



The Patriot Reader Newsletter

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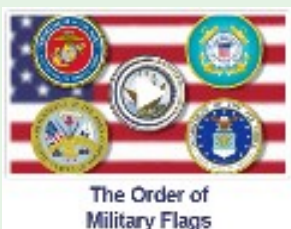
Volume 8, Issue 7

Message from the Chairman

July 2019

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Fellow Veterans,

The Veterans Council is busy planning for our Veterans Day Program to honor all who have served. We plan to repeat last year's event being hosted at Anastasia Baptist Church. We will add several features to the program this year. Last year's program was an overwhelming success and the venue is perfect for allowing all our veterans organizations an opportunity to display information about their organization. We plan to include more youth groups in this year's program. We are bringing the Vietnam Wall back again this year for static display in the Atrium. The Wall will arrive at 12 noon on Sunday Nov. 10 at the Elks Lodge. It will be escorted to St. Augustine from Volusia County to St. Johns County by motorcycle officers from the

Motor Units of Volusia, Flagler and St. Johns County as well as over 100 riders from the Patriot Guard Riders. This is quite a spectacular sight as the wall arrives at the Elks Lodge parking lot.

Our Veterans Council in collaboration with Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1084 is also planning another documentary. This will be the sixth documentary that the Council has engaged in. This documentary will focus on Post 9-11 service of veterans who have served since 2001. If you have served in any branch of the military since 2001 or would like to assist in helping produce the documentary, please contact Michael Rothfeld at rothfeldm@gmail.com. Nease HS Television Production Dept. is assisting in the production and filming of this documentary. We expect this film to be at the same quality level or better than the films we have produced



in the past, several of which have won awards. Don't forget to fly your American flag on the 4th of July. I'm sure many of you will be celebrating with parties or picnics. Let's remember the purpose for the celebration as the birth of a great nation and how many veterans have served and sacrificed to keep this nation free. Also, remember Friday, Sept 20 is National POW/ MIA Day. Our Council will participate in The Gathering in the Pines at Cecil Field again this year to honor our POW/ MIA's. Bill Dudley Chairman Veterans Council of St. Johns County

Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home



Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley presents World War II veteran Herb Naumann with the Quilt of Honor at the Lassen Veterans Nursing Home



Clyde E Lassen's Annual Summer Blast Off Party!!! A very special THANK YOU to Community Hospice for sponsoring this much anticipated event!





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**. The meeting will be at **7:00pm**. The meeting will take place at Community Hospice, **4266 Sunbeam Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32257 in Conference Room A.**

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

DATES OF 2019 SC at JNC MEETINGS

Sept. 9, Oct. 14, Nov. 4, Dec. 2

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

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

Chairman: Steve Spickelmier

Vice Chairman: Bill Dudley, Treasurer: John Mountcastle

Assistant Treasurer: Michael Rothfeld, Secretary: Kathy Church

Master-At-Arms: Joe McDermott

Historian: Kathy Cayton

Chaplain: Rev. Patrick A. Archuleta, Sr.

The Veterans Council of St. Johns County meets on the following dates, all are invited to attend. We meet at the county Health & Human Services building, 200 San Sebastian View, at 7 pm

Future meeting Speakers:

- June 27** Kevin Crowell, Sgt US Army Paratrooper, ret. D Day + 75 years paratrooper
Hellena, Pugh Zahara Veterans Network
- July 25** Bruce Thompson, Vets4Vets, NE FL
Chris Young, Special Forces Association, NE FL Chapter 88
Florida Military Re-enactor
- August 29** Gerald Timoney, Military Museum of N. FL
Crystal Timmons, Veterans Garden Project
- Sept. 26** Bob Buehn, Capt. USN, (Ret), former Commanding Officer, Guantanamo Bay
Char Miller, Community Hospice, Veterans Programs
- Oct. 24** Chris Vedrick, Commander Dept of FL Military Order of the Purple Heart
- Nov. 21** Emily Jane Murray, Flagler College, Public Archeology Coord, The Seminole Wars and How it Changed All of Us

From Council Chairman Bill Dudley



Fellow Veterans:

I received an update from Craig Pasanen, VA Asst. Director, Outpatient Clinics and Planning concerning our St. Augustine VA CBOC. The VA had a meeting with the contractor this week.

The following activities and updates have taken place:

- 1. The St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners have approved the PUD**
- 2. Land acquisition closing date set for end of April**
- 3. Sign identifying new CBOC will be placed on location after closing date**
- 4. Army Corp of Engineers will complete their engineering study by Apr. 12**
- 5. St. Johns Water Management will have comments by 2 May**
- 6. 30 days for any changes after comment period. (SJWMA total period is 60 days)**

Subject to any unusual findings, land should be shovel ready by mid August .

An update meeting will take place on 30 April here in St. Augustine. The Veterans Council will stay abreast of all activities concerning the construction of the VA CBOC and keep our veterans informed during the process

William Dudley, Chairman

Veterans Council of St. Johns County

anuday00@aol.com

RECORD EDITORIAL: How about an impact fee credit for veterans?

With Memorial Day just behind us, a report released this week may be timely. It's called "2019 Best & Worst States for Military Retirees." Much of the information was interesting and some "news" to us. The report began, explaining military retirement looks nothing like retirement for the rest of us. Civilian workers, as a whole, may retire at 65, golfing, doing volunteer or part-time work — or maybe just lavishing some lovin' on the grandkids. The average military officer retires at 45: it's 42 for enlisted, non-disability personnel.

So the parameters of retirement are more varied and, because of the extended length of retirement, so are the benefits — or pitfalls. But that's a fixed amount, generally speaking. It's a bit more complicated, the article explains, because of a recent "blended retirement system" in addition to the normal "defined benefit." The new system also takes into account matching contributions to a "thrift savings account." So, since time and service are generally a set by the military and the same nationwide, smart retirees are looking at how state and local governments treat them differently in order to maximize retirement dollars.

Did you know that nearly one in 10 St. Johns County's residents are veterans? The U.S. Census reports that's about 2 percent higher than the state average. We have just 344 World War II vets; 2,096 Korean conflict vets; 6,543 served in Viet Nam; and 7,493 were involved in the (continuing) Gulf war conflict(s).

Nationwide, Florida ranks second as the best state for military retirees. Only Virginia ranks higher, and barely: Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts round out the top five. Ironically, D.C. ranks dead last — behind Oregon, Vermont, New York and Mississippi.

Scores were ranked, based on three key elements: Economic Environment, Quality of Life and Health Care. Florida ranked third for economic benefits, fifth in quality of life and 15 in health care rankings, for a total of 59.55. Virginia tallied 60.24 points. The three categories were compared with 29 "relevant metrics." Economic environments was based on metrics such as job opportunities, number of vet-owned businesses, military bases per 100,000 vets, housing affordability, academic credit for military service and a general cost-of-living index. Quality of life metrics included states' share of vets, share of VA benefits and facilities per number of vets and quality of educational systems.

In health care, the number and quality of VA hospitals was a scoring key.

Just FYI:

Alaska has the highest number of vets per capita, along with Montana. The District of Columbia and New York have fewest. But New York, along with Wyoming, has the most VA facilities per veteran.

North Dakota and Mississippi had the lowest percent of homeless vets — D.C. and California were the highest.

Finally, comparing the red and blue states for veteran livability, red states beat out blue states by a slim margin.

From where we sit, Florida — and our county in particular — might make a special effort to "advertise" ourselves as a veteran-friendly place, like we advertise our beaches and history. Because of those early retirement numbers above, veterans are looking to work, live and continue raising families here. They are, for the most part, disciplined, have a healthy work ethic and add stability and strength to our neighborhoods. With the lowest unemployment in the state, our mostly-millennial workforce is driving employers bonkers, in terms of reliability and work ethic.

Maybe it's time the county started chasing veterans like it chases corporations — which, ironically, give a lot of weight in a decision to relocate on a predictable and dependable workforce.

The stats above demonstrate we're a good fit for vets. Maybe some economic incentives would work the other way around and make them a good fit for us.

Clay County VA Clinic Named in Honor of Andrew K. Baker

Orange Park, FL – Congressman Ted S. Yoho (R-FL), announced the proposed name of the new Clay County VA Clinic slated to open in spring of next year. With 219 votes cast, Andrew Kenneth Baker's name was selected with 50.68% of the total vote.

Andrew K Baker of Middleburg, Florida was killed when Trident 615, a H-60 Seahawk crashed at sea on March 13, 1997 during a SEAL training event. Antisubmarine Warfare Chief Baker was a combat search and rescue swimmer attached to HS-3 homeported at NAS Jacksonville. Chief Baker served on the USS Carl Vinson and USS Coral Sea as a Ship's Serviceman. He completed training at Naval Aircrewman, and Search and Rescue Swimmer School at Pensacola, Florida and Fleet Replacement Aircrewman training at HS-1 (NAS Jacksonville) earning his Aircrew "Wings of Gold". Chief Baker, then reported to HS-9 serving on the USS Nimitz. He reported to HS-1 as an Aircrew Instructor and following that tour, he served in HS-3 assigned as the Training and Operations Chief. Chief Baker has been awarded the Navy Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal (3 awards), Navy Unit Commendation, Meritorious Unit Commendation (2 awards), National Defense Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Navy Battle "E", Southwest Asia Service Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal (4 awards), Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (5 awards), Sikorsky Winged "S", and Enlisted Aviation Warfare Insignia.

Andy made his home in Middleburg and was an avid fisherman, scouring the waters of Black Creek and the St. John's as much as he could. He was active in coaching his son's little league baseball team at Omega Park and being a parent leader for the Cub Scout Pack 362. Andy leaves behind his wife, Tina Baker, Navy CWO3 ret., his son, Cryptologic Technician Networks Chief Andrew K Baker II, and Jacob Baker, recently deceased.

Congressman Ted Yoho issued the following statement:

"Throughout this process we have remained engaged with the Clay County community and couldn't have thought of a better way to engage than having them name the new clinic. We launched this election at the beginning of May at the Clay County VA Clinic Workshop in Green Cove Springs where community members nominated distinguished veterans from the Clay County area. Each presentation was very well done and showcased the incredible service and, in some cases, sacrifice that our service men and women have given to our Nation. I am extremely appreciative to Clay Supervisor of Elections Chris Chambliss for his efforts in helping us host this unique election. Likewise, I am extremely grateful to all of the community members who nominated individuals and shared these important stories of dedication, service, and sacrifice. I would also like to share my appreciation for VISN 8 – our regional VA hospital system. They have been tremendous partners to work with and have displayed the utmost profes-

sionalism and care throughout this process.

In the case of Chief Baker, we are thrilled that the community chose his name for the new VA clinic and know that his service will be remembered and an example to all. When his wife Tina presented his story at the workshop, not a dry eye was left in the room when she said that all she wanted was for Andy's name to be remembered. Today, we can be sure he will always be remembered."

The Clay County VA Clinic has been a five-year initiative for Congressman Ted Yoho. In 2014, Congressman Yoho secured the funds for the project and worked through three requests for proposals in order to get the current site. Construction is slated to begin this summer with the opening target date set for spring of 2020. The clinic will boast 20,000sq/ft and will offer lab work, primary care, telehealth, and mental health counseling.



THE A.K. BAKER VA CLINIC

400 COLLEGE DRIVE
MIDDLEBURG, FL

ANTICIPATED OPENING
IN SPRING 2020

YOHO.HOUSE.GOV

Local organization host event helping veterans transition into civilian life

By: Alicia Tarancon , Action News Jax

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. - Veterans helping other veterans -- that's what organizers for Vets 4 Vets of Northeast Florida did Saturday as they hosted their second gathering of the year at the VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena.

