



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

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Message from the Chairman



Fellow Veterans,

Next weekend is Memorial Day weekend, a time to reflect on the service and sacrifice of those who paid the supreme price for our liberty and freedom. There are many opportunities to participate in one of the many services in the area to honor our fallen comrades. In St. Augustine there will be a Memorial Day service commencing at 10 AM at the St. Augustine National Cemetery followed by rededication of the WW II Memorial at the Plaza de la Constitucion in downtown St. Augustine. At 2 PM, there will be a Memorial Day ceremony at Jacksonville National Cemetery on Lannie Road in Jacksonville near the Jacksonville International Airport. Please plan to attend one of these services with your friends and family to help pay tribute to our honored dead.

Progress is being made on the plans for a Veterans Court for St. John's County. I will give a detailed report on this at our next Veterans Council meeting

on Thursday, May 29th. Howard McGillin, Charlotte Matthews and I have met with Mr. R.J. Larizza, States Attorney, Mr. Jim Purdy, Public Defender, and Sheriff David Shoar and all are very supportive of having a Veterans Treatment Court in place in our judicial system in St. Johns County. Our next step is to speak with one of the circuit judges who may be willing to hear these cases which would be brought before him. We will be meeting with several judges in the next few weeks we feel will be amenable to taking on this task. As I said, I will report on this in more detail at this month's Veterans Council meeting.

Don't forget our Battle of Midway Dinner coming up on June 7th at the Renaissance Resort Hotel, World Golf Village. I still have tickets but they are selling fast and we will be closing off sales on June 1st. Our guest speaker for this year's event is Vice Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Mark Fer-

guson. We are expecting between 850-1000 to attend this year's Battle of Midway Commemorative Dinner. Please plan to come out and join us for one of the most patriotic evenings you will ever spend in the presence of so many of our Nations heroes. Not only do we have Midway Veterans who will be present that evening, but POW's from WW II, Korea, and Vietnam wars as well as many Wounded Warriors who have fought in both Iraq and Afghanistan in the Global War on Terrorism. Plan on being there. You'll remember the evening for years to come.

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



Special Points of Interest

Thank you Veterans! From Pet Paradise
 Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation
 JU's Nursing Veterans Outreach
 Children of Fallen Patriot's Foundation

Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home

Patriotism is our motto



Mr. Remieres and the Director of Nursing whoop it up just before the Cinco de Mayo party



Mr. McCormack enjoying his catfish at Outback Crabshack



It was tiaras and flowers for our ladies on Mother's Day!!



Residents enjoying the wonderful cookout provided by the Vietnam Veterans of America

Each year nursing homes across the country celebrate National Nursing Home Week with many, many activities. Every year Clyde E. Lassen holds competitions between the two houses. These competitions are meant to have the residents and their staff work together to beat the other team...and do we ever have some competitive residents and staff!!! Each day brings new competitions with the final day being the announcement of the winner with the Navy Band providing the entertainment. This year the residents and staff of Delta are the winners!!



Cookie stacking contest. Winning stack had 62 cookies!



Bow and Arrow contest



Karaoke Contest



Ring Toss Contest



Basketball Toss



The staff got in on the Karaoke contest too



The Elk's Lodge served up a wonderful cake in celebration of Armed Forces Day



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, May 5th** 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.

MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE

JACKSONVILLE NATIONAL CEMETERY

2:00 P.M.

26 MAY 2014

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- | | |
|---|--|
| Prelude: | U.S. Navy Band Southeast |
| Welcome and Introductions: | Ray Quinn, SGM (USA, Ret) |
| Post Colors: | Joint Service Color Guard |
| National Anthem: | Miss Arvie Witherspoon |
| Pledge of Allegiance: | Mr. Padraic Mulvihill |
| Invocation: | Chaplain John Hugus, LTC (USA, Ret) |
| Welcome Remarks: | Mr. Clifford A. Shields, Jr.
Director Jacksonville National Cemetery |
| Welcome Remarks: | Howard McGillin, COL (USA, Ret)
Chairman Jacksonville National Cemetery
Support Committee |
| Distinguished Guest remarks: | |
| Introduction of Keynote Speaker: | Howard McGillin, COL (USA, Ret) |
| Keynote Address: | Major General James D. Tyre, Commander,
Florida Army National Guard |
| Laying of Memorial Wreath: | Major General Tyre, Director Shields,
Howard McGillin, COL (USA, Ret) |
| Firing of volleys: | Joint Services Firing Detail |
| TAPS: | U.S. Navy Band Southeast |
| Benediction: | Chaplain John Hugus, LTC (USA, Ret) |

You are all invited to observe Memorial Day at the Jacksonville National Cemetery



Howard O. McGillin, Jr.
Colonel, US Army (Retired)
Chair, Support Committee at
Jacksonville National Cemetery

Guest Editorial - Memorial Day 2014

Memorial Day is the informal start of summer for most Americans. Across the First Coast from Fernandina Beach to Flagler Beach, stores, restaurants, hotels and tourist attractions will transition from winter staffing and scheduling to the hustle and bustle of summer. This is a good thing for a nation built on free enterprise.

It is important however to remember – literally to remember – what Memorial Day is really about. America has two great holidays dedicated to those who have served our country in its times of greatest need. We remember our honored dead on Memorial Day and our living Veterans on Veterans Day. How will you honor them?

Memorial Day is the day set aside to pay tribute and to remember the sacrifice, and perhaps more importantly, the service of those who have died in the defense of the United States. These men and women answered the call of their country when war threatened. They gave up their personal freedom and their lives that we might have our freedom and our lives. General George S. Patton, Jr., reportedly once said “[i]t is foolish and wrong to mourn the men who died. Rather we should thank God that such men lived. “ Memorial Day therefore is a solemn, but not necessarily somber, day to remember those men and women who served our country at battlefields from the Lexington Green in 1775 to the mountains and valleys of Afghanistan in 2014, and who, ultimately, gave their lives in defense of freedom.

Paying tribute to the honored dead is important. But, as Abraham Lincoln said 101 years ago at Gettysburg, “[i]t is rather for us here dedicated to the great task remaining before us, that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion.” This Memorial Day, Veterans Groups and government leaders will gather at a number of local sites to renew that promise and that dedication and to honor these fallen heroes. Why don’t you join us?

