/photos.html>> <http://koreanwar.defense.gov/photos.html>

AN OFFICIAL DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION IS AVAILABLE.

First and last name, rank and branch of service is recognized on the form.

<<http://koreanwar.defense.gov/recognition.html>>; <http://koreanwar.defense.gov/recognition.html>

If you are on a timeline, order the certificate at least four weeks before it is needed. The earlier the certificate is requested, the better chance it arrives by needed date.

If you would like to share a story about Korean War service, please go to

<<http://koreanwar.defense.gov/histories.html>>; <http://koreanwar.defense.gov/histories.html>

Visit other Korean War Websites

<http://koreanwar.defense.gov/other_sites.html>; http://koreanwar.defense.gov/other_sites.html

"Our military, regardless of their age, rank or race answer to an ideal fostered by the values which they interpret within themselves as American Citizens. Our military defend that which they love. They may not know to what extent but sense it is the right thing to do. They are volunteers to this cause like many before and after them who sacrifice for the cause of freedom not only within our Country's shores but on the shores of foreign lands."

Thank you to our military and God bless America.

St. John's County Veterans Service Office Staff Attends 61st Annual Training Conference



VSO Staff (L to R) Rick Rees, Heather Andrews, Joseph McDermott

Pictured from left to right are Assistant County Veteran Service Officers Rick Rees and Heather Andrews accompanied by their boss, County Veteran Services Officer, Joseph (Mac) D. McDermott.

The staff attends the conference conducted by the Florida State Department of Veterans Affairs each year in order to get updated information regarding veteran benefits and to complete individual testing to recertify as Veteran Service Officers. This also provides the staff with the opportunity to hear and address high level Managers

and Directors who attend the conference to brief the VSO's about the changing environment within

the VA's benefits department.

The conference was held in Cocoa Beach Florida from May 6 to May 10 and the ceremony included a banquet which was held at the Hilton Cocoa Beach Ocean Front Hotel. The banquet included a presentation to honor all MIA's & POW's. The ceremony was conducted by the following VSO's and Assistant VSO's from throughout the different counties in the state of Florida.



MIA/POW Presenters (L to R) David Lockhart Lee County; David Rockow Charlotte County; Herschel Allen Duval County; Edgardo Silva Clay County; Fred Harrop Sumter County; Peggy Ricciuto Monroe

From Michael Isam



For daily and up to date news and events that affect veterans go to:

Veterans Today - <http://s11.zetaboards.com/CFLNewsChat/forum/27519/> and

North Florida Veterans Forum - <http://anyveteran.org/smf/index.php>

Are you a veteran? Do you need a job?

Every week, a new list of available jobs are posted to

FL Jobs for Veterans - <http://s11.zetaboards.com/CFLNewsChat/forum/3008165/>

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.



GUARDIAN ANGELS MEDICAL SERVICE DOGS PARTNER WITH VA HOSPITAL TO HELP PTSD VETERANS



Guardian Angels Medical Service Dogs, Inc. is partnered with the federal government to provide highly trained, federally protected service dogs to the Veteran's Administration (VA) in a pilot program examining the impacts that service dogs have on veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). These dogs are trained to mitigate the challenges of PTSD.

With an estimated 400,000 veterans currently in treatment for PTSD, 40,000 of them with other disabling injuries (according to the US Department of Defense) and an additional 33% of our soldiers are expected to return with PTSD, addressing the mental and physical health needs of these veterans can be an overwhelming challenge for both the veteran and their caregivers. Just in this group of veterans alone, there are 39 suicide attempts on a daily basis with 18 – 22 resulting in death.

Service dogs have long been paired with the physically disabled to restore independence to recipients. The current study, led by medical personnel from the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital of Tampa, Florida, is expected to officially quantify the specific benefits that service dogs afford veterans with PTSD.

During the two-year study, up to 230 qualified Veterans currently in treatment for PTSD will be permanently paired with highly skilled service dogs custom trained to assist with their individual challenges. Veterans will assume responsibility for their service dogs' daily care during the study period and beyond. At the end of the study, the results will determine at what level service dogs mitigate issues that PTSD veterans face on a daily basis. If the results document significant benefits – as anticipated – it will pave the way for veterans across the country to also receive a service dog and have their lives restored.

While this is not a cure, the results have been nearly immediate and amazing in the Veterans that have been paired with their service dogs so far. Where medications and therapy have not been enough, these dogs seem to be the missing link in restoring the broken lives of our veterans and their families.

Guardian Angels Medical Service Dogs, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization located in Williston, Florida that trains highly skilled medical service dogs to assist the mentally and physically disabled with everyday tasks that they would otherwise not be able to do without a caregiver. There are no federal grants for the work we do, nor does insurance cover medical service dogs. We can only continue to help these people through corporate sponsors, private grants and fundraisers.

