



The Patriot Reader Newsletter

P.O. Box 2117

St. Augustine, FL 32085

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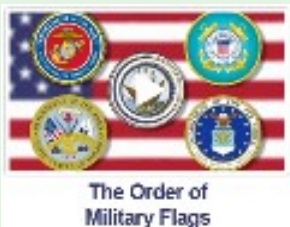
Volume 7, Issue 7

Message from the Chairman

Newsletter Date: July, 2018

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Fellow Veterans:

It has been several months since I have reported on the progress of our Veterans Treatment Court. As many of you may remember, our Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) was stood up in January 2017 under the judicial watch of Judge Howard McGillin. The program has grown exponentially since inception and there are currently 18 veterans in the program with a high of 26 during the past year. The “secret sauce” as Judge McGillin likes to refer to them are the mentors or “Battle Buddies “, a title he has assigned to these valuable assets to the VTC program. There are now 12 trained mentors in the program providing an invaluable service to the veterans to whom they are assigned. The mentor program is headed up by John Leslie, the mentor coordinator. John has done an outstanding job of putting together a procedures

manual, a schedule for each mentor, and conducts frequent training and coordination meetings for the mentors. Cynthia Thompson is the VTC Coordinator and brings a high level of experience and dedication to the program. We are very fortunate to have Cynthia in the program. The Veterans Council is very proud that we were able to assist in bringing this much needed service to St. Johns County and help provide the funds to support the requirements of the program.

Two special events occurred during the month of June that are notable to mention in this month’s Patriot Reader. The celebration of the 243rd birthday of the US Army was held at the St. Francis Barracks Officers Club on Thurs. June 14. The Master of Ceremonies for the event was retired Sgt. Major Ray Quinn, our Veterans Council Vice Chairman. It was well attended and a delightful event with a little Army trivia quiz thrown in by the



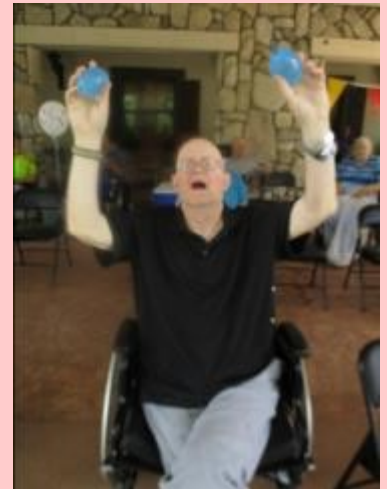
Sgt. Major for those attending.

The second event of the month was the Navy League’s annual US Coast Guard Awards ceremony which is held each year at the Flagler College Solarium. Four USCG Coasties were recognized by the St. Augustine – Palm Coast Navy League Council with a plaque honoring each one, a letter from Senators Rubio and Nelson and Congressman John Ruth-erford, and an all-expense paid weekend for each one in St. Augustine including \$100 spending money.

Don’t forget to fly your home flag on Independence Day, Wednesday, July 4 to honor our Nation.

Bill Dudley, Chairman
Veterans Council of St. Johns County

Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home



Clyde E. Lassen celebrated the kick off to summer in their usual fashion.....with a water fight! 500 water balloons, squirt guns and buckets of water. And a special thank you to Community Hospice for sponsoring the ice cream truck!



**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 Sept. 17, 2018**. 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 2018 NEXT SCJNC MEETING

- Monday, Sept 17th**
- Monday, Oct 15th**
- Monday, Nov 5th**
- Monday, Dec 3rd**

Saturday, Dec 15th - Wreaths Across America (Details TBA)

All are invited to attend our meetings and become a part of this Committee.

+++++2017/2018 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

The Veterans Council thanks Michael Isam for posting the June Patriot Reader on his Veterans Today website.

We realize some of you did not receive it.

<http://www.nhc-ul.org/VC%20SJC%20vol%208%20issue%206%20June%202018.pdf>

Missing in America 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.

“IT’S THE RIGHT THING TO DO”

On Saturday, June 23, 2018, at 10:00AM, MIAP – Florida, in cooperation with the StoneMor Cox-Gifford-Seawinds Funeral Home and Crematory in Vero Beach, interred the unclaimed cremains of 21 veterans and 1 spouse of a veteran, with full military honors, at the Cape Canaveral National Cemetery located at 5525 US-1, Mims, FL 32754.

The veterans being interred served during World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and other non-war specific periods, eleven in the US Army, two in the Marine Corps., six in the Navy and one spouse, one in the Coast Guard, and one in the Merchant Marine.

The longest that any of these being interred has been unclaimed is since 1997.

Kathy Church
MIAP – FL State Coordinator
(904) 219-3035
miapjax@yahoo.com
www.miap.us



Vets4Vets speaker stresses American history

Randolph G. Russell, author of the book *American History In No Time*, said “we are losing our collective national memory.”

He made this statement during the June 9 quarterly gathering of the Vets4Vets at the Jacksonville Veterans Memorial Arena.

“If we had a different form of government maybe it wouldn’t matter so much, but in this country, we govern ourselves,” Russell said in his remarks

to a crowd of approximately 300. “The question is what do, I know about American heritage.”

He pointed out citizens young and old don’t know about the history of the United States while promoting his 100-page book which has been viewed at University of Central Florida, Eastern Florida State College and other educational institutions around the country.

The book’s website points out that the U.S. Department of Education has found that only 12 percent of high school seniors are proficient in American history and civics. In addition, the Intercollegiate Studies Institute tested college seniors at 50 large and small universities around the country and the average grade was an F. A random poll of adults conducted by an internet affiliate of Newsweek magazine, 81 percent of the respondents could not name one power belonging to the federal government.

“Everyone needs to know the story because our history is filled with an unlimited supply of fascinating stories,” Russell said. “The ultimate is not to know the stories but also to grasp the principles behind those stories.”



Russell spoke for nearly 11 minutes about the history of the United States and singled out veterans and those that died for the country.

“It is good to know about the wars this nation has fought, but it is better to understand that freedom is worth fighting for and even dying for to preserve,” he said. “Every citizen young and old should feel a deep sense of gratitude for the men and women currently serving in the military and all veterans, especially those that gave their lives. They should never be far from our hearts.

“It is not enough to know that less than 200 years the United States became the wealthy and most powerful nation in the world. We should also seek that self-reliance, free enterprise, ingenuity, sacrifice, hard work and divine providence brought it about and realize that people are free, and anything is possible.”

Russell made it a point that all Americans need to get better acquainted with the history of the United States.

“Our history is a guide for our personal lives and steer our country to an even brighter future, that’s why it is so important to know the history of American which helps us understand those guiding principles,” he said.

“It is a tragedy that most people in the country are unfamiliar with our common history and values which should bind us together, but we can restore these things together on our own, individually, in our families and in organizations such as this. In so doing we will preserve a free country for children and show our gratitude to the remarkable legacy we’ve inherited as citizens of the United States of America.”

Russell, a musician, closed his presentation by playing God Bless America on the saxophone.

Submitted by David Treffinger, VVA E-Recon Editor

Robert H. Jenkins Jr. Post Office

The name of U.S. Marine Corps Private First Class Robert H. Jenkins Jr. should never be forgotten.



The plaque that will hang in the Interlachen Post Office in honor of Robert H. Jenkins Jr. and bust that was on loan from sculptor Cliff Leonard of Jacksonville.

That was messaged at the June 15th dedication of the U.S. Post Office in Interlachen which was named in honor the Vietnam Medal of Honor recipient before a gathering of approximately 125 family members, friends, veterans, military representatives and citizens.

Jenkins was serving as a machine gunner with Company C, 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion at Fire Support Base Argonne, south of the Demilitarized Zone on March 5, 1969 when he was killed in action. He was, along with his 12-man recon team, attacked by enemy fire – mortars, machine guns and grenades. Jenkins and fellow Marine, Fred Ostrom, took up position in a two-man fighting emplacement. When a hand grenade was thrown into the emplacement, Jenkins leaped on top of Ostrom, shielding him from the explosion and absorbing the full impact of the grenade. He was mortally wounded and posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroic art and sacrifice of life.

The Medal of Honor was presented to the Jenkins family on April 20, 1970 at the White House by Vice President Spiro T. Agnew.

“I Medal of Honor is not won, a Medal of Honor is awarded,” Lieutenant General William Beydler (left photo), Commander, U.S. Marine Corps

Forces, Central Command in Tampa said. “It was awarded by the President of the United States for conspicuous gallantry at the risk of one’s life, above and beyond the call of duty.”



Jenkins is the 247th Marine Corps Medal of Honor recipient with 57 presented from the Vietnam War.

“In my 37 years in the Marine Corps I can count on my hands the number of recipients I’ve seen wearing the silk light blue ribbon around their neck,” General Beydler said. “There is something about that light blue ribbon with 13 stars on it. When I see it time stops, really, I drop everything. It is captivating. I don’t know how to explain it, but I’m struck by awe and admiration. Today, I stand in awe and admiration of Private First-Class Robert H. Jenkins Jr. We all stand in awe and admiration for that fine Marine. He gave his life in service to our great nation, in service to our Corps and in service to his fellow Marines. And he did so to save the life of a fellow Marine. A fellow Marine survived because of Private First-Class Jenkins actions and returned to his family and had a family of his own.

“We insure that his name with never be forgotten. A name, a man, a Marine that Interlachen should never forget.”

The bill to get the Post Office dedicated was introduced on Sept. 28, 2017 through the office of U.S. Representative Ted S. Yoho (Florida, 3rd District) and signed by the President on March 23, 2018.

“It was something well worth it and something long overdue,” Yoho said.

“I hear a lot about patriotism and what it means to be an American. I heard an interview the other day and they did a survey and they said it was voting, standing up for the pledge of allegiance, standing up for the national anthem. I think one willing to sacrifice their life for their fellow American is probably the greatest display of patriotism in our country.

