



The Patriot Reader

VETERANS COUNCIL OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY

CHAIRMAN BILL DUDLEY
VICE CHAIRMAN RAY QUINN
SECRETARY GEORGE APRIL
TREASURER MICHAEL ROTHFELD

Newsletter Editor Michael Rothfeld

Volume 3, Issue 3

Newsletter Date: March, 2014

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Message from the Chairman

On behalf of the Veterans Council of St. Johns County, I would like to invite all of you to attend the dedica-



tion of the Carillon Bell Tower this Saturday, March 1st, 1000 hrs. at the Jacksonville National Cemetery, 4083 Lannie Rd., Jacksonville 32218. This program is headed by AMVETS, the Support Committee of the Jacksonville National Cemetery and the Rotary Club of North Jacksonville.

The Veterans Council is proud to announce the recipient of its annual COL Ed Taylor Award to St. Johns County Veterans Service Officer, Joseph (Mac) McDermott. Pictured be-

low is Joe McDermott receiving the Taylor Award with, from left: Joe McDermott, Dwyn Taylor, COL Ed Taylor, USA ret., Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley and newly elected Vice Chairman, Ray Quinn, SGM US Army, ret.



On Tuesday of last week Joe McDermott was recognized by the St. Johns County Board of Commissioners as receiving the COL Ed Taylor Award as the outstanding advocate for veterans in 2013 in St. Johns County. Congratulations Mac, well deserved.



Unfortunately, I had a bad accident last Tuesday and shattered the bones in my upper right arm and have several weeks of Physical Therapy ahead and will be out of commission for Veterans Council activities during that time. We are very fortunate to have a very capable and experienced Vice Chairman in Ray Quinn to take up the helm in my absence.

Bill Dudley
 Veterans Council of St. Johns County Chairman



Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home

Patriotism is our motto



The always faithful Sally Walton Dancers performed for us on Valentine's Day



Sally Walton Dancers



Enjoying chocolate covered strawberries and valentine trivia at the Valentine Party



Mrs. Szemak enjoying crafts with Nocatee's Helping Hands



Art Axelson with children handing out Valentines



Re-Creation performers



Re-Creation performer serenading Mr. French



Re-Creation performer with Bob Poolman

Diane King with Governor and Cabinet accepting 5-Star Award at the Florida Cabinet Meeting on February 6th.



Also pictured is Dan Davis, second from left, director of the State Veterans' Homes Program. FDVA Executive Director Mike Prendergast is third from left.

Congratulations to Home Administrator Diane King and her team at the Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans' Nursing Home in St. Augustine. The 120-bed skilled nursing facility just received a Five-Star Rating from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services – the nation's highest award for nursing homes. The Lassen home, the state's first nursing home to be certified LEED Gold, joins the Douglas T. Jacobson State Veterans' Nursing Home in Port Charlotte, Alexander Nininger State Veterans' Nursing Home in Pembroke Pines and Clifford C. Sims State Veterans' Nursing Home in Panama City with top honors.

Veterans Council Recognizes “Veteran of the Year” By Michael Isam



St. Augustine, Fla, (January 29, 2014) – Every January The Veterans Council of St. Johns County presents the Col. Ed Taylor “Veteran of the Year” award to an outstanding individual or organization for exceptional work on behalf of the veterans of St. Johns county. This year’s recipient is undeniably the hardest working veteran in the county.

"Joseph McDermott epitomizes the meaning of that term," said Ray Quinn during the Wednesday night meeting. Known to everyone as “Mac”, McDermott is the Senior Veteran Service Officer for the Veterans Service Office in St. Johns County. McDermott and his staff assist veterans from all services with filing of claims with the Veterans Affairs.

"Besides overseeing the office and staff," continued Quinn, "McDermott is present at many of the veteran organization meetings to brief the membership on what is happening with the claim process at the present time." "He attends many of the County Board of Supervisors meetings, meets with county staff on a myriad of areas, especially the move to offices within the new Health and Human Services building dubbed the 'Gauze Mahal'."

The award was presented to McDermott by Col. Ed Taylor, name-sake of the award and co-founder of the current council.

With elections behind them, members of the Veterans Council of St. Johns County geared up for a new year of activity.

Officers for 2014 are Bill Dudley, Chairman; Ray Quinn, Vice Chairman; Michael Rothfeld, Treasurer; George April, Secretary.

Guest speakers for the evening were Theresa Andrews and Karen Burns representing EPIC Behavioral Healthcare. Andrews and Burns briefed the council about the new expanded facilities and how the organization can assist veterans dealing with mental health and substance abuse issues. With the advent of their new facility, residents of St. Johns County will have local access to care and not have to travel to other counties for help.

Dwyn Taylor spoke about upcoming events of Youth Leadership program of the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce. “The young people of the program will be the leaders of future generations,” said Taylor. “Veterans, as well as business, must nurture them to instill good leadership.”

