

Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc. Minutes of January 31, 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: Karen Fernandez, Terry Allan, WR Dallarosa, Bill Barkley, Chuck Willoughby

Speakers: Tom Waskovich, Green Beret, MACVSOG: was a TOP Secret organization that had missions behind enemy lines in Laos, Cambodia and NVN. They did not wear US uniforms and did not use American weapons. Their missions were on the Ho Chi Minh Trail and buried mines, snatched prisoners, block the Trail and looked for POWs to rescue. They called in helicopter air targets.

Veronica Nieves: volunteers at the Red Cross, Mission Continues & RWB Veterans Programs. The free programs help veterans, their spouses and children with licensed health care providers. They are looking to expand into St. Augustine. If additional information is needed about any of these programs, contact Veronica Nieves: veronica.z.nieves@gmail.com

Committee Reports:

Mac: spoke about the new veteran's appeal process, the new Blue Water Navy Bill, the new DAV van and the continued need to raise money for the next DAV van.

Ray: Thanked ALL for the successful WAA clean up and especially George Linardos & Judy Davis.

John L.: VTC 11 veterans have graduated in 2 years. Now have 26 mentors.

A Ceremony will be held on **Vietnam Veterans Day** on March 30 at the Corazon Cinema, more info to follow.

Veterans in the Classroom continues for VVA 1084. They have spoken to over 1450 students and will be doing a program at Flagler College with Vietnam Historian Dr. Michael Butler & Flagler College students.

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.

Crystal Timmons, Veterans Garden Project: have been bringing garden supplies into veterans homes and will be updating the Council at our August meeting.

Chairman Dudley: The new CBOC ground breaking will be delayed 90 to 120 days, we will update all when more information becomes available.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm

The next meeting of the Veterans Council will be on **Thursday, February 28, 2019, 7 pm** in the Health & Human Services Building, 200 San Sebastian View.

Future speakers:

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

Tom Richardson, Asst State Director, Veterans Employment & Training Service

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

July 25, Tom Richardson, Asst State Director, Veterans Employment & Training Service

August 29 Crystal Timmons, Veterans Garden Project