

Landing Zone X-Ray



February 2018

Volume 02

Issue Number 02



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

The new year is off to a hot start, indeed. John McGinty, Bob Dinkins, and I just returned from the VVA Florida State Council (FSC) meeting this past 9-10 February in Orlando, FL. Lots of good information from the FSC, the 31 Chapters, and numerous committees on what is going on in the state, the various counties, and at the National level. The FSC Board of Directors also presented their annual awards for various categories, and we, Chapter 1084, were the awardees for the Newsletter of the Year! Find photos and items of interest in the following pages.

Important events for February and March are highlighted below:

- **24 February (Saturday)** – Vets4Vets Gathering, 1000-1430, at the Prime Osborne Convention Center. We will have a display and information table. More on page 9.
- **27 February (Tuesday)** – VVA-1084 Monthly Meeting, 1130-1320, Jaybird's Restaurant – Hope to see a big crowd; bring a guest!
- **03 March (Saturday)** – Active Boomers & Seniors Expo, 1000-1430 at the St. Augustine Outlets. We will have a display and information table. More on page 10.
- **11 March (Sunday)** – Daylight Savings Time begins.
- **17 March (Saturday)** – Fund Raiser parking cars at the Ameris Bank (US-1 at the Francis Field events ground) for the annual Lions Seafood Festival. We will need volunteers to help.
- **24 March (Saturday)** – 50-Year Vietnam War Commemoration Pin Ceremony with Congressman John Rutherford at a place still to be selected.
- **27 March (Tuesday)** - VVA-1084 Monthly Meeting, 1130-1320, Jaybird's Restaurant
- **30 March (Friday)** – 2018 Vietnam Memorial Service at the St Augustine National Cemetery, to include a wreath laying ceremony. More details to come later as we work with the Veterans Council of St Johns County and others.

LANDING ZONE X-RAY

We discussed the topic of a name for our Chapter Newsletter at a recent membership meeting, and I asked for suggestions to be emailed in to select a name for same. I received input from three members and after some serious consideration I have selected “**LANDING ZONE X-RAY**” as the title of our Newsletter. What is the significance of this name? We are the Leo C Chase Jr Chapter 1084, named after the first resident of St Johns County to die in Vietnam – he was killed in action at Landing Zone X-Ray on 15 November 1965 during the Battle of Ia Drang Valley.

The Florida State Council (FSC) of the VVA presented its annual awards from 2017 on 10 February 2018 at the FSC meeting at the Orlando Marriott Lake Mary. They selected our Newsletter as its “Newsletter of the Year,” which is a good start for an essentially new venture on our behalf. We can all be proud of this award and I hope to hang it on the lobby wall at Jaybird’s Restaurant where we meet for our Monday breakfast gatherings and our monthly membership meetings. Come on down and check it out!

VVA FLORIDA COUNCIL AWARDS FOR 2017



(left to right) Lew Jones, Tony D'Aleo, Phil Marlett, Bob Adkins, Norm Dubuc, Rod Phillips, VVA FSC President Mike Bousher, John Leslie and Gary Newman (photo courtesy of David Treffinger).

And, the awardees are: **Chapter of the Year** VVA 1041 Martin County, Lew Jones President; **Member of the Year**, co-winners Tony D'Aleo Chapter 1046 Duval County and Gary Newman Chapter 1059 Clay County; **Incarcerated Member of the Year**, Arthur LaValley Chapter 195 Pasco County (Ray Pawlicki accepted); **Secretary of the Year**, Phil Marlett, Chapter 1040 Polk County; **Website of the Year**, Rod Phillips and Bob Adkins, Chapter 1048 Volusia County, **Newsletter of the Year**, John Leslie, Chapter 1084 St Johns County; **Membership Increase (over 100 members)** Chapter 1048 Volusia County, Rod Phillips President; **Membership Increase (under 100 members)** Chapter 1125 Palm Beach (South), Norm Dubuc President; and, **VVA Special Award**: Bob Adkins, Chapter 1048 Volusia County for work with their Chapter Education Committee.

Congratulations to all!

CHAPTER 1084 ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Our annual **Election of Officers** will occur during our 24 April 2018 Membership Meeting. Our Nominating Committee is looking for members in good standing who might be interested in running for any of our Officer positions. The position of 2nd Vice President will be open for sure as John McGinty's involvement with the Florida State Council as an Officer and as Chair for PTSD, Agent Orange, and Disaster Relief Committees are increasing. If you are interested in joining our leadership, contact John Leslie or Bob Dinkins and put your name in the hat.

