



# The Patriot Reader Newsletter

P.O. Box 2117

St. Augustine, FL 32085

Bill Dudley, Publisher

Michael Rothfeld, Editor

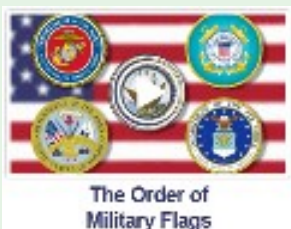
Volume 8, Issue 2

Message from the Chairman

Newsletter Date: February 2019

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Fellow Veterans,  
This past Saturday evening, 19 January 2019 was the occasion for our annual St. Augustine Military Ball. It was another huge success. Our military honoree was Lt. General Ron Bailey, USMC, ret. and a St. Augustine native son. General Bailey overwhelmed the crowd that attended this year's gala event with his remarks that provided the guiding principles to his life of service to our country. He is a dynamic speaker and kept the audience's full attention as he gave up the podium and walked amongst the evening's crowd to deliver his remarks. He received a rousing standing ovation at the conclusion of his remarks.

Your Veterans Council had another successful year including the best

Veterans Day event we have ever hosted. We will capture the year's performance in a separate article in our newsletter highlighting the many activities we were involved in during the year.

As we begin to outline our plans for 2019, we see another great year ahead for our Council as we plan our many activities in support of our veterans, continue to educate our youth about the service of our veterans to our nation, and inform our community, government and civic leaders. Your Veterans Council is a strong advocacy group for veterans and veterans support as we often reach out to the VA, state and local government about issues of concern for our veterans. We will continue to be that voice bringing our total support for veteran's causes.



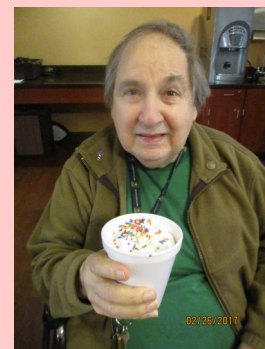
The Veterans Council will participate in the grand opening of the new Fire Station # 5 on US 1 South once the date of opening is announced. The Veterans Council will furnish the American and POW / MIA flags that will be flown in front of the new station. Our meeting location for 2019 will remain the same at the St. Johns County Health and Human Services Building. As usual, we have some great speakers lined up to speak to our council this year. So now is the time to put the last Thurs. evening at 7 PM on your calendar and reserve that date.  
Bill Dudley, Chairman  
Veterans Council of SJC

# Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home



The Leatherneck Motorcycle Group came and visited after Christmas providing our residents with a chance to admire their bikes.

Mrs Margaret Owsley, with her daughter Jo beside her, was presented with a very special gift in January. Gary and Pat Maurer of Palm Coast presented Mrs Owsley with a Quilt of Valor. The Quilt of Valor Foundation presents quilts to those “touched by war.” To learn more about the Quilts of Valor program please visit their website: <https://www.qovf.org/>



The veterans of Clyde E Lassen SVNH celebrated a cold snap by having a “snowball” fight and a hot chocolate bar.



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

**Jacksonville National Cemetery Support Committee Meetings for 2018  
At Community Hospice of NE FL.  
4266 Sunbeam Rd, Jacksonville, FL 32257  
Hadlow Bldg – Conference Room A 7:00pm**

**DATES OF 2019 SC at JNC MEETINGS**

**Monday, March 04, 2019 7:00pm (start of planning for Memorial Day**

**April 01, 2019 7:00pm ceremony at the JNC)**

**May 06, 2019 7:00pm Memorial Day Event (pre- meeting)**

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

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

Chairman: Steve Spickelmier

Vice Chairman: Bill Dudley, Treasurer: John Mountcastle

Assistant Treasurer: Michael Rothfeld, Secretary: Kathy Church

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

Historian: Kathy Cayton

Chaplain: Rev. Patrick A. Archuleta, Sr.

**The Veterans Council of St. Johns County meets on the following dates, all are invited to attend.**

**We meet at the county Health & Human Services building, 200 San Sebastian View, at 7 pm**

**Future meeting Speakers:**

**January 31, Tom Waskovich, Green Beret, Vietnam Veteran, MACVSOG**

**Veronica Nieves, Red Cross, Team RWB, American Red Cross- Service to the Armed Forces**

**February 28, Jud Damon, Athletic Director, Flagler College, B2B, Battlefields to Ballfields**

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

**Trish Doran, Wekiva Springs Center, Military Liaison**

**April 25, Chaplain Pat Archuleta, Jesus Loves Veterans Ministries**

**Jessica Bradstreet, Dept. of VA, Local Recovery Coordinator**

**May 30, Dr. Susan Parker, Historian, Military Families of Old St. Augustine**

## The Veterans Council's 2018 Activities

This past year has been an active one for the Veterans Council of St. Johns County as it continues its **Mission "To Help and Assist All Veterans"**.

The Council's help and assistance in 2018 has taken many forms.

### Honoring and Remembering Veterans

The Council's well attended **Memorial Day Ceremony**, and its donation to the St. Augustine National Cemetery of \$ 5000 to buy in ground flag extenders will enhance ceremonies for future generations.

**Veterans Day** this year was very memorable and may have been the best ever. It was hosted by the Veterans Council and **Anastasia Baptist Church**. The atrium displays were many and varied. **The Traveling Vietnam Wall, The Agent Orange**

**Quilt of Tears** and over 30 veterans related lobby tables were on display. The ceremony Commemorated the 100 year anniversary of the **"War to End All Wars"**.



The Council presented local **First Responders, all Veterans**, with plaques recognizing their outstanding service to the county and to the country.



**Wreaths Across America** was successful again this year as every headstone in **St. Augustine National Cemetery** was covered with a holiday wreath.

The Veterans Council in conjunction with the **Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1084** held a commemoration ceremony at **St. Augustine National Cemetery** to honor the Vietnam veterans buried there.



### Informing Veterans

The Council invites speakers to its monthly meetings that are informative and current. In 2018 we had speakers from the **Veterans Programs from Flagler College, Jacksonville University, and the University of North FL.**

**The University of Central Florida** presented their new app that provides military bios of those buried in St. Augustine National Cemetery.

Local **Historian, Dr. Michael Butler, from Flagler College** spoke about his many trips to Vietnam and how North Vietnam interprets the war and how it differs from reality.

**Laura Wynn, Social Studies Curriculum Specialist** spoke to the Council about how Vietnam history is taught.

### **Presentations and Donations**

**Chairman Dudley** has spoken at the **Hastings Rotary** and the **St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Julington Creek** division and presented them with copies of the Council's 5 Military documentary series telling and preserving the stories of local county veterans.

The Council has donated a **Pew to the Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, POW/MIA flags** to the **St. Johns County Administration** buildings and to **Jacksonville Veterans Memorial Arena**.

Chairman Dudley spoke on behalf of all veterans at the First Annual **"Gathering In The Pines"** Ceremony at the Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial.

The Council initiated and was instrumental in having St. Johns County become a **Purple Heart County**.

The Council donated money and supplies to **HITRON** for those affected by the devastation of **Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico**.

The Council arranged for a **new roof to be installed for a needy local veteran**.

The annual **Homeless Veterans Stand Down at Elks Lodge 829** was well attended and baths, food, dental care, VA counseling and clothes were available to all.

The Council donated its 5 documentary series to the **Veterans Museum in Daytona Beach** and to **Vet Stream TV** which made the documentaries free to its national audience. The Veterans Council took part in the **Active & Senior Boomer Expo** held at the St. Augustine Mall and provided veterans information to attendees.

2018 marked the first of many graduates for the Veterans Council supported **Veterans Treatment Court** with the Council lending money to the enrollees for food, utilities and rent with a pay back agreement.

**Plans are already under way to continue supporting and assisting veterans in 2019**



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

January 19, 2019

National Cemetery, St. Augustine, FL

### **Volunteers clean up National Cemetery**

“It was over before it was scheduled to happen”, said an astonished Ray Quinn, SGM USA (Ret).

The annual clean-up of the “Wreaths Across America” ceremony was publicized to begin at 8:30 am. Nearly 30 volunteers began arriving shortly before 8:00. Using gloved hands and poles to carry 10 at a time, all the wreaths were removed and stacked for disposal by 8:15.

“On behalf of the Veterans Council of St. Johns County” said Quinn, “I express my gratitude to all who helped and especially to all the young people who came to help. You are a blessing!”

After the photo-op, the obligatory coffee and doughnuts were enjoyed by all. In reality, the most enjoyable part was the comradeship which lasted far beyond the disposal of the last wreath.

“Nothing is quite as enjoyable as the laughter of veterans,” said a veteran who asked not to be identified. He went on to say, “Except for the laughter of babies.”

###

media contact and photos by  
Michael Isam



**MISSING IN AMERICA PROJECT – FLORIDA**

**CALL TO HONOR # 18**

**Saturday - February 02, 2019 – 10:00am**

**Cape Canaveral National Cemetery**

**5525 US Hwy 1, Mims, FL 32754**



**\*\*\*\*\*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.

**\*\*\*\*\*“IT’S THE RIGHT THING TO DO”\*\*\*\*\***

In cooperation with Seawinds Funeral Home & Crematory, Davis Seawinds Funeral Home & Crematory, and Baldwin Brothers Funeral & Cremation Society, MIAP will be interring the unclaimed cremains of 19 veterans, and 6 spouses of veterans, with full military honors, at the Cape Canaveral National Cemetery. Included will be a veteran that was sent to MIAP-FL by MIAP-Utah.

The veterans being interred served in the US Army, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard during World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Persian Gulf, and other non-war specific periods. The longest that any of these being interred has been unclaimed is since 1973.

There will be an escort for this service that will leave from American Legion Post 1, 1281 N. US Hwy. 1, Titusville, FL 32796, to the cemetery. Any and all motorcycle organizations, riders, and vehicles are welcome to participate. Meeting time is 8:30AM at the Post for a safety briefing, and the escort will depart (KSU) to the cemetery at 9:10AM.

