



# The Patriot Reader Newsletter

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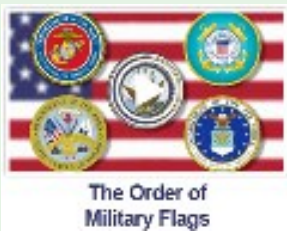
Volume 15, Issue 4

From Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley

April 2025

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Fellow Veterans,

The Memorial Day committee has held their first meeting to plan this year's ceremony. MOAA-ACC and the Veterans Council have another exciting program planned to honor our men and women who served our country and gave their all to this nation. The program will be held at St. Augustine National Cemetery on May 26, 2025 at 10 AM. On Friday, May 23, 2025 at 10 AM flags will be placed on each gravesite. Volunteers are needed to assist in placing the flags on that day and to help remove the flags the following Tues. Our speaker this year is Gen. Craig McKinley, USAF, ret. Gen. McKinley served 38 years in the Air Force

and retired as a four- star General. His last assignment before retirement was Chief of the National Guard Bureau in Washington, D.C. We are very fortunate to have Gen. McKinley as this year's speaker.

At a recent St. Augustine Chapter meeting of the Sons of the American Revolution, I was honored to be presented with the National Bronze Good Citizenship Award. I had been invited as the speaker for the meeting and was surprised after my remarks to be presented the award by the SAR Chapter President, Mr. Bob Amason and Past President Jerry Hanchett. It was an honor to receive this award from such a patriotic and prestigious organization as the Sons of the American Revolution. This organization of true American Pa-



triot does so much good in our community.

Our flag poles are finally in place at Veterans Village and we are running electrical power to the area for lighting for the flags at night. As soon as this has been completed, we will conduct a flag raising ceremony with the local VFW Post Honor Guard conducting the ceremony.

Thank you for your service.

Bill Dudley, Chairman  
Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc

**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**

#### **April 24**

**Matt Mildorf, Outreach Recruiting Mgr, Warrior Scholar  
Ron Howard, the National Pathfinders Assoc. Mission**

#### **May 29**

**Rich Possert, Operation New Uniform  
James Smith, Holly Powers, St. Augustine Lighthouse**

#### **June 26**

**Maggie Beckerman, VP/Trainer, K9Line, Inc.  
Kelly McDavid, Haven Hospice**

#### **July 31**

**Liz Tissicino: Regional Service to the Armed Forces and International  
Services Director, American Red Cross of North Florida**

#### **August 28**

**Dr. Michael Butler, Prof. Flagler College, Vietnam Historian**

#### **September 25**

**Eddie Creamer, SJC Property Appraiser  
Jerry Domask, Vietnam veteran speaks about Ted Gostas, POW**

#### **October 30**

**Jill Lancaster, Guitars for Vets**

CITATION  
TO  
ACCOMPANY  
AWARD OF THE  
SAR BRONZE GOOD CITIZENSHIP MEDAL  
TO  
LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM E. DUDLEY, USAF (Retired)  
SAINT AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA

Lieutenant Colonel William E. Dudley, USAF (Ret.), has demonstrated extraordinary leadership and unwavering dedication to serving Veterans and his community. As National Director of the U.S. Navy League, President of the Veterans Council of St. Johns County, and an advisor to numerous St Johns County veteran-focused organizations, his impact over two decades has been continuous and profound. His efforts have secured essential resources, including transportation for Disabled American Veterans, improved accessibility at county facilities, and mentorship programs for youth through JROTC, Sea Cadets, and the Young Marines. A visionary advocate, Bill Dudley played a pivotal role in establishing the Veterans Treatment Court for St. Johns County, offering struggling Veterans an alternative path to recovery. Most recently, his leadership in developing Veterans housing initiatives, including the Veterans Village on Anastasia Island, has provided critical support to those who served. In recognition of his selfless service and enduring contributions to the welfare of Veterans and the greater St. Johns County community, Lt Col William E. "Bill" Dudley is awarded the SAR Good Citizenship Medal for his exemplary leadership, dedication, and patriotism.



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

**FEBRUARY 27, 2025**



**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Dudley

**WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS:** Chairman Dudley

**PLEDGE:** Chairman Dudley

**INVOCATION:** Chaplain Jefferson

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW GUESTS:** New attendees introduced themselves and who they represent.

**MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:** Minutes of last meeting conducted January 30, 2025, were presented by Chairman Dudley. Copies of the Minutes 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 January and February's Treasurer's Reports to the Council. The Council's December balance was \$178,581.56. As of January 29, 2025, the Council's total liquid cash balance was \$165,642.41. Treasurer Mountcastle went over the Treasurer's Report including all incoming funds and expenses going out. The floor was open for any questions. The Treasurer's Report was approved by voice vote with no changes.

**SPEAKERS:**

**RICK McALLISTER, VIETNAM TUNNEL RATS**

Mr. McAllister presented a slide show presentation on Vietnam Tunnel Rats. Mr. McAllister gave the history of the tunnels of Vietnam as far back as the 1800's. He gave a background on why the tunnel complexes were created and their existence during the Vietnam War. The Tunnel Rats for the US Forces, for the majority, were Combat Engineers. Mr. McAllister spoke of his experience as a Tunnel Rat while serving in Vietnam. He discussed what he went through with his duties of going down in the tunnels and what he encountered.

The floor was open for questions.

## **VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE, MAC MCDERMOTT**

Mr. McDermott spoke of selecting a new Service Officer, a Navy Veteran, and he appears that he is going to fit into the St. Johns County Veterans Service Office very well. The training course for newly hired Service Officers is now offered online and hopefully his certification will happen sooner than in the past. The annual training/re-certification for all Service Officers will take place May 4th – 8th. Mr. McDermott also talked about Jonathon Rios, the latest hired Service Officer who is coming off his 6-month probationary period and is doing very well.

Mr. McDermott also spoke of the Veterans that are having concerns over benefits being taken away, or reduced, with the new Administration in Washington DC. He assured the audience, through the Secretary of the VA, that no benefits are going to be reduced or taken away at this time.

The floor was open for questions.

## **VETERANS TREATMENT COURT, JOHN LESLIE**

Mr. Leslie introduced himself and gave the history of and what the Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) does for our Veterans in the legal system. The VTC is now in its ninth year. There will be two new graduates at the February 28th Treatment Court hearing, everyone is invited to attend. Mr. Leslie gave an update on the VTC and the number of participants the VTC has helped through the legal system process, there are currently 41 Veterans inflow. There are currently fifteen mentors, but the VTC is always looking for additional volunteers to become mentors.

The floor was open for questions regarding the VTC.

## **UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS**

Chairman Dudley gave an update on the Veterans Village and things are going well. Some of the contract repairs are beginning. All the Military Service flags are now in place and attached to the building. All permits have been approved for the flag poles and those should be going in soon. There is currently 75% occupancy at Veterans Village and other rooms are being repaired. There are already approved Veterans on a waiting list for those rooms when repairs are complete.

The SR16 facility is coming along very nicely and hopefully by early April there will be a grand opening at the complex.

Chairman Dudley spoke of the current spending of the Veterans Council funds and the quick drawdown of the money. There have been many requests for assistance since before Christmas. Many Veterans need help, and several other organizations are recommending Veterans contact the Veterans Council for assistance. We help as much as we can, but unless more funding becomes available, we may have to limit our assistance also. Chairman Dudley is working with others, such as the AMP, to locally help continue raising the needed funds.

Chairman Dudley spoke of the upcoming 50th Anniversary Remembrance of the ending of the Vietnam War on March 29, 2025. He encourages all to attend the local celebrations that will be held.

Chairman Dudley had the Jacksonville National Cemetery Support Committee down to St. Augustine for a tour of our local National Cemetery. A historical tour was given to them. The purpose of having them come down was to show them the issues we are experiencing with the dire need for repair for several of the areas throughout the St. Augustine National Cemetery. Numerous letters have been written requesting support and hopefully having them visit will help in acquiring support for the repairs needed.

The floor was open for questions and new business.

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

William Dudley, Chairman

**Board members, Friends and Volunteers**

**Periodically we update our “Talking Points” which is a general overview of the National POW -MIA Memorial and Museum project. The latest info can be found on our website, but thought I would personally share this update with you all who have provided such supportive interest and efforts for this important endeavor. Thank you all, and as always, any comments or specifics you think should be included or updated in our Talking Points, are welcome.**



## **TALKING POINTS FOR NATIONAL POW/MIA MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM**

### **“PROJECT MISSION:**

**To honor all former Prisoners of War (POW) held during the nation’s conflicts from World War II through the present; to remember and never forget those Missing in Action (MIA) heroes remaining unaccounted-for from all branches of the Armed Forces and the families who seek their return.**

**The establishment of a memorial and museum will give the nation a special place to honor and appreciate the legacy of POWs, MIAs and their families.**

### **PROJECT LOCATION:**

**The Memorial is located near Jacksonville, Florida, highly accessible as a national destination via the interstate system and in proximity to other military-themed museums in the southeast.**

The 26-acre project is located on the grounds of the former Naval Air Station Cecil Field, one of the Navy's most historic Master Jet Bases, which had closed through the BRAC process in 1999.

The acreage surrounds the former Naval Station Chapel. The Chapel, now the "Chapel of the High-Speed Pass," is now completely renovated and has been designated as an historical landmark.

The foundation for the memorial and museum is a small existing memorial that was dedicated in 1973 and honors Jacksonville area aviators missing and captured from the Vietnam era through the first Gulf War.

The concept for the POW-MIA flag was an effort by Mrs. Mary Hoff, a longtime resident of the area and the wife of an unaccounted-for Navy pilot. She was also instrumental in erecting the existing memorial. The flag, adopted in 1972 by the National League of POW/MIA Families, has become an international symbol whose visibility and importance continue to grow.

The Memorial's address is: 6112 POW-MIA Memorial Pkwy, Jacksonville, FL 32221

#### **ORGANIZATION AND PROJECT DEVELOPMENT:**

National POW/MIA Memorial and Museum is being developed by a non-profit, 501(c)3 organization and will be self-sustaining. The Board of Directors all work in a volunteer status.

Designed by Prosser, Inc. of Jacksonville, the symbolism within each feature of the project relevant, very specific to other locations in the United States and can be identified by visiting



is



the website <https://www.powmiamemorial.org> .

**PROGRAM SUPPORT BY:**

**Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), the Department of Defense agency responsible for the fullest possible accounting of America's missing personnel, has visited and supports the project. Plans are to provide displays and info describing the DPAA and the work they do.**



**National League of POW/MIA Families, Vietnam Veterans Association, Rolling Thunder National, American Legion, National Naval Aviation Museum, Company B, 4th Assault Amphibian Battalion, veterans and other military service organizations as well as present and former military leaders have expressed great support, some formally, through volunteer work, and/or financially.**

**Returned POWs, their families and MIA families (those still seeking answers and those who know their loved one's fate) attend on-site events and support plans for the project.**

**Regional/local support from VyStar Credit Union, City of Jacksonville, Jaguars Foundation, Boeing, Lockheed Martin, Prosser Engineering, LSI, Landstar, Flightstar, Boeing, Rotary District 6970, Jacksonville National Cemetery, and Dobson Electric have generated significant funding and in-kind services.**

**Ongoing discussions with local, regional and national corporations will result in a much-expanded list as work continues.**

**Visitation is projected to be 200,000-300,000 people per year.**

## **NATIONAL DESIGNATION:**

**“National” has been used by some private organizations without legislation, but the leadership of National POW/MIA Memorial and Museum is seeking legislation for proper Congressional authorization that will solidify and augment efforts for the project.**

**Other national museums, memorials, honorary monuments and sites do not negatively impact a “national” designation for National POW/MIA Memorial and Museum. The vision for the project is to educate and serve the nation for generations to come, often in collaboration and partnership with these relevant entities.**

**Political leaders in Congress and locally in Jacksonville are supportive of this endeavor, and several have been supportive since the project’s inception.**

**Rep. Arron Bean, U.S. representative for Florida's 4th Congressional district, has introduced a bipartisan House Resolution to grant the Congressionally approved “National” designation.**

## **ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES TO DATE:**

**Secured 25-year lease from the City of Jacksonville for the acreage  
City re-named the 6+ mile long city roadway leading to the site as  
“POW-MIA Memorial Parkway.”**

**Completed renovation and re-dedication of the former base chapel,  
where current offices and early museum displays are located**

**Procured three (3) of four (4) display aircraft and completed restoration of two. These acquisitions and restorations continue with nationwide organizations and businesses**

**Completed and dedicated a unique Gold Star Families Memorial near**

the entrance; it features a bench, flagpole, personalized pavers and plantings.

