



The Patriot Reader Newsletter

P.O. Box 2117

St. Augustine, FL 32085

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Message from the Chairman

Fellow Veterans:

Welcome to a hot dry summer. Hope you are managing to find some comfort from the heat. In this edition, you will see a program by local radio station WSOS 103.9 FM that is dedicated to veterans. The weekly one hour program each Thursday features one of our local veterans and is co-hosted by Rand Middleton, the producer of tJake he show. The other weekly co-host is either Joseph McDermott or me. We appreciate WSOS and Beaver Toyota allowing time for this weekly segment to feature one of our local veterans who can either speak about their service time or upcoming events from their respectful organizations.

The recent launch of our Facebook page has been a huge success with over 200 new members signing on to provide stories or items of interest to our veteran's community. It's a wonderful way to reach out to our veterans, family members, and buddies we have served with. Keep the stories coming.

This past April, Joe McDermott, Randy Stapleford from Congressman DeSantis office and I met with Dr. Thomas McKenzie, Chief Medical Officer for our local CBOC to discuss matters of mutual concern about our veterans medical treatment. The meetings are very beneficial and are scheduled every 3 months. Many matters of concern for our veterans that Dr. McKenzie was unaware of have already been corrected. He is also able to provide some insight into upcoming changes at the VA that we have not been made aware of. The meetings are very useful and help to prevent unfounded rumors.

Plans for this year's Veterans Day Parade are shaping up nicely with two military bands and several marching units already responding back favorably. As a part of this year's Veterans Day parade, we have planned a Film Festival at the Corazon Theater for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday that will feature all five of our documentaries. Corazon Theater is making the theater available to the Veterans Council at no charge. Partnering with



MOAA to make this an annual event, we also have plans for a sell out at the Amphitheater on Sunday evening which will feature either Toby Keith or Lee Greenwood. Both performers have responded back expressing interest in doing a show for us on that day.

Hope everyone has an enjoyable and safe 4th of July Holiday. Our local Navy League is having their annual picnic at the St. Augustine Rod and Gun Club to celebrate our nation's birthday. Patrick Henry will be our guest to give his famous "Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death" speech and we will also pay tribute to 3 special veterans.

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



Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home

Where Patriotism is our Motto



Congratulations to Kay Maley and her staff at the Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans' Nursing Home in St. Augustine. The 120-bed home has been notified by the American College of Health Care Administrators that it will receive the Eli Pick Facility Leadership Award, recognizing high performing skilled nursing facilities. Fewer than 9% of facilities nationwide qualify.



K9s For Warriors graduate and representative, Bryan, visited the facility to talk about this fabulous program.

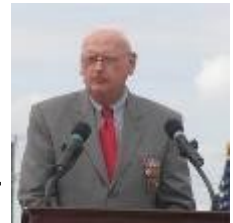


SUMMER BLAST OFF





**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, September 12, 2016.** 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

Assistant Treasurer: Michael Rothfeld, Secretary: Kathy Church

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

JAG Officer: Patrick Bennett, Historian: Jody Raymond

***Installation of Officers for 2016/2017 DAV Chapter 6
on May 17, 2016.***

l-r Tammy Shirley, Treasurer; Shawn Prentiss, Jr. Vice Commander and Chaplain; John McGinty, Commander, Judy Davis, Sr. Vice Commander; Art Dubois, Adjutant.

***Oath administered by Michael Isam, Past Commander
Photo by A. J. Sartin. Past Commander.***



*From our good friend Bob Dinkins,
Dinkins Family - The Pinkney Dinkins Branch*



Our family, starting with Pinkney Dinkins, son of John Dinkins and Catherine of Rembert, South Carolina. The Dinkins family of South Carolina is a part of a much larger Dinkins family that started with the Dinkinses that landed in Charleston, South Carolina, from Ireland on October 19th, 1717.

A Dinkins descendent, states that the name may be derived from Dene. The family originated in Wales in about the 1500's and moved into the lowlands of Scotland and then on to Londonderry in the north of Ireland. Dene is the old English name Dean and means small valley, a home site. The ending (kin) on a name means son of and would make the name Denekin. From there it would be simple enough to arrive at the name Dinkins.

A book by Captain James Dinkins, a Civil War veteran, states that the Dinkins family came to America from Ireland in 1717. Brothers James, John and Samuel with cousins Thomas and Joshua landed in Charleston, South Carolina.

Skirmish at Dinkins' Mill

Located off Dinkin's Mill Road

Sumter County, SC

The last large-scale battle in the East was fought at Dinkin's Mill, at the crossing of Rafting Creek a few miles north of Stateburg, SC.

Brigadier General Edward E. Potter took command of the two Northern brigades—2700 men—recently landed at Georgetown. Colonel Edward N. Hallowell, former commander of the famed 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment and wounded at Fort Wagner, led one of the brigades including his former unit now consisting of over 700 men. Under orders to disable railroads in South Carolina, Potter's brigades were forced to contend with Kentucky's "Orphan Brigade" of mounted infantry from April 9 at Dingle's Mill through 18 April.

On April 18, 1865, Potter's troops met again with the Kentuckians in the quiet town of Boykin, South Carolina. The Confederates held a strong defensive position in an abandoned fort. Following the battle of Boykin's Mill on April 18, 1865, Federal troops commanded by Brig. Gen. Edward E. Potter advanced south to Middleton's Depot, on the Wilmington & Manchester R.R. below Stateburg. Here, on April 19, they attacked and attempted to flank a Confederate force commanded by Maj. Gen. P.M.B. Young which defended this crossing. The 25th Ohio Inf. and 157th N.Y. Inf., supported by the 102nd U.S. Colored Troops, skirmished with the 1st Ky. Brigade (Cav.), 53rd Ala. Partisan Rangers, 11th Ga. Cav., Hamilton's Arty., and S.C. militia. After slight losses on both sides most of the Confederate force withdrew towards Beech Creek.

Col. Lee's 2nd Kentucky Mounted Infantry, on detached service, laid a skillful ambush at Reynold's Ford (called McClernand's Ford by the Kentuckians) on Swift Creek, near Spring Hill (north of Sumter) on April 18, inflicting heavy casualties on the surprised enemy. Meanwhile, the rest of the Brigade fought Potter's troops at Boykin's Mill, ten miles south of Camden. In this battle, the Orphans fought the famous 54th Massachusetts regiment of black soldiers. The Confederates held the Federals for some six hours, but as they were outnumbered by over 2-to-1, they were finally compelled to retreat.

The 54th Massachusetts was given the job and sustained two killed and thirteen wounded. The dead men were Private James P. Johnson of Company F, a barber 21 years of age from Owego, NY, and First Lieutenant E.L. Stevens, the latter being the last Federal officer killed in action during the war. Edwards was killed by 14-year-old Burrell H. Boykin, a member of the Confederate Home Guard whose family owned the land the Union troops were moving through. Boykin's Mill was the site of the last Union officer killed in action during the American Civil War. It was also the location of the final battle on South Carolina soil. At the Atkinson-Dinkins Cemetery at Dinkins Mill Rd. A Burial Grounds for Unmarked Grave: A mass grave between Dinkins Cemetery and the road contains the remains of 19 Union soldiers killed in a battle at Dinkins community circa 1865.

However, the two opposing units (Potter's and the Kentuckians) continued to skirmish through April 19 at Dinkin's Mill where they fought the last major conflict of the Eastern Theater. The preliminary cessation of hostilities was announced to both sides two days later though Confederate General Johnston did not officially surrender until 29 April. This final campaign was little more than a footnote in the history of the war. The 2nd Kentucky Mounted Infantry fought valiantly and skillfully to accomplish their missions, their numbers were never enough to seriously threaten or impede the Federals. However, they did manage to protect the railroad stock in western South Carolina for two weeks, and their constant harrying of Potter's flanks doubtless saved the surrounding countryside from much further devastation.



Vilano Beach VFW Post 12142 now has 2 electric wheelchairs that can be give to a St. Johns County Veteran.



The one on the left is a Pride Jet 2 HD. The one on the right is a Hoveround MPV5

We now also have a Hospital Bed (electric) complete with mattress for a St. Johns County Veteran.

A. J. Sartin, Commander - VFW VilanoBeachVFW@att.net (904) 669-1946



Help Us With Our Post Building

<http://www.GoFundMe.com/hq2nzbq4>

Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another

When you pass away...

Consider in lieu of flowers, have your friends

and family leave a donation to our Post.

Veterans Of Foreign Wars

" No One Does More For Veterans "

Former Seabee signalman remembers sights, sounds of D-Day invasion

By JAKE MARTIN jake.martin@staugustine.com

This article is reprinted with the permission of its author and the St Augustine Record.

Don Carragher, 90, of St. Augustine, was just 17 years old when he went off to join the U.S. Navy in World War II.

The teen from Newark, New Jersey, had already been through plenty before taking on the harsh realities of war. Abandoned by an alcoholic father, Carragher and his three brothers were raised almost single-handedly by their mother.



Inspired by the many war films playing at a local theater, Carragher imagined life on a battleship and tried enlisting.

When the Navy discovered Carragher was colorblind, he was told he could instead serve in the Seabees, the Navy's engineering and construction battalion.

Upon completion of basic training at Camp Peary in Williamsburg, Virginia, Carragher and fellow members of the 111th Construction Battalion arrived in New York Harbor, preparing to ship out on the Mauretania.

"It was the biggest ship in the world, but we were jammed in like sardines," Carragher said. "I had four guys over me in hammocks. I was on the bottom one, of course."

Rough seas sent their rack of Springfield rifles loudly onto the floor the first night out, making for a rude awakening. Carragher said it was merely a sign of things to come.

After docking in Liverpool, England, Carragher and the other Seabees stayed in Falmouth and Plymouth for the next six months. Their time was spent training and building "rhino barges," which were soon used to carry men, equipment, trucks and Jeeps to Omaha Beach, France.

