



The Patriot Reader Newsletter

P.O. Box 2117

St. Augustine, FL 32085

Bill Dudley, Publisher

Michael Rothfeld, Editor

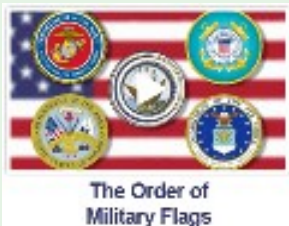
Volume 8, Issue 12

Message from the Chairman

December 2019

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November has been an exciting and busy month for the Veterans Council. The Council was involved in assisting Rep. Paul Renner with producing a PSA featuring five of our local veterans, we appeared before the St. Johns County Commission Board to receive a Veteran Proclamation, participated in a flag raising ceremony at St. Johns Technical College, spoke at several local civic organizations, hosted the annual Veterans Day Program at Anastasia Baptist Church and participated in the groundbreaking ceremony for our new VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic.

This year's annual Veterans Day Program was probably the best event the Veterans Council has ever been involved in since the inception of the Council. Our theme this year was to honor our veterans who served in Europe and especially those who served in the D-Day invasion in the Battle of Normandy. There were several WW II veterans who we were honored to have with us that had actually participated in the Battle of Normandy both infantry and airborne. There were others who served in the Pacific theater and saw extensive combat, but since this year is the 75th anniversary of D-Day, we focused our attention on these veterans. Our speaker, Judge Howard McGillin, Col. USA ret delivered an outstanding accounting of the D-Day invasion

from personal knowledge from his father who served in Patton's Army during the invasion. The music entertainment provided by the St. Augustine HS Chamber singers and the Liberty Express Quartet were as good as you could possibly ask for as they did several patriotic songs to honor our veterans. The displays in the atrium area and the presence of the C-Span bus added greatly to the enjoyment of the more than 1000 who attended this year's program. We also had the Vietnam Wall again this year and added to the Atrium exhibits for the first time was the Global War on Terror Wall which contains the names of all our soldiers, sailors, Marines and airman who have given their lives since 9-11.

After nearly 10 years of pursuing a permanent location for our local VA clinic, Friday, Nov. 22, was celebrated with a groundbreaking ceremony for our new VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic. The event was well attended to hear our Governor, Ron DeSantis speak about the importance of this clinic in providing for the health care of our local veterans. The concern by many St. Johns County veterans that we may not have a local clinic were removed with the groundbreaking and commitment by the Governor, Congressman John Rutherford and Mr. Tom Wisnieski, Director of North Florida/South Georgia Health Care System who were here to assure the construction of our future VA



Clinic. This is an exciting time for our veterans and the 5500 veterans who currently utilize the clinic anxiously look forward to the completion of the center and possibility of added services. We are also honored that the VA has allowed the naming of the clinic after one of our local veterans and heroes, PFC Leo C. Chase Jr. PFC Chase was killed in Vietnam just five days before the end of his tour in the Battle of Ia Drang Valley while assigned to the 7th Cav. We are pleased that this clinic will bear his name on the opening day.

Don't forget Saturday, Dec. 14 is our Wreaths Across America event at the St. Augustine National Cemetery. If you haven't yet purchased a wreath(s) for this year's ceremony there is still time. Wreaths are \$15 each, 2 for \$30. The Veterans Council receives 3 wreaths when you purchase 2. I look forward to seeing you at noon on Dec. 14 to help us place a wreath on each headstone at the National Cemetery on Marine St. in downtown St. Augustine.

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

Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home



Each year Clyde E Lassen State Veterans' Nursing Home celebrates Veterans' Day with a "Veterans' Ball." This year marked the eighth annual ball!



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



The Support Committee invites everyone to attend its **next scheduled meeting**. The meeting will be at **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 2019 SC at JNC MEETINGS
December 2**

Other topics that concern both the JNC & the St. Augustine National Cemetery are discussed at these meetings.

+++++2018/2019 Officers of the SCJNC+++++

- Chairman: Steve Spickelmier
- Vice Chairman: Bill Dudley, Treasurer: John Mountcastle
- Assistant Treasurer: Michael Rothfeld, Secretary: Kathy Church
- Master-At-Arms: Joe McDermott, Historian: Kathy Cayton
- Chaplain: Rev. Patrick A. Archuleta, Sr.

The Veterans Council of St. Johns County meets on the following dates, all are invited to attend. We meet at the county Health & Human Services building, 200 San Sebastian View, at 7 pm

Future meeting Speakers:

- Dec. 19** Eddie Creamer, SJC Property Appraiser, Disabled Veterans Exemptions
- Jan. 30** St. Augustine Sea Cadet Battalion, Pledge with Sea Cadets Color Guard
Beth Heath, We Can Be Heroes Foundation
- Feb. 27** Deborah Brannon, Regent, Daughters of the American Revolution, Maria Jefferson Chapt.
Beth Heath, We Can Be Heroes Foundation
- Mar. 26** Sharon Unger, President Veterans Village of NE FL
Shiva Thompson, Yoga 4 Change
- Apr. 24** Carl “Jeff” Lay, 1SG US Veterans Reserve Corps. FL
- May 28** Dr. Roger Smith, Military History of Colonial St. Augustine

The Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc.

This is Who We Are

The objective of the Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc. is to be of assistance to all Veterans who have been honorably discharged from any of the military branches of the United States of America and have a residence in St. Johns County.



Its formation date was July 4, 2001 in a proclamation issued by the St. Johns County Commissioners. It is comprised of representatives of the various veterans' organizations within St. Johns County such as Posts 194 and 233 of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars Bryan Tutton Post 2391, The Vietnam Veterans of America Leo C. Chase Chapter 1084, The Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association Post 20-2, AMVETS and The Purple Heart Society. The Veterans Council works with city and county governments and local organizations to achieve the mutual goal of providing a central agency which assists in the coordination and dissemination of matters concerning Veterans and Veterans' activities in St. Johns County.

The Veteran's Council informs and assists various organizations as they develop patriotic events. It organizes and hosts many annual events such as celebrations of Veterans Day, The Veterans Day Event this year will be on Monday, November 11, at Anastasia Baptist Church, starting at 9:00 am. This year we are celebrating Memorial Day, Wreaths Across America and Homeless Veterans Stand Down. The Council actively supports The St. Augustine National Cemetery, The Jacksonville National Cemetery, Missing In America Project, Disabled American Veterans, The USMC Oldest City Detachment, Vietnam Veterans of America, Military Officers of America Oldest City Chapter, The Navy League of the United States-St. Augustine/Palm Coast Chapter and the Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial.



The Veterans Council organizes, supports and hosts many annual Veterans and patriotic events, i.e., Veterans Day, Memorial Day, Wreaths Across America,

Homeless Veterans Stand Down, and actively supports: The St. Augustine National Cemetery, The Jacksonville National Cemetery, Missing In America Project, Disabled American Veterans, The USMC Oldest City Detachment, Vietnam Veterans of America, Military Officers Association of America Oldest City Chapter, The Navy League of the United States- St. Augustine/Palm Coast Council, and the recently established Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial. The Council actively supports the Clyde Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home with donations and program support.

One of the major activities of the Veterans Council is the promotion of national patriotism through education by working closely with students and teachers to foster this. To achieve this goal the Council works with the St. John's County School System. The Council provides Veteran speakers, conducts essay contests, supports the JROTC programs and donates the five documentaries it produced, featuring local Veterans. The documentaries have been provided to all Public High Schools in St. Johns County as well as local libraries, colleges, museums and veterans groups.



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According to the 2017 VA Veteran Population demographic information there are 1,525,400 veterans living in the state of Florida with 19,623 veterans living in St. Johns County and the 2018 estimate is over 23,000, with the largest group being Vietnam era veterans at over 6,711. Florida is the third largest state after California and Texas in veteran population.

The Veterans Council of St. Johns County is an amalgam of over 28 veterans' groups who send their representatives to the Council's monthly meeting. The Veterans Council meets the last Thursday of every month in the County Health and Human Services building, 200 San Sebastian View, St. Augustine, Muscovy Room at 7:00 P.M. All Veteran groups and individuals who are Veterans are invited to attend. The Council provides each County Veterans group with monthly meeting Minutes and Agenda.

Each month the Council meeting has speakers addressing current veterans re

lated issues. The Council has a well received monthly newsletter, The Patriot Reader, (all issues are posted at: www.veteranscouncilsjc.org/newsletter.htm) that is emailed to thousands of veterans and veterans' groups. The newsletter contains monthly events, educational articles, service stories of local veterans and meeting dates. All are encouraged to submit articles and pictures. The Council also maintains a website (www.veteranscouncilsjc.org) that can accessed for daily Council information and links to VA resources, VA Health releases and newspaper articles that discuss veterans' issues. The Council has a very large Facebook presence (Veterans Council of St. Johns County, FL) and posts information daily.

The Council proudly supports the Veterans Treatment Court. The Council financially assists veterans that are enrolled in the program with temporary loans for rent, food, car payments, utilities and clothing. The Veterans Treatment Court is dedicated to helping veterans address the underlying problems which led to their involvement in the criminal justice system. The Veterans Council provides mentors to each participant, "Battle Buddies", who are available 24/7 to assist with any issues that arise. Veterans' Courts make the community safer and the Council assists by providing room, board, transportation and may pay bills for the veteran until he/she are able to become a contributing member of society.

The Veterans Council of St. Johns County welcomes all new county veterans and encourages them to attend one of its meetings.

The St. Johns County Veterans Service Officers are: Joseph McDermott, Rick Rees, and Travis Neidig. They are located in the St. Johns County Health & Human Services Building, 200 San Sebastian View, St. Augustine, FL. 32084. Their phone number is 904-209-6160.

The St. Augustine Community Based Outpatient Clinic, named after Leo C. Chase Jr. , the first soldier from the county Killed in Action in Vietnam, is located at 100 Deerfield Preserve Blvd., St. Augustine, FL 32086.

Honoring service and sacrifice of ‘The Greatest Generation’

By Colleen Jones, St. Augustine Record

At Veterans Day celebrations across the country, the service and sacrifice of the eldest of this nation’s elite group were highlighted and applauded on the 75th anniversary of D-Day.

It was no different in St. Augustine where three surviving members of what’s been called “The Greatest Generation” received standing ovations before an audience of their peers at Anastasia Baptist Church Monday.

“We want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts,” said Army Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Ray Quinn, who introduced the special guests in attendance at the ceremony.

In his invocation, the Rev. Don Kabrich, a retired chief warrant officer three with the Army, also gave special praise to the soldiers who served in World War II.