Briefings on Wreaths Across America, the 450th Military Commission, Missing in America Project, Lassen Nursing Home, Veteran Service Office and “Socks”.





The Jacksonville National Cemetery Greetings from the Support Committee at the Jacksonville National Cemetery!

The Support Committee invites everyone to attend its next scheduled meeting on **Monday, April 7th** at 7:00pm. The meeting will take place at Community Hospice, 4266 Sunbeam Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32257 in Conference Room A



Chairman Howard
McGillin, COL US
Army ret.



The Jacksonville Ladies

The idea for the Jacksonville Ladies was first suggested by the Support Committee for the Jacksonville National Cemetery. They proposed that a woman's organizations take on this "Last Tribute" for those who had so valiantly served our country.

This non-profit, totally volunteer program follows the precedent set by the Arlington Ladies, a group of military wives and lady veterans at Arlington National Cemetery, Washington, D.C., that began in 1948.

The Jacksonville Ladies started out as a group from the Navy Wives Club and has evolved into a very dedicated group of women whose husbands, sons and fathers, from all the branches of services that have served our country. Membership is strictly voluntary and is open to all who have a sincere desire to pay final tribute to our Veterans and offer condolences to their families.

A Jacksonville Lady has been present at every internment since the first internment at Jacksonville National Cemetery on January 7, 2009. Since that day there has been over 6,000 internments.

The Jacksonville Lady is not there to intrude, but to stand as a silent witness and give honor to the Veteran and offer condolences to the family.

This is not a typical volunteer job, it must come from the heart with the thought that it is an honor to give back to those who have given so much to preserve the freedoms we enjoy today.

The only requirements are compassion and a sincere desire to honor our Veterans, especially those with no family present, so they are not laid to rest without someone there who honors their service and sacrifice.



Department of
Veterans Affairs

***Cliff Shields is the new Director of
the Jacksonville National Cemetery***

NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION

**CLIFFORD A. SHIELDS, JR.
DIRECTOR
JACKSONVILLE NATIONAL CEMETERY
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA**



Cliff Shields was named Director of Jacksonville National Cemetery, effective Oct. 7, 2013. As director, he is responsible for all administrative, maintenance and burial operations.

Prior to this appointment, Mr. Shields was director of Santa Fe National Cemetery from January 2009. He also served as director of Fort Smith National Cemetery in Arkansas from March 2008.

He was the acting director of Fayetteville National Cemetery in Arkansas from June 2008, and from September 2007 through March 2008, he served as the assistant to the director of South Florida National Cemetery, where he played a pivotal role in helping to open the new national cemetery in Lake Worth, Fla.

Mr. Shields graduated from the comprehensive year-long Cemetery Director Intern Program in August 2007. He was a cemetery caretaker and then a cemetery representative from 2001 to 2006 at Biloxi National Cemetery in Mississippi. He was one of two employees who reported to work immediately following Hurricane Katrina, and devoted a great amount of time and assistance to the relief effort, for which he was honored with the VA Secretary's Hero Award.

Prior to joining NCA, Mr. Shields served in the hospitality industry for 30 years travelling throughout the U.S. on various assignments before retiring in 2001.

Mr. Shields attended the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg and then joined the U.S. Army for three years. He served in Vietnam from 1968 to 1969 with the 199th Light Infantry Brigade. Upon completion of his military service, he returned to the University of Southern Mississippi in 1970 to further his studies in business management.



Director Shields in Vietnam
1968-1969

October 2013

*Anne Heymen served the Veteran Community so well. She made sure that our articles, announcements and our general welfare was put before our community. We are going to miss her!
Thank You Anne from the bottom of our hearts!*

The Veterans of St. Johns County!

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PETER.WILLOTT@STAUGUSTINE.COM Record features editor Anne Heymen serves cake to Record staff members Jim Sutton, J.L. Ash, Renee Unsworth and her daughter Mesa during a party to celebrate her retirement after nearly 50 years at the newspaper.

When my column, “It’s a Great Life,” was discontinued, it was suggested that I write a column, at retirement time, to say goodbye and thanks.

So, here goes.

First, thanks to everyone who sent emails, letters and told me in person how much they enjoyed my column and missed it. After more than 40 years of writing it, I kind of missed it, too. It was a lot of fun and gave me an opportunity to express my feelings on a lot of topics. The funny thing — and something which was very much appreciated — was that people would tell me: “I thought you were talking about me.”

We need more laughter in our lives and that’s what I tried to do with “It’s A Great Life.”

I wrote about a lot of things during my 40 years — my late husband, You Know Who, who declared the first time I used his name never to use it again. Thus he became known as You Know Who.

