



The Patriot Reader Newsletter

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St. Augustine, FL 32085

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Message from the Chairman

Fellow Veterans:

This weekend many will be taking advantage of the 3 day holiday to enjoy family outings, go to the beach, picnics, take a short trip, enjoy the kids being out of school or take advantage of the beginning of summer sales. All fun things provided by an extended weekend to be with family and friends. But I would encourage everyone to stop and reflect on the real purpose of the 3 day weekend....to honor those men and women who have paid the supreme price for the freedoms we enjoy in this great land. Memorial Day which has been observed on the last Monday in May since 1968 when it was designated by Congress under the Uniform Monday Holiday Act instead of May 30 when it had been previously observed. This year it just happens to coincidentally fall on May 30. For Veterans and families of veterans, this day is sacrosanct. A day in which we pause from our activities to honor those who have paid the supreme price. We must never forget them nor the debt

they paid for our freedom. At National Cemeteries around the country these warriors will be honored. I hope everyone will take the time from their busy schedule to attend our Memorial Day Service at our St. Augustine National Cemetery.

On Tuesday, May 3, Judge Howard McGillin and I appeared before the Board of County Commissioners to present a request for funding for a full time employee for our Veterans Treatment Court. The position is for a VTC Coordinator. By a vote of 5-0, the County Commissioners unanimously approved our request. In addition to approving our request, the Commissioners expressed strong support for our initiative in establishing a VTC in St. Johns County and spoke highly of what we do to support our veterans. Reciprocally, on behalf of the Veterans Council, I would like to express appreciation to our County Commissioners and County Administration for their support of our veterans. On May 18, I attended the County budget hearings. The County Administration budgeted \$100 thousand in the Court's budget



for a full time Coordinator which includes salary and administrative costs.

One of our local radio stations, WSOS 103.9 FM would like to set up a program on the air to honor veterans. VSO Officer Joe McDermott and I recently met with the show's producer, Rand Middleton to discuss the agenda for the show. This will be a great opportunity for our various veterans' organizations to be on the show to talk about their organizations and to highlight upcoming events. We will also feature individual veterans who would like to share any experiences about their time in uniform. It will be a one hour segment on Thursdays at 4 PM. The show will be broadcast live from Beaver Toyota on US 1 South. If any of you are interested in coming on the show, contact either Mac or myself and we will be happy to schedule you for one of the segments.

Bill Dudley Chairman
Veterans Council of St. Johns County



Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home

Where Patriotism is our Motto



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



Third graders from Turning Point Christian Academy put on a "Living Museum" for the residents. This is Pocohontas talking to Joe.



Sally Ride explaining her story



"Red" enjoying Cinco de Mayo

One week every May is National Nursing Home Week. Clyde E. Lassen SVNH has competitions all week long between the residents/staff of Delta and the residents/staff of Alpha. The following photos are from those competitions.



Pie Eating Contest



The Price Is Right



Taste Test Competition



Thank you to the Knights of Columbus for treating us to a Suns Baseball game!



Volley Ball Competition



Thank you to Good News Church and the Christian Motorcycle Club for the cook out!



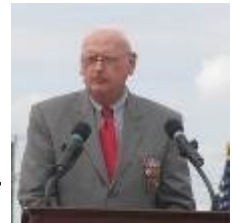
Enjoying the cook-out



At the Baseball Game



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



JNC SC Chairman,
Ray Quinn

The Support Committee invites everyone to attend its **next scheduled meeting, on Monday, September 12, 2016.** The meeting will be at **7:00pm.** The meeting will take place at Community Hospice, **4266 Sunbeam Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32257 in Conference Room A.**

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

Chairman: Ray Quinn

Vice Chairman: Bill Dudley, Treasurer: John Mountcastle

Assistant Treasurer: Michael Rothfeld, Secretary: Kathy Church

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

JAG Officer: Patrick Bennett, Historian: Jody Raymond



Memorial Day Ceremony at Jacksonville National Cemetery



St. Johns County Veterans Treatment Court program inching toward launch

By JAKE MARTIN jake.martin@staugustine.com

Used with permission of the St Augustine Record and its author



Judge Howard McGillin

St. Johns County veterans caught on the wrong side of the justice system after serving their country may soon have a local program through which to receive treatment — and a second chance.

The County Commission on Tuesday unanimously authorized county staff to develop a budget request for the next fiscal year for a Veterans Treatment Court program.

