



The Patriot Reader Newsletter

P.O. Box 2117

St. Augustine, FL 32085

Bill Dudley, Publisher

Michael Rothfeld, Editor

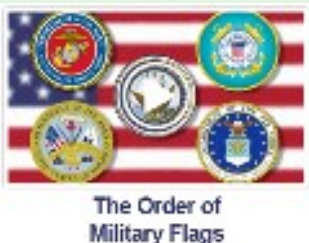
Volume 6, Issue 7

Message from the Chairman

Newsletter Date: July, 2017

Inside this Edition

- Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home
- Jax Ntl Cemetery Support Committee
- National POW/MIA Day
- Semper Fidelis Society newsletter
- Third Annual Veterans Day Parade
- PBS/VC partner to preview Vietnam doc
- Fred Dupont
- Michael Rothfeld
- Women Veterans
- Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial
- Seminole War History
- V4V Quarterly Meeting Minutes
- Veterans Suicide Prevention
- The Ride Home
- COL Adelmhelm's letter to Jax Council Pres.
- VC SJC June Minutes
- The saga of the POW bracelet
- 5 Star Veterans Center
- MIAP Stats
- Local Marine's Story
- A POW KIA in Revolutionary War
- Seminole War Convocation
- Toys 4 Tots
- FL Purple Heart Day
- Veterans History Project
- Vietnam Veterans were best educated
- The History of the POW Bracelet
- 6 Revolutionary War Patriots Buried in NE FL
- Faces on the Wall



Fellow Veterans,

I trust everyone had a great 4th of July and remembered to fly the flag of our nation on that day. Our community certainly celebrates the occasion with an awesome fireworks display. My hope is that everyone remembers the veterans who have made the freedoms we enjoy possible since the birth of our Nation.

At our last Veterans Council meeting, our Council members voted to become a member of the Northeast Florida Council of Presidents. This is a consortium of Presidents that represent the five Veterans Councils in Duval, Nassau, Baker, Clay, and St. Johns

Counties. The purpose is to join our voices together on matters concerning veterans with our elected officials and legislation that affects us. Our organizations are stronger when we speak with a unified voice.

Activity concerning the permanent location for our Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) continues to gain momentum. The County has found the means to facilitate the building of a new permanent facility and has a proposal ready to be presented to the VA. I think the County's plan is viable and I am in hopes the VA will give it serious consideration. A presentation will be made to the SJC Commissioners at their next regular scheduled meeting on August 1. I plan to attend



and speak in favor of supporting the plan.

Planning for this year's Veterans Day Parade continues with more bands and marching units being added almost weekly. The planning committee is working hard to make this year's parade even better than the last two years. It is important however, that all veterans' organizations show their support by providing manpower or making a financial contribution to help defray some of the costs.

Bill Dudley, Chairman
Veterans Council of
St. Johns County

Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home



SUMMER BLASTOFF



INDEPENDENCE DAY





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



The Support Committee invites everyone to attend its **next scheduled meeting, on Monday, August 7, 2017**. 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+++++

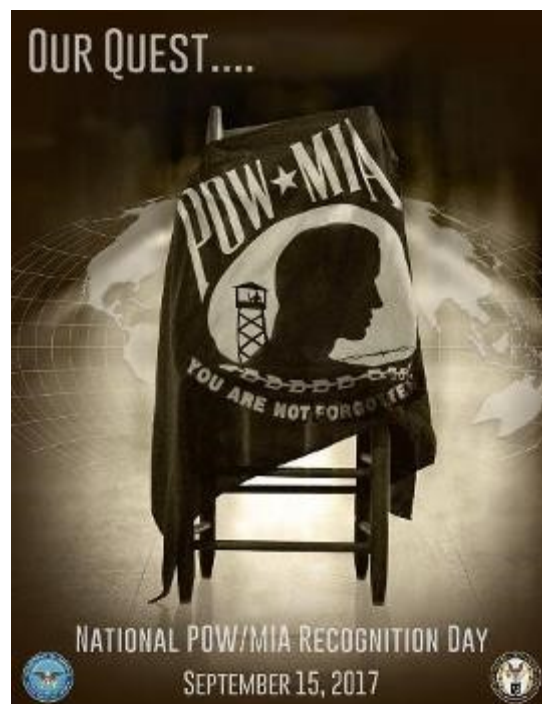
Chairman: Steve Spickelmier

Vice Chairman: Bill Dudley, Treasurer: John Mountcastle

Assistant Treasurer: Michael Rothfeld, Secretary: Kathy Church

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

Historian: Kathy Cayton



The Semper Fidelis Society newsletter

<http://semperfidelissociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Newsletter.compressed.pdf>



Fellow Veterans Council of St. Johns County Members and all veterans



Ancient City Chapter

The Veterans Council of St. Johns County Florida (VCSJC) and The Military Officers Association of America, Ancient City Chapter (MOAA) are again sponsoring this year's landmark 3rd annual Veterans Day Parade on November 11, 2017 in beautiful St. Augustine, Florida. VCSJC and MOAA will be honoring all United States Military Veterans who served to protect and defend our great country.

Our parade is a tribute to those who have secured the freedom we enjoy today, and a testament to the enduring need for such selfless service. Veterans Day is dedicated to our patriotic service members who have served before, those serving now, and those who will serve in the future.

This year's spectacular, nationally one of a kind strictly military parade will have over 1,500 participants; marching units from all the military services, military bands, re-enactor units representing every war period from the Revolutionary War, ROTC and JRTOC units, local high school marching bands, military equipment review (ground and water borne), helicopters, a flyover, and of course our now famous V-LINE depicting historic and current veterans in period uniforms and equipment/ weapons.

As you are aware, our organizations, both being a charitable 501(c)(3), are very limited in resources. We are seeking your generous donations again this year to help cover the costs associated with such a large-scale venture. Please consider a donation in any amount to help defray our cost as we salute and honor our country's veterans.

Please remit this year's donation to: Veterans Council of St. Johns County
P.O. Box 2117
St. Augustine, Florida 32085-2117

Indicate in the memo: 2017VDP.

Looking forward to you joining our team this year in celebrating and honoring our veterans and the sacrifices they make and have made keeping us free.

Warmest personal regards,

Bill Dudley

George Linardos

LTC (USAF-Ret)

CPT (USA-Fmr)

Chairman

Past President/Director:

Veterans Council of St. Johns County

Military Officers Association of America,
Ancient City Chapter



Special Announcement: Chairman Bill Dudley is happy to announce that the Veterans Council of St Johns County will be partnering with PBS/WJCT TV of Jacksonville and the Vietnam Veterans of America Leo C Chase chapter 1084 of St Augustine in previewing the new Ken Burns Vietnam documentary.

The preview will be 63 minutes long and contain three to four minute segments from eight of the ten episodes.

The preview will be in September and held at the Corazon Cinema and Café in St Augustine. We will invite all veterans to this free event.

The Council and VVA will involve Vietnam veterans in the presentation.

Chairman Dudley has appointed VVA 1084 President John Leslie and Council Secretary Michael Rothfeld to head up this event.

We hope to have the specific preview date soon.



Fred Dupont

The Veterans Council is proud to announce that member Fred Dupont has finished his book, STORIES OF WAR: Vietnam to the Gulf War, and wants to make it available to all at no charge.

Fred suggests that if you read his book you would make a tax deductible donation to the Veterans Council of St Johns County (a 501 C3), PO Box 2117, St Augustine FL, 32085-2117

Fredrick R. DuPont

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

Graduated: St. Augustine High School 1965

Enlisted: USMC 1966, Served in Vietnam: August 1, 1967 to March 1969

Enlisted: USN June 25, 1976, Served in USN: June 1976 to March 1995

"Never regretted a day of service."

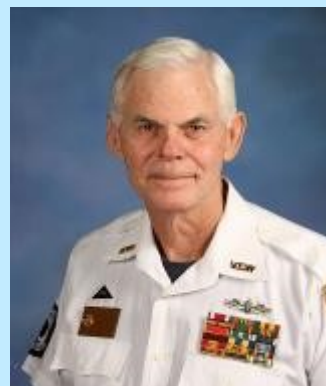
From Fred's book:

DEDICATION: To all of those who have given their lives so that we may live in freedom.

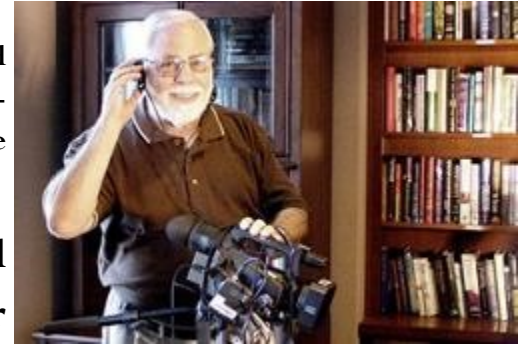
PREFACE: Although I served with many brave men, I am no hero. While many around me were wounded or disabled, I was not. 9th Engineers Reunion Association meets once a year somewhere in the U.S. and serves to keep us in touch. This year I was privileged to have the reunion in my home town of St. Augustine. It was not until the 2008 reunion that I began to write this after finding most of the official records from Vietnam were destroyed when the battalion pulled out in 1970. Many phone calls, emails and interviews were necessary to ensure accuracy. Research about the Navy stories was far easier because every time we deployed a Cruise Book was printed replete with names and photos of all hands. What follows are stories of my experiences during my 23 years of military service. I guess that I was always writing in my head. As I said goodbye to my fellow Marines in Vietnam in 1969, I told them I was going to write a book about our experiences and publish it under my nickname there. Well here it is, plus a little more. Marvin Mobile.

Here is an online link to, STORIES OF WAR: Vietnam to the Gulf War

<http://www.veteranscouncilsjc.org/fdupont.htm>



For those of you who are not familiar with my background and why as a civilian I am so involved in veteran's activities and organizations please read the following as just published in the New York State United Teachers.



Called to document: Retired teacher Michael Rothfeld salvages stories of war veterans for all to learn from

Posted June 30, 2017 by Liza Frenette New York State United Teachers

Michael Rothfeld was born in 1943 during World War II. His father worked as a welder in the Brooklyn Navy Yard “putting ships together.”

In his retirement from teaching in 2000, Rothfeld discovered his own desire to put things together: the stories of the men who served on those very ships, or in the air, or in the deserts, jungles, or frozen, snowy forests of war from World War II to Afghanistan and Iraq. He has produced five documentaries about war veterans, available on PBS, in libraries and in schools. He has chronicled gripping stories of prisoners of war who survived years of torture, and recorded stories about veterans who are helped by service dogs to get them through the suffering of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

In high school Rothfeld played sandlot football and then JV football with a bunch of guys, including his teenage friend, Michael Berdy. When he went to the City of New York’s Hunter College, Rothfeld studied American History and kept at the game, playing flag football with his peers, including Thomas Noonan.

Rothfeld got a job teaching in the South Bronx, he said, with a deferment for the Vietnam War because of the tough nature of the school and the need for his services there. One day he got slammed with a baseball bat and had two ribs broken. Another time a student was stabbed outside his office in the Brooklyn High School and died.

Outside the shadowy halls of the school, the long and disputed war was raging in the hot jungles of Vietnam. Captain Berdy died along with a bunch of other men when his helicopter disintegrated over Vietnam. He is now on Panel 32E, Row 61 of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. A school in Coney Island is named after him: PS 188 Michael E. Berdy School. The school's motto: "Where children come first!"

Lance Corporal Noonan served in the Marine Corps and was killed by North Vietnamese soldiers while he dragged a wounded comrade to safety. He received the Congressional Medal of Honor, the Purple Heart, the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal with two bronze stars, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal. A park in Queens is named after him.

"It was very traumatic. It's very upsetting when you lose someone that age," Rothfeld said.

They were barely young men.

The imprint of these losses stayed with Rothfeld.

