



# The Patriot Reader Newsletter

P.O. Box 2117

St. Augustine, FL 32085

Bill Dudley, Publisher

Michael Rothfeld, Editor

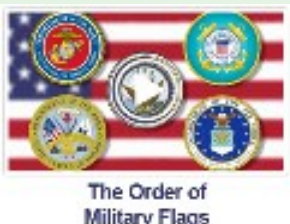
Volume 11, Issue 12

From Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley

December 2022

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Fellow Veterans,  
 The Veterans Council was very disappointed in the cancellation of our Veterans Day program on Nov. 11. However, due to the threatening winds and flooding from Hurricane Nicole, we were left with no alternative. The Veterans Day Committee had worked hard all year to put together an excellent program to honor all our veterans, especially those who had served in the longest military engagement in the history of our nation, The Global War on Terrorism. The committee met last week for an after action report and decided to use the same program in 2023 to honor those veterans who served during the GWOT. Over the years we have honored all veterans who have served in all wars since WW II including Korea and Vietnam. Next year

we will formally honor the GWOT men and women.

On Dec. 17, the Veterans Council will conduct our annual Wreaths Across America program at 12 noon at the St. Augustine National Cemetery on Marine St. For those wanting to volunteer to help, please plan to be at the cemetery at 10 AM to help unload the truck delivering the wreaths. The official program will begin at 12 noon.

As 2022 draws to an end, we reflect back over the year at our most concentrated effort in assisting veterans throughout the year. Totally unmatched by any other effort has been the Veterans Council endeavors to help homeless veterans find housing. The condition that has exasperated this need has been the lack of affordable housing in our area, the explosive growth of high end new



housing starts, and the high inflationary rate. This has caused a growing condition of homelessness and at risk veterans soon to be homeless in our area. The Veterans Council has housed many of these veterans in local motels, but in a popular tourist market such as ours, this is an extremely expensive way to provide shelter for our homeless veterans. We will continue to work with the City, County, VA and other agencies for a more suitable, permanent solution.

The Veterans Council wishes all our veterans and their families a Happy Holiday Season. Bill Dudley, Chairman Veterans Council of St. Johns County



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

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

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

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

Chairman: Padraic Mulvihill

Vice Chairman: Bill Dudley Treasurer: Pat Welch

Secretary: Kathy Church, Judge Advocate: Don Guthrie

Master-At-Arms: Mike Smith, Historian: Win Delpizzo

Chaplain: Pat Archuleta, Public Affairs: Pat Mulvihill

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

**Upcoming Veterans Council Meetings Speakers**



**Please note December date below has been changed due to Christmas**

**December 22, Dr Amelia Lyons, Univ. Central FL, Veterans Legacy Project; and Chaplain, Officer Kelly Kemp, SJSO**

**January 26, Jan Gay, VA Mental Health N FL  
Robert Covert, Veterans Oral History Project,  
St. Augustine Historical Society**

**February 23, 2023**

**James Bullock, Fort Mose History  
Dr George Cressman, Camp Blanding Museum**

The Veterans Council receives Proclamation  
from County Commissioners declaring  
November Veterans Appreciation month



# Honoring Florida's Veterans

The State of Florida established the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame in 2013 to recognize and honor those military veterans who, through their works and lives during or after military service, have made a significant contribution to the State of Florida. In selecting its nominees for submission to the Governor and Cabinet, the Council will give preference to veterans who were either born in Florida or adopted Florida as their home state. The individuals they choose will have made a significant contribution to the state in civic, business, public service, or other pursuits.

**The Class of 2022 is the 10th class to enter the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame.**

## Inductees include:

Mike Bousher, U.S. Army Veteran – Palm Harbor

Jeffery Cathey, Captain, U.S. Navy (Ret) – Tampa

Anthony D'Aleo, U.S. Army Veteran – Jacksonville

John Gionet, Sergeant Major, U.S. Marine Corps (Ret) – Orlando

Greg Holder, Colonel, U.S. Air Force (Ret) – Tampa

Don Lanman, U.S. Army Veteran – Rivera Beach

John Leslie, Commander, U.S. Navy (Ret) – St. Augustine

Gordon Lightfoot, U.S. Marine Corps Veteran – Tallahassee

Maxine Reyes, Captain, U.S. Army (Ret) – Tampa

Glenn Sutphin, Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army (Ret) – Tallahassee



# Presentation to SJSO, SAPD, SABPD Monday Nov 21 by the VC SJC and We Can Be Heroes Foundation with a Proclamation of support for Law Enforcement.



Chairman Dudley presenting the Proclamation

Beth Heath of We Can Be Heroes Foundation





# Northeast Florida MOWW Chapter #250



## National Veterans and Military Families Month, 2022 By The President of the United States A Proclamation

This month, our Nation honors the strength and sacrifices of the families, caregivers, and survivors of our veterans and our current service members. They may not wear uniforms, but their service is essential to our national security and the character of our Nation. We owe them a debt of gratitude that we can never fully repay.

Constant tours, deployments, and rotations are difficult for our military families. Jill and I have personally experienced the anxious pride that parents feel seeing their child in uniform. We have marveled at the devotion of military families and their resilience to uproot their lives every few years and move to new communities. We honor the stalwart courage and resolve of veteran families caring for their loved ones when their service in uniform concludes. We grieve alongside families of the fallen who have lost a piece of their soul. That is why I take so seriously the sacred obligation to prepare and equip our service members when we send them into harm's way and to care for them and their families when they return home.

Since coming to office, I have signed into law important expansions of services and benefits to support our veterans and their families, improved VA health care and benefits for veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances through the PACT Act, and made historic reforms to the military justice system that will enhance safety and protections for service members and their families impacted by sexual assault and domestic violence. The First Lady's Joining Forces initiative is helping military spouses find jobs, connecting military children with better education, and helping to ensure that military and veteran families, caregivers, and survivors have what they need to thrive. My Administration has also released a comprehensive public health strategy to reduce military and veteran suicides, which will guide our efforts to stand with families and protect the lives of our Nation's heroes.

To be a veteran or a service member is to have endured and survived challenges most Americans will never know. To be the family of one of those proud patriots is to sacrifice more for our country than most Americans will ever give. During National Veterans and Military Families Month, we pay homage to the unrelenting bravery and dedication of all who wear the uniform and to the unwavering love and support of all who serve alongside them. Families who put their lives on hold so our military can hold the line represent the best of America, and we will always remember what they do for our Nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR., President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 2022 as National Veterans and Military Families Month. I call upon the people of the United States to honor veterans and military families with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirty-first day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-seventh.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR.

[View Proclamation on WhiteHouse.gov](https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2022/10/31/proclamation-national-veterans-and-military-families-month-2022)

Although we had to cancel this year's Veterans Day Program due to inclement weather Madeline Poe and the SJC Chamber Singers still wanted to honor our veterans by putting together a Patriotic Medley video as shown in the link below.

Just imagine these 90 voices on stage in black gowns and tux proclaiming the spirit of America in song.

Bill Dudley

Hello,

We quickly recorded The Patriotic Medley and the Armed Services Songs today in honor of Veterans day. You are welcome to share this with the committee or anyone else you believe would enjoy this video.

[https://www.canva.com/design/DAFReB4VK9M/L2sZZGpfythDMCLcQpqMLQ/watch?utm\\_content=DAFReB4VK9M&utm\\_campaign=designshare&utm\\_medium=link&utm\\_source=publishsharelink](https://www.canva.com/design/DAFReB4VK9M/L2sZZGpfythDMCLcQpqMLQ/watch?utm_content=DAFReB4VK9M&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link&utm_source=publishsharelink)

Sincerely, Madeline Poe, St Augustine High School Chorale Director



FOR EVERY HERO, A STONE  
FOR EVERY STONE, A WREATH.



