



The Patriot Reader Newsletter

P.O. Box 2117

St. Augustine, FL 32085

Bill Dudley, Publisher

Michael Rothfeld, Editor

Volume 10, Issue 4

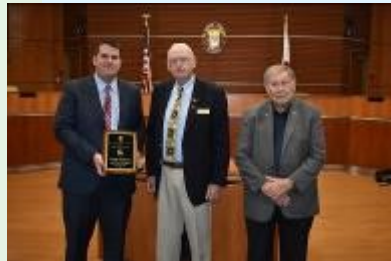
Message from the Chairman

April 2021

Inside this Edition

- Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home
- Support Committee Jax National Cemetery
- Fire Watch
- Vietnam Virtual Wall of Faces
- Veterans Art Exhibit, "Then & Now"
- Gold Star Family
- Desert Storm/ Desert Shield
- VN Bronze Star Awarded 50 years later
- Career & Education Fair
- VA Transportation Assistance
- DAV Van to Gainesville now scheduling
- Medical & Financial Assistance
- Veterans Council February Minutes
- Documenting the Vietnam War Helicopters
- Millionaire Marine Veteran of WW I, II
- Cowboy Chopper Pilot
- CAPT Amy Bauerschmidt
- VVA 1048 AVVAFA Member of Year
- Military Support Treats
- V\$V Quarterly Gathering, Sat. May 1
- First Coast Honor Flight
- Disaster Resources Available to Veterans
- Cohen Veterans Network

Fellow Veterans,
Our February meeting was an opportunity for the Veterans Council to honor our 2020 recipient of the Col. Ed Taylor Award. Commissioner Jeremiah Blocker was selected as last



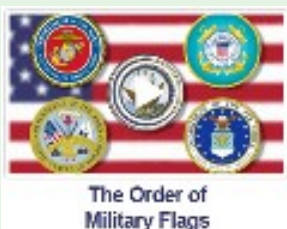
year's honoree of this prestigious award. Commissioner Blocker, the Chairman of the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners has been a strong supporter of veterans and veteran's needs since he was elected to the BCC. A veteran himself, he is currently serving as a Major in the FLANG JAG Corp and has been deployed for many months during the COVID-19 crisis. Commissioner Blocker has worked tirelessly since being elected to assist the veterans in our county with things like reserved parking for veterans at County facilities, realigned and strengthened the VSO office for better service to our veterans, helped to introduce the Fire Watch program to St. Johns County, provided leadership at the BCC for the repurposing of our VA CBOC for homeless veterans, a strong supporter of

our Veterans Treatment Court and an occasional speaker at graduations, and introduced the use of veterans to lead the Pledge of Allegiance at all BCC meetings. This is but a few of the many efforts by Commissioner Blocker in his dedication to support our veterans in St. Johns County. The Veterans Council extends our gratitude to Chairman Blocker for his unwavering support of our veterans. At long last, we have an opening date for our VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic. June 22, 2021 has been selected as the date to open the new clinic for full service to our veterans. This has been a long time goal of the Veterans Council and we have worked tirelessly and diligently with the VA, elected and administrative officials of SJC, and Congressional representatives at the State and Federal level to make this clinic a reality. The Veterans Council is very pleased to know that we will soon have a permanent home for the health care needs of our veterans in St. Johns County. Due to the COVID-19 virus restrictions, a "soft opening" has been planned through a virtual media means to recognize the new facility. However, the Veterans Council feels strongly that this long awaited health care facility should have a grand opening and we have petitioned the VA Director, North Florida/South Georgia Health Care Systems to reconsider this decision and have a grand opening recogniz



ing the best practices of COVID-19 control for large gatherings as is being allowed for sports activities, church gatherings, theaters, restaurants, etc. We will keep you posted concerning our request to the VA. Since last November, the Veterans Council has been conducting live meetings each month at the St. Johns County Administration Building. We have had some excellent speakers at each of our meetings and the attendance is improving with each meeting. However, we feel it is a great opportunity for representatives from all our local veterans' organizations to be informed or to share information about their chapter's activities. Please plan to join us on the last Thursday of each month at 7 PM to share with those in attendance about your organizations' activities and to be informed about happenings in your local community.

Bill Dudley
Chairman
Veterans Council of St. Johns County



Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home



The first picture shown is Kristen Powell (Daughter of our Veteran Mr. Carl Ollivier) Who, together with her friends, held an employee appreciation day, bought lunch for our entire FDVA staff provided by Honey Baked Ham Co. on Friday March 12th !!! They wanted to say “Thank You” for all we have done and continue to do for our Veterans!! Thank you Ladies!!!

The second picture shown is Netta Linn Activity Director at Clyde Lassen (who helped coordinate the Lunch) and the girls who volunteered to assist set up and serve.



The first pic here is of the beautiful table set-up and flower arrangement which was later raffled off as a prize!!

The second pic shown is the prize table!! Not only did they provide an amazing lunch, they also raffled off 20 gifts!!! We are so grateful!!



**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 6:00 pm

DATES OF 2021 SC at JNC MEETINGS

Not Available

+++++2020 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: Pat Archuleta, Public Affairs: Pat Mulvihill

The Veterans Council of St. Johns County meets on the last Thursday of the month, all are invited to attend. We meet at the

County Administration Building,

500 San Sebastian View, at 7 pm

All SJC Health Guidelines will be followed.

Please stay safe, Bill Dudley, Chairman, VC of SJC



Upcoming Veterans Council Meetings Speakers

March 25, Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial & Museum, Buddy Harris

April 29, Danielle Tapia, General Caregiver Support Services Coordinator,

Jessica Bradstreet, Local Recovery Coordinator and

Wendy Lay, FCTC with veteran Brian Hampton

May 27, Donald Earl, United Way of NE FL– Helping Veterans

2021 Meeting Dates: March 25, April 29, May 27, June 24

July 29, August 26, September 30, October 28, November 18, December 30

The **Fire Watch** is Northeast Florida's fight to end veteran suicide. Over 6,000 U.S. military veterans die by suicide each year, including 500 annually here in Florida. But suicide is preventable. And everyone can help. **Join us as a Watch Stander today.** Learn how to identify the risk signs of veterans in crisis and to direct them to the help they need.

3 minutes to enroll. 30 minutes to train. A lifetime of saving lives.
Visit: www.thefirewatch.org/watch-standers to learn more.

Thanks!

Nick Howland

Executive Director, The Fire Watch

www.thefirewatch.org

904.525.1761



Virtual Wall of Faces almost complete, needs a few more photos

As Vietnam War Veterans Day nears March 29, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund's Wall of Faces is nearly complete but needs help from the public to track down the last few dozen photos.

Of the 58,279 names inscribed on The Wall, there's less than 80 photos needed to complete the Wall of Faces.

The virtual Wall of Faces features a page that honors and remembers every person on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. Each page has a photo to go with each of the more than 58,000 names on The Wall. The Wall of Faces allows family and friends to share memories, post pictures and connect with each other.

Additionally, over 1,400 of the photos are poor quality. Anyone with better photos can upload them. A list of those are at located here.

Remaining names

The remaining names, listed in alphabetical order, are below. The list has name with a link to the Veteran's page, service, date and location of birth, and date and location of death.

<https://www.vvmf.org/Wall-of-Faces/>





Then & Now: 50 Years of Veterans Experiences - Art Exhibit Coming This Summer to the St. Augustine Art Association

ST. AUGUSTINE, FL, March 10, 2021 - The St. Augustine Art Association is proud to provide a voice and stage for Veterans with a riveting, sometimes raw, emotionally-charged exhibition, entitled Then & Now: 50 Years of Veterans Experiences, on display July 2 through August 22, 2021. This exhibit demonstrates the healing power of art by showcasing eight individuals who use painting, sculpture, photography, poetry and other creative outlets. These Veterans share their experiences from subtle murmurs of anguish to cries for support and understanding. Then and Now merges St. Augustine's art and history with today's global military awareness and experiences, providing both an educational narrative and outreach.

During the exhibit, the Art Association will open its gallery for Veterans and military groups to host meetings or workshops, field trips, lectures and other special events. "It is our hope that through this exhibit we raise awareness and sensitivity to our veterans' service and the importance of their mental health, while demonstrating how the power of creativity can be used as a tool for some to help heal a broken spirit," said Jerome Domask, artist, guest curator and member of the St. Augustine Art Association.

A focal point of the exhibit will be a replicated five-by-eight-foot holding cell. This is a special "shout out" to American Hero, Army Major (RET) Theodore Gostas, a former POW held in captivity for over five years, four-and-a-half spent in solitary confinement. The cell will be surrounded by a visual narrative of two Vietnam veterans, Gostas and exhibit curator Jerome Domask, supporting each other for over 50 years as Foxhole Buddies after Gostas' return to active duty.

"When Jerry [Domask] came to me last year with the idea for this exhibit, I knew that the Art Association had to host it," said Jennifer Flynt, Administrator at the St. Augustine Art Association. "The experiences these Veterans have gone through are very real, and I felt a strong conviction to help them tell their stories and tell them well."

