



The Patriot Reader Newsletter

P.O. Box 2117

St. Augustine, FL 32085

Bill Dudley, Publisher

Michael Rothfeld, Editor

Volume 10, Issue 8

From Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley

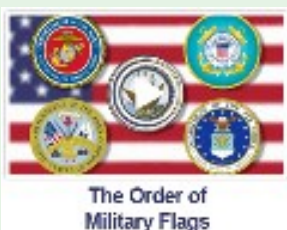
August 2021

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Fellow Veterans,
 The Veterans Council has begun planning for this year's Veterans Day Program to be held on Nov. 11. This year will be much different than in years past as we plan to do a joint celebration with the VA to celebrate the grand opening of our VA CBOC. As I said, planning has begun with joint meetings being conducted with VA personnel to discuss the celebration. We plan to host the event at the CBOC under cover of a large tent. Many elected officials will be invited including Governor Ron DeSantis. There will be a return of the Vietnam Traveling Wall as well as the War on Terror Wall. We

will present more information as we formalize more of the planning. On July 23, St. Augustine will be visited by a group of homeless veterans from West Palm Beach. They are sponsored by Palm Beach Salvation Army and hosted here by the Ximenez-Fatio House Museum Dames. The Veterans Council was asked to assist and we have helped organize their visit by arranging for a tour of St. Francis Barracks as well as the St. Augustine National Cemetery. We also were able to arrange transportation for our veterans with Old Town Trolleys and lodging for the evening at Anastasia Inn. The veterans will also visit the Fort San Marcos, Alligator Farm and other places of interest.



Dinner on Friday evening will be at the Columbia Restaurant. This should be a very enjoyable visit to the Old City by these very deserving veterans. By all reports, our new VA CBOC is working out very well for our veterans with very few complaints. This is a vast improvement over our previous temporary location. Thank you for your service.
 Respectfully,
 Bill Dudley
 Chairman
 Veterans Council of
 St. Johns County

Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home



This month we had our Annual Fishing Trip that is hosted by the Elks Lodge In Green Cove Springs!!

The first pic shown here is of the outside bar area of the Elks club where we held our annual Fishing with friends and Family Trip in Green Cove Springs, FL The second pic is of one of the fish caught that day by our Veteran Mr. Michael Winchester! Nice Red Belly Blue Gil fish!!



The first pic here shows Activity Assistant Richie Inman-Holmes With Our Navy Veteran Mr. Russell Hand.

The second picture is Activity Assistant Rajini Alecia enjoying then sun!!



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



The Support Committee invites everyone to attend its **next scheduled meeting**. The meeting will be at **6:00pm**. The meeting will take place at Community Hospice, **4266 Sunbeam Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32257 in Conference Room A.**

Jacksonville National Cemetery Support Committee Meetings for 2018

At Community Hospice of NE FL.

4266 Sunbeam Rd, Jacksonville, FL 32257

Hadlow Bldg – Conference Room A 6:00 pm

DATES OF 2021 SC at JNC MEETINGS

Not Available

+++++2020 Officers of the SCJNC+++++

Chairman: Steve Spickelmier

Vice Chairman: Bill Dudley, Treasurer: Pat Welch

Secretary: Kathy Church, Judge Advocate: Don Guthrie

Master-At-Arms: Mike Smith, Historian: Win Delpizzo

Chaplain: Pat Archuleta, Public Affairs: Pat Mulvihill

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

County Administration Building,

500 San Sebastian View, at 7 pm

All SJC Health Guidelines will be followed.

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



Upcoming Veterans Council Meetings Speakers

July 29: Ann McCulliss Johnson & Tracy Hejmanowski, First Responder Project

Jason White, Director Birdwell Foundation for PTSD in FL

August 26: Andrew Coughlan, Wounded Warrior Project

September 30: Emily Spencer, The Heartillary Group

2021 Meeting Dates: July 29, August 26, September 30, October 28,

November 18, December 30

After nearly 11 years of pursuing a permanent home for the health care for our veterans in St. Johns County, the dream is nearing reality. On Tuesday, June 22, the new state of the art VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic will open it's doors to receive veterans who are in need of primary care and certain medical specialty needs.

The Veterans Council of St. Johns County is pleased to have played an important role in bringing this health care facility to fruition.



From Kathy Rose on Facebook

I went to the parade for the 4th of July. It was in honor of **Putnam County's only Medal of Honor recipient Robert Jenkins.**

His family members were parade Marshal's. We we're delighted to get to meet them thanks to Mr. Leo Granger. It was special. My husband connected with them right off the bat. And there were more Marines in his family. And thanks to county commissioner Larry Harvey's dedication to the cause of taking action to getting his name out to the residents of Putnam County.

I didn't get to film the parade because I was asked to be a judge of the floats so I had to put the phone down.

But here are the photos.

We made it through the event without a drop of rain. I think Robert Jenkins was smiling from heaven and said please don't rain on my day. It was special!



Alton Green Memorial American Legion Post 194

73rd Anniversary Dinner

Come Help Us Celebrate 73 Years of Serving
Veterans in the St. Augustine Community

Saturday 11 September

Cocktail Reception & Hors d'oeuvres at Six o'clock
Dinner at Half Past Six \$25 Per Person

Smoked Brisket<>Fried Shrimp<>Garlic Mashed Potatoes
Vegetable Medley<>Dinner Rolls<>Sweet Tea<>Dessert



**Featuring Special
Guest Speaker
Lt Gen Ronald Bailey
USMC, rt'd**



1029 Pearl Street, St. Augustine

First Coast Honor Flight First Coast Honor Flight Group

FIRST COAST HONOR FLIGHT SETS INAUGURAL FLIGHT DATE



The national Honor Flight Network Board of Directors has authorized Honor Flight Hubs nationwide to resume flights to Washington, D.C. beginning August 15th.

First Coast Honor Flight (FCHF) has set an inaugural flight date of Saturday, October 2, 2021 for a group of 25 Veterans and 25 Guardians to travel from Jacksonville International Airport to Washington, D.C. and return the same day. Six FCHF Staff members, including a medical doctor, will escort this group.

