



The Patriot Reader Newsletter

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St. Augustine, FL 32085

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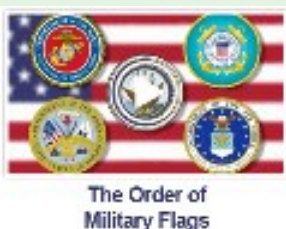
Volume 11, Issue 4

From Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley

April 2022

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Fellow Veterans,
Your Veterans Council has been heavily engaged this month with reaching out to help several homeless veterans in our community. We have housed and fed these veterans by putting them up in local motels and providing them with gift cards for food. These veterans are going through the process of qualifying for housing and assistance through the VA but until their benefits kick in, they have no shelter or other means of support. Fortunately for these veterans, the Veterans Council has been there to provide assistance. However, this points out a major problem in our system of veteran support at the County and State level. Our County has no homeless shelter to house those in need of sheltering nor system in place to care for those who are waiting to be qualified for HUD/VASH or SSVF. The veteran then falls into the donut hole unless organizations such as ours step in to assist. We will be working

with all local agencies over the coming weeks to find a suitable solution to this problem.
If you haven't reserved your ticket for our upcoming USCG Band concert on April 4, now is the time to do so. You can go on line to reserve your ticket for this concert at <https://us-coast-guard-band.ticketleap.com/st-augustine-fl>. Please plan to join us for this outstanding military Band performance at Anastasia Baptist Church at 7 PM on Monday, April 4, 2022. This is a free concert for your listening enjoyment and an opportunity to show your appreciation to our military men and women. Mark your calendars for Monday, May 30 as we honor our service members on Memorial Day. We will pay tribute to those who have paid the supreme price for serving our Nation at the St. Augustine National Cemetery. The program begins at 10 AM. There are no restrictions this year on crowd size so please plan to join us as we honor



those who gave their all for our country. Our local MOAA-ACC chapter and the Veterans Council will be hosting this year's program.
We are pleased to have a new submittal to our Patriot Reader this month. Pam Cain, the daughter of a USAF Vietnam MIA has submitted an extremely interesting article honoring her father who went MIA in Laos in Feb. 1966. I'm sure you will enjoy reading her article of the accounting of her father's service which begins on page 18 of this newsletter. Pam will make monthly submittals of other POW-MIA's for future editions of our newsletter. Thank you for your service. Bill Dudley
Chairman
Veterans Council of St. Johns County



**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 on Monday June 13**. 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 Hadlow Community Hospice of NE FL.
4266 Sunbeam Rd, Jacksonville, FL 32257
Hadlow Bldg – Conference Room A 7:00 pm

+++++2022 Officers of the SCJNC+++++

Chairman: Padraic Mulvihill
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. **NEW: We meet at the County Health & Human Services Building, 200 San Sebastian View, at 7 pm**

From the January 2022 meeting onward all Council meetings will be held at the VSO building, 200 San Sebastian View

All SJC Health Guidelines will be followed.

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



Upcoming Veterans Council Meetings Speakers

March 31, Sharon Lynn Unger, Homeless Veterans Stand Down, Clay County

Dr. Matthew Burke, 10 CAN, Inc., Helping Veterans

April 24, Donna Boyce, Principal, St. Joseph's Academy with students speaking about their Veterans Interview Program

May 26, Bill Lazar, Patriot's Pl. Veterans Housing

Dee Quaranta, Pres/CEO NE FL Women Veterans

June 30, Kathy Church, MIAP Update

July 28, Andrew Stack, FL State Coord for DoD Program

"Building Healthy Military Communities"



**VETERANS COUNCIL OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY
MINUTES OF GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
24 FEBRUARY 2022**

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Dudley

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS: Chairman Dudley

PLEDGE: Chairman Dudley

INVOCATION: Vice Chair Quinn

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS: Chairman Dudley

Mr. Derek Collins, Program Manager for Fire Watch and Suzanne Hoff Ogawa

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: Minutes of the last meeting conducted on 27 January 2022 were presented by Chairman Dudley. Minutes have been posted on the website and Face Book. Minutes are also available in hard copy. The minutes were subsequently approved by voice vote with no changes.

TREASURERS REPORT: Treasurer John Mountcastle provided a detailed report that included significant transactions and a current balance of \$115,776.75. He accounted for the significant increase due to an anonymous donation. He noted that all expenditures and debts incurred are included in the report and available at this meeting. A unanimous approval of the report was obtained.

PRESENTATIONS:

Suzanne Ogawa offered a history of the POW-MIA flag that many members had not heard. Her keen knowledge of the flag and its histo

ry are due to the loss of her father during the Vietnam War. Her father, a pilot, flew missions in a A-4 Corsair. His wingman on their last mission saw her father's plane hit by anti-aircraft and he was not seen again. He remains an MIA today. Suzanne was only seven years old when she lost her father in service to our nation.

Operation Firewatch

Derek Collins presented an overview of Operation Firewatch an organization of Northeast Florida volunteers to dedicated to ending suicide of our veterans. There are 1500 certified watch standers standing by to assist any veteran in need. To date there have been 542 former service members in Florida that have taken their lives. Male veterans commit suicide by higher percentage and the average age ranges 18-34. Anyone can become a watch stander by going to the Fire Watch website to register and taking the brief course. Derek offered his services to provide the same program to any military or civic organization that may be interested.

Service Officer CSM Joe McDermott

Joe offered an update from the county service office. He announced the VA is proposing to change the rating system on hearing, sleep apnea and mental disorder. He explained that many veterans are filing separate claims that actually are known as pyramiding to increase their benefit. That is not allowed and only slows the process. He also stated that the National Records Center in St. Louis has made little headway in clearing their backlog.

Veterans Treatment Court:

John Leslie provided an update and an invitation for our veterans to attend a court proceeding to get a better understanding of the system. To date there are 53 graduates. A total of 13 have been dropped from the program for non-compliance. One veteran committed suicide. He announced that he would be making a presentation about the court to St. Augustine American Legion Post 37. John ensured all were aware that the Clay County Veterans Council would be observing Vietnam Veterans Day 31 March 2022 in Green Cove Springs.

Chairman Dudley Remarks:

The chairman announced that the United States Coast Guard Band would be performing on 4 April 2022 at Anastasia Baptist Church. The concert will begin at 7:00 p.m. It is no cost however you must have a ticket.

The observance of Memorial Day, 30 May 2022 at 10:00 a.m. will be conducted at the St. Augustine National Cemetery. The event is sponsored by MOAA and the Veterans Council. Please plan to attend.

The chairman announced the passing of Michael Pulliam, a loyal and involved Vietnam Veteran. His final honors are to be conducted 2 March 2022 at 11:30 a.m. Jacksonville National Cemetery.

Respectfully submitted,

William Dudley, Chairman

Ray A. Quinn, Vice Chairman

The Veterans Council Donates its documentary series to the Lincolville Museum & Cultural center

St John's County Veterans Council President Bill William Dudley, Secretary Michael Rothfeld along with Commander Derry Greene and Past Cmdr Greg White present military documentary films to Lincolville Cultural Museum's Gail and Floyd Phillips. One film highlights St John's County own hero, Pvt Leo C. Chase Jr. Additionally, the newly opened St John's County VA clinic is named in his honor.



SUMMARY OF VETERANS COUNCIL ACTIVITIES FOR 2021:

THE VCSJC HAD ANOTHER STELLAR YEAR IN SUPPORT OF OUR VETERANS. WE CONTINUED TO HONOR OUR VETERANS AS WE HAVE DONE EACH YEAR IN THE PAST ON VETERANS DAY, MEMORIAL DAY, WITH OUR HOMELESS VETERANS STAND DOWN, POW-MIA RECOGNITION DAY, AND WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA JUST TO NAME A FEW.

THE VETERANS COUNCIL CONTINUED ITS SUPPORT OF THE VETERANS TREATMENT COURT IN A VERY PROLIFIC WAY. OVER THE PAST 12 MONTHS WE WERE ABLE TO HELP MANY OF OUR VTC VETERANS WITH UTILITY BILLS, HOUSE REPAIRS, CAR REPAIRS, LODGING, INSURANCE PAYMENTS, TRANSPORTATION COSTS, COURT FEES, GIFT CARDS FOR FOOD AND GAS, AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AT CHRISTMAS, JUST TO NAME A FEW OF THE WAYS WE ASSISTED OUR VETERANS.

WE PRODUCED ANOTHER DOCUMENTARY THIS PAST YEAR, "KOREA, THE FORGOTTEN WAR, REMEMBERED", THE 6TH IN A SERIES OF DOCUMENTARIES BY INTERVIEWING 5 KOREAN WAR VETERANS WHO SAW COMBAT IN KOREA EITHER ON THE GROUND OR AT SEA. SEVERAL OF OUR DOCUMENTARIES WERE ACCEPTED FOR PERMANENT ARCHIVES INTO THE RONALD REAGAN AND HARRY TRUMAN PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARIES THIS YEAR.



WE REMEMBERED OUR VIETNAM VETERANS ON VIETNAM REMEMBRANCE DAY AT ST. AUGUSTINE NATIONAL CEMETERY AND ON VETERANS DAY AT ANASTASIA BAPTIST CHURCH. THIS



WAS A VERY MOVING AND EMOTIONAL EVENT AS OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKER, DR. HAL KUSHNER, A 6 YEAR POW GAVE AN ACCOUNTING OF HIS TIME IN CAPTIVITY. WE ALSO HONORED OUR FALLEN SONS FROM ST. JOHNS COUNTY AND



THE GOLD STAR FAMILY MEMBERS OF THESE FALLEN HEROES.

OUR ANNUAL WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA PROGRAM WAS ANOTHER SUCCESS THIS YEAR WITH NEARLY 400 ATTENDING FOR THE CEREMONY AND TO HELP PLACE WREATHS ON ALL THE GRAVESITES AT THE SANC.



AS PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED, OUR SIGNATURE EVENT EACH YEAR IS OUR VETERANS DAY PROGRAM AND THIS YEAR WAS NO EXCEPTION. WITH NEAR-

LY 1000 ATTENDING AND OVER 40 EXHIBITORS IN THE ATRIUM AREA AT ANASTASIA CHURCH, OUR COMMUNITY TURNED OUT IN HUGE NUMBERS TO HONOR OUR VETERANS. THE VETERANS COUNCIL IS PROUD OF OUR LOCAL CITIZENS, OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS, OUR FIRST RESPONDERS WHO TURN OUT EACH YEAR TO HONOR OUR VETERANS FOR THEIR SERVICE.



THE VETERANS COUNCIL ALSO SUPPORTED OTHER ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS DURING THE YEAR SUCH AS THE VETERANS ART EXHIBIT, LASSEN STATE VETERANS HOME, FIRST COAST HONOR FLIGHT, JACKSONVILLE AND ST. AUGUSTINE NATIONAL CEMETERIES, FLAGLER COLLEGE WW II EXHIBIT, CECIL FIELD POW-MIA MEMORIAL & MUSEUM, ST AUGUSTINE LIGHTHOUSE, MISSING IN AMERICA PROJECT, VETS FOR VETS, WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT, COL. DAVID PARRAMORE CROSS COUNTRY BIKE RIDE, MOAA, FMC/AUSA, FIRE



WATCH PROGRAM, SALVA-

TION ARMY HOMELESS VETERANS FROM PALM BEACH, SJC 200 YEAR TIME CAPSULE PROJECT, GOLD STAR PARKWAY AT JAX NATIONAL CEMETERY AND SEVERAL HOMELESS VETERANS HOUSING PROJECTS SUCH AS PATRIOT PLACE, SAN MARCO HEIGHTS AND VICTORIA CROSSING.



