



The Patriot Reader Newsletter

P.O. Box 2117

St. Augustine, FL 32085

Bill Dudley, Publisher

Michael Rothfeld, Editor

Volume 8, Issue 8

Message from the Chairman

August 2019

Inside this Edition

- Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home
- Jax Ntl Cemetery Support Committee
- K9s For Warriors Rory Diamond
- Homeless Jax Veterans Grant
- West Point Society Honors LTC Greg Moore
- Restoring History
- VC July Minutes
- Vietnam Veteran, Artist Jerry Domask
- Agent Orange Town Hall
- A New Leash on Life
- VC Duval County Received Award
- Clay County VSO Receives Award
- V4V Quarterly Gathering
- Blue Water Navy Presumptives
- K9s Shari Duval received DAR Medal of Honor
- Lost Purple Heart Returned to Family
- A Gathering in The Pines
- Ntl POW/MIA Recognition Day Sept. 28
- VVA 1048 Received Membership Award
- Clay County Veterans Appreciation Day
- From J Bradstreet, Local Recovery Co-ord.
- PTSD Awareness
- The Ride Home Sept. 19 to 21
- Pipes, Drums, Patriots August 3rd
- Who to Call if Vet Passes
- Disabled Vets receive free Ntl Park passes
- Post 194 Anniversary Dinner
- From the VA Secretary



The Order of Military Flags

Fellow Veterans:
At long last, we have a date for our groundbreaking for our new Community Based Out-patient Clinic, (CBOC). On Oct. 3, the VA working in corroboration with the Veterans Council will host a groundbreaking ceremony at the location for our new CBOC. It will be a significant event with invitations to many of our elected officials including Governor DeSantis, U.S. Senators Rubio and Scott, Congressman Rutherford and Waltz and other elected officials. The Veterans Council is working with the VA in Gainesville to put together an impressive ceremony as a part of the groundbreaking. If all goes according to the construction plan that has been developed for the site, the clinic should be completed by late August-early Sept of 2020. Pictures of the clinic at the

new location are in this month's newsletter. This has been a long time coming for our deserving veterans who rely on the clinic for their health care needs. Your Veterans Council has continued to pursue a permanent home for our veteran's health care for nearly ten years when it was first announced that the old location was to be sold. It has, at times been extremely contentious but our persistence has been rewarded with a permanent location and will soon be under construction. On Sept. 21, the Northeast Florida Veterans Councils will host the second annual Gathering in the Pines at Cecil Field. This is an annual event to highlight the POW/MIA Memorial being developed at Cecil Field to honor our veterans who were interred during battle or those who are still missing. We encourage everyone to come out and join us on Saturday, Sept 21 as we



honor our veterans, many who gave their all for our country. Get the complete details from the flyer that is in this month's Patriot Reader. The Veterans Council and MOAA, Old City Chapter are meeting bi-monthly to plan this year's Veterans Day event. We plan to once again host the event at Anastasia Baptist Church on Nov. 11. Last year's turnout was around 850 and we are expecting an even greater number this year. Please mark your calendar now and save the date. Bill Dudley
Chairman
Veterans Council of St. Johns County

Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home



Independence Day Spectacular!



Playing Volleyball



Eating Out



Bible Study





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



The Support Committee invites everyone to attend its **next scheduled meeting**. The meeting will be at **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 2019 SC at JNC MEETINGS
Sept. 9, Oct. 14, Nov. 4, Dec. 2**

Other topics that concern both the JNC & the St. Augustine National Cemetery are discussed at these meetings.

+++++2018/2019 Officers of the SCJNC+++++

Chairman: Steve Spickelmier

Vice Chairman: Bill Dudley, Treasurer: John Mountcastle

Assistant Treasurer: Michael Rothfeld, Secretary: Kathy Church

Master-At-Arms: Joe McDermott

Historian: Kathy Cayton

Chaplain: Rev. Patrick A. Archuleta, Sr.

The Veterans Council of St. Johns County meets on the following dates, all are invited to attend. We meet at the county Health & Human Services building, 200 San Sebastian View, at 7 pm

Future meeting Speakers:

August 29 Gerald Timoney, Military Museum of N. FL

Crystal Timmons, Veterans Garden Project

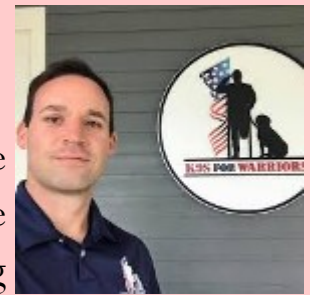
Sept. 26 Bob Buehn, Capt. USN, (Ret), former Commanding Officer, Guantanamo Bay

Char Miller, Community Hospice, Veterans Programs

Oct. 24 Chris Vedrick, Commander Dept of FL Military Order of the Purple Heart

Nov. 21 Emily Jane Murray, Flagler College, Public Archeology Coord, The Seminole Wars and How it Changed All of Us

From K9s For Warriors CEO Rory Diamond:



Disappointed. As a general rule, I only post good news and positive messages, there is enough negativity swirling around. But, I have to be honest about our efforts in DC this week for the PAWS Act requiring the VA to start providing vouchers for Service Dogs for veterans with extreme cases of service-related PTSD. For the last three years we've been pushing PAWS because the VA refuses to acknowledge what we all know,

Service Dogs are dramatically improving the lives of disabled veterans suffering from PTSD. Most importantly, these dogs are helping keep our heroes alive. Yet, each year we go and meet with the House Veterans Affairs Committee staff and each year they find a new way to say "No." This past week, we sat down with the Majority and Minority staff and, again, they said "No." No to Service Dogs for veterans with PTSD. No to our mountain of evidence that these dogs are saving lives. Instead, they told us to wait, wait, wait. Wait until 2020 or 2021 until after the VA completes a study to tell us what we already know.

The VA has spent tens of millions of dollars and over ten years "studying" what one of the 550 K9s For Warriors graduates can tell you (and our rigorous and privately funded, peer-reviewed hard science studies) in ten seconds—the dogs work. We can't afford to wait any longer, we are losing at least 20 veterans a day to suicide. Please ask your member of Congress to support the PAWS Act HB 3103. And, a huge thank your to Congressman John Rutherford, Gil Cisneros, and Michael Waltz for not giving up on our American heroes. PLEASE SHARE! Let's work together to MAKE our government work for our veterans. PLEASE SHARE far and wide.



E-Recon receives VVA honor

3 Chapters earn membership awards

McCabe gets Service Officer honor

The Florida State Council's E-Recon newsletter won the Vietnam Veterans of America state council E-Newspaper of the Year for the second straight convention when the 19th National Convention was held July 15-20 in Spokane, Washington.

E-Recon editor David Treffinger, also president of Chapter 1059 in Clay County, accepted the honor from VVA president John Rowan. Florida State Council President Mike Bousher is publisher of the newsletter and FSC treasurer Ray Breault is webmaster of the newsletter.

Three Florida State Council chapters earned national membership growth awards:

51-100 members: 1084 in St. John's County. (Chapter Vice President Blair Craig accepted to honor).

501-600: 1036, The Villages. (Chapter 1st Vice President Rick Rademacher accepted the honor).

201-300: 1048 in Volusia County. (FSC President Mike Bousher accepted the honor of 1048).

Marc McCabe, VVA Department of Veterans Affairs Bureau Chief/Regional Director, of St. Petersburg, was honored as VVA Service Officer of the Year.

Captions for pictures:

Photo 1: VVA Chapter 1088 Vice President Blair Craig and VVA 1st Vice President John McGinty display the VVA Membership Growth award for the 51-100 membership category.

Photo 2: Marc McCabe (right) receives the VVA Service Officer of the Year award, photo by McCabe

Photo 3: Blair Craig (left) and Rick Rademacher, of Chapter 1036, display the membership awards.

Photo 4: E-Recon Receives VVA Best Newsletter plaque



City of Jacksonville Receives more than \$230K grant to help homeless veterans

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. - More local veterans living on the streets will now get the help they need thanks to a \$231,750 grant that the city of Jacksonville just received.

Action News Jax visited VFW Post 7909 on the Westside and spoke with some local vets on why it's important to get more funding for homeless veterans.



Everyone inside VFW Post 7909 is like family as they talk over breakfast, bingo and fellowship.

“It gives you something to do when you’re single again and living by yourself,” Navy Veteran Ralph Hoenig said.

The City of Jacksonville Military Affairs and Veterans Department recently announced they received over their grant from the Department of Labor to help its homeless veterans.

“I think it’s outstanding, we have too many veterans living on the street that defended this country and they don’t need to be on the street. they need to be some place living comfortably at least living under shelter,” Navy Veteran Glenn Wright said.

Last year the city’s Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program (HVRP) helped about 90 veterans and gave 78 of them a job.

The program’s main goal is to help homeless veterans back on their feet. “We provide training and job development and career counseling and resume prep and food and clothing and whatever they need,” Harrison Conyers, the City’s Supervisor of Military Affairs and Veterans Department, said.

For the first time they’re also getting funding for follow-up services that they haven’t gotten before.

Veterans at the VFW Post 7909 tell us they help out homeless veterans too and they do it all through volunteer work.

One navy veteran tells us while the grant for the city is a step in the right direction, non-profits like the American Legion and VFW don’t receive federal funding and could always use the extra help.

“Support the veteran’s organizations cause they need it,” Hoenig said.

In order to apply to the Homeless Veteran’s Reintegration Program, veterans must be homeless or living in temporary shelter.

**12TH ANNUAL PARADE AND CEREMONY:
Commemorating the end of the 2nd Seminole War;
Honoring those who perished in it.**

Saturday, August 17th, 2019. St. Augustine National Cemetery, 104 Marine St.



9:30 AM: Gather in the Officers' Club at St. Francis Barracks, 82 Marine Street.*
Welcome, coffee, view exhibits, interact with re-enactors.

1045 --1130: Re-enactors march to the National Cemetery, followed by,
Commemoration ceremony at the pyramids and Dade Monument.

1200 - 1500: Luncheon in the Officers Club.*

Presentation of commemorative coins honoring Greg Moore, LTC (ret.)

**Report on research project at the St. Augustine National Cemetery:
Dr. Scott French and Dr. Amy Giroux; University of Central Florida.**

Organized by The West Point Society of North Florida.
Information at: mark3370@hotmail.com

***For registered guests only. Seating is limited.**

REGISTRATION WITH FORM BELOW NO LATER THAN AUGUST 12th.

✂ 2019 SEMINOLE WAR COMMEMORATION REGISTRATION

Make checks payable to W.P.S.N.F.. **Mail to:**

W.P.S.N.F., attn: Zach Peyton, 5470 Highway Avenue, Jacksonville, FL 32254.

Please register me for the events in the Officers Club on Saturday, August 17th.

Name _____, Contact info _____

I will bring _____ guests. Enclosed is check # _____ for \$ _____ (\$20 X # in party)

Support Brigade Appeal !! (Members receive the commemorative coin.)

The W.P.S.N.F. depends on donations to help defray the costs of this event!