We are in the process of selecting the group of Veterans and Guardians who will travel on this flight. ALL SELECTEES WILL BE INDIVIDUALLY CONTACTED TO CONFIRM CONTINUED INTEREST AND AVAILABILITY. We will complete the selection and notification processes by August 31, 2021.

For the safety and wellbeing of Veterans, Guardians, Staff Members, and Volunteers, COVID-19 protocols and precautions will be in effect for all Honor Flights nationwide through the end of 2021. Additional information will be provided to Veterans and Guardians selected for FCHF's October flight and to Volunteers wishing to assist with Flight-related events.



First Coast Honor Flight Donation

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

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

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

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

www.firstcoasthonorflight.org

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

Name of Organization _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____ Email _____

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

Name _____

Address _____

Veteran? Yes _____ No _____ Relationship _____

Branch _____ Dates Served _____

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



WELCOME HOME VIETNAM VETERANS

Join the Jacksonville Bar Association, Vets4Vets,
and the Vietnam Veterans Association (VVA) for a *Hero's Welcome*
many Vietnam Veterans never received...

Honoring their courage, valor, and selfless service.

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, November 14, 2021

1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

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



Guest Speaker - Rocky Bleier, Vietnam Veteran &
Pittsburgh Steeler Superbowl Champion

Performance by The Navy Band

Lunch & Parking Free for Veterans and their families

Sponsorships Levels Available

★ Gold Star - \$5,000 ☆ Silver Star - \$2,500 ★ Bronze Star - \$1,000

Event Sponsorships and donations may be made through the:

Semper Fidelis Society at <https://semperfidelissociety.org/donate/>

Old City Member Spotlight, Nonprofit

Crystal Timmons

Founder/Project Director

Veteran Garden Project of St. Augustine FL

Veteran services & Education

904-679-1811

Crystal.timmons@4vgp.org; www.4vgp.org

Crystal Timmons



Crystal is a Florida native Born in Vero Beach, FL she has lived in many states all over the US and South Korea. She is the spouse and caregiver of husband, Robert, a St. Augustine native, and service-connected Combat Army Veteran, mother, and stepmother to two incredible daughters. Her family moved to St. Augustine in 2012 after her husband's medical discharge.

Crystal is a certified yoga, meditation, permaculture instructor & FL Horticulture professional. She loves spending time in nature and traveling.

Currently, she is the Executive Director and President of Veteran Garden Project to support healing and post traumatic growth for her family and local veteran community. Crystal is passionate to serve by sharing what she has learned with others. She believes connection to nature is the path to healing, well-being, and unity.

About VGP

The Veteran Garden Project (VGP) is in St Augustine, Florida in St. John's County. Grassroots 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization which uses trauma-informed gardening, mind/body, and permaculture programming to support and empower veterans, military members, their families, and volunteers.

This work is expressed through our mission to support our healing veteran community while also encouraging and supporting stewardship of our precious resources. Our mission facilitates holistic healing, confidence, recovery, and inspired hope for veterans and their families.

VGP is volunteer ran with a governing and growing board. Since its founding, VGP has helped designed and install 12 organic gardens by scholarship while supporting 380 veterans and their

families. Crystal and Robert Timmons founded VGP in 2017 as a commitment to helping Robert, an Afghanistan veteran, recover from injuries and help other service members.

Veterans learn new skills, reconnect with others, renew their confidence, and discover a new purpose for their lives, families, and community. This contributes to developing self-reliance, camaraderie, and healthy outlooks on diet and lifestyle.



If you are a veteran with service-connected mental or physical disabilities, or know a veteran you would like to nominate for a 2021/2022 garden email contact@4vgp.org

Join us at our upcoming events!

Are you a veteran, family member, or local community member in St. Augustine looking for a new direction, to meet new people, to give back in your community, or learn more?

Email us at contact@4vgp.org

Contact us for meeting location.

- **August 17th Garden Lead and Learn 5:30pm-7:30pm**
- **August 19th 6pm-7:30pm Volunteer meeting**
- **October 11th 1st Annual Marsh creek Charity Golf Tournament <https://veteran-garden-project-1st-annual-marsh-creek-cha...>**

We are seeking players, sponsors, prize donations, and gift bag items. Email crystal.timmons@4vgp.org for more information and registration

Find us on the web:

Website: www.4vgp.org

Instagram: <https://instagram.com/veterangardenproject>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/VeteranGardenProject>

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

3 minutes to enroll. 30 minutes to train. A lifetime of saving lives.

Visit: www.thefirewatch.org/watch-standers to learn more.

Thanks!

Nick Howland

Executive Director, The Fire Watch

www.thefirewatch.org

904.525.1761



Upcoming St. Augustine art exhibit to feature work of veterans from five decades of war

Jean Sealey, For Shorelines, FL Times Union

The healing power of art will be on display at the St. Augustine Art Association's exhibit "Then & Now: 50 Years of Veteran Experiences" from July 2 through Aug. 22. In paintings, sculptures, photographs, poetry and other creative outlets, eight veterans from across the United States open up about their experiences and demonstrate how their artistic creations enabled them to process the trauma, brokenness and distress that accompanied their service.



"When Jerry Domask, a local artist and veteran, approached me last year with the idea for this exhibit, I knew the Art Association had to host it," said Jennifer Flynt, association administrator. "The experiences these veterans have gone through are very real, and I felt a strong conviction to help them tell their stories, and tell them well."

Domask, a Vietnam Army veteran, is curator for the exhibit. In 2018, he was curator of another national exhibit, "Invisible Becoming Visible: An Exhibit of Veterans Art," hosted by the University of North Florida. Domask sees these events as more than art exhibits.

"It is an honest look at war, an important part of our past and an expression of survivors," Domask said. "This exhibit includes a shout-out to my 'foxhole buddy,' Ted Gostas. Ted spent five years in captivity, with four and half years in solitary confinement. We are constructing a museum-quality life-size replica of his cell that will be on display."

