



The Patriot Reader Newsletter

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St. Augustine, FL 32085

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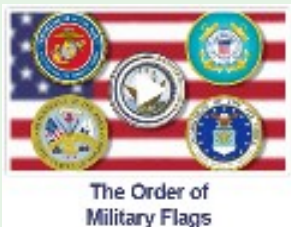
Volume 8, Issue 4

Message from the Chairman

Newsletter Date: April 2019

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Fellow Veterans:
This month, our veteran's community lost two patriots, two brothers in arms who served their country in many ways. Fred Dupont and Greg Moore passed away earlier this month, both after bravely fighting declining health over the past several months. Both men had distinguished careers in the military and went on to continue to serve their country and community after their military retirement.

Fred retired from the US Navy after serving in both the USMC and USN. Fred enlisted in the USMC in 1966, serving a tour of duty in Vietnam from Aug. 67 to Mar. '69. After his enlistment in the USMC ended, he reenlisted in the USN and served until his retirement in March 1995. After returning to St. Augustine, Fred was very active with the Elks Lodge and local VFW, serving in many official capacities in both organizations. Fred was the go to person when you needed a color guard or firing detail for any veteran's event. He was a significant organizer for the Veterans Stand Down each year at the Elks Lodge. His contributions to the veterans in this community will be greatly missed.

LTC Greg Moore served in the USA FLNG until his retirement due to declining health. He served as the Historian for the Florida National Guard as well as the local St. Augustine National Cemetery. His knowledge of the Seminole War and American Military History was legendary. His knowledge of the St. Augustine National Cemetery was shared in a book he wrote titled "Sacred Ground". Col. Moore volunteered to be recalled to active duty during the height of the war in Afghanistan and served a deployment in country during some of the fiercest battles being fought at the time.

There is a more detail accounting of both men's service covered on page 7 and page 18 in this month's newsletter. This week we will honor our Vietnam Veterans with a wreath laying ceremony on Wednesday, 27 March 2019 at the St. Augustine National Cemetery at 2:30 PM. Our keynote speaker will be retired Brig. Gen. Richard Capps, FLANG. Mr. Al Richburg, Director of the ST. Augustine and Jacksonville National Cemetery will also speak followed by the ceremonial wreath placement. Please plan to join us for this ceremony. On Friday, 29 March the POW/MIA Memorial commit



tee will dedicate the Chapel of the High Speed Pass at Cecil Field. The chapel has been completely renovated with new pews and other furnishings as well as renovation to the exterior of the chapel itself. This event will take place at 10 AM on Friday. The public is invited to participate. And on Saturday, 30 March 2019, the Vietnam Veterans Chapter 1084 will host a special presentation downtown at the Corazon Theater honoring all our veterans who served during the Vietnam War. The highlight of the program will be the keynote speaker, Lt. Col Barry Bridger, USAF (Ret). Col Bridger was a POW in Vietnam after being shot down serving nearly 6 years as a POW. Due to limited seating, this program is by invitation only.

Bill Dudley
Chairman
Veterans Council of
St. Johns County

Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home



Mardi Gras Parade



Jim recently celebrated a milestone birthday and the employees at Red Lobster were happy to help celebrate!



We celebrated St. Patty's Day with music, shamrock shakes and hats!



**The Jacksonville National Cemetery
Greetings from the Support
Committee at the Jacksonville
National Cemetery**



The Support Committee invites everyone to attend its **next scheduled meeting, on Monday April 1**. The meeting will be at **7:00pm**. The meeting will take place at Community Hospice, **4266 Sunbeam Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32257 in Conference Room A**.

Jacksonville National Cemetery Support Committee Meetings for 2018

**At Community Hospice of NE FL.
4266 Sunbeam Rd, Jacksonville, FL 32257
Hadlow Bldg – Conference Room A 7:00pm**

DATES OF 2019 SC at JNC MEETINGS

April 01, 2019 7:00pm ceremony at the JNC)

May 06, 2019 7:00pm Memorial Day Event (pre- meeting)

Other topics that concern both the JNC & the St. Augustine National Cemetery are discussed at these meetings.

+++++2018/2019 Officers of the SCJNC+++++

Chairman: Steve Spickelmier

Vice Chairman: Bill Dudley, Treasurer: John Mountcastle

Assistant Treasurer: Michael Rothfeld, Secretary: Kathy Church

Chaplain: Michael Halyard, Master-At-Arms: Joe McDermott

Historian: Kathy Cayton

Chaplain: Rev. Patrick A. Archuleta, Sr.

The Veterans Council of St. Johns County meets on the following dates, all are invited to attend.

We meet at the county Health & Human Services building, 200 San Sebastian View, at 7 pm

Future meeting Speakers:

- April 25, Jessica Bradstreet, Dept. of VA, Local Recovery Coordinator**
Chaplain Pat Archuleta, Jesus Loves Veterans Ministries
- 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**
Florida Military Re-enactor
- August 29 Gerald Timoney, Military Museum of N. FL**
Crystal Timmons, Veterans Garden Project

Rick Rees handing out Veterans information at the Boomers and Seniors Expo at the St. Augustine Outlet Malls



Photos by Rick Rees

Mission Statement:

The Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc. is a 501 C3 Not-For-Profit Florida Corporation.



The Veterans Council of St. Johns County is comprised of representatives from various veterans' organizations that work with city and county governments and organizations to assist with matters concerning veterans and veterans' activities.

What the Council has done:

- The Veterans Treatment Court
 - Wreaths Across America
 - Homeless Veterans Standdown
 - Veterans Day Parade
 - Vets 4 Vets
- And so much more...

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The Veterans Council's 2018 Activities

This past year has been an active one for the Veterans Council of St. Johns County as it continues its **Mission "To Help and Assist All Veterans"**.

The Council's help and assistance in 2018 has taken many forms.

Honoring and Remembering Veterans

The Council's well attended **Memorial Day Ceremony**, and its donation to the St. Augustine National Cemetery of \$ 5000 to buy in ground flag extenders will enhance ceremonies for future generations.

Veterans Day this year was very memorable and may have been the best ever. It was hosted by the Veterans Council and **Anastasia Baptist Church**. The atrium displays were many and varied. **The Traveling Vietnam Wall, The Agent Orange**

Quilt of Tears and over 30 veterans related lobby tables were on display. The ceremony Commemorated the 100 year anniversary of the **"War to End All Wars"**.



The Council presented local **First Responders, all Veterans**, with plaques recognizing their outstanding service to the county and to the country.



Wreaths Across America was successful again this year as every headstone in **St. Augustine National Cemetery** was covered with a holiday wreath.

The Veterans Council in conjunction with the **Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1084** held a commemoration ceremony at **St. Augustine National Cemetery** to honor the Vietnam veterans buried there.



Informing Veterans

The Council invites speakers to its monthly meetings that are informative and current. In 2018 we had speakers from the **Veterans Programs from Flagler College, Jacksonville University, and the University of North FL.**

The University of Central Florida presented their new app that provides military bios of those buried in St. Augustine National Cemetery.

Local **Historian, Dr. Michael Butler, from Flagler College** spoke about his many trips to Vietnam and how North Vietnam interprets the war and how it differs from reality.

Laura Wynn, Social Studies Curriculum Specialist spoke to the Council about how Vietnam history is taught.

Presentations and Donations

Chairman Dudley has spoken at the **Hastings Rotary** and the **St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Julington Creek** division and presented them with copies of the Council's 5 Military documentary series telling and preserving the stories of local county veterans.

The Council has donated a **Pew to the Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, POW/MIA flags** to the **St. Johns County Administration** buildings and to **Jacksonville Veterans Memorial Arena**.

Chairman Dudley spoke on behalf of all veterans at the First Annual **"Gathering In The Pines"** Ceremony at the Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial.

The Council initiated and was instrumental in having St. Johns County become a **Purple Heart County**.

The Council donated money and supplies to **HITRON** for those affected by the devastation of **Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico**.

The Council arranged for a **new roof to be installed for a needy local veteran**.

The annual **Homeless Veterans Stand Down at Elks Lodge 829** was well attended and baths, food, dental care, VA counseling and clothes were available to all.

The Council donated its 5 documentary series to the **Veterans Museum in Daytona Beach** and to **Vet Stream TV** which made the documentaries free to its national audience. The Veterans Council took part in the **Active & Senior Boomer Expo** held at the St. Augustine Mall and provided veterans information to attendees.

2018 marked the first of many graduates for the Veterans Council supported **Veterans Treatment Court** with the Council lending money to the enrollees for food, utilities and rent with a pay back agreement.

Plans are already under way to continue supporting and assisting veterans in 2019



Panoramic view of Anastasia Baptist Church's auditorium at Monday's Veterans Day Celebration featuring high school junior reserve officers training corps, patriotic music by the St. Johns County Center for the Arts Chamber Singers under the direction of Jeff Dodd and keynote address by Rear Admiral Sean S. Buck, Southern Commander, US Navy 4th Fleet.

In Memory of Our Good Friend, Fred Dupont



Fredrick R. DuPont

Born: September 6, 1947 in Flagler Hospital, St. Augustine, FL

Graduated: St. Augustine High School 1965

Enlisted: USMC 1966

Served in Vietnam: August 1, 1967 to March 1969

Enlisted: USN June 25, 1976

Served in USN: June 1976 to March 1995

“Never regretted a day of service.”

THE BA REN BRIDGE, By Fred DuPont

I was a Marine assigned to “D” Company, 9th Engineering Battalion, 1st Marine Division, III Marine Amphibious Force as a heavy equipment operator. Our area of operations was I Corps, the five most northern provinces of the Republic of Vietnam.

In the summer of 1968, I was sent with a 12 ton, rubber tire, mobile crane to assist 3rd Platoon in building a bridge across the Ba Ren River. 9th Engineers was led by Lt. Col. H. E. Perea, stationed in the southern part of Quang Tin Providence at Chu Lai. “D” Company was led by Capt Reno Rizzo, stationed in the northern part of Quang Tin Providence at Hill 63. 3rd Platoon of “D” Co. was led by 1st Lt Jack Hawkins, stationed in the southern part of Quang Nam Providence, north of Hill 63, just below Hoi An, at a South Korean Marine Corps compound. We were strung-out between Chu Lai to the south and Hoi An to the north to build and maintain 47 miles of Route 1.



The dilapidated bridge we were to replace was made of reinforced concrete repeatedly made weaker by small, enemy explosives. They used small explosives on bridges and culverts and large mines on the edge of the road to stop our heavy vehicles, not their bicycles and three wheel buses.