Yes I want to help! Enroll me as: _____ Commander (\$50), or _____ Loyal Trooper (\$25)

Name/org. for program. _____

Greg Moore commemoration honoree

The 12th Annual Parade and Ceremony commemorating the end of the 2nd Seminole War and honoring those who perished in it will be held Saturday, August 17 at St. Augustine National Cemetery on Marine Street.

"This will be a very special commemoration," says Joe Naftzinger of the host West Point Society of North Florida. "We have dedicated it to (former National Guard historian) Greg Moore who was its guiding light for many years. He will be featured on the 6th coin in the series -- he personally designed the 1st."

Ceremonies will begin at 9:30 am at the St. Francis Barracks along Marine Street. At 10:45 reenactors will march to the National Cemetery for the commemoration ceremony at the Dade Monument.

A noon luncheon in the Officers Club for registered guests will feature a report on a research project at the St. Augustine National Cemetery by Dr. Scott French and Dr. Amy Giroux of the University of Central Florida.



Restoring History by SHELDON GARDNER, St. Augustine Record

While many people in St. Augustine Beach are sleeping, Paul Kulik could be up at his computer working on removing blemishes from historical photos. Kulik restores old military and family pictures, a craft that he's pursued for about eight years.



He's restored about 5,000 so far, he estimated. He also doesn't charge for his work. Most recently, Kulik has been working on a collection of 150 photos, both military and family photos, including photos of World War I soldiers and a Civil War Union general. It's painstaking work that can take hours for just one photograph, depending on the quality of the photo.

"You've got spots. You've got cracks. You've got discoloration — all these things that you can't just go and press an app and say, 'Correct it,'" Kulik said.

Kulik, a retired U.S. Army lieutenant colonel, served in the special forces in Vietnam. He stored his photos from Vietnam in a book. After he retired, he revisited his photos and saw they were aging. He decided to try and correct them himself because he had Photoshop on his computer.

After teaching himself how to do the work, he began helping others correct theirs. He's also used his own restored photos to go along with military articles he's written, such as about his time in Vietnam. He doesn't advertise his services anymore, but he's been working on another project for St. Augustine Beach Police Officer Bryan Wright.

He met Wright after calling for help about an aggressive dog, and they got to know each other. They learned they had a common military bond — Wright is a technical sergeant in the Florida Air National Guard.

They both also have a trove of photos. After Wright's grandmother passed away several months ago, he visited her home to help move furniture.

"I discovered all these pictures in a cedar chest in her bedroom," Wright said. "It felt like I really hit a gold mine."

Among the stash of pictures was a photo of Silas Colgrove, a Union brevet brigadier general in the Civil War — and Wright is a direct descendant of Colgrove. Colgrove served at Gettysburg and was later wounded at the Battle of Peachtree Creek in 1864, according to an online biography. He was recognized for "meritorious and distinguished services during the war."

Colgrove's photo was faded with spots, so Wright loaned that and others to Kulik for restoration. It's one that Kulik has already finished and given back to Wright, who said he knew of Colgrove but didn't have a photo of him before he found his grandmother's collection.

"It's an honor to have that," Wright said. Another photo that Wright loaned to Kulik shows a group of men, including some of Wright's family members, on a rifle range preparing to go to Europe in World War I.

Kulik did extensive work on that photo and described the process of removing imperfections.

"See all the spots, all this stuff ... it just takes away from the picture," Kulik said. "Look, right on his nose. You know, your eyes just focus to those spots. ... You don't really want those things."

There is a thing as correcting too much, though, he said. Some of the marks of age, like the coloring, enhance the character of an image.

Kulik said he chooses to spend his time restoring photos as a way to preserve history.

"Because history is preserved in photographs," he said.

Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc. Minutes of July 25, 2019

Officers present: Chairman Bill Dudley, Secretary Michael Rothfeld, Vice Chairman Ray Quinn, Treasurer John Mountcastle
Chairman Dudley called the meeting to order at 1902 hours

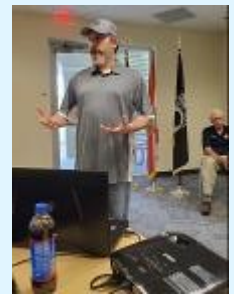
Chairman Dudley led the Pledge to the Flag and SGM Ray Quinn gave the Invocation

Minutes were approved as presented Treasurer's Report were approved as presented

Introduction of Guests: Celeste Sheble, Vince Hoelscher, Viggo Melin, Bruce Salyer

Speaker: Bruce Thompson, Vets4Vets NE FL

(brucethompson4v@gmail.com) : MISSION: INFORM our Veterans about policy changes, resources, and issues; CONNECT our Veterans with organizations that will build a better future for tomorrow's Veterans. UNITE our Veterans to one another in an effort to build strong relationships. ORGANIZE the voice of our Veterans so that we are heard within our Community, our State, and our Country. TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER! VISION: Ensure Veterans are respected and recognized for their service, always receive the benefits and entitlements they were promised and earned and ensure all veterans especially disabled Veterans are given a fair deal.



Michael Ricketts, Pres., Special Forces Assoc. , Chapter 88 Jax.

(maricketts1@gmail.com) The Special Forces Association, North East Florida Chapter 88 Serves as the Local Voice for the Special Forces Community; Perpetuates Special Forces Traditions and Brotherhood; Advances the Public Image of Special Forces and Promotes the General Welfare of the Special Forces Community.



The purposes for the formation of the "Green Beret" Special Forces Association, North East Florida Chapter 88 are to unite fraternally all persons who are now or have been assigned to the United States Army Special Forces, to perpetuate the traditions of Special Forces and to commemorate the memory of Special Forces soldiers who have given their lives in defense of the United States and the free world.



Committee Reports:

Mac: Mac spoke about the new Mission Act, Blue Water Bill and will talk more

about it as info becomes available

John L: Veterans treatment Court update- 18 Mentors, Nov. 13, 14 Mentor training, Melbourne, FL. VVA 1084 received VVA National Award for Annual Member Growth, Dave Treffinger's E-Recon received an award for best newsletter



Steve S: Sept. 21. 10 am to 3 pm, all invited to Cecil Field for the annual Gathering In The Pines



Kathy, MIAP: 21st Call To Honor in Sarasota on Sept. 26.

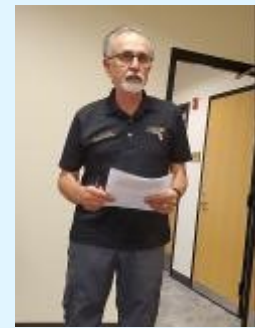
Bill: new CBOC Groundbreaking Oct. 3 at 10 am., Veterans Day events Nov. 11 at Anastasia Baptist Church & SA Beach

For the Good of The Order: Chris Vedvick, Purple Heart Ceremony @ Jax Wall, August 8.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm, The next meeting of the Veterans Council will be on Thursday, August 29, 2019, 7 pm in the Health & Human Services Building, 200 San Sebastian View.

Future speakers:

- Aug. 29** Gerald Timoney, Military Museum of N. FL
Crystal Timmons, Veterans Garden Project
- Sept. 26** Bob Buehn, Capt. USN, (Ret), former Commanding Officer, Guantanamo Bay
Char Miller, Community Hospice, Veterans Programs
- Oct. 24** Chris Vedvick, Commander Dept of FL Military Order of the Purple Heart
- Nov. 21** Emily Jane Murray, Public Archeology Coord, Flagler College, The Seminole Wars and How it Changed All of Us
John Powell, Historic Firearms
- Dec. 19**



From Vietnam veteran Jerry Domask: The St. Augustine Art Association (STAAA), will feature a veteran art exhibit for the month of January 2020, in the North Gallery, pending final approval by STAAA Board of Directors (BOD). The veteran exhibit is considering a theme of "Looking Back; Looking Forward". We are looking for local veteran artists interested in exhibiting their visual creations (paintings, photography, graphics, multi-media, sculptures, etc). Subject matter of creations is wide open at this time. Any veteran artists interested in participating please contact me either by email or phone. Thank you for your support and that of the JCVA!

Jerome (Jerry) Domask jerrydomask@gmail.com Vietnam Veteran/
Army (RET) Artist (Painter & Sculptor) 904-386-0622



**AGENT ORANGE
TOWN HALL**
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7
9 A.M. - 12 P.M.
ADAM W. HERBERT UNIVERSITY CENTER AT UNF



9 a.m.: Breakfast & Program Starts

Welcome: Bob Buehn

**Director, UNF Military and Veterans Resource Center and
Chairman, Community Hospice Veterans Partnership**

Color Guard: U.S. Marine Corps, Blount Island Command

Blessing: Kirk Crocco

Chaplain, Community Hospice & Palliative Care

Video: Agent Orange

Keynote Speaker: Anthony "Tony" G. D'Aleo

President, Vietnam Veterans of America, Local Chapter 1046

Subject Matter Expert Panel:

**Moderator: Char Miller, Community Hospice & Palliative Care and
Community Hospice Veterans Partnership**

**Panel: Marc McCabe, Vietnam Veterans of America,
Dr. W. Patrick Monaghan, Ph.D., Mokie Porter, Vietnam Veterans of America,
and Shaneka Hall, Department of Veterans Affairs**

Veteran Recognition Ceremony: All Veterans In Attendance



REGISTER TODAY:
AOtownhall.eventbrite.com

Sponsored by the Community Hospice Veterans Partnership (CHVP) and UNF Military and Veterans Resource Center (UNF MVRC).
In partnership with Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) and VVA Local Chapter 1046.

A new leash on life: Congressman John Rutherford pushes for more service dogs for veterans

By Colleen Jones St. Augustine Record



Jerome Jaques took one look at the service dog he'd been matched with and thought there must be some mistake.

"Here's this giant dog — he's 90 pounds — with big, floppy ears like Goofy, and I'm thinking to myself, 'No way,'" Jaques said, laughing at the memory.

It was at that moment, though, that Jaques turned his trust over to the process, and to Roger, the big Labrador retriever he'd begin to bond with over the next few days at the training facility for K9s For Warriors in Ponte Vedra Beach. The organization is the largest service dog provider for disabled post-9/11 veterans in the U.S.

Some of the 150 soldiers the center places with dogs each year have lost limbs, and others have less tangible wounds but ones that resonate just as deeply as they struggle with the effects of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder in civilian life.

When a veteran is accepted into the K9s For Warriors program, he or she is paired with a dog that staff have carefully chosen for that individual. Over the next three weeks, animals are tethered to their new owners, eating, sleeping and training with them in a variety of immersive situations as the two learn each other's cues.

For Jaques, 48, of Nocatee, that has meant recognizing when Roger is anxious, which forces him to focus on soothing the dog's nerves, in turn helping alleviate his own anxiety. If U.S. Congressman John Rutherford (R-4th district) has his way, every former military servicemember will be given the option of receiving a companion dog to help deal with PTSD.

