



The Patriot Reader Newsletter

P.O. Box 2117

St. Augustine, FL 32085

Bill Dudley, Publisher

Michael Rothfeld, Editor

Volume 6, Issue 11

Message from the Chairman

Newsletter Date: November, 2017

Inside this Edition

Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home
JNC Support Committee

The Dupont family during the Vietnam years
Veterans Day Parade information
FBI Certificate

Foundation Academy at Jax National
Homeless Veterans Stand Down

Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial
VVA 1046 Visits Fletcher High School

Gary Sinise narrates WW 2 documentary
V4V Quarterly Meeting Nov. 4

Cecil Field POW/MIA Chapel Dedication
TAPS Memorial Dedication
MIAP Updates as of Oct. 1, 2017

Veterans Council Honors Michael Boylan
Valley Ridge Academy Invites Veterans
Wreaths Across America Campaign
Jax Week of Valor Events

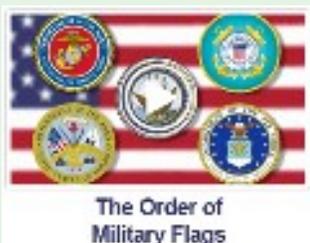
St Johns County Veterans Treatment Court
Purdue & K9s For Warriors Study PTSD
VTC Improvement Act

Andersonville POW Prison
Veterans Council of SJC Sept. Minutes
John Leslie Remembers

The USS Adams
VA Flu Shot Update
Navaho Code Talkers

Wall St. Journal Studies Veterans Groups
10 VA Benefits

No Soldier Ever Buried Alone
Blue Angels coming to Jacksonville



Fellow Veterans:

On Friday, 6 Oct. 2017, I was privileged to attend a luncheon at Deerwood Country Club in Jacksonville sponsored by the Society of Former Special Agents of the FBI, Inc. to represent the Veterans Council. The Veterans Council was recognized for their outstanding support of our veterans in the community. As a part of that recognition, we were presented with the Francis M Keogh Memorial Award and a check for \$1500. It was an honor and a privilege to be with these men and women who have served our nation in law enforcement for many years and are still giving back by recognizing those community organizations that are serving in some form of outreach.

Our Veterans Day Parade is shaping up to be another outstanding event as we honor our veterans. The parade participants

are growing exponentially weekly and promises to be another great event. This year we will recognize several veterans on our reviewing stand who represent the wars this nation has fought. Please plan to attend and bring your family and friends. If your organization wants to participate in the parade, please contact Sgt. Major Ray Quinn at 904-540-1630 or renegade1@bellsouth.net. Also, don't forget that St. Augustine Beach will host a Veterans Day Program at 3 PM to honor our veterans. Speakers for the afternoon event are Brig.Gen, Michael Canzoneri, Deputy Adjutant General, Fla NG, , retired Army Col. Ann Johnson, and retired USAF Lt. Col William Dudley. The City of St. Augustine Beach is very proud to honor all veterans and requests your attendance to help them show their appreciation.

We are nearing the end of our Wreaths Across Ameri



ca drive for contributions for this year so if you haven't bought your wreath for this year's ceremony, now is the time to do so. We are still short of making this year's goal, so please make your contribution today. Contributions can be made by sending your check made payable to WAA and mailed to Veterans Council, PO Box 2117, St. Augustine, Fl 32085. Wreaths are \$15 ea. and if you purchase 2 we receive credit for 3. Please help us honor our commitment to place a wreath on every headstone at our St. Augustine National Cemetery.

Bill Dudley

Chairman

Veterans Council of St. Johns County

Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home



Veterans' Home in Daytona Beach Has Residential Openings

October 16, 2017

DAYTONA BEACH – The Emory L. Bennett State Veterans' Nursing Home in Volusia County has openings for qualified veterans.

The 120-bed skilled nursing facility, located at 1920 Mason Avenue in Daytona Beach, has a number of available rooms for both male and female veterans. Basic admission requirements for all state veterans' homes include an honorable discharge, Florida residency, and certification of need of assisted living or skilled nursing care as determined by a VA physician.

"We are a tight-knit family of residents and staff," said Home Administrator Gray Kilpatrick. "Every day we focus on serving our residents with compassion, sharing their lives and providing peace of mind for their families."

Each of the facility's two wings has a nursing station staffed 24 hours by Registered Nurses, Licensed Practical Nurses and Certified Nursing Assistants. A full complement of physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy staff is maintained at the home.

The modern, state-of-the-art facility offers:

Spacious semi-private rooms

Semi-private screened porches

TVs over each resident's bed

Direct TV satellite service in every room

Daily housekeeping and laundry services

Restaurant-style dining

U.S. Postal Service daily delivery

Extensive in-house library

Complete in-house pharmacy service

Barber and beautician services

Daily activities and field trips

For more information, call (386) 274-3460.



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



The Support Committee invites everyone to attend its **next scheduled meeting, on Monday, November 13, 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: Steve Spickelmier

Vice Chairman: Bill Dudley, Treasurer: John Mountcastle

Assistant Treasurer: Michael Rothfeld, Secretary: Kathy Church

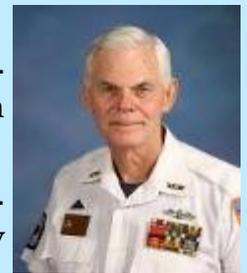
Chaplain: Michael Halyard, Master-At-Arms: Joe McDermott

Historian: Kathy Cayton

The DuPont's from St. Augustine during the Vietnam Era

The nine boys were raised as brothers, educated together, worked together in the family business, and most of us joined the service when the war broke out.

Dan was the oldest, graduated St. Joseph Academy in 1957, the University of Florida in 1962, and went to work in the space industry programing satellites..



Jim and Drew graduated in 1959, went to the University of Florida and joined the Air Force, Jim as a navigator and Drew as a pilot. Both served in Vietnam.

Michael and Frank graduated in 1961 and joined the Air Force, Michael as a Air Traffic Controller, Frank as a Missile Battery Technician.

Ralph and Ed graduated in 1964, Ralph from St. Augustine High School, Ed from St. Joseph. Ralph attended St. Johns Community College and Ed the University of Florida. Ralph went on to join the Navy as an Aviation Structural Mechanic and served in Vietnam aboard the USS Enterprise. When Ed graduated as an Engineer, he went to work for the family business.

Fred graduated from St. Augustine High School in 1965, also attended St. Johns, joined the Marines and served as a Combat Engineer in Vietnam.

John graduated from St. Joseph in 1966, graduated from Florida State University, and went on to work for the family business.

Our two sisters, Judy and Sue Ann, both the youngest in each family, graduated from St. Joseph, married and stayed in St. Augustine,

We were all very grateful that we made it back alive and still are today, although Michael, Drew and Ed are no longer with us.

Veterans Day Parade

St. Augustine - November 11th



“Honoring Service and Sacrifice”



Saturday November 11th -11:00AM.
Reviewing Stand - Castillo de San Marcos
Castillo Drive/San Marco Ave

Military Officers Association of America- Ancient City Chapter
Veterans Council of St. Johns County



VETERANS DAY GRAND PARADE PLANNED FOR ST. AUGUSTINE

The annual parade in St. Augustine honoring our nation's veterans will begin 10:45 AM Saturday, November 11th to the peel of church bells, roar of cannon, and drone of military planes flying over head. The famous St. Augustine marching "V," depicting the city's veterans from all our nation's wars, will lead a grand procession of ROTC and Jr. ROTC marching units, color guards, multiple bands, and historic military vehicles -- all escorting our honored local veterans of today. The parade will form on Orange Street, turn right onto San Marco Avenue, pass down along the bay front on Avenida Mendez to the town square, then up Cathedral Place to Cordova Street and return to Orange Street. (route map below) Vintage military vehicles, including helicopters, will be on display in front of the Castillo de San Marcos, where the Castillo administration has organized an encampment of re-enactors from every war. Admission to the fort itself will be free for the day.

The Veterans Council of St. Johns County in collaboration with the Ancient City Chapter of the Military Officers of American Association have organized this event as a tribute to all those throughout the centuries who have donned our nation's uniform to protect their city, state and nation. This year it is especially dedicated those living among us who have served, and are living testimony to that duty. Get your place on the sidewalk, take a red-white-blue flag from a Boy Scout, watch the parade, and join us in honoring these fine patriots.





Fellow Veterans Council of St. Johns County Members and all veterans



The Veterans Council of St. Johns County Florida (VCSJC) and The Military Officers Association of America, Ancient City Chapter (MOAA) are again sponsoring this year's landmark 3rd annual Veterans Day Parade on November 11, 2017 in beautiful St. Augustine, Florida. VCSJC and MOAA will be honoring all United States Military Veterans who served to protect and defend our great country.

Ancient City Chapter

Our parade is a tribute to those who have secured the freedom we enjoy today, and a testament to the enduring need for such selfless service. Veterans Day is dedicated to our patriotic service members who have served before, those serving now, and those who will serve in the future.

This year's spectacular, nationally one of a kind strictly military parade will have over 1,500 participants; marching units from all the military services, military bands, re-enactor units representing every war period from the Revolutionary War, ROTC and JRTOC units, local high school marching bands, military equipment review (ground and water borne), helicopters, a flyover, and of course our now famous V-LINE depicting historic and current veterans in period uniforms and equipment/weapons.

As you are aware, our organizations, both being a charitable 501(c)(3), are very limited in resources. We are seeking your generous donations again this year to help cover the costs associated with such a large-scale venture. Please consider a donation in any amount to help defray our cost as we salute and honor our country's veterans.

Please remit this year's donation to: Veterans Council of St. Johns County
P.O. Box 2117
St. Augustine, Florida 32085-2117

Indicate in the memo: 2017VDP.

Looking forward to you joining our team this year in celebrating and honoring our veterans and the sacrifices they make and have made keeping us free.

Warmest personal regards,

Bill Dudley

George Linardos

LTC (USAF-Ret)

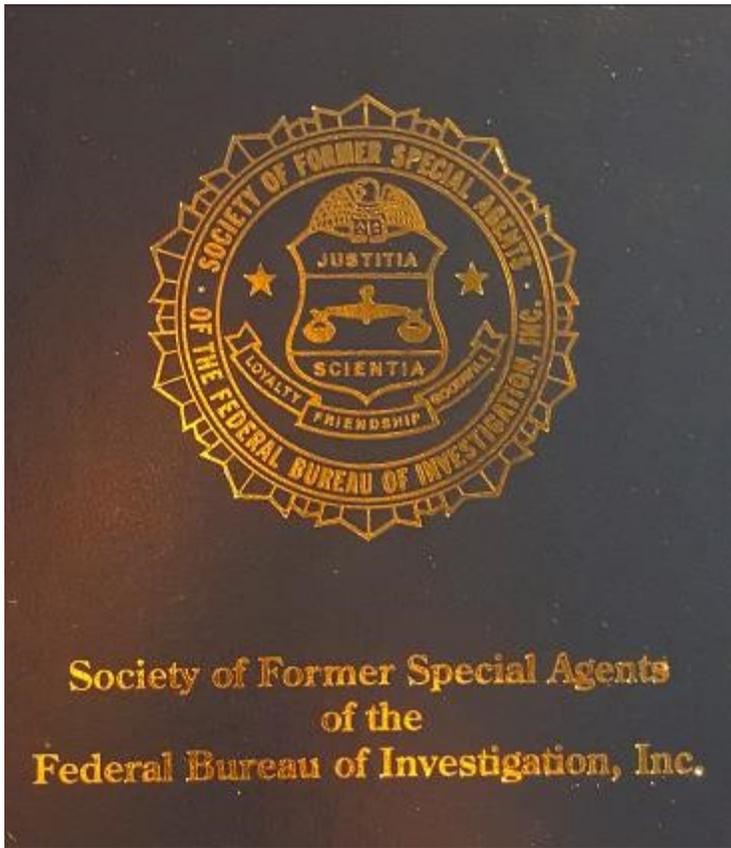
CPT (USA-Fmr)

Chairman

Past President/Director:

Veterans Council of St. Johns County

Military Officers Association of America,
Ancient City Chapter



Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley receiving the Francis M. Keogh Memorial Award from Nancy Savage



FRANCES M. KEOGH MEMORIAL AWARD

Frances Keogh was the first Executive Director of the Society of Former Special Agents of the FBI. The Frances M. Keogh Memorial Award was established in 1991 to honor the late Executive Director's memory and her passion for helping others. Each year, the award is presented at the Society's national conference to a charitable organization that is committed to the care of the sick, poor and homeless. The recipient of the award, chosen by the national conference's host chapter, receives a \$1500 donation from the Society of Former Special Agents of the FBI.

