

## Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc. Minutes of February 28, 2019

**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:** Selena Hernandez-Haines, Chris Young  
**Minutes and Treasurer's Report- approved as presented**

**Plaque Presentation:** Chairman Dudley presented a plaque and thanked Peter & Brenda Ruffing of "Two Men & A Truck" for their help and support loading, unloading & storing wreaths for "Wreaths Across America".  
Nancy Birchall & Dan Sullivan presented VSO Joe McDermott with a plaque and painting of the Flag Raising at Iwo Jima to be hung in Mac's office.

**Speakers: Jud Damon**, Athletic Director Flagler College & Peach Bowl **Commissioner Dave Brunk:** spoke about their new program, "Battlefields to Ballfields" and how veterans can enroll. B2B provides veterans an opportunity to integrate back into their communities through sports officiating. A B2B scholarship includes all equipment, uniforms, & training materials. An application is available online at: [battlefield2ballfields.org](http://battlefield2ballfields.org)

**Tom Richardson:** Assistant State Director, Veterans Employment & Training Service: "VETS" prepares veterans and spouses for meaningful careers. "VETS" helps disabled, homeless low income, victims of domestic violence, Vietnam and incarcerated veterans find meaningful employment. Grants are available at: [hirevets.org](http://hirevets.org)

### Committee Reports:

**Mac:** spoke about the new veteran's appeal process, claim denials & criteria changes to the Veterans Review Board.

**John L.:** A Ceremony will be held on **Vietnam Veterans Day** on March 30 at the Corazon Cinema. Keynote speaker, LTC Barry Bridger, Vietnam Veteran & former POW. VVA 1084 continues its classroom visits. They have spoken to over 1450 students.

**Dave Treffinger:** Clay County & VVA 1059 will also host a Vietnam Veterans Day Celebration on Saturday March 30, 10:30am at the TAPS Monument, 915 Walnut St, Green Cove Springs, ALL are invited.

**Chairman Dudley:** Sen. Rubio visited and Bill briefed him on the new CBOC. A meeting was also held with Congressman Mike Waltz and he was briefed on the new CBOC also.

Saturday March 2, the Veterans Council will have a table at the SR 16 Outlet Mall along with the Sea Cadets, Navy League of St. Augustine/Palm Coast Council, SJC VSO and Ann Johnson.

Meeting adjourned at 8:41 pm, The next meeting of the Veterans Council will be on **Thursday, March 28, 2019**, 7 pm in the Health & Human Services Building, 200 San Sebastian View.

### Future speakers:

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

**Trish Doran, Wekiva Springs Center, Military Liaison**

**Lt Col Barry Bridger, USAF, ret**

**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**

**June 27 Bruce Thompson, Vets4Vets Jax**

**Zahara Veterans Network**

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

**Historical Military Reenactor**

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

**Crystal Timmons, Veterans Garden Project**

**Sept. 26 Char Miller, Community Hospice, Veterans Programs**

