

VETERANS COUNCIL OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY

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TREASURER JOHN MOUNTCASTLE

Newsletter Editor Michael Rothfeld



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Message from the Chairman



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Fellow Veterans,

The veteran's community lost a true Patriot this past week with the passing of Rick Look. Rick had been in declining health for many months but always seemed to bounce back from extended stays in the hospital. We were always certain he would rally again but I think Rick just felt he had fought his last battle with the diabetes that was taking such a toll on his health. Rick was the epitome of the soldier, veteran volunteer, comrade, and the one you could always count on for help. Two tours in 'Nam, two Purple Hearts, years of service to the community in law enforcement, many years of service in volunteer organizations spelled the essence of Rick's life to service. But the true character of Rick was his friendship. If he was your friend, he was your friend for life and no matter what challenges you may face, Rick was always there to help. Always quick with a quip to make you laugh or one of his "Lookisms" he could brighten your spirits no matter what the issues may be. But when Rick put on his game face, you knew he was serious and ready to head to the battle. Men of Rick's character and integrity are hard to find and he will be greatly missed by all who had the good fortune of having known him or

shared his friendship. SALUTE

On Friday, 17 July, Veterans of St. Johns County and SJC Administration received some encouraging news from the VA. The following article was received through Congressman DeSantis office.....**Subject: VA Notification - VA St Augustine, FL CBOC Cancellation of current procurement.** In the text of the article, the County was notified that in addition to cancelling all the current outstanding bids, the County would be qualified and put on the next bidders list for the permanent site for our future CBOC. I think the petition that the Veterans Council sent to 23 Congressmen, the POTUS, and SEC/ VA McDonald back in May had a lot to do with this action. For sure the subcommittee hearing chaired by Congressman Ron DeSantis on 25 June played a key role in exerting the right level of pressure on the VA to reconsider the decisions previously made by the VA concerning the CBOC for our Veterans. It's most unfortunate that so much time and money has been wasted and that we must utilize the services of an interim facility for the next 2-3 years before a permanent location is decided, but that's where we are and nothing can change that outcome at this point. However, the Veterans Council is committed

to continuing the fight for a suitable permanent home for our CBOC using correct and factual data to determine the best location.

For those who have been attending our Veterans Council meetings for the past few months, you may have noticed that our attendance has been falling off. It's very important that representatives from all our 28 veterans' organizations that make up the Veterans Council attend the last Thursday of each month at the Elks Lodge on A1A S. Important information concerning veterans events as well as veterans needs are discussed at our meetings. We always have key speakers that are on hand to discuss veterans' programs or services available to our veterans and you owe it to the organizations you represent to share that information with them. I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on July 30, 1900 hours.

Bill Dudley, Chairman
Veterans Council of
St. Johns County



Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home

Where Patriotism is our Motto



Ms. Josephine Szemak is the first Clyde E. Lassen SVNH resident to turn 100 years young!!!!

Josephine was born on July 15th. She enlisted in the Army on September 1st, 1943 in Fort Dix, NJ. Womans Air Corp Service. She received the Good Conduct Medal, WAAC Service Ribbon and the European African Middle Eastern Service Medal. She was stationed in France. She was discharged in September 1945 and married John Szemak January 17, 1948 in Passaic, NJ. John died in 1984 and Josie never remarried. Josie and John have 3 children...John, Conception, and Petra, 3 Grandchildren...Christopher, Nichola and John and 6 Great-grandchild... Tyrus, Heidi, Bailey, Isabelle, Nicholas and Mason.



When asked how she would like to celebrate her birthday Ms. Josie always replied "a parade." So a parade we gave her!! She was the grand marshal of her

own parade. The National Anthem and marching music was provided by some band students of Pacetti Bay Middle School, facility employees constructed several floats and a local church group carried banners, flags, etc. Many of Ms. Josie's family and friends came to celebrate as well as many residents, families and staff of the nursing home. Commissioner Rachael Bennett helped celebrate Ms. Josie and Mayor Nancy Shaver had a Certificate drawn up for Ms. Josie's birthday.



Enjoying a Jacksonville Suns baseball game



Lunch at the Elk's Lodge



Miss Daytona Beach and Miss Ponte Vedra visiting Michael on his birthday



Watching the fireworks on the Fourth of July after the watermelon eating contest



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



JNC SC Chairman,
Ray Quinn

The Support Committee invites everyone to attend its **next scheduled meeting, Tuesday, Sept. 8th.** The meeting will be at **7:00pm.** The meeting will take place at Community Hospice, **4266 Sunbeam Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32257 in Conference Room**

+++++2015 Officers of the SCJNC+++++

- Chairman: Ray Quinn
- Vice Chairman: Pat Mulvihill
- Treasurer: John Mountcastle
- Assist Treasurer: Michael Rothfeld
- Secretary: Kathy Church
- Chaplain: Michael Halyard
- Master-At-Arms: Joe McDermott
- Jag Officer: Patrick Bennett
- Historian: Jody Raymond

The SCJNC meets quarterly at the Community Hospice of Northeast Florida located at 4266 Sunbeam Road, Jacksonville, FL, (dates will be published in advance). If you would like to join us please contact me and I can have Chairman Quinn add you to our Agenda.

*I can be reached at miap@yahoo.com
Kathy Church ,SCJNC, Secretary*

REMEMBER THE GREATEST GENERATION'S GREATEST DAY

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 2015@ 2pm
JACKSONVILLE NATIONAL CEMETERY
4083 Lannie Road
Jacksonville, FL 32218

BIKERS: meet at HARDAGE TOWN & COUNTRY FUNERAL HOME to ride out to this wonderful celebration. KICK STANDS UP @ 1:15PM

FOR MORE DETAILS - Contact Roger Delaney @ [\(904\)729-3470](tel:9047293470)

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Rick D. Look, 66, of St. Augustine, passed away July 16, 2015, with family and many friends by his side. Rick was born Nov. 29, 1948, in Muskegon, Minn., to Edith Mary Parketon and Harry Look.



Rick's distinguished career began in 1965 with the U.S. Army. After serving four years and doing two tours of duty in Vietnam with the 1st Cavalry Division (Air-mobile), he was awarded two Purple Hearts as well as two Bronze Stars with Valor Device. Rick's law enforcement career spanned over four decades (1969-2012) where he served as a patrolman with the Metropolitan Police Department, Washington, (14th Precinct). In 1973, Rick continued his career with the St. Petersburg Police Department, attaining the rank of homicide investigator before accepting a position with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. Rick obtained a master's degree in public administration and was a graduate of the FBI National Academy - 176th Session. After 27 years with FDLE, Rick retired as the assistant special agent in charge at the Jacksonville Regional Operations Center. He then moved on to become the chief deputy with the Flagler County Sheriff's Office.

Rick's affiliations included Military Order of the Purple Heart, Chapter 808, Palm Coast, commander; Disabled American Veterans , lifetime member; Knights of Columbus, Knights of the 4th Degree; Master Mason, 3rd degree; and Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks.

He is survived by his wife Karen Lindsey; mother-in-law Marjorie Komassa, sister Rita (Norman); five children: Kelly and partner (Bert), Greg, Tim and partner (Hyun), Natasha (Aaron) and Jovie; and seven grandchildren: Deputy Austin Weber, Lexie, Noah, Amelia, Ailee, Cailin and Evan.

There will be a visitation from 2 to 4 p.m. and again from 6 to 8 p.m. Monday at Craig Funeral Home in St. Augustine. A memorial service will take place at 10 a.m. Tuesday at Turning Point Baptist Church, 3500 State Road 16, St. Augustine. St. Johns County Sheriff's Office Chaplain Kelly Kemp will officiate. After the grave site service, there will be a celebration of life at the St. Augustine Elks Lodge 829, 1420 A1A South, St. Augustine.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the Wounded Warrior Project in honor of his lifetime of service. <https://support.woundedwarriorproject.org>.

Unbelievable, but **TRUE**

Almost all military folks have had some or even a bunch of experiences that basically weren't believable but in fact happened! The one Michael Rothfeld asked me to write about here has that characteristic and in fact the only reason I know it isn't a fairy tale is because I was there!

Background is a little different but basically I was at about fourteen thousand miles of a circumnavigation on my Harley of this awesome country we live in and got an urge for "Lobstah" and a trip to Gloucester, Massachusetts where the whaling ships used to stage. Upon arrival at the Visitor Center for Gloucester, I picked up the standard stuff and then noticed a flyer advertising the Moving Wall at a local school yard. Since I hadn't had a chat with Augie for several years now, I decided a visit was in order. Went there, found the standard fare of Vietnam Veterans, (Lots of them getting old and grey!), motorcycles, and visitors ranging in age from five to what looked like five hundred!

As I was leaving after my little time with some old friends I noticed two ladies I had seen finding a name earlier trying to get a selfie with the portion of the Wall with their name on it in the shot. I asked if I could shoot it for them so they could get a good memory and they vigorously agreed. After I shot the photos and they agreed the pictures were better than they could have done on their own, one of them asked if I would like to hear why they were at the wall. How could I say no?



Peggy Cornacchio, Terry Allan and a friend of Peggy's pose in front of Traveling Wall, 2015

The taller of the two told a tale common to many of us about having worn a MIA or POW bracelet so long during the seventies that it actually broke in half and she put the pieces in a box thinking she would get it fixed some day. She also said that she never did find out if her POW got home. A few years ago her Mother found that old box and asked her what she wanted to do with the stuff. The first thing that caught her eye was that old broken bracelet. All the memories came flooding back including not knowing if he had returned. She decided that since Google was available now, she would try to find him and if he was alive return the bracelet to him.

She took the bracelet to a local jeweler who turned out to also be a Vietnam Veteran and when she explained her mission, he fixed it for free! Now's when it gets freaky! She explained to me that it had been easy to find him with the technology and that he was going to be speaking at a scholarship dinner soon in St Augustine Florida!

I raised my hand for her to stop talking because I didn't trust my voice but when I thought I could, asked, "Would that be the Chase/Rescorla Scholarship Dinner? Both of them turned just as pale as ghosts and finally one asked how I knew that. I explained my relationship with first Michael Rothfeld, then Michael Pulliam and then with the documentary process. By then my little pea brain had worked out the other part of this!

Her POW was Giles Norrington who was the keynote speaker a couple of years ago. I said the name and the next thing I knew I was buried under two crying women!