Rutherford, a former sheriff with the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, recently introduced a bill to Congress toward this end. Called the PAWs (Puppies Assisting Wounded Servicemembers) Act, the legislation would direct the Veterans Administration to grant a voucher to each qualifying veteran for any service dog organization of their choosing.

The VA estimates that 11 to 12% of all Iraq and Afghanistan veterans have PTSD, according to the U.S. Dept. of VA National Center for PTSD. Approximately, 22 veterans take their own lives each day.

Service dog programs aren't cheap, with the cost of training each dog at about \$25,000. K9s For Warriors, for example, takes rescue dogs from high-kill shelters and trains them for six months on the Ponte Vedra Beach campus before they are matched with veterans.

The bill Rutherford is sponsoring would be funded at \$10 million for a national pilot program over the next three years.

The Veterans Council of Duval County was awarded the Melody Starr Anne Bishop Award and presented to the members of the council in attendance on Tuesday, June 25, 2019 at Jacksonville City Hall during the City Council meeting.

In 2009, out-going President Ronnie Fussell established the Melody Starr Anne Bishop Award for unsung community service by a citizen or organization. The first award was presented posthumously to the award's namesake, Melody Starr Anne Bishop, the daughter of Council Member Bill Bishop (District 2) and his wife Melody Bishop.

Melody Starr Anne Bishop, who died in March 2009 at age 21 from ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease), was well known for her devotion to her community, her church, and to numerous causes large and small which she pursued with passion and enthusiasm until her untimely death. The award is given annually by the out-going Council President to recognize the countless acts of civic involvement and neighborly assistance that take place around the City every day that contribute to the City's quality of life.

Pictured left to right are members of the VCDC, Chaplain Lori Garland, Secretary, Kathy Church, Council President Arron Bowman, Chairman, Steve Spickelmier, 1st Vice/JAG, David Trotti, members Dee Quaranta and Derick Collins.



On July 11, 2019, Retired Navy Petty Officer and Master-at-Arms Gary Newman presented the Director of Veterans Services Karen Thomas, an award for her dedication to the veterans of Clay County. The plaque reads, "With Sincere Appreciation for Continued Support of the Clay County Community and Our Veterans." Karen has been the Director of Veterans Services for 8 years and stated "I truly enjoy serving those who deserve it the most." If you're a veteran or a family member of a veteran, you can reach out to our Veterans Service Office at 904-269-6326 for assistance filing VA paperwork, filing for educational benefits, filing for an appeal when benefits are unjustly denied, and more! Thank you for your hard work and dedication to our Veterans Karen!



Save the Date

V4V

Vets 4 Vets

**Quarterly Gathering
Saturday, August 10th, 2019**

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

1000 – 1100

Coffee, Networking and Exhibitors

1100 – 1200

Speakers

1200 – 1300

Free Lunch, Networking and Exhibitors
Open to Veterans, Military, families, and supporters

Listen, Learn, and
Let your Voice be Heard

TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER!!

VA extends Agent Orange presumption to 'Blue Water Navy' Veterans

Eligible Veterans may now be entitled to disability compensation benefits

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is preparing to process Agent Orange exposure claims for “Blue Water Navy” Veterans who served offshore of the Republic of Vietnam between Jan. 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975.

These Veterans may be eligible for presumption of herbicide exposure through Public Law 116-23, Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019, which was signed into law June 25, 2019, and goes into effect Jan. 1, 2020. They may also qualify for a presumption of service connection if they have a disease that is recognized as being associated with herbicide exposure.

The bipartisan Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act gives VA until Jan. 1, 2020, to begin deciding Blue Water Navy related claims. By staying claims decisions until that date, VA is complying with the law that Congress wrote and passed.

“VA is dedicated to ensuring that all Veterans receive the benefits they have earned,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “We are working to ensure that we have the proper resources in place to meet the needs of our Blue Water Veteran community and minimize the impact on all Veterans filing for disability compensation.”

Blue Water Navy Veterans are encouraged to submit disability compensation claims for conditions presumed to be related to Agent Orange exposure. Veterans over age 85 or with life-threatening illnesses will have priority in claims processing.

Veterans who previously were denied for an Agent Orange related presumptive condition can file a new claim based on the change in law. Eligible survivors of deceased Blue Water Navy Veterans also may benefit from the new law and may file claims for benefits based on the Veterans' service.

The new law affects Veterans who served on a vessel operating not more than 12 nautical miles seaward from the demarcation line of the waters of Vietnam and Cambodia, as defined in Public Law 116-23. An estimated 420,000 to 560,000 Vietnam-era Veterans may be considered Blue Water Navy Veterans.

To qualify, under the new law, these Veterans must have a disease associated with herbicide exposure, as listed in 38 Code of Federal Regulations section 3.309(e).

Agent Orange presumptive conditions are:

AL amyloidosis	Chloracne or similar acneform disease	Chronic B-cell leukemias
Diabetes mellitus Type 2	Hodgkin lymphoma, formerly known as Hodgkin's disease	
Ischemic heart disease	Multiple myeloma	
	Non-Hodgkin lymphoma, formerly known as Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma	
Parkinson's disease	Peripheral neuropathy, early-onset	Porphyria cutanea tarda
Prostate cancer	Respiratory cancers (lung, bronchus, larynx or trachea)	

Soft-tissue sarcoma (other than osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma or mesothelioma).

For more information about Agent Orange exposure in Vietnam waters (Blue Water Navy Veterans), visit <https://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/hazardous-materials-exposure/agent-orange/navy-coast-guard-ships-vietnam/>.

Veterans seeking more information should contact their Veterans Service Officer, call VA's toll-free number at 800-827-1000 or visit the VA Blue Water Navy Agent Orange website.



Your calls captioned at **NO COST*** to you.

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- Amplified handset
- Answering machine with captioned messages
- Hands-free speakerphone
- Free installation and lifetime warranty

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Anas Benjelloun
904-568-4562

FEDERAL LAW PROHIBITS ANYONE BUT REGISTERED USERS WITH HEARING LOSS FROM USING INTERNET PROTOCOL (IP) CAPTIONED TELEPHONES WITH THE CAPTIONS TURNED ON.

IP Captioned Telephone Service may use a live operator. The operator generates captions of what the other party to the call says.

These captions are then sent to your phone. There is a cost for each minute of captions generated, paid from a federally administered fund.



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*No cost to qualified users through a federally-funded program.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Hearing loss
- Home phone service
- High-speed internet

There's a new sign on SR 207, just west of the Record building



FL Times Union

K9s for Warriors' Shari Duval receives DAR Medal of Honor

By Julie Kanner

Shari Duval, founder of K9s for Warriors, was recognized by the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution with the organization's highest award. Duval received the DAR Medal of Honor for her leadership, patriotism and service and contributions to American Heritage.



She joins the ranks of past recipients who include human rights activists, distinguished military veterans and members of NASA. The award was presented during the 128th DAR Continental Congress in Washington.

K9s for Warriors provides service dogs to military veterans and, according to the organization is the nation's largest provider of service dogs to military veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury and/or military sexual trauma as a result of military service post-9/11.

A Purple Heart that was mistakenly donated to Goodwill will be returned to a sailor's family

By Amanda Jackson and Chris Boyette, CNN

A World War II sailor's family will be reunited with his Purple Heart medal that was accidentally donated to a Goodwill in Tucson, Arizona.



An associate sorting items at the donation center in mid-June came across the medal in a box of housewares. It was engraved with the name Nick D'Amelio Jr. and "S2C, USN."

According to military records, D'Amelio was a seaman second class in the US Navy who was declared missing in action when the USS Little sank in the Solomon Islands on September 5, 1942.

On Wednesday, great-nephew Doug Hanna confirmed that his family is in the process of getting it returned.

"Overall, besides overcoming the shock and realization the Purple Heart was misplaced, we are anxious to have it returned home," he said.

A year after the USS Little sank, D'Amelio was declared dead and memorialized on the Walls of the Missing at the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial in the Philippines. He was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart.

Piecing the puzzle together: Goodwill shared images of the prestigious medal on social media on Monday in hopes of finding the recipient's family. It also teamed up with Purple Hearts Reunited, a nonprofit organization that returns lost or stolen medals to veterans and military families. "It's important that we get it to the right family," Judith Roman Bucasas, director of marketing for Goodwill Industries of Southern Arizona, said Monday. "This guy didn't get to make it back home."

Hanna said the medal was kept close to D'Amelio's sister, Louise, and she would often carry it in her pocket.

"Louise was spiritual and believed her brothers and husband were close to her in her final days," he said. "This medal and the numbers '954' brought her comfort."

After her death, Hanna believes, the medal accidentally landed in a box of donations as family members sorted her belongings.

"The family of Seaman Nick D'Amelio Jr. are greatly indebted to the efforts of so many who have worked tirelessly to return this misplaced treasure to our family," Hanna said.

The Purple Heart is given to US service members who are wounded or killed in combat. The US Department of Veterans Affairs says it's "one of the most recognized and respected medals awarded to members of the US armed forces" and "the nation's oldest military award."

In 2016, a Purple Heart was accidentally donated to a Goodwill in Arizona, and it was reunited with the service member's family in Missouri with the help of people on social media.



Join Us On

NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

at the

GATHERING IN THE PINES EVENT

Saturday
September 21, 2019
10am - 3pm

Chapel of the High-Speed Pass - 6112 POW-MIA Memorial Pkwy, Jacksonville, FL 32221

Join us on National POW/MIA Recognition Day under the pines with many great veteran organizations.

Events of the day will include:

POW/MIA Recognition Ceremony

10 AM

POW/MIA Movies

Stolen Freedom & Missing Presumed Dead

shown throughout the day in the Chapel Conference Room starting at 11:30AM



🌲 Car and Bike Show

🌲 Food Trucks

🌲 Live Entertainment

🌲 Silent Auction

🌲 Kid's Area

Please bring your lawn chairs and spend the day!

**THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES**

All proceeds from this event to benefit the

The National POW/MIA Memorial & Museum

Hosted By

VETERAN COUNCILS OF

Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau and St. Johns Counties



NATIONAL POW/MIA MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM

Proudly hosts

A Gathering In The Pines

September 21, 2019 10:00am to 3:00pm

Registration Form

(Please print clearly)

Organization: _____

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

Phone: Home # _____ **Cell #** _____

Email: _____

Fee: \$25.00 Paid on Date: _____ **by Check #:** _____ **or Cash:** _____

Children's Activity Yes No

Set up time: 0800

Tents, tables, etc. will not be provided. Sales permitted by registered organizations. Minimum of 10% of sales for profit must be donated to the Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial and Museum fund. This minimum donation **does not** apply to non-profit groups.

Make checks payable to: Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial Fund

Mail checks to:

AFSA Chapter F0559; c/o Rick Wiggs; 15664 Forest Trail Road; Jacksonville, FL. 32234.

Disclaimer: Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc. is a non-profit corporation-Registration Number CH51569. Copies of all tax and financial documents may be obtained by calling 800-435-7352 within the state. Registration does not constitute endorsement, approval or recommendation by the state.

