



The Patriot Reader Newsletter

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St. Augustine, FL 32085

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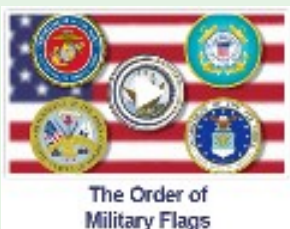
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Message from the Chairman

Newsletter Date: December, 2018

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Fellow Veterans,

I hope you and your family had an enjoyable Thanksgiving with family and friends. We can be proud that our service to this Nation has provided the opportunity to enjoy this season of the year with the Lord's blessings and grace.

Hopefully many of you had the opportunity to attend or participate in our Nov. 12 Veterans Day Centennial Commemorative Ceremony at Anastasia Baptist Church. It was by any measure a tremendous success. I have received dozens of emails, phone calls, and personal expressions of appreciation for this year's program. The Veterans Day Program committee worked very hard throughout most of the year planning, and raising the funds to make the program a success. The Veterans Council and MOAA are extremely appreciative

of all who volunteered their time. We would like to especially give a shout out to Anastasia Baptist Church for providing the beautiful venue, to St. Augustine High School students who make up the SAHS Chamber Singers group, the various Patriot Riders Motorcycle organizations who provided the escort and to the St. Johns County, Flagler County, and Volusia County Sheriff's motor units as well as the St. Augustine and St. Augustine Beach Police Dept. for providing the escort service through all three counties. There is a full coverage of the Veterans Day ceremony on page 4 of this newsletter.

The Veterans Day Program committee will meet soon to decide on next year's program. The discussion will focus on doing a similar program for next year or conduct another parade.

Please put Saturday, December 15 on your calendar.



This is our annual Wreaths Across America date at St. Augustine National Cemetery. Please plan to join us at 12 noon as we conduct our WAA ceremony to honor those who have served in our military forces and are laid to rest in our National Cemetery. The public will be invited to participate in the placing of a wreath on each headstone in the cemetery.

The Veterans Council would like to wish each of our veterans and your family members a Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Bill Dudley, Chairman
Veterans Council of St. Johns County

Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home



Each year the Clyde E Lassen celebrates Veterans' Day by holding a Veterans' Ball. This well attended formal function celebrates our veterans and serves as the kick off to a very busy holiday season.



**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, on Monday December 3, 2018**. The meeting will be at **7:00pm**. The meeting will take place at Community Hospice, **4266 Sunbeam Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32257 in Conference Room A**.

**Jacksonville National Cemetery Support Committee Meetings for 2018
At Community Hospice of NE FL.**

**4266 Sunbeam Rd, Jacksonville, FL 32257
Hadlow Bldg – Conference Room A 7:00pm**

**DATES OF 2018 NEXT SCJNC MEETING
Monday, Dec 3rd**

Saturday, Dec 15th - Wreaths Across America (Details TBA)

All are invited to attend our meetings and become a part of this Committee.

+++++2017/2018 Officers of the SCJNC+++++

Chairman: Steve Spickelmier

Vice Chairman: Bill Dudley, Treasurer: John Mountcastle

Assistant Treasurer: Michael Rothfeld, Secretary: Kathy Church

Chaplain: Michael Halyard, Master-At-Arms: Joe McDermott

Historian: Kathy Cayton

Chaplain: Rev. Patrick A. Archuleta, Sr.

**11/03/2018 Missing In America Project
Florida Commitment To Honor #17
Cape Canaveral National Cemetery, Mims, FL.**

16 Veterans, 7 spouses which included veterans from the Army, Navy, Marines and Air Force, WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. We interred two veterans with their spouses and they were placed in the same niche.

This service was supported by numerous Veteran organizations, high school organizations and members from the communities.





Monday, November 12th will be a day that will live on in the memory of all those who attended the Veterans Day Celebration in St. Augustine. The Celebration was hosted by the Veterans Council of St. Johns County, the Military Officers Association and Anastasia Baptist Church.



On Sunday, November 11, the Vietnam Traveling Wall and the Agent Orange Quilt of Tears was escorted from Daytona Beach to St. Augustine by Sheriff's motorcycles from Volusia, Flagler and St. Johns County's. Leading the motorcycle escort was the Patriot Guard Riders, American Legion Riders, and the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association 20-2. All were treated to pizza and cold drinks by Elks Lodge 829 headed by Elks and Veterans Council member, Fred Dupont.

Monday, November 12th was a day that will not be soon forgotten. The Church Atrium was packed full of patriots viewing the over 30 display tables. The St. Augustine Sea Cadets Battalion was present actively distributing programs and assisting veterans to their seats. The hour before the Main Event honoring the 100 Year Anniversary of the end of WW I there was a Power Point presentation of the History of Veterans Service in Wars from WW 1 through the current Afghanistan War. It was so well received that the Veterans Council will have it placed on a dvd and distributed to schools and libraries.

What followed was nothing short of spectacular. The Celebration started off with the St Johns County Chamber Singers from St Augustine High School and finished with a rousing rendition of God Bless America led by our own treasure, Dr. Roger Geronimo. It between we all were treated to a captivating Keynote speaker, Admiral Sean Buck, Commander US Naval Forces, Southern Command.





Panoramic view of Anastasia Baptist Church's auditorium at Monday's Veterans Day Celebration featuring high school junior reserve officers training corps, patriotic music by the St. Johns County Center for the Arts Chamber Singers under the direction of Jeff Dodd and keynote address by Rear Admiral Sean S. Buck, Southern Commander, US Navy 4th Fleet.

Thank you to the following photographers: George Gardner, Michael Isam, Ted Pappas, Rick Rees, Jorge Rivera and Michael Rothfeld

AND THE WINNER IS....

From the hundreds of pictures taken at our Veterans Day Commemoration, from the police/motorcycle escort to the atrium lobby displays to the commemoration itself, I found this picture to be the most powerful. St. Augustine Fire Chief Carlos Aviles explains to his two beautiful children what the Vietnam Wall represents and why there are names on the Wall. This picture was taken by videographer Jorge L Rivera of First Coast TV.



The Agent Orange Quilt of Tears, by Janet J. Seaborn

The Agent Orange Quilt of Tears is a Traveling Memorial in Honor of Veterans of the Vietnam era who were exposed to Herbicides.

It was during our work in Hot Springs, SD with the American Legion and the “Honoring Our Heroes” event that we were able to view for the first time the “Quilt of Tears”. This is an unbelievable sea of orange fabrics with hundreds of patches depicting the stories of those Vietnam veterans and families who have suffered with the effects of Agent Orange.



Much of what is in this blog will be taken from a pamphlet I picked up at the quilt display. The quilt is being cared for, assembled, and driven across the United States by Shelia and Henry Snyder (amrdangel@aol.com).

Many veterans and their family members still do not know much about the effects of exposure to Agent Orange. An accurate number of casualties is “almost impossible to record due to various reasons, but the estimated number has been at 250,000 for quite a few years”, and the number grows every day. Even today, few Americans know that Agent Orange was a powerful herbicide used during the Vietnam War to deforest the jungle in order to set up base camps for our troops. Understanding the effects of Agent Orange on an individual is frightening. These powerful chemicals could literally take down a thick canopy of trees in a short few days. Think about, if it could destroy these huge trees in a matter of days — imagine what these chemicals could do to the fragile human body. Exposure to Agent Orange can be fatal. Some of the diseases which are currently thought to be a result of these herbicides are Chloracne, Hodgkin’s Disease, Multiple Myeloma, Non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma, Peripheral Neuropath, Porphyria cutanea tarda, Prostate Cancer, Respiratory Cancers, Soft-Tissue Sarcoma, Type II Diabetes, and illnesses and birth defects for the veteran’s children.

It is essential that veterans who have been exposed to Agent Orange get regular physicals complete with CAT Scans to detect the chemicals related to cancers. As with all diseases, early detection is critical to positive long-term outcomes.

The “Quilt of Tears” is a non-profit organization and relies solely on private donations. To learn more go to the website: www.agentorangequiltotears.com. Individuals can get information on how they can create his or her own personal patch for the quilt at this site.

“Fear not my great soldier...for your story shall be passed down through the years because the fabric of your life is sewn into the Quilt of Tears.”

Henry Snyder and the Agent Orange Quilt were on display on Nov. 12 at the Council’s Veterans Day Commemoration

The Veterans Council was honored to recognize local First Responders that served in the military at our 2018 annual Veterans Day event.

Veteran and First Responder , Josh McKenzie, St Augustine Fire Dept.

Joshua McKenzie is one of the proudest and hardest working individuals on our department and never expects recognition for his accomplishments. In his free time, he is takes many certification classes and recently obtained his degree in Fire Science. While in the United States Army, Joshua (SSG Military Police) served 3 tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. He was awarded the Purple Heart and a Bronze Star and he also received the Army Commendation Medal 4 times. This is a true indication of his character and commitment to service whether it is for our Country or our City. He truly embodies “Service above self”.

Joshua is 39 YOA and is the father of two children; Annaleigh and Wyatt.

He has been with our department for 8½ years.

St. Augustine Fire Chief Aviles

**Accepting the Veteran
First Responder Award
Plaque for Firefighter
Josh McKenzie is St.
Augustine Fire Chief
Carlos Aviles**



Veteran and First Responder, Chris Miller, St. Augustine Police Dept.

Corporal (Cpl.) Chris Miller began his career with the St. Augustine Police Department in 2009. He is currently assigned to the Patrol Division as an assistant shift supervisor. Cpl. Miller excels in the area of traffic enforcement as he has attended numerous advanced training courses in this field. He is a certified “Drug Recognition Expert”, which is a certification that less than 1% of police officers currently have, and one of two lead Traffic Homicide Investigators. Cpl. Miller has also served on the Special Reaction Team in the Community Resources Division where he served as a traffic officer. During his time with traffic, Cpl. Miller attended the Police Motorcycle Operator course and continues to ride the motorcycle. During his approximate 20-year law enforcement career Cpl. Miller also worked at the Franklin Township Police Department and the Hopewell Township Police Department, both in New Jersey.



Cpl. Miller enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in the spring of 1991. After graduation from the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Paris Island, South Carolina, he reported to Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas, where he completed the basic military police course, graduating as an honor graduate and subsequently meritoriously promoted to the rank of Lance Corporal. During his enlistment with the military police, he was selected for the Special Reaction Team. While with the team he attended the Drug Enforcement Administration’s “Drug Interdiction Course” and was assigned to a joint task force involving local, state, federal, and military law enforcement agencies. Corporal Miller furthered his education by completing the “Traffic Crash Reconstruction” course which involved studies in advanced geometry, calculus, and physics as it pertains to traffic crash reconstruction. Corporal Miller was re-tasked as part of a team with the responsibility of investigating all major traffic crash / traffic fatality crashes as well as providing expert testimony court proceedings regarding such crashes to include providing testimony in military, civilian, and foreign courts.

After 9/11, Cpl. Miller re-enlisted into the Marine Corps Reserve where he was assigned to Marine Corps Wing Support Squadron 472 where he was called to active duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was again called to active duty in January of 2007 where he served an additional two years in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Cpl. Miller completed his Marine Corps Reserve obligation in the fall of 2011.

Veteran & First Responder, Bryan Wright

Bryan Matthew Wright graduated from Mandarin High School on May 26th of 2006. After graduation in April of 2006 Bryan enlisted in the Florida Air National Guard. Bryan is assigned to the 125th Security Forces Squad where he has spent his time as a Security Forces Journeyman. While enlisted Bryan attended and successfully graduated from the Basic Law Enforcement Academy on December 16, 2013. During this time Bryan received his Associate of Arts Degree from Florida State College on May 9th, 2014.



Bryan started his career in law enforcement working with the Clay County Sheriff's Office in October of 2014 where he served as a Deputy Sheriff for 2 years. He started working for the St. Augustine Beach Police Department on June 12th, 2017 as Police Officer.

During his time in the military Bryan Wright has received the following accommodations;

Meritorious Unit Award, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Air Force Overseas Ribbon Short, Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon with Gold Border, Air Force Longevity Service, Basic Military Training Honor Graduate, Air Force Training Ribbon.

Bryan served on Active Duty in support of Operation Enduring Freedom from Oct 29, 2007 to April 18th, 2008 and from October 1, 2011 to April 10th, 2012.

Veteran & First Responder, John Noble
St. Johns County Sheriff's Office

EMPLOYEE: **John "Ricky" Noble**

DATE OF HIRE: 10/09/1989

29 YEARS OF SERVICE

EDUCATION: Associates Degree, Vincennes University

POSITIONS HELD IN THE AGENCY:

Law Enforcement Deputy	1989 – 1993
Youth Resource DARE/Deputy	1993 – 1994
Law Enforcement Deputy	1994 – 1998
Traffic Deputy	1998 – 2003
Sr Traffic Deputy	2003 – 2003
Patrol Shift Leader	2003 – 2009
Youth Resource Coordinator	2009 – 2010
Patrol Shift Leader	2010 – 2016
Bailiff Coordinator	2016 - Present



COMMENDATIONS/AWARDS:

Meritorious Service Award	1990, 1997, 1998, 2002
Division Director Award	1993
Lifesaving Award	1994, 1998, 2013
Twenty Year Commendation	2009

From Robert Dinkins

In Memory of this soldier who gave his life for his country in the Ia Drang Valley during the Pleiku campaign on November 15, 1965.

