

# VETERANS COUNCIL OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY

**CHAIRMAN BILL DUDLEY**

**VICE CHAIRMAN RAY QUINN**

**SECRETARY MICHAEL ROTHFELD**

**TREASURER JOHN MOUNTCASTLE**

Newsletter Editor Michael Rothfeld



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Season's Greetings. The Holidays are close upon us. It boggles the mind how quickly this year has passed.

Your Veterans Council has had a busy year and the past few weeks have been no exception. Parades, wreath laying ceremonies, documentary films with all the planning and execution that goes into all of these events has kept us plenty busy.

On Nov 8 the Veterans Council had another very successful documentary showing of the K9's for Warriors, "Unleashing the Underdogs" program at Anastasia Baptist Church. Numerous civilian and veteran organizations were on hand to represent their organizations at booths set up in the Atrium area. The K9's documentary was one of the best we have ever done and was a smashing hit. The Veterans Council would like to thank everyone who participated in helping to make this year's event a huge success.

Veterans Day this year was celebrated with a first ever Grand Parade in St. Augustine. This was a first ever military parade for the

Nation's Oldest City. But by every measurement one can think of, it was a huge success. We have been asked by many in the community if we are considering making this an annual event. The Veterans Council is conferring with the Ancient City MOAA Chapter and giving consideration to making this an annual event to replace the previous Veterans Day ceremony that has been held at Francis Field over the past years.

Dec. 10 was a significant day as many from our community assembled at St. Augustine Beach City Hall and witnessed the award of the French Legion of Honour to 12 of our local WW II veterans who served in Normandy and helped to liberate France in her hour of need. This was a very emotional and patriotic ceremony conducted by the French Consulate General Philippe Letrilliast. I have attended this ceremony on two other occasions and this was by far the best I have ever witnessed. Please read the article on page 5 for complete coverage of this ceremony.

This year's Wreath Across America program was another outstanding success. Kudos to our WAA team lead by SGM Ray Quinn and Judy Davis. They worked hard all year

to make this another successful year and achieved their battle plan with an overage of funds to carry forward into next year. They have successfully kept the Veterans Council's commitment that every headstone would display a wreath to honor our veterans interred in St. Augustine National Cemetery during each year's Holiday Season.

This has been a very busy year for your Veterans Council. We are proud of the Council's many accomplishments this year as we participated in many events to honor our veterans. We are very grateful to our community who have supported our many events and helped make many of our programs possible by their generous donations of time and money.

I wish each of you and your families a Very Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year.

Bill Dudley, Chairman  
Veterans Council of St. Johns  
County



# Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home *Where Patriotism is our Motto*



The residents decided to give back to the community by spending two afternoons ringing the Salvation Army bell in front of the nearby Publix

Santa visiting Mr. Donnelly and giving Mr. Remieres a high five



Enjoying the Christmas party!





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



JNC SC Chairman,  
Ray Quinn

The Support Committee invites everyone to attend its **next scheduled meeting, on Monday, February 1st**. The meeting will be at **7:00pm**. The meeting will take place at Community Hospice, **4266 Sunbeam Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32257 in Conference Room A**.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA 2015

Our mission, Remember, Honor, Teach, is carried out in part by coordinating wreath laying ceremonies a specified Saturday in December at Arlington, as well as veterans' cemeteries and other locations in all 50 states

and beyond. See more at: <http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/about/#sthash.iTKlRX0E.dpuf>



SGM Ray Quinn, Master of Ceremonies



COL Robert Keating, Keynote Speaker



County Commissioner Rachel Bennett places a wreath



Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley places a wreath for POWs and MIAs



Young Marines at attention after helping everyone



*Bill Dudley (St. Johns County Veterans Council), Ron Birchall and myself were honored to attend today's ceremonies at the St. Augustine Beach Town Hall acknowledging the sacrifice along with the French people by awarding the "French Legion of Honor" to our very deserving Veterans. George Linardos*

**THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF FRANCE IN MIAMI PHILIPPE LETRILLIART Consul General PRESENTED THE LEGION OF HONOR MEDAL to American WWII Veterans on Thursday, December 10, 2015 in ceremonies at City Hall in St. Augustine Beach, Florida. Those deserving Veterans inducted into the Knights of the Legion of Honor:**

<b>PHILIP ALLEN</b>	<b>JOHN JOHNSON</b>
<b>JEROME BARSHOV</b>	<b>REYNALDO LEBRON</b>
<b>EDWARD DANIELS</b>	<b>RICHARD LEWIS</b>
<b>BILL EBERLE</b>	<b>EDWARD McCARTHY</b>
<b>MICHAEL GOODYEAR</b>	<b>RAYMOND MITCHELL</b>
<b>DON HOLMES</b>	<b>NICHOLAS STEIN</b>



After honoring the occasion by singing both the French and United States National Anthems, remarks by Mayor Andrea Samuels and Consul General Philippe Letrilliart, the Consul General presented the medals to our WWII Veterans.

Created two centuries ago in 1802 by Emperor Napoleon, the Legion of Honor is France's highest distinction and recognizes exceptional service to France in various fields. The recipients were honored as courageous American soldiers, friends and allies, who helped France fight against the barbarity of the Nazis and liberating France from their evil threat to democracy.

On the 60th anniversary of the Normandy landings, France decided to grant the Legion of Honor to all U.S. veterans who fought on French soil (air and water) in the name of freedom. The award will be given to those Veterans who are still with us, as well posthumously to as those who have past.

If you know of any Veteran who served during WWII to liberate France contact the French Consulate at 1395 Brickell Avenue, Suite 1050, Miami, Florida 33131, call: (305) 403-4151, or email: [consulfrance-miami.org@franceinmiami](mailto:consulfrance-miami.org@franceinmiami)



WW II veteran Edward Daniels receives Legion of Honor from Philippe Letrilliart, Consul General of France. Photo by Daron Dean

*Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley was recently recognized by Circuit Judge  
Don H. Lester for his efforts in finding housing for a Homeless Veteran.*



CIRCUIT COURT

FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA

DON H. LESTER  
CIRCUIT JUDGE

December 9, 2015

CLAY COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA 32043

Commander William Dudley  
Veterans Council of St. Johns County  
Post Office Box 2117  
St. Augustine, Florida 32085-2111

Re: Christopher Cash

Dear Commander Dudley:

I am the presiding judge for the Clay County Veterans Treatment Court. I learned recently that you were of great assistance in providing transitional housing to one of our Veterans Court participants. Christopher Cash. It is well established that lack of stable housing is a significant barrier to successful completion of our program. I write to express my appreciation for your efforts, as your assistance will greatly enhance Mr. Cash's ability to successfully complete the program.

Very truly yours,

Don H. Lester

**From Chairman Dudley, "Just a Common Soldier" a must see:**

<http://www.justacommonsoldier.com/>

# The Jacksonville National Cemetery Support Committee

From JNC SC Secretary, Kathy Church: Per Director of the JNC, Al Richburg, as of November 30, 2015 we have interred 9,994 veterans, spouses and dependents. (the JNC starting interments in January 2009). Since the beginning of the fiscal year for the JNC, Oct 01, 2015 there has been 144 interments.

If you have not yet been out to our JNC, please take the time to do so. The staff does a wonderful job of keeping it spotless to honor all those who have been laid to rest.



Historian, Jodie Raymond making a presentation to John Vaculik with Maxwell Lightning Protection for protecting the Carillon Bell at the JNC — with [Steven Spickelmier](#) at [Community Hospice of Northeast Florida](#).



Historian Jodie Raymond, John Vaculik, Ray Quinn, Chairman, — with [Steven Spickelmier](#) at [Community Hospice of Northeast Florida](#).



Al Richburg, Director JNC

Adrian & John Vaculik and Steve Spickelmier — with [Steven Spickelmier](#) at [Community Hospice of Northeast Florida](#).



## **VA plans to negotiate with county for permanent clinic**

*by Sheldon Gardner reprinted with permission of the author and the St. Augustine Record*



DARON.DEAN@STAUGUSTINE.COM A van drives along San Sebastian View toward the St. Johns County Health and Human Services building. The area is expected to be the location of the new permanent St. Augustine Community Based Outpatient Clinic, which is run by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The VA released a notice of intent to negotiate and award the lease of the clinic to St. Johns County at the site at 200 San Sebastian View.

Negotiations could begin soon between St. Johns County and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to bring a permanent VA clinic to San Sebastian View at the site of the county's Health and Human Services building.