NEVER FORGOTTEN

★ THEIR SACRIFICE ★ OUR MISSION ★

EVER ONWARD



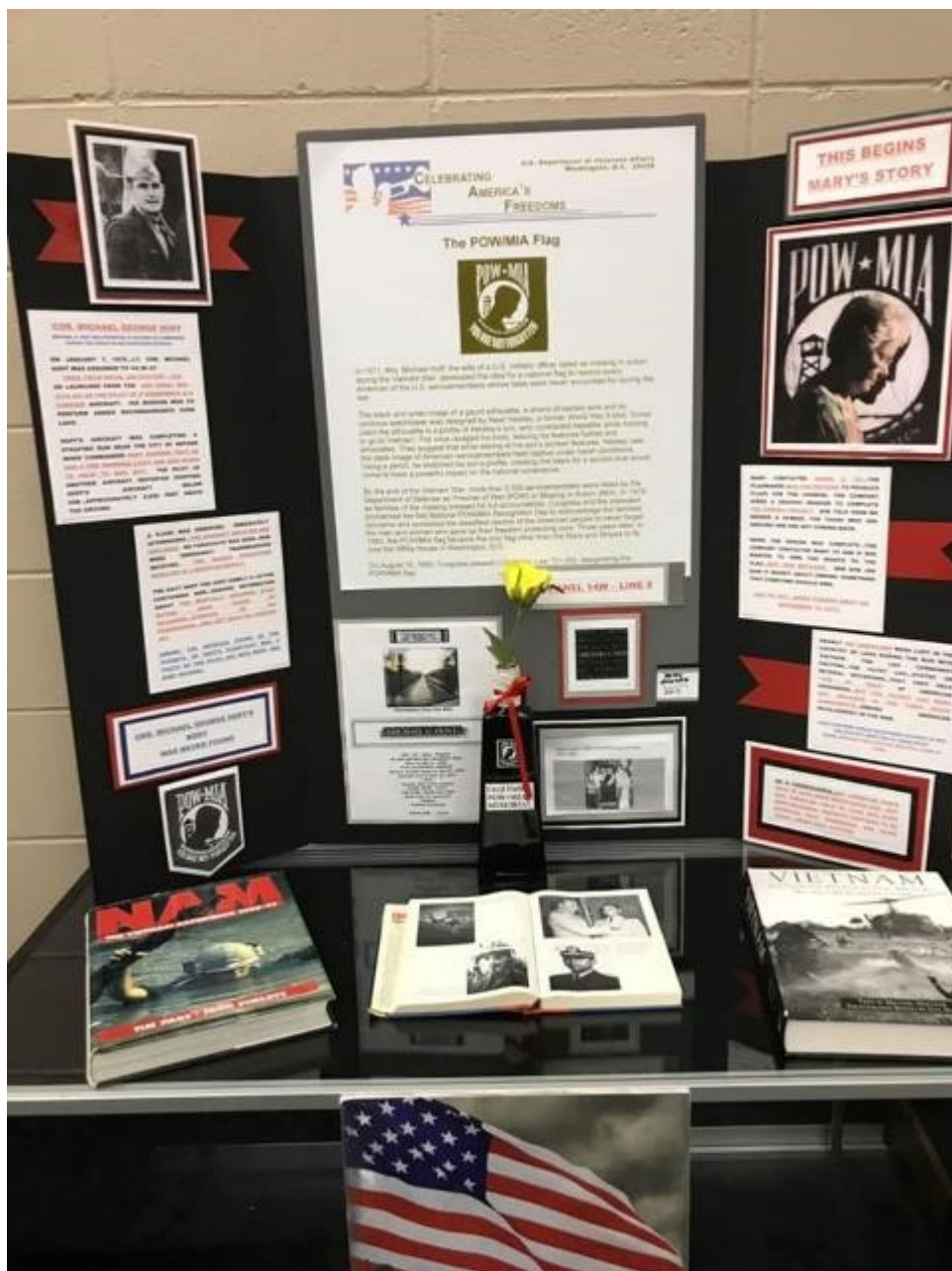
NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY



SEPTEMBER 20, 2019

WWW.DPAA.MIL

From Big John Sutherland, National POW MIA Recognition Day, 2nd Annual Gathering in the Pines Planning meeting.



News Flash



Rod Phillips, President



July 20, 2019

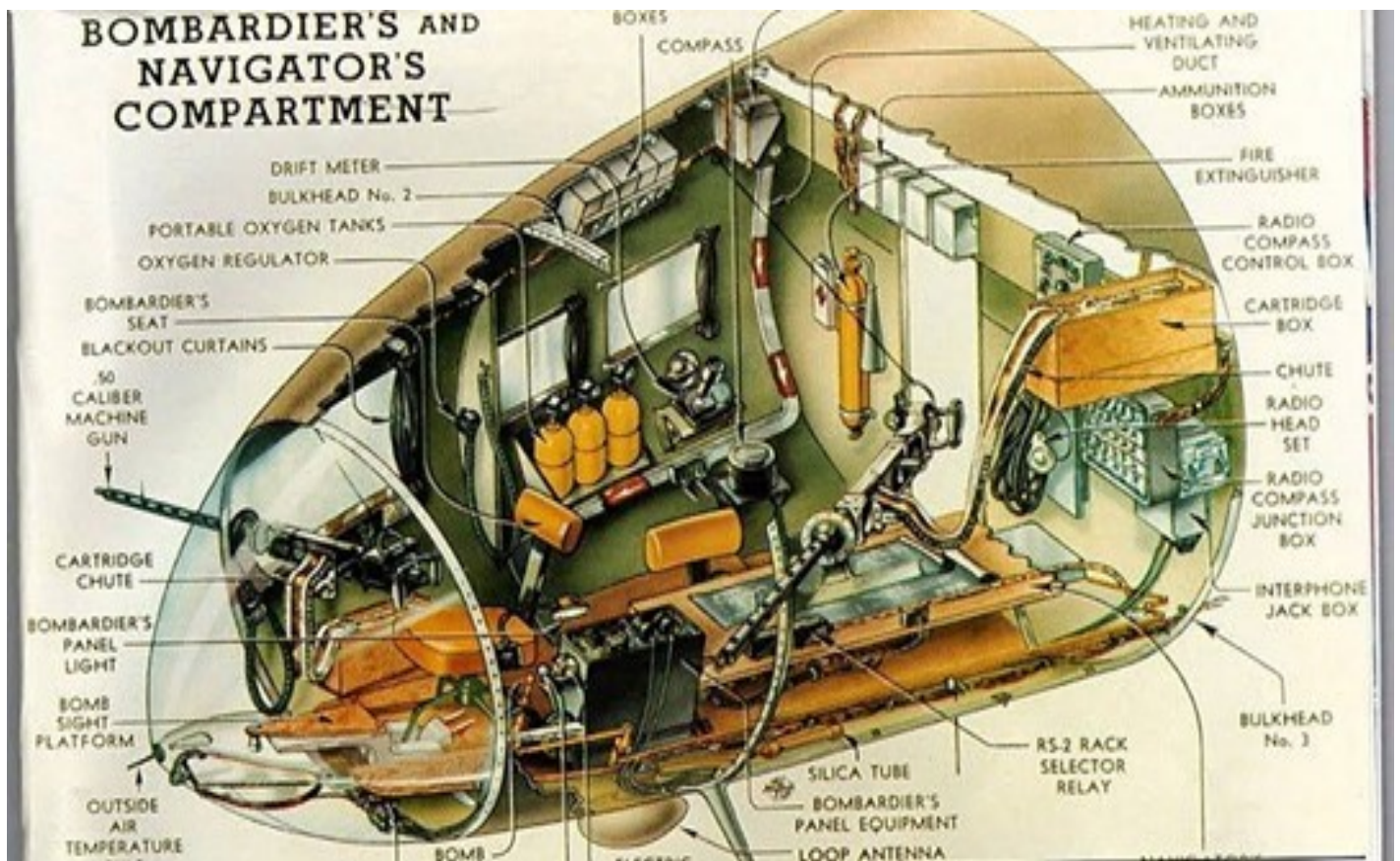
Spokane Washington~Good news from our VVAFSC, President Mike Bousher and team, boots on the ground at the VVA National Convention in Spokane, Washington. I am please to announce that Vietnam Veterans of America Daytona Beach Chapter 1048 is the recipient of the 2019 VVA National Membership Growth Award. Congratulations Team VVA 1048, I am proud to serve with each and everyone of you.

V/R

Rod Phillips, President



Cutaway Illustration of a B-17 Bomber deployed during WW II.





www.AL5thDistrictFL.org

Congratulations: 2019-2020 Department Florida Officers



Commander Rick Johnson

1st Vice Commander Jerry Brandt

2nd Vice Commander Eunice Butts

3rd Vice Commander Michael Raymond

Sgt.at Arms Jeff Durden

Historian Edward Lewis

Chaplain Barry Roberts

Northern Area Commander Marie Kraemer Conti

VCDR MIKE GARCIA

VCDR LENA HEREDIA-PEREZ

CDR TROY HORSLY

3rd Annual Clay County Veterans Appreciation Day Event

SATURDAY | MOOSEHAVEN
SEPT 28 | 1701 Park Avenue
9AM to 3PM | Orange Park, FL 32073

Climbing Wall | Colleges | Face Painting | Food Trucks
Free Entertainment | Free Haircuts | Free Kid Zone
Military Museum Displays | Special Guest Speakers AND
Veterans Resources on site!



