

# The Patriot Reader

## VETERANS COUNCIL OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY

**CHAIRMAN BILL DUDLEY**

**VICE CHAIRMAN DAN BLACKMAN**

**SECRETARY GEORGE APRIL**

**TREASURER GEORGE MCCREA**

Newsletter Editor Michael Rothfeld



Volume 1, Issue 9

Newsletter Date: August, 2012

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### Message from the Chairman

Fellow Veterans,  
Friday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> was a very special day as four members of the Veterans Council traveled to James A. Haley Veteran's Hospital in Tampa to pay a special tribute to Lt. Ryan Timoney. Commissioner Mark Miner, VSO Joesph McDermott ( Mac ), Vice Chairman Dan Blackman and I were on hand to honor Lt. Timoney as he received the Purple Heart Award from Maj.Gen. Richard Stone, Deputy Surgeon General, US Army.

Lt. Timoney was severally injured in Afghanistan soon after arriving in country in April of this year. He survived but his Capt and another Lt were not as fortunate and were killed by a suicide bomber. Lt. Timoney received a severe head wound from a piece of shrapnel that also shattered his leg.

In the time honored tradition



of presenting the medal to Lt. Timoney, General Stone spoke about the history of the Purple Heart dating back to 1782 when President George Washington came up with the idea to honor all troops for "unusual gallantry" by presenting any soldier whose wartime conduct deserved distinction.

General Stone went on to explain how the medal has changed over the years to now be known as the Purple Heart and given to those who are injured or killed in combat. It is the oldest military decoration presently in use today.

On hand to witness the ceremony were scores of friends, family, classmates, hospital and military staff and fellow wounded warriors. Col. Al Carter, ( Ret ) USA and Deputy Exec Director, FDVA was also present to witness the ceremony and represent the FDVA office in Tallahassee.

The ceremony was very hum-



Photos by Matthew Marriott



bling and emotional, made even more so when Lt. Timoney made a gallant effort to thank all those who attended and to remember his fallen comrades who were killed when they were attacked by a suicide bomber in Tarin Kowt, Afghanistan. Although confined to a wheel chair, Lt. Timoney struggled to his feet and stood at ridged attention as the National Anthem was played at the beginning of the service.

Lt. Timoney has a long way to go in his recovery but he is making strong and steady progress. He will be returning to Walter Reed in a few weeks for some additional surgeries but the outlook is good for his recovery. Mac and I spoke to his parents, Greg and Diane Timoney and assured them we are available to assist the family with any needs they may have.

The pictures on the left were taken during the ceremony.

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



### Coquina Veterans by Commander Harry Manford

The Coquina Veterans featured National Guard Lt Col. William "Bill" Markham as their guest speaker for their July monthly meeting. Colonel Markham came to the meeting in full combat dress complete with combat equipment a current day foot soldier uses. He, in detail, explained and demonstrated each item's use and purpose. This demonstration of current day clothing and gear is in stark contrast to that used by WW II, Korean, and Vietnam vets. This comparison was the purpose of the meeting.

A combat warrior of today is much better equipped than those of an earlier time. That is not to say war today is easier as war anytime is an distasteful situation. There were many items of interest, and several pieces stood out. The helmet today is unique in it's design and features with the attachments of night vision and communication gear. Body armor designed to protect the upper torso is so improved. This armor has a "rip cord" feature so that in the event a soldier is wounded, it can be removed instantly by merely pulling on a strategically located rope. The clothing has a unique camo design and is made of quick drying material. Hand held weapons are designed to give a maximum of fire power yet not be overly heavy.



The required strength and physical stamina of the foot soldier today is astounding in that the weight of the fighting gear worn, a day backpack, ammo, and hand weapons easily tops 100 pounds. You should try strapping on a hundred pounds, run fifty yards, and then walk five miles to understand what our fighters go through today.

It was a hands-on meeting, and Colonel Markham did an outstanding job of presenting what goes on in Afghanistan today, and how our troops are handling it. Not only do our troops have to go about the business of staying 'alive,' they also must learn how to interact positively with the local people, their culture, customs, and way of life.

Afterwards, dozens of compliments and words of praise were given to Colonel Markham for his service to this Nation and his outstanding presentation. "They want him to come back!"



**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

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13 Nature Walk Parkway, Ste 103  
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904-687-1140

[WWW.FMPLLAW.COM](http://WWW.FMPLLAW.COM)



# Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home

*Patriotism is our motto at Clyde E. Lassen State*

*Veterans Nursing Home*

The residents of Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home started the month of July in patriotic style with their Independence Day Celebration. The music group "Antiques Roadshow" performed patriotic selections for the residents and their families while the staff and volunteers busied themselves making the snacks for the day. Carnival-type foods were enjoyed by all. Sno Cones, cotton candy, hot dogs, puff pastries and popcorn were a hit during the festivities.

The remainder of the month will bring even more celebrations. The Olympics Opening Ceremony will be celebrated by the residents and staff of the nursing home at the end of July. Then the residents themselves are going to participate in their own Olympics. Keep an eye out next month for the pictures of this fun event!



## Elks Host the Annual Homeless Stand-down for our Veterans

**St. Augustine Elks Lodge #829** for five years in a row have hosted the St. Johns County Veterans Service Office Homeless Stand-down to more than 200 participants annually. Allowing the VA and other government agencies to use the facility to provide assistance to these forgotten warriors while serving a warm meal, haircuts, and hot showers. Volunteers from the Elks Lodge prepare a hamburger luncheon each year for all participants.

Partnering with Veterans Organizations in St. Augustine the Lodge has been hailed as being an invaluable asset to the Veterans Community having received the Veterans Service Organization of Year Award in 2010 in appreciation of the Elks support of local Veterans activities. Living up to BPOE motto "Elks Care, Elks Share".



Elizabeth



Elks Color Guard



On the morning of May 12<sup>th</sup>, the roar of motorcycles could be heard in St. Augustine as the **Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association Florida Chapter 20-2's** annual poker run for the Clyde E. Lassen Veterans Nursing Home started. Gathering at the St. Augustine VFW Post for a wonderful breakfast, the riders were ready to help out the residents of the nursing home.

Pulling out from the VFW, the riders made stops at the St. Augustine AM-VETS, Hammock AMVETS, and Palm Coast VFW before arriving at their final stop at the Bunnell AMVETS for entertainment, raffles and fellowship. The winner of the poker run donated his winnings back to the event.

