

Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc. Minutes of June 27, 2019

Officers present: Chairman Bill Dudley, , Secretary Michael Rothfeld

Officers Not Present: Vice Chairman Ray Quinn, Treasurer John Mountcastle

Chairman Dudley called the meeting to order at 1900 hours

Chairman Dudley led the Pledge to the Flag and gave the Invocation

Minutes were approved as presented

Treasurer's Report was approved as presented

Introduction of Guests:

Speaker: Kevin Crowell, St Augustine resident, Sgt US Army 82nd Airborne Paratrooper spoke about his taking part in the 75th Anniversary of D Day & his parachute recreation jump. He said all the residents and visitors were extremely friendly and thanked all Americans for their saving France from the Nazis. Mike Carroll, also from the 82nd was in full WW II parachute gear and explained what everything was that he was wearing.

Hellena Pugh, USMC veteran and Executive Director of the Zahara Veterans Network. Their Mission is to help "Raise the Voice" of the 140.000 Women Veterans living in the State of Florida. Zahara Veterans Village will change the landscape of veterans bt giving them a stable location to regroup, recharge and resupply. This village will be for men and women veterans and be a temporary stopover on their road to re-entering society. In addition to small houses, there will be a community and business center. 2.5 million dollars is needed for this project and money is currently being raised.

Committee Reports:

Mac: Mac spoke about the new Blue Water Bill and will talk more about it as info becomes available

.John L: Veterans treatment Court update- 17 have graduated to date, 28 are active, there are 3 female mentors

VVA 1084 will be partnering with Home Again St Augustine in an upcoming Fund Raiser

Bill: new **CBOC** sign is now up on SR 207 where building will start. The Bill to approve the VBOC naming in honor of Leo C Chase has been approved by committees and will soon be passed into law.

Meeting adjourned at 8:46 pm, The next meeting of the Veterans Council will be on **Thursday, July 25, 2019**, 7 pm in the Health & Human Services Building, 200 San Sebastian View.

Future speakers:

July 25 **Bruce Thompson, Vets4 Vets NE FL**

Michael Ricketts, Special Forces Association, NE FL Chapter 88

Aug. 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**

John Powell, Historic Firearms

Dec. 19