Bill Dudley, chairman of the St. Johns County Veterans Council, and Howard O. McGillin Jr., a 7th Judicial Circuit judge, gave commissioners a presentation on a project they said they've been working on for nearly three years. Dudley said the Veterans Treatment Court program is one of national prominence and is already working “with a high degree of success” in nearby Duval, Clay and Volusia counties.

He said many of today's veterans leaving service and returning home are suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury, as well as other physical and emotional maladies.

“Many of our veterans are unprepared to adjust on their own,” Dudley said. “Unfortunately, they often wind up in situations where they make bad decisions because of alcohol and drugs due to PTSD.”

He and McGillin said many veterans are simply not aware of the resources available to them and that it's increasingly important to intervene early and effectively.

Having a criminal record only exacerbates the situation of a veteran facing the difficulties of returning to civilian life.

“Veterans Treatment Court is, in many ways, drug court on steroids,” McGillin said. “It is a multidisciplinary approach. It is based on selective participation by only qualified veterans.”

The goal is to reduce incarceration while simultaneously getting troubled veterans the help they need to adjust.

The trick, McGillin said, will be finding the right candidates.

A veteran has to be able to get benefits through Veterans Affairs in order to be eligible for the program. Those with dishonorable or bad conduct discharges are ineligible. Qualifying offenses are most misdemeanors and up to third-degree felonies, including some lower-level violent offenses.

“The veteran will have to volunteer to be part of the program, admit responsibility, admit that they need help and be willing to engage in the services,” McGillin said.

Veterans successfully completing the program could have their charges dismissed and ultimately expunged from their records. Failure to attend treatment and/or other program requirements can result in sanctions that include a weekend in jail or removal from the program.

McGillin said based on a recent analysis of veterans in the St. Johns County court system, he would anticipate between 3-5 veterans participating in the 12-18 month program at a time.

Dudley said they have all the elements of the program in place with support from the St. Johns County Sheriff’s Office, VA, the offices of the State Attorney and Public Defenders, and the 7th Judicial Circuit.

McGillin said the Sheriff’s Office already identifies veterans at the time of their arrest.

“As a judge doing first appearances, I’ve already seen, in the last week, five come across my desk with the big red veterans stamp on it,” he said.

Dudley said a full-time coordinator position will be required to provide day-to-day oversight and maintain files for each veteran in the program.

Estimated annual costs for the Veterans Treatment Court include \$65,000 for one full-time coordinator and \$35,000 in administrative costs such as substance abuse testing.

McGillin said while less incarceration translates into lower operating costs for the Sheriff’s Office, particularly with the county jail, there are also payoffs not as easy to quantify.

All five commissioners expressed support for the program and the alternative approach to helping veterans break the cycle of recidivism.

“The bottom line is, it’s the right thing to do for our veterans who have laid their lives on the line for us,” Dudley said.

The St. Johns County Fiscal Year 2017 Administrator’s Budget Hearings are scheduled to start at 9 a.m. May 18-20 at the St. Johns County Health and Human Services Building, 200 San Sebastian View.

Editorial from the St. Augustine Record, May 11, 2016: Veterans need help, not punishment: They've been there already

Posted: May 10, 2016

St. Johns County commissioners this week directed staff to give them a budget item for the coming fiscal year that would fund, or at least partially so, a Veteran's Treatment Court.

The idea isn't new. There are hundreds up and running across the nation. As many as 11,000 vets are currently in the program. But, according to one study, about 700,000 vets are currently caught in the criminal justice system, either heading to jail or in there. We've got a long way to go.

Certainly there are veterans who've done bad things and gotten caught. But there are far too many who come out of the service with disorders, both physical and mental. Some have drug problems. Some have money problems. Some have family problems. Some have them all.

Incarceration often completes a sickening cycle of failure. The perception is as dangerous as the fact. The veteran's court program understands this and deals with it differently.

Following arrests, veterans are identified and aren't randomly assigned a judge. They're assigned a judge trained to deal with these problems and who sees the big picture. The vets enter a familiar military structure. It's something most understand and can relate to. They're in the program with other vets, not gang members, drug dealers or petty thieves. They understand the comrades' bond.

It's a military program, according to justiceforvets.org: "The judge becomes the Commanding Officer, the Veteran Mentors become the fire team leaders, the court team becomes the company staff and the veteran defendants become the troops.