While the Vietnam War was protested across America for years as it dragged on, Rothfeld said student interest in American history waned. He began working in audiovisual in the schools, and then career guidance, which morphed into special education. Along the way he earned his master's degree from Brooklyn College. He taught for three and a half decades as a member of the United Federation of Teachers, and retired from the South Shore High School. His wife, Carol Rothfeld, was also a high school special education teacher before going to work for the state in the field of mental health.

When he and his wife retired to St. Augustine, Fla., Rothfeld discovered that 34 WWII veterans were living in their retirement community. Breakfast conversation was a wake-up call.

His long-dormant love of history and his memories of his friend's tragic

deaths were ready to resurface.

“We started talking, one thing led to another, and I realized it was really American history I was listening to.... I knew it had to be recorded in some fashion.”

Rothfeld decided to begin documenting stories, and he enlisted the assistance of a local Public Broadcasting Station for his first work, “Serve and Protect.” The station was interested in getting a regional angle for the upcoming Ken Burns documentaries. Clips from Rothfeld’s documentary were used to advertise the PBS Ken Burns special.

For a documentary about the Korean War, he received editing, filming, music and interviewing assistance from students at the Art Institute of Jacksonville’s film department.

“Each documentary takes about a year,” he said. He puts the storyline together, locates veterans, and coordinates with students and schools to do the filming.

Flagler College students helped with the Vietnam documentary. His latest work, three years ago, documented rescued service dogs helping veterans suffering from PTSD in a program called “K9s for Warriors.”

When each documentary is released, Rothfeld embarks on a speaking tour. Each film has premiered at a large venue, sometimes drawing crowds of more than 1,000 people in ceremonies with a high school chorus, Color Guard and veterans on the stage.

Initially, Rothfeld formed a nonprofit Florida Veterans Programs and Projects to raise money for the work, but eventually he received support from the Veterans Council of St. John’s County and was able to disband his nonprofit.

His documentaries can be found in schools, museums and libraries, where they are donated, and are broadcast around Veteran’s Day, or other special

days commemorating certain wars. The documentaries are all in the Library of Congress's permanent archives, he said.

Each month, Michael also compiles and edits a lengthy newsletter for the Veterans Council of St. John's County, the Patriot Reader. He has also tutored at Learn to Read, teaching High School Math to help improve literacy and to pass State exams.

Links to the five documentaries, all posted on the University of Florida's online military digital library under these titles:

Serve and Protect : Stories From WWII

Korea: Forgotten War, Remembered Heroes

Vietnam: Service, Sacrifice, and Courage

Prisoners of War: Stolen Freedom

Unleashing the Underdogs :The K9's for Warriors Story

Michael has served as the first Vice President of the Jacksonville National Cemetery Support Committee for 7 years, was also its Treasurer for 2 years, also was the Treasurer for the St Johns County Veterans Council and has served as its Secretary for the past three years.





The "VOICE" of Women Veterans

Northeast Florida Women Veterans, Inc. is focused on ensuring women who served on active duty, National Guard or Reserves and their children, transition into the civilian community with the tools they need to become self-sufficient.

"Helping Women Veterans excel beyond their own expectations"



As we grow our network, it is important that we connect with female veterans, community partners and all those who support our military.

Visit our website to seek assistance, sign up to participate in our many activities, or volunteer your time.

If you or your company would like to support our mission, contact us at info@forwomenvets.org or call (904) 239-9519.

www.forwomenvets.org

2133 Broadway Ave, Jacksonville, FL 32209

Northeast Florida Women Veterans, Inc. is a 501c3 non-profit organization. All contributions are tax deductible.

Military job fair this fall

Where: Jacksonville Morocco Shrine Center, 3800 St. Johns Bluff Road

When: Sept. 27 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Who is eligible: Active-duty or veterans with military ID

Who is hiring: 80 to 100 employers from area companies



Cecil Field POW★MIA MEMORIAL

From the FL Times Union, Joe Daraskevich

Grand vision starting to come together at POW/MIA memorial at former Cecil Field

The first step to creating a multimillion dollar national memorial on the site of a former jet base on Jacksonville's Westside is to refurbish a chapel that once held memorial services for pilots who never returned from war.

Sam Houston was shocked by what he found a couple of months ago when he walked through the doors of that chapel at the former Cecil Field Naval Air Station.

The building that hosted so many joyous occasions like marriages for military personnel and where fallen pilots were remembered by tearful family members had been turned into a city of Jacksonville storage facility.

"I had two big shocks in my life at Cecil Field," Houston said this week. "One was when they called and said it was on the closure list, the other was when I walked into the chapel two months ago and it was a storage shed."

Houston was the commanding officer at the master jet base in 1993 when he got the call to come to Washington, where he was told there was nothing he could do to prevent the base from being closed.

Houston now is chairman of the board for a nonprofit hoping to revive the chapel and put the surrounding area back on the map with a national memorial for prisoners of war and missing-in-action service members.

Organizers said they think it will take \$10 million to \$15 million to develop the land, and more money will be needed to build a museum that is still in the early planning stages.

The first major hurdle in the process came June 27 when the Jacksonville City Council approved a lease between the city and the Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial Inc. The lease will become official when Mayor Lenny Curry signs off on the ordinance, but progress is already being made at the property.

The boxes and clutter piled high in the chapel have been removed, and organizers envision wedding ceremonies and funeral services in the chapel again within a year.

There are no pews in the building yet, but when they are installed one idea is to mark off the front rows in honor of POW/MIA military personnel, said Mike Cassata, president of the nonprofit.

Cassata is the one who first realized the condition of the property surrounding the chapel was in disarray and quickly jumped to bring people together who had fond memories of Cecil Field's glory days. His fa-

ther was stationed at Cecil when Cassata was a boy, so he said the former base holds a special place in his heart. He's quickly learned he's not the only one who feels that way. The Rotary Club of North Jacksonville is spearheading the project, with collaboration from other Rotary organizations in the district.

Cassata said there are several veterans involved in the project who feel the former base has been forgotten.

"That's what upsets me is there is all this military history here and nobody is preserving it," Cassata said as he walked through the property with general contractor Doug Register and chaplain Patrick Archuleta.

Archuleta said Monday he couldn't believe how quickly the chapel was cleaned out, and he started making plans with Register about things they could do to make it a holy place once again.

"The first time I walked in here it was stacked up with junk," he said of the building that will one day be renamed the "Chapel of the High-Speed Pass."

Dennis "Dizzy" Gillespie was a pilot at Cecil when it was one of the busiest air fields in the country, and he was the one who suggested the chapel's name.

"They would treat Cecil just like an aircraft carrier," Gillespie said. "When you took off or landed at Cecil you always simulated coming back to the carrier." That "high-speed pass" came with a rush of adrenaline where the pilots would push their jets to full speed about 800 feet above the ground. They screeched to a halt on the runways just like they were landing on carriers on the middle of the ocean.

Gillespie said later in life a pilot named Pat "Bonzo" Lee, who fancied himself a musician, wrote a song called "The Church of the High-Speed Pass" because of an old pew in a hangar down in Green Cove Springs.

When Gillespie heard the group planned to restore the old chapel, the song came back to his mind right away. "It's an incredible song about flying around an aircraft carrier," he said. "It's something that means a lot to pilots around here."

Once the chapel is restored the project will move on to the rest of the property.

The plan is to use the old theater across the street from the chapel as the initial memorial center, but eventually they want to clear out a section of trees and build a facility that can grow to as big as 150,000 square feet.

Houston said when Cassata first came to him he wanted to expand on the current memorial known as the Hero's Walk and Freedom Trees. It's made up of a stretch of land adjacent to the chapel dedicated in 1973 that now consists of markers and trees planted for 16 Navy aviators who were stationed at Cecil

Field and then classified as prisoners of war or missing in action during the Vietnam War and first Gulf War. “I said, ‘That’s not sustainable, that’s not big enough,’ ” Houston said, remembering his first meeting with Cassata. He said he suggested a wall for the 83,000 veterans still missing in action, but now the organizers are thinking it might be better to build something using more advanced technology. Houston said they would like to break the memorial down by state and in some way update the names to reflect when the remains are returned home for proper burials.

Houston said that way each state can contribute information — and possibly funding — to the memorial. He said the fundraising effort needs to get going immediately because the ambitious plans need capital to make them a reality. “We had to hold off on fundraising because we didn’t have a lease,” Houston said. “The lease has been in the making for over a year, and we couldn’t go out and ask for money because if the lease didn’t come through we were stuck.”

Anyone interested in donating money can visit the group’s website powmiamemorial.org. The site is still developing, and Cassata said they will soon have a form where people can apply to volunteer their services to the project as well.

Cassata is working with people who served at Cecil and family members with loved ones represented in the Hero’s Walk.

Cynde Covington’s father, Cmdr. Fred Wright, is one of the 16 pilots already memorialized. She said Cassata has been good about asking for input from her family on the conceptual plans for the future. She said she likes to leave the major planning up to the professionals, but she isn’t shy about offering advice on some of the smaller things.

“The little tiny details of the design really touched my heart in a lot of ways,” she said. “Some of those details moved me to tears.”

Those details include a potential static display of an A-7 Corsair II at the front of the museum and a static display of an F/A-18 Hornet at the front entrance to the property.

The aircraft carrier USS Saratoga was a ship that meant a lot to many Cecil pilots, so Cassata said he would like to incorporate the ship on the property in some way.

Right now the plan is to have a reflection pool with a large dock made to simulate a scaled-down replica of the Saratoga’s flight deck.

Covington said that’s one detail that will really mean a lot to her.

“When you talk about that being the Saratoga deck, that’s the ship that my daddy flew off of,” she said. “The Saratoga is always going to have a special place in my heart.”

Joe Daraskevich: (904) 359-4308

A FRONT ROW SEAT TO SEMINOLE WAR HISTORY

Editor: Compliments for The Record's excellent coverage throughout this Memorial Day weekend, highlighting the meaning and background to this solemn day of remembrance. Sunday's article on the St. Augustine National Cemetery and the three iconic Dade pyramids therein was especially welcome.

Few visitors are aware of this historic and visual gem — it is not included on trolley tours or highlighted on some common tourist maps. Even many local residents have only a vague understanding of the causes and course of the Seminole Wars, or of their profound impact on the nation's military, treasury and psyche at the time.

St. Augustine was a vital gateway to the remote battlefields of the long, costly Second Seminole War. It became the final



resting place of Major Dade's command seven years after their deaths ushered in that war. Newspapers emotionally described the August, 1842 parade and

ceremony that reinterred the “honored dead” from scattered battlefields to mark the war’s end as “melancholy” and “solemn.”



In light of this, readers may be interested to know that this year the West Point Society of North Florida’s annual living-history commemoration of 1842 parade and ceremony will be held at the cemetery here the morning of Aug. 12.

Further, the Seminole Wars Historic Foundation, Inc. has chosen St. Augustine as the site of the first “Convocation of Seminole War Historians.” This convocation will also take place over the weekend of Aug. 11-13, and will gather individuals and organizations interested in the Seminole War era for a comprehensive program of talks, meetings and discussion.

Both events provide unique opportunities for residents to deepen their understanding and appreciation of this important era in Florida’s development. The commemoration is free. A modest registration fee is required for the three-day convocation program. For information to seminolewars.us.

JOE NAFTZINGER, St. Augustine

The Vets4Vets Quarterly meeting at the Jacksonville Veterans Memorial Arena

by Michael Rothfeld, Editor, Patriot Reader



Saturday, July 15th will be a date that will live on in the minds of NE & Central Florida veterans as the seminal date in the history of a new movement. For those of you who are unaware of what is taking place I will try to convey the scope of this movement.

For many years after WW II veterans have flocked to VFWs, American Legion's and other veterans organizations to share stories and find friendship with other veterans.

Today, Florida has one of the largest concentrations of veterans in the country. They are spread out in many different veteran's groups. As a result, veteran's voices are not heard as they do not constitute a united voting block although as veterans they share many common needs. By supporting this movement, veteran's organizations do not relinquish power or authority, in fact, it gives them more power where it counts, at the ballot box.

