



The Patriot Reader Newsletter

P.O. Box 2117

St. Augustine, FL 32085

Bill Dudley, Publisher

Michael Rothfeld, Editor

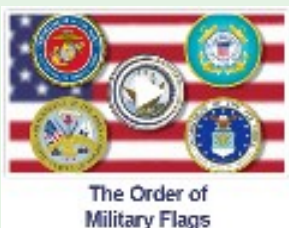
Volume 9, Issue 4

Message from the Chairman

April 2020

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Fellow Veterans:
I hope this edition of our Patriot Reader newsletter finds each of you in good health and not suffering from any of the symptoms of the COVID-19 Coronavirus. It has been an exasperating week to say the least but our local, state and Federal government officials are doing everything humanly possible to keep us safe.

We are definitely flying in uncharted territory and much of the program to deal with this virus is being developed as our government and health care officials attempt to care for us. As veterans, we know how to salute and carry out the orders given us. It's much the same in this situation as our leadership develops the plan to provide for the safety of our citizens.

I see this crisis as an opportunity for each of us to reach out to a fellow veteran, a neighbor or someone you may be concerned

about with a phone call and just check on them. I did that this week and plan to continue with my call list each day until our country returns to normal times.

Recently, Michael Rothfeld and I met with Kathy Fleming, Executive Director of the St. Augustine Lighthouse and Maritime Museum and Bob Buehn, Chairman of the Lighthouse and Museum.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss a collaborative effort between the Lighthouse and Museum organization and the Veterans Council concerning an upcoming oral history project that the museum is sponsoring. In this edition of the Patriot Reader, there appears for the first time a series of articles from the Museum that will appear monthly about this project. This is a WW II oral history project and they are searching for WW II servicemen and women who were stationed in the St. Augustine area for an upcoming exhibit. If you or anyone you know are



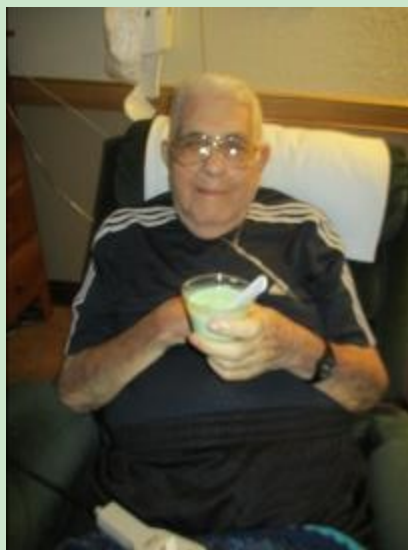
aware of any service member who served in this area during WW II, please contact Kathy Fleming at 904-829-0745 or email her at kfleming@staugustinelighthouse.org. I'm sure you are aware that all of our veterans meetings and activities have been canceled until further notice. If your organization would like to place any information on our website, Facebook page or in our newsletter concerning cancellations or postponements of your veteran's events due the Coronavirus, please contact Michael Rothfeld at rothfeldm@gmail.com. Stay safe and pray for our nation to heal.

Bill Dudley
Chairman
Veterans Council of St. Johns County

Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home



St. Patrick's Day





**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**. The meeting will be at **6:00pm**. 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 6:00pm**

**DATES OF 2020 SC at JNC MEETINGS, All on Mondays
April 6th, May 4th
Oct 5th, Nov 2nd, Dec 7th**

**MEMORIAL DAY EVENT - Saturday, May 23rd
WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA 2020 - Saturday, December 19th.**

+++++2018/19,20 Officers of the SCJNC+++++

**Chairman: Steve Spickelmier
Vice Chairman: Bill Dudley, Treasurer: Pat Welch
Secretary: Kathy Church, Judge Advocate: Don Guthrie
Master-At-Arms: Mike Smith, Historian: Win Delpizzo
Chaplain: Mike Delpizzo, Public Affairs: Pat Mulvihill**

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:

- Apr. 30 Carl “Jeff” Lay, 1SG US Veterans Reserve Corps. FL
Kathy Fleming, Exec. Dir., St Augustine Lighthouse, WW II Coast Guard Project**
- May 28 Dr. Roger Smith, Military History of Colonial St. Augustine**
- June 25 SJC Homeless Veterans Initiative panel (tentative)**
- July 30 Fire Watch speaker (tentative)**
- Sept. 24 Denise Olsen, Finding & Honoring your Military Ancestry**

North Florida/ South Georgia Veterans Health System

Dear Veteran,

As of March 18, the North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System does not have any patients confirmed positive with the Coronavirus (COVID-19). We have had several patients whom we have sent their specimen sample off for testing. As of today, our designated COVID-19 testing lab has returned negative results for presence of the virus.

As the number of confirmed cases continue to rise throughout our nation and locally, we are all taking significant actions in our workplaces, at home and in our community to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Our top priority is the safety and care of our Veteran patients and employees. Our objective is slowing the spread of the disease. There are several actions we have taken to assist with meeting this objective:

We implemented the COVID-19 telephone support line for patients enrolled in VISN 8. The VISN Clinical Contact Center, 1-877-741-3400, is available 24/7 to support identification of COVID-19 patients that need to stay home, be evaluated by telehealth or visit a hospital.

We limited access points and implemented active screenings at our clinical care delivery locations. We are following the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations for these screenings.

We restricted admissions and visits to the most vulnerable patient populations, our Nursing Homes. Visitation is still occurring within our hospice.