We will send out our proposed changes to our By-Laws for a second reading by the membership soon and the members present will vote on these changes at our 24 February 2018 Membership Meeting. Two changes have been added since our first reading based on membership input, and these will be highlighted in the email forwarding the By-Laws for your review. One main change to our By-Laws is to change the length of Officer Terms from one year to two years, and to stagger those Terms to prevent the possibility of all officers departing office in the same year.

FLORIDA STATE COUNCIL ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER “E-RECON”

E-Recon, the FSC bi-weekly newsletter, is delivered via email to all subscribers in a format that provides headlines which then allow the subscriber to read those articles of interest to them with no need to scroll through numerous pages to find what may be of interest. If you are not currently subscribed, you can do so by going to yvafsc.org, then select “NEWS” on the header, then select “Subscribe to E-Recon” on the drop-down list and follow the instructions from there. David Treffinger from our Chapter 1059 buddies across the river in Clay County is the E-Recon Editor and doing a bang-up job.

Florida's population of Vietnam Veterans is estimated to be approximately 580,000, but the total number of those Vietnam Veterans in the 30 Chapters of the VVA spread throughout Florida is 4482 members; approximately 0.75% of that large population. Translating those statistics to St Johns County would imply that for every card-carrying VVA 1084 members, there are approximately 105 eligible Veterans having coffee at Starbucks, or shopping in Publix, or in the CBOC waiting room, just waiting to be recruited. Let's go recruit them to join our Chapter! – on page 14 is a VVA Application Form for your use. Print a few copies of it and carry with you or in your vehicle, and when you meet one of these brothers or sisters, present them with this opportunity to join our ranks!

THIS MONTH IN MILITARY HISTORY

February holds these significant dates in U.S. Military History: Can you remember where you were?

1 February 1967 – Operation Prairie II was begun in Quang Tri province by elements of the 3rd Marine Division. During the 46-day search-and-destroy operation which terminated 18 March, 93 Marines and 693 of the enemy were killed.

3 February 1994 – Nearly two decades after the fall of Saigon, U.S. President Bill Clinton announces the lifting of the 19-year-old trade embargo against Vietnam, citing the cooperation of Vietnam's communist government in helping the United States locate the 2,238 Americans still listed as missing in the Vietnam War.

9 February 1968 – USCG vessels helped thwart a Communist attempt to run four trawlers through the Market Time blockade off the coast of South Vietnam. The defeat of this attempted re-supply was hailed as "the most significant naval victory of the Vietnam campaign."

11 February 1973 – First release of American prisoners of war from Vietnam takes place. **[I was embarked in USS Enterprise in the Gulf of Tonkin and was airborne on this date in participating in this beginning of "Operation Homecoming."]**

12 February 1955 – President Eisenhower sends first U.S. "advisors" to South Vietnam to aid the government under Ngo Dinh Diem.

19 February 1945 – the Battle of Iwo Jima begins. **[When this battle was won, the Fleet Admiral had this to say: "The battle of Iwo Island has been won. The United States Marines by their individual and collective courage have conquered a base which is as necessary to us in our continuing forward movement toward final victory as it was vital to the enemy in staving off ultimate defeat." -- Chester W. Nimitz]**

21 February 1974 – A report claimed that the use of defoliants by the U.S. had scarred Vietnam for a century. Defoliation was meant to save lives by denying the enemy cover.

24 February 1991 – Operation Desert Storm ground war begins.

26 February 1973 – The first airborne mine sweep in a live minefield took place in the Haiphong ship channel by helicopters from Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron Twelve on board USS New Orleans. **[This "mine sweep" was clearing mines in the waters approaching Haiphong Harbor that I along with numerous other aircraft from four deployed Aircraft Carriers laid on 30 December 1972.]**

28 February 1962 – The 39th Signal Battalion, a communications unit, is the first unit of U.S. regular ground forces to arrive in Vietnam.

28 February 1991 – Operation Desert Storm ground war ends after 100 hours.

SNIPPETS FROM THE FLORIDA STATE COUNCIL CONFERENCE 9-10 FEBRUARY 2018

1. **RAMP:** On November 2, 2017, the Department of Veterans Affairs rolled out RAMP, the first opportunity for veterans to enter the **new appeals process** outlined in the **Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017**.