Our bridge would be constructed of creosote pilings, cross timbers, steel I-beam stringers, and topped with heavy lumber decking. These materials were brought by convoy from Da Nang in the northern part of Quang Nam Providence. Battalion HQ in Chu Lai sent additional Marines driving low-bed tractor-trailers to assist “D” Co. with these supply convoys. They also sent a home made, heavily armored six-by truck sporting a fifty caliber and two M-60 machine guns to blast through any ambush, which happened once.

In that ambush, Captain Rizzo and 6 other Marines were seriously wounded.

The bridge was built from south to north. A crawler crane was mounted on a barge to drive the pilings. A surveyor would site the level to cut the pilings. A crew, working from scaffolding on another barge would cut the pilings and bolt the cross timbers to the pilings. The I-beams would then span from one row of pilings to the next, fastened to the cross timbers. I go through these machinations because it was my job to lift this heavy

material in place without killing or injuring my fellow Marines.

A mine sweep is a very exciting way to start your day.

Every morning two sweep teams would leave from each outpost, one north and one south, to clear the roads of mines before any work on the road could commence. Our teams usually consisted of two Marines with metal detectors, two with K-Bar knives to probe any suspected spots in the road, two with grappling hooks out ahead in the rice paddies to snag any wires running to explosives planted in the road, as many Marines with as much fire power as we could muster that day, and one very brave Marine driving a truck behind us. I was one of the Marines providing fire power should anything happen. One mine was found by the truck. The incident happened in September while I was home on leave, I was informed of it upon my return in October. Our corpsman, HM2 Kurt Duncan, was killed instantly. Seven Marines were wounded. The driver of the truck, CPL Paul Kozak, was so severely wounded and burnt it took 27 separate operations to put him back together. He now runs Vet Works, a nationwide service to help homeless veterans get their lives back together.

On another mine sweep the Korean Marines thought that the best way to provide security from repeated sniper fire was to walk artillery down the road ahead of us. When the first shell exploded behind me to the east about one hundred yards away, I found the mud in the west rice paddy comforting until the second exploded on that side. Luckily, the only injury sustained was SGT Lee caught a piece of shrapnel in his right forearm. Before Lt Hawkins could get them to cease fire, the village to the south was destroyed. The corpsman did the best he could but, I'll never forget what White Phosphorus did to that little girl.

“The most exhilarating feeling in the world is to be shot at and missed.” Winston Churchill

Sniper fire became a way of life for us. Most of it was H&I, Harassment and Irritation, a few shots fired from a tree line five hundred yards away with a wore-out rifle from the French colonial days. It regularly happened at one place on the road, at the end of the day, heading back to the KMC compound. One day, Lt Hawkins stopped there, put us all on line, and led a sweep through the rice paddy to the west, into the tree line. This was not new to me, I grew up hunting like this in Florida. The trick is to keep abreast of the man on your right and the man on you left so you don't shoot each other. Only this time the game could shoot back. We progressed like this until we were so deep in the woods, I lost site of my fellow Marines. I'll never forget that feeling of loneliness when I got to a clearing, alone. After a few minutes, I decided to leave this sort thing to the infantry and retreated back to the road to find everyone else way ahead of me..

As we progressed on the bridge, however, the NVA moved in with more sophisticated weapons and the sniper fire became more intense. It always came from the west about five hundred yards away where the river bent towards the north.

Defensively we did several things. As the materials were delivered, we stacked them on the western edge of the bridge. This provided us cover when we dropped our tools to return fire. Another thing we did was mount machine guns behind armor plating. A fifty cal in the middle and a M-60 on each end. As the bridge got longer, so did the distance between the machine guns. Offensively, two things stand out in my memory.

One day we were pinned down behind the stacks of timbers. Lt Hawkins called in an air strike. I got impatient and climbed the boom of my crane with the surveyor's transit, hoping to direct fire from that position. While concentrating through that scope, 30ft above the bridge, 50ft above the river, I heard a noise behind me. I turned to see two Forward Air Controllers in a spotter plane grinning at me from ear to ear. Soon I had an amazing vantage point to watch two A-4 Skyhawks do their thing to the enemy.

The second occasion involved the South Vietnamese Army. The ARVNs, as we called them guarded the two bridges and all the equipment when we returned to the Korean compound at night. At the end of the day, Lt Hawkins would give us permission to do a little "redneck fishing" with a grenade or two. The ARVNs would then paddle out in a small boat to collect their evening meal.

One day they mounted an aggressive operation to go after the bad guys, only they forgot to tell us. When the shooting started, we thought it was the typical barrage of sniper fire that occurred almost every day about that time. Drop your tools, man your guns, blow the hell out of the tree line across the river, go back to work.. Wrong! I was at the south end of the bridge when the fire fight broke out. The ARVN Lieutenant came running out of his bunker shouting "ARVN! ARVN!", pointing in the direction of the tree line. To yell cease fire was fruitless over the roar of 20 or 30 fully automatic weapons. Running down the bridge, slapping helmets, and yelling at the top of my lungs worked. Later, they brought the wounded to the bridge. We administered first aid as best we could and got them on a Medevac Chopper. Another not so proud day for the good guys.

Another incident involving the snipers must be mentioned. Lt Hawkins was by himself on the old bridge inspecting our work on the new. He was just opposite my crane, when all hell broke loose. I think they were trying to kill him and two rounds came through the cab of my crane. He jumped for cover, missed the ledge, plunged into the river, and was injured. In the excitement, as I was standing from cover, I sprayed a few rounds into the old bridge. As I was reloading, my attention was drawn to the lieutenant, 20ft below. He was already being helped, so we moved our base of fire to the old bridge to cover his rescue. He was awarded his second Purple Heart and, in my opinion it was well deserved.

I recently confessed to him my premature trigger finger. He gave me back a sarcastic "Thanks!". He still doesn't tolerate ineptness and he was the finest officer I ever served with in my 22 years of military service. He is currently the chancellor of Troy University and has made several trips back to Vietnam to visited the campuses of Troy in Hanoi and Saigon.

We completed the bridge in early 1969. I was 21 years old. I have always looked back at that accomplishment with pride.





2019 "Salute Across America" Tour

16 City Tour across the US paying Tribute
to Veterans & Patriots

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Honoring the Importance of
Sacrifice, Honor, Courage & Patriotism

Purpose of Tour:

* Show Appreciation to Our
Nations Heroes

* Inspire Patriotism,
Community & Camaraderie



MISSING IN AMERICA PROJECT – FLORIDA

CALL TO HONOR #19

SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2019, 11:00AM



MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the Missing in America Project (MIAP) is to locate, identify and inter the unclaimed cremated remains of American veterans through the joint efforts of private, state and federal organizations, and to provide honor, respect and dignity to those who have served this country by securing a final resting place for these forgotten heroes.

“IT’S THE RIGHT THING TO DO”

On Saturday, April 6, 2019, at 11:00am, MIAP – Florida, in cooperation with Dignity Memorial’s Kraeer Funeral Home at Forest Lawn Memorial Gardens in Pompano Beach and Broward Burial and Cremation in Fort Lauderdale, and the Miami-Dade County Medical Examiner Department, will be interring the unclaimed cremains of 25 veterans, with full military honors, at the South Florida National Cemetery at 6501 Florida State Road 7, Lake Worth, FL 33449.

The veterans being interred served in the US Army, Marine Corps., Navy and Air Force, during World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Persian Gulf and other non-war specific periods. The longest that any of these being interred has been unclaimed is since 1975. There will be an escort led by the Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office (PBCSO) will leave from the Southeast parking area (the Lantana Road side) of the Target Store at 5900 Florida State Road 7 (Rt. 441), Wellington, FL, on the Northeast corner of State Road 7 and Lantana Road. Any and all motorcycle organizations, riders, and vehicles are welcome to participate. Meeting time is 9:30AM for a safety briefing with the PBCSO, and the escort will depart (KSU) to the cemetery at 10:15AM.

You are cordially invited to attend this service. This service is open to all residents of our area.

Kathy Church, MIAP – FL State Coordinator, (904) 219-3035

miapjax@yahoo.com, www.miap.us

National Vietnam War Veterans Day



On March 28, 2017, the President, signed into law The Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017, designating every March 29 as National Vietnam War Veterans Day.

National Vietnam War Veterans Day joins six other military-centric national holidays codified in Title 4 of the United States Code §6 (i.e., Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day, Navy Day, Veterans Day).

March 29 was chosen to be celebrated in perpetuity as March 29, 1973 was the day Military Assistance Command Vietnam was deactivated.

The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration honors all United States veterans who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces from November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975, regardless of location.

November 1, 1955 was selected to coincide with the official designation of Military Assistance Advisory Group-Vietnam (MAAG-V); May 15, 1975 marks the end of the battle precipitated by the seizure of the SS Mayaguez.

The Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that today there are 6.4 million living Vietnam veterans and 9 million families of those who served during this time frame. We make no distinction between veterans who served in-country, in-theater, or who were stationed elsewhere during the Vietnam War period. All were called to serve and none could self-determine where they would serve.

Additional Background: U.S. involvement in Vietnam started slowly with an initial deployment of advisors in the early 1950s, grew incrementally through the early 1960s and expanded with the deployment of full combat units in July 1965. The last U.S. personnel were evacuated from Vietnam in April 1975.

This national commemoration was authorized by Congress, established under the Secretary of Defense, and launched by the President to thank and honor our Nation's Vietnam veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice. In 2007, the 110th Congress incorporated language in House of Representatives (H.R.) 4986 authorizing the Secretary of Defense to conduct a program commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War.

44th U.S. President Barack Obama officially inaugurated this Commemoration at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. on Memorial Day, May 28, 2012.

Congress outlined a total of five objectives for this U.S.A. Vietnam War Commemoration, with the primary objective being to thank and honor Vietnam veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the Nation, with distinct recognition of former prisoners of war and families of those still listed as missing in action. The four remaining objectives highlight the service of our Armed Forces and support organizations during the war; pay tribute to wartime contributions at home by American citizens; highlight technology, science and medical advances made during the war; and recognize contributions by our Allies.

By Presidential Proclamation, The U.S.A Vietnam War Commemoration will continue through Veterans Day, November 11, 2025.