"I thought I died and went to hell," Carragher said. "Working at night and all that riveting and noise and confusion. I didn't know what to do. I was just a kid. I didn't have any skills."

When the commanding officers came around asking who wanted to be signalman, Carragher said his hand shot up so high and so fast it took almost until the end of the war to come down.

The next few months were spent on the barges in the English Channel, hooking up to LSTs (Landing Ship Tanks) and unloading supplies, in preparation for the invasion of Normandy, France.

Even with 72 years now between him and what he experienced at D-Day, the sights and sounds of June 6, 1944, remain entrenched in his memory.

“If you’ve never seen 400 ships in a harbor, you wouldn’t believe it,” Carragher said. “Getting ready for the invasion, it was just an unbelievable sight, all those ships.”

Playfully signaling to other ships for fellow New Jerseyans, he discovered his cousin was in the third ship he flashed.

“He hopped in a small boat and he came to see me,” he said. “We had a nice chat there for about an hour and he went back to his ship, but then the invasion started.”

Carragher spent the invasion on a tug barge hanging back as the LSTs and Higgins boats moved on toward the beach.

“Every time I went near the beach, I was told to back off and don’t land,” he said. “We were roaming around a lot.”

It’s the noise that shook Carragher most, he said, but the sights didn’t do much good either.

“The guns from our destroyers and cruisers was unbelievable, and the German bombs, the 88 mm, they were coming over like crazy,” he said. “You didn’t have time to figure out what was going on. The noise was deafening. But I saw it. I saw things no 18-year-old should see.”

What image sticks with him all these years later?

“The terribleness of it,” he said. “You see dead bodies and there’s nothing funny about it, there’s nothing clever about it, there’s nothing nice about it. It’s unbelievable what men can do to each other.”

The day after D-Day, Carragher and his fellow Seabees landed on the beach and were given

some time to get off the barge and stretch their legs.

“I got off for about five minutes and I thought ‘I can’t stand this,’” Carragher said. “I knew what had happened there and I knew how many thousands of men died. I just knew. And I was so unnerved and nervous and concerned. I stayed on the beach maybe 10 minutes before getting back on the barge. I was just too upset. I was just a bundle of nerves.”

After a few days, Carragher was put on a big barge where he helped unload thousands of troops and their supplies. He was there for four months.

“There wasn’t any frivolity, and there wasn’t a lot of laughing or fun or ‘Where you from?’” Carragher said. “It was all very sober and they smoked their cigarettes and they were quiet. You knew why they were quiet, though, because they knew they were going to Germany.”

When the war in Europe ended, Carragher went to New York and got a 30-day leave before boarding the USS Samuel Chase for the Philippines. He stayed there for 14 months before being sent to Guam for the last six months of his enlistment.

Altogether, Carragher spent three years at sea in both the European and Pacific theaters. Also serving in the military were his brothers — Ken, Bob and Joe.

After the war, Carragher traveled around the country for years, working in resort hotels as a bellhop, bartender, doorman, desk clerk, lifeguard, and just about everything else you can name.

He takes pride in having sold 20 cars in a month eleven times as a Chevrolet dealer in Delray Beach and says he’s told people still ask for him. He also worked with the Navy League for some time in his retirement before the traveling became too much for him.

These days, Carragher is something of a song and dance man, performing with community groups at venues like BayView Nursing Home, the Council on Aging and golf course club-houses.

“I’m pretty good at it, too,” he said with a smile.

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:
<http://www.veteranscouncilofstjohns.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.



Here's the latest from the Florida Department of Revenue regarding the implementation of **House Bill 7099**. The bill, signed into law by Governor Scott on April 13, provides a sales tax exemption for sales of food and drink by veterans' organizations to members of veterans' organizations. It is effective July 1, 2016.

The final publication is still in the final review process within DOR and has not been released. However, they did share the following:

Beginning July 1, 2016, nationally chartered or recognized veterans' organizations are not required to collect sales tax on the sale of food or drinks to their members. A nationally chartered or recognized veterans' organization is one that holds an exemption from federal income tax under s. 501(c)(4) or (19) of the Internal Revenue Code. The organization is also required to hold a current Consumer's Certificate of Exemption with the Florida Department of Revenue.

To receive a certificate of exemption, the organization should file an Application for Consumer's Certificate of Exemption (Form DR-5), with the Florida Department of Revenue. The form is available on the Department's website at <http://dor.myflorida.com> under "Forms and Publications."

A Tax Information Publication (TIP) will be posted on the Florida Department of Revenue's website in the near future. The TIP will be posted in either the Current Topics box on the main page, and/or in the TIPs section at <http://dor.myflorida.com/dor/tips/>

I'll keep you posted with additional information as I get it. Continuing to monitor.

Regards, Steve

R. Steven Murray, Lieutenant Colonel, USAF (Ret), Communications Director
Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs, The Capitol, Suite 2105
400 South Monroe, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0001

The Adjutant General of Florida, Maj. Gen. Michael A. Calhoun and several members of the command team, visited the Soldiers of Task Force Caiman currently serving in Honduras and Guatemala. Under the direction of task force commander, Army Lt. Col. Elizabeth Evans, the mission of the task force is to regionally align forces for U.S. Army South in support of counter transnational organized crime in Central America (C-TOC). Florida sent Soldiers from the 53rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 83rd Troop Command, and the 50th Regional Support Group (RSG) to aid in this mission.



Please watch this space for an important announcement regarding a partnership for a Veterans Day week “Veterans Film Festival” at the Corazon Theater featuring the Veterans of NE FL through the different World Wars. The documentaries were produced by the Veterans Council of St. Johns County in cooperation with WJCT TV, Flagler College Communications Dept. and the Film Dept. of the Art Institute of Jacksonville.



corazoncinemaandcafe.com

Karla Wagner

OWNER

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36 Granada Street, St. Augustine, FL 32084



Rolling Thunder Florida Chapter 4 invites you and a guest to be part of our POW, MIA and Gold Star Mothers Recognition Dinner. This dinner is to honor you, family members of those who have not yet returned and those who did not return.

*POW/MIA Gold Star Mothers Recognition Day
Dinner*

*Date: September 10, 2016
Time: 2PM to 5PM
Moroccan Shrine Auditorium
3800 St. Johns Bluff Road S
Jacksonville, Florida, 32224*

It is Rolling Thunder's mission to educate the public on the plight of those who were and are held prisoner of our enemies and those who have gone to war to serve their country and have not come home.

Parking is at the rear left side of the building.

From John Mountcastle, Treasurer of the Veterans Council of St. Johns County



TIP # 16A01-03

New, Simplified Process for Nonprofit Organizations to Obtain and Renew Sales Tax Exemption Certificates

An exemption from Florida sales and use tax is granted to certain nonprofit organizations and governmental entities that meet the criteria described in sections 212.08(6), 212.08(7), and 213.12(2), Florida Statutes. To be entitled to the exemption, Florida law requires that nonprofit organizations and governmental entities (except federal agencies) obtain a sales tax exemption certificate (Form DR-14, Consumer's Certificate of Exemption) from the Florida Department of Revenue.

New, Simplified Application

A new Application for a Consumer's Certificate of Exemption (Form DR-5) is now available. The new Application streamlines the process for establishing that a nonprofit organization or governmental entity meets the statutory criteria for each exemption category. Information on who qualifies, what is exempt, and how to establish qualification is provided for each exemption category. This new Application is available at: www.myflorida.com/dor/forms

Departmental Review of Expiring Certificates

Sales tax exemption certificates expire after five years. However, holders of exemption certificates no longer need to reapply for a new certificate every five years. The Department will review each exemption certificate sixty (60) days before the current certificate expires.

For those nonprofit organizations and governmental entities located in Florida, the

Department will use available public information to determine whether an organization

or entity continues to qualify for a sales tax exemption certificate. If an organization or entity continues to meet the statutory exemption criteria, a new exemption certificate will be issued. If additional information is needed, a letter requesting documentation will be mailed to the organization or entity.

For those nonprofit organizations and governmental entities located outside Florida, the Department will mail a letter requesting whether the organization or entity wishes to have their certificate renewed. The letter will also provide a list of documentation needed for the Department to renew the exemption certificate.

If the organization or entity fails to respond to the written requests for information or documentation, or the Department is unable to confirm that the organization or entity continues to qualify for an exemption, a written notice denying the renewal of the exemption certificate will be mailed to the organization or entity.

References: Sections 212.08(6), 212.08(7), 212.084, and 213.12(2), Florida Statutes

This document is intended to alert you to the requirements contained in Florida laws and administrative rules. It does not by its own effect create rights or require compliance.

For forms and other information, visit our website at www.myflorida.com/dor or call Taxpayer Services, 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., ET, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays, at 800-352-3671 FREE.

For a detailed written response to your questions, write the Florida Department of Revenue, Taxpayer Services, MS 3-2000, 5050 West Tennessee Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399-0112.

Chapel memorializes St. Joseph Academy's Forgotten Class' of 1943

By ELIZABETH MASTERS

After 87 years, two broken hips, and countless bouts of pneumonia related to cigars and Agent Orange, it was finally happening: Retired Army Col. John J. Masters Sr., a veteran of WWII, Korea, Vietnam, a heritage native and Menorcan, but mostly my hero and daddy, was rapidly fading away in hospice.



Family Photo
COL John J Masters

I whispered to him as he struggled to breathe and, in an instant, his chest stopped heaving and it was over. He left with the quiet dignity he always carried, and the Greatest Generation got one of their finest back forever.

At his funeral services, the military honor guard rendered a flawless 21-gun salute, the thanks of a grateful nation were given, and with the bugler rendering a haunting rendition of taps, it was all over except for my broken heart.

Then it hit me and I smiled a little: He had rejoined his three long lost classmates of St. Joseph Academy, the “Forgotten Class of ’43,” as he called them. They were first known as the “Fateful Class of 1943,” as all the war losses from SJA were from the class of ’43.