A temporary museum has been set up in the wing of the Chapel building and is managed by a volunteer museum curator. The future permanent museum section will be constructed within the Memorial facility.

85% funded Phase 1 through regional and local resources named above. Construction is ongoing, with completion of Phase 1 and initiation of Phase 2 in the summer of 2025.

Over 500 memorial pavers have been installed in the Memorial Brick Plaza and at the Gold Star Families Memorial. Bricks continue to be ordered.

The Memorial Brick section will be formally dedicated when Phase 1 site work has been completed, and more will be added throughout the build-out of the project.

We invite you to review the vision and site plan for National POW/MIA Memorial and Museum on the website (<https://www.powmiamemorial.org>), email ([info@powmiamemorial.org](mailto:info@powmiamemorial.org)) or by contacting any Board member.. Structures and outdoor spaces will provide areas for visitors of all ages to reflect, learn, do research, hear the stories, experience interactive displays and attend ongoing events.



**Honoring Our Heroes: Clay County leaders proudly recognized** Arvid Nelson, a Navy veteran who served from 1964–1990, as the 2024 Veteran of the Year for his unwavering dedication to veterans and community service at today’s Salute to Service event. From impacting the lives of his fellow veterans to serving his community, Nelson’s countless contributions to our county are far-reaching.

County leaders also presented surprise recognitions to two distinguished veterans.

**Outstanding Superior Performance Award:** David Bradley served in the Marine Corps from 1979–2005 and is a dedicated mentor, advocate, and supporter of military families and students.

**Outstanding Superior Performance Award:** Aaron ‘Gary’ Newman served in the Navy from 1959–1978 and is instrumental in numerous veterans’ councils, programs, organizations, and advocacies.

You can read more about the lengthy contributions these veterans have made to our community in our article in our Newsroom on [claycountygov.com](http://claycountygov.com). You can find the Newsroom right on our homepage.

We are grateful for their service, leadership, and dedication to our community.

Thank you!



## **Cecil Field POW MIA Memorial, Inc.**

**Thank you to Pam Cain for the recent refurbish of our Missing Man Table at the National POW/MIA Memorial & Museum. Pam is a champion for our cause and consistently working and supporting the museum as it progresses into a National destination of remembrance. Our mission is simple: To ensure a future that embraces, honors, educates and celebrates with respect to America's Prisoners of War and Missing in Action Service Members.**



**The table is set for one. The chair is empty – they are not here.**

**The table is round to show our everlasting concern.**

**The cloth is white, symbolizing the purity of their intentions to respond to their country's call to arms. The black napkin represents the sorrow for those still missing.**

**The single red rose in a vase reminds us of the lives of these Americans and their loved ones and friends who keep the faith while seeking answers.**

**The yellow ribbon around the vase symbolizes our continued uncertainty, our hope for their return, and a demand for proper accounting of those who are not among us today.**

**A slice of lemon on the plate reminds us of their bitter fate, captured or missing in a foreign land while serving our country.**

**Grains of salt on the plate remind us of the countless fallen tears of families who continue to long for answers.**

**An inverted glass symbolizes their inability to share a toast.**

**The lighted white candle reflects hope that our missing will return some day.**

**The Bible represents the strength gained through faith to sustain us and those lost from our country, founded as one nation under God.**

**They are missing..... REMEMBER**

# WELCOME HOME

March 29, 2025

## 50th Anniversary Celebration of the End of the Vietnam War



### Spoken by Rick McAllister at VFW Post 2391 in St. Augustine during their special “Welcome Home” celebration

In 1998, news anchor Tom Brokaw published a book called “The Greatest Generation”. While that term was first heard from a US Army general in 1953, Brokaw wrote that “these men and women fought not for fame or recognition, but because it was the right thing to do.” They answered the call of their country and when they came home, everyone in this country celebrated, and rightly so.

These men and women who stand with me today also answered the call of their country. We stepped forward when others stepped backward because we thought it was the right thing to do. We raised our hand to put ourselves in harm’s way. We fought on foreign soil, and bled and died just like our fathers and grandfathers did in Europe and in the South Pacific. But when the war was over and we came home, there were no ticker tape parades or hometown celebrations. We were criminalized, assaulted, and worst of all, we were IGNORED.

So, when nobody else wanted to listen to us or help us, we reached out to ourselves. The bond of brotherhood that comforted and protected us in the jungles of Southeast Asia now gives us a moment of peace while those ugly demons of war still rummage through our souls. We were and are the most cohesive and visible of the veteran groups because we had to attend to and mend our own wounds, and then celebrate our own accomplishments.

We may never be called the greatest generation but right now, right here, right this very moment, we want to feel that way. We are ready to be welcomed back home.

**Padraic E. “Pat” Mulvihill**  
**Public Information Officer**  
**4083 Lannie Road JAX FL 32218**  
**904.534.0035 / pem@axisp.com**



## **March 2025 Support Committee Update On The Historic St. Augustine National Cemetery**

### **The Iconic Dade Pyramids**

### **Tour Of The Hallowed Grounds**

### **Overview of Some Significant Renovation Projects Slated for Fiscal Year 2025**

Ensuring That Gravesites & Grounds Maintained Within National Cemetery Administration Standards

Listed in National Register of Historic Places and Located Upon Approximately 1.4 acres of Sacred Grounds Contiguous to the Facilities of an Active Military Base and Facilities Known as the St. Francis Barracks, The State Headquarters of the Florida National Guard.

### **Friday 14 March 2025**

On Tuesday morning 25 February 2025 under the leadership of Chairman Pat Welch, Vice-Chairwoman Maria Hirsch, Former Chairman Bill Dudley, and St. Augustine Historian Alison Simpson, a large Team of our Support Committee was given an in-depth and very comprehensive tour of this iconic, “non-staffed”, historic national cemetery.

Alison is the Command Historian for the Florida National Guard and is responsible for conducting both research of, and leading tours of, the cemetery. Bill is a current Member of our Support Committee and serves as the current Chairman of the Veterans Council of St. Johns County. Bill and his team of local veterans living in the St. Augustine area constantly focus upon supporting both the operations of and conducting many of the high-profile ceremonies held at these hallowed grounds, including, but not limited to both of the following annual

events: Memorial Day in May, and Wreaths-Across-America in December.

This cemetery has approximately 2,800 interments and is operated for the VA National Cemetery Administration by the Jacksonville Cemetery Staff. Except in certain instances, it is currently closed to new interments. The first interment took place in 1828: the first burials were soldiers stationed at St. Francis Barracks and veterans of the Indian Wars. The only interments that are being accepted now are subsequent burials for veterans or eligible family members in an existing gravesite. Periodically, burial space may become available due to a canceled reservation or when a disinterment has been completed. When either of these scenarios occurs, the gravesite is made available to another eligible veteran on a first-come, first-served basis. It should be noted that in March 2025 there will be a burial which conforms with the “exception regulations”.

As a follow-up to the February Tour, on March 14th , 2025, Chris Morris, the Director of both the Jacksonville and the St. Augustine National Cemeteries gave Pat Welch and Marie Hirsch of the Support Committee Leadership Team a briefing of some significant renovation and upgrade programs which are currently slated for and underway at the St. Augustine Cemetery regarding: Roads; Dade’s Pyramids; the Historic Wall; Main Flagpole; Public Restrooms; the Rostrum Area; and the Lodge.

As shown in the picture, the cemetery is home to the Dade’s Monument. The Dade’s Monument is composed of three pyramids constructed of native coquina stone and originally covered with white stucco. The pyramids were dedicated at a ceremony on August 15, 1842, that marked the end of the Florida Indian Wars. The structures cover vaults that contain the remains of soldiers who died during the Florida Indian Wars (1835–1842). According to the inscription on the monument, the wars began on December 25, 1835. Three days later, Maj. Francis L. Dade and his regiment were enroute from Fort Brooke (Tampa) to Fort King (Ocala) when they were ambushed and killed. Of the 108 men and officers under his command, only two or three survived. Maj. Dade and his men are among those entombed at the pyramids.



Also, the cemetery includes a historic lodge that is leased by the Florida Army National Guard and will concurrently undergo a “historic rehabilitation project” in conjunction with the renovations to this facility already mentioned above.



## **TAKE A HIKE By Rick McAllister**

If you are like most combat veterans, at some point in time and perhaps still, you have been burdened by the ugliness and trauma of war. It is the price we pay for being put in harm's way when serving our country. The VA has made wonderful strides on healing the body or replacing body parts that give you back a part of your life, but they still struggle with solving the mysteries of combat trauma or PTSD. I came home in 1970 from Vietnam with some of it, and while some healing took place with the VA and with private counseling, I'd like to share with you an experience I had that pretty much cleared the way for peace during my remaining years.

In 2012, I had triple bypass open-heart surgery as a result of coronary artery disease from exposure to Agent Orange in Vietnam. I had 95% blockage in the two main arteries and 75% in a third. I was lucky to have caught it in time. During my physical rehab, a friend asked me if I had heard of the Camino de Santiago, a series of ancient pilgrimage routes crisscrossing Spain. I had not, and was told to watch the movie "The Way" with Martin Sheen. I did just that, and then watched it again and again. I was hooked and immediately started the planning process.

Against the concerns of my family and friends, I left on March 31, 2014 for a 500 mile walk across Northern Spain, starting in the small French village of St. Jean Pied de Port at the base of the Pyrenees Mountains and making my way to the Western side of Spain and the town of Santiago de Compostela. It is here, in a magnificent cathedral, that the remains of the Apostle St. James are said to be interred and hence the reason for hundreds of years of pilgrimages made in his honor. My focus at this time was more on the physical therapy associated with walking 12 to 15 miles a day in a country that I had never visited. I made this journey on my own



but you quickly learn you are never really alone. People from all over the world make this journey and share the hostels (called albergues), share the pathways, and share the hospitality and spirit of the pilgrimage. Nobody cares what you brought with you; just what you take home in your heart and soul.

The 500 miles makes its way through some spectacular Spanish scenery and presents you with architectural masterpieces. The Basque Region with historical Roncesvalles and “Hemingwayesque” Pamplona; the Rioja wine region including Burgos and its 300-year old cathedral, and ending as you make your way through the Province of Galicia, finally arriving at Santiago de Compostela. Tucked somewhere in the middle of all this is an area of Spain’s Central Plains known as The



Meseta. For many, this somewhat barren, open landscape gets skipped. For others, including myself, it serves up a very unusual spiritual venue.

When I arrived there, my intention was to put my ear pods in and listen to my library of 60’s, 70’s, and 80’s music for the week-long exposure to the non-descript terrain, however, perhaps by divine intervention, I left my pods in the hotel the night before and was somewhat forced to endure what The Meseta had to offer. That first morning, the sounds of the field insects and birds soothed my initial apprehension and soon I was tranquilized by the sound of my footsteps on the gravel farm path and the rhythm of my heart beats. A clarity overwhelmed me and when I walked out of The Meseta seven days later, I had been granted the gift of a very special peace. A peace I had been seeking since I came home from Vietnam in 1970.

Thirty two days after starting my journey in St. Jean Pied de Port, France, I attended the daily Pilgrim’s Mass in the Santiago de Compostela Cathedral and the message was clear, “the Camino delivers what the pilgrim

seeks.” I hadn’t asked for anything other than a fun experience but I was given a priceless gift. Even my family and friends noticed a different person when I got home.

I went back again in 2016 and a third time in 2018, and each time I had not only another wonderful experience but a similar experience on The Meseta. It was for me a chapel without walls and a healing without words.

During the COVID years I thought about making one more journey to the Camino, and then the idea of taking some other veterans with me to see if they would have a similar experience kept popping up. It was worth a try, so for the next year and a half I put together The Last Patrol: A Pilgrimage of Brotherhood and Honor.

I would lead 4 other Vietnam vets on this 500-mile journey. I posted the idea on several Vietnam vet Face Book sites and Camino sites and within a month or so, I had 3 interested in walking the trek, and one who would drive a vehicle to shadow our trip in case someone needed to get off their feet. After all, we were all pushing or in our 80’s. We had never met but by the time we departed on September 19, 2023, we felt we had a pretty good understanding of who we were. One was a Huey door-gunner, one was a Birddog pilot, one was a combat medic, and one was a heavy equipment operator. I was with a 101st Airborne Division recon unit.



We started our journey with challenges right out of the gate; lost luggage, misplaced US Passport, and missing hearing aids for someone who could not hear without them. PTSD reared its ugly head on occasion and five old farts with mental and physical flexibility issues took these challenges just like you would expect a combat veteran to do. . . deal with it and move on.