Forward March

March 9, 2019

Lt. Col. (Ret.) Bill Dudley
Chairman
Veterans Council of St. Johns County
1072 Alcala Drive
St. Augustine, Florida 32086

Dear Bill:

On February 28, 2019 it was the great privilege of Forward March, Inc. to present as a gift to The Veterans Council a beautiful 4'x 6' oil painting by local artist Tim Murphy. Thank you for honoring our request that the depicting of the flag raising on the island of Iwo Jima hang in the Veterans Service office of St. Johns County.

Based on the going rate of a Tim Murphy painting of this size, we estimate the value of this piece to be \$6,000.00.

Thank you also for accepting the Forward March Military Achievement Award plaque and making arrangements for it to hang in the Veterans Service Center as well.

Respectfully,

LTC Ron Birchall, USA (Ret.)



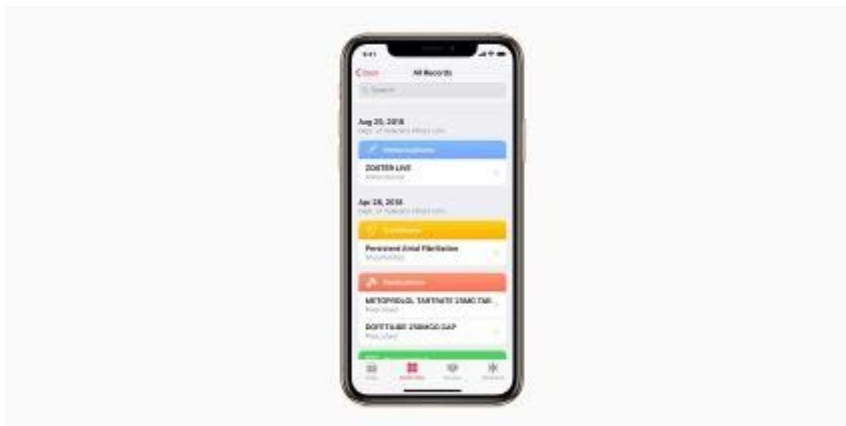
From the MOPH Chapter 524, Patriot Christopher Vedvick was honored to present the Leadership Medal from the Military Order of the Purple Heart, to Cadet Isabella Camero at Bartram Trail High School's Air Force JROTC Military Ball. Her unparalleled leadership and willingness to sacrifice her own time in order to achieve mission success made her an ideal recipient for the award.



Congratulations Cadet Camero!

Apple teaming up with US Department of Veterans Affairs to bring digital health records to iPhone

<https://9to5mac.com/2019/02/11/apple-veterans-affairs-health-records-iphone/>



Young Marines Proudly Join America Vietnam War Commemorative Partner Program

The Young Marines, a national youth organization, is a member of The United States of America Vietnam War Commemorative Partner Program, designed to assist a grateful nation in thanking and honoring Vietnam veterans and their families for their service, valor, and sacrifice.

At noon on Saturday, March 2, a formal signing acknowledgement ceremony took place in Fredericksburg, Virginia, to ensure all volunteers, parents, and other family members of Young Marines are recognized and to ensure all members in unit communities are recognized over the next two years. At the signing event, several members of the Board of Directors of the Young Marines were recognized.

National Vietnam War Veterans Day is observed every year on March 29. It recognizes U.S. Armed Forces personnel with active duty service between November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975, regardless of location of service.



“As the son of a Vietnam veteran, it gives me great personal and professional pride that our organization will strive to ensure every Vietnam veteran is recognized wherever Young Marines are found,” said Col William P Davis USMC (Ret), national executive director and CEO of the Young Marines. “Our youth members will be seeking focused interaction with our Vietnam veterans, many of whom are the volunteers and grandparents of our Young Marines.”

As a Commemorative Partner, the Young Marines pledges: to thank and honor veterans of the Vietnam War, including personnel who were held as prisoners of war or listed as missing in action for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States and to thank and honor the families of these veterans; to highlight the service of the Armed Forces during the Vietnam War and the contributions of Federal agencies and governmental and non-governmental organizations that served with, or in support of, the Armed Forces; to pay tribute to the contributions made on the home front by the people of the United States during the Vietnam War; to highlight the advances in technology, science, and medicine related to military research conducted during the Vietnam War; and to recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by the allies of the United States during the Vietnam War.

“The Vietnam War Commemoration Program is a federal initiation, put into law in 2008,” said Retired Maj. Gen. Arnold Fields. “But it wasn’t until 2012 that a major ceremony took place at the Vietnam Wall in Washington D.C. lead by President Barack Obama. Since then, the program has substantially grown. Returning veterans have always been honored by a grateful nation, except Vietnam veterans. We’re going to make up for this.

“There is considerable urgency to recognize these veterans, because many are up in years. In addition, we will recognize the families of those who have already passed on.”

About the Young Marines

The Young Marines is a national non-profit 501c (3) youth education and service program for boys and girls, age eight through the completion of high school. The Young Marines promotes the mental, moral and physical development of its members. The program focuses on teaching the values of leadership, teamwork and self-discipline, so its members can live and promote a healthy, drug-free lifestyle. Since the Young Marines' humble beginnings in 1959 with one unit and a handful of boys, the organization has grown to 264 units with 8,500 youth and 2,500 adult volunteers in 39 states, the District of Columbia, Japan and affiliates in a host of other countries.

For more information, visit the official website at: <https://www.YoungMarines.com>.

MOPH Chapter 524 Jacksonville

Congratulations to Jim Wellmon on being elected as our Chapter Commander for 2019-2020!

As a Charter Member of Chapter 524 Commander Wellmon is able to understand where our Chapter has been and he possesses the leadership and dedication that is necessary to take us where we need to be.



Saturday, April 27, 2019 at 11 AM – 3 PM

Putnam County Fairgrounds 118 Fairgrounds Rd, East Palatka, Florida 32131



Honoring Military Veterans

Freedom Fest aims to honor military veterans and bring information about opportunities for services and benefits to them. According to the 2010 census, over 7000 veterans live in Putnam County.

Awards highlight of FSC March meeting

The presentation of the 2018 Yearly awards was among the highlights of the March 1-2 VVA Florida State Council meeting at the Orlando Marriott Lake Mary.

The most important award, the Joe Koprowski Member of Year, was presented to Joe West of Chapter 96 for his coordination of Hurricane Michael relief efforts in the Tallahassee and Panhandle region by FSC President Mike Bousher.

Other awards winners:

Incarcerated awards: Chapter 195, Lightning Community Hero Award; Chapter 1080, fundraising of \$12,000 and Chapter 1114, Veterans Court mentor program.

Michael Weber Membership of the Year (under 100 members): Chapter 1097.
(See separate related post.)

Michael Weber Membership of the Year (over 100 members): Chapter 1040. (See separate related post.)

Incarcerated Member of the Year: Richard Fournier, Chapter 195.

Treasurer of the Year: Virtus Paul Haws Jr., Chapter 1059.

Secretary of the Year: Vincent Rega, Chapter 1003.

Chapter of the Year: Chapter 1084 (President John Leslie).

Website of the Year: Chapter 1048 (President Rod Phillips).

Newsletter of the Year: Chapter 1036 (President Pete Wagner; newsletter editor John Thomstatter).



LTC Greg Moore, USA FLNG, (RET)

LTC Greg Moore, USA FLNG (Ret) passed away the first week in March. His knowledge of the Seminole War and American Military History was legendary.

I first met Greg when the Veterans Council of St. Johns County was planning a series of military documentaries and we needed an appropriate location to film the interviews. Greg agreed to allow us to use the historic St. Francis Barracks as a back drop and also to serve as our historian who would review our work prior to it being released.



We were lucky Greg reviewed our work because one of our clips showed American GIs in a scene that Greg said were really British troops because he recognized the shape of their helmets.



The Council filmed its Korean War and Prisoner of War documentaries in the St. Francis Barracks and will be forever grateful to LTC Moore for making us look historically accurate.

Greg wrote a book about his beloved St. Augustine National Cemetery. It was titled “Sacred Ground”.

The book is a unique history of the grounds that now comprise St. Augus-

tine National Cemetery. First associated with the Convento de San Francisco, the Franciscan mission established on the property in 1588, the book follows the evolution of 1.4 acres of that land from garden and orchard into part of the city's defensive system, then the site of barracks and hospitals, and finally development of the cemetery into the final resting place for more than 2,800 veterans and family members. Also included are twenty biographical sketches of individuals buried at the site from the time of its establishment as a post cemetery in the late 1820s to the present.

Greg Moore, a Florida National Guard historian, said that while the English militia tradition in the Massachusetts Bay Colony is credited with giving the modern National Guard its earliest organized regiments, it is a fact of history that the Spanish first brought the European tradition - men available for short terms of military service in time of war or domestic turmoil - to the New World ... first in Cuba and Puerto Rico, then to the continent at St. Augustine.

"Today we can take great pride in tracing our roots to the men who mustered under Pedro Menendez de Aviles in St. Augustine on Sept. 16, 1565," he said.



By MARCIA LANE St. Augustine Record

On his way to writing a history of the Florida National Guard's St. Francis Barracks, Gregory Moore took a detour, ending up with a 245-page book on the St. Augustine National Cemetery on

Marine Street.

It's an area he probably knows better than any other living person. In his capacity as Guard historian he gives tours of the cemetery and talks about the history of the people there and of the Barracks, the site of the oldest military post in the United States."

I love the position as historian here ... telling the history through the stories of the people here," Moore said. As the Guard's former public affairs officer, he was the "de facto historian" before his retirement in 2001. Before he retired, he wrote a job description for a historian's post, one for a civilian.

Twenty-one people applied for the job, including several with doctorates. The 1974 West Point Army graduate ended up with the job. He was told "we know you know our history ... and you know the history of the National Guard. You won't have to get up to speed."

They also said he understood the job wasn't going to be 8 to 5 and would mean hours during holidays.

No problem for a career officer and the perfect niche for a man who can, without hesitation, recite the 15 lines of "In Flanders Field," a poem on honor and duty written in 1915 by Canadian Lt. Col. John McCrae after conducting the burial service for a soldier killed during a World War I battle.

Moore first recited it while in high school, learning it for a Veterans Day ceremony. Then, he remembers, there were lots of World War II guys (men his father's age), World War I guys (men his grandfather's age) and "the really incredible ones," men who had fought against Spanish troops in 1898.

"It's amazing to think I met men who fought in the Spanish-American War."

Even after he retired, Moore was able to go to the war in Afghanistan for a year, getting himself called back to service in public affairs with the Guard.