Leo Chase Jr was the first man from St. Johns County to be killed in Vietnam. The Ia Drang battle where Chase died was dramatized in the book and film, "We Were Soldiers".

At 23 years old Army Pfc. Leo C. Chase, Jr., was killed while serving with an Airmobile unit in Vietnam. Five days later he would have gone home. Chase's life served as an inspiration to others before and since his death.

Chase was a rifleman in Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry. He flew into Landing Zone X-Ray in the Ia Drang Valley of South Vietnam, near the Cambodian border. The helicopter troops were immediately attacked by thousands of soldiers of the 320th, 33rd and 66th regiments of the North Vietnamese Army in a battle that lasted four days. Outnumbered nearly 10 to 1, Chase and the other members of his platoon bravely repulsed many massive ground assaults from the Vietcong, all the while taking fire from enemy snipers. In the end, Chase and many other members of his platoon lost their lives, but not without accomplishing their objective. The American lines held because of the courage and sheer determination of the Seventh Cavalry. 305 Americans and 3,561 North Vietnamese died.



A veteran helping other veterans, my Brooklyn Grandson

A not-so-short Veterans Day story I hope will inspire you to offer your “two minutes” one day:

I left the military and began attending Baruch College shortly after returning from Iraq in 2008. At the time, I had pretty vague ideas of what I was going to do, maybe become an FBI agent.

Luckily, one of my professors at Baruch – an adjunct who was an attorney by day – was a Vietnam-era veteran. One day he pulled me aside and asked what I planned to do with my life. After I

told him, he asked if I had ever been to a federal court – I had not – and he quickly sent me on my way to watch a terrorism trial in Manhattan. What he probably hadn't realized then, was that the two minutes he spent mentoring me in that conversation would eventually impact hundreds of veterans.

You see, after my day in court, I set my sights on law school and criminal law especially. Today, I'm an associate at one of the world's largest law firms. But along the way I've tried to pay forward that professor's mentorship.

At NYU Law, where I was the only veteran in my class of 450, I started a veterans advocacy group which, in addition to working on recruiting and pro bono for veterans, convinced the University to provide sufficient funding under a matching program with the VA, so that eligible veterans could attend NYU Law for free. That change set a standard which eventually led to many of the top law schools around the country becoming free for veterans.

Then, in 2014 I launched a second veterans group, this time at the law firm where I was a new associate. In addition to recruiting veterans to the firm, that group's biggest accomplishment has been to encourage the establishment of a program we call the Military Mondays Clinic: a monthly legal clinic at the Manhattan VA where attorneys from the firm and some of our corporate partners provide legal advice to veterans on a range of issues those veterans face, including housing assistance and disability benefits. As of this November, the Military Mondays Clinic has provided free legal advice to 232 military veterans. And, although there have been a lot of twists and turns along the way, I can draw a line straight back from those 232 veterans the clinic has helped so far, to the day that professor took me aside and nudged me in the right direction.

So, all this to say that taking those two minutes to help someone can sometimes have a bigger impact than you might imagine. In honor of Veterans Day, I hope that if you have the opportunity to offer your two minutes, you take it. And, if you're a veteran who may be in need of that help, keep your eyes out because there are a whole lot of us around looking for an opportunity to pay it forward.

To my brothers and sisters who have served or are still serving, thank you! Happy Veterans Day!

Also, a special shout-out to some of those who have been a part of these efforts and who have set the wheels in motion to help many veterans, including this one, along the way. Gregory Wilbur, Michael Williams, Kate Englander Schuh, Adam Jamal, David Leapheart, George Fleming, and Eric Riedel





On Tuesday November 20th, Chairman



Dudley and I were invited to speak to the St. Johns County Chamber

of Commerce, North Business Council in

Julington Creek. The meeting was well attended by over 40 area business leaders.

The Mission Statement of the N. Business Council says in part: “the



Council’s Mission is to educate within the Chamber’s area” and that is what Chairman Dudley did with a powerful Power Point slide show highlighting the Council’s many annual veteran’s activities.

Chairman Dudley presented the Chamber with a set of our Military documentaries, to be used by the Chamber at future meetings.



After the meeting many Chamber members spoke with Bill about receiving the Patriot Reader and spoke with us about their military service.



Department of Veteran Affairs

St. Augustine CBOC Fact Sheet

Lease was awarded on September 6, 2018 to Construction Manager, Inc of Goldsboro CMI was formed in 2007 with a focus on high-end design-build construction projects. CMI is proud to be a veteran owned and operated small business in eastern North Carolina. They have been awarded 11 VA leases, 10 VA-CBOC's and 1 Mental Health Clinic.

Project Scope

- The project includes the property acquisition, design, development, construction, and property operation management of the CBOC.
- The design for the clinic will be based upon the VA's PACT Team model.
- **Description:** A one story building of which the VA will be the sole occupant.
- **Net Usable Square Footage:** 16 ,595
- **Parking Spaces:** 136
- **Lease Term:** 20 years

Services Provided

- Primary Care
- Mental Health
- Podiatry
- Dietician
- Lab Services
- Home Based Primary Care
- Physical Therapy

Estimated Schedule

- **Shovel in Dirt:** Projected June 2019
- **Competition:** Estimated June 2020

St. Augustine CBOC 904-829-0814
Veteran Crisis Line 1-800-273-8255

CONCEPTUAL DESIGN

Department of Veteran Affairs

St. Augustine CRDC Fact Sheet



They have been awarded 11 VA leases, 10 VA-CBOCs and 1 Mental Health Clinic. CMI is proud to be a veteran owned and operated small business in western Florida. CMI was formed in 2007. Lease was awarded in 2010.

Site Location

Southwest Corner of Deerfield Preserve and CR 207





ADVOCATE FOR VETERANS

WILLIAM DUDLEY

After a lifetime of service, Bill Dudley had more to give; he stepped up and turned the St. Johns Veterans Council into the envy of the state.

By Meeka Anne | Photography by Brian Miller

The accolades of Lieutenant Colonel Bill Dudley are too many to list. He served ten years in the Air Force active duty flying and then moved on to the Active Reserve Force. He later pursued an Aerospace career in executive management positions both in the US and abroad. Even though Dudley has now retired, he has never slowed down. He served in various levels of the Navy League of the United States until six years ago when he became the Chairman of the **Veterans Council of St. Johns County**. "My responsibilities," says Dudley about his position at the Council, "are to provide leadership and direction for the Council in support of our veterans and inform the public about our veteran's service." Under his guidance, the Council has grown and become the model for other chapters across the state to emulate.

One noteworthy accomplishment of the Council with the Lieutenant Colonel at the helm is the relationship with the Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC). A man of action, Dudley says, "The Veterans Council was very instrumental in convincing the VA to share the plans for the future of the CBOC to provide healthcare for our St. Augustine veterans. We did this by hosting two town hall meetings, writing letters to the Secretary of

the VA, members of Congress, the President, and others. We meet quarterly with the VA Chief Medical Officer and County Veteran Service Officer to discuss the continuing service of the clinic for our veterans."

Dudley also assists in encouraging youth programs throughout the county. "Most of our youth programs that support veteran's activities," he says, "are organized through our high school programs such as JROTC. The exceptions are the Sea Cadets and the Young Marines." These programs are essential as one of Dudley's most significant challenges is getting younger veterans to volunteer in leadership roles in our veterans organizations.

An integral function of the Veterans Council is organizing events across the city like Wreaths Across America, Veterans Homeless Stand Down, and the Memorial Day Ceremony. "Our next event here in St. Augustine," says Dudley, "is the annual Veterans Day Program to honor all veterans. For the past four years, we have celebrated with a Veterans Day Parade.

This year we plan to recognize our veterans at a program at Anastasia Baptist Church, which will feature our local St. Augustine HS Chorale singing patriotic songs, the traveling Vietnam Wall, the Quilt of Tears, and many other exhibits as well as a featured speaker to speak about the Centennial of Veterans Day since WW1."

"I am honored," says Lieutenant Colonel Bill Dudley, "to give back to all those who have served our country and worn the cloth of our nation."

Dudley believes that knowledge is power and says, "The rewards of this position are assisting veterans in meeting the challenges of getting the care they are entitled to, educating youth groups in the community about veteran's service, and creating an awareness in our community about those who have served our country."

"St. Johns County is a veteran-friendly county, and the city and county commissioners are extremely supportive," says Dudley. "Locals contribute to many of the veteran's programs in a very benevolent way. I am honored to give back to all those who have served our country and worn the cloth of our nation."

www.veteranscouncilsjc.org



From David Treffinger
President, Col. William G. Byrns Chapter 1059, Clay County
Editor, Florida State Council E-Recon Newsletter

Veterans Day Highlights



Richard “Chief” Wells (left), Florida State Council 2nd Vice President and Chapter 1059 Past President Gary Newman and Mason “Ed” Wiggins presented the wreath during the Nov. 12 ceremony at the TAPS Monument in Green Cove Springs. Gary Newman was the speaker. Chief Wells and Ed Wiggins are Korea/Vietnam Veterans. Photo by Dan Sanchez.

The chapter members also participated in several other Veterans Day events: Nov. 9 at the Oak View Rehabilitation Center, Orange Park where President David Treffinger presented 50th Anniversary pins to nine Vietnam Veterans. Gary Newman, Jack and Kim Biddle and William “Mac” McLucas, who also was representing the VFW, participated in the ceremony honoring the 41 veterans in the facility.

David Treffinger and Mac McLucas participated in the Green Cove Springs ceremony on Nov. 10 at Spring Park and Gary Newman represented the chapter at the Orange Park ceremony on Nov. 11.



Jim Steele played Taps during the wreath laying ceremony at the TAPS Monument on Nov. 12. Photo by Dan Sanchez.

Clay County officials present Resolution



Clay County Commissioners Wayne Bolla (left), Mike Cella (second from left) and Diane Hutchings (right) presented a county resolution that honors the veterans for their example of character, service and sacrifice to President David Treffinger and Past President Gary Newman after the TAPS wreath laying ceremony. The resolution was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners on Oct. 23. Photo by Dan Sanchez

Hurricane Michael Relief



Dan Sanchez received a Certificate of Appreciation from Florida State Council 2nd Vice President Gary Newman during the Nov. 3rd chapter meeting in recognition of his assistance with the Hurricane Michael relief effort. Dan Sanchez drove and helped load and re-load the 15-foot U-Haul truck with hurricane supplies. Chapter President David Treffinger also was recognized for his assistance along with the Basics: Gun & Range in Orange Park which received and stored the supplies provided by Chapter 1059 members. The five Northeast Florida Chapters participated in the relief effort. AVVA State President Mary Anne Newman (below photo, right) awarded Certificates of Appreciation to AVVA members Sandra Colson, Sara Davis and Kim Biddle for their efforts in preparing hygiene bags for the relief effort.



St. Augustine Fire Department

Earlier this year your firefighters partnered with the Veterans Council of St Johns County to debut a new military appreciation shirt that also raised awareness to veteran suicide. We soon received an overwhelming number of inquiries to purchase these shirts. Thanks to your amazing support today we were able to donate \$1000 to K9s For Warriors. We couldn't be more proud to give to an organization that is helping veterans all over the US. We will also be donating proceeds from the Firefighter Chili Cook-off on December 8th at the St Augustine Amphitheater. If you'd like more information on K9's for Warriors or to donate please click the links below. Don't forget to take a moment this weekend to thank a Veteran and their family for their service.



REMEMBER the DIFFERENCE

ARMED FORCES DAY

Honors those
currently serving
in the Armed Forces

VETERAN'S DAY

Honors the living
who once served
in the Armed Forces.

MEMORIAL DAY

Honors those
who died in service
to our Nation.

🇺🇸 United States Motorcycle Corps Charities 🇺🇸

#VeteranLivesMatter

- May 19, 2018 Armed Forces Day (third Saturday in May).
- May 28, 2018 Memorial Day (last Monday in May).
- November 11, 2018 Veterans Day.

Duty, Honor, country and Menendez football

St. Augustine Record By Will Brown

Menendez football assistants Mike Jefferson, Allen De Vos, Carmine Schiavone, T.J. Sims and Ben Walker are veterans who continue to serve their community through football.



The war to end all wars ended a century ago today. In the years since, America has been represented in a series of other engagements by men and women who place their country over their personal edification.

