



# The Patriot Reader Newsletter

P.O. Box 2117

St. Augustine, FL 32085

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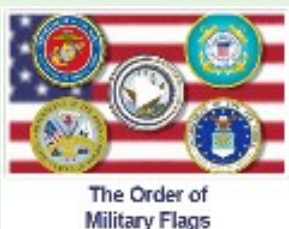
Volume 11, Issue 8

From Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley

August 2022

## Inside this Edition

- Jax National Cemetery Support Committee
- Veterans Council St. Johns County speakers
- Recognizing SGM Ray Quinn, FLANG Ret
- Final Mile Escort
- Military Museum of North FL
- Habitat for Humanity
- UNF Honored as a Military Support College
- Lynn Geiser
- Medal of Freedom Presentations
- Medals of Honor Legends & Heroes
- BG Wilma Vaught
- Local Antarctic Explorer
- VetStreamTV
- POW/MIA Museum Brick Campaign
- The LT Dan Band performs at NAS Jax
- Local 100 year old WW II veteran
- USS Orleck
- Desert Storm Memorial
- Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation
- Veterans Council Speakers
- First Coast Honor Flight
- Flag Etiquette



Fellow Veterans,

On August 1, the Veterans Council will officially launched this year's 2022 Wreaths Across America sale. As staggering as price increases have been in this hyper inflationary period, the price of a wreath has remained the same. Our wreath sales have been highly successful each year thanks to our local community support and have allowed us to continue to place a wreath on every grave in December at our St. Augustine National Cemetery. Our Vice Chairman, Ray Quinn has the WAA order forms available for anyone wanting to purchase a wreath. Wreath costs are \$15 per wreath and if you purchase 2, you will receive 3 wreaths making the price actually \$10 per wreath. Please plan

to support our WAA program with the purchase of a wreath or 2.

On Oct. 8, the Veterans Council and Veterans Service Office will once again host the Homeless Veterans Stand Down at the Elks lodge. This has been a highly successful program over the years to help feed and clothe our homeless veterans in the community. They are provided with clothing, showers, haircuts, help with VA healthcare, legal aide, employment opportunities, housing, and other resources they may require to help them with their homeless situation. Volunteers are needed to help set up tables, place clothing on the tables and assist the veterans as they proceed through the lines to make their selection of services offered. If you would like to volunteer, please be at the Elks



Lodge on Friday, Oct. 7 at 9 am to help with the set-up and unload the truck and again on Sat. Oct 8 at 9 am to assist with the Stand Down.

Our Veterans Day Program planning committee is moving forward with great success in preparing for this year's program on Nov. 11. Our keynote speaker has accepted our invitation and is most qualified to speak on this year's theme on The Global War on Terror.

Thank you for your service to our country.  
 Bill Dudley  
 Chairman  
 Veterans Council of St. Johns County



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

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

Jacksonville National Cemetery Support Committee Meetings for 2022  
At Hadlow Community Hospice of NE FL.  
4266 Sunbeam Rd, Jacksonville, FL 32257  
Hadlow Bldg – Conference Room A 7:00 pm

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

Chairman: Padraic Mulvihill  
Vice Chairman: Bill Dudley Treasurer: Pat Welch  
Secretary: Kathy Church, Judge Advocate: Don Guthrie  
Master-At-Arms: Mike Smith, Historian: Win Delpizzo  
Chaplain: Pat Archuleta, Public Affairs: Pat Mulvihill

**The Veterans Council of St. Johns County meets on the  
last Thursday of the month, all are invited to attend. We  
meet at the County Health & Human Services Building,  
200 San Sebastian View, at 7 pm**



**Upcoming Veterans Council Meetings Speakers**

**August 25, Carmalita Gaines, Jacksonville Veterans Center**

**Kathy Church, Missing in America Project**

**September 29, Officer Kelly Kemp, Chaplain, SJSO,**

**“Community Involvement”**

**and Michael Anthony, CEO**

**Gratitude America**

**VETERANS COUNCIL OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY**

**MINUTES OF GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**JUNE 30, 2022**

**CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Dudley**

**WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS: Chairman Dudley**

**PLEDGE: Chairman Dudley**

**NATIONAL ANTHEM**

**INVOCATION: Vice Chairman Quinn**

**This month's meeting hosted the Congressional Gold Medal presentation to World War II Merchant Mariners, Mr. Ed Trester and Col. Bill Priutt, by District 6 Congressman Michael Waltz. Mr. Trester and Col. Priutt chose to be honored in their hometown of St. Augustine instead of Washington DC. The ceremony was held at 500 San Sebastian View, St. Augustine. There was a large audience in attendance to honor these two Mariners for their service to our country.**



**July's Veterans Council's next regular meeting will be held on July 28, 2022, at the regular meeting location at 200 San Sebastian View, St. Augustine, beginning at 7:00pm.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**William Dudley, Chairman**

**Ray A. Quinn, Vice Chairman**



## 'It's so humbling:' St. Johns County man inducted into Florida Veterans Hall of Fame Retired Sgt. Maj. Ray Quinn: 'It's so humbling'

*Sheldon Gardner, St. Augustine Record*

Anyone who has been to the Memorial Day service in downtown St. Augustine has probably seen retired U.S. Army Sgt. Maj. Ray Quinn.



Quinn, who devotes much of his time to serving veterans, recites his poem, "Tribute to a Fallen Comrade," at Memorial Day and Veterans Day services. He has also read the piece at funerals for Florida National Guardsmen who died in the Middle East, he said.

"It's very emotional for me," he said.

Quinn retired from the Florida National Guard in 1995 after 30 years of service. Since then, he's been a force in the community for veterans, including helping to establish and lead the Veterans Council of St. Johns County.

Because of his work, Gov. Ron DeSantis and his cabinet unanimously voted to include Quinn in the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame this year along with 14 other veterans. Now his name is among other Hall of Fame inductees on a plaque inside the Capitol rotunda, he said.

Quinn, 76, lives in St. Johns County with his wife, Addrenne. The couple spoke with The Record at his home about the Hall of Fame honor and his life.



"I'm a really small-town guy. Came from Umatilla. ... Graduated from a high school class of 30 students. And to come from that environment to a statewide honor ... it's so humbling. I couldn't believe it," he said.

That group of inductees into the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame include retired members of the Air Force, Navy, Marines and Army.

"The Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame recognizes and honors those military veterans who, through their works and lives during or after military service, have made a significant contribution to the State of Florida through civic, business, public service or other pursuits," according to the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs. "It is not a traditional military hall

of fame, as it focuses on post-military contributions to the State of Florida."

'A patriot' from a young age

Quinn's office is full of military memorabilia, memories and awards, including The Legion of Merit Medal and The Florida Distinguished Service Medal. A photo of his father training during World War II hangs on one wall.



"I think I've been a patriot since I was a Boy Scout, and I love America and the flag just like some corny old guy in a movie, I guess," Quinn said. "And everything I did that touched the public, like serving in hurricane duty, hauling water to a town that had lost their water supply, meeting and greeting the people and having them show their appreciation, I love that."

He said he couldn't have achieved what he has without the support of others, including his wife, Addrenne. The two met while in high school in Umatilla.

"She was working for her aunt who had a little restaurant in town. She was a server ... and I used to eat there for lunch. I worked for a local grocery store," he said.

"He'd get extra portions, of course," Addrenne Quinn said.

"(We) started dating and then we got married a couple of years later," he said.

The Quinn's have two daughters, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Quinn became a citizen soldier in 1965 while working another job, according to the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame Society. He began working full time in the Florida Army National Guard as a parts clerk in 1973 and climbed the ranks.

The guard transferred him to St. Johns County in 1985, he said. Here, his role included overseeing training for guardsmen to make sure they were combat ready and that their skills were "equal to those who serve out in the field," Quinn said.

The Florida Army National Guard prepares units for combat and other support services for federal military operations. It also "provides protection of life, property and preserves peace, order and public safety" at the state level and can be used to support civil defense, disaster relief and other missions, according to the Florida National Guard.



After retiring from the Florida National Guard, Quinn worked for the Florida Department of Military Affairs, including serving as director of executive services. He worked on the adjutant general's staff. He is retired from that role.

Retired Florida Army National Guard Brig. Gen. Michael Fleming nominated Quinn for the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame, Quinn said.

Quinn, a former St. Johns County commissioner, is one of the founding members of the Veterans Council of St. Johns County. The nonprofit launched more than 20 years ago to support the needs of veterans. He is vice chair of the organization.

In addition to serving with the Veterans Council and reading the "Tribute to a Fallen Comrade," Quinn has honored veterans in other ways.



"Several times each year, St. Johns County suffers the loss of a veteran that has no next of kin. Upon these occasions, the county verifies their service and arranges for interment at the Jacksonville National Cemetery," according to the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame Society. "The Veterans Council of St. Johns County has a policy that no veteran goes home alone. Sgt. Maj. Quinn volunteers to conduct a graveside service for every veteran that has no family."

Homelessness is 'the biggest crisis'

When Quinn and others launched the Veterans Council of St. Johns County, they wanted to provide a place for veterans to get help or meet with other veterans. He said Bill Dudley, current chair of the Veterans Council, has transformed the organization.

Now the nonprofit has funds "readily available" to help needy veterans, Quinn said. The organization is now focused on getting housing for homeless veterans, among other causes, he said.

"The biggest crisis we have in supporting veterans are homeless veterans," he said. "We wind up placing them in local motels for maybe up to three days, and that's the best we can do. There is no center, no place to send them except for the motels."

Another challenge is getting younger veterans involved in the Veterans Council, Quinn said.