I also wrote about the pets which allowed the two-legged people to live in the Heymen household with them. What’s funny about that is some people thought I really knew a lot about cats. Let me say here and now, nobody knows about cats — except perhaps cats — and they’re not telling. But the current felines, HowLing, the 90 percent Siamese; and Dawgie, the Palatka native, asked me to extend their thanks for asking about them. They’re fine, thank you, and continue to destroy the furniture in the Heymen household, considering the furniture a wonderful collection of scratching posts.

I wish that’s all I had to do in life — meow for food, tear up the furniture and sleep.

Hey, come to think of it — I’m retiring. Now I can do that, too.

So, thanks for everything these 40-plus years with The Record. People have asked me what I’m going to do now. I’ve thought about it. I really need to clean closets and all that kind of stuff. And maybe I will.

But, on the other hand, I may just decide to follow Dawgie and HowLing’s way of living — meow for food, tear up the furniture and sleep.

The more I think about that, the better it sounds!

THE BEACHES VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK UNVEILS THEIR NEW CREST HONORING ALL MILITARY SERVICES



Beaches Veterans Memorial Park Inc. President, Clarence Hill, unveiled the new veterans organizational crest during their February 18 Board Meeting. It recognizes the six Military Services who participated during WW 11, and the Chaplains Regimental Crest, honoring 340 Chaplains. , including three Congressional Medal of Honor winners. These are the Chaplains, who gave their lives in combat operations since the Revolutionary War. Of the six services, is that of the US Merchant Mariners who were attached to the USN during the war, They lost over 9300 mariners and suffered a greater percentage in war related deaths than all of the military services combined .

In 2010 the six Beaches veterans organizations combined to form the BVMP Inc, to develop park land provided by the City of Atlantic Beach for a Veterans Memorial Park. Its purpose is to hold patriotic ceremonies for the community, and to bring honor to the US Armed Forces, past and present. A Chaplains Memorial Garden has been added honoring the 340 Chaplains that have been killed in combat operations. Included in this Garden is the 'Path of Honor' wherein resides the inscribed bricks of these men, along with those of local individuals being honored by family and friends. Bricks applications may be obtained by going to www.beachsveteransmemorialpark.org , or from De Lois Livermore 904-304-6788

Beaches Veterans Memorial Park

Located at 1127 Atlantic Beach Blvd Atlantic Beach, Florida
Mail: BVMP 915 South 8 th Avenue Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250
<http://beachsveteransmemorialpark.org>

MEMORIAL DAY PROGRAM (DRAFT) 5/26/2014

BEGINNING AT 2:PM: Drill Team Exhibition

2:30 PM SUBMARINE KLAXON SOUNDS

BUGLE SOUNDS: Parade the Colors

NATIONAL ANTHEM: Jim Goodell, Music Director, Our Lady Star of the Sea, Catholic Church

POST THE COLORS:

INVOCATION: Karen Rector, Chaplain USN

WELCOME: Danny Rodriguez, Commander American Legion Post 129, HOST

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS: BVMP Vice President Mike Borno

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Congressman Ander Crenshaw; Florida District 4

FLAG FOLDING CEREMONY: Sandalwood High School, Jr. AFROTC

LAYING OF THE WREATHS:

CLOSING REMARKS: Captain Clarence Hill, USN Retired, President BVMP, Inc.

BENEDICTION: Rabbi Nochum Kurinsky, Chabad, Ponte Vedra Beach

followed by a recitation of the origin of TAPS

HONORS: Rifle Salute; TAPs; Beaches Honor Guard,

BUGLAR SOUNDS: Retire the Colors

KLAXON: This Concludes Our Service

Honored Invites

Now that plans are being made for 2014, the BVMP would like to invite You to our 2014 Memorial Day Program, recognizing our veterans Past and Present, and the more than 340 Military Chaplains who have given their lives for their God and Country. Please notice that we have slipped our program time allowing our High School ROTC participants more travel time.

Scamming our veterans

Former Veterans Council Chair Tom Waskovich, a retired Army Major, was shopping at the Anastasia Island Winn Dixie when he saw a group collecting money in front of the store with a sign, "Support our Veterans, United we Stand."

"I asked if they were veterans and where were they from, and did they check with our Veterans Council," says Waskovich. "They responded that they were not veterans, they were from Tampa, and they had not checked with anyone locally except the store manager. As far as they knew no money was going to our county veterans.

"I strongly expressed my displeasure and decided to remain and advise any store customers not to give them any money. After about 10 minutes they packed up and left the area.

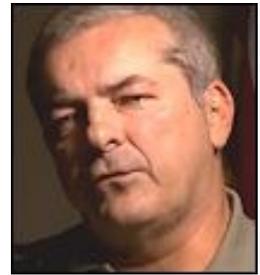
"The store manager said he thought they were working for local veterans and that he would not let them return. He said it would be fine if only groups authorized by the Veterans Council would be allowed to solicit there."