WREATHS *across* AMERICA





**August 1, 2022**

**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 17 2022 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 the campaign chair, SGM (Ret) Ray Quinn at 904.797.5622.**





## *Here's what's next for the USS Orleck*

*By Kaitlyn McCue — Reporter, Jacksonville Business Journal*

*Opening to the public roughly a month ago, there are big plans for continued success and growth of the iconic USS Orleck, currently moored at the Riverwalk.*

*Soon to move to Pier 1 but without a specific date yet, the ship has brought in nearly 10,000 visitors since it moved to Jacksonville, according to Daniel Bean, Naval Museum Association president. The ship has hosted events like weddings and promotion ceremonies, with others such as comedy nights and many Veterans Day celebrations with hundreds of people to come.*

*Though the ship holds such a strong note of history within its walls, the key to its success is modernization and continued adaptability with a focus on moving forward and continuing to bring in visitors.*

*“The ultimate goal is to be relevant. To be a thing for people to come and see and do, so we want it to be as interactive as possible,” Bean said.*

*This goal is to truly activate the river as a place to visit and interact with, not only the Orleck but with partnerships between it and the hotels, museums, zoo and other spaces surrounding it. The ship already has partnerships with some, including the Icemen and the Jaguars, with the cheerleaders visiting in November.*

*This week, the lights on the ship will be blue and orange to show support for the Florida-Georgia game, and on Sundays the plan is to be the “Roar Ship” for the Jaguars.*

*“Our studies project a \$3 to \$4 million impact annually from people visiting, staying at the hotels, things like that,” Bean said. “Relevancy is the big thing, and being able to change, to constantly evolve so people know that just because they’ve seen it once doesn’t mean they’ve seen it all.”*

*Another goal for the future, according to Bean, is to have people stay overnight aboard the ship.*

*This would include a night on the ship functioning as an Airbnb, with partnerships from the local hotels to provide food and drink menus, but also the option for Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and other groups to stay aboard the ship to learn about its rich history.*

*Other modernizations of the ship aside from events and the desire to bring in visitors include upcoming upgrades to the ship like air conditioning units to certain spaces and a sound system.*



## Help Young Marines Learn World War II History First-Hand

A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to participate in  
D-Day Remembrance at Normandy

Help Atlantic Coast Young Marines Fulfill Their  
Dream



The Young Marines are dreaming of a trip to France and Germany for June 3 - 15, 2023, with the Unit Commander and Adult Volunteers. They will participate in the D-Day Remembrance Ceremony on-site, as well as meet some of our remaining veterans from this era. They plan to visit the Beaches of Normandy, museums, cemeteries, and memorials dedicated to the lives sacrificed for the freedom of our country and world. From France, on to

### World War II sites in Germany.

The trip will cost roughly \$4,500 per Young Marine, and they hope to bring 20. The Young Marines are working hard and raised \$9,000 as of Oct 18th, as pictured above on their Donation Goal Tracker, with car washes, tables around town at events and stores, silent auctions, drawings, and even door-to-door donation drives in their neighborhoods.

**WE CAN BE HEROES FOUNDATION** is raising funds to sponsor this once-in-a-lifetime educational trip. These remarkable and loving youth spend hundreds of hours helping veterans and our communities while they focus on building the leadership, discipline, and teamwork of the Young Marines. They've earned our support.

Here's how you can help with your tax-deductible donations of money, gift cards, or merchandise:

Donate with PayPal by clicking [here](#). Enter “Young Marines Trip” in the “Write a Note” box, or Mail checks, gift cards or gift certificates to the address shown below.

Donate new or like new items and gift baskets/gift boxes for the silent auctions at the Pearl Harbor Remembrance on December 3rd and our later events.

Email: [Honor@WeCanBeHeroesFoundation.org](mailto:Honor@WeCanBeHeroesFoundation.org) or call 904 373-8817 to arrange your merchandise donations from now through April.

From Kathy Church

Missing In America Project made national news yesterday on MSNBC and CNN. We need this exposure to get more volunteers. Hopefully and locations that have unclaimed cremains will reach out to us as well. Having thr support from the VA is a big plus.

Many thanks going out to the team that was sent to the South Florida National Cemetery on Oct 27th to video MI-AP-Call to Honor #31. They sent in 2 camera men, news anchor and a producer. They got all the info correct about MIAP.

I am so honored to be involved with this Project.

Kathy Church

[miap.us](http://miap.us)



## Nearly two dozen unclaimed veterans, their spouses get final resting place at South Florida National Cemetery

By Caleb Califano

LAKE WORTH, Fla. —

On Thursday, October 27, 22 veterans and spouses of veterans, who've remained unclaimed for years, finally have a resting place at the South Florida National Cemetery.

The Missing in America Project's goal is to work with private, state, and federal organizations to give these veterans a final resting place.

The remains, brought in carefully selected urns, were delivered by representatives from the Patriot Guard Riders as well as law enforcement and fire rescue crews from Palm Beach County.

"These veterans joined the military; they did their time. They were given the promise that they never would be forgotten. Never be left behind," said Todd Newkirk the director of the South Florida National Cemetery.

Thousands of veterans and spouses see their remains unburied, sometimes for decades, whether that be from miscommunication with the family or many other reasons.

"We should do this. No one should go unclaimed but definitely no one in the service or spouse and family of a service person,"



**VETERANS COUNCIL OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY**

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**THURSDAY OCTOBER 27, 2022**

**CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Dudley**

**WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS: Chairman Dudley**

**PLEDGE: Chairman Dudley**

**INVOCATION: Vice Chairman Quinn**

**OPENING: Chairman Dudley** asked first time attendees to introduce themselves and offered a standing invitation to all and asked that they take an active part.

**MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: Chairman Dudley** stated that the minutes of the last meeting were posted on our website as well as our Facebook page. He further announced that copies were available on our sign in table. He asked for discussion and then asked for a motion to accept the minutes as written. Receiving a first and second motion the minutes were accepted by vote.

**TREASURERS REPORT: Treasurer John Mountcastle** walked the membership through a thorough report of the council's financial standing. He stated the current cash balance at Ameris Bank is \$122,262.06. All disbursements and deposits were itemized. He noted that our greatest expense continues to be furnishing temporary lodging for homeless veterans.

**GUEST SPEAKER: Joe Snowberger**

Joe offered a presentation about Mission United. Mission United is a part of United Way and is dedicated to helping veterans and active duty. He



stated one in four of the military population is a veteran, active- duty service member or family of either. Mission United helps military veterans and their families acclimate back into civilian life by affording them the services and support they need. Operated through United Way 211, Mission United in NE Florida provides navigation and care coordination at no charge to the active- duty military, veterans, and their families.

**GUEST SPEAKER: Ron Hasty**

Ron provided an overview of the Brain Wellness Program of University of Florida Health. The UF Brain Wellness Program provides clinical care for military veterans and other adults experiencing persistent health problems associated with mild to moderate traumatic brain injuries, or TBIs. The goal is to aid in the healing process and provide treatment options by using a holistic approach. TBI's and post-traumatic stress have affected nearly one of every three deployed military personnel since 2001. Help is available through this program by filing an application. To learn more about eligibility screenings call 904.244.3289.

**VETERAN SERVICE OFFICER UPDATE:** Joe McDermott provided an update on the backlog of claims at St. Louis. A number of temporary employees have been hired to work the tremendous backlog of claims. It is estimated that even with doubling the number of employees it could take two years to get back to business as usual. Joe also cautioned all to be very careful not to endanger their disability payments by participating in the Camp LeJeune lawsuit. He did not say do not participate he stated to be very careful that you make a wrong decision.

**VETERANS TREATMENT COURT:** John Leslie provided an update on the

number of participants on board at present and the number of graduates. He encouraged the council attendees to consider attending a session to learn more about the program.

**WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA:** Ray Quinn provided a brief update. He stated that donations are coming in much slower this year. We are only six weeks away from the end date of donations. If you or your organization has not made a donation, please consider to do so now. Wreaths are \$15.00 for one wreath, purchase two wreaths at \$30.00 and we received a third wreath free. Please remember we will need volunteers on 17 December 2022!