Foundation Academy 7th and 1 5th grader along with their teacher Ms. Basma Alawee and Ms Jennifer took a tour of the JNC today. Director Richburg introduced himself and Ms. Julie Murphy gave us the tour. I myself learned many new things about being interred in a National Cemetery. It was a pleasure to be with these young ladies today.



The Homeless Veterans Stand Down 2017, Veterans Helping Veterans.

The Homeless Veterans Stand Down is an annual event, now in its 11th year, organized by the St Johns County Veterans Service Office led by VSO Tammy Shirley and the Veterans Council of St Johns County under the leadership of Chairman Bill Dudley.

The Stand Down is held in September and hosted by St Augustine Elks Lodge 829 who fund the event through a \$ 2000 Beacon Grant. Many local veteran's organizations and the St Augustine Lions International sent volunteers for set up and for the Stand Down.

Despite the inclement weather the Stand Down was a huge success in providing St Johns County Homeless Veterans and homeless non-veterans with much needed support and supplies. This year 15 homeless veterans and 37 non veteran homeless were greeted, fed, counseled and given supplies to help make their life easier.

Many support organizations were on hand providing services, in attendance were the Council on Aging, Humana, Housing Resources, employment counseling, the Red Cross, the VA benefits counsel, Legal Aid, and the Wildflower Dental Clinic.

There were rooms full of supplies; shoes, clothes and outdoor supplies. The following services were provided to all- hot showers, haircuts and hot food provided by the Elks. The St Augustine Lions International were at the front entrance and greeted everyone with cash cards redeemable at local stores.

(pictures follow)



School partners with military memorial

Partnership gives students project-based learning

BY ANN FRIEDMAN For the FL Times Union Current

The Foundation Academy in Jacksonville is entering a partnership with the Military Air Power Museum and the newly established Cecil Field POW/ MIA Memorial.

The Foundation Academy entered into a partnership with the Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, to be kicked off Oct. 13. (Provided by the Foundation Academy)

Mike Cassata, Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial executive director, said the memorial launched last June at the former Cecil Field Naval Air Station on the Westside of Jacksonville.



“There’s a chapel on the property where there’s a memorial to 60 pilots who were stationed there between Vietnam and Desert Storm,” he said. “We’ve been working with the city and got approval for the 26-acre property, which would include a chapel and memorial.”

Cassata added that the organization is also looking to add another building, which would serve as a memorial center to educate the public.

“We want to have an educational piece for people to be aware of the military,” he said. “They may not fully understand the sacrifices and what it takes, so it helps with awareness on both sides.”

The goal, Cassata said, is to have the memorial site completed in five years.

He added the partnership with the Foundation Academy, which is located on the Westside at 3675 San Pablo Rd S., would let more people know the memorial exists.

“We want to let people know we’re here,” he said. “We also want to raise awareness for the military, so the kids know their options.”

Principal Nadia Hionides said the partnership would give its 350 students in grades pre-K through 12th more project-based learning options.

“Any opportunity we have to collaborate with the community that will give our students the opportunity to do real world projects we do it,” she said.

Hionides added that in addition to doing research and going on field trips, students will connect nearly all subjects to POW/ MIA soldiers.

“They’re creating artwork connected to this and making quilts in sewing class about airplanes during that time,” she said. “The drama department also created a play written by students that addresses the issue.”

The school is kicking off the partnership with a public event at its campus Oct. 13. The event features POW/MIA speakers, an A-4 Skyhawk cockpit, Honor Guard, food, music and more.

The Foundation Academy teacher Robyn Freedman said it’s been an exciting experience to partner with the Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial.

“The kids have been empowered about what they’ve found out about so far and how much they’re like the people in the past,” she said about the students’ research projects. “I know the event will be very successful and the community will get to see what we do here.”

Hionides said she anticipates students will be able to take what they learn while in school and apply it in the future.

“They’ll remember what they learn and feel part of the community,” she said. “Not only is this an educational tool, but they’re able to feel their purpose and without purpose, it’s simply an exercise that doesn’t yield to something meaningful.”

Hionides added that she’s looking forward to continuing to enter into partnerships with organizations throughout Jacksonville.

“I know that we will grow in partnerships,” she said. “Our 350 students will shine a light to this idea and take it with them in the future, and grow it to other schools and places.”

The event is open to the public and will be held Oct. 13, at 10 a.m. at the Foundation Academy, 3675 San Pablo Road S.

For more information, call the Foundation Academy at (904) 493-7300.

President Tony D'Aleo of VVA 1046 Duval County Chapter visited Fletcher High School



Gary Sinise To Narrate Documentary About Unsung WW II Hero

By Jacob H., The Veterans Site

Actor Gary Sinise has joined with the World War II Foundation to narrate an upcoming documentary, *Lifeline: Pearl Harbor's Unknown Hero*. The documentary will tell the amazing true story of Navy hero Joe George, a boatswain's mate second class, who was stationed aboard the USS Vestal when the attack on Pearl Harbor occurred in 1941. Disobeying orders from a superior officer, George saved the lives of the last six sailors aboard the USS Arizona to escape alive.



Of course, this isn't the first time Sinise has teamed up for a military project. The award-winning actor, perhaps best known for his role as disabled Vietnam veteran Lt. Dan Taylor in *Forest Gump*, has been helping veterans for decades and now runs the Gary Sinise Foundation. His organization's mission is to "serve our nation by honoring our defenders, veterans, first responders, their families, and those in need. [They] do this by creating and supporting unique programs designed to entertain, educate, inspire, strengthen, and build communities."

Sinise's work for veterans includes the Lt. Dan Band — of which he is a member — to entertain the troops and their families both on USO tours and their own shows, as well as building and modifying homes for wounded veterans, providing mobility devices and adapted vehicles for veterans, and taking WWII veterans to the National WWII Museum in New Orleans.

Now the actor and musician whose name is "synonymous with supporting the troops" is teaming up with the World War II Foundation for their newest documentary.

Lifeline: Pearl Harbor's Unknown Hero, the newest documentary to come from the World War II Foundation, will tell the incredible story of how a Navy crewman saved six men from the bombed and sinking USS Arizona at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. The USS Vestal, a repair vessel, was tied to the port side of the larger battleship, USS Arizona when the Japanese started bombing Pearl Harbor. Both vessels were struck by bombs and were on fire. Several of the Vestal's crew members were thrown overboard by the explosion. Crewman Joe George was trying to put out fires when two things happened — his commanding officer ordered him to cut the lines tying the Vestal to the sinking Arizona, and George spotted several men injured and waving for help aboard the Arizona.

Despite the consequences of defying a direct order, Joe George refused to cut the ties. Instead he threw a heavy rope across to the Arizona. Injured and badly burned, the final six men aboard the Arizona were able to crawl hand-over-hand along the rope to the Vestal. Had it not been for George's actions, they would have died aboard the sinking ship, which remains as a monument in the shallows at Pearl Harbor.

When the men were safely across, they had no one to thank for their lives. George had already returned to putting out fires and helping the ship get to safety.

V4V is still gaining momentum among Veterans around NE FL, despite the apathy, covert resistance by some Veterans and lack of any news coverage. Once again, Veterans gathered on July 15th where 240 Veterans heard 15 speakers and met over 32 organizations who introduced themselves and shared information with the gathering. Nothing reported, no media coverage and failure on the part of some organizations to inform their membership, yet 240 Veterans and supporters showed up.



For the first time in the history of any Veterans movement in NEFL, Presidents of 5 county Veteran Councils attended and met to form a Council of Presidents. A council that could become one powerful voice for Veterans.

This, however, doesn't bode well with some in the Veterans community for many reasons. There are those who feel it would adversely affect their organizations impact on Veterans thus negating their perceived power/influence, there are those who simply would like to see the Veterans community remain divided for political and in some cases self-serving reasons to more easily dismiss Veterans concerns or exploit Veterans for the purposes of making money off them.

One can only hope Veterans have arrived at the point where they finally realize, that unless they all act for the greater good rather than for personal gain or glory of a few or a few organizations, they ALL LOSE. It is time we have representation where Veterans voices will be heard and sent out in the hope that they will grow louder and gather other Veterans into a force for change that grows and grows to eventually sweep across all Veterans communities. But first we have to join forces to create that giant wave in order to make a difference. We are close, but we are handicapped by the resistance that is feed by ignorance, personal animosity and the resistance that always accompanies change.

Now is the time for change, we have never been closer and if not now when? Veterans shouldn't be left with being continually ignored, used and abused, grandstanded and will suffer as many are now. This is our moment, seize it and help bring about the change that is so urgently needed for all Veterans.

JOIN V4V, PASS THE WORD...TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER

We have a GREAT line up of speakers for this Gathering... The following Keynote Speakers:

Congressman Ron DeSantis – St. Johns County

Anna Borsche City Council President

Gen. Fleming - JU

Charlie Coffey/Judge Lester – Vets Court

And.... several informational speakers that want to share information of interest to the Veterans community. Free buffet lunch compliments of our partners at SMG Management. Look forward to seeing you all on Nov 4th...Remember coffee social 1030 to 1100 and 1100 to 1230 speakers followed by a free gourmet lunch.



**Cecil Field
POW*MIA
MEMORIAL**

CHAPEL DEDICATION CEREMONY AND OPEN HOUSE

“Chapel of the High-Speed Pass”



Chapel, circa 1967 - Memorial Chapel, NAS Cecil Field

November 3, 2017 at 11:00 am

6112 New World Avenue

Jacksonville, FL 32221

Please RSVP for lunch to Kathy Cayton, kcayton0712@gmail.com by Nov. 1st

With gratitude to Mission BBQ:
“Thank you for Proudly Serving Those Who Serve.”



5 Star Veterans Center, Jacksonville, Col Len Loving CEO reports:

We are proud to report Five Star Veterans Center is currently home to 34 homeless veterans, an increase of 14 more served than in March of this year. It is important to note that Five Star is the only resident homeless shelter for veterans in Northeast Florida.

We are incredibly grateful for your support and the support of our volunteers, and benefactors, including The Dolores Bar Weaver Fund and the Florida Veterans Foundation.

Lastly, I'd like to thank everyone who helped us through IRMA. We hope everyone gets the help they need in this trying time.



From John Leslie, President VVA 1084 St. Augustine

It was a lovely day (October 9th) to share with fellow Veterans at the TAPS Memorial Dedication in Green Cove Springs today. Our VVA brothers and sisters in Chapter 1059, Clay County, were main players in this well-planned and excellently executed ceremony under the leadership of Gary and Mary Anne Newman. Gary was the Chair of the committee of county officials and other veteran organizations, taking nearly four years of planning, research, and fund-raising to reach this milestone. VVA 1084 was pleased to be present with 10 members in the 200 (+) audience. Well done to Clay County and to VVA Chapter 1059.



This photo shows Gary Newman making his opening remarks at the ceremony. Sixty-six names are etched in the black granite sides of the memorial, covering the Civil War, WW-I, WW-II, Korea, Vietnam, and the Global War on Terrorism. It is worth your time to make a visit (15 Walnut Street, Green Cove Springs, FL).