The VA announced plans via a notice of intent on the Federal Business Opportunities website to negotiate and possibly award a sole source contract to the county for design and construction of the St. Augustine Community-Based Outpatient Clinic as well as operation of the lease.

"We've wanted the VA to consider this site from the very beginning, and it sounds like we are now about to have a real discussion and [begin] negotiating that site to see if it is something that will work for both them and us," said Darrell Locklear, assistant county administrator for operational services. But the announcement is just a starting point, Locklear said, and it's unclear what the outcome will be.

The sole source notice will open for five business days to get any public comments on the matter, Locklear said. Once that window closes, negotiations can begin.

If the outcome is successful, the County Commission would have to approve the contract and funding for the project, Locklear said.

The contract is expected to be awarded within six months, according to Glenda Powell, VA public affairs officer. A timeline for construction should be available soon after that.

The process of moving the clinic from 1955 U.S. 1 South began several years ago.

St. Johns County notified the VA in 2011 of the possible sale of the property to home-improvement retailer Lowe's and the requirement for the clinic to relocate by the end of March 2015.



But the process was delayed, and the VA finally opened its current location at 195 Southpark Blvd. in September. The VA cited procurement regulations as the reason for the delay. Lease extension payments were part of the VA's penalty for overstaying its welcome.

The VA also did not accept a more than \$5 million offer made by the county in August 2014 to build the clinic, citing a need to keep the process competitive.

Powell cited regulations Tuesday as part of the delay.

"[The] VA understands and shares the frustration regarding the time associated with providing a long-term facility that complies with federal acquisition regulations," according to Powell. "[The] VA fully-appreciates the continued support of St. Johns County in this effort and looks forward to working closely with veterans and stakeholders in the St. Augustine area to complete this clinic as quickly as possible."

The VA is interested in leasing space from the county, so under that scenario St. Johns County could build the clinic, Locklear said. But the cost for the building will have to be re-estimated.

When the county made its offer in 2014, a contractor was ready to begin work at the Health and Human Services complex site, Locklear said.

The attention surrounding the VA clinic, which serves thousands of veterans, caused local and national officials to get involved.

Among those involved in the process is U.S. Rep. Ron DeSantis, R-Ponte Vedra Beach, who issued a statement Tuesday via his communications director. "Since I took office, my staff and I have been heavily involved in the transition to a new Community Based Outpatient Clinic out of concern that our veterans receive uninterrupted and timely care," DeSantis told *The Record* in a statement Tuesday. "I am encouraged that the Department of Veterans Affairs has issued a notice that it intends to award a contract to St. Johns County to construct a new facility for the 5,000 veterans that rely on this clinic for care."

The issue also drew then-assistant county administrator Jerry Cameron to appear on the county's behalf in front of DeSantis' subcommittee of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

Since his retirement from the assistant administrator job in August, Cameron has still been involved in helping find a solution for the permanent clinic, he said.

Cameron pointed to Stella Fiotes, executive director of the VA's Office of Construction and Facilities Management, as the reason for progress on the permanent clinic. Fiotes was at the House committee hearing.

"Once she got involved, she was determined to resolve the issues here in Northeast Florida," Cameron said.



Dear Kathy,

The **Veterans Council of St. Johns County** has been very honored over the past three years to have



you as a member. We have recognized the invaluable service you have provided to veterans and their families through the Missing in America Project. As the Florida State Coordinator you have worked tirelessly to assure those veterans who have unfortunately been forgotten have been given a proper military burial and are no longer in the forgotten category.

You have given unselfishly of your time to honor our veterans often at your own expense. You have traveled many miles around the state assuring our veterans have been provided a proper military burial with honors rendered.

We are aware this has been at great sacrifice to yourself and that your transportation conveyance has accumulated many miles of usage.

With that in mind, the Veterans Council of St. Johns County would like to help lighten your burden by helping to improve your car needs with the gift of a car we have purchased.

The automobile we are presenting to you with a fee-free title is a low mileage 2002 Buick Century we have purchased from a local veteran who is no longer able to drive due to advanced Alzheimer's.

We hope this small gift will help lighten your burden as you continue your work assuring every veteran in our great state has a final resting place with their comrades.

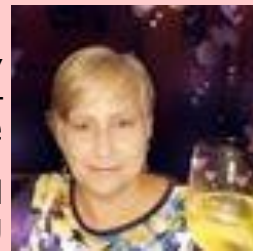
Respectively,

William Dudley

Chairman Veterans Council of St. Johns County

To All,

Words are not enough for the very generous donation of my new car. I was in total shock last night as I had absolutely no idea. Bill when you called me to the front of the room and started reading the letter, I thought that was it, which in itself was plenty. When you said the Council had bought me a car I was speechless and that is not something that happens to "Chatty Kathy" very often.



I am also honored that you have welcomed me as a member of the VCSJC. I enjoy coming to the meetings, learning all the info that is posted and meeting new people all the time.

I have decided to sell the Toyota "as is" and I will donate the majority of the money from the sale to MIAP for gas not only for myself but for Steve as he also puts many miles on his car as well. I would like to put some funds aside for general maintenance on my new car (when needed). I will keep everyone posted on this. I have already had someone contact me about the Toyota which will make a good car for someone who has some funds to put into it.

I will say I am very good about changing the oil regularly my cars. Rest assure I will take very good care of the Buick. I have had two Buicks previously and enjoyed them both.

There is one error in the letter you read to me last night. You state "this small gift". This is not a "small" gift, this is HUGE and no one has ever done anything like this for me before.

I love ALL our veterans and will continue to do as much as I can through MIAP, the ALA/ALR and the other organizations I volunteer for, for as long as I am physically able.

Bill, I do not have everyone's email address that needs to be thanked so can you please forward this on for me.

Again THANK YOU ALL SO VERY MUCH not only for the car but for the continued support to MIAP.



Chairman Dudley thanking Kathy Church for all the work she does for veterans.



Chairman Dudley holding up the title to the car the Veterans Council gave to Kathy to continue with her work.



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

Below are the links:

**Serve and Protect : Stories From WWII**

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

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

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**Vietnam: Service, Sacrifice, and Courage**

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

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

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**Prisoners of War: Stolen Freedom**

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

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

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**Korea : Forgotten War, Remembered Heroes**

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

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

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**Unleashing the Underdogs: The Ks For Warriors Story**

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

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

**On Monday December 7th, Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley and VC Secretary Michael Rothfeld attended a special luncheon at the Sawgrass TPC Clubhouse.**

**The TPC Storytellers presented Chairman Dudley with a \$ 5,000 check from a grant written by Secretary Michael Rothfeld.**

**The EXEC Board of the Veterans Council voted unanimously to donate the entire amount to the DAV to be applied to the much needed new DAV van.**



Chairman Dudley receiving the check



Chairman Dudley presenting the \$ 5000 check to the DAV

### The enthusiastic team that works at K9s For Warriors





# K9S FOR WARRIORS

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

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

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

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

## Why is it needed?

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

## What is PTSD?

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

## What is the program?

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

## Our Success

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

## Featured On

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

## Wreaths Are Delivered

On a brisk December morning volunteers from various military organizations including MOAA and new volunteers from the St. Augustine Car Cruisers Club descended on the Flying J Truck Stop for the annual transfer of wreaths. As usual Two Men and a Truck came though to accept the wreaths for storage until the Wreath Ceremony on December 12<sup>th</sup>. Turn out was great!! Judy





## Forgotten war veterans laid to rest in South Florida

By [Sun Sentinel](#) (reprinted in its entirety)

LAKE WORTH — The cremated remains of 14 war veterans and the spouses of seven other service members have been laid to rest in South Florida National Cemetery on Saturday, years after they died while serving their country.

Thanks to the Missing in America Project, they were remembered during a ceremony performed by volunteers at the Lake Worth cemetery.

They hailed from all branches of the military and served in World Wars I and II, and the Korean and Vietnam wars. Their mahogany urns bore gold plaques that read: “You are not forgotten.”

The nonprofit group searches for unclaimed military remains. They verify with the National Cemetery Administration that they served in the military and then bury them. It was the first such service the group held in South Florida.

“Each one that we lay to rest today is a hero. You, men, who we bury today, we say goodbye to you with thankful hearts because you’ve embodied heroism,” said guest speaker Brian Mast, a retired U.S. Army bomb technician who lost his legs in an explosion in Afghanistan.

He also honored the “spouses of the brave” for offering serenity to service members.

Kathy Church, the agency’s Florida coordinator, makes it her mission to bring veterans to their final resting spots.