"Veteran defendants are standing before the judge at parade rest saying 'Yes, ma'am/sir,' and there is interaction with and support from their fel-

low veterans.”

The cost to county taxpayers is projected to be about \$100,000 annually. Seventh Judicial Court Judge Howard McGillin looks to be the point man for the program. He told commissioners that he'd had five veterans' files come across his desk for first appearances that week. Incarceration in our county jail costs about \$22,000 annually. And it is not insignificant that 20,000 of our county taxpayers are veterans themselves. Some will be participants. Vets have to volunteer for the program, admit responsibility, ask for help, and use the services correctly and willingly — only those with honorable discharges are allowed in.

If it does “take a village,” this program is on solid ground, with participation by the Sheriff's Office, the county Veterans Services Office and the State Attorney, Public Defender and judges of our Seventh Judicial Circuit.

It's difficult to imagine that our local VFW, American Legion and other veteran-related posts would not become involved in the program. They all serve resident vets, and this is but one more avenue through which to accomplish that goal. More of these service organizations' men and women than you might imagine have “been there” and through a stroke of luck, a helping hand, a loving family or simple grit, “got out.”

Bottom line is, if there is an alternative to incarceration, we should try it. Punishment seems especially crass for veterans whose service may have caused the first wrong step.

Commissioners voted unanimously to support the program. So should we all.

It will likely save money. It will save families.

And it has a track record of returning lost soldiers to a quality of life equal to what they tried to protect for the rest of us.

Fair is fair.

Vietnam's Sky Soldiers remembered with new memorial at Jacksonville National Cemetery

By [Dan Scanlan](#) reprinted in its entirety as published in the FL Times Union

The simple memorial stands in the shadow of Jacksonville National Cemetery's 40-foot, three-bell carillon tower near pristine white headstones in the 526-acre site. Planted on a walkway, the new memorial honors "The Sky Soldiers of the 173rd Airborne Brigade who served with honor."

Just two weeks before the nation honors its veterans on Memorial Day, the Florida chapter of the 173rd Brigade Association dedicated this memorial Friday to the 1,731 members killed in action in six years of combat in the Vietnam War. The marker, third of nine it is installing in military cemeteries in Florida, also honors its 8,345 wounded in action in Southeast Asia battles of the 1960s and '70s.

For William Smith, a U.S. Army Ranger and Purple Heart recipient who was in the 173rd in those Vietnam days, the display on the 7-year-old cemetery's Memorial Walk brings back memories for him.

"It does, as I see some friends who I served with," the 80-year-old Jacksonville man said. "... The unit I served with was one of the best and I think of all the fallen heroes who it is dedicated to."

Cemetery director Alphaeus Richburg said the 173rd's marker is part of a planned series of memorials that will line a walkway ringing a lake, pointing to others nearby honoring Vietnam War veterans, Pearl Harbor victims and the Marine Corps.

"I understand what the 173rd Sky Soldiers are, and it is a monument to their accomplishments and for those who have fallen and for the victories they have gathered over the years," said Richburg, an Army veteran himself. "... We are just now building this history, and monuments like this will show visitors that we have people interred here from different wars and units who really gave their all."

Sky Soldiers took part in 14 campaigns during Vietnam, earning four unit citations, 1,772 Silver Stars, 52 distinguished service crosses and 13 Medals of Honor. That makes the 173rd Airborne the most decorated combat brigade in Army history, according to statistics. More recently the brigade deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, earning another unit citation, four distinguished service crosses, 32 Silver Stars and three more Medals of Honor as 33 more were killed.

A handful of Florida brigade veterans Friday joined Ronald Smith, an 173rd artillery officer in 1969 in Vietnam, as he offered a prayer.

"We thank you for those who served with us at various times both in Vietnam as well as in Iraq and Afghanistan, who lay before us in this cemetery and other cemeteries around the country," the Jacksonville Beach resident said. "We unite with them to give you thanks for the opportunity to be in such an elite unit as the 173rd."

Each "Operation Honor Roll" marker costs \$3,500, most raised by the veterans themselves, he said. The association plans to install the next one at Tallahassee's veterans cemetery, then Miami and Fort Lauderdale over the next two years. Donations can be made at Operation-HonorRoll.com floridaskysoldiers.com/donate-memorial.htm.