Patriot's Place

THE VETERANS COUNCIL WAS HONORED THAT THE CHAIRMAN WAS RECOGNIZED THIS YEAR BY ST JOHNS COUNTY FOR DESIGNATING NOV. 2 AS BILL DUDLEY DAY, AND BY THE JAX. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESENTING THE RADM KEVIN DELANEY MILITARY HALL OF FAME AWARD IN RECOGNITION FOR VETERANS SERVICE TO ST. JOHNS COUNTY AND NORTHEAST FLORIDA



Chairman Dudley receives AUSA Service Award

AND TO AUSA FOR THE FIRST MILITIA CHAPTER SERVICE AWARD . THESE AWARDS RECOGNIZE THE HARD WORK AND COMMITMENT OF ALL THE TEAM MEMBERS OF THE VETERANS



COUNCIL

During Calendar Year 2021, the Veterans' Council of St. Johns County, Inc. received more than \$40,500 in cash donations to support our missions.

This year, the Veterans' Council also created a semi-permanent endowment in the name of our Chairman, William Dudley; \$1,500 was donated specifically for this purpose. Grants would be made from income derived by this endowment; at the discretion of trustees, grants may also be made from principal invested.

In addition to the above cash transactions, the Veterans’ Council received donated goods and services valued at more than \$4,700, in furnishings reserved to assist deserving Veterans who will move into Veterans-dedicated housing provided by the St. Johns Housing Partnership this year.

During 2021, the Veterans’ Council expended approximately \$39,500 in support of the missions of the Veterans’ Council; summarized by program expenses:

	Cash Expense	As pct of \$46,000	As pct of \$ 41,300
Assistance to Veterans in Need	\$ 16,660	36.2%	40.3%
Flags (US, POW/MIA, Services)	\$ 1,801	3.9%	4.4%
Nov. 11 Veterans’ Day	\$ 7,132	15.5%	17.3%
Other Restricted	\$ 2,020	4.4%	4.9%
Stand Down	\$ 1,500	3.3%	3.6%
Veterans Treatment Court	\$ 7,127	15.5%	17.3%
Wreaths Across America	688	1.5%	1.7%
Programs Tools	\$ 36,928	80.3%	89.5%
General & Administrative	\$ 2,216	4.8%	5.4%
Fund Raising	\$ 360	0.8%	0.9%
	\$ 39,504		

Assistance to Veterans in Need aided more than ten families with temporary lodging, replacement of HVAC, car repairs, funeral expenses and emergency assistance. None of these were included in the Veterans’ Treatment Court, which had more than thirty participants who received assistance with court fees, gas and food cards, lodging assistance, vehicle repairs; at year-end, fourteen deserving participants identified by the Court each received \$200 checks as holiday gifts in recognition of their rehabilitation efforts.

Public Charities are evaluated by their ability to focus upon their missions, manage their expenses and be good stewards of the assets entrusted to them. With more than 80% of gross receipts expended on programs, less than 6% spent on overhead, and less than 1% spent on fund-raising, the Veterans’ Council compares quite favorably.

Guidestar reports the Veterans’ Council has a gold rating.

At the ceremony of the Four Chaplains at Cecil Field Chaplain Pat Archuleta presented a coin and plaque to Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley and Pres./ CEO Dee Quaranta of the NE FL Women Veterans.



The award was The Legion of Honor Humanitarian Award



February 3, 2022

Mr. William Dudley

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Dear Mr. Dudley,

Congratulations! The Chapel of Four Chaplains Awards Committee has reviewed and approved your nomination to receive The Chapel of Four Chaplains Legion of Honor Humanitarian Award. We are happy to have your name added to our Honor Roll.

As a recipient of the Legion of Honor Humanitarian Award you are a source of pride and inspiration for The Chapel of Four Chaplains, as well as those who come into contact with you. We encourage you to continue the selfless service which brought you to our attention and moves us to recognize you publicly.

We ask that you consider joining the growing Chapel family and enroll in one of our Annual Membership groups. Your contribution will be used to support the Chapel's many worthwhile programs, including the Legion of Honor, the National Student Scholarship Competition, Emergency Chaplain Corps and the Veterans Outreach Programs.

Sincerely,

Howard Schaeffer
Howard Schaeffer, USMC Veteran
Chairman



Vietnam War Veterans Day Welcome Home Ceremony

By DAVID TREFFINGER

The annual Vietnam War Veterans Day Welcome Home ceremony was held on Saturday, March 26, at the TAPS Monument in Green Cove Springs, Florida before a gathering of over 250.

The ceremony was held to commemorate the National Vietnam War Veterans Day which is observed nationally on March 29. The ceremony was held in partnership with Vietnam Veterans of America Col. William G. Byrns Chapter 1059, the Clay County Board of Commissioners and City of Green Cove Springs.

All Vietnam War Veterans were recognized with Veterans from Clay, Duval, St. Johns, and Nassau counties represented at the ceremony. Vietnam Veterans were presented the 50th Anniversary Commemorate lapel pin and certificate. Gold Star families were recognized along with all Veterans.

U.S. Congresswoman Kat Cammack (R-3rd Congressional District) was the keynote speaker.

"I am incredible honored and humbled to be speaking to an incredible group here today ... the Veterans and your families," she said. "Thank you for your service, your dedication.

"We get to honor our Veterans and celebrate our Veterans and a very overdue long Welcome Home. The Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017 is incredibly overdue. Couldn't believe that it hadn't happened sooner. Now that we have a national official observation day, I hope that so many around this country who take our freedoms and liberties for granted take a moment to stop. It should be everyday that we recognize and honor that those who signed up. This day marks the withdrawal of U.S. forces from Vietnam in 1973. They came home to a less than stellar welcome; in fact they weren't welcome at all. And so today it is my hope that we with open arms say Welcome Home and thank you to all those and their families who served during a very unpopular time. On behalf of a grateful Congress, a grateful district, thank you, we are indebted to your service not just today, but every day."

Green Cove Springs Vice Mayor Matt Johnson, former commander at Camp Blanding, also spoke.

"I'm proud to be an American today," said Army Colonel (retired). "It was important to recognize our Vietnam Veterans."

Motorcycle groups – Patriot Guard and Legion Riders -- from Clay County and surrounding area were represented and presented a flag line around the TAPS Monument. VVA Chapter 1088 from Nassau County presented the colors for the ceremony.

The Dreamland Squadron from Clay County performed a missing man flyover and Navy Command Master Chief Mack Ellis, assisted by the Clay County Public Safety Honor Guard, presenting the rendition of Old Glory.

The ceremony was dedicated to the memory of Ernie Cohen who passed away last year. Even though he wasn't a veteran, Ernie Cohen was a strong supporter of the TAPS Monument and the Vietnam War Veterans Day ceremony. He was the MC for the event and was well known throughout the county for his support of veterans and various other non-profit organizations. His widow, Joann, was presented a bouquet of flowers by Vietnam War Veterans committee chairperson Gary Newman. A commemorative brick was placed at the base of the monument in Ernie Cohen's memory.

David Treffinger, President of VVA Chapter 1059, with assistance from Chapter 1046 President Tony D'Aleo (Duval County) and Chapter 1084 President Ron Howard (St. Johns County), presented the TAPS Monument wreath.

The names of the 22 Clay County residents killed in action in Vietnam was read by Clay County Sheriff Michelle Cook with assistance from Green Cove Springs police chief John Guzman.

It was pointed that there are still 1,584 missing or unaccounted-for from Vietnam and that we need to bring them all home.



Congresswoman Kat Cammack speaking



Flag Line



Mack Ellis rendition of Old Glory



Vietnam Veterans in the crowd



Presentation of the TAPS Monument wreath with from the left Ron Howard, Chapter 1084 president, David Treffinger, Chapter 1059 president,

Photo credit: The TAPS Monument wreath presentation was taken by Sharon D'Aleo. All other pictures taken by Dave Treffinger

USS Orleck arrives at temporary home on Jacksonville's Northbank

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – The USS Orleck arrived in Jacksonville on Saturday to become the centerpiece of Jacksonville's naval museum, expected to open in June.

The city posted on Twitter at 9 a.m. that the ship had just passed Naval Station Mayport and was headed up the St. Johns River to its temporary home on the Northbank.

The arrival featured plenty of fanfare as fireboats paraded the ship in, shooting water into the air.

The ship traveled under the Mathews Bridge about noon and under the Hart Bridge less than 10 minutes later as it trekked toward its new home along the Northbank Riverwalk in front of the Hyatt Regency. A line of onlookers along the riverbank cheered as the Orleck was finally pushed into place by a tug boat just before 1 p.m. and the U.S. flag was raised on its bow.

"I was really excited when I learned they were actually going to have a ship here," said Annette Stevenson.

It will be docked at the current location for several months until its permanent home off the Shipyards can be properly outfitted.

"Sometimes things take time. I'm just glad we were able to park it here for a period of time since it's coming in early and its home will be ready at the right time," Jacksonville Mayor Lenny Curry said at a news conference Friday.

Creating a naval museum in Jacksonville that features a floating piece of history has been in the works for 12 years. The original plans to bring the USS Adams to Jacksonville fell through, leaving organizers to find another ship, and the USS Orleck fit the bill.

"I come from a very long line of patriotic military members and I myself am

very fortunate to work for our judicial branch of the government,” said Kimberly Barrett. “So seeing this means a lot to me.”

The Orleck is the most decorated post World War II ship as it fought in the Korean, Vietnam and Cold War periods. Converting it to a museum and moving it from Texas to Jacksonville cost a little more than \$2 million.

“It says, finally, the Navy town, the third-largest Navy town in the U.S., finally gets a museum ship, and we were the only ones without one,” said Craig Bernat, with the Jacksonville Naval Museum. “And the ship even though it wasn’t the Adams, this is the second most historic ship that the Navy has, so that says a lot right there the history of the ship.”

There are some who are concerned that the permanent site is not ready ahead of the ship’s arrival. But Lori Boyer, head of the Downtown Investment Authority, said it should all work out.

“Not all of the conditions of docking at Pier One have been satisfied, but that’s not to say we think there is any problem with their ability to satisfy them. I think they will do that,” Boyer said.

Authors: Aaron Farrar, Morning Show reporter and Scott Johnson, who specializes in Clay County issues, general assignment reporting and stories off the beaten path and anchors weekend evening newscasts.



**U.S. Department of
Homeland Security
United States
Coast Guard**



Press Release

Date: March 1, 2022
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: MU1 Joel Baroody
Phone: (860)701-6826
E-mail: joel.w.baroody@uscg.mil

U.S. Coast Guard Band Announces National Concert Tour Visit to St. Augustine, FL

NEW LONDON, Conn—Monday, April 4 at 7 p.m., The United States Coast Guard Band will be pleased to present a free concert at Anastasia Baptist Church located at 1650 A1A S in St. Augustine, FL. This event is part of the “Southern Connections” concert tour, a two-week mission traveling through Coast Guard Sectors Charleston, Jacksonville, Miami, and St. Petersburg.

This concert is free of charge and open to the public. Ticket reservations are required and may be obtained on a first-come basis at <https://us-coast-guard-band.ticketleap.com/st-augustine-fl/>.

The Band schedules one national tour each year and is excited to return to the Southeast for the first time as a full band since 2008. Since the Band rotates through five regional divisions of the United States in turn, each concert tour represents a rare and unmissable opportunity to see the full 55-member Coast Guard Band in person. Music selections will include favorite band treasures, virtuosic solo features, rousing marches, new music by American composers, and patriotic classics in a program certain to bring the audience to its feet.

