



The Patriot Reader Newsletter

P.O. Box 2117

St. Augustine, FL 32085

Bill Dudley, Publisher

Michael Rothfeld, Editor

Inside this Issue

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Newsletter Date: December, 2016

Message from the Chairman

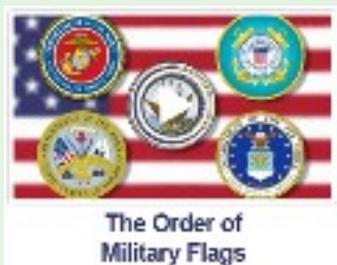


Fellow Veterans,
 By any metric, our Veterans Day Weekend was a huge success. The parade, film festival and Lee Greenwood concert was an inspiration to all who attended. The Veterans Day committee worked tirelessly to plan all the events and raise the funds to support each event. We especially want to thank our sponsors who contributed money or gifts-in-kind to help pay for the weekend activities. We are extremely grateful to our city and county police and fire departments for their support in assisting with traffic and crowd control. We will acknowledge each of them with a personal letter of appreciation. In only our second year, our parade has grown exponentially. The marching units including local and military bands, JROTC units, veterans groups,

military marching units and military vehicles has expanded since last year with more promised for next year. Our focus will be on military and veterans organizations and maintain that distinction in order to honor our veterans. We strongly encourage all local veterans' organizations to plan now to have an entry in next year's parade. Our Veterans Council would also like to thank Sen. Travis Hutson for sponsoring a fund raiser at Ancient City Brewing to help raise funds for the Veterans Day Weekend. A big shout out to Mark Miner for organizing the fund raiser. It was a fun event and raised an impressive amount of money to help defray expenses. Our Wreaths Across America chairman Sgt. Major Ray Quinn reports that our program for this year has raised the necessary funds to as-

sure that every headstone will have a wreath placed on it at our ceremony on December 10. We appreciate the contributions from our community and everyone who purchased a wreath. I would like to thank all our veterans who took the time to vote in this year's election. I see this as our patriotic duty...one of the reasons why we as veterans served... to protect the right for our citizens to vote. On behalf of our Veterans Council, I would like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and a Very Merry Christmas. As Americans, we have a lot to be thankful for.
 Bill Dudley
 Chairman

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Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home



Clyde E. Lassen held its annual “Veterans’ Ball” on Veteran’s Day. Please enjoy the photos of the ball!!



On the dance floor





**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, on Monday, January 9, 2017.** The meeting will be at **7:00pm.** The meeting will take place at Community Hospice, **4266 Sunbeam Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32257 in Conference Room A.**

+++++2015/2016 Officers of the SCJNC+++++

Chairman: Ray Quinn

Vice Chairman: Bill Dudley, Treasurer: John Mountcastle

Assistant Treasurer: Michael Rothfeld, Secretary: Kathy Church

Chaplain: Michael Halyard, Master-At-Arms: Joe McDermott

JAG Officer: Patrick Bennett, Historian: Jody Raymond

The military has a lot of traditions and symbolism, but have you ever wondered why U.S. military uniforms have American flags that are reversed? Maybe yes, maybe no, but we're going to tell you anyway because there is a fascinating reason behind it.

According to Providr, Army Regulation 670-1 states that, "The American flag patch is to be worn, right or left shoulder, so that the star field faces forward, or to the flag's own right."



When the a flag patch is worn in this way, the flag is facing the observer's right. This gives the effect of an American flag that is flying in the breeze as the soldier moves forward. So why is that important? Well, because when a soldier is viewed from his or her right side the flag patch looks like as if they were carrying a real American flag forward into battle.

Since the red, white and blue flag kind of defeats the purpose of camouflaged on uniforms the Army updated their battle dress uniform so that the patch is in a muted color.

The American flag isn't just displayed like this on military forms. Next time you're at the airport you can notice that U.S. flagged aircrafts also display the American flag in this "reversed" manner and is painted on the right side of the aircraft.



City of St. Augustine



La Lealísima y Valerosa Cuidad de San Agustín de la Florida

1565 - 2015

Certificate of Recognition

In Acknowledgement of and Presented in Honor to

William E. "Bill" Dudley and Michael Isam

WHEREAS, as we approach Veterans Day 2016, the City Commission of St. Augustine determines it fitting to recognize service within St. Johns County's veteran community, and

WHEREAS, William E. "Bill" Dudley and Michael Isam, both Air Force veterans, reflect the time-honored words of President Abraham Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address, March 4, 1865, "To care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow, and his orphan", and

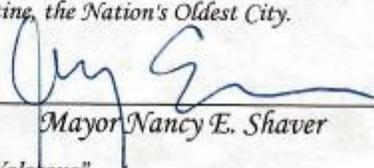
WHEREAS, Bill Dudley is Chairman of the St. Johns County Veteran's Council, and was in the forefront of the effort to establish a replacement Veterans Community Based Outpatient Clinic here, is Past President of St. Augustine Navy League Council, Past Northeast Florida Area President, Immediate Past Florida Region President and a National Director of the Navy League of the United States, and serves on the Advisory Committees to the Jacksonville National Cemetery and Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home, and

WHEREAS, Michael Isam is Commander and Adjutant of the Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 6 and Commander, District 3, Disabled American Veterans of Florida, worked to establish a Disabled American Veterans Transportation System to transport veterans from the St. Augustine Veterans Administration clinic to The VA Medical Center in Gainesville, is secretary for the Veterans Council of St. Johns County, since 2002 has been the Veteran's Today Forum administrator, regularly posting Veteran information and job listings, was scriptwriter and narrator for the documentary Vietnam: Service, Sacrifice and Courage; Local Neighbors, National Heroes and director of the documentary Women in War from WWII to Iraq.

NOW THEREFORE, among the many who serve the veterans of St. Johns County, the City Commission of the City of St. Augustine is honored to recognize Bill Dudley and Michael Isam as examples of that service above and beyond.



In Witness Whereof, I hereunto set my hand and do cause the Seal of the City of St. Augustine, Florida, to be affixed on this 24th day of October in the year of our Lord two thousand sixteen, in the four hundred and fifty-first year of the founding of St. Augustine, the Nation's Oldest City.



Mayor Nancy E. Shaver

"Most Loyal and Valorous"

Presidio of St. Augustine by King Philip V of Spain, November 26, 1715

On November 14, 2016, attendees at the City Commission meeting gave a standing ovation as Mayor Nancy Shaver and Commissioners of the City of St. Augustine recognized Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley and Veteran Advocate Michael Isam for service above and beyond.

pictured from left:

Commissioner Todd Neville, Vice Mayor Roxanne Horvath, Bill Dudley, Mayor Nancy Shaver, Michael Isam, Commissioner Nancy Sikes-Kline, Commissioner Leanna Freeman.