With eight Veteran artists—five men and three women—the exhibit exudes a powerful message of support, strength and self-help. Together, these artists represent more than 50 years of military history from the Cold War to recent Middle East hostilities. They have served around the world—Europe, Vietnam, Cuba, Iraq, Afghanistan, Japan, Bosnia to name a few, and they're backgrounds are diverse in both civilian life and military service.

"Strong Women Warriors," a series by Barbara Barnett, will speak to screams of anguish, rejuvenation and molding of mind and soul, and USNR- (RET) Chaplain Ron Moses Camarda will bring his personal observations of life and death in a combat zone. The exhibit is further enriched by individual creations from "then and now" experiences filled with emotion, challenging perspectives and an undeniable support for each other's well-being as the artists explore a path forward with enlightenment and hope.

There are numerous ways for our St. Augustine community to get involved in Veteran support, and this exhibit is just one of those. If this is something you'd be interested in supporting, let us know! Details on the exhibit, artists, and ways you can get involved, can be found at staaa.org/then-and-now-2021 or by contacting the St. Augustine Art Association at (904) 824-2310 or info@staaa.org.

The St. Augustine Art Association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit arts organization founded in 1924. The Gallery is open free to the public and located at 22 Marine Street in historic downtown.

THEN & NOW

50 Years of Veteran Experiences



**July 2
through
August 22, 2021**

at the
St. Augustine
Art Association



The Healing Power of Art

The St. Augustine Art Association is proud to provide a voice and stage for Veterans with a riveting, sometimes raw, emotionally-charged exhibition, entitled **Then & Now: 50 Years of Veterans Experiences**, on display July 2 through August 22, 2021. This exhibit will demonstrate the power of healing through art by showcasing eight veteran artists' creations working through the trauma and grief sometimes incurred through military service. This exhibit merges St. Augustine's art and history with today's global military awareness and experiences, providing both an educational narrative and outreach.

A focal point of the exhibit will be a replicated five-by-eight-foot cell. This is a special "shout out" to American Hero, Army Major (RET) Theodore Gostas, a former POW held in captivity for over five years—4.5 spent in solitary confinement. The cell will be surrounded by a visual narrative of two Vietnam veterans, Gostas and exhibit curator Jerome Domask, supporting each other for over a half century as "Foxhole Buddies" after Gostas' return to active duty.



• ST. AUGUSTINE •
ART ASSOCIATION

22 Marine Street, St. Augustine, FL 32084
(904) 824-2310 | www.staaa.org



“Death”
By Jerome Domask



“Lament”
By Skip Rohde



“Werewolf”
By Ted Gostas



“Holy Carburetor”
By Maria Mia Salazar

PARTNER & SPONSORSHIPS

The St. Augustine Art Association (STAAA) is a nonprofit organization. We cannot successfully produce an exhibit of this importance without the help of financial donors and community partners. Costs incurred for the exhibit include, but not be limited to, the **shipping and installation of artwork, accommodations for out-of-town Veterans whose work is in he exhibit, marking, and special events. See details below.**

Your generous support assists us in providing our Veterans a platform to tell their stories, and offers an outlet for current or recently returned military personnel to cope with their own experiences and hardships through the healing power of art.

THE GENERAL - TITLE SPONSOR • \$3,000

Funds to defray costs of exhibit production, marketing, artwork shipping, hospitality, special events. The General Title Sponsor will receive: A Full Page Ad Gallery Guide • A 150px x 300px Banner Ad w/Link on the website • Social Media Mentions on all posts for exhibit • Logo on print and digital advertising • Signage and Literature displayed in the gallery during the exhibit • An opportunity to speak and FOUR Invitations to the Opening Reception and Artist Meet-n-Greet on July 1, 2021.

COLONEL SPONSOR • \$1,000+

Funds to defray costs of exhibit production, marketing, artwork shipping, hospitality, special events. Colonel sponsors will receive: A 1/2 page ad gallery guide • A 150px x 300px Banner Ad w/Link on the Website • Social Media Mentions • Two Invitations the Opening Reception and Artist Meet-n-Greet on July 1, 2021.

MAJOR SPONSOR • \$500+

Funds to defray costs of exhibit production, marketing, artwork shipping, hospitality, special events. Major Sponsors will receive: A 1/4 Page Ad in the exhibit guide • A 150px x 300px Banner Ad w/Link on the Website • Two Invitations the Opening Reception and Artist Meet-n-Greet on July 1, 2021.

CAPTAIN SPONSOR • \$300+

Funds to defray costs of exhibit production, marketing, artwork shipping, hospitality, special events. Captain Sponsors will be: Listed with their logo in the Exhibit Gallery Guide • Receive a Link on the Website • One Invitation to the Opening Reception and Artist Meet-n-Greet on July 1, 2021.

LIEUTENANT SPONSOR • \$200+

Funds to defray costs of exhibit production, marketing, artwork shipping, hospitality, special events. Lieutenant Sponsors will be: Listed in the Exhibit Gallery Guide • Receive a Text Link on the Website • One Invitation to the Opening Reception and Artist Meet-n-Greet on July 1, 2021.

ENLISTED SUPPORT SPONSORS • \$25 - \$199

Funds to defray costs of exhibit production, marketing, artwork shipping, hospitality, special events. Enlisted Support Sponsors will be listed in the exhibit gallery guide unless they wish to remain anonymous. Donations of any amount in support for this exhibit will be greatly appreciated.

IN-KIND PARTNER

In-kind or discounted services to reduce costs of exhibit production, marketing, artwork shipping, and hospitality. In-kind partners will be listed in the exhibit gallery guide and on signage displayed in the gallery during the exhibit.

SOCIAL MEDIA REACH

Facebook - 5,280+ likes • 5,860+ follows
Instagram - 1,850+ follows
Google Searches - 14,000/mo



WEBSITE VISITS

Average 3,000 - 5,000/mo

GALLERY VISITORS

Average - 600/mo



Name (Individual or Business) _____

Primary Contact & Title _____

Address _____

City

State

Zip

E-mail Address _____

I wish to remain anonymous

Phone Number _____

Please select one of the sponsorship levels below and provide the amount:

The General Title Sponsor (\$3,000)



Colonel Sponsor (\$1,000+)

Lieutenant Sponsor (\$200+)

Major Sponsor (\$500+)

Enlisted Sponsor _____

Captain Sponsor (\$300+)

In-Kind Partner _____

To pay over the phone, please contact the St. Augustine Art Association at (904) 824-2310.

Please Select Payment Option:

VISA MASTERCARD DISCOVER Check (payable to the St. Augustine Art Association)

Name on Card _____

Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____
(No AMEX)

Billing Zip _____ Business Name _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Gold Star family awarded new home in Port St. Lucie

March 10, 2021

It was an emotional day for a Gold Star family who received a new home Wednesday in Port St. Lucie.

An untimely death can shake a family to its core, but a community came together to literally help build a stronger foundation for a grieving military mom.

Lisa Heintz and her two sons, Dierk and Dominik, received the keys to their new house along with a payment-free, 25-year forgivable mortgage. Heintz lost her son Air Force Senior Airman Joshua Allen Reinwasser after he served the military and was deployed to Guam and Qatar.

Reinwasser served as a loader maintainer for a B-1 bomber when he was exposed to chemicals that caused lesions in his lungs and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. He took his own life in 2018.

Air Force Senior Airman Joshua Allen Reinwasser died while serving as a loader maintainer for a B-1 bomber.

Heintz said Joshua was always destined for the military. It was something others saw in him as well.

"When he was in second grade, and I remember his teacher wrote one of those letters that said, 'Do not open until graduation,' and when we opened it, it said, 'You will grow up to be a soldier,'" Heintz recalled.

During Wednesday's ceremony, the Port St. Lucie Police Department conducted a Dignified Transfer of Remains ceremony for Reinwasser and his surviving family. One of Heintz's other sons carried Joshua's remains to the family car.

As Heintz was moving from her current townhome to her new house, she had mixed emotions.

"A lot of great memories ... This is the last home Joshua ever knew. I know he's always with me, but there is that little bit of sadness, the last home he ever walked through the front door of was this home," Heintz said.

A flagpole with two flags waving, an Air Force flag and the American flag, was donated by Port St. Lucie Councilman David Pickett.

The home was made possible through the city of Port St. Lucie and Synergy Homes.

The city donated a lot for the home in the Woodland Trails neighborhood. Synergy Homes then volunteered to build the 1,800-square-foot home.

Realtor Bobby Bigone spearheaded the effort, getting city leaders and Synergy Homes to collaborate on the project.

"May (Joshua) rest in peace. He protected us. He paid the ultimate price, and this is a way of giving back," Bigone said.

All of the new furnishings inside the home were donated by the Believe With Me organization based in North Palm Beach.

Thirteen applications for the home were accepted in December and vetted by St. Lucie County's Veteran Services Division in partnership with the city.

The city said Heintz and her family were selected after the field was narrowed to two Gold Star families. A random drawing was held and Heintz was chosen.

"I know when I'm at the new home, when I walk in that front door, he's hugging me ... because that home was built and donated to us because of him," Heintz said.