Established in 1925, the United States Coast Guard Band is the premier band representing the U.S. Coast Guard and the Department of Homeland Security and is the Coast Guard’s only professional musical ensemble. The Band serves the country and the American people through its mission of promoting public goodwill toward the U.S. Coast Guard and our country, preserving and honoring the heritage, traditions, and history of the Coast Guard and our nation, enhancing pride within our service, supporting Coast Guard recruiting activities, and performing for official functions.

For more information about the band including the most recent COVID-19 protocols, other concert locations on the “Southern Connections” tour, information about the Band’s directors and members, social media links, and more, please visit the Band’s website at www.uscg.mil/band.

-uscg-



UNITED STATES COAST GUARD BAND

SOUTHERN CONNECTIONS TOUR

**Monday
April 4, 2022
7pm**

**Anastasia Baptist Church
1650 A1A S
St. Augustine, Florida**

<https://us-coast-guard-band.ticketleap.com/st-augustine-fl/>



**www.uscg.mil/Band
www.facebook.com/uscoastguardband**



A local veteran in need is helped by local veteran's groups

On March 3rd the VCSJC donated and moved furniture into the new home of a veteran. This veteran had qualified for a new home but had absolutely no furnishings in the house. Our Veterans Council accommodated her need from our inventory of furniture. Anastasia Baptist Church Life Group took up a collection and shopped and purchased things like towels, pillows, kitchen wares, and other incidentals. Two Men and a Truck moved all the furniture at no charge to the Veteran or the Council.

One month ago, this single mother of 3 was homeless living out of her car. She now has a new home fully furnished thanks to Wounded Warrior and The Veterans Council.

Here are a couple of pics of the furniture the Veterans Council donated to this family this week. All the furniture you see in these pics was donated by caring citizens in the community. Two Men and a Truck has graciously furnished a truck and team to move the furniture for us. Remember, last month this veteran and her children was homeless and living out of their car .



NATIONAL LEAGUE OF POW/MIA FAMILIES

ITS IMPACT YESTERDAY AND TODAY

Submitted by Pam Cain, Daughter of Oscar Mauterer, USAF, MIA Laos 2/15/66

Board member, National League of POW/MIA Families

When the National League of POW/MIA Families (League) was incorporated in May 1970, it had a single, threefold mission: the release of all prisoners, the fullest possible accounting for the missing, and repatriation of all recoverable remains of those who died serving our nation during the Vietnam War. The League planned to disband when that mission was realized. Sadly, over 50 years later, this organization is steadfast, vigilant and persistent as the mission continues.

We still advocate for intensifying our government's efforts, providing input and guidance from our 50+ years of involvement with this issue and assuring that our country's sacred obligation to those who serve will be respected and carried out seriously. The League affirms that the POW/MIA issue is humanitarian. Our history includes being a watchdog, as we are today! Circumstances at the federal level resulted in the League urging reorganization of the agencies responsible for achieving the fullest possible accounting due to inefficiencies, political disputes and the need to put forth a realistic road map as an effective tool for the accounting mission.

The League takes positions on legislation that relates to the mission and renders resolutions to the federal government and Congress. League officials have been asked and do testify before federal committees on the Hill. The National League of POW/MIA Families serves the families of those unaccounted for, providing information and connecting them with appropriate resources. The League conducts an annual meeting for all to hear briefings from US government agencies, VSOs and other mission-related groups. This meeting continues to draw new family members and concerned citizens, both essential for moving forward as long as the mission exists. From its origin, these meetings encourage associations and friendships among families and opportunities to network. The League promotes education-based programs and curriculum, and there is an ongoing effort to archive organizational documents and artifacts for preservation of the actions and legacy of the League.

In recent years, the League's Archival Research Team (ART) has reviewed hard-to-resolve cases of those still missing. These specialists have provided new evidence and analysis to families and the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), the federal agency responsible for providing the fullest possible accounting for our missing personnel to the families and our nation. This team is a vital component of our organization and a unique resource with invaluable contributions to the mission.

Throughout the League's history, there have been successes. Bringing our missing home, identifying them and providing answers for families as well as a proper burial for those who sacrificed all for their country's freedom is first and foremost!

The POW/MIA flag, conceptualized and driven by local Jacksonville area resident and MIA wife, Mary Hoff, was adopted by the League in early 1972. It has become a symbol of losses from all wars and reassures today's armed services and government civilians that should they be captured or become missing, our nation will do all it can to bring them home. As most know, it flies 24/7 over the White House, below the American flag, and at government, public and residential locations around the world.

Veteran service organizations are essential partners in realizing the fullest possible accounting and the League is proud of its ongoing relationships with VFW, VVA, DAV, American Legion, SOA, SFA, AmVets and Jewish War Veterans. To fulfill the POW/MIA mission, our voices need to be united and plentiful! The League and the families it represents must depend on help from others - all veterans, concerned citizens, and the general public - to join our efforts! Our missing deserve no less than to be repatriated to the country they served.

The League values its long-standing relationships with officials of the Southeast Asian countries that were part of the Vietnam War. League delegations visit our government officials in the field, defense attaché offices, Embassies and counterpart leaders in each country. Specific talking points are presented. I was part of a unique family delegation in 2007 and noteworthy is that we put faces to the mission as we represented all families of all who were still missing from the Vietnam War at that time. High level meetings and discussions, experiencing the beauty of the countries, sensing the hearts of the people and visiting excavation sites were extraordinary.

Many within the League travel at their own expense to speak, engage with groups as those mentioned above and participate in events that seek answers, honor, remember and educate the public about POWs and MIAs. Publicizing the mission is necessary: many in our country don't even know or understand that so many are still unaccounted for.

Finally, though the League's mission focuses on our country's unreturned veterans from the Vietnam War, it supports the renewed efforts of our government to recover those unaccounted-for from our nation's past wars and conflicts. Learning the fate of our missing and ending of uncertainty for families of Vietnam War POWs and MIAs is our government's noble obligation; the League, with your support, will continue to persist and be responsible to its mission!

For information on becoming an associate member or discovering ways to help, please visit our website: <https://www.pow-miafamilies.org/>.

You can also follow the League on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.



2021 National POW/MIA Recognition Day - Pentagon Ceremony. L to R: RADM Jon Kreitz, USN (Ret), then League CEO; Bruce Hallberg, League Board Member, MIA brother; Ann Mills Griffiths, League Chair of the Board, MIA sister, RR; Sue Scott, League Board Member, MIA sister, RR; Colleen Shine, MIA daughter, RR; Mr. Kelly McKeague, Director, DPAA



USAF Memorial - Wreath-laying & Ceremony. L to R: Pam Cain, League Board Member, MIA daughter; Ann Mills Griffiths, League Chair of the Board, MIA sister, now-RR



Laos Team Photo - Family Delegation, Joint Field Activity in Laos. Center: Wade Owens, then CDR, Detachment III; Pam Cain, League Board Member, MIA daughter; Sue Scott, League Board Member, MIA sister, now-RR



League & SOA Delegates: League officials, SOA rep, DPAA Detachment III Team, 2018 (most recent delegation due to the pandemic)

This is a Letter of Appreciation from the Jax. National Cemetery
Support Committee for the Council's donation of \$250 in memory
of Steve Speckkelmier



The Support Committee at Jacksonville National Cemetery
4411 Sunbeam Road
P.O. Box 57695
Jacksonville, Florida 32241

February 20, 2022

Veterans Council of St. Johns County Inc.
P.O. Box 2117
St. Augustine, Florida 32085

On behalf of the Support Committee at Jacksonville National Cemetery Inc. and the Spickelmier Family, we would like to thank you for your generous donation in honor of our good friend Steve Spickelmier.

As you may know Steve was the Chairman of the Support Committee at the Jacksonville National Cemetery. Because of his tireless effort and dedication, he and the Committee provided the Jacksonville National Cemetery with added support that was not available from the National Cemetery Administration. Steve hosted and planned many ceremonies: Memorial Day, Wreaths Across America Day and many other individual ceremonies.

HE WILL BE MISSED.

Respectfully,



Pat Welch

Treasurer Support Committee at Jacksonville National Cemetery

Chapter 1046, Duval County named VVA Florida State Council Chapter of the Year

Vietnam Veterans of America Nicholas J. Cutinha Chapter 1046 was recognized as the 2021 Chapter of the Year from the Florida State Council at the council's triannual meeting on February 26 at the Orlando Marriott Lake Mary.

The chapter under the leadership of President Tony D'Aleo was instrumental in assisting the community at the onset of COVID. The chapter distributed masks sewn by the Vietnamese Association of Jacksonville to VVA Chapters in Nassau, Baker, Duval, Clay, St. Johns, and Daytona. In addition, masks were delivered to the DAV, American Legion, AMVETS, VFW, Combat Motorcycle Veterans, Community Health Outreach, Mandarin food bank and Sulzbacher Center. Chapter members covered many miles over the state at their own cost to ensure the safety of the mature veterans.

During COVID, the chapter made donations to the following charities: Veterans Treatment Court, Mandarin Food Bank, Clair White Mission, Sulzbacher Center, Vets4Vets, Atlantic Coast Young Marines, Korean War Monument, Marine Detachment 059 Monument, Community Outreach food bank, Operation Barnabas and to VVA Kentucky State Council for the tornado damage in Kentucky.

In addition, the chapter provided monetary support to the cemetery at Union Correctional Institution which serves as the burial site for all veterans throughout the state who are unclaimed by their families.

The chapter has provided wheelchairs to veterans in need and have built ramps at homes for veterans.

The chapter's education committee has shared the experience of Vietnam in Duval County.

They coordinated the Welcome Home event for Vietnam Veterans last November. Over 550 Vietnam Veterans, guests and families attended the event.

Two others area VVA chapters were honorees at the Florida State Council meeting:

- Chapter 1048, Daytona Beach: Recipient for the Website of the Year (Rod Phillips, webmaster) and Membership of the Year (200-300 members).
- Chapter 1059, Clay County: Recipient for Newsletter of the Year (David Treffinger, Editor).

Other Florida State Council awards went to:

- Chapter 1125, Boca Raton: Member of the Year, Norm Dubuc; Treasurer of the Year, Bill Snow and Membership of the Year (100-200).
- Chapter 1036, The Village: Membership of the Year (over 300).
- Chapter 566, St. Lucie County: Membership of the Year (under 100 members).
- Chapter 1080, Union Correctional Institution: Ed Snook, Incarcerated Member of the Year.

Photo information:

FSC President John McGinty presents Chapter of the Year to Chapter 1046 President Tony D'Aleo.

FSC President John McGinty presents Website and Membership of the Year (200-300 members) to Rod Phillips and Chapter 1048 Vice President Richard Sawicki.

FSC President John McGinty presents Newsletter of the Year to Chapter 1059 President David Treffinger.

FSC President John McGinty presents the Incarcerated Veteran of the Year award to Chapter 1080's Ed Snook. Chapter 1080 Advisor Gary Newman accepted the award for Ed Snook.



VVA President says we going to continue to fight

By DAVID TREFFINGER, E-Recon Editor

Vietnam Veterans of America President Jack McManus proclaimed at the February 26 triannual meeting of the Florida State Council that the VVA will not be going away soon.

“There is no effort at all for VVA to shut down right now,” said McManus, who spoke to the delegates and AVVA membership at the FSC’s meeting at the Orlando Marriott Lake Mary. “That is the will of the convention and the will of all of the members in the VVA.

“What years of trying to bring the younger generation of veterans into our organization taught us that there is so much pride by our individual members, just in our name. The name brought so many of us in when quite frankly we had no interest of being in a Veterans service organization at all. VVA came in and we found our home and we are going to be here until the last one of us stops fighting.”

McManus, who lives in Florida six months out of the year, was elected president of the VVA at the November 2021 20th National Convention in Greensboro, North Carolina, replacing John Rowan.