“Once you get involved in it, it gets in your blood,” Church said. “They served our country and risked their lives. It just didn’t seem right (to forget the veterans).”

The group has buried more than 2,500 veterans and spouses of veterans across the country. But first they try to reach relatives and allow them a chance to claim their loved ones’ ashes. Three families were reunited with remains before the service and opted for private services. Family members of those buried Saturday were not in attendance.

Those buried Saturday were Jack Legan, Frank H. Vadurro, Charles J. Valkenburg, Carol Andre Shepherd, Jacob S. Cohen, Ignatius Patrick Crisci, John Joseph Fitzgerald, Wayne Andrew Ludwig, Frank Wilfred O’ Hara Jr., John Edward Lee, Charles William Morton, James Edward Sullivan, William Vaselekos and Louis Walter Harvey, Jr.

Cemetery director Kirk Leopard said there is no higher honor than keeping the promise of taking care of the veterans.

“This service to our community and our veterans cannot be overstated,” he said.







Keynote speaker -BRIAN RETIRED FROM THE UNITED STATES ARMY'S JOINT SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND AS A STAFF SERGEANT AFTER 12 YEARS OF SERVICE AND THE LOSS OF BOTH LEGS IN AFGHANISTAN. HE HAS BEEN AWARDED THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL, THE PURPLE HEART MEDAL, THE ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL FOR VALOR, AND THE DEFENSE MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL, AMONG OTHERS. TODAY BRIAN ENJOYS LIFE WITH HIS WIFE, BRIANNA, AND THEIR THREE CHILDREN MAGNUM, MAVERICK AND MADALYN.



Project 425 helicopter



Urns on the table ready for interment



Presentation of Flag

# *Sounds of Freedom*

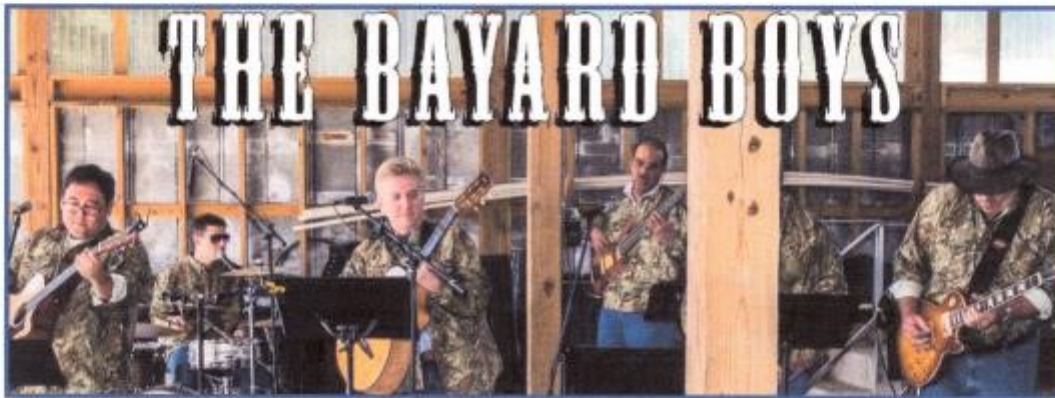
## *Patriotic Concert*



*"A Night to Remember"*

**Friday, March 18**

**St. Augustine Amphitheater - Doors open at 6pm**



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



## *Boyer Sisters*

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



**Our Bob Hope style M.C. will add fun and memories of USO shows in the past**

This Benefit is sponsored by the Ancient City Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America with all proceeds being allocated to charitable philanthropic endeavors including the restoration of the historic Hamblin House in downtown St. Augustine, home of American Legion Post 37 and the K-9's for Warriors Program. Tickets can be ordered from Ticketmaster and from the Ponte Vedra Concert Hall or the St. Augustine Amphitheater Box Office.

Thanks to Heather Andrews-Partin and Kathy Church for this information

## Jack D. Hunter

Hunter was born in Hamilton, Ohio, on June 4, 1921, the son of Whitney G. and Irene Dayton Hunter. Ironically, while his father, whose long career with the DuPont Company began as a paint color evaluator because of his sensitivity to colors, Hunter was red-green blind. He graduated with a BA in journalism from Penn State University in 1943.



Because he spoke German, having taught himself and then studied it in college, Hunter was sent to Germany just after the war ended.

"Operation Nursery," including Jack Hunter's role in it, forms the basis of the nonfiction book *The Axmann Conspiracy: The Nazi Plan for a Fourth Reich and How the U.S. Army Defeated It*, Berkley Books (Penguin), Sept. 2012.



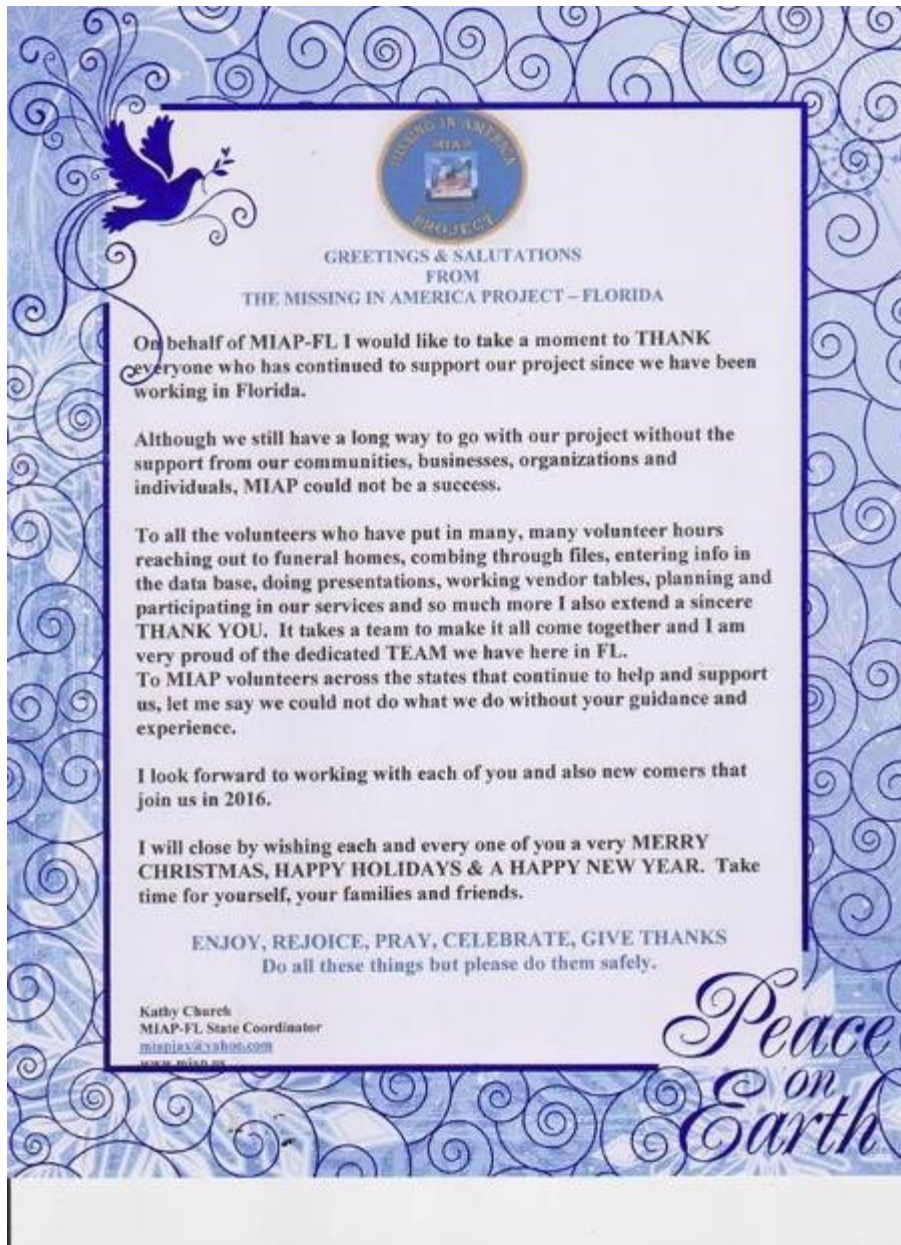
After the war, he worked in various journalistic capacities, as a public relations executive for Du Pont, and as a speech writer in Washington D.C.

His first novel was *The Blue Max*. Hunter, who dabbled in water colors, volunteered to provide a cover image for the book himself.

