



# The Patriot Reader Newsletter

P.O. Box 2117

St. Augustine, FL 32085

Bill Dudley, Publisher

Michael Rothfeld, Editor

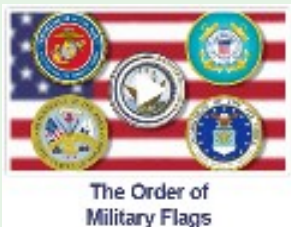
Volume 7, Issue 8

Message from the Chairman

Newsletter Date: August, 2018

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Fellow Veterans:

I trust everyone had a nice Independence Day and celebrated in some fashion to honor our great nation.

We have several great events coming up in the next couple months that are described in more detail in this month's newsletter but I would like to highlight them in my Chairman's letter because it's important that we have a good turnout to support each of them.

The first is the dedication of the POW-MIA Memorial and Museum at Cecil Field on Sept. 22, 2018. The program, entitled "A Gathering in the Pines" will be a dedication of the Chapel of the High Speed Pass which will serve as a gathering place for memorial services, ceremonies, and weddings. An enhancement of the existing Memorial Park and Amphitheater is planned for the future and will be renamed for Mary Hoff, the designer of our POW-MIA flag. The pro-

gram will begin at 0900 and will feature entertainment, several featured speakers including some of our respected elected officials, food vendors, a flyover, and other exciting activities during the day. I will be the Master of Ceremonies for the event. We would like to see a large turnout from our veteran community as we gather to honor our POW-MIA's, especially those who trained at Cecil Field and never returned home.

This year the Veterans Council in collaboration with the MOAA Ancient City Chapter will host a special Veterans Day program at Anastasia Baptist Church on November 12, the recognized holiday since Veterans Day this year falls on Sunday. The St. Augustine High School Chorale will provide the music entertainment singing many of patriotic songs from their repertoire. We will also have the massing of the colors from all our local veterans' organizations. The atrium



area of the Church will be available for any veterans groups who would like to have a table to display information about their organizations. Tables will be available at no charge. We are bringing back the Vietnam traveling wall and Quilt of Tears display that we have had at past events we have hosted at Anastasia Baptist Church. We are expecting a large turnout for this year's Veterans Day program as we celebrate 100 years of honoring our veterans who have served our nation.

Thank you for your service.

Bill Dudley,  
Chairman  
Veterans Council of St.  
Johns County

# Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home



**Independence Day at Clyde E Lassen State Veterans' Nursing Home!!**



**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 Sept. 17, 2018**. The meeting will be at **7:00pm**. The meeting will take place at Community Hospice, **4266 Sunbeam Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32257 in Conference Room A**.

**Jacksonville National Cemetery Support Committee Meetings for 2018  
At Community Hospice of NE FL.**

**4266 Sunbeam Rd, Jacksonville, FL 32257  
Hadlow Bldg – Conference Room A 7:00pm**

**DATES OF 2018 NEXT SCJNC MEETING**

**Monday, Sept 17th**

**Monday, Oct 15th**

**Monday, Nov 5th**

**Monday, Dec 3rd**

**Saturday, Dec 15th - Wreaths Across America (Details TBA)**

**All are invited to attend our meetings and become a part of this Committee.**

**+++++2017/2018 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 Veterans Council of St Johns County will be hosting a Veterans Day event in St Augustine on Monday, November 12 between 10 am and noon at Anastasia Baptist Church.



This event will feature entertainment, JROTC students and veterans organizations display tables. The Military Museum of N FL will have military vehicles as well as uniforms, weapons and music from WW I as we celebrate 100 after the end of the War to end all Wars, WW I.

Our Keynote speaker will be announced shortly.

This year the Council will be hosting this large indoor event instead of a parade.

This will take place on Monday Nov. 12 from 10 am to 11 am at Anastasia Baptist Church, 1650 A1A S, St. Augustine, 32080, a beautiful venue with onsite free parking and seating for 1250.

We will be setting up display tables in the Atrium for veterans groups.

If you represent or are a member of a veterans organization that would like to join us and have a display table please contact me at: [mrothfeld@anyveteran.org](mailto:mrothfeld@anyveteran.org)

Thank you, Michael Rothfeld  
Secretary, VC of SJC



The **Veterans Council** is proud to announce that Tom Waskovich will be the Council's speaker at its January 31, 2019 meeting. Tom lives in St Augustine Beach, was one of the founders of the Veterans Council and its first Chairman.



Tom proudly served his country as a fabled Green Beret. His unit was MACV SOG, Military Assistance Command, Vietnam – Studies and Observations Group, was a highly classified, multi-service United States special operations unit which conducted covert unconventional warfare operations prior to and during the Vietnam War.

### **COMMAND AND CONTROL CENTRAL .**

**SOG was CCN , CCC and CCS .**

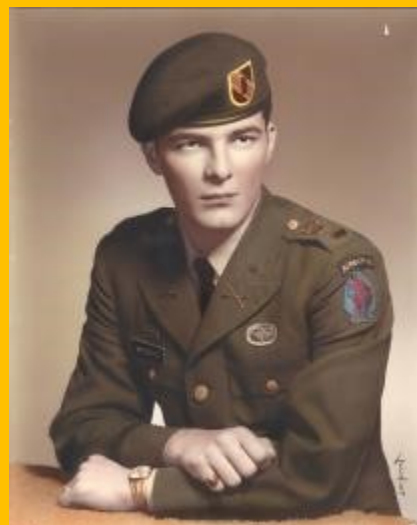
CCN ran missions in north Vietnam and central LAOS .

CCC ran missions in southern Laos and northern Cambodia.

CCN ran missions in Cambodia

CCC had about 300 Americans that ran cross border missions in their history .Of that small amount of men , we had SIX Medal of Honor recipients (AN UNHEARD OF RATIO OF 50 TO 1). Our most recent recipient , Gary Rose, was awarded the Medal a few months ago by President Trump.

I will talk about those men including the 3 I knew personally



## Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial Ceremony

The Ceremony for the Chapel Aviator Wing Unveiling and POW/MIA Parkway Dedication was held on Tuesday, July 10, at Cecil Field. Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter Presidents attended Anthony G D'Aleo Chapter 1046, David Treffinger 1059, John Leslie 1084, Roy Corky Rudd1088, Johnny Crews1134. Also in attendance was Aaron Gary Newman 2vp VVA FSC and Mary Anne Repole Newman AVVA FSC President. The five North Florida Chapters made a donation for a Chapel Pew. Several Chapter VVA Members were in attendance as was POW/MIA League Board Member, Pam Cain.

The request for the name change was initiated earlier in the year by the Cecil Field POW-MIA Memorial, Inc., a nonprofit which has recently taken on the task of renovating and expanding the memorial. The site is a national park located on 26 acres in Northeast Florida at the former Naval Air Station Cecil Field Master Jet Base and now known as Cecil Commerce Center. The shrine was dedicated in 1973 by the families of POW-MIA pilots and servicemembers lost in the Vietnam and Desert Storm conflicts. For more information, please go to <https://www.powmiamemorial.org>

Please visit the Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial website:

<https://www.powmiamemorial.org/attractions/cecil-field-national-pow-mia-memorial-park/>



## **Volusia County will soon officially be one of over 900 locations part of the Purple Heart trail in the U.S.**

*Ormond Beach Observer, by: Jarleene Almenas StaffWriter*

The date is July 19, 1968, and Rod Phillips is an 18-year-old Army soldier in Vietnam.



At that point, he'd been in combat for a little over seven months with the U.S. Army 101st Airborne Division. He used to regularly walk point with a slack man to scout out the land ahead of the company. Ironically, he wasn't actively looking for the enemy when he earned his Purple Heart medal.

"That's a day that I will never forget," Phillips said.

He and the rest of his company walked into an ambush that day in Vietnam. Phillips was shot in the arm, and after recovering, he would remain in Vietnam until the end of the year.

Now, Phillips is the committee chairman for the Military Order of the Purple Heart Volusia County Chapter 316, and he worked with Jeff Bumb, former Volusia County director of veteran services, to bring awareness to all Purple Heart recipients in the area by making Volusia a Purple Heart County. The county issued a proclamation for this effort and qualified it May 1, wrote Pat Kuehn, county community information specialist, in an email.

All that's left to do is present the proclamation to the Volusia County Council, which will take place at the council meeting on Aug. 7 — also known as Purple Heart Day in the U.S. Phillips is inviting every veteran service organization to send a delegate on their behalf, and he's also extending an invitation to all local veterans to attend the County Council meeting.

"We would like to fill the County chambers that day with as many veterans and

families as we possibly can," Phillips said.

He will give a 15-minute presentation to the County Council explaining the Purple Heart Trail and the importance of raising awareness. The Council members will also receive a small token for their support.

"This is a perfect way to honor our Volusia County Purple Heart recipients and to show our support for all our Volusia County Veterans," wrote Dona Butler, interim director for veteran services, in a statement.

The Purple Heart County designation does not cost the County anything.

Phillips began thinking about the initiative since January of this year. As someone who spent 10 years in the military and whose grandfather and father were also in the Army, he continues to help local veterans. This is just another way to raise awareness in Volusia County.

"The designation as a Purple Heart County is an opportunity for the citizens of Volusia County to show our gratitude and to honor the men and women who have given their lives or were wounded in defending our great country," wrote Butler in a statement.





## Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc. Minutes of June 28, 2018

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

Chairman Dudley called the meeting to order at 1902 hours

Chairman Dudley led the Pledge to the Flag, Vice Chairman Ray Quinn gave the Invocation

Last month's Minutes were approved as read

The Treasurer's Report was approved as amended

**Introduction of Guests:** Charlie Tramazzo- Jax USO, Michael Anthony – Gratitude America, Carlos Aviles- Fire Chief City of St. Augustine, Christopher Vedvick-MOPH

**Speakers: Carlos Aviles, Fire Chief** City of St Augustine. Presented Chairman Dudley with T shirts that Fire Dept will wear in November, sell and donate proceeds to a local charity. This project was started by money from the Council.



**Charlie Tramazzo, Greater Jax USO.** The USO Mission is to serve today's active duty on the home front. USO Jax is an independent non-profit that relies 100% on donations. They distribute 12K care packages, phone cards, over 10K free event tickets and over 1 million \$ in-kind services. They have 3 locations, JIA, Mayport & NAS.

**Michael Anthony, Gratitude America** Military Support Retreats are a No Cost 4 day immersive experience designed to help combat veterans and their supporters make peace with their past so they can begin planning for their new mission at home. This is open to all post 9/11 veterans who served



in combat. Retreats provide nature based recreation, kayaking, yoga, & dolphin interactions. Gratitude America is a 501 C3 nonprofit.



### **Committee Reports:**

**Mac:** Pending House Bill 4556 would provide dental care to all veterans. Also pending Blue Water Navy Bill- has passed House, on the way to the Senate.

**Steve:** for Kathy, 21 veterans were interred in Cape Canaveral Ntl Cemetery last weekend. It was well attended, over 250+, with volunteers from all branches.



Council of 5 County Presidents- ALL Invited Saturday September 22 as part of National POW/MIA Day, a Ceremony in The Pines.