“We especially recognize this generation of veterans who are all gone but for a few,” Kabrich said.

And the theme was carried out in the keynote address delivered by 7th Circuit Court Judge Howard McGillin Jr., a retired colonel of the 82d Airborne Division Artillery.

McGillin, who comes from a large military family, spoke about how he’d grown up hearing stories of his father’s time with the Army Quartermaster Corps. His father had helped devise plans for the invasion of Normandy, France, only to have them pushed to the wayside by the Allies’ surprise attack on June 6, 1944, months earlier than expected.

McGillin said he was inspired by his father’s commitment to serving his country.

“You see, he was my hero; he was who I aspired to be,” McGillin said.

McGillin went on to talk about how service continued to play a part in his post-military career as an attorney, and then judge, as well as his life off the bench. McGillin, for example, is the recipient of many high honors, including the Meritorious Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal. McGillin was also instrumental in establishing the St. Johns County Veterans Treatment Center.

The Veterans Day celebration was organized by the Veterans Council of St. Johns County in conjunction with the Ancient City Chapter of Military Officers Association of America.

The ceremony included traditional color guard displays by the Junior ROTC cadets from regional high schools and performances by the SJC Chamber Singers and the Liberty Express Quintet.

This year's Military Achievement Award was presented to Ron and Nancy Birchall.

A special addition to the ceremony were two traveling memorial walls, one containing the names of fallen soldiers from the Vietnam War and the other to those who died in service in the War on Terrorism. Both were mounted in the church's atrium for the occasion.

The veterans council had traditionally sponsored a Veterans Day parade through the city, but funding and other logistical issues prevented the parade from going forward in 2018 and the festivities were moved to Anastasia Baptist Church.

Bill Dudley, chairman of the Veterans Council of St. Johns County, said the reception from the community has been very positive, and that seemed to be evident Monday when the church was nearly filled to its capacity of 1,250.

Photos by Michaels Isam & Rothfeld



Veterans Day Celebration in St. Augustine, produced by the Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc., and the Military Officers Association of America and hosted by Anastasia Baptist Church

Leading up to Veterans Day, the 46-foot long Traveling Vietnam Wall made its way from St. Cloud, FL with an escort of 250 motorcycle riding veterans. It arrived at the Elks Lodge 829 on Nov. 10 and was erected at the Anastasia Baptist Church atrium.

Doors to the church opened at 9 a.m. Monday, where the Traveling Vietnam Wall and the 24-foot long War on Terrorism Wall were on view along with dozens of displays presented by regional veterans groups and non profits.

At 11 a.m., the program in the church started with the posting of the flag by St. Augustine Sea Cadets Color Guard, and the grand entrance of the JTOTC Cadets from five local high schools.

Patriotic music followed performed Liberty Express Quartet, and St. Johns County Center for the Arts Chamber Singers, led by Jeff Dodd.

The keynote speaker was Judge Howard McGillin, COL USA (Retired), who spoke of how his father, a WW II veteran influenced him in following in his father's footsteps and serving our country.

Here is a link to the entire Veterans Day event as posted by First Coast.TV

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=szSqGcDbWZM&feature=youtu.be>

National POW/MIA Memorial & Museum Official Seal

Published on: Oct 27, 2019

The Board of Directors and Advisors for the National POW/MIA Memorial & Museum are proud to introduce the new official seal to represent the memorial.

Design Features of the Seal

Circular design follows most DoD seals and logos.

Yellow coloring in line with the yellow ribbon used for “Support our Troops” and pray for their return. Yellow roses for MIA’s are placed at the Vietnam Memorial Wall.



Stars (on border) represent each of the 5 branches of service: Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard. The 6th and final star represents the Merchant Marines.

Sanctuary of Remembrance (gray outlining above “Remember, Honor, Educate”) is a profile view of the design rendering of a future key component of the Memorial site which visually depicts the large amount of those unaccounted for (see Exhibit A & B below).

Remember – Sanctuary of Remembrance (Exhibit A&B)

Honor – MIA Hall & Gallery of Light

Educate – Museum

Yellow Spires – point to symbol to NEVER FORGET (Exhibit C).

We are proud to have the new seal to represent the Memorial & Museum through its completion and beyond.



Exhibit A



Exhibit B



Exhibit C

Gov. DeSantis leads celebration of new St. Augustine VA clinic

by Stuart Korfhage, St. Augustine Record

On Friday, though, there was little but full-throated celebration for the groundbreaking of the St. Augustine (VA) Community Based Outpatient Clinic at 100 Deerfield Preserve Blvd. (just off State Road 207). It will open in about a year and should then be named the Leo C. Chase Jr. Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic in honor of the county's first soldier to die in the Vietnam War.

It was just about four years ago that St. Johns County welcomed the opening of a temporary Veterans Administration medical clinic.

There was relief then that veterans' needs would be met at a convenient location off of Old Moultrie Road, but there was an underlying frustration that there wasn't a permanent place to serve such a respected segment of the population.

On Friday, though, there was little but full-throated celebration for the groundbreaking of the St. Augustine (VA) Community Based Outpatient Clinic at 100 Deerfield Preserve Blvd. (just off State Road 207). It will open in about a year and should then be named the Leo C. Chase Jr. Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic in honor of the county's first soldier to die in the Vietnam War.

The ceremony Friday attracted Gov. Ron DeSantis, who attended the opening of the temporary facility as a member of Congress in 2015, Rep. John Rutherford (R-Jacksonville), county commissioners, St. Augustine and St. Augustine Beach commissioners, members of the Chase family and various others associated with the project.

Having a true long-term home for medical services is a welcome move for those who use the services of the VA, said St. Johns County Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley.

"This has been a long time coming," he said Friday. "We've been pursuing this for like 10 years. It's really a godsend to know now that in a few months, we're going to see a building here that's ultimately going to provide all of the healthcare needs for our veterans — a permanent home. We don't have to chase it anymore."

The new clinic will be 16,595 square feet with 136 parking spaces. Existing services will remain to include primary care, mental health, phlebotomy, podiatry, physical therapy and virtual care.

"Initially, it will have the same services that (the temporary clinic) has right now, but the good thing about it is with the size of the building, we can increase the services that it will be offering as our veteran population grows," Dudley said.

Rutherford praised the decision to name the clinic after Chase and pointed to his own support for veterans' programs.

“As a member of Congress sitting on the committee that funds the VA, I am committed to listening to our veterans and fighting to provide them with the resources and access to care that they have earned in battle,” he said.

DeSantis pointed out that he has been trying to secure a new permanent facility here since his days as a congressman. So finally getting this facility going — after the original clinic at 1955 U.S. 1 South was knocked down for the development of a Lowe’s store — is something he was happy to tout.

“I’m really glad that we’re finally here to break ground,” the governor said. “This is something that will be really good for this community here. This is one of the strongest veteran/military communities anywhere in the country.”

DeSantis said while he served as a representative for North Florida in the House, he was inspired by the words of Abraham Lincoln on the Lincoln Memorial about taking care of military veterans who have been willing to risk their lives to serve their country.

“That was something that he thought was absolutely a central mission for the country going forward, and I think that’s something that we obviously believe strongly together that needs to be done,” DeSantis said.

“That (sacrifice) is something the American veteran has done time and time again, and so when you have something like this, it really is the least we can do to show our appreciation for those who have been willing to put themselves in harm’s way on your behalf”.

Here is the link to the NBC video of the event:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sB4srNqMv5s>



Photos by Michael Isam

Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc. Minutes of November 21, 2019

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

Chairman Dudley called the meeting to order at 1900 hours

Chairman Dudley led the Pledge to the Flag and SGM Ray Quinn gave the Invocation

Minutes were approved as presented Treasurer's Report were approved as presented

Introduction of Guests: Joe Soriento, Joe Naftzinger, Lassen Support Committee Ladies

Speaker: Joe Snowberger: Veterans Compass was formed when Joe realized there was



a need for an all inclusive consolidated veterans calendar that listed (by category & location) everything for veterans, Guard, and their families. Veterans groups would input their information to share. This resource guide will be officially launched soon and all will be contacted.

Emily Jane Murray, Flagler College & FL Public Archaeology Net-

work: Spoke about how the Seminole Wars (1st, 2nd & 3rd) affected St. Augustine. Discussed were Treaty Park on Wildwood Drive, Osceola (captured in St. Augustine), Treaty of Moultrie Creek, Ft. Marion, now Castillo de San Marcos, & Dade Monument in St. Augustine National Cemetery. There are 189 active, primary Seminole sites in FL.



Committee Reports:

Mac: update on 3 Agent Orange presumptives (not signed yet). The DAV van is now ready for use, plated and decaled.

New rules for vet families & care givers to enter bases, use exchanges and shop online.

Ray: Wreaths Across America: takes place on Dec. 14, noon, St Augustine National Cemetery. Will need volunteers to unload and then load Wreaths (I 95 & SR 206). You can still donate.

Bill: Veterans Day was a huge success, with over 1000 attending. Plans soon for an AAR and discussion of next years celebration. We will look into getting C-SPAN to record and involve local students.

The new CBOC will be ready late 2020, or early 2021.

For the Good of The Order: Harry Manford, USMC, Oldest City Detachment. Toys for Tots collecting factory wrapped toys for children, ages tots to 12 years old to be distributed on Dec. 14 to over 3,000 local kids.



Michael: please vote for Best Veteran picture at: staugustine.com/contests, and chose one of ours so we can pass on the prize to a local, needy veteran.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm, The next meeting of the Veterans Council will be on Thursday, December 19, 2019, 7 pm in the Health & Human Services Building, 200 San Sebastian View.

Future speakers:

- Dec. 19** Eddie Creamer, SJC Property Appraiser, Disabled Veterans Exemptions
- Jan. 30** St. Augustine Sea Cadet Battalion, Pledge with Sea Cadets Color Guard
- Beth Heath, We Can Be Heroes Foundation
- Feb. 27** Deborah Brannon, Regent, Daughters of the American Revolution, Maria Jefferson Chapt.
- Wendy Lay, Veterans Expo at First Coast Technical College
- Mar. 26** Sharon Unger, President Veterans Village of NE FL
- Shiva Thompson, Yoga 4 Change
- Apr. 30** Carl “Jeff” Lay, 1SG US Veterans Reserve Corps. FL
- May 28** Dr. Roger Smith, Military History of Colonial St. Augustine

St. Augustine Chapter 6, Disabled American Veterans

Ride in comfort to your appointment at the VA Medical Center in Gainesville.