"My contemporaries are in their 70s and their 80s, and when we look in the rearview mir-

## **Unclaimed Veteran from Lake City is laid to rest with ‘Final Mile Escort’, By Jordyn Markhoff, WCJB ABC 20**

**LAKE CITY, Fla. (WCJB) - While Veteran Lawrence Lewis died without leaving behind any relatives, the “Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association” honored him in a way that shows us all, family runs deeper than blood.**



**“Any veteran has to have family request funeral honors,” said David Allen, Public Relations Officer, Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association.**

**When he found that out three years ago, Allen started a program called “The Final Mile.”**

**“My dream at that time was that it would spread throughout Florida, throughout the nation, and there would be a Final Mile for every Veteran that did not have family,” said Allen.**

**So, that’s exactly what they did for U.S. Marine Corps Veteran, Lawrence Lewis.**

**“That’s how we look at these guys, they are our brothers and our sisters,” said Allen. “We have done both male and female unclaimed vets over the last three years and I think it gave him peace.”**

**The Commander of the Jacksonville chapter, Donald Grove, said they cover five counties making their chapter one of the bigger ones.**

**The first time you do it you’re gonna tear up, you’re going to get this feeling in your chest. It’s hard to describe until you’ve done it,” said Grove.**

**With a moment of silence, dozens paid their respects to Lawrence Lewis.**

**“This way is our way of giving back to them saying hey, it’s not that you don’t have family, you have family, and we’re here for you,” said Grove.**

**Law enforcement escorted Lewis to Jacksonville National Cemetery, showing us that “Semper Fidelis” Latin for “Always Faithful,” is more than just a slogan.**

## The Military Museum of North Florida

### ABOUT THE MUSEUM

Reynolds Industrial Park, where the Museum is located, is the former Naval Air Station, **Green Cove Springs**, Benjamin Lee Field. The base was the main training base for the F6F Hellcat fighter which had over 5000 shoot-downs in WWII. It was the US Navy's main Zero killer. Visitors can walk in the shadows of WWII fighter pilots and heroes to include General Roy Geiger, the father of Marine Corps aviation, the Black Sheep Squadron pilots, Joe Kennedy (JFK's Brother), Ed McMahon (Johnny Carson's sidekick) and many more. The base was also home to the Navy's 600 ship Atlantic mothball fleet after the war.



On September 11, 1940, the U.S. Navy made it official, opening Naval Air Station Lee Field, just south of Green Cove Springs. The Air Station was named in honor of Ensign Benjamin Lee who had lost his life in a crash at Killingholm, England, during World War I on October 28, 1918. Benjamin Lee Field was designed to train pilots for landing operations on aircraft carriers during WWII. The facility was re-named Naval Air Station Green Cove Springs in August 1943.



The Military Museum of North Florida honors ALL service men and women from EVERY branch of the service. There are pictures and displays of uniforms, weapons and equipment from each of our major conflicts. You can see what it must have been like to live on the western front in World War I. The equipment and photos from the Vietnam War show how far warfare had progressed since WWI. There are examples of vehicles from the Korean era through Vietnam and beyond. The museum has many special events including displays of military art like these from noted artist John Shaw. Among other events are our Military History Day, D-Day Commemoration, National Holidays and other memorable days in military history.



### Address

1 Bunker Ave. Green Cove Springs, FL 32043

### Hours

Monday - Wednesday: Closed

Thursday- Saturday: 10 AM - 3 PM

Sunday: 12 PM - 4 PM

Closed on Easter Sunday

### Questions:

Museum Phone:

(904) 863 3527

Email: [militarymuseumnf@aol.com](mailto:militarymuseumnf@aol.com)



## Iraq war veteran building his house in St. Johns County with Habitat for Humanity

Wells Fargo provides grants around the country to help provide, improve affordable housing

*Sheldon Gardner, St. Augustine Record*

Iraq War veteran Kristopher Barajas found his way to St. Augustine after a spiritual awakening that led him through other countries, he said.

Now he plans to build a house in the area with the help of Habitat for Humanity.

"I'm excited about it, very excited," he said. "(I'll) finally have, like, a home base to stay in and come back to whenever I do travel again. ... It's nice to have a place to come back to."

Coming home: St. Johns County waitress receives house from Habitat for Humanity

Traffic congestion: St. Augustine receives \$500K Florida DOT grant, plans to launch downtown shuttle

Affordable housing: Complexes in St. Johns County nearing completion; leasing has begun

With the help of grant funds, Habitat for Humanity of St. Augustine and St. Johns County is helping Barajas build a house in the nonprofit's Canopy Oaks community in West Augustine.

The \$15,000 grant is from Wells Fargo, which is providing grants to more than 230 Habitat for Humanity affiliates as part of a nationwide effort to help low- to moderate-income families build and improve homes, according to a news release



from the nonprofit.

"This funding is part of a \$7.75 million donation to Habitat for Humanity International through the Wells Fargo Builds program to support the construction, renovation and repairing of more than 350 affordable homes across the country," according to the release. "Wells Fargo Builds is part of Wells Fargo's \$1 billion philanthropic commitment to create more housing affordability solutions by 2025."

Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit that builds quality homes for people and bases their mortgage payments on their income.

The future homeowners help build their homes and the homes of other applicants, and they are required to attend financial literacy and homebuyer education classes, according to the nonprofit.

The lack of affordable housing in St. Johns County is a major focus for local governments, nonprofits and others.

"More and more families struggle to find affordable housing in St. Johns County," Malinda Everson, executive director of Habitat for Humanity of St. Augustine and St. Johns County, said in the release. "With rising inflation and cost for housing, many are facing homelessness and living in substandard conditions."

On a recent visit, volunteers including Barajas were completing their first day of work on his home, and the first beams that will help support the outer walls were in place.

### Purple Heart

Barajas, 37, is a Purple Heart recipient. He served in the Navy for seven years and was a fleet marine force corpsman stationed with a U.S. Marines division out of Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, he said. He did a tour in Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

Just by looking at him, one wouldn't be able to tell what he's been through. During a battle in Fallujah, he was hit by shrapnel, he said.

"A mortar landed about 50 yards away from where I was. . . . It felt like I got punched in the face," he said.

After getting out of the service, going to college and attempting to get into the medical field, Barajas had a spiritual awakening, he said.

"I was having a cup of coffee and literally, like, touched by the grace of God," he said.

That led him to drop everything and start fresh, he said. He journeyed through Mexico and Central America. He also lived in Texas for a couple of years.

He visited St. Augustine and decided to move here. He said he loves the culture and heritage, which reminds him of Mexico, Central America and Spain.

He moved a couple of different times before finding a place to rent in Lincolnville with his pit bull, Rocky. His most recent move came after the room he was renting became expensive, he said.

He began volunteering with Habitat for Humanity not only to work toward building his own home but also to get skills in the construction trade. He would like to go into that profession, he said.

With the first walls going up, he's probably going to be able to move in by September, according to Everson.

That's a day Barajas is looking forward to, he said.

"I love the weather. I love the history here," he said. "I love being by the beach. And it's just where I was guided to."

UNF Newsroom

## UNF honored as a Military Support College of Distinction

June 22, 2022

The University of North Florida has been honored by Colleges of Distinction for its support of military-connected students and dedication to helping veterans overcome obstacles and achieve success.



The Military Support Colleges of Distinction list recognizes schools that engage in initiatives directed toward active-duty and veteran students, including educational benefits, a dedicated military and veteran department, flexible educational options, campus activities and community support.

UNF's Military and Veterans Resource Center serves as the primary point of contact for active-duty military, veterans and their family members on campus. The center is committed to ensuring that military-connected students successfully make the transition from the military environment to campus life and are assisted in their progress toward completing their academic degrees. The MVRC also serves as a resource to veteran employees, providing guidance and referrals to assist with coaching, mentoring and integration into the campus community.

Since 2000, Colleges of Distinction has been committed to honoring schools throughout the U.S. for true excellence in higher education. The member schools within the Colleges of Distinction consortium distinguish themselves through their dedicated focus on the undergraduate experience. Its website provides dynamic college profiles, customized tools and resources for students, parents and high school counselors.

## Lynn M Geiser

Thanks to all my support and journey Hope 4 Veterans is taking to help spread awareness of challenges and connect our families.

Thanks to VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena with the Jacksonville Sharks and USSA for allowing me to shine today as a Hometown Hero with a few other Hometown Heroes and every soldier and veteran who served.





Here is the announcement with registration form for the 15th annual commemoration of the end of the 2nd Seminole War and those who perished in it. This will also be the 180th anniversary of the parade and ceremony we remember this August.

The panel discussion Saturday after lunch should be of particular appeal to those interested in early Florida history. The participants (one a Seminole himself) will discuss/ debate the origin of the Seminole people.

Lunch will be catered by Sonny's. There will also be a social Friday evening.



## 15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL PARADE AND CEREMONY

Saturday, August 13<sup>th</sup> 2022

St. Augustine National Cemetery



**“Commemorating the end of the Second Seminole War  
and honoring all those who perished in it.”**

**9:00 AM: Welcome coffee. Officers Club St. Francis Barracks, 82 Marine St.\***

(All marchers must report to courtyard NLT 1000 for inspection/practice.)

**10:45: Living-historians march to the National Cemetery.**

**11:00: Commemoration Ceremony at the pyramids and Dade Monument.**

**12:00: For registered guests, lunch and PM program in Officers Club, including the 2022 commemorative coin awards + panel discussion “The Origin of the Seminole People.”**

**N.B. For registered guests, the St. Augustine Officers Club will host a welcome social with hors-d-oeuvres Friday evening, Aug. 12<sup>th</sup>, 5 to 7 PM., during which a display of the coin and Alabama state medal honoring Maj. David Moniac, USA, will be presented to the Florida National Guard Museum.**

This event is hosted by the Florida National Guard Historian.

