



The Patriot Reader Newsletter

P.O. Box 2117

St. Augustine, FL 32085

Bill Dudley, Publisher

Michael Rothfeld, Editor

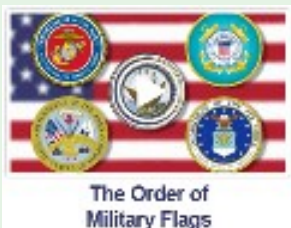
Volume 7, Issue 2

Message from the Chairman

Newsletter Date: February, 2018

Inside this Edition

- Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home
- Veterans Council Policy
- St Augustine Military Ball
- Veterans Council 2017 High Lights
- Veterans Treatment Court Graduates
- Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial
- Veterans Treatment Court
- AUSA Dinner Meeting
- Veterans Council of Duval County
- Designer of the POW/MIA Flag
- Public Law 101-355
- New VA ID Cards
- Veterans Council December Minutes
- 5th Marines Vietnam Memorial
- FMC/AUSA Golf Tournament
- POW/MIA Accounting
- SJC Veterans Treatment Court
- Vietnam Nurses
- POW Flag History
- Vietnam Veteran and his Dog
- Vietnam War Memorial Facts
- FL State VVA Council Nominees
- Warbird Airshow
- All Veterans Re-Union



Fellow Veterans:

January 13, 2018 was this year's date for another outstanding Military Ball organized by the Forward March Committee. To say it was a huge success would be a mild statement. Veterans, former and active duty military, elected officials, community leaders, as well as our local citizens gathered to honor one of our leaders in the community that has spent his entire adult life serving his country at the national, state and local level. Retired Army Sgt. Major Ray Quinn was this year's honoree and there could not have been a better selectee. Everyone was dressed in uniform, tuxedos, or other finery as we gathered to pay honors to a very deserving patriot. I was very proud and honored to be able to introduce Sgt Major as this year's honoree. The Veterans Council would also like to thank the Forward March Committee for putting on this event each year to honor those who have served our country and

our community through their service and sacrifice.

Another major milestone was reached on Thurs. 18 January 2018 when the first graduate from the Veterans Treatment Court was recognized. The court room was filled to capacity as Judge Howard McGillin recognized Frank Schlotter as the first veteran to complete all legal requirements of the Veterans Treatment Court program. Judge Bryan Feigenbaum, Circuit Judge from Volusia County who oversees the Veterans Treatment Court from the southern part of the 7th Judicial Circuit and myself both gave comments about the importance of the VTC for our veterans and its success rate in helping provide the veterans with the help they need as they struggle with coming back after combat. The legacy of this program will continue as we "Welcome Home" all our veterans and provide them with the treatment they need and deserve having served their country.

On Saturday, veterans and vol-



unteers gathered at our St. Augustine National Cemetery to collect all the wreaths that were put out on 16 Dec. 2017 during the Wreaths Across America program. A big shout out to those who showed up early Saturday morning and worked tirelessly to pick up all the wreaths and cleanup the cemetery at the end of this year's WAA program .

Don't forget Thursday 25 January 2018 for our first Veterans Council meeting of 2018. It is held at the St. Johns County Health and Human Service Building at 7 PM. This is an important meeting as we will be honoring this year's recipient of the Col. Ed Taylor Award.

Bill Dudley, Chairman
Veterans Council of
St. Johns County

Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home



The New Years ball for the "ball drop"



Mr Donnelly waiting for the New Year countdown



The confetti aftermath.....



New Year's Eve Party

The Sons of Amvets Squadron # 113 of Bunnell FL came Saturday to host a Motorcycle show and to provide many, many fabulous donations for our veterans.





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



The Support Committee invites everyone to attend its **next scheduled meeting, on Monday March 19, 2018**. The meeting will be at **7:00pm**. The meeting will take place at Community Hospice, **4266 Sunbeam Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32257 in Conference Room A**.

Jacksonville National Cemetery Support Committee Meetings for 2018

March 19th, 2018 Planning for Memorial Day Ceremony

April 16th, Memorial Day Planning

May 14th, Final Memorial Day Planning

Sept 17th, Begin Planning for WAA 2018

Oct. 15th

Nov 5th

Dec 3rd

+++++2016/2017 Officers of the SCJNC+++++

Chairman: Steve Spickelmier

Vice Chairman: Bill Dudley, Treasurer: John Mountcastle

Assistant Treasurer: Michael Rothfeld, Secretary: Kathy Church

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

Historian: Kathy Cayton



POLICY of Veterans Council of St. Johns County
Written and approved by the EXCOMM of VC of SJC

ALL: Please read. We are instituting these guidelines because we have been allowing posts that are not veterans related, political in nature and for profit postings. I will remove postings that do not comply with the above, if it happens a second time I will be forced to prohibit you from using this site.

The Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc., is an IRC§501(c)(3) exempt organization, FEIN 27-1971825, registered (# CH31930) with the Florida Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Contributions are deductible from taxable federal income as charitable donations under IRC§170 and/or IRC§6115. The Council does not use professional solicitors. 100% of funds received benefit the missions of the Council: supporting, advising, advocating, recommending and assisting the various commissions, organizations and citizens of St. Johns County.

Please visit our website: [http:// StJohnsVetsCouncil.org](http://StJohnsVetsCouncil.org) for more information.

A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. The toll-free number of the Department is 1-800-HELP-FLA (435-7352) — calling from within the State of Florida, or (850) 488-2221 — calling from outside Florida.

It is the policy of the Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc. not to endorse or advertise any product(s) or service(s) that would promote personal gain for any individual or group, or otherwise violate the provisions of §501(c) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code. The Veterans Council reserves the right to remove any advertising or promotional postings or links thereto, which are not in compliance with the aims and ideals of our organization, or, directly or indirectly, are political in nature, at the sole discretion of the website administrator (with or without notice to those making the deleted posting). We appreciate your support and appreciate your compliance.

ST. AUGUSTINE
**MILITARY
BALL**



The St. Augustine Military Ball

Forward March, Inc. is a non-profit 501© 3 founded for the specific purpose of supporting the increasing public awareness of and the growing interest in the historic heritage of the greater St. Augustine, Florida area through educational programs and charitable activities.

The organizational purpose will be fulfilled through the creation, development, and presentation of educational programs, activities and displays, as well as support of archeological and restoration projects that promote the education of the public regarding the many significant historic and military events that have occurred in northeast Florida.

These educational activities will be funded through grants, donations and public fundraising events.

Organizations belonging to the Veterans Council who will receive funding from the 2018 Military Ball are: Veterans Treatment Court, Disabled American Veterans, Vets 4 Vets and Wreaths Across America.

This years Honoree Sergeant Major Ray Quinn, Chairman of the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame Council



Veterans Council 2017 Highlights

The Veterans Council of St. Johns County is a 501 (c)(3) not for profit corporation organized for the purpose of recording, preserving and educating the public and youth through its documentaries and presentations.

10100 W. UNIVERSITY BLVD. SUITE 1000
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32217
904.733.1111

Our monthly meetings, the Rapid Response and Veterans of Foreign Wars are held at the Jacksonville Convention Center.

Please like us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/veteranscouncilsjc

DINNER FOR VETERANS APPRECIATION NIGHT FOR HOMELESS VETERANS

ON MEMORIAL DAY EACH YEAR THE VETERANS COUNCIL HONORS FALLEN VETERANS IN A CEREMONY AT ST. AUGUSTINE NATIONAL CEMETERY.

The Veterans Council has participated in historic presentations at the Andrew Johnson Museum at the Museum of Science & History in Jacksonville and at the Orange County Reginald Wayne Corbin in Ocala.

WJCTV, THE PBS AFFILIATE IN JACKSONVILLE, & THE VETERANS COUNCIL OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY HOSTED THE RON BUENS "THE VIETNAM WAR". THE HIGHLIGHT WAS THE VIETNAM VETERANS PANEL DISCUSSION AFTER THE PREVIEW.

The Veterans Council welcomed former Governor Jeb Bush to the Council on Aging and honors its Great War Veterans.

The Veterans Council featured the documentary "Heroes in the Rain" by Douglas Gifford. Addressed by the film documentary "Soldier's Reunion" presented by over 1000 at Asasaka Baptist Church.

THE VETERANS COUNCIL HAS CONTINUALLY SUPPORTED THE CLYDE LASSEN STATE VETERANS NURSING HOME SINCE ITS INCEPTION AND HAS HOSTED COUNCIL MEMBERS GREETING THE RESIDENTS.

THE VETERANS COUNCIL WORKS WITH STUDENTS TO FOSTER PATRIOTISM AND TO HONOR THE SACRIFICES VETERANS HAVE MADE FOR THEIR FREEDOMS.

THE VETERANS COUNCIL OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY CONTINUALLY HONORS VETERANS FROM ALL WARS BY RECORDING, PRESERVING AND EDUCATING THE PUBLIC AND YOUTH THROUGH ITS DOCUMENTARIES AND PRESENTATIONS.

THE VERY SUCCESSFUL VETERANS DAY PARADE IS AN ANNUAL EVENT HOSTED BY THE VETERANS COUNCIL.