Hosted by the Clay County Board of County Commissioners

For more information contact the VSO at (904) 284/269-6326



www.claycountygov.com/departments/veterans-services

"Serving Veterans Past, Present, and Future"



Gold Sponsors:



Silver Sponsors:

Boger's Shoes



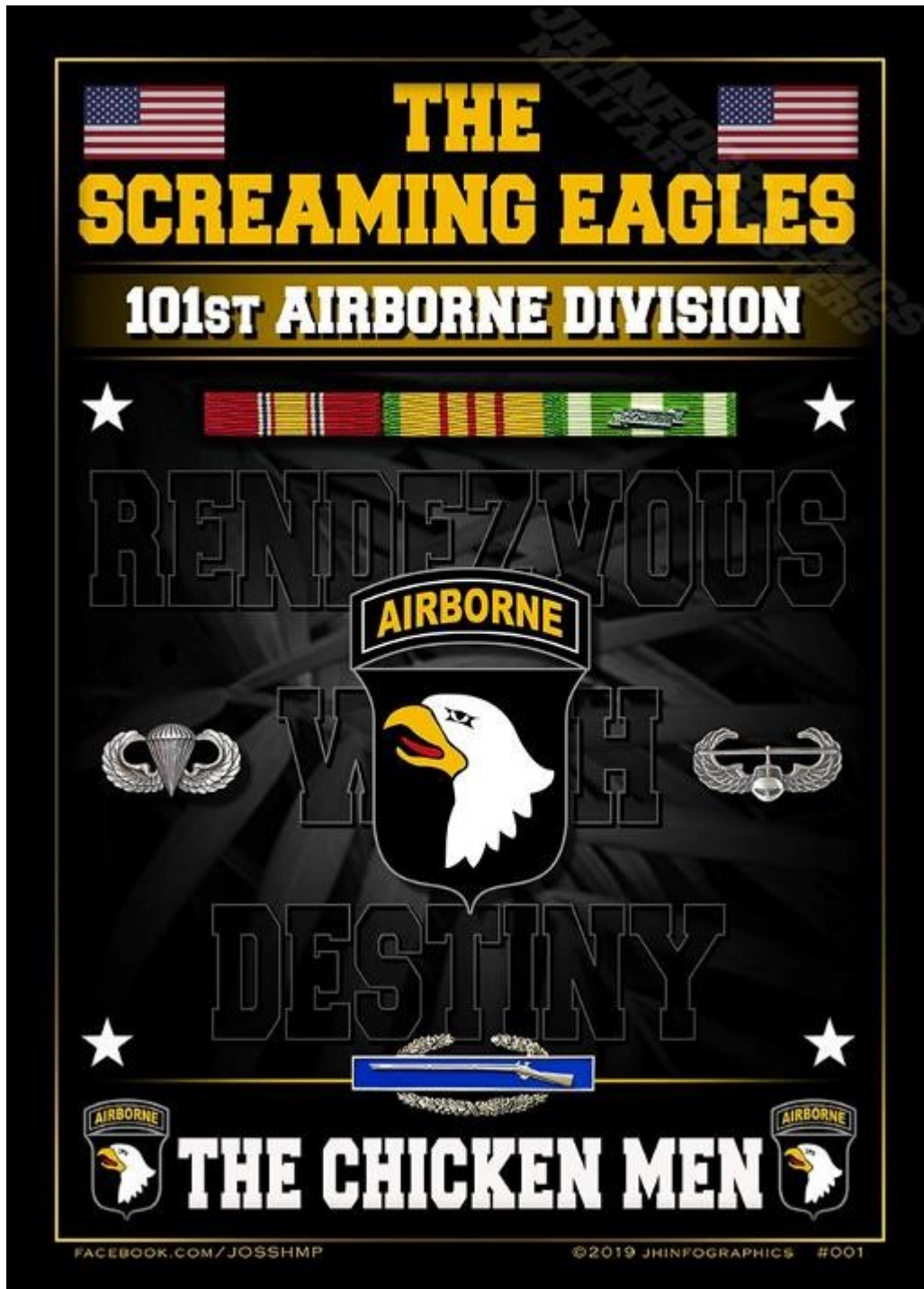
"The answer for hurting feet"

Eisman & Russo
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

Bronze Sponsors:

Tourist Development Council

The Vietnamese don't have eagles and had never seen an eagle. So when they saw the 101st patch the only thing they could reference it with were chickens. Thus the 101st was given the nickname "chicken men".



The logo consists of the letters 'V4V' in a bold, serif font. The 'V's are dark blue with white stars, and the '4' is white with a blue outline and stars. The background is a faded American flag.

Together We are Stronger

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

V4VFlorida.org

Vets4VetsNJax@gmail.com

Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram: @Vets4VetsNJax

#vets4vetsjax #Jointhevetsmovement #Togetherwearestronger



Mission Statement:

**The Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc.
is a 501 C3 Not-For-Profit Florida Corporation.**



The Veterans Council of St. Johns County is comprised of representatives from various veterans' organizations that work with city and county governments and organizations to assist with matters concerning veterans and veterans' activities.

What the Council has done:

- The Veterans Treatment Court
 - Wreaths Across America
 - Homeless Veterans Standdown
 - Veterans Day Parade
 - Vets 4 Vets
- And so much more...

SA-0003147064-01

Attention all post 9/11 combat veterans. We have immediate openings for our July and August Warrior PATHH programs. If you are ready for a change and want to transform struggle into strength you must apply for this transformative program. Apply at GratitudeAmerica.org/warrior-pathh



Warrior PATHH (Progressive and Alternative Training for Healing Heroes) is the nation's first non-clinical program designed to cultivate and facilitate Posttraumatic Growth amongst those struggling with PTSD and/or combat stress. Warrior PATHH enables these remarkable men and women to transform times of deep struggle into profound strength and growth. All Warrior PATHH instructors have walked this road from struggle to strength, and the blended team of trained combat veterans and civilians leverage their own experiences to guide attendees. This 18-month program begins with a 7-day retreat, initiating students into the Warrior PATHH. Students are then supported for the following 77 weeks via the myPATHH technology platform, regular Team Video Chats, alumni coaches, and the Warrior PATHH Student Guide and Journal.

Warrior PATHH was created by Boulder Crest, a pioneering nonprofit organization focused on developing transformative programs that ensure combat veterans can be as productive at home as they were on the battlefield. GratitudeAmerica and Boulder Crest have partnered to bring Warrior PATHH to Florida.

The Warrior PATHH is based on the decades-old science of Posttraumatic Growth (PTG) and enable participants to meaningfully and sustainably transform times of deep struggle into profound strength and lifelong growth. As a result, participants experience stronger and deeper relationships, new possibilities, an increased sense of gratitude for life, greater connection to their spiritual or religious life, and a renewed sense of personal strength.

➤ Warrior PATHH is provided at **no cost** for post 9/11 combat veterans.

➤ **No clinical diagnosis** is required to attend.

➤ Programs are offered **monthly** in Gainesville, FL.



GratitudeAmerica

TO LEARN MORE VISIT:

GRATITUDEAMERICA.ORG/WARRIOR-PATHH

CONTACT US

Mike Hilliard, Warrior PATHH Program Director
warriorpathh@gratitudeamerica.org

P.O. Box 16956

Fernandina Beach, FL 32035

770-718-7108

From: Jessica Bradstreet, L.C.S.W., Local Recovery Coordinator
Department of Veterans Affairs, NF/SG Veterans Healthcare System,
904-239-8812

Just wanted to provide you with some additional links and document attached (Social Media Suicide Prevention Efforts/Strategies) - feel free to share them to your Facebook page and within the Council, within your mailing lists, and save for use as needed.

<https://www.va.gov/welcome-kit/> A lot of good Enrollment/Intro VA information

<https://psycharmor.org/courses/s-a-v-e/> A public/community focused Suicide Prevention training- Free

<https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/> VA Link/Program

<https://www.mirecc.va.gov/coaching/> VA Link/Program

<https://maketheconnection.net/> VA Link/Program

https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/suicide_prevention/docs/Office-of-Mental-Health-and-Suicide-Prevention-National-Strategy-for-Preventing-Veterans-Suicide.pdf

Thank you,

Jessica Bradstreet, L.C.S.W.

Web Resources:

<https://www.va.gov/welcome-kit/>

<https://psycharmor.org/courses/s-a-v-e/>

<https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/>

<https://www.mirecc.va.gov/coaching/>

<https://maketheconnection.net/>

Jessica Bradstreet, L.C.S.W., Local Recovery Coordinator,
Department of Veterans Affairs
NF/SG Veterans Healthcare System, 904-239-8812

Mission Act Communication Plan

For billing/claims issues, Veterans should contact the Community Care Contact Center (C4):

1-866-606-8198

If a Veteran is already in collections, they should call the Adverse Credit Report line:

1-877-881-7618

If the Veteran needs assistance with appointments, referrals, and authorizations, they should contact our local Community Care call center:

1-888-493-3260

MISSION Act Call Center is established for general questions and basic eligibility or they can visit <https://missionact.va.gov/>.

1-844-698-2311

Below is a list of other VISN 8 Community Care Customer Service Call Centers if you should have traveling Veterans with questions regarding their appointments, referrals, and authorizations not coordinated at NFSG.

Bay Pines: 1-727-398-3252

Miami: 1-305-575-7666

Orlando: 1-407-646-4100

San Juan: 1-787-641-7582

Tampa: 1-866-972-8201

West Palm: 1-561-422-6470

A friendly reminder that first call resolution is the goal when any Veteran contacts the facility. Please use the Mission Act resources shared to attempt to answer questions as we continue to learn together. Thank you.

The NF/SG Healthcare System

This is your Invitation to attend An Interest Meeting! To learn more about building a Council within the St. Augustine VA Clinic and Community.

When: Tuesday Aug. 13th 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m., Where: St. Augustine VA Clinic
195 Southpark Blvd. St. Augustine, FL. 32086 Room #110

Why: Collaboration among the VA and local organizations for improved Mental Health specific experiences and resource sharing.

If you would like more information, Email or Call: Jessica Bradstreet, L.C.S.W.

Local Recovery Coordinator, Jessica.Bradstreet@va.gov, 904-239-8812

What is a Local Recovery Coordinator?

Jessica Bradstreet, L.C.S.W. • (904) 239-8812 • Jessica.bradstreet@va.gov

Recovery is “a process of change through which individuals work to improve their own health and well-being, live a self-directed life, and strive to achieve their full potential.” (SAMHSA, 2012)

Purpose of LRC Role: “There is a mental health provider at each VAMC to help Veterans with serious mental illness (SMI) access recovery oriented services. The LRC provides education and support to Veterans, family members, the community, and VA staff members about mental illness and recovery. The LRC promotes activities that remove barriers and stigma that may be associated with mental illness and ensures that veterans with SMI have access to the rehabilitation and recovery services needed to attain their goals.”

“...Inform and improve all levels of MH care.”

“...participates in identifying and addressing barriers to high quality continuity of care.”

Often collaborates with community providers; Recovery Services (MH Care) Projects and Initiatives

Goals of the LRC Role: To help veterans and the VA system understand that mental health is essential to overall health.

To create a MH system that is veteran- and family- driven.

To eliminate any disparities, stigma, or discrimination associated with mental illness.

To promote full access to recovery-oriented services at every VA location and at every point of contact with veterans.

To ensure that excellent recovery-oriented care is delivered and that the VA system builds the body of knowledge about recovery.

To learn how technology can be used by veterans and family members to access resources and support the journey of recovery.

Transparency, education, and advocacy to Community Providers, Networks, Councils of Veterans

POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER AWARENESS

NOT ALL WOUNDS ARE VISIBLE...