After totaling up the money from the event, CVMA FL Chapter 20-2 were able to donate \$1,255.00 to the resident's fund of Clyde E. Lassen Veterans Nursing Home. This fund allows the residents to buy the extras that they want or need that their normal fund wouldn't allow (go to a movie, have dinner out, personal supplies, etc.)



Nursing Home Director Diane King accepts check from CVMA XO Michael James

The members of CVMA FL Chapter 20-2 invites everyone to join the ride next year, you don't have to ride a motorcycle, come in your car and join us!

Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association Florida Chapter 20-2 is a 501(c) 19 not- for-profit charity made up of combat veterans (Full Members) who ride motorcycles as a hobby, non combat veterans (Support members) and spouses of Full Members (Auxiliary). Our mission is to welcome home veterans, provide support and to assist veterans.

Local officers are Wesley Roberts – Commander, Michael James – XO, Albert Neumann – Secretary, Kyra Rose – Treasurer, Fred Morgan, Jr – Sergeant-At-Arms and AJ Sartin – Public Relations. Our website is [www.CVMA20-2.com](http://www.CVMA20-2.com)



Photos by Rick Rees, SJC VSO & Michael Rothfeld

## New Wheels to Transport Veterans By Michael Isam

“It takes a village to care for our veterans,” said Joseph McDermott, Senior Veteran Service Officer for St. Johns County as he received the keys to a brand new 9-passenger Ford van. The van is part of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Transportation system to transport veterans from the St. Augustine VA clinic to The VA Medical Center in Gainesville.

A. J. Sartin, Commander of St. Augustine Chapter 6, DAV took delivery from volunteer driver Jack LaLonde. LaLonde flew to Cincinnati, Ohio to get the van and drove it back to St. Augustine.



Pictured above, from left: VSO Joseph McDermott, Bill Tadel, AJ Sartin & Gidget (service dog), James Crites, Jack LaLonde



VSO Joseph “Mac” McDermott receives van key from DAV Commander AJ Sartin

In a brief ceremony, Sartin passed the keys to McDermott. “This is our third van,” said Sartin. We took possession of our first one, a loaner from the VA, in 2005. Tom Waskovich, then chair of VetGroup, was instrumental in getting drivers, so we had a transportation network. We have been running strong ever since.”

“The early days were touch and go,” said Waskovich. “We ran 3 days/week and we were lucky to have any vets to transport until word was spread around.” “An open letter, written by Alan Crawford, published in the St. Augustine Record made the difference.” “We had full loads and began running 5 days/week. Alan has since passed away, but we owe him a lot for helping us get started.”

“It all starts at the office of the primary care physician,” said Sartin. “The physician puts in an order for a consult with a department at the VA Medical Center (VAMC) in Gainesville. That department schedules an appointment and sends a letter to the veteran informing them of the date, time, and physician.”

The veteran then calls the St. Johns County Council On Aging Transportation and schedules a ride. According to James Crites, who oversees much of the process for COA, “We take information from the veteran as to date and time of the appointment, what department and a phone number for the veteran.” “The information is passed to a volunteer driver like Jack LaLonde, who was one of the very first drivers.”

“Part of my job,” says LaLonde, “is to contact the veteran the day before their appointment to make sure they know what time we are leaving.” “Sometimes I’m informed that the veteran has cancelled an appointment which leaves an open seat.” “Luckily, we keep track of all who call, so if a spot opens up, we can fill it rather quickly.”

According to Crites, “We are pressed into service all along the route between St. Augustine to Gainesville. If a veteran needs a ride, we do stops in Hastings, Palatka, Hawthorne, and Interlachen. It just makes sense to pick them up along the way.”

“The fun begins in the afternoon for the trip back,” says LaLonde. “Rounding up the vets can be something akin to herding cats. With up to 9 vets each going to a different part of the VAMC, it has been hairy.”

“Our vets deserve the very best we can give them,” says McDermott “and it does take a village to make sure that happens.”

Transportation can be scheduled by calling the COA Transportation Service at 904-209-3710. For assistance in filing your VA claim, contact the Veterans Service office at 904-209-6160 for an appointment. Information on Chapter 6 can be found at <http://www.DAVFL6.org>.



## Fred Dupont: Then and Now



The picture on the left is that of Cpl Fred DuPont after a long day of helping build a bridge over the Ba Ren River in the Republic of South Vietnam in the fall of 1968. The picture was taken by Lcpl Johnny Burleson of Elizabethton, Tennessee and was presented to Fred forty years later at a reunion in Washington, DC.

The scene is outside the mess hall built by 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon, Delta Company, 9<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion, USMC at a Korean Marine Corps compound near the village of My Hat. At the time, Fred was working as a crane operator with 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon building the longest stationary bridge ever built by the Marine Corps, measuring 722 feet in length.

Having survived his three years in the Marine Corps, Fred joined the United States Navy as an Electronics Technician in the seventies, retiring as a Senior Chief in 1995. With 23 years of active duty and seven years in the reserves, Fred employed his skills as a technician with Baptist Medical Center in Jacksonville and then with the phone company, retiring fully in 2008 from AT&T.



Fred receiving an award from Veterans Council President Bill Dudley

Since his retirement, he volunteers his time in many organizations. He is a Past Commodore and the Historian for the St. Augustine Boating Club. He is a Past Exalted Ruler of the St. Augustine Elks Lodge. He is the President of the Casa Bella Condominium Association. And more true to his calling, he is a member of the Sgt Brian Tuten Memorial VFW Post 2339 Honor Guard and Vice President of Chapter 25 of the Fleet Reserve Association.

**Rolling Thunder** is an organization dedicated to the POW-MIA issue, and to support our veterans whenever and wherever possible. **Rolling Thunder FL Chapter 4** schedules 4 visits a year to the Clyde Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home in St. Augustine and 5 visits to Lake City VA Medical Center. Several of our members also visit on their own throughout the year.



Our last visit was July 14. 15 members and 2 guests participated and served 14 Pizzas to the veterans. On our last visit I did an informal (and unscientific) survey and found these guys love John Wayne, so we came up with a John Wayne and Pizza party. The chapter served approx. 40 residents and their guests in the TV area and a tray was taken around to all the houses so anyone that couldn't make it didn't miss their pizza. Nurse Tim said our crowd watching the movies was very impressive. (Usually they go lay down after lunch) He said the party was a great success.

The chapter also donated 4 CD's of Western movies for their library.

Our days of sharing fellowship and camaraderie with these heroes is always so rewarding we hope to continue our visits for many years to come.