HOSTED BY: BO HAYES

THE HOMELESS VETERANS STANDDOWN IS HELD EVERY YEAR AND PROVIDES LOCAL HOMELESS VETERANS WITH COFFEE, HAMBURGERS, FOOD, SHOWERS, COATS AND MORE. THANK YOU!

THE VETERANS COUNCIL OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY HAS SUPPORTED THE JACKSONVILLE NATIONAL CEMETERY SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 2008.

RECRUITING MEMBER: HOWARD CAMPBELL COMMANDING OFFICER: WILSON JACKSONVILLE FOR OUR VETERANS COUNCIL OFFERS RECONNECTING - FOOD, GOODS AND MONEY TO HELP OUR COUSINS IN NEED. BOO AFTER HURRICANE MARIA INVITING THE BAND.

MISSION STATEMENT:

THE OBJECTIVE OF THE VETERANS COUNCIL OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA IS TO BE OF ASSISTANCE TO ALL VETERANS WHO HAVE SERVED IN ANY OF THE MILITARY BRANCHES OF SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

THE COUNCIL IS PROUD OF OUR PAST SUCCESS AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO MANY MORE IN THE FUTURE AND THANK YOU!

The 2017 Veterans Council Highlights can be seen in their entirety on our website:

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

‘Welcome home’: After 1 year Veterans Court honors first graduate

BY JARED KEEVER

jared.keever@staugustine.com, St Augustine Record

Nearly a year after its official start, the St. Johns County Veterans Treatment Court saw its first commencement on Thursday afternoon, as one veteran

was recognized for completing the program designed to help those who have served their country but are having a hard time with the transition home.

The afternoon session in Circuit Court Judge Howard McGillin’s courtroom started much like the Jan. 19, 2017, ceremonial first session did — with McGillin leading attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

After a few words about court that he said, focuses on “treatment and accountability,” McGillin introduced Volusia County Court Judge Bryan A. Feigenbaum, who oversees a veterans court in the southern part of the 7th Judicial Circuit, and St. Johns County Veterans Council chair Bill Dudley, who helped McGillin piece together the political support to start the treatment court here. Both spoke a little about the court’s goals and how it was put together.

Modeled after the drug court program already in place in the county and other veterans courts around the country, Veterans Treatment Court is meant to help vets who find themselves on the wrong side of the law as they struggle with the often unseen scars of war and coming back to civilian life

Those meeting initial requirements must admit to the crime they are accused of committing and then are required to complete the 12- to 18-month program, which often includes community service time and drug treatment.

During their time in the program, veterans must stay employed if they are able to



work, submit to drug testing and attend all VA appointments for treatment.

Once completed, they are eligible to have charges dismissed or their records expunged.

Feigenbaum in his remarks to those in attendance said the court is meant to help vets “who are not all the way home sometimes.”

The one welcomed fully home Thursday is an Army veteran who, as McGillin said, “joined the Army while it was already at war” in 2003 and would eventually serve 13 months in combat in Iraq.

Once home and out of the Army, he struggled with drugs and alcohol, McGillin said, racking up a few DUIs and eventually causing a wreck that injured a person.

“He started to lose hope in the future,” McGillin said. “He started missing probation appointments, was violated and told me that he was basically just getting ready to go to prison, and that is exactly where he would have gone.”

The vet was accepted into the court in February.

“And I will tell you he flew through the program,” McGillin said.

Although he had kicked most of his substance abuse problems prior to acceptance into the program, McGillin said, he has put together 340 days of sobriety since joining the program and is no longer on probation.

“You have blazed a path for others to follow,” McGillin told him.

After a few words of congratulations, a presentation of a “Welcome Home” coin and a certificate of completion, McGillin, a veteran himself, honored him with a salute.

“It is my privilege on behalf of the court, on behalf of the Veterans Council to tell you, ‘Welcome home,’” he said.



Our Mission

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

The only known POW/MIA Memorial in Jacksonville, Florida is located at the former NAS Cecil Field (now Cecil Commerce Center). The memorial is dedicated to those Naval Aviators stationed at NAS Cecil Field during the Vietnam and Desert Storm War eras. The site consists of markers and associated planted trees for each of the 16 POW/MIA pilots (known as Hero's Walk and Freedom Trees), pavilion, stage area, starburst (metal display of aircraft), and a granite base seal of NAS Cecil Field. The Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial was dedicated in 1973 by the families and service members who wanted to ensure these brave men would never be forgotten. A driving force behind the Memorial was Mary Hoff, the wife of MIA LCDR Michael G. Hoff. Mary, along with other spouses and family members, helped underwrite the Memorial. Mary was also very instrumental in developing the POW/MIA Flag. This flag has become an important symbol for the POW/MIAs, and the enduring cause that they will never be forgotten.

According to the US Department of Veterans Affairs, Florida is home to over 1.5 million veterans with over 1 million of those veterans of the Desert Storm (Gulf War) and Vietnam War. Northeast Florida (Duval, Clay, and St. Johns Counties) is home to over 150,000 veterans, making Jacksonville a key location for this Memorial and Center.

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

The memorial site, located at the former Naval Air Station Cecil Field, was originally dedicated on September 11, 1973 and consisted of markers and associated trees for each of the 16 POW/MIA pilots (an area known as Hero's Walk and Freedom Trees), a pavilion, a stage area, a starburst metal display of aircraft, a granite base seal of NAS Cecil Field and a chapel. This property was given to the City of Jacksonville when Cecil Field was decommissioned in 1999. As a result, the existing memorial has been neglected.

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

We would like to invite all of you to visit our Website -
www.powmiamemorial.org



MISSION BACKGROUND

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

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

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



A FEW QUOTES SUBMITTED BY OUR NATIONAL LEADERS



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

U.S. Congressman
John Rutherford

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

U.S. Senator
Marco Rubio

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

U.S. Senator
Bill Nelson



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

MISSION STATEMENT

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

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

MEMORIAL STRATEGIC PLAN

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

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



Hero's Walk & Freedom Trees



Chapel of the High-Speed Pave



Starburst Sculpture

CECIL FIELD NATIONAL POW/MIA MEMORIAL PARK



HOW YOU CAN HELP HONOR OUR MILITARY HEROES



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

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

ONLINE PowMiaMemorial.org

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

Twitter.com/CFPOW/MIA

Instagram.com/cecilfieldpowmia/

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

On November 9, 2017, Representative Charlie Crist (FL) and Representative Jeff Denham (CA) introduced H.R. 4345, the Veteran Treatment Court Coordination Act of 2017.



The bill would create coordination between the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Attorney General to provide grants and technical assistance to the State circuit court systems that have adopted Veterans Treatment Court Programs or have filed a notice of intent to establish a Veterans Treatment Court Program with the Secretary.

There are currently over 200 Veterans Treatment Courts in the United States. These courts seek to treat veterans suffering from a substance abuse and/or mental health disorder, while helping ensure public safety. They combine rigorous treatment and personal accountability, with the goal of breaking the cycle of drug use and criminal behavior. Veterans Treatment Courts require regular court appearances, as well as mandatory attendance at treatment sessions, and frequent and random testing for drug and alcohol use. Veterans respond favorably to this structured environment, given their past experiences in the Armed Forces.

Veterans Treatment Courts keep veterans out of jail and prison and connect them with the benefits and treatment they have earned, all while saving tax dollars for our country. Nationwide, these courts have produced a statistically significant reduction of recidivism rates in veterans.

H.R. 4345 would create a single office in the Department of Justice to coordinate the provision of grants, training, and technical assistance to help State, local, and Tribal governments develop and maintain Veterans Treatment Courts.

In accordance with DAV Resolution No. 105, calling for the continued growth of Veterans Treatment Courts for justice-involved veterans, DAV supports this bill. Please use the prepared electronic letter or draft your own to urge your Representative to cosponsor H.R. 4345.

We appreciate your support for DAV and your grassroots efforts through DAV CAN. Your advocacy makes DAV a highly influential and effective organization in Washington, DC. Your voice makes a difference and we would not be as effective without you.

Click the link below to log in and send your message:
<https://www.votervoice.net/BroadcastLinks/6kD3dPyCvTVyGGwQ35CRfA>



Association of the United States Army

VOICE FOR THE ARMY – SUPPORT FOR THE SOLDIER

FIRST MILITIA CHAPTER (FMC), AUSA

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING & DINNER

THURSDAY, 15 February 2018

Social @ 6:00 p.m. followed by Dinner @ 6:30 p.m.

**LOCATION: Mark W. Lance Armory
190 San Marco Ave., St. Augustine, Florida**

Cost: \$15.00 (At the Door), or \$14.00 in Advance (mail or online)

Dress: Casual

Guest Speaker: Judge Howard O. McGillin, Jr.
Seventh Judicial Circuit Judge/ Veterans Treatment Court

Program:

**Guest Speaker Remarks
Chapter Business Reports
50/50 Drawing**

Menu:

**BBQ Ribs & Chicken, Green Beans, Roasted Potatoes, Roll, Iced Tea
& Strawberry Shortcake**

Caterer: Stalvey's

DUE TO THE MENU

“ADVANCED PAID RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED”

Please submit your reservations and payment to arrive no later than 13 February 2018 by completing the form below to: First Militia Chapter, AUSA P.O. Box 3883, St. Augustine, FL 32085-3883. (Make checks payable to: First Militia Chapter). You can also pay online (preferred) at <http://mkt.com/first-militia-chapter-ausa>. For additional information, please call (904)823-0389 or email natasha.m.huertas.mil@mail.mil.