Nekishia Brown is an Army veteran who is hoping she'll find a career where she can also put her military training to good use.

Brown served as a military police officer for two years, but had to leave the service because of her health.

"Basically going back, probably getting a certificate in cybersecurity something I can do that's not too hard on my body," she said.

Stephanie Lincoln is a veteran looking to hire other veterans because of what they bring to the workforce.

"They're hard working and they're dedicated, and we tend to want to help our own ," said Stephanie Lincoln, founder of Fire Team Whiskey.

Lincoln owns a military fitness and health business geared towards keeping military and first responders healthy while they are serving or even after they leave the service.

Vets 4 Vets of Northeast Jacksonville tells Action News Jax they put on these quarterly gatherings so veterans can connect with other veterans and find jobs after they finish their time in the military.

And organizers say this is also the first gathering they've had for veterans since the arena was renamed the VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena.

Brown says she didn't get the help she needed when she lived in New Jersey but that all changed when she moved to Jacksonville three years ago.

“Being that this is a military-friendly town, I was able to connect with people and resources that I don’t think I would have connected with anywhere else,” she said.

Vets 4 Vets of Northeast Jacksonville says they had more than 400 attendees at their gathering in January.

Their next event will be in August.



**On the 75th Anniversary Supreme Allied
Commander General Dwight Eisenhower's letter
distributed to the troops ahead of D-Day**

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE



Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Force!

You are about to embark upon the Great Crusade, toward which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you. In company with our brave Allies and brothers-in-arms on other Fronts, you will bring about the destruction of the German war machine, the elimination of Nazi tyranny over the oppressed peoples of Europe, and security for ourselves in a free world.

Your task will not be an easy one. Your enemy is well trained, well equipped and battle-hardened. He will fight savagely.

But this is the year 1944! Much has happened since the Nazi triumphs of 1940-41. The United Nations have inflicted upon the Germans great defeats, in open battle, man-to-man. Our air offensive has seriously reduced their strength in the air and their capacity to wage war on the ground. Our Home Fronts have given us an overwhelming superiority in weapons and munitions of war, and placed at our disposal great reserves of trained fighting men. The tide has turned! The free men of the world are marching together to Victory!

I have full confidence in your courage, devotion to duty and skill in battle. We will accept nothing less than full Victory!

Good Luck! And let us all beseech the blessing of Almighty God upon this great and noble undertaking.



Dwight D. Eisenhower

D-Day: Former paratrooper carries memories, scars of war to this day

Mario Patruno dived into World War II as a young paratrooper in 1944

by Matt Soergel



A few years ago my neighbor and WW II D Day Paratrooper Mario Patruno passed away. He was down to earth, soft spoken and a National Treasure. What follows is an article about Mario that appeared before his passing, written by Matt Soergel. The first picture was taken on the morning of June 6, 1944, that's Mario second from the left and waving just before his jump into history. The other pictures I took of Mario as he was preparing to be interviewed for a WW II documentary I produced. There is also a picture of Mario taken in 1942 as well as a picture of Mario at a reunion.

D-Day: Former paratrooper carries memories, scars of war to this day

Army Pfc. Mario Patruno was 23, tough and fit. He'd fought in the ring as a youth boxer, and in the streets of Holyoke, Mass., with a brawling gang called the Bond Street Rovers.

On the dark morning of June 6, 1944, he'd need all the toughness he possessed if he wanted to see June 7. Flying over Normandy under heavy fire, his plane was going low and too fast when he jumped from 400 feet, landing far from his intended landing spot. His parachute riddled with holes, he tumbled to a rough landing, all alone.

It was 1:20 a.m. on D-Day. Patruno — nicknamed Gus — was a member of Company F of the Army's 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment, recently a focus of HBO's "Band of Brothers." His job: to help hold a causeway at Utah Beach. In the confusion, he never made it to the causeway, but for the next month he would endure a series of skirmishes and firefights across France — bloody, nasty moments that still cause him to cry out at night.

Now 90, he lives with his wife Ruth in a senior community southwest of St. Augustine. The exact order of the days after D-Day are a little fuzzy for him today, but his memories of specific events are vivid.

Focused on survival

He was born April 8, 1921, in Massachusetts to Italian immigrants. After World War II started, a recruiter sold him on the paratroopers. "He said, 'We got this new outfit: You don't walk, you ride in planes, it pays 100 bucks a month.' I said, 'Sign me up.'"

In 1943, the 506th arrived in England to prepare for the invasion of Europe. Before it came, there was some time for sightseeing. Patruno was cheeky: He once tried to take an ancient brick from Roman ruins in Wales, but the authorities stopped him.

"I told them I was Italian, I was related to Julius Caesar," he said. They didn't buy it.



Rumors and stories flew in the weeks before D-Day. He knew it was going to be big. Patruno remembers what a beautiful sight it was late at night, flying low over hundreds of ships making their way across the English Channel.

After landing alone, Patruno met a guy from the 501st. His gun stock was broken, but Patruno repaired it with medical tape.

Within half an hour, they stumbled on a lieutenant from the 82nd Airborne and about 15 men. They joined up with them as they marched toward Utah Beach, but Patruno split off as the group from the 82nd went their own way. He was itching to join his own men.

The area was thick with Germans, and all his senses were focused on survival. "Every bush was a German, every sound. You were on pins and needles," he said. "If you touched me, you were dead."

Outside a village, he stopped a Frenchman on a bike and asked him for directions. The local was reluctant to answer, and the reason became clear as three truckloads of Germans came over a hill. Patruno dived into hedgerows as the Frenchman tried to stop the Germans, frantically pointing to the Yank's hiding place. The trucks kept going, though, bound for someplace more important.

A little later, Patruno saw the Frenchmen, still riding his bicycle. He aimed at him and shot him, he says, right off the bike. He doesn't know if he was dead, but he knows the bike ended up in a ditch.

Early the next morning, or the one after that, he spotted five beautiful horses in a field next to a barn. He sneaked into the barn, which was guarded by two Germans. He stealthily took down a bridle, went back outside and chose the most beautiful horse. It was huge. It was white. He couldn't mount the horse — not with a bag of grenades and his heavy pack — so he coaxed it over to a water trough, stood on top, and heaved himself up.

Just before dawn, he and the horse sauntered by a couple of German soldiers who waved hello to him. He waved back. In the dark, they couldn't quite see what uniform he had on. Besides, what would a Yank be doing riding by on a big white horse?

And he was riding his white horse when he caught up with the men of Company F. It was quite the entrance. "They said: 'Patruno, what are you doing? Hey Gus, there's a war going on.'"

Tommy's final words. Almost seven decades later, Patruno tears up repeatedly as he speaks of his buddy Tommy Wolford, a corporal who'd been with him since their training days in the States. Patruno was at his side in Normandy as Wolford raised his grenade launcher against an approaching tank. "I'll get that tank," he told Patruno. Those were his last words.

As the tank fired, Patruno jumped into a shallow foxhole, then shot and wounded a German who approached his hiding spot. The man fell on top of Patruno, coating him in blood. As Patruno struggled to get out from under him, two unarmed German medics came to collect their comrade.

Patruno had no problems with that — at least not until the medics, whom he held at rifle-point, loaded him on to a stretcher and carted him out of the busy firefight.

Patruno later went back to find Wolford. His friend was lying there, his arms underneath him, his face peaceful, with a smile on his face. Not a mark on him. It may have been the blast concussion that killed him.

The war lives in him. These days, Patruno speaks frankly of the terrible things he saw and the terrible things he had to do. "We had it drilled into our minds to kill those Nazis," he said. "We had a saying: Come face to face with the enemy, kill him, eat his rations and take his watch for a souvenir." He once took the ring off the rotting finger of a giant German soldier, dead on the side of the road. Another time he took a hunk of black bread from another dead German's knapsack: The bullet that killed him had gone through his chest, out his back and finally stopped in the bread. Patruno said he ate the loaf, then spat the bullet out.

Orders were to take no prisoners, he said, so soldiers on both sides routinely killed them instead. "My friends, they gave their prisoners cigarettes first. I never gave my prisoners a cigarette. I didn't smoke, and it was bad for their health."

Once, though, as hardened as he was, he just couldn't pull the trigger. The German was an older man, perhaps 45, half-balding. He held his hands at his side and bowed his head as he prayed loudly, waiting for the bullet.

"He looked like my father!" Patruno exclaimed. "Like my father. So I turned around and walked away."

In September 1944, Patruno would be among the waves of paratroopers dropping into the Netherlands in Operation Market Garden, a bloody operation that ended his war. A ricocheting bullet hit him in the face, breaking some teeth and lodging in his tonsils.

The scar is with him still, and so is the war; he sometimes cries out in his sleep, his wife says — not actual words, just moans and groans.

"Anything you see in the movies, he said, it was worse," Ruth Patruno said.

After the war he worked in a wire factory back home in Holyoke, became a brick mason, had six children and moved to St. Augustine in 1986 to raise horses.

In 2004, at 83, he parachuted again during a reunion with his surviving comrades in Toccoa, Ga., where they had trained. And in 2006, Patruno went back to Normandy one last time. He found the grave of Tommy Wolford and knelt down next to the marker honoring his old friend, who had looked so peaceful after he died.



D-Day Redux: Retired Army paratrooper reenacts Normandy Invasion 75 years later

By Colleen Jones St. Augustine Record

Retired U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Crowell will celebrate his 50th birthday and his 20th wedding anniversary while commemorating the 75th anniversary of D-Day as part of a reenactment of the Allied forces' invasion of Normandy this week.



Crowell, a St. Augustine native, and his wife, Lisa, left for France Saturday and met up Monday at the Zeppelin hangar near Cherbourg, where Crowell and other members of the Round Canopy Parachuting Team-USA staging a replay of the famous World War II battle received their individual assignments.

The RCPT-USA is made up of current and formerly commissioned officers, like Crowell, who served in the 82nd Airborne Division, and other parachutists who perform World War II-style airborne operations. The group is commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Normandy invasion by following the timeline of the events leading up to and following the June 6, 1944, surprise attack on the Axis powers.

In doing so, they hope to honor those who helped change the course of history when Allied troops stormed the beaches across from the English Channel, a pivotal maneuver that eventually liberated Nazi-occupied France.

“I mean, they saved the world,” Crowell said. “Had they not have gone in, we’d probably be speaking Japanese, Italian or German. ... And, to get guys to jump out of planes was something on a whole new scale.”

But for Crowell, D-Day is not just a chapter in world history but his family’s history, as well. His great-uncle John McGuire was one of the 150,000 troops who landed at Normandy and lived to tell the tale.

“He was one of those people growing up I wish I had spent more time with; he was just very quiet, usually keeping to himself in a corner,” Crowell said.

‘You don’t know what you’re parachuting into’

Crowell joined the Army fresh out of high school at 18. Soon after, he began training with the

82nd Airborne Division of special forces. The training, Crowell said, is meant to weed out those afraid of heights, the dark, or not especially gifted with of-the-moment problem-solving skills.

“You basically don’t know what you’re parachuting into,” he said.

He learned that firsthand when he was deployed to Panama in 1989 and landed outside the target drop zone, smack into a lake.

“I did find my guys and we fought until January (1990),” Crowell said.

There were dozens upon dozens of missions like that, including Crowell’s combat time in Iraq. It was dirty work — lying in ditches, hiding in wells or swamps — doing surveillance, mostly. And it’s boring — that is, until something happens, like when Crowell spied a glinting piece of green metal in the Iraq countryside that turned out to be a cache of weapons buried by the enemy.

