

Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc. Minutes of March 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 1905 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 presented

Introduction of Guests: Geanelly Reveron, Mark Oakley, John Roberts, Mark Hensley

Minutes and Treasurer's Report- approved as presented

Chairman Dudley spoke about Council member Fred Dupont and dedicated the meeting to the memory of Fred, his many contributions to the veterans' community and Vice Chairman Ray Quinn eulogized Fred and asked us all to remember Fred in our prayers.

Speakers: Michele Luthin, Jax Memorial Park. A Time Capsule was uncovered in Jax Memorial Park that contained the names of 1200 WW I military from FL who were killed in WW I. Michele showed a video and spoke about the work to save the water damaged lists. Work is under way to further preserve and contact the families of the deceased to tell their stories to future generations.

Trish Doran, Wekiva Springs Center Jax. The hospital treats all addictions as well as bipolar, depression and anxiety. Veterans needing help should contact 904-296-3533 24/7 for inpatient & outpatient services. Wekiva is a VA Provider.

Geanelly Reveron, JTA Transportation Planner. TransPortal provides a single point of access to plan & book NE FL and local multi-modal travel. TransPortal will offer immediate access to diverse transportation options. For more info: www.TransPortal.net or info@TransPortal.net Plan a trip by contacting TransPortal.net and sign up and check off veteran for savings..

Committee Reports:

Mac: spoke about the VA studying adding 3 diseases to Agent Orange presumptives. The VA will not try to stop Blue Water Navy presumptives. Brown Water Navy still in doubt. Tammy will be leaving and missed as Travis Neidig will take her place.

John L: VTC had a female graduate the program. VTC had 43 participants in 25 months, with 17 mentors.

VVA 1084 will be holding its Vietnam Day Ceremony at the Corazon Theater in St Aug.

Clay County Ceremony March 30, 10:30 am in TAPS Park.

Kathy-MIAP. April 6th will be the next Call to Honor. Total interred in FL to date is 265 veterans. Planning now for June in South FL. MIAP is in need of volunteers, if interested contact Kathy at: miapjax@yahoo.com

Ray: attended the 100th birthday of a WW II veteran at the SA CBOC

Bill and Ray placed a wreath in SA National for cancelled Vietnam Veterans ceremony.

Bill: New CBOC slowly progressing, HUD permits filed with county, expect to turn dirt 90 days from April

LTC Barry Bridger, USAF ret. Col Bridger was shot down in Vietnam and held prisoner for over 6 years. He spoke at length about his ordeal and his spirit and attitude amazed us all. He will keynote the VN Corazon Commemoration.

Meeting adjourned at 9:07 pm, The next meeting of the Veterans Council will be on **Thursday, April 25, 2019, 7 pm** in the Health & Human Services Building, 200 San Sebastian View.

Future speakers:

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**

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**