Ted Gostas was captured during the 1968 Tet offensive at Hue. He one of a few Americans held in captivity five years or more. He was awarded the Bronze Star and two Purple Hearts.

"I was sentenced to death, tortured daily and in solitary confinement for four and half years," Gostas, said. "There were no other prisoners on the other side of the walls of my cell, and every time I heard footsteps, I knew I would be killed or tortured."

After his release, Gostas wrote and illustrated a book of poems titled “Prisoner,” to purge and ease the pains of imprisonment and daily torture.

For veteran artists, their art is not only self-healing but offers healing to others—one of the objectives of the “Then & Now” exhibit.

As a young adult, Saori Murphy joined the Army in 1993 to serve her country and help further her education. “Through my work and practice with creativity and energy healing, I continually feel the deep awareness of the threads that propelled me here and the medicine they carried,” she said. “Each still serves its purpose, and I am forever grateful for their wisdom that guides me to serve and support others.”

Murphy is now a certified Advanced Intuitive Healer and a certified Arts Facilitator. She is the founder of Soulhana and is active in helping veterans in the St. Petersburg area.

Telling their stories is critical to healing but difficult, if not impossible, for some veterans. Creative outlets that engage both the left and right hemispheres of the brain have a healing effect for many.

“The creative arts allow patients to get in touch with feelings difficult to express verbally,” said Dr. John Tanner, a psychiatrist at Tanner Medical Practices and affiliated with Baptist Medical Center Beaches. “By expressing feelings through art, patients can begin to reconcile and resolve the stress that impedes their progress to restored health.” Tanner treats patients with psychological disorders including post-traumatic stress disorder.

“PTSD was recognized as a psychological disorder in the 1980s with its inclusion in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual by the American Psychiatric Association,” he said. “Before that time, veterans suffering from the same constellation of symptoms were often diagnosed with ‘shell shock.’”

PTSD describes disorders of individuals who have been exposed to a major trauma event or have been abused over a period of time and suffer stress-related illness as a result. Examples include being involved in a violent event or witnessing one (major trauma event) and living in an abusive environment (abuse over a period of time).



“A few drugs have been shown effective for specific symptoms but as yet, no drugs have FDA approval for treating overall symptoms,” Tanner said. “I believe the most efficacious treatment is a combination of carefully administered talk therapy and creative activities that draw on both hemispheres of the brain.”

The five men and three women veterans who have contributed to the “Then & Now” exhibit include those who served in the Army, Navy and Marine Corps during U.S. involvement in the Cold War, Vietnam, Middle East and conflicts up to the present. Some were artists before their military enlistment, and others discovered art as a pathway to healing after their military experiences. They all say art helped them heal and sharing it with others adds to that ongoing healing process.

“Then & Now” is an important commentary on history. It also is a personal excursion into the lives of eight veterans who participated in military actions to resolve conflicts around the world and protect the United States’ interests here and abroad. While this exhibit contains images some will find disturbing, it also illustrates the resilience and deep-seated hope of the human spirit and the healing power of art.

The exhibit will be on display from July 2 through Aug. 22 at the St. Augustine Art Association, 22 Marine St., St. Augustine. The exhibit is open to the public free of charge.

Artists participating in “Then & Now: 50 Years of Veteran Experiences”

Ron Camarda, Navy, Middle East Hostilities

Jerome Domask, Army, Vietnam

Theodore Gostas, Army, Vietnam

Cliff Leonard, Marine Corps, Vietnam

Phyllis T. Miller, Navy, Vietnam

Saori Murphy, Army, Middle East

Skip Rohde, Navy, Cold War and Middle East

Maria Salazar, Marine Corps, Iraq

For more, go to StAAA.org or call the St. Augustine Art Association at (904) 824-2310.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THEN & NOW

50 Years of Veteran Experiences



**July 2
through
August 22, 2021**

at the
St. Augustine
Art Association



The Healing Power of Art

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

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



• ST. AUGUSTINE •
ART ASSOCIATION

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



“Death”
By Jerome Domask



“Lament”
By Skip Rohde



“Werewolf”
By Ted Gostas



“Holy Carburetor”
By Maria Mia Salazar



“Victors not Victims”

Gathering of Veterans

Vystar Veterans Memorial Arena

August 21

1100 to 1300

Free Parking and Buffet Lunch

Key Note Speaker:

Florida Director of Veterans Affairs

MajGen James Hartsell USMC ret

along with other speakers of interest to Veterans and their families

Veteran Organizations and those who support Veterans encouraged to attend.

Requests to reserve a table space for your organization by email at:

Vets4VetsNJax@gmail.com

Join the St. Augustine Art Association for First Friday Walk with Guest Speaker, Father Ron Camarda and the Wounded Warrior Project

The St. Augustine Art Association invites you to join us for First Friday Walk on August 6th from 5-8:00pm to view the Veterans exhibit, THEN & NOW: 50 Years of Veteran Experiences, and to meet and hear from those who have served in our Military. In attendance for the evening will be Veterans with the Wounded Warrior Project, who has generously sponsored and supported this exhibit. At 7pm, guest speaker and THEN & NOW: 50 Years of Veteran Experiences participating artist, Father Ron Moses Camarda will give a presentation on his experiences during the battle of Fallujah from October to December in 2004, which inspired his book Tear in the Desert.

Father Ron Moses Camarda served as a Catholic Navy Chaplain in the battle of Fallujah from October to December in 2004. During that period, he received dozens of casualties every day at Bravo Surgical – a M.A.S.H. type Marine Medical Battalion. His book, Tear in the Desert, takes readers on a journey into the Iraq War – “Nothing prepares us for the gruesome details that mark our souls and spirits forever.” Today, Fr. Ron is the pastor of St. Monica Church in Palatka, Florida.