“So, today we officially dedicate the Interlachen Post Office to Private Robert H. Jenkins Jr., a Medal of Honor recipient you heard, who was man of valor, courage and selflessness. Every man or women who sacrificed their life for our freedom deserves the highest praise and commemoration. We can not honor or thank them enough for the sacrifice that they all, they along with their families, they have made on our behalf. That is the only reason we have the liberties and freedoms we have today are because of the people of that are willing to sign that contract that says they’ll give all, so that we have all. At only 21 years old Private Jenkins went above and beyond his call in the service in Vietnam, as you heard the General says he saved the life of his fellow countryman by shielding him from enemy fire. Robert Jenkins embodies what it means to be a patriot and a friend. We are grateful to Private Jenkins and many more like him that gave the ultimate sacrifice so that we remain the land of the free home of the brave.”

The Jenkins family and Gold Star family members and members of the group that helped get the Interlachen Post Office dedicated.

Submitted by David Treffinger, VVA E-Recon Editor

Cecil Field POW/MIA National Memorial

There are over 82,000 military personnel still missing in action dating back to the World War II.

There is a move a foot to redevelop the current Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial which is located on the west side of Jacksonville and long forgotten into a National POW/MIA Memorial.



It would be the first of its kind in the Nation.

The mission statement of the organizing group states: “Honor all former prisoners of war; remember and never forget those missing in action heroes and the families that seek their return.”

The organization’s objective is to honor former Prisoners of War (POWs) and those who remain Missing in Action (MIAs) from all branches of the military.

The project which will cost \$25-30 early million has the support of Florida’s two U.S. Senators – Marco Rubio and Bill Nelson – along with U.S. Senator John McCain, a former Vietnam POW from Arizona, U.S. Congressman John Rutherford (Florida 4th District) and the National League of POW. MIA Families. It is projected to five to six-year endeavor with initial ground-breaking several years down the road.

How did Cecil Field and Jacksonville become the projected site of the national memorial? For one there is no national POW/MIA Memorial in the nation.

A non-profit was formed because Michael Cassata, the son of a former Navy man who served at Cecil Field and NAS Jacksonville, didn’t like the way the present-day site looked.

“We realized quickly that next to the Chapel there was 16 markers of pilots,” Cassata, executive director of the Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, said. “That’s kind of where it started. We did organize a couple to teams to come out and clean the area up and worked with the City of Jacksonville. We worked with the City of Jacksonville to come with a plan for that property and we weren’t happy with just a few acres. We wanted a lot more to protect the whole area.”

In addition, getting more involved with the POW/MIA issue Cassata quickly realized that there was not a national memorial in the country.

It was the idea of Sam Houston, retired Navy Captain and former commanding officer at Cecil Field, who announced the closing of Cecil in 1993.

“So that when things kind of expanded upon and we got with our engineer and came up with this idea to incorporate a whole national memorial for the country to include all POW/MIA’s,” Cassata said.

The first project is renovating the Chapel, known as the “Chapel of the High-Speed Pass” which was originally dedicated in 1963 and was a part of NAS Cecil Field. The Chapel serves as a focal point in this effort, as we restore the current chapel building. While the chapel will serve as the centerpiece for honoring former POWs and past and present MIAs, this organization will be building a place of education, respite, and reflection of their sacrifices.

Currently, there is an existing Memorial Park which is dedicated to those Naval Aviators stationed at NAS Cecil Field during the Vietnam and Desert Storm Wars. Cecil Field was decommissioned as an active naval installation on Sept. 30, 1999.

The site currently consists of markers and associated planted trees for each of the 16 pilots (known as Hero’s Walk and Freedom Trees), a pavilion with a stage area, a starburst metal display of aircraft, and a granite base seal of this former Master Jet Base. The City of Jacksonville approved a City ordinance to lease this 26-acre property to the organization at the former NAS Cecil Field Master Jet Base (now known as Cecil Commerce Center).

The “Vietnam War Memorial” at Cecil Field was originally dedicated on September 11, 1973 by the families and service members who wanted to ensure these brave men would never be forgotten.

Trees were planted for each pilot and markers added with engravings. A driving force behind establishing the memorial was Mary Hoff, wife of MIA pilot LCDR Michael G. Hoff. Along with other spouses and family members, they assisted in making the memorial a reality.

Mary Hoff was also instrumental in developing the universal symbol known as the POW/MIA flag.

Besides the American flag, this is the only other flag authorized to fly over the White House and the only other flag that can fly on the same pole as the American flag. Undoubtedly, this flag has become a very important symbol for the POWs and MIAs, their families and friends, and the enduring cause that they will never be forgotten.

The Cecil Field National POW/MIA Memorial Park, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with a mission is to educate the public through awareness of the POW/MIA issues, exhibits, artifacts, videos and memorabilia. The importance of the POW/MIA symbol is to never forget these brave heroes who all have a story to tell and their families seeking their return.

Blanding honored for conservation work



The Military Conservation Partner Award is given annually to highlight the policies and work of the military installation that is best able to balance conservation and habitat development with their military training. This year, Camp Blanding Joint Training Center near Sparke was showcased as the most environmentally friendly installation for its work conserving and rehabilitating the Red-Cockaded Woodpecker, a bird native to the American Southeast considered to be endangered by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

While military training and habitat conservation may seem incompatible, preservation groups and post operations have come together to develop a mutually cooperative and fulfilling partnership.

“We got together with the military trainers and the conservationists and asked, what do the Soldiers need, and what do the birds need and we found out that they both needed the same thing,” said Paul Catlett, the Forestry Program Administrator at CBJTC. “They both needed freshly burned brush, which adds to the ecosystem, and also allows soldiers to use the grounds for their training.”

The project intended to rehabilitate the ecosystem of CBJTC has proven so effective that the post’s model serves as an example for similar military installations, resulting in CBJTRC relocating many endangered species to other underpopulated conservation areas. This relocation project moves animals like the Red-Cockaded Woodpecker to sites with dwindling local populations, in hopes of rebuilding endangered populations, and expanding habitats.

“We’ve gotten to the point now where we’re the first installation to receive these woodpeckers and built their populations to the point that we can export them to other posts which need to build up their threatened populations,” said Catlett.

The program is part of an agreement between the military and U.S. Fish and Wildlife known as the Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances. The agreement commits organizations to enacting policies to restore dwindling wildlife stocks in an attempt to keep threatened animals off state and federal endangered species list.

"Our partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission allows Camp Blanding to maintain its position as the premier training installation in the southeast while the Florida National Guard maintains its combat readiness and we simultaneously conserve Florida's native wildlife," said Maj. Gen. Michael Calhoun, The Adjutant General of Florida.

This cooperation ensures wildlife is protected and Soldiers and Airmen have accessible training grounds to prepare to accomplish their state and federal missions in the case of mobilizations or natural disasters.

“Camp Blanding truly understands that wildlife conservation and military readiness are indeed compatible,” said Michael Oetker, Acting U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Southeast Regional Director. “This award underscores the base’s commitment to protecting nature and the American people.”

Submitted by Florida National Guard Public Affairs Office

Vets 4 Vets Quarterly Gathering

The Vets 4 Vets Quarterly Gathering of Veterans took place on Saturday, June 9 at the Jacksonville Veterans Memorial Arena. Hundreds of veterans attended, from all wars, including a WW II veteran celebrating his 100th birthday.

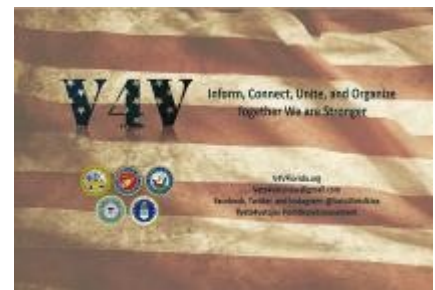
There were many displays from organizations that help veterans and offer them discounts as well as local veterans' groups, VVAs, Women Veterans and many others. The speakers were from the veteran community or represented organizations that help veterans.

The Gathering ended with a complimentary buffet lunch.

All are looking forward to the next Quarterly Gathering.



**Minutes , Gathering of Veterans, June 9, 2018 Gathering,
325+ Attendees**



Speaker: Randolph G. Russell – (404) 474-1776
Email: rrussell31@cfl.rr.com

Why He wrote his book, “American History in No Time”. Explained how our Founding Fathers decided to form 1 nation.

Commented on how todays TV hosts and personalities make fun of our government. “Don’t lose our National government Memory.” What Do I know about the American Government?

Need for short overview of American History. This is why he wrote the book. There is also a need for all to “Refresh Civic Duty” and “Basic Knowledge of our Government.” “When people are Free....Anything is Possible.” “You cannot Love....What you do not Know.”

Closed by playing his saxophone....”America the Beautiful”

Maggie Johnson – Supervisor of Elections, Military Rep. Email: MaggieJ@coj.net

Ability to Vote – Supervisor of Elections - “Preserve the liberty and freedom for all citizens to vote.” Two upcoming elections in 2018 – August 28 (Primary) & Nov. 4 (General). Please vote on these dates. 3 Ways to Vote – Early voting, by Mail, in Person on Election Day. Active Duty Military *** Overseas/ other can receive ballot via email/other.

Encouraged everyone to consider becoming a POLL WORKER -Temp/Paid

USMC Sgt Brian Weber – Gung Ho Awardee, Blount Island Command Marine, One Marine helping another Marine, donated a kidney to fellow Marine. Presented a Gung Ho Award, NCO Sword, Marine Corps Ring and Challenge Coin by Semper Fidelis Society on behalf of all Veterans in attendance.