For more information, visit our website at: www.medicalservicedogs.com or call 352-425-1981 or email carol@MedicalServiceDogs.com

Guardian Angel Service Dogs



The Jacksonville Ladies of the Jacksonville National Cemetery

In September of 2008, a new volunteer service was formed for the Jacksonville National Cemetery. At the Dedication Ceremony the Jacksonville National Cemetery Advisory 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 participated in the first internments that began in 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 are 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 is represented to honor and attend each Veterans service at the cemetery as requested by the family. A condolence card is presented to the families and the Jacksonville Ladies 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 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.

The first service may begin as early as 8:30 a.m. and services can take place every thirty minutes with the last service ending by 2:30 p.m. from Monday through 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 wear a uniform consisting of a navy blue suit with a patriotic collar or flag pin and a Jacksonville Ladies nametag at all services and events so they can be clearly identified. Volunteers demonstrate a sincere desire to support Veterans and their families, and exhibit a willingness to honor those who have served this nation.

The Jacksonville National Cemetery is located north of the Jacksonville International Airport at 4083 Lannie Road in Jacksonville, FL and is just a few miles off of I-295 and Lem Turner Road. For service information contact the office 766-5222. For information about the Jacksonville Ladies contact Chairman, Gail Williams, 2759 Ravine Hill Drive, Middleburg, FL 32068-1707. Gail can be reached by phone at 904-291-0604 or send an email to MGCWILLIAMS@aol.com with "The Jacksonville Ladies" as the subject.





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

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™**

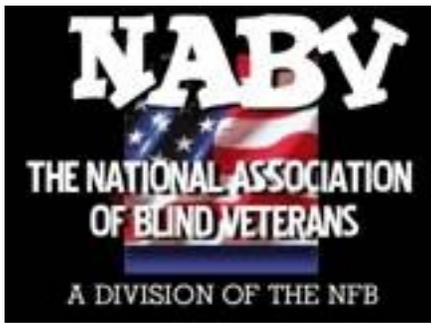
**Mail check and form to: c/o Daniel Blackman (WAA), St. Johns County Veterans Service Office
P.O. Box 2117, St. Augustine, FL 32085-2117**

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.



**Announcement about the NABV National Meeting ON Sunday
July 1, 2012 in Dallas**

Attention All Interested In Veterans Issues!
Guest Speaker Announcement.

The National Association of Blind Veterans will hold it's annual meeting in Dallas Texas at the Anatole Hilton Hotel on Sunday Night July 1, 2012 at 7PM thru 10PM (1900 - 2200) Fleur de leis A room.

Our guest speaker will be Michael Hingson author of the Best Selling book Thunder Dog. Here is a little about Michael:

When the World Trade Center was attacked on 9-11, it was as though the world stood still. It was a day that captured our full attention. Michael Hingson and his Guide Dog Roselle were on the 78th floor of Tower One that day, and were able to make their way to safety and survive the attack. The duo was immediately thrust into the international spotlight, becoming well-known representatives of the strength of the human/animal bond and a living example of the powerful partnership that exists between a blind person and their Guide Dog. In 2002 Michael joined the Guide Dogs for the Blind team as the National Public Affairs director, to share his story throughout the world on behalf of the school. In June of 2008 Michael left Guide Dogs to form The Michael Hingson Group to continue his speaking career as well as to serve as a consultant for corporations and organizations that need assistance with Inclusive and Diversity training as well as adaptive technology training.

Michael Hingson is available for speaking engagements, public appearances, consulting and training contract positions and media interviews.
In his own words:

I lived through the 9-11 tragedy and have much to say about my experiences leading up to and escaping from the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center. Since that day, I've traveled the world with Roselle and her successors; at first to help people heal and hope, and now, to help them find meaning and purpose. As a blind person living in today's world I want people to see that while there are many different kinds of people, each with their own different gifts, we all can live and work together if we choose to open our minds and hearts and become a more inclusive world. There are positive lessons to be learned from every tragedy, and 9-11 is certainly no exception.

Because I am blind, I have a unique perspective. Because I believe in the power of partnering with my Guide Dog, I can speak from the heart about teamwork and trust. I've been a guest numerous times on Larry King Live, have been interviewed on Regis and Kelly, and have appeared on the CBS Morning Show. Come meet and hear Michael as he engages all our fantastic veterans.

Dwight D. Sayer

President

PO Box 784957

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Once a Marine, always a Marine. And you don't have to be a U.S. Marine.

Tim Chiu died Saturday, May 12th at 77 of leukemia. He was the owner of A1A Hardware in St. Augustine, an associate member of the Marine Corps League, the Kiwanis Club and a man whose American dream came true.

"He came from nothing," his daughter Dorothy Chiu said. She knows from visiting the home in Taiwan where her father was born and raised as Chiu Yao Tyng.

"A family of five in a 10-by-10 room," she said. "It really humbles you and makes you appreciate what you have here."

