

Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc. Minutes of December 20, 2018

Officers present: Chairman Bill Dudley, Vice Chairman Ray Quinn, Secretary Michael Rothfeld, Treasurer John Mountcastle
Chairman Dudley called the meeting to order at 1900 hours

Chairman Dudley led the Pledge to the Flag
Minutes were approved as presented

Vice Chairman Ray Quinn gave the Invocation
The **Treasurer's Report** was approved as presented

Introduction of Guests: none

The annual **COL Ed Taylor Award** was made to Council Secretary Michael Rothfeld.

Speakers: Margaret Kaplan, Administrator, Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home. The Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home is a 120 bed facility broken down into 6 houses that surround an inner court yard with private and semi private rooms. There are currently 10 women in residence. There is a separate memory care unit.

Basic admission requirements for all state veterans' homes include an honorable discharge, state residency prior to admission, and certification of need of assisted living or skilled nursing care as determined by a VA physician. A resident application package for each facility is available to view online. New state nursing homes will be opening in Orlando & Port St Lucie.

Jill M. Lancaster, 2nd VP, Women's Army Corps Veterans Association, Chapter # 56, Jacksonville FL. The Women's Army Corps was founded during World War II by some of the mothers of women in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) which later became the Women's Army Corps. The WAC Mothers' purpose was to help both men and women by serving in hospitals and USO's. They are a non-profit, non-partisan organization. At present they have approximately 3,500 active members, but they represent thousands of women who loyally served their country in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Grenada, Panama, Persian Gulf Bosnia and in Iraq and Afghanistan. Each chapter helps by doing volunteer work in VA Hospitals and Community Service in the local and national community.

Committee Reports:

Mac: Number of new veterans seen monthly by Mac's office has held steady at around 50.

Kathy: Feb. 2 will be the next Call to Honor in Cape Canaveral. MIAP will be starting at local Craig's Funeral Home in Feb. Volunteers are needed to call Funeral Homes and Medical Examiners offices. Over 3000 veterans have been interred to date. **The MIAP motto is: Locate, Identify and Inter.**

Ray: WAA at St Augustine National Cemetery was a huge success and Ray thanked Judy Davis, George Linardos and Chairman Dudley as well as the volunteers who helped with the unloading.

Chairman Dudley: The Annual Military Ball will be held on Jan. 19, please make sure to let every one know. The guest speaker will be USMC LT GEN (ret) Ronald Bailey, who was born in St. Augustine.

The Record featured the story of local veteran, retired USMC Herb Volk who received a free roof from local roofer Matt Reiter.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

The next meeting of the Veterans Council will be on **Thursday, January 31, 2019**, 7 pm in the Health & Human Services Building, 200 San Sebastian View.

Future speakers:

January 31, Tom Waskovich, Green Beret, Vietnam Veteran, MACVSOG

Veronica Nieves, Red Cross, Team RWB, American Red Cross- Service to the Armed Forces

February 28, Jud Damon, Athletic Director, Flagler College, B2B, Battlefields to Ballfields

March 28, Michele Luthin, Memorial Park Assoc., (100 year old time capsule)

Trish Doran, Wekiva Springs Center, Military Liaison

April 25, Chaplain Pat Archuleta, Jesus Loves Veterans Ministries

Jessica Bradstreet, Dept. of VA, Local Recovery Coordinator

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