



The Patriot Reader Newsletter

P.O. Box 2117
St. Augustine, FL 32085

Bill Dudley, Publisher

Michael Rothfeld, Editor

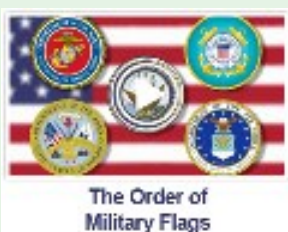
Volume 14, Issue 4

From Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley

April 2024

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Fellow Veterans,
This past week, the Veterans Council, teamed with Home Again St. Johns took over the operation of our new facility, Old Town Inn at 427 Anastasia Blvd. Home Again St. Johns will be responsible for the daily management of the facility. One full time employee has already been hired and interviews are being conducted for two more full time employees. Several veterans have been volunteering their time to assist with such things as painting, minor plumbing repairs, and other matters that need attention. We are in discussions with Home Depot about building a security fence around the south end of the property.

Several veterans have contacted us about wanting to move into Veterans Village as it will be

renamed. They are being processed and if they qualify, will be first on the list to be accepted. Each veteran applying for residency will have to go through an intake process including a background check to be accepted.

Volunteers are still needed to assist with work needed to be performed from an inspection performed by FDVA. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Renee Morris at 904-540-2078 and inform her of the dates and times you will be available to assist.

Don't forget to mark Memorial Day May 27, 10am, on your calendar. The local chapter of MOAA-ACC and the Veterans Council will conducting a Memorial Day service at the St. Augustine National Cemetery at 104 Marine St. Please plan to attend and help us honor those patriotic Americans



who gave their all in the service of our country. We will also be placing flags at all the headstones on Saturday, May 25 at 10 AM. Volunteers are needed to assist with the placing of flags.

Friday, March 29 is National Vietnam War Veterans Day. An observance will be held that day at Jacksonville National Cemetery. Please remember and thank all those who served during this very controversial war and plan to attend the observance ceremony in Jacksonville if your time permits.

Bill Dudley, Chairman
Veterans Council of
St. Johns County

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



**We meet at the County Health &
Human Services Building, 200 San Sebastian View,
at 7 pm in the Muscovy room.**

Upcoming Speakers

March 28

**Capt. Ed Turner, USN, Ret., Exec Dir. POW / MIA Memorial & Museum
and Brandon Patty, St Johns County Clerk of Courts**

April 25

**Trish Doran, Military Liaison, Wekiva Springs Center
Debbie Johnson, K9s United**

May 30

**Wendy Layton, Chapter Dir., Blue Star Families
Dennis Graves, CJ 3 Foundation**

June 27

**Carey Picklesimer, CorpsStrength
Angela Renner, VA, Suicide Prevention Supervisor**

July 25

Vicky Oakes, SJC Supervisor of Elections

Hotel purchased in St. Augustine to house veterans in need

Twenty hotel rooms on Anastasia Island will become new homes for veterans.

Author: Jessica Clark, First Coast News

The ink is still drying on a real estate deal that will turn a hotel into homes for veterans in St. Augustine.



It will be the first of its kind in St. Johns County. The Old Town Inn is less than a mile from the Bridge of Lions on Anastasia Island.

"It's badly needed," said Bill Dudley with the Veterans Council of St. Johns County Council.

His organization has teamed up with the group Home Again St. Johns, which helps those in need of homes.

Wednesday afternoon, the two groups bought the Old Town Inn. All the money, \$3 million, came from the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs,

The plan is to put veterans who are struggling with housing into the hotel rooms.

"We have about 38 veterans that are in need of supportive housing in St. Johns County. This will take care of 20 of them immediately. It's turn-key," Home Again St. Johns Board President Troy Blevins said.

He noted that each veteran will have to pay a reduced price based on their income and benefits available. The veterans will also have to meet certain qualifications.

"They have to volunteer to be in the program," Blevins noted. "They

have to pass a background check, they have to meet the criteria."

Services will also help the veterans "get into the VA system, healthcare system, helping them with employment," Dudley explained.

Blevins said this will not be a shelter, and there will be no deadline for the veterans to leave their motel homes.

It will be for veterans who "have gone through a divorce, veterans that have had some PTSDE and lost a job, who are struggling. They're living on a couch with their family or with a friend, or sometimes in a car. They are trying to get into a better situation."

There are some people who are currently living at the Old Town Inn. Blevins said:

"We're going to work with them. If they have veteran status and they qualify and they pass the background checks, then they'll be able to continue. Right now, they're on a week to week basis. But, with Home Again St. Johns doing what we do, we're going to help them find another facility and move with them. That's part of the transition plan."

Blevins added that because state money is paying for the hotel, and there is no mortgage, and the tenants will be paying a reduced price to stay there, "It'll be self-sustaining. We'll have to give it a little boost to start, but it'll be self-sustaining at that point."



The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs

Nominations are open for the Class of 2024 Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame. If you know a Veteran who has made a significant civic, business or public service contribution to our state, nominate them today. Information & nomination forms available at:

<https://bit.ly/3IAgPP7>



Congratulations to five FDVA State Veterans' Nursing Homes for receiving five-star quality ratings from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.



• Florida Veterans Foundation Team, Dennis Baker, Raymond Miller, and Brooke Dennison had an excellent time today checking out the 5 STAR Veterans Center in Jacksonville, Florida. We had the honor of meeting with Mike O'Brien and Suzie Loving to tour the beautiful facilities, pass out veteran service medals to residents, and even meet some furry friends!



VEMA St. Johns is hosting their annual Hometown Hero's Ride. The honoree for this year is SSGT Karlton Berry.

This will be a full escorted ride and all proceeds from the event will go to SSGT Berry.

We are also hosting a raffle to support the event. If you are interested on the item being raffled, please send me a private message.

#SaintAugustine #SaintAugustineFlorida #Motorcycle #MotorcycleRide
#EscortedRide #AdamecHarleyDavidson #AdamecHarelyDavidsonStAugustine
#HometownHerosRide #VEMA #VFFV



The poster for the 3rd Annual Hometown Hero's Ride features a scenic view of St. Augustine, Florida, with the Castillo de San Marcos in the background. The event is a police-escorted motorcycle ride honoring SSGT Karlton Berry. It is scheduled for Saturday, April 13, 2024, starting and ending at Adamec Harley-Davidson. The ride is benefiting Builders Care. Registration is from 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM, with a \$25 fee per bike. The first 300 registered bikes receive a ride t-shirt and lunch. The event includes food, vendors, music, raffles, and more. Sponsors include The Shee Family, Adamec Harley-Davidson, Mastercraft Builder Group, and Cinega Management. The poster also mentions a disclaimer: "Per St. Johns County, no Auto Cycles allowed. Example: Scooters, T-Bikes etc."

3RD ANNUAL

HOMETOWN HERO'S RIDE

HONORING **SSGT KARLTON BERRY** POLICE ESCORTED

SATURDAY • APRIL 13, 2024

RIDE STARTS/ ENDS AT ADAMEC H-D® OF ST. AUGUSTINE
380 OUTLET MALL BLVD ST AUGUSTINE, FL 32084

REGISTRATION: 8:30AM-10:30AM

KSU: 11AM

\$25 PER BIKE

FIRST 300 REGISTERED BIKES INCLUDE RIDE T-SHIRT. LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED UPON RETURN

FOOD, VENDORS, MUSIC, RAFFLES & MORE!

SPONSORED BY

THE SHEE FAMILY ADAMEC HARLEY-DAVIDSON MASTERCRAFT BUILDER GROUP CINEGA MANAGEMENT

ALL MOTORCYCLES WELCOME!

WWW.HOMETOWNHEROSRIDE.COM

Disclaimer: Per St. Johns County, no Auto Cycles allowed. Example: Scooters, T-Bikes etc.

'Trust the process': HabiJax builds home for airwoman and her two daughters

HabiJax said it is the 175th home they've built on Jacksonville's Eastside.

Author: Tristan Hardy, First Coast News (On Your Side)

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Habitat for Humanity in Jacksonville, also known as HabiJax, has teamed up with CSX to build affordable homes for military families; it's a collaborative effort known as 'Heroes Build.'



The two organizations plan on building 43 homes in the city, but five of the houses are meant for military households. A Jacksonville single mother of two, who is also a airwoman, will move into her newly built home on Tuesday along with her daughters. She will be the first out of the five.

Mia Evans had plans to build a home, but she had to set them aside when she left for deployment. When Evans returned to the First Coast, building a house was not feasible for her because of the market. HabiJax then made it possible.

"I don't think I've said the words, 'I am a homeowner,'" Evans said. "I am a homeowner."

Evans smiled and expressed herself as if she was floating on cloud nine. The process to becoming a homeowner, was not easy, she said.

According to HabiJax, one-in-four military families in Florida are financially burdened by the cost of housing. To earn a home, Evans had to work hard for it. She told First Coast News that it was more than physical labor, it was also mental preparation.

Chris Folds with HabiJax said chosen applicants have to put in sweat equity.

"[Sweat Equity] is volunteer work on their house and the house of their peers," Folds said. "In the program, they go through a pretty robust financial education curriculum."

To Evans, providing a home for her daughters is proof hard work pays off.

"I need viewers to know that if it's in your heart and if it's in your drive of passion, trust the process," Evans told First Coast News.

Evans said as soon as she is completely moved in, she will take a deep breathe of relief and spend time with her children.

Donut Dollies

During World War II numerous teams of three female Red Cross volunteers operated clubmobiles equipped with a kitchen area with a stove for heating water for coffee and a built-in donut-making machine. These clubmobiles traveled with the rear echelon units, but each day their teams ventured out to different operating areas to visit Soldiers, play Victrola records, pass out sundry items, and serve hot coffee and fresh-made donuts to the troops.



Female Red Cross workers answered the call to duty again during the Korean War. In its early stages, they earned the endearing nickname, “Donut Dollies,” turning out up to 20,000 donuts a day for American Soldiers disembarking troop ships in Pusan.

The Donut Dollies were most visible to troops serving in Vietnam. Between February 1962 and March 1973, they logged over 2,000,000 miles by jeep, deuce-and-a-half, and helicopter, visiting combat troops at remote fire bases from An Khe to Yen Giang (there’s no “Z” in Vietnamese). And they didn’t pass out a single donut during this war.

Instead, usually traveling at least in pairs and dressed in their signature pale blue outfits, this time they brought smiles, songs, games, and a touch of back home to the guys who were in the bush counting the days down from 365.

Over 600 Donut Dollies responded to the somewhat opaque Red Cross’s ads seeking “qualified young women who were willing to

serve one year overseas.” They had to be at least 21, have a college education, and have that “girl next door” look. Among the understated requirements: “the job requires a capacity for hard work under less than ideal conditions.”



After only two weeks of training in Washington, D.C. as Red Cross recreation workers, the women packed off for Vietnam where they set up recreation centers before the USO and Special Services arrived and wrote up and conducted recreation programs in the field for troops who couldn't visit the centers.

They also visited hospitals to hand out activity books and spent time in evac hospitals with the wounded. As one Donut Dolly put it, “Our job was to smile and be bubbly for an entire year— no matter what the situation.”

No one appreciated the presence of the Donut Dollies more than the troops on the remote firebases. Minutes spent talking about home or sports or music or wives and girlfriends with a fresh-faced American girl with a pony tail wearing a tinge of lipstick and a splash of perfume was a terrific morale boost.

And the fact that these young women had the guts to brave incoming mortars, sniper and ground- to-air fire, and other wartime hardships and dangers to visit the firebases earned them the unarguable respect and admiration of the troops. And that's exactly how Vietnam veterans remember the Red Cross Donut Dollies nearly forty years later— with unarguable appreciation, respect, and admiration.



NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES OF AMERICAN
PRISONERS & MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA
5673 Columbis Pike, Suite 100, Falls Church, VA 22041

PH ---703/465-7432

www.pow-miafamilies.org

FAX ---703/465-7432

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A four-member Delegation, representing the National League of POW/MIA Families is headed to Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia on February 25th.

Falls Church, Virginia (February 23, 2024) — The National League of POW/MIA Families a non-profit, 501(c) (3) organization whose threefold goal is the return of all prisoners, the fullest possible accounting of the missing, and the repatriation of all recoverable remains of those who died while serving our Nation during the Vietnam War, is proud to announce that another League Delegation is now headed to Hanoi. The purpose of the visit is to seek expanded efforts to bring home America's military and civilian Vietnam War Veterans still unreturned, thus ending the uncertainty of their families.

This is the first notable Vietnam War POW/MIA Delegation to visit Vietnam since the significant upgrade in bilateral relations to the level of Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, announced last September when President Biden visited Hanoi. The stated purposes for the upgrade were peace, cooperation and sustainable development. The League believes the new relationship offers potential opportunities for both countries to increase and improve the pace and scope of unilateral and joint accounting efforts, before it is too late.

The League has pursued the fullest possible accounting for America's missing Vietnam War Veterans – unreturned POW/MIAs – since before the end of active US involvement, ended by the Paris Peace Accords on January 27, 1973. Such efforts became "a matter of highest national priority" in the mid-1980s, after President Reagan came into office with a personal commitment.

As Governor of California, he was in office when the listed POWs came home in 1973, recognizing then that not enough was being done to account for those still missing. The first League delegations to talks with Vietnam's leaders in Europe date back to before war's end and, since then, the League has participated in or led many delegations seeking answers for the families, and always with the single goal of bringing American servicemen and civilians home, to the country they served.

For additional information contact Michael Bamarni, Social Media Coordinator.



National League of POW/MIA Families

Hello everyone!

The League is always seeking out photos of POW/MIA flags, monuments, Missing Man Honors Tables, POW/MIA empty chairs, etc. from your community to feature on our social media pages and website.

Sharing with us is easy, just message your photos to our email -

nationalleague@pow-miafamilies.org

With your full name as well as a brief description of when & where the photo was taken.



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5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100, Falls Church, VA 22041

PH ---703/465-7432

www.pow-miafamilies.org

FAX ---703/465-7433

2024 ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Would you prefer to receive League material by email? Y___N___ Email: _____

_____ @\$20/member

_____ Total Amount: _____

IRS EIN# 23-7071242



Join Our Team of Volunteers

We're currently looking for individuals who would be committed to restoring, maintaining, and being a docent on the USS Orleck.



Requirements

- Veteran, Active Duty, Retired
- Minimum of 18 Years Old
- Healthy physically and mentally
- Youth groups with advisors
- Willing to volunteer where and when needed

Registration On

www.jaxnavalmuseum.org/volunteer

Skills Needed

- Welders & Electricians
- Docents & Office
- Painting, Cleaning, Events

For More Info

volunteer@jaxnavalmuseum.org

USS Orleck's Address

610 East Bay Street
Jacksonville, FL 32202

University of West Florida designated Purple Star Campus

The University of West Florida has been named a Florida Collegiate Purple Star Campus for its commitment to supporting military students and families as they transition to college.

UWF was one of the first three universities in the Florida State University System to earn the designation.



“UWF prides itself on its distinguished outreach to members of the armed forces and their families,” said UWF President Martha D. Saunders. “We are honored to be recognized for our efforts to create meaningful academic journeys for our military-affiliated students.”

The Florida Collegiate Purple Star Campus Program was established by the Florida legislature in 2023 and awards institutions for their support to military families as set forth in Florida Statutes. To qualify for the Collegiate Purple Star Campus designation, an institution must meet several criteria including having a career center or designated staff member as the military liaison to assist the military students, maintaining a military webpage, providing a transition program to assist military students, offering professional development opportunities to military students, providing priority registration for military students and their families, and demonstrating commitment to military personnel and families through additional activities. Once awarded, the designation is active for three academic years.

For more than a decade, the UWF Military & Veterans Resource Center has served as a leading campus advocate for military, dependents and veteran students, working to ensure the needs of these individuals are met through coordinating with multiple university offices and services. The Center assists with VA education benefits, active duty tuition assistance, out-of-state fee waiver, academic advising coordination and tutoring. The MVRC also hosts events to honor veterans. In November, a weeklong Veterans Week celebration with events throughout the week was held with community organizations. The MVRC also commemorates Veterans Day and Memorial Day each year by holding observance ceremonies.

“Achieving Purple Star designation is not merely a recognition; it’s a testament to our unwavering dedication to fostering a community that honors and supports our military-connected students and their families,” said Lori Milkeris, director and veterans counselor of the UWF MVRC.

“Together, we ensure every member feels respected, included, and empowered to excel.”

For more information about UWF’s MVRC, visit uwf.edu/mvrc.

NARRATIVE OF WOMEN IN THE MILITARY



**SUNDAY, JUNE 9
2 - 5PM**

**WATER WORKS
184 SAN MARCO AVENUE
ST. AUGUSTINE, FL 32084**

Sponsored in part by:



**NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT for the ARTS**

**2:00-2:30 PM: SHE SERVED- DISPLAY OF 20
INSPIRING WOMEN VETERANS AND THEIR STORIES**

**2:30-3:30 PM: ACT 1 - SINGLE BLACK FEMALE IN
NAVY THEATRE/ PLAY - WRITTEN AND PERFORMED
BY KIM MULLINS**

**3:35-3:45 PM: LADY STRUT - WOMEN VETERANS
WALKING WITH A PURPOSE**

**3:45-4:00 PM: INTERMISSION- REPRESENT STA
VETERAN HISTORICAL PROJECT AND H4V MILITARY
WOMEN**

**4:00-5:00 PM: ACT 2 - SINGLE BLACK FEMALE IN
NAVY THEATRE/ PLAY - WRITTEN AND PERFORMED
BY KIM MULLINS**

**Get your
tickets here:**



HOPE4VETERANS.ORG



Retired Activities Office NAS Jacksonville

"Assisting the Military Retiree Community"

The Retired Activities Office at NAS Jacksonville is Moving!

As of Tuesday, January 16, 2024 the Jacksonville Retired Activities Office (RAO) will be re-located in Room 120 in Building 13, the two-story yellow building with blue shutters just outside the Yorktown Gate of NAS Jacksonville (across from the USO).

The Office Hours and Contact Information remain the same:

- ❖ **Office Hours:** Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday/Friday 1000-1400. Or,
- ❖ **Call 24/7:** 904-542-5790 - speak to a staff member or leave a message.
- ❖ **EMAIL Contact:** NASJAXRAO@navy.mil

Trained volunteers at NAS Jacksonville Retired Activities Office (RAO JAX) assist the NE Florida and SE Georgia military retiree community with problems and questions as well as Federal and Local benefits, programs and resources. ALL retiree families are eligible for assistance, regardless of military branch.

RAO staff provide direct assistance and information on Navy or other DoD programs. Referrals are made to Local, County or State agencies like the City of Jacksonville Military Affairs and Veterans Department, private organizations like Red Cross or Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society or other Federal Government agencies like Social Security, Tricare or the Veterans Administration.

For further information, contact Jacksonville Retired Activities Office – 904-542-5790



Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD)

"Recruiting – Soldiers for Life"

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, May 18, 2024

University of Central Florida – Student Union
12715 Pegasus Drive, Orlando, FL 32816

Registration begins 8:00 A.M.; **Presentations** begin at 9:00 A.M.

**Meet representatives from the below agencies during the
RAD Information Fair, 1300 - 1600 hours**



Hosted by Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield, GA - Retirement Services Office

www.facebook.com/FtStewartRSO

Walk-in registration can be accomplished at the event – “We” want you there!



**Retirees from all service branches and their Family members
are also invited!**

ONCE A SOLDIER, ALWAYS A SOLDIER... A SOLDIER FOR LIFE!



Greetings Retired Soldiers and Family Members! I would like to thank each of you for your service and commitment to the nation and for being a vital part of the Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield community for all these years. We would not be where we are today without the sacrifices made by brave men and women like you. I sincerely thank you for your service.

Ft. Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield Retired Soldiers Council acts as a regional (SC, GA and FL) center for Army retirees and their families providing news, advocacy on issues (directly to the Army Chief of Staff), and puts on an annual Retiree Appreciation Day (attracting 500-1000 Retirees and Family members) with updates on issues and opportunities, along with representatives from many agencies like VA, Medicare/Tricare, MOAA, etc. We look forward to seeing you at our event!

~Fort Stewart RSO

Jeannie Blaylock, First Coast News

Loved being at Keystone Heights with principal Laurie Burke and Col. Richard Hall! But I need to pay honor to a beloved coach and the only KH military serviceman, who did not return from Vietnam —in 1968. His name -Gary Cooper. Joanie Miller tells me the man in the red shirt, Jeff Miller, worked 18 months to rebuild this monument dedicated today near the elementary school. KH folks, I am blessed by you today.



The Military Museum of North Florida is in Green Cove Springs! It's completely free and if you like memorabilia, it is jam-packed full of historical items! The displays are neatly done and informative. As you wind your way through the museum, you will find displays from all of our major conflicts. For the kids, there is a retired helicopter flight simulator that they can sit in and push all the buttons and pretend. My son loved it! Outside, you will find retired vehicles that you can walk up to, including a tank!

Get more info and links for the museum here <http://tinyurl.com/3ej8a5cw>.

[#ClayCoFL](#) [#fun4claykids](#) [#officialfun4claykids](#) [#claycountyfl](#)
[#claycounty](#) [#claycountymoms](#) [#military](#) [#museum](#)



ALR CHAPTER 194 FALLEN RIDERS CHARITY RIDE & DANCE



11 MAY 24
KSU 1030

IN REMEMBRANCE OF
Ms. IDA & POP TERRY

CHARITY RIDE

Registration: 0800-1000

Riders \$20, Passengers \$10

Early Registration: \$15

Passengers: \$7

Text 443-537-7411

for Early Registration

Route to be Determined

& Will Include Lunch Stop



Hotels:



CHARITY DANCE

Time: 0900-Til

American Legion Post 194

1029 Pearl St. 32084

Cost: \$10 per person

DJ Hundred Grand

Proceeds will be Donated

to a Scholarship

Fund & Charity

National WWII Museum Exhibit Celebrates the Trailblazing Servicewomen of World War II

Special Exhibition Open through July 21

Our War Too: Women in Service is a ground-breaking special exhibit honoring the nearly 350,000 American women who answered the call to serve their country during World War II.

This article is brought to you by The National WWII Museum.



Celebrate Women's History Month this March by visiting The National WWII Museum's latest special exhibit, Our War Too: Women in Service, which recognizes American servicewomen's war-time efforts and celebrates their accomplishments.

Presented by the Gayle and Tom Benson Charitable Foundation, Our War Too salutes the nearly 350,000 American women who answered the call and served in the women's component branches of the Army, Coast Guard, Navy, and Marine Corps, and with the civilian Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASPs), as well as the additional 73,000 women who served in the Army and Navy Nurse Corps. The exhibit features unique and colorful artifacts from the Museum's collection, many on display for the first time, that highlight the personal stories and motivations of individual servicewomen. In addition, an interactive scrapbook allows visitors to explore some of the treasures within the Museum's archive of wartime albums and memory books curated by women to remember their time in service, and film pieces examine women's service in the war and their legacy today.