Hunter was the author of 17 novels, including *The Ace*, published in 2008. Like *The Blue Max*, *The Ace* deals with World War I aviation, but focuses on the human costs and chaotic conditions that bedeviled the Americans in their need to build a world-class air force virtually overnight.

During the 1980s, Hunter served as the writing coach for reporters working at the (now defunct) Jacksonville Journal, the Florida Times-Union, which still publishes in Jacksonville, and the St. Augustine Record, which still publishes in St. Augustine. In this role, which continued three days a week for 10 years, Hunter provided encouragement, tutelage and support to hundreds of journalists, some of whom went on to work at The New York Times, The Denver Post, The Miami Herald and in many other venues.

**He lived in St. Augustine, Florida, until he died at age 87 on April 13, 2009. He was interred at the Jacksonville National Cemetery.**



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

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

RSVP: (904) 705-4849

## VFW TO THE RESCUE

When the local St. John's County Veterans Groups were asked to help the Pedro Menendez Senior Men at Pedro Menendez High School purchase a flag pole for the school, VFW Post 2391 and VFW Post 12142 immediately stepped up. The Senior Men wanted to install a flag pole in the center courtyard at the school. They had procured the appropriate American flag but needed financial assistance with the proper size flag pole.

Within 24 hours, the Brian Tutton Memorial VFW Post 2391 and their Auxiliary donated one half of the money needed and Vilano Beach VFW Post 12142 and their Auxiliary donated the remainder.

Below is a picture of, left to right, Coach Steve Melgard, Glen Tilley, VFW Post 2391 Commander, and School principal Clay Carmichael.

Below that is a picture of, left to right, School Principal Clay Carmichael, A. J. Sartin, VFW Post 12142 Commander, and Jim Crutchfield, VFW Post 12142 Quartermaster, presenting the check to Coach Steve Melgard.

The St. Johns County Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley said, "This clearly demonstrates the benevolent spirit of our Veterans community that keeps on giving to our Country".



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

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



## The Most Decorated Soldier in US Military History by Eric SOF, Special Ops

From Tom Waskovich: Great soldier , great patriot , proud to have had Bob Howard as our Recon 1SG in 1969 , MACVSOG

The title of most decorated American soldier probably goes to **Robert Lewis Howard**, a US Army soldier and Medal of Honor recipient of the Vietnam War. Howard was born July 11, 1939 and he died at age 70 on December 23, 2009. Robert L. Howard was wounded 14 times while serving over 54 months of combat. He was awarded 8 Purple Hearts, 4 Bronze Stars, and was nominated for the Medal of Honor in three separate cases.



Robert L. Howard enlisted in the US Army at Montgomery, Alabama and retired in the rank of Colonel.

As a staff sergeant in Vietnam era Special Forces known as the highly-classified Military Assistance Command, Vietnam – Studies and Observations Group (MACV-SOG), he was recommended for the Medal of Honor on three separate occasions for three individual actions. That happened in thirteen months of combat from 1967 to 1968. His actions and bravery gained him respect among his soldiers, but that wasn't enough in the first two nominations for Medal of Honor which were downgraded to a Silver Star and the Distinguished Service Cross due to the covert nature of the secret operations in which Robert L. Howard participated.

The third luck, if we are able to call it like that, comes during a rescue mission in Cambodia on December 30, 1968, when he served as a Sergeant First Class in MACV-SOG. In this operations, Howard was second in command of a platoon-sized Hornet Force that was searching for missing American soldier Robert Scherdin, when he was finally awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions on that day. He learned of the award over a two-way radio while under enemy fire, immediately after being wounded, resulting in one of his eight Purple Hearts.

Robert L. Howard was wounded 14 times during one 54-month period during the Vietnam War. He received two Masters degrees during his government career which spanned almost 50 years. Howard retired as a full Colonel in 1992. His Army career spanned 1956 to 1992.

Howard died of pancreatic cancer at a hospice in Waco, Texas on December 23, 2009. He was survived by four children and four grandchildren. His funeral was in Arlington National Cemetery on February 22, 2010.

Here is list of all his medals and awards during his warrior career:

## **U.S. AWARDS & DECORATIONS**

### **PERSONAL AWARDS**

Medal of Honor  
Distinguished Service Cross with oak leaf cluster  
Silver Star  
Legion of Merit with 3 oak leaf clusters  
Bronze Star with "V" device & 3 oak leaf clusters  
Purple Heart with 7 oak leaf clusters  
Bronze oak leaf cluster  
Bronze oak leaf cluster  
Meritorious Service Medal with 2 oak leaf clusters  
Bronze oak leaf cluster  
Bronze oak leaf cluster  
Bronze oak leaf cluster  
Air Medal with "V" device & award numerals 3  
Joint Service Commendation  
Silver oak leaf cluster  
Bronze oak leaf cluster  
Army Commendation Medal with "V" device & 6 oak leaf clusters  
Joint Service Achievement Medal  
Army Achievement Medal

## **U.S. AWARDS & DECORATIONS**

### **UNIT AWARDS**

Bronze oak leaf cluster  
Presidential Unit Citation with oak leaf cluster  
Meritorious Unit Commendation  
Navy Unit Commendation  
Service awards  
Good Conduct Medal with 4 Good Conduct Loops  
Campaign & Service awards  
National Defense Service Medal  
Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal with 3 service stars  
Vietnam Service Medal with 3 service stars

### **SERVICE & TRAINING AWARDS**

Army Overseas Service Ribbon  
Armed Forces Reserve Medal  
Bronze oak leaf cluster  
Bronze oak leaf cluster  
NCO Professional Development Ribbon with award numeral "2"  
Army Service Ribbon

# U.S. AWARDS & DECORATIONS

## BADGES AND TABS

- Special Forces Tab
- Ranger Tab
- Combat Infantryman Badge
- Expert Infantryman Badge
- Aircrew Badge
- US Army Airborne master parachutist
- Master Parachutist Badge
- Air Assault Badge
- Pathfinder Badge
- Expert Marksmanship Badge

## FOREIGN AWARDS & DECORATIONS

- Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Gold Star (Corps), Silver Star (Division) and Bronze Star (Regiment/Brigade)
- Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces Honor Medal, 1st Class
- Republic of Vietnam Civil Actions Medal, 1st Class
- Republic of Vietnam Wound Medal
- Republic of Vietnam Staff Service Medal, 2nd Class
- Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with 1960 bar
- Republic of Korea Order of National Security Merit (Sam-II Medal)
- Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry Unit Citation with Palm
- Vietnam Civil Actions Unit Citation with Palm

## INDIVIDUAL & UNIT AWARDS

- Bronze star
- Silver star
- Gold star

## BADGES

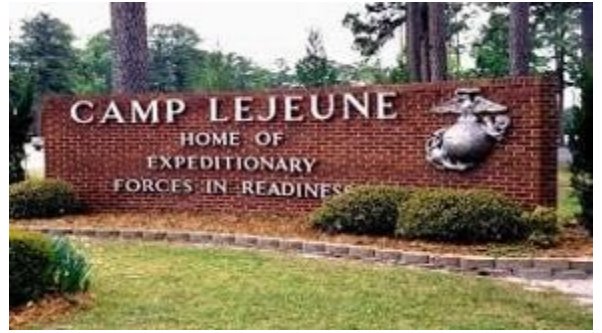
- French Parachutist Badge
- Republic of Vietnam Master Parachute Badge
- Republic of Vietnam Ranger Badge
- Thai Master Parachute Wings
- Korean Master Parachute Badge
- Thai Balloonist Badge

Robert L. Howard is probably the single most decorated American soldier in US Military History and his military career and his life story is one of greatest I've ever heard. The great man and greater soldier, true American Hero.

**RELATED ITEMS:** [MEDAL OF HONOR](#), [AMERICAN HERO](#), [VIETNAM WAR](#), [ROBERT L. HOWARD](#), [MACV-SOG](#)



## VA Plans to Propose Expanded Disability Benefits Eligibility for Veterans Exposed to Contaminated Water at Camp Lejeune



WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today that it plans to propose expanded disability compensation eligibility for Veterans exposed to contaminated drinking water while assigned to Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune.

From 1953 to 1987, water sources at the base were contaminated with industrial solvents that are correlated with certain health conditions. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert A. McDonald decided to propose presumptions of service connection for certain conditions associated with these chemical solvents following discussions between environmental health experts at the Veterans Health Administration and the Department of Health and Human Services Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR).