Theresa Viets - Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp Baseball Email: theresa@jaxshrimp.com

There are many special events planned to include the Jacksonville Military & Vets; Free Game for Veterans – June 14, 2018

She mentioned that she is a USA veteran and described “Great Turn Off”

Shawn Lewis – ONU - (Special Employment Training for Vets), (904) 328-1600

Since 2012, org. started required 3 weeks training to complete job/employment training. 25 groups have completed training.

Main goal is to help vets transition from “Military – Norms”, civilian workforce and life.

Justin Cayless – Transitional story from Marine Corps to Civilian life, (904) 718-0661

2011 separated from Marine Corps. Used multiple vet groups to support post military efforts

Started his on business “All Natural Skin Care Products.”

Deloris “Dee” Quaranta – Women Veterans - Dquaranta@forwomenvets.org

Her organization was contacted by Suzanne Carson, Director of Operations for Vets4Vets to provide assistance for a local female veteran who contacted them on social media. June 15 – food giveaway. 1st Anniversary of Women Veterans building, 6 years providing services to women veterans, Legislation – Please consider supporting; working on State resolution for women

Women Vets coordinator needs a full time person.

Sollie Mitchel – US ARMY 100th Birthday Acknowledgement, Birthday Cake and all attendees singing, Happy Birthday to him. 100 year old WWII Veteran

Dennis Baker – FL Veterans Foundation, Email: FVF@FDVA.STATE.FL.US

Is a 501C3 - Non Profit located in Tallahassee, FL, FVF worked with 5 Star Vet Center. NE FL Women Vets received \$8,000 in assistance. Disabled American Vets - received vans, Gave and discussed information on pending legislation that will benefit vets.

Mental Health will be a top of list for funding. Aging Vets Assisted Living Facilities In Home Health Care

50/50 Drawing - \$167.00; Winner Donated \$100 to Semper Fidelis Society

Buffet Lunch and Networking commenced at 1230

These are the flags that were purchased with your Chapter donations, the ALR 5th Dist of FL will present the flags/plaque on July 21 to JNC. The presentation will start at 10:30AM



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: Doc WP Manoghan
Contact:
Veterans Council of Nassau County
17195 Cornerstone Road
Hilliard, FL 32046-8265

•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

•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



Richard M. Bassett (1928 - 2018)

Richard M. Bassett, age 90, of St. Augustine, went to be with the Lord on Wednesday, June 5, 2018 at his home surrounded by his family. Richard was born to Amos and Mittie Bassett on January 29, 1928 in West Palm Beach, FL. He was a 1945 graduate of Jupiter High School and enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserves at the end of W.W.II.

He was called to active duty in 1951 and went to Korea to serve with the 25 th Infantry Division, 14 Regiment, 3rd Battalion. Richard was captured in an ambush by the Chinese in October of 1951 while out on patrol near Kumwha, North Korea. During his imprisonment he fought to keep his New Testament Bible, and was allowed to hold services for the prisoners. To this day that same bible is located in the Andersonville National Museum. He was finally released from captivity on August 12, 1953 during a cease fire and exchange of prisoners, after 22 months, 6 days as a POW in N. Korea.

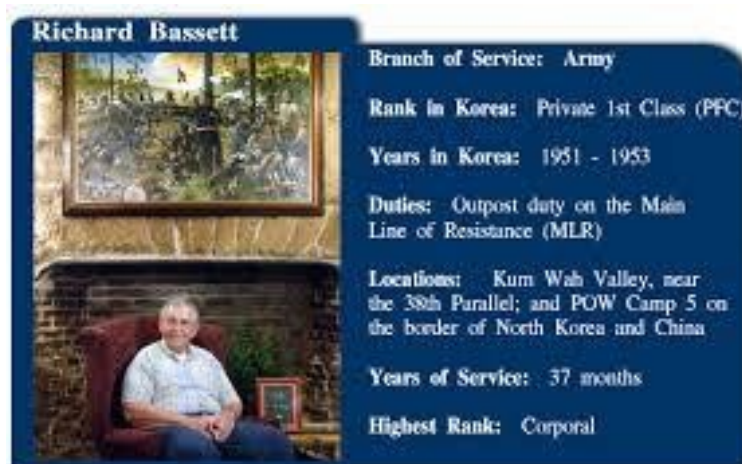
Richard returned to civilian life and went on to attend Florida State University where he received his Bachelor Degree in 1955 and Master of Education Degree in 1957. He began his career in education as a History teacher at Forest Hills High School in West Palm Beach, and continued as a Social Studies and Adult Education Teacher at St. Augustine High School from 1967 until his retirement in 1989. He retired after 31 years of teaching. Richard continued to teach in his retirement as volunteer. He served as a tutor in the Learn to Read, English as a Second Language and Take Stock in Children Programs. He also returned to China in 1992 and 1993 to teach Conversational English at Sichuan University in Chungdu, China. Richard was steadfast and unwavering in his faith in God.

He was a founding member of Anastasia Baptist Church and had a heart for serving. He served as a Deacon, Chairman of Deacons, Sunday School Teacher, Sunday School Director, he loved singing in the choir and served on numerous commit

tees. He led by serving. Despite his experience in the Korean War, Richard joyfully participated in a joint evangelistic campaign with Florida and South Korea Baptist churches in Seoul, Korea. Richard was also a member of many Educational and veteran's organizations, and especially had a heart for organizations that supported ex POWs.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 58 years, Valdeen. He is survived by his two sons, Mark Alan Bassett and wife Mary Jane, Jay Daniel Bassett; his granddaughters, Hannah, Alisa, Kara & Andrea; and grandsons, Caleb, Cody & Colton, and many great grandchildren.

Services will be held at 5:00 pm on Monday, June 11, 2018 at Anastasia Baptist Church with Rev. Ron Moore officiating. A committal service with military honors will be held at 2 pm on Monday, June 18, 2018 at Andersonville National Cemetery in Andersonville, Ga. In lieu of flowers, donations in Richard's memory can be made to: Community Hospice of Northeast FL., 4266 Sunbeam Road, Jacksonville, Florida 32257



Chairman Dudley and I had the privilege to record Richard's story of captivity in our "Korea: Forgotten War, Remembered Heroes". documentary If you would like to see it please contact us for the PBS link.

From the FL Times Union

Andy Ramotnik, WW II Veteran



Andrew Ramotnik, 94, a former WWII veteran and POW, died May 30, 2018 in Jacksonville, Florida. The cause of death was from natural causes, said his son, Lieutenant Colonel Andrew M. Ramotnik, US Army (retired). Mr. Ramotnik was born in Clarence, PA on July 5, 1923. Noteworthy in his career was his enlistment in the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1941 and while on his 43rd bombing run, he was shot down, captured, and served as a German POW for 19 months, having escaped not once, but twice. His story inspired other veterans and members of the military, as well as audiences at several universities and civic organizations.

In his later life, Mr. Ramotnik enjoyed rounds of tennis on a near daily bases. Even into his 90s, he continued to play a game he loved. Mr. Ramotnik is survived by his son Andrew and granddaughter Sara of Upper Marlboro, MD, and two daughters, Pam Dunstone of Sarasota, FL, and Cindy Ramotnik of Corrales, NM.

Finding a new mission

Local US Army veteran Andrew Coughlan honored with 'Courage Award' by Wounded Warrior Project

By Colleen Michele Jones cjones@staugustine.com

[CONTRIBUTED]



It was 2004 when the battalion U.S. Army Spc. Andrew Coughlan was traveling with ran into mortar fire at the threshold of a bunker in Iraq. Coughlan's team leader purposely put himself in harm's way to shield him from the blast.

"The last decision of his life was to save mine," Coughlan told The Record in a recent interview at his St. Augustine home.

Coughlan, 34, returned from military service in 2006 in one piece, at least outwardly.

He had survivor's guilt. Why had he made it out alive while others hadn't? Why wasn't he serving in active duty alongside comrades still in Iraq and Afghanistan? What was he supposed to do with the rest of his life that had been spared in that mortar attack?

It turns out, many things. First, was to come back and marry his "best friend from high school," Ashley just five days after being discharged. The couple now has two daughters, Maddison, 10, and Emery, 7.

Next was a chance encounter with the Wounded Warrior Project — "being in the right place at the right time," as Coughlan puts it. He was hired by the organization in 2007, which has allowed him to help other service men and women transition back to civilian life.

But perhaps, most of all, it's been to repay an old debt.

Coughlan had kept in touch with a fellow Iraq vet named Russell Broughton on Facebook. When he learned his friend was in need of a new kidney, Coughlan got tested. He was a match and didn't hesitate to give one of his own kidneys to help Broughton.

It wasn't long after that that Coughlan donated bone marrow to a teen going through leukemia.

"My life was saved in Iraq, so it's almost an act of repayment — the right thing to do and that I can do it," Coughlan said.

For these, and many other selfless acts, Coughlan was awarded the prestigious "Courage Award" by the Wounded Warrior Project at a banquet in New York City held May 31.

Responding to the call

The events of Sept. 11 deeply affected Coughlan and, like many of his peers, he decided to enlist in the Army right after graduating from high school in a small town on the banks of Lake Michigan. After completing basic training, Coughlin was deployed to Iraq just two years later, in September 2003. A machine gunner in his the infantry squad, Coughlin's battalion was charged when landing in Baghdad with conducting ambush attacks in an area known as the Triangle of Death for the number of U.S. casualties (a third in all) originating from combat in the region.

"We were in a fair number of IEDs (improvised explosive devices) and mortar and rocket attacks," Coughlan said.

The losses began adding up. Guys in his platoon. The team leader he'd loved and admired, Charles Persing who he says saved his life during that mortar attack in 2004. When a roommate of Coughlan's was killed in Afghanistan, his mental fortitude began to break down and he was medically discharged for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder in 2006.

