



The Patriot Reader Newsletter

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St. Augustine, FL 32085

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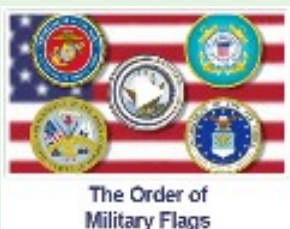
Volume 8, Issue 1

Message from the Chairman

Newsletter Date: January 2019

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Fellow Veterans. On behalf of the Veterans Council of St. Johns County, I would like to wish you a Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. This has been another very busy year for your Veterans Council and we have accomplished many extraordinary things this year in support of our veterans. I would also like to bring to the attention of all our readers this edition of our Patriot Reader Newsletter will be the beginning of our 8th year of publication bringing news of our Veterans Council and highlighting other news events concerning our veterans in northeast Florida.

We were privileged this past week to obtain all the materials and engage a roofer to re-roof retired USMC veteran Herb Volk's home. Herb's roof was damaged by Hurricane Irma. Your Veterans Council began to contact suppliers and roofer soon after we were notified of

his need to replace his roof. The materials were all furnished by 3 suppliers at no cost to the Veterans Council or to Mr. Volk. Reiter Roofing Co. is furnishing the labor and expertise to replace the roof at no cost as well. Complete coverage of the work appears in a more detailed article later in our newsletter.

Our Wreaths Across America program was another resounding success this year. Even with the inclement weather condition, over 300 people turned out to participate in our program and help place a wreath on all the headstones at the St. Augustine National Cemetery to honor our veterans who are interred at this location. Bravo Zulu to our Vice Chairman Ray Quinn, Judy Davis and George Linardos for heading up this year's program and making it such a huge success.

January 19,2019 will be the date of our next St. Augustine Military Ball. This year's honoree will be a St. Augustine favorite son, Lt.



General Ronald Bailey, USMC ret. As in years past, this will be another gala event with good food catered by Black Molly Restaurant and music for dancing furnished by The Chris Thomas Band. Most of the proceeds from this year's Ball will go to Pedro Menendez High School to help establish a Marine JROTC Program. The Veterans Council has purchased two tables for this year's gala event. Please join us on the 19th as we honor General Bailey and help raise money to stand up another High School JROTC unit in our city. Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year. Bill Dudley, Chairman Veterans Council of St. Johns County

Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home



The Holiday Season at Clyde E Lassen included many visitors, many parties, many goodies and many great memories made!!





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



The Support Committee invites everyone to attend its **next scheduled meeting, on Monday January 21**. The meeting will be at **7:00pm**. The meeting will take place at Community Hospice, **4266 Sunbeam Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32257 in Conference Room A**.

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

DATES OF 2019 SC at JNC MEETINGS

Monday, January 21, 2019 7:00pm (After Action Meeting for WAA)

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

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

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

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

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

Chairman: Steve Spickelmier

Vice Chairman: Bill Dudley, Treasurer: John Mountcastle

Assistant Treasurer: Michael Rothfeld, Secretary: Kathy Church

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

Historian: Kathy Cayton

Chaplain: Rev. Patrick A. Archuleta, Sr.

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

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

Future meeting Speakers:

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

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

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

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

Trish Doran, Wekiva Springs Center, Military Liaison

April 25, Chaplain Pat Archuleta, Jesus Loves Veterans Ministries

Jessica Bradstreet, Dept. of VA, Local Recovery Coordinator

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

Volunteers to give disabled St. Johns County vet new roof

By Sheldon Gardner, St. Augustine Record

For Herb Volk, doing routine things can be a challenge.

Physical pains and post-traumatic stress disorder have left Volk, a retired Marine, disabled and unable to work.

With those challenges facing him and with his roof in need of repairs, he recently reached out for help. With donated labor and materials from local businesses and help from the Veterans Council of St. Johns County, a nonprofit organization, he should have a revamped roof before the New Year.



*From left: Herb Volk, Matt Reiter and Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley.
Photo by Peter Willott, The Record*

Volk, 69, lives off County Road 208 in a house he bought in 2006. He said his insurance company wouldn't cover the roof replacement. It would be a big struggle for me to do it," Volk said.

Bill Dudley, chair of the veterans council, said the council reached out to local businesses after learning of Volk's situation.

Matt Reiter, owner and president of Reiter Roofing, agreed to provide labor to repair the roof. ABC Supply Co., Suncoast Roofers Supply and Big Tuna Roofing are providing the materials, Dudley said. Dudley, Reiter and Volk talked about the project outside of Volk's home on Wednesday as Volk's dogs, Fred and Asha, watched attentively from behind a fence.

Reiter said crews will replace shingles and give part of the roof more of a slope. As it is, one section has a dip in it, he said. Normally the cost for such a project would be up to about \$9,000, he said.

Volk served in the Marines from 1967 to 1988, including in Vietnam. Later he worked as a nurse. While working at the hospital, he learned in 2004 that he had cancer in his vocal cords. He was also diagnosed with PTSD that stemmed in part from his time in the Marines, and he said he had to retire because of the disorder.

"I can't be in ... big crowds," Volk said. "It freaks me out at work, and I get real quick-tempered for no reason."

The Veterans Council of St. Johns County acts as an umbrella organization for close to 30 other veterans groups in the county, Dudley said. The organization serves veterans in need across the county. Dudley said St. Johns County has about 23,000 veterans.

Volk said he's grateful for the help.

"This is ... outstanding because, like I said, I'd have been in the poorhouse trying to do it," Volk said. "And I appreciate so much these folks to come out and help me with this."

MISSING IN AMERICA PROJECT – FLORIDA



UPDATE – DECEMBER 10, 2019

MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the Missing in America Project (MIAP) is to locate, identify and inter the unclaimed cremated remains of American veterans through the joint efforts of private, state and federal organizations, and to provide honor, respect and dignity to those who have served this country by securing a final resting place for these forgotten heroes.

NATIONAL PROGRESS AS OF 12/09/2018

Total Funeral Homes Visited - 2,305

Cremains Found – 18,625

Veterans Cremains Identified – 4,093

Veterans Interred - 3,725

FLORIDA PROGRESS AS OF 12/10/2018

Total Funeral Homes Visited - 161

Cremains Found – 1,507

Number to be interred - 91

Missions Scheduled – 1

Veterans Interred – 250

Spouses Interred – 98

Dependents Interred – 1

“IT’S THE RIGHT THING TO DO”

CALL TO HONOR #18
Saturday, February 02, 2018 @ 10am

In cooperation with Sea Winds Funeral Home & Crematory, Davis Sea Winds Funeral Home & Crematory, and Baldwin Brothers Funeral & Cremation Society, MIAP will be interring the unclaimed cremains of 16 veterans, and 6 spouses of veterans, with full military honors, at the Cape Canaveral National Cemetery located at 5525 US Hwy. 1, Mims, FL 32754. Included will be a veteran that was sent to MIAP-FL by MIAP-Utah.

The veterans being interred served in the US Army, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard during World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Persian Gulf, and other non-war specific periods.

The longest that any of these being interred has been unclaimed is since 1973.

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

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

Kathy Church

MIAP, FL State Coordinator

1205 2ND Street S

Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250

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

From John Leslie: I am proud to report that our local Vietnam Veterans of America Leo C Chase Jr. Chapter 1084 has recently been accepted and designated as a Commemorative Partner with the Department of Defense Vietnam War Commemoration. This partnership provides the Chapter the authority to officially thank, honor and recognize five categories of Vietnam Veterans and their families of behalf of a grateful nation. To learn more click the provided link. If you wish to schedule an event, public or private, for your organization or your family, please contact me via facebook or at president@vva1084.org.



VVA Chapter 1084 Designated a Commemorative Partner of the Department of Defense Vietnam War Commemoration by John Leslie

(St. Augustine, FL) The Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) Chapter 1084 of St Johns County, FL is proud to announce that they were officially accepted as a Commemorative Partner with the Department of Defense Vietnam War Commemoration on 21 November 2018.

This program was established by the Vietnam War Commemoration as an initiative to assist a grateful nation in thanking and honoring Vietnam veterans and their families where they live. As part of the Commemorative Partner Program, Certificates of Honor have been designed to honor and give special recognition to five categories of veterans and their families.

The basic Honor is the Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin, awarded to living United States veterans who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces at any time during the period of November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975, regardless of location of service.

The second Honor is for Former, Living American Military Prisoners of War (POW) as listed by the Department of Defense. If the former POW is deceased, the lapel pin may be presented to the surviving spouse.

Third is the Missing in Action (MIA) and Unaccounted For veterans. This honor is for the immediate family members (parents, spouse, siblings and children) of American personnel listed as MIA and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War by the Department of Defense.