**John L:** 26 in total have enrolled in county VTC. Next graduation July 19 all are invited.

VVA State Council last weekend, John McGinty 2nd VP, Bob Dinkins Chaplain

**Bill:** spoke about the county POW/MIA flag raising, and the county becoming a Purple Heart county. Well attended Memorial Day services at Jax. National Cemetery and St. Augustine National Cemetery

**Ray:** Army Birthday attended by non Army VC members, Bill, John M., and John L. Hamblen House restaurant open and serving great food indoors and out. The last weekend in July the VC will be at AL 37 with a fund raising table.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

The next meeting of the Veterans Council will be on Thursday, July 26, 7 pm in the Health & Human Services Building, 200 San Sebastian View.

Future speakers:

**July 26, Bret Sovine,** Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association 20-2

**Scot A. French, Ph.D.** Associate Professor of History | Director of Public History, Interim Co-Director, Center for Humanities & Digital Research, University of Central Florida

**August 30, Jason Snodgrass,** Chief Operating Officer, K9s For Warriors

**September 27, Charles Tingley,** St. Augustine Historical Society, Senior Reference Librarian, 100 Years Ago: St. Johns County & WW I.

**October 25, Dr. Michael Butler,** Flagler College, "My trips to Vietnam"

**November 29, Andrew Coughlan,** Wounded Warrior Project, Resource Development

**December 27, Margaret Kaplan,** Administrator, Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home

# The Military Museum of North Florida

## CURATOR'S COMMENTS

By Jerry Timoney



On June 9, 2018 the last of the World War II German U-Boat Aces, Reinhard Hardegan passed away at the age of 105. What makes Hardegan unique to the North Florida area is that he sank the Gulf America, an oil tanker, right off the shores of Jacksonville Beach. This event happened on the night of April 10, 1942 on her maiden voyage from Port Arthur, Texas to New York, carrying a cargo of 101,500 barrels of oil. On that Spring evening the Gulf America was illuminated by the lights of the Jacksonville Beach boardwalk, which wasn't observing blackout, at that time, making it easy prey for the German U-Boat 123 , which Hardegan commanded. Shortly after 10PM the U-123 fired a torpedo, which hit the Gulf America stopping it instantly. She then surfaced to finish the Gulf America off with her deck gun. Knowing that civilians on the beach might be hit by the shells, Hardegan maneuvered his boat to ensure that the shells from the deck gun would not hit the shore where civilians watched the burning Gulf America. A total of 19 crew members died that April evening. The U-123 escaped the pursuit of the US Navy and eventually returned to its base at L'Orient, France.

Although Hardegan had numerous kills, a total of 22 ships altogether, he is remembered in North Florida as an enemy who showed North Floridians the face of war.

After Hardegan finished his command of U-123, he served as an instructor at the U-Boat Training Flotilla in Gotenhafen, Germany, and then commanded the Torpedo School in Murwik, where he oversaw the testing and development of new

types of torpedoes. At the end of the war, as the British Army closed in on Bremen, Hardegan was made a battalion commander of naval infantry, where he led his sailors to fight as ground forces until he was hospitalized for diphtheria. He ended the war as a member of Admiral Donitz's staff in Flensburg. He was then arrested by the British and accused of being an SS officer and had to prove that he was a naval officer. After the war, Hardegan built an oil trading company, which proved to be very successful. He even served as a member of Germany's Parliament.



While many saw the U-Boat captains as an evil group of NAZIs, it must be remembered that US submarine commanders were sinking Japanese merchant shipping off the home islands throughout World War II. In a way, Hardegan can be seen as an honorable enemy. He followed the rules of war, and even delayed his departure after sinking the Gulf America in order to protect civilians on the shore from being hit by his shells. The Military Museum of North Florida will be establishing an exhibit on the sinking of the Gulf America to commemorate World War II in North Florida.

References: Gannon, Michael. Operation Drumbeat, The Dramatic Story of Germany's First U-Boat Attacks Along the American Coast in World War II. May 1, 1990.

Goldstein, Richard. Reinhard Hardegan, Who Led U-Boats to America's Shore, Dies at 105. New York Times, June 17, 2018.

**Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley honored a 100 year old Navy veteran at Ponte Vedra Nursing Home with a plaque from the Veterans Council. At our last Navy League meeting, we had a Navy vet join our council who is also 100 years old. He drove himself to the meeting. These veterans all have to be recognized and honored.**





*Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley is a member of the FL Defense Support Task Force which made the following Grant to six projects to protect military installations across the state.*

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Today, Governor Rick Scott announced that \$1,469,000 has been awarded through the Florida Defense Support Task Force Grant Program to six projects to protect military installations across the state. This year, awards were given to the South Florida Progress Foundation, Polk County, Clay County Development Authority, Bay County, the Central Florida Planning Region and Gulf Coast State College. Florida’s military and defense industry contribute more than \$84.9 billion in economic impact, and the industry supports more than 801,747 jobs in Florida, which is the second largest economic sector in the state.

Governor Scott said, “This week I had the opportunity to travel to Kuwait to visit Florida troops and to see firsthand the important work they are doing to protect our nation’s freedoms. We can never do enough to support our military and veterans and I am proud to award these important grants to an industry that contributes nearly \$85 billion to our economy. Through this more than \$1.4 million investment, we are able to not only protect our military installations, but also create jobs and economic growth in these communities that do so much for our men and women in the military.”

This grant funding will support community projects at Florida military installations that will diversify the local economy, provide support for local infrastructure projects and strengthen Florida’s bases ahead of any potential Department of Defense realignment or closure actions. For more information on the individual grant awards for projects throughout the state, see below:

## Cecil Field POW/MIA National Memorial

There are over 82,000 military personnel still missing in action dating back to the World War II.

There is a move a foot to redevelop the current Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial which is located on the west side of Jacksonville and long forgotten into a National POW/MIA Memorial.



It would be the first of its kind in the Nation.

The mission statement of the organizing group states: “Honor all former prisoners of war; remember and never forget those missing in action heroes and the families that seek their return.”

The organization’s objective is to honor former Prisoners of War (POWs) and those who remain Missing in Action (MIAs) from all branches of the military.

The project which will cost \$25-30 early million has the support of Florida’s two U.S. Senators – Marco Rubio and Bill Nelson – along with U.S. Senator John McCain, a former Vietnam POW from Arizona, U.S. Congressman John Rutherford (Florida 4th District) and the National League of POW. MIA Families. It is projected to five to six-year endeavor with initial ground-breaking several years down the road.

How did Cecil Field and Jacksonville become the projected site of the national memorial? For one there is no national POW/MIA Memorial in the nation.

A non-profit was formed because Michael Cassata, the son of a former Navy man who served at Cecil Field and NAS Jacksonville, didn’t like the way the present-day site looked.

“We realized quickly that next to the Chapel there was 16 markers of pilots,” Cassata, executive director of the Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, said. “That’s kind of where it started. We did organize a couple to teams to come out and clean the area up and worked with the City of Jacksonville. We worked with the City of Jacksonville to come with a plan for that property and we weren’t happy with just a few acres. We wanted a lot more to protect the whole area.”

In addition, getting more involved with the POW/MIA issue Cassata quickly realized that there was not a national memorial in the country.

It was the idea of Sam Houston, retired Navy Captain and former commanding officer at Cecil Field, who announced the closing of Cecil in 1993.

“So that when things kind of expanded upon and we got with our engineer and came up with this idea to incorporate a whole national memorial for the country to include all POW/MIA’s,” Cassata said.

The first project is renovating the Chapel, known as the “Chapel of the High-Speed Pass” which was originally dedicated in 1963 and was a part of NAS Cecil Field. The Chapel serves as a focal point in this effort, as we restore the current chapel building. While the chapel will serve as the centerpiece for honoring former POWs and past and present MIAs, this organization will be building a place of education, respite, and reflection of their sacrifices.

Currently, there is an existing Memorial Park which is dedicated to those Naval Aviators stationed at NAS Cecil Field during the Vietnam and Desert Storm Wars. Cecil Field was decommissioned as an active naval installation on Sept. 30, 1999.

The site currently consists of markers and associated planted trees for each of the 16 pilots (known as Hero’s Walk and Freedom Trees), a pavilion with a stage area, a starburst metal display of aircraft, and a granite base seal of this former Master Jet Base. The City of Jacksonville approved a City ordinance to lease this 26-acre property to the organization at the former NAS Cecil Field Master Jet Base (now known as Cecil Commerce Center).

The “Vietnam War Memorial” at Cecil Field was originally dedicated on September 11, 1973 by the families and service members who wanted to ensure these brave men would never be forgotten.

Trees were planted for each pilot and markers added with engravings. A driving force behind establishing the memorial was Mary Hoff, wife of MIA pilot LCDR Michael G. Hoff. Along with other spouses and family members, they assisted in making the memorial a reality.

Mary Hoff was also instrumental in developing the universal symbol known as the POW/MIA flag.

Besides the American flag, this is the only other flag authorized to fly over the White House and the only other flag that can fly on the same pole as the American flag. Undoubtedly, this flag has become a very important symbol for the POWs and MIAs, their families and friends, and the enduring cause that they will never be forgotten.

The Cecil Field National POW/MIA Memorial Park, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with a mission is to educate the public through awareness of the POW/MIA issues, exhibits, artifacts, videos and memorabilia. The importance of the POW/MIA symbol is to never forget these brave heroes who all have a story to tell and their families seeking their return.

## **Relatives of pilots lost in battle describe hope for Cecil Field Memorial**

First Coast News Author: Julia Jenae

At Cecil Field's memorial to those missing in action and prisoners of war, 16 Cecil Field pilots who were marked as MIA are honored beside a chapel and under towering trees all with trunks painted yellow.

For the families of service members that never made it home, every day brings the hope of answers.

One family received word in May later explaining their loved ones remains were identified when a single tooth was found in Vietnam now 42 years later, according to a Florida Times-Union report.

The family still looking for answers after tooth of Cecil Field pilot found in Vietnam

The tooth belonged to Cecil Field pilot Lt. Cmdr. Larry R. Kilpatrick, missing in action during the Vietnam War. As of June, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency reports 82,334 military personnel unaccounted for from all past U.S. conflicts. From World War II, 72,906 people have not been located; 1,597 remain missing from the Vietnam War.

At Cecil Field's memorial to those missing in action and prisoners of war, 16 Cecil Field pilots who were marked as MIA are honored beside a chapel and under towering trees all with trunks painted yellow.

Cynde Covington of Jacksonville's father is one of the 16 named along the 'Hero's Walk of Freedom Trees.' She was 12 years old when Navy Commander Fred Wright deployed to Vietnam and never returned home to Cecil Field.

It would be 20 years later in 1992 when she said U.S. officials confirmed the Vietnamese government was releasing her father's remains.

"For me, it's not just about what happened in my family, it's about the fact that if we are going to ask young men and women to go and defend our country... they need to know that we will do anything and everything to bring them home," Covington said. "If they are not alive, then to bring their remains and let their families know what happened to them."



Covington is a member of a board working to complete a National POW MIA Memorial and Museum on 26 acres leased from the City of Jacksonville.

The memorial will display the over 82,000 names of POW/MIA from all branches of the military.