Please take a few moments from the barbecues, baseball and beach trips to join in one of these ceremonies. For those in St. Augustine, there will be a ceremony at the National Cemetery Commencing at 10AM sponsored by the local chapter of the Military Officers Association of America followed by a re-dedication of the War Memorial in the Plaza de la Constitucion. For those in Jacksonville, the city will sponsor a ceremony at the Memorial Wall starting at 8:30 AM. The Memorial Day Ceremony at our local National Cemetery will be at 2:00 PM

at the Jacksonville National Cemetery, on Lannie Road just north of the Jacksonville International Airport. In addition, local veterans will participate in a “Flags In” activity on Saturday May 24, 2014 to place flags on all of the nearly 6000 graves at the Jacksonville National Cemetery and at the 1200 graves at St. Augustine National Cemetery starting at 10:00 AM. Check the paper for last minute changes due to weather!

If you cannot participate in one of these ceremonies, we would still recommend that you take a few moments on this long weekend to pause and remember the sacrifices of those who have gone before us. The word “Memorare” is the latin word from which we derive Memorial. It is a command to “Remember!” those who have given you and me the freedoms we cherish.



Representative DeSantis Addresses VA Mismanagement By Michael Isam



St. Augustine, Fla, (May 6, 2014) – DeSantis says accountability is severely lacking at Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) in general and at hospitals more specifically, in more than one location across the country.

On Monday, during a press conference held at the Bryan Tutton Memorial Post 2391, two items appeared to rankle DeSantis; unacceptable patient backlog and mismanagement. Both items have led DeSantis and approximately 130 other representatives, to support H.R. 4031, the Department of Veterans Affairs Management Accountability Act.

Bill Dudley, National Vice President for the Navy League and current President of the Veterans Council of St. Johns County, congratulated DeSantis for his decision to support the bill. “In corporate life, the officer in charge of an organization is ultimately responsible for it, said Dudley” Just today, the CEO of Target Stores was dismissed. So it should be with the VA. “I am fully supportive of this bill,” said Dudley

According to Executive Veteran Service Officer for St. Johns County, Joseph McDermott, who spoke on the issue of the backlog, “Following the current claim adjudication process it takes 2-3 years, however, current changes to the VA process are showing results.” “With the institution of the “Fully Developed Claim process,” said McDermott, “the VA wants to have the entire process, from initial filing to the award of compensation, not to exceed 125 days. In some instances it is taking just a little longer, but nothing compared to the former method.”

Kat Gates-Skipper of Concerned Veterans for America (CVA), is a retired Marine whose Army Vietnam veteran husband has been stuck in the case backlog for 8 years. The CVA believes veterans should not have to wait for any medical service at any time or anyplace and that accountability for the VA is a must. “My husband was sent to an unemployability clinic in Orlando,” said Gates-Skipper, “it was an 8 month course and he went faithfully, I know, I took him.” “At the end of each session,” she continued, “the supervisor would enter all the required information via a computer, real time, the results of that days appointment. At the 7-month point, we received a letter from the office that sent us there stating that nothing was happening. Accountability definitely needs to start there,” concluded Gates.

DeSantis then introduced Joe Minster, a veteran of Desert Shield/Desert Storm. “I have been in the system since 2010. I have been rated as unemployable by the VA.” I have been in the backlog for a little over 2 years,” continued Minster, “because I have been rated unemployable by the VA, I am unable to find work. Because of that I am homeless and live in the back of my truck, But there are a lot of guys out there who have it far worse than me, they sleep on the ground,” he said. Minster ended with “if the VA had the proper tools, this problem would go away.”

During the question and answer period Patricia Patrick-Kirk, a retired Army veteran, married to a Marine, spoke of her experience that began in 1991. Patrick-Kirk served in Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. “The VA is continually losing my paperwork,” said Patrick-Kirk. “I have taken to getting a copy of everything during an appointment. I carry it with me for every appointment so when they say they can’t find something,” she said, “I reach in my big bag and say, here, make a copy of this.” “I think,” she continued, “the biggest problem is lack of understanding by VA personnel because they are not veterans and they have no reference point for understanding.” “The people who work with us MUST be veterans and preferably those who served in combat.”

According to the House Committee on Veterans Affairs (HCVA) website, <http://veterans.house.gov/HR4031>, “the bill would give the VA Secretary greater authority to fire employees and remove them

from SES service due to poor performance in the same manner a Member of Congress can remove a member of their staff.”

This move by HCVA comes on the heels of what many consider to be the most “unforgiveable act” by VA Senior Executive Service staff. “It is horrendous that people charged with the well-being of others would deny care to any person until it is too late,” said A. J. Sartin, Commander of the newly formed Veterans Island VFW. “I have been in the VA healthcare system for many years and some locations in this country are absolutely terrible. I am currently receiving healthcare at the St. Augustine Community Based Outpatient Clinic and they have provided me with absolutely excellent care. The rest of the VA healthcare system needs to use them as their bench-mark.”

The most notable problem is in the VA medical center in Phoenix, AZ where the deaths of 40 veterans have been attributed to “secret waiting lists”. Reports have come to light that a concealed attempt to destroy evidence was ordered by an unidentified official at the Phoenix VA Health Care System.

According to a May 1 release from VA Public Affairs stated that Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki directed that PVAHCS Director Sharon Helman, PVAHCS Associate Director Lance Robinson, and a third PVAHCS employee be placed on administrative leave until further notice.

“We take these allegations very seriously,” said Shinseki. The action was taken based in part owing to the gravity of the allegations, and in the best interest of the Inspector General’s ability to conduct a thorough and timely review of the Phoenix VA Health Care System (PVAHCS).

[Disclosure: The author of this story is a disabled Vietnam veteran who receives his medical treatment from the VA.]



Veteran Joe Minster



Patricia Patrick (L), Kat-Gates Skipper



Cong. DeSantis with local veterans



Cong. DeSantis
welcomes everyone



Veterans Council of St. Johns
County Chairman Bill Dudley



St. Johns County VSO Joe
McDermott

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George Gardner

A Military Tour of St. Augustine

A stroll along St. Augustine’s ancient streets can be a pleasure, but the 450th Military Commemoration Committee, assisted by students in Flagler College’s *Introduction to Public History* course, hopes to make it an adventure into the city’s four and a half centuries of military experience.

Under the direction of Dr. Kelly Enright, students researched sites and monuments within the city’s historic core and out to the Fountain of Youth Archaeological Park, where it all began with the city’s first settlement. The result was a dozen key locations unfolding stories from St. Augustine Founder Pedro Menendez’ ouster of French forces in 1565 to the Hotel Ponce de Leon as a barracks in World War Two.

In an effective collaboration of college and community, the Flagler professor and students suggest their material can be used for everything from a printed brochure to longer text suitable for a longer booklet, website, or audio tour, along with citations, bibliographical information, and student author/researcher for each entry.