Francis (Frank) J. Piet Jr., William Joseph Whitney and Paul Lewis all grew up together. Downtown was their stomping grounds. Proud members of Boy Scout Troop 63, they camped at Fort Matanzas, climbed the fort walls, cast their nets for mullet. Dad and likely his friends attended Cathedral Parish School, and at SJA all had healthy respect and reverence for Sister Theophana and all the Sisters of St. Joseph.

While the war was in full swing, they still had high hopes and dreams. Their class motto was “To be, not to Seem.” When asked about his classmates, my father

would simply shake his head and say, “We were so young.”

Frank was my dad’s best friend, and a naval observer on a Navy aircraft in the Pacific when he was struck in the head by an enemy shell fragment. (Troop 63 comrade Albert Dowling was also in the Pacific but was uninjured.) Frank was only 19 when he died and is buried at the National Cemetery downtown. Frank’s classmates described him as one of the best liked boys in the class, with school spirit, and as a football player who had “a way with the girls that is the envy of most of his pals.” Every memorial day, Dad would lean on his cane by his headstone, lost in thought. He never forgot his best friend.

Paul Lewis was said to be “very neat, having genuine courtesy for all.” He loved hearing Ginny Simms sing “Dark Eyes,” and he dreamed of being an aviation technician in the Air Force. He got his wish, only to lose his life in Europe.

William Joseph Whitney left school early, I believe to enlist, and I know little more about him. While dad got a four-month deferment from the draft board to finish high school, William likely left SJA when drafted.

Over half of my father’s battalion died during WWII. He returned with a silver star, a purple heart, as well as a heavy heart. He never forgot his classmates, and made a promise to God to build a chapel if he survived military service.

He built a small consecrated chapel with an altar from Palatka’s St. Agnes Convent. He lamented that aside from his chapel, there was no memorial to the Class of ‘43, outside the plaza memorial to all our war dead, and believed that their sacrifice must never be forgotten.

Their sacrifice typifies the sacrifice of so many, then and now. With these words bringing their memories to life, may the “Forgotten Class” once again be the “Fateful Class of ’43.”

Elizabeth Masters is a colonel in the Florida National Guard and a resident of St. Augustine. Retired Army Col. John J. Masters Sr. served in the military from

American Legion Post 202
3rd Annual K9s For Warriors
Poker Run
August 20th 2016



STOPS



STOP 1 LEGION POST 250 MIDDLEBURG
STOP 2 VFW POST 1988 GCS
STOP 3 VFW POST 3349 PALATKA
STOP 4 VFW POST 10134 INTERLACHEN
STOP 5 LEGION POST 202 KEYSTONE HEIGHTS



50/50 Chinese auction

\$15 for rider/\$10 for passenger
Registration at Post 202 9 am KSU
10:30 LBI 4:30

High hand \$100 Low hand \$50
Stuffed manicotti dinner available for \$6.00
All profits to support K9s For Warriors

PROUD SUPPORTER OF



Wounded Warrior Project gets new leader after troubles

By AUDREY McAVOY Associated Press

The head of the military agency that searches for and identifies the remains of missing servicemen is resigning after just one year to take over a troubled nonprofit that cares for wounded troops.

Michael Linnington became the director of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency last summer. He plans to leave next month to become the CEO of the Wounded Warrior Project.

Linnington became the leader of the POW/MIA mission at the Pentagon after Congress and groups that advocate for families of the missing had criticized the way the military was handling identifications.

At the Wounded Warrior Project, Linnington will lead a nonprofit that has been criticized for lavish spending. The New York Times and CBS News in January reported employees, veterans and charity watchdogs were complaining the organization was profiteering off veterans.

Linnington said in a phone interview he hadn't planned on leaving the POW/MIA agency so soon and wasn't looking for a new job. But he said the opportunity at the Wounded Warrior Project was for "incredibly noble work."

"I'm very proud of the things we've done at the DPAA over the past year but I was approached by a group that needed some leadership in caring for our wounded warriors. I'm a 35-year soldier. I brought soldiers to combat and welcomed many of them home that were grievously wounded," Linnington said in a phone interview.

Linnington retired from the Army as a lieutenant general before assuming a civilian role at the Pentagon. He served in combat tours in Afghanistan and Iraq and was the military deputy to the undersecretary of defense while in uniform.

Reports on the Wounded Warrior Project by CBS News and The Times described extravagant parties and last-minute, business-class air travel at the nonprofit. One former employee compared it to "what the military calls fraud, waste and abuse."

The Jacksonville, Florida-based organization's directors fired two executives after hiring outside legal counsel and forensic accounting consultants to conduct an independent review of its records and interview current and former employees.

Ann Mills-Griffiths, chairwoman of the board at the National League of POW/MIA Families, said she was surprised by Linnington's announcement. She said he had told her group last year he was at the agency for the long haul, meaning the next 10 years.

"I can only say it was a total shock. Just stunning and unexpected," Mills-Griffiths said.

K9s for Warriors may lose help from volunteers

Legal action could lead to charity hiring part-time workers

By [Bakari Savage](#) - Reporter, anchor

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. - Nonprofit organization K9s for Warriors is facing legal action from one of its volunteers, which could lead the group to start having to pay for part-time workers, instead of relying on the help over 1,500 volunteers.

The charity, headquartered in Ponte Vedra Beach, pairs together service dogs with veterans with post-traumatic stress disability, traumatic brain injury or military sexual trauma as a result of military service post 9/11.

One of the volunteers allegedly tripped on the charity's campus in Nocatee. K9s for Warriors President Shari Duval said that afterward it received a letter of demand from law firm Morgan & Morgan. Duval said that has made the volunteer program too much of a liability.

So instead of relying on the volunteers to help care for the dogs, Duval said the organization will have to hire part-time workers, which the nonprofit organization will have to come up with money to pay for.

K9s for Warriors relies on nearly 1,500 volunteers to take the dogs to a dog park and walk them. But now the question is: Who's going to be on the other end of the leash without costing K9s for Warriors \$250,000 extra a year?

"If there's a will, there's a way. We will do that. But the most important part was the fact that the volunteers made such a huge impact on our veterans," Duval said.

Duval bragged about the volunteers to News4Jax Thursday. She said even when money was tight, they were there.

"They have really been the heart and soul of our organization," Duval said. "Since our inception, which was five years ago, when money was very limited. And it still is. Our volunteers stepped in to fill the gap."

But now that gap will be even larger because of the money the organization will have to pay part-time workers.

As of May, over 200 dogs and veterans have been paired together, providing companionship and comfort that they need to adjust back to civilian life.

A second indoor-outdoor kennel is under construction at the K9s for Warriors so it can get more dogs, serve more warriors and shorten the one-year waiting list.

Morgan & Morgan sent the following statement Thursday to News4Jax:

"We have not submitted any demand whatsoever to K9s for Warriors Corporation. The statements made in that regard are 100% false. We sent them a request to disclose if they had any liability insurance which may have been purchased to pay for our client's medical bills and damages. They did in fact purchase such a liability policy and disclosed it to our firm. They purchased this policy for occurrences exactly like this one.

"Our claim is against the insurance company. We are not seeking any personal money from K9s for

Warriors Corporation whatsoever and have no intention of doing so. To say otherwise is misleading and not in line with the facts. No demand for money has been sent. To say otherwise is also misleading. Our client did not “trip” on the corporation’s property. Once again, to say otherwise is misleading.

"The real facts are that this corporation pays premiums to an insurance company to provide them with coverage when someone is injured during the course and scope of their duties with the corporation. This is common practice in this industry.

"Our client is a 67 year old woman who served in the Army for 28 years before retiring as a Lt. Colonel, and who now volunteers for local charities. Her elbow was shattered so badly that it could not be reconstructed by the surgeons at Baptist South, who had to surgically remove the joint and give her an artificial elbow. She also suffered multiple fractures of her arm requiring another surgery, and a fractured knee cap. She has now been told by her doctors that she will never have full use of her reconstructed arm again.

"She suffered these injuries as a brand new volunteer at this corporation. She was told to walk a Labrador on a leash with a history of running off and dragging volunteers. She was given no warning about the animal’s history.

"In fact, 3 days after it happened, the K9s company internally posted a memo, which we have obtained, that says: “We need to be very careful with our little yellow lab, Duke... Duke has claimed more "victims" in the chute than any other dog, yanking people right over.”

"Sadly, our 67 year old female client was one of the “victims” who was walking him in the chute, when he took off suddenly, dragging her with him. She received no warning or special instruction about the dog, despite what the company internally admitted it knew. She is simply seeking to have her medical bills and damages paid, for something that should have never occurred. K9s’ insurance company, not K9s, will be responsible for paying these damages.

"K9s for Warriors is a very worthy organization that our firm has contributed to in the past and will do so in the future. Regrettably, it appears that either the facts of this case are not known to those who have made the statements on behalf of the corporation, or they are being told what to say by the insurance company who is responsible for paying in an attempt to create public pressure. If we were to drop this woman’s case, the insurance company would not have to pay for her damages. They would get a free pass.

"We have the utmost respect and admiration for our veterans. Our client in this case is a retired Army Officer who served her country admirably for 28 years. We have also represented thousands of other veterans in our nearly 30 years as a law firm.

August 6th 1100 to 1300 in Memorial Arena. Another good line up of speakers with information of interest to all Veterans...Keeping you informed and connected.

Pass the Word to all your contacts...We keep the numbers up we keep the meetings going and getting closer to our numbers making a difference in influencing change for those in the Veteran community here in NE Florida.

Too much at stake for Veterans not to be engaged and connected.

PASS THE WORD



Gathering of Veterans

V4V invites you to participate in a Gathering of Veterans meeting. There will be representatives from organizations that support Veterans and Veterans agencies providing information of interest to the Veterans community.