We placed the Disabled American Veteran (DAV) patient transportation system on hold.

We engaged with National, State and Community organizations to learn and coordinate our responses to this pandemic.

Over the next couple of days, we will continue to strengthen our initiatives to keep patients and employees who have COVID-19 symptoms out of the facilities, unless inpatient hospitalization is required. In effort to do this we will clinically review routine clinical screenings, elective surgeries and routine appointments that can be deferred until the pandemic has passed.

All face-to-face clinical outpatient appointments will be clinically reviewed to determine the feasibility to utilize telehealth modalities to include telephone, VA Video Connect, and MyHealthVet. Our care management teams will contact patients to communicate their personalized care plan and address any concern they might have related to the change. All plans will include consistent communication between the patient and the care team to address clinical needs and provide updates. We asked that for services that are direct scheduled (physical therapy, optometry, etc.) or a part of a walk-in clinics, that Veterans call before reporting to these appointments. We have further restricted our visitation policy that limits one visitor with a patient, if applicable.

I encourage our patients and staff to take every day preventative actions to avoid being exposed to the virus:

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.

Stay home if you are sick or becoming sick.

Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

If you have symptoms or have been exposed to someone with symptoms, call the VA before going to the facility.

Our team at NF/SGVHS is prepared for the long haul. I take comfort in knowing that our health system has dynamic, professional, and responsive staff who take pride in taking care of our patients.

One behalf of our Leadership team and employees, I thank you for entrusting us with your health care.

Thomas Wisnieski, MPA, FACHE, Director, North Florida/ South Georgia Veterans Health System

Sign-up for automatic email updates by filling in your email address in the "Emergency Email Updates" section, located at the top right corner of our page. Also, for information on emergencies, and various Veteran related events/topics "like" the NF/SGVHS Facebook Page.



Oral History Project at the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum



Consider that for millennia, humans have been using stories to pass along history and knowledge. What's the first thing that we do when we sit down with friends? "Let me tell you what happened to me the other day!" That's a story

and usually we wind up laughing and often telling an even better account of something that happened to us. We as humans connect to one another through the use of stories.

As many of you already know, the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum is in the development stages of a World War II exhibit. The Lighthouse was in service during the war as a lookout for German U-boats. To this end, a building was built to house U.S. Coast Guardsmen on property shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. "Coasties," as they were called, manned the tower around the clock and patrolled the beaches looking for potential landings of Germans. Those familiar with Operation Pastorius know that Germans landing on a beach in Florida became a reality, so patrols made sure any attempts were discovered and reported quickly.

As the staff at the Museum develop this new exhibit, we need your help to identify men and women who grew up in St. Augustine during the war or served in the war. The number of men and women who served is dramatically decreasing every day. Their stories will not only enhance our exhibit, but they will teach future generations about this monumental period in history.

Several months ago, Museum staff interviewed a 90-year old woman living in Atlanta who served as a lookout in one of the towers between St. Augustine and Palatka during the war. Her job was to report any planes that she saw to Naval Air Station Jacksonville. She also told us about Sunday afternoons when air men from NAS Jacksonville hitchhiked down to Palatka to attend church and then join families for Sunday dinner. The act of sitting down with a family they barely knew gave these airmen a taste of what they were fighting for: the



Coastal Lookout Building built after the attack on Pearl Harbor with some of the servicemen out front.

protection of family and friends, but more importantly, our American way of life.

The Museum's oral history project wants to capture stories like hers and incorporate them into our exhibit. The men and women who served in the war helped to transform the world and make our country stronger. Our hope is that their stories will remind future generations of the importance of sacrifice and patriotism in difficult times. Thank you for your service to our country and we look forward to partnering with you to achieve our goal.

If you know of someone in the community who lived or served during the war, please reach out to Jay Smith at 904.829.0745 ext. 240 at the Museum.



The Fire Watch Veteran Assistance Program and Mobile App

According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, approximately twenty veterans commit suicide each day in the United States. In an effort to respond to this national epidemic, St. Johns County has joined surrounding communities and local organizations in the Fire Watch, a program that provides a support system for veterans in crisis. The Fire Watch launched a mobile app that enables veterans and volunteers to foster positive relationships and assist veterans in receiving the help they need. Available on both the Apple App Store and Android Google Play, the app will allow veterans in crisis to quickly receive emergency assistance and connect them with a variety of local resources and allies that will help them build relations and provide one-on-one counseling and support. For more information on the Fire Watch program, please visit www.thefirewatch.org.



Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc. Minutes of February 27, 2020

Officers present: Chairman Bill Dudley, Vice Chairman Ray Quinn,
Secretary Michael Rothfeld, Treasurer John Mountcastle

Chairman Dudley called the meeting to order at 1904 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: Sheriff Shoar, Michael Wanchick, John Regan, Vicky Oakes, Mark Minor, Chief Hardwick, Ron Sanchez, Commissioner Henry Dean, Beth Abstein, Derek Barrs, Asst. Chief Lee Ashlock

Special Presentation of Appreciation to Michael Wanchick, former County Administrator for 11 years. Chairman Dudley presented Mr Wanchick with a presentation Flag that was flown on the USS Arizona on Dec. 7th, 2019 and thanked Mr Wanchick for his continual support of Veterans issues, the VSO, flying POW flag on county buildings, veterans only parking signs, and the Veterans Treatment Court. Sheriff Shoar and John Regan spoke at length about Mr Wanchick's leadership, initiative and administrative skills. He will be missed.