The next is the In Memory Of certificate and lapel pin for the immediate family members (parents, spouse, siblings and children) of those listed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

The fifth honor is the Deceased Vietnam Veteran's Surviving Spouse certificate and lapel pin for the surviving spouse at the time of death of a veteran who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces at any time during the period from November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975, regardless of location.

Organizations or individuals may schedule appropriate ceremonies by contacting VVA-1084 at 904.233.4712 or at president@VVA1084.org



Five VVA members to be inducted into Hall of Fame

Assisting veterans is the common connection of the five Vietnam Veterans of America Florida State Council members who were inducted into the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame on Tuesday, Dec. 4.

The five – Aaron “Gary” Newman, Chapter 1059, Navy; Luis E. Lalama, Chapter 620, Army; Jose A. “Joe” Rosa Jr., Chapter 1048, Air Force; David L. Rose, Chapter 1048, Army; and George W. Wanberg, Chapter 1036, Marine Corps – all feel honored, humbled and privileged for their prestigious 2018 induction in the Hall of Fame. The induction ceremony will take place Tuesday, Dec. 4 in the Cabinet room in the State Capitol in Tallahassee.

The Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame Wall of Honor is located on the plaza level of the Capitol.

Established six years ago, the Hall of Fame recognizes those military veterans who, through their works and lives during or after military service, have made a significant contribution to the State of Florida.

They are all driven to help their veteran brothers and sisters, especially the Vietnam Veteran.

Below is a look at each inductee:

Gary Newman

The retired Navy Petty Officer, Master-at-Arms, is currently the 2nd Vice President of the VVA Florida State Council.

The Orange Park resident Newman is founder and past president of the Vietnam Veterans of America William G. Byrns Chapter 1059 in Clay County.

In addition, he is advisor to the incarcerated Chapter 1080 at the Union Correctional Institution in Raiford. As advisor to the incarcerated chapter at Union Correctional Institution, Newman was instrumental getting the chapter chartered six years ago. The chapter received national recognition by the Vietnam Veterans of America in 2017 with a pair of awards – Incarcerated Chapter of the Year and Ed Snook, Chapter 1080 President, recognized a Member of the Year.

Newman, a former Clay County Deputy Sheriff and Chief of Police at NAS Jacksonville, was driving force in organizing, funding and construction of the TAPS Monument, dedicated to the 66 fallen warriors from Clay County, in Green Cove Springs. The TAPS Monument was dedicated in October 2017.



Newman is passionate about assisting and mentoring veterans, spending countless personal hours doing so, and inspiring others.

“When I became Chapter 1080’s president three years ago, he helped me become a better leader with his advice and encouragement,” Snook said. “He is the backbone of Chapter 1080.

Newman helped start the Veterans Court in Clay County and has been advocate of all veterans.

He works hard for the forgotten veterans, especially the Vietnam Veterans at UCI.

“Gary lets the inmates know that someone on the outside still cares about them and provides a positive focus for them,” UCI Officer Mary Goodge said.

David Rose

Rose of Daytona Beach is currently known for the Vietnam Tribute Truck which has visited several chapters throughout the state.

“When veterans approach this truck and see all of those thousands and thousands of names on this truck, they’re moved,” Rose said. “Everybody is moved, you don’t have to be a veteran to see this truck and not be moved.”

That is just part of Army veteran’s story.

He developed a corporation to assist post-war veterans with their PTSD, working on technique and methods to pre-condition individuals going to war so they will not receive PTSD or at least not to a large degree. Rose points out that program has been very successful.

An author, Rose has written numerous books, one of which is his poetic description “Some Wounds Don’t Bleed” of his PTSD journey from counseling through the VA.

He has provided guides for psychiatrists and psychologists to help teach post-war veterans how to cope with PTSD.

In addition, Rose served as guide in the National Medal of Honor Museum in Chattanooga, TN for eight years and was a Park Ranger in Yosemite National Park.

Rose studied each of the citations of all the Vietnam War recipients of the Medal of Honor and compressed it down to a four-line poetic account for this a book.

Luis E. Lalama

The past president of Chapter 620, Lalama has been very instrumental and influential in Miami-Dade County.



The Army veteran, who is a retired banker who then became self-employed, has been assisting veterans over 30 years first in New Jersey and now in Florida.

The New Jersey native is a past commander of an American Legion Post in New Jersey and Post 98 in Coral Gables.

Lalama has helped countless number of homeless veterans over the years.

“When I joined Vietnam Veterans of America and became president (of Chapter 620), I started helping veterans anyway we could,” he said.

He is a member of the advisor board of the VA Hospital in Miami and is very much involved in the community.

Lalama helped organize the first ever Welcome Vietnam Veterans event on Nov. 6, 2013 in downtown Miami. He received a proclamation from the Miami-Dade County Commissioners and declared the day “Luis Lalama Day”.

He established a speaker’s bureau for the high school students in the Miami area where they talk about the Vietnam War and the life before, during and after their military experience.

“They are not teaching anything about Vietnam in the schools anymore,” Lalama said.

Lalama also helped establish the Veterans Court in Miami-Dade County and was the original mentor/coordinator.

Joe Rosa

The former commander of VFW Post 3282 in Port Orange, Rosa has been aiding not just veterans but members of the community in the Daytona Beach area.

The Air Force veteran, the VFW District 19 Senior Vice Commander, is on the board for the Veterans Museum in Daytona Beach and on the board of directors for the Veterans Village at Fort McCoy.

He moved to Florida in 1997 and has been active in homeowner associations for years.

Rosa was the driving force behind the Veterans Park in Port Orange.

“I’ve been helping veterans not lose their homes and feeding veterans,” Rosa said.

When it gets cold, Rosa gives veterans blankets and food, plus makes arrangements with a local church to give them a warm place to sleep, get them food and a shower.

Rosa has been involved in his community since 2000.



You have to be involved to keep it a good community and most important to help our veterans, especially those who are not informed of what their benefits are,” Rosa said.

George Wanberg

The Pennsylvania native is the former state chaplain of the Florida Marine Corps League and is a past Commandant of Leesburg Chapter 1240. Wanberg chairs Lake County’s Elder Affairs Council and serves on the executive board of Mid-Florida Community Services in addition to his work on Mission United’s Advisory Committee.



Even his “day job” has him advocating for and honoring veterans: Wanberg oversees Cornerstone Hospices’ Veteran Salute Program in seven Florida counties and is highly regarded as a mentor to any group or individual interested in honoring veterans in the latter stages of life.

Wanberg spent 35 years in the medical field and has been helping veterans for over 30 years.

He has been associated with the veterans committee for Bushnell National Cemetery.

He has taken four groups back to Vietnam since 2000, helping escort the men and women for closure.

Helping veterans is where his heart is all.

“It makes you feel very humble,” Wanberg said about the award. “It is hard to put into words. It is a very special thing.”

It is a special award for a special group of veterans.

Four others

There are four other Vietnam Veterans going into the Hall of Fame – Navy Rear Adm. Carlton McLeod, Army Major Charles E. Merkel Jr., Navy Captain David Quirk and Air Force Chief Master Sgt. John Schmidt Jr.

Submitted by David Treffinger, E-Recon Editor

Photos by David Treffinger

Keith Oliver, a correspondent for The Daily Commercial, Leesburg, contributed to this report on George Wanberg.



Florida State Council President Mike Bousher (third from right) joins the five new VVA members Gary Newman (left) of Chapter 1059 and 1080, David Rose and Jose “Joe” Rosa Jr. of Chapter 1048, George Wanberg of Chapter 1036 and Luis Lalama of Chapter 620 inducted into the Florida Veterans’ Hall of Fame during a Feb. 4 ceremony in Tallahassee.

Newman inducted into Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame

By David Treffinger

Gary Newman's goal has been to assist veterans.

As a result of his work on behalf of veterans and especially the incarcerated veterans, the Orange Park resident was inducted into the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame on Tuesday, Dec. 4 during a ceremony in the Cabinet Room in the State Capitol Building in Tallahassee.

Newman, a retired Navy Petty Officer, Master-at-Arms, is founder and past president of the Vietnam Veterans of America William G. Byrns Chapter 1059 in Clay County. He is currently Vietnam Veterans of America Florida State Council 2nd Vice President and advisor to the incarcerated Chapter 1080 at the Union Correctional Institution in Raiford. In addition,



Gary Newman (third from left) of Chapter 1059 and 1080 with Attorney General Pam Bondi (left), Governor Rick Scott, Veterans' Hall of Fame chairman Ray Quinn and Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs Executive Director Glenn W. Sutphin Jr., Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis and Commissioner of Agriculture Adam Putnam.

Newman is President of the VVA Florida State Council Foundation, a group dedicated to support veterans.

