



July 2017

Volume 01

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

We have a few busy months coming up with several events of note. If you would like to attend any of these local events and don't have transportation, give us a call and we will arrange a ride for you (see page 6 for contact info).

- 15 July Vets4Vets, Veterans Memorial Arena, Jacksonville 10:30am to 2:00pm
- 26 July Mental Health First Aid for Veterans course of instruction, Courtyard Marriott, SR-16, St Augustine 9:00am to 5:00pm (requires registration – see page 7)
- 27 July Chapter 1084 monthly meeting, Jaybird's Restaurant, 11:30am to 2:00pm
- 08-12 August, VVA National Convention, New Orleans
- 22 August Pistol Raffle Drawing and monthly Chapter 1984 meeting, Jaybird's Restaurant, 11:30am to 2:00pm
- 08 September, Toys for Tots Golf Tournament at Cimaronne Golf and Country Club, VVA-1084 in conjunction with Marine Corps League #383 of St. Johns County (see page 8)

VVA CH 1084 RAFFLE EVENT

We are holding a RAFFLE with three prizes to draw your interest. 1st Prize is a S&W 9MM Shield Pistol, 2nd Prize is a NASCAR Mini-Hood, and 3rd Prize is a Shadowbox for a folded flag and military items. The donation is \$5 for one ticket, or 3 tickets for \$10. The drawing will be on August 22, 2017, and the Winners need not be present to win. Contact any officer for tickets.

Disclaimer

The views or opinions expressed within this newsletter are not necessarily the opinions of the publishers, advertisers, members, National or State Council Headquarters.

CLYDE E LASSEN STATE VETERANS NURSING HOME

Eight of our Chapter 1084 members are residents of the Clyde E Lassen State Veterans' Nursing home, one of whom, Joe "TyeDye" Tillman, is the President of their Resident Council. "The Home" is named after Lieutenant Clyde E. Lassen, a Naval Aviator who was presented the Medal of Honor on January 16, 1969. Lieutenant Lassen, a native of Fort Myers, was the first Naval Aviator to be awarded the Medal of Honor for bravery in Vietnam.

The "Clyde Lassen" opened in 2010, and offers 72 private and 48 semiprivate rooms. It is organized around "six houses," each of which accommodates 20 veterans. Each "house" has central dining and recreation areas, which are bordered by resident rooms. A porch and small outdoor fenced patio is also available to the residents for each house. This design encourages socialization in dining and activities for both residents and their loved ones who visit. As residents age in place, there may be a need for rehabilitation, which is carried out in a well-equipped rehabilitation area by their own therapy team.

On my first visit with our members residing there, a few told me that the residents "Walk in, and are rolled out." A bit of dark humor, but it brings to mind the story on how they are "rolled out" these days at the Clyde Lassen.

Many such Homes, especially in the not too distant past, subscribed to the idea that they should sneak deceased residents out the back door while the other residents were not looking. The fear was it would upset them and cause distress. But a VA nursing home in another area treated the deaths of their veterans differently, by making a dignified ceremony of the process. The Activities Director at Clyde Lassen, Leigh Devane, and the Resident Council discussed changing their procedure, which they did with the Resident Council members playing an integral role its implementation.

The new procedure goes like this: Once word of a passing is heard, a flag representing that person's branch of service is placed just outside the door of the Chapel. Inside the Chapel a photograph of the deceased is placed on a table, and if no photo is available, the residents name is placed in a frame and placed on the table. The service branch flag alerts residents, staff, and other family members that someone has passed.

Once the funeral home has arrived and the deceased is ready to exit the building the following announcement is made using the overhead speaker:

"Attention residents, staff and visitors. US Army Veteran John Smith has passed away and is ready to make his final exit from the building. Please join his family and friends in the center circle to pay your last respects."

