

VETERANS COUNCIL OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY

CHAIRMAN BILL DUDLEY

VICE CHAIRMAN RAY QUINN

SECRETARY MICHAEL ROTHFELD

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Newsletter Editor Michael Rothfeld



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Fellow Veterans:

Now that we are in the new year and the holidays are behind us, we look forward to our next major undertaking, the upcoming elections. The Veterans Council has no influence over which candidate or party you support, just that you do your patriotic duty and get out to vote. To do that, you have to be registered so if you haven't done so, please take the time today and register. It may amaze you to know that over 40% of our veterans in St. Johns County are not on the voter registration role. I find this both sad and disturbing since this is one of the tenants of the Constitution for which we served. So please, if you are not registered to vote, take a few minutes today and take that necessary step. And then, please exercise your constitutional duty and vote

in the upcoming elections. It has never been more important to our nation.

We have another great event coming up in March. The local Ancient City Chapter of MOAA is sponsoring a wonderful concert, SOUNDS OF FREEDOM. The performance will be at the St. Augustine Amphitheater on March 18. Tickets are available on line. There is a flyer on page 19 of this month's newsletter that gives all the details. It will be a great evening out for the entire family.

On Feb.3, the Veterans Council will participate at an indigent funeral service at Jacksonville National Cemetery. A deceased Marine Corporal who passed away recently, having no known family will be interred at JNC. The Veterans Council vowed several years ago that no indigent veteran would be buried

from our county without our involvement. Our Council will be a part of this Marines interment to honor his service to our nation.

I hope everyone enjoys the articles that appear each month in our Patriot Reader newsletter. Our editor, Michael Rothfeld works tirelessly searching for interesting articles to run in our monthly paper. A big Bravo Zulu to Michael for all his hard work for preparing this newsletter each month.

Bill Dudley Chairman

Veterans Council of St. Johns County



Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home

Where Patriotism is our Motto



Our version of the "New Year Ball" all ready for the countdown!



Frank toasting 2016!



Bud waiting to start the party



Ms Ruby in the confetti aftermath



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



JNC SC Chairman,
Ray Quinn

The Support Committee invites everyone to attend its **next scheduled meeting, on Monday, February 1st**. 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**.

+++++2015/2016 Officers of the SCJNC+++++

- Chairman: Ray Quinn
- Vice Chairman: Bill Dudley
- Treasurer: John Mountcastle
- Assist Treasurer: Michael Rothfeld
- Secretary: Kathy Church
- Chaplain: Michael Halyard
- Master-At-Arms: Joe McDermott
- JAG Officer: Patrick Bennett
- Historian: Jody Raymond

VOLUNTEERS are needed! <http://jacksonvilleladies.org>

Membership in **The Jacksonville Ladies/Gentlemen** is strictly *voluntary* and is open to all Ladies and Gentlemen who have a sincere desire to pay final tribute to our Veterans. A Volunteer is there to attend every Service, not to "intrude" but to stand as a "silent witness" and give honor to the Veteran and condolences to their families. It is not a "typical" Volunteer position, it must come from the heart. It is an honor to be a part of these ceremonies that pay tribute to the everyday heroes that make up our armed forces. The Volunteers give back a little to those who have given so much for our great country.

How to Volunteer - <http://jacksonvilleladies.org>

The Jacksonville Ladies/Gentlemen are a very special group of *Volunteers* dedicated to being the "Silent Witness" for the Service of a Veteran and/or their Spouse. Especially important are those with no family present so they are not laid to rest alone. We also hope to provide some comfort to the family.

The only requirements are compassion, dedication and the sincere desire to honor our Veterans for their service to our country.

If you think you might be interested in becoming a Volunteer please contact Chair Gail Williams at 904-291-0604 or Vice Chair Kathy Cayton at 904-272-9489.

You can also fill out the form in the link below and one of us will get back to you as soon as possible.

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

James "Wesley" Roberts a.k.a. "Rocketman", 67, passed away at Flagler Hospital surrounded by those who loved him. He was born Aug. 23, 1948 in Paden, Mississippi.

He served in the United States Marine Corps from September 1967 to July 1971. He received during that time the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with 3 stars, Good Conduct Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Vietnam Campaign Medal with device, Rifle Marksman Badge, and the RVN Cross of Gallantry.



He was the commander of the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association, Florida Chapter 20-2. He enjoyed surfing, fishing, music and spending time with friends and family. He was a social butterfly and loved by all who were blessed to know him.

He had a warm, fun loving and mischievous nature. He is preceded in death by his parents James Harold Roberts, Cenia Mae Roberts and his nephew Justin Parker. Wesley is survived by his daughter Kimberly Edwards, her husband Shawn Edwards, his step sons Mark Nixon II and Christopher Nixon, his grandson Gavin Edwards and several step grandchildren. He is also survived by his siblings Rosie Parker and Tillous Roberts Sr. He also leaves behind Kyra Rose who brought him much happiness in the years they spent together.

Craig Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements, but at his request there will not be a service. There will be a celebration of his life at Trade Winds on Jan. 31 at 1 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his name to the St. Johns Veterans Council, PO Box 2117, St Augustine, FL 32085 or to the CVMA 20-2, 1960 U.S. Highway 1 S., PMB 202, St. Augustine, FL 32086.

Help needed

The Veterans Council is looking for a non paid volunteer to either repair or replace our website.

The Veterans Council wants to increase its online, social media presence.

If interested, contact Michael Rothfeld: mrothfeld@anyveteran.org

Nominations Open for 2016 Class of the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame

The Florida Veterans Hall of Fame is currently accepting nominations for the fourth annual class of inductees into the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame. The nomination period is open until May 30, 2016.

The Florida Legislature established the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame to honor and recognize military veterans for their post-military service to the state.

Those nominating a veteran will need to complete a nomination packet that can be downloaded from www.floridaveteranshalloffame.org. Nominations are based on established criteria including recognizing military veterans who, through their works and lives during and after military service, have made a significant contribution to the state of Florida through civic, business, public service or other pursuits. It is not a traditional military hall of fame, as it focuses on post-military contributions to the State of Florida.

“We are privileged to recognize and honor veterans for their leadership and civic contributions to the Sunshine State,” said retired Army National Guard Sgt. Major Ray A. Quinn, who serves as council chairman. “With so many deserving veterans, we hope to receive many nominees for consideration for this year’s class.”

Each year the council submits its recommended nominees to the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs, which submits the nominations to the Governor and Cabinet, who will select the nominees to be inducted.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE COLONEL “Ed” Taylor Award

Nominations for the annual Colonel “Ed” Taylor award are now open. Any member of the Veterans Council of St. Johns County or member organization may place a nomination.

The award is presented to the veteran, veteran organization or community member who over the past year or years has served the veteran’s community in such a manner to benefit the veterans of our county.

Please provide a narrative explaining the qualifications of your nominee.

Nominations will be accepted beginning now through February 15, 2016.

Nominations may be forwarded to SGM (Ret) Ray Quinn via mail to 1097 Winterhawk Drive, St. Augustine, Florida 32086 or to rene-gade1@bellsouth.net.

If you would like to serve on the selection committee (3 members needed) please use the above contact to volunteer.

Respectfully,

RAY A. QUINN, SGM, USA (Ret)

Vice Chair, Veterans Council of St. Johns County

Vets4Vets Quarterly Meeting
V4V Minutes January 16, 2016
Veterans Memorial Arena



Key Note Speakers:

Captain Ryman Shoaf acted as MC for the event and recognized guests from Sen. Rubio's office. He explained to the 177 attending the event what this group is for. It is not an organization but a "Movement" exercising the first amendment rights to assemble under the guiding principles that: "Issues are best solved when veterans are involved".



He went on to explain the goals of V4V are: 1. To inform vets regarding issues and events. 2. To connect with other veterans. This means to meet someone new and inform them about the "Movement". 3. To grow in numbers. A request was made for those here to bring at least one new person to the next meeting in April 2016. 4. To allow better communication in order to organize and unite veterans.

Meetings will always be on Saturdays at the Jacksonville Veterans Memorial Arena on a quarterly basis in January, April, July and October (the dates to be determined). Time of the meeting will be from 1100-1300. A lunch is provided.

Speakers will vary according to interests related to veterans. V4V's is not a political venue, but if a veteran has stepped up to help other vets, these speakers will be allowed to present address their fellow veterans.

The ultimate goal is to fill the arena which has 14,000 seats with veterans since the veteran population in Northeast Florida is around 150,000. V4V would like to have representatives in all the surrounding counties who would coordinate the information to all veterans and interested parties and update the information. Veterans in unity can have a far reaching effect on the interests of the welfare of veterans. Everyone was encouraged to register to vote and then follow through. "We as Vets do not always deserve what we get but we get what we vote for".

Bill Span the new City of JAX Veterans Services Director informed the guests that no appointment is required to speak with the service officers located at the City Hall. He introduced Kevin Johnson from JU as a member of his service team to help reach out to other service organizations. Mr. Span also wanted to let audience know that NASJAX has a hearing aid program where the cost of a new hearing aid is 90

percent off regular price. Please check with Tricare.

Tom Garcia reported on Vets 4 Energy as it relates on strengthening **our economy** and the Nation through utilizing the resources which have barely been used for revenue. More information can be found at: www.Vets4Energy.com.

Jeff Moore provided a Brief for the Anti-Terrorism Department of the JAX Sheriff's Office. He pointed out that there are various types of Terrorism. One we are currently familiar with is religion based. One should not stereotype Muslims. A study showed that only 1 per cent of Muslims poled felt that terrorist suicide is justified. Even that number is great when one considers the Muslim population. There are other types of terrorism but there is no general "profile" so Indicators and behaviors are the markers to observe. Be vigilant and call in suspicious behavior to the Sheriff's Dept.

Veterans running for office:

Darryl Daniel is running for Sheriff of Clay County. He is a vet who wants to "Make a difference in Clay County".Veteran's Court:

Scheduled Speakers:

John Holzbaur, Veterans Court, related the success story of a recent graduate of the Veterans Court Program. Mentors are always needed and are provided generalized training as part of the treatment team.

Ju'Coby Pittman from Clara White Mission explained that their organization provides training programs for ex-offenders. They also help in housing homeless vets. In July 2016, the Mission will have a completed a facility to house up to 32 veterans. They need donated furniture for this project. To contact call: (904) 354-4162 or www.clarawhitemission.org.

Liz Peak from JTA hires and serves Veterans. Dec 7, 2015 JTA started a service to provide transportation from the downtown VA Clinic to the Southside VA clinic every 10 minutes for veterans. JTA also realizes that veterans often have to travel out of the area for care and provides information to help plan the transportation for those veterans. At present disabled veterans have a 50 percent discount to ride. They are working on getting discounts for all veterans.

Brian Belski a VECl (Veterans Economic Communities Initiative) consultant for the Jacksonville Economic Liaison of the US Dept. of Veterans Affairs spoke about helping veterans transitioning to civilian jobs in their respective communities. More information can be found at: www.ebenefits.va.gov/jobs.

Laura Brown spoke on "Horses Helping Vets" Located in Middleburg, FL. the organization began in 2001 and now provides therapy for Wounded Warriors.

Rufus Bundrige spoke about the “Gold Star Program” provided by the Fleet and Family Support Center. Child Street-Bldg. 544. NAS Jacksonville, FL. 32212-0136. Phone: 904 542-5745. This program started in 2015 to provide long term Case Management for surviving family members no matter the cause of death. It also acts as Sponsor Host for Gold Star Family events.

Jerry Domask is a veteran artist who announced the subject of a Veterans Art Exhibit at the University of North Florida. This is open to active duty, veterans, and civilians. The tentative date for the Art Exhibit is 2016 or early 2017. For more information and to express your interest email the UNF Military and Veterans Resource Center mvc@unf.edu or Jerry Domask at jerrydomask@gmail.com.

Dennis Volpe spoke about “Team RWB” (Red, White and Blue) which advocates health connections and physical activities for veterans. There is a newsletter: RWB For Health.

Joanelle Mulrain, Mulrain Resource Group. John Cornett spoke of the Eisenhower Center which emphasizes Behavioral Health, including Traumatic Brain Injury. Although their primary focus has been on professional athletes, they are interested in assisting veterans with similar needs.

Toula Wooton spoke about the Community Hospice and how they have developed a Veterans Partnership program in 2007 to honor veterans in their facility. Each vet receives a “Honored Veteran” pin, a framed certificate for their branch of service, and a flag of their branch of service outside on the door of their room.

Karen Kozub of Concerned Veterans of America spoke of educating veterans to VOTE and various ways which the organization uses in the communities. Your vote is important if you want to see changes. Information at: www.FCTPCommunity.org.

Updates:

Kathy Church reported on MIAP. The next interment will be April 9, 2016 at Lake Worth, FL of 5 husbands and wives. Contact: miapjax@yahoo.com, or phone: (904) 219-3035.