11%-20% OF
OEF/OIF VETERANS
SUFFER FROM
PTSD



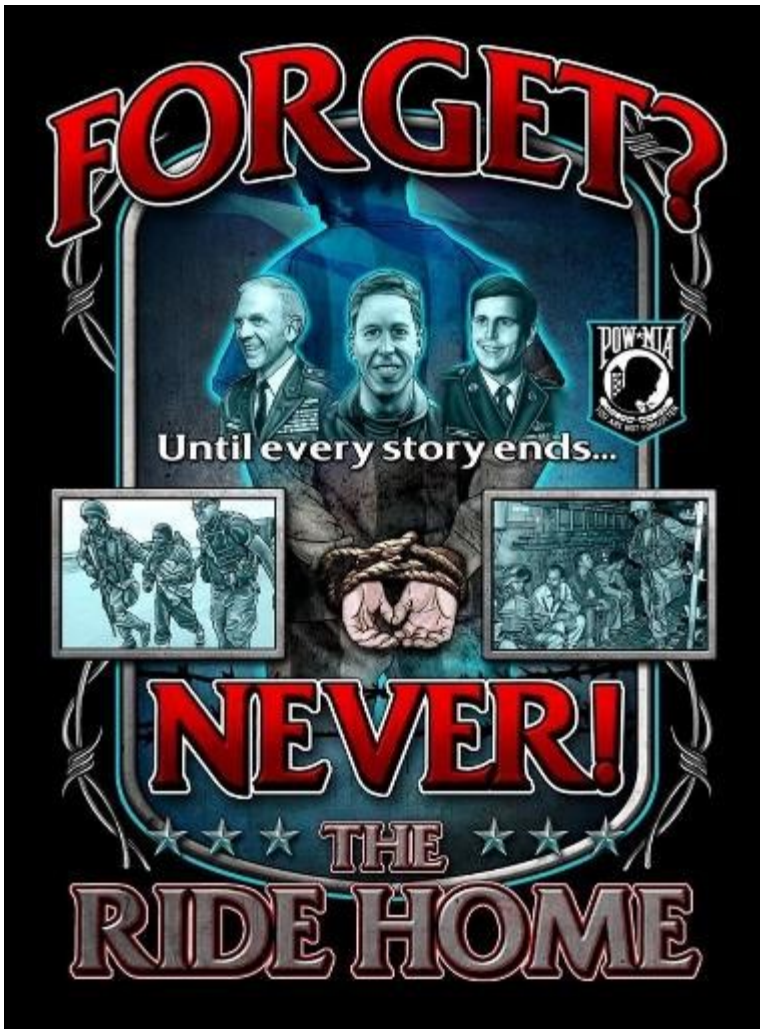
SYMPTOMS:

- FLASHBACKS
- NIGHTMARES
- FEELING ON EDGE
- TROUBLE SLEEPING
- HYPERVIGILANCE
- OVERWHELMING GUILT OR SHAME
- LOSS OF INTEREST IN ENJOYABLE ACTIVITIES
- SELF-DESTRUCTIVE BEHAVIOR
- STAYING AWAY FROM PLACES, EVENTS, OR OBJECTS THAT ARE REMINDERS OF THE EXPERIENCE
- HAVING DIFFICULTY SLEEPING, AND/OR HAVING ANGRY OUTBURSTS
- NEGATIVE THOUGHTS ABOUT ONESELF OR THE WORLD
- FEELING EMOTIONALLY NUMB

WAYS GBF ASSISTS:

- HYPERBARIC OXYGEN THERAPY
- LASER REGENERATION THERAPY
- CHILLIPAD®
- TRAVEL TO/FROM SUBSTANCE ABUSE FACILITIES
- INPATIENT/OUTPATIENT HEALTHCARE COSTS NOT COVERED BY TRICARE OR THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION
- HOLISTIC INFRARED LIGHT THERAPY
- ALPHA-STIM®
- NEUROFEEDBACK
- HOLISTIC ALTERNATIVE THERAPIES





Left- Colonel F. James Thompson -	26 March 1964 - 16 March 1973
Right - E-5 USAF Bill Robinson -	20 Sept 1965 - 12 February 1973
Center- Captain Scott Speicher -	17 January 1991 - 14 August 2009
Left Middle - <u>Spc. Shoshana Johnson</u>	23 March 2003 - 13 April 2003
Right Middle - <u>Spc. Edgar Hernandez</u>	23 March - 13 April 2003
PFC Patrick Miller	23 March - 13 April 2003
<u>Sgt. James Riley</u>	23 March - 13 April 2003
<u>Spc. Joe 'Gump' Hudson</u>	23 March - 13 April 2003

2019 shirts! \$25. each (includes shipping)

We do NOT have web master so please do snail mail,
shirts are not on pay pal merchandise yet!

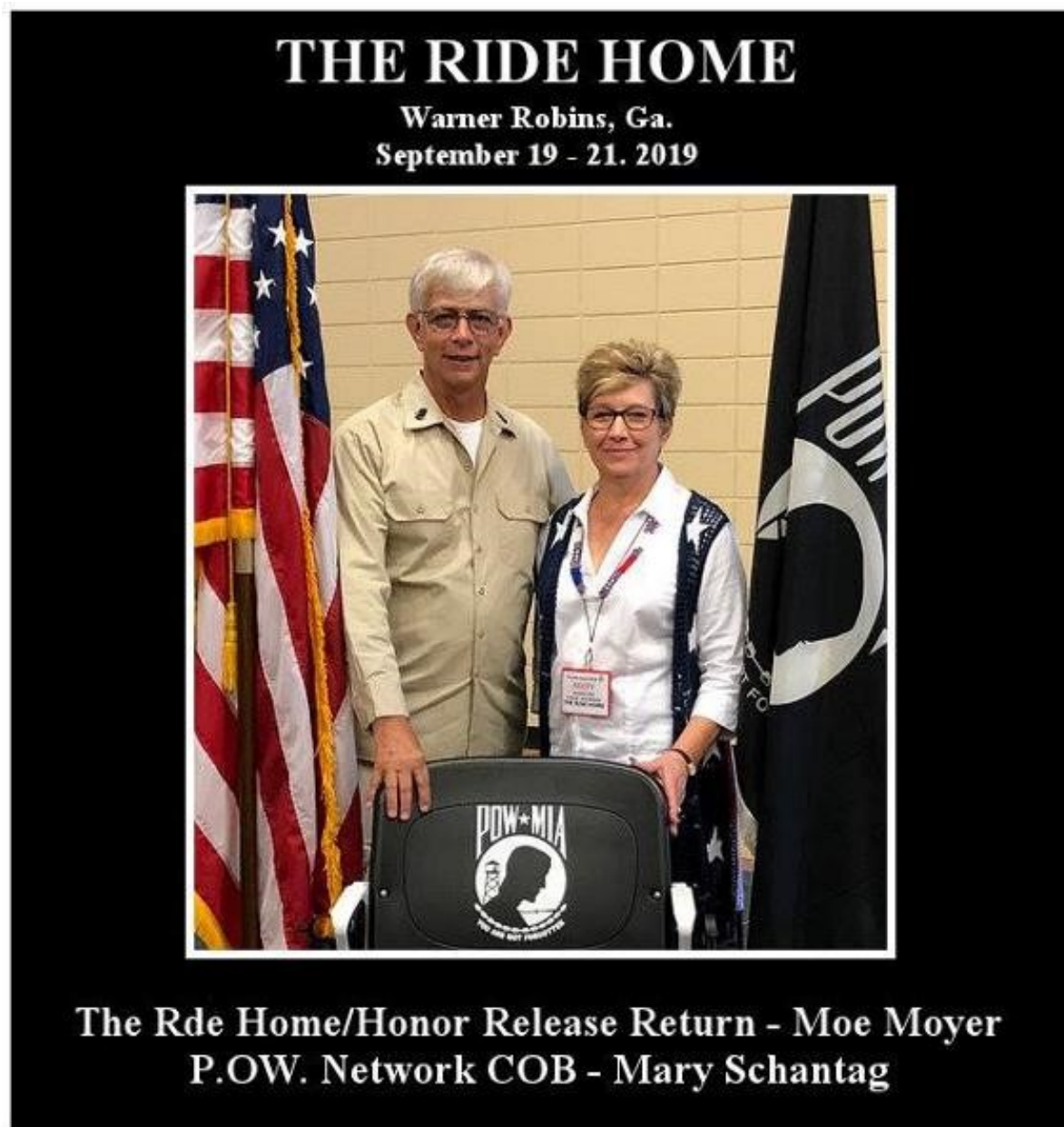
Short sleeve red or black. Long sleeve sports grey.

The Ride Home

3818 Litchfield Loop

Lake Wales, Fl. 33859

Moe Moyer and Mary Schantag are busy preparing for THE RIDE HOME 2019 which will be held at the Museum of Aviation in Warner Robins Ga. September 19 - 21, 2019. The Vietnam Traveling Wall will be on exhibit during The Ride Home.



“Angelversaries” for the day of July 8, 2019 Please keep these Fallen Warriors and their families in your thoughts and prayers on this difficult day. We are so grateful for our Fallen Warriors and their families.

Please listen to the AFWMF THEME SONG "21 Guns" Some Give All by Nathan Osmond and SHARE! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vLzRYwh5r4Q&pbjreload=10>



JULY 8, 2003-2019



Angelversaries
 WE WILL NEVER FORGET
 American Fallen Warrior Memorial Foundation
www.GoldStarWall.org





PIPES, DRUMS & PATRIOTS
A Celtic Musical Celebration of America's Heroes



PIPES, DRUMS & PATRIOTS
A Celtic Musical Celebration of America's Heroes

PIPES, DRUMS & PATRIOTS

A CELTIC MUSICAL CELEBRATION OF AMERICA'S HEROES

SAT AUG 3RD 2019 @ 7PM
TICKETS START AT \$12

ENTERTAINMENT BY
THE GLASGOW GIRLS CELTIC BAND & FRIENDS



BAGPIPE BANDS LED BY SENIOR DRUM MAJOR KEN MISCH &
5 TIME WORLD CHAMPION DRUM MAJOR JASON PAGUIO



EARLY BIRD GROUP
DISCOUNT!
BUY 10 \$12, \$22 OR \$32
TICKETS BEFORE 6/22
AND GET 12!
(AVAIL ONLY AT BOX OFFICE)



SPONSORED BY
VIETNAM VETERANS
CHAPTER 1048. ALL
PROCEEDS TO BE
DONATED TO LOCAL
VETERANS CAUSES.

Peabody Auditorium, Daytona Beach, Florida
Tickets available from Box Office or www.peabodyauditorium.org

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

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

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

From Nila Thompson



Jose' Concha, DPM * Richard Johnson, DPM
Board Certified by
the American Board of Foot & Ankle Surgery

Quality Care in a Relaxing Environment

At Coastal, we believe that a visit to the doctor's office can be a relaxing experience. Come in for your appointment and let our massage exam chairs, hot towels and aromatherapy ease the stresses of your day. From diabetic care to ingrown nails to reconstructive surgery, our board certified physicians can help you with all of your foot and ankle needs. Call today experience the Coastal difference for yourself.



St. Augustine: 904-826-1900 www.cfawc.com Palatka: 386-328-1122

Navy to Navy Homes vs Others

N2N is outperforming the rest!



98.4%
of original list price

N2N

N2N Sells Houses for **MORE MONEY**



95.5%

Others



Over 6,000

Potential Buyers
in N2N Database



29

average days on market

N2N

N2N Sells Houses **FASTER**



72

Others



2%

percentage of listings that expire

N2N

More Likely to Sell with **N2N**



29.9%

Others

GREAT TIME TO SELL!