In 2005, Crowell was blown up by an improvised explosive device (IED), severely injuring his spine. It was several years later that he was officially decommissioned on disability.

Shortly after returning home to St. Augustine, Crowell heard about the RCPT-USA, “and I just saw that same kind of brotherhood there,” he said.

The group leads demonstration jumps at air shows nationwide using World War II-era aircraft like C-47 transport planes. They have been training this year leading up to the D-Day anniversary, with a final jump at Kay Larkin Field in Palatka in March.



Before he left for Europe last week, Crowell planned to be a part of Wednesday’s first wave of paratroopers mustering up at Carentan.

On Sunday, he is scheduled to help recreate the June 9 jump into Sainte Mere-Eglise, the first French town to be freed by Allies.

When asked how it feels just seconds before a drop, Crowell said it still always strikes him as something counterintuitive, “Like why am I doing this?” he said adding, “but it’s absolutely beautiful.”

There’s always the chance of risk that comes with any jump. But he figures he’s got that covered as well he can.

“You have friends in your life,” Crowell said, “but you go to war with your brothers. They’re the ones who have your back.”

D-Day Redux: Retired Army paratrooper reenacts Normandy invasion 75 years later



The Veterans Garden Project

The Veteran Garden Project held its second annual benefit on June 9th at Sarbez on Anastasia Boulevard. The event drew over 200 people who enjoyed drinks, gourmet grilled cheese sandwiches and music from four local bands, all while bidding on various prizes.



A community nonprofit that helps veterans and their families heal through nature by getting outdoors and growing food, Veteran Garden Project (VGP) raised more than \$4000 in just a few hours. In partnership with the generous donations of the venue, emcee talent, musicians' time, dozens of raffle items via local businesses, and many volunteers, the event was a monetary success.

But it was more than that.

According to executive director and project manager Crystal Timmons, VGP's founder (and a veteran's wife) noted while the event was intended as a fundraiser, it was also about fellowship. Timmons said it was awesome "to see the layers of impact" VGP has on all who are involved.

"We are focused on vets, but it is a community thing," she said.

Local musicians and bands included Not Quite Dead, Chelsea Saddler, Scattered the Bruce and Shea Birney. Between sets of the benefit concert speakers from VGP introduced the board and formally thanked diamond level corporate sponsors Rokit Solutions, Ward Design Group and Lion's Bridge Community Development Alliance Group.

The first three 2019 beneficiaries of a VGP garden plot were also introduced and each spoke about how this project has affected them. Timmons said that was a wonderful opportunity for the gathered crowd to see firsthand "how we are changing lives in a peaceful, healing way."

By the end of 2019, VGP will have helped six families. Goals to double that (or

more) are in VGP's budget for 2020, and Timmons said they are accepting applications for next year. February 2020 is the deadline.

Regarding volunteer opportunities, it is not necessary to have a green thumb. One's time is also valuable. There is a great building team in place, and VGP has honed the garden install process so anyone who is interested will be able to slot in and immediately contribute. Corporate sponsors and partners are always welcome to reach out to the organization as well.

"Everyone has something to give," said Timmons

VGP board and volunteers gather on the third Thursday of every month for a potluck meeting. Check their website www.veterangardenproject.org or Facebook page for additional details about coming events and to learn more about Veteran Garden Project.

Written by Jen Hand. is a St. Augustine freelance writer whose work has appeared in Edible Northeast Florida magazine, the St. Augustine Record, and Folio Weekly and more.

Speakers



Jimmy



June



Coogan

Current Corporate Sponsors



Sarbez Group



Northeast Florida Women Veterans

If you are interested in being a member of the coalition as a military organization or individual, email: ellen@servicewomen.org. If you are interested in joining the Florida Coalition of Military Women, email: info@womenvets.org.



Save the Date
V4V
Vets 4 Vets

Quarterly Gathering
Saturday, August 10th, 2019

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

1000 – 1100
Coffee, Networking and Exhibitors

1100 – 1200
Speakers

1200 – 1300
Free Lunch, Networking and Exhibitors
Open to Veterans, Military, families, and supporters

Listen, Learn, and
Let your Voice be Heard

TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER!!

Meeting with Congressmen Al Lawson and John Rutherford to further our petition to designate Cecil Field POW MIA Memorial as the National POW MIA Memorial and Museum and with — with Mandy Cain, Pam Cain, Moe Moyer and Henry Cecil.



**SATURDAY, JUNE 8, 2019, MIAP - FL CALL TO HONOR #20
at the SOUTH FLORIDA NATIONAL CEMETERY LAKE WORTH, FL**

19 veterans and 6 spouses were interred.

We interred veterans that served in the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines in WWI, WWII, Korea and Vietnam. We placed a husband and wife in the same niche. The longest that anyone went unclaimed for this service is 1973.

MANY THANKS to Paul Markonni for his constant and continuous dedication to MIAP and to ALL OTHER VOLUNTEERS, funeral home staff and employees of the SFNC. As Kevin Ridgeway with the SFNC said " it takes A VILLAGE to get from start to completion".



Braille flag installed at Jacksonville National Cemetery

By Bailey Vandiver bvandiver@jacksonville.com

A blind veteran stood framed between two American flags. The one on his left was what most people picture as the American flag: the Stars and Stripes in vivid red, white and blue.

The one on his right was the Braille flag, and it was newly installed at Jacksonville National Cemetery.



The Braille flag is much smaller than a traditional flag, made of bronze instead of cloth and mounted on a post in the ground. The Stars and Stripes design is raised on the bronze so blind individuals can feel it, and the Pledge of Allegiance is written on it in Braille as well.

Veteran Walt Peters, who served three tours in Vietnam and is legally blind, was one of several men introducing the Braille flag before its unveiling on Monday.

“I feel that this Braille flag is a godsend for us blind veterans in America,” Peters said to the crowd of a few dozen.

The Braille flag was designed by Randolph Cabral of the Kansas Braille Transcription Institute, whose father was a blind veteran. In 2008, Congress approved the Braille flag as an official American flag and passed a bill authorizing the placement of the flag at Arlington National Cemetery in February 2008.

On Feb. 5, 2008, Peters touched a Braille flag for the first time. It was a paper version in Savannah, Ga., where he was serving members of the military who were shipping out or coming home.

Since then, Peters, a Jacksonville native, has been involved in the installation of more than 50 Braille flags across the United States, primarily in southern states.

He was a big part of Monday’s event, which unveiled the flag just outside the cemetery’s information center. The new flag was sponsored and paid for by Vietnam Veterans of America 1046, VVA 1088, Veterans of Foreign Wars of Nassau County and the Blind Veterans Association, said Tony D’Aleo, president of VVA 1046.

D’Aleo said he became involved with this project about six months ago — because of Peters. “He grabbed me and he hooked me,” D’Aleo said.

Each man who spoke during the ceremony mentioned or thanked Peters as central to the Braille flag effort. They were Buck Taylor of VFW Kings Bay, Ga.; Paul Kaminsky of the Blind Veterans Association; Al Richburg, director of the cemetery; and Peters himself.

The only other Braille flag in Jacksonville has been at the VA clinic since 2017. Peters also donated that flag.

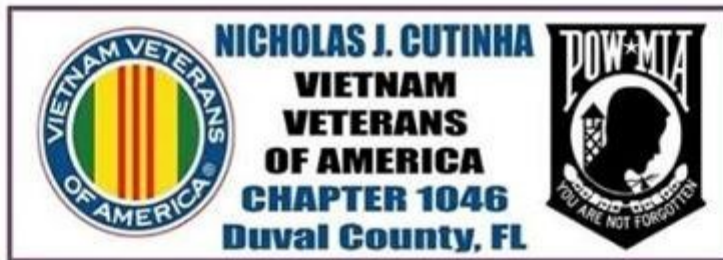
Peters’ next goal is to get a flag in the St. Augustine cemetery, which is among the oldest in the United States. After a meeting last week, that has been approved, but there is not yet a timeline for when it will be installed.

Peters, who is 75, said he doesn’t have a lot of years left, but he will spend them trying to get these flags at more VA clinics and cemeteries around the country.

“I figure if God will allow me to do this for the next 10 years, I’ll be totally blessed,” Peters said.

After Peters, Taylor and Kaminsky unveiled the flag, Peters reached out to feel it.

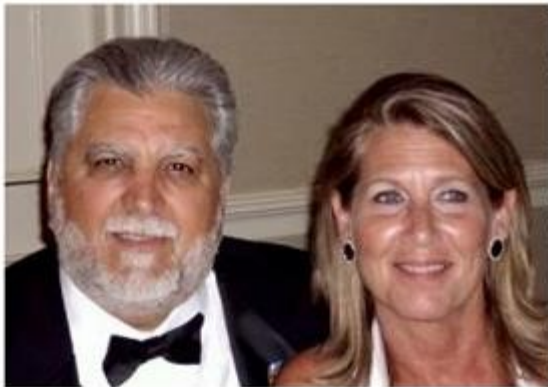
“Yes sir, she’s beautiful,” he said.



Tony and Sharon D'Aleo Award Recipients at Fifth Champion for Veterans Gala

Congratulations to Tony and Sharon D'Aleo!

On May 15, they were honored at the Fifth Champion for Veterans Gala where they received an award from the National Association of Veterans and Families at the River Club in Jacksonville. The annual award is presented to those who have significantly demonstrated a passion for the well-being of all veterans. Tony and Sharon were also honored by Vitas Hospice their service and sacrifice to U.S. citizens in several nearby counties.



Tony is currently President of Chapter 1046 of the Vietnam Veterans of America.

Tony and Sharon have served as advocates for Vietnam veterans throughout Northeast Florida.

"It's important to search for our Vietnam veterans, and their family members and personally thank them for their service and sacrifices. Never again will one generation forget its veterans. Sharon and I are truly grateful for this award," said Tony.

Their "Welcome Home" to veterans has truly healed the hearts of many. Tony and Sharon are true Champions for Northeast Florida veterans.

For more information on the Vietnam Veterans of America Association, Chapter 1046, please contact Anthony (Tony) D'Aleo, president@vva1046.com, (904) 910-2386.

The website is <http://www.vva1046.com/contact-us>

June 11th was ALR 88's check presentation to Sulzbacher. We were very honored to have the President & CEO of Sulzbacher, Cindy Funkhouser, at our Post to accept a check for \$9,650.00. Also in



attendance were members from the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1046, who presented a \$2,000.00 check to Sulzbacher. When we were deciding which charity we wanted to support, our first criteria was that it be in our home town of Jacksonville. We wanted to see

where our money was going, what it was doing and to whom it was helping. Sulzbacher has more than exceeded our expectations.

We have seen the expansion with the Sulzbacher Village and its space for women veterans, we've

been to the "Transformations" event where we heard & met veterans helped by Sulzbacher, we have had homeless veterans join us on the Fun Run, we've enjoyed being



with members of the staff from Sulzbacher who have come out to our Bike Nights at Los Loros Mexican Restaurant and we have been able to deliver hundreds of toys to the children living at Sulzbacher. It is our hope that someday soon every veteran living on the streets in Jacksonville will find a home & Sulzbacher is making that wish come true.

NEVER FORGOTTEN

★ **THEIR SACRIFICE** ★ **OUR MISSION** ★

EVER ONWARD



**NATIONAL POW/MIA
RECOGNITION DAY**



SEPTEMBER 20, 2019

WWW.DPAA.MIL

Join us in Jacksonville on July 20-21 for the Department of Florida's Summer DEC Meeting. Where Purple Heart recipients from all over Florida converge and determine the best course of action on how to provide assistance to Veterans and their families throughout Florida. They do this all while they continue to build camaraderie amongst each other!