There are more than 19 million living veterans in the United States. Five of them are on the football coaching staff at Menendez High School.

Their branches, length of service and journeys that led them to south St. Augustine vary; but, their love of this country and of the Falcons binds them. They are a blend of St. Johns County natives and Ancient City transplants who devote their time, talent and treasure to assist the Falcons.

They are: Allen De Vos, United States Marines; Michael Jefferson, U.S. Army; Carmine Schiavone, U.S. Army; T.J. Sims, U.S. Air Force; and Ben Walker, U.S. Army.

Walker is a Hastings native who is in his third year on the coaching staff. He wanted to share some of the discipline instilled in him with others in his community.

“I saw the need for discipline for our boys and girls,” said Walker, who also serves as one of Menendez’s track assistants. “So many of our kids lack self-control. Sometimes all it takes is someone coming into their little world and helping them refocus.”

Walker has lived in St. Johns County most of his life. De Vos’ first experience with St. Augustine was five years ago when he and his son visited Scott Koob, an Army veteran who was one of De Vos’ childhood neighbors.

De Vos played football and basketball in Sheldon, Iowa. He said joining the Marines exposed him to a world beyond Northwest Iowa.

“I loved the camaraderie of having a team. Some of my fondest memories of high school were of bus rides, whether it was football or basketball. That’s one of the reasons I joined the military was the teamwork. The esprit de corps.”

Menendez is not the only football program in St. Johns County with a veteran presence. The Falcon Five do everything from work with the junior varsity, give players rides home, produce video of practices

and games, coordinate the program's community outreach, launder clothes and serve as the personification of the impact that discipline and a spirit of service can have on one's community.

"God. Family. Country. After retirement I was deciding what I was going to do. I had no idea what I was going to do," Jefferson said. "Barry Williams, he was a dean out here at Pedro. I went to a football game and Palatka and St. Augustine were playing. He said 'Mike, come coach with me.' I said OK. This is a part of ministry to me. It is an opportunity for me to give back like someone did for me. Mr. Eddie Vickers and mentors back in the '60s and '70s who helped me along the way."

Menendez's season ended on Friday night with a 27-22 loss to North Marion. The Falcons, who finished 8-3, beat St. Augustine for the first time and may send as many as four seniors to play Division I football programs.

The Falcon Five have supported the football program and the broader Menendez community with actions large and small.

Menendez athletic director Patrick Turner brought in De Vos, Schiavone, Sims and Walker when Turner was the head coach. Jefferson, who has coached at Menendez since 2002, is as much an institution at the school as its blue helmets.

Jefferson's primary focus is the linebackers. But he keeps a watchful eye on the entire Falcons defense.

If you have heard a "Doggone it!" emanate from the Falcons sideline, it was probably Jefferson correcting someone or something.

Jefferson does not curse, much to the amusement of the players. Junior cornerback Tre Evans smiled at the thought before adding the dean of Falcons coaches has a spectacular vocabulary.

"It's nice having him as a great support system," Evans said. "He is the first to say 'Good job!' It's great having him. He's a great coach too."

Kyle Skipper retained all five veterans when he was promoted to head coach in March. He has repeatedly mentioned the Falcon Five are not only great men and wonderful coaches, but people who made his transition from offensive coordinator to head coach a smooth one.

Having Veterans Day on a Sunday and the 243rd birthday of the Marine Corps on Saturday meant De Vos was allowed a weekend of reflection and gratitude.

"I didn't get to choose when my service ended. I served honorably and faithfully. I have met a lot of veterans who have done a lot more than I did," De Vos said of a military career that was cut short after 20 months after he lost his right leg in a motorcycle accident in 1989. "To me, it's a time to think about the other guys who served. It's a time to be thankful about stuff. We live in a great country."

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA CAMPAIGN 2018

Our campaign to fill the St. Augustine National Cemetery with holiday wreaths is well underway.



This year we extend our thanks to George Linardos and Judy Davis for their behind the scenes work to accomplish our mission. George is handling the donations and Judy is our location manager.

Thanks to George the St. Augustine Record is publicizing our efforts at no cost and the result is tremendous.

The cost of the wreaths remains unchanged. Purchase of one wreath is \$15.00, purchase of two wreaths for \$30.00 entitles us to a free wreath (3 for the price of 2).

If your organization has not yet made their annual donation, now is a good time to do so. Be sure to make your check payable to “Wreaths Across America”. Checks should be mailed to: Veterans Council of St. Johns County, P. O. Box 2117, St. Augustine, Florida 32085.

Volunteers will be needed on short notice to unload the delivery of wreaths. They normally arrive two days prior to the event. More information will follow as we approach the day of the event.

Please plan to join the council on Saturday, December 15th, 2018 for our Wreaths Across America Program and participate in the laying of the wreaths.

Save the Date

V4V

Vets 4 Vets

Saturday, January 5th, 2019

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

1030 – 1100

Coffee, Networking and Exhibitors

1100 – 1200

Speakers

1200 – 1300

Free Lunch, Networking and Exhibitors

Listen, Learn, and
Let your Voice be Heard

TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER!!

MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART CHAPTER 524



Company

Contact Person

Address

.....

Phone

Email

Tournament Participant(s)

1.....

2.....

3.....

4.....

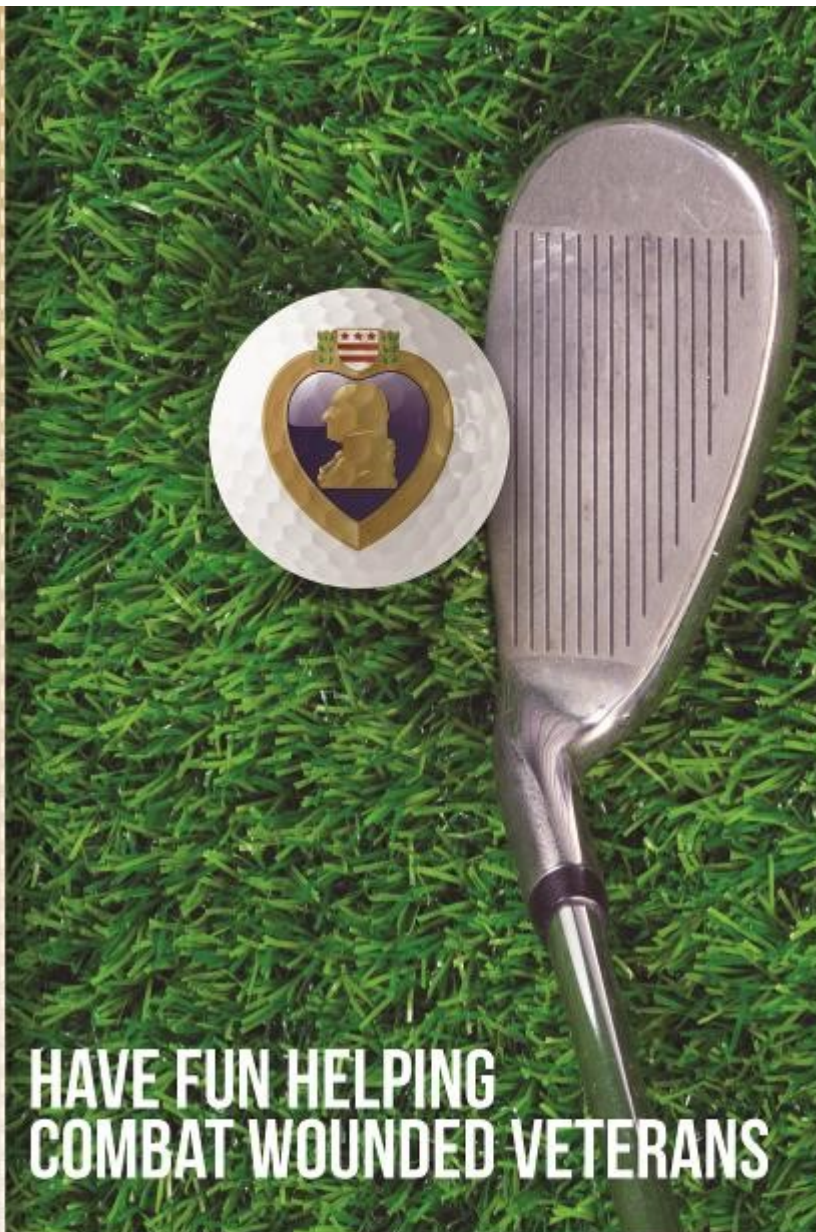
5.....

6.....

In order to ensure your spot to play, payment must be turned in with your registration.

PLEASE CHECK ONE

- Individual \$50
- Team of 6 \$275
- Bay Sponsor \$500
- Room Sponsor \$1000
- I cannot play, but please accept donation of \$



HAVE FUN HELPING COMBAT WOUNDED VETERANS

100% of the proceeds from this charity golf scramble will go directly to help emplace a Purple Heart monument in the Jacksonville National Cemetery.

JANUARY 6 SUNDAY | 2019

11:45 AM	Registration
12:00 PM	Start
12:30 PM	Lunch
2:45 PM	Awards

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT US



INFO@MOPH524.ORG

U.S. Army veteran overcomes deployment and helps new student veterans adjust to college life

Standing in front of fellow veterans, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University graduate student Amanda Meurer gives these first-year students study tips and other skills on being successful.



By her side is Mako, a golden retriever service dog who helps the U.S. Army veteran with anxiety and her diagnosed post-traumatic stress disorder. Mako has been with Meurer since this summer through the K9s For Warriors program. He is able to sense when she's anxious and signals her to pet him which soothes her anxiety. Mako is also trained to help her with mobility.

“In the military when you have a friend with you it is called a battle buddy. Now, I have a battle buddy that just happens to be a dog,” she said.

Meurer, seeking her Master's degree in Human Security & Resilience with Embry-Riddle's Worldwide Campus, spent eight months in a military camp in Iraq that faced mortar and rocket attacks. She was a wheeled vehicle mechanic with the 8th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 229th Aviation Regiment nicknamed the “Flying Tigers.” In addition to PTSD, she suffered shoulder and back injuries maintaining ground vehicles and was placed on medical retirement and honorably discharged.

Today, as a peer mentor, she teaches new student veterans UNIV 101, which is everything from how to plan class schedules for their Academic Study Plan to what services are available on campus and in the community. She received a

bachelor's degree in May in Homeland Security and has also worked at the Veteran Student Services office helping veterans adjust to college life.

“When you are in the veteran community, you are part of a different brother and sisterhood. It's nice to have people you can be yourself around,” Meurer said. “I want to be able to help student veterans and hopefully they will be able to help someone else one day.”

It took Meurer a couple of months to come out of her shell when she transferred to Embry-Riddle in 2015 from a community college in Kentucky, following a little over five years in the Army. But once she did, she found her place in leadership positions, including helping to reestablish the Student Veterans Organization and serving on organizations, including the Homeland Security Student Association, the Order of the Sword and Shield security studies honor society, Omicron Delta Kappa's leadership honor society and Sigma Sigma Sigma sorority.

“She can relate to what student veterans are going through in their transition from the military to college life,” said Dawn McGowan, UNIV 101 instructor for the veterans course and former director of Veteran Student Services. “She is a great communicator and motivates students to be successful.”

Meurer ultimately hopes to work for a government law enforcement or intelligence agency as a way of continuing to give back. She's passionate about wanting to end the opioid crisis, which has impacted her hometown in Kentucky.

“I may not be wearing the uniform, but I'll be able to serve through the civil sector,” she said.

Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc. Minutes of October 25, 2018

Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc. Minutes of October 25, 2018

Officers present: Chairman Bill Dudley, Vice Chairman Ray Quinn, Secretary Michael Rothfeld, Treasurer John Mountcastle

Chairman Dudley called the meeting to order at 1900 hours

Chairman Dudley led the Pledge to the Flag, Vice Chairman Ray Quinn gave the Invocation

Minutes were approved as presented

The Treasurer's Report was approved as amended

**Introduction of Guests: Sam Williams, Director of SJC Prisons;
Gary Newman, 2nd VP VVA FL State Council**

Speakers:

Samuel Williams, Director of SJC Prisons: Director Williams spoke about Amendment 10 and how important it was to support it. The Amendment ensures all constitutional officers in SJC are elected and NOT appointed.



Dr. Michael Butler, History Professor Flagler College: Dr Butler spoke of his two trips to Vietnam accompanied by Flagler students and what he observed there. Dr Butler traveled to Saigon, Khe Sanh, and Hanoi and toured with a Vietnamese (Communist) guide. All locations visited showed the Communist Party propaganda message that was in all cases false and opposite of what we know to be the truth. The students recognized the Vietnamese government propaganda immediately. The most glaring falsehood was that the "Hanoi Hilton" did not house American POWs".