The van leaves no later than 6AM from the VA Clinic located at 195 Southpark Blvd on the corner of Old Moultrie

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

Round trip Van Service for Veterans is [HERE](#)

From St. Augustine, FL to the VA Medical Center in Gainesville.

The van will depart Gainesville approximately 2pm to arrive back in St. Augustine about 4pm.

The van IS NOT equipped to transport wheelchair patients.

We are asking that reservations be made 1 (one) week in advance.

All reservations are on a first come, first serve basis. When the seats are full, the seats are full.

To schedule a seat on the van,

please call the VA Clinic at 904-823-2954 and ask for Veteran Van Scheduling.

If you have MORE THAN ONE APPOINTMENT on the same date, please inform the scheduler.

Please have the following information available: Date and time of appointment(s), and which department(s).

Inform the scheduler of where you live. We have pick-up points in Palatka and other places.

As with all things VA, there are certain rules and regulations:

NO ALCOHOL, NO FIREARMS or OTHER WEAPONS and NO SMOKING.

(We don't make the rules, we just have to follow them.)



*Save The Date Phase 1
Groundbreaking Ceremony*

Save The Date – January 18th, 2020



Please mark your calendars to attend the National POW/MIA Memorial Phase I Groundbreaking ceremony scheduled for Saturday, January 18, 2020. The location of Groundbreaking is 6112 POW-MIA Memorial Pkwy, Jacksonville, FL 32221 at Cecil Commerce Center.

Phase I of the project includes the Chapel restoration and area to the north of the Chapel which will display the four (4) aircraft that flew out of Cecil Field. The Chapel restoration is nearing completion and the jet display and memorial brick areas have been designed, permitted, and the project is 59% funded!

Various dignitaries will participate in the groundbreaking ceremony during this family event.

****** December 3, 2019 is “Giving Tuesday”. The Veterans’ Council has enrolled in the PayPal Giving Fund. Donations may be made at paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/2192827 or by check to PO Box 2117, St. Augustine, FL 32085–2117. Donations, which may be deductible from your federal taxable income, are welcome at any time during the year.**

Veterans Council Chairman William Dudley, Vice Chairman Ray Quinn and County Veteran Service Officer Joseph McDermott accept a plaque from the County Commission Honoring and Commemorating Veterans on November 11, Veterans Day,



From the Dept. of Defense

"Starting Jan. 1, 2020, the Department of Defense is expanding access to military commissaries, exchanges, and morale, welfare and recreation facilities for certain Veterans and caregivers. Those eligible for access include all service-connected Veterans, Purple Heart recipients, former Prisoners of War (POW), and those approved and designated as the primary family caregivers of eligible Veterans. To acquire the in-person privileged access, all eligible Veterans must obtain a Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC)."

Please join us on Thursday, December 19th as St Johns County Property Appraiser Eddie Creamer speaks to our Council.

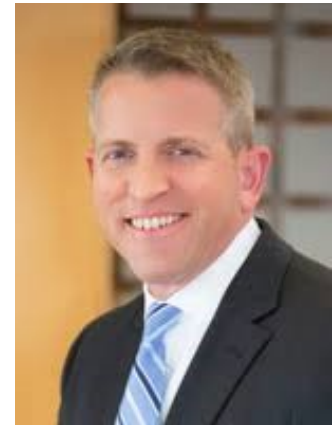
ST. JOHNS COUNTY
PROPERTY APPRAISER
Eddie Creamer

Disabled Veteran, Military & First Responder Exemptions

Disabled Veteran Exemption	Totally & Permanently Disabled Veterans Exemption
Seniors Combat - Related Disabled Veterans Exemption	Surviving Spouses of Veterans Who Died While on Active Duty Exemption
Totally & Permanently Disabled First Responders Exemption	Deployed Servicemembers Exemption
Surviving Spouses of First Responders	If not claiming a homestead elsewhere, deployed or active duty military may rent their home & maintain their homestead without any restrictions

4030 Lewis Speedway, Suite 203
Saint Augustine, FL 32084
904-827-5500
WWW.SJCPAUS

This PSA was produced by Rep. Paul Renner at the St. Francis Barracks Officers Club with the assistance of the Veterans Council of St. Johns County. The veterans shown in the video are all from St. John County. There is a WW II, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan veteran each stating a powerful message about their service to this country and the state of the nation today.



Please feel free to share.

https://youtu.be/_96n7YtWzyA

YouTube (Unlisted): https://youtu.be/_96n7YtWzyA

Letter to Senator Rick Scott re Senate Bill S. 133-Merchant Mariners of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2019

Please send out the attached letter to Sen. Rubio & Scott. Our Merchant Marines have been ignored for too many years and deserve our support.

I encourage you to urge Senator Rick Scott to co-sponsor and support Senate Bill S. 133 -Merchant Mariners of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2019. As Pat Du Mont pointed out, the easiest way to do this is through the Navy League Voice to Congress link:

<https://www.votervoice.net/NavyLeague/Campaigns/59995/Respond>

'Blessed' by naming honor

Leo C. Chase Jr., first soldier from the county to die in Vietnam, will have VA Clinic named after him

By Colleen Jones cjones@staugustine.com

The day Bill Jefferson found out his brother was killed in Vietnam is like a scar he can't erase, even 54 years later.

"It was in November, so it was a little cool," Jefferson said, "And at that time if you saw a yellow cab pull up at your house, it was bad news."

Jefferson, then 13, remembers answering the door with his mother.

"And that's when we got the telegram," he said.

Army Private First Class Leo C. Chase Jr. was just five days from finishing his tour of duty when he and other troopers with the 7th Cavalry were airlifted into the Ia Drang Valley of South Vietnam.

One of the most hard-fought battles of the Vietnam War, it served as the basis for the 2002 movie, "We Were Soldiers."

Chase, 23, would become known as the first soldier from St. Johns County to die in the war.

But to Jefferson, Chase was just the big brother he'd idolized who wouldn't be coming home.

Chase's sacrifice will be remembered today at a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Veterans Affairs Clinic in St. Augustine that will be named in his honor.

A park in the West King Street neighborhood also bears the name of the fallen veteran.

Chase grew up in St. Augustine where his family owned and ran the Leo C. Chase & Son Funeral Home, which is still in operation at 262 W. King St.

It was there that Chase was working, Jefferson said, when he joined the military voluntarily, which was in character with the kind of young man Chase was.

"He was the kind of guy who'd give you the shirt off his back," Jefferson said.



Even at his young age, Chase was also a devoted family man, relatives say.

“They say I’m just like him,” Carla Chase, his daughter, said with a laugh.

Just 3 months old at the time her father died, she has to rely on the stories her three older siblings share with her.

Now 55, Carla Chase serves as a deputy clerk at the St. Johns County Courthouse.

Jefferson, who lives in Jacksonville, went on to follow in the footsteps of his brother, serving in the U.S. Air Force with honor during the Vietnam era. At 67, he is also involved with the military community of Northeast Florida.

Earlier this year, three Florida lawmakers — U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio and U.S. Reps. John Rutherford and Michael Waltz — introduced a bill to name the VA clinic in St. Augustine after Chase.

In a news release, Rutherford said the intent was to “make sure every person walking into that building remembers the life and legacy of Private Leo C. Chase Jr.”

According to the text of the legislation to name the building after Chase, “Outnumbered nearly 10 to one, Chase and the other members of his platoon bravely repulsed many massive ground assaults from the Viet Cong, all the while taking fire from enemy snipers.”

In Jefferson’s words, the family is humbled by “the honor and the blessing“ of the dedication.

Gayle Phillips, Lincolntonville museum director, said the action also served to add to the legacy of local African-Americans.

“I think it’s so positive for young people to look up and see the name of a person of color and that that person gave his life for his country,” Phillips said.

Many Chase relatives are expected to be in attendance for the ceremony at 11 a.m. today, including Chase’s 92-year-old mother, Pauline.

Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc. Minutes of October 24, 2019

Officers present: Chairman Bill Dudley, Secretary Michael Rothfeld, Vice Chairman Ray Quinn, Not Present, Treasurer John Mountcastle

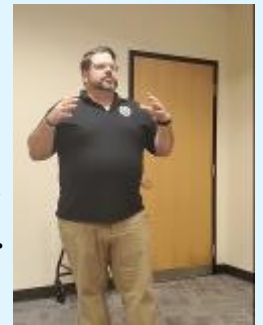
Chairman Dudley called the meeting to order at 1900 hours

Chairman Dudley led the Pledge to the Flag and SGM Ray Quinn gave the Invocation

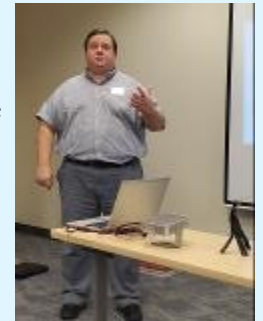
Minutes were approved as presented Treasurer's Report were approved as presented

Introduction of Guests: Bil Smith, Liz Chatham, Chief Derek Barrs, Chris Dunlop

Speaker: Chris Vedvick, Commander Dept of FL Military Order of the Purple Heart. There are 20 chapters in FL. MOPH helps members & their families. MOPH provides scholarships & is working on legislation to make I-95 a Purple Heart Highway. On Nov. 7 MOPH will be at the Kennedy Space Center renaming it The Purple Heart Space Center.



Derek Collins, Director, Concerned Veterans of America. Congress passed the MISSION Act, a law that allows veterans to receive health care at either a VA facility or another general provider within the community. The new law also allows veterans to receive more immediate care by including urgent care facilities in the approved care facilities within the community. The MISSION Act gives Veterans greater access to health care in VA facilities and the community, expands benefits for caregivers, and improves VA's ability to recruit and retain the best medical providers. When using the urgent care benefit, Veterans must go to an urgent care provider in VA's network. Please go to: <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5264> for a full explanation.



Committee Reports:

Mac: update on appeals, claims- more info at 904-209-6160. The new DAV Van is awaiting VA tags, already has wrap.

John L: Veterans Treatment Court update- now in 3rd year, 52 joined, 26 in program now, 21 graduated

VVA 1084: participating in Veterans Day program, needs volunteers for "Beach Blastoff" at pier on Dec. 31.

Ray: Wreaths Across America: takes place on Dec. 14, noon, St Augustine National

Cemetery. Will notify all when arrangements made for Herb "The Sock Man". Dec. 1 is the donation cutoff, contributions still needed. Steve: MIAP update, Nov. 6 will be next interment, So. FL National Cemetery- 19 veterans & 6 spouses.

Bill: Invited all to our Veterans Day Celebration at Anastasia Baptist Church, wants word to go out to WW II Veterans that they will be individually recognized if attend. Nov. 22, 11am will be the new CBOC groundbreaking to be attended by the Governor and Cong. Rutherford & Waltz.