Pam Cain of Sarasota who works with the League of Families looks forward to the future museum becoming a destination for families like hers across the country.

"It will be a place of peace and to show hope and to show our country, should something happen to anyone in the armed forces, 'we're not going to forget them,'" Cain said. "It's our nation's promise to anyone who signs on that dotted line."

Cain's father, Col. Oscar Mauterer, was listed as missing in action after reports his plane was shot down in 1966. She said his comrades saw him parachute away from the plane crash site, however his remains have not yet been located.

"I have vivid memories of him, he was very involved in my life," Cain said. "To this day I work to bring him home."

Cain said she doesn't use the word 'closure' for those whose loved ones are identified, but she said answers can help a family heal.

"We are still grieving, part of our lives is still missing," Cain said. "You've got this ongoing hole in your heart because there is no resolution. You don't know what their fate was."



*Save the Date*



*Vets 4 Vets*

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**Quarterly Gathering of Veterans  
Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

Veterans Memorial Arena  
300 A Phillip Randolph Blvd  
Jacksonville, FL 32202

1030 – 1100

Coffee, Networking and Exhibitors

1100 – 1215

Speakers

1215 – 1300

Free Lunch, Networking and Exhibitors

Listen, Learn, and  
Let your Voice be Heard

**TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER!!**

## Digital mapping brings veterans' stories to life By Colleen Jones, St Augustine Record

Holding up a copy of the etching on one of the headstones, Scot French stood in the St. Augustine National Cemetery on Tuesday and had a student read aloud the description for one Lt. J.W.S. McNeil.



He asked the group — an assortment of home-schooled students from Orlando — what the words could tell us about the way McNeil, a U.S. Army veteran of the Second Seminole War, lived and died.

French, an associate professor of history at the University of Central Florida, pointed out it was interesting the narrative specified that the 21-year-old was killed by Uchee Billy, a Seminole chief, in 1837.

He then had the group examine the text on another headstone, this one for Dr. Charles Noyes, a 27-year-old Army surgeon who “never knew a stranger,” as noted by his loved ones.

“I think the detail of the emotion here is pretty amazing,” commented Connie Linch, an eighth-grader from Geneva.

Through the work French, his colleagues, undergraduate and graduate students of UCF are doing, the aim is to use technology to help bring the stories of veterans from many chapters of American history to life.

The Veterans Legacy Program, a joint project of the National Cemetery Administration and educational partners like the University of Central Florida, is in the process of digitally mapping and cataloguing all 1,227 grave sites at the St. Augustine National Cemetery, including those of Noyes and McNeil. By later this year, an “augmented reality” mobile application will allow smartphone users to hold their device up to a headstone which will then pull up the matching background information on that specific veteran.

The project at UCF is being led by associate professor Amelia Lyons. Since 2016, the group has used primary source-based research to learn more about veterans buried in St. Augustine as well as the Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, an offshoot of the same project. The goal of the student-authored biographies is to frame those stories in greater historical context and with richer personal details. Eventually, they will all be compiled on this website: <https://vlp.cah.ucf.edu/>. The group hopes to finish its work in time for Veterans Day, when the mobile app will also be available for visitors.

The St. Augustine National Cemetery was established as a 1.5-acre burial place on the grounds of a military post, the St. Francis Barracks, with the first known plot in 1828. The cemetery is closed to new interments. Veterans from the following American wars are memorialized there: War of 1812, Second Seminole War, Civil War, Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, Korean War and Vietnam War.

The Dade Monument is made up three coquina pyramids erected in 1842 to mark the end of the Seminole Wars. The monuments pay homage to the 1,468 soldiers who died during the wars, some of whose remains are contained within.

The headstone for one plot in the cemetery reads simply: “Six unknown Indians.”

“But now,” French said, “they are unknown no longer because of the research we’re doing to fill in the blanks.”

Another goal of the Veterans Legacy Program is to create a K-12 curriculum around the project which allows students to interact with the data at a grade-appropriate level for use by teachers nationwide. UCF faculty led the home-schooling group through what they called a “Day of Learning” Tuesday at the St. Augustine National Cemetery.

Said Glenn Powers, deputy under-secretary for field programs with the National Cemetery Administration for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, said, “I think any of our national cemeteries are extraordinary places to learn about service and sacrifice. .. It’s said that no veteran ever dies, and with programs like this their lives live on, their stories go on.”

The Veterans Council would like to thank Rod Phillips for presenting the Veterans Council of St Johns County's 5 documentary series to the Veterans Museum and Education Center of Volusia County. The documentaries feature the stories of local FL veterans.



**Veterans Museum & Education Center Inc.**

*A Tribute to American Patriots - Our Veterans*

166 S. Beach St., Daytona Beach, FL  
Second Floor of "Tic Toe" Store Building  
[www.VMAEC.org](http://www.VMAEC.org)  
PO Box 407, Daytona Beach FL 32115

Advisory Council:

Michael Dunn Lt General USAF  
Sherman Overby Captain USN  
Skip Keating Colonel USA  
Bobby Colella 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt USA  
Brad Purdom MGY Sgt USMC  
Rod Phillips Sgt USA Abn

June 6, 2018

The Veterans Council of St. John's County, Inc.  
P.O. Box 2117  
St. Augustine, Florida 32085

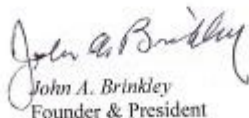
We wish to express our most sincere thanks to you for the kind donation of the five documentaries which focus on heroic stories of local veterans primarily from NE Florida to the Veterans Museum and Education Center.


It is through donations like yours that we are able to keep alive our past history and enlighten people on the extent of the sacrifice that has been made by many in order to keep the freedoms we enjoy in this country today.

These documentaries have been placed in our library.

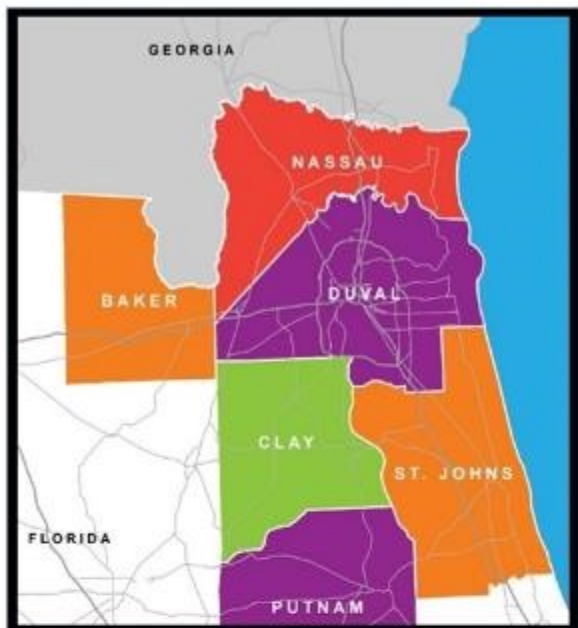
The Veterans involved at the Museum also pass on their thanks and appreciation. If any of your members are in our area we would be delighted to welcome you to the Museum.

Sincerely,

  
John A. Brinkley  
Founder & President

  
Margaret H. Tedrick  
Secretary/Treasurer

# Veteran County Councils of Northeast Florida



## Duval County

President: Steve Spickelmier

Meetings:

Third Tuesday of each month in the 40/8 Building

Located at the American Legion Post 137  
5443 San Juan Avenue

7pm

## Nassau County

President: Paul Kicker, Chairman  
Veterans Council of Nassau County

76347 Veterans Way,  
Veterans Service Office

Yulee, FL 32097

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

## Baker County

President: Larry Porterfield

Meetings:

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

Contact:

Baker County Veterans Council  
PO Box 1434  
MacClenny, FL 32063

## Clay County

President: Bob Brewster

Meetings: First Wednesday of  
each month

Location varies between the  
different Veteran Organizations.

Time varies

## St. Johns County

President: Bill Dudley

Meetings:

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

Contact:

[info@VeteransCouncilofStJohns.org](mailto:info@VeteransCouncilofStJohns.org)

## **Coast Guard Barracks at St. Augustine Lighthouse Restored**

St Augustine Record By Colleen Jones

Despite retraction of a state grant late last year, the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum in Florida has completed restoration of the original U.S. Coast Guard barracks built on the grounds during World War II.

Constructed in 1941 in response to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the headquarters played a vital role in the defense of St. Augustine and the country, thwarting a potential attack by a German U-boat spotted off the coast by guardsmen in April 1942.

The barracks themselves housed as many as six men at a time and included bunk beds, a small kitchen and living space and a bathroom. It remained in service until sometime in the 1950s.

In recent years, the little white building with the shingled roof had been used as research offices for the Lighthouse & Maritime Museum's archaeology division.

Plans for its restoration go back several years. Earlier in 2017, lighthouse staff were informed they were approved for a grant application to move forward with the project. However, the state's Historical Commission later moved the barracks restoration down on its list of priority grants. Thanks to a \$500,000 grant through the Florida Division of Historical Resources (which will go toward other projects at the museum as well) and private donations, renovation work began this year. In keeping with the military history of the lighthouse grounds, the effort to raise money for the project was called "Bonds for Barracks" -- much like war bonds were sold to raise money for the war effort.

The latest addition to the museum's displays was officially opened to visitors on May 31, complete with period swing music that streams from a Victrola, giving visitors a glimpse of what life was like for the Coast Guardsmen -- or "Coasties," as they were called -- who lived there.

"We want to help tell the story of the Coast Guard's response to World War II in this area," said Brenda Swann, director of the museum's interpretive division.

During World War II, the St. Augustine Lighthouse stood as a protective beacon against the

threat of enemies. The lighthouse was dimmed because its beam was being used by the German subs to spot allied ships making runs up and down the coast.

The guardsmen lived there served as lookouts at the top of the lighthouse or conducting beach patrols on horseback or by Jeep, according to Swann.

The Coast Guard used the Hotel Ponce de Leon in downtown St. Augustine as an additional training center and barracks, hosting recruits from across the country.

The second phase of the barracks project is to display the thousands of objects and photos the lighthouse has kept in its archives. Some of those artifacts include Coast Guard-issued soap, uniforms, letters sent home to parents from guardsmen and oral histories from the people who lived in St. Augustine during World War II.

In the meantime, a temporary exhibit showcases the art of civilian and U.S. Coast Guardsmen who depict the everyday life of a Coast Guard officer. Swann believes the permanent exhibit should be in place by spring 2020.

The St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum also recently restored the green-roofed building used by the Coast Guard as a Jeep repair facility and garage, adjacent to the barracks. It now houses a visitor cafe.





## **Nease NJROTC named 5th Most Outstanding Unit in the nation**

*Photos courtesy of Scott LaRochelle*

*By Samantha Logue*

Allen D. Nease High School's NJROTC Unit recently added yet another impressive achievement to an already successful year when it was selected the fifth Most Outstanding NJROTC Unit in the country by Naval Service Training Command.

The national honor comes on the heels of the program's recent distinction as the Most Outstanding Unit in Area 12, which encompasses 60 schools throughout North Florida and all of Georgia, for the sixth time in seven years.