Vietnam Bracelet -- Giles Norrington and Peggy Cornacchio -- Peggy Cornacchio, who lives in Salem, Mass., flew to Jacksonville in 2013 to give Giles Norrington a POW-MIA bracelet she wore for him 40 years ago when he was a prisoner of war at the Hanoi Hilton. Norrington, 77, is a retired Navy pilot who lives in Titusville today. He did not know Cornacchio was coming.
photo by Michael Isam

She related to me how they had gone to the dinner and had the opportunity to meet Giles and present him with the bracelet at the dinner. Then I finally remembered having seen the article about that in the St Augustine Record. Lots more discussion after that, but I have to ask you all what are the odds that after nearly two months and fourteen thousand miles on the road that I would end up in Gloucester, Massachusetts at exactly the right time to take that picture and hear that story? I am personally convinced that I walked through the raindrops in all those years of service as Dale Dye wrote about just so that I could be there and let those ladies know that there was meaning to what they had done. I say to all of you who have served, that your service was im-

portant and this country in its heart was and still is behind you. In fourteen thousand miles I have seen literally hundreds of small town memorials to their Veterans. If I take away anything from this encounter, it is that I don't have to take a back seat to anyone in this country. We have earned top billing just like Giles Norrington did.



Jacksonville Maj. Gen. Michael D. Healy, 'an icon' in Special Forces community, honored Thursday

John Wayne's character in The Green Berets was based off Healy.

By **Clifford Davis**, article used with his permission as well as the FL Times-Union

John Wayne tried to portray him in the movie, "The Green Berets."

North Korean, Chinese, Viet Cong guerrillas and North Vietnamese troops tried to kill him.

They failed.

Retired Maj. Gen. Michael D. Healy earned the nickname, "Iron Mike," in the Army Special Forces community.

The Jacksonville resident was formally recognized Thursday for what the Special Forces have known for years: Even among the toughest men in America, Healy was special.

The commanding general of the Army's John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center, Maj. Gen. James B. Linder, awarded Healy the Distinguished Member of the Special Forces Regiment award, essentially enshrining him in the Special Forces ring of honor.

"Gen. Healy is not just significant in our community, he is a genuine icon," Linder said. "Many will serve and a few are recognized.

"Then only a very, very small few walk in the formation that Gen. Healy does."

Over a 35-year career, Healy earned three Distinguished Service Medals, two Silver Stars, the Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, seven Bronze Stars with Valor, two Purple Hearts and many more.

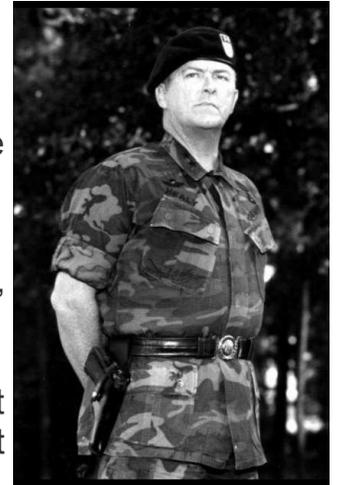
He enlisted in the Army as a private in 1945, two months before the Japanese signed their surrender ending the Second World War.

His first taste of combat came as an officer with the 4th Airborne Ranger Company in 1951 during a jump into the South Korean village of Munsan-Ni. There, according to a Feb. 1, 1981, article in his then-hometown Chicago Tribune, he was stabbed in the leg by a North Korean bayonet, but captured a vital hill.

He earned his nickname and a Bronze Star with Valor for his efforts.

In 1963, Healy went to Vietnam as a Special Forces colonel. He would ultimately serve five tours there, totaling nearly eight years.

Retired Col. Jack Tobin, the national president of the Special Forces Association, served with Healy there in 1969 on what was known as a MIKE force, an acronym for the mobile



Retired Maj. Gen. Michael D. Healy pictured during the Vietnam era. Healy was recognized Thursday, July 23, 2015 by the commanding general of the Army's John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School with the Distinguished Member of the Special Forces Regiment award. Healy, originally from Chicago, now lives in Jacksonville.

strike group command.

Tobin was a sergeant at the time and said the group was in total disarray when Healy arrived to take command.

“We thought they were going to disband us,” Tobin said. “Then he walked in ... and the world became a wonderful place.”

MIKE forces were quick-reaction forces made up of U.S. Special Forces advisers and multiple indigenous tribes.

“We were the fifth MIKE Force, but each corps had one to react in their area,” Tobin said. “If it was really a horror story, we got it.

“We had 50 Americans, 2,500 Montagnards, 400 Chinese Nungs and we usually went out in company size.”

The groups normally faced daunting odds, he said.

“If it was a really bad area, the entire MIKE force went and we’d take on divisions,” Tobin said. “We normally fought in 3-to-1 or 4-to-1 odds. It was a joy.”

The men fought like lions, led by their commander “Iron Mike,” who had the following stamped on his dog tags: “If you are recovering my body, — — you.”

But “Iron Mike” had a heart, a big one according to those who know him — especially when it came to his men.

And as Healy received the award, he grew emotional.

“This is the highest honor that I have ever received, but it’s not really mine,” Healy said as tears rolled down his cheeks. “This honor belongs to every soldier I was ever honored and permitted to serve with.

“All the times that things would go very bad, another soldier stood by me.”

Healy said he thinks of the men he lost not monthly or weekly, but daily.

“They gave me their hearts and a lot of them, their lives,” he said. “I never forget them. Every night I speak to them.”

He mentioned some by name and rank.

“I am an emotional man, but I’m not a damned bit ashamed to cry for what I love,” he said. “And I loved them, my boys.”

No one argued.

Clifford Davis: (904) 359-4103

Son of USS Indianapolis survivor shares his father's stirring story



By [Tamara Ikenberg | tikenberg@al.com](mailto:tikenberg@al.com) AL.com

After Detroit native Stanley Wisniewski managed to escape from the sinking USS Indianapolis cruiser on July 30, 1945, his eyes were so clotted with oil that he ripped off all his clothes and tried to wipe the viscous substance off with the fabric.

Wisniewski spent five days, including his 19th birthday, struggling to stay alive and afloat with nothing to shield him from the sharks, the sun and the potentially toxic saltwater.

"He was naked as a baby in the water the whole time," Wisniewski's son Dan said of his now-deceased father.

Dan Wisniewski offered as much information about his dad's ordeal as he could on Tuesday in Bienville Square during a shoot for the WWII disaster movie "USS Indianapolis: Men of Courage."

Nicolas Cage, who plays USS Indianapolis Capt. Charles Butler McVay in the film, was just a few feet away while Wisniewski shared his father's story.

All the remaining USS Indianapolis survivors and family members of deceased survivors were invited by the filmmakers to witness the historic movie being made in Mobile. Dan Wisniewski traveled from Atlanta to be part of the action.

The USS Indianapolis catastrophe didn't get much attention when it happened and is still not that familiar to non-military folks because it was overshadowed by the bombing of Hiroshima and the end of WWII.

Now, nearly 70 years later, the story of the ship and the men who sacrificed so much to help bring the war to a conclusion, will come to life on the big screen.

The Portland class heavy cruiser USS Indianapolis carried the atomic bomb to the South Pacific island of Tinian where it was picked up by the plane that dropped it on Hiroshima.

After the cruiser made its secret delivery, it was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine and sank in 12 minutes.

Around 30 survivors are still alive, and one of them was also on set Tuesday. Veteran and Alabama native Richard Stephens, 88, spent some time talking to Cage about the five days he spent bobbing helplessly in the South Pacific.

Somehow, Stephens and Stanley Wisniewski managed to avoid the shark attacks and fatal dehydration, exposure and saltwater poisoning that took the

lives of many of the other servicemen left floating in the water after the torpedo attack.

Out the 1,196 USS Indianapolis crewmen, only 317 survived. About 300 went down with the ship.

Dan Wisniewski said his father never really talked to him about the tragedy. Dan tried to coax information out of him a few times, but never got many details.

"He had a scar on his leg and I used to ask him how he got it," Dan Wisniewski recalled. "He said when he went off the ship he got the scar."

Dan said he got more information from reading interviews with his father in the Detroit News, and from talking with a cousin, than he got from the man himself.

For instance, he found out about his father getting oil in his eyes and taking off his uniform in the newspaper.

Stan Wisniewski may have survived the disaster, but the physical toll it took on him lasted until his death in 1995. He was in his late 60s when he died.

Dan said his father was one of the last people to be rescued from the water and the doctors didn't think he would make it.

He added that his dad had a heart attack when he was 40 that his physicians blamed on the stress his body underwent during his days in the water. His eyes were also permanently ulcerated from intense sun exposure

"My cousin remembers him walking around Detroit with red goggles on because of the ulcerations," Dan said.

Wisniewski and the other survivors' relatives who made their way to Mobile to hang out on set and tell their personal tales have really enriched the film-making process, according to producer Richard Rionda Del Castro.

"USS Indianapolis," which also stars Tom Sizemore, Matt Lanter and Thomas Jane, and is directed by Mario Van Peebles, has been filming in the Mobile area since June 18.

So far, scenes have been shot in Orange Beach, on the USS Alabama, and in downtown Mobile.

After Tuesday's Bienville Square scene was completed, the cast and crew relocated to the Battle House Hotel to resume filming. On Wednesday, shooting continued at the Saenger Theatre.

Editor's note: Dr. Giles McCoy, on right, a survivor of the USS Indianapolis, lived in Palm Coast, FL until his death a few years ago. Dr. McCoy was the Keynote speaker at the Veterans Council's WW II Celebration at Flagler College. The Council recorded Dr. McCoy's remarkable speech and will make it available at no charge to any veterans group that requests it.



K9s for Warriors opens new headquarters in Nocatee

New leash on life By [JAKE MARTIN](#) jake.martin@staugustine.com

This article is re-printed with permission of its author and the St. Augustine Record

K9s for Warriors is poised to assist more veterans after officially opening its new headquarters in the Nocatee community this week, dubbed Camp K9.



A yearlong waiting list in just its fourth year of operation made the need for a larger facility increasingly necessary.

Executive Director Rory Diamond said the organization will be able to graduate 192 veterans annually once the facility's operations get up to full steam.

The previous location in Ponte Vedra Beach could only accommodate up to five veterans at a time, Diamond said. Camp K9 will ultimately help expand the program's capabilities by housing up to 16 veterans at a time.

K9s for Warriors opened its new doors on Sunday to a class of seven female veterans, who say they were already benefitting from the program by Tuesday. One of the participants, comforted by her service dog at her side, went to a restaurant for the first time in six years.

"The goal is to get them back into the world," Diamond said.

