



The Patriot Reader Newsletter

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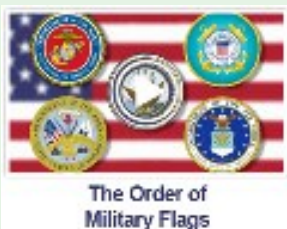
Volume 15, Issue 2

From Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley

February 2025

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Fellow Veterans,
As we head into the new year, I would like to reflect back on 2024 and the many things the Veterans Council achieved during the year. A more detailed accounting of the year is included in this edition of the Patriot Reader but I would like to highlight in my Chairman's letter some of the accomplishments of the Council and to give credit to many of the volunteers who stepped forward during the year to make these accomplishments possible. Our biggest event of the year has become our annual signature event by honoring all veterans on Veterans Day. The VDP committee works diligently for most of the year to make this program a huge success. Each of the members of this committee were recognized at this years Veterans Day Program at Anastasia Baptist Church. These are all volunteers who give unselfishly of their time.

Memorial Day is our second biggest event that is spear-headed by our local MOAA-ACC Chapter. This is also accomplished with volunteers from both organiza-

tions that gather each Memorial Day at St. Augustine National Cemetery to honor those who gave their all in the service of our country.

An event that has grown exponentially over the past several years is the Wreaths Across America program held the second Saturday of December each year. This program has grown in attendance from about 50 attendees when the Veterans Council assumed responsibility for the program several years ago to over 450 this year. Our commitment to assure every headstone in the St. Augustine National Cemetery has a Holiday wreath each year has been honored and we have a plan in place to assure the continued success of this program. Again, this has all been made possible by our volunteers and the community that purchases wreaths each year.

In partnership with Home Again St. Johns, we were fortunate to be able to purchase a local motel in March and repurpose it into a facility to house homeless veterans. Given the name Veterans Village, it has been highly successful in providing shelter for 20 veterans that were previously homeless on the streets, sleeping in their cars or couch



surfing. It has also been instrumental in assisting the veterans with finding employment, obtain a case worker, assist with VA benefits, and other needs. Home Again St. Johns has the management responsibility while the Veterans Council provides veterans guidance. These programs receive a lot of visibility as they involve our local citizens in the community. What isn't evident is the many things the Veterans Council does on a daily basis to help our veterans in need such as financial assistance with rent, utilities, home and car repairs, transportation, food, insurance, housing, and many other needs that the Veterans Council provides. These will be provided in more detail in a year end report in this newsletter.

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

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



Upcoming Speakers

January 30, 2025

Katie Eller, Director of Development, HorsePlay Therapy Center
Robert Speta, US Navy Veteran, First Coast News Meteorologist

February 27, 2025

Maggie Beckerman, VP/Trainer, K9Line, Inc.
Dr George Ann Rice, Patriots to Education, Zoom presentation

March 27

Anne Kazel, Author of West Point '41
Bataan. North Africa. Sicily. Omaha Beach. The Ardennes. West Point 41: The Class That Went to War and Shaped America is an uplifting story of ordinary young men in extraordinary times, in extraordinary places, who graduated directly into the teeth of battle and displayed unwavering leadership, honor, duty, and determination.

April 24

Matt Mildorf, Outreach Recruiting Mgr, Warrior Scholar
Ron Howard, the National Pathfinders Assoc. Mission

May 29

Rich Possert, Operation New Uniform
James Smith, Holly Powers, St. Augustine Lighthouse

June 26

Rick McAllister, Vietnam "Tunnel Rats"

A Summary of the Council's Activities for 2024

Our Council was established in July 2001 by proclamation of the SJC Board of County Commissioners.

The VC has grown exponentially since that time and today is considered one of the most active and engaged Councils in the State supporting our veterans.

Each year, the VCSJC working with the local MOAA Chapter conducts a Memorial Day Service at the St. Augustine National Cemetery. We also host a Veterans Day program each Nov. 11 at Anastasia Baptist Church that is attended by well over 1000 attendees.

In December each year we conduct the Wreaths Across America program at SANC that usually has about 500 in attendance.

The Veterans Council was responsible for establishing a Veterans Treatment Court about 8 years ago that has been highly successful. We have graduated 116 veterans from the program to date. We currently have 40 veterans in the pipeline.

In March of this year, the VCSJC in collaboration with Home Again St. Johns purchased a motel in St. Augustine and have repurposed it into a homeless shelter for veterans. This has provided us with the ability to remove over 20 homeless veterans from the street.

In addition to the above activities, the VCSJC meets with needy veterans on a very regular basis to provide them with help with their financial needs such as rent, food, insurance, car payments, house and automobile repairs, utility payments, security deposits and first month rent when moving into apartments or a house. We also purchase gas cards as well as food cards for those veterans who are in need of gas and food. We conduct a monthly visit to Aldi's to restock the food pantry at the local VSO office. The Veterans Council has a goodly amount of donated clothing and household furniture that we pro



vide those veterans and their family who are in need of such. 2024's total expenses for veterans assistance was \$130,733.

In addition to the above items that all have a financial implication, we assist veterans with assistance in arranging for honor guards for funerals, Memorial services, and other similar needs by family members.

We support two local high schools JROTC program honor cadets with a \$1000 scholarship each year at graduation. We recently made a \$1000 donation to the Young Marines in Jacksonville to help with their upcoming trip to Pearl Harbor. We also participate in the St. Joseph's Academy Veteran's Heritage Project and donate \$1000 to support this program each year.

The secretary of the Veterans Council provided a Thanksgiving meal to all the veterans housed at Veterans Village as well as each of the staff.

The Veterans Council provided two donated vehicles to veterans during the year as well as several bicycles and E-Bikes.

A huge assortment of donated clothing was provided to hurricane victims in Western North Carolina and more will be donated as we accumulate a sufficient quantity.

Our income for the Council comes from donations from local organizations, various grant programs, individual donations, estate settlements, and gifts in kind. Our income for 2024 was slightly over \$144,000

Our Board is made up of all volunteers and no member of our Board receives any compensation.

Bill Dudley

Chairman

Veterans Council of St. Johns County. Inc.

**Wreaths Across America, St Augustine
National Cemetery 2024**
photos from Jerry Hanchett, by David Watt





From Rick McAllister

Saturday morning, January 11, 2024 volunteers removed the wreaths from the headstones at the National Cemetery. The wreaths were placed there on the December 14 Wreaths Across America ceremony. Thank you to all who helped.



On Friday December 27th members of the **Florida National Guard** toured Quarters 1 during the annual open house in St. Augustine, Fla. Major General John D. Haas, The Adjutant General of Florida, and his wife, Mrs. Lisa Haas, welcomed members to the historical Officers Quarters that were built to house military officers in 1882. General of- ficers for the #FLNG have traditionally resided in Quarters 1 through- out their appointed terms. The annual open house granted members of the FLNG and support assets the opportunity to tour the home and learn more about its rich history.



Vietnam Voices

The Town of Hilliard and VFW Post 10095 have partnered to bring "Vietnam Voices", a special program to honor Veterans in Nassau County. This will include a heartwarming display of the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall which will be placed at the Northeast Florida Fairgrounds from April 17 - April 21, 2025. The Vietnam Traveling Wall is a 3/5 scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. and honors the sacrifices made by those who served in the Vietnam War. Having it placed in Nassau County will give our community the opportunity to reflect, honor and remember.

"Vietnam Voices" will also include a special Veteran Dinner on April 18, 2025 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at the Callahan Fairgrounds. This heartfelt evening will feature a delicious meal provided by Mission BBQ and allow Veterans to come together, share stories and enjoy a memorable evening. All Nassau County Veterans are invited to participate. Pre-registration is required. Reserve your spot today by clicking the link below. There is no cost to participate.

If you have any questions, please contact the Town of Hilliard at (904) 845-3555.

Registration Link: <https://www.ticketleap.events/.../vietnam-veteran-dinner...>

Town of Hilliard, Florida



Four Chaplains Interfaith Service

February 3, 2025 - 10am

6112 POW-MIA Memorial Parkway

Jacksonville, FL 32221

In the early morning hours, on February 3, 1943, the American troopship **USS DORCHESTER** was torpedoed by a German submarine in the North Atlantic. After saving many lives, the Four Chaplains -- two ministers, a priest, and a rabbi gave their own life jackets to four GIs and went down with the ship.

Four Chaplains Day, observed on February 3rd each year, commemorates the heroic actions of four military chaplains during World War II. On February 3, 1943, the troop ship SS Dorchester was torpedoed by a German U-boat in the North Atlantic.



Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield

Retiree Appreciation Day

March 22, 2025

University of Central Florida Student Union
12715 Pegasus Drive, Orlando, FL 32816

Presentations From:

U.S. Army Retirement Services Office
Florida Department of Veteran Affairs
Surviving Spouses Briefing

Registration begins 8:00 A.M.; **Presentations** begin at 9:00 A.M. **Meet representatives from the different agencies during the RAD Information Fair, 1300 - 1500 hours**



Walk-in registration can be accomplished at the event – “We” want you there!
All branches welcome.

Pre-Register at: <https://2025RetireeAppreciationDay.eventbrite.com>

Follow us on Facebook at:
www.facebook.com/FtStewartRSO

ONCE A SOLDIER, ALWAYS A SOLDIER... A SOLDIER FOR LIFE!

Receive Services | Understand Benefits | Learn about Programs & Initiatives | Socialize

MOPH Chapter 316 presented a plaque to Volusia County Veteran Services Director Bob Watson.

Watson has helped hundreds of veterans receive military benefits and services. Watson's dedication to his country, his fellow veterans, and community, is a testimony to his character. Cheers to your retirement and to a veteran who has given so much.

Enjoy your well deserved retirement.



VETERANS COUNCIL OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY
MINUTES OF GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
DECEMBER 19, 2024



CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Dudley

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS: Chairman Dudley

INVOCATION: Chairman Dudley

PLEDGE: Chairman Dudley

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: Minutes of last meeting conducted November 21, 2024, were presented by Chairman Dudley. Copies of the Minutes are available on the sign-in table and were sent to members electronically by the Secretary. The minutes were approved by voice vote with no changes.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Mountcastle presented the Treasurer's Report to the Council. As of November 20, 2024, the Council's total liquid cash balance was \$178,581.56. Treasurer Mountcastle went over the Treasurer's Report including all incoming funds and expenses going out. The floor was open for any questions. The Treasurer's Report was approved by voice vote with no changes.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW GUESTS: New attendees introduced themselves and who they represent.

SPEAKERS:

ALISON SIMPSON, COMMAND HISTORIAN, FL NATIONAL GUARD

Alison Simpson presented the Veterans Council with a slideshow presentation on the history of the Florida National Guard. The slideshow depicted the complete history, from the inception of to today's Florida National Guard, during her presentation. The floor was open to any questions.

STEPHEN HUDSON, FOUNDER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AI READY VETERAN

Stephen Hudson presented the Council with his background information, including his service in the military. Mr. Hudson is the Executive Director AI Ready Veteran. AI Ready Veteran is a 501(c)3 program that helps the Veterans returning to civilian society with their transition from active duty. The platform of AI Ready Veteran is available to all Veterans and their families. Mr. Hudson gave a thorough, detailed slideshow presentation on what can be accomplished by Veterans in their return to civilian life through AI Ready Veteran. The information provided can be obtained on the website AIRedyVeteran.org. The floor was open for questions and answers.

VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE, MAC MCDERMOTT

Mr. McDermott spoke of the VA's implementing a new model of scheduling appointments with the VA clinics. The new application is known as ISS -Integrated Scheduling System. It will consolidate several scheduling applications into one location. This will help Veterans scheduling appointments in a more complete and timely manner. There are many complaints about the current system and hopefully this will correct the ease of scheduling. Mr. McDermott spoke of helping the widows of Veterans obtain the DICA compensation. If the

Veterans service-related disability caused his death, the widow can receive DICA compensation. With the “10-year rule” (Veteran has received disability for over 10 years), the widow will receive the benefit no matter the cause of death and it is immediately granted by the Veterans Administration without the Veteran Service Officer having to complete the paperwork. The Veteran’s Administration is now using AI to help get these benefits to the surviving spouse immediately,

Mr. McDermott gave an update on how the SJC Veterans Service Office is still in need of Service Officers to help with the influx of local Veterans coming for assistance. The procedure of hiring is in the process of happening.

VETERANS TREATMENT COURT, JOHN LESLIE

Mr. Leslie introduced himself and gave a history and what the Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) does for our Veterans in the legal system, now in its eighth year. Mr. Leslie gave an update on the VTC and the number of participants SJC has helped through the legal system process. There is always a need for mentors to help with the VTC program. Everyone was invited to attend the new Court Hearing for the VTC on December 20th. The floor was open to questions.

UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Dudley spoke of the Veterans Council teaming with Home Again St Johns and Florida Power and Light completing a lighting program to provide Holiday Lights to the Veterans Village. There was a big turnout for help, and everyone had a great afternoon. FPL has also given the Veterans Council a \$7,000 check to help with the installation of the flags at Veterans Village.

The Wreaths Across America Program was a remarkable success again this year – the Veterans Council’s 12th year of participating in the program. Every headstone in the National Cemetery in St. Augustine had a wreath placed on it. Veterans Council is already preparing for next year’s program with Wreaths Across America.

Chairman Dudley spoke of the Veterans Council helping the participants in the Veterans Treatment Court, some who have suffered financially this past year. The Veterans Council will hand out Christmas Cards on the December 20th court date with a gift card from Walmart for what their needs may be this Christmas. Anastasia Baptist Church also assisted with gifting these Veterans.

The Veterans Council is in good financial standing at this year’s end. It is because of all the grants that are applied for and the fact that this is a very giving community with great support with financial assistance.

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year was wished for all.

The floor was open for discussion and added information.

Next Veterans Council meeting will be held on Thursday, January 30th beginning at 7:00 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

William Dudley, Chairman

Jerry Domask's Triathlon: Faith, Family, and Giving Back

It's Sunday morning and a new day is dawning in Jacksonville Beach, Florida. The surf is up and early risers have come to catch a wave or a fish. 84-year-old Jerry Domask has come to take a swim.



"There's never a bad day in the ocean," Jerry told Growing Bolder. "Some of them are better than others."

Domask is easily the oldest member of the Duval Ocean Swimmers, a large group that swims a mile or two every day — rain, shine, or even in near tropical storm conditions.

"I love it. I swim year-round," Jerry shared. "It's always different. The ones that are the toughest are the ones you always remember, like anything in life."

"Jerry's inspires everybody," said Giancarlo Bertozzi, a younger swimmer in Jerry's group. "Twenty-two-year-olds look at him and go, 'Wow, he's still at it. That's incredible.' It shows that you can still really, really be strong, even as you get up there in age."

"I didn't really start swimming until I was 66," Domask said. "I started swimming between two buoys, 25 yards apart, and I'd hang on and hold on for dear life. Eventually, I built up to where I am now."

"The ocean is where I think. This is creativity. I feel at home. I feel part of the universe," continued Domask. "I'm getting better as I get older. I can do more, I can produce more. I have a greater amount of energy and discipline."

"I work in healthcare, and I work a lot with seniors, and having people like Jerry who demonstrate that you can go out and be active, and do the things you love, and be around people of all ages, does a lot to inspire seniors," said Kevin Kenney, a swimmer in Domask's group.

Swimming is only one of Jerry's passions. He's a world-ranked triathlete, a fine artist

whose paintings and sculptures are widely collected, a proud Vietnam Veteran and a widower who lost his wife of 60 years not long ago and still celebrates their love daily.