"It truly (was) a group effort, and the 234 cadets in the unit would not have received this prestigious recognition without the consistent efforts of every cadet, and especially without the guidance of our remarkable instructors," said Cadet Cmdr. Arbelyn Short, Nease NJROTC's outgoing battalion commander. "Earning fifth out of 583 units in the nation is absolutely incredible, and I am so thrilled that our unit was rewarded for an amazing year's long effort."

According to Capt. Scott LaRochelle, senior naval science instructor for Nease NJROTC, the unit's continued success can be attributed to its standard of excellence.

"Nease NJROTC succeeds because its cadets, parents, school administration and instructors set the highest standards, then set about a course to meet those goals through hard work and dedication," LaRochelle said. "We will never be outworked by our competitors. We have one speed, and that's full speed ahead in all we do."

The selection process for the award, LaRochelle said, involves the compilation of data regarding the unit's activities and earned distinctions throughout the year.

"The 60 schools within Area 12, we all submit what's called an End of Year Report," LaRochelle explained. "We submit that to our Navy area manager, and he goes through the validations and makes sure the reports are accurate. He makes the choice and he chooses the No. 1 unit in Area 12."

Following each of the area managers' decisions, the top five Most Outstanding Units in the nation are selected by Naval Service Training Command in Pensacola. For NJROTC Area 12 Manager and retired Cmdr. Rustie Hibbard, Nease NJROTC stood out from the pack for its persistent commitment to excellence.

“The most remarkable aspect of their success is the extended timeframe it covers, which has included changes of instructor leadership and school administrations,” Hibbard noted. “This consistency is a true tribute to the dedication of the instructor team and the commitment of the cadet corps as a whole. They are a nationally-recognized program for that very reason.”

Even with this national distinction under the unit’s belt, however, LaRochelle confirmed that Nease NJROTC’s drive for excellence will not be letting up any time soon.

“Our goal isn’t to be one of the top programs in our area,” he said. “Our goal every year is to be the No. 1 program in our area, and then from there, our goal is to be the No. 1 program in the nation. And I don’t think those goals are born out of arrogance. We’ve got a work ethic, we’ve got a mindset and we’ve got a bunch of cadets that like to work hard, are motivated and engaged, and with each taste of success that they get, they’re inclined to work harder for it.”

Specifying marksmanship and orienteering as areas for improvement, LaRochelle said he is already looking ahead, planning ways to incorporate this year’s lessons learned into next year’s training.

“At the end of the day, it’s really (about) work ethic,” he said. “If a cadet puts the time, the effort and the energy in, success is going to follow, but we’ve got to keep the kids motivated.”



Hello everyone,

We are trying to get the band back together. August 9th is Military Appreciation night. It's a Thursday. We would like to rent out the lower deck Its \$20 per person but includes a 90 minute buffet of Hamburgers/Hotdogs with sides. I think its water and tea but you can purchase soda/beer there if that's your preference. the buffet starts at 6pm and the game starts at 705pm. It would be a fun night for all of us to get to know each other and reach a big number of veterans in the community.



What we need to do: Create a registration sign-up for each organization and a cutoff date for people to register.

It should be a fun family friendly event.

## **The Drive for a veterans hospital, FL Times Union by Joe Daraskevich**

### **The nearest VA Hospital is in Gainesville, sparking complaints and maybe now some action**

[www.jacksonville.com/news/20180706/lack-of-va-hospital-in-jacksonville-means-long-drives-for-certain-types-of-care](http://www.jacksonville.com/news/20180706/lack-of-va-hospital-in-jacksonville-means-long-drives-for-certain-types-of-care)

#### **LAST 10 VA HOSPITALS TO OPEN**

New Orleans, opened 2017. Current veteran population in metro area: 63,145

Orlando, opened 2015. Current veteran population in metro area: 139,801

Las Vegas, opened 2012. Current veteran population in metro area: 141,476

Detroit, opened 1996. Current veteran population in metro area: 209,616

West Palm Beach, opened 1995. Current veteran population in Miami metro area: 204,522

Seattle, opened 1994. Current veteran population in metro area: 241,776

Houston, opened 1992. Current veteran population in metro area: 267,689

Baltimore, opened 1992. Current veteran population in metro area: 173,616

Portland, Ore., opened 1988. Current veteran population in metro area: 147,603

**Metro Jacksonville's current veteran population: 144,569**

All veteran populations are according to 2016 American Community Survey



### Seminole War Commemoration August 18

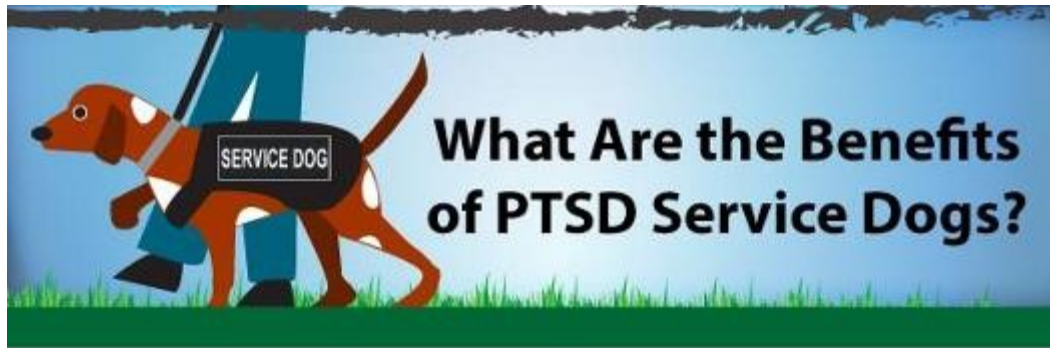
The 11th Annual Seminole War Commemoration will be held Saturday, August 18, at the St. Francis Barracks and National Cemetery on Marine Street, presented by The West Point Society of North Florida.

The commemoration recognizes the procession and burial of officers and soldiers killed during the Seminole Indian Wars, also called the Florida War, the most costly and longest Indian war in US history and a war without surrender, simply ended by American officers.

Reenactors will reprise the solemn procession of August 14, 1842, along Marine Street to the cemetery, with a wreath laying and comment, followed by lunch and reception in the Officers Club.

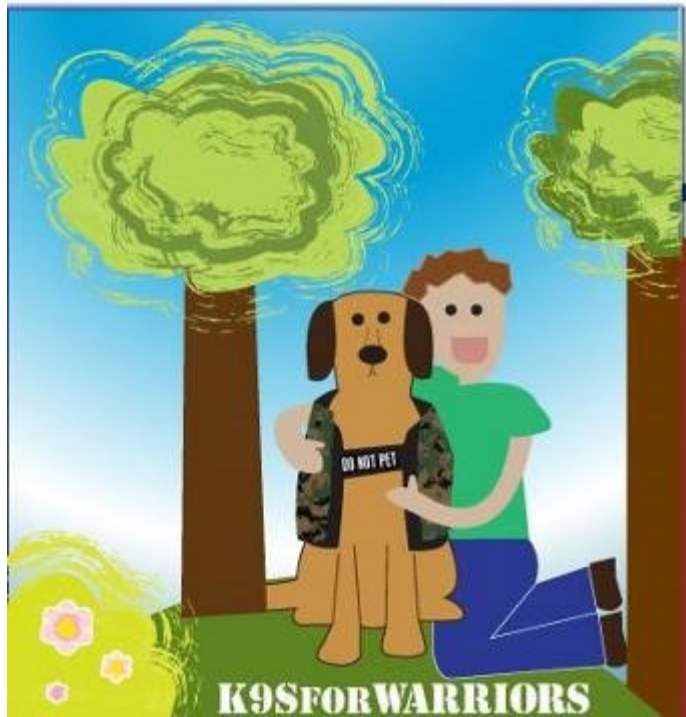
The ceremonies are free with a \$20 registration fee for the luncheon. For more information contact Mark Tolzmann at [Mark3370@hotmail](mailto:Mark3370@hotmail.com)





# What Are the Benefits of PTSD Service Dogs?

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



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

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

## Cecil Field road renamed for prisoners of war, missing in action

Rendering showing new wings for the Chapel of the High-Speed Pass, part of the POW-MIA Memorial at Cecil Field.

Jacksonville City Council took unanimous action May 22 to rename a local road the POW-MIA Memorial Parkway in honor of former prisoners of war and the more than 82,000 servicemen and women still considered missing in action.

New World Avenue, which runs from Cecil Field north to Normandy Boulevard, will soon see new signage, which will include something typically prohibited by the government – a hyphen. City Council waived a 15-year-old ordinance which requires street name changes not include hyphenation. Ordinance Code,

Section 745.105 (g) states “A proposed street name shall not exceed 30 characters in length, including directional and street type information, and shall not include special characters, hyphenation or abbreviations.”

The request for the name change was initiated earlier in the year by the Cecil Field POW-MIA Memorial, Inc., a nonprofit which has recently taken on the task of renovating and expanding the memorial. The site is a national park located on 26 acres in Northeast Florida at the former Naval Air Station Cecil Field Master Jet Base and now known as Cecil Commerce Center. The shrine was dedicated in 1973 by the families of POW-MIA pilots and servicemembers lost in the Vietnam and Desert Storm conflicts.

Renovations include restoration of the Chapel of the High-Speed Pass, a mid-century modern building. A new roof was put on, interior electrical work completed, and painting is underway. Angel Corrales, manager of American Window Preservation LLC, was selected to refinish four doors on the chapel and reseal two of the 26 windows on the sides of the chapel. Corrales, who grew up in Riverside, has been active in window preservation projects for many historic properties in the Riverside Avondale area.

“We saw Angel’s passion right away and knew he was the right guy for the project,” said Michael Cassata, executive director. The nonprofit thought it would have to replace the windows and had received a bid of \$50,000 just for the 40-plus windows in the gable. “Angel recommended we keep the original windows, so we’re excited about that,” said Cassata.

Additionally, two sets of wings are being constructed by 3D Forge and will be affixed to the chapel’s exterior. The A-7 Corsair Association funded the Aviator Wings and the Viking Association funded the Naval Flight Officer Wings.

Dedication of the wings and a road renaming ceremony will be held on the steps of the chapel Tuesday, July 10, at 9 a.m.

The chapel at Cecil Commerce Center was originally dedicated in 1963, serving NAS Cecil Field, and serves as a focal point of the nonprofit’s plans to create a place of education, respite and reflection on the sacrifices of POWs and MIAs.

In addition to donations, Cecil Field POW-MIA Memorial, Inc. is offering opportunities to purchase pews for the chapel, as well as brick pavers for the Memorial Benefactor Plaza. Details can be found at [www.powmiamemorial.org](http://www.powmiamemorial.org).

By Kate A. Hallock, Resident Community News



From the front page of the FLTimes Union:  
**Military Museums backers face long road, big challenges**

<http://www.jacksonville.com/news/20180721/military-museum-backers-face-long-road-big-challenges>



## Chapel Pew Restoration Campaign

6112 New World Avenue, Jacksonville, FL 32221  
 (904) 303-8907  
[www.powmiamemorial.org](http://www.powmiamemorial.org)





The Chapel at Cecil Commerce Center was originally dedicated in 1963 as part of NAS Cecil Field. The Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc. organization's objective is to honor former Prisoners of War (POWs) and those who remain Missing in Action (MIAs) from all branches of the military. The Chapel serves as a focal point in this effort, as we restore the current chapel building. While the chapel will serve as the centerpiece for honoring former POWs and past and present MIAs, this organization will be building a place of education, respite, and reflection on their sacrifices.