Transitioning back to civilian life took a toll on his marriage; he was moody and angry. He had trouble holding down a job; he lacked focus and drive. The psychological scars of all he'd seen and experienced in warfare affected him on a daily basis.

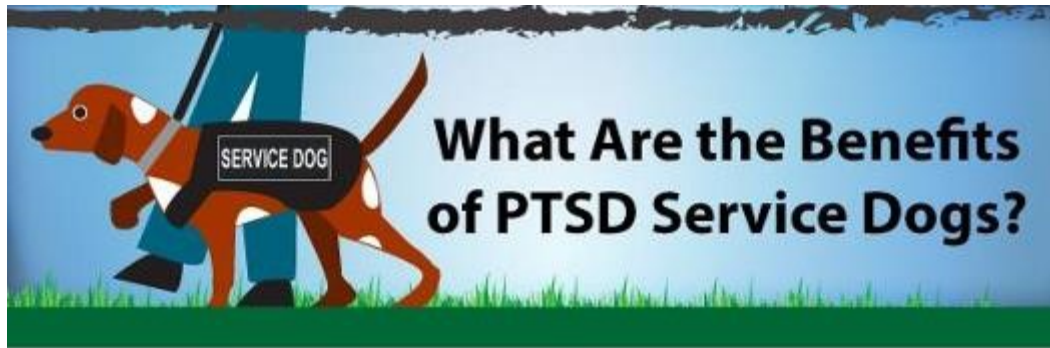
The role he was offered to work for the Wounded Warrior Project in Jacksonville in 2007 began to turn things around. First serving first as an outreach coordinator, he was promoted to his current title of alumni manager, helping soldiers ease their way back into a new normal by way of benefits, education, counseling and other resources.

Jonathan Pruden, senior warrior relations specialist, has known Coughlan for at least 10 years.

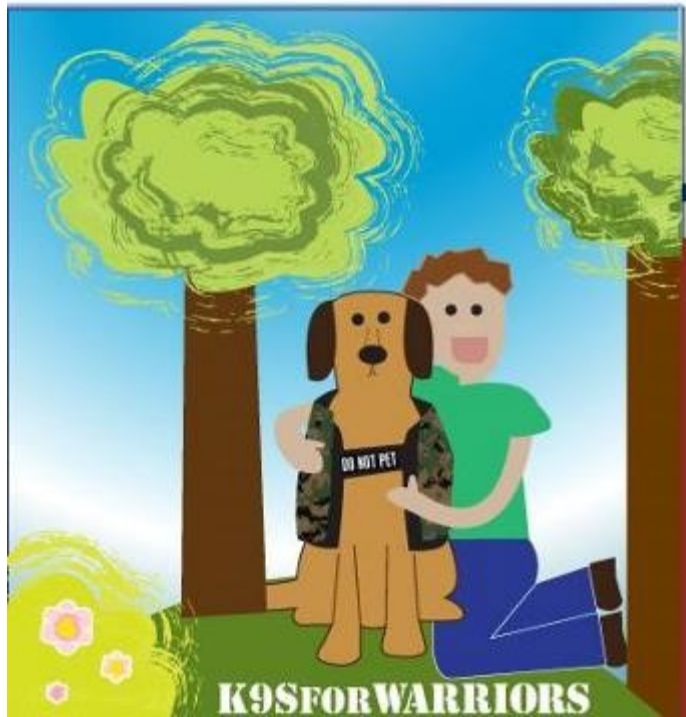
"He is the very embodiment of what our logo stands for: from the warrior being carried off the battlefield to the the one now taking care of others," Pruden said in a recent interview with The Record. "He is one of the most compassionate men I've even met, and I'm always amazed by his tireless ability to put others first."

There are times when Coughlan still struggles, certain anniversaries that can bring it all back like a film scene caught in a loop. But, at the end of the day, Coughlan said, he's learned his "stuff" is the injury left behind by Iraq.

"And I just have to be responsible to take control of it," Coughlan said.



- 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



You are cordially invited to the:

Chapel Aviator Wing Unveiling Ceremony & POW-MIA Memorial Parkway Dedication

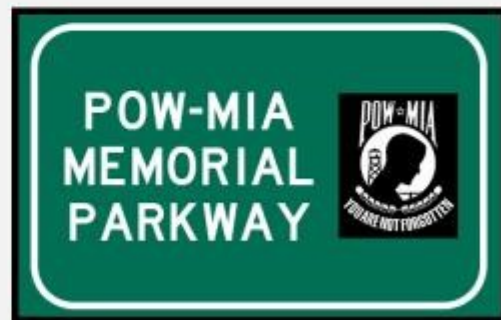
Where: Chapel of the High-Speed Pass
6112 POW-MIA Memorial Parkway, Jacksonville, FL 32221

When: July 10th, 2018

Time: 9:00 AM Gathering in the Chapel for Refreshments
9:30 AM Ceremony Begins on Chapel Steps

The event is open to everyone and we look forward to seeing you there.

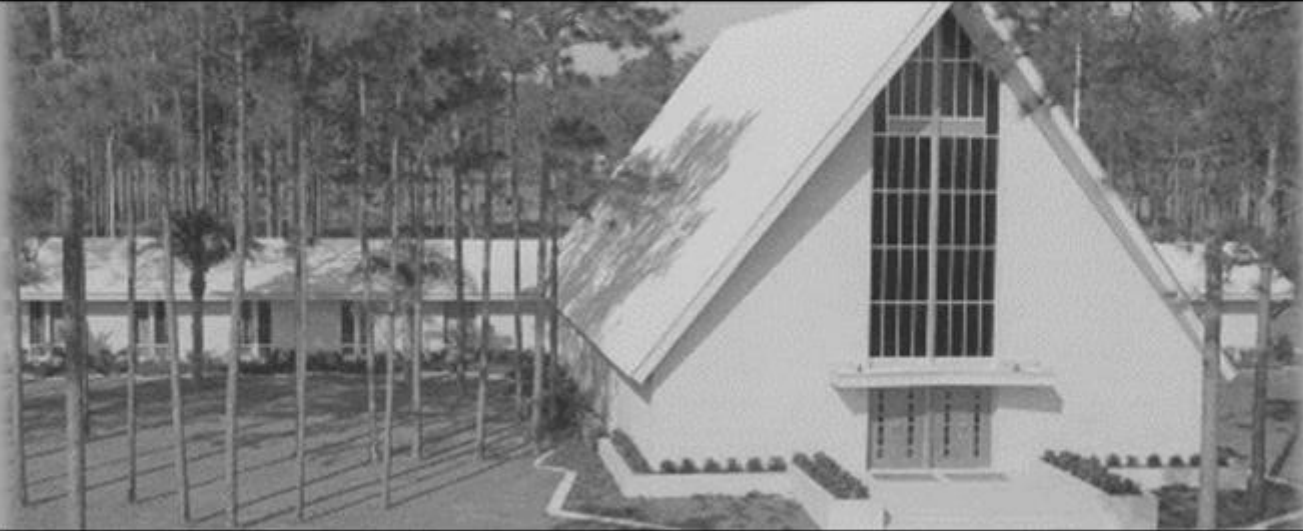
Contact us for more information: powmiamemorial@gmail.com





Chapel Pew Restoration Campaign

6112 New World Avenue, Jacksonville, FL 32221
(904) 303-8907
www.powmiamemorial.org



The Chapel at Cecil Commerce Center was originally dedicated in 1963 as part of NAS Cecil Field. The Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc. organization's objective is to honor former Prisoners of War (POWs) and those who remain Missing in Action (MIAs) from all branches of the military. The Chapel serves as a focal point in this effort, as we restore the current chapel building. While the chapel will serve as the centerpiece for honoring former POWs and past and present MIAs, this organization will be building a place of education, respite, and reflection on their sacrifices.

To bring the historic chapel back to its intended use, we are seeking donations for the renovation of the chapel as well as the ability to purchase a pew in someone's honor or memory. If you would like to purchase a full pew (\$1,500) or donate towards the purchase of a pew, please fill out the information below. Each donor will be recognized on a plaque displayed in the chapel.



Donations and payments can be made on our website at www.powmiamemorial.org or mailed to:

Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc.
ATTN: Chapel Pews
6112 New World Avenue
Jacksonville, FL 32221

Purchaser Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

In Honor of

In Memory of

Name(s) In Honor /In Memory of: _____

Purchase: Pew (\$1500) Qty: _____ Donation Amount \$ _____ Total: \$ _____

CECIL FIELD POW/MIA MEMORIAL IS A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION - REGISTRATION NUMBER: CH51569. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE, 800 435 7352, WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. CECIL FIELD POW/MIA MEMORIAL IS AN IRS 501(C)(3), PUBLIC CHARITY. ID# 31954. CONTRIBUTIONS ARE DEDUCTIBLE.



“A Gathering in the Pines”

In Support of
Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial and Museum

Veterans and Families

September 22, 2018

9AM - 5PM

Location : Cecil Field - Base Theater

VETERANS COUNCILS OF
BAKER, CLAY, DUVAL
NASSAU, ST. JOHNS
COUNTIES

IMPORTANT TAX ADVICE AND INFORMATION

(From John Mountcastle)

Exempt organizations reporting on a calendar year basis (i.e., their tax year ends on Dec. 31) must file some version of form IRS 990 no later than May 15, 2018 for their 2017 filing?

While some may file on a group basis (i.e., their national organization submits the return on their behalf), many opt to file Form 990-N if their gross receipts are less normally less than \$50,000).

