



November 2017

Volume 01

Issue Number 06



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

This past month has been a very busy time for our Chapter, and for all Veterans in Northeast Florida. With Halloween now behind us, we have many milestones coming down the pike as we approach Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah, other Holiday celebrations and New Year's Day. Here are a few occasions for us to attend/celebrate from now until New Year's Eve:

- 03 November POW/MIA Memorial Dedication, Cecil Field (see page 5)
- 04 November VETS4VETS, Veterans Memorial Arena, Jacksonville (see page 6).
- 05 November SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK AN HOUR
- 09 November VA Jacksonville Community "Whole Health Summit: Building Healing Communities for Veterans" (see page 7)
- 10 November Marine Corps Birthday (see page 8)
- 11 November Veterans Day Parade (see page 9).
- 16 December "Wreaths Across America" (see page 10)
- 16 December "Toys for Tots." (we need volunteers – see page 11)
- 19 December Chapter 1084 Family Social at Jaybird's Restaurant 2pm to 5pm (see page 11 for more details)

Have you heard the news about online shopping in the Military Exchange system for verified Veterans? Read about it on page 6, verify your eligibility, log on, and shop away!

DO YOU KNOW WHO REPRESENTS YOU IN WASHINGTON, D.C.?

Senator Bill Nelson (D): 202-224-5274 (billnelson.senate.gov)
Senator Marco Rubio (R): 202-224-3041 (rubio.senate.gov)
Rep John Rutherford (R-4th): 202-225-2501 (rutherford.house.gov)
Rep Ron DeSantis (R-6th): 202-225-2706 (desantis.house.gov)

LET YOURSELF AND YOUR INPUTS BE KNOWN!

ST JOHNS COUNTY VETERANS' TREATMENT COURT



Veterans Treatment Supervision was created by the Florida Legislature in 2012 with the creation of Florida Statute 948.08(7)(a), which has been an integral part in the establishment of numerous Veterans Treatment Courts (VTC) throughout Florida.

The VTC is a non-traditional approach to criminal offenders who have served both during peace and wartime. Rather than focusing only on the crimes they commit and the punishments they receive, VTC also attempts to solve some of the participants' underlying health, substance abuse and psychosocial problems. It is a program that structures the treatment of veterans around the authority and personal involvement of a single VTC Judge. Veterans Treatment Court is also dependent upon the creation of a non-adversarial courtroom atmosphere where a single judge, dedicated court staff, the treatment team, and the Mentors work together toward the common goals of breaking the cycle of substance abuse and criminal behavior, and addressing mental and physical health issues. An environment with clear and certain rules is created, and each participant's compliance is within his or her own control.

It has come to light that too many former service members were having a hard time re-entering the civilian population for many reasons. Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Injury, Disability, Substance Abuse, other Mental Health problems, compounded by the lack of jobs, family and housing issues, and other social obstacles have taken their toll on Veterans from many wars and conflicts.

After four years in the making, the St Johns County Veterans Treatment Court was christened on January 2017 in a Ceremonial session where the 7th Judicial Circuit Chief Judge Terence Perkins officially opened the SJC VTC, which will be presided over by Circuit Judge Howard McGillin.

The VTC Team is comprised of the Judge, a VTC Coordinator, a 7th Judicial Circuit Coordinator, an Assistant District Attorney, a Public Defender, and a Veterans Justice Outreach Specialist, plus other local and VA resources and service providers. Veterans entered into the VTC are referred to as "Participants."

There is also a supplementary Mentor Team, composed of volunteer veteran "Mentors." Each Participant in the program is assigned a Mentor, to serve as a friend, a shipmate, a wingman, a battle buddy, to assist that Participant navigate and forge ahead to the finish line. This is one key to the success of the program. The veteran is not alone. His or her Mentor is there for them every step of the

way. A strong bond is forged between the Mentor and the Participant. Working together, nearly all veterans can successfully complete the mandated program, reintegrate with the community, and go back to their normal lives.

Since that January 2017 kickoff, we have now completed eight court sessions, and have grown from four to nineteen veteran Participants. We started with five Mentors and now have six active Mentors with four others in various stages of training and qualification. Vietnam Veterans account for half of our current Mentor corps.

In recognizing that these are the men and women who have placed their lives "in harm's way" to defend the United States of America, we owe them a second chance. Being referred to a Veterans Court, in most cases, will give them that second chance.