Scripps Only Content 2021



Submitted by Mary and Patrick Archuleta

It was a beautiful yet emotional day today as we remembered our fallen comrades on the 30th anniversary of Desert Storm/Desert Shield and dedicated the new Gold Star Families Memorial and Naval Aircrewman Memorial at the Chapel of the High-Speed Pass at the National POW/MIA Memorial at Cecil Field.



Military News

Vietnam Veteran Awarded the Bronze Star, 50 Years After

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. — It was an honor 50 years in the making.

Retired Army Specialist Ronald Mallory received the nation's fourth-highest honor for military personnel: the Bronze Star.



This award was given for his brave actions on February 23, 1971, during the Vietnam War. Mallory's gun truck, Brutus, was attacked and his team was seriously hurt. He was able to drive them to safety but rarely talked about that day after getting home.

Mallory thanked his family, especially his wife, for being the support he needed to make it to see this special day.

"She still didn't know a whole lot," Mallory said. "She's been a big inspiration to me. She made my life come out more and... stuff that I was going through, she helped me through it."

Mallory accepted his award in a ceremony Thursday from Brigadier General James M. Smith at the U.S. Army Transportation Museum, Fort Eustis.

Mallory's citation reads:

"For exceptional achievement on 23 February 1971 while serving as the driver and grenadier of a gun truck what had been targeted for destruction by the enemy. During convoy security operations, his company was ambushed and took on heavy gunfire by a superior hostile force in the Binh Dinh province of the Republic of Vietnam. Without hesitation Specialist Four Mallory executed a turn and pushed a burning gallon fuel truck from his path, so that he could rush his wounded crew members to safety and medical attention. Specialist Four Mallory's bravery and professionalism is in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon him, his unit and the United States Army."



IN
COLLABORATION
WITH
VETS2INDUSTRY



VIRTUAL

CAREER and EDUCATION FAIR

**FOR TRANSITIONING ACTIVE & RESERVE
SERVICE MEMBERS, VETERANS,
THEIR SPOUSES AND CARE GIVERS**



CALLING ALL CANDIDATES

**GET YOUR RESUME SEEN BY EMPLOYERS AND
HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS ALL OVER THE GLOBE**

**WEDNESDAY
MARCH 24
9AM-4PM / ET**

**THURSDAY
MARCH 25
NOON-5PM / ET**

- **THE NATION'S LARGEST VIRTUAL FAIR FOR TRANSITIONING MILITARY FROM ALL SERVICE BRANCHES INCLUDING VETERANS, THEIR SPOUSES AND CARE GIVERS.**
- **WORLD-WIDE OPPORTUNITIES**
- **LOG IN FROM YOUR PHONE, TABLET OR COMPUTER**
- **INTERACTIVE HIRING ROOMS**

USVCC Career and Education Fair

**REGISTRATION
BEGINS
FEBRUARY
15**



SPONSORED BY UNITED STATES VETERANS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

From Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley

Subject: VA Transportation Assistance

I received the email below from Dr. McKenzie. If any of our veterans require transportation assistance to any VA medical centers, have them call our CBOC at 904- 829-0814 and ask for the primary social worker for help with transportation.

We recently found that we are able to assist with patients who have significant issues with transportation to VA medical centers. Our primary care social worker can assist with this problem. Patient can call here and ask that she be notified of problem. She will be able to contact them and attempt to provide assistance.

From Michael Isam

DAV van service to Gainesville returning on a limited basis.

Begins on Monday, 23 March 2021

The van will run on Monday and Wednesday ONLY

3 passenger limit

Masks are required to and from VAMC



Florida's Women Go to War By Rick Cain

At one point in history, it was unheard of for women to go to war. The movie industry reinforced depictions of the stereotypical wife or sweetheart remaining home, crying into her hanky while her man went off to war, time and time again. The actual reality of those times is anything but that. It is estimated that between 400 and 750 women disguised themselves as men and fought on the front lines during the American Civil War, only to be discovered later at a field hospital where they were treated for battle wounds.

Prior to the outbreak of World War II, America had never faced such daunting challenges of producing war materials and mobilizing millions of men into the armed services. The void left in manufacturing was massive, and America's women did not hesitate to fill it. As many as 6 million women entered the workforce for the first time, and an estimated 2 million worked in manufacturing through building ships, airframes, artillery pieces, and ammunition for the troops overseas.



Above: American women went to work in shipyards, aircraft, and armament factories.

Shipyards in Miami, Tampa, and Jacksonville, Florida, were flooded with these new workers. "Rosie the Riveter" became the national symbol for the recruitment of women needed to work in these vital positions. Women were doing jobs historically reserved for men and smashing long-held prejudices and stereotypes in the process. However, advancing roles for women was not their primary motivation; they simply wanted to do their part, as Americans, to rid the world of the threat from the Axis of Evil that threatened free people everywhere. These women crossed racial and social boundaries, and many saw their first paycheck earned from the work of their hands, and the sweat of their brow, in the effort.



Above: American women went to work in shipyards, aircraft, and armament factories.

In Florida, the tourism industry was booming during the pre-war years, particularly on Miami's sunny beaches. Simultaneously, hunting and fishing in the central part of the state, along with the Panhandle, were just as sought after as the sunshine. St. Augustine was particularly popular with its historic architecture, hotels, and pristine beaches and seafood. In 1940, Marineland, just south of St. Augustine, was the most popular attraction in the state. But with the coming of war, the tourism trade disappeared almost overnight. The small coastal cities of St. Augustine and Daytona, and many others, were on the verge of financial ruin.

In St. Augustine, a new U.S. Coast Guard Training Center for both men and women (SPARS) was established, bringing much-needed income into the city. But in Daytona, the city leadership scrambled to find a way to bolster their own city's economy. The answer came from a well-known and respected civic leader named Mary McLeod Bethune. Bethune, a native of Palatka and child of slaves, was self-educated, benefiting from the post-Civil War efforts to educate black Americans.

Bethune established a boarding school in Daytona to educate African-American girls, eventually the school into a women's college. In addition, the Cookman Institute for African American men relocated to Daytona from Jacksonville in 1923, and the schools merged to become Bethune-Cookman College. Bethune became good friends with Eleanor Roosevelt and eventually became the Director of African American Affairs in the National Youth Administration, one of Roosevelt's New Deal programs.



Above: Mary McLeod Bethune

It was no surprise then that Daytona city leaders came to Mary Bethune asking for help. It is said she listened quietly, then lifted her phone and called President Roosevelt directly. The result of her call was the establishment of a major training facility for the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps (WAAC) in Daytona. The headquarters were established at the Wingate Building downtown, and initial recruits were housed in the Osceola Hotel. Bethune was named to the WAAC Advisory Board serving as the aide on race relations for the organization.



Soon, women from all over the United States began pouring into Daytona for training in many active-duty capacities. Twenty thousand would eventually train in the city and then move on to other assignments and duty stations. It is said that WAAC parades through the city, and exercise sessions on the beach became popular spectator activities for the locals and service members visiting the city. The establishment of the base brought an estimated \$5 million a month to the city's income, an equivalent of \$93 million a month today.



Top left and right: Chow-time and Sunday downtime for the Florida recruits;
Above: Troop Inspection, Daytona Beach. WAAC was later changed simply to WAC (Women's Army Corps)

Meanwhile, a young woman raised in poverty in Pensacola would make a name for herself in a big way for the war effort. Jacqueline "Jackie" Cochran took her first ride in an airplane in the 1930s after leaving Florida to pursue a successful career in the women's cosmetic industry. She was immediately hooked on flying and, within three weeks, earned her pilot's license. Within two years, she acquired her commercial pilot's license, competing in and winning air races, having worked with Amelia Earhart to open the historically male competitions to women. By 1938, she was considered the best female pilot in the United States.



Above: Jackie Cochran in the cockpit of a Curtiss P-40 Warhawk and later portrait from WWII

Prior to the U.S. entering the war, Cochran became the first woman to pilot a bomber, a Lockheed Hudson V, across the Atlantic for the British Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA). She then recruited other American women pilots to join the ATA and eventually achieved the rank of Squadron Leader in the British Royal Air Force. While Cochran was in England with 76 hand-picked female pilots serving the ATA, other civilian female pilot groups were formed in America to ferry planes from factories to the coasts to free up male pilots to serve when America formally entered the war. Among these were the Women's Auxiliary Flying Squadron (WAFS) and the Women's Flying Training Detachment (WFTD), which trained female pilots for non-combat flying.

Cochran, newly returned from England and anxious to serve her own country, was appointed to head the WFTD. In 1943, the two entities merged to form the Women's Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) with Cochran in command of the entire U.S. training program and another female pilot, Nancy Love, to head the aircraft ferrying wing. Under Cochran's leadership and direction, hundreds of American women were trained to fly and transport aircraft all across the United States and fly other vital missions for supply, communications, troop transport, and intelligence for the war effort.

