

Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc. Minutes of September 29, 2016

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
Vice Chairman Quinn gave the Invocation

Last month's Minutes were approved as presented at the meeting.
The Treasurer's Report was approved as presented at the meeting.

Visitors:
Adele Griffin from Senator Rubio's office. Presented Ray & Addrenne Quinn a certificate of congratulations for 50 years of marriage.
Sarah Turlington and Amy Horn and their families

Special recognition by Chairman Bill Dudley: Sarah and Amy, both Middle School students raised \$ 120. for needy Veterans by selling donuts during their free time. Chairman Dudley "these young girls are great young Americans who gave up their spare time to help veterans".

Speakers:
Frank Bailey, Veterans Treatment Court, a new one year program to start soon to help local veterans. Frank showed a Youtube and CBS 60 Minutes video explaining what and how VTC works. Frank is looking for 10 mentors to volunteer to assist the veterans. If veterans successfully complete the program there will be no record of their incarceration. This program has a 98% success rate, it saves the veterans, their families and their futures.

Committee Reports:
Joe McDermott, SJC VSO: Mac spoke about the new VA Health Care program for first time users who can now enroll via phone-1-877-222-8387. Mac expects VA St Johns County claims to reach between 6 and 7 million dollars.
Ray Quinn: Chairman Dudley presented the SGM with donations received, more money is urgently needed to place wreaths on every tombstone. Please ask your organizations to donate to this very worthy cause.
George Linardos: George Linardos: George distributed Veterans Day Weekend posters, flyers and programs to all veterans groups. 2000 American flags were ordered for youngsters watching the parade. Over 1000 are expected to be marching. Ft. Stewart is sending 3 units. 8 JROTC High School units will be marching. Also 4 Stearman vintage planes as well as a fly over by 2 F15s (tentative) At 11am ,cannon firing and several local Churches will ring their bells to honor local veterans.
MOAA President, George Linardos presented Ray Quinn with a check for \$ 500 for Wreaths Across America.
Michael Rothfeld: Michael spoke about the dates, times, location of the Military Film Festival as well as who the speakers for each documentary would be. The VC Facebook page is extremely successful and all are invited to be part of this growing online veterans site. The VC website has over 8900 viewers and all should visit it to see what is happening: <http://www.veteranscouncilofstjohns.org/>

Chairman Dudley: spoke in detail about the Veterans Day Parade. It is the VC policy that NO veteran will ever be buried without "family" in attendance. To this end, Chairman Dudley, Vice Chairman Ray Quinn and VSO Joe McDermott have attended such burials as part of the veterans community family. JNC Director Alphaeus Richburg presented Chairman Dudley a Certificate of Appreciation for donating the American flags used in the burials to the JNC.

New Business: Mark Miner announced a new veterans fundraiser hosted by FL State Representative Travis Hutson at the Ancient City Brewery in November, date to be announced.

Combat Veterans Assoc. Commander Gary "Cleave" raised money from a Ride in Honor of Rocket man and presented George McCrae a check for \$ 2000. For Vets 4 Vets in honor of them helping a member with home and truck payments.

Meeting ended at 2012

Next Meeting: Thursday, October 27th, 7 pm, Elks Lodge # 829, 1420 A1A S., St. Augustine

Respectfully submitted by Michael Rothfeld, Secretary, Veterans Council SJC