**"Til they all come Home"** Jim Conners

## Ready to Assist, the Florida National Guard Foundation

Since 1983, the Florida National Guard Foundation, a 501 (C)3 non profit and a direct support agency for the Department of Military Affairs has been ready to assist the members of the Florida National Guard in their time of need.

The Foundations' mission is to provide assistance in the form of paying bills direct, for example rent, electricity, car payments or gift cards for food and gas. No monies are given directly to the service member thereby ensuring the funds are used correctly and with the Foundation being a direct support agency for the State of Florida, the overhead is minimal. In 2010 the Foundation gave back over 97% of the money raised back to the members of the Florida National Guard.

Since 9-11 over 15,000 members of the Florida National Guard have deployed in support of the Global War on Terrorism, a number of these Soldiers have deployed twice. And, as anyone can imagine, these deployments have caused a number of issues to include unemployment and family emergencies. Without the generous support of local organizations and corporate sponsors the Foundation would not be able to help our service members in their times of need.

Just this past year, the Foundation and several local organizations provided funds to build a therapeutic swimming pool at the home of a paralyzed veteran who was driving 2 hours a day for his therapy.

This year the Foundation is working with Pantry, Inc. owners of Kangaroo Express and Founding Fathers Beer. From now until Labor Day, all Kangaroo Express stations are asking their customers to donate their change to Support our Military. The Founding Fathers Beer is donating 50% of their profits to the Military, the Foundation will receive 25% of all sales in Florida and the remaining 25% will go to the Armed Forces Relief Fund.

For more information, please visit our website at [www.floridanationalguardfoundation.org](http://www.floridanationalguardfoundation.org)



## Jacksonville Korean Community Honor Korean Veterans by Michael Rothfeld



On Saturday, July 28th, President Robert Mitchell and Vice Pres. Bill Day of Rolling Thunder FL 4, along with Lt Col Jim Vanairsdale, USMC ret. and I attended the 59th Anniversary Celebration of the end of the Korean War. We were the guests of Dr. Henry Moreland, Pres./Commander of the **Korean War Veterans Association**, Chapter 200 Jacksonville. The ceremony was held in the Fleet Reserve Association

Branch 126 building in Orange Park.

The celebration was hosted by the Korean Association of No. FL. President Mr. Ilun Chung who led the ceremony. Many prominent Korean Americans were in atten-



dance to thank the Korean War veterans for saving their country from falling to the Communists. After the ceremony a traditional Korean lunch was served and enjoyed by all. Everyone was looking forward to next year's big 60th Anniversary Celebration.



*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](mailto:mrothfeld@anyveteran.org)



St Augustine National Cemetery

**Important Online Veterans Links:**

[www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org); Veterans of Foreign Wars

[www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org); American Legion

[www.nvf.org](http://www.nvf.org); National Veterans Foundation

[www.va.gov.vso](http://www.va.gov.vso); Directory of Veterans organizations

[www.ellejet.com/jet-and-aircraft-of-the-Korean-war.php](http://www.ellejet.com/jet-and-aircraft-of-the-Korean-war.php): Aircraft and other resources of the Korean War

**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](http://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

The locally produced *Vietnam documentary, Service, Sacrifice and Courage* has received 60,860 views to date on YouTube.

You can view part of it at:

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



*Florida Veterans Programs & Projects, Inc. in association with Rolling Thunder Florida are making available free copies of its "Prisoners of War: Stolen Freedom" documentary to all Veterans Groups. Just contact Michael at: 904-829-0381 or [mrothfeld@AnyVeteran.org](mailto: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.*

## THE STORY OF A BAYONET by Mario Patrino, Coquina Crossing

Mario parachuted into Normandy on D-Day, as a Pfc in the 3rd platoon, Co. F, 506th PIR, 101st Airborne Division. After meeting a Pfc from the 3rd Bn HQ, 501 PIR, we made our way toward the beaches. Before daylight, a shot was fired at us from the bushes, along the road. A German (possibly a foreign volunteer), then charged at me with a bayonet affixed to his rifle. Since I'm allergic to bayonets, I fired twice from the hip and my second shot knocked down the enemy, but did not kill him. I took his bayonet with scabbard and his wrist watch. Along came LTC Ewell with 40 men. He ordered the Pfc from 3/501 and myself to fall-in at the back of his column. I cut one ear off the wounded German and left him there, as I climbed over the hedgerow and went toward my objective. I later learned that this is a Czech bayonet VZ23, for the Czech Mauser rifle. The cutting edge is on the top, rather than the bottom of the blade. Because the leather belt attachment didn't fit my pistol belt, I tied the bayonet to the back of my belt, using a leather thong.

Several weeks later, I was in the saloon below a large house of ill repute in the Cherbourg area, with Pop Clark and several other paratroopers. We had been there before and had two favorite girls, who worked there. We spotted the girls across the room, seated with a bunch of US Army Rangers, all of whom were wearing .45 government model pistols on their hips.

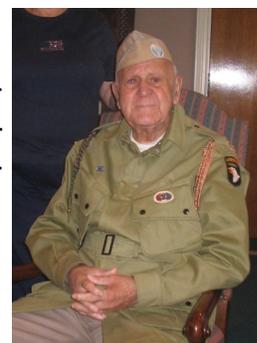
The girls waved at us and we waved back. Then they jumped up, ran over and sat at our table. A very large 1st Sgt of the Rangers came over and said "I believe you girls are sitting with US." I looked up from my chair and said "I believe it's a free country and they can sit where they want".

The Ranger grabbed a parachute scarf I was wearing around my neck, lifted me out of the chair, and drew back his fist, to strike me. I reached behind my back, whipped out the bayonet and quickly poked him under his chin. Blood gushed out, he turned pale and let go of me. All the Rangers stood up and gripped their pistols. The paratroopers stood up and grabbed hand grenades from their suspenders and inserted a finger into the ring. One of my buddies said "If you Rangers draw your guns, we'll turn you into hamburger!"

So we had a 'Mexican Standoff', until an officer from a neutral unit intervened, stating "You Rangers take your injured man to the hospital and you paratroopers get the hell outta here!" After being shot in the face in Holland, I managed to bring the bayonet home as a souvenir.



*The bayonet is now in the collection of  
Historian Mark Bando.*





Boot Camp

## RICK REES, USN ret.: Then & Now

Served 26 ½ years continuous active service

Entered the service in March 1972 at the age of 17 and retired in August 1998

The draft was still active when I entered service so a lot of my friends were confused

with the fact that I volunteered for military service at a time when many were just trying to avoid the draft.



