



The Patriot Reader Newsletter

P.O. Box 2117

St. Augustine, FL 32085

Bill Dudley, Publisher

Michael Rothfeld, Editor

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Volume 5, Issue 8

Newsletter Date: August 2016

Message from the Chairman

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Fellow Veterans:

Hard to believe a year has gone by since our last Veterans Stand Down. On August 20, we will gather once again at the Elks Lodge at 0900 to reach out to our veterans in need. Tammy Shirley has worked diligently during the year collecting clothes, toilet articles, and other items needed by our homeless veterans. VA representatives will be on hand to assist the veterans with enrollment in the VA system if needed. Volunteers are needed for the Stand Down so please consider giving a few hours on Saturday, August 20 to help our brothers and sisters who are less fortunate and in need of our support. Also, Tammy can use some help on Friday to unload the truck and set-up the tables inside the Elks Lodge. If you can spare a couple of hours on Friday, Aug. 19, please plan to be there around 1000 hours.

A big Bravo Zulu to our Veterans Council Vice Chairman Ray Quinn for being selected as this year's recipient of the Charles Maddox Award. Vice

Chairman Quinn was presented with this prestigious award by the Florida National Guard Association at a gala event in Daytona Beach recently. As we all know, Ray has served his country as a National Guardsman retiring with the rank of Sgt. Major, a volunteer in the community, an elected county official, a leader in many community organizations, and a brother to many in need. We are proud of his service and salute him for his many accomplishments.

This summer, Beaver Toyota and WSOS, 103.9 FM has honored our Veterans in the community with a one hour show each Thursday at 4 PM. I have been happy to help host the show with the producer, Rand Middleton. At the beginning of July, Beaver announced that a percentage of their car sales for the month would be given to the DAV to help with the purchase of another van to transport our veterans for their appointments to Gainesville VA Clinic. Beaver's car sales for the month have been brisk and we expect a sizeable check will be forthcoming very soon.



I'm sure many of you have been as disturbed about the recent shootings of our police officers around the country as I have. Just as disturbing is that some have been committed by veterans. Many of our police officers are Veterans themselves. Having served in combat and then return home to later be gunned down by a disturbed fellow veteran is heartbreaking. I have recently met with Sheriff David Shoar to discuss our grave concern for the loss of those who serve to protect our community. Our veterans and police officers stand together and abhor the actions of anyone who would take the life of one of our country's public servants.

Bill Dudley
Chairman
Veterans Council of
St. Johns County



Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home

Where Patriotism is our Motto



Congratulations to Kay Maley and her staff at the Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans' Nursing Home in St. Augustine. The 120-bed home has been notified by the American College of Health Care Administrators that it will receive the Eli Pick Facility Leadership Award, recognizing high performing skilled nursing facilities. Fewer than 9% of facilities nationwide qualify.



Children from Turning Point at Calvary spear-headed a project for active duty military. The children and the residents loaded up boxes of necessary items and some goodies to be sent to service men and women.



Filling the boxes #2



Calling Bingo



Fascinating Rhythm Orchestra came one Saturday to entertain and did a fabulous job!!



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



JNC SC Chairman,
Ray Quinn

The Support Committee invites everyone to attend its **next scheduled meeting, on Monday, September 12, 2016.** The meeting will be at **7:00pm.** The meeting will take place at Community Hospice, **4266 Sunbeam Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32257 in Conference Room A.**

+++++2015/2016 Officers of the SCJNC+++++

Chairman: Ray Quinn

Vice Chairman: Bill Dudley, Treasurer: John Mountcastle

Assistant Treasurer: Michael Rothfeld, Secretary: Kathy Church

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

JAG Officer: Patrick Bennett, Historian: Jody Raymond

The new incoming officers of the Vietnam Veterans of America, chapter # 1084, and board members were installed at our June 28, 2016 meeting by Chaplain Bob Dinkins.



L-R; President John McGinty, 1st Vice Pres. Richard Basteasto, 2nd Vice Pres James Campau, Secretary/Treasurer

George April, Board member Ken Hahn.

Bob Dinkins - Chaplain
Vietnam Veterans of America
Florida State Council, Region 4
Chapter 1084, St. Johns County, Fl
904-540-1898

bobdinkins@bellsouth.net

"Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another."

Charles Maddox Award presented to Ray Quinn, SGM, USA (Ret)

The Veterans Council of St. Johns County is proud to announce that its Vice Chairman, Ray Quinn, was the recipient of the "Charles Maddox Award". Presented by the FL National Guard Association for "Extraordinary Lifetime Service to the FL National Guard. Congratulations Ray, well deserved.

The banquet took place at the annual meeting of the Florida National Guard Association. The association is a joint organization with both officer and enlisted members. The event was held at the Hilton Beachside in Daytona Beach. The guest speaker was John Thrasher, President of Florida State University.

The award is named after Charles Maddox, recipient of the Soldier's Medal, citation follows: *Soldier's Medal, Awarded for actions during the Cold War.*

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 2, 1926, takes pleasure in presenting the Soldier's Medal to Sergeant Charles W.

Maddox, Jr., United States Army, for heroism at the risk of life not involving conflict with an armed enemy as a member of Headquarters, Headquarters

and Logistic Company, Command and Control Battalion, 11th Airborne Division, at Flak Kaserne, Augsburg, Germany, on 29 April 1957. While sitting in a snack bar Sergeant Maddox heard an explosion resulting from the crash of two helicopters approximately 150 yards away. Upon reaching the scene of the accident he discovered that someone was trapped in the troop compartment. Unable to extricate him from the outside Sergeant Maddox, despite the danger of explosion from the gasoline which flooded the compartment, climbed inside and freed the trapped soldier. Unmindful of increasing danger Sergeant Maddox then released an officer from his safety belt and assisted him out of the compartment. The prompt and courageous action of Sergeant Maddox and rescuing the two men, before the arrival of any firefighting equipment, reflects great credit on himself and the military service.

General Orders: Department of the Army, General Orders No. 49 (September 13, 1957)



Pictured from left: CSM Jeffrey Young (Sr Enlisted Advisor to the Adjutant General), MG Michael Calhoun (The Adjutant General of Florida), SGM (Ret) Ray Quinn, and John Thrasher (President of Florida State University).

Chairman Dudley's Weekly Radio Show

Every Thursday, 4:00 pm, you will find Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley at Beaver Toyota. No, he is not buying a new car every week but rather is speaking live on St. Augustine's WSOS, 103.9 FM. The show is hosted by Rand Middleton of WSOS.



The weekly show is a one hour live broadcast about local veterans, their issues, events and the presentation of the "Beaver Award", a Certificate of Extraordinary Accomplishment", presented to a local veteran or citizen who has made an outstanding contribution to the betterment of the lives of local veterans.

On Thursday July 21st, Chairman Dudley presented the Beaver Award to Judge Howard McGillin, a West Point Graduate, a retired Army Colonel and a Family Court Judge. Judge McGillin and Chairman Dudley spoke about plans to bring a Veterans Treatment Court to St. Johns County.



Judge Howard McGillin holds up the Beaver Award for Extraordinary Accomplishment as Veterans Council Chairman looks on.



Vilano Beach VFW Post 12142 has been a Post, for only 1 year 6 months.

We were notified July 5th by the State VFW Headquarters that we have been made a “All State Post”.

We were notified July 6th by the National VFW Headquarters, that we have been made an “All American Post”.

I would like to Congratulate all our Members and the Auxiliary for all their hard work !!

Vilano Beach VFW Post 12142 now has 2 electric wheelchairs that can be give to a St. Johns County Veteran.

The one on the left is a Pride Jet 2 HD. The one on the right is a Hoveround MPV5

We now also have a Hospital Bed (electric) complete with mattress for a St. Johns County Veteran.

A. J. Sartin, Commander - VFW VilanoBeachVFW@att.net (904) 669-1946



Veterans Of Foreign Wars
“ No One Does More For Veterans ”

The June Veterans Council meeting

If you weren't at the Veterans Council meeting on Thursday, June 30 at the Elks Lodge you missed out on a very informative, patriotic meeting..

The first speaker was GYSGT Michael Vicente, USMC. GYSGT Vicente is the Executive Director of the Young Marines Atlantic Coast. The Young Marines are an education and service program for boys and girls ages 8-18. They promote mental, moral, and physical development with a focus on building character.



Rory Diamond, Executive Director of K9s For Warriors presented Herb (the Sock Guy) with over 1000 socks for Herb to distribute to veterans in nursing homes and at the Homeless Veterans Stand Down.

The Veterans Council was proud to have CDR John Leslie, USN (Ret) as its featured speaker. CDR Leslie spoke about his book, *In My Father's Footsteps*. Both John and his WW II veteran father were naval aviators and John spoke of the similarities in their careers and lives. It was a very moving, heart felt, emotional talk and every one was memorized.



A full house turns out for the Veterans Council meeting, thank you to Mark Miner for the picture.