Speakers: Deborah Brannon: The Maria Jefferson DAR chapter was named after Maria, a great granddaughter of Thomas Jefferson and is open to those who can trace their lineage back to the Revolutionary Period. The DAR is a non profit, non political world wide service organization. The organization was founded in 1890 with the simple mission of promoting historic preservation, education and patriotism. These timeless, overarching principles keep the DAR strong and vitally relevant in this ever-changing world. There are 107 DAR chapters in FL with over 11,000 members. Contact DAR.org for more information about joining.

Wendy Williams Lay & Beth Abstein: spoke about the upcoming Veterans Expo at FCTC on March 26th from 2:30 to 4:30 pm. and how FCTC is now more veteran friendly with courses, lounge, counseling, tuition guidance, Wendy and Beth invited all to attend.

Committee Reports:

Mac: spoke briefly about FL Legal services for vets, contact Mac for more information. Mac urged all veterans to register for VA Health Care and said there are no results yet for Navy Blue Water claims.

John L: VTC next date is March 12th. To date 28 graduates, now in its 4th year. 25 currently in the program.

VVA 1084: March 29th is Vietnam Veterans Day, Keynote speaker is COL Carl Smith. Held at St Augustine Ntl Cemetery. VVA 1084 is still visiting schools and has seen thousands of students to date.

May 18 is the big annual golf tournament, this year at the Palencia Club.

Steve S for MIAP: next Call to Honor is March 25th at Cape Canaveral

Chairman Dudley: Contractor activity has started at the new CBOC location on SR 207. The naming of the facility in honor of Leo C. Chase passed the Senate and is in the House awaiting approval.

Fire Watch held its first meeting in St Johns County. More information to follow on this important program to STOP

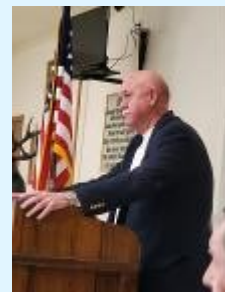
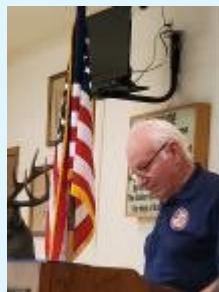
Veterans suicides.

All Veterans & their families must fill out Census forms when they arrive, this will help all veterans.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm, The next meeting of the Veterans Council will be on Thursday, March 26, 2020, 7 pm, in our usual location in the Health & Human Services Building, 200 San Sebastian View.

Future speakers: (please check VC Facebook daily posts to see when next VC meeting will be held)

- Apr. 30 Carl "Jeff" Lay, 1SG US Veterans Reserve Corps. FL
Kathy Fleming, Exec. Dir., St Augustine Lighthouse, WW II Coast Guard Project
- May 28 Dr. Roger Smith, Military History of Colonial St. Augustine
- June 25 SJC Homeless Veterans Initiative panel (tentative)
- July 30 Fire Watch (tentative)



BOB DINKINS

Robert D. Dinkins (Bob), 70, died February 28, 2020, from complications of Amyloidosis. Bob was born in Welch, WV, on September 1, 1949. His family later moved to Fort Lauderdale in 1953, where he spent his formative years. He was preceded in death by his father, Robert Dexter and his mother Elizabeth Kelly Dinkins.

Bob was a Florida resident most of his life. He lived in Ft. Lauderdale and Miami, prior to moving his family to St. Augustine in 1984. He attended Stranahan High School and Miami-Dade Community College. He was a US Air Force veteran and proudly served his country during the Vietnam War as an aircraft mechanic. He retired from the Defense Contract Management Agency after 36 years of federal service. Throughout his career, he worked on the NASA Space Shuttle and Military aircraft defense programs, as a government Quality Assurance Representative and Program Integrator.

Bob was a true Patriot and will be leaving behind a legacy of honor and sacrifice. He devoted much of his time after his retirement to supporting military veterans. He was a lifetime member of the Brian Tuten VFW Post #2391, Vietnam Veterans Leo C. Chase Chapter #1084, AMVETS Post #45, and American Legion Post #194. Bob was also a follower of Christ and an active member at Good News Church of St. Augustine. He also gave much of his time to the St. Augustine little League and Pop Warner Football Associations, and will be remembered by many, as Coach Bob.

Most importantly, he was a loving husband, father, grandpa, son, and brother. He is survived by his beloved wife and best friend, Irene, of 44 years; his son Dane; his son, Lance and his wife Jennifer; his grandchildren, Landon, Olivia, Violet, and Emmy all of St. Augustine; his sisters, Brenda Hughes, Cynthia Braden, and Debra (Steve) Turpin, all of Hendersonville, NC. Bob is also loved and adored by countless cousins, nieces, and nephews. His generosity and kindness knew no limits and he was truly a friend to all.

Bob has now been welcomed by his Savior and heavenly family. A Celebration of Life will be conducted at 11 am at Good News Church, World Golf Village, on Tuesday, March 3, 2020.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts in his memory may be made to the Amyloidosis Support Group at [www. Amyloidosisissupport.org](http://www.Amyloidosisissupport.org).



From News4Jax online

Hundreds attend 'Largest Gathering of Veterans' event in Jacksonville

550 veterans, 67 military organizations attended

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – There was a record-breaking turnout for the Vets4Vets event at VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena over the weekend.

