

Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc. Minutes of March 30, 2017

Officers present: Chairman Bill Dudley; Vice Chairman Ray Quinn, Treasurer John Mountcastle, Secretary Michael Rothfeld
Chairman Dudley called the meeting to order at 1906 hours

Herb Naumann led the Pledge to the Flag

Vice Chairman Quinn gave the Invocation

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

Introduction of Guests:

Michael Cassata, President Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc
Jim Kelly, snowbird veteran, member of VFW, Amer. Legion
Robert Adelhelm, Vets 4 Vets, Semper Fidelis Society
Chris Miller, Deputy District Director, Congressman John Rutherford's Office

Speaker: Moe Moyer, National Chairman "The Ride Home 2017"

Moe introduced himself, citing his military background, then gave us the history behind the POW Flag and its connection to Jacksonville and Mary Hoff.

Moe cited the following: Unaccounted for from past conflicts- WW II 73,072; Korean War 7,757; Vietnam War 1,611; Cold War 126; Iraq/Afghanistan 6; totaling 82,572 service members that have NOT returned home.

Moe's Mission is to work to have all unaccounted veterans Return Home.

There are 56 Vietnam MIAs in Florida, it is our duty to see that they return home.

Moe reminded us that April 9 is National Former POW recognition day.

The third Friday in September is National POW/MIA Recognition Day and that weekend every year Moe chairs "The Ride Home" in Americus, GA. a few miles from the infamous Andersonville Civil War Prison and now Cemetery & Museum.

Please see the Patriot Reader to learn how you can support this patriotic event and pay for a families, room and board.

Committee Reports:

Mac and Rick Rees toured the K9s For Warriors new facility and were very impressed.

Mac spoke about the new list Of 15 presumptives for Camp Lejeune water.

Ray: the Veterans Council is still taking nominations for the Annual Ed Taylor Award.

Kathy: MIAP is looking for volunteers, they have interred 3038 veterans since 2007.

Jim Crutchfield, Mentor Program Coordinator

There are currently 6 veterans in the VTC program, they are working well with their mentors.

VVA # 1084: President McGinty & Chaplain Bob Dinkins presented Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home Administrator Neil Ramski with a plaque remembering and honoring St Johns County resident Leo C. Chase, Jr. for his heroic sacrifice at the Vietnam battle of Ia Drang in 1965.

Steve Spickelmier, Chairman Support Committee, Jacksonville National Cemetery reminded and invited all to see the Vietnam Traveling Wall on April 13-16, at Metropolitan Park in Jacksonville.

Chairman Dudley: reminded everyone that on Thursday, April 6th, 12 noon, there will be a wreath laying ceremony across the country at all National Cemeteries honoring all World War I veterans. You are all invited.

The next meeting of the Veterans Council will be on Thursday April 27, 7 pm in the Health & Human Services Building. Our speaker will be Dave Seamans, President, Florida Fallen Heroes Foundation.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