Mary is buried at The National Cemetery in Jacksonville, Florida where Jerry was commissioned to create a Vietnam Memorial welcoming Veterans home. He's contributed to multiple veterans exhibits, including creating a provocative series of paintings for an exhibit called Reflections, Vietnam War 45 Years Later in which he dealt with his own post-traumatic stress disorder. Jerry not only speaks for Veterans through his art, but he also counsels them in person.

"I call them my foxhole buddies," Domask shared. "If you haven't been in a hostile environment, people that haven't been there will never understand, and everybody comes back changed."

In his mid-80s, despite enduring the trauma of war, losing friends and his beloved wife, despite some serious health challenges, Jerry Domask continues to live a life he loves. He's determined to make a difference in the lives of others and believes he's stronger, wiser, and more creative than ever.

"I can do anything," says Domask. "I do not want to be repetitive. I want to go where I have not gone before. That's my freedom. All I have to do is appease myself. I'm more creative. I'm fearless."

Jerry Domask is a man of many talents and one whose life is guided by three principles:

"It's faith, family, and giving back," says Domask. "Absolutely no question about it. If you got that, there's nothing left."



Major Dade's Fateful Day

During the early morning hours of December 28, 1835, light rain started and the temperature had dropped. The troops shivered as they dressed and prepared for the day. Overcoats were put on over their muskets, cartridge boxes and bags to keep them from getting wet. Everyone was confident- they had made it through five days of marching and were less than 40 miles from Fort King. There had been no direct contact with Seminoles- they felt they could move quicker and without as much caution because of that lack of contact.

As the troops made their way into what is now Dade Battlefield Historic State Park, they had no idea most of them would not survive the day. Unbeknownst to them, they were surrounded by Seminoles, camouflaged by the natural surroundings. Chief Micanopy rose from his hiding place, fired a shot and hit Major Dade, the bullet traveling straight through his heart. Approximately 180 Seminole warriors rose from under palmettos and behind trees and, within seconds, half the command was wounded or killed. The soldiers immediately reacted but struggled with their overcoats to get to their muskets and cartridge boxes before they could return fire. Troops were directed to build defensive walls out of logs called a breastworks. Over the next few hours, troops and Seminoles continued to fight each other. All but three soldiers were killed on that day and one of those soldiers was killed while attempting to make it back to Fort Brooke. Of the 180 Seminole warriors who fought in the battle, three lost their lives. This battle started the Second Seminole War which lasted until 1842. It was the longest and deadliest of any of the Indian Wars.



'Light at the end of the tunnel': How K9s for Warriors helped a St. Augustine veteran

**K9s For Warriors helps a St. Augustine
resident find hope through recovery**



Lucia Viti, St. Augustine Record



Statistics show that nearly 20 military veterans in the U.S. commit suicide every day, and many find it difficult to adjust to civilian life.

K9s for Warriors pairs military veterans suffering from PTSD, traumatic brain injury and military sexual trauma with service dogs raised by volunteers or rescued from shelters.

Founded in 2011, the St. Johns County-based organization procures dogs from animal shelters, including some that are high-kill shelters euthanizing more than 1,000 dogs a day. Dogs are also donated or surrendered by owners.

Dogs selected for the program are trained to empower veterans to live independently with dignity.

“Our program allows us to save rescue dogs in conjunction with saving Veterans’ lives,” K9s for Warriors says on its website. “To date, our team has rescued more than 2,000 dogs.”

Becca Stephens of St. Augustine is one of the beneficiaries of the program.

Stephens served in the U.S. Army but later suffered a 10-year drug addiction, only to land on her feet with a K9 canine by her side. Today, she leads a life of service, giving back to those sidelined by addiction and poor decisions.

The St. Augustine Record: Please share your military background.

Becca Stephens: I joined the U.S. Army in 2007 and remained on active duty until 2011. I worked with computers and radios as a single support specialist. I served in Iraq between 2009 and 2010. I was stationed in



For Lewis in Washington State when my contract ended, so I stayed. Not long into civilian life, my character changed. I became depressed, angry and moody. I exhibited symptoms of PTSD without knowing that I had it.

The St. Augustine Record: Did you understand what was causing you to feel this way?

Becca Stephens: Adjusting from active duty to a civilian lifestyle and mindset was difficult. Every day you're deployed is a day of life or death. The mission comes first. We're told where to go, at what time, and what the day's goal will be. Everything you do must be done perfectly because you, or someone you work with, could die. While the camaraderie and support levels are different, soldiers are willing to die for their fellow soldiers. Working and living missions together allows you to bond through traumatic experiences.

That kind of camaraderie doesn't exist in the civilian world. Civilians live their own lives with a lack of compassion and understanding for their brothers and sisters. Civilians will kick you when you're down. Soldiers and civilians are just not on the same wavelength. How soldiers think and work every day is different from how civilians go about their days.

My symptoms became so bad, I barely left the house. I self-medicated, which quickly snowballed into an opioid addiction. Painkillers then snowballed into a heroin addiction. I was extremely suicidal. I was no longer a person. I was an addiction living inside of a human body. I couldn't make decisions. My addiction

controlled every thought and every motivation.

The St. Augustine Record: Where was your family during this time?

Becca Stephens: My mom used her retirement money to rescue me from an apartment I was getting evicted from because I stopped paying rent. We packed the car and drove to Clearwater, Florida, where I was born and raised. Mom said she went from praying that I wouldn't overdose to praying that she'd get that call to know that I was finally at peace. That was really hard to hear.

The St. Augustine Record: Was living in Clearwater with family and friends better for you?

Becca Stephens: My addiction picked up in Clearwater. You can change people, places and things, but you can't change who you are unless you change your behaviors. It didn't matter where I was. I was an addict who manipulated my parents and friends and blew through \$30,000 in savings. For 10 years, I lived a cat's life, in and out of rehab, outpatient therapy and trying to detox on my own. I suffered several overdoses.

You would think that overdosing would show me that my life was in shambles, and yet, it never did. I always went back to the addiction.

The St. Augustine Record: Where did you get the money for drugs?

Becca Stephens: I received \$1,000 a month from the VA as disability pay. I stole and pawned everything that wasn't nailed to the ground. I always found a way to pay for the drugs. I worked for Pet Smart until working got in the way of my addiction. I then worked in a small bagel shop whose owners saw me through my addiction and helped me get clean.





The St. Augustine Record: How did you find K9s for Warriors?

Becca Stephens: In 2018, during my third inpatient rehab, a counselor suggested a career working with animals based on how happy I was around my partner's dog.

I went down the Google rabbit hole and found K9s for Warriors, who said that they “Rescued a dog to rescue a veteran.”

The St. Augustine Record: Were you sober?

Becca Stephens: I was newly sober, but I didn't know what the world was like. I had no self-worth or the motivation to even get out of bed. Hope for a future with independence and dignity were the missing pieces of the puzzle that had become my life.

I applied to K9s, got accepted and went from inpatient rehab to campus training, where I was paired with Bobbi, a dog recently returned by a veteran. I learned that she went from a puppy raiser family to K9's campus training kennels, to a veteran, back to K9s and then to me, all in a little over a year.

At first, I thought she hated me because she didn't exhibit the affection that I craved. I dug deep and realized that she just didn't know me. At that point, I wanted to be the best version of myself for a dog that was going to work hard for me. So, together, from scratch, we learned how to live our lives as part of the K9s for Warriors community. We clicked and graduated.

The St. Augustine Record: Tell us about being an ambassador for K9s for Warriors.

Becca Stephens: Serving as an ambassador for K9s has been incredibly rewarding. In recovery we say, “we keep what we have by giving it away.” Sharing my story enabled me to heal and build character and confidence to become who I really am. I've learned how to trust and work with people. I learned how to be social. With

Bobbi by my side, it's been a whirlwind of hard work, but I am so very grateful.

The St. Augustine Record: How did Bobbi help you heal?

Becca Stephens: K9s' dogs are trained to mitigate PTSD symptoms so veterans don't have to focus their energy on what's going to trigger us, especially in public. I give Bobbi the reins knowing that she'll enable me to trust myself and dig deep to work on the big picture without worrying about having a panic attack. Without that anxiety and distress, I can focus my time and energy on the task at hand. Bobbi gives me hope. She's the light at the end of the tunnel.

As my companion for the last six years, Bobbi completely changed the way that I feel about myself and the world around me. Bobbi is my soul mate. Because she's picky about giving affection, she taught me how to accept love in ways different than what I wanted. I grew to accept and appreciate her love and trust. People are surprised at how she stares at me but, we're cemented as a team and she's just doing her job. We take care of each other.

The St. Augustine Record: I understand you're working with Sheriff Hardwick. Tell us about what you're doing today.

Becca Stephens: I met Sheriff Hardwick in Tallahassee while I was giving a speech at the State Capitol's Rotunda Building.

After hearing my testimony, he not only offered to help, he invited me to do what I was doing for him. But because of my history, I didn't trust the police, so I brushed him off. So, Sheriff Hardwick maintained a supportive relationship for the next two years, consistently calling to support my recovery journey. I learned to trust him and, flash forward, I'm working at the St. John's County Jail as a case manager for inmates, speaking to them before they're released about substance abuse, mental health treatments, housing and job opportunities. We give them resources to make better decisions for a better quality of life.

The St. Augustine Record: How has this affected you?

Becca Stephens: My addiction used to be the only thing I could do well. Today, I'm using my addiction as a positive member of the community to speak about my recovery to inmates who are going through what I went through.

The St. Augustine Record: Is there anything else you would like to say about K9s?

Becca Stephens: When I tell a struggling veteran about K9s, I often hear that veterans don't want to take a dog away from someone who might need it more than they do because veterans are taught to take care of everybody around them before themselves, when in reality, the best way to take care of everyone around you is to take care of yourself first.

Veterans deserve hope.



American Legion Post 194

On Jan 10th The American Legion Post 194 hosted their Prostate Cancer Roundtable Pancake Breakfast. If you missed it you missed a great presentation/discussion from AJ Merriweather (AL Post 197, PHEN/Prostate Cancer Advocate/survivor), Dr. Fullwood - Mayo Clinic, and Quincy Wimberly (Jada) - Program Coordinator Mayo Clinic Research CoL-LaB. Those in attendance heard real life testimony on how men deal with the news that they have prostate cancer. You definitely had to be there! As you can see from the pics the information was well received. Please be on the look-out for the next one & plan to attend.



Col Dave Hamilton passed on January 5, 2025 at the age of 102.

His life and birthdays have been celebrated and recognized for so many years. All Pathfinders owe him and his family a great debt of appreciation and gratitude for his bravery!

Below is a reference to his service during 2023.

**Ron E Howard, Treasurer,
National Pathfinder Association,
Former 82nd ABN Division, Pathfinders
First In, Last Out**



Last living C-47 Pathfinder D-Day pilot celebrates 101st birthday at AirVenture
Aviation News, Posted By: Haley Davoren, GlobalAir.com

The last living WWII C-47 Pathfinder pilot who flew in many missions, including the D-Day invasion, is celebrating his 101 birthday at AirVenture, honored by the Commemorative Air Force and the D-Day Squadron. Lt. Col. David Hamilton turned 101 on July 20 and his life and aviation achievements will be celebrated Thursday and Friday at AirVenture.

On Thursday, Hamilton will be at the WWII Encampment in the Warbirds area. Friday, Hamilton can be found at the CAF Tent in the Warbirds area and later at the Salute to Veterans parade. He will speak with reenactors and airshow attendees, even with the WWII aircraft crews on the flight line. He can be seen wearing his Class B uniform and Class A uniform throughout the various celebratory engagements.

Hamilton was just 21 when he piloted aircraft number 14 of 20 C-47s that took off on the evening of June 5, 1944 and carrying "Pathfinders" from the 82nd Airborne to drop behind enemy lines in Normandy, France. The Pathfinders made the jump at about 1:00 a.m. on June 6 with a primary mission to set up electronic homing equipment and help guide the aerial armada of more than 800 C-47s, already on its way across the English Channel and just an hour behind. From those aircraft, 13,000 paratroopers would drop into Normandy and begin the Allied invasion of Europe and bring about the end of WWII.

“We cannot express how honored we are to host Dave with our friends at the CAF, at the largest gathering of WWII aircraft, aircraft owners, aviation enthusiasts and patriots in the world,” said Eric Zipkin, director of operations for the D-Day Squadron and pilot for the C-47 Placid Lassie in a press release on Warbird News. “Dave joined us in 2019 as we flew 15 C-47/DC-3 type aircraft to Europe from North America to commemorate DDay75 and Berlin70. Many of these aircraft flew during WWII and are D-Day veteran aircraft. He got a chance to fly several of our C-47s, and even pilot a C-47 on the cross-channel formation from Duxford, UK to Normandy, France on June 5, 2019.”

That flight with the D-Day Squadron was Hamilton’s second time flying a C-47 across the English Channel into Normandy. His first flight was for Operation Overlord on June 6, 1944 dropping paratroopers behind enemy lines. The DDS, in collaboration with the CAF, is planning a return to Europe in mid-May next year for the 2024 Legacy Tour. DC-3 variants representing WWII and Cold War aircraft will travel from the U.S. to the United Kingdom, crossing the English Channel to Normandy, France and then on to Berlin, Germany and Venice, Italy. The 2019 trip, as a part of the 75th-anniversary celebration, included period-correct uniforms and jumping out in parachutes as the soldiers did in 1944. The trip is still being organized as the historic anniversary tour takes a great deal of preparation time and cost.

“We look forward to replicating this in 2024, as once again, more than 150 parachutists will fill the skies, symbolizing freedom, the sacrifices made during the Normandy invasion, and the overall war effort!” DDS Executive Director Lyndse Costabile said. “Many of the aircraft in the formation were beautifully restored C-47s that had seen battle over the beaches of Normandy in 1944,” Costabile continues. “We hope that we will have this honor again next year.”

The restored aircraft are flown by retired service members and experienced civilian pilots. The crews are volunteers and fly with the honor and privilege of flying one of the historic warbirds carries. The C-47 is one of the most iconic planes of the war, performing missions all over, including in North Africa, Burma, New Guinea, Normandy and Holland.

At AirVenture, the DDS has seven DC-3 type aircraft and several are planned to fly in the warbird show on Friday and Saturday. A booth is set up to display the vintage aircraft, including a C-47 “Miss Virginia,” a fully restored DC-3 type.

SOGCast 029: Tom Waskovich Shut Down the Ho Chi Minh Trail in SLAM Operation

[SOGCast 029: Tom Waskovich Shut Down the Ho Chi Minh Trail in SLAM Operation](#)

THOMAS R. WASKOVICH BIOGRAPHICAL PROFILE

Tom lives in St. Augustine Beach

Tom Waskovich (pronounced Wass - KO - vich) was a Department director with Ocean County Government and was previously employed as the Township Administrator of Howell Township Tom was appointed Director of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans' Administrative Services on May 16, 1988. He had been serving as Deputy Director of the Division of Veterans' Programs and Special Services before his appt.



Tom enlisted in the Army right after graduating from Trenton's St. Anthony's High School (now McCorristin) in 1966. Following his training as a paratrooper and completion of the Officer Candidate Course, he was sent to Kontum, Vietnam, where he served as an infantry officer and green beret leading a long-range reconnaissance team for special operations. He later led a reaction force platoon which was involved in all areas of Southeast Asia.

Upon his separation from the service, Tom earned an associate's degree in liberal arts from Mercer County Community College, where he received an Excellence in Acting Award and was president of a veterans' fraternity, Alpha Sigma Mu. He went on to earn a bachelor's degree in anthropology from Monmouth College in West Long Branch where he graduated cum laude (with honors). The Lanoka Harbor resident also served as Asst. County Road Supervisor and as Clerk of the Board of Ocean County Board of Freeholders. He also served as mayor of Lacey Township and had worked as a television program host on Cable channel 8 in Bayville.

