



September 2017

Volume 01

Issue Number 04



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

August and early September have been very busy, and we have a big schedule ahead of us as we press on through the rest of September.

John McGinty and I attended the 8-12 August VVA National Convention in New Orleans. This was an exciting and busy week of work and education on our part. More details are covered in a following article.

We conducted an informative and interesting "***Suicide Prevention***" presentation by Katherine Eicher, Suicide Prevention Coordinator, North Florida Veterans Health Administration. More details are covered in a following article.

We conducted our Raffle drawing on 22 August, and the winners are listed in a following article.

Still ahead of us in the next few weeks are:

- 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 7).
- 11 September "**TAPS Memorial**" Dedication, Green Cove Springs with Chapter 1059 (see page 8).
- 15 September National POW/MIA Recognition Day table at the World Golf Village Publix (we need volunteers!).
- 16 September preview of ***The Vietnam War a film by Ken Burns and Lynn Novick***. (see page 9; we need volunteers!)
- 30 September "**2017 Homeless Stand Down**" (see page 10).
- 28 October "**Making a Difference Day**" (see page 11).

HURRICANE HARVEY RELIEF

Looking for a legitimate place to donate money to help our Brothers and Sisters on the Gulf Coast of Texas? See the article on page 5 concerning financial donations to the VVA Texas State Council.

NATIONAL VVA – 2018 CONVENTION, NEW ORLEANS, LA

John McGinty and “the other John” (Leslie) attended the 2018 National VVA Convention, held 8-12 August in New Orleans, LA. John McGinty attended his eighth National Convention, this time as a delegate from the VVA Florida Council, where he serves as the First Vice President. This was the first such convention for John Leslie who attended as a delegate from VVA Chapter 1084.

The final tally on attendance was 816 Delegates from most of the 500 Chapters throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, and the Philippines. With the concurrent AVVA National Convention members, and spouses from both organizations counted we formed a nice little village of approximately 2000 residents.

The opening ceremony was impressive with a lot of “pomp and circumstance,” and fun presented by our Cajun hosts from the Louisiana State Council. Opening comments from our National VVA President, John Rowan, put me at ease that our organization is in good hands under his leadership. I was equally impressed with the National President of the AVVA, Sharon Hobbs.

The days were busy, filled with New Delegate Indoctrination, Registration, General Sessions, Committee Hearing sessions, evening caucuses for the campaigning of the 19 candidates running for ten “At Large” Board of Director positions, Voting Day, and Award sessions.

The VVA presented three “Legislator of the Year” Awards recognizing their leadership in introducing and fighting for bills that will have a profound impact on veterans of all eras. The awardees were:

1. Representative Mike Coffman, (R) representing Colorado’s 6th congressional district.
2. Senator Gary Peters, (D) Michigan.
3. Senator Richard Blumenthal, (D) Connecticut.

Each gave outstanding speeches concerning their legislative efforts leading to this award, commenting on the importance of the support and valuable inputs from the VVA on all Veteran matters, each echoing the theme that the VVA is a mighty force on “the Hill” when it comes to fighting for our brothers and sisters. John Rowan made it clear, and each of these gentlemen amplified John’s statement that “We don’t care about the R or the D following a name – we tell them ALL what we want, what we need, and they listen.”

Space limits a more detailed accounting of the week, but I can tell you it was well worth attending, and it is awe-inspiring to see and meet so many people who have dedicated their lives to looking after and fighting for our Veterans – of all Generations!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

We need volunteers for the following VVA-1084 Events:

- (1) Friday, 15 September to attend to our POW/MIA Recognition Day table at the Publix at World Golf Village from 0900 to 1600. We need to fill four 2-hour shifts with two volunteers per shift. Call or email John Leslie and Bob Dinkins with your requested shift.*
- (2) Saturday, 16 September to assist set up Corazon Theater room for the viewing of The Vietnam War documentary. Requesting four volunteers beginning at 1700. Call or email John Leslie and Mike Rothfeld.*

MEET YOUR OFFICERS

MIKE ROTHFELD - NEWSLETTER ADVISOR



Michael Rothfeld holds an appointed position on the staff of our Officers and Board of Directors as Newsletter Advisor. He was born in New York during World War II where his father worked as a welder in the Brooklyn Navy Yard “putting ships together.” Although born among those whom would populate our Vietnam Era armed forces, Mike did not serve in military service. He began teaching at Brooklyn High School in 1964, and was issued a deferment based on the needs of his community. Following his retirement from teaching in 2000, Mr. Rothfeld relocated to St. Johns County, FL and has dedicated his

remaining years to supporting active duty military residents, and the large population of veterans in Northeast Florida. Some may match him, but no one does more to support our military and veterans in St Johns County than Michael Rothfeld. Mike has produced five documentaries, all posted on the University of Florida’s online military digital library. They are:

- *Serve and Protect: Stories From WWII*
- *Korea: Forgotten War, Remembered Heroes*
- *Vietnam: Service, Sacrifice, and Courage*
- *Prisoners of War: Stolen Freedom*
- *Unleashing the Underdogs: The K9's for Warriors Story*

In addition, he compiles and edits a monthly newsletter, the *Patriot Reader* (50-60 pages) for the Veterans Council of St. John's County. He has served two years as Treasurer, and seven years as First Vice President of the Jacksonville National Cemetery Support Committee. His support and hard work on behalf of veterans, of all generations, led us to nominate him as an Honorary Life Member of the VVA, which was approved by the National VVA Board of Directors on 12 August of this year. WELCOME ABOARD MIKE!