Waskovich has urged the Veterans Council to send letters to all the food stores in the county that only groups that have an authorized letter from the Veterans Council be allowed to solicit money at their stores.

Veterans Council Chair Bill Dudley added, "In looking at the organization's 990 tax filing for last year I noted that the President of VSO (Veterans Service Organization) had a salary of \$286,711. All of our Veterans Council members are non-compensated volunteers who give freely of their time to support veterans and their needs.

"It is also important to know that Florida law makes it a third degree felony to solicit for charitable contributions while misrepresenting as veterans or for veterans' purposes."

This article is reprinted with permission of its author George Gardner and taken from the Gardner Report



Tom Waskovich



***Veteran Service
Veteran Herb 'The Sock
Man' Naumann collects
white tube socks from
organizations and individ-
uals for distribution to
veterans in local nursing
homes and for shipment to
active duty personnel. Last
year he distributed over
700 pairs of socks.***

Saturday 01 March 2014 at 10:00 am

**Erection of the Schulmerich Electronic Carillon / Tower & Liberty Bell
System at The Jacksonville National Cemetery**

"...As these bells ring ...honored dead rest ... freedom lives..."

All are invited, please try to attend



Greater Jacksonville Area USO

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SUPPORTING OUR LOCAL TROOPS AND FAMILIES?

DID YOU KNOW THAT GREATER JAX ARTA USO IS AN "INDEPENDENT QUARTERED USO AFFILIATE ORGANIZATION, OPERATING THRU 1 LOCAL USO CENTERS SERVING OVER 250,000 MILITARY PERSONNEL AND THEIR FAMILIES. GREATER JAX AREA USO RELIES TOTALLY UPON DONATIONS AND VOLUNTEERS FROM THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AND BUSINESSES FOR SUPPORT AND DOES NOT SOLICIT FOR DONATIONS VIA LOCAL NEWSPAPER INSERTS OR U.S. MAIL. DONATIONS COLLECTED IN THAT MANNER DO NOT COME BACK TO JACKSONVILLE TO HELP US SUPPORT OUR CENTERS OR PROGRAMS. PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO VISIT WWW.JAXUSO.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Like Us on Facebook! www.facebook.com/JaxUSO

Tampa Rough Riders Pay Tribute By Michael Isam



St. Augustine, Fla, (February 23, 2014) – “SACRED to the MEMORY of all the OFFICERS and SOLDIERS killed in BATTLE and died on SERVICE during the FLORIDA WARS” reads the inscription of the north face of the Florida Wars obelisk located in the St. Augustine National Cemetery.

A single rose placed at the base of that face spoke volumes of one person’s love and respect for the sacrifice of a few, for the good of the many.

The 1st U.S. Volunteer Cavalry Regiment "Rough Riders," Inc. dispatched an expeditionary force to St. Augustine on Friday morning. The force and guests enjoyed a champagne reception and buffet later in the evening.

At noon on Saturday, the force performed a wreath laying ceremony on the grounds of the St. Augustine National Cemetery honoring Rough Riders and others who served and sacrificed for their country.

Among the 1218 graves in the cemetery, 3 received special wreaths. At the pyramids on the south end a wreath was placed to honor the Major Dade command. On the west side, tribute was paid to Rough Rider Robert McNeal. On the east side, a wreath was placed to honor the final resting place of Buffalo Soldier James Nelson.

The “Rough Riders” were an all cavalry regiment raised in 1898, by Theodore Roosevelt when the United States declared war on Spain, April 25th, after a riot in Havana, Cuba. The U.S. sent the battleship Maine to Cuba to protect American interests. The sinking of the ship by an "external explosion of unknown origin”, was the spark that started the Spanish American War.

According to information from the Woods & Wanton Chapter, Inc. Buffalo Soldiers website, Tampa was the embarkation point for the Rough Riders.

Among the assembled ten regiments were two black units camped on the fringes of the elegant Tampa Heights neighborhood. The Twenty-fourth Infantry was located to the north, while the Twenty-fifth camped to the southeast. While the Buffalo Soldiers fostered pride among local blacks they encountered much hostility in Tampa.

On the eve of the army's embarkation for Cuba, Tampa was the scene of a serious clash between the black and white troops. Overcoming racial obstacles, the Buffalo Soldiers distinguished themselves on the battlefield in Cuba and later in the Philippines, earning five Medals of Honor for valor at San Juan and El Caney.

In 1835, 110 US troops under the command of Major Francis Dade were ambushed between Fort Brooke (Tampa) and Fort King (Ocala) near present day Bushnell. Only 2 men survived. The bodies of Major Dade and his men were reinterred in this cemetery in 1842.