Tom is married and has four children, enjoys jogging and backpacking, was a major in the U.S. Army Reserve, and is active in many veterans' organizations. Service Awards Air Medal Bronze Star Vietnamese Service Vietnamese Campaign Vietnamese & American Jump Wings Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry Army Commendation Medal for Heroism Combat Infantryman's Badge



Otis W. Leader, a World War I Choctaw code talker.

“I’m so thankful that his blood runs in our veins,” said Tewanna Anderson-Edwards of her great uncle Otis W. Leader, a World War I Choctaw code talker.

Leader, a corporal in the Army’s 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, once destroyed a machine gun nest singlehandedly after some of his men had been killed, capturing two machine guns and defeating 18 enemy soldiers in the process.



He would go on to receive the Purple Heart, the Silver Star Medal, the Victory Medal and French Croix de Guerre with Palm, among other awards.

General John J. Pershing even once referred to Leader as one of the “war’s greatest fighting machines,” according to the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

But despite those accolades, Leader and other WWI code talkers — service members who used Indigenous languages to create undecipherable communications — still haven’t received the recognition they deserve, Edwards believes.

“There’s just no telling how many lives they saved,” Edwards told Military Times.

A move to rectify that, however, may be on the horizon.

Leader is one of a group of Indigenous veterans who are currently being reviewed as potential recipients of the Medal of Honor — more than a century after they served. In all, roughly 12,000 Native Americans served during World War I.

“It’s my ultimate goal to see that he gets his due recognition. ... He so de-

served it,” Edwards said. “He wasn’t just a code talker, he was a war hero.”

Leader’s eligibility for the Medal of Honor comes as part of the World War I Valor Medals Review Act, which was passed as part of the 2018 National Defense Authorization Act.

The law allows for a review of actions by non-white veterans who served in World War I to determine whether select acts of valor, which were during that period often diminished due to one’s skin color, warrant the nation’s highest military honor.

To qualify, veterans from various racial backgrounds must have been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, French Croix de Guerre with Palm or have been recommended for a Medal of Honor.

Once such a service record is brought to the attention of the Army or Navy, the associated branch reviews the record and issues a determination regarding award status.

As part of that process, the Pentagon was advised to collaborate with the Valor Medals Review Task Force, a joint operation run by the World War I Centennial Commission and Park University’s George S. Robb Centre for the Study of the Great War.

Dr. Timothy Westcott, the Missouri-based department’s director, told Military Times he first became interested in the subject after he saw a university presentation during Black History Month about Sgt. William A. Butler, a Black war hero who was nominated for, but never received, the Medal of Honor.

In September 1918, George S. Robb — the department’s namesake — was recommended for a Medal of Honor on the same piece of paper as Butler.

While Robb would go on to receive the nation's highest military decoration, Butler would be presented a Distinguished Service Cross.

From there, Westcott got involved with the Centennial Commission, which oversaw the Valor Medals Review Project and Task Force and researched veteran service records to make retroactive award recommendations to the Pentagon and Congress.

When the commission disbanded in 2024 after completing the National World War I Memorial in Washington, the Robb Centre took charge of that effort.

So far, Westcott and the department have identified 214 service members from World War I who met the criteria for Medal of Honor eligibility. Of those, 24 are Indigenous veterans.

“We have submitted 56 [total] nomination packets,” he said, noting that the process is particularly grueling. “It takes us about six to nine months to write a nomination packet, and those are approximately 150 to 165 pages in length each.”

Of the 56 packets Westcott's team has submitted, 49 have been sent to the Army. The other seven have gone to the Navy.



Pedro Menendez High School has relaunched the Veterans Commemoration Project at Veterans Stadium. We believe this project serves to honor Bill Mignon, a celebrated Army veteran, our former principal and many like him in our community.

We hope that this provides friends and families with the opportunity to commemorate and memorialize those closest to them who are or have served in our Nation's armed forces, protecting the values and ideals that makes the United States of America the nation that it is today.

Please see the flyer below for information as to how to donate to this very worthy cause.



Honoring all who served
VETERANS STADIUM
Purchase a commemorative brick today!



\$20
*minimal proceeds used for
campus beautification

Commemorative Bricks to commemorate and memorialize friends and family who have served in our nations armed forces.

Bricks will be placed at the entrance of Veterans Memorial Stadium at PMHS

Bricks can be purchased by visiting <https://schoolpay.com/pay/for/Veterans-Stadium-Commemorative-Bricks/SdmqozN> or by contacting Pedro Menendez High School at 904.547.8653

A 21 Gun Salute

A 21-gun salute is the most commonly recognized of the customary gun salutes that are performed by the firing of cannon or artillery as a military honor. As naval customs evolved, 21 guns came to be fired for heads of state, or in exceptional circumstances for heads of government, with the number decreasing with the rank of the recipient of the honor. While the 21-gun salute is the most commonly recognized, the number of rounds fired in any given salute will vary depending on the conditions. Circumstances affecting these variations include the particular occasion and, in the case of military and state funerals, the branch of service, and rank (or office) of the person to whom honors are being rendered.

History

The custom stems from naval tradition in the sixteenth century, when a warship would show its peaceful intent by firing its cannons harmlessly out to sea until its ammunition was depleted. Since cannons then required a considerable time to reload, the ship was effectively disarmed, signifying the lack of hostile intent. In the earliest days, seven guns was the recognized British national salute. In those days, gunpowder made from sodium nitrate was easier to keep on dry land than at sea. The early regulations stated that although a ship would fire only seven guns, the forts ashore would fire three shots to each one shot afloat, hence the number 21

Odd numbers were chosen, as even numbers indicated a death.



2025
Happy
New Year

**From The Staff, Volunteers
and Supporters of the
National POW/MIA
Memorial & Museum**



**We Will Always
Honor All Former Prisoners of
War; Remember and Never
Forget Those Missing In Action
Heroes and the Families Who
Seek Their Return.**

GREEN BERET CHARITY



GOLF TOURNAMENT

10th Annual Green Beret Charity Golf Tournament

The Golf Club at South Hampton, 315 S. Hampton Club Way, St. Augustine, FL 32092
Friday, May 16, 2025

Special Forces Association Chapter 88 is a non-profit 501(c)(19) veteran service organization in Northeast Florida serving the greater Jacksonville area. One of our primary missions is to promote and support the general welfare of the U.S. Army Special Forces community, active, retired and veteran. Our annual charity fundraiser helps provides financial assistance to eligible members, spouses, children and grand-children in times of natural and unexpected disasters. We also award scholarship funds to graduating area high school JROTC seniors, and to support other area veterans and 501(c) support service organizations.

One of the Jacksonville area's best golf tournaments by far!

Golf Packages:

- **Foursome \$600** Includes 4 Golfers on a Foursome Team, golf fees, range balls, entry for door prizes, reception and a great BBQ dinner.
- **Individual Golfer \$150** Includes golf fees, range balls, entry for door prizes, reception and a great BBQ dinner. You will be paired up other single players.

Bonus opportunities also include Door Prizes, Longest Drive and Closest to the Pin contests, and a Possible Hole in One prize (Car).

Fire a real M-4 rifle modified to shoot your golf ball 400 yards downrange on Hole 9 and 17 (\$5 a shot) as an alternate to hitting your ball. There is no stroke penalty for using this fun tee-off alternate. A 2 to 3 stroke saver!

The BBQ Dinner is open to spouses and non-golfing friends (visit our golf registration website for tickets).

Sponsorship Packages:

- **Title Sponsor \$8,000** Includes 8 Golfers in 2 Foursome Teams, Company Banner
- **Platinum Sponsor \$5,000** Includes 8 Golfers in 2 Foursome Teams Company Signage
- **Player Gift Sponsor \$1,500** Includes 2 Golfers and Color Signage
- **Closest to the Pin Sponsor \$500** Full color signage on the hole
- **Long Drive Sponsor \$500** Full color signage on the hole.
- **Putting Contest Sponsor \$300** Full color signage on putting green.
- **Hole Sponsor \$100** Full color signage at the golf course



For Golfer and Sponsor Information contact Mr. Wade Carroll at wdcarrroll9@comcast.net or call (904) 868-3861
 Or Mr. Steve Meeks at stephen_meeks@yahoo.com or call (904) 669-1628

Tournament Agenda

Registration and Range Opens
 Proceed to Carts
 Shotgun Tee-Off
 Fire M-4 tee shot on holes 9 and 17 (\$5.00 a shot)
 Longest Drive Hole
 Closest to the pin on all Par 3's
 Putting Contest
 Reception
 Awards and Prize Ceremony
 BBQ Dinner

Time

9:30 AM
 12:00 PM
 12:30 PM
 On Course
 On Course
 On Course
 At Turn
 After Tournament
 Club House
 Club House

Conveniently located an easy 3.6 miles west of I-95 at Exit 329 in north Saint Johns County



COME JOIN US FOR A GREAT DAY OF GOLF AND A WORTHY CAUSE!



To Register Online: Scan the QR Code
 Or go online to: greenberetcharitygolf.com

By Mail, download a form and mail it to us.

Submitted by: David Treffinger

President, Vietnam Veterans of America

Col. William G. Byrns Chapter 1059, Clay County, Florida

Here is Clay County Military information about the TAPS Monument in Green Cove Springs. This is the only monument that recognizes the 66 fallen Clay County residents dating back to the Civil War. There are 21 fallen from the Vietnam War.

We will be holding a Vietnam War Veterans Ceremony at the TAPS Monument on Saturday, March 29. It will be 50 years ago that we left Vietnam.

I have included a photo and a story from when the monument was dedicated in 2017.

TAPS Monument Fact Sheet

The TAPS Monument will be dedicated to the 66 Clay County veterans who lost their lives during combat, dating back to the Civil War.

Where: Clay County Historical Triangle, 915 Walnut Street, Green Cove Springs, FL. The new permanent memorial replaces the old monument.

Monument Sculpture: Richard C. Rist, The Large Art Company, Baltimore, MD

Sculpture Details: The four-sided, 5 feet by 5 feet granite monument will have the names of all Clay County Fallen Warriors inscribed. Topping the memorial will be the TAPS sculpture which measures 44 inches tall and a 32-inch base and 23 inches on each side. The high-quality bronze sculpture is finished in a traditional chocolate brown patina was designed by Richard C. Rist, a Navy veteran who owns The Large Art Company of Baltimore, MD.

The sculpture rests on a triangular base which represents a folded American flag. The three rifles – a 1903 Springfield that was used in WWI, a M-1 Garand rifle from World War II and a M-16 rifle to represent the modern era – form a pyramid with the barrels down to symbolize the fall. The stocks of the rifles come together to form the pyramid which is topped by a “steel pot” combat helmet that was used in WWI until Vietnam. A Civil War-era bugle on the base serves to bring the composition together.

Monument Designer: Craig R. Seaton, Broadus Raines Funeral Home, Green Cove Springs

Granite: The jet-black granite came from the same quarry as that of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Diamond Etching/Engraving

Charles Custom Memorials, Lake City

Monument Details: “Remember Our Fallen” will be carved on all four sides of the Monument. The front panel has a dedication from Clay County and a quote from President Abraham Lincoln’s famous Bixby Letter. The other two panels list the names from the Civil War through the Global War on Terrorism, The four panel will be left blank for future conflicts.

The monument will sit on a concrete base surrounded by pavers, a major fundraiser by Monument committee and the Vietnam Veterans of America Clay County Chapter 1059. The bricks will have engraved dedications.

Bricks Pavers: Stone Plus, Inc., Middleburg

Brick Pavers Engraving

Monument Services, Daytona Beach

Research: Vishi Garig, Archives Specialist, Clay County Office of Tara Green,

Clerk of the Circuit Court. Garig did the historical and genealogical research on each individual and confirmed the names of the Fallen.

Cost: \$82,000. Completely funded by charitable organizations and individuals. Not one governmental dollar was used to fund the memorial.

History: The monument was first proposed 10 years ago by Clay County Commissioner chair Harold Rutledge. In March 2015, the current committee chaired by Gary Newman, President of the Vietnam Veterans of America Clay County Chapter 1059, held its first meeting. The committee has met monthly to date.

“The committee wanted a monument that would stand out for decades to come,” Newman said. “It means those veterans that have been forgotten for so long will be remembered.”

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1059: Chapter 1059 was chartered by Vietnam Veterans of America in January 2012. Gary Newman is the founder and president. He is also the current president. The chapter has 130 members which participates in various community events – The Clay County Fair, Chamber of Commerce member, Northeast Florida Military Museum, Middleburg Civic Association member and Veterans Treatment Court. Current officers: Gary Newman, president; Harry Silvers, vice president; Paul Haws Jr., treasurer; Darline Teel-Williams, secretary; board members: J.J. Thomas, George McCaffrey, David Treffinger.

Committee Members: CDR Pete Antonacci, USN (RET), Susan Aycock, Jack Biddle, Kim Biddle, John Bowles, Ernie Cohen, Dave Fieber, Vishi Garig, Honorable Gayward Hendry, Scott Iannucci, Amy Morie, Deb Mueller, Gary Newman (Chair), Mary Anne Newman, Greg Rawson, Dan Sanchez, Craig R. Seaton, Harry Silvers, Karen Thomas, David Treffinger, Care Valleau, Joseph Wiggins Sr., ESQ., Art Yeaman.

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FREE SERVICES

for Veterans

The St. Johns County Clerk of the Circuit Court and County Comptroller is proud to honor veterans, active-duty military, reservists, and dependents by offering **complimentary passport and wedding photos, notary services, and recording services for DD-214s in November.**