The Act will not take full effect until February 2019. But the new program – RAMP, which stands for **Rapid Appeals Modernization Program** – will allow veterans currently appealing their claims to participate in *some, but (importantly) not all* parts of the new appeals system.

This new system is intended to streamline the VA's current appeals process (now referred to by the VA as the "legacy" appeals process), which has received ample criticism for its inefficiency and excessive wait-times. The new process will allow veterans to choose from three different review lanes.

By February 2019, all appeals should be processed under the new system. For now, though, veterans who want to appeal a VA decision can choose to remain in the legacy appeals process or participate in RAMP.

The wording above is from a VA website. The cautions below come from Marc McCabe, VVA Bureau Chief/Regional Director and VVA VSO:

Some facts on **RAMP**,

"... this is the new VA program designed to confuse and deny veterans benefits at the appeal level. 1) The so called "duty to assist" goes away. 2) the timing if you opt in, the VA will not ... look at the appeal until Feb 2019, 3) once you opt in you can't opt out and all appeals are opted in, 4) You cannot submit any New and Material evidence once you opt in, and 5) the complete regulations still haven't been formulated by the VA."

2. **The Genome Program, or, the Million Veteran Program (MVP):** MVP is a national, **voluntary** research program funded entirely by the Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Research & Development. The goal of MVP is to partner with Veterans receiving their care in the VA Healthcare System to study how genes affect health. To do this, MVP will build one of the world's largest medical databases by collecting blood samples and health information from one million Veteran volunteers. Data collected from MVP will be stored in a secure manner and will be coded for researchers so that they cannot directly identify you. Researchers will study diseases like diabetes and cancer, and military-related illnesses, such as post-traumatic stress disorder.

Marc McCabe cautioned that participation in this program could possibly lead to a reduction of benefits and cited one such case (maybe the MVP data is not stored as securely and as coded as they claim).

The items listed above are for informational purposes only and do not constitute a VVA-1084 recommendation, and it is not to be construed as legal advice. Before participating in either program, one should research for themselves and seek information from the VA and/or your local Veteran Service Officers (VSOs).

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST IN THIS ISSUE

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 11** regarding such given at the Jacksonville Out Patient Clinic (JOPC) throughout the rest of this year.
 - See **page 12** 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.
1. See **page 13** for information concerning the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) ***In Memory***. This is a wonderful program, and we can assist any families wishing to apply.
 2. **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/>
 3. Remember that we now have an Oral History Program in concert with the national *Veterans History Project*. We are looking for volunteers to tell their story, on their terms. Contact John Leslie at john_leslie15@yahoo.com. For a sample of how the interview goes, click on this link and listen. **History should be told from our perspective, through our eyes, with our thoughts and experiences.** <http://www.vhpfirstcoast.org/interviews/148>
 4. See **page 14** for a copy of our VVA Application form. Print it if able or pick some up at our next membership meeting and keep them handy.