The West Point Society of North FL and the Seminole Wars Foundation are Founding Partners.

Further information at [stevenrinck@gmail.com](mailto:stevenrinck@gmail.com) or [alison.m.simpson3.nfg@army.mil](mailto:alison.m.simpson3.nfg@army.mil).

### TO REGISTER.

**Fee \$25.** (Waived for participants, Support Brigade donors and those under 19 yrs.)

Make a check payable to **The Seminole Wars Foundation**. Annotate **August event**.

Mail w/form below to: Seminole Wars Foundation, P.O. Box 1456, Dade City, FL, 33526.

Name \_\_\_\_\_, e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

I will bring \_\_\_\_\_ guests. Enclosed is check # \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ (\$25 x number in party)

I/we plan to attend the Friday evening social. Yes \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_.

**Support Brigade Appeal!!** Help defray the cost of this event!

(Donors receive the commemorative, recognition in the program and waived reg. fee.)

**Yes, I want to help! Enroll me as: \_\_\_ Commander (\$100), or \_\_\_ Loyal Trooper (\$50)**

(Please write a separate check for the Support Brigade if you also register.)

Name for the program: \_\_\_\_\_



**President Biden presented the Medal of Honor to four U.S. Army soldiers who courageously defended injured comrades in Vietnam: Staff Sgt. Edward N. Kaneshiro (posthumous), Spc. 5 Dwight W. Birdwell, Spc. 5 Dennis M. Fujii, and retired Maj. John J. Duffy.**

**We honor their service and sacrifice.**



## Medal of Honor, Legends, & Heroes

By Rick Cain, Director of Museum Services, St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum

Many of us who have more years behind us than ahead will immediately know who is being referenced when we hear the title of movies like “The Red Badge of Courage” or “To Hell and Back.” Audie Murphy was a singer, songwriter, and star of western movies and dramas as well as television shows from the late 1940s through the 1960s. During his career, he made over 44 feature films.



*Left: Audie Murphy in 1961; Right: publicity photo taken for the movie “Kansas Raiders” in 1950*

Audie Leon Murphy was born in 1925 to poor Texas sharecroppers, the seventh of twelve children. His father eventually abandoned the family, and Murphy was forced to quit school in the fifth grade to help support his family. He worked picking cotton and had other odd jobs during his early life. He also hunted game in North-east Texas to help feed his family and became skilled with a rifle.

With the outbreak of World War II and America entering the war after Pearl Harbor, Murphy decided to join the military. His mother passed away earlier that year from heart failure. After being turned down by the military for being too small and underage, his sister helped falsify his age, and the U.S. Army accepted him into the service in June 1942. During his first physical, his height and weight were listed as 5’ 5” tall and 112 pounds, respectively.

Murphy was assigned to the 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, and shipped out in February 1943 to North Africa in preparation for the invasion of Sicily. He served as a platoon runner but soon distinguished himself on patrols in action against the Germans, including single-handedly taking out a German tank by crawling close enough to fire on it with rifle-launched grenades. Murphy received a Bronze Star for this action and was promoted to Sergeant by December of that year. He suffered two bouts of malaria while serving in the Mediterranean but returned to work immediately with his unit.



*Above: Private Murphy (left) in basic training, 1943, where he earned a Marksman Badge with Rifle Component Bar, and an Expert Badge with Bayonet Component Bar*

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In August 1944, two months after D-Day, Murphy's platoon entered southern France. As his unit advanced on a farm, the Germans opened fire from a building on the property. The unit returned fire but took heavy casualties. The Germans then exited the building, pretending to surrender. When Murphy's buddy stood up to respond, the Germans shot him. Murphy immediately retrieved a machine gun and advanced, alone, on the Germans under heavy enemy fire. He killed two and wounded another. Then, singlehandedly, he took eleven prisoners. Murphy received a Distinguished Service Cross for his actions. Subsequent engagements with the enemy in France demonstrated the little Texan's courage under fire and decisive action leading to a Silver Star, a Purple Heart, and several Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters for each, as well as a battlefield commission to the rank of First Lieutenant and eventual command of his own platoon.

In January 1945, Murphy's company was moved to Holtzwihr, a German stronghold in Northeastern France. Murphy's men again met with strong German resistance with orders to liberate the area. An American M10 Tank Destroyer was hit on the battlefield, and Murphy, having ordered his men to retreat to cover out of the field, mounted the burning tank and returned fire with the .50 caliber machine gun mounted on top, in full view of the enemy. He remained there fighting until he ran out of ammunition. Though wounded in the leg, Murphy remained with his men until the battle was won, having faced the German infantry and tanks. For his unit's actions that day, he was promoted to Lieutenant and awarded the Medal of Honor and, shortly thereafter, the French Legion of Merit. He would return to France in 1948, where he was



awarded France's highest honor, the Legion of Honor, Grade of Chevalier. When it was said and done, by the end of the war, Lieutenant Audie Murphy, the little man from Texas, was the most decorated soldier in the history of the American Military.



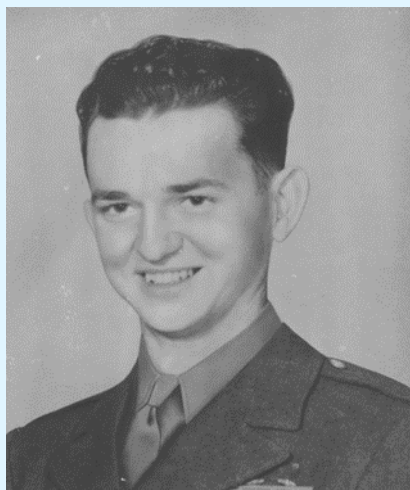
*Left: 1st Lieutenant Audie Murphy; Middle: Murphy received the Medal of Honor (left) from General de Lattre de Tassigny on July 19, 1948*

In the post-war years, Murphy continued to serve with the Texas National Guard while pursuing his film and television career. It is reported that he suffered severely from “battle fatigue,” what we now call Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome (PTSD), from which he never really recovered. In 1971, he was tragically killed in a small plane crash in the mountains of Virginia. The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5311 has placed a memorial marker near the crash site, just off the Appalachian Trail. Captain Murphy's remains are interred in Arlington National Cemetery near the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Memorial. His grave is the most visited in Arlington, second only to that of President John F. Kennedy. The movie “To Hell and Back,” released in 1955, is Murphy's own story taken from his personal accounts of the war, in which he reluctantly starred, only after much pressure from his studio. It was the most successful movie in the history of Universal Studios and remained so for twenty years until Stephen Spielberg's “Jaws” was released in 1975.



*Left: Audie L. Murphy's Arlington headstone; Right: Audie Murphy's funeral caisson*

While Audie Murphy's story is inspirational, there are countless others we should honor and remember who did extraordinary things in the war but are not as well known. One of those is Private James Henry Mills, who also served with the 15th infantry, 3rd infantry Division in WWII in Italy. He was born in Fort Meade, Florida, and survived the war. He passed away in Lakeland, Florida, in 1973, just two years after American Legend Audie Murphy. There is no better way to honor him than by finishing this article with his Medal of Honor Citation.



*Above: Pvt. James Henry Mills*

“For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty. Pvt. Mills, undergoing his baptism of fire, preceded his platoon down a draw to reach a position from which an attack could be launched against a heavily fortified strongpoint. After advancing about 300 yards, Pvt. Mills was fired on by a machine gun only five yards distant. He killed the gunner with one shot and forced the surrender of the assistant gunner. Continuing his advance, he saw a German soldier in a camouflaged position behind a large bush pulling the pin of a potato-masher grenade. Covering the German with his rifle, Pvt. Mills forced him to drop the grenade and captured him. When another enemy soldier attempted to throw a hand grenade into the draw, Pvt. Mills killed him with one shot. Brought under fire by a machine gun, two machine pistols, and three rifles at a range of only 50 feet, he charged headlong into the furious chain of automatic fire, shooting his M1 from the hip. The enemy was completely demoralized by Pvt. Mills' daring charge, and when he reached a point within 10 feet of their position, all six surrendered. As he neared the end of the draw, Pvt. Mills was brought under fire by a machine gunner 20 yards distant. Despite the fact that he had absolutely no cover, Pvt. Mills killed the gunner with one shot. Two enemy soldiers near the machine gunner fired wildly at Pvt. Mills and then fled. Pvt. Mills fired twice, killing one of the enemy. Continuing on to the position, he captured a fourth soldier. When it became apparent that an assault on the strongpoint would in all probability cause heavy casualties on the platoon, Pvt. Mills volunteered to cover the advance down a shallow ditch to a point within 50 yards of the objective. Standing on the bank in full view of the enemy less than 100 yards away, he shouted and fired his rifle directly into the position. His ruse worked exactly as planned. The enemy centered his fire on Pvt. Mills. Tracers passed within inches of his body, rifle and machine-pistol bullets ricocheted off the rocks at his feet. Yet he stood there firing until his rifle was empty. Intent on covering the movement of his platoon, Pvt. Mills jumped into the draw, reloaded his weapon, climbed out again, and continued to lay down a base of fire. Repeating this action four times, he enabled his platoon to reach the designated spot undiscovered, from which position it assaulted and overwhelmed the enemy, capturing 22 Germans and taking the objective without casualties.”

\*All photos are in the public domain or used with permission for educational purposes from the Audie L. Murphy Memorial Website. Please visit <https://www.audiemurphy.com> for more information



## From AL 194 Commander Derry Green

Golfers, we do hope your future plans include joining us in beautiful, historical St Augustine, FL the weekend of 16-19 Sept.