When: August 6th

Time: 1100 to 1300 ;Free buffet lunch to follow

Where: Veterans Memorial Arena
300 A Philip Randolph Blvd
Jacksonville, Fl

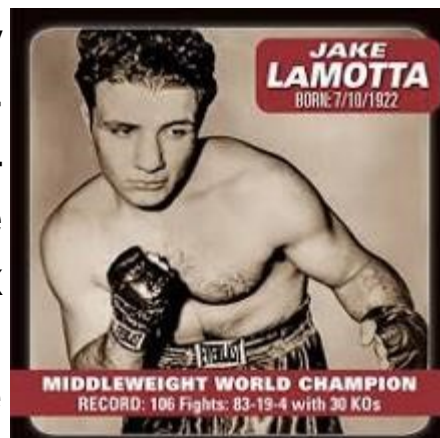
If you have any questions, please contact us at
Vets4VetsNJax@gmail.com

Together We Are Stronger

"Courage is contagious. When a brave man takes a stand, the spines of others are often stiffened."

Meeting the former Middleweight Champion of the World

On Saturday night, June 18th, I took my daughter Lisa to a fund raiser for the FL National Guard Foundation and K9s For Warriors. It was held at the SR 207 Armory. We saw a pre-release new movie, "The Bronx Bull", the story of middleweight champion Jake Lamotta. 94 year old Jake was at the screening as was Bill Forsythe, who played Jake in the film. Bill graduated from the high school I worked at for 30 years. He also dated my daughter Lisa. Pictured below is Bill and Lisa seeing each other the first time in over 40 years.



From the left: Me and the Champ, the Champ greeting the audience, my daughter Lisa with Bill Forsythe, the star of the movie.

MEDAL OF HONOR ICO PFC Raymond M “Mike” CLAUSEN, USMC

By CDR John C Leslie, USN (Ret) john_leslie15@yahoo.com

In January 1970 the North Vietnamese were mounting an offensive to take Da Nang, in South Vietnam, from the US Forces. On 31 January the Helicopter crew piloted by LT COL Walt Ledbetter, Commanding Officer of HMM-263, an assault helicopter squadron, dropped three Marine platoons into the area to repel the enemy. The Marines immediately took heavy fire, and the helo crew began evacuating the wounded. On one return trip to the battlefield, they found a small group of Marines, members of the 3rd Platoon, Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 1st Marine Division, stranded in the middle of a mine field, pinned down by enemy gunfire.



Charlotte Aviation Museum, dedicated to the memory of MOH awardee PFC Raymond M. Clausen, USMC, on 20 October 2007, Charlotte, NC.

Private First Class (PFC) Raymond M “Mike” Clausen was the crew chief on that mission to rescue those stranded marines. He guided the pilot to a landing in a patch of tall grass cleared by one of several mine explosions. Twenty marines were nearby, eleven of them wounded, one already dead, and the other eight in place, fearful of setting off additional mines if they moved. LT COL Ledbetter landed his CH-46 helicopter three times, each time over craters made by exploded mines, to get as close to the wounded as possible. He dropped the back ramp and ordered the crew to stay onboard. Clausen disobeyed – six times. "I told him, 'No, sir, I'm going off the plane,' " Clausen recalled in an interview with The Dallas Morning News in January 2004.

He leaped from the helicopter, ignored the presence of hidden mines, picked up a wounded marine and carried him back to the craft. Several other marines followed his path to the helicopter, knowing it would be clear of the mines.

Private Clausen then directed the helicopter to another spot and resumed his rescue efforts. His citation said that despite the threat of further mine explosions, he made six trips out of the helicopter. On one of those trips, a mine detonated while he was carrying a wounded marine, killing another member of the stranded platoon and wounding three other men.

1st LT Bruce Cruickshank was the last of the wounded Marines carried aboard the helo by Clausen. Cruickshank was an A-4 Skyhawk pilot assigned on temporary duty as a forward air controller (FAC) to call in airstrikes in support of this infantry operation by the Marine ground troops. His radio operator that day was Lance Corporal Ed West, a new arrival with 45 days “in country” on his first, and only, combat mission of the war. Cruickshank and West each lost both legs to mine explosions.

Only when Clausen was certain that all marines were safely aboard did he signal the pilot to lift the helicopter. All in all, Clausen carried eleven wounded and one dead Marine to the helo. For his actions that

day, PFC Clausen was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor by President Richard Nixon in the White House on 15 June 1971. PFC Clausen died in Dallas, Texas on 30 May 2004 at the age of 56 years. His Medal of Honor Citation is presented below:

The President of the United States in the name of The Congress takes pleasure in presenting the MEDAL OF HONOR to PRIVATE FIRST CLASS RAYMOND M. CLAUSEN, JR.

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

for service as set forth in the following CITATION:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 263, Marine Aircraft Group 16, First Marine Aircraft Wing, during operations against enemy forces in the Republic of Vietnam on January 31, 1970. Participating in a helicopter rescue mission to extract elements of a platoon which had inadvertently entered a minefield while attacking enemy positions, Private First Class Clausen skillfully guided the helicopter pilot to a landing in an area cleared by one of several mine explosions. With eleven Marines wounded, one dead, and the remaining eight Marines holding their positions for fear of detonating other mines, Private First Class Clausen quickly leaped from the helicopter and, in the face of enemy fire, moved across the extremely hazardous, mine-laden area to assist in carrying casualties to the waiting helicopter and in placing them aboard. Despite the ever-present threat of further mine explosions, he continued his valiant efforts, leaving the comparatively safe area of the helicopter on six separate occasions to carry out his rescue efforts. On one occasion while he was carrying one of the wounded, another mine detonated, killing a corpsman and wounding three other men. Only when he was certain that all Marines were safely aboard did he signal the pilot to lift the helicopter. By his courageous, determined and inspiring efforts in the face of the utmost danger, Private First Class Clausen upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and of the United States Naval Service.

/s/ RICHARD M. NIXON

Other members of this rescue mission also received personal awards for valor. The pilot, LT Col Ledbetter was awarded the Navy Cross, his co-pilot 1st LT Paul Parker was awarded a Silver Star, the port-side gunner CPL Steven Marinkovic and the starboard-side gunner SGT Major Morton Landy each received the Distinguished Flying Cross for their actions that day, making them one of the most decorated combat flight crews in military aviation history.

SGT Major Landry was a 20-year veteran by this time, and had volunteered to go on this mission as a gunner. As probably the most senior enlisted Marine in the squadron, he would have been intimately familiar with each and every enlisted man in the outfit. At the unveiling of the restored CH-46 "Sea Knight," dedicated to PFC Raymond "Mike" Clausen, during a ceremony at the Carolinas Aviation Museum on 20 October 2007, SGT Major Landry said of the twice demoted Crew Chief PFC Clausen that he

was “his biggest disciplinary problem” and that he “had no use for him as a Marine. He was a good man at heart but liked to beat his own drum. He had good abilities as a Marine, but he liked to disobey orders.” Landry went on to say “What he did that day brought out the Marine Corps in him. He earned the medal that day, there’s no question in my mind. But, Clausen disobeyed the Commanding Officer’s orders (who specifically ordered his crew to stay in the helicopter). We landed and dropped the door and he was out there, back and forth, six times.”

It’s a good thing for Bruce Cruikshank and the other ten Marines of the Third Platoon, Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 1st Marine Division that were pinned down in that mine field, saved because Clausen did disobey the CO’s orders. The CO later said of Clausen’s disobedience “Mike saw what was going on. He did what he thought he had to do.”

After the ceremony dedicating the Medal of Honor CH-46 at the Carolinas Aviation Museum, Bruce Cruikshank commented to a nearby attendee “If not for Mike Clausen and these other guys, I would have been another name on the Wall in Washington. I’ve had to live my life without my legs, but my life’s been a whole lot better than the guys who didn’t make it back.”

Clausen was on his second tour of duty in Vietnam, and was released from active duty shortly after being transferred back to the United States in August 1970. He has been credited with flying over 1960 combat missions in Vietnam.

The last Marine rescued that day, 1st Lt Bruce Cruikshank, was a college classmate of mine at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, Aeronautical Engineering Class of 1967. Following graduation, I went off to NAS Pensacola for Navy flight training, while Bruce went off to USMC Officer training, then received his flight training via the USAF. It took Bruce two years to fully recover from his injuries, and he was back flying in no time after that. I reconnected with Bruce in 2015 at his hangar at the Livingston, CA airport, where he builds his own airplanes (currently working on number four) and regularly flies them with “flight prostheses” that he designed and fabricated himself (a unique, separate, design for each aircraft). The marine who saved Bruce and ten other marines that fateful day in Viet Nam serves as an inspiration to all, and so does Bruce. Bruce flies and supports Young Eagles flights, acts as the local chapter’s Secretary, and still holds the mystery and beauty of flight in his heart and mind. The 70-year-old Bruce Cruikshank in 2015 was as energetic and as enthusiastic about life and flying as was the 21-year-old Aero Engineering graduate I had last seen in 1967.

Reference material for this article included the following:

“A Tale of Two Dinners” story found in the April 2010 issue of Flying Magazine,

Obituary of Raymond M Clausen in the New York Times 15 June 2007 edition,

Gopher Broke: The Story of “Blood, Sweat, and Tears” by Lance Corporal Ed West

And various internet blogs on Marine History under banner of “Above and beyond the call.”

This information is from the Jacksonville Chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America

You may or not be aware of the Virtual Wall of Faces project to put a face with every name on the Vietnam Wall. Here is a link. <http://www.vvmf.org/Wall-of-Faces/>



Attached is a list of the 777 missing photos from those killed in Vietnam whose home of record was Florida. Perhaps you could help promote this important project. Note there are 7 missing photos for St. John's County.

I am working the Duval County list of 101 and have identified 7 so far.

