



*June 2017*

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***Mailing Address***

***PO Box 860151  
St. Augustine  
Florida 32086***

***Meeting Info***

***4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of  
Month  
1130-1400  
Jaybird's  
Restaurant  
2600 N US 1  
St. Augustine, FL  
32084***



***Vietnam Veterans of America  
Leo C. Chase Chapter 1084  
St. Johns County, Florida***

***"Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another."***

***MEET YOUR NEW CHAPTER 1084  
OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS***



The Annual Election of Officers took place during our April monthly meeting, and this photo depicts the swearing-in ceremony at our May meeting. Your newly elected officers and directors are (from left to right) John Leslie (President), Ken Hahn (1<sup>st</sup> Vice President), John McGinty (2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President), Shawn Prentiss (Secretary), Bob Dinkins (Chaplin and Director), and Joan Whitfield (Director). Administering the Oath of Office is life member Paul Heagy. Not shown are George April (Treasurer) and Bob Place (Sgt-at-Arms).

***Disclaimer***

***The views or opinions expressed within this newsletter are not necessarily the opinions of the publishers, advertisers, members, National or State Council Headquarters.***

## CAMP LEJEUNE WATER CONTAMINATION UPDATES

From 1953 through 1987, people living or working at the U.S. Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, were potentially exposed to drinking water contaminated with industrial solvents, benzene, and other chemicals.

### Disability compensation

VA has established a presumptive service connection for Veterans, Reservists, and National Guard members exposed to contaminants in the water supply at Camp Lejeune from August 1, 1953 through December 31, 1987 who later developed one of the following eight diseases:

Adult leukemia	Aplastic anemia and other myelodysplastic syndromes
Bladder cancer	Kidney cancer
Liver cancer	Multiple myeloma
Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma	Parkinson's disease

Presently, these conditions are the only ones for which there is sufficient scientific and medical evidence to support the creation of presumptions; however, VA will continue to review relevant information as it becomes available.

Veterans who are experiencing other health conditions that they think may be related to contaminated water at Camp Lejeune are encouraged to contact their primary care provider and to file a claim. VA reviews and decides disability compensation claims on a case-by-case basis.

### Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012

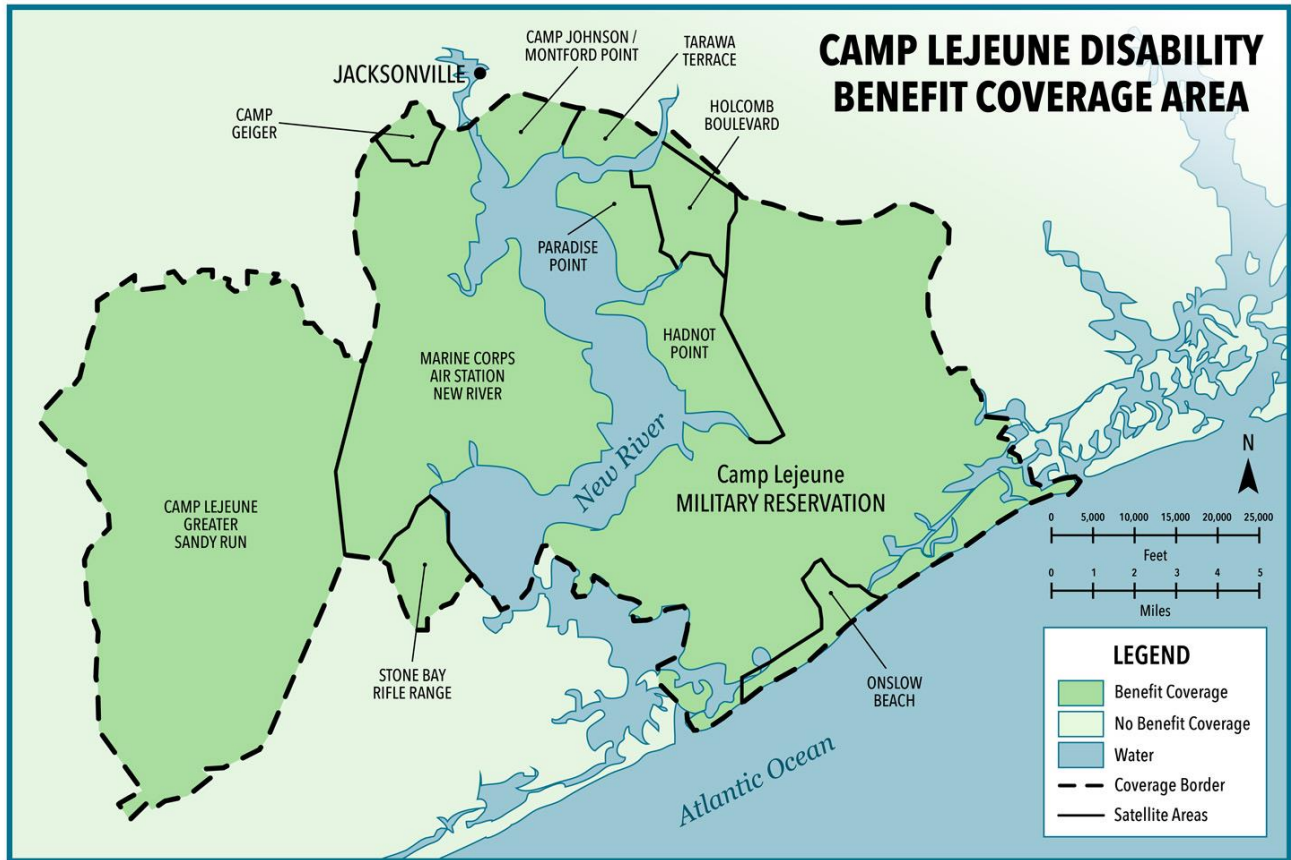
#### Veterans' health care

In accordance with the 2012 Camp Lejeune health care law, VA provides cost-free health care for certain conditions to Veterans who served at least 30 days of active duty at Camp Lejeune from January 1, 1957 and December 31, 1987.

Qualifying health conditions include:

Esophageal cancer	Lung cancer
Breast cancer	Bladder cancer
Kidney cancer	Leukemia
Multiple myeloma	Myelodysplastic syndromes
Renal toxicity	Hepatic steatosis
Female infertility	Miscarriage
Scleroderma	Neurobehavioral effects
Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma	

Veterans eligible for health care under the 2012 Camp Lejeune health care law may enroll in VA health care and receive medical services for the 15 covered health conditions at no cost (including copayments).



Camp Lejeune Disability Benefit Coverage Area

**NOTE: CHERRY POINT IS NOT COVERED BY THIS BENEFIT COVERAGE AREA, CONTRARY TO OLDER, INACCURATE, ASSUMPTIONS MADE CONCERNING SHARED WATER SYSTEMS.**

### Family member health care reimbursement

Family members of Veterans who also resided at Camp Lejeune during the qualifying period are eligible for reimbursement of out-of-pocket medical expenses related to the 15 covered health conditions. VA can only pay treatment costs that remain after payment from your other health plans.



**Toys for Tots** is a program run by the United States Marine Corps Reserve which distributes toys to children whose parents cannot afford to buy them gifts for Christmas. **VVA CH 1084** is assisting the **Marine Corps League Detachment 383** in organizing and conducting a **Toys for Tots** Benefit Golf Tournament on September 08, 2017. It will be a 1:00 Shotgun start at the Cimarrone Golf Club at 2800 Cimarrone Blvd. This event is in its initial stages of planning, but put it on your calendar – more information to follow in subsequent issues of our Newsletter.

## MEET YOUR OFFICERS

## JOHN LESLIE, PRESIDENT



John was born in Sacramento, CA in 1945. He was commissioned as an Ensign in the US Navy on 22 September 1967, and earned his Naval Aviator Wings on 18 February 1968. Following his initial tour as a flight instructor in the Navy's Advanced Jet Training Command, he reported to NAS Lemoore, CA to commence training in the A-7E Corsair II light attack aircraft. He deployed in the USS Enterprise with Attack Squadron 97 (VA-97) in September 1972 and flew 105 combat sorties in North Vietnam, South Vietnam, and Laos during Operations Linebacker I and II, and escort support flights during the repatriation of our POWs from North Vietnam. John retired from the Navy in 1988 and began employment with the Grumman Corporation as an Experimental Test Pilot. It was

this employment that led to his moving to St Augustine in 1994 to become the Chief Pilot at the then Grumman St. Augustine Corporation. John retired from Northrop Grumman in 2006. John and his wife Patricia reside in St Augustine Beach.