FE Cockpit

After Navy Boot Camp in Orlando Florida I was sent to Memphis TN where I trained as a jet engine mechanic. After successful completion of ADJ A school I was assigned to VC-3 at NAS North Island, California to work on target drones for fleet gunnery practice. Longing for the opportunity to work on real jets instead of target drones I was able to arrange a duty station swap with another sailor stationed at NAS Miramar in San Diego CA.

Jumping into the fire so to speak I quickly learned my way around F-14 Tomcats and became a highly respected jet engine mechanic and eventually became the only E-4 ADJ who was actually qualified to start and run F-14 Tomcat engines at high power settings.

I made the first operational deployment with F-14s aboard the USS Enterprise CVAN-65. During this deployment we participated in the evacuation of Vietnam when our aircraft flew protection missions for the CH-53 Marine Corps helicopters of HMH-463 who were actively involved in evacuating U.S. citizens from Saigon. After a 9 month deployment in WESPAC with the enterprise I applied for and was accepted to P3 Flight Engineer school in Moffitt Field CA. I stayed with P-3 squadrons for the next 15 years accumulating over 5000 flight hours as a P3 Flight Engineer.

I served with the Naval Aviation Maintenance Office in Patuxent River MD for four years as an aviation maintenance systems analysts.

My final four years in the Navy before retirement were spent with HSL-42 in assigned to deployments on several different Navy ships operating SH-53 Helicopter detachments before being assigned to the squadron as the maintenance department leading senior chief petty office. While in HSL-42 we participated in actions in the inland waters of Haiti as well as combat operations off the coast of Bosnia-Herzegovina. During our Bosnian operations aboard the USS Normandy, Navy Ageis Cruiser we conducted the first ever seaborne missile attack on the continent of Europe by launching 13 Cruise Missiles into the enemy Command And Control Center. This resulted in both sides returning to the peace talks in

Ohio which ended the conflict.



MMCPO

I retired from the USN August 30<sup>th</sup>, 1998 and after working several small jobs upon retirement I worked 3 years with the Duval County Veteran Services Office, followed by 3 years as a government contractor, and finally the last 7 years working as the Assistant SJC Veterans Service Officer.



Rick and his lovely bride Charlene



**The Purple Heart Day Ceremony** in downtown Jacksonville, Florida is coming up and you are all invited. Our scheduled start time for this ceremony will be at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday evening August 7 at The Veterans Memorial Wall located at 1145 East Adams Street, Jacksonville. (Adjacent to the Jacksonville Municipal Stadium). Rolling Thunder FL Chapter 4 will be doing the MIA Table Ceremony.



SEMPER FIDELIS

Bill Thompson, Commander  
Military Order of the Purple Heart

Robert C. Padgett Jr. Detachment, Chapter 524  
Jacksonville, Florida

### Senator Jim Webb to Introduce “The Military Service Integrity Act”

In response to the Supreme Court’s decision in the United States v. Alvarez case that struck down the Stolen Valor Act of 2005 on Freedom of Speech grounds, Senator Jim Webb (D-VA) introduced **S3372** “The Military Service Integrity Act of 2012.” If passed this new law would create criminal penalties for falsely claiming to have served in the military or to have been awarded a military medal, decoration “in order to secure a tangible benefit or a personal gain.”



According to the Senator’s office, “The legislation encompasses such tangible benefits or personal gains as communications in pursuit of government benefits related to military service; a resume or other communication in the pursuit of employment or professional advancement; communications for which financial remuneration is involved; and those designed to affect the outcome of criminal or civil court proceedings or to impact one's personal credibility in a political campaign.”

The bill also includes sanctions dating back to 1947 making it a crime to “manufacture, sell, attempt to sell, import, or export U.S. military decorations or medals authorized by Congress for the armed forces except when authorized under regulations made pursuant to law.”

Senator Webb said that the bill has been drawn up to follow the Supreme Court’s decision. He stated: “Profiting from the misrepresentation of military service or the award of a decoration or medal for personal gain undermines the value of service and is offensive to all who have stepped forward to serve our country in uniform. The Supreme Court has outlined a very clear way forward to bring accountability to such reprehensible actions. The legislation I am introducing will do so within the scope of the protections offered to all Americans under the First Amendment.”

A new brochure is available for all veterans with visual, physical, mental and learning disabilities in accessible format. It can be obtained through Braille and Talking Book Library 1-800-226-6075 or the National Library Service, go to: [nls@loc.gov](mailto:nls@loc.gov) or [dtoo@loc.gov](mailto:dtoo@loc.gov) from Dr. Jane Karp, Col USAF ret.

## ***“The Marines Have Landed!”***

On June 30, 2012 Detachment 383 of the Marine Corps League, “Oldest City Detachment” of St. Augustine made a “Hot Dog / Hamburger Landing” near St. George Street and Cathedral Pl.



This is one of many events whereby Detachment 383 raises funds to support: the Marine Corps “Toys for Tots” program, Young Marines, Scholarship Programs, Canes for Veterans, Marine for Life Programs, and Wounded Warriors.

It must be said; ***“mission accomplished and the situation was well in hand”*** (and also on a bun). The Detachment wants to thank all of those who stopped by to support this event.

*Marine Corps League Detachment 383 meets the 1st Tuesday of each month at 1900 hrs,  
at the St. Augustine Elks Lodge 829 at 1420 A1A So., St. Augustine 32080.*

***Semper Fi!***

Phone 904-461-0139, [mclfl383.org](http://mclfl383.org)

## **The St. Augustine Navy League Council**

The St. Augustine Navy League Council (SANL) is proud to inform the public of the importance of the sea services to the safety and security of our Country. We also sponsor and reward personnel assigned to Naval Aviation and surface Units at NAS Jacksonville & Mayport, and to the Coast Guard at Mayport & Cecil Field. In addition, SANL supports its own Sea Cadet Battalion and deserving high school students by awarding scholarships to Cadets in the Junior Reserve Officer's Training Corps (JROTC) at St. Augustine, Nease, Matanzas and Flagler Palm Coast High schools.



The Navy League of the United States was founded in 1902 with the encouragement of President Theodore Roosevelt. The Navy League is unique among military-oriented associations in that it is a civilian organization dedicated to the education of our citizens, including our elected officials, and the support of the men and women of the sea services and their families. You need not have served in the military to be a member of the Navy League.