**CHAIRMAN REMARKS:**

Chairman Dudley's remarks focused on the upcoming Veterans Day Program to be held at Anastasia Baptist Church on Nov. 11, 2022. Maj. Gen. John Hass will be the keynote speaker. The theme is the Global War on Terrorism. Anyone who served in any military branch between Oct. 2001 – Aug. 2021 is considered to have served in the GWOT and will be recognized.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

William Dudley, Chairman

Ray A. Quinn, Vice Chairman

The next meeting of the Veterans Council will be on  
Thursday, December 22, 2022



The State of Florida established the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame in 2011 to recognize and honor those military veterans who, through their works and lives during and after military service, have made a significant contribution to the State of Florida, their city, town and community through civic, business, public service and other worthy pursuits.



The Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame Society, Inc. was formed in 2019 as a supportive non-profit organization to provide financial and administrative support to the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs and the Florida Veterans Foundation as requested to insure the continuing success of the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame.

**JOHN LESLIE**

[Leslie \(fvhofsociety.org\)](http://www.fvhofsociety.org)

<https://www.fvhofsociety.org/leslie.html>



**ANTHONY D'ALE**

[D'Aleo \(fvhofsociety.org\)](http://www.fvhofsociety.org)

<https://www.fvhofsociety.org/daleo.html>



# Cohen Clinic at Centerstone Town Hall: Highlighting Women Veterans of Distinction

Please join us for an in-person/online town hall meeting highlighting three extraordinary Women Veteran leaders; Vice Admiral (ret) Mary M. Jackson, Rear Admiral (ret) Patricia E. Wolfe, and Brigadier General (ret) Valeria Gonzalez-Kerr.

They will share their extraordinary military experiences as they rose to the Flag Officer rank and talk about the achievements, challenges, and disappointments for themselves and their families.



Vice Admiral (ret) Mary M. Jackson



Rear Admiral (ret) Patricia E. Wolfe



Brigadier General (ret) Valeria Gonzalez-Kerr

**Wednesday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**11:30 am – 1:15 pm ET (10:30 am – 12:15 pm CT)**

**The Cohen Clinic at Centerstone, 7011 A.C. Skinner Parkway Jacksonville, FL 32256**



Our town hall moderator is another woman of achievement, WJXL 1010AM sports broadcaster, Lauren Brooks. Lauren has a passion for sports and is one of the top sports personalities in the Jacksonville area.

**This town hall is available both in-person and online. Tickets and registration are free.**

To attend in-person, please register here  
<https://bit.ly/3ETIUQH>

To attend online, please register here  
<https://bit.ly/3VCgnUF>

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Cohen Clinic at Centerstone in Jacksonville by phone at 904-431-3500 or email at [cohenFL@centerstone.org](mailto:cohenFL@centerstone.org)



The Steven A. Cohen  
Military Family Clinic  
at Centerstone

## From Kathy Beaudoin Church, MIAP-FL, State Coordinator

**MISSING IN AMERICA PROJECT - FL - CALL TO HONOR #31** was held at the South Florida National Cemetery on Thursday, October 27, 2022 at 10:00am.

For this service we interred 18 veterans and 6 spouses of veterans. We had veterans from all Branches of the Service which spanned WWI, WWII, Korea and Vietnam. The longest that anyone set unclaimed dated back to 1959. We reunited on spouse and veterans during this service. We also sent spousal cremains to the Long Island National Cemetery, New York. She is now interred with her veteran husband after 18 long years.

Our service could not be completed without the dedicated work of some **AWESOME** volunteers that do all the research, data base entry, and so much more. Also many, many veteran organizations that participate in these services.

We continue to look for more volunteers in Florida. If you are interested in volunteering with MIAP-FL please contact me. Please visit our website @miap.us

Kathy Church, MIAP-FL, State Coordinator

Region 7 Coordinator, [miapjax@yahoo.com](mailto:miapjax@yahoo.com)



# USO Holidays

**65th ANNUAL PAL DAY**  
**ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA**  
**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2022**  
**10:00 TO 5:00PM**

## **FREE PARKING**

·**HISTORIC DOWNTOWN PARKING FACILITY (1 CORDOVA STREET)** - adjacent to the Visitor's Center. Just present your "valid" military I.D. card and say you are visiting for PAL Day! (Note: The parking garage fills up early on this day, SO, come early!) There will also be a free park and shuttle available.

## **FREE LUNCH – 10:30AM TO 3:00PM**

### **ELKS LODGE**

1420 A1A, South  
ST. AUGUSTINE  
(904) 471-2829

## **ATTRACTIONS**

- ALLIGATOR FARM, 999 ANASTASIA BLVD
- LIGHTNER MUSEUM, 75 KING STREET
- POTTER'S WAX MUSEUM, 31 ORANGE STREET
- ST. AUGUSTINE SCENIC CRUISE, 111 MENENDEZ AVENUE (MARINA)
- SPANISH MILITARY HOSPITAL MUSEUM, 3 AVILES STREET
- RIPLEY'S BELIEVE IT OR NOT MUSEUM, 19 SAN MARCO AVENUE
- OLD TOWN TROLLEY TOURS, 167 SAN MARCO AVENUE
- OLD TOWN JAIL, 167 SAN MARCO AVENUE
- OLD STORE MUSEUM, 167 SAN MARCO AVENUE
- ST AUGUSTINE HISTORY MUSEUM, 167 SAN MARCO AVENUE
- SAN SEBASTIAN WINERY, 157 KING STREET
- ST AUGUSTINE DISTILLERY, 112 RIBERIA STREET
- ST AUGUSTINE LIGHTHOUSE & MUSEUM, 81 LIGHTHOUSE AVENUE
- CASTILLO DE SAN MARCO NATIONAL MONUMENT, 1 SOUTH CASTILLO DRIVE (NOTE: Active duty military members and their dependents qualify for a FREE annual pass! Present your valid CAC or dependent ID (DOD Form 1173) for your FREE Annual Pass.)
- FORT MATANZAS NATIONAL MONUMENT, 1 SOUTH CASTILLO DRIVE (NOTE: Active duty military members and their dependents qualify for a FREE annual pass! Present your valid CAC or dependent ID (DOD Form 1173) for your FREE Annual Pass.)
- ST AUGUSTINE PIRATE AND TREASURE MUSEUM, 12 SOUTH CASTILLO DRIVE
- ST AUGUSTINE COLONIAL TOURS, 14 SOUTH CASTILLO DRIVE
- XIMENEZ-FATIO HOUSE MUSEUM, 20 AVILES STREET
- VILLA ZORAYDA MUSEUM, 83 KING STREET



# Annual Pearl Harbor Remembrance Luncheon



## And Presentation Honoring World War II Veterans

# Sunday December 4, 2022

### VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena - 300 A. Philip Randolph

### Meet-and-Greet 11:15 a.m.; Luncheon 12pm-1pm followed by Presentation

The keynote speaker will be Capt. James Ransom III, Ret. USN, presenting unforgettable stories of the attack on Pearl Harbor and World War II.

Ransom is a 1980 graduate of the U. S. Naval Academy. He holds a B.S. in history and an M.A. in national security and strategic studies from the Naval War College. He served as a submarine officer following a career that included commanding U.S.S. Miami during strike operations against Iraq and Serbia.

He was awarded the Bronze Star, and his crew was recognized with the 1999 Battenberg Cup, awarded to the best ship in the Atlantic Fleet.

Ransom is an adjunct professor for the Naval War College's College of Distance Education, teaching the Strategy & War Fleet Seminar in Mayport.

Among those in attendance will be veterans, Atlantic Coast Young Marines and local nominees for Community Unsung Heroes.

**Keynote Speaker**



**Capt. James Ransom III,  
USN Ret.**

**D-Day Heroes Presentation**

## Early Bird Tickets \$28 / 8-Person Table \$196

Veterans and Gold Star Families receive 10% Discount

Seating is limited. Go to Events at [WeCanBeHeroesFoundation.org](http://WeCanBeHeroesFoundation.org)

or mail check to:

We Can Be Heroes

14286-19 Beach Blvd. #120

Jacksonville, FL 32250.

HOSTED BY



*We Can Be Heroes*<sup>®</sup>  
FOUNDATION

Educate. Honor. Inspire. *Serve.*

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 904-373-8817**

FLORIDA REGISTRATION #CH48313 A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800-435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE

Your table can be reserved in honor of your hero, veteran, first responder, or loved one. Display pictures and memorabilia of your hero in the center of your table. A placard honoring your hero will highlight your reserved table. Tables can be reserved for your family, group, or organization.