**You are cordially invited to attend this service. This service is open to all residents of our area communities.**

**NATIONAL PROGRESS AS OF 01/10/2019**

**Total Funeral Homes Visited - 2,313**

**Cremains Found – 18,780**

**Veterans Cremains Identified – 4,122**

**Veterans Interred - 3,760**

**FLORIDA PROGRESS AS OF 01/10/2019**

**Total Funeral Homes Visited - 165**

**Cremains Found – 1,566**

**Number to be interred - 97**

**Missions Scheduled – 1**

**Veterans Interred – 250**

**Spouses Interred – 98**

**Dependents Interred – 1**

**Kathy Church**

**MIAP - FL State Coordinator**

**1205 2nd Street S**

**Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250**

**miapjax@yahoo.com**

**(904)219-3035 - www.miap.us**

**CALL TO HONOR #18**

**Saturday, February 02, 2018 @ 10am**

In cooperation with Sea Winds Funeral Home & Crematory, Davis Sea Winds Funeral Home & Crematory, and Baldwin Brothers Funeral & Cremation Society, MIAP will be interring the unclaimed cremains of 16 veterans, and 6 spouses of veterans, with full military honors, at the Cape Canaveral National Cemetery located at 5525 US



Hwy. 1, Mims, FL 32754. Included will be a veteran that was sent to MIAP-FL by MIAP-Utah.

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*Kathy Church*

*MIAP, FL State Coordinator*

*1205 2ND Street S*

*Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250*

*miapjax@yahoo.com - (904)219-3035 -www.miap.us*

## Nease NJROTC victorious at Terry Parker Drill Meet

For the past six years, Nease NJROTC's 40-person drill team has competed at the Terry Parker Sanctioned Drill Meet in Jacksonville. This year marks the sixth straight year the team has returned to Ponte Vedra with the competition's top prize.



Along with six consecutive Mandarin Drill Meet victories, Nease has dominated the NJROTC drill landscape in Northern Florida since 2013. Nease will compete in March 2019 at the Area-12 Florida-Georgia State Championships. Here, the team will be seeking a fifth consecutive title and trip to the Navy National Championships in April.

"Every JROTC program has a reputation," Cadet Command Master Chief Peyton Gustafson said. "For some it's academics, orienteering or marksmanship. But for Nease it's drill."

Drill meet championships include a series of 11 individual events including Unarmed and Armed Marching, Color Guard, Personnel Inspection, Academics, Pushups, Sit-ups and Running Relays. Points awarded in each event are combined to determine the day's overall winner.

This year, Nease won first place in Personnel Inspection, Academics, Athletics Overall, Sit-ups and both the 16x100 Relay and 8x220 Relay. They also were second in Drill Overall, Color Guard, Unarmed Exhibition Drill, Armed Basic Drill and Pushups.

Several cadets took home individual medals. Teagen Pettit, Elizabeth Villalba and Isabella Rivera swept female sit-ups with first-, second- and third-place finishes. Nate Fagen and Thomas Olinger finished first and second in male sit-ups. Erin Sass and Pettit won second and third in female pushups, and Chris Oliver finished third in male pushups. Pettit's 335 sit-ups were a personal record.

"Today gets us one step closer to the prize," Cadet Battalion Commander Erin Sass said. "The road to the Navy National Championship only gets tougher with each competition."

Nease is currently the No. 1 ranked NJROTC drill team in Area 12, which includes 59 programs in Northern Florida and Georgia. Nease has won the Area-12 Drill Championship each of the past four years. The team will seek to make it five in a row March 2 in Douglas, Georgia, where the best 16 schools in Area-12 will vie for top honors and the right to compete at the Navy National Drill Championships in April.

"Our seniors are truly leading from the front," Naval Science Instructor Master Chief Duane Spears said. "The motivation, energy and enthusiasm of this group is unlike any I've seen."

Other top schools in the competition were Coffee County High School in second place, Orange Park High School in third place, Cross Creek High School in fourth place and Middleburg High School in fifth place.



January 8, 2019

Colonel Bill Dudley  
1072 Alcalá Dr.  
St. Augustine, FL 32086

Dear Bill,

Please accept my sincere thanks to you and the Veterans Council of St. Johns County for your work to assist Herb Volk and help put a new roof on his home.

We owe a tremendous sense of gratitude to those who have served our nation. Your continued commitment to our servicemen and woman is to be commended. I am very grateful for the Veterans Council's kindness.

I thank you and your organization again for your generosity and look forward to seeing your continued success in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Marco Rubio  
United States Senator



**Vietnam and all Veterans  
of Brevard**

*Present:*

# **Florida's 32nd Annual Vietnam and All Veterans Reunion**

**The Nation's Largest Veterans Reunion  
PUBLIC INVITED TO ATTEND**

## **May 9th – 12th**

The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall on display **May 5-12, 2019**

**LIVE MUSIC  
FOOD & DRINKS  
MILITARY VENDORS  
MILITARY DISPLAYS**



**THE SOME GAVE ALL MOVING TRIBUTE**

**Wall Escort May 5, 2019 Leaves at 10am  
Eastern Florida State College Cocoa Campus  
Reunion Web Page at:**

[floridaveteransreunion.com](http://floridaveteransreunion.com)

### **Wickham Park**

321-255-4307 - 2500 Parkway Dr  
Melbourne, FL

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  
<http://travelingwall.us>



**Call For Info**

321-408-2698

321-652-4185

**Vendor call 321-652-4185**

[Vet.reunion.vendor@gmail.com](mailto:Vet.reunion.vendor@gmail.com)

[RaRusso1962@gmail.com](mailto:RaRusso1962@gmail.com)

[Candy1540@yahoo.com](mailto:Candy1540@yahoo.com)

**Club Escort Lineup Info**

[vybreunionescort@gmail.com](mailto:vybreunionescort@gmail.com)

From FL State Representative Cyndi Stevenson

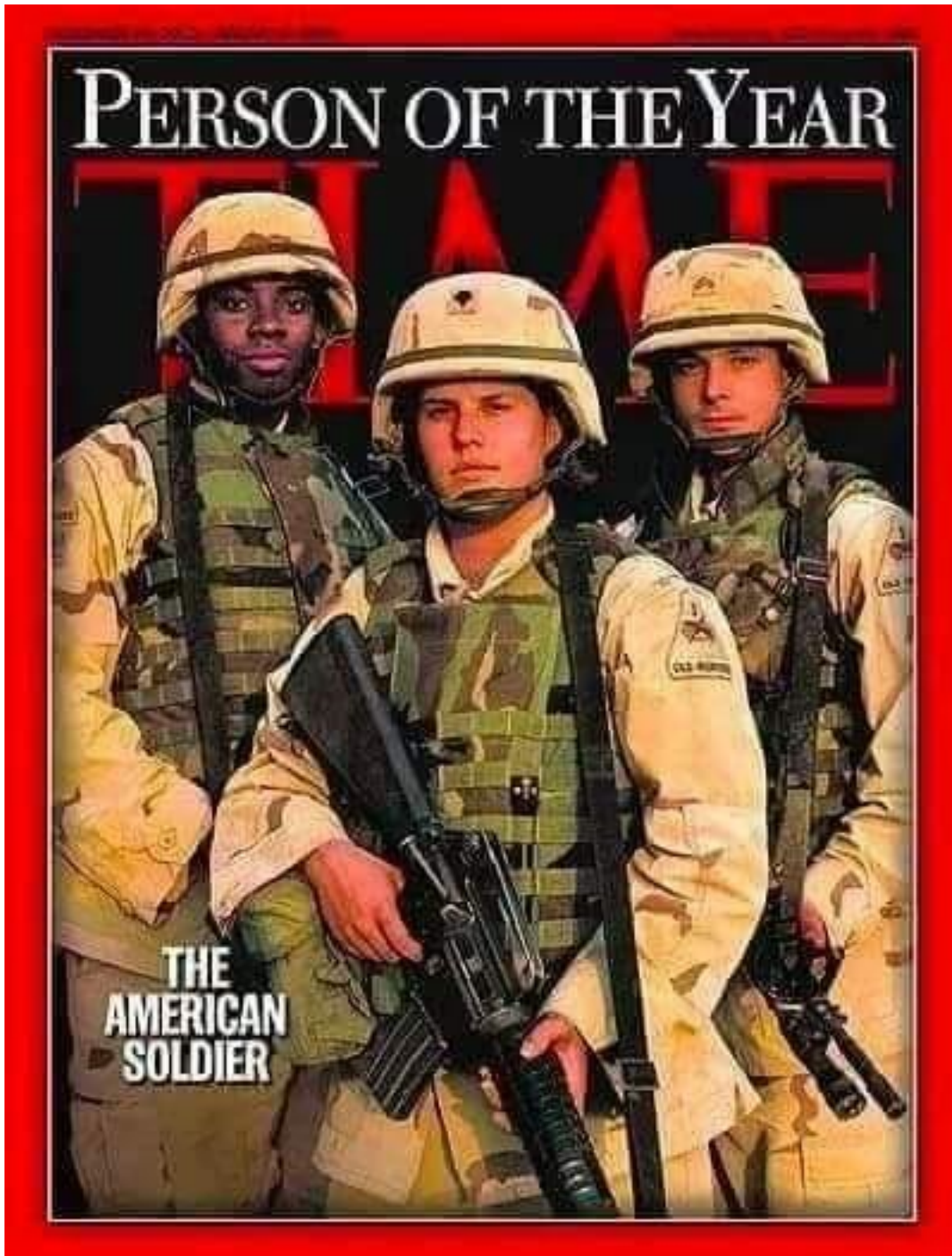
Great to hear from Lieutenant General Ronald L. Bailey, who was raised in St. Augustine. We were at the Fifth St. Augustine Military Ball where he was the keynote speaker and honored guest. He made a special point to recognize the Vietnam Veterans and encouraged all of us to invest time with our youth because they are our future. This year the proceeds from the event is to help start a Marine ROTC in St. Johns County. Thank you for a wonderful evening benefiting a great cause.