NE FL Vets4Vets and the newly formed Council of Veterans County Presidents are working towards reaching out to veterans and veterans organizations; creating a movement that has as its goal, the unification of all veterans. Remember there is strength in numbers and a united front will be heard by those in office.

On July 15th, NE FL Vets4Vets held its quarterly meeting at the Jacksonville Veterans Memorial Arena. Over 240 veterans attended this event as did about 3 dozen veteran oriented businesses. Their display tables were decorated with logos, handed out informational pamphlets and greeted all veterans with smiles and respect.

The main event were the speakers: representatives from the USS Adams, FDVA, Tech4Vets, 5 Star Vet Center, FL Coastal School of Law, Team Red - White & Blue, FL Fallen Heroes, and FL Women Veterans. There was something of interest for all.

A complimentary lunch ended the very informative afternoon and all veterans were looking forward to the next Quarterly meeting.

We challenge you to bring a veteran to the next meeting; our strength is in numbers. Please share this information with members of your veteran's groups. We all have a common goal, helping ALL veterans.

I could not end this article without thanking Bob Adelhelm, Fred Blaz, and Mike Mitchell for organizing this event and I look forward to this historic journey of unification.



Suicide Prevention

Veteran Suicide Statistics

Suicide rates among service members remain high and the rate among veterans continue to surge. Every day an estimated 20 veterans take their own lives, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs. In Florida, the numbers are staggering. Although veterans make up only 8 percent of the state's population, they accounted for more than 25 percent of its suicides. Between 1999 and 2011, 31,885 suicides were reported in the state, according to the Florida Department of Health. That would mean more than 8,000 Florida veterans took their lives during those 13 years, according to the VA.

How Can We Help?

Katherine Eicher, Suicide Prevention Coordinator for North Florida and South Georgia Veterans Health Administration, will conduct a comprehensive presentation on Suicide Prevention. This information is important knowledge for those of us working with Veterans, so many of whom live with mental distress that can manifest itself in harm to oneself or to others. Join us at the Muscovy Room in the St Johns County "Health and Human Services" building at 200 San Sebastian View, St Augustine, FL 32084.

Registration is not required, but an email to John Leslie at john_leslie15@yahoo.com would assist in estimating expected attendance so the room is properly configured.

"Suicide Prevention is Everybody's Business"

"Everything in my life that I'd thought was unfixable was totally fixable...except for having just jumped"

Ken Baldwin, Golden Gate Bridge Jump Survivor

When:

15 August 2017

1:00 PM

Where:

Muscovy Room, Health and Human Services Bldg, 200 San Sebastian View, St Augustine 32084

Registration not required

Training Provided by a Subject Matter Expert from the Veterans Administration

Event Sponsored by
VVA Chapter 1084,
St. Johns County





The RIDE HOME, Inc., 3818 Litchfield Loop, Lake Wales, FL 33859
theridehome.com



On National POW/MIA Recognition Day we will be hosting **The RIDE HOME 2017**. This weekend event, 14-16 September 2017, takes place in and around the cities of Warner Robins, Perry and Andersonville, Georgia, home of the National Prisoner of War Museum. The RIDE HOME 2017 complies with the Presidential Proclamation by paying tribute to Former American Prisoners of War who have returned home and the families of those Americans still Missing in Action.

Honorees for the 2017 event will include former Prisoners of War and families of our Missing in Action from World War II, Korea, Cold War, Vietnam, USS Pueblo, Iraq and Afghanistan. As part of the tribute package to these true American Heroes, The RIDE HOME with the help and generosity of American Patriots, like you, will provide a room (3 nights), Heroes Dinner, Ground-Pounder & Fly-Boy Lunch, entertainment, Awards Ceremony as well as transportation to and from the events for the Honored Guest. This complete Tribute package is valued at \$375.00. For all they endured as Prisoners of War and the emotional torture the Missing in Action families struggle with every day, we hope you agree this is worthy of your participation. Remember, a full Tribute Package or a portion of one, either choice is greatly appreciated and will help us reach the goal of 200 Honored Guest for the 2017 event.

The RIDE HOME is open to the public and we encourage everyone to attend so that they may meet and spend time with the POW or MIA family member you help sponsor.

Please complete the form below and mail it with your contribution to The RIDE HOME. Contributions of \$375 or more will receive The Ride Home 2017 t-shirt, patch, sponsor bar, and pin. If you would prefer to use your Debit or Credit Card, you can go to our website, www.theridehome.com , click on DONATE and follow the instructions.

On behalf of The RIDE HOME, Inc. Board of Directors,

Thank You!

Respectfully, Jim 'moe' Moyer , Chairman

I wish to help sponsor a former POW and/or a MIA Family member to The RIDE HOME 2017

_____ Tribute Package \$375. _____ Other

Includes a t-shirt for donations of \$375.00 or more: _____ size

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City _____

State & Zipcode _____

Phone/email: _____

Tri-Base Navy Ball

Can you put this link on your webpage and in your newsletters? This year will be a blow out year and I anticipate tickets to go quickly.....we have requests for 100 already and the capacity is 1100....so I think ticket sales will cut off in early Oct.....tickets are available now....

Thanks. John Vargo

www.tribasenavyball.com



Where:

Renaissance Hotel and Resort at World Golf Village in St. Augustine, FL.
500 South Legacy Trail St. Augustine FL 32092
(904) 940-8000



When:

October 21, 2017
Cocktail Reception 6 PM
Official Program 7 PM

Attire:

Military: Dinner Dress Blues

Civilian: Tuxedo/Ballroom Gown
(Coat/Tie permissible)

Extra Info:

There will be a free photographer set up to take/print photos.

Everyone will receive a Commemorative Coin and Growler.

From Bob Adelhelm on the need for a Veterans Recreation Center in Jacksonville

Madam (Council) President:

I read where the Mayor's budget included \$8.5 million dollars for Edward Waters College, a private institution, to help them with an athletic field and dormitory refurbishment. The Mayor stated in an article that, "this is a real investment where there is a need" and Edward Waters College is a "beacon of light for the community".

I want to express my concern over the use of public funding on a private college and share my dismay that there never is any interest in the Veterans in this community and their "real needs". Veterans who are the true beacons of light for this community and many others. Those who served and sacrificed, so others can remain free and pursue their dreams, always seem to be forgotten.

Veterans are in need of a community center, here in Jacksonville, where they can gather among their own and take care of their own. There are community centers and the such for everyone and anyone here in Jacksonville, except for Veterans. Isn't it time "the most Veterans friendly city in the nation" follow the lead of other communities that have already established community centers for their Veterans.

If our city council is going to approve \$8 million dollars for a private college shouldn't they at least consider supporting something for the 150,00 Veterans who reside in this community and consider their "real needs".

Millions of dollars for an athletic field? Veterans aren't asking for much and it certainly wouldn't involve \$8 million dollars. A city investment in a Veterans community center would go a long way in helping with many of issues that plague Veterans and in the long haul prove to be cost effective for the city; Veterans would be better able to take care of their fellow Veterans instead of routinely defaulting to bloated and ineffective government agencies.

I hope you will consider allocating some money to the needs of our community's Veterans over using public funds to build and an athletic field and refurbishing a dormitory for a private college.

Respectfully, R Adelhelm, LtCol USMC Ret

Pittsburgh Pirates Team President Frank Coonelly and PA Chapter 4 Rolling Thunder® VP Kath Webb unveiled this "One Empty Seat", the POW/MIA National Chair of Honor.



**Why doesn't the Jaguars have a
POW/MIA National Chair of Honor?**

**A local veterans organization should step up
and contact the Jaguars Administration.**



COMMUNITY HOSPICE
VETERANS PARTNERSHIP

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

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

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



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

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

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

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Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc. Minutes of June 29, 2017

Officers present: Chairman Bill Dudley; Secretary Michael Rothfeld, John Mountcastle, Treas. Vice Chairman Ray Quinn not present

Chairman Dudley called the meeting to order at 1906 hours

Chairman Dudley led the Pledge to the Flag, **Judy Davis** gave the Invocation

Last month's Minutes were approved as presented at the meeting.

The Treasurer's Report was approved as presented at the meeting

Introduction of Guests: Megan Wall, Legal Aid Attorney

Speakers: Megan Wall: Legal aid is designed to help the poor, elderly and disabled. Legal Aid is primarily funded and responsible to the County. Private attorneys in the county do pro bono work for the Legal Aid Society. County veterans mostly seek assistance with housing, jobs, unemployment, and transportation.

If assistance is needed please contact megan.wall@jaxlwgalaid.org or call 904-827-9921 ext 206.



Steve Kaufman: USAA settled a class action lawsuit and will pay an average of \$ 450. to each qualified claimant. USAA primarily covers veterans and active duty. Questions can sent to Steve: www.SJKPR.com, STEPHEN J. KAUFMAN * PUBLIC RELATIONS, 904-388-7447 * (C) 904-710-0324 * FAX: 388-7100, 2150 Riverside Ave., Ste. 4 * Jacksonville, FL 32204 USA, results@SJKPR.com twitter.com/sjkpr

Committee Reports:

Mac: spoke about the VA committing itself to speeding up the appeals process and going paperless across the country. Veterans Treatment Court will meet twice a month starting in November. Legislation was passed forming the Florida Veterans Foundation.

Michael: Michael spoke about how to access and use the Veterans Council Facebook page and website and he encouraged all to send him their organizations newsletters for posting on the Council's website. **Steve:** MIAP next military honors will be in September in cooler weather.

John Leslie: Invited all interested to a free presentation on Mental Health First Aid. It is designed to teach signs and symptoms' of suicide. It will take place on July 26th, 9am to 5pm at the

Courtyard by Marriott on SR 16 in St Augustine. If interested contact John: john_leslie15@yahoo.com

12 veterans are involved now in the VTC, with 4 mentors, still looking for a few more.

Chief Gerald Dedge: spoke about the injury to his son in law, Marine Recon Chris Natto and thanked those involved in the presentation at the Fort for all the useful donations.



Chairman Dudley; gave an update on the Nov. 11th Veterans Day Parade, spoke about his meeting with the Story Tellers Grant representative seeking funds for the DAV van and for the Veterans Treatment

Court. Chairman Dudley called for a vote to have our Council continue to work with the 5 County Council of Veteran Council Chairman and it was approved.

Tammy Shirley: (SJC VSO), The Homeless Veterans Standdown will take place on Saturday September 30.

DAV chapter 6, John McGinty presented the Veterans Council with a check for Wreaths Across America. Meeting adjourned at 8:48 pm.



The next meeting of the Veterans Council will be on Thursday, July 27, 7 pm in the Health & Human Services Building, 200 San Sebastian View.

Our speaker will be Sara Slettebo of the Assoc. of Veteran Employers and Jeff Robertson VP of Finding the Uniform

Future speakers:

August 31, Kimberly Gibbons, Atlantic Coast Young Marines and **Derek Boyd Hankerson,** Author, Lecturer, Producer, speaking about the Military History of Ft. Mose

September 28, Bob Buehn, Capt USN (Ret), Coordinator of the UNF Veterans Resource Center

October 26, Review of Veterans' Day Parade activities

Part 1

Posted March 18, 2013

By WILLIAM BROWNING Morris News Service

Woman returns to POW bracelet she wore 40 + years ago



Massachusetts woman flies to St. Augustine to give her old bracelet to POW Giles Norrington.

This story ends in the exchange of a bracelet between two weeping adults who before Saturday night had never met.

It begins in 1971, when Peggy Cornacchio was 11, and her parents sent away for a metal bracelet bearing the name of a U.S. prisoner of war. Many similar bracelets were worn during the intense years of the Vietnam War.

The name on the bracelet Peggy got was “LCDR Giles Norrington,” a Navy pilot who had been shot down over North Vietnam on May 5, 1968.

Peggy didn’t know Norrington or anything about his life. That didn’t matter. On most school days for two years Peggy wore his name around her wrist. By wearing it she honored his service and sometimes, sitting in class at Nathaniel Bowditch School in Salem, Mass., the place where she grew up, she thought of Norrington and what happened to him.