We Can Be Heroes Foundation | 904-373-8817 | 501(c)3 Nonprofit Public Foundation

## National League of POW/MIA Families

SE Region unveiling of "The Men Are the Mission" ...now we see their faces on black granite.

"For the Families with shattered hearts, actively seeking their loved ones return home" inscribed on the poster. All 1,582 faces of our missing and unaccounted-for Vietnam War Veterans.



# From American Legion 5th District FL

## **IMPORTANT VETERAN INFORMATION**

Every spouse of a veteran should have in his/her personal file the following:

- Veteran's Birth Certificate - 3 copies
- Spouse's Birth Certificate - 3 copies
- Children's Birth Certificate - 3 copies
- Certificate of Marriage - 3 copies
- Wills (for veteran & spouse) - 2 copies
- Spouse's Social Security number
- Veteran's Social Security number
- Discharge papers - 2 copies
- Separation records - 2 copies
- V.A. "C" number
- G.I. Insurance Policy Number
- All Insurance Policies with addresses and numbers. (Originals needed)
- Cemetery plot or vault locations and numbers
- Death Certificates and divorce decree of all prior marriages (if applicable)

Copies of the following are needed to file a Claim for Death Benefit:

- Certificate of Marriage
- Birth Certificate of minor children
- Death Certificates or divorce decrees of all prior marriages on either side
- Service discharge papers
- Service separation papers
- V.A. "C" number
- Social Security number of both parties
- V.A. insurance papers
- Proof of Death Certificate (minimum 4 copies)
- Bills from Funeral Home

ALL originals should be kept in a safety deposit box or equivalent.

NEVER release an ORIGINAL copy.

APPOINT an administrator for minor children.

FURTHER ASSISTANCE: contact your County Veterans' Service Officer

**Please share with your contacts.**

**All are invited to hear two very  
interesting speakers.**



**St. Johns County**  
Board of County Commissioners

## **St. Johns County Veterans Council December Meeting**

- Meeting date moved for Christmas holiday
- Thursday, December 22 | 7:00 p.m. | 200 San Sebastian View
- Speaker | Chaplain Kelly Kemp, SJSO, Speaking about Community Involvement
- Speaker | Dr. Amelia Lyons, "UCF Veteran Legacy Program"

**For more information, please call 904.209.6160.**





SERVING VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

55 Bank Street | Sussex, NJ | 07461 | 973-875-2068 | EIN 81-1804210

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Join us as we gather resources for Project Help in Jacksonville FL.

Beginning in December, Project will be interviewing for non-paid internships and volunteers. They have a number of events and tasks to share with the public and getting the word out requires some help.

Who are the best candidates for these tasks? Recent retirees, students and graduates from college who have some writing skills, social media, organizational skills and grant writing experience.

If you have couple of hours a week to contribute, you will gain some useful skills and things you can use on your resume down the road. Being an intern makes you part of the team that drives Project Help's success. If you are looking for a more permanent position, you can become a volunteer and even grow into a board position or team leader.

The Project Help mission is to assist military and veterans through difficult situations and facilitate a path to success. "We work with the homeless and forgotten heroes who are down on their luck as well as those who have simply fallen upon hard times", said Kyle Mitchell, VP of Operations for Project Help.

If you think this sounds like something you want to be involved with, please contact Kyle at (904) 304-6228 for an application and a conversation or you can go to their website at [www.ProjectHelp.us](http://www.ProjectHelp.us) and click on the Volunteer button on the home page and fill out the form online and you will be contacted by Kyle or his representative.



## ATTENTION: MILITARY MEN CURRENTLY IN TRANSITION AND/OR VETERANS

**Have you been looking for help and direction  
but getting very slow or no response?**

Project Help has a program just for you, coming in January 2023

A peer to peer support group offering a safe place to:

- Connect with other veterans
- Have open discussions, share experiences & problem solve
- Make new friends and help each other navigate the hurdles of life after service
- Meet and learn from other veterans who have successfully transitioned

**A WARRIOR'S**  
*Welcome*

**LEARN MORE & REGISTER AT**  
[projecthelp.us/warriorwelcome](https://projecthelp.us/warriorwelcome)



# The Jacksonville Naval Museum Hours

**OPEN**  
**BUSINESS HOURS**

<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>	<b>TO</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>	<b>TO</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>9AM</b>	<b>TO</b>	<b>3PM</b>
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>9AM</b>	<b>TO</b>	<b>3PM</b>
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>9AM</b>	<b>TO</b>	<b>3PM</b>
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>9AM</b>	<b>TO</b>	<b>4PM</b>
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>10AM</b>	<b>TO</b>	<b>4PM</b>

**LAST GROUP ON 30  
MINUTES BEFORE CLOSING**

Made with PosterMyWall.com

## From Lynn Geiser

We started the H4V Peer2Peer Therapeutic Art Program in Jacksonville at Cohen A Stevens Veteran Center and they supported us by sponsoring art supplies and their facilities. Other Veteran Organizations want to strengthen the military women population in Volusia and St John County also. H4V was asked to start a 6 week program in-person for Military women veterans and Spouses in 3 counties. Starting at the end of January 2023 we would like to offer a group in St Augustine and in Volusia county collaborating with MOAA and Counselors in the area. Duval county will be offered again at Steven A Cohen Veteran Centerstone.

We are always seeking volunteer military women that have backgrounds in facilitating, art and any other holistic way to help military women. If your interested in being a volunteer or teach a class for January class in either Volusia / St John or Duval counties or would like to participate please email me at [Lgeiser@Hope4veterans.org](mailto:Lgeiser@Hope4veterans.org) or check out our website@ [www.Hope4veterans.org](http://www.Hope4veterans.org)

### Art Therapy for Military Women

**Purpose:** Art Therapy to build a special connection between our military sisters. Bring a small group military woman together to prevent isolation and suicide but also to feel safe, comfortable, and fun to start sharing any struggles they may need help with. Connecting them to resources that are needed such as counseling, claims and financial. Women struggle seeking help but when you bring fun social activities women tend to come together and talk with one another.

**Time Frame:** Art therapy class would be 2-3hrs depending on intensity and struggles within the group. Allowing 1-1.5 hours to allow our military Women to explore their unconscious and struggles through art. 1.5 hours to reconnect after the project in a small group to talk about their projects. It will vary depending on where the military women are and what stages of recovery they are at, but we will meet them at where they are at.

**Materials:** Military Women can use any of the tools to create their masterpiece. Tools may include paint, canvas, scissors, magazine clippings, pastel, pencils, colored pencils, art products such as masks, clothing, and any safe products to be creative with their masterpiece. Tools will be provided by Hope4veterans and the community. We will be offered a few small projects to lead to a masterpiece.

**Vision in the group:** During the 1.5 hours they can explore their art ideas with the help of facilitators and counselors. After the 1.5 hours we come together in a small group for 1.5 hours to encourage them to talk about what they did as a project, how they felt and what are some thoughts that came up while drawing, writing or any art project that they started. If they struggle or are not ready to tell, ask permission if we can ask the group what they think of the art project. Share around the room. Encourage each woman if they felt they enjoyed the group next session to bring other military women to the group and/or ideas for art they would love to try or learn. Our goal is to bring women together and prevent isolation and suicide. Ask military women to help the group by utilizing their skills and talents. Hope4veterans also provides monthly meet & greets and/or fun activities for our women and 1-2 events per year for our families.

**Group rules:** Positive encouragement, clean up your area, encourage participation by bringing in fun ideas and allowing women to lead the project in some classes.

**Other Creative ideas:** Can add exterior/interior masks, Lanterns, Mandala, dreamcatcher, Wine glass art, Art Journaling, Paint to music, Vision board, Tie Blankets, Jewelry making, Mind mapping, egg painting, Family tree, Rock

Paintings, Forgiveness letters, Dream Drawing, Tile Art, Collage your vision and goals. Snow globes, Canvas bag art, pre drawn art add your touch.