### **Contact Us:**

*St. Augustine Navy League Council*

*P.O. Box 5194*

*St Augustine, FL 32085-5194*



# The West Point Society of North Florida

Invites you to join us on

**Saturday, 18 August, 2012**

**In our annual Ceremony at the St. Augustine National Cemetery to Commemorate the end of the Florida Indian wars, and to Honor those, including West Point graduates, who perished in them.**



preceded by:

**an encampment of period reenactors**



*This year we will display and fire an exact replica of the 6 pound artillery piece that was part of Major Dade's command.*

and followed by:

- **Lunch** in the Florida National Guard Officers Club
- **a Program that features Robert Thrower**, Tribal Preservation Officer for the Poarch Band, Creek Indians, and descendant of Major David Moniac, **USMA, 1822.**

**BRING YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS!!**

Free, convenient parking in the Florida National Guard lot at St. Francis Barracks

**RESERVATIONS for Lunch + Program ARE A MUST!!**

*Use the accompanying form.*

***(No tickets at the door.)***



RESERVATION FORM RETURN NLT 11 AUGUST

Cost for use of Officers Club, Program and Lunch is \$20 per person. Make checks payable to: W.P.S.N.F. and mail to:

Zach Peyton, Treasurer, 5470 Highway Avenue, Jacksonville, FL 32254

Name \_\_\_\_\_, tel. number \_\_\_\_\_; I plan to attend and bring \_\_\_\_\_ guests.

Enclosed is check # \_\_\_ for \$ \_\_\_\_\_. (\$20 x total in party)

### ORDER OF EVENTS

0915 – REENACTOR ENCAMPMENT OPENS AT ST. FRANCIS BARRACKS, 82 MARINE STREET, St. AUGUSTINE.

(Adjacent Officers Club available for refreshment.)

1100 – ASSEMBLY AND MARCH TO THE NEARBY NATIONAL CEMETERY.

1115 – MEMORIAL CEREMONY AT NATIONAL CEMETERY.

By reservation only

1145 – MOVE TO OFFICER'S CLUB.

1200 – 1330 LUNCH AND PROGRAM.

Questions? Contact: Joe Naftzinger (904) 461-9138 (jnatnc@aol.com) or

Greg Moore (904) 823-0696 (gregory.alvin.moore@us.army.mil)



## 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](http://www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org) If you wish to make your sponsorship with a credit card please visit our website for a secure online transaction.

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

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

**Sponsoring Group Contact:** Daniel Blackman     [sgm500@gmail.com](mailto:sgm500@gmail.com) or 904-669-6423

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

**\*\*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.



## **Bring Bowe Home** By Alice A. Booher

Reprinted with permission of Cheryl Carbone,  
AXPOW Board member



They are not fancy folks, Jani and Robert Bergdahl, but a bright, hardworking, solid, unflinching couple, she with piercing brown eyes and straight cut shoulder length brown hair; he with a strong, straight forward look,

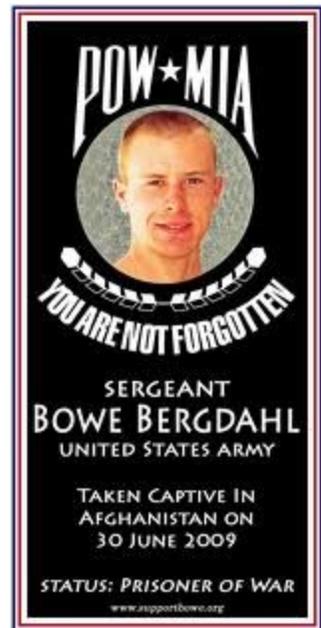
directed fierce eyes in a ruddy face surrounded by a batch of slightly unruly reddish beard. Someone hands him a bandana emblazoned with POW on the front. He explains that the beard is but a chronology of his son's captivity since June 30, 2009. They look a bit out of place, not uncomfortable but somber and eager. They certainly never expected to be banked on all sides by the strong hewn, solid look of the black motorcycle leathers of Rolling Thunder, their escort and guard, an impermeable human backdrop to support them as he spoke what he had come all the way to the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington to say.

The Bergdahls journeyed from a tiny town in Idaho, Hailey, population 6,000, from whom one precious citizen is currently absent, their now 26-year-old son, Bowe. They have not and are not now trying to buck the establishment, one with which they certainly never intended to become buddies, but such intimacy has been thrust upon them by circumstances that everyone would wish to be different. Robert's words are spoken in a strong, convincing manner, and clearly straight from his depths: "Bowe, your family has not forgotten you; your hometown has not forgotten you. Your state of Idaho has not forgotten you, and thanks to all of you here today, Washington, D.C. has not forgotten you."

"Bowe" is Bowe Robert Bergdahl, born March 28, 1986 in Sun Valley, ID, and assigned to the 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry Regiment, 4th Cavalry Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division out of Ft. Richardson, AK. The exact details of the circumstances of his capture in Afghanistan's Paktika Province vary but it appears that his captors were a Taliban-affiliated Haqqani group led by senior leader Maulvi (Mullah) Sangin Zadrain (who is shown on one of the videos with him) who then moved him to Ghazni Province. It is publically unclear whether he is now in Afghanistan or Pakistan.

The senior Bergdahls are a couple following the spirits and actions of hundreds of families before them, in a handful of wars, simply trying to get their precious family member returned from captivity. Since he was last home, they have seen him on five videos made by his captors, the last one in May 2011 his face showing considerable bruising. Sometime in late August or early September 2011, Bowe purportedly jumped from a first floor window of a mud-brick house in Pakistan where he was then imprisoned and headed for the underbrush and mountains; according to three seemingly reliable militants present at the time, he was recaptured three days later. A PFC when seized he has since been promoted twice. The Taliban has publicly demanded \$1 million and the release of 21 Afghan prisoners and Aafia Siddiqui in exchange for his release. The U.S. Government has readily acknowledged that military and diplomatic efforts including negotiations with Bowe Bergdahl's captors have gone on at

a feverish pace for nearly three years, but recently stalled for reasons not entirely clear, partly relating to prisoner exchanges and when the Taliban diplomatic negotiating office in Qatar was suspended in March. To make his situation public was earlier thought by some to enhance the Taliban's negotiating position. However, senior Government officials have always strongly expressed their support of his release. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff has met with the Bergdahls several times, as have others. Said one high DoD official, "We want our guy back. Period." Moreover, many other former POWs have joined the chorus on Bowe's behalf, including NamPows CAPT Jerry Coffey and CMDR Render Crayton who collectively spent 5,000 days in captivity. During Bowe's nearly 1,000 days in captivity, the family has been in touch with Washington movers and shakers and their support has been mutual. Former POW SEN John McCain confirms that he has been in constant touch with the officials and that Bowe Bergdahl's return is of the highest priority. More recently, the Bergdahls have availed themselves of something not available to those parents who wrote to Berlin in World War II or even the spouses who petitioned the Paris Peace Talks in the 1970's, the internet. They have even e-mailed someone they think has connections with the Taliban to let them know of the continued interest. In addition, for nearly 2 years, they kept utterly silent while the U.S. government worked to free their son. They broke their silence only to bring focus on the situation, not to lash out at anyone or violate any laws or trust.