**I'm sure you all agree with the Council that Gary Sinise should have been Person of the Year**



**These are my two choices for  
“Person” of the Year.**



# Inaugural Vietnam Veterans Day Ceremony

*Date: Saturday, March 30, 2019*

*Time: 10:30 am*

*(Reception to Immediately Follow)*

*Location: TAPS Monument,  
915 Walnut Street, Green Cove Springs FL*



*Join us as we recognize the sacrifices made by the Vietnam Era Veterans and their families.*



**IN PARTNERSHIP**







**25<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL FIRST MILITIA CHAPTER  
AUSA GOLF TOURNAMENT  
APRIL 8, 2019**



**Time:** 7:30 a.m. Registration • 8:30 a.m. 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 per player (includes Green Fees, Cart, Lunch, & Prizes)

**Prizes for: 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>. & 3<sup>rd</sup> Place**

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

***New this Year: Make a Hole-in-One on #15 and win a 2019 GMC Acadia  
from Jack Wilson GMC/Chevrolet***

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

**Golf Shoes Must Be Soft Spikes Only**

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



## **Jerry Domask, Vietnam veteran The Veterans Council congratulates you!**

Great start to New Year! 2 paintings submitted to St. Augustine Art Association, FL juried art exhibit were accepted to: Our Human Condition: Figures & Portraits. One of the paintings, "Searching" received HONORABLE MENTION! Felt most fortunate since there were 171 artworks in the exhibit. The St. Augustine Art Association will be celebrating its 95th Anniversary January 16, 2019!



## Cecil Field chapel receives landmark designation

There's a new historic landmark that will soon be added to the record books. With the City of Jacksonville Council's approval of Ordinance 2018-677 on Nov. 13, 2018, the Chapel of the High-Speed Pass at the POW/MIA Memorial at Cecil Field will be recorded in the official records of Duval County with local landmark status.



The Chapel of the High-Speed Pass at the Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial (Photo by Kram Kran Photo)

“The City now has a new historical landmark to be proud of that will serve as a destination site for the nation. This historic Chapel of the High-Speed Pass has a lot of history and memories associated with the former Master Jet Base, NAS Cecil Field,” said Michael Cassata, executive director, Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc. “The Chapel is very important to our overall mission and vision of establishing a National POW/MIA Memorial. It is the centerpiece and will honor our former Prisoners of War and Missing in Action service members.”

The building, formerly called the NAS Cecil Field Chapel, is recognized as the physical embodiment of the “Spirit of Cecil Field,” defined by service, honor, sacrifice and patriotism, according to a statement in the bill. Since 1966, the chapel has hosted hundreds of baptisms, weddings, memorial and funeral services, as well as Memorial Day and Veterans Day events.

The Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission recommended approval of the local landmark designation Sept. 26, 2018, finding that it had met three of seven criteria required for the designation. Those criteria found to be met include 1) its value as a significant reminder of the cultural, historical, architectural or archaeological heritage of the city, state or nation; 2) it has distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style valuable for the study of a period, method of construction, or use of indigenous materials, and 3) its suitability for preservation or restoration.

The 14,744-square-foot chapel was designed in a distinctive A-frame style by Jacksonville architectural firm KBJ Architects, a style popular in church architecture during the 1960s and 1970s.

The firm, Kemp, Bunch and Jackson, has been identified as the oldest architectural firm in Florida, by virtue of having purchased in 1946 a firm that was established shortly after the Great Fire of 1901. KBJ designed 17 of the city's 30 tallest buildings, including the first high-rise, the 22-story Aetna Building, which opened in 1955.

The Cecil Field chapel was the venue for an event in 1973 to welcome John McCain back after his release from prison in Hanoi, North Vietnam. McCain became Commanding Officer of a training squadron at Cecil Field in 1976 and won the squadron its first Meritorious Unit Commendation. In early 2017, McCain sent a letter to the Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial board of directors endorsing their work.

When Cecil Field was closed in 1999, the chapel was vacated and used for storage, with the wings of the building used as office space for the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office and the Florida Division of Forestry. Due to issues with asbestos and lead, the chapel was scheduled for demolition, but strong public opposition resulted in removing it from the demolition list in 2001.

After Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc. was founded in 2016, the nonprofit began cleaning the chapel with plans to renovate it for use as part of a national memorial for prisoners of war and those missing in action.

To date, restoration efforts include restoring the exterior and interior doors of the chapel, replacing the roof, resealing some of the windows and repainting the interior. Yet to be completed are the installation of new pews and carpeting, and work on the A/C system.

"One great addition to be on display is a Chair of Honor Pew. This is a single-seat pew to symbolize to our Missing in Action there will always be a seat and 'You Are Not Forgotten.' We believe this will be one of a kind!" said Cassata.

"We are expecting to be opened and fully operational in early 2019. The Chapel's usage will be used for military weddings, funerals and ceremonies. The general public will also have access to it," he said.

As a designated landmark, any activity affecting the exterior of the NAS Cecil Field Chapel, including additions, replacements, relocations, restorations or demolitions, will require a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) from the Jacksonville Historic Preservation Commission.

Nov 2008, Dr. Giles McCoy speech, WW 2, USMC, USS Indianapolis, filmed by the Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Chairman Bill Dudley, program director Michael Rothfeld.

Giles McCoy was a young Marine when his ship was sunk by a Japanese submarine. Giles spent 4 ½ days afloat in the Pacific Ocean with a deflated life raft, and no food. Less than 1/3 of the Indianapolis crew survived the ordeal.

The Indianapolis Captain was court martialed on the testimony of the enemy sub captain's testimony. The first time an enemy combatant's testimony was ever used at a Military court martial. Captain Charles McVay committed suicide years after the court martial but was exonerated years later in large part due to the effort of Dr. McCoy and his ship mates.

<http://ufdc.ufl.edu/1/AA00052854>



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### On WJCTTV, channel 7

Survivors of WWII's Indianapolis tell crew of new Indianapolis their survival tales

More than 800 of the 1,196 men aboard survived the initial attack, but after more than four days afloat, just 316 men were left alive, making the sinking of the Indianapolis the largest loss of life in U.S. naval history.

As he and his shipmates floated in the unforgiving Pacific, day after day, Edgar Harrell could do nothing but watch as sharks took some of those around him. But the sharks didn't get them all: He also saw many of the men, after so long in the sun, without water or food or hope for rescue, just slip below the surface. Gone, in an instant.

Harrell struggled to stay alive: There was a certain brunette girl back home who'd said she'd wait for him, and he wanted to see if she would keep her word.

Oh, but it would have been so simple just to slip away too.

"It's much easier to die, believe me, than it is to live," he said Monday at Mayport Naval Station, more than 73 years after a Japanese submarine torpedoed his ship, the USS Indianapolis, on July 30, 1945.

More than 800 of the 1,196 men aboard survived the initial attack, but after more than four days afloat, just 316 men were left alive, making the sinking of the Indianapolis the largest loss of life in U.S. naval history.

Harrell came to Mayport with two fellow survivors, Dick Thelen and Harold Bray, to tell their stories. The occasion? The chance to watch a documentary on the Indianapolis with sailors from the new ship of that same name — a littoral combat ship that's expected to be commissioned in Mayport, where it'll be stationed, within a year.

The documentary, "USS Indianapolis: The Final Chapter," airs on PBS Tuesday evening and tells of the 2017 discovery of the wreck under the Philippine Sea. An expedition by the late Paul G. Allen, co-founder of Microsoft, found the Navy cruiser at a depth of nearly 18,000 feet.

The film weaves in the story of Capt. Charles Butler McVay III, who survived the sinking of his ship but was later court-martialed because of it. He committed suicide in 1968. Some of the survivors mounted a long effort to exonerate him and in 2000 were ultimately successful.

The documentary also tells of the Indianapolis' top-secret mission: It had just delivered the parts for the atomic bomb, "Little Boy," that would later be used against the Japanese city of Hiroshima — about which the crew knew nothing.

Before the screening on the base, Harrell, Thelen and Bray, now all in their 90s, joked around with each other but turned serious as they told their stories of 1945.

Thelen was 18, "green as grass," and he saw men, dying of thirst, drink seawater and then go insane. He told of seeing a shark whose eyes seemed two feet wide, at least, looking right at him. Thelen remained unbitten: Perhaps because he reeked of diesel fuel?

Bray had just turned 18, and credits his survival to an old salt named Pappy who kept him calm and afloat, steering clear of men who'd lost control and tried to hurt each other.

He said he didn't think of dying, even after days adrift. "I was 18 years old. Who dies at 18?"

But he did watch many young men die. "Seeing kids my age just floating away, and you never see them again ..."

Bray said that after a U.S. plane finally spotted the survivors in the vastness of the Pacific, he still had to spend a long night in the water. He crawled onto a floating ring, pulled on by two other men. When he awakened that morning, he was alone: They too had gone under the water, hours from being rescued.

As for Harrell, and the girl who said she'd be waiting for him when he got back? She was waiting, and they've been married 71 years, so far.

Matt Soergel:(904) 359-4082

## Guidelines for honoring the Four Chaplains by The American Legion

Sunday, Feb. 3, will mark the 76th anniversary of the sinking of the United States Army Transport *Dorchester* and the selfless acts of four Army chaplains aboard.

The *Dorchester* tragically sunk on Feb. 3, 1943, while crossing the North Atlantic, transporting troops to an American base in Greenland. A German U-boat fired a torpedo that struck the *Dorchester*, killing 672 of the 902 officers and enlisted men, merchant seamen and civilian workers aboard. Many of those survivors owe their lives to the courage and leadership exhibited by four chaplains of different faiths, who, in sacrificing their lives, created a unique legacy of brotherhood.



As soldiers rushed to lifeboats, Reverend George Fox (Methodist), Jewish Rabbi Alexander Goode, Reverend Clark Poling (Dutch Reformed) and Father John Washington (Roman Catholic) comforted the wounded and directed others to safety. One survivor watched the chaplains distribute life jackets, and when they ran out, they removed theirs and gave them to four young men.

As the *Dorchester* sank, the chaplains were seen linked arm in arm, praying.

American Legion posts nationwide remember Four Chaplains Day with memorial services that pay tribute to the courageous chaplains and the brave young men who lost their lives on that fateful night. The following is an example of how to conduct a Four Chaplain's service.

Location: The service can be held at a post, fraternal hall, auditorium, church, synagogue or chapel.

Media: Spread the word about your Four Chaplains service through local newspapers, radio and TV stations, and social media. Encourage reporters to write about the upcoming service or to do a follow-up story.

Program: Printed programs add to the dignity and importance of the occasion.

Suggested format:

Posting of the colors

Pledge of Allegiance

"America the Beautiful" (assembly or solo)

Welcome

Invocation

Introduction of guests

Message (focused on the Four Chaplains and sacrificial service)

Tributes to the Four Chaplains (wreath laying or candle lighting by four clergy, one of each faith)

"Let There Be Peace on Earth" (assembly)

Benediction

Retirement of colors

To symbolize the tragic sinking of the *Dorchester*, there can be any number of focal points for the service such as four lifejackets or four empty seats.