Our War Too: Women in Service features unique and colorful artifacts from the Museum's collection that highlight the personal stories and motivations of individual servicewomen.

Through new, innovative technology introduced in the exhibit, visitors have the opportunity to hear from three WWII servicewomen in their own words

through interactive biography stations: Romay Johnson Davis, a Women's Army Corps driver in the segregated African American 688th Central Postal Directory Battalion; Virginia Leeman Wilterdink, a US Army nurse who served with the 314th General Hospital Unit; and SPAR Florence Smith, a baker for the US Coast Guard Women's Reserve. Using cutting-edge technology and interactive video displays, guests are able to hold conversations with these women, an effect made possible through artificial intelligence. Each interview includes as many as 1,000 questions about the subject's life and wartime experience, creating a robust repository of responses for the software to match to verbal questions from visitors.

Our War Too: Women in Service salutes the hundreds of thousands of women who served in the women's component branches of the military and the Army and Navy Nurse Corps.

On display through July 21, 2024, Our War Too: Women in Service will be traveling to other host venues following its initial run in the Museum's Senator John Alario, Jr. Special Exhibition Hall. Access to the exhibit is included in Museum admission.

The National WWII Museum in New Orleans is located at 945 Magazine Street and is open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Convenient and secure parking in the Museum's parking garage is available for a fee right across the street, next to The Higgins Hotel & Conference Center. For more information, visit nationalww2museum.org.



“Amazing Grace”

RADM Grace Hopper, was a visionary and pioneer of electronic computers.

Nicknamed "Amazing Grace" she retired from active duty as a rear admiral at age 79--the oldest serving officer in the military.

By the age of 35, she was already quite accomplished. She held a Ph.D from Yale University (1934-Mathematics), her dissertation had been published in the Bulletin of the American Mathematical Society and she had been promoted to assistant professor in her teaching role at Vassar College. Then WWII came.

She left her post at Vassar and joined the Naval Reserve where she graduated first in her class. In 1944, she reported to Harvard University where the hulking Mark I computer, the first electro-mechanical computer in the United States was installed. Under the guidance of Howard Aiken, who had developed the MARK I, Hopper and her colleagues worked on top-secret calculations essential to the war effort—computing rocket trajectories, creating range tables for new anti-aircraft guns, and calibrating minesweepers. One of the first three “coders” (now known as programmers), Hopper also wrote the 561-page user manual for the MARK I. When she first saw the computer, Hopper remarked, "I love a good gadget."

After the war, she entered the private sector where she pioneered automatic coding and new ways to use the computer to code. In 1953, she



proposed the idea of writing programs in words rather than symbols which ultimately became COBOL, short for "computer business-oriented language."

Throughout her career in the computer industry, Hopper remained in the Naval Reserve retiring on 1966, however she was recalled to active duty to help the Navy standardize its multiple computer languages and programs.

Hopper is the recipient of more than 40 honorary degrees, scholarships, professorships and awards. In 1972, she received Yale University's Wilbur Lucius Cross Medal for Outstanding Alumni. In 1973, she became the first woman and first American to become a Distinguished Fellow at the British Computer Society. In 1991, President Bush awarded her the National Medal of Technology. In 2016, Hopper received the Presidential Medal of Freedom posthumously for her "lifelong leadership role in computer science."

Amazing Grace passed away on January 1, 1992. She was buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery. To learn more about her incredible achievements and service to her country, please visit her Veterans Legacy Memorial page <https://www.vlm.cem.va.gov/GRACEMHOPPER/390F6>



Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP).

For Women's History Month, the Center for Minority Veterans (CMV) and Center for Women Veterans (CWV) join forces to commemorate women Veteran Congressional Gold Medal recipients: the trailblazing Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP). These courageous women broke barriers and proved that women were just as capable as men at serving as skilled military pilots. Highlighting the WASP's incredible contributions sheds light on women's often overlooked achievements in military history.



During a time when women were prohibited from serving in combat roles, the WASP program provided a rare opportunity for women to fly military aircraft and support the war effort in non-combat roles. These women, who came from diverse backgrounds, exhibited an unwavering commitment to serve their country and to prove themselves as capable pilots; none of these women had ever flown an aircraft before their service.

Trailblazers like Nancy Harkness Love, who established the Women Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron (WAFS), and Jacqueline Cochran, who created the Women's Flying Training Detachment (WFTD), were essential to the WASP's formation. The WASP program was formed in 1943 when the WAFS and WFTD programs merged, with over 25,000 women applying for the opportunity. Of those applicants, only 1,074 were accepted into the program, undergoing the same training as their male counterparts. Once they completed their training, the women were stationed at various bases across the country where they piloted military aircraft, from fighters to bombers to transport planes; they flew them all!

The significance of the WASP's contributions cannot be overstated. They took on a wide range of critical duties that were essential to the war effort. They ferried planes from factories to air bases, tested new aircraft, and towed targets for live ammunition practice. They even played a role in training male pilots and served as test pilots for the military. Throughout their service, the WASP faced discrimination and prejudice, yet they persistently demonstrated their exceptional skills and dedication as pilots, making a substantial impact that could not be denied.

Of the 1,074 WASPs, 38 lost their lives, and despite their sacrifices, the WASP program was disbanded in 1944 with little recognition. It took 33 years of advocacy and lobbying by the

women who served as WASPs and their supporters to earn their Veteran status. In 1977, President Carter signed a bill granting the WASPs their earned Veteran status, ensuring they received the respect and benefits they had been denied for far too long. These courageous women paved the way for future generations of female pilots and proved that women could excel in aviation just as well as men.

Another major victory was in March of 2010 when the WASPs were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal. During the ceremony, Lt. Col. Nicole Malachowski, the first female pilot in the Air Force's Air Demonstration Squadron, said, "Today is the day when the WASPs will make history once again if you spend any time at all talking to these wonderful women, you'll notice how humble and gracious and selfless they all are. Their motives for wanting to fly airplanes all those years ago weren't for fame or glory or recognition. They had a passion to take their gifts and use them to help defend not only America but the entire free world from tyranny. And they let no one get in their way." Those are true women Veteran trailblazers who fought with passion, dedication, and unwavering strength during a time when they were not equals.

As we celebrate Women's History Month this year, let us honor the trailblazing women of the WASP and, like them, who, through their bravery and determination, left a permanent mark on the history of women in the military. Their legacy serves as an inspiration for all women. Thank you to the Women Airforce Service Pilots of World War II for their invaluable contributions and unwavering dedication to serving their country.

Happy Women's History Month.





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navigate the complex system of services
to address the barriers to living their best lives?**



Cool, we are hiring **VETERAN CARE COORDINATORS
at the United Way of Northeast Florida**

Email resumes to MissionUnited@UWNEFL.Org



The Sullivans

The Fletcher-class destroyer USS The Sullivans (DD-537) lists in the Buffalo River on April 14, 2022 in Buffalo, New York.

She is a retired warship named in honor of five brothers (George, Francis, Joseph, Madison, and Albert) who lost their lives while on the USS Juneau when it was sunk by a Japanese submarine during the naval battle of Guadalcanal on 13 November 1942.

The Sullivans earned nine battle stars for her service in World War II and two for her participation in the Korean War. On January 7, 1965, she was decommissioned at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard, remaining in reserve through the 1970s. In 1977, alongside the cruiser USS Little Rock, she was designated for donation to the Buffalo and Erie County Naval & Military Park in Buffalo, New York, now serving as a memorial open for public tours.

Declared a National Historic Landmark in 1986, The Sullivans faced challenges on February 26, 2021, with reports of water ingress and listing. The ship's age and potential weather-related damage were identified as probable causes for the leak below the waterline.

On April 14, 2022, the ship began to list lower than usual, with crews reporting a loss of electrical power. A subsequent public statement revealed a "serious hull breach" under investigation, part of the ship resting on the riverbed, yet mostly above water. An assessment in May indicated considerable damage to the ship's interior.

In August 2022, The Sullivans reopened after repairs. In the summer of 2023, the park initiated winterization efforts, enhancing communications and sensor systems, replacing mooring lines, reinforcing bulkheads, and adding dehumidifiers. Plans to drydock the ship by late 2024 are contingent on substantial fundraising, with estimates of at least \$10-\$12 million required for towing.



**"MY MOTHER TOLD ME TO BE A LADY. AND FOR HER, THAT MEANT
BE YOUR OWN PERSON, BE INDEPENDENT."
— RUTH BADER GINSBURG**



NARRATIVES OF WOMEN IN THE MILITARY

- Hope4Veterans will present *She Served*, a photography exhibition by Martina Schmidt to showcase women veterans, and produce *Single Black Female in the Navy*, an original play by Kim Mullins, a Navy veteran and theater teacher, about her experiences as a woman in the Navy.
- June 9, 2024 - Waterworks in St. Augustine 2-5PM
 - 184 San Marco Avenue, St. Augustine, Florida 32084

Sponsored in part by:



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT for the ARTS

VETERAN SPOTLIGHT: KIM MULLINS



K.E. Mullins is a Florida native, an accomplished author, poet, upcoming playwright, and director. Her full-length play, "Single Black Female in the Navy," was selected out of hundreds of submission. The play was one of six in the Tampa Bay Festival competition in September 2023.

She's also been accepted in Women Writing for Change Showcase, April 22, 2022. Her play, mini-version of "Single Black Female in the Navy," was selected by Acrosstown Repertory Theatre for a zoom reading with live actors, January 2022. Her short story - "I'm Toni and I Approve this Message" was accepted in Lolwe's Online Magazine for publication in May 2021. February 1, 2021. Ms. Mullins' monologue, "Black by Unpopular Demand," was published in the "8:46 Collection - The New World of Theatre" available on Amazon.

Additionally, her novel excerpt - "Iben...I've been through some sh!t!" was accepted by Writer's Launch and published February 2021. She's also a Harness Magazine - Contributor. In March 2021, she was selected to participate in Hermitage Retreat as one of five artists in Florida for the Florida Alliance of Arts and Education. During COVID, Ms. Mullins participated in the Kaz Comedy Writing for Women - Workshop in February 2020. K.E. Mullins is the author of four fiction novels, "7475 Samona Drive," "The Friends and Family Connection: Get Unplugged," "In the Company of Strangers," "Murder: Another Name for Revenge, and "7475 Samona Drive." She also published a book of poetry, "Thinking Aloud: Dimension of Free-Verse," all available on Amazon, Barnes and Nobles, and Walmart online.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- P2P Therapeutic Art Program in Duval - Steve A. Cohen Center from 5:30-7:30, February 6th and 20th
- P2P Therapeutic Art Program in Clay - 108 Kingsley Ave. Room 210 from 6-8 PM, February 8th and 22nd
- P2P Therapeutic Art Program in St. John's - The Link in Nocatee 6-8 PM February 15th and 29th
- She Served and Narratives of Women in the Military, June 9th 2-5 PM Waterworks in St. Augustine
- Submit your upcoming events for us to share to our readers by clicking the "Submit Events" button at the bottom of the newsletter

Become a H4V Sponsor and see your business listed here!



The Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at Centerstone



CONTACT US

- hope4veterans.org
- lgeiser@hope4veterans.org
- (904) 430-2388



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Military Museum of North Florida

Wednesday-Saturday

10am-3pm

1 Bunker Ave
Green Cove Springs FL,
32043

Call or email the Military
Museum @
(904) 863-3527
militarymuseumnf@ol.com



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Burials and Memorials

VA honors the service and sacrifice of Veterans and their family members.