For its part the 450th Military Commemoration Committee has made it its mission to “Establish St. Augustine, Florida 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 and our nation ... by engaging our citizens and visitors in a series of quality educational, entertaining heritage & cultural events and by establishing, preserving and interpreting our legacy heritage sites.”



A major inaugural event for the committee was the setting of three replica cannons in Oglethorpe Battery Park on Davis Shores across the bay from mainland St. Augustine. It was here, in 1740, that Georgia Governor James Oglethorpe set up his artillery to bombard the Castillo de San Marcos into submission – an effort that failed as his cannonballs merely sank into the soft coquina walls and Spanish whitewashing of the marks each night presented a fresh, unaffected target each succeeding morning to the frustrated cannoneers.

Castillo de San Marcos

But the walking tour is along St. Augustine’s main streets, and appropriately begins with the Castillo, Spain’s legacy and the oldest masonry fort in the continental United States. Built 1672 – 1695 of unique coquina stone, its walls absorbed the shock of cannon balls to thwart attacks by South Carolina Governor James Moore in 1702 and Oglethorpe in 1740.



Spanish Military Hospital

South along the bayfront onto Aviles Street, the Spanish Military Hospital reflects historical records of a complex of medical facilities as early as 1600. Evidence suggests the appropriation of these facilities by the British, who occupied St. Augustine from 1763-1784, for such non-medical uses as a jail and courthouse.

Edmund Kirby Smith House & Statue

Further south on Aviles Street is the Edmund Kirby Smith House, now home to the St. Augustine Historical Society Research Library. Built in the late 1700s by Bernardo Segui, it was the childhood home of Edmund Kirby Smith, The highest ranking Floridian in Confederate military service. He was a West Point graduate and the last Confederate general to surrender his command during the Civil War. A statue in the courtyard represents Smith and his slave, Alexander Darnes who, after the war and emancipation, earned a medical degree and became the first black physician in Jacksonville.

St. Francis Barracks

Back along the bayfront along Marine Street, the St. Francis Barracks, as its name suggests, had its beginnings as a missionary center and evolved into a military station. Under Spanish rule it was a monastery until 1763, when the British took occupation of St. Augustine and converted the buildings to barracks. The Spanish regained control in 1784 and continued the use as a barracks, as did the United States when Florida became a US territory in 1821. The barracks today is headquarters for the Florida Department of Military Affairs and Florida Army and Air National Guards.



St. Augustine National Cemetery

Just south of the St. Francis Barracks is the St. Augustine National Cemetery, originally part of the Spanish Franciscan monastery. In 1828 part of the property was set aside for use as a cemetery, and it was declared a national cemetery in 1881. The Dade pyramids are its most famous monuments, and while they are popularly named for Major Francis Dade, whose command of 110 was massacred during the Second Seminole Indian War of 1835-42, they cover vaults containing the remains of more than 1,400 soldiers and officers collected from battlefields during that war.

St. Francis Inn

Two blocks west of the cemetery is St. George Street, and to the north is St. Francis Inn, steeped in military history. This oldest inn in Florida, still operating today, was built by Sargent Gaspar Garcia of a Cuban infantry battalion in 1791. In 1838 retired Royal Marine Col. Thomas Dummett and his daughter Anna took possession of the inn. Anna was a strong supporter of the Confederacy and

during the Civil War, with the Union occupation of St. Augustine, she was suspected of being a Confederate spy.

Flagler College

Up St. George Street and west on King Street is Flagler College, opened in 1888 as the magnificent Hotel Ponce de Leon by Standard Oil Founder Henry Flagler. With the outbreak of World War II the hotel served as a training station for new Coast Guard recruits and Gunnery School personnel, housing and training 2,500 recruits between 1942 and 1945.

Plaza de la Constitución

In the center of the original walled city, the Plaza de la Constitución, established under Spanish Royal Ordinances for Town Plans of the Indies in 1573, is the oldest public park in the nation. The plaza was a social center of the town but also a field for regular drilling of Spanish grenadiers, dragoons, and infantrymen. Memorials range from a Civil War obelisk to a war memorial for US military from World War Two through modern times. The plaza's four cannons - two 32 pounders and two 8 inch columbiads - were in use at the Castillo during its time as Fort Marion after 1821.

Government House

At the west end of the plaza stands Government House, the original site of the Spanish Governor's House in 1598. During the Revolutionary War it was home and offices for British Governor Patrick Tonyn and during the Civil War a stable, barracks, officers' quarters, and hospital. Today it houses a First Colony exhibit describing St. Augustine's earliest years.

Tolomato Cemetery

North along Cordova Street the oldest existing cemetery in Florida, Tolomato Cemetery, began as an Indian mission village, eventually becoming the parish cemetery for what is now the Cathedral Basilica of St Augustine. The name references that Franciscan mission located just outside the town's defenses. The cemetery contains the remains of Union and Confederate war dead, as well as notable community figures.

Santo Domingo Redoubt

A short distance beyond is the Santo Domingo Redoubt, built in response to James Moore's raid of 1702 as an extension of the Cubo Defense Line. The original redoubt would have featured sloped pine log walls behind a ditch and gun embrasures for up to six cannon. The present reconstruction is based on its 1808 appearance.



Fountain of Youth

A short drive up San Marco Avenue is the Fountain of Youth Archaeological Park, site of the first Spanish settlement in 1565. Extensive archaeological digs have outlined preexisting structures of that earliest period both here and in the neighboring Mission of Nombre de Dios.

Pilot Club War Memorial Decommissioned By Michael Isam



St. Augustine, Fla, (April 29, 2014) – The 68-year-old memorial to veterans who paid the ultimate sacrifice was decommissioned by the Pilot Club of St. Augustine, Florida.

At exactly 10: 00 a.m. Capt. Charles Stratman, USN (retired.) rang 4 bells signaling the commencement of the decommissioning ceremony. The bell was presented to Stratman by the crew of the U.S.S. Tallahatchie County, AVB2. Stratman had the rank of LCDR and was the Executive Officer of the ship. The ship, according to the history on <http://www.usstallahatchiecounty.com/history.html>, began as LST-1154. LST meaning Tank Landing Ship and was one of the only two steam powered LST's built by the U. S. Navy.

Kay Burtin, President of the Pilot Club of St. Augustine began the ceremony telling of her brother-in-law's return from WWII in 1946 and the subsequent commissioning of the memorial at the current location. Plaques acknowledging WWII, Korea and Vietnam veterans reside on 3 sides with the dedication plaque residing on the east side facing the rising sun. In years past, members of the club would give a day engaged in the age-old tradition of polishing the plaques using toothbrushes readying the memorial for the laying of a wreath on Memorial Day.