Photo Credit: Melissa Wissel, City of St. Augustine



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT: GOVERNOR'S PRESS OFFICE

(850) 717-9282 media@eog.myflorida.com

Gov. Scott Announces Kick-Off of Statewide Paychecks for Patriots Events for Florida Veterans

ORLANDO, Fla. – Today, Governor Rick Scott announced the kick-off of the 2016 *Paychecks for Patriots*, which matches up veterans with great careers in their communities. In recognition of Veterans Day, the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) is partnering with the CareerSource Florida network, the Florida National Guard, the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs and participating Florida employers to connect veterans and their families with job opportunities. Governor Scott has also declared November 7-11 as [Paychecks for Patriots week](#).

Governor Rick Scott said, "Florida is proud to be the most military and veteran-friendly state in the nation, and we work hard to honor our many veterans and military members for their service and sacrifice. The annual *Paychecks for Patriots* events are a great way to give back to our heroes and their families by providing more opportunities to find meaningful employment so they can live the American Dream they work so hard to protect."

CareerSource regions across the state will be hosting *Paychecks for Patriots* events in November, to build connections between veteran jobseekers and Florida's job creators. The employers will include national companies, as well as many local employers. More than 1,700 military and veteran candidates and their family members who participated in the events across the state have gained employment as a result of prior *Paychecks for Patriots*.

Florida Department of Economic Opportunity Executive Director Cissy Proctor said, "I was honored to attend the *Paychecks for Patriots* event at CareerSource Escarosa last week, where I saw first-hand the positive impact these events make in the lives of Florida's veteran and military communities. The *Paychecks for Patriots* events match veterans and their families with employers who value the skills, knowledge and attributes our veterans have attained during their military service. These events are part of our ongoing effort to make Florida the most military-friendly and veteran-friendly state in the nation."

The CareerSource Florida network includes more than 175 workforce professionals statewide, themselves veterans, who are dedicated specifically to assisting other veterans with finding employment year-round. These professionals include specialists who provide intensive services to meet the needs of veterans with service-related disabilities. Last year, the CareerSource Florida network assisted more than 19,600 veterans who secured jobs.

CareerSource Florida President and CEO Chris Hart IV said, "Florida benefits from the third-highest military veteran population in the country through veterans' contributions and those of their family members to our workforce and our communities. These talented individuals are invaluable additions to any employer's team, and we sincerely appreciate the national and local businesses participating in this year's *Paychecks for Patriots* hiring fairs as well as the CareerSource Florida network partners who dedicate their time, year-round, to connecting veterans with great careers."

Events will be held across Florida during the month of November. More details are available at <http://floridajobs.org/paychecksforpatriots>.

Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc. Minutes of November 17, 2016

Officers present: Chairman Bill Dudley; Secretary Michael Rothfeld, Treasurer John Mountcastle
Vice Chairman Ray Quinn not present

Chairman Dudley called the meeting to order at 1902 hours

Chairman Dudley led the Pledge to the Flag and gave the invocation.

Last month's Minutes were approved as presented at the meeting.

The Treasurer's Report was approved as amended at the meeting.

Visitors:

Eric West, Publisher of Patriotic Publishing

Speakers:

John Leslie, John attended an all day seminar of the NE FL/S GA Health System to learn more about the system and what it offers veterans. The purpose of the seminar was to bring together veterans and the health services available to them. Topics discussed- suicide prevention, PTSD, resources available to veterans returning from combat tours, and transitioning returning to society after tour. The objective of summit was to bring VA and veterans community together.



Eric West, Eric distributed copies of his magazine, Military Deals USA. It is available at the VFW, American Legion and over 40 places in the county.

Committee Reports:

Joe McDermott, SJC VSO: Mac said the Parade, the St Augustine Beach ceremony, the Film Festival were all very successful.

He mentioned Ken Burns upcoming 18 hour Vietnam documentary out next November and that COL Kushner would be in it. Mac attended the Fallen Heroes ceremony honoring Iraq/Afghanistan veterans. Liberty Pines and Valley Ridge held ceremonies for Veterans Day also.

Chairman Dudley:

The Veterans Day Parade was outstanding, as was the Military Film Festival and the Lee Greenwood concert. Wreaths Across America has raised \$ 10,031, ore money is still needed.

A reminder to attend Sen. Hutson's Veterans Council fundraiser on Saturday Nov. 19.

New Business:

George Milroy representing the Air Force Sergeant's association presented Chairman Dudley with a check for \$ 250. For Wreaths Across America.

Fred Dupont, the Elks 829 and USO have teamed up again to feed over 750 veterans for Christmas. The Boating Club has donated \$ 1000. To Wreaths Across America.



Meeting ended at 2030

Next Meeting: Thursday, December 29th, 7 pm, Elks Lodge # 829, 1420 A1A S., St. Augustine

Respectfully submitted by Michael Rothfeld, Secretary, Veterans Council SJC

The Veterans Council would like to thank FL State Senator Travis Hutson for his very generous donation to the Council of \$ 1000. Sen. Hutson along with Mark P. Miner hosted the fund raising luncheon and provided a very tasty lunch for everyone attending the event at the Ancient City Brewery.



Veterans Day Weekend in St. Augustine

This year the Veterans Council of St. Johns County and the Military Officers of America, Ancient City Chapter, honored veterans with events spread over three days.

On Veterans Day, November 11, St. Augustine was treated to a Grand Parade with over 1000 marchers. There was a fly over, a helicopter, military vehicles, JROTC marchers, veterans from all wars, and military marching bands. It was truly a grand parade.



After the Parade, and for the following two days was a Military Film Festival held at the Corazon Cinema showing documentaries featuring local veterans who served in WW II, Korea, Vietnam and Iraq/Afghanistan as well as stories of four local NE FL veterans who were held captive as POWs in three wars.



Veterans Day Weekend ended with a magnificent patriotic concert at the St. Augustine Amphitheater starring Lee Greenwood. This concert was a Veterans Benefit Concert with profits going to local veteran not for profits.



The Ride Home

The Veterans Council of St Johns Council would like to thank Chairman Moe Moe of the ride home for being our featured speaker at the VC of SJC Military Film Festival. Moe introduced the VC produced documentary "Stolen Freedom" and updated the audience on MIA/POW issues. Thank you Moe.