Most veterans who come to the program learned of K9s for Warriors simply through word-of-mouth or Facebook.

Getting through the program can summon a roller coaster of emotions within the veterans. The bond with a service dog is almost immediately put to the test with scenarios involving shopping, dining out, interacting with strangers and dealing with crowds and noise.

"It's an extreme choice to have a service dog with you 24/7, so when you get here, you're probably in pretty bad shape," Diamond said.

New leash on life

Shari Duval founded K9s in 2011 after witnessing her son, Brett Simon, struggle with daily life upon returning from a stint in Iraq as a dog handler.

Simon's story was common among military service members returning home from combat. He is now director of K9 operations and helping fellow veterans form a bond with his or her own service dog.

K9s for Warriors serves veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain

injury and/or sexual trauma as a result of military service post 9/11.

The nonprofit pairs trained rescue dogs with veterans — at no cost to the veteran. Since its inception, K9s for Warriors has graduated about 170 veterans with about a 95 percent success rate.

Danique Masingill, director of operations, said the two hardest days for veterans involve going to Costco and visiting downtown St. Augustine.

“The architecture, for a lot of them, reminds them of the places where they were deployed,” she said. “Costco ... just because it has a tendency to be really crowded.”

These small steps back to civilian life are the fruits of labor from three to six months worth of training the dogs to serve their new handlers and homes.

Veterans live on-site for the final 21 days of a dog’s training and leave holding the leash to their new companion.

Extended stay

Veterans diagnosed with PTSD come from all over the U.S. to train with their service dogs at K9s for Warriors. Some of them stay.

Hugh Borchers, kennel master, also works in construction operations with the Navy Reserve at Naval Air Station Jacksonville. About two years ago, he returned to his home in Maine with PTSD from a second deployment to Afghanistan.

Borchers, 27, was recruited by Masingill’s husband Matt, a family friend of Borchers’ who was an early graduate of the program. The Masingills had relocated to Florida from Syracuse, N.Y., to work for K9s for Warriors upon Matt’s completion.

Borchers says he was lacking a sense of direction and needed a job when an opening at the organization came up in October 2014. Matt said he knew just the right person.

“He gave me a call and I packed up my truck and moved south,” Borchers said.

Guinness, his two-year-old Labrador, was saved just 48 hours before he was scheduled to be euthanized.

Within months after being paired with Guinness, Borchers was more comfortable out in public.



PETER.WILLOTT@STAUGUSTINE.COM
Navy reservist Hugh Borchers sits next to his service dog "Guinness" at the K9s for Warriors facility in Nocatee on Wednesday, July 8, 2015. Borchers, who suffers from post-traumatic stress after his service in Afghanistan, was given the dog by K9s for Warriors. The organization pairs service dogs to military veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress, traumatic brain injury or sexual trauma.

They traveled to California, attended a Celtic festival with live music and went out to restaurants without a problem.

Borchers said his friends noticed the difference before he did.

Although he was originally unsure if a service dog could actually help manage his PTSD, he knew he didn't want to resort to dependency on medications. He also saw what having a service dog had done for Matt.

"It might be a little unorthodox but it has definitely helped solidify my opinion that the dogs work," Borchers said.

Diamond said almost 85 percent of veterans completing the program reduce the amount of medications they are on within six months of graduation.

All dogs at K9s for Warriors are trained to pick up signals of potential stressors for their handlers and to alert them. For example, Guinness is trained to wag his tail when someone is coming up behind Borchers.

When he's not at NAS Jax, Borchers' job is to keep the kennels clean and the dogs happy and healthy.

Group effort

Every component of the nearly \$8 million facility, from the material to the labor, was donated to the organization. Summit Contracting Group Inc. donated the construction of the new facility, which was built on nine acres of land in Nocatee that was donated by the Davis Family and the Parc Group.

Corporate partnerships provide most veterinarian services, food and other needs for the service dogs.

"It was an amazing rally by the community to put this together for us," Masingill said. The program continues to grow and find community support. A staff of 23 people is bolstered by about 500 active volunteers.

The new location boasts four housing units with shared kitchens and living areas; five fenced-in parks; 27 climate-controlled kennels with doggie doors; and a bone-shaped pool complete with a bright red fire hydrant fountain.

A special breed

About 95 percent of the dogs used are rescues and typically Labradors, retrievers, hounds and mixed breeds. Many, like Guinness, are rescued within days or even hours before being put down.

All dogs are evaluated for aggression, food-driven temperament, size and weight.

Diamond said most other organizations just breed puppies because their behaviors and needs are more predictable. But rescue dogs tend to have personalities that match their new handlers.

“We think they actually make a better bond with the warriors than a bred puppy because they’ve probably gone through some kind of trauma on their own,” he said. “The match and the bond seems to work better.”

If a service dog passes away, K9s for Warriors immediately arranges for a new dog if the veteran wishes for a replacement. Some veterans end up retiring their dog from 24/7 duty and keep them as pets.

“Each one thanks us for giving them the best dog,” Diamond said.

Jacksonville: VVA Chapter 1046 & Legion Riders of Post 88, delivered stuffed animals and books to The Ronald McDonald House. These gifts will bring smiles to all the children.





HONORING OUR VETERANS

Please join us on Sunday November 8th, 1:00 pm,
for a patriotic afternoon 'Honoring Our Veterans'

Anastasia Baptist Church - 1650 A1A S. St. Augustine

Highlights

St. Augustine High School Chorus

Iraq/Afghanistan Memorial will be on display

**Local veterans organizations will be in the Atrium
from 1:00 to 2:30pm displaying their activities**

**As broadcast on PBS, See the very moving story of
the Warriors at 'K9s for Warriors' and how rescued
K9s are trained to assist these warriors with PTSD
adjust to life back home**

PROUD SUPPORTER OF



K9SFORWARRIORS

**Open To The Public
No Admission
Charge**



Hosted by the Veterans Council, Inc. of St. Johns County and Anastasia Baptist Church

St. Augustine WWII veteran awarded French Legion of Honor medal

By [JAKE MARTIN](#) jake.martin@staugustine.com

This article used with permission of its author and the St. Augustine Record

More than 70 years after serving in World War II, a local veteran was recognized for his part in the liberation of France.

Emmett “Jack” Worley of St. Augustine was among 28 World War II veterans awarded the Knight of the Legion of Honor medal from the French government in a ceremony June 30 in Ormond Beach.

The Legion of Honor, created in 1802 by Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte, is France’s highest distinction and recognizes service to the country in various capacities.

Worley, who grew up mostly in Kentucky, said he enlisted in the U.S. Army in March 1942 simply to avoid being drafted.

He trained at Fort Knox, Kentucky, and landed in France at Utah Beach on July 18, 1944, just over a month after D-Day.

“I can still see exactly what’s going on and how it happened,” the 91-year-old Worley said.

A private in intelligence, Worley was made a messenger and assigned to the 6th Armored Division. He was barely 20 years old when he began delivering messages throughout the unit via his Jeep.

Out of fear of interception by enemy troops, Allied commanders used runners to deliver orders and tactical information. Worley said, as a result, he spent much of his time in the service en route from one place to the other.

“We couldn’t use the radio,” he said. “But if you got captured, you had to eat the message.”

A midnight mission

Between late July and early August 1944, Allied forces were preparing for a major attack on the French city of Brest, which was occupied by up to 50,000 German soldiers.

The Battle of Brest was part of the Allied plan for the invasion of Europe, which called for the capture of port facilities in order to deliver necessary supplies to troops.

It was outside Brest where Worley was given one of his most challenging assignments. He was ordered one night to meet a commanding officer in a tent down an enemy-occupied road to find out whether their unit should attack at dawn.

He was told by his colonel there were three things that could go wrong: He could be killed, captured or kept from returning in time “for one reason or another.”

“That was interesting,” Worley said.

He had 90 minutes to find the officer, receive the message and bring it back to the unit.

His mission was not without its difficulties. On the way, he missed a major landmark — a small pond that was hidden behind a row of tanks and trucks.

After circling back and getting his bearings, he was able to find the officer, get the message not to attack and deliver it.

Worley said it had been determined that hundreds of American soldiers could have been killed if an attack was launched prematurely. Brest, leading up to the battle, was surrounded



Jack Worley is shown at age 19 in France during WW II

only by a thin screen of Allied forces.

“Had we attacked at dawn, I wouldn’t be telling this story,” he said. “We were severely outnumbered.”

Worley was later awarded a Bronze Star for valor for making numerous trips through enemy territory to deliver messages.

Hard-earned honor

On the 60th anniversary of the Normandy landings in 2004, France announced it would grant the Legion of Honor medal to U.S. veterans who fought on French soil during World War II.

Members of the U.S. military who participated in one of four major campaigns in the liberation of France — Normandy, southern France, northern France and the Ardennes — are eligible for the award.

According to the Consulate General of France in Miami, more than 1,000 World War II veterans in Florida have received the honor.

“Without your bravery and that of those who fought alongside with you, France and Europe might have never been liberated from the barbarity of Nazi occupation,” wrote Diana Galban, a Legion of Honor program coordinator, in a letter to Worley.

“I was shocked,” Worley said. “It felt like I’m receiving a French honor, sure, but I’m also receiving it in honor of the fellows who died and didn’t come back.”

He said he has outlived all of his friends from his days with the 6th Armored Division.

“Every once in a while I’m fighting the war again,” Worley said. “I’ll wake up screaming or have a crying spell for no reason, but I’ve heard many others say the same thing.”

He credited his tough and lengthy training before seeing combat for getting him back home alive.

“It was the discipline,” Worley said. “Staying down and being calm helped save my life.”



PETERWILLOTT@STAUGUSTINE.COM World War II veteran Emmett L. "Jack" Worley poses with his French Legion of Honor medal in the kitchen of his home in St. Augustine on Friday, July 9, 2015. Worley was one of 28 Floridians awarded the medal last week by the French government for his service in the U.S. Army in France during World War II.

From: **Leo C. Chase Jr. Chapter #1084, Vietnam Veterans of America**

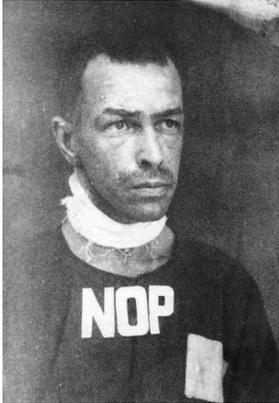
Josie S. (last name withheld by State Nursing Home). She is a wonderful senior at the Lassen State Veterans’ Nursing Home in St. Johns County. She served proudly in the U. S. Army during World War II. On July 15 she was 100 years young. She was honored by VVA Chapters 1084 and 1059 for her service and birthday gifts and a Teddy Bear. Standing behind her are veterans Jim Campau, 1st VP of chapter 1084 and Dave Poston, of chapter 1059.