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**Friends, Family, and supporters of the Cecil Field
POW MIA Memorial, please “Save the Date” for the
Chapel Dedication Ceremony on 29 March 2019.
More details and program info to follow.**



From The Sun Sentinel

50 years after his death in Vietnam, Broward teen finally gets marked grave

Brittany Wallman, Reporter South Florida Sun Sentinel

Fifty years ago, a Dillard High School grad enlisted in the Marines, and on the Fourth of July, his tour of duty in Vietnam began. He was 19.

His service lasted three months. Gregory Carter was killed in action on Oct. 12, 1969, and his body was brought home to Fort Lauderdale, where he was buried next to his mother. But for all these years, Pfc. Gregory Carter lay in an unmarked grave.

Carter's anonymous status in the city cemetery was discovered recently by the Vietnam Veterans of America, and his new headstone will be dedicated in a ceremony later this month.

City commissioners this week voted to donate the \$395 granite base for the bronze marker in the city-owned Sunset Memorial Gardens Cemetery.

I did not feel that any U.S. Serviceman or woman who died for their country should lie in an unmarked grave," the Marine who helped lead the effort, Lt. Col. (Ret.) James Davies of The Villages, wrote in an email to the city cemetery. "But, this has been remedied."

Carter's barren burial site was discovered as the veterans group scoured the area for a photograph of the young man. The Vietnam Veterans of America are on a mission to find photographs of all servicemen and women who were killed in



Vietnam, for placement on the black, granite Wall of Faces in Washington, D.C. Occasionally, they come across someone like Carter, with no grave marker, and they work to correct it.

This Dillard High yearbook photo of Gregory Carter was the only photo that could be found for the Vietnam memorial.

This Dillard High yearbook photo of Gregory Carter was the only photo that could be found for the Vietnam memorial. (Courtesy image)

Carter was the son of Annie Carter Owens and Wesley Carter, residents of Fort Lauderdale. He played baseball for Dillard High.

In Vietnam, he was part of a platoon of 13, and was killed in battle with North Vietnamese Army forces in Quang Ngai Province in South Vietnam, according to the veterans' group.

Davies said Carter's platoon had a "dangerous duty because you were working in small hamlets away from the main battalion," which in Carter's case was the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines.

So much time passed, Davies couldn't find a living family member. The quest was personal to Davies.

"This is all poignant for me since I walked the same ground with the Marines in 1967," he said in an email.

The vets couldn't even find a photograph, at first. After multiple trips to the area, one of the group's genealogists, Beth Braun, paged through a Dillard

His image is now on the Wall of Faces in D.C., on Panel 17W, Line 70. More than 58,000 service members died in the Vietnam War, and nearly all of them now have photographs on the wall.

Braun wrote a note on the Wall of Faces website, saying she was proud of the veterans who worked to get his gravestone: "Rest in peace, Gregory ... you are not forgotten."

The Florida veterans also discovered an unmarked Pompano grave, where Army Private Thomas "JT" Burton was buried. Burton, too, was killed in Vietnam a month after he arrived in 1968. He had just turned 21.

Losing Our History: Who is Going To Remember?

I read the obituaries every day in the FL Times Union and the St. Augustine Record, not because I have a morbid personality but rather to read about American History that will soon to be lost.

In today's St. Augustine Record there was an obituary about a WW II veteran who was on an Underwater Demolition Team & who helped form SEAL Teams 1 & 2, he served 20 years and then worked for the CIA.

A second obituary told the story of another WW II Navy veteran who served aboard an LST 012 and participated in the battle of Leyte Gulf, the largest naval battle of World War II.

Did anyone know them? They were not American Legion or VFW members. Who is going to remember their name or what they proudly did for our country?

We are losing 348 men & women like this every day all over the country. There are only 496,777 WW II veterans alive today out of over 16 million who served.

It is time for all of us to start taking an interest in recording military service stories as well as the stories relatives and friends who served. Contact the Library of Congress and get a Veterans History Project Field Kit and Individual Forms, <https://www.loc.gov/vets/kitmenu.html> .

Locally, veterans who would like to record their stories for future generations are encouraged to contact the St. Johns County Public Library System www.sjcpls.org and participate in the Veterans History Project.

The Veterans Council of St. Johns County supports and encourages all veterans to record their military service stories now.

Here's why the American flag is reversed on military uniforms

Nathaniel Lee and Claudia Romeo

Tim Marshall, the author of "Worth Dying for: The Power and Politics of Flags" explains why American flags are reversed on military uniforms.

Following is a transcript of the video.



A lot of people ask, "why is the US flag reversed when it's on an arm patch of a US military?" Just as the US flag dips to no man or king and you will see even at the Olympic ceremonies, the American flag is the only one that doesn't dip to the head of state of the host country. Because — it's not a mark of disrespect to them, it's a mark of respect to the American flag. And they take it so seriously that it must always face forward.

Now, on a flag pole that puts the stars on the left-hand side next to the flag pole, that's the most prestigious position. On an arm patch, you are looking at it differently and when the soldier, or marine or whatever, marches forward, the US flag must face forward. It must not be seen to be in retreat. And so the stars are actually now on the right-hand side of their badge and so they face forward, just as it never retreats. It's always in its special position when it's flown on a car.

You might think this is taking things to extremes but when you really get to the bottom of flags, they are about extremes of passion and extremes of belief. And the Americans take their flag very, very seriously.

Inaugural Vietnam Veterans Day Ceremony

Date: Saturday, March 30, 2019

Time: 10:30 am

(Reception to Immediately Follow)

*Location: TAPS Monument,
915 Walnut Street, Green Cove Springs FL*



*Join us as we recognize the sacrifices made by the Vietnam Era Veterans and
their families.*



IN PARTNERSHIP





**25th ANNUAL FIRST MILITIA CHAPTER
AUSA GOLF TOURNAMENT
APRIL 8, 2019**



Time: 7:30 a.m. Registration • 8:30 a.m. Shotgun Start
Location: Marsh Creek Country Club
169 Marshside Drive, St. Augustine, FL. 32080
Format: 4 Person Captain's Choice • **Field:** First 36 Teams

Entry Fee: \$80 per player (includes Green Fees, Cart, Lunch, & Prizes)

Prizes for: 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Place

Hole Prizes include: Longest Drive, Closest to Pin, and Longest Putt
Chipping & Putting Contests (during the Tournament)

***New this Year: Make a Hole-in-One on #15 and win a 2019 GMC Acadia
from Jack Wilson GMC/Chevrolet***

The Luncheon & Awards Ceremony will be held on-site after the Tournament

Golf Shoes Must Be Soft Spikes Only

TEAM CAPTAIN: _____ PHONE # _____ EMAIL: _____

PLAYER #2: _____ PHONE # _____ EMAIL: _____

PLAYER #3: _____ PHONE # _____ EMAIL: _____

PLAYER # 4: _____ PHONE #: _____ EMAIL: _____

Mail Entry Forms (whether paying by check or credit card) to:

Ms. Natasha Huertas, c/o AUSA GOLF TOURNAMENT

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Make checks payable to: First Militia Chapter - AUSA - or

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Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc. Minutes of February 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 1900 hours

Chairman Dudley led the Pledge to the Flag

Vice Chairman Ray Quinn gave the Invocation

Minutes and Treasurer's Report were approved as presented

Introduction of Guests: Selena Hernandez-Haines, Chris Young

Minutes and Treasurer's Report- approved as presented

Plaque Presentation: Chairman Dudley presented a plaque and thanked Peter & Brenda Ruffing of "Two Men & A Truck" for their help and support loading, unloading & storing wreaths for "Wreaths Across America".



Nancy Birchall & Dan Sullivan presented VSO Joe McDermott with a plaque and painting of the Flag Raising at Iwo Jima to be hung in Mac's office.

Speakers:

Jud Damon, Athletic Director Flagler College & Peach Bowl Commissioner Dave Brunk: spoke about their new program, "Battlefields to Ballfields" and how veterans can enroll. B2B provides veterans an opportunity to integrate back into their communities through sports officiating. A B2B scholarship includes all equipment, uniforms, & training materials. An application is available online at: battlefield2ballfields.org



Tom Richardson: Assistant State Director, Veterans Employment & Training Service: "VETS" prepares veterans and spouses for meaningful careers. "VETS" helps disabled, homeless low income, victims of domestic violence, Vietnam and incarcerated veterans find meaningful employment. Grants are available at: hirevets.org



Committee Reports:

Mac: spoke about the new veteran's appeal process, claim denials & criteria changes to the Veterans Review Board.

John L.: A Ceremony will be held on Vietnam Veterans Day on March 30 at the Corazon Cinema. Keynote speaker, LTC Barry Bridger, Vietnam Veteran & former POW.

VVA 1084 continues its classroom visits. They have spoken to over 1450 students.

Dave Treffinger: 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.

Chairman Dudley: Sen. Rubio visited and Bill briefed him on the new CBOC. A meeting was also held with Congressman Mike Waltz and he was briefed on the new CBOC also.

Saturday March 2, the Veterans Council will have a table at the SR 16 Outlet Mall along with the Sea Cadets, Navy League of St. Augustine/Palm Coast Council, SJC VSO and Ann Johnson.

Meeting adjourned at 8:41 pm

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

Future speakers:

March 28, Michele Luthin, Memorial Park Assoc., (100 year old time capsule)

Trish Doran, Wekiva Springs Center, Military Liaison

Lt Col Barry Bridger, USAF, ret

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

Florida Military Reenactor

August 29 Gerald Timoney, Military Museum of N. FL

Crystal Timmons, Veterans Garden Project



Veterans Crisis Line
1-800-273-8255 **PRESS 1**

73-8255 PRESS 1



Veterans Crisis Line
1-800-273-8255 **PRESS 1**

STAND BY THEM
Confidential help for Veterans and their families

• • • • Confidential chat at VeteransCrisisLine.net or text to 838255 • • • •

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE
1-800-273-TALK (8255)
www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org

Military/Veterans Crisis Line
1-800-273-8255

Veterans Crisis Line
1-800-273-8255 **PRESS 1**

Confidential chat at MilitaryCrisisLine.net or text 838255



Families, Welcome to FamWeb

The "FamWeb" is an online space for sharing general information with families of missing personnel, such as case synopses and battlefield summaries. As always, family members of missing personnel should stay in contact with their designated casualty officer to get specific details on their missing loved ones and the government's efforts to account for them. If you do not know your casualty office, the following link provides a list of each one: <http://www.dpaa.mil/Families/Contact-Information>.