The new Fire Watch program will cover 5 counties who will work together to prevent veteran suicides. COL Ann Johnson will represent our county & BG Michael Fleming will lead the Project.

Bill & Mac are on the 2020 Census committee and will reach out to all veterans to fill out the forms.

For the Good of The Order: Derek Barrs, Chief FL State Troopers. Thanked all Veterans for their service and spoke about how FL State Troopers helps its veteran troopers.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm, The next meeting of the Veterans Council will be on Thursday, November 21, 2019, 7 pm in the Health & Human Services Building, 200 San Sebastian View.

Future speakers:

Nov. 21 Emily Jane Murray, Flagler College, Public Archeology Coord, The Seminole Wars and How it Changed All of Us

John Powell, Historic Firearms

Dec. 19 Eddie Creamer, SJC Property Appraiser, Disabled Veterans Exemptions

Jan. 30 St. Augustine Sea Cadet Battalion, Pledge with Sea Cadets Color Guard
Beth Heath, We Can Be Heroes Foundation

Feb. 27 Deborah Brannon, Regent, Daughters of the American Revolution, Maria Jefferson Chapt.

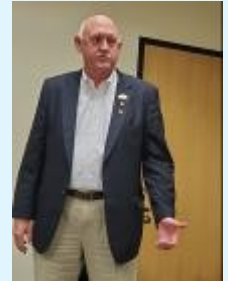
Wendy Lay, Veterans Expo at First Coast Technical College

Mar. 26 Sharon Unger, President Veterans Village of NE FL

Shiva Thompson, Yoga 4 Change

Apr. 30 Carl "Jeff" Lay, 1SG US Veterans Reserve Corps. FL

May 28 Dr. Roger Smith, Military History of Colonial St. Augustine





St. Augustine garden project cultivates new hope for veterans

Author: Jeff Valin, First Coast News

An up-and-coming non-profit in St. Augustine helps veterans manage post-traumatic stress, emphasizes local materials and eco-friendly practices.

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla. — When Robert Timmons of St. Augustine came home from serving in Afghanistan, his wife noticed a change in her husband.



"I really knew right away, the day that he came home, that he was not the same," Crystal Timmons said.

That was in 2008. Robert Timmons had joined the U.S. Army just two days after he and Crystal Timmons were married back in 2005. Robert Timmon's deployment to Afghanistan lasted a year. He wishes he could forget much of what he experienced.

"I have a traumatic brain injury and PTSD, and my left leg has got all kinds of pins in it," Robert Timmons said, explaining that in one incident he was hit by mortar fire. In another, he was blasted by an improvised incendiary device.

But without getting into detail, he leaves no uncertainty that he witnessed much greater horrors visited upon others.

"The stuff that I saw there and went through there, I wouldn't wish on anybody," he said.

His own recalling of his homecoming seems to echo that of his wife.

"When I got out I had a really hard time transitioning out of the military – self-medication, depression, suicidal," he said.

Crystal Timmons, a lifelong practitioner and longtime instructor of yoga, wanted to save her husband and her marriage. She wasn't sure what to do.

"It definitely was a process over a couple of years," she said, noting that some of her husband's treatment was not something a doctor would prescribe.

"[We were] looking for holistic modalities for my husband and our family," she said. "There was a lot of medication involved, self-medicating as well as alcohol and things like that, when he got out of the military."

Eventually, an idea planted itself in her mind.

"I enrolled in the First Coast Technical College and I asked my husband to come with me," Crystal Timmons explained.

Given that she was his caregiver and he was better off being close to her during her classwork, it made sense that he might at least tag along.

"This idea kept coming into my head," she said of what would eventually become the Veteran Garden Project, a non-profit that builds and plants gardens for former and even current servicemen and servicewomen, particularly those suffering PTSD and other trauma from their service. Our conversation occurred at the home of Gordon Misner, a U.S. Army veteran and the father of soldier Gordon Misner II, who was killed in 2006 while serving in Iraq.

"He was in Baghdad and his vehicle hit an IED," said Misner, who heard about Veteran Garden Project and applied to receive a garden bed at his home.



"Always with us," Misner said while placing a round commemorative stone marker in front of his new garden frame, to the gathering of volunteers putting finishing touches on the plot. It was VGP's final installation of 2019, happening as tropical storm Nestor pelted the First Coast.

"A little bit of rain isn't going to scare us!" Crystal Timmons vowed.

Certainly not after all they'd been through, including VGP's early germination days.

"I've always loved nature and being outside," she smiled. "I really didn't know how to garden."

Back then, Robert Timmons needed convincing as well.

"You know, I didn't want to go sit in a classroom and learn," Robert Timmons recalled, "but once I did, come to find out that I love it too - love being outside. It's just therapy, you know?"

That therapeutic effect turned a significant corner for Crystal and Robert Timmons - and now for recipients of VGP gardens.

"

Just being present, connecting with your breath, being centered, and having a single focus," Crystal Timmons said, outlining some of the inherent benefits, "which is what the garden bed does as well."



Misner echoed the sentiment, eagerly anticipating the work-reward cycle that a garden provides.

"This is very meditative," Misner enthused. "I can get out here and I can get my hands in the dirt. I can weed and just clear my mind."

In addition to its mission of helping veterans, VGP's values include using local, organic, and eco-friendly materials, also allowing recipients to choose the plants and produce they most want.

"We ... eat a lot of tomatoes and sweet peppers already," Misner said, pointing around his nutritious and colorful bounty. "We wanted some natural herbs, so we got this horsemint over here, which is a native Florida thyme," he said of one example.

The organization also emphasizes the mantra of 'paying it forward'.

"What we do ask is, when we go to build the garden at the veteran's home, that they help us build the next one," Robert Timmons said.

Misner seemed just as excited about fulfilling that promise as about growing his own produce.

"Trying to get more involved in the project and next year's builds," Misner said looking ahead, "and learning more about the wonderful mission that they have."

A mission accomplished and simultaneously a work in progress for Crystal and Robert Timmons, but this soggy Saturday it was clear that they are enjoying the moments, one at a time.

"By doing this, getting out with veterans, getting outside, not sitting in the house secluding myself from everybody, has really helped," Robert Timmons assured.

"I have seen a difference in him," Crystal Timmons observed. "He looks healthier, he sleeps better at night, he is trying so hard to watch his anger and his triggers and things like that."

With a mission so focused on looking ahead, not back, it's only natural that VGP - which planted six gardens in 2019 and hopes to at least double that number in 2020 - VGP has a five-year plan envisioning an office, a nursery, and a community garden space.

From the Stars and Stripes

No veteran 'should ever be forgotten': Unclaimed ashes of 19 vets interred



LANTANA, Fla. (Tribune News Service) — None of those who gathered Wednesday at the South Florida National Cemetery knew any of the 24 people whose ashes lay in wood urns lined up on a table.

But they snapped to attention and saluted. Or those who weren't veterans held hands to hearts.

They sang "God Bless America." And stood silently on a hot November morning as a lone bugler, standing off by himself, sent the sounds of taps through the trees in this hallowed ground west of Lantana.

The national nonprofit Missing in America Project was interring, with full military honors, the remains of 19 veterans and five spouses of veterans. All had lain unclaimed in South Florida funeral homes, some for decades.

Statewide since 2012, the group has interred 340 unclaimed veterans, 124 spouses and one infant child of a veteran.

Florida coordinator Kathy Church said the group surveys area funeral homes for unclaimed remains. In some cases, Church said, relatives decided they just didn't want the ashes. Or the family had a falling out. Or a spouse who'd promised that ashes would be buried together, instead remarried, or moved away, or both.

She said some people were cremated under a county contract but no one came for them at all.

Of the 19 Wednesday, three were from the Vietnam era, one from Korea and 12 from World War II. Remarkably, three had served more than a century ago during World War I.

Army technician Theodore Roosevelt Grebey — born in 1914, five years after his namesake left the presidency — served during World War II. His ashes have lain unclaimed for more than 50 years since his death in 1968.

All 24 of these were from Broward and Miami-Dade counties. None were from Palm Beach, but they will lie in repose here, at the only official veterans' cemetery in South Florida.

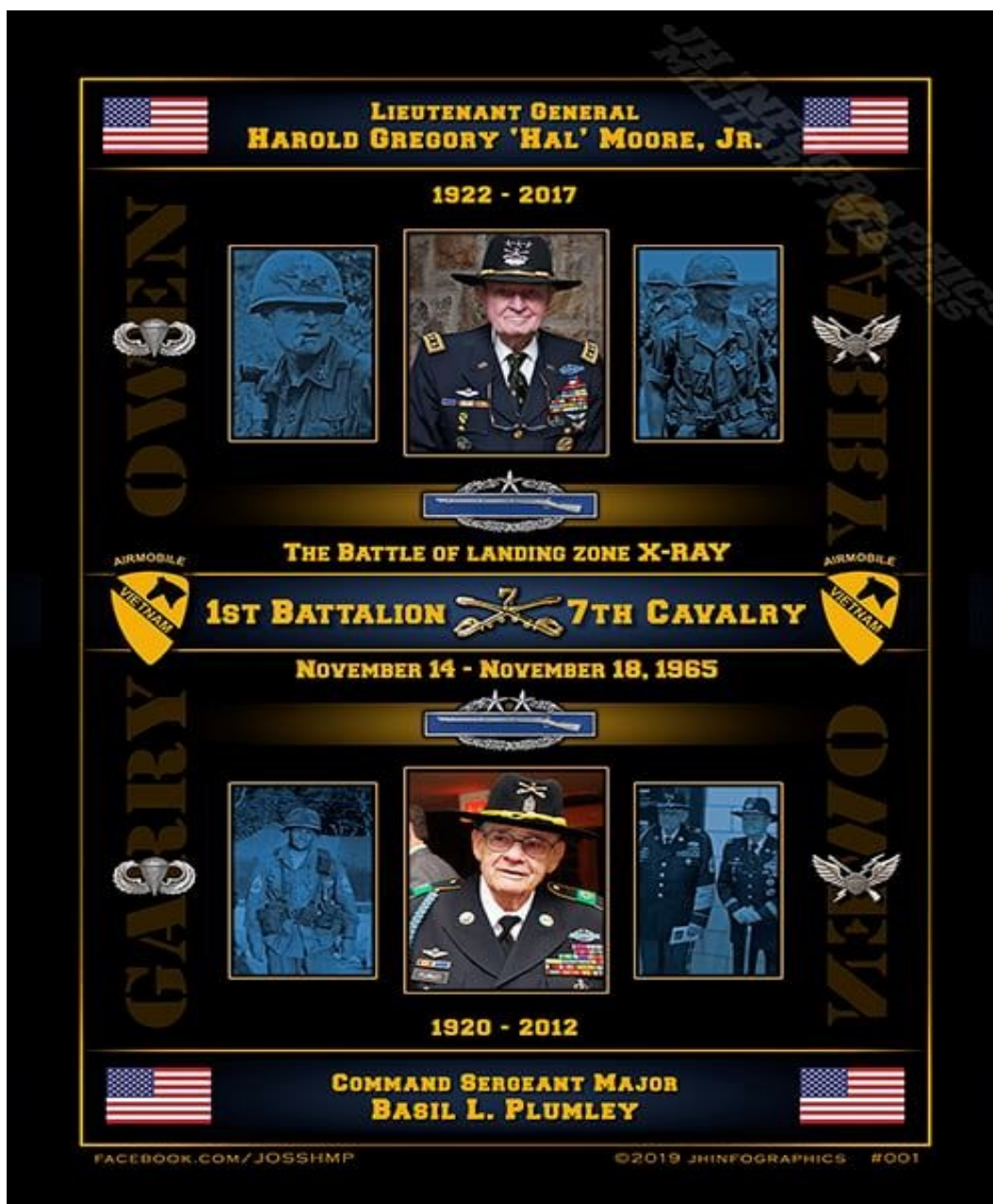
"Today they will be laid to rest at this treasured space," said Kim House, chaplain at the VA Medical Center in Riviera Beach.