POW Giles Norrington tells of his captivity

I found this on Facebook. Giles Norrington appeared in the Veterans Council produced documentary: "Stolen Freedom" and thought you all would be interested in his story.

Giles Norrington said when he came home after four years, 10 months and nine days in a North Vietnamese POW camp, he and other ex-POWs were treated like American heroes. But, he added, "We were not always brave."



"What we did was survive in difficult circumstances through faith in others, faith in ourselves, faith in God and faith in our constitution," the retired Navy captain said during the recent DoD POW/MIA prayer breakfast in Arlington, Va. The event highlighted the 25th anniversary of the return of the first Americans held captive in Vietnam.

"There were times I could have died a happy man, but there was never a consideration of wanting to die, praying for death or considering killing myself," Norrington said. "Suicide wasn't part of the equation for any of us. There was never a time when I didn't believe I would come home. The thing was to come home with our honor intact." He said the POWs' motto and way of life was "Return with honor."

Shot down during a bombing mission in May 1968, Norrington said he received severe burns on both hands, a leg and the back of his neck and he couldn't fully close his hands for about a year. Initially, his North Vietnamese captors threw him into solitary confinement at the infamous "Hanoi Hilton" POW camp and used his wounds to intensify his pain and suffering.



"They used every kind of torture that can inflict injury," Norrington said. "They abused my wounds -- beatings and things of that nature."

"I was very lucky, or blessed, whichever way you want to look at it, in that my wounds healed completely," Norrington said.

The very moving documentary "Stolen Freedom" can be viewed at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ApZQRgT9e4c&feature=youtu.be>

VA says it's reconsidering all options in search for clinic in St. Johns County

July 17, 2015, By [Dan Scanlan](#) dan.scanlan@jacksonville.com

St. Johns County's ongoing efforts to find a new home for its Community Based Outpatient Clinic in St. Augustine have been canceled by the Veterans Administration. The VA also told county officials on Friday that all options to secure an operating lease for the military veterans' clinic are now being reconsidered and that an interim clinical space will open in September.

The battle to find a new home for the clinic, which federal officials said serves more than 5,300 veterans, began almost four years ago. That's when St. Johns County notified the VA that it would have to move its clinic at 1955 U.S. 1 South because Lowe's had purchased the property. That site included the county's health and human services facilities and the St. Augustine Community Based Outpatient Clinic. Closing on the property occurred April 1, 2013, triggering the two-year deadline.

More than a year earlier, St. Johns County offered to build a new VA facility five miles to the north of its current location at the new Health and Human Services complex near the St. Augustine airport without raising the VA's lease of \$24,843 per month. The VA refused, saying the site was within the 100-year floodplain and was not in the area the agency had targeted.

The VA is required to award a lease that meets federal operating standards and has made several efforts to obtain one that meets those, according to a Department of Veterans Affairs news release Friday. The VA has reduced numerous requirements to federal minimum and health-care industry requirements, but the resulting offers for space "continue to not score," significantly delaying award of a lease, the release states.

So due to those unsuccessful efforts to achieve an operating lease, the VA canceled the current procurement process and said it is "evaluating all options to move forward, including re-solicitation with an expanded delineated area." The news release states that there will be no interruption in health care due to this cancellation.

"VA remains committed to providing top-quality, accessible health care to the men and women who have served this nation," the release states. "Regardless of procurement cancellation, VA will ensure there is no lapse in the delivery of health care to our nation's veterans."

The VA has assured county officials that it will be eligible to participate in any future acquisition process and wants to work closely with it. County officials say they look forward to a new positive relationship with the VA and a successful outcome.

"We are delighted that within three weeks of the Congressional inquiry held by Congressman DeSantis, the VA has resolved the issue in Jacksonville and has now put St. Johns County well on track to a successful outcome," Assistant County Administrator Jerry Cameron said in the news release. "This is the first positive progress we have had in four years."

**1st Annual
George Holman
CHARITY
WEEKEND**

**Golf Tournament
Bid Whist/Spades Tournament
Fri Fish Fry
Sat BBQ Ribs Cook-Off
Sat Nite 70s Party
Sun AM Church Service**

COLUMBUS DAY WEEKEND
All Proceeds to Benefit the Kids Safe Zone Program

**1029 Pearl St
ST. AUGUSTINE
904-829-8189
October 9 - 12 2015**

AMERICAN LEGION POST 194

We at Post 194 in St Augustine challenge all other Posts in the 5th District to join us for a weekend of fun, competition and just a plain ole American Legion good time on Columbus Day Wknd (9-11 Oct 2015). Please see attached and request you send a team to participate in each one of our competitions. It's all in fun and again, a good time to be had by all. www.falpost194.com

Derry (D.R.) Greene, Commander, Alton Green Memorial Post 194



Over the coming weeks leading to DAV's 2015 National Convention in Denver, Colorado, we will be alerting you, other DAV supporters, and convention delegates to the critical issues and emerging threats facing VA health care in the aftermath of the 2014-2015 access-to-care crisis and how DAV believes the system can be reformed to better serve the health

care needs of the men and women for whom this system was designed. This alert is the first of those messages. Please send any feedback via email to legislativepub-lic@davmail.org .

Millions of veterans need and rely on the VA for health care and DAV intends to ensure that those veterans continue to have access to high quality, timely health care when and where they need it. We are convinced that VA is the best health care system to treat the unique needs of wounded, injured and ill veterans for a number of reasons. First, VA is structured to treat the whole veteran - that means both their basic primary care, as well as their specialized and service connected conditions. Quality health care must focus on the entire patient, not just certain injuries or illnesses. VA specializes in holistic and preventative care which is more likely to lead to better health outcomes for veterans. VA offers a veteran-centric culture and has developed expertise treating veterans of all generations, particularly for war-related injuries, such as those resulting from exposure to military toxic and environmental hazards. VA has a national, integrated network of health care and benefits that also provides comprehensive and interrelated transition and readjustment services to help veterans throughout their post military lives.

While there are still areas where it can and must improve, VA health care has been consistently judged to be among the best health care systems in the world when measured by objective standards for quality and safety. VA offers numerous specialized programs to treat the physical and mental health challenges of veterans that simply don't exist in general health care, or are very rare and scarce. All DAV members served during wartime, and most are enrolled in VA care because of VA's expertise in treating their wounds, illnesses and injuries.

VA has a track record of providing direct health care to veterans (as well as world class biomedical research programs and graduate medical education for future doctors), but VA has too often been hampered due chronic underfunding of its health care program. DAV and our Independent Budget partners have documented these funding shortfalls annually for more than a decade, a fact that was independently identified as far back as 2003 in an authoritative report of The Presidential Task Force on Improving the Delivery of Health Care to Our Nation's Veterans. And as both the Report and DAV predicted, chronic underfunding leads to a lack of access and waiting lists for veterans, which is exactly what occurred last year.

In response to the problems uncovered last year, Congress and the Administration have made changes to a wide variety of VA policies, programs and activities, including the creation of a temporary, 3-year "choice" program to increase non-VA care options. While these changes are designed to help VA address the access crisis in the short term, it is imperative that we start to focus on about how best to reform VA for

the long term. Our goal must be to ensure that wounded, injured and ill veterans have timely access to high-quality health care, which we believe requires a strong and robust VA at its core.

Some groups and even some Members of Congress are calling for the "choice" program to be made permanent and expanded to all veterans. Others have called for VA to greatly shrink or restrict its direct health care mission to combat-related injuries. There is even a proposal to convert VA to an insurance program forcing veterans to receive their care in the private sector.

As Congress and others start to consider these proposals, it is essential that we begin by focusing on what is best for the veterans. "Choice" may be a great sound bite, but it is not a solution that will adequately meet the needs of our nation's wounded, ill and injured veterans. Rather than simply giving veterans a card to find care in the private sector on their own, our goal must be to reform VA so that it can remain the best, most accessible choice for veterans, delivering high-quality, high-value health care.

VA is already the world leader treating PTSD, spinal cord injury, blindness, amputation and other wartime injuries. VA is a proven leader in preventative care for veterans. VA clinicians spend more time with their patients, ensuring they treat the whole veteran. Independent studies show that VA screens for service-related conditions that are often overlooked by or irrelevant to private sector providers.

This is not to say that we are satisfied with state of VA health care today. Too much of what has been uncovered in the VA health care system is inexcusable and needs reform today. No veteran should have to wait too long or travel too far to get health care. But rather than privatize, downsize or eliminate VA altogether, we believe that veterans need a stronger, healthier VA to ensure they get the care they have earned.

Next week DAV will share its plan to reform the VA health care system to ensure all enrolled veterans, especially those wounded, injured or made ill as a result of military service receive timely, high-quality health care services that meet their unique needs. We welcome your ideas, suggestions and comments which can be sent to: legislativepublic@davmail.org.

Click the link below to log in and send your message:
<https://www.votervoice.net/BroadcastLinks/92XnYIDq0ch8mqYxNZIQ6g>

Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley:

I agree with the DAV's assessment of the VA situation. The VA Choice program is probably a good interim solution but not a permanent fix. We need to keep the pressure on the VA to get the administrative side of the VA to the performance level needed to provide adequate service to our veterans. I strongly believe the VA health care is second to none and should remain available to all our veterans. We need to keep the pressure on Congress for proper funding and acceptable administrative leadership.

Camp Blanding Museum, a Gem of National History in Clay County

WHIO reports:

An expedition into Florida's northeastern woods reveals a Clay County gem.

Looming from forest and S.R.16 asphalt, the [Camp Blanding Museum and Memorial Park](#) nestles outside the main gate of Camp Blanding, a historic Florida National Guard installation that remains active and alive, filled with troops and their accoutrements.



One of the base's 1940s-era guest barracks houses the museum, a two-story structure surrounded by massive World War II armament and sobering memorials.

Flowery hanging baskets swing from its entry porch, belying the seriousness within, and without.

But enter, admission-free, and re-appreciate freedom. You may be greeted by Joe Schiffer, a Brooklyn, N.Y., native and retired Navy veteran (1951-1979) from the museum's volunteer corps. He mans the front desk this day, reciting statistics; among them, that Camp Blanding masqueraded as Florida's fourth largest city during its World War II training height.