From Pat Shoemaker, member VVA 1084

This was a special day for me, and was proud to attend this special event and as well as any U.S veteran would ; I was invited, along with my fellow Vietnam Veteran's (Chapter 1084 -St Augustine) to participate & witness the unveiling of a memorial in Green Cove Springs, Clay county for fallen veterans from all wars (also Civil war). It was a stirring tribute to all U.S military veterans.

Incidentally ; the Memorial is black Granite from India... and was cut from the same quarry that made the Vietnam Memorial in Wash. DC .



Article submitted by: David Treffinger at dtreffinger433@msn.com or call (609) 320-1723 (cell)

TAPS Monument dedicated

The Vietnam Veterans of America Clay County Chapter 1059, in partnership with private sector organizations and volunteers, on October 9, 2017, dedicated the TAPS Monument during a 45-minute ceremony at the old Clay County Courthouse in Green Cove Springs, FL.

The TAPS Monument honors the 66 Clay County veterans who lost their lives during combat, dating back to the Civil War. The new permanent memorial replaces the old monument at the Clay County Historical Triangle, 915 Walnut Street, Green Cove Springs. The ceremony was originally scheduled for Sept. 11, but postpone because of Hurricane Irma.

“We come here today to honor the 66 veterans that gave their lives for us, they are honored today not for what they received, but for what they gave,” Clay County Commissioner District 5 Gayward Hendry told the crowd of approximately 250, that included family members and friends and dignitaries from all levels of government.

Hendry, a retired Marine Corps Reserves Chief Warrant Officer Three, paraphrased George Washington in his speech: “The willingness by which young people are likely to serve their country in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional as to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation.”

“We’re here this morning to send a strong message to the youth of our nation, those who will become our saviors, those who will become the people who protect us that we will honor you,” Hendry said.

Currently, there are 62 names engraved on the monument with four more fallen veterans discovered in the last month to be added at a future date.

It was a monument 2½-years in the making even though it was first proposed 10 years ago by Clay County Commissioner chair Harold Rutledge. The current TAPS committee, headed by Vietnam Veterans of America Clay County Chapter 1059 president Gary Newman, held its first meeting in March 2015 and has been raising money ever since, gaining approval from the City of Green Cove Springs and the Clay County commissioners.

Rutledge, who participated in the ceremony, along with John Bowles read the names of the 66 fallen Clay County warriors, followed by the playing of taps.

Not one to take credit for the monument, Newman said “it was a team effort by the TAPS committee.”

“I had a vision to have a monument built in Clay County to honor Vietnam Veterans and then we decided to build a monument for all of the fallen warriors to make sure they would be memorialized and remem-

bered for ever,” Newman said in his remarks. “It has been our honor and our privilege to present this to all of the citizens of Clay County. This will be a place of solitude. They will put benches out here in the near future. Then people can come here and sit and reflect and look at their family members name and bring up good memories from the past.”

The monument is named for the Civil War-era musical that is sounded at dusk and at funerals.

The four-sided, 5 feet by 5 feet granite monument will have the names of all Clay County Fallen Warriors inscribed. Topping the memorial will be the TAPS sculpture which measures 44 inches tall and a 32-inch base and 23 inches on each side. The high-quality bronze sculpture is finished in a traditional chocolate brown patina was designed by Richard C. Rist, a Navy veteran who owns The Large Art Company of Baltimore, MD.

The sculpture rests on a triangular base which represents a folded American flag. The three rifles – a 1903 Springfield that was used in WWI, a M-1 Garand rifle from World War II and a M-16 rifle to represent the modern era – form a pyramid with the barrels down to symbolize the fall. The stocks of the rifles come together to form the pyramid which is topped by a “steel pot” combat helmet that was used in WWI until Vietnam. A Civil War-era bugle on the base serves to bring the composition together.

The TAPS Monument cost \$82,000 and was completely funded by charitable organizations and individuals. Not one governmental dollar was used to fund the memorial.

Surrounding the monument are an engraved brick area provided by private and corporate donations.

There will be 14 veterans from the Civil War on the monument, three from World War I, 13 from World War II, two from Korea, 18 from Vietnam and 12 from the Global War on Terrorism. Four more names will be added at a later date – John Frisbee from the Civil War, Randolph W. Ford (U.S. Navy), Charles R. Crews (U.S. Army) and Robert M. Neil (U.S. Marines) from Vietnam.

The names were on the granite base which comes from the same quarry in India as that of the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, DC.

The following are the names of the fallen:

Civil War: John W. Clark, Claiborn Gnann, Elisha W. Carter, Braxton Bennett, Abram D. Roberts, Elias R. Bennett, James A. Thomas Sr., Henry Knowles, Joseph Long, Henry E. Dickerson, Charles S. Fleming, John Peacock, Samuel Green, William Thomas Jr., John Frisbee.

World War I: Moses S. Knight, USA; James Hester, USA; James Edward, USA.

World War II: John J. Masters Jr., USN; Leslie W. Pringle, USN; Thomas W. Rich, USAAC; Ray L. Geiger Jr., USA; James C. Strickland, USA; Allen Taylor, USAAC; William I. Priest, USA; Austin W. Kelly Jr., USN; Aaron Coleman, USA; Johnny A. Marton, USAAC; Floyd Daniels, USA; Harold Padgett, USA; Edward Lytle, USA.

Korea: Doyle B. Wall, USA; Joseph T. Rowan, USA.

Vietnam: Claude D. Wilson Jr., USN; Herman L. Gurr, USA; David B. Tucker, USA; James G. Blackshear, USA; Wayne C. Kurlin, USMC; Paul J. Cummings Jr., USA; Gary R. Cooper, USA; Michael G. Hoff Sr., USN; Don R. Scott, USN; Ray F. Williams, USA; Paul L. Carter, USMC; Douglas A. Lentz, USMC; Larry B. Jenkins, USA; Michael B. Kopetski, USMC; Arthur J. Ross Jr., USA; Quincy H. Truett, USN; Ralph N. Bright, USA; Otis Parker, USA, Randolph W. Ford, USN; Charles R. Crews, USA; Robert N. Neil, USMC.

Global War on Terrorism: Michael S. Speicher, USN; Jonathan N. Hartman, USA; Kevin J. Ellenburg, USA; Donald E. Valentine III, USA; John E. Hayes, USMC; Dick A. Lee Jr., USA; Bradley S. Crose, USA; Ian D. Manuel, USA; Laquita P. James, USN; Quincy J. Green, USA; James B. Lackey, USAF; Michael S. Duskin, USA.

The committee will continue to sell 4-inch by 8-inch memorial bricks for \$50 which will be utilized for the perpetual maintenance of the monument.

For more information about the bricks, please contact Gary Newman at (904) 269-1857 or agnjustice@yahoo.com





HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

**CITY OF ST. AUGUSTINE BEACH
INVITES YOU TO OUR VETERAN'S DAY CEREMONY**

Saturday, Nov 11, 2017

- Special Guest speakers
- Veteran Benefits info
- Bagpipe Band
- Music
- Refreshments

3:00-4:00 pm

City of St. Augustine Beach

2200 A1A South

For more information go to: www.sabevents.com



Sponsored By:
St. Augustine Beach civic
Association
VyStar Credit Union
Land Title
Sunset Grill

FPL
Advanced Disposal
Signs Now
Winn Dixie
WalMart
Chick-Fil-A

MISSING IN AMERICA PROJECT – FLORIDA
CALL TO HONOR #13 SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2017 - 11:00AM
SOUTH FLORIDA NATIONAL CEMETERY, LAKE WORTH



MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the Missing in America Project (MIAP) is to locate, identify and inter the unclaimed cremated remains of American veterans through the joint efforts of private, state and federal organizations, and to provide honor, respect and dignity to those who have served this country by securing a final resting place for these forgotten heroes.

“IT’S THE RIGHT THING TO DO”

On Saturday, October 21, 2017, at 11:00am, MIAP – Florida, in cooperation with the Buxton and Bass Okeechobee Funeral Home and Crematory in Okeechobee, the Glades Funeral Chapel in Belle Glade, the Treasure Coast Seawinds Funeral Home and Crematory in Stuart, the Boynton Memorial Chapel and Crematory in Boynton Beach, the Edgley Cremation Service in West Palm Beach, the Miami-Dade County Medical Examiner Department Indigent Cremation Program in Miami, and the Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office, will be interring the cremains of 14 veterans and 6 spouses of veterans, with full military honors, at the South Florida National Cemetery located at 6501 Florida State Road 7, Lake Worth, FL 33449.

The veterans being interred served in the US Army, Marine Corps., Navy and Air Force, during World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, or other non-war periods. The longest that any of these being interred has been unclaimed is since 1968.

An escort led by the Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office (PBCSO) will leave from the Southeast parking area (the Lantana Road side) of the Target Store at 5900 Florida State Road 7 (Rt. 441), Wellington, FL, on the Northeast corner of State Road 7 and Lantana Road. Any and all motorcycle organizations, riders, and vehicles are welcome to participate. Meeting time is 9:30AM for a safety briefing with the PBCSO, and the escort will depart (KSU) to the cemetery at 10:15AM.

You are cordially invited to attend this service. This service is open to all residents of our area communities.

Kathy Church , MIAP – FL State Coordinator , (904) 219-3035 , miapjax@yahoo.com , www.miap.us

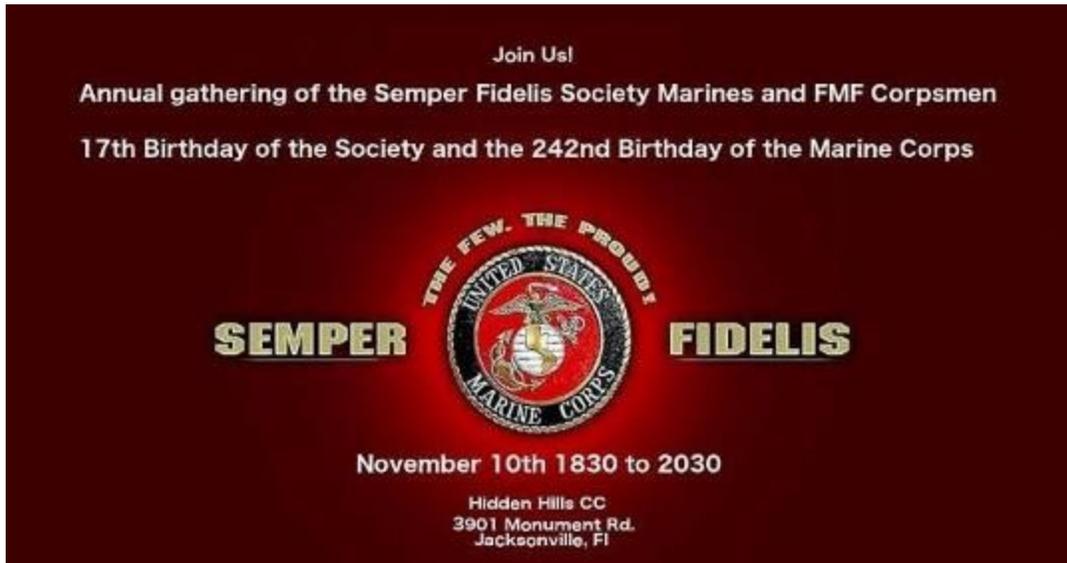
NATIONWIDE PROGRESS AS OF 10/01/2017

Total Funeral Homes Visited - 2,148

Cremains Found - 15,505, Veterans Cremains Identified - 3,506, Veterans Interred - 3,212

FLORIDA’S PROGRESS AS OF 10/01/2017

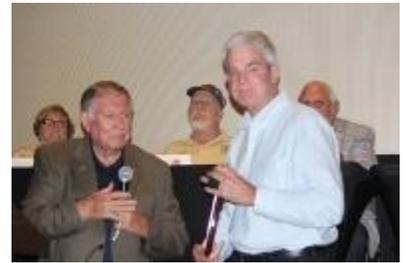
Total Funeral Homes Visited – 124, Cremains Found – 1,000, Veterans Interred – 152



Florida Times Union: LETTERS FROM READERS

MICHAEL BOYLAN

A FRIEND TO VETERANS



The Veterans Council of St Johns County wants to publicly thank WJCT President and CEO Michael Boylan for his support of veterans.