"These soldiers, marines and sailors left home, left their families, left everything they knew, in service to our nation," cemetery director Sonny Peppers told the assembled.

"I do not believe they expected to be abandoned, unclaimed and unrecognized as they made their final bivouac," Peppers said. Now, he said, "they are no longer forgotten, no longer unknown, and no longer alone."

At the ceremony were an honor guard from Palm Beach County Fire-Rescue and a ladder truck flying a massive Stars and Stripes. Palm Beach County Fire-Rescue bagpipers played a medley of anthems from the branches represented.

The Battle of Ia Drang was the first major battle between the United States Army and the People's Army of Vietnam, also referred to as the North Vietnamese Army, and was part of the Pleiku Campaign conducted early in the Vietnam War. It comprised two main engagements, centered on two previously scouted helicopter landing zones, known as LZ X-Ray and LZ Albany. The first involved the 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment and supporting units under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Hal Moore





Kennedy Space Center awarded a "Purple Heart" for support of veterans

Rachael Joy, Florida Today

On Thursday, Kennedy Space Center was the first NASA facility in the country to be named a "Purple Heart Entity" in a ceremony held at the KSC Training Auditorium.

“Being the first Purple Heart space center, it’s such an honor,” KSC Associate Director Kelvin Manning said before a packed auditorium that included 20 Purple Heart winners in the audience.

KSC was given the honor by the Military Order of the Purple Heart, a congressionally chartered veterans group comprised solely of men and women who are combat wounded veterans.

The Purple Heart is one of the oldest and most recognized American military medals, awarded to service members who were killed or wounded by enemy action. The Military Order of the Purple Heart awards "Purple Heart status" to organizations that demonstrate support for veterans.

There are currently more than 300 veterans employed by NASA at KSC.

“Usually when veterans get out they want to be away from any kind of government service,” explained Christopher Vedvick, Commander, Department of Florida Military Order of the Purple Heart. “Here at Kennedy they’ve embraced that...they have their own group of veterans who really make up the fabric of what we felt to be Kennedy Space Center.”

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Buy Photo

Army veteran Chris Vedvick, who did seven tours in Afghanistan and Iraq, was injured with three handgrenades on his first deployment, was the keynote speaker. A ceremony was held at Kennedy

Space Center Thursday naming KSC a Purple Heart Entity in a proclamation by the Military Order of the Purple Heart. (Photo: MALCOLM DENEMARK/FLORIDA TODAY)

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ADVERTISING

Kennedy is being recognized as a Purple Heart Entity for the support of veterans through employment opportunities and services provided to veterans by the center’s veterans employee resource group.

“The common thread is sacrifice,” Vedvick continued “and paying homage to those who have sacrificed so much in the past and there are individuals who are still sacrificing today, maybe not blood on the battlefield but the sacrifice of engaging and serving their country continually.”

NASA Public Affairs Officer Derrick Matthews served in the Army before being hired at Kennedy Space Center. He served in Iraq and was awarded a Purple Heart for the injuries he sustained after driving over a roadside bomb.

“I’ve worked at other federal agencies and KSC is the only agency that has a veterans ERG group, it's called an employee resources group that is really active and impactful, ”Matthews said.

Matthews says he sees a link between the personal qualities critical to executing a military mission and a NASA space mission.

“It’s the all teamwork and camaraderie and being able to work with diverse backgrounds and personalities.”

Patrick Macri – WWII Veteran “Jumping through 4th of July Fireworks”

Every day we encounter older people. We may notice the lines on their hands or their face. We may notice the care with which they move, or the extra time it might take them to accomplish a task. However, appearances do not reveal a person’s history – or how they might have served or sacrificed over the course of a lifetime.



Patrick Macri was twenty-one years old when, as part of the United States 101st Airborne Division, he jumped behind enemy lines in Normandy late at night the evening before D-Day. We know secondhand what the stakes were that night, and the weight of the task he and his fellow soldiers were charged with. We know how history was made through their courageous actions fighting Nazi Germany at that pivotal moment in World War II.

What we don’t know is what it felt like, what kind of guts it took – or how a person at any age could muster the courage. Patrick recalled about that night, “Parachuting into battle was new and exciting - and dropping into the French countryside the night of June 5th through German anti-aircraft fire was like jumping through 4th of July fireworks - wondering the whole time how we would ever survive it?” He continued, “Once the D-day invasion eventually began, we all wondered how we would ever get through it.”

Fortunately, Patrick did make it home. He met his future wife, Patricia, at a diner in Huntington, West Virginia called the “Whirligig.” They both worked at Sylvania, and Patrick began giving her a ride to work every day - along with a car full of her sisters and cousins, who also worked there. “Patty was named ‘Miss Sylvania’, and would always manage to sit next to me in the car on the way to work!” he recalled all these years later.

Patrick and Patricia were married, had four children, and in 1959, loaded them all up and moved to St. Petersburg, Florida, and eventually to Crystal River in 2001. Having visited St. Augustine frequently since the 1970s when their son, David, opened Blue Sky Surf Shop on Anastasia Island, Patrick and Patricia relocated to St. Augustine in 2016 where they have been very happy.



Today, Patrick is 95 years old. After suffering an injury, juggling tasks around the house became too much for the couple. Shopping for meals and preparing them became extremely difficult. Circumstances like these frequently compel older adults to leave their homes where they are most comfortable, and relinquish their independence for nursing homes or assisted living. However, in St. Johns County seniors have options and resources through Council on Aging (COA.) Since 1973, COA has existed to support seniors in maintaining their independence, remaining engaged with the community, and enjoying quality of life at every age. This support is possible thanks to the financial and volunteer generosity of community members.

Luckily, Patrick and Patricia heard about COA’s Meals on Wheels program which delivers nutritious, freshly-prepared meals, newspapers, pet food and welcome visits. Once they began receiving the meals, COA’s dedicated volunteers were able to tell them about another valuable service from which they would benefit, Coastal Home Care. This COA program offers in-home household help for seniors who need it. “We have come to depend on the friendly and professional in-home services they provide,” Patrick shared. “We greatly appreciate the personal assistance they provide, and our caregiver has basically become one of the family!”

“We are very fortunate to live in a community that cares for our elders, and that includes our brave veterans,” said Becky Yanni, Executive Director of COA. “Our generous donors, volunteers and community partners are committed to helping us be there for those who have spent lifetimes being there for us.”

To find out how you can help seniors in need of assistance, please contact COA’s Tom Torretta at 904-209-3700. For information on COA’s services for seniors and caregivers, classes and events, visit www.coasjc.org or call 904-209-3700.

Information blast of FL, by Region

<https://mailchi.mp/0bfca37febb9/infoblastfl-565165>

This is the NEW Veterans Bible for happenings in FL

Clay County VA Clinic construction kickoff

Congressman Ted S. Yoho (second from right) is joined by Thomas Wisnieski (second from left), Director of Department of Veterans Affairs North Florida/South Georgia, and other VA officials at the November 8 Clay County VA Clinic Construction



Kickoff in Middleburg. The clinic, which is scheduled for completion late summer or early fall in 2020, is projected to serve approximately 4,500 new Veterans in the 19,999 square foot facility.

Submitted by David Treffinger

Clay County Veterans Day ceremony



Clay County veterans participated in a wreath laying ceremony on Veterans Day at the TAPS Monument in Green Cove Springs.



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- A chance to experience the true fellowship and camaraderie that serving in a military unit can provide
- A chance to be a part of something bigger than yourself

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Company A, 10th U.S. Veteran Reserve Corps, Washington, D.C. May 1915. By James Gardner



US VRC, Memorial for America 2017



Veteran Reserve Corps Soldiers guarding President Lincoln's Funeral Car By Samuel M. Farnell



1st Annual Patriot's Expo

Partnering with
First Coast Technical College Job Fair
Character Counts Conference Center
2980 Collins Avenue
St. Augustine

Thursday, March 26, 2020
2:30 PM – 4:30 PM

Networking event for St Johns County area Patriots and Patriots families

- Static Displays
- Education & Training
- Banking
- Logistics
- Healthcare/VA Resources
- Mental Health Resources
- Job Fair – Career & Employment Services
- Transition & Business opportunities
- Home & Family Services
- Information Technology
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FCTC Spring 2020 Job Fair and St John's Patriot Expo Registration Form

It is important our students have the ability to complete their training/education in full prior to accepting employment that might conflict with this goal. FCTC asks that our employment and business partners refrain from actively recruiting and hiring students that are currently taking classes into a role that will interfere with their ability to complete their education in the designated timeframe.

In addition, we require the participating businesses to be ready no later than 2:15PM and stay for the entire event, packing up to start after 4:30PM. We encourage trinkets and table giveaways.

PLEASE COMPLETE ALL THE QUESTIONS BELOW:

Company Name: _____

Contact Name/Title: _____

Contact email: _____

Number at table: _____ Patriots Expo Table: YES NO

Program(s) of interest: _____

Please check if your company sponsors, employs and supports our military.