"I'm back where I started," Schiffer said of launching his career at a Jacksonville naval base.

He provides other facts — Camp Blanding's 1939 establishment as a Florida National Guard training site, carved from Clay County's piney landscape around Lake Kingsley, a 10,000-year-old sinkhole, per assistant curator Jim Hughes.

Then trek through a trove of artifacts, photographs, weaponry and uniforms. A battlefield Jeep hulks in one display. Newspaper clippings describe German prisoners of war held here, including one ex-POW who journeyed back decades later, for a visit.

Most artifacts arrive via private citizens or service people with Camp Blanding ties. Eighty percent of the treasure overflowing upstairs storage came from civilians, Hughes says. But, not everything carries exterior provenance. Given Camp Blanding's age, a recent cleanup of a base building prompted a phone call.

"In a back corner was an old World War II teletype machine," Hughes said of the caller's impetus. "'Do you want it?' And we said yes."

Initially not excited — the museum has a teletype machine — he was shocked when the donation arrived. It required several men to haul it inside; a metal monstrosity.

"It was a dog-tag machine and we don't have one of those," Hughes said. "That was a find."

On this afternoon, he cleaned other fresh donations arrayed on a conference table — an U.S. Air Force survival blade, a cut-down World War I bayonet from 1918, a British Army bayonet and old leather covers and scabbards. A Vietnam-era bayonet looked longer, blacker and evil.

"Sometimes it's pretty quiet," Hughes said of his and curator Greg Parson's duty hours. "Then it rains and here they come."

"They" are retired or active military families visiting Camp Blanding's recreation area. Boy Scout and Cub Scout troops also camp on the base.

"They come in and the adults have this 'help me,' look on their faces," said Hughes, laughing at circumstance.

For more information about Florida's military history, visit vivaflorida.org/Explore/Victory-Florida

If you go...

Camp Blanding Museum and Memorial Park

5629 S.R. 16 West

Starke, Fla. 32091-9703

904-682-3196

campblanding-museum.org

Directions from Interstate 10: Take Exit 343 south to Starke. Turn left on S.R. 16 and head east for approximately eight miles. The Camp Blanding Museum will be on your right, out

- See more at: <http://www.whio.com/feed/travel/camp-blanding-museum-a-gem-of-national-history-in-FCFH2n/#sthash.7XG9B200.bx35x3AT.dpuf>

From Michael Isam

The temporary modules for the St. Augustine CBOC have arrived. I passed the site about 9:30 a.m. Sunday morning, July 26. Not sure when they sprouted from the ground. They have poured the concrete edges of the parcel.



2nd Annual Red White & Blue Dice Run

Honoring our Fallen Heroes

When: **Saturday, August 29th 2015**
Where: **American Legion Post 250
3939 County Rd 218
Middleburg, Florida**

Music  **Food**

Breakfast is available at American Legion Post 250 – Middleburg from 8-11.

Registration: 11:00 – 12:30
Last Bike Out: 12:30
Last Bike In: 4:00
Drawings Begin: 4:30

Start: American Legion Post 250 – Middleburg
1st Stop: AMVETS Post 86 – Keystone Heights
2nd Stop: VFW Post 3349 – Palatka
3rd Stop: AMVETS Post 1030 – St. Augustine
4th Stop: VFW Post 1988 – Green Cove Springs
Final Stop: American Legion Post 250 - Middleburg

All Stops are Veteran Organizations supporting our motto:
"Vets Helping Vets"

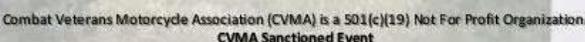
Silent Auction

All proceeds will be used to purchase wreaths for our local participating cemeteries (Keystone Heights Memorial Gardens, St. Augustine National Cemetery and East Forest Meadows Cemetery in Gainesville. The cost of each wreath is \$15, the cost of the entry fee. Your participation in this event allows us to purchase one wreath for one of our fallen heroes.

Cost
\$15 per person
Includes
pulled pork sandwich - 2 sides
provided by:

COOK TEAM

 Music
DJ'd By:
The Jim Craft
Show


Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association (CVMA) is a 501(c)(19) Not For Profit Organization.
CVMA Sanctioned Event

**Together we're
STRONGER**

Vets 4 Vets
Gathering of Veterans Veterans Memorial Arena
September 19th 1130 to 1300



We have changed the date from August to September 19th ... Pass the word to all veterans and Veteran Organization Representatives...Important that we continue to gather and unite to share information and let others know we support each other.

The recent attacks on military recruiting centers and the reserve unit should send a signal to all of us who served that we need to be on guard, be prepared to protect our own and support the first responders...many of whom are fellow Veterans. We can no longer stand on the sidelines and remain silent...too much is at stake for us not to finally unite. Untied we stand, divided we will certainly fall...

Join us, be prepared to share your organizations information and event schedule and be prepared to participate in some camaraderie.

Note...No gathering in AUGUST....**We will meet on September 19th at 1130.**

Any questions? Contact Bob Adelhelm at this email ra0302@msn.com

Your Military History Wanted

Jennifer Jolley, a World History Teacher at Palm Bay Magnet High School in Melbourne, FL is researching **WWII airmen who fought in the European arena**. She will travel to the Cambridge, England this summer to learn about American airmen during the Second War. Northrop Grumman and the Imperial War Museum (IWM) in Duxford, England sponsor a summer residency educational program for teachers from the USA and UK. IWM Duxford, one of the best aviation museums in Europe, hosts the American Air Museum. <http://www.americanairmuseum.com>

The American Air Museum website records the stories of the men and women of the US Army Air Forces (USAAF) who served their country from the UK in the Second World War. Ms. Jolley will research documents as part of the Roger Freeman Collection at the museum. She welcomes any stories from WWII airmen or their descendants to assist her with this project. **You may contact her at jolley.jennifer@BrevardSchools.org or (954) 881-1369.**

Ms. Jolley is a proud 1991 graduate of Flagler College and was referred to our newsletter by Audrey R. Mazzotta, the Southeast Regional Coordinator with The Joe Foss Institute.

I have been contacted by the Set Director of the USS Indianapolis Men of Courage Movie saying that they would love to include real photographs of the Indy Sailors in a Memorial wall scene in the movie! They will need copies of the photographs as well as a signed release form from a family representative to use the photograph, which I can forward to you.

(Looking for photos of the Lost At Sea or Survivors pre-1965, in uniform or civilian clothes.)

If you would like to submit you or your loved ones photograph for use in the movie, please email me at BullardMBullard@aol.com for more information and a copy of the release form.

So many people on the movie's production team have contacted me and expressed how "touched, amazed, awe-struck, humbled, grateful, etc" they are about this story and the bravery of the men.

Thanks!

Maria Eck Bullard

Daughter of USS Indianapolis Survivor Harold Eck

Chairman, USS Indianapolis Second Watch Organization

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**





BUILDING CAREERS.
CHANGING LIVES.

OSHA 10 Certification First Aid/CPR/AED Certification and an Employability Class

No Cost to Military Members, Past or Present*

- **HBI (Home Builders Institute):** Will be hosting an OSHA 10, First Aid/CPR/AED and Employability Classes.
- **Date/Time:** Aug 3-6, 2015 / 9:00 am – 4:00 pm Daily
- **Location:** The Moon Building, located at the back of the American Legion Post 137 parking lot.
- **Address:** 5443 San Juan Ave, Jacksonville, FL 32210
- **For More Information or to Secure your Seat:**
Call Clarence Zarnes, SGM (R) USA at (904) 570-1222

***Eligibility:** Florida Veterans and Active Duty Military Personnel separating from a Florida military base/within 180 days of separation/involved in a TAPS program may receive the training at NO COST. A current OSHA 10 card is a valuable asset in any industry. Safety training enhances your professional marketability and provides a broader spectrum of personal awareness in regards to maintaining safety rather on the job or at home.

• **Veterans and Reservist Military Personnel:** Must provide their DD214, proof of Florida residency, and right to work in the United States.

• **Separating Active Duty Military Personnel:** Must provide a completed DD2648 TAP Completion Checklist or DD2958 Individual Transition Plan signed by the service member and the Transition Counselor.

<http://www.hbi.org/Programs/VeteransProgram.aspx>



WJCT TV, the PBS affiliate in Jacksonville, FL has just contacted the Veterans Council to let us know that our *Prisoners of War: Stolen Freedom* documentary will be broadcast on Sunday, September 13th at 4:00 pm and on Thursday September 17th at 8:00 pm to celebrate National POW/MIA Day.

The documentary features the stories of four local ex POWs, from N. FL.

Bill Ingram served aboard the USS Houston in WW II. Bill was captive in Burma and worked on the Bridge on the River Kwai.

Richard Bassett served in the US Army during the Korean War. When Richard returned home he taught History for 22 years in St. Augustine.

Dr. Hal Kushner was held captive in the Hanoi Hilton. Dr. Kushner is a practicing Eye Doctor.

Giles Norrington also was held captive in the Hanoi Hilton. One of Giles' drawings of his captivity is on the right.



"I now know why men who have been to war yearn to reunite. Not to tell stories or look at old pictures. Not to laugh or weep. Comrades gather because they long to be with the men who once acted at their best; men who suffered and sacrificed, who were stripped of their humanity.

I did not pick these men. They were delivered by fate and the military. But I know them in a way I know no other men. I have never given anyone such trust. They were willing to guard something more precious than my life. They would have carried my reputation, the memory of me. It was a part of the bargain we all made, the reason we were so willing to die for one another.

As long as I have memory, I will think of them all, every day. I am sure that when I leave this world, my last thought will be of my family and my comrades . . . Such good men."

George J. Marrett, from his book *Cheating Death: Combat Air Rescues in Vietnam and Laos*

Still Waiting to Come Home

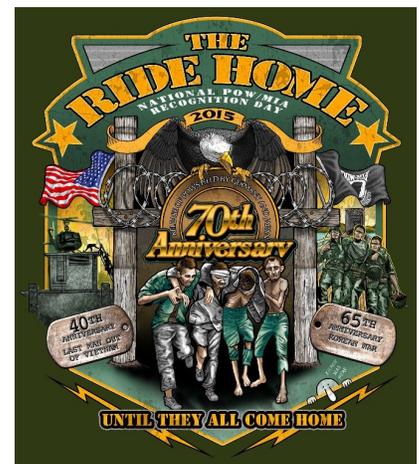


WWI 3,349	Cold War 126
WWII 73,515	Korea 7,852
Vietnam 1627	
Iraq & Afghanistan 6	

Every Soldier Deserves To Come Home!