Dan Scanlan: (904) 359-4549



The Power of a Pup | K9s for Warriors

by Lyssa • May 3, 2016 •

“War is ugly... it is not pretty,” says **Shari Duval**. “These men and women write a blank check to our country and give their lives. They come home from combat as changed people. They’re depressed, angry, and have survivor’s guilt. We have a responsibility to take care of these veterans. That is why I am here. That is why K9s For Warriors is here. I am a mom to every warrior and each of them have a special place in my heart.”



Shari started the 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization K9s For Warriors after her son, Brett, came home from Iraq with PTSD. She was desperate to find a way to get him back. Because Brett was a police and civilian dog-handler, Shari believed she could bring her beloved son back through starting a charity that trains service dogs for PTSD veterans.

K9s For Warriors was born. The mission of K9s is to train loving service dogs and pair them with post 9/11 veterans afflicted with PTSD, TBI, or MST. Having a K9s For Warriors’ service dog has already helped over 200 veterans reintegrate back into civilian life. 95% percent of the dogs used in the program are rescued, extending the amount of lives saved beyond that of veterans.

Shari is known as “Mom” to every veteran that walks through the doors of the K9s For Warriors program. There are 22 veterans a day that are taking their lives because they have exhausted every avenue trying to recover their minds, bodies, and souls from the grim details of combat. Shari’s goal is to put an end to this heart-wrenching statistic and to ensure that our veterans receive dignity, respect, and proper care.





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

We are inviting all veterans to visit our website at:
<http://www.veteranscouncilofstjohns.org>

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

Please join our group on Facebook at:
VeteransCouncilofStJohnsCounty,FL

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

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

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

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



Exclusive Movie Screening of

"The Bronx Bull"

A Martin Guigui Film
to benefit

Florida National Guard Foundation

and

K9S FOR WARRIORS

June 18, 2016

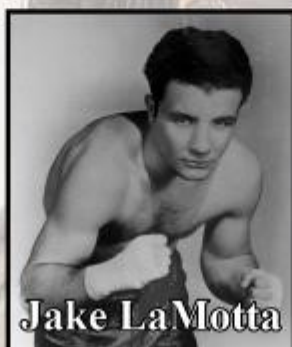


Robert F. Ensslin Armory, 2305 SR 207 St Augustine, FL

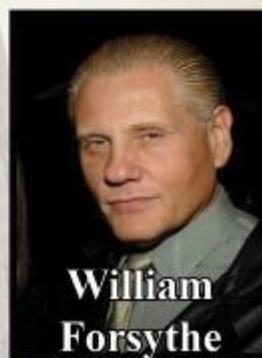
Scheduled to Appear



Martin Guigui
Director



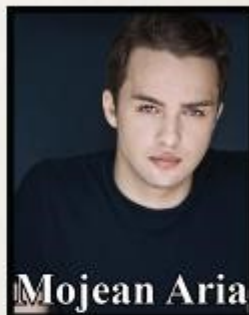
Jake LaMotta
"The Bronx Bull"



William Forsythe



Tom Sizemore



Mojean Aria



Casa Monica
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HARBOR
COMMUNITY BANK
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Special performance
by
Benton Blount
America's Got Talent
Finalist



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INSURANCE

Tickets available at
www.floridanationalguardfoundation.org/tickets

MISSING IN AMERICA PROJECT

Our Progress to Date - as of 5/18/2016

Total Funeral Homes Visited - 1,974

Cremains Found - 13,096

Veterans Cremains Identified - 3,023

Veterans Interred - 2,761



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



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36 Granada Street, St. Augustine, FL 32084

Remembering Florida's fallen heroes

Stephanie Kim, WTLV 6:22 PM. EST May 01, 2016

ST. JOHNS COUNTY, Fla. -- May is national military appreciation month, and in honor, a St. Johns County Church is doing something more to remember Florida's fallen service members.



The field outside of River of Life United Methodist Church is lined with 463 crosses, each with a name and picture to represent the 463 Florida-born service members who lost their lives in the Afghanistan and Iraq wars.

Sunday was the Opening Ceremony of the field of crosses, located at 2600 Racetrack Rd.

Dozens of community members gathered to pray and pay their respects, "It's not about us, it's about all of us. That we are a community with all of those families that we represent and those families in our communities as well," said Rev. Tony Fotsch with the River of Life church.