Boylan has been a strong supporter of veterans and our veterans council since he sent a film crew to Elkton in 2008 to film the stories of 34 World War II vets living in a senior community.

Since then, WJCT has aired these interviews several times as “War Stories from the First Coast” segments — and by doing so, Boylan has helped preserve the stories of these veterans for future generations.

Recently, he contacted the Veterans Council again to ask us to join him on a program previewing Ken Burns’ “The Vietnam War” and to develop an accompanying program aimed at creating a dialogue with local Vietnam vets.

Now that Boylan is retiring, we would like to share our sentiments that he will be greatly missed.

He cared about veterans.

And he used his platform to allow others to learn about the sacrifices that veterans have made for us all.

Bill Dudley, chairman,

Veterans Council of St. Johns County

Michael Rothfeld, secretary,

Veterans Council of St. Johns County

AN INVITATION

An invitation for Thursday November 9, celebrating Veterans Day

Date: November 9

Time: 8:45am-9:30am

Location: Valley Ridge Academy 105 Greenleaf Dr. Ponte Vedra, Fl 32081



Event: Our school is K-8 so we have each grade participating in a different way. K-2 will have posters displayed for Veterans when you enter for coffee. Grades 3-8 will be writing letters that we will give to the Veterans nursing home. The ceremony that day will include grades 3-5. Students will be reading letters they wrote, the Presidential proclamation, and Veteran's seal. We will also have music by our students.

Hope you all can attend.

Veterans Council announces Wreath Campaign

Chairman Bill Dudley of the Veterans Council of St. Johns County has announced the annual drive has begun for Wreaths Across America.

The council is dedicated to ensuring that every headstone in the St. Augustine National Cemetery is adorned with a live holiday wreath this year. The council has successfully sponsored the drive for several years.

Our local businesses are also encouraged to participate.

Individual wreaths are \$15.00, but for each two wreaths purchased, the council receives a third wreath without charge. Checks should be made payable to WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA and mailed to: Veterans Council of St. Johns County, P. O. Box 2117, St. Augustine, FL 32085-2117. Quinn can be contacted by telephone at 904.797.5622 if you have additional questions.

Looking ahead, the community is invited on **December 16, 2017 at 12:00 noon** for a ceremony followed by placement of the wreaths. Youth organizations are encouraged to participate in honoring our veterans.





Wreath Sponsorship Form

*Sponsored wreaths are placed on the grave markers at state, national veterans cemeteries as well as local cemeteries each December. Wreaths may be purchased online at www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org

If you wish to make your sponsorship with a credit card please visit our website for a secure online transaction.

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____

Veterans Council of SJC
 P.O. Box 2117
 St. Augustine, FL 32085-2117
 Checks payable to: Wreaths Across America TM

Sponsorship	Price	Quantity	Total
Individual= 1 Wreath	\$15.00		
Mailed "In Honor" card= If you wish to send a mailed honor card telling someone of your sponsorship-see "In Honor" section below. *Card will not be mailed if the \$2 fee is not included.	\$2.00		
Family= 4 Wreaths	\$60.00		
Small Business= 10 Wreaths	\$150.00		
Corporate= 100 Wreaths	\$1500.00		
Merchandise available on WAA Website			
		Grand Total	

****SORRY- WE CAN NOT TAKE GRAVE SPECIFIC REQUESTS****

In Honor of:

Please provide email of "In Honor OF" recipient, or mailing address so a card can be sent notifying them of your sponsorship in their honor. (if you have a specific message please write it on the back of this sheet and we will include it.)

Email: _____

Mailing: _____

In Memory of:

This name will be listed on our online memory wall, please provide name, rank, branch of service and state resided

Branch of Service: _____

Rank: _____

State: _____

Please note that **all** sponsorships are sent directly to the location and **no** wreaths are sent to the individuals purchasing sponsorships.

Location ID: FL5NSA Fundraising Group ID: FL0080

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Cash \$: _____ Total\$: _____ Date: _____

Total # Checks: _____ Reconciled: _____

MO \$: _____

Entered: _____

GEN: _____

City of Jacksonville, Week of Valor Events

Friday, November 3

POW/ MIA Memorial Inc. Dedication and Open House Ceremony

11:00 A.M., 6112 New World Ave.
POC: Michael Cassata;
cecilfieldpowmia@gmail.com

Veteran Art Display

City Hall Atrium, 117. W. Duval St.
POC: Ken Johnson, KenJohns@coj.net

Saturday, November 4

NAS Jax Air Show

10:00 A.M., NAS Jacksonville,
6801 Roosevelt Blvd.
POC: nasjaxairshow@navy.mil

Sunday, November 5

6th Annual Salute to Veterans 5K

8:00 A.M., Jacksonville Landing,
2 Independent Dr., POC: Natalie Suda,
natalie.suda@yahoo.com

NAS Jax Air Show

10:00 A.M. NAS Jacksonville,
6801 Roosevelt Blvd.
POC: nasjaxairshow@navy.mil

Monday, November 6

JAX Chamber 15th Annual Military Appreciation Luncheon

11:30 A.M. – 1:30 P.M.
Hyatt Regency Riverfront,
225 E. Coastline Dr.
POC: Alanna Hurlbert,
alanna.hurlbert@myjaxchamber.com

Tuesday, November 7

University of North Florida Veterans Day Tribute

10:00 A.M., UNF Student Union, 1 UNF
Dr., POC: Ray Wikstrom,
ray.wikstrom@unf.edu

Wednesday, November 8

Be CreditWise Seminar

1:00 P.M. and 5:00 P.M.

Jacksville Public Library - Main
303 N. Laura St.

POC: Caroline Adkins,
CarolineA@coj.net

Military and Veteran High School Visits

9:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.
POC: Harrison Conyers,
HConyers@coj.net

Thursday, November 9

Department of Veterans Affairs Mental Health Forum

9:00 A.M., Legends Center,
5054 Soutel Dr., POC: Ellen Ostergren,
Ellen.Ostergren@va.gov

Military and Veteran High School Visits

9:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.
POC: Harrison Conyers,
HConyers@coj.net

Friday, November 10

Semper Fidelis Society Observance

4:00 P.M., Evergreen Cemetery,
4535 N. Main St.
POC: Sam Handley, 904-516-5771

Saturday, November 11

Veterans Day Parade

11:01 A.M., Downtown Jacksonville
POC: 904-630-3690, events@coj.net

Sunday, November 12

Jacksonville Jaguars vs. Los Angeles Chargers Military Appreciation Game

1:00 P.M., Everbank Field,
1 Everbank Field Dr.

Tuesday, November 14

Military and Veteran Job and Resource Fair

10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M., Kingdom Plaza,
5310 Lenox Ave.
POC: Ken Johnson, KenJohns@coj.net

By JARED KEEVER jared.keever@staugustine.com

Despite ‘hiccups,’ Veterans Treatment Court marches toward expansion

With a “We Support Our Troops” flag hanging on the wall of his courtroom, and time set aside for all in attendance to recite the Pledge of Allegiance, Circuit Judge Howard McGillin started the October session of St. Johns County Veterans Treatment Court the way he always does.



Then he announced there were going to be some changes.

“That’s the last time I will say the ‘one’ session of Veterans Treatment Court,” McGillin said Thursday after welcoming everyone to the afternoon session.

Starting in November there will be two sessions per month, he said, before moving into his explanation of the other changes.

McGillin, a veteran himself who came up as an Army lawyer with the Judge Advocate General’s Corps, helped launch the special court for veterans earlier this year. The first session was in February.

Modeled after the drug court program already in place in the county and other veterans courts around the country, Veterans Treatment Court is meant to help those who have served and find themselves on the wrong side of the law as they struggle to transition back to civilian life.

Those meeting initial requirements must admit to the crime they are accused of committing and then are required to complete the 12- to 18-month program, which often includes community service time and drug treatment.

During their time in the program veterans must stay employed if they are able to work, submit to drug testing and attend all VA appointments for treatment.

Once completed, they are eligible to have charges dismissed or their records expunged.

With eight sessions already behind them, and more joining the program each month (there were about six potential participants in court Thursday who were there to observe), McGillin said some have made significant enough progress that they could be moved into what he is calling the “first flight” of the program.

That division of participants into flights is what necessitated the coming changes and the additional monthly session.

Those in the first flight, McGillin explained, will only have to attend once a month. The others, who are either just starting out, or have hit some stumbling blocks in their program, will remain in the second flight and have to attend every two weeks.

After court on Thursday, McGillin said Thursday's session was the first where he really had to deal with a lot of what he called "hiccups."

At least two participants had tested positive for drug use, and another had been removed from a residential treatment facility, an incident which could get him terminated from the program.

The drug tests earned the participants "sanctions" in the form of a one- or two-day stay in the county jail, but there was no heavy-handedness in the handling of the mistakes, and the two will continue with their programs once out.

"It's just a speed bump, that's all it is," McGillin told one man as the bailiff placed him in handcuffs. "You don't lose any credibility with me. We are here because we are a treatment court, we are still here with you."

There was plenty of success to celebrate too.

At least six of the roughly 20 who attended were "promoted" to the next "phase" of their program and managed to make it into that first flight.

Each veteran received a round of applause from attendees as the promotion was announced.

Two of those promoted even made it to Phase 4 of the five-phase program.

"You would be truly leading the way," McGillin told one man as he reviewed his case and discussed his moving to one of the last phases.

Other successes included one woman regaining custody of her child, a man who had earned an associate's degree, and another who had landed two jobs to help him get back on his feet.

McGillin said after court that he is pleased with the way participants are progressing and isn't troubled by those who had seen a setback in recent weeks.

"Relapse is part of treatment," he said the experts commonly say.

When they are encountered, he said, the best thing to do is to encourage them to keep on with the program and the treatment they are receiving.

He said he is hopeful that the program can see its first graduates by January, which would prove something else that is often said: "Compelled treatment does work."

(Ponte Vedra, FL) –Purdue University’s College of Veterinary Medicine has received funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to research the efficacy of K9s For Warriors service dogs in mitigating the effects of PTSD on veterans and their families. The research is being led by Dr. Maggie O’Haire, Assistant Professor of Human-Animal Interaction, of the University’s Center for the Human-Animal Bond.

The research results are expected to close the knowledge gap between the apparent and proven therapeutic effects of service dogs. This study has been deemed imperative, based on the growing number of veterans experiencing the debilitating effects of PTSD, the depression and anxiety it causes their family members, and the lack of success rates of existing PTSD treatments. The Veterans Administration (VA) has never funded PTSD service dogs, citing insufficient scientific data. This study aims to resolve that. Currently, the treatment can only be found in small-scale organizations who take it upon themselves to train and provide the canines.



K9s For Warriors Jason Snodgrass and Dr. Maggie O’Haire with her service dog

“We are overwhelmingly confident that this research will prove what all of us dedicated to the mission of saving our veterans already know – that service dogs work,” said Rory Diamond, CEO of K9s For Warriors. “Once this scientific data is published, it will help put more leashes into the hands of disabled veterans in the battle against veteran suicide.”

According to O’Haire, although the prevalence of service dogs for PTSD appears to be on the rise, there are no published clinical trials available to validate their efficacy. “Many veterans are increasingly seeking complementary interventions for PTSD, including service dogs,” Dr. O’Haire says. “Yet, even with the well-meaning intentions of service dog organizations that are working to meet the demand, our systematic review of scientific literature confirms a lack of published, empirical research on the effects that service dogs have on veterans and their spouses.”

O’Haire explains that, historically, research in this area has relied on anecdotal evidence and emotion rather than science. “Without scientifically sound studies that establish proof-of-concept for the therapeutic efficacy of PTSD service dogs, this animal-assisted intervention strategy will continue to be minimized as an unsupported and potentially unsound practice, despite anecdotal reports that the dogs may have a significant impact.”