Completing the e-Postcard requires the eight items listed below:

- 1. Employer identification number (EIN), also known as a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN).**
- 2. Tax year**
- 3. Legal name and mailing address**
- 4. Any other names the organization uses**
- 5. Name and address of a principal officer**
- 6. Web site address if the organization has one**
- 7. Confirmation that the organization's annual gross receipts are \$50,000 or less**
- 8. If applicable, a statement that the organization has terminated or is terminating (going out of business)**

**Annual Electronic Filing Requirement for Small Exempt Organizations —
Form 990-N (e-Postcard)**

<https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/annual-electronic-filing-requirement-for-small-exempt-organizations-form-990-n-e-postcard>

How to Join and Who to Contact about joining a local Vietnam Veterans of America local group

Duval County: Anyone can get in touch with the Duval County **VVA 1046** at 904-419-8621 or email info@vva1046.com, or call me directly, info listed below.

Anthony (Tony) D'Aleo, President, Nicholas J. Cutinha, VVA Chapter 1046,
Cell # 904-910-2386

Clay County: Anyone wishing to join the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter in Clay County should contact **Gary Newman, Chapter # 1059 President**. Any Vietnam veteran is eligible to join this very exclusive organization, era veterans are included.

Contact information is as follows: Gary Newman, P.O. Box 626, Orange Park, Fl. 32067-0626
Tel: 904 269 1857, E-mail: agnjustice@yahoo.com

We meet on the 1st Saturday of each month at 11:00 AM @ the Middleburg American Legion, Post # 250. Come join your Brothers and Sisters.

St Johns County, VVA Leo C Chase Chapter 1084: Those seeking information can call 904-233-4712 (leave message), or email to president@vva1084.org or membership@vva1084.org. One can also check out our website at vva1084.org. Our membership meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of each month at Jaybird's Restaurant at 2600 N Ponce de Leon Blvd, St Augustine. For the hardcore, a smaller group meets at Jaybird's every Monday morning around 8 AM for BB&B (Blather, BS, and Brotherhood). We have a great group, and all are welcome to visit and participate!

John Leslie, President, Vietnam Veterans
America

Leo C Chase Chapter 1084,
(904) 233-4712

The 3 Presidents: from left,
Tony D'Aleo, Gary Newman
and John Leslie



of

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.

This SEAL war dog knew no fear. His disappearance 50 years ago was a mystery – until now.

Prince was one of the few feel-good stories to come out of America's most unpopular war: a dog from Chesapeake who knew no fear.

He became the first SEAL dog and a media darling – the subject of nearly a dozen headlines from 1967 to '71 in The Virginian-Pilot and the old Ledger-Star.

Prince saved lives. Had two Purple Hearts hung around his shaggy neck. Did four tours in Vietnam.

But then our celebrity disappeared – tangled in red tape, swallowed in the fog of war. No one could find him.

Read the 3-part article here: https://pilotonline.com/.../article_0ea1bb9e-27b7-11e8-a7a7-5...



THE RIDE HOME 2018

This Year's Event:

We will base the event out of Warner Robins Georgia this September 20, 21 & 22. We will be working with Robins AFB POW/MIA Committee, Andersonville Historical Site, home of the National Prisoner of War Museum, Houston County Sherriff Office, Central Georgia Technical College and many local veterans and Patriotic citizens in an effort to comply with the Presidential Proclamation for National POW/MIA Recognition Day.

All services are open to the Public. The HERO's Banquet, which is scheduled on 21 September, 1700 hrs. at Central Georgia Technical College, Larry Walker Auditorium, does require pre-registering and a minimum donation of \$25 per person. Seating for the Banquet is limited to 500 total attendance (which includes Honored Guest), so if you wish to break bread with these true American Hero's register soon.

For all requiring hotel accommodations, the following hotels are centrally located to where the Honored Guest will be staying. As always, it is 'first come, first served'.

La Quinta - POC Billy - 478 333 6920

Country Inn - POC David - 478 971 1664

Comfort Inn - POC Peggy - 478 953 3000

Holiday Inn Express - POC Sarita - 478 333 2737

The majority of Honored Guest and Families will be housed at the Fairfield and the Wyndham. These hotel will be hosted by Monica & Billie, respectfully. They will be POC for their Hotels.

Proposed Itinerary for the event;

Thursday, 20 September;

1400 hrs. depart hotels to Central Georgia Technical College (CGTC)

1500 hrs. Robins AFB POW/MIA Committee Recognition Service

1600 hrs. Meet & Greet

1630 hrs. Recording artist, RICKY LEE, preforms

Friday, 21 September

0630 hrs. Law Enforcement escort to Andersonville

0830 hrs. POW/MIA Recognition Day Service

1130 hrs. Law Enforcement escort to Warner Robins.

1530 hrs. Law Enforcement escort to CGTC

1700 hrs. Hero's Banquet CGTC

1800 hrs. Keeping the Promise - premiere of 'A SOLEMN PROMISE'

1930 hrs. Candlelight Service

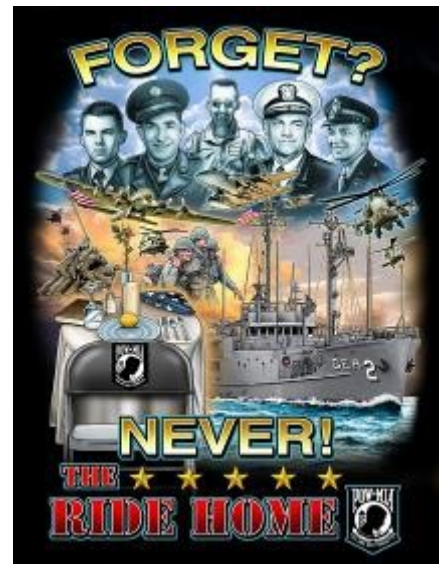
Saturday, 22 September

0900 hrs. Law Enforcement escort to CGTC

1000 hrs. Recognition Service - (POW Story & Flag History Story)

1330 hrs. Ground-pounder/Fly-boy Lunch

Join us in Georgia this September as we salute those who were held against their will by enemies of this Republic and remind those who still wait for their family member to come home; that We will NOT FORGET and that we will not give up **Until They ALL Come Home!**



Credit Card Processing Considerations for Your Veterans Organization

Most Veterans' organizations do not need a cash register, but may receive requests to pay (or donate) by credit card (either thru the internet or in person). Most available options connect to Apple iPad or iPhone or other tablets and Android cell phones by bluetooth; the vendor provides the appropriate level of security. For those vendors who do not, the onus for compliance with the Payment Card Industry's Data Security Standards ("PCI DSS") falls upon the organization, and can become a nearly full-time job.

Some vendors require contracts for specific terms (watch out for termination fees!), others do not. Before signing a contract, remember to perform your due diligence, including a price comparison. Prices mentioned in this document are current as of June 1, 2018, and may be different if your organization is not recognized by the IRS under §501(c)(3) as a public charity (default is to be charged as a for-profit merchant). Many Veterans' organizations are recognized under §501(c)(19) and may incur higher fees than those recognized as public charities under §501(c)(3).

The organization should first determine its' average donation (or payment) and the number of transactions per month, as this data often governs the processing rate quoted.

Are receipts regularly received in the same amount (e.g., subscriptions)?

The organization's bank should be queried as to their offers—most are competitive and offer the advantage of integration with your existing banking relationships (i.e., no new bank account needed). This interview will raise more questions for you to answer.

Hardware and software requirements should be determined

Would the organization use a dedicated cell phone, or a member's phone?

Is the phone compatible with software requirements?

If a physical connection to the phone is required, does the phone have a headset jack? If not, is an adapter provided?

Are printed receipts required (most offer the opportunity to e-mail receipts)?

Does the card reader use an internet connection, or wireless (cell phone) data connection?

Is software automatically updated?

If subscriptions or other regularly-recurring payments are received, can they be automatically processed? If so, how frequently?

Can invoices (donor commitments) be sent through this system and payment processed directly by the donor?

Is the rate the same, or higher?

Is the organization billed for each invoice sent, or only for invoices paid thru the credit card processor?

Is a Loyalty Program (providing discounts for repeat customers) appropriate?

In addition to obtaining physical equipment (reader and power-supply), software to manage your organization's account must be downloaded. As most processing financial institutions use a reseller to market their products and services, the startup costs may vary significantly. While the monthly fees and per transaction fees are more competitive in nature, there is less

competition when buying readers.

For example:

Clover Go costs vary from \$100.00 to free

Square costs vary from \$49.00 to free, depending upon reader (Contactless and Chip Reader is more expensive than Chip Reader while Magstripe Reader is free)

When choosing a reader, please remember that the trend is towards chip cards and away from those having only a magnetic stripe (making the “free” Magstripe readers obsolete). A further incentive is that many issuers, including American Express, MasterCard and VISA, will hold the vendor liable for a fraudulent transaction when a credit card is swiped, unless the vendor has a chip reader!

Most processors do not charge to deposit funds received into the organization’s bank account in one to two business days (expedited deposit may be available at an additional fee).

You must settle the transaction by closing out the daily register in a timely manner (often daily) to avoid penalties.

There is a glossary at the end of this document. Donors may be referred to as Customers; donations and other receipts may be referred to as Sales.

Lastly, and most importantly, your organization SHOULD NOT retain unique and sensitive card holder data (name, card number, card expiration date, card CVV (three or four-digit number in signature block) after it is no longer required. Failure of your organization (or your credit card processor) to comply with PCI DSS requirements can result in substantial liability!

Processing on-line transactions through the Internet

Security is paramount—too many sites have been compromised and customers (donors) credit card numbers and personal information have been leaked.

All credit card issuers require that all card-processing systems adhere to the PCI Data Security Standard (PCI-DSS).

Commensurate with the dollar volume and number of transactions, some of these requirements can be quite intimidating, and best left to a professional

In addition, each site should have a Privacy Statement which meets certain qualifications

FEES: Often slightly higher than in-person transactions

Depending upon your organization’s agreement with your processor, you might be able to pass on the processing fee to the customer (donor) provided you disclose to the card holder that they must pay this fee (e.g., Elks Lodge 829’s Treasurer does this when you choose to remit membership dues online).