VVA-1084 Welcomes Mike as a new Honorary Life Member. From the left: Blair Craig, John McGinty, Mike Rothfeld, Ken Weaver, John Leslie

SUICIDE PREVENTION SEMINAR 15 AUGUST 2017

Mrs. Katherine Eicher, the Suicide Prevention Coordinator for the North Florida/South Georgia VA Healthcare System presented a Suicide Prevention briefing to a small but interactive audience on the afternoon of 15 August at the St. Johns County Health and Human Services building. Dr. Shulkin, Secretary of the Veterans Administration, has set Suicide Prevention as the VA's number one priority, and in his own words **"We must get to Zero!"** Katherine presented some of the myths about suicide, such as:

Myth: People who talk about suicide are just trying to get attention or manipulate others.

Fact: People who die by suicide usually talk about it first. Talking about suicide is usually a cry for help – not an attempt to manipulate someone else.

Myth: Suicide always comes without any warning signs.

Fact: There are almost always warning signs – look on the back side of your **Veterans Crisis Line** card for some of these signs. Feelings of "Helplessness," that there is no reason to live. Rage and anger. Risky activities without thinking. Increased alcohol or drug abuse, and withdrawing from family and friends.

Myth: You should never ask a person who is suicidal if they are thinking about suicide or if they have thought about a method because talking about suicide will plant the idea in their head.

Fact: Asking about suicide opens the opportunity for that person to talk about how they are feeling, it does not put the thought in their head, any more than talking about heart pain makes someone have a heart attack.

Those are just a few of the Myths and Facts, and there was much more to Katherine's presentation, including lists of warning signs, stressors that may lead to the ideation of suicide, and ways to perhaps help an obvious candidate for suicide.

If you wish to see the full content of the presentation, and your computer supports PowerPoint, send me an email and I will forward the complete 41-page presentation to you.

Remember, September is Suicide Prevention Month, and Remember the **Veterans Crisis Line** modes of contact: **Phone** 1-800-273-8255; **Chat** at VeteransCrisisLine.net, or; **Text** to 838255.

RAFFLE DRAWING 22 AUGUST 2017 RESULTS

The drawing for the three prizes offered via our Raffle drive was made during our 22 August 2017 Membership Meeting. It was agreed prior to drawing the tickets that we would go in reverse order, that is, the Flag Shadow Box was picked first, the Mini-NASCAR Hood was second, and the main prize of a 9 MM S&W Pistol was picked last. And – the winners were:

Flag Shadow Box: Wendell J "Andy" Anderson, VVA-1084

Mini-NASCAR Hood: James Campau, VVA-1084

9 MM S&W Pistol: Bob Orsoni, Knights of Columbus.

Congratulations to the Winners, and Kudos to John McGinty for the initiation and organization of the sales effort, and all the members who sold the tickets. **Thank you all for a job well done!**

HURRICANE HARVEY RELIEF

THE VVA FLORIDA STATE COUNCIL'S CALL FOR DONATIONS

VVA Chapter 1084 has responded with a check for \$250 sent to the Texas State Council at the address listed below, and I have sent out my personal donation as well. If able, please help our Brothers and Sisters devastated by that beast Harvey. JCL

The Message below is from our State Council President, Mike Bousher



“VVA Florida State Council’s EBOD has voted to donate to help our brothers and sisters in Texas. As you know, many parts of Southeastern Texas have suffered significant wind and flood damage. Many residents have lost their homes and businesses. Many are in shelters or have been evacuated. As this is being written, some forecasters are saying things could get even worse due to the heavy rains.

VVA FSC is encouraging Florida Chapters and members to join in helping our brothers and sisters in Texas. They came to the rescue when Florida was hit by Andrew, Francis, Jeanne.

For inquiries contact: Kerwin Stone, Vice President Texas State Council

Home: 409-755-0300

Cell: 409-363-3891

Email: kerwintx@aol.com

For donations: Address check to: VVA Chapter 292

In memo write: Hurricane Harvey aid

Mail to: VVA Chapter 292

P.O. Box 1071

Beaumont, Texas 77704-1071

At this time and until the extent of need is more fully understood, only financial donations are being requested. If you have significant non-financial aid to donate, contact Kerwin Stone.

Your help is appreciated.

Michael J. Bousher, President

COMING DOWN THE PIKE – MAKING A DIFFERENCE DAY 28 OCTOBER 2017

We received this request from VVA Chapter 1084 member, Michael Pullium this past week. I told him we would help however possible – we will soon be discussing and planning for this worthy project. JCL

Make A Difference Day, founded by USA Weekend 25 years ago, is the nation's largest day of volunteering with a simple purpose: helping others! St. Johns Housing Partnership (SJHP) has participated since 1998 by coordinating volunteers to paint, landscape and repair homes for those in need.