Rolling Thunder chapters countrywide have done what they could. One chapter, IL/1, in the Chicago area placed three huge billboards in Bowe's behalf. On this Memorial Day 2012, for the last few miles to the Wall, they were driven in the lead honor car before the hundreds of thousands of Rolling Thunder bikes by Army veteran Wayne Daniels, in his Model T car outfitted in honor of soldiers lost in action and missing. Daniels' girlfriend and three kids had scrambled to give up their traditional spots in the vintage vehicle for their new honored friends. Others in that first phalanx included retired Army Sergeant Kevin Coffey who made the drive from North Carolina on his own Ultra Classic copper pearl Harley Davidson with others of NC/7, the Rolling Thunder chapter which had invited the Bergdahls to join them. Many of the estimated 400,000 bikers in town for the Memorial Day ride in Washington wore his name on yellow rubber wrist bands or the more traditional white, red, blue or black aluminum bands that started five decades ago to place focus on the then POW/MIAs in Vietnam. By all accounts, Bowe Bergdahl himself is a remarkable and very interesting young man. But that is a story for another day. For anyone who has dealt with and appreciated the sustained passion of Rolling Thunder and others who work and care on a daily basis for POW/MIA's, the Memorial Day tribute and special focus was all about grassroots awareness, a very real, raw love and a visceral, positive moving representation of American patriotism. We can just hope that it may achieve the ongoing general purpose of placing renewed focus on all POW/MIAs, but specifically, the goal of bringing Bowe home.



**\*\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE TO NE FLORIDA MEDIA\*\*\*  
VITAL ROLE OF THE MILITARY IN 450<sup>th</sup> CELEBRATION TO BE RECOGNIZED**



*City of St. Augustine proclaims new partner for 450<sup>th</sup> events*

At the June 25th City Commission meeting, the City of St. Augustine announced a new resource and partner to assist in the upcoming celebration of the founding of the City of St. Augustine. The 450th Military Commemoration Committee led by the Ancient City Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America, in cooperation with The Veteran's Council, Inc. of St Johns County will become an Official Ally in the commemoration of the city's 450th anniversary.

Since the founding of the nation's oldest European settlement by Pedro Menendez in September of 1565, the military has played a central role in the protection and the growth of the economy of the city. In fact, it is the continuous presence of the military that has allowed St. Augustine to claim the title of the Nation's Oldest City.

Today, the Florida National Guard, with headquarters in St. Augustine, continues in keeping the military a key part of the life of this community. From the city's inception, where a military failure would have held immediate and drastic consequences for the civilian population, to the present day as its sons and daughters placed themselves in harm's way in faraway lands, the military has played the prominent role in securing the safety of our city and its inhabitants.

At the commission meeting Col. Ron R. Radford USAF (Ret), the Military Committee chairman, along with other key members, presented their vision to "Establish St. Augustine as the premier destination for learning about the vital role of the military as demonstrated by 450 years of continuous protection of our city, our state, our nation."

The Military Committee is working to expand existing historical re-enactments and to promote new military ceremonies, re-enactments and parades, host historical symposia, produce documentaries focusing on specific military eras and develop "legacy sites". One of their most visible and important projects will be to help restore the historic American Legion Post which will increase awareness of the vital role of the military. It will provide one of many legacy sites and a "first stop" for residents and visitors alike who want to explore military history beginning in St Augustine.

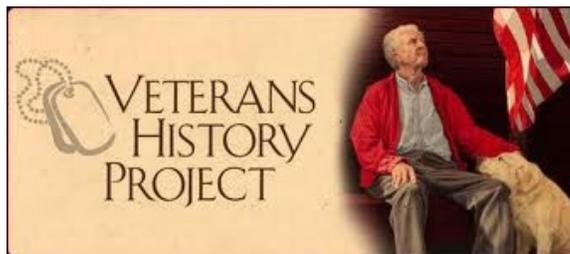


Over the next two years, as the 450th Celebration approaches, the Military Committee will organize and support key military events such as Veterans Day, Memorial Day, Muster of the First Militia, Fort Mose and the Seminole Wars. An encore presentation of the stage event "To Arms" is planned. Premiered last February at the Flagler College Auditorium, this exciting program of re-enactment and live music reviewed 450 years of the military history of St. Augustine and was well received by the public.

Based on these efforts and the exciting developing plans, the City of St. Augustine will acknowledge both the vital role of the military and the new key partnership with the 450<sup>th</sup> Military Commemoration Committee.

The 450 Military Commemoration Committee has established a list of speakers to provide information to organizations who want to learn about the St Augustine 450th Military Commemoration Committee's program. Organizations can contact Ron Radford for more information. His e-mail address is: [RONRAD267@aol.com](mailto:RONRAD267@aol.com)

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The **Veterans History Project** of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress collects, preserves, and makes accessible the personal accounts of American war veterans so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the realities of war.

**The Project collects first-hand accounts of U.S. Veterans from the following wars:**

- World War I (1914-1920)
- World War II (1939-1946)
- Korean War (1950-1955)
- Vietnam War (1961-1975)
- Persian Gulf War (1990-1995)
- Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts (2001-present)

In addition, those U.S. citizen civilians who were actively involved in supporting war efforts (such as war industry workers, USO workers, flight instructors, medical volunteers, etc.) are also invited to share their valuable stories.

***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](mailto:aackerman@sjcfl.us) at the Bartram Trail Library or Mikki Sampo @ 904-827-6940, [msampo@sjcfl.us](mailto:msampo@sjcfl.us) at the Main Library.***

## A Wild Drive on *Wildwood Drive*, by Michael Rothfeld (2004)

Many of us have driven south on Wildwood Drive from SR 207. It is a short distance to Publix in Moultrie on Wildwood Drive. It's a typical Florida back road, full of palm trees, small houses and several churches. A very scenic, quiet and peaceful road. We don't give it a second thought. Nothing ever happens there. How wrong we are! Almost 185 years ago this non-descript road was at the heart of one of America's earliest wars, the Seminole Wars. The word Seminole was derived from the Spanish word, "Cimarron", which means "wild ones", referring to the fact that the Seminole Indians lived in wild, sparsely occupied areas.