The 76-year-old was one of 20 veterans from the state inducted into the prestigious Veterans' Hall of Fame.

"I am very humbled and honored to receive an award of this caliber," Newman said.

"It's important that I share this award with the many people who have allowed me to enter into their lives. Without them I would not have received this prestigious honor."

As advisor to the incarcerated chapter at Union Correctional Institution, Newman was instrumental getting the chapter chartered six years ago. The chapter received national recognition by the Vietnam Veterans of America in 2017 with a pair of awards – Incarcerated Chapter of the Year and Ed Snook, Chapter 1080 President, recognized a Member of the Year.

In addition, Newman was driving force in organizing, funding and construction of the TAPS Monument, dedicated to the 66 fallen warriors from Clay County, in Green Cove Springs. The TAPS Monument was dedicated in October 2017.

Newman is passionate about assisting and mentoring veterans, spending countless personal

hours doing so, and inspiring others.

“When I became Chapter 1080’s president three years ago, he helped me become a better leader with his advice and encouragement,” Snook said. “He is the backbone of Chapter 1080.

“His motto: ‘Leave No Veteran Behind’ is words that he follows every day. He is a leader. I am proud to call a friend and a true veteran.”

Newman, a former Clay County Deputy Sheriff, Chief of Police at Naval Air Station Jacksonville and Deputy Director of Security at NAS Jacksonville, was recognized as the VVA Florida State Council co-member of the year in 2018.

“Throughout his tenure Gary has been the voice and advocate of all veterans regardless of location,” V. Paul Haws Jr., Chapter 1059 treasurer, said.

“I can say with unqualified certainty that in my four decades of Naval service I have met few men or women who would equal Gary’s resolve and strong, effective leadership.”

Still active with Chapter 1059, the Chapter he founded seven years ago, Newman works hard for the forgotten veterans, especially the Vietnam Veterans at UCI.

“Gary lets the inmates know that someone on the outside still cares about them and provides a positive focus for them,” UCI Officer Mary Goodge said.

“Gary undertook our plight to become a chapter of the VVA and worked many long hours to help us get our chapter,” George P. Ballman, Chapter 1080’s founder and first president at UCI. “He worked tirelessly using his own time and money to help us become a chapter member of the VVA.”

Newman is very grateful of the honor being bestowed.

“One of the proudest titles one can earn is ‘veteran’,” Newman said. “It has been my distinct pleasure to serve the veteran community. They are all my personal heroes.

“To be recognized with such a prestigious award for doing what comes naturally is mind boggling. I am just overwhelmed and humbled that I would even be considered for this presentation. Thank you to all who have helped me accomplish so much.

“I have spent six decades serving my neighborhood, County and Country in one way or another. I enjoy helping those veterans who have been forgotten over time. I am inspired by the look in their eyes when you reach out to offer a hand up, not a hand out.”

Army veteran who lost leg now works with the Jaguars

From the FL Times Union, By Matt Soergel

Sean Karpf remembers everything about the moments after his left Army boot stepped on the pressure plate of a buried bomb in rural Afghanistan: the smoke, the taste of chemicals in his mouth and the sound of fellow soldiers calling his name, barely heard through the ringing in his ears.

Sean Karpf remembers everything about the moments after his left Army boot stepped on the pressure plate of a buried bomb in rural Afghanistan: the smoke, the taste of chemicals in his mouth and the sound of fellow soldiers calling his name, barely heard through the ringing in his ears.

He remembers trying to climb out of the bomb crater. And he remembers the pain.

Moments later, as he was strapped to a litter, Taliban fighters on a nearby roof fired machine-gun rounds at the men and the helicopter trying to rescue him. Helpless as he was, he was still calling out orders to his men as the bullets pinged around them.

It was June 15, 2012, and he was 27 years old, a sergeant in the 82nd Airborne on his second tour of duty in Afghanistan.

More than six years later, on a cool December afternoon on the Jacksonville Jaguars practice field, he tracks a long kick by Josh Lambo, moving back a few steps, planting his prosthetic leg in the turf, and cradles the ball in his arms. He tosses it back toward the kicker, who lines up for another attempt.

Karpf, who grew up a Jaguars fan, is now a strength and conditioning associate with the team, another step on a journey that's taken him from Kandahar province to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, from the Wounded Warriors Project to an internship with the Jaguars. And this year, to a full-time job with the team.

After Afghanistan, during a lengthy recovery involving 20 surgeries, his left leg was amputated below the knee. Karpf now gets around just fine with a choice of several prosthetic legs, including a blade-like one on which he recently ran eight miles.

He's 33, a graduate of Orange Park High School and a fan of the new local NFL team: He had a trading card of Steve Beuerlein, the starting quarterback for the first Jaguars game ever.

The charge of working for his hometown team has not left him: "I know I'm here full time," he said, "but it's still one of those things: I don't believe I'm here."

Karpf first came to the Jaguars in 2014 as an intern through the Wounded Warrior Project. He eventually found a home with the strength and conditioning department, and stayed there two years.

His military experience impressed Tom Coughlin, the former coach who now heads football operations. Coughlin made a point of occasionally coming up and talking with Karpf, even when the trainer was just an intern.

Karpf laughed: "Other interns and even the strength staff are like, 'Why are you talking to Coach Coughlin?' 'Well,



he's coming up talking to me!' ”

In January, he was cleaning out his locker after the heartbreaking playoff loss to New England. The season, and his internship, were over.

As he was saying goodbyes, general manager Dave Caldwell suggested he go see Coughlin, then followed him into the boss's office.

Coughlin looked up at Karpf. “We're thinking about bringing you on,” he said. “Do you think you'll help make this team a better team?”

Just like that, he had a job with his hometown team, and he called his wife, Brandy, and told her the news.

In a recent ESPN video about Karpf and the Jaguars, Coughlin explained why he offered him a job.

“I thought this would be a heck of a guy to hire ... because of what he brings to the table,” he said. “And also for our players to maybe get to know a young man who had made those kind of sacrifices for his country.”

The players have noticed.

“Not sure there is anyone on this earth that I'm more proud to call a friend,” Lambo tweeted as he linked to the ESPN video.

One game a year, NFL players can choose to wear custom cleats as part of the “My Cleats My Cause” program. Linebacker Telvin Smith was thinking of Karpf when he put on cleats honoring the military and the Wounded Warrior Project.

“A lot of people take personal issues and stuff. But at the end of the day, I chose one that I see every day and that really impacts me,” Smith said.

Karpf was four months into his second deployment in Afghanistan when he was injured. He'd previously spent a year there, beginning in 2009. During his recovery he was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder; he would get angry over small things, was impatient with family.

“I knew something was wrong. I definitely wasn't the same person I was before I got injured,” he said.

He's in a better place now, working with the team, earning a bachelors in kinesiology at Jacksonville University and starting an online master's program.

None of that was his plan, however: As a young man, Karpf set a goal to join the Army, and he would still be soldier, he said, if he hadn't been injured. In fact, he signed up for another six years the month before he was hurt.

“To me there's no other job, no other thing you can do in where, where you can be so close with the people around you,” he said. “Once you fight alongside somebody, that bond can never be replaced or duplicated, to me.”

There's some of that feeling, he says, on the Jaguars. “Being in the military you feel like you're part of a team, working together. This is the next-best thing, it feels like — working for success, trying to win games.”

Matt Soergel: (904) 359-4082

'It's been a lifesaver', Local vet, wife aim to help other vets heal through gardening

By Travis Gibson tgibson@staugustine.com

Crystal Timmons and her husband Robert, an Army veteran, spent Saturday afternoon with about 10 volunteers building two raised garden beds in the backyard of a St. Augustine home. Once assembled, the gardens were filled with organic peppers, garlic chives, cabbage and cauliflower.



It was a test run for the Veteran Garden Project, a recently formed nonprofit and passion project for the couple. The goal is to build a community for local vets while teaching them how to plant and grow their own backyard organic garden.

"Getting your hands in the soil and being outside breathing the fresh air and being around plants, there is scientific evidence behind it that it helps anxiety and builds our immunity and other positive benefits," Crystal Timmons said.

"...I want to make it not just about our healing, but make it about helping others."
Crystal Timmons

The idea started after the couple found its own healing through working with plants.

Robert Timmons spent 10 years in the Army and was seriously injured twice while serving in Afghanistan. When he returned home in 2008, he thought he was fine. He wasn't. A few years later, after he retired, he says his life started to spiral out of control. "I had bad episodes of anger. I just couldn't handle it," Timmons said Thursday.