This study will create a scientific evidence base for the effects of service dogs on veterans with PTSD as well as their spouses.

O’Haire and her research team hope to learn how service dogs are incorporated into the lives of veterans and what changes they may confer in terms of PTSD symptomology, social functioning and

physiological biomarkers. They will use standardized survey instruments as well as objective measures of physiology to track stress and functioning. They also will use a novel ecological momentary assessment protocol to capture the role and function of the dogs in everyday life.

“This project represents a substantive departure from the status quo by applying rigorous research methodology to an area that has historically been characterized by a reliance on emotional intuition rather than evidence-based science,” O’Haire says.

The study is funded by NIH’s Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) and National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH). The funding is part of a public-private partnership established in 2008 between NICHD and the WALTHAM Centre for Pet Nutrition, Mars Petcare’s fundamental science research centre, to establish a human-animal interaction (HAI) research program to support studies related to child development, health, and the therapeutic inclusion of animals in interventions for individuals with disabilities or those requiring rehabilitative services.

Merrick Pet Care, a prominent supporter and Strategic Research Partner of K9s For Warriors, is also a major funder of the study, contributing \$250,000 to the project. Merrick has been the exclusive provider of all food and treats used in the K9s For Warriors training program since 2015. The pet care brand will continue to expand this partnership through its Hero’s Banquet recipe, now available year-round with a donation of the item’s proceeds helping to further underwrite research.

To schedule an interview with a K9s For Warriors representative, please contact Tahoma Guiry at tahoma@k9sforwarriors.org, or call (904) 686-1956.

To schedule an interview with Dr. O’Haire, please contact Allison Guffey at lamb32@purdue.edu.

About K9s For Warriors K9s For Warriors is the nation’s largest provider of service dogs to military veterans suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Traumatic Brain Injury and/or Military Sexual Trauma as a result of military service post-9/11. Their goal is to give a new leash on life to rescue dogs and military heroes, empowering warriors to return to civilian life with dignity and independence. Learn more at www.k9sforwarriors.org or visit <http://www.facebook.com/k9sforwarriors> for regular updates.

This is important, we need your support, please respond to the link below.



The veterans' treatment court model was established to remove veterans from the regular criminal justice process and to provide an opportunity for the veteran to address conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder and substance abuse disorder that that may have led to their involvement in the justice system. In a veterans' treatment court, the presiding judge works with the veteran and a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Veterans Justice Outreach specialist to establish a structured rehabilitation program and treatment plan that is tailored to the specific needs of the individual veteran.

S. 946, the Veterans Treatment Court Improvement Act of 2017, requires the VA to hire additional Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO) specialists to ensure veterans have greater access to effective and tailored treatment.

The bill authorizes \$5.5 million for each fiscal year beginning in FY 2017 through 2027 to hire 50 additional VJO Specialists. Funding priority would be given to VA facilities that work with newly established or existing but understaffed veterans' treatment courts. The legislation requires annual reporting on the implementation of the bill as well as its effect on the VJO program and a mandate for the Government Accountability Office to review and report on the implementation of the bill and the overall effectiveness of the VJO program for justice-involved veterans.

DAV Resolution No. 105 notes that veterans' treatment courts evolved from a proven national model of diversionary drug and mental health courts to address the specific challenges many wartime veterans face post service and calls for the continued growth of veterans' treatment courts.

Click the link below to log in and send your message:

<https://www.votervoices.net/BroadcastLinks/xmlfmsO7Wak2Ii3nx40iDA>

When Surrender Was Worse Than Death: 8 Realities about Life at Andersonville Prison During the Civil War

By Larry Holzwarth

In the early months of the Civil War, soldiers of both sides who were unfortunate enough to be taken prisoner could look forward to a short captivity. Both armies, officered by men who had largely shared training and military tradition, practiced the 18th century procedures of parole and exchange.

Prisoners were exchanged between the armies on a rank for rank basis – private for private, sergeant for sergeant, fifteen privates for one colonel, and so on – while officers were freely granted the freedom of the enemy camp (within limits) in exchange for their parole – a promise that they would not try to escape or act against the enemy until they were properly exchanged. It was not unusual of an evening to see captured Union officers playing cards or sharing whiskey with their Confederate counterparts.

This civility – the dying gasps of chivalrous behavior – did not last once Northern generals grasped the hard facts of the situation between North and South. Compared to the South, the North had vast resources of manpower, while lost Johnny Rebs could not be replaced. It cost the enemy in food, clothing, shelter, and manpower to restrain prisoners, something the North could afford and the South could not.

Prisoner exchanges helped the South by returning trained veteran soldiers to their ranks. By the same logic, forcing the South to care for Union prisoners in their custody drained resources and manpower.

When the South began to treat captured Union black soldiers – they were referred to as Colored Troops in the parlance of the time – as escaped slaves rather than prisoners of war, the North finally broke existing agreements regarding prisoners and the development of prisoner of war camps for extended custody began

in the warring states. In the North camps opened in Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, New York, and elsewhere, often on the sites of former training camps for the steadily growing Union armies. Captured Confederate troops often found better rations and living conditions than they had experienced within the ranks of the dwindling Southern armies, at least until arriving at the prison camps.

In the South, Union troops held in Southern camps found somewhat different conditions. Many of the Southern camps were built near water which in the extended months of the Southern summer became mosquito-infested swamps, with attendant malaria spreading among the prisoners. Cholera and typhus were also rampant in some camps. The South had little food for its troops and less for its prisoners, a situation which worsened steadily as the war went on.

As has been the case in all wars throughout history, some officers and men chosen to serve as jailers over their vanquished enemies became tyrants without conscience, doing all they could to heighten the misery of their charges. Southern prisons became notorious for the suffering of the men held within, their names synonymous with misery. One such was Richmond's Libby Prison. Another was Camp Sumter, known to history as Andersonville.

Camp Sumter

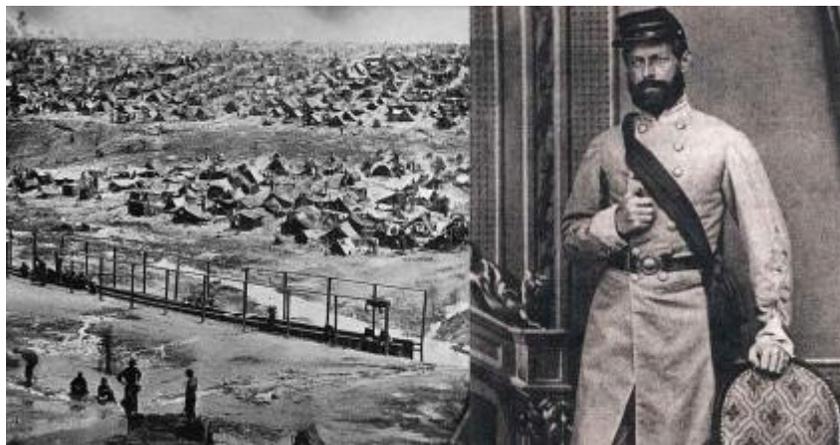
Camp Sumter (known in the North as Andersonville Prison) was opened in south central Georgia during the winter of 1864, and during its just over one year of operation held up to 45,000 Union prisoners. Of these, almost 13,000 died. Some deaths were from complications of battlefield wounds poorly treated, but most were from malnutrition leading to scurvy, dysentery, typhus, and other deadly diseases which today are easily controlled through proper diet and hygiene. The prisoners subsided largely on parched corn, chicory weed, and rarely, dried salted fish.

The main source of freshwater was Stockade Creek, which ran through the camp inside the fence line, and was unfortunately used by many men as both a washing place and a sewer, ensuring that the water further downstream but still

within the camp was polluted. Warmth was provided by open firepits and a few scattered stoves, and while the camp was surrounded by forest little wood was provided to the prisoners, nor were they permitted to forage.

During wet months or following heavy summer rains, Stockade Creek turned a large portion of the enclosed grounds into bogs and swamp, infested with the impressively aggressive mosquitos and blackflies of the Deep South. Despite these and the diseases they carried, the majority of the deaths in the camp were from other causes, chiefly scorbutic dysentery (known as the bloody flux) a severe form of diarrhea caused by a shortage of vitamin C.

The majority of prisoners lived in thrown together hovels covered with scraps of blankets or rags, or else in the open air, as the construction of the planned wooden huts to house the prisoners was never completed.



Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc. Minutes of September 28, 2017

Officers present: Chairman Bill Dudley; Secretary Michael Rothfeld, John Mountcastle, Treas.

Vice Chairman Ray Quinn

Chairman Dudley called the meeting to order at 1856 hours

Chairman Dudley led the Pledge to the Flag, Vice Chairman Ray Quinn 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

Introduction of Guests:

Capt Bob Buehn, USN ret, Director of the UNF Veterans Resource Center

Andrew Coughlan, WWP Alumni Manager

Tony D'Aleo, President VVA Jacksonville

Reverend W O Hesse, USMC Veteran, VITAS Healthcare



Speakers: Bob Buehn: 1300 + veterans attend UNF, the Resource Center guides, assists, councils (PTSD) and facilitates education & GI Bill issues. The student veterans are guided from uniform to civilian life. Computers and lounge always available.



Andrew Coughlan: Criteria for WWP-Post 911 & combat wounded. WWP offers diverse programs to assist with assimilation to civilian life. They deal with mental health issues and benefits primarily. WWP offers free counseling, mental health programs, job counseling and resume help.

Committee Reports:

Mac: Claims have been coming back faster than ever, he then turned floor over to Tammy Shirley who spoke about the annual Homeless Veterans Stand Down.

Michael: The Ken Burns "Vietnam War" preview was a success. The Vietnam veterans panel highlighted the evening.

Blair Craig: spoke about his involvement with the Joe Foss Institute and



his talks in county schools about civics.

Judy Davis/Ray Quinn: funds are needed for Wreaths Across America to cover ALL headstones at St Augustine National Cemetery. It is \$ 15 a wreath. Donation forms distributed and all asked to distribute.

Steve Spickelmier: presented Ray Quinn with a \$ 250. Check for Wreaths Across America, upcoming 13th burial in So. FL

Mike Cassata: COJ has signed lease for the Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial. Dec 3 “Empty Seat” dedication at EverBank Field, Sanctuary dedication at Cecil Field on Nov. 3.

Chairman Dudley: Chairman Dudley spoke about the issues regarding the new CBOC placement, and the Veterans Day Parade Nov. 11. If you or your organization want to march/ride contact Ray Quinn. Bill and Michael met with the TPC Tale Tellers & applied for grants for the VTC and the DAV van.

New Business:

Eric West, Tax Slayer Bowl is still giving out 4 free tickets per veteran as well as tickets to the after game concert, just go to- milsaver.com

Chris Miller, from Rep. Rutherford’s office: Rep. Rutherford supports veterans, will speak to groups as time allows.

Tony D’Aleo: Thanked Council for paying for POW flag to soon be displayed at the Veterans Memorial Coliseum.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

The next meeting of the Veterans Council will be on Thursday, October 26, 7 pm in the Health & Human Services Building, 200 San Sebastian View.

Future speakers:

Oct. 26, Scott Grant, speaking about the German U Boat attack in Jacksonville Beach

November 30, Cynthia Thompson, Veterans treatment Court Coordinator

Eric Heineman, Executive Director K9s United

December 28, Lynn Brannon, FL NG State Coordinator, Family Programs

January 25, Mike Mitchell, Jacksonville Univ. Veterans Affairs Director



Veterans Day Parade in St. Augustine



“Come to the Veteran's Day Grand Parade in downtown St. Augustine. The parade, which will begin when the church bells ring and there is a cannon salute from the fort, is to honor the military history of St. Augustine and all those who served and continue to

serve our country. It will include historic military vehicles, military units, military marching bands, local high school bands, vintage and military aircraft flyovers, military aircraft on static display beside the fort and some of the Castillo's living history volunteers.