This is the first year the church is hosting the memorial. It will be open for visiting from dawn to dusk all month long.

Fonda Mosal of Julington Creek is a member of the church and served in the Army for 20 years.

Fonda Mosal of Julington Creek is a member of the church and served in the Army for 20 years.

"To see a name, see a face, it brings it home. It says 'hey, these are real people, these aren't just any people going off to war, these are our loved ones, someone's loved one,'" she said.

There is no charge or expected donation to visit the memorial.

The River of Life United Methodist Church will be holding an honoring ceremony on May 29th, at 10:30 a.m.

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



TIP # 16A01-03

DATE ISSUED: April 27, 2016

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

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

New, Simplified Application

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

Departmental Review of Expiring Certificates

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

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

Department will use available public information to determine whether an organization

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

STATUS OF THE POW/MIA ISSUE: May 19, 2016

1,620 Americans are now listed by DoD as missing and unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War: Vietnam - 1,263 (VN-465, VS-798); Laos-301; Cambodia-49; Peoples Republic of China territorial waters-7. (These numbers fluctuate due to investigations resulting in changed locations of loss.) The League seeks the fullest possible accounting for those still missing and repatriation of all recoverable remains. Highest priority is accounting for Americans last known alive. US intelligence indicates some Americans known to be in captivity in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia were not returned at the end of the war. In the absence of evidence to the contrary, it must be assumed that these Americans could still be alive, and the US Government should not rule out that possibility.

Vietnam established comprehensive wartime and post-war processes to collect and retain information and remains; thus, unilateral efforts by them offered significant potential. Vietnam has since taken many unilateral actions that are welcome and appreciated, plus announced that there are no obstacles to full cooperation. Recently, Vietnam has increased implementation of commitments to provide long-sought archival records with relevant, case-related information, thanks in part to improvement of working-level efforts, but primarily due to increased bilateral relations across the board. The early 2015 League Delegation brought commitments that offered real promise for increased success. First undertaken in northern Vietnam in 1985, joint field operations have dramatically changed and are now much more effective. Vietnamese officials are participating with greater seriousness and professionalism, achieving increased results, including both US-led Joint Excavation Teams and Vietnamese Recovery Teams (VRTs), led by Vietnamese and supported by a few US person-

nel. This formula allows a greater number of teams to “increase the pace and scope of field operations,” as requested by Vietnam during discussions since 2009. Due to increased military-to-military cooperation, US Navy assets are now allowed to participate in underwater survey and recovery operations, when requested. These steps, long advocated by the League, are now coming to fruition and are reportedly are raised by US officials at all levels.

After a rough period, joint field operations in Laos are now increasingly productive, even though more difficult than elsewhere. Accounting efforts had slowed due to Lao Government inflexibility, attempting to over-price payment for helicopter support and denying permission for ground transport to accessible incident sites. Laos is now showing greater flexibility, earlier having increased the number of US personnel permitted in-country, now allowing ground transport to accessible sites, and has renewed a business license to a foreign company to provide reliable, small helicopter support. When helpful, Vietnamese witnesses are also allowed to participate in joint US-Lao operations. DIA’s Stony Beach POW/MIA specialist is assigned full time in-country; however, his efforts are impeded by Lao reluctance to permit him to operate outside the confines of scheduled DPAA field operations. Also, despite strong support from, and interventions by, US Ambassador Dan Clune, a border dispute with Cambodia that was ongoing when the League Delegation visited over a year ago continues to impede recovery operations in that area. The League urges officials in Laos and Cambodia to temporarily set aside their political disagreement and work trilaterally with the US to proceed on this humanitarian recovery.

Related to DIA’s Stony Beach Team, one Cambodia specialist works full time at the US Embassy in Phnom Penh, and research and field

operations in Cambodia have received excellent support. Two Stony Beach personnel have for years rotated on temporary duty in and out of Vietnam, collecting information via archival research and interviews of potential witnesses. Vietnam was long ago requested to permit, and is still reportedly considering, permanent status for these two POW/MIA specialists. Successive US Ambassadors have strongly supported this important move, but increases in bilateral military relations should be sufficient to overcome any reluctance. The US Ambassador to Laos continues to support full use of the Lao specialist. It is hoped that the expanded bilateral relationships with Laos and Vietnam will mean positive decisions on challenges facing this mission. The Stony Beach specialists are sorely needed to augment the investigation process while witnesses are still living and able to facilitate locating incident sites for follow-up DPAA recoveries.