Richard O. Watson Judicial Center
4010 Lewis Speedway
St. Augustine, Florida 32084
904-819-3600

www.stjohnsclerk.com

Information about FL veterans organizations by county

ORGANIZATION	PHONE	PAGE	ORGANIZATION	PHONE	PAGE	ORGANIZATION	PHONE	PAGE				
POLK (Veteran Pop. 84,159) 1st CAVALRY 'A' TROOP meets @ VFW 2093 2nd Tues. AMERICAN LEGION POST 3 (863)633-8883 1575 HWY 17 S., Bartow, FL 33830 4 Lakes Veteran Crg 590 La Quinta Blvd, Winter Haven, FL 33881 AMERICAN LEGION POST 4 (863) 883-8710 1375 Ariana St., Lakeland, FL 33803 AMERICAN LEGION POST 8 (863) 293-7029 p 33 300 Ave. M, NW, Winter Haven, FL 33881 AMERICAN LEGION POST 34 (863)422-6940 107 11th St. N., Haines City, FL 33845 AMERICAN LEGION POST 71 863-689-6689 P.O. Box 442, Ft. Meade, FL 33841 American Legion POST 72 (863) 425-0644 1500 SR 37 N., Mulberry, FL AMVETS POST 32 (863) 688-3413 1339 E. Gary Rd., Lakeland, FL 33801 KOREAN WAR VETERANS Chapt. 158 (863) 533-7374 Buck Rogers 863-858-3558 buckingers65@earthlink.net meets @ Amer. Leg. Post3, HWY 17S, Bartow 3rd Saturday MARINE CORPS LEAGUE HEART OF FL #1107 863-207-4200 meets @ A.L. Post 6, 300 AVE. M, Winter Haven, FL 4th Thursday at 1830 hrs (6:30 PM) Military Order of Purple Heart Chpt 535-FL-4 407-350- 0224 Azaloe pk 1325 Grasslands Blvd, Lakeland, 33803 1st mon 6 POLK VETERANS COALITION 2938 Grasslands Dr., Lakeland, FL 33803 US Mil. Vets Motorcycles (863)294-5810 VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE Polk Cty. (863)634-6220 1290 Golfview Ave. Ste 116, BARTON FL 33831 VETERANS OF BATTLE OF BULGE 32 (863) 886-2121 330 E. Palm Dr., Lakeland, FL 33803 VA OUTPATIENT (866) 838-4400 p 66 2080 Meadowland Park., Lakeland, FL 33803 VFW POST 2297 (863) 887-5148 305 N. Central Ave., Lakeland, FL 33815 VFW POST 2420 (863) 876-9166 200 Central, Lake Wales, FL 33853 VFW POST 4289 (863) 293-7469 2441 7th St. SW., Winter Haven, FL 33880 VFW POST 6002 (863) 815-4777 6086 US 98N., Lakeland, FL 33810 PO 328, Kathleen 33849 PUTNAM Veteran Population 6,697 AMERICAN LEGION POST 45 386-328-8667 318 Osceola St., Palatka, FL 32177 AMERICAN LEGION 263 386-684-4464 145 S CR 315, Interlachen, FL 32148 FLEET RESERVE Branch 163 386-684-6289 207 Commonwealth Ave., Interlachen, FL 32148 PUTNAM COUNTY VETS SVC OFC, (904) 329-0327 PO Box 771, 2909 Cril Ave, Palatka, FL 32177 VFW POST 3349 386-328-2963 3201 Reid St., Palatka, FL 32177 VFW POST 10164 386-684-0839 1034 SR 20, Interlachen, FL 32148 (ALSO Amvets 1064)			SEMINOLE (Veteran Pop. 39,000) American Legion Post 53 407 678 9654 2544 Park Dr, Sanford, FL 32773 American Legion Post 183 (407) 831-8004 2706 Wells Ave., Fern Park, FL 32730 American Legion Memorial Post 242 http://videokolj.org/ 491 W Broadway St, Oviedo, FL 32765 AMVETS POST 17 (407) 322-2886 915-W, 11th Street, Sanford 32771 CASSELLBERRY VETERANS CLUB 407 260-1404 200 N. Concord St., Casselberry FL 32707 DAV 30 (407) 323-2710 3512 S. Orlando Dr., Sanford, FL 32773 FLEET RESERVE BRANCH 147 407-330-1708 3040 W. SR 46, Sanford, FL 32771 MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART Chapter 400 2651 Peory Dr., Oviedo, FL 32765 (407) 378-4560 PARALYZED VETS OF AMERICA (407) 326-7041 2711 S. Design Court, Sanford @200 N. Concord St., Casselberry, FL 3rd Sat @ 10am SEMINOLE CTY VETERANS SERVICES (407) 685-2347 520 W. Lake Mary Blvd Suite 100, Sanford, FL 32773 US SUBMARINE VETS (407) 222-8161 mtg @ Casselberry Vet, 200 Concord Dr Casselberry 32707 VA OUTPATIENT (386) 496-2080 p 55 2583 S. Volusia Ave. Ste 300, Orange City, FL 32763 VFW POST 5405 (407) 327-3151 420 N. Edgemoor Ave., Winter Springs, FL 32708 VFW POST 8207 (407) 339-6016 1520 N. Ronald Reagan Blvd, CR 427, Longwood, FL 32750 VFW POST 10139 (407) 883-9615 300 Lake Mills Rd, Chuluota, FL 32768 post10139@flvfw.com St. Johns (Veteran Pop. 17,554) AMERICAN LEGION POST 57 alp57adjutant@gmail.com PO Box 2204 St. Augustine, FL 32084 AMERICAN LEGION POST 233 (904) 285-2484 590 N. Wilderness TR., Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082 AMERICAN LEGION POST 194 (304) 412-1325 1029 Pearl St., St. Augustine, FL 32084 VFW POST 2391 (904) 797-5267 6184 US 1 S., St. Augustine, FL 32086 VFW POST 6696 (904) 446-8696 47 Old Kings Rd., Palm Coast, FL 32137 ST. JOHNS COUNTY VETS SVC OFC, (904) 209-6160 1955 US 1 S., Ste 590, St. Augustine, FL 32086 VVA Leo C. Chase chapter 1084 Pres. James Campeau St. Johns Co. campeaugames@gmail.com 904-315-6187 VVA Leo C. Chase chapter 1084 Pres. James Campeau St. Lucie (Veteran Pop. 36,852) AIR FORCE 3033 ASSOC 364 772-871-8687 1150 SW California Blvd, Port St. Lucie, FL 34953 AMERICAN LEGION POST 40 (772) 461-1280 610 US HWY 1, Ft. Pierce, FL 34950 AMERICAN LEGION POST 171 (772) 595-8798 1814 N 21st St., Ft. Pierce, FL 34960 AMERICAN LEGION 355 (772) 871-6667 1150 SW California Blvd., Ft. St. Lucie, FL 34968-0427 AMERICAN LEGION 358 (772) 595-8856 4350 Oleander Ave., Ft Pierce, 34982 AMVETS POST 15 (772) 464-7751 2024 SOUTH US 1, Ft. Pierce, FL 34950 Disabled American Veterans, Chap 113 772-671-6667 1150 SW California Blvd., Port St. Lucie, FL 34953 Jewish War Veterans, Chapter 705 772-871-6667 1150 SW California Blvd., Port St. Lucie, FL 34953 Korean War Veterans, Chapter 106 772-871-6667 1150 SW California Blvd., Port St. Lucie, FL 34953 MARINE CORPS LEAGUE DET. 688 1150 SW California, Pt. St. Lucie, FL 34953 PO Box 1765 (3475 Douglas Rd.), Ft. Pierce, FL 34981 VVA 566 (772) 579-5730 PO BOX 7365, Pt. St. Lucie, FL 34965 VFW POST 8058 (772) 464-1675 PO Box 1765 (3475 Douglas Rd.), Ft. Pierce, FL 34981 VVA 566 (772) 579-5730 PO BOX 7365, Pt. St. Lucie, FL 34965 SUMNER (Veteran Pop. 8,905) AMERICAN LEGION POST 18 401 E. Gulf Atlantic HWY, Wildwood, FL 34785 AMERICAN LEGION POST 62 (352) 444-2184 2287 North Cr 439 Lake Panasoffee, FL AMERICAN LEGION POST 101 352-660-0201 PO BOX 101, 2881 E.C-48, Bushnell, FL 3351 AMVETS POST 793 (352) 793-2054 @VFW POST 10084 CR 470, Lake Panasoffee BUSHNELL VA NATIONAL CEMETERY (352) 793-7740 6502 SW 102nd Ave., Bushnell, FL 33513 Sumner County Veterans Service Offices 352-689-4450 7375 Powell Rd., Wildwood, FL 34785 VFW POST 10084 (Lake Panasoffee) (352) 793-2064 PO BOX 391, Lake Panasoffee, FL 33538 VFW POST 10137 (352) 793-8511 6036 CR 618, Veterans Memorial Hwy., Bushnell, FL 33513 VOLUSIA (Veteran Pop. 60,090) AMERICAN LEGION POST 6 386-740-0622 1087 Biscayne Blvd, Deland, FL 32724 AMERICAN LEGION POST # 17 (386) 427-9007 619 W. Canal St., New Smyrna Bch., FL 32168 AMERICAN LEGION POST 120 386-258-5275 481 Walker St. Holly Hill, FL 32117 AMERICAN LEGION POST 2915 321-696-8272 or 386-532-7915 www.alp.255deltona.org			AMERICAN LEGION POST # 267 (386) 672-7676 156 New Britain Ave., Ormond Bch., FL 32174 AMERICAN LEGION POST # 270 (386) 788-8800 119 Howes St., Port Orange, FL 32127 AMERICAN LEGION POST 295 386-210-4926 4497 US HWY 1, Edgewater, FL 32141 AMERICAN LEGION POST # 361 (386) 780-3887 PO Box 4581, 2648 S. Ridgewood, S. Daytona, FL 32121 AMVETS POST 2 386-402-7602 1208 S. Ridgewood, Edgewater, FL 32132 AMVETS POST 13 (386) 943-9311 645 W. New York Ave., Deland, FL 32720 AMVETS POST 911 (386) 788-1014 5624 S. Ridgewood Ave, Pt. Orange, FL 32127 The West Volusia NOAA Chapter 368 479 3400Mtg monthly. Call Maj Curt Voebel or gtorc@gmail.com Thomas Jackson OW USA (RET) Thomas Jackson@outlook.com Military Order of The Purple Heart Chptr 316 386-690-9533Mtg @ VA Home, 1520 Mason Ave., Daytona Bch., July 7th 1pm VA OUTPATIENT (386) 323-7600 p 65 551 National Healthcare Dr., Daytona Bch, FL 32117 VET CENTER OF DAYTONA BEACH (386) 366-6600 1620 Mason Ave ste C, Daytona Bch, FL 32117 VA Deltona Community Based Outpatient Clinic p 65 1200 Deltona Blvd., Deltona, FL 32725 386-575-5000 VFW POST # 1590 (386) 292-5844 1013 Veterans Ct., Daytona Bch 32114 VFW POST # 2380 (386) 738-2380 510 S. Alabama Ave, DeLand 32724 VFW POST # 3282 (386) 761-7217 5810 S Williamson Blvd Port Orange 32134 VFW POST # 4250 (386) 423-1789 2350 Sunset Dr, New Smyrna Bch, 32168 VFW POST #603 (386) 668-8648 351 S. Charles Richard Beal Blvd (17792), DeBary, FL 32713			VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA CHAPTER 1048 386-690-8563 PO Box 290262 Port Orange, FL 32128 Volusia County Veterans Service Office 386-740-6102 123 W. Indiana Ave., DeLand, FL 32720		 www.FemaleVeteransNetwork.org Cynthia Henderson Founder/President 2015 cynthia@femaleveteransnetwork.org 2719 Woodbrook St. Lecanto, FL 34661 (813) 352-6284 (813) 352-613315	Meetings are September - May at 1:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month at Faith Lutheran Church fellowship hall 935 S. Crystal Glen Drive, Lecanto, FL. Female Veterans Network is selling commemorative pins recognizing Female Veterans. Pins are available at Mac-I Signs, 7068 Grover Cleveland, Homosassa and Citrus County Radio Stations 964 Crystal Glen Drive, Lecanto Call Cynthia Henderson: 352-628-6481  she wore these. It's our job to give her the best care anywhere. WOMEN VETERANS HEALTH CARE

At the St. Augustine Lighthouse

In 1782 on New Year's Eve, 16 British Loyalist vessels from Charleston, South Carolina wrecked on a sandbar off St. Augustine, Florida's historic inlet. The Storm Wreck was discovered in 2009 by underwater archaeologists with the Lighthouse Archaeology Maritime Program (LAMP) team.

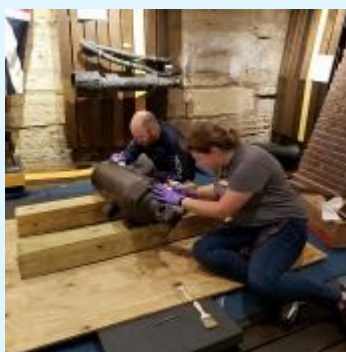
They excavated and unearthed scattered remains of the ship and its contents on the ocean floor from 2010-2015.

The conservation team has preserved thousands of artifacts, many on view in the Wrecked! Exhibit in the Keepers' House at the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum.

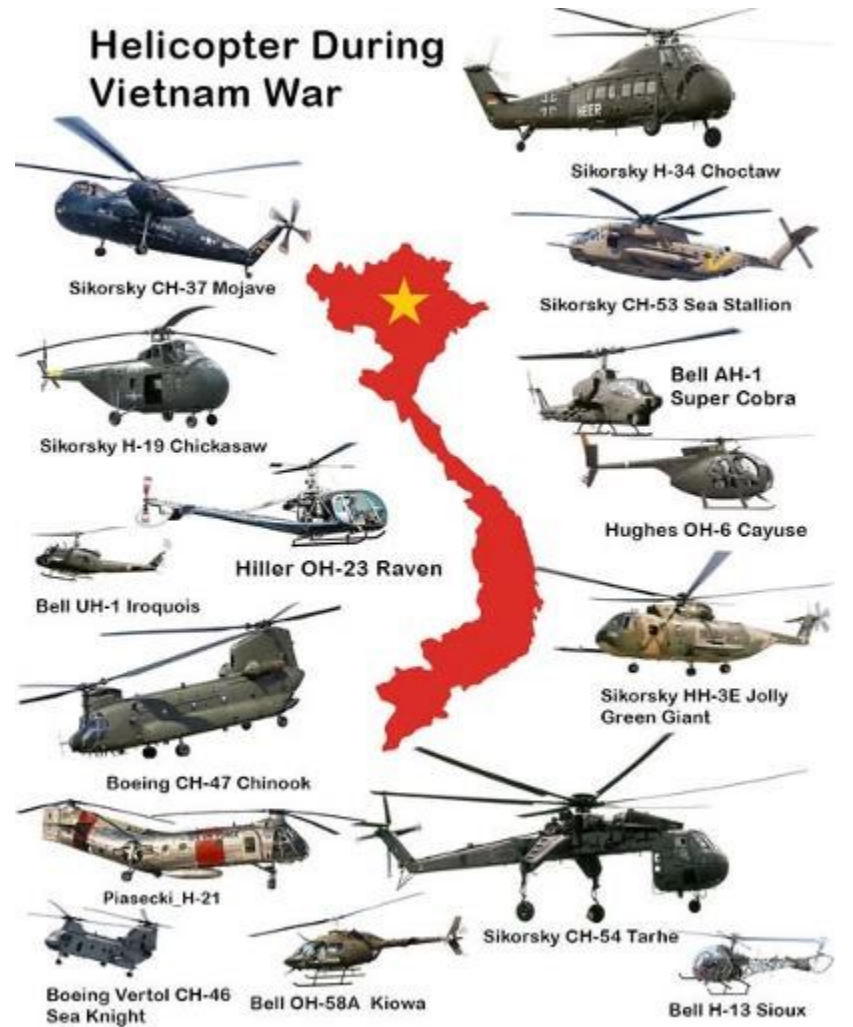
See cannons, muskets, pewter plates and spoons, caldrons, the ship's bell, buttons, coins, clothing irons, a tea kettle, navigational instruments, pistols, an ivory lice comb, a door lock, small mirror, padlocks, and dozens of other items!

The exhibit is on view with regular admission to the Light Station.

Details & Tickets: staugustinelighthouse.org



Helicopters during the Vietnam War



Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Which National Park is your favorite to use your free Military Lifetime Pass?

Don't have one yet? Don't miss out! Veterans, service members, dependents, and Gold Star families are eligible. Learn more: <https://www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/>





THE PLAYERS is proud of its longstanding tradition of honoring service members, veterans and their families.

Military Appreciation Day | Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Ceremony & Concert

4:30 p.m. | TPC Sawgrass | 17th Hole

Military Tickets

Complimentary admission will be offered to active-duty, retired, reserve, and National Guard members, along with one dependent, on Tuesday, March 11, and Wednesday, March 12, as well as one competition day (Thursday, March 13, to Sunday, March 16), while supplies last. Valid identification and credentials are required. Each ticket also includes a \$20 digital voucher, valid for food and nonalcoholic beverages on-site.

Veteran Tickets

Discounted admission will be offered to veterans and one dependent on Tuesday, March 11, and Wednesday, March 12, as well as one competition day (Thursday, March 13, to Sunday, March 16), while supplies last. Valid identification and credentials are required. Each ticket also includes a \$20 digital voucher, valid for food and nonalcoholic beverages on-site.

Patriots' Outpost presented by CSX

Service members, veterans and their families will have complimentary access to the Patriots' Outpost presented by CSX, an exclusive military lounge with complimentary snacks and beverages.

