



January 2018

Volume 02

Issue Number 01



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

I hope everyone enjoyed the Holiday Season from Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Christmas, or Kwanzaa – whatever your religious or cultural background might be. As for me, I spent a wonderful Christmas week with our son, daughter-in-law and three beautiful and full-of-life granddaughters out in California. But, we are back in battery and looking forward to the year to come, and wishful that it be as good of a year as we just completed. Our 2017 was eventful for many reasons, some of which I will outline below:

- Our VVA membership has climbed from 65 to 80, and we went from zero Associate VVA members up to four. Taking all into consideration, this is just shy of 30% growth!
 - Four of our members were selected as in the initial cadre of Mentors for the St Johns County Veteran Treatment Court that was officially opened one year ago this week. They were, and are still, instrumental in the operation of that very important diversionary court with six VVA members now serving the VTC.
 - We created a "Veterans in the Classroom" program, which has already been greeted by over 1500 students in six county schools.
 - Would you like to volunteer to tell your story to join thousands of others in the Veterans History Project? We now have an established position in that program, in conjunction with Community Hospice, and have had one such "oral history" sent on to the Library of Congress. I volunteered to kick this off, and my story can be heard at this link: <http://www.vhpfirstcoast.org/interviews/148>. If you are interested, please contact me at and I will provide you with the application and get the ball rolling. A word of caution: the tape is 51 minutes long, and at one point in my Navy career I had the nickname "Ether Lips!" Have a cuppa Joe!
- (continued next page)

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT (continued)

- We joined arms with the Marine Corps League #383 to raise money (approximately \$10,000) for the annual Toys for Tots campaign, and fully manned the Hastings Distribution Center, one of four such centers in the county, and provided assistance at the other centers.
- Likewise, we supported the annual Veterans' Homeless Standdown for St Johns County, provided donations and time with the Veterans Day Parade, Wreaths Across America,
- Donated more than \$4000 to various community and veteran entities, including the VTC, St Johns Housing Partnership, Empty Stocking Fund, Toys for Tots, The Kids Safe Zone, The Salvation Army, and the Gerard House. In addition, we negotiated a grant of \$1500 from the VVA Florida State Council to assist a member with hurricane damage repairs
- Hosted and sponsored a Mental Health 1st Aid for Veterans, Active Duty, and Families Seminar, open to the public. This was a well-received event, including participants from three counties, including the Baker County VSO, two Mentors from the Clay County VTC (both VVA Chapter 1059 members), and four of our own members (three of whom are VTC Mentors for St Johns County).
- Hosted and sponsored a Suicide Prevention briefing, open to the public, provided by Katherine Eicher, the Suicide Prevention Coordinator for the NF/SG VHS.

What lies ahead for us in 2018? I see a great opportunity for continuing growth; we have a very active and effective presence in the Veterans community, not only here in St Johns County, but throughout Florida.

- I foresee continued growth, both on the VVA and AVVA fronts. Our membership is effectively engaged, and the result is new members. Keep charging!
- With a full year ahead of us, we should be able to double, at least, our Veterans in the Classroom project. We have visiting elementary, middle, and high school classrooms and will continue and probe the possibility of working with local colleges.
- Our Oral History Project, in collaboration with the Veterans History Project First Coast, an initiative of the Community Hospice Veterans Partnership, will continue to grow. We are just getting started, and to get to this point took ten months of training and coordination to get our first interview, but the table is set for us to make a significant contribution to this vital project. History is best told by those who were there, not by historians at arm's length.
- We will continue our dedicated volunteerism for all issues Veteran, not only in St Johns County, but throughout Florida. We have a reputation among many in St Johns County that VVA-1084 is the go-to unit to solicit help, and when that call comes we will continue to say "What, Where, When? We're on our way!"

I could keep on going, but I'm running on and running out of space. I have had the honor to serve as your President since May 2017, and I could not be prouder of our membership and your performance as dedicated advocates for our Veteran brothers and sisters, regardless of their age, branch of service, peacetime or combat related. Remember "NEVER AGAIN WILL ONE GENERATION OF VETERANS ABANDON ANOTHER." I thank all of you for all that you do.