The free event, gathering veterans from all over northeast Florida, aims to Inform, Connect, Organize and Unite veterans and to ensure “veterans are respected and recognized for their service, always receive the benefits and entitlements they were promised and earned and ensure all veterans are given a fair deal.”

The event featured key speakers, benefits and services, a hot buffet luncheon, and more.

Vets4Vets of Northeast Florida told News4Jax that gatherings are held quarterly and always on a Saturday morning and are operated by both veteran and community volunteers.

NE FL Vets4Vets was started in 2013 by the Semper Fidelis Society, founder Robert P. Adelhelm, Lt Col USMC. and Anthony D'Aleo, Vietnam Veterans #1046 Chapter, with about 15 veterans, a box of donuts and coffee.

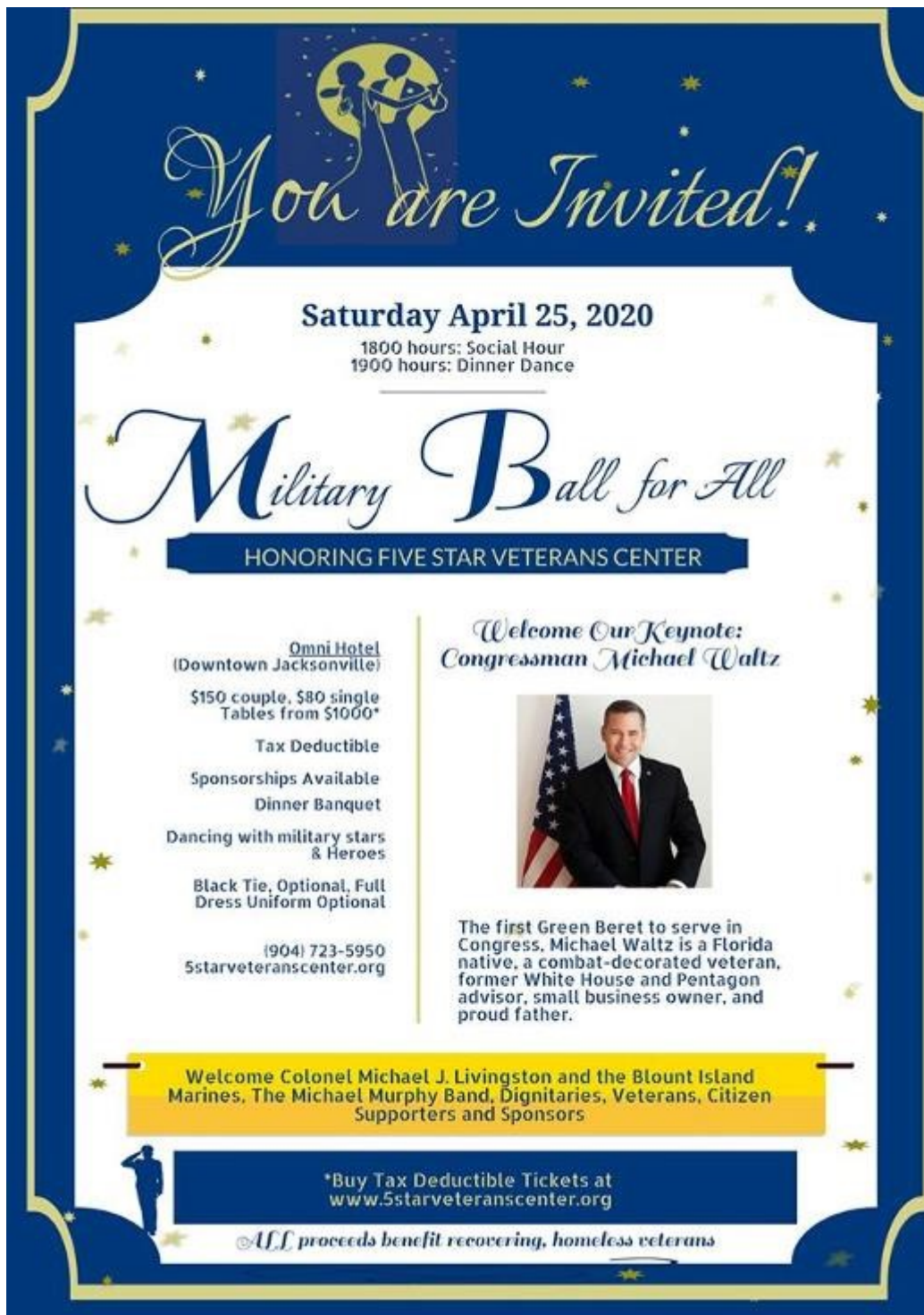
The Vets4Vets movement has grown over the last several years to now encompass the main floor of the VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena.

(Pictures on next page)

There was a record turnout on Saturday, February 29th ,550 Veterans at our quarterly Vets4Vets of Northeast Florida gathering and welcome home to Vietnam Vets! This movement started with a handful of Veterans getting together and turned into filling the entire floor of the arena. If you are a Veteran in Northeast Florida, I hope to see you next quarter!



Please contact the organization or POC of the event below to see if it is still scheduled or has been cancelled, or postponed.



The invitation card features a dark blue background with a gold border and scattered gold stars. At the top, a silhouette of a couple dancing is set against a full moon. The text is primarily in white and gold, with a central white box containing event details. A photograph of Congressman Michael Waltz is positioned on the right side, and a yellow banner at the bottom contains a list of guests.

You are Invited!