Yes, I would like to participate in the FCTC Spring 2020 Job Fair on **March 26, 2020** and agree to adhere to the guidelines as stated above.

Unfortunately, a representative from my company will not be able to attend this time, but keep me on your list for next year.

Display Requests:

We will supply table and 2 chairs, let us know if you need electrical or any other specifications **PRIOR** to arrive (we cannot guarantee availability day of)

Please bring Table Cover, Displays, Business Cards, and Table Giveaways

Please submit this registration **No Later than March 5, 2020**

SPACE IS LIMITED SO PLEASE RESPOND ASAP

Email completed form to Beth.Abstein@stjohns.k12.fl.us

FCTC Job Fair Questions, call Beth Abstein (904)547-3389 Military Event Questions, call Wendy Lay (904)547-3512

Airborne Units in Vietnam



101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION

In the carefully conceived plans for the invasion of Nazi-held Europe, it became evident that a large force of hard-hitting, superbly-trained airborne troops would be needed to nullify coastal defenses and cut enemy lines. Thus, on Aug. 16, 1942, the 101st Airborne Division was activated at Camp Claiborne, La.

After months of arduous training, drills and practice jumps, two parachute infantry regiments and two glider regiments landed in England in the fall of 1943. The division made history on D-Day, June 6, 1944, when it jumped, 14,000 strong, into occupied France.

The division's fortunes fluctuated after World War II, and it was inactivated and reactivated as a training division three times in 11 years. On July 29, 1965, the 1st Brigade and support troops arrived at Cam Ranh Bay to begin the next chapter in the Screaming Eagles' combat history.

The remainder of the division was in country by Dec. 13, 1967, and a year later, more than 10,000 enemy had died at the hands of the airmobile 101st. The division's mission has carried it into all four of Vietnam's tactical zones, and it has successfully defended the U.S. embassy in Saigon, the Bien Hoa Air Base and the coastal city of Phan Thiet.



173d AIRBORNE BRIGADE

Formed in May 1963, the 173d Airborne Brigade—nicknamed the "Sky Soldiers"—went to work training for the type of warfare it would encounter in Vietnam.

Arriving in May 1965, the 173d was the first major U.S. Army ground combat unit to fight in Vietnam. The brigade is currently conducting operations in northern Binh Dinh Province in support of the Republic of Vietnam's pacification program.

Among the brigade's responsibilities are: conducting training to upgrade Vietnamese armed forces—particularly Regional and Popular Forces, Revolutionary Development Cadre and Peoples' Self Defense Forces, helping provide security for key populated areas, reducing the VC infrastructure, increasing the number of Ho Chi Vanhs and securing a portion of Highway QL 1, Vietnam's only major north-south highway.

The brigade received the Presidential Unit Citation for distinguishing itself in the battle of Dak To during November 1967. Brigade elements fought with an entrenched North Vietnamese Army regiment on Hill 875, and in some of the most bitter fighting of the war, captured the hill on Thanksgiving Day. More than 800 enemy were killed.



3RD BRIGADE, 82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION

The 3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division was activated in 1917 as the 156th Infantry Brigade, an element of the 78th Division. In May 1964 the brigade was reorganized as the 3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division. When the 3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division jumped into Florida, Jan. 22, 1968, little did the paratroopers realize that they would be fighting in Vietnam less than one month later. But on Feb. 13, the advance party departed Pope AFB, N.C., for Vietnam. On the afternoon of Valentine's Day the huge airlift began; an operation which was to require 155 C141s and six C130s before it was over. The All-Americans were on the way to Vietnam.

Landing at Chu Lai, the brigade had just begun to muster itself from its deployment when it moved again. The All-Americans were attached to the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) and given the mission to protect the ancient capital of Hue in the I Corps sector.

In the fall of 1968, the brigade moved again, this time to the Capital Military District. With the forward element at Camp Red Ball on the outskirts of Saigon and the rear element at Phu Loi the brigade was given the mission of protecting the western flanks of Saigon from enemy attacks.

From Blair Craig

VA Releases Survivors Quick Start Guide

Reference guide to help during final arrangements planning

Each person experiences grief differently when a loved one passes, but survivors should not feel confused about what to do next. The Survivors Quick Start Guide provides Veteran family members and caregivers a reference guide for what to do next.

Part of VA's Welcome Kit, the Survivors quick start guide begins with a step by step checklist for preparing, applying for, and following up on the available benefits. Each step spells out in plain language what to do, what forms to fill out, and who to call if you need help.

The guide also helps families identify VA Survivor benefits and services they may be eligible for.

To view VA Survivors Guide, here is the link:

<https://www.va.gov/survivor-quick-start-guide.pdf>

Veterans Day Weekend 2019

GROUND-BREAKING FOR NEW NORTH JACKSONVILLE PARKWAY

CEREMONY HELD FRIDAY NOVEMBER 8, 2019

The Support Committee at the Jacksonville National Cemetery (“JNC”) along with the Rotary Club of North Jacksonville, other Northeast Florida Rotarians, veterans organizations, civic leaders, and various Federal, State and local governmental agencies were integral components of the driving force behind the construction of the new 3.4-mile two-lane parkway which leads into the hallowed grounds at the national cemetery (“Parkway”). This brand new \$12.8 million North Jacksonville Parkway system connects the National Cemetery with the I-95 and Pecan Park Road interchange; will be maintained by the City of Jacksonville; and is expected to be completed during the Fall 2021.

The Parkway has been designed to significantly improve transportation options from Interstate 95 for the multitude of motorists continuously seeking access to / from when attending funerals and the other numerous events held at the National Cemetery honoring US military veterans, such as the Wreaths Across America and Memorial Day ceremonies. The Support Committee and the Rotarians certainly take great pride in being able to support one of the most military-friendly Veterans’ regions in the entire United States, if not, the friendliest. The JNC honors all veterans and their families, especially the Gold Star Families whose beloved soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines gave their lives in the in the line-of-duty defending our great country so that we can live ours. Accordingly, this Parkway is being constructed to accommodate the families and the friends of our fallen heroes.

For further information please contact either Alphaeus L. Richburg, Cemetery Director (904)766-5975; or, the Support Committee Public Information Officer, Pat Mulvihill at (904) 741-0965 EXT 15.



The Veterans Council of St. Johns County Website has been updated to include:

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

Main page: Veterans Day flyer, with a link to the press release document, Navigation bars now include:

Upcoming events (for 2019)

<https://veteranscouncilsjc.org/events.htm>

SJVC Highlights for 2018 <https://veteranscouncilsjc.org/index.htm/files/VC%202018%20Summary.pdf>

Past event for 2018 <https://veteranscouncilsjc.org/events2018.htm>

Veterans Resource Spreadsheet <https://veteranscouncilsjc.org/index.htm/files/VeteranResourceSpreadsheetUpdated2017.10.12.pdf>



A true story about Tootsie Rolls

Did you know that Tootsie Rolls helped save U.S. Marines? During the Korean War in 1950, the 1st Marine Division met the enemy at the Chosin mountain reservoir in subfreezing temperatures. There were less than 7,000 Marines surrounded at Kotori, North Korea by over 80,000 of the enemy. Nearly out of ammunition, Marines called in for 60mm mortar ammo; code name "Tootsie Rolls." The radio operator did not have the code sheets that would tell him what a "Tootsie Roll" was, but knew the request was urgent; so he called in the order. While surrounded by the enemy, pallets of Tootsie Roll candies parachuted from the sky to the Marines! Although not the ammunition they expected, the candy provided much needed morale and nourishment for the troops. The large Tootsie Rolls gave them energy and the chewy candy took their minds off of being so hungry and cold. Since it was 0 to 60 degrees below zero, the Marines would warm the Tootsie Rolls by carrying them next to their bodies. They also learned that they could use warmed Tootsie Rolls to plug bullet holes in their gas cans and radiators, sealing them as the candy refroze. After 2 weeks of fighting, the Marines fought their way to the sea. These Marines are called the "Chosin Few". Many credited their very survival to the Tootsie Rolls.



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Ahead of Veterans Day, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) is proud to announce a major milestone in the effort to find a photo for every service member on The Wall. Of the 58,276 names inscribed on The Wall, fewer than 400 photos are now needed to complete the effort.

VVMF's Wall of Faces effort aims to connect a face and a story to each of the 58,276 service members honored on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. so that future generations will better understand the impact of the Vietnam War on American families. Each name represents a life cut short and a family changed forever by their loss. Putting a face to every name helps further preserve their legacies.

VVMF thanks the hundreds of volunteers around the country who have been instrumental in locating these photos. Because of their tenacious effort, more than 57,880 photos of service members who sacrificed their lives in Vietnam have been found and posted to the Wall of Faces.

“Putting a face to each name helps people understand the true cost of war, to drive home the fact that every name on The Wall represents a real person with a life cut short,” said Jim Knotts president and CEO of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF), the nonprofit organization that founded The Wall. “Each photo represents a family and friends forever changed. The Wall of Faces also allows family members, friends and comrades to leave remembrances and stay connected to those they lost.”



Yesterday, Silver Creek Retirement Community hosted a free Veterans Day program featuring, "Letters From Home", a singing duet who entertained the audience with songs from the 40s, 50s, 60s and 70s that were popular during the war years. Special up-front seating was provided for veterans.



This is the US Navy bootcamp in San Diego California...1962.