**Other additional:** teaching mediation, breathing techniques, and other forms of relaxation before and after depending on the group dynamics.

### **Women Peer2Peer Therapeutic Art**

#### **6 week class over 3 month time frame (Every 2 weeks)**

1. First meeting Art therapy
  - A. Group rules/ Instructions
  - B. Pre-Questionnaire/ survey
  - C. Journal/ Fancy Pen- given for projects outside class and resources
  - D. Break ice introduction/activities- Unmasking
  - E. H4V bring plain sketch pictures to color and write notes
  - F. Art support group talk about colors, meaning, feelings and thoughts/ Ice breaking
  
1. Second meeting Art therapy
  - A. Work on a tree adding growth/ positive journey
  - B. Adding your own Art with all Art tools provided/pencil/color/paint/cutting
  - C. Bring in next session a photo and/or inspiration quote that resonates toward growth
  - D. Art Support group talk about drawings, positive feedback, and meanings and next week project
  
2. Third meeting Art Therapy
  - A. Jewelry- inspiration positive words bracelet or necklace
  - B. Wine Painting/Glass painting/ Canvas painting
  - C. Art Support Group talks about art projects. Feelings, thoughts, and our goals/vision next week
  
3. Fourth meeting Art Therapy
  - A. Vision/ Goal Board positive affirmation
  - B. Drawing bubbles positive affirmations

- C. Art Support group talk about art project, feelings, thoughts and next week project
- 4. Fifth meeting Art therapy
  - A. Building trust in group- group member suggestion teaches an activity
  - B. Affirmation Jar
  - C. Art Support group talk about art project, feelings thoughts and next week project
- 5. Sixth week Art Therapy
  - A. Post survey/ questionnaire
  - B. Tell her story by art/ writing work as a team
  - C. Additional hands-on projects group decides
  - D. Art support talk about art project, feelings, thoughts, and future connections/events

During these 6 weeks our goal is build connection and trust within our group; Women Veterans and Women Spouses, to understand unconsciously, her strengths and challenges through Therapeutic art. As the founder and a Women Veteran herself, she went through Art therapy which discovered her unconscious emotions and thoughts. Each time she sees awareness within her artwork and others. She saw a positive change and self confidence within her clients and herself. Combining Peer2Peer Sister, Social monthly fun events, Therapeutic art and helping our women obtain the benefits they deserve and earned. Statistics have been shown by word of mouth and surveys to improve health and well-being. Hope4Veterans goals is to prevent isolation, homelessness, and suicide for our Women Veterans in Florida. That includes finding our military women.

Therapeutic Art Projects is geared to Honor, recognize, and hear HER voice in March and November Fundraiser/ gala events each year. In the Gala we will display their Therapeutic Art and be recognized for their art (Pinning them at the gala – Dog tags (Women Veteran Proud). Our counselors help bring awareness and walk them through any struggles or challenges they may face and if they need more 1 one 1 then we have the option because we have a counselor at the end of sessions.



## From Debra Cox

So a great day in spite of the storm. This group helped feed the Veterans at the Lassen VA home in St Augustine. It was humbling, sad sometimes but rewarding to meet and listen to these veterans. The oldest is 101 years old. Thank you to this group for coming out in horrible weather and thanked our Veterans.





## **How the PACT Act is Already Helping Veterans**

**Veterans are applying for benefits and  
VA is expediting delivery**

The PACT Act is a historic new law that will help VA provide health care and benefits to millions of toxic-exposed Veterans and their survivors. Since President Biden signed the PACT Act into law on August 10, VA has been hard at work implementing this landmark bipartisan legislation—and Veterans have already begun to apply for the benefits they've earned and deserve.

Here's an update on what's happened since August 10th:

**Veterans are applying for the PACT Act benefits they deserve**

The day after the PACT Act was signed into law (August 11), Veterans set an all-time record for filing online disability compensation claims. Since the PACT Act was signed, Veterans have filed more than 200,000 total claims—an increase of more than 21% over the same period last year. And to date, VA has already received more than 70,000 PACT Act-related claims from Veterans since August 10.

**Thousands of Veterans participated in toxic exposure screening pilot**

As a part of the PACT Act, VA will begin providing 5-minute toxic exposure screenings to all Veterans enrolled in VA health care. On September 6, VA began a pilot of this program—screening 13,380 Veterans across 12 medical centers over a 2-week period, and finding a 37.4% concern of exposure among those Veterans. These results will help VA make toxic exposure screenings available to all Veterans in early November, and more importantly, make sure that VA provides all toxic-exposed Veterans with the care they need and the benefits they deserve.



VA expedited the timeline to deliver benefits to Veterans as soon as possible

Instead of phasing-in conditions over the coming years (as outlined in the legislation), the Biden Administration decided to make all conditions in the PACT Act presumptive for benefits as of August 10, the day the bill was signed into law. We will begin processing these benefits on the earliest date possible, which is January 1.

VA will expand health care eligibility in October

On October 1, VA will expand and extend eligibility for VA health care for certain Veterans of the Gulf Wars and post-9/11 era. This expansion will increase health care eligibility for hundreds of thousands of toxic-exposed Veterans. Additionally, VA has already expanded health care eligibility for certain Veterans of the Vietnam War. More detailed information about this expansion can be found on [VA.gov/PACT](https://www.va.gov/PACT).

Meeting Veterans where they are

Within minutes of the PACT Act passing the Senate, VA launched [VA.gov/PACT](https://www.va.gov/PACT)—a one-stop-shop website where Veterans and their families can learn about the PACT Act and apply for health care or benefits. This website, which is available in English and Spanish, has garnered nearly 2.5 million views to date.

Apply now. VA encourages Veterans and survivors to apply now for the PACT Act-related benefits and care they deserve. All Veterans and survivors can go to [VA.gov/PACT](https://www.va.gov/PACT) or call us at 1-800-MYVA411 to learn more about what this legislation means for them.

## Thanksgiving

I'm thankful for the Camp Blanding Museum! Why? A critical part of our Museum mission is to educate - educate young people about the devotion and sacrifice of so many Americans during World War II; educate families about the service of family members; educate serving soldiers about the history of Camp Blanding; and educate community organizations about why men and women continue to serve our Country. At the Camp Blanding Museum, we take this mission very seriously and we work at it every day!

I very much encourage you to support our mission. We are working to expand the Museum so we can tell more of the Camp Blanding story. That story continues to evolve, and we are dedicated to making the story fresh and relevant to those serving today, veterans and families.

Please help us! Make a Thanksgiving donation to the Museum expansion fund; your support is truly appreciated!

I'm Thankful for the Camp Blanding Museum

Dr. George Cressman

Museum Staff Historian



# ST. AUGUSTINE COLONIAL NIGHT WATCH

*Saturday, December 3, 2022*

A Commemoration of St. Augustine's Colonial  
History under Spanish and British Authority

## 1739-1784

**All Day Saturday:**

Black Powder and Military Arts Demonstrations  
Colonial Quarter Museum

*The St. Augustine Colonial Night Watch*

# PARADE

*From the Castillo de San Marcos to the  
Governor's Palace on the Plaza, Saturday at*

## 7:00 P.M.



ST. JOHNS COUNTY TOURIST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL  
ST. AUGUSTINE | PONTE VIELDA  
*Florida's Historic Coast*



- Hosted by the Colonial Quarter Living History Museum -  
- Presented by the St. Augustine 1740 Spanish Garrison and Affiliated Participants -





**BATTLE OF THE BULGE MILITARIA SHOW**  
**DECEMBER 17, 2022, 9AM - 4PM**  
**MILITARY MUSEUM OF NORTH FLORIDA**  
**1 BUNKER AVE., GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FL. 32043**

**SHOW TABLE SPOTS: \$20**  
**CALL: John Murphy @**  
**(904) 263-3950**

- **MILITARY ANTIQUES**
- **HISTORIC MILITARY VEHICLES**
- **REENACTORS**
- **BAGPIPERS**
- **ROCK BAND**

- **FREE ADMSSION**
- **FREE PARKING**
- **FREE MUSEUM ENTRY**

## VETERANS WANTED

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

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



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

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



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

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

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

Unfortunately, the current limited commercial airline schedule from our Jacksonville Airport is not sufficient to provide our Veterans the experience they deserve in Washington D.C. Therefore, we have decided to postpone our planned October 2022 flight to April 2023.