Saturday April 25, 2020
1800 hours: Social Hour
1900 hours: Dinner Dance

Military Ball for All

HONORING FIVE STAR VETERANS CENTER

Omni Hotel
(Downtown Jacksonville)

\$150 couple, \$80 single
Tables from \$1000*

Tax Deductible


Sponsorships Available
Dinner Banquet

Dancing with military stars
& Heroes

Black Tie, Optional, Full
Dress Uniform Optional

(904) 723-5950
5starveteranscenter.org

Welcome Our Keynote:
Congressman Michael Waltz



The first Green Beret to serve in Congress, Michael Waltz is a Florida native, a combat-decorated veteran, former White House and Pentagon advisor, small business owner, and proud father.

Welcome Colonel Michael J. Livingston and the Blount Island Marines, The Michael Murphy Band, Dignitaries, Veterans, Citizen Supporters and Sponsors

*Buy Tax Deductible Tickets at
www.5starveteranscenter.org

All proceeds benefit recovering, homeless veterans

Please contact the organization or POC of the event below to see if it is still scheduled or has been cancelled, or postponed.



St. Johns Golf & Country Club

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

Thursday April 9, 2020

"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: 041565. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE, 800 435 7332, 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 6, 2020**

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

www.powmiamemorial.org

Follow the 2020 Golf Tournament Event from our Facebook page:



"Cecil Field POW MIA Memorial"

The Colors of a Navy and Nation

**Flags, standards,
and banners**
have been used for thousands
of years as visual symbols of
those who bear them.



www.history.navy.mil

The "broad stripes and bright stars"
of the American flag represent an indivisible nation "with liberty and justice
for all" and symbolize sacrifices made by many for the sake of the nation
and freedom they stand for.
Read how the U.S. Navy has flown the various flags of our growing
country and carried on the customs of honoring those flags.

The Navy Jack

'Rattlesnake' Jack



It is widely believed that when the Navy was established on Oct. 13, 1775, ships of the Continental Navy flew a "jack" as seen above, also referred to as the "rattlesnake" jack. While there is no firm historical evidence that this was the first actual Navy jack, it is well documented that the rattlesnake and motto were used on several flags during the War of Independence.

'Union' Jack



The Navy jack eventually evolved into the flag seen here, also referred to as the "union" jack. This flag remained the Navy jack until 1976 when the rattlesnake jack made a one-year return to celebrate our nation's bicentennial. Then in 2002, the SECNAV directed the use of the rattlesnake jack as the Navy jack for the duration of the Global War on Terrorism.

Other Notable Flags in History



Grand Union Flag &
Lt. John Paul Jones



On Dec. 3, 1775, Lt. John Paul Jones hoisted the Grand Union flag, also known as the First Navy Ensign, aboard the warship *Albatross*. This marked the first time the American flag was raised over an American naval vessel.

When Francis Scott Key saw the American flag (known as the Star-Spangled Banner at that time) flying over Ft. Mifflin the night after the British bombardment Sept. 14, 1814, he wrote the lyrics to what later became our national anthem.



Star-Spangled Banner &
Francis Scott Key

Today's Navy

In today's Navy, only a few select flags are authorized to be displayed from a ship or craft of the Navy or naval station.



National Ensign

The most honored flag in the Navy is the U.S. national ensign. For ships in port, the national ensign is displayed from 0800 until sunset from the flagstaff aft. For ships underway, the national ensign is displayed during daylight from the gaff. For shore commands, it is displayed from 0600 to sunset.



President of the U.S.



Secretary of the Navy

Personal Flags

Personal flags represent senior officials all the way from the President of the United States down to an officer of the Navy commanding a ship. When a senior official visits a Navy ship afloat, his or her personal flag is flown from the ship. Otherwise, the unit commander afloat displays his or her flag.

Commissioning Pennant

The commissioning pennant is the mark of a commissioned Navy ship. It is flown at all times as long as a ship is in commissioned status, except when a senior official is embarked and flies his personal flag in its place.



Commissioning Pennant

Command Pennants

There are two types of command pennants: broad or burgee. Broad indicates commands of a force, group, or squadron of ships, aircraft wing, or carrier air wing. Burgee indicates command of a division of ships or crafts, or a major subdivision of an aircraft wing.



Broad command pennant of Destroyer Squadron 23, commanded by then-Captain Mough Suter during World War II in the Pacific.



Broad command pennant of Destroyer Division 95, from World War II in the Pacific.

Please contact the organization or POC of the event below to see if it is still scheduled or has been cancelled, or postponed.



Veterans' Diseases Associated with Agent Orange

The VA recognizes and assumes certain cancers and other health problems to be related to a Veterans' qualifying military service and associated with exposure to Agent Orange and other herbicides. Veterans and their survivors maybe eligible for disability compensation or survivors' benefits for these diseases. Here is a current list:

1. AL Amyloidosis
2. Chronic B-cell Leukemias
3. Chloracne (or similar acneform disease)
4. Diabetes Mellitus Type 2
5. Hodgkin's Disease
6. Ischemic Heart Disease
7. Multiple Myeloma
8. Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma
9. Parkinson's Disease
10. Peripheral Neuropathy, Acute and Subacute
11. Porphyrria Cutanea Tarda
12. Prostate Cancer
13. Respiratory Cancers (including lung cancer)
14. Soft Tissue Sarcomas
(other than osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma,
or mesothelioma)

Children with Birth Defects:

VA presumes certain birth defects in children of Vietnam and Korean Veterans associated with Veteran's qualifying military service.