Some of the highlights of the new content and features you will find on FamWeb are:

Operations and battle narratives that provide a summary of some large military battles and operations for each conflict. With the Vietnam War content complete, and the Korean War and World War II narratives in-progress, this new information offers a view of an individual's loss circumstances in the larger context of operations taking place at the time of the loss incident.

FamWeb links information from the Service Member Profiles Project with the relevant operations and battle narratives to provide more context and history for each loss incident. We strive to publish new loss profile narratives every day, so through these updates the history behind brave Americans who dutifully served and sacrificed for this great nation is better available.

Enhanced statistics and reporting tools are explained in more detail to help generate on-demand lists of individuals from your home state who are still missing or were recently accounted-for.

Forms to ask a question, register for upcoming Family Member Updates, or order a POW/MIA Recognition Day Poster, are now easier to find than before.

Veterans rally to establish national POW/MIA museum at Cecil Field

Clay Today, By Nick Blank

JACKSONVILLE – When Naval Air Station Cecil Field was decommissioned in 1999, its base housing was turned into apartment homes and its former administration buildings became bank branches.

Opened in 1941, the base trained thousands of pilots and brought many to Duval and Clay counties. The base theater was just sitting there. The chapel was used by the City of Jacksonville for storage.



Dismayed with the chapel's neglect, veteran Mike Cassata began a grassroots campaign to establish the Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial. Now serving as the memorial's executive director, Cassata saw potential for theater to become home to a national museum.

“The place was kind of forgotten if you ask me,” said Cassata, whose father and grandfather were stationed at Cecil Field. “There’s a lot of history here. I remember as a kid what it used to look like.”

He said even a memorial for 14 pilots who were missing in action was neglected.

A group was organized that acquired a 26-acre lease and presented Jacksonville city officials plans to open a museum, restore the Chapel of the Hi-Speed Pass and install a static display outdoors. The group held a dedication for the metal wings on the outside of the chapel last summer. The street New World Avenue was changed to POW-MIA Memorial Parkway.

Cassata's aiming for a September opening date. He's also trying to land a national designation from Congress for the museum. He said the goal of the museum is to honor those who didn't come home. He wants visitors to learn about one POW/MIA when they left. There are more than 80,000 veterans unaccounted for.

“This is something for the families. That's our most important thing. People don't realize there's thousands out there,” Cassata said. “They don't have a place they know they're loved ones will always be remembered.”

As for opening the museum, Cassata said the organization is acquiring memorabilia and setting up displays. Cassata said he had a volunteer group ready.

“It's just getting everyone's schedule coordinated and roles and responsibilities and finding a couple of

people who are knowledgeable about his field as well,” Cassata said.

Across the street from the chapel, Chaplain Patrick Archuleta, a 30-year U.S. Air Force veteran, refers to the restoration as a mission rather than a project. The city gave the chapel a landmark designation.

The chapel’s interior just received a new paint job. He’s waiting on 28 rows of pews and to install new carpet. The chapel won’t hold regular services, but will host events like weddings, funerals and reunions.

Late March is Archuleta’s tentative opening date.

“It will serve as a focal point if you will,” Archuleta said.

Museum spokesman Buddy Harris had finished giving a speech at Florida State University when he was asked to join the project. Harris worked extensively with reforming the military’s POW/MIA processes. The military’s interest would wane if the veteran was missing for a year, Harris said.

Harris said families might have gravestones, but they knew there was no one there. He recalled a family of a Korean War veteran from Kansas. Harris said a few members of his family doubted what bringing him back would accomplish.

“The brother said we were creating all this stuff that doesn’t need to be created, he said he moved past it and we were making things worse,” Harris said. “I’ll tell you what (when the veteran’s body was returned), it was a complete metamorphosis. The brother started crying and thanking everybody. It’s a huge weight on these people’s shoulders. When I brought Scott Speicher home, I saw it in my own family.”

Pilot Scott Speicher was missing in action during the Persian Gulf War in 1991. His body was found by Marines and returned in 2009. Harris was best man at Speicher’s wedding at the Cecil Field chapel and present for Speicher’s memorial at the same venue.

“It’s always been near and dear to my heart, Harris said. “When they showed me what they planned on doing, I had to be a part of it.”

Bob Buehn, of Fleming Island, is the executive director of the University of North Florida Military Veterans Resource Center and POW/MIA Memorial board member. A U.S. Navy pilot, and former Jacksonville Mayor John Peyton’s Chief of Military Affairs, Buehn served at Cecil Field and said he is excited to move the project forward.

“It’s nice that this little section is going to be preserved,” Buehn said. “We want to remind people or teach someone for the first time (of their sacrifices.)”

Stars and Stripes

50 years later, Orlando Vietnam veteran meets medic who saved him: 'Thank you! Thank you!'

By KATE SANTICH | The Orlando Sentinel | Published: March 15, 2019

ORLANDO, Fla. (Tribune News Service) — Dennis Joyner had to wait 50 years to thank the man who saved his life in Vietnam.

Joyner, of Orlando, lost both legs and his left arm when he stepped on a land mine while fighting in the Vietnam War. He credits his field medic, Dewey “Doc” Hayes, with saving his life, and after five decades he got the chance to thank him in person.

Joyner, now 70, was a 20-year-old infantryman with a wife and newborn son on June 26, 1969, when he tripped a land mine while on patrol. The explosion blew off one of his legs and shredded the other so badly it had to be amputated. It took off his left arm below the elbow.

He might easily have bled to death or died of shock or infection. But a young medic with a Tennessee accent sprinted to his side, helping to tie a series of tourniquets around his limbs, administering morphine and ferrying him to a medevac helicopter.

On Friday, at the Old Florida Grill & Oyster House in Cocoa, one of Dewey “Doc” Hayes’ favorite haunts, Joyner finally got the chance he’d wanted for half a century.

The words rushed out in a torrent.

“Thank you! Thank you!” he said, his body shaking with emotion as Hayes, now 70, embraced him.

“I’ve been trying to find you for so damn long,” Joyner said. “You been hiding?”

After five surgeries and five months in various hospitals, Joyner had gone back to college before working as a court administrator in Pennsylvania and as a volunteer for the Disabled American Veterans, the organization created by Congress to help wounded vets and their families. In 1977, he was named the nation's “Handicapped American of the Year,” and he served as national commander of the DAV in 1983 and '84, work he continues to this day.

He moved to Seminole County in 1989, eventually becoming supervisor of elections there. Hayes, meanwhile, had gone back to Tennessee, working construction and driving trucks before relocating to Brevard County in 1997 to escape the ice and snow. He had wondered about Joyner over the years, but he was never sure he wanted to revisit the memories.

“All this time, we were living just a couple of counties apart,” said Joyner, shaking his head at the man



across the table. “All this time, I just wanted to thank him for saving my life.”

Both had been drafted into service. Both were young and terrified.

On that afternoon in the Mekong Delta jungle, Joyner — a former high-school quarterback and baseball pitcher — had been ordered to walk point, leading the way along a narrow path. Maybe he stepped on something. Maybe there was a booby-trapped branch he had brushed aside.

“I was 200 yards from him,” Hayes said. “I heard the explosion and I took off running [toward the sound] Here I was a kid fresh out of the tobacco fields... It wasn’t the worst I seen, but it was the worst I seen that survived.”

Joyner doesn’t remember the explosion, only landing a split second later and seeing his body torn apart.

“I immediately started screaming, wanting to die, because I could see what was wrong,” Joyner said. “My sarge had to slap me to keep me from going into shock. Told me I had a lot to live for.”

He remembers Hayes giving him morphine. After that, the events turn blurry.

Joyner always considered himself lucky to have survived, not that he didn’t struggle with some of the memories or with anger over the depth of his injuries. But in traveling the world, in giving inspirational talks, in laying the wreath one Veterans Day at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery, he has come to appreciate his extraordinary life.

“I mean, I lost three limbs — boom! They’re blown off,” he said. “But that’s all that’s wrong with me. ... I’ve had a good life.”

Hayes would have nightmares for years, though they come less often now. Once he made it out of Vietnam, he wanted nothing more to do with medicine.

Both men divorced and remarried. Both had children — Joyner three and Hayes four. But while Joyner searched and found several of the soldiers from his unit, Hayes never looked. When a fellow infantryman wrote him last fall on Joyner’s behalf, Hayes almost threw it away.

“I don’t know who the hell this guy is,” he thought. But he opened it anyway.

Inside, he found Joyner’s phone number and a plea to call him.

The two have chatted by phone a couple of times, but, they said, it’s not the same as being face to face.

“In my eyes, you’re a hero,” Joyner said.

“Nah,” Hayes said. “The real heroes are the 58,000 on that [Vietnam Veterans Memorial] wall... They’re the ones who didn’t make it home.”

Department of Florida Military Order of the Purple Heart

The Wins For Warriors Foundation became a Purple Heart entity! Wins for Warriors presented four service dogs to Veterans of all eras. These service dogs directly improved each Veteran's quality of life on their road to recovery.

Chapter 400 Commander Ernie Rivera, National Publications Committeeman Christopher Vedvick, Patriot William McCaw, Department of Florida Jr. Vice Commander Charles Dykes, and Patriot William Smith were all on hand to present a coin and plaque to Justin Verlander for the positive impact he and his foundation is making on the lives of Veterans.

Congratulations to Wins for Warriors Foundation for becoming one of the first Veterans support foundations in the Nation to become a Purple Heart Entity.

Thank you to Justin Verlander and Kate Upton for your continuing work assisting Veterans!

Photo Credit: Maria Baker





"The Green Beret"
Special Forces Association
Northeast Florida Chapter LXXXVIII



Christopher Young
42 Division Ave
Ormond Bch, FL 32174

9-Jan-2019

TO: Prospective Community Supporter

SUBJECT: **Letter of Introduction for SFA Chapter 88 and Request for Your Support**

We are here today asking for your support with our 4th annual golf tournament, Friday May 17th at Golf Club of South Hampton, St. Augustine, FL. The funds are used to support our mission. You can support us by choosing a sponsorship. Your business will be promoted at the tournament with signs, pin flags, golf cart stick-on signage, social media, billboards, local TV and newspaper. You will receive a good ROI on your investment.