“The water at Camp Lejeune was a hidden hazard, and it is only years later that we know how dangerous it was,” said Secretary McDonald. “We thank ATSDR for the thorough review that provided much of the evidence we needed to fully compensate Veterans who develop one of the conditions known to be related to exposure to the compounds in the drinking water.”

ATSDR determined that the drinking water at Camp Lejeune was contaminated with perchloroethylene, trichloroethylene, vinyl chloride, benzene and other petroleum contaminants from leaking storage tanks from 1953 to 1987. ATSDR also determined that prolonged exposure to these chemicals increases the risk of certain health conditions.

Based upon VA’s review of current medical science and ATSDR’s findings, Secretary McDonald intends to propose creation of a presumption of service connection for the following conditions:

- Kidney Cancer
- Liver Cancer
- Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma
- Leukemia
- Multiple Myeloma
- Scleroderma
- Parkinson's Disease
- Aplastic Anemia / Myelodysplastic Syndromes

The Secretary’s proposal would also expand benefits eligibility to Reserve and National Guard personnel who served at Camp Lejeune for any length of time from August 1, 1953,

through December 31, 1987. These personnel would be presumed to have been exposed to the contaminated water during their Reserve or National Guard service and, in appropriate circumstances, to have been disabled by such exposure during service, thus allowing them to qualify for VA benefits under the statutory definition of “Veteran.”

This would make them eligible for VA disability compensation and medical care for any of the presumptive conditions, and their surviving dependents would be eligible for dependency and indemnity compensation and burial benefits.

VA is working on regulations that would establish these presumptions, making it easier for affected Veterans to receive VA disability compensation for these conditions. While VA cannot grant any benefit claims based on the proposed presumption of service connection for these conditions until it issues its final regulations, it encourages Veterans who have a record of service at Camp Lejeune between August 1, 1953, and December 31, 1987, and develop a condition that they believe is related to exposure to the drinking water at the base, to file a disability compensation claim with VA.

VA will continue to grant claims for disabilities claimed to be associated with exposure to the contaminants that can be granted under current regulations and review of the evidence in each case. If a claim for service connection for one of the proposed presumptive conditions would be denied under current regulations, the denial will be stayed until VA issues its final regulations. VA will announce when the regulations are final and presumptive benefits can begin to be awarded. For more information on applying for these benefits, visit: [http://benefits.va.gov/compensation/claims-postservice-exposures-camp\\_lejeune\\_water.asp](http://benefits.va.gov/compensation/claims-postservice-exposures-camp_lejeune_water.asp).

Veterans who served at Camp Lejeune for 30 days or more between August 1, 1953, and December 31, 1987, are already eligible to receive VA healthcare for up to 15 health conditions. More information, including a full list of covered conditions, can be found online at: <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/PUBLICHEALTH/exposures/camp-lejeune/index.asp>.

Veterans can establish eligibility for healthcare benefits by submitting VA Form 10-10EZ online at [www.1010ez.med.va.gov/](http://www.1010ez.med.va.gov/), downloading it at [www.va.gov/vaforms/medical/pdf/1010EZ-fillable.pdf](http://www.va.gov/vaforms/medical/pdf/1010EZ-fillable.pdf) and returning it to any VA Medical Center or Clinic, or by calling 1-877-222-VETS (8387), Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:00 AM and 8:00 PM (Eastern Time).

VA is reimbursing certain veterans’ family members for eligible out-of-pocket medical expenses related to the 15 covered conditions. More information can be found at: <https://www.clfamilymembers.fsc.va.gov>



From Dr. Jane Karp, COL USAF ret; Updates from the Veterans History Project (VHP):

Hear from them: what people thought in the wake of the Pearl Harbor attacks

[Hear from them: what people thought in the wake of the Pearl Harbor attacks](#)

[Hear from them: what people thought in the wake of the Pearl Harbor attacks.](#)

On December 7<sup>th</sup>, 1941, the United States experienced “A date that will live in infamy,” when the Japanese launched a surprise attack on Pearl Harbor. 74 years later, you can hear a special online exhibit entitled “After the Day of Infamy,” a collection of “man-on-the-street” interviews recording peoples’ reaction to the attack and subsequent declaration of war. In many ways it is a collection informing the efforts of the Veterans History Project; our feature on Pearl Harbor can be viewed here <http://www.loc.gov/vets/stories/ex-war-pearlharbor.html>

“After the Day of Infamy” can be found here: <http://go.usa.gov/cBEQx>. To listen to individual recordings, click on “List of Recordings,” then click on the collection number, then click the RealPlayer icon to download the recordings to your computer. You can also learn about how these recordings were made and preserved in this section of the exhibit: <http://go.usa.gov/cBEQ5>

One recording features an unnamed subject from Philadelphia expressing the patriotic solidarity that united the country, as well as a New Yorker who can see tough times ahead as metal rationing begins to affect his livelihood. This recording can be downloaded here: <http://go.usa.gov/cBEQh>

For even more collections related to Pearl Harbor, visit this “Journeys and Crossings” page compiled by colleagues in the American Folklife Center, which features more oral histories as well as links to high-quality outside sources of information on Pearl Harbor here: <http://loc.gov/rr/program/journey/pearlharbor.html>

*The Mission of the Veterans History Project of the Library of Congress American Folklife Center is to collect, preserve and make accessible the personal accounts of American war veterans so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the realities of war. Learn more at [www.loc.gov/vets](http://www.loc.gov/vets). Share your exciting VHP initiatives, programs, events, and news stories with VHP to be considered for a future RSS. Email [vohp@loc.gov](mailto:vohp@loc.gov) and place “MyVHP RSS Story” in the subject line.*

*It may be a little late for the tour, but you can call to find out if other tours will be available.*

The public will have a rare opportunity to sense the intense and calamitous action that initiated the 2nd Seminole War. In 1835, 180 years ago to the day, a column of 108 regular U.S. Army troops under the command of Major Francis Dade, marching from Fort Brooke (today's Tampa) to Fort King (today's Ocala), was ambushed and annihilated. Only two soldiers survived the action to tell the tale, which shocked the nation and signaled the beginning of a seven-year-long, difficult, costly conflict. In August 2015, however, it left West Point for the first time and is on loan to the **Florida National Guard Museum in St. Francis Barracks**, displayed in an exhibit sponsored by the St. Augustine Officers' Club and the Seminole Wars Foundation Inc. In light of the occasion, **Florida National Guard Historian, Alison Simpson**, will conduct a tour and discussion of the exhibit in St. Francis Barracks and at the pyramids in the National Cemetery at 11 a.m. Dec. 28. This will be the final opportunity to visit the exhibit before the staff is returned to its West Point home.

## **St. Augustine armory gets needed remodel with proposed budget**

### **The Florida National Guard armory is more than 20 years old**

By [\*John Engel\*](#) *WOKV News Jacksonville, Fl.*

As part of Florida Governor Rick Scott's recommended budget, the Florida National Guard armory in St. Augustine will receive a massive renovation, costing around \$5 million.

The Robert F. Ensslin armory was built in 1992, and needs improvements to the electrical and heating and cooling systems, as well as the addition of a sprinkler system to meet current fire codes.

More than 300 full-time employees work in the 82,000 square foot facility.

"We are at a point when it's time to do a full renovation of the building where we will bring these items up to the current Florida code," Lt. Col. Mark Widener, construction and facilities management officer told WOKV.

Budget restraints have limited the Florida National Guard's funding for utilities and other operational costs, making it extremely important that the facility is upgraded to function more efficiently.

Not only will these changes save the armory money in the long run, it also makes the facility more comfortable for the people working there. Lt. Col. Widener expects labor efficiency to improve as well.



This year's **Veterans Day Grand Parade** was highly successful. Contributing to the success was our many marching units who performed in the parade.

The parade committee had established monetary awards for the best marching and best drill teams for the participating JROTC and ROTC units.

The winners in each category received \$1000 in their category. There were two runner-ups that received \$500.

The following schools were winners by category:

**Nease HS NJROTC -- Best Marching -- \$1000**

**Mandarin HS NJROTC- Best Drill -- \$1000**

**Univ. of N. Florida ROTC – Best Marching--\$1000**

**St. Augustine HS AJROTC -- \$500**

**Bartram Trail HS AFJROTC -- \$500**

The Veterans Council is grateful to each of these outstanding schools and their ROTC programs for supporting this year's Veterans Day Grand Parade and look forward to having them return next year.

