



The Patriot Reader Newsletter

P.O. Box 2117

St. Augustine, FL 32085

Bill Dudley, Publisher

Michael Rothfeld, Editor

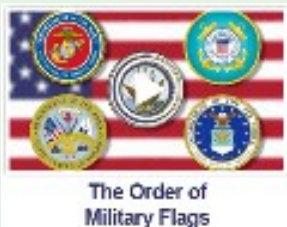
Volume 11, Issue 2

From Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley

February 2022

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Fellow Veterans,
I trust everyone had a great Holiday and was able to stay well and healthy during this time. We are now into our new year with lots of challenges for helping our veterans during 2022. Affordable housing continues to be a major challenge and one that the Veterans Council is focused on this year. Last Thurs the Veterans Council met with the Care Connect Team from Flagler Health as well as members from St. Johns Housing Partnership, SJC Project Management and members of the Veterans Service Office. Lots of discussion concerning new housing startups in the affordable range for veterans that will be coming on line in the Spring-mid summer timeframe. We plan to meet on a regular basis to continue pursuing other housing opportunities that are in the affordable range for veterans.

This past Friday, 18 January the Veterans Treatment Court celebrated its 5th anniversary. It was a very special celebration honoring all those who had graduated from the program, those still enrolled in the program and a special graduation for 4 veterans who graduated during the ceremony. Many of the original team members were in attendance as were many of our local law enforcement, County Commissioners, County Administration, local judges, and state and federal elected officials. We were honored to have retired Lt. Gen. Michael Linnington, CEO, Wounded Warrior Project as our guest speaker. This program has been a huge success by any standard of measurement boasting a recidivism of less than 4 % and a graduation of 53 veterans. That's a huge return on investment. There are currently 26 veterans enrolled in the program.



The Veterans Council had another outstanding year supporting veterans from the local area and throughout Florida. Our focus in 2021 was on our veterans in the Veterans Treatment Court program as well as our homeless veterans. However, we were able to assist others as well as several veterans widows with such needs as utilities, property taxes, relocations, motel costs, and burial expenses just to name a few. A detailed recap of the year's performance appears in this month's Patriot Reader. The Veterans Council wishes everyone a Happy New year and challenge you as veterans to ... continue serving. Bill Dudley, Chairman Veterans Council of St. Johns County

Request Military Records

New! The National Personnel Records Center is closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. They will continue servicing emergency requests associated with medical treatments, burials, and homeless veterans trying to gain admittance to a homeless shelter. Please refrain from submitting non-emergency requests such as replacement medals, administrative corrections, or records research until they return to pre-COVID staffing levels.

Most federal, state and local veterans' benefits require proof of military service through an official discharge document, often called a DD-214 or one of its predecessors. You may request a free copy of your military service record through the National Archives at <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/>.

What do they hold?

Official Military Personnel Folders (OMPF) including the Service Treatment Record (includes outpatient, dental and mental health treatment).

Clinical (hospital inpatient) records created for military personnel while on active duty.

Medical treatment records for military retirees, dependents, and others created at military medical treatment facilities (includes inpatient, outpatient, dental, and mental health treatment).

What records are there?

U.S. Air Force 1947-2004

Records from 1947-1963 (Hubbard –Z) were impacted by 1973 fire

U.S. Army 1912-2002

Records from 1912-1959 were impacted by 1973 fire

U.S. Coast Guard 1898-2008

U.S. Marine Corps 1905-1998

U.S. Navy 1886-1994

Records Not at National Personnel Records Center (NPRC):

Records of soldiers currently on active duty and records of veterans who have separated but still have reserve status remain with military services.

Pay records are held by Defense Finance and Accounting Service.

The individual branches and/or U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs may hold other, more recent archival materials. Visit <https://www.archives.gov/st-louis> for details.

Customer Service Line:

(314) 801-0800



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



The Support Committee invites everyone to attend its **next scheduled meeting**. The meeting will be at **6:00pm on Monday March 7, 2022**. 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

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

Chairman: Steve Spickelmier
Vice Chairman: Bill Dudley, Treasurer: Pat Welch
Secretary: Kathy Church, Judge Advocate: Don Guthrie
Master-At-Arms: Mike Smith, Historian: Win Delpizzo
Chaplain: Pat Archuleta, Public Affairs: Pat Mulvihill

The Veterans Council of St. Johns County meets on the last Thursday of the month, all are invited to attend. **NEW:** We meet at the County Health & Human Services Building, **200 San Sebastian View**, at 7 pm
From the January 2022 meeting onward all Council meetings will be held at the VSO building, 200 San Sebastian View

All SJC Health Guidelines will be followed.

Please stay safe, Bill Dudley, Chairman, VC of SJC



Upcoming Veterans Council Meetings Speakers

January 27, 2022: Selena Hernandez-Haines, First Coast Honor Flight

February 24, 2022: Derek Collins, Program Manager, The Fire Watch
Suzanne Hoff Ogawa, The History of the POW Flag

March 31, Sharon Lynn Unger, Homeless Veterans Stand Down, Clay County
Dr. Matthew Burke, 10 CAN, Inc., Helping Veterans

April 24, Donna Boyce, Principal, St. Joseph's Academy with students speaking about their Veterans Interview Program

VETERANS COUNCIL OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

16 DECEMBER 2021

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Dudley

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS: Chairman Dudley

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Chairman Dudley

INVOCATION: Vice Chairman Quinn

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS: Chairman Dudley

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

Chairman Dudley offered that the minutes had been published and distributed to general membership and asked if there were additions or deletions required.

Hearing no change, a vote of members present was unanimous in acceptance.

TREASURERS REPORT:

Treasurer John Mountcastle presented a most comprehensive four page finance report. He stated that the current balance for the council is \$65,630.50. He stated that approximately fifty-percent of this balance is restricted to specific programs. Most expenses reported on this report were from supporting the Veterans Day Program. It is well to note that the council received a check for \$7,750 donated by the PGA Tours (Story Tellers). Copies of the treasurers report were available to all members present. After a detailed explanation of the report a unanimous vote to approve was received.

SPEAKERS OF THE EVENING:

HorsePlay Therapy Center

The council welcomed Vicky Carregal of HorsePlay Therapy Center. Vicky explained that as of Veterans Day 2021 the therapy offered at HorsePlay includes therapy for veterans. Conveniently located near I-95 and State Road 207 the facility offers a calm relaxed atmosphere for those truly in need. A team of knowledgeable therapist offer Equine Assisted Therapy (EAT) for veterans suffering from PTSD and wounded warriors. Therapies include movement of a horse, horsemanship ac-



tivities, horse human interaction and mental therapy in an open air environment. Our council was asked to assist in making know this facility as there are veterans in our area that would truly prosper by participating.

USS Orleck Museum

Daniel Bean (Presenter)

The council was provided an update on the approval, condition and arrival plans for the USS Orleck to become a grand fixture of the Jacksonville skyline. The ship was recently moved to dry dock and is undergoing cleaning, repair and painting. Part of the dry dock procedure is to ensure the ship's worthiness. It currently located at Port Arthur. The ship will be the site of many community activities.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

CSM Joe McDermott, Veterans Service Officer

Joe announced that funds have been received for a new employee. This person will be dedicated to the Housing Program for homeless veterans.

Of particular concern at present is the time lag for veterans to receive their decision on outstanding claims. There was a huge delay in mailing claim decisions recently and currently that caused veterans that did not agree with the decision to miss the appeal suspense date. Fortunately, there has been a decision made to extend the appeal window in cases where the veteran was victimized.

John Leslie, Veterans Court Chair

John announced the current number of participants and stated that Friday 17 December 2021 is the next court date. All veterans are invited to attend. Location is the Watson Judicial Center. Allow time for security check.

Ray Quinn, Wreaths Across America Co-Chair

Ray announced the program for 2021 is on track for success. The off load and placement of the wreaths is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. Saturday 18 December 2021. Many local organizations are on our list to assist and hopefully our membership will be present as well. Financially we were successful in attaining our goal and have a really good carry over for next year. I will be offering a final report at our January 2022 meeting. Thank you all for your assistance, see you Saturday!

BG (Ret) Michal Fleming, Florida Fire Watch

General Fleming explained the Watch Stander program and the training requirements. He encour

aged the council to get involved by going online and taking the Watch Stander course. By doing so you will have a personal and meaningful part in reducing the terrible suicide rate among our veterans.

Steve Spickelmeir, Jacksonville National Cemetery Support Committee

Steve provided an overview of the plan for Wreaths Across America at Jacksonville National. The challenge there is 20,000 grave sites.

Steve also announced the new road is now open to the Jacksonville National Cemetery. No longer will visitors have to drive the eight mile rural route. The cemetery may be entered after exiting I-95 at the Pecan Park exit and following the signs. The road has been named in honor of Gold Star Families.

Steve also provided an update on the Missing In America program. In February the program will lay to rest unclaimed veterans and spouses at the Cape Canaveral National Cemetery. This will represent the 28th service conducted providing final honors for those unclaimed.

Bill Dudley, Council Chairman

Bill presented a report on our highly successful Veterans Day Program conducted 11 November 2021 at Anastasia Baptist Church. Bill had nothing but praise for the team that put the event together and brought it to a memorable occasion. He stated he is receiving comments from all over the community.

Bill announced that the Veterans Court has now been in existence for five years. He commended John Leslie for his tireless work in establishing and contributing to the court's success.

Bill announced the formation of the Veterans Support Committee. It became evident that since we gain our funds almost primarily from grant sources we need more oversight and input from the council on selection of grant sources. He announced that the following have agreed to serve on the committee:

MEMBERS: Bill Dudley, Ray Quinn, Ron Birchall, Joe McDermott, John Mountcastle, John Leslie, Michael Rothfeld

SUMMARY OF VETERANS COUNCIL ACTIVITIES FOR 2021:

THE VCSJC HAD ANOTHER STELLAR YEAR IN SUPPORT OF OUR VETERANS. WE CONTINUED TO HONOR OUR VETERANS AS WE HAVE DONE EACH YEAR IN THE PAST ON VETERANS DAY, MEMORIAL DAY, WITH OUR HOMELESS VETERANS STAND DOWN, POW-MIA RECOGNITION DAY, AND WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA JUST TO NAME A FEW.

THE VETERANS COUNCIL CONTINUED ITS SUPPORT OF THE VETERANS TREATMENT COURT IN A VERY PROLIFIC WAY. OVER THE PAST 12 MONTHS WE WERE ABLE TO HELP MANY OF OUR VTC VETERANS WITH UTILITY BILLS, HOUSE REPAIRS, CAR REPAIRS, LODGING, INSURANCE PAYMENTS, TRANSPORTATION COSTS, COURT FEES, GIFT CARDS FOR FOOD AND GAS, AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AT CHRISTMAS, JUST TO NAME A FEW OF THE WAYS WE ASSISTED OUR VETERANS.

WE PRODUCED ANOTHER DOCUMENTARY THIS PAST YEAR, "KOREA, THE FORGOTTEN WAR, REMEMBERED", THE 6TH IN A SERIES OF DOCUMENTARIES BY INTERVIEWING 5 KOREAN WAR VETERANS WHO SAW COMBAT IN KOREA EITHER ON THE GROUND OR AT SEA. SEVERAL OF OUR DOCUMENTARIES WERE ACCEPTED FOR PERMANENT ARCHIVES INTO THE RONALD REAGAN AND HARRY TRUMAN PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARIES THIS YEAR.



WE REMEMBERED OUR VIETNAM VETERANS ON VIETNAM REMEMBRANCE DAY AT ST. AUGUSTINE NATIONAL CEMETERY AND ON VETERANS DAY AT ANASTASIA BAPTIST CHURCH. THIS



WAS A VERY MOVING AND EMOTIONAL EVENT AS OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKER, DR. HAL KUSHNER, A 6 YEAR POW GAVE AN ACCOUNTING OF HIS TIME IN CAPTIVITY. WE ALSO HONORED OUR FALLEN SONS FROM ST. JOHNS COUNTY AND



THE GOLD STAR FAMILY MEMBERS OF THESE FALLEN HEROES.

OUR ANNUAL WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA PROGRAM WAS ANOTHER SUCCESS THIS YEAR WITH NEARLY 400 ATTENDING FOR THE CEREMONY AND TO HELP PLACE WREATHS ON ALL THE GRAVESITES AT THE SANC.



AS PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED, OUR SIGNATURE EVENT EACH YEAR IS OUR VETERANS DAY PROGRAM AND THIS YEAR WAS NO EXCEPTION. WITH NEAR-

LY 1000 ATTENDING AND OVER 40 EXHIBITORS IN THE ATRIUM AREA AT ANASTASIA CHURCH, OUR COMMUNITY TURNED OUT IN HUGE NUMBERS TO HONOR OUR VETERANS. THE VETERANS COUNCIL IS PROUD OF OUR LOCAL CITIZENS, OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS, OUR FIRST RESPONDERS WHO TURN OUT EACH YEAR TO HONOR OUR VETERANS FOR THEIR SERVICE.