Please review our sponsor packages at <https://secure.perfectgolfevent.com/eventweb/6977/>

The members of the Special Forces Association of NE FL are current and veteran US Army Green Berets. We are a behind the scenes support network for deployed active component Special Forces, Florida National Guard 20th Special Forces Group, headquarters in Jacksonville, and Green Beret soldiers' families. Whenever we get an e-mail or phone call with a simple, *"We need help!" our assistance is immediate and not hindered by bureaucratic processes.* Our Chapter provides assistance with charitable contributions to:

- **JROTC** in our northeast Florida high schools with five scholarships awarded annually. Building leader warriors of tomorrow.
- **The Warrior Fund 3/20th SFG** headquartered at Camp Blanding, FL Special Forces warriors are the tip of the spear in our continuing battle for our nation's safety and freedom in America. Their missions often require rapid and discrete responses to unique situations. Their deployment often takes place at short notice. The family has no idea or the timeline of the mission, It is important that these soldiers remain in the service of our country. When they deploy our association is here to assist them and their families
- **Green Beret Green Beret Foundation**
Provides Casualty and Family Support <https://www.greenberetfoundation.org/>
- **Special Forces Charitable Trust**
The Special Forces Charitable Trust is a primary resource center ensuring timely and consistent support and services to the 9,500 + member Special Forces Assoc. <http://specialforcescharitabletrust.org>
- **Operation Smile**- Give a life changing surgery to a child www.operationssmile.org

Help us support our mission while having fun at a great event at South Hampton Golf and Country club. We invite you to play in our tournament and support a good cause. Donation of merchandise used for silent auction or prizes.

Please register for your sponsorship using the registration at greenberetcharitygolf.com

Christopher Young
Vice President, SFA CH 88
Youngchristopher17@gmail.com
904-460-6044

<http://www.sfachapter88.org>

SFA Chapter 88 is located in Jacksonville, FL; is classified under Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(19), non-profit veteran organization
(IRS ID = EIN# 56-6148492). Contributions are tax deductible

From John Leslie: I was, and am still, proud as a peacock to accept this award on behalf of all of our members of VVA-1084 for their teamwork and hard-work to make this award possible. The honor is elevated by the quality of the other contenders for consideration. The Florida State Council, and the 31 state-wide Chapters truly make a difference, and serve as my example for excellence.

Thank you to all VVA-1084 members and their supporting families, and also to the all other veterans active in helping not only other veterans, but adding to the good-of-the-community wherever that might be.





St. Johns Golf & Country Club

219 St. Johns Golf Drive
St. Augustine, FL 32092

Tuesday, April 9, 2019
"National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day"

Registration/Warm-up/Pre-Event	11:45am - 12:45pm
Shot Gun Start	1:00 pm
BBQ Dinner/Awards Ceremony/Raffle	5:00 – 6:30 pm

Raffle tickets available throughout the day. Winners will be announced at the conclusion of the award ceremony.

All proceeds benefit **Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc.**

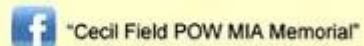
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**Deadline to Register*:
April 5, 2019**

Sponsorship Packages and Player Registration Forms attached, or register online at:

www.powmiamemorial.org

Follow the 2019 Golf Tournament Event from our Facebook page:



TO THE VIETNAM VETERAN



TO THOSE WHO RETURNED WITH NO ONE TO GREET THEM.

TO THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN TOLD PTSD WOULD GO AWAY
IN TIME.

TO THOSE WHO HAVE NEVER BEEN TOLD THANK YOU OR
WELCOME HOME.

TO THOSE WHO RETURNED BUT ARE STILL HAUNTED BY
THE NIGHTMARES OF WAR.

TO THOSE WHO STILL REACT TO A BACKFIRE AND
BREAK A SWEAT AT THE SOUND OF A CHOPPER.

TO THOSE WHO SUFFER FROM AGENT ORANGE EXPOSURE
AND ARE STILL FIGHTING THE LAST BATTLE.

TO THOSE WHO FOUGHT BATTLES IN THE JUNGLES OF
VIETNAM AND HERE AT HOME.

TO THOSE WHO HAVE MORE FRIENDS ON THE
VIETNAM MEMORIAL WALL THAN ALIVE TODAY.



THANK YOU!

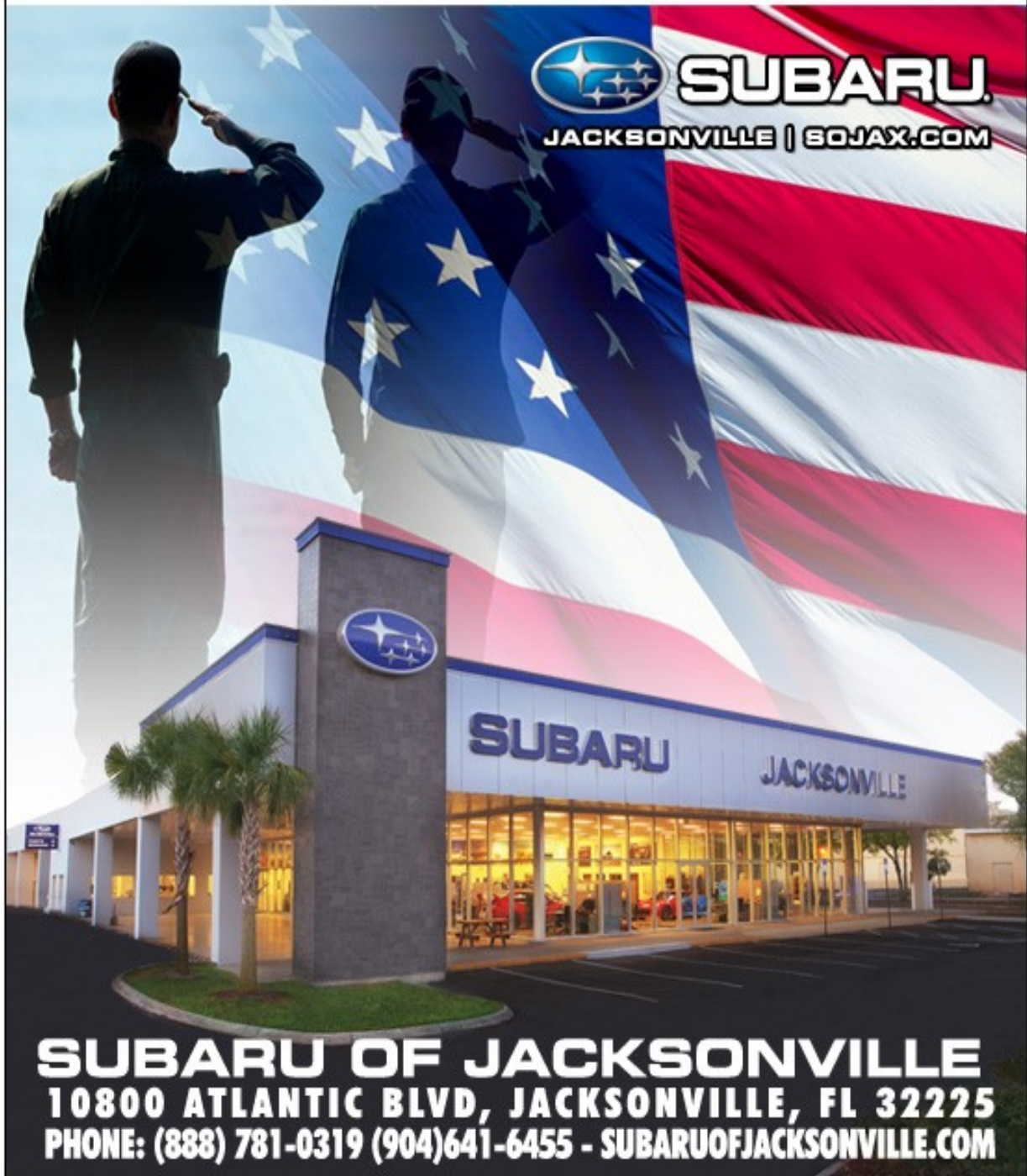




When someone says their father, brother, uncle or cousin never came home, please let your first question be “Who is listed as Next of Kin and has family DNA been submitted?” It is imperative that each of our MIAs has a family contact and family DNA on file. The United States is in possession of hundreds of unidentified remains...please help give these men the honor they truly deserve.

Please contact the appropriate Casualty Office or Rolling Thunder Ohio Chapter 2

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Navy to Navy Homes vs Others

N2N is outperforming the rest!

	98.4% of original list price	N2N	N2N Sells Houses for MORE MONEY
	95.5%	Others	


Over 6,000 Potential Buyers in N2N Database

	29 average days on market	N2N	N2N Sells Houses FASTER
	72	Others	


	2% percentage of listings that expire	N2N	More Likely to Sell with N2N
	29.9%	Others	

GREAT TIME TO SELL!

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Marianne Bach
(904) 349-0456



Kathy Jordan
(904) 401-0476

*** As a **VETERAN**,
SAVE **25%** when buying or selling with us! ***



Navy to Navy Homes Llc
10605 Theresa Drive, Suite 5
Jacksonville, FL 32246
Office: 904-900-4776

Castillo de San Marcos National Monument The Moat



The walls of the Castillo were not meant to stand alone; there was a complex of outer defensive works that protected the fort and the town of St. Augustine. A 40 foot wide moat surrounding the Castillo was one of them. Moats are usually filled with water to slow incoming attackers; however, the Castillo's moat was dry and used by the Spanish as a corral for livestock in times of attack. The moat originally encircled the fort on all sides, but the east side was filled with earth in 1842 to create a water battery. The remaining three sides of the moat are framed by coquina walls.

Between 1936 and 1938 the moat was filled with water. This caused portions of the foundation to weaken and that resulted in some of the large cracks you can see on the southwest bastion. In 1996 the moat was drained and returned to its historically accurate state.



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Jose' Concha, DPM * Richard Johnson, DPM
Board Certified by
the American Board of Foot & Ankle Surgery

*From all of us at Coastal, we wish you a very Merry
Christmas and a Happy New Year!!*



St. Augustine: 904-826-1900 www.cfawc.com Palatka: 386-328-1122



Save the Date

Saturday, May 11, 2019

**1800 hours: Social Hour
1900 hours: Dinner Dance**

Military Ball for All

HONORING FIVE STAR VETERANS CENTER

Jacksonville Marriott
Ballroom
(JTB at I-95)

\$150 couple, \$80 single
Tables from \$850

Tax Deductible

Sponsorships Available
*ALL proceeds benefit
recovering, homeless
veterans*

Live Auction with
Senator Aaron Bean

Dinner Banquet

Dancing

Black Tie Optional

(904) 723-5950
5starveteranscenter.org



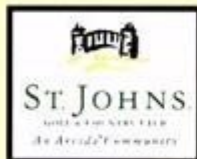


OPERATION HandUP (8/21/2018 – 9/8/2018)

We are creating care pouches with edibles, for our women veterans not living in stabled housing. Items needed are:

Cup of Noodles
Cookies or Crackers
Nuts
Dried Fruit
Protein or breakfast bars
Pop Tarts
Capri Suns or something similar to drink
Canned microwaveable soups/veggies
Peanut Butter and Jelly
Canned fruit
Tuna Fish or chicken in the pack
Canned pasta
Fruit and Jello cups
Small water bottles
Gift cards are acceptable too.