When we got to The Meseta, the rains started and pretty much fell the rest

of the way, however, when we walked into Santiago de Compostela, the bond of brotherhood stood strong and tall, and everyone took home some very special experiences. We carried with us a scroll that had the names of over 400 deceased Vietnam vets; some we served with who did not make their Freedom flight home and others given to us by family and friends and even a few from folks we met on the Camino. The scroll was delivered to the alter of St. James in the Cathedral during the Pilgrim's Mass. We had accomplished our mission.

For any combat veteran still looking for a little peace and healing, consider making a pilgrimage on the Spanish Camino de Santiago. You don't have to do all 500 miles but whatever you do, I will assure you it will be unlike any experience you have had. You will walk again in a foreign land with a backpack on your back just like you did fifty-some years ago, but this time you will be massaged the entire way with the spirit of St. James and the brotherhood of a pilgrimage. No enemies, just the hand of friendship and some pretty good wine.

If you don't want to do this on your own or don't have a family member or friend who wants to join you, look into the organization Warriors On The Way. This group makes an annual trip to the Camino and only takes combat veterans. One way or another, take a hike.





**JOIN US AS WE HONOR OUR BRAVE TROOPS**

***50th Anniversary Remembrance  
of the end of the***

# ***VIETNAM WAR***

***Saturday, March 29, 10 am  
915 Walnut Street  
Green Cove Springs, FL***

***"Never again will one generation abandon another."***

***Questions/Donations  
904-269-1857***

## Free disabled veteran parking privileges restored at Jacksonville International Airport

*By Kiley Miller, Action News Jax*

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — The Jacksonville International Airport is reverting its recent changes to disabled veteran parking

While people with handicap tags were able to park in the valet and elsewhere for free, disabled veterans whose tags don't have the wheelchair symbol were not.

Airport spokesperson Michael Stewart said the construction of a third garage was making it harder for everyone to find parking. Veterans we spoke with at the time accused the airport of moving them out of the lots to make more money on paying parkers.

Now, those with a regular disabled veteran tag will be able to park for free in the Economy Lots, Daily Garage, and Daily Surface Lot. City Councilman Nick Howland says Hourly Garage privileges will be restored when construction there is complete.

Disabled veterans that have tags with the wheelchair symbol can park anywhere they want for free.

In a post to social media, Howland continued, saying, "Thank you to Chair Michelle Barnett, CEO Mark Vanloh, and the Airport team for honoring our heroes!"



From COL Robert Adelhelm  
 I have been working with incarcerated veterans for several years.... Veterans who continue to contribute to helping their fellow Veterans... They are apart of a Chapter that is a standout and recently designated Chapter of the year and their president named incarcerated Veteran of the year. These Veterans don't let the four walls of Raiford Prison hold them back.

### Inspiration: 'Lifers' Find Ways to Give Back to Community



This Braille player was made possible by the incarcerated Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1080 who donated \$2500 to the Blind Veterans Association. Shown, from left, are Tiny D'Alto, Bill Peters, President of Blind Veterans Association, Bob Adelhelm and Paul Kennedy.

By Christina Swanson

What are you doing to give back to your community? Volunteer at a non-profit fund raiser or participate in a walk-a-thon? You might be surprised that some prison "lifers" raise money or create items in ingenious ways to help support a diverse group of causes.

We're talking about the members of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1080 at Raiford Prison who have been raising funds since 2015 with their sponsored walk-a-thons, according to their chapter sponsor, retired Lt. Col. Robert Adelhelm.

In the past eight years, walking in a circle in their prison yard, these vets have gleaned \$34,000 through sponsors, which have been donated to both vet and community organizations. Although being prison "lifers," the VVA Chapter members say working to help others has been great therapy.

They vote on who they contribute to each year, with this year's walk-a-thon earnings awarded to St Jude's Children's Hospital (\$2500), the Blind Veterans of America (\$2500) and the Community Health Outreach of Duval County (\$1000),

as well as \$750 to the Baker County High School Athletic Department.

Their \$2500 donation to the Blind Vets made it possible for them to make and install the Braille plaque on the Jacksonville Naval Museum USS Orleck recently.

Another endeavor is creating wooden urns for families of veterans and others who cannot afford to buy an urn to contain their loved-ones' ashes. "The goal is to have the inmates make 20 to 25 per year and donate them to the Jacksonville National Cemetery and the Missing in American Project," said Adelhelm, who created this project.

The incarcerated Vietnam Veterans Chapter 1080 has donated tens of thousands of dollars to organizations in the community. As you go about the battle and battle of the holidays, maybe think of a small gesture you can do to give back to your community.



## From the Palm Coast Observer

### A family treasure unboxed: Goodwill Industries reunites WWII sailor's burial flag with family in Ormond Beach

Over 80 years after her brother's death in WWII, Carol Magill Woodard was reunited with his burial flag during a ceremony at Volusia Memorial Park



Carol Magill Woodard remembers the day the telegram arrived at her family home in 1944.

She was 4 years old. Her mother, clad in her house apron, was ironing and Woodard was sitting on the floor playing with paper dolls. A Western Union employee knocked on the door and delivered the news that her son, 17-year-old William J. Magill had died on Dec. 13, 1944 in the island of Leyte in the Philippines during World War II's Battle of Leyte Gulf.

"She was so upset, she went across to the police department, which was across the street, and she had her apron on, so I knew something was wrong," Woodard recalled. "And then my father was so devastated. After that day on, he went to church every single day before he would go to work."

Over 80 years later, on Monday, Feb. 24, Woodard was reunited with a memory of her half-brother, one that had yet to be unpacked from its original box.

Last November, Gary Hughes, supply chain manager for Goodwill Industries of Central Florida, was going through the contents of a donated tote at the company's Taft hub when he came across a box from the headquarters of the American Graves Registration Service addressed to a Mrs. Lillian M. Allard, Woodard's mom. The box was sent to an address in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, where Magill was from originally from and had enlisted. The family was living in Florida at the time of his death.

It's not unusual for Goodwill to receive American flags in their donations, Hughes said. They normally will contact a nearby American Legion or VFW post to help properly retire the flags. But when he opened the box, he saw that the burial flag inside was still folded, and that the box contained a memorial card with Magill's name and photo. Being a Navy veteran himself, (Magill was a Navy service member), it struck a chord with him, he said.

"I knew we had to do something with it — we couldn't just send it off to be destroyed properly," Hughes said.

He showed the box to Jeff Biles, Territory Loss Prevention and Safety manager for Goodwill Industries of Central Florida. Being a former police officer — and an Army veteran himself — Biles contacted the Pawtucket Police Department to see if he could find Magill's family. An employee at the police depart



ment informed him there was an officer working with them who had the same last name, and said she'd try to help. Two weeks later, she called Biles and informed him that, not only had she found Magill's sister, but that she lived in Ormond Beach.

Biles then spoke with Woodard on the phone and proposed holding a small ceremony to honor her brother at Volusia Memorial Park. The box and its contents, Biles said, was a family treasure.



"I didn't want to just go to Carol and hand her this box," Biles said. "I wanted to make a presentation, because I think that this young soldier deserves that 80 years later."

According to the U.S. Department of Defense, a total of 16,043 soldiers and 7,270 sailors were killed in the Battle of Leyte Gulf, the largest naval engagement of WWII.

Biles has worked for Goodwill Industries for about two and a half years. He said this was the first time he'd gotten the opportunity to do something so special for a local family.

"Even though he's been deceased for over 80 years, still, he's an American hero," Biles said.

Woodard's family has 43 veterans in total. She and Magill were two out of nine siblings in her family. When Biles called her and informed her of the box's contents, she said she was thrilled.

"I couldn't believe it because I had just become friends with a lady that belonged to our church that was from the Philippines, and she's over there now visiting the grave and taking pictures of my brother," Woodard said.

Magill is buried in the Manila American Cemetery.

Woodard said she plans to place her brother's flag alongside other military family memorabilia in her home.

Woodard's father always spoke about how Magill, his stepson, was a good kid. He became his stepfather when Magill was in 10th grade, just a couple years before he enlisted in the Navy.

One of her earliest memories involves Magill and her father — all three of them walking down the street, Magill dressed in uniform. Woodard was 3 years old, and Magill and her father were swinging her together across the street.

"I just wish my dad was here," Woodard said.



The St. Joseph Academy's veteran's reception will take place May 10. Each year students interview veterans and write their stories. Then the stories are compiled into a yearbook-style book. Each year there is a reception where the current group of interviewed veterans are honored and seated around the room so attendees have an opportunity to chat and have their books signed. It will take place May 10 at 2:00 p.m. at St. Joseph Academy at 155 State Road 207 in St. Augustine.

Refreshments are served and all are welcome to attend.

Local veterans who have been interviewed in the past have included Sheriff Hardwick, Chief Michaux, Bill Dudley, Ron Birchall, Bill Coleman, and George Huchting. For the book published this year we have Michael Fleming, John Leslie, Katie Snyder, Ron Mickler, and Joe Shomo.

*Donna Martellotto Boyce*

*Veterans Heritage Project Club Advisor*

*St. Joseph Academy*

*St. Augustine, FL 32084*

## Upcoming Military Support Retreats and Warrior PATHH Program Openings + Win Savannah Bananas Tix!

Ashley Semerenko <ashley@gratitudeamerica.org>

I am sharing information with you about both our \$0 cost programs for service members with immediate openings, as well as a unique raffle we are holding!

We are holding a fundraiser to win 2 coveted game tickets to an upcoming Savannah Bananas game! We draw the winner this coming Sunday, March 16th! Raffle details are here: <https://gratitudeamerica.org/events/>

Both of our programs are open to all military branches and all duty statuses.

The flyer/photo of details of our Military Support Retreat is on the next page. They have a blended focus of nature-based recreation and education via interactive workshops and group discussions.

Feel free to share this information with anyone you think would benefit. Details below:

-April 10th-13th in Banning Mills, GA, -May 15th-18th in Marineland, FL, -June 19th-22nd in Banning Mills, GA

\*Adults only, no children. We provide hotel, meals, and activities; we cannot assist with your transportation.\*

As a reminder, our retreats are for individuals who: .

- Are available for the entire retreat (dates & times above)
- The retreat is for the service member to attend along with one adult support person of their choosing (Support person is defined as an adult the service members feels very close and connected to such as a spouse, partner, close friend, close family member, etc. Support person should not be a casual friend). Service member cannot attend alone.
- Have not attended previously.

More information about the retreat and the application can be found at: <https://gratitudeamerica.org/retreats/>

I have below a flyer with the Military Support Retreat details if it's easier to share that or post it on social media (if that's your thing!). Or, you can just forward this email out.

I have also attached a flyer for our other program, Warrior PATHH. Warrior PATHH is only for the service member/first responder to attend and is a 3 month long wellness and personal growth program that is held once a month.

Warrior PATHH provides meals, lodging and transportation from anywhere in the US. Link to more information and application is here: <https://gratitudeamerica.org/warrior-pathh/>

Thank you for your help in sharing the info and please reach out with questions!!

Director of Veteran Engagement

GratitudeAmerica.org (see next page)



## MILITARY SUPPORT RETREATS

GratitudeAmerica Military Support Retreats (MSR) are a 3-day immersive & impactful program centered around nature-based recreational activities and education via interactive workshops and group discussions.

MSRs are a breakthrough experience designed to enhance relationships and build connections between veterans, first responders, & their closest support person who attends with them.

**Banning Mills, GA: April 10th - 13th**

**Marineland, FL: May 15th - 18th**

**Banning Mills, GA: June 19th - 22nd**

All Retreats begin at 5pm the first day & end at 2pm the last day.

★ To apply to attend, visit our website at ★

[GratitudeAmerica.org/retreats](https://gratitudeamerica.org/retreats)

Veterans/First Responders must bring 1 adult support person to attend with them. Children are not permitted. All accommodations, food, & activities are provided at no cost; travel is not provided.

## Why Warrior PATHH?

- Designed to harness the power of Veteran's military training and combat experience to enable them to unlock their remarkable potential at home
- Gathers small groups of warriors that have walked similar paths
- Teaches Veterans how to "struggle well" and turn deep struggle into profound strength and growth

### Eligibility & More:

- Open to any US Military Service Member (includes all branches & all duty statuses)
- Open to any US civilian First Responder (current or past)
- Sessions held monthly in Macclenny, FL & program provides travel, lodging, and meals



**Apply At:**

<https://gratitudeamerica.org/warrior-pathh/>



**SAVE THE DATE**  
VETERANS HERITAGE PROJECT SJA CHAPTER  
**2025**  
**RECEPTION &**  
**BOOK SIGNING**  
SAT - 10 MAY - 2PM  
SAINT JOSEPH ACADEMY

SAVE THE DATE  
FOR  
NATIONAL WREATHS  
ACROSS AMERICA DAY  
DECEMBER 13, 2025  
REMEMBER HONOR TEACH  
WREATHS  
— across —  
AMERICA

# Drake's Raid Reenactment

Saturday, May 10, 2025

Beginning at 7 p.m., the armies of Spain and England will fight for possession of St. Augustine in this reenactment of Sir Francis Drake's raid in 1586. This is an historic district-wide event, beginning at the Oldest House Museums Complex, continuing to St. George Street in front of the Governor's House, with an English victory finalized at the redoubt on Orange Street.