## A NOTE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

This is our first attempt at a Newsletter, at least since I've been a member, so it is necessarily short due to time constraints I've put on myself to get it going this month. I will be soliciting inputs from our entire membership in the future, whether that be for "ready to print" stories, ideas for stories/information, or questions for which you may need assistance in getting a straight answer. Mike Rothfeld, our newest and only "Honorary Member," will be assisting me in this endeavor (or, maybe it's the other way around!). Send your inputs to me or any other Officer. Our "Contact Information" is included in a following section.

I am deeply honored by the privilege to serve the membership as President of this *Leo C. Chase Jr Chapter 1084* of the VVA. I've only been a member for a short time, but am impressed with the dedication and efforts of our membership and past leadership. My goal is to continue their example, and where possible improve our contributions for the good of our fellow Veterans. I look forward to your suggestions and recommendations and thank you in advance for your support.

### VVA CH 1084 RAFFLE EVENT

*We are holding a RAFFLE with three prizes to draw your interest. 1<sup>st</sup> Prize is a S&W 9MM Shield Pistol, 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize is a NASCAR Mini-Hood, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize is a Shadowbox for a folded flag and military items. The donation is \$5 for one ticket, or 3 tickets for \$10. The drawing will be on August 22, 2017, and the Winners need not be present to win. Contact any officer for tickets.*

VVA CHAPTER 1084 CONTACT INFORMATION

<b>POSITION</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>TELEPHONE</b>	<b>E-MAIL</b>
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Newsletter Editor	Michael Rothfeld	904-829-0381	mrothfeld@anyveteran.org

SOME VETERAN STATISTICS FOR FLORIDA

**1.6 million Veterans reside in Florida**  
**154,00 of them are women Veterans**  
**500,000 of them are Vietnam Veterans**  
**And less than 4400 of them are members of the VVA**

AN ODE TO VIETNAM

The Ode presented on the following page was written by John Leslie’s brother-in-law, Jim Bailey, sometime following his return home from Vietnam. Jimmy enlisted in the Army shortly after graduating high school in 1967, and was soon serving as a crew chief and door gunner with the “Wolfpack” of the 281<sup>st</sup> Assault Helicopter Company based at Nha Trang, South Vietnam. The 281<sup>st</sup> lost 46 members during their tenure in Vietnam from 1966 to 1970, and Jimmy personally served with and knew 22 of them. Their names are inscribed in the black granite panels of the wall, along with more than 58,000 others, but, it is clear to me that the names and memories of these lost friends will be forever etched in our hearts as well:





***SITTING IN THE DOOR***

by

**James Wilbur Bailey, Jr.**

The preflight is done, I've cleaned my gun, we're pulling pitch at four.  
That's when I'll take up my position, sitting in the door.  
The pilot says clear right, clear left, and we confirm for sure.  
It's just another duty we perform while sitting in the door.  
The crew chief and the gunner, we're sitting in the door.

A flying soldier's how I chose to fight should there be war.  
In sixty-nine I'll spend my time here, on this foreign shore.  
Should I survive to come home alive from This God Forsaken Land.  
I'll not forget this little trip I made to Vietnam.  
Yes, there's many a good soldier over here in Vietnam

The high pitch scream of the engine seems to say that all is well.  
Though I hope not, a well-aimed shot, could blow us all to hell.  
My Pilot's from Atlanta, the C-P's from L.A.  
And my Gunner Joe is from Kokomo in the good old U.S.A.  
Yes, we long for our safe return to the good old U.S.A.

Now as I sit here in my rocking chair and think about the war.  
They're just a haze, those glory days, of sitting in the door.  
Though I'm safe at home, no more to roam, my mind still wanders there.  
Where my comrades brave, spent their final days, as soldiers of the air.  
Yes, I miss my friends, till we meet again, from those of us who care.