For a story about and biographies of the Four Chaplains, suggested introductory remarks, formats and music, and remarks for the candle lighting ceremony, download The American Legion's Chaplain's Handbook.



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

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

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

**NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE**  
1-800-273-TALK (8255)  
[www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org)

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

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

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

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



## Families, Welcome to FamWeb

The "FamWeb" is an online space for sharing general information with families of missing personnel, such as case synopses and battlefield summaries. As always, family members of missing personnel should stay in contact with their designated casualty officer to get specific details on their missing loved ones and the government's efforts to account for them. If you do not know your casualty office, the following link provides a list of each one: <http://www.dpaa.mil/Families/Contact-Information>.

Some of the highlights of the new content and features you will find on FamWeb are:

Operations and battle narratives that provide a summary of some large military battles and operations for each conflict. With the Vietnam War content complete, and the Korean War and World War II narratives in-progress, this new information offers a view of an individual's loss circumstances in the larger context of operations taking place at the time of the loss incident.

FamWeb links information from the Service Member Profiles Project with the relevant operations and battle narratives to provide more context and history for each loss incident. We strive to publish new loss profile narratives every day, so through these updates the history behind brave Americans who dutifully served and sacrificed for this great nation is better available.

Enhanced statistics and reporting tools are explained in more detail to help generate on-demand lists of individuals from your home state who are still missing or were recently accounted-for.

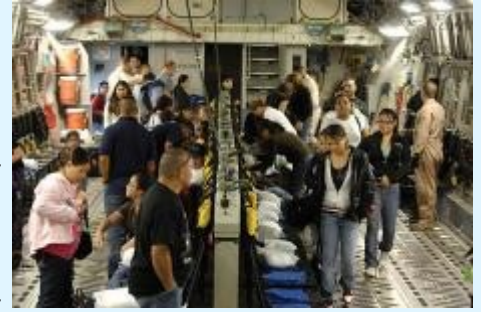
Forms to ask a question, register for upcoming Family Member Updates, or order a POW/MIA Recognition Day Poster, are now easier to find than before.



## Disabled Veterans Can Now Fly Space-A

Military.com | By Jim Absher

Recent legislation makes it possible for many disabled veterans to fly Space-A on military aircraft.



The 2019 National Defense Authorization Act allows veterans with a permanent and total service-connected Department of Veterans Affairs disability rating to travel space available on military aircraft. Veterans will be assigned a travel priority of Category 6, the lowest priority available, along with retirees and their dependents.

Dependents of disabled veterans are not eligible for Space-A travel. Authorized disabled veterans can travel in the continental United States (CONUS) or directly between CONUS and Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam and American Samoa.

Disabled veterans must have a DD Form 2765, Defense Department ID Card (Tan), in order to fly Space-A.

**The Space Available Program:** Space available flights, better known as Space-A or military hops, allow eligible passengers to fill unused seats on DoD-owned or -controlled aircraft. Space-A passengers can fly only after all the space-required passengers and cargo have been accommodated. Space-A passengers are then loaded in priority groups, with emergency leave being the top priority and retirees and disabled veterans rating the lowest priority.

Space-A passengers can take up to two pieces of luggage at 70 pounds each; pets are not allowed.

Not all Space-A flights originate from military bases. Commercial airports such as Baltimore-Washington Marshall International and Seattle-Tacoma International also offer Space-A flights.

Long gone are the days of having to show up in person at the passenger terminal to register for a flight. Now, Air Mobility Command, which runs the Space-A program, lets you register for flights via email, and all Space-A terminals have Facebook pages where you can see what flights are coming up and how many seats are available.

## The Atlantic Coast Young Marines

Ten members of the Atlantic Coast Young Marines traveled to Hawaii this month to participate in a wreath-laying ceremony in Pearl Harbor on Dec. 6.

Young Marines Pvts. Marshall Eimers, 10, Elijah Leckemby, 8, and Landon Stewart, 11; Pfc. Amir Martinez-Christian, 12; Sgts. Mason Flowers, 15, and Eric Hernandez, 15; Lance Cpls. Gaven Lopez, 12, Jacelyn Smith, 13, and Nasir Valsaint, 15; and Cpl. Sean



Vernon, 11, joined 125 other Young Marines from across the country for the Pearl Harbor Remembrances and to march in the Pearl Harbor Memorial Parade.

Young Marines is a national nonprofit providing education and service programs for girls and boys ages 8 through high school graduation. According to the Young Marines, the organization promotes leadership, teamwork and self-discipline. The Atlantic Coast Young Marines have 59 members and meet at the Naval Air Station Jacksonville.

The local Young Marines say they have completed over 3,000 community service hours within the past year and expect to receive next month's Positively Jax Award. Atlantic Coast Young Marines will have three open houses on Jan. 12 for those interested in joining. You can find more information on Facebook at [facebook.com/Atlantic-Coast-Young-Marines-380104378759259/](https://facebook.com/Atlantic-Coast-Young-Marines-380104378759259/) or contact Unit Cmdr. Kimberly Gibbons at (919) 665-8041 or [Kmgibbons30@hotmail.com](mailto:Kmgibbons30@hotmail.com). You can also visit the national website at [YoungMarines.com](http://YoungMarines.com). For a video of the wreath-laying ceremony, visit [youtu.be/H1-L6eDtmVs?t=119](https://youtu.be/H1-L6eDtmVs?t=119).

**He became an icon, even though relatively few people knew who he was.**

He had wanted no part of being prominent, but accepted it with grace and a sense of duty because it allowed him to be part of something far greater and more iconic than any individual could be.

His face can be found in hundreds of thousands of places across America — on walls, desks and shelves and in kitchen cabinets, clothes closets and drawers.

Even if they never met him and didn't know his name, it's likely that millions of men and women loved him because of what he represented.

He represented them ... and the pain, loss and survivor's guilt they felt for those who didn't come home with them, some of whom they had grown to love and think of as family, a bond that cannot be understood by those who haven't been a part of something like it.

Retired U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Jim Williams died Dec. 19 at his home in Corriganville at age 84. He continued to serve his country long after retiring from his 20 years in uniform.

Williams was portrayed as "The Man at The Wall" in the "Reflections" print, head bowed and eyes closed in grief, with a hand pressed against a few of the more than 58,000 names that are etched into the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

The names are those of American servicemen and women who died in Vietnam or later succumbed to wounds they received there.

"The Man at The Wall" cannot see that another hand is pressing against his, and that the shades of several soldiers and nurses are looking back at him. (Eight women, all of them nurses, are among America's Vietnam War dead).

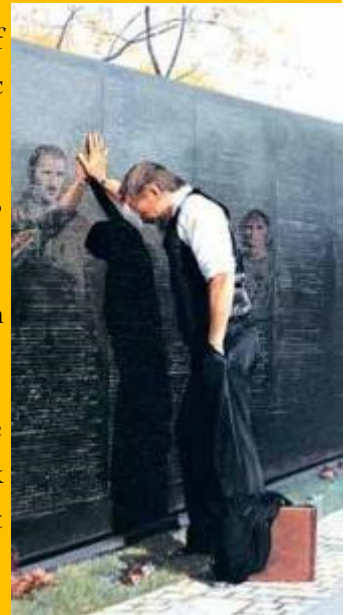
Williams was one of the first to join the Vietnam Veterans of America and played a part in creating Cumberland Chapter 172 of the VVA when it was formed in 1984.

"Jim was a great patriot, serving his country with honor and pride," Chapter President Bob Cook said.

Cook said Williams was instrumental in the chapter's success through the part he played in "Reflections," which appears on several hundred thousand prints, plaques, T-shirts, sweatshirts and coffee mugs that Chapter 172 has sold.

"Jim posed for Lee Teter (who painted the original 'Reflections') as being a businessman visiting the Vietnam Memorial Wall," said Cook. "And one can infer what is going through this man's mind and heart while honoring those names on The Wall.

"Jim would sign the print for anyone who asked him, knowing that proceeds of this print would benefit Chap



ter 172,” he said.

Williams had been a chapter officer and member of the board of directors and color guard and vice president of the Maryland State VVA Council.

“He will be sadly missed,” said Cook.

Chip Sours, a Chapter 172 member who was described in Williams’ obituary as “a faithful friend ... who was like a son,” said Williams never talked about how he came to be “The Man at The Wall.”

“Jim was a very humble person,” said Sours. “He never brought it up in the 20 years I knew him, and that’s the way he wanted it.”

Sours said Williams hadn’t believed he deserved to be in the print because he had never been in combat. He accepted the role because of what “Reflections” represented and because it would help Chapter 172.

When asked for an autograph, he signed. After enough people asked him for his card, he had them printed to give out.

“Every Vietnam veteran in this country should feel the way I feel about Jim because of what he did for them with that print,” Sours said.

“The guy loved everybody and was dedicated to the chapter and the organization and what it stood for,” he said.

The VVA was founded in 1979 with the motto, “Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another.”

Rather than being greeted with “Welcome Home,” many returning Vietnam veterans found that they were despised by many other Americans — some of whom went to airports to curse at them and throw refuse at them. Some veterans’ service posts wanted nothing to do with them, but others welcomed them.

All that has changed, and the VVA advocates for all veterans. They are grateful for the fact that they now are appreciated, but remember all too well that few people advocated for them when they needed it.

Williams was active in several veterans organizations and volunteered at the Cumberland VA Outpatient Clinic.

“Jim wanted things to be right for everybody,” Sours said. “He had no enemies and treated everybody right, and everybody loved him.

“He pretty much adopted me and told me I was like the son he never had. We went to a number of national VVA conferences together.

“Jim had a very lovely family ... and he hung in there until the last daughter got there to be with him at his home, after traveling for several hours, before he died,” Sours said.

Williams is survived by his widow, Laura, and four daughters, three stepsons, 12 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.



**Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc. Minutes of December 20, 2018**

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

**Chairman Dudley called the meeting to order at 1900 hours**

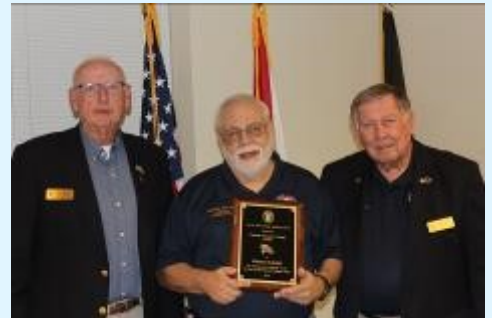
**Chairman Dudley led the Pledge to the Flag**

**Vice Chairman Ray Quinn gave the Invocation**

**Minutes were approved as presented      The Treasurer's Report was approved as presented**

**Introduction of Guests: none**

**The annual COL Ed Taylor Award was made to Council Secretary Michael Rothfeld.**



**Speakers: Margaret Kaplan, Administrator, Lassen State**

**Veterans Nursing Home. The Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home is a 120**

**bed facility broken down into 6 houses that surround an inner court yard with private and semi private rooms. There are currently 10 women in residence. There is a separate memory care unit.**



**Basic admission requirements for all state veterans' homes include an honorable discharge, state residency prior to admission, and certification of need of assisted living or skilled nursing care as determined by a VA physician. A resident application package for each facility is available to view online. New state nursing homes will be opening in Orlando & Port St Lucie.**

**Jill M. Lancaster, 2nd VP, Women's Army Corps Veterans Association, Chapter # 56, Jacksonville Fl. The Women's Army Corps was founded during World War II by some of the mothers of women in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) which later became the Women's Army Corps. The WAC Mothers' purpose was to help both men and women by serving in hospitals and USO's. They are a non-profit, non-partisan organization. At present they have approximately 3,500 active members, but they represent thousands of women who loyally served their country in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Grenada, Panama, Persian Gulf Bosnia and in Iraq and Afghanistan. Each chapter helps by doing volunteer work in VA Hospitals and Community Service in the local and national community.**



### **Committee Reports:**

**Mac:** Number of new veterans seen monthly by Mac's office has held steady at around 50.

**Kathy:** Feb. 2 will be the next Call to Honor in Cape Canaveral. MIAP will be starting at local Craig's Funeral Home in Feb. Volunteers are needed to call Funeral Homes and Medical

Examiners offices. Over 3000 veterans have been interred to date. The MIAP motto is: Locate, Identify and Inter.

**Ray:** WAA at St Augustine National Cemetery was a huge success and Ray thanked Judy Davis, George Linardos and Chairman Dudley as well as the volunteers who helped with the unloading.

**Chairman Dudley:** The Annual Military Ball will be held on Jan. 19, please make sure to let every one know. The guest speaker will be USMC LT GEN (ret) Ronald Bailey, who was born in St. Augustine.

The Record featured the story of local veteran, retired USMC Herb Volk who received a free roof from local roofer Matt Reiter.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

The next meeting of the Veterans Council will be on Thursday, January 31, 2019, 7 pm in the Health & Human Services Building, 200 San Sebastian View.

### **Future speakers:**

January 31, Tom Waskovich, Green Beret, Vietnam Veteran, MACVSOG

Veronica Nieves, Red Cross, Team RWB, American Red Cross- Service to the Armed Forces

February 28, Jud Damon, Athletic Director, Flagler College, B2B, Battlefields to Ballfields

Tom Richardson, Asst State Director, Veterans Employment & Training Service

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

Trish Doran, Wekiva Springs Center, Military Liaison

April 25, Chaplain Pat Archuleta, Jesus Loves Veterans Ministries

Jessica Bradstreet, Dept. of VA, Local Recovery Coordinator

May 30, Dr. Susan Parker, Historian, Military Families of Old St. Augustine

July 25, Tom Richardson, Asst State Director, Veterans Employment & Training Service

## For all the fans of “It’s A Wonderful Life” and Jimmy Stewart . . .

Just months after winning his 1941 Academy Award for best actor in “The Philadelphia Story,” Jimmy Stewart, one of the best-known actors of the day, left Hollywood and joined the US Army. He was the first big-name movie star to enlist in World War II.



An accomplished private pilot, the 33-year-old Hollywood icon became a US Army Air Force aviator, earning his 2nd Lieutenant commission in early 1942. With his celebrity status and huge popularity with the American public, he was assigned to starring in recruiting films, attending rallies, and training younger pilots.

Stewart, however, wasn't satisfied. He wanted to fly combat missions in Europe, not spend time in a stateside training command. By 1944, frustrated and feeling the war was passing him by, he asked his commanding officer to transfer him to a unit deploying to Europe. His request was reluctantly granted.

Stewart, now a Captain, was sent to England, where he spent the next 18 months flying B-24 Liberator bombers over Germany. Throughout his time overseas, the US Army Air Corps' top brass had tried to keep the popular movie star from flying over enemy territory. But Stewart would hear nothing of it.

Determined to lead by example, he bucked the system, assigning himself to every combat mission he could. By the end of the war he was one of the most respected and decorated pilots in his unit.

But his wartime service came at a high personal price. In the final months of WWII he was grounded for being “flak happy,” today called Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

When he returned to the US in August 1945, Stewart was a changed man. He had lost so much weight that he looked sickly. He rarely slept, and when he did he had nightmares of planes exploding and men falling through the air screaming (in one

mission alone his unit had lost 13 planes and 130 men, most of whom he knew personally). He was depressed, couldn't focus, and refused to talk to anyone about his war experiences. His acting career was all but over.

As one of Stewart's biographers put it, "Every decision he made [during the war] was going to preserve life or cost lives. He took back to Hollywood all the stress that he had built up."

In 1946 he got his break. He took the role of George Bailey, the suicidal father in "It's a Wonderful Life." The rest is history.

Actors and crew of the set realized that in many of the disturbing scenes of George Bailey unraveling in front of his family, Stewart wasn't acting. His PTSD was being captured on film for potentially millions to see.

But despite Stewart's inner turmoil, making the movie was therapeutic for the combat veteran. He would go on to become one of the most accomplished and loved actors in American history.

When asked in 1941 why he wanted to leave his acting career to fly combat missions over Nazi Germany, he said, "This country's conscience is bigger than all the studios in Hollywood put together, and the time will come when we'll have to fight."

This weekend, as many of us watch the classic Christmas film, "It's A Wonderful Life," it's also a fitting time to remember the sacrifices of Jimmy Stewart and all the men who gave up so much to serve their country during wartime. We will always remember you!

Postscript:

While fighting in Europe, Stewart's Oscar statue was proudly displayed in his father's Pennsylvania hardware store. Throughout his life, the beloved actor always said his father, a World War I veteran, was the person who had made the biggest impact on him.

Jimmy Stewart was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1985 and died in 1997 at the age of 89.







**St. Johns Golf & Country Club**

219 St. Johns Golf Drive  
St. Augustine, FL 32092

**Tuesday, April 9, 2019**  
"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.**

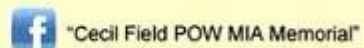
CECIL FIELD POW/MIA MEMORIAL IS A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION – REGISTRATION NUMBER: CHS1569. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE, 800 435 7352, WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, 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 5, 2019**

*Sponsorship Packages and Player Registration Forms attached, or register online at:*

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

Follow the 2019 Golf Tournament Event from our Facebook page:



## Festival de San Agustin!!

Historic Florida Militia is proud to present a week-long celebration to commemorate the 500th Birthday of St Augustine's founder, Pedro Menendez. Historic Florida Militia, in cooperation with the City of St. Augustine and the St. John's Cultural Council, will feature several events throughout the week.



- Sat Feb 9 – School of the 16th Century in the Colonial Quarter.
- Thu Feb 14 – the PBS documentary “Secrets of Spanish Florida” will be shown, free to the public, at the Colonial Oaks Park in the Colonial Quarter. Food and beverages will be available for purchase.
- Fri Feb 15 – Join us at the Lightner Museum for a city-sponsored event of a wreath-laying ceremony and cake cutting.
- Fri Feb 15 – Starting at 5:30pm, Join the Historic Florida Militia for a 1565 Saunter down St. George St.
- Sat Feb 16 – We are resurrecting the Spanish Paseo (parade) from past years. This starts at 2:30pm from the Visitor's Information Center and proceeds down to St. George Street to Government House.
- Sat Feb 16 – The week culminates with Noche de Festival. This is a ticketed event at the beautiful pavilion in the Fountain of Youth Archaeological Park. It starts at 6:30pm with a Tapas and Sangria cocktail hour accompanied by traditional Spanish Guitar music and Flamenco dancing. Dinner is provided by the acclaimed chefs from Real Paella. You will experience your meal being prepared on-site. The night ends with dancing to Ancient City Sound Experience DJ music. Tickets for Noche de Festival are \$50

Good Afternoon Veteran Supporters,

I generally do not send large email blasts but I have a great opportunity for post 9/11 combat veterans that should not be missed. Our Military Support Retreat at Marineland, Florida from February 7-10 has a few open spaces and we would love to offer them to a veteran and their primary support person.

Would you consider sharing the attached flyer via email or social media to help us get the word out? The retreat is totally free to include all activities (dolphin interactions, equine interactions, kayaking/boating).

Veterans must be within reasonable commuting distance, meaning Florida or South/Middle Georgia. If you have any questions feel free to contact me via email or phone 912-674-0332 or michael@gratitudeamerica.org Thanks for your assistance.