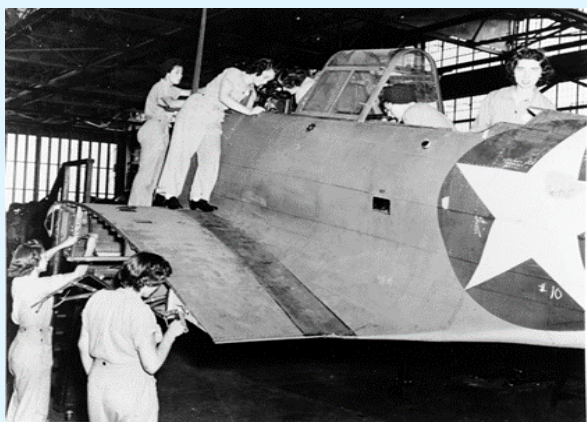


*Above left: American women train alongside men;
Above right: WASP trainee class with Jackie Cochran in the center.*

Cochran and the WASP program met with resistance from politicians and the public, who thought that the area of military aviation should remain squarely in the hands of men. Because it was a civil volunteer organization, these women had to pay for their transportation to the training centers, room and board, and uniforms. Eventually, a total of 1,830 female pilots served in the WASP program. They flew every type of plane the Army Air Corps had. They served as test pilots for repaired aircraft to ensure that they were safe before handing them over to male cadets. The only formal WASP airbase in Florida was Buckingham Army Air Field in Fort Myers.

The other famous Florida woman to serve as a WASP was Deanie Parrish from Avon Park. She obtained her pilot's license as a teenager and signed up for service at age twenty-one, determined to serve her country the best way she knew how. She remembers one of her most dangerous and memorable assignments took place at Tyndall AFB in Panama City. Parrish was to fly a B-26 Martin Marauder while towing a target for gunnery trainees on the ground. It was risky due to the inexperience of the trainees shooting live ammunition at the target, and some of the rounds ended up in the tail of her aircraft.

When she finished her service, which was extensive, she had to pay her way back home. Like all the other female volunteers, she received no recognition and no GI benefits, but only the satisfaction that she had done her part to serve her country and contribute to the war effort. Her efforts later in life to bring recognition to the program with exhibits and lectures resulted in her receiving the Congressional Gold Medal, the nation's highest civilian honor on behalf of all WASPs, in Washington D.C. in 2010.



Top: Deanie Parrish, Tyndall Field in front of a P-47 Thunderbolt, 1944; Above left: WAVEs pose for a photo in Hollywood, Florida; Above right: WAVE aircraft mechanics working at Naval Air Station Jacksonville

Women answered the call of the U.S. Navy, serving with the WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service), and trained as nurses in Hollywood, Florida, and in naval aviation at U.S. Naval Air Station in Jacksonville.

All across Florida, women came to serve in every conceivable job to contribute to the war effort; WAACs in the U.S. Army, WASPs in the Army Air Corps, WAVEs in the U.S. Navy, and SPARs in the U.S. Coast Guard, as well as thousands of women who worked in factories, without fancy uniforms or command inspections. They simply saw the need and responded accordingly. The United States and its allies could never have won WWII without the significant contributions, tireless work, dedication, and devotion to duty from women. These were the women of WWII.

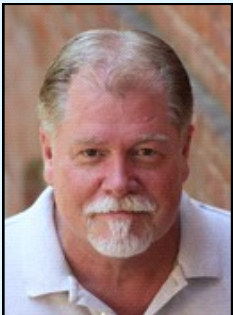


Above: An unknown welder works at St. Johns River Ship Building, Jacksonville, FL

*All photos are in public domain

Do you have a story of a WWII Female Veteran? Please share it with Museum Educators. Contact jsmith@staugustinelighthouse.org. We would love to hear from you, and don't forget to Visit, Join, or Donate to our non-profit organization.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Rick Cain has worked for the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum for 18 years after a 20-year career as a health care professional. He serves on the Board of Directors of the American Lighthouse Council and is Immediate Past Chair of the Florida Attractions Association. He also works closely with the United States Coast Guard to maintain their historic ties to the Museum.



Vietnam Veterans Day Ceremony

Date: Saturday, March 27, 2021

Time: 10:00 AM

Location: TAPS Monument
915 Walnut Street

Green Cove Springs, FL

Questions: (609)-320-1723

All CDC COVID-19 guidelines will be followed and face coverings are recommended.



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



In Partnership



REQUIREMENTS

MILITARY

SERVED MINIMUM 90 DAYS ACTIVE DUTY,
1 DAY DURING WARTIME, WITH AN
HONORABLE DISCHARGE

MEDICAL

NEED FOR ASSISTANCE WITH ACTIVITIES OF DAILY
LIVING (ADLS) DUE TO A NON-SERVICE CONNECTED
DISABILITY

FINANCIAL

INCOME AND EXPENSES IN RELATION
TO MEDICAL EXPENSES

VA RECOGNIZED WAR PERIODS	BEGINNING	ENDING
WORLD WAR II	Dec 7, 1941	Dec. 31, 1946
KOREAN CONFLICT	June 27, 1950	Jan. 31, 1955
VIETNAM ERA	Aug. 5, 1964	May 7, 1975
PERSIAN GULF WAR	Aug 2, 1990	End date to be set by law or Presidential Proclamation

MEDICAL SCREENING

The Veteran or surviving spouse must have a medical condition causing the need for assistance with activities of daily living (ADLs), such as bathing, dressing, grooming, using the toilet, preparing meals, and moving about safely).

MONETARY SCREENING

The veteran and or veteran plus spouse can have a maximum of \$129,094 in liquid assets. A primary residence and auto are not counted as part of the total liquid assets. Ongoing non-reimbursable medical expenses may reduce the annual countable income.

MAXIMUM PENSION AMOUNTS	PER MONTH	ANNUALLY
SURVIVING SPOUSE	\$1,244	\$14,928
VETERAN	\$1,936	\$23,232
COUPLE	\$2,295	\$27,540

From Lynn M Geiser
Here are the Aid & Attendance requirements and qualifications for 2021. This is for veterans and their spouses who qualify and need assistance with their Activities of Daily Living (ADL's).

VETERANS COUNCIL OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

25 FEBRUARY 2021



OPENING REMARKS and WELCOME: Chairman Dudley

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Chairman Dudley

INVOCATION: Vice Chair Quinn

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS: Chairman Dudley

Judge Howard McGillin, Commissioner Blocker, BG (Ret) Michael Fleming, Joy Andrews, Sean Riley, Jimmy Smith, Cynthia Thompson

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

Chairman Dudley asked for comments or corrections to January 2021 minutes. Hearing none the minutes were unanimously accepted.

TREASURERS REPORT:

Treasurer John Mountcastle rendered the current treasurers report and reported on significant expenditures in support of local veteran needs. He stated the current balance is \$63,912.13.

PRESENTATION OF THE COLONEL ED TAYLOR AWARD:

A presentation narrative was read by Chairman Dudley announcing this year's recipient as Chairman Jeremiah Blocker, Chairman of the St. Johns County Commission. Upon reading of the presentation narrative the COL Ed Taylor plaque was presented by Vice Chairman Ray Quinn to Chairman Blocker.

Judge Howard McGillin presented a Veterans Court coin and Dog Tags to county attorney McCormack. The judge's remarks included thanks for supporting the most successful Veterans Treatment Court.

County Attorney McCormack responded with gratitude and singled out those of his staff that supported him in all of his efforts.

GRATITUDE AMERICA:

Sean Riley provided an overview of Gratitude America. The program Sean serves as PATHH Guide and Equine Specialist for the program. He served in the United States Army

with the 3rd Ranger Battalion. He is a veteran of several combat operations and is the recipient of the Bronze Star with V-Device.

Sean explained the mission of Gratitude America. It is a 501(c)(3) organization and entirely funded through private donations from individuals, foundations and corporations. The mission is to provide critical support for service members, Veterans and their families. That is accomplished by restorative programs to assist veterans affected by deployment exposures such as traumatic brain injury and combat related stress. Much of the program is accomplished by holding retreats for the veterans and their caregiver. Based at Marineland the retreats offer Dolphin interactions, Equine interactions, Kayaking and Eco tours. The bonding and sharing of common feelings have a healing effect during the counseling periods. More than 1,500 veterans have been served. Their combined deployments equals 3,000 times. Sean can be contacted at sean@gratitudeamerica.org

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Our Service Officer, Joe McDermott reported on the latest changes and updates from the Veterans Administration. He was particularly pleased to announce that the new Service Officer Angela McKenzie has completed training and will be coming on line to service our veterans needs. He stated one of the issues holding up claims was a lack of Powers of Attorney. He announced they are coming back on line which will provide some relief in how quickly claims are handled.

He is along with our chairman monitoring the progress of construction of our new Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC).

John Leslie Vietnam Veterans of America, Leo C. Chase Chapter

John gave an update on the progress and significant accomplishment of the St. Johns County Veterans Treatment Court. He announced the most recent graduation represented the thirty-ninth (39th). The court has been in existence for only four years. The next court date is 5 March 2021.

John also invited all to attend the ceremony next Saturday at Cecil Field. There will be an observance of the anniversary of Desert Storm, unveiling of the new aircraft on display and the Gold Star Family Memorial. The event will begin at 1030 hours in the Chapel.

He also mentioned 29 March 2021 is Vietnam Veterans Day.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS:

Chairman Dudley provided an update on the new CBOC. There have been a couple of dates mentioned for the ribbon cutting, however there are many variables affecting that

date. At present it could be August before the facility will open. If you should ride by the building site on SR-207 you will be impressed with what you see.

