



December 2017

Volume 01

Issue Number 07



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 Thanksgiving now behind us, we have many milestones coming down the pike as we approach 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:

- 30 November Military Recruit Job Fair at EverBank Field from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM (see page 8 for more details).
- 05 December "Farm Share" at Jacksonville Outpatient Clinic from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM (or until the food runs out) (see page 9 for details).
- 16 December "Wreaths Across America" The ceremony begins at 12 Noon at the St Augustine National Cemetery (Note: parking is at a premium – advise early arrival).
- 16 December "Toys for Tots." (we need volunteers – see page 7).

19 December Chapter 1084 Family Holiday Social at Jaybird's Restaurant 11:30 am to 2:30 pm:

- Gather, mingle, visit 11:30 until 12:00
- Business Meeting 12:00 to 12:30 includes comments by our Special Guest Lt Col William Dudley, USAF (Ret).
- Luncheon and Fellowship 12:30 to 2:30
- Order from the Menu

RSVP to john_leslie15@yahoo.com or 904-233-4712 by 10 December 2017.

HAPPY 381ST BIRTHDAY TO THE NATIONAL GUARD



What? 381 years! That's correct, the Army National Guard was born on December 13, 1636, when the Massachusetts Bay Colony organized three militia regiments to defend against the growing threat of the Pequot Indians. Today, the Army National Guard continues its historic mission of providing defense for the nation.

Since 1636, the Guard has been an elite group of warriors who dedicate a portion of their time to serving their nation, and has brought glory and honor upon itself and its soldiers through quiet and selfless service. Each state has its own Guard, as required by the Constitution; in fact, it is the only branch of the military whose existence is required by the Constitution.

The Florida Department of Military Affairs, headquartered at St. Francis Barracks in St. Augustine, FL, is composed of the Florida Army National Guard and Florida Air National Guard. Both branches are administered by the state Adjutant General, an appointee of the Governor of Florida, and fall under the command of the Governor. Guard service members abound in St. Augustine, so if you should encounter any around town, be sure to give them a salute and a Happy Birthday salutation!

VVA 1084 MEMBER RECEIVES DISASTER RELIEF FUNDS



John McGinty, Bob Dinkins, and Bob Place

Robert "Bob" Place and his wife Debbie were recent recipients of \$2000 disaster relief funds from the Florida State Council of the VVA for damage to their Palm Coast home, first from Hurricane Matthew, and then from Hurricane Irma. Chapter 1084 members John McGinty and Bob Dinkins were on hand to present Bob and Debbie with a check for \$1500 and Lowes Gift Cards worth \$500 to enable them to repair roof damage caused by the hurricanes. Thank you to the VVA Florida State Council for approving this request on behalf of the Place family.

A Great Example of "Veterans Helping Veterans!"

VETERANS IN THE CLASSROOM



Pat Favale with Creekside High School Class

Back in August one of our newer members, Patrick Favale, approached our Board of Directors about the possibility of our Chapter integrating our members with the St Johns County school system in some significant and meaningful manner. He, Pat, has been our Classroom Veterans Committee Chairman since then, and has done a magnificent job of making this dream come true.

Another member, Blair Craig, had previous experience with such programs in St Johns County when the Joe Foss Institute was active in this area (the Joe Foss Institute is a nonprofit organization that aims to promote an appreciation among students for the American tradition of liberty, the country's military history,

and patriotic values). Pat and Blair paired up to work with the St Johns County Board of Education and began receiving requests to fulfill certain curriculum requirements.

Our first venture was with Blair Craig and John Leslie spending a day at Sebastian Middle School during "Constitution Week" on 21 September with lessons on the Constitution. Then, on 8 November, Bob Dinkins spent time with 2nd Grade students at the Turning Point Christian Academy, with a very inquisitive audience.

More recently, Pat's efforts resulted in five of our members engaged in four county High Schools on 10 November with lessons on Veterans Day, including its meaning, its differences with Memorial Day and Armed Forces Day, and some suggestions how to recognize Veterans and how to thank a Veteran for his or her service.