Dave Seamons reported on the monuments to Florida’s Fallen Heroes. May 7, 2016 – 5pm-10 pm there will be a formal Dinner Dance Fund Raiser at the Jacksonville Fire Fighters Hall located at 618 Stockton Street, Jacksonville, FL. There will also be an auction, gift give away, and balloon release. For more information, contact Sharon Unger (904) 680-8115 or ffhslunger@yahoo.com. Tickets are \$50.00 individual, couple: \$80.00 and Table: \$200.00.

Dee Quaranta of NE Florida Women’s Veterans Association reports that planning is

in progress for the 3rd week in March 2016's Week of Valor for Women Veterans. For more information about the association call (904) 239-6801 or email at: info@forwomenvets.org.

The Air Force Sergeants Association Chapter FO559 announced plans for their 5th Annual Golf Tournament on Saturday March 5, 2016 at Ben Creek Golf Course, 10440 Tournament Lane, Jacksonville, FL. For more information about becoming a sponsor visit website at: www.golfinvite.com/airforce . For questions or help, contact Rick Wiggs at: (904) 703-0601 or email at: rswiggs52@comcast.net.

Les Bertrand President of VVA Chapter #1046 announced a Golf Tournament scheduled for March 28, 2016 at NASJAX. and a Sports shoot on May 5, 2016. Visit the website: www.vva.1046.com.

VFW Veterans Village at Fort McCoy, FL. an Independent Living Facility since 1991, has been taking care of veterans. It provides affordable housing in a home like environment. For more information check the website at: www.vfwveteransvillage.org.

Gary Newman VVA #1080 and coordinator of the incarcerated Vietnam Veterans in Union County was recognized and received a portion of the 50/50 to assist those veterans working on projects for the community.

V4V is on FaceBook ... www.facebook.com/Vets4VetsNJax/

“Together we are Stronger”



Submitted by Vietnam veteran Jerry Domask
Veterans Art Exhibit at the University of North Florida (UNF)

Objectives:

Provide a venue for veterans and students to express themselves in different media forms by examining their experiences and its impact upon self and society,

To share the sacrifices and hardships endured by individuals serving their Country; and to

Provide a journey of self-expression and enlightenment of the invisible becoming visible in art for any subject matter or period of time.

Scope of Art Creations:

Visual (paintings, drawings, sculpture, ceramics, etc.)

Video/film

Multi-media

Photography

Poetry

Participants: Active duty, veterans and civilians/students addressing veteran issues and/or topics. Veteran artists are not limited to exhibition subject matter. Student creative works will be limited to military and/or service member genre.

Tentative Date for Art Exhibit: 2016 or early 2017. An exhibit date will be announced once facility planning and gallery schedules are finalized.

Place of Exhibition: University of North Florida (UNF) Art Gallery (TBA).

Art Exhibit to be Curated: Artists will be invited to exhibit by personal invitation. Please express your interest in participation by sending an email to UNF, Military and Veterans Resource Center, at mvc@unf.edu. or Jerry Domask, at jerrydomask@gmail.com

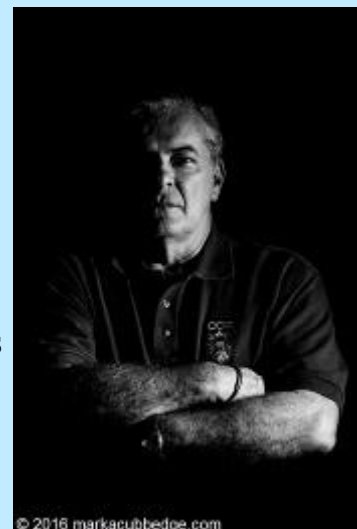
Jerry Domask 904-386-3622 Website: JeromeDomaskFineArt.com

NOTE: There is a new “closed group” facebook page for veteran artists called Veterans Artist Program (VAP) : www.facebook.com/groups/VAP . Sign up if interested. Great group, very talented, many mediums. Currently approximately 400+ members nationally.

The Faces of Freedom by Mark Cubbedge features many local NE Florida veterans. Among them are Bill Ingram, George Gaspard, Mario Patruno, Duane Reyelts and Tom Waskovich.

Preserving the legacy of veterans from all generations through storytelling portraits for the book with the working title Faces of Freedom.

Tom Waskovich was a Green Beret in the only "top secret" unit in Vietnam -- Military Assistance Command, Vietnam – Studies and Observations Group (MACV-SOG). He led a team of two Americans and five Montagnard (indigenous) mercenaries on a variety of commando-type missions into Laos and Cambodia. Waskovich was on the first covert mission to block the Ho Chi Minh Trail in Laos in 1969 and was awarded the Cross of Gallantry by the South Vietnamese Government for his part in blowing up four trucks during the roadblock



The book now has a patriotic celebrity forward, which is so humbling, and is on schedule to be out this summer. The first edition will be a limited print run and pre-sales will begin in the spring. The coffee-table book will be very high quality, the price will be around \$40. So glad the stories of these men and women are so close to being preserved for future generations.

Submitted by Tom Waskovich

From our friends at Vietnam War History Org
"NURSES IN THE FIELD". CPT Bernice Scott, ANC, aids doctors in caring for a wounded man at the 2nd Surgical Hospital,... Lai Khe, 23 Sep 69."

Approximately 6,300 women volunteered to serve as nurses in Vietnam during the war.

Eight nurses made the ultimate sacrifice while serving in Vietnam. They include:- Lieutenant Colonel Annie Ruth Graham (she also served during WW II and Korea)

- First Lieutenant Sharon Ann Lane
- Second Lieutenant Carol Ann Elizabeth Drazba
- Second Lieutenant Elizabeth Ann Jones
- Captain Eleanor Grace Alexander
- First Lieutenant Hedwig Diane Orłowski
- Second Lieutenant Pamela Dorothy Donovan
- Captain Mary Therese Klinker



We remember, recognize and salute the service of all nurses to our great nation and extend a heartfelt, Welcome Home to each of them.

Photo - SSG Ronald Delaurie



The Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc., was just notified by PBS, the FL PBS stations have created a website where the individual stations have contributed & posted their military documentaries. We have been fortunate to have our documentaries posted by WJCT TV on the PBS FL website. The Veterans Council is making these links available to everyone so that the documentaries can be shared by everyone.

Below are the links:

Serve and Protect : Stories From WWII

<http://www.floridastoriesofservice.org/serve-and-protect-stories-from-wwii/>

"From a small senior community near St. Augustine, Florida over 30 veterans came together to share their stories. Produced by Flagler College TV Workshop Students and directed by Michael Rothfeld"

Vietnam: Service, Sacrifice, and Courage

<http://www.floridastoriesofservice.org/vietnam-service-sacrifice-and-courage/>

"NE Florida Vietnam veterans contributed their tender, often hurt feelings to shape this project. The Vietnam veterans were not like the WWII or Korean War veterans we had worked with on our previous documentaries. The Vietnam veterans were more actively involved in watching, suggesting and directing us to tell their true stories. What emerged shows the veterans to be just like you and me. They fought in an unpopular war and yet returned home to lead normal and successful lives. They could be and are your neighbors, friends and relatives. This documentary was produced by Michael Rothfeld & directed by Josh Wallace and filmed and edited by the students in the Flagler College Communications Department."

Prisoners of War: Stolen Freedom

<http://www.floridastoriesofservice.org/prisoners-of-war-stolen-freedom/>

"Prisoners of War: Stolen Freedom compares the stories of four American servicemen through their time as prisoners of war in three major 20th century conflicts; World War II, Korea and the Vietnam war. Their stories are supported by archival motion pictures and photographs obtained at the US National Archives as well as through sketches and memorabilia collected by each of the men. Their stories are less about atrocity than they are about the survival of the human spirit and the camaraderie that helped each man survive years of incarceration. Each story is followed by spectacular recounts of their days of release. Produced by Michael Rothfeld and the Veterans Council of St. Johns County, directed by Eric Flagg"

Korea : Forgotten War, Remembered Heroes

<http://www.floridastoriesofservice.org/korea-forgotten-war-remembered-heroes/>

"This special documentary created by the students of the Art Institute of Jacksonville spotlights the stories of five First Coast Korean War Veterans. Directed by Dr. Nadia Ramoutar, produced by Michael Rothfeld and the Veterans Council of St. Johns County."

Unleashing the Underdogs: The Ks For Warriors Story

<http://www.floridastoriesofservice.org/unleashing-the-underdogs-the-ks-for-warriors-story/>

"Today's generation of warriors have been deployed more than any other before, this documentary highlights a unique program that pairs dogs and veterans in a training program, and ultimately as companions, to show appreciation and assist in healing of PTSD. Directed by Dr. Nadia Ramoutar, produced by Michael Rothfeld, Dr. Nadia Ramoutar, Bill Dudley and the Veterans Council of St. Johns County."

NEW GRANT PROGRAM HELPS FLORIDA BUSINESSES HIRE AND TRAIN VETERANS



A new state grants program will reimburse businesses for part of the cost they incur to train veteran employees. Florida employers seeking to enhance their work force can now get a leg up on the competition with a new grants program designed to help them hire and train veterans. By providing easy access to an incredibly valuable talent pool, this grant program will make it easier for employers to sharpen their competitive edge and enhance their bottom line.

The program will also open more doors to veterans aiming to gain a foothold in Florida's thriving business environment—Florida ranks #2 for “best state for business” and industries ideally suited to veterans, among them aerospace, aviation, defense systems, logistics and distribution, serve as cornerstones of the Florida economy.

Features of the FL VETS Business Training Grants

The Florida VETS Training Grants Program provides grant funding to qualifying businesses for existing or customized educational programs through partial reimbursement to businesses hiring and training veterans.

Florida businesses have the opportunity to work face-to-face with a representative of a training institution in their local community. Grants are performance-based reimbursable grants and cover a 24-month maximum term.

Businesses are reimbursed for 50% of training cost, up to \$8,000 per new, full-time veteran employee and the training can be completed in-house or through a third-party training provider.

How to Qualify

To qualify for a FL VETS Training Grant, the Florida business must demonstrate a need for customized skills, degree- or certificate-based training of up to 24 months for new veteran employees. Preference will be given to enterprises working in a targeted Florida industry, which is typically high skill.

How the Grants Work

The business pays for the approved direct training, degree or certificate education program and is reimbursed quarterly by Veterans Florida upon the completion of training and submission of required documentation.

Veterans Florida has partnered with training institutions across the state to help process grant applications. Florida businesses therefore have the opportunity to work face-to-face with a training institution representative in their local community.

Businesses interested in a VETS Business Training Grant should request an application at www.veteransflorida.org/grant. Veterans Florida or a state educational representative will help them apply for and obtain grant reimbursements through the program.

For more information about the grant, visit www.veteransflorida.org/grant.

About Veterans Florida

Veterans Florida was established by the Florida Legislature in 2014 as part of the Florida GI Bill to serve as an innovative corporation to encourage recently retired or separated military personnel to make Florida their permanent residence. The 501c(3) corporation will reinforce Florida's standing as the most veteran-friendly state in the nation by helping veterans to bring or develop the skills needed by Florida businesses to the state. The board of directors is comprised of nine individuals from across the state.

Contact: Bobby Carbonell Carbonell@veteransflorida.org (850) 898-1331 www.veteransflorida.org



K9S FOR WARRIORS

GIVE A NEW LEASH ON LIFE TO RESCUE DOGS AND MILITARY HEROES

K9s For Warriors is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

K9s For Warriors is dedicated to providing service canines to warriors suffering from Post-traumatic Stress Disability, traumatic brain injury and/or military sexual trauma as a result of military service post 9/11.

- Founded was in 2011 by Shari Duval.
- 95% of the dogs in the program come from rescue shelters or are owner surrendered.

Why is it needed?

- 20% of post 9/11 war veterans - 500,000 men and women suffer from PTSD.
- 22 veterans a day commit suicide from PTSD.
- The average warrior is on 10-15 medications when he begins the program. 92% will eliminate or reduce prescription medications after they graduate from K9s For Warriors.
- There are over 3 million dogs that are euthanized in rescue shelters every year, many are wonderful dogs that can be trained to be service dogs for deserving veterans

What is PTSD?

- Hyper-vigilance
- Insomnia
- Isolation
- Panic Attacks
- Depression

What is the program?

- A three week in-house recovery program. K9s For Warriors provides a trained service K9, housing, most meals, equipment, veterinary care, 120 hours of training with their new service K9 and a family type atmosphere that provides essential peer-to-peer support during the three week stay.
- We have a small, dedicated staff and over 500 volunteers who give of their time & talents.
- We welcome donors to come visit and take a tour of the Dog House when warriors are not in session (for privacy reasons) and see where your dollars are going.

Our Success

- As of October 22, 2015, 194 Warrior-Canine Teams have graduated with 100% success rate in suicide prevention.

Featured On

- PEOPLE Magazine
- Fox News
- CNN
- NBC's TODAY
- Food Network's CHOPPED
- Fox News Business Edition
- First Coast News Telethon
- Week-long Grand Opening Coverage
- Army Times

Do Vietnam Veterans have higher chances of early death?