THEN & NOW is on display at the St. Augustine Art Association (22 Marine Street in downtown St. Augustine) now through August 22. The gallery is open free to the public Tuesdays-Sundays 1-4pm and 5-8pm for First Friday Art Walk. For complete details on the exhibit THEN & NOW, visit <http://www.staaa.org/then-now-exhibit/>

Jennifer Flynt | Administrator | St. Augustine Art Association

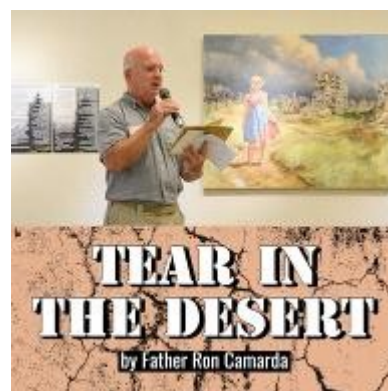
Phone - (904) 824-2310

Email - jenniferflynt@staaa.org

Website - www.staaa.org

Address - 22 Marine Street, St. Augustine, FL 32084

Social - Facebook • Instagram





2021

Save the Date

Fri, 24 Sept.

Alton Green
Memorial
Post 194
2nd Annual
Anniversary Golf
Tournament

More info to follow
derrygreene1@hotmail.com

Cimarrone Golf Club
2800 Cimarrone Blvd.
Jacksonville, FL 32259

Gold Sponsor \$2,000

Two Teams
Website Recognition
Golf Bag Contributor
5 Min Speech at Banquet

Silver Sponsor \$1,500

One Team
Website recognition
Golf Bag Contributor

Bronze Sponsor \$500

One Team
Golf Bag Contributor

One Hole Sponsor \$100

Poster Name Recognition \$50



Can't make it?

You can still help!

Make checks payable to:
American Legion Post 194
Mail to:
1029 Pearl St.
St. Augustine, FL 32084



Golf Fundraiser

The deadly COVID-19 pandemic brought our fundraising activities to a screeching halt, preventing the completion of our Veterans Centennial Park. Proceeds from this tournament will help us finish this memorial salute to our veterans, our community, the kids who have been through our program, and those who will attend in the future. We thank you in advance for your support.



\$100 Entry Includes:

- 18-Holes**
- Golf Cart**
- On-Course Refreshments**
- Lunch**
- Drink Voucher**
- Prize Opportunities**



Contacts:

Charles Ellis
ceellis@bellsouth.net
904-501-8299

Dwight Swearnigen
dswearnigen@yahoo.com
904 228-3620

From Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley

Subject: VA Transportation Assistance

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

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

From Michael Isam

DAV van service to Gainesville returning on a limited basis.

Begins on Monday, 23 March 2021

The van will run on Monday and Wednesday ONLY

3 passenger limit

Masks are required to and from VAMC



V4V

VETS4VETS

Inform ★ Connect ★ Unite ★ Organize

Save the Date

August 21st

Veterans Memorial Arena

Join Us!

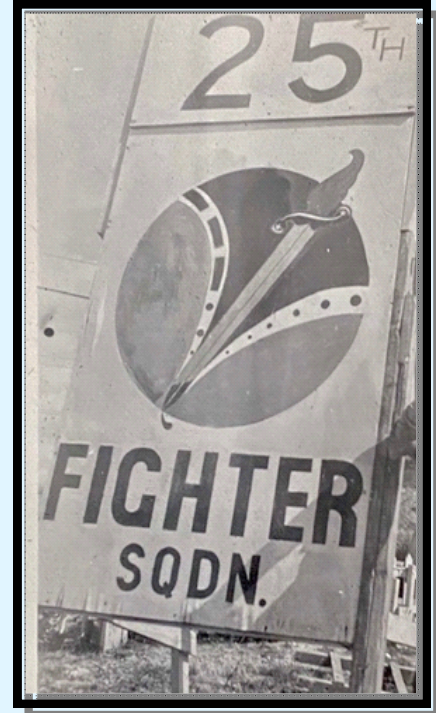
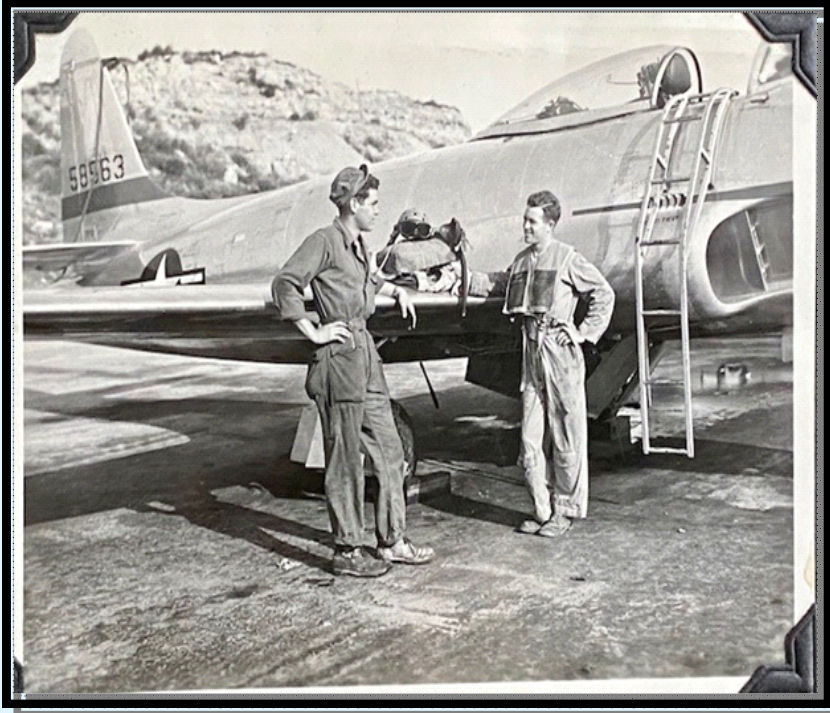
The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs

If you are looking for a simple way to help Florida Veterans, consider upgrading to a military themed specialty plate when you renew your tag. Revenue from military themed specialty license plates sales supports capital improvements to our State Veterans' Homes. For more information, click here: <https://bit.ly/3gxSZ8c>



Rescuers of the Forgotten War

Recently I was reminiscing over some photos of my Dad's time in military service. He was a bit too young to be in the thick of World War II, but he got in at the end of the war, trained at Kessler AFB in Mississippi, and shipped out to the 25th Fighter Squadron stationed with the occupation forces at Naha AFB in Okinawa. He served as a Crew Chief taking care of the squadron of Lockheed F-80 Shooting Stars deployed there to defend the Ryukyu Islands. The Shooting Star was one of the very first American jet aircraft to take part in jet-to-jet combat in our nation's history.