St. Augustine Mayor Joe Boles offered a story of his father, a WWII Navy Frogman. "He never spoke of his time in the war," said Boles. "I can't imagine what life was like in a war. I did not have to serve because those before us made it so we did not have to serve." He thanked all who were instrumental in making this move a reality.

Burtin introduced John Valdez, the "anonymous" contractor who stepped forward and offered his services to move the memorial. Valdez thanked several other contractors who have stepped forward and volunteered their time and materials. "Without them this move might still be in the planning stages," said Valdez. Continuing on, Valdez gave a brief description of the process for deconstruction, beginning with the cannon ball atop the memorial. "That will be the easiest part of all as years of weathering have caused cracks not only on the coquina sides of the monument, but also on the crown." "If we are unable to remove it intact, we will be able to replace it. In fact we have the technology to recreate the cracks on the sides."

Col. Rik Erklens, USA (retired), President of the Ancient City Chapter, Military Officers Association of America spoke about the upcoming move, the installation of additional plaques to recognize fallen veterans of the wars since Vietnam. "On the coming Memorial Day, immediately following the ceremony at the St. Augustine National Cemetery on Marine Street, a parade will be formed from the cemetery to the plaza for the dedication."

The ceremony was concluded with a solitary ring of the ship bell followed by "Taps" offered by John Donlon, St. Johns County Sheriffs Department, retired.



World War II



Cannon ball crown



COL Rik Erklens, USA ret



Dedication



John Donlon



John Valdez

Memorial Day Monday May 26, 2014

NEWS RELEASE

“A day of Honor and Glory to our dead comrades in arms.”

Should you take the time to look in the downtown area, as so many have, since the 1868 establishment of Memorial Day, you will find memorials to the dead. See the Seminole War dead under the pyramids at the small National Cemetery on Marine Street. Many individual graves are there from several wars.

Located on the East Plaza is an obelisk dedicated to the Civil War dead. Nearby is the recently relocated War Memorial to the servicemen of World War II, Korea and Vietnam who died during those wars. Soon to be added to this monument will be the dead from the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts. Across from this monument at the corner of the American Legion Hamblen House Post 37, are the names of the World War I dead.

On the west side of the plaza can be found the obelisk dedicated to General William Loring “Khedive of Egypt,” and general in both the Union and Confederate armies. Nearby can be found the Rosario defense line monument protecting the city from the west. It is thought that a number of dead are buried there in the plaza from those defenses, and along the other defense lines of the city.

Outside the city are locations - some marked, others unmarked where soldiers have made the ultimate sacrifice to protect this city for 449 years. Places like Fort Matanzas, Fort Mose, Fort Picolata on the river, Fort Peyton and others. These locations serve to remind us that the price of our freedom is bought dearly with blood and treasure.

Today, we are seriously challenged around the world and our troops still die in Afghanistan. The blood of our heroes never dies as no greater love has man than to lay down his life for us, his comrades, families, freedom, and our way of life. Our most sacred monuments bear their names. We are judged as a people and as a nation, by how we honor our heroes.

Participate in Memorial Day on Monday, May 26, 10 a.m.-11 a.m. at the National Cemetery on Marine Street behind the National Guard Headquarters, presented by the Military Officers Association of America, the Florida National Guard and the Veterans Council. A massing of colors, field music by pipes and drums and remarks at the cemetery, will be followed by a stirring ceremony near the relocated World War II monument in the plaza by the Pilot Club of St. Augustine.

Col. Henri “Rik” Erkelens, United States Army Retired

President, Military Officers Association, Ancient City Chapter



Ted Pappas 2014

Honoring All Who Sacrificed
St. Augustine National Cemetery

104 Marine Street - St Augustine

Monday May 26, 2014

Ceremony 10:00 - 11:00 AM

Public Invited



Military Officers Association of America, Ancient City Chapter
Veteran's Council of St. Johns County - Florida National Guard - 450th MCG

Putnam County Historical Society's Memorial Day weekend Flag display honoring service members on the grounds of the Bronson House. Remember someone special to you. Pass the info along so that everyone can be involved.

Tamara L. Delaporte, Executive Secretary to the President, Flagler College

74 King Street, St. Augustine, FL 32084 (904) 819-6288 Fax: (904) 824-6017 www.flagler.edu



PUTNAM COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND 2014 HONORING OUR MILITARY SERVICE MEMBERS

This Memorial Day Weekend the Putnam County Historical Society will be honoring service members. Miniature American Flags will be displayed on the grounds of the Bronson-Mulholland House at 100 Madison Street in downtown Palatka. The flags will be displayed May 24-27, 2014. The public is invited to join in honoring any branch of the military by sponsoring a flag in a loved one's name. Personalized flags will include the name of the service member, their rank, branch of service and where they served. Pick up forms at Graphics II and the Welcome Center on St. Johns or the Bronson House on Madison Street. The cost of flag sponsorship is \$5.00 and checks and information should be mailed to the Historical Society at P.O. Box 35, Palatka, Florida 32178. For more info contact Elizabeth van Rensburg at 904-377-5044.

FLAG SPONSORSHIP FORM

Name of Service Member: _____

Rank of Service Member: _____

Branch of Service: _____

Sponsored By (Name and Phone Number): _____



TRIBUTE TO A FALLEN COMRADE



Ray Quinn, SGM, USA, Ret

TODAY WE HONOR A FALLEN COMRADE. SOLDIERS HONOR THEIR COMRADES WITH ONLY A FEW TIME HONORED TRADITIONS.

OF THESE TRADITIONS ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT IS SURELY THE ONE YOU SEE BEFORE YOU TODAY. I DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO THE DISPLAY YOU SEE BEFORE YOU OF A SOLDIER'S TOOLS.

THESE TOOLS WOULD NOT BE SEEN IN A CHURCH, OR A SYNAGOGUE OR EVEN THE SOLDIER'S FAVORITE CHAPEL. THIS IS A SCENE RESERVED FOR A FIELD OF BATTLE.

ON THE FIELD OF BATTLE WHEN THE SOUNDS HAVE FADED AND THE BATTLE IS DONE, BROTHER MUST TEND TO BROTHER, HONOR AND RESPECT THE ONE WHO HAS FOUGHT THE GOOD FIGHT.

THE SOLDIER'S TOOLS OF BATTLE ARE SIMPLE AND BASICALLY REMAIN UNCHANGED THROUGH THE YEARS. IT IS UNIQUE EVEN TO SOLDIERS THAT THE VERY TOOLS OF BATTLE WILL MARK THEIR FINAL RESTING PLACE.