Posted on December 8, 2015, Posted by admin
Posted in Vietnam Veterans issues



A surprising study revealed that Vietnam veterans are more prone to premature death from suicide and motor vehicle accidents than those who didn't serve. When compared to those who are non-veterans, veterans are more likely to commit suicide by 86% and more likely to die from motor accidents by 53%. These could be a result of the post-traumatic stress disorder that ranges from the psychological health to the physical body. Many veterans experience a higher magnitude of PTSD in relation to their military service.

Many researchers cannot accurately identify and describe how military service has caused the high mortality but they have somehow attributed psychological and economic problems to have played a role. With war injuries sustained from Vietnam wars, familiarity of firearms and increasing usage of alcohol and drugs, Vietnam veterans are more prone to developing PTSD and displaying symptoms of it. While previous studies showed an increasing rate of suicides and motor accidents among veterans, these are not impossible to prevent.

A recent study examined the deaths of around 14000 men in Pennsylvania and California that were eligible in the lottery for drafting, after which they divided the sample size to two groups—those that were drafted and those that were not. Upon comparison, the group composing the men that were drafted had 200 more deaths during their civilian life. In a national scale, it would be 1250 more deaths.

In determining the men who would be drafted to the Vietnam War, a national lottery was used in 1970. Young men were assigned numbers based on the dates they were born. Not all whose numbers were part in the lottery were drafted but the lower the number, the more likely their chances to be drafted. In the study, suicide rates increased by 13% and from motor accidents by 8% by those that were drafted. This just proves how after all these years, the effects of war still extend to death among veterans.

Thanks to Dr. Jane Karp, COL USAF, ret

Peer Support Mentoring Program

VA has developed a Caregiver Peer Support Mentoring Program to connect caregivers to one another, to provide support, and to learn from each other. Peer Support Mentoring provides an opportunity for caregivers to share their experience, wisdom, and skills with each other and benefit from the guidance of others.

Caregivers of Veterans of all eras are eligible to participate in the VA Caregiver Peer Support Mentoring Program, both as Mentors and as Mentees. Mentors and Mentees communicate using email, telephone, and letter writing depending on what works best for both of them. Mentors receive training before being paired with another caregiver and are volunteers with their local VA medical center Voluntary Services department. Caregivers participating in the Caregiver Peer Support Mentoring Program agree to participate for 6 months, but many participate for much longer.

Not sure if you are ready for this, but would like to try it out? VA also offers a one-time connection through the Compassionate Connections Program for those caregivers who may need some brief support from an experienced Mentor but are not ready or able to commit to a longer-term mentoring relationship.



FRED DUPONT

**A PROUD Marine,
Left: Camp LeJeune,
NC, upon completion
of Infantry Training
1967**

Right: Fred in Saigon



From the VA website

K9s for Veterans

K9s for Warriors matches service dogs with Veterans



Veterans from recent conflicts have expanded the role of service dogs. While many Americans still identify “service dogs” as “guide dogs” for the visually impaired, “service” now extends into many other dimensions. A 2009 Wall Street Journal article traces the recent evolution of service dogs to becoming “seeing eye dogs for the mind” in aiding the emotional transition to civilian life. This past August, the VA officially amended its policy to allow all certified service dogs to accompany Veterans to appointments.

CNN recently highlighted one of the Veterans service dog programs: K9s for Warriors. After realizing that her son could benefit from a service dog companion, Shari Duval established a non-profit to ensure matching and training. Her son Brett Simon Duval, who worked with explosive-tracking dogs in Iraq, now serves as the organization’s Director of K9 Operations.

An indication of the effectiveness of the program is a letter of gratitude, written by “Linda,” a female veteran to JJ, her service dog. In it she says, “I stand taller today...because you stand alongside me, ready to hear my cries, or hear my laughter.” This bond, of course, between humans and dogs is not new. But the careful selection of the right dog for the right Veteran marks an innovative approach to enabling a successful emotional transition.

I can vouch for the importance of this innovation as can my Labradoodle (name), who even helps me keep balanced work hours by reminding me when it’s time to go home.

For more information, please visit the K9s for Warriors website or search Veterans service dogs in your favorite search engine.

If you’d like to be a part of more innovative solutions for Veterans, please consider a career with us, Join VA.

Sounds of Freedom

Patriotic Concert



For the Benefit of our Nation's Veterans

Friday, March 18

St. Augustine Amphitheater - Doors open at 6pm

Tickets can be ordered from the St. Augustine Amphitheater (staugamphitheatre.com), Ticketmaster and from the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall.



The fabulous 7 Bayard Boys play the songs that you enjoy from the Beatles, Beach Boys, Eagles, Lynyrd Skynyrd etc. and rousing military branch service songs.



Boyer Sisters

If you liked the Andrews Sisters, you will love the Boyer Sisters from Cincinnati. They are really sisters who are on their way to becoming one of America's top singing groups.



Our Bob Hope style M.C., Former St. Augustine Mayor Joe Boles, will add fun and memories of USO shows in the past

This Benefit is sponsored by the Ancient City Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America with all proceeds being allocated to charitable philanthropic endeavors including the restoration of the historic Hamblin House in downtown St. Augustine, home of American Legion Post 37, and the K-9's for Warriors Program. For more information, contact MOAA at gl@snowdogs.us.

Pricing is as follows:

\$75.00 for the "pit", best seating includes reception with the performers

\$45.00 - second tier

\$35.00 - third tier.

\$20.00 - fourth tier (lowest priced tickets)

Please call if you need more information.

Note from the editor: I have lived in St. Augustine since 2000 and involved with veterans issues and causes since 2007. In that time I have met and became friends with many local veterans. One veteran, among many, that I met and will never forget is Dr. Giles McCoy. I think of Dr. McCoy often, he was a great man in many ways, a heroic American, a National Treasure. I had the honor of meeting him several times. Below is an article about Dr. McCoy that I found on the internet.

The Veterans Council has a dvd of Dr. McCoy's Flagler College speech describing his heroic ordeal. It is an amazing first hand experience from a USS Indianapolis survivor. Please contact the editor for a free copy.

GILES GILBERT MCCOY SURVIVED SHARKS AFTER SINKING OF CRUISER INDIANAPOLIS IN WWII

BY MICHAEL D. SORKIN • msorkin@post-dispatch.com

Gil McCoy grew up in St. Louis and joined the Marines at 17 to fight in World War II. He was aboard the cruiser Indianapolis when it was torpedoed and sank after delivering atomic bomb parts that helped end the war in Japan.

He survived five days in the water as sharks attacked men around him, in what has been described as the worst single-incident sea disaster in U.S. naval history.

Giles Gilbert McCoy died on April 30, 2009 at his retirement home in Palm Coast, Fla., after battling prostate cancer. He was 83.

After his ship sank, Mr. McCoy clung to part of a life raft, promising to dedicate himself to helping others if he survived, family members recalled Thursday.

He returned home, graduated from the University of Missouri at Columbia and the Logan College of Chiropractic in St. Louis. He married his St. Louis sweetheart, Betty Goldbeck, and took off in a borrowed truck for Boonville, Mo., to start his practice.

Along the way, another driver tossed a burning cigarette into the rear of their truck, setting their belongings on fire. Mr. McCoy fought the blaze with the only tools he had - his hands. He began his practice with his hands covered in bandages.

In Boonville, Mr. McCoy coached a youngsters' baseball team and paid the way for two of his players to attend Mizzou. "They were like my brothers," said his daughter, Marsha Hudson of San Antonio.

The story of the Indianapolis is recounted in books and in Ken Burns' documentary, "The War."

Mr. McCoy had graduated from Ritenour High School. He was underage when his mother reluctantly gave him permission to enlist in 1944.

The Marines made him a sniper on a small Pacific island. He was assigned to kill a teenage boy who had been shooting Marines.

When Mr. McCoy wouldn't do it, the Marines transferred him to duty aboard the Indianapolis, his family said.

The heavy cruiser had dropped off uranium and other parts of the atomic bomb at the island of Titián, where the Enola Gay took off for its run to Hiroshima. Two days later, the ship and Mr. McCoy were halfway between Guam and the Philippines when a Japanese submarine attacked.

Mr. McCoy was guarding the brig and recalled later how he helped release some prisoners when the word was passed to get above deck and seal off the compartment.

"I still remember hearing guys hollering in there that they couldn't get out," he told an interviewer.

Within 12 minutes, the ship was gone and 300 crewmen were dead. The rest were left bobbing in the waves, hundreds of miles from land, some with life jackets and others, including Mr. McCoy, clinging to life rafts.

Of 1,196 men on board, only 316 (or, by some accounts, 317) survived the next five days at sea.

The ship's SOS messages were disregarded as likely hoaxes, and no rescue was launched.

As recounted in the book "In Harm's Way," the drifting seamen began hallucinating with visions of dancing girls, hotels and ships. Most were killed by sharks or died of exhaustion.

"It was easier to die than to stay alive," Mr. McCoy recalled.

Their skipper became the only U.S. Navy captain ever court-martialed for losing a ship in wartime. Mr. McCoy was among those who worked successfully to get him exonerated in 2001.

Mr. McCoy helped raised money to build the USS Indianapolis Survivors Memorial in Indianapolis. His family plans to take his ashes to the memorial.

A memorial service will be held Thursday in Palm Coast, Fla.

In addition to his wife, of Palm Coast, and his daughter, among the survivors are two sons, Dennis McCoy of Dallas and Craig McCoy of Midlothian, Texas; a sister, Elsie Woolverton of Collinsville; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.



The editor having dinner with Dr. McCoy in Palm Coast



Dr. McCoy speaking at a WW II Veterans Council event at Flagler College in 2007



The Angels of The Vietnam War: Nurses Caring For The Wounded

Vietnam War Memories



An all-out war that lasted for so many years. Many were dead, wounded, and lost. Life as we know it is so different; the lives of those men and women got trapped in a chaos that was seemingly unending. But in the years of war and death comes a group of mostly volunteers who served as angels in the hell of the Vietnam War. They treated the wounded, saved thousands of soldiers from dying, and became the only hope for some – they were the nurses of the Vietnam War.

The nurses during the Vietnam War were mostly volunteers. Some volunteered to serve the country in general, some to be able to save lives, some for experience, some for adventures, and some to explore Vietnam. They were all being mixed up; inexperienced, experienced, and some were veterans. The veteran nurses lasted longer and were able to endure more stress than the inexperienced. Their shift ranged from 12hrs to 36hrs – without rest, without sleep. Often times, they were running, rushing into the next room where inside was a dying soldier, or the treatment of multiple patients at the same time. And at the end of every shift, they stood high and said to themselves – “I have served.”

Their works never stopped by simply caring for the wounded only, but their care had extended as well to the civilians nearby. They taught them personal hygiene, treating the sick civilians, and making sure they were safe from hostility. The atmosphere they lived during the years of war was more hostile than anyone could imagine. They lived in a stressful environment of saving the dying, and at the same time, facing the fears of getting attacked by the enemies.

To this day, many of them still live and celebrate the services they gave as angels of war. Some of them still maintain contact with those servicemen they saved, the men who wouldn't have lived until now if not because of nurses.

From Dr. Jane Karp, COL, USAF, (ret): **A new supplemental issue of The Gerontologist contains 13 articles by Veterans Affairs (VA) researchers and colleagues looking at differences in aging and mortality between veteran and non-veteran women.**

The findings are taken from the Women's Health Initiative (WHI), a long-term study funded by the National Institutes of Health's National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute and begun in 1991. The study included more than 3,700 women veterans among nearly 162,000 postmenopausal women from 40 centers across the U.S. WHI researchers collected data on health status, disease, health behaviors, and social and psychological factors, following the women for more than two decades.

Gayle Reiber, PhD, MPH, a senior career scientist at the VA Puget Sound Health Care System, and Andrea LaCroix, PhD, MPH, professor and chief of epidemiology at the University of California, San Diego, and a senior investigator at the WHI Clinical Coordinating Center, worked with 60 VA and non-VA researchers to compare health and mortality between veterans and non-veterans in the sample.

"The women veterans in WHI have taught us that prior military service identifies a group of women who face special challenges as they grow older," said LaCroix. "With women choosing to serve our country in greater numbers and expanded roles including combat, it is essential to learn about their healthcare needs after leaving service now and in the future."

Among the findings:

Women veterans reported lower levels of self-perceived health, life satisfaction, social support, physical function, and quality of life.

Women veterans and non-veterans were similar at baseline in mental function tests, but declines in cognitive function over time were greater in the veteran group.

Women veterans experienced higher hip-fracture rates than non-veterans, but this was not the case for other types of fractures.

Women veterans smoked more and were exposed to more passive smoke, which resulted in a greater risk for lung cancer.

All-cause mortality rates were higher for veterans, but only for those serving before the Vietnam era.

Women veterans serving before the Vietnam era experienced more cancer, relative to non-veterans, whereas those serving during or after Vietnam had more traumas from motor vehicle accidents or other causes.

The researchers said the findings, on the whole, suggest that many women veterans could benefit from programs promoting physical activity, social connections, healthy weight, and smoking cessation. The researchers also stressed the importance of evaluation for depression.