Above: Clifford Cain (my Dad on the left) standing next to an unknown pilot of a Shooting Star, 25th Fighter Squadron, Naha AFB, Okinawa, circa 1947.

Just two years after these pictures were taken, China's Communist Party would gain full control of that country, while the old allies of the United States and Great Britain, would try to hang on to an uneasy alliance with the Soviet Union. Towards the end of WWII, at the Yalta Conference, the three nations agreed to divide the Korean Peninsula into two occupation zones divided along the 38th parallel. Britain called for free elections throughout the country, but the Soviet Union refused to comply. By 1948, North Korea was firmly established as a Communist State, while South Korea was a free Democratic Republic. The threat of communism spreading throughout East Asia after the end of WWII led President Truman to announce that the United States would defend free democracies of that region against it. It was known as "The Truman Doctrine." By 1949 the agreement was working well enough that the Soviet Union and the United States had withdrawn most of their forces from the Korean Peninsula.

Without warning, on June 25th, 1950, 90,000 communist troops crossed the 38th parallel at dawn and the communist invasion of South Korea was begun. The majority of weapons and tanks they had in their possession were supplied by the Soviet Union and China. The U.N. Security Council met at once and called for the immediate withdraw of North Korean troops from south of the 38th parallel, but the Soviet Union was boycotting the U.N. at the time. By June 28th the Security Council met again and authorized use of force against the forces of North Korea. President Truman sent U.S. ground forces to South Korea and the U.N. voted that the United States U.N. action against the northern aggressors, but the Korean War had begun. It lasted three years, ending in July 1953 where the original line of demarcation existed and still does today. It

is sometimes called “The Forgotten War” as few know what actually happened there, but there were those who met the call to serve their fellow servicemen in need, as they had done in all other U.S. conflicts, just as existed now on the Korean Peninsula.

The 3rd Air Rescue Group was established to provide rescue support to servicemen in the Far East theaters of war. They trained in Gulfport and Kessler Field in Mississippi in 1944, and were primarily focused on finding downed airmen of any branch of the U.S. military and rescuing them. But their services could be extended to agencies of foreign governments as well. Their mission was one of mercy. They were reassigned to the 5th Air Force in 1949, and by August of 1950 they were given additional personnel and supplies and assigned to provide support for all those fighting in the Korean War.



By the middle of the Korean War, this small, peace-time unit became the largest rescue unit in the world as other units flew in to join them. They flew a variety of aircraft and during the conflict saved nearly ten thousand downed personnel and pilots, one-thousand of whom were recovered from behind enemy lines. They received so many service medals and commendations, they were the most decorated unit of the war. The unit was disbanded in 1957. Their motto read, “You crash and call, we dash and haul, U-all.”

Photo Left: 3rd Air Rescue Sikorsky H-5 Dragon rescue helicopter, Inchon, South Korea, 1950. Photos Above: North American’s F-86 Sabre Jets were a premier fighter of the war (left). 3rd Air Rescue returning with wounded. Grumman SA-16’s (behind the H-5) were used for long-range, water rescues (right)



Of the fifty or so movies that came out about the war, probably the best documentation of the role of jet pilots, and the rescue crews who saved them was, “The Bridges at Toko-Ri” released by Paramount Pictures in 1954. The film starred William Holden, Grace Kelly, and Mickey Rooney, and was based on Pulitzer Prize winning author James Michener’s novel of the same name. The story is fiction, but loosely based on a true story that Michener was there to see while on assignment as a war correspondent for Reader’s Digest and the Saturday Evening Post. The story became his first great novel. In the film, Holden plays the part of a Navy fighter pilot sent to bomb bridges over

which the north was sending vital arms and equipment. Mickey Rooney plays a hot-tempered, Irish rescue helicopter pilot who flies a later version of the Sikorsky H-5; the Sikorsky HO3S-1. The film features some of the best aerial footage of jet aircraft of that age. In the film, the Navy Pilots are flying Grumman F9F Panthers.



Photos Above: Images from “The Bridges at Toko-Ri,” copyright Paramount Pictures, 1954

In 1966, one year short of a decade after it was deactivated, the Air Rescue Service was reactivated as the 3rd Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Group (ARRG) and was in charge of all rescue operations in Viet Nam during that conflict. The 3rd ARRG had five sub-units in operation to provide support in all regions of conflict and over the South China Sea. All of the units primarily flew Sikorsky HH-3E's or later variants thereof. These newer helicopters were capable of air-to-air refueling, allowing them to remain on station much longer than their predecessors. They were affectionately named the “Jolly Green Giant.” Other aircraft were used by these units as well to provide transport of supplies, like Sikorsky's CH-54 Tarhe “Skycrane.”



Photos Above: Sikorsky HH-3E on patrol in Viet Nam, circa 1968

The number of sub-units decreased after the war's end, and in 1976 the last of the 3rd ARRG units was deactivated.

Now, you may be wondering how this relates to Florida, but in 1952, when the 3rd ARRG was established, one of its units was the 39th Air Rescue Squadron stationed at Ashiya Air Base, Japan. The 39th continued operations during the Viet Nam war beginning in 1967 flying Lockheed HC-130 Hercules aircraft primarily for refueling its search and rescue helicopters and delivering supplies and personnel wherever they were needed. Their work continues today as a sub-unit of the 920th Rescue Wing, a Reserve Unit of the United States Air Force stationed at Patrick Air Force Base down by Cape Canaveral. Their proud traditions preserve the mission.



Photos Above: 39th HC-130's refueling rescue helicopters over North Viet Nam (left), and Iraq (right)

of protecting lives and providing support services all around the globe during military conflicts, providing humanitarian support during hurricanes and other disasters, and providing support to NASA during the space shuttle program and beyond.