It should be a great weekend! — with Department of Florida MOPH Auxiliary.



We invite you to attend the Summer Department Executive Committee Meeting for the Department of Florida of the Military Order of the Purple Heart in Jacksonville, Florida this July 20-21. We will be conducting the business of the Order, building a fellowship amongst our Combat Wounded Veterans, as well as sharing lessons learned and successes throughout all of the Chapters here in Florida.

These DEC meetings are critical to the success of our Department. These face to face interactions allow us the opportunity to engage each other directly regarding the way ahead for our Order and participate in a constructive discourse. Unfortunately, the Department has to make hard fiscal decisions in this tumultuous time for our Order and so the Commander will not be approving any hotel room reimbursement for this DEC.

For more information please contact the Department Adjutant Bill Smith at billsmith@comcast.net or at 904.210.7362.

Agenda:

July 20:		
1 pm - 3 pm	PHVFL Board Meeting	Flagler Room
3 pm - 4 pm	Bylaws Committee	Flagler Room
4 pm - 5 pm	Finance Committee	Flagler Room
July 21:		
9 am - 12 pm	DEC Meeting	Flagler Room



Location:

Hotel:	Holiday Inn Jacksonville E 295 Baymeadows
Address:	11083 Nurseryfields Drive Jacksonville, FL 32256
Room Rate:	\$109.00 per night (Includes Breakfast)
Group Code:	MPH
Reservations:	904.854.8000 or https://bit.ly/2XQzprK

By Emily Bloch ebloch@jacksonville.com

Some men golf on their days off — not Clarence Hollowell.

The 60-year-old Jacksonville Beach Post Office mailman spends his Sundays cleaning veterans' headstones at rundown cemeteries. And Memorial Day weekend was no exception.



Sunday morning, with the sun already sweltering at the Old City Cemetery in Springfield, Hollowell directs his focus to two graves. One, a captain named S.L. Tibbitts, the second, 1st Lieutenant Joseph H. Huau. When Hollowell finishes cleaning their headstones, he'll write the names down on a sheet of paper and do some investigating. Just as he's done for 600 names already.

"I go to Ancestry.com and find out about them," he said as he gestures to his "pride and joy," a simple, rounded headstone down the path he's already finished revitalizing. It looks squeaky clean next to its weathered surroundings. It's the marker of James H. Savelle, who died in Fort Bliss Texas in 1918. "He died from influenza," Hollowell said.

Hollowell, who comes from a family of military and served in the Army himself, moved to the Five Points area of Jacksonville in December to be with his fiancée.

"We never had winter here," he said. "I think I wore pants maybe a dozen times."

Today, he wears cargo shorts and a Salt Life baseball cap.

Before that, he lived in North Carolina, delivered mail and cleaned headstones there, as well.

"Everybody's gotta have a project," Hollowell said. "And I think if you can help the community, even better."

On his day off, the veteran drives to the old cemetery with only a few tools — a plastic scraper to remove growth, a soft bristled brush, a toothbrush for small areas, water and a special cleaning solution he orders online.

The cleaning solution, called D/2 Biological Solution, is the only solution approved for use at national cemeteries. It costs Hollowell about \$40 a gallon.

"I just start from one corner and work," he said as he scrubs Tibbitts' grave vigorously with his soft brush. He estimates he's cleaned about three dozen graves at the Jacksonville cemetery, which was established in 1852. "If one person comes over and looks, I'm happy."

The approximately 50-acre cemetery is split off into sections: There's an area for emancipated slaves, Masons, Catholics, Jews and Confederate soldiers.

Hollowell cleans veteran graves in all the areas, except for a pristine patch that's already regularly maintained by the local Sons of Confederate Veterans branch.

Lately, he's done a round of headstones from what he thinks were members of the U.S. Colored Troops — an Army branch from the early 1800s comprised of minority groups.

"A veteran is a veteran" he said.

From start to finish, headstones will take about two or three weeks to clean. It begins with scraping off any growth on the exterior, then pouring water and going over nooks and crannies with the soft bristled brush. Then, Hollowell sprays the special solution and steps back for 15 minutes or so. That's where the magic happens.

Similar to pouring hydrogen peroxide on fabric to brighten it, the solution Hollowell sprays gets absorbed by the stone, killing off bacteria and leaving it a pale yellow color before finally brightening to a light gray.

"I'll work on this for about an hour," he said. "Back and forth. It's just like your hair. You rinse and repeat."

First Lieutenant Huau and Captain Tibbitts' headstones will be white by the end of summer, Hollowell estimates. Then, he'll do some research — that is, what he hasn't already Googled out of excitement.

Within an hour from finishing up on Sunday, the mailman already had news to tell: "S.L. Tibbitts was a Captain from Maine. At one time he was the Postmaster at Tallahassee. Died at age 51. His first name was Simon."

At the Old City Cemetery, there are hardly any flag decorations to honor vets — a sharp contrast to Jacksonville National Cemetery, which was lined with tens of thousands starting as early as Thursday.

"Every town has a story," Hollowell said. "These guys probably never left their hometowns and, let's face it, had the greatest adventure of their whole lives."

He pauses a moment to reflect, "They were 18, 20-year-old boys that didn't come home," he said. "My definition of Memorial Day is they gave their tomorrows so I could have mine today."

*******MISSING IN AMERICA PROJECT*******

NATION WIDE PROGRESS AS OF 5/17/2019

Total Funeral Homes Visited - 2,335
Cremains Found - 19,452
Veterans Cremains Identified - 4,274
Veterans Interred - 3,944



MIAP - FL PROGRESS AS OF 5/23/2019

Total Funeral Homes Visited - 175
Cremains Found - 1646
Veterans Interred - 290
Spouses Interred - 107
Dependent Interred - 1
Missions Completed - 19
Mission Scheduled - 1 (6/08/2019, South FL National Cemetery)
Approved to be interred in the near future - 51

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO SHARE THIS INFO.

Kathy Beaudoin Church
MIAP-FL State Coordinator
(904) 219-3035

The logo consists of the letters 'V4V' in a bold, serif font. The 'V's are dark blue with white stars, and the '4' is white with a blue outline and stars. The background is a faded American flag.

Together We are Stronger

**Keeping our Veterans
Informed, Connected, United, and Organized**

V4VFlorida.org

Vets4VetsNJax@gmail.com

Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram: @Vets4VetsNJax

#vets4vetsjax #Jointhevetsmovement #Togetherwearestronger



Mission Statement:

**The Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc.
is a 501 C3 Not-For-Profit Florida Corporation.**



The Veterans Council of St. Johns County is comprised of representatives from various veterans' organizations that work with city and county governments and organizations to assist with matters concerning veterans and veterans' activities.

What the Council has done:

- The Veterans Treatment Court
 - Wreaths Across America
 - Homeless Veterans Standdown
 - Veterans Day Parade
 - Vets 4 Vets
- And so much more...

5A-0003147064-01

Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc. Minutes of May 30, 2019

Officers present: Chairman Bill Dudley, Vice Chairman Ray Quinn
Secretary Michael Rothfeld, Treasurer John Mountcastle was not present
Chairman Dudley called the meeting to order at 1900 hours

Chairman Dudley led the Pledge to the Flag Vice Chairman Ray Quinn gave the Invocation
Minutes were approved as presented Treasurer's Report was approved as amended
Introduction of Guests: Mike Lee, Oliver Brown, Christine Short

Speaker: Dr. Susan Parker, Historian spoke about military families in Spanish St. Augustine
from both the 1st and 2nd Spanish periods. Soldiers were usually deployed
out of town and it was the wife's and children that were in St Augustine. Roy-
al Spain needed St Augustine because of favorable trade, and to deny the town
to the English. Many complained of starvation, but that was not the case.
Sometimes there were food shortages, but no one starved. In the beginning,
there were no schools, but soon schools for boys followed. Girls were not al-
lowed in school. In 1763 all were ordered to leave as England took over.



Committee Reports:



Mac: Mac briefed the Council on the VA van, new Agent Orange presumptives
and progress of Blue Water legislation.

John L: VVA 1084 Golf Tournament was successful and will be
repeated again next year.

Vets in the Classroom finished a successful campaign, speaking
to over 2580 students in all county high schools.

VTC: 3 veterans graduated with 26 participants, 17 mentors and 3 candi-
dates.

Kathy, MIAP: she is planning on working with the Craig Funeral Home in St Augustine and
then do a service at Jax National.



Bill: new CBOC estimated start of work is summer 2019 and finish 12 months after start. The new CBOC will be named after Leo C Chase and was supported by congressman Rutherford, & Waltz and Sen. Rubio. Memorial Day programs very successful in St Augustine & Jacksonville, may use JROTC, Sea cadets, etc. for Massing of Colors. Plans underway to allow veterans to use hospital at underutilized NAS Jax.



For Good of Order: Tony D'Aleo asked for support for a braille plaque for blind veterans to be hung at the Jax National Cemetery. Local veterans groups stepped up and the money was donated.



David Treffinger, Clay County VVA 1059, the new Middleburg VA clinic will be named after Andrew K Baker who lived in Middleburg. Expected to open in the spring of 2020.

Bob Adkins: VVA 1048 Volusia County: will be hosting "Pipes, Drums & Patriots" on Aug. 3 in the Peabody Auditorium.

Meeting adjourned at 8:36 pm, The next meeting of the Veterans Council will be on Thursday, June 27, 2019, 7 pm in the Health & Human Services Building, 200 San Sebastian View.

Future speakers:

- June 27 Kevin Crowell, Sgt US Army Paratrooper, ret. D Day + 75 years paratrooper
Zahara Veterans Network
- July 25 Bruce Thompson, Vets4Vets NE FL
Chris Young, Special Forces Association, NE FL Chapter 88
Bob Alvarez, Historical Military Reenactor
- August 29 Gerald Timoney, Military Museum of N. FL
Crystal Timmons, Veterans Garden Project
- Sept. 26 Bob Buehn, Capt. USN, (Ret), former Commanding Officer, Guantanamo Bay
Char Miller, Community Hospice, Veterans Programs
- Oct. 24 Chris Vedrick, Commander Dept of FL Military Order of the Purple Heart
- Nov. 21 Emily Jane Murray, Public Archeology Coord, Flagler College, The Seminole Wars and How it Changed All of Us

From: Jessica Bradstreet, L.C.S.W., Local Recovery Coordinator
Department of Veterans Affairs, NF/SG Veterans Healthcare System,
904-239-8812

Just wanted to provide you with some additional links and document attached (Social Media Suicide Prevention Efforts/Strategies) - feel free to share them to your Facebook page and within the Council, within your mailing lists, and save for use as needed.

<https://www.va.gov/welcome-kit/> A lot of good Enrollment/Intro VA information

<https://psycharmor.org/courses/s-a-v-e/> A public/community focused Suicide Prevention training- Free

<https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/> VA Link/Program

<https://www.mirecc.va.gov/coaching/> VA Link/Program

<https://maketheconnection.net/> VA Link/Program

https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/suicide_prevention/docs/Office-of-Mental-Health-and-Suicide-Prevention-National-Strategy-for-Preventing-Veterans-Suicide.pdf

Thank you,

Jessica Bradstreet, L.C.S.W.