Name: _____ **Number of Reservations:** _____

Guest: _____ **Amount of Check:** _____

Saturday,
March 3, 2018
10:00AM - 2:30PM

3rd ANNUAL
**Active
Boomers & Seniors
Expo**

ST.AUGUSTINE
OUTLETS
500 Outlet Mall Blvd,
St Augustine, FL 32084

FOR VETERANS, ACTIVE BABY BOOMERS, SENIORS & CAREGIVERS



SPECIAL "VETERANS RECOGNITION DAY"!
THANK YOU VETERANS

The Expo will provide veterans and their families access to extensive and diverse services, resources and support available in St Johns County.

FREE ADMISSION - FREE PARKING

**VETERAN SERVICES
EXHIBITORS INCLUDE:**

- St Johns County Veterans Services
- The Veterans Council of St Johns County
- Vietnam Veterans of America St Johns County
- K9's For Warriors
- Veterans Treatment Court
- St Augustine Sea Cadets Battalion
- Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial...
and more

**OTHER EXHIBITOR
CATEGORIES:**

- Leisure Activities
- Health Screenings
- Finance
- Living Options
- Legal Services
- Insurance Services
- Aging in Place
- Healthy Food & Nutrition
...and Lots More!

**HIGHLIGHTS
INCLUDE:**

- SILENT AUCTION
to Benefit Vets 4 Vets
- Patriotic Songs
- Live Performances



Brought to you by...



Produced by...



In Association with...



FOR EXPO INFORMATION: 904-810-8535 ✉ BoomerSeniorExpo@gmail.com



36 Granada Street, St. Augustine FL 32084

(904) 679-5736

Corazoncinemaandcafe.com

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





560 N. Wilderness Trail Palm Valley Ponte Vedra Beach 904-285-2484

8th ANNUAL COWBOY NIGHT

Saddle up partners...it's time for another rootin' and tootin' evening with Dakota Don, Beaumont Ben and the Laredo Ladies

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27th 6:00pm til ??



BBQ PORK BUTTS cooked onsite by Dakota Don & Beaumont Ben will be served up with all the fixins by the Laredo Ladies. **ALL** for a small donation of only **\$10.00**

Food service will begin at 6:00pm til 8:00pm (or until we sell out)

Come and experience the best BBQ in all of Palm Valley. Bring your best gal, guy and partners enjoy a fun filled rootin' tootin' evening

Due to the popularity of this event we ask that you RSVP with the number of members and guests that plan on attending. We need a count so we will have enough food and fixins

RSVP by January 20th. 904-285-2484. Leave your name and # attending with the bartender.

Entertainment by B-Mac & Chris!



Copyright 2017 Palm Valley Post 233. Proceeds support Legion programs



New chairman has high hopes for renamed Veterans Council of Duval County

BY JOE DARASKEVICH joe.daraskevich@jacksonville.com

The organization has a new chairman, some new officers, a new meeting place and a whole new name heading into 2018, but it still has the same longtime goal of unifying all types of Duval County veterans groups.

What used to be the Northeast Florida Veterans Council is now called the Veterans Council of Duval County.

The name change was voted on and approved in the fall to clear up any confusion about the territory it covers, said Steve Spickelmier, the council's new chairman.

He said each of the five counties in the area has its own veterans council, so it didn't make sense to use the umbrella of "Northeast Florida" when talking about Duval's group.

Spickelmier now takes over as chairman for Hallie Williams-Bey, who had held the position since 2005. He said he plans to do everything in his power to bring attention to the needs of veterans organizations in Duval County.

"Hallie did a great job for a long time," Spickelmier said. "Now we have to continue to make a positive change in the lives of veterans, their spouses and their dependents."

Spickelmier retired from the military in 1987 after 26 years combined between the Navy and Air Force. He now spends most of his time advocating for area veterans groups.

On top of his new role as chairman of the Veterans Council of Duval County, Spickelmier is also the field operations coordinator for the Florida chapter of the Missing in America Project, the chairman of the support committee for the Jacksonville and St. Augustine national cemeteries and the president of the Council of County Veterans County Presidents.

Veterans Council of Duval County members Steve Spickelmier (from left), Eugenia Reed, David Trotti, Kathy Church and Esther Byrd gather at the new military flag display inside Jacksonville Veterans Memorial Arena. (Bruce Lipsky/Florida Times-Union)

Despite his personal endeavours, Spickelmier said he wants to be sure area organizations know his main objective will always be to ensure there is a voice for every concerned veteran.

"It isn't all about me," he said. "I want this to be focused like a team effort for all the veterans groups in Duval County."

Currently 30 veterans organizations are members in the council, but Spickelmier said the group is open

to expansion and welcomes representatives from any groups within the city to come to their first meeting of the year at 7 p.m. Jan. 16.

Meetings were held at City Hall in the past, but Spickelmier said the group felt it was important to meet in places where veterans regularly congregate.

January's meeting will take place at American Legion Post 137 in the 40/8 building, 5443 San Juan Ave.

One of the main objectives of the year's first meeting is to vote to approve the newly amended purposes of the council and to try and decide on a new logo.

Spickelmier said there are four logos to choose from, but they will open the floor to new suggestions if that's the direction they choose to go.

David Trotti will join Spickelmier as an elected officer for the first time in the role of first vice chairman. Trotti is a Marine veteran who is also a local attorney. Spickelmier said Trotti is an important part of all proceedings as he makes sure the group operates within the law.

The other elected officers include Second Vice Chairwoman Eugenia Reed, Secretary Kathy Church and Treasurer Esther Byrd.

The council is trying to make a major push on social media in 2018 with a newly designed website. Anyone who is interested in learning more about the council can go to neflvc.org.

JOE DARASKEVICH: (904) 359-4308



Veterans Council of Duval County members Steve Spickelmier (from left), Eugenia Reed, David Trotti, Kathy Church and Esther Byrd gather at the new military flag display inside Jacksonville Veterans Memorial Arena. (Bruce Lipsky / Florida Times-Union)

Newt Heisley, Designer of the POW/MIA Flag

The designer of the POW/MIA Flag is Newt Heisley, WW II Pilot, Commercial (graphic) artist under contract with Annin and Company, the country's largest flag manufacturer; he was asked to submit ideas based upon a request from Mrs. Hoff. The silhouette is of his son, Jeffery, USMC at the time.

Wikipedia Bio - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Newt_Heisley

The POW/MIA flag designed by Heisley

Newton Foust "Newt" Heisley (November 9, 1920 – May 14, 2009) was an American commercial artist who was responsible for the design of the POW/MIA flag for the National League of Families, which was officially recognized by the United States Congress in relation to the Vietnam War POW/MIA issue "as the symbol of our Nation's concern and commitment to resolving as fully as possible the fates of Americans still prisoner, missing and unaccounted for in Southeast Asia, thus ending the uncertainty for their families and the Nation".

Biography

Heisley was born in Williamsport, Pennsylvania on November 9, 1920. He lived with his grandparents for much of his youth, following the death of his mother when he was four-years old. He attended Syracuse University, graduating with a degree in fine arts, after which he worked as a graphic artist for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. He enlisted during World War II, serving as a pilot in the United States Army Air Forces.

Graphic design and the POW/MIA flag

After the completion of his military service, Heisley spent more than two decades working at advertising firms in the New York City area. In 1971, a New Jersey-based agency he worked for assigned him to create a flag for their client Annin & Company, the largest flag manufacturer in the United States, which had been given the task to create the flag by Mary Hoff, the wife of a service member missing in action and a member of the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia.

The image he designed uses black-and-white images of the silhouette of a man in profile with his head bowed in the foreground with a guard tower and barbed wire behind him. Heisley used the image of his son Jeffrey, a 24-year-old member of the United States Marine Corps, who had just

returned from basic training where he was preparing to be shipped to Vietnam, returning from his training appearing sickly after a bout of hepatitis. "You Are Not Forgotten", the words that appear on the bottom of the flag, came to Heisley as he recalled his military experience as a pilot flying lengthy missions on C-47 Skytrain transport planes over the South Pacific with the thought coming to his mind that he could end up "being taken prisoner and being... forgotten".

Heisley recalled in 1997 that the flag had only been "intended for a small group" and that "No one realized it was going to get national attention". He had designed the flag selflessly "for the men who were prisoners of war or missing in action. They're the real heroes." He was proud of his efforts in its creation but embarrassed by the notice that arose from his involvement.