We have a whole weekend of fun! Fri. after 3pm, our host golf club will allow play for under \$30! Fri nite we have an "All u Can Eat Fish Fry"; Sat. we have the grand opening of our Veterans Park with our annual Rib Cook-off with live band.

Sunday morning brunch by our Auxiliary.

Monday golf tourney.

We have the course all to our selves!! I have discount rooms at the Fairfield by Marriott off SR16 and I 95.

**Gold Sponsor** \$2,000  
Two Teams  
Website Recognition  
Golf Bag Contributor  
5 Min Speech at Banquett

**Silver Sponsor** \$1,000  
Two Teams  
Golf Bag Contributor

**Bronze Sponsor** \$500  
One Team  
Golf Bag Contributor

**One Hole Sponsor** \$200

**Poster Name Recognition** \$50

**Deadline: 14 Sep 22,**



**Can't make it?**

**You can still help!  
Make checks payable to:  
American Legion Post 194  
Mail to:  
1029 Pearl St.  
St. Augustine, FL 32084**



### Golf Fundraiser

Two years ago, our Post embarked upon a project to build & dedicate a "Veterans Centennial Park" & playground to community kids & veterans. Unfortunately, numerous turns of events severely hampered our fund-raising efforts & we lost the use of our free parking lot. This necessitated we center fundraising efforts on the purchase of new properties. We purchased two additional parcels of land, which, when finished, should help with future fund-raising efforts. Your donations will help us finish the veterans park & enable us to start work on the new parcels. All monies spent on this trip are completely tax-deductible & receipts will be given upon requests. Thank you. For God & Country



**\$100 Entry Includes:**  
18-Holes  
Golf Cart  
On-Course Refreshments  
Lunch  
Drink Voucher  
Prize Opportunities



**Contacts:**

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

**Dwight Swearnigen**  
dswearnigen@yahoo.com  
904 228-3620



## **Brig. Gen. Vaught Awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom**

A cause for celebration – July 7, 2022, was a great day for the nation and military women, for on that day our very own Brigadier General Wilma L. Vaught was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Biden. The Medal, the nation’s highest civilian award, recognizes individuals who have made "an especially meritorious contribution to the security or national interests of the United States, world peace, cultural or other significant public or private endeavors”; and is bestowed only after careful deliberation of a lifetime of service from a distinguished career.

After nearly 29 years of exemplary and trailblazing service in the Air Force, the general devoted another 29 years to building and operating America’s only major Memorial to honor military women – what she describes as “the most important thing she has ever done.”

Congratulations, General Vaught. You changed the face of monumental Washington and put military women in the history books.



## Antarctic explorer and Navy veteran turns 102 years old in Atlantic Beach

*First Coast News, Author: Rich Donnelly*

Bob Johnson has explored parts of the planet that few people have. The 102-year-old is also the last surviving member of Admiral Byrd's expedition to Antarctica.



ATLANTIC BEACH, Fla. — It was a time to celebrate at Beach Diner in Atlantic Beach Thursday as friends and family gathered to celebrate Navy veteran Bob Johnson's 102nd birthday.

"I sure didn't expect all this, it's really something," says Johnson.

Bob Johnson turned 102, but his age is only the beginning of his incredible accomplishments.

"I had an exciting Navy career," says Johnson, "I really did."

Johnson joined the Navy in 1937 and is the last surviving member of Admiral Byrd's expeditions to the Antarctic. The crew explored and mapped more than 500,000 square miles of Antarctica that had never been seen before.

"On Operation High Jump in 1946-47 three of us made a parachute jump," says Johnson. "You just take it as it comes, part of your duty I guess."

Johnson may downplay his trips to the end of the Earth, but the city of Atlantic Beach still made a proclamation in his honor.

Pictures of his explorations live on. Johnson has looked after a stuffed "Penguin Polar Pete" for nearly 80 years.

Also lasting the test of time is an American flag that flew in Antarctica when Johnson served. It has 48 stars, which was accurate for the time.

With his wife Mildred by his side, active duty members of the Navy came to show their respect for a man who blazed a trail nearly 80 years ago.

Just don't expect Johnson to make many southern expeditions any time soon.

"One time a person asked 'would you like to go back to the Antarctic'," says Johnson. "I told him why do you think I'm in Florida where it's warm."

A lifetime of memories from an explorer and member of our greatest generation.

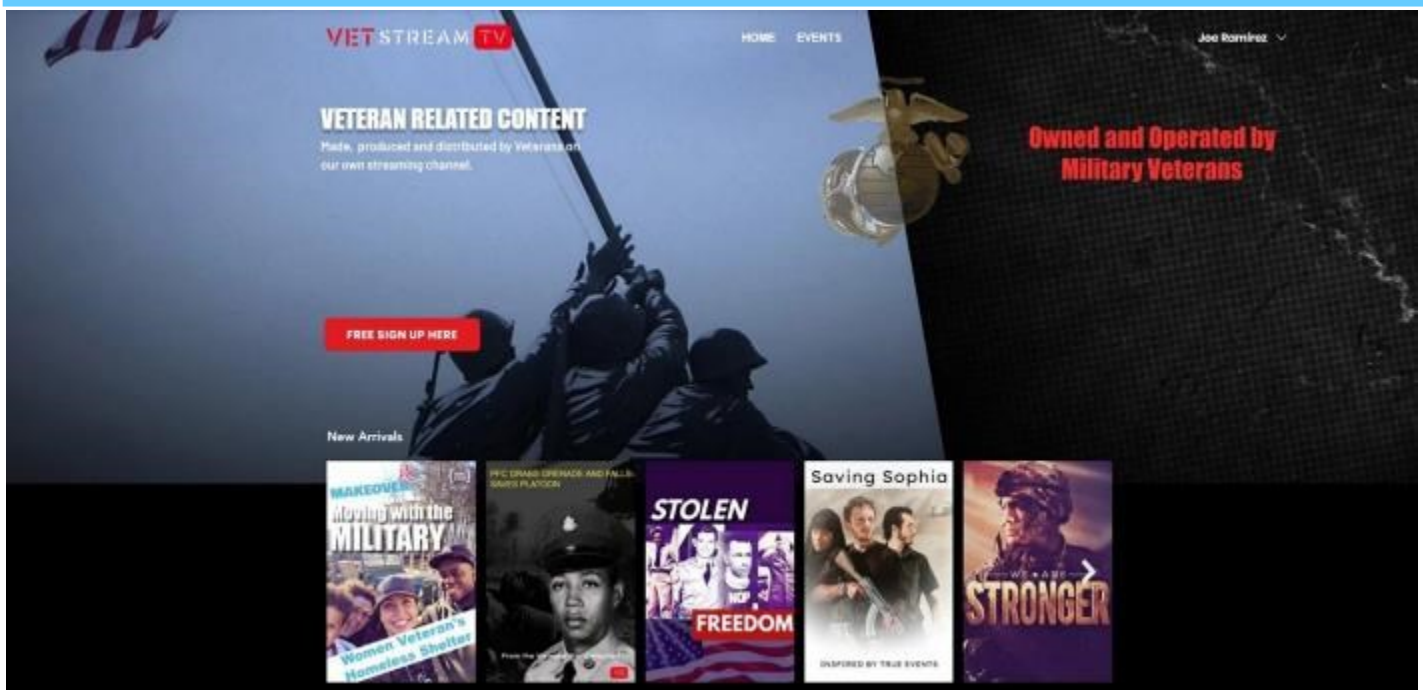


VetStreamTV is a free streaming channel and entertainment platform for veterans and their families. VetStreamTV was founded by Joe Ramirez, a Marine Veteran and LaVonne McIver James in January 2017 which launched in July of the same year. The company specializes in providing streaming media of interest to our nation's veterans and their families. The company has its headquarters in Austin, Texas. VetStreamTV offers feature films, shorts, television series, documentaries, and comedies. Their family of content also includes their own originals with one currently in production “Welcome Home” – the treatment of Vietnam Veterans, what changed and a special tribute. Their online talk show “More to be Told” debuts on August 3rd.

More to come with events and content is being added every week such as a new series “Moving with the Military” – a military spouse helps with renovations for military families.

*The Veterans Council’s 6 documentaries featuring the stories of local NE FL Veterans can be viewed now on VetStreamTV - Service, Sacrifice and Courage is featured this week!*

**THIS IS FREE!** For more info and to sign up, feel free to visit their website <http://www.vetstreamtv.com>





# NATIONAL POW/MIA MEMORIAL & MUSEUM Brick Campaign



Buy a brick to honor and/or memorialize family, friends, as a gift, or for yourself. The brick(s) you purchase will become a permanent part of the Memorial Benefactor Plaza.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is a check made payable to the Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc. for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### CHOOSE YOUR BRICK LAYOUT

\$100



4x8 Brick with Text Only  
3 lines of text  
20 characters per line

\$150



4x8 Brick with Text & Clipart  
2 lines of text  
20 characters per line

\$150



4x8 Brick with Text & Clipart  
3 lines of text  
12 characters per line

\$200



8x8 Brick with Text Only  
6 lines of text  
20 characters per line

\$250



8x8 Brick with Text & Clipart  
4 lines of text  
20 characters per line

### CHOOSE YOUR BRICK COLOR

TAN 41       Beige 42       Red 30

### ADD A MINI BRICK

Add a mini brick (1x3 for 4x8 brick; 3x3 for 8x8 brick) as a keepsake, shipped to you, for \$20

**\$20**

### CHOOSE YOUR CLIPART (if required)



4x8 Brick Text 2 or 3 Lines - 20 Per Line


8x8 Brick Text 4 or 6 Lines - 20 Per Line


4x8 Brick Text 2 Lines - 12 Per Line


Text is all CAPS and centered automatically on each brick. Please use the spaces provided above for your text message and note that characters include letters, numbers, spaces and punctuation.