The VA's Office of Women's Health leads efforts within the agency to identify women Veterans' health-related needs and improve their health care.

Reiber said there are several reasons why health outcomes may differ between veteran and non-veteran women as they age. The "healthy soldier effect" -- the notion that military populations tend to be healthier in general than their non-military counterparts -- may be offset by other factors, she explained.

"Women veterans were considered 'healthy soldiers,' since joining the military meant passing a variety of tests -- education, aptitude, physical ability, mental function. It also meant maintaining physical fitness, and receiving health care," Reiber said. "Yet women veterans may have been more likely to engage in health behaviors such as smoking, alcohol use, and poor diet, and this, combined with exposure to hazardous environments and mental and physical stress, may have limited their ability to adapt to repeated stresses over the lifetime."

Reiber added that while the authors "cannot pinpoint all of the reasons for health differences among women Veterans compared with non-Veterans, these findings do identify ways to improve health and health care for this special group of older women."

This journal issue can be found at: http://gerontologist.oxfordjournals.org/content/56/Suppl_1.toc

Story Source:

The above post is reprinted from materials provided by The Gerontological Society of America. Note: Materials may be edited for content and length.



**CAREGIVER
SUPPORT LINE**
1-855-260-3274

With VA's **Caregiver Support Line** assistance is just a quick phone call away. Whether you're in need of immediate assistance or have questions about what services you may be eligible for, the caring licensed professionals who answer the support line can:

Tell you about the assistance available from VA.

Help you access services.

Connect you with the Caregiver Support Coordinator at a VA Medical Center near you.

Just listen, if that's what you need right now.

If you're just getting started with VA, calling the Caregiver Support Line is a great first step to take to learn more about the support that's available to you.



JANUARY MEETING
Air Force Sergeants
Chapter 559
Wednesday, January 20, 2016
@ 11:30am

DoubleTree by Hilton (Airport)
2101 Dixie Clipper Dr. Jacksonville FL 32218

RSVP: (904) 705-4849

esgr4u

Why Vietnam Veterans Experience More PTSD than Other Veterans
as published in the Vietnam Vets Corner



It has long been acknowledged that Vietnam War is a very different war, perhaps even the least recognized and remembered, from all other wars fought. The veterans fought in an American war that isn't recalled with pride. Even much bleaker is the fact that the number of cases of PTSD in Vietnam veterans is significantly greater than those in other wars. PTSD is common among war veterans but it is surprisingly greater among Vietnam veterans.

One explanation for this can be attributed to the availability of treatments during war which the Vietnam veterans didn't find the need for early on when compared to Korean veterans. In the Korean war, whenever there are psychological breakdowns, the soldiers could easily be provided with immediate treatment by clinicians who stay onsite so they can go back to combat afterwards. In the Vietnam War, there were only a few number of psychological breakdowns than the Korean War and World War II, making the people believe that the treatment used in Korea has already solved this particular problem in combat.

What they didn't know, however, that there is a differing pattern of neuropsychiatric disorder across war veterans. The pattern in Korea and WWII was very different from that that in Vietnam. In Korea and WWII, the incidence of neuropsychiatric disorder directly increases with the intensity of wars. When the wars settle down, so will the incidence of disorders. This is not the case in Vietnam. There were no rise of neuropsychiatric disorders during war. When the war ended, however, the disorders began.

When they finally returned home, they were greeted with an unwelcoming nation and unaccommodating government and homes, in addition to the heavy burden and a developing disorder most of them have been carrying straight from the war. At the time when they needed the treatment and support, they were ultimately deprived of attention and care. Decades after the war, these veterans are still experiencing the disorder.

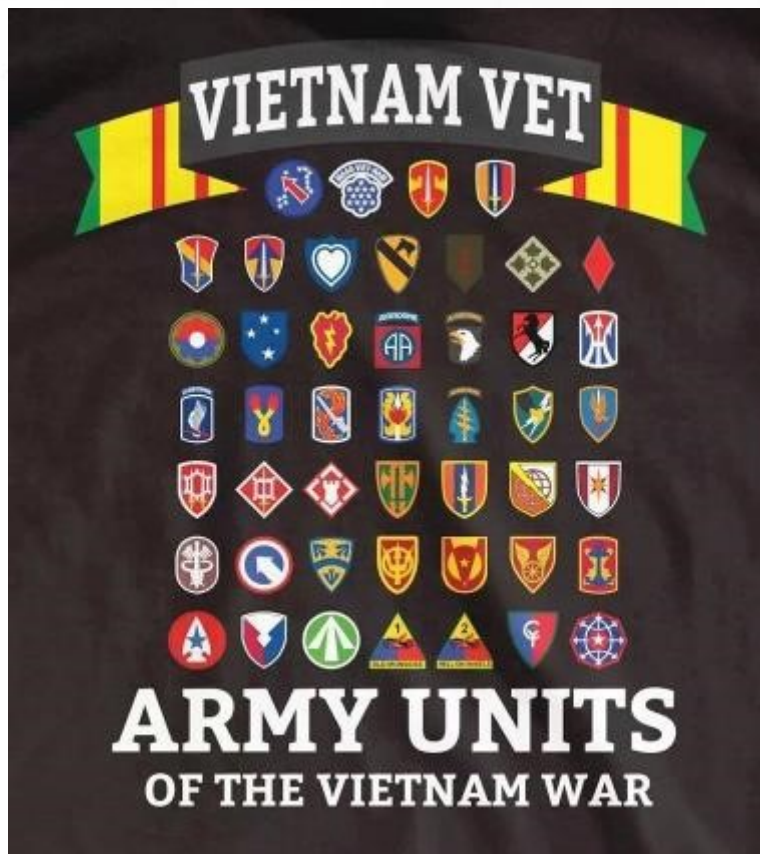
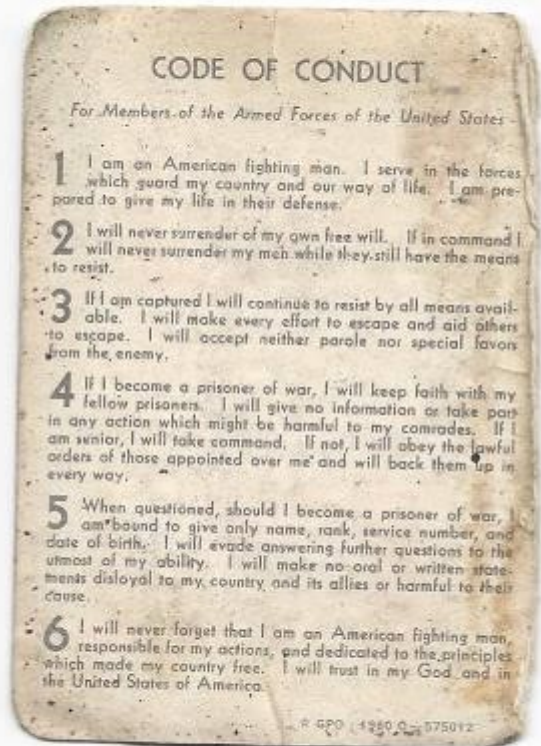
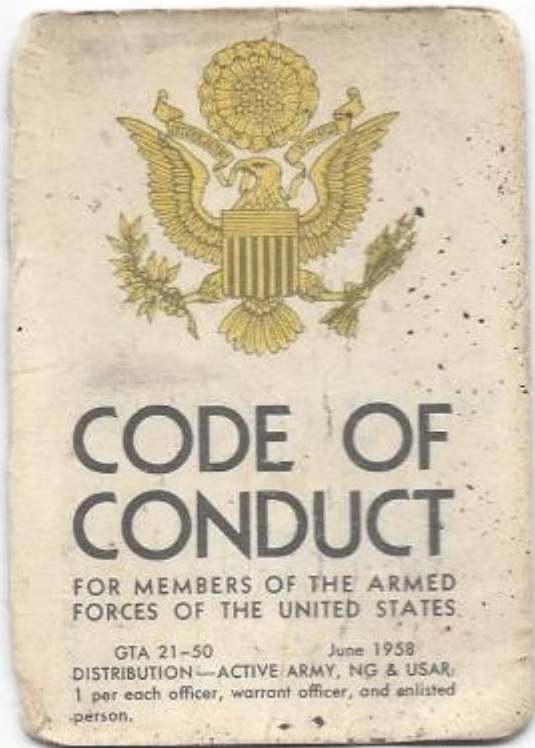


For several years, D.A.V. FI Chapter 6 has furnished the passenger vans for the delivery of Veterans between the St. Augustine Clinic and the Gainesville, V.A. Hospital, and back, Monday – Friday. The Van departs the Clinic every weekday at 0600. Phone (904) 209-3710 to schedule a ride. Drivers furnished by the COA are:

- Monday – Lonnie Woodard**
- Tuesday – Jack LaLonde**
- Wednesday – Floyd Bubba**
- Thursday – Bob Garlander**
- Friday – Robert “Butch” Harrison**



Thanks to Bob Dinkins, Michael Isam, Fred Dupont and Tom Waskovich



U.S. Army KIA by Unit

Source: National Archives and Records Administration

Unit	Nickname	KIA	Comment
1st Cavalry Division	First Team	5,464	-
25th Infantry Division	Tropic Lighting	4,561	-
101st Airborne Division	Screaming Eagles	4,022	-
1st Infantry Division	Big Red One	3,151	-
Various Individual Units	-	2,872	See Note 1 below
9th Infantry Division	Old Reliables	2,629	-
4th Infantry Division	Ivy Division	2,541	-
173rd Airborne Brigade (Separate)	Sky Soldier	1,758	-
1st Aviation Brigade	-	1,706	-
196th Light Infantry Brigade	-	1,188	-
11th Light Infantry Brigade	-	1,109	-
Military Assistance Command Vietnam	MACV	1,017	Advisors to ARVN
198th Light Infantry Brigade	-	987	-
United States Army Vietnam	USARV	847	Headquarters - includes advisors
5th Special Forces Group (Airborne)	Green Berets	834	-
23rd Infantry Division	Americal	809	non-brigade units
199th Light Infantry Brigade	Redcatchers	757	-
11th Armored Cavalry Regiment	Blackhorse	729	-
1st Logistical Command	-	598	-
5th Infantry Division (Mechanized)	Red Diamond	530	1st Brigade only
I Field Force Vietnam	IFFV	353	-
82d Airborne Division	All American	228	3rd Brigade only
1st Signal Brigade	-	193	-
II Field Force Vietnam	IIFV	80	-
Engineer Command	-	64	-
Unit unknown	-	6	-

As he turns 100, Jacksonville veteran reflects on service, and living a full life 'I've just followed what has opened up for me,' says Allan Pearce

By [David Crumpler](#), this article is reprinted in its entirety with the permission of its author and the FL Times Union

Allan Pearce will be looking at the world from a new perspective — that of a centenarian — by the time the new year arrives.

The Jacksonville resident turns 100 on Tuesday.

For Pearce, a century of living has brought many rewards: a loving and devoted family, an active church life, a long career he was in no hurry to give up, and involvement in a variety of organizations he holds in high regard, such as the Boy Scouts of America and the Florida Trail Association.



His own early days as a Boy Scout helped prepare him for a pivotal point as an adult: military service, which he embraced for 20 years.

The emphasis on values and citizenship would serve him well when he went to Italy in 1943 as part of the 456th Bombardment Group in the Army Air Corps.

Over a period of about six months, Pearce flew 50 combat missions on B-24 Liberator heavy bombers, he recalled while sitting on a sofa next to his wife, Pat, at an assisted living facility on the Southside where they are residents.

Pearce was a radio operator and gunner with the 745th Bomb Squadron. Though he saw little glory in war, he was proud to be serving his country, and viewed his service as a necessary part of the solution to the global conflict.

“It was just the situation,” he said. “I’ve always tried to do a good job, and I’ve always tried to just take what comes my way in life.”

Still, when he came back to the states after completing 50 missions, he felt relieved.

“It was as if a great burden was lifted from my shoulders and I could look forward to life again with anticipation, not apprehension,” Pearce said years later to his son, Doug, who was putting together a book about his father’s WWII experiences and memories.

Pearce, who was born in Edmonton, Alberta, moved to Jacksonville with his family when he was 9. A graduate of Landon High School, Class of 1934, he was selling insurance when he was drafted into the infantry in June 1941. He was 25 and the United States had not yet entered the war.

He was training at Fort Benning in Georgia when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor.

Pat Pearce remembers her husband’s account of what the captain told the soldiers the next

morning.

“He said, ‘You know what happened yesterday. It behooves you to pay attention to what you were learning. It can make the difference between life and death.’ ”

After returning to the states, Pearce was accepted into Officer Candidate School, and later joined the Army Reserve Transportation Corps. He was a major when he retired at 60.

He started working as a general agent for Aetna in 1949, and continued to work for the company until 1999. Pearce has been a member of First Baptist Church in downtown Jacksonville since the early 1970s. He met Pat there in 1976, and they married in 1980. He feels blessed by a strong sense of family. Pearce’s son lives in Dallas but travels to Jacksonville frequently. His daughter, Carol Wakefield, lives here.