In 1988, the POW/MIA flag flew over the White House for the first time and it was installed on permanent display in the rotunda of the United States Capitol in 1989. In 1990, the United States Congress designated the flag Heisley designed as "the symbol of our nation's concern" for soldiers still unaccounted for in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War, specifying six days each year — Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, National POW/MIA Recognition Day and Veterans Day — when it is mandated to fly the flag at all military establishments and federal buildings.

He decided to move with his family away from the big city and decided to relocate to Colorado Springs, Colorado, after stopping there one night and seeing the view the next morning. There he opened an advertising firm with his son Jim in 1972. Among the projects his agency worked on was the design of a pin for the 1980 Winter Olympics held in Lake Placid, New York.

Personal

After years of deteriorating health, Heisley died at age 88 on May 14, 2009 in his home in Colorado Springs, a week before he had planned to marry his fiancée, Donna Allison. He was survived by two sons and a granddaughter. Heisley's first wife, Bunny, whom he had met while in college, died in 2005.



Public Law 101-355
101st Congress

Joint Resolution

Aug. 10, 1990
[H.J. Res. 467]

Designating September 21, 1990, as "National POW/MIA Recognition Day", and recognizing the National League of Families POW/MIA flag.

Whereas the United States has fought in many wars;
Whereas thousands of Americans who served in those wars were captured by the enemy or listed as missing in action;
Whereas many American prisoners of war were subjected to brutal and inhuman treatment by their enemy captors in violation of international codes and customs for the treatment of prisoners of war, and many such prisoners of war died from such treatment;
Whereas many of these Americans are still missing and unaccounted for, and the uncertainty surrounding their fates has caused their families to suffer acute hardship; and
Whereas the sacrifices of Americans still missing and unaccounted for and their families are deserving of national recognition and support for continued priority efforts to determine the fate of those missing Americans: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY.

September 21, 1990, is hereby designated as "National POW/MIA Recognition Day". The President is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to recognize that day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

36 USC 189.

SEC. 2. RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES POW/MIA FLAG.

The National League of Families POW/MIA flag is hereby recognized officially and designated as the symbol of our Nation's concern and commitment to resolving as fully as possible the fates of Americans still prisoner, missing and unaccounted for in Southeast Asia, thus ending the uncertainty for their families and the Nation.

Approved August 10, 1990.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.J. Res. 467 (S.J. Res. 327):

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 136 (1990):

May 24, considered and passed House.

Aug. 2, considered and passed Senate.



As we step into a new year, make it your resolution to no longer live with unnecessary foot or ankle pain. Call the caring staff at Coastal and make an appointment with one of our knowledgeable physicians. They will help you start 2018 off on the right foot!

From all of us at Coastal, we wish you and your family a very Happy New Year!!



Jose' Concha, DPM * Richard Johnson, DPM
Board Certified by the American Board of Foot & Ankle Surgery

St. Augustine: 904-826-1900 www.cfawc.com Palatka: 386-328-1122



Applications for new VA ID cards are open By: Leo Shane III

The Department of Veterans Affairs is accepting applications for new Veteran ID cards as of today, but questions surrounding the program's costs and private sector involvement remain unclear.

The cards — designed to be an easy way for veterans to prove their military service for a host of nongovernment services — will be delivered within 60 days of applying with digital copies available next month.

Veterans can start the application process now through the main VA website at www.vets.gov. The link to the ID application is on the bottom left of the page, labeled “Apply for printed Veteran ID Card.”

The cards were mandated by Congress in July 2015, with the expectation of distribution sometime in 2017. In a release announcing the official start of the program Wednesday, VA officials said their moves are “fulfilling a promise that has been unfulfilled since 2015.”

“The new Veterans Identification Card provides a safer and more convenient and efficient way for most veterans to show proof of service,” VA Secretary David Shulkin said in a statement. “With the card, veterans with honorable service to our nation will no longer need to carry around their paper DD-214s to obtain veteran discounts and other services.”

Cards will be printed and shipped by Office Depot, an arrangement that VA officials said will allow veterans to receive the IDs free of charge. VA officials declined to release the cost of the printing and shipping arrangement with Office Depot. The final design of the cards has not been finalized yet. Previous versions had the Office Depot logo on the back with the veteran's information on the front.

Under rules developed by VA, individuals who served in the armed forces, including the reserve components, and have a character of discharge of honorable or general under honorable conditions are eligible for the new IDs. Veterans with other than honorable status are not eligible.

That has upset some veteran's groups, which have noted that the legislation to create the cards had no such restrictions.

The new cards won't replace VA medical cards or official defense retiree cards and will not carry any force of law behind them. Veterans will also need to register for an online account with VA to apply for the card.

Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc. Minutes of December 28, 2017

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

Chairman Dudley called the meeting to order at 1900 hours

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

Last month's Minutes were approved as read

The Treasurer's Report was approved as read

Introduction of Guests: Lynn Brannon, SSG Ben Watford

Speakers:



Lynn Brannon, Building Healthy Military Communities: Building healthy military communities is a multi year pilot that aims to better understand the unique challenges faced by geographically dispersed Service members and their families that may impact their readiness, resiliency, and well being. The FL State Coordinator is Lynn Brannon.

Lynn.b.brannon.ctr@mail.mil

SSG Benjamin Watford, The Warriors Peer Group: This is a Church Ministry led by 2 time Purple Heart recipient and combat veteran Ben Watford. He offers peer counseling to combat veterans and works with them to reintegrate them back into society as productive citizens. He offers counseling for PTSD, substance abuse and mentorship through Christianity leading the veterans back to their loving family. He has a 24 hour Facebook page that is always ready to help veterans.

[Facebook.com/Thewarriorspeergroup](https://www.facebook.com/Thewarriorspeergroup)

Committee Reports:

Mac: Mrs Lambert, wife of veteran Ron Lambert needs help every other week. She needs someone to stay with Ron while she does food shopping. If you know anyone please contact Joe McDermott, 904-209-6160.



2017 was a big year averaging 15 new clients every month.

Ray Quinn: WAA was a great success, largest turnout in years. 1250 wreaths were placed in 10 minutes.

Nominations for the Annual COL Ed Taylor Award are now being accepted, deadline for name submission is Jan. 12, 2018

Steve Spickelmier: WAA at Jax National Cemetery a huge success, about 2500 in attendance. 12,000 wreaths were placed and all headstones covered.



MIAP: the next Honor Service is scheduled for Feb. 24, 2018.

Chairman Dudley: 2017 was a very successful, busy year for the Council and we will present a Year End Power Point summary at our February 22nd meeting.

All sites were looked at for the proposed new CBOC and informational meetings are scheduled.

Ron Birchall: January 13th is the Annual Military Ball, at the Mark Lance Armory. This is a formal event. This year honoring SGM Ray Quinn, USA (Ret). All proceeds will go to the Veterans Council to assist WAA, DAV, VTC and V4V.

John Leslie: Mentors are still needed for the Veterans Treatment Court. Jan. 18 the first two VTC veterans graduate.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm.

The next meeting of the Veterans Council will be on Thursday, January 25, 7 pm in the Health & Human Services Building, 200 San Sebastian View.

Future speakers:

January 25, 2018- Mike Mitchell, Jacksonville University Veteran Students Coordinator
Alison Simpson, Historian FL National Guard

February 22, Leigh Devane, Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home

Chairman Dudley will speak about the Council's 2017 programs, projects, and events.

April 26, Thomas Richardson, Asst Director, Veterans Employment & Training Service (VETS)

SUBARU OF JACKSONVILLE SUPPORTS YOU



 **SUBARU.**
JACKSONVILLE | SOJAX.COM

SUBARU OF JACKSONVILLE
10800 ATLANTIC BLVD, JACKSONVILLE, FL 32225
PHONE: (888) 781-0319 (904)641-6455 - SUBARUOFJACKSONVILLE.COM

5th Marines Vietnam Memorial

The Dedication Ceremony for the 5th Marines Vietnam Memorial will take place at Camp Pendleton, CA on Memorial Day, 2018. Anyone wishing to attend please register here ><http://bit.ly/VWMRegistration>

The 5th Marine Vietnam War Memorial will consist of 6 freestanding panels of black granite surrounding an obelisk centerpiece and viewing benches. The name and rank of all 2706 5th Marines and Sailors KIA more than 50 years ago will be etched onto the 6 granite panels. The monument will stand proudly next to the other monuments in the San Mateo Memorial Garden at Camp Pendleton, Oceanside, Ca. For more information please watch our video

<http://5thmarinesvietnammemorial.org/the-cause/> #semperfidelis #vietnamwar Manufacturing starts June 1st, 2017 at Rock of Ages, the world's biggest granite quarry in Burlington, Vermont.



Inaugural

2018

Cecil Field
POW*MIA
MEMORIAL
GOLF

TOURNAMENT

MON
 APR 9
 2018



St. Johns Golf & Country Club
 219 St. Johns Golf Drive
 St. Augustine, FL 32092

Monday, April 9, 2018
 "National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day"

Registration/Warm-up/Pre-Event	11:45am - 12:45pm
Shot Gun Start	1:00 pm
BBQ Dinner/Awards Ceremony/Raffle	5:00 – 6:30 pm

Raffle tickets available throughout the day. Winners will be announced at the conclusion of the award ceremony.