Committee Reports:

Mac, SJC VSO: the VA has concerted all paper files to digital. The VA will issue a release clarifying the new CBOC location on SR 207. Nov. 6, SJC Commissioners will issue a Veterans Day Proclamation at 9am, all are asked to attend.

John L: Please try to attend the VA Whole Health Summit at UNF, Nov. 14, 8:30 am to 1 pm, The Veterans Treatment Court has 3 new mentors. Nov. 5-9, VVA 1084 will be resuming its

“Veterans in the Classroom” program. VVA 1084 has collected over \$ 2300 in cash and the same in donations. VVA now has only one membership level, Lifetime for \$ 50. VVA 1084 has an upcoming Fundraise on Dec. 31, at the St Aug Beach Pier pavilion, from 5 to 10 pm. Please support this.

Ray: Wreaths Across America is on target to reach its goal this year of having a wreath placed on every headstone in the St Augustine National Cemetery. Judy Davis is the co-coordinator. The event is 12 noon on Saturday Dec. 15.

Bill: Please ask everyone to attend the Veterans Day Commemoration on Monday Nov. 12 starting at 9:30 am at Anastasia Baptist Church, 1650 A1A S. On exhibit The Traveling Vietnam Wall, the Agent Orange Quilt of Tears, the Lighthouses 100 year old time capsule with 1200 Florida KIAs, and a WW I exhibit by the NE FL Military Museum. There will be a special recognition of local First Responders who were also veterans, Purple Heart recipients and Gold Star families. Local JROTCs and the St Augustine High School Chamber Singers will be performing a medley of Patriotic Songs.

Steve: MIAPs next ceremony will be on Nov. 3rd at Cape Canaveral National Cemetery.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

The next meeting of the Veterans Council will be on Thursday, November 29, 7 pm in the Health & Human Services Building, 200 San Sebastian View.

Future speakers:

November 29, Andrew Coughlan, Wounded Warrior Project, Resource Development and

Michele McManamon, Co founder/ Executive Director, Operation New Uniform

December 27, Margaret Kaplan, Administrator, Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home

Jill M. Lancaster, 2nd VP, Women's Army Corps Veterans Association, Chapter # 56, Jax
January 31, Tom Waskovich, Green Beret, Vietnam Veteran, MACVSOG and

Veronica Nieves, Red Cross, Team RWB, American Red Cross- Service to the Armed Forces
February 28, Jessica Bradstreet, Dept. of VA, Local Recovery Coordinator

Mr. Jud Dannon, B2B, Battlefields to Ballfields

March 28, Michele Luthin, Memorial Park Assoc., (100 year old time capsule)

Trish Doran, Wekiva Springs Center, Military Liaison

Thanks for helping to make today's veteran event a success in Hastings and being our guest speaker! It was simply wonderful! We pinned 19 veterans. Attached is the invitation with details of time/place and the program.....

Pictured left to right...

Marie Rieck, Community Relations Representative St. Johns County, April Baggett, Veteran volunteer, Jim Monohan, VP Education & Community Engagement, Betsy Beckham, Volunteer program trainer, Karl Wiggins, Veteran volunteer, Colonel Bill Dudley, Chairman of the Veterans Council of St. Johns County, and Michael Davis, Veteran volunteer facilitator.

Thanks for all you do!

Marie Rieck, RN, BSN, MPH
Community Relations Representative, St. Johns County
Cell: 904-451-1175



You are invited to our Veteran's Day Luncheon

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2018
10:00 A.M. TO 12:30 P.M.

The Lord's Temple Fellowship Hall
140 Gilmore Street, Hastings, FL 32145

Catered by:
The St. Johns County Council On Aging

Please call Lorain Viroon, Program Coordinator, COA's Hastings Community Senior Center at 904-728-9161 or email her at lorain@stjohnscoa.com by **OCTOBER 28** to RSVP.
Meals must be reserved in advance.



Leaders reflect on military service, careers helping others

By Jared Keever

With the Veterans Council of St. Johns County estimating there are about 23,000 vets living here, it was a mathematical likelihood that some who have served their country would rise to positions of leadership in the community.

But three men who have found their callings in the top ranks of the county's first responders say that, not only

were they drawn to a life of service at least in part because of their experience in the armed forces, their time there prepared them to lead in professions with an often dynamic set of demands and challenges.

"There's no college class that teaches you that," St. Johns County Sheriff David Shoar told The Record on Friday.

Shoar spent 24 years in the Florida Army National Guard, retiring as a major in 2005. During his time, he served in the first Gulf War and worked in the relief effort after Hurricane Andrew hit South Florida in 1992.

During a brief phone interview he said that as an officer with the military he learned through his experiences how to delegate and manage and accept larger areas of responsibility as he progressed in his career.

How, exactly, that happened is difficult for many to explain.

"You know, the military really does provide you ... with a skill set you really can't get anywhere else," Shoar said. "If you asked me why, I really couldn't tell you."

St. Augustine Fire Chief Carlos Aviles suggested much the same thing.

Seated at his desk Friday morning after presenting a \$1,000 check to the K9s for Warriors charity from money that he helped raise with T-shirt sales through the Fire Department's benevolent fund with the help of the Veterans Council, he talked a little about his military experience and how it relates to what he does now.

"It's all about being totally mission ready," he said of the work he and his firefighters do to keep themselves and their equipment in shape. "A lot of that discipline and preparedness, all of that comes from the military."

The commitment to teamwork and taking care of others in your unit is another principle that translates from the military to the fire service well.

"Fire trucks don't roll out of here with just one person on them," he said.

But even as there are so many parallels, he too acknowledged that it can be hard to communicate them.

He said he often interviews veterans seeking jobs with his department and if they end up not getting chosen for the position, he said he tries, when he can, to sit down and help them with some interview coaching so they can



highlight those skills and communicate them to a prospective employer in the civilian world.

Aviles is still in the U.S. Army reserves. He joined after high school and went to Afghanistan in 2003 and 2004. He joined the fire service in 2005 and has since been sent to Iraq for a tour as well. He became chief in 2016, just weeks before Hurricane Matthew hit the area.

Asked how his service has prepared him for his leadership role, now with two hurricanes behind him in his first two years on the job, he, like Shoar, suggested it is difficult to explain specifically how.

“The Army does a really good job of teaching you selfless service,” he said thinking over the the question, “which is really what this job is all about.”

It is that commitment to service that drew St. Augustine Beach Police Chief Robert Hardwick to law enforcement after he came back from the first Gulf War.

Hardwick, who retired this year from the Army National Guard after 25 years, said he joined the military after high school.

“For me, personally, I needed that military-type structure,” he said. “It gave me some goals.”

He joined the Department of Corrections first, then went to the Flagler County Sheriff’s Office and on to the St. Augustine Police Department before he was hired on as an investigator with the 7th Judicial Circuit State Attorney’s Office.

He rose to the level of assistant chief investigator there before taking the helm at the Beach Police Department in 2013.

Hardwick said that he learned as much from bad leaders he has had in his career as he has from the good ones and said the military’s structure and nature of work provides an environment for many where leadership skills, or lack of them, can be uncovered.

“Sometimes people just have natural abilities to lead,” he said. “They just need to find out how to use it properly.”

He, like Aviles, said the paramilitary nature and rank structure of the law enforcement and fire service agencies are probably why many vets find homes there.

But for Hardwick, who also was sent back to Iraq after the 2003 invasion, the call to service that kept him in the military seems to have been the motivating factor.

“For me, law enforcement is serving your country as well,” he said.

“He completed a total of 22 flights”: Rescuing Wounded In the Ia Drang Valley

November 7, 2015 by VVMF

On Nov. 14, 1965 the Battle of Ia Drang begins, the first major engagement during the Vietnam War, between members of the U.S. Army and the People’s Army of North Vietnam.

The two-part battle took place between November 14 and November 18, 1965 west of Plei Me, in the Central Highlands of South Vietnam. Lt. Col. Hal Moore’s 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry was ordered to take on an air assault in the Ia Drang Valley. Their mission was to find and kill the enemy. At approximately noon, the North Vietnamese 33rd Regiment attacked. The fighting continued all day and into the night.

Col. Bruce Crandall, Commander of Company A, 229th Assault Helicopter Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), led the first major division operation of airmobile troops into Landing Zone X-Ray. After several routine lifts into the area, the men on the ground came under attack from the North Vietnamese Army. On his next flight, three soldiers on his helicopter were killed and three were wounded. Crandall kept his helicopter on the ground – in the line of enemy fire, so that four wounded soldiers could be loaded aboard.

After he flew the men back to base, he knew the soldiers on the ground were running short of ammunition, so he decided to fly back in. He asked for a volunteer to go with him and Captain Ed Freeman agreed to pursue it with him, displaying extraordinary heroism.

Together, they flew in supplies, water, and ammunition needed for the troops. His helicopter came under intense enemy fire, but they continued to carry out the wounded, even though that wasn’t their mission.

Crandall continued to fly into and out of the landing zone throughout the day and into the evening. Throughout the day, he changed helicopters after some were so badly damaged to stay in the air. He spent more than 14 hours in the air and completed a total of 22 flights, most under intense enemy fire. He retired from the battlefield only after all possible service had been rendered to the infantry battalion. Crandall and Freeman successfully rescued some 70 wounded men.

“It was the longest day I ever experienced in any aircraft,” Crandall recalled.

“The Huey was the best helicopter ever made. We saved so many more people because of that helicopter.”

By the end of the Vietnam War, he had flown over 900 combat missions. Crandall retired from the Army in 1977. On February 26, 2007, President George W. Bush presented Crandall with the Medal of Honor for his actions in the Ia Drang Valley.



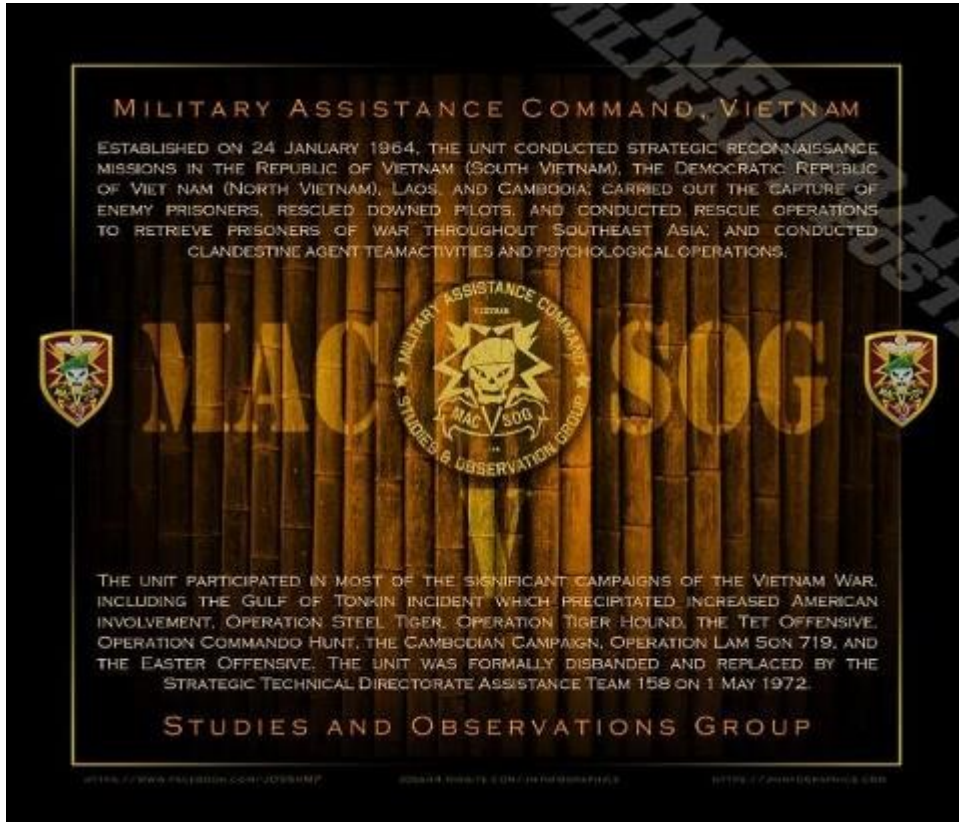
I give you six Fist of the Fleet Commanding Officers, serving between 1979 to 1987. L-R Steve Webb, John Lockard, Bob Leone, Himself John Leslie, Jerry Arbitter, and D.J. Wright. Photo taken 16 Nov 1985



Speedy is scheduled to be in the "Old Post Chapel" 29 January 2019 @ 1100 Hours

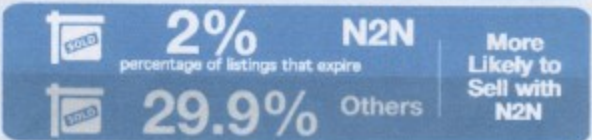
He will receive Full Military Honors according to the Arlington information center.