The Air Force veteran, who was invited to speak at the meeting by FSC President John McGinty, covered an assortment of topics during his morning presentation. Those issues will be covered in the March 15 E-Recon newsletter along with committee and chapter reports and AVVA information.

“Our challenge is to make sure that this country never ever does to other generations of veterans of what they did to us,” McManus said.



McManus stressed in his presentation was that VVA is not going away.

“We are not going anywhere,” he said. “We going to continue to keep fighting for our generation of veterans and generations of veterans that are behind us. We are not backing down.”

David Treffinger, E-Recon Editor, can be reached at: e-recon@vva-fsc.org



The New Chief of Staff at Veterans ASCEND!, Nila Thompson

A big shout out to our Leader, Robyn J. Grable. Thank you for using my strengths and passions and letting me shine..

There have been a lot of bosses in my life, but she truly is the epitome of a great leader. What she has created in this AI Powered Skills Matching Platform is going to revolutionize the hiring process. I'm so proud to watch her make history. #womenshistorymonth

.As we grow, we have also added a couple of people that I want to recognize.

Christine Peterson, has taken on the role of Business Communications. "Pete" and I have been blessed to work together in prior roles as Family Readiness Officers for the Marine Corps. Having her back on my team has been great! She has already made a huge difference..

Amber Kulesza joined our team as Community Relations this week and has hit the ground running. She will be taking on a lot of my roles with Candidates, Veteran Service Organizations, and Community Resources. Amber and I have had the pleasure of getting to know one another over the passed year. Watching her grow into an amazing advocate for our community has been amazing. I am just so proud of her.

Finally, Bruce Thompson, thank you for being my ride or die, best friend, and supportive husband. None of this happens without your love and support. Your belief in me keeps me strong.



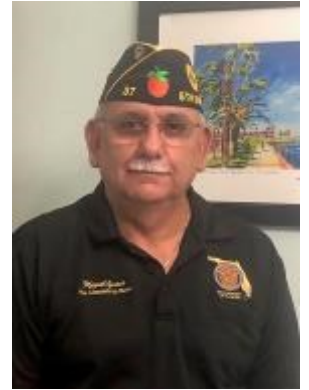
At American Legion Post 194

During the March monthly meeting, Post 194 along with St John's County Sheriff Rob Hardwick, present high student and US Naval Academy football/academic scholarship winner, King Benford with a monetary \$cholarship award and a flag. King also won the county's "Martin Luther King Day Essay contest" and enters the Academy with a whopping 4.6 GPA and will play quarterback!! Salute to an outstanding young man and future veteran!!



Fellow Veterans,

I pray this message finds all of you well. Yesterday I received a call from Joe Smith, Exalted Ruler of Elks Lodge 829 in Saint Augustine. As many of you know, the Elks Lodge 829 is a loyal supporter of veterans in our community. One of the programs offered by the Elks Lodge is a kid Summer Camp Program, through their Florida State Elks Association. This is a week-long program for 9 to 13-year-old children. The Elks are interested in having our children and grandchildren participate in the program. I have a link below to their Summer Camp Brochure for your convenience.



<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LaGi11q4A9H14tftZrosnoORCB9Ip9hg/view>

Elks Lodge 829 has scholarships available to send kids to camp. As Joe said to me, no child will be turned down because of finances. After talking with Joe, I am so impressed with the program that Jacki and I are talking with our daughter Sarah about signing up for the programs. So, review the brochure here and the extra information below. If you have any questions, reach out to their Youth Camp Representative, Irv Stockdale at 904-315-3773.

For God and Country,

Mike Garcia

Commander, Post 37

From News4Jax

100-year-old WWII veteran remembers her service, being honored at The Players

Anita Morris, of Jacksonville, served in U.S. Coast Guard

PONTEVEDRA BEACH, Fla. – Kind, gentle, and charismatic, Anita Morris is a mother and grandmother.

But it may be hard to believe that the Jacksonville resident is also a World War II veteran.

“I’m very proud that I served my country,” Morris told News4JAX. “I feel like maybe I’ve given a little bit back to my country when it has given me everything. I love America. I love the service.”

Now 100 years old, Morris is talking about the time when she proudly served in the United States Coast Guard, enlisting 80 years ago at the beginning of the deadliest war in history.

Morris is the daughter of Italian immigrants. She said her family built up wealth with a small business but lost just about everything in the Great Depression. Then, her father died. That left her mother to raise two daughters.

As World War II began in 1942, Morris felt a need to serve her country and provide for her family.

“I was watching everything and, of course, I didn’t want to leave mom, but I was saying to myself I need to do something for my country,” she said. “I just had this urge and it was so strong in me. I did not have any man in our family who could serve. And I felt it was my duty to do it. So I enlisted during the war.”

She worked to protect America’s coasts, guarding ports and broadcasting on the radio from Jackson



ville to keep the public informed.

“There were so many of us in the service,” she said. “And I was just fortunate and having some outstanding assignments.”

She met her husband in the service and they married right after the war ended in 1945. She went on to work for the United Service Organizations and have two children.

She was met by tragedy once again. Her husband and son would pass away a year apart. Her daughter Melody became her only child and is now her caretaker.

“It’s been a very happy and sad life,” she said. “We all have sadness, and we all have happy times. We just have to go with the flow. Just enjoy it when you can. And when you can’t, then you have to pray a lot. It works.”

Morris is a distinguished guest at this year’s military appreciation ceremony at The Players. A big focus is on women veterans. She’s the oldest at the event, with a front-row seat to the patriotic presentation Tuesday afternoon.

“I’m overwhelmed,” she said. “I know it’s important for the country at the time. After all these years, I’m just amazed that you would go through all this trouble. I feel very honored. I’m very honored.”

Morris said she’s proud of her life and recommends military service to those who are interested.

“I would recommend (military service) highly,” she said. “It a great place to learn how to be with people, how to do for people.”

She said a positive outlook and prayer are important pillars to her happy life.

“Just love the world,” she said. “Hug the world, because we are so blessed.”

U.S. Fleet Forces Command

The first women to serve in the U.S. Navy were nurses, beginning with the “Sacred Twenty” appointed after Congress established the Navy Nurse Corps on 13 May 1908. This is just one of the many contributions by women in history and U.S. Navy history, as we observe Women's History Month. Check out more of their contributions in the image below. For more info: <https://www.history.navy.mil/.../women-in-the-navy.html>

1862
In 1862, Sisters of the Holy Cross served aboard USS Red Rover, the Navy's first hospital ship, joining a crew of 12 officers, 35 enlisted, and others supporting medical care. Red Rover remained the only hospital ship in the Navy until the Spanish-American War.

1908
Navy Nurse Corps is established. Esther Hasson is chosen as Superintendent due to her experience as an Army contract nurse aboard hospital ship USS Relief.

1918
During World War I, Opha May Johnson was the first of 305 women to be accepted for duty in the Marine Corps Reserve.

1941
Over 11,000 Navy nurses served at naval shore commands, on hospital ships, at field hospitals, in airplanes, and on 12 hospital ships.

1942
Women's Reserve Corps is created. Ensign Frances Willis and Lieutenant (jg.) Harriet Ida Pickens are commissioned as the first African-American Women Accepted for Voluntary Emergency Service (WAVES).

1944
Public Law 238 granted full military rank to members of the Navy Nurse Corps. Sue Dausser, Director of the Navy Nurse Corps, received a full commission in the rank of captain and was the first female O-6.

1948
The Women's Armed Services Incentives Act of July 30, 1948 allowed women to serve in the peacetime military with some restrictions. Edna Young became the first black enlisted female to serve in the regular Navy in 1948.

1974
Lieutenant (j.g.) Barbara Allen Hainey became the first designated Navy female aviator in 1974. She attained the rank of lieutenant commander. She was killed in an aircraft crash in 1982 while performing her duties as a flight instructor.

1978
Navy Nurse Joan C. Bennett became the first black female promoted to the rank of captain. The Navy expanded the types of ships on which women could be stationed. Previously, only hospital ships had women permanently stationed on board.

2001
Captain Verence Amour, USMC, earned her wings in 2001. The Department of Defense acknowledged her as the first female African-American combat pilot in the military during Operation Iraqi Freedom; she completed two tours in the Persian Gulf.

2010
Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus announced on January 9, 2010, that women would be assigned to O-4-class submarines.

2014
Admiral Michelle J. Howard was promoted to a four-star admiral. She was the first African-American woman to serve as vice chief of naval operations.

WOMEN IN NAVAL HISTORY

Source: Steve Elmer and His Page Collection, www.history.navy.mil; To Water Commission on the Specialized Field (1948); Elmer and His Page Collection; Commission on the Specialized Field (1948).



Rolling Thunder® Inc. Florida Chapters

POW-MIA Honor Chair Dedication at the State Capitol in Tallahassee April 9th 2022



To Honor and Remember
Over 81,000 Americans
Still missing from past wars
(POW-MIA)

All are welcome to join this event.
Bus Available, Free for veterans and
a guest. Limited seating, reserve now!

Contact: rollingthunderpr@aol.com

Ride Information: Rolling Thunder® Inc. FL Chapter-8
Meet-Up & Registration at the VFW John E. Mealy Post 3282,
located at 5810 S Williamson Blvd. in Port Orange
Departing at 6am.

Arrive & Registration at Tallahassee Harley Davidson.
Between 11am-12pm / Depart HD 12:30pm
The POW-MIA Honor Chair Ceremony - 1:30 at the State Capitol.

Refreshments will be available.

To locate a Florida Rolling Thunder Chapter near you for their
meet-up information, Go to:

<http://rollingthunderfl8.com/en/93-sidebar-left/23-14.html>



Alton Green Memorial Post 194

Anniversary Golf Tourney

SAVE the **DATE**
19 SEPT 2022

*Marsh Creek Golf
& Country Club*

Each Participant Will Receive a
Round of 4 Certificate



POW/MIA update

March 7, 2022

- Solider accounted for from World War II (Lobacz, C.)

March 8, 2022

- Pilot accounted for from World War II (Mills, N.)

March 9, 2022

- USS Oklahoma sailor accounted for from World War II (Burger, O.)

March 10, 2022

- Airman accounted for from World War II (Benson, E.)
- Soldier accounted for from World War II (Ryan, E.)

March 11, 2022

- Solider accounted for from World War II (Canup, G.)
- Airman accounted for from World War II (Salsbury, R.)

The AVG Squadron, China 1941

Halfway around the world in 1937, Japanese forces fought with the troops of China over Manchuria; that name is both historic and controversial, and today the region is simply called "the Northeast" of China. The confrontation escalated into what became the Second Sino-Japanese War. The area had been seized earlier in 1931 by the Japanese and renamed Manchukuo. The region remained a puppet state of Japan until the Chinese attempted to reclaim the area, resulting in Japan's full-scale invasion of China. Many believe that the start date of WWII should be recognized as July 1937 when the invasion began, rather than September of 1939, when Hitler invaded Poland.



Photo Above: Japanese troops enter northwestern China in 1931

China had been embroiled in a civil war between Nationalist Party and the Communist Party forces. Still, they quickly declared a ceasefire and consolidated to stop the full-scale invasion. Unlike Japan, however, China had little to no mechanization advances in its military. Japan, however, flew regular bombing missions deep into Chinese air space, and they knocked out essential supply lines of the Chinese forces.