Deliver to:
2133 Broadway Ave.
Monday – Friday 9:00am – 3:00pm
904-862-6039
www.forwomenvets.org



St. Johns Golf & Country Club
 219 St. Johns Golf Drive
 St. Augustine, FL 32092

Tuesday, April 9, 2019
 "National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day"

Registration/Warm-up/Pre-Event	11:45am - 12:45pm
Shot Gun Start	1:00 pm
BBQ Dinner/Awards Ceremony/Raffle	5:00 - 6:30 pm

Raffle tickets available throughout the day. Winners will be announced at the conclusion of the award ceremony.

All proceeds benefit **Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc.**


CECIL FIELD POW/MIA MEMORIAL IS A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION - REGISTRATION NUMBER: CHS1569. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE, 800 435 7352, WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. CECIL FIELD POW/MIA MEMORIAL IS AN (IRS 501(C)(3)) PUBLIC CHARITY. ID# 31954. CONTRIBUTIONS ARE DEDUCTIBLE.

**Deadline to Register*:
 April 5, 2019**

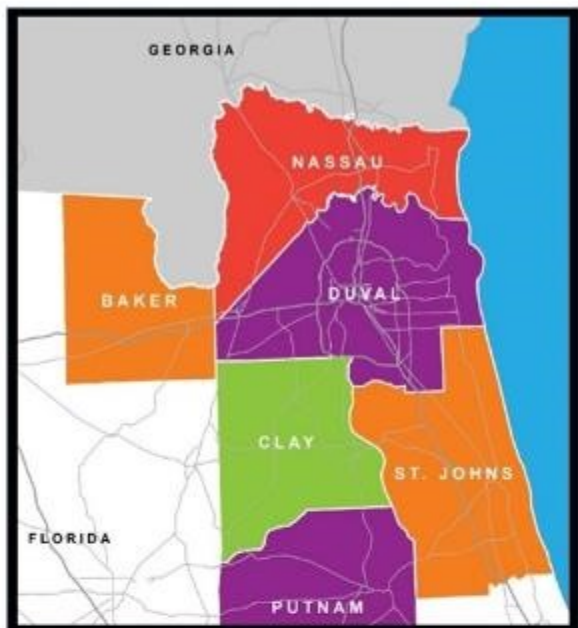
Sponsorship Packages and Player Registration Forms attached, or register online at:

www.powmiamemorial.org

Follow the 2019 Golf Tournament Event from our Facebook page:

 "Cecil Field POW MIA Memorial"

Veteran County Councils of Northeast Florida



Duval County

President: Steve Spickelmier

Meetings:

Third Tuesday of each month in the 40/8 Building

Located at the American Legion Post 137
5443 San Juan Avenue

7pm

Nassau County

President: Paul Kicker, Chairman
Veterans Council of Nassau County

76347 Veterans Way,
Veterans Service Office

Yulee, FL 32097

Meets the first Thursday of every month
at the Theodore Hernandez American
Legion Post 54, 626 South 3rd Street,
Fernandina Beach, FL 32034 at 7 pm

Baker County

President: Larry Porterfield

Meetings:

Second Thursday of each month
MacClenny Primitive Baptist Church
Fellowship Hall on North Boulevard
6pm

Contact:

Baker County Veterans Council
PO Box 1434
MacClenny, FL 32063

Clay County

President: Bob Brewster

Meetings: First Wednesday of
each month

Location varies between the
different Veteran Organizations.

Time varies

St. Johns County

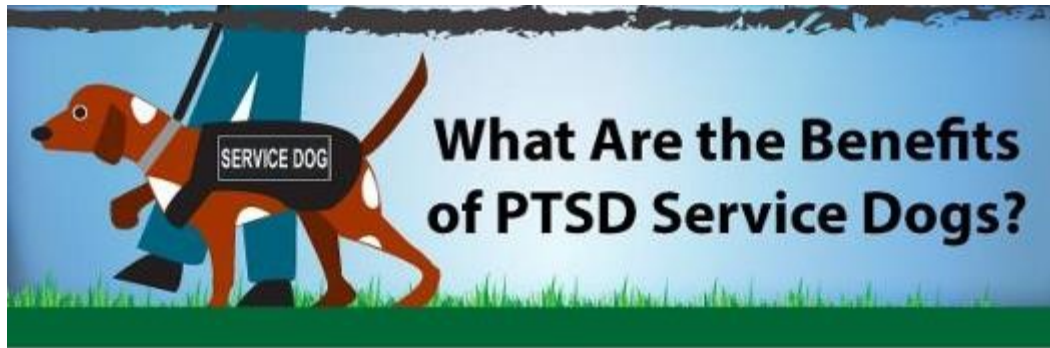
President: Bill Dudley

Meetings:

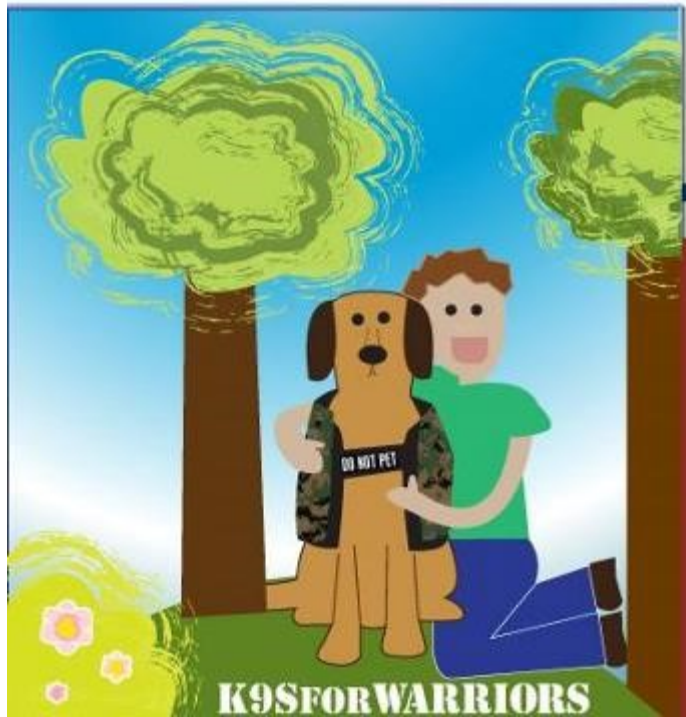
Last Thursday of each month
Health and Human Services Building
Muscovy Room, 1st Floor
200 San Sebastian View
Muscovy Room 1st Floor
St. Augustine, FL 32084
7pm

Contact:

info@VeteransCouncilofStJohns.org



- Reduce in use or even elimination of prescription drugs.
- Decrease in anxiety, anger, and depression.
- Decline in suicidal thoughts.
- Decrease in medical costs.
- Decrease in need for other treatments.



According to collaborative research performed by Purdue University & K9s For Warriors, veterans with a service dog reported:

- better ability to cope with flashbacks & anxiety attacks
- less overall sleep disturbances, including nightmares
- lower levels of depression & anger
- higher levels of companionship & social reintegration
- increased life satisfaction
- improved physical health

MISSION BACKGROUND

Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, has been formed to restore and establish a national memorial that will serve as a historic and destination site for Jacksonville and to serve as an educational resource for generations to come.

The memorial site, located at the former Naval Air Station Cecil Field, was originally dedicated on September 11, 1973 and consisted of markers and associated trees for each of the 16 POW/MIA pilots (an area known as Hero's Walk and Freedom Trees), a pavilion, a stage area, a starburst metal display of aircraft, a granite base seal of NAS Cecil Field and a chapel. This property was given to the City of Jacksonville when Cecil Field was decommissioned in 1995. As a result, the existing memorial has been forgotten.

However, the non-profit organization was given a lease by the Jacksonville City Council and the Mayor's office, and given the rights to develop, expand and maintain the 26-acre memorial.



A FEW QUOTES SUBMITTED BY OUR NATIONAL LEADERS



"Your proposal to use part of the former Naval Air Station Cecil Field for a POW/MIA Memorial is a fitting location to pay tribute to this very special group. Given that Mary Hoff, the creator of the POW/MIA flag, is a long-time resident of Jacksonville, and that her husband, Lieutenant Commander Michael G. Hoff, is memorialized at Cecil Field, there could not be a more appropriate site for the POW/MIA Memorial."

U.S. Congressman
John Rutherford

"The proposal to build the Cecil Field Prisoners of War and Missing in Action Museum is a great opportunity to honor the service members who did not return home from war."

U.S. Senator
Marco Rubio

"With the Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, we can renew our commitment to all those who have worn the uniform, to the children and families, and thank them for their selflessness and bravery."

U.S. Senator
Bill Nelson



JOIN THE MISSION TO BRING A NATIONAL POW/MIA MEMORIAL TO JACKSONVILLE

MISSION STATEMENT

HONOR ALL FORMER PRISONERS OF WAR;
REMEMBER AND NEVER FORGET THOSE
QUIET, MISSING IN ACTION HEROES AND THE
FAMILIES THAT WAIT FOR THEIR RETURN.

More than 82,000 are still Missing in Action and Unaccounted for since WWII

MEMORIAL STRATEGIC PLAN

With the help of the community, Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc. is raising funds to make this memorial a true national honor to all POW/MIA personnel from every state in America. These funds will enable the organization to accomplish the following memorial projects:

- Restore and use the historic chapel (named the "Chapel of the High-Speed Paves") for memorial services, ceremonies and weddings.
- Enhance the existing sacred grounds of the park and to construct a replica of the USS Saratoga (CV-60).
- Refurbish and utilize existing building 333 as a starting point for the POW/MIA memorial center and museum.
- Establish a new memorial center - to honor all Former Prisoners of War, acknowledge those still Missing in Action; feature the history of the Prisoner of War/Missing in Action flag; house the history of NAS Cecil Field.
- Educate the public on the Prisoner of War and Missing in Action issue through exhibits, videos, artifacts and memorabilia.
- Establish a national destination for military remembrance and celebration (there is not a national memorial for all Missing in Action in the United States).