How to Apply

To find out in advance if a Veteran or family member is eligible for burial in a VA national cemetery, click “Apply for Pre-Need Burial Eligibility” to fill out and submit the application.

Apply for Pre-Need Burial Eligibility

If pre-need eligibility has not been determined, upon the death of the Veteran or his or her spouse or dependent (also called the time of need), family members should locate the Veteran’s DD-214 or other discharge papers if readily available and click “Schedule a Burial” to begin the process. Then make arrangements with a funeral home, National Cemetery Scheduling Office, or directly with a VA national cemetery.

VA Memorial Benefits

VA takes special care to pay lasting tribute to the memory of Veterans who served and sacrificed and that of their families. VA meticulously maintains 155 VA national cemeteries in 44 states and Puerto Rico and is working to increase access to accommodate Veterans and eligible family members close to home. Currently, more than 94 percent of Veterans have a burial option in an open VA, state or tribal veterans cemetery located within 75 miles of their home.

Note that most if not all of these benefits may be provided for Veterans who are interred in a State, Territorial or Tribal Veterans cemetery. Check with the cemetery to ensure coverage. Some benefits are also available for Veterans who choose burial in a private cemetery.

Veterans with a qualifying discharge are entitled to VA burial benefits. Spouses and dependent children are eligible too, even if they predecease the Veteran.

The following burial benefits may be provided:

Burial in a VA national cemetery

Opening and closing of the grave for burial of casketed or cremated remains, or placement of cremated remains in an above-ground vault, also called a columbarium

A government furnished grave liner

Perpetual care of the gravesite

A headstone or marker with an inscription

A burial flag

A Presidential Memorial Certificate

A dedicated memorial page on the Veterans Legacy Memorial site where friends and family can upload photos and remembrances

Burial in a private cemetery

A government headstone, marker, or medallion

A burial flag

A Presidential Memorial Certificate

Some survivors may also be entitled to VA burial allowances as partial reimbursement for the costs of funerals and burials for eligible Veterans

Please note that gravesites in a VA national cemetery cannot be reserved in advance. To prepare for a private cemetery burial, VA suggests families review these questions and complete required forms in advance.

VA Requirements

Discharge papers to establish your eligibility for burial services

VETERANS COUNCIL OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

February 29, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Dudley

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS: Chairman Dudley

PLEDGE: Chairman Dudley

INVOCATION: Bill Jefferson, Chaplain

INTRODUCTION OF NEW GUESTS: Chairman Dudley

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: Minutes of last meeting conducted January 25, 2023, were presented by Chairman Dudley. Copies of the Minutes and Agenda are available on the sign-in table and were sent to members electronically by the Secretary. The minutes were approved by voice vote with no changes.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Mountcastle presented the Treasurer's Report to the Council. As of January 24, 2024, the cash balance was \$168,055.12. As of February 28, 2024, the balance is \$164,691.43. Available cash totals \$176,981.61. Treasurer Mountcastle went over the Treasurer's Report, explaining funds for the Dudley Foundation and Money Market accounts. Details of the month's expenses were also covered. The Treasurer asked if there were any questions regarding the Treasurer's Report. The Report was approved by voice vote.

SPEAKERS:

ROMONA ROOD, SOLDIERS' ANGELS

Ms. Rood introduced herself and military background. Her mission now is Soldiers' Angels. Soldiers' Angels is a national 501(c)3 nonprofit that provides aid, comfort and resources to the Military, Veterans, and their families. Ms. Rood spoke of many of the different efforts that Soldiers' Angels has performed throughout the State of Florida.

Soldiers' Angels is among the highest rated nonprofit in the Country as they keep their overhead really low. Their impact is that have had 235 million dollars in aid in the year 2023 to our Military and Veterans. Their funds come from numerous dona



tions throughout the area. Volunteers are their main source of supplying all that is needed throughout the state. They also support deployed Military of all branches of the service. Active soldiers can sign up for the monthly care package that is sent to them from Soldiers' Angels.

The floor was opened by Ms. Rood for questions and answers.

RICHARD CLONINGER, VETERANS SERVICE ATTORNEY

Mr. Cloninger introduced himself as the Veterans Services Attorney for Jacksonville area Legal Aid. All information of what the Jacksonville Legal Aid office provides can be obtained through their website. Legal Aid provides a Veterans Services Unit dedicated to helping Veterans with legal issues that expands a broad range of assistance, excluding criminal cases. Legal Aid covers four counties in the area – Nassau, Duval, Clay, and St. Johns Counties. Each county has a local office. There are income requirements that have to be met – mostly low-income clients. Mr. Cloninger offered that he will talk to any Veteran in need and if they do not qualify for Legal Aid assistance, he will direct them to someone else that may be able to help them with their legal problems. He provided his contact information to reach him if in need.

Mr. Cloninger opened the floor for questions and answers.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE UPDATE, JOSEPH MCDERMOTT

Mr. McDermott read a handout (he distributed to those in attendance) received from the Veterans Administration concerning the expansion of military healthcare available to Veterans in regard to exposure of toxic and other hazardous chemicals, at home or abroad, to be eligible for VA healthcare beginning on March 5, 2024. This will make it easier for applying for VA healthcare without the need to apply for VA benefits. Mr. McDermott expressed what a huge accomplishment this is for those in need of medical care. Mr. McDermott spoke of the research that has been put into place to cover this update and what it will take to apply. The Veterans Service Office is there to help those that need assistance.

Mr. McDermott opened the floor to any questions regarding the Veterans Service Office.

VETERANS TREATMENT COURT, JOHN LESLIE

John Leslie introduced himself to those in attendance and the operations for the Veterans Treatment Court (VTC). Throughout the nation there are 465 Treatment Courts helping Veterans through their legal problems and the court process. Our VTC covers two counties - St. Johns and Putnam Counties. The Treatment Court is starting its 8th year of operation. In that time VTC processed a total of 154 Veterans. A total of 91 have graduated and moved on, 32 Veterans are currently inflow and 21 have terminated for one reason or another. It has been a successful program but comes with lots of hardship and pain for many involved.

There were two mentors in attendance introduced and they gave a recap on their service as mentors. There is a need for more volunteer mentors for the program. A mentor does not work personally with the Court, the mentor works outside that environment to help the Veteran and be their “wingman, battle body” to help through the court system. Everyone was invited to attend the next Treatment Court to observe the operation.

Mr. Leslie opened the floor to any questions and answers regarding the VTC.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Dudley informed those in attendance that the Executive Committee of the Veterans Council met and elected two new members on the Board – Ron Birchall is the new Vice Chairman and Bill Jefferson is the Chaplin for the Veterans Council of St. Johns County. The late Sgt. Major Ray Quinn held both of those positions.

Chairman Dudley recognized the new Chief Medical Officer for the CBOC in St. Augustine, Dr. James Keck. Dr. Keck introduced himself to the attendees of the VCSJC and gave his background experience and his family military background that was his influence in attending the Naval Academy and attending medical school. He is happy to be back in NE Florida and helping the Veterans in our area.

Chairman Dudley was happy to give the “Big News of the Week,” the VCSJC and Home Again St. Johns closed February 28, 2024, on the motel, Old Town Inn, to become the new Veterans Village. Chairman Dudley spoke of the amount of purchase

and other monies that will be utilized to bring this facility into compliance for our Veterans in need. There will initially be three paid employees to monitor the facility 24 hours a day. Volunteers will also be used to keep the facility running as needs arise. Community service hours will also be provided by those in the Veterans Treatment Court. There has been lots of communication and inquiries from the St. Augustine community offering any help in volunteering for things that may be needed for the facility. Chairman Dudley and Ellen Walden, Home Again St. Johns, spent time in Jacksonville at their 5-Star Veterans Center and went through their entire process at that center. They helped and provided their policy manual to follow and tailor to our operation at Veterans Village. Chairman Dudley went over other things and updates that will be accomplished to get the facility ready to house our Veterans in need. This task has been years in the making, and we take great satisfaction at the accomplishment of obtaining this facility.

Chairman Dudley also discussed the facility that will be built on SR16 and what will be available to Veterans at that complex. He also talked about Patriot Place on Masters Drive, and it is now fully occupied with Veterans in those eight apartments.

Chairman Dudley stated that first meeting was held in planning the Memorial Day Service to be held Monday, May 27, 2024, at the St. Augustine National Cemetery. There is a great program being planned and all are invited to attend.

The floor was open to questions, answers and all others that had information to share with the Veterans Council.

Next Veterans Council meeting will be held on Thursday, March 28th beginning at 7:00pm.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

William Dudley, Chairman



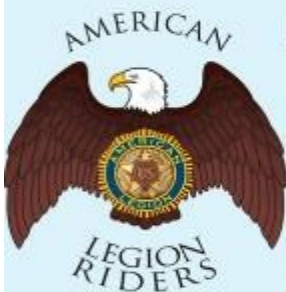
AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS CHAPTER 37

Charity Poker Run

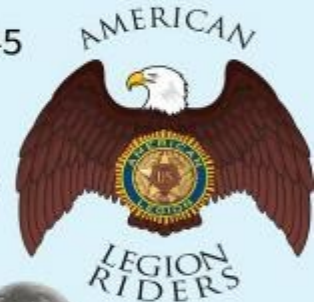
Benefitting Kids Bridge St. Augustine

SATURDAY APRIL 13

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Registration @ Legion Post 194, 0845-0945
1st Card-Coffee & Donuts
Safety Brief 0950 KSU 1000
Final Card-(Post 37) Mark Lance Armory
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First 50 registered riders
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American Legion Riders Chapter 88



16th Annual Fun Run

April 6, 2024



Registration 8:30AM – 10:00AM at Post 88

Breakfast Sandwiches available - \$5.00

\$20.00 per Bike / \$10.00 per Bike Passenger

\$20.00 per Bus Rider / \$10.00 Bus Buddy

Kick Stands Up at 10:30AM

Ride Stops

American Legion Post 129 - 1151 S. 4th St, Jacksonville Beach
American Legion Post 316 - 1127 Atlantic Blvd, Atlantic Beach
American Legion Post 283 - 9459 Fort Caroline Rd, Jacksonville
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Return to Post 88 for Food & a Band - "ByeStanders"



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Let's journey back to 1898 by exploring the Coat of Arms' distinguishing features, which were meticulously crafted by its dedicated committee:

- An emblem that consisted of a sword, a universal symbol of war, and the helmet of Pallas Athena. Athena, a fully armed mythological goddess, is associated with the arts of war, and her helmet signifies wisdom and learning.
- The emblem is attached to a shield, bearing the arms of the United States, and on the shield's crest is a bald eagle, the national symbol.
- The eagle's claws hold 13 arrows representing the 13 original states and oak and olive branches, traditional symbols of peace.
- The eagle is grasping a scroll bearing the motto, "Duty, Honor, Country" and the words "West Point, MDCCCII [1802], USMA."



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Skip the trip: More military ID cardholders can now renew online

By Karen Jowers, from the Military Times

Most retirees and family members living within the United States are now eligible for online renewal of their Uniformed Services Identification card. Pictured here, the ID Card office at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. (Wesley Farnsworth/ Air Force)



About 1 million people with Uniformed Services Identification cards are now eligible to renew their ID cards online, rather than visiting an office in person.

Most USID cardholders — including military retirees, reservists, spouses and dependents of U.S. service members — can file their requests online and receive new IDs by mail, defense officials said Jan. 16. The move expands a pilot program that began in February 2023 to allow uniformed sponsors with a common access card to request online renewals of USID cards.

The IDs are used to enter Defense Department facilities and to access benefits like health care.