For three years, battles raged with China taking most of the losses as the Japanese war machine ground on. They held most of the coastal areas of the Chinese mainland and northern Viet Nam, but the resistance fighting of the Chinese army was intense. The battle of Shanghai alone saw heavy casualties on both sides. In 1937, a seasoned American pilot resigned from the military due to health issues but took up work in China with other Americans who were teaching Chinese pilots how to fly in combat. He was Major Clair Lee Chennault, a Texas-born professional military pilot who would soon make his mark on the history of the war. With the world now embroiled in conflict after the Nazi invasion of Europe, and Russia mobilizing for war with Hitler, Franklin Roosevelt and the U.S. Congress passed the Lend-Lease Act in March of 1941 to aid the British in their fight against Nazi Germany. China too called for aid as the Second Sino-Japanese War expanded into the entire Pacific Theater of WWII. Chennault served as a military aviation advisor to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek and as director of the Chinese Air Force Flight School. He would later travel back to the U.S. late in 1940, one year before the attack on Pearl Harbor, to purchase one hundred Curtiss P-40 fighter planes and recruit pilots from the Army Air Corps, the Navy, and the Marine Corps. They were willing to go and volunteer for the Chinese. This action led to the establishment of the 1st American Volunteer Group (AVG Squadron) to fight for and train the Chinese. Another 200 men were recruited as ground crew. These men were formally discharged from the U.S. military. Instead, they would work for and be paid by a private entity called the Central Aircraft Manufacturing Company (CAMCO).

Planes, pilots, and crew all arrived in Burma, in the city of Rangoon (now Yangon, Myanmar). Here aircraft were assembled by CAMCO but were found wanting. Much of the equipment consisted of severely used parts that were difficult to service. Nevertheless, the 1st AVG moved on to their base of operations in Toungoo, Burma. It seemed that, after evaluation, many of the pilots recruited had exaggerated their flight combat experience. Thus, Chennault set up a flight school for his pilots in Toungoo. He trained them in air combat against the more maneuverable Japanese Zero, a fighter aircraft known to have a very tight turning radius. To overcome this advantage, P-40 pilots trained to climb and dive on the enemy rather than try to turn on them.

This gave the P-40 Tomahawks and later Warhawks an edge over the more advanced Japanese fighters. The pilots saw and liked images of the same Curtiss planes used by the British forces in North Africa. They applied the now-famous shark face nose art to their own fighters. Though flying planes bearing shark's teeth, it would be the Chinese who nicknamed them "The Flying Tigers" due to their ferocity and success rate in combat. This nickname was welcomed in Washington.



Photos Above: (Left): Major General Clair L. Chennault and (Right): A Chinese soldier stands guard over the valuable P-40 fighters

The first mission flown by the 1st AVG Squadron was just 13 days after Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor. It was the first combat mission flown by American pilots in the Pacific Theater. The fighters encountered a group of ten Kawasaki Ki-48 bombers, nicknamed "Lily Bombers," on a bombing mission bound for Kunming, China. This city was located toward the eastern end of the "Burma Road," a vital supply line stretching from the seaport of Rangoon via rail to north-central Burma and then over dirt roads through the mountains to Kunming, China beyond. It was the primary supply route for the Chinese military. The Flying Tigers jumped immediately on the surprised bomb group, who dumped their bombs before reaching their primary target and headed for home. The Japanese were stunned, having never encountered this level of enemy resistance. One radio transmission intercepted by the Chinese informed them that only one of the ten bombers made it back home.

Chennault organized a group of plane spotters who could give advance warning to the AVG group to allow pilots time to get into the air to meet their enemy. The planes were part of the Chinese Air Force and, as such, had wings marked with a white sun on a blue-sky roundel. Later, artists from the Walt Disney Studios in California provided a rendering of a tiger with wings flying out of a "V" for victory. This logo-art was applied to the side of the fuselage just below and slightly behind the cockpit. The "V" was omitted in some images, and the flying tiger's image was retained.



Photos Above: (Left): Curtiss P-40 Warhawks in formation over China and (Right): the same planes on the ground

Eventually, the AVG Squadron established multiple air bases in and around Burma. Construction was difficult. The Chinese people were so grateful for the assistance that they literally built runways on their hands and knees, smoothing the runway surface with their hands. The Tigers were outnumbered, but their superior tactics and flying skill would soon produce 297 kills with 229 in the air, compared to 14 AVG personnel killed, captured, or missing in action. This record was superior to any other active-duty Allied air groups in the Pacific Theater. By spring of 1942, the AVG group was formally transferred back into the U.S. Army Air Force (USAAF). Chennault was reinstated and promoted to Brigadier General. Major Gregory "Pappy" Boyington broke his AVG contract, reenlisted in the Marine Corps, and would go on to lead the famous "Black Sheep Squadron." The spring also saw the invasion of Burma and the taking of Rangoon by the Japanese forces. This move forced many of the Flying Tigers to relocate to British-controlled Northeast India, where they would fly missions against the Japanese and protect supply flights into China over the eastern Himalayas. These flights were vital since the port of Rangoon, the Burma railway, and the Burma road could no longer be used to support the Chinese forces. Pilots referred to this as "Flying the Hump" over the mountains.



Photos Above: (Left): Flight leader and pilot Robert Smith stands next to his plane; (Right): the insignia of the Republic of China and the insignia of the Fighting Tigers (designed by Walt Disney)

By the 4th of July 1942, the original AVG group was totally disbanded. Still, most volunteer pilots reenlisted and continued the fight with the USAAF. While fighting in Burma on the ground was brutal, American forces continued to dominate the skies. Eventually, this allowed for a ground invasion back into Burma from the north. In desperate times, the Flying Tigers had left their permanent mark on history and American-Chinese cooperation.



Photo Above: USAAF Flying Tigers “flying the hump” from India into China

After the war, General Chennault remained friends with Chiang Kai-Shek, who was now back to leading the Chinese Nationalist Party against the Chinese Communist Party. Chennault organized more air transport services for the Nationalists called the Civil Air Transport, which later became known as "Air America." Chennault published his memoirs, *Way of a Fighter*, in 1949, which details his experiences in China. He was promoted to the honorary rank of Lieutenant General just nine days before his death in 1958. He is interred in Arlington National Cemetery. The youngest of General Chennault's two daughters, Dr. Cynthia Louise Chennault, is a retired Professor of Chinese Language and Literature at the University of Florida in Gainesville.



Photo Above: P-40 Warhawk painted with Flying Tigers shark face at the National Museum of the United States Air Force at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio

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 historical ties to the Museum.



Inaugural St. Augustine History Festival slated for May 11-15

Festival will feature new research on St. Augustine families and art from one of the "most extensive" Florida-themed collections

Sheldon Gardner, St. Augustine Record

Art, historical re-enactments and research on early St. Augustine families will be part of the inaugural St. Augustine History Festival, which takes place from May 11-15 at multiple venues in the city.

The University of Florida Historic St. Augustine Board, which cares for state-owned historic properties in the city, and the Lastinger Family Foundation started the event to create interest and celebrate the city's history, according to the event website, staugustinehistoryfestival.com.

"I think a lot of people in St. Augustine worry some about St. Augustine becoming more focused on food and beverage and less on our past, which is history," said Ed Poppell, liaison to the board. "We hope to help with that."

Details are still being added to the website, Poppell said.

"Our goal is to showcase every era of St. Augustine's long and storied past, from our founding in 1565 to the most advanced technology available in 2022 to research and study every year in-between," according to the site.

The festival will feature free events that will take place at multiple venues. Some of what's scheduled:

Governor's Cultural Center and Museum will host a gallery with pieces from the Vickers Collection, "one of the world's most extensive collections of Florida-themed art," according to the event site. The gallery will include St. Augustine-focused pieces and will be on display for several months, Poppell said.

Professor Michael Francis will talk about colonial St. Augustine and records in the city from events such as marriages, baptisms and deaths from as early as 1594. He will also discuss a digital archive that the public can use to access historical documents.

A re-enactment of the raid of St. Augustine by Sir Francis Drake in 1586.



ALL are invited to attend

Veterans Council Upcoming Meeting Change



**ALL Meetings in 2022 will be back at
200 San Sebastian View where the Veterans Service
Office (VSO) is located.**

Upcoming Veterans Council Meetings Speakers

April 28:

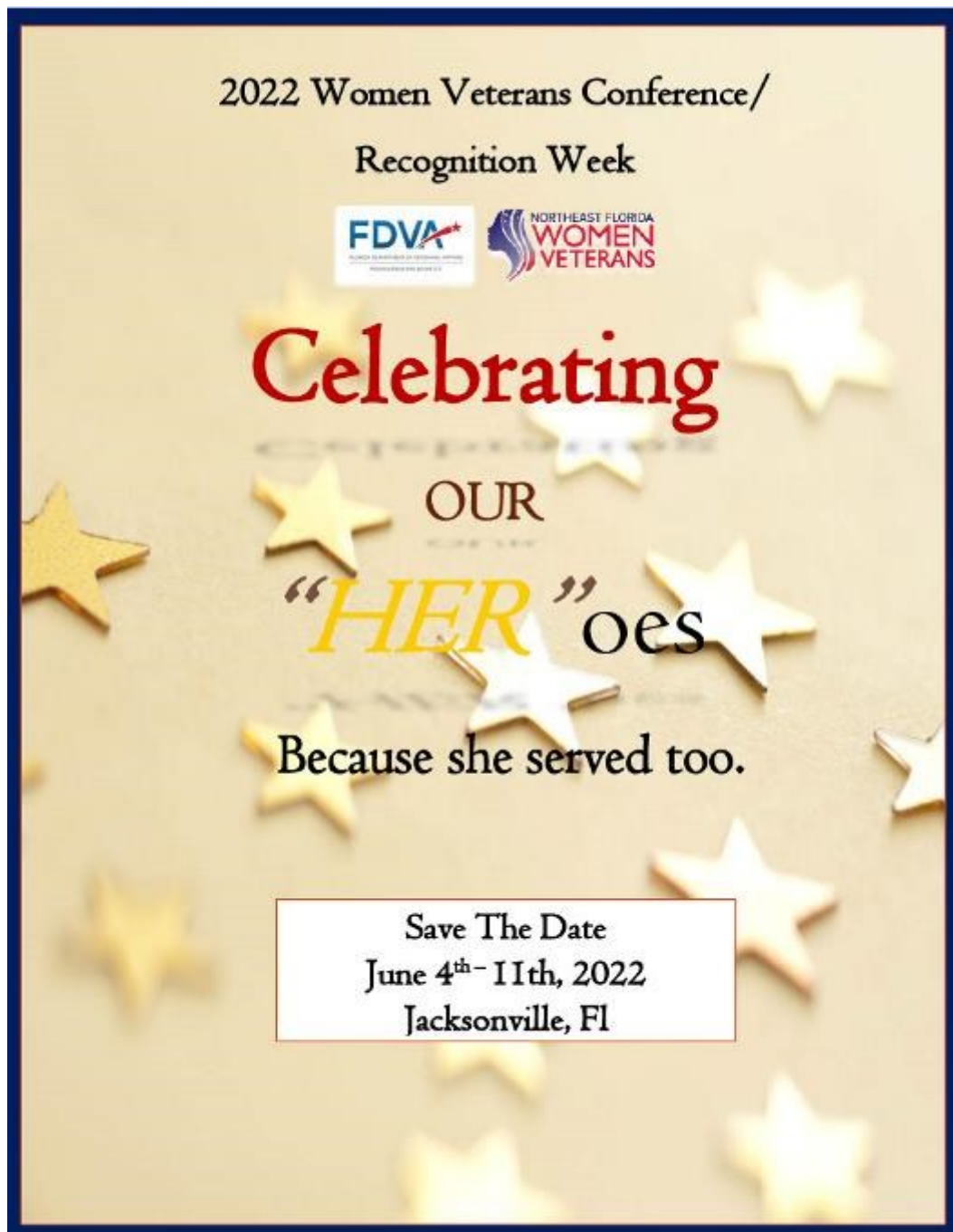
Donna Boyce, Principal, St. Joseph's Academy with students speaking about their Veterans Interview Program

May 26, Dee Quaranta, Pres/CEO NE FL Women Veterans
Bill Lazar, SJC Veterans Housing

July 28, Andrew Stack, FL State Coord for DoD Program
“Building Healthy Military Communities”

The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs

Save the Date! Women Veterans' Recognition Week is June 4 – 11. FDVA, in partnership with Northeast Florida Women Veterans, Wounded Warriors, First Watch, Steven A Cohen Military Family Clinic, and the Florida Veterans Foundation, will host a Women Veterans' Conference in Jacksonville. Please stay tuned for more information about this exciting opportunity!