Some processors (e.g., PayPal) prohibit surcharges when accepting credit card as a form of payment.

Processing transactions in person (i.e., the customer/donor’s card is present)

Either the card is swiped (if card has a magnetic stripe) or the card is inserted into a reader (chip-enabled card) or contactless (the card/cell phone is processed by placing it near the reader).

FEES: Often, the processor will waive the per-transaction fee and only charge a percentage of the transaction.

Processing transactions where the customer/donor’s card is not present (manually enter information):

Manually keying the information is not only time-consuming and subject to errors, but also has a higher transaction processing fee (usually a fixed amount plus a percentage of the transaction).

FEES: Higher than in-person transactions

A good follow-on article is available [here](#).

Description	Square™	QuickBooks™	PayPal™	Your Quote
Swiped Transaction (fixed fee)	\$0.00	\$0.30 [\$0.30]	\$0.00	
Swiped Transaction (variable %)	2.75%	2.40% [1.60%]	2.70%	
Chip Transaction (fixed fee)	0.00	\$0.30 [\$0.30]	0.00	
Chip Transaction (variable %)	2.75%	2.40% [1.60%]	2.70%	
Manual Transaction (fixed fee)	0.15	\$0.30 [\$0.30]	0.15	
Manual Transaction (variable %)	3.50%	3.50% [3.30%]	3.50%	
On-Line Transaction (fixed fee)	0.30	\$0.30 [\$0.30]	0.30	
On-Line Transaction (variable %)	2.90%	2.40% [1.60%]	2.90%	
Invoiced Transaction (fixed fee)	0.30	\$0.30 [\$0.30]	0.30	
Invoiced Transaction (variable %)	2.90%	\$0.30 [\$0.30]	2.90%	
Online Transaction fee 501(c)(3)	N/A	N/A	0.30	
Online Transaction % 501(c)(3)	N/A	N/A	2.20%	
Checks by Phone/On Line?	N/A	1.00 [1.00]	N/A	
Is American Express different?	No	No	Yes, 3.50%	
Pay for all invoices or only invoices paid through system?	When paid	When paid	When paid	
Monthly Account Fee	0.00	0.00 [19.95]	0.00	
PCI Compliance	Included	9.95 [0.00]	Included	
Chargeback fee (per event)	20.00	25.00	20.00	
Start-up Fees (excl. equipment)	0.00	QuickBooks™	0.00	
Termination Fee	None	Possible	None	
Other (hidden) fees?	None	Possible	Unknown	

Notes: The above apply to domestic transactions; international transactions have higher percentage and fixed fees, and may also have foreign exchange fees.

Accepting charges using American Express family of cards often has a higher transaction rate (e.g., PayPal, above). To properly analyze the benefits of a card, the anticipated percentage of use by each card issuer should be taken into account. The following is

a generalized example.

In 2016, VISA held 50.65% of the total credit card transaction market (more, if debit cards are included). American Express and MasterCard were virtually tied, at 22.73% and 22.66%, with Discover a distant fourth at 3.96%. Using these percentages of market share for chip or swiped transactions for a total on-line donation of \$1,000, percentage fees (plus \$0.30 per transactions) could be:

	PayPal	Square	PayPal	Charity	Quickbooks (+\$9.95 or more fixed fees/mo)
VISA	2.9% \$14.69	2.9% \$14.69	2.2% \$11.14	2.4%	\$12.16
AMEX	3.5% 7.95	2.9% 6.59	3.5% 7.95	2.4%	5.45
MCard	2.9% 6.57	2.9% 6.57	2.2% 4.99	2.4%	5.44
Discvr	2.9% 1.15	2.9% 1.15	2.2% 0.87	2.4%	0.95
Total	3.036% \$30.36	2.90% \$29.00	2.495% \$24.95	2.4%	\$24.00

GLOSSARY

AndroidPay Used by android cell phones to complete contactless transactions.

ApplePay Registered trademark of Apple, Inc., used by Apple's iPhones to complete contactless transactions (iPhone requires fingerprint recognition to complete transaction)

Bluetooth A standard for the short-range wireless interconnection of mobile phones, computers, and other electronic devices.

Clover™ Registered trademark of Clover Network, Inc. a division of First Data Corporation. Clover uses both internet and wireless cell phone connections to process transactions.

Debit Card A bank card directly linked to a checking or savings account, from which funds are withdrawn immediately after the transaction is processed (there will be a delay until the vendor organization receives these funds).

DSS Acronym for Data Security Standard

EMV Registered trademark of EMVCo. LLC. Acronym for developers (EuroPay®, MasterCard® and Visa®) Chip-enabled credit card, which has generally replaced magnetic striped cards are the current de facto standard.

Host A resource providing data processing services; any host should provide assurance that it is fully compliance with PCI DSS' current requirements

NFC Acronym for "Near Field Communication" not to be confused with BlueTooth, it's a mechanism by which a credit card can be processed without inserting the card into a reader (generally, it must be within two inches or so of the reader). Most popular are ApplePay, AndroidPay and GooglePay. NFC transactions are often much faster than EMV transactions (where card is inserted or swiped).

PayPal Created by Elon Musk (SpacEX), has many users; offers discount to 501(c)(3) public charities.

PCI Acronym for Payment Card Industry

PIN Acronym for Personal Identification Number; used to validate Debit Card transactions

POS Point of Sale (where the payment is processed)

SamsungPay Registered trademark of Samsung, used by Samsung android cell phones to complete contactless transactions.

Square Founded by one of the founders of Twitter, competitor to PayPal.

The Veterans Council of St Johns County meets the last Thursday of the month at the county Health and Human Services building, 200 San Sebastian View.

We have an impressive list of speakers, we hope you can join us.



Here are our scheduled speakers:

June 28, Charlie Tramazzo of Greater Jacksonville USO and COL (Ret) Ann Johnson of Gratitude America

July 26, Bret Sovine, Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association 20-2

Scot A. French, Ph.D., Associate Professor of History | Director of Public History, Interim Co-Director, Center for Humanities & Digital Research, University of Central Florida

August 30, Jason Snodgrass, Chief Executive Officer, K9s For Warriors

September 27, Charles Tingley, St. Augustine Historical Society, Senior Reference Librarian, 100Years Ago: St. Johns County & WW I.

October 25, Dr. Michael Butler, Flagler College, "My trips to Vietnam"

November 29, Andrew Coughlan, Wounded Warrior Project, Resource Development

Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial

Save the date 10 July!!! A ceremony for the unveiling of Aviator Wings on the front of the Chapel and Unveiling of the Street Sign for the POW MIA Memorial Parkway will be held that morning. Stayed tuned, more details will be forthcoming. Please share with all your family, friends, and shipmates



For the sixth time in seven years, **Nease was named the No. 1 Navy JROTC program** in Area-12 — a region that encompasses 60 schools covering North Florida and the state of Georgia.

Nease earned the title as Most Outstanding Unit during an announcement by Commander Rustie Hibbard, NJROTC Area-12 manager, in May. The award is based on the total achievement of the program, which includes academic performance, community outreach, campus leadership, overall physical fitness and competition results.

“We (seniors) came into JROTC as the No. 1 program back in 2014,” said outgoing cadet Battalion Commander Aberlyn Short. “And our goal was to leave on top. Mission accomplished.”

Over the last year, Nease has earned first place at the Ed White Drill Meet, Mandarin Drill Meet, Terry Parker Drill Meet, Area-12 Drill Championships, Middleburg Pentathlon and Lee Ultimate Challenge. In addition, seven graduating seniors received service academy appointments or ROTC Scholarships, and the group completed nearly 5,000 hours of community service.

“We’re a cadet-run unit — and these cadets like to stay active,” said Gunnery Sergeant Duane Hanson, one of the three naval science instructors.

Nease was the No. 1 program in Area-12 from 2012-2016 and finished second in 2017 to North Cobb High School near Atlanta.

“This achievement is the result of a total Nease family effort put forth by disciplined and hard-working cadets, engaged parents and a supportive school administration,” said Captain Scott LaRoche, senior naval science instructor.



Outgoing Cadet Battalion Commander Aberlyn Short and incoming Battalion Commander Erin Sass receive the Most Outstanding Unit in Area-12 trophy during Nease NJROTC Awards Night.
Photo courtesy of Scott LaRoche

Professional photographer and Veterans Council Ted Pappas has posted his “Memorial Day in St. Augustine. “ online and we would like to share them with you.

Please follow this link: <http://tedpappas.com/memorial2018/>



From Robert Dinkins, Vietnam Veterans of Leo C. Chase Jr, Chapter 1084. We were invited to attend breakfast at the Clyde Lassen Veterans Nursing Home. A rewarding and humble experience. Also my grandson attended sitting next to a WWII Navy F4U pilot.



Bob Dinkins Receives Prestigious Award from the FL VVA State Council

Bob Dinkins of Vietnam Veterans of America Leo C. Chase Jr. Chapter 1084 in St. Johns County was awarded the VVA's Achievement Award at the June 23 triannual meeting of the VVA Florida State Council at the Orlando Marriott Lake Mary.



Dinkins is the chaplain for the Florida State Council and the former president of Chapter 1084.

The presentation was made by President Mike Bousher and First Vice President John McGinty. Dinkins received a certificate and medal.

Gary Newman, former president of the VVA William G. Byrns Chapter 1059 in Clay County, has been elected Second Vice President for the Florida State Council. He replaces Rod Phillips, the president of Chapter 1048. Newman was unopposed for the office.