The RIDE HOME Inc. is a Non Profit Corporation paying tribute to Former American Prisoners of War and the families of those Americans still Missing in Action. National POW/MIA Recognition Day reminds us of the sacrifices our soldiers and their families make for our great country every day and our responsibility to let them all know that we Will NOT Forget. Combined Conflict totals in the last century equate to more than 120,000 Prisoners Of War repatriated and over 83,000 still listed as Missing in Action. To pay tribute to the Former Prisoners of War and The Families of those Still Missing In Action, we host The RIDE HOME. This annual event takes place in and around the cities of Americus and Andersonville, Georgia, home of the National Prisoners of War Museum. With the support of American Patriots, like you, we are able to provide dinner and lunch, as well as lodging for over 200 Honored Guest. This annual event is open to the public and we strongly encourage you to join us as we show our gratitude for the sacrifices these former POWs and MIA families have made for Our Great Country.



Camp Blanding Honors Vietnam Veterans At Annual Veteran's Day Ceremony

By Gabriela DeAlmeida

Veterans and families gathered at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center in Starke Friday morning for the camp's annual Veteran's Day Ceremony. Col. Matt Johnson, Commander of Camp Blanding, set-up this year's event as a special commemoration of veterans from the Vietnam War.

The ceremony began at 11 a.m. with a processional by the Junior ROTC from Fleming Island, followed by the national anthem. Col. Johnson opened the ceremony by recognizing the families of retired or active duty military. A majority of the audience stood or raised their hand as the entire crowd applauded.

Col. Johnson touched on the importance of showing unending gratitude towards veterans, especially those who fought in Vietnam and were not welcomed home after the war. He then introduced Dr. George Kressman, president of the Camp Blanding Museum Association, who delivered opening remarks and welcomed close to 150 attendees.

The featured speaker was Vietnam veteran, Gary Newman, who served in the United States Military from 1959 to 1978. Newman now serves as president of Clay County's Chapter of Vietnam Veterans of America.

"As I talk to you today, you may find some points where I may get a little teary-eyed," Newman began. "I may get a little angry, but that's the way most of us [veterans] are at times."

He teared up as he recalled the despair and hopelessness he felt upon returning to the United States after the Vietnam war. Newman emphasized the lack of resources and support he and his companions faced—many of whom struggled with alcoholism, depression, PTSD and lack of necessary skills for the practically non-existent jobs.

"Society didn't want us," he added.

Newman also spoke about his experiences while serving on the USS Maddox in 1964, where he recalls not being able to shower during his first six months on board and washing his clothes in contaminated rivers. He spoke of the attacks by North Vietnamese torpedo boats in the Gulf of Tonkin. And he spoke of friends who ended up abandoned, imprisoned or dead

as a result of returning home after the war to a country that did not support them.

“We must unify and come together and fight as one team,” he concluded.

Lt. Col. Scott Taylor closed out the ceremony by commemorating each branch of the military. Active military and veterans were asked to stand, or raise their hand if they were unable to stand, when the respective song for their branch of the military was played over the speakers. The crowd applauded for several minutes.

After the ceremony, Col. Johnson presented all Vietnam Veterans in attendance with a special lapel pin. Each Veteran was greeted with a handshake and a “thank you for your service” by speaker and the Junior ROTC.

Several tables were set up on the grounds with donated and captured war memorabilia from the Camp Blanding Museum for attendees to view. Among these items were military uniforms and refurbished weaponry primarily from World War II, said Chad Edwards, the museum’s armourer.

The Camp Blanding Museum is located on the Camp Blanding Joint Training grounds and is open to the public regularly. Camp Blanding was established in 1940 as a regional training center for troops in the south, and is now primarily a regional training for National Guard troops in Florida.



Veterans stand or raise their hand as the crowd applauds at Camp Blanding’s Annual Veteran’s Day ceremonies Nov. 11. This year’s event had a focus on “welcoming home” all Vietnam veterans in attendance. (Gabriela DeAlmeida/WUFT News)

St. Augustine woman finds WWII dog tags after Hurricane Matthew, returns them to veteran's son

by: Michael Yoshida, Action News Jax

A St. Augustine woman tells Action News Jax she found the tags using a metal detector.

Because the dog tags were in such good condition, she believes they were buried in the dunes and were only unearthed because of the storm. The amazing discovery led her to find the owner of the dog tags.

For 31 years, Barbara Galambos has searched beaches for hidden treasures.

"It's giving a little piece back from his history," Galambos said.

One of her latest finds was a pair of World War II dog tags.

"I said 'how do I find this guy, who owned them, how did they get here,'" Galambos said.

So Galambos started a search for Frank Rogers.

"I found his obituary, he passed away in 2010," Galambos said.

Not ready to give up, Galambos kept digging and found the Marine Corps veteran's son in South Carolina. She called and then mailed the dog tags to Frank "Buzz" Rogers IV.

"When I held them ... it's kind of like I got chills down my back," Rogers IV told Action News Jax over the phone. His father was a gifted pilot who joined the Marine Corps at the start of World War II.

"They chose to use him as a flight instructor for the Marine Corps pilots," Rogers IV said.

Rogers IV said in 1945, his father was transferred to Naval Air Station Jacksonville to prepare to go overseas. Pages from his father's flight log show the time he spent in Florida. A place where Rogers IV said his father enjoyed his other love – the beach.

"I'm assuming he went swimming ... and they got lost," Rogers IV said.

A piece of history lost, but now found and returned.

"The first time any human has touched them in 70 plus years ... it's just ... truly it's a miracle," Rogers IV said.

"I think I've made a friend for life... because he was so happy to get that memento back from his dad," Galambos said.

The war ended before Frank Rogers was sent overseas. Rogers IV said he plans on framing the dog tags and presenting them with some of his father's other military items.



From Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley and Publisher of The Patriot Reader: The following letter is from Bob Adelhelm, member of the Vets 4 Vets program in Jacksonville. Although the City of Jacksonville has specific language for those who are serving or have served in order for their name to appear on the Veterans Wall, I think that Bob raises a valid point in his appeal to the City. I feel he has a strong argument dealing with the home of record requirement. I go on record of supporting Bob's position in his letter to the Mayor.

Mayors Executive Order Makes Veterans Wall Meaningless...

Mayors recent executive order, apparently signed on Veterans Day, officially removes home of record from the criteria for being recognized on a hometown Veterans Memorial...It has in fact legitimized making being recognized on hometown memorial meaningless.

This is a foolish decision made to counter pushback concerning recent additions added to the wall who did not have a home of record in Jax. The DD214 stating home of record has traditionally been the document of proof used in determining the entry location of service members into the military. Now it seems simply being stationed in Jax and being from anywhere in the US makes one eligible to be recognized on a Veterans Memorial that was originally intended to honor those from Jax who served and sacrificed. Sadly, the mayor made a huge mistake and his decision has diminished the true meaning of being recognized on a hometown Veterans Memorial if anyone from anywhere can now be recognized simply because they have an address in Jax.