All proceeds benefit **Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc.**

CECIL FIELD POW/MIA MEMORIAL IS A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION – REGISTRATION NUMBER: CH51569. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE, 800 435 7352, WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. CECIL FIELD POW/MIA MEMORIAL IS AN IRS 501(C)(3), PUBLIC CHARITY. ID# 31954. CONTRIBUTIONS ARE DEDUCTIBLE.

**Deadline to Register*:
 April 4, 2018**

Sponsorship Packages and Player Registration Forms attached, or register online at:
www.powmiamemorial.org

Follow the 2018 Golf Tournament Event from our Facebook page:



Inaugural

2018



**Cecil Field
POW★MIA
MEMORIAL**

GOLF

TOURNAMENT

HOLE SPONSOR PACKAGES AND PLAYER FEES

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| PLATINUM SPONSOR | \$2500 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listed as Platinum Sponsor on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Hole Sponsor Signage – Tournament Program – Facebook Event Page – Website with link to sponsor’s website • Recognition at Tournament Award Ceremony • Up to Eight (8) player entries | |
| GOLD SPONSOR | \$1500 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listed as Gold Sponsor on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Hole Sponsor Signage – Tournament Program – Facebook Event Page – Website with link to sponsor’s website • Up to Six (6) player entries | |
| SILVER SPONSOR | \$800 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listed as Silver Sponsor on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Hole Sponsor Signage – Tournament Program – Facebook Event Page – Website with link to sponsor’s website • Up to Four (4) player entries | |

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| SINGLE PLAYER FEE | \$150 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Tournament Entry – Tournament Polo Shirt – Green, Cart, and Pro Fee – BBQ Dinner | |

HOLE SPONSOR FORM AND PLAYER REGISTRATION FORM ATTACHED.

CECIL FIELD POW/MIA MEMORIAL IS A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION – REGISTRATION NUMBER: CH51569. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE, 800 438 7352, WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. CECIL FIELD POW/MIA MEMORIAL IS AN IRS 501(C)(3), PUBLIC CHARITY, ID# 31954. CONTRIBUTIONS ARE DEDUCTIBLE.

INAUGURAL CECIL FIELD POW/MIA MEMORIAL 2018 GOLF TOURNAMENT

HOLE SPONSORSHIP & INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION FORM

Hole Sponsor Information

Company Name _____ Company Phone (____) _____
Company Address _____
City _____ State ____ Zip _____
Contact Name _____
Contact Phone _____ Email _____

Sponsorship Level:

- Platinum Sponsor (\$2500) Silver Sponsor (\$800)
 Gold Sponsor (\$1500)

Donations:

- Separate donation in support of Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial \$ _____
-

Important Sponsorship Information:

1. Payment of sponsorship donation or player registration fee(s) can be done online at powmiamemorial.org or mail check payable to "Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc." to:
ATTN: 2018 Golf Tournament
Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc.
6112 New World Ave, Jacksonville, FL 32221
 2. For those sponsorship levels that include golf participation, please register each golfer by: **Wednesday, April 2nd**
-

Player 1 Name _____ Phone (____) _____

Email Address _____ Shirt Size _____

Player 2 Name _____ Phone (____) _____

Email Address _____ Shirt Size _____

Player 3 Name _____ Phone (____) _____

Email Address _____ Shirt Size _____

Player 4 Name _____ Phone (____) _____

Email Address _____ Shirt Size _____

****Additional players may be added on a separate sheet.***

October 2017 Accounting of POW/MIA's

According to the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Accounting Agency (DPAA), as of October 17 there were 1,602 still missing from the Vietnam War.

Of these, 90 percent were lost in Vietnam or in areas of Cambodia or Laos under Vietnam's wartime control.



The Departments of Defense and State on September 11 reported the current numbers of Americans who remain unaccounted for in Southeast Asia: North Vietnam, 458; South Vietnam, 795; Laos, 294; Cambodia, 48; and, China, 7.

Of these, 90 cases have been deferred, while 488 cases have been determined to be unrecoverable. Since January 27, 1973, a total of 720 American remains have been recovered from Vietnam; 3 remains from China; 279 from Laos, and 42 from Cambodia. A total of 1,044 American remains have been repatriated.

This update reports the accounting of Navy Capt. James Reginald Bauder, previously missing from North Vietnam. Since August, DPAA has announced the identification of four U.S. servicemen from the Vietnam War. In addition to Bauder, there is Chief Master Sgt. Donald J. Hall, 1st Lt. Martin R. Scott, and 1st Lt. David T. Dinan III—all with the Air Force.

YOUR GO TO TEAM IN SJC

FOR YOUR HOME SELLING & BUYING NEEDS

Featuring one of our *Customer Service Specialists* and
one of our *Top Individual Producers*



Marianne Bach
(904) 349-0456



Call Us TODAY!



Kathy Jordan
(904) 401-0476

*** As a VETERAN (Navy, Army, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard,
Reserves) SAVE 25% when buying or selling with us! ***

EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE WE CAN MAKE FOR YOU!

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



Inform, Connect, Unite and Organize
"Together We are Stronger"
Join us at our Quarterly Gatherings

Facebook, Twitter and Instagram:
@Vets4VetsNJax

Vets4Vets.org
Vets4VetsNJax@gmail.com

St. Johns County Veterans Treatment Court

On November 11, our nation honored our veterans with parades and dedications at monuments. These are important. But we can show our gratitude in no better way than helping those who return from military service live productive and happy lives. The Veterans Treatment Court is dedicated to this goal.

More than 20,000 veterans live in St. Johns County. These men and women sometimes return to the community with life-changing impairments, including post-traumatic stress disorder, brain injury and depression. Sadly, some turn to substance abuse and other destructive behaviors. Crimes such as DUI, domestic violence, and theft can be the result.

Twelve generations of veterans have returned home since our nation's founding. Until this century, those charged with crimes found themselves in an adversarial relationship with the state they had faithfully served. Destructive cycles of incarceration, homelessness and suicide often followed. As Judge Howard O. McGillin, Jr., who heads the St. Johns County Veterans Treatment Court, notes, these veterans have "not made it all the way home."



The Veterans Treatment Court is designed to break this cycle, and ensure that justice is accessible and responsive to our veterans in a collaborative, treatment based program. Currently, there are twenty-one participants, with several veterans typically joining at each court hearing, which is held twice a month. Most participants have substance abuse problems. Many have received trauma-related diagnoses. Some were homeless prior to entering Veterans Treatment Court.

Veterans entering the Court experience a team approach, familiar from their military service. The Judge has the role of commanding officer: asking each participant about his or her progress, offering encouragement, and commendation for their achievements. The Judge is also there to address difficulties the participants may have in meeting their goals, and to set them on the right path.

Participants consult with the Veterans Justice Outreach specialist and therapist, and set

up their first therapy appointments. As non-commissioned officers are to the military, these Veterans Administration representatives are the backbone of the program, ensuring that all participants receive the treatment they need. Among the other team members present are the director of St. Johns County Legal Aid, who assists participants with civil legal issues, and the Office of the Public Defender's attorney assigned to the Court.

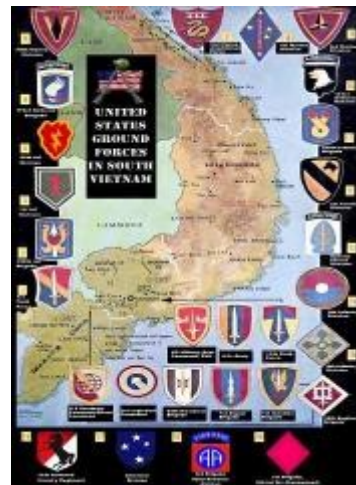
Participants are never alone in facing their challenges. Each is assigned a mentor, who is also a veteran, to be their "battle buddy." Mentors stand by their participant in Court, and are never more than a phone call away.

Life skills and goals, such as education, employment, and finding stable housing, are fostered by all members of the team.

The Veterans Treatment Court is no easy out. Misdemeanor participants meet weekly with the coordinator, while participants with felony cases are supervised by the Department of Corrections officer assigned to the Court. All participants are subject to frequent drug/alcohol screenings. They do community service, and may pay fines and costs. Participants who violate program requirements, such as testing positive on a drug screening, face sanctions, including jail time for serious or repeated infractions.

This is obviously a very different approach from a traditional court. Its benefits to the veteran are evident. However, it also benefits the community at large. Graduates of veterans' courts are proving to have far lower recidivism rates than defendants processed through traditional courts. The St. Johns County Veterans Treatment Court is approaching its first anniversary. We look forward to continuing to build this valuable service in which our community offers our veterans in the criminal justice system the dignified and effective solution they deserve. At our first graduation, scheduled for January 2018, the Judge will present the graduates with our challenge coin, provided to the program by the St. Johns County Veterans Council. It is engraved "Welcome Home".