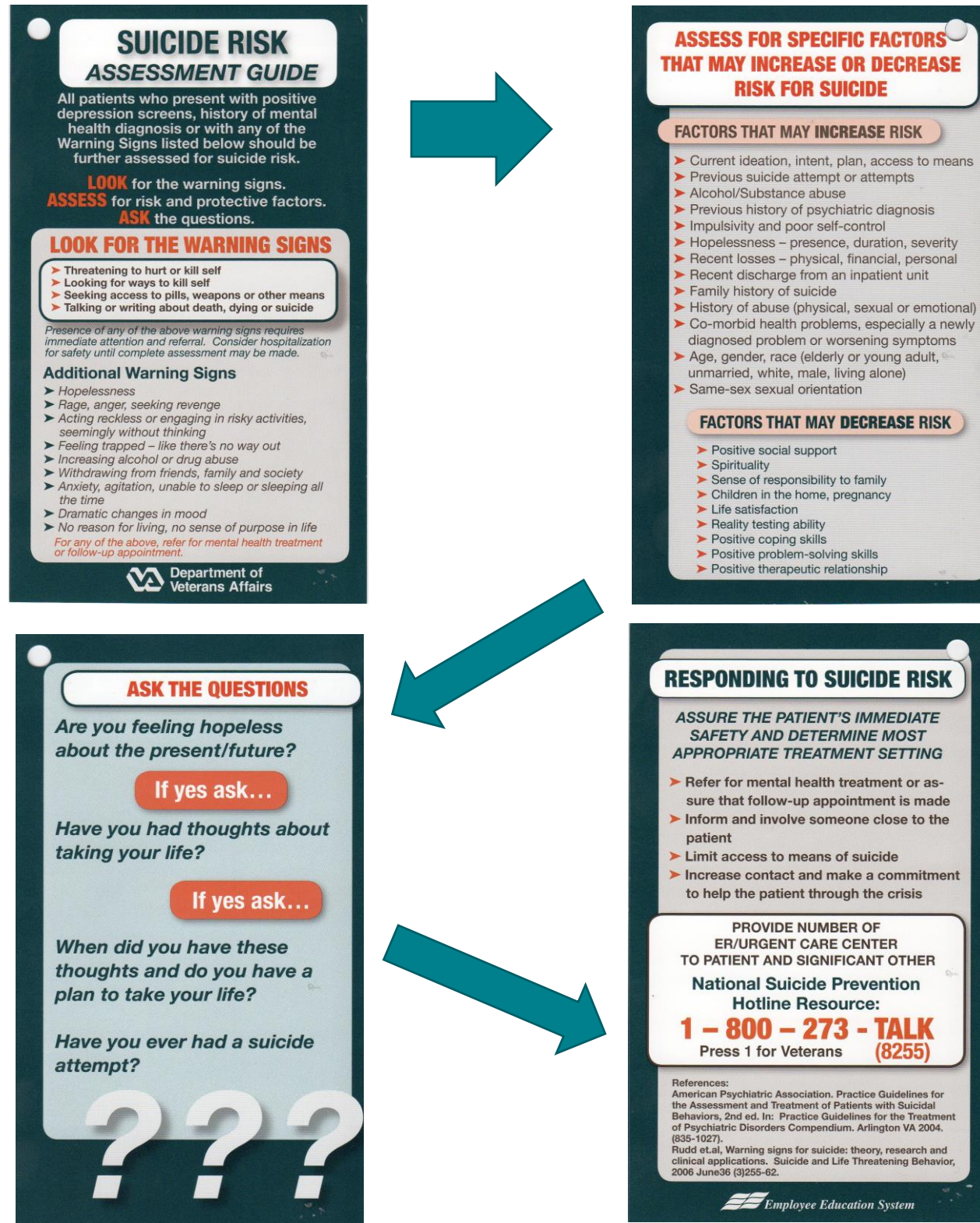
NOTICE OF VENDOR CHANGE

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.

Updated info: The basic cost is \$35 for shirts up to and including XL with Logo on one side and name on the other. 2X and larger shirts are \$37. If you add addition writing under your name, they will most likely charge extra, approximately 30 cents per letter/number. If you pay yourself, you will also be charged Sales Tax. If we buy it for you with our Chapter Debit Card no Sales Tax is included – your choice.

SUICIDE RISK ASSESSMENT GUIDE

This Suicide Risk Assessment Guide is provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs. I got this copy at the St Augustine Community Out Patient Clinic this past week. The small booklet is about 50% larger than printed here – drop by your nearest VA Health Clinic for a copy!



IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION FOR ANYONE WITNESSING OR EXPERIENCING A MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS

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

VVA 1084 OFFICER AND STAFF CONTACT INFO

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
Sergeant-at-Arms	Joe "TyeDye" Tillman	850-559-8011	tillyinthehome@gmail.com
AVVA Rep	Judy Davis	904-814-4284	udc2232@att.net
Newsletter Editor/Publisher	John Leslie	904-233-4712	john_leslie15@yahoo.com
Newsletter Advisor	Michael Rothfeld	904-829-0381	mrothfeld@anyveteran.org

VETS4VETS 1ST QUARTER 2018 GATHERING**2018
1st Quarterly Gathering of Veterans**

Saturday
FEB 24th

1030 to 1100 coffee Social
1100 to 1300 Meeting/Free Lunch
at



Special guests Congressman John Rutherford and State Representative Cord Byrd will be in attendance to address issues they are working on to support Veterans. Don't miss this great opportunity to get informed and connect with fellow Veterans and Organizations.