THIS MONTH IN MILITARY HISTORY

January holds these significant dates in US Military History: Can you remember where you were?

17 January 1991: Operation Desert Storm – Air War begins: U.S. led Coalition launched operation Desert Storm to force Iraq out of Kuwait. I was at Naval Air Station Norfolk, VA that day when the aerial “Shock and Awe” strategy was launched from airfields, aircraft carriers, Tomahawk launch-capable surface ships, and only the CIA knows what else. I was watching TV as the “Shock and Awe” of these aerial attacks was televised. I was duly impressed by the coordination that was required to orchestrate such a series of attacks.

23 January 1973: President Nixon Announces Peace in Vietnam – I remember it well; I flew a strike mission into I Corps and on our return flight to the USS Enterprise we were diverted to a RESCAP for a downed F-4 in the DMZ. The SAR was unsuccessful as the pilot was declared MIA and his radar operator was taken POW. This F-4 was from our carrier, and the pilot was the Executive Officer of VF-142. The radar operator was released by North Vietnam in March 1973, and CDR Harley Hall’s mortal remains were returned to the US in 1993. This aircraft was the last Navy aircraft loss of the war. Two OV-10 FAC aircraft participating in the initial recovery operation were also shot down, most likely making them the last Air Force aircraft shot down in the War. These OV-10 pilots were later found tied to a tree and executed.

30 January 1968: The Viet Cong and NVA launch the Tet Offensive: I was still undergoing flight training in Kingsville, TX and had little knowledge about the real magnitude of this offensive. But, I have learned so much more since then about this ugly phase of a terrible war that has scarred too many of our surviving veterans. Some civilian historians might say “it was a time to be remembered,” but many Veterans might say “it’s a time I can’t forget, no matter how hard I try.”

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST IN THIS ISSUE

1. Do you need, or are you interested in available advice and/or training on issues pertaining to Seniors and to Veterans. Plenty of help is available in Northeast Florida
 - See **page 4** regarding such given at the Jacksonville Out Patient Clinic (JOPC) throughout the rest of this year.
 - See **page 5** regarding similar items of law presented by the St Johns Legal Aid staff. Good stuff by the People’s Law School, right here in St Johns County.
2. See **page 6** for information concerning the The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) *In Memory*. This is a wonderful program that I was unaware of until recently.
3. See **page 7** for information on an upcoming meeting for the Association of the United States Army on Thursday, 15 February 2018 here in St Augustine. The Guest Speaker is the Honorable Judge Howard O. McGillin, the presiding Judge for the St Johns County Veterans Treatment Court. This is a perfect opportunity to learn more about this important court, designed specifically to help our veterans who have run afoul of the law due to physical or mental/emotional issues that are service connected.
4. **Go to this link** for a “Complete Guide for Veteran Seniors” helping you navigate your Veteran Benefit options <http://www.aging.com/complete-guide-for-veteran-seniors/>

VETERANS LEGAL AID

Do you need some legal assistance, or want to take some specific briefings on Topics in the Law? Take a look at the following schedule of such benefit.

Attention Veterans:

Veterans Legal Collaborative (VLC) at JOPC, 2018*

2nd and 4th Fridays, 11:30-1:00, Room 2L103

Unless otherwise posted, the Veterans Legal Collaborative will be held at the
Jacksonville Outpatient Clinic, 1536 N. Jefferson Street, Room 2L103
(the large conference room on second floor) on the below dates.
Services beyond legal consultation are subject to income guidelines.

On the 2nd Friday, 11:30-1:00, the VLC offers :

Brief Counsel & Advice* **(with licensed attorneys)**

Licensed attorneys are available to speak one-to-one with veterans in 20-minute interviews. All veterans are encouraged to bring legal questions in any area of law and to bring any relevant documents pertaining to their matters. Veterans sign up to speak individually with Florida licensed attorneys. Veterans sign up anytime between 11:30 and 1:00 and are encouraged to come early. An income-qualifying veteran may request that his/her legal matter be considered for full legal representation. Information on additional free and low-cost legal services is provided.

(Brief Counsel & Advice will occur on 1/12, 2/9, 3/9, 4/13, 5/11, 6/8, 7/13, 8/10, 9/14, 10/12, 11/9, & 12/14.)