The executive order, however, ignored the criteria actually needing clarification relating to died or killed during "declared war". Home of record was pretty straight forward, but declared war not so. The US has not declared war since WWII and, in fact, has only declared war 11 times all prior to or as a result of WWII.

The mayor should have been better advised to change the declared war to combat hostiles or actions involving hostile actions. This would have covered most everything since WWII where US Forces were involved. Sadly, this has not changed and will continue to add to the obfuscation surrounding who and why one is being recognized on the wall.

Still have a hard time understanding how someone from New Hampshire, joined the military in NH, was killed in a domestic dispute in NH and is buried there is on a Jax Veterans Memorial, but it is what this new executive order has legitimized. Politics!

There was also no mention of the PTSD issue and the deaths that result from the invisible wounds of war or hostile actions of those from Jax. This is a major issue, needs to be addressed and not ignored!

R Adelhelm, 904 234 3540

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Notes for Vets4Vets

October 22, 2016

Veterans Memorial Arena, Jacksonville, FL

Attendance: 146



Bob Adelhelm called meeting order. Jacksonville Fire Dept. presented the colors. Pledge of Allegiance, Invocation and comments by Bob Adelhelm.

We started off with recognizing our first responders....Noting there are over 25 million 1st responders in the US standing strong for their communities and this country. Today we take time to recognize some of our own....(Presented JSRD and FOP Rep with gift from Veterans)

Jacksonville Fire & Rescue, Chief Keith Powers, spoke on the cooperation of Veterans and Jax Fire & Rescue in assisting a distressed veteran and the successful outcome from this cooperation between the Veterans and community service org., Fire & Rescue Dept.

Agreed more cooperation and working together needs to increase providing excellence to our vets and city.

Jacksonville Sheriffs Dept. – Randy Reeves, VP, FOP 530 & Lonnie Miller, VP state of FL FOP spoke on community outreach and contributions made by Veterans to law enforcement.

Wounded Warrior Project, Jennifer Mackinday, WWP representative shared a personal story concerning her brother who was injured with his Stryker brigade combat team in Iraq, serving our country. She was well received and WWP intends to attend V4V in the future. CEO was on site and was impressed with what is taking place at V4V.

Veterans Support Center, Cindy Funkhouser 2016 to date – 216 vets identified and 266 housed. She gave an update on the services provided to the homeless veterans in our community. Veterans Dormitory has housed 292, for average length of stay: 80 days. Sulzbacher Center is filled to capacity everyday and every night. In Jan., 2014 650 homeless veterans were housed. 174 homeless vets have been housed and permanently within 90 days. They are having an impact in reducing the number of homeless vets living in parks, under bridges and in the woods. She shared that they have raised \$19 million to build a new facility, Sulzbacher Village, for women vets and children. Trauma center with a female dormitory – D.B. Weaver center.

PTSD, Dr. Michele Fleming, Phd. Addressed PTSD. Explained the myriad of traumas, faced by individuals that can cause anxiety, combat related is only one of the traumas that cause post traumatic stress. It is the “Natural Response” to Unnatural experiences.

Gratitude America. Org – Captain Michael Anthony, Executive Director...Provides retreats for veterans, hobbies, horses, kayaking, connects with other veterans. Share – vets guide.org. They have a FB page and are looking for volunteers. Need mentors for vets struggling. Next Retreat is scheduled for November 3-6, 2016 at Marine Land, FL. All accommodations, food

and activities are provided free of charge. Small friendly group settings. Email address: Michael@gratitudeamerica.org Phone # 912-674-0332

Veterans Court and Jacksonville Law School – John Holzbaur – Update on services to vets along with Florida Law School Rep to update on how they are willing to assist fellow Veterans

Veterans Services, Tony Esterling, Baker county director. Spoke on veterans services in Baker county. Encouraged vets to prepare their wives with DD214 information. Need to reach out to younger veterans. They do NOT like coming together, need to reach out and find ways to reach them. Spoke about Veterans Council.

Mission House, Jane McIntosh spoke on the availability and provision of clothing, meals, breakfast, lunch & dinner, as well as showers, etc for veterans. Only day facility for adult men and women who find themselves homeless in the Beaches area. (Mayport to Jax Beach). There #1 goal to assist those who seek services with the tools to return to a self-sufficient and productive life. Includes case mgmt., free clinic and spiritual services.

Vets Employment Opportunities/Assistance, Tim Giles jobs include field operations, investigations, etc. for veterans. Pelocity provides real time data on current and future job openings and projected earnings through direct linkages to US Dept of Labor & States databases. Military and displaced workers all can benefit by learning about the careers that best match their personal style and then getting direct access to critical information about these best-matched careers. Contact information: Pelocity www.pelocity.com Email address: info@pelocity.com phone: 800-737-5622 fax # 904-332-7223 Street Address: 4887 Belfort Road, ste 105, Jacksonville, FL 32256

Changing Homelessness – John Markee & Kanice Hoffman, shared they have a 60/40% ratio that they work. 60% is housing – those living in a shelter, car or hotel. They provide outreach, case mgmt., vets assisted in setting up households, with shopping & groceries, rent & utility assistance, prevention to save home. No mortgage payments made. They work with Sulzbacher Center & Salvation Army. All discharge types accepted. They cover the I-10 & I-90 corridors. One vet a day housed. 28 housed in August, 2016.

JU Military Resource Center Representative – JU Student Veteran Coordinator Michael Mitchell discussed what JU offers for Veterans and the Post 9/11 GI Bill. Rob Handley, President of Student Veterans of America Chapter at JU discussed the organization which helps students with transitioning from military to civilian life.

Together We Are Stronger

Because of the early publication of the Dec. Patriot Reader we are including both the Nov. & Dec. Minutes

**Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc.
Minutes of October 27, 2016**



Officers present: Chairman Bill Dudley; Secretary Michael Rothfeld, Treasurer John Mountcastle
Vice Chairman Ray Quinn not present
Chairman Dudley called the meeting to order at 1900 hours

Chairman Dudley led the Pledge to the Flag
Ron Birchall gave the Invocation

Last month's Minutes were approved as presented at the meeting.
The Treasurer's Report was approved as presented at the meeting.

Visitors:

Several visitors were present and introduced

Speakers: Bob Adelhelm, founder of Vets 4 Vets and the Jacksonville Semper Fidelis Society.