Photo Above: 920th Rescue Wing HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter on patrol over Cape Canaveral

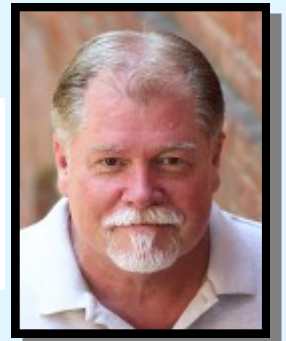
Throughout history, brave men and women have dedicated their lives to save others. Lighthouse keepers were one such breed, as were the members of the U.S. Lifesaving Service. The United States Coast Guard, the 3rd Rescue Squadron, and our own 920th Rescue Wing continue this service and deserve our respect and gratitude. They serve "That Others Might Live."

Thank you for your service!

One more thing; Patrick AFB just got a name change. On December 9th, 2020, Vice President Mike Pence officially changed the Base's name to Patrick Space Force Base. As significant as this is, I am still more fond of the insignia of the 920th Rescue Wing stationed there. I'm sure you can understand why.

About the Author: Rick Cain

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



Veterans Council's Korea Documentaries going to the Truman Library

The Veterans Council was just notified by the Senior Archivist of the Harry S Truman Library that the Council's two Korean War documentaries it produced have been accepted by the Library and will go into their permanent collection.

The documentaries are: **Korea: Forgotten War, Remembered Heroes** and **Korea: The Forgotten War Remembered**.

The Council would like to thank Dr Henry Moreland, President of the Korean War Veterans Association Chapter 200 Jacksonville for his assistance in both documentaries and a special thank you to all the Korean War veterans in both documentaries.



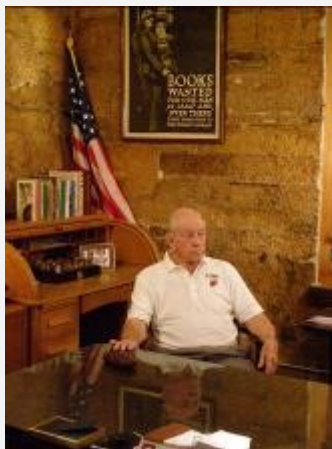
Jack Wentz



Richard Bassett



George Gaspard



Robert Bey



James Vanarsdale



Donald F Foy



Edwin O'Sullivan



Henry Moreland



John Printy



Boyd Guttery



Mike DePizzo

REQUIREMENTS

MILITARY

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

MEDICAL

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

FINANCIAL

INCOME AND EXPENSES IN RELATION
TO MEDICAL EXPENSES

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

MEDICAL SCREENING

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

MONETARY SCREENING

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

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

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

VETERANS COUNCIL OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

24 JUNE 2021



CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Dudley

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Chairman Dudley

INVOCATION: Vice Chair Quinn

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

Suzanne Garrow, Jacksonville Legal Aid, Housing Attorney

Ken Moreland, Navy Gold Star Program, NAS Jacksonville

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: Presented by Chairman Dudley and approved by majority.

TREASURERS REPORT: Presented by John Mountcastle, Treasurer

The report stated that the current balance is \$62,049.76. It was noted that approximately 50% of that total consists of restricted funds for established programs. Itemized expenditures and deposits were individually noted on the report. Upon presentation a vote was conducted to accept the report and received a unanimous vote.

INTRODUCTION OF: Suzanne Garrow

Suzanne presented a most comprehensive look at the support available to our servicemembers and veterans pertaining to housing. She covered in detail the responsibilities of both the landlord and tenant. It was noted there is a great deal of assets available to our veteran tenants but they have the burden of ensuring they meet the standards to receive assistance. She covered in detail the protections available under Federal Fair Housing Act, ADA and the ReHab Act.

INTRODUCTION OF Ken Moreland

The mission of the Navy Gold Star Program is to offer both short and long term support and services to Survivors of our Fallen Service Members. The mission is to ensure Survivors know they will continue to be linked with the Navy as long as they desire. The program focus is to provide: Grief Counseling, Relocation Assistance, Events and Activities, Financial Counseling, Ongoing Military/Base Benefits, Educational Benefits and others. It should be noted that the Navy Gold Star Program supports other branches of the military within the area.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

CSM (Ret) Joseph McDermott, Veterans Service Officer SJC

Sergeant Major McDermott began his report expressing gratitude for the conduct of St. Johns County's Memorial Day Program. He expressed appreciation to the Council and to the Military Officers Association (MOAA).

He also reminded the council of the Homeless Veterans Stand Down to be conducted 11 September 2021 at the Elks Lodge. He asked that our membership support the event.

He reported that there are over a half million claims currently at the St. Louis center. In order to expedite the tremendous overload 60 employees have been transferred there to aid in resolving the claims. Even with that effort it is estimated that the overload will not be resolved until late 2022.

JOHN LESLIE/ Veterans Court

John announced that a live non ZOOM session will be conducted Friday at 10:00 am. He invited the membership to attend. He noted they graduated 2 during the last session. He noted since inception 5 participants have been returned to full inmate status. To offset that status it is noted that one graduate has returned and is now a mentor.

John noted that one of our supporters of the council Blair Craig has accepted a newly created position as Survivor Assistance Coordinator for Veterans and his area will be the Southeastern U.S.

CHAIRMAN DUDLEY REPORT:

Chairman Dudley presented an update on the new CBOC. He noted that the facility has been in full operation for the past two days. Bill provided an update on plans for a Grand Opening to occur on Veterans Day. Meetings are being conducted to plan the event.

Bill also provided a brief update on the proposed future of the Temporary CBOC.

There is ongoing communication between the county, the council, VA and now some contact with the land owner. Updates will follow as meetings progress.

The meeting was opened up for the Good of the Order presentations and was followed by a request to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted

RAY A. QUINN

Vice Chair

TRENCH ART



The National WWII Museum's newest special exhibit, **SOLDIER | ARTIST: Trench Art in World War II**, takes an in-depth look at a military pastime known as "trench art": the creation of art, souvenirs, and tools out of discarded materials and the waste of war. Just as evaluating any other art form can reveal the life experience of its creator, the artifacts featured in this exhibit offer visitors a unique way to connect to the WWII veterans who made them—whether they did so out of boredom or necessity.