This announcement alerts everyone in the building to make their way to the center circle. The flag draped resident is pushed on a gurney by a funeral home representative, and is followed by the family and by the usual caregivers as they make their way around the interior center corridor. As the Veteran passes by, many residents struggle to stand, many salute, and others place their hands over their hearts. When the trip around is complete the Veteran is then taken out the front door to the funeral home vehicle. Many families report how very difficult the entire process is, but that they would not have it any other way. It is simply a more respectful way to say their final goodbyes, and it gives much needed closure not only the family, but to the remaining residents and staff as well.

The flag and the name/photo are placed in the Chapel no matter where the Veteran has passed away. This “exit procedure” is not done if the resident passes away in a hospital, or if the funeral home comes in the middle of the night, or if the family declines the procedure, which is a very rare case. Kudos go out to the Clyde Lassen staff and to the Resident Council for providing our deceased comrades the dignity and respect they earned and deserve. MAY THEY ALL REST IN PEACE.

MEET YOUR OFFICERS

JUDY DAVIS, AVVA REPRESENTATIVE



Judy Davis, newest Associate member of Chapter 1084, is an Army brat who was born at Fort Monroe, VA. Judy joined the Florida Army National Guard at 31 and went through basic training at 32. She served a total of 22 years with 17 years on active duty as a recruiter, MEPS guidance counselor, retention NCO and in-service recruiter. Judy is a member VFW Auxiliary 2391 and a member of the Post's Honor Guard, DAV Chapter 6, and various community organizations. Judy's husband, Jim Davis who served in Vietnam and received the Bronze Star, passed away in January 2017.

Judy accepted our request to become our “AVVA Representative,” which means she is an “appointed” non-voting Special Advisor to our Board of Directors, and as such may comment on any topics before the Board. For the

curious among you, the AVVA is described in more detail below.

ASSOCIATES OF VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, INC

The *Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.* (AVVA) is a national nonprofit membership and service organization. Working through the more than 600 local Chapters of Vietnam Veterans of America, and working independently, AVVA supports the needs of all Veterans, their families, and their communities. The AVVA is a unique organization, pulling together Veterans and people who support their issues into one united group. ***"Together Always"*** is the motto of this organization. AVVA is NOT an auxiliary, but a standalone organization. AVVA was born out of people who wanted to support the actions and causes of the Vietnam Veterans of America, whose main motto is: ***"Never again will one generation of Veterans abandon another"***. AVVA is made up of members who are Veterans from all eras, military personnel and their families, families and friends of Vietnam Veterans, and community members who want to help support the needs and issues of all Veterans. In short, AVVA is anyone and everyone who wishes to work towards these goals. For more information on the AVVA, go to www.avva.org

The AVVA has forged a new partnership with the Military and Veteran Caregiver Network (MVCN), which provides many additional peer-support services for caregiving members. If you are a caregiver or if you have gone from being a caregiver to a survivor, you are invited to visit the website and join the AVVA Support Group today.

For more information on the AVVA/MVCN Support Group, go to <https://milvetcaregivernetwork.org/join-a-support-group>

SGT CHRIS NATTO, USMC CEREMONY

VVA Chapter 1084 participated and assisted FREEDOM ALLIANCE, a charitable organization that honors and supports America's military families, in their presentation of an All-Terrain Wheel Chair to SGT Christopher Natto, USMC on the grounds of the Castillo de San Marcos, St. Augustine, FL on 28 June 2017.

SGT Natto was stationed with the 2nd Reconnaissance Battalion at Camp Lejeune, and suffered injuries from a nighttime free-fall parachute accident while in training. His parachute deployed, but he landed in a grove of trees whose branches couldn't bear his weight. When the branches broke, he fell 40 feet, landing in a manner that resulted in a spinal cord injury, paralyzing him from the chest down.



Tom Kilgannon, Sydney, Chris, and Rhett Natto

Chris lives in St. Augustine with his wife, Sydney, and their son Rhett. Chris grew up surfing and spending most of his free time at the beach. This all-terrain wheel chair will allow Chris to be a more active part of family pastimes, including walks in the woods and trail areas where they live, and visits to the beach where young Rhett will soon begin surf lessons.