Bob spoke about the recent Vets 4 Vets Quarterly Gathering in the Veterans Memorial Arena. The goal of Vets 4 Vets is to inform, share information and connect veterans to other NE FL veterans. Vets 4 Vets is not an organization, rather it is a movement that deals with issues affecting veterans and their families. The group is also trying to reach out to younger veterans and get them involved and unite all to deal with local, state and national issues that affect veterans. "United We Are Strong".



Bob finished up by informing all of the inequity of the Jacksonville Memorial Wall criteria. He is trying to have a Marine's name placed on the Wall who committed suicide suffering from PTSD.

Committee Reports:

Joe McDermott, SJC VSO: The DAV Chapter 6 used Mac's office for assistance to veterans suffering from hurricane damage.

The VA met with local officials recently to discuss ways to cut amount spent on the new VA Outpatient Clinic which is still under negotiations with the County.

Kathy Church: Kathy updated Council on the last interment in south Florida, with over 200 in attendance. She will announce dates for upcoming Vero Beach and Sebastian ceremonies when the information becomes available.

George Linardos: Tickets are still available for the MOAA Lee Greenwood concert and George asked all to go back to your organizations and see if they would buy groups of tickets for their members. The concert is to benefit local veteran's groups and help is needed by all to make this a success.

Michael Rothfeld: Michael spoke about the dates, times, location of the FREE Military Film Festival as well as who the speakers for each documentary would be.

Chairman Dudley: Vets 4 Cops is now an LLC and more information to follow in months ahead. Chairman Dudley said Liberty Pines and Valley Ridge will again be hosting Veterans Day events and will pass the specifics to us as he gets them. Sebastian Middle School is collecting clothes, socks, food, etc. for Homeless Veterans, if you have donations please let the Chairman know.

The St. Augustine National Cemetery Wreaths Across America program is still short of funds and may not be able place a wreath upon each headstone as we have done in the past. WAA is still short \$ 4230. Deadline for donations is Nov. 17.

New Business: Jim Bush from Florida Power and Light presented Chairman Dudley with a check for the Veterans Council in the amount of \$ 1500. John McGinty from Vietnam Veterans of America, St Augustine Branch presented the Council with a check for Wreaths Across America. Jerry Hanchett also presented a check from SAR for \$150 for WAA.

Meeting ended at 2030

PLEASE NOTE DATE FOR THE NOVEMBER MEETING IS NOT THE LAST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH.

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 17th, 7 pm, Elks Lodge # 829, 1420 A1A S., St. Augustine

Sheppard AFB, Tech School June 1969. **Bob Dinkins third from the left, back row.** I was the only one to get orders to Naha AB, Okinawa. The other guys went to Clark and CCK. Some of us met later on TDY's to Nam.



The Veterans Council of St. Johns County is proud to announce that it has modernized its website and created a new Facebook page.



We are inviting all veterans to visit our website at:
<http://www.veteranscouncilofstjohns.org>

The Veterans Council will post items of interest to all veterans, post pictures, articles, flyers, events, etc. We will post our meetings dates and keep you informed about events at the Jacksonville and St. Augustine National Cemeteries.

Please join our group on Facebook at:
VeteransCouncilofStJohnsCounty,FL

Please select **Join the Group** to become a member

Once you have joined the Veterans Council Facebook group you will be able to post your meetings, pictures, articles, fund raisers, etc. It will be your common site to go to and see what's happening.

The website and Facebook page were updated and created so that there would be a central place to list all veterans activities in NE FL.

You may have noticed the Veterans Council's new logo, it was created by Roy Havekost and his web design company PageAuthors. The VC strongly recommends that you contact Roy, 904-287-6909, if you or your vet group wants to create a website or Facebook page.

Happy National Family Caregiver Month!

National Family Caregivers Month and the VA thanks, celebrates, and honors each and every family Caregiver of a Veteran! This month, VA takes time to honor and thank the Family Caregivers who provide essential support and care to our Veterans. Caregivers are truly an integral part of every healthcare team's goal to provide the best care possible. Family Caregivers provide an estimated \$450 billion worth of uncompensated care to loved ones annually, according to Family Caregiver Alliance. An astonishing 65.7 million Caregivers, providing care to someone who is ill, disabled or aged, make up 29 percent of the U.S. adult population. A 2010 study by the National Alliance for Caregivers and the United Health Foundation found that 43% of Caregivers of Veterans report spending more than 40 hours a week providing care. We invite you to join us in honoring Caregivers for all they do. For more information please contact your Caregiver Support Coordinator at your local Medical center. <http://www.caregiver.va.gov/>

With VA's Caregiver Support Line assistance is just a quick phone call away. Whether you're in need of immediate assistance or have questions about what services you may be eligible for, the caring licensed professionals who answer the support line can:

Tell you about the assistance available from VA.

Help you access services.

Connect you with the Caregiver Support Coordinator at a VA Medical Center near you.

Just listen, if that's what you need right now.

If you're just getting started with VA, calling the Caregiver Support Line is a great first step to take to learn more about the support that's available to you.

Should Vets with PTSD be Considered for the Purple Heart?

Matthew Russell From TheVeteransSite.com

The United States Military recognizes those who have been killed or wounded in battle with the Purple Heart. It's one of the oldest awards for such service in the country, and there have been countless recipients since it was first pinned on a soldier in 1917.

But what about those whose wounds we may never see? What about those whose wounds are deep within? Over the last decade, Post-traumatic stress disorder cases among service members have increased tremendously. The Pentagon isn't ignoring the fact either. New methods of treatment are being explored by the Department of Veterans Affairs. PTSD has gained national visibility but it's still not recognized as a wound meriting the Purple Heart.

Part of the reason for this is because PTSD is diagnosed after the fact; usually long after the event or events that prompted the mental wound, and often after a discharge from service. The VA doesn't have a system for relaying mental health records back to the military for the sake of awards. It's never been done, despite studies that have shown Purple Heart recipients actually live longer than their brothers in arms. The VA studied 10,255 veterans of World War II and the Korean War and found that those awarded the Purple Heart had longer lifespans than those who didn't.

Another reason veterans with PTSD are not eligible for the Purple Heart is because it's actually against the rules. In 2009 The Military Order of the Purple Heart stood by the Pentagon's decision to disqualify veterans with PTSD from receiving the Purple Heart. The MOPH released a statement on the matter in 2012.

"As an organization that is composed solely of Purple Heart recipients, we have supported fully the Pentagon's decision not to award the Purple Heart for PTSD. Obviously, we are very sympathetic to those who suffer this terrible disorder. You can hardly find anyone who has served in combat, and especially those who have been wounded in combat, that doesn't return with some form of PTSD. In recent years, the Military and the VA have become much more aware of its effects and are expanding and improving their treatment of PTSD."