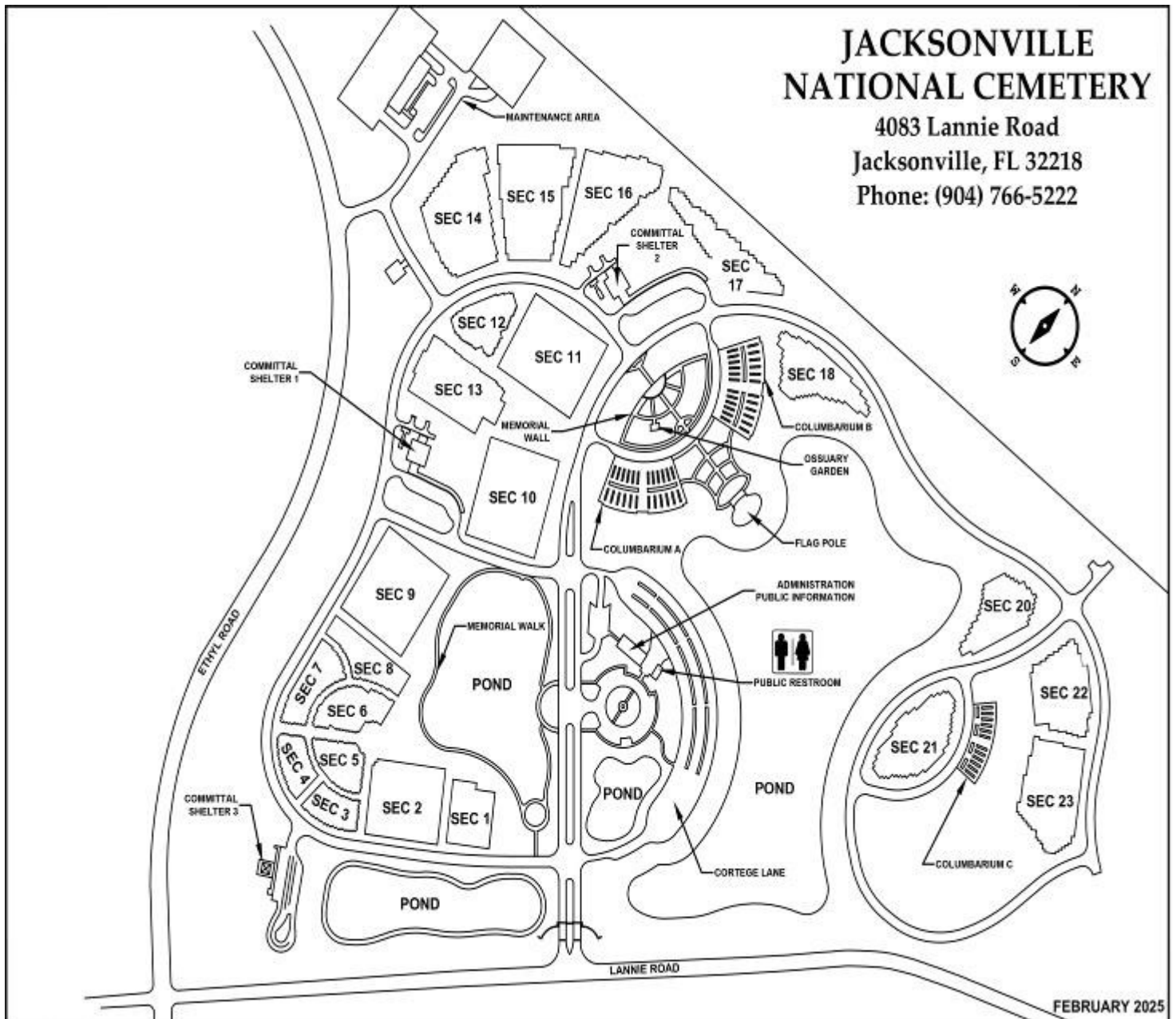


# Jacksonville National Cemetery, Updated Map / 12 February 2025

Mapping Technicians have updated all key areas/reference points on the attached.. This will be useful for those who are unfamiliar with the cemetery and to provide better customer service to our Veterans and their families. Please reach out to pem@axisp.com if there are questions.

Padraic E. "Pat" Mulvihill, Public Information Officer

4083 Lannie Road JAX 32218, 904.534.0035 / www.SCJNC.com





# FLNG Family Programs Spring



Military Community Resource Day  
in the spirit of  
Month of the Military Child  
Friday, 4 April 2025, 10am - 3pm  
Camp Blanding Post Exchange



Free food, games, & more!  
**Open to all Soldiers, family members & veterans!**



Come join us to connect with these amazing  
military community partners:



- Wekiva Springs Center
- Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp
- Wounded Warrior Project
- Steven A. Cohen's Military Clinic
- Fire Watch
- Survivor Outreach Services
- Here Tomorrow
- Quigley House
- FLNG Psychological Health Program
- FLNG Sexual Assault Response Program
- Soldiers Freedom Outdoors
- Ocala VetCenter
- YMCA
- Tricare
- Personal Financial Counselor
- The Morris Center



Quigley





# PELLICER CREEK RAID

**APRIL 11, 12 & 13, 2025**

AUTHENTIC CAVALRY, INFANTRY, ARTILLERY, BATTLES,  
FIRING DEMONSTRATIONS, MILITARY AND CIVILIAN CAMPS



**WATCH FIRSTHAND A REENACTMENT OF  
FLORIDA'S ROLE IN THE CIVIL WAR!**

- FRIDAY** 9AM TO 2PM SCHOOL TOURS NO CHARGE TO STUDENTS!  
7:30PM CANDLELIGHT TOURS \$5.00 PER PERSON
- SATURDAY** 9AM TO 4PM MILITARY & CIVILIAN CAMPS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC  
2PM BATTLE  
8PM REENACTOR BALL  
(PARTICIPATE OR BE A SPECTATOR)  
\$7 PER PERSON, INCLUDES ALL ACTIVITIES FOR THE DAY
- SUNDAY** 9AM TO 4PM MILITARY & CIVILIAN CAMPS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC  
10AM PERIOD CHURCH SERVICE  
2PM BATTLE  
\$7 PER PERSON, INCLUDES ALL ACTIVITIES FOR THE DAY

**386-446-7630 - WWW.FLORIDAAGMUSEUM.ORG**  
7900 OLD KINGS ROAD N., PALM COAST, FL 32137

**THE JACKSONVILLE NAVAL MUSEUM**



**USS ORLECK**



**GALA**  
Fundraiser

**Friday, May 23rd, 2025**

**6-10 PM**

**NAVY PIER SIDE**

Join us for a fun night of  
Dancing, Drinks, Apps & Silent Auction

Bring out your dancing shoes  
& Gatsby attire!

With Special Musical Guest:

**THE CHRIS THOMAS PROJECT**



**904TIX**  
powered by JACKSONVILLE MAGAZINE .COM





*You've made our country*  
A BETTER PLACE.

---

**Enjoy your well-earned retirement at Silver Creek.**

---

Thank you veterans for your service and sacrifice! At Silver Creek, you can live life as you choose with greater freedom, comfort and independence through the unique living options at our community - including independent concierge living, assisted living, enhanced assisted living and memory care.

Discover first-class amenities, holistic wellness programming, gourmet all-day dining and vibrant activities while enjoying camaraderie and friendship at our close-knit community.

Call **800-821-8170** to schedule a tour and learn more.



165 Silver Lane | St. Augustine, FL 32084 | [SilverCreekRetirement.com](http://SilverCreekRetirement.com)



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

Assisted Living Facility #12928



Scramble - Four-person Team  
Palatka Golf Club  
26 April 2025 – 0900 Shotgun  
Register: [www.libertytreegolf.com](http://www.libertytreegolf.com)



Details





CITY OF JACKSONVILLE PRESENTS

# MEMORIAL DAY

OBERSERVANCE

MONDAY, MAY 26, 2025

Join us as we honor and remember  
Jacksonville's fallen heros

**PRE-CEREMONY**  
• 8 AM •

Music presented by Navy Band  
Southeast & Voices of Jacksonville

**CEREMONY**  
• 8:30 AM •

Patriotic attire suggested

**THE VETERAN'S MEMORIAL WALL**

1145 East Adams Street

*Located between TIAA Bank Field & the Baseball Grounds*

★ FREE PARKING ★

# Liberty Tree Golf Tournament – April 26, 2025

## Golf Registration Form

Make all Checks payable to: **Sons of the American Revolution Liberty Tree Golf**

Address: **Sons of the American Revolution**

**c/o Robert E. Gearing**

**522 Johns Creek Pkwy**

**St Augustine, FL 32092**



Or payment through **Zeffy** by Credit Card, Debit Card, ACH, Apple & Google Pay, PayPal, Check, and other direct payment programs. Zeffy is a vetted payment processor/provider to Not-for-Profit organizations:

[www.zeffy.com/ticketing/2025-liberty-tree-golf-tournament](http://www.zeffy.com/ticketing/2025-liberty-tree-golf-tournament)

Please send a copy in PDF format to Robert Gearing at [gearing@bellsouth.net](mailto:gearing@bellsouth.net) by April 12, 2025. For more information contact Phil Perry at 302.559.4786

- All Tournament activities at \$95.00/golfer
- All Tournament activities at \$360/foursome

Name/Title \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Method:                      Zeffy \_\_\_\_\_                      Check \_\_\_\_\_

Company Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Names of Golfers & Handicap:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_

The Liberty Tree Golf Tournament is a **Charity Event sponsored by the Sons of the American Revolution** and a 501©3 organization



## Liberty Tree Golf Tournament

## 2025 Sponsorship Form

Please complete this form and send your check to: **Liberty Tree Golf Tournament (LTGT) c/o Robert E. Gearing, Treasurer – Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) Mail: 522 Johns Creek Pkwy, St Augustine, FL 32092** Email: [gearing@bellsouth.net](mailto:gearing@bellsouth.net)

**Company/Organization Name:** (as you would like it to appear on our website as well as, promotional and media materials) please include your logo, if practical:

Official Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

**Yes**, my organization would like to be a sponsor of the Liberty Tree Golf Tournament. Please mark the sponsorship level below (the LTGT is a charitable 501©3 activity of the St Augustine Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution):

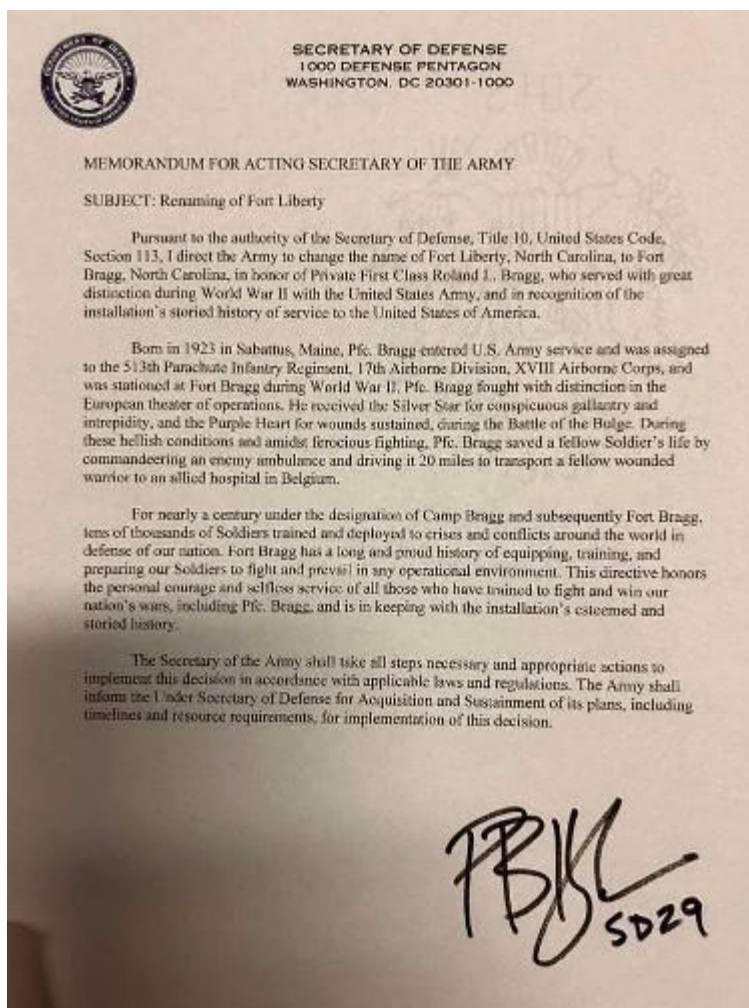
### Tournament Sponsor

- Platinum** "Title" Sponsor - \$10,000.00 (1 available)
- Gold** Sponsor - \$5,000.00
- Silver** Sponsor - \$1,500.00
- Bronze** Sponsor - \$500.00
- Patron** - \$250.00

### Special Event Sponsor

- Hole-in-One** - \$500.00 (1 available)
- Longest Drive** - \$250.00 (2 available)
- Closest to the Pin** - \$250.00 (2 available)
- I am unable to be a sponsor this year but would like to donate:
  - \$ \_\_\_\_\_ donation to the Liberty Tree Golf Tournament
  - Gift "in kind" donation to the Auction or Raffle

From Ron Howard, Treasurer,  
National Pathfinder Association  
Former 82nd ABN Division  
Pathfinders  
First In, Last Out





# DELIVERING ON THE NATION'S PROMISE



## NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

WORLD WAR II + COLD WAR + KOREAN WAR  
VIETNAM WAR + PERSIAN GULF WAR

SEPTEMBER 19, 2025

[WWW.DPAA.MIL](http://WWW.DPAA.MIL)



Members of Chapter 1080 voted COL Robert Adelhelm to be added to their Wall of Fame and he also will receive the citizen soldier award.