Web Resources:

<https://www.va.gov/welcome-kit/>

<https://psycharmor.org/courses/s-a-v-e/>

<https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/>

<https://www.mirecc.va.gov/coaching/>

<https://maketheconnection.net/>

Jessica Bradstreet, L.C.S.W., Local Recovery Coordinator,
Department of Veterans Affairs
NF/SG Veterans Healthcare System, 904-239-8812

Mission Act Communication Plan

For billing/claims issues, Veterans should contact the Community Care Contact Center (C4):

1-866-606-8198

If a Veteran is already in collections, they should call the Adverse Credit Report line:

1-877-881-7618

If the Veteran needs assistance with appointments, referrals, and authorizations, they should contact our local Community Care call center:

1-888-493-3260

MISSION Act Call Center is established for general questions and basic eligibility or they can visit <https://missionact.va.gov/>.

1-844-698-2311

Below is a list of other VISN 8 Community Care Customer Service Call Centers if you should have traveling Veterans with questions regarding their appointments, referrals, and authorizations not coordinated at NFSG.

Bay Pines: 1-727-398-3252

Miami: 1-305-575-7666

Orlando: 1-407-646-4100

San Juan: 1-787-641-7582

Tampa: 1-866-972-8201

West Palm: 1-561-422-6470

A friendly reminder that first call resolution is the goal when any Veteran contacts the facility. Please use the Mission Act resources shared to attempt to answer questions as we continue to learn together. Thank you.

The NF/SG Healthcare System

This is your Invitation to attend An Interest Meeting! To learn more about building a Council within the St. Augustine VA Clinic and Community.

When: Tuesday Aug. 13th 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m., Where: St. Augustine VA Clinic
195 Southpark Blvd. St. Augustine, FL. 32086 Room #110

Why: Collaboration among the VA and local organizations for improved Mental Health specific experiences and resource sharing.

If you would like more information, Email or Call: Jessica Bradstreet, L.C.S.W.

Local Recovery Coordinator, Jessica.Bradstreet@va.gov, 904-239-8812

What is a Local Recovery Coordinator?

Jessica Bradstreet, L.C.S.W. • (904) 239-8812 • Jessica.bradstreet@va.gov

Recovery is “a process of change through which individuals work to improve their own health and well-being, live a self-directed life, and strive to achieve their full potential.” (SAMHSA, 2012)

Purpose of LRC Role: “There is a mental health provider at each VAMC to help Veterans with serious mental illness (SMI) access recovery oriented services. The LRC provides education and support to Veterans, family members, the community, and VA staff members about mental illness and recovery. The LRC promotes activities that remove barriers and stigma that may be associated with mental illness and ensures that veterans with SMI have access to the rehabilitation and recovery services needed to attain their goals.”

“...Inform and improve all levels of MH care.”

“...participates in identifying and addressing barriers to high quality continuity of care.”

Often collaborates with community providers; Recovery Services (MH Care) Projects and Initiatives

Goals of the LRC Role: To help veterans and the VA system understand that mental health is essential to overall health.

To create a MH system that is veteran- and family- driven.

To eliminate any disparities, stigma, or discrimination associated with mental illness.

To promote full access to recovery-oriented services at every VA location and at every point of contact with veterans.

To ensure that excellent recovery-oriented care is delivered and that the VA system builds the body of knowledge about recovery.

To learn how technology can be used by veterans and family members to access resources and support the journey of recovery.

Transparency, education, and advocacy to Community Providers, Networks, Councils of Veterans

2019 Vietnam Veterans of America Daytona Beach Chapter 1048 Presidential Volunteer Service Award Recipients



Photo by Janice Mashnoug Nixon

L-R~~~VVA 1048 1st VP Bob Adkins, Treasurer Rick Minor, President Rod Phillips, Director Bob Bendlin, Director Jim Drake and AVVA 1048 George Reagan (not pictured AVVA Representative Diana and Director Terry Schaack) are the proud recipients of the 2019 Vietnam Veterans of America Daytona Beach Chapter 1048 Presidential Volunteer Service Award Program (PVSA).

President Rod Phillips, VVA 1048 PVSA CEO/Executive Director registered VVA Chapter 1048 with PVSA in 2014. More.....<https://www.presidentialserviceawards.gov/> rlp/

Marine Vet Dies Alone With No One To Claim Him Until Bikers Show Up To Grab Casket For Tribute

By LittleThings

Military members whose bodies were not claimed by relatives were once laid to rest with little to no acknowledgment.



Some veterans die homeless or without surviving relatives to claim them. Then there are those who do have surviving relatives but, sadly, they simply do not want to claim them.

If anyone deserves a dignified funeral, it's these heroic men and women who risked their lives to serve their country. Robert Krause served as a Marine in the 1950s. When he died, he had no family and no one to claim him.

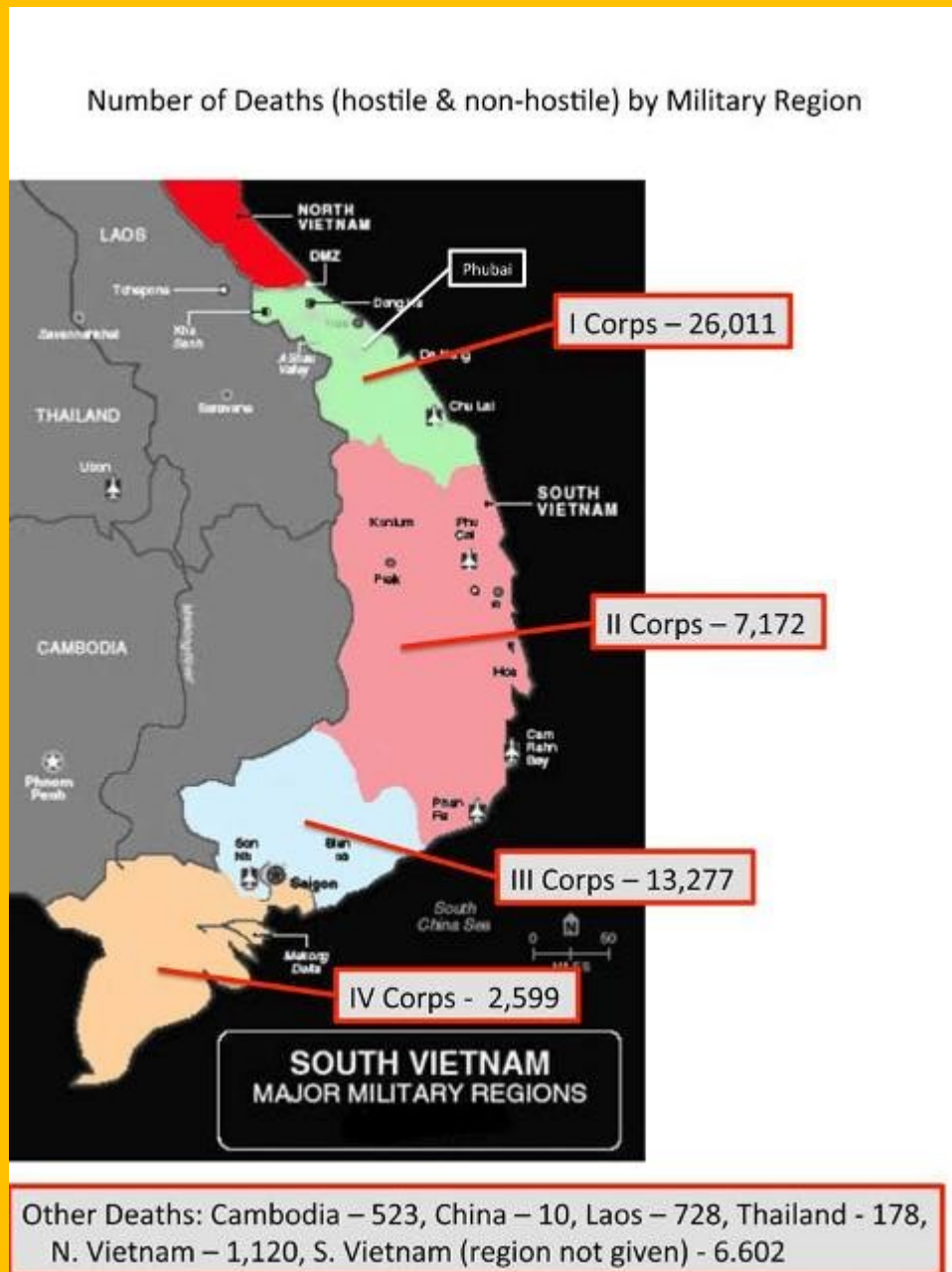
"I've heard it said that a veteran dies twice: once on the battlefield and the second time when people stop saying his name," says Marine Corps and US Army veteran Nick Morales. "If there's anything we can do to prevent the latter, so be it."

And so Nick and his other volunteer bikers showed up at Robert's funeral service to escort his casket from the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital to the Florida National Cemetery. Robert received the send-off he so deserved, complete with a motorcycle escort and a beautiful rolling tribute of the Taps bugle call.

They were there to proudly speak his name.

From Rod Phillips on Facebook:

I posted this in "Where were you in Vietnam" page and thought I would share with "I Corps". Did you ever wonder what Corps had the most deaths? I took this info from the Defense Casualty Analysis System in about 2011, so it isn't quite up to date (reflects 58,210 deaths)



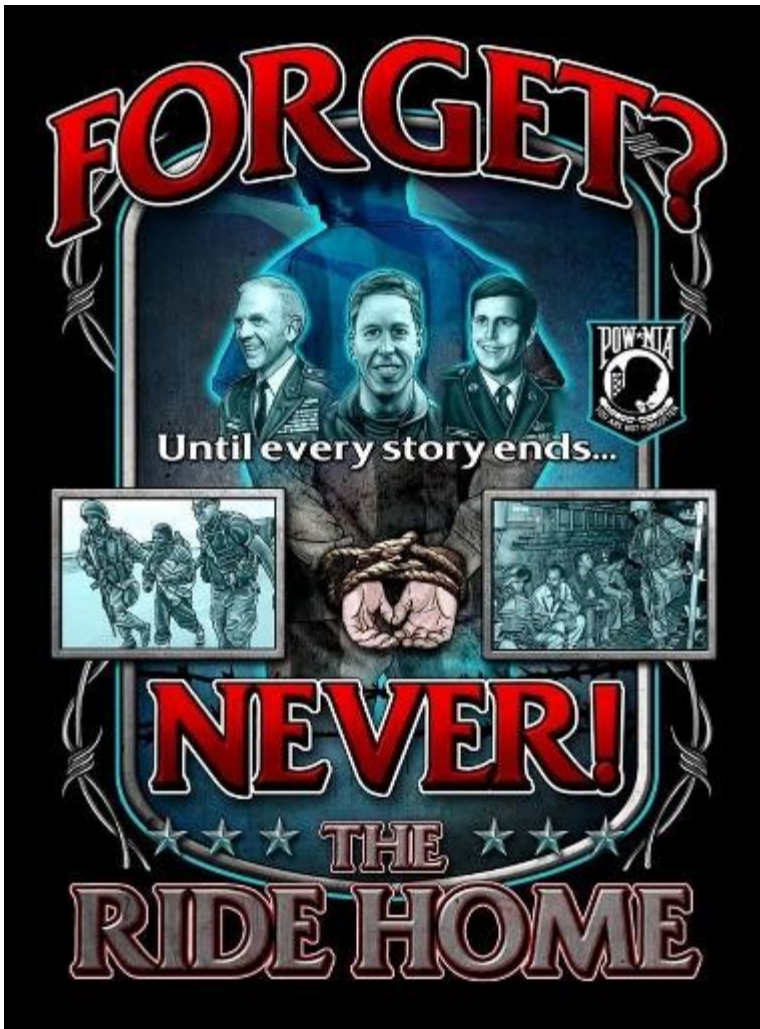
10 things you didn't know about the Army

June 14 is the birthday of the U.S. Army. According to the U.S. Army Center of Military History's website – at history.army.mil – it was on June 14, 1775, that “the Continental Congress authorized enlistment of expert riflemen to serve the United Colonies for one year.”