Talks and requests continue on the repurposing of the temporary CBOC for use as a homeless shelter for area veterans.

There are positive signs that low cost housing may soon be available for veterans of St. Johns County. Talks are in the formative stage with George Johnson of St. Johns County staff.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Ron Birchall announced that MOAA is sponsoring a SHOOT OUT on 29 March 2021. He is the point of contact if you wish to fire up or wish to make a donation.

FIRST COAST HONOR FLIGHT:

We received an update on the First Coast Honor Flight status. All flights have been suspended through 30 June 2021. The suspension is due to the ongoing pandemic. Flight will at some point be restored. All are reminded that a flight consists of 25 veterans, 25 Guardians, and 5 staff. The flights will consist now of veterans of WWII, Korea and Vietnam.

JIMMY T. SMITH

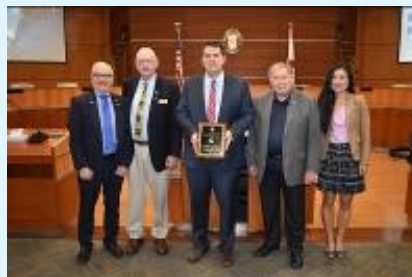
Jimmy Smith former state representative and county commissioner spoke about a national movement to stop the war. Our nation has been at war since 2001 and this movement is about bringing all troops home. Jimmy is visiting every county in the state of Florida in asking each county to pass a resolution supporting an end to the war. We will be hearing more from him later.

WITH NO FURTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED.

Respectfully submitted, Ray A. Quinn



Left to right
Cynthia Thompson VTC Coordinator
Judge Howard McGillin VTC Judge
Commissioner Jeremiah Blocker
Chairman BCC
Patrick MacCormack SJC Attorney



L to R: Patrick MacCormack SJC Attorney
Sgt. Maj. Ray Quinn,
SJCVC Vice Chairman
Comm. Jeremiah Blocker Chairman BCC
Bill Dudley, Chairman VCSJC
Joy Andrews SJC Asst Administrator



Story of a lifetime: Documenting the Vietnam War *By Cody Mann*

“I’d been looking for that story for six months,” Joseph Galloway said. “And now it was within my grasp.”

Galloway, a United Press International correspondent, was flying into the Ia Drang Valley. It was Nov. 14, 1965, and the first significant battle of the Vietnam War was unfolding.

Circling over a smoky battlefield in a command helicopter, Galloway knew on the ground, Lt. Col. Hal Moore, didn’t want the boss watching over his shoulder as he fought for survival. So, when the request to land in the antennae-laden chopper was waived off as too big a target, Galloway plotted his next move.

He spent the rest of the day arranging a ride to the landing zone that the 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment had carved out while under fire and increasingly outnumbered. With other journalists sniffing around, he quietly connected with one of Moore’s men, who got him permission to fly in with an ammo run.

“If he’s crazy enough to want to come in here, and you’ve got room, bring him,” Galloway remembers Moore’s voice crackling on the radio over the sounds of battle.

Galloway made it in that night. In the morning, just as the troops were saddling up to rescue a group that was cut off, a lead sheet of enemy fire flattened Galloway to his belly. Feeling a thump to his ribs, he thought he was hit, but it was the senior enlisted man standing tall, joking that Galloway couldn’t take any pictures down there.

Following Sgt. Major Basil Plumley, rallying men to repel a breakthrough, Galloway packed up his cameras and shouldered his M-16 rifle. From behind a massive termite hill, Moore realized he was in danger of being overrun, and called for support from every aircraft in Vietnam.

“All of sudden, I hear Moore screaming at Charlie Hastings, the Air Force lieutenant, saying ‘Charlie, get that son of a bitch off us,’” Galloway said. “Get him off us now!”

Amid the furious gunfight, Galloway glanced up and saw an American fighter-bomber kick loose two napalm bombs, flinging them his way. Hastings just barely called off a second plane before two more bombs dropped.

“But those two that are coming, we have to eat,” Galloway said. “And they come right over our heads, not 15 feet over, and impact — thank God — going away from us.”

The heat of the firebombs warmed his face. Galloway saw two soldiers engulfed, dancing in the flames. He and a medic rushed toward the fire, but the medic was immediately shot and killed. With help from another soldier, Galloway carried one of the wounded to medical aid. Mortally burned, the men screamed for hours, no matter how much morphine they were given.

“Somebody yelled at me to grab the feet of one of the charred soldiers. When I got them, the boots crumbled and the flesh came off and I could feel the bare bones of his ankles in the palms of my hands,” Galloway wrote in his 1992 book, *We Were Soldiers Once... And Young*. “I can still hear their screams.”

In 1998, Galloway became the only American civilian to receive a Bronze Star Medal with Valor in recognition of his actions three decades earlier in the Battle of Ia Drang.

The citation for Galloway's award credits his heroism and valorous actions under enemy fire, noting that his "determination to get accurate, factual reports to the American people reflect[s] great credit upon himself and American War Correspondents." He stayed in the fight through the grueling three-day battle until relief forces arrived.

"The ones who died chasing the truth are the ones I wear that medal for," Galloway said. "They were the friends of my younger days. By the time I was 30 years old, I had more friends underground than above."

Galloway is 79 now. Since 2013, he's traveled to interview veterans as a special consultant to the Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Commemoration project, continuing to document the war. The coronavirus pandemic halted the work, but with 800 interviews already in the can, Galloway is eager to get back on the road and make it 1,000.

A close friend to this day, photojournalist Steve Northup first met Galloway at the Saigon UPI bureau in 1965. Northup said Galloway looked like a kindred spirit, a fellow good ol' boy from Texas. Both of them were living the dream, working the biggest story anywhere as wire service journalists. Northup said the troops loved Galloway — they could tell he was the real thing.

"He was as dirty as they were, he smelled like they did, he talked like they did," Northup said. "He knew what he was doing and they bonded with him. And that's why they'd sit and tell him things."

A handful of correspondents shared a house in Saigon, known as "Frankie's House" after a Vietnamese houseboy. After the battle in the Ia Drang, Northup found Galloway there, looking like he was in terrible shape. He had gone into the field looking for a story, and he had paid a price for finding it.

"You could see he'd really been through hell," Northup said. "And we all sympathized with him."

Retired Gen. Barry McCaffrey is also a close friend of Galloway. Sent personally by Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf, Galloway rode in McCaffrey's command helicopter during key parts of Desert Storm as he followed the action for the four-day campaign.

McCaffrey described Galloway as a great storyteller, an extremely accurate and quick writer. He said Galloway is pure of heart, but he has a hardened exterior because "he's seen everything in life, and that ain't good." He said most of all, Galloway loves those who serve in the military, and he is relentless when he sees failures in caring for them.

"There is probably no single figure in the media ever, except some of the World War II correspondents, who is more widely known and admired than Joe Galloway," McCaffrey said. "He is the best journalist covering combat operations in modern times."

HELICOPTERS: The U.S. military first employed combat helicopters in WWII, to extract downed flight crews. The Korean War saw an increased role for helicopters, most notably in medical evacuations. But “choppers” truly came of age as tactical fighting machines during the Vietnam War — in fact, Vietnam is often referred to as “the helicopter war.”



Moving troops from one place to another is a logistical imperative of combat — the most prepared fighters with the most advanced weapons are ineffective if they can’t get to the fight. Because Vietnam lacked a developed network of roads, its jungles and mountains were particularly difficult to access. Helicopters could move service members and supplies quickly, even to remote locations.

The helicopter’s potential in combat was not so much determined as it was discovered. “For most of the war, there was no formal Army training to prepare scout pilots and observers,” writes Donald Porter in *Air & Space*. “Army headquarters developed doctrine by building on what worked in the field, rather than the other way around, and each unit in-country did things slightly differently.”

All branches of the military used helicopters in Vietnam, for a range of purposes — movement of troops and supplies, medical evacuations (commonly called “Dustoff” missions), scouting, and providing air support for troops on the ground. The variety of roles bred a variety of helicopters, the most famous being the Army’s UH-1 “Iroquois” (widely known as the “Huey”), which logged more than 10 million flight hours in Vietnam and is pictured on the Vietnam Helicopter Pilot and Crewmember Monument in Arlington National Cemetery. The “Huey” remains one of the most recognized symbols of the conflict.

Overall, the U.S. military used nearly 12,000 helicopters in Vietnam, of which more than 5,000 were destroyed. To be a helicopter pilot or crew member was among the most dangerous jobs in the war.

Nearly 5,000 helicopter pilots and crewmembers lost their lives conducting aerial operations in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War. On April 18, 2018, the Vietnam Helicopter Pilot and Crewmember Monument was dedicated at Arlington National Cemetery.

Vietnam has been called America’s “Helicopter War” because helicopters provided mobility throughout the war zone, facilitating rapid troop transport, close air support, resupply, medical evacuation, reconnaissance, and search and rescue capabilities. The Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association (VHPA) spearheaded the effort for the Vietnam Helicopter Pilot and Crewmember Monument at Arlington National Cemetery. They estimate that over 100,000 helicopter pilots and crew members served during the Vietnam War. Helicopters were used in more than 850,000 medical evacuation missions and were responsible for boosting survival rates for the wounded.