### *The Citizen Soldier Award*

The Citizen Soldier Award, established in 2020, stands to honor a person who exemplifies the traditions of the citizen soldier set by George Washington; a person who served the





# Save the DATE

## Saturday, 5 April 2025



(0900-1500)

#WeAreAFSA

### What?

- **Northeast Florida/SE Georgia Annual Military Retiree Seminar**

### Where?

- **River Cove Center – NAS JAX on Mustin Rd across from the Golf Club.**
- **Also Available via Facebook Live on the NAS Jacksonville Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/NASJacksonville/events](http://www.facebook.com/NASJacksonville/events))**

### Who?

- ❖ **ALL Military retirees**
- ❖ **All Retiree Family members**
- ❖ **Active/Reserve Personnel planning to retire**

### Presentations on:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| ✓ TRICARE/TRICARE for Life                    | ✓ FEDVIP Insurance                       |
| ✓ Scams Targeting Seniors                     | ✓ Advisory Support Available to Retirees |
| ✓ Military Medical Support                    | ✓ VA Programs                            |
| ✓ Defense Finance & Accounting Service (DFAS) | ✓ Financial/Legal Advice                 |

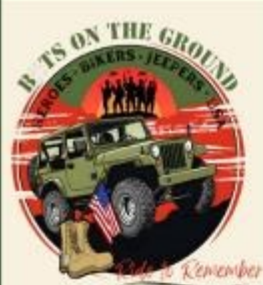


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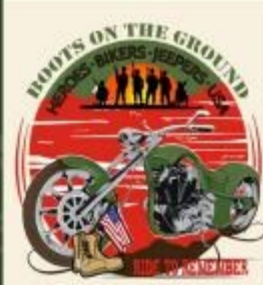
There will be a Health & Wellness Fair on-site as well as numerous experts at Info Tables with even More Information

Check for periodic updates on the [NAS Jacksonville Facebook Page](#)

For Further Information Contact the Jacksonville Retired Activities Office: **904-542-5790**



# BOOTS ON THE GROUND



## Ride to Remember

### MEMORIAL DISPLAY

Over 3,000 Boots with a Picture and Bio of a fallen soldier or first responder since 9/11 and an American Flag line the streets

### POKER RUN

Florida's LARGEST Poker Run with over 1,000 registered to participate. 15 Routes, 44 Poker Stops, Flyover at KSU

### CONCERT

Live Music begins the night before the event, During the event there are several bands that perform throughout the day

### VENUE ACTIVITIES

Silent Auctions - Military Displays - Several Vendors Raffles - and More

### JEEP PARTY

Jeeps line up at the main venue and then parade through the Memorial Display as they make their way to American Legion Post 9 for an unforgettable party. Live Music, More Vendors, Food Trucks and More!



FLAMINGO LAKE RV RESORT



**SATURDAY MAY 10TH, 2025**

GATES OPEN 8:00AM - KSU 11:00AM

3640 Newcomb Road Jacksonville, FL 32218

[WWW.ALPOST9FL.ORG/BOOTS-ON-THE-GROUND](http://WWW.ALPOST9FL.ORG/BOOTS-ON-THE-GROUND)



## Best iconic Fighter Aircraft of World War II



## Jacksonville Naval Museum

We have converted the Supply  
Officer's Stateroom forward of  
the Wardroom into our  
**POW/MIA Room.**



## GREEN BERET CHARITY



## GOLF TOURNAMENT

## 10th Annual Green Beret Charity Golf Tournament

The Golf Club at South Hampton, 315 S. Hampton Club Way, St. Augustine, FL 32092  
**Friday, May 16, 2025**

Special Forces Association Chapter 88 is a non-profit 501(c)(19) veteran service organization in Northeast Florida serving the greater Jacksonville area. One of our primary missions is to promote and support the general welfare of the U.S. Army Special Forces community, active, retired and veteran. Our annual charity fundraiser helps provides financial assistance to eligible members, spouses, children and grand-children in times of natural and unexpected disasters. We also award scholarship funds to graduating area high school JROTC seniors, and to support other area veterans and 501(c) support service organizations.

**One of the Jacksonville area's best golf tournaments by far!**

### Golf Packages:

- **Foursome \$600** Includes 4 Golfers on a Foursome Team, golf fees, range balls, entry for door prizes, reception and a great BBQ dinner.
- **Individual Golfer \$150** Includes golf fees, range balls, entry for door prizes, reception and a great BBQ dinner. You will be paired up other single players.

Bonus opportunities also include Door Prizes, Longest Drive and Closest to the Pin contests, and a Possible Hole in One prize (Car).

Fire a real M-4 rifle modified to shoot your golf ball 400 yards downrange on Hole 9 and 17 (\$5 a shot) as an alternate to hitting your ball. There is no stroke penalty for using this fun tee-off alternate. A 2 to 3 stroke saver!

The BBQ Dinner is open to spouses and non-golfing friends (visit our golf registration website for tickets).

### Sponsorship Packages:

- **Title Sponsor \$8,000** Includes 8 Golfers in 2 Foursome Teams, Company Banner
- **Platinum Sponsor \$5,000** Includes 8 Golfers in 2 Foursome Teams Company Signage
- **Player Gift Sponsor \$1,500** Includes 2 Golfers and Color Signage
- **Closest to the Pin Sponsor \$500** Full color signage on the hole
- **Long Drive Sponsor \$500** Full color signage on the hole.
- **Putting Contest Sponsor \$300** Full color signage on putting green.
- **Hole Sponsor \$100** Full color signage at the golf course



For Golfer and Sponsor Information contact Mr. Wade Carroll at [wdcarrroll9@comcast.net](mailto:wdcarrroll9@comcast.net) or call (904) 868-3861  
 Or Mr. Steve Meeks at [stephen\\_meeks@yahoo.com](mailto:stephen_meeks@yahoo.com) or call (904) 669-1628

### Tournament Agenda

Registration and Range Opens  
 Proceed to Carts  
 Shotgun Tee-Off  
 Fire M-4 tee shot on holes 9 and 17 (\$5.00 a shot)  
 Longest Drive Hole  
 Closest to the pin on all Par 3's  
 Putting Contest  
 Reception  
 Awards and Prize Ceremony  
 BBQ Dinner

### Time

9:30 AM  
 12:00 PM  
 12:30 PM  
 On Course  
 On Course  
 On Course  
 At Turn  
 After Tournament  
 Club House  
 Club House

Conveniently located an easy 3.6 miles west of I-95 at Exit 329 in north Saint Johns County



**COME JOIN US FOR A GREAT DAY OF GOLF AND A WORTHY CAUSE!**



To Register Online: Scan the QR Code  
 Or go online to: [greenberetcharitygolf.com](http://greenberetcharitygolf.com)

By Mail, download a form and mail it to us.



**Submitted by: David Treffinger**

**President, Vietnam Veterans of America**

**Col. William G. Byrns Chapter 1059, Clay County, Florida**

**Here is Clay County Military information about the TAPS Monument in Green Cove Springs. This is the only monument that recognizes the 66 fallen Clay County residents dating back to the Civil War. There are 21 fallen from the Vietnam War.**

**We will be holding a Vietnam War Veterans Ceremony at the TAPS Monument on Saturday, March 29. It will be 50 years ago that we left Vietnam.**

**I have included a photo and a story from when the monument was dedicated in 2017.**

### **TAPS Monument Fact Sheet**

**The TAPS Monument will be dedicated to the 66 Clay County veterans who lost their lives during combat, dating back to the Civil War.**

**Where:** Clay County Historical Triangle, 915 Walnut Street, Green Cove Springs, FL. The new permanent memorial replaces the old monument.

**Monument Sculpture:** Richard C. Rist, The Large Art Company, Baltimore, MD

**Sculpture Details:** The four-sided, 5 feet by 5 feet granite monument will have the names of all Clay County Fallen Warriors inscribed. Topping the memorial will be the TAPS sculpture which measures 44 inches tall and a 32-inch base and 23 inches on each side. The high-quality bronze sculpture is finished in a traditional chocolate brown patina was designed by Richard C. Rist, a Navy veteran who owns The Large Art Company of Baltimore, MD.

The sculpture rests on a triangular base which represents a folded American flag. The three rifles – a 1903 Springfield that was used in WWI, a M-1 Garand rifle from World War II and a M-16 rifle to represent the modern era – form a pyramid with the barrels down to symbolize the fall. The stocks of the rifles come together to form the pyramid which is topped by a “steel pot” combat helmet that was used in WWI until Vietnam. A Civil War-era bugle on the base serves to bring the composition together.

**Monument Designer:** Craig R. Seaton, Broadus Raines Funeral Home, Green Cove Springs

**Granite:** The jet-black granite came from the same quarry as that of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

### **Diamond Etching/Engraving**

**Charles Custom Memorials, Lake City**

**Monument Details:** “Remember Our Fallen” will be carved on all four sides of the Monument. The front panel has a dedication from Clay County and a quote from President Abraham Lincoln’s famous Bixby Letter. The other two panels list the names from the Civil War through the Global War on Terrorism, The four panel will be left blank for future conflicts.

The monument will sit on a concrete base surrounded by pavers, a major fundraiser by Monument committee and the Vietnam Veterans of America Clay County Chapter 1059. The bricks will have engraved dedications.

**Bricks Pavers:** Stone Plus, Inc., Middleburg

Brick Pavers Engraving

Monument Services, Daytona Beach

**Research:** Vishi Garig, Archives Specialist, Clay County Office of Tara Green,

Clerk of the Circuit Court. Garig did the historical and genealogical research on each individual and confirmed the names of the Fallen.

**Cost:** \$82,000. Completely funded by charitable organizations and individuals. Not one governmental dollar was used to fund the memorial.

**History:** The monument was first proposed 10 years ago by Clay County Commissioner chair Harold Rutledge. In March 2015, the current committee chaired by Gary Newman, President of the Vietnam Veterans of America Clay County Chapter 1059, held its first meeting. The committee has met monthly to date.

“The committee wanted a monument that would stand out for decades to come,” Newman said. “It means those veterans that have been forgotten for so long will be remembered.”

**Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1059:** Chapter 1059 was chartered by Vietnam Veterans of America in January 2012. Gary Newman is the founder and president. He is also the current president. The chapter has 130 members which participates in various community events – The Clay County Fair, Chamber of Commerce member, Northeast Florida Military Museum, Middleburg Civic Association member and Veterans Treatment Court. Current officers: Gary Newman, president; Harry Silvers, vice president; Paul Haws Jr., treasurer; Darline Teel-Williams, secretary; board members: J.J. Thomas, George McCaffrey, David Treffinger.

**Committee Members:** CDR Pete Antonacci, USN (RET), Susan Aycock, Jack Biddle, Kim Biddle, John Bowles, Ernie Cohen, Dave Fieber, Vishi Garig, Honorable Gayward Hendry, Scott Iannucci, Amy Morie, Deb Mueller, Gary Newman (Chair), Mary Anne Newman, Greg Rawson, Dan Sanchez, Craig R. Seaton, Harry Silvers, Karen Thomas, David Treffinger, Care Valleau, Joseph Wiggins Sr., ESQ., Art Yeaman.