The site also includes information about the specific birthdays of the Army's basic and special branches. Those are interesting factoids in themselves, but here are some other things you might not know about the institution.

1. Before World War II, 45th Infantry Division members wore a swastika patch on their left shoulder in honor of Native Americans. It was changed to a thunderbird in the 1930s. (via USO)
2. The Army was tasked with mapping America, including the Lewis & Clark expedition. Army officers were some of the first American citizens to see Pikes Peak and the Grand Canyon. (via USO)
3. The Army was the last service branch to adopt an official song. On Veterans Day 1956, “The Army Goes Rolling Along” was so declared. (via USO)
4. Twenty-four U.S. presidents served in the Army, including in state militias that supported it during the American Revolution and the Civil War. (via Mental Floss)
5. And two of them are connected: in the famous painting “Washington Crossing the Delaware” by Emanuel Gottlieb Leutze, the man holding the flag alongside future president George Washington is future president James Monroe. (via Mental Floss)
6. There are Army astronauts, who wear astronaut wings. One is retired Col. Douglas Wheelock, who logged 178 days in space after serving as the first active-duty soldier to command the International Space Station. (via Mental Floss)
7. If the Army was a city, it would be the 10th-largest in the United States. (via We Are the Mighty)
8. And it owns so much land that if it was a state, it would be larger than Hawaii and Massachusetts combined. (via We Are the Mighty)
9. In 2011, each soldier required 22 gallons of fuel per day on average; a soldier during World War II only required 1 gallon of fuel per day on average. (via Fact Retriever)
10. The oldest active-duty infantry unit is the famous 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment, also known as "The Old Guard." Stood up in 1784, the 3rd is an official ceremonial unit and escort to the president of the United States, and is also in charge of the "Changing of the Guard Ceremony" at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The Old Guard received The American Legion's Distinguished Service Medal in 2016. (via Fact Retriever)





Left- Colonel F. James Thompson -	26 March 1964 - 16 March 1973
Right - E-5 USAF Bill Robinson -	20 Sept 1965 - 12 February 1973
Center- Captain Scott Speicher -	17 January 1991 - 14 August 2009
Left Middle - <u>Spc. Shoshana Johnson</u>	23 March 2003 - 13 April 2003
Right Middle - <u>Spc. Edgar Hernandez</u>	23 March - 13 April 2003
PFC Patrick Miller	23 March - 13 April 2003
<u>Sgt. James Riley</u>	23 March - 13 April 2003
<u>Spc. Joe 'Gump' Hudson</u>	23 March - 13 April 2003

2019 shirts! \$25. each (includes shipping)

We do NOT have web master so please do snail mail,
shirts are not on pay pal merchandise yet!

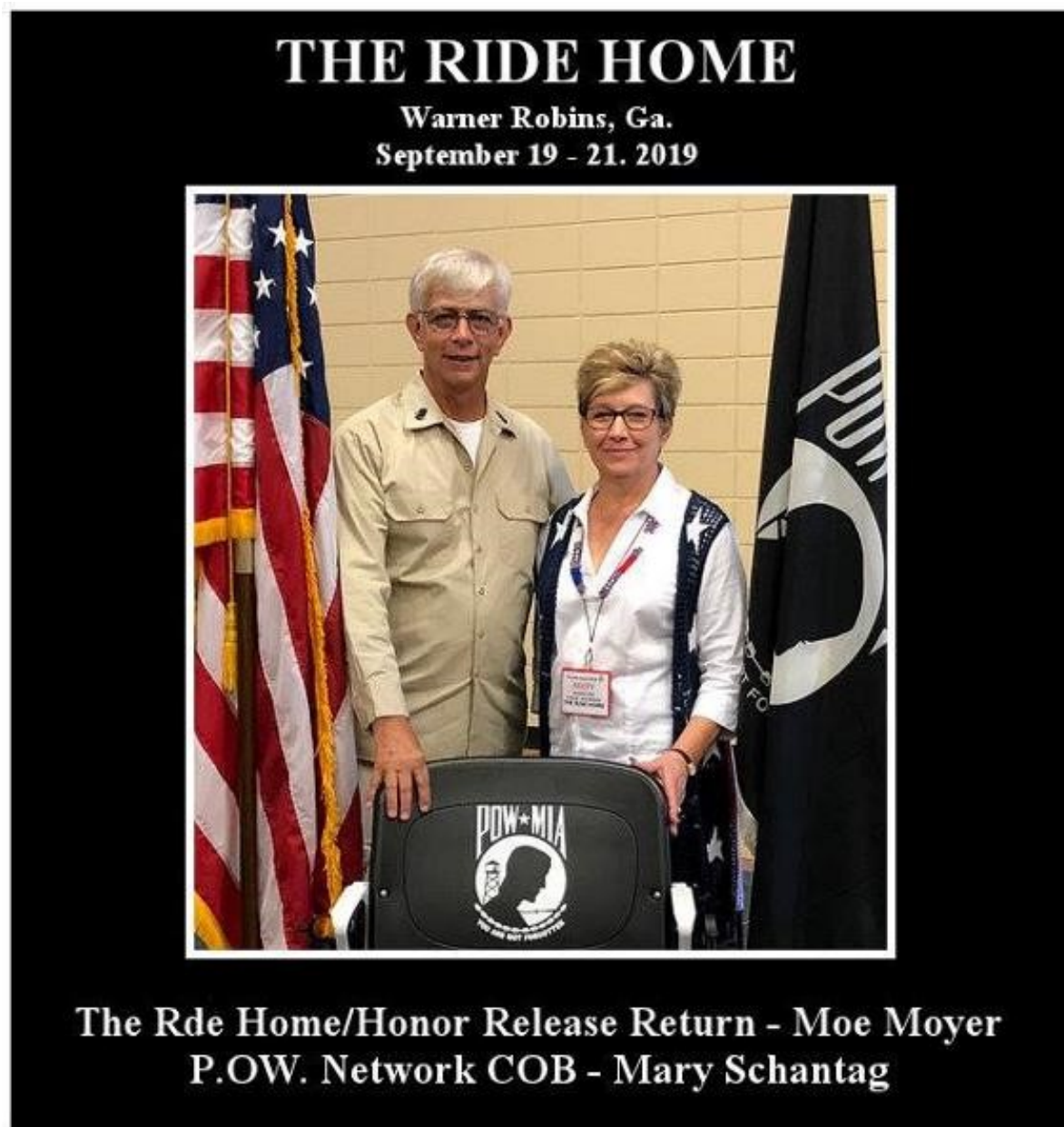
Short sleeve red or black. Long sleeve sports grey.

The Ride Home

3818 Litchfield Loop

Lake Wales, Fl. 33859

Moe Moyer and Mary Schantag are busy preparing for THE RIDE HOME 2019 which will be held at the Museum of Aviation in Warner Robins Ga. September 19 - 21, 2019. The Vietnam Traveling Wall will be on exhibit during The Ride Home.





ClearCaptions™ Thanks You!

Please join your local ClearCaptions Title IV ADA Specialist, Anas Benjelloun, for **pizza and conversation**. We will be discussing how you can receive a **NO COST** caption phone and captioning service if your hearing loss makes it difficult to use the phone.

Where: Main Library 1960 N. Ponce de Leon Blvd

Date: Tuesday, June 25th, 2019

Time: Noon to 1:00 p.m.

RSVP: 904-568-4562

clearcaptions.com

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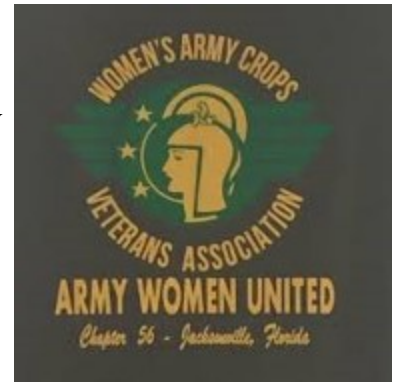

ClearCaptions.

JACKSONVILLE - At a time when most women were not allowed in leadership roles in the military, this woman served in World War II.

Meet Martha Burt, who served as a secretary in the military during the 1930s and 40s. After serving, she joined the Women's Army Corps of Jacksonville.

"The organization started in '69," Burt said. "I joined in '79."

Burt has served as a chaplain, historian and overall leader for WAC, and at 97 years old, she's still has an active role in these women's lives.



From month to month, the group helps local veterans and each other. Laura Wickett is the group's historian.

"The women in World War II, they pave the way," Wickett said. "They are trailblazers for a generation of which women in the 50s, 60s and 70s. The latter WACs, we pave the way for those women that came out of West Point and out of service academies and ROTC."

The group is small, at just over 20 members, but they are committed to service, marking 50 years.

A reminder that veterans never stop serving.

<https://www.news4jax.com/news/women-army-corp-celebrates-50th-anniversary>



2019 "Salute Across America" Tour

16 City Tour across the US paying Tribute to Veterans & Patriots

.....

Honoring the Importance of Sacrifice, Honor, Courage & Patriotism

Purpose of Tour:

* Show Appreciation to Our Nations Heroes

* Inspire Patriotism, Community & Camaraderie



Vietnam Veterans of America Daytona Beach Chapter 1048

Congratulations to JROTC Cadet True Pienaar, Deland High School, the recipient of the JJ Martin JROTC Leadership Award, Scholarship and VVA 1048 Challenge Coin, pictures below with Rod Phillips





PIPES, DRUMS & PATRIOTS
A Celtic Musical Celebration of America's Heroes



PIPES, DRUMS & PATRIOTS
A Celtic Musical Celebration of America's Heroes

PIPES, DRUMS & PATRIOTS

A CELTIC MUSICAL CELEBRATION OF AMERICA'S HEROES

SAT AUG 3RD 2019 @ 7PM
TICKETS START AT \$12

ENTERTAINMENT BY
THE GLASGOW GIRLS CELTIC BAND & FRIENDS



BAGPIPE BANDS LED BY SENIOR DRUM MAJOR KEN MISCH &
5 TIME WORLD CHAMPION DRUM MAJOR JASON PAGUIO



EARLY BIRD GROUP
DISCOUNT!
BUY 10 \$12, \$22 OR \$32
TICKETS BEFORE 6/22
AND GET 12!
(AVAIL ONLY AT BOX OFFICE)



SPONSORED BY
VIETNAM VETERANS
CHAPTER 1048. ALL
PROCEEDS TO BE
DONATED TO LOCAL
VETERANS CAUSES.

Peabody Auditorium, Daytona Beach, Florida
Tickets available from Box Office or www.peabodyauditorium.org

A question we all may have to ask some day. What should I do if a Veteran passes away?

SECTION 8 Partial list of action to be undertaken upon the death of veteran or retiree.