The next meeting of the Veterans Council is on Thursday, July 28. Please try to make that meeting. We welcome you.

The Veterans Council wants to remind everyone of several events coming up that we know you will enjoy.

Please mark your calendars and reserve these dates:

August 20th, 2016, Saturday

Join us for the 9th Annual Parade and Ceremony Commemorating the end of the 2nd Seminole War.

Please see flyer attached for more information regarding the luncheon and special presentation.

November 11th, Friday

Join and watch the Second Annual Veterans Day Parade in St. Augustine.

Whether you are marching, riding, or watching you won't want to miss the Parade.

Bring the family, the children will love the Patriotic Parade.

See the marching bands, helicopters, military vehicles and honor our veterans.

Please see flyer attached.

November 11, 12, 13

Join us Saluting our Local Veterans at the Corazon Theater for the first ever Military Film Festival, times to be announced.

This is a free event and open to the public over the Veterans Day Weekend.

The documentaries will be honoring Florida veterans and many of the featured veterans will be at the Corazon Theater to answer your questions.

We will have many surprise speakers so look for more information on the Veterans Council of St. Johns County's website and Facebook page as well as in the monthly Patriot Reader.

November 13th, Sunday

Watch for information on the Patriotic Concert with a BIG name star to perform at the St. Augustine Amphitheater.

Reserve these dates, watch here for more information.

*The Ancient City Chapter, Military Officers Association of America,
and The Veterans Council of St. Johns County,*

Cordially invite you to join in celebrating

VETERANS DAY WEEKEND



*In St. Augustine, Florida,
November 11th, 12th, 13th.*

The Grand Parade

Friday, downtown, see reverse

Military Film Festival

*Friday, Saturday, Sunday,
at the Corazon Theater**

Patriotic Concert

*Sunday, St. Augustine Amphitheater**

**Times and details to be announced*

The Grand Parade "SALUTING ALL WHO SERVED"

Route



Schedule

9:30 AM

*Parade participants assemble on Orange St.,
vicinity Visitors Center.**

10:00 AM

*Non-parading color guards assemble at the
Castillo de San Marcos.**

**Participants MUST report on time.*

11:00 AM

*Parade starts, column passes reviewing stand at
the Castillo de San Marcos, fly over.*

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



We are inviting all veterans to visit our website at:
<http://www.veteranscouncilofstjohns.org>

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

Please join our group on Facebook at:
VeteransCouncilofStJohnsCounty,FL

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

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

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

You may have noticed the Veterans Council's new logo, it was created by Roy Havekost and his web design company PageAuthors. The VC strongly recommends that you contact Roy, 904-287-6909, if you or your vet group wants to create a website or Facebook page.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July __2016

**VETERANS COUNCIL ANNOUNCES
WREATH CAMPAIGN**



Chairman Bill Dudley of the Veterans Council of St. Johns County has announced the annual drive for Wreaths Across America has begun.

The council is dedicated to ensuring that every headstone in the St. Augustine National Cemetery is adorned with a live holiday wreath this year. The council has successfully sponsored the drive for several years.

The community is invited to send donations to purchase the wreaths. Individual wreaths are \$15.00. If two wreaths are purchased at \$30.00 the council receives a free wreath (3 for cost of 2). Corporate sponsorships are available and greatly appreciated.

The community is invited to the St. Augustine National Cemetery on December 17, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. for a ceremony followed by placement of the wreaths. Youth organizations are encouraged to participate to learn and honor our veterans.

Checks made payable to Wreaths Across America may be sent to: Veterans Council of St. Johns County, P. O. Box 2117, St. Augustine, FL 32085-2117.

For any additional information please contact the campaign chair, SGM (Ret) Ray Quinn at 904.797.5622.

How **K9S FOR WARRIORS** Works



1 Donations are received

2

Veterans with PTSD, TBI, and/or MST submit applications and are scheduled into "warrior classes"



3

Dogs are rescued from high-kill shelters



4

Professional staff leads service dog training and matches warriors with dogs



5

Warriors and dogs meet at Camp K9 and train/bond for three weeks



6

Two lives are saved. Both warriors and dogs are reintegrated back into society and "given a new leash on life"



Lead Letter to The Editor July 18th, FL Times Union

K9s for Warriors provides important service

By Mary Daniel Fri, Jul 15, 2016 @ 8:44 am

I was born and raised in Jacksonville and have always been proud of our support of the Navy men and women who make our city their home.



But I am even more proud and honored that we have the leading organization that provides service canines to our wounded warriors who suffer from post-traumatic stress right here in our own backyard: K9s for Warriors.

I began volunteering over a year ago and recently began fostering Delaney, a 5-month-old Husky puppy named after Rear Admiral Kevin Delaney, an American hero and a dedicated Jacksonville civic leader until his death last year.

Volunteering with this organization and working with this puppy have given me a close view of the amazing work being done by Shari Duval and her team.

Every month another group of veterans come to Nocatee for a three week training program, joining the 236 K9s for Warrior teams who have previously graduated.

They are expertly trained to work with their new best friend, so they are prepared to return to civilian life with dignity and independence.

And behind the scenes the organization is working hard to secure funding for more dogs, building a new kennel so the two-year waiting list can be shortened and even working with U.S. Rep. Ron DeSantis to introduce legislation allowing government funding for more warriors to get the dogs they so badly need.

I urge you to learn more!

A total of 22 veterans are committing suicide every day, and these dogs, trained right here on the First Coast, can save those lives!

Donate, volunteer or simply attend the next graduation ceremony on July 28 and see for yourself! I promise you'll also be proud of the support our community gives back to those who gave so much!

Mary Daniel, St. Augustine

Florida's budget, new laws begin July 1 By Jim Turner, News Service of Florida

159 new laws, ranging from budget to public records, to go into effect

FOR THE VETS

--- SB 184, makes clear that former members of the Florida National Guard are eligible for the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame. The new law also requires landlords to make decisions within seven days about lease applications by service members, and sets up a task force to consider an online-voting system for overseas military voters.

--- SB 222, requires publicly owned or operated airports to provide free parking to any vehicle displaying license plates for disabled veterans.

--- HB 799, provides that active duty service members who attend state universities or colleges, career centers or charter technical career centers may receive out-of-state fee waivers while living or stationed out of state.

--- SB 1202, provides entrance fee discounts at state parks to members of the military, honorably discharged veterans, surviving spouses or parents of either a military member who died in combat or a first responder who died in the line of duty.

Please watch this space for an important announcement regarding a partnership for a Veterans Day week “Veterans Film Festival” at the Corazon Theater featuring the Veterans of NE FL through the different World Wars. The documentaries were produced by the Veterans Council of St. Johns County in cooperation with WJCT TV, Flagler College Communications Dept. and the Film Dept. of the Art Institute of Jacksonville.



corazoncinemaandcafe.com

Karla Wagner

OWNER

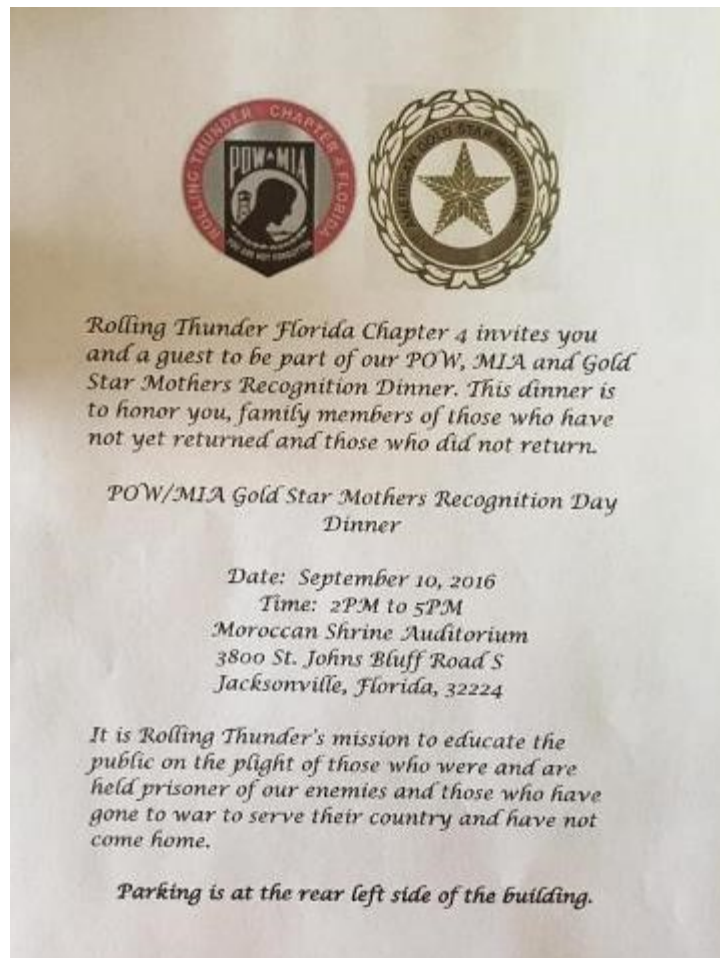
corazoncandc@gmail.com

Work: (904) 679-5736 Cell: (407) 929-1061



36 Granada Street, St. Augustine, FL 32084

Beaver Toyota St. Augustine is giving a percentage of its profits on every vehicle sold in July towards the DAV van for the St Augustine CBOC. Pictured from left: James Campau, Ken Hahn, Linda Beaver, Judy Davis, John McGinty, and Bob Robert Dinkins.