"If you have further questions, please contact Cynthia C. Thompson, St. Johns County Veterans Treatment Court Coordinator at 4010 Lewis Speedway, Suite 275, St. Augustine, Florida 32084, (904) 827-5626", ccthompson@circuit7.org





GratitudeAmerica



A GATHERING OF GRATITUDE

**COLDWELL
BANKER**

at VFW Post 8696

47 Old Kings Road N., Palm Coast, FL 32137

Sunday, February 11, 2018

3:00-5:00PM

Please join us for

“A Gathering of Gratitude”

as we give thanks to those in the community who have given their time, money and support for our combat veterans.

A special presentation will be conducted by Coldwell Banker Premier Properties.

We look forward to bringing together GratitudeAmerica Alumni, Veterans, Community Leaders and Businesses to share our gratitude.

A meal will be provided for all to enjoy.

“GRATITUDE – the highest appreciation is not to utter words but to live by them.”

TO LEARN MORE CONTACT MICHAEL ANTHONY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
912-674-0332 OR MICHAEL@GRATITUDEAMERICA.ORG

www.gratitudeamerica.org

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

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.

The Five Star Veterans Center is a nonprofit corporation committed to making a positive impact in the community by assisting those men and women who, when answering the call to duty, protected the freedom of that same community by serving their nation.

Our mission is to ensure a positive impact in North Florida by offering safe/secure housing to displaced veterans, in an attempt to alleviate veteran homelessness.

The Five STAR Veterans Center,
here to help our Veterans and our Neighbors



FIVE STAR
VETERANS CENTER

ARMY • MARINES • NAVY • COAST GUARD • AIR FORCE

40 Acme Street, Jacksonville, FL 32211

I had posted some incorrect information about Mary Hoff designing the POW/MIA flag. This article clarifies that.

POW/MIA Flag History

In 1970, Mrs. Michael Hoff, an MIA wife and member of the National League of POW/MIA Families, recognized the need for a symbol of our POW/MIAs. Prompted by an article in the Jacksonville, Florida, Times-Union, Mrs. Hoff contacted Norman Rivkees, Vice President of Annin & Company, which had made a banner for the newest member of the United Nations, the People's Republic of China (PRC), as part of their policy to provide flags of all United Nations member states. Mrs. Hoff found Mr. Rivkees very sympathetic to the POW/MIA issue. He and an Annin advertising agency employee, Newt Heisley, designed a flag to represent our missing men.

Following approval by the League's Board of Directors at a meeting held January 22-23, 1972, POW/MIA flags were manufactured for distribution. Wanting the widest possible dissemination and use of this symbol to advocate for improved treatment for and answers on American POW/MIAs, no trade mark or copyright was sought. As a result, widespread use of the League's POW/MIA flag is not restricted legally. The large volume of commercial production and sales now required to meet demands of federal and state laws does not benefit the League financially, though Annin & Company did contribute a modest amount on one occasion.



Mary Hoff with Mayor Tanzler (holding the flag) and Lynwood Roberts

On March 9, 1989, an official League flag – flown over the White House on National POW/MIA Recognition Day 1988 – was installed in the US Capitol Rotunda as a result of legislation passed overwhelmingly during the 100th Congress. In a demonstration of bipartisan Congressional support, the leadership of both Houses hosted the installation ceremony, at which League Executive Director Ann Mills-Griffiths delivered remarks representing the POW/MIA families.

The League's POW/MIA flag is the only flag ever displayed in the US Capitol Rotunda

where it stands as a powerful symbol of America's determination to account for US personnel still missing and unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War. On August 10, 1990, the 101st Congress passed US Public Law 101-355, which recognized the League's POW/MIA flag and designated it "the symbol of our Nation's concern and commitment to resolving as fully as possible the fates of Americans still prisoner, missing and unaccounted for in Southeast Asia, thus ending the uncertainty for their families and the Nation".

The importance of the POW/MIA flag lies in its continued visibility, a constant reminder of the plight of America's UNRETURNED VETERANS. Other than "Old Glory," the League's POW/MIA flag is the only flag ever to fly over the White House, displayed since 1982 in this place of honor on National POW/MIA Recognition Day.

Passage by the 105th Congress of Section 1082 of the 1998 Defense Authorization Act required that the League's POW/MIA flag fly six days each year: Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, National POW/MIA Recognition Day and Veterans Day. It must be displayed at the White House, the US Capitol, the Departments of State, Defense and Veterans Affairs, the headquarters of the Selective Service System, major military installations as designated by the Secretary of Defense, all Federal cemeteries and all offices of the US Postal Service. In addition to the specific dates stipulated, the Department of Veterans Affairs voluntarily displays our POW/MIA flag 24/7. The National Vietnam Veterans, Korean War Veterans and World War II Memorials are now also required by law to display the POW/MIA flag daily. Most State Capitals have adopted similar laws, as have local governments nationwide.

LEAGUE POLICY ON POW/MIA FLAG DISPLAY was adopted at the League's 32nd Annual Meeting in June, 2001. Members present overwhelmingly passed the following resolution: "Be it RESOLVED that the National League of POW/MIA Families strongly recommends that state and municipal entities fly the POW/MIA flag daily to demonstrate continuing commitment to the goal of the fullest possible accounting of all personnel not yet returned to American soil."

Dog teaches Vietnam vet to love again

BY BILLY COX Sarasota Herald-Tribune

BRADENTON | On the bright afternoon of Feb. 4, 1970, a land mine tore apart a South Vietnamese soldier who stood maybe 10 feet away from Pfc. Bob Calderon, as the two were returning to a rural village from a joint patrol. The spray of shrapnel knocked the 19-year-old Marine off his feet and forced surgeons to amputate his mangled legs above the knee. For the next several months, he was totally blind.

Calderon would regain vision in his right eye, then reassemble what was left into a portrait of resilience. He would graduate from a wheelchair into prosthetic limbs. He went to school on the G.I. bill, learned a trade and entered the workforce as a mechanical draftsman. He learned to play through the pain of embedded metal fragments so numerous he can't take an MRI scan. He became a competitive wheelchair bowler, played wheelchair hoops, and traveled as far away as New Zealand to become the USA World 9-Ball Champion in a billiards tournament.

The Michigan native also had a way with the ladies. He married once, twice, three times. He attributes much of the failure of the first two to post-traumatic stress disorder, a diagnosis he didn't get until some 15 years ago. But he fathered two kids. For a man who can make the literal claim that "half of me is still in Vietnam," no shelf seemed too high.

But gravity and the years have taken a toll. Back and shoulders aching from the pressure pain of prosthetics, Calderon abandoned his artificial legs for a wheelchair. Laura, his wife of nine years, succumbed to breast cancer in 2012. In January 2017, his 39-year-old son, Shawn, died of liver disease. Willpower at a low ebb, walls getting tighter, Calderon discovered he needed his peer-support circle at a local Department of Veterans Affairs facility more than ever.

In May, a fellow Vietnam survivor showed up for a group session with a new companion at his side. It was a yellow lab, on a harness, courtesy of the nationally renowned nonprofit Southeastern Guide Dogs. His buddy suggested Calderon might need a little canine help, too.

A phone call or two later, a man who wondered if he could take it anymore was on track to meet a girl named Mae.

Initially established to provide guide dogs to the blind, Southeastern's range of training regimens has expanded since its inception in 1982, and now delivers canines targeting challenges faced by veterans.

Without a dime of government help, funded solely by private donations, the 33-acre spread in rural Palmetto operates on roughly \$10 million a year. Mae, born on Dec. 26, 2015, is merely the latest of 3,100 dogs dispatched into service over the past 35 years.

Calderon takes Mae outside to demonstrate her skill set — right, left, stop, sit, down, the basics, nothing fancy right now — and Mae is smart on her marks. She can also open doors, fetch her leash and, in the event Calderon takes a spill, pull his lightweight titanium wheelchair to him with a harness-and-tennis ball rigging.



Vietnam veteran Bob Calderon rides through his Bradenton neighborhood with his guide dog Mae. (Dan Wagner/ Sarasota Herald-Tribune)

Back inside, when the jacket comes off, it becomes clear that Mae has never met a stranger. She rolls on her back as the visitor approaches, tail wagging furiously now, belly up, a stranger's fingers finding the sweet spot that sets a hind leg in reflex motion like she's pumping a bicycle at 100 mph.

Later, she will sit quietly, minding her own business, never cloying, as Calderon finishes his story.



Facts about the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Posted on April 15, 2017

First unveiled on November 13, 1982, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial includes 58,272 names listed, approximately 1200 of which are listed as missing (MIA's, POW's, and others). The names are in chronological order, according to the date of casualty within each day, the names are also alphabetized. Each of the walls is 246.75 feet long, composed of 70 separate inscribed granite panels, plus 4 at the end without names

A common unknown fact about it is that it was actually funded without economical support from the government. A Vietnam War vet, who studied what is now called post-traumatic stress disorder after his return to the United States is the one who is responsible for the memorial. His name is Jan C. Scruggs. He is the one who founded the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund in the start, even using his own money in 1979. In total, the fund managed to raise nearly \$9,000,000 entirely through private contributions from corporations, foundations, unions, veterans and civic organizations and more than 275,000 individual Americans.