Two years after she began wearing it, her parents read in the Boston Globe newspaper that Norrington had been released from captivity. Peggy felt relieved, but still wore the bracelet here and there for the other Americans left in Vietnam.

Then the war drew down, the bracelet was packed away, Peggy went to college, grew up and 40 years passed.

Last Christmas, rummaging through a box of forgotten keepsakes, Peggy came across the bracelet. Holding it for the first time in decades, she wondered.

What happened to Norrington? Where had he gone? Was he still alive?

She searched the Internet and found he was alive, living in Florida and scheduled to speak Saturday night in St. Augustine at the annual awards dinner for the Chase-Rescorla Scholarship. She felt like she needed to give him the bracelet.

“I thought he’s got to be getting up there,” she said. “If I don’t do this now, it’s not going to happen.”

She bought a \$400 plane ticket and took some time off from work. Saturday morning, she and a friend flew to Jacksonville from Boston.

She didn't tell Norrington she was coming.

5 years confined in an infamous place of torture and brutal confinement, the Hanoi Hilton was a prisoner of war camp in North Vietnam. Giles Norrington spent 1,775 days there.

He was from Ohio and joined the Marine Corps as an enlisted man out of high school in 1954. In 1965 he switched to the Navy. Three years later the plane he was piloting was shot down and he was captured.

He was tortured at first and then, he said, the hardships of isolation set in.

"The biggest enemy was boredom," he said. "What I mean by that is, we had no intellectual stimulation."

Norrington said the conversations he had with his fellow American POWs were "precious." They would tell each other the stories of their lives.

"When you were listening to those, it was a time away from your problems," he said.

The prisoners didn't know what would happen to them. They certainly had no idea people back home were wearing bracelets bearing their names.

On March 14, 1973, he was released.

When he got home he learned about the POW-MIA bracelets, which tens of thousands of Americans had begun wearing to remember the captured servicemen. Talking about what they meant to him recently, he got emotional saying that they represented the military men "who gave all."

He retired from the Navy in 1988, married and moved all across the country before he and his wife settled in Titusville, where they live today.

Over the years Norrington, 77, received more than 100 of the POW-MIA bracelets bearing his name.

Most arrived in the mail.

When Cornacchio, 52, pulled the bracelet out of the bottom of that box on Christmas, it was broken. She took it to a jeweler in Salem who, after learning why she wanted it fixed, repaired it for free.

Cornacchio, the intact bracelet and her friend from Salem, Beth Ross, flew into the First Coast on Saturday morning. They stayed at the home of Athena Tickner, a childhood friend and Air Force veteran who lives in Jacksonville.

Getting ready to go to St. Augustine on Saturday night, Cornacchio chose to not wear mascara. She was sure she was going to cry. And she did.

“I can tell you that tears were streaming down my face and hers,” Norrington said when describing their embrace.

He said when the stranger from Massachusetts handed him the bracelet at the dinner, he felt, “Joy and relief and just the kind of pleasure that you can’t explain in words. I can’t get over it.”

Of all the bracelets he has received through the years, he called Cornacchio’s the most important. She gave it to him two days after the 40th anniversary of his release from the Hanoi Hilton.

Cornacchio and her friend are flying back to Salem today. Cornacchio will be back to work Wednesday, and when she goes, she will carry a sense of relief.

“For me, it was so important that he knew there was a person out there who didn’t forget about him,” she said of Norrington.

He is back home in Titusville. Through the years, as he and his wife moved across the country, he donated a lot of the bracelets he received to military museums and historical societies. The one Cornacchio gave him is sitting on his kitchen table as he decides where to keep it.

He has no plans to give it away.

“There are some things in life that you just don’t let go,” he said. “And that’s one of them.”

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Part two

*Terry Allen is a local Vietnam veteran who worked with the Veterans Council on the POW documentary Bill Dudley and I produced. One of the four men we interviewed for the documentary was Vietnam veteran Giles Norrington, US Navy, ret. What follows is an **Unbelievable, but TRUE story** of Giles’ POW bracelet.*

Pictured below are Terry Allen, the POW bracelet and a picture Peggy Cornacchio from Massachusetts with Giles’ POW bracelet and Giles Norrington receiving his bracelet after 40 + years.

From Terry Allen

Almost all military folks have had some or even a bunch of experiences that basically weren't believable but in fact happened! The one Michael Rothfeld asked me to write about here has that characteristic and in fact the only reason I know it isn't a fairy tale is because I was there!

Background is a little different but basically I was at about fourteen thousand miles of a circumnavigation on my Harley of this awesome country we live in and got an urge for “Lobstah” and a trip to Gloucester, Massachusetts where the whaling ships used to stage. Upon arrival at the Visitor Center for Gloucester, I picked up the standard stuff and then noticed a flyer advertising the Moving Wall at a local



school yard. Since I hadn't had a chat with Augie for several years now, I decided a visit was in order. Went there, found the standard fare of Vietnam Veterans, (Lots of them getting old and grey!), motorcycles, and visitors ranging in age from five to what looked like five hundred!

As I was leaving after my little time with some old friends I noticed two ladies I had seen finding a name earlier trying to get a selfie with the portion of the Wall with their name on it in the shot. I asked if I could shoot it for them so they could get a good memory and they vigorously agreed. After I shot the photos and they agreed the pictures were better than they could have done on their own, one of them asked if I would like to hear why they were at the wall. How could I say no?



The taller of the two told a tale common to many of us about having worn a MIA or POW bracelet so long during the seventies that it actually broke in half and she put the pieces in a box thinking she would get it fixed someday. She also said that she never did find out if her POW got home. A few years ago her Mother found that old box and asked her what she wanted to do with the stuff. The first thing that caught her eye was that old broken bracelet. All the memories came flooding back including not knowing if he had returned. She decided that since Google was available now, she would try to find him and if he was alive return the bracelet to him.

She took the bracelet to a local jeweler who turned out to also be a Vietnam Veteran and when she explained her mission, he fixed it for free! Now's when it gets freaky! She explained to me that it had been easy to find him with the technology and that he was going to be speaking at a scholarship dinner soon in St Augustine Florida! I raised my hand for her to stop talking because I didn't trust my voice but when I thought I could, asked, "Would that be the Chase/Rescorla Scholarship Dinner? Both of them turned just as pale as ghosts and finally one asked how I knew that. I explained my relationship with first Michael Rothfeld, then Michael Pulliam and then with the documentary process. By then my little pea brain had worked out the other part of this!

Her POW was Giles Norrington who was the keynote speaker a couple of years ago. I said the name and the next thing I knew I was buried under two crying women! She related to me how they had gone to the dinner and had the opportunity to meet Giles and present him with the bracelet at the dinner. Then I finally remembered having seen the article about that in the St Augustine Record. Lots more discussion after that, but I have to ask you all what are the odds that after nearly two months and fourteen thousand miles on the road that I would end up in Gloucester, Massachusetts at exactly the right time to take that picture and hear that story? I am personally convinced that I walked through the raindrops in all those years of service as Dale Dye wrote about just so that I could be there and let those ladies know that there was meaning to what they had done. I say to all of you who have served, that your service was important and this country in its heart was and still is behind you. In fourteen thousand miles I have seen literally hundreds of small town memorials to their Veterans. If I take away anything from this encounter, it is that I don't have to take a back seat to anyone in this country. We have earned top billing just like Giles Norrington did.



The Veterans Council usually does not publish requests for donations but we are deeply committed to helping Homeless Veterans wherever we can.

This is from 5 Star Veterans Center in Jacksonville.

We were able to raise enough funds over the weekend to feed 10 veterans for a week.

We could use more help. Please consider a donation to help our homeless veterans RESTORE-RECONNECT and REJOIN the workforce.

Friends of the Five Star Veterans Center: Help support veterans in need this July

The Five S.T.A.R. Veterans Center puts military veterans who are experiencing homelessness back to work by providing safe and secure permanent housing with wraparound services, and holistic counseling that promotes mental and physical wellness. The Passport to Independence Program and the Weaver Wellness Program have helped over 200 veterans.

Hear about Vince. After a rough childhood, “Vinny” joined the Marines because he hoped to build a better life for himself.

He knew he needed discipline and training to stabilize his life and the Marine Corps did that. He excelled and moved from squad to platoon NCO leadership. He was on his second tour to Afghanistan, when an IED blast seriously injured Vinny, killed his interpreter, and three of his fellow Marines.

This 4th of July, we all celebrated the freedoms we enjoy as Americans. But not everyone will remember the veterans like Vinny, whose service and sacrifice made those freedoms possible.

That’s why I’m so grateful for people like you. You never forget America’s heroes. And, through your support for Five Star Veterans Center, you make sure that the men and women who served and sacrificed for our nation get help when they need it most.

Vinny tried to return to active combat, but eventually his injuries forced him to leave the Corps. Sadly, Vinny’s fight didn’t end when he came home—it was only just beginning. The trauma he suffered made it impossible for him reintegrate when he got home. Vinny spent 6 years on the streets before he finally received the support he needed to start rebuilding his life.

With help from patriotic friends like you, The 5 Star Veterans Center is committed to assisting veterans who are coping with the insidious effects of PTSD and/or TBI to RESTORE their health, RECONNECT with friends and family, and REJOIN the work force. Today, Vinny has a new lease on life. He’s back to work—this time, with his service dog at his side. This is the hope you make possible!

Please, remember local veterans in need this July. Honor their service and sacrifice with your gift of \$25 ... \$50 ... \$75 or more today. For Information or to DONATE online Please visit

5starveteranscenter.org and Facebook P.O. Box 350247 Jacksonville, FL 32235 904-723-5950



Our numbers keep growing as our dedicated volunteers keep working.

****NATIONWIDE PROGRESS AS OF 7/12/2017****

Total Funeral Homes Visited - 2,094

Cremains Found - 15,063

Veterans Cremains Identified - 3,435

Veterans Interred - 3,157

****FLORIDA'S PROGRESS AS OF 7/19/2017****

Total Funeral Homes Visited - 124

Cremains Found - 1118

Veterans Interred - 155

Spouses Interred - 72

Dependents Interred - 1

Call to Honors - 13

Please visit our website @ www.miap.us to read more about MIAP.

Kathy Beaudoin Church

MIAP-FL State Coordinator

Marine Receives All-Terrain Wheel Chair in St. Augustine

July 2, 2017

Mr. Dudley, I wanted to thank you for all your help at the end of June in making the Track Chair presentation to Chris Natto a success. Thanks for diving in at short notice!

This article is reprinted with the permission of Mr. Pepper at Freedom Alliance.

Last year, one of our Army friends informed us of a recent training accident. Christopher Natto, a Marine with 2d Reconnaissance Battalion, was performing a free-fall parachute training exercise. His chute deployed, but he landed in a grove of trees with branches not strong enough to bear his weight. Chris fell approximately 40 feet to the ground, landing on his back. His neck was broken.

“I came down near my buddy, which probably saved my life,” Chris explained. “It was night and if he hadn’t been close, I don’t know how they would have found me.” The injury to his spine left him paralyzed from the chest down.

Ten days later, Freedom Alliance sent his wife a grant to help with immediate expenses, as their lives had taken a drastic turn. Over the course of the next year, Chris spent time at several medical facilities, including a renowned spinal injury rehabilitation center in Atlanta. But Chris and his wife, Sydney, eventually returned to their hometown of St. Augustine, Florida, where much of their family still resides.

Because of his spinal cord injury, Chris has many obstacles to overcome on a daily basis. The movement in his arms is limited, as well as in his hands. His immune system has weakened, and with a toddler in the house, he can usually plan on getting sick whenever his son comes home with a cold. Another condition is overactive nerve endings that can cause discomfort even when the wind blows on his arm hair. His body can no longer regulate temperature, and he remains cold even on hot, muggy days.

But despite these new challenges, Chris is determined to enjoy the outdoors he has always loved. And this is why mobility is so important. Thanks to a generous donation from our supporters Dick and JoAnne West, we were able to give Chris the gift of an all-terrain wheelchair.