Michael



**GratitudeAmerica**

# MILITARY SUPPORT RETREAT

## at Marineland, Florida

February 7th at 5:30pm – February 10th at 3:00pm

A RETREAT FOR POST 9-11 NORTHEAST FLORIDA AND SOUTHEAST GEORGIA  
MILITARY/VETERANS AND THEIR PRIMARY SUPPORT PERSON

ACTIVE DUTY ★ RETIRED ★ NATIONAL GUARD & RESERVE ★ ALL SERVICE BRANCHES

★ RESTORATION ★ RECREATION ★ RELAXATION ★

*Strengthen and restore connections, enjoy the natural beauty of Marineland, be inspired by fun outdoor activities, learn about available support resources, and relax while discovering post-deployment strategies.*

- ★ Small, friendly group setting ★
- ★ All accommodations, food, and activities are provided free of charge ★
- ★ Facilitated by Vets, VA/DoD experts, and Community Nonprofit Support Organizations ★

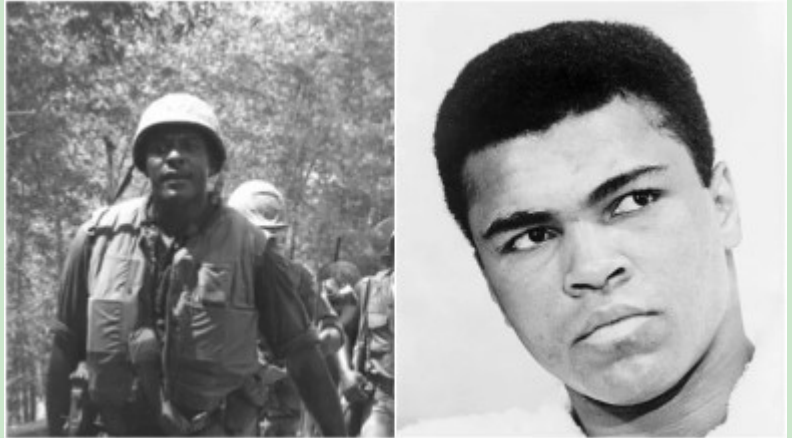
*Please note: Must be 18 to attend and no childcare is not provided.*



TO LEARN MORE AND TO APPLY VISIT: [GRATITUDEAMERICA.ORG/RETREATS](http://GRATITUDEAMERICA.ORG/RETREATS)  
CONTACT INFO: JACK GAFFORD, DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS  
678-315-9028 OR JACK@GRATITUDEAMERICA.ORG

## Big Percy Price – The Marine That ‘Beat Up’ Muhammad Ali

Semper Fidelis! United States Marines know best what it means to be “Always Faithful” and to put service to country above anything else. Only those who got the true meaning of this motto understood why “Big Percy” Price refused to leave the Marines to become a world famous boxer.



The story of Staff Sergeant Percy J. Price comes down to his decision not to become a rich and famous sportsman. Both confusing and perfectly

clear at the same time, it is a story of a man who did love boxing but who lived to serve his country. The sense of pride of belonging to the Marines was a foundation for the decisions he made in his life.

Proud to be a Marine. Percy was just another Marine. One of many. If he wasn't 6'3" tall and 209 pounds heavy, one would barely notice him. He was calm, never overexcited, even in battle, and was always there to serve, no questions asked.

In a period of his life when he had an opportunity to evade it, he went Vietnam and served two tours. Not even the horrors of the Vietnam War changed his mind. He remained in service for as long as he was able and he never regretted dedicating his entire life to his country.

Coming from Philadelphia, Percy joined the Marines in 1955 when he was only 18. With his height and weight and fists large as shovels, he was perfect to be a heavyweight boxer, but he chose to serve instead. Being a Marine was his dream come true, and the fact that it allowed him to fight at the same time was just a big plus.

With his boxing abilities it didn't last long until he joined the Marines' Boxing Team and started knocking out other Marines who wanted to try their boxing skills. Since he was so good at it, when the 1960 Olympics boxing trials started Percy was there to try his luck.

### 1960 Olympics trials

At the time it was nothing unusual to see a military man to participate in sports competitions, even at Olympic Games. It was the time when most of sportsmen were either amateurs or semi-professionals, while some of them were still students.

Even though he was the top of the Marines' heavyweight, Percy was not considered as favorite for the National Olympics Team. To reach Rome and the Olympic Games, he had to fight with some of the best young boxers in the country.

The first qualification matches were smooth sailing for Percy. In the semifinals, on the other hand, he faced Archie Milton, a three time NCAA heavyweight champion and the absolute dominator in his category. However, it was one thing to fight college boys and completely another to fight a Marine. Percy Price ran over Archie Milton in a

match that ended with Percy's right hand knockout and Milton down on the floor.

#### Cassius vs. Marine Giant

After defeating Archie Milton, Percy had just one final match to reach Rome. That final match proved to be the highlight of his boxing career, for he fought none other than young Cassius Clay, the rising talent of American boxing.

There they were: on one side young and fearless Cassius Clay and on another, Marine private Percy Price whose hands were so huge that he needed special gloves. Clay was punching fast, but Percy punched hard and he did it with both of his hands equally. Cassius managed to avoid Archie Milton's fate of being knocked down, but he surely got the beating of his life. It was a decision win for Percy Price and a ticket to the Rome Olympics. After suffering a defeat in a division that he would dominate in years to come, Cassius Clay had to switch to the light-heavyweight division to secure his place in Rome.

Once there, in the Olympic Tournament things were completely different. Cassius Clay became the star by winning a gold medal, while Percy Price had to come back home without even a bronze. He was stopped in the quarter-finals by Josef Nemeč from Czechoslovakia. As soon as he finished his Olympic Games adventure, Percy returned to his duty in the Marines. The way he fought in trial tournaments and during the Olympics caught the attention of several boxing managers.

Even though he was an amateur, Percy fought in the style of a true professional. He thus received a number of proposals to turn pro and further develop his boxing skills, but he refused them all. For Percy, boxing was just a sport, while the Marines were his life.

#### From Rome to Vietnam

The 1960 Rome Olympics were a turning point for both Cassius Clay and Percy Price. Afterward, their lives went in completely opposite directions.

For Cassius, Rome was just a first step in becoming one of the best boxers in the history of the sport. After converting to Islam and changing his name to Muhammad Ali, he became a strong opponent of white domination in the United States and especially of the Vietnam War. Until Ali's 1971 match with Joe Frazier, Percy Price was the only man who defeated him.

On the other hand, after the Olympics, Percy continued his career in the Marines. As previously mentioned, he served two tours of duty in Vietnam.

Even though he had spent most of his time in Marines as a boxer, which reduced his warfighting skills, it didn't prevent him from going into combat. As a platoon leader Percy saw as much combat as any other serviceman. He successfully led his men in Operation Union 1 in The Que Son Valley and proved to be a fine NCO.

Percy remained in the Marines until 1976, when he retired at the age of 40. He continued to fight on a military level, winning 3 All-Marine Heavyweight Championships, 2 Inter-Service Titles, and a World Military Championship in 1962.

Despite all their differences and the fact that their lives went separate ways, Percy Price remained in contact with his Olympic Games teammate Muhammad Ali.

**Found on the internet, a little outdated, but of interest.**

Here is the 1990 version of the very difficult to find Department of Defense Document 1348-33M . It outlines with precision the requirements for each military medal awarded. **BE WARNED-** It does not include the 2002 Operation Frequent Wind Medal exchange law. (Those who earned the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for Operation Frequent Wind in **1975 Vietnam** may opt to exchange their AFEM for the Vietnam Service Medal).



VIETNAM

# VETERANS

TRIBUTE RIDE



**Start** Malcom Randall VA Medical Center  
1601 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608  
30 MAR 2019 Meet 8:30am then Kickstands up at 9:30am

Veterans Memorial Park **Finish**  
7400 SW 41st Pl, Gainesville, FL 32608

**To  
Register**

Contact:

**Cherie Korn**

EMAIL: CKORN@ALACHUACOUNTY.US

<https://www.vietnamveterantribute.org/>

Event sponsored by: NF/SG Veterans Health System and Alachua County Veteran Services





# SAVE THE DATE!

## 2019 Women Veterans Recognition Week

MARCH 10, 2019— MARCH 16, 2019

**SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 3:00pm**  
WOMEN ON THE WALL MEMORIAL SERVICE

**MONDAY, MARCH 11**  
CITY HALL DISPLAY

**TUESDAY, MARCH 12**  
JOB FAIR/EMPLOYER WORKSHOP

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13**  
WOMEN VETERAN HEALTH FAIR  
WOMEN-WEALTH-WINE

**THURSDAY— SATURDAY**  
**MARCH 14—16**  
HerTOTALWellness Conference  
Lexington Hotel and Conference Center  
1515 Prudential Drive  
Jacksonville, FL 32207

**SATURDAY MARCH 16**  
Women Veterans Recognition Gala

### HerTOTALWellness Conference

14-16 March 2019

You have denied yourself time for you! Its countdown to change! We have recruited the best to help you soar beyond your expectations.

Why go to the conference?

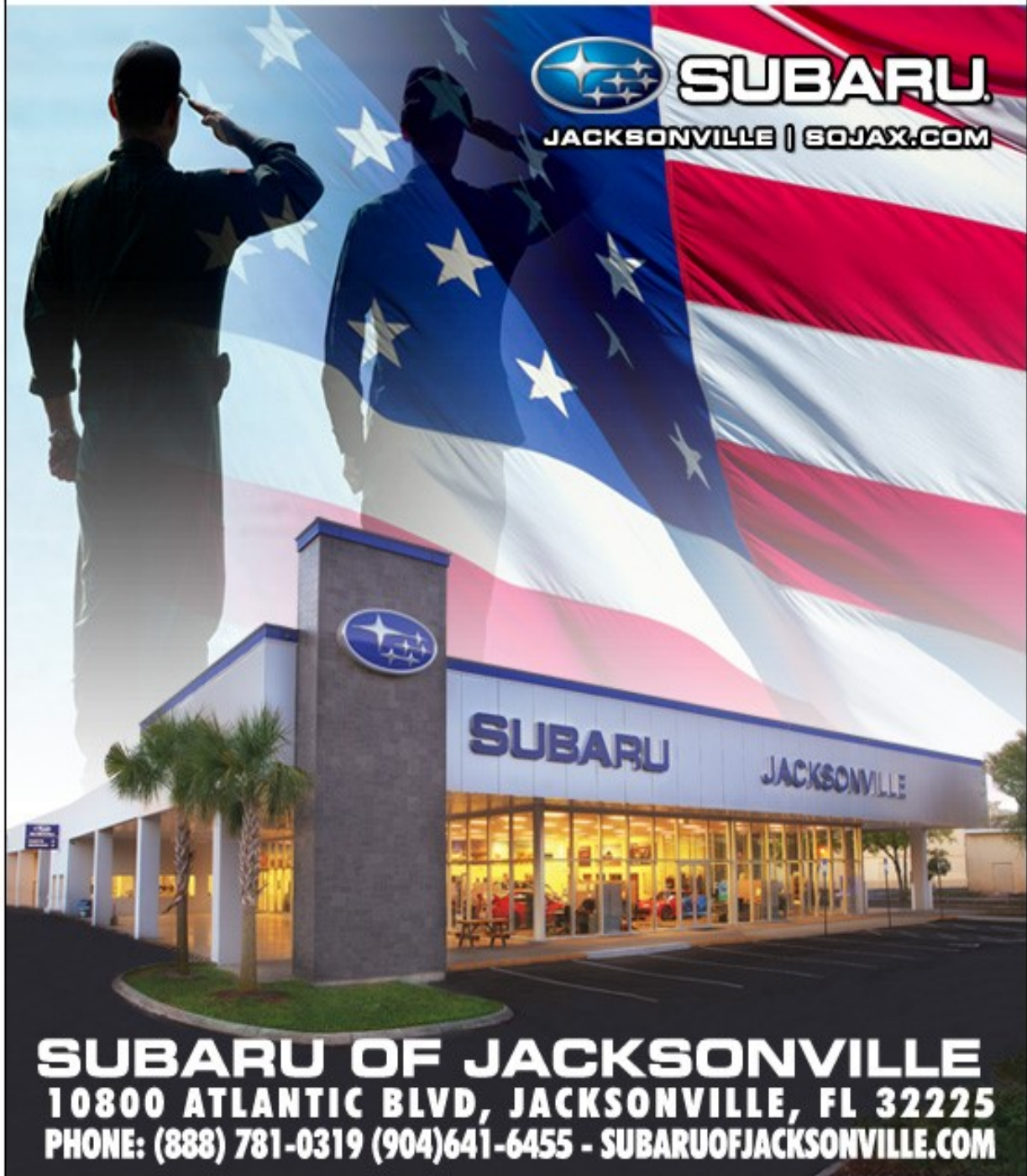
- ◊ National and State speakers
- ◊ Workshops that fit your needs
- ◊ Pamper time available
- ◊ Meeting other women who served
- ◊ Bring your non-veteran friend to enjoy.

