

Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc. Minutes of April 25, 2019

Officers present: Chairman Bill Dudley, Vice Chairman Ray Quinn, Secretary Michael Rothfeld, Treasurer John Mountcastle
Chairman Dudley called the meeting to order at 1904 hours

Chairman Dudley led the Pledge to the Flag

Vice Chairman Ray Quinn gave the Invocation

Minutes were approved as presented

Treasurer's Report was approved as amended

Introduction of Guests: Hellena Pugh, Mike Lee, Travis Neidig, Charlotte Matthews, Ron Delisle, Cynthia Thompson

Minutes accepted as submitted. Treasurer's Report- accepted as amended

Speakers: **Jessica Bradstreet**, VA, Local Recovery Co-ord., helping Veterans improve their own health & well being to their fullest potential. The Council has posted Jessica's extensive list of VA contacts/information on the Council's Facebook page and will be in the June Patriot Reader. Jessica can be reached at: Jessica.Bradstreet@va.gov; (904) 239-8812 for help and information.

Reverend Patrick & Mary Archuleta: *Jesuslovesveterans.com* is a faith based non profit whose Mission is to help homeless and incarcerated veterans after discharge. Rev Pat works with other vet organizations to provide spiritual guidance and prayer.

Chairman Dudley presented a plaque to **VSO Tammy Shirley** thanking her for her years of dedicated service and for organizing the annual Homeless Veterans Stand down.

Committee Reports:

Mac: You must see your VA doctor at least once in a 24 month period or have to start the whole process over when you next visit a doctor. Check to see if VA will pay for a non VA medical service first. Mac handed out a very informative "Fact Sheet" called Veterans Community Care- General Information: VA Mission Act of 2018. We will include it in the next Patriot Reader.

John L: VTC has 2 new participants, now up to 27, 45 in VTC from beginning, 3 drop outs, next Court date is May 9

VVA 1084: Vietnam Veterans have been visiting 5 high schools & Pacetti Middle School; March 30 was the Vietnam 50th Commemoration held at the Corazon Cinema with LTC Barry Bridger, former VN POW was the Keynote. Gold and Blur Star families were recognized & honored.

May 24th is the big annual golf tournament.

Steve S: spoke about the **MIAP** last Call to Honor and the next one scheduled in S FL on May 25.

Bill: new CBOC estimated start of work is summer 2019 and finish 12 months after start. A new procedure in effect, services come to veteran, not other way around.

Nominations taken for naming of new CBOC and results out shortly.

All invited to Memorial Day Ceremony, Monday May 27, 10 am, in the historic St. Augustine National Cemetery.

Jacksonville's Memorial Day Ceremony will be on Saturday, May 25, 10 am in Jacksonville National Cemetery.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm, The next meeting of the Veterans Council will be on **Thursday, May 30, 2019**, 7 pm in the Health & Human Services Building, 200 San Sebastian View.

Future speakers:

May 30 **Dr. Susan Parker, Historian, Military Families of Colonial St. Augustine**

June 27 **Bruce Thompson, Vets4Vets Jax**

Zahara Veterans Network

July 25 **Chris Young, Special Forces Association, NE FL Chapter 88**

Bob Alvarez, Historical Military Reenactor

August 29 **Gerald Timoney, Military Museum of N. FL**

Crystal Timmons, Veterans Garden Project

Sept. 26 **Bob Buehn, Capt. USN, (Ret), former Commanding Officer, Guantanamo Bay**

Char Miller, Community Hospice, Veterans Programs

Oct. 24 **Chris Vedrick, Commander Dept of FL Military Order of the Purple Heart**

Nov. 21 **Emily Jane Murray, Public Archeology Coord, Flagler College, The Seminole Wars and How it Changed All of Us**