1. Contact Funeral Director to set-up funeral arrangements and Military Honors (PAFB Mortuary Affairs)
2. Notify Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) (<https://cust-support.dfas.mil/rapiti/nod/>) or call 1-888-332-741
3. Notify Veterans Administration 1-800-827-1000
4. Notify Social Security Administration 1-800-772-1213
5. Notify Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) 1-800-538-9552
6. Notify VA Life Insurance, if applicable 1-800-669-8477
7. Notify SGLI and VGLI Insurance, if applicable 1-800-419-1473
8. Notify Civil Service Retirement System, if applicable 1-888-767-6738
9. Obtain at least 10 certified copies of long form death certificate and 10 copies of short form death certificate from Funerals Directors
10. Notify Life Insurance companies, and file appropriate claims
11. Notify Medical, health, disability, travel and accident insurance companies, and file appropriate claims
12. Notify Home owners insurance company
13. Notify Vehicle insurance company
14. Go to the County Property Appraiser's Office and transfer all real estate properties to surviving spouse.
15. Apply for widowed person's Homestead Exemption
16. Apply for appropriate (VA, Civil Service and other) benefits, if applicable
17. Apply for Veterans Burial Benefits and Survivor Benefits, if applicable
18. Check for non-government pension benefits, if applicable
19. Apply for Workmen's Compensation Benefits if applicable.
20. Notify your Accountant or Tax Preparer (unless Estate Lawyer is preparing the final tax returns) provide certified death certificate, previously filed tax return forms, and current earnings and dividend statements.
21. Notify your investment broker or company.
22. Change ownership of joint or solely owned stocks, mutual funds, etc.
23. Cancel any unfulfilled orders arranged by the deceased
24. Notify IRAs and other retirement and investment account administrators
25. Transfer the ownership of bonds
26. Notify your bank(s) and credit union(s)
27. Change all jointly held accounts and correct tax identification numbers (usually Social Security Numbers) (Leave joint accounts intact for 6 months)
28. Cancel direct deposit retirement benefit payments (for SBP, Civil Service and others, if applicable)
29. Re-establish the Title of your safe deposit box
30. Re-establish all outstanding mortgages, personal notes, etc.
31. Apply for any credit life insurance that may exist on loans, credit cards, and mortgages
32. Change Certificates of Deposit
33. Go to Department Of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to transfer titles of all registered vehicles, mobile homes and boats.
34. Notify all credit card companies and cancel all individually held cards of the deceased
35. Review trusts for required actions, if required.
36. If a Will must be probated, contact your attorney. Your name may also need to be revised.
37. Cancel the deceased's Voter Registration and Drivers License.
38. Obtain new military identification cards. Make appointment at <https://rapids-appointments.dmdc.osd.mil/default.asp> or contact Patrick AFB ID Card Section at 321-494-6144/6147
39. Send "Thank You" cards for flowers, memorial donations, food, etc.

From Nila Thompson



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

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At Coastal, we believe that a visit to the doctor's office can be a relaxing experience. Come in for your appointment and let our massage exam chairs, hot towels and aromatherapy ease the stresses of your day. From diabetic care to ingrown nails to reconstructive surgery, our board certified physicians can help you with all of your foot and ankle needs. Call today experience the Coastal difference for yourself.



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(904) 349-0456



Kathy Jordan
(904) 401-0476

*** As a **VETERAN**,
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Navy to Navy Homes Llc
10605 Theresa Drive, Suite 5
Jacksonville, FL 32246
Office: 904-900-4776

RAFFLE TO HONOR LOCAL COMBAT WOUNDED VETERANS

DEL-TON DT1

AR - 15

.223 / 5.56

Tickets Only
\$20



100% of the Proceeds Go to MOPH 524 a 501(C)(3) Non-profit Organization Committed to Supporting Local Combat Wounded Veterans and Their Families.

Drawing Will Be Held on Veterans Day:
NOVEMBER 11, 2019

You do not need to be present to win. Must be legally able to own a firearm in order to win.

PROCEEDS GO DIRECTLY TO HELP ENPLACE A PURPLE HEART MONUMENT IN THE JACKSONVILLE NATIONAL CEMETERY.

**ROBERT C. PADGETT JR MEMORIAL CHAPTER
MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART
CHAPTER 524**

www.moph524.org/moph-raffle




2ND ANNUAL PURPLE HEART
**POKER
RUIN**



REGISTRATION
\$20
Per Hand

Saturday August 10

STARTS  ENDS AT THE BAYMEADOWS ADAMEC HARLEY-DAVIDSON

FOOD - FUN - FREEDOM

REGISTRATION 9 - 11 AM / FIRST BIKE OUT AT 11 AM / FIRST BIKE BACK AT 2 PM

ALL MOTORCYCLES WELCOME!

**\$200 FOR THE BEST HAND - \$100 FOR 2ND BEST HAND
\$50 FOR THE WORST HAND**

ALL PROCEEDS HELP CREATE A PURPLE HEART MEMORIAL
AT THE JACKSONVILLE NATIONAL CEMETERY

MORE INFO: (904) 553-4183 - WWW.MOPH524.ORG





Free National Park Service Lifetime Access Pass for Disabled Veterans

Many Veterans, with a service connected disability rating, are entering Federal parks for free with the Lifetime National Parks Access Pass from the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service. The Access Pass also admits disabled any passengers in their vehicle, and other discounts such as camping, swimming, board launching, and guided tours.

The National Awards Committee has once again recognized the St Augustine/Palm Coast Council as one of the top performers throughout the Navy League. This year, we received Honorable Mention out of the 214 councils worldwide. This is the 3rd year in a row that SAPCNL has been recognized as one of the top performing Councils.



I would like to extend my congratulations to all our Council members, especially our elected leaders and unit liaisons for your hard work and leadership in making this award possible for the 3rd consecutive year.

**William Dudley, Past Council President SAPCNL
Chairman, Veterans Council of St. Johns County**

The American Legion Post 194

Make plans to help us celebrate 71 years of serving veterans in the St Augustine community.

Contact Post for more info and tickets. 904 829 8189.



Alton Green Memorial American Legion Post 194
71st Anniversary Dinner

Saturday 7 September

Cocktail Reception & hors d'oeuvres at 6 o'clock
3 Meat Buffet with Trimmings at half past 6

\$25 Per Person Donation

**Featuring Special Guest Speaker
Lt Col rt'd Bruce Alexander**

 Lt Col rt'd Bruce Alexander	 Serving America's Military Families	 #tbt Citadel vs USC
--	---	---

Former Citadel and All-European Football Standout, Former Deputy Commander 11th Operations Group, Current Vice President of Communications at Operation Homefront.

1029 Pearl Street St. Augustine



rans
s Line




Veterans Crisis Line

73-8255
PRESS 1

1-800-273-8255 **PRESS 1**




STAND BY THEM

Confidential help for
Veterans and their families

73-8255
PRESS 1

**NATIONAL
SUICIDE
PREVENTION
LIFELINE**
1-800-273-TALK (8255)

..... Confidential chat at VeteransCrisisLine.net or text to 838255



Military/Veterans Crisis Line

1-800-273-8255




Veterans Crisis Line

1-800-273-8255 **PRESS 1**

Confidential chat at MilitaryCrisisLine.net or text 838255

From the Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert Wilkie, to all of our Veterans and supporters across the country, a note explaining the Mission Act.

Bringing Bipartisan Reform to Veterans

Imagine if Republicans and Democrats worked together to pass reforms that improve the lives of millions of people. And imagine if those reforms put America's Veterans at the center of their healthcare decisions, leading to better customer service for our Nation's heroes.



This isn't hypothetical. It happened last year when Congress passed the MISSION Act.

Through state-of-the-art facilities, cutting-edge technology, and increased clinician recruiting and retention incentives, VA continues to enhance its coordinated care system through high-quality VA health care and community care provider networks.

The legislation sailed through Congress with overwhelming bipartisan support and the strong backing of Veterans' service organizations. President Donald J. Trump's signature put us on a path to implementing these reforms. On June 6, the MISSION Act will enable VA to consolidate the Department's community care efforts into a single, simple-to-use program that will empower Veterans with the ability to choose the healthcare providers they trust.

So what can Veterans expect after June 6?

Less red tape, more satisfaction and predictability for patients, more efficiency for our clinicians, and better value for taxpayers. Veterans will be eligible to get community care for a variety of reasons, including when VA can't provide the treatment they need or when care outside our system is in the best medical interest of the patient.

We listened to Veterans and heard they preferred standards based on drive times rather than driving mileage because those standards better reflect Veteran experiences, especially in large urban areas with lots of traffic.

To ensure our Veterans are spending their time getting care instead of driving to it, patients facing an average drive time of 30-minutes or more for VA primary or mental healthcare, or non-institutional extended care services, will have the option of choosing a community provider closer to home. For specialty care, the drive-time standard will be an average of 60 minutes.

And to get Veterans the care they need when they need it, VA patients facing a 20-day or more wait time for primary or mental healthcare, or non-institutional extended care services, will have the option of choosing a community provider who can deliver that care faster. For specialty care, the wait-time standard will be 28 days.

Alton Green Memorial AL Post 194 71st ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

Alton Green Memorial AL Post 194
71st Anniversary

RIB BATTLE

September
28th

BRING THE FAM!

Games Eats Music Prizes & More

Entry:	Fire Up	1st	\$500
\$50 &	at 7am	2nd	\$150
3 Slabs	Judging	3rd	\$50
of Ribs	at 2pm		