We're making great progress towards an April 2023 flight which will allow us to bring more Veterans and allow more time for the true experience that we want to be able to give our Veterans.

Stay tuned for more information.

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

### **Your First Coast Honor Flight Team**

**Candace Mabry, Fundraising Director, First Coast Honor Flight**

**904-708-2445, [cmabryfchf@gmail.com](mailto:cmabryfchf@gmail.com), [www.firstcoasthonorflight.org](http://www.firstcoasthonorflight.org)**

*"We can't all be heroes, because somebody has to sit on the curb and applaud as they go by"*

-Will Rogers

## Good News: Centenarian served in Africa, Italy and Germany with Gen. Patton

Staff Writer: Florida Times-Union

From Phil and COL Jane Karp, USAF ret.

William Tatel August 5, 1916 - February 3, 2017

A bronze plaque dedicated to William Tatel of St. Augustine is on the wall of the famed Palermo Opera House in Sicily. It's there because Tatel was tasked with reopening the facility while serving on the staff of Gen. George Patton during World War II.

Indeed, Tatel is possibly the sole surviving member of Patton's Third Army staff, said Oscar Patterson, a historian and longtime friend. After all, Tatel turned 100 on Aug. 5. About 80 family members, friends and lodge members celebrated his milestone birthday at a party Sunday at Ashlar Lodge No. 98 of the Free and Accepted Masons in St. Augustine.

Tatel served three years with the 7th Army Western Task Force participating in the invasions of Africa, Sicily, Rome-Arno and Southern France, as well as the Rhineland campaign, Patterson said. He received the Purple Heart and other military awards.

Tatel graduated from college in 1938 and was drafted in early 1941. After graduating from Officer Candidate School and commissioned a second lieutenant, he was sent to North Africa. Tatel, who weighed about 100 pounds and was 5-foot-3 or under, waded through the African surf loaded with a backpack and Thompson submachine gun, Patterson said. Eventually, he camped in Casablanca, Morocco.

His first assignment there was to carry messages for Patton's army regarding troop movements. When Patton's army arrived in Palermo, Tatel was ordered to "open the streets and department stores," Patterson said. Working with just a few men, trucks and residents, Tatel did it in just five days, capping it off with the reopening of the opera house, the largest theater in Italy and third largest in Europe, according to internet sources.

Tatel told Patterson he had the highest regard for Patton and thought he was a great man. Tatel remained in the Army after the war and was discharged as a captain in 1952. Tatel married his childhood sweetheart, Phyllis, on VE Day in 1945. They lived across the street from each other, met when he was 8 and have been together 92 years. The couple moved to St. Augustine in 1996.



## 'Gold Star' families memorial dedication

By SUE ERWIN Staff Writer

PORT CHARLOTTE — To honor region Gold Star Families, the Port Charlotte Garden Club is dedicating a memorial marker Saturday, November 19 at the William R. Gaines Jr. Veterans Memorial Park.

“This memorial marker has been proudly purchased by the PC Garden Club with fundraising efforts,” said Sandi Witzke, a former PCGC president. “To promote the dedication, the club has partnered with Charlotte County Community Services (Tommy Scott) and is also working closely with Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch.”

Other veterans groups along with Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops will be in attendance, according to Witzke.

“Our local county commissioners and administration will be there and invitations have been extended to state officials as well,” Witzke said. “We are so thrilled to be able to make this permanent contribution to residents of the county and most of all, to the Gold Star families in the area.”

Other groups will be involved in the program such as the Port Charlotte High School band, ROTC and American Legion Post 110.

Witzke has been a supporter of the Gold Star Families program for many years.

“Gold Star Families is a nonprofit organization with many individual groups throughout the nation,” she said. “During World War II, families hung banners (called a service flag) with blue stars to represent family members in the services. If the service member died in combat, the family changed the blue star to gold.”

The organization started after World War I as the American Gold Star Mothers.

“The efforts that these individual groups and chapters have done over the years and continue to do to help other veterans and families of deceased veterans is remarkable,” Witzke said. “Our goal is to honor the legacy of those families who have lost a loved one during military service.”

According to its website, the mission of America’s Gold Star Families is to provide honor, hope and healing to those grieving any military loss through active duty service in the United States armed forces. All branches of service representing all conflicts are included.

The William R Gaines Jr. Veterans Memorial Park is at 20499 Edgewater Drive, Port Charlotte.



## Catholic Nun and WWII Veteran Sister -Joseph Dies At Age 102



By Dan Doyle, The Veterans Site News

Her begins in a rather unusual setting. It is a small chapel at the abbey community of the Little Sisters of the Poor in Caen, France, at a funeral. There was something very different about this little nun's funeral, something not usually seen in such a setting. Her coffin was draped with an American flag, and there were three U.S. Army women in dress uniform present.

Well, there was also something unusual about this little nun who had lived 102 long and very productive years. This is a small window into that life that was so well lived.

Mary Ulm was born in Hamilton, Ohio, in 1920. Her story, like all human stories, is as unique as a fingerprint, belonging as it does to a single soul, a solitary human being. Her story has as much depth and importance as many far more well-known ones. When WWII broke out, Ulm joined the U.S. Army at the age of 22 and was trained in the complexities of military communications. As such, and very unusually, she would find herself being an active participant in the battle that would become the turning point in that war. She actually went ashore with the troops during the later days of the Normandy landings in June of 1944.

As a U.S. Army communications specialist, she would advance with the American Army all the way into Paris, where she marched with her fellow U.S. troops down the famous Champs-Élysées and by the Arc de Triomphe. As a young, 22-year-old woman, Mary Ulm had taken part in the liberation of France. That would be a remarkable story all by itself, but there is more.

While in France, she discovered the Little Sisters of the Poor, founded in the 19th century by Jeanne Jugan to serve the poorest of the poor. The foundress said of the order that they were to be "poor among the poor." Ulm was deeply moved by the Little Sisters' kindness and devotion to the refugees and the wounded. After the war, Ulm returned home to the United States, but she could not forget the images of what those nuns did for those who were poor and suffering during the war.

Ulm applied for entry into the order and was accepted, entering the novitiate. She took



her temporary vows in 1952. She was able to obtain permission to move to France to serve with the Little Sisters of the Poor there and in Belgium. She would take her final Solemn Vows in Paris in 1957. Forever after, she has been known as Sister Marie-Joseph of the Assumption.

For the last 75 years, Sister Marie-Joseph has been serving the poor and the elderly in communities in both France and Belgium. At age 98, elderly herself and losing her memory, she was moved to the Little Sisters of the Poor care facility in Caen, France. In 2020, she blew out the candles on her 100th birthday cake. The irony may have slipped by Sister Marie-Joseph in the later stages of her memory loss, but her community at Caen, France, is only 26 miles from those Normandy beaches where she had landed 78 years before.

Sister Marie-Joseph died on March 27, 2022. Her funeral Mass was held in the little chapel at her community in Caen. It was attended by her fellow nuns, a nephew, and three U.S. Army women in dress uniform. In her own small and anonymous way, as Mary Ulm, she had lived, done her job, and survived some of the most profound moments of WWII. But for the majority of her life as Sister Marie-Joseph, she chose to serve the poor, doing so quietly, making no noise and attracting no attention to herself. She lived her life out in the smallness of this place, with the poorest of the poor, who were nearest to her. She was unknown to all but those poor and elderly souls she served. The chaplain for the Little Sisters of the Poor in Caen, France, said of her, “She was a nun, sober, humble, and faithful.”

After the liturgy at her funeral was completed, she received military honors from the U.S. Army representatives in attendance for the small part she played in the military efforts during WWII in the liberation of France, before she became Sister Marie-Joseph of the Assumption.