Fan Shop Discount

On Tuesday, March 11, active-duty, retired, and reserve service members will receive a 20% discount at the PGA TOUR Fan Shop in Stadium Village. This offer is valid on Tuesday only and requires a valid military ID at checkout.



THE PLAYERS

Optum | Morgan Stanley | COMCAST BUSINESS



From David “Flyboy” Shelton

Fellow PGR, Below is an updated schedule for the Vietnam and War on Terrorism Walls. September will be a busy month, so any assistance you can provide would be greatly appreciated.

FL PGR Vietnam & WoT Wall Schedule

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

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

Updated as of:
08/09/24

Date	Time		Duration	Wall(s)	Location	Comments
09/08/24	1200 hrs	Set-Up	7 Days	WOT	VA Hospital Lake Nona 13800 Veterans Way Orlando, FL 32827	Display in hospital main lobby
09/09/24 - 09/13/24		Display				9-11 Remembrance
09/14/25		Take Down				Ceremony 09/11/24 @ 1100 hrs
09/21/24	0900 - 1700 hrs	Set-Up / Display	1 Day	Vietnam / WoT	OB's Restaurant & Lounge 1750 N. Woodland Blvd Deland, FL, 32720	National POW / MIA Recognition Day 2024 CVMA 20-13 Event
09/27/24	1200 hrs	Escort	2 Days	Vietnam / WoT	American Legion Post 72 1500 N. Church Ave. Mulberry, FL, 33860	Fall Festival
	1400 hrs	Set-Up				Vietnam Vets
09/28/24	0900 - 1800 hrs	Display				ALR
10/25/25	1400 hrs	Set-Up	1 Day	Vietnam / WoT	American Legion Post 45 316 Osceola St. Palatka, FL, 32177	
10/26/24	0900 - 1600 hrs	Display / Take Down				
Possible escort of The Walls to the event						
11/02/24	0700 hrs	1700 hrs	1 Day	Vietnam / WoT	City Hall (across the street) 300 W. Plant St Winter Garden, FL, 34757	Challenge 22 Ruck Walk Suicide Awareness
11/10/24	1100 hrs	Escort / Set-Up	2 Days	Vietnam / WoT	Anastasia Baptist Church 1650 A1A S St. Augustine, FL, 32080	Veteran's Day Ceremony
11/11/24	0800 - 1100 hrs	Display / Take Down				Escort from Daytona to St. Augustine
03/29/25	1100 hrs		2 Weeks	Vietnam	VA Hospital Lake Nona 13800 Veterans Way Orlando, FL, 32827	Erect in hospital main lobby Vietnam War Veterans Day
Dates and times to be verified						
05/24/25	0800 hrs	Set-Up / Display	3 Days	Vietnam / WoT	City of Clermont Highland Pavilion Complex 330 3rd St Clermont, FL, 32711	Memorial Day Ceremony
05/25/25	1600 hrs	Take Down				Stage - Home Depot Rt. 50 Clermont, FL
11/10/25	1100 hrs	Escort / Set-Up	2 Days	Vietnam / WoT	Anastasia Baptist Church 1650 A1A S St. Augustine, FL, 32080	Veteran's Day Ceremony
11/11/25	0900 - 1100 hrs	Display / Take Down				Escort from Daytona to St. Augustine
03/28/26	0800 hrs	Escort / Set-Up	2 Days	Vietnam	Florida National Cemetery 6502 SW 102nd Ave. Bustnell, FL, 33513	Vietnam War Veterans Day
03/29/26	To be verified	Display / Take Down				
Dates and times to be verified						

National Pathfinder Association

JOINT AIRDROP: Logistics operation resupplies Comabt Outpost Chergotah

Published March 8, 2012, By Spc. Erik-James Estrada, Task Force Spartan Public Affairs

KHOWST PROVINCE, Afghanistan -- A joint airdrop operation between Task Force Spartan, the U.S. Air Force, the Afghan Border Patrol and local militia Arbici was conducted to resupply paratroopers of Task Force Blue Geronimo at Combat Outpost Chergotah, a first for the area, Feb. 28. Paratroopers from Task Force Blue Geronimo conducted a drop zone survey two weeks prior in an effort to find a safer alternative method to re-supply Combat Outpost Chergotah.

"This particular drop sets up for future drops, especially for the rebuilding of the COP," said Sgt. 1st Class Nathan Botts, assistant operations for S-3, 1st Battalion, 501st Infantry Regiment (Airborne), a native of Hermiston, Ore. "It really sets up the unit for success in being able to supply them with more equipment," A C-130 Hercules cargo aircraft was used in the joint effort to test drop 20 bundles of container delivery systems consisting of water and meals ready to eat, using low-cost high-velocity parachutes.

"None of the parachutes failed making for an easy recovery," said 1st Lt. Casey Dschaak, platoon leader for 2nd Platoon, Comanche Company, Task Force Blue Geronimo, a native of Belle Fourche, S.D.

"This method allows for more supplies to get in here, definitely giving us more 'bang for the buck.' It's safer. You're not moving huge convoys out here on the roads and there's so many supplies that you're able to store for future operations," added Dschaak.

Despite taking two rounds of indirect fire, the operation continued and there were no further incidents to jeopardize the paratroopers or the operation.

"I feel that the airdrop is safer, more expedient than a convoy because a convoy has to get mission prepped," said Spc. Larry-Pablo Flores-Berrier, a paratrooper with 2nd Platoon, Comanche Company, Task Force Blue Geronimo, hailing from Las Vegas. "And on top of that, the road has many dangers, which can be IEDs, or anything, and that brings more complications, where as (the airdrop) took a max three hours."





MILITARY SUPPORT RETREATS

GratitudeAmerica's Military Support Retreat (MSR) is a 3-night immersive & intensive program for the service member to attend **WITH** their primary adult support person (spouse, partner, close friend, etc). The retreat has a split focus on nature-based recreational activities and education via interactive workshops and group discussions.

MSRs are a breakthrough experience designed to enhance relationships and build connections between veterans (all branches & duty statuses welcome), first responders, and their closest support person who attends with them.

★ All accommodations, food, and activities are provided at no cost ★

Marineland, FL • Feb 20th-23rd

Thursday at 5:00pm – Sunday at 2:00pm

To learn more and apply, please visit our website at **GratitudeAmerica.org/retreats**

Please note: You must be 18 to attend, and childcare is not provided. Service member must bring a support person to attend.





★ Veterans Food Assistance Program ★

What?

Starting October 1st DVNF will be offering a one-time grant per veteran household to support their nutritional needs.

How to Apply

We have an online application that will need to be completed by the Veteran. The application can be found at <https://www.grantinterface.com/sl/dI4NjA>. The link will be open starting October 1st, 2024.

Veteran Qualifications

- Must have a DD214 or Veteran ID
- Was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable
- A letter of reference from a case worker or advocate may make the application more favorable.

Other Details

- This is not a monthly grant.
- The groceries will be delivered directly to the Veteran using Walmart or grocery store delivery service.
- Veterans can receive up to \$450 worth of groceries

For more information, please contact us: (202) 737-0522 - info@dvnf.org

VA TOBACCO CESSATION RESOURCES



COUNSELING

Counseling can help you develop a quit plan, build support, and prevent a recurrence of tobacco use.

- Call **1-855-QUIT-VET (1-855-784-8838)**, 9am – 9pm Eastern time, Monday to Friday, to speak with a quit coach.
- Ask your VA health care team about a referral to a treatment program:

[INSERT LOCAL GROUP INFO]



MEDICATIONS

Medications can help to reduce cravings and withdrawal symptoms when stopping tobacco use.

- Talk to your VA health care team about which medication may be right for you. VA offers varenicline, nicotine replacement therapy (patches, gum, lozenges, nasal spray), and bupropion. For a proven approach, combine medication with counseling.



TEXT SUPPORT

Sign up for **SmokefreeVET** to receive texts with tips and tools to beat cravings by texting **VET** to **47848**. Benefits of signing up for SmokefreeVET include regular text messages and extra support at your fingertips when you text the keywords URGE, STRESS, SMOKED, and DIPPED to 47848.



STAY QUIT COACH 2.0

Download Stay Quit Coach 2.0, a free VA app that helps you identify personal reasons to stop tobacco use, set your goals, and track your progress over time: mobile.va.gov/app/stay-quit-coach.



ONLINE RESOURCES

Follow the SmokefreeVET Facebook page for tips and encouragement from other Veterans: facebook.com/smokefreevet. Find VA resources and more tips for quitting at mentalhealth.va.gov/quit-tobacco and veterans.smokefree.gov.



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs



**Alton Green Memorial
American Legion Post 194**

Save the Date

19 SEPT 2025

77th Anniversary

GOLF
Tournament

**St. Johns Golf Club
4900 Cypress Links Blvd
Elkton, FL 32033**

Castillo de San Marcos

The oldest masonry fort in the continental United States, the Castillo de San Marcos National Monument is a large Spanish stone fortress built to protect and defend Spain's claims in the New World.

It's a National Monument, and at over 327 years old, it's the oldest structure in St. Augustine. It's also one of the main attractions visitors to St. Augustine come to see.

Regular daily programs and ranger-led tours are free with admission, as are cannon firings and weaponry demonstrations, which are offered (weather and staffing permitting) on Saturdays, and Sundays at 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

The Castillo is open every day of the year except Thanksgiving and Christmas Day.

<http://www.visitstaugustine.com/.../castillo-de-san-marcos>



Form 180 to get DD214

Standard Form 180 (Rev. 09/2011) (Page 1)
Prescribed by NARA (24 CFR 1231.1042)

Authorized for local reproduction
Previous edition unusable

OMB No. 3095-0029 Expires 04/30/2024

REQUEST PERTAINING TO MILITARY RECORDS

Requests can be submitted online using eVetBoes at <https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/>
To ensure the best possible service, please thoroughly review the accompanying instructions before filling out this form. PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY OR TYPE BELOW.

SECTION I - INFORMATION NEEDED TO LOCATE RECORDS (Furnish as much information as possible.)

1. NAME USED DURING SERVICE (last, first, full middle)	2. SOCIAL SECURITY #	3. DATE OF BIRTH	4. PLACE OF BIRTH			
5. SERVICE, PAST AND PRESENT (For an effective records search, it is important that ALL service be shown below.)						
	BRANCH OF SERVICE	DATE ENTERED	DATE RELEASED	OFFICER	ENLISTED	SERVICE NUMBER (If unknown, write "unknown")
a. ACTIVE				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
b. RESERVE				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
c. NATIONAL GUARD				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6. PLEASE LIST LAST FOUR DUTY STATIONS, IF KNOWN: 1. _____						
2. _____						
3. _____						
4. _____						
7. IS THIS PERSON DECEASED? <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES - MUST provide Date of Death if veteran is deceased: _____						
8. DID THIS PERSON RETIRE FROM MILITARY SERVICE? <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES						

SECTION II - INFORMATION AND/OR DOCUMENTS REQUESTED

1. CHECK THE ITEM(S) YOU ARE REQUESTING:

DD Form 214 or equivalent: Year(s) in which form(s) issued to veteran (Date of Separation): _____
This form contains information used to verify military service. An UNDELETED DD Form 214 is ordinarily required to determine eligibility for benefits. If you request a DELETED copy, the following items will be blacked out: authority for separation, reason for separation, reenlistment eligibility code, separation (SPD/SPN) code, and, for separations after June 30, 1979, character of separation and dates of time lost. Please note - recent veterans may be able to request a DD Form 214 through milConnect by visiting: <https://www.va.gov/records/get-military-service-records/>
An UNDELETED copy will be sent UNLESS YOU SPECIFY A DELETED COPY by checking this box: I want a DELETED copy.

Official Military Personnel File (OMPF): The OMPF may include duty stations and assignments, training and qualifications, awards and decorations received, disciplinary actions, administrative remarks, enlistment and/or discharge information (including DD Form 214, Report of Separation, or equivalent), and other personnel actions. Detailed information about the veteran's participation in battles and their military engagements is NOT contained in the record.

Medical Records: Includes health (outpatient), extended ambulatory, and dental records. If inpatient/hospitalization records are requested, please specify below.
 I request inpatient/hospitalization records from _____ (facility), last treated in _____ (year). (NOTE: Fields are required)
If available, you may receive copies of inpatient narrative summaries, operative reports, discharge summaries, etc. contained in the record.

Dental Records: Please check this box if ONLY dental records are needed from the medical record.

Other (Please Specify): _____

2. PURPOSE: (Providing information about the purpose of the request is voluntary; however, it may help to provide the best possible response and may result in a faster reply. Information provided will in no way be used to make a decision to deny the request.)
 Benefits (explain) Employment VA Loan Programs Medical Genealogy Correction Personal Other (explain)
Explain here: _____

SECTION III - RETURN ADDRESS AND SIGNATURE

1. REQUESTER NAME: _____	2. RELATIONSHIP TO VETERAN: _____
3. <input type="checkbox"/> I am the MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER OR VETERAN identified in Section I, above.	<input type="checkbox"/> I am the VETERAN'S LEGAL GUARDIAN (MUST submit copy of Court Appointment) or AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE (MUST submit copy of Authorization Letter or Power of Attorney)
<input type="checkbox"/> I am the DECEASED VETERAN'S NEXT-OF-KIN (MUST submit Proof of Death. See item 2a on instruction sheet.)	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (Specify): _____
4. SEND INFORMATION/DOCUMENTS TO: (Please print or type. See item 4 on accompanying instructions.)	5. AUTHORIZATION SIGNATURE: I declare (or certify, verify, or state) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the information in this Section 3 is true and correct and that I authorize the release of the requested information. (See items 2a or 3a on the accompanying instructions sheet. Without the Authorization Signature of the veteran, next-of-kin of deceased veteran, veteran's legal guardian, authorized government agent, or other authorized representative, only limited information can be released unless the request is archival. No signature is required if the request is for archival records.)
Name _____	Signature Required - Do not print _____
Street Address _____ Apt. # _____	Date _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP Code _____	
Daytime Phone _____ Fax Number _____	
Email Address _____	

Form 180 to get DD214

The various categories of military service records are described in the chart below. For each category there is a code number which indicates the address at the bottom of the page to which this request should be sent. Please refer to the Instruction and Information Sheet accompanying this form as needed.