Our team secured a permit from the National Parks Service (with the help of Chief Ranger

Kim Mayo) to host our giveaway at the historic Castillo de San Marcos in St. Augustine, the oldest masonry fortress in the United States.

A crowd of about fifty people gathered early on Wednesday morning. Mr. Bill Dudley, the Chairman of the Veteran’s Council of St John’s County was able to spread the word to local veterans in the community, who came out in a show of support for this young Marine. In attendance were soldiers from the Florida National Guard, Marines from the local recruiting station, law enforcement officers, National Parks staff, Freedom Alliance supporters, and Freedom Alliance Scholarship Fund recipient Brandi Anderson.

Freedom Alliance President Tom Kilgannon spoke to the crowd about the history of heroism found in the ranks of our military. Tom invited Chris and Sydney up to the podium to say a few words as he presented the all-terrain wheel chair to them.

Sydney said, “We got some part of our life back that was taken from us after Christopher’s accident. We have a dad that can be more of a dad now and be more active and a part of his son’s life. That’s what it means to us. It means a lot.”

Sydney then got Chris out of his manual chair and transferred him into the track chair. As Phillip Shadle of Action Track Chair began to teach Chris the functions of the chair, Rhett, their two-year-old son began playing on it. Phillip taught Rhett how to stand on the back and let his father wheel him around. The smiles on the faces of the crowd were nice, but the genuine happiness shared between a father and his son in that moment was unforgettable.

Freedom Alliance



Submitted by John Leslie, President Leo C Chase VVA Chapter 1084 KIA and POW/DIC during the War of Independence

I am an avid amateur genealogist, and always search for military experience with my new-found ancestors. The story presented here is about KIA, and POW/DIC during the Battle of Bunker Hill, with two of my ancestors directly involved.



Samuel Bailey, Jr, my Sixth Great Grand Uncle, died on 17 June 1775 at Charlestown, Massachusetts of wounds inflicted that date in the Battle of Bunker Hill. He served in the Revolutionary War as a member of Captain Jacob Tyler's company in Colonel Ebenezer Bridge's Regiment. He was killed in battle, and his name appears upon the tablets erected in 1889 by the city of Boston on the slope of Bunker Hill. He served as a private, Captain Joshua Holt's Company, which marched on the alarm of 19 April 1775, to Cambridge.

LTCOL Moses Parker, my Second Cousin, seven times removed, died on 4 July 1775 as an English Prisoner of War, held in Boston, Massachusetts. He died from wounds incurred on 17 June 1775 during the Battle of Bunker Hill.

Five days following his capture at Bunker Hill, LTCOL Parker wrote the following letter to his wife:

Boston 22d. June 1775

My Dear,

After tendering you my most affectionate regard - I would inform you that in the unhappy Engagement on the 17 instant, I was badly wounded in one of my thighs. The bone of which is broke, but am as well treated as I can desire and attended with great care and tenderness by Doctor Whitworth, as are the rest of the prisoners - must desire you would procure some Linen, Stockings and other clothing, with some money if possible, and direct that they be left for the care of Major Muncrief at the lines on Boston Neck; must entreat you to do it as soon as you can - remain your loving husband Moses Parker.

The faithful wives of these brave and suffering prisoners, in response to these requests walked to Boston, carrying what they could of food and dainties and other things for their comfort, but were denied the privilege of seeing them, and so were obligated to retrace their weary steps with heavy hearts.

"The British authorities took their packages, but heartlessly refused them the privilege of seeing their husbands who were dying in prison for want of the very care which they had pleaded in vain for the privilege to bestow." (Testimony of a son of Captain Walker to Mrs. E. H. Warren.)

The opinion of Henry Knox, Secretary of War, 1793, to whom was referred the following petition of Sarah Parker, widow of the late Colonel Moses Parker, who was wounded and taken prisoner by the British troops in the action of Bunker Hill, on the 17th of June 1775, and who afterwards died of his wounds in

Boston in the month of July following. That she was left with a large family of young children, and must encounter many difficulties in supporting and bringing them up. That she has not received the relief provided by the resolution of Congress for the widows and children of officers who died in the service since the month of August 1775. That she does not apprehend it was the intention of Congress to make any distinction between the widows and children of officers who died in the service, because the time when they died. She therefore prays that the benefit of said resolution of Congress may be extended to her and her children. In part of the opinion of Secretary Knox, "By rigid principles It may be questioned whether the regiments in action on that day prior to May 15, 1778, were in Continental Service, and therefore, by any rule of Construction, the officer then Killed could be considered "as officers commissioned by Congress" and should it be judged proper to extend the provision to any prior to the said 15th of May, 1778, it would seem incumbent on the character of the Nation to provide for the widows of those gallant men who nobly sacrificed their lives, by which they eminently contributed to establish the cause and reputation of their country." (Taken from Pay and Bounty Revolutionary Army", Washington DC, 1838)

LTCOL Parker wrote another letter to his wife on 3 July 1775; this letter was sent to the families of the wounded men held by the British in Boston; it read,

Boston Prison, July 3, 1775

Lieutenant Colonel Parker and Captain Walker acquaint their Friends that they are well and sufficiently supply'd (sic) with all Necessaries but fresh Provision, which they need daily, in their present Condition, and which Major Moncrieff has kindly promised to convey upon Receipt.

Moses Parker

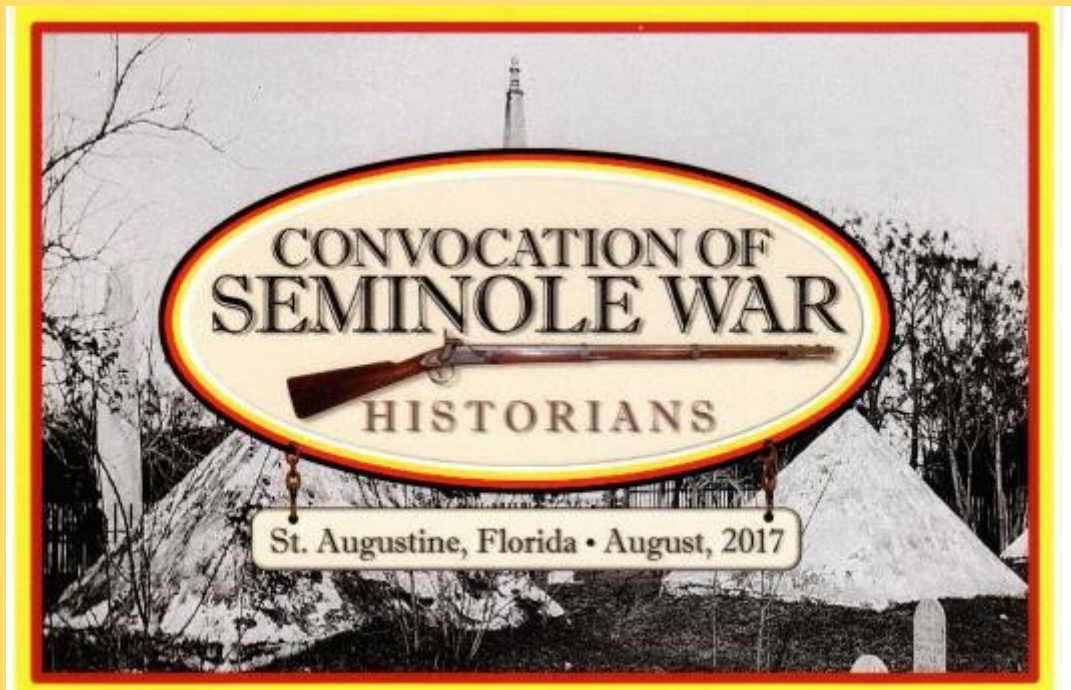
Benjamin Walker

It was written in an excellent hand, but the signatures give evidence of physical weakness caused by suffering. These men were by no means "well". Colonel Parker died the day after the date of the letter, and Captain Walker on August 15, 1775.

Plan ahead, save the date.

Convocation of Seminole War Historians, Parade, curator hosted tours of the FL National Guard Museum, lunch, and evening presentation hosted by the West Point Society of N. Florida.

More information to follow.



August 11th, 12, 13th.

The convocation will gather organizations and historians throughout Florida interested in the Seminole Wars era.

Do not miss this unique opportunity to interact with others!

Highlights

- * **Friday:** Informal evening social at the St. Augustine Officers Club. Curator hosted tours of the Florida National Guard Museum.
- * **Saturday:** 10th annual living-history commemoration of the 1842 parade and ceremony, National Cemetery. Organized by the West Point Society of N. Florida.
 - >A festive lunch. Elgin Jumper presents his reflections on Seminole art and culture.
 - >Panels on: Research, publications, archaeology, Fort King, and Seminole history.
 - >Living-historians' workshop at the historic Ximinez-Fatio House.
 - >Evening presentation by award-winning authors Mary Lou and John Missall.
- * **Sunday:** Breakfast buffet. Retrospective of Frank Laumer's groundbreaking research, publications, and organizational initiatives. Speakers. Commentary.

Registration and Details at: www.seminolewars.org

(on line at: events.eventzilla.net/e/convocation-of-seminole-war-historians-2138894235)

Follow us on www.Facebook.com/Seminolewar.

Organized by the Seminole Wars Foundation, inc.

Supported by the St. Johns County TDC.



**CONVOCATION OF SEMINOLE WAR HISTORIANS
ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA**

AUGUST 11, 12 and 13, 2017

Organized by the Seminole Wars Foundation, Inc.



FRIDAY, AUGUST 11

St. Augustine Officers Club, 82 Marine Street.

5:00 -- 8:30 Informal evening social. Early registration. Florida National Guard Museum open, curator on site for personal tours. Light hors d'oeuvres, cash bar.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12

Trinity Hall. Trinity Episcopal Parish, 215 St. George Street.

- 08:30 -- 09:30 Registration, welcome, orientation.
- 09:30 -- 09:50 Historical background, Alison Simpson, Florida National Guard Historian.
- 09:50 -- 10:15 Move to St. Francis Barracks via Trolley, foot, POV.
- 10:30 -- 11:30 **10th annual living-history commemoration of the 1842 parade and ceremony, National Cemetery. Organized by the West Point Society of N. FL. Public Invited.**
- 11:30 -- 12:00 Return to Trinity Hall.
- 12:00 -- 1:00 Lunch, award of coins. Steve Rinck, President Seminole Wars Foundation. Remarks by George Godfrey, President, West Point Society of N. Florida.
- 1:00 -- 2:00 **Convocation Address: Seminole art and culture by Elgin Jumper.**
- 2:15 -- 4:30 Breakout sessions: [Timing of individual sessions TBD]
1. Living-historian workshop. Ximenez-Fatio House.
Chair: Steve Rinck. Seminole Wars Foundation.
 2. Seminole Heritage and History. Trinity Hall.
Chair: Chris Kimball. Seminole Wars Foundation.
 3. Archaeology and Resurrection of Ft. King. Hendri Hall.
Chair: David Laffey. Fort King Heritage Association
 4. Current Research and Recent Literature. Trinity Hall.
Chair: Dr. James M. Denham. Chair, History Dept, Fla. Southern College

Ringhaver Student Union Theater. Flagler College, 50 Seville Street.

7:00 -- 8:00 Award-winning authors John and Mary Lou Missall. Public invited.
"St. Augustine is Healthy and Delightful: Capt. John Rogers Vinton in the Second Seminole War."

*

SUNDAY, AUGUST 13

Marc Lance National Guard Armory, 190 San Marco Avenue.

- 09:00 -- 10:00 Buffet breakfast.
- 10:00 -- 11:20 Reports from breakout chairmen. Commentary, discussion.
- * 11:30 -- 11:45 Background to Osceola's death mask and its copy. St. Augustine Historical Society.
- 11:45 -- 12:30 Presentation of special award honoring Frank Laumer. Retrospective of efforts by Mr. Laumer and others to promote interest in Florida's Seminole Wars.
- 12:30 -- 1:00 Conference chairman's concluding remarks and future convocations:
(Steven Rinck with representatives from Fort King, Loxahatchee and Okeechobee.)

Follow us on WWW.Facebook.com/Seminolewar.