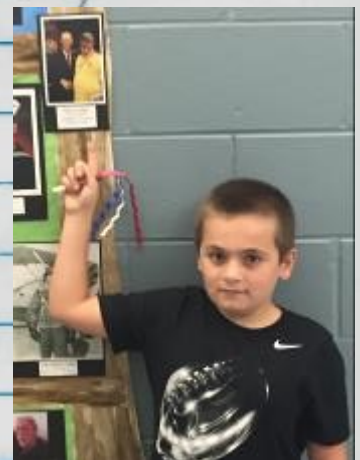


This is a note Bob Dinkins received from his grandson a few years ago. Landon is the kind of grandson we all want. Can't wait til he grows up.

My Poppy is my hero because he was in the Air Force. He was a sergeant in 1969. Now he is with my Grammy Irene. Me and him have sleep overs. I love him so much. I love God and he loves God. He watches the news to protect us. I know that he is a patriot and he loves America. He is the best poppy I ever had.

11/8/14

Landon



American Legion Post 37 sends students to Boys State session

By THE RECORD

Three St. Johns County high school juniors were chosen to represent American Legion Post 37, 1 Anderson Circle, St. Augustine, in the 2016 Boys State session at Florida State University.

Noah A. Masters and Ian Sotomayor from Pedro Menendez High School and Zachary “Zach” S. Kelly Trenton from Bartram Trail High School recently returned from the week-long, hands-on experience in which they learned how government really works, including the law and court system, parliamentary procedure and Florida political history.

Florida American Legion Boys State is a comprehensive leadership action program where qualified male high school juniors take part in a practical government course. It is designed to develop a working knowledge of the structure of government and to impress upon the citizen the idea that government is what its people make it.

The delegates said the week was “truly enjoyable” as well as educational. They said learning about governmental processes in Florida while networking with many of the 400-plus other participants from across the state was a highlight of the week.

Lt. Col. (P) Ron Birchall, U.S. Army, Ret., has responsibility for the Post 37 American Legion Boys State recruitment. He will begin conducting interviews in the fall for the 2017 candidates. For more information, email rbirch@comcast.net.



CONTRIBUTED St. Johns County high school juniors Zachary Kelly of Bartram Trail High School and Ian Sotomayor and Noah Masters of Pedro Menendez High School were chosen to represent American Legion Post 37 in the 2016 Boy State session at Florida State University

The Veterans Council of St. Johns County welcomes Subaru of Jacksonville as a new corporate sponsor

SUBARU OF JACKSONVILLE SUPPORTS YOU



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10800 ATLANTIC BLVD, JACKSONVILLE, FL 32225
PHONE: (888) 781-0319 (904)641-6455 - SUBARUOFJACKSONVILLE.COM

From Frank Bailey:

“In the veterans corner..”



This is a Blog that may be of interest to all of St Johns County.

I have been working over the past year with the Clay County Veterans Treatment Court as a Court Mentor for Veterans that get into trouble with the Police, and deserve and qualify for special consideration. The Judge and all mentors are veterans that oversee that diversionary Court. SJC will be rolling out their Veterans Treatment Court in October and Judge McGillin will be in charge and he is a Veteran as well. I will be part of the Mentor Staff. The Mentors are Veteran Volunteers that act as Followup personnel that are crucial to the program.

Most know that Drug Court is a Deviation Court that gives special help to those that qualify and who would usually go to jail for many years.

In Deviation Court you are released from Jail, participate in rehabilitation and upon successful completion can qualify to expunge that record.

It costs about \$23-30,000 per year for incarceration but Drug Court Costs are less than \$6500/yr. A win-win for taxpayers and drug users. Now SJC Veterans will participate as well. The Difference is that the Judge Must be a Veteran and a Veteran Mentor is inserted to support the troubled Veteran on a personal level. The program has 5 phases and puts the Mentee through a “boot camp” that is more aggressive than Drug Court, but he stays out of jail and can get his record expunged. Veterans in the program have been deployed many times, and often suffer PTSD or other Trauma that have never been addressed. VTC exposes these issues that are usually missed until something happens.

I have witnessed many homeless, indigent and neglected Veterans come into the program, turn out cared for and cleaned up after one year. The program is successful in never seeing that graduate in the court system again, and he learns how to cope and adjust to personal challenges he encounters. Expunging his record makes him far more employable which is also good for the community and his family.

“in the Veterans Corner...”



THE CITY OF JACKSONVILLE PRESENTS

THE ANNUAL

★

PURPLE HEART
DAY
★

CELEBRATION

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

SATURDAY AUGUST 6TH

9:00 AM AT THE VETERANS MEMORIAL WALL

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

FOR MORE INFO CALL (910) 366-2836
OR VISIT

WWW.MOPH524.ORG



Korean Community of Jacksonville Honors American Soldiers

Every year on the anniversary of the Korean War Armistice, this year the 63rd, my wife Carol and I are invited by Dr. Henry Moreland, Commander of the Korean War Veterans Association chapter 200 Jacksonville to attend a ceremony and Korean luncheon hosted by the Korean Association of North Florida.



The Korean community of Jacksonville gathers together to honor the American soldiers who fought in the Korean conflict and to thank them for saving their country and allowing all of them to be free. This is a very emotional presentation, and after the speeches we were entertained by Korean American teenagers performing Elvis and Beatle songs on the keyboard, violin and flute.



Saluting the American Flag

Dr. Henry Moreland, Commander KWVA



Keynote speaker Jack Orth



Jae Lee, Liaison, Past President Korean Community of Jacksonville



KANF President Sang Ho Chung



Matthew Fishman, grandson of Jae Lee performs on the keyboard



Gabi Park performs on the flute



Darrell Meadows performs



Gathering of Veterans

V4V invites you to participate in a Gathering of Veterans meeting. There will be representatives from organizations that support Veterans and Veterans agencies providing information of interest to the Veterans community.

When: August 6th

Time: 1100 to 1300; Free buffet lunch to follow

Where: Veterans Memorial Arena
300 A Philip Randolph Blvd
Jacksonville, Fl

If you have any questions, please contact us at
Vets4VetsNJax@gmail.com

Together We Are Stronger

"Courage is contagious. When a brave man takes a stand, the spines of others are often stiffened."



Association of the United States Army

VOICE FOR THE ARMY - SUPPORT FOR THE SOLDIER

FIRST MILITIA CHAPTER (FMC), AUSA

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING & DINNER

THURSDAY, 18 August 2016

Social @ 6:00 p.m. followed by Dinner @ 6:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Mark W. Lance Armory
190 San Marco Ave., St. Augustine, Florida

Cost: \$15.00 (At the Door), or \$14.00 in Advance (mail or online)
Dress: Casual

Guest Speaker:

Congressman (Representative) Ron DeSantis,

Program: Rep. DeSantis' Remarks
Chapter Business Reports
Scholarships Awarded
50/50 Drawing

Menu: "Annual Southern Summer Dinner"
Fried chicken, mashed potatoes,
Gravy, collard greens, and biscuits
Homemade Blueberry pie with ice cream
Iced tea & Lemonade

[Alternate entrée item (grilled chicken breast) available]

DUE TO THE MENU

"ADVANCED PAID RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED"

Please submit your reservations and payment to arrive no later than 12 August 2016 by completing the form below to: First Militia Chapter, AUSA P.O. Box 3883, St. Augustine, FL 32085-3883. (Make checks payable to: First Militia Chapter). You can also pay online at <http://mkt.com/first-militia-chapter-ausa>. For additional information, please call (904)682-4436 or email rebecca.j.gibson.ctr@mail.mil. The alternate point of contact is CW4 Karen Smith at (904)823-0654 or email karen.m.smith1.mil@mail.mil.

Name: _____ Number of Reservations: _____

Guest: _____ Amount of Check: _____

Alternate entrée (Grilled Chicken) requested? _____ How many? _____

From Jerry Hanchett about his brother's project:

The first scheduled flight of Doc, B-29, took place on Sunday, July 17th.

This has been a 16 year project to restore. This will be a monumental accomplishment for the hundreds of volunteers and estimated at over 300,000 hours of work. My brother, Mike, has been a volunteer and worked on this project for over 16 years. He lives in Newton Kansas.



On July 17th Doc left Wichita, fly to Salina Kansas and return to Wichita for the maiden flight.

Check out these websites and watch the news.