On the 4th Friday, 11:30-1:00, the VLC offers:

Topics in the Law*

A licensed attorney presents information on a specific legal topic in a classroom setting from 11:30-12:15. The attorney will address as many questions as possible from individual veterans from 12:15-1:00.

January 26: Your Legal Rights as a Tenant
February 23: Child Support Modification
March 23: Guardianship & Advance Directives
April 27: Military Discharge Upgrades
May 25: Sealing Criminal Arrest Records
June 22: Your Legal Rights as a Tenant
July 27: Child Support Modification
August 24: Guardianships & Advance Directives
September 28: Military Discharge Upgrades
October 26: Sealing Criminal Arrest Records

***PLEASE NOTE:**

During the holiday seasons in November and December, there will be no "Topics in the Law" sessions.

Florida Coastal School of Law, Inc., Jacksonville Area Legal Aid, Three Rivers Legal Services and the Jacksonville Veterans Legal Collaborative are not an agency, contractor, employee or other entity of the US Department of Veteran Affairs (VA). Furthermore, VA assumes no responsibility for the professional integrity of the organizations whose names appear on this list, and the organizations' presence in the Jacksonville Outpatient Clinic does not constitute an endorsement or recommendation by VA. There may be other legal resources available in your community.

LEGAL AID ST JOHNS COUNTY

You might desire or need legal assistance, but would rather stay in St Johns County instead of heading north to the Jacksonville Outpatient Clinic (JOPC). Take a gander at this!

PEOPLE'S LAW SCHOOL 2018



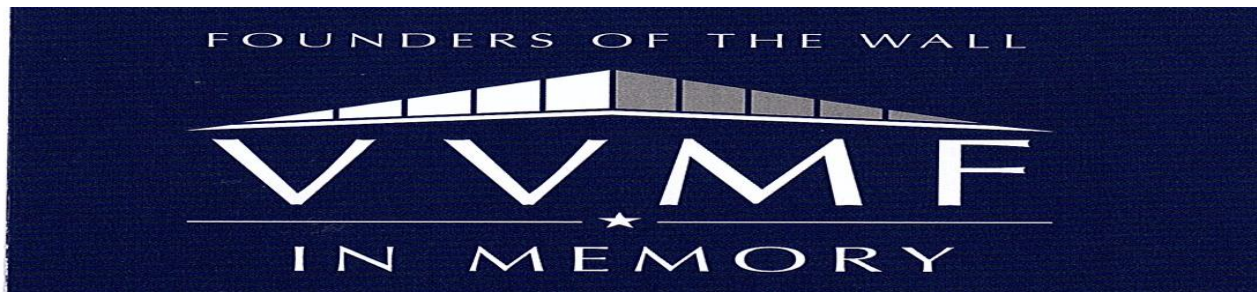
**The St. Johns Legal Aid Staff presents
FREE, 1-hour legal classes at the Southeast Library**

All classes begin at 4pm

- February 5:** Domestic Violence Laws & Resources
- February 12:** Sealing & Expunging Criminal Record
- February 26:** Exploitation of the Elderly & Vulnerable in Florida
- March 5:** Spouse in a Nursing Home - Do You Have to Go Broke?
- March 12:** Foreclosure Defense of Homesteads
- March 19:** How Can You Avoid the Need for Guardianship
- March 26:** Landlord/Tenant Laws
- April 2:** Is Probate a Dirty Word?
- April 9:** Should You Ever Put Someone Else's Name on Your Deed?
- April 16:** Do You Need a Will? What if You Die Without One?
- April 23:** Avoiding Predatory Lending & Other Consumer Scams
- April 30:** Rights of a Debtor

**Southeast Branch Public Library
6670 US 1 South St. Augustine, FL 32086**

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL FUND "IN MEMORY" PROGRAM



The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) is the nonprofit organization that founded the Vietnam Veterans Memorial (The Wall) in Washington, D.C., in 1982. They partner with the National Park Service to maintain and care for The Wall, The Three Servicemen statue, flagpole, and the *In Memory* plaque.

So, what is the *In Memory* program? VVMF's *In Memory* program honors Vietnam veterans whose lives were cut short as a result of their service in Vietnam, but are not eligible for inscription on The Wall under DoD guidelines. *In Memory* is a way that all Vietnam veterans can be honored on the National Mall.