As Mary Ulm, she was honored for her service in the U.S. Army, a service done out of love for her country during WWII. As Sister Marie-Joseph, she fell in love with Christ while watching over the poor.

Honor and respect to you, Mary Ulm, Sister Marie-Joseph of the Assumption. You lived a life of great love and generosity. We thank you, and we will not forget. Rest In Peace, good soul.



# TREES FOR TROOPS

**MWR is giving away Christmas Trees!**

Trees are first come, first served.

DAY 1 - Pickup for active duty and their dependents.

DAY 2 - Pickup for retirees, reservist, DoD employees and their dependents.

Trees will be available for pick up the first week of December at Outdoor Adventures.

Text "MWRTrees" to (904) 293-1321 to get updates on delivery dates.



The department of the Navy does not endorse any company, sponsor or their products or services.

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Registration 7 am, 18 four-man teams, Lunch included

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8 am Shotgun, Raffle, Ball Drop, 50/50,...more

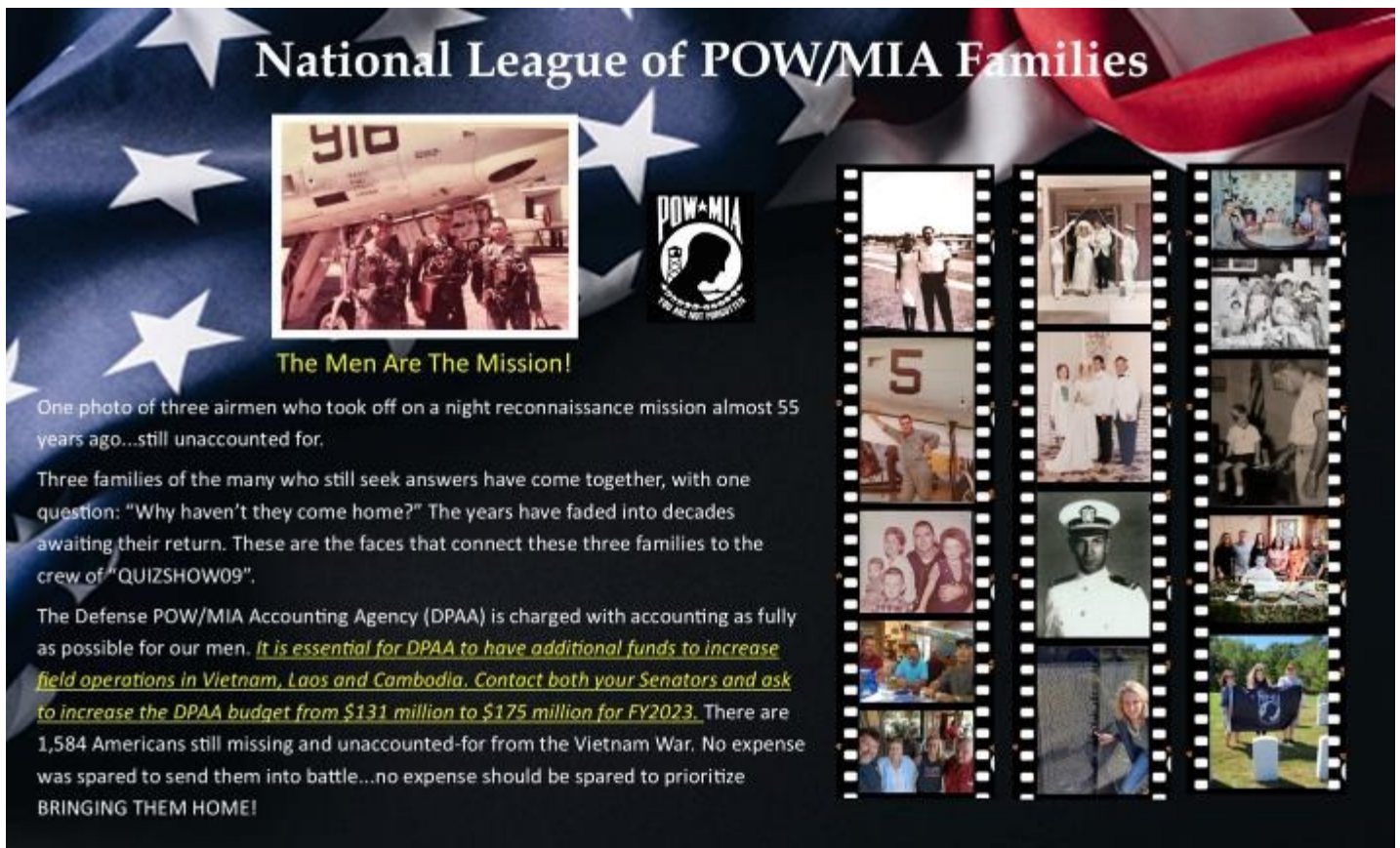
*Red Phillips*

**Department of Florida Military Order of the Purple Heart  
University of Central Florida has become a Purple Heart University**




## The Men are the Mission!

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



**National League of POW/MIA Families**




**The Men Are The Mission!**

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

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

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



# VETERANS DAY

FROM A WOMAN  
VETERAN'S PERSPECTIVE



- I AM THE VETERAN, NOT MY SPOUSE
- I WAS NOT DRAFTED, BUT I CHOSE TO JOIN
- IF I PARK IN A SPOT FOR VETERANS, IT IS BECAUSE I AM ONE
- IF YOU ASKED FOR MY MILITARY ID, I HOPE YOU ASKED A MAN TOO
- MY LOOKS HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH BEING A VETERAN
- DON'T FORGET TO THANK WOMEN VETERANS FOR THEIR SERVICE

**WE ARE VETERANS TOO.**

[FACEBOOK.COM/AVOWMAGAZINE](https://www.facebook.com/AVOWMAGAZINE)

**AVOW**  
MAGAZINE™

**Please write your federal legislators (Congressmen and Senators) requesting they support the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022.**

**First, a little history: During the 35-day shutdown between December 2018 and January 2019, the U.S. Coast Guard continued to work without compensation, providing vital services which safeguarded our nation's coastline and waterways. The Veterans' Council of St. Johns County, Inc. contributed \$500, and, by working with the USO at Mayport and local Navy League Chapters, worked to provide other emergency aid to local Coast Guard members.**

**This bill, introduced into the US Senate (S. 4802) on Sept. 8, includes a sorely-needed provision (§256) to ensure members of the U.S. Coast Guard continue to receive pay and allowances during a government shutdown. While members serving under the Department of Defense already have this benefit, the Coast Guard is under the Department of Homeland Security and, until this pending legislation, does not enjoy the same protection of the benefits to which they would otherwise be entitled.**

**This bill, which covers the service's funding through Fiscal Year 2023 (starting Oct. 1), also includes improvements for Coast Guard families which are critical for retention.**

**To e-mail your Representative, enter your zip code, then enter your residential address, then click on your Representative's link to send an e-mail.**

**To e-mail your Senator, click on your state, then click on your Senator's Contact link to send an e-mail.**

**The Veterans' Council of St. Johns County, Inc. advocates providing Coast Guard military personnel with the same benefits and emoluments enjoyed by those serving in the military services under the Department of Defense. Educating our elected officials about existing inequities, such as discussed above, and encouraging their support of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022, perhaps the Coast Guard military personnel will be treated as their Department of Defense counterparts.**

**The Veterans' Council of St. Johns County, Inc., as a public charity, (recognized under IRS §501(c)(3)), is prohibited from directly or indirectly participating in, or intervening in, any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for elective office, However, public charities are permitted to conduct some lobbying (i.e., attempting to influence legislation) such as urging the public to contact members or employees of a legislative body for the purpose of supporting or opposing such legislation, provided r such activities are "not substantial" based upon level of effort and expenditures.**

# The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs

Our App got an upgrade! The free App is a quick and easy way to access benefit information, look for available jobs, and connect to the latest news regarding Veterans' issues. Get it now!