The Vietnam Helicopters Memorial Tree was dedicated in 2015 and honors the helicopter pilots and crew members who died while serving in Southeast Asia from 1961 to 1975. More than 300 helicopter pilots and crewmembers are buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

The millionaire who taught Marines hand to hand combat in WW I and WW II

Ernest W. McFarland and the American Dream

Unsung Hero: Anthony Biddle, Sr.

Anthony Joseph Drexel Biddle Sr. (1874–1948) was a millionaire whose fortune allowed him to pursue theatricals, self-published writing, athletics, and Christianity on a full-time basis. He trained men in hand-to-hand combat in both WWI and WWII.



An officer in the United States Marine Corps, Biddle was an expert in close-quarters fighting including knives and empty-hand skills. He trained both the United States Marine Corps in two world wars and special agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. He was considered not just an expert in fighting, but also a pioneer of USMC training in the bayonet and hand-to-hand combat.

Having joined the Marines in 1917 at the age of 41, he also convinced his superiors to include boxing in USMC recruit training. In 1919, he was promoted to the rank of major, and became a lieutenant colonel in 1934. In Lansdowne, PA, Biddle opened a military training facility, where he trained 4,000 men. His training included long hours of calisthenics and gymnastics, and taught skills such as machete, saber, dagger, and bayonet combat, as well as hand grenade use, boxing, wrestling, and jiu-jitsu. He also served two years in the National Guard.



A Skilled and Heroic Chopper Pilot

Upon arrival to D Troop in December of 1967, a new 2nd Lieutenant named Allen “Ace” Cozzalio made a quick impression as a renegade pilot that led from the front. He loved the cavalry and its historical elements. When not flying, he was often be seen wearing the traditional 1860s blue cavalry uniform with a yellow scarf, stetson hat, and cavalry officer’s saber. Always the cowboy, instead of using briefcases to carry around massive amounts of paperwork like other pilots, “Ace” opted to use saddlebags instead.



During his eighteen months in Vietnam, Allen Ace Cozzalio was shot down six times. On several other occasions he brought his Loach back home so damaged from enemy fire that it was no longer flyable. He received every medal for valor except the Medal of Honor.

Among his legendary exploits, Cozzalio, after seeing a Huey crash and explode in flames, landed his OH-6 Loach nearby and he and his crew chief rescued the unconscious pilot and co-pilot. Cozzalio and his crew chief received the Soldier’s Medal for their actions that day.

Following the 9th Infantry Division’s Battle of Phu My, Cozzalio was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for performing an incredible act of bravery. Seeing that a 90-man unit crossing an open field was pinned down by NVA machine gun fire from a reinforced bunker, he landed his Loach on top of the bunker while his gunner jumped out and tossed a grenade into it. Cozzalio lifted off just before the grenade exploded and destroyed the bunker.

Original description and photos sourced by vva.org

Female CO will command aircraft carrier for first time

From Naval Air Force Pacific Public Affairs

SAN DIEGO - The Navy announced this month that Capt. Amy Bauernschmidt will assume command of USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72), marking the first time a female commanding officer will lead the crew of one of the Navy's 11 nuclear-powered aircraft carriers.



Bauernschmidt will take command of Lincoln this summer, upon completion of the nuclear power, aviation, and leadership training required of aircraft carrier COs.

"I am incredibly honored and humbled to be selected," said Bauernschmidt. "I love leading Sailors and I take that responsibility extremely seriously."

Bauernschmidt was also the first female to serve as the executive officer aboard an aircraft carrier, a position she held from September 2016 to January 2019, also on the Lincoln.

Bauernschmidt is a native of Milwaukee, Wisconsin and graduated from the United States Naval Academy in May 1994, the first graduating class in which women were allowed to serve aboard combatant ships and aircraft.

She was designated as a naval aviator in 1996 and served with several helicopter squadrons throughout her career. She has previously commanded the "Spartans" of Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 70 and amphibious transport dock USS San Diego (LPD 22).

COMING 17 APRIL 2021

SAVE THE DATE

ANNUAL 5TH DISTRICT

Picnic

HOSTED BY AGM POST 194

MUSIC BY

BEAUTIFUL BOBBY BLACKMON
& THE B3 BAND



(904) 829-8189
1029 PEARL ST. 32084



On the National Mall in Washington

Just down the path from the solemn black stone wall of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the Vietnam Women's Memorial stands near a quiet grove of Yellowwood trees. An addition to architect Maya Lin's original memorial plans, the statue was designed by artist Glenna Goodacre and dedicated in 1993 to honor the contributions of women in the Vietnam War. Over 11,000 women served in Vietnam in many different roles. Most were nurses and physicians, but others acted as air traffic controllers, communication specialists, and intelligence officers. Eight women were killed during the war and their names are listed on the wall. The statue portrays three women and one wounded male soldier. The emotions shown on their faces force visitors to imagine the intensity and trauma of their experiences while serving far from home.



Vietnam Veterans Daytona Beach Chapter 1048

Diana Schaack selected as
AVVAFA “Member of the Year”



photo by: David Treffinger

February 27, 2021, Lake Mary--VVA Chapter 1048's Diana Schaack (second from left) was selected as Vietnam Veterans Florida State Council, Associates Vietnam Veterans of America Florida Association (AVVAFA) “Member of the Year”. She is joined in the photo by State President Mary Anne Newman (center) and committee chair Linda D’Agostino (left) and committee members Karen Osgood and Belle Berman.

“Congratulations to our 2020 Member of the Year,” Mary Anne Newman, President AVVAFA said. “Her accomplishments are amazing and I’m proud she’s on our team.” Diana Schaack was nominated by Chapter 1048 past President Rod Phillips.

President of VVA 1048, Bob Adkins also congratulated Diana, stating “she is an important part of our team and I am very proud of her accomplishments and leadership”. rlp/ ...more at <https://vva1048.com/>



Rod Phillips, SSG
Inductee Florida Veterans Hall of Fame
VVAFSC / VVA 1048 Information Technology Team / Advisor

p: 386.690.9553

w: <https://www.vvafsc.org/> **e:** webmaster@vvafsc.org

w: <https://vva1048.com/> **e:** cobra101st@gmail.com





Legal Aid for Veterans

The Florida Veterans Legal Helpline is a project of the Major General Ernest A. and Marilyn Bedke Veterans Law Center at Bay Area Legal Services, Inc. The helpline is a free service for eligible Florida veterans and their family members.

When you call, you will speak to a screener who will determine your eligibility and set your appointment with an attorney.

1.866.486.6161

Call Today!

Hours: Monday – Friday
9 AM to 4:30 PM



We Can Help With

- Landlord-Tenant Matters
- Consumer Credit Issues
- Foreclosure
- Divorce + Child Support
- Drivers Licenses/ID cards
- Social Security + Public Benefits
- Discharge Upgrades
- VA Benefits
- And Other Civil Legal Matters
(No Criminal or Traffic Matters)

Supported by the: **FDVA**
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL SERVICES
ESTABLISHED BY PUBLIC LAW 101-508

Become a Watch Stander with The Fire Watch



RULES VIETNAM WAR HISTORY ORG RULES



Our mission is to be social media's most reliable source of information about the Vietnam War. Our primary focus is on the period from 1955 through 1975, with a secondary focus on 1946 through 1954 (Post-WWII through the French War Era). Post-1975 events are beyond our scope.

Posts, comments and/or replies which do not comply with our rules will generally be immediately removed without notification to the member, depending on the seriousness of the violation. However, we strive to always be "Fair, Firm and Friendly" regarding the application of these rules.

Posts, Comments and/or Replies of the following nature are not allowed.

1. Photos, videos and articles which have no appropriate caption/citation by the member. Captions for photos, videos and articles must include, if known, credits (the name of the person, entry or other source for the photo, video or article and the date thereof) : a brief description what the photo, video or article is about, including location and its relevance to you : your branch and dates of service if you are or were in the military.
2. Please DO NOT post photos in an "ALBUM" or share an "ALBUM" from another source. Facebook has a problem in dealing with "ALBUMS" and it can create individual posts for each photo that we call "ORPHAN PHOTOS".
3. Remarks which are disrespectful, antagonistic and/or demeaning, as well as profanity and/or slurs, including but not limited to, slurs such as REMF, gooks, dinks, zipperheads, and slopes. If you disagree with someone, do it respectfully. All members must show respect for one another in their interactions here, regardless of age, gender, race, nationality/ethnicity, sexual orientation, religious/political beliefs, veteran status, education, or deeply held views on a particular matter.
4. Controversial issues or subjects, including, but not limited to, Jane Fonda, John Kerry, John McCain, My Lai and conspiracy theories. In our experience, such volatile subjects invariably result in mean-spirited argument rather than meaningful and productive discussion.
5. Politics, political figures, or events that are non-Vietnam War related and/or outside of our 1946 through 1975 scope.
6. Gruesome photos or videos, including, but not limited to, close-up views of war casualties.
7. Advertisements and/or solicitations, including, but not limited to, fund raisers, book sales, veterans services, military memorabilia sales, and requests to "Please visit my cool site", as well as "Share" or "Like" posts which encourage our members to visit another page.
8. "Memes", GIFs and other "fluff" posts which do not fit within the scope of our page or have no educational or historical value.
9. Photos of modern Vietnam, unless they are accompanied by a "then" photo and/or facts in the caption which relate the modern day photo back to the time period 1946 through 1975.
10. Mind your manners; remember that when you post, our international membership includes : former members of the South Vietnamese Forces, Military Nurses, Red Cross Donut Dollies, and of all races.
11. When there is a post where you are using your previous war experience in Vietnam, it does need your unit and year of tour.