THE VETERANS COUNCIL ALSO SUPPORTED OTHER ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS DURING THE YEAR SUCH AS THE VETERANS ART EXHIBIT, LASSEN STATE VETERANS HOME, FIRST COAST HONOR FLIGHT, JACKSONVILLE AND ST. AUGUSTINE NATIONAL CEMETERIES, FLAGLER COLLEGE WW II EXHIBIT, CECIL FIELD POW-MIA MEMORIAL & MUSEUM, ST AUGUSTINE LIGHTHOUSE, MISSING IN AMERICA PROJECT, VETS FOR VETS, WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT, COL. DAVID PARRAMORE CROSS COUNTRY BIKE



RIDE, MOAA, FMC/AUSA, FIRE WATCH PROGRAM, SALVA-

TION ARMY HOMELESS VETERANS FROM PALM BEACH, SJC 200 YEAR TIME CAPSULE PROJECT, GOLD STAR PARKWAY AT JAX NATIONAL CEMETERY AND SEVERAL HOMELESS VETERANS HOUSING PROJECTS SUCH AS PATRIOT PLACE, SAN MARCO HEIGHTS AND VICTORIA CROSSING.



Patriot's Place

THE VETERANS COUNCIL WAS HONORED THAT THE CHAIRMAN WAS RECOGNIZED THIS YEAR BY ST JOHNS COUNTY FOR DESIGNATING NOV. 2 AS BILL DUDLEY DAY, AND BY THE JAX. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESENTING THE RADM KEVIN



Chairman Dudley receives AUSA Service Award

DELANEY MILITARY HALL OF FAME AWARD IN RECOGNITION FOR VETERANS SERVICE TO ST. JOHNS COUNTY AND NORTHEAST FLORIDA



AND TO AUSA FOR THE FIRST MILITIA CHAPTER SERVICE AWARD . THESE AWARDS RECOGNIZE THE HARD WORK AND COMMITMENT OF ALL THE TEAM MEMBERS OF THE VETERANS

COUNCIL

During Calendar Year 2021, the Veterans' Council of St. Johns County, Inc. received more than \$40,500 in cash donations to support our missions.

This year, the Veterans' Council also created a semi-permanent endowment in the name of our Chairman, William Dudley; \$1,500 was donated specifically for this purpose. Grants would be made from income derived by this endowment; at the discretion of trustees, grants may also be made from principal invested.

In addition to the above cash transactions, the Veterans’ Council received donated goods and services valued at more than \$4,700, in furnishings reserved to assist deserving Veterans who will move into Veterans-dedicated housing provided by the St. Johns Housing Partnership this year.

During 2021, the Veterans’ Council expended approximately \$39,500 in support of the missions of the Veterans’ Council; summarized by program expenses:

	Cash Expense	As pct of \$46,000	As pct of \$ 41,300
Assistance to Veterans in Need	\$ 16,660	36.2%	40.3%
Flags (US, POW/MIA, Services)	\$ 1,801	3.9%	4.4%
Nov. 11 Veterans’ Day	\$ 7,132	15.5%	17.3%
Other Restricted	\$ 2,020	4.4%	4.9%
Stand Down	\$ 1,500	3.3%	3.6%
Veterans Treatment Court	\$ 7,127	15.5%	17.3%
Wreaths Across America	688	1.5%	1.7%
Programs Tools	\$ 36,928	80.3%	89.5%
General & Administrative	\$ 2,216	4.8%	5.4%
Fund Raising	\$ 360	0.8%	0.9%
	\$ 39,504		

Assistance to Veterans in Need aided more than ten families with temporary lodging, replacement of HVAC, car repairs, funeral expenses and emergency assistance. None of these were included in the Veterans’ Treatment Court, which had more than thirty participants who received assistance with court fees, gas and food cards, lodging assistance, vehicle repairs; at year-end, fourteen deserving participants identified by the Court each received \$200 checks as holiday gifts in recognition of their rehabilitation efforts.

Public Charities are evaluated by their ability to focus upon their missions, manage their expenses and be good stewards of the assets entrusted to them. With more than 80% of gross receipts expended on programs, less than 6% spent on overhead, and less than 1% spent on fund-raising, the Veterans’ Council compares quite favorably.

Guidestar reports the Veterans’ Council has a gold rating.

From the Veterans Council meeting January 27.

Presentation of the Council's most prestigious award to the person in the county who has contributed above and beyond to the county Veterans, Cynthia Thompson, Coordinator, Veterans Treatment Court.



Beth Heath of Unsung Heroes presents a Yard Sign to LtCol Michalove



Rev. Patrick Archuleta presents "Law Enforcement Bibles" to Sheriff Hardwick.

Photos by Shawn Prentiss

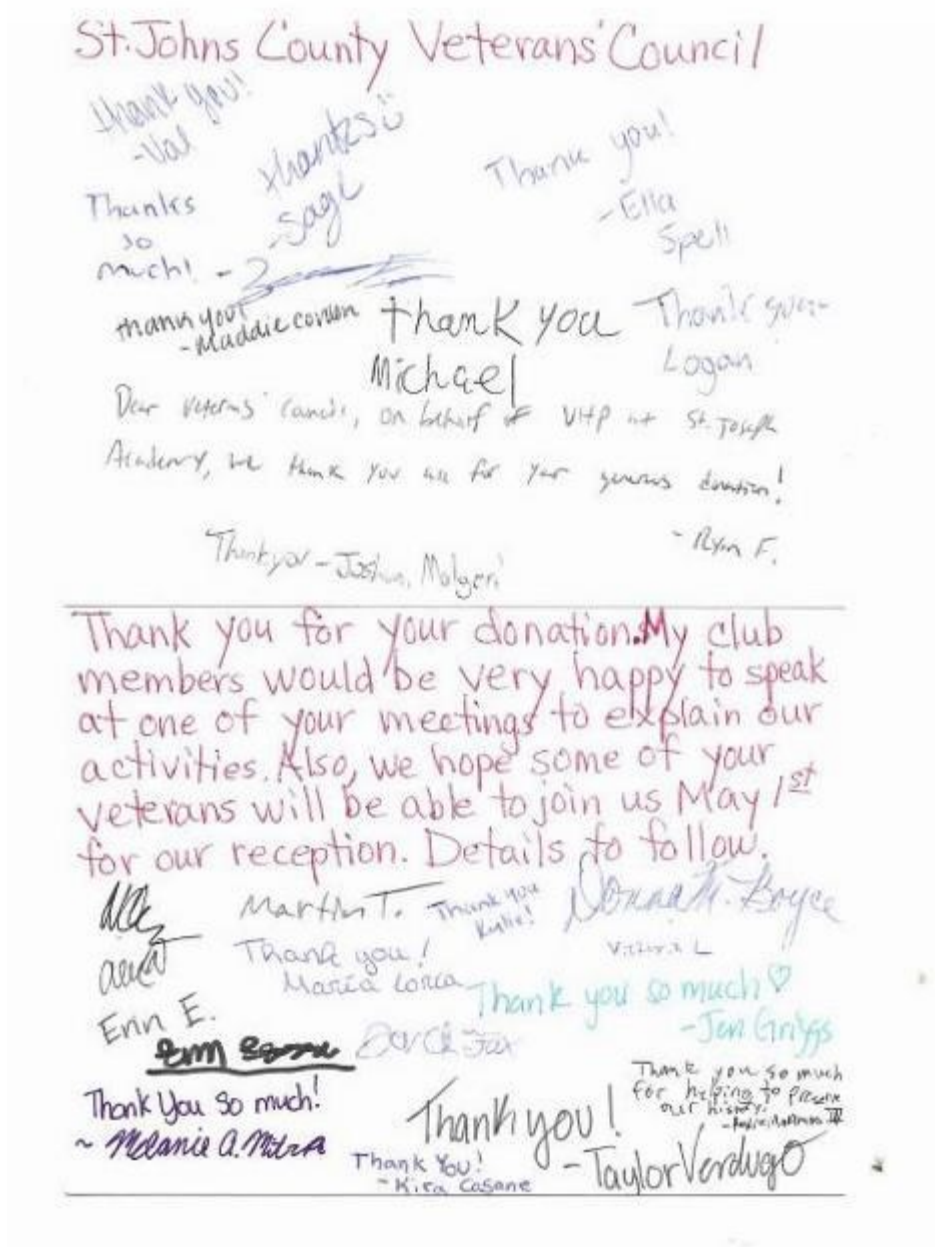
ST. JOSEPH'S ACADEMY Heritage Project



This is a thank you card the Veterans Council received from the students at St. Joe Academy for the \$1000 donation the Council recently made for their Heritage Project that involves interviewing our veterans and recording their experiences.

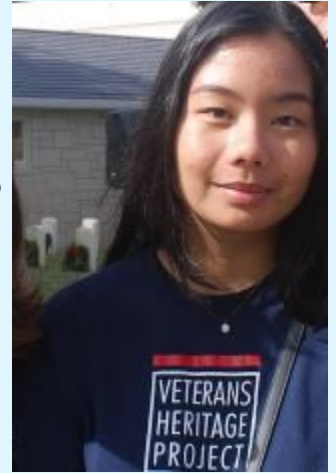
The students will be speaking at an upcoming Veterans Council meeting and talk about their veterans interviews.

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



The Veterans Heritage Project at Saint Joseph Academy

At Saint Joseph Academy, you can find a newly established club that values the stories and appreciates the work done by the United States Military and its veterans. The Veterans Heritage Project or VHP is headed by teacher Donna Boyce. She and her students work hard to interview veterans and write stories to be published for all to learn about the unique experiences of our veterans. Additionally, the students attend events or host events at their school to commemorate those who have served our country. VHP held their own events at their school: a 9/11 ceremony commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the terrorist attacks and a Veteran's Day event where students were able to ask veterans questions about their experience and time served. Also, they have attended events honoring veterans like the St. Johns Council of Veterans event on November 11, and Wreaths Across America on December 18.



Erin Enriquez

Today, Veterans Heritage Project students continue to work hard to share the stories of many veterans. They are currently in the process of conducting more interviews for the 2023 edition of *Since You Asked*TM, as expand the involvement of Saint Joseph Academy in the community. You can support the Veterans Heritage Project by visiting Carnival Sweets on any Wednesday, mention VHP at SJA and part of the proceeds will go towards the club. Mrs. Boyce and her students are very anxious to see all their hard work come together as they wrap up the final pieces of their book. They will have a ceremony May 1 with friends, family, and the veterans they have interviewed to celebrate all the hard work they have put in and to commemorate the service of the veterans.

By Erin Enriquez

Steven H. Spickelmier

Died on January 25, 2022, at the Age of 77

Native of Indiana, Married to Glenda

Longtime Resident of Jacksonville FL

Retired From Career at AT&T

Served in both the US Navy and Air Force

Longtime Leader in the Northeast Florida Veterans Community

Served in Many Veterans Organizations, including, but not limited to:

- Chairman- Support Committee Jacksonville National Cemetery
- Immediate Past Chairman- Veterans Council Duval County
- Board Member- National POW MIA Memorial & Museum



Michael Pullium, Vietnam Veteran

A few days ago the veterans community as well as the St Augustine community lost a larger than life contributor, Vietnam veteran Michael Pullium.

I first met Michael when he asked me in 2008 to join his committee that was hosting the Chase/Rescorla Annual Dinner and scholarship fundraiser. Michael was the Chairman and driving force behind the successful planning for the event.

What follows is an article about the Chase/Rescorla Scholarship Dinner by Peter Guinta, also a Vietnam veteran and writer for the St. Augustine Record.

Retired Palm Coast general to be Chase-Rescorla speaker (20120)

PETER GUINTA

The Chase-Rescorla Foundation, which raises scholarship money for financially challenged St. Augustine students, has announced that retired U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Holsey Moorman will be keynote speaker March 24 at its sixth annual dinner.

Moorman, a Palm Coast resident and former city commissioner, said he wants young people to cultivate their courage and think about who their friends are.

"Young people don't listen to adults that much, but they sure imitate them," Moorman said. "They need role models. To me, everyone is a role model, whether they're a good one or a bad one."

The scholarship fund was formed to recognize the sacrifice of two 1st Cavalry Division, 7th Cavalry Regiment soldiers.

Pfc. Leo C. Chase Jr., a St. Augustine native and son of a prominent local family, was killed at his post Nov. 15, 1965, on the second day of the three-day Battle of the Ia Drang Valley in South Vietnam.

The dinner honors both heroes, but also all those who have not returned from battle and all veterans.

Since the first dinner on March 31, 2007, the fund has awarded more than \$30,000 to local students. Major donors include the Allied Veterans of the World, the Scheidel Foundation, American Legion and AMVETS.



Michael Pullium



BG Hosley Moorman



With Tom Crawford



With Greg White



With Ray Quinn

To The Veterans Council of St. Johns County



Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you very much for your most generous donation providing monetary holiday gifts for veteran participants in need.

The extraordinary generosity of the Veterans Council throughout the year, in providing financial support for Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) and the court's participants, and in Veterans Council members' daily active involvement in VTC's activities, is essential to the accomplishment of VTC's mission to assist justice-involved veterans return to a healthy, productive way of life.