Bill Dudley

Chairman

Veterans Council of St. Johns County



***UNF presentation of check and certificate to ROTC unit.***



***Nease High School Presentation***



**From Bill Dudley, Chairman, VC of SJC:** *Capt Ryan Timoney was from St. Johns County. He and his wife Kelby have recently relocated to Georgetown, Tx. after he was medically discharged from the Army.*

*His parents, Greg and Diane are selling their home in St. Johns and moving to Georgetown to be near Ryan and Kelby.*

*Homes For Our Troops has made it possible for Ryan and Kelby to have a home that Ryan can live in without endangering his safety.*

## CPT RYAN TIMONEY, Georgetown, TX



After graduating from the University of Southern California with a business degree, Ryan Timoney enlisted in the Army to serve his country, subsequently being commissioned as a field artillery officer from Officer Candidate School. In early 2012, then First Lieutenant Timoney, deployed with the 214<sup>th</sup> Fires Brigade, Field Artillery unit, as part of Security Force Assistance Team (SFAT) 28. The unit's mission was to train and assist the Afghan police unit in Tarin Kowt, Afghanistan. On May 20, 2012, SFAT 28 was attacked by a suicide bomber. The shrapnel from the explosion hit 1LT Timoney, resulting in a craniotomy (removal of a part of the skull to reduce swelling), the loss of his left leg, partial vision loss and balance impairments.

When he arrived back in the United States, Ryan began speech and vision therapy, and training to restore his memory and walking ability at Walter Reed and the VA Hospital in Tampa. In November 2012, he underwent a cranioplasty to replace the missing portion of his skull with a custom crafted piece of metal.

Ryan's condition had greatly improved by the spring 2013, when he married his wife, Kelby, on the beach, and he was even able to stand with his new bride for wedding photos.

Despite his impressive recovery, Ryan still experiences obstacles in traditional housing. He uses his prosthetic leg during the day, but when at home he prefers his wheelchair. The doorways in his current home are narrow and most rooms are barely wide enough for him to access. A new specially adapted home from Homes for Our Troops will remove those barriers. Additionally, its accessible bathroom with a bench and grab bars will be beneficial for Ryan as he now has to balance on one leg while he showers.

Ryan looks forward to mortgage-free living and the stability of a forever home in Georgetown, Texas, which will allow Kelby and him to move forward to the next phase of their journey, and focus on giving back and helping others. In his free time, Ryan enjoys reading, spending time with friends and shooting. He also enjoys playing the piano, an activity he started as part of his music therapy after his injury, and is interested in pursuing a career in real estate.

Ryan and Kelby say they are sincerely grateful for those who will contribute to their HFOT project. "These homes are tremendous blessings, providing an opportunity to grow. Thank you so much for your support," Ryan says.

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



***For anyone who would like to donate winter clothing for our homeless veterans, here is the drop off points for collection of clothing.***



## Winter Clothing Drive For our Homeless Veterans

*Please help us in keeping our Veterans, in the Greater St. Augustine Area, warm this winter by donating new or gently used clothing.*

- Winter coats
- Winter clothing
- Socks
- Blankets
- Pillows
- Hats
- Gloves
- Sleeping bags

*Drop off Deadline December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015*

### Drop-off Locations

<u>Landon Homes Models</u>	
<p><b>Coquina Ridge</b> 55 Montiano Circle St Augustine 32084</p> <p><b>Moses Creek Estates</b> 405 Leotta Drive St Augustine 32086</p> <p><b>Prairie Lakes</b> 152 N. Prairie Lakes Drive St Augustine 32084</p> <p><b>Kendall Creek</b> 70 Balvenie Drive Saint Johns, 32259</p> <p><b>Rivertown</b> 188 Riverwalk Blvd. St Johns, 32259</p>	<p>Watson US 1 US 1 South</p> <p>Full Circle Moving and Storage 5215 US 1 South</p> <p>Watson St. Augustine Beach 3175 A1A</p> <p>Old Carriage Realty Beach 400 A1A Beach Blvd.</p> <p>Olde Carriage Realty Downtown 92 Charlotte St.</p> <p>Deltona Realty – The Shoppes of Mirabella 52 Tuscan Way, Suite 209</p> <p>Century 21 St. Augustine Properties 3505 US 1 South</p> <p>RE/MAX 100 2798 US 1 South</p>

Sponsored by

Landon Homes

CRC1326780



## What “Semper Fi” REALLY Means To A Veteran



The United States Marine Corps was born 240 years ago, at Tun Tavern, in the Colonial revolutionary capital of Philadelphia, Pa. Over those 240 years, the Marine Corps has earned a remarkable heritage; a proud legacy. The men and women who earned the right to wear the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor insignia—whether in peacetime or in war—entered a brotherhood that remains with them long after they hang up that uniform. **It is true: Once a Marine, always a Marine.**

**The name “Marine” is more than a simple moniker;** it is a personal identity made up of courage, honor, dignity, and faithfulness to one another, and to the Corps. The name “Marine” becomes an important part of who you are for the rest of your life. The words, “Semper Fidelis,” are more than a mere motto, they shape the very core of your character for the rest of your life. One of the Marines shown puts it this way:

“When we say ‘Semper Fi’ it means that we are faithful to each other, we are true to each other.”

Forty eight years ago now, I had the privilege to come to know this faithfulness personally. As a nineteen-year-old Navy Corpsman I was given orders to report to Camp Lejeune, NC for Field Medical Service School. On arriving, I was issued Marine Corps uniforms and was introduced to the Marine Corps ethic. I spent a year at Camp Lejeune before I was given orders to Vietnam. On my arrival in Vietnam I was assigned to Bravo Co. 3rd Recon Bn., 3rd Marine Division. I arrived in Khe Sanh just as the 77 day siege began. After Khe Sanh, I went out on many recon patrols with my Marine Corps brothers.

**The name “Marine” is more than a simple moniker;** it is a personal identity made up of courage, honor, dignity, and faithfulness to one another, and to the Corps. As you will see in the video, the name “Marine” becomes an important part of who you are for the rest of your life. The words, “Semper Fidelis,” are more than a mere motto, they shape the very core of your character for the rest of your life. One of the Marines shown puts it this way:



“When we say ‘Semper Fi’ it means that we are faithful to each other, we are true to each other.”

*Written by: Dan Doyle is a husband, father, grandfather, Vietnam veteran, and retired professor of Humanities at Seattle University. He taught 13 years at the high school level and 22 years at the university level. He spends his time now babysitting his granddaughter. He is a poet and a blogger as well. Dan holds an AA degree in English Literature, a BA in Comparative Literature, and an MA in Theology, and writes regularly for The Veterans Site Blog.*



Meet Dozer, one of our beautiful service dogs! Before coming to us, Dozer was found chained to a tree in the woods and left to die. The person who found



him then brought him to a kill shelter. Luckily, K9s For Warriors saved him and gave him the most important job of all: BATTLE BUDDY to an American hero!

Many of our warriors come to us at rock bottom, with thoughts of suicide. Our service dogs, like Dozer, are their prescription on four legs. We save dogs who then save warriors!

Help us help them:

<https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=e165182&id=26>

**FACT:** The average warrior that goes through the K9s For Warriors service dog program is on 21 prescription medications.

**FACT:** Six months after going through the K9s For Warriors service dog program, 76 percent of warriors have either eliminated or significantly reduced the amount of medications they take.

**W**hen Shari Duval's son Brett Simon returned home in 2005 after nine months in Iraq,

the previously outgoing Army-contracted dog handler was a changed man. "I thought I was going to lose him to suicide, he was that despondent," says Duval, 68, a grandmother of 10 from Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla. She was researching post-traumatic stress disorder when she hit upon an idea: helping her son and others by together starting a service-dog program for struggling vets. Now 43 and married with a 6-year-old son, Brett says, "It's been a life-changer."

Not just for him. The nonprofit K9s for Warriors (k9sforwarriors.org), aided by 500 volunteers, has paired 96 vets with canine companions—nearly all of them rescue dogs trained by Brett. "Dogs are really good about helping [reduce] anxiety," says psychologist Tracy Stecker of the Dartmouth Psychiatric Research Center.



**THEIR PET PROJECT**  
Shari Duval and Brett Simon with Brett's service dog Reagan. "These dogs," Shari says, "work miracles."

She says the dogs' vigilance makes the vets feel protected, and their unconditional love develops trust.