Please mail the form and payment to:  
**Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc.**  
 6112 POW-MIA Memorial Pkwy  
 Jacksonville, FL 32221

If you have any questions, please call  
 (904) 300-3671 or email us  
 powmiamemorial@gmail.com  
 Thank you for your support!

## The Final Mile Program escorts unclaimed veteran to resting place in Jacksonville

by Massiel Leyva, NEWS 4

Lake City, FL — After spending years serving the country, some veterans

come back home and pass away without being claimed by any family members or friends. But for veteran David Allen family does not always mean blood relatives.

“We know he did not have any biological family left at the time of his passing, we know he was a Vietnam era veteran. We know he was a United States Marine. That's about all that I know," Allen said.

Three years ago in Tampa, Allen decided to start a program called The Final Mile to make sure that unclaimed veterans were honored when they go to the National Cemetery.

“My dream at that time was that it would spread throughout Florida, throughout the nation, and there would be a final mile for every veteran that did not have family," Allen said.

Now that mission extends to Lake City, for the final goodbye of Vietnam Veteran and Marine Corps member Lawrence Lewis.

“It's the final opportunity to serve that veteran, we don't have an



other chance after that," Allen said.

Lawrence didn't have family to bury him, so Allen brought his extended military family. The Final Mile Program includes members of the Veter-



ans Health Administration and the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association.

Chapter Commander for the Jacksonville FL 20-7 Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association, Donald Grove said it is a rewarding honor to be able to give back to fellow veterans.

"It's not like it's a duty. It's not like it's a chore. It's not like it's a job. It's our honor to do this. We we do this gracefully," Grove said.

Grove said as veterans they do everything to help another vet.

"That's the big thing with the military, we're brotherhood and sisterhood from day one till the day we get escorted to the funeral," Grove said.

Members of the Final Mile Program escorted Lawrence Lewis to the Jacksonville National Cemetery where he was put to rest.



# VETERANS WANTED

The Americans in Wartime Experience is seeking the stories of those who served during combat deployments.

- ◊ Interviews are conducted remotely through Zoom.
- ◊ Veteran receives a copy of their video as well as a limited edition challenge coin.
- ◊ Videos are eligible for retention at the Library of Congress Veterans History Project.
- ◊ The service is free, the only thing you need to do is give us 45—60 minutes of your time.



To schedule your interview please contact Greg Pass at [gregpass70@gmail.com](mailto:gregpass70@gmail.com)

To learn more about the museum, please visit us at [www.americansinwartime.org](http://www.americansinwartime.org)

**The Lt. Dan Band** is an American cover band originally formed in Chicago in 2004 by Gary Sinise and Kimo Williams to perform at USO shows, entertain troops, and raise money for disabled veterans. The band is named after the character Lieutenant Dan Taylor, whom Sinise portrayed in the film *Forrest Gump*.

With performances at military bases and benefit concerts around the world, the Lt. Dan Band entertains, educates and inspires with its explosive show.

Every Lt. Dan Band concert is a personal reminder of America's gratitude for our heroes. As citizens, we must ensure they know their sacrifices are appreciated and will never be forgotten.



## Stories of Service: Atlantic Beach WWII veteran celebrates 100th birthday

Jessie Dunbar served in the Navy during World War Two. First Coast News featured her story in 2021 when she turned 99-years-old.

Author: Anthony Austin

ATLANTIC BEACH, Fla. — One of our favorite veterans is celebrating her 100th birthday!

On Sunday, a parade organized by people in the community made its way down the street in front of her Atlantic Beach home.

"I mean, 100 sounds like an awful lot, doesn't it? I am thrilled that the Lord has decided to leave me for a little bit longer. I think hard work is what I really contribute to the fact I'm here," Jessie Dunbar told First Coast News.

Last year, we featured Jessie Dunbar as she celebrated her 99th birthday. She served in the United States Navy as a WAVE in the 1940s. WAVE stands for Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service.

"We were just like the men. Believe it or not. We had to go and stand at attention for an inspection. When that happened, I used to faint because I was in the sun and it bothered me terribly...standing there and waiting for inspection," Dunbar said.

If the last name Dunbar sounds familiar to you, Walt Dunbar is her late husband. He was one of the first sports directors for Channel 12 in the 1950s. They met while both serving in the Navy. He passed away in 1986.

Happy Birthday Mrs. Jessie Dunbar  
and thank you for your service!



## ‘What’s your next?’: Jacksonville teenagers build skills, self-awareness aboard USS Orleck

By Kennedy Dendy, Action News Jax

It’s all hands on deck as the Jacksonville Naval Museum gears up to officially open its doors to the public.

Action News Jax was on the USS Orleck, the museum’s centerpiece, as she docked along the Northbank Riverwalk in March.

Now, volunteers work each and every day to get the vessel back in ship-shape.



The youngest group to volunteer so far: teenagers with the Boys & Girls Club of Northeast Florida.

Through a six-week summer apprenticeship program, the organization has teamed up with the Jacksonville Naval Museum.

Kylah M., 16, has been hard-at-work aboard the USS Orleck.

“We’ve been sweeping, painting, wiping and maintaining the ship,” Kylah said.

She’s shared that she’s interested in pursuing engineering or psychology.

“With this program, it helps you get ready for going into different work environments,” Kylah said.

The apprenticeship began on June 13, so there are two more weeks left. The group has been working Monday through Thursday each week.

“Providing workforce development ensures they get the skills, the knowledge and the self-awareness that they need to build a valuable career,” said Daleneka Walker



with the Boys & Girls Club of Northeast Florida.

Action News Jax also spoke with Wyatt Parlette, who is the Vice President of Programs at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida

“An opportunity like being on the USS Orleck and getting to work here every day is a very unique experience,” Parlette said. “It’s all about giving them new experiences and getting them acclimated to the workforce.”

The hard-working teenagers are getting a front row seat at what it takes to restore something of this scale, while learning about the story behind the ship.

Jim Webb is the Jacksonville Naval Museum’s Executive Director.

“The kids that came on for the last couple of weeks have been really helpful re-painting, scraping and all the maintenance of making sure the inside looks as great as the outside,” Webb said.

While the Jacksonville Naval Museum has been giving select tours, leaders shared they hope the museum will be officially open to the public by the end of the year.

Webb said the museum needs to train more people, so they’ll have the staff in place to keep up with the demand.

“I’ve been on the ship every day since she was brought to Jacksonville in March,” Webb said. “Every day I come on the ship, a smile breaks out on my face as I see how wonderful she is.”

Here’s what Burdette Williams with Boys & Girls Club of Northeast Florida hopes to instill in each teenager: “‘What’s your next?’ Meaning that after high school, what are we doing? It means that we have to plan for success. If you don’t plan for success, you’ll fail. Always remember your next and work that process.”



# PURPLE HEART RECOGNITION DAY



**FRIDAY | AUGUST 5<sup>TH</sup> | 6PM**

**★ VETERANS MEMORIAL WALL AND PURPLE HEART TRAIL ★**

1145 E. ADAMS ST., JACKSONVILLE FL



**JACKSONVILLE**  
N A V A L M U S E U M

**Interested in Volunteering?**



Please visit our online website volunteer interest form at:  
<https://www.jaxnavalmuseum.org/volunteer>





# STRATEGIC PARTNERS

Together, we **FIGHT** to **#ENDVETERANSUICIDE!**



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dan@22zero.org



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407-516-8398  
ellsworth@vetscounselingvets.org