The veterans who received assistance this holiday season all asked me to express their heartfelt gratitude. Your generosity made a great impact in their lives. Among others, your gift helped:

A single mother of five who was able give her children the gifts she could not otherwise afford.

A young unemployed father, looking for work, who was finally able to afford the bicycle his five-year-old son has wanted since last Christmas.

A veteran who has overcome many hardships, who is now closer to achieving her goal of moving from a group sober living home into a shared rental.

A hard-working single father who could only give his ten-year-old son a practical gift of clothes, was able to put toys under the tree.

A combat veteran, disabled in service, who is facing several operations in the New Year, was able to afford holiday cheer instead of just life necessities.

The Veterans Council's magnanimity, both over the holidays and throughout the year gives veterans the greatest gift of all: the tangible reminder that their fellow veterans and members of their community actively support them and appreciate their service.

Sincerely,

Cynthia C. Thompson

From Michael Isam

When we ask for community assistance at the St. Augustine National Cemetery people turn out!

The call was for 0900 to pick up the wreaths.

When I arrived at 0845, the last of the wreaths was on its way to the stack.

Our heartfelt 'Thank you' to our fabulous community!





Today we remember not officially one of our own, but a Vietnam MIA*POW that we've adopted.

On January 7, 1970, LtCdr. Michael Hoff was launched from the USS Coral Sea as the pilot of a Sidewinder A7A Corsair aircraft. His mission was to perform armed reconnaissance over Laos.



The weather in the area was clear and visibility was about 10 miles. Hoff's aircraft was completing a strafing run near the city of Sepone when Commander Hoff radioed that he had a fire warning light and was going to have to bail out. The flight leader could not see the aircraft at that time. The leader did sight the aircraft just as it impacted in an area which was flat with dense vegetation and high trees.

The pilot of another aircraft reported sighting Hoff's aircraft below him, when it was approximately 2,000 feet above the ground. The aircraft at that time commenced a roll and, prior to reaching an inverted position, a flash was observed which was initially thought to be the ejection seat leaving the aircraft. Immediately afterwards, the aircraft impacted and exploded. No parachute was seen, nor were emergency transmissions received.

During ensuing search operations, aircraft reported that they received heavy enemy automatic weapons fire. Two aircraft were able to make repeated low passes in the crash area looking for a parachute or survivor, but the results were negative.

Commander Hoff's wife was also the reason that we have the POW*MIA flag we do today. 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.

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

ALL are invited to attend

Veterans Council Upcoming Meeting Change



**ALL Meetings in 2022 will be back at
200 San Sebastian View where the Veterans Service
Office (VSO) is located.**

Upcoming Veterans Council Meetings Speakers

January 27, 2022:

Selena Hernandez-Haines, First Coast Honor Flight

February 24, 2022:

Derek Collins, Program Manager, The Fire Watch

Suzanne Hoff Ogawa, The History of the POW Flag

March 31:

Sharon Lynn Unger, Homeless Veterans Stand Down, Clay
County

Dr. Matthew Burke, 10 CAN, Inc., Helping Veterans

April 24:

Donna Boyce, Principal, St. Joseph's Academy with students
speaking about their Veterans Interview Program

New exhibit brings to life stories of World War II soldiers from St. Johns County

Colleen Michele Jones, *St. Augustine Record*

When Pearl Harbor was attacked on Dec. 7, 1941, millions of Americans from communities across the nation soon enlisted or were drafted into the ensuing war.

Many of those soldiers were from St. Johns County, and local historian Susan Parker recently brought to life some of their stories in a new virtual exhibit sponsored by the St. Johns County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller.

On the 80th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, Parker said she and county officials wanted to commemorate the service of these individuals. The online exhibit, simply titled "The Greatest Generation," is based on discharge papers from World War II veterans returning to St. Johns County.

The documents were duplicate copies of the soldiers' originals and stored at the Clerk of the County's office, mostly in case vets needed to produce them as proof for medical, educational or other benefits following the war.

In digging through hundreds of papers, Parker chose to focus on just a handful to highlight, as she said, "the range of types of people who went and the types of service they did and where, because it really was such a global war."

The expertise of Parker, who formerly headed up the St. Augustine Historical Society, is Spanish Colonial history but she used her research skills to hone in recently on this chapter of local history.

"These are not the people whose names are on monuments; these are the ones who survived and returned home," Parker said.



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The expertise of Parker, who formerly headed up the St. Augustine Historical Society, is Spanish Colonial history but she used her research skills to hone in recently on this chapter of local history.

"These are not the people whose names are on monuments; these are the ones who survived and returned home," Parker said.

Their range of backgrounds surprised Parker the most. Among them: Upon return, their transition to civilian life had to have been challenging, especially with women at that point filling many jobs while men were overseas.

"There's a lot written about men trying to find jobs," added Parker.

Parker's research did not extend to learning what happened to the World War II soldiers she profiled in her exhibit; she imagines many of them may be gone now. But she hopes families connect with their stories and learn more.

Parker also hopes that the exhibit helps to make more real the stories of everyday men and women who were plucked from their local communities to serve in engagements across the world and how that experience impacted them.

"Going to war pulled people out of small rural areas and they were suddenly experiencing the rest of the world," said Parker. "I often wonder what difference it made in their lives, getting on a ship and going across the ocean to a different place with different people."

The Clerk's Office encourages St. Johns County's 20,000-plus veterans to record their discharge documents securely and free of charge.

By filing a discharge document — these days called a DD Form 214 — veterans can ensure future easy access. Original DD 214s can be filed at no cost at the county's Recording Department, located in the Richard O. Watson Judiciary Complex, 4010 Lewis Speedway, St. Augustine. The document will be digitally recorded on site and returned immediately.

For information, call 904-819-3632.

Cecil Field POW MIA Memorial, Inc.

You are cordially invited to attend the Four Chaplains Interfaith Memorial service on February 3rd, 2022 at the Chapel of the High-Speed Pass at 10:00am.

Four Chaplains Interfaith Memorial Service

February 3rd, 2022



Chapel of the High-Speed Pass

Veterans Council Supports incarcerated veterans at the Madison Correctional Institution in Madison FL.

Mel Haynes, is a friend whom I met when I lived in Coquina Crossing. We were both members of the Coquina Veterans group, he was a veteran and I was an honorary member.

He had a love for history and we used to share stories about veterans we knew.

From Mel:

I've been working with incarcerated veterans at the Madison Correctional Institution in Madison FL.

They opened the dorm in June of this year, and they have been working hard to personalize it.

They have named it FOB Madison. FOB stands for Forward Operating Base which is anyplace they find themselves temporarily.

When their mission is accomplished, they return to their "Home Base". That is very relevant to where they are in their lives now.

This mural, in progress, is 35 feet long and includes scenes from all this nations' wars and servicemen. There are several more in progress as well.

We have veterans from Vietnam forward, our oldest being 77.

These pictures are all approved for publishing so please feel free to post them anywhere you'd like.





Here are the 2022 Honor Flight Dates



2022 FCHF Flight Dates

EVENT	DATE
Orientation	Saturday, April 30, 2022
FLIGHT	Saturday, May 21, 2022
Reunion	Saturday, June 11, 2022

EVENT	DATE
Orientation	Saturday, October 1, 2022
FLIGHT	Saturday, October 15, 2022
Reunion	Saturday, November 5, 2022

Dates are subject to change due to airline schedule adjustments and other factors beyond First Coast Honor Flight's control

1/3/22



Sponsorship Levels

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

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

Trip Sponsor : \$25,000

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

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

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

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

Contact FCHF @
info@firstcoasthonorflight.org for more
information on sponsorship packages

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



First Coast Honor Flight Donation

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

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

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

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

www.firstcoasthonorflight.org

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

Name of Organization _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____ Email _____

This donation is: In Honor of _____ In Memory of _____

Name _____

Address _____

Veteran? Yes _____ No _____ Relationship _____

Branch _____ Dates Served _____

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



THE STATE OF FLORIDA ESTABLISHED THE FLORIDA VETERANS' HALL OF FAME IN 2013 TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THOSE MILITARY VETERANS WHO, THROUGH THEIR WORKS AND LIVES DURING OR AFTER MILITARY SERVICE, HAVE MADE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE STATE OF FLORIDA. IN SELECTING ITS NOMINEES FOR SUBMISSION TO THE GOVERNOR AND CABINET, THE COUNCIL WILL GIVE PREFERENCE TO VETERANS WHO WERE EITHER BORN IN FLORIDA OR ADOPTED FLORIDA AS THEIR HOME STATE. THE INDIVIDUALS THEY CHOOSE WILL HAVE MADE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE STATE IN CIVIC, BUSINESS, PUBLIC SERVICE, OR OTHER PURSUITS.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE COUNCIL CHAIRMAN IS SGT. MAJ. (RET.) RAY QUINN, WHO ALSO SERVES AS THE CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE VETERANS COUNCIL OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY



UPDATE ON VETERANS HALL OF FAME 2021

THE CLASS OF 2021 HAS BEEN SELECTED BY THE HALL OF FAME COUNSEL. THE FINAL COUNSEL MEETING AND FINAL VOTING ARE COMPLETED. THE NOMINEE LIST WILL NOW GO BEFORE THE CABINET AND GOVERNOR ON DECEMBER 14, 2021 FOR FINAL VOTING AND APPROVAL. THE CLASS OF 2021 WILL BE PERSONALLY NOTIFIED BY THE STATE OF THEIR INDUCTION STATUS. FOLLOWING NOTIFICATION OF ALL INDUCTEES, THEIR NAMES WILL BE POSTED HERE. THERE ARE 15 IN THE CLASS OF 2021.

THE INDUCTION DATE WILL BE IN THE THIRD WEEK OF MARCH DURING THE LEGISLATIVE CABINET SESSION. THE EXACT DATE OF THE MARCH SESSION HAS NOT BEEN POSTED YET. THE VENUE HAS NOT BEEN SET, BUT THE INDUCTION WILL PROBABLY TAKE PLACE IN THE FLORIDA STATE CABINET ROOM OF THE FLORIDA STATE CAPITAL BUILDING. FOLLOWING THE INDUCTION CEREMONY THERE WILL BE A RECEPTION FOR THE NEW INDUCTEES AND THE CLASS OF 2020, PROBABLY ON THE 22ND FLOOR OF THE STATE CAPITAL BUILDING.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – A highly decorated retired Navy destroyer will soon become a downtown attraction on the St. Johns River.

Daniel Bean, president of the Jacksonville Historic Naval Ship Association, signed for ownership of the USS Orleck on Tuesday afternoon.

“As you all know the city of Jacksonville is the third largest navy installation in our country and like the other 35 cities with war ships on display

it is time for Jacksonville to have a symbol of the United States Navy and what the United States Navy has meant to Jacksonville and its development,” Bean said.

The JHNSA has been working with the city to make the USS Orleck a Jacksonville Naval Museum at the Shipyards. They now hope to have the top tier open to the public in 30 days.

At a private ceremony Tuesday at Manifest Distillery, the Jacksonville Naval Museum took official ownership of the USS Orleck Museum Ship.

“This will be a wonderful attraction for the city, this will be a wonderful way to honor all of the veterans in Northeast Florida,” Bruce Fouraker, JHNSA board member, said.

“Jacksonville has over 250,000 military veterans that live in the area and this is just a wonderful thing to have.”

The USS Orleck is in dry dock, in Texas, where it has undergone a bow to stern inspection. A sign already placed in the Jacksonville shipyards says “coming soon – Future home of the USS Orleck Museum Ship.”

But getting to this point has come with challenges.

The cost to bring the Orleck to Jacksonville has gone up significantly from the last estimate in March 2020 of \$1.3 million and \$56,000 for paint.



The project is now expected to have a price tag of \$1.8 million due to \$250,000 of new repairs needed because of Hurricane Laura, cost increases include money for materials, fuel and labor -- plus \$65,000 for paint.

In September, News4JAX spoke with Justin Weakland, a member of the Jacksonville Naval Museum, who said getting this ship to Jacksonville would create an instant tourist attraction because we have Naval stations here, veterans and history lovers who would want to see this ship.

The group has released some examples of what the museum could look like once it's complete and is collecting donations to help offset the cost.

Next to the ship, there are plans for a ticket office, gift shop and a park that could include Naval aircraft on display.

The Jacksonville Naval Museum will feature the "US Navy Cold War Experience," which is represented by the ex-USS Orleck.

It is named after Lt. Joseph Orleck. The ship was called the "Top Gun" of Vietnam, fired 11,000+ rounds earning the nickname "Grey Ghost of the Vietnam Coast" and netting an astonishing 14 battle stars throughout the war. It received dozens of awards for military service.

It was the most decorated post World War II ship ever built and supporters said that is reason enough to save it.

The Orleck embodies the Korean War, Vietnam War, and Cold War periods in US Navy history, having served in all three.

To fund the only U.S. Naval warship museum in Florida, the group has \$2.5 million: \$1 million from the state of Florida and another \$1.5 million from loans and creditors.

It will support veterans as a local resource and networking center.

BRING HOME THE BOLD ONE – USS JACKSONVILLE RETIRES

USS Jacksonville, “A Steely-Eyed Killer of the Deep” Retires.