DOD issues about 4.5 million ID cards each year, about 2.5 million of which are USID cards. Of those, around 1 million USIDs are eligible for online renewal.

For now, online renewal is limited to those who live in the United States, but officials are working to expand it to non-U.S. addresses as well. People whose IDs have expired and those seeking their first ID card are also ineligible for online services.

Allowing more beneficiaries to renew their IDs online frees up the pass and ID offices for active duty military and civilian government employees who need to apply for or

renew a CAC, officials said.

To request an online renewal, the sponsor must be able to log into the ID Card Office Online as a CAC holder or have a DOD Self-Service Logon username and password. Make sure to read the instructions on how to set up a DS Logon account when creating a new profile. Sponsors will request the renewal by clicking the “Family ID Cards” tab on the ID Card Office Online landing page.

According to DOD, other requirements include:

The USID card being renewed must be active, not expired. Children are eligible for online USID renewal if they have an active USID card.

The sponsor and the cardholder must have email addresses listed in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS). You can check your data in DEERS to make sure it’s up to date.

The cardholder must have a photo saved in DEERS that was taken within the last 12 years.

The cardholder must have a current U.S. address in DEERS. Cards can’t be mailed to P.O. boxes.

Once the request is processed, a new card will be created and mailed to the card recipient at the address listed in DEERS. The sponsor and the cardholder will receive an email once the card is shipped, directing the sponsor to acknowledge when they’ve received the card. Once the sponsor acknowledges receipt, the new USID card will be activated and the old one will be deactivated.

The deactivated card should be returned to the government, to the nearest Real-Time Automated Personnel Identification System (RAPIDS) site, or mailed to: DMDC-DSC, Attn: USID Card Returns, 2102 E. 21st Street N, Wichita, KS 67214.

Cecil Field POW MIA Memorial, Inc.

The National POW/MIA Memorial & Museum is located on 26-acres in Northeast Florida at the former Naval Air Station Cecil Field, Master Jet Base (1941-1999) currently known as Cecil Commerce Center.

The original POW/MIA Memorial, located just south of the Chapel of the High-Speed Pass, was dedicated to those Naval Aviators stationed at NAS Cecil Field during Vietnam and Desert Shield/Storm eras. This area is often referred to as Heroes' Walk & Freedom Trees. The "Vietnam War Memorial" was originally dedicated on September 11, 1973 by the families and service members who wanted to ensure these brave men would never be FORGOTTEN. A pavilion with a stage area, a metal starburst display of aircraft, and a granite base seal of this former Master Jet Base were located at the end of the boulevard amongst the pines. This area was often used by the base for recognition services and ceremonies.

A driving force behind establishing the original memorial was Mary Hoff, wife of MIA Pilot LCDR Michael G. Hoff, still unaccounted for as of 2022. Mary was also instrumental in developing the POW/MIA flag, adopted by the National League of POW/MIA Families in early 1972 and now a Congressionally approved National Ensign. Besides the American flag, this is the only other flag authorized to fly over the White House and the only other flag that can fly on the same flag staff below the American flag.

Undoubtedly, this flag has become a vital symbol for POWs and MIAs, their families and friends and for our current and future armed forces. It assures our military that should they be captured or go missing, their nation will do all it can to bring them home.

The establishment of a National POW/MIA Memorial & Museum in Jacksonville will give visitors of all ages a fully planned indoor and outdoor complex to reflect, learn, do research, hear the stories, experience interactive displays and attend ongoing events

Phase 1 is progressing nicely as we continue to build the National POW/MIA Memorial & Museum. We would like to thank Bob Willen (Commander, USN, Retired) for the awesome drone shots taken of the National POW/MIA Memorial & Museum's Phase 1 progress. His photos show the most recent construction of the cul-de-sac, flagpole island and the overall layout of Phase 1.



The National Museum of the Marine Corps adds hundreds of artifacts to its collection annually. Most fall into traditional categories: medals, uniforms, weapons, flags, art, and other artifacts that document nearly 250 years of Marine Corps history. Occasionally, the Museum receives unusual items that illustrate the more colorful or unique Marine Corps stories. The Museum recently installed a new temporary exhibit titled “The Marine Corps Attic: Unusual Artifacts, Magnificent Stories” located on the second floor of the Mezzanine which displays artifacts representing the considerable diversity of the museum’s collection and documents the amazing stories of Marines.



One of the most unique artifacts featured in the exhibit is an Academy Award Oscar Plaque. This award was presented to the U.S. Marine Corps in 1944 by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for Best Documentary Short Subject, *With the Marines at Tarawa*. Directed by Louis Hayward, the film follows the three-day battle that took place on the atoll in November 1943. The full-color documentary begins with Marines learning of their participation in the invasion and ends with the capture of the island and the raising of the American flag. Lieutenant General Julian C. Smith accepted this Oscar on behalf of the Marine Corps at a ceremony held on 15 March 1945 at Grauman’s Chinese Theater in Los Angeles, California.

The Oscar is one of the few remaining original plaster awards known to exist. The wartime metal shortage meant that all Oscars produced between 1942 and 1944 were made of painted plaster. Recipients could exchange these Oscars for the traditional metal versions at the end of the war. The National Museum of the Marine Corps is fortunate to have both versions of the Oscar for *With the Marines at Tarawa*. You can see the traditional Oscar award for the film on display in the Museum’s World War II gallery.

[#USMC](#) [#Museum](#) [#History](#) [#USMCMuseum](#) [#Marines](#) [#SemperParatus](#)



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Saturday, April 20

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16th Annual Fun Run
April 6, 2024

SAVE THE DATE

Registration 8:30AM – 10:00AM at Post 88

Breakfast Sandwiches available - \$5.00

\$20.00 per Bike / \$10.00 per Bike Passenger

\$20.00 per Bus Rider / \$10.00 Bus Buddy

Kick Stands Up at 10:30AM

Ride Stops

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Return to Post 88 for Dinner & Band - “ByeStanders”

Proceeds to benefit Homeless Veterans



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We build, we fight: Seabees through History

Happy birthday to the team responsible for helping nearly every military project get off the ground! Of course, we're talking about the Seabees. The Seabees were established on March 5, 1942. So, each March 5, the Navy community gathers to celebrate these remarkable sailors. Love them or hate them, there's no denying the Navy Seabees are a unique and vital part of the military. But what exactly is a Seabee? And how did they form? Read on to find out!



What does A Seabee do?

The name "Seabee" comes from the initials "CB," which stands for Construction Battalion. Seabees are the construction force of the United States Navy. They are responsible for building and maintaining infrastructure in combat and peacetime operations. In other words, if something needs to be built or fixed, the Seabees do it.

Day in the Life of a Seabee

https://youtu.be/bNz_WCR78Qo

Few people know what they do or how difficult their job can be. The Seabees are the United States Navy Construction Battalions - they build stuff. But it is so much more than that. If you ask any Seabee, they will tell you this is one of the most challenging and rewarding things they have ever done.

Why It's Difficult

What makes being a Seabee so difficult? Well, they often deploy to remote, dangerous and sometimes even hostile locations. Their tasks include building things like roads, runways, bridges and living quarters, even under challenging circumstances. One of the most difficult aspects of being a Seabee is being away from home for long periods. Deployments can last a long time, which affects them and their families. It is not an easy lifestyle. That said, it's one that many Seabees wouldn't trade for anything else in the world. If you are thinking about becoming a Seabee, know that it is not going to be easy. It will be challenging, and there will be times when you want to give up. But, if you can stick it out, you will be part of something extraordinary.

A History of the Seabees in the American Military

The United States Navy's Construction Battalions have been a fixture in American military history for over 75 years. Seabees initially formed during World War II to free up troops for combat duty. The newly formed units started by taking on construction projects in the Pacific theater. Here's the request that was sent up the flagpole to create what we know today as the Seabees. Since then, they haven't stopped. Seabees have served in every major U.S.-involved conflict.

World War II: The Birth of the Seabees

The Seabees trace their origins back to World War II when the U.S. Navy realized it needed a dedicated

construction force to free up troops for combat duty. In March 1942, the first Construction Battalion (CB) was formed. By the end of the war, there were a total of 325,000 Seabees serving in 100 different CBs. These service members saw action in every theater of operation during World War II. However, their most notable deployments were to the Pacific island-hopping campaign against Japan.

Korea: The Forgotten War

The Seabees saw action again during the Korean War. They often worked alongside Army units to construct roads, airstrips, and bridges under enemy fire. Despite their vital role in supporting American troops, the Seabees have been largely forgotten by history. That might have something to do with the fact that their role is largely one of helping and not one of combat.

Vietnam: A New Generation

The Vietnam War was a new kind of conflict for America. It required a new generation of Seabees to meet the challenges of guerilla warfare and hostile jungle terrain. Among other things, they built floating restaurants and barges to support American troops stationed along Vietnam's extensive river network. They also constructed barriers to prevent Vietcong vehicles from using roads to transport supplies and troops. By the time the last Seabee left Vietnam in 1973, they had earned a reputation as some of America's most formidable and most resourceful soldiers.

Gulf War: Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm

The 1990s saw a new era of diplomacy and international cooperation. Still, it was also a time when America's military prowess was tested with Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm in response to Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait. As always, the Seabees supported American troops, helping build barracks and repair runways while enduring hostile conditions.

Operation Iraqi Freedom: The Return to Iraq

In 2003, America invaded Iraq a second time. Once again, the Seabees played a vital role in supporting American troops by constructing living quarters and forward operating bases throughout Iraq. And once again, they demonstrated their dedication to duty by carrying out their missions despite being targets of insurgent attacks.

For decades now, the United States Navy's Construction Battalions—better known as the Seabees—have been playing a vital role in supporting American troops during conflicts around the world. From their origins during World War II to their operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Seabees have always been there when America needed them most. So next time you see a member of this proud corps, be sure to thank them for their service!





U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs



VA S.A.V.E. Training

Supporting Our Veterans

What is VA S.A.V.E. Training?

VA S.A.V.E. Training will help you act with care and compassion if you encounter a Veteran who is in crisis or experiencing suicidal thoughts. The acronym S.A.V.E. helps you remember the important steps involved in suicide prevention:

- S** Signs of suicidal thinking should be recognized
- A** Ask the most important question of all —
"Are you thinking of killing yourself?"
- V** Validate the Veteran's experience
- E** Encourage treatment and Expedite getting help

**You can prevent Veteran suicide.
Start by learning the VA S.A.V.E. acronym.**

02/2021

Supporting our Veterans

You can support a Veteran through a crisis. Keep these tips in mind when talking with a Veteran who may be at risk for suicide:

- Remain calm
- Listen more than you speak
- Maintain eye contact
- Act with confidence
- Do not argue
- Use open body language
- Limit questions — Let the Veteran do the talking
- Use supportive, encouraging comments
- Be honest — There are no quick solutions, but help is available

Additional Resources

VA Mental Health Services: Get information about inpatient and outpatient services available through VA at www.mentalhealth.va.gov.

Online Resource Locator: Find VA facilities, Vet Centers, suicide prevention coordinators, and other VA resources at www.VeteransCrisisLine.net/ResourceLocator.

Make the Connection: Veterans and their loved ones can find out how to connect with VA resources at www.MakeTheConnection.net.

Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Program: Locate the VA PTSD program nearest you at www.ptsd.va.gov.