**First Counseling Center**  
407-468-0004  
karirusso@firstorlando.com



**Paint 22**  
727-490-7338  
contact@paint22.com



**IGY6 Foundation**  
321-505-9005  
andy.igotyour6@gmail.com



**SOF Missions**  
910-382-6492  
damon@sofmissions.org



**K9 Line**  
386-566-7438  
slowe@k9line.org



**The Grey Team**  
561-203-3815  
david@greyteam.org



**Liberty OVE**  
757-778-5337  
scott.hendrick@liberty-ove.com

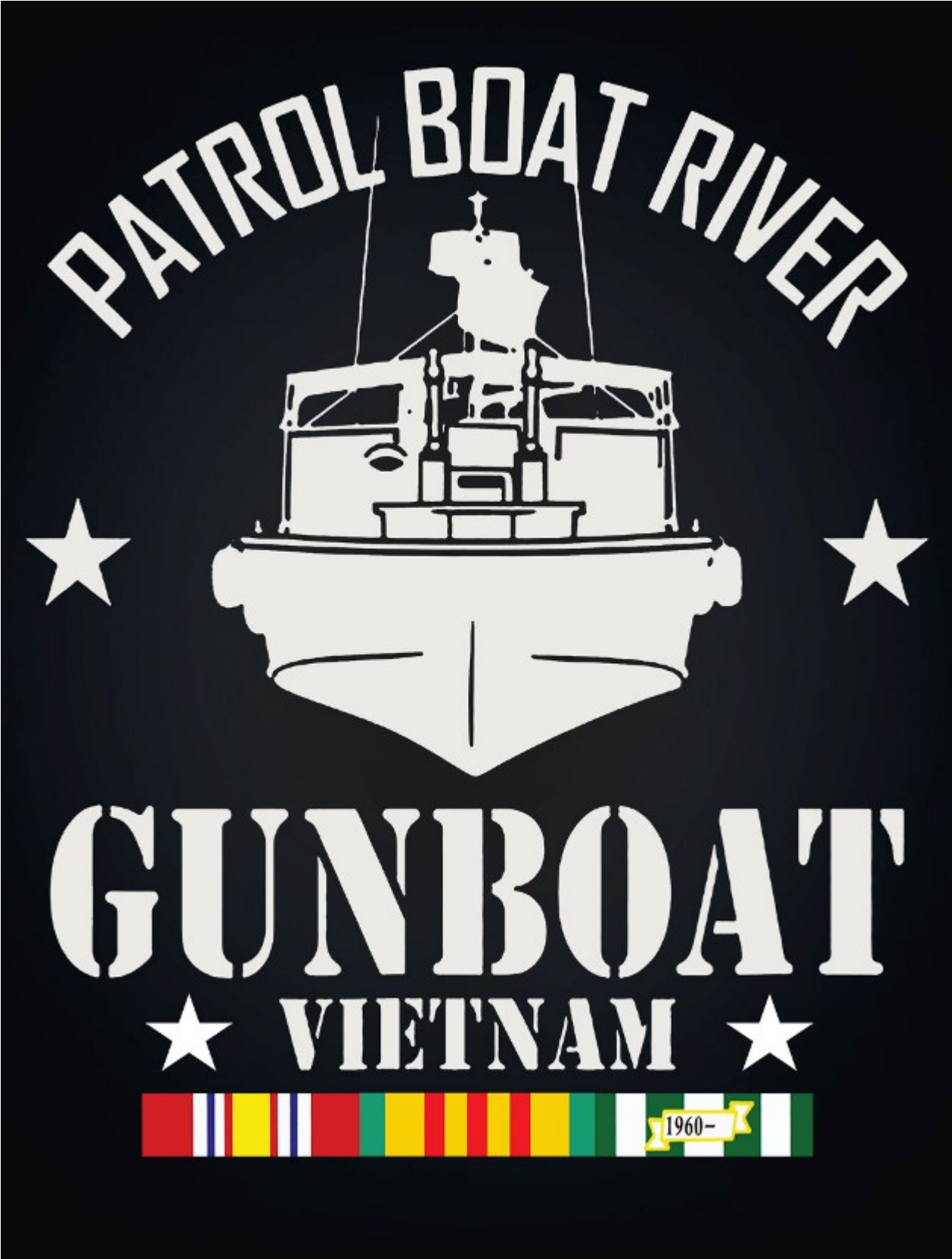
**Norman Bissel, LMHC**  
614-259-7414  
normanbisselpc@gmail.com

\*PROJECT: VetRelief is an official program of the American Legion, Department of Florida

1912A Lee Road, Orlando, FL 32810 | 407-295-2631  
**WWW.PROJECTVETRELIEF.ORG**







## Desert Storm veterans welcome recognition at last with groundbreaking ceremony for new memorial on National Mall

By SHIFRA DAYAK, STARS AND STRIPES

WASHINGTON — As retired Gen. Rhonda Cornum stood in the blazing sun Thursday morning, looking out over hundreds of veterans, their family members, international ambassadors and others, she recalled the day her Black Hawk helicopter was shot down in Iraq during Operation Desert Storm.



It's the day she was captured as a prisoner of war, suffering several broken bones and a gunshot wound.

“We’ve heard a lot of things about Desert Storm, but there’s one thing that really stands out,” Cornum said. “It’s that it was a demonstration of all the good things that can happen when there’s an unambiguous and positive moral mission like liberating Kuwait from a brutal invasion.”

Cornum was one of the 697,000 American troops that served during Desert Storm in 1991. In the 30-plus years since the conflict, those troops have not been recognized among the many other service members memorialized in Washington, D.C.

But now, as the nation approaches the 32nd anniversary of Operation Desert Storm and its preceding ground offensive Operation Desert Shield, a memorial is finally taking shape.

The National Desert Storm War Memorial Association (NDSWM) broke ground Thursday on a memorial at the corner of 23rd Street and Constitution Avenue, not far from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the Lincoln Memorial.



At the groundbreaking, where over 100 veterans and their family members gathered, Scott C. Stump, NDSWM’s CEO, emphasized the long journey that the group has taken to make the memorial a reality.

“The road getting here has been fraught with obstacles, impediments and the need for our team to constantly improvise, adapt and overcome,” he said.

The effort to build a memorial in honor of Desert Storm has been ongoing since 2013, when former Rep. Phil Roe, D-Tenn., introduced legislation in Congress to allow construction on federal land in Washington, D.C.

President Barack Obama authorized construction of the memorial in 2014, and President Donald Trump

signed legislation in 2017 allowing for the memorial to be built near the National Mall.

Originally, the memorial was slated to be on the Constitution Avenue Belvedere, a strip of land along the Potomac River. Members of the National Desert Storm War Memorial Association opposed the location because they said it would be too hard to access from other memorials.

In 2018, after the National Capital Planning Commission decided on the southwest corner of 23rd Street and Constitution Avenue, the Commission of Fine Arts voted in favor of the new location, marking the end of a multiyear process to select the site.

“The supposed 18-month site selection process, which commenced in January 2015, took us 39 months of toil struggle, pain, heartache, ups and downs to finally win approval for this phenomenal location we’re occupying here this morning,” Stump said.

The memorial will lie just over a block from the U.S. Department of State — a location that Derek Chollet, Counselor of the U.S. Department of State, called “fitting.”

“It’s fitting because the international coalition that acted to liberate Kuwait was one of the great triumphs of American diplomacy, harnessing the power of America’s alliances of America’s partnerships in organizations like the United Nations,” Chollet said.

However, the location has not been without some controversy. One member of the fine arts commission, Elizabeth Meyer, voted against the 23rd Street location in 2018 because of opposition to the large number of war memorials on the National Mall.

Thursday’s milestone also came after funding setbacks.

The National Desert Storm War Memorial Association aimed for an opening before the end of 2021 so it could commemorate the 30th anniversary of Desert Storm. By law, however, the association had to finish fundraising the entire expected \$40 million cost before it could start construction on the memorial.

In mid-2019, the association was \$32 million short of its \$40 million goal.

Kuwait played a major role in the memorial moving forward. The nation pledged \$10 million toward the memorial in February 2020.

Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Kuwait’s ambassador to the United States, said the decision to finance the memorial was a tribute to the alliance between the two countries that formed when American troops liberated Kuwait in Desert Storm.

“It is a concrete testament to our ironclad partnership forged and solidified 31 years ago by blood, sweat and tears,” Al-Sabah said at the ceremony, where he and several other members of Kuwait’s government gathered. “While a monument can never fully encapsulate the depth of our indebtedness to this great na-

tion, we nonetheless eagerly await its completion in this great city.”

In March, Kuwait contributed additional funds toward the memorial, which gave NDSWM enough money to move forward with construction plans.

“When we saw that the process was a bit slower than we expected, we said, ‘OK, you know, we’ll step in, and we’ll make this happen,’” Al-Sabah told Stars and Stripes.

NDSWM will lead the construction of the memorial over the next couple of years and hopes that it will be finished before Veterans Day in 2024, Stump said.

The memorial will be shaped roughly like a half circle to commemorate the “left hook” formation that U.S. troops used to move north and then east during Desert Storm, effectively cutting off Iraqi forces in Kuwait.

To Adm. Christopher Grady, who is vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and served in Desert Storm, the military’s path and memorial’s shape also represent the strength of America’s troops.

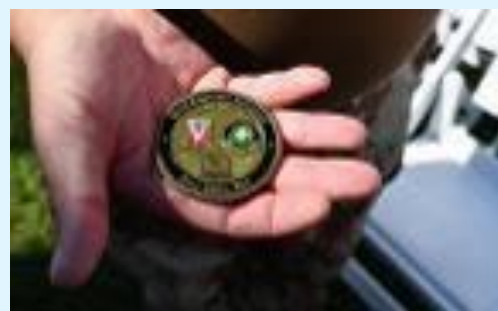
It was “a left hook so ingenious in design and so lethal in execution that reminds us of the indomitable warrior spirit of all of our service men and women,” Grady said at the ceremony.

After the memorial is finished, NDSWM will “turn over the keys” to the National Park Service, which will take over maintenance once the memorial is formally dedicated.

“While the National Park Service’s role in the care of this memorial won’t start till this is formally dedicated, we have been active in the planning and design,” said Jeffrey Reinbold, superintendent of the National Mall and Memorial Parks.

Stump acknowledged the long delay in construction but said he is glad the process has been carried out “the right way,” without compromising NDSWM’s core principles. When the memorial is finished, he hopes it will be a powerful representation of Desert Storm.

“We want it to be done. It’s time. It’s been over 30 years. It should have been done probably 10 years ago, actually,” Stump said. “It’s just great to see the enthusiasm. It really validates what we’re doing really does mean a lot to a lot of people.”





## The Men are the Mission!

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) is charged with accounting as fully as possible for our men. It is essential for DPAA to have additional funds to increase field operations in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. Contact both your Senators and ask to increase the DPAA budget from \$131 million to \$175 million for FY2023. There are 1,584 Americans still missing and unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War. No expense was spared to send them into battle...no expense should be spared to prioritize BRINGING THEM HOME!



**National League of POW/MIA Families**



**The Men Are The Mission!**

One photo of three airmen who took off on a night reconnaissance mission almost 55 years ago...still unaccounted for.

Three families of the many who still seek answers have come together, with one question: "Why haven't they come home?" The years have faded into decades awaiting their return. These are the faces that connect these three families to the crew of "QUIZSHOW09".