Please contact the organization or POC of the event below to see if it is still scheduled or has been cancelled, or postponed.

ACTIVE DUTY ★ RETIRED ★ NATIONAL GUARD & RESERVE ★ ALL SERVICE BRANCHES

MILITARY SUPPORT RETREATS

RETREATS FOR FLORIDA AND GEORGIA POST 9-11 COMBAT VETERANS AND THEIR PRIMARY SUPPORT PERSON

	Amelia Island <i>Fernandina Beach, Florida</i>	★	FEBRUARY 6-9
	Marineland <i>Florida</i>	★	MARCH 12-15
	Lake Chatuge <i>Hiwassee, Georgia</i>	★	APRIL 2-5

From Thursday at 5:30pm – Sunday at 2:00pm



★ RESTORATION ★ RECREATION ★ RELAXATION ★

Strengthen and restore connections, enjoy the natural beauty of each location, be inspired by fun outdoor activities, learn about available support resources, and relax while discovering post-deployment strategies.

- ★ Small, friendly group setting ★
 - ★ All accommodations, food, and activities are provided free of charge ★
 - ★ Facilitated by Vets, VA/DoD experts, and Community Nonprofit Support Organizations ★
- Please note: Must be 18 to attend and no childcare is provided.*

TO LEARN MORE AND TO APPLY VISIT: GRATITUDEAMERICA.ORG/RETREATS



JACK GAFFORD, DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS
678-315-9028
JACK@GRATITUDEAMERICA.ORG



Military News - Honoring an Icon, a Hero

'Rosie the Riveter' dies at 95: New York woman who first inspired the iconic character while working on a fighter plane assembly line during WWII passes away, March 5, 2020.



One of the original women who are thought to have inspired Rosie the Riveter has died at the age of 95.

At 19, Rosalind P. Walter, from New York, was one of many women to pitch in during World War II, working on an assembly line as a riveter on Corsair fighter planes in Connecticut.

She and women like her became the inspiration for the 1942 song 'Rosie the Riveter' and the subsequent 'We Can Do It!' poster produced by J. Howard Miller.

When the WWII effort called for women to take up jobs previously held by men, the then 19-year-old Rosalind got to work, taking a night shift working on fighter planes at the Vought Aircraft Company plant in Connecticut.

While she was working there, newspaper columnist Igor Cassini profiled her in his Cholly Knickerbocker column — which reportedly caught the attention of songwriters John Jacob Loeb and Redd Evans.

Loeb and Evans wrote the 1942 song 'Rosie the Riveter,' which began: 'All the day long whether rain or shine / she's a part of the assembly line / She's making history, / working for victory — / Rosie, brrrrr, the Riveter.'

She and her second husband also donated to the American Museum of Natural History, the Pierpont Morgan Library, Long Island University, the college scholarship program of the United States Tennis Association and the North Shore Wildlife Sanctuary on Long Island.

She is survived by her son, two grandchildren, four step-grandchildren, and several step-great-grandchildren. Rosalind, however, isn't the only woman who has been called an 'original' Rosie the Riveter.

One is Naomi Parker Fraley, who worked in a Navy machine shop and died in January 2018 at the age of 96.

There's also 93-year-old Mae Krier, who was 17 when she moved from her home in North Dakota to Seattle, Washington in 1943, when she took a job at the Boeing Company.

These women made a difference in WWII, and for future generations of women.

From Lynn Geiser, VSO at DAV

HOW DISABILITY RATINGS WORK

BENEFITS CHART - Each increased level includes all benefits of the previous levels.

SERVICE CONNECTED PERCENTAGE	DESCRIPTION
0%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10-point Veteran preference in federal hiring • No cost health care and prescription drugs for service-connected disabilities •• Small copays for all other healthcare and mental healthcare and prescription drugs • Use of commissaries, exchanges, and morale, welfare and recreation (MWR) retail facilities, in-person and online. • Non-VA Urgent Care visits at \$30/visit including 14-day prescription (in network) • Non-VA Emergency Room for service-connected conditions or non-service-connected condition if you have no OHI (Other Health Insurance) – Must contact your VAMC within 72 hours • VA Dental Insurance Program (VADIP)
10%-20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waiver of VA funding fee for home loan • Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment (10% with a serious employment handicap) • Burial and plot allowance
30%-40%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel allowance for scheduled appointments for care at a VA medical facility or VA authorized health care facility • 10-point Veteran preference in federal hiring (Direct hire authority) • Additional compensation for eligible dependents (may include aid and attendance for eligible spouse)
50%-90%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No cost health care and prescription medications – no copays • Concurrent receipt of military retired pay • 3 no cost Non-VA Urgent Care visits including 14-day prescription (in network) (\$30/visit after use of 3 visits)
100% No restriction to income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No cost dental care • Uniformed Services ID card • S-DVI waiver of \$10,000 life insurance at 100% if unemployed for at least 6 months • Federal student loan forgiveness • Space-A Flights (Cat VI) - Veteran only • Non-VA ER – Must contact your VAMC within 72 hours •• --With Permanent & Total Status-- • Dependents Educational Assistance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •• Special restorative training • Dependent's CHAMPVA–Civilian Health and Medical Program (not Tricare eligible) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •• VA Dental Insurance Program (VADIP) for dependents

Individual Unemployability – 60%-90%

Same as 100% except must be unemployable due to service-connected disabilities with part time income restriction \$13,064/year (2019)

VA Derivative Benefits Eligibility Service-Connected Matrix

https://benefits.va.gov/benefits/derivative_sc.asp

<http://vcag.info> Veterans Claims Assistance Group

THE ARMY in Vietnam



Please contact the organization or POC of the event below to see if it is still scheduled or has been cancelled, or postponed.