BRANCH	CURRENT STATUS OF SERVICE MEMBER	Personnel Record	Medical or Service Treatment Record
AIR FORCE	Discharged, deceased, or retired before 5/1/1994	14	14
	Discharged, deceased, or retired 5/1/1994 - 9/30/2004	14	11
	Discharged, deceased, or retired 10/1/2004 - 12/31/2013	1	11
	Discharged, deceased, or retired on or after 1/1/2014	1	13
	Active (including National Guard on active duty in the Air Force), TDRL, or general officers retired with pay	1	
	Reserve, IRR, Retired Reserve in non-pay status, current National Guard officers not on active duty in the Air Force, or National Guard released from active duty in the Air Force	2	
	Current National Guard enlisted not on active duty in the Air Force	2	13
COAST GUARD	Discharged, deceased, or retired before 1/1/1898	6	
	Discharged, deceased, or retired 1/1/1898 - 3/31/1998	14	14
	Discharged, deceased, or retired 4/1/1998 - 9/30/2006	14	11
	Discharged, deceased, or retired 10/1/2006 - 9/30/2013	3	11
	Discharged, deceased, or retired on or after 10/1/2013	3	14
	Active, Reserve, Individual Ready Reserve or TDRL	3	
MARINE CORPS	Discharged, deceased, or retired before 1/1/1895	6	
	Discharged, deceased, or retired 1/1/1905 - 4/30/1994	14	14
	Discharged, deceased, or retired 5/1/1994 - 12/31/1998	14	11
	Discharged, deceased, or retired 1/1/1999 - 12/31/2013	4	11
	Discharged, deceased, or retired on or after 1/1/2014	4	8
	Individual Ready Reserve	5	
	Active, Selected Marine Corps Reserve, TDRL	4	
ARMY	Discharged, deceased, or retired before 11/1/1912 (enlisted) or before 7/1/1917 (officer)	6	
	Discharged, deceased, or retired 11/1/1912 - 10/15/1992 (enlisted) or 7/1/1917 - 10/15/1992 (officer)	14	
	Discharged, deceased, or retired 10/16/1992 - 9/30/2002	14	11
	Discharged, deceased, or retired (including TDRL) 10/1/2002 - 12/31/2013	7	11
	Discharged, deceased, or retired (including TDRL) on or after 1/1/2014	7	9
	Current Soldier (Active, Reserve (including Individual Ready Reserve) or National Guard)	7	
NAVY	Discharged, deceased, or retired before 1/1/1896 (enlisted) or before 1/1/1903 (officer)	6	
	Discharged, deceased, or retired 1/1/1896 - 1/30/1994 (enlisted) or 1/1/1903 - 1/30/1994 (officer)	14	14
	Discharged, deceased, or retired 1/31/1994 - 12/31/1994	14	11
	Discharged, deceased, or retired 1/1/1995 - 12/31/2013	10	11
	Discharged, deceased, or retired on or after 1/1/2014	10	8
	Active, Reserve, or TDRL	10	
PHS	Public Health Service - Commissioned Corps officers only	12	

ADDRESS LIST OF CUSTODIANS and SELF-SERVICE WEBSITES (BY CODE NUMBERS SHOWN ABOVE) - Where to write/send this form

1	Air Force Personnel Center AFPC/DP2SSM 550 C Street West JBSA-Randolph TX 78150-4721 Fax Number: 210-565-3134 Email: DP2SSM.MIL.RECS.INCOMING@USAF.MIL	6	National Archives & Records Administration Research Services (RDTIR) 700 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Washington, DC 20408-0361	11	Department of Veterans Affairs ATTN: Release of Information Claims Intake Center P.O. Box 4444 Janetville, WI 53547-4444 Fax Number: 844-531-7818 https://www.va.gov
2	Air Reserve Personnel Center Total Force Service Center: 1-800-525-0102 https://www.arpcc.af.mil/	7	US Army Human Resources Command's web page: https://www.hrc.army.mil/content/1113 or 1-888-ARMYHRC (1-888-276-9472)	12	Division of Commissioned Corps Officer Support ATTN: Records Officer 1181 Wooten Parkway, Plaza Level, Suite 100 Rockville, MD 20852
3	Commander, Personnel Service Center (BOPS-C-MR) M157260 US Coast Guard 1703 Martha Luther King Jr Ave SE Washington, DC 20593-7200 https://www.dcms.uscg.mil/omg/	8	Navy Medicine Records Activity (NMRA) BUMED Detachment St. Louis 4300 Goodfellow Boulevard, Building 103 St. Louis, MO 63120 Fax number: 314-360-8128	13	AF STR Processing Center ATTN: Release of Information 3370 Nacogdoches Road, Suite 116 San Antonio, TX 78217
4	Headquarters U.S. Marine Corps Manpower Management Records & Performance (NMMP-10) 2008 Elliot Road Quantico, VA 22134-5030 SMB.MANPOWER.MMP-10@usmc.mil	9	AMEDD Army Record Processing Center 3370 Nacogdoches Road, Suite 116 San Antonio, TX 78217 Fax Number: 210-301-8310	14	National Personnel Records Center (Military Personnel Records) 1 Archives Drive St. Louis, MO 63128-1002 https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/
5	Marine Corps Forces Reserve 2009 Opelousas Avenue New Orleans, LA 70114	10	Navy Personnel Command (PERS-313) 5720 Integrity Drive Millington, TN 38055-3130		

From R. Hernandez, I find it easier and quicker if a Veteran goes to the National Archive Records Administration site NARA.gov. when the Get the email back they will ask for a password which is the request number.



The Fire Watch

Our stand against Veteran suicide took great strides forward in 2024, with The Fire Watch's network of individuals and organizations trained to identify and support Veterans in crisis continuing to grow and have a positive impact throughout Florida – thank you to all the Watch Standers and Veteran Safe Places that have joined our mission to end Veteran suicide in our state!



**WANT TO COMPETE AGAINST
AMERICA'S ELITE FORCES?
TAKE YOUR BEST SHOT!**



PRESENTS

MEMORIAL WEEKEND VETERAN GAMES

SATURDAY, MAY 24, 2025

AT SALTWATERS SHOOTING CLUB, ST. AUGUSTINE, FL

REGISTER AT WWW.OPERATIONBARNABAS.COM

\$200 PER INDIVIDUAL

Join us to honor those who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces while competing against RECON, MARSOC, SEALS, ARMY SF, and SWAT.

More Information Call: (850) 814 4320

Photo: Photo.com

37th Annual All Veterans Reunion May 8th-May11th, 2025!!



One of the Nations "Largest and Longest Running" Reunions!

PUBLIC IS ALWAYS INVITED TO ATTEND!

Reunion Date: May 8th—11th, 2025

@ Wickham Park in Melbourne FL

Reunion Information can be found at: www.veteransmemorialreunioninc.org

The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall and Some Gave All—The Moving Tribute are being donated for the duration of the Reunion by the VVB.

Wall escort will be on May 4th, departing the Eastern Florida State College (EFSC) Cocoa Campus @ 10am sharp and escorted to Wickham Park.

First Responders Honored and Requested to join in!

Scan here for all
of our links!



Family Friendly!

**There will be a
"Kid Zone"**

Vietnam Memorial Traveling Wall:
<https://travelingwall.us>



Wickham Park: 2500 Parkway Dr. Melbourne, FL 32935



- Health Care
- Education
- Earned Benefits

FDVA.VSO@FDVA.FL.GOV
727-319-7440



OPERATION STRONG & READY
A Military Wellness Program

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

STARTING JULY 30TH , 2024
OSR - VETERANS ONLY!

**To register stop by the
Welcome center or
email**
ehernandez@fcymca.org

Program Overview

Operation Strong & Ready (OSR) – "Veterans Only" is an 8-week/16 session program is designed to not only help our veterans get back into shape physically, but also mentally and emotionally. The program is held twice a week for approximately 1.5-hours. Each week a new topic will be discussed or a new resource will be provided to help better assist the veterans during their 8-week journey.

Program Goals

Increase participant's physical and mental health through exercise, peer support and educational resources.

Who Can Participate?

The program is open to any military veteran who desires to increase their physical activity, improve their overall health, and to connect with other like-minded veterans.

For more information, email our Military Outreach Program Coordinator, Eric Hernandez, at EHernandez@fcymca.org.

STRENGTHENING OUR MILITARY FAMILIES™
YMCA OF FLORIDA'S FIRST COAST | FCYMCA.org

Program Cost

Thanks to generous donations and sponsorships, this session is FREE for anyone qualified. Future programs may have a participant costs pending future funding.

Program Details

In a small group setting, an OSR Instructor will safely guide participants through 8 weeks of exercise programming designed specifically to meet the veteran's needs. The program consists of pre and post assessments, 16 exercise sessions with a certified instructor, healthy living and veteran resource discussions, and a YMCA membership for the participant and their immediate family members for the 8-week duration of the program.

The 90-minute OSR session consists of:

- ✓ Healthy-Living/Resources Discussions
- ✓ Warm-Up
- ✓ Teamed Cardio + Strength Workout
- ✓ Cool-Down

**Program will be held at
Dye Clay Family YMCA. We
will meet twice a week on
Tuesday and Thursday's
from
10:00AM – 11:30AM.**



2023 FACT SHEET

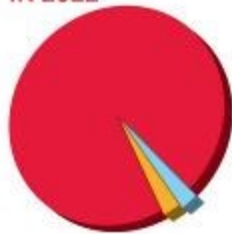
OUR MISSION

On September 11, 2001, FDNY firefighter Stephen Siller laid down his life to save others when America was attacked. For over 20 years, the Tunnel to Towers Foundation has honored Stephen's legacy by supporting the heroes who continue to risk life and limb in the line of duty.

To date, Tunnel to Towers has delivered over 1,000 mortgage-free homes to our nation's heroes and committed over \$500 million across all of our programs.

This year the Foundation is delivering over 200 mortgage-free homes to catastrophically injured veterans and first responders, Gold Star families, families of first responders who leave behind young children and more than 1,500 housing units to combat veteran homelessness.

ACCOUNTABILITY & TRANSPARENCY IN 2022



95%

of Fundraising Dollars
Went Directly to Programs

2.5% **2.5%**
Fundraising Management & General

Tunnel to Towers is committed to practicing sound fiscal management, organizational efficiency and program integrity.

The Foundation keeps fundraising and administrative costs to a minimum, with only a small percentage of funds allocated to overhead expenses.

In 2022, the Foundation's program service percentage on average was 95% — 95 cents out of every dollar went directly to our programs and services. Tunnel to Towers' Chairman and CEO, Frank Siller, is an uncompensated volunteer.

For nine years running, the Foundation has achieved the highest rating, four stars, from Charity Navigator, the nation's largest and most-utilized evaluator of charities.

OFFICE: (718) 987 1931 • WEB: T2T.ORG 2361 • Hylan Boulevard, Staten Island, NY 10306

IN THE LINE OF DUTY PROGRAMS

To honor the lives lost on September 11, 2001, the Tunnel to Towers Foundation developed the **In the Line of Duty Program**, which provides mortgage-free homes to our nation's catastrophically injured veterans and first responders, Gold Star, and fallen first responder families with young children.

★ SMART HOME PROGRAM

The Foundation builds specially-adapted, mortgage-free smart homes that help our most catastrophically injured veterans and first responders to reclaim their day-to-day independence.

★ FALLEN FIRST RESPONDER PROGRAM

The Foundation pays off the mortgages for the families of law enforcement officers and firefighters who are killed in the line of duty, pass away from 9/11-related illnesses, and leave behind young children.

★ GOLD STAR FAMILY HOME PROGRAM

The Foundation honors the legacy of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice while serving our country by paying off the mortgage or providing the surviving spouses and young children with mortgage-free homes.

HOMELESS VETERANS

In 2022, the Tunnel to Towers Foundation launched a new national campaign to eradicate homelessness in the Veteran community. This program provides a stable home and a wide range of needed services to diagnose and solve the root causes of veteran homelessness, addressing a veteran's specific emotional, financial, and physical issues.

In the program's first year, through grants and partnerships Tunnel to Towers has helped to provide 500 housing units and services to homeless veterans in their time of need.

This year Tunnel to Towers is providing more than 1,500 housing units and services to veterans. The Foundation believes no veteran should be living on the streets of the country they signed up to protect.

NEVER FORGET PROGRAMS

The Tunnel to Towers Foundation made a promise to "NEVER FORGET" those lost on 9/11 and the continued impact the attacks have on America and its first responders.

To keep that promise and educate future generations, the Foundation engages people in events across America and is educating future generations. The Foundation launched the Tunnel to Towers 9/11 Institute™ in 2022.

The Institute comprises 9/11 Curriculum, the "Discovering Heroes®" Book series, a 9/11 Speakers Bureau, the 9/11 NEVER FORGET Mobile Exhibit and Russell F. Siller Memorial Scholarships.

The Tunnel to Towers 9/11 Institute™ Curriculum Units are unique and age appropriate for all K-12 students. By the end of 2022, the Institute's Curriculum Units were in use in 47 states and Puerto Rico.



National League of POW/MIA Families

Hello everyone!

The League is always seeking out photos of POW/MIA flags, monuments, Missing Man Honors Tables, POW/MIA empty chairs, etc. from your community to feature on our social media pages and website.

Sharing with us is easy, just message your photos to our email -

nationalleague@pow-miafamilies.org

With your full name as well as a brief description of when & where the photo was taken.



NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES OF AMERICAN
PRISONERS & MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100, Falls Church, VA 22041

PH ---703/465-7432

www.pow-miafamilies.org

FAX ---703/465-7433

2024 ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Would you prefer to receive League material by email? Y__N__ Email: _____

_____ @\$20/member

_____ Total Amount: _____

IRS EIN# 23-7071242

We WELCOME HOME a Brother, and Wisconsin Son, who survived the Bataan Death March and died while a POW of Japan, 1942, at Cabanatuan POW Camp #1, Philippines. His remains have now been accounted for by DPAA and he will be returning home to his family for burial, with full military honors, on a date yet to be determined. Rest in Eternal Peace Brother, Your final mission is now accomplished.

Press Release | Dec. 20, 2024

Airman Accounted for from World War II (Hansen, D.)

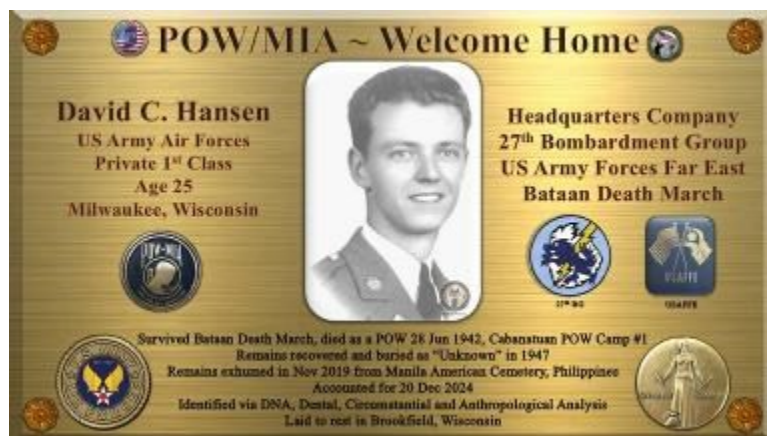
WASHINGTON –

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced today that U.S. Army Air Force Pvt. 1st Class David C. Hansen, 25, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, who was captured and died as a prisoner of war during World War II, was accounted for August 23, 2024.

Hansen's family recently received their full briefing on his identification, therefore, additional details on his identification can be shared.

In late 1941, Hansen was a member of Headquarters Squadron, 27th Bombardment Group, when Japanese forces invaded the Philippine Islands in December. Intense fighting continued until the surrender of the Bataan peninsula on April 9, 1942, and of Corregidor Island on May 6, 1942.

Thousands of U.S. and Filipino service members were captured and interned at POW camps. Hansen was among those reported captured when U.S. forces in Bataan surrendered to the Japanese. They were subjected to the 65-mile Bataan Death March and



then held at the Cabanatuan POW Camp #1. More than 2,500 POWs perished in this camp during the war.

According to prison camp and other historical records, Hansen died June 28, 1942, and was buried along with other deceased prisoners in the local Cabanatuan Camp Cemetery in Common Grave 407.

Following the war, American Graves Registration Service (AGRS) personnel exhumed those buried at the Cabanatuan cemetery and relocated the remains to a temporary U.S. military mausoleum near Manila. In 1947, the AGRS examined the remains in an attempt to identify them. Sixteen of the 25 sets of remains from Common Grave 407 were identified, while the remaining nine were declared unidentifiable. The unidentified remains were buried at the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial (MACM) as Unknowns.

In Nov. 2019, as part of the Cabanatuan Project, DPAA exhumed the remains associated with Common Grave 407 and sent them to the DPAA laboratory for analysis.

To identify Hansen's remains, scientists from DPAA used dental and anthropological analysis, as well as circumstantial evidence. Additionally, scientists from the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System used mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) and mitochondrial genome sequence (mtG) analysis.