3rd ANNUAL

Active Boomers & Seniors Expo

Sat., March 3, 2018
10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Presented by
The Sold Sisters
island DOCTORS

ST. AUGUSTINE OUTLETS
500 Outlet Mall Blvd.
St. Augustine, FL 32084



SHOWCASE YOUR BUSINESS

EXHIBITOR & SPONSOR CATEGORIES

- 50+ Employment Services
- Assisted Living Communities
- Automobiles for Boomers
- Fashion & Beauty Salon
- Caregiver Services
- Clubs & Social Groups
- Community Volunteers
- Computers & Technology
- Counseling & Advice
- Daily Living Aids
- Dental Services
- Disability & Accessibility
- Educational Resources
- Elder Law Services
- Financial Services
- Fitness for Healthy Living
- Health Screenings
- Hearing Aid Centers
- Home & Garden
- Home Repairs & Improvements
- Hospice Care
- Humor Therapy
- Independent Living for 50+
- In-Home Care Assistance
- Insurance Services
- Lifelong Learning Programs
- Live Entertainment
- Medical Equipment & Supplies
- Medical Practices
- Medicare/Health Plans
- Memory Care Services
- Nutrition & Diet
- Personal Care Products
- Pet Adoption & Pet Therapy
- Pharmaceuticals
- Real Estate for 50+ Market
- Retirement Services
- Reverse Mortgages
- Safety & Personal Protection
- Seniors Organizations & Services
- Spas & Saunas
- Transportation Services
- Travel, Leisure & Recreation
- Veterans Services

RESERVE YOUR SPACE AT THE AREA'S LARGEST BOOMER & SENIOR EXPO

We will have a table in the Veterans Services area along with several Veteran -related organizations and resources. Come on down and check us out, and benefit from the scores of other tables and displays as represented from the list provided above. There will be a "Silent Auction" in the Veterans Row, and all proceeds go to local Veteran causes.

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 available resources.

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



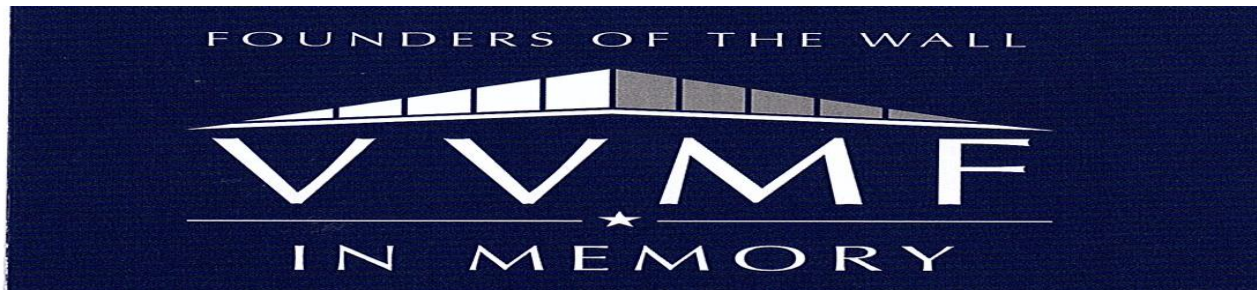
**The St. Johns Legal Aid Staff presents
FREE, 1-hour legal classes at the Southeast Library**

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 do not have or cannot find the required military service records they can be obtained from the National Archives Veterans Service Records. Visit www.archives.gov and click on "Veterans' Service Records"

LANDING ZONE X-RAY

As of 31 December 2017, we were at 80 VVA members, which is up from 65 at mid-year 2017. Growth means more talent, more ideas, more boots on the ground, and a stronger financial base to run our programs and assist those Veterans most in need of help. Print copies of this page, or pick them up at our monthly membership meetings, and keep in your vehicle – Recruit, Recruit, Recruit!

 <p>Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc</p> <p>Application for Membership</p>	<p>Application for Membership</p>
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Welcome to all Veterans who served during the Vietnam Era

Membership is open to U.S. armed forces veterans who served on active duty (for other than training purposes) in the Republic of Vietnam between February 28, 1961, and May 7, 1975, or in **any duty location** between August 5, 1964, and May 7, 1975.

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____ Gender: _____

(OPTIONAL) Chapter Number: _____ Sponsor: _____

☐ I am already a VVA member and want to become a Life Member. My VVA member number is _____

<p>Type of Membership:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Individual Member 1yr: \$20</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Individual Member 3yrs: \$50</p>	<p><u>Life Membership:</u></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$100</p>
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ATTENTION New members and new life members:

You must submit a copy of your DD- 214 form along with this application and dues payment.

Payment Method: ☐ Check ☐ Money Order ☐ Credit Card (Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover)

Credit Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Signature: _____

Return your completed application, payment, and a copy of your DD-214 to:

Vietnam Veterans of America
PO Box 64299 · Baltimore · MD · 21264

Add Local Chapter information here

Revised: Jan 2016