Timmons said he became isolated, addicted to pain medicine, started using hard drugs. Eventually he hit rock bottom. During the dark times, Crystal Timmons said she went looking for holistic ways to help her family. Around that time she learned about permaculture, the development of agricultural ecosystems intended to be sustainable and self-sufficient. The two started attending nursery and greenhouse management classes together at First Coast Technical College and graduated last April.

Soon after, the idea for the Veteran Garden Project started to grow.

"Now I want to make it not just about our healing, but make it about helping others," Crystal Timmons said. In 2019, the Veteran Garden Project will offer six scholarships to local veterans who will be awarded their own home garden, a 4- by 8-foot raised bed complete with tools, seeds, training and support. A group of vets and other volunteers will then come to the selected homes and build the garden in a few hours. (Applications are available at VeteranGardenProject.org)

"It's a non-intrusive way for vets to take care of other vets," said Sherri Cunningham, a Navy veteran and board member whose backyard served as the garden test site Saturday.

Robert Timmons said the project offers a community for younger vets like him in St. Augustine. Most of the local hubs for vets, he said, draw an older crowd.

Leon Ciesla, an Army veteran and volunteer with the project, was one of those helping out Saturday.

"It gives people the chance to do something they might not have been able to do before," Ciesla said. "It's very healing when you are working with plants and things that are growing."

Crystal and Robert Timmons hope Saturday's project is just the beginning. If everything goes according to plan, the six veterans who receive the scholarship will, in turn, help others and bring in more members to the group of around 40 that are currently involved. Eventually, that will allow the group to build a couple gardens for vets each month.

"It's been a lifesaver for me and I believe a lot of people that are members now," Robert Timmons said. "I think we got something good."

Robert (far left) and Crystal Timmons are the co-founders of Veteran Garden Project, a nonprofit that helps veterans heal by helping them with their own backyard organic garden. [TRAVIS GIBSON/THE RECORD]

The Commissioning Ceremony for Michael Cassata as an Ensign in the U.S. Navy was held Tuesday, November 27, 2018 at nine o'clock in the morning at Chapel of the High-Speed Pass Cecil Field National POW-MIA Memorial Center
6112 POW-MIA Memorial Pkwy.
Jacksonville, FL 32221



Pictured left to right: Pat Mulvihill, Rotary Club of Jacksonville, Support Committee at Jacksonville National Cemetery, Michael Cassata and Dale Moe- US Navy, Retired, Member of the Board of Directors of The Cecil Field National POW-MIA Memorial Center; President- Elect, 2019-2020, of the Rotary Club of North Jacksonville; and, 2018-2019 Co-Chair of Rotary District 6970's Rotaract Programs for College-Age and Young Professionals throughout Northeast Florida.



Families, Welcome to FamWeb

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

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

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

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

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

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

Navy to scrap USS Charles F. Adams, not donate it to Jacksonville

Jacksonville Historic Naval Ship Association planned to transform ship into a museum along the St. Johns River.

by: David Cawton Staff Writer, Jacksonville Daily Record

The U.S. Navy will not donate the USS Charles F. Adams to the Jacksonville Historic Naval Ship Association, the group said Friday.

The association planned to transform the retired warship into a naval museum along the Northbank of the St. Johns River.

JHNSA President Daniel Bean said that after years of negotiations with naval officials, "it became clear they didn't want to release the ship."

"We believe Downtown needs a warship, needs a symbol," Bean said Friday. "So we'll continue to work for other opportunities."

In a news release, the JHNSA said the Navy intends to scrap the ship instead of donating it to Jacksonville.

Bean said this is the final attempt at bringing the ship to Jacksonville.

"We've been working back and forth with the Navy since before 2014 in good faith," he said. "We thought we had satisfied all of their requirements."

The 437-foot USS Adams was commissioned in 1960 and is named after former Secretary of the Navy Charles F. Adams. It was decommissioned in 1990 and currently is at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard. It spent 20 years at Mayport Naval Station.

The JHNSA has spent years trying to bring the ship back to Jacksonville. It secured \$2.8 million through donations, private capital, bank loans and state grants to refurbish the ship and moor it Downtown.

In May, the Downtown Investment Authority approved a three-year economic development agreement with the nonprofit to dock the ship at Pier No. 1 at the Shipyards near TIAA Bank Field.

Bean said the group will look at other retired Navy ships or try to obtain one on display in another city.

"None of the warships on display will sit in front of amusement park which is another reason we believed the USS Adams would do well in Jacksonville," Bean said.

Bean referred to a plan by developers to turn the former Berkman Plaza II condominium property on East Bay Street into a hotel, waterpark and arcade attraction. Legislation approving an economic development deal for the project has not yet been introduced to City Council.

Bean said he wishes the Navy would abide by the federal program through which the military branch transfers retired vessels to nonprofits, museums and other groups to refurbish and display.

"We may have to wait it out for new leadership, so we're not giving up on bringing a ship to Jacksonville," he said.



The Veterans Council of St. Johns County congratulates Rod Phillips for receiving the prestigious Four Chaplains Legion of Honor Bronze Medallion