2020

Save the Date

26 Sept 2020

Alton Green Memorial
Post 194
2nd Annual
Anniversary Golf
Tournament

More info to follow
derrygreene1@hotmail.com

Cimarrone Golf Club
2800 Cimarrone Blvd.
Jacksonville, FL 32259





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

The logo consists of the letters 'V4V' in a bold, serif font. The 'V's are filled with a pattern of white stars on a dark blue background, while the '4' is a solid dark blue.

Together We are Stronger

**Keeping our Veterans
Informed, Connected, United, and Organized**

V4VFlorida.org

Vets4VetsNJax@gmail.com

Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram: @Vets4VetsNJax

#vets4vetsjax #Jointhevetsmovement #Togetherwearestronger



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...

SA-0003147064-01

A question we all may have to ask some day. What should I do if a Veteran passes away?

SECTION 8 Partial list of action to be undertaken upon the death of veteran or retiree.

1. Contact Funeral Director to set-up funeral arrangements and Military Honors (PAFB Mortuary Affairs)
2. Notify Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) (<https://cust-support.dfas.mil/rapiti/nod/>) or call 1-888-332-741
3. Notify Veterans Administration 1-800-827-1000
4. Notify Social Security Administration 1-800-772-1213
5. Notify Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) 1-800-538-9552
6. Notify VA Life Insurance, if applicable 1-800-669-8477
7. Notify SGLI and VGLI Insurance, if applicable 1-800-419-1473
8. Notify Civil Service Retirement System, if applicable 1-888-767-6738
9. Obtain at least 10 certified copies of long form death certificate and 10 copies of short form death certificate from Funerary Directors
10. Notify Life Insurance companies, and file appropriate claims
11. Notify Medical, health, disability, travel and accident insurance companies, and file appropriate claims
12. Notify Home owners insurance company
13. Notify Vehicle insurance company
14. Go to the County Property Appraiser's Office and transfer all real estate properties to surviving spouse.
15. Apply for widowed person's Homestead Exemption
16. Apply for appropriate (VA, Civil Service and other) benefits, if applicable
17. Apply for Veterans Burial Benefits and Survivor Benefits, if applicable
18. Check for non-government pension benefits, if applicable
19. Apply for Workmen's Compensation Benefits if applicable.
20. Notify your Accountant or Tax Preparer (unless Estate Lawyer is preparing the final tax returns) provide certified death certificate, previously filed tax return forms, and current earnings and dividend statements.
21. Notify your investment broker or company.
22. Change ownership of joint or solely owned stocks, mutual funds, etc.
23. Cancel any unfulfilled orders arranged by the deceased
24. Notify IRAs and other retirement and investment account administrators
25. Transfer the ownership of bonds
26. Notify your bank(s) and credit union(s)
27. Change all jointly held accounts and correct tax identification numbers (usually Social Security Numbers) (Leave joint accounts intact for 6 months)
28. Cancel direct deposit retirement benefit payments (for SBP, Civil Service and others, if applicable)
29. Re-establish the Title of your safe deposit box
30. Re-establish all outstanding mortgages, personal notes, etc.
31. Apply for any credit life insurance that may exist on loans, credit cards, and mortgages
32. Change Certificates of Deposit
33. Go to Department Of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to transfer titles of all registered vehicles, mobile homes and boats.
34. Notify all credit card companies and cancel all individually held cards of the deceased
35. Review trusts for required actions, if required.
36. If a Will must be probated, contact your attorney. Your name may also need to be revised.
37. Cancel the deceased's Voter Registration and Drivers License.
38. Obtain new military identification cards. Make appointment at <https://rapids-appointments.dmdc.osd.mil/default.asp> or contact Patrick AFB ID Card Section at 321-494-6144/6147
39. Send "Thank You" cards for flowers, memorial donations, food, etc.

From Nila Thompson

Veterans
Crisis Line



Veterans Crisis Line

1-800-273-8255
PRESS 1

1-800-273-8255 PRESS 1

Veterans
Crisis Line
1-800-273-8255 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.suicideline.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

Veterans Councils of Northeast Florida



BAKER COUNTY

President: Larry Porterfield

Meetings:

Second Thursday of each month

Location:

**MacClenny Primitive Baptist Church
Fellowship Hall on North Boulevard**

Time: 1800 (6pm)

CLAY COUNTY

President: Harry Silvers

Meetings:

First Wednesday of each month

Location:

**American Legion Post 250
3939 County Rd 218
Middleburg, FL 32068**

Time: 1400 (2pm)

NASSAU COUNTY

President: Doc Monaghan

Meetings:

First Thursday of each month

Location:

**American Legion Post 54
626 South 3rd St
Fernandina Beach FL 32034**

Time: 1900 (7pm)

DUVAL COUNTY

President: Steve Spickelmier

Meetings:

Third Tuesday of each month

Location:

**American Legion Post 137
Moon Building
5443 San Juan Avenue**

Time: 1900 (7pm)

ST. JOHNS COUNTY

President: Bill Dudley

Meetings:

Last Thursday of each month

Location:

**Health and Human Services Bldg
Muscovy Room, 1st Floor
200 San Sebastian View
St. Augustine, FL 3208**

Time: 1900 (7pm)

Contact Nila Thompson with updates
Nila.ThompsonV4V@gmail.com

National Museum of the Marine Corps

Throughout February and March 2020, the Museum will commemorate the 75th anniversary of the battle of Iwo Jima with special displays and events.