Ask us for a **FREE HOME VALUATION**



Marianne Bach
(904) 349-0456



Kathy Jordan
(904) 401-0476

*** As a **VETERAN**,
SAVE **25%** when buying or selling with us! ***




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

2ND ANNUAL PURPLE HEART
**POKER
RUIN**



REGISTRATION
\$20
Per Hand

Saturday August 10

STARTS  ENDS AT THE BAYMEADOWS ADAMEC HARLEY-DAVIDSON

FOOD - FUN - FREEDOM

REGISTRATION 9 - 11 AM / FIRST BIKE OUT AT 11 AM / FIRST BIKE BACK AT 2 PM

ALL MOTORCYCLES WELCOME!

**\$200 FOR THE BEST HAND - \$100 FOR 2ND BEST HAND
\$50 FOR THE WORST HAND**

ALL PROCEEDS HELP CREATE A PURPLE HEART MEMORIAL
AT THE JACKSONVILLE NATIONAL CEMETERY

MORE INFO: (904) 553-4183 - WWW.MOPH524.ORG





Free National Park Service Lifetime Access Pass for Disabled Veterans

Many Veterans, with a service connected disability rating, are entering Federal parks for free with the Lifetime National Parks Access Pass from the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service. The Access Pass also admits disabled any passengers in their vehicle, and other discounts such as camping, swimming, board launching, and guided tours.

The American Legion Post 194

Make plans to help us celebrate 71 years of serving veterans in the St Augustine community.

Contact Post for more info and tickets. 904 829 8189.



Alton Green Memorial American Legion Post 194
71st Anniversary Dinner

Saturday 7 September

Cocktail Reception & hors d'oeuvres at 6 o'clock
3 Meat Buffet with Trimmings at half past 6

\$25 Per Person Donation

**Featuring Special Guest Speaker
Lt Col rt'd Bruce Alexander**

 Lt Col rt'd Bruce Alexander	 Serving America's Military Families	 #tbt Citadel vs USC
--	---	---

Former Citadel and All-European Football Standout, Former Deputy Commander 11th Operations Group, Current Vice President of Communications at Operation Homefront.

1029 Pearl Street St. Augustine



Veterans
Crisis Line



Veterans Crisis Line

1-800-273-8255
PRESS 1

1-800-273-8255 PRESS 1

Veterans
Crisis Line
1-800-273-8255 PRESS 1



Veterans
Crisis Line
1-800-273-8255 PRESS 1

STAND BY THEM

Confidential help for
Veterans and their families

Confidential chat at VeteransCrisisLine.net or text to 838255

NATIONAL
**SUICIDE
PREVENTION
LIFELINE**
1-800-273-TALK (8255)

Military/Veterans
Crisis Line
1-800-273-8255



Veterans
Crisis Line
1-800-273-8255 PRESS 1

Confidential chat at MilitaryCrisisLine.net or text 838255

From the Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert Wilkie, to all of our Veterans and supporters across the country, a note explaining the Mission Act.

Bringing Bipartisan Reform to Veterans

Imagine if Republicans and Democrats worked together to pass reforms that improve the lives of millions of people. And imagine if those reforms put America's Veterans at the center of their healthcare decisions, leading to better customer service for our Nation's heroes.



This isn't hypothetical. It happened last year when Congress passed the MISSION Act.

Through state-of-the-art facilities, cutting-edge technology, and increased clinician recruiting and retention incentives, VA continues to enhance its coordinated care system through high-quality VA health care and community care provider networks.

The legislation sailed through Congress with overwhelming bipartisan support and the strong backing of Veterans' service organizations. President Donald J. Trump's signature put us on a path to implementing these reforms. On June 6, the MISSION Act will enable VA to consolidate the Department's community care efforts into a single, simple-to-use program that will empower Veterans with the ability to choose the healthcare providers they trust.

So what can Veterans expect after June 6?

Less red tape, more satisfaction and predictability for patients, more efficiency for our clinicians, and better value for taxpayers. Veterans will be eligible to get community care for a variety of reasons, including when VA can't provide the treatment they need or when care outside our system is in the best medical interest of the patient.

We listened to Veterans and heard they preferred standards based on drive times rather than driving mileage because those standards better reflect Veteran experiences, especially in large urban areas with lots of traffic.

To ensure our Veterans are spending their time getting care instead of driving to it, patients facing an average drive time of 30-minutes or more for VA primary or mental healthcare, or non-institutional extended care services, will have the option of choosing a community provider closer to home. For specialty care, the drive-time standard will be an average of 60 minutes.

And to get Veterans the care they need when they need it, VA patients facing a 20-day or more wait time for primary or mental healthcare, or non-institutional extended care services, will have the option of choosing a community provider who can deliver that care faster. For specialty care, the wait-time standard will be 28 days.

Alton Green Memorial AL Post 194 71st ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

Alton Green Memorial AL Post 194
71st Anniversary

RIB BATTLE

September
28th

BRING THE FAM!

Games Eats Music Prizes & More

Entry:	Fire Up	1st	\$500
\$50 &	at 7am	2nd	\$150
3 Slabs	Judging	3rd	\$50
of Ribs	at 2pm		



1029 Pearl St. 32084 Call Cmdr. Greene at 240-412-1325

Alton Green Memorial
AL Post 194
71st Anniversary

GOLF Tournament

Saturday
8:30 a.m.
September
28th

Cimarrone
Golf Club
2800 Cimarrone Blvd.
Jacksonville, FL 32230

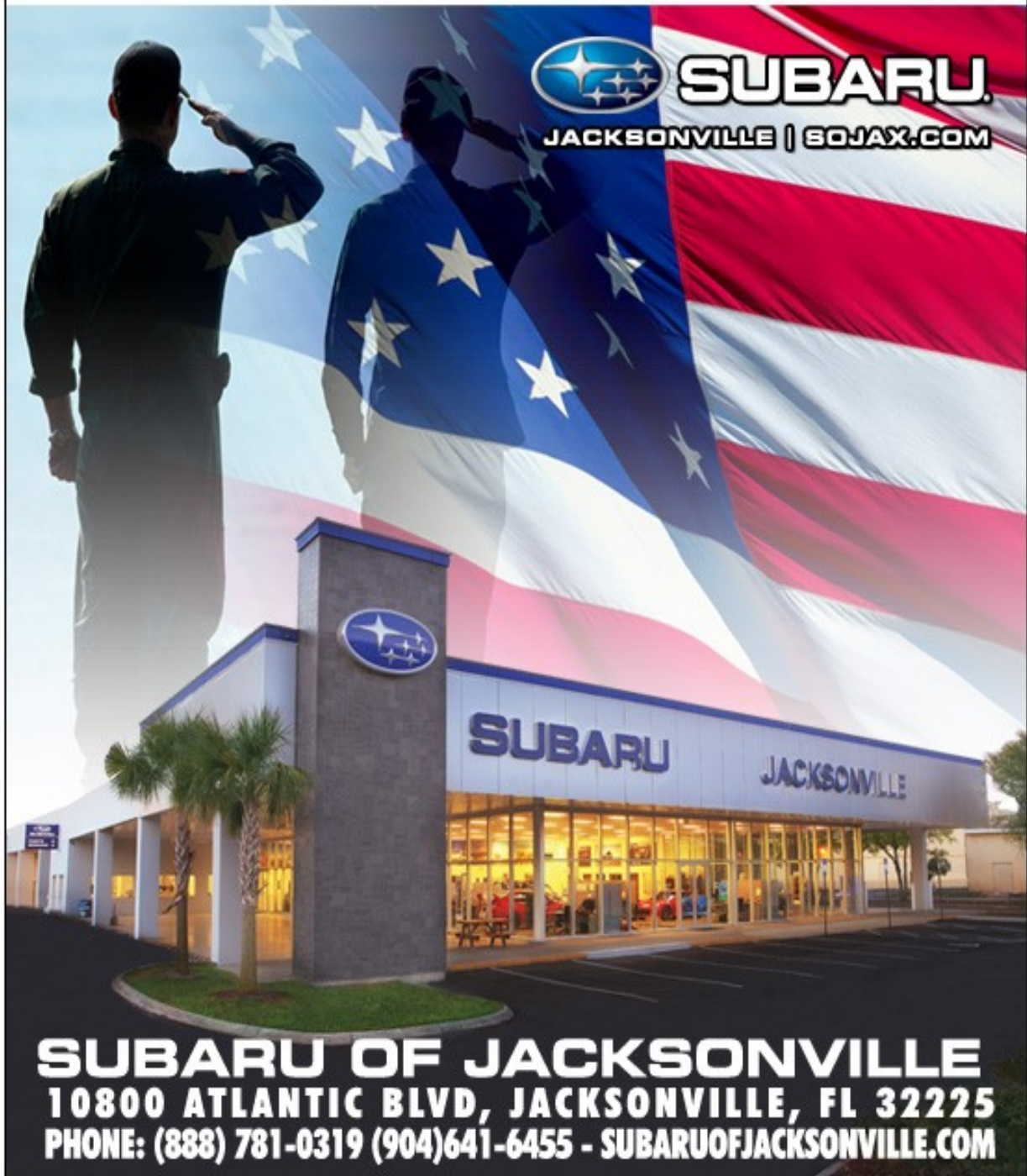




Charity Event to Benefit AL Post 194 Veterans & their Kids Safe Zone Program
Registration 7:00 am \$100 Per Player

Contacts: Charlie Ellis: ceellis@bellsouth.net 904 501 8299
Bob Ostefeld: bobostefeld@comcast.net 904 615-7258
Dwight Swearingen 904-228-3628 dswearmigen01@bellsouth.net

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OPERATION HandUP (8/21/2018 – 9/8/2018)

We are creating care pouches with edibles, for our women veterans not living in stabled housing. Items needed are:

- Cup of Noodles
 - Cookies or Crackers
 - Nuts
 - Dried Fruit
 - Protein or breakfast bars
 - Pop Tarts
 - Capri Suns or something similar to drink
 - Canned microwaveable soups/veggies
 - Peanut Butter and Jelly
 - Canned fruit
 - Tuna Fish or chicken in the pack
 - Canned pasta
 - Fruit and Jello cups
 - Small water bottles
- Gift cards are acceptable too.