The St. Augustine National Cemetery is dominated by three eight-foot coquina pyramids and a 20-foot obelisk. The Dade Pyramids lay atop the remains of over 1300 US soldiers who died in the 1st

and 2nd Seminole Wars. The obelisk was erected in 1881 as a tribute to Major Dade and his troops.

Speakers at the event included Mr. Cliff Shields, Director of Jacksonville and St. Augustine National Cemeteries; Mayor George Gardner, past mayor of St. Augustine; LTC. Bill Moline, USAF (Ret.); and B.G. Charles Spicola, Rough Riders

Each spoke about the history of St. Augustine, the role of Florida in war time and the dedication of service members to a cause greater than themselves.

The ceremony was concluded with a volley by the Rough Riders Honor Guard, TAPS presented by LTC Will Crenshaw, USA (Ret.), followed by the placing of the wreaths and a salute to each memory.

All were invited to American Legion Post 37 for a delightful repast.

For more information on the history, go to the following websites:

1st U.S. Volunteer Cavalry Regiment "Rough Riders" – <http://www.tampa-roughriders.org/>

Buffalo Soldiers - <http://www.wdwn-tampa.org/>

Major Dade Command - <http://mitchellarchives.com/the-dade-massacre-in-florida.htm>.

United States National Cemeteries in Florida - <http://www.cem.va.gov/cems/state.asp?State=FL>

Mayor George Gardner's *St. Augustine Report* – contact gardner@aug.com



Taps– LTC Will Crenshaw



BG Charles Spicola-Rough Riders



COL Bill Hogan– Invocation



COL George Hammond, MC



Color Guard



Veterans Island VFW had their first meeting on Tuesday, February 11th, at Beaches on Vilano, a restaurant next to the fishing pier on the West end of Vilano Road. We had a good attendance and signed up 6 New members. Six more of the attendees will be transferring into the Post from other Posts outside the area.

Presented at the meeting was our new Post Logo and Banner. Also discussed was the need for New VFW members, those who have never been in the VFW. We also need those who were members, but haven't renewed their membership in 3 or more years, which would be considered a New member.

I explained the different Officer positions in a VFW Post and asked everyone to think what position they might want to hold or anyone they wanted to nominate for a position. I have put the requirements for each position on the Post WebSite on the Officers page.



AJ Sartin

I told the attendees about how the name of the Post came to be, and that I am still trying to get the 37 mile long barrier island, from Mayport to Vilano named "Veterans Island". Everyone thought that was an appropriate name, due to the number of Veterans on the Island...and feel that it would be a Salute to all Veterans nationwide.

Also attending the meeting were 5 ladies, interested in organizing a VFW Ladies Auxiliary, as soon as the Post Charter is granted.



For more information, including applications to join or transfer, go to www.VeteransIslandVFW.org

A. J. Sartin

www.FloridaDude.com

YOU'RE INVITED TO ATTEND

NAVY WIVES CLUBS OF AMERICA, INC.
DAUGHTERS-IN-DIXIE #300



MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING HELD THE 2ND THURSDAY OF EACH
MONTH - 7:00 PM

WE MEET AT LAKE SHORE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AT 2246 BLANDING BLVD IN JACKSON-
VILLE

NWCA is a National Non-Profit organization and our membership includes enlisted Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard spouses, active duty or retired as well as widowed or divorced. We also extend membership to those not affiliated with the military but are interested in volunteering within the Jacksonville community. Our purpose is to promote a friendly, sympathetic relationship among the wives of enlisted men of the United States Sea Services as well as community families. One of the best things about NWCA is the "friends" we make and the fun we have along the way.

We extend relief and assistance to needy members and other families of military personnel as well as help with local projects. Our national project is "Operation Shoebox". They organize and send support, snacks and much needed personal care items to our troops deployed outside of the USA. Volunteering is very rewarding to those we help as well as the good feeling it gives you as a member of an organization that makes a difference in your community. We have a wide variety of members from young to old with varied backgrounds and interests. We have educational meetings as well as socials. Members of Daughters in Dixie #300 participate in "hands on" projects within our community and enjoy doing crafts together. We take an active part in improving the quality of life for others. Our national organization presents up to 30 college scholarships for children and spouses in the military community. Daughters in Dixie #300 meet each month to discuss our monthly charity donations, projects and upcoming events. Do you enjoy being kind and charitable, being active insofar as you are able, love to help others, and like to have a good time? NWCA is the organization for you!

Our current fundraiser is operating concession stands at the **Jacksonville Jaguars** home games and events at the Jacksonville Veterans Memorial Arena. If you are interested please contact us, as we always need volunteers and you do not have to be a member to work these events with us. We also partner with Clay County Chamber of Commerce members to help support our charities.

Our current project is assisting **Florida Fallen Heroes** with raising money to put monuments at area high schools of the fallen soldiers. To view the "Field Cross" monument that was dedicated at Terry Parker High check out their website at www.floridafallenheroes.org. We also assist with those in need at the **Five STAR Veterans Center** in Jacksonville providing toiletries for their homeless residents during their transition back into the community.

