



August 2017

Volume 01

Issue Number 03



Mailing Address

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

Meeting Info

***4th 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."

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We have been quite busy since our last Newsletter in July. We were well represented at the 15 July Vets4Vets with our own "display" table where we advertised our Chapter and our wares.

Our Chapter hosted a very successful Mental Health First Aid course of instruction on 26 July with 17 attendees. This was a significant event, and we are planning an encore course for the November timeframe. (see page 4)

Still ahead of us in the next few weeks are:

- 8-12 August VVA National Convention in New Orleans. John McGinty will attend as delegate from VVA Florida State Council, and John Leslie will attend as delegate from Chapter 1084.
- 15 August "***Suicide Prevention***" presentation by Katherine Eicher, Suicide Prevention Coordinator, North Florida Veterans Health Administration (see page 5).
- 22 August Pistol Raffle Drawing and monthly Chapter 1984 meeting, Jaybird's Restaurant, 11:30am to 2:00pm
- 08 September, Toys for Tots Golf Tournament at Cimaronne Golf and Country Club, VVA-1084 in conjunction with Marine Corps League #383 of St. Johns County (see page 8).
- 16 September preview of ***The Vietnam War a film by Ken Burns and Lynn Novick*** (see page 6).
- 30 September "***2017 Homeless Stand Down***" (see page 10)

Disclaimer

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

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, INC – OUR MISSIONS

The Vietnam Veterans of America is a nonprofit corporation founded in the United States in 1978 to promote the interests of Vietnam Era veterans. The organization is headquartered in Washington, D.C., and is the only such organization chartered by the United States Congress to be exclusively dedicated to Vietnam Veterans and their families. The organization holds a congressional charter under Title 36 of the USC and is tax exempt under the Internal Revenue Service Code Section 501 (C) 19.

The organization operates without any funding or contribution from any branch of our federal government.

Our Founding Principle

“Never again will one generation of veterans abandon each other”

Our Continuing Mission

To generate government relations advocacy on the national, state and local levels.

To promote legislation and action for health care for Veterans and Disabled Veterans.

To continuously care for homeless veterans through our national and local task forces.

Assist veterans seeking services and benefits from our government and provide updates in application and processing of those services and benefits.

Assist in identifying the full range of disabling conditions, injuries and illness incurred during and after military service.

Hold government agencies accountable for following laws mandating veteran’s health care

Seek the fullest possible accounting of America’s POW/MIAs and support their spouses and families

Establish National and local scholarship funds.

Continuously create a positive public perception of Vietnam Veterans through accurate information presented by educational disciplines, print, voice and digital media, and support of veterans and community needs and projects.

Support the veterans and military of our younger generations and leave a positive and worthy legacy model to all.

Continue to publish our national award winning bi-monthly magazine, ‘The Veteran’.

Editor’s Note: this bi-monthly magazine, ***“The Veteran”*** is worth every cent of your Association dues.

VVA CH 1084 RAFFLE EVENT

We are holding a RAFFLE with three prizes to draw your interest. 1st Prize is a S&W 9MM Shield Pistol, 2nd Prize is a NASCAR Mini-Hood, and 3rd 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.

IN MEMORY OF THE VIETNAM WAR DEAD FROM ST JOHNS COUNTY, FL

When I first joined the Chapter 1084 I became curious about the St Johns County residents who died in the Vietnam War. I quickly learned much about PFC Leo Curtis Chase, Jr, the first such county war fatality, and the person for whom our Chapter is named. PFC Chase was KIA at LZ X-Ray on 15 November 1965 in the Battle of Ia Drang.

But, who and how many others followed Leo Chase home from 'Nam? There is a bronze plaque on a Memorial Monument in the downtown Plaza commemorating 24 such war dead. So, that is where I started, but I found that St. Johns County was not in the "Home of Record" section of several of deceased's military records, and three of the 24 were not listed on the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C. In collaboration with Fred Dupont, a life time resident of St. Johns County who knew nearly all the listed, we came up with 16 names of those who died while serving in the Vietnam Theater of Operations. For this Issue of our Newsletter, I will include a list of these young men who died while serving in Vietnam, but in future Issues I will include a Spotlight tribute, one or two per issue, of these listed men.