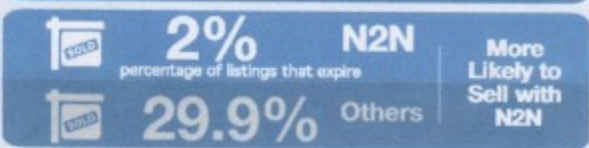
The other officer holders – President Bousher, First Vice President McGinty, Secretary Dan Penzien and Treasurer Ray Breault – retained their positions as they were unopposed. Elections are held every two years.

The Associates for the Vietnam Veterans of America also held their elections with Mary Anne Newman of Chapter 1059 in Clay County being elected as president and Kim Biddle, also of Chapter 1059, selected as treasurer. Joy Klein (vice president) and Mary Brown (secretary) were also selected for their positions.

From Dave Treffinger

Navy to Navy Homes vs Others

N2N is outperforming the rest!



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Kathy Jordan
(904) 401-0476

*** As a **VETERAN**,
SAVE **25%** when buying or selling with us! ***



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Jacksonville, FL 32246
Office: 904-900-4776



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Vets4VetsNJax@gmail.com
Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram: @Vets4VetsNJax
#vets4vetsjax #jointhevetsmovement



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the American Board of Foot & Ankle Surgery



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

The V.A. Community Resource and Referral Center is now open. This is a one of a kind 'one stop shop' for the regions VA system, for homeless veterans to have immediate access to such services as, Social Work, Dietitian, Community Employment Coordinator, Occupational Therapist, ARNP, and peer support specialists.



This center is located across from the Clara White Mission in downtown Jax., is open M-F 8:00 am-4:30 pm. (For housing assessments, it is asked that Veterans visit between 9:00 am-1:30 pm.) 904-798-2800.

Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc. Minutes of May 31, 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
Last month's Minutes were approved as read The Treasurer's Report was approved

Introduction of Guests:

Toula Wootan, Community Hospice, Director of Community Programs, Caregiver Program for veterans

Crystal Timmons, Veterans Garden Project

Donald J Blakely and Joseph Cone (Purple Heart recipients)

Viewing of the SJC video of the POW/MIA flag raising and the reading of the Purple Heart Proclamation.

Special Presentations: Chairman Dudley presented a Purple Heart pin and certificate to Purple Heart recipient and Korean War Marine Donald J Blakely and Joseph Cone, son of a Vietnam Purple Heart recipient.



Speakers:

Toula Wootan: There are 8 Community Hospices in NE FL, including one in Flagler Hospital. Community Hospice is honored to serve veterans and their caregivers by providing specialized programs to meet their needs. Counseling includes: advance-



care planning, bereavement & grief support, caregiver education, hospice care, & palliative care. For more information call 866-253-6681 or Veterans.CommunityHospice.com



Crystal Timmons: Project Director and Founder, Veteran Garden Project. Mission is to support a healing veteran community through cultivation & production of organic foods through nursery management practices.

Volunteers are needed, please contact: veterangardenproject@yahoo.com 904-679-1811

Committee Reports:

Mac: spoke briefly about the VA Mission Act which would reduce time and paper work and allow pre 911 veterans to be included caregivers under the VA programs.

Steve: for Kathy, MIAP will hold their 16th Call to Honor on June 23 at the Cape Canaveral National Cemetery.

The 5 county Council of Veterans Council Chairmen will meet at Cecil Field on June 22nd to discuss veterans issues and programs. The proposal to rename the road into Cecil Field was unanimously approved by the Jacksonville City Council. It will be called the POW/ MIA Memorial Highway.

Bill: spoke about the county POW.MIA flag raising, the county becoming a Purple Heart county, and the St Augustine Fire Dept. T shirts that the Council paid for and will be reimbursed by T shirt sales.

John: presented Chairman Dudley with 2 checks as part of the agreed repayment plan the Council had with one of the VTC participants.

Ray: invited all to a Birthday party for the 243 year old Army, June 14 at the Officers Club on Marine St. at 4pm.

Good of the Order: Fred, Elks Lodge 829 will hold a flag burning ceremony on June 14 at 10 am at the Elks Lodge

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm. The next meeting of the Veterans Council will be on Thursday, June 28, 7 pm in the Health & Human Services Building, 200 San Sebastian View.

Future speakers:

June 28, Charlie Tramazzo of Greater Jacksonville USO and

COL (Ret) Ann Johnson of Gratitude America

July 26, Bret Sovine, Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association 20-2

Scot A. French, Ph.D., Associate Professor of History | Director of Public History, Interim Co-Director, Center for Humanities & Digital Research, University of Central Florida

August 30, Jason Snodgrass, Chief Executive Officer, K9s For Warriors

September 27, Charles Tingley, St. Augustine Historical Society, Senior Reference Librarian, 100Years Ago: St. Johns County & WW I.

October 25, Dr. Michael Butler, Flagler College, "My trips to Vietnam"

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From The Gardner Report: The Battle of Bloody Marsh

The Battle of Bloody Mose in 1740, reenacted last weekend at Fort Mose, was followed by a second British attempt to capture St. Augustine in early 1742, thwarted by the guns of Fort Matanzas south of the presidio. Spanish forces retaliated, resulting in the Battle of Bloody Marsh July 7, 1742.



(An account drawn from Our Georgia History)

The story of the Battle of Bloody Marsh is the story of two forts, Fort St Simon and Fort Frederica, which lay about 7 miles apart on St. Simon Island. Between the two a "military road" ran, a path one wagon wide, along which the army and nearby settlers in Frederica could receive supplies from Ft. St. Simon.

Manuel de Montiano, governor of La Florida (Spanish Florida) rode the tide into St. Simon on July 5, sailing under the firing guns at Fort St. Simon, bypassing the fort and landing more than 50 ships near higher ground (Gascoigne Bluff). Oglethorpe withdrew from the fort before the Spanish could mount an attack.

With some 3,000 troops of his estimated force of 4,500, Montiano took the fort the following day and began to scout the island on foot for Oglethorpe and his men. They quickly found the military road between Fort St. Simon and Fort Frederica, but dismissed it as a farmer's path.

The Spanish began searching the leeward side of the island, completely ignorant of the existence of Frederica. After realizing their mistake, Montiano ordered more than 100 men to scout the road, looking for evidence of English forces or Frederica.

Oglethorpe had chosen Frederica because of its location - it was surrounded by marsh, and there were only two ways to attack by land, through the dense forest to the north of Frederica or along the military road to the south of Frederica.

Sticking to a defense planned 8 years earlier, Oglethorpe stationed a small group of Highlanders, Rangers and marines under the command of Noble Jones to defend the road. Jones caught the Spanish skirmishers at the head of the formation by surprise.

Jones ordered his men to fall back as he rode off to find Oglethorpe. When notified of the engagement, Oglethorpe, according to legend, jumped on the first available horse and rode off down the road to St. Simons. At Gully Hole Creek, Oglethorpe halted the orderly retreat of Jones' combined force and led them in an attack against the advancing Spanish, routing de Montiano's men in a furious battle.

Knowing the Spanish would continue the attack, Oglethorpe followed the retreating enemy to an open area in a marsh. Placing his men carefully around the open field as the Spanish regrouped, Oglethorpe left to rally more support. A much larger Spanish force appeared and engaged Oglethorpe's men.

The colonists tore into the superior Spanish force, forcing them into a haphazard retreat. This was the battle of Bloody Marsh.

Author's story starts with Medal of Honor recipient's niece

By WAYNE CRENSHAW - Associated Press



MACON, Ga. (AP) - For years John Hollis worked to uncover the full story behind an almost unfathomable act of selflessness by a man who grew up in Macon.

Hollis is a former sports reporter for The Atlanta Journal-Constitution and enjoys military history. He was immediately interested when a woman he was dating years ago, Regina Davis, told him her uncle was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. Today she is his wife.

Marine Sgt. Rodney M. Davis, who grew up on Neal Street in the Pleasant Hill neighborhood, is the only person from Macon to be awarded the nation's highest medal for combat. Now the full story is told for the first time in a book Hollis has written, called "Sgt. Rodney M. Davis, The Making of a Hero," available on Amazon.

Davis died Sept. 6, 1967, in Vietnam when he threw himself onto a grenade to save fellow Marines. They were engaged in fierce combat with an enemy force far superior in numbers.

He was 25, with a wife and two young children.

Hollis interviewed 50 men who were on the battlefield with Davis that day, as well as three of the five Marines who would have either been killed or seriously wounded by the grenade. The other two died of natural causes, but he had their statements from the investigation that led to the medal being awarded.

Davis was known for looking out for others long before he went to Vietnam. To Hollis, the most intriguing thing he learned is that the five men standing around Davis that horrific day were all white. Hollis, as well as Davis' family, had always presumed at least some of the men he saved were black due to the high proportion of black soldiers sent to Vietnam.

That showed Hollis just how deep the brotherhood of combat runs. Despite growing up under racial oppression in the South, the skin color of those around him did not matter to Davis.

"The biggest thing for me is he died as nobly as he lived," Hollis said. "He died for his brothers in the Marine Corps."

The book begins with details of Davis' life growing up in Macon, and includes local history going back to the Civil War. Hollis talks at length about Jim Crow laws that kept blacks, including Davis, from eating inside restaurants, as well as other forms of segregation and racial oppression.

Davis joined the Marines in 1961 and had a nice job providing security at the U.S. embassy in London when he volunteered to go to Vietnam.

Although his act of heroism happened in an instant, days of brutal combat led up to it, and Hollis describes it all in vivid detail. The fateful event happened when Davis' unit was lured into an ambush. A grenade landed with a thud near Davis and other Marines in a trench. Platoon Sgt. Ron Posey, one of the men Davis saved, recounted the event in an emotional interview with Hollis.