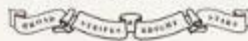
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# AMERICAN FLAGS

1767-PRESENT



## Urgent Volunteer Opportunity Available:

Please help support Council On Aging (COA) need for volunteers to provide lawn maintenance to elderly residents. “The Cutters” service about 20 yards every Thursday. COA provides all equipment and lunch. All hands on deck 0800 -1200 at 180 Marine St. 32084. Your service is greatly appreciated by our elderly clients.

**Questions: Phil Topcik, Capt., USNR-R 904-716-1679**

## Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation

### OUR MISSION

Our mission is to provide college scholarships and educational counseling to military children who have lost a parent in the line of duty. We are dedicated to serving the families of service-members from all branches of the armed forces who have died as a result of combat casualties, military training accidents, service-related illnesses, suicide, as well as other duty-related deaths as ruled by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The vision of Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation is to ensure that every child of a fallen patriot receives all necessary college funding.

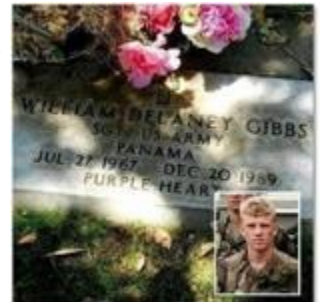
We believe a college education is the single most important gift we can give these children.

We believe this is an important investment in the future of America.

We believe this is one of the best ways we can honor those who died defending our country.

### HISTORY

In 1989, five days before Christmas, Sergeant William Delaney Gibbs from the 7th Infantry Division was killed in action during Operation Just Cause in Panama, leaving behind a young wife and an unborn daughter. Our Founder and CEO, David Kim, served with Sergeant Gibbs and was inspired by his sacrifice and never forgot about Sergeant Gibbs or his daughter.



David Kim returned to the United States and founded Children of Fallen Patriots in 2002. Since 2002, Children of Fallen Patriots has grown in its mission and vision to extend peace of mind through college scholarships to Gold Star families in all 50 states, in all branches of the military.

### THE NEED

Research conducted by The Lucas Group on behalf of Children of Fallen Patriots found that nearly 25,000 dependents have been left behind by troops who have fallen in the line of duty over the past 35 years. Many surviving families struggle to make ends meet with 63% of surviving spouses making less than \$50,000 per year. With no central repository of information from which to find these children, the organization works to find each and every one of these children to assist them in their growing success. Children of Fallen Patriots is registered under Section 501(c)3 of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code: tax ID# 47-0902295. All gifts are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by U.S. law. Consult your tax advisor concerning the tax deductibility of your donation.

### CHILDREN OF FALLEN PATRIOTS FOUNDATION

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Phone: 866-917-CFPF (2373), Fax: 1-703-935-4751



*ALL are invited to attend*

## **Veterans Council Upcoming Meeting Change**

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

**August 25,** Carmalita Gaines, Jacksonville Veterans Center

Kathy Church, an update in Missing in America Project

**September 29,** Officer Kelly Kemp, Chaplain, SJSO, “Community Involvement”

and Michael Anthony, CEO, Gratitude America



# BE PART OF THE SOLUTION TO END VETERAN SUICIDE

#1

- Recognize the Problem of Veteran Suicide
- 20-22 Veterans Take Their Own Lives Each Day

#2

- Take 30-45 mins and Train to be a Watch Stander
- Explore Resource Guide
- Stand Vigilant to Concerns of Veterans and Direct Them to Needed Assistance

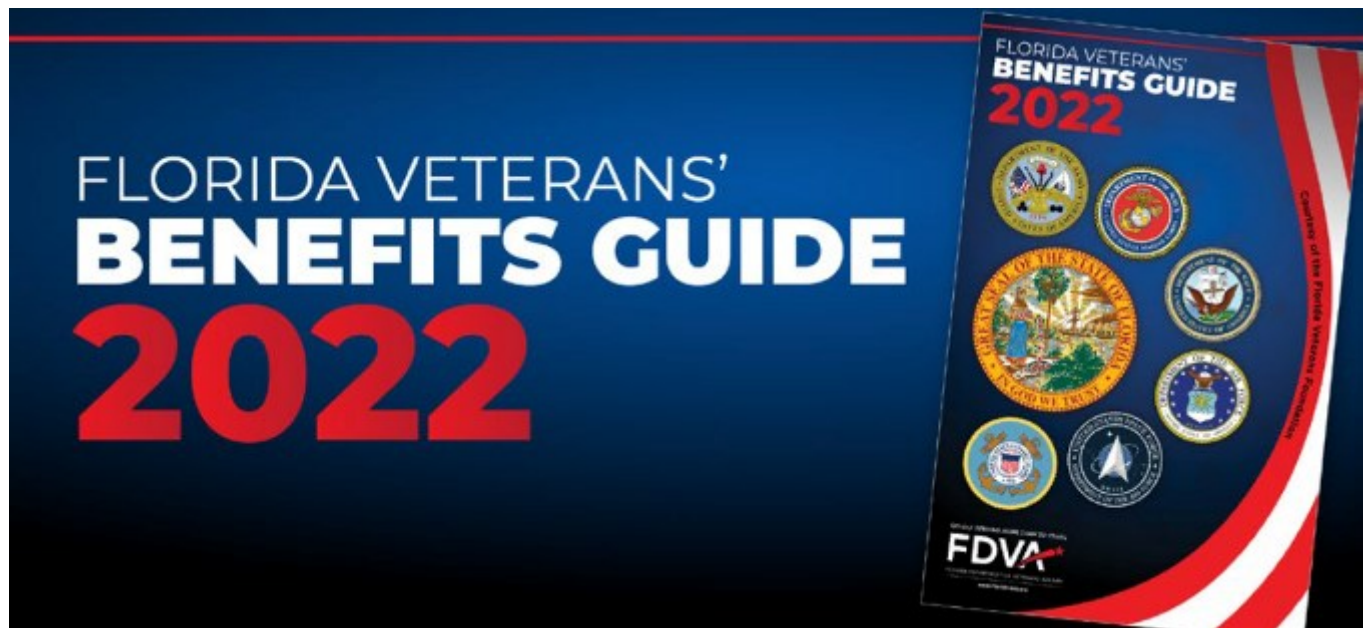
#3

- End the Tragedy of Veteran Suicide

**#YourTurnToStand**

## The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs

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





# FIRST COAST HONOR FLIGHT

*Would love to come talk with you!*

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We would LOVE to share our  
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We are a new non-profit  
and would love  
to come share our goal  
of honoring our local Veterans!  
First Coast Honor Flight creates a  
"once in a lifetime" day  
of flying our local Veterans to Washington D.C.  
to see our national memorials and  
monuments.

Please help us spread the word by  
connecting us with your groups!

Contact us at [info@firstcoasthonorflight.org](mailto:info@firstcoasthonorflight.org)  
or call 888-400-1185





## **Hello First Coast Honor Flight Supporters:**

Our mission at First Coast Honor Flight (FCHF) is to provide a unique experience for our local Veterans in Washington D.C. to visit the memorials dedicated to honoring those who have served and sacrificed for our country.

We consider it our honor to give our Veterans the opportunity to remember, celebrate, grieve, and gain closure for the time they sacrificed for our country.

**Unfortunately, the current limited commercial airline schedule from our Jacksonville Airport is not sufficient to provide our Veterans the experience they deserve in Washington D.C. Therefore we have decided to postpone our planned fall flight to the spring of 2023.**

**We are working towards a private charter flight in the spring 2023 which will allow us to set our own schedule, bring more Veterans, and allow more time for the true experience that we want to be able to give our Veterans.**

Stay tuned for more information.

We would welcome any connections you may have and will be creating some fundraising opportunities for you to help us make this spring 2023 flight a reality!

Your First Coast Honor Flight Team





# Sponsorship Levels

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

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

Trip Sponsor : \$25,000

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

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

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

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

Contact FCHF @  
[info@firstcoasthonorflight.org](mailto:info@firstcoasthonorflight.org) for more  
information on sponsorship packages

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



## First Coast Honor Flight Donation

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

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

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

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

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

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

Name of Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**This donation is:** In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_ In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