Another fact that people sometimes forget is that the wall is not a war Memorial but a Memorial to those who served in the war, both living and dead. Surprisingly, the design of the memorial wasn't created by a famous architect, but an undergraduate at Yale University, Maya Ying Lin. There were four criteria that must be covered when building the memorial and those are:

Be reflective and contemplative in character; 2. Harmonize with its surroundings; 3. Contain the names of those who had died in the conflict or who were still missing; 4. Make no political statement about the war.

And we can safely say that they were all covered and that the memorial is now a place that brings unpleasant memories to many, but nevertheless, it gives people closure and a way to feel closer to the ones they lost.

Information on Running for Florida State Council Officers

January 19, 2018

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

SPECIAL EDITION - ELECTION COMMITTEE REPORT

Attention Prospective Candidates BY Ben L. Humphries, Chair

Vietnam Veterans of America Florida State Council will conduct its election of all State Officer positions June 10, 2018 during FSC meeting in Orlando, Florida.



Fellow veterans: The Elections Committee invites you to think about your future role in the leadership of FSC. The committee encourages all those who are considering running for office in 2018 to think about and evaluate whether you are willing to take on the responsibilities of an Officer. Take time now to consult with your family, friends, and those whose opinions you value to determine if this is the next step you are willing to take in your involvement in FSC.

The election process started January 1, 2018 and the committee is accepting Letters of Intent, so be committed, and be sure. The future of FSC could be in your hands as a representative of this organization. The Elections Committee welcomes all those who wish to be a part of the elections process and who aspire to be the leaders of FSC.

POSITIONS OPEN FOR ELECTION:FSC President, FSC 1st Vice President, FSC 2nd Vice President, FSC Secretary and FSC Treasurer

TERM OF OFFICE: All State Officer positions are for terms of two years, beginning at the end of Officer reports at June FSC meeting.

ELIGIBILITY: Candidates for all positions open for election must be individual members of VVA in "good standing"

To qualify for election ... to any of these offices a candidate must have been an individual member of the Corporation, in good standing, (1) for a continuous period of not less than twelve months immediately preceding June 2018 FSC meeting ... and (2) such candidate must have held a position as an officer or board member at the National level or as an officer at the State Council or Chapter level, during any continuous period of twelve months prior to the date of the opening of the June 2018 FSC meeting at which such candidate seeks election."

LETTER OF INTENT: Prospective candidates must submit their Letters of Intent to the Ben L. Humphries at benlhumphries@gmail.com (<mailto:benlhumphries@gmail.com>) no later than May 18, 2018. Starting with the 2018 FSC Elections, prospective candidates considering running for positions will need to include their telephone numbers, e-mail address, and current physical mailing address in the body of the Letter of Intent or on a separate sheet of paper.

Prospective candidates must also include the position he or she wishes to run for. A prospective candidate may run for only one position.

Questions should be directed to Ben L. Humphries at 772-538-6963

RESTRICTIONS: Incumbents must not use their Position to solicit votes. Candidates may use the national flag of the United States of America, VVA national logo, and the VVA national flag on their campaign material. Any kind of VVA, State Council, or Chapter letterhead may not be used. Campaign materials are (but are not limited to) buttons, pins, brochures, posters, pictures, emails, websites, etc. A photograph of a candidate wearing his or her VVA National, State Council, or Chapter lapel pin is acceptable.

Candidates may not solicit or accept any campaign endorsements from VVA, any VVA State Council, Chapter, or VVA newsletters, newspapers, web, or electronic mail sites. It is strictly prohibited for any person to use VVA National, State Council, or Chapter letterhead, website, or e-mail for writing letters of endorsement. A candidate's own website or e-mail may be used to campaign, but the restrictions mentioned above remain in effect.

Failure to abide by all rules, instructions, and requirements set forth in this announcement will result in disqualification from the election.

The FSC Elections Committee welcomes those members willing to step forward and take part in a most important part of FSC: the election of Officers who will guide FSC for the next two years.

Ben L. Humphries, Chair Past President VVA FSC 772-538-6963 "Together Then, Together Now"

VVA Website (<http://www.vva.org>); VVA FSC Website (<http://www.vvafsc.org>)

<https://www.facebook.com/vvafsc/>, <http://www.vvafsc.org>, <mailto:e-recon@vvafsc.org>

WARBIRD AIRSHOW

Saturday, April 6,7,8, 2018 we have been given permission to have a Membership Drive and Buddy Poppy Campaign at the 2018 Space Coast Air Show at the Regional Airport in Titusville.

This event drew over 58,000 people according to last years gate attendance. Any post wishing to participate please let me know. This is a great opportunity to represent the VFW at the largest event in Florida that weekend.

2018 SPACE COAST WARBIRD AIRSHOW
APRIL 6, 7 & 8
SPACE COAST REGIONAL AIRPORT
TITUSVILLE • FLORIDA

FRIDAY
Afternoon & Night Shows
Ending with Giant Fireworks
Gates Open 12 Noon

SAT & SUN
Air-to-Air Combat
All-Day Fun on the Grounds
Gates Open 8:30a

AEROBATICS JET DEMOS FIGHTER & BOMBER FLIGHTS

BE AMAZED!

—FEATURING—
TORA! TORA! TORA!
BOMBING INSIDE WHO STRIKED THE PACIFIC THEATER
1941-1945

Vintage Warbirds
WWII Parachute Team
Simulated Bombing & Strafing
Military Reenactments
Static Displays

PRESENTED BY
WARBIRD MUSEUM
VALIANT AIR COMMAND

GET YOUR TICKETS AT ValiantAirCommand.com
Purchase Advance Tickets at Discount Prices NOW!

TICKETS

ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT THE WARBIRD AIR MUSEUM

For your Safety: No Coolers • No Pets • No Large Umbrellas • No Firearms

Vietnam and All Veterans of Brevard Presents:
Florida's 31th Annual
Vietnam and All Veterans Reunion
The Nation's Largest Veterans Reunion
Supported by the Vietnam and All Veterans of Florida, Inc. - VVOF.org
April 19th – April 22nd

Additionally, come visit The Vietnam Traveling Memorial WALL April 15- April 22

LIVE MUSIC
FOOD & DRINKS
MILITARY VENDORS
MILITARY DISPLAYS
POW / MIA CEREMONIES
THE LAST PATROL
THE MOVING TRIBUTE



Wall Escort April 15, 2018 Leave at 10am
Eastern Florida State College Cocoa Campus
Also visit the Reunion Web Page at:
floridaveteransreunion.com

Wickham Park
321-255-4307 - Melbourne, FL
Take I-95 to Exit 191 or old Exit 73
No Coolers, Glass or Pets allowed
in the Reunion Area

Per Wickham Park: Golf Carts Permitted
For the Handicapped Only And Must
Abide By FL Highway Laws

Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall
www.travelingwall.us
Vietnam and All Veterans of Brevard, Inc
PO Box 237225

Cocoa, FL 32923-7225



Call For Info
321-408-2698
321-652-4185
Vendor call 321-652-4185
Vet.reunion.vendor@gmail.com
RaRusso1962@gmail.com
Candy1540@yahoo.com
Club Escort Lineup Info.
vvbreunionescort@gmail.com



Time: 7:30 AM Registration 8:30 AM Shotgun Start

Location: Marsh Creek Country Club

169 Marshside Drive, St. Augustine, FL 32080

Format: 4 Person Captain's Choice

Field: First 36 Teams



Entry Fee: \$80.00 per player (Includes Green Fees, Cart, Lunch & Prizes)

Prizes For: 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place

Hole Prizes Include: Longest Drive, Closest to Pin and Longest Putt
Chipping & Putting Contests (During the Tournament)



Golf Shoes Must Be Soft Spikes Only

The Luncheon & Awards Ceremony will be held on-site after the Tournament

TEAM CAPTAIN: _____ PHONE #: _____ EMAIL: _____

PLAYER #2: _____ PHONE #: _____ EMAIL: _____

PLAYER #3: _____ PHONE #: _____ EMAIL: _____

PLAYER #4: _____ PHONE #: _____ EMAIL: _____

MAIL ENTRY FORMS (whether paying by check or credit card) TO:

Ms. Natasha Huertas, C/O AUSA GOLF TOURNAMENT,

P.O BOX 3883, ST. AUGUSTINE, FL 32085-3883. Phone (904) 682-4436.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO FIRST MILITIA CHAPTER - AUSA or

To purchase online visit <https://squareup.com/market/first-militia-chapter-ausa>

AUSA is an exempt organization under section 501 (c) (3) of the US Internal Revenue Code.



FIRST MILITIA CHAPTER
P.O. Box 3883
St. Augustine, Florida 32085-3883

1 Nov. 2018

Dear Sir/Madam,

Maybe you've seen a soldier in uniform and had the impulse to say thanks. Maybe you know how it feels to wear that uniform. Either way, soldiers and/or their families need your support.