The Veterans Council of St. Johns County is proud to announce that our guest speaker at our January 31st meeting will be Tom Waskovich, Vietnam Veteran, Green Beret who will speak about his military experiences.



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Nease High School Navy Junior ROTC promotes 119 cadets

By Chennell Ramos - Digital Journalist

PONTE VEDRA, Fl. - Nease NJROTC held their promotion and awards ceremonies on the campus parade deck to recognize the cadet corps for exceptional performance during the first quarter.



A total 119 cadets earned promotions for successfully passing a rigorous promotion exam and meeting minimum community service hour requirements.

More than 800 individual awards were presented to the 248 cadet battalion for exceptional performance and achievement in the areas of community service, school service, physical fitness and participation on one or more of the program's competitive teams.

Cadet company commanders directed formal military ceremonies throughout the school day during their respective class periods. As part of their hands-on leadership training, cadet company commanders organized, planned and executed the entire ceremonies. Active duty recruiters from the United States Army, Marine Corps and Navy along with a retired Army colonel, assisted in the presentation of awards.

Bravo Company Commander Teagen Pettit and company Cmdrs. Sinead Morgan, Christopher Oliver and Hayden Rowe led their cadets in ceremonies replete with the formal customs and courtesies seen in active duty events. Pettit stated that "attending (Area-12) Leadership Academy last summer helped me prepare for moments like this."

Proud parents were in attendance during the ceremony to pin the new ranks on their cadets.

The most prestigious awards presented during the day were the Sailors of the Quarter awards – given to the top performers from the past quarter. Cadets Elkhan Bagirov, Kaitlyn Boggs, Olivia Kerrick, Isabella Rivera and Yuan Tian received the esteemed awards.

Nease NJROTC has been recognized as the No.1 NJROTC unit in Area-12 (northern Florida and the state of Georgia) for five of the past six years and was the No. 5 Most Outstanding Unit in the Nation in 2018.

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Dan **904-962-5845**

Jim **904-254-7539**

Hank **904-707-1799**



**ALL PROCEEDS
TO BENEFIT
BAKER COUNTY
VETERANS IN NEED
& THEIR FAMILIES**



Research shows how service dogs can help veterans with PTSD

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — For veterans struggling with post-traumatic stress disorder, service dogs might be able to offer both behavioral and physiological benefits to help counter some of those symptoms, according to research that is being led by the Purdue College of Veterinary Medicine.

Maggie O’Haire, assistant professor of human-animal interaction in the College of Veterinary Medicine, is at the forefront of the research that is taking a closer look at how service dogs help veterans with PTSD. The latest findings have indicated that veterans may benefit physiologically from having a service dog — the first published research to use a physiological marker to show the effects of service dogs.



“I think a lot of veterans are struggling and they are looking for treatment options anywhere they can find them,” O’Haire says. “There is a lot of hope around this practice and veterans deserve to know if it works.”

A preliminary study that took place in 2015-16 showed that overall symptoms of PTSD were lower among war veterans with service dogs. The pilot study was co-funded by the Human Animal Bond Research Institute (HABRI) and Bayer Animal Health. The study examined 141 veterans — with 76 of them having a service dog and 66 being on a waiting list for a dog.

O’Haire led that study with the help of K9s For Warriors an accredited nonprofit organization that provides veterans with service dogs. The pilot research project provided scientific evidence of mental health benefits experienced by veterans with PTSD who have service dogs. The findings during that study also went beyond behavioral benefits and assessed cortisol levels because it is a biomarker in the stress response system, O’Haire says. For veterans with service dogs, their cortisol levels were higher in the morning than those who were on the waiting list. People without PTSD typically have high cortisol levels in the morning as part of their response to waking up. O’Haire’s research has also revealed that for veterans, having a service dog was also associated with less anger, less anxiety and better sleep.

Another phase of that study funded by Merrick Pet Care and Newman’s Own Foundation examined the dogs themselves and how they are incorporated into the treatment of veterans. That data is currently being analyzed.

A large-scale National Institutes of Health clinical trial has been ongoing for about a year and has two years to go, according to O’Haire. Researchers are studying veterans with and without service dogs over an extended period of time. O’Haire hopes the longitudinal nature of this clinical trial will reveal a better understanding of physiological and behavioral processes, PTSD symptoms, and service dogs in general.

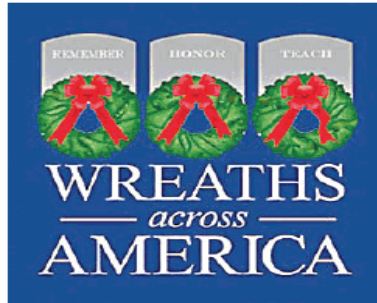
Writer: Abbey Nickel, 765-496-1325, nickela@purdue.edu

Source: Maggie O’Haire, 765-494-7472, mohaire@purdue.edu

A video is available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=42Tlb5dTU_M



NEIGHBORS IN NEED



The Veterans Council of St. Johns County would like your help in the annual drive for **Wreaths Across America**.

The council is dedicated to ensuring that every headstone in the St. Augustine National Cemetery is adorned with a live holiday wreath this year. You have probably seen this campaign on local and national news.

The community is invited to send donations to purchase the wreaths. Individual wreaths are \$15.00. If two wreaths are purchased at \$30.00 the council receives a free wreath (3 for cost of 2). Our local businesses are encouraged to participate. With more than 1,200 gravesites, the project is truly considerable.

The community is invited to the St. Augustine National Cemetery on December 15, 2018, at 12:00 p.m. for a ceremony followed by placement of the wreaths. Youth organizations are encouraged to participate to learn and honor our veterans.

Make your checks payable to **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA** and send to: Veterans Council of St. Johns County, P. O. Box 2117, St. Augustine, FL 32085-2117. We are a 501(c)(3) for donation purposes.

For any additional information please contact: CPT-USA (Fmr) George Linardos at 904-495-6111.

1A400109 | 246401

MISSING IN AMERICA PROJECT - FLORIDA

9/27/2018

NATIONAL PROGRESS AS OF 9/26/2018

Total Funeral Homes Visited - 2,293
Creains Found - 17,923
Veterans Creains Identified - 3,996
Veterans Interred - 3,669

FLORIDA PROGRESS AS OF 9/27/2018

Total Funeral Homes Visited - 154
Creains Found - 1,404
Number to be interred - 82
Missions Scheduled - 1
Veterans Interred - 220
Spouses Interred - 92
Dependents Interred - 1



MIAP is in the planning stages for CALL TO HONOR #17 which will be on Saturday, November 3, 2018 at the Cape Canaveral National Cemetery @ 10:00am. We will continue to publish details of this service as the planning progresses. For this service we will be interring 18 veterans and 6 spouses from two funeral homes close to the CCNC. The longest that any of these went unclaimed is 1964. Included in this service are veterans that served in the USA, USMC, USN and the USAF during the WWI, WWII, Korea and Vietnam wars. There are 3 husbands and wives that will be interred together.

Our volunteers continue to dedicate their time to locate the unclaimed creains of veterans in the State of Florida. I myself continue to travel the State doing presentations to get more supporters and volunteers to join us so we can continue our work in Florida. We have a team starting up in Volusia County and a new team in Brevard County as well.

Donations are graciously accepted. You can donate to MIAP by check, made out to MIAP-FL and mail to the address below. You can also donate via PayPal by going to our website, click on Make a Donation, choose option #3 PayPal and click on Florida. Your donations will help MIAP to continue our work with this honorable project. We will gladly send you a donation receipt.

Please go to our website at www.miap.us to read more about our project and find out how you can become involved with MIAP in your area. Please feel free to contact myself at my info listed below.

Kathy Church, MIAP – FL State Coordinator

(904) 219-3035, 1205 2nd Street S

Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250

miapjax@yahoo.com



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Christmas and a Happy New Year!!*



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November 3rd, 2018
0800-0945 Registration
\$20 Per Bike \$10 Per Passenger



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WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA
K9'S FOR WARRIORS
MISSING IN AMERICA PROJECT

**AIR FORCE SERGEANTS ASSOCIATION/AMERICAN LEGION CHAPTER 9
POKER RUN**

1000 hrs Kick Stands Up
Middleburg Post 250
Post 202 Keystone Heights for Lunch
The Timbuktu Lounge
Post 137 San Juan Ave
End @ Post 9 Last Card Draw



RAFFLES



50/50



BREAKFAST @ POST 9



AMERICAN LEGION POST 9 6242 OLD SOUTEL CT, JACKSONVILLE, FL 32219

Scientists call on VA to study Agent Orange impact in Vietnam veterans' kids

By Beatrice Peterson

A new report calls for the Department of Veterans Affairs to look at the generational impact of male Vietnam veterans' exposure to dioxin -- a component of Agent Orange. Decades after the Vietnam War ended, the children of soldiers who served say they continue to struggle grapple with the impact of Agent Orange exposure.



The new report, released Thursday by The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, specifically looked into generational health effects of dioxin after a special request from the VA.

The group noted "there are relatively few studies on the health effects of paternal chemical exposures on their descendants, and none address Vietnam veterans specifically."

The majority of generational studies done by the scientific community regarding Agent Orange has been focused on women and not men. The report is the final study from the Veterans and Agent Orange series, a Congressionally mandated review that was required following the passage of The Agent Orange Act of 1991.

Agent Orange is a term that is used to describe a series of odorless herbicides that were used by the U.S. military to defoliate hiding places, fields and rice paddies used by the Viet Cong for survival.

Almost 20 million gallons of Agent Orange was sprayed in Vietnam, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs between 1962 and 1971.

The Vietnam Veterans of America, last week told ABC News that they will continue to educate and advocate for its members and their descendants regardless of the outcome of the report.



A GREAT SEA STORY

The passenger steamer SS Warrimoo was quietly knifing its way through the waters of the mid-Pacific on its way from Vancouver to Australia. The navigator had just finished working out a star fix and brought Captain

John DS. Phillips, the result. The Warrimoo's position was LAT 0° 31' N and LONG 179 30' W. The date was 31 December 1899. "Know what this means?" First Mate Payton broke in, "We're only a few miles from the intersection of the Equator and the International Date Line". Captain Phillips was prankish enough to take full advantage of the opportunity for achieving the navigational freak of a lifetime. He called his navigators to the bridge to check & double check the ship's position. He changed course slightly so as to bear directly on his mark. Then he adjusted the engine speed. The calm weather & clear night worked in his favor. At mid-night the SS Warrimoo lay on the Equator at exactly the point where it crossed the International Date Line! The consequences of this bizarre position were many:

The forward part (bow) of the ship was in the Southern Hemisphere & in the middle of summer.

The rear (stern) was in the Northern Hemisphere & in the middle of winter.

The date in the aft part of the ship was 31 December 1899.

In the bow (forward) part it was 1 January 1900.

This ship was therefore not only in:

Two different days,

Two different months,

Two different years,

Two different seasons

But in two different centuries - all at the same time!

UCF Veterans Legacy Program launches event to showcase veterans' research

ORLANDO, Fl. (Oct. 23, 2018) – The University of Central Florida History Department and Center for Humanities and Digital Research faculty, staff and students will share research and discoveries during “Bringing their Stories to Life: The Veterans Legacy Program at St. Augustine National Cemetery.”

The event will take place Thursday, November 29, 2018 at 10 a.m. and is free and open to the public. The event will commemorate the centennial of the US role in World War I through the stories of African American soldiers buried in St. Augustine and Floridians who fought and are buried in France. We will also highlight 19th Century Wars as part of an introduction to the history of the St. Augustine National Cemetery. An interactive demonstration will also take place, allowing community members the opportunity to explore biographies of veterans buried in national cemeteries.

Launched in 2016, the National Cemetery Administration's Veterans Legacy Program aims to memorialize veterans' service to the nation. By partnering with academic

communities of scholars and students to conduct research about the lives of veterans, the program is able to share their stories and service with younger students and the general public.

The National Cemetery Administration selected UCF as one of three schools awarded contracts as inaugural VLP partners in 2017. UCF is proud of its continued partnership with the NCA as it was awarded an additional contract in 2018. The History Department and the Center for Humanities and Digital Research are committed to doing publicly engaged research and this partnership builds on a number of ongoing and relevant research projects, including the UCF Community Veterans History Project and RICHES digital archive.



THE NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION &
THE UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA
VETERANS LEGACY PROGRAM
PRESENT

BRINGING THEIR STORIES TO LIFE:

THE VETERANS LEGACY PROGRAM AT
ST. AUGUSTINE NATIONAL CEMETERY

Thursday, November 29, 2018

10:00am to Noon

St. Augustine National Cemetery

104 Marine Street, St. Augustine, FL 32084

This event showcases the research and discoveries of
UCF History Department and Center for Humanities and Digital Research
faculty, staff and students.

- Free and open to the public -

RSVP to Tiffany.Rivera@ucf.edu by November 26.