"It just wasn't a right sound," Posey is quoted in the book. "It gets your attention because with all the weird sounds going on, it was something else that gets your attention. It just made a thud. Everybody was screaming, everybody was shooting. There was incoming and outgoing fire, but that was an absolutely unnatural sound in that situation."

Witnesses saw Davis not only jump on the grenade, but use both hands to push it toward his midsection to ensure he absorbed all of the blast.

"The cast iron grenade and its deadly filling of TNT suddenly went off with a fury, violently launching his body several feet into the air and killing him instantly," Hollis writes in the book.

One of the men he saved, Randy Leedom, came to Davis' gravesite at Linwood Cemetery in Macon several years ago and didn't think it was worthy of a Medal of Honor recipient. He led an effort by members of Davis' unit, the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, or Marine 1/5, that raised \$80,000 to build a new monument for Davis. It was dedicated in 2012.

Leedom, Posey and others Davis saved that day went on to get married, have children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Hollis said he got the sense in talking to the men that they felt they owed it to Davis to make the most out of their lives.

Posey, who rode a Honda Goldwing motorcycle all over the country and to Alaska, lives today in Denmark. He has Parkinson's disease which makes it difficult for him to speak, so he declined a telephone interview with The Telegraph but answered questions by email. He said he avoided talking about the war until he spoke with Hollis, but as hard as that was, he said it also helped him heal.

"What happened on that day the 6th of September will always be in my mind," he said in the email. "I can still see him."

Davis' medal is on display at the Tubman Museum in Macon.

Atlantic Coast Young Marines

OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE!!!

Are you ready! Please visit us at one of the locations below to learn all about how to become part of the best youth organization in Jacksonville!!!

Open House Dates (please choose one date to attend):

July 14, 2018 – 4 pm – Mandarin Branch Library, 3330 Kori Road, Jacksonville, FL 32257

July 28, 2018 – 4 pm – South Mandarin Branch Library, 12125 San Jose Blvd, Jacksonville, FL 32223

August 1, 2018 – 6 pm – University Park Branch Library, 3435 University Blvd N, Jacksonville, FL 32277





Let's go Fishing

2018 Dates

- Feb 11 Palm Valley
- Mar 11 Guana River
- Apr 22 Cedar Point
- May 4-6 Camping Sebastian Inlet
- Jun 10 Browns Creek
- July 15 Faver Dykes
- Aug 12 River Float
Ichetucknee
- Sept 2 Mill Cove
- Sept 21 First Responders Event
- Oct 14 Browns Creek
- Nov 11 Veteran's Day Event

To RSVP - Facebook site

Or email

Northeastflorida@heroesonthewater.org

JOIN US!

Heroes on the Water offers **free** kayak fishing excursions to injured service members from all branches of the Armed Services. Experience the peaceful water, the thrill of fishing from kayaks and the adventure of being outdoors, while enjoying the camaraderie of hanging out with other vets, passionate volunteers, and loved ones.

We provide all the equipment you need for a fun, relaxing day on the water.

"I was at peace with myself, enjoying the company of other wounded veterans, without a worry in the world, while enjoying the weather and casting a line."

Travis Clennon, Traumatic spinal cord injury

Like us on Facebook to get all the up to date information about the Northeast Florida Chapter: <http://www.facebook.com/HeroesOnTheWaterNortheastFloridaChapter>

2018 HOMELESS VETERANS' STAND DOWN



Saturday September 8, 2018

9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Elks Lodge

1420 A1A South

For more information or transportation needs contact: (904) 209-6160

SERVICES:

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Welcome to the official 2018 NAS Jax Air Show event.

The NAS Jax Air Show, Birthplace of the Blue Angels, will be October 27 - 28, 2018 aboard NAS Jacksonville. Admission, parking and the Kids Zone is FREE.

At the NAS Jax Air Show you will witness thrills like never before from a variety of military and civilian demonstrations. The grand finale will be the Navy's flight demonstration team: The Blue Angels.

While you are at the show, enjoy military and civilian aircraft displays, shop at novelty, food and beverage booths, or head to the free Kids Zone for games and activities for all ages. While there will be 2 ATMs onsite, it is highly recommended that you bring cash with you.

Save the date! More details to come.

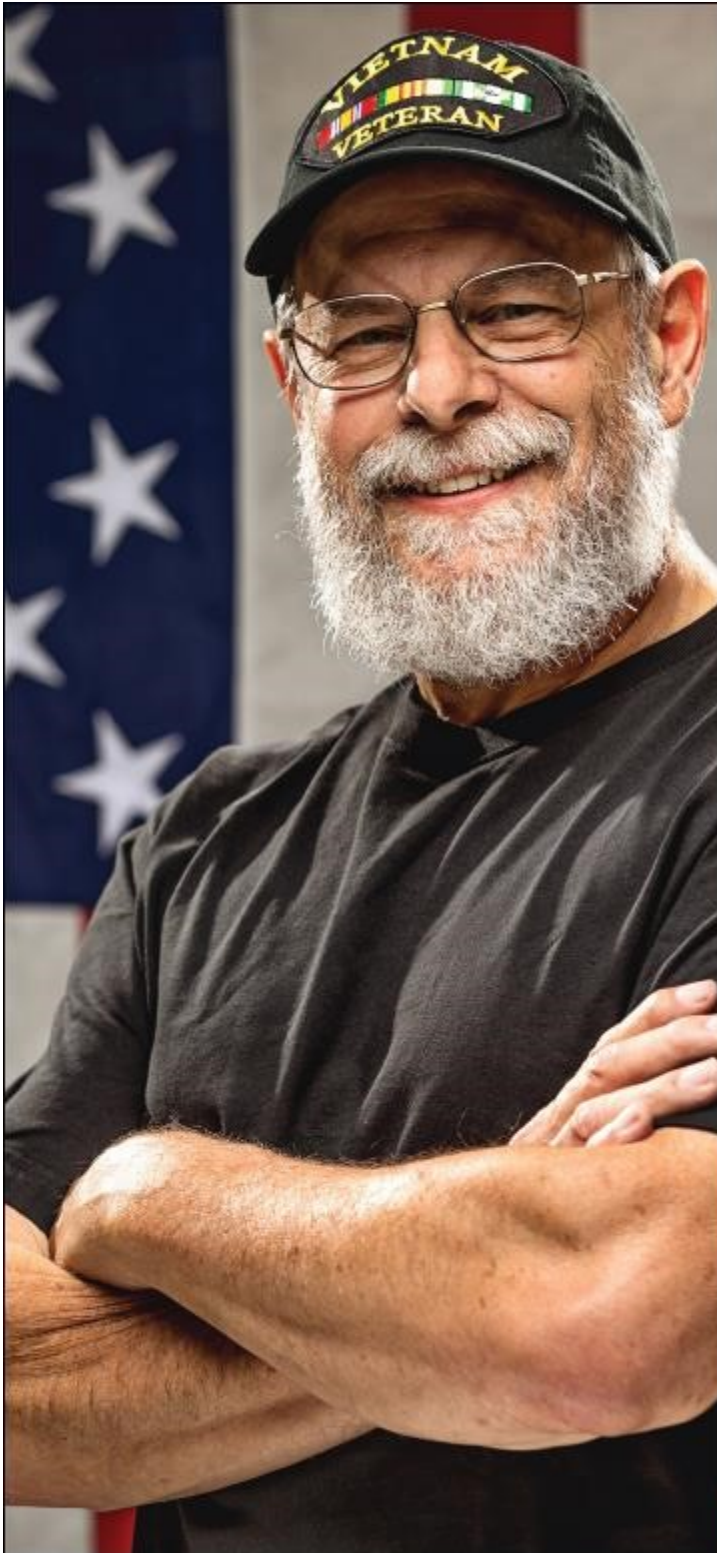
Visit our website: <http://www.nasjaxairshow.com>

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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)**



CAREGIVER COALITION OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA 2018 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Throughout the year, the Caregiver Coalition of Northeast Florida hosts a series of free, public events that offer First Coast caregivers a time to network, relax and learn about resources from our valued community partners. Most programs include complimentary meals and respite care by request for loved ones.



HERE'S OUR LINEUP FOR 2018:

"CARING FOR THE CAREGIVER" CONFERENCE

Saturday, February 24, 2018 • 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Registration: 8:30 a.m.
Ramada Inn Mandarin
3130 Hartley Road
Jacksonville, FL 32257

CAREGIVER EXPO 2018

Saturday, April 14, 2018 • 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
EverBank Field US Assure Club East
1 EverBank Field Drive
Jacksonville, FL 32202

"CARING FOR THE CAREGIVER" CONFERENCE

Saturday, June 16, 2018 • 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Registration: 8:30 a.m.
Mary Singleton Senior Center
150 East First St.
Jacksonville, FL 32206

"CARING FOR THE MILITARY/VETERAN CAREGIVER" CONFERENCE

Friday, Sept. 21, 2018 • 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Registration: 8:30 a.m.
WJCT Public Broadcasting
100 Festival Park Ave.
Jacksonville, FL 32202



Visit MyCaregiverConnection.org throughout the year for the latest news and event info!

For more information, or to participate as a sponsor or exhibitor, contact Toula Wootan at Community Hospice & Palliative Care: 904.407.6211 or twootan@communityhospice.com.

Caregiver Coalition of Northeast Florida Partners: Community Hospice & Palliative Care; AARP®; Aging True Community Senior Services; Alzheimer's Association, Central and North Florida Chapter; Area Councils on Aging; Baptist AgeWell Center for Senior Health; Brooks Rehabilitation; City of Jacksonville, Senior Services Division; ElderSource; Jewish Family & Community Services; Mayo Clinic Florida; YMCA of Florida's First Coast





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.



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Survivor Outreach Services Support Coordinator, HRCI Contractor
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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.