Mr. Thomas Kilgannon, President of Freedom Alliance, addressed the assembled and then presented the All-Terrain Wheel Chair to Chris, Sydney, and Rhett. Rhett loved it!

Several members of VVA1084 answered the short-notice announcement of this worthy event by assisting in the setup and teardown of the outdoor venue, on a beautiful morning near the seawall bordering the Castillo de San Marcos in St. Augustine. Along with family and friends of the Nattos', many active duty military were in attendance, including local National Guard and USMC Recruiters. It was an impressive and well worth-while event, and we are proud to have attended and to have assisted.



John McGinty, 1st Vice FSC, and John Leslie, President Chapter 1084

For more information on Freedom Alliance, visit www.freedomalliance.org

"NEVER AGAIN Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another"

KIA AND POW/DIC DURING THE WAR OF INDEPENDENCE

I am an avid amateur genealogist, and always search for military experience with my new-found ancestors. The story presented here is about KIA, and POW/DIC during the Battle of Bunker Hill, with two of my ancestors directly involved.

Samuel Bailey, Jr, my Sixth Great Grand Uncle, died on 17 June 1775 at Charlestown, Massachusetts of wounds inflicted that date in the Battle of Bunker Hill. He served in the Revolutionary War as a member of Captain Jacob Tyler's company in Colonel Ebenezer Bridge's Regiment. He was killed in battle, and his name appears upon the tablets erected in 1889 by the city of Boston on the slope of Bunker Hill. He served as a private, Captain Joshua Holt's Company, which marched on the alarm of 19 April 1775, to Cambridge.

LTCOL Moses Parker, my Second Cousin, seven times removed, died on 4 July 1775 as an English Prisoner of War, held in Boston, Massachusetts. He died from wounds incurred on 17 June 1775 during the Battle of Bunker Hill.

Five days following his capture at Bunker Hill, LTCOL Parker wrote the following letter to his wife:

Boston 22d. June 1775

My Dear,

After tendering you my most affectionate regard - I would inform you that in the unhappy Engagement on the 17 instant, I was badly wounded in one of my thighs. The bone of which is broke, but am as well treated as I can desire and attended with great care and tenderness by Doctor Whitworth, as are the rest of the prisoners - must desire you would procure some Linen, Stockings and other clothing, with some money if possible, and direct that they be left for the care of Major Muncrief at the lines on Boston Neck; must entreat you to do it as soon as you can - remain your loving husband Moses Parker.

The faithful wives of these brave and suffering prisoners, in response to these requests walked to Boston, carrying what they could of food and dainties and other things for their comfort, but were denied the privilege of seeing them, and so were obligated to retrace their weary steps with heavy hearts. *"The British authorities took their packages, but heartlessly refused them the privilege of seeing their husbands who were dying in prison for want of the very care which they had pleaded in vain for the privilege to bestow."* (Testimony of a son of Captain Walker to Mrs. E. H. Warren.)

The opinion of Henry Knox, Secretary of War, 1793, to whom was referred the following petition of Sarah Parker, widow of the late Colonel Moses Parker, who was wounded and taken prisoner by the British troops in the action of Bunker Hill, on the 17th of June 1775, and who afterwards died of his wounds in Boston in the month of July following. That she was left with a large family of young children, and must encounter many difficulties in supporting and bringing them up. That she has not received the relief provided by the resolution of Congress for the widows and children of officers who died in the service since the month of August 1775. That she does not apprehend it was the intention of Congress to make any distinction between the widows and children of officers who died in the service, because the time when they died. She therefore prays that the benefit of said resolution of Congress may be extended to her and her children. In part of the opinion of Secretary Knox, *"By rigid principles It may be questioned whether the regiments in action on that day prior to May 15, 1778, were in Continental Service, and therefore, by any rule of Construction, the officer then Killed could be considered "as officers commissioned by Congress" and should it be judged proper to extend the provision to any prior to the said 15th of May, 1778, it would seem incumbent on the character of the Nation to provide for the widows of those gallant men who nobly sacrificed their lives, by which they*

eminently contributed to establish the cause and reputation of their country." (Taken from Pay and Bounty Revolutionary Army", Washington DC, 1838)

LTCOL Parker wrote another letter to his wife on 3 July 1775; this letter was sent to the families of the wounded men held by the British in Boston; it read,

Boston Prison, July 3, 1775

Lieutenant Colonel Parker and Captain Walker acquaint their Friends that they are well and sufficiently supply'd (sic) with all Necessaries but fresh Provision, which they need daily, in their present Condition, and which Major Moncrieff has kindly promised to convey upon Receipt.