"The criteria for this particular medal, however, is the suffering of physical wounds on the battlefield as the result of combat action by the enemies of the United States. Moreover, PTSD is a treatable disease — loss of a limb, or any combat wound for that matter, is permanent. And, what about those who feign the illness just to receive VA medical treatment; or, what about a group who witnesses a battlefield trauma together, but only one or two suffer from PTSD; should they all receive the Purple Heart?"

“The Purple Heart: Background and Issues for Congress,” by Barbara Salazar Torreon, an Analyst in Defense Budget and Military Manpower, was brought before Congress in 2015. In the report, Torreon claims that the amount of service members returning from Iraq and Afghanistan with traumatic brain injuries and post-traumatic stress issues have led the Department of Defense to revisit its Purple Heart criteria.

“DOD considers some TBIs eligible for the Purple Heart, as many of those injuries can be diagnosed using brain scans and other objective medical tests,” Torreon wrote. “However, there is continued debate on the validity of mental conditions, such as PTSD, being a part of the appropriate criteria for the Purple Heart. Congress, as well as various executive agencies and departments, is funding and conducting studies regarding PTSD.”

The National Alliance on Mental Illness is spearheading efforts to make veterans with PTSD eligible for the Purple Heart. The mission of the national grassroots advocacy group is to eliminate the stigma surrounding PTSD and to encourage those who suffer from it to get help.

“NAMI is drawing a line in the sand with the Department of Defense,” said NAMI Executive Director Michael J. Fitzpatrick. “Troops with invisible wounds are heroes. It’s time to honor them. It will also strike a tremendous blow against the stigma that often discourages individuals from seeking help when they need it.”

Whether they wear their awards or not, Fitzpatrick calls for respect and decency for all our veterans, and asks that Americans reach out and help them when necessary.

“Simple things make a difference,” he said. “Give veterans rides, watch their children or grant them extra time off from work in order to make it possible for them to get treatment. Our troops don’t leave wounded comrades behind. Don’t leave veterans or their families behind.”

It will take an act of Congress for veterans with PTSD to be considered for the Purple Heart, and that’s just what NAMI and other groups are putting their efforts behind precipitating. For those that have already been awarded the Purple Heart, physical scars can be painful reminders of war, and few come close to the story behind the scar on Pvt. Channing Moss’ side. Follow this link to read more about how Moss took an RPG to the stomach and lived to talk about it.

How **K9S FOR WARRIORS** Works



1 Donations are received

2

Veterans with PTSD, TBI, and/or MST submit applications and are scheduled into "warrior classes"

3

Dogs are rescued from high-kill shelters



4 Professional staff leads service dog training and matches warriors with dogs



5

Warriors and dogs meet at Camp K9 and train/bond for three weeks



6

Two lives are saved. Both warriors and dogs are reintegrated back into society and "given a new leash on life"



The Women In Military Service For America Memorial, located at Arlington National Cemetery, is in need of funding to remain open.

The Women's Memorial, located at the Ceremonial Entrance to Arlington National Cemetery, is a 33,000 sq. ft. Memorial and Education Center.

Dedicated on Oct. 18, 1997, the Memorial houses an exhibit gallery chronicling the history of women's service, a 196-seat theater, Hall of Honor, conference room, gift shop and an outdoor terrace and Court of Valor.

The heart of the Memorial is the Register, an interactive database that includes the name, picture, service history and awards and decorations of nearly 245,000 past and present servicewomen, who have taken their rightful place in history for generations to come by registering their service with the Memorial.

For more information, visit their website at:

<http://www.womensmemorial.org>



Honor Flights for Veterans Take Off Nationwide

As temperatures begin to rise in Washington, D.C., planeloads full of veterans are starting to arrive at the city's airports.

These trips, dubbed “honor flights,” are for American veterans who want to visit the nation’s war memorials. With generous community funding, each trip is free of charge.



The honor flight is a relatively new concept; the first flight took off in 2005. Each one is organized and executed by the Honor Flight Network, which is an umbrella organization that boasted 130 honor flight hubs in 44 states in 2015. Each hub works with communities and nonprofit organizations to raise money for the flights. The organization also accepts individual donations through its website.

Honor flights are directed primarily at World War II veterans, but many also include veterans of other wars and younger veterans who are suffering from terminal illnesses. Each trip is completely free of charge, so participants can enjoy the experience without financial worries. The trips make a number of stops, including the World War II Memorial and the Washington Monument; others also include a trip to the 9/11 Pentagon Memorial.

Because honor flights are designed to thank veterans for their service, they often involve a great deal of celebration. An honor flight departing from Tallahassee in May 2016 was sent off with local music acts. In Washington, D.C., the group was welcomed at different stops by current service members, cheering crowds and even Governor Rick Scott.

Honor flights depart from cities around the country. In April of 2016, flights left from Utah, Colorado, California, Missouri, Kansas and Arizona, as well as many more. The tour schedule is packed, and flights are expected to leave every week until the end of November.

Honor flights are a great way to thank veterans for their invaluable service to the country. Ponder our freedom and honor our veterans over a cup of coffee with this beautifully designed mug.

Hundreds Attend USS Indianapolis: Men Of Courage Premiere In Mobile

By [Ashley Knight](#)

It was an exciting night for folks in Mobile (November 13). They lined up by the hundreds to pack into Saenger theater to watch a movie about the human spirit.

“We tried to make the best movie possible and honor these men because they are heroes and everyone aboard that ship was doing a job,” says Executive Producer Tim Cavanaugh.

A movie that a long time coming finally arrived. Production staff, writers, and extras mingled with veterans while waiting for the movie to begin. The younger men portraying sailors in the movie, now having a greater respect for them.

“We shot in the water, and we were out there for eight hours and that had to be one of the hardest days of my life. And to think that these men were out there for five days, I couldn’t imagine what they had to go through,” says Actor Shamar Sanders.

A time for reflection, and a time for celebration. A celebration of life and the chance to tell this story.

“I get eaten in the movie, but, it was still an honor, you know, to be eaten by a shark!” says Actor Justin Nesbitt.

Family members of the original crew were also there. The daughter-in-law of Captain Charles McVay saying this story is one everyone needs to learn.

“They want it to be told, it needs to be told, young people in school do not know their history and they don’t understand the significance of this event, they don’t even know the event,” says Elaine McVay.

But now, so many more people know the story...and in a small way, now feel like they were apart of it.

“It was overwhelming. And exciting at the same time and for it to be a true story, and for me to be able to be a part of that, especially during a time like this, it was amazing,” says Sanders.