If you are interested in becoming a Mentor contact any of the our VVA-1084 volunteer Mentors (John Leslie, Blair Craig, Bob Richmond, or Rich Bastedo). They will get you started on the way!

Remember: Never again will one generation of Veterans abandon another!

CONFIDENTIAL HELP FOR VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

The VA offers a network of support for all our Veterans and their families and friends. Veterans in emotional crisis and their loved ones can call, text, or chat with caring, qualified VA responders who can deal with any immediate crisis. Check out the options presented below:

How Can We Help?

24-Hour Veteran Crisis Hotline	1-800-273-8255 Option 1
Veteran Crisis Chat	VeteransCrisisLine.net
Veteran Crisis Text	838255
24-Hour Homeless Vets Hotline	1-877-424-3838
White House VA Hotline	1-855-948-2311
VA Health Care Info	1-877-222-8387
VA Benefits Info	1-800-827-1000
Veteran (Vet) Center Info	1-877-927-8387
Women Veteran Support	1-855-829-6636
Al-Anon	www.al-anon.org
alateen	www.alateen.org
Alcoholics Anonymous	www.aa.org
Narcotics Anonymous	www.na.org

WHITE HOUSE VA HOTLINE

The VA announced that starting October 15, the **White House VA Hotline—855-948-2311** will be operational 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The pilot phase demonstrated that veterans calling the hotline respond best when their calls are answered by fellow veterans and others with first-hand experience on their issues. As a result, the VA is targeting highly qualified veterans to staff the hotline going forward, instead of contracting the service to a third-party vendor, and has hired additional VA personnel to complete the planned move to a 24-hour operation.

IN MEMORY OF OUR FALLEN VIETNAM VETERANS



This Newsletter was not yet established when we lost two of our brothers. We belatedly honor the memory of John Gilbert Welch and Charles Harry Peterson, both of whom have departed the pattern within the past eighteen months.

***“A nation reveals itself not only by
the men it produces, but also by the men
it honors, the men it remembers.”***

-President John F. Kennedy

John Gilbert Welch passed away on May 21, 2016 at the age of 78 years. He served 20 years in the USAF, retiring as a Senior Master Sergeant (E-8). He leaves behind his wife Janette, son John, daughters Teresa, Cynthia, Deborah, and Linda, and step-sons David and Steven Dick

Charles Harry Peterson, also known as “Skip” or “Skipper,” passed away on January 12, 2017 at the age of 69. Skip served two tours in Vietnam with the USMC, and later in his civilian career he joined the US Navy Reserves and retired as a Chief Petty Officer (E-7). He leaves behind his wife Lorraine, son Eric, and daughters Dawn Marie, Bridget, and Lynn Ann.

On behalf of a grateful nation and of the Vietnam Veterans of America, please accept our condolences for your loss, and appreciation for your loved one's service to this Country.