No one knows that better than retired Marine Capt. Jason Haag. After three tours of duty, he shut out his wife and kids, sleeping with a gun under his pillow in a darkened basement. A little

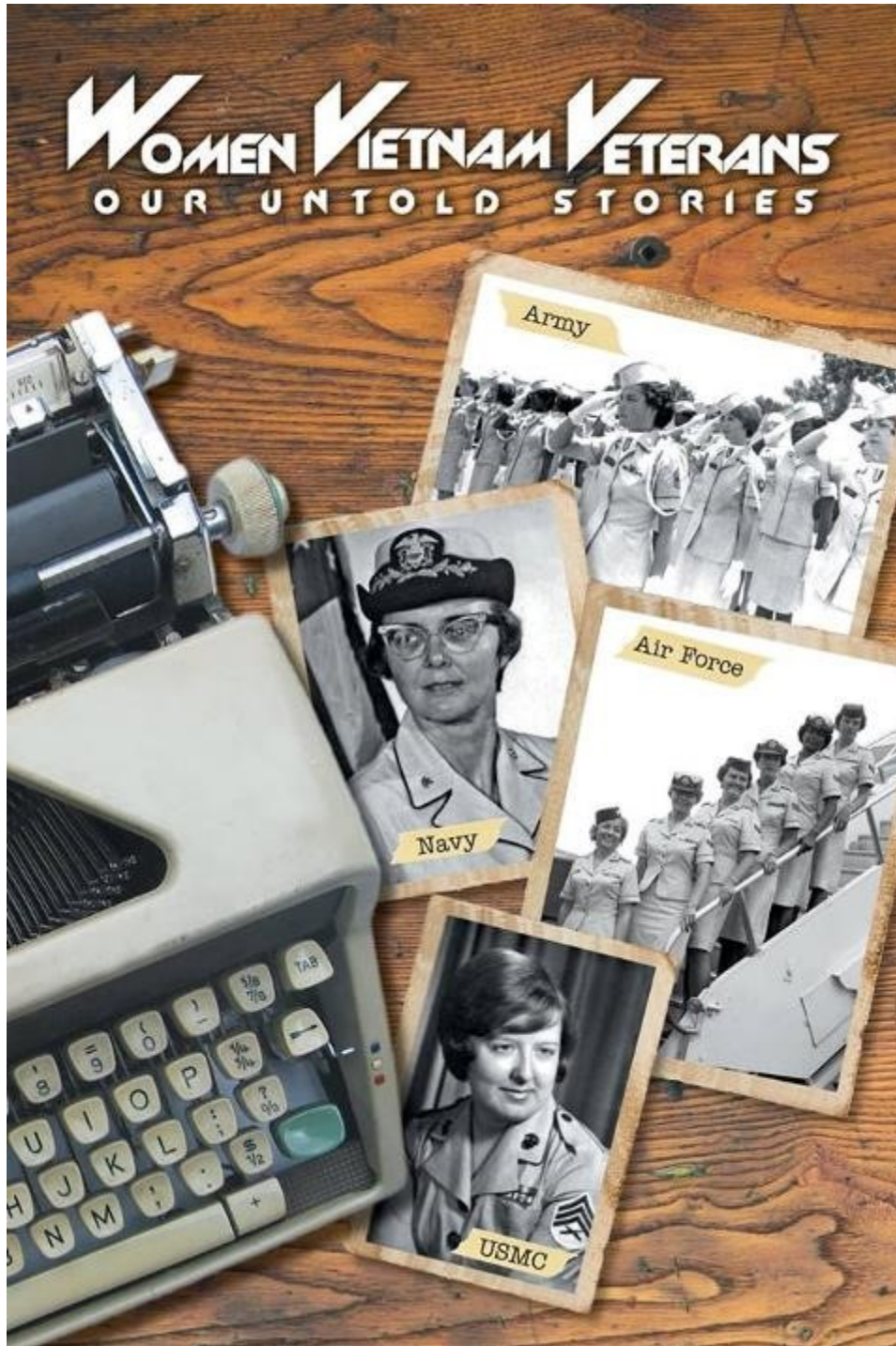
more than a year after getting his 2-year-old German shepherd Axel, he has reconnected with his family and has coached baseball for his sons, 11 and 8. "Axel hit the reset button," says Haag, 33, who still gets counseling but has reduced his medication for anxiety and depression. "Thank God for a dog."

FROM LEFT: NATHAN CORNETT/FUSION PHOTOGRAPHY; COURTESY JCPENNEY PORTRAIT STUDIOS; COURTESY TODD GALLEY/K9S FOR WARRIORS; COURTESY JCPENNEY PORTRAIT STUDIOS; COURTESY TODD GALLEY/K9S FOR WARRIORS; COURTESY ANA LOMBARDI; COURTESY JORDAN LEON, KAREN PRESECAN; (DUVAL & SIMON) COURTESY TODD GALLEY/K9S FOR WARRIORS



**AJ Sartin in 1968 at Camp Holloway, Pleiku. Ready to go on patrol. 119th AHC, 94th Med Det.**

U.S. Army Women's Museum: As a partner in The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration, the U.S. Army Women's Museum is dedicated to sharing the history of women's contributions during this war. For more information about female Vietnam War veterans check out the recently published book "Women Vietnam Veterans: Our Untold Stories." Museum staff members were proud contributors to this project. Submitted by Heather Andrews-Partin



*A letter to the Veterans Council*

Dear Veterans Council of St. Johns County,

On behalf of my two great grandchildren, Liam and Emma Smith, I would like to extend a heart felt thanks for your contribution to the Smith Strong 1st Annual Golf Tournament.

Liam was diagnosed in January of 2013 with Leukemia and his treatment should end around April of 2016. Emma was diagnosed in June of 2015 and her treatment will last through August of 2018.

The successful golf tournament raised close to \$50,000, however the long term medical expenses will be many more times that amount.

Your generosity means so much to our family and again, I thank you.

Sincerely,

Great Grandpa Bob

*Bob Morrow*

# Agent Orange Base Spray List

Page 5

USAF Ranch Hand Herbicide Totals from Aug 1965

Grand Total: 8,165,491

11/5/95

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

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

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

## US Navy and Coast Guard ships in Vietnam



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



## **1st Quarterly Gathering of 2016 NE Florida Veterans 4 Veterans**

**in  
Veterans Memorial Arena  
January 16th 1100 -1300**

Join us and get updates on Veterans happenings in the NE Florida community and share your organizations events with your fellow Veterans.

Speakers from Veterans Services, Veterans organizations and organization supporting Veterans will share information of interest to the Veterans community.

### **Free Buffet Lunch**

Parking in Lot Z signage will be direct you to the meeting room  
(same room on first floors as the last meeting)

## **JOIN US!**

**Vets 4 Vets  
VETERANS MEMORIAL ARENA  
January 16th,2016**



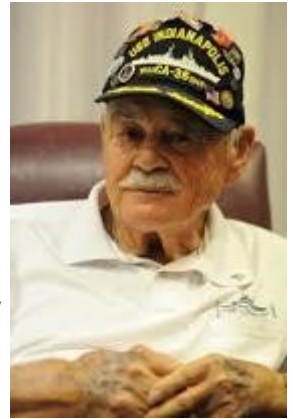
**“Together we are stronger”**



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

**Victor Buckett, one of the last survivors of USS Indianapolis disaster, dies at age 93**

*By Jenna Buzzacco-Foerster of the Naples Daily News*



**Victor Buckett, a World War II veteran and one of the last survivors of the USS Indianapolis disaster, has died. He was 93.**

**"Everybody loved him because he didn't worry about anything," said Dottie Buckett, his wife. "He always had a smile on his face."**

**Buckett grew up in Mamaroneck, New York. He joined the Navy after high school. He was in nine battles during his time on the USS Indianapolis, where he was the yeoman and was responsible for the daily log.**

**The USS Indianapolis was returning from delivering components for the atomic bomb when it was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine on July 30, 1945. The ship sunk in minutes. Three hundred men went down with the ship; while 900 men, including Buckett, floated in the sea for days. When they were found four days later, only 317 men were still alive.**

**Dottie Buckett said her husband was often asked to talk about his experience. He's spoken in schools, took part in the Bonita Springs Historical Society's World War II veterans' video project and even loaned some of his memorabilia to the Naples Military Museum.**

**Buckett was also involved in the annual USS Indianapolis survivors' reunion, attending the reunion earlier this year to mark the 70th anniversary of the disaster. About 30 survivors of the disaster are still alive.**

**Dottie Buckett said her husband didn't let the disaster define his life. He went to school after returning home from World War II, and opened his own upholstery business. The couple were married for 68 years and had three children.**

**The pair grew up in the same town, and Dottie Buckett said she always had her eye on him. But she was six years younger and it was years before their paths crossed.**

**They met at a local bar. She was out for a nightcap with her brother and a guy she was seeing at the time. He was at the same bar with a buddy during a visit home for the weekend. It was the first time the two met; years later, when he returned home, he went to the library where she worked and ask her out on a date.**

**"We were just meant to be," she said.**

**The pair moved to Naples in 1982. It was February in New York and it was snowing like crazy. Dottie Buckett said she woke up one morning and said to Victor they were going to retire. He agreed.**

**Dottie Buckett said her husband was a boater and the couple lived near the water for most of their lives. She said he loved spending time with his children, even taking the family on a road trip to California when they were younger.**



**"I feel my husband had a bonus 70 because so many perished in the water," said Dottie Buckett. "He just felt like he was one of the lucky ones."**



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



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**BECAUSE OF THE BRAVE**

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More than 83,000 Americans are still missing!