For more information please contact

Kathy Cayton 904-272-9489 kcayton0712@gmail.com / Terry Laws 904-327-7426
lawsx7@comcast.net



Pictured is Melissa W., Grace M., Terry L., Henrietta L., and Kathy C. with quilts presented to our National President to take to Bethesda Naval Hospital for our Wounded Warriors.



Patriotic Pillow Project pillow cases made for our Wounded Warriors along with a Thank You letter from Clay County students.



Henrietta Loper, Juanita Wilkerson and Kathy Cayton serving refreshments at the Florida Fallen Hero Monument Dedication.



COL Erklens

This article is reprinted with the permission of its author, George Gardner

Vets mount offensive on War Memorial move

St. Augustine's veterans' organizations are advancing their plan to move "the city's most sacred memorial" to the west garden of Government House rather than the currently approved plan to move it 35 feet from a corner of the Plaza de la Constitución to a more central plaza location.

Retired U.S. Army Col. Rik Erkelens, Military Officer's Association president and 450 Military Committee chair for the setting of three replica cannons in Oglethorpe Battery Park last summer, describes a plan to reset the memorial in the center of Government House's west garden with a backdrop of shields of the five military services along an existing wall.

"There is no greater love a man has for his country than to lay down his life for it," Erkelens says. "We are judged by the manner in which we honor our heroes. This site will provide that singular honor."

To reverse recent City Commission approval of a move within the Plaza, the veterans "are working closely with the pilot club which placed the monument in its present location in 1946" and enlisting the help of the University of Florida, manager of the state-owned Government House property. They'll be up against sentiments such as Vice Mayor Nancy Sikes-Kline, who said, "I can think of no more honored place than putting (the memorial) in the central plaza."

With such a move, Erkelens envisions a ceremonial next year, St. Augustine's 450th anniversary: "Veterans organizations will conduct an appropriate re-dedication and parade of colors from the National Cemetery to the memorial on Memorial Day 2015."

Honoring World War One - Information is being sought on World War One casualties to add to the War Memorial. Send names and documentation to MOAA, PO Box 4571, St. Augustine 32085.

An update on the above story: from George Gardner of the Gardner Report

Vets stand down on memorial move: Memorial fund to be established

Urging that veteran organizations and the Military 450 Committee "be in on the original planning on anything that touches our military," retired Colonel Rik Erklens acknowledged Monday the process of moving the War Memorial within the Plaza de la Constitucion had gone too far to change the City Commission's mind and move it to the west garden of Government House.

At that commission meeting, General Services Director Jim Piggott said a contractor has offered to donate his services to move the memorial a planned 35 feet toward the center from a corner of the Plaza where it's hidden by electric panels.

And commissioners quickly endorsed Commissioner Don Crichlow's suggestion that a maintenance fund be established for the city's memorials and monuments. He suggested a third of the new franchise fee monies in the recently approved ticket increase for Old Town Trolleys could be committed. It could amount to \$ 9,000 annually.

Piggott said more than \$ 10,000 in donations to cover anticipated cost of moving the War Memorial can be used for additional memorial plaques and the balance put in such a memorial fund.

Erklens to head local chapter of Military Officers Association

Retired Col. Henri E. Erklens was installed as president of the Ancient City Chapter, Military Officers Association of America, during the group's January 23rd meeting at the Holiday Isle Hotel, St. Augustine Beach. Erklens succeeds Ron Birchall, who now serves on the board.



COL Erklens

Also installed were the following retired military personnel: First vice president Ron Radford, second vice president Charles Stratmann, secretary John Mountcastle, assistant secretary Hap Thompson, treasurer Robert Finney, assistant treasurer Ivan Juric and newsletter editor Arthur Small. Harry Metz, George McCrea and George Linardos are on the board of directors.

Col. Howard McGillin, Jr. serves as legal counsel to the chapter.

Conducting the installation was Jim Conner, president of the Florida Council of Chapters.

ORLANDO: Veterans Affairs officials have told U.S. Senator Bill Nelson that they're ready to break ground on a national simulation center to train doctors and nurses in the latest procedures for veterans' illnesses and injuries.

Nelson's office said in a statement that the \$ 20 million facility would be near the Orlando VA Medical Center, which is currently three years behind in opening. It will provide medical professionals anywhere in the world with access to research and training.

The senator has been told that the new center is set to begin construction in April, with completion in 15 months.

Nelson is a senior member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, which sought funding for the project.

