

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 circulate.

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, 26,** 7 pm in the Health & Human Services Building, 200 San Sebastian View.

Future speakers:

October 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, 2018- Mike Mitchell, Jacksonville University Veteran Students Coordinator