VVA 1084 OFFICER AND STAFF CONTACT INFO

POSITION	NAME	TELEPHONE	E-MAIL
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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
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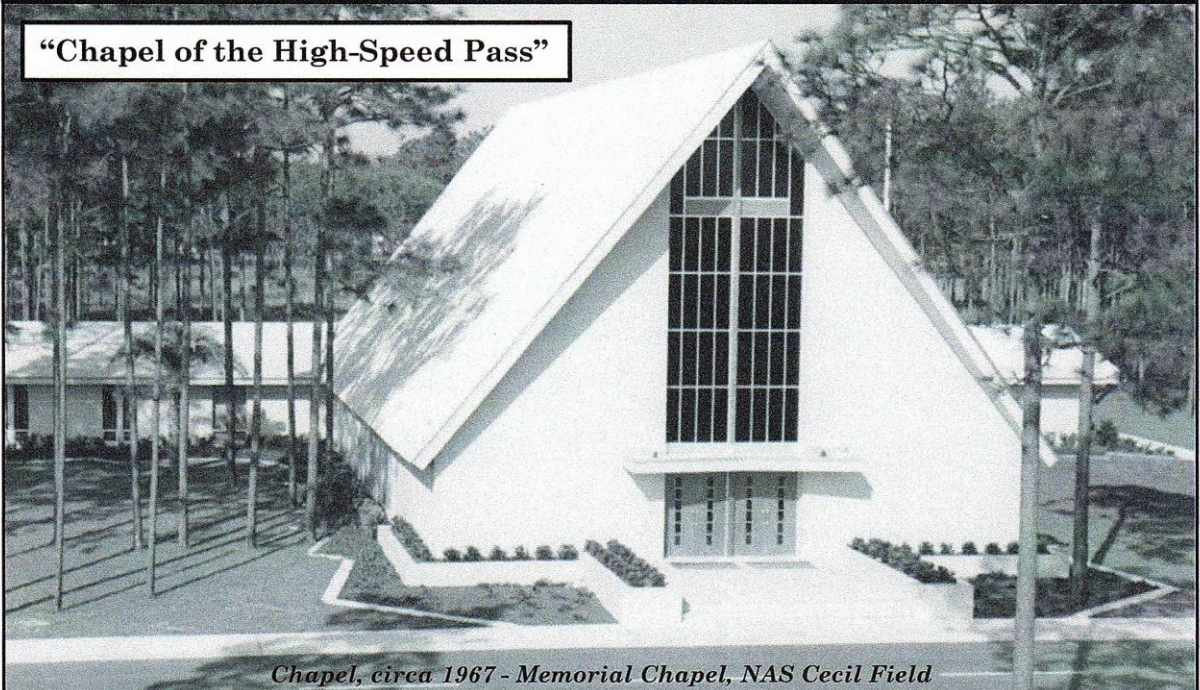
CECIL FIELD POW/MIA MEMORIAL CHAPEL DEDICATION CEREMONY



Cecil Field
POW★MIA
MEMORIAL

CHAPEL DEDICATION CEREMONY
AND OPEN HOUSE

"Chapel of the High-Speed Pass"



Chapel, circa 1967 - Memorial Chapel, NAS Cecil Field

November 3, 2017 at 11:00 am

6112 New World Avenue

Jacksonville, FL 32221

Please RSVP for lunch to Kathy Cayton, kcayton0712@gmail.com by Nov. 1st

With gratitude to Mission BBQ:
"Thank you for Proudly Serving Those Who Serve."



VETS4VETS QUARTERLY GATHERING



V4V
Veterans for Veterans
Quarterly Gathering of Veterans

Nov. 4th, 1100-1300 hrs – Veterans Memorial Arena

VETERANS ONLINE SHOPPING BENEFIT



SAVING FREEDOM
AIR FORCE
NAVY
VIETNAM VET
VIETNAM VET
MARINE CORPS
VETERAN
COMBAT VETERAN
OSNIA
ING FREEDOM

SERVING OUR NATION IS AN
HONOR STITCHED IN TIME

Beginning Veterans Day,
all honorably discharged Veterans
can shop their military exchanges
online for life.

Learn more at
ShopMyExchange.com

X
EXCHANGE

WELCOME HOME VETERANS

The military exchanges have been ramping up their stock and shoring up their websites' capability as they prepare to launch the Veterans Online Shopping Benefit on **November 11**, potentially opening up their online, tax-free stores to millions of new customers.

More than 235,000 veterans had been verified to begin shopping at the online military exchange websites as of Oct. 30, but it's estimated that 18 million new shoppers are eligible for the benefit, which was approved by the Defense Department in January. It's available to all honorably discharged veterans

of U.S. armed forces; veterans should visit www.vetverify.org to verify their eligibility before trying to shop.

It applies only to online exchange shopping, not to shopping in brick-and-mortar stores, and it doesn't extend to veterans' dependents.

The websites are: www.shopmyexchange.com; www.mynavyexchange.com; & www.shopcgx.com. Any eligible shopper can shop at any of the websites. Actual exchange prices aren't visible until you log in as an authorized shopper, and you don't have to add sales tax.

VA JACKSONVILLE WHOLE HEALTH SUMMIT

The goal of this Jacksonville VA Community Whole Health Summit is to engage in active dialogue on how we, as a community, can address the health and wellness needs of Veterans and their families through collaboration between the North Florida / South Georgia Veterans Health System, the Veteran, and their community partners.

Please RSVP to Ellen Ostergren, LCSW at ellen.ortergren@va.gov with your name and contact info if you plan to attend.