BOOTS

THE BOOTS OF OUR COMRADE, THE BOOTS THAT CARRIED HIM SO MANY MILES. BOOTS THAT CARRIED HIM THROUGH TIMES OF JOY AND PAIN. THE BOOTS THAT CARRIED HIM TO THIS, HIS FINAL RESTING PLACE.

RIFLE

THE RIFLE SYMBOLIZES THE FIREPOWER OF THE INDIVIDUAL SOLDIER, THE BURDEN, THE SAVIOR AND THE ULTIMATE WEAPON TO WIN, TO SURVIVE. THE BAYONET IS FIXED, IT IS IN PLACE FOR THE FINAL FIGHT. TODAY IT SYMBOLICALLY PENETRATES THE SACRED SOIL OF THE SOLDIER'S FINAL RESTING PLACE. NO MORE WILL THIS AWESOME TOOL BE USED TO TAKE A LIFE, BUT NOW TO MARK THE RESTING PLACE OF THIS DEAR COMRADE.

continued

HELMET AND DOG TAGS

UPON THE RIFLE WILL REST THE HELMET OF THE SOLDIER, THAT HEAVY, CURSED HELMET, THAT PROTECTOR OF LIFE, THAT ISSUE GEAR SO VALUABLE YET SO MISERABLE. TODAY IT IS TRANSFORMED INTO A MEMORIAL. NOT MARBLE OR GRANITE, BUT YET A MEMORIAL

WHO LIES HERE? WHAT SOLDIER HAS FALLEN? THE DOG TAGS ON THE RIFLE WILL TELL US OUR COMRADE LIES HERE.

NOW WE KNOW OUR COMRADE'S BATTLE IS DONE. HIS TOOLS OF BATTLE ARE HERE. HE WOULD NEVER LEAVE THEM UNTIL HIS BATTLE WAS DONE.

Fallen Comrade



REST OUR COMRADE, REST

RAY A. QUINN

Sgt. Maj. (FLARNG, Ret)

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The St. Johns County Veterans Council and FVPPI have been working closely for over a year on producing a 28 minute documentary featuring the stories of the wounded warriors, suffering from PTSD, their families and dogs and how all three work together to assist the warrior transition to life back home.

The documentary is in post production and will be ready in a few months.

We are looking for donations to help us finish this important educational work. Please send your tax deductible contributions to:

The Veterans Council of St. Johns County

PO Box 2117

St. Augustine, FL 32085

Please put K9 documentary on the memo line.

Here is a link to a short trailer of the documentary:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tfilo7-AURc&feature=youtu.be>

Home for LCpl Brandon Long and Family Landscaped! By Michael Isam



St. Augustine, Fla, (May 3, 2014) – In at 9:00 A.M., out before 2:00 P.M. It has to be a record for dedicated volunteers.

On Saturday groups gathered in various places all around the house. They moved like ants on the trail of a food source. But the trail quickly disappeared as rectangles of sod plopped in place over bare dirt. A quick nudge with the boot or shoe and it was in perfect place. No bare spots.

Other smaller groups were busy planting flowers, small citrus trees, 8 and 9-foot trees at the entrance.

“It is amazing,” said Homes For Our Troops (HFOT) volunteer coordinator April Matt. “I was afraid people would stay home because of the rain,” And rain it did. Not all the time and luckily not a “frog strangler” as described by the late comedian and story-teller Andy Griffith. “I won’t have to water for awhile,” said LCpl. Brandon Long, the new homeowner. His wife Nicole kept talking about all the people who came to help with the landscaping. “Ever since we decided to make this our home, I get this feeling of acceptance by the people of St. Augustine. It makes me cry from time to time.”

Members of the Marine Corps League, Detachment #383 corralled Long for a few minutes of picture taking. When Long attempted to thank them for their help, Harry Manford said, “No thanks necessary. You are a Marine. You are family. We take care of our own.” “But it is nice to hear,” Manford added.

Many things can be said, pro and con, about the Marine Corps, but ‘Semper Fidelis’ reigned supreme throughout and in today’s world, this is almost unique. “This is one of the reasons I took this job,” said Gina Colon, Community Outreach Coordinator for HFOT, the builder of the home. “I do not take the respect and admiration people feel for our wounded veterans for granted. Each encounter brings up feelings I did not know I had. Veterans are an incredible group of souls. I love them so much!”

Homes For Our Troops is based in Massachusetts and builds specialty homes for veterans who have lost limbs while serving their country.

Long lost both of his legs in an IED blast in Sangin, Afghanistan on December 21, 2010.

Two days before the birth of his daughter, LCpl Long was walking through an area comprised of nothing but river rocks, while on a foot patrol with the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, when he stepped on an IED resulting in multiple traumatic injuries. Heroic measures took place over the next hour as his squad fought to save his life while waiting for a helicopter to arrive for MEDEVAC.

A surprise visit from Tyler Southern, his wife Ashley and 4-month-old son caused a minor stir as volunteers took a few minutes to pay respects. Tyler and his family were the first to receive an HFOT home in the neighborhood. They were followed by John Hayes his wife, Janel and three young daughters. Janel was like a jack-in-the-box who popped in and out throughout the day.

One quote of note came from Marine and Vietnam Veteran Tom Crawford. “It is amazing seeing the number of kids here with their parents. No cell phones, no game apps, just kids being kids. It has been a very long time I have seen a kid covered in dirt from one end to the other. There is hope for the world.”

After the crew had finished, all were gathered around the flag pole at the entrance to the home for a group shot. April Matt introduced Danielle McQuarry of Two Men and A Truck.

McQuarry announced that the company will be moving the Longs into their new home at no cost.

The ceremony to present the Long family with the key to their new home will be conducted on July 26, 2014 at 11:00 A. M.



The Crew



Before



Hope the hole is deep enough



It was



Marine family

Local Veteran Documented Vietnam “Taxi Service” Helicopter, Heals Through Sharing Footage

This article is used with permission of its author Jennifer Smiga

For Vietnam War Veteran John Wolf, grenades and canteens weren't the only equipment he carried into combat. He also brought an 8mm camera, an object that would change his life.

With the camera in one hand and an M16 rifle in the other, the former infantryman chronicled the American soldiers based in 1971 Chu Lai. Between montages of fellow servicemen and combat equipment, the footage centered on an historic icon: the Huey helicopter.

Dubbed as a “taxi service to the bush,” the aircraft delivered aerial mobility, sustenance and combat orders to the soldiers. Today, a similar one rests in Holmdel, N.J.—and it delivers much more.