Hero's Walk & Freedom Trees



Chapel of the High-Speed Paves



Starburst Sculpture

CECIL FIELD NATIONAL POW/MIA MEMORIAL PARK



HOW YOU CAN HELP HONOR OUR MILITARY HEROES



It will take considerable dollars to fund this sacred project. At this point, the project will depend on contributions from private citizens. You can help this effort by making contributions online by going to our website at powmiamemorial.org or to make checks payable to:

Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc.
612 New World Avenue Jacksonville, Florida 32225

ONLINE PowMiaMemorial.org

Facebook.com/Cecil-Field-POW-MIA-Memorial-Inc-1084025864845232/

Twitter.com/CFPOW/MIA

Instagram.com/cecilfieldpowmia/

Disclaimer: Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc. IS A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION. REGISTRATION NUMBER: CHECKED A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE OFFICE OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE, 800-435-1352, WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECEIPTMENT BY THE STATE.

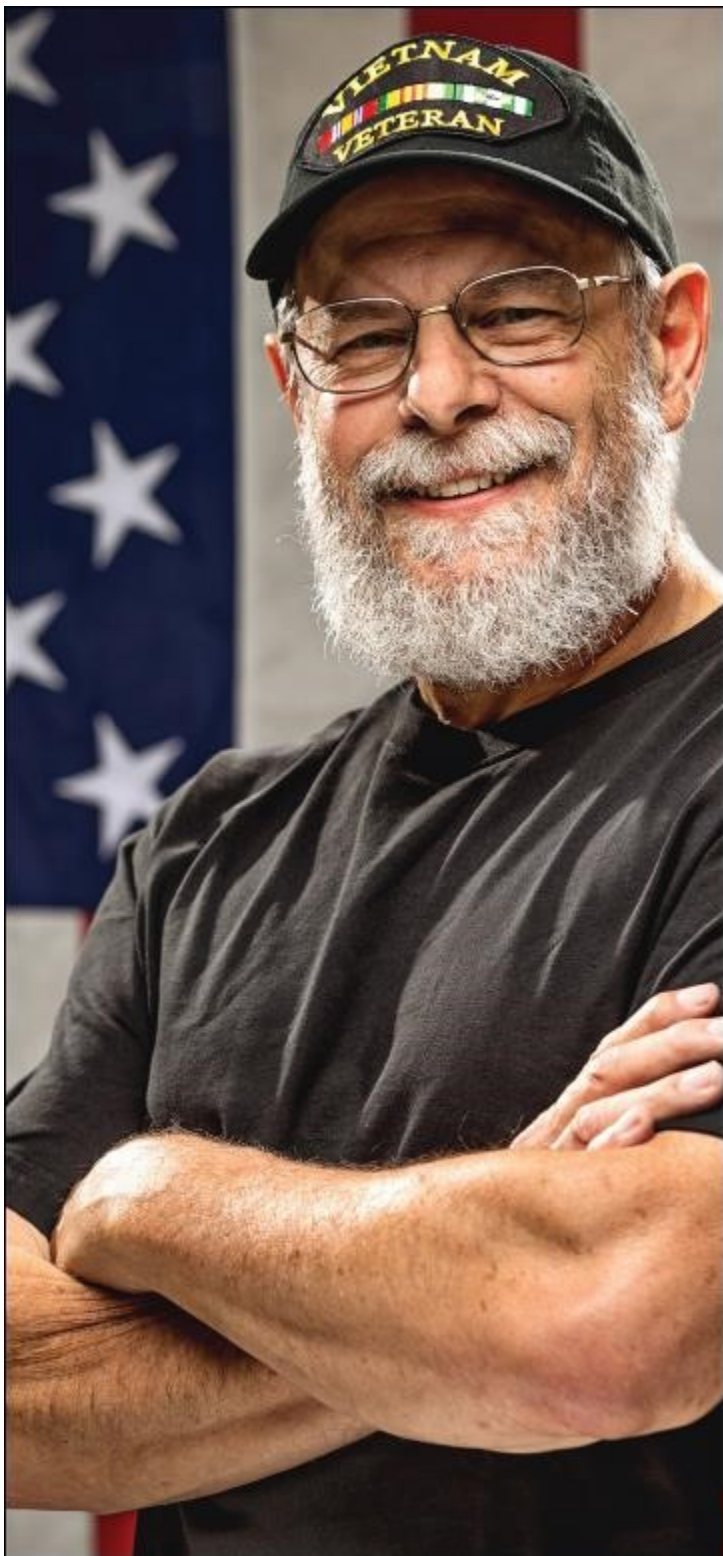
36 Granada Street, St. Augustine FL 32084

(904) 679-5736

Corazoncinemaandcafe.com



Stop by the Corazon Cinema and Café located in the heart of St. Augustine to catch a great film or a bite to eat (free parking). **Tell us you are a veteran and receive 10% off any food or drinks.** Beer and wine available.



SERVING VETERANS SINCE 1979

At Community Hospice & Palliative Care, we are honored to serve veterans and their caregivers by providing specialized programs to meet their unique needs now and at the end of life.

- ★ Advance Care Planning
- ★ Bereavement & Grief Support
- ★ Caregiver Education
- ★ Hospice Care
- ★ Palliative Care
- ★ We Honor Veterans Program

For more information about our We Honor Veterans program, any of our services or to become a veteran volunteer, call toll-free **866.253.6681** or go to **Veterans.CommunityHospice.com**.



"I've proudly served as Chairman of the Community Hospice Veterans Partnership (CHVP) since 2011. CHVP partners with veterans service groups throughout the community to listen and learn how Community Hospice & Palliative Care can best serve our unique needs."

**Bob Buehn, Captain, United States Navy (Ret.)
Chairman, Community Hospice Veterans Partnership
(2011 - present)**





Salute Our Heroes in Their Final Days: Support Flags & Pins for Veterans in Hospice Care

Honor our local veterans in hospice care with a dignified tradition when you support funding for flags and pins through Community Hospice & Palliative Care.

Since 2008, the Jacksonville-based organization has presented all veterans admitted to its hospice program with a commemorative pin to honor their service, as well as a certificate of appreciation. For veterans who get care at one of our eight Inpatient centers, staff and volunteers erect the flag of the service branch in which they served outside their rooms. Flags are then presented to veterans' families following the death.



The need for funding is great as up to 25 percent of patients who receive hospice care at Community Hospice & Palliative Care are veterans. The nonprofit organization, which provides hospice care to nearly 1,300 patients each day, raises funds through individual support and community organizations who believe in serving those who have served our country so honorably.

If you or your organization would like to support our Flags & Pins Initiative and honor our warriors one last time, please contact

Toula Wootan, director of community programs at Community Hospice & Palliative Care, at 904.407.6211 or twootan@communityhospice.com.

The Veterans Council of St. Johns County is proud to announce that it has modernized its website and created a new Facebook page.



We are inviting all veterans to visit our website at:

NEW <http://www.veteranscouncilsjc.org>

The Veterans Council will post items of interest to all veterans, post pictures, articles, flyers, events, etc. We will post our meetings dates and keep you informed about events at the Jacksonville and St. Augustine National Cemeteries.

Please join our group on Facebook at:
VeteransCouncilofStJohnsCounty,FL

Please select **Join the Group** to become a member

Once you have joined the Veterans Council Facebook group you will be able to post your meetings, pictures, articles, fund raisers, etc. It will be your common site to go to and see what's happening.

The website and Facebook page were updated and created so that there would be a central place to list all veterans activities in NE FL.

You may have noticed the Veterans Council's new logo, it was created by Roy Havekost and his web design company PageAuthors. The VC strongly recommends that you contact Roy, 727-487-6252, if you or your vet group wants to create a website or Facebook page.

NEW INFO: Ride in comfort to your appointments at the VA Medical Center in Gainesville.



The van is provided by the Disabled Veterans Chapter 6, and leaves no later than 6AM from the new VA Clinic location at 195 Southpark Blvd. The corner of Southpark and Old Moultrie Road.

To schedule your seat please contact the VA Clinic at 904-823-2954 and ask for Veteran Van Scheduling.



**SURVIVOR
OUTREACH SERVICES**

Survivor Outreach Offers Free Services to
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Contact Keith Ham

Survivor Outreach Services Support Coordinator, HRCI Contractor
310 Charlotte Street, St. Augustine, FL 32084
Office: 904-823-0157 Cell: 904-472-7689
Email: keith.e.ham.ctr@mail.mil

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*Veterans Council of St. Johns County,
"Helping All Veterans"*

The Veterans Council of St. Johns County welcomes article submissions from all County Veterans & organizations. Articles should be of interest to all and veterans related. Submissions may be edited &/or shortened and used if space permits.

Send to: mrothfeld@anyveteran.org

Please send to: mrothfeld@anyveteran.org



**The Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc. is a
Not For Profit Florida Corporation.**

Our formation date was July 4, 2001 in a proclamation issued by the St. Johns County Commissioners. It is composed of representatives of the various veterans' organizations within St. Johns County.

The Veteran's Council will work with city and county governments and other local organizations to achieve the mutual goal to provide a central agency to assist in the coordination and presentation of matters concerning veterans and veterans activities in St. Johns County.

The Veteran's Council will endeavor to precipitate, stimulate and assist various organizations as they perform patriotic events. One of the major purposes is the promotion and education of national patriotic matters.

**The St. Johns County Veterans Council meets the
last Thursday of the month at 7 pm.**

***The Veterans Council will meet at the St.
Johns County Health & Human Services
Building, 200 San Sebastian View
Muscovy Room, 1st floor***

**Veterans Service Office
200 San Sebastian View, Suite 1400
St. Augustine, FL 32084**

*(physical location)
The VSO Office is located in the St. Johns County Health and
Human Services Building.*

*The office is open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily,
Monday through Friday excluding holidays.*

*Service is by appointment.
Phone: 904-209-6160 Fax: 904-209-6161
Joseph McDermott, SR VSO
Rick Rees, Assistant VSO
Tammy Shirley, Assistant VSO*

The views expressed in The Patriot Reader Newsletter articles, submissions and spotlights are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Veterans Council of St. Johns County or the editors of The Patriot Reader. It is the purpose of this periodical to share a variety of information that pertain to local veterans and their organizations.