Leo C Chase, Jr PFC US Army St. Augustine, FL 15 Nov 1965 Ia Drang, II Corps	Jimmy C Lowry SP4 US Army Nocatee, FL 22 June 1967 Kontum, II Corps	Stephen A Shelley PFC USMC St. Augustine, FL 25 Feb 1968 Quang Tri, I Corps	Henry L Quigley SP4 US Army St Augustine, FL 26 Feb 1969 Cu Chi, III Corps
Rickey D Castleman PFC US Army Hastings, FL 29 Jun 1966 Cu Chi, III Corps	Charles E Miller CMS USAF Hastings, FL 06 Sep 1967 Quang Nam, I Corps	Tom Davis, Jr. SSGT US Army St Augustine, FL 25 Mar 1968 Thua Thien, I Corps	Jimmie D Cox PFC USMC St. Augustine, FL 09 Oct 1969 Quang Tri, I Corps
Richard A Osteen, Jr. PFC USMC St Augustine, FL 29 Aug 1966 Quang Nam, I Corps	Robert E Miller SP4 US Army St. Augustine, FL 19 Nov 1967 Binh Dinh, II Corps	John A Thiele Jr. SSGT US Army St. Johns, FL 25 May 1968 Quang Tri, I Corps	James F Thames LT, US Navy Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 19 Jan 1971 An Xugen, IV Corps
John W Charlton PFC US Army St. Augustine, FL 09 Apr 1967 Phang Rang, II Corps	Leon F Huber SP4 US Army St. Augustine, FL 02 Feb 1968 Quang Tri, I Corps	Frank J Roberts PFC USMC Elkton, FL 11 Nov 1968 Quang Tri, I Corps	William A Thomas Jr. Captain USAF St Augustine, FL 21 Apr 1972 Aircraft Crash at Sea

WE HONOR THEIR SACRIFICE, AND WE PRESERVE THEIR MEMORY

See next page for Photo



MEET YOUR OFFICERS



SHAWN PRENTISS - SECRETARY

Shawn Prentiss was elected as Secretary at our June meeting, replacing George April who remains as our Treasurer. Shawn served in the USAF from October 1974 until January 1979 working as an Aircraft Maintenance Mechanic on T-37, T-38, and F-5E aircraft first at Reese AFB in Lubbock, TX and then at RAF Alconbury, UK. Post-military she lived in New Hampshire starting her G.I. Bill education graduating in 1982, with A.A.S. Industrial Electronics.

She moved to St. Augustine in 1985 to be with her father, Leonard A. Prentiss, USAF MSgt (Ret). Shawn worked for Grumman from 1986 to 1994, after which she enrolled full-time at University of North Florida completing her GI Bill education. She graduated in May 1997, Magna Cum Laude, with degrees in Communications (Broadcast Journalism) major, Computer Graphics minor. While studying at UNF, she interned at Mayo Clinic, Jacksonville where she studied Web Design. Since then Shawn has worked for *The St Augustine Record* and St Johns County (as its first Web Master). She took off from work in 2001 to provide full-time care for her terminally ill father, who passed away in September 2001. In November 2003, a good friend needed a pet sitter, and one thing lead to another and she started her own business, *The Pet Nanny*, which continued in operation until 2012. Welcome aboard Shawn, we are proud to have you join us!

VVA CHAPTER 1084 CONTACT INFORMATION

POSITION	NAME	TELEPHONE	E-MAIL
President	John Leslie	904-233-4712	john_leslie15@yahoo.com
1 ST Vice President	Ken Hahn	904-342-7716	fchief443@gmail.com
2 ND Vice President	John McGinty	904-679-1947	macvva1949@gmail.com
Secretary	Shawn Prentiss	904-217-4535	bandaidgirl56@gmail.com
Treasurer	George April	904-826-6098	geoapril1@gmail.com
Chaplain & Director	Bob Dinkins	904-540-1898	bobdinkins@bellsouth.net
Director	Joan Whitfield	904-339-1544	jlwbeach@bellsouth.net
AVVA Representative	Judy Davis	904-814-4284	udc2232@att.net
Newsletter Publisher	John Leslie	904-233-4712	john_leslie15@yahoo.com
Newsletter Advisor	Michael Rothfeld	904-829-0381	mrothfeld@anyveteran.org

MENTAL HEALTH 1ST AID FOR MILITARY MEMBERS, VETERANS, & THEIR FAMILIES

VVA Chapter 1084 sponsored and hosted an all-day training session in Mental Health 1st Aid for a group of 17 individuals who work with Veterans in a variety of positions and ways. This was a very successful class, with unanimous positive comments from the attendees.