John Wolf, aka Wolfie, now lives in Jacksonville Beach

This helicopter, a 1964 Bell UH-1D Huey, [was restored by a group of New Jersey Veterans](#), many of whom were Vietnam War pilots and maintenance technicians. The aircraft served tours in Vietnam with the 116th and 118th Assault Helicopter Companies; the 116th supported Wolf's unit. Approximately 30 volunteers began the project last February, collecting parts and refurbishing the exterior. Soon the Huey will “land” at its new home, the Vietnam Era Museum and Educational Center in Holmdel, where a dedication ceremony is slated for May 7.

But the Huey wasn't the only thing that was restored. With every sanded panel and tightened screw, the Veterans felt that a part of themselves was healed. And for many of them, that process took place decades after the war.

“To a certain extent, most of us Veterans blocked the war out,” Wolf said.

This behavior was not solely attributed to the experiences in Vietnam; it resulted from the treatment that Vietnam Veterans received upon their return home. When a 20-year-old Wolf arrived in the United States after his tour, the first thing a passerby did was take a look at his uniform—and spit on him.

For Wolf, the message was undeniable. “You didn't talk about it,” he said. “If you said you were in Vietnam—especially if you were in combat—you got strange looks or sometimes worse.”

It wasn't until 2007 that Wolf faced his past. Despite thriving in the technology sector for 25 years, he had never searched online for anything about the Vietnam War. But when he did, everything began to change. “I found my unit and got reconnected with guys I served with,” he said.

As he reunited with his fellow infantrymen, Wolf knew he had to share their stories. So he uploaded his Vietnam footage to YouTube—and the world responded.

“My YouTube videos have nearly 2.5 million views,” he said.

But the attention didn’t stop there. The History Channel and PBS both reached out to Wolf and have used his footage for documentaries. The History Channel’s six-hour, three-part documentary titled “Vietnam in HD” was first broadcast more than a year ago, and a three-part documentary titled “Vietnam: Service, Sacrifice and Courage” has also aired on PBS for the past three years.

No matter what the medium, Wolf said that his mission is to honor those who served in the war. He shares this initiative with the men and women who brought the Huey back to life.

“I hope this Huey project will lead people to reach out to Vietnam vets and welcome them home,” he said.

Editor’s note: read more about “Operation Huey” [here](#).

Visit these links to watch “Vietnam: Service, Sacrifice and Courage,” which aired on PBS. Other than the interview footage, most of the background footage in this documentary was provided by Wolf.

Part 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RMr29hH-U5g&list=PL8CBF2E0D4E59F737>

Part 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H8Cs6Th7VNc&list=PL8CBF2E0D4E59F737>

Part 3: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X8TAd9RhWZc>

To find out more about the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial Foundation, please visit their website: www.njvvmf.org

<https://www.facebook.com/NJVVMF?ref=hl>

<https://twitter.com/NJVVMF>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/TheNJVVMF?feature=>

The Vietnam documentary, “Vietnam: Service, Sacrifice & Courage” referenced above was filmed locally, in NE FL, by FVPPI and features: Tom Crawford and Harry Manford, USMC; Paul Heagy, USN Corpsman; Tom Waskovich, US Army Special Forces and Coy McDonald, US Army.

Sailors receive awards aboard Navy destroyer

this article is used with permission of its author Kim Kendall

The St. Augustine Navy League recently visited Naval Station Mayport to recognize sailors aboard the USS Farragut for their superior performance.

Under perfect weather conditions, Navy League members were greeted at the quarterdeck and escorted to the fantail where the crew was assembled for the awards ceremony.

Commanding officer, Cmdr. Grady Musser, recognized nine sailors with various achievement awards on behalf of the ship, and afterward, he provided his crew with insight into the Navy League and their support of the sea services.

On behalf of the Navy League, Farragut Liaison Gene Finck recognized electrician's mate Juan Moreno, boatswain's mate Janae Beauchamp and fire controlman Nicholas Lattanatham as sailors of the quarter for October through November.

Finck also recognized damage controlman Justin Christensen, personnel specialist Zinzi Spencer and boatswain's mate Ernest Obengmanu as sailors of the quarter for January through March.

Awards were also presented to machinists mate Ryan Davis, cryptologic technician–technical Thomas Davis and electronics technician Brandon Boatwright for their selection as sailors of the year for 2013.

While all award recipients received a plaque for their accomplishments the senior sailor of the year machinist's mate Ryan Davis, also received a free two-night stay in historic St. Augustine, compliments of various hotels, restaurants and attractions.



On the deck of the USS Farragut, from left: Capt. Ian Pollitt, VP Military Affairs, St Augustine Navy League, Jana Teehan, Historian SANL, Bill Dudley, National Vice Pres. NL of the US, Gene Finck, SANL, Garry Cohn, SANL.

In an address to the crew, Bill Dudley explained that the St. Augustine Navy League's adoption of the USS Farragut creates a mutually beneficial bond to both organizations.

Before leaving, Navy League members were treated to a tour of the ship.

It was duly noted that she looks just as great as she did upon her commissioning on June 10, 2006.

For information about the St. Augustine Council of the Navy League, call President Mike Zollar at 460-1251 or go to staugustinenavyleague.org.



CONTRIBUTED Cmdr. Grady Musser presents machinist's mate Ryan Davis with the senior sailor of the year award aboard the USS Farragut.

On Saturday, May 17th, the Vilano Beach VFW set up a recruiting table, to get new members, at the 'Cruisers' Car Show', held at the Florida School of the Deaf & Blind.

Pictured below is (from left): Guy Tomasello (Surgeon), A. J. Sartin (Post Commander), & Jack McClung (Trustee).



Not pictured is Fred Johnstone (Sr. Vice Commander)

The Post meets the 1st Monday night at 1900 (7pm) at The Reef restaurant on A1A Coastal Hwy on Vilano Beach.

A.J. Sartin Commander - VFW

VilanoBeachVFW@att.net

www.VilanoBeachVFW.org



Officers and Commanders, **SCAM ALERT**

*There is a phony organization running around the State handing out business cards saying they are collecting money under the name of **VFW-VA.***

*The guy's name is Daniel Soat and there are two phone numbers on the card. One in Daytona Beach area **386-872-0407** and the other number is **202-906-0507** in Washington DC.*

Both numbers go to an answering machine and the mailboxes are full. Do yourself a favor and do not entertain any Communications from this scam artist.

They have nothing to do with the Veterans of Foreign Wars, this Department or the VA.

Please get the word out to your members and your auxiliaries. If anyone donates to this organization your only course of action is to contact the local authorities for justice.

Please get the word out ASAP.

Thanks, Gene, VFW Post 10476
Eugene "Gene" Perrino, Sr.

CWO (Ret) U.S. Army, Department Of Florida VFW

Assistant State Adjutant, Phone # **352-622-5126, Fax # **352-622-3869****

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Adam Burke, Purple Heart, CEO/Founder of Veterans Farm

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Submitted by COL Jim Vanairsdale, USMC, ret.