**VENDOR OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE**

[WWW.FORWOMENVETS.ORG](http://WWW.FORWOMENVETS.ORG)



# SUBARU OF JACKSONVILLE SUPPORTS YOU

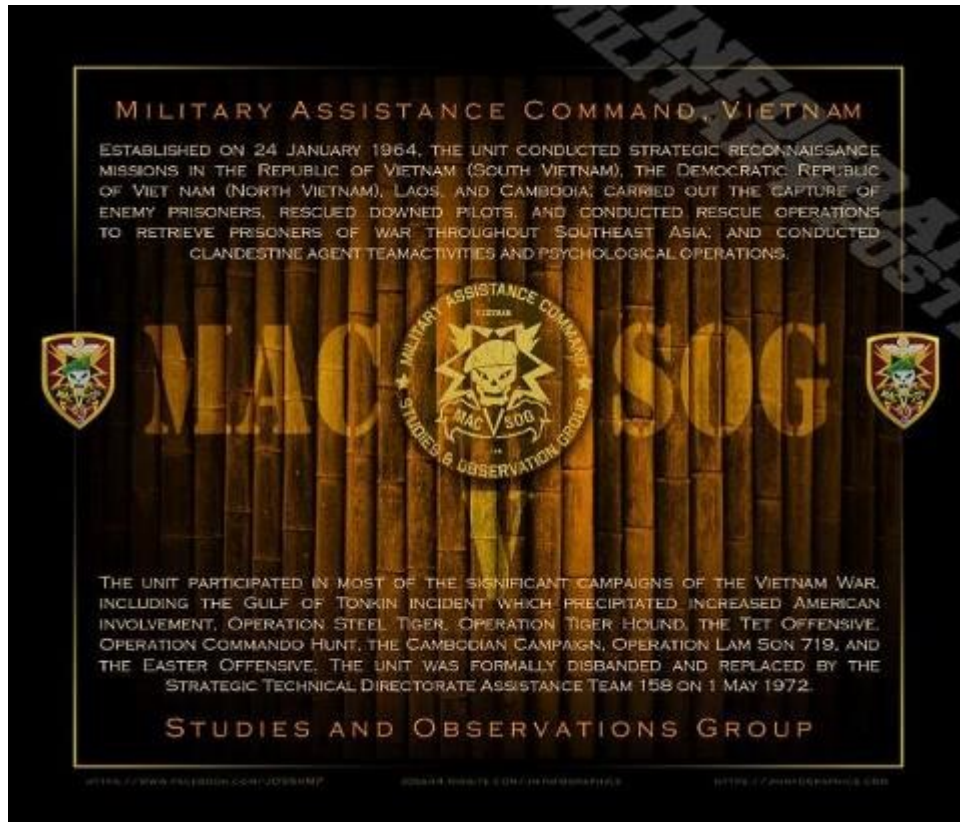
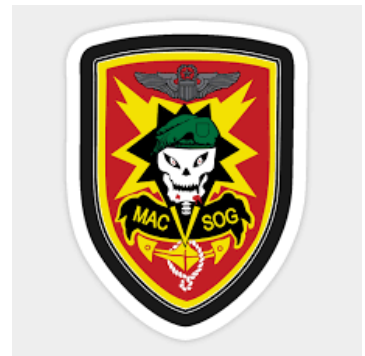


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**SUBARU OF JACKSONVILLE**  
10800 ATLANTIC BLVD, JACKSONVILLE, FL 32225  
PHONE: (888) 781-0319 (904)641-6455 - SUBARUOFJACKSONVILLE.COM

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



**From Moe Moyer, "The Ride Home"**

**Date of Loss -17 January 1991**

**Michael Scott Speicher aka "Spike"**

<https://pownetwork.org/saudi/sp017.htm>



First American Shot down in Gulf War. Originally listed as KIA; then MIA; then Missing/Captured.

From the book written by Amy Waters Yarsinske

"On March 20, 2002, a special session of the Senate

Select Committee on Intelligence was held, chaired by Senator Pat Roberts. Perhaps frustrated at the Pentagon's beginning to circle the wagons and deny the leaking intelligence about the Speicher case being reported in the press throughout the beginning of the year, Roberts called in CIA Director George Tenet and DIA Director Vice Admiral Tom Wilson to testify yet again on the Speicher case. Roberts was making no bones about the situation. He wanted an answer for the record, and would brook no ambiguity in the matter.

Directing his oratory at Tenet and Wilson, he pointedly asked the question that was on everyone's lips: "Given all the information in your possession, Is Scott Speicher alive today? Tell us all now," he demanded.

There was silence. Tenet and Wilson paused. Roberts waited. "Yes, he is they replied."

Check the link at the top of page to get more info and then read the book - 'An American in the Basement: The Betrayal of Captain Scott Speicher and the Cover-up of His Death'

**YOU are NOT Forgotten!**



## VA Assists with Burial of Unclaimed Veterans

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemetery Administration (NCA) values its partnership with you to honor Veterans with no known next of kin and insufficient financial resources with dignified burial in VA national and VA-grant funded State and Tribal Veterans cemeteries. We could not accomplish this without your efforts. For that reason, we are sending you this message so that you are aware of the revised 2019 reimbursements to ensure that unclaimed Veterans without financial resources may be honored with burial benefits earned through service to our Nation.

VA recently revised annual reimbursement allowances. The maximum allowable reimbursement payable in calendar year 2019 for qualifying interments is \$2,681 for a casket and \$162 for an urn. Please see the Casket/Urn Reimbursement for Unclaimed Veterans Remains Fact Sheet which explains the requirements and procedures for obtaining the reimbursement. Applicants must submit a VA Form 40-10088 Reimbursement of Casket/Urn



Additional resources are available to assist you with funeral and transportation expenses for unclaimed Veterans remains when there are insufficient resources. Please see this Unclaimed Veterans Remains Fact Sheet

Thank you for your continued support in providing honorable and dignified burials for unclaimed Veterans without sufficient financial resources. Should you have additional questions regarding the claim forms, please contact us using our Inquiry Routing & Information System <https://iris.custhelp.com>, so we can track inquiries and respond promptly.

For information on VA burial benefits, visit <http://www.cem.va.gov> or call (800) 827-1000. Please look for our future e-mails on burial and memorial benefits available for eligible Veterans and spouses. Also, please encourage your friends and colleagues to sign-up for notifications, future e-mail updates and information regarding VA memorial benefits through GovDelivery at <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/usvanca/subscriber/new>

## Navy to Navy Homes vs Others

N2N is outperforming the rest!



**98.4%**  
of original list price

**N2N**

N2N Sells Houses for **MORE MONEY**



**95.5%**

Others



**Over 6,000**

Potential Buyers In N2N Database



**29**

average days on market

**N2N**

N2N Sells Houses **FASTER**



**72**

Others



**2%**

percentage of listings that expire

**N2N**

More Likely to Sell with **N2N**



**29.9%**

Others

## GREAT TIME TO SELL!

Ask us for a **FREE HOME VALUATION**



Marianne Bach  
(904) 349-0456



Kathy Jordan  
(904) 401-0476

\*\*\* As a **VETERAN**,  
SAVE **25%** when buying or selling with us! \*\*\*



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

### Military Order of the Purple Heart Volusia County Chapter 316

Some Gave All, All Gave Some

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Military Order of the Purple Heart Volusia County Chapter 316 monthly meeting Saturday February 2, 2019 1:30 PM at 5810 S. Williamson Blvd Port Orange FL 32128. Join the best Chapter in the State, bring your DD 214.



\*\*\*\*\*

Chartered by the Congress, The Military Order of the Purple Heart is unique among Veteran Service Organizations in that all its members were wounded in combat. For this sacrifice, they received the Purple Heart Medal.

For information contact:

Rod Phillips, Senior Vice Commander

Phone: 386.690.9553

Email: cobra101st+purpleheart.com



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Board Certified by  
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*From all of us at Coastal, we wish you a very Merry  
Christmas and a Happy New Year!!*

St. Augustine: 904-826-1900 [www.cfawc.com](http://www.cfawc.com) Palatka: 386-328-1122

SAVE THE DATE

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

North Florida / South Georgia Veterans Health System

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

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

**Topics will include:**

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

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

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

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

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

Breakfast will be provided. CEU's pending.

~This event is open to the Public~

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





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

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

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

Gift cards are acceptable too.

