

Landing Zone X-Ray



April 2018

Volume 02

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

April is rapidly coming our way; it and the remainder of March are packed with important events for VVA-1084.

- **27 March (Tuesday)** - VVA-1084 Monthly Meeting, 1130-1330, Jaybird's Restaurant. See **page 4** for info on the Vietnam Tribute Truck, which will be on display for us.
- **29 March (Thursday)** – Veterans Council of St Johns County Meeting, 7:00 PM at Health and Human Services Building 200, San Sebastian View, St Augustine. The guest speaker will be Laura Wynn, Curriculum Specialist for the St. Johns County School system, and she will be speaking on ***"Vietnam Instruction in St. Johns County Schools."*** Many Board of Education members will be attending as well as several Commissioners and other elected officials. This program fits right in with our VVA-1084 "Veterans in the Classroom" program, which has resulted in our participation during 2017 with six different schools, reaching approximately 1540 students.
- **30 March (Friday)** – 2018 Vietnam War Veterans Day commemoration at the St Augustine National Cemetery, 10:00 AM, to include a wreath laying ceremony. See **page 7** for details.
[A similar ceremony will occur at the Jacksonville National Cemetery on 29 March, also at 10:00 AM]
- **11 April (Wednesday)** – Vietnam Program and Panel in conjunction with the Flagler College Students Veterans Club to be held in the Flagler Student Building, 11:00 AM.
- **12 April (Thursday)** – Veterans Treatment Court, 2:30 PM, County Courthouse, Room 355. All welcome to attend to see our diversionary court help our veterans in action.
- **24 April (Tuesday)** – VVA-1084 Annual Meeting, with election of Officers. See **pages 2 and 9** for details.

HAVE YOU EVER BROKEN DOWN ON THE FREEWAY?

You are tracking down I-95, or I-4, and experience a blown tire – what to do? Of course, your first task is to safely maneuver your vehicle out of traffic to a safe spot on the shoulder (relatively speaking – being parked on the shoulder is clear of traffic but is still inherently dangerous). You don't have "Roadside Service" or you have it and they can't respond – what next? Do not hesitate to call 911 to explain your situation and give them some indication of where you are parked (for example "mile marker 126, I-4 West"). They may summon a Trooper to come to your assistance and will hook you up with the "Road Rangers," a free service operated by the Florida Department of Transportation. One may also call *347 and reach the Florida Highway Patrol for direct assistance.

I have had occasion to use this totally free service twice in the past six months, once on I-95 and again on I-4 – Efficient, Courteous, Knowledgeable, and Totally Free!

For more details see page 8.

CHAPTER 1084 ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Our annual **Election of Officers** will occur during our 24 April 2018 Membership Meeting. Our **current slate can be found on page 9**, but we will be accepting letters of intent from members wishing to run for office until the 27 March 2018 Membership Meeting. We will allow nominations from the floor during the 27 March 2018 meeting, but if you intend to do that please notify the person you wish to nominate to ensure they will accept your nomination. There will be no nominations accepted after close of business on 27 March 2018.

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

1. See **page 10** for information concerning the St Johns Housing Partnership, a non-profit community organization committed to safe, decent, and affordable housing
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 the following 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 **pages 11 and 12** for copies of our VVA and AVVA Application forms. Print them if able or pick some up at our next membership meeting and keep them handy. You are hereby deputized as official VVA-1084 and AVVA Recruiters! We started 2018 with 80 members and are now at 84 – let's make it to 100 by year's end!

THIS MONTH IN MILITARY HISTORY

March 29, 1973 - Meeting the deadline set by the Paris Peace Talks, the last of the 2500 American servicemen left Saigon's Ton Son Nhut Air Base for home. Also on this day, Hanoi releases the last 67 of its acknowledged American prisoners of war, bringing the total number released to 591. There are still 1601 unaccounted for American POW/MIA, for whom the search continues.

March 29, 2018 – Vietnam War Veterans Day - A day set aside to show honor and respect to our Vietnam Veterans.

March 31, 1968 - President Lyndon Johnson made a surprise announcement that he would not seek re-election as a result of the Vietnam conflict.

April 04, 1949 – NATO founded

April 06, 1917 – U.S. enters WW-I

April 17, 1961 - The Bay of Pigs invasion began with Brigade 2506, a covert counter-revolutionary force recruited by the CIA attempted but failed in a night amphibious landing to liberate Cuba from Communist control.

