

Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc. Minutes of May 30, 2019

Officers present: Chairman Bill Dudley, Vice Chairman Ray Quinn, Secretary Michael Rothfeld
Treasurer John Mountcastle was not present

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
Treasurer's Report was approved as amended

Introduction of Guests: Mike Lee, Oliver Brown, Christine Short

Speaker: Dr. Susan Parker, Historian spoke about military families in Spanish St. Augustine from both the 1st and 2nd Spanish periods. Soldiers were usually deployed out of town and it was the wife's and children that were in St Augustine. Royal Spain needed St Augustine because of favorable trade, and to deny the town to the English. Many complained of starvation, but that was not the case. Sometimes there were food shortages, but no one starved. In the beginning, there were no schools, but soon schools for boys followed. Girls were not allowed in school. In 1763 all were ordered to leave as England took over.

Committee Reports:

Mac: Mac briefed the Council on the VA van, new Agent Orange presumptives and progress of Blue Water legislation.

John L: VVA 1084 Golf Tournament was successful and will be repeated again next year.

Vets in the Classroom finished a successful campaign, speaking to over 2580 students in all county high schools.

VTC: 3 veterans graduated with 26 participants, 17 mentors and 3 candidates.

Kathy, MIAP: she is planning on working with the Craig Funeral Home in St Augustine and then do a service at Jax National.

Bill: new **CBOC** estimated start of work is summer 2019 and finish 12 months after start. The new CBOC will be named after Leo C Chase and was supported by congressman Rutherford, & Waltz and Sen. Rubio.

Memorial Day programs very successful in St Augustine & Jacksonville, may use JROTC, Sea cadets, etc. for Massing of Colors.

Plans underway to allow veterans to use hospital at underutilized NAS Jax.

For Good of Order: Tony D'Aleo asked for support for a braille plaque for blind veterans to be hung at the Jax National Cemetery. Local veterans groups stepped up and the money was donated.

David Treffinger, Clay County VVA 1059, the new Middleburg VA clinic will be named after Andrew K Baker who lived in Middleburg. Expected to open in the spring of 2020.

Bob Adkins: VVA 1048 Volusia County: will be hosting "Pipes, Drums & Patriots" on Aug. 3 in the Peabody Auditorium.

Meeting adjourned at 8:36 pm, The next meeting of the Veterans Council will be on **Thursday, June 27, 2019, 7 pm** in the Health & Human Services Building, 200 San Sebastian View.

Future speakers:

June 27 Kevin Crowell, Sgt US Army Paratrooper, ret. D Day + 75 years paratrooper
Zahara Veterans Network

July 25 Bruce Thompson, Vets4 Vets NE FL
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