Confidential chat at
VeteransCrisisLine.net or text 838255

VA S.A.V.E. TRAINING: SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS

Signs of Suicidal Thinking

There are behaviors that may be signs a Veteran needs support. Learn to recognize these warning signs:

- Hopelessness, feeling like there is no way out
- Anxiety, agitation, sleeplessness, or mood swings
- Feeling like there is no reason to live
- Rage or anger
- Engaging in risky activities without thinking
- Increasing alcohol or drug use
- Withdrawing from family and friends

The presence of the following signs in a Veteran requires immediate attention:

- When asked, they express a desire to hurt or kill themselves
- When prompted, they reveal they are looking for ways to kill themselves
- They talk about death, dying, or suicide
- They begin to exhibit self-destructive behavior, such as increased drug or alcohol use, talking about acquiring/using weapons for self-harm, and stockpiling medication

Ask the Question

There are behaviors that may be signs a Veteran needs support. Know how to ask the most important question of all:

“Are you thinking of killing yourself?”

Other ways to ask the question include:

“Are you thinking of suicide?”

“Have you had thoughts about taking your own life?”

When asking the question, remember:

- **DO** ask the question if you’ve identified warning signs or symptoms
- **DO** ask the question in such a way that is natural and flows with the conversation
- **DO NOT** ask the question as though you are looking for a “no” answer (“You’re not thinking of killing yourself, are you?”)
- **DO NOT** wait to ask the question until he or she is halfway out the door

Validate the Veteran’s Experience

As you listen to the Veteran, ask him or her to do the talking and use supportive, encouraging comments. Use the following steps to let the Veteran know that you are listening and acknowledge his or her experience:

- Talk openly about suicide
 - Be willing to listen and allow the Veteran to express his or her feelings
- Recognize the situation is serious
- Do not pass judgement
- Reassure them that help is available

Encourage Treatment and Expedite Getting Help

If a Veteran is having suicidal thoughts, remain calm and reassure them that help is available:

- **DO NOT** keep the Veteran’s suicidal behavior a secret
- **DO NOT** leave him or her alone
- Try to get the person to seek immediate help from his or her doctor or the nearest hospital or emergency room, OR
- Call 911

You can also call the confidential Veterans Crisis Line at **1-800-273-8255 and Press 1.**

Safety is Important

Never negotiate with someone who has a gun. Get to safety and call 911. If the Veteran has taken pills, cut himself or herself, or has done harm to himself or herself in some way, call 911.



**HILLCREST BAPTIST CHURCH
PRESENTS**

VETS



FREEDOM FEST

PUTNAM COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

Vets Freedom Fest aims to honor military veterans by serving them a **FREE** barbeque dinner and bring information about opportunities for services and benefits to them.

FOR QUESTIONS, CALL:

LEE SCHUMACHER (386) 546-9126

APRIL 27, 2024

10AM - 4PM



#GreatestGeneration: "**Rosie the Riveter**" Phyllis Gould had just gotten married and had a baby when World War II began.

Wanting to be part of the war effort, she took a two-week class in welding, talked her sister into caring for her son, and sought work in the shipyard near her home in Richmond, CA. Although she was continually rejected, she persisted until eventually she and five other women were hired. Over time, she became a journeyman welder.

After the war, the country seemed to forget the six million women who had done this work. They received very little recognition, and Phyllis was determined to change that.

She helped spearhead the effort to create the Rosie the Riveter WWII Home Front National Historical Park in Richmond, which was established in 2000. Later, she worked with other Rosies to help create a national Rosie the Riveter Day, which is now held every year on March 21st. And before she died in 2021 at age 99, Phyllis helped design a Congressional Gold Medal for all Rosies. The Rosie the Riveter Congressional Gold Medal Presentation will take place next month in Washington DC.

#WomensHistoryMonth #RememberHonorUnderstand #GreatestGeneration #WWII
#WorldWarII #Rosie #RosietheRiveter





NOTE: This flyer is for information purposes only and should not be considered as a government endorsement for any of the following organizations. It is also recommended to create a separate email address for your search since you may be inundated with responses.



Scholarships/Grants for Service Members and Veterans

AAPA Veterans Caucus Scholarships	http://www.veteranseaucus.org/index.php/services/scholarships/available-scholarships
AMVETS Natl Scholarship for Veterans	http://www.amvets.org/programs/scholarships/
Chapter Scholarships - AFCEA	http://www.afcea.org/site/?q=foundation/scholarships/chapter-programs
DAV Auxiliary Natl Educ Scholarship	https://auxiliary.dav.org/membership/programs/
Dolphin Scholarship Foundation	http://www.dolphinscholarship.org/
Fort Meade Officers Spouse's Club Scholarships (members and dependents)	https://fortmeadeosc.wordpress.com/scholarships/
FRA Education Foundation Scholarship (Navy, Marine, Coast Guard)	http://www.fra.org/fra/Web/Events_and_Programs/Fra_Education_Foundation_Scholarships/Web/Content/FRA_Education_Foundation.aspx
Heroes Tribute Scholarship Program	https://www.mcsf.org/get-involved/invest-scholarships/heroes-tribute-scholarship/
Imagine America Military Award Program	http://www.imagine-america.org/grantsformilitary
Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant	https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/grants-scholarships/iraq-afghanistan-service
Leave No Veteran Behind	https://www.leavenoveteranbehind.org/retroactive-scholarship
MCA Chaplain Candidate Scholarship	http://mca-usa.org/scholarships/
Military Commanders Scholarship Fund	https://sms.scholarshipamerica.org/militarycommanders/
Military Order of the Purple Heart	https://www.purpleheart.org/military-order-of-the-purple-heart-scholarship-program/
Nat Board Cert Counselors Foundation Scholarships	http://www.nbccf.org/programs/scholarships
Navy Seal Foundation (NSW personnel)	https://www.navysealfoundation.org/what-we-do/educational-opportunities/#1471371189919-2e69ad32-8dda
Paralyzed Veterans of America	http://www.pva.org/find-support/membership/scholarship-program
Pat Tillman Education Scholarship	http://pattillmanfoundation.org/apply-to-be-a-scholar/
Purple Heart Foundation	https://purpleheartfoundation.org/services/scholarships-2/
ROTC Scholarship - AFCEA	https://www.afcea.org/site/?q=foundation/scholarships/rote-scholarships
Student Financial Aid Guide for Veterans	https://www.moneygeek.com/education/college/resources/financial-aid-guide-for-veterans/
Segal AmeriCorps Education Award	https://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/ameri-corps/segal-ameri-corps-education-award
Sons and Daughters Pearl Harbor Survivor Scholarship	http://www.sdphs.org/index.php/about/scholarships
Student Veterans of America	http://studentveterans.org/programs/scholarships
Troops to Teachers Program	http://www.proudtoserveagain.com/Participants/FinancialAssistance
VFW Help A Hero Scholarship	https://www.vfw.org/assistance/student-veterans-support
War Veterans Scholarship - AFCEA	http://www.afcea.org/site/?q=foundation/scholarships/war-veterans

Scholarships for Dependents (Spouses and Children)

American Legion Legacy Scholarship	https://www.legion.org/scholarships/legacy
AMVETS	http://www.amvets.org/programs/scholarships/
Children's Scholarship Fund (Elementary School)	http://www.scholarshipfund.org/apply/faq/

New payment amounts in January, after the 3.2% COLA increase.

Disability Compensation - Basic Rates 2024										3.20%
Dep Status	10%	20%	30%	40%	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%	100%
Veteran	\$171.23	\$338.50	\$524.32	\$755.28	\$1,075.16	\$1,361.88	\$1,716.28	\$1,995.01	\$2,241.91	\$3,737.85
V-SP	V=Veteran SP=Spouse C=Child		\$585.20	\$838.87	\$1,178.36	\$1,486.75	\$1,861.79	\$2,161.16	\$2,428.70	\$3,946.25
V-SP-1C			\$631.64	\$898.73	\$1,254.73	\$1,578.60	\$1,968.09	\$2,282.94	\$2,565.95	\$4,098.88
V-SP-2C			\$661.56	\$938.98	\$1,306.33	\$1,639.49	\$2,039.29	\$2,364.47	\$2,658.83	\$4,202.43
V-SP-3C			\$691.49	\$979.22	\$1,357.93	\$1,700.37	\$2,110.50	\$2,445.99	\$2,751.71	\$4,305.98
V-SP-4C			\$721.42	\$1,019.47	\$1,409.53	\$1,761.26	\$2,181.71	\$2,527.52	\$2,844.59	\$4,409.53
Additional Child			\$29.93	\$40.25	\$51.60	\$60.89	\$71.21	\$81.53	\$92.88	\$103.55
18 y/o School Child			\$99.07	\$133.13	\$166.15	\$199.18	\$233.23	\$266.26	\$300.31	\$334.49
A/A Spouse			\$56.76	\$75.34	\$95.98	\$113.52	\$133.13	\$151.70	\$171.31	\$190.92
V-1C			\$565.59	\$811.01	\$1,145.33	\$1,445.47	\$1,821.54	\$2,105.43	\$2,366.78	\$3,877.21
V-2C			\$595.52	\$851.26	\$1,196.93	\$1,506.36	\$1,892.75	\$2,186.96	\$2,459.66	\$3,980.76
V-3C			\$625.44	\$891.50	\$1,248.53	\$1,567.25	\$1,963.96		\$2,552.54	\$4,084.32
V-4C			\$655.37	\$931.75	\$1,300.13	\$1,628.13	\$2,035.17	\$2,350.02	\$2,645.42	\$4,187.87
Auto Allow	\$25,603.02		Dependent Indemnity Comp (DIC)	Single	\$1,612.75	Special Monthly Comp (SMC)-Added to current comp	SMC-K	ED/FSAD/ETC.	\$132.74	
Clothing Allow	\$968.52			Spouse 1 Child	\$2,012.28		SMC-L	LOU/A&A	\$913.21	
Medal of Honor	\$1,619.34			Spouse 2 child	\$2,411.81		SMC-M		\$1,395.07	
Burial S/C	\$2,000	At VAMC		Spouse A & A	\$2,012.27		SMC-N		\$2,101.23	
Burial Non S/C	\$300	c---796		Spouse HB	\$1,799.91		SMC-O		\$2,788.79	
Plot Allowance	\$893			Married 8 yrs	Add \$341.76		SMC-R1		\$5,588.22	
							SMC-R2/T		\$6,959.38	
							SMC-S	Housebound	\$446.00	
Chapter 35	Monthly									
Full Time	\$1,488									
3/4 Time	\$1,176									
1/2 Time	\$862									
1/4 Time	\$372									
Based on 3.2% COLA (Cost of Living Allowance) Will be reflected on the Dec 29, 2023 pay										
NOTE: You may also multiply your current VA pay by 1.032 to get the new rates.										
PENSION										
Your income must be less than:	Pension	\$16,476	Income Limits Survivor's Pension	Surviving Sp	\$10,876					
	Pension Dep	\$16,077		Surviving Dep	\$14,234					
	HouseBound	\$20,133		HouseB	\$13,292					
	HouseB Dep	\$25,234		HouseB Dep	\$16,644					
	A/A No Dep	\$27,482		A/A No Dep	\$17,382					
	A/A Dep	\$32,581		A/A Dep	\$20,737					
* Both	HouseBound	\$28,890								
* 1 A & A	1 HouseBd	\$36,230								
* Both	A & A	\$43,593								
										* Two Married Veterans



Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation provides college scholarships and educational counseling to military children, from all branches, who lost a parent in the line of duty.

We cover all college-related costs and there is a big need for our services as the VA does not cover the full cost of college. There is a \$25,000 average gap to cover one student for four years and we need your help.