## Donors/Sponsors

### Platinum Donors

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Ben Armstrong, James T. Barlow, Gen. Roy S. Geiger Marine Corps League Detachment 1047, Mobro Marine, The Honorable Harold Rutledge, VFW Post 8255, Middleburg, Vietnam Veterans of America Duval County Chapter 1046





# FREE SERVICES

## for Veterans

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904-819-3600

[www.stjohnsclerk.com](http://www.stjohnsclerk.com)

# SAVE the DATE

Mayor Donna Deegan and the City of Jacksonville  
Military Affairs and Veterans Department To:

## THE 8TH ANNUAL MILITARY SPOUSES NIGHT OUT

★ JUNE 5, 2025 | 5-8 PM ★

### HELD AT

**VyStar Veterans  
Memorial Arena**

300 A Philip Randolph Blvd,  
Jacksonville, FL 32202

### OPEN TO

U.S. and allied military  
spouses of active-duty,  
guard, reserve and retired  
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Valid ID required.  
No childcare provided.

For more info contact Tiffany Morales  
904.255.5524 // [tmorales@coj.net](mailto:tmorales@coj.net)



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[jacksonville.gov/msno](http://jacksonville.gov/msno)

Persons with Disability  
Accommodations are  
available upon request.

Please contact Disabled  
Services at VM 255-5466,  
TTY 255-5475, or email your  
request to [karat@coj.net](mailto:karat@coj.net)



**POLK (Veteran Pop. 88,159)**  
 1st CAVALRY 'A' TROOP meets @ VFW 2093 2nd Tues.  
 AMERICAN LEGION POST 3 (863)633-- 8883  
 1575 HWY 17 S., Bartow, Fl. 33830  
 4 Larks Veteran Org.  
 590 La Quinta Blvd. Winter Haven, Fl. 33881  
 1575 Ariana St., Lakeland, Fl. 33803  
**AMERICAN LEGION POST 4 (863) 883-8710**  
 300 Ave. M. NW, Winter Haven, Fl. 33881  
**AMERICAN LEGION POST 8 (863) 293-7029 p 33**  
 107 11th St. N., Haines City, Fl. 33845  
**AMERICAN LEGION POST 71 (863)489-6689**  
 P.O. Box 442, Ft. Meade, Fl. 33841  
**American Legion POST 72 (863) 425-0644**  
 1500 SR 37 N., Mulberry, Fl.  
 AMVETS POST 32 (863) 688-3413  
 1339 E. Gary Rd., Lakeland, Fl. 33801  
 KOREAN WAR VETERANS Chapt. 158 (863) 533-7374  
 Buck Rogers 863-858-3558 bucking66@earthlink.net  
 meets @ Amer. Leg. Post3, HWY 17S, Bartow 3rd Saturday  
 MARINE CORPS LEAGUE HEART OF FL #1107  
 863-207-4200 meets @ A.L. Post 6, 300 AVE. M Winter  
 Haven, Fl. 4th Thursday at 1830 hrs (6:30 PM)  
 Military Order of Purple Heart Chptr 535-FL-4 407-350--  
 0224  
 Azaloe pk 1325 Grasslands Blvd. Lakeland, 33803 1st mon 6  
**POLK VETERANS COALITION**  
 2938 Grasslands Dr., Lakeland, Fl. 33803  
 US Mil. Vets Motorcycles (863)294-5810  
**VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE Polk City: (863)634-6220**  
 1290 Golfview Ave. Ste 116, BARTON Fl. 33851  
 VETERANS OF BATTLE OF BULGE 32 (863) 886-2121  
 330 E. Palm Dr., Lakeland, Fl. 33803  
**VA OUTPATIENT (866) 838-4400 p 86**  
 2080 Meadowland Park., Lakeland, Fl. 33803  
 VFW POST 2297 (863) 687-5148  
 305 N. Central Ave., Lakeland, Fl. 33815  
 VFW POST 2420 (863) 678-9166  
 200 Central, Lake Wales, Fl. 33853  
 VFW POST 4289 (863) 293-7469  
 2441 7th St. SW., Winter Haven, Fl. 33880  
 VFW POST 8002 (863) 815-4777  
 9098 US 98N., Lakeland, Fl. 33810 PO 328, Kathleen 33849  
 PUTNAM Veteran Population 6,697  
**AMERICAN LEGION POST 45 386-328-8897**  
 318 Osceola St., Palatka, Fl. 32177  
**AMERICAN LEGION 293 386-684-4464**  
 145 S CR 315, Interlachen, Fl. 32148  
 FLEET RESERVE Branch 163 386-684-6289  
 207 Commonwealth Ave., Interlachen, Fl. 32148  
**PUTNAM COUNTY VETS SVC OFC, (904) 329-0327**  
 PO Box 771, 2909 Crill Ave. Palatka, Fl. 32177  
 VFW POST 3349 386-328-2893  
 3201 Reid St., Palatka, Fl. 32177  
 VFW POST 10164 386-684-0939  
 1034 SR 20, Interlachen, Fl. 32148 (ALSO Amvets 1064)  
**SARASOTA (Veteran Pop. 90,353)**  
 Air Force Association Sarasota-Manatee  
 Sarasota-manatee.afoaflorida.org (941-371-0375)  
**AMERICAN LEGION POST #30 (941) 360-8719**  
 4015 Lookwood Ridge Rd., Sarasota, Fl. 34234  
**AMERICAN LEGION POST 159 (941) 485-4748**  
 1770 E. Venice Ave., Venice, Fl. 34292-3190  
**AMERICAN LEGION POST 284 (941)423-7311**  
 8648 Tarneytown St. North Port, Fl. 34287-0915  
**AMERICAN LEGION POST #298 (941) 371-1326**  
 5201 Richardson Rd, Sarasota, Fl. 34232  
**AMVETS POST 312 (941) 429-- 6403 p 31**  
 7050 Chancellor, North Port, Fl. 34287  
 AMVETS Post 2030 (941)429-1999  
 401 Ortiz Blvd., N. Port, Fl. 34287-1332  
 DAV CHPTR. 101 (941)489-4500  
 MARINE CORPS LEAGUE DET. 843 941-406-7450  
 meets @ 600 E. Colonia Ln., Nokomis, Fl. 34275-2725  
 DAV CHAPTER 97 (941)371-- 7844  
 7177 Bee Ridge Rd., Sarasota, Fl. 34241  
 FLORIDA VETERANS FOR COMMON SENSE  
 Mike Bums/ former POW. 654 Siesta Dr., Sarasota, Fl.  
 OPERATION ECO VETS -- (941) 219-8715  
 Vet Services-- 359 Braden Ave, Sarasota, 34243  
**SARASOTA COUNTY VETERAN Commission**  
 941-544-8306 PO BOX 2065 Sarasota, Fl. 34230  
 president@scvo@gmail.com  
**SARASOTA CTY VETERAN SERVICES (941) 861-2899**  
 2200 Ringling Blvd. St. Ste. 125 Sarasota Fl. 34237  
**SARASOTA CTY VETERAN SERVICES (941) 861-3047**  
 4000 S. Tamiami Trail, Ste. 139 Venice, Fl. 3482  
**SARASOTA COUNTY VETERAN SERVICES N. PORT**  
 (941) 429-7214  
 4970 City Hall Blvd., Room 264 N.Port, Fl. 34286  
 (941) 861-2899  
 JEWISH WAR VETERANS (941) 355-1227  
 4026 78th Pl. E. Sarasota, Fl. 34242  
**SARASOTA VA NATIONAL CEMETERY 941-861-8040 or**  
**toll free 877-851-8640 9510 SR72, Sarasota, Fl. 34241**  
 UKRAINIAN AMERICAN VETS Post 40 941-587-3024  
 4100 S. Biscayne Dr., N. Port, Fl. 34297  
**SARASOTA VET CENTER 941-927-8286 ext.23108**  
 4801 Swift Rd., Suite A, Sarasota, Fl. 34231  
 SRQ VETS.org - 941-777-8387 Mtg. at DAV Post 37, 7377 Bee  
 Ridge Rd Sarasota, Fl. 34241, mail to:SRQ2 Bee Ridge Rd., Sarasota,  
 Fl. 34233 email info@srqvets.org.)  
 VAOPC SARASOTA (941) 371-3349 p 86  
 5682 Bee Ridge Rd., #100, Sarasota, Fl. 34233  
 VFW POST 3233 941-365-1918  
 124 S. Tuttle Ave., Sarasota, Fl. 34282  
 VFW POST 8118 (941) 484-0118  
 832 E. Venice Ave., Venice, Fl. 34285

VFW POST 8203 (941) 426-8665  
 4860 Trot Circle, North Port, Fl. 34287-3419  
 VFW POST 10178 (941) 474-7516  
 550 N. McCall Rd, Englewood, Fl. 34223  
**VIETNAM BROTHERHOOD ALPHA COMPANY, now**  
**meets every Thurs at 7:30 PM at DAV #7, 7177 Bee Ridge Rd,**  
**Sarasota, Fl. 34241, 941-371-7844**  
**SEMINOLE (Veteran Pop. 39,000)**  
 American Legion Post 53 407 678 3654  
 2544 Park Dr. Sanford, Fl. 32773  
**American Legion Post 185 (407) 831-8004**  
 2708 Wells Ave. Fern Park, Fl. 32730  
 American Legion Memorial Post 243 <http://videokel.org/>  
 491 W Broadway St, Oviedo, Fl. 32765  
 AMVETS POST 17 (407) 322-2886  
 915-W. 11th Street, Sanford 32771  
 CASSELLBERRY VETERANS CLUB 407 260-1404  
 200 N. Concord St., Casselberry FL 32707  
 DAV 30 (407) 323-2710  
 3512 S. Orlando Dr., Sanford, Fl. 32773  
 FLEET RESERVE BRANCH 147 407-330-1706  
 3040 W. SR 46, Sanford, Fl. 32771  
 MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART Chapter 400  
 2651 Peony Dr., Oviedo, Fl. 32765 (407) 378-4560  
 PARALYZED VETS OF AMERICA (407) 328-7041  
 2711 S. Design Court, Sanford  
 @200 N. Concord St., Casselberry, Fl. 3rd Sat @ 10am  
**SEMINOLE CTY VETERANS SERVICES (407) 685-2347**  
 520 W. Lake Mary Blvd Suite 100, Sanford, Fl.32773  
 US SUBMARINE VETS (407) 222-8181  
 mtg @ Casselberry Vet, 200 Concord Dr Casselberry 32707  
**VA OUTPATIENT (386) 496-2080 p 56**  
 2583 S. Volusia Ave. Ste. 300, Orange City, Fl. 32763  
 VFW POST 5405 (407) 327-3151  
 420 N. Edgemoor Ave., Winter Springs, Fl. 32708  
 VFW POST 8207 (407) 339-6016  
 1520 N. Ronald Reagan Blvd, CR 427, Longwood, Fl. 32750  
 VFW POST 10139 (407) 883-9615  
 300 Lake Mills Rd. Chuluota, Fl. 32768 post10139@vfw.com  
**St. Johns (Veteran Pop. 17,554)**  
 AMERICAN LEGION POST 57 alp57adjutant@gmail.com  
 PO Box 2204 St. Augustine, Fl. 32084  
 AMERICAN LEGION POST 235 (904) 285-2484  
 590 N. Wilderness TR., Ponte Vedra Beach, Fl. 32082  
 AMERICAN LEGION POST 194 (340) 412-1325  
 1029 Pearl St., St. Augustine, Fl. 32084  
 VFW POST 2391 (904) 797-5297  
 8184 US 1 S., St. Augustine, Fl.32086  
**VFW POST 8696 (904) 446-8696**  
 47 Old Kings Rd., Palm Coast, Fl. 32137  
**ST. JOHNS COUNTY VETS SVC OFC, (904) 209-6160**  
 1955 US 1 S., Ste. 590, St. Augustine, Fl. 32086  
 VVA Leo C. Chase chapter 1084 Pres. James Campeau  
 St. Johns Co. campeauxjames@gmail.com 904-315-6167  
 VVA Leo C. Chase chapter 1084 Pres. James Campeau  
**St. LUCIE (Veteran Pop. 36,852)**  
 AIR FORCE 5033, ASSOC. 844 772-871-8687  
 1150 SW California Blvd, Port St. Lucie, Fl. 34953  
**AMERICAN LEGION POST 40 (772) 461-1280**  
 810 US HWY 1, Ft. Pierce, Fl. 34950  
**AMERICAN LEGION POST 171 (772)595-8798**  
 1814 N 21st St., Ft. Pierce, Fl. 34960  
**AMERICAN LEGION 355 (772) 871-6667**  
 1150 SW California, Blvd., Ft. St. Lucie, Fl. 34968-0427  
**AMERICAN LEGION 358 (772) 595-8856**  
 4350 Oleander Ave., Ft Pierce, 34982  
 AMVETS POST 15 (772)464-7751  
 2024 SOUTH US 1, Ft. Pierce, Fl. 34950  
 Disabled American Veterans, Chap 113 772-871-6667  
 1150 SW California Blvd., Port St. Lucie, Fl. 34953  
 Jewish War Veterans, Chapter 705 772-871-6667  
 1150 SW California Blvd., Port St. Lucie, Fl. 34953  
 Korean War Veterans, Chapter 106 772-871-6667  
 1150 SW California Blvd., Port St. Lucie, Fl. 34953  
 MARINE CORPS LEAGUE DET. 688  
 1150 SW California, Ft. St. Lucie, Fl. 34953  
 PO Box 1765 (3475 Douglas Rd.), Ft. Pierce, Fl. 34981  
 VVA 566 (772)579-5730  
 PO BOX 7365, Ft. St. Lucie, Fl. 34985  
 VFW POST 8258 (772)464-1675  
 PO Box 1765 (3475 Douglas Rd.), Ft. Pierce, Fl. 34981  
 VVA 566 (772)579-5730  
 PO BOX 7365, Ft. St. Lucie, Fl. 34985  
**SUMTER (Veteran Pop. 8,905)**  
**AMERICAN LEGION POST 18**  
 401 E. Gulf Atlantic HWY, Wildwood, Fl. 34785  
**AMERICAN LEGION POST 62 (352)444-2184**  
 2287 North Cr. 439 Lake Panasoffee, Fl.  
**AMERICAN LEGION POST 101 352/660--0201**  
 PO BOX 101, 2881 E.C-48, Bushnell, Fl. 33581  
 AMVETS POST 793 (352)793-2054  
 @VFW POST 10084 CR 470, Lake Panasoffee  
**BUSHNELL VA NATIONAL CEMETERY (352)793-7740**  
 6502 SW 102nd Ave., Bushnell, Fl. 33513  
 Sumter County Veterans Service Offices 352-689-4450  
 7375 Powell Rd., Wildwood, Fl. 34785  
**VFW POST 10084 (Lake Panasoffee) (352) 793-2064**  
 PO BOX 391, Lake Panasoffee, Fl. 33538  
**VFW POST 10137 (352) 793-8511**  
 6036 CR 618, Veterans Memorial Hwy., Bushnell, Fl. 33513  
**VOLUSIA (Veteran Pop. 60,090)**  
**AMERICAN LEGION POST 6 386-740-0622**  
 1087 Biscayne Blvd, Deland, Fl. 32724  
**AMERICAN LEGION POST # 17 (386) 427-9007**  
 819 W. Canal St., New Smyrna Bch., Fl. 32168  
**AMERICAN LEGION POST 120 386-258-5275**  
 481 Walker St. Holly Hill, Fl. 32117  
**AMERICAN LEGION POST 299**  
 321-696-8272 or 386-532-7915 [www.slp.255deltona.org](http://www.slp.255deltona.org)