Examples of causes of death that fit the criteria for inclusion in the program include:

- Exposure to Agent Orange
- PTSD/suicide
- Cancer
- Diabetes
- Heart Disease
- Parkinson's Disease

In Memory began in 1999 and has since honored more than 3200 veterans. The *In Memory* Honor Roll has a remembrance page for each veteran and can be seen online at: www.vvmf.org/honor-roll

How to apply to the Program?

The application process is simple. To have a loved one honored in the *In Memory* program, please visit VVMF online at: www.VVMF.org/InMemory_Apply

All you need to do is fill out the simple form, but you will need the following materials:

- Military Records that show proof of service in Vietnam (DD214)
- A copy of the death certificate
- Two clear photographs of the honoree. The VVMF recommends that one photo be from when the honoree was serving in the military and on photo that is more recent.

If you don't have or can't find the required military service records can be obtained from the National Archives Veterans Service Records. Visit www.archives.gov and click on "Veterans' Service Records"

ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

**Association of the United States Army**

VOICE FOR THE ARMY – SUPPORT FOR THE SOLDIER

FIRST MILITIA CHAPTER (FMC), AUSA**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING & DINNER****THURSDAY, 15 February 2018****Social @ 6:00 p.m. followed by Dinner @ 6:30 p.m.****LOCATION: Mark W. Lance Armory
190 San Marco Ave., St. Augustine, Florida****Cost: \$15.00 (At the Door), or \$14.00 in Advance (mail or online)****Dress: Casual****Guest Speaker: Judge Howard O. McGillin, Jr.**

Seventh Judicial Circuit Judge/ Veterans Treatment Court

Program:**Guest Speaker Remarks
Chapter Business Reports
50/50 Drawing****Menu:****BBQ Ribs & Chicken, Green Beans, Roasted Potatoes, Roll, Iced Tea
& Strawberry Shortcake****Caterer: Stalvey's****DUE TO THE MENU****"ADVANCED PAID RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED"**

Please submit your reservations and payment to arrive no later than 13 February 2018 by completing the form below to: First Militia Chapter, AUSA P.O. Box 3883, St. Augustine, FL 32085-3883. (Make checks payable to: First Militia Chapter). You can also pay online (preferred) at <http://mkt.com/first-militia-chapter-ausa>. For additional information, please call (904)823-0389 or email natasha.m.huertas.mil@mail.mil.

Name: _____ Number of Reservations: _____

Guest: _____ Amount of Check: _____

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **20 January**, Saturday 0830 - Wreaths Across America clean up at the St Augustine National Cemetery
- **23 January**, Tuesday 1130 – VVA-1084 Monthly Meeting, Jaybird's Restaurant
- **25 January**, Thursday 1900 – Veterans Council of St Johns County Meeting, Muscovy Room Health and Human Services Building, 200 San Sebastian View, St Augustine
- **01 February**, Thursday 1430 – Veterans Treatment Court, County Courthouse RM 355. All welcome to attend and observe a Veterans helping Veterans program in action
- **09-10 February**, Friday and Saturday all day – VVA and AVVA Florida State Council Meeting, Lake Mary, FL – if you are interested in attending contact John Leslie at john_leslie15@yahoo.com
- **15 February**, Thursday 1430 - Veterans Treatment Court, County Courthouse RM 355
- **22 February**, Thursday 1900 – Veterans Council of St Johns County Meeting, Muscovy Room Health and Human Services Building, 200 San Sebastian View, St Augustine
- **27 February**, Tuesday 1130 – VVA-1084 Monthly Meeting, Jaybird's Restaurant

NOTICE OF VENDOR CHANGE

We no longer procure our VVA-1084 shirts and other logo services from Logomotion. We are now affiliated with the Sports Corner, at 2 Pacific St, St Augustine, FL 32084. It is at the corner of Pacific and San Marco, about two blocks south of SR-16, phone number (904) 824-5818. We are happy to order your shirts or other needs, but if you do it yourself, please use the services of the Sports Corner.

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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VVA 1084 OFFICER AND STAFF CONTACT INFO

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