To register (\$60), follow prompts on the Foundation's website, www.seminolewars.org, or directly on line at:

<http://events.eventzilla.net/e/convocation-of-seminole-war-historians-2138894235>





Presents
The First Annual Charity Golf Tournament
At Cimarrone Golf and Country Club

Friday September 8th
Registration Starts At 11:00 AM
Range Opens At 12:00 PM
1:00 PM Shotgun Start
4 Person Scramble, Prizes For 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place Teams!
\$100 per Player, \$400 for a Foursome
Individual/Team Hole Sponsorship \$300

Silver Corporate Sponsor:
\$1500, Includes Foursome,
Hole Sponsorship, and
Recognition on Banners

Gold Corporate Sponsor:
\$2000, Includes Two
Foursomes, Hole Sponsorship,
and Recognition on Banners

Please Make Checks Out To Marine Corp League #383
Drop off or Mail Payment and Form to: Bill Nantz 2220 County Road 210 W. St
Johns, FL 32259

Any Questions Comments or Concerns Please Contact
Bill Nantz Or Walter Mosher
chopper_55@comcast.net doc.mosher69@yahoo.com
904-955-2389 904-315-0392

The Marine Corps League #383 is organizing a charity golf tournament on behalf of Toys For Tots, and VVA Chapter 1084 will be assisting them in this effort. Get out your clubs, and get ready to support Toys For Tots!

From the FL Times Union

“We didn’t see land for nine months,” he said.

Another man on the panel recounted a time when land was much closer. John Francis Frank is a Navy veteran who participated in the Normandy invasion on Omaha Beach exactly 73 years ago Tuesday.

He talked about the role he played in an amphibious unit where they dropped off tanks and made trips back and forth to ships to transport German prisoners.

“There was so much smoke,” Frank said of the early hours of the invasion. “It was so thick you could chew it.”

He explained how he spoke a little German in those days, and there was a clear difference in some of the prisoners he conversed with.

“There were a lot of old guys and young guys,” he said. “The young guys were the rough ones. The old guys were glad it was over.”

Others on the panel talked about escaping from the clutches of German prisoner of war camps and serving in the merchant marines, delivering TNT to Navy personnel in the Pacific.

Among the sailors in the audience was the master chief petty officer of the Navy, Steven S. Giordano. He’s the senior enlisted person in the Navy and attended Wednesday’s discussion as part of a scheduled visit to Mayport.

“There is no way that you can ever measure the true effect of putting something like this together,” Giordano said of the interaction between veterans and active-duty sailors.

He was pleased by the answers he received when he asked the panel what got them through the hardest times during war.

“They worked through the fear, they worked through some of them being scared ... you are thinking more of others around you than you are of yourself sometimes,” Giordano said. “What a great message.”

Andy Ramotnik is the Army Air Corps veteran who told the tale of escaping from Germans twice during the war. He bristled at the idea of being afraid while fighting for his country.



“I didn’t have time to get scared ... being scared, that doesn’t help anyone,” he said.

Sentiments like that made quite an impact, said Jonathan Sanders, an electronics technician, second class.

Sanders said hearing from the panel helped remind him of the reason he signed up for the Navy. He said although the war today is a lot different than World War II, it felt good to hear from men from a different generation who share the same pride for their country.

“It made me proud,” he said. “It was good to talk to them and hear their stories.”

Joe Daraskevich: (904) 359-4308



RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

FLORIDA PURPLE HEART DAY

WHEREAS, the Purple Heart, originally known as the Badge of Military Merit, is an American decoration, the oldest military decoration in the United States still given; and

WHEREAS, the Purple Heart was established by General George Washington at Newburgh, New York on August 7, 1782, during the Revolutionary War, as an award for members of the Continental Army; and

WHEREAS, it was the first award made available to the common soldier to recognize outstanding valor or merit; and

WHEREAS, following nearly 150 years of disuse, the Purple Heart was reestablished by the President of the United States per War Department General Order No. 3, dated February 22, 1932; and

WHEREAS, the Purple Heart is a combat decoration awarded to a member of the U.S. Armed Forces who has been wounded or killed; and

WHEREAS, recipients of the Purple Heart know the meaning of sacrifice in the preservation of the United States of America and national interests at home and abroad; and

WHEREAS, there are approximately 1.7 million Purple Heart recipients in our nation's history; and

WHEREAS, to perpetually honor our State's Purple Heart recipients, the State of Florida has designated August 7th of each year as Florida Purple Heart Day;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rick Scott, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing August 7, 2017, as *Florida Purple Heart Day*.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 20th day of July, in the year two thousand seventeen.

A blue ink signature of Rick Scott, written over a horizontal line.
Governor

From Fred Dupont: Thanks to everyone who requested a copy of my book. It can now be found on the Veterans Council of St. Johns County website. The book is free but a donation to the council, a charitable 501(C)3, would be appreciated.

<http://www.veteranscouncilsjc.org/fdupont.htm>

Semper Fidelis Society has changed its address from jaxsemperfidelis.org to SemperFidelisSociety.org



1st Annual Pups & SUPs

Dog surfing contest to benefit K-9 for Warriors
JULY 30 • 7:30am - 12:00pm
St. Augustine Beach

\$40 per "pawticipant". Food, fun, prizes and more!
SUP's provided. Space is limited **REGISTER TODAY!**
www.GuyHarveyOutpost.com

OUTPOST RESORT
St. Augustine Beach

Surf STATION

PROUD SUPPORTER OF
KIDS FOR WARRIORS

What is the Veterans History Project?

The Veterans History Project (VHP) of the Library of Congress American Folklife Center is primarily an oral history program that collects and preserves the firsthand interviews of America's wartime veterans. VHP re-



lies on volunteers, both individuals and organizations, throughout the nation to contribute veterans' stories to VHP. In addition to audio- and video-recorded interviews, VHP accepts memoirs and collections of original photographs, letters, diaries, maps and other historical documents from World War I through current conflicts.

The Veterans History Project of the American Folklife Center collects, preserves, and makes accessible the personal accounts of American war veterans so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the realities of war.

How to Participate in the Project

A participant may be a veteran, an interviewer, or person donating a veteran's collection ([learn more about what we collect](#)). Students in the 10th grade and above may also participate and there are special resources for [educators and students](#).

Take These Four Easy Steps...

[Print the Veterans History Project Field Kit](#) (required forms)

[Prepare for the interview](#)

[Conduct the interview](#)

[Send your collection to the Library of Congress](#)

([Keep a copy for yourself!](#))

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT, The Community Hospice Veterans Partnership needs volunteers to help throughout their five-county service area. Volunteers also are needed to RECORD ORAL HISTORIES OF AREA VETERANS for the Veterans History Project (vhpfirstcoast.org). If interested, email DAN BATTY at dbatty@communityhospice.com

The Vietnam Veterans were the best educated forces United States had sent into combat

One common belief or more of a stereotype about the Vietnam war is that most of the veterans were poor and uneducated, coming from difficult backgrounds and trying to survive in the United States with the minimal. The truth is that 79 percent of the troops had a high school education. That is a lot less compared with the Second World War where only 45 percent of the troops had a completed high school education. The Korean war falls right in the middle with 63 percent of the troops having the education completed.

There were many men who came from well-to-do areas but many of them had a lower chance of dying due to being assigned as pilots or infantry officers. There was a stereotype that many poor people entered the draft just to avoid the misery of having nothing and while that was definitely true for a small number of people, one-third of Vietnam-era veterans entered the military through the draft which in contrast with the Second World War was 66 percent lower.

That is not to say that veterans from the Second World War were anything less than the Vietnam ones but simply that education level had risen in the country as a whole which could easily reflect the draft education levels.

The common stereotypes come mostly from the anti-war resentment that made people have a negative attitude towards the troops. The resentment forced a lot of stereotypes into turning into “truths” that almost everyone believed. Not only were Vietnam veterans labeled as poor and uneducated but many of them were labeled as drug addicts too. The truth is that the American military had never had troops with such high education level.

The Veterans Council is publishing this as a public service as it may affect our readers.

There is no charge to you to make a claim if you were effected.

Since USAA members are Active-Duty, Veterans, and/or their families, this news may apply to you.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For More Info: Chris Hall, Esq., Hall & Lampros, LLP, 404-876-8100, 404-226-7480 (M),
chall@hallandlampros.com

Tracy Markham, Esq. Avolio & Hanlon, PC, 904-794-7005(O), 904-806-3531 (M), tlm@avoliohanlonfl.com

50K Florida USAA Auto Policyholders to Receive Past-Due Sales Tax Averaging More Than \$450 Each if They Make a Claim

(Jacksonville, Fla.) USAA insurance companies agreed to pay an average of more than \$450 in past-due sales tax to approximately 50,000 Florida auto policyholders who experienced total loss claims, based on plaintiff's calculations in a class action lawsuit settlement.

The settlement provides for payments of up to approximately \$34 million. Notice of the settlement will be sent to more than 70,000 policyholders. Plaintiffs calculate that approximately 70% of these policyholders (approximately 50,000) will recover funds under the settlement if they timely submit pre-filled-in claim forms. USAA also agreed to no longer condition the payment of sales tax on the policyholder first purchasing a replacement vehicle.

Each class member will receive an email and mailing from Settlement Administrator Dahl Administration explaining how to make a claim. Claims can be made by mail or at the website USAAFloridaAutoSalesTaxSettlement.com.

All 70,000 total loss policyholders can submit a claim asking USAA to review their file to determine whether there was sales tax underpayment, and in turn USAA will pay the policyholder 108% of any sales tax that should have been paid.

The 2013 lawsuit claims USAA improperly withheld sales tax from total loss payments to auto policyholders. Class members include present and former USAA Florida policyholders who held auto insurance with a USAA company and were paid by USAA under their policy for a total loss to their automobile between October 13, 2008 and October 15, 2016.

Policyholders will receive payment only if they make a timely claim. Approximately 30% of policyholders with total loss claims received all sales tax due from USAA as part of their total loss, and will receive no payment even if they make a claim.

Plaintiffs are represented by Atlanta law firm Hall & Lampros, LLP, (404-876-8100) and St. Augustine, Fla. firm Avolio & Hanlon, PC (904-794-7005). More information can be found at USAAFloridaAutoSalesTaxSettlement.com. The lawsuit is Chantal Bastian, et al. v. USAA, et al., 3:13-cv-01454-TJC, USDC Middle District of Florida.

Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial and Center

Overview and Phasing Plan



MISSION STATEMENT:

Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. The Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial's mission is to preserve the memorial, honor the POW/MIA pilots and service members that were lost over the Vietnam and Desert Storm conflicts, and distinguish the history of NAS Cecil Field as a base, and the major support and combat roles it provided throughout the years.

BACKGROUND:

The only known POW/MIA Memorial in Jacksonville, Florida is located at the former NAS Cecil Field (now Cecil Commerce Center). The memorial is dedicated to those Naval Aviators stationed at NAS Cecil Field during the Vietnam and Desert Storm War eras. The site consists of markers and associated planted trees for each of the 16 POW/MIA pilots (known as Hero's Walk and Freedom Trees), pavilion, stage area, starburst (metal display of aircraft), and a granite base seal of NAS Cecil Field. The Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial was dedicated in 1974 by the families and service members who wanted to ensure these brave men would never be forgotten. A driving force behind the Memorial was Mary Hoff, the wife of MIA LCDR Michael G. Hoff. Mary was also very instrumental in the creation of the POW/MIA Flag, making her the "Betsy Ross" of the POW/MIA flag. This flag has become an important symbol for the POW/MIAs, and the enduring cause that they will never be forgotten. The existing memorial is owned by the City of Jacksonville (herein the "City"). An existing adjacent historic chapel is also owned by the City as well as an existing theatre (Building 333) across the street.