On Saturday, October 28th SJHP's goal is to assist as many neighbors in need as possible. Each project costs approximately \$1,000 to complete and any donation, whether it is lumber, nails, paint, cash or time helps reduce costs, opening the possibility to serve additional residents in need. For every homeowner SJHP assists, 10 others remain in need.

Relying on the generosity of funding from individuals, private foundations, corporate donors and the government, SJHP will repair dangerously rotted porches, build wheelchair ramps, paint exteriors of homes, landscape, garden and assist with general home repairs.

Unexpected financial situations or declining health contribute to the inability of the homeowner to manage the ongoing upkeep of their residence. SJHP is known throughout the community as the organization to call for help, but, due to drastic cuts in funding, we are no longer solely able to meet the needs of our community. Our client waiting list continues to grow!

Now, more than ever, SJHP is working with businesses within the community to lend a hand in improving the lives of neighbors less fortunate, not just on one day, but every day! We need your help. Attached are some of the ways your contribution can help improve the living conditions of others. From monetary or material donations to volunteerism, your contributions will assist SJHP in continuing to fulfill its mission on Saturday, October 28, 2017 and beyond.

Please visit our website or contact us directly at (904) 824-0902 to help "Make A Difference". Please respond by Friday, October 13th with your donation, whether it is time, money or materials (see more details on page 10).

VVA CHAPTER 1084 CONTACT INFORMATION

<i>POSITION</i>	<i>NAME</i>	<i>TELEPHONE</i>	<i>E-MAIL</i>
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 Rep	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



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



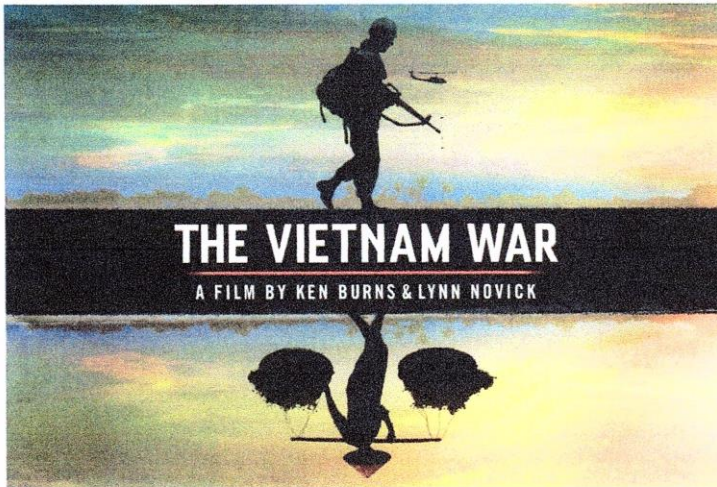
"All gave some, some gave all."

**YOU ARE INVITED TO THE
DEDICATION OF THE
TAPS MONUMENT**
Honoring all Clay County Fallen Warriors.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2017
11 am
915 WALNUT STREET, GREEN COVE SPRINGS

RSVP: Number attending by September 1st.
newmanmaryanne@yahoo.com; 904-269-1857

Reception following ceremony



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-TV
 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**

By invitation only.

Seating is limited

to 90; RSVP to

Mike Rothfeld at

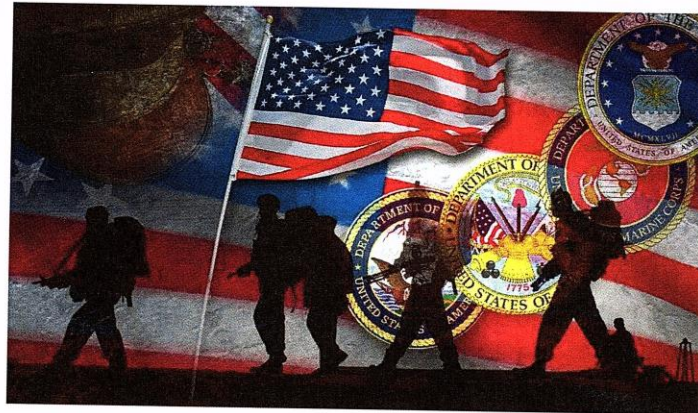
mrothfeld@anyveteran.org

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 Butterfly Fund.

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!*



Saturday, October 28th - 8am to 5pm

Volunteers Needed!

The SJHP MDD Project will enlist more than 150 volunteers who will spread out over the entire county to help paint, clean and repair more than 15 homes for veterans, elderly or disabled families. We invite you to join us in service on Make A Difference Day 2017!

We need 8 to 15 Volunteers per project

Projects could include:

Exterior house painting

Landscape and yard clean up

Build wheel chair ramps



Why is volunteering a good idea?

Change lives, provide hope

Helps out your community

Learn new skills

Meet new people

Teaches you leadership



**If you would like to volunteer register online at
www.sjhp.org or by calling 904-824-0902**

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