<https://app.floridavets.org/>

#FDVA #FLVets

**GET OUR FREE  
UPGRADED  
APP.**

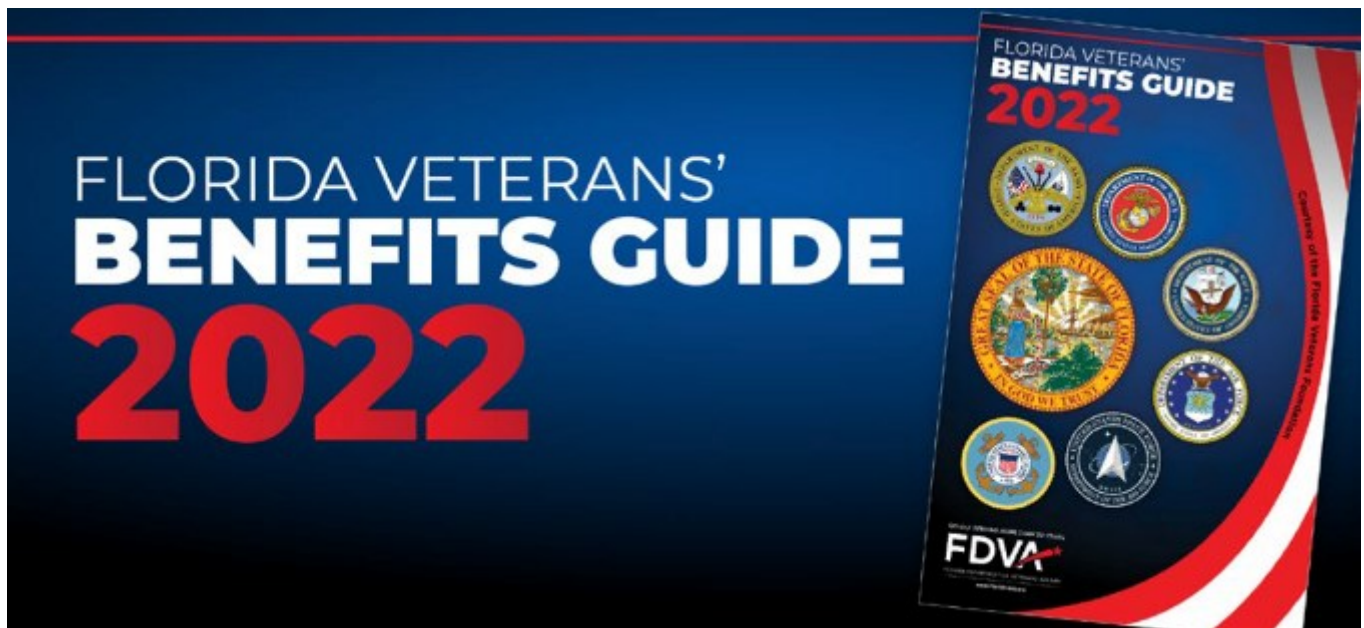
It won't take  
up space on  
your phone.





## The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs

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





# FIRST COAST HONOR FLIGHT

*Would love to come talk with you!*

Can we come speak to your  
organization  
or church?

We would LOVE to share our  
stories with you!

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

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

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





# Sponsorship Levels

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

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

Trip Sponsor : \$25,000

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

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

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

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

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

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



## First Coast Honor Flight Donation

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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



# VA SURVIVOR BENEFITS & THE PACT ACT

ESGR4U

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



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

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

### How to Apply for DIC and/or Accrued Benefits

Surviving family members may apply for these benefits using the appropriate VA form on [va.gov/family-member-benefits](https://va.gov/family-member-benefits).



#### Dependency and Indemnity Compensation

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



#### Accrued Benefits

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

### Additional Survivor Benefits Available:



#### Burials and Burial Allowance

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



#### Final Monthly Payment

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



#### Home Loan Guaranty

Certificate of Eligibility is available for surviving spouses receiving DIC.



#### Education and Training

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



#### Health Care

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

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

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

## From the FDVA THEY ARE HIRING!

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

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

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

# FLORIDA SURVIVOR OUTREACH SERVICES AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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







# 2022 VA DISABILITY PAY RATES



ANNOUNCED 2022 COLA OF 5.9%	D I S A B I L I T Y   R A T I N G									
DEPENDENT STATUS	10%	20%	30%	40%	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%	100%
Veteran Alone	152.50	301.82	467.02	673.52	958.40	1,213.61	1,530.26	1,778.06	1,998.33	3,331.61
Veteran with Spouse	N/A	N/A	522.46	747.41	1,050.57	1,325.22	1,609.15	1,926.69	2,164.79	3,517.84
Veteran with 1 child only	N/A	N/A	504.45	721.99	1,019.86	1,288.16	1,616.79	1,876.92	2,109.72	3,456.30
Veteran with 1 child and spouse	N/A	N/A	563.76	801.42	1,118.35	1,406.77	1,754.46	2,035.77	2,287.63	3,653.89
A D D I T I O N A L										
Parent 1 and 2	N/A	N/A	44.48	59.30	74.13	88.96	103.78	118.71	133.43	149.10
Each additional child under age 18	N/A	N/A	27.53	36.01	45.54	55.07	64.60	73.07	82.60	92.31
Each additional child over age 18 with VA disability rating	N/A	N/A	88.96	118.61	148.26	177.91	208.62	238.28	267.93	298.18
Spouse receiving aid and attendance	N/A	N/A	50.83	67.78	85.78	101.66	119.67	136.61	153.56	170.38

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

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

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

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

Thanks!

Nick Howland

Executive Director, The Fire Watch

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

904.525.1761



**From Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley**

**Subject: VA Transportation Assistance**

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

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

**From Michael Isam**

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

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

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

**It departs from the large parking lot of the clinic at 0600!!!**

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





## Legal Aid for Veterans

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

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

**1.866.486.6161**

**Call Today!**

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



## We Can Help With

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

Supported by the:



**Become a Watch Stander with The Fire Watch**



*You sacrificed for our country.*

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

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

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

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



THE FUTURE OF SENIOR LIVING

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



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

Assisted Living Facility #12928

## Vietnam Veterans of America



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

### Chapter/President/email/Location

1046	Tony D'Aleo	adaleo5579@gmail.com; Duval
1048	Bob Adkins	adk123robert@outlook.com
1059	David Treffinger	dtreffinger433@msn.com; Clay
1084	Ron Howard	ronehoward@gmail.com
1088	Roy (Corky) Rudd	corkstopper50@yahoo.com; Nassau
1092	Forest Hope	foresthope@usa.net; Gainesville
1134	Marvin Lagle	mdlagle@gmail.com; Baker



### REMEMBER WHAT OUR MEDAL STANDS FOR:

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

TED PIECKO, The NAM.



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

**Advance Care Planning**

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

**Palliative Care**

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

**Hospice Care**

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

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

**Complementary Therapies**

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

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

**We Need Volunteers**

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

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

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

## Mission Statement:

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



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

## What the Council has done:

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

SA-0003147064-01

# Veterans Crisis Line

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

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

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

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

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

## Military/Veterans Crisis Line

1-800-273-8255

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

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



## Veterans Councils of Northeast Florida



### **BAKER COUNTY**

President: Larry Porterfield

Meetings:

Second Thursday of each month

Location:

MacClenny Primitive Baptist Church  
Fellowship Hall on North Boulevard

Time : 1800 (6pm)

### **CLAY COUNTY**

President: Harry Silvers

Meetings:

First Wednesday of each month

Location:

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

Time: 1400 (2pm)

### **DUVAL COUNTY**

President

Meetings:

Third Tuesday of each month

Location:

American Legion Post 37  
Main Building  
San Juan Avenue

Time: 1900 (7 pm)

### **NASSAU COUNTY**

President: Mike Doran

Meetings:

First Thursday of each month

Location:

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

Time: 1900 (7pm)

### **St. Johns County**

President: Bill Dudley

Meetings:

Last Thursday of each month

Location:

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

Time: 1900 (7pm)

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



We are inviting all veterans to visit our website at:

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

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

Please join our group on Facebook at:

<http://veteranscouncilsjc.org>

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

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

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

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

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

*Veterans Council of St. Johns County,  
"Helping All Veterans"*

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

Send to: rothfeldm@gmail.com



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*(physical location)*

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

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

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

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