There are some really good pictures on the sites.

https://twitter.com/hashtag/B29DOC?src=hash&ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw

<http://www.warbirdsnews.com/warbird-restorations/flight-scheduled-b-29-doc.html>

<http://www.news-ridgecrest.com/news/story.pl?id=0000003711>

Jerry Hanchett

Florida Veterans News

New Korean War Memorial to be Dedicated

A Lake County man still MIA in North Korea was honored, and a new Korean War Memorial dedicated at the July 27th 63rd Anniversary of Korean War cease-fire ceremony at Leesburg's Veterans Memorial Park.

The Korean Veterans of Lake County, Chapter 169, is very pleased to invite all Veterans, especially those who served in Korea, to its remembrance of the signing of the cease-fire 63 years ago on July 23, 1953.

Special emphasis will be placed on: 1) remembering Cpl Charles Wesley Thomas, of Lake County, FL, one of the 7,820 Missing in Action who still remain in North Korea, and 2) the dedication of the new Korean War and Korea Defense Service Veterans of Lake County, Chapter 169, Inc., Memorial.

Cpl. Thomas was born December 4, 1932. He enlisted from Lake County, Florida, and served in Korea with the US Army's 65th Infantry Regiment, K Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Infantry Division, which was engaged in hostile action with the enemy July 1953. Cpl. Thomas died while missing (MIA), Remains Not Recovered, Date of Loss: July 6, 1953. He was presumed dead on July 7, 1954. He was awarded the Bronze Star. Several of his relatives have been located and will attend the event.

The new Korean War and Korea Defense Service Veterans of Lake County, Chapter 169, Inc., Memorial will also be dedicated. The 7-foot tall granite marker with a wavy top to simulate the mountains of Korea is located near the Veterans Memorial.

The featured speaker will be BG Ret'd Tim Sullivan, Florida National Guard, who is a member of Chapter 169.

The event will begin at 12:00 noon, Wednesday, July 27, at Veterans Memorial Park across the street from Leesburg City Hall, 501 W Meadow St, Leesburg.

Chapter 169 serves Lake and adjoining portions of Sumter and Marion Counties, including The Villages; it meets every third Saturday at 2:00 p.m., in the Saddlebrook Recreation Center, 3010 Saddlebrook Lane, The Villages, FL, and every fourth Wednesday at 2:00 p.m. at the Leesburg Senior Center, 1211 Penn St. All Korea Veterans are welcome.

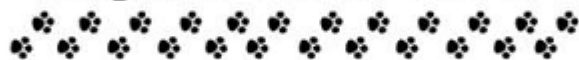
August 6th 1100 to 1300 in Memorial Arena. Another good line up of speakers with information of interest to all Veterans...Keeping you informed and connected.

Pass the Word to all your contacts...We keep the numbers up we keep the meetings going and getting closer to our numbers making a difference in influencing change for those in the Veteran community here in NE Florida.

Too much at stake for Veterans not to be engaged and connected.

PASS THE WORD

**American Legion Post 202
3rd Annual K9s For Warriors
Poker Run
August 20th 2016**



STOPS



STOP 1 LEGION POST 250 MIDDLEBURG
STOP 2 VFW POST 1988 GCS
STOP 3 VFW POST 3349 PALATKA
STOP 4 VFW POST 10134 INTERLACHEN
STOP 5 LEGION POST 202 KEYSTONE HEIGHTS



50/50 Chinese auction

\$15 for rider/\$10 for passenger

Registration at Post 202 9 am KSU

10:30 LBI 4:30

High hand \$100 Low hand \$50

stuffed manicotti dinner available for \$6.00

All profits to support K9s For Warriors

PROUD SUPPORTER OF



Missing In America Project

"It's The Right Thing To Do!"



Why We're Here

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

Working Together to Accomplish Our Goals

The initial focus of the MIA Project will be a massive, nation-wide effort to locate, identify and inter the unclaimed remains of forgotten veterans. This task will be executed through the combined, cooperative efforts of members of the American Legion, other volunteer service and veteran organizations, local Funeral Homes, State Funeral Commissions, State and National Veterans Administration Agencies, and the State and National Veterans Cemetery Administrations. Local, state and national laws must be followed in the identification, claiming process and proper interment of the unclaimed remains of forgotten veterans.

Our Progress to Date

Total Funeral Homes Visited - 1,987

Cremains Found - 13,355

Veterans Cremains Identified - 3,092

Veterans Interred - 2,772

**Saturday, August 20th, 2016.
St. Augustine National Cemetery**

**9th Annual Parade and Ceremony:
Commemorating the end of the 2nd Seminole War;
Honoring those who perished in it.**



**1000 AM: Meet inside Officers Club, St. Francis Barracks, 82 Marine Street.
Welcome, historical context of 1842 parade and ceremony.**

**1045 --1130: Re-enactors and public parade to the National Cemetery.
Commemoration ceremony at the pyramids and Dade Monument.**

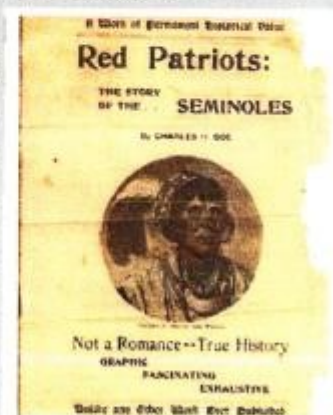
**1200 - 1400: Luncheon in the Officers Club.
Presentation of commemorative coins.**

"The rest of the story."

Red Patriots:

The Story of the Seminoles, 1898.

**Background and times by
Andrew Foster, great grandson of
the author, Capt. Charles H. Coe.**



**Organized by the West Point Society of North Florida and
The Seminole Wars Foundation. Information at: jnatnc@aol.com
REGISTRATION FEE \$18. USE ATTACHED FORM. INFO AT: JNATNC@AOL.COM**



The St. Augustine Seminole War Commemoration Ceremony Re-enactor's Coin Series.

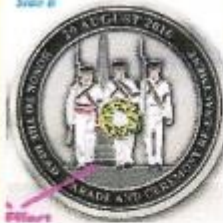
"Honoring those who perished."

BACKGROUND. On August 15, 1842, a large parade escorted remains of soldiers killed in Florida during the long, costly Second Seminole War through St. Augustine to three pyramids in a garden adjacent to St. Francis barracks, where they were laid to rest with a solemn ceremony. A local newspaper detailed the proceedings under the headline, "Honor To The Dead." Many of those so interred were graduates of the United States Military Academy. As a consequence, and to remember all those who perished in this difficult conflict, the West Point Society of North Florida, joined by the Seminole Wars Foundation, has restaged the event annually since 2008.

In 2014, they commissioned a commemorative coin series to reflect each year's parade and ceremony. The distinctive coins are awarded to participating re-enactors and to the volunteers who support them. As the coin series matures, it will serve as a tangible reminder of this important era in Florida's history, and a keepsake for those who generously contributed their time and talent to ensure that the history surrounding it remains vivid in the public consciousness.

LTC (ret) Greg Moore designed the reverse of each coin, shown above, depicting one of three pyramids under which the "honored dead" lie in repose in today's St. Augustine's National Cemetery. The distinctive face of each year's coin, and story behind it are shown below, as is its designer and the generous sponsors who made production possible.

Size 8



2016. Sponsored by: Steven Rinck; Richard Tombrink, Jr.; John Lopiano, USMA '60;



Gulf Archeological Research Institute;

Face (draft opposite): A reenactment honor guard bearing the commemorative wreath commissioned by the West Point Society of North Florida to the foot of the monument to Major Dade's command in the National Cemetery, erected shortly after the interment ceremony. As ordered by Col. Worth, funds came from a levy of one day's pay from every soldier and officer serving in Florida. Design by Ted Pappas.



2015: Sponsored by: The Ancient City Chapter, Military Officers Association of America, in coordination with the 450th Military Commemoration Committee.

Face: Mortally wounded Capt. George W. Gardiner, USMA, West Point, class of 1814, and first Commandant of Cadets, urging his troops to do "do your best" during the ambush of Major Dade's column, 28 Dec., 1835. Capt. Gardiner and four other graduates were killed in this opening battle of the war. Also depicted is the "6-pounder" cannon that accompanied the column. Design by Ted Pappas from a Jackson Walker painting.



2014: Sponsored by: Greg Moore, LTC, USAR (ret).

Face: Living historian Steven Abolt portraying Colonel William Jenkins Worth, commander of troops in Florida at the end of the Second Seminole War. Col. Worth's order #28 "announced" that "hostilities within this territory have ceased." His order #25 had set in motion the "transfer to St. Augustine" of the remains of those who fell with Major Dade, and others, for a ceremony of re-interment as a last mark of official respect. Design by LTC Moore (ret).

From Kathy Church, MIAP

Our Progress to Date - As of July 12, 2016

Total Funeral Homes Visited - 1,988

Cremains Found - 13,375

Veterans Cremains Identified - 3,102

Veterans Interred - 2,778

Please contact me if you are interested in working in the State of FL. You can go to our website to find contact for other State Coordinators if you live somewhere else.