UNITED STATES NAVY

SEALS

LOYALTY TO COUNTRY, TEAM AND TEAMMATE
SERVE WITH HONOR AND INTEGRITY ON AND OFF THE BATTLEFIELD



IN MEMORIAM



FAY	ROBERT JOSEPH	SOG	28 OCT 65	PANEL 03E - Row 004
MACHEN	BILLY WAYNE	ST-1	19 AUG 66	PANEL 10E - Row 019
MANN	DANIEL MCCARTHY	ST-1	07 APR 67	PANEL 17E - Row 117
BOSTON	DONALD EARL	ST-1	07 APR 67	PANEL 17E - Row 114
NEAL	RONALD KEITH	ST-1	21 APR 67	PANEL 18E - Row 062
FUNK	LESLIE HAROLD	ST-1	06 OCT 67	PANEL 27E - Row 059
ANTONE	FRANK GEORGE	ST-1	23 DEC 67	PANEL 32E - Row 049
KEITH	ROY BENJAMIN	ST-1	11 JAN 68	PANEL 34E - Row 029
WILLIAMS, JR.	ARTHUR C.	ST-2	18 APR 68	PANEL 49E - Row 027
CONDON	ROBERT EUGENE	UDT-12	18 JAN 68	PANEL 34E - Row 067
FRALEY	EUGENE THOMAS	ST-2	21 JAN 68	PANEL 35E - Row 005
RISHER III	CLARENCE T.	ST-2	31 JAN 68	PANEL 36E - Row 032
POPE	WALTER GLENN	ST-1	29 APR 68	PANEL 53E - Row 006
DEVINE	DAVID EUGENE	ST-1	05 MAY 68	PANEL 55E - Row 007
ZILLGITT	DONALD HENRY	ST-1	12 MAY 68	PANEL 59E - Row 016
PATRICK	DONNIE LEE	ST-1	15 MAY 68	PANEL 61E - Row 001
BROWN	GORDON CURTISS	ST-1	19 MAY 68	PANEL 63E - Row 006
ALBRECHT	JOSEPH ALFRED	ST-2	02 AUG 68	PANEL 50W - Row 047
WAGNER	ROBERT KAY	ST-1	15 AUG 68	PANEL 48W - Row 020
TINNIN	EUGENE SANFORD	ST-1	20 AUG 68	PANEL 47W - Row 013
TRANI, JR.	FREDERICK EUGENE	ST-2	26 SEP 68	PANEL 42W - Row 024
RAMOS	ROBERTO	ST-2	29 OCT 68	PANEL 40W - Row 055
SANDER	JAMES KEITH	ST-1	22 NOV 68	PANEL 38W - Row 038
WILSON	DAVID ALLEN	ST-1	14 JAN 68	PANEL 34W - Row 003
MATTINGLY, JR.	HARRY ALBERT	ST-2	16 JAN 69	PANEL 34W - Row 016
WORTHINGTON	ROBERT LEROY	UDT-13	12 APR 69	PANEL 27W - Row 069
VAN HOY	KENNETH EDWARD	ST-1	17 MAY 69	PANEL 24W - Row 035
PACE	RONALD EARL	ST-1	17 MAY 69	PANEL 24W - Row 033
MEYER	LOWELL WAYNE	ST-1	17 MAY 69	PANEL 24W - Row 032
MAHNER	LIN ALBERT	ST-1	25 MAY 69	PANEL 24W - Row 105
NICHOLAS	DAVID LAMPREY	ST-1	17 OCT 69	PANEL 17W - Row 087
WOLFE	RICHARD OGDEN	ST-1	30 NOV 69	PANEL 15W - Row 011
ASHTON	CURTIS MORRIS	ST-2	27 DEC 69	PANEL 15W - Row 096
BREWTON	JOHN COOKE	ST-2	11 JAN 70	PANEL 14W - Row 028
GORE	JAMES RAYMOND	ST-1	23 JUN 70	PANEL 09W - Row 083
SOLANO	RICHARD JOHN	ST-1	23 JUN 70	PANEL 09W - Row 086
DURLIN	JOHN STEWART	ST-1	23 JUN 70	PANEL 09W - Row 083
DONNELLY, III	JOHN JOSEPH	ST-1	23 JUN 70	PANEL 09W - Row 083
THOMAS	TOBY ARTHUR	ST-1	23 JUN 70	PANEL 09W - Row 087
PALMA	LUCCO WILLIAM	UDT-13	18 SEP 70	PANEL 07W - Row 072
WILLIAMS, JR.	LAWRENCE C.	UDT-13	18 SEP 70	PANEL 07W - Row 072
BOMAR	FRANK WILLIS	ST-1	20 DEC 70	PANEL 06W - Row 133
RITER	JAMES LEE	ST-1	20 DEC 70	PANEL 06W - Row 134
THAMES	JAMES FRANKLIN	ST-1	19 JAN 71	PANEL 05W - Row 057
BIRKY	HAROLD EDWIN	ST-1	30 JAN 71	PANEL 05W - Row 068
COLLINS	MICHAEL RAYMOND	ST-1	04 MAR 71	PANEL 04W - Row 021
MOC	LESTER JAMES	ST-1	29 MAR 71	PANEL 04W - Row 092
DRY	MELVIN SPENCE	ST-1	06 JUN 72	PANEL 01W - Row 038

Air Force Academy names airfield in honor of Tuskegee hero

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. (AFNS) --

Gen. Benjamin O. Davis Jr., the first African American general in the Air Force, once said, “I could have been a teacher. I could have been a doctor or a lawyer, if I wanted to, but I didn’t – I wanted to be a pilot.”

His journey, marked by excellence and overcoming institutionalized racial barriers, was celebrated at the U.S. Air Force Academy, Nov. 1, during a ceremony to name its airfield in his honor.

A mock-up of the new airfield sign was unveiled in front of an audience that included Davis’ extended family, documented original Tuskegee Airmen and high-ranking military members, civil servants and cadets.

“His story and legacy of indomitable spirit will forever be enshrined on this airfield and is going to serve as an inspiration for generations of cadets,” said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein.

Davis is most widely known for commanding the 332nd Fighter Group and the Tuskegee Airmen during World War II, earning a reputation for their skill while protecting American bombers. Prior to the war, Davis and his father were the only African American line officers in the Army. Neither were allowed to command or lead white service members.

His service, and the service of the Tuskegee Airmen, are linked to President Harry Truman’s decision to desegregate the armed forces.

Davis’ nephew, L. Scott Melville, said his famous uncle realized early in his career that protesting the system wouldn’t get him far, so he took a rather radical approach to the era’s rampant discrimination.

“His strategy would be to lead by example and eventually the others would follow,” Melville said. “It was a strategy that required a lot of determination and patience (but it worked).”

Melville said Davis adopted the strategy while still a cadet at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York, where he finished in the top 15% of his class despite being ostracized by other cadets. He carried it with him throughout his 30-year career.

One guest speaker, Gen. Charles Brown, Pacific Air Forces commander, said his career success is the direct result of Davis' achievements.

“I would not be standing here today if not for Gen. Benjamin O. Davis Jr. and the Tuskegee Airmen,” Brown said.



Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein (far right), Secretary of the Air Force Barbara M. Barrett (second from right), relatives of Gen. Benjamin O. Davis Jr., Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Kaleth O. Wright (far left), Jay B. Silveria, U.S. Air Force Academy superintendent and other staff members unveil a mock-up of the Academy's new airfield sign Nov. 1, 2019. The Academy officially named its airfield in honor of Gen. Davis, an original Tuskegee Airman. (U.S. Air Force photo by Trevor Cokely)



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Penny



Leaving a penny means simply that you visited.

Nickel



Leaving a nickel shows that you attended boot camp or training with the deceased.

The Meanings Behind the Coins Left on a Grave



Dime



Leaving a dime shows service in the same company but different platoon.

Quarter



A quarter is left by a service member who was with the deceased when the person died.

Some of the items that are left on graves have sentimental meaning and therefore should ALWAYS remain where the items were left

Tia Howe
Quest for the Unknown



WARRIOR PATHH



Warrior PATHH (*Progressive and Alternative Training for Healing Heroes*) is the nation's first non-clinical program designed to cultivate and facilitate Posttraumatic Growth amongst those struggling with PTSD and/or combat stress. Warrior PATHH enables these remarkable men and women to transform times of deep struggle into profound strength and growth. All Warrior PATHH instructors have walked this road from struggle to strength, and the blended team of trained combat veterans and civilians leverage their own experiences to guide attendees. This 18-month program begins with a 7-day retreat, initiating students into the Warrior PATHH. Students are then supported for the following 77 weeks via the myPATHH technology platform, regular Team Video Chats, alumni coaches, and the Warrior PATHH Student Guide and Journal.

Warrior PATHH was created by Boulder Crest, a pioneering nonprofit organization focused on developing transformative programs that ensure combat veterans can be as productive at home as they were on the battlefield. **GratitudeAmerica** and Boulder Crest have partnered to bring Warrior PATHH to Florida.

The Warrior PATHH is based on the decades-old science of Posttraumatic Growth (PTG) and enable participants to meaningfully and sustainably transform times of deep struggle into profound strength and lifelong growth. As a result, participants experience stronger and deeper relationships, new possibilities, an increased sense of gratitude for life, greater connection to their spiritual or religious life, and a renewed sense of personal strength.

➤ **Warrior PATHH is provided at no cost for post 9/11 combat veterans.**

➤ **No clinical diagnosis is required to attend.**

➤ **Programs are offered monthly in Gainesville, FL.**



GratitudeAmerica

TO LEARN MORE VISIT:

GRATITUDEAMERICA.ORG/WARRIOR-PATHH

CONTACT US

Mike Hilliard, *Warrior PATHH Program Director*

warriorpathh@gratitudeamerica.org

P.O. Box 16956

Fernandina Beach, FL 32035

770-718-7108

A FEW FACTS ABOUT THE VIETNAM WALL



There are 58,267 names on the wall.

39,996 were just 22 or younger.

8,283 were 19. 33,103 were 18.

12 were 17 years old.

5 soldiers were 16.

There are 3 sets of fathers and sons on the wall.

31 sets of parents lost 2 of their sons.

997 were killed their first day.

1,448 were killed on their last day.

8 women were on the wall, nurses.

244 soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor during the war and 153 of them are on the wall.

*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

VETERANS COUNCIL ANNOUNCES WREATH CAMPAIGN



Chairman Bill Dudley of the Veterans Council of St. Johns County has announced the annual drive for Wreaths Across America has begun.

The council is dedicated to ensuring that every headstone in the St. Augustine National Cemetery is adorned with a live holiday wreath this year. The council has successfully sponsored the drive for several years.

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 14, 2019 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.

Checks made payable to WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA may be sent to: Veterans Council of St. Johns County, P. O. Box 2117, St. Augustine, FL 32085-2117.

For any additional information please contact one of the campaign co-chairs, SGM (Ret) Ray Quinn at 904.797.5622 or CAPT George Linardos, USA (Fmr) at 904.495.6111.

The Veterans Council of St. Johns County would like to invite our St. Augustine community to Wreaths Across America Day, Saturday, December 14, 2019 at 12:00 pm (noon) at the St. Augustine National Cemetery on 104 Marine Street, next to the Florida National Guard Headquarters. Parking is at a premium so be sure to arrive early. Youth organizations are encouraged to participate to learn about and honor our veterans.



Wreaths Across America is dedicated to ensuring that headstones in all America's National Cemeteries are adorned with a live holiday wreath at Christmas.

A 12 year old paperboy for the Bangor Daily News named Morrill Worcester, now owner of Worcester Wreath Company of Harrington, Maine, won a trip to Washington D.C. Arlington National Cemetery made an especially indelible impression on him. Later in life, this experience reminded him that his good fortune was due to veterans, especially by those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

In 1992, the Worcester Wreath Company found themselves with a surplus of 5,000 wreaths nearing the end of the holiday season. Seeing an opportunity to honor our country's veterans arrangements were made for the surplus wreaths to be placed at Arlington National Cemetery, which included a special ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. This year we will place over 2 million wreaths at 1,640 National Cemeteries.