Deliver to:
2133 Broadway Ave.
Monday – Friday 9:00am – 3:00pm
904-862-6039
www.forwomenvets.org

Veterans Councils of Northeast Florida



BAKER COUNTY

President: Larry Porterfield

Meetings:

Second Thursday of each month

Location:

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

Time: 1800 (6pm)

CLAY COUNTY

President: Harry Silvers

Meetings:

First Wednesday of each month

Location:

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

Time: 1400 (2pm)

NASSAU COUNTY

President: Doc Monaghan

Meetings:

First Thursday of each month

Location:

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

Time: 1900 (7pm)

DUVAL COUNTY

President: Steve Spickelmier

Meetings:

Third Tuesday of each month

Location:

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

Time: 1900 (7pm)

ST. JOHNS COUNTY

President: Bill Dudley

Meetings:

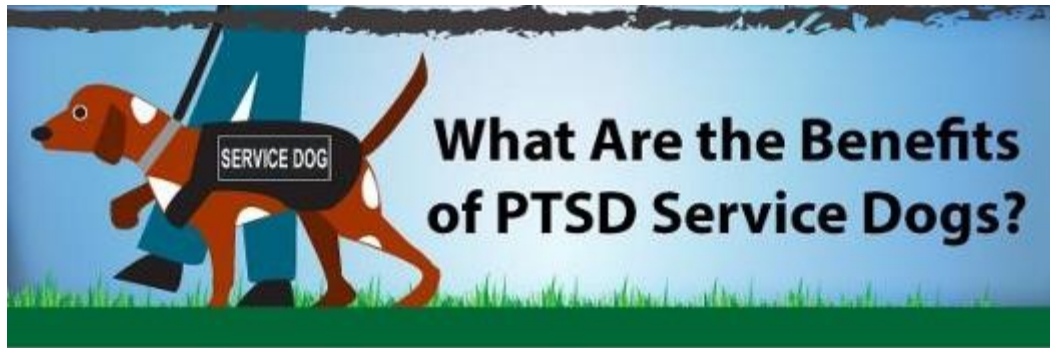
Last Thursday of each month

Location:

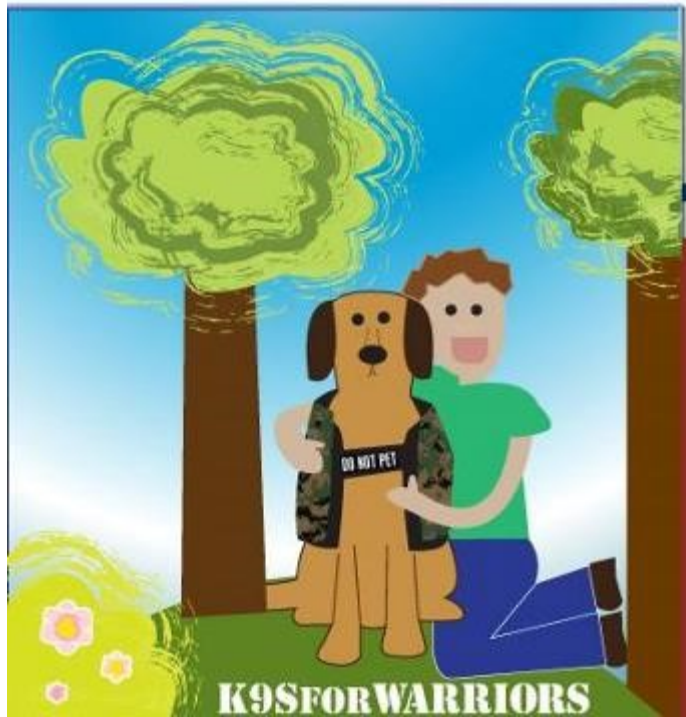
**Health and Human Services Bldg
Muscovy Room, 1st Floor
200 San Sebastian View
St. Augustine, FL 3208**

Time: 1900 (7pm)

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



- 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

MISSION BACKGROUND

Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, has been formed to restore and establish a national memorial that will serve as a historic and destination site for Jacksonville and to serve as an educational resource for generations to come.

The memorial site, located at the former Naval Air Station Cecil Field, was originally dedicated on September 11, 1973 and consisted of markers and associated trees for each of the 16 POW/MIA pilots (an area known as Hero's Walk and Freedom Trees), a pavilion, a stage area, a starburst metal display of aircraft, a granite base seal of NAS Cecil Field and a chapel. This property was given to the City of Jacksonville when Cecil Field was decommissioned in 1999. As a result, the existing memorial has been forgotten.

However, the non-profit organization was given a lease by the Jacksonville City Council and the Mayor's office, and given the rights to develop, expand and maintain the 26-acre memorial.



A FEW QUOTES SUBMITTED BY OUR NATIONAL LEADERS



"Your proposal to use part of the former Naval Air Station Cecil Field for a POW/MIA Memorial is a fitting location to pay tribute to this very special group. Given that Mary Hoff, the creator of the POW/MIA flag, is a long-time resident of Jacksonville, and that her husband, Lieutenant Commander Michael G. Hoff, is memorialized at Cecil Field, there could not be a more appropriate site for the POW/MIA Memorial."

U.S. Congressman
John Rutherford

"The proposal to build the Cecil Field Prisoners of War and Missing in Action Museum is a great opportunity to honor the service members who did not return home from war."

U.S. Senator
Marco Rubio

"With the Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, we can renew our commitment to all those who have worn the uniform, to the children and families, and thank them for their unselfishness and bravery."

U.S. Senator
Bill Nelson



JOIN THE MISSION TO BRING A NATIONAL POW/MIA MEMORIAL TO JACKSONVILLE

MISSION STATEMENT

HONOR ALL FORMER PRISONERS OF WAR;
REMEMBER AND NEVER FORGET THOSE
QUIET, MISSING IN ACTION HEROES AND THE
FAMILIES THAT WAIT FOR THEIR RETURN.

More than 82,000 are still Missing in Action and Unaccounted for since WWII

MEMORIAL STRATEGIC PLAN

With the help of the community, Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc. is raising funds to make this memorial a true national honor to all POW/MIA personnel from every state in America. These funds will enable the organization to accomplish the following memorial projects:

- Restore and use the historic chapel (named the "Chapel of the High-Speed Pave") for memorial services, ceremonies and weddings.
- Enhance the existing sacred grounds of the park and to construct a replica of the USS Saratoga (CV-60).
- Refurbish and utilize existing building 333 as a starting point for the POW/MIA memorial center and museum.
- Establish a new memorial center - to honor all Former Prisoners of War, acknowledge those still Missing in Action; feature the history of the Prisoner of War/Missing in Action flag; house the history of NAS Cecil Field.
- Educate the public on the Prisoner of War and Missing in Action issue through exhibits, videos, artifacts and memorabilia.
- Establish a national destination for military remembrance and celebration (there is not a national memorial for all Missing in Action in the United States).



Hero's Walk & Freedom Trees



Chapel of the High-Speed Pave



Starburst Sculpture

CECIL FIELD NATIONAL POW/MIA MEMORIAL PARK



HOW YOU CAN HELP HONOR OUR MILITARY HEROES



It will take considerable dollars to fund this sacred project. At this point, the project will depend on contributions from private citizens. You can help this effort by making contributions online by going to our website at powmiamemorial.org or to make checks payable to:

Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc.
612 New World Avenue Jacksonville, Florida 32227

ONLINE PowMiaMemorial.org

Facebook.com/Cecil-Field-POW-MIA-Memorial-Inc-1084025864845232/

Twitter.com/CFPOW/MIA

Instagram.com/cecilfieldpowmia/

Disclaimer: Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc. IS A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION. REGISTRATION NUMBER CHECKED A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE OFFICE OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE, 800-435-1352, WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECEMMENTATION BY THE STATE.

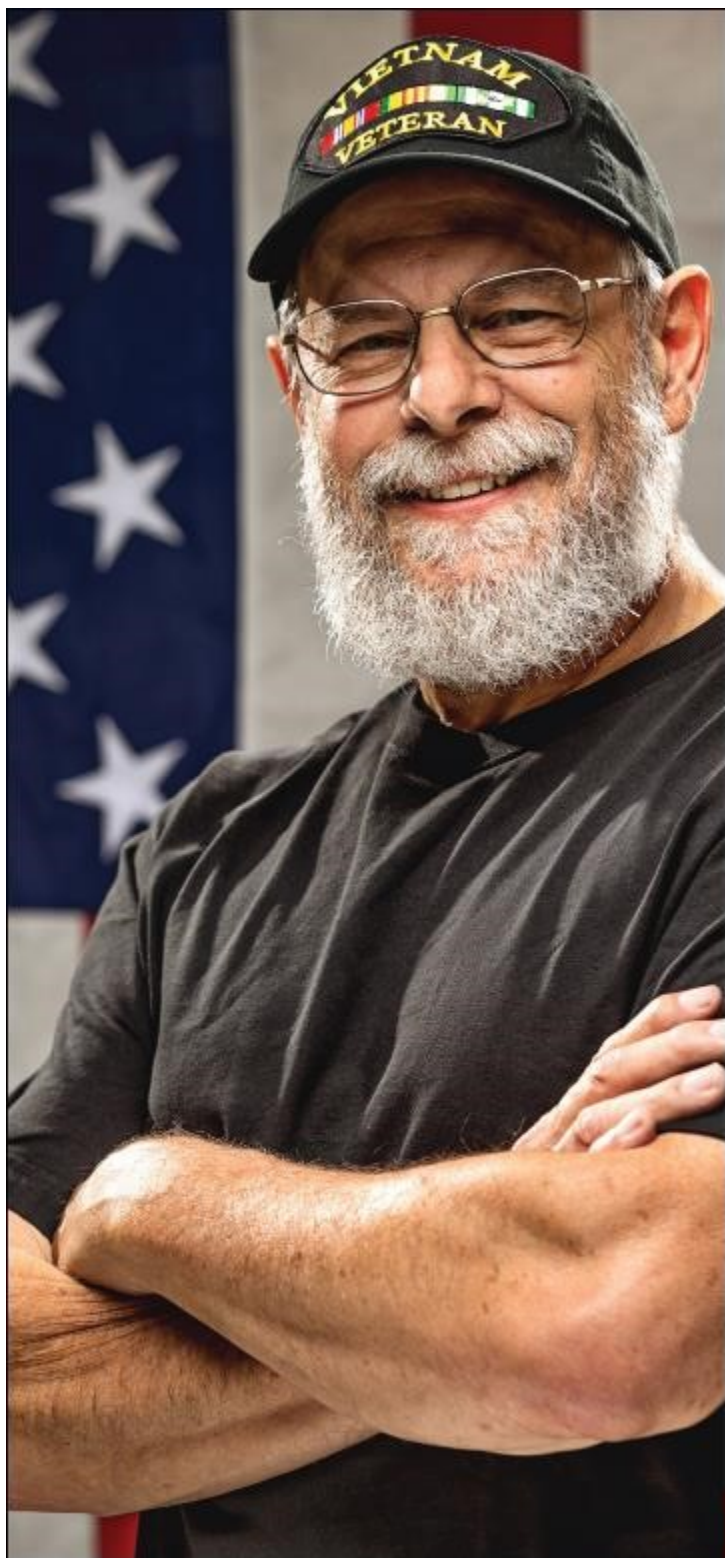
36 Granada Street, St. Augustine FL 32084

(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.



SERVING VETERANS SINCE 1979

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

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

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



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

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





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

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

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



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

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

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

The Veterans Council of St. Johns County is proud to announce that it has modernized its website and created a 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, 727-487-6252, if you or your vet group wants to create a website or Facebook page.

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



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

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



**SURVIVOR
OUTREACH SERVICES**

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

Contact Keith Ham

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

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

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

Send to: mrothfeld@anyveteran.org

Please send to: mrothfeld@anyveteran.org



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(physical location)

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

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

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

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