To bring the historic chapel back to its intended use, we are seeking donations for the renovation of the chapel as well as the ability to purchase a pew in someone's honor or memory. If you would like to purchase a full pew (\$1,500) or donate towards the purchase of a pew, please fill out the information below. Each donor will be recognized on a plaque displayed in the chapel.



Donations and payments can be made on our website at [www.powmiamemorial.org](http://www.powmiamemorial.org) or mailed to:

**Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc.**  
**ATTN: Chapel Pews**  
**6112 New World Avenue**  
**Jacksonville, FL 32221**

Purchaser Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of                       In Memory of

Name(s) In Honor /In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Purchase:  Pew (\$1500) Qty: \_\_\_\_\_  Donation Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

CECIL FIELD POW/MIA MEMORIAL IS A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION - REGISTRATION NUMBER: CH51569. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE, 800 435 7352, WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. CECIL FIELD POW/MIA MEMORIAL IS AN IRS 501(C)(3), PUBLIC CHARITY. ID# 31954. CONTRIBUTIONS ARE DEDUCTIBLE.







# *“A Gathering in the Pines”*

In Support of:



**Cecil Field  
POW★MIA  
MEMORIAL**

**and Museum**

**September 22, 2018**

**9AM - 5PM**

**Location : Cecil Field - Conference Center**

**OPEN TO PUBLIC**

**Veterans and their Families**

**VETERANS COUNCILS OF**

**BAKER, CLAY, DUVAL**

**NASSAU, ST. JOHNS**

**COUNTIES**

*From John Burgess, Veterans Council of Duval County*

The 2nd Gathering in the Pines Meeting yesterday July 15th, 2018 went well. It was great having so many representatives from Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau and St Johns County present.

We accomplished so much and the excitement of gathering veterans' organization in the pines was high. To gather all of us around the POW-MIA Memorial/Museum 5-year project was well accepted. A gathering of Veterans around the universal cause POW-MIA.

In-work: Music, Food, and an Honors Guard with a flag presentation. The old base theater will be showing 20 min repeatedly video about POW-MIA "Solemn Promise"! Guess speakers are in-work. Walk through the pines showing where the museum will be. Children activities and more. There is even talk about a flyover. If we can get through the red tape, a drone visual from above the event video capture. So much more.

All this will be September 22, 2018, a day after the Official POWMIA Day. So at your organizations have your ceremonies of remembrance, then join Us! If you are interested we have a link on our website for renting a table. <http://www.duvalveteranscouncil.org/> under documents or click here <https://drive.google.com/.../1y9DHznPsO3b8Z8wwKh0PW-9HHn.../view>

This is our first event and we hope to do this annually. We can't do it without you. Help us and be part of the first event.



From Fred Dupont: The following is a reprint of the letter my grandparents received from the Secretary of the Navy concerning Uncle Ralph:

THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY, WASHINGTON, 19 November 1945

Mr. and Mrs. William Daniel DuPont

2812 LaViere Street

Jacksonville, Florida

My dear Mr. and Mrs. DuPont:

Your son, Lieutenant (Junior Grade) Ralph Cornelius DuPont, United States Naval Reserve, who was attached to Fighter Squadron EIGHTEEN, based aboard the USS INTREPID has been carried on the official records of the Navy Department as missing in action since 12 October 1944 when his plane was lost during an aerial engagement with enemy planes over Formosa.



On the evening of 11 October 1944, the ships of Task Force THIRTY-EIGHT of which the USS INTREPID was a member, headed for launching points from which attacks against the enemy were to be made. Flying conditions were generally unfavorable, especially over the target areas. There was wind, cloudiness, and squally weather. Your son's plane took off from the USS INTREPID in a flight of sixteen planes on the first fighter sweep mission over Shinchiku and Matsuyama Airfields, Formosa. Over Shinchiku Airfield heavy anti-aircraft fire was encountered but no enemy aircraft. Near Taien Airfield, several enemy bombers were attacked and destroyed. The formation was counter-attacked by the enemy fighter planes in great numbers. In the ensuing melee, division formations were broken up and all pilots in the flight were fully occupied in combat. Several planes were seen to crash and one or two pilots were seen to bail out, but no pilots returning were able to identify either planes or pilots. Your son did not return.

In view of the fact that the plane your son was piloting was lost during an aerial engagement, because his name does not appear on any captured and translated Japanese interrogation reports, because his name has not appeared on any lists of personnel liberated from Japanese prisoner of war camps, because there has been no official nor unconfirmed reports that he survived, and in view of the length of time that has elapsed since he was reported missing, I am reluctantly forced to conclude that your son is deceased. In compliance with Section 5 of Public Law 490, 77th Congress, as amended, the death of your son is, for the purpose of determination of pay and allowances, settlement of accounts, and payment of death gratuities, presumed to have occurred on 13 October 1945, which is the day following the expiration of twelve months in the missing status.

Sincere sympathy is extended to you in your loss. It is hoped that you may find comfort in the thought that his sacrifice was made in order that the freedom of his country might be preserved.

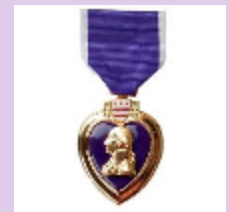
Sincerely yours,

James Forrestal



**Military order of the purple heart  
Volusia county chapter 316**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Contact: Rod Phillips 386.690.9553**



On Tuesday August 7, 2018, 10:00 am, National Purple Heart Day, at the Frank T. Bruno Jr. County Council Chambers, 123 W. Indiana Avenue, DeLand, members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart Volusia County Chapter 316 (MOPH Chapter 316) will present the Volusia County Council with a Purple Heart County Plaque, the Council will issue a proclamation designating the county as a Purple Heart County.

A Purple Heart County, part of the Military Order of the Purple Heart's National Purple Heart Trail Program designates Volusia County as one that recognizes those in our community who gave their lives or were wounded in combat defending our American freedoms.

The public and all veterans are welcome to attend. Veterans Service Organizations are requested to send at least one delegate to this event.

For more information please contact MOPH Chapter 316 Senior Vice Commander Rod Phillips at 386.690.9553 or [bra101st@gmail.com](mailto:bra101st@gmail.com)

**Some Gave All, All Gave Some**

# ***2018 HOMELESS VETERANS' STAND DOWN***



**Saturday September 8, 2018**

**9:00 am – 1:00 pm**

**Elks Lodge**

**1420 A1A South**

**For more information or transportation needs contact: (904) 209-6160**

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## **SERVICES:**

- Healthcare Services
- Legal Resources
- Housing Resources
- Employment Service
- Homeless Outreach

## **ITEMS:**

- Clothing
- Personal Care Items
- Haircuts
- Showers
- Hot Meal
- RAFFLE

***SPONSORS: Vetran's Council of St. Johns Countl; BPO Elks #829; VFW Post 2391; American Legion Post 37; St. Augustine VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic; VA Homeless Veterans Outreach Team; CareerSource Northeast Florida; and many others!***



IN 1982, YOU HELPED US BUILD THE WALL  
TO HONOR OUR VIETNAM FALLEN

## NOW HELP US BUILD THE EDUCATION CENTER AT THE WALL

TO CONNECT OUR NATION'S FUTURE  
WITH OUR NATION'S PAST



### Our Vietnam heroes deserve a place where their story is told.

In 1982, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was built with private funds from more than 275,000 individuals. Today, we need your help to build the Education Center at The Wall, an interactive learning facility on the National Mall where our military heroes' stories will be told.

#### Why?

With each passing day, we are losing the voices that can tell the first-hand accounts of the Vietnam War and era. We must act now and preserve these personal stories from the past to educate our future.

#### What you do matters.

It is only through the generosity of people like you that we can build the Education Center at The Wall. Together we can preserve the legacy of our Vietnam heroes and educate future generations about the impact of the Vietnam era.



**HELP US BUILD IT.**  
DONATE AT [VVMF.ORG/VVA-FL](http://VVMF.ORG/VVA-FL)



36 Granada Street, St. Augustine

FL 32084

(904) 679-5736

**Corazoncinemaandcafe.com**



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

Castillo de San Marcos: The Creepy 17th century castle teeming with  
paranormal activity

<https://www.onlyinyourstate.com/florida/creepy-17th-century-castle-fl>



**An important message from Toulia Wootan**, I'm sending you the flyer for our September 21st conference for families caring for a veteran or an active military person. We are honored to have received a \$10,000 grant from The Elisabeth Dole Foundation for this conference. As you may remember, I worked to have Jacksonville declared a Hidden Heroes City in her program. We announced it at last years conference.



Someone from The Elisabeth Dole Foundation will be there to speak on how they support veterans and military caregivers.

My ask of you is that you send this flyer to all of your distribution lists. Please post it on social media, and on your organization website. I will have hard copies to give you at our meeting this coming Thursday the 26th at noon. The meeting will be held in Nevasier A. I will send a calendar invitation. Please plan to attend or send someone to this important meeting.

Thank you, and as always, contact me if you have any questions.

Toulia F. Wootan, Director of Community Programs,  
 Community Hospice and Palliative Care, Caregiver Coalition of Northeast Florida  
 904.407.6211, 4266 Sunbeam Road, Jacksonville, FL, 32257



## CARING FOR THE MILITARY/VETERAN CAREGIVER: A FAMILY CAREGIVING CONFERENCE

Your service as a caregiver to a veteran is unlike the experience of any other caregiver. Join us for a day dedicated to exploring the rewards and challenges unique to those who care for men and women who have served our country.

### PRESENTATIONS LED BY CAREGIVING EXPERTS WILL INCLUDE:

- Supporting Our Hidden Heroes: The Military Caregiver journey
- Wounded Warriors: Their Last Battle
- Operation Family Caregiver: Supporting Military Caregivers
- VA Caregiver Support Program: There's Help for You
- VA Healthcare Benefits and City of Jacksonville VA Services

**FRIDAY, SEPT. 21, 2018**

**WJCT Public Broadcasting**  
 100 Festival Park Ave., Jacksonville, FL 32202

**Registration 8:30 a.m.**  
**Program 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

Registration is free, and a complimentary breakfast and lunch will be provided. To register, call **904.407.6790** or visit [militarycaregiver.eventbrite.com](http://militarycaregiver.eventbrite.com).

To request complimentary respite care for your loved one, call Aging True Community Senior Services at 904.807.1319 by Friday, Sept. 14.

Hosted by:



Additional Support from:



Continuing education credit will be available for eligible professional disciplines. See the registration website for CE details and learning objectives.