Marines remove 'man' from 19 job titles, and the reaction is predictable

Thomas Gibbons-Neff The Washington Post

The Marine Corps is set to rename 19 of its job titles following a directive by Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus to make occupational specialties more gender neutral after once-closed combat jobs were opened to women at the start of the year.

The list of jobs removes the word "man" from 15 of the titles and replaces it with Marine. In other changes, "antitank missileman" has been renamed "antitank gunner," and "field artillery operations man" is now "field artillery operations chief." The other three title changes pertain to positions associated with reconnaissance Marine (formerly reconnaissance man) occupational specialties.

The Marine Corps is expected to make an official announcement regarding the changes, which were first reported by the Marine Corps Times on Monday, in the coming days.

Some titles will remain the same, such as rifleman and mortarman, but the mere possibility of Marines having to possibly change their title to rifleperson spawned plenty of indignation.



This information is from the Jacksonville Chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America

You may or not be aware of the Virtual Wall of Faces project to put a face with every name on the Vietnam Wall. Here is a link. <http://www.vvmf.org/Wall-of-Faces/>



Attached is a list of the 777 missing photos from those killed in Vietnam whose home of record was Florida. Perhaps you could help promote this important project. Note there are 7 missing photos for St. John's County.

I am working the Duval County list of 101 and have identified 7 so far.

Raymond A Breault

Webmaster VVA Florida State Council

E Mail: webmaster@vvaflsc.org

Cell: 904-236-7228

Home: 904-3729719

Fax : 800-607-3085

Web: www.vvaflsc.org

Mailing Address:

Ray Breault, Webmaster

VVA Florida State Council

PO Box 330274

Atlantic Beach, FL 32233-0274

Help us spread the word about the Women Veterans Call Center chat function!

The Women Veterans Call Center (WVCC) is expanding its outreach to women Veterans with a new online, one-to-one chat function. The new service enables women Veterans to go online and anonymously chat via real-time text messaging with a trained WVCC representative. All the representatives at the Women Veterans Call Center are women, and many are Veterans themselves.



The new feature provides women Veterans with another avenue to ask general questions about benefits, eligibility and services specifically for women Veterans. WVCC chat is available by visiting the Women Veterans Health Care webpage at www.womenshealth.va.gov and clicking the “Chat with the Women Veterans Call Center” icon.

As the chat function is anonymous; we are asking users to please do not use personally identifiable information such as social security numbers. WVCC Chat is available Monday through Friday 8 AM – 10 PM ET, and on Saturdays from 8 AM – 6:30 PM ET



*10th ANNUAL
HOMELESS
STAND DOWN*

SATURDAY, AUGUST 20, 2016
TIME: 0900-1300
ST AUGUSTINE ELKS LODGE
LOCATED AT 1420 A1A SOUTH
POC TAMMY SHIRLEY AT (904) 209-6160

VETERANS HEALTH
ENROLLMENT/SCREENINGS/
EMPLOYMENT RESOURCES/
HOUSING ASSISTANCE/HOMELESS
OUTREACH/MILITARY SURPLUS/
SHOWERS, HAIRCUTS, TOILETRIES/
HOT MEAL AND MUCH MORE!

VETERANS HOMELESS AND AT RISK

NO DRUGS - NO ALCOHOL

Here is a link to the **FL Survivor Outreach Services** Summer Newsletter

<https://www.facebook.com/FLSOS>

Keith Ham

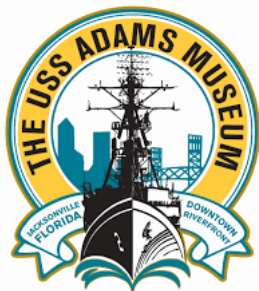
Support Coordinator

keith.e.ham.ctr@mail.mil

USS ADAMS Museum Newsletter

WE'RE MOVING FULL SPEED AHEAD!

ADAMS UPDATE



"DING, DING! DING, DING! USS Charles F. Adams (DDG-2), Arriving! " We are getting ever closer to that announcement to the world and pushing hard to obtain the ship in time for Veterans Day 2016 activities. Since we last chatted:

The State of Florida "granted" us \$1 million towards the development of the future home of the USS ADAMS Museum.

We have partnered with Stellar, a premier design build company and are in the pre-permitting phase of the initial home of Florida's first Navy Warship Museum at the Downtown Jacksonville - SHIPYARDS location.

We are also working with supporters and a very interested investor for the additional funding to obtain the ship, tow her to Jacksonville and begin the initial restoration and transformation from retired warship to newest Jacksonville attraction.

Stay tuned as over the next three or four weeks, significant meetings and milestones will determine the dates for which we can discuss ground breaking, site construction, towing and dry-docking schedules to BRING HOME THE ADAMS!

We need you on board today! Now is the time to get involved to make this wonderful attraction come to life in 2016. There are three easy ways you can help: 1) make a donation; 2) become a member; and 3) volunteer, all through the website: US-SADAMS.com. Please reach out to discuss ways you can help BRING HOME THE ADAMS.





The "Rocket Man" Run



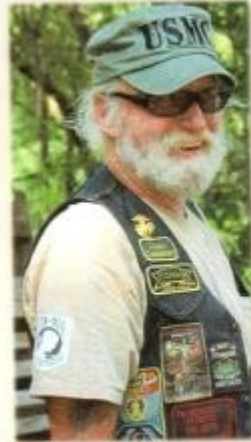
In memory of Wesley "Rocket Man" Roberts



Food - Music



Music By:
Dewy Via
DJ Trashy



Raffle Drawings Benefiting



of St. Johns County, Inc.

There are two different routes
Motorcycles and Cars or Jeeps and 4X4s



Vendors - Events

Events for 4X4s
Obstacle Course
Car Crush
Blind Gator
Flex Ramp

Events for Bikes
Hot Dog Grab
Slowest Bike Race
Barrel Push

Registration: 9:00 – 10:30
Last Bike/Vehicle Out: 10:30
Last Bike/Vehicle In: 4:30
Events Begin: 5:00

Cost
\$15 per driver
\$5 per passenger
\$5 for extra card

10 SEPT 2016

Motorcycles and Cars

Start: Donovan's Irish Pub – St. Augustine
1st Stop: VFW Post 1988 – Green Cove Springs
2nd Stop: Outback Crab Shack – St. Augustine
3rd Stop: Cheyenne Saloon – Palatka
4th Stop: VFW Post 2391 – St. Augustine
Final Stop: St. Augustine Flea Market – St. Augustine

Jeeps and 4X4s

Start: Donovan's Irish Pub – St. Augustine
1st Stop: Beaches – Vilano Beach – St. Augustine
2nd Stop: Jack's – A1A Beach - St. Augustine
3rd Stop: South Beach – St. Augustine
4th Stop: VFW Post 2391 – St. Augustine
5th Stop: Old Brick Road – St. Augustine
Final Stop: St. Augustine Flea Market – St. Augustine



Vets 4 Vets is a non-profit all volunteer organization whose mission and purpose is to provide for the immediate financial needs of Honorably Discharged Veterans that may be homeless or in financial hardship.

Requests for help come directly from the Veteran's Service Office.

All proceeds will go directly to the Veterans in need.

Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association (CVMA) is a 501(c)(19) Not For Profit Organization.



CLEANING COMPANY OFFERS JOBS TO MILITARY VETERANS

Business Monthly | July 6, 2016

By Susan D. Brandenburg

mail@stjohnsbusinessmonthly.com

The Veterans Council would like to thank the author Susan Brandenburg, the St. Johns Business Monthly for allowing us to reprint this article from the July issue.

Semper Fidelis – Always Faithful. That familiar salute of the U.S. Marine Corps is also the mantra of Joe Padlo’s cleaning company, US Military Maintenance First Coast. Padlo, a resident of St. Augustine, served in the Marine Corps on active duty from 1997 to 2004 and in the reserves from 2004 to 2008. He was one of the first Americans to cross Breach Point West in Basrah, Iraq in the early morning hours of March 20, 2003.

Now, Padlo helps other veterans cross social, emotional and economic barriers as they transition from military to civilian life.

After leaving the Marine Corps, Padlo became a corporate recruiter and observed that a large number of his fellow veterans were unemployed.

“It was frustrating to be in the corporate arena recruiting accountants while so many veterans were out of work,” said Padlo. “I decided I needed to do something about it.”

Padlo started his commercial cleaning service, US Military Maintenance First Coast, in January 2015, with the express purpose of employing military veterans at an hourly rate that exceeded the average pay of area cleaning services and provided a living wage.

“I knew our employees would earn their pay,” said Padlo. “I knew we would take pride in keeping things ‘military clean’ and organized for our clients, and that we would go out of our way to accomplish our mission.”

All employees of US Military Maintenance are required to receive janitorial service training and are certified in Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 10, First Aid, CPR and AED while following strict security protocols onsite.