Raymond A Breault

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PO Box 330274

Atlantic Beach, FL 32233-0274

An invitation to join our friend Danique Masingill

A war dog is a warrior's best friend. To honor these canine American heroes, a new honorary medal is being created under the auspices of American Humane Association, which has worked with the U.S. military and military animals for over 100 years, and internationally recognized philanthropist and longtime veterans' advocate Lois Pope, the guiding force behind the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial in Washington, D.C.

The Lois Pope LIFE K-9 Medal of Courage will be awarded annually to retired Military Working Dogs who demonstrated exceptional bravery while serving in combat theaters overseas. This medal recognizes their remarkable courage and valor in the face of danger.



**TUESDAY, THE TWELFTH OF JULY
TWO THOUSAND AND SIXTEEN
AT FIVE THIRTY IN THE AFTERNOON**

**FOYER OF THE RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
CAPITOL HILL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515**



Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres to be served

Kindly RSVP to Andrew Goff at andrewg@americanhumane.org or 202-677-4244

To learn more about American Humane, visit www.americanhumane.org



SECNAV Announces New Administrative Separation Policy

Story Number: NNS160601-18Release Date: 6/1/2016 12:58:00 PM

From Chief of Information Public Affairs

NEWYORK (NNS) -- To protect Sailors and Marines suffering with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI) or any other diagnosed mental health condition, Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus has made his department the first in the military to assure such conditions are considered before separating a service member.

Previously a service member's misconduct took precedence over diagnosed mental health conditions when considering separation, which impacted the veteran's ability to receive benefits. Now, if it contributed to the misconduct, the medical condition will take precedence.

Effective immediately, Sailors and Marines being processed for any type of involuntary administrative separation (ADSEP) who have a diagnosed mental health condition may be referred into the Disability Evaluation System.

Additionally, if the Sailor or Marine is being administratively processed under provisions that authorize a characterization of service of other than honorable, the case must be referred to the first general officer/flag officer in the chain of command for a final determination. Any service member previously separated under similar circumstances may also petition to have their discharge reviewed through either the discharge review board or Board for Correction of Naval Records (BCNR).

"It is one of the great maxims of naval history that Sailors and Marines are the sea services' greatest advantage and most important asset. For more than a decade,

we've asked a tremendous amount of our people and their families," Mabus said. "In turn, we have a responsibility to support their needs, whether they are serving the Navy and Marine Corps mission around the globe or transitioning from uniformed service to civilian life."

Mabus signed the new policy into effect during a visit to the Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at the NYU Langone Medical Center, a Cohen Veterans Network (CVN) clinic in New York.

CVN describes its mission as striving "to improve the quality of life for veterans and their families, including Guard and Reserve, by working to strengthen mental health outcomes and complement existing support, with a particular focus on post-traumatic stress."

"Keeping faith with veterans under all circumstances is our solemn vow," said Mabus. "It is vitally important to address those service members whose separation is a result of PTSD/TBI.

Mabus later in the day formally announced the policy signing at an event hosted by the Veterans on Wall Street (VOWS) initiative.

For more news from the Secretary of the Navy, visit www.navy.mil/local/secnav/ or www.facebook.com/SecretaryoftheNavy.

For more information on the Naval Discharge Review Board, visit www.secnav.navy.mil/mra/CORB/pages/ndrb/default.aspx.

For more on the Board for Correction of Naval Records, visit www.secnav.navy.mil/mra/bcnr/Pages/home.aspx



The "Rocket Man" Run



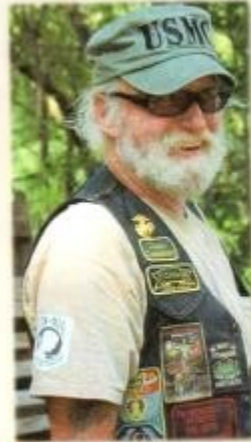
In memory of Wesley "Rocket Man" Roberts



Food - Music



Music By:
Dewy Via
DJ Trashy



Vendors - Events

Events for 4X4s
Obstacle Course
Car Crush
Blind Gator
Flex Ramp

Events for Bikes
Hot Dog Grab
Slowest Bike Race
Barrel Push

Raffle Drawings Benefiting



Registration: 9:00 – 10:30
Last Bike/Vehicle Out: 10:30
Last Bike/Vehicle In: 4:30
Events Begin: 5:00

Cost
\$15 per driver
\$5 per passenger
\$5 for extra card

10 SEPT 2016

of St. Johns County, Inc.

There are two different routes
Motorcycles and Cars or Jeeps and 4X4s

Motorcycles and Cars

Start: Donovan's Irish Pub – St. Augustine
1st Stop: VFW Post 1988 – Green Cove Springs
2nd Stop: Outback Crab Shack – St. Augustine
3rd Stop: Cheyenne Saloon – Palatka
4th Stop: VFW Post 2391 – St. Augustine
Final Stop: St. Augustine Flea Market – St. Augustine

Jeeps and 4X4s

Start: Donovan's Irish Pub – St. Augustine
1st Stop: Beaches – Vilano Beach – St. Augustine
2nd Stop: Jack's – A1A Beach - St. Augustine
3rd Stop: South Beach – St. Augustine
4th Stop: VFW Post 2391 – St. Augustine
5th Stop: Old Brick Road – St. Augustine
Final Stop: St. Augustine Flea Market – St. Augustine



Vets 4 Vets is a non-profit all volunteer organization whose mission and purpose is to provide for the immediate financial needs of Honorably Discharged Veterans that may be homeless or in financial hardship.

Requests for help come directly from the Veteran's Service Office.

All proceeds will go directly to the Veterans in need.

Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association (CVMA) is a 501(c)(19) Not For Profit Organization.



This from Fred Salanti, President of the Missing In America Project. Very well said.

Memorial Day Speech



Thank all of you for requesting me to come here to pay Honor and Respect to our Veterans on this special day of Remembrance.

Saturday at Arlington Cemetery, over 200 American Legion Riders gathered at the cemetery's Civil War Unknowns Monument, the original Tomb of the Unknowns, and the site of the first official Memorial Day commemoration in 1868.

The tomb holds 2,111 unknown soldiers whose remains were gathered from battlefields around Manassas and elsewhere at the close of the war. Most of them had been unburied and left behind as the tide of the war ebbed and flowed.

They were laid to rest in a specially built mass tomb adjacent to the Arlington Mansion. Almost half of the soldiers killed in the Civil War were never identified,

The first official Decoration (Memorial) Day ceremony was held there in May 1868.

The keynote speaker that day was future president and then-Brig. Gen. James A. Garfield .

“Here, where all the hope and fear and agony of their country centered; here let them rest, asleep in the nation’s heart.”

Memorial Day occurs on the last Monday in May and marks the solemn time when Americans honor the soldiers that died in military service. When the observance was first declared in 1868 by General John Logan, it was called Decoration Day about a tradition of decorating the graves of those whose lives were lost in the Civil War, and its set date was May 30. In the years following World War I, the day picked up the most general name Memorial Day as people began to use it as time to honor all who died in all US wars

Veterans have served our country through wars, or through peacetime since the birth of our Nation. Veterans expect nothing more than what was promised to them by our Government to receive military honors, recognition by our government for their commitment and service to our great country.

When I think about our Veterans (50,000,000+ from Revolutionary War to Present), I tend to think about them in 4 categories:

1. Veterans who went to War and were killed (KIA)
2. Veterans who went to War and were captured or missing (MIA)(POW).
3. Veterans who served and survived and continued with their lives successfully.

4. Veterans who survived and came home with serious issues that need help to overcome diversities, medical, mentally, socially. These veterans in some cases become alienated in society, government and in some cases abandoned by all family, they are Alone and needing help for life issues and in some cases death issues.

174,000 Suicides in 23 States over ten years

Does this sound like current VA wait times for appointments is like Disneyland wait lines?

Disney responded to Secretary of the VA on all of the staff they have working to make waits pleasant and entertaining. A veteran founded them!

The statistics above show that it is NOT a laughing or joking matter.

To further highlight this point, I would like to reflect on a few figures from the Missing in America Veterans Recovery Program for the seven years of our existence:

Funeral Homes Visited - 1,977 (23,000+)(0.85%)

Unclaimed Individuals Found - 13,109 (131,000)

Veterans Identified - 3,037 (23%)(30370)

Veterans Interred - 2,762 (275 Diff)

As I look out at all of you, my thoughts form a question:

WHY ARE YOU HERE?

You are here because you believe that Memorial day is not to Celebrate or just being out on a beach or vacation, you know that first this is a day to be somber, to remember and honor veterans who have given it all for our freedoms!

You are here because this community and dedicated citizens, veterans or not, decided to put on this ceremony to allow you to express your pride and love for any relatives and Veterans at the Redding Memorial Park and the Lawncrest Memorial Park. I Thank them for this honor to our Veterans.

You are here because across the Nation there are ceremonies to reflect and think of the history and stories that are resting here in Peace and Tranquility. I am always saddened to find that the most intriguing stories of our veterans exploits and heroism are told in Eulogies after they have passed and not when I was sitting on the floor leaning against their leg and listening to them tell me these stories personally. Too much is held inside until family members say.

You are here because your heart told you to be here.

Thank You.

From George Gardner in the Gardner Report via Michael Isam

Operation Pastorius, June 1942

In early 1942, Hitler authorized Operation Pastorius to sabotage the American war effort as well as make terrorist attacks on civilian targets to demoralize the American civilian population.

The mission was headed by Admiral Wilhelm Canaris, who recalled that in 1916 during World War I, he organized the sabotage of French installations in Morocco, and entered the United States with other German agents to plant bombs in New York arms factories, including the destruction of munitions supplies at Black Tom Island.

In June 1942, U-boats landed agents at Ponte Vedra, Florida, and on New York's Long Island, to sabotage several aluminum plants and other targets.

Eight men who had lived in America and spoke fluent English were recruited for the mission. After training near Berlin, the saboteurs crossed the Atlantic in U-boats.