November 25, 2021

By Joe Snowberger, Retired Navy Mustang, LibertyLife-Media.com

Local group on The Liberty Coast hopes to acquire the sail of the former submarine JACKSONVILLE and put it on display in Downtown Jacksonville.



Of all the commissioned warships and vessels that have served in the US Navy since its inception in 1775 there has been only one ship named after Jacksonville, Florida, and it represented its namesake with honor.

That special ship is a nuclear powered, Los Angeles (688) Class submarine, the USS Jacksonville (SSN 699). The ship, errr, “boat” as submarines are called, was commissioned on May 16, 1981 and made its first port visit to its namesake city in June 1981 where she and her crew received a warm welcome from the city and its residents.

After 40 years of service defending this great country and deploying around the globe, the “Bold One” was recently decommissioned in November 2021. She is in Bremerton, Washington being prepared for her after-life as dismantling a nuclear anything is an extensive process, as one may expect.

During her four decades of distinguished service, the SSN 699 made 15 overseas deployments, circumnavigated the world twice (mostly submerged), served as a duty station for seven future admirals and one future master chief petty officer of the navy (MCPON), received numerous awards including three battle efficiency awards, underwent underwater shock testing representing the entire 688 Class submarines, resided at three homeports (Groton CT, Norfolk, VA and Pearl Harbor, HI) and served as home away from for a few thousand proud sailors

USS Jacksonville (SSN 699), AKA the “BOLD ONE” served her nation for 40 years.



“There are two special crews in the life of a submarine: the commissioning crew and the decommissioning crew,” said Cmdr. James Wiest, commanding officer of Jacksonville. “We as the decommissioning crew were tasked with gracefully, nobly, and respectfully retiring this warship and honoring the 1,700 plus Sailors who served in her over the last 40 years.”

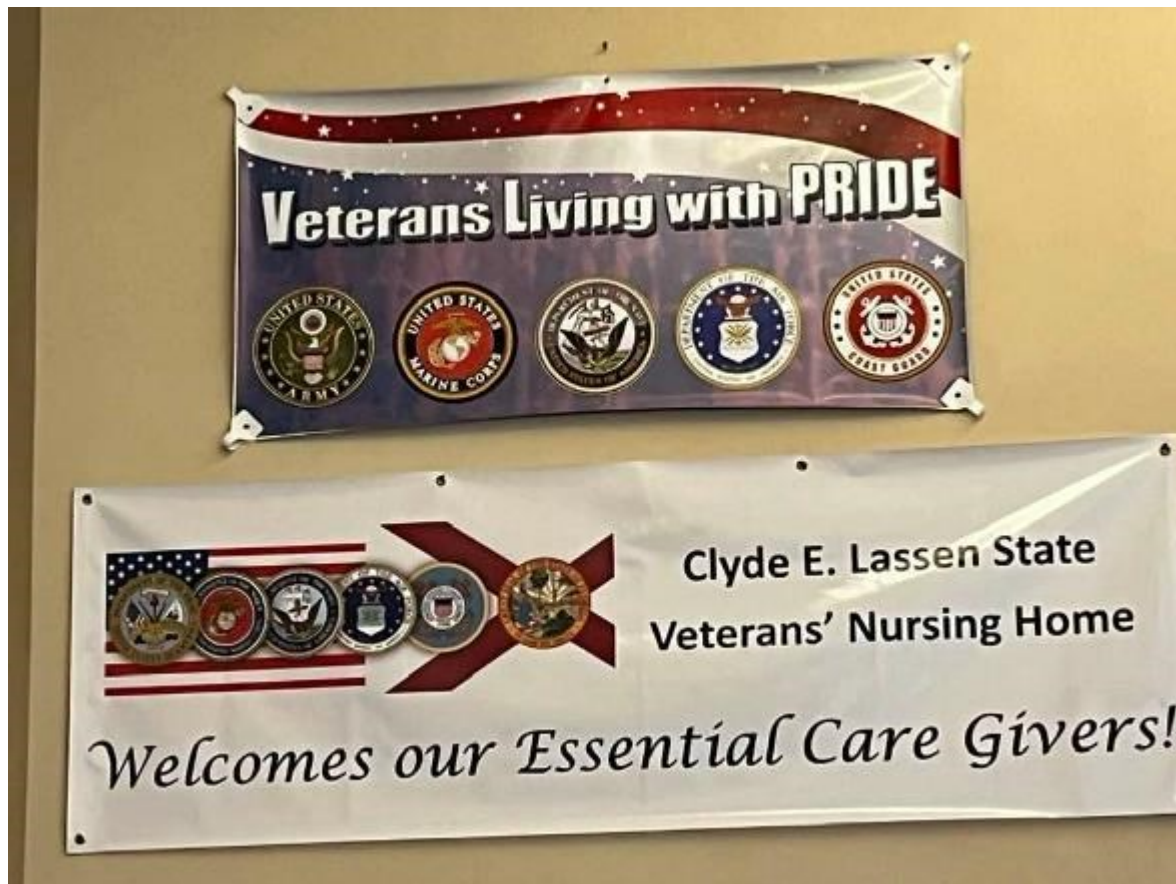
“As we close the chapter of this magnificent warship, it is important to remember that without the crew, a Naval vessel is just a hulk of steel,” said Wiest. “It is the crews that served aboard her that brought her to life, and kept her alive to do her duty. The rules of the Silent Service prevent specific discussions of her accomplishments, and that is as it should be. Jacksonville was a steely-eyed killer of the deep because of the men who served aboard her. And that, my fellow Americans, is how she should be remembered.”

Sail of USS George Bancroft (SSBN-643) on display at Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, Georgia. An effort to place the sail of the USS Jacksonville in Downtown JAX is underway.

While the USS Jacksonville’s distinguished career is ending, her legacy is not. The effort is underway to retire the entire sail structure of the USS Jacksonville in its namesake city to honor its service and represent yet another example of The Liberty Coast’s rich naval and military heritage. For more information email BringTheSail2Jax@GMail.Com.

Los Angeles-class submarines are the backbone of the submarine force. The mission and capabilities of these submarines include undersea warfare, surface warfare, strike warfare, mining operations, special operations forces delivery, reconnaissance, carrier battle group support, escort, intelligence collection and maintaining safety of the seas.

Clyde Lassen Veterans Nursing Home is looking for essential care givers including CNA, LPN, RN's. A shortage of staff has resulted in a significant waiting list-even though beds are available. We have some incredible veterans here in SJC being cared for at Lassen. If you or someone you know have these qualifications and would be interested in serving those who have defended our freedoms, please call Clyde Lassen for details.



From our good friend Mark Cubbedge

For God and Country. That was Gary Beikirch in four words. We sadly lost this Vietnam War Medal of Honor recipient Dec. 26 and it sent me back to re-reading our letters of correspondence over the years. Two of the many things that stood out to me in his letters were:

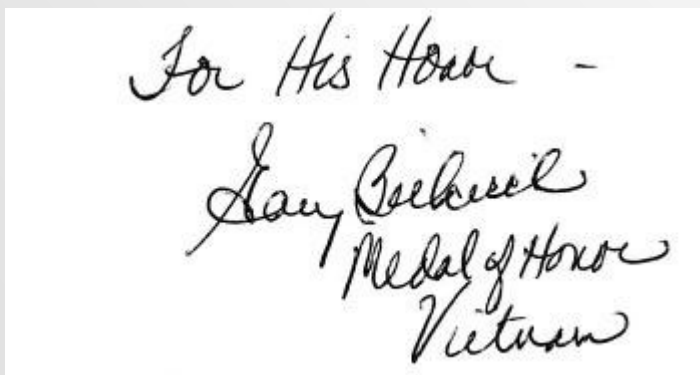
1) how he always signed his name, "For His Honor, Gary Beikirch"

2) This thought he shared with me about his experiences in Vietnam...

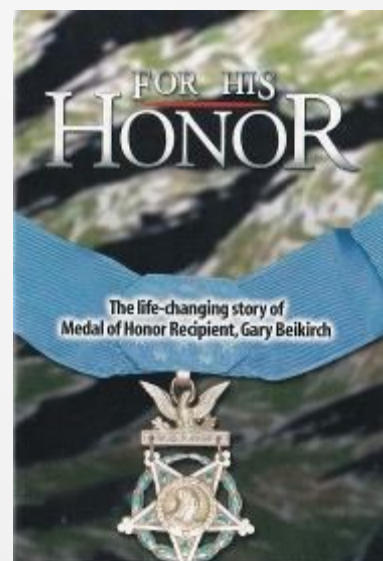
"My experience there taught me many life changing lessons:

How precious life is... how frightening death is ... and how important God is to both life and death."

I've just re-read his "For His Honor" story (pictured here) re-counting his life of service to country and God. It's brief and compelling, and if you're looking for a powerful testimony this is it.



For His Honor -
Gary Beikirch
Medal of Honor
Vietnam



Year End Reminders for Exempt Organizations from Veterans Council Treasurer, John Mountcastle

Filing Reminder

Exempt organizations should provide donors of monetary gifts of \$250 or more with a [written acknowledgement](#) from the charitable organization, so the donor may be able to deduct their donation from their federal taxable income. The donor must get the acknowledgement by the earlier of:

1. The date the donor files the original return for the year the contribution is made, or
2. The due date, including extensions, for filing their return.

Non-cash contributions must not only meet the above timeline, but also include additional [required substantiation](#).

All payers of \$600 or more in the course of their business (including charities) must prepare Forms [1099-NEC](#) and/or [1099-MISC](#), submitting them to the IRS and to the payee by January 31, 2022. If the organization prepares 250 or more forms filed with the IRS (can be of any type, such as W-2s or 941s for employers, 1099s, etc.), all forms must now be filed electronically.

New This Year

Virtually all exempt organizations (i.e., Public Charities, Veterans' organizations, etc.), must file their information reporting for tax (fiscal) years ending after July 31, 2021 electronically. For organizations using the calendar-year ending Dec. 31, 2021, the filing deadline for forms in the 990 series is May 16, 2022.

Any exempt organization (other than a private foundation) that normally has annual gross receipts of \$50,000 or less and therefore is eligible to file an [annual electronic notice](#) Form 990-N instead of an annual information return), although the organization may elect to prepare a full Form 990 (or 990-EZ) return for other reporting purposes. Form 990-N is an on-line form with only a few questions and should not require the services of a tax professional.

Exempt organizations having gross receipts of \$200,000 or more, or total assets of \$500,000 or more must file [Form 990](#) and related schedules. Exempt Organizations with gross receipts from \$50,000 to less than \$200,000, and with total assets less than \$500,000, may elect to prepare [Form 990-EZ](#).

Private foundations must file [Form 990-PF](#).

If the exempt organization does not use a tax professional to prepare and electronically file the appropriate returns, the organization's qualified reporting person must use appropriate tax software which is capable of submitting the organization's returns electronically.

The IRS website lists approved [vendors of qualifying software](#); most have significant annual costs to obtain a license to use the software. There is at least one vendor, [Form 990 Online](#), offering free use of their online software to prepare and electronically file Form 990-EZ ONLY IF the exempt organization's gross receipts are less than \$100,000. I have not had a chance to review their website and accordingly cannot endorse this vendor. My research is not all-inclusive and there may be other vendors offering free use of their software.

The Mothballed Fleet at Green Cove Springs

On the 8th of May, 1945, just eleven months and two days after the allied invasion of Nazi-occupied France (D-Day), victory was declared as the Nazi war machine fell to defeat. Hitler's forces had fallen to the advance of the Allies who came from the north, south, east, and west in a coordinated effort to crush the greatest threat to humanity that the world had ever seen. May 8th is commonly known as VE-Day, or Victory in Europe Day, though the Russians celebrate May 9th (due to time zone differences). The surrender of all German forces came one day prior, on May 7th, and just one week after Adolf Hitler committed suicide. Victory over Japan (V-J Day) soon followed on August 15th, 1945, when Emperor Hirohito of Japan announced Japan's official surrender. The official U.S. V-J Day would not be observed until September 2, 1945, when Japan signed the official surrender document aboard the battleship U.S.S. Missouri. All over the free world, citizens gathered in the streets to celebrate the end of the horror that was World War II. It is estimated that 70 to 85 million people perished in the world-wide struggle.



Photos: (Above Left): V-J Day in Times Square, New York City; (Above Right): Sir Winston Churchill waves to crowds in London on V-E Day; and (Below): General Yoshijiro Umezu, Chief of the Japanese Army's General Staff signs the instrument of surrender on behalf of Imperial Japan aboard the U.S.S. Missouri on September 2, 1945.



Over the next few years, life would slowly begin to return to normal for most Americans who were not faced with the daunting task of rebuilding whole countries that were destroyed by the war. The massive industrial machine that won the war by supplying armaments, planes, and ships slowly wound down and either refitted to produce peace-time products or went out of business entirely. This was the case for many of the shipyards here in Florida. With the return of hundreds of ships back home, the Navy needed installations to process them. There were many such locations established along the eastern seaboard, and one of them was Green Cove Springs, Florida.