The Ride Home 2015



70th Anniversary WW II
 62nd Anniversary Korea
 42nd Anniversary Vietnam
 12th Anniversary Iraq
 150th Anniversary Civil War

WELCOME HOME!



The RIDE HOME, Inc.

3818 Litchfield Loop
Lake Wales, FL 33859
theridehome.com

On National POW/MIA Recognition Day we will be hosting **The RIDE HOME 2015**. This weekend event, **17-20 September**, takes place in and around the cities of Americus and Andersonville, Georgia, home of the *National Prisoner of War Museum*. **The RIDE HOME 2015** complies with the Presidential Proclamation by paying tribute to Former American Prisoners of War who have returned home and the families of those Americans still Missing in Action.

Honorees for the 2015 event will include former *Prisoners of War* and families of our *Missing in Action* from World War II, Korea, Cold War, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan. As part of the tribute package to these true American Heroes, **The RIDE HOME** with the help and generosity of American Patriots, like you, will provide a room (3 nights) in Americus, Heroes Dinner, Ground-Pounder & Fly-Boy Lunch, entertainment, Awards Ceremony as well as transportation to and from the events for the Honored Guest. This complete Tribute package is valued at \$375.00. For all they endured as Prisoners of War and the emotional torture the Missing In Action families struggle with every day, we hope you agree this is worthy of your participation. Remember, a full Tribute Package or a portion of one, either choice is greatly appreciated and will help to reach the goal of 175 Honored Guest for the 2015 event.

The RIDE HOME is open to the public and we encourage everyone to attend so that they may meet and spend time with the POW or MIA family member sponsored and you can have the honor of placing the Medallion on a Hero during the Recognition Service.

Please complete the form below and mail it with your contribution to **The RIDE HOME**. Contributions of \$375 or more will receive **The Ride Home 2015** t-shirt, patch, sponsor bar, and pin. If you would prefer to use your Debit or Credit Card, you can go to our website, www.theridehome.com, click on *DONATE* and follow the instructions for PAY PAL.

On behalf of **The RIDE HOME, Inc.** Board of Directors,
Thank You!
Respectfully,
Jim 'moe' Moyer
Chairman

I wish to help sponsor a former POW and/or a MIA Family member to **The RIDE HOME 2015**

Complete Tribute Package \$375. Other

Include a t-shirt for donations of \$375.00 or more: _____ size

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City _____

State & Zipcode _____

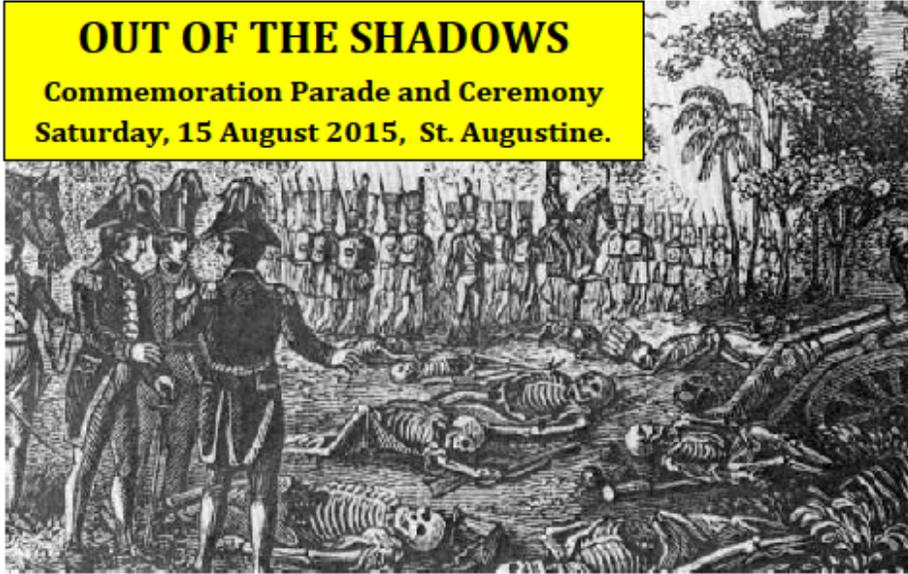
Phone/email: _____

Mail check to: **The RIDE HOME, Inc.** 3818 Litchfield Loop, Lake Wales, FL 33859

THE RIDE HOME, INC. IS A NON PROFIT CORPORATION – REGISTRATION NUMBER: CH38670 A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE, 800 435 7352, WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.

OUT OF THE SHADOWS

Commemoration Parade and Ceremony
Saturday, 15 August 2015, St. Augustine.



Brigadier Gaines and officers survey the largely unmolested remains of Major Francis L. Dade's column, two months after its annihilation by Seminole Indians on 28 December, 1835. (Photo credit: State Archives of Florida, *Florida Memory*.)

For the past seven years, the West Point Society of North Florida has commemorated the sacrifice and service of those, including many of its graduates, who perished in the 2nd Seminole War, 1835 - 1842. That war, though largely forgotten and little understood, was a hallmark of Florida's territorial years, and the growth of the young American republic which had acquired it.



The commemoration's focus is the three pyramids in St. Augustine's National Cemetery. On 15 August 1842, a stirring parade escorted, to what was then a garden plot, the remains of hundreds officers and soldiers, including those of Dade's entire column, who perished in the war. They were interred there under the pyramids with a solemn ceremony marking the cessation of "hostilities." The commemoration has grown over the years, and now involves numerous veterans and civic organizations interested in

bringing the story of this long, difficult struggle out of the shadows and mists of time. These include the Seminole Wars Foundation, the Dade Battlefield Society, the 450th Military Commemoration Committee, as well MOAA's Ancient City Chapter, and the Veterans Council of St. Johns County.

Given St. Augustine's 450th anniversary celebration, this year's commemoration will be very special. The parade Saturday morning will include about 70 re-enactors, and the keynote speaker for the National Cemetery ceremony will be the West Point Command Historian, Sherman Fleek. The event will begin Friday PM with special era displays at the Ximenez-Fatio House Museum. At 6PM in the Florida National Guard Officers Club, Dr. Michelle Sivilich will present the results of her dissertation which examined how well a West Point education prepared graduates for the war. Saturday afternoon, following the ceremony in the National Cemetery, there will be a lunch for re-enactors and a convocation of historians in nearby Trinity Hall, Trinity Parish.



Please note that while the parade and ceremony Saturday morning are free and open to the public at large, **PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED for admission to the lunch and ceremony in Trinity hall, and the officers club Friday evening.**

The complete event schedule and **pre-registration form** are below. Our whole team is looking forward to seeing you at what promises to be memorable event. If you have questions or wish more information, please contact:
Joe Naftzinger at: jnatnc@aol.com.



Shown above is the proof of this year's coin. The face, designed by Mr. Ted Pappas based on the painting "Do Your Best," by Mr. Jackson Walker. It depicts Captain G. W. Gardiner, West Point class of 1814, and the Academy's 1st Commandant of Cadets. He is giving desperate encouragement to his men during the fateful final hours of their engagement with the Seminoles, December, 1835. Also prevalent on the coin is the "6 pounder" canon that accompanied Dade's column, an exact replica of which will be fired during this year's parade and ceremony.



West Point Society of North Florida
Seminole Wars Foundation

Dade Battlefield Society
450th Military Commemoration Center

present:

The 8th Annual Seminole War Commemoration

Saint Augustine, August 15th, 2015

Prelude, Friday, August 14

- 1 to 5 pm. **Period exhibits, living history presentations.**
Ximinez-Fatio House Museum, 20 Aviles Street.
Public invited.
- 5 to 7 pm. *Re-enactor's organizational meeting.
***Presentation, "The Role of A West Point Military Academy
Education During the 2nd Seminole War."** Michelle Sivilich, PhD.
Officers Club, St. Francis Barracks. 82 Marine St.

Saturday, August 15

- 10 am. Assembly at Reviewing Stand, St. Francis Barracks, 82 Marine St.**
Welcome, Florida National Guard. LTC Betsy Evans, FLARNG.
The Historical Context, Christopher Kimball, Seminole Wars Foundation.
- 10:30 am. Parade Enters Marine Street.**
Parade narration by Steven Rinck, portraying a Corporal, 4th U.S. Infantry.
- 1100 to
11:30 am. **Commemoration Ceremony, St. Augustine National Cemetery.**
Key Note remarks, Mr. Sherman L. Fleek. Command Historian,
United States Military Academy, West Point.
Wreath laying, Cadet Prayer, volley fire, taps.
Public invited.
- 1200 to
2:30 pm. ***Lunch, re-enactor's reception, convocation of historians at,**
Trinity Hall, Trinity Parish, 215 St. George St.
Presentation of challenge coins.
Debut of the *Florida Seminole Wars Heritage Trail Guide*, (published under a
grant from the Division of Historical Resources). John Missall, Seminole Wars
Foundation.

*** Pre-registration required . Contact Jerry Casale at: FITZGERARD@aol.com**

The Commemoration emphasizes the following themes:

- * The 2nd Seminole War ended without a final treaty. The United States unilaterally "announced" the end of hostilities, and the re-interment parade was a solemn commemoration, not a victorious march.
- * The war was an important proving ground for the U. S. Army and its West Point trained leadership.
- * Military conflict and sacrifice were omnipresent features of life during Florida's territorial years.
- * Living history re-enactors are crucial to fostering awareness of life during the period -- especially since the Seminole Wars reside in the shadows of America's military memory.

2015 SEMINOLE WAR COMMEMORATION REGISTRATION

The Parade and Ceremony on Saturday morning are open to the public at large, but **pre-registration is required** to attend the re-enactor's lunch and historians convocation in Trinity Hall, Saturday afternoon, and entrance to the St. Francis Barracks Officers Club, Friday evening. The registration fee is \$15 per adult,* and includes free admission to the Ximinez-Fatio House Museum displays and living history Friday afternoon as well. To register, please fill out the form below and mail with an accompanying check before 1 August.

(* Fee is waived for re-enactors (and one guest) who participate in the parade and register through the Dade Battlefield Society with Steve Rinck at: stevenrinck@gmail.com.)

REGISTRATION FORM

Please register me for the Seminole War Commemoration event, 14-15 August, 2015.

Name _____ . I will bring _____ guests.

Enclosed is check # _____ in amount of \$ _____. (Total fee is \$15 x adults in party.)