SAVE THE DATE

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

North Florida / South Georgia Veterans Health System

On behalf of North Florida South Georgia Veterans Health System (NF/SGVHS), we would like to invite you to attend in the 2018 **Jacksonville VA Outpatient Clinic (OPC)/Community Whole Health Summit** on Wednesday, November 14th at The Legends Center 5054 Soutel Drive in Jacksonville, FL 32208. The event will begin at 8:30 a.m.

As part of the City of Jacksonville's Week of Valor, this will be the 6th year of facilitating VA/Community Summits in Duval County. Previously the focus has been on topics related the overall mental health and well-being of Veterans. This year, VA is striving to increase collaboration with the community in addressing subjects that reflect an integrated approach to health and mental health care.

Topics will include:

- * **Whole Health and Integrated Care for Health and Wellness**
- * **Suicide Prevention Initiatives and Partnerships**
- * **Mindfulness in Emotional Environments**
- * **Medication Assisted Therapies for Opiate Treatment Alternatives**
- * **Local Opioid Epidemic Initiatives Information**
- * **Same Day Access to Care**
- * **The New Jacksonville VA OPC Community Resource and Referral Center**

The goal through the Jacksonville VA OPC/Community Whole Health Summit is to engage in active dialogue on how we, as a community, can address the health and wellness needs of Veterans and their families through collaboration between NF/SGVHS, Veterans, and community partners.

Please RSVP to Jessica Bradstreet, LCSW at Jessica.Bradstreet@va.gov or 904-239-8812, with your name and/or representative(s) who is attending. Pre-registration is appreciated.

If you are requesting to provide program/agency information at the event, Vendors are asked to direct their emails to Jessica.Bradstreet@va.gov. Vendor space is limited, Vendors must be pre-registered.

We ask that everyone bring business cards to share. There will be time for networking after the event.

Breakfast will be provided. CEU's pending.

~This event is open to the Public~

Internet: <https://www.northflorida.va.gov/>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/VANFSG/>

Veterans deserve to be honored too...

Why are Veterans excluded from the memorial named in their honor, the city of Jacksonville's Veterans Memorial Wall?



The current criteria as written actually precludes Veterans from being eligible and was recently made even more confusing by an ill advised mayoral executive order. The criteria stated home of record Jacksonville or attended HS in Jacksonville, served in time of war (last declared War was WWII) and killed or died on active duty. The criteria now has changed home of record to merely residing in Jacksonville.

The criteria and the mayoral executive order still do not address the exclusion of Veterans. A Veteran is defined, under Title 38, US Code of Federal Regulations, as a person who served in the active military and who was discharged or released under conditions, other than dishonorable. Criteria that states: die or killed on active duty this automatically excludes Veteran. It excludes Veterans like Cpl Tyler Southern USMC and others warriors like him simply because they survived their wounds and were discharged under honorable conditions, yet allows decisions to be made to honor in perpetuity anyone on active duty who dies of anything and is from anywhere, it seems, on this hometown memorial.

Veterans like Cpl Southern are currently ineligible from being recognized in his home town, his Home of Record, where he went to HS and volunteered to serve during a war. But the criteria and mayoral executive order allows and has opened the door for individuals to be added to this memorial who: never served in combat, in harm's way, died of motor vehicle accidents, domestic disputes, sport sky diving accidents, training for a marathon, suicide while under investigation and they or a family member who merely resided in Jacksonville can be added to this "Hometown Memorial". This diminishes the honor and significance of this memorial's intended purpose. It also demeans the sacrifices of those on this memorial like PFC Robert Jenkins USMC Medal of Honor recipient who jumped on a grenade to save the lives of his fellow comrades. It is hard to equate being recognized on the wall, for any of the aforementioned and compare it to jumping on a grenade to save lives, yet this is exactly what is happening here.

If the intent was to exclude Veterans, maybe it is time to change the name of this memorial to simply “Memorial Wall”. But, if it is to be a true Veteran’s Memorial, than start adding Veterans to the memorial and start restoring the honor and integrity to process of recognizing those being added to this Veterans Memorial.

The current selection process needs to change along with the criteria and there needs to be more Veteran involvement in the selection process. A council of Veterans should be allowed to review the criteria of both home of record and time of war. Initial criteria called for “Home of Record” to be Jacksonville, FL. But recently, it has become clear that some are being added from other states, even though their home of record is not Florida. They did not go to HS here, enlist here nor are some even buried here; they are buried in their hometowns. The adding of those from outside of our community is confusing; the sole purpose of the wall was to honor those whose “hometown” was Jacksonville. Most importantly, Veterans like Cpl Southern need to be made eligible to be recognized on their hometown memorial for their service and sacrifice.

An appropriate distinction needs to be made between merely serving and those who served and sacrificed and equally as important those who survived the wounds of war during their service and were discharged...a Veteran. A Council of Veterans can help in avoiding the confusion currently surrounding why some have been placed on the wall from outside the state of Florida and didn’t die as a result of combat or combat support. Most Veterans know who should be honored and who should be recognized on a Veterans Memorial in perpetuity. In my humble opinion, Cpl Tyler Southern and warriors like him from this community should be eligible to be recognized.

R Adelhelm

LtCol USMC ret

U.S. finally admits Agent Orange residue poisoned its own soldiers, By Tara Paras

After decades of denial, the Department of Veteran Affairs finally acknowledged that Monsanto's Agent Orange, a herbicide sprayed across Vietnam during the war, was responsible for the health ailments of over 2,100 Air Force servicemen.

Federal officials have agreed to release over \$45 million in disability benefits to Air Force active duty personnel and reservists who were exposed to Agent Orange from residue off C-123 aircraft, despite never having been to Vietnam.



The admission follows an Institute of Medicine study that concluded that “some C-123 reservists stationed in Ohio, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts had been exposed to Agent Orange residues in the planes and suffered higher risks of health problems as a result,” according to a report from ABC.

“Opening up eligibility for this deserving group of Air Force veterans and reservists is the right thing to do,” said VA Secretary Bob McDonald in a statement.

The toxicity of Agent Orange

According to the non-partisan Aspen Institute in Washington D.C., Agent Orange was a herbicide used by the military to defoliate the Vietnamese jungle and expose Vietnam Cong and North Vietnamese troops using the jungle as a cover to move men and material to South Vietnam. Even though its use ended decades ago, the toxic contaminant of Agent Orange, dioxin, did not degrade as readily and is still causing health problems in Vietnam.

“The Red Cross estimates that three million Vietnamese have been affected by dioxin, including at least 150,000 children born with serious birth defects,” said the Institute. “Millions of Americans and Vietnamese are still affected, directly and indirectly, by the wartime U.S. spraying of Agent Orange and other herbicides over southern and central Vietnam.”

Monsanto is still in business

The payout is the least the government can do to compensate for all the years of suffering our servicemen had to endure. Unfortunately, despite the seemingly positive turn of events, injustice remains deeply rooted in our system. Monsanto, the corporation behind the deadly Agent Orange and the now destructive Roundup herbicide, continues to wield significant influence over the government and the mainstream media.

Funny, isn't it? The military, after supporting the company through the purchase of millions of gallons of its herbicides, is now paying millions of dollars to deal with the aftermath of its deadly mistake – all the while, Monsanto and its cohorts continue to laugh all the way to the bank.

Unearthing names of Floridians who died in World War I, a century later

By Matt Soergel, *FL Times Union*

The names were written on a parchment scroll in India ink, placed in a metal box inside another metal box, and buried under the bricks at Memorial Park almost 94 years ago.

They are the names of 1,220 Floridians who died while serving in the military during World I, and on Christmas Day 1924 they were put under a plaque honoring the war dead.

On Thursday, workers carefully sawed away at the bricks at the foot of the park's iconic bronze sculpture called Life; it took some five hours, but finally the plaque was removed and the boxes were lifted carefully out of the earth.



Volunteers plan to catalog the names and then return the parchment scroll to that spot, along with the names of more than 300 other men and women from Florida who died in the war.

The goal is to bury them together at a ceremony on Nov. 11, Armistice Day, 100 years after the war's end.

Michele Luthin, who is on the board of directors of the Memorial Park Association, a nonprofit group that works to preserve the riverfront park in Riverside, said volunteers are hoping to find relatives of the war dead and invite them to that event.

The names, though, are still unknown: There were so many it was deemed too expensive to engrave them on a memorial, so instead they were put on parchment and buried until Thursday.

The newly unearthed boxes were taken to the Museum of Science and History, where firefighters painstakingly pried open the top of the outer box, made of copper, 17¼ inches high, 12 inches wide and 9½ inches deep.

Inside, a tight fit, was a lead box containing the names.

“Wait!” cried Memorial Park Association volunteer Kelly Varn. “It’s got writing!”

She was right. Etched on the top of the inner box were these words: “Made by J.C. Cheshire Dec. 4, 1924.”

The volunteers had hoped to open that box to remove the parchment scroll on Thursday afternoon. The scroll would then be taken to the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum's archaeological lab to be assessed and eventually unrolled, to finally reveal the names.

That plan was called off though: Ann Seibert, an expert in paper conservation, noticed a small amount of corrosion on the rim of the copper box. That might mean water intrusion, she feared, and that's highly damaging to parchment.

“Water is its biggest enemy,” she said.

She suggested taking the box, unopened, to the lab in St. Augustine, for further examination before opening.

The Memorial Park volunteers quickly agreed; they worried about the three feet of water that surged into the park from the St. Johns during Hurricane Irma, but it's too early to tell if that was what led to the corrosion.

The Memorial Park group has been helped in its project by R.B. Rosenberg, a history professor at Clayton State University in Georgia, who since 2006 has been compiling a list of more than 4,500 men and women from that state who died during World War I.

They readily agreed last year to help make a list of the Florida dead too, working from war records. So far he's found 1,568 names, service members from the Army, Marines, Navy and Coast Guard, white and black, men and some women as well.

The names from Duval County take up almost three pages on a list he made, ranging from Randolph Andrews of Jacksonville to Walter B. Young of Baldwin. Both were listed as "colored."

Duval's war dead came from Jacksonville and from the communities of Baldwin, Whitehouse, Plummers, South Jacksonville, Phillips, Grand Crossing, Lackawanna, Mayport, West Jacksonville, New Berlin, Mandarin and Atlantic Beach.

If the 1,220 names on the long-buried parchment scroll can be deciphered, volunteers hope to match them against Rosenberg's names to come up with a conclusive list of those who died during the war and in the years after, from injuries or illnesses related to it.

Rosenberg said many of the dead didn't even make it to Europe but died in camps in Jacksonville or Macon, Ga., or elsewhere.

About three of every four fatalities came from disease, including many from the influenza pandemic that swept the globe in 1918.

Rosenberg said the troops were housed in crowded barracks in conditions tailor-made for illnesses to spread. "They're coughing on each other, not getting the treatment they need, not even understanding what could be done to stop this contagion," he said.

The military was thorough in listing the causes of death: Victims drowned, were hit by trains, died in motorcycle or car crashes. They died when weapons were accidentally discharged. They committed suicide. Some were executed after riots, in attempts to keep discipline.

Those killed in action or who died of wounds made up about 10 percent of the fatalities. Florida's biggest loss came on Sept. 26, 1918, when a German U-boat sunk a Coast Guard cutter, the USS Tampa, off the coast of Wales. Sixty Floridians, Rosenberg said, were among the 131 killed.

He researched the years after the war too, and included those who died of wounds or gas attacks from battle, as well as those who died during their time in occupied Europe after fighting ended.

Rosenberg acknowledged that the research has become something of a quest for him as he tracks down the names, the hometowns, the many ways men and women can die during a war.

"We want to know their names," he said. "We want to know who they are."

Matt Soergel: (904) 359-4082



Most veterans who live at Five Star have mental health issues, including addiction (gambling and substance abuse), combat-related Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), combat-related Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), Depressive Disorder, Bipolar Disorder, Anxiety Disorder, Panic Attacks, Adjustment Disorder, Personality Disorder and Neuro-cognitive Disorder (TBI and Huntington's Disease).

The mission of the Five S.T.A.R. Veterans Center is to assist veterans who are coping with the insidious effects of PTSD and/or TBI RESTORE their health, RECONNECT with friends and family, and REJOIN the work force with a job by providing safe and secure supportive housing with wraparound services and holistic counseling that promotes mental and physical wellness.