Green Cove Springs already housed the Naval Air Station at Lee Field. It was here that the Navy built 13 piers, each one 150 feet long projecting from the east side of the base into the St. Johns River. At the end of World War II, the United States Navy had 24 battleships, 40 large carriers, 79 escort carriers, 2 battle cruisers, 93 cruisers, 450 destroyers, 359 frigates, and 263 submarines, for a whopping total of 1,310 vessels. Each of these vessels needed a home port to be inventoried, repaired, refitted for deployment, or mothballed. Selected ports along the east coast included Boston, Charleston, New London, New York, Philadelphia, Norfolk, Green Cove Springs, and Orange (just east of Houston, Texas). The Inactive Ships Management Office at Naval Sea Systems Command in Portsmouth, VA, had oversight of this massive undertaking.

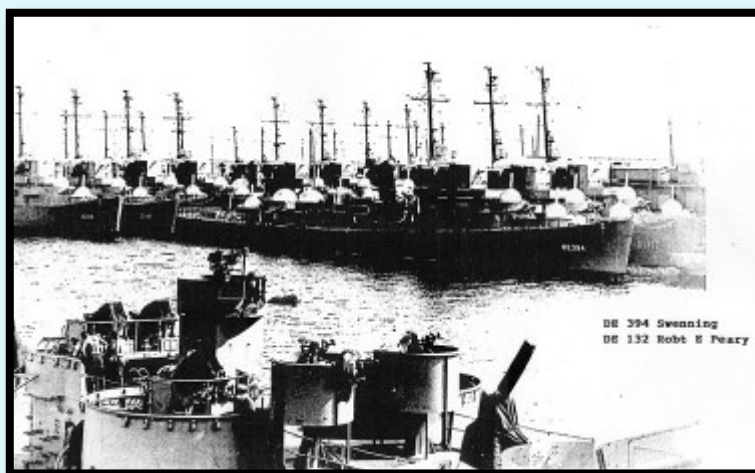


Photo Above: Aerial photograph of the mothballed fleet at the Naval Air Station Green Cove Springs on March 29, 1948.

The ships brought to Green Cove Springs were primarily destroyers, destroyer escorts (DE and APD), Troop Transport (LST), and others that arrived between 1945 and 1947. Not only were they docked along the piers, but were anchored in the middle of the St. Johns River, a total of nearly 600 vessels.



Photos Above and Below: United States Naval vessels in port at NAS Green Cove Springs, anchored and moored together (in a process called rafting) in the St. Johns River just off the piers between Doctor's Inlet and the Shands Bridge.



Destroyers, DE's, APD's, and LST's were categorized as "Secondary Combatants." As such, only one ship would have a full crew who was responsible for the division. This crew had to divide their work between all the ships to monitor their condition. The primary vessel to which they were assigned could be active in 10 days if needed, and the rest of the division placed in Ready-30 status, meaning they could be reactivated in five weeks.

The mothball fleet grew to a total of 800 vessels as one source states the existence of a photo of all 800 ships in the Green Cove Springs Court House. This notation came from an excellent article written in 2008 by Ken Adams RM2/c for publication in the May edition of the DE History page of the Destroyer Escort Sailors Association (DESAUSA.ORG). Mr. Adams did some research and interviewed locals who had taken part in the mothball operation and provided first-hand information and memories. He also worked with the Clay County Historical Museum. Mr. Adams served on U.S.S. Edsall (DE 129) & U.S.S. Walter B. Cobb (APD 106).

About 150 of the fleet were reactivated when the Korean war erupted, but afterward, in 1962, during the Kennedy presidency, then Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara announced the closing of the Green Cove Springs facility and the move of the entire fleet to Orange, TX. He also announced the closing of 73 other domestic and foreign bases. Speculation is that it was not McNamara but Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson who was responsible for the move to his home state of Texas, but that remains unverified. According to multiple sources, in the rush to move the fleet, many items aboard ships that were not documented were simply thrown overboard. Items such as fuel, peeling paint, transformers, even jeeps, and other equipment may still rest on the river floor below the piers and in the middle of the St Johns River.

In the next few months, maritime archaeologists from the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum will be working directly with the Army Corps of Engineers to survey the area of the St. Johns River around Green Cove Springs. The archaeologists will use sonar equipment to detect potential targets in the river and determine whether these are historic resources for further investigation. Potentially the fieldwork will identify resources from Lee Field as well as the mothball fleet. Stay tuned!

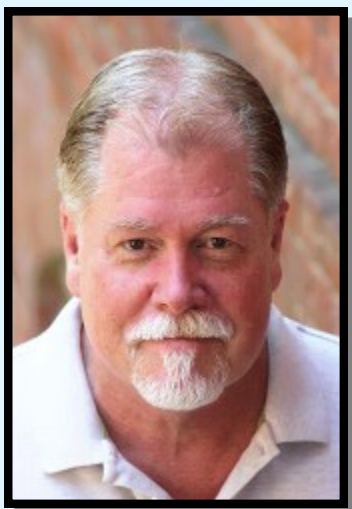


*All photos used are in Public Domain or used under Fair Use

Notes on Sources:

Ken Adams was a resident of St. Augustine and passed away in 2018, but his efforts to document his love of service to his country during WWII is most noteworthy and we are all the richer for it. His article can be found here: https://www.desausa.org/images5/mothball_fleet_at_green_cove_springs.htm

An article by **Clifford Davis** published in the Florida Times-Union on July 28, 2015, discusses the history of the site and the concerns of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers about the condition of the river in that area. You may find that article here: <https://www.jacksonville.com/story/news/military/2015/07/28/green-cove-springs-mothball-fleet-left-more-behind-memories/15673396007/>



About the Author: Rick Cain

Rick Cain has worked for the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum for 20 years after a 20-year career as a health care professional. He has served on the Board of Directors of the American Lighthouse Council and as Past Chair of the Florida Attractions Association. He also works closely with the United States Coast Guard to maintain their historic ties to the Museum.



SPONSORSHIP PACKAGE



Gold Sponsor - \$5,000.00

- 1 Table of 8 Guests - with Gold Sponsor Placard Displayed
- On Stage Acknowledgement and Introduction throughout the event as a Gold Sponsor
- Social Media Announcement and Acknowledgement
- Large Banner, supplied by Sponsor, displayed prominently in the front of the Room
- Marketing & Advertisement Materials, supplied by Sponsor, placed at each place setting
- Sponsor Tent Card placed in front of items on the Live Auction

Silver Sponsor - \$2,500.00

- 4 Tickets - with Silver Sponsor Placard Displayed
- Introduction throughout the event as a Silver Sponsor
- Social Media Announcement and Acknowledgement
- Large Banner, supplied by Sponsor, displayed in the Room
- Marketing & Advertisement Materials, supplied by Sponsor, placed on each guest table
- Sponsor Tent Card placed in front of items on the Live or Silent Auction

Benefiting



Bronze Sponsor - \$1,000.00

- 2 Guest Tickets
- Introduction throughout the event as a Bronze Sponsor
- Social Media Announcement and Acknowledgement
- Large Banner, supplied by Sponsor, displayed in the Room
- Sponsor Tent Card placed in front of items on the Silent Auction

Presented By



Underwriting Sponsor

Prior to the event, members of the 10 CAN Inc. Team will have a list of items which include an associated "Cost to Non-Profit." A copy of the "Underwriting Catalog" will be provided or can be upon request for sponsorship. Each item can be sponsored by businesses or individuals. To sponsor an item or items, simply review the catalog and pick which items you would like to sponsor by paying the "Cost to Non-Profit." Your payment of the Cost to Non-Profit, it is considered a 100% donation to the charity.

The items will be utilized in the Live and Silent Auction and the items you picked will have a Tent Card placed in front of them with your name prominently displayed as the Sponsoring company or person.

This sponsorship will greatly assist 10 CAN Inc. raise a significant amount of funds.



Please Make Payable To "10 CAN Inc."

Friends, please send this out to your distribution lists and anyone who would benefit from these classes.



The Steven A. Cohen
Military Family Clinic
at Centerstone

The Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at Centerstone is committed to serving women veterans. Our clinicians have specialized training in areas that are unique to women veterans. Florida is home to the third largest population of women veterans in the nation and Northeast Florida is one of the fastest growing areas for women veterans to choose to reside.

Our Cohen Clinic at Centerstone will kick off 2022 by hosting the “New Year/New Me Women’s Health Series.” Workshops will be held monthly and will be offered both in-person at the clinic and virtually via zoom. All workshops are free and open to female service members, veterans or military family members. As outlined in the attached flyers, topics and dates are as follows:

- 1/25 – Sleep
- 2/22 – Stress Management.
- 3/22 – Nutrition
- 4/26 – Exercise
- 5/24 – Sexual Health

Online registration is easy, just follow the link in the flyer. If you have any further questions please feel free to email at cohenFL@centerstone.org.

We are thankful for the support of our community partners as all things are possible when we come together in support of our veterans community. The New Year/New Me Women’s Mental Health Series through the Cohen Clinic at Centerstone is supported by a grant from The Partnership: For Mental Health, a project of Baptist Health and the Delores Barr Weaver Legacy Fund at The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida. Together we will eliminate the stigma of mental illness. Start the conversation: <https://www.wolfsonchildrens.com/onoursleeves>

Please distribute to your contacts and anyone else who may benefit.

All the best, Mike

Michael P. Fleming, Brigadier General (ret)

Outreach Director | Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinics at Centerstone

7011 A.C. Skinner Parkway | Jacksonville, FL 32256

Clinic: (904) 431-3500 | Fax: (904) 431-3501, Mobile: (904) 525-3633

michael.fleming@centerstone.org



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: \$85.00 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: _____

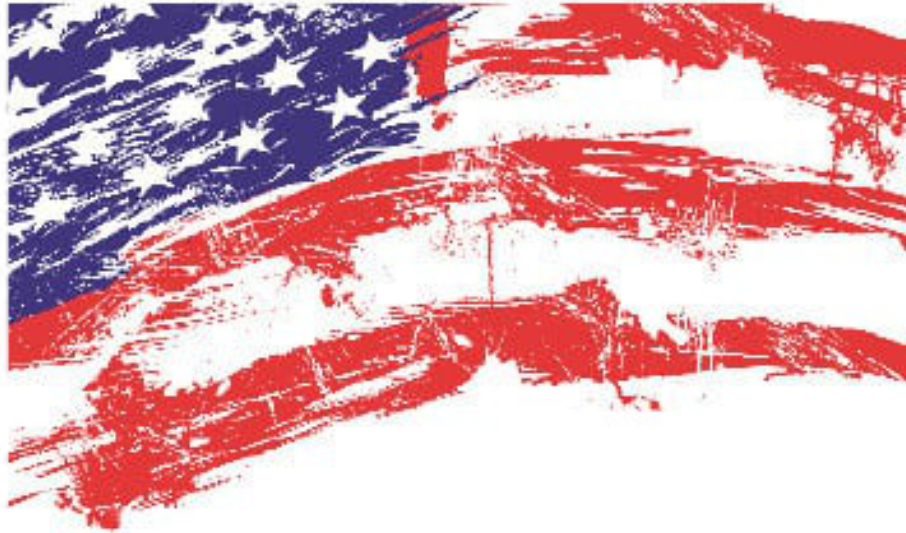
PLAYER #4: _____ PHONE #: _____ EMAIL: _____

MAIL ENTRY FORMS (whether paying by check or credit card) TO:
Mr. Lee S. Diggs, C/O AUSA GOLF TOURNAMENT,
P.O BOX 3883, ST. AUGUSTINE, FL 32085-3883. Phone (904) 827-8528.
Lee.s.diggs.mil@mail.mil

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO FIRST MILITIA CHAPTER - AUSA or

To purchase online visit <https://first-militia-chapter-ausa.square.site>

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



Korean War Veterans

*Semper Fidelis Society / Vets4Vets
are proud to announce the*

KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL DEDICATION CEREMONY

**The honor of your presence is requested at
the unveiling,**

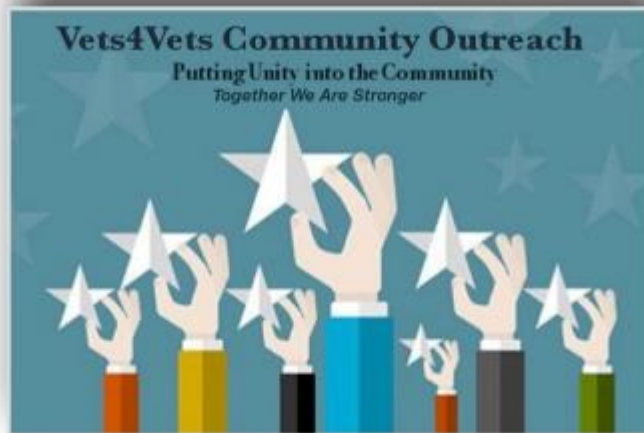
Saturday Feb 5th at 1100

*The memorial is dedicated in memory of all those
who fought and served in and during the Korean
War*

**Jacksonville Veterans Cemetery
4083 Lannie Rd, Jacksonville, FL 32218-1247**

INFO: jsfs.usmc@gmail.com

Save these dates...Feb 5th Dedication of Korean War Veterans Memorial at National Cemetery and Feb 19th V4V Community Outreach at the Jax Classical Academy...Honoring Veterans and Uniting Veterans with the Community....Honor, Courage, Commitment...Inform, Connect, Unite and Organize...**TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER with STRONG SENSE OF VALUES.**



Communities across the country are growing stronger because Veterans are finding ways to apply their skills and leadership within our community. V4V community outreach offers opportunities for veterans and civilians to work together, creating stronger networks with in the community for all.