EXTRA THINGS TO REMEMBER :

Book reviews and announcements should be posted on our sister page, Vietnam War Books & Films Club.

Memorials to fallen soldiers should be posted on our sister page, Vietnam Veteran Wall of Honor. However, if you are a friend of or are related to the fallen soldier, you may post their memorial here on the anniversary of their untimely death.

Sometimes issues arise which require a VWHOrg admin to contact a member directly via Facebook or Messenger. Therefore, do not block our admins from contacting you.

Members may request the addition of other individuals as members. However, simultaneous requests over 5 will result in those requested memberships being declined "en bloc".



Dr. Erik B. Villard
Director, VWHOrg

LEARN - HONOR - RESPECT

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
Florida



FEBRUARY 4-7



Sarasota
Florida



MARCH 4-7



Lake Chatuge
Georgia



APRIL 15-18

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



CHRISTOPHER DUKE
770-298-7654
DUKE@GRATITUDEAMERICA.ORG



Save the Date

V4V

Vets 4 Vets

Quarterly Gathering of Veterans

Saturday May 1st 2021

Veterans Memorial Arena

1030 - 1300



*Corps and Division insignia of units serving in the Korean War (left to right):
Top row: US 8th Army, US I Corps, US X Corps. 2nd row: US IX Corps, US 1st Cavalry
Division, 1st US Marine Division, 3rd row: US 2nd Infantry Division, Commonwealth
Infantry Division, US 3rd Infantry Division, 4th row: US 7th Infantry Division, US 25th
Infantry Division, US 24th Infantry Division, Bottom row: US 40th Infantry Division
(California/ Utah National Guard), US 45th Infantry Division (Oklahoma National Guard)*

WANTED



WWII, Korean War & Vietnam War Vets!

**For an all expense paid trip to Washington DC
A day to remember, because we will never forget!**

First Coast Honor Flight

888-400-1185 www.firstcoasthonorflight.org

DISCOVER FLORIDA'S FIRST LIGHTHOUSE



And shed some light on WWII history



Much more than a lighthouse!
Exhibits, Archaeology, and History.

World War II Exhibit Now Open!

Discover more:
www.staugustinelighthouse.org

Follow us on:   



ST. AUGUSTINE
LIGHTHOUSE
& MARITIME MUSEUM



ST. JOHNS COUNTY
TOURIST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
Culture Around Every Corner | St. Augustine 9 Forts Years



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Disaster Resources Available to Veterans

“Veterans and their families should be focused on their health and safety during the natural disasters,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “VA is taking action to give those with pending debts greater flexibility during these challenging times.”

Health Care Assistance

If you have questions such as where to go for care or how to receive prescribed medications, VA has established a toll-free number for assistance in areas that have been impacted by disasters. Veterans or their families can call the VA Veterans Disaster Response line 24 hours, seven days a week at 1-800-507-4571.

Debt Relief

If you are affected by a natural disaster, have a VBA benefit debt and need temporary financial relief, please contact VA's Debt Management Center at 1-800-827-0648 to request assistance.

If you have questions on Compensation or Pension benefits: Call toll-free 1-800-827-1000 Monday - Friday 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. CST.

Other Resources

Find a VA Vet Center near you 877-WAR-VETS (927-8387) or <https://www.va.gov/find-locations>

Mobile Vet Centers and Vet Center teams are actively responding to disaster-affected areas to offer counseling and grief support as well as connection and referral services to other VA and community resources.

Find a VA facility near you <https://www.va.gov/find-locations>

Call the White House VA Hotline 24 hours a day, seven days a week at 1-855-948-2311.

Apply for \$500 grant for your damaged primary residence (on a first come, first serve basis subject to funding) from PenFed Foundation.

National Resource Directory - Search for local resources for Veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors.

FEMA - FEMA helps with temporary housing, repair or replacement of existing homes.

American Red Cross - The American Red Cross offers emergency financial assistance to the most impacted counties. Please call 1-800-733-2767 to see if you qualify.

Disaster Assistance – An easy way to determine if your zip code has been declared a disaster and eligible for assistance. The website also allows users to complete an online application and the ability to check FEMA application status.

World War II Resources in Northeast Florida

Be sure to visit our digital exhibit
full of WWII artifacts
and information!



<https://wwiinefl.omeka.net/>



Florida veterans and military families have a new resource to receive the care they need thanks to a partnership dedicated to serving this most deserving population.

Centerstone and the Cohen Veterans Network have joined forces to offer compassionate, targeted behavioral health care for Post 9/11 veterans, National Guard, Reservists, their families and active duty family members at the Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at Centerstone, Jacksonville. <https://centerstone.org/cohen-military-family-clinic/jacksonville/>. The clinic’s skilled clinicians and staff have been trained to work specifically with veterans and their families, and some are veterans themselves. Services offered include individual therapy for children, adolescents and adults, couples therapy, family therapy, groups and workshops.

“Military families are some of the most resilient people you will ever encounter, but a life of service often gives way to invisible wounds and unique challenges that are difficult to navigate,” Elizabeth Sherr, clinic director said. “We understand those challenges and stand ready to support our veterans and their loved ones with effective, personalized care right now.”

The clinic’s ability to meet the needs of veterans and their families quickly is vital in today’s mental health environment where gaining access to care can often be daunting - with long wait times and all too common barriers to overcome. The Cohen Clinic at Centerstone is committed to reducing these barriers. Not only are military families currently able to receive same day appointments, the clinic also offers all therapy services via telehealth - breaking down time and distance concerns that can sometimes be problematic.

“We want to make getting help as easy as possible for our veterans and family members,” Brigadier General (ret.) Michael Fleming, the clinic’s outreach director said. “Sometimes just reaching out for help is difficult enough, and we want to ensure we meet this step with compassion and ease.”

For the time being, in an effort to ensure the safety of clients and team members amidst the COVID-19 physical distancing guidelines, that includes conducting all services via CVN Telehealth or telephone. Studies have shown telehealth has the same efficacy as in-person counseling and the clinic’s therapists are well trained in the delivery of this care. Additionally, front desk staff still have complete access to answer the appointment line during business hours, as before, and veterans, military families and outside organizations can continue to call directly for an appointment.

Veterans, National Guard, Reservists, their families and active duty family members may contact the clinic at (904) 431-3500 to schedule appointments. Clinic hours are:

Monday	8:00am – 5:00pm
Tuesday	8:00am – 5:00pm
Wednesday	8:00am – 7:00pm
Thursday	8:00am – 5:00pm
Friday	8:00am - 12:00pm

For more information on clinic services log on to <https://centerstone.org/cohen-military-family-clinic/jacksonville/> or call the appointment line at (904) 431-3500.



You sacrificed for our country.

**AT SILVER CREEK,
FREEDOM IS YOURS.**

Because of your commitment, you helped us achieve the American Dream. At Silver Creek, we want to return the favor – by providing the freedom, independence and personal attention you deserve. Since 2016, Silver Creek has served the St. Augustine community, offering military retirees and seniors at large a vibrant, community lifestyle complete with everything except the burdens of home maintenance. Impeccably-appointed independent concierge living, assisted living and memory care apartments homes, first-class amenities, holistic wellness programming, gourmet, all-day dining and abounding opportunities for enrichment are just a few of the many options you'll find.

Silver Creek provides residents the perfect balance of elegant, upscale living with the warmth and intimacy of home – inspiring socialization and fellowship within a close-knit community.

Call **800-665-9492** to schedule a tour and learn more.



THE FUTURE OF SENIOR LIVING

165 Silver Lane | St. Augustine, FL 32084 | SilverCreekRetirement.com



**Independent Concierge Living – Assisted Living
Memory Care – Short-Term Stays**

Assisted Living Facility #12928

Vietnam Veterans of America

If you are a Vietnam Era Veteran and live in one of these counties, please contact the President for information as to how to join



Chapter/President/email/Location

1046	Tony D'Aleo	adaleo5579@gmail.com; Duval
1048	Rod Phillips	cobra101st@gmail.com; Daytona
1059	David Treffinger	dtreffinger433@msn.com; Clay
1084	John Leslie	john_leslie15@yahoo.com; St. Johns
1088	Roy (Corky) Rudd	corkstopper50@yahoo.com; Nassau
1092	Forest Hope	foresthope@usa.net; Gainesville
1134	Marvin Lagle	mdlagle@gmail.com; Baker



First Coast Honor Flight Donation

I would like to donate \$ _____ to honor Veterans.

Please make check payable to: First Coast Honor Flight, Inc.