The greatest obstacles to increased Vietnam War accounting efforts are too few qualified scientists and unreliable funding that has caused US cancellation of scheduled operations, thus sending negative signals to foreign counterpart officials, especially in Vietnam. Since over 80% of US losses in Laos and 90% in Cambodia occurred in areas where Vietnamese forces operated during the war, Vietnam's expanded provision of helpful records, improved and increased archival research, interviews and field operations are the core means to expand accounting for Vietnam War missing personnel.

POW/MIA STATISTICS

Live Sighting statistics provided by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA)

Live Sightings: 1,996 first-hand live sighting reports have been re-

ceived since 1975, none recently. 1,941 (97.24%) were resolved: 1,340 (67.13%) equated to Americans previously accounted for (i.e. returned POWs, missionaries or civilians detained for violating SRV codes); 45 (2.25%) correlated to wartime sightings of military personnel or pre-1975 sightings of civilians still unaccounted-for; 556 (27.86%) were determined to be fabrications. The remaining 55 (2.76%) unresolved first-hand reports are the focus of continuing analytical and collection efforts: 48 (2.40%) concern Americans reported in a captive environment; 7 (0.35%) are non-captive sightings. The years in which these 55 first hand sightings occurred are listed below:

Pre-1976	1976-1985	1986-1995	1996-2005	2006-2013	Total
36	3	1	14	1	55

Accountability: At the end of the Vietnam War, there reportedly were 2,583 unaccounted-for American prisoners, missing or killed in action/body not recovered. As of May 19, 2016, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency lists 1,620 Americans as missing and unaccounted-for, 80-90% of them in Vietnam or in areas of Cambodia and Laos where Vietnamese operated during the war. A breakdown by year of recovery for the 963 Americans accounted for from Vietnam War-related losses since the end of the war in 1975 follows:

1965-1974	War years: (recently identified)	2
1974-1975	Winding down USG effort	28
1976-1978	US/SRV normalization negotiations	47
1979-1980	US/SRV talks breakdown	1

1981-1985	1st Reagan Administration	23
1985-1989	2nd Reagan Administration	168
1989-1993	George H W Bush Administration	128
1993-1997	1st Clinton Administration	326
1997-2001	2nd Clinton Administration	57
2001-2004	1st George W Bush Administration	64
2004-2008	2nd George W Bush Administration	62
2008-2012	1st Obama Administration	48
2012-2016	2nd Obama Administration	9

According to the DPAA Lab, unilateral SRV repatriations of remains with scientific evidence of storage have accounted for less than 200 of the 655 from Vietnam; two were mistakenly listed as KIA/BNR in Vietnam in 1968, but remains were actually recovered at that time. All but seven of the 265 Americans accounted for in Laos since the end of the war have been the result of joint recoveries. Six were recovered and turned over by indigenous personnel from Laos and one from Vietnam. In addition, three persons identified were recovered in Vietnam before the end of the war. There follows a breakdown by country of the 963 Americans accounted for since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975.

Vietnam 655	Laos 265
China 3	Cambodia 40

An additional 63 US personnel were accounted for between 1973 and 1975, for a grand total of 1,026. These Americans were accounted for by unilateral US effort in areas where the US could gain access at

that time, not due to government-to-government cooperation with the post-war governments of Vietnam, Laos or Cambodia.

For the latest information, call the League's Office (703) 465-7432 or log onto the League web site: www.pow-miafamilies.org

**NATIONAL COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN ELIGIBILITY
#10218**

Ann Mills-Griffiths

Chairman & CEO

National League of POW/MIA Families

5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100

Falls Church, VA 22041

703-465-7432

www.pow-miafamilies.org

From Peter J. Leger who served with former County Commission Chairman Mark Miner.

Mark Miner with many of the locals. He is the ambassador of goodwill and was a great asset to all of our missions. — with Mark P. Miner in Baghdad, Iraq.





Robert Dinkins and Leo C. Chase Jr. Chapter #1084, Vietnam Veterans of America shared Leo C. Chase Jr. Chapter #1084, Vietnam Veterans of America's photo. Paying tribute at the moving wall at Melbourne, Fl this past Saturday. PFC Chase was killed in the battle of the Ia Drang Valley on November 15, 1965, five days before he was scheduled to rotate home. We renamed our Vietnam Veterans chapter to Leo C. Chase Jr. Of St. John's County in his honor.