The practice of creating trench art is as old as military conflict itself. During the American Revolution, for example, prisoners of war created ship models from the bones of their rations. Soldiers in the Civil War carved charms and trinkets from lead bullets. World War I would bring the advent of "classic" examples of trench art--and give name to the pastime--as changes in technology presented soldiers with the material that would come to characterize the art form best: the brass cartridge. And during World War II, a more mechanized army offered increased access to the tools needed to fashion trench art, and the artifacts became more varied in form and were produced in greater quantity.

Trench art comes in all shapes and sizes ranging from utilitarian to decorative and from serious to frivolous. Servicemembers made souvenirs like ashtrays or jewelry for their loved ones at home, but they also made necessities like tools and cookware. Prisoners of war even made forbidden items like radios, musical instruments, or escape equipment. Each piece reveals not just the artistic skills of its maker and the materials available to them, but also their circumstances and their thoughts and feelings at the time they crafted the items.

This new special exhibit, curated by the Museum's Tom Czekanski, features more than 150 of those very artifacts, many of them never before exhibited, and the majority of them donated to the Museum by their original creators--the WWII veterans themselves. The collection, which represents various forms of WWII trench art, as well as background on their origins and creators, offers a unique opportunity to see the physical products of servicemembers' resourcefulness and ingenuity in the field.

The exhibit will be on display in the Senator John Alario, Jr. Special Exhibition Hall, located on the first level of the Museum's Hall of Democracy, from March 4 to January 2, 2022. Additionally, a robust schedule of free programming for students and the public will be offered both online and onsite throughout the exhibit's run to further explore the personal stories and significance behind these pieces of art made on the battlefield and in captivity.



REMEMBER WHAT OUR MEDAL STANDS FOR:

RED: REPRESENTS THE THREE ANCIENT
VIETNAMESE EMPIRES OF TONKIN,
ANNAM AND COCHIN.

YELLOW: THE IMPERIAL COLOR OF VIET NAM.

GREEN: SURROUNDED BY EXPANSIVE JUNGLE.

TED PIECKO, The NAM.

Great video about service, bravery & family. Really worth the time to watch.

<https://chriswoodsdirector.com/gray-eagles-documentary/>



**Jacksonville Detachment 059
Marine Corps League**

Ref.: Jacksonville Detachment 059, Marine Corps League
Detachment Monument Fund

Dear Brothers and Sisters;

We are a non-profit 501(c) (4) military veterans' organization that has embarked on a campaign to honor the long-time dream of our Past Commandant Dwayne Enos to have a Jacksonville Detachment 059 Monument erected on the grounds of the Jacksonville National Cemetery. It is with a heavy heart that Dwayne has succumbed to the Pandemic last year and will not see his dream fulfilled.

In view of our heartbreak, this is where we rely on the support of generous individuals, organizations, and businesses in our community to make Dwayne's dream of a Detachment Monument honoring all Marines and FMF Corpsmen (past, present and future) a reality. We would be most grateful if you would consider providing a donation to our Detachment. Your support is critical to the completion of our mission.

If you are able to support our efforts, please send your contribution to the PO Box listed below, attention Detachment Monument Fund.

The Detachment Monument which is intended for the erection on the grounds of the Jacksonville National Cemetery has been a long-time hope of Dwayne's and simply put, if it weren't for your support, we could not begin this journey.

We are in the preliminary phases of our planning, and your generosity will make an immediate difference. As we move close to our goal, we will surely advise you of our achievement and dedication schedule. To find out more about our organization and to view a sketch of our proposed Detachment Monument please visit our website.

On behalf of the members of our Detachment we thank you for taking the time to consider our request.

Semper Fidelis!

Charles F. Myers

Charles F. Myers

Commandant

Marine Corps League

Jacksonville Detachment 059

Jacksonville Detachment 059
Marine Corps League
PO Box 331419
Atlantic Beach, FL 32233
<https://www.mcljacksonville.org/>

Reminder: Electronic Filing Mandate for Form 990-EZ for Exempt Organizations filing for years ending after July 31, 2021

The Taxpayer First Act, enacted July 1, 2019, requires tax-exempt organizations to electronically file information returns and related forms. The requirement to file electronically generally became effective for tax years beginning after July 1, 2019. However, for small exempt organizations, the legislation specifically allowed a postponement ("transitional relief"). As a result:

For tax years ending before July 31, 2021, the IRS will accept either paper or electronic filing of Form 990-EZ, Short Form Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax. For tax years ending July 31, 2021, and later, Forms 990-EZ must be filed electronically. This not only includes 990-N, but also includes 990-EZ and full 990, with any appropriate related schedules.

IRS will be sending an educational letter (Letter 6194) to organizations that filed paper Forms 990-EZ previously. There is no need to reply to the letter.

On July 15, IRS also announced the following:

The 2021 Virtual IRS Nationwide Tax Forum consists of a 5-week program of live webinars beginning on July 20, 2021. IRS webinars are offered every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday for the 5-week duration. Registration information is available on the Tax Forums webpage. There is a substantial registration fee of up to \$289.

The "Charities & Tax-Exempt Organizations Update" webinar is Thursday, July 22 at 2pm EST. In this session, you'll learn about recent law and guidance changes and how those changes may affect your exempt organization. The webinar will also discuss electronic filing requirements that affect many tax-exempt organization returns. You must register AND PAY for the Nationwide Tax Forum to attend this webinar.

FREE Online Training for Small to Mid-Sized Section 501(c)(3) Charities

The IRS provides free interactive online training to help officers, board members, and volunteers maintain your organization's tax-exempt status at [StayExempt.irs.gov](https://stayexempt.irs.gov). The Maintaining 501(c)(3) Tax-Exempt Status course discusses what responsibilities your organization has and what activities can jeopardize your organization's 501(c)(3) status. The Tax-Exempt Organization Workshop provides additional information on the benefits, limitations and expectations of tax-exempt organizations.