Learn more about USS Indianapolis and the ordeal the sailors and Marines went through here: <http://www.ussindianapolis.org>



Celebrating Service

Home Depot associates band together to beautify Five S.T.A.R. Center

BY ANN FRIEDMAN ann.friedman@jacksonville.com

Nearly 50 Home Depot associates were spread throughout the Five S.T.A.R. Veterans Center on Acme Street on Nov. 3 to beautify the facility as part of the company's annual Celebration of Service campaign.

Associates painted, landscaped and installed fencing around the facility, which houses 22 displaced veterans and uses a four-phase program to help them live independently.

For Anthony Avila, who has worked as a millwork associate at the Orange Park Home Depot since February, volunteering at the veteran's center is especially meaningful as he is a veteran himself.

Avila served in the Navy for 13 years as a bosun mate first class.

"Home Depot does a lot for vets and it's another opportunity to give back," he said.

Avila added, "I have a lot of friends who are vets and not all of them can cope with what they've gone through. I've lost friends, and it's important to know that there are people who care and companies like Home Depot are out there and that they care."

Col. Len Loving, who is retired from the United States Marine Corps, serves as the CEO of Five S.T.A.R. Veterans Center and said the facility has put back more than 100 veterans into the workforce.

"Our building is a work in progress — it's old and things are always happening to it," he said. "We run on the volunteer support and the Home Depot has helped us big time."

Derek Fleming, store manager at the Yulee based Home Depot, said the company has a longstanding relationship with the veteran's center and has previously had more than 300 employees out to paint the outside of the now beige building, which was previously red, white and blue.

"We've done at least six projects here over the last few years, from tidying up the exterior to full-blown remodels," he said. "Home Depot is a huge entity in the American retail space and it's only obvious to take that revenue and use it to help the very people who shop at our stores and to help the less fortunate."

Trish Barton, director of counseling at the veterans center, looked at the needs of the residents to shape the mental health program.

"When they guys come in here, they're broken and they're self-medicating to mask what's going on," she said. "We've expanded beyond medications and looked at other strategies and modes of healing including art therapy, massage therapy and yoga."

Dave Orr, who conducts individual and group counseling sessions for residents, said it's difficult for those

who return from combat to blend back into society.

“They’ve been in intense situations and they rely on each other and in the civilian world they don’t have that brotherhood or structure they’ve come to know,” he said. “There’s a tremendous sense of loss.”

Barton added that it’s hard for families of veterans to understand what their loved one has been through.

“Their family and community alienate them because they don’t know where they’ve been and think they’ll come back and blend in to life seamlessly,” she said. “They have nightmares and sights, sounds and smells can trigger memories and they don’t want to tell their family what they’re experiencing, which causes the foundation to fall apart over time.”

Oakleaf Town Center Home Depot Store Manager Les Crawford, who served in the Army as a sergeant for nearly eight years, said he hopes the community continues to support the veterans center in the future.

“It’s a tough adjustment back into civilian life and I want veterans to know there is a place that can help them and we’ll make sure it’s being kept up so they have a place to relax,” he said. “We can’t give as much as these soldiers have given us but we can get their lives back to normal.”

ANN FRIEDMAN: (904) 359-4619

“We’ve done at least six projects here over the last few years, from tiding up the exterior to full-blown remodels. Home Depot is a huge entity in the American retail space and it’s only obvious to take that revenue and use it to help the very people who shop at our stores and to help the less fortunate.”

Derek Fleming,

Home Depot store



manager

From DAV: Fullest possible accounting, bringing closure to the families of the missing

According to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), 82,701 service members spanning from World War II to now are still missing or unaccounted for.

DAV is diligently working with the Department of Defense and other veterans service organizations (VSOs) to eliminate that number, with the goal of giving survivors of these men and women some long awaited closure.

One example of those efforts involves the remains of servicemen who died during the 1941 Pearl Harbor attack.

“During a conference call last year, the DPAA polled the participating VSOs on a decision to disinter or not to disinter the 388 remains of Marines and sailors from the USS Oklahoma,” said Vincent Darcangelo, DAV Interim POW/MIA Committee Chairperson. “In the interest of ‘fullest possible accounting,’ I voted to disinter.”

In April 2015, the Pentagon announced these remains associated with the ship would be exhumed from the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific and sent to the DPAA laboratory for forensic, DNA and genetic testing in the hope of identifying the fallen.

The remains associated with the Oklahoma are not the only work DPAA is doing regarding POW/MIA service members. The agency has teams all over the world looking for the final resting places of missing military personnel.

Darcangelo said that, so far in 2016, DPAA has announced positive identification of 46 military members previously listed as missing in action— 25 from World War II, 18 from Korea and three from Vietnam.

But many more families are still waiting.

“There are still 1,618 missing in Vietnam,” said Cindy Stonebraker, board member of the National League of POW/MIA Families. “My father is one of them.”

Air Force Lt. Col. Kenneth Stonebraker was shot down over North Vietnam on Oct. 28, 1968.

“He was a navigator on a nighttime recon mission in an RF-4C,” Stonebraker said. “It gives you hope knowing there are people on the ground over there actively working on finding him and others.”

Darcangelo agreed and called the POW/MIA subject one of importance and passion.

“DAV demonstrates its unyielding commitment of bringing each of our missing brothers and sisters home to family and loved ones waiting decades for answers,” he said.

The DPAA said VSOs are an integral part of accounting for the missing.

“Partnering with the veterans service organizations is extremely important to DPAA and our mission of accounting for Americans who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom,” said Johnie E. Webb Jr., DPAA deputy director of outreach and communications. “The VSOs play a major role in keeping the POW/MIA issue before the American public and the members of Congress to continue support for the issue. Their members remember the military creed, ‘I will never leave a fallen comrade,’ and pledge to do all they can to assist us in never leaving a fallen comrade.”

Stonebraker’s family will continue their vigil for her father.

If you or someone you know are one of the 48 million Americans who suffer from hearing loss, I have Great News to share with you!!!



ClearCaptions is a federally funded telecommunications company. The FCC has commissioned ClearCaptions to inform those experiencing any hearing loss of the federal program available to them based on Title IV of the Americans with Disabilities Act (mandated since 1990). Those with any hearing loss are entitled to our new technology **caption phone absolutely FREE, including installation, training and on-going service.** Those needing our phones need to have:

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- 2.** Internet access (wired or wireless).

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Did you know 22 veterans will commit suicide every day?

Join the "Stop 22" movement to raise awareness and stand with K9s for Warriors as they help veterans with PTSD and brain injuries.

On the 22nd of every month, use the hashtag #Stop22 on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram and show your support. Watch below how people are "outdoing 22's" all over social media.