On June 13, 1942, four of them landed on Long Island, soon after encountering a Coast Guardsman, whom they tried to bribe.

The American reported the incident, and an armed patrol soon uncovered a large cache of explosives and other equipment the saboteurs had buried. The Germans themselves had already boarded trains for New York City.

Meanwhile, the Florida group landed on Ponte Vedra Beach before dawn on June 17. This party consisted of team leader Edward Kerling, as well as Herbert Haupt, Werner Thiel and Herman Neubauer.

They buried their explosives and equipment, then boarded a bus for Jacksonville, where they spent the night before leaving for New York and Chicago.

Realizing the mission was doomed after the encounter with the Coast Guard, Dasch called Ernst Burger, the most guarded and disciplined member of the team, into the upper-story Amagansett NY hotel room the two men shared.

He revealed he had no intention of going through with the mission. He hated the Nazis and wanted Burger on his side when he turned the entire plot over to the FBI.

Burger smiled. Having spent seventeen months in a Nazi concentration camp, his own feelings for the party were less than warm. He too had been planning to betray the mission.

Using his information the FBI soon rounded up the remaining men.

A military court sentenced all to death, but Dasch's sentence was commuted to 30 years and Burger's to life imprisonment. The others were executed on August 8, 1942.

The failure of Operation Pastorius led Hitler to rebuke Admiral Canaris and no sabotage attempt was ever made again in the United States.

Image: State historic marker located in front of the Ponte Vedra Inn and Country Club on Ponte Vedra Blvd

Sources: Florida Heritage Series World War II and Wikipedia

AGENT ORANGE PRESUMPTIVE DISEASES

- **AL Amyloidosis**

A rare disease caused when an abnormal protein, amyloid, enters tissues or organs

- **Chronic B-cell Leukemias**

A type of cancer which affects white blood cells

- **Chloracne (or similar acneform disease)**

A skin condition that occurs soon after exposure to chemicals and looks like common forms of acne seen in teenagers. Under VA's rating regulations, it must be at least 10 percent disabling within one year of exposure to herbicides.

- **Diabetes Mellitus Type 2**

A disease characterized by high blood sugar levels resulting from the body's inability to respond properly to the hormone insulin

- **Hodgkin's Disease**

A malignant lymphoma (cancer) characterized by progressive enlargement of the lymph nodes, liver, and spleen, and by progressive anemia

- **Ischemic Heart Disease**

A disease characterized by a reduced supply of blood to the heart, that leads to chest pain

- **Multiple Myeloma**

A cancer of plasma cells, a type of white blood cell in bone marrow

- **Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma**

A group of cancers that affect the lymph glands and other lymphatic tissue

- **Parkinson's Disease**

A progressive disorder of the nervous system that affects muscle movement

- **Peripheral Neuropathy, Early-Onset**

A nervous system condition that causes numbness, tingling, and motor weakness. Under VA's rating regulations, it must be at least 10 percent disabling within one year of herbicide exposure.

- **Porphyrria Cutanea Tarda**

A disorder characterized by liver dysfunction and by thinning and blistering of the skin in sun-exposed areas. Under VA's rating regulations, it must be at least 10 percent disabling within one year of exposure to herbicides.

- **Prostate Cancer**

Cancer of the prostate; one of the most common cancers among men

- **Respiratory Cancers (includes lung cancer)**

Cancers of the lung, larynx, trachea, and bronchus

- **Soft Tissue Sarcomas (other than osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, or mesothelioma)**

A group of different types of cancers in body tissues such as muscle, fat, blood and lymph vessels, and connective tissues - See more at:

<http://www.publichealth.va.gov/PUBLICHEALTH/exposures/agentorange/conditions/index.asp#sthash.jEskHp7H.dpuf>

GULF WAR PRESUMPTIVE

- **Chronic Fatigue Syndrome**, a condition of long-term and severe fatigue that is not relieved by rest and is not directly caused by other conditions.

- **Fibromyalgia**, a condition characterized by widespread muscle pain. Other symptoms may include insomnia, morning stiffness, headache, and memory problems.

- **Functional gastrointestinal disorders**, a group of conditions marked by chronic or recurrent symptoms related to any part of the gastrointestinal tract. Functional condition refers to an abnormal function of an organ, without a structural alteration in the tissues. Examples include irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), functional dyspepsia, and functional abdominal pain syndrome.

- **Undiagnosed illnesses** with symptoms that may include but are not limited to: abnormal weight loss, fatigue, cardiovascular disease, muscle and joint pain, headache, menstrual disorders, neurological and psychological problems, skin conditions, respiratory disorders, and sleep disturbances. - See more at: <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/gulfwar/medically-unexplained-illness.asp#sthash.ArPG3et.dpuf>

If you or someone you know are one of the 48 million Americans who suffer from hearing loss, I have Great News to share with you!!!



ClearCaptions is a federally funded telecommunications company. The FCC has commissioned ClearCaptions to inform those experiencing any hearing loss of the federal program available to them based on Title IV of the Americans with Disabilities Act (mandated since 1990). Those with any hearing loss are entitled to our new technology **caption phone absolutely FREE**, including installation, training and on-going service. Those needing our phones need to have:

- 1.** a phone line (AT&T landline, Comcast landline, bundle, OOMA, Magic Jack, Vonage, or OOMA ...)
- 2.** Internet access (wired or wireless).

There is no income requirement. To schedule your installation or for more information, **please contact your North Florida Territory Manager Anas Benjelloun at (904) 568-4562 or anas.benjelloun@clearcaptions.com**

Sign-up, self-certify, and be using your Free ClearCaptions phone in a matter of days!

Veterans Council Chairman Bill William Dudley on left and County VSO Joe McDermott on right present the first "Beaver Award for Veterans".



WSOS Radio - St Augustine

We congratulate and say "Thank you!" to Jeff Blanchard, the winner of the Beaver Award for Veterans!



Congratulations FRED DUPONT...our St Johns County Veteran of the Week! We are recognizing him right now at Beaver Toyota and LIVE on air at 4pm. Thank you Fred for your service to our nation. — at Beaver Toyota St. Augustine.

MISSING IN AMERICA PROJECT - FLORIDA JUNE 27, 2016

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

Our Progress to Date as of 6/24/2016

Nation Wide

Total Funeral Homes Visited - 1,987

Cremains Found - 13,334

Veterans Cremains Identified - 3,072

Veterans Interred - 2,765



Kathy Church with ALR Chapter 392,
Panama City, FL taken on 6/23/16,

MIAP volunteers continue to work in Florida to spread the word about our project. We are still in need of volunteers to reach out to funeral homes and other locations that might have unclaimed remains throughout the state.

On June 15th Steve Spicklemier, Mike DelPizzo and I did a presentation at Hospice Haven in Orange Park where Mike and his wife Win are volunteers. There are several volunteers that are interested in joining our team and we are anxious to work with these new volunteers.

On June 23, I traveled to Panama City to the American Legion Post 392 to do an MIAP presentation to the ALR. Thanks to ALR David Shaw for setting this meeting up. The members from Post 392 have been raffling off three guns with the proceeds going to MIAP. I will be traveling back to Panama City on July 4th to participate in their celebration and to accept a check from this raffles. I will be doing a training class on the 5th for all who will be working on a team they are putting together to work in Bay County.

These members are very eager to get starting doing research in their area and MIAP looks forward to working with this team also.

Our volunteer, Paul, continues to work in the south Florida area doing research in a local funeral home. Daily he is receiving approval from the National Cemetery Scheduling Office for eligible veterans and spouses that are unclaimed. We will hold another service at the South Florida National Cemetery in the early fall.

MIAP volunteers also continue to attend veteran organizations meetings to support them and they in turn support us. Steve Spicklemier and I was involved in the planning of the Memorial Day service at the Jacksonville National Cemetery and I had the honor of escorting a family who added their son's name to The Wall on Memorial Day. Sharon Gilley is very involved with the DAR and they also support MIAP in a big way.

If you are interested in joining MIAP in Florida or any other state please go to our website @ www.miap.us and sign up as a supporter. Charles Warthling, MIAP National Assistant Vice President will send you a welcoming email and he will then notify the State Coordinator for the state you live in. You can also contact me at miapjax@yahoo.com.

I would like to thank all those that continually support MIAP and help us spread the word about our project. We want to be honor all unclaimed veterans and to be able to say "YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN".

Respectfully submitted, Kathy Church, MIAP – FL State Coordinator

Navy's largest helicopter hangar named after late Rear Adm. Kevin Delaney

This article is reprinted in its entirety as it appeared in the FL Times Union

By Sandy Strickland

Rear Adm. Kevin Delaney flew almost 700 helicopter combat missions in Vietnam, and the Navy's largest helicopter hangar was named after him Friday in a ceremony at Jacksonville Naval Air Station.



“Adm. Delaney’s dedication and commitment to serving in the U.S. Navy is legendary,” said Capt. Howard Wanamaker, the base’s commander. “He left no doubt that he loved the Navy and his sailors.”

The base was granted approval by the chief of naval operations to name Hangar 1122 in his honor only a year after his death, Wanamaker said.

Delaney, 68, died in 2015 from lung cancer caused by toxic herbicide Agent Orange.

The hangar, now known as the Rear Adm. Kevin F. Delaney Helicopter Center of Excellence, is home to four of the most sophisticated, forward-deployed maritime strike operational squadrons in the world with more than 1,100 pilots, aircrewmen and maintainers, Wanamaker said.

“Dad would be very honored and very pleased,” said his daughter, Kelly Delaney. “The family feels extremely honored.”

Other family members in attendance included his widow, Pat; twin daughters, Seana McAfee and Diana McNulty; and four of his five grandsons.

Various retired and current officers and civic and political representatives also attended the ceremony. One of the guests was a husky sponsored by Joe Sfara from Naples, Fla. Sfara was a U.S. Naval Academy classmate of Delaney’s who is sponsoring the

dog's training through K9s for Warriors and has named it "Delaney" in his honor.