The Graduating Class of Mental Health 1st Aid, 26 July 2017. Front Row Kneeling (L to R) Selena Hernandez-Haines, Megan Wall. Second Row: Katrina Robinson-Wheeler (Instructor), Jack Biddle, John McGinty, Mel Haynes, Shawn Prentiss, Jim Crutchfield, Arthur Duquette, and Bill Frank (Instructor). Third Row: Eric Davidson, Kim Biddle, John Leslie, Tony Esterling, Rich Bastedo, Liz Bastedo, Robert Richmond, Rick Rees, and Jim Campau.

Three attendees are from VVA-1059 in Clay County, and affiliated with the Clay County Veterans Treatment Court (VTC). One attendee is from Baker County, serving as their VSO. The remaining 13 attendees are from St Johns County, including a VSO, three VTC Mentors and the VTC Mentor Coordinator, the Director of Military Recruitment at Flagler College, the Managing Attorney for Legal Aid, and scattered and overlapping in cases are seven members of VVA-1084.

This course results in a 3-year certification for Mental Health 1st Aid, much like if you took a course in CPR for certification. The attendees of this class have extensive practical experience working with Veterans, and assisting those in need. But, not all of them had received previous training on how to recognize and respond in a mental health emergency and offer support to someone who appears to be in emotional distress. This “Mental Health 1st Aid” program is designed to close that gap. The training we received was provided, free of charge, by **Starting Point Behavioral Healthcare** based in Nassau County in Yulee, FL. We are contemplating another class for St. Johns County in November 2017.

A follow up briefing on Suicide Prevention will be available on 15 August – refer to the flyer on the following page.

SUICIDE PREVENTION

Veteran Suicide Statistics

Suicide rates among service members remain high and the rate among veterans continue to surge. Every day an estimated 20 veterans take their own lives, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs. In Florida, the numbers are staggering. Although veterans make up only 8 percent of the state's population, they accounted for more than 25 percent of its suicides. Between 1999 and 2011, 31,885 suicides were reported in the state, according to the Florida Department of Health. That would mean more than 8,000 Florida veterans took their lives during those 13 years, according to the VA.

How Can We Help?

Katherine Eicher, Suicide Prevention Coordinator for North Florida and South Georgia Veterans Health Administration, will conduct a comprehensive presentation on Suicide Prevention. This information is important knowledge for those of us working with Veterans, so many of whom live with mental distress that can manifest itself in harm to oneself or to others. Join us at the Muscovy Room in the St Johns County "Health and Human Services" building at 200 San Sebastian View, St Augustine, FL 32084.

RSVP by email to John Leslie at john_leslie15@yahoo.com. This will assist in estimating expected attendance so the room is properly configured.

"Suicide Prevention is Everybody's Business"

"Everything in my life that I'd thought was unfixable was totally fixable...except for having just jumped"

Ken Baldwin, Golden Gate Bridge Jump Survivor

When:

15 August 2017

1:00 PM

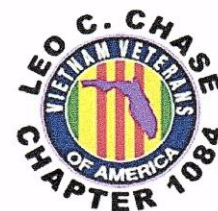
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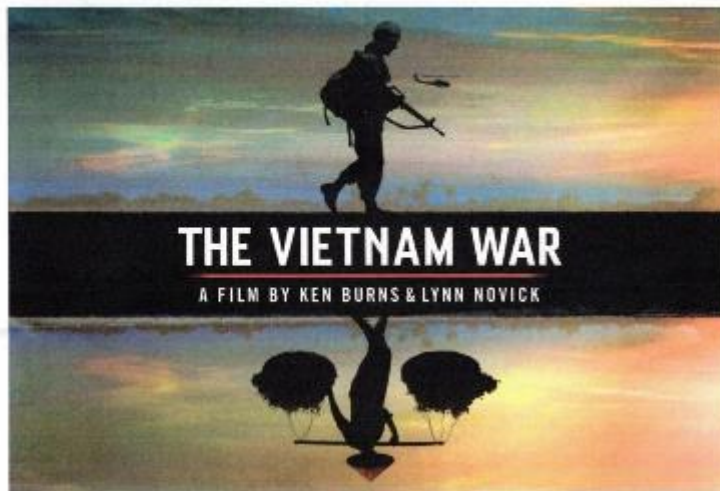
**Muscovy Room,
Health and Human
Services Bldg, 200
San Sebastian View,
St Augustine 32084**

**Registration not
required**

**Training Provided by
a Subject Matter
Expert from the
Veterans
Administration**

**Event Sponsored by
VVA Chapter 1084,
St. Johns County**





16 SEPTEMBER 2017 **THE VIETNAM WAR**

A Preview of *The Vietnam War* by Ken Burns & Lynn Novick

This program is made possible by WJCT Public Broadcasting in partnership with the St Johns County Veterans Council and the Vietnam Veterans of America Leo C Chase Chapter 1084 of St Johns County.