*CHAPEL OF FOUR CHAPLAINS
LEGION OF HONOR BRONZE MEDALLION*



© Jose Rosa

~~~Rod Phillips, President Vietnam Veterans of America Daytona Beach Chapter 1048 receives the prestigious Chapel of the Four Chaplains "Legion of Honor Bronze Medallion" for his outstanding service and dedication to our fellow veterans, first responders and their families from Regional Director of the Chapel of the Four Chaplains, Korean War Veteran Mr. Gene Swarbrick and his wife Joan.

"I am honored to accept this medallion, not only on my behalf, but on behalf of those men and women of the Vietnam Veterans of America Daytona Beach Chapter 1048 and the Military Order of the Purple Heart Volusia County Chapter 316 that I network with each and every day helping our fellow veterans".

Digital technology brings centuries-old gravestones to life at St. Augustine National Cemetery

"I love these words: 'By strangers honored, by strangers mourned,' " said Scot French as he stood in the St. Augustine National Cemetery Thursday reading the gravestone inscription



for a Dr. Charles Noyes, a 27-year-old Army surgeon interred at the site.

"In a way, we are those strangers," said French, an associate professor of history at the University of Central Florida in Orlando. "We are using data to create interactive visualizations that, at a glance, tell a story."

The effort is part of a major archiving project by UCF which just launched a website cataloging nearly all the 1,227 grave sites at the St. Augustine National Cemetery.

Launched in 2016, the Veterans Legacy Program is funded by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as a way to memorialize the lives of veterans and share their stories with the general public.

Faculty and students at the UCF researched and wrote biographies of the soldiers buried or memorialized at the cemetery. They used primary sources including government records, census data and newspaper accounts to discover information about veterans' lives, including their occupations, where and when they enlisted, how they were killed and other details.

There is also an "augmented reality" mobile application which allows smartphone users to hold their device up to a headstone and pull up matching background information on that specific veteran to create an interactive walking tour of cemetery. Graduate and undergraduate students also helped with the technical aspects of building the website and the app, which also include links to multimedia elements.

"It's taken dozens and dozens of students over so many months to create this," said Amelia Lyons, a UCF associate professor who is heading up the Veterans Legacy Project.

Lyons said UCF as an institution is known for being on "the leading edge" of this type of

digital mapping and making that information available for public use.

"We're really making it accessible; it's not just information in dusty books," said Lyons.

St. Augustine National Cemetery was chosen as one of the subjects of their research because the veterans buried here span so many chapters of American military history, from the Seminole Wars to the Vietnam War.

In addition to St. Augustine, UCF's history department is conducting similar studies at the Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, the Aisne-Marne American Cemetery in Lucy-Le-Bocage, France, and the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery in Romagnesous-Montfaucon, also in France.

The larger body of data will also allow researchers to broaden their observations.

"That's what we're doing in digital mapping, looking for patterns ... and you can't do that unless you lift it from the printed page," said French. "A whole new frontier of research is coming to us."

For example, Lyons pulled up a heat map that was formed from the data points showing how infectious diseases like malaria killed soldiers more often than warfare in the 19th century.

The project is also creating an interactive K-12 curriculum that can be used by teachers nationwide at a grade-appropriate level.

Among the many stories that have been uncovered at the St. Augustine National Cemetery, one mystery still remains. In the southwest corner of the graveyard, two marble headstones stand next to one another, each bearing the inscription: "Six Unknown Indians."

According to UCF professor Amy Giroux, at least nine of the interred are thought to have died at Fort Marion during the internment of Native Americans at what is now known as the Castillo de San Marcos in St. Augustine. Beyond that, details are scant.



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

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

Chairman Dudley called the meeting to order at 1900 hours

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

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

Introduction of Guests: none

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



Speakers: Margaret Kaplan, Administrator, Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home. The Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home is a 120 bed facility broken down into 6 houses that surround an inner court yard with private and semi private rooms. There are currently 10 women in residence. There is a separate memory care unit.



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

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



Committee Reports:

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

Kathy: Feb. 2 will be the next Call to Honor in Cape Canaveral. MIAP will be starting at local Craig's Funeral Home in Feb. Volunteers are needed to call Funeral Homes and Medical Examiners offices. Over 3000 veterans have been interred to date. The MIAP motto is: Locate, Identify and Inter.

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

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

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

Future speakers:

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

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

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

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

Trish Doran, Wekiva Springs Center, Military Liaison

April 25, Chaplain Pat Archuleta, Jesus Loves Veterans Ministries

Jessica Bradstreet, Dept. of VA, Local Recovery Coordinator

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



My wife Carol recently signed up for ancestry.com and just received this information. Her father's mother, Gussie Brody Sollish was a 5 Star Mother, meaning 5 of her children were serving in the military, 2 in the Navy and 3 in the Army. The award was presented by American Legion Post 289.



REMEMBER the DIFFERENCE



United States Motorcycle Corps Charities

#VeteranLivesMatter

- May 19, 2018 Armed Forces Day (third Saturday in May).
- May 28, 2018 Memorial Day (last Monday in May).
- November 11, 2018 Veterans Day.

VA Starting Pilot Program to reunite troops who went to combat together

The VA is looking to reunite wartime military unit members in order to tackle veteran suicide, with hopes that the bonds forged in war may serve to preserve life after action.

The new pilot program, announced by the VA and The Independence Fund advocacy group, is intended to reunite troops who saw some of the most brutal combat in Iraq and Afghanistan.



“I had one guy tell me, ‘I literally went to hell with these men, so I can go on a yoga retreat or whatever you want if you think it will help them,’” said Sarah Verardo, chief executive officer of The Independence Fund. “They still want to support each other. And building on that trust is key to getting some of these veterans the help they need.”