Donation levels for individual wreaths start as low \$15.00 per wreath. 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. 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.

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Navy to Navy Homes Llc
10605 Theresa Drive, Suite 5
Jacksonville, FL 32246
Office: 904-900-4776

The logo consists of the letters 'V4V' in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The number '4' is smaller and positioned between two larger 'V's. The letters are filled with a pattern of white stars on a dark blue background, reminiscent of the American flag.

Together We are Stronger

**Keeping our Veterans
Informed, Connected, United, and Organized**

V4VFlorida.org

Vets4VetsNJax@gmail.com

Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram: @Vets4VetsNJax

#vets4vetsjax #Jointhevetsmovement #Togetherwearestronger



Mission Statement:

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



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

What the Council has done:

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

SA-0003147064-01

POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER AWARENESS

NOT ALL WOUNDS ARE VISIBLE...

11%-20% OF
OEF/OIF VETERANS
SUFFER FROM
PTSD



SYMPTOMS:

- FLASHBACKS
- NIGHTMARES
- FEELING ON EDGE
- TROUBLE SLEEPING
- HYPERVIGILANCE
- OVERWHELMING GUILT OR SHAME
- LOSS OF INTEREST IN ENJOYABLE ACTIVITIES
- SELF-DESTRUCTIVE BEHAVIOR
- STAYING AWAY FROM PLACES, EVENTS, OR OBJECTS THAT ARE REMINDERS OF THE EXPERIENCE
- HAVING DIFFICULTY SLEEPING, AND/OR HAVING ANGRY OUTBURSTS
- NEGATIVE THOUGHTS ABOUT ONESELF OR THE WORLD
- FEELING EMOTIONALLY NUMB

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A question we all may have to ask some day. What should I do if a Veteran passes away?

SECTION 8 Partial list of action to be undertaken upon the death of veteran or retiree.

1. Contact Funeral Director to set-up funeral arrangements and Military Honors (PAFB Mortuary Affairs)
2. Notify Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) (<https://cust-support.dfas.mil/rapiti/nod/>) or call 1-888-332-741
3. Notify Veterans Administration 1-800-827-1000
4. Notify Social Security Administration 1-800-772-1213
5. Notify Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) 1-800-538-9552
6. Notify VA Life Insurance, if applicable 1-800-669-8477
7. Notify SGLI and VGLI Insurance, if applicable 1-800-419-1473
8. Notify Civil Service Retirement System, if applicable 1-888-767-6738
9. Obtain at least 10 certified copies of long form death certificate and 10 copies of short form death certificate from Funerary Directors
10. Notify Life insurance companies, and file appropriate claims
11. Notify Medical, health, disability, travel and accident insurance companies, and file appropriate claims
12. Notify Home owners insurance company
13. Notify Vehicle insurance company
14. Go to the County Property Appraiser's Office and transfer all real estate properties to surviving spouse.
15. Apply for widowed person's Homestead Exemption
16. Apply for appropriate (VA, Civil Service and other) benefits, if applicable
17. Apply for Veterans Burial Benefits and Survivor Benefits, if applicable
18. Check for non-government pension benefits, if applicable
19. Apply for Workmen's Compensation Benefits if applicable.
20. Notify your Accountant or Tax Preparer (unless Estate Lawyer is preparing the final tax returns) provide certified death certificate, previously filed tax return forms, and current earnings and dividend statements.
21. Notify your investment broker or company.
22. Change ownership of joint or solely owned stocks, mutual funds, etc.
23. Cancel any unfulfilled orders arranged by the deceased
24. Notify IRAs and other retirement and investment account administrators
25. Transfer the ownership of bonds
26. Notify your bank(s) and credit union(s)
27. Change all jointly held accounts and correct tax identification numbers (usually Social Security Numbers) (Leave joint accounts intact for 6 months)
28. Cancel direct deposit retirement benefit payments (for SBP, Civil Service and others, if applicable)
29. Re-establish the Title of your safe deposit box
30. Re-establish all outstanding mortgages, personal notes, etc.
31. Apply for any credit life insurance that may exist on loans, credit cards, and mortgages
32. Change Certificates of Deposit
33. Go to Department Of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to transfer titles of all registered vehicles, mobile homes and boats.
34. Notify all credit card companies and cancel all individually held cards of the deceased
35. Review trusts for required actions, if required.
36. If a Will must be probated, contact your attorney. Your name may also need to be revised.
37. Cancel the deceased's Voter Registration and Drivers License.
38. Obtain new military identification cards. Make appointment at <https://rapids-appointments.dmdc.osd.mil/default.asp> or contact Patrick AFB ID Card Section at 321-494-6144/6147
39. Send "Thank You" cards for flowers, memorial donations, food, etc.

From Nila Thompson



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


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



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


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



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

Confidential chat at MilitaryCrisisLine.net or text 838255

Veterans Councils of Northeast Florida



BAKER COUNTY

President: Larry Porterfield

Meetings:

Second Thursday of each month

Location:

**MacClenny Primitive Baptist Church
Fellowship Hall on North Boulevard**

Time: 1800 (6pm)

CLAY COUNTY

President: Harry Silvers

Meetings:

First Wednesday of each month

Location:

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

Time: 1400 (2pm)

NASSAU COUNTY

President: Doc Monaghan

Meetings:

First Thursday of each month

Location:

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

Time: 1900 (7pm)

DUVAL COUNTY

President: Steve Spickelmier

Meetings:

Third Tuesday of each month

Location:

**American Legion Post 137
Moon Building
5443 San Juan Avenue**

Time: 1900 (7pm)

ST. JOHNS COUNTY

President: Bill Dudley

Meetings:

Last Thursday of each month

Location:

**Health and Human Services Bldg
Muscovy Room, 1st Floor
200 San Sebastian View
St. Augustine, FL 3208**

Time: 1900 (7pm)

Contact Nila Thompson with updates
Nila.ThompsonV4V@gmail.com

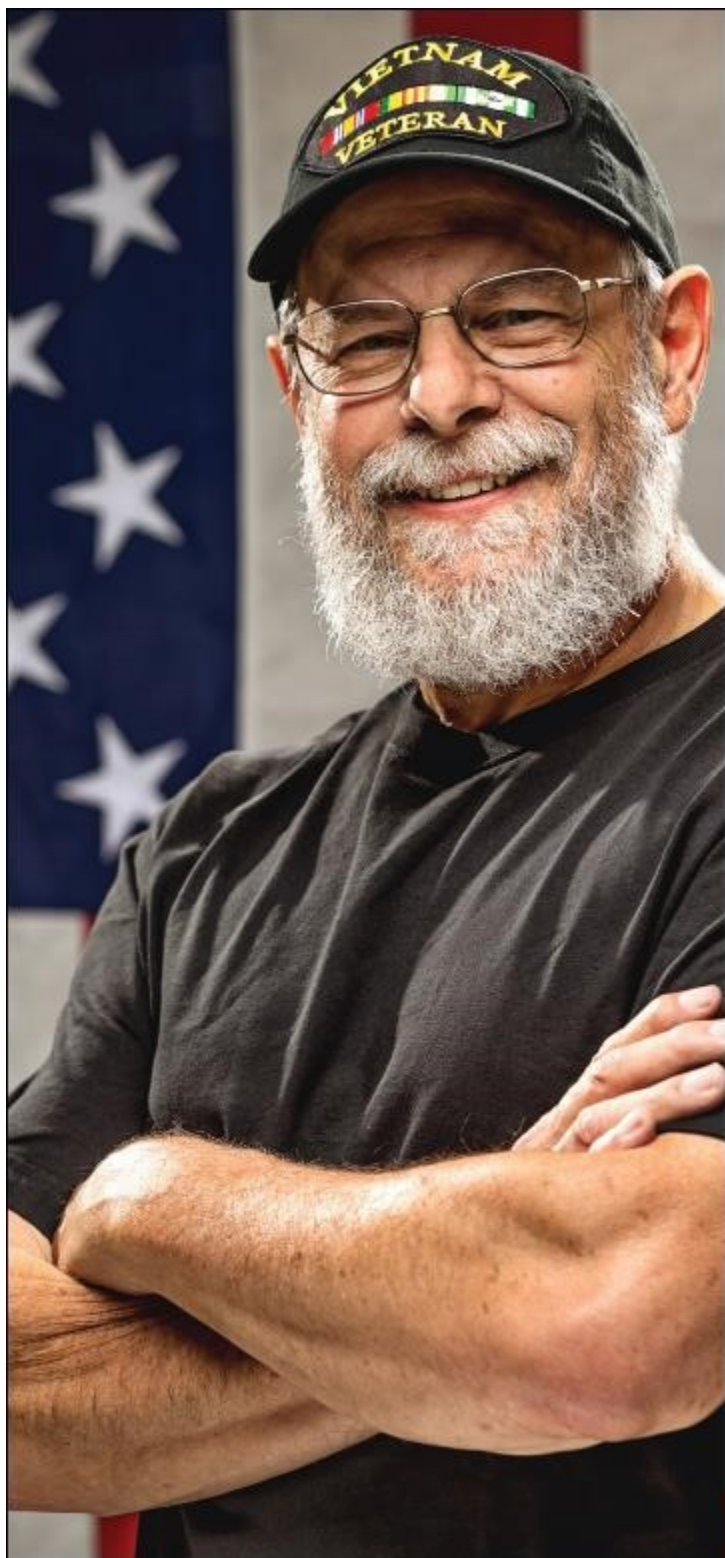
36 Granada Street, St. Augustine FL 32084

(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.



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.

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- ★ 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)**





COMMUNITY HOSPICE
VETERANS PARTNERSHIP

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 Facebook page.



We are inviting all veterans to visit our website at:

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

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

Please join our group on Facebook at:

<http://veteranscouncilsjc.org>

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

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

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

You may have noticed the Veterans Council's new logo, it was created by Roy Havekost and his web design company PageAuthors. The VC strongly recommends that you contact Roy, 727-487-6252, 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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*Veterans Council of St. Johns County,
"Helping All Veterans"*

The Veterans Council of St. Johns County welcomes article submissions from all County Veterans & organizations. Articles should be of interest to all and veterans related. Submissions may be edited &/or shortened and used if space permits.

Send to: rothfeldm@gmail.com



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

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

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

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

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

The Veterans Council will meet at the 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
Travis Neidig, 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.