In summary, our Veterans in the Classroom for the Veterans Day presentations were Pat Favale (Creekside High School), Blair Craig (Bartram Trail High School), Bob Dinkins (St Augustine High School), and Marshall Persky and Joan Whitfield (Nease High School).

All-in-all, the Veterans in the Classroom team has made presentations at six county schools on three occasions, and have reached nearly 1500 students in so doing. **AWESOME!!!**



Bob Dinkins with 2nd Grade Class at Turning Point Christian Academy



Blair Craig with Bartram Trail High School Class



Bob Dinkins with St Augustine High School Class

VVA 1084 OFFICER AND STAFF CONTACT INFO

POSITION	NAME	TELEPHONE	E-MAIL
President	John Leslie	904-233-4712	john_leslie15@yahoo.com
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VETERANS ONLINE SHOPPING BENEFIT



The military exchanges have ramped up their stock and shoring up their websites' capability as they launched the Veterans Online Shopping Benefit on November 11, opening their online, tax-free stores to millions of new customers. I personally verified the process, and within 10 minutes of verifying my veteran status at www.vetverify.org I was shopping for clothes on the Navy Exchange website (one of several selections) at NAS Jacksonville.

It is 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. This benefit 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.

VVA 1084 ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

I announced at a recent monthly meeting that I was planning to form a committee to begin an Oral History Project for our chapter, and on 21 November we recorded our first such interview in conjunction with the *Community Hospice Veterans Partnership* with me as the subject of the interview. It worked well, but will take some time, at least two weeks or so, to get the interview posted on the Community Hospice Veterans Partnership website (vhpfirstcoast.org), and sent off to the Library of Congress.

My interview was conducted by Donnie Robbins, an employee of the Community Hospice and Palliative Care, here at their St Augustine office on SR-16. Donnie and I met several months back by chance, and then were in the same training class required by Community Hospice to become certified as interviewers for the Veterans History Project. My interview was his, as well as my, first real exposure to this whole process. But now we are ready to work as a team to conduct as many interviews as our time will allow.

The interviews will be video recorded, and normally last around one hour. You will receive a copy of your interview on DVD to share with family and friends. A copy of your interview will also be sent to the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. to be archived there. And, as mentioned above, the interview will be posted to the Community Hospice Veterans Partnership website at vhpfirstcoast.org, which will then be linked to our VVA Chapter 1084 website at vva1084.org.

We want you to share your memories with us! If you wish to be interviewed, or if you are just not sure about it, contact me, John Leslie, at 904-233-4712 or at john_leslie15@yahoo.com and we can get together and discuss the process face-to-face. There is paperwork to submit, which I will provide and assist in its completion. I will also provide you the interviewer's template for questions to be asked – but you can control which questions are out of bounds for whatever reason – no questions asked.

So, if you are interested contact me and I will provide you with the required paperwork and the list of possible questions that could be asked. I wrote down my basic answers in advance to assist me in remembering those details I thought I might need to recall. Then Donnie and I discussed some of those that weren't pertinent to my situation, and that we could pass over if the time was reaching our desired range – we were told that if it was 45 minutes it was too short, and if it exceeded one hour it was probably too long. Mine was 52 minutes duration, but the whole process took approximately four hours due to set up, battery failures, head-breaks, taking photos of memorabilia that I brought with me (part of the deal), and post-interview conversations on our process. Your process should not come close to be that long.

Give it some thought, and give me a call!

John Leslie
(904) 233-4712
john_leslie15@yahoo.com

PTSD, SUBSTANCE ABUSE, AND SUICIDE

The following discussion is lifted from the National VVA PTSD & Substance Abuse Committee Report as included in the November/December 2017 issue of *The VVA Veteran* magazine (Vol.37 No.6) authored by Thomas C Hall, Ph.D., (Chairman):

“In the last year VVA chapters, states and regions have sponsored town halls on suicide prevention across the country. Veterans report too many suicides among our brothers and sisters in arms. Veterans over fifty years of age are especially at risk for suicide.