Caregiver Coalition Partners: Community Hospice & Palliative Care; AARP; Aging True Community Senior Services; Alzheimer's Association; Area Councils on Aging; Baptist AgeWell Center for Senior Health; Brooks Rehabilitation; City of Jacksonville, Senior Services Division; ElderSource; Jewish Family and Community Services; Mayo Clinic Florida; YMCA of Florida's First Coast

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**GratitudeAmerica**

# RAISE A GLASS FOR VETERANS

A fundraiser benefiting GratitudeAmerica Military Support Retreats

**August 11, 2018 | 6:30 to 9:30 PM**

**Hammock Wine and Cheese**

5368 N. Ocean Shore Blvd, Palm Coast, Florida 32137

Come enjoy a memorable evening with wine, cheese, great music, and amazing friends all in support of a great cause.

**LIVE MUSIC • GIVE-AWAYS • RAFFLE • SILENT AUCTION**



Entertainment by seasoned country music singer  
**Jack Gafford** - His smooth deep voice  
reminiscent of Alan Jackson and George Strait.



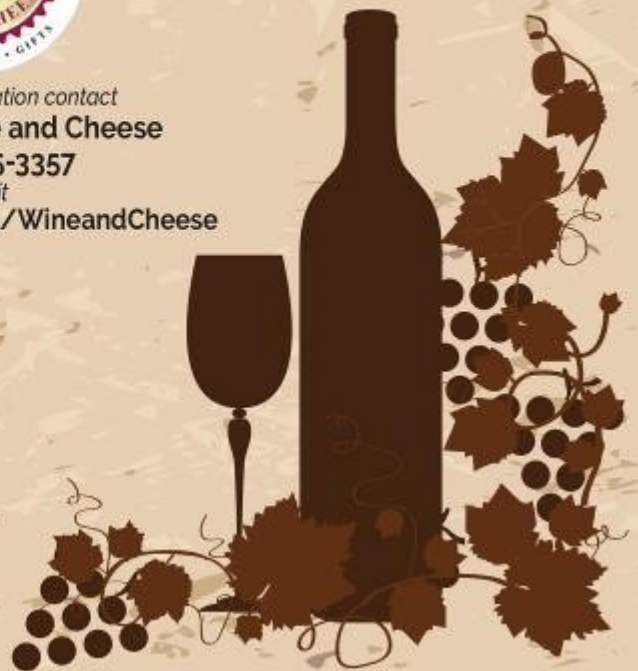
For more information contact  
**Hammock Wine and Cheese**  
**(386) 445-3357**

or visit

**GratitudeAmerica.org/WineandCheese**

## **ABOUT GRATITUDEAMERICA**

GratitudeAmerica, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose primary goal is to provide critical support for our past and present military service members and their families during their return to civilian life. We accomplish this goal by offering retreat programs that use restorative approaches to assist participants affected by deployment exposures such as Post Traumatic Stress and Traumatic Brain Injury. For more information go to [GratitudeAmerica.Org](http://GratitudeAmerica.Org).





**GratitudeAmerica**



# MILITARY SUPPORT RETREAT

*at Marineland, Florida*

**October 4th at 5:30pm - October 7th at 3:00pm**

A RETREAT FOR POST 9-11 NORTHEAST FLORIDA AND SOUTHEAST GEORGIA  
MILITARY/VETERANS AND THEIR PRIMARY SUPPORT PERSON

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

★ RESTORATION ★ RECREATION ★ RELAXATION ★

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

★ Small, friendly group setting ★

★ All accommodations, food, and activities are provided free of charge ★

★ Facilitated by Vets, VA/DoD experts, and Community Nonprofit Support Organizations ★

*Please note: Must be 18 to attend and no childcare is not provided.*



TO LEARN MORE AND TO APPLY VISIT: [GRATITUDEAMERICA.ORG/RETREATS](http://GRATITUDEAMERICA.ORG/RETREATS)  
CONTACT INFO: JACK GAFFORD, DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS  
678-315-9028 OR [JACK@GRATITUDEAMERICA.ORG](mailto:JACK@GRATITUDEAMERICA.ORG)

## New tech increases ease of contacting Veterans Crisis Line

*“Call the Veterans Crisis Line.”*



VA is excited to announce that service members and Veterans can connect to the Veterans Crisis Line using these simple words. The Siri function on Apple’s iPhone and the Google Assistant function on Android phones now automatically dial the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline which also serves the Veterans Crisis Line, even if the number (1-800-273-8255) is not saved in the phone’s contact list. Callers will need to Press 1 in order to reach the Veterans Crisis Line.

“Suicide prevention is VA’s top clinical priority, and we are working to reach Veterans where they are to help save lives,” said Dr. Keita Franklin. “The new feature on Apple and Android devices enables service members, Veterans, and their families to get quicker access to our network of certified crisis responders.”

Responders at the Veterans Crisis Line are specially trained and experienced in helping Veterans when mental health or related issues — such as chronic pain, anxiety, depression, sleeplessness, anger, and homelessness — reach a crisis point.

“Since its launch in 2007, the Veterans Crisis Line has answered over 3.5 million calls and initiated the dispatch of emergency services to callers in imminent crisis nearly 93,000 times,” said Dr. Matt Miller, director of the Veterans Crisis Line. “Since launching chat in 2009 and text services in November 2011, the VCL has answered over 397,000 and nearly 92,000 requests for chat and text services respectively.”

According to Miller, the ease of connecting to the Veterans Crisis Line is the technology’s biggest benefit.

“The ability to for Veterans to connect to the Veterans Crisis Line using just four simple words, and through a technology that so many people are familiar with already, is truly remarkable,” Miller said. “While some suicidal crises last a long time, most last minutes to hours. The quicker we can get Veterans connected to care, the more likely they are to survive.”

While recognizing the need for crisis access and rapid care, VA continues to build and emphasize sustained access to care for Veterans to receive ongoing treatment as appropriate.

“VA is working to improve its services by providing evidence-based mental health care across a full spectrum of interventional services,” said Franklin. “We are anticipating and responding to Veterans’ needs and supporting returning service members as they rejoin their communities.”

VA is leveraging a public health approach to suicide prevention that addresses multiple risk factors for suicide to stage interventions before suicidal thoughts and behaviors occur. While VA has made great strides in crisis intervention, the public health approach uses the best evidence available to guide the development of innovative new strategies to serve all Veterans.

No one organization can tackle suicide prevention alone. To save lives, VA is using prevention strategies that reach beyond health care settings to involve peers, family members, and community members in order to reach Veterans where they are.

“Every day people across the nation reach out for support and are able to live healthy, productive lives. But VA alone can’t prevent Veteran suicide,” Franklin said. “To end Veteran suicide, we need support across sectors, and this type of technology is another step in the right direction. The quicker we can get service members and Veterans connected to care, the better.”

If you or someone you know is in crisis, support is available 24/7. The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is available to all at 1-800-273-8255. Veterans, service members, and their families and friends can call the Veterans and Military Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1, chat online at [VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat](https://VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat), or text to 838255.

*About the author: Megan McCarthy, Ph.D., is the deputy director for suicide prevention for VA’s Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention.*

## THE RIDE HOME 2018

### This Year's Event:

We will base the event out of Warner Robins Georgia this September 20, 21 & 22. We will be working with Robins AFB POW/MIA Committee, Andersonville Historical Site, home of the National Prisoner of War Museum, Houston County Sherriff Office, Central Georgia Technical College and many local veterans and Patriotic citizens in an effort to comply with the Presidential Proclamation for National POW/MIA Recognition Day.

All services are open to the Public. The HERO's Banquet, which is scheduled on 21 September, 1700 hrs. at Central Georgia Technical College, Larry Walker Auditorium, does require pre-registering and a minimum donation of \$25 per person. Seating for the Banquet is limited to 500 total attendance (which includes Honored Guest), so if you wish to break bread with these true American Hero's register soon.

For all requiring hotel accommodations, the following hotels are centrally located to where the Honored Guest will be staying. As always, it is 'first come, first served'.

La Quinta - POC Billy - 478 333 6920

Country Inn - POC David - 478 971 1664

Comfort Inn - POC Peggy - 478 953 3000

Holiday Inn Express - POC Sarita - 478 333 2737

The majority of Honored Guest and Families will be housed at the Fairfield and the Wyndham. These hotel will be hosted by Monica & Billie, respectfully. They will be POC for their Hotels.

### Proposed Itinerary for the event;

Thursday, 20 September;

1400 hrs. depart hotels to Central Georgia Technical College (CGTC)

1500 hrs. Robins AFB POW/MIA Committee Recognition Service

1600 hrs. Meet & Greet

1630 hrs. Recording artist, RICKY LEE, preforms

Friday, 21 September

0630 hrs. Law Enforcement escort to Andersonville

0830 hrs. POW/MIA Recognition Day Service

1130 hrs. Law Enforcement escort to Warner Robins.

1530 hrs. Law Enforcement escort to CGTC

1700 hrs. Hero's Banquet CGTC

1800 hrs. Keeping the Promise - premiere of 'A SOLEMN PROMISE'

1930 hrs. Candlelight Service

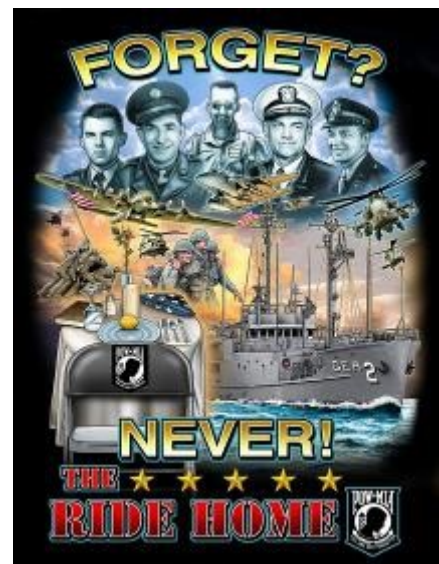
Saturday, 22 September

0900 hrs. Law Enforcement escort to CGTC

1000 hrs. Recognition Service - (POW Story & Flag History Story)

1330 hrs. Ground-pounder/Fly-boy Lunch

Join us in Georgia this September as we salute those who were held against their will by enemies of this Republic and remind those who still wait for their family member to come home; that We will NOT FORGET and that we will not give up **Until They ALL Come Home!**





# GratitudeAmerica

HONORING OUR HEROES



“These American heroes are owed a debt we can never fully repay, but we are passionate about making a significant difference in their lives.”  
- Lewis Jordan, Founder, & CEO

GratitudeAmerica Military Support Retreats are a breakthrough, **NO COST, 4-day immersive and intensive experience** designed to help combat veterans and their supporters make peace with their past so they can begin planning for their new mission at home. Open to any post 9/11 Veteran who served in combat regardless of discharge status from the Active Component, Reserve, or National Guard, our retreats focus on post traumatic growth. We provide a supportive environment in which veterans can connect with their peers, gain critical coping skills and, interact with licensed counselors to begin healing where needed. Our retreats provide various activities including, nature-based recreation, yoga, breath awareness, kayaking, and dolphin interactions. In many cases our retreats act as a gateway for deeper levels of care.