The Pearces missed the “big reunion” in Texas in 1989, Pat Pearce said — the celebration party for the 50th anniversary of the B-24 Liberator and the U.S. and allied servicemen who flew them during WWII. But they have attended numerous subsequent bomb group reunions all over the country, and Pearce stayed in touch with some fellow bomb group members for many years.

A lifetime member of the Mayport Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America, Pearce was honored when asked to be a grand marshal in the 2014 Veterans Day parade in Atlantic Beach.

He thought more about his childhood, and how the Boy Scouts helped serve as a foundation for future.

“I didn’t say ‘No,’ ” he said. “I’ve just followed what has opened up for me. I didn’t go searching for any of these things.”

He also gave credit to the Boy Scouts, with its emphasis on fitness, for staying active. Pearce competed in the River Run 16 times, and decided to stop at the age of 82 when he figured he wasn’t going to improve his performance time. He still takes walks regularly.

Pearce hesitates to use the word “proud” when he talks about his life — despite his military service, despite his commitment to various civic-minded groups.

He’s more comfortable with the word “humble.”

Asked to pick out the best-looking guy in a group picture with members of his bomb crew, Pearce said, “Well, I’m not going to pick myself.”

His wife, sitting beside him and looking at the 1943 photo as well, disagreed.

“Oh, all right,” Pearce said, and laughed.

David Crumpler: (904) 359-4164

Florida National Guard Public Affairs Office

Story by Sgt. Christopher Milbrodt

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Each year, the Florida National Guard (FLNG) has an opportunity to showcase the organization’s equipment and capabilities to citizens and elected officials during an event known as National Guard Day held at the state capitol building courtyard in Tallahassee. Throughout the day, people are invited



to get hands-on knowledge of different equipment utilized during both state and federal operations, as well as speak to the Soldiers and Airmen of the FLNG who operate these systems.

“Annually, the FLNG gets an opportunity to come to the capitol, where we get to showcase some of our technology and systems that we have within the National Guard,” said Maj. Gen. Michael Calhoun, the adjutant general of the Florida National Guard. “It gives our Soldiers a chance to meet the individuals that we work for in the community and make them more familiar with our systems and get a chance to show the legislators the byproduct of all their support.”

National Guard Day brought with it representatives and equipment from every unit in the state. Soldiers and Airmen were on hand to demonstrate equipment capabilities, such as the 221st Explosive Ordnance Detachment’s bomb suit demonstration. A crowd favorite was the display and demonstrations of the 3rd Battalion, 20th Special Forces Group, which included a weapons display and a rappelling demonstration from the roof of the capitol building.

“This event helps showcase the Florida National Guard as a truly flexible and capable organization in both war-time missions and assisting here at home,” said Rep. Jimmie T. Smith, Florida House of Representatives. “We want to ensure that we have the funding and programs that benefit the Florida National Guard, and these events bring examples to show our legislature how capable our force has become.”

Citizens and legislators engaged with Florida Guardsmen throughout the day, making each display come alive with excitement and conversation. Those in attendance got a chance to get not only knowledge of some of the equipment and systems, but also pictures with and inside the vehicles.

“Most people only think about the National Guard when we have a hurricane or natural disaster, but the truth is our National Guard has deployed into harm’s way more than 100 times since 9-11,” said Rick Scott, the governor of Florida. “We have absolutely the best Guard in the United States; our Guard members are always ready and always there.”

MISSING MAN TABLE & HONORS CEREMONY



As you entered the room, you may have noticed a special table; it is reserved to honor our missing men.

Set for six, the empty chairs represent Americans who were or are missing from each of the services – Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard – and civilians, all with us in spirit.

Some here were very young, or not yet born, when the Vietnam War began; however, all Americans should never forget the brave men and women who answered our nation's call and served the cause of freedom in a special way.

Let me explain the meaning of this table, and then join me for a moment of silent prayer.

The table is round – to show our everlasting concern.

The cloth is white – symbolizing the purity of their motives when answering the call to serve.

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

The yellow ribbon symbolizes our continued uncertainty, hope for their return and determination to account for them.

A slice of lemon reminds us of their bitter fate, captured and missing in a foreign land.

A pinch of salt symbolizes the tears of our missing and their families - who long for answers after decades of uncertainty.

The lighted candle reflects our hope for their return – alive or dead.

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

The glass is inverted – to symbolize their inability to share a toast.

The chairs are empty – they are missing..... (moment of silence)

Let us now raise our water glasses in a toast to honor America's POW/MIAs, to the success of our efforts to account for them, and to the safety of all now serving our nation!

From Rolling Stone on Facebook

Airmen of Note - Prior to becoming a legendary football coach for the Dallas Cowboys, Tom Landry served our great nation as an Airman.

Landry attended the University of Texas at Austin, majoring as an industrial engineer.

After his first semester in school, he interrupted his studies to serve in the United States Army Air Corps during World War II.

He was 19 years old.

Landry was inspired to join the armed forces in honor of his brother Robert Landry. Robert had enlisted in the Army Air Corps after the attack on Pearl Harbor. While ferrying a B-17 over to England, Robert's plane went down over the North Atlantic, close to Iceland. After being classified as missing in action (MIA) for several weeks, the Army officially declared Robert deceased.

Landry trained as a copilot for the B-17 and was assigned to the Eighth Air Force, 493rd Squadron in Ipswich, England.

He successfully completed a combat tour of 30 missions and even survived a crash landing in Belgium when his plane ran out of fuel.

In 1945, 1st Lt Landry was honorably discharged from the service.

From 1950 to 1955, he played pro football for the New York Giants.

In 1960, he became the first head coach of the Dallas Cowboys (also known as America's Team) and stayed for 29 seasons (1960–88) compiling a won/lost record of 250 & 162.

Landry went on to become a two-time Super Bowl winning coach of the Dallas Cowboys and the inventor of the "4-3" Defense.

Landry was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1990 and the Cowboys' Ring of Honor in 1993. After being diagnosed with acute myelogenous leukemia in May 1999, the coaching legend passed away on February 12, 2000.

He was 75 years old.

Thank you for your service, sir. May you continue to rest in peace.

Fly-Fight-Win!



Bill would give WWII women pilots Arlington cemetery rights

A bipartisan House bill would allow the remains of some woman pilots who served during World War II to once again be honored at Arlington National Cemetery.



The Women Airforce Service Pilots Arlington Inurnment Restoration Act will allow the cremated remains of women who served in a small program to be placed in the prestigious cemetery, effectively overturning a standing policy that prohibits this practice.

"When the call came to serve in World War II, the WASP answered that call like millions of other Americans," said Rep. Susan Davis, D-San Diego, one of the bill's 24 co-sponsors. "They have inurnment rights in other national cemeteries throughout the country. That right should include Arlington National Cemetery, which has always been considered a special place of honor."

WASPs can be buried at cemeteries run by the Department of Veterans Affairs, but Arlington is run by the Army. According to The Associated Press, Army lawyers reviewed regulations in 2014 and determined that these women were technically "active-duty designees" and couldn't be inurned at Arlington.

The Women Airforce Service Pilots was made up of about 1,100 women who flew noncombat missions during World War II. Some of their duties included towing airborne targets for live ammunition training, shuttling aircraft from one place to another and training combat pilots. The program was created in order to allow combat pilots to focus on combat missions rather than support duties.

The program ended after World War II, and the WASPs did not gain official veteran status until 1977. Their remains were previously left at an indoor enclosure at Arlington until 2014 when then-Secretary of the Army John McHugh reclassified the pilots.

"This decision is simply appalling. At a time when we are opening all positions to women, the Army is closing Arlington to the pioneers who paved the way

for pilots like me and all women to serve in uniform. It doesn't make sense," said Rep. Martha McSally, R-Ariz., the House member who introduced the legislation, said in a statement.



McSally, a retired Air Force colonel, served 26 years in the military. She was the first woman fighter pilot to fly combat missions as well as the first to command a fighter squadron in U.S. history.

In helping our great nation achieve final victory during WW II, 38 Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) died in accidents. Eleven died in training and twenty-seven on active duty.

On July 1, 2009, the President and the United States Congress awarded the WASP the Congressional Gold Medal.

Three of the roughly 300 surviving WASPs were on hand to witness the event. During the ceremony President Obama said, "The Women Airforce Service Pilots courageously answered their country's call in a time of need while blazing a trail for the brave women who have given and continue to give so much in service to this nation since.

Every American should be grateful for their service, and I am honored to sign this bill to finally give them some of the hard-earned recognition they deserve."

On May 10, 2010, the 300 surviving WASPs visited the US Capitol to accept the Congressional Gold Medal from House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and other Congressional leaders.

National Center for PTSD: US Department of Veterans Affairs

CLINICIAN'S TRAUMA UPDATE Online

Issue 9(6), December 2015

For COMPLETE summaries, see this month's CTU-Online (PDF) posted on
www.ptsd.va.gov.

Take Note

The impact of Prolonged Exposure on comorbid conditions

A new literature review examined randomized controlled trials of PE for PTSD that included data on disorders and symptoms that frequently co-occur with PTSD. Overall, investigators found that PE either improved secondary outcomes (e.g., depression, functioning) or at least did not worsen them (e.g., substance abuse, suicidality). The article is one of seven that represents the Topical Collection on Disaster Psychiatry: Trauma, PTSD, and Related Disorders of Current Psychiatry Reports.

Vietnam Veterans

Decades later, another look at rates of PTSD among Vietnam Veterans

Research on Vietnam-era Veterans has produced some of the field's most valuable data on the impact of trauma and PTSD. Although 40 years have passed since the end of the Vietnam War, researchers continue to follow the Vietnam Veteran cohort to learn about PTSD over the lifespan. A recent study led by investigators at VA Puget Sound took an updated look at PTSD prevalence in aging Vietnam Veterans. Read this CTU-Online.

Treatment

Evaluating approaches to e-mental health

Innovative technology-based approaches in mental health care, or e-mental health, offer the promise of increasing access to information and treatment, yet research is needed to establish the feasibility and efficacy of these innovations. Three new studies examined outcomes

from three different approaches to e-mental health that varied in format and level of clinician involvement – a mobile phone app, an online writing portal, and a stepped-care inter

vention incorporating online technology. A fourth study investigated Veterans' interest in using various e-mental health options. Read this CTU-Online.

VA outperforms private sector on quality of medication treatment for mental health

VA strives to meet the mental health needs of Veterans and uses various performance metrics to gauge whether VA care is improving from one year to the next. But, how is VA performing relative to other healthcare systems? Investigators at the RAND Corporation took a close look at the quality of pharmacotherapy for psychiatric patients within and outside VA. Read this CTU-Online.

Do prescription stimulants increase risk for PTSD in Servicemembers?

Levels of the neurotransmitter norepinephrine are elevated in PTSD. Stimulants, which are often prescribed to treat ADHD or improve cognitive performance, increase norepinephrine. Therefore, some researchers have suggested that stimulants may exacerbate PTSD symptoms. Using data from the Millennium Cohort Study, investigators with the Naval Health Research Center put this hypothesis to the test. Read this CTU-Online.

ECT reduces symptoms and suicidality in patients with comorbid PTSD and depression

Early approaches to electroconvulsive therapy (ECT) caused serious side effects and presented safety risks. Today, thanks to improved delivery methods, ECT is safe and effective for severe, treatment-refractory depression. Reports of use in comorbid depression and PTSD exist but there is little information about efficacy. Recently, investigators at the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Healthcare Center examined the long-term benefits of ECT for co-occurring depression and PTSD. Read this CTU-Online.

Tell a friend so they can subscribe to CTU-Online.

Sign up for the PTSD Monthly Update or other publications from the National Center for PTSD.

The Clinician's Trauma Update, CTU-Online, is an electronic newsletter produced by the National Center for PTSD, Department of Veterans Affairs. CTU-Online provides summaries of clinically relevant publications in the trauma field with links to published abstracts or full text articles when available. Please send any feedback to barbara.hermann@va.gov.

Pentagon Announces Changes to Military Decorations and Awards Program

By Lisa Ferdinando, DoD News, Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON Jan. 7, 2016 — The Pentagon has made a number of changes to the military decorations and awards program to ensure service members receive appropriate recognition of their actions, according to a statement released today.

The changes come after a long and deliberate review, a defense official told reporters in a Jan. 6 background briefing.

Then-Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel initiated the review in 2014 to improve the military awards program by harnessing lessons learned from conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, the official said.

"He wanted to ensure that we're appropriately recognizing our service members for their services, actions and sacrifices," the defense official added.

The Pentagon statement points out key changes to the decorations and awards program:

- Implementation of new goals and processes to improve timeliness of the Medal of Honor and other valor awards;
- Standardization of the meaning and use of the Combat Distinguishing Device, or "V" device, as a valor-only device to ensure unambiguous and distinctive recognition for preeminent acts of combat valor;
- Creation of a new combat device, to be represented by a "C" worn on the relevant decoration, to distinctly recognize those service members performing meritoriously under the most arduous combat conditions;
- Introduction of a "remote impacts" device, signified by an "R" to be worn on the relevant decoration, to recognize service members who use remote technology to directly impact combat operations; and
- Adoption of a common definition of Meritorious Service Under Combat Conditions to determine eligibility for personal combat awards.