From John Mountcastle, Treasurer, Veterans Council of St. Johns County, FL, Inc.

**From a June 16, 2021 IRS' Exempt Organizations Notice
Information on Notices Received After Paper Filing Form 990-EZ
or Form 8868**

The IRS is experiencing delays in processing paper returns, including Form 990-EZ, Short Form Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax, and Form 8868, Application for Extension of Time To File an Exempt Organization Return.

The IRS encourages organizations to file these forms electronically. If you file Form 990-EZ on paper, you may receive a prematurely-issued CP259A notice of non-filing. If you file Form 8868 on paper, there may be a delay in receiving CP211A notice confirming approval of your extension request. If you filed your return or extension request on paper, you do not need to take any further action. Please don't file a second return or contact the IRS about the status of your filing. We appreciate your patience.

Note: this DOES NOT APPLY to exempt organizations filing annual information reports electronically. ALL exempt organizations must file annual information reports (990-N, 990-EZ or 990) electronically for tax years ending on or after July 31, 2021.

John Mountcastle,

Treasurer

The Veterans' Council of St. Johns County, Inc.



IRC 501 (c) 19 Veterans Organization

is pleased to announce the

2021 FAVS / VYSTAR Scholarship Award

FAVS Scholarship is awarded to high school senior students who:

1. is a dependent child* of an active, reserve, or retired military member.
**Defined as natural and legally adopted child or stepchild living in the veteran's household, or primarily supported by a veteran.*
2. HS seniors or graduates who are in receipt of an acceptance letter and plan to enroll, or students who are already enrolled in full-time undergraduate study at an accredited two-year or four-year college, or vocational-technical school for the entire upcoming year.
3. Veterans* themselves.
**Veterans must have active military or DD-214 indicating honorable service.*
4. is a legal resident of Duval County, Florida.

Award: TWO Cash Awards of \$1,500.00 each & Certificates

Begin Date: Sunday 04 JUL 2021

Close Date: Thursday 30 SEP 2021

For RULES AND ENTRY FORMS PLEASE CONTACT 858-215-3931:

Completed application forms, together with all required enclosures must be received by the FAVS Scholarship Chairman not later than Thursday 30 SEP 2021

PLEASE MAIL COMPLETED PACKAGES TO:

Mr. Marc Manor
Chairman, FAVS Scholarship Committee
1301 Riverplace Blvd, Ste 800-145
Jacksonville, FL 32207

Applications can be scanned and sent electronically (pdf) to marcmanor@yahoo.com

WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT THE FAVS VETERANS DAY PARTY IN NOVEMBER, 2021





Legal Aid for Veterans

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

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

1.866.486.6161

Call Today!

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



We Can Help With

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

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

Become a Watch Stander with The Fire Watch



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Disaster Resources Available to Veterans

“Veterans and their families should be focused on their health and safety during the natural disasters,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie.

“VA is taking action to give those with pending debts greater flexibility during these challenging times.”

Health Care Assistance

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

Debt Relief

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

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

Other Resources

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



You sacrificed for our country.

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

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

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

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

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THE FUTURE OF SENIOR LIVING

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



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

Assisted Living Facility #12928

Vietnam Veterans of America

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



Chapter/President/email/Location

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



PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO MEET VETERANS' UNIQUE NEEDS

Advance Care Planning

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

Palliative Care

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

Hospice Care

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

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

Complementary Therapies

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

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

We Need Volunteers

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

WE HONOR VETERANS
Partner

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

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



SURVIVOR OUTREACH SERVICES

Strength
built on
Sacrifice

Your Florida SOS Team

St. Augustine Area

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

Tallahassee Area

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

Orlando Area

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

Tampa Bay Area

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

Miami Area

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

Scholarships & Application Deadlines

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

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

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

Application Deadlines for surviving children

Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation

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

Freedom Alliance

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

Fisher House Foundation/ Heroes Legacy Scholarship

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

Special Ops Warrior Foundation

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

Deadline for multiple relationships

Army Emergency Relief Fund

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

Application Deadlines: For surviving spouses

Aspire

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

National Military Family Association

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

Pat Tillman Foundation

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

Application Deadlines: For surviving siblings

Matthew Freeman Project

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

Deadline for multiple relationships

Folds of Honor

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

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

FLORIDA SURVIVOR OUTREACH SERVICES AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY



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

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



Mission Statement:

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



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

What the Council has done:

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

SA-0003147064-01

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

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

STAND BY THEM
Confidential help for Veterans and their families

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

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

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

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

Confidential chat at MilitaryCrisisLine.net or text 838255

Veterans Councils of Northeast Florida



BAKER COUNTY

President: Larry Porterfield

Meetings:

Second Thursday of each month

Location:

MacClenny Primitive Baptist Church
Fellowship Hall on North Boulevard

Time : 1800 (6pm)

CLAY COUNTY

President: Harry Silvers

Meetings:

First Wednesday of each month

Location:

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

Time: 1400 (2pm)

DUVAL COUNTY

President Steve Spickelmier

Meetings:

Third Tuesday of each month

Location:

American Legion Post 37
Main Building
San Juan Avenue

Tome: 1900 (7 pm)

NASSAU COUNTY

President: Mike Doran

Meetings:

First Thursday of each month

Location:

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

Time: 1900 (7pm)

St. Johns County

President: Bill Dudley

Meetings:

Last Thursday of each month

Location:

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

Time: 1900 (7pm)

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



We are inviting all veterans to visit our website at:

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

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

Please join our group on Facebook at:

<http://veteranscouncilsjc.org>

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

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

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

You may have noticed the Veterans Council's new logo, it was created by Roy Havekost.

He can be contacted at webmaster@veteranscouncilsjc.org

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

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

Send to: rothfeldm@gmail.com



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

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

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

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

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

***The Veterans Council will meet at the St.
Johns County Administration Building
500 San Sebastian View
Auditorium, 1st floor***

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

(physical location)

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

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

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