At a time where around 20 US military veterans commit suicide a day, studies have shown that most of the veterans who fall into the statistics had little to no contact with official VA outreach programs.

The new concept program has been dubbed Operation Resilience, and the first veteran’s retreat will take place in April of next year, with the men of Bravo Company, 2-508 Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division being first in line.

According to the Military Times, Verado’s husband served in Bravo Company while they were in Afghanistan eight years ago, and was severely wounded by an IED. However, it was the aftermath of that combat action -and isolation- that seemed to mount the most casualties for the unit.

“It got to the point where the only time they saw each other was funerals,” she said. “We needed to change these guys’ perspective on what it means to return home.”

For Verado, America’s combat veterans deserve better, and any idea that manages to stave off veteran suicide rates is worth a shot.

“These are men and women who went to war together, survived Iraq and Afghanistan,” she said. “We need to help them survive at home.”

Online VA medical appointments expanding to Walmart sites, VFW posts

By: Leo Shane III

WASHINGTON — In coming months, when veterans are trying to decide whether to go to a Veterans Affairs hospital or a private doctor for their check-up, they may opt for a trip to Walmart instead.

Department officials on Thursday announced a series of new telehealth partnerships designed to dramatically expand their current remote care offerings, to include online exam rooms in Walmarts, American Legion posts and Veterans of Foreign War hangouts centered in rural areas across the country.



Picture: Dr. Alan Shatzel, medical director of the Mercy Telehealth Network, is displayed on the monitor RP-VITA robot at Mercy San Juan Hospital in Carmichael, Calif., in November 2013. VA officials announced a series of new initiatives to expand telemedicine options for veterans this week. (Rich Pedroncelli)

At the same time, officials from T-Mobile announced they'll make use of VA's video health apps free of charge for mobile customers around the country, potentially eliminating a cost barrier to veterans who want to access the department's telemedicine offerings.

"This totally changes the VA's footprint for delivering care," said Deborah Scher, executive adviser to the secretary for strategic partnerships at VA. "It changes (veterans') ability to access care in a way that can better their lives."

The announcements came at a telehealth conference here which brought together top veterans policy leaders, technology experts and medical officials to brainstorm ways for the VA to more aggressively pursue remote care initiatives in coming years.

More than 725,000 veterans took part in some type of remote care appointment in fiscal 2018, either in VA facilities or their own homes. Of that group, 45 percent were located in rural areas where travel to a VA hospital can total more than 100 miles round trip.

VA Secretary Robert Wilkie said while those figures point to success with the effort so far, his administration needs to push the idea even further.

"Virtual care is the future of medicine," he told the conference crowd. "It is our most

powerful emerging tool. Ultimately it will improve and ease access for millions of Americans.”

The partnership with Walmart will be a pilot program to put telemedicine stations specifically for veteran customers at stores in rural areas (exact locations have yet to be announced.)

Patients will be able to check in to a private room and video conference with VA medical specials across the country, covering both basic checkups and specialty appointments like dermatology consults or mental health care support.

“Ninety percent of Americans live within 10 miles of a Walmart,” Scher said. “Ninety percent of veterans don’t live within 10 miles of a VA medical center.”

The American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars sites will be similar. Philips Healthcare has agreed to supply its telemedicine technology to at least 10 sites that are in similarly remote areas. The first one has already been set up Eureka, Montana, in a VFW post 100 miles from the closest VA hospital.

“We can get this set up within a couple of days,” said Joe Robinson, senior vice president for Philips’ North America Health Systems. “And they can do a heck of a lot with these set-ups. The connection is fast. The camera resolution is high enough to make some diagnoses.”

Robinson added that placing the mobile medicine sites within the veterans groups’ posts brings another level of familiarity and comfort to many veterans who may not understand all of the new technology.

VA officials have not laid out a timeline for when the pilot programs may expand to more locations. Mike Katz, executive vice president of T-Mobile for business, said the free access to VA telehealth will begin immediately, but officials will work in coming months to make veteran customers aware of the new benefit.

He’s hopeful that other wireless carriers will follow suit, to expand the availability of the services and to help broaden awareness of veterans’ health options.

“The need for this is extraordinarily high,” he said. “The demand is extraordinarily high. So hopefully these changes whittle away at the friction in the way of veterans using these services.”

National Cemetery, St. Augustine, FL

Veterans kept an eye to the sky as the final preparations got underway for the 2018 “Wreaths Across America” ceremony at the St. Augustine National Cemetery. The clouds had been dumping rain on the area for hours with very few breaks.

When the truck bearing more than 1200 wreaths arrived, the rain had mostly ceased with a few intermittent sprinkles. Volunteers from veteran organizations and civilians, representing local and organizations from Palatka, Satsuma and as far away as Atlanta began arriving.

By 08:30a.m., the task was complete. Sitting on a bench and listening to the silence brought a peace to the soul that only hallowed ground can accomplish. Occasionally a small draft brought that unmistakable aroma of evergreen that replenished tired aching muscles and bones.

As promised, the main event began promptly at noon with the posting of the colors by the St. Augustine Naval Sea Cadets.

The welcome was offered by Ray Quinn, SGM USA (Ret), the Pledge of Allegiance by Bill Dudley, Lt. Col. USAF (Ret), a stirring offering of the National Anthem by Gretchen Mitchell; the invocation by Chaplain Jeff Peppers, Lt. Col. Florida Army National Guard; Wreaths Across America history by George Linardos, Capt., USA (Fmr); and Wreaths Across America Program by Ray Quinn. The Guest Speaker St. Johns County Attorney Patrick McCormack, Captain, USN (Ret).

The placing of wreaths for Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Merchant Marines was done by current or former members of each branch. The POW/MIA wreath was placed by Joseph McDermott, SGM USA (Ret).

The first invited to place wreaths were those who have family members interred in the cemetery.

It did not take long for the nearly 100 member audience to blanket the grounds with a wreath at each headstone or marker as well as the three pyramids at the Southwest corner of the cemetery. The request by the Jewish community not to place a wreath on any headstone bearing the Star of David was honored.