From Fred Dupont: Connecting Veterans, Caregivers
and Experienced Entrepreneurs

[https://mailchi.mp/44bad72318a6/100-
entrepreneurs-project-update-october-2018?
e=4b4b310502](https://mailchi.mp/44bad72318a6/100-entrepreneurs-project-update-october-2018?e=4b4b310502)

**LIEUTENANT GENERAL
HAROLD GREGORY 'HAL' MOORE, JR.**

GARRY OWEN
THE BATTLE OF LANDING ZONE X-RAY

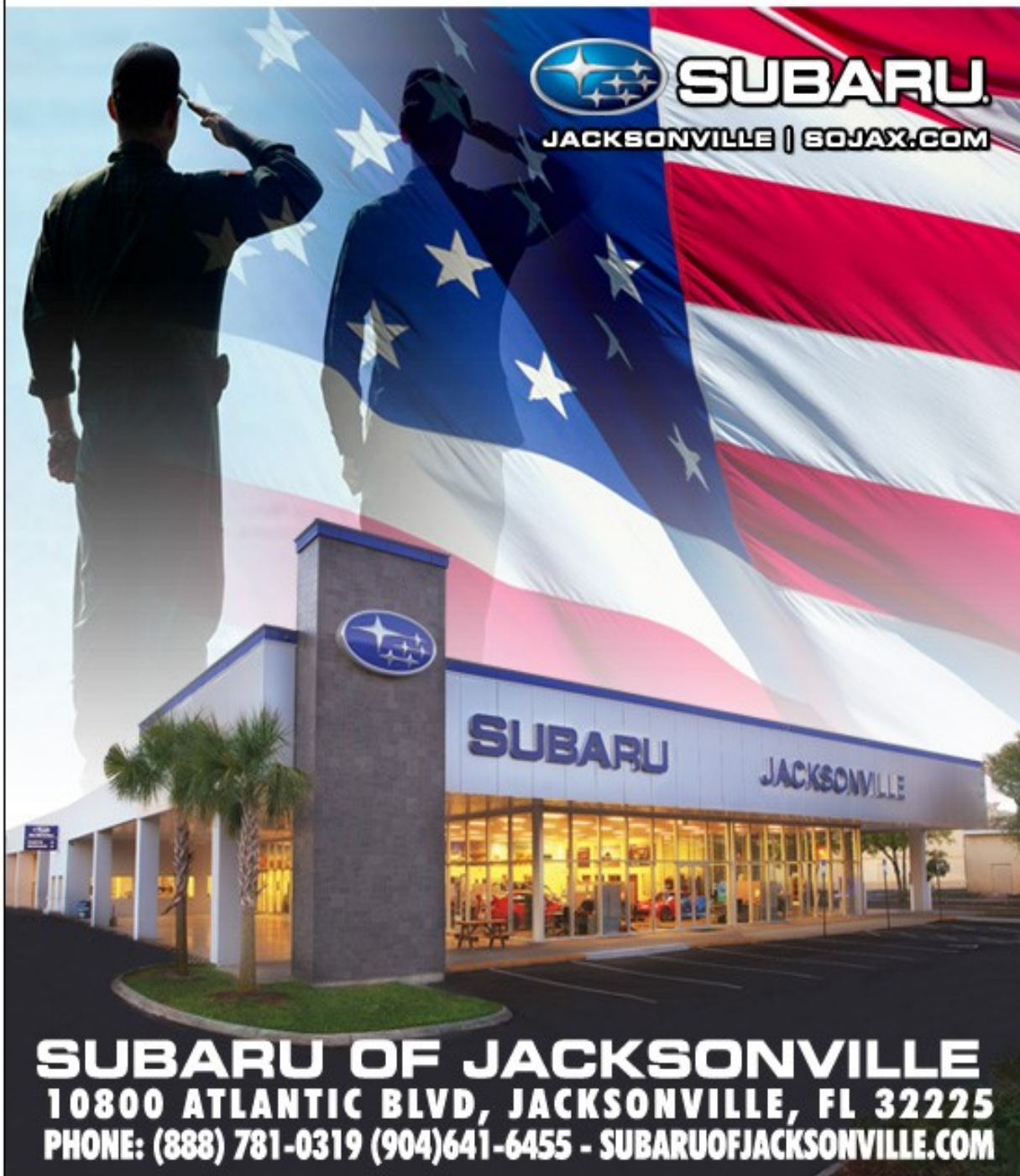
1ST BATTALION 7TH CAVALRY
NOVEMBER 14 - NOVEMBER, 1965

GARRY OWEN

**COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR
BASIL L. PLUMLEY**

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Thank you [Action News Jax](#) for covering [#veterans](#) stories. If you are a Veteran who is struggling, you are not alone. Please reach out to [Vets4Vets of Northeast](#)

[Florida](#) and attend our gatherings so we can connect you to the resources that can help. We are stronger together!



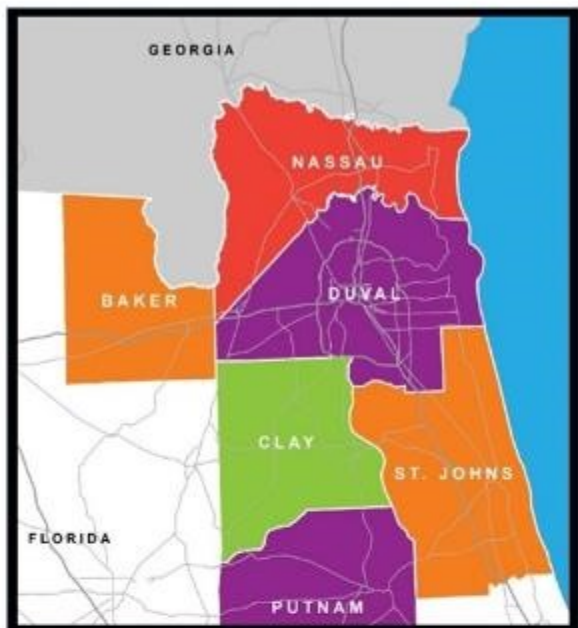
OPERATION HandUP (8/21/2018 – 9/8/2018)

We are creating care pouches with edibles, for our women veterans not living in stabled housing. Items needed are:

- Cup of Noodles
 - Cookies or Crackers
 - Nuts
 - Dried Fruit
 - Protein or breakfast bars
 - Pop Tarts
 - Capri Suns or something similar to drink
 - Canned microwaveable soups/veggies
 - Peanut Butter and Jelly
 - Canned fruit
 - Tuna Fish or chicken in the pack
 - Canned pasta
 - Fruit and Jello cups
 - Small water bottles
- Gift cards are acceptable too.

Deliver to:
2133 Broadway Ave.
Monday – Friday 9:00am – 3:00pm
904-862-6039
www.forwomenvets.org

Veteran County Councils of Northeast Florida



Duval County

President: Steve Spickelmier

Meetings:

Third Tuesday of each month in the 40/8 Building

Located at the American Legion Post 137
5443 San Juan Avenue

7pm

Nassau County

President: Paul Kicker, Chairman
Veterans Council of Nassau County

76347 Veterans Way,
Veterans Service Office

Yulee, FL 32097

Meets the first Thursday of every month
at the Theodore Hernandez American
Legion Post 54, 626 South 3rd Street,
Fernandina Beach, FL 32034 at 7 pm

Baker County

President: Larry Porterfield

Meetings:

Second Thursday of each month
MacClenny Primitive Baptist Church
Fellowship Hall on North Boulevard
6pm

Contact:

Baker County Veterans Council
PO Box 1434
MacClenny, FL 32063

Clay County

President: Bob Brewster

Meetings: First Wednesday of
each month

Location varies between the
different Veteran Organizations.

Time varies

St. Johns County

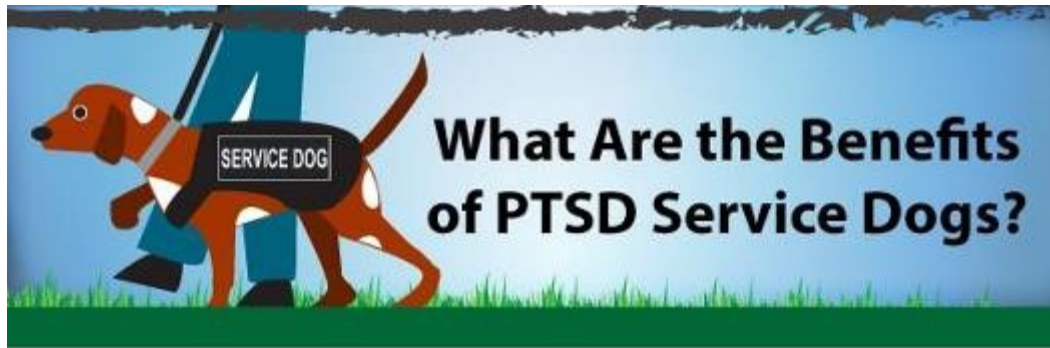
President: Bill Dudley

Meetings:

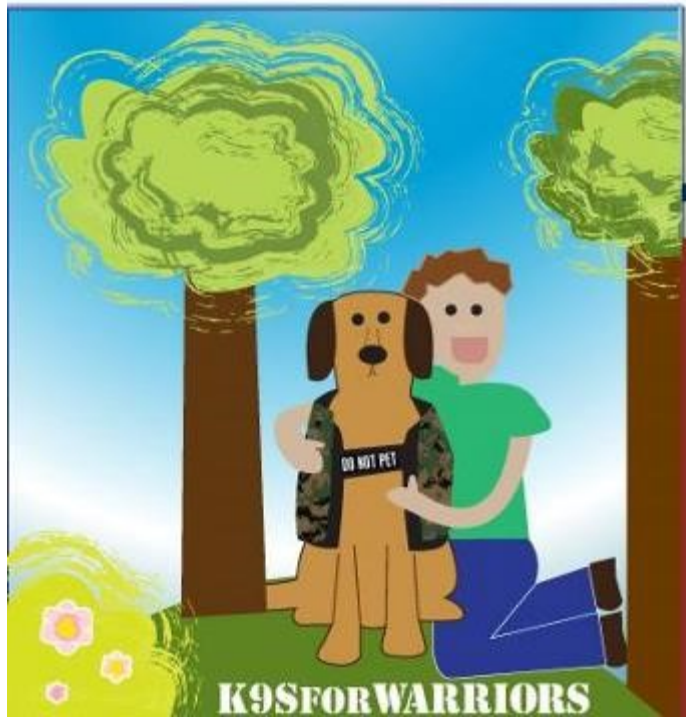
Last Thursday of each month
Health and Human Services Building
Muscovy Room, 1st Floor
200 San Sebastian View
Muscovy Room 1st Floor
St. Augustine, FL 32084
7pm

Contact:

info@VeteransCouncilofStJohns.org



- Reduce in use or even elimination of prescription drugs.
- Decrease in anxiety, anger, and depression.
- Decline in suicidal thoughts.
- Decrease in medical costs.
- Decrease in need for other treatments.



According to collaborative research performed by Purdue University & K9s For Warriors, veterans with a service dog reported:

- better ability to cope with flashbacks & anxiety attacks
- less overall sleep disturbances, including nightmares
- lower levels of depression & anger
- higher levels of companionship & social reintegration
- increased life satisfaction
- improved physical health

MISSION BACKGROUND

Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, has been formed to restore and establish a national memorial that will serve as a historic and destination site for Jacksonville and to serve as an educational resource for generations to come.

The memorial site, located at the former Naval Air Station Cecil Field, was originally dedicated on September 11, 1973 and consisted of markers and associated trees for each of the 16 POW/MIA pilots (an area known as Hero's Walk and Freedom Trees), a pavilion, a stage area, a starburst metal display of aircraft, a granite base seal of NAS Cecil Field and a chapel. This property was given to the City of Jacksonville when Cecil Field was decommissioned in 1995. As a result, the existing memorial has been forgotten.

However, the non-profit organization was given a lease by the Jacksonville City Council and the Mayor's office, and given the rights to develop, expand and maintain the 26-acre memorial.



A FEW QUOTES SUBMITTED BY OUR NATIONAL LEADERS



"Your proposal to use part of the former Naval Air Station Cecil Field for a POW/MIA Memorial is a fitting location to pay tribute to this very special group. Given that Mary Hoff, the creator of the POW/MIA flag, is a long-time resident of Jacksonville, and that her husband, Lieutenant Commander Michael G. Hoff, is memorialized at Cecil Field, there could not be a more appropriate site for the POW/MIA Memorial."

U.S. Congressman
John Rutherford

"The proposal to build the Cecil Field Prisoners of War and Missing in Action Museum is a great opportunity to honor the service members who did not return home from war."

U.S. Senator
Marco Rubio

"With the Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, we can renew our commitment to all those who have worn the uniform, to the children and families, and thank them for their selflessness and bravery."

U.S. Senator
Bill Nelson



JOIN THE MISSION TO BRING A NATIONAL POW/MIA MEMORIAL TO JACKSONVILLE

MISSION STATEMENT

HONOR ALL FORMER PRISONERS OF WAR;
REMEMBER AND NEVER FORGET THOSE
QUIET, MISSING IN ACTION HEROES AND THE
FAMILIES THAT WAIT FOR THEIR RETURN.