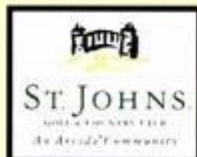
***Deliver to:***

***2133 Broadway Ave.***

***Monday – Friday 9:00am – 3:00pm***

***904-862-6039***

***[www.forwomenvets.org](http://www.forwomenvets.org)***



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

**Tuesday, April 9, 2019**  
 "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.*

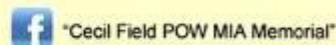
All proceeds benefit **Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc.**

CECIL FIELD POW/MIA MEMORIAL IS A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION - REGISTRATION NUMBER: OHS1569. 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 5, 2019**

*Sponsorship Packages and Player Registration Forms attached, or register online at:*  
[www.powmiamemorial.org](http://www.powmiamemorial.org)

Follow the 2019 Golf Tournament Event from our Facebook page:

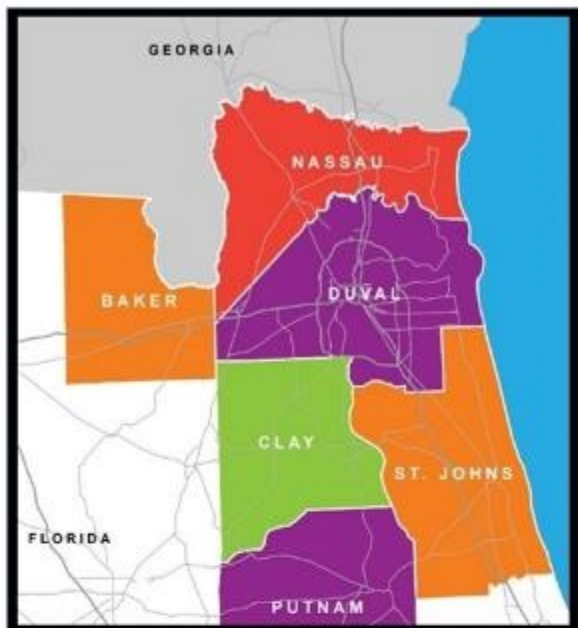


WITH THE GOVERNMENT SHUT DOWN, AND WITHOUT PAY, VALIANT HAS BEEN ON PATROL.  
LET'S WELCOME HOME AND SHOW OUR APPRECIATION FOR OUR COASTIES!!!

## USCGC VALIANT RETURNS HOME TO MAYPORT TUESDAY, JANUARY 29, 8:00 AM PIER A-1



# Veteran County Councils of Northeast Florida



## Duval County

President: Steve Spickelmier

Meetings:

Third Tuesday of each month in the 40/8 Building

Located at the American Legion Post 137  
5443 San Juan Avenue

7pm

## Nassau County

President: Paul Kicker, Chairman  
Veterans Council of Nassau County

76347 Veterans Way,  
Veterans Service Office

Yulee, FL 32097

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

## Baker County

President: Larry Porterfield

Meetings:

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

Contact:

Baker County Veterans Council  
PO Box 1434  
MacClenny, FL 32063

## Clay County

President: Bob Brewster

Meetings: First Wednesday of  
each month

Location varies between the  
different Veteran Organizations.

Time varies

## St. Johns County

President: Bill Dudley

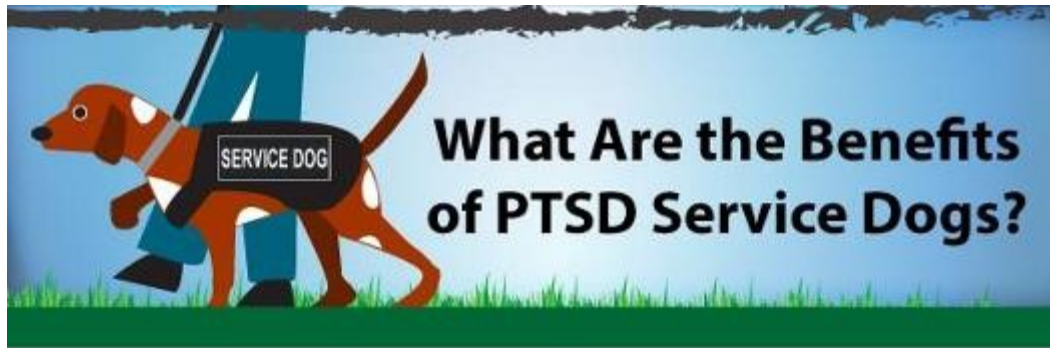
Meetings:

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

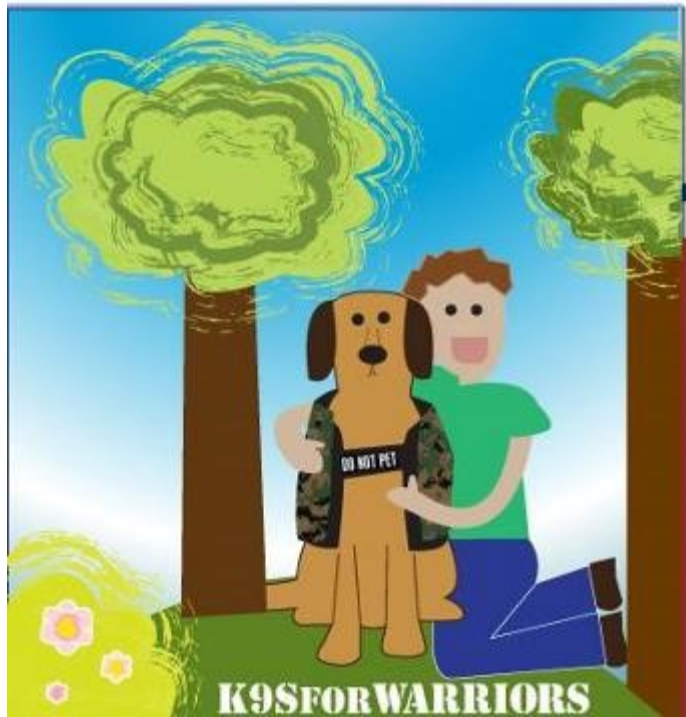
7pm

Contact:

[info@VeteransCouncilofStJohns.org](mailto:info@VeteransCouncilofStJohns.org)



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



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

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

## MISSION BACKGROUND

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

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

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



## A FEW QUOTES SUBMITTED BY OUR NATIONAL LEADERS



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

**U.S. Congressman**  
John Rutherford

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

**U.S. Senator**  
Marco Rubio

*"With the Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, we can renew our commitment to all those who have worn the uniform, to the children and families, and thank them for their 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](http://powmiamemorial.org) or to make checks payable to:

Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc.  
612 New World Avenue Jacksonville, Florida 32227

ONLINE [PowMiaMemorial.org](http://PowMiaMemorial.org)

Facebook.com/Cecil-Field-POW-MIA-Memorial-Inc-1084025864845237

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, 800-435-1382, WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECEIPTMENT BY THE STATE.

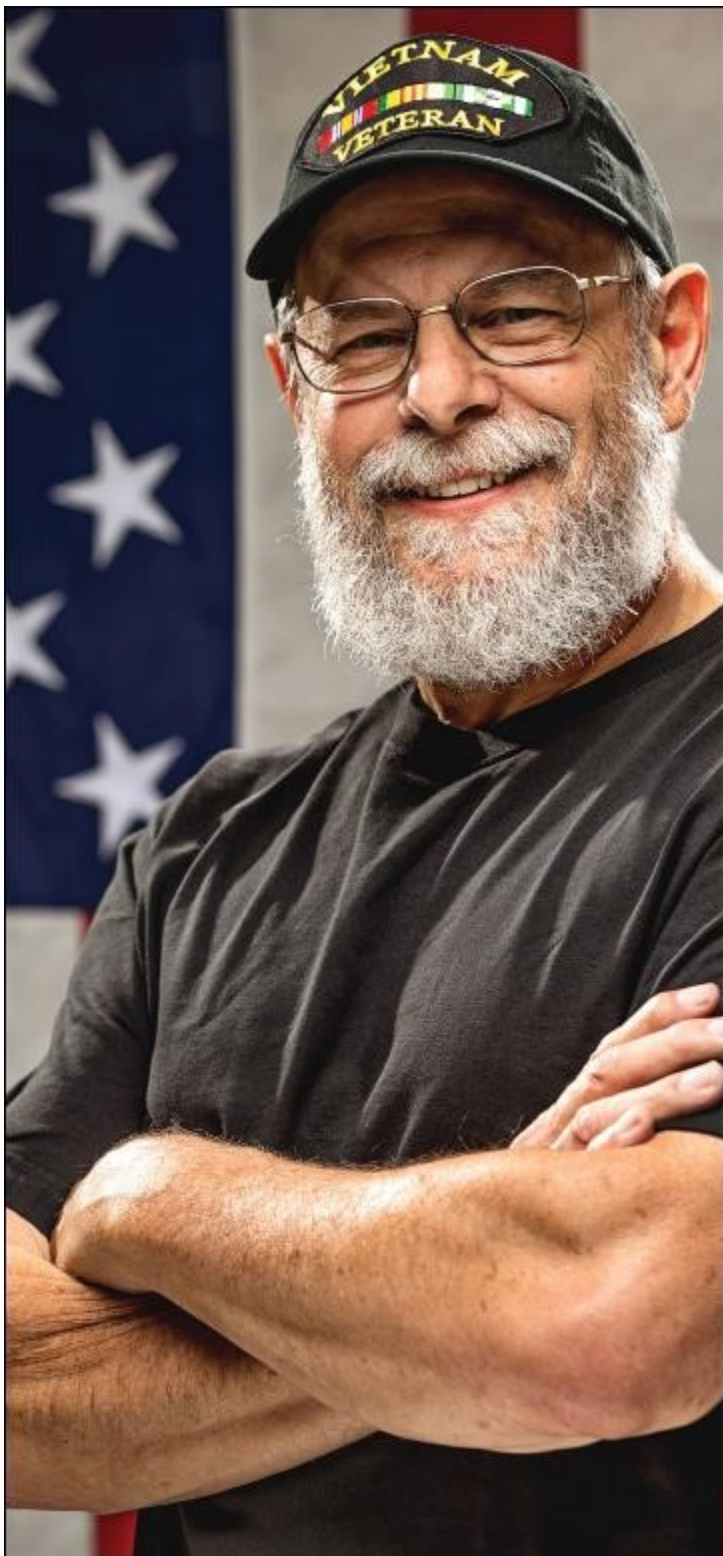
**36 Granada Street, St. Augustine FL 32084**

**(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.



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# SERVING VETERANS SINCE 1979

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

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

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



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

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







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

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

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



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

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

Toula Wootan, director of community programs at Community Hospice & Palliative Care, at 904.407.6211 or [twootan@communityhospice.com](mailto: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, 727-487-6252, if you or your vet group wants to create a website or Facebook page.*

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



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

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



**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

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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](mailto:mrothfeld@anyveteran.org)

Please send to: [mrothfeld@anyveteran.org](mailto:mrothfeld@anyveteran.org)



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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