After graduating from the academy, Delaney served with Helicopter Attack Squadron 3, better known as the vaunted Seawolves, in Vietnam. He served in six operational aircraft squadrons and did six command tours in an illustrious 34-year career, Wanamaker said.

While commander of NAS Jacksonville from 1989-91, he started a recycling and cleanliness program that lives on today. He was credited with drawing more acclaim to the base than it was ever received when it was named the Navy's top shore installation in 1991.

Delaney was again stationed at the base as the Navy's regional commander for the Southeast and the Caribbean, where he was responsible for more than 40 commands, including 14 major Naval installations, Wanamaker said.

He retired in 1998 as the most decorated officer in the U.S. Navy. Of the 98 awards and decorations he received, 64 were for combat action, Wanamaker said.

Delaney soared to new heights during a long civic career that included serving on the boards of 19 area nonprofits, ranging from Ronald McDonald House to Jacksonville University to the Wounded Warrior Project's national board.

In 2014, he was honored by the Small Business Administration as the "Veteran Small Business Champion of the Year" for Florida and as the 2014 Veteran of Influence. He was honored by the JAX Chamber in 2014 as the most influential veteran and was installed as the first member of the chamber's Military Hall of Fame.

Sandy Strickland: (904) 359-4128

The federal government is looking at changing the way military officers are promoted.

A new proposal by Defense Secretary Ash Carter would adjust what's known as the "up or out" rule that forces service members to leave if they are not promoted within the required time frame.

"I think the military is losing a lot of good people," veteran Chris Taylor said.

Taylor, who served as a hospital corpsman in the U.S. Navy, said he knew a number of junior sailors in the Navy who were valuable service members but were forced out because they were not promoted in time.

"You shouldn't be kicked out just because you don't test well," Taylor said.

Pfc. Kendrick Smith, who served in the U.S. Army for six years, said he too believes the nearly 100-year-old rule is unfair.

"If you can still be effective as a soldier, sailor, marine, whichever, why get rid of you?" Smith said.

Carter said the current system is beneficial but said it needs more flexibility.

The proposal would allow military officers to defer when they are considered for a promotion.

Veterans like Col. Len Loving who spent 30 years in the Marine Corps, supports the current up-or-out policy, saying it makes way for newer recruits to move up in the ranks.

"That allows for the newer acquisitions to have a space to move up the ladder so to speak," Loving said. "If you have people hanging on to that rung all the time, they're not going to be able to get past them."



Did you know 22 veterans will commit suicide every day?

Join the "Stop 22" movement to raise awareness and stand with K9s for Warriors as they help veterans with PTSD and brain injuries.

On the 22nd of every month, use the hashtag #Stop22 on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram and show your support. Watch below how people are "outdoing 22's" all over social media.

Learn more by visiting the Stop 22 website: <http://www.stop22.org/>

And check out K9s for Warriors for regular updates on their mission: <http://www.k9sforwarriors.org/>



Join Post 233's Campaign To help the 5 Star Veterans Center !



As you know they put military veterans back to work by providing safe and secure housing with extensive services, intensive case management and counseling that promotes mental and physical wellness. They are presently in need of various non-perishable items.

The items needed:

Canned goods, soups, stews, vegetables, chili, etc.

Cans of soft drinks, small bags of chips, Doritos, Fritos, pretzels, microwave popcorn, Clorox, Windex, pine sol, dish detergent trash bags, paper towels, tissues, toilet paper !

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AT POST 233



American Legion ~ Post 233 - 560 N. Wilderness Trail

Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082 - www.al233fl.org ~ 904.285.2484

Mayport welcomes home USS Lassen by News4Jax.com Staff

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. - Naval Station Mayport is welcoming home the USS Lassen, Monday morning.



Following a 10-year deployment to Yokosuka, Japan, the USS Lassen is scheduled to arrive at her new homeport in Mayport. The USS Lassen. LASSEN left Japan on Jan. 6 for its final patrol with the U.S. 7th Fleet. After the homeport shift to Mayport, the ship will begin modernization to upgrade her combat systems to the latest Aegis program standards.

The ship is named for Lieutenant Clyde Everett Lassen, a native of Fort Myers, Florida. Lassen earned the Medal of Honor for his courageous rescue of two downed aviators while commander of a search and rescue helicopter in Vietnam.

Naval Station Mayport is one of the largest naval bases in the United States and is home to more than 7,800 Sailors and more than 70 tenant commands including 14 naval ships, three helicopter squadrons, and U.S. Fourth Fleet.



Join the Burn Pit Registry to document your exposures and health concerns, obtain a free health evaluation by a VA or DoD provider, and stay informed of VA's research. The registry is your opportunity to help answer the question of what burn pit exposure could mean for your health and that of fellow Veterans in the future. Although many Veterans have joined the registry, we still need more. Take the lead. Be an example.

Sign up. www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/burnpits/registry.asp.



Veterans' Diseases Associated with Agent Orange

VA assumes that certain diseases can be related to a Veteran's qualifying military service. We call these "presumptive diseases."

VA has recognized certain cancers and other health problems as presumptive diseases associated with exposure to Agent Orange or other herbicides during military service. Veterans and their survivors may be eligible for benefits for these diseases.

AL Amyloidosis: A rare disease caused when an abnormal protein, amyloid, enters tissues or organs

Chronic B-cell Leukemias: A type of cancer which affects white blood cells

Chloracne (or similar acneform disease): A skin condition that occurs soon after exposure to chemicals and looks like common forms of acne seen in teenagers. Under VA's rating regulations, it must be at least 10 percent disabling within one year of exposure to herbicides.

Diabetes Mellitus Type 2: A disease characterized by high blood sugar levels resulting from the body's inability to respond properly to the hormone insulin

Hodgkin's Disease: A malignant lymphoma (cancer) characterized by progressive enlargement of the lymph nodes, liver, and spleen, and by progressive anemia

Ischemic Heart Disease: A disease characterized by a reduced supply of blood to the heart, that leads to chest pain

Multiple Myeloma: A cancer of plasma cells, a type of white blood cell in bone marrow

Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma: A group of cancers that affect the lymph glands and other lymphatic tissue

Parkinson's Disease: A progressive disorder of the nervous system that affects muscle movement

Peripheral Neuropathy, Early-Onset: A nervous system condition that causes numbness, tingling, and motor weakness. Under VA's rating regulations, it must be at least 10 percent disabling within one year of herbicide exposure.

Porphyria Cutanea Tarda: A disorder characterized by liver dysfunction and by thinning and blistering of the skin in sun-exposed areas. Under VA's rating regulations, it must be at least 10 percent disabling within one year of exposure to herbicides.

Prostate Cancer: Cancer of the prostate; one of the most common cancers among men

Respiratory Cancers (includes lung cancer): Cancers of the lung, larynx, trachea, and bronchus

Soft Tissue Sarcomas (other than osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, or mesothelioma): A group of different types of cancers in body tissues such as muscle, fat, blood and lymph vessels, and connective tissues -

See more at: <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/conditions/#sthash.kmpWaPr0.AXO9udjn.dpuf>



St. Johns County Veterans Service Officer Rick Rees

We have Aug 6th 1100 to 1300 scheduled for the next V4V Gathering of Veterans...we will be moving out onto the arena floor due to the numbers that have been showing up...I am working on speaker list...Will have more info and a flyer for you to forward after Memorial Day.



We need to maintain the momentum...Together we are stronger.

Thanks, Bob

Thanks to Jerry Hanchett for sharing his brother Ted's story with us



Some of the best flying I had in Vietnam was in the C-7A Caribou. Unlike many of my comrades who were assigned F-4s, I got to go everywhere in the country that had at least a 1000' dirt strip. I hauled Vietnamese, US Soldiers, including jump certifications, body bags, cows and pigs in crates (fresh food for the indigenous people), jeeps and other machinery. We seldom got fired upon, unlike us Buff pilots when I switched missions. The Caribou was a truly amazing craft. I don't think anyone ever built another fixed-wing, 28,000 GW aircraft that could land in 600' , and take off in 800 feet. We did most of our flying with the front windows open to give us cool air. A young Lt. just out of pilot training could usually upgrade to aircraft commander in 6 months of in-country. When we rotated out of country after one year, to a new aircraft system, we lost the closeness of the old BOO gang, until we all retired and now have annual reunions. We had over 4000 men that served in the 3 squadrons of Caribous in Nam. Our reunions are getting smaller each year, but no less divided in our history.

The following year, I became a B-52 crewmember. I spent the next 4 years going over and back TDY flying missions that were truly in Harm's way. I kept count of several missions when over 14 SAMs approached my flight compartment. The most concerted mission was just north of Hanoi and 15 miles south of China when 2 MIG-21's came up behind me. When they attempted to close in to about 2000 yards, our tail gunner got to practice his job. I never knew if we damaged either one, but in the turn after bomb release only one came up behind for a few seconds. This may sound like we were very vulnerable, but our gunner was shooting from a fixed platform with radar sights, while they were fighting a stall out there at 37,000 feet altitude. If I recall there were 14 B-52's that were shot down or damaged beyond repair from that war. I don't think any were lost to enemy aircraft.

My most unusual encounter occurred between tours back home and over Detroit coming down from Canada at night. We had not been briefed fully on what our mission was, except to simulate a Russian bomber interdicting the US. Our EWO detected a strange frequency so in agreement we jammed it. It was an F-102 being directed upon us by ADC using an uplink signal. He was on autopilot. The ECM caused him to go into a violent maneuver while screaming "MAYDAY". He got home but that aircraft never flew again.

Ted Hanchett

This article is taken from an old article on the web.

UPDATE: According to a local, about six months ago (as of May 2012) the owner cut the planes into segments and hauled them off to be sold as scrap metal; the planes are no longer present, and the field stands vacant.