POW/MIA MEMORIAL AND POW/MIA MEMORIAL CENTER:

The Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc. organization is proposing to acquire acreage for this area in a long-term land lease with the City. The vision is to preserve and enhance the existing memorial areas; renovate the Chapel back to use for ceremonies, weddings, and memorial services; initiate a memorial center in the existing theatre (Building 333) with related artifacts and memorabilia; fundraise for design and construction of a new memorial center; and construct a proposed 100,000 SF POW/MIA Memorial Center (reference *Exhibit A* for conceptual phasing plan). The organization is also proposing to relocate, restore, and repaint the F/A-18 Hornet (BuNo162462) located at Cecil Tower, A-7 Corsair (BuNo152650) located at Don Garlits Drag Racing Museum (same aircraft on display at front gate), along with other various aircraft stationed at Cecil for display at the Center. The Center will serve as a memorial for POW/MIAs and veterans with a memorial wall or high relief panels, provide educational programs (including American civics and STEM), and educate the public about POW/MIAs and the history of NAS Cecil Field.

This proposed Center will also provide the ability for veterans to connect with other fellow veterans, organizations and associations making this a premier military venue for Northeast Florida.

Lynn Brannon Florida State Coordinator - Contractor

Building Healthy Military Communities (BHMC)

310 Charlotte Street, St. Augustine, FL 32084

Office: (904) 827-8564, Cell: (904) 229-6440, Fax: (904) 827-8532



Building Healthy Military Communities Pilot

Working for Healthy, Ready, and Resilient Military Communities

What is the Building Healthy Military Communities (BHMC) pilot? BHMC is a multi-year pilot that aims to better understand unique challenges faced by geographically dispersed Service members and their families that may impact their readiness, resiliency, and well-being.

Background: The Department of Defense (DoD) is committed to supporting the health and well-being of Service members and their families. Many Service members live off of installations, creating a unique set of challenges in accessing resources that promote well-being. The DoD is launching the BHMC pilot in response to Senate Report 114-63, which calls a pilot for the "enhancement of recruitment, retention, readiness, and resilience" of the total force.



The BHMC pilot is being conducted in 7 pilot states: **Florida, Indiana, Oklahoma, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, and New Mexico**

Intended Impact: The DoD hopes to better understand resource challenges and develop a comprehensive strategy to support the Chairman's objective of Total Force Fitness (TFF), which is DoD's framework for improving health, readiness, and resiliency of its population through eight domains of fitness (physical, environmental, medical/dental, nutritional, spiritual, psychological, behavioral, and social). The BHMC pilot will inform the TFF Capabilities Based Assessment in evaluating and supporting current programs and services addressing TFF domain areas, identifying any capability gaps, and how the DoD can help meet the gaps.

Methodology & Evaluation: The BHMC pilot will be conducted in three phases:

Phase 1: Complete a Rapid Needs Assessment

Teams of 8 to 10 stakeholders will travel to each state from January to April 2017 to conduct a baseline assessment of available resources, existing needs, and current gaps in optimizing readiness, resiliency, and well-being. Our teams will speak with community program managers, unit leaders, and other resource providers to better understand program goals, successes, and challenges in supporting the local communities in which Service members may reside.

Phase 2: Develop Strategic Plan and Implement Key Interventions

Results of the needs assessment will inform the development of a strategic plan for each state to address identified needs and gaps in each pilot location. Outcomes of the needs assessment will also help tailor the three pilot interventions (described to the right) designed to coordinate DoD, national, state, and local resources.

Phase 3: Evaluate Interventions

The BHMC pilot will be evaluated using process measures and outcome measures. Process measures, such as utilization or awareness of resources, will assess if the interventions are effective in better addressing gaps and needs of Service members and their families. Outcome measures, such as % ready to deploy and health-related quality of life, will track long-term impacts on force readiness.

**Our
fundamental
responsibility
to the nation
is to be a
ready force.**

Gen. Joseph F.
Dunford Jr., Chairman
of the Joint Chiefs of
Staff

Three Key Interventions

1. Implement a State Coordinator



Each state will have a state coordinator to serve as the state focal point for well-being resources and develop a strategic plan to build relationships and leverage DoD, national, state, and local resources.

2. Promote an Information Campaign



We will execute a targeted information campaign to communicate initiatives and publicize outreach efforts to target populations based on need.

3. Utilize Mobile Health Technologies



Utilizing mobile health technologies, we hope to reduce barriers in accessing information and connect target populations with available resources.

For more information, please contact CAPT Kimberly Elenberg at kimberly.j.elenberg2.mil@mail.mil

The first bracelets were made by a **Carol Bates**, who now works for the Defense POW-Missing Persons Office. The bracelets come in various finishes and on each bracelet is engraved, at a minimum, the name, rank, service, loss date, and country of loss of a missing man from the Vietnam War. Here is Carol's article on the origin of the bracelets.

History of the POW/MIA Bracelet

By Carol Bates Brown

In recent months, several individuals have contacted me looking for information on the origin of the POW/MIA bracelets worn during the early 1970s. The following is offered for those interested in learning the history of the bracelet phenomena.



I was the National Chairman of the POW/MIA Bracelet Campaign for VIVA (Voices In Vital America), the Los Angeles based student organization that produced and distributed the bracelets during the Vietnam War. Entertainers Bob Hope and Martha Raye served with me as honorary co-chairmen.

The idea for the bracelets was started by a fellow college student, Kay Hunter, and me, as a way to remember American prisoners of war suffering in captivity in Southeast Asia. In late 1969 television personality Bob Dornan (who several years later was elected to the US Congress) introduced us and several other members of VIVA to three wives of missing pilots. They thought our student group could assist them in drawing public attention to the prisoners and missing in Vietnam. The idea of circulating petitions and letters to Hanoi demanding humane treatment for the POWs was appealing, as we were looking for ways college students could become involved in positive programs to support US soldiers without becoming embroiled in the controversy of the war itself. The relatives of the men were beginning to organize locally, but the National League of POW/MIA Families had yet to be formed.

During that time Bob Dornan wore a bracelet he had obtained in Vietnam from hill tribesmen, which he said always reminded him of the suffering the war had brought to so many. We wanted to get similar bracelets to wear to remember US POWs, so rather naively, we tried to figure out a way to go to Vietnam. Since no one wanted to fund two sorority-girl types on a tour to Vietnam during the height of the war, and our parents were livid at the idea, we gave up and Kay Hunter began to check out ways to make bracelets. Soon other activities drew her attention and she dropped out of VIVA, leaving me, another student Steve Frank, and our adult advisor, Gloria Coppin, to pursue the POW/MIA awareness program. The major problem was that VIVA had no money to make bracelets, although our advisor was able to find a small shop in Santa Monica that did engraving on silver used to decorate horses. The owner agreed to make 10 sample bracelets. I can remember us sitting around in Gloria Coppin's kitchen with the engraver

on the telephone, as we tried to figure out what we would put on the bracelets.

This is why they carried only name, rank and date of loss, since we didn't have time to think of anything else.

Armed with the sample bracelets, we set out to find someone who would donate money to make bracelets for distribution to college students. It had not yet occurred to us that adults would want to wear the things, as they weren't very attractive. Several approaches to Ross Perot were rebuffed, to include a proposal that he loan us \$10,000 at 10% interest. We even visited Howard Hughes' senior aides in Las Vegas. They were sympathetic but not willing to help fund our project. Finally in the late summer of 1970, Gloria Coppin's husband donated enough brass and copper to make 1,200 bracelets. The Santa Monica engraver agreed to make them and we could pay him from any proceeds we might realize.

Although the initial bracelets were going to cost about 75 cents to make, we were unsure about how much we should ask people to donate to receive a bracelet. In 1970, a student admission to the local movie theater was \$2.50. We decided this seemed like a fair price to ask from a student for one of the nickel-plated bracelets. We also made copper ones for adults who believed they helped their "tennis elbow." Again, according to our logic adults could pay more, so we would request \$3.00 for the copper bracelets.

At the suggestion of local POW/MIA relatives, we attended the National League of Families annual meeting in Washington, DC in late September. We were amazed at the interest of the wives and parents in having their man's name put on bracelets and in obtaining them for distribution. Bob Dornan, who was always a champion of the POW/MIAs and their families, continued to publicize the issue on his Los Angeles television talk show and promoted the bracelets.

On Veterans Day, November 11, 1970, we officially kicked off the bracelet program with a news conference at the Universal Sheraton Hotel. Public response quickly grew and we eventually got to the point we were receiving over 12,000 requests a day. This also brought money in to pay for brochures, bumper stickers, buttons, advertising and whatever else we could do to publicize the POW/MIA issue. We formed a close alliance with the relatives of missing men -- they got bracelets from us on consignment and could keep some of the money they raised to fund their local organizations. We also tried to furnish these groups with all the stickers and other literature they could give away.

In all, VIVA distributed nearly five million bracelets and raised enough money to produce untold millions of bumper stickers, buttons, brochures, matchbooks, newspaper ads, etc., to draw attention to the missing men. In 1976, VIVA closed its doors. By then the American public was tired of hearing about Vietnam and showed no interest in the POW/MIA issue.

On June 20, DAV launched its "Unsung Heroes Initiative," a public awareness campaign to honor the dedication and sacrifice of veterans' family caregivers. The successful Capitol Hill event was attended by more than 100 congressional staffers, veterans and military groups and other nonprofit organizations.



During a panel discussion at the launch event, Iraq War veteran and U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth, DAV National Commander Dave Riley and his wife and caregiver Yvonne, as well as two other pre-9/11 disabled veteran-caregiver couples, shared personal stories related to the challenges and needs of caregivers. DAV released its new report, *America's Unsung Heroes: Challenges and Inequities Facing Veteran Caregivers*, which features results from DAV's Veteran Family Caregiver Survey.

Findings from DAV's Caregiver Survey:

Most caregivers are female and more than three fourths are spouses; many are concerned aging will limit their abilities to perform caregiving duties.

Over 80 percent of caregivers believe their role has limited their financial stability, friendships, family life, physical and mental health, and career.

About 75 percent indicate that without their assistance their loved one would be institutionalized now or in the future.

Nearly 90 percent of respondents indicate they have no access to respite care, home health aides, educational tools for caregiving, stipends, or medical training-but most indicate such services would be helpful to them in better managing the care of their loved one.

To access the *America's Unsung Heroes: Challenges and Inequities Facing Veteran Caregivers* report and for more background on the inequity of federal support provided to veterans injured prior to 9/11, click here: www.unsungheroesinitiative.org/.

As part of this initiative, forty-three veterans, military and other nonprofit organizations joined DAV in writing Congress a letter urging passage of the bipartisan Military and Veteran Caregiver Services Improvement Act.

At least 6 Revolutionary War patriots buried in northeast Florida, Duval, Nassau and St. Johns counties cemetery's By News4Jax.com Staff

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. - While Florida wasn't a colony at the time of the American Revolution, there are at least six patriots who fought in the Revolutionary War buried in Northeast Florida.

According to FindGrave.com, there are revolutionaries buried in Nassau, Duval, and St. Johns counties.

Burriss Higginbotham, Amos Latham, John Daniel Vaughn and James Decatur Pelot are buried in Nassau County cemeteries. Capt. John Carroll Houston is buried in Jacksonville, and Juan McQueen is buried in St. Augustine. Higginbotham was born in Virginia in 1759 and died in Georgia in 1816. According to FindGrave.com, a special marker in the Higginbotham Family Cemetery was dedicated in 2005. He is considered a founding father of Nassau County.

Latham is buried in the Bosque Bello Cemetery in Fernandina Beach. Born July 18, 1759 in Groton, Connecticut, Latham was a corporal in the Revolutionary War and the first keeper of Amelia's Lighthouse in 1838. After his death in Fernandina Beach on April 28, 1842, he was buried near the lighthouse with his wife. The Coast Guard sold part of the property and the graves were moved to the current location, according to FindGraves.com.

Vaughn's marker says that he was a Revolutionary War Patriot, and a veteran of the War of 1812 and the Florida Indian Wars. The family cemetery is on land granted by the United States government to the family as a pension in 1832.

Pelot, who was born January 18, 1743 on a plantation near the Euhaw River in South Carolina served as a petit juror and furnished beef to the Army. He died in 1824 on Amelia Island. Family members believe he and his wife were buried in the Vaughan family cemetery because a Pelot descendant married into the Vaughn family.