Please make check out to: Treasurer, W.P.S.N.F. (annotated "August registration"), and mail together with this form to: W.P.S.N.F.

c/o J. E. Naftzinger
512 North Legacy Trail
St. Augustine, FL. 32092



SUPPORT BRIGADE -- JOIN NOW

The sponsoring organizations and individual re-enactors contribute significant personal time, effort, and expense to present this event, but we depend on individual donations to defray the considerable costs associated with it. You can help by joining the "Support Brigade" at one of two levels. Your generosity will go far to keeping this important chapter of Florida's history alive in the public consciousness.

All those joining the Support Brigade will receive the unique challenge coin and be identified on its rolls in the official program. Those at the Commander level are invited to include an icon or logo, with a short salutation.

YES, ENROLL ME IN THE SUPPORT BRIGADE!

___ As a "Loyal Trooper" (\$50-\$99):
Name as you wish it printed in program _____

___ As a "Commander" (\$100 and higher):
Name as you wish it printed in program _____

+ send Logo/Icon, and/or short salutation to jnatnc@aol.com. (tel. 904-940-0932)

Please make your check out to Treasurer, W.P.S.N.F. (annotated "Support Brigade") and mail together with this form to: W.P.S.N.F.

c/o J. E. Naftzinger
512 North Legacy Trail
St. Augustine, FL. 32092



INVITATION

VETERAN TEAM MEETING/ORIENTATION

Through our “*Veterans Inspiring Patriotism*” program, the Joe Foss Institute has recruited and prepared hundreds of Veteran Volunteer speakers to present educational programs and bring their personal stories to school classrooms and youth groups nationwide. We want to recognize you, show our appreciation for your support, provide you an update on JFI operations and welcome other Veterans interested in joining our Team..

- WHAT:** Meet Veteran Team Members
Overview of JFI Strategy for the Future
New Veteran Orientation
- WHEN:** Saturday, August 29, 2015 1030-1230 hrs
**Continental Breakfast will be provided*
- WHERE:** St. Johns County Main Library
1960 N. Ponce De Leon Blvd
St. Augustine, FL 32084
- RSVP:** Audrey Mazzotta
321-652-8848
amazotta@joefossinstitute.org

The Joe Foss Institute (JFI) was founded in 2001 by Veteran and Medal of Honor recipient Joe and his wife Donna “Didi” Foss. The organization works to educate our youth on the importance of America’s unique freedoms and to promote patriotism and public service.

www.Joefossinstitute.org

ABOUT THE SMITH FAMILY:

So many of you have been following the Smith family since their son Liam, now 5 years old, was diagnosed with Leukemia in 2013. His mom Lacey, once said her biggest fear in life is that after he's in remission, the cancer could return. She didn't know how he and his family could get through it again. It has been a very tough road for the family as they continue to fight Liam's battle with cancer and now they have been hit with the unthinkable. Their daughter, Emma who is 2, has also been diagnosed with Leukemia. They have to go through it again. Emma was diagnosed on June 30th and began treatment immediately. In all their years of practice the doctors have never seen two non-twin siblings with the same Leukemia diagnosis. Unfortunately, it puts Emma's identical twin sister, Ella, at a higher risk for Leukemia.



REGISTRATION DETAILS:

By Mail:
Send to Corey Sapp at 2102 Bay Road, Neptune Beach, FL 32266

By Email:
Scan and email completed registration form to Corey Sapp at coreysapp@rocketmail.com

Questions or Comments? Contact Corey Sapp at 904-713-3680 or Debra Sapp at 904-318-4271

**1st Annual
SmithStrong
Golf Tournament**



**Jacksonville Beach
Golf Course
605 Penman Road South**

**Saturday
August 22, 2015**

www.youcaring.com/emma-liam-smith-382707

<http://www.youcaring.com/emma-liam-smith-382707>

**SMITH STRONG
GOLF TOURNAMENT**

Saturday, August 22, 2015

12:00PM



Schedule of Events

Jacksonville Beach Golf Course
605 Penman Road South, Jacksonville Beach, FL

- Player Check-In: 11:00am
- Tee Off: 12:00pm
- Cook Out & Silent Auction: 5:00pm
- After Party with Live Music by Ralph E. & the Jammers: 7:00pm to 11:00pm

**Sponsorship
Opportunities**

HOLE SPONSOR \$300

Signage on the Tee, acknowledgement at check-in and silent auction tables

FOURSOME FEE \$400

Put your team together and join us to help a local beach family in need. Includes greens fees, 2 carts, range balls, 1 Kickoff Bloody Mary, cookout, "Smith Strong" t-shirt, and after party entry.

INDIVIDUAL FEE \$125

Includes greens fees, cart, range balls, 1 Kickoff Bloody Mary, cookout, "Smith Strong" t-shirt, and after party entry.

NON-PLAYER \$20

Show up at 5:00pm and enjoy the cookout, silent auction, and after party entry.

HOLE SPONSOR \$300

I would like to sponsor a hole

Name (as it should appear on sign) _____

Please accept our donation \$ _____
Make checks payable to Lacey Smith

I would like to donate an item to the silent auction/raffle. Please contact Corey Sapp at 904-713-36801

I can't golf but will attend the cookout, silent auction, and after party. Number of people attending _____ x \$20/person = \$ _____

GOLF REGISTRATION

Foursome \$400

Player 1: _____

Player 2: _____

Player 3: _____

Player 4: _____

Individual \$125

Name: _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Contact Info

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Registration is not complete until payment is received (See back for registration details)

About the Golf Tournament:

Participants in the "Smith Strong" golf tournament will enjoy 18 holes at the Jacksonville Beach Golf Club located at 605 Penman Road South in Jacksonville Beach.

Included in the event:

- 18 holes of golf with cart
- Cookout
- Awards
- Raffle Drawing
- Silent Auction
- Live Music by Ralph E. & the Jammers

All proceeds go directly to the Smith Family to offset medical costs.

Re-printed from the veterans site on Facebook

My Grandfather, Ed Creamer is my hero!! He was shot down over the Bering Sea in 1942, at the age of 21. He spent 1183 days as a POW.

He would tell people who would ask how he was treated by the Japanese, "that there were others who were treated worse." He never said anything bad about what he went through during his time as a prisoner. Many years later, when he was able to meet the man who shot down his PB5Y-5A plane, he shook his hand and said to him "you were just doing your job."



Papa was a life member of the American Ex-Prisoners of War, he was a guest speaker at POW-MIA ceremonies at our local base. He was one of the first inductees into the Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Hall of Honor for his actions prior to and after his capture. He was also inducted into the Association of Aviation Ordnancemen Hall of Fame.

Papa never met a stranger, he liked all people. Papa was a true American, he loved his country. I only hope that I am half the person he was. He loved his family with all his heart and soul, especially my Grandma, Jeanette Creamer.

He died in August 2013 at the age of 91. Gone but never forgotten.

*Misti Duvall
Jacksonville, FL*



The 2015 Florida Legislative Special Session is about to enter its third and final week. Budget negotiations are continuing.

Most of the veteran-related bills coming from the regular 2015 legislative session have been signed into law by Governor Scott. Here's a quick summary as of June 11.

Legislation

HB 27 & SB 1398 -- Authorizes word "Veteran" to be exhibited on driver license or identification card of veteran. Replaces the "V" for Veteran option currently available. Authorizes the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to accept a military personnel identification card as proof of a Social Security number when applying for a Florida driver's license or identification card. *(Signed into law by Governor Scott on 6/2/15. Effective July 1, 2015.)*

SB 7028 & HB 35 -- Out-of-State Fee Waivers for Veterans & Dependents: Revises last year's Congressman C.W. "Bill" Young Veteran Tuition Waiver to include spouses and children using sponsor's GI Bill benefits. *(Signed into law by Governor Scott on 5/21/15. Effective immediately.)*

SB 132 & HB 51 -- Authorizes veterans to provide the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles alternative documentation for renewal or replacement of disabled parking permits. *(Signed into law by Governor Scott on 5/14/15. Effective July 1, 2015.)*

HB 329 & SB 112 -- Authorizes the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to issue Combat Action Ribbon, Air Force Combat Action Medal and Distinguished Flying Cross license plates. Adds Woman Veteran, World War II Veteran and Navy Submariner plates. *(Signed into law by Governor Scott on 6/2/15. Effective July 1, 2015.)*

HB 185 & SB 674 -- Creates a public records exemption for the identification and location information of current or former active duty servicemembers of the United States Armed Forces, their reserve components, or the National Guard who served after September 11, 2001, and their spouses and dependents. *(Signed into law by Governor Scott on 6/2/15. Effective immediately.)*

HB 801 & SB 876 -- Adds a memorial to the Capitol in remembrance of the 241 members of the U.S. Armed Forces who lost their lives on October 23, 1983, in Beirut,

Lebanon. *(Signed into law by Governor Scott on 6/11/15. Effective July 1, 2015.)*

HB 277 & SB 394 -- Provides that a public lodging establishment classified as a hotel, motel, or bed and breakfast inn is required to waive any minimum age policy it may have that restricts accommodations to individuals based on age for individuals who are currently on active duty as a member of the United States Armed Forces, the National Guard, Reserve Forces, or Coast Guard and who present a valid military identification card. *(Signed into law by Governor Scott on 6/11/15. Effective July 1, 2015.)*

SB 184 & HB 109 -- Authorizes absent uniformed services voters and overseas voters to use the federal write-in absentee ballot in any state or local election. *(Signed into law by Governor Scott on 5/21/15. Effective July 1, 2015.)*

HB 71 & SB 414 – Updates laws affecting the use of service animals by people with disabilities. Florida law provides that an individual with a disability, defined as a person who is deaf, hard of hearing, blind, visually impaired, or otherwise physically disabled, is entitled to equal access to public accommodations, public employment and housing accommodations. The individual may be accompanied by a trained service animal in all areas of public accommodations that the public is normally allowed to occupy. Any person who denies or interferes with the right of a person with a disability or a service animal trainer to access a place of public accommodation commits a second degree misdemeanor. The bill revises the definition of the term “individual with a disability” to add an individual with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities. The bill requires a public accommodation to modify its policies to permit the use of a service animal by an individual with a disability. The bill further specifies that a public accommodation may not ask about the nature or extent of an individual’s disability in order to determine if an animal is a service animal or pet. Finally, the bill provides that knowingly and willfully misrepresenting oneself as being qualified to use a service animal or being a trainer of a service animal is a second degree misdemeanor. *(Signed into law by Governor Scott on 6/11/15. Effective July 1, 2015.)*

SB 686 & HB 361-- Florida law provides an exemption from ad valorem taxation for property owned by the United States. Federal law also recognizes the immunity of property of the United States from ad valorem taxation. The bill recognizes in statute that leaseholds and improvements constructed and used to provide housing pursuant to the federal Military Housing Privatization Initiative (Housing Initiative) on land owned by the federal government are exempt from Florida ad valorem taxation. *(Signed into law by Governor Scott on 5/21/15. Effective July 1, 2015.)*

HB 225 & SB 590 -- Requires all United States and state flags purchased by the state, a county, or a municipality for public use, after January 1, 2016, to be made in the United States entirely from domestically grown, produced, and manufactured ma-

terials. *(Signed into law by Governor Scott on 6/11/15. Effective July 1, 2015.)*

HB 1069 & SB 1170 -- Relating to Defendants in Specialized Courts -- requires a trial court to transfer certain criminal cases involving participants in specified programs to another jurisdiction having such program under certain conditions. *(Sent to governor for signature on June 1; deadline for signing is June 16.)*

HB 471 & SB 788 -- Allows a vehicle displaying a Disabled Veteran "DV" license plate to park for free in a local facility or lot that provides timed parking spaces. Restrictions apply. *(Signed into law by Governor Scott on 6/10/15. Effective July 1, 2015.)*

For more information, please contact FDVA Legislative and Cabinet Affairs Director Colleen Krepstekies at KrepstekiesC@fdva.state.fl.us or FDVA Legislative Analyst Jessica Kraynak at KraynakJ2@fdva.state.fl.us. Note: Captain Krepstekies will be on Florida National Guard training from June 5 to June 22.