***God and the soldier we adore, in time of danger, not before!
The danger passed, and all things righted, God is forgotten
and the soldier slighted.***

Rudyard Kipling

Vets 4 Vets

2ND QUARTERLY GATHERING OF VETERANS

June 28th (1100-1300)

5 Star Veterans Center, 40 Acme St, Jacksonville, Florida

Attention Veterans and Veterans organizations!

Request representatives from all veterans' organizations attend a gathering of veterans, especially representatives that have already committed to support the Welcome Saturday's at the Veterans Center. We will share:

Information common to all and of concern to all Veterans

Veterans Court Update

5 Star Veterans Center Update/Tour of Center since Home Depot Renovations

City Veterans Services Update

Organizations will be provided time to share their upcoming events and brief the group on their organization

Special Guest Speak Admiral Kevin Delaney USN

Buffet Lunch will be available. Please plan to send a representative/s to the gathering. Let us know if you will be there, so we can take care of the logistics. This is a continuing effort to start coordination and cooperation amongst veterans and veteran's organizations in our community.

V4V contact information: Email ra0302@msn.com Phone: 904-234-3540
--

Leave no one behind!

Vets 4 Vets is a collaborative effort between veteran's organizations and the 5 Star Veteran's Center made up of veterans from every branch of service. We are combat vets and peacetime vets. We come from backgrounds of every kind. Many of us have experienced the heat of battle and the consequences that often follow. Adjustment for many of us has not always been easy. That is why we have come together in partnership and cooperation with the 5 Star Veterans Center to offer peer support and education to our fellow veterans. As in battle, veterans sometimes have no one else to look to but other vets. Many veterans are not always aware of the services provided by supporting agencies. Vets 4 Vets through experience with the VA and other agencies can share how to discover many services and how to access them. A fellow veteran with similar life experiences has a better understanding of how another veteran feels; battle scars, physical and emotional stress, knows no rank. This is all about veterans helping other veterans.



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Jacksonville University becomes 1st partner school in U.S. in Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation scholarship program

Jacksonville University became the first higher education institution in the U.S. on Friday, Feb. 28, to partner with the Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation in awarding scholarships to students whose veteran parents died in the line of duty.

In a signing ceremony at the University attended by military dignitaries; members of the community; JU students, faculty and staff; and previous recipients of Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation scholarships, JU and officials with the nonprofit formalized the agreement and welcomed other colleges and universities to join the program as well.



“Today we honor those children of the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for this country,” JU President Tim Cost said. “This ceremony represents another paver in the path as JU has fast become one of the most military-friendly campuses in America.”

As part of the agreement, JU will provide a 40 percent undergraduate tuition reduction per academic year for children of deceased veterans who meet JU’s admissions requirements and have been accepted for enrollment. Prospective students will be expected to demonstrate a minimum incoming grade point average (GPA) of 3.3, and each student will be expected to maintain a semester GPA of 3.0 or better.



Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation Executive Director John Coogan said the foundation, created in 2002 and now based in Jacksonville Beach, has awarded more than \$6.5 million in scholarships to more than 400 surviving children. The nonprofit has already identified 5,000 of the estimated 15,000 children who have lost a parent in the line of duty over the last 25 years.

“Given rising educational costs and uncertain economic times, our partnership with Jacksonville University is an extremely important one, as their scholarships will help to reduce our cost per student while allowing us to extend our fundraising dollars across more children,” Coogan said. “More importantly, it provides our children with an unbelievable opportunity to attend a world-class university that has set the standard in its commitment to our veterans and their families.”

Cost listed a number of developments showing that JU, whose student veterans make up more than 10 percent of its enrollment of more than 4,000, has worked to make the campus as mili-

tary-friendly as possible. Among them:

- It is a 100 percent Yellow Ribbon match institution, with more than \$5 million in VA benefits paid to JU student veterans in the 2012-13 academic year alone, and \$700,000 in Yellow Ribbon match funding awarded by JU.
- JU's College of Health Sciences recently became one of only nine nationwide awarded funding – \$870,000 – to implement a program that will offer support and help veterans excel as they pursue their Bachelors of Science in Nursing at the University.
- The University will dedicate a new 1,000-square-foot Student Veterans Center – “The Defenders’ Den” – in its Founders Building March 25, creating a dedicated space for student veterans to gather, study and connect.

In the most moving portion of the ceremony, Kenzi Merck, Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation Program Administrator who lost her father in the line of duty in Iraq in 2005, received a standing ovation after describing how receiving one of the foundation’s scholarships shaped her future.

“Dad left behind three kids and a wife, and there was a financial burden on the family,” she said. “When we got the call from the Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation, it was the first time since he died that we cried tears of joy. Now I work for the foundation, and carry out my dad’s legacy. I thank JU for offering such an amazing opportunity to students who are going through what I went through. I am very proud to know that I made my dad proud, and I know these students will, too, when they come to Jacksonville University.”



For more about the Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation, visit www.fallenpatriots.org, email contact@fallenpatriots.org or call 1-866-917-6973.

For more about Jacksonville University, visit www.ju.edu, or contact Phillip Milano, JU Director of News and Publications, (904) 256-7042, pmilano@ju.edu.



U.S.'s top nurse praises JU Nursing's veteran outreach

The nation's top nurse says Jacksonville University's outreach to veterans in its Nursing program is a "beacon" other institutions can follow as the U.S. addresses health care professional shortages with more education opportunities for those with military backgrounds.

"You have small classrooms here, you're veteran-friendly and you have faculty with military experience, which is no small thing," Dr. Mary Wakefield, administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), said during a visit to the JU College of Health Sciences. "I look to this university as a partner for us, and frankly as a beacon. We're looking for best practices at places educating nurses extremely well, and learning from them so we can push that out to other universities and colleges."



JU's School of Nursing recently received an \$870,000 grant from HRSA to provide support for veterans who choose to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Dr. Wakefield visited JU to see how the implementation of the grant is proceeding.

She also gave an inspiring message to Health Sciences faculty and students about their role as health care providers and in reaching out to veterans.

"Capitalizing on the skills and expertise of veterans is a very high priority for President Obama," she told them. "That's what caused us to put money into this program. It has been terrific working with the JU faculty, who were so successful in getting this grant. We are trying to give preference to institutions that are prioritizing veterans. You've got a great program here, and you will be bringing so much to our health care field."

The grant to JU will enhance the recruitment, education, graduation, employment and retention of qualified veterans seeking BSNs. JU's School of Nursing was one of only nine nursing schools nationally awarded the grant.