Tomorrow, 19 February, will mark the anniversary of D-Day on Iwo Jima. In commemoration of the battle, the Museum will display both flags raised on Mount Suribachi on 23 February 1945 in our WWII Gallery.

Stop by and see these iconic flags on display until 30 March 2020.

THE BATTLE OF IWO JIMA
1945 - 2020

FLAG RAISINGS ON IWO JIMA

"The raising of the flag on Suribachi means
a Marine Corps for the next **500** years"

- James Forrestal, Secretary of the Navy,
to General Holland M. Smith, USMC

4.8 mi
2.5 mi
IWO JIMA

554 ft
MOUNT SURIBACHI

FLAGS RAISED

1		28 1/2" x 55 1/2"
2		58" x 88 3/4"

IMPORTANT DATES

FEBRUARY 19	D-DAY ON IWO JIMA
FEBRUARY 23	1ST AND 2ND FLAG RAISED
MARCH 14	2ND FLAG TAKEN DOWN
MARCH 26	THE BATTLE OF IWO JIMA ENDS
APRIL 26	BOTH FLAGS RETURN TO THE U.S.

6 FLAG RAISERS*
*The 2nd flag raising

NATIONAL MUSEUM
OF THE
MARINE CORPS

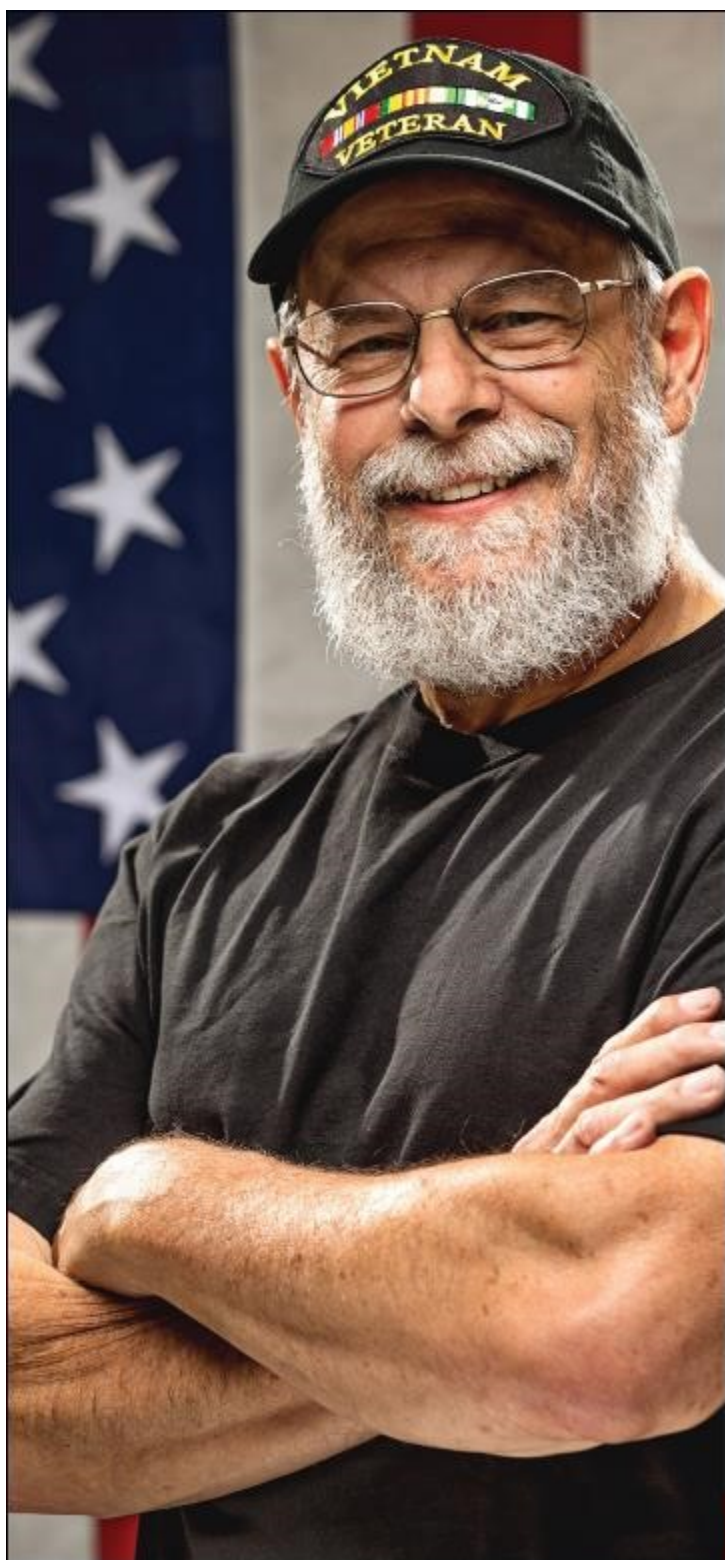
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Corazoncinemaandcafe.com



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 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:

<http://veteranscouncilsjc.org>

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
Surviving Spouses and Family Members of Military Retirees

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: rothfeldm@gmail.com



**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
Travis Neidig, 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.