April 18, 1942 - the first U.S. raid on Japan occurred. Lt. Col. James "Jimmy" Doolittle led the famous "Doolittle Raid" on Tokyo and the Japanese Islands. Sixteen B-25 Mitchell bombers took off from the carrier Hornet about 800 miles from Japan. Fifteen of the bombers successfully expended their bombs on ten targets on mainland Japan, and one bomber had to jettison his bombs due to fuel shortage. None of the bombers were shot down. Of the 16 planes and 80 airmen who participated in the raid, all either crash-landed, were ditched, or crashed after their crews bailed out, with the single exception of one bomber that landed in Soviet Russia. Of the 80 airmen, three were KIA, eight were taken POW (of whom three were executed, one died in custody, and four were repatriated), and 69 survived to eventually fight again. Doolittle was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions.

April of 1973 - the last Vietnam POW was returned. Army Captain Robert White, held by the Vietcong in the Mekong Delta and not known by U.S. authorities to be alive, was returned.

April 30, 1975 – The fall of Saigon on 30 April 1975 is considered the official end to the Vietnam war.

THE VIETNAM WAR

The Vietnam War was also known as the *Second Indochina War* in some circles. In Vietnam it was known as the *Resistance War Against America* or simply the *American War*. Under any name, it was a conflict that occurred in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia from 1 November 1955 to the fall of Saigon on 30 April 1975. It was the second of the Indochina Wars and was officially fought between North Vietnam and the government of South Vietnam. The North Vietnamese army was supported by the Soviet Union, China and other communist allies and the South Vietnamese army was supported by the United States, South Korea, Australia, Thailand and other anti-communist allies.

KUDOS FOR OUR VOLUNTEER PARKING LOT ATTENDANTS!

On Saturday, 17 March 2018, Chapter 1084 had a cadre of dedicated volunteers staffing the Ameris Bank parking lot adjacent to the Francis Field Events venue helping visitors with their parking needs during the Seafood Festival taking place at the time. These members worked hard, all day long, and brought in **\$2675** in donations in return for their good looks, courtesy, and efficiency in traffic directing. WHAT A GREAT JOB! My heartfelt thanks, pride and respect go out to the following for their significant contribution to our goals (in alphabetical order):

George April, Bob Dinkins (and grandson Landon), Ken Hahn, Mel Haynes, Joe Lennox, John Mountcastle, Shawn Prentiss, Don Schroeder, and Ken Weaver.

PRESS ON!



Bob and Shawn showing our Colors!



Landon filling in for Grandpa Bob!

JAYBIRD'S PARKING LOT ON 27 MARCH – SIGN THE VIETNAM TRIBUTE TRUCK



Vietnam Veteran David Rose, from VVA-1048 in Volusia County, will be bringing his Tribute Truck up for our membership meeting on 27 March. David will tell us a bit about his truck, share lunch with us, and when our business meeting is complete we will all be free to sign his truck and have our pictures taken as a memento of the event.

One can see all the photos and read all about this program on David's website by going to www.tributetruck.org

NEW ITEMS FOR SALE – NOW IN STOCK

We now have the “Never Leave a Veteran Behind” tee-shirts, in the two colors shown, and our VVA-1084 ball caps for sale. These items are for sale by the Chapter and are not directly available from Sports Corner.

The T-Shirts come in Medium, Large, XL, and 2XL. The Medium to XL are \$15, and the 2XL are \$17. The logo is a single-color screen application.

The Chapter Ballcap sells for \$20. There was not enough room on the front side to include our Chapter name and number, but they will be embroidered in a double arc, in yellow, on the back side. These hats will only be sold to members of VVA-1084 and our affiliated AVVA members.

Please make your orders by emailing John Leslie at john_leslie15@yahoo.com or bring cash or check to our next breakfast gatherings (every Monday morning!) or to our next membership meeting.



LANDING ZONE X-RAY

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

<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
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

ST JOHNS COUNTY VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY COMMEMORATION 30 MARCH 2018

The Veterans Council of St Johns County, in partnership with the National Cemetery Administration and the Vietnam Veterans of America Leo C Chase Jr Chapter 1084 present the following program at the National Cemetery St Augustine at 10:00 AM, March 30, 2018:

Introduction of distinguished attendees - Bill Dudley

National Anthem – Amy Thomas

Pledge of Allegiance – Bill Dudley

Invocation – SgtMaj Ray Quinn

Speakers (Introduced by Bill Dudley with speaker bios)

Opening remarks - Alphaeus Richburg, Director, Jacksonville & St Augustine National Cemeteries.

Guest Speaker - Brigadier General Richard Capps, former Assistant Adjutant General of the Florida Army National Guard and a veteran of the Vietnam war.