2022 Women Veterans Conference/
Recognition Week

FDVA NORTHEAST FLORIDA
WOMEN
VETERANS

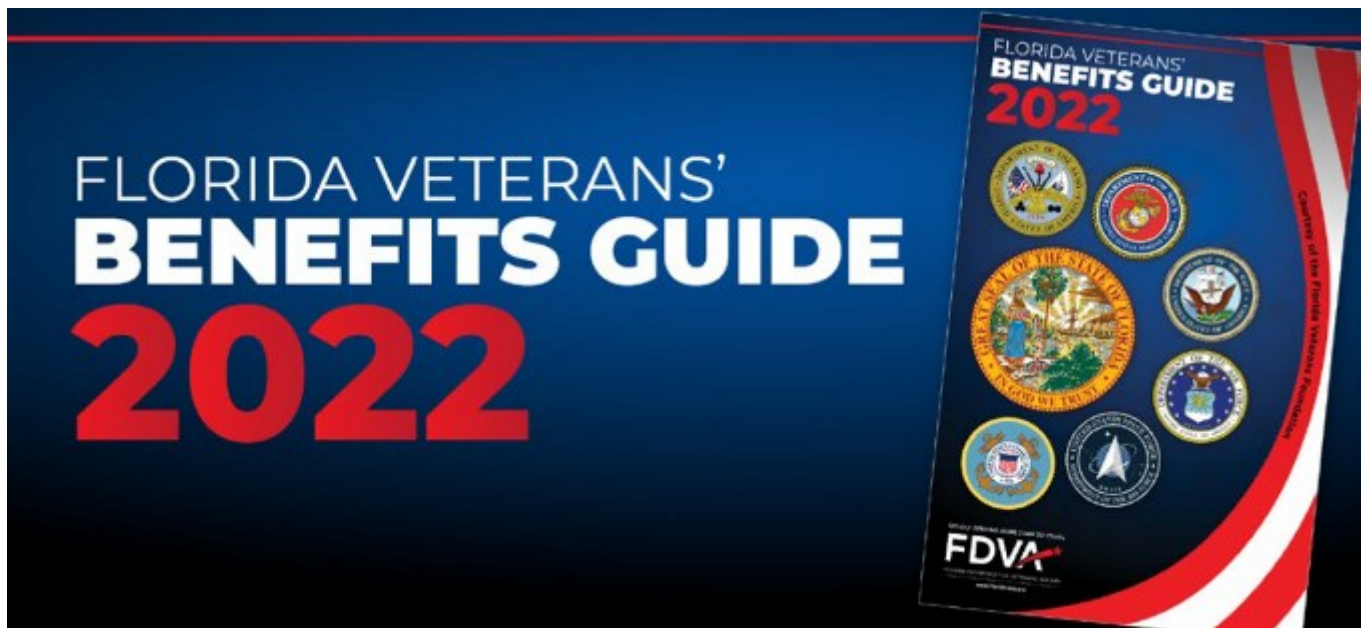
Celebrating
OUR
"HER"oes
Because she served too.

Save The Date
June 4th- 11th, 2022
Jacksonville, FL

The poster features a light beige background with scattered gold stars. At the top, the text reads "2022 Women Veterans Conference/ Recognition Week". Below this are the logos for FDVA (Florida Department of Veterans Affairs) and Northeast Florida Women Veterans. The main title "Celebrating OUR 'HER'oes" is written in a mix of red and gold fonts, with "HER" in a large, bold, gold font. Below the title, the phrase "Because she served too." is written in a black serif font. At the bottom, a white box with a thin red border contains the text "Save The Date June 4th- 11th, 2022 Jacksonville, FL".

The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs

Have you checked out the new 2022 Florida Veterans' Benefits Guide? It is now available for download. The annual guide helps connect Florida's Veterans and their families with earned federal and state benefits, services and support. It also contains helpful phone numbers and website addresses for additional information. To view online, click here: <https://bit.ly/3BovveB>. To download a copy for your records, click here: <https://bit.ly/3HYgTF0>.





Here are the 2022 Honor Flight Dates



2022 FCHF Flight Dates

EVENT	DATE
Orientation	Saturday, April 30, 2022
FLIGHT	Saturday, May 21, 2022
Reunion	Saturday, June 11, 2022

EVENT	DATE
Orientation	Saturday, October 1, 2022
FLIGHT	Saturday, October 15, 2022
Reunion	Saturday, November 5, 2022

Dates are subject to change due to airline schedule adjustments and other factors beyond First Coast Honor Flight's control

1/3/22

First Coast Honor Flights
of Jacksonville
needs your help~

WILL YOU HELP US-HELP OUR VETERANS?

We are in need of
Guardians
for our May 21st flight!

Come join us to help our
local veterans have a
"once in a lifetime"
day of touring memorials,
viewing the changing of the
guard-and camaraderie.
Help us honor their sacrifice
and commitment.
Apply today!

FirstCoastHonorFlight.org





Sponsorship Levels

First Coast Honor Flight is 100% dependent upon donations from generous people and organizations.

Without your support, FCHF would not be able to transport WWII, Korean War, and other Northeast Florida Veterans to Washington, D.C. for a day of honor and remembrance.

Trip Sponsor : \$25,000

Honor Guard : \$10,000- \$24,999

Gold Star : \$5,000-\$9,999

Silver Star : \$2,500- \$4,999

Bronze Star : \$1,000- \$2,499

Contact FCHF @
info@firstcoasthonorflight.org for more
information on sponsorship packages

First Coast Honor Flight is a 501(c)3 corporation and
is in compliance with the Florida Solicitation of Contributions Act



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.



Vets Freedom Fest

2022

HONORING OUR VETERANS



Date: APRIL 30th

Time: 10 AM to 4 PM

Place: Putnam County Fairgrounds

118 Fairground Road, East Palatka, FL 32131

Hosted by Hillcrest Baptist Church

**MUSIC, BARBECUE, GAMES, WITHIN CDC
GUIDELINES, PRIZES, KIDS' BOUNCE HOUSE,
ANTIQUÉ CAR/TRUCK CRUISE-IN**

INFORMATION BOOTHS

(About benefits for Veterans)

**FREE MEAL FOR VETERANS
& THEIR IMMEDIATE FAMILY**

PUBLIC INVITED

NON-VETERAN ADULTS - \$8.00 per Meal

Children 12-18 \$4 and under 12 eat free

Proceeds benefit veterans

For information see VetsFreedomFest.org or call (386) 546-9126



FAMILY RETREAT



FOR VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES



April 29 - May 1, 2022
Cerveny Conference Center
Live Oak, Florida



APPLY | www.deliverthedream.org/family-retreats
QUESTIONS | 888.OUR.DREAM

Sponsored by



THE PRICE OF FREEDOM

American Revolution

(1775-1783)

4,435 Casualties

War of 1812

(1812-1815)

2,260 Casualties

World War I

(1917-1918)

116,516 Casualties

World War II

(1941-1945)

405,399 Casualties

Korean War

(1950-1953)

36,574 Casualties

Vietnam War

(1964-1975)

58,220 Casualties

Desert Shield/Desert Storm

(1990-1991)

383 Casualties

Enduring Freedom/Iraqi Freedom

(Oct 2001-

)
6,775 Casualties

FREE to Vietnam Veterans

Heroes Honor Festival

(HHF). HHF will be a **Welcome Home Tribute** hon-

oring our Vietnam Veterans at the Daytona Speedway over Memorial Day Weekend (May 27th-28th).



Below I have a few intro videos on the event and our website with more information. We are looking to connect with veteran support organizations to help Vietnam War Heroes get registered for their free ticket to the event. Would love to be connected with someone within the organization to get help spreading the word about HHF.

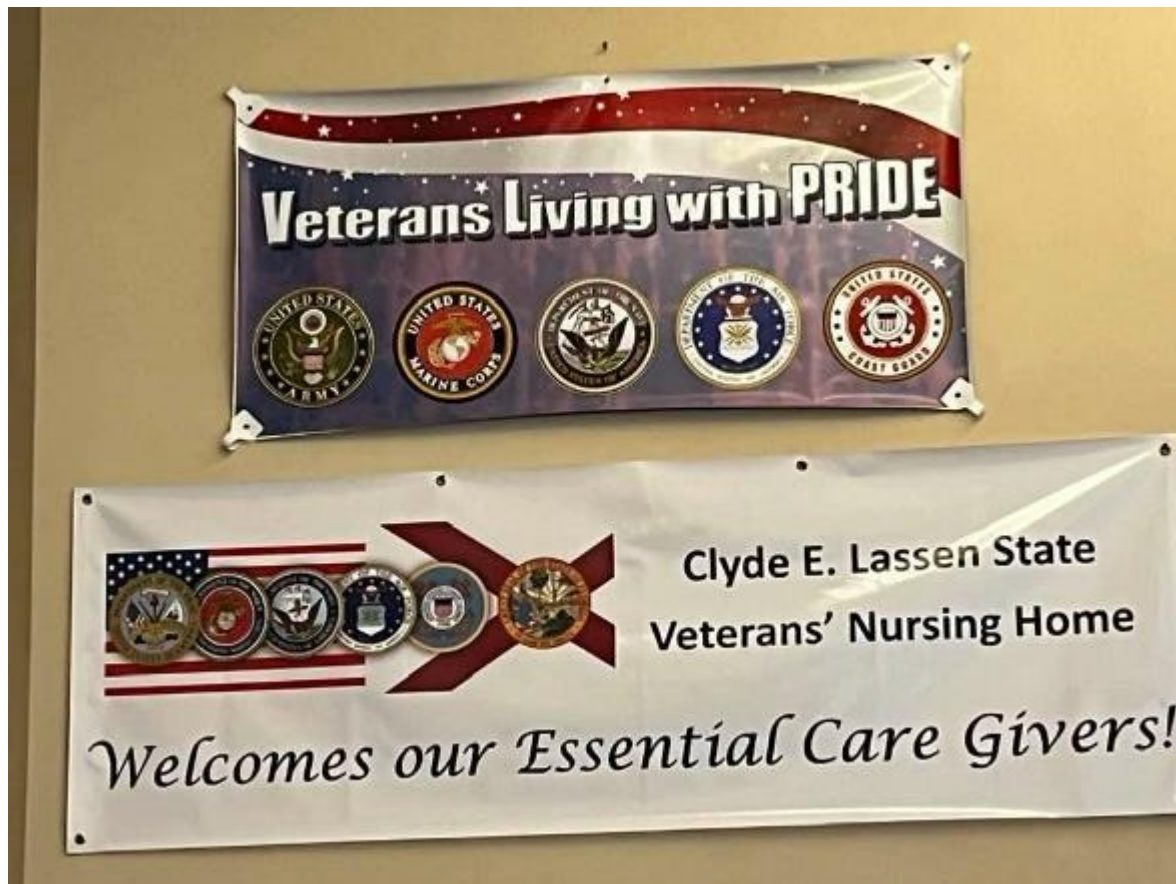
Couple 1-2min intro videos below:

HHF Intro Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GgEv-df0q74>

Why is HHF happening: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oo-RPxKyBY0>

HHF Website: <https://www.heroeshonorfestival.com>

Clyde Lassen Veterans Nursing Home is looking for essential care givers including CNA, LPN, RN's. A shortage of staff has resulted in a significant waiting list-even though beds are available. We have some incredible veterans here in SJC being cared for at Lassen. If you or someone you know have these qualifications and would be interested in serving those who have defended our freedoms, please call Clyde Lassen for details.