Mail to: First Coast Honor Flight, Inc.
P.O. Box 600785
Saint Johns, FL 32260

To make a donation by credit card please visit our website at:

www.firstcoasthonorflight.org

Click on "Help Our Cause" and then Click on "Donate Now" and submit your donation through PayPal. *Thank you!*

Name of Organization _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____ Email _____

This donation is: In Honor of _____ In Memory of _____

Name _____

Address _____

Veteran? Yes _____ No _____ Relationship _____

Branch _____ Dates Served _____

First Coast Honor Flight warrants that the information contained on this form is for internal use only and will not be shared, transmitted, or used for any purposes other than recording and acknowledging the donation. Donations are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. First Coast Honor Flight is a registered 501(c)3 Not for Profit EIN:84-4667182 For questions please Call: 888-400-1185 or email: info@firstcoasthonorflight.org.

Over 6,000 U.S. veterans take their lives each year with more than 500 of those occurring in Florida. Almost 1 in 4 Northeast Florida citizens have a connection to the military and as a community we felt we must act on behalf of our veterans and their families. The Fire Watch Council (www.thefirewatch.org) was established by the Counties of Baker, Clay, Nassau, St. Johns and City of Jacksonville as a multi-jurisdictional government entity to address veteran suicide prevention in Northeast Florida. Our Resource Guide provides a comprehensive list of resources for the Northeast Florida military community <https://resources.thefirewatch.org/#!/> and you can stand in the gap for veterans by becoming a Fire Watch Watch Stander <https://www.thefirewatch.org/watch-standers>. We are uniting our War Fighters and allies to swiftly activate local assets, stand watch, and build a life-saving network.



LIVE



Veterans ASCEND
Connecting Employers and Military Talent

LIVE

We've Made Some Great Changes!

FEATURING

The Military Family Module

Our skills-matching technology is now available to the Military Family. You have skills and we connect you directly with employers who need those skills

New features for Service Member and Veteran Accounts

You can now add civilian occupations, tax credit eligibility, travel and shifts among a few other enhancements

Create your FREE profile today

www.veteransascend.com

NO RESUME REQUIRED



PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO MEET VETERANS' UNIQUE NEEDS

Advance Care Planning

Community Hospice & Palliative Care offers Honoring Choices® Florida, a program to help you document your health care wishes in advance, so that, in the event you become ill and cannot speak for yourself, your wishes are known and can be followed.

Palliative Care

Our palliative care services can help people with serious illnesses get relief from physical, emotional, and spiritual pain, symptoms, and stress while seeking curative treatment.

Hospice Care

We also provide support during the final phase of advanced illness, with a focus on comfort and quality of life.

- ★ **Team Approach:** Trained clinicians identify and address the psychological, physical, spiritual and emotional needs of veterans and their caregivers.
- ★ **Pinning Ceremony:** We provide a veteran-to-veteran pinning ceremony to honor the service of our nation's bravest.
- ★ **Service Branch Flags:** For veterans who receive care at our inpatient centers, we fly the flag of their service branch outside their room and entrust the flag to the family following death.
- ★ **Veterans History Project:** Members of our Community Hospice Veterans Partnership (CHVP) record veterans' stories and share them online and with the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress.
- ★ **Community Hospice Veterans Partnership:** A select group of veteran leaders serving as brand ambassadors throughout Northeast and North Central Florida bringing awareness to, and providing access for, veterans and their caregivers facing advanced illness and end-of-life care.

Complementary Therapies

In addition to routine home care, respite care, continuous care and inpatient hospice, we also provide the following services to patients and their families:

- ★ **Grief and Loss Support**
- ★ **Certified Music Therapy**
- ★ **Certified Pet Therapy**
- ★ **Pet Promises**

We Need Volunteers

Whether you offer companionship and a listening ear or assist at fundraising events, there's a volunteer role for everyone. Opportunities include pinning ceremonies, Veterans History Project recordings, CHVP membership and other special programs.

Community Hospice & Palliative Care participates in We Honor Veterans, a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization program that honors veterans for their service and sacrifices.

For more information or to volunteer, call toll free **866.253.6681** or visit **CommunityHospice.com**.

★ Along with traditional reimbursement for hospice services, we offer payment options to veterans with TRICARE. As with all Community Hospice & Palliative Care patients, we provide care and support to all who need it, regardless of their ability to pay. VET 007.5/20



SURVIVOR OUTREACH SERVICES

Strength
built on
Sacrifice

Your Florida SOS Team

St. Augustine Area

Keith Ham
Support Coordinator
310 Charlotte Street
St. Augustine, FL 32085
(904) 823-0157 (desk)
(904) 472-7689 (cell)
keith.c.ham.ctr@mail.mil

Tallahassee Area

Matthew Reeves
Support Coordinator
1225 Easterwood Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32311-3599
(850) 617-0192 (desk)
(850) 459-6630 (cell)
matthew.p.reeves.ctr@mail.mil

Orlando Area

Shinekqua Baines
Support Coordinator
9500 Armed Forces Reserve Drive
Orlando, FL 32827
(407) 240-5939 ext. 1743
shinekqua.l.baines.ctr@mail.mil

Tampa Bay Area

LaShawnda S. Strother
Support Coordinator
2801 Grand Avenue
Pinellas Park, FL 33782
(727)-563-3647
lashawnda.s.strother.ctr@mail.mil

Miami Area

Support Coordinator
9301 NW 33rd Street
Doral, FL 33172-1202
(305) 437-2178

Scholarships & Application Deadlines

There are two primary VA Programs offering educational assistance. While federal benefits do not technically have a due date, it is important to apply as early as possible.

The Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship (Fry Scholarship) is currently available for children of those who died in the line of duty after September 10, 2001. Beginning January 1, 2015, Fry Scholarship will also be available for surviving spouses of those who died in the line of duty after September 10, 2001.

The Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA) Program offers education and training opportunities to eligible dependents of Veterans who are permanently and totally disabled due to a service-related condition or of Veterans who died while on active duty or as a result of a service-related condition.

Application Deadlines for surviving children

Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation

No set amount, available for children of those who died in the line of duty or of a service-connected disability. No application due date.

Freedom Alliance

Scholarships of up to \$5,000 for children of those who died in the line of duty. No application due date.

Fisher House Foundation/ Heroes Legacy Scholarship

Amount varies, for children of those who died while on active duty on or after September 11, 2001. Applications available from early December to March 14.

Special Ops Warrior Foundation

Amount varies, for surviving children of Special Operations Service Members who died in the line of duty. Applications due at least sixty days prior to the start of the semester.

Deadline for multiple relationships

Army Emergency Relief Fund

Amount varies, for surviving spouses and children of soldiers who die while on active duty or in retiree status. Applications available from January 2 to May 1, 2015.

Application Deadlines: For surviving spouses

Aspire

\$3,000 scholarships per semester for spouses of those who died on active duty. Applications due by October 31 for spring semester and June 30 for fall semester each year.

National Military Family Association

\$500 to \$2,500 scholarships for surviving spouses of those who died while on active duty on or after September 11, 2001. Applications available from December 1 to January 31.

Pat Tillman Foundation

Amount varies, scholarships for surviving spouses of those who died on active duty, in veteran status, or in retiree status. Applications available from February 1 to March 6.

Application Deadlines: For surviving siblings

Matthew Freeman Project

\$1,000 scholarships for siblings of those who have died in the line of duty. No application due date

Deadline for multiple relationships

Folds of Honor

\$5,000 scholarships for surviving spouses and children of service members who die in the line of duty or from a service-connected disability. Applications available from January 15 to March 15.

Disclaimer: The information presented in this newsletter is for informational awareness only and does not represent endorsement, sponsorship, recommendation, or promotion of any commercial events, commercial names or brands by the editors of this Newsletter, the Department of Defense, US Army, US Navy, US Air Force, US Coast Guard, National Guard, Reserve, or the federal government. Usage of commercial or trademark names is for identification purposes only.

FLORIDA SURVIVOR OUTREACH SERVICES AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY



Survivor Outreach Services provides long-term support and advocacy for families of the fallen. Our support coordinators and financial counselors are dedicated to helping survivors from all eras understand and apply for benefits as well as stay connected to the Army family for as long as they desire.

Although Survivor Outreach Services is the focus of this newsletter, please know that all branches of the Armed Forces are equally committed to taking care of surviving military families. Please contact us, and we will connect you with additional resources that may be available for your branch of service. To find the Survivor Outreach Services location nearest you, check out the map on this page, or visit www.sos.army.mil.



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

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

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE
1-800-273-TALK (8256)
suicidepreventionlifeline.org

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

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)

DUVAL COUNTY

President Steve Spickelmier

Meetings:

Third Tuesday of each month

Location:

American Legion Post 37
Main Building
San Juan Avenue

Tome: 1900 (7 pm)

NASSAU COUNTY

President: Mike Doran

Meetings:

First Thursday of each month

Location:

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

Time: 1900 (7pm)

St. Johns County

President: Bill Dudley

Meetings:

Last Thursday of each month

Location:

Health & Human Services building
Muscovy room, 1st floor
200 San Sebastian View, St. Augustine

Time: 1900 (7pm)

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.

*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 Administration Building
500 San Sebastian View
Auditorium, 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
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.