Join Us!

Saturday, February 19, 2022

1030 to 1300 hrs

Jacksonville Classical Academy

2043 Forest Street

Jacksonville, Florida 32204

Guest Speakers, Free Parking and Lunch

Sponsored by Vets4Vets

*Americanism is a question of principle, of idealism, of character.
It is not a matter of birthplace, creed or line of descent.*

Vets4VetsNJax@gmail.com

Please note the Council now meets in the county Health & Human Resources building at **200 San Sebastian View in the same building where the Veterans Service Office is located.**



St. Johns County
Board of County Commissioners

St. Johns County Veterans Council January Meeting

- Thursday, January 27 | 7:00 p.m. | 200 San Sebastian View
- Speaker, Mary Anne Newman Deputy Director and Florida President
Association of Vietnam Veterans
- Speaker, Selena Hernandez-Haines, President, First Coast Honor Flight, Inc.

For more information, please call, 904.209.6160.

Active After 50 expo!

Information for Active Aging™

NE Florida's Top Rated Active Aging & Senior Expo comes back to St. Augustine! Meet local providers, gain valuable insight, & take advantage of free health screenings. Try pickleball, watch an international dance performance, and enter to win prizes!

February 12 | 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

**St. Johns County Convention Center
500 S. Legacy Trail
St. Augustine, FL 32092**

- **FREE ADMISSION** •
- **HEALTH SCREENINGS** •
- **PICKLEBALL CHALLENGE** •
- **PRIZE GIVEAWAYS** •
- **LIVE MUSIC** •
- **DANCE DEMOS** •

*Free Scratch-Off Lottery Ticket to the first 100 guests!
Prize giveaways every hour!*



BRING A CANNED FOOD OR NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEM & RECEIVE A RAFFLE TICKET FOR PRIZES!

For More Information (904) 829-4502 | Sara@ActiveAfter50Group.com

★ ACTIVE DUTY ★ VETERANS ★ NATIONAL GUARD & RESERVE ★

MILITARY SUPPORT RETREATS

RETREATS FOR COMBAT VETERANS,
AND THEIR PRIMARY SUPPORT PERSON



Amelia Island
Florida



JAN. 20-23

Marineland
Florida



FEB. 24-27

Sarasota
Florida



MAR. 10-13

Chattanooga
Tennessee



APR. 7-10

From Thursday at 5:00pm - Sunday at 2:00pm



★ **RESTORATION** ★ **RECREATION** ★ **RELAXATION** ★

Strengthen and restore connections, enjoy the natural beauty of each location, be inspired by fun outdoor activities, learn about available support resources, and relax while exploring the stress coping concepts of Post Traumatic Growth.

★ Small, friendly group setting ★

★ All accommodations, food, and activities are provided free of charge ★

★ Facilitated by Vets, Licensed Clinicians, and Community Nonprofit Support Organizations ★

Please note: Must be 18 to attend and no childcare is provided. Participants are responsible for travel.

TO LEARN MORE AND TO APPLY VISIT: [GRATITUDEAMERICA.ORG/RETREATS](https://www.gratitudeamerica.org/retreats)



CHRISTOPHER DUKE
770-298-7654
DUKE@GRATITUDEAMERICA.ORG



SAVE THE DATE.....

National Vietnam Veterans Day

Saturday, March 26, 10 am

**TAPS monument located at the Historical Triangle in
Green Cove Springs.**





National Headquarters
860 Dolwick Drive
Erlanger, KY 41018
tel 859-441-7300
toll free 877-426-2838
dav.org

National Service & Legislative Headquarters
807 Maine Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20024-2410
tel 202-554-3501
fax 202-554-3581

TO: National Executive Committee
Past National Commanders
All Employees
Department and Chapter Commanders and Adjutants
DAV Auxiliary National Adjutant

FROM: J. Marc Burgess, National Adjutant

DATE: January 26, 2021

SUBJECT: Patriot Boot Camp

It is our extreme pleasure to bring you some very exciting news regarding a new DAV program.

Tomorrow we will announce publicly that DAV has acquired the charity Patriot Boot Camp. This dynamic entity helps military members, veterans and spouses become creators, innovators and entrepreneurs. Through our acquisition, DAV adds an entire community of more than 1,000 alumni who can benefit from our services and ultimately hire more veterans into meaningful careers.

For years, DAV has been familiar with Patriot Boot Camp. Having participated and sponsored events, we thoughtfully and prudently researched the opportunity to absorb their charity as a DAV program.

As part of the acquisition, we gain an experienced program director in Jen Pilcher. DAV has been familiar with Ms. Pilcher, a military spouse, for several years. An entrepreneur herself, she started MilitaryOneClick.com and MilSpouseFest. A social network and resource center, it became a top website in military media under Ms. Pilcher's leadership.

Founded in 2012, Patriot Boot Camp facilitates mentorship, educational programs and a robust community of experts to help veterans and spouses innovate and build impactful businesses.

Its founders and board members will be appointed to our new National Veterans Entrepreneurship Council. We are grateful for their continued feedback and support as this exciting new-to-DAV program evolves and grows.

In addition to empowering disabled veterans to achieve their maximum potential in the business world, DAV Patriot Boot Camp will fuel the hiring of more veterans and spouses and give DAV greater institutional insight on the challenges faced by entrepreneurs in our community. It is part of a growing suite of new services DAV is evolving to empower veterans and build upon the financial health of our community.

Thank you for your leadership at this exciting new time for our charity and for your support which makes exciting new opportunities like this possible.


J. Marc Burgess
National Adjutant

JMB:tmm

Please note: the Vietnam and War on Terror Walls will be in St. Augustine on display on Veterans Day, November 11, 2022 at Anastasia Baptist Church in St. Augustine.

Here is the Florida 2022 schedule

FL PGR Vietnam & WoT Wall Schedule

To request one or both of the walls for display, contact FL State Captain

Email: fisc@patriotguard.org / 321-689-4699

Updated as of:

01/17/22

Date	Time	Duration	Wall(s)	Location	Comments	
02/19/22	Info forthcoming		WoT	Eustis Area		
02/26/22	0800 - 0830 hrs 0830 - 1100 hrs 1200 - 1600 hrs	Escort Set-up Walls Display & Take-Down	1 day	Vietnam / WoT	The Casements Ormond Beach 25 Riverside Dr. Ormond Beach, FL 32174	Military & First Responder Family Appreciation Expect to escort The Walls to the event from Holly Hill DAV at 0800 hrs.
03/25/22 03/26/22	1400 hrs 0800 hrs	Set up Walls Display Walls	2 Days	Vietnam / WoT	Gator Harley Davidson 1745 US 441 Leesburg, FL 34778	Benefit Active Duty Care Package Program JOBH - Just Our Soldier's Helpers Former USO Ride Overnight secretly provided by Gator Harley
03/28/22 03/31/22	0800 hrs	Set up Vietnam Wall Display & Take Down	3 days	Vietnam	Cape Canaveral National Cemetery 5525 US-1 Mims, FL 32754	National Vietnam War Veterans Day
05/21/22	0900 hrs	Set-UP & Display	1 day	Vietnam / WoT	American Legion Post 10 205 Lake View Dr. Kissimmee, FL 34741	Armed Forces Day Celebration
05/27/22 05/28/22	1400 hrs 1000 - 1600 hrs	Set-Up Display & Take Down	2 days	Vietnam / WoT	Daytona International Speedway 1801 W. International Speedway Blvd Daytona Beach, FL 32114	Heroes Honor Festival Memorial Day Event Vietnam Welcome Home
09/17/22	TBD	Info forthcoming		American Legion Jacksonville, FL.	American Legion Veteran Event	
09/24/22	TBD	Info forthcoming		Remembering Vets Inc. Palm Coast, FL.	Fall Festival	
11/10/22 11/11/22	TBD 0800 - 1100 hrs	Set-up Display	2 Days	Vietnam / WoT	Anastasia Baptist Church 1650 A1A S St. Augustine, FL 32080	Veteran's Day Ceremony Escort from Daytona to St. Augustine

From Lynn Geiser, originally from the American Legion Dept. Of FL

“Words of Wisdom”

Tips for getting and keeping Younger Members

1. Be Honest and Transparent when sending out material to attract new members. Educate the younger generation by conveying to them what you have accomplished locally and nationally to ensure that veteran issues stay at the forefront of the discussion. Show them that you are making a difference. Let them know your whole organization, not just a narrow scope of membership and money.
2. Treat all veterans equally. Both men and women who have served honorable in the Armed Forces. To assume only men deployed or served is backwards thinking and has no room in the American Legion Family.
3. Update posts with free WIFI, offer video gaming like an XBOX or PlayStation and install flat screen TV's and select programming such as sports that appeal to all ages.
4. Seasoned Veterans have life experience and perhaps a different frame of reference. We should never think the younger generation is any different. Welcome new ideas younger members are full of ideas. Embrace their energy and let them share ideas about improving the post. Be open to new ideas.
5. When you see someone new walk in welcome them with open arms, make them feel like they are part of the post and have found new friends and family. Don't criticize the way they look or their time in service. If you are welcoming they may overlook the stale beer smell and the nicotine stained walls and windows and stay a while.
6. Keep meetings short and to the point. Assign younger members a task during the meeting and ask them to work with membership. Get them involved. The younger generation especially millennials like to solve problems by working and teaming with a group. This is a prime opportunity for leadership to mentor those younger members.
7. Turn your post into a community type of center. Our younger members want a place that includes their children or to do their homework.
8. Turn your post into a place where they can network the community. Invite local business owners, company executives, local college Veterans Representatives or members of the local Chamber of Commerce to speak at your meetings.
9. Don't be afraid to work with others within your community. Build a strong support network.
10. If you have a post near a military base begin working with the transition office.
11. Introduce yourself to the local Guard, Reserve centers and Recruiters. Most of the members live, work and shop in the community.
12. Sign up and attend every veteran event that you can. Make sure the people in your community know that you are the person and post to contact when it comes to supporting veterans and their families.
13. It is time to do away with the Old Bar and Night Club look of the Post. Have it bright in the Day time and avoid loud music.
14. Entertainment should be a way to bring new members, avoid catering to your tastes or keeping something due to tradition try something new and advertise in local papers and through social media.

A Helping Hand for Our Protectors



OnStar is working to help keep our veterans safe when they return home

Across the nation, we celebrate and thank the heroic Americans who serve in our military, both at home and overseas, for their work to help keep us all safer. But sometimes those heroes need our help once they return home. An average of 20 veterans die by suicide each day, and the suicide rate among veteran adults is 1.5 times greater than for nonveterans, according to U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

It's crucial to ensure veterans know about the resources that are available to them.

To help prevent these tragedies, it's crucial to ensure any veteran who is suffering or contemplating suicide knows about the resources that are available to them. In recent years, advocacy groups have launched social media campaigns — you may have seen the 22 Pushup Challenge, for instance — to help bring attention to the plight of veteran suicide prevention and to make sure veterans know how to reach help if they need it.

In addition, it's vital that those sources of help are easy to reach, 24/7. For that reason, OnStar is furthering its commitment to veterans by working with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. When a veteran suffering a crisis pushes the red Emergency button* in their vehicle, OnStar Emergency-Certified Advisors* are able to, if appropriate, connect them with the VA's Veterans Crisis Line. The Veterans Crisis Line offers confidential support that is available around the clock. The VA is also providing additional training to OnStar Advisors to help them determine if a caller may be a military veteran.

OnStar Advisors can connect veterans to the VA's Veterans Crisis Line.

“Being able to quickly access help during a crisis can be crucial for those with thoughts of suicide,” says Dr. Jerry Reed, senior vice president for Practice Leadership at the Education Development Center, executive committee member at the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention and himself a veteran of the U.S. Navy.

“Every moment counts when someone is in crisis and considering suicide,” he says. “If there is some opportunity for someone to connect in that moment of crisis, we have an opportunity to save a life.”

“Every chance for someone to reach help when in a crisis is an essential and life-saving opportunity that we should not miss.” —Dr. Jerry Reed

OnStar Emergency-Certified Advisors are already trained to help Members experiencing a crisis. If a Member pushes the red Emergency button, Advisors can connect them with a crisis counselor, or if necessary, contact emergency services near the Member's location.

“Every chance for someone to reach help when in a crisis is an essential and life-saving opportunity that we should not miss,” says Reed.

If you or somebody you know is experiencing a crisis, push your red Emergency button or call 1.800.273.8255 to contact the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

HEY FLORIDA RESIDENTS!