**Scan here to support
the children of those
who made the
ultimate sacrifice.**

To mail a contribution, please send checks to:

Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation
ATTN: Courtney Nyren
1818 Library Street, Suite 500
Reston, VA 20190

FALLENPATRIOTS.ORG

Thank you for your support of our mission. CFC #69859



CFP is among top <1% of charities to receive a 100% rating in 2022



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of Brevard**

Present:

Florida's 36th Annual All Veterans Reunion

One Of The Nation's Largest Veterans Reunion
PUBLIC INVITED TO ATTEND

May 9th – 12th, 2024

The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall on display **May 5th – May 12th, 2024**

LIVE MUSIC
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MILITARY DISPLAYS



THE SOME GAVE ALL MOVING TRIBUTE

Wall Escort Sunday May 5th, 2024 Leaves at 10am
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Reunion Web Page at:

floridaveteransreunion.com

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No Coolers, Glass or Pets allowed
in the Reunion Area

Per Wickham Park: Golf Carts Permitted
For the Handicapped Only And Must
Abide By FL Highway Laws

Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall
<http://travelingwall.us>



Call For Info

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321-652-4185

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

Assisted Living Facility #12928



Tax Tips for Survivors

September 2023

The Primary Next of Kin is responsible for the deceased Sailor's last tax return. Know your rights and benefits as a Surviving taxpayer.

What is my tax filing status as a Survivor?

YEAR 1	If you were married at the time your spouse died, you may still file a joint return for the year of your service member's death. This gets you the best tax rate (and the largest standard deduction, if you do not itemize). Survivors filing a joint return may claim the full exemption amount for the decedent regardless of the date during the year when the death occurred.
YEARS 2-3	If you have one or more children, you may file as a "qualifying widow or widower" for the next two tax years, so long as you do not remarry. This status lets you use joint-return tax rates.
YEAR 4	Starting in year four, if you have dependent children, you may file your tax return as a "head-of-household." Tax rates are less favorable than those for joint returns but better than the rates for single taxpayers.

Which of my benefits are taxable?

TAXABLE	Salary income (including the "pay" portion of an unpaid compensation claim).	Life insurance benefits (including Servicemembers Group Life Insurance (SGLI)).	TAX EXEMPT
	Income from Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) payments.	Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) payments.	
	Social Security Survivor benefits (up to 85%).	Death Gratuity.	

When will I get my service member's W-2?

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) issues a W-2 for deceased service members who had income during the tax year. The W-2 will be sent to the address on record for the service member after January 1 of the year following the member's death.



How do I replace a lost W-2?

If the address on record is incorrect and the W-2 cannot be delivered, or if the document is lost, you can request a reprint by calling DFAS (Cleveland) at 1-888-332-7471. Phone tree prompts are 4, 2, 4, then select the branch of service, then 1 and 1.

Are there any special tax provisions for Survivors?



Yes. In certain cases, widows and widowers get a tax break on individual retirement accounts (IRAs) inherited from a spouse and on proceeds from the sale of a home.

If the service member died as a result of active service in a combat zone (according to the definitions provided in the benefit laws), the member's Federal income tax liability may be forgiven. Any taxes paid for the year of death will be refunded, and any tax liability at the date of death will be forgiven.



What about state taxes?

Don't overlook the possibility that your state may offer its own tax benefits. See, for example, <https://marylandtaxes.gov/individual/estate-inheritance/>.

Most states also have income tax forgiveness policies in place for veterans who serve in combat zones; check with your state's revenue department to find out if you qualify.

Parents of an unmarried deceased service member must file a tax return on behalf of their child for the year of the death. See <https://www.irs.gov/publications/p559> or consult a tax professional.

www.NavyGoldStar.com | www.facebook.com/NavyGoldStar | 1-888-509-8759



Explore VA benefits and health care, <https://www.va.gov>

Health care

Apply for VA health care, find out how to access services, and manage your health and benefits online.



Disability

File a claim for disability compensation for conditions related to your military service, and manage your benefits over time.

Education and training

Apply for and manage your GI Bill and other education benefits to help pay for college and training programs.

Careers and employment

Apply for vocational rehabilitation services, get support for your Veteran-owned small business, and access other career resources.

Pension

Apply for monthly payments for wartime Veterans and survivors with limited or no income who meet certain age and disability requirements.

Housing assistance

Find out if you're eligible for a VA-backed home loan. If you have a service-connected disability, see if you qualify for a housing grant to help you live more independently.

Life insurance

Explore VA life insurance options for Veterans, service members, and families. Manage your policy online, file claims for benefits, and access helpful resources.

Burials and memorials

Get help planning a burial in a VA national cemetery, order a headstone or other memorial item to honor a Veteran's service, and apply for survivor and dependent benefits.

Records

Apply for a printed Veteran ID card, get your VA benefit letters and medical records, and learn how to apply for a discharge upgrade.

Service member benefits

Find out what benefits you may be eligible for during service and which time-sensitive benefits to consider when separating or retiring.

Family member benefits

Learn about the benefits you may qualify for as a spouse, dependent, or survivor. And find out what you're eligible for as a family member caring for a Veteran with disabilities.

VA department information

Learn more about the VA departments that manage our benefit and health care

From the St. Johns County Parks & Recreation Dept.

Do you know a Military Veteran with a *Blank Space* on their calendar? Check out our upcoming Veteran Programs (SJC Parks and Recreation's Version).

Veteran Fishing: Don't be overwhelmed by fishing regulations, *Shake It Off* and learn all about Keeping It Legal in September. Then join us to explore the *Wonderland* of Surf Fishing in October!

Veteran Art: Discover your artistic *Style* and try out a different art medium every month. Upcoming programs include Print Making and Pumpkin Painting!

Veteran Kayaking: *I Know Places* for some great wildlife viewing in and *Out Of The Woods* around Hallows Cove and in Deep Creek this fall.

All You Had To Do Was Stay until the end of this post and you'd find the link for more information and program registration here: <https://bit.ly/46HMhEt>





VOLUSIA VALOR DAYS

A WEEKEND HONORING OUR NATION'S HEROES

**MAY 4 - 5, 2024
VOLUSIA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
DELAND, FL**

**AN IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE OF WWII TANK & ARTILLERY
DEMONSTRATIONS, WWII HISTORIC BATTLE
REENACTMENTS, LIVING HISTORY CAMPS & DISPLAYS,
AND MEMORABLE DISPLAYS OF FIRST RESPONDER
VEHICLES AND MILITARY VEHICLES OF ALL ERAS.**

FREE EVENT



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WW2ARMOR.ORG

HOW DISABILITY RATINGS WORK

SERVICE CONNECTED PERCENTAGE	DESCRIPTION
0%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 point Veteran preference in federal hiring *Compensable & Non-Compensable* No cost health care and prescription drugs for service connected disabilities (if income limits are met) *Compensable & Non-Compensable* Travel allowance for scheduled appointments for care at a VA medical facility or VA authorized health care facility *Compensable & Non-Compensable* Commissary and Exchange Privileges *Compensable & Non-Compensable* Use of commissaries, exchanges, and morale, welfare and recreation (MWR) retail facilities, in-person and online. *Compensable & Non-Compensable* Waiver of VA funding fee for VA home loan *Compensable* Burial and plot allowance *Compensable*
10%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No cost health care and prescription medications for service connected disabilities Travel allowance for scheduled appointments for care at a VA medical facility or VA authorized health care facility Waiver of VA funding fee for home loan 10 point Veteran preference in federal hiring Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment (with a serious employment handicap) Burial and plot allowance Commissary and Exchange Privileges Use of commissaries, exchanges, and morale, welfare and recreation (MWR) retail facilities, in-person and online.
20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No cost health care and prescription medications for service connected disabilities Travel allowance for scheduled appointments for care at a VA medical facility or VA authorized health care facility Waiver of VA funding fee for home loan 10 point Veteran preference in federal hiring Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment Burial and plot allowance Commissary and Exchange Privileges Use of commissaries, exchanges, and morale, welfare and recreation (MWR) retail facilities, in-person and online.
30-40%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No cost health care and prescription medications for service connected disabilities Travel allowance for scheduled appointments for care at a VA medical facility or VA authorized health care facility Waiver of VA funding fee for home loan 10 point Veteran preference in federal hiring - Direct hire authority Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment Additional compensation for eligible dependents (may include aid and attendance for eligible spouse) Burial and plot allowance Commissary and Exchange Privileges Use of commissaries, exchanges, and morale, welfare and recreation (MWR) retail facilities, in-person and online.
50%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No cost health care and prescription medications Travel allowance for scheduled appointments for care at a VA medical facility or VA authorized health care facility Waiver of VA funding fee for home loan 10 point Veteran preference in federal hiring - Direct hire authority Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment Additional compensation for eligible dependents (may include aid and attendance for eligible spouses) Concurrent receipt of military retired pay Burial and plot allowance Commissary and Exchange Privileges Use of commissaries, exchanges, and morale, welfare and recreation (MWR) retail facilities, in-person and online.
60-90%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No cost health care and prescription medications Travel allowance for scheduled appointments for care at a VA medical facility or VA authorized health care facility Waiver of VA funding fee for home loan 10 point Veteran preference in federal hiring - Direct hire authority Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment Additional compensation for eligible dependents (may include aid and attendance for eligible spouses) Concurrent receipt of military retired pay Individual Unemployability (must be unemployable due to service connected disabilities) - Dependents Educational Assistance (unemployable condition must be considered permanent) : Special restorative training, CHAMPVA-Civilian Health and Medical Program (unemployable condition must be considered permanent), Dental care (if rated unemployable) Burial and plot allowance Commissary and Exchange Privileges Use of commissaries, exchanges, and morale, welfare and recreation (MWR) retail facilities, in-person and online.
100%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No cost health care and prescription medications Travel allowance for scheduled appointments for care at a VA medical facility or VA authorized health care facility No cost dental care Waiver of VA funding fee for home loan 10 point Veteran preference in federal hiring - Direct hire authority Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment Additional compensation for eligible dependents (may include aid and attendance for eligible spouses) Concurrent receipt of military retired pay Dependents Education Assistance (must be considered permanent) - Special restorative training CHAMPVA-Civilian Health and Medical Program (must be considered permanent) Burial and plot allowance Uniformed Services ID card
100% with an additional separate 60%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statutory Housebound Commissary and Exchange Privileges Use of commissaries, exchanges, and morale, welfare and recreation (MWR) retail facilities, in-person and online.

This matrix is the creation of former and current members of the Veterans Benefits Administration Web Communications Office.
 VA Derivative Benefits Eligibility Service-Connected Matrix: https://benefits.va.gov/benefits/derivative_sc.asp





Stories of Service

St. Johns County Veterans Oral History Project



Stories of Service is an oral history project focused on the veterans of St. Johns County. The goal of this project was to collect, document, and preserve the memories of local veterans for future generations.

Materials collected by the Society for this project have allowed for the creation of two exhibits, one physical at the Oldest House Museum Complex at 14 St. Francis Street on display until January, one digital, accessible below and through our main website under the LEARN tab.

Items on display in both the digital and physical exhibits tell the stories of our local veterans, placing them proudly within the long and storied histories of St. Augustine and St. Johns County.

A sincere thanks to them all.



View the Digital Exhibit:

<https://sahsstoriesofservice.omeka.net/>



Main: 904-824-2872

Research Library: 904-825-2333

271 Charlotte Street, St. Augustine, FL 32084

Research Library located at 6 Artillery Lane, St. Augustine FL 32084



MARINE FOR LIFE NETWORK

MARINE FOR LIFE NETWORK

Connecting transitioning Marines and their family members to education resources, employment opportunities, and other Veterans services that aid in their career and life goals outside of military service.

ONCE A MARINE,
ALWAYS A MARINE!

Marine for Life Network can guide your search for:



Career & Technical
Opportunities



Educational
Opportunities



Entrepreneurial
Endeavors

NETWORKING IS KEY

Linked in



Our online network utilizes LinkedIn to help Marines network with one another and connect with employers who want to hire Marines.

Face to Face Network



We focus on connecting Marine Veterans to local and national resources, as well as encouraging networking through Marine For Life events and meet ups.



[company/marine-for-life-network](https://company.marine-for-life-network)



marineforlife.org



866-645-8762



[/MarineForLifeNetwork](https://facebook.com/MarineForLifeNetwork)



CATHOLIC
CHARITIES

www.ccbjax.org

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

In an effort to assist children and families of Anchor Academy Elementary School and the Mayport Area, We are partnering with Feeding Northeast Florida and Humana Military to provide fresh produce, protein, and pantry staples.

This is a touchless, drive-through food giveaway. Please follow typical school pickup line procedures and remain in your car with windows up.

You will pop your trunk for volunteers to place the food inside.

**Every 4th Saturday of the month
Starts at 9:00 a.m.**

555 Wonderwood Dr.
Jacksonville, FL, 32233



dcps.duvalschools.org/anchoracademy

FEEDING
NORTHEAST
FLORIDA

www.feedingnefl.org

Humana
Military

www.humanamilitary.com

LIVE ASSISTANCE
General information, directory assistance and technical support for VA.gov

VA HEALTH CARE
Eligibility, enrollment, locations and COVID-19

COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE
MISSION Act eligibility, copayments

NATIONAL CEMETERIES
Burial benefits, interment scheduling and headstone/Veteran marker

VETERANS CRISIS LINE
Immediate connection to caring, qualified responders



DEBT MANAGEMENT
Debt details, payment options and debtor rights

FACILITY LOCATOR
Locations of medical centers, benefits offices or cemeteries

BENEFITS ASSISTANCE
Information about a variety of VA benefits

HOMELESS VETERANS LINE
Information and support for homeless and at-risk callers

COVID-19 INFORMATION
Frequently asked questions and live assistance for COVID-related questions

VETERANS CRISIS LINE 988

As of July 16, 2022 the United States transitioned to using the three digit dialing code of 988 press 1 in addition to the existing Veterans Crisis Line of 1-800-273-8255 press 1

FACTS ABOUT 988

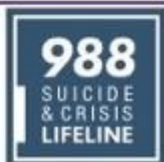
ACCESSIBLE - It serves as a universal entry point so that no matter where you live, you can reach a trained crisis counselor who can help people in suicidal crisis or mental health-related distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, across the U.S.

COMPREHENSIVE - 988 is a direct connection to compassionate care and support for anyone experiencing mental health related distress whether that is thoughts of suicide mental health or substance use crisis or any other kind of emotional distress

FOR EVERYONE - People can also dial 988 if they are worried about a loved one or someone who may need crisis support



Call **988**, press 1 for Free, Confidential, 24/7
Mental Health Support



VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
North Florida / South Georgia Veterans Health System

71822, 1/2023

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS VETERAN HOMEOWNERS SAINT JOHNS COUNTY

FREE HOME REHAB

We believe everyone deserves to live in a healthy home. At Operation Lifeline Inc., we feel particularly indebted to those who served in the Armed Forces and have committed to helping as many struggling veterans as possible. Our program provides home rehabilitation services at no charge to eligible veterans to address accessibility and HUD's Eight Healthy Homes Principles.

QUALIFICATIONS

Participant Eligibility:

- Verifiable veteran status
- Gross income below 80% of the area's median income
- Occupy the property as a principal residence and have proof of ownership
- Be in compliance with any existing mortgage on the property
- Be current with utility accounts and property taxes

Property Eligibility:

- Must be a single-family residence
- Must be the applicant's homestead
- Applicant must own the property by fee simple title
- Must be free of any encumbrances other than a first mortgage
- Located within the unincorporated portion of Saint Johns County or the City of Saint Augustine Beach

* Please review full eligibility criteria on our website *

CONTACT US TODAY

*Funding is Limited and Restricted
to Saint Johns County Homes*

Please visit our website to fill
out an application

WWW.OPLIFELINE.ORG



RESERVE COMPONENT TRANSITION ASSISTANCE ADVISORS



Are you a member of a Reserve Component? Have you served 180 or more consecutive days on Title 10? Do you have a service-related injury or health care issue? Perhaps you're about to retire from service and need someone to show you how to get back into the swing of civilian life. Getting to know your Reserve Component Transition Assistance Advisor (RCTAA) means you'll have reliable, professional support when you need it.

I am here to help with the following benefits:

- State and Local Benefits
- VA Assistance for Physical and Mental Health
- Disabled Veterans Program Assistance
- Education and Training Assistance
- Employment Assistance
- Health and Life Insurance
- Financial Assistance
- Legal Assistance
- Relocation Assistance
- Effects of a Career Change

Since 2005, RCTAAs have assisted Reserve Component service members with 180 days or more T-10 AD service obtain their federal benefits and entitlements. You could save an average of:

- Employment Counseling (\$75/hour)
- Health Insurance (\$1430/Service Member)
- Legal Assistance (\$255/hour)
- VHA DAV Benefit Received (\$15,034/Service Member)
- VA Benefit Received (\$5786/Service Member)
- Education Benefits Received (\$15,285/Service Member)

Average benefit per eligible Reserve Component service member across all benefits areas=\$11,970.

If you or someone you know needs assistance with federal benefits and entitlements, don't hesitate to contact me. You can either scan this QR code and fill out the attached form or contact me directly using the information below.



Thank you for serving, now let me serve you.

According to the National Defense Authorization Act 2013, [Reserve Component] transition assistance advisors "serve as points of contact to assist eligible members of the reserve components in accessing benefits and health care furnished under laws administered by the Secretary of Defense and benefits and health care furnished under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs" (Sec. 513).



David "Dave" Kennett

Reserve Component
Transition Assistance Advisor
Federal Contractor
202-987-3864
DKennett@gapsi.com

DIRECTION | BENEFITS | COMPASSION



VA SURVIVOR BENEFITS & THE PACT ACT

ESGR4U

You may be eligible for VA benefits and services after your loved one has passed.



The PACT Act makes it easier for many survivors to receive Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC).

VA will be contacting survivors who were previously denied DIC benefits and may be newly eligible under the PACT Act. You do not need to wait for VA to contact you to submit a claim.

How to Apply for DIC and/or Accrued Benefits

Surviving family members may apply for these benefits using the appropriate VA form on va.gov/family-member-benefits.



Dependency and Indemnity Compensation

Monthly payment for the eligible surviving spouse, dependent children or parent(s) of the Veteran or service member IF Veteran or service member died in the line of duty or due to a service-related injury or illness.



Accrued Benefits

A one-time payment to a surviving spouse, dependent child(ren) or dependent parent(s) of a deceased Veteran based on relationship when the record shows additional benefits (such as VA compensation or pension) due to the Veteran prior to passing.

Additional Survivor Benefits Available:



Burials and Burial Allowance

Burial benefits available include a gravesite in any of our National cemeteries with available space, opening and closing of the grave, perpetual care, a government headstone, marker, or medallion, a burial flag, and a Presidential Memorial Certificate, at no cost. Some survivors may also be eligible for a plot allowance, transportation allowance, and burial allowances based on the service connected disability status of the deceased Veteran.



Education and Training

Chapter 35 benefits and Fry Scholarship are the two main GI Bill programs offering educational assistance to survivors and dependents of Veterans who died in the line of duty or as a result of service-related disabilities.



Final Monthly Payment

If a Veteran who is receiving VA compensation or pension benefits passes away, their last month of benefits can be paid to their surviving spouse.



Home Loan Guaranty

Certificate of Eligibility is available for surviving spouses receiving DIC.



Health Care

Survivors and dependents of Veterans may qualify for health care benefits, such as CHAMPVA.

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Learn more and sign up at [VA.gov/PACT](https://va.gov/PACT)
Download the [VA Health and Benefits App](#)
Call us at 1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411)
Find a VA at [VA.gov/find-locations/](https://va.gov/find-locations/)

Surviving Spouse Milestones

Not all milestones apply to every person situation

One Year Mark:

- Moving out of quarters (if applicable)
- Storage at government expense expires
- Apply for Home of Selection (HOS) extension
- HEART Act (one year from date SGLI/DG received)

Two Year Mark:

- Loss of Spouse's VA Transitional DIC Benefits (\$250 per family per month)

only applies to spouse with one or more minor children in household

- Apply for Home of Selection (HOS) extension

Three Year Mark:

- TRICARE Healthcare and Dental benefits transitions to retiree rate for spouse
- Home of Selection (HOS) entitlement expires

Spouse Turns 52:

- If disabled, can remain and retain SSA Survivor Benefits

Spouse Turns 55:

- Can remarry and not lose SBP eligibility

Spouse Turns 57:

- Can remarry not lose DIC eligibility

Spouse Turns 60:

- Can remarry and retain SSA Survivor Benefits

Surviving Youth Milestones

Not all milestones apply to every person situation

Child Turns 16:

- Elimination of SSA entitlement for adult receiving Child in Care benefits

Child Turns 18:

- College - Fry Scholarship *Line of Duty Cases only*
- College - Dependence Education Assistance
- *VA Service Connected Death*
- Loss of annuities (SSA, DIC, SBP) unless enrolled in school full time. SSA depends on age when graduating High School
- Loss of annual benefit report
- If DG/SGLI beneficiary - If not already received

Child Turns 21:

- Loss of DFFRS/TRICARE unless enrolled in school full time
- Enrollment in TRICARE Young Adult

Child Turns 22:

- Loss of Child-Only SBP regardless of school enrollment

Child Turns 23:

- Loss of DFFRS/TRICARE transitional Survivor unless incapacitated
- Enrollment in TRICARE Young Adult

Child Turns 26:

- Loss of TRICARE Young Adult

Child Turns 33:

- Loss of Fry Scholarship eligibility

FLORIDA SURVIVOR OUTREACH SERVICES AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY



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.



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



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	Albert White	
1048	Bob Adkins	adk123robert@outlook.com
1059	Dave Treffinger	dtreffinger433@msn.com
1084	Bill Jefferson	bill_jefferson@comcast.net
1088	Roy (Corky) Rudd	corkstopper50@yahoo.com; Nassau
1092	Forest Hope	foresthope@usa.net; Gainesville
1134	Marvin Lagle	mdlagle@gmail.com; Baker



REMEMBER WHAT OUR MEDAL STANDS FOR:

- RED:** REPRESENTS THE THREE ANCIENT VIETNAMESE EMPIRES OF TONKIN, ANNAM AND COCHIN.
- YELLOW:** THE IMPERIAL COLOR OF VIET NAM.
- GREEN:** SURROUNDED BY EXPANSIVE JUNGLE.
- TED PIECKO, The NAM.

Veterans Council of Clay County:

President: Ansil Lewis

Meeting day is the same, first Wednesday of the month, but the location is changed to Clay County Administration Building, 1st floor conference room, 477 Houston St., Green Cove Springs, FL 32043. Meeting start at 11 a.m.

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-000314706401



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 (8255)
suicidepreventionlifeline.org

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

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

Confidential chat at MilitaryCrisisLine.net or text 838255



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



FLORIDA VETERANS LEGAL HELPLINE



Jacksonville Area Legal Aid
St. Johns County Legal Aid
Clay County Legal Aid

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:



Become a Watch Stander with The Fire Watch

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

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 Coun-
ty 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, VSO
Travis Neidig, Assistant VSO
Angela McKenzie, Assistant VSO
Lori Chapman, Assistant VSO
Anna Marie Scott, Office Specialist*

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