WOOF ALERT: In 2016 we will be building a 2nd kennel. This is huge for K9s. Everyday we get asked why our waiting list is so long. Reason, we cannot identify, vet, and train the dogs quickly. This process takes months and months. With the new kennel, and the new hiring of expert dog trainers we will be able to shorten the wait and get more dogs trained. Amazing people have helped us raise the money to build this kennel that is so badly needed. Start of construction early 2016. We must STOP 22. Thanks to all that are helping us help our Warriors.



Service Cross, Silver Star Review

To "ensure that those service members who performed valorously were recognized at the appropriate level," the defense official said that Defense Secretary Ash Carter has directed the military departments to review Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, Air Force Cross, and Silver Star Medal recommendations since Sept. 11, 2001, for actions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

There are approximately 1,000 Silver Star and 100 service cross recommendations under review, the official said. While there is a possibility a medal could get upgraded, no service member will have the award downgraded, he said.

The defense official noted "unusual Medal of Honor awards trends," as a one reason for the review.

The first seven Medal of Honor awards for actions in Iraq and Afghanistan were posthumous, he said. There may have been a perception that only a fallen service member could receive the nation's highest military award for valor, he said.

After the Defense Department clarified the "risk of life" portion for the Medal of Honor's criteria in 2010, all 10 recipients have been living, he noted. The review is to ensure that no one deserving of a higher honor has been overlooked, the defense official said.

The results of the reviews are due to the secretary of defense on Sept. 30, 2017, he said.

(Follow Lisa Ferdinando on Twitter: @FerdinandoDoD)

Local WW II vet recalls Battle of the Bulge, crossing the Rhine atop ammo truck

By **JAKE MARTIN** jake.martin@staugustine.com

This article used with the permission of the St. Augustine Record and its author Jake Martin

George von Bretzel, 94, can say he's well-traveled, even among other veterans of World War II who found themselves thousands of miles from home during combat.

It was nothing new for him.

He was born Dec. 12, 1921, in Yokohama, Japan, to a once-affluent Russian family that had escaped the Russian Revolution and ensuing civil war. One of his grandfathers had been a president of the Bank of Russia, and another had been novelist Fyodor Dostoyevski's doctor.

"It wasn't immediately apparent, but the money was not worth anything anymore," said von Bretzel, a St. Augustine resident.

It was also getting hard for non-Japanese people to make a living in Japan, so the family soon relocated to Long Island, New York, before settling in Watertown, New York, north of Syracuse.

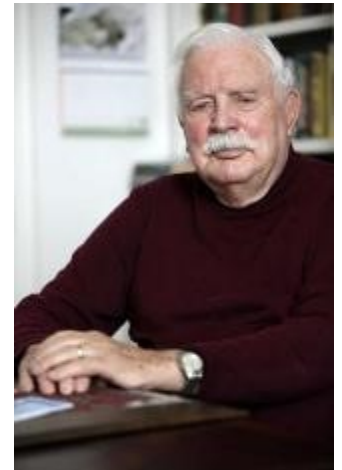
Von Bretzel's father made a living teaching horseback riding to children of well-to-do families during the Great Depression.

Still, von Bretzel said he remembers his childhood fondly, playing hockey and entertaining vague notions of becoming a physician.

War broke out and von Bretzel said he more or less joined the crowd in enlisting. He entered the U.S. Army as a private first class with the 99th Infantry Division, which played a key strategic role in the Battle of the Bulge when its inexperienced troops held the north shoulder of the German advance, blocking access to the road network that led into Belgium.

It was winter, sometime between the end of 1944 and the beginning of 1945, when von Bretzel got the order he was hoping he wouldn't get.

"I remember reporting to a sergeant who said, 'Go up on the hill there and dig in,'" he said. "It was about three feet of snow on top of frozen ground, and I



WWII veteran George von Bretzel, 94, sits in the study of his Marsh Creek home.
Photo by Daron Dean

think by the next morning I managed to get down about two or three feet through the snow and ice — and that was my welcome to the new world.” In March 1945, the division crossed the River Rhine at Remagen via the Ludendorff Bridge, where von Bretzel experienced what later became “The Ammo Truck Story.”

“It seems funny now,” he said.

After U.S. forces had captured the bridge, Germany tried to destroy it multiple times until it collapsed on March 17, 1945 — 10 days after it had been captured — killing 28 U.S. Army engineers. While it stood, however, the bridge enabled the U.S. Army to deploy nearly 25,000 troops in six divisions with tanks, artillery pieces and trucks across the Rhine.

Von Bretzel was with the canon company, and, for reasons he says he still doesn’t understand, his outfit was among the first to cross the bridge.

“As opposed to anti-tank weapons that have a higher velocity and fire straight across, the canon company lobs its shells,” he said. “We were supposed to be 3,000 to 5,000 yards behind the front line.”

In the meantime, the bridge was being hit about once a minute by German fire, weakening the supports of the already rickety structure. Von Bretzel was “curiously enough” sitting on top of a 2½-ton truck covered with canvas and filled with live ammunition.

“Had they just hit that, there would have been no George, no bridge, no nothing,” he said. “That was how I crossed the Rhine.”

Originally built in World War I to deliver reinforcements and supplies to German troops on the Western front, the bridge was never rebuilt.

For his war efforts, von Bretzel received three Battle Stars and earned the rank of corporal before his discharge.

Onto the CIA

He finished schooling at St. Lawrence University in New York and found work as a chemist for a paint and varnish company. It was a short-lived career.

His fluency in Russian helped von Bretzel land a job as an analyst and translator in the Soviet Division of the Central Intelligence Agency after the war —

with a good word put in by his mother who also worked in the division.

Von Bretzel worked for the CIA for nearly 20 years before retiring. His Russian roots also helped him meet his first wife, Tonya, who was born in Sevastapol, Russia, in 1920, at the height of that country's civil war. She had been the youngest of seven orphans adopted by Adm. Newton McCully, who was a representative for the United States in Sevastapol at the time. The McCully family ended up in St. Augustine, on San Marco Avenue, upon the admiral's retirement in the 1930s.

Von Bretzel said Tonya served in the Navy Nurse Corps during World War II and was stationed at Bethesda Naval Hospital, where she had met von Bretzel's father who, by then, was working as a guard at the hospital.

"When I came home from the military, he asked me to come home and meet her because of our shared backgrounds and because she wanted to be able to speak with someone who knew Russian," von Bretzel said.

Tonya died in the late 1970s of a brain aneurysm she suffered during a bridge game, in the middle of telling a joke.

Von Bretzel met his second wife, Mary, at his own estate sale in Maryland. Mary and a friend had opened an antiques shop, and she was interested in getting an early look at what he was selling. She had known Tonya from playing bridge but had not met von Bretzel, although she had heard nice things.

Von Bretzel was hesitant to give her a preview at first but soon remembered Mary had written him a nice letter after Tonya's death.

As von Bretzel tells the story, Mary left a pair of glasses at his house that day so that he would have to call her. Mary insists that was not planned. Nonetheless, they married in 1980 and moved to St. Augustine, where, today, they own an antiques shop in the historic Hotel Alcazar building called Second Time Around.

Von Bretzel said his memory is starting to go, but there are still many funny instances, even from times of war, that come to him every now and then. He remembered a commanding officer of his who had night blindness, for example.

"In the evenings, after we'd just finished moving all the trucks someplace else, he'd come out all grand and say, 'Cpl. Tucker, where is my Jeep?' and Cpl. Tucker would say, 'You're leaning on it, sir.'"

"IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO"



AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS CHAPTER 233

4TH ANNUAL POKER RUN

TO BENEFIT

MISSING IN AMERICA PROJECT – FL

DATE: Saturday, February 27, 2016

REGISTRATION FEE: \$15.00/Rider

TIME: Registration starts @ 9:00am

\$ 5.00/Passenger

KSU @ \$10:00am

Last bike in at 4:30

START LOCATION: American Legion Post 233

560 N Wilderness Trail
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082
(904) 285-2484



1st STOP: American Legion Post 129

10:-00 - 12:00 151 4th Street S.
Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250
(904) 249-2266

MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the Missing in America Project (MIAP) is to locate, identify and inter the unclaimed cremated remains of American veterans through the joint efforts of private, state and federal organizations, and to provide honor, respect and dignity to those who have served this country by securing a final resting place for these forgotten heroes.

2nd STOP: The Bayard Rooster

11:00 -1:30 12661 Phillips Highway
Jacksonville, FL 32256
(904) 880-7771

3rd STOP: Outback Crabshack

12:30—3:00 8155 County Rd 13 North
St. Augustine, FL 32092
(904) 522-0500

Entertainment:

Kickass Karaoke

Hosted by: Michael Morgan



4th STOP: Arnold's Lounge

2:00 - 4: 00 3912 N Ponce De Leon Blvd.
St. Augustine, FL 32084
(904) 824-8738

Best Hand

Worst Hand

Bake Sale

FOOD - RAFFLES -

DOOR PRIZES

END LOCATION: American Legion Post 233 - 560 N Wilderness Trail Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082 - (904) 285-2484

From [Bob Dinkins](#): Herky Hill at Cam Ranh AB, Vietnam. This was the living quarters for Air Force maintenance and air crew personnel.

[Fred DuPont](#) Went trough there in September 1967 in route to Saigon to visit my brother, Jim. Slept in the back of a C130 during a one night layover.



BBQ

Benefits American Legion Post 37 Auxiliary

Chef Steve's

BBQ Pork and Chicken w/potatoes, beans and slaw

Eat-in or Take-out \$6.00

Feb 13th - 1:00pm till gone

Games and a 50/50

Held at:

Sluggers Sports Saloon

3501 N Ponce De Leon

Agent Orange Base Spray List

Page 5

USAF Ranch Hand Herbicide Totals from Aug 1965

Grand Total: 8,165,491

11/5/95

I Corps: 2,355,322					II Corps: 1,954,406				
	Orange	White	Blue	Total		Orange	White	Blue	Total
A Shu	53,550	2,550	6,128	62,228	An Khe, Camp Raddit	37,810	6,400	5,610	49,820
An Hoa	6,500	1,800	11,250	19,550	An Lao, LZ Laramie	68,970	490	10,570	80,030
Binh Hoa	8,220		1,600	9,820	Ban Me Thuot	16,000	9,250		25,250
Can Lo	80,375	8,660	12,785	101,820	Ben Het	80,495	7,230	3,000	90,725
Camp Carroll	78,200	5,400	5,050	88,650	Bon Song, LZ Two Bits	80,643	630	6,000	87,273
Camp Eagle	14,250			14,250	Bre Nui	6,600			6,600
Camp Esso	53,410	5,600	5,500	64,510	Camp Ranh Bay	21,227	1,373		22,600
Camp Evans	18,690		880	19,570	Camp Granite	59,310	2,075	5,390	66,775
Camp Henderson	68,155	7,040	4,800	79,995	Che Oreo		1,800		1,800
Chu Lai	12,170	4,150	1,598	17,918	Da Lat	575			575
Con Thien	84,700	12,460	10,925	108,085	Dak To	49,460	600	34,800	84,860
Da Nang, China Beach	13,800		2,000	15,800	Firebase Pony	43,490		3,800	47,290
Dong Ha	54,385	5,060	9,935	69,380	Kontum		415		415
Duc Pho, LZ Bronco	46,225	14,400	1,175	61,800	LZ Dog, LZ English	63,073	630	6,000	69,703
Firebase Jack	140,875	11,900	3,280	156,055	LZ Oasis				No Data
Firebase Rakassan	150,145	23,900	2,510	176,555	LZ Puffer, Firebase Bird	50,095		7,200	57,295
Firebase West	15,405	3,690	18,480	37,575	LZ Upell	43,455	3,220	275	46,950
HM 63	20,500	3,200		23,700	Nha Trang	6,950	325		7,275
HM 69	11,620	4,150	1,598	17,368	Phan Rang	0,110	2,075		2,185
Hoi An	17,520	3,000	13,950	34,470	Phan Thiet	5,000	330	220	5,550
Hue	41,395		5,070	46,465	Plei Ho, SF Camp	15,300	1,260	110	16,670
Khe Sanh, Firebase Smith	43,705	3,040	4,300	51,045	Plei Jerang	98,220	51,235	1,800	151,255
LangCo Bridge	50,610	5,600	3,500	59,710	Pleiku	1,210	11,640	1,050	14,800
LZ Baldy	15,430	3,000	13,950	32,380	Puli Cat, LZ Hammond	29,700	7,210		36,910
LZ Dogpatch, HM 327	4,490		8,250	12,740	Qui Nhon	53,215	1,800	4,125	59,140
LZ Geronimo	22,535	14,000	468	37,003	Song Cau	5,650	55		5,705
LZ Jane, Firebase Barbara	91,150	6,750	3,700	101,600	Tuy An	13,215	3,740		16,955
LZ Langley, Firebase Shepard	72,105	7,040	4,800	83,945	Tuy Hoa	29,565	4,485		34,050
LZ Profess, HM 55	39,300	13,000	17,209	69,509					
LZ Rockcrusher, HM 65	47,800			47,800					
LZ Rockpile	110,050	15,440	7,650	133,140					
LZ Ross	15,405	6,720	18,508	40,633					
LZ Sandra	118,780	20,210	24,755	163,745					
LZ Snapper, Firebase Leather	11,350		3,000	14,350					
Marble, HM 59	15,405	6,720	18,508	40,633					
Phu Bai	54,300	3,000	120	57,420					
Phu Loc, LZ Tommahawk	78,250	4,000		82,250					
Quang Hai	25,000		1,800	27,400					
Quang Tri, LZ Nancy	68,000	2,750	3,700	74,450					
III Corps: 4,086,229					IV Corps: 669,534				
	Orange	White	Blue	Total		Orange	White	Blue	Total
An Loc	77,000	79,830		156,830	Ben Luc	45,900	14,836		60,736
Ben Cat	87,250	83,640	20,105	190,995	Ben Tre	24,800	24,750		49,550
Bien Hoa	35,045	124,525	3,950	163,520	Can Tho	15,160	13,915	11,685	40,760
Cholon	320			320	Cao Lanh	1,875	2,935	630	5,440
Cu Chi	59,150	67,540	14,105	140,795	Dong Tam	5,670	605	165	6,440
Das Tieng (Michelin)	32,370	45,800	3,600	81,770	Firebase Grand Canyon?		1,540		1,540
Dien Duc, Firebase Elaine	66,850	25,500		92,350	Firebase Moore	9,820			9,820
Duc Hoa	750			750	Ham Long	3,275	1,620		4,895
Firebase Di An	6,000		1,595	7,595	Moc Hoa	12,400	6,590		18,990
Firebase Frenzel	13,445	57,560	900	71,905	My Tho	13,320	7,316	965	21,601
Firebase Jewel, LZ Snuffy	219,550	146,010	7,300	372,860	Nam Can	150,345	64,295		214,640
Firebase Mice	34,280	23,350	730	58,360	Phnom		184		184
Katum	299,420	239,395	20,000	558,815	Phu Quoc	19,000			19,000
Lai Khe	57,120	22,300	1,800	81,220	Rach Gia		2,155		2,155
Loc Ninh	46,660	103,710	1,800	152,170	Seafoat	4,700			4,700
Long Binh, Firebase Concord	13,445	57,560		71,005	Soc Trang	3,410	2,391	1,280	7,081
LZ Bearcat	17,840	75,470		93,310	Tan An	89,550	36,450		126,000
LZ Fish Nook	44,000	23,800		67,800	Tieu Con	8,700			8,700
LZ Schofield	38,640	17,210	7,600	63,450	Tra Vinh	9,885	8,000		17,885
Nha Be (Navy Base)	119,725	121,925	6,000	247,650	Vinh Loi	30,010			30,010
Nui Ba Den, Firebase Caroline	50,020	66,500	2,100	118,620	Vinh Long	8,360	9,755	800	19,005
Phouc Vinh	484,383	146,576	12,810	643,769					
Phu Cuong	39,845	62,230	12,055	114,130					
Phu Loi	79,000	83,430		162,430					
Que Viet	50,610	5,600	3,500	59,710					
Quin Loi	44,190	34,300		78,490					
Saigon	No Data								
Song Be	1,900	9,220		11,120					
Tan Son Nhut	6,320		1,595	7,915					
Tay Ninh	720	3,225	600	4,545					
Trang Bang	32,365	39,560	6,000	77,925					
Vo Dat, Firebase Nancy	14,180	29,100		43,280					
Vung Tau	7,350			7,350					
Xuan Loc	23,865	58,750	660	83,275					

Note: This does NOT include the US Army helicopter or ground applications, or any form of the insecticide programs by GVN or the US military. The amount represents gallons within 8 kilometers of the area. Thus, each area is 9.6 miles in diameter.

Description: TCDD (Dioxin) Amounts:
Agent Orange 1.77 to 40 ppm
Agent Blue (Purple) 32.8 to 45 ppm
Agent Red (Pink) 65.6 ppm
Agent White (Green) 65.6 ppm
Silvex 1 to 70 ppm
2,4,5-T (Current) 0.1 ppm or less

US Navy and Coast Guard ships in Vietnam



U.S. Navy and Coast Guard Ships in Vietnam VA maintains a list of U.S. Navy and Coast Guard ships associated with military service in Vietnam and possible exposure to Agent Orange based on military records. This evolving list helps Veterans who served aboard ships, including "Blue Water Veterans," find out if they may qualify for presumption of herbicide exposure. Veterans must meet VA's criteria for service in Vietnam, which includes aboard boats on the inland waterways or brief visits ashore, to be presumed to have been exposed to herbicides. Veterans who qualify for presumption of herbicide exposure are not required to show they were exposed to Agent Orange or other herbicides when seeking VA compensation for diseases related to Agent Orange exposure.

Find your ship Ships or boats that were part of the Mobile Riverine Force, Inshore Fire Support (ISF) Division 93 or had one of the following designations operated on the inland waterways of Vietnam. Veterans whose military records confirm they were aboard these ships qualify for presumption of herbicide exposure.

During your Vietnam tour, did your ship or boat have one of the following designations?

AGP (Assault Group Patrol/Patrol Craft Tender)	LCM (Landing Craft, Mechanized)
LCU (Landing Craft, Utility)	LCVP (Landing Craft, Vehicle, Personnel)
LST (Landing Ship, Tank)	PBR (Patrol Boat, River)
PCF (Patrol Craft, Fast or Swift Boat)	PG (Patrol Gunboat)
STABS (Strike Assault Boats)	WAK (Cargo Vessel)
WHEC (High Endurance Cutter)	WLB (Buoy Tender)
WPB (Patrol Boat)	YFU (Harbor Utility Craft)

Alphabetized ship list If your vessel is not included in the Mobile Riverine Force, ISF Division 93 or above designations, check VA's alphabetized ship list.

Need help determining qualifying service? VA will help determine qualifying service in Vietnam after you file a claim for compensation benefits. To contact VA: Call 1-800-827-1000 or 1-800-829-4833 (TDD for hearing impaired)

Go to your nearest VA benefits office - See more at: <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/shiplist/index.asp#sth>

The Historic Florida Militia
Presents



The

SCHOOL of the 16th CENTURY

Fountain of Youth Archaeological Park

11 Magnolia Avenue · St. Augustine, Florida

Saturday, February 6, 2016

9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

*Members of the General Public are Cordially Invited
to View and Participate in Displays, Demonstrations
and Instruction in and of 16th Century (1513-1586)*

**Historic Weapons · Artillery · Armor
Equipment and Accessories · Clothing · Crafts
Culinary Arts · Religious Practices · Camp Life**

Presented by Men of Menéndez Living History Interpreters



Sponsored by the Fountain of Youth Archaeological Park

Note: Normal Park Admission Fees will Apply

Second Watch is an organization formed by the family members, friends and supporters of the men of the USS Indianapolis. They are dedicated to the promotion of citizenship and patriotism and remembering what America is about.



Harold Adam Eck, 89, passed away Monday, December 21 in Little Rock, Arkansas. Born August 11, 1926 in the Irish Channel of New Orleans. He was the son of the late Florence Walters Eck and the late Charles Christian Eck, and brother of the late Charles Eck and the late Evelyn Eck Schwebel He is survived by his wife of 66 years Genevieve Trenticosta Eck, son Dr Patrick C Eck (Janis), daughter Maria Eck Bullard (Hugh), grandchildren Jennifer Eck Frederickson (Chad), Emily Eck, Jenna Bullard Bird (Geoffrey), Mia Bullard, Olivia Bullard, Emma Bullard and Trent Bullard and great grandchildren Kay and Will Frederickson He was also loved by a host of nieces and nephews. He had a wide network of dear friends across the country, and was a member of American Legion, Forty and Eight & Military Order of Purple Heart military organizations and USS Indianapolis Survivors Organization.

Mr. Eck proudly served in the US Navy during World War II and was a Survivor of the Sinking of the USS Indianapolis. After delivering the Atomic Bomb that ended the war, his ship was torpedoed and sunk by a Japanese submarine and the Navy failed to realize it was missing. He and his shipmates spent 5 days in the shark infested waters of the Pacific Ocean before being miraculously spotted in the water by a bomber pilot flying over. Of the 1197 men on board, Harold, at the age of 18, was one of the 317 that survived.

For his heroism in service to his Country, he was awarded campaign medals for operations in the American Theater and Battle Stars in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater, the Victory Ribbon, a Presidential Unit Citation and most importantly the Purple Heart.

After the war, he served the City as a firefighter on the New Orleans Fire Department. He narrowly escaped death many times in that career, yet also saved countless lives during that time. He owned a heating and air conditioning business in the City, and worked for Boeing/Martin Marietta on the construction of the Space Shuttle External Fuel Tank.

After his retirement, he volunteered for many years as a Eucharistic Minister at Touro Infirmary serving those in the hospital. As dedicated parishioner of Our Lady of Good Counsel since his baptism in 1926, Harold served the Lord on countless committees in the parish. Being displaced by Hurricane Katrina, he spent the final years of his life in Little Rock, Arkansas but always missing his native home of New Orleans. He was a larger than life character with a wonderful sense of humor, a true New Orleanian. He never met a stranger. A wonderful husband, father, grandfather, brother, brother-in-law, uncle, mentor and friend to many .

Published in The Times-Picayune from Dec. 26 to Dec. 27, 2015



ALR 233 Presents

“VALENTINES FOR Bill”

Where: American Legion Post 233

When: February 12, 2016

Dinner: 6:30 till 8:00 pm

RSVP @ 285-2484



Menu

Chicken & Shrimp



Entertainment:

Collage



For a \$12.00 Donation – Dinner and Dancing!

Friends coming together to Help a friend in need!

American Legion Post 233 — 560 N. Wilderness Trail Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

285-2484 - www.al233fl.org



First Coast TV was delighted and honored to help spread the word on the event "**Honoring Our Veterans**", that took place on Sunday, Nov. 8th at Anastasia Baptist Church. We need to let our community know that that very small percentage of our men and women, who we value because of their service in uniform, must still be valued after they are no longer in uniform. So First Coast.TV was pleased to be asked to help spread the word. We also covered the story of the new and improved VA clinic in St Augustine. For more **news in video format** on our community in St Johns County please go to www.firstcoast.tv to see more stories on what's news at home.



St. Johns Printing (Est. 1978)
& Cartridge World (Est. 2005)

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Locally Owned and Operated

FULL SERVICE PRINT SHOP
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Business Cards | Rack Cards | Brochures | Flyers | Letterhead
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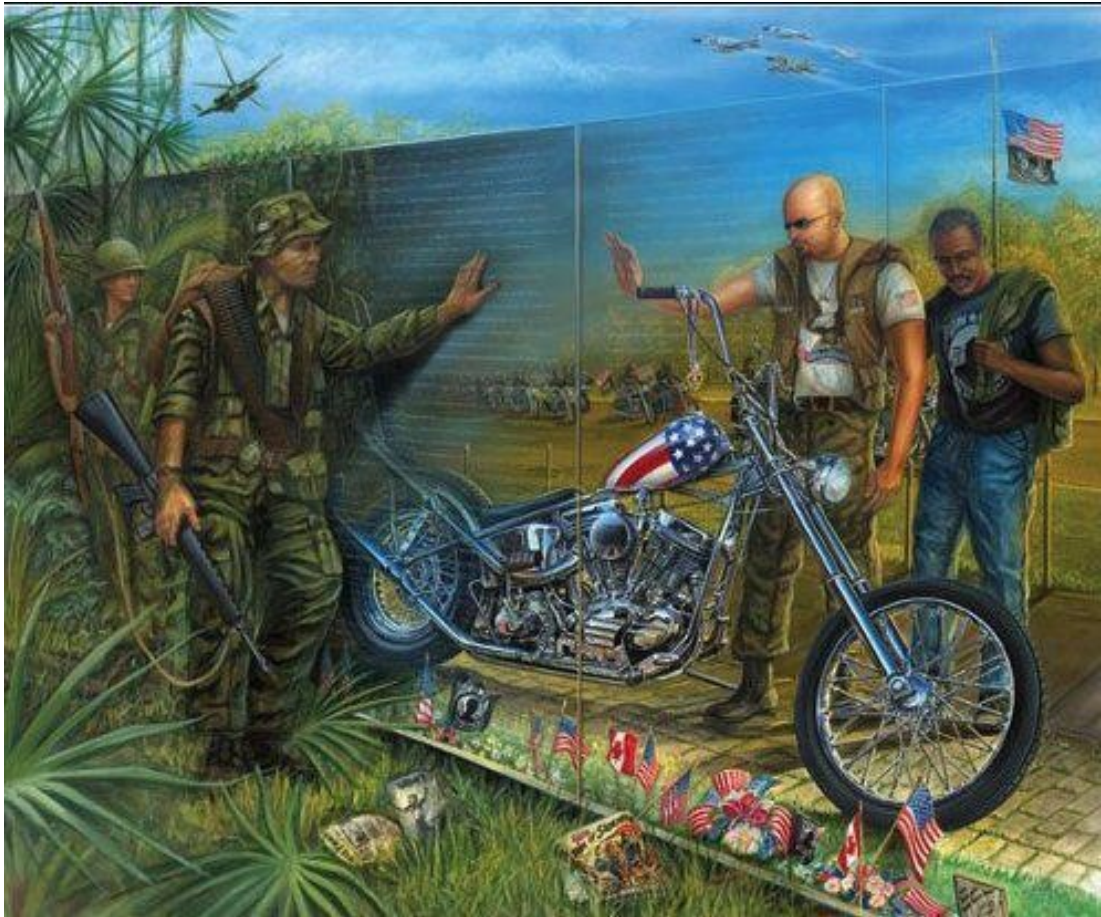


Dedicated on May 27, 1974, the SEABEE Memorial located on Memorial Drive, [Arlington National Cemetery](#), VA, was sculpted by a former SEABEE, Felix de Weldon who also sculpted the [U.S. Marine Corps Iwo Jima Memorial](#), located in Arlington, VA.