Reading of Names - John Leslie (Sixteen war-dead from St Johns County)

Placement of Wreath - John Leslie, President, VVA Chapter 1084, escorted by BGen Capps and Congressman Rutherford

VFW Honor Guard team fires three volleys

Taps (Honor Guard Bugler)

Keynote Speaker - Congressman Rutherford

Awarding of 50th Anniversary Commemoration Pins – Congressman Rutherford

Closing Comments - Bill Dudley

FOR “ROAD RANGER” ASSISTANCE CALL *347

The Road Ranger Mission is to provide **free** highway assistance services during incidents to reduce delay and improve safety for the motoring public and responders. Since the program's inception in the year 2000, the Road Rangers have made over 4.3 million service assists with more occurring daily.

The service patrol concept, known today as the **Road Rangers**, is a **free service** of the Florida Department of Transportation and its partners and was initially used for the management of vehicle incidents in construction zones. This program has since expanded to respond to all types of incidents and has become one of the most effective elements of the Department's incident management program. The Road Rangers provide a direct service to motorists by quickly clearing travel lanes of minor incidents and assisting motorists. Services can include: providing a limited amount of fuel, assisting with tire changes and other types of minor emergency repairs. **Road Rangers are typically assigned to work along major interstate corridors and within construction areas on these interstates.**

The Department began funding the statewide service patrol in December 1999. The benefits of the program have been as follows: Reduction of accidents; Reduction of incident duration by assisting the Florida Highway Patrol; Assistance to disabled or stranded motorists; Removal of road debris; Reduction of congestion produced air pollutants; Increased safety at incident scenes.

The **Road Rangers** are roving vehicles that patrol congested areas and high incident locations of the urban freeway and are equipped, at a minimum, with the following equipment to assist as needed:

2-Ton Jacks	5 Gallons of sand	Air Compressor	Auto Fluids
Cell Phones	Fire Extinguishers	First-Aid Kits	Flares
Public Address System	Radiator Water	Reflective Cones	Wood Blocks
Flashing Arrow Board	Basic repair tools	Booster Cables	

Although each contractor has a different make of vehicle, all vehicles are white in color with the **Road Rangers** logo affixed to the rear and sides of the vehicle.

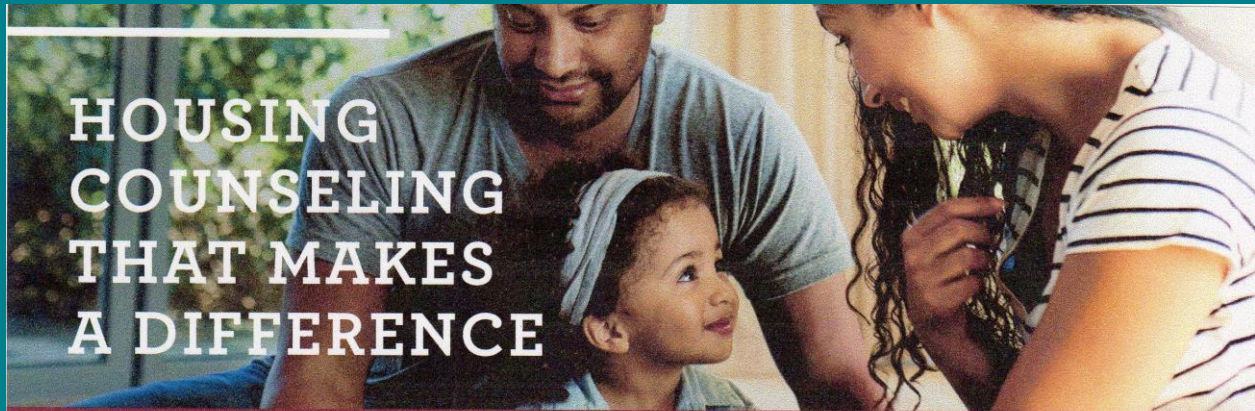
Service patrol drivers are all in uniform, courteous, and most have or are in training for first aid and CPR. Each service patrol driver provides a comment card to every stranded motorist that is assisted, which can be mailed back to the Department.

For more detailed information, select this link: [FDOT Road Rangers](#)

2018 ELECTION SLATE AS OF 22 MARCH 2018

President - Vote for OneJohn Leslie
Write-In☐
☐**1st Vice President - Vote for One**Ken Hahn
Write-In☐
☐**2nd Vice President - Vote for One**Blair Craig
Write-In☐
☐**Secretary - Vote for One**Shawn Prentiss
Write-In☐
☐**Treasurer - Vote for One**George April
Write-In☐
☐**Assistant Treasurer - Vote for One**Joe Lennox
Write-In☐
☐**Nominating Committee Chair - Vote for One**Robert Dinkins
Write-In☐
☐**AVVA Delegate**Judy Davis
Write-In☐
☐

ST JOHNS HOUSING PARTNERSHIP



St. Johns Housing Partnership is a Non-Profit Community Organization and United Way member agency committed to safe, decent, and affordable housing. We work directly with lenders from pre-purchase to loss mitigation.