Proudly Support Veterans and Honor Flight with an Honor Flight License Plate



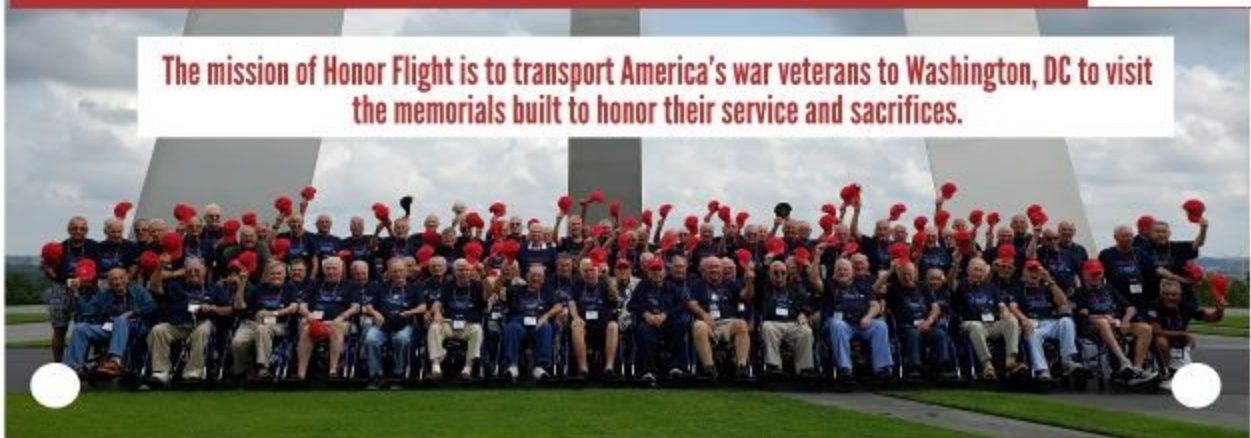
ACT NOW!

- Honor Flight is approved for *pre-sale* of an Honor Flight license plate.
- 3,000 *pre-sale* transactions must be made before the plate will be manufactured.
- Go to <https://bit.ly/3Fldyij> to purchase your voucher to help make this plate a reality.
- A portion of every plate purchase goes to the ten Honor Flight chapters in the state of Florida.
- Once the sales goal is met, you will receive instructions for exchanging your voucher for the Honor Flight plate.
- A plate replacement fee may apply.

Scan me!



The mission of Honor Flight is to transport America's war veterans to Washington, DC to visit the memorials built to honor their service and sacrifices.





Safekeeping your military separation records is secure, fast and free of charge and easy to access with the St. Johns County Clerk of Courts.

Bring your original DD-214 to the St. Johns County Veterans Council's Veterans Day Celebration where Clerk staff will officially record it:

- 9:30 a.m. – Noon, Nov. 11
- Anastasia Baptist Church, 1650 A1A S., St. Augustine
- Your record will be returned to you immediately.

Recording your DD-214 maintains a permanent digital copy on file for safekeeping. Your record is **protected** – it doesn't become a public record for 62 years after separation, per the National Archives.

Can't make it on Nov. 11? Record your discharge papers at the St. Johns County Courthouse, 4010 Lewis Speedway, St. Augustine. Call the Recording division at 904 819 3632 for details.

File your DD-214 with your
St. Johns County Clerk of Courts



FLORIDA CLERK OF COURTS WILL "LOCK IT UP" FOR FREE

Do you have your DD-214? That is the first question Veterans are asked when engaging in almost every benefits or Veteran-status related process. Often, it is the first question Veteran widows and widowers are asked after hearing "I'm sorry for your loss."

Each of Florida's county Clerk of Courts knows how valuable it is having a copy of your DD-214 safely and privately stored, with easy access. Click and read how you can record your DD-214 for free, year-round, regardless of what county you live in.

BONUS- St Johns County Clerk of the Circuit Courts is providing complimentary passport photos and notary services for military and Veterans through November 30th. Click below for the details.

From Liberty Life Media



From the Florida Dept. of Veterans Affairs

One hundred catastrophically injured Veterans and their families, as well as surviving widows of fallen service members, will soon be living in mortgage free homes. The homes will be nestled in a new Land O' Lakes subdivision called "Let Us Do Good Village." The first-of-its kind community will feature world-class amenities, including an indoor basketball court, a pool, a tennis court, an ADA-accessible gym, a theater, an outdoor playground and a game room. For more details, click here: <https://bit.ly/3p0Tjka>.



US Army Republic of Vietnam units area of operations from I Corps to IV Corps. 1969 - 1970.



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

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

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

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

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

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

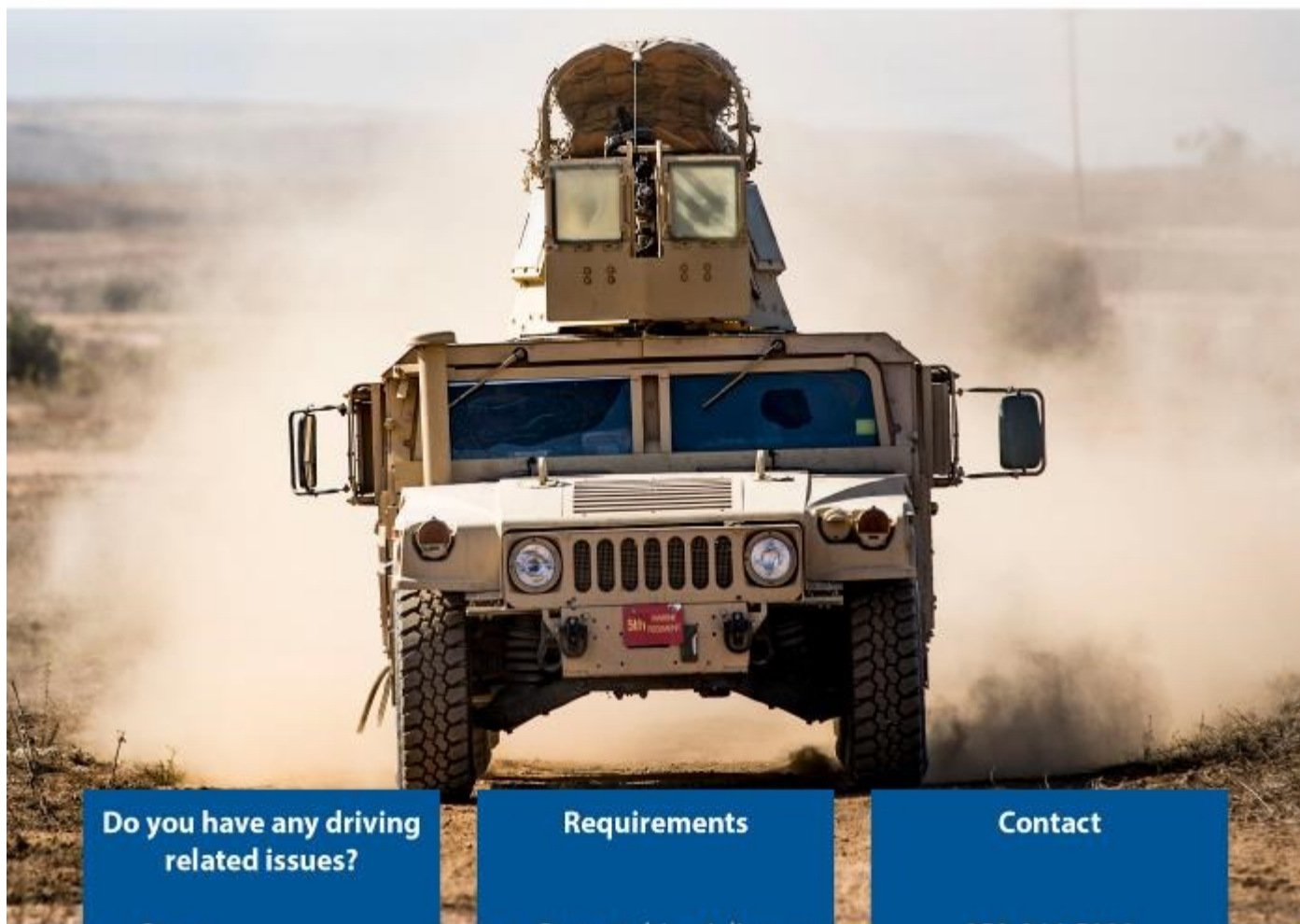
Be sure to stay plugged in to www.va.gov for the most recent developments around environmental hazards; VA is constantly conducting research and surveillance, as well as reviewing scientific literature for conditions that may be related to exposure during military service.

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





VETERANS DRIVING RESEARCH STUDY



Do you have any driving related issues?

- Stress
- Anxiety
- Speeding
- Anger
- Motor vehicle crash
- Citations

Requirements

- Current driver's license
- OEF/OIF/OND Veteran
- 18 to 60 years old

Contact

352-246-5089
or
352-273-6024

Take a picture of this flyer.

Veterans who participate can be paid up to \$250.00 based on study tasks completed. Their family member, caregiver or friend who completes a driving report can be paid \$25.00.

V4V

Community Outreach

Inform ★ Connect ★ Unite ★ Organize

Save the Date

February 19th 2022

Jacksonville Classical Academy

2043 Forest Street

Jacksonville, Florida 32204





2022 VA DISABILITY PAY RATES



ANNOUNCED 2022 COLA OF 5.9%	DISABILITY RATING									
	10%	20%	30%	40%	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%	100%
Veteran Alone	152.50	301.82	467.02	673.52	958.40	1,213.61	1,530.26	1,778.06	1,998.33	3,331.61
Veteran with Spouse	N/A	N/A	522.46	747.41	1,050.57	1,325.22	1,609.15	1,926.69	2,164.79	3,517.84
Veteran with 1 child only	N/A	N/A	504.45	721.99	1,019.86	1,288.16	1,616.79	1,876.92	2,109.72	3,456.30
Veteran with 1 child and spouse	N/A	N/A	563.76	801.42	1,118.35	1,406.77	1,754.46	2,035.77	2,287.63	3,653.89

ADDITIONAL										
Family member (not in VA)	N/A	N/A	44.48	59.30	74.13	88.96	103.78	118.71	133.43	149.10
Family member (not in VA) with 1 child only	N/A	N/A	27.53	36.01	45.54	55.07	64.60	73.07	82.60	92.31
Family member (not in VA) with Aid and Attendance	N/A	N/A	88.96	118.61	148.26	177.91	208.62	238.28	267.93	298.18
Family member (not in VA) with Aid and Attendance	N/A	N/A	50.83	67.78	85.78	101.66	119.67	136.61	153.56	170.38

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



WWW.VETERANSNETWORK.CLUB

What are suicide red flags for veterans?

PTSD (US Army / Released)

LYNN HULSEY - JOURNAL NEWS

Veterans commit suicide at higher rates than the general population, but experts say that the warning signs are similar for both groups.

“Many veterans may not show any signs of intent to harm themselves before doing so, but some actions can be a sign that a person needs help,” according to the Veterans Crisis Line, a free, confidential resource to assist veterans.

“Veterans in crisis may show behaviors that indicate a risk of self-harm.”

The risk factors do not always mean someone is considering suicide. But there are some that require immediate attention, according to the Veterans Crisis Line.

Those include: — Considering or researching ways to hurt or kill yourself — Talking about death, dying, or suicide — Self-destructive behavior such as activities involving drug abuse or weapons

Some other warning signs include: — Frequently sad or depressed — Hopelessness and feeling there is no way out — Anxiety, agitation, sleeplessness or mood swings — Feeling as if there is no reason to live — Feeling excessive guilt, shame or sense of failure — Rage or anger — Engaging in risky activities without thinking — Losing interest in hobbies, work or school — Increasing alcohol or drug misuse — Neglecting personal welfare and appearance — Withdrawing from family and friends — Showing violent behavior — Giving away prized possessions — Getting affairs in order or writing a will

You can take a confidential Veterans Self-check Quiz to learn if stress and depression may be affecting you. The quiz was created by the Department of Veterans Affairs, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

There are resources available to help people who are in crisis or struggling with thoughts of suicide. Those include: — National Suicide Prevention Lifeline — 1-800-273-8255 — Veterans Crisis Line — 1-800-273-8255 Press 1 or Text 838255 <https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/> — Dayton Veterans Affairs Medical Center Suicide Prevention Team 937-268-6511 Ext. 2675

For many, the biggest battles are after they come home...



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

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

Visit: www.thefirewatch.org/watch-standers to learn more.

Thanks!

Nick Howland

Executive Director, The Fire Watch

www.thefirewatch.org

904.525.1761



From Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley

Subject: VA Transportation Assistance

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

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

From Michael Isam

DAV van service to Gainesville returning on a limited basis.