The "Rocket Man" Run



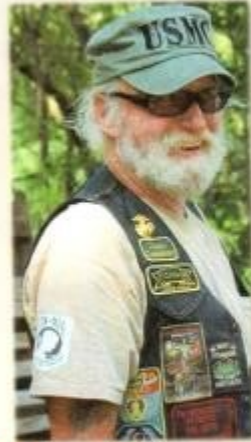
In memory of Wesley "Rocket Man" Roberts



Food - Music



Music By:
Dewy Via
DJ Trashy



Raffle Drawings Benefiting



of St. Johns County, Inc.

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



Vendors - Events

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

Events for Bikes
Hot Dog Grab
Slowest Bike Race
Barrel Push

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

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

10 SEPT 2016

Motorcycles and Cars

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

Jeeps and 4X4s

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



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

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

All proceeds will go directly to the Veterans in need.

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



Dedicated Noncommissioned Officer achieving GreatnessTop of Form

107th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Story by Sgt. Lindsey Morgan

Sgt. 1st Class Marcos Torres, with the 3153rd Financial Management Support Detachment out of St. Augustine, Florida earned the title of Non-commissioned Finance Officer of the Year. Torres is now up for Finance NCO of the Army, after completing a telephone interview a few weeks ago.

Striving to meet goals is one of the key characteristics of any effective leader, but no one can get there without the help and guidance of others.

Sgt. 1st Class Marcos Torres with the 153rd Financial Management Support Unit (FMSU) out of St. Augustine, Florida will be the first to tell you he didn't earn the title of Non-commissioned Finance Officer of the Year on his own. He is aware that his success is due to a team effort, and makes sure his unit shines through his accomplishment.

Every year the National Guard Bureau holds a nation-wide finance unit Non-commissioned Officer of the Year competition. States are able to submit as many Soldiers as they wish into the competition. The Florida National Guard alone sent in nine packets. The selection process is based on the NCOs' accomplishments.

Torres was given two weeks to submit a packet that included his NCO Evaluation Review, Enlisted Record Brief, the Army Physical Fitness Test scores, and a recommendation from his supervisor, Command Sgt. Maj. Beverly Arena.

Sgt. 1st Class Torres said part of his philosophy is to never stop learning and growing as a person.

"I continually do work to improve myself as a leader, which is leadership competency. I am



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both a Master Fitness Trainer and a Master Resilience Trainer, and through physical fitness and resilience I have been able to obtain a high level of confidence,” he said. “I strive to be a Soldier that exemplifies what it means to be a Noncommissioned Officer.”

When asked what advice he had for junior NCOs, Sgt. 1st Class Torres said that he believes personal development is the key to success and achievement, and should be an ongoing process.

“Read personal development books, audio books, TED talks, podcasts and anything you can get your hands on that will make you better,” he said. “Don’t waste your time with television and Facebook – those things will not yield any optimal performance. Work on improving yourself first – both physically and mentally – to have that presence that is required to project military and professional bearing.”

Sgt. 1st Class Torres’ first sergeant, 1st Sgt. Ray Metych, followed this journey every step of the way and has nothing but positive things to say about the dedication of this NCO to his Soldiers.

“He is probably the most caring NCO I know when it comes to his Soldiers,” said Metych. “He does everything above and beyond, dedicating countless hours trying to mentor them and even Soldiers who aren’t under his command. He’s taken up full days driving hundreds of miles to go meet with Soldiers just to talk to them when they were in need.”

The journey isn’t over for Sgt. 1st Class Torres, however. He recently completed a telephone board for the Financial Management Regimental NCO of the Year. Out of 25 NCOs he is the only National Guard Soldier competing for top Finance NCO of the Army.

Sgt. 1st Class Torres said that this process has meant a lot to him.

“When I put in my packet and listed my achievements I thought about the Soldiers, NCOs and officers who made it all happen,” he said. “There is a story behind all those achievements, and I alone cannot take credit for it. It is a humbling experience.”

**From Marie Eck Bullard, Chairman of the USS Indianapolis
Second Watch Organization:**

Here it is - what we've been waiting for!!! The trailer to the USS Indianapolis Men of Courage movie by Hannibal Classics. It is being premiered at Cannes International Film Festival this month and