**Foreclosure Prevention**

Our free foreclosure assistance programs provide a one-on-one counselor to discuss your specific situation and explore all options to address your foreclosure.

**First-Time Home-Buyer Education**

Understanding homeownership, making good credit decisions and preparing for closing are a few of the topics our First-Time Homebuyer program addresses with each family. Become familiar with credit readiness for lenders and what is needed to qualify for down payment assistance programs.

**Financial Literacy & Budgeting Education**

Budgeting, savings and credit can be complex and confusing. Our counselors will assist and advise you as you learn to balance your income with expenses, establish credit, pay down debt and save for your future.

**Credit Counseling**

Is your credit rating keeping you from meeting your financial goals? Our counselors can help you improve your credit score. Once you establish a solid payment history and learn to manage your debt, you will then be able to build good credit and obtain a mortgage with reasonable interest rates.



**St. Johns
HOUSING
PARTNERSHIP**

Serving all of Northeast Florida for more than 20 years!

**REFER YOUR
CLIENTS TODAY!**

"We are truly appreciative of the assistance provided to help us. SJHP did more than we could expect at no cost to us". - Mr. and Mrs. W

CONTACT US

www.sjhp.org | 904-819-1266
93 Orange St, St. Augustine, FL 32084

VVA APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

As of 28 February 2018, we were at 84 VVA Members, which is up from 80 two months ago. 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!

	<h1 style="color: blue;">Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc</h1> <h2 style="color: blue;">Application for Membership</h2>
<p><u>Welcome to all Veterans who served during the Vietnam Era</u></p> <p>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 <u>any duty location</u> between August 5, 1964, and May 7, 1975.</p>	
<p>Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____</p>	
<p>Mailing Address: _____</p>	
<p>City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____</p>	
<p>Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____</p>	
<p>Email Address: _____ Gender: _____</p>	
<p>(OPTIONAL) Chapter Number: <u>VVA-1084</u> Sponsor: _____</p>	
<p><input type="checkbox"/> I am already a VVA member and want to become a Life Member. My VVA member number is _____</p>	
<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>
<p>ATTENTION New members and new life members:</p> <p>You must submit a copy of your DD- 214 form along with this application and dues payment.</p>	
<p>Payment Method: <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Money Order <input type="checkbox"/> Credit Card (Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover)</p>	
<p>Credit Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____</p>	
<p>Signature: _____</p>	
<p>Return your completed application, payment, and a copy of your DD-214 to:</p>	
<p>Vietnam Veterans of America PO Box 64299 · Baltimore · MD · 21264</p>	<p><i>Add Local Chapter information here</i></p>
<p><small>Revised: Jan 2016</small></p>	

AVVA MISSION STATEMENT AND APPLICATION

"To provide support to Veterans and their families through programs, projects, and education to help create a better everyday life for Veterans and their families." As of 31 December 2017, we were at four (4) AVVA members, which is up from one (1) at mid-year 2017. Print copies of this page, and keep in your vehicle –Remember, AVVA members do not have to be Veterans.



Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.



Application for Membership

Mail Applications to: Monument Bank | AVVA Lock Box
8602 Colesville Rd | Silver Spring, MD 20910

State/Chapter: FLORIDA VVA-1084 At-Large? _____

Check here if you are a veteran: ☐ Are you a Vietnam Era Veteran? ☐

New Member: ☐ Renewal: ☐ Membership #, if known: _____

Name: _____ Sex: M ☐ F ☐

Address: _____ Date of Birth: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone (Home): _____ Phone (Cell): _____

Email: (please print clearly) _____

Yearly Membership Dues: (Choose 1 year member or 3 year member)

1 year: \$20.00 ☐

3 Year: \$50.00 (saves \$10) ☐

Life Membership Options: (Check all that apply)

NOTE: Paying less than \$175.00 requires proof of age

Paid in Full ☐

Payment Plan: (requires \$50 down, and \$25 per month until paid in full.)

Life Member Dues Schedule:

Age 59 years and under \$175

Age 60 and above \$100

DO NOT SEND CASH

Payment Method

<input type="checkbox"/> Check	<input type="checkbox"/> Money Order	<input type="checkbox"/> Visa	<input type="checkbox"/> American Express	<input type="checkbox"/> Master Card	<input type="checkbox"/> Discover
Card #: _____			Expiration Date: _____		
Cardholder Signature: _____					

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO AVVA, AND MAIL WITH APPLICATION TO:

Monument Bank, AVVA Lock Box | 8602 Colesville Road | Silver Spring, MD 20910