1029 Pearl St. 32084 Call Cmdr. Greene at 240-412-1325



Alton Green Memorial
AL Post 194
71st Anniversary

GOLF Tournament

Saturday
8:30 a.m.
September
28th

Cimarrone
Golf Club
2800 Cimarrone Blvd.
Jacksonville, FL 32230

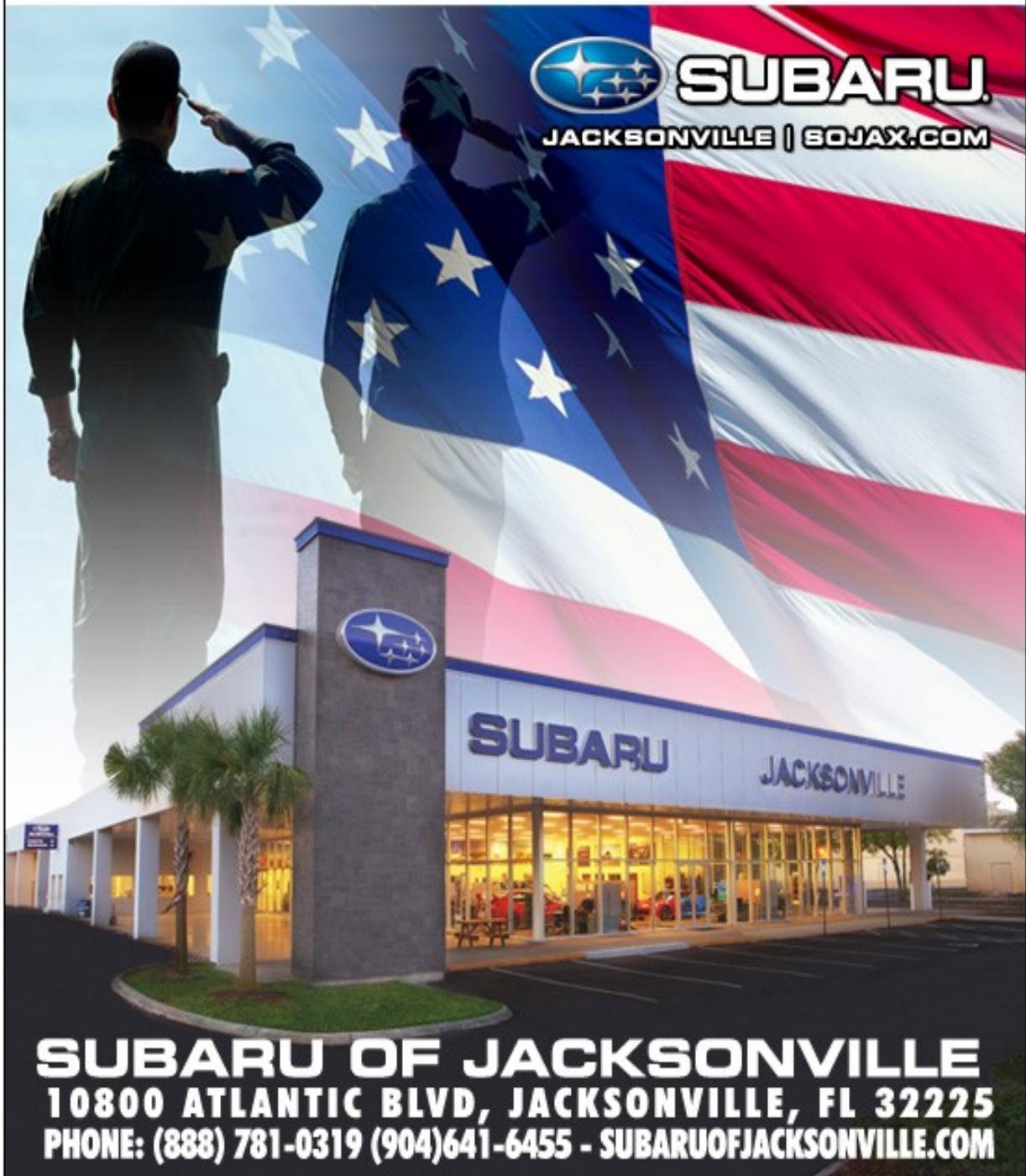




Charity Event to Benefit AL Post 194 Veterans & their Kids Safe Zone Program
Registration 7:00 am \$100 Per Player

Contacts: Charlie Ellis: ceellis@bellsouth.net 904 501 8299
Bob Ostefeld: bobostefeld@comcast.net 904 615-7258
Dwight Swearingen 904-228-3628 dswearmigen01@bellsouth.net

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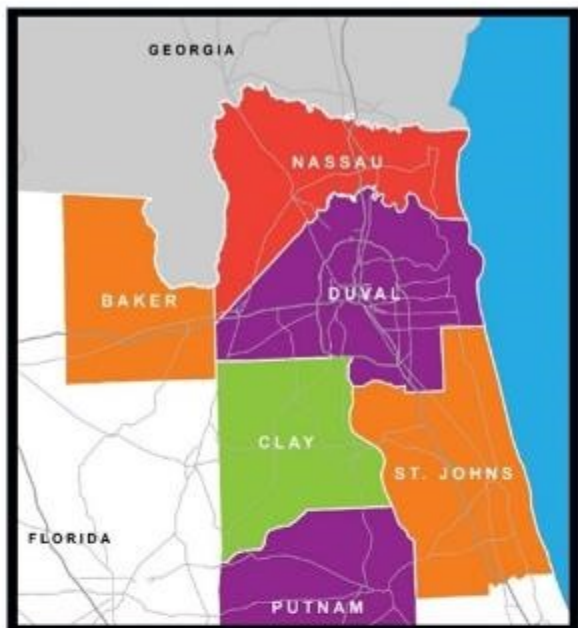
OPERATION HandUP (8/21/2018 – 9/8/2018)

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

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

Deliver to:
2133 Broadway Ave.
Monday – Friday 9:00am – 3:00pm
904-862-6039
www.forwomenvets.org

Veteran County Councils of Northeast Florida



Duval County

President: Steve Spickelmier

Meetings:

Third Tuesday of each month in the 40/8 Building

Located at the American Legion Post 137
5443 San Juan Avenue

7pm

Nassau County

President: Paul Kicker, Chairman
Veterans Council of Nassau County

76347 Veterans Way,
Veterans Service Office

Yulee, FL 32097

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

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:

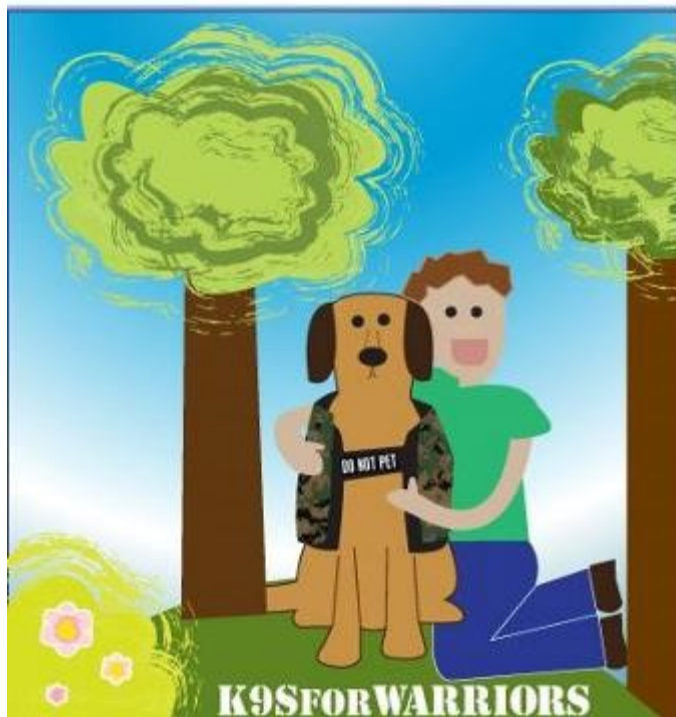
info@VeteransCouncilofStJohns.org



What Are the Benefits of PTSD Service Dogs?



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



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

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

MISSION BACKGROUND

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

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

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



A FEW QUOTES SUBMITTED BY OUR NATIONAL LEADERS



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

U.S. Congressman
John Rutherford

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

U.S. Senator
Marco Rubio

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

U.S. Senator
Bill Nelson



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

MISSION STATEMENT

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

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

MEMORIAL STRATEGIC PLAN

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

- Restore and use the historic chapel (named the "Chapel of the High-Speed Pave") for memorial services, ceremonies and weddings.
- Enhance the existing sacred grounds of the park and to construct a replica of the USS Saratoga (CV-60).
- Refurbish and utilize existing building 533 as a starting point for the POW/MIA memorial center and museum.
- Establish a new memorial center - to honor all Former Prisoners of War, acknowledge those still Missing in Action; feature the history of the Prisoner of War/Missing in Action flag; house the history of NAS Cecil Field.
- Educate the public on the Prisoner of War and Missing in Action issue through exhibits, videos, artifacts and memorabilia.
- Establish a national destination for military remembrance and celebration (there is not a national memorial for all Missing in Action in the United States).



Hero's Walk & Freedom Trees



Chapel of the High-Speed Pave



Starburst Sculpture

CECIL FIELD NATIONAL POW/MIA MEMORIAL PARK



HOW YOU CAN HELP HONOR OUR MILITARY HEROES



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

Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc.
612 New World Avenue Jacksonville, Florida 32227

ONLINE PowMiaMemorial.org

- Facebook.com/Cecil-Field-POW-MIA-Memorial-Inc-1084025864845232/
- Twitter.com/CFPOW/MIA
- Instagram.com/cecilfieldpowmia/

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

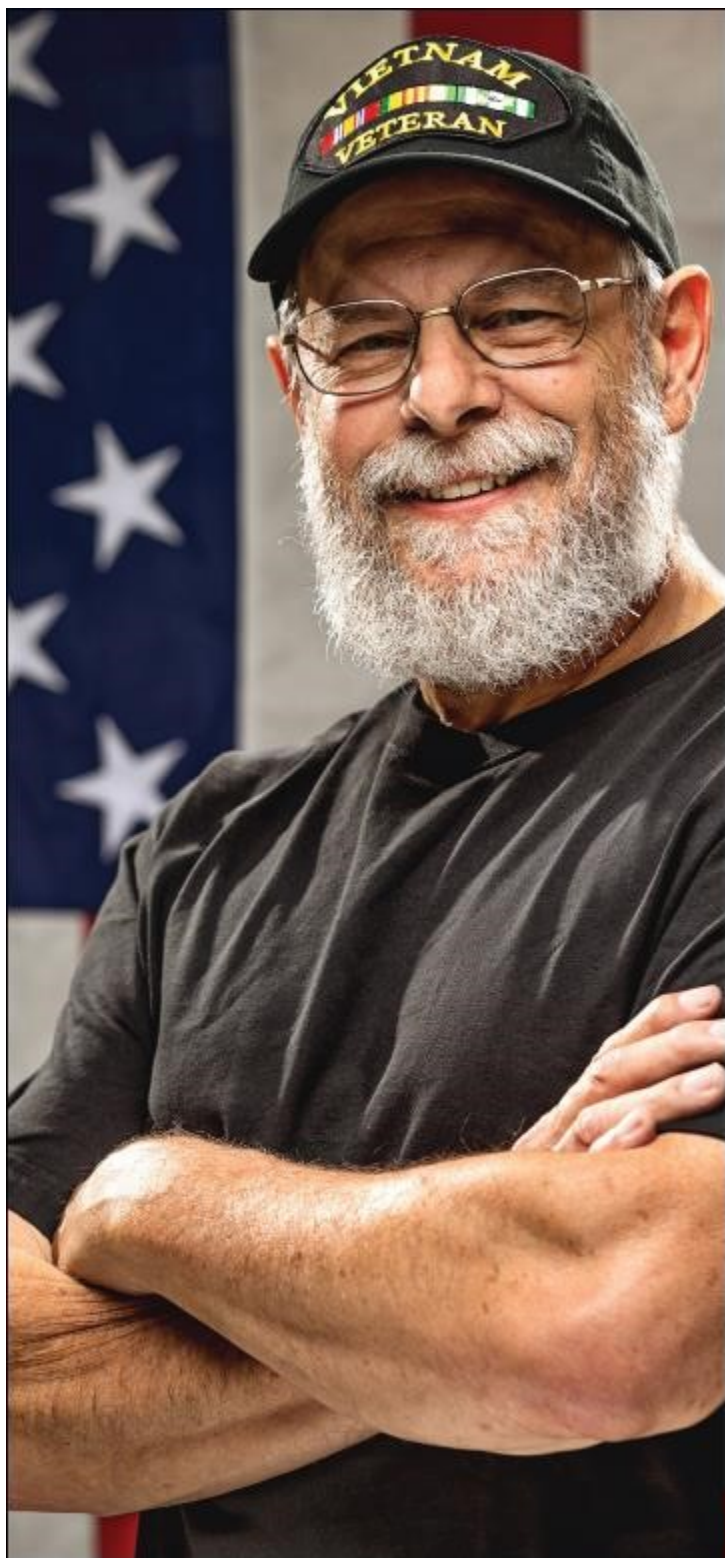
36 Granada Street, St. Augustine FL 32084

(904) 679-5736

Corazoncinemaandcafe.com



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



SERVING VETERANS SINCE 1979

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

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

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



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

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





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

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

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



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

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

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

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



We are inviting all veterans to visit our website at:

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

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

Please join our group on Facebook at:
VeteransCouncilofStJohnsCounty,FL

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

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

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

You may have noticed the Veterans Council's new logo, it was created by Roy Havekost and his web design company PageAuthors. The VC strongly recommends that you contact Roy, 727-487-6252, if you or your vet group wants to create a website or Facebook page.

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



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

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



**SURVIVOR
OUTREACH SERVICES**

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

Contact Keith Ham

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

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Michael J. Pelkowski • David D. Naples, Jr.

*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
Travis Neidig, 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.