Osceola

The story of Osceola, a Seminole Indian, may not be well known, but his brave attempts to remain in Florida and fight the U.S. Government are well documented. Osceola was one of the leaders of the Seminole Indians in the 1830's during the Second Seminole War against the United States. Although born in Alabama, Osceola and his Creek Indian mother moved to Florida, which was the homeland of the Seminole Indians. When white settlers began moving into the state, they wanted the Seminoles to move to Indian territories west of the Mississippi River. Osceola led a group of Seminoles opposed to relocation. Using tactics unfamiliar to the settlers and by hiding in the Everglades, Osceola and some of the Seminoles were successfully able, for a time, to resist the United States Government's attempts to remove them from Florida. It was not until the capture of Osceola and his death in 1838 at Fort Moultrie in South Carolina that the Seminoles were forced from their homeland.

Our journey begins 1 mile south east of SR 207 on Wildwood Drive, at Treaty Park. In 1823, two years after Florida was acquired by the United States, leaders of the Seminole and Miccosukee Tribes met with government officials, including William F. Duval, (who was to become the territorial governor following Andrew Jackson) on the banks of the creek near this site in order to settle conflicting claims to Florida lands. After twelve days of negotiation, they signed the treaty of Moultrie Creek on September 18, 1823. The tribes were to occupy a four million acre reservation on the interior peninsula. The government was to assist in relocating the Indians and help to support them there for a period of twenty years. The Indians being removed from their traditional hunting grounds were forced to change their way of life from farming to raising cattle. Failure on both sides to comply with the terms of this and later treaties led to the Second Seminole War (1835-1842). The exact site of the treaty signing is unknown. Treaty Park is dedicated in commemoration of that historical event.

Continue on Wildwood Drive and turn right onto Fort Peyton Drive. Hidden in an alley in the Wildwood Pines subdivision, is the old Fort Peyton site. This fort, among others, were established during the Second Seminole War. Fort Peyton housed the soldiers who captured Osceola. There are two markers at the Fort Peyton site, a bare coquina marker and a metal historical marker erected in 1966. There are scrawled obscene words on the metal marker, which also has a gaping hole from a large caliber bullet.

Further east on Wildwood Drive is the Stonegate subdivision. It was here in October 1837 that General Joseph Hernandez, acting under orders from General Thomas Jesup, seized the Seminole Indian leader Osceola and seventy of his braves while assembled under a white flag of truce. The soldiers threw the white flag to the ground and put chains on Osceola's hands and feet. The Indians were taken to Fort Marion (now the Castillo de San Marcos) in St. Augustine. A three foot tall monument that marks the actual spot where the famed warrior Osceola was captured is surrounded by palmettos and is not visible from Wildwood Drive. A recent wildfire left a patch of burned pine trees near the coquina marker. At the capture site the monument, erected in 1916, was once topped with a metal sign which read "Osceola captured on this spot while under the protection of a flag of truce, October 24, 1837." Now the sign is missing and the monument has been nicked by bullets. The Seminole Tribe of Florida, St. Johns County, and the St. Augustine Historical Society are hoping to upgrade these monuments.



Gen. J. Hernandez

The section of St. Augustine where all of these historical events occurred is Moultrie, Florida. It was named after Dr. John Moultrie who is thought to have resided in the area. Dr. Moultrie studied medicine at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. A Justice of the Peace, member of the Commons House of Assembly, and a major in the British militia, he also raised indigo, manufactured turpentine and was appointed Governor of East Florida in 1771. Though his brother, General William Moultrie became a revolutionary war hero, Dr. Moultrie remained loyal to the King and Parliament of England.

So the next time you travel Wildwood Drive, lean back in your car seat, lower the radio, listen for the war whoops and think of all that happened a long time ago on your *WILD DRIVE* down *WILDWOOD DRIVE*.

## Mr. Beckers, a WW II Veteran by Kathy Cayton



I want to share my story with all of you about my chance meeting with Mr. Beckers, a St. Augustine resident and WWII Veteran. As a Jacksonville Lady, I just happened to be volunteering at the Jacksonville National Cemetery when his wife was buried in January 2009, just a few weeks after the cemetery opened. Mrs. Beckers had died in June and the family had her memorial at that time, but he wanted to wait for the funeral and have her buried closer to him at JNC. It was one of the coldest days in January when her ashes arrived from the funeral home. Mr. Beckers was unable to attend as he is disabled and has to arrange a ride and his kids who all live up north didn't want him to go out into the bad weather. When Mrs. Beckers urn was brought out for the service, to our surprise it was a beautiful large blue and white holland style windmill cookie jar. Usually, ashes arrive in a green, black or brown biodegradable box so we admired the unusual urn.



Kathy Cayton

The staff called Mr. Beckers to see who would be attending the service and he said that his kids were all up north and he couldn't get out that day but asked if we would take pictures for him. I happened to have my camera with me that day and agreed to take pictures to send to him. I requested the Honor Guard to hold her remains in the office between the flags, which would make a nice patriotic picture for her husband. I followed the staff out to the burial site for the service and asked if they would allow the Honor Guard to place her ashes since her family was not able to attend. I was among those honored to participate in the first internments at the cemetery and laid the ashes of a Veteran, so I thought it would be appropriate for this event too! They allowed him to lay the ashes and I stood as a silent witness and took pictures for the family as requested.

I developed the pictures and sent them to Mr. Beckers in one of our Jacksonville Ladies condolence cards. He saw my information on the back of the card listed as Chairman of the Jacksonville Ladies and called me right away to thank me for the pictures. We talked for a bit about his wife and WWII service and he asked if I was curious about why he had placed her ashes in a cookie jar. I told him that I was a bit curious and that we thought she must have been an excellent cook! He said she was, but the reason he chose that cookie jar was because when the funeral home came to his house to have him select the urn from a book and he was unable to decide based on his limited income. He said he looked around the kitchen and saw the cookie jar and asked if it would be ok to have her ashes placed in there and the funeral home agreed. Mr. Beckers told me that the cookie jar was the first thing he had bought his wife from the five and dime store after he came home from the war. It had moved with them many times during their 62 years of marriage and he knew she would be happy with his choice! Of course I cried and told him that was a beautiful story!