Although interred as an Unknown in MACM, Hansen's grave was meticulously cared for over the past 70 years by the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC). Today, Hansen is memorialized on the Walls of the Missing at the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial in the Philippines. A rosette will be placed next to his name to indicate he has been accounted for.

Hansen will be buried in Brookfield, Wisconsin, on a date to be determined.

Source/Photo:

Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA)

JUST ANNOUNCED: ANOTHER VIETNAM WAR VETERAN HAS BEEN ACCOUNTED FOR!

On Tuesday, DPAA announced that U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Donald W. Downing, 33, killed during the Vietnam War, has been accounted for.

"In Sept. 1967, Downing was assigned to 557th Tactical Fighter Squadron, 12th Tactical Fighter Wing, 7th Air Force. On Sept. 5, he was piloting an F-4C Phantom II aircraft as the second in a flight of two aircraft conducting a nighttime armed reconnaissance mission over the then-Democratic Republic of Vietnam. While on a run to their target, the first aircraft witnessed a large, bright fireball in the air, and Downing's aircraft did not respond to any radio calls. Search and rescue efforts began at daylight, but electronic and visual searches didn't find anything. On April 28, 1978, the Air Force reported Capt. Downing as Killed in Action. He was later posthumously promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel."

More information will be available regarding Downing's case once the family receives their full briefing.

Welcome home, sir.



1573

"NEVER LEAVE A FALLEN COMRADE BEHIND"



Source: DPM & The War of 1812



MISSION: POW-MIA

Lieutenant Arthur
Sinclair Hill Jr



Commander Edward
Arthur Rawsthorne



On December 29, 1965, an F-4B Phantom II (bureau number 151412, call sign "Silver Kite 203") launched from the aircraft carrier USS Enterprise (CV-65) as the lead aircraft in a flight of two on a nighttime armed reconnaissance mission over Khammouan Province, Laos. The trailing aircraft observed the lead aircraft, the F-4B Phantom, crash into the side of a ridge while pulling out of a rocket pass on two trucks. The crew of the trail aircraft saw no parachutes and received no radio calls or emergency beeper signals. They felt that there was very little chance that the crew of the crashed aircraft had survived, and no search and rescue effort was conducted.



THE FASTEST AIRPLANES



F-2 Banshee



F-1E Fury



F/A-18 Hornet



F-6 Skyray



F-7 Sea Dart



F-3 Demon



F-6 Freedom Fighter



F-9 Cougar



F-10 Skynight



F-10



F-22



F-20 Tigershark



YF-17 Cobra



F-16 Fighting Falcon



YF-12



F-4 Phantom II



F/A-18 Super Hornet



F-11 Tiger



F-15 Eagle



F-14 Tomcat



F-8 Crusader



Join Our Team of Volunteers

We're currently looking for individuals who would be committed to restoring, maintaining, and being a docent on the USS Orleck.



Requirements

- Veteran, Active Duty, Retired
- Minimum of 18 Years Old
- Healthy physically and mentally
- Youth groups with advisors
- Willing to volunteer where and when needed

Registration On

www.jaxnavalmuseum.org/volunteer

Skills Needed

- Welders & Electricians
- Docents & Office
- Painting, Cleaning, Events

For More Info

volunteer@jaxnavalmuseum.org

USS Orleck's Address

610 East Bay Street
Jacksonville, FL 32202

How to report a Veteran's death to VA

The passing of a Veteran is a solemn time that deserves to be recognized and reported with the utmost respect. Veterans have served their country and worked hard for their well-deserved benefits.

However, after a Veteran passes away, family members should report the death of the Veteran to VA as soon as possible to stop current benefits payments. If the death is not reported promptly, survivors or executors of the Veteran's estate may have to repay any overpayments received. Payments the deceased Veteran received may include compensation, pension, education or Veteran Readiness & Employment benefits.

VA encourages loved ones of deceased Veterans to follow the guidance below on reporting Veteran deaths to avoid falling victim to benefit scams.

How to report the death of a Veteran

Calling is the fastest way to report a Veteran's death so VA will stop benefit payments, but there are other options available for reporting.

Options for reporting:

By Phone: Call VA 800-827-1000 (TTY: 711) and select 5. Agents are available Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. ET.

In Person: Go to a VA regional office. Find the nearest VA regional office.

By Mail: Department of Veterans Affairs Claims Intake Center, PO Box 4444, Janesville, WI 53547-4444. Include your relationship to the Veteran and any supporting documents that can help us verify the Veteran's identity. Examples of supporting documents are:

Death certificate or other public record of the Veteran's death

Discharge document (like a DD214)

If you report in person at a VA regional office or by mail, provide copies of:

Death certificate or other public record of the Veteran's death.

Discharge document (like a DD214).

Provide as much information about the Veteran as you can when you first report the notice of death to VA. This information will help VA verify the Veteran's identity. This information includes:

Full name.

Social Security Number or VA claim number.

Date of birth.

Date of death.

Branch of service.

Best practices to avoid survivor benefit scams

Save important files, such as the Veteran's military service/treatment records, discharge papers and copies of their VA claims.

Go to the VA website. For guidance on creating an account and obtaining a VA security Personal Identification Number (PIN) to securely access benefit information. A VA Security PIN is an additional way to secure direct deposit accounts from theft and protect Personally Identifiable Information (PII).

Never give out PII via text, and be cautious of suspicious hyperlinks or unfamiliar hyperlinks.

If a survivor is missing a VA benefits payment, identifies a discrepancy in payments, or find suspicious activity with a direct deposit account, contact VA immediately at 800-827-1000.

Review all documents thoroughly. Survivors should never sign a blank form for some

one else to complete later. They should always review the completed form before signing and retain a copy of the completed form for their records.

For protection against identity theft scams, notify the major credit bureaus (Equifax, Experian and TransUnion) to update the individual's credit report with a deceased notice and notify the Veteran's financial institutions so all accounts can be closed or transferred appropriately.

According to AARP, scammers also use names published in obituaries to pretend to be long lost relatives of the deceased. When it's time to write your loved one's obituary, consider leaving out the birthdate, middle name, home address, birthplace and mother's maiden name.

For other scams predators use, visit www.VA.GOV/VSAFE.

VA is committed to delivering world-class care and benefits to Veterans and their dependents by providing survivors with ongoing support and assistance. Check to see if you qualify for survivor benefits, such as health care coverage, Survivors' and Dependents' Education Assistance Program, housing assistance, or even help with burial costs.

For more guidance on how to report the death of a Veteran, submitting necessary documentation and finding additional resources available, visit [VA Benefits For Spouses, Dependents, Survivors, And Family Caregivers | Veterans Affairs](#).

To report a missing VA benefits payment, identify a discrepancy in payments, or find suspicious activity with a direct deposit account, contact VA immediately at 800-827-1000. You may also file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission if funeral homes charge to set up funeral honors or schedule a burial with VA's National Cemetery Administration by visiting reportfraud.ftc.gov. For other scams predators use, visit va.gov/vsafe.

Burials and Memorials

VA honors the service and sacrifice of Veterans and their family members.

How to Apply

To find out in advance if a Veteran or family member is eligible for burial in a VA national cemetery, click “Apply for Pre-Need Burial Eligibility” to fill out and submit the application.

Apply for Pre-Need Burial Eligibility

If pre-need eligibility has not been determined, upon the death of the Veteran or his or her spouse or dependent (also called the time of need), family members should locate the Veteran’s DD-214 or other discharge papers if readily available and click “Schedule a Burial” to begin the process. Then make arrangements with a funeral home, National Cemetery Scheduling Office, or directly with a VA national cemetery.

VA Memorial Benefits

VA takes special care to pay lasting tribute to the memory of Veterans who served and sacrificed and that of their families. VA meticulously maintains 155 VA national cemeteries in 44 states and Puerto Rico and is working to increase access to accommodate Veterans and eligible family members close to home. Currently, more than 94 percent of Veterans have a burial option in an open VA, state or tribal veterans cemetery located within 75 miles of their home.

Note that most if not all of these benefits may be provided for Veterans who are interred in a State, Territorial or Tribal Veterans cemetery. Check with the cemetery to ensure coverage. Some benefits are also available for Veterans who choose burial in a private cemetery.

Veterans with a qualifying discharge are entitled to VA burial benefits. Spouses and dependent children are eligible too, even if they predecease the Veteran.

The following burial benefits may be provided:

Burial in a VA national cemetery

Opening and closing of the grave for burial of casketed or cremated remains, or placement of cremated remains in an above-ground vault, also called a columbarium

A government furnished grave liner

Perpetual care of the gravesite

A headstone or marker with an inscription

A burial flag

A Presidential Memorial Certificate

A dedicated memorial page on the Veterans Legacy Memorial site where friends and family can upload photos and remembrances

Burial in a private cemetery

A government headstone, marker, or medallion

A burial flag

A Presidential Memorial Certificate

Some survivors may also be entitled to VA burial allowances as partial reimbursement for the costs of funerals and burials for eligible Veterans

Please note that gravesites in a VA national cemetery cannot be reserved in advance. To prepare for a private cemetery burial, VA suggests families review these questions and complete required forms in advance.

VA Requirements

Discharge papers to establish your eligibility for burial services

VA Sunshine Healthcare Network (VISN 8)

13000 Bruce B. Downs Blvd. • Tampa, FL 33612 • www.visn8.va.gov

TAMPA

- Lecanto VA Clinic**
2800 W. Man Anlyn Blvd. Ste 9
Lecanto, FL 33462
(813) 764-6880
- Brockville VA Clinic**
1800 Carlo Blvd. Ste 108
Brockville, FL 34601
(813) 697-6382
- Dougherty VA Clinic**
10075 Tower Blvd
Dougherty, FL 33617
(813) 766-2500
- New Port Richey VA Clinic**
9927 US-90
New Port Richey, FL 34654
(727) 868-5300
- Lakeland VA Clinic**
4027 South Poplar St
Lakeland, FL 33811
(813) 763-2400
- Hidden River VA Clinic**
1075 Lake Street East
Tampa, FL 33617
(813) 299-4900
- Tampa VAMC**
★ **VA Medical Center**
1300 Bruce B. Downs Blvd
Tampa, FL 33613
(813) 763-2800
- Tampa VA Outpatient**
610 N. Mahan St
Tampa, FL 33606
(813) 763-2800
- South Hillsborough VA Clinic**
1207 Commercial Crossing Blvd
Hammock, FL 34929
(813) 996-6900
- Fort Smith VA VA Clinic**
1402 W. 4th St
Tampa, FL 33613
(813) 913-2524/2529
- Fort Smith VA South VA Clinic**
1402 W. 4th St. Ste 200
Tampa, FL 33617
(813) 913-2523
- Deer Park VA Clinic**
1100 Deer Park Blvd. Ste 101 and 102
New Port Richey, FL 34612
(727) 873-4800
- Winterside VA Clinic**
1402 W. 4th St. Ste 200
Tampa, FL 33617
(813) 299-2700
- New Port Richey VA Clinic**
7900 US-90
New Port Richey, FL 34614
(727) 861-4700
- Bruce B. Downs Blvd VA Clinic**
12270 Bruce B. Downs Blvd
Tampa, FL 33613
(813) 763-2800, 4001
- Medical/View Lane VA Clinic**
Dougherty Professional Center
1070 Medical/View Lane
Building 10-7
Dougherty, FL 33614
(813) 766-2700
- Tampa 1 VA Mobile Clinic**
1300 Bruce B. Downs Blvd
Tampa, FL 33613
(813) 763-2800
- Tampa 2 VA Mobile Clinic**
1300 Bruce B. Downs Blvd
Tampa, FL 33613
(813) 763-2800

BAY PINES

- C.K. Hill Young VAMC**
1300 Bay Pines Blvd
Bay Pines, FL 33714
(727) 366-6600
- St. Petersburg VA Clinic**
6800 McKee St
St. Petersburg, FL 33716
(727) 562-1700
- Bradenton VA Clinic**
1327 Main Street SE, Ste 91
Bradenton, FL 34208
(813) 724-6600
- Sarasota VA Clinic**
1402 1st Street SE, Ste 100
Sarasota, FL 34233
(813) 571-1300
- Sebring VA Clinic**
1801 W. Highway 17 South
Sebring, FL 33879
(813) 837-4000
- Port Charlotte VA Clinic**
4001 Gateway Park, Ste 401
Port Charlotte, FL 33952
(941) 625-1700
- Lee County VA Clinic**
1401 Spangway Plaza East
Cap Coral, FL 33904
(239) 462-1800
- Naples VA Clinic**
10000 Golden Gate, Ste 100
Naples, FL 34108
(239) 464-4700
- North Naples VA Clinic**
23000 Gulfstream Drive
Charmwood, FL 34106
(239) 734-5274

NORTH FLORIDA/SOUTH GEORGIA

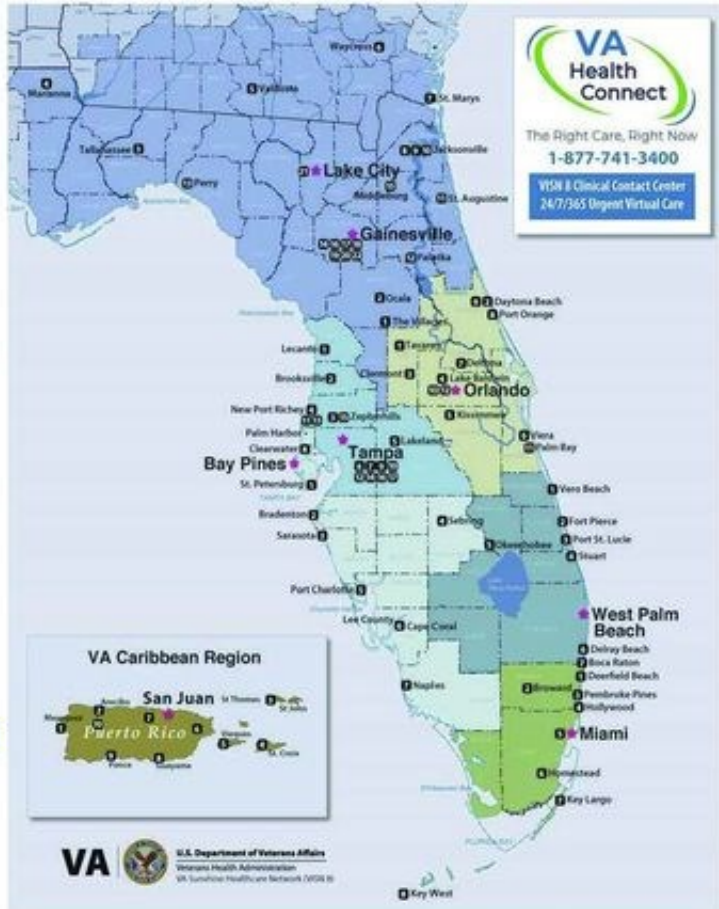
- The Villages VA Clinic**
4000 W. Birch Hollow Circle
The Villages, FL 32152
(352) 274-5000
- Ocala VA Clinic**
4025 W. 4th St
Ocala, FL 34476
(352) 388-1500
- Sergeant Ernest I. "Bowie" Thomas VA Clinic**
23811 Orange Ave
Tallahassee, FL 32310
(904) 476-4700
- Wakulla VA Clinic**
4070 Highway 90
Wakulla, FL 32389
(904) 738-3600
- Yalobanda VA Clinic**
1400 Governor St. Ste 8
Tallahassee, FL 32301
(904) 229-8112
- Waycross VA Clinic**
1100 City Blvd
Waycross, GA 31590
(877) 864-6312/474000
- St. Marys VA Clinic**
2403 Johnson St. Ste 1
St. Marys, GA 31528
(912) 331-8400
- Jacksonville 1 VA Clinic**
7100 W. Jefferson St
Jacksonville, FL 32216
(904) 476-5000
- Jacksonville 2 VA Clinic**
1801 University Blvd
Jacksonville, FL 32216
(904) 712-6300
- Jacksonville Southeast VA Clinic**
4900 Southport St North
Jacksonville, FL 32216
(904) 476-4900
- Lee C. Chase Jr. VA Clinic**
1800 Duval Avenue Blvd
St. Augustine, FL 32086
(904) 421-8814
- Palatka VA Clinic**
4000 State St. Ste 40
Palatka, FL 32137
(904) 278-8800
- Prery VA Clinic**
1224 N. Peach St
Prery, FL 32087
(904) 229-6987
- Lake City VAMC**
★ **VA Medical Center**
4171 Wilcox Ave
Lake City, FL 32825
(407) 355-3000
- Wakulla Regional VAMC**
★ **VA Medical Center**
3401 W. Jackson St
Gainesville, FL 32609
(352) 336-1600
- Gainesville VA Outpatient**
1600 South Main St
Gainesville, FL 32601
(352) 336-4900/474000
- A.J. Baker VA Clinic**
460 College Dr. Ste 100
Maitland, FL 32751
(407) 273-2700
- Gainesville VAMC VA Clinic**
1700 W. University Blvd
Gainesville, FL 32609
(352) 336-1600/474000
- Gainesville 640 St 1 VA Clinic**
10237
1401 South Main St
Gainesville, FL 32609
(352) 336-4900/474000
- Gainesville VA Outpatient**
1600 South Main St
Gainesville, FL 32601
(352) 336-4900
- Gainesville 640 St 2 VA Clinic**
19772001 2201
1070 South Main St
Gainesville, FL 32609
(352) 336-1600
- Gainesville 640 St 3 VA Clinic**
1070 South Main St
Gainesville, FL 32609
(352) 336-1600
- Gainesville VA VA Clinic**
1400 W. 1st St
Gainesville, FL 32609
(352) 336-1600
- Lake City VA Clinic**
1000 W. 1st St
Lake City, FL 32825
(407) 355-3000
- Gainesville VA Clinic**
1700 W. University Blvd
Gainesville, FL 32609
(352) 336-1600