Lest we forget! Some Gave All!

**UNTIL THEY ALL COME HOME**

The Elks Lodge #829 in St. Augustine, making donation to Jax USO. Thank you so much! It's because of donations like this that the USO Jax can continue our good work serving our service members, especially through the holiday season!



L to R: Fred DuPont, Elks PAL Day coordinator; Jimmy Dean, Elks Lodge Exalted Ruler; Mike O'Brien, Executive Director, Greater Jacksonville Area USO; George April, Elks PAL Day volunteer coordinator.

**This is was the 58th year of Elks Lodge #829 partnering with the Greater Jacksonville Area USO to make the families of our local service members feel welcome when they come to St. Augustine to watch the Christmas Parade.**



A National Guard family of 10!  
Enjoying a meal on Pal Day 2015.

Submitted by Fred Dupont



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

-Lewis Jordan, Founder, & CEO



# GratitudeAmerica

## Join Forces With GratitudeAmerica

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



## As shocking as it may seem...

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

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

➤ SPOUSE OF VETERAN WITH 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

## ➤ CONTACT US

John November Esq.

Executive Director

Direct: 904-525-3042

[jnovember@gratitudeamerica.org](mailto:jnovember@gratitudeamerica.org)

PO Box 16956

Fernandina Beach, FL 32035



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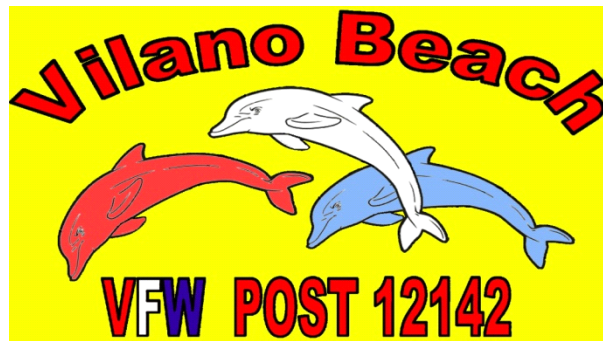
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**Vilano Beach VFW now has 3 Wheelchairs available for St. Johns County Veterans**



**1.**

**2.**

**3.**

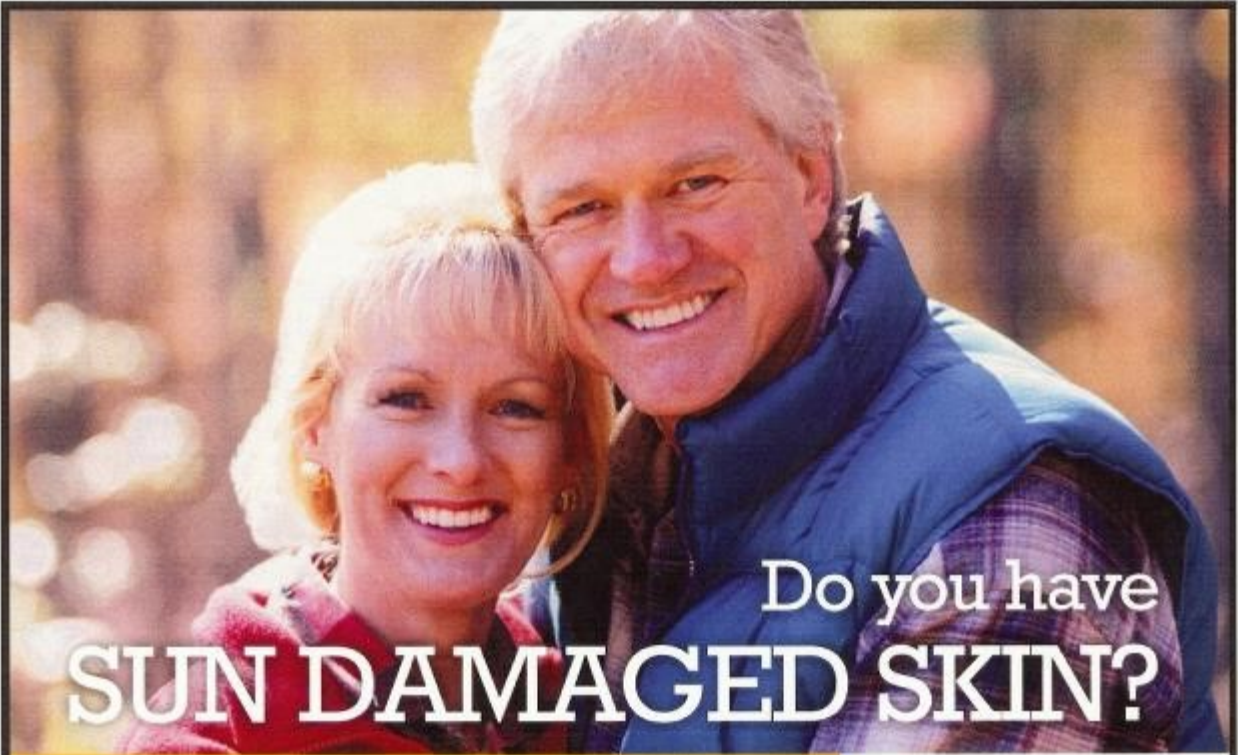
**1 – Pride Jazzy Jet 2 – Heavy Duty Electric Wheelchair with on-board Charger & Manual.**

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

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

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





# Do you have SUN DAMAGED SKIN?

## Are you in the SUN a lot?

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

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

Qualified participants will receive at no cost:  
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Qualifying participants will receive financial compensation for their time and travel.

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

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

**For more information, or to schedule a screening, please contact us at :**  
Solutions Through Advanced Research, Inc.  
12086 Fort Caroline Road  
Jacksonville, FL 32225  
904-619-8157



## “Honoring the Dead by Helping the Living”

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

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

### VETERANS HELPING VETERANS

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

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



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

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

---

### Go-Go Elite Traveller 3-Wheel

by Pride , Model No. SC40E

#### **Lightweight, agile, the Elite Traveller.**

18AH battery option for extended drive range

Comes with blue, and red shroud covers

Front frame-mounted seat post offers maximum stability

#### **Key Specs**

Top Speed: 4.25 mph

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

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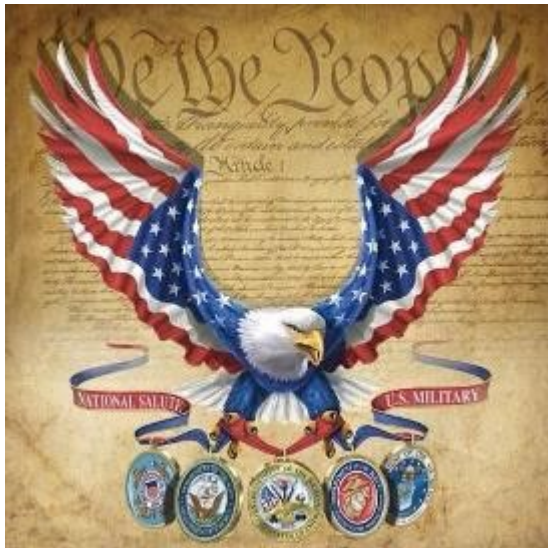
*Veterans Council of St. Johns County,  
"Helping All Veterans"*

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

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



The new Veterans Service Office is now open and ready to serve you.



*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.*

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

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

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

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

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

Visit our Website: [www.veteranscouncilofstjohns.org](http://www.veteranscouncilofstjohns.org)

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

*(physical location)*

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

*The office is open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily, Monday through Friday excluding holidays. Closed for lunch daily from 11:30 am 12:30 pm*

*Service is by appointment.*

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

*Joseph McDermott, CVSO*

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