Begins on Monday, 23 March 2021

The van will run on Monday and Wednesday ONLY

3 passenger limit

Masks are required to and from VAMC



The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs

If you are looking for a simple way to help Florida Veterans, consider upgrading to a military themed specialty plate when you renew your tag. Revenue from military themed specialty license plates sales supports capital improvements to our State Veterans' Homes. For more information, click here: <https://bit.ly/3gxSZ8c>



REQUIREMENTS

MILITARY

SERVED MINIMUM 90 DAYS ACTIVE DUTY,
1 DAY DURING WARTIME, WITH AN
HONORABLE DISCHARGE

MEDICAL

NEED FOR ASSISTANCE WITH ACTIVITIES OF DAILY
LIVING (ADLS) DUE TO A NON-SERVICE CONNECTED
DISABILITY

FINANCIAL

INCOME AND EXPENSES IN RELATION
TO MEDICAL EXPENSES

VA RECOGNIZED WAR PERIODS	BEGINNING	ENDING
WORLD WAR II	Dec 7, 1941	Dec. 31, 1946
KOREAN CONFLICT	June 27, 1950	Jan. 31, 1955
VIETNAM ERA	Aug. 5, 1964	May 7, 1975
PERSIAN GULF WAR	Aug 2, 1990	End date to be set by law or Presidential Proclamation

MEDICAL SCREENING

The Veteran or surviving spouse must have a medical condition causing the need for assistance with activities of daily living (ADLs), such as bathing, dressing, grooming, using the toilet, preparing meals, and moving about safely).

MONETARY SCREENING

The veteran and or veteran plus spouse can have a maximum of \$129,094 in liquid assets. A primary residence and auto are not counted as part of the total liquid assets. Ongoing non-reimbursable medical expenses may reduce the annual countable income.

MAXIMUM PENSION AMOUNTS	PER MONTH	ANNUALLY
SURVIVING SPOUSE	\$1,244	\$14,928
VETERAN	\$1,936	\$23,232
COUPLE	\$2,295	\$27,540

From Lynn M Geiser
Here are the Aid & Attendance requirements and qualifications for 2021. This is for veterans and their spouses who qualify and need assistance with their Activities of Daily Living (ADL's).



Legal Aid for Veterans

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

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

1.866.486.6161

Call Today!

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



We Can Help With

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

Supported by the:



Become a Watch Stander with The Fire Watch

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Disaster Resources Available to Veterans

“Veterans and their families should be focused on their health and safety during the natural disasters,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie.

“VA is taking action to give those with pending debts greater flexibility during these challenging times.”

Health Care Assistance

If you have questions such as where to go for care or how to receive prescribed medications, VA has established a toll-free number for assistance in areas that have been impacted by disasters. Veterans or their families can call the VA Veterans Disaster Response line 24 hours, seven days a week at 1-800-507-4571.

Debt Relief

If you are affected by a natural disaster, have a VBA benefit debt and need temporary financial relief, please contact VA's Debt Management Center at 1-800-827-0648 to request assistance.

If you have questions on Compensation or Pension benefits: Call toll-free 1-800-827-1000 Monday - Friday 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. CST.

Other Resources

Find a VA Vet Center near you 877-WAR-VETS (927-8387) or <https://www.va.gov/find-locations>

Mobile Vet Centers and Vet Center teams are actively responding to disaster-affected areas to offer counseling and grief support as well as connection and referral services to other VA and community resources.

Find a VA facility near you <https://www.va.gov/find-locations>

Call the White House VA Hotline 24 hours a day, seven days a week at 1-855-948-2311.

Apply for \$500 grant for your damaged primary residence (on a first come, first serve basis subject to funding) from PenFed Foundation.

National Resource Directory - Search for local resources for Veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors.

FEMA - FEMA helps with temporary housing, repair or replacement of existing homes.

American Red Cross - The American Red Cross offers emergency financial assistance to the most impacted counties. Please call 1-800-733-2767 to see if you qualify.

Disaster Assistance – An easy way to determine if your zip code has been declared a disaster and eligible for assistance. The website also allows users to complete an online application and the ability to check FEMA application status.



Florida veterans and military families have a new resource to receive the care they need thanks to a partnership dedicated to serving this most deserving population.

Centerstone and the Cohen Veterans Network have joined forces to offer compassionate, targeted behavioral health care for Post 9/11 veterans, National Guard, Reservists, their families and active duty family members at the Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at Centerstone, Jacksonville. <https://centerstone.org/cohen-military-family-clinic/jacksonville/>. The clinic’s skilled clinicians and staff have been trained to work specifically with veterans and their families, and some are veterans themselves. Services offered include individual therapy for children, adolescents and adults, couples therapy, family therapy, groups and workshops.

“Military families are some of the most resilient people you will ever encounter, but a life of service often gives way to invisible wounds and unique challenges that are difficult to navigate,” Elizabeth Sherr, clinic director said. “We understand those challenges and stand ready to support our veterans and their loved ones with effective, personalized care right now.”

The clinic’s ability to meet the needs of veterans and their families quickly is vital in today’s mental health environment where gaining access to care can often be daunting - with long wait times and all too common barriers to overcome. The Cohen Clinic at Centerstone is committed to reducing these barriers. Not only are military families currently able to receive same day appointments, the clinic also offers all therapy services via telehealth - breaking down time and distance concerns that can sometimes be problematic.

“We want to make getting help as easy as possible for our veterans and family members,” Brigadier General (ret.) Michael Fleming, the clinic’s outreach director said. “Sometimes just reaching out for help is difficult enough, and we want to ensure we meet this step with compassion and ease.”

For the time being, in an effort to ensure the safety of clients and team members amidst the COVID-19 physical distancing guidelines, that includes conducting all services via CVN Telehealth or telephone. Studies have shown telehealth has the same efficacy as in-person counseling and the clinic’s therapists are well trained in the delivery of this care. Additionally, front desk staff still have complete access to answer the appointment line during business hours, as before, and veterans, military families and outside organizations can continue to call directly for an appointment.

Veterans, National Guard, Reservists, their families and active duty family members may contact the clinic at (904) 431-3500 to schedule appointments. Clinic hours are:

Monday	8:00am – 5:00pm
Tuesday	8:00am – 5:00pm
Wednesday	8:00am – 7:00pm
Thursday	8:00am – 5:00pm
Friday	8:00am - 12:00pm

For more information on clinic services log on to <https://centerstone.org/cohen-military-family-clinic/jacksonville/> or call the appointment line at (904) 431-3500.



You sacrificed for our country.

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

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

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

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

SILVER CREEK

THE FUTURE OF SENIOR LIVING

165 Silver Lane | St. Augustine, FL 32084 | SilverCreekRetirement.com



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

Assisted Living Facility #12928

Vietnam Veterans of America

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



Chapter/President/email/Location

1046	Tony D'Aleo	adaleo5579@gmail.com; Duval
1048	Rod Phillips	cobra101st@gmail.com; Daytona
1059	David Treffinger	dtreffinger433@msn.com; Clay
1084	Joan Whitfield	jlwbeach@bellsouth.net
1088	Roy (Corky) Rudd	corkstopper50@yahoo.com; Nassau
1092	Forest Hope	foresthope@usa.net; Gainesville
1134	Marvin Lagle	mdlagle@gmail.com; Baker



PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO MEET VETERANS' UNIQUE NEEDS

Advance Care Planning

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

Palliative Care

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

Hospice Care

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

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

Complementary Therapies

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

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

We Need Volunteers

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

WE HONOR VETERANS
Partner

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

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



Along with traditional reimbursement for hospice services, we offer payment options to veterans with TRICARE. As with all Community Hospice & Palliative Care patients, we provide care and support to all who need it, regardless of their ability to pay.

VET 007 5/20



SURVIVOR OUTREACH SERVICES

Strength
built on
Sacrifice

Your Florida SOS Team

St. Augustine Area

Keith Ham
Support Coordinator
310 Charlotte Street
St. Augustine, FL 32085
(904) 823-0157 (desk)
(904) 472-7689 (cell)
keith.c.ham.ctr@mail.mil

Tallahassee Area

Matthew Reeves
Support Coordinator
1225 Easterwood Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32311-3599
(850) 617-0192 (desk)
(850) 459-6630 (cell)
matthew.p.reeves.2.ctr@mail.mil

Orlando Area

Shinekqua Baines
Support Coordinator
9500 Armed Forces Reserve Drive
Orlando, FL 32827
(407) 240-5939 ext. 1743
shinekqua.l.baines.ctr@mail.mil

Tampa Bay Area

LaShawnda S. Strother
Support Coordinator
2801 Grand Avenue
Pinellas Park, FL 33782
(727)-563-3647
lashawnda.s.strother.ctr@mail.mil

Miami Area

Support Coordinator
9301 NW 33rd Street
Doral, FL 33172-1202
(305) 437-2178

Scholarships & Application Deadlines

There are two primary VA Programs offering educational assistance. While federal benefits do not technically have a due date, it is important to apply as early as possible.

The Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship (Fry Scholarship) is currently available for children of those who died in the line of duty after September 10, 2001. Beginning January 1, 2015, Fry Scholarship will also be available for surviving spouses of those who died in the line of duty after September 10, 2001.

The Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA) Program offers education and training opportunities to eligible dependents of Veterans who are permanently and totally disabled due to a service-related condition or of Veterans who died while on active duty or as a result of a service-related condition.

Application Deadlines for surviving children

Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation

No set amount, available for children of those who died in the line of duty or of a service-connected disability. No application due date.

Freedom Alliance

Scholarships of up to \$5,000 for children of those who died in the line of duty. No application due date.

Fisher House Foundation/ Heroes Legacy Scholarship

Amount varies, for children of those who died while on active duty on or after September 11, 2001. Applications available from early December to March 14.

Special Ops Warrior Foundation

Amount varies, for surviving children of Special Operations Service Members who died in the line of duty. Applications due at least sixty days prior to the start of the semester.

Deadline for multiple relationships

Army Emergency Relief Fund

Amount varies, for surviving spouses and children of soldiers who die while on active duty or in retiree status. Applications available from January 2 to May 1, 2015.

Application Deadlines: For surviving spouses

Aspire

\$3,000 scholarships per semester for spouses of those who died on active duty. Applications due by October 31 for spring semester and June 30 for fall semester each year.

National Military Family Association

\$500 to \$2,500 scholarships for surviving spouses of those who died while on active duty on or after September 11, 2001. Applications available from December 1 to January 31.

Pat Tillman Foundation

Amount varies, scholarships for surviving spouses of those who died on active duty, in veteran status, or in retiree status. Applications available from February 1 to March 6.

Application Deadlines: For surviving siblings

Matthew Freeman Project

\$1,000 scholarships for siblings of those who have died in the line of duty. No application due date

Deadline for multiple relationships

Folds of Honor

\$5,000 scholarships for surviving spouses and children of service members who die in the line of duty or from a service-connected disability. Applications available from January 15 to March 15.

Disclaimer: The information presented in this newsletter is for informational awareness only and does not represent endorsement, sponsorship, recommendation, or promotion of any commercial events, commercial names or brands by the editors of this Newsletter, the Department of Defense, US Army, US Navy, US Air Force, US Coast Guard, National Guard, Reserve, or the federal government. Usage of commercial or trademark names is for identification purposes only.

FLORIDA SURVIVOR OUTREACH SERVICES AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY



Survivor Outreach Services provides long-term support and advocacy for families of the fallen. Our support coordinators and financial counselors are dedicated to helping survivors from all eras understand and apply for benefits as well as stay connected to the Army family for as long as they desire.

Although Survivor Outreach Services is the focus of this newsletter, please know that all branches of the Armed Forces are equally committed to taking care of surviving military families. Please contact us, and we will connect you with additional resources that may be available for your branch of service. To find the Survivor Outreach Services location nearest you, check out the map on this page, or visit www.sos.army.mil.



Mission Statement:

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



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

What the Council has done:

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

SA-0003147064-01

Veterans Crisis Line

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

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

STAND BY THEM
Confidential help for Veterans and their families

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE
1-800-273-TALK (8256)
suicidepreventionlifeline.org

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

Military/Veterans Crisis Line

1-800-273-8255

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

Confidential chat at MilitaryCrisisLine.net or text 838255

Veterans Councils of Northeast Florida



BAKER COUNTY

President: Larry Porterfield

Meetings:

Second Thursday of each month

Location:

MacClenny Primitive Baptist Church
Fellowship Hall on North Boulevard

Time : 1800 (6pm)

CLAY COUNTY

President: Harry Silvers

Meetings:

First Wednesday of each month

Location:

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

Time: 1400 (2pm)

DUVAL COUNTY

President Steve Spickelmier

Meetings:

Third Tuesday of each month

Location:

American Legion Post 37
Main Building
San Juan Avenue

Tome: 1900 (7 pm)

NASSAU COUNTY

President: Mike Doran

Meetings:

First Thursday of each month

Location:

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

Time: 1900 (7pm)

St. Johns County

President: Bill Dudley

Meetings:

Last Thursday of each month

Location:

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

Time: 1900 (7pm)

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



We are inviting all veterans to visit our website at:

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

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

Please join our group on Facebook at:

<http://veteranscouncilsjc.org>

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

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

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

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

He can be contacted at webmaster@veteranscouncilsjc.org

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

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

Send to: rothfeldm@gmail.com



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(physical location)

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

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

*Service is by appointment.
Phone: 904-209-6160 Fax: 904-209-6161
Joseph McDermott, SR VSO
Travis Neidig, Assistant VSO
Angela McKenzie, 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.