Houston, who was born in 1756 and died in Duval County in 1838, is buried in the Houston Cemetery on Talbot Island. At least three Confederate Civil War veterans from the family are buried nearby.

McQueen, whose marker that was placed in 2012, calls him both John McQueen and Don Juan McQueen. He was born in 1751 and died in St. Johns County on Oct. 11, 1807. The old Spanish Cemetery, located near the corner of Orange and Cordova streets within the Historical Old City of St Augustine, contains about 175 marked graves. The exact location of McQueen's grave site is no longer marked, hence the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution marker was place near Fr. Miguel O'Reilly's tombstone. O'Reilly was a known colleague of McQueen. He was a sea captain and ship owner. As a Revolutionary War patriot, he had business connections with France and carried letters from George Washington to Jean Lafayette to enlist the aid of the French in the American Revolution, according to an entry on FindGrave.com.



Raising Funds For:
The Missing in America Project
Wreaths Across America
serving Veterans in need
K9's for Warrior



SATURDAY

October 14TH 2017
9AM TEE TIME

Bent Creek Golf Course
10440 Tournament Lane
Jacksonville, Florida 32222

The Air Force Sergeants Association Chapter F0559

Play is Limited to 100 Players (includes Golf, Carts and Lunch)

Pre-registration price: \$75.00 a player or \$65.00 for Military

Day of Event: \$85.00 a player or \$75.00 for Military

Golfer #1: _____
Address: _____
Email: _____
Phone _____

Golfer #2: _____
Address: _____
Email: _____
Phone _____

Golfer #3: _____
Address: _____
Email: _____
Phone _____

Golfer #4: _____
Address: _____
Email: _____
Phone _____

To Register: Fill out included form and email to rswiggs52@comcast.net or mail to AFSA F0559 at 9088 Southwark Drive, Jacksonville, Florida 32257. Make Checks Payable to Air Force Sergeants Association Chapter F0559

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:
Rick Wiggs at 904-703-0601 or email rswiggs52@comcast.net

North Carolina becomes 23rd state to find every photo for their Vietnam fallen

7/03/2017

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) is pleased to announce that North Carolina has become the 23rd state to find every photo for their Vietnam fallen. There are 1,612 service members from North Carolina listed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and now each of them have their photo displayed on the Wall of Faces.

VVMF's Wall of Faces effort aims to connect a face and a story to each of the more than 58,000 names inscribed on The Wall in Washington, D.C. so that future generations will better understand the impact of the Vietnam War on American families. Each name represents a life cut short and a family changed forever by their loss. Putting a face to every name helps further preserve their legacies.

VVMF has dedicated volunteers around the country who help locate photos of those who served and sacrificed. Two of these volunteers who were instrumental in completing North Carolina are Jim and Tom Reece, brothers from Wilmington. They have been involved with the photo collection effort since it began. Jim started by looking for photos of his high school classmates killed in Vietnam. Their work quickly broadened from Wilmington to the entire state of North Carolina and beyond.

Jim spent more than seven years in the Army starting in 1970 but was never sent to Vietnam. He thought that being able to see the faces of the young service members who gave their lives was a powerful way to honor them. Their research involved genealogy websites, newspapers, telephone books, public libraries, military websites and classmates.com. Throughout the years, they had help in their quest. Rosa King from Rowan County got involved and went as far as Oklahoma for one photo.

Just before Memorial Day this year, they posted the photo that made North Carolina complete. The photo was of Spec. 4 Douglas Bane Smith, a native of Durham that was killed in 1968.

Because of the tenacious effort by Jim and Tom Reece and volunteers working on behalf of VVMF all across the country, more than 52,000 photos of service members who sacrificed all in Vietnam have been found and posted to the Wall of Faces. North Carolina joins 22 other states in finding every photo for their fallen. The completed states include:

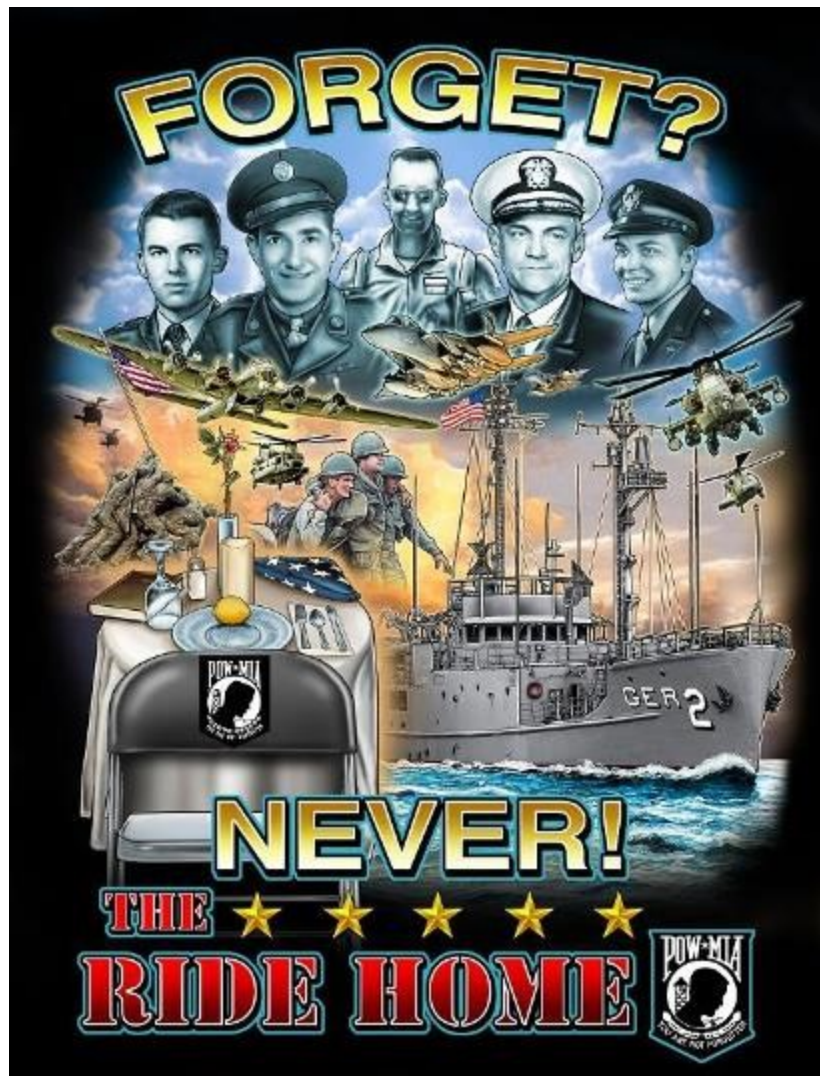
Alaska, , Colorado, Delaware, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming

Submitted photos are currently seen on VVMF's online Wall of Faces, where family and friends can share memories, remembrances, and photos. In the future, the photos will also be displayed at the Education Center at The Wall – an interactive learning facility to be built on the National Mall. The capital campaign to build the Education Center is currently underway and construction will begin once fundraising is complete. To learn more about the future Education Center, please visit: www.buildthecenter.org.

When The Wall That Heals visits Burnsville from October 12 – 15, 2017, photos of the North Carolina service members on The Wall from the surrounding area will be on display.

There are still more than 6,000 photos needed to complete the Wall of Faces effort. If you have a picture of a loved one or fellow veteran whose name is on The Wall, please help VVMF honor these individuals by submitting a photo. VVMF encourages the public to submit as many photos of each service member as possible.







WE ENSURE THE SUCCESS
OF VETERANS BY GIVING
THEM **CONFIDENCE,**
COMMUNITY AND CAREERS.

CONFIDENCE

ONU helps Veterans regain confidence in their skills through classroom training and coaching.



COMMUNITY

ONU inserts Veterans into the business community a network of supporters.



CAREERS

96% of ONU Veterans obtain fulfilling careers in the field of their choosing.



Operation New Uniform offers our community the chance to support our veterans and make a lasting impact in their lives. If you know of veterans in transition, or if you know of someone looking to commit to local veterans, please contact us at:
invest@OperationNewUniform.org

WWW.OPERATIONNEWUNIFORM.ORG

904.328.1600

ONE OUT OF SEVEN FRANCHISES ARE OWNED & OPERATED BY VETERANS



ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRAINING FOR VETERANS - FRANCHISING

ALL ACTIVE DUTY OR VETERANS and their spouses are invited to join us for an informative one-day workshop to include:

- key differences between starting a business from scratch, buying an existing business or investing in a franchise business,
- how new businesses are funded and what options are available for you,
- how you might fit into business ownership,
- first-hand knowledge about searching for the right franchise from current franchisors and franchisees,
- and much more! Bring your questions!

Are you curious about
what it takes to be your
own boss? ←

Do you want some control
over your future work and
lifestyle? ←

Are you looking to build
wealth for the future? ←



Thursday, July 27, 2017

Sign in: 8:30 a.m.

Event: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

UNF Adam W. Herbert University Center

Free breakfast, lunch, parking and copy of "Your Career 2.0" provided!

Register now: www.unf.edu/military-veterans/ETVF.aspx

Generously sponsored by Robert Jacoby



SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 16TH 2017
1PM TEE-OFF
Bent Creek Golf Club
10440 Tournament Lane
Jacksonville, FL 32222

PRESENTS
THE FLORIDA FALLEN HEROES
GOLF CLASSIC

PLEASE HELP SUPPORT THIS GREAT ORGANIZATION THAT IS DETERMINED NOT TO FORGET THOSE WHO HAVE GIVEN THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE FOR OUR FREEDOM.
ALL PROCEEDS GO TO PLACING MONUMENTS AT HIGH SCHOOLS OF FLORIDA FALLEN SOLDIERS.

Individual Golfer - \$110 Team of 4 Golfers - \$400
Includes golf, lunch, prizes, 2 Mulligans & all you can drink Frozen Margarita

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Phone _____

Golfer #4: _____
Address: _____
Email: _____
Phone _____

To register please fill out this form and email to ffhslunger@yahoo.com Please provide each players name, address, phone # and email. Please make checks payable to : FLORIDA FALLEN HEROES and mail to P.O. Box 11293, Jacksonville, FL 32239-1293 or bring payment with you on day of event. Please make sure you register to save your team a place.

**FOR INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT SHARON LYNN UNGER
(904) 680-8115 (CALL OR TEXT) OR FFHSLUNGER@YAHOO.COM**

The Timothy J. Seamans Memorial Foundation is based in the beautiful city of Jacksonville, Florida and was founded by the family of Jacksonville fallen soldier, Timothy J. Seamans, in August 2006. The purpose and mission of this foundation is to create, establish, and help maintain the Fallen Soldier Monument at each hometown high school of a Florida graduates who have lost their lives defending the United States of America in our war against terrorism. The Timothy J. Seamans Memorial Foundation, (Doing Business as Florida Fallen Heroes) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit exempt organization, registered (# CH34311) with the Florida Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Contributions are deductible from federal income as charitable donations under Section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code. Bequests, devises, transfers and gifts made in accordance with section 2055, 2106 or 2522 of the Internal Revenue Code are also tax deductible.

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



We are inviting all veterans to visit our website at:

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

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

Please join our group on Facebook at:
VeteransCouncilofStJohnsCounty,FL

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

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

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

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

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



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

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



**SURVIVOR
OUTREACH SERVICES**

Survivor Outreach Offers Free Services to
Surviving Spouses and Family Members of Military Retirees

Contact Keith Ham

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

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

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

Send to: mrothfeld@anyveteran.org

Please send to: mrothfeld@anyveteran.org



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(physical location)

*The VSO Office is located in the new 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.
Closed for lunch daily from 11:30 am 12:30 pm*

*Service is by appointment.
Phone: 904-209-6160 Fax: 904-209-6161
Joseph McDermott, CVSO
Rick Rees, Assistant VSO
Tammy Shirley, Assistant VSO
Lashonda Burns, Office Specialist*



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.