Starting on Orange Street at 10:45am, the parade will continue east on Orange Street, south on S. Castillo Dr./Avenida Menendez, west on Cathedral Pl., north on Cordova Street, returning to Orange Street near Francis Field. The parade is being presented by the Veterans Council of St. Johns County and the Ancient City Chapter of the Military Officers Association in America. Our Veterans Day Parade this year will be focused on our local heroes who have served our nation.

After the parade, the vehicles and volunteers will make their way to the Castillo, where the vehicles will be on display in the visitor parking lot from approximately 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. There will be free admission to the Castillo where you'll find volunteers of various time periods, displaying a timeline of the Castillo's military history, and living history encampments represented by park volunteers.”

From John Leslie, President VVA 1084 St. Augustine

I received this email today from a college classmate of mine, and a USMC Veteran of the Vietnam War. He was extracted from a live mine field near Da Nang along with 10 other Marines - many of whom, including him, had lost at least one limb before being rescued. The Marine who carried each one of them, in six separate trips, from where they laid to the helo, PFC Raymond M. "Mike" Clausen, was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Richard Nixon in the White House on 15 June 1971. My classmate and friend, Bruce Cruickshank, sends me emails similar to this on occasion, and I think this one is worth passing on. I don't know how recent it is, so maybe some of you have seen it before - but here it is anyway.

Definitely of interest... to anyone who was connected-to the Vietnam War. This is a series of photos taken by a photographer/researcher who has been walking, cycling and mapping the trail for several years. Beautiful colored-photos, plus some narrative interspersed regarding bomb-targets, 'downed-aircraft' reports, etc. It takes awhile to look at all the pics, but for those who 'vacationed in Vietnam' in the 60s-70s, flew missions against it, plotted missions and incursions, or maybe set foot there, it's a fascinating-trip 'down Memory Lane'... but w/o the danger of 'stepping-on' a landmine, 'stumbling-over' a cobra, or simply 'dodging-incoming'.

<http://www.laosgpsmap.com/ho-c-hi-minh-trail-laos/>

SUBARU OF JACKSONVILLE SUPPORTS YOU



SUBARU OF JACKSONVILLE
10800 ATLANTIC BLVD, JACKSONVILLE, FL 32225
PHONE: (888) 781-0319 (904)641-6455 - SUBARUOFJACKSONVILLE.COM

YOUR GO TO TEAM IN SJC

FOR YOUR HOME SELLING & BUYING NEEDS

Featuring one of our *Customer Service Specialists* and one of our *Top Individual Producers*



Marianne Bach
(904) 349-0456



Call Us TODAY!



Kathy Jordan
(904) 401-0476

*** As a VETERAN (Navy, Army, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, Reserves) SAVE 25% when buying or selling with us! ***

EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE WE CAN MAKE FOR YOU!

Navy to Navy Homes LLC
10605 Theresa Drive, Suite 5
Jacksonville, FL 32246
Office: 904-900-4776



Funding for USS Adams secured; Here is when it's coming By Derek Gilliam – Reporter, Jacksonville Business Journal

The group behind a nearly decade-long effort to bring the retired **USS Adams to the Jacksonville Shipyards** took a major step forward late last week, city officials and sources confirmed to the Jacksonville Business Journal Tuesday morning.



The all-volunteer Jacksonville Historic Naval Ship Association has secured \$2.8 million in a combination of state grants, private donations and a line of credit that could see the ship docked at The Shipyards site along the St. Johns river bank as early as January.

The ship is also part of a master plan for Jacksonville Jaguars owner Shad Khan's vision in his bid to redevelop nearly 70 acres at a combined Shipyards and Metropolitan Park.

Stan Halter, treasure of the JHNSA, said the group is nearing the finish line in an 7-year effort. The Downtown Investment Authority is close to signing off on a 10 year licensing agreement that also includes two five year options to allow the museum to operate at the city-owned site. That license would be issued to the museum operators at \$1 per year.

He said that the DIA had 14 criteria the group needed to meet before issuing the license. The only box left to check, Halter said, is to prove that the group has the money to repair and transport the ship to Jacksonville.

He said the state of Florida has contributed \$1 million in the form of a grant that will get the ship to a dry dock for repairs. The rest of the \$2.8 million dollars has been raised through private donations and a line of credit.

After the DIA provides the license, it will then provide that license to the Navy, which should release the ship to the organization. Halter said the Navy has signed off on the concept after a more than 1,000 page application was approved in September 2014.

VA Flu Shots Update 05 ► No Cost Shots at Walgreens

Flu Season is here! Veterans protect yourselves and get a NO COST flu shot! The cold and flu season is upon us and the Department of Veterans Affairs has once again teamed up with Walgreens Pharmacies nationwide to allow all veterans who are currently enrolled in the VA healthcare system to be able walk into any of the over 8000 Walgreens nationally (and the Duane Reade pharmacies in the New York metropolitan area) to receive a vaccination at no cost. Vaccinations will be available through March 31, 2018.



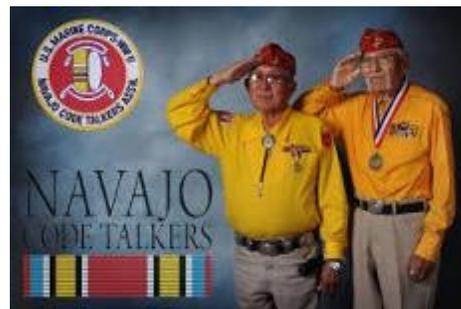
Veterans wishing to receive the no cost vaccination simply need to present a Veterans Identification Card and a photo ID, at any participating Walgreens to receive the vaccination. The Group ID is: VAFLU In addition, after the Walgreens pharmacist administers the vaccine Walgreens will transmit that information securely to VA where it becomes part of the patient's electronic medical record. VA is committed to keeping Veteran patients healthy, and during this flu season, vaccination is the best way to prevent the spread of flu. No matter where you live, visit your local VA clinic or Walgreens to get a no cost flu shot.

To find your local VA, visit www.va.gov/directory/guide/home.asp. To locate a Walgreens store near you, call 800-WALGREENS ([800-925-4733](tel:800-925-4733)), or go to www.com/findastore. To learn more about the partnership visit <https://www.va.gov/COMMUNITYCARE/programs/veterans/immunization.asp> or call [1-877-771-8537](tel:1-877-771-8537). To get more information on flu and flu vaccine, visit www.publichealth.va.gov/flu or www.cdc.gov/flu. [Source: eBenefits Online Application | September 26, 2017 ++]

How Navajo Code Talkers Led To WWII

Victory, by Matthew M. Sullivan

At the beginning of the World War II campaign in the Pacific, the United States military was finding it difficult to develop a code that would be indecipherable to Japan's skilled cryptographers.



In early 1942, just months after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Philip Johnston, a World War I veteran and one of the few non-Navajos who could speak the unwritten and complex Navajo language, convinced Major General Clayton B. Vogel to initiate a program that used a derivative form of Navajo as code for the U.S. Marine Corps.

After being specially recruited by the Marines, the 29 original Navajo code talkers completed boot camp and developed a code and dictionary based on their native language. Over the next three years, the Navajo code talkers (of which there were roughly 400 by 1945) took part in every U.S. Marine-conducted assault in the Pacific — the code was never broken.

On June 4, 2014, Chester Nez, the last of the original 29 Navajo code talkers, passed away at the age of 93 in Albuquerque NM. He was the author of Code Talker: The First and Only Memoir By One of the Original Navajo Code Talkers of WWII, and received the Congressional Gold Medal for his part in developing the Navajo code.

Active Duty and retired military wanting to attend this year's TaxSlayer Bowl in Jacksonville can get a free ticket and a post game concert ticket valued at \$ 120 by registering at: taxslayerbowl.com

They have set aside 5000 free seats for veterans.

The game theme is "Honoring Our Heroes". The game is Saturday December 30, 2017.



This is an important article as it deals with a way for current veterans groups to move forward and attract younger veterans thereby assuring the future of their organization.

*Wall Street Journal: The American Legion: Hollywood's Hottest Private Club
Younger veterans took control of Post 43 and lured a cool crowd with Art Deco bar and movie house—plus free parking*

By Michael M. Phillips, Sept. 26, 2017

HOLLYWOOD—Here are words not often seen together in a sentence: American Legion and cool.

The young guns who have seized control of American Legion Post 43 are trying to fuse them together in the minds of a new generation of combat veterans, rebranding their venerable Egyptian Revival building, with its underground Art Deco bar, as “the coolest private club in Hollywood.”

“We have the cheapest drinks, the nicest people, the best-looking bar,” says Post Commander Fernando Rivero, a 42-year-old TV producer who engineered a bloodless coup that overthrew Post 43’s old guard. “We have free parking, which is of tremendous value in Hollywood. There’s really no other place I want to go.”

The American Legion has an image problem. Though the group is immersed in good works, its name summons visions of crotchety vets nursing beers in linoleum-floored posts. An “old-timey funny-hat club,” in Mr. Rivero’s words.

At one California Legion convention, he was aghast the program mostly featured ads for hospices and cemeteries. He waved the booklet in frustration. “You realize your advertisers are branding you?” he said. “Welcome to the American Legion—prepare to die.”

The organization also has a demographic problem. World War II and Korea vets are indeed dying at a rapid clip, with the Vietnam generation next in line. Despite constant war since the Sept. 11 attacks, the country’s veteran population is expected to fall to 13.6 million in two decades, from 20 million today, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The Hollywood post, which opened in 1929, has in its new incarnation managed to prosper and attract vets for whom hip isn’t necessarily a prelude to replacement.

Memorabilia in the Post 43 museum Photo: Michael M. Phillips/The Wall Street Journal

“I never thought in a million years that I’d be so into this,” says Second Vice Commander Jennifer Campbell, 35, a former Army truck driver turned personal trainer. “I’m as surprised as anybody.”

Down the road from the Hollywood Bowl, Post 43 has long ties to the entertainment industry. Clark Gable, Charlton Heston, Ronald Reagan and Rudy Vallee were members. Shirley Temple was an honorary colonel, and photos of her curls stand out in the Post museum amid the machine guns, a dog-tag stamping machine and an Adolf Hitler pin cushion. (Suffice it to say he’s bent over.)

In recent decades the Post business model provided ample money for good works, from Boys State to patriotic oratory contests to projects to help veterans navigate the VA. The legionnaires rent their parking lot during events at the Hollywood Bowl. Movie and TV producers

film at the Post; a young Jim Kirk lost a fight in the Art Deco bar in the 2009 movie “Star Trek.” For nine years starting in 1984, the entire clubhouse was a stage for the immersive production of the play “Tamara.”

But there was little effort to make the Post a social center for new vets.

Post 43 Second Vice Commander Jennifer Campbell in the Post museum Photo: Michael M. Phillips/The Wall Street Journal

“We appreciate the generation that came before us,” says Ms. Campbell. “But we don’t want to hang out with 80-year-old men all night.”

To join, vets previously had to show up in person when the Post was open, find their way past the locked side gate and pay the \$33.50 annual fee with a check. “The only way to communicate with the office in 2011 other than phone was with a fax—it was like 1986 in there,” says Mr. Rivero, a Navy lieutenant commander who served in Afghanistan.

Membership was limited to 500, partly out of concern that, if more joined, there would neither be enough parking nor enough food at the twice-monthly free dinners.

In 2014, Mr. Rivero and seven other members—mostly post-9/11 vets—met secretly at a Burbank steak house to devise a plan to take control of Post 43 and make it more fun. They code-named the operation the 1st Reformational Congress, then changed it to more voter-friendly Future 43 movement.

They drew up a party ticket and challenged the old guard in elections for leadership positions. “We thought we’d be run out of town,” recalls Mr. Rivero, who produces trailers for “American Horror Story,” a show on FX Networks, which shares common ownership with The Wall Street Journal.

Post Commander Fernando Rivero examines a photo of members past Photo: Michael M. Phillips/The Wall Street Journal

It turned out the old guard was no match for the high-tech electoral prowess of the young guns, who used email and text messages to round up votes. Mr. Rivero softened his own image by putting a photo of himself with his mother on a campaign flier.