Defining
EXCELLENCE
in the 21st Century

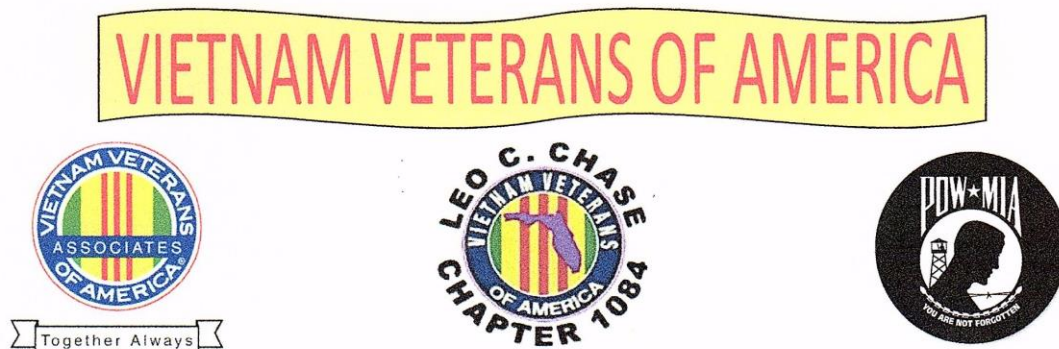
North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System
Jacksonville VA Community Whole Health Summit:
Building Healing Communities for Veterans

November 9, 2017
8:30am -3:30pm
The Legends Center
5054 Soutel Drive
Jacksonville, FL 32208

This is our fifth year for the VA Community Mental Health Summit. This year's summit will embrace Whole Health concepts, reflecting the VA's shift in providing meaningful health and mental health care everywhere. The Summit provides an opportunity to sustain and enhance the positive working relationships and joint vision established during previous Summits in order to better address the health and mental health care needs of Veterans and their families.

8:30am-9:00am CEN	Registration	EDUCATIONAL UNITS
9:00am-9:40am	Parade of Colors National Anthem Welcome to the Summit Summit Overview	Robert E Lee High School ROTC XXXX singer Thomas Wisniewski, FACHE, Director of NF/SG VHS Ebony Benjamin, LCSW, MHICM Coordinator, Jacksonville, NF/SG VHS
9:40am- 10:00am	Whole Health: Integrating Foundational Health and Mental Health Care	Joseph Thornton, MD, Associate Chief of Staff for Mental Health, NF/SG VHS
10:00am- 11:00am	Opioids in JAX community Opioid Use Disorders Clinical Update	Drug Free Duval Michael Sorna, MD, Mental Health Medical Director, Jacksonville, NF/SG VHS
11:00pm-11:30pm	JAX pilot program on Opioid outreach at St Vincents	Dr. Pomm
11:30 - noon	Suicide concerns and Opioid use	Joseph Thornton, MD, Associate Chief of Staff for Mental Health NF/SG VHS Katherine Eicher, LCSW, Lead Suicide Prevention Coordinator NF/SG VHS
12:00pm-1:00pm	Lunch/Networking	
1:00pm-2:00pm	A Whole Health Approach for Pain Management	Stephen Mudra, MD
2:00pm -2:30pm	Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy for Chronic Pain	Robin O'Hearn, PhD. Lead Primary Care Psychologist, Jacksonville, NF/SG
2:30pm -2:45pm	Yoga 4 Change	Kathryn Thomas, Executive Director, Yoga 4 Change
2:45pm-3:00pm	Wrap up Questions Evaluations and Thank You	

THE BIRTH OF THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS



According to tradition, Tun Tavern in Philadelphia, PA was where the United States Marines held their first recruitment drive. On November 10, 1775, the Second Continental Congress commissioned the innkeeper Samuel Nicholas to raise two battalions of Marines in Philadelphia. The tavern's manager, Robert Mullan, was the "chief Marine Recruiter." The first Continental Marine company was composed of one hundred Rhode Islanders commanded by Captain Nicholas.

Each year on November 10, U.S. Marines worldwide toast the memory of this colonial inn as the officially-acknowledged birthplace of their service branch. The earliest Marines were deployed aboard Continental Congress Navy vessels as sharpshooters because they were typically recruited as outstanding marksmen.

Founded in 1775, the United States Marine Corps shares its legacy with that of the United States of America. Inextricably bound, the Marines have fought with courage and valor in every war, every police action, every armed conflict – whatever one might call it - to defend our constitution, protect our people, and to stabilize the world in times of crisis.

To all active duty and former Marines, the Vietnam Veterans of America Leo C. Chase Chapter 1084 extends a hearty Semper Fidelis and HAPPY BIRTHDAY to the UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS!