Please consider partnering with the First Militia Chapter (FMC) of the Association of the United States Army (AUSA). We give the *"Voice for the Army, Support for the Soldier"* in Northeast Florida. Our members, with help from businesses like yours, provide programs that bolster the U.S. Army, soldiers, and their families. Here are a few of the ways:

- Help fund departure and welcome home ceremonies for our units
- Supply emergency financial assistance to families
- Present scholarships to deserving chapter applicants
- Provide senior officer and NCO cadre for Junior ROTC
- Award special recognition for the Florida Army National Guard Soldier and NCO of the Year
- Meet quarterly to hear notable leaders, such as members of the U.S. Congress, and bring our issues before them
- Sustain a young professionals group within our chapter

None of this could happen without help from businesses like yours. But in the past, the only way to become involved was as a sponsor for our annual golf tournament fundraiser.

Now we are opening more opportunities through recognition at our quarterly dinners, where you can describe your business to our members and the dignitaries who speak. Sponsors are also acknowledged in our newsletter, website, and social media. Golf tournament sponsors are also recognized with hole-sponsor signs at the tournament set for April 9th, 2018 at Marsh Creek Country Club.

More information and options to help are included. If you have a specific question, please contact LTC Vernon Dohmann at 904-823-0191 or vernon.j.dohmann.mil@mail.mil

I hope you will join us in continuing the good things we do for soldiers, their families, and the mightiest fighting force in the world. Our noble goal, and hopefully yours, is to help keep it that way. Please let us count on your support.

Sincerely,

Mike Canzoneri
Brigadier General, US Army
President, First Militia Chapter



FIRST MILITIA CHAPTER

Association of the United States Army

Sponsorship Form

Sponsorship Level (Choose from accompanying list):

_____ **Platinum Sponsor: \$2,000 Donation**

_____ **Gold Sponsor: \$1,000 Donation**

_____ **Silver Sponsor: \$500 Donation**

_____ **Bronze Sponsor: \$250 Donation**

Sponsor Information:

Corporate/Individual Name(s) for Donation Recognition:

Mailing Address: _____

Sponsor Point of Contact: _____

POC Phone Number: _____

POC Email: _____

Please forward this form to: **First Militia Chapter (AUSA) ATTN: Natasha M. Huertas**
P.O. Box 3883
St. Augustine, Florida 32085-3883
Checks payable to **"First Militia Chapter – AUSA"**
Register Online at: <http://mkt.com/first-militia-chapter-ausa>

Platinum Sponsor: \$2,000 Donation

1. Free attendance for two representatives at all four quarterly dinner meetings
2. Recognition at each dinner meeting and opportunities to speak about your business
3. Recognition in the AUSA First Militia Chapter newsletter (500+ Army supporters and sponsors)
4. Entry for your golf team (4 players) in the tournament (\$300 value)
5. Your corporate sign at a tournament tee box, at a green & at the banquet hall*
6. Your ad/coupon in the tournament goodie bag (144 golfers)
7. Complimentary AUSA Annual Corporate Sponsor Membership

Gold Sponsor: \$1,000 Donation

1. Free attendance for two representatives at three of our four quarterly dinner meetings
2. Recognition at each dinner meeting and opportunities to speak about your business
3. Recognition in the AUSA 1st Militia Chapter newsletter (500+ Army supporters and sponsors)
4. Your corporate sign at a tournament tee box, at a green & at the banquet hall*
5. Your ad/coupon in the tournament goodie bag (144 golfers)
6. Complimentary AUSA Annual Corporate Sponsor Membership

Silver Sponsor: \$500 Donation

1. Free attendance for two representatives at two of our four quarterly dinner meetings
2. Recognition at each dinner meeting and opportunities to speak about your business
3. Recognition in the AUSA 1st Militia Chapter newsletter (500+ Army supporters and sponsors)
4. Your corporate sign at a tournament tee box, at a green & at the banquet hall*
5. Your ad/coupon in the tournament goodie bag (144 golfers)
6. Complimentary AUSA Annual Corporate Sponsor Membership

Bronze Sponsor: \$250 Donation

1. Free attendance for two representatives at one of our four quarterly dinner meetings
2. Recognition at the dinner meeting and opportunity to speak about your business
3. Recognition in the AUSA 1st Militia Chapter newsletter (500+ Army supporters and sponsors)
4. Your corporate sign at a tournament tee box, at a green & at the banquet hall*
5. Your ad/coupon in the tournament goodie bag (144 golfers)

* Sign display on the day of the tournament (Custom signs welcome & must meet golf course limitations)

Thank you for supporting soldiers, their families, and the United States Army!

*AUSA is an exempt organization under section 501 (c) (3) of the US Internal Revenue Code.
Rev. August 10, 2016*



FIRST MILITIA CHAPTER

Association of the United States Army

Voice for the Army, Support for the Soldier

Background

Our chapter, established in November 1994, serves northeast Florida with a range of programs that support the Army, soldiers and their families, and our communities. The First Militia Chapter is an integral part of AUSA National, a strong member of the total military coalition and a vibrant voice representing soldiers on Capitol Hill. Here is how we support our goals:

How we support Excellence in the Army:

- Sponsor "First Militia Striders", our Army Ten Miler Team.
- Sponsor the University of North Florida ROTC Army Ten Miler Team.
- Provide AUSA tribute watches for Florida Reserve National Guard (FLARNG) Soldier and NCO of the Year.
- Conduct the Army Birthday celebration – a Community Affair.
- Contribute financially to the Army Institute of Land Warfare.
- Conduct quarterly dinner meetings with relevant speakers and leaders.

How we support Soldiers:

- Help fund departure and welcome home ceremonies for our units.
- Help fund FLARNG Platoon Leader's Course at Camp Blanding.
- Help fund Ft. Stewart Retiree Appreciation Day activities.
- Sponsor holes at other soldier related golf tournaments.

How we support Families:

- Provide emergency financial assistance to families where possible.
- Provide financial and manpower assistance to Family Readiness Programs.

AUSA is an exempt organization under section 501 (c) (3) of the US Internal Revenue Code.

How we support Excellence in America's Youth:

- Present \$1,000 scholarships to up to three deserving chapter applicants.
- Present AUSA medals and certificates to outstanding students in each of the fourteen high schools in our chapter footprint.
- Provide senior officer and NCO cadre for JROTC summer camp when requested by Cadet Command.

For Your Information

Current chapter membership is 527, exceeding our assigned goal of 500.
Approximately \$15,000 is needed annually to fund our support programs.
Currently we have 20 corporate sponsors. Our goal is to add 15 new sponsors!

All chapter officers are **volunteers**.

First Militia Chapter has been recognized as a "Chapter of Excellence" for multiple years,
and "Best Small Chapter" in the Southeast Region!

**For further information about First Militia Chapter, AUSA,
visit our website at www.ausa.org/first-militia**



AUSA is an exempt organization under section 501 (c) (3) of the US Internal Revenue Code.

Rev: August 10, 2016



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

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

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



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

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

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

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



We are inviting all veterans to visit our website at:

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

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

Please join our group on Facebook at:
VeteransCouncilofStJohnsCounty,FL

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

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

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

You may have noticed the Veterans Council's new logo, it was created by Roy Havekost and his web design company PageAuthors. The VC strongly recommends that you contact Roy, 904-287-6909, if you or your vet group wants to create a website or Facebook page.

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



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

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



**SURVIVOR
OUTREACH SERVICES**

Survivor Outreach Offers Free Services to
Surviving Spouses and Family Members of Military Retirees

Contact Keith Ham

Survivor Outreach Services Support Coordinator, HRCI Contractor
310 Charlotte Street, St. Augustine, FL 32084
Office: 904-823-0157 Cell: 904-472-7689
Email: keith.e.ham.ctr@mail.mil

Please support our sponsors



RE/MAX
Specialists
Each Office Independently Owned and Operated

Scott Hum
Broker-Associate
Hum Sells, LLC

12646 San Jose Blvd
Jacksonville, FL 32223
Cell: (904) 707-0925
Office: (904) 260-4550
ScottHum@REMAX.net
www.NEFloridaHomes4Sale.com



400 N. Ponce de Leon Blvd.—St. Augustine, FL 32084-3587

904-829-2201— fax 904-829-2020— 800-997-1961

www.herbiewiles.com

The House That Trust Built


Homeowners 62 or older...
Learn how you can enjoy your retirement years with a Reverse Mortgage.

Call for a quote
JOHN REARDON
Mortgage Consultant & Reverse Mortgage Specialist
Serving all of Florida



904-982-2210
www.floridareversemortgageismadeeasy.com

NMLS 555210



Pycraft LAW LLC
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Foreclosure Defense • Bankruptcy • Debt Defense
Estate Planning • Wills • Trusts • Advanced Directives • Probate
Family Law • Criminal Defense • Civil Defense

www.pycraftlaw.com • (904) 940-0060

Thomas R. Pycraft, Jr. • John J. Spence
Michael J. Pelkowski • David D. Naples, Jr.

*Veterans Council of St. Johns County,
“Helping All Veterans”*

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

Send to: mrothfeld@anyveteran.org

Please send to: mrothfeld@anyveteran.org



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(physical location)

*The VSO Office is located in the 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.