Mr. Beckers has called several times since and invites me to come over if I am in St. Augustine. I took my Mother over for a visit and we brought him a goodie basket and at Christmas time we took a quilt that was made especially for him depicting his years of service and recognizing his Purple Heart and Bronze Star medals. I met his son last winter when he came for a visit. Joe wanted me to find him as they arrived in Jacksonville on the dedication day of the new Admin Bldg and 2nd phase of JNC and he suggested that they go to the cemetery first before coming down to St. Augustine. I never dreamed I would run into him but after an interview with Channel 4 regarding the Wreaths Across America event, Ralph with the Patriot Guard Riders and I were talking as this couple passed by. Ralph asked if he could help them and they said they were looking for their mother who was one of the first to be buried at JNC. I turned around and said "Mr. Beckers?" and he said "Yes?" with a puzzled look on his face and I told him who I was. I took him and his wife over to his Mother's grave and I told him I loved the story of how his Dad had selected the cookie jar for his Mother's final resting place! He wasn't so excited about it and said if he knew all those years growing up and eating cookies out of that jar that his Mother's ashes would be in there, he probably never would have ate them! It was a chance meeting that I was volunteering that particular day of Mrs. Becker's service at JNC and I am blessed to have had Mr. Beckers, who turned 90 this year, placed in my path. He is a kind and gentle man and loves to tell the story of his WWII service to our Country.

Kathy Cayton, Jacksonville Lady



Juanita Wilkerson,  
Kathy, and Joe Beckers

# SAVE THE DATE

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



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



Rolling Thunder Chapter 4 Florida  
is Hosting a

## "Bikers for America's Bravest"

343 Poker Run & Festival  
Town Hall Park, Orange Park, FL  
Saturday, Sept. 8, 2012

Pre-Register & Get a Complimentary Breakfast.  
VIP Rider Reg. \$125 & Regular Rider Reg. \$30  
Walk Up Registration, Breakfast, & Depart from  
Moosehaven of Orange Park, 7:30am to 10:30am.  
Last Bike in at 12:00pm. \$343 To Best Hand

Free Festival at Town Hall Park.  
George Aspinall Band, JFR Pipe & Drums,  
Vendors, Food, Games,  
Kids Fun Zone, 10:30am to 6:00pm  
After Event Party at OP Billiards from 6:00pm to 9:00pm  
\$5 Cover Donation.

For more details go to [www.tunneltotowers.org](http://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



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Robert Mitchell  
Cell Phone: 904-614-1024  
Email: [mitch.rollingthunder@yahoo.com](mailto:mitch.rollingthunder@yahoo.com)

### HELP US BUILD A "SMART HOME" FOR OUR HERO, WOUNDED WARRIOR, TRIPLE AMPUTEE, CPL TODD LOVE, USMC.

In honor of all of our fallen American police officers, firefighters, first responders and particularly the 343 firefighters who lost their lives in the name of freedom, on Sept 11, 2001 the Stephen Siller, Tunnel to Towers Foundation and the Gary Sinise Foundation are organizing 343 fundraisers across America on the weekend prior to Sept 11th. Our goal is to raise \$100,000 to help with the financing for the building of a Smart Home for wounded warrior Cpl Todd Love, USMC.

Rolling Thunder Chapter 4 Florida has accepted the challenge and the Town of Orange Park, Moosehaven of Orange Park and Orange Park Billiards (Comfort Inn) have partnered with us to host a 343 festival, motorcycle poker run, and an after event party on September the 8th, 2012. The event will begin at Moosehaven with walk up registration, breakfast and poker run departure from 7:30am to 10:30am. There will be five stops and the winning hand will get \$343. The route is about 50 miles long and will end at the Town Hall Park in Orange Park.

The free festival begins at 10:30pm and ends at 6:00pm at the Town Hall Park. The festival includes live music by the George Aspinall Band, JFR Pipes & Drums, vendors, food, games and a kid's fun zone. There is an after the event party at OP Billiards from 6pm to 9pm. There is a \$5 cover charge for the party which will be donated back to event.

All the proceeds from this event will help support the ongoing project "Building for America's Bravest". During 2012 the foundations will be building 12 Smart Accessible Homes across America for quad and triple amputee Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans. I would ask that you check out these two websites to get a better feel for what we are doing for our quad and triple amputees and their families. [www.rollingthunderjax.org](http://www.rollingthunderjax.org) and [www.tunneltotowers.org](http://www.tunneltotowers.org). When you open the Tunnel to Towers website, click on the "Bikers for America's Bravest" tab under Programs to follow our Jacksonville/Orange Park footsteps.



Cpl Todd Love, USMC



# POISONED PATRIOTS FUND OF AMERICA

Dedicated to Helping Veterans & Families of Military Related Toxic Exposures



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### BEAVER STREET SEAFOOD



PETTYCO EXPRESS United Healthcare

# CHARITY FUNDRAISER!

We will Join Forces Sunday September 9th at 1:pm  
at the Woody's Bar'BQ Parking Lot at 226-1 Solano Rd, Ponte Vedra Beach FL 32082  
From There we will be driving South on A1A to Vilano Beach for a Beach Raffle  
full of Valuable Prizes Including a SMITTYBILT 8000lb Wench, K&N Air Intake System,  
Cool stuff from ARMY-NAVY OUTDOORS, Food, Fun and Much More!!!

🇺🇸 SHOW YOUR AMERICAN PATRIOTISM! 🇺🇸

TOP THREE MOST PATRIOTIC DECORATED JEEPS WILL RECEIVE A SMITTYBILT 3"x 30' TOW STRAP !

REGISTRATION FORM

**\$25. ENTRY INCLUDES 1 RAFFLE TICKET AND A PPFOA ARMED FORCES TEE SHIRT!**

**100% of Proceeds Go Directly to the Charity!**

Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_ JEEP MODEL \_\_\_\_\_ YEAR \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signature (required) \_\_\_\_\_

The Poisoned Patriots Fund of America will not be held liable for any accidents or injuries that may occur during this event.

Mail Entry with Check or Money Order made Payable to PPFOA, INC to Address Below.

**Don't Have an Entry Form? Call in your Entry Using Your Credit Card!**

830-13 A1A North #139 | Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082 | 904.290.3863 (FUND)

Please visit our website at PPFOA.ORG

★ PPFOA's First Annual JEEP Ride For The Cause Charity Fundraiser.





**Chip in 4 VETS**  
**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](mailto: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.*