When Tim Chiu was 18, his father died and he became head of the household that was compressed into that tiny living area, his son Harold said.

His concern became making sure his brothers, sisters and mother were clothed and fed and that he did all he could to keep that meager roof over their heads. He served five years in the Republic of China (Taiwan) Marines and was on Quemoy Island when the Red Chinese shelled it during the second Strait of Taiwan Crisis. The free Chinese returned fire, but suffered far more casualties. America was officially hands-off, but the 7th Fleet patrolled the strait in case the Red Chinese thought of invading.

Tim Chiu studied at the University of London, where he met his wife, Jolande, and they ultimately came to America and became citizens. Although his father was well educated, Harold Chiu said, he always was entrepreneurial and wanted to try something on his own.

That's how a man with a PhD in chemical engineering came to own a hardware store in St. Augustine. When his friend, retired Marine Lt. Col. Jim Vanairsdale, asked why he wasn't in the Middle East making tons of money, Chiu replied, "Money isn't everything."

He was a hands-on, do-it-yourself kind of man, with a generous and kind nature, said the people who knew him. Some spoke of the sweetness of watching Tim and Jolande Chiu taking their daily walks hand-in-hand.

When he got sick about six months ago, his friends gathered around him. Vanairsdale had asked Tim Chiu about wearing his old ROC Marine uniform to a Marine Corps League meeting so everyone could see it. But Chiu said when he left the service, he had to turn in his shirt, his socks, his underwear, everything.

"His wife said he was so poor, he couldn't even afford to have his picture taken in it," Vanairsdale said. "I said I didn't think that was right."

So Vanairsdale set about correcting it. He contacted the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in Washington, where attache Gary Chao asked for more information. One question showed his eagerness to help a hero of his country.

"What can we do to help Mr. Chiu Yao Tyng? Like providing military uniforms, insignia, etc.?" he asked in an email.

When Vanairsdale had provided all the information, Chao said he was sending the uniform and some other "stuff." Among that stuff was a US-ROC Mutual Defense Commemorative Badge.

Once he got the uniform about a month ago, Tim Chiu put it on for his U.S. Marine friends.

"I haven't seen him that excited in awhile," Dorothy Chiu said.

He also posed in it for a photo with his wife and two of his three children. The Chius' third, daughter Felicia Lo, lives in Alexandria, Va.



Provided by Jim Vanairsdale
Tim Chiu sits in a wheelchair in front of a Taiwanese flag wearing a Republic of China Marine uniform. With Chiu are his son Harold Chiu, wife, Jolande Chiu, and daughter Dorothy Chiu.



Tim Chiu & Marine Corps League of St. Augustine

"He really liked that uniform," Harold Chiu said. "He understood the effort to get it."

His father knew about effort, always did what he said he would and taught his children the value of hard work.

"He set the bar high," Harold Chiu said. "When I accomplish something, I sometimes quietly say, 'Thank you, father.'"

The next stop in his accomplished life is at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., where he'll work as a project manager in biomedical engineering.

We all owe him thanks for what he did in Taiwan and in America.

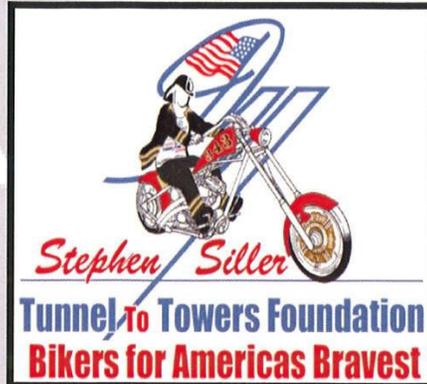
It seems the ROC Marines and U.S. Marines have more in common than just a name. Spelled phonetically, the motto of the ROC Marines is "Shizhong zhongshi."

In English, that's "always faithful," or, as our Marines say, Semper Fi.

Building for America's Bravest

SAVE THE DATE

HELP THE STEPHEN SILLER
TUNNEL TO TOWER
FOUNDATION
AND THE
GARY SINISE FOUNDATION
"BUILDING FOR
AMERICA'S BRAVEST"



All proceeds from this run will help build a smart home for our local hero, triple amputee Cpl Todd Love, USMC



Rolling Thunder
Chapter 4 Florida
Is Hosting a

"Bikers for America's Bravest"
343 Run-Jacksonville FL

Run on September 8th, 2012

Registration kicks off at 9:11 AM

For more details go to www.tunneltotowers.org
Contact Mitch 904-614-1024 or Lee 904-838-8309

Tunnel to Towers Foundation and the Gary Sinise Foundation is a 501 (c)3



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9/28/2012



2nd Annual Charity Golf Tournament

September 28, 2012

8:30 am Shotgun Start

Shamble Format

Two Better Balls

Awards Luncheon & Raffle

Tom Heilman
Registration Chairman
174 Laterra Links Circle,
102 St. Augustine 32092
904-940-6914



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.