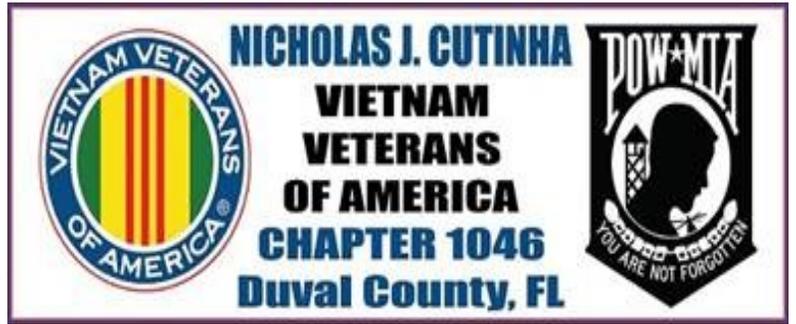
WELCOME HOME!

Chairman Bill Dudley and I were invited to speak at the February meeting of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Nicholas J. Cutinha, Chapter 1046 in Jacksonville.

The meeting was attended by more than 55 local Vietnam veterans. Bill and I were given the opportunity to speak and introduce our Vietnam documentary before it was shown. We spoke about the men in the documentary, how they were our neighbors, the average guys, who as it turns out are all heroes like them. You could have heard a pin drop during the documentary and several questions followed.

Chapter 1046, under the very capable leadership of fellow Brooklynite Tony D'Aleo has set lofty goals for the upcoming months. Tony and the Chapter are raising money for the erection of a Vietnam monument dedicated to all those who have served so honorably in Vietnam. This monument and dedication will be in the upcoming months at the Jacksonville National Cemetery. Please watch the Patriot Reader for the date of the dedication.

If you would like to contribute to this worthy cause, please contact President Tony D'Aleo at: <adaleo5579@gmail.com>



Documentary Producer Michael Rothfeld answers questions



Chaplain, Deacon Tom Hughes and VVA President & Tony D'Aleo



Chairman Dudley addresses the Chapter



Ray Breault on left holding stock & holding M1 is Mike Fraser



Photos by Steve Stewart



Upcoming Exempt Organization Filing Dates

The following dates apply to all Exempt Organizations. Those which have a fiscal (business) year that does not end on December 31 (aka "Calendar Year Taxpayers") may have a later deadline for their "tax year". For 990 filings, the months after tax-year-end are noted:



January 31 Provide Forms 1099-MISC to any one person or business receiving \$600 or more from your exempt organization (most corporations and certain other transactions actions are exempt). See IRS instructions at <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/i1099gi.pdf>

February 28: File Forms 1099-MISC (for total payments of \$600 to any one person or business or more made in prior calendar year—most corporations are exempted) together with Form 1096 with the IRS.

May 1: File Florida Corporate Annual Report with the Florida Secretary of State (on-line at www.sunbiz.org). Does not apply to associations (unincorporated affiliates of a parent exempt organization).

May 15: Complete IRS 990 filing:

1. If your exempt organization has less than \$50,000 in gross receipts (the total amounts the organization received from all sources during its tax year, without subtracting any costs or expenses.), you may file your 990-N (e-postcard) on-line at <http://epostcard.form990.org/> .

2. Prepare 990-EZ if your exempt organization has less than \$200,000 in gross receipts and less than \$500,000 in total assets at tax-year-end. A complete 990-EZ filing includes appropriate related schedules.

3. Prepare 990 if your exempt organization does not meet the above criteria.

Non-calendar year organizations file by the 15th day of the 5th month after close of the tax year.

Annually: All charitable organizations and sponsors must register prior to engaging in solicitation activities in Florida, and renew annually. The expiration date for charitable organizations and sponsors is one (1) year from the initial date of compliance with registration requirements.

Prepare your organization's Solicitation of Contributions Registration Application <http://forms.freshfromflorida.com/10100.pdf> and file not later than the expiration date on file with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs. You may check your organization's current registration at <https://csapp.800helpfla.com/cspublicapp/giftgiversquery/giftgiversquery.aspx>



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The date and time for our next MIAP - FL service has been approved by Clifford Shields of the JNC. This date was requested by Janis Diamond of Hardage Giddens Funeral Home.

Please mark your calendars for Friday, March 28, 2014 @ 1:30pm. The time of 1:30pm works better for the staff of the JNC. At this time we still can not do our services on Saturdays so Fridays are the best day. I hope that by sending this notice out now it will give everyone enough time to plan. We all know we can never pick a date or time that would be best for all.

I WILL KEEP EVERYONE UPDATED AS THE PLANS COMES TOGETHER AND WILL POST PRE-MEETING DATES AFTER THE FIRST OF THE YEAR. If you were not involved in our first service but wish to join in for this one please contact me at miapjax@yahoo.com. We want as many people from our community to be a part of this as possible.

Be fore warned I will be asking for some items to be donated (chairs, water, etc) for this service.