The Grand Parade

Veterans Day - St. Augustine



"Honoring Service and Sacrifice"



Saturday November 11th -10:45 AM.
Reviewing Stand - Castillo de San Marcos
Castillo Drive/San Marco Ave

Military Officers Association of America- Ancient City Chapter
Veterans Council of St. Johns County



WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA SPONSORSHIP DRIVE

The local Wreaths Across America Sponsorship drive is running below their expectations and requirements for this year's ceremony on **16 December 2017**, and need our assistance in meeting the goals of having a Wreath for every grave marker in the St Augustine National Cemetery. VVA-1084 has already pledged \$150 for this drive, and several members have purchased individual sponsorships as well. Please assist if you can by completing the form below and present it to our very own Judy Davis, or any Officer of VVA-1084.



Wreath Sponsorship Form

*Sponsored wreaths are placed on the grave markers at state, national veterans cemeteries as well as local cemeteries each December. Wreaths may be purchased online at www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org

If you wish to make your sponsorship with a credit card please visit our website for a secure online transaction.

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____

Veterans Council of SIC

P.O. Box 2117

St. Augustine, FL 32085-2117

Checks payable to: Wreaths Across America TM

Sponsorship	Price	Quantity	Total
Individual= 1 Wreath	\$15.00		
Mailed "In Honor" card= If you wish to send a mailed honor card telling someone of your sponsorship-see "In Honor" section below. *Card will not be mailed if the \$2 fee is not included.	\$2.00		
Family= 4 Wreaths	\$60.00		
Small Business= 10 Wreaths	\$150.00		
Corporate= 100 Wreaths	\$1500.00		
Merchandise available on WAA Website			
		Grand Total	

~~SORRY- WE CAN NOT TAKE GRAVE SPECIFIC REQUESTS~~

In Honor of:

Please provide email of "In Honor Of" recipient, or mailing address so a card can be sent notifying them of your sponsorship in their honor. (if you have a specific message please write it on the back of this sheet and we will include it.)

Email: _____

Mailing: _____

In Memory of:

This name will be listed on our online memory wall, please provide name, rank, branch of service and state resided

Branch of Service: _____

Rank: _____

State: _____

Please note that all sponsorships are sent directly to the location and no wreaths are sent to the individuals purchasing sponsorships.

Location ID: FLNSA

Fundraising Group ID: FL0080

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Cash \$: _____

Total\$: _____ Date: _____

Total # Checks: _____

Reconciled: _____

MO \$: _____

GEN: _____

Entered: _____

TOYS FOR TOTS DISTRIBUTION 2017 – CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

VVA Chapter 1084 has partnered with the Oldest City Detachment, Marine Corps League # 383, to assist in the fund raising and to take responsibility for the distribution of toys in Hastings, one of four distribution centers in St Johns County, on **16 December**. The toys will be delivered to the distribution center on 14 December, and room setup will be on 15 December. The actual distribution begins at 9AM on 16 December. **We need volunteers to help set up the room on the 15th for a few hours, and we need volunteers to serve as “escorts” on the 16th.** We expect all the toys to be handed out by Noon, based on previous such events. We are asking for volunteers to assist in this worthy cause; please contact Ken Hahn or John Leslie by email or phone (found on page 4).

VVA LEO C. CHASE CHAPTER 1084 HOLIDAY FAMILY & FRIENDS SOCIAL

THE VVA CHAPTER 1084 MONTHLY MEETING FOR DECEMBER 2017 HAS BEEN CANCELLED; IN ITS PLACE WE ARE PLANNING A MEMBER’S FAMILY AND FRIENDS SOCIAL EVENT.

WHEN: 19 DECEMBER 2017

TIME: 2 PM to 5 PM

WHERE: JAYBIRD’S RESTAURANT @ 2600 N. PONCE DE LEON BLVD, ST AUGUSTINE, FL

MENU: TBD BASED ON RESPONSE (BUFFET OR MENU)

DRESS CODE: CASUAL

WHO: SPOUSES, OTHER FAMILY, GOOD FRIENDS, AND SERVICE DOGS

CONTACT: PLEASE CONTACT **JOHN McGINTY** or **JOHN LESLIE** AT YOUR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE. (Your timely input will help us with the planning, including menu, room location in Jaybird’s, and such).

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