*Having war injuries can be very isolating, lonely, and hard for many to understand. Being surrounded by others who can completely understand your issues, fully relate, and offer support works better than years of therapy. In a few short days, a group of strangers was able to bond and become family. Knowing we have connected with 15 service members and 15 caregivers allows us to be hopeful and optimistic we do not have to go through this alone.”*

As shocking as it may seem, of the 2.2 million American troops deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan since 2001:

- Several hundred thousand have sustained physical and psychological wounds
- Up to 20 Veterans commit suicide each day
- Between 20-30% of deployed troops test positive for depression or PTSD
- More than 100,000 soldiers today are on prescribed anti-anxiety medication

➤ SPOUSE OF VETERAN  
WITH 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

We are now building an alliance and ask you to join forces with us to help reverse these trends. Every \$1,000 donated provides at least one service member and their support person the opportunity to attend a retreat. If you would like to make a financial contribution to support GratitudeAmerica's efforts, please visit [GratitudeAmerica.org](http://GratitudeAmerica.org) or send a donation, large or small, to GratitudeAmerica at P.O. Box 16956 Fernandina Beach, FL 32035.

GratitudeAmerica is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and is entirely funded through private donations from individuals, foundations and corporations.

## CONTACT US

Michael Anthony

Executive Director

Direct: 912.674.0332

[michael@gratitudeamerica.org](mailto:michael@gratitudeamerica.org)

P O Box 16956

Fernandina Beach, FL 32035

TO LEARN MORE VISIT: [GRATITUDEAMERICA.ORG](http://GRATITUDEAMERICA.ORG)



## Credit Card Processing Considerations for Your Veterans Organization

Most Veterans' organizations do not need a cash register, but may receive requests to pay (or donate) by credit card (either thru the internet or in person). Most available options connect to Apple iPad or iPhone or other tablets and Android cell phones by bluetooth; the vendor provides the appropriate level of security. For those vendors who do not, the onus for compliance with the Payment Card Industry's Data Security Standards ("PCI DSS") falls upon the organization, and can become a nearly full-time job.

Some vendors require contracts for specific terms (watch out for termination fees!), others do not. Before signing a contract, remember to perform your due diligence, including a price comparison. Prices mentioned in this document are current as of June 1, 2018, and may be different if your organization is not recognized by the IRS under §501(c)(3) as a public charity (default is to be charged as a for-profit merchant). Many Veterans' organizations are recognized under §501(c)(19) and may incur higher fees than those recognized as public charities under §501(c)(3).

The organization should first determine its' average donation (or payment) and the number of transactions per month, as this data often governs the processing rate quoted.

Are receipts regularly received in the same amount (e.g., subscriptions)?

The organization's bank should be queried as to their offers—most are competitive and offer the advantage of integration with your existing banking relationships (i.e., no new bank account needed). This interview will raise more questions for you to answer.

Hardware and software requirements should be determined

Would the organization use a dedicated cell phone, or a member's phone?

Is the phone compatible with software requirements?

If a physical connection to the phone is required, does the phone have a headset jack? If not, is an adapter provided?

Are printed receipts required (most offer the opportunity to e-mail receipts)?

Does the card reader use an internet connection, or wireless (cell phone) data connection?

Is software automatically updated?

If subscriptions or other regularly-recurring payments are received, can they be automatically processed? If so, how frequently?

Can invoices (donor commitments) be sent through this system and payment processed directly by the donor?

Is the rate the same, or higher?

Is the organization billed for each invoice sent, or only for invoices paid thru the credit card processor?

Is a Loyalty Program (providing discounts for repeat customers) appropriate?

In addition to obtaining physical equipment (reader and power-supply), software to manage your organization's account must be downloaded. As most processing financial institutions use a reseller to market their products and services, the startup costs may vary significantly. While the monthly fees and per transaction fees are more competitive in nature, there is less

competition when buying readers.

For example:

Clover Go costs vary from \$100.00 to free

Square costs vary from \$49.00 to free, depending upon reader (Contactless and Chip Reader is more expensive than Chip Reader while Magstripe Reader is free)

When choosing a reader, please remember that the trend is towards chip cards and away from those having only a magnetic stripe (making the “free” Magstripe readers obsolete). A further incentive is that many issuers, including American Express, MasterCard and VISA, will hold the vendor liable for a fraudulent transaction when a credit card is swiped, unless the vendor has a chip reader!

Most processors do not charge to deposit funds received into the organization’s bank account in one to two business days (expedited deposit may be available at an additional fee).

You must settle the transaction by closing out the daily register in a timely manner (often daily) to avoid penalties.

There is a glossary at the end of this document. Donors may be referred to as Customers; donations and other receipts may be referred to as Sales.

Lastly, and most importantly, your organization SHOULD NOT retain unique and sensitive card holder data (name, card number, card expiration date, card CVV (three or four-digit number in signature block) after it is no longer required. Failure of your organization (or your credit card processor) to comply with PCI DSS requirements can result in substantial liability!

Processing on-line transactions through the Internet

Security is paramount—too many sites have been compromised and customers (donors) credit card numbers and personal information have been leaked.

All credit card issuers require that all card-processing systems adhere to the PCI Data Security Standard (PCI-DSS).

Commensurate with the dollar volume and number of transactions, some of these requirements can be quite intimidating, and best left to a professional

In addition, each site should have a Privacy Statement which meets certain qualifications

FEES: Often slightly higher than in-person transactions

Depending upon your organization’s agreement with your processor, you might be able to pass on the processing fee to the customer (donor) provided you disclose to the card holder that they must pay this fee (e.g., Elks Lodge 829’s Treasurer does this when you choose to remit membership dues online).

Some processors (e.g., PayPal) prohibit surcharges when accepting credit card as a form of payment.

Processing transactions in person (i.e., the customer/donor’s card is present)

Either the card is swiped (if card has a magnetic stripe) or the card is inserted into a reader (chip-enabled card) or contactless (the card/cell phone is processed by placing it near the reader).

FEES: Often, the processor will waive the per-transaction fee and only charge a percentage of the transaction.

Processing transactions where the customer/donor’s card is not present (manually enter information):



Manually keying the information is not only time-consuming and subject to errors, but also has a higher transaction processing fee (usually a fixed amount plus a percentage of the transaction).

FEES: Higher than in-person transactions

A good follow-on article is available [here](#).

Description	Square™	QuickBooks™	PayPal™	Your Quote
Swiped Transaction (fixed fee)	\$0.00	\$0.30 [\$0.30]	\$0.00	
Swiped Transaction (variable %)	2.75%	2.40% [1.60%]	2.70%	
Chip Transaction (fixed fee)	0.00	\$0.30 [\$0.30]	0.00	
Chip Transaction (variable %)	2.75%	2.40% [1.60%]	2.70%	
Manual Transaction (fixed fee)	0.15	\$0.30 [\$0.30]	0.15	
Manual Transaction (variable %)	3.50%	3.50% [3.30%]	3.50%	
On-Line Transaction (fixed fee)	0.30	\$0.30 [\$0.30]	0.30	
On-Line Transaction (variable %)	2.90%	2.40% [1.60%]	2.90%	
Invoiced Transaction (fixed fee)	0.30	\$0.30 [\$0.30]	0.30	
Invoiced Transaction (variable %)	2.90%	\$0.30 [\$0.30]	2.90%	
Online Transaction fee 501(c)(3)	N/A	N/A	0.30	
Online Transaction % 501(c)(3)	N/A	N/A	2.20%	
Checks by Phone/On Line?	N/A	1.00 [1.00]	N/A	
Is American Express different?	No	No	Yes, 3.50%	
Pay for all invoices or only invoices paid through system?	When paid	When paid	When paid	
Monthly Account Fee	0.00	0.00 [19.95]	0.00	
PCI Compliance	Included	9.95 [0.00]	Included	
Chargeback fee (per event)	20.00	25.00	20.00	
Start-up Fees (excl. equipment)	0.00	QuickBooks™	0.00	
Termination Fee	None	Possible	None	
Other (hidden) fees?	None	Possible	Unknown	

Notes: The above apply to domestic transactions; international transactions have higher percentage and fixed fees, and may also have foreign exchange fees.

Accepting charges using American Express family of cards often has a higher transaction rate (e.g., PayPal, above). To properly analyze the benefits of a card, the anticipated percentage of use by each card issuer should be taken into account. The following is

a generalized example.

In 2016, VISA held 50.65% of the total credit card transaction market (more, if debit cards are included). American Express and MasterCard were virtually tied, at 22.73% and 22.66%, with Discover a distant fourth at 3.96%. Using these percentages of market share for chip or swiped transactions for a total on-line donation of \$1,000, percentage fees (plus \$0.30 per transactions) could be:

	PayPal	Square	PayPal	Charity	Quickbooks (+\$9.95 or more fixed fees/mo)
VISA	2.9% \$14.69	2.9% \$14.69	2.2% \$11.14	2.4%	\$12.16
AMEX	3.5% 7.95	2.9% 6.59	3.5% 7.95	2.4%	5.45
MCard	2.9% 6.57	2.9% 6.57	2.2% 4.99	2.4%	5.44
Discvr	2.9% 1.15	2.9% 1.15	2.2% 0.87	2.4%	0.95
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.036% \$30.36</b>	<b>2.90% \$29.00</b>	<b>2.495% \$24.95</b>	<b>2.4%</b>	<b>\$24.00</b>

### GLOSSARY

**AndroidPay** Used by android cell phones to complete contactless transactions.

**ApplePay** Registered trademark of Apple, Inc., used by Apple’s iPhones to complete contactless transactions (iPhone requires fingerprint recognition to complete transaction)

**Bluetooth** A standard for the short-range wireless interconnection of mobile phones, computers, and other electronic devices.

**Clover™** Registered trademark of Clover Network, Inc. a division of First Data Corporation. Clover uses both internet and wireless cell phone connections to process transactions.

**Debit Card** A bank card directly linked to a checking or savings account, from which funds are withdrawn immediately after the transaction is processed (there will be a delay until the vendor organization receives these funds).

**DSS** Acronym for Data Security Standard

**EMV** Registered trademark of EMVCo. LLC. Acronym for developers (EuroPay®, MasterCard® and Visa®) Chip-enabled credit card, which has generally replaced magnetic striped cards are the current de facto standard.

**Host** A resource providing data processing services; any host should provide assurance that it is fully compliance with PCI DSS’ current requirements

**NFC** Acronym for “Near Field Communication” not to be confused with BlueTooth, it’s a mechanism by which a credit card can be processed without inserting the card into a reader (generally, it must be within two inches or so of the reader). Most popular are ApplePay, AndroidPay and GooglePay. NFC transactions are often much faster than EMV transactions (where card is inserted or swiped).

**PayPal** Created by Elon Musk (SpacEX), has many users; offers discount to 501(c)(3) public charities.

**PCI** Acronym for Payment Card Industry

**PIN** Acronym for Personal Identification Number; used to validate Debit Card transactions

**POS** Point of Sale (where the payment is processed)

**SamsungPay** Registered trademark of Samsung, used by Samsung android cell phones to complete contactless transactions.

**Square** Founded by one of the founders of Twitter, competitor to PayPal.

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The V.A. Community Resource and Referral Center is now open. This is a one of a kind 'one stop shop' for the regions VA system, for homeless veterans to have immediate access to such services as, Social Work, Dietitian, Community Employment Coordinator, Occupational Therapist, ARNP, and peer support specialists.



This center is located across from the Clara White Mission in downtown Jax., is open M-F 8:00 am-4:30 pm. (For housing assessments, it is asked that Veterans visit between 9:00 am-1:30 pm.) 904-798-2800.