The cabaret room went silent when it was announced that three Future 43 candidates had won spots on the executive committee, enough to form a ruling junta with some sympathetic old timers.

Subsequent elections secured the Future 43 party a majority of seats, with post-Sept. 11 vets now holding the posts of commander, first vice commander and second vice commander.

Their first move was to set a goal of doubling the rolls to 1,000 by 2019, parking be damned. Suddenly, the bar—a classic speakeasy—opened more than one night a week. There was karaoke, comedy and live music. Members formed a shooting club, a motorcycle club, a running club. They held barbecues on the plaza in front of the building, where passing vets could see signs of life and inquire about membership.

A Hollywood group, Veterans in Film and Television, began meeting at the Post.

Veterans A.J. Perez, left, and George Cantero at the Deco bar at Post 43 Photo: Michael M. Phillips/The Wall Street Journal

In January, the new management put up a website allowing vets to join by clicking and paying

dues by credit card. (Vets must email a Pentagon form showing that they served honorably during wartime.) The site shows attractive vets hiking, and posing for glamour shots in the speakeasy.

So far this year, more than 260 have signed up, compared with 19 inducted in 2011.

“At first I was referred to as the girl with purple hair,” says Danielle Baker, a 35-year-old former Army chemical-warfare specialist with purple hair. “But I’m not the only girl [at Post 43] with purple hair.”

The Post trumpets its diversity by gender, race and orientation, but still wrestles with a rules from the past. The Legion auxiliary was created for members’ wives and daughters, which means the spouses of lesbian veterans can join, but husbands of gay vets cannot.

The younger vets pushed through a \$2 million project to convert the big meeting hall into a 482-seat digital movie theater where, after construction is complete next year, studios will be able to screen military-themed movies. “They’re going to go with the polished concrete floors the young people love today,” says Tim Shaner, 70, a Vietnam-era Coast Guardsman.

“It’s going to make Grauman’s Chinese Theatre look like a second-rate place,” says Jimmy Weldon. Now 94, Mr. Weldon served in Gen. George Patton’s 3rd Army, helped liberate Buchenwald concentration camp and, later, performed the voice of Yakky Doodle duck in the Yogi Bear cartoons, a character that still creeps into his daily conversation.

American Legion Post 43 in Hollywood Photo: Michael M. Phillips/The Wall Street Journal
The new generation leaders try to show respect for the old ways. Mr. Weldon still wraps up the monthly business meeting with the words, “Let us close with Irving Berlin’s ‘God Bless America.’”

Still, the young guns’ offensive has met with light resistance.

Some older members worried about taking on debt to fund the theater renovation. Some feared the young vets were going to take away the free dinners at post meetings. Mr. Weldon is unhappy that not all meetings open with prayers: “This was a shock to us.”

It is, old timers admit, the way things have always worked at Post 43. “The Vietnam vets, much as we wanted to make changes, were dragged down by the WWII vets, who were dragged down by the WWI vets,” recalls Mr. Shaner. At one point, the WWII vets—who sometimes treated the Vietnam vets with you-lost-your-war scorn—refused to disclose the full membership roster to the Vietnam vets, he says.

Even supporters of the new generation find the new branding a bit jarring. “I’ve never used the word ‘cool’ in my life,” says legionnaire Les Probst, 84, who patrolled the demilitarized zone for North Korean infiltrators in 1953. “I don’t know what ‘cool’ means.”

Resistance, however, has melted away before the undisputed recruiting success of the post-9/11 legionnaires. Says Max Thayer, a 71-year-old Vietnam-era Army medic: “It has been like a blood transfusion.”

Please check and evaluate items in this article before selecting.

From the VA

In this article you will read about **10 Veterans Benefits you could get from the VA Department**

Many veterans know about the basic health care and education benefits available to them through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA): Tricare and the GI Bill. While these benefits alone are substantial, numerous other programs help provide more benefits to veterans and their families. Even within the health care and education programs are little-known benefits to improve the lives of veterans and help ease the financial burden of medical care or other expenses.

Here are 10 veterans benefits you haven't heard about that all veterans should see if they qualify for:

1. Long-term Care

Long-term care is expensive, but often necessary to provide care for aging relatives. Through the Aid and Attendance program, many veterans are eligible to receive money to cover the cost of nursing homes, assisted living programs and other long-term care options. With the ability for couples to receive up to \$25,020 a year, the Aid & Attendance benefit will help take care of a significant portion of long-term care costs. Surviving spouses of veterans are also eligible to receive up to \$13,560 a year to cover their long-term care costs.

2. Caregiver Support

Should you choose to take care of an ailing Veteran at home, the Department of Veterans Affairs offers a caregiver support program. While this program does not offer any monetary support to caregivers, they are provided with a free support line and a caregiver support coordinator to help navigate military benefits and the stress of care giving.

3. Death Benefits

When a veteran dies, families have a few unique benefits available to them. A U.S. flag may be requested to drape over the casket and families may request a Presidential Memorial Certificate to honor the deceased loved ones service. The Department of Veterans Affairs also provides free headstones or grave markers.

4. Certification Programs

In addition to receiving credits to use toward a college degree, the GI Bill offers up to \$2,000 to

help cover the cost of certification courses or other vocational training programs. This benefit will work well for veterans who wish to change careers or pursue a career path that does not require a college degree.

5. Transferring GI Bill Credits

Unused credits through the GI Bill may be transferred to spouses and dependents of veterans. There are service limits required to transfer the benefits.

6. Free Tax Preparation

Veterans and their family have access to free tax preparation services through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance offices on military bases. The individuals who work in the offices have expertise working with the complicated nature of military-related tax issues.

7. Life Insurance

Many veterans have trouble obtaining traditional life insurance, particularly if they sustained an injury during their time of service. Through the Service members' and Veterans' Group Life Insurance program, veterans may receive up to \$400,000 in life insurance. This program also offers competitive premium rates.

8. Mortgage Help

Veterans having trouble making their mortgage payments are eligible for repayment assistance through the Department of Veterans Affairs. Options for help include special repayment plans, loan forbearance and loan modification programs. Additional benefits are available for veterans with VA loans and for homeless veterans.

9. VA Foreclosures

The VA maintains a list of homes serviced by VA loans that have gone into foreclosures. Veterans have the ability to search the list of VA acquired properties and purchase homes at a discount. You do not have to be a veteran to search the properties, but all properties qualify for VA financing.

10. American Corporate Partners

American Corporate Partners connects veterans with top companies to help them obtain a job after their time of service. Along with being connected to job opportunities, veterans have the opportunity to receive one-on-one mentoring and other career development services.



COMMUNITY HOSPICE
VETERANS PARTNERSHIP

Salute Our Heroes in Their Final Days: Support Flags & Pins for Veterans in Hospice Care

Honor our local veterans in hospice care with a dignified tradition when you support funding for flags and pins through Community Hospice & Palliative Care.

Since 2008, the Jacksonville-based organization has presented all veterans admitted to its hospice program with a commemorative pin to honor their service, as well as a certificate of appreciation. For veterans who get care at one of our eight inpatient centers, staff and volunteers erect the flag of the service branch in which they served outside their rooms. Flags are then presented to veterans' families following the death.



The need for funding is great as up to 25 percent of patients who receive hospice care at Community Hospice & Palliative Care are veterans. The nonprofit organization, which provides hospice care to nearly 1,300 patients each day, raises funds through individual support and community organizations who believe in serving those who have served our country so honorably.

If you or your organization would like to support our Flags & Pins initiative and honor our warriors one last time, please contact Toula Wootan, director of community programs at Community Hospice & Palliative Care, at 904.407.6211 or twootan@communityhospice.com.

On Friday, November 10, 2017, St Anastasia Catholic Church, 5201 A1A South, will host its 15th annual Veterans Day tribute beginning with mass at 9 a.m.. A reception will follow in the community center.



The mass will honor the country's Veterans of all wars, living and deceased. Veterans of all services and those who currently serve in the military are invited to participate. The tribute is open to men and women of all faiths. Participants are asked to gather in the church Narthex (front door area) by 8:45 a.m.. Veterans will be escorted into church by the Knights of Columbus, 4th Degree Color Guard. Military uniforms, and/or organization and unit hats are encouraged.

Following mass, Veterans, service men and women, and every one attending mass, are invited to a reception hosted by the Knights of Columbus, Council 7121, in the Community Center.

I would like to introduce you to our new website, www.MilSaver.com. It's a shopping site with 290 merchants including Walmart, Amazon and many more. We started the site in order to help fund local veteran groups and military charities. It's easy to use, all you have to do is go to [MilSaver.com](http://www.MilSaver.com) click on a store, search for a store, click on one of the banners or look for a coupon then shop with that store. Go back to [MilSaver.com](http://www.MilSaver.com) and repeat!

Any help you can give us promoting the site with an email to your membership is greatly appreciated. I have attached verbiage for the email below and have attached a "Coupon" too.

Please like us on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/milsaver/>.

Here is the email- We all want to do more for our veterans and now you can when you shop online!

It's easy, just log on to www.milsaver.com click on your favorite retailer or discount shopping site and shop. Coupons are available from major coupon sites and from many of the retailers on the site too.

A portion of every purchase made through the site goes to help veteran groups and military charities. Book mark www.milsaver.com.

You will find over 250 of the best known retailers and brands, just click and shop. Now including Amazon and eBay!

Like us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/milsaver/>



It's free to use. Tell your friends. Thank you for helping us do more for our veterans!

Eric West

No Soldier is Buried Alone Thanks to Arlington Ladies

By Dan Doyle

The Arlington National Cemetery is truly sacred ground. It is the final resting place for over 400,000 of our nation's military, some of whom have been buried there since the Civil War.

The grounds were originally the property of the family of Confederate General Robert E. Lee's wife, who was also a granddaughter of George Washington. When the Civil War broke out, the Union took the property and almost immediately, Union soldiers began being buried there.

Every day Arlington National Cemetery sees dozens of new burials and provides each fallen service member or veteran with the pomp and circumstance, the honor and dignity they are due for having honorably served this grateful nation. The beautiful tree lined boulevards and the broad green burial grounds in each section, echo regularly throughout each day with the sound of 21 gun salutes and the mournful, somber notes of taps. Over 4 million people visit this sacred place each year.

Back in 1948, General Hoyt Vandenberg, the then Chief of Staff for the Air Force, and his wife, Gladys, were in the habit of routinely attending funeral services for Air Force active duty servicemen and Air Force veterans. They noticed that some of those services only had a military chaplain present. Gladys Vandenberg was moved by the loneliness of those funerals and began to invite some other Air Force wives to attend services as well. Eventually, she organized a group of women that would regularly volunteer to attend Air Force funerals to ensure that no one would be buried alone. She called the group the Officer's Wives Club.

In 1973, Julia Abrams, the wife of Army General Creighton Abrams, founded the Army version of the Air Force group. The Navy started their own organization in 1985, and the Coast Guard formed its own group in 2006. These groups are collectively known now as "The Arlington Ladies."

The Marine Corps does not have a similar group as it sends a representative of the Marine Corps Commandant to every Marine funeral. Each of the Arlington Ladies groups is unique to its own branch of service, but they provide similar volunteer services.

All of the Arlington Ladies have some direct connection to their particular branch of military service. Most are the wives and some are the daughters of either active duty service members or military veterans. Their dedication is legendary. They attend funerals, no matter the weather, just as the military honor guards do.

Doreen Huylebroeck, whose husband, CPO Edward Huylebroeck, is buried at Arlington National Cemetery, is a Navy Arlington Lady. She began volunteering after her husband died. She never saw herself doing this, but was drawn into it by the invitation of others. She thought that she would not be able to con

trol her own tears at the funerals but finally responded to friends invitations and began to volunteer with the Navy Arlington Ladies group about two years ago.

Huylebroeck told a Stars and Stripes reporter, “The military person is a hero and he deserves it. It’s just a special way to honor him and be there.”