Nick Doyle, CEO of publishing company The Doyle Group, went through a number of local companies before finding US Military Maintenance to clean the company’s 5,500 square foot office building in Ponte Vedra.

“We’d searched around for quite a while and the cleaning companies

we hired did a cursory job, at best,” said Doyle. “There’s a world of difference in the quality of work by US Military Maintenance. They have great attention to detail, you don’t have to remind them to do things right. They are super-polite, personable and they go above and beyond every time.”

Retired Chief Warrant Officer 4, Marco Ruiz of St. Augustine, is a US Military Maintenance employee. Ruiz met Padlo at an OSHA certification class funded by the Department of Defense for veterans transitioning into civilian life.

“Joe gave me a good opportunity,” said Ruiz, who now cleans the St. Augustine YMCA several



Photos courtesy Operation New Uniform, Retired Navy Commander Dennis Volpe (US Military Maintenance advisor); Michele McManamon, Operation New Uniform; Jay Padlo, US Military Maintenance; and Pat McManamon, Sandler Training

nights a week.

Recently, Ruiz began bringing his “family cleaning crew” — 16-year old son and 21-year old daughter — to work with him.

“Joe is open to new ideas and he let me get my kids involved,” said Ruiz. “I split my pay with them and teach them the principle of the work ethic.”

When Ruiz and family are unavailable, Padlo cleans the YMCA.

“Joe leads by example,” said Ruiz. “One of the key principles in the military is that you never ask your soldiers to do anything you wouldn’t do. He is willing and able to do the hard work.”

YMCA Director Peter Hicks is impressed with US Military Maintenance, not only with the quality of the cleaning service, but the premise of the company.

“Keeping veterans employed is a great goal and they do an outstanding job,” said Hicks.

Steven Ritter, broker-owner of Playa Realty & Management, LLC in Northeast Florida first began working with US Military Maintenance in July 2015.

“One of our property managers hired them to do cleaning services,” Ritter said.

Padlo and his team of veterans did such a great job for Playa Management that all seven of the company’s property managers now work with US Military Maintenance.

In the past year, the services provided to Playa Realty & Management by US Military Maintenance have expanded beyond cleaning to building fences, repairing decks, replacing ceiling fans, painting and more.

“Steven Ritter has helped me refine the direction of my company by encouraging my staff to do more, which has in turn required me to increase our staff and our skill sets,” said Padlo.

US Military Maintenance recently added Military Maids to the mix. Padlo established this new service when his employee, Jay Allen, asked for more hours because he and his wife, Jamie Allen, both needed work and couldn’t afford a babysitter for their infant son.

Jay and Jamie Allen, with their five-month old son Jarius in tow, became US Military Maintenance’s next unique “family cleaning crew.”

“The Allens clean my home in Ponte Vedra and my office on the Southside – they are an awesome team,” said Michele McManamon of Sandler Training who is also a co-founder, with veteran Justin Justice, of Operation New Uniform, a non-profit organization that provides training and more for transitioning veterans.

In February, when McManamon referred Jay Allen to Joe Padlo, the Allens had a new baby and were losing their home due to Jay’s joblessness.

“We were living on prayer. Jay was going out job-hunting every day, but we had just about given up hope,” said Jamie Allen. “Joe gave us the opportunity and it’s been life-changing.”

<http://stjohnsbusinessmonthly.com/staugustine/cleaning-company-offers-jobs-military-veterans/>

AGENT ORANGE PRESUMPTIVE DISEASES

- **AL Amyloidosis**

A rare disease caused when an abnormal protein, amyloid, enters tissues or organs

- **Chronic B-cell Leukemias**

A type of cancer which affects white blood cells

- **Chloracne (or similar acneform disease)**

A skin condition that occurs soon after exposure to chemicals and looks like common forms of acne seen in teenagers. Under VA's rating regulations, it must be at least 10 percent disabling within one year of exposure to herbicides.

- **Diabetes Mellitus Type 2**

A disease characterized by high blood sugar levels resulting from the body's inability to respond properly to the hormone insulin

- **Hodgkin's Disease**

A malignant lymphoma (cancer) characterized by progressive enlargement of the lymph nodes, liver, and spleen, and by progressive anemia

- **Ischemic Heart Disease**

A disease characterized by a reduced supply of blood to the heart, that leads to chest pain

- **Multiple Myeloma**

A cancer of plasma cells, a type of white blood cell in bone marrow

- **Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma**

A group of cancers that affect the lymph glands and other lymphatic tissue

- **Parkinson's Disease**

A progressive disorder of the nervous system that affects muscle movement

- **Peripheral Neuropathy, Early-Onset**

A nervous system condition that causes numbness, tingling, and motor weakness. Under VA's rating regulations, it must be at least 10 percent disabling within one year of herbicide exposure.

- **Porphyrria Cutanea Tarda**

A disorder characterized by liver dysfunction and by thinning and blistering of the skin in sun-exposed areas. Under VA's rating regulations, it must be at least 10 percent disabling within one year of exposure to herbicides.

- **Prostate Cancer**

Cancer of the prostate; one of the most common cancers among men

- **Respiratory Cancers (includes lung cancer)**

Cancers of the lung, larynx, trachea, and bronchus

- **Soft Tissue Sarcomas (other than osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, or mesothelioma)**

A group of different types of cancers in body tissues such as muscle, fat, blood and lymph vessels, and connective tissues - See more at:

<http://www.publichealth.va.gov/PUBLICHEALTH/exposures/agentorange/conditions/index.asp#sthash.jEskHp7H.dpuf>

GULF WAR PRESUMPTIVE

- **Chronic Fatigue Syndrome**, a condition of long-term and severe fatigue that is not relieved by rest and is not directly caused by other conditions.

- **Fibromyalgia**, a condition characterized by widespread muscle pain. Other symptoms may include insomnia, morning stiffness, headache, and memory problems.

- **Functional gastrointestinal disorders**, a group of conditions marked by chronic or recurrent symptoms related to any part of the gastrointestinal tract. Functional condition refers to an abnormal function of an organ, without a structural alteration in the tissues. Examples include irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), functional dyspepsia, and functional abdominal pain syndrome.

- **Undiagnosed illnesses** with symptoms that may include but are not limited to: abnormal weight loss, fatigue, cardiovascular disease, muscle and joint pain, headache, menstrual disorders, neurological and psychological problems, skin conditions, respiratory disorders, and sleep disturbances. - See more at: <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/gulfwar/medically-unexplained-illness.asp#sthash.ArPG3et.dpuf>

If you or someone you know are one of the 48 million Americans who suffer from hearing loss, I have Great News to share with you!!!



ClearCaptions is a federally funded telecommunications company. The FCC has commissioned ClearCaptions to inform those experiencing any hearing loss of the federal program available to them based on Title IV of the Americans with Disabilities Act (mandated since 1990). Those with any hearing loss are entitled to our new technology **caption phone absolutely FREE, including installation, training and on-going service.** Those needing our phones need to have:

- 1.**a phone line (AT&T landline, Comcast landline, bundle, OOMA, Magic Jack, Vonage, or OOMA ...)
- 2.** Internet access (wired or wireless).

There is no income requirement. To schedule your installation or for more information, **please contact your North Florida Territory Manager Anas Benjelloun at (904) 568-4562 or anas.benjelloun@clearcaptions.com**

Sign-up, self-certify, and be using your Free ClearCaptions phone



Camp Blanding Joint Training Center is the primary military reservation and training base for the Florida National Guard, both the Florida Army National Guard and certain non-flying activities of the Florida Air National Guard. The installation is located in Clay County, Florida near the city of Starke. The site measures approximately 73,000 acres (300 km²) and includes Kingsley Lake. It also hosts other Reserve, Army National Guard, Air National Guard, and some Active Component training for the U.S. Armed Forces.

The link below is to a documentary featuring veterans who trained at Camp Blanding before fighting in World War II, three siblings who worked on post in the 1940's, a German POW held at the camp and a woman who was born here.

<https://youtu.be/FjhJpV7mcso>

Ripley's Red Trains Tours hosted **K9s for Warriors** onboard the Red Train on Saturday July 16, 2016. As part of their training to become service animals for military veterans, 10 puppies less than one-year-old boarded the train with 20 K9s for Warriors puppy raisers for a 30



-minute tour of downtown. K9s for Warriors is a nonprofit organization which works to provide post 9/11 military veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress, traumatic brain injury, or sexual trauma as a result of



military service with service dogs to assist them in civilian life. Ninety-five percent of the dogs raised by K9s for Warriors are rescues, giving both the animals and veterans “a new leash on life.”

by: christina.kelso@staugustine.com



Did you know 22 veterans will commit suicide every day?

Join the "Stop 22" movement to raise awareness and stand with K9s for Warriors as they help veterans with PTSD and brain injuries.

On the 22nd of every month, use the hashtag #Stop22 on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram and show your support. Watch below how people are "outdoing 22's" all over social media.