Regards, Steve

R. Steven Murray, Lieutenant Colonel, USAF (Ret)

Communications Director, Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs

Office (850) 487-1533, Ext. 7714 Cell (850) 491-1092

The City of Jacksonville and Department of Veterans Affairs - Florida Veterans Foundation is putting on a three day Stand Down for it's Homeless Veterans. The event will be held at the Jacksonville Fair Grounds on Aug 13 - 15, 2015. We are expecting over 600 homeless veterans to be present. We need St. Johns County veterans support. Our goal is to end veteran homelessness in 2015. Please consider giving us your support through voluntary services or monetary contribution. Either one would be very appreciated.

For more information please contact Daniel Hughes at:

jamedhughes@msn.com or 386-446-3830.

Capitol Ceremony Honors Five Inductees into Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Gov. Rick Scott hosted a ceremony on Monday, July 6 to honor five Floridians inducted into the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame Class of 2014.

Inductees are:

- 1. The late Rear Adm. LeRoy Collins Jr., U.S. Navy Reserve (retired)**
- 2. Maj. Gen. James Lee Dozier, U.S. Army (retired)**
- 3. Dr. (Col.) Harry Frank Farmer Jr., U.S. Army, Florida Army National Guard, U.S. Air Force Reserve (retired)**
- 4. Chief Master Sgt. Eugene Cecil Johnson, U.S. Air Force (retired)**
- 5. Lt. Gen. Lawrence F. Snowden, U.S. Marine Corps (retired)**

Gov. Rick Scott and the Cabinet inducted the five individuals into the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame during the March 24, 2015 Cabinet Meeting.

The Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame recognizes and honors those military veterans who, through their works and lives during or after military service, have made a significant contribution to the state of Florida through civic, business, public service or other pursuits. It is not a traditional military hall of fame, as it focuses on post-military contributions to the State of Florida.

Regards, Steve, R. Murray, Lieutenant Colonel, USAF (Ret)

Communications Director, Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs

SHARE ***** as of July 1, 2015, it is AGAINST THE LAW to pass off an unqualified pet as a service dog. It will now be a 2nd degree misdemeanor punishable by up to 30 days in jail and 30 hours of community service for an organization that services people with disabilities. As you may know, it is not legal to ask a person for credentials of the service animal. HOWEVER, it IS legal to ask them if the animal is necessary due to a disability, and what tasks the dog has been trained to do.



Missing In America Project

SAVE THE DATE -SAVE THE DATE - SAVE THE DATE

Friday, Sept 25, 2015 - 1:00pm @ the Jacksonville National Cemetery.
CALL TO HONOR #6 - MIAP-FL will be interring 20 veterans/spouses that were located at Hardage-Giddens Funeral Home, Jacksonville, FL.

Our numbers keep increasing on a daily basis. As of 6/03/2015 here is our Nationwide Progress to Date

Total Funeral Homes Visited - 1,777
Cremains Found - 11,269
Veterans Cremains Identified - 2,597
Veterans Interred - 2,360.

If you want more info on MIAP go to www.miap.us. Please feel free to also contact me @ miapjax@yahoo.com. There are many ways you can become involved with our Project.

MIAP - FL will be holding the following services on the dates listed.
Details will be published as it gets closer to the date.

September 25, 2015 @ 1:00pm (Friday)
Jacksonville National Cemetery

November 05, 2015 @ 1:00pm (Thursday)
Sarasota National Cemetery

December 05, 2015 @ 10:00am (Saturday)
South Florida National Cemetery



Recognition of Post Excellence

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This Post's Exemplary Efforts Deserve Recognition For Their Support Of The Programs And Activities Of The American Legion, All The While, Being An Asset In Their Community. Their Allegiance To Helping Veterans Is Exemplary And They Should Be Commended For Their Efforts Towards Post Excellence.

The American Legion Presents This Certificate In Appreciation To This Post's Unselfish Duty, Devotion, And Compassion Towards Their Fellow Men And Women. In Witness Whereof, This Testimonial Of Personal Gratitude Is Given By The Undersigned And Presented On This Wednesday, June 17, 2015.

ATTEST:

Michael D. Helm
National Commander

Daniel S. Wheeler
National Adjutant

Roy Havekost AMERICAN LEGION PALM VALLEY POST 233 PONTE VEDRA BEACH, FL 32082

I am proud to announce that I have returned from the 97th Annual Convention with a National Post Excellence Award for 2015 from National Commander Mike Helm. Post 233 was one of only twenty five Posts in the state of Florida that received the award. Thank you to all the 2014-2015 officers, members and entities for making this possible, and especially to my 3rd Vice Commander/Adjutant Sheri Rodriguez who worked extremely hard to make this happen. Team 233 comes through again.

Long lost remains of WWII Medal of Honor recipient found

A white marker at the Santa Fe National Cemetery is inscribed with the name of Marine 1st Lt. Alexander Bonnyman Jr. But the plot beneath it is empty, mirroring the void Bonnyman's family has lived with since his death more than 70 years ago in World War II.

Bonnyman, a posthumous recipient of the Medal of Honor, America's highest award for valor in combat, was one of about 1,100 Marines killed in 1943 during the Battle of Tarawa. His remains were among the hundreds declared "unrecoverable" by the U.S. quartermaster general in 1949, but thanks to the efforts of a small, privately funded organization, Bonnyman's family finally can make preparations to bring him home.



With its team of experts, **the Florida-based nonprofit History Flight** used remote sensing, ground-penetrating radar and cadaver dogs to search for the lost cemeteries of Tarawa, a battleground of the Pacific Theater. Drone flights helped create a high-resolution aerial map of the island. Then it was cross-referenced against old military maps.

Gradually, investigators discovered that the original burial information wasn't recorded correctly. The trench where Bonnyman was thought to have been laid to rest with 39 other soldiers was finally located on private property owned by a shipping company.

History Flight crews excavated the site in May and recovered the remains.

Thank you for your service, sir. May your family finally find comfort and peace.

You Are Not Forgotten.. of Tarawa. His remains were among the hundreds declared "unrecoverable" by the U.S. quartermaster general in 1949, but thanks to the efforts of a small, privately funded organization, Bonnyman's family finally can make preparations to bring him home.



Do you or someone you know suffer with *Psoriasis?*

We need your help, we are conducting a clinical trial with an investigational topical medication for those with moderate to severe **Plaque Psoriasis.**

If you are at least 18 years of age,
please call

**Solutions Through
Advanced Research
(904) 619-8157**



14546 Old St. Augustine Rd. Suite 107, Jacksonville, FL 32258
www.jaxadvresearch.com

#1001820718 (1/6 PG HORIZON(5in x 7in)) 10/06/2014 00:59 EST



“Honoring the Dead by Helping the Living”

**For more information,
contact A. J. Sartin (904) 669-1946**

Offered by the Vilano Beach VFW Post 12142, VilanoBeachVFW@att.net

**Vilano Beach VFW Post 12142 collects Walkers, Wheel Chairs, and Power
Wheel Chairs for distribution to other Veterans in need.**

VETERANS HELPING VETERANS

The P320 Travel-Ease Regal has an 18"W x 16"D swivel seat, flip up armrests, headrest and flip-up footboard. The Travel-Ease comes with batteries and runs up to 4.5 mph.

The small footprint is perfect for getting around indoors, but don't be fooled, it's outdoor performance is second to none. The P320 has an excellent torque-range for consistent pulling no matter what the terrain does.

The Merits P320 Travel-Ease Regal is stylish and compact. Its low center of gravity, tight turning radius of 23" and excellent maneuverability makes it extra stable and gives you a high level of freedom.



The P320's 9" Foam-Filled Drive wheels and 8" front casters can take you just about anywhere. Work great indoors and outdoors. The P320 has a maximum speed of 4.5 mph and a range of about 15 miles.

Go-Go Elite Traveller 3-Wheel

by Pride , Model No. SC40E

Lightweight, agile, the Elite Traveller.

18AH battery option for extended drive range

Comes with blue, and red shroud covers

Front frame-mounted seat post offers maximum stability

Key Specs

Top Speed: 4.25 mph

Drive Range: 10.00 miles (this may vary, depending on charge and life of battery)

Heaviest Piece: 28 lbs., Rider Weight capacity: 300 lbs., Weight: 96 lbs.



**Wheelchair Walker Folding Combination, without basket
(pictured on left)**

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Michael J. Pelkowski • David D. Naples, Jr.

*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

**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



The new Veterans Service Office is now open and ready to serve you.

**Veterans Service Office
200 San Sebastian View, Suite 1400
St. Augustine, FL 32084**

(physical location)

*The VSO Office is located in the new St. Johns County
Health and Human Services Building.*

*The office is open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily,
Monday through Friday excluding holidays.
Closed for lunch daily from 11:30 am 12:30 pm*

*Service is by appointment.
Phone: 904-209-6160 Fax: 904-209-6161
Joseph McDermott, CVSO
Rick Rees, Assistant VSO
Tammy Shirley, Assistant VSO
Lashonda Burns, Office Specialist*

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.