The Program includes:

Keynote Speaker: Paul Renner, State Representative, 24th District
 Preview Introduction: Michael Boylan, President & CEO WJCT
 Preview: *The Vietnam War* (63 minutes duration)
 Panel Introduction: John Leslie, President VVA Chapter 1084
 Panel Q&A: Vietnam Veteran Panelists
 Closing Remarks: Bill Dudley, Chairman, SJC Veterans Council



When?

**16 September
2017
7:00 to 9:30 PM**

Where?

**Corazon Cinema
and Café
36 Granada St, St
Augustine**

**Seating is limited
to 125; RSVP to
Mike Rothfeld at
mrothfeld@anyveteran.org**

A Big Thanks to the Corazon Cinema and Café for the donation of the Theater!



Bank of America; Corporation for Public Broadcasting; PBS; David H. Koch; Blavatnik Family Foundation; Park Foundation; The Arthur Vining Davis Foundations; The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation; The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation; National Endowment for the Humanities; The Pew Charitable Trusts; Ford Foundation Just Films; Rockefeller Brothers Fund; and Members of The Better Angels Society: Jonathan & Jeannie Lavine, Diane & Hal Brierley, Amy & David Abrams, John & Catherine Debs, Fullerton Family Charitable Fund, The Montrone Family, Lynda & Stewart Resnick, The Golkin Family Foundation, The Lynch Foundation, The Roger & Rosemary Enrico Foundation, Richard S. & Donna L. Strong Foundation, Bonnie & Tom McCloskey, Barbara K. & Cyrus B. Sweet III, The Lavender Bitterly Fund.



Presents
The First Annual Charity Golf Tournament
At Cimarrone Golf and Country Club

Friday September 8th
Registration Starts At 11:00 AM
Range Opens At 12:00 PM
1:00 PM Shotgun Start
4 Person Scramble, Prizes For 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place Teams!
\$100 per Player, \$400 for a Foursome
Individual/Team Hole Sponsorship \$300

Silver Corporate Sponsor:

\$1500, Includes Foursome,
Hole Sponsorship, and
Recognition on Banners

Gold Corporate Sponsor:

\$2000, Includes Two
Foursomes, Hole Sponsorship,
and Recognition on Banners

Please Make Checks Out To Marine Corp League #383
Drop off or Mail Payment and Form to: Bill Nantz 2220 County Road 210 W. St
Johns, FL 32259

Any Questions Comments or Concerns Please Contact

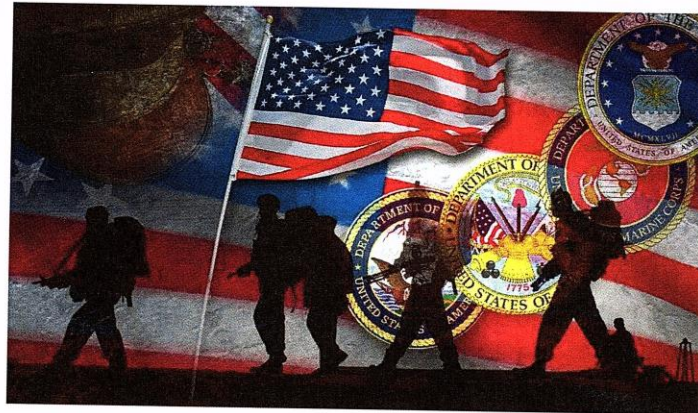
Bill Nantz Or Walter Mosher

chopper_55@comcast.net doc.mosher69@yahoo.com

904-955-2389

904-315-0392

2017 HOMELESS STAND DOWN



Saturday September 30, 2017

9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Elks Lodge

1420 A1A South

For more information contact: (904) 209-6160

SERVICES:

- Healthcare Services
- Legal Resources
- Housing Resources
- Employment Service
- Homeless Outreach

ITEMS:

- Clothing
- Personal Care Items
- Haircuts
- Showers
- Hot Meal
- RAFFLE

SPONSORS: *St. Johns County Veterans Service Office; St. Johns County Veterans Council; BPO Elks #829; VFW Post 2391; American Legion Post 37; St. Augustine VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic; VA Homeless Veterans Outreach Team; CareerSource Northeast Florida; and many other!*