Close to the St. Augustine airport, behind a run down barbed wire fence that implies (though doesn't out right state) that the land behind it is private property, rests at least eight decaying airplanes. Strewn throughout the overgrown flora, the skeletal remains of these hulking planes are slowly losing the battle with nature, painting a picture of technology overtaken.

The planes themselves are 60s and 70s naval bombers, specifically Grumman S2 Trackers. A first of their kind, they were designed to combine detection with armament for the search and destroy of submarine vessels from an aircraft carrier. These specific planes, the S-2Cs, were also equipped to perform photo reconnaissance.

They are currently owned by a man who lives in the area, and have reportedly been in the field for at least fifteen years. He stripped most of their parts, removing engines, propellers, wings, electrical devices, seats, etc. to sell back to the Grumman Corporation, then left the planes in the large yard where they have since been slowly consumed by encroaching plants.

Vines have grown through broken windows, entangling themselves with tendrils of hanging clumps of electric wires; dead leaves have taken the place of seat cushions, and the removed nose of some of the planes offers a gaping view of the field floor. Tires, wing pieces, control boxes, scraps of the plane, and the occasional beer can litter the area surrounding the decaying metal shells. Though benign enough, one can't help but feel the sense that something very wrong happened here in order to have so many abandoned and gutted planes and parts laying about, the eerie displacement is too curious to ignore.

It is illegal to enter the premises, but a relatively easy-to-find opening in the fence has yet to stop photographers and curious passersby alike. The property is surrounded by a small neighborhood though, so caution is advised when visiting these relics.

#airplane graveyard#object cemeteries#aircraft#retro-tech



Support The Ride Home - it is the largest gathering of former Prisoners Of War and still Missing In Action families tribute event held in the United States. Go to our website to sponsor a former POW or MIA family member. Corporate sponsorships available.

www.theridehome.com

The RIDE HOME Inc. is a Non Profit Corporation paying tribute to Former American Prisoners of War and the families of those Americans still Missing in Action. National POW/MIA Recognition Day reminds us of the sacrifices our soldiers and their families make for our great country every day and our responsibility to let them all know that we Will NOT Forget. Combined Conflict totals in the last century equate to more than 120,000 Prisoners Of War repatriated and over 83,000 still listed as Missing in Action. To pay tribute to the Former Prisoners of War and The Families of those Still Missing In Action, we host The RIDE HOME. This annual event takes place in and around the cities of Americus and Andersonville, Georgia, home of the National Prisoners of War Museum. With the support of American Patriots, like you, we are able to provide dinner and lunch, as well as lodging for over 200 Honored Guest. This annual event is open to the public and we strongly encourage you to join us as we show our gratitude for the sacrifices these former POWs and MIA families have made for Our Great Country.





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VA Memorial Benefits

How to Apply

Upon the death of the Veteran or his or her spouse or dependent, also called the time of need, family members should locate the Veteran's DD-214 or other discharge papers and click 'get started' to schedule a burial in a VA national cemetery. Then make arrangements with a funeral home, National Cemetery Scheduling Office or directly with a VA national cemetery.

VA Memorial Benefits

VA takes special care to pay lasting tribute to the memory of Veterans who served and sacrificed and that of their families. VA meticulously maintains 134 VA national cemeteries in 39 states and is adding new cemeteries to accommodate Veterans and loved ones in their time of need. In a few years, 95 percent of Veterans will have a burial option in an open VA, state or tribal veterans cemetery located within an hour's drive of their home. Some benefits are also available for Veterans who choose burial in a private cemetery.

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

The following burial benefits may be provided:

Burial in a VA national cemetery

- Opening and closing of the grave or burial of cremated remains or placement in an above-ground vault, also called a columbarium
- A government furnished grave liner
- Perpetual care of the gravesite
- A headstone or marker with an inscription
- A burial flag
- A Presidential Memorial Certificate

Transportation of flower arrangements from the committal service shelter to the gravesite

Burial in a private cemetery

- A government headstone, marker, or medallion

A [burial flag](#)

A [Presidential Memorial Certificate](#).

Some survivors may also be entitled to VA [burial allowances](#) as partial reimbursement for the costs of funerals and burials for eligible Veterans.

Please note that gravesites in a VA National Cemetery cannot be reserved in advance. To prepare for a private cemetery burial, VA suggests families [review these questions and complete required forms](#) in advance.

VA Requirements

[Discharge papers](#) to establish your [eligibility](#) for burial services

Burials in a national cemetery take place during the week and cannot be conducted on a federal holiday.

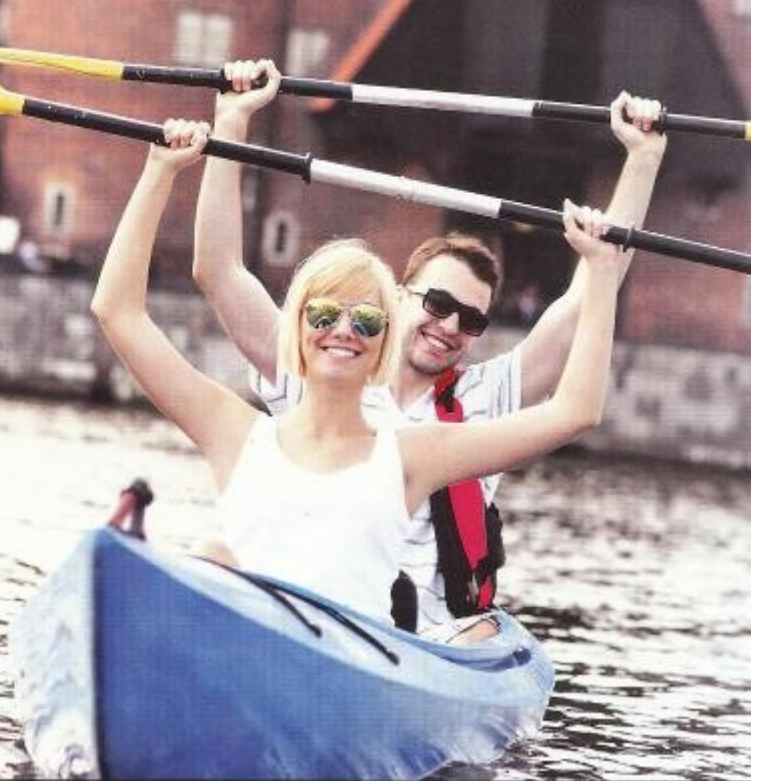
NEW INFO: Ride in comfort to your appointments at the VA Medical Center in Gainesville.

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.



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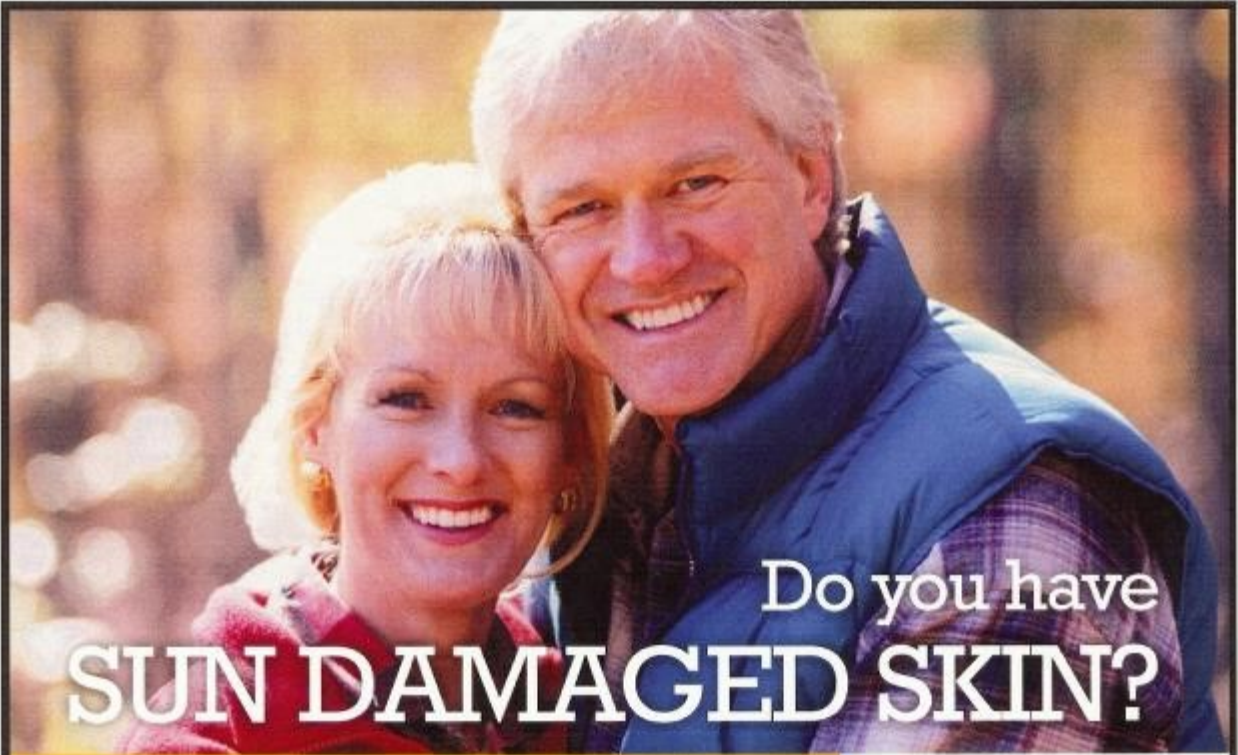
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*Veterans Council of St. Johns County,
"Helping All Veterans"*

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 meetings are
conducted at the the Elks Lodge
829, 1420 A1A S., St. Augustine.***

**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
Rick Rees, Assistant VSO
Tammy Shirley, Assistant VSO
Lashonda Burns, Office Specialist*

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.