Moses Parker

Benjamin Walker

It was written in an excellent hand, but the signatures give evidence of physical weakness caused by suffering. These men were by no means "well". Colonel Parker died the day after the date of the letter, and Captain Walker on August 15, 1775.

Do you have any such stories to share? Regardless of the era or timeframe, if you have a story to share please submit them to me for inclusion in our Chapter Newsletter. Let's make this a Group Effort!

VVA CHAPTER 1084 CONTACT INFORMATION

<i>POSITION</i>	<i>NAME</i>	<i>TELEPHONE</i>	<i>E-MAIL</i>
President	John Leslie	904-233-4712	john_leslie15@yahoo.com
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Secretary	Shawn Prentiss	904-217-4535	bandaidgirl56@gmail.com
Treasurer	George April	904-826-6098	geoapril1@gmail.com
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Newsletter Advisor	Michael Rothfeld	904-829-0381	mrothfeld@anyveteran.org

STARTING POINT

Behavioral Healthcare

Healing Begins Here

**TRAINING PROVIDED BY
STARTING POINT
BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE**

MENTAL HEALTH 1ST AID FOR MILITARY, VETERANS, AND FAMILIES

Starting Point Behavioral Healthcare launched the first Mental Health First Aid program in Nassau County, Florida in 2014. The non-profit behavioral health agency in Yulee has been training local residents to improve mental health literacy by helping them identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illness.

WHAT IS MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID? Mental health first aid is the help given to someone developing a mental health problem or in a mental health crisis. The first aid is given until appropriate professional treatment is received or until the crisis resolves.

WHO CAN ATTEND A MHFA COURSE? Any interested adult can attend. This course is **not** a therapy or support group, rather it is an education course.

WHY MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID? Mental Health First Aid helps people know that mental illnesses are real, common, and treatable and that it's OK to seek help. Research has demonstrated the effectiveness of this program to improve knowledge of mental disorders and substance use, remove fear and misunderstanding, and enable those trained to offer concrete assistance.

When:

26 July 2017

Time: 9AM – 5PM

Where:

**Courtyard
Marriott, 2075 SR-
16, St Augustine,
32084**

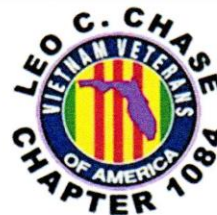
**Made-to-Order Box
Lunch by Marriott
(\$15 donation)**

**To register, call or
email John Leslie**

(904-233-4712)

John_leslie15@yahoo.com

**EVENT hosted by
Vietnam Veterans of
America Chapter 1084,
St. Johns County**





Presents
The First Annual Charity Golf Tournament
At Cimarrone Golf and Country Club

Friday September 8th

Registration Starts At 11:00 AM

Range Opens At 12:00 PM

1:00 PM Shotgun Start

4 Person Scramble, Prizes For 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place Teams!

\$100 per Player, \$400 for a Foursome

Individual/Team Hole Sponsorship \$300

Silver Corporate Sponsor:

\$1500, Includes Foursome,
Hole Sponsorship, and
Recognition on Banners

Gold Corporate Sponsor:

\$2000, Includes Two
Foursomes, Hole Sponsorship,
and Recognition on Banners

Please Make Checks Out To Marine Corp League #383

**Drop off or Mail Payment and Form to: Bill Nantz 2220 County Road 210 W. St
Johns, FL 32259**

Any Questions Comments or Concerns Please Contact

Bill Nantz

Or

Walter Mosher

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