When all the wreaths had been placed, the audience was requested to return to the front for the closing. The Firing Detail from VFW Bryan Tutten Post 2391, fired 3 rounds; Taps was offered by CDR John Donlon, SJCSO (Ret), the benediction was given by Chaplain Jeff Peppers. Ray Quinn offered the closing remarks.

The “Wreaths Across America” ceremony has been an annual event at the St. Augustine National Cemetery since 2006. The Veteran’s Council of St. Johns County has made a pledge to keep the ceremony going.

By Michael Isam, mtisam@comcast.net

Wreaths Across America was celebrated nation-wide on Saturday, December 15. This ceremony honors all deceased veterans by placing a holiday wreath on every single headstone. The ceremony in St. Augustine at the National Cemetery was headed up by Veterans Council Chairman Bill and the committee of Judy Davis and Ray Quinn.

(Photos by Michael Isam)



Thanks to videographer Jorge Rivera who has recorded the Wreaths Across Ceremony highlights.

http://www.firstcoast.tv/wreaths-across-america-st-augustine/?fbclid=IwAR3ZdwSINZSryOKvbX4Zh_m45bgADP9W80HE_alxFuZgk3EZ4V8DhUX721o

Updated information on the Vets4Vets gathering in Jan. Due to an Arena conflict, Vets4Vets will move from the 5th to Jan. 12th.



Save the Date

V4V

Vets 4 Vets

**Quarterly Gathering of Veterans
Saturday, January 12th, 2019**

Veterans Memorial Arena
300 A Phillip Randolph Blvd
Jacksonville, FL 32202

1030 – 1100
Coffee, Networking and Exhibitors

1100 – 1200
Speakers

1200 – 1300
Free Lunch, Networking and Exhibitors

Listen, Learn, and
Let your Voice be Heard

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MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART CHAPTER 524



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Tournament Participant(s)

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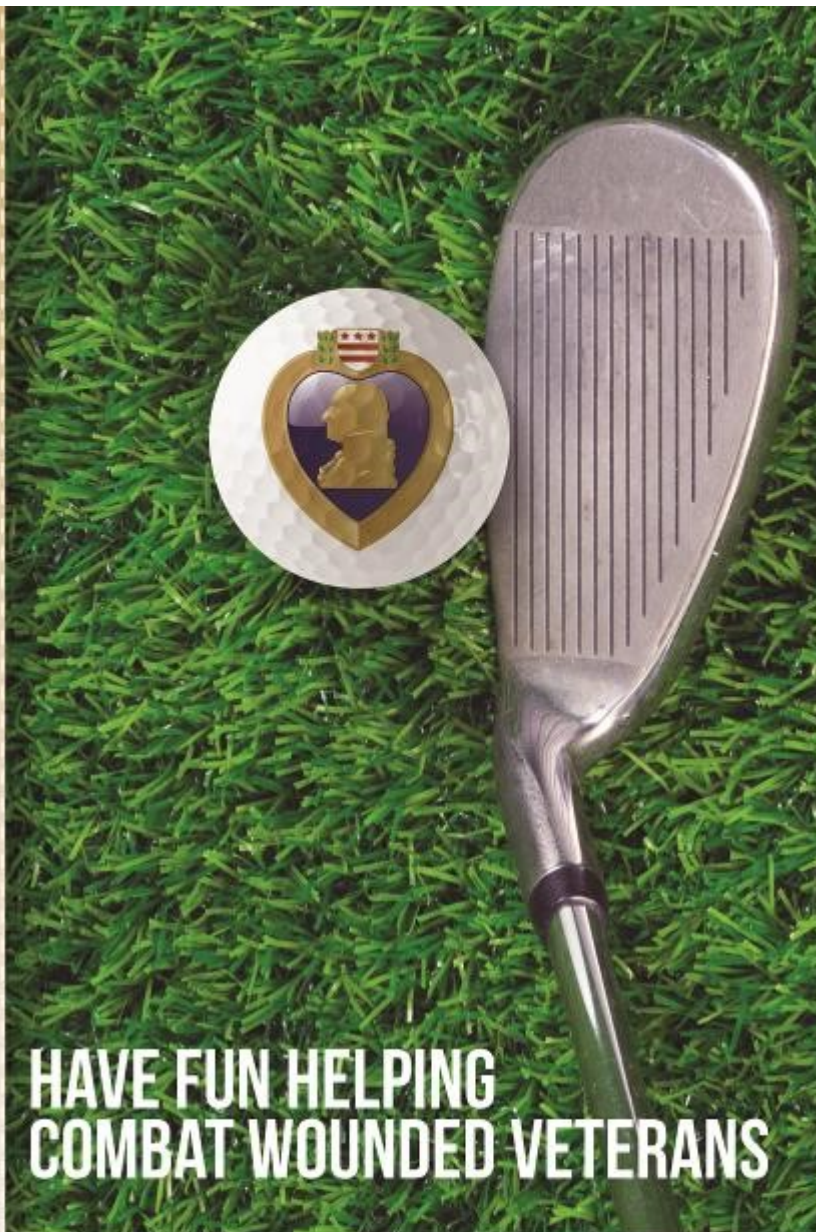
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In order to ensure your spot to play, payment must be turned in with your registration.

PLEASE CHECK ONE

- Individual \$50
- Team of 6 \$275
- Bay Sponsor \$500
- Room Sponsor \$1000
- I cannot play, but please accept donation of \$



HAVE FUN HELPING COMBAT WOUNDED VETERANS

100% of the proceeds from this charity golf scramble will go directly to help emplace a Purple Heart monument in the Jacksonville National Cemetery.

JANUARY 6 SUNDAY | 2019

11:45 AM	Registration
12:00 PM	Start
12:30 PM	Lunch
2:45 PM	Awards

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT US



INFO@MOPH524.ORG

“Tommy and 41”

From TJ Bello, a former student in the school I worked at and one of the best men I know. TJ was a Special Agent and sent me the following about President Bush (41). That's TJ in the upper left in the picture.

Never served directly on George H.W. Bush's “permanent” detail when he was VP or President, but stood plenty of post and did lots of advances for him during that period, and did some time with one of the family details as well. Also had the honor of serving at the White House when President Reagan was in residence and George H.W. was VP.

Here is one of me as a young Agent working off of 41's right at Raleigh Durham Airport, February 1, 1990 while doing the airport advance. This one was on the cover of the Winston Salem Journal.

As a very young Uniformed Division Officer during the 1984 Campaign, I was standing a kitchen post at a hotel in Sacramento, CA. On his way in from the motorcade, then VP George H.W. Bush paused before passing me by, squeezed my arm with both hands like a big hug, and enthusiastically said “Good to see you out here with us Officer!” I can only surmise that he recognized the distinct black and gold uniform, white shirt, and image of the White House on the badge, knew that I was a long way from the usual post and assignment in Washington, and wanted to let me know that he appreciated it. Thirty four years later this still remains as a warm and wonderful memory for me. My fellow colleagues, Special Agents and Officers both, have dozens of other similar exchanges to tell about as well over the years, all of them shining examples of the decency, sincerity, and kind-hearted spirit of a truly great President, American Hero, loyal Patriot, Statesman, and dearly loved “Protectee”.

I had the great privilege of joining a group of other retired and former Special Agents in saying a special Farewell to our 41st President and meeting some of the Bush family members to offer our sentiments at St. Martin's in Houston on Wednesday evening.

A very sad goodbye for us all across the country, but a fitting send-off, and a reminder that America's soul remains “good” and our spirit “strong”.



VA Caregiver Support, an Update

Caring for Seriously Injured Post-9/11 Veterans

The Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers offers enhanced support for Caregivers of eligible Veterans seriously injured in the line of duty on or after September 11, 2001.

Enhanced services for eligible participants may include a financial stipend, access to health care insurance, mental health services and counseling, caregiver training, and respite care.

VA seeks public comment on Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers, as amended by VA MISSION Act of 2018

Beginning November 27, 2018 through December 12, 2018 the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will accept public comments on how to implement certain changes to the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) required by the VA MISSION Act of 2018.

The VA MISSION Act of 2018 expands eligibility for PCAFC to family caregivers of eligible Veterans who incurred or aggravated a serious injury in the line of duty before Sept. 11, 2001 using a phased approach, establishes new benefits for designated primary family caregivers of eligible Veterans and makes other changes affecting program eligibility and VA's evaluation of PCAFC applications.

Submitted responses will be used to guide future regulatory modifications and implementation of the expanded PCAFC. The Federal Register notice and comment submission form can be found at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/11/27/2018-25763/notice-of-request-for-information-on-the-department-of-veterans-affairs-program-of-comprehensive>.

Who is eligible? Veterans eligible for this program must: have sustained or aggravated a serious injury — including traumatic brain injury, psychological trauma or other

mental disorder — in the line of duty, on or after September 11, 2001; and be in need of personal care services to perform one or more activities of daily living and/or need supervision or protection based on symptoms or residuals of neurological impairment or injury.

Read more about determining eligibility and how the program works.

Check your eligibility and download an application.

Learn about the roles, responsibilities and requirements for being a Caregiver and participating in the program by reading:

The Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers - Roles, Responsibilities and Requirements.

Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers - FAQ's

Learning about available support

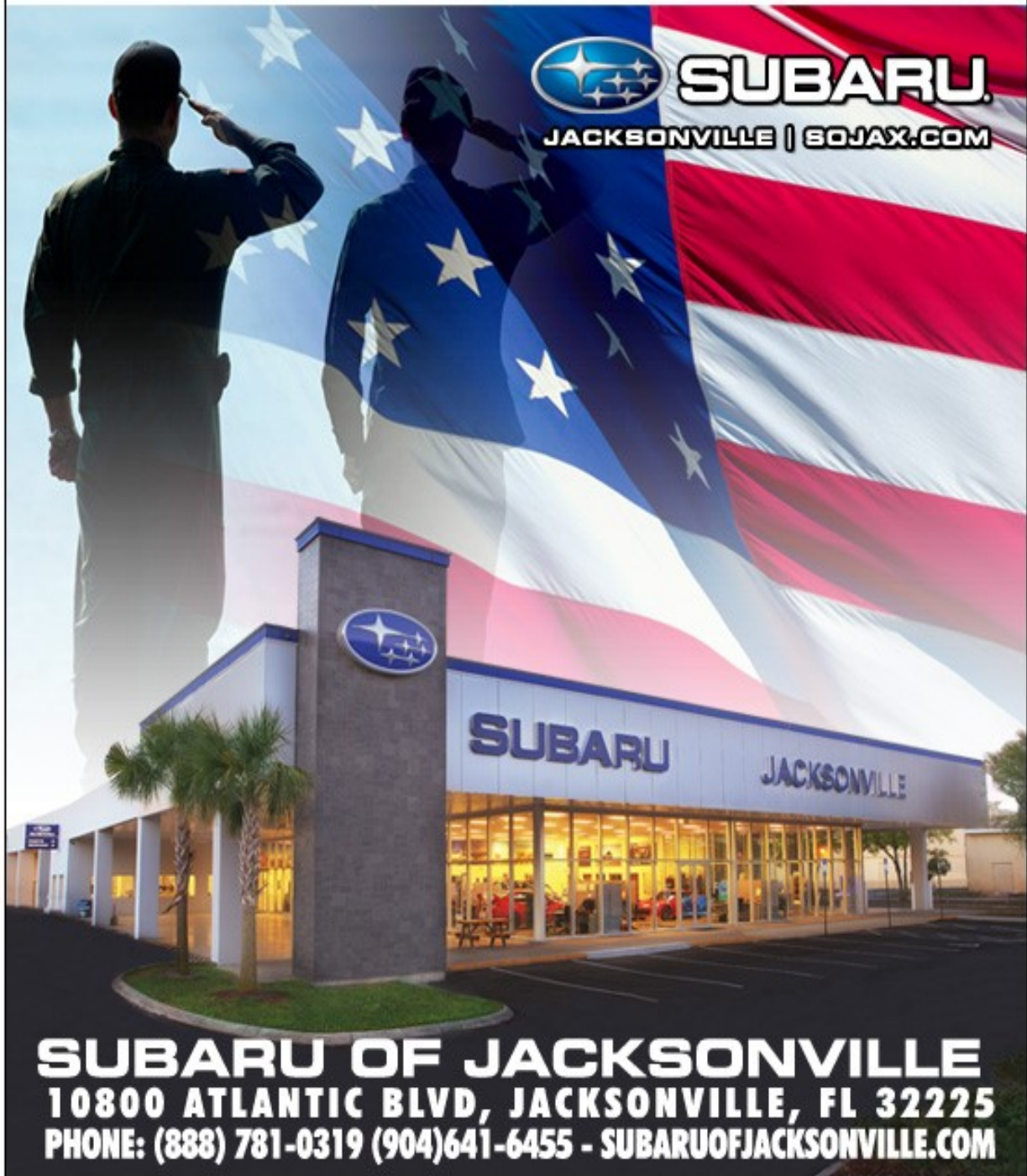
Participating Veterans may appoint one primary caregiver and up to two secondary caregivers who serve as back-up. The support available to caregivers will depend on their designation—primary or secondary—and the needs of the Veteran.