Learn more by visiting the Stop 22 website: <http://www.stop22.org/>

And check out K9s for Warriors for regular updates on their mission: <http://www.k9sforwarriors.org/>



Join Post 233's Campaign To help the 5 Star Veterans Center !



As you know they put military veterans back to work by providing safe and secure housing with extensive services, intensive case management and counseling that promotes mental and physical wellness. They are presently in need of various non-perishable items.

The items needed:

Canned goods, soups, stews, vegetables, chili, etc.

Cans of soft drinks, small bags of chips, Doritos, Fritos, pretzels, microwave popcorn, Clorox, Windex, pine sol, dish detergent trash bags, paper towels, tissues, toilet paper !

DROP OFF BOX

AT POST 233



American Legion ~ Post 233 - 560 N. Wilderness Trail

Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082 - www.al233fl.org ~ 904.285.2484

From Camp Blanding Joint Training Center

-- VIDEO: 3-20th Special Forces trains at Camp Blanding - Video by Staff Sgt. Derrol Fulghum

Soldiers with the Florida National Guard's 3rd Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group conducts annual training at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center.

<https://www.dvidshub.net/video/475282/3-20th-special-forces-trains-camp-blanding>

-- PHOTOS: 3-20th Special Forces Group conducts training at CBJTC - Photo by Ching Oettel

The Florida Army National Guard's 3rd Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group conducts helocast and hoist operations at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center. This operation is one of many conducted during a two week annual training period.

<https://www.dvidshub.net/image/2720612/3-20th-special-forces-group-conducts-training-cbjtc>



Join the Burn Pit Registry to document your exposures and health concerns, obtain a free health evaluation by a VA or DoD provider, and stay informed of VA's research. The registry is your opportunity to help answer the question of what burn pit exposure could mean for your health and that of fellow Veterans in the future. Although many Veterans have joined the registry, we still need more. Take the lead. Be an example.

Sign up. www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/burnpits/registry.asp .



U.S. Department of
Veterans Affairs

Veterans' Diseases Associated with Agent Orange

VA assumes that certain diseases can be related to a Veteran's qualifying military service. We call these "presumptive diseases."

VA has recognized certain cancers and other health problems as presumptive diseases associated with exposure to Agent Orange or other herbicides during military service. Veterans and their survivors may be eligible for benefits for these diseases.

AL Amyloidosis: A rare disease caused when an abnormal protein, amyloid, enters tissues or organs

Chronic B-cell Leukemias: A type of cancer which affects white blood cells

Chloracne (or similar acneform disease): A skin condition that occurs soon after exposure to chemicals and looks like common forms of acne seen in teenagers. Under VA's rating regulations, it must be at least 10 percent disabling within one year of exposure to herbicides.

Diabetes Mellitus Type 2: A disease characterized by high blood sugar levels resulting from the body's inability to respond properly to the hormone insulin

Hodgkin's Disease: A malignant lymphoma (cancer) characterized by progressive enlargement of the lymph nodes, liver, and spleen, and by progressive anemia

Ischemic Heart Disease: A disease characterized by a reduced supply of blood to the heart, that leads to chest pain

Multiple Myeloma: A cancer of plasma cells, a type of white blood cell in bone marrow

Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma: A group of cancers that affect the lymph glands and other lymphatic tissue

Parkinson's Disease: A progressive disorder of the nervous system that affects muscle movement

Peripheral Neuropathy, Early-Onset: A nervous system condition that causes numbness, tingling, and motor weakness. Under VA's rating regulations, it must be at least 10 percent disabling within one year of herbicide exposure.

Porphyria Cutanea Tarda: A disorder characterized by liver dysfunction and by thinning and blistering of the skin in sun-exposed areas. Under VA's rating regulations, it must be at least 10 percent disabling within one year of exposure to herbicides.

Prostate Cancer: Cancer of the prostate; one of the most common cancers among men

Respiratory Cancers (includes lung cancer): Cancers of the lung, larynx, trachea, and bronchus

Soft Tissue Sarcomas (other than osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, or mesothelioma): A group of different types of cancers in body tissues such as muscle, fat, blood and lymph vessels, and connective tissues -

See more at: <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/conditions/#sthash.kmpWaPr0.AXO9udjn.dpuf>

This information came to us from Bob Dinkins.

The Vietnam Veterans of America: Veterans Online: Transplanting Veterans Courts

BY WILLIAM C. TRIPLETT

The success of veteran's treatment courts is so compelling that Jerry Klein, a member of West Palm Beach, Fla., Chapter 25 and a past president of VVA's Florida State Council, has a hard time understanding why there aren't more across the country. Of the more than 3,400 local jurisdictions in the U.S., only about 220 have one.

Then again, Klein played a key role in establishing the veterans court in Palm Beach County, and he realizes the process isn't easy. "Unless you get everybody on board who needs to be on board," he said, "it's not going to happen." And a lot of people need to get on board.

Scott DeArman knows this all too well. A longtime VVA member, DeArman has been trying for the last three years to set up a veteran's treatment court in Arizona's Yavapai County. Unfortunately, "there are entities within the local government which do not support" the idea, he said. But he's still trying.

Call it a tale of two counties with differing views on veteran's treatment courts. Those views can be summed up in a way that has a particular resonance for Vietnam veterans: When it comes to veteran's issues, some people's hearts and minds still need changing.

As readers of *The VVA Veteran* may remember from previous articles, veteran's treatment courts are patterned on drug treatment courts. People who commit usually non-violent crimes that are in some way tied to drug or alcohol abuse or mental health problems can avoid jail and a criminal record if they commit to court-ordered treatment or therapy.

Whether the program they enter runs a few weeks, months, or longer, defendants must complete it and report their progress to the court along the way. One slip-up and the defendant can wind up in regular court facing sentencing and a record.

According to the National Association of Drug Court Professionals, drug treatment courts have been highly successful in getting people clean, reducing drug- and alcohol-related crime, and saving public money. "Nationwide, for every dollar invested in Drug Courts, taxpayers save as much as \$3.36 in avoided criminal justice costs alone," NADCP reports.

The first veteran's treatment court was established in 2008 in Buffalo, N.Y., after Judge Robert Russell, who presided over a drug treatment court, noticed two things: an increasing number of veterans appearing in the docket, and—perhaps most important—the positive way defendants who were veterans accepted help or advice from other veterans.

Two simultaneous wars were producing thousands of discharged men and women with symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder—nearly 20 percent of all who had deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, according to a Rand Corp. study—or some degree of traumatic brain injury, or both. As a result, many of these veterans also suffered from drug or alcohol abuse and mental health issues, which provoked behavior that landed them in court.

The Veteran-To-Veteran Bond

What caught Russell's attention was one veteran's sudden jump in motivation to change his life after speaking just briefly with Jack O'Connor, a veteran's legal advocate and member of Western New York Chapter 77 who often consulted at Russell's court. O'Connor encouraged the veteran to get involved with his own healing, saying that a lot of other veterans would be helping him along the way.

The veteran-to-veteran bond, particularly among those who've taken part in a war, proved uniquely positive. Not only did this veteran turn his life around, but shortly after Russell established a veteran's treatment court, it experienced a 90 percent success rate among veterans who committed to a program. Recidivism rate: zero percent.

Klein first heard about Russell's court from a fellow dedicated activist on veteran's issues, Patrick Welch of Chapter 77 in Buffalo. Klein started talking with David Knapp, the president of Chapter 25, and to Roy Foster, who runs a program for homeless veterans, about setting up a veteran's treatment court in Palm Beach County. With about 1.6 million veterans living in Florida—the third highest veteran population by state—Palm Beach County has its share of veterans needing help.

Talk soon turned to action after Russell and O'Connor, at Welch's invitation, attended VVA's National Leadership Conference in 2010 in Orlando. Russell and O'Connor gave a presentation on the Buffalo court and its successes. Afterward, Klein met with the judge and advocate and asked if they could share information or training materials that would help establish a veteran's court in Palm Beach County.

"Within days I had all of their training material," Klein said. The material focused on the important role that mentors play in a veteran's court. Mentors aren't court officials, but volunteers, veterans themselves who attend a case involving a veteran. Mentors advise and help veterans when they enter therapy or counseling, helping them not only to complete the treatment program but also to get their lives back together.

As Klein was digesting the training material, he and others also were trying to line up all the entities that would have to approve establishment of a veteran's treatment court. The Florida Department of Corrections, then Palm Beach County Commission, the Sheriff's Office, the West Palm Beach VA Medical Center, the county attorney and probation authorities—and more—would all have to sign on.

One key official was Peter Blanc, then the chief judge of Palm Beach County. Approached with the idea of a veteran's treatment court, Blanc turned to a colleague on the bench, Ted Booras, a Marine Corps veteran. "I thought it was an outstanding idea, long overdue," Booras said. Booras presided at the Palm Beach County jail at the time and had been trying to figure out a way to help the many veterans who'd been appearing before him for typically petty crimes.