On average there are about six Navy funerals a day. Huylebroeck and the other Navy Arlington Ladies volunteer regularly for half a day at a time. They schedule it so that one volunteer attends all of the Navy funerals in the morning and another takes all of the afternoon funerals. They meet with the families before the services in family rooms that Arlington National Cemetery has set aside for that purpose. They are an official part of each funeral.

Huylebroeck goes the extra mile. She reads the obits before meeting with the families so that she will be able to talk with them about familiar things. If she finds that the family is local, she offers her personal contact information to them, in case they want to talk to outside of the family. She even offers to place flowers at the grave on birthday or anniversary dates. She pays for this herself.

“It’s the least I can do, I would appreciate it if someone did it for me,” she told Stars and Stripes.

That is the embodiment of the Golden Rule, “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” Huylebroeck estimates that she has attended over 500 funerals at Arlington. One of those she attended was for Mark Mayo, a sailor I wrote about for this site. Mayo was killed on duty defending his shipmates and his ship, the USS Mahan, from an armed man who had gotten aboard while it was docked at Naval Station Norfolk last year.

These Arlington Ladies who represent the Air Force, the Army, the Navy and the Coast Guard provide an incalculable service of care and comfort to the fallen and to their grieving families at Arlington. They have made it their duty to make sure someone is in attendance at every funeral, especially at those where there is no family to bury the deceased. This unique voluntary service offered by these women honors the service and the sacrifice of our military. They thank those who have served with the simple gift of their presence. In a way they are not only standing in for their particular branch of service, but for all of us.

The Jacksonville Ladies are a similar group that ensures all veterans buried at the Jacksonville National Cemetery are not alone.



The story of Agent Orange

1-800-225-4712

Agent Orange was sprayed in Vietnam from 1965-71 to remove leaves from trees and to destroy crops. Many Americans exposed to dioxin, Agent Orange's cancer-causing byproduct, suffer health problems. The Veterans Administration will release new regulations for damage suits this fall. Here is a look at the Agent Orange story.

■ Black areas on map show where Agent Orange was sprayed

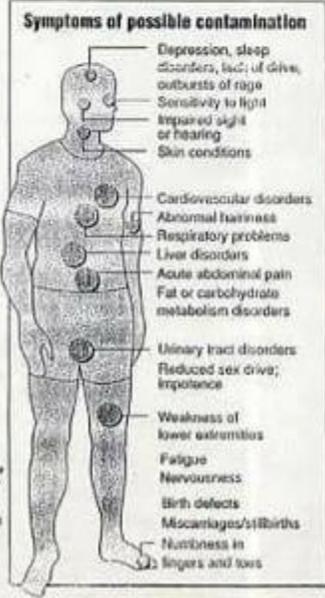
How much Agent Orange was used

The Air Force's Operation Ranch Hand sprayed 11.3 million gallons of Agent Orange from 1965-71. The Army, Navy and Marines also sprayed an undetermined amount of Agent Orange.

Agent Orange timeline

Major events over the last 27 years.

- 1962** U.S. military first sprays Agents Pink and Purple in Vietnam
- 1965** U.S. military begins spraying Agents Orange, White and Blue
- 1966** U.S. troops told Agent Orange is non-toxic
- 1968** U.S. military sprays 12,000 gallons of Agent Orange in Korea
- 1977** Vietnam veteran sues manufacturers of Agent Orange; stockpile burned over the Pacific Ocean
- 1978** TV program discusses Agent Orange
- 1979** Environmental Protection Agency bans dioxin; Congress begins hearings on involuntary exposure; bill passed to design Agent Orange study
- 1980** VA starts Exposure Validation Study
- 1981** President signs bill expanding VA study to include other environmental hazards in Vietnam
- 1982** Centers for Disease Control (CDC) start Vietnam Experience Study on health
- 1983** VA transfers Exposure Validation Study to CDC; President signs \$54 million funding bill; Air Force releases report on spraying missions
- 1984** Dioxin manufacturers settle out of court; \$180 million fund created for veterans
- 1987** CDC cancels Exposure Validation Study after spending \$43 million
- 1988** CDC completes Vietnam Experience Study
- 1989** Congress investigates CDC's cancelling Exposure Validation Study



- ### Herbicides used
- Agent Pink ■ Diquat ■ Dalapon
 - Agent Purple ■ Bromacil ■ Agent Orange
 - Agent Green ■ Tandax ■ Agent White
 - Dieldrin ■ Monroton ■ Agent Blue
 - Trinitoxol ■ Diuron

Phased testing

1962-64: 11 chemicals tested in Corps IV
 1965-68: Toxic for warfare
 1968-71: Used in war zones, not population centers

Vietnam veteran facts

- 2.5 million exposed to dioxin
- 255,000 filed damage claims against Agent Orange manufacturers
- 230,000 requested the VA to examine them for dioxin poisoning
- 95,000 filed claims with the VA, citing Agent Orange

Did you know?

- FDA banned hexachlorophene in soaps and disinfectants in 1972 because it contained dioxin
- Agent Orange was sprayed along the U.S.-Canadian border until 1977.
- High levels of dioxin are in the food chain in South Vietnam.

SOURCES: U.S. Congress, Veterans Administration, Winter Soldier Archive, Veterans of the Vietnam War, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Army & Joint Services Environmental Support Group, Surgeon General's Office, Centers for Disease Control, Environmental Protection Agency, Vietnam War of America, Vietnam War Agent Orange Claims, Environmental Defense Fund, Chemistry & Physics magazine

AGENT ORANGE: Wally Gower
 OTHER ILLUSTRATIONS: Paul Cox

It's time to go sky high with the Blue Angels!

The NAS Jacksonville Air Show returns this November with all the thrills you know and love.

The new Spitfire Jet Semi will be racing down the runway at speeds of more than 300 mph. There will also be food and drink booths, aircraft displays, and a Kid's Zone with activities for all ages.

And of course, your favorite Blue Angels will be the grand finale on November 4 and 5 at the Naval Air Station.

Gates open at 9:00AM both days and the show begins at 10:00.

For more information, please visit their website: <http://www.nasjaxairshow.com/>

And LIKE NAS Jacksonville Air Show on Facebook for even more updates.



Lynn Brannon Florida State Coordinator - Contractor

Building Healthy Military Communities (BHMC)

310 Charlotte Street, St. Augustine, FL 32084

Office: (904) 827-8564, Cell: (904) 229-6440, Fax: (904) 827-8532



Building Healthy Military Communities Pilot

Working for Healthy, Ready, and Resilient Military Communities

What is the Building Healthy Military Communities (BHMC) pilot? BHMC is a multi-year pilot that aims to better understand unique challenges faced by geographically dispersed Service members and their families that may impact their readiness, resiliency, and well-being.

Background: The Department of Defense (DoD) is committed to supporting the health and well-being of Service members and their families. Many Service members live off of installations, creating a unique set of challenges in accessing resources that promote well-being. The DoD is launching the BHMC pilot in response to Senate Report 114-63, which calls a pilot for the "enhancement of recruitment, retention, readiness, and resilience" of the total force.



The BHMC pilot is being conducted in 7 pilot states: **Florida, Indiana, Oklahoma, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, and New Mexico**

Intended Impact: The DoD hopes to better understand resource challenges and develop a comprehensive strategy to support the Chairman's objective of Total Force Fitness (TFF), which is DoD's framework for improving health, readiness, and resiliency of its population through eight domains of fitness (physical, environmental, medical/dental, nutritional, spiritual, psychological, behavioral, and social). The BHMC pilot will inform the TFF Capabilities Based Assessment in evaluating and supporting current programs and services addressing TFF domain areas, identifying any capability gaps, and how the DoD can help meet the gaps.

Methodology & Evaluation: The BHMC pilot will be conducted in three phases:

Phase 1: Complete a Rapid Needs Assessment

Teams of 8 to 10 stakeholders will travel to each state from January to April 2017 to conduct a baseline assessment of available resources, existing needs, and current gaps in optimizing readiness, resiliency, and well-being. Our teams will speak with community program managers, unit leaders, and other resource providers to better understand program goals, successes, and challenges in supporting the local communities in which Service members may reside.

Phase 2: Develop Strategic Plan and Implement Key Interventions

Results of the needs assessment will inform the development of a strategic plan for each state to address identified needs and gaps in each pilot location. Outcomes of the needs assessment will also help tailor the three pilot interventions (described to the right) designed to coordinate DoD, national, state, and local resources.

Phase 3: Evaluate Interventions

The BHMC pilot will be evaluated using process measures and outcome measures. Process measures, such as utilization or awareness of resources, will assess if the interventions are effective in better addressing gaps and needs of Service members and their families. Outcome measures, such as % ready to deploy and health-related quality of life, will track long-term impacts on force readiness.

**Our
fundamental
responsibility
to the nation
is to be a
ready force.**

Gen. Joseph F.
Dunford Jr., Chairman
of the Joint Chiefs of
Staff

Three Key Interventions

1. Implement a State Coordinator



Each state will have a state coordinator to serve as the state focal point for well-being resources and develop a strategic plan to build relationships and leverage DoD, national, state, and local resources.

2. Promote an Information Campaign



We will execute a targeted information campaign to communicate initiatives and publicize outreach efforts to target populations based on need.

3. Utilize Mobile Health Technologies



Utilizing mobile health technologies, we hope to reduce barriers in accessing information and connect target populations with available resources.

For more information, please contact CAPT Kimberly Elenberg at kimberly.j.elenberg2.mil@mail.mil



WE ENSURE THE SUCCESS
OF VETERANS BY GIVING
THEM **CONFIDENCE,**
COMMUNITY AND CAREERS.

CONFIDENCE

ONU helps Veterans regain confidence in their skills through classroom training and coaching.



COMMUNITY

ONU inserts Veterans into the business community a network of supporters.



CAREERS

96% of ONU Veterans obtain fulfilling careers in the field of their choosing.



Operation New Uniform offers our community the chance to support our veterans and make a lasting impact in their lives. If you know of veterans in transition, or if you know of someone looking to commit to local veterans, please contact us at:
invest@OperationNewUniform.org

WWW.OPERATIONNEWUNIFORM.ORG

904.328.1600

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:

NEW <http://www.veteranscouncilsjc.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.

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.



**SURVIVOR
OUTREACH SERVICES**

Survivor Outreach Offers Free Services to
Surviving Spouses and Family Members of Military Retirees

Contact Keith Ham

Survivor Outreach Services Support Coordinator, HRCI Contractor
310 Charlotte Street, St. Augustine, FL 32084
Office: 904-823-0157 Cell: 904-472-7689
Email: keith.e.ham.ctr@mail.mil

Please support our sponsors



RE/MAX
Specialists
Each Office Independently Owned and Operated

Scott Hum
Broker-Associate
Hum Sells, LLC

12646 San Jose Blvd
Jacksonville, FL 32223
Cell: (904) 707-0925
Office: (904) 260-4550
ScottHum@REMAX.net
www.NEFloridaHomes4Sale.com



400 N. Ponce de Leon Blvd.—St. Augustine, FL 32084-3587

904-829-2201— fax 904-829-2020— 800-997-1961

www.herbiewiles.com

The House That Trust Built

Homeowners 62 or older...
Learn how you can enjoy your retirement years with a Reverse Mortgage.

Call for a quote
JOHN REARDON
Mortgage Consultant &
Reverse Mortgage Specialist
Serving all of Florida



MS
community
mortgage solutions
904-982-2210
www.floridareversemortgagemadeeasy.com

NMLS 555210



Pycraft LAW LLC
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Foreclosure Defense • Bankruptcy • Debt Defense
Estate Planning • Wills • Trusts • Advanced Directives • Probate
Family Law • Criminal Defense • Civil Defense

www.pycraftlaw.com • (904) 940-0060

Thomas R. Pycraft, Jr. • John J. Spence
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

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 will meet at the St.
Johns County Health & Human Services
Building, 200 San Sebastian View
Muscovy Room, 1st floor***

**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.