ORLANDO

- Tavares VA Clinic**
12000 Highway 60
Tavares, FL 32780
(407) 293-2800
- Weeks Pavilion VA Clinic**
1000 University Parkway
Dunedin, FL 34626
(813) 366-4700
- Orlando VA Clinic**
12000 University Blvd
Orlando, FL 32817
(407) 336-4000
- Lake Baldwin VA Clinic**
1201 Highway 10
Baldwin, FL 32826
(407) 366-1300
- Orlando VA Medical Center**
1300 Veterans Way
Orlando, FL 32817
(407) 631-7000
- Kissimmee VA Clinic**
700 State St
Kissimmee, FL 34759
(407) 538-2800
- Wesley VA Clinic**
2000 Veterans Way
Wesley, FL 32795
(407) 631-2300
- Deltona VA Clinic**
1200 Deltona Blvd. Ste 410
Deltona, FL 32725
(407) 293-1800
- Port Orange VA Clinic**
1271 South Lake Mead Blvd
Port Orange, FL 32129
(407) 763-6000
- William T. Chappell, Jr Veterans Outpatient Clinic**
101 National Health Care
Bunton, FL 32714
(407) 293-1700
- Orlando 1 VA Mobile Clinic**
1201 University Blvd
Orlando, FL 32817
(407) 366-1300
- Palm Bay VA Clinic**
1000 Veterans Way
Palm Bay, FL 32909
(321) 728-8000
- Orlando 2 VA Mobile Clinic**
1300 Veterans Way
Orlando, FL 32817
(407) 631-7000

WEST PALM BEACH

- Boca Raton VA Clinic**
111 17th St
Boca Raton, FL 33431
(561) 299-4000
- Fort Pierce VA Clinic**
1801 17th St. Ste 100
Fort Pierce, FL 34947
(772) 339-1300
- Port St. Lucie VA Clinic**
1000 Veterans Way
Port St. Lucie, FL 34956
(772) 876-3075
- Stuart VA Clinic**
1001 W. Highway 1
Stuart, FL 34997
(772) 289-0204
- Deerfield VA Clinic**
1201 N. Palm Ave
Deerfield, FL 34429
(813) 864-5200
- West Palm Beach VAMC**
★ **VA Medical Center**
700 N. Military Ave
West Palm Beach, FL 33415
(561) 424-6200
- Delray Beach VA Clinic**
4000 S. Delray Highway
Delray Beach, FL 33486
(561) 463-6100
- Boca Raton VA Clinic**
101 Westwood Dr
Boca Raton, FL 33433
(561) 476-4000



CARIBBEAN REGION

- Mayaguez VA Clinic**
100 Avenida Puerto
Mayaguez, PR 00906
(787) 509-4000
- San Juan VA Clinic**
1000 Avenida Ponce
San Juan, PR 00906
(787) 509-4000
- San Juan VA Clinic**
1000 Avenida Ponce
San Juan, PR 00906
(787) 509-4000
- San Juan VA Clinic**
1000 Avenida Ponce
San Juan, PR 00906
(787) 509-4000
- Vieques VA Clinic**
1000 Avenida Ponce
Vieques, PR 00982
(787) 509-4000
- Culebra VA Clinic**
1000 Avenida Ponce
Culebra, PR 00981
(787) 509-4000
- Comerio VA Clinic**
1000 Avenida Ponce
Comerio, PR 00981
(787) 509-4000
- San Juan VA Clinic**
1000 Avenida Ponce
San Juan, PR 00906
(787) 509-4000
- San Juan VA Clinic**
1000 Avenida Ponce
San Juan, PR 00906
(787) 509-4000
- San Juan VA Clinic**
1000 Avenida Ponce
San Juan, PR 00906
(787) 509-4000

MIAMI

- Deerfield Beach VA Clinic**
2200 US-1
Deerfield Beach, FL 33442
(561) 293-1300
- William Bill King Outpatient Clinic**
1400 W. University Blvd
Sarasota, FL 34237
(941) 675-1000
- Pembroke Pine VA Clinic**
1400 W. University Blvd
Pembroke Pine, FL 33429
(813) 966-5000
- Hollywood VA Clinic**
1200 Hollywood St. Ste 101
Hollywood, FL 33021
(813) 966-5000
- MIAMI VAMC**
★ **VA Medical Center**
1300 Veterans Way
Miami, FL 33125
(305) 375-1000
- Miami Flagler VA Clinic**
1400 W. Taylor St. Ste 100
Miami, FL 33135
(305) 441-6000
- Kenneth D. King VA Clinic**
1000 W. Taylor St. Ste 100
West Palm Beach, FL 33411
(561) 424-6200
- Key Largo VA Clinic**
1000 W. Taylor St. Ste 100
Key Largo, FL 33097
(305) 851-0100
- Key West VA Clinic**
1000 W. Taylor St. Ste 100
Key West, FL 32040
(305) 249-4000



You've made our country
A BETTER PLACE.

Enjoy your well-earned retirement at Silver Creek.

Thank you veterans for your service and sacrifice! At Silver Creek, you can live life as you choose with greater freedom, comfort and independence through the unique living options at our community - including independent concierge living, assisted living, enhanced assisted living and memory care.

Discover first-class amenities, holistic wellness programming, gourmet all-day dining and vibrant activities while enjoying camaraderie and friendship at our close-knit community.

Call **800-821-8170** to schedule a tour and learn more.



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



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

Assisted Living Facility #12928



Stories of Service

St. Johns County Veterans Oral History Project



Stories of Service is an oral history project focused on the veterans of St. Johns County. The goal of this project was to collect, document, and preserve the memories of local veterans for future generations.

Materials collected by the Society for this project have allowed for the creation of two exhibits, one physical at the Oldest House Museum Complex at 14 St. Francis Street on display until January, one digital, accessible below and through our main website under the LEARN tab.

Items on display in both the digital and physical exhibits tell the stories of our local veterans, placing them proudly within the long and storied histories of St. Augustine and St. Johns County.

A sincere thanks to them all.



View the Digital Exhibit:

<https://sahsstoriesofservice.omeka.net/>



Main: 904-824-2872

Research Library: 904-825-2333

271 Charlotte Street, St. Augustine, FL 32084

Research Library located at 6 Artillery Lane, St. Augustine FL 32084

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS VETERAN HOMEOWNERS SAINT JOHNS COUNTY

FREE HOME REHAB

We believe everyone deserves to live in a healthy home. At Operation Lifeline Inc., we feel particularly indebted to those who served in the Armed Forces and have committed to helping as many struggling veterans as possible. Our program provides home rehabilitation services at no charge to eligible veterans to address accessibility and HUD's Eight Healthy Homes Principles.

QUALIFICATIONS

Participant Eligibility:

- Verifiable veteran status
- Gross income below 80% of the area's median income
- Occupy the property as a principal residence and have proof of ownership
- Be in compliance with any existing mortgage on the property
- Be current with utility accounts and property taxes

Property Eligibility:

- Must be a single-family residence
- Must be the applicant's homestead
- Applicant must own the property by fee simple title
- Must be free of any encumbrances other than a first mortgage
- Located within the unincorporated portion of Saint Johns County or the City of Saint Augustine Beach

* Please review full eligibility criteria on our website *

CONTACT US TODAY

*Funding is Limited and Restricted
to Saint Johns County Homes*

Please visit our website to fill
out an application

WWW.OPLIFELINE.ORG



LIFELINE INC.

RESERVE COMPONENT TRANSITION ASSISTANCE ADVISORS



Are you a member of a Reserve Component? Have you served 180 or more consecutive days on Title 10? Do you have a service-related injury or health care issue? Perhaps you're about to retire from service and need someone to show you how to get back into the swing of civilian life. Getting to know your Reserve Component Transition Assistance Advisor (RCTAA) means you'll have reliable, professional support when you need it.

I am here to help with the following benefits:

- State and Local Benefits
- VA Assistance for Physical and Mental Health
- Disabled Veterans Program Assistance
- Education and Training Assistance
- Employment Assistance
- Health and Life Insurance
- Financial Assistance
- Legal Assistance
- Relocation Assistance
- Effects of a Career Change

Since 2005, RCTAAs have assisted Reserve Component service members with 180 days or more T-10 AD service obtain their federal benefits and entitlements. You could save an average of:

- Employment Counseling (\$75/hour)
- Health Insurance (\$1430/Service Member)
- Legal Assistance (\$255/hour)
- VHA DAV Benefit Received (\$15,034/Service Member)
- VA Benefit Received (\$5786/Service Member)
- Education Benefits Received (\$15,285/Service Member)

Average benefit per eligible Reserve Component service member across all benefits areas=\$11,970.

If you or someone you know needs assistance with federal benefits and entitlements, don't hesitate to contact me. You can either scan this QR code and fill out the attached form or contact me directly using the information below.



Thank you for serving, now let me serve you.

According to the National Defense Authorization Act 2013, [Reserve Component] transition assistance advisors "serve as points of contact to assist eligible members of the reserve components in accessing benefits and health care furnished under laws administered by the Secretary of Defense and benefits and health care furnished under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs" (Sec. 513).

David "Dave" Kennett

Reserve Component
Transition Assistance Advisor
Federal Contractor
202-987-3864
DKennett@gapsi.com

DIRECTION | BENEFITS | COMPASSION



VA SURVIVOR BENEFITS & THE PACT ACT

ESGR4U

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



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

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

How to Apply for DIC and/or Accrued Benefits

Surviving family members may apply for these benefits using the appropriate VA form on va.gov/family-member-benefits.



Dependency and Indemnity Compensation

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



Accrued Benefits

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

Additional Survivor Benefits Available:



Burials and Burial Allowance

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



Final Monthly Payment

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



Home Loan Guaranty

Certificate of Eligibility is available for surviving spouses receiving DIC.



Education and Training

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



Health Care

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

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

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

Surviving Spouse Milestones

Not all milestones apply to every persons situation

One Year Mark:

- Moving out of quarters (if applicable)
- Storage at government expense expires
- Apply for Home of Selection (HOS) extension
- HEART Act (one year from date SGLI/DG received)

Two Year Mark:

- Loss of Spouse's VA Transitional DIC Benefits (\$250 per family per month)

only applies to spouse with one or more minor children in household

- Apply for Home of Selection (HOS) extension

Three Year Mark:

- TRICARE Healthcare and Dental benefits transitions to retiree rate for spouse
- Home of Selection (HOS) entitlement expires

Spouse Turns 52:

- If disabled, can remain and retain SSA Survivor Benefits

Spouse Turns 55:

- Can remarry and not lose SBP eligibility

Spouse Turns 57:

- Can remarry not lose DIC eligibility

Spouse Turns 60:

- Can remarry and retain SSA Survivor Benefits

Surviving Youth Milestones

Not all milestones apply to every persons situation

Child Turns 16:

- Elimination of SSA entitlement for adult receiving Child in Care benefits

Child Turns 18:

- College - Fry Scholarship *Line of Duty Cases only*
- College - Dependence Education Assistance *VA Service Connected Death*
- Loss of annuities (SSA, DIC, SBP) unless enrolled in school full time. SSA depends on age when graduating High School
- Loss of annual benefit report
- If DG/SGLI beneficiary - If not already received

Child Turns 21:

- Loss of DFFRS/TRICARE unless enrolled in school full time
- Enrollment in TRICARE Young Adult

Child Turns 22:

- Loss of Child-Only SBP regardless of school enrollment

Child Turns 23:

- Loss of DFFRS/TRICARE transitional Survivor unless incapacitated
- Enrollment in TRICARE Young Adult

Child Turns 26:

- Loss of TRICARE Young Adult

Child Turns 33:

- Loss of Fry Scholarship eligibility

FLORIDA SURVIVOR OUTREACH SERVICES AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY



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

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

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

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

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

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

Be sure to stay plugged in to www.va.gov 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.



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



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	Tommy Tittle	twt1968@att.net
1048	Bob Adkins	adk123robert@outlook.com
1059	Dave Treffinger	dtreffinger433@msn.com
1084	Bill Jefferson	bill_jefferson@comcast.net
1088	Roy (Corky) Rudd	corkstopper50@yahoo.com; Nassau
1092	Forest Hope	foresthope@usa.net; Gainesville
1134	Marvin Lagle	mdlagle@gmail.com; Baker



REMEMBER WHAT OUR MEDAL STANDS FOR:

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

Veterans Council of Clay County:

President: Ansil Lewis

Meeting day is the same, first Wednesday of the month, but the location is changed to Clay County Administration Building, 1st floor conference room, 477 Houston St., Green Cove Springs, FL 32043. Meeting start at 11 a.m.

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 (8258)
www.suicideline.org

Confidential chat at VeteransCrisisLine.net or text to (888)335-4373

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



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: **FDVA**
FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Become a Watch Stander with The Fire Watch

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: Ansil Lewis, SgtMaj USMC, ret

Meetings:

First Wednesday of each month

Location:

American Legion Post 250
2608 Black Creek Rd
Middleburg, FL 32068

Time: 1100 (11am)

904-658-0105

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)

DUVAL COUNTY

President

Meetings:

Third Tuesday of each month

Location:

American Legion Post 37
Main Building
San Juan Avenue

Time: 1900 (7 pm)

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 County
Health & Human Services Building,
200 San Sebastian View
Auditorium, 1st floor***

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

(physical location)

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

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

Service is by appointment.

Phone: 904-209-6160 Fax: 904-209-6161

Joseph D. McDermott Director

Lori Chapman Assistant VSO

Shauna Holton Assistant VSO

Jonathan Rojas Assistant VSO

April Manner Administrative Coordinator

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.