VetFriends is a website that will help you find old buddies you served with:

https://www.vetfriends.com/new_member/index-catalog.cfm?Source=Facebook&keyword=buddies_looking_2016





"These American heroes are owed a debt we can never fully repay, but we are passionate about making a significant difference in their lives."

-Lewis Jordan, Founder, & CEO



GratitudeAmerica

Join Forces With GratitudeAmerica

We are a 501 c 3 nonprofit that organizes and holds 4-day retreats at NO COST for veterans and their primary support persons/spouses. Our retreats provide a supportive environment in which veterans can connect with their peers, gain critical coping skills and interact with licensed counselors to begin healing where needed. Our retreats provide various activities including, for example, nature-based recreation, tai chi, breath awareness, kayaking, and dolphin interactions. In many cases our retreats act as a gateway for deeper levels of care. Evidence from a Kansas State University study, using validated metrics over the last two years, demonstrated that our retreat model created positive trends in reducing PTSD related reintegration challenges, and improved relationships between veterans and their spouses.



As shocking as it may seem...

It has been reported that America's service members are committing suicide at a rate of 22 every day and are getting divorced at a rate of 80 every day. We are now building an alliance and are asking you to join forces with us to help reverse these trends. Every \$1000 donated provides at least one service member with the opportunity to attend a retreat with his/her primary support person, become empowered, and make changes to improve their lives. If you would like to make a financial contribution to support GratitudeAmerica's efforts, please visit GratitudeAmerica.org or send a donation, large or small, to GratitudeAmerica at PO Box 16956 Fernandina Beach, FL 32035.

"Having war injuries can be very isolating, lonely, and hard for many to understand. Being surrounded by others who can completely understand your issues, fully relate, and offer support works better than years of therapy. In a few short days, a group of strangers was able to bond and become family. Knowing we have connected with 15 service members and 15 caregivers allows us to be hopeful and optimistic we do not have to go through this alone."

➤ SPOUSE OF VETERAN WITH 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

➤ CONTACT US

John November Esq.

Executive Director

Direct: 904-525-3042

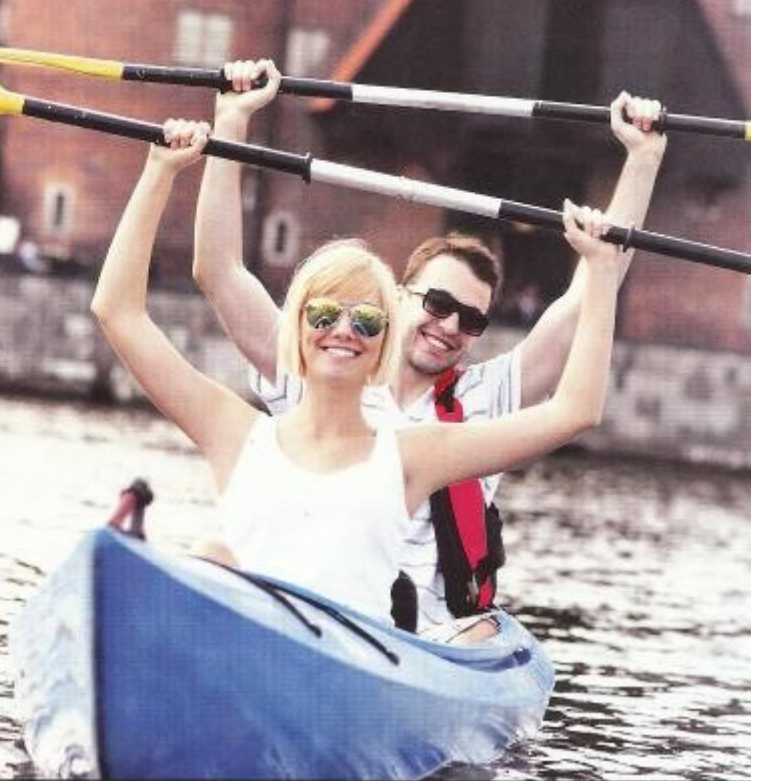
jnovember@gratitudeamerica.org

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- Are 18 years old or older
- Have a confirmed diagnosis of Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus
- Have A1C levels 7 - 10%



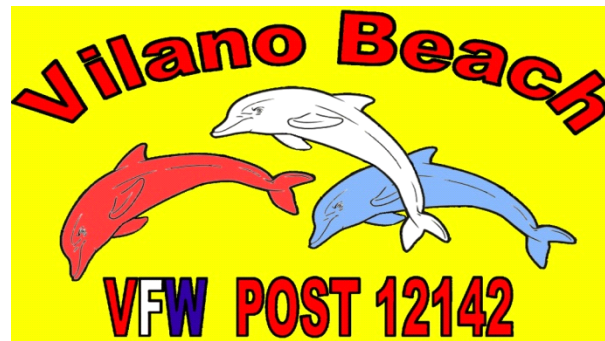
Lisa Thomas, BS, CCRC
President

Telephone (904) 619-8157
Facsimile (904) 683-4916
Mobile (904) 755-1374

lisa.thomas@jaxadvresearch.com
www.jaxadvresearch.com

Solutions Through Advanced Research, Inc.
10175 Fortune Parkway, Suite 1201, Jacksonville, Florida 32256

www.inTANDEM4trial.com



Vilano Beach VFW now has 3 Wheelchairs available for St. Johns County Veterans



1.

2.

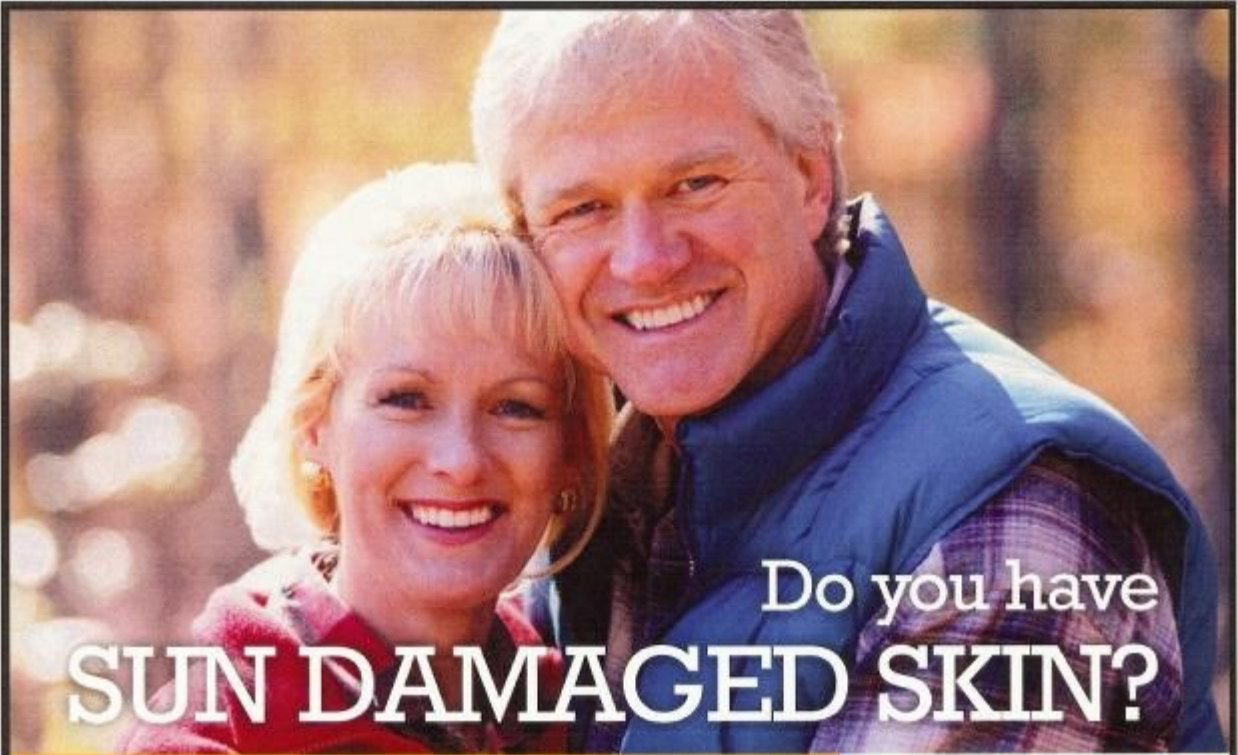
3.

1 – Pride Jazzy Jet 2 – Heavy Duty Electric Wheelchair with on-board Charger & Manual.

2 – Pride Jazzy Select – Electric Wheelchair with Charger & Manual.

3 – Pride Jazzy 1120 – Electric Wheelchair with on-board Charger & Manual.

Any St. Johns County Veteran needing a chair, contact Vilano Beach VFW @ (904) 669-1946



Do you have SUN DAMAGED SKIN?

Are you in the SUN a lot?

We are now conducting a clinical research study to evaluate an investigational cream and its effect on sun damaged skin (Actinic Keratosis).

Do you have scaly or rough lesions on your face or scalp?

Qualified participants will receive at no cost:

- Study related exams
- Study cream or placebo

Qualifying participants will receive financial compensation for their time and travel.

You may be eligible to participate in a clinical research study if you:

- Are you 18 years or age or older
- Have scaly or rough lesions on your face or scalp
- Can visit our office 4 times in 20 weeks

For more information, or to schedule a screening, please contact us at :

Solutions Through Advanced Research, Inc.
 12086 Fort Caroline Road
 Jacksonville, FL 32225
 904-619-8157



“Honoring the Dead by Helping the Living”

For more information,
contact A. J. Sartin (904) 669-1946

Offered by the Vilano Beach VFW Post 12142, VilanoBeachVFW@att.net
Vilano Beach VFW Post 12142 collects Walkers, Wheel Chairs, and Power
Wheel Chairs for distribution to other Veterans in need.

VETERANS HELPING VETERANS

The P320 Travel-Ease Regal has an 18"W x 16"D swivel seat, flip up armrests, headrest and flip-up footboard. The Travel-Ease comes with batteries and runs up to 4.5 mph.

The small footprint is perfect for getting around indoors, but don't be fooled, it's outdoor performance is second to none. The P320 has an excellent torque-range for consistent pulling no matter what the terrain does.



The Merits P320 Travel-Ease Regal is stylish and compact. Its low center of gravity, tight turning radius of 23" and excellent maneuverability makes it extra stable and gives you a high level of freedom.

The P320's 9" Foam-Filled Drive wheels and 8" front casters can take you just about anywhere. Work great indoors and outdoors. The P320 has a maximum speed of 4.5 mph and a range of about 15 miles.

Go-Go Elite Traveller 3-Wheel

by Pride , Model No. SC40E

Lightweight, agile, the Elite Traveller.

18AH battery option for extended drive range

Comes with blue, and red shroud covers

Front frame-mounted seat post offers maximum stability

Key Specs

Top Speed: 4.25 mph

Drive Range: 10.00 miles (this may vary, depending on charge and life of battery)

Heaviest Piece: 28 lbs., Rider Weight capacity: 300 lbs., Weight: 96 lbs.



**Wheelchair Walker Folding Combination, without basket
(pictured on left)**

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

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

Send to: mrothfeld@anyveteran.org
Please send to: mrothfeld@anyveteran.org



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

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

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

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

**The St. Johns County Veterans Council meets the last
Thursday of the month at 7 pm at the Elks Lodge,
1420 A1A So., St. Augustine.**

Visit our Website: www.veteranscouncilofstjohns.org



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

(physical location)
The VSO Office is located in the new 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.
Closed for lunch daily from 11:30 am 12:30 pm

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