## The dos and don'ts when flying the American flag

Did you know there's a code for when you should and shouldn't fly the American flag?

Author: Catherine Park

ATLANTA -- Did you know there are rules for flying the American Flag?

Each time a flag goes up, there is a specific and special meaning behind why it's there. But first, let's get into the basics of what the flag means for our country.

The 50 stars, of course, represent each state in the U.S. The stripes, 13 in total, pay homage to the original 13 colonies. The color red stands for valor or bravery, white stands for purity or innocence and blue stands for vigilance, perseverance, and justice.

There are several ways to fly the American flag correctly. If it's on a pole with another flag, it should always be on top with the other flag flying as secondary.

Flags that are flown at half-staff often symbolize a death. Depending on what your position is in government, the length of time that flag will be flown at half-staff varies.

If an associate justice, military secretary, former vice president or a state governor dies, the flag is flown at half-staff until the day of their burial.

If a member of Congress dies, flags are flown at half-staff for two days.

A vice president, chief of justice, retired chief of justice or a house speaker gets 10 days.

If a president or a former president dies, flags are flown at half-staff for a full 30 days.

And if you have ever wondered when it's an acceptable time to actually fly the flag, here's a list:

January: New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Day and Inauguration Day

February: Lincoln's birthday and President's Day

March: Easter Sunday

April: Army Day and Jefferson's birthday

May: Mother's Day, Victory in Europe Day, Peace Officer's Memorial Day (flags should be flown at half-staff), Armed Forces Day and Memorial Day (again, flags should be flown at half-staff on this day)

June: Flag Day and Father's Day

July: Independence Day and Korean War Armistice Day

August: V-J Day, Purple Heart Day and National Aviation Day

September: Labor Day, Patriot Day (flag should be flown at half-staff) and Constitution Day. The third Friday in September is the day to fly the POW (Prisoners of War) / MIA (Missing in Action) Recognition Day flag

October: Columbus Day and Navy Day

November: Elections Day, Marine Corps Birthday, Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving Day

December: Pearl Harbor Day (flags flown at half-staff) and Christmas Day

And here are some ways you should **NOT** be using the flag:

The flag shouldn't be used for marketing or printed on paper napkins, boxes, etc. that are meant for temporary use. Nothing that you plan on trashing after use.

You should not alter the flag in any way with different prints. You should never wear the flag on any apparel, bedding or drapery. It should fall freely.

The flag should never be left in darkness. The only way it is acceptable to have a flag flown 24 hours a day is if it is properly illuminated at night.

You should never throw out the flag in the garbage.

One fun fact: if the flag is used to advertise in Washington, D.C., you could get a \$100 fine or a month in jail.

July 4 is coming up and it is completely acceptable to fly the flag high and proud.



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# Let's go Fishing

## 2018 Dates

- Feb 11 Palm Valley
- Mar 11 Guana River
- Apr 22 Cedar Point
- May 4-6 Camping Sebastian Inlet
- Jun 10 Browns Creek
- July 15 Faver Dykes
- Aug 12 River Float  
Ichetucknee
- Sept 2 Mill Cove
- Sept 21 First Responders Event
- Oct 14 Browns Creek
- Nov 11 Veteran's Day Event

To RSVP - Facebook site  
Or email  
Northeastflorida@heroesonthewater.org

## JOIN US!

Heroes on the Water offers **free** kayak fishing excursions to injured service members from all branches of the Armed Services. Experience the peaceful water, the thrill of fishing from kayaks and the adventure of being outdoors, while enjoying the camaraderie of hanging out with other vets, passionate volunteers, and loved ones.

We provide all the equipment you need for a fun, relaxing day on the water.

"I was at peace with myself, enjoying the company of other wounded veterans, without a worry in the world, while enjoying the weather and casting a line."

Travis Clennon, Traumatic spinal cord injury

Like us on Facebook to get all the up to date information about the Northeast Florida Chapter: <http://www.facebook.com/HeroesOnTheWaterNortheastFloridaChapter>



Welcome to the official 2018 NAS Jax Air Show event.

The NAS Jax Air Show, Birthplace of the Blue Angels, will be October 27 - 28, 2018 aboard NAS Jacksonville. Admission, parking and the Kids Zone is FREE.

At the NAS Jax Air Show you will witness thrills like never before from a variety of military and civilian demonstrations. The grand finale will be the Navy's flight demonstration team: The Blue Angels.

While you are at the show, enjoy military and civilian aircraft displays, shop at novelty, food and beverage booths, or head to the free Kids Zone for games and activities for all ages. While there will be 2 ATMs onsite, it is highly recommended that you bring cash with you.

Save the date! More details to come.

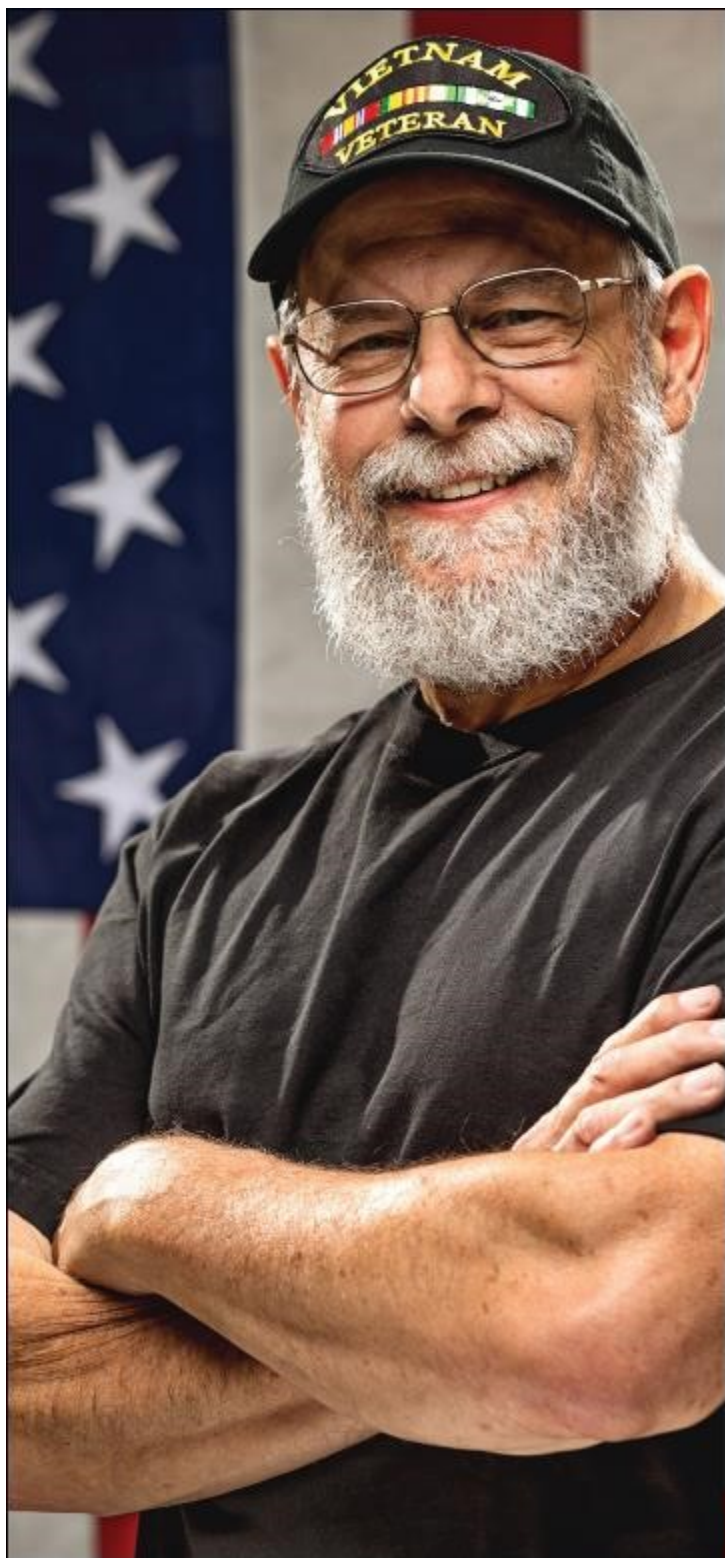
Visit our website: <http://www.nasjaxairshow.com>

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE  
2018 NAS JAX AIR SHOW!

**OCTOBER 27 - 28, 2018**

FREE ADMISSION, PARKING & KIDS ZONE





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# SERVING VETERANS SINCE 1979

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

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

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



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

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



# CAREGIVER COALITION OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA 2018 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Throughout the year, the Caregiver Coalition of Northeast Florida hosts a series of free, public events that offer First Coast caregivers a time to network, relax and learn about resources from our valued community partners. Most programs include complimentary meals and respite care by request for loved ones.



## HERE'S OUR LINEUP FOR 2018:

### "CARING FOR THE CAREGIVER" CONFERENCE

Saturday, February 24, 2018 • 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Registration: 8:30 a.m.

Ramada Inn Mandarin  
3130 Hartley Road  
Jacksonville, FL 32257

### CAREGIVER EXPO 2018

Saturday, April 14, 2018 • 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

EverBank Field US Assure Club East  
1 EverBank Field Drive  
Jacksonville, FL 32202

### "CARING FOR THE CAREGIVER" CONFERENCE

Saturday, June 16, 2018 • 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Registration: 8:30 a.m.

Mary Singleton Senior Center  
150 East First St.  
Jacksonville, FL 32206

### "CARING FOR THE MILITARY/VETERAN CAREGIVER" CONFERENCE

Friday, Sept. 21, 2018 • 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Registration: 8:30 a.m.

WJCT Public Broadcasting  
100 Festival Park Ave.  
Jacksonville, FL 32202



Visit [MyCaregiverConnection.org](http://MyCaregiverConnection.org) throughout the year for the latest news and event info!

For more information, or to participate as a sponsor or exhibitor, contact Toula Wootan at Community Hospice & Palliative Care: 904.407.6211 or [twootan@communityhospice.com](mailto:twootan@communityhospice.com).

Caregiver Coalition of Northeast Florida Partners: Community Hospice & Palliative Care; AARP®; Aging True Community Senior Services; Alzheimer's Association, Central and North Florida Chapter; Area Councils on Aging; Baptist AgeWell Center for Senior Health; Brooks Rehabilitation; City of Jacksonville, Senior Services Division; ElderSource; Jewish Family & Community Services; Mayo Clinic Florida; YMCA of Florida's First Coast





## 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](mailto:twootan@communityhospice.com).

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



We are inviting all veterans to visit our website at:

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

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

Please join our group on Facebook at:  
**VeteransCouncilofStJohnsCounty,FL**

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

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

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

*You may have noticed the Veterans Council's new logo, it was created by Roy Havekost and his web design company PageAuthors. The VC strongly recommends that you contact Roy, 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.



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**Contact Keith Ham**

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

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

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

Send to: [mrothfeld@anyveteran.org](mailto:mrothfeld@anyveteran.org)

Please send to: [mrothfeld@anyveteran.org](mailto:mrothfeld@anyveteran.org)



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*(physical location)*

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

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

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

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