THE VIETNAM VETERAN

As our men go off to war, to a land they've never seen;
Bravery is suddenly learned and shown, where before was
seldom seen.

Basic training was their only teacher for the job, and the
determination was high;

Quietly boarding the military plane, regretting their loved
ones' goodbye.

The flight was long and weary and the men showed no fears;
Little did they know that in the future were many tears.

Patriotism was their guide and strength, helping them
through the night;

As they waited quietly in the foxhole, their minds filled
with fright.

Drugs were used to dull the pain of the awful sights of war;
Dreams were dreamt and wishes made to go back home to
the land afar.

Many didn't survive the war, their peers and buddies gone;
Surviving soldiers don't understand why *they* lived, after all
is said and done.

Many thoughts fleet through their minds during the long trip
home;

As they land, expecting cheers, they notice no-one's come.
Tears well up in their eyes and sadness steals the pride;
Society has shunned them, with no remorse, and *nobody* is
on their side.

From one who has lived with a Vietnam Vet, I want you all
to know;

You did your best and went through hell, and it's great to
have you home.

So hold your head high and walk proud young man;

Don't slouch on bended knees.

To all who know what you gave to the war;

A hero you'll always be.

Copyright 1987 by Vicki Wilson

SPONSORSHIP PACKAGE



Gold Sponsor - \$5,000.00

- 1 Table of 8 Guests - with Gold Sponsor Placard Displayed
- On Stage Acknowledgement and Introduction throughout the event as a Gold Sponsor
- Social Media Announcement and Acknowledgement
- Large Banner, supplied by Sponsor, displayed prominently in the front of the Room
- Marketing & Advertisement Materials, supplied by Sponsor, placed at each place setting
- Sponsor Tent Card placed in front of items on the Live Auction

Silver Sponsor - \$2,500.00

- 4 Tickets - with Silver Sponsor Placard Displayed
- Introduction throughout the event as a Silver Sponsor
- Social Media Announcement and Acknowledgement
- Large Banner, supplied by Sponsor, displayed in the Room
- Marketing & Advertisement Materials, supplied by Sponsor, placed on each guest table
- Sponsor Tent Card placed in front of items on the Live or Silent Auction

Benefiting



Bronze Sponsor - \$1,000.00

- 2 Guest Tickets
- Introduction throughout the event as a Bronze Sponsor
- Social Media Announcement and Acknowledgement
- Large Banner, supplied by Sponsor, displayed in the Room
- Sponsor Tent Card placed in front of items on the Silent Auction

Presented By



Underwriting Sponsor

Prior to the event, members of the 10 CAN Inc. Team will have a list of items which include an associated "Cost to Non-Profit." A copy of the "Underwriting Catalog" will be provided or can be upon request for sponsorship. Each item can be sponsored by businesses or individuals. To sponsor an item or items, simply review the catalog and pick which items you would like to sponsor by paying the "Cost to Non-Profit." Your payment of the Cost to Non-Profit, it is considered a 100% donation to the charity.

The items will be utilized in the Live and Silent Auction and the items you picked will have a Tent Card placed in front of them with your name prominently displayed as the Sponsoring company or person.

This sponsorship will greatly assist 10 CAN Inc. raise a significant amount of funds.



Please Make Payable To "10 CAN Inc."

SAVING HEROES BASS TOURNAMENT

**21
MAY
7AM**



FISHING CONTEST

WWW.10CANOUTDOORS.COM

BIG FISH PRIZE

40/30/30 CASH SPLIT

1ST, 2ND PLACE & CHARITIES
CAPTAINS CONTACT DALE WELLS @ 724-996-5194
ANGLERS CONTACT TERRY RETSCH @ 352-359-6528
SPONSORS EMAIL FOUNDER@10CANOUTDOORS.COM
\$75 INDIVIDUAL | ALL BENEFITS GO TO CHARITY
SANTA FE LAKE PARK 24500 FL-26, MELROSE, FL 32666

THE
FALLEN OUTDOORS

Friends, please send this out to your distribution lists and anyone who would benefit from these classes.



The Steven A. Cohen
Military Family Clinic
at Centerstone

The Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at Centerstone is committed to serving women veterans. Our clinicians have specialized training in areas that are unique to women veterans. Florida is home to the third largest population of women veterans in the nation and Northeast Florida is one of the fastest growing areas for women veterans to choose to reside.

Our Cohen Clinic at Centerstone will kick off 2022 by hosting the “New Year/New Me Women’s Health Series.” Workshops will be held monthly and will be offered both in-person at the clinic and virtually via zoom. All workshops are free and open to female service members, veterans or military family members. As outlined in the attached flyers, topics and dates are as follows:

3/22 – Nutrition

4/26 – Exercise

5/24 – Sexual Health

Online registration is easy, just follow the link in the flyer. If you have any further questions please feel free to email at cohenFL@centerstone.org.

We are thankful for the support of our community partners as all things are possible when we come together in support of our veterans community. The New Year/New Me Women’s Mental Health Series through the Cohen Clinic at Centerstone is supported by a grant from The Partnership: For Mental Health, a project of Baptist Health and the Delores Barr Weaver Legacy Fund at The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida. Together we will eliminate the stigma of mental illness. Start the conversation: <https://www.wolfsonchildrens.com/onoursleeves>

Please distribute to your contacts and anyone else who may benefit.

All the best, Mike

Michael P. Fleming, Brigadier General (ret)

Outreach Director | Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinics at Centerstone

7011 A.C. Skinner Parkway | Jacksonville, FL 32256

Clinic: (904) 431-3500 | Fax: (904) 431-3501, Mobile: (904) 525-3633

michael.fleming@centerstone.org



Time: 7:30 AM Registration 8:30 AM Shotgun Start

Location: Marsh Creek Country Club

169 Marshside Drive, St. Augustine, FL 32080

Format: 4 Person Captain's Choice

Field: First 36 Teams



Entry Fee: \$85.00 per player (Includes Green Fees, Cart, Lunch & Prizes)

Prizes For: 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place

Hole Prizes Include: Longest Drive, Closest to Pin and Longest Putt
Chipping & Putting Contests (During the Tournament)



Golf Shoes Must Be Soft Spikes Only

The Luncheon & Awards Ceremony will be held on-site after the Tournament

TEAM CAPTAIN: _____ PHONE #: _____ EMAIL: _____

PLAYER #2: _____ PHONE #: _____ EMAIL: _____

PLAYER #3: _____ PHONE #: _____ EMAIL: _____

PLAYER #4: _____ PHONE #: _____ EMAIL: _____

MAIL ENTRY FORMS (whether paying by check or credit card) TO:
Mr. Lee S. Diggs, C/O AUSA GOLF TOURNAMENT,
P.O BOX 3883, ST. AUGUSTINE, FL 32085-3883. Phone (904) 827-8528.
Lee.s.diggs.mil@mail.mil

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO FIRST MILITIA CHAPTER - AUSA or

To purchase online visit <https://first-militia-chapter-ausa.square.site>

AUSA is an exempt organization under section 501 (c) (3) of the US Internal Revenue Code.

From the FDVA THEY ARE HIRING!

New health care job opportunities at our State Veterans' Nursing Homes throughout Florida have recently been posted! If you are looking for a fulfilling new role, visit our jobs page to view the available positions. <https://bit.ly/FDVAJobs>

A central graphic of a smartphone displaying the VA logo at the top, the phone number "800-MyVA411 (800) 698-2411", and a numeric keypad with a green call button. Surrounding the phone are ten service categories, each with an icon and a brief description.

- LIVE ASSISTANCE** (Headset icon): General information, directory assistance and technical support for VA.gov
- VA HEALTH CARE** (Medical bag icon): Eligibility, enrollment, locations and COVID-19
- COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE** (Flame icon): MISSION Act eligibility, copayments
- NATIONAL CEMETERIES** (Gravestone icon): Burial benefits, interment scheduling and headstone/Veteran marker
- VETERANS CRISIS LINE** (Star and speech bubbles icon): Immediate connection to caring, qualified responders
- DEBT MANAGEMENT** (Stack of money icon): Debt details, payment options and debtor rights
- FACILITY LOCATOR** (Location pin icon): Locations of medical centers, benefits offices or cemeteries
- BENEFITS ASSISTANCE** (Dollar sign icon): Information about a variety of VA benefits
- HOMELESS VETERANS LINE** (House icon): Information and support for homeless and at-risk callers
- COVID-19 INFORMATION** (Microscope icon): Frequently asked questions and live assistance for COVID-related questions

★ ACTIVE DUTY ★ VETERANS ★ NATIONAL GUARD & RESERVE ★

MILITARY SUPPORT RETREATS

RETREATS FOR COMBAT VETERANS,
AND THEIR PRIMARY SUPPORT PERSON



Amelia Island
Florida



JAN. 20-23

Marineland
Florida



FEB. 24-27

Sarasota
Florida



MAR. 10-13

Chattanooga
Tennessee



APR. 7-10

From Thursday at 5:00pm – Sunday at 2:00pm



★ **RESTORATION** ★ **RECREATION** ★ **RELAXATION** ★

Strengthen and restore connections, enjoy the natural beauty of each location, be inspired by fun outdoor activities, learn about available support resources, and relax while exploring the stress coping concepts of Post Traumatic Growth.

★ Small, friendly group setting ★

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

★ Facilitated by Vets, Licensed Clinicians, and Community Nonprofit Support Organizations ★

Please note: Must be 18 to attend and no childcare is provided. Participants are responsible for travel.

TO LEARN MORE AND TO APPLY VISIT: GRATITUDEAMERICA.ORG/RETREATS



CHRISTOPHER DUKE
770-298-7654
DUKE@GRATITUDEAMERICA.ORG



★ ACTIVE DUTY ★ VETERANS ★ NATIONAL GUARD & RESERVE ★

MILITARY SUPPORT RETREATS

RETREATS FOR COMBAT VETERANS,
AND THEIR PRIMARY SUPPORT PERSON



Marineland
Florida



MAY 19-22

Amelia Island
Florida



JUNE 9-12

Helen
Georgia



JULY 7-10

Lake Chatuge/Hiawasse
Georgia



AUG. 4-7

From Thursday at 5:00pm – Sunday at 2:00pm



★ **RESTORATION** ★ **RECREATION** ★ **RELAXATION** ★

Strengthen and restore connections, enjoy the natural beauty of each location, be inspired by fun outdoor activities, learn about available support resources, and relax while exploring the stress coping concepts of Post Traumatic Growth.

★ Small, friendly group setting ★

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

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TO LEARN MORE AND TO APPLY VISIT: GRATITUDEAMERICA.ORG/RETREATS



CHRISTOPHER DUKE
770-298-7654
DUKE@GRATITUDEAMERICA.ORG



Please note: the Vietnam and War on Terror Walls will be in St. Augustine on display on Veterans Day, November 11, 2022 at Anastasia Baptist Church in St. Augustine.