More than 82,000 are still Missing in Action and Unaccounted for since WWII

MEMORIAL STRATEGIC PLAN

With the help of the community, Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc. is raising funds to make this memorial a true national honor to all POW/MIA personnel from every state in America. These funds will enable the organization to accomplish the following memorial projects:

- Restore and use the historic chapel (named the "Chapel of the High-Speed Paves") for memorial services, ceremonies and weddings.
- Enhance the existing sacred grounds of the park and to construct a replica of the USS Saratoga (CV-60).
- Refurbish and utilize existing building 333 as a starting point for the POW/MIA memorial center and museum.
- Establish a new memorial center - to honor all Former Prisoners of War, acknowledge those still Missing in Action; feature the history of the Prisoner of War/Missing in Action flag; house the history of NAS Cecil Field.
- Educate the public on the Prisoner of War and Missing in Action issue through exhibits, videos, artifacts and memorabilia.
- Establish a national destination for military remembrance and celebration (there is not a national memorial for all Missing in Action in the United States).



Hero's Walk & Freedom Trees



Chapel of the High-Speed Paves



Starburst Sculpture

CECIL FIELD NATIONAL POW/MIA MEMORIAL PARK



HOW YOU CAN HELP HONOR OUR MILITARY HEROES



It will take considerable dollars to fund this sacred project. At this point, the project will depend on contributions from private citizens. You can help this effort by making contributions online by going to our website at powmiamemorial.org or to make checks payable to:

Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc.
612 New World Avenue Jacksonville, Florida 32221

ONLINE PowMiaMemorial.org

Facebook.com/Cecil-Field-POW-MIA-Memorial-Inc-1084025864845232/

Twitter.com/CFPOW/MIA

Instagram.com/cecilfieldpowmia/

Disclaimer: Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc. IS A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION. REGISTRATION NUMBER CHECKED A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE OFFICE OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE, 800-435-1352, WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECEIPTMENT BY THE STATE.

IN 1982, YOU HELPED US BUILD THE WALL
TO HONOR OUR VIETNAM FALLEN

NOW HELP US BUILD THE EDUCATION CENTER AT THE WALL

TO CONNECT OUR NATION'S FUTURE
WITH OUR NATION'S PAST



Our Vietnam heroes deserve a place where their story is told.

In 1982, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was built with private funds from more than 275,000 individuals. Today, we need your help to build the Education Center at The Wall, an interactive learning facility on the National Mall where our military heroes' stories will be told.

Why?

With each passing day, we are losing the voices that can tell the first-hand accounts of the Vietnam War and era. We must act now and preserve these personal stories from the past to educate our future.

What you do matters.

It is only through the generosity of people like you that we can build the Education Center at The Wall. Together we can preserve the legacy of our Vietnam heroes and educate future generations about the impact of the Vietnam era.



HELP US BUILD IT.
DONATE AT VVMF.ORG/VVA-FL



36 Granada Street, St. Augustine FL 32084

(904) 679-5736

Corazoncinemaandcafe.com



Stop by the Corazon Cinema and Café located in the heart of St. Augustine to catch a great film or a bite to eat (free parking). **Tell us you are a veteran and receive 10% off any food or drinks.** Beer and wine available.

New tech increases ease of contacting Veterans Crisis Line

“Call the Veterans Crisis Line.”



VA is excited to announce that service members and Veterans can connect to the Veterans Crisis Line using these simple words. The Siri function on Apple’s iPhone and the Google Assistant function on Android phones now automatically dial the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline which also serves the Veterans Crisis Line, even if the number (1-800-273-8255) is not saved in the phone’s contact list. Callers will need to Press 1 in order to reach the Veterans Crisis Line.

“Suicide prevention is VA’s top clinical priority, and we are working to reach Veterans where they are to help save lives,” said Dr. Keita Franklin. “The new feature on Apple and Android devices enables service members, Veterans, and their families to get quicker access to our network of certified crisis responders.”

Responders at the Veterans Crisis Line are specially trained and experienced in helping Veterans when mental health or related issues — such as chronic pain, anxiety, depression, sleeplessness, anger, and homelessness — reach a crisis point.

“Since its launch in 2007, the Veterans Crisis Line has answered over 3.5 million calls and initiated the dispatch of emergency services to callers in imminent crisis nearly 93,000 times,” said Dr. Matt Miller, director of the Veterans Crisis Line. “Since launching chat in 2009 and text services in November 2011, the VCL has answered over 397,000 and nearly 92,000 requests for chat and text services respectively.”

According to Miller, the ease of connecting to the Veterans Crisis Line is the technology’s biggest benefit.

“The ability to for Veterans to connect to the Veterans Crisis Line using just four simple words, and through a technology that so many people are familiar with already, is truly remarkable,” Miller said. “While some suicidal crises last a long time, most last minutes to hours. The quicker we can get Veterans connected to care, the more likely they are to survive.”

While recognizing the need for crisis access and rapid care, VA continues to build and emphasize sustained access to care for Veterans to receive ongoing treatment as appropriate.

“VA is working to improve its services by providing evidence-based mental health care across a full spectrum of interventional services,” said Franklin. “We are anticipating and responding to Veterans’ needs and supporting returning service members as they rejoin their communities.”

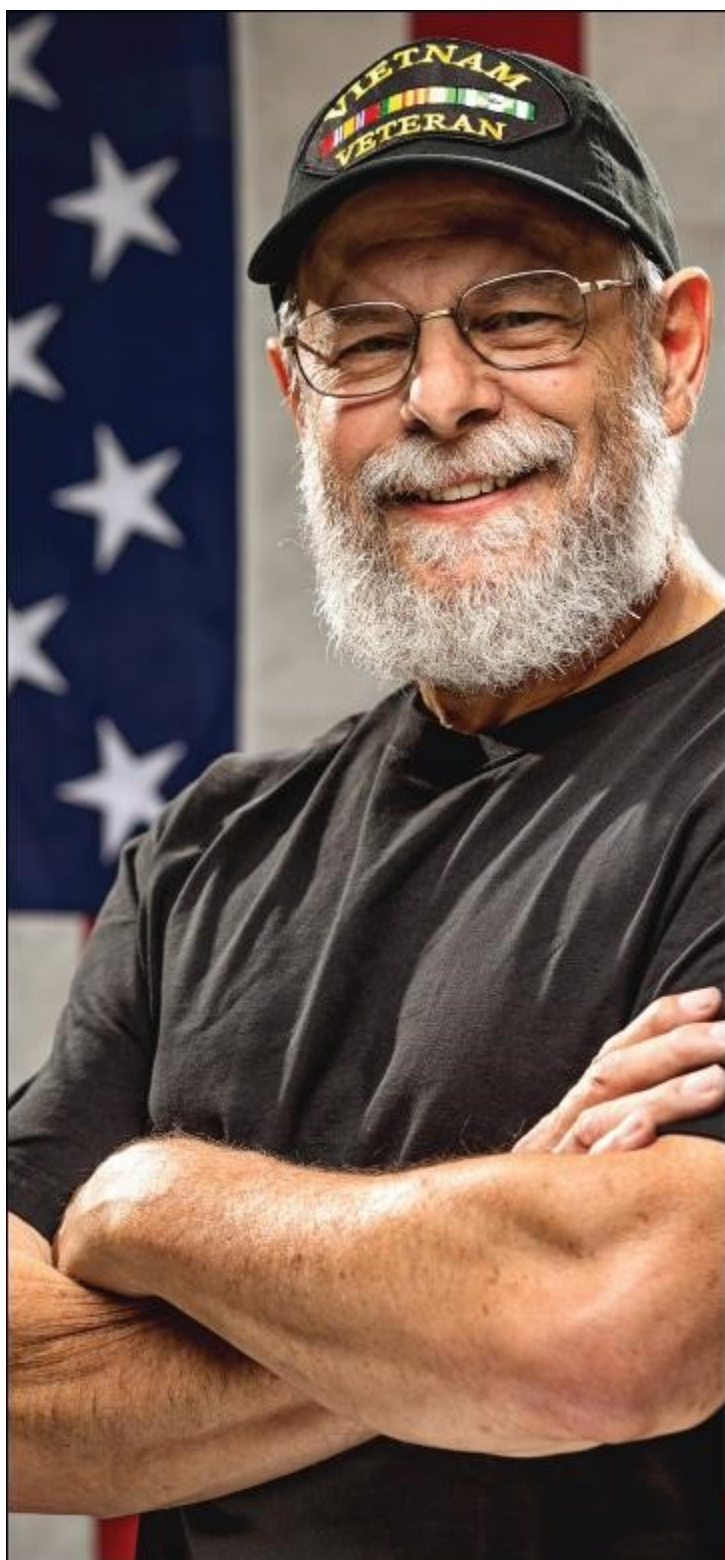
VA is leveraging a public health approach to suicide prevention that addresses multiple risk factors for suicide to stage interventions before suicidal thoughts and behaviors occur. While VA has made great strides in crisis intervention, the public health approach uses the best evidence available to guide the development of innovative new strategies to serve all Veterans.

No one organization can tackle suicide prevention alone. To save lives, VA is using prevention strategies that reach beyond health care settings to involve peers, family members, and community members in order to reach Veterans where they are.

“Every day people across the nation reach out for support and are able to live healthy, productive lives. But VA alone can’t prevent Veteran suicide,” Franklin said. “To end Veteran suicide, we need support across sectors, and this type of technology is another step in the right direction. The quicker we can get service members and Veterans connected to care, the better.”

If you or someone you know is in crisis, support is available 24/7. The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is available to all at 1-800-273-8255. Veterans, service members, and their families and friends can call the Veterans and Military Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1, chat online at VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat, or text to 838255.

About the author: Megan McCarthy, Ph.D., is the deputy director for suicide prevention for VA’s Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention.



SERVING VETERANS SINCE 1979

At Community Hospice & Palliative Care, we are honored to serve veterans and their caregivers by providing specialized programs to meet their unique needs now and at the end of life.

- ★ Advance Care Planning
- ★ Bereavement & Grief Support
- ★ Caregiver Education
- ★ Hospice Care
- ★ Palliative Care
- ★ We Honor Veterans Program

For more information about our We Honor Veterans program, any of our services or to become a veteran volunteer, call toll-free **866.253.6681** or go to **Veterans.CommunityHospice.com**.



"I've proudly served as Chairman of the Community Hospice Veterans Partnership (CHVP) since 2011. CHVP partners with veterans service groups throughout the community to listen and learn how Community Hospice & Palliative Care can best serve our unique needs."

Bob Buehn, Captain, United States Navy (Ret.)
Chairman, Community Hospice Veterans Partnership
(2011 - present)





Salute Our Heroes in Their Final Days: Support Flags & Pins for Veterans in Hospice Care

Honor our local veterans in hospice care with a dignified tradition when you support funding for flags and pins through Community Hospice & Palliative Care.

Since 2008, the Jacksonville-based organization has presented all veterans admitted to its hospice program with a commemorative pin to honor their service, as well as a certificate of appreciation. For veterans who get care at one of our eight inpatient centers, staff and volunteers erect the flag of the service branch in which they served outside their rooms. Flags are then presented to veterans' families following the death.



The need for funding is great as up to 25 percent of patients who receive hospice care at Community Hospice & Palliative Care are veterans. The nonprofit organization, which provides hospice care to nearly 1,300 patients each day, raises funds through individual support and community organizations who believe in serving those who have served our country so honorably.

If you or your organization would like to support our Flags & Pins Initiative and honor our warriors one last time, please contact

Toula Wootan, director of community programs at Community Hospice & Palliative Care, at 904.407.6211 or twootan@communityhospice.com.

The Veterans Council of St. Johns County is proud to announce that it has modernized its website and created a new 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:
VeteransCouncilofStJohnsCounty,FL

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 and his web design company PageAuthors. The VC strongly recommends that you contact Roy, 904-287-6909, if you or your vet group wants to create a website or Facebook page.

NEW INFO: Ride in comfort to your appointments at the VA Medical Center in Gainesville.



The van is provided by the Disabled Veterans Chapter 6, and leaves no later than 6AM from the new VA Clinic location at 195 Southpark Blvd. The corner of Southpark and Old Moultrie Road.

To schedule your seat please contact the VA Clinic at 904-823-2954 and ask for Veteran Van Scheduling.



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Survivor Outreach Services Support Coordinator, HRCI Contractor
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Office: 904-823-0157 Cell: 904-472-7689
Email: keith.e.ham.ctr@mail.mil

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*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: mrothfeld@anyveteran.org

Please send to: mrothfeld@anyveteran.org



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

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

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

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

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

***The Veterans Council will meet at the St.
Johns County Health & Human Services
Building, 200 San Sebastian View
Muscovy Room, 1st floor***

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

(physical location)

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

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

*Service is by appointment.
Phone: 904-209-6160 Fax: 904-209-6161
Joseph McDermott, SR VSO
Rick Rees, Assistant VSO
Tammy Shirley, Assistant VSO*

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