On behalf of MIAP - FL I would like to wish everyone a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY HOLIDAYS. PLEASE BE SAFE in all your holiday travels and fun. Remember the REASON for the SEASON.

LOVE & PEACE to all for GOD & COUNTRY,

Kathy Church
101 Bowles Street
Neptune Beach, FL 32266
(904) 219-3035
bartenderpost233@yahoo.com

The Missing in America Project
MIAP - FL State Coordinator
miapjax@yahoo.com
www.miap.us

CFC - Combined Federal Campaign #76243

ALA Unit 233 Membership Chair
ALA 5th District Poppy Chair

American Legion Riders
Chapter 233 - Treasurer
legionriders233@gmail.com

Veterans and Friends of Veterans,

More than 40 years ago, hundreds of thousands of Vietnam Veterans returned home to a country they could no longer recognize. They were the first veterans of the United States of America to come home without a hero's welcome.

Over 58,000 young Americans gave their lives in that war. Many more came home with physical and mental health issues. Many of them continue to suffer as a result of their service.

The Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1046 wants to honor all veterans of the Vietnam War. We have committed to build a Vietnam Veterans Memorial Monument at Jacksonville National Cemetery.

The cost of erecting the monument will be \$40,000.

I am writing to ask for your assistance. We, the citizens of Northeast Florida, need to make this happen. It is not only a way of saying "thank you" to those who served and sacrificed, but a way to permanently remember all those that served in the Vietnam War with this monument at the Jacksonville National Cemetery.

It is our way of telling the families of those veterans that have passed, that we remember and that "We will never forget."

Please help us remember all Vietnam War Veterans by making a generous donation today to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Monument fund. Please fill out the flap on the attached brochure and enclose it with your donation.

Mail your checks to: Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1046, P.O. Box 331322, Atlantic Beach, FL 32233-1322

You can also make your donation online by going to our website at www.vva1046.com/monument. All donations are tax deductible. We appreciate support. We would also be grateful you would take the time to forward this to email, with your endorsement and recommendation, to your email list. Thank you for your support, God Bless America.

Semper Fi, Anthony(Tony)D'Aleo

Nicholas J Cutinha Chapter 1046, President

Vietnam Veterans of America

In Service of America

www.VVA1046.com





For several years, D.A.V. FI Chapter 6 has furnished the passenger vans for the delivery of Veterans between the St. Augustine Clinic and the Gainesville, V.A. Hospital, and back, Monday – Friday. The Van departs the Clinic every weekday at 0600. Phone (904) 209-3710 to schedule a ride.

Drivers furnished by the COA are:

Monday – Lonnie Woodard

Tuesday – Jack LaLonde

Wednesday – Floyd Bubba

Thursday – Bob Garlander

Friday – Robert “Butch” Harrison





American Legion Post 37, information provided by Adjutant Kevin McKeefery

On February 10, 2014, at two pm members of the American Legion Post 37, St Augustine, Florida passed handmade knitted and crocheted hats to the Residents of the Clyde E. Lassen, State Veteran's Nursing Home. It was enjoyed by all and the Residents were pleased and shared this with the members of the post. Some hats were made with camouflage yarn for the Army and Navy and Marines colors. Other hats were solid colors in reds, whites and blues, pinks etc. Thirty five hats were distributed.

It is said that, " If you place a hat on your head to warm your head that it can warm your whole body." The weather is hot then, cold at times. So the hats will be handy for the residents when needed.

Members of American Legion Post 37 that were present were Adjutant/Vice Commander Kevin McKeefery, Executive Boards Members Jerry Hanchett and Heidi Howard.

Everyone was very pleased.



On Wednesday March 5, 2014 The American Legion Post 37 Lounge will be serving all you can eat pasta and meatballs for \$10.95 from 6PM until 9PM.



Brigadier General Charles Spicola presenting picture of Rough Riders dedication of the monument in Tampa Bay to Kevin McKeefery

Meeting:
First Tuesday of each month
Time: 1900
St. Augustine Elks Lodge #829
1420 A1A South
St. Augustine, FL 32080



Mailing Address:
MCL #383
P.O. Box 1752
St. Augustine, FL 32085
Telephone: (904) 461 - 0139
www.mclfl383.org





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

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*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



Korean War Veterans Assoc.

<http://www.kwva.org/>

Korean War Facts

[http://www.history.com/
topics/korean-war](http://www.history.com/topics/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
Wednesday of the month at 7 pm at the Elks Lodge,
1420 A1A So., St. Augustine.**

Visit our Website: www.veteranscouncilofstjohns.org

**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
Tammy Shirley, Assistant VSO*

The locally produced *Vietnam documentary, Service, Sacrifice and Courage* has received **280,095** views to date on YouTube.

You can view part of it at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H8Cs6Th7VNc>

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



Once a Soldier Always a Soldier

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

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

This is your Newsletter, please contribute.

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.