Blanc issued the judicial order that created the Palm Beach County veteran's treatment court, and Booras became presiding judge. Blanc also looked to two organizations to spearhead a mentors program: Chapter 25 and Roy Foster's nonprofit that helps homeless veterans, Faith, Love, Hope and Charity. Klein designed the program based on the Buffalo model but with some tweaks. "Their training period for mentors is a week long; ours is less," he said.

"We've since produced a seven-part CD that provides all the training for our mentors," Klein added. "We also do face-to-face training because we want to get to know the individuals. They have to fill out an application and be interviewed because we want to make sure we've got the right people. Being a veteran is required, and we now have all generations as mentors, Korean War generation to the current generation, male and female."

Built-In Outreach

Another unique feature of the Palm Beach County veterans court is a sort of built-in outreach mechanism. A psychologist and veteran of both Iraq and Afghanistan working at the local Vet Center came up with a program to inform every street-patrol law enforcement officer in the county what the veterans court is about. A similar program exists to acquaint and instruct members of the judiciary and bar association so that attorneys are aware of the veteran's treatment court as an option.

"It's all been well thought out," Klein said. "If the injured party agrees to veteran's court, if the state's attorney agrees, then that person will have the option of ending up in veterans court. But if the judicial and the legal systems didn't know about the court, they wouldn't have that option."

The Palm Beach County veterans court has helped two hundred veterans change their lives by completing court-ordered therapy and counseling programs. Klein said only ten became repeat offenders. Moreover, statistics show a savings of \$2 million in taxpayer funds.

"It costs money to keep people in jail," Klein noted.

The court has been so successful that other Florida counties have started establishing veteran's treatment courts as well, many seeking Klein's help and advice on how to do it. Because of the court's success, VVA led an initiative that resulted in the Florida legislature mandating veteran's courts in jurisdictions throughout the state.

Looking back, Klein said the effort to create a veteran's court never really hit any serious opposition. The military service of some of the important authorities involved undoubtedly helped. In addition to Booras being a former Marine, the state's attorney is retired from the U.S. Air Force, and the public defender was with the 9th Infantry Division in Vietnam. "They all get it," Klein said. "That's the key."

But non-veterans should be able to get it, too, he believes. "You look at the success rate, you look at the lives saved and the people not being incarcerated. How do you not implement such a program?"

The answer appears to depend significantly on personal and political views, which vary from region to region. At least one logistical matter could impede creation of more veteran's courts. Not all counties have a VA Medical Center, which provides the counseling and therapy. As Booras says, "That raises the question of who's going to pay for counseling and therapy." And taxpayer-funded budgets are tight everywhere.

Opposition In Arizona

But that's not a question that arises in Yavapai County, which is home to the Northern Arizona VA Health Care System in Prescott along with satellite clinics. DeArman says that opposition revolves around the belief that there's no need for a veterans court.

Part of that belief may be simply the result of not having enough information. DeArman once worked for the county sheriff's office as a behavioral therapist in the jail. He met plenty of veterans inside who were struggling with mental health issues that clearly were factors in the crimes that had gotten them arrested. But there was no reliable official tally of the number of veterans moving through the system, despite the fact that everyone brought to the jail fills out an intake form containing the question, "Are you a veteran?"

"A lot of them won't check 'yes' on that," DeArman said. "There's still a stigma about being a veteran for a lot of guys." Still, veterans are clearly there: The Arizona State Department of Veterans Services notes that there are some 600,000 living in the state, and not just retirees. "We have a flight school out here, and a lot of Iraq and Afghanistan vets are here trying to learn how to fly," DeArman said.

Klein has provided DeArman with a substantial amount of information demonstrating the success of the Palm Beach County veterans court. DeArman has passed all of it to county authorities. He hopes those still opposed will see both the financial savings veteran's courts can yield and the very real human benefits—lives restored, often whole families since many veterans are married with children.

"You're not just saving one life, but many others," DeArman said.

There's also a resistance to what some see as creating a special class or interest should veterans get their own treatment court. DeArman thinks the resistance is unfounded.

"If you look at the criteria that's mandated in a specialty court, there are higher requirements than for someone who just takes a plea bargain and moves on," he said. "Until they complete every phase of the program, whatever it is, and pay restitution and do all they have to do, they don't go free."

Booras added: "They're only getting special treatment in that we're getting them into the VA for help. Well, they've earned those benefits anyway, haven't they?"

DeArman remains optimistic that at some point enough of the needed hearts and minds will change, and a veteran's treatment court will appear in Yavapai County.

"But until then," he said, "we're sacrificing veterans."



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VA Memorial Benefits

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Veterans with a qualifying discharge are entitled to VA burial benefits. Spouses and dependent children are eligible too, even if they predecease the Veteran.

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- A headstone or marker with an inscription
- A burial flag
- A Presidential Memorial Certificate

Transportation of flower arrangements from the committal service shelter to the gravesite

Burial in a private cemetery

- A government headstone, marker, or medallion

A [burial flag](#)

A [Presidential Memorial Certificate](#).

Some survivors may also be entitled to VA [burial allowances](#) as partial reimbursement for the costs of funerals and burials for eligible Veterans.

Please note that gravesites in a VA National Cemetery cannot be reserved in advance. To prepare for a private cemetery burial, VA suggests families [review these questions and complete required forms](#) in advance.

VA Requirements

[Discharge papers](#) to establish your [eligibility](#) for burial services

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

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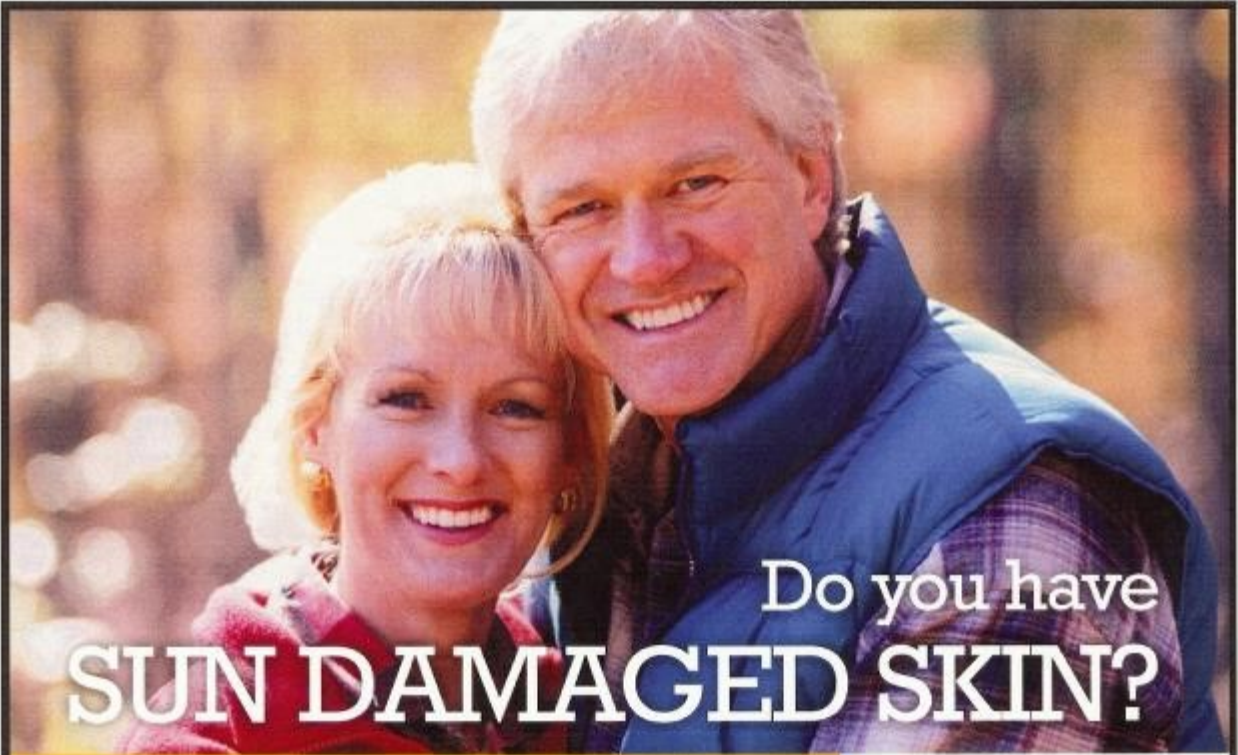
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*Veterans Council of St. Johns County,
“Helping All Veterans”*

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

Send to: mrothfeld@anyveteran.org
Please send to: mrothfeld@anyveteran.org



THE SGM, Ray Quinn

**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 meetings are
conducted at the the Elks Lodge
829, 1420 A1A S., St. Augustine.***

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

(physical location)

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*Service is by appointment.
Phone: 904-209-6160 Fax: 904-209-6161
Joseph McDermott, CVSO
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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.