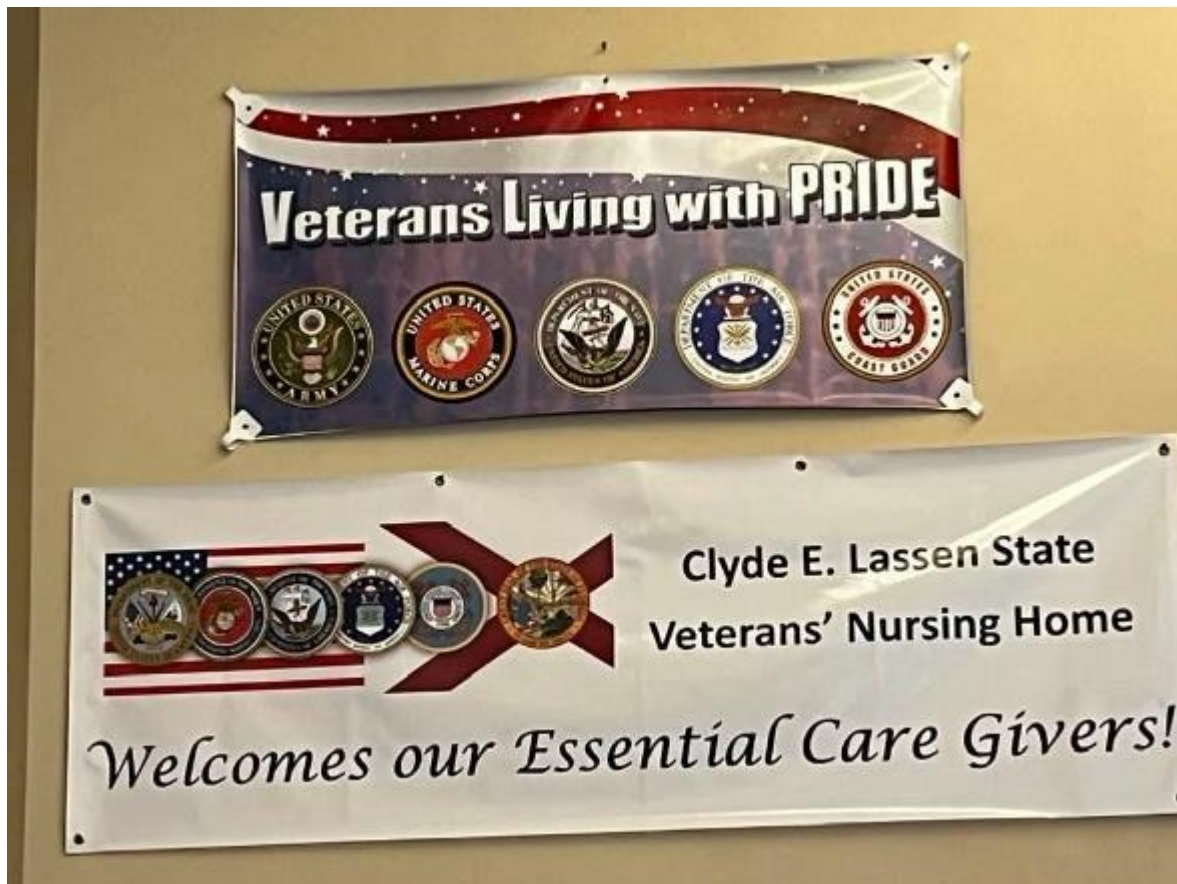
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Veteran? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Branch \_\_\_\_\_ Dates Served \_\_\_\_\_

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

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







## Flag Etiquette

- Never allow the flag to touch the ground or any other object while on display.
- Salute the flag as it is hoisted and lowered, during the playing of the National Anthem and while saying the Pledge of Allegiance. Stand at attention with your right hand over your heart and your hat removed.
- Display the flag outdoors only between sunrise and sunset, unless illuminated by a spotlight.
- When displaying the flag indoors, always position it to the right of a speaker or staging area.
- To place a flag at half-staff, hoist it to the peak for an instant before lowering it to a halfway position.



## From the FDVA THEY ARE HIRING!

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

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

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

★ ACTIVE DUTY ★ VETERANS ★ NATIONAL GUARD & RESERVE ★

# MILITARY SUPPORT RETREATS

RETREATS FOR COMBAT VETERANS,  
AND THEIR PRIMARY SUPPORT PERSON



**Marineland**  
Florida



**SEPT 15-18**

**Marineland**  
Florida



**OCT 6-9**

**Lake Chatuge/Hiawasse**  
Georgia



**NOV 3-6**

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



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

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

★ Small, friendly group setting ★

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

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

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

**TO LEARN MORE AND TO APPLY VISIT: [GRATITUDEAMERICA.ORG/RETREATS](https://www.gratitudeamerica.org/retreats)**



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







**GratitudeAmerica**



# GOLD STAR FAMILY RETREAT

*At Marineland, Florida*

September 22 at 5:30pm – September 25 at 1pm

A 3-night program where those affected by military loss can feel supported, gain education, and spend time in nature

★ RESTORATION ★ RECREATION ★ RELAXATION ★

*Participants make connections, learn ways to navigate challenges, discover resources that aid in healing, and have a "time out" to refresh their minds. Open to anyone who lost a loved one in service to our nation, to include all family members, representing all conflicts, all branches of service and all circumstance of death. Strengthen and restore yourself, enjoy the natural beauty of each location, be inspired by fun outdoor activities, learn about resources and supportive strategies.*

★ Small, friendly group setting ★

★ All accommodations, food, and activities are provided free of charge; transportation is not provided. ★

★ Facilitated by Vets, members of the community, and peers. ★

*Please note: Must be 18 to attend and no childcare is provided.*



TO LEARN MORE AND TO APPLY VISIT: [GRATITUDEAMERICA.ORG/GOLDSTAR](http://GRATITUDEAMERICA.ORG/GOLDSTAR)  
CONTACT INFO: ASHLEY SEMERNEKO, VETERAN ENGAGEMENT DIRECTOR  
[ASHLEY@GRATITUDEAMERICA.ORG](mailto:ASHLEY@GRATITUDEAMERICA.ORG)

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

Here is the Florida 2022 schedule

## FL PGR Vietnam & WoT Wall Schedule

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

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

Updated as of:

01/17/22

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





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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

*From Liberty Life Media*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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





# 2022 VA DISABILITY PAY RATES



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

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



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

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

Visit: [www.thefirewatch.org/watch-standers](http://www.thefirewatch.org/watch-standers) to learn more.

Thanks!

Nick Howland

Executive Director, The Fire Watch

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

904.525.1761





**From Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley**

**Subject: VA Transportation Assistance**

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

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

**From Michael Isam**

**The DAV van is now operating 5 days /week!**

**It will now transport a full capacity of riders.**

**Schedule your seat on the DAV Chapter 6 van.**

**Contact the VA Clinic at 904-823-2954**

**and ask for Veterans Van Scheduling.**





## 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**





*You sacrificed for our country.*

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

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

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

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



THE FUTURE OF SENIOR LIVING

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



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

Assisted Living Facility #12928

## Vietnam Veterans of America



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

### Chapter/President/email/Location

1046	Tony D'Aleo	adaleo5579@gmail.com; Duval
1048	Bob Adkins	adk123robert@outlook.com
1059	David Treffinger	dtreffinger433@msn.com; Clay
1084	Ron Howard	ronehoward@gmail.com
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.





**PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO MEET VETERANS' UNIQUE NEEDS**

**Advance Care Planning**

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

**Palliative Care**

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

**Hospice Care**

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

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

**Complementary Therapies**

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

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

**We Need Volunteers**

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

**WE HONOR VETERANS**  
*Partner*

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

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

★ Along with traditional reimbursement for hospice services, we offer payment options to veterans with TRICARE. As with all Community Hospice & Palliative Care patients, we provide care and support to all who need it, regardless of their ability to pay. VET 007 5/20





# SURVIVOR OUTREACH SERVICES

Strength  
*built on*  
Sacrifice

## Your Florida SOS Team

### St. Augustine Area

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

### Tallahassee Area

Matthew Reeves  
Support Coordinator  
1225 Easterwood Drive  
Tallahassee, FL 32311-3599  
(850) 617-0192 (desk)  
(850) 459-6630 (cell)  
[matthew.p.reeves.2.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:matthew.p.reeves.2.ctr@mail.mil)

### Orlando Area

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

### Tampa Bay Area

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

### Miami Area

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

## Scholarships & Application Deadlines

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

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

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

### Application Deadlines for surviving children

#### Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation

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

#### Freedom Alliance

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

#### Fisher House Foundation/ Heroes Legacy Scholarship

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

#### Special Ops Warrior Foundation

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

### Deadline for multiple relationships

#### Army Emergency Relief Fund

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

### Application Deadlines: For surviving spouses

#### Aspire

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

#### National Military Family Association

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

#### Pat Tillman Foundation

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

### Application Deadlines: For surviving siblings

#### Matthew Freeman Project

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

### Deadline for multiple relationships

#### Folds of Honor

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

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



# FLORIDA SURVIVOR OUTREACH SERVICES AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY



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

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



## Mission Statement:

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



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

## What the Council has done:

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

SA-0003147064-01

# Veterans Crisis Line

1-800-273-8255 **PRESS 1**

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

**STAND BY THEM**  
Confidential help for Veterans and their families

**NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE**  
1-800-273-TALK (8256)  
[suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://suicidepreventionlifeline.org)

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

## Military/Veterans Crisis Line

1-800-273-8255

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

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



## Veterans Councils of Northeast Florida



### **BAKER COUNTY**

President: Larry Porterfield

Meetings:

Second Thursday of each month

Location:

MacClenny Primitive Baptist Church  
Fellowship Hall on North Boulevard

Time : 1800 (6pm)

### **CLAY COUNTY**

President: Harry Silvers

Meetings:

First Wednesday of each month

Location:

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

Time: 1400 (2pm)

### **DUVAL COUNTY**

President Steve Spickelmier

Meetings:

Third Tuesday of each month

Location:

American Legion Post 37  
Main Building  
San Juan Avenue

Tome: 1900 (7 pm)

### **NASSAU COUNTY**

President: Mike Doran

Meetings:

First Thursday of each month

Location:

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

Time: 1900 (7pm)

### **St. Johns County**

President: Bill Dudley

Meetings:

Last Thursday of each month

Location:

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

Time: 1900 (7pm)

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



We are inviting all veterans to visit our website at:

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

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

Please join our group on Facebook at:

<http://veteranscouncilsjc.org>

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

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

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

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

***He can be contacted at [webmaster@veteranscouncilsjc.org](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



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

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

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

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

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

***The Veterans Council will meet at the County  
Health & Human Services Building,  
200 San Sebastian View  
Auditorium, 1st floor***

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

*(physical location)*

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

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

*Service is by appointment.  
Phone: 904-209-6160 Fax: 904-209-6161  
Joseph McDermott, VSO  
Travis Neidig, Assistant VSO  
Angela McKenzie, Assistant VSO  
Lori Chapman, Assistant VSO  
Anna Marie Scott, Office Specialist*

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