Learn more by visiting the Stop 22 website: <http://www.stop22.org/>

And check out K9s for Warriors for regular updates on their mission: <http://www.k9sforwarriors.org/>



Join Post 233's Campaign To help the 5 Star Veterans Center !



As you know they put military veterans back to work by providing safe and secure housing with extensive services, intensive case management and counseling that promotes mental and physical wellness. They are presently in need of various non-perishable items.

The items needed:

Canned goods, soups, stews, vegetables, chili, etc.

Cans of soft drinks, small bags of chips, Doritos, Fritos, pretzels, microwave popcorn,

Clorox, Windex, pine sol, dish detergent trash bags, paper towels, tissues, toilet paper !

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AT POST 233



American Legion ~ Post 233 - 560 N. Wilderness Trail

Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082 - www.al233fl.org ~ 904.285.2484

NEW INFO: Ride in comfort to your appointments at the VA Medical Center in Gainesville.



The van is provided by the Disabled Veterans Chapter 6, and leaves no later than 6AM from the new VA Clinic location at 195 Southpark Blvd. The corner of Southpark and Old Moultrie Road.

To schedule your seat please contact the VA Clinic at 904-823-2954 and ask for Veteran Van Scheduling.



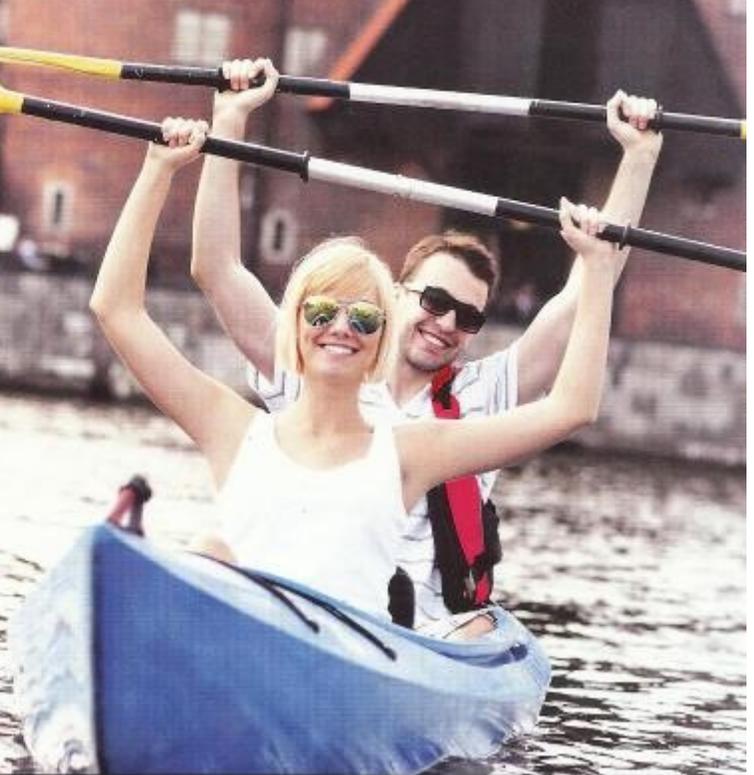
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Survivor Outreach Services Support Coordinator, HRCI Contractor
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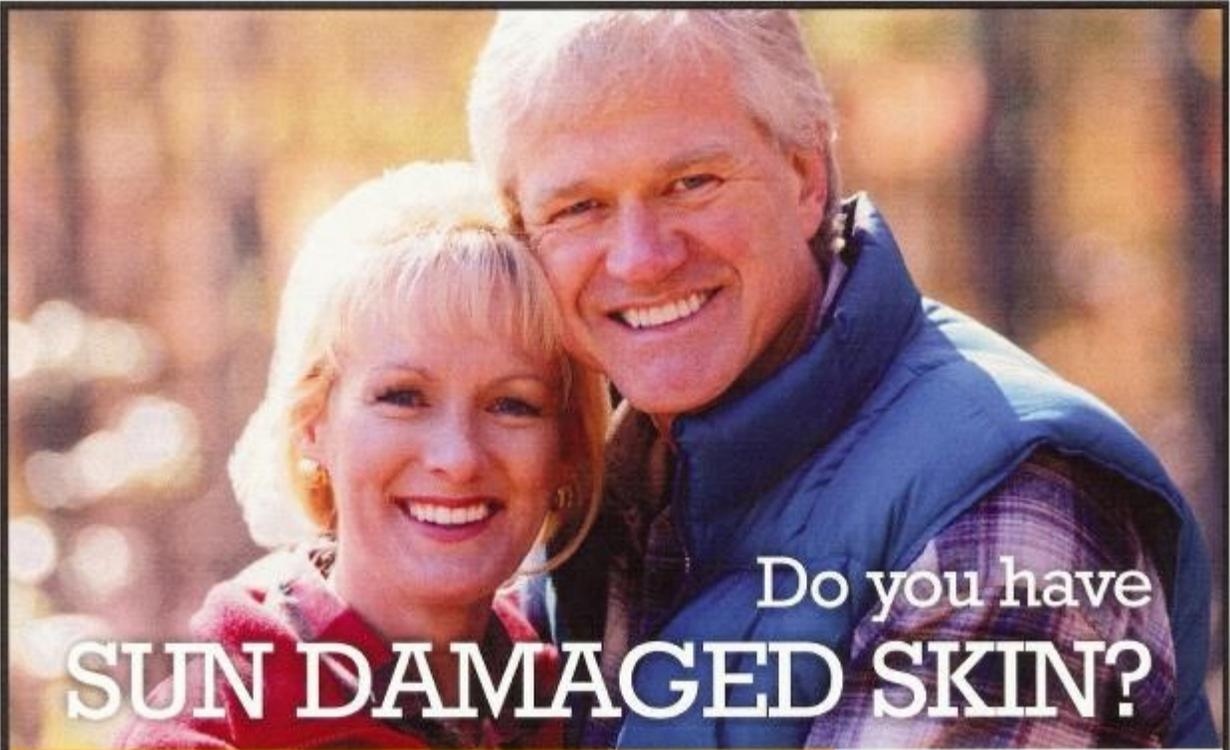
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*Veterans Council of St. Johns County,
"Helping All Veterans"*

The Veterans Council of St. Johns County welcomes article submissions from all County Veterans & organizations. Articles should be of interest to all and veterans related. Submissions may be edited &/or shortened and used if space permits.

Send to: mrothfeld@anyveteran.org

Please 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.**

***The Veterans Council meetings are
conducted at the the Elks Lodge
829, 1420 A1A S., St. Augustine.***



**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.