The PTSD/SA Committee acknowledges the difficulty in discussing suicide. Yet we must have that discussion – just talking with a friend or family member who is considering suicide can help stop that person from taking his or her life. The following action steps, taken from the National Institute of Mental Health website, can disrupt someone’s attempt at suicide.

ASK: “Are you thinking about killing yourself?” It’s not an easy question, but studies show that asking at-risk individuals if they are suicidal does not increase suicides or suicidal thoughts.

Keep Them Safe: Reducing a suicidal person’s access to highly lethal items or places is an important part of suicide prevention. While this is not always easy, asking if the at-risk person has a plan and removing or disabling the lethal means can make a difference.

Be There: Listen carefully and learn what the individual is thinking and feeling. Findings suggest acknowledging and talking about suicide may in fact reduce rather than increase suicidal thoughts.

Help Them Connect: Save the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline’s number in your phone so it’s there when you need it: 800-273-TALK (8255), Veterans, press 1. You can also help make a connection with a trusted individual such as a family member, friend, spiritual advisor, or mental health professional.

Stay Connected: Staying in touch after a crisis or after the at-risk person has been discharged from care can make a difference. Studies have shown that the number of suicide deaths goes down when someone follows up with the at-risk person.

There is much more to talk about suicide prevention. Discuss this at your chapter, state, and regional level. When others realize they are not alone in their experience, the entire community can become healthier and more supportive to veterans and their families.”

Editor’s Note: 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 on the following page.

HOW CAN WE HELP?

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

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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 (show time 10 AM), and we need volunteers to serve as “escorts” on the 16th (show time 8 AM).** We expect all the toys to be handed out before Noon, based on previous such events. We are asking for volunteers to assist in this worthy cause; please contact Ken Hahn email or phone (found on page 4).

DAV RECRUIT MILITARY JACKSONVILLE VETERANS JOB FAIR

RecruitMilitary is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bradley-Morris, Inc. (BMI), the largest military-focused recruiting company in the U.S. Together, BMI and RecruitMilitary offer employers access to more than 1,000,000 military job seekers via services that include contingency recruiting, military job fairs, a job board, employer branding, a military base publication and more. RecruitMilitary's goal is to engage transitioning and civilian-experienced military veteran men and women in the most meaningful way. Some will discover new possibilities in their magazine, others will target jobs through their website, and still others will find success face-to-face with employers at their job fairs. They will be excited to see you next Thursday, November 30, 2017 at the **DAV RecruitMilitary Jacksonville Veterans Job Fair**.

Attend between 11:00 AM — 3:00 PM at the **EverBank Field**.

With a week to go, now's the time to make final preparations.

1. **Research the employers** you'll meet on Thursday.
2. **View the webinar 3 Key Tips to Use Career Fairs to Find Your Next Job**.
3. **Refresh your résumé** and bring copies.
4. **Prepare your 30-second elevator pitch**.

Join us at 10:00 for the seminar “*Ready, Aim, Hired: How to Make Sure Your Civilian Job Search Hits the Target -- Using Technology to Get the Right Job Faster*” presented by MyComputerCareer. This seminar is intended to show job seekers how to work smarter to secure interviews. Learn how to prepare a job search system that will create a list of target employers and how to connect with these employers to secure interviews.

Register separately for the seminar at **rmvets.com/jackson_mcc**.

1000's of veterans have connected with their next career at one of our job fairs.

If you know other veterans that are **underemployed** or **not employed**, spread the word to them and their spouses on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), or [Twitter](#), please share our **[event flyer](#)**.

Most important, don't miss this event!

Chris Newsome | Vice President, Candidate Acquisition
US Army Infantry Veteran (OEF/OIF)
RecruitMilitary LLC | Web: <https://recruitmilitary.com/>

FARM SHARE



Jacksonville VA Outpatient Clinic
Brings you a Free Food Distribution

1536 N Jefferson Street
Jacksonville, FL 32209

December 5, 2017

9:00am - 12:00pm

Or until food is gone

Food is first come, first served.

Please bring bags or containers to help carry multiple bags of food

For questions please contact: 904-475-5882

Farm Share is an equal opportunity provider.

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