Here is the Florida 2022 schedule

FL PGR Vietnam & WoT Wall Schedule

To request one or both of the walls for display, contact FL State Captain

Email: fisc@patriotguard.org / 321-689-4699

Updated as of:

01/17/22

Date	Time	Duration	Wall(s)	Location	Comments	
02/19/22	Info forthcoming		WoT	Eustis Area		
02/26/22	0800 - 0830 hrs 0830 - 1100 hrs 1200 - 1600 hrs	Escort Set-up Walls Display & Take-Down	1 day	Vietnam / WoT	The Casements Ormond Beach 25 Riverside Dr. Ormond Beach, FL 32174	Military & First Responder Family Appreciation Expect to escort The Walls to the event from Holly Hill DAV at 0800 hrs.
03/25/22 03/26/22	1400 hrs 0800 hrs	Set up Walls Display Walls	2 Days	Vietnam / WoT	Gator Harley Davidson 1745 US 441 Leesburg, FL 34778	Benefit Active Duty Care Package Program JOBH - Just Our Soldier's Helpers Former USO Ride Overnight secretly provided by Gator Harley
03/28/22 03/31/22	0800 hrs	Set up Vietnam Wall Display & Take Down	3 days	Vietnam	Cape Canaveral National Cemetery 5525 US-1 Mims, FL 32754	National Vietnam War Veterans Day
05/21/22	0900 hrs	Set-UP & Display	1 day	Vietnam / WoT	American Legion Post 10 205 Lake View Dr. Kissimmee, FL 34741	Armed Forces Day Celebration
05/27/22 05/28/22	1400 hrs 1000 - 1600 hrs	Set-Up Display & Take Down	2 days	Vietnam / WoT	Daytona International Speedway 1801 W. International Speedway Blvd Daytona Beach, FL 32114	Heroes Honor Festival Memorial Day Event Vietnam Welcome Home
09/17/22	TBD	Info forthcoming		American Legion Jacksonville, FL.	American Legion Veteran Event	
09/24/22	TBD	Info forthcoming		Remembering Vets Inc. Palm Coast, FL.	Fall Festival	
11/10/22 11/11/22	TBD 0800 - 1100 hrs	Set-up Display	2 Days	Vietnam / WoT	Anastasia Baptist Church 1650 A1A S St. Augustine, FL 32080	Veteran's Day Ceremony Escort from Daytona to St. Augustine

From Lynn Geiser, originally from the American Legion Dept. Of FL

“Words of Wisdom”

Tips for getting and keeping Younger Members

1. Be Honest and Transparent when sending out material to attract new members. Educate the younger generation by conveying to them what you have accomplished locally and nationally to ensure that veteran issues stay at the forefront of the discussion. Show them that you are making a difference. Let them know your whole organization, not just a narrow scope of membership and money.
2. Treat all veterans equally. Both men and women who have served honorable in the Armed Forces. To assume only men deployed or served is backwards thinking and has no room in the American Legion Family.
3. Update posts with free WIFI, offer video gaming like an XBOX or PlayStation and install flat screen TV's and select programming such as sports that appeal to all ages.
4. Seasoned Veterans have life experience and perhaps a different frame of reference. We should never think the younger generation is any different. Welcome new ideas younger members are full of ideas. Embrace their energy and let them share ideas about improving the post. Be open to new ideas.
5. When you see someone new walk in welcome them with open arms, make them feel like they are part of the post and have found new friends and family. Don't criticize the way they look or their time in service. If you are welcoming they may overlook the stale beer smell and the nicotine stained walls and windows and stay a while.
6. Keep meetings short and to the point. Assign younger members a task during the meeting and ask them to work with membership. Get them involved. The younger generation especially millennials like to solve problems by working and teaming with a group. This is a prime opportunity for leadership to mentor those younger members.
7. Turn your post into a community type of center. Our younger members want a place that includes their children or to do their homework.
8. Turn your post into a place where they can network the community. Invite local business owners, company executives, local college Veterans Representatives or members of the local Chamber of Commerce to speak at your meetings.
9. Don't be afraid to work with others within your community. Build a strong support network.
10. If you have a post near a military base begin working with the transition office.
11. Introduce yourself to the local Guard, Reserve centers and Recruiters. Most of the members live, work and shop in the community.
12. Sign up and attend every veteran event that you can. Make sure the people in your community know that you are the person and post to contact when it comes to supporting veterans and their families.
13. It is time to do away with the Old Bar and Night Club look of the Post. Have it bright in the Day time and avoid loud music.
14. Entertainment should be a way to bring new members, avoid catering to your tastes or keeping something due to tradition try something new and advertise in local papers and through social media.

HEY FLORIDA RESIDENTS!

Proudly Support Veterans and Honor Flight with an Honor Flight License Plate



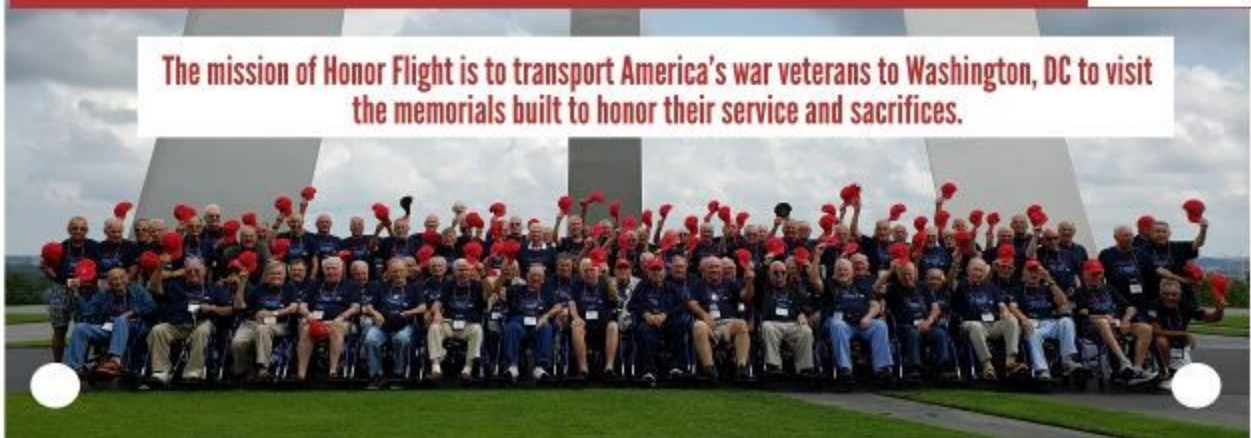
ACT NOW!

- Honor Flight is approved for *pre-sale* of an Honor Flight license plate.
- 3,000 *pre-sale* transactions must be made before the plate will be manufactured.
- Go to <https://bit.ly/3F1dyij> to purchase your voucher to help make this plate a reality.
- A portion of every plate purchase goes to the ten Honor Flight chapters in the state of Florida.
- Once the sales goal is met, you will receive instructions for exchanging your voucher for the Honor Flight plate.
- A plate replacement fee may apply.

Scan me!



The mission of Honor Flight is to transport America's war veterans to Washington, DC to visit the memorials built to honor their service and sacrifices.





Safekeeping your military separation records is secure, fast and free of charge and easy to access with the St. Johns County Clerk of Courts.

Bring your original DD-214 to the St. Johns County Veterans Council's Veterans Day Celebration where Clerk staff will officially record it:

- 9:30 a.m. – Noon, Nov. 11
- Anastasia Baptist Church, 1650 A1A S., St. Augustine
- Your record will be returned to you immediately.

Recording your DD-214 maintains a permanent digital copy on file for safekeeping. Your record is **protected** – it doesn't become a public record for 62 years after separation, per the National Archives.

Can't make it on Nov. 11? Record your discharge papers at the St. Johns County Courthouse, 4010 Lewis Speedway, St. Augustine. Call the Recording division at 904 819 3632 for details.

File your DD-214 with your
St. Johns County Clerk of Courts



FLORIDA CLERK OF COURTS WILL "LOCK IT UP" FOR FREE

Do you have your DD-214? That is the first question Veterans are asked when engaging in almost every benefits or Veteran-status related process. Often, it is the first question Veteran widows and widowers are asked after hearing "I'm sorry for your loss."

Each of Florida's county Clerk of Courts knows how valuable it is having a copy of your DD-214 safely and privately stored, with easy access. Click and read how you can record your DD-214 for free, year-round, regardless of what county you live in.

BONUS- St Johns County Clerk of the Circuit Courts is providing complimentary passport photos and notary services for military and Veterans through November 30th. Click below for the details.

From Liberty Life Media

Are You eligible to file for benefits based on Presumptive Exposure?

Were you exposed to hazardous materials while serving in the military, such as from Agent Orange or burn pits? Did you serve in Vietnam, Thailand or Southwest Asia? If so, you may be eligible to file for service-connected benefits based on presumptive exposure.

Over the course of the last six months, VA has begun processing service-connected disability claims for six new presumptive conditions related to exposure to hazardous materials.

In May 2021, VA started implementing provisions of the William M. Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (NDAA), adding bladder cancer, hypothyroidism and Parkinsonism to the list of medical conditions presumptively associated with exposure to Agent Orange. A few months later, VA added asthma, rhinitis and sinusitis (to include rhinosinusitis) on a presumptive basis based on particulate matter exposures during military service in Southwest Asia and certain other areas.

Any Veteran who was previously denied service-connection for any of these six conditions but had symptoms manifest within 10 years of military service would need to file another claim. Be sure to use VA Form 20-0995, "Decision Review Request: Supplemental Claim" when filing. The claim form should include the name of the medical condition and also specify that the medical condition is being claimed due to in-service exposure to environmental hazards.

VA is committed to assisting Veterans who may have been exposed to hazardous materials during their military service.

Be sure to stay plugged in to www.va.gov for the most recent developments around environmental hazards; VA is constantly conducting research and surveillance, as well as reviewing scientific literature for conditions that may be related to exposure during military service.

If you feel you have a chronic condition attributed to an in-service exposure, we highly encourage you to file a claim. For more information about VA benefits and eligibility, or how to file a claim, Veterans and survivors can visit VA's website at www.va.gov or call toll-free at 1-800-827-1000.





2022 VA DISABILITY PAY RATES



ANNOUNCED 2022 COLA OF 5.9%	D I S A B I L I T Y R A T I N G									
	10%	20%	30%	40%	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%	100%
DEPENDENT STATUS										
Veteran Alone	152.50	301.82	467.02	673.52	958.40	1,213.61	1,530.26	1,778.06	1,998.33	3,331.61
Veteran with Spouse	N/A	N/A	522.46	747.41	1,050.57	1,325.22	1,609.15	1,926.69	2,164.79	3,517.84
Veteran with 1 child only	N/A	N/A	504.45	721.99	1,019.86	1,288.16	1,616.79	1,876.92	2,109.72	3,456.30
Veteran with 1 child over 18 years	N/A	N/A	563.76	801.42	1,118.35	1,406.77	1,754.46	2,035.77	2,287.63	3,653.89
A D D I T I O N A L										
Parent 1 only (not VA)	N/A	N/A	44.48	59.30	74.13	88.96	103.78	118.71	133.43	149.10
Each additional child under age 18	N/A	N/A	27.53	36.01	45.54	55.07	64.60	73.07	82.60	92.31
Each additional child over age 18 (not VA)	N/A	N/A	88.96	118.61	148.26	177.91	208.62	238.28	267.93	298.18
Spouse (not VA) with Aid and Attendance	N/A	N/A	50.83	67.78	85.78	101.66	119.67	136.61	153.56	170.38

Use the compensation rates table to find your monthly payment amount. The monthly payment amounts are based on your disability rating and your eligible dependent family members.

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



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



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).



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
FLORIDA BAR AND JUDICIAL CENTER

Become a Watch Stander with The Fire Watch



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.



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	Bob Adkins	adk123robert@outlook.com
1059	David Treffinger	dtreffinger433@msn.com; Clay
1084	Joan Whitfield	jlwbeach@bellsouth.net
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**.



Along with traditional reimbursement for hospice services, we offer payment options to veterans with TRICARE. As with all Community Hospice & Palliative Care patients, we provide care and support to all who need it, regardless of their ability to pay.

VET 007 5/20



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.2.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 County
Health & Human Services Building,
200 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.