For more information, contact your local Caregiver Support Coordinator. Caregiver Support Coordinators are available at every VA Medical Center to assist Veterans and their caregivers with the application process. Additional application assistance is available at 1-877-222 VETS (8387).

Appealing a decision:

If you do not agree with the decision that was made by the local VA regarding your participation on the Caregiver Support Program, you may file a local and/or VISN level appeal for review and reconsideration. Read more about the appeals process in our Caregiver Support Program Appeals Process.

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



MILITARY ASSISTANCE COMMAND, VIETNAM

ESTABLISHED ON 24 JANUARY 1964, THE UNIT CONDUCTED STRATEGIC RECONNAISSANCE MISSIONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (SOUTH VIETNAM), THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (NORTH VIETNAM), LAOS, AND CAMBODIA; CARRIED OUT THE CAPTURE OF ENEMY PRISONERS, RESCUED DOWNED PILOTS, AND CONDUCTED RESCUE OPERATIONS TO RETRIEVE PRISONERS OF WAR THROUGHOUT SOUTHEAST ASIA; AND CONDUCTED CLANDESTINE AGENT TEAM ACTIVITIES AND PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS.

MAC SOG

MILITARY ASSISTANCE COMMAND
STUDIES & OBSERVATION GROUP

THE UNIT PARTICIPATED IN MOST OF THE SIGNIFICANT CAMPAIGNS OF THE VIETNAM WAR, INCLUDING THE GULF OF TONKIN INCIDENT WHICH PRECIPITATED INCREASED AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT, OPERATION STEEL TIGER, OPERATION TIGER HOUND, THE TET OFFENSIVE, OPERATION COMMANDO HUNT, THE CAMBODIAN CAMPAIGN, OPERATION LAM SON 719, AND THE EASTER OFFENSIVE. THE UNIT WAS FORMALLY DISBANDED AND REPLACED BY THE STRATEGIC TECHNICAL DIRECTORATE ASSISTANCE TEAM 158 ON 1 MAY 1972.

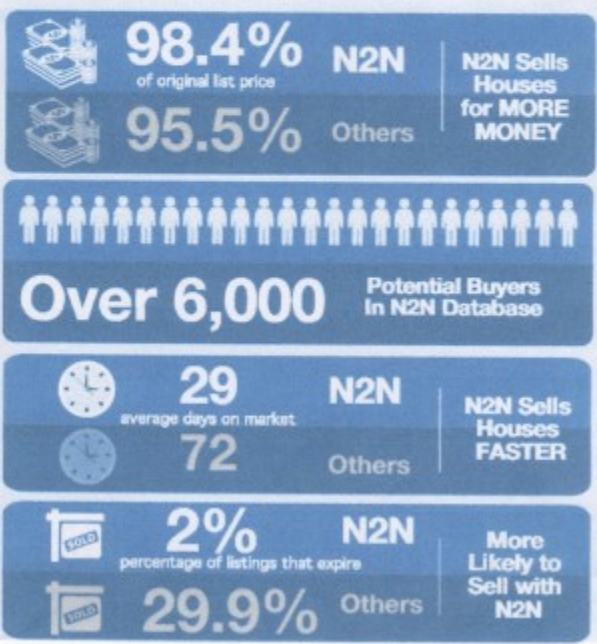
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Jose' Concha, DPM * Richard Johnson, DPM
Board Certified by
the American Board of Foot & Ankle Surgery

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



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

SAVE THE DATE

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

North Florida / South Georgia Veterans Health System

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

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

Topics will include:

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

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

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

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

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

Breakfast will be provided. CEU's pending.

~This event is open to the Public~

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



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

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

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

Deliver to:

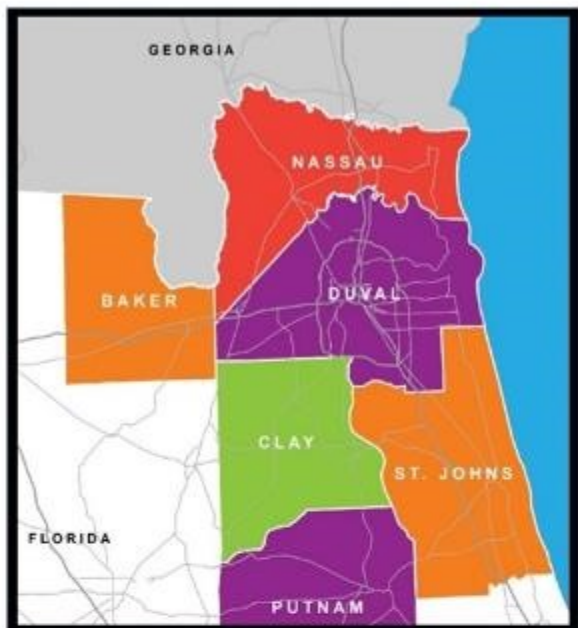
2133 Broadway Ave.

Monday – Friday 9:00am – 3:00pm

904-862-6039

www.forwomenvets.org

Veteran County Councils of Northeast Florida



Duval County

President: Steve Spickelmier

Meetings:

Third Tuesday of each month in the 40/8 Building

Located at the American Legion Post 137
5443 San Juan Avenue

7pm

Nassau County

President: Paul Kicker, Chairman
Veterans Council of Nassau County

76347 Veterans Way,
Veterans Service Office

Yulee, FL 32097

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

St. Johns County

President: Bill Dudley

Meetings:

Last Thursday of each month
Health and Human Services Building
Muscovy Room, 1st Floor

200 San Sebastian View
Muscovy Room 1st Floor
St. Augustine, FL 32084

7pm

Contact:

info@VeteransCouncilofStJohns.org

Baker County

President: Larry Porterfield

Meetings:

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

Contact:

Baker County Veterans Council
PO Box 1434
MacClenny, FL 32063

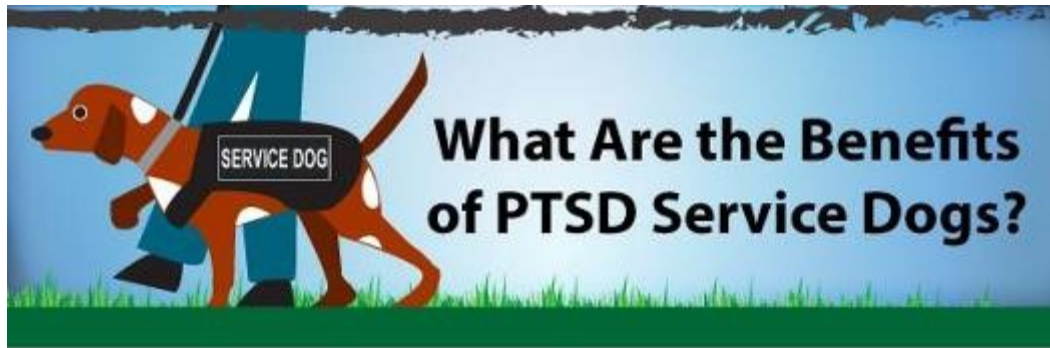
Clay County

President: Bob Brewster

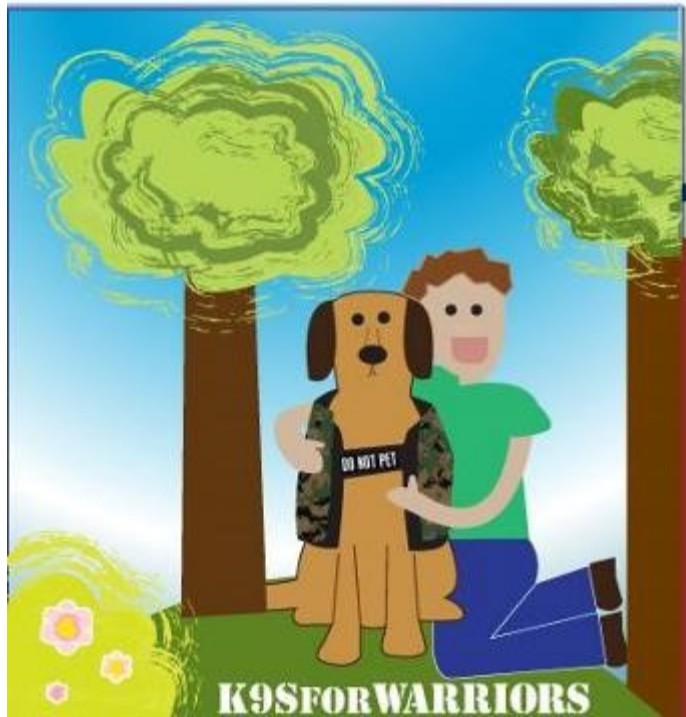
Meetings: First Wednesday of
each month

Location varies between the
different Veteran Organizations.

Time varies



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



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

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

MISSION BACKGROUND

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

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

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



A FEW QUOTES SUBMITTED BY OUR NATIONAL LEADERS



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

U.S. Congressman
John Rutherford

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

U.S. Senator
Marco Rubio

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

U.S. Senator
Bill Nelson



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

MISSION STATEMENT

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

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

MEMORIAL STRATEGIC PLAN

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

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



Hero's Walk & Freedom Trees



Chapel of the High-Speed Paves



Starburst Sculpture

CECIL FIELD NATIONAL POW/MIA MEMORIAL PARK



HOW YOU CAN HELP HONOR OUR MILITARY HEROES



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

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

ONLINE PowMiaMemorial.org

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

Twitter.com/CFPOW/MIA

Instagram.com/cecilfieldpowmia/

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

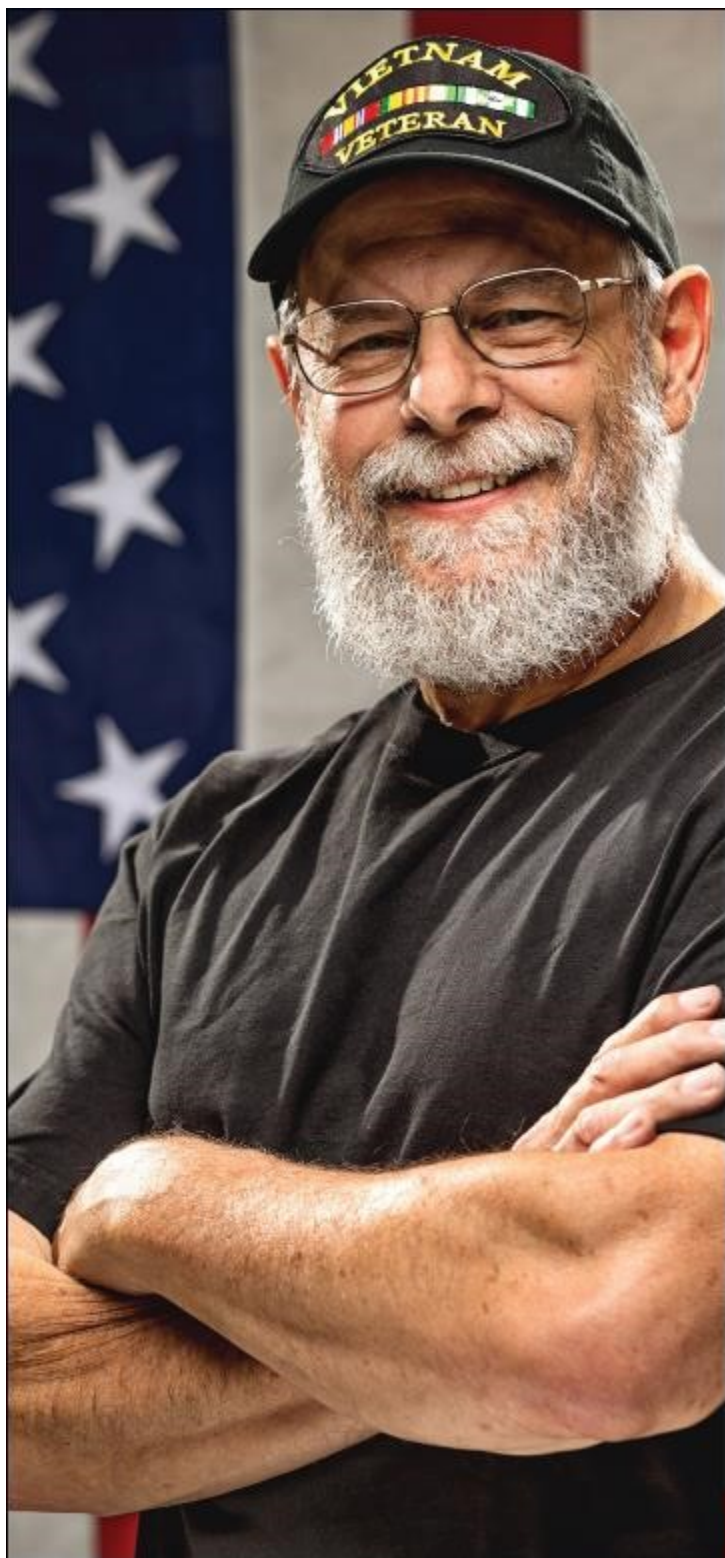
36 Granada Street, St. Augustine FL 32084

(904) 679-5736

Corazoncinemaandcafe.com



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



SERVING VETERANS SINCE 1979

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

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

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



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

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





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

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

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



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

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

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

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



We are inviting all veterans to visit our website at:

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

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

Please join our group on Facebook at:
VeteransCouncilofStJohnsCounty,FL

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

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

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

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

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



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

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



**SURVIVOR
OUTREACH SERVICES**

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

Contact Keith Ham

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

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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

Please send to: mrothfeld@anyveteran.org



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(physical location)

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

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

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

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