Once enrolled, veterans will receive assistance such as tutoring; career and stress management/resiliency training; focus and support group help; linkages with veteran service organizations and community health systems; and even Heartmath training, a bio-feedback technique to help with reducing stress, promoting resilience and improving focus.

Dr. Wakefield praised JU for reaching out to veterans from day one with counseling and tutoring, and in creating a physical space – the recently dedicated Defenders’ Den student veterans study center in the Founders Building – where veterans “can acquire peer support and talk with folks with a shared experience.”

“You are building support under our veterans. Not just recruiting them, but also doing everything that I can see that can be done to support them. Some of the characteristics of this campus really speak to retention,” she said. “The Nursing program is steeped in an orientation toward the success of veterans, and clearly this is a university that overall broadly values meeting their needs.”

Dr. Christine Sapienza, acting dean of the JU College of Health Sciences, said Dr. Wakefield’s visit helped further strengthen the Nursing program’s connection with HRSA and its goals.

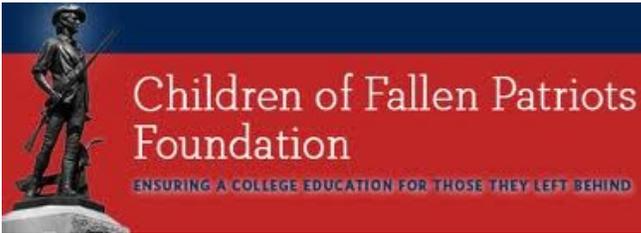
“As a practicing nurse, she understands our School of Nursing mission,” Dr. Sapienza said. “She will help us learn how to be the most efficient in our new educational VBSN program, and I believe was impressed by our faculty passion for veteran education.”

Associate Professor Lynnette Kennison, JU’s Veteran BSN Project Director and a retired Colonel from the Army National Guard, agreed.

“It was inspiring to have someone at one of the highest levels of a government agency reaching out to those it is helping through grant awards,” she said. “She let us know that HRSA hears our needs, and the needs of veterans with healthcare backgrounds or interests who are looking to transition into the field. This only inspires us more to keep doing the work.”

Jacksonville University supports three unique Veteran BSN educational tracks. Track 1, which is now active, is an on-campus pre-licensure BSN program. Track 2, which begins its first cohort in fall 2014, is an on-campus RN-BSN program. Track 3, which is also active, is an online RN-BSN program. Each track is accepting applications and is bolstered by veteran-specific resiliency training and academic support. Additionally, a full-time Veteran BSN Program Advisor, Dr. Sam Young, a retired U.S. Army Family Physician and combat veteran, will ensure personal support for each veteran student.

For information and to apply, contact Dr. Sam Young, Veterans BSN Program Advisor, School of Nursing, Jacksonville University, jyoung23@ju.edu, (904) 256-8911, or VBSNCohort@ju.edu.



OUR MISSION

Our mission is to provide college scholarships and educational counseling to military children who have lost a parent in the line of duty.

We are dedicated to serving the families of combat casualties and military training accidents as well as other duty-related deaths.

We cover all branches of the armed forces.

We cover suicides and illness if VA rules the death was in the line of duty .

The vision of Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation is to ensure that EVERY such child receives ALL necessary college funding.

A college education is the single most important gift we can give these children.

This is an important investment in the future of America.

This is one of the best ways we can honor those who died defending our country

Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation’s emotional support is just as important to families as our financial support.

- Surviving widows and children have had a huge hole torn in their lives
- They often need a friend and a mentor to share their experiences, hopes and troubles
- We strive to serve Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation families with the caring their lost loved ones would have wanted for them
- Our programs staff are surviving children who graduated with the assistance of Fallen Patriots. They are very well placed to relate with the experiences of the families we serve

Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation has best in class management practices.

- The board generously donates to cover all operating costs allowing all third party donations to go directly toward helping the children
- Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation is certified by the Better Business Bureau and Independent Charities of America
- Children of Fallen Patriots is a Gold-level GuideStar Exchange participant, demonstrating our commitment to transparency

Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation was founded to honor the memory of Sergeant Delaney Gibbs.

- Sergeant Delaney Gibbs, who was killed in 1989 during Operation Just Cause in Panama, five days before Christmas and had a baby daughter due in March
- Many years later, the Foundation tracked down his daughter and assisted her with college

What makes Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation unique versus other charities?

- What better way can we honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country than by investing the future of those they loved most in the world?
- There many ways to support wounded troops and our active military, but very few to support families of those who were killed
- This urgent need has never been fully served – no one has found all the survivors, but Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation aims to complete that mission
- Programs are administered by surviving children; and our customer service is unique
- The board currently covers all operating costs

Financial contributions are greatly appreciated and can go directly to our scholarship funds.

To donate online, [click here](#).

To send a check, please make it out to Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation and mail it to:

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MARINE CORPS LEAGUE ***“2014 GOOD CITIZENSHIP AWARD”***

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

The essences of character “still made in America” are Eagle Scout Steven Krupka and Eagle Scout Matt Moore. Steven and Matt are the 2014 recipients of the “Good Citizenship Award” presented on May 6th by the Oldest City Detachment #383, Marine Corps League, St. Augustine, FL.

Steven and Matt both of Boy Scout Troop 288 Ponte Vedra Beach, St. Johns County have achieved the ultimate summit of Scouting with the distinct title of “Eagle Scout!” The Oldest City Detachment #383 is proud to recognize such devotion and motivation which is in the spirit of the Marine Corps motto “Semper Fidelis (always faithful).”

Character is not truly measured by what one does, but by what one does when no one is watching!” Congratulations Eagle Scouts Steven and Matt!

P.O. Box 1752, St. Augustine, FL 32085
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The Locals' Guide to Saint Augustine will promote any veteran related events, fundraisers or programs at no charge. We can also make a page on our website for any group that meets regularly and does not have a website of their own. I can also create a page that lists all Veteran services, groups and websites if you send me the information in a word doc.

Tracey Burke

The Locals' Guide to Saint Augustine

"Know What the Locals Know"

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It is my goal, to put the Flag of the Veteran's Branch of Service, on their hospital door, to indicate that a **United States Military Veteran** is in that particular hospital room.

Talk to the hospital in your area about putting Veteran Flags on their hospital doors.

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NOW



A. J. Sartin - Veterans Island, FL

Vietnam Veteran

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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.



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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



St. Johns County Veterans Service Officer,
Joseph "Mac" McDermott at the Jacksonville
National Cemetery

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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

**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 **157,907** views to date on YouTube.

You can view part of it at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H8Cs6Th7VNe>

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.



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.