AMERICAN LEGION POST # 267 (386) 672-7678  
 156 New Britain Ave., Ormond Bch., Fl. 32174  
**AMERICAN LEGION POST # 270 (386) 788-8800**  
 119 Howes St., Port Orange, Fl. 32127  
**AMERICAN LEGION POST 295 386-210-4926**  
 4497 US HWY 1, Edgewater, Fl. 32641  
**AMERICAN LEGION POST # 361 (386) 780-3887**  
 PO Box 4581, 2648 S. Ridgewood, S. Daytona, Fl. 32121  
**AMVETS POST 2 386-402-7602**  
 1208 S. Ridgewood, Edgewater, Fl. 32132  
**AMVETS POST 13 (386) 943-- 9311**  
 645 W. New York Ave., Deland, Fl. 32720  
**AMVETS POST 911 (386) 788-1014**  
 5624 S. Ridgewood Ave. Pt. Orange, Fl. 32127  
**The West Volusia MOAA Chapter 386 479 3400Mtg monthly.**  
**Call Maj Curt Voebel or gtorct@gmail.com Thomas Jackson**  
**OWA USA (RET) Thomas Jackson@outlook.com Military Order of**  
**the Purple Heart Chptr 316 386-690-9533Mtg. @ VA Home,**  
 1520 Mason Ave., Daytona Bch., July 7@1pm  
**VA OUTPATIENT (386) 323-7600 p 65**  
 551 National Healthcare Dr., Daytona Bch, Fl. 32117  
**VET CENTER OF DAYTONA BEACH (386) 366-5600**  
 1620 Mason Ave ste C, Daytona Bch., Fl. 32117  
**VA Deltona Community Based Outpatient Clinic p 65**  
 1200 Deltona Blvd., Deltona, Fl. 32725 386-575-5000  
 VFW POST # 1590 (386) 252-5844  
 1013 Veterans Ct., Daytona Bch 32114  
 VFW POST # 2380 (386) 738-2380  
 510 S. Alabama Ave, DeLand 32724  
 VFW POST # 3282 (386) 761-7217  
 5810 S. Williamson Blvd Port Orange 32134  
 VFW POST # 4250 (386) 423-1789  
 2350 Sunset Dr. New Smyrna Bch. 32168  
 VFW POST #803 (386) 666-8648  
 351 S. Charles Richard Beal Blvd (17792), DeBarry, Fl.32713

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA CHAPTER 1048  
 386-690-8653 PO Box 290262 Port Orange, Fl. 32128  
 Volusia County Veterans Service Office 386-740-6102  
 123 W. Indiana Ave., Deland, Fl. 32720

# Information about FL veterans organizations by county



**Female Veterans Network of Citrus County**

[www.FemaleVeteransNetwork.org](http://www.FemaleVeteransNetwork.org)

**Cynthia Henderson**  
 Founder/President 2015


[cynthia@femaleveteransnetwork.org](mailto:cynthia@femaleveteransnetwork.org)

2719 Woodbrook St.  
 Lecanto, Fl. 34861  
 (H) 352-628-6481 (O) 352-613-3315

**Meetings are September - May at 1:00  
 p.m. on the  
 second Thursday  
 of each month at  
 Faith Lutheran Church  
 fellowship hall  
 935 S. Crystal Glen Drive, Lecanto, FL.**

**Female Veterans  
 Network is selling  
 commemorative pins  
 recognizing Female  
 Veterans.  
 Pins are available at  
 Mac-I Signs,  
 7068 Grover Cleveland,  
 Homosassa and  
 Citrus County Radio  
 Stations 964 Crystal Glen Drive,  
 Lecanto**

**Call Cynthia Henderson: 352-628-6481**



**she  
wore  
these.**

*It's our job to give her  
the best care anytime.*

**WOMEN VETERANS HEALTH CARE**



Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs ·

Which National Park is your favorite to use your free Military Lifetime Pass?

Don't have one yet? Don't miss out! Veterans, service members, dependents, and Gold Star families are eligible Learn more: <https://www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/>







## Veterans Radio

The Voice of America's Veterans since 2003

Over 1,000 programs  
featuring:

- 2,000+ Veteran interviews and stories
- Monthly Veteran Benefits Hour with expert panellists
- Small business highlights
- Artists, musicians, authors, and more!

Every Veteran has a story to tell.  
Listen to stories of service from all branches, all eras.

[Listen live or stream the podcast!](#)

Veterans Radio is a 501(c)3 non-profit.

From David “Flyboy” Shelton

Fellow PGR, Below is an updated schedule for the Vietnam and War on Terrorism Walls. September will be a busy month, so any assistance you can provide would be greatly appreciated.

### FL PGR Vietnam & WoT Wall Schedule

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

Email: [flsc@patriotguard.org](mailto:flsc@patriotguard.org) / 321-689-4699

Updated as of:  
08/09/24

Date	Time		Duration	Wall(s)	Location	Comments
08/08/24	1200 hrs	Set-Up	7 Days	WOT	VA Hospital Lake Nona 13800 Veterans Way Orlando, FL 32827	Display in hospital main lobby
09/09/24 - 09/13/24		Display				9-11 Remembrance
09/14/25		Take Down				Ceremony 09/11/24 @ 1100 hrs
09/21/24	0900 - 1700 hrs	Set-Up / Display	1 Day	Vietnam / WoT	OB's Restaurant & Lounge 1750 N. Woodland Blvd Deland, FL 32720	National POW / MIA Recognition Day 2024 CVMA 20-13 Event
09/27/24	1200 hrs	Escort	2 Days	Vietnam / WoT	American Legion Post 72 1500 N. Church Ave. Mulberry, FL 33860	Fall Festival
	1400 hrs	Set-Up				Vietnam Vets
09/28/24	0900 - 1800 hrs	Display				ALR
10/25/25	1400 hrs	Set-Up	1 Day	Vietnam / WoT	American Legion Post 45 316 Osceola St. Palatka, FL 32177	
10/26/24	0900 - 1600 hrs	Display / Take Down				
<b>Possible escort of The Walls to the event</b>						
11/02/24	0700 hrs	1700 hrs	1 Day	Vietnam / WoT	City Hall (across the street) 300 W. Plant St Winter Garden, FL 34757	Challenge 22 Ruck Walk Suicide Awareness
11/10/24	1100 hrs	Escort / Set-Up	2 Days	Vietnam / WoT	Anastasia Baptist Church 1650 A1A S St. Augustine, FL 32080	Veteran's Day Ceremony
11/11/24	0900 - 1100 hrs	Display / Take Down				Escort from Daytona to St. Augustine
03/29/25	1100 hrs		2 Weeks	Vietnam	VA Hospital Lake Nona 13800 Veterans Way Orlando, FL 32827	Erect in hospital main lobby Vietnam War Veterans Day
<b>Dates and times to be verified</b>						
05/24/25	0800 hrs	Set-Up / Display	3 Days	Vietnam / WoT	City of Clermont Highland Pavilion Complex 330 3rd St Clermont, FL 32711	Memorial Day Ceremony
05/25/25	1600 hrs	Take Down				Stage - Home Depot Rt. 50 Clermont, FL
11/10/25	1100 hrs	Escort / Set-Up	2 Days	Vietnam / WoT	Anastasia Baptist Church 1650 A1A S St. Augustine, FL 32080	Veteran's Day Ceremony
11/11/25	0900 - 1100 hrs	Display / Take Down				Escort from Daytona to St. Augustine
03/28/26	0800 hrs	Escort / Set-Up	2 Days	Vietnam	Florida National Cemetery 6502 SW 102nd Ave. Bustnell, FL 33513	Vietnam War Veterans Day
03/29/26	To be verified	Display / Take Down				
<b>Dates and times to be verified</b>						

**SAVING HEROES  
BY**

# *Raising Warriors*

**For God, Country, & Community**

**FREE**



## *Free Membership*

- ✔ Prepare Future Heroes
- ✔ Support Warrior Families
- ✔ Heal Combat Trauma
- ✔ Prevent Suicides

**Contact**  
**Matthew.Burke@10CAN.org**

**Join Today**  
**www.10CAN.org**



## ★ Veterans Food Assistance Program ★

### What?

Starting October 1st DVNF will be offering a one-time grant per veteran household to support their nutritional needs.

### How to Apply

We have an online application that will need to be completed by the Veteran. The application can be found at <https://www.grantinterface.com/sl/dI4NjA>. The link will be open starting October 1st, 2024.

### Veteran Qualifications

- Must have a DD214 or Veteran ID
- Was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable
- A letter of reference from a case worker or advocate may make the application more favorable.

### Other Details

- This is not a monthly grant.
- The groceries will be delivered directly to the Veteran using Walmart or grocery store delivery service.
- Veterans can receive up to \$450 worth of groceries

For more information, please contact us: (202) 737-0522 - [info@dvnf.org](mailto:info@dvnf.org)



**Alton Green Memorial  
American Legion Post 194**

*Save the Date*

**19 SEPT 2025**

*77th Anniversary*

**GOLF**  
*Tournament*

**St. Johns Golf Club  
4900 Cypress Links Blvd  
Elkton, FL 32033**

## The Fire Watch

Our stand against Veteran suicide took great strides forward in 2024, with The Fire Watch's network of individuals and organizations trained to identify and support Veterans in crisis continuing to grow and have a positive impact throughout Florida – thank you to all the Watch Standers and Veteran Safe Places that have joined our mission to end Veteran suicide in our state!



# HOW VA DISABILITY RATINGS WORK

**BENEFITS CHART** - Each increased level includes all benefits of the previous levels.

SERVICE CONNECTED PERCENTAGE	DESCRIPTION
<b>0%</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10-point Veteran preference in federal hiring</li> <li>• No cost health care and prescription drugs for service-connected disabilities. Small co pays may be applied for inpatient and prescription drugs-Must be enrolled in VA Healthcare</li> <li>• VA Life Insurance guaranteed acceptance up to age 81 up to \$40,000.</li> <li>• Use of commissaries, exchanges, and morale, welfare and recreation (MWR) retail facilities, in-person and online. -Must be enrolled in VA Healthcare</li> <li>• Non-VA Urgent Care visits at \$30/visit including 14-day prescription (<b>in network</b>)-Must be enrolled in VA Healthcare</li> <li>• Non-VA Emergency Room for service-connected conditions or non-service-connected conditions. If you have OHI (Other Health Insurance), but it does not fully cover the costs of treatment, VA may pay certain costs for which you are personally liable – Email to: VHAEmergencyNotification@va.gov OR Call 844-72HRVHA (844-724-7842) <b>within 72 hours</b>-Must be enrolled in VA Healthcare</li> <li>• VA Dental Insurance Program (VADIP)-Must be enrolled in VA Healthcare</li> </ul>
<b>10%-20%</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No cost health care - Must be enrolled in VA Healthcare</li> <li>• Prescription drugs for service-connected disabilities. Small co pays may be applied for inpatient stays and prescription drugs-Must be enrolled in VA Healthcare</li> <li>• Waiver of VA funding fee for home loan</li> <li>• Vocational Rehabilitation &amp; Employment (10% with a serious employment handicap)</li> <li>• Burial and plot allowance</li> </ul>
<b>30%-40%</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Travel allowance for scheduled appointments for care at a VA medical facility or VA authorized health care facility</li> <li>• Additional compensation for eligible dependents (may include aid and attendance for eligible spouse)</li> </ul>
<b>50%-90%</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No cost health care and prescription medications – no copays-Must be enrolled in VA Healthcare</li> <li>• Concurrent receipt of military retired pay with 20 years (15 TERA)</li> <li>• Add 3 no cost Non-VA Urgent Care visits including 14-day prescription per calendar year for the Urgent Care visit</li> </ul>
<b>100%</b> No restriction to income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No cost dental care at the VA</li> <li>• DoD Uniformed Services ID card</li> <li>• Federal student loan forgiveness</li> <li>• Space-A Flights (Cat VI) – Veteran &amp; Dependents INCONUS/Territories</li> <li><b>--With Permanent &amp; Total (P&amp;T) Status--</b></li> <li>• All Non-VA ER – Must contact your VAMC within 72 hours</li> <li>• Dependents Educational Assistance (DEA or CHAPTER 35)</li> <li>• Dependent's healthcare through CHAMPVA–Civilian Health and Medical Program (if not Tricare eligible)</li> <li>• VA Dental Insurance Program (VADIP) for CHAMPVA eligible dependents</li> </ul>
<b>Individual Unemployability – 60%-90%</b>	
Same as 100% except must be unemployable due to service-connected disabilities with part time income restriction \$15,852/year (2024)	
<p><b>VA Derivative Benefits Eligibility Service-Connected Matrix</b></p> <p><a href="https://benefits.va.gov/benefits/derivative_sc.asp">https://benefits.va.gov/benefits/derivative_sc.asp</a></p>	

**WANT TO COMPETE AGAINST  
AMERICA'S ELITE FORCES?  
TAKE YOUR BEST SHOT!**



**PRESENTS**  
**MEMORIAL WEEKEND  
VETERAN GAMES**

**SATURDAY, MAY 24, 2025**

**AT SALTWATERS SHOOTING CLUB, ST. AUGUSTINE, FL**

**REGISTER AT [WWW.OPERATIONBARNABAS.COM](http://WWW.OPERATIONBARNABAS.COM)**

**\$200 PER INDIVIDUAL**

**Join us to honor those who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces while competing against RECON, MARSOC, SEALS, ARMY SF, and SWAT.**

**More Information Call: (850) 814 4320**



37th Annual All Veterans Reunion May 8th-May11th, 2025!!



**One of the Nations "Largest and Longest Running" Reunions!**

**PUBLIC IS ALWAYS INVITED TO ATTEND!**

**Reunion Date: May 8th—11th, 2025**

**@ Wickham Park in Melbourne FL**

**Reunion Information can be found at: [www.veteransmemorialreunioninc.org](http://www.veteransmemorialreunioninc.org)**

The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall and Some Gave All—The Moving Tribute are being donated for the duration of the Reunion by the VVB.

Wall escort will be on May 4th, departing the Eastern Florida State College (EFSC) Cocoa Campus @ 10am sharp and escorted to Wickham Park.

**First Responders Honored and Requested to join in!**

Scan here for all  
of our links!



**Family Friendly!**

**There will be a  
"Kid Zone"**

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



Wickham Park: 2500 Parkway Dr. Melbourne, FL 32935

• Health Care  
 • Education  
 • Earned Benefits

**FDVA.VSO@FDVA.FL.GOV**  
**727-319-7440**

**OPERATION STRONG & READY**  
 A Military Wellness Program

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
 FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
 FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

**STARTING JULY 30<sup>TH</sup> , 2024**  
**OSR - VETERANS ONLY!**

**To register stop by the Welcome center or email [EHernandez@fcymca.org](mailto:EHernandez@fcymca.org)!**

**Program Overview**

Operation Strong & Ready (OSR) – "Veterans Only" is an 8-week/16 session program is designed to not only help our veterans get back into shape physically, but also mentally and emotionally. The program is held twice a week for approximately 1.5-hours. Each week a new topic will be discussed or a new resource will be provided to help better assist the veterans during their 8-week journey.

**Program Goals**

Increase participant's physical and mental health through exercise, peer support and educational resources.

**Who Can Participate?**

The program is open to any military veteran who desires to increase their physical activity, improve their overall health, and to connect with other like-minded veterans.

For more information, email our Military Outreach Program Coordinator, Eric Hernandez, at [EHernandez@fcymca.org](mailto:EHernandez@fcymca.org).

STRENGTHENING OUR MILITARY FAMILIES™  
 YMCA OF FLORIDA'S FIRST COAST | [FCYMCA.org](http://FCYMCA.org)

**Program Cost**

Thanks to generous donations and sponsorships, this session is FREE for anyone qualified. Future programs may have a participant costs pending future funding.

**Program Details**

In a small group setting, an OSR Instructor will safely guide participants through 8 weeks of exercise programming designed specifically to meet the veteran's needs. The program consists of pre and post assessments, 16 exercise sessions with a certified instructor, healthy living and veteran resource discussions, and a YMCA membership for the participant and their immediate family members for the 8-week duration of the program.

**The 90-minute OSR session consists of:**

- ✓ Healthy-Living/Resources Discussions
- ✓ Warm-Up
- ✓ Teamed Cardio + Strength Workout
- ✓ Cool-Down

**Program will be held at Dye Clay Family YMCA. We will meet twice a week on Tuesday and Thursday's from 10:00AM – 11:30AM.**



## 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](mailto:nationalleague@pow-miafamilies.org)

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



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

PH ---703/465-7432

[www.pow-miafamilies.org](http://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

## **How to report a Veteran's death to VA**

The passing of a Veteran is a solemn time that deserves to be recognized and reported with the utmost respect. Veterans have served their country and worked hard for their well-deserved benefits.

However, after a Veteran passes away, family members should report the death of the Veteran to VA as soon as possible to stop current benefits payments. If the death is not reported promptly, survivors or executors of the Veteran's estate may have to repay any overpayments received. Payments the deceased Veteran received may include compensation, pension, education or Veteran Readiness & Employment benefits.

VA encourages loved ones of deceased Veterans to follow the guidance below on reporting Veteran deaths to avoid falling victim to benefit scams.

### **How to report the death of a Veteran**

Calling is the fastest way to report a Veteran's death so VA will stop benefit payments, but there are other options available for reporting.

#### **Options for reporting:**

**By Phone:** Call VA 800-827-1000 (TTY: 711) and select 5. Agents are available Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. ET.

**In Person:** Go to a VA regional office. Find the nearest VA regional office.

**By Mail:** Department of Veterans Affairs Claims Intake Center, PO Box 4444, Janesville, WI 53547-4444. Include your relationship to the Veteran and any supporting documents that can help us verify the Veteran's identity. Examples of supporting documents are:

Death certificate or other public record of the Veteran's death

Discharge document (like a DD214)

If you report in person at a VA regional office or by mail, provide copies of:

Death certificate or other public record of the Veteran's death.

Discharge document (like a DD214).

Provide as much information about the Veteran as you can when you first report the notice of death to VA. This information will help VA verify the Veteran's identity. This information includes:

Full name.

Social Security Number or VA claim number.

Date of birth.

Date of death.

Branch of service.

### **Best practices to avoid survivor benefit scams**

Save important files, such as the Veteran's military service/treatment records, discharge papers and copies of their VA claims.

Go to the VA website. For guidance on creating an account and obtaining a VA security Personal Identification Number (PIN) to securely access benefit information. A VA Security PIN is an additional way to secure direct deposit accounts from theft and protect Personally Identifiable Information (PII).

Never give out PII via text, and be cautious of suspicious hyperlinks or unfamiliar hyperlinks.

If a survivor is missing a VA benefits payment, identifies a discrepancy in payments, or find suspicious activity with a direct deposit account, contact VA immediately at 800-827-1000.

Review all documents thoroughly. Survivors should never sign a blank form for some

one else to complete later. They should always review the completed form before signing and retain a copy of the completed form for their records.

For protection against identity theft scams, notify the major credit bureaus (Equifax, Experian and TransUnion) to update the individual's credit report with a deceased notice and notify the Veteran's financial institutions so all accounts can be closed or transferred appropriately.

According to AARP, scammers also use names published in obituaries to pretend to be long lost relatives of the deceased. When it's time to write your loved one's obituary, consider leaving out the birthdate, middle name, home address, birthplace and mother's maiden name.

For other scams predators use, visit [www.VA.GOV/VSAFE](http://www.VA.GOV/VSAFE).

VA is committed to delivering world-class care and benefits to Veterans and their dependents by providing survivors with ongoing support and assistance. Check to see if you qualify for survivor benefits, such as health care coverage, Survivors' and Dependents' Education Assistance Program, housing assistance, or even help with burial costs.

For more guidance on how to report the death of a Veteran, submitting necessary documentation and finding additional resources available, visit [VA Benefits For Spouses, Dependents, Survivors, And Family Caregivers | Veterans Affairs](#).

To report a missing VA benefits payment, identify a discrepancy in payments, or find suspicious activity with a direct deposit account, contact VA immediately at 800-827-1000. You may also file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission if funeral homes charge to set up funeral honors or schedule a burial with VA's National Cemetery Administration by visiting [reportfraud.ftc.gov](http://reportfraud.ftc.gov). For other scams predators use, visit [va.gov/vsafe](http://va.gov/vsafe).

## **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**





# 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

## Surviving Spouse Milestones

*\*Not all milestones apply to every persons 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 persons 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/SGL 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



## 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	Tommy Tittle	twt1968@att.net
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.



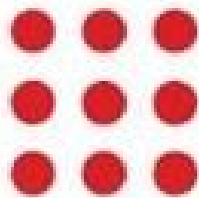
The Veterans Council of St. Johns County is comprised of representatives from various veterans' organizations that work with city and county governments and organizations to assist with matters concerning veterans and veterans' activities.

## 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-0003147064-01

rans  
Line



# Veterans Crisis Line

73-8255  
PRESS 1

1-800-273-8255 PRESS 1

Veterans  
Crisis Line  
00-273-8255 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 (8258)  
[www.suicideline.org](http://www.suicideline.org)

• • • • Confidential chat at [VeteransCrisisLine.net](http://VeteransCrisisLine.net) or text to (888)335 • • • •

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



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

Confidential chat at [MilitaryCrisisLine.net](http://MilitaryCrisisLine.net) or text 838255



## Legal Aid for Veterans

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

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

**1.866.486.6161**

**Call Today!**

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



## We Can Help With

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

Supported by the: **FDVA**  
FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

**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: Ansil Lewis, SgtMaj USMC, ret

Meetings:

First Wednesday of each month

Location:

American Legion Post 250  
2608 Black Creek Rd  
Middleburg, FL 32068

Time: 1100 (11am)

904-658-0105

### **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)

### **DUVAL COUNTY**

President

Meetings:

Third Tuesday of each month

Location:

American Legion Post 37  
Main Building  
San Juan Avenue

Time: 1900 (7 pm)

### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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 D. McDermott Director*

*Lori Chapman Assistant VSO*

*Shauna Holton Assistant VSO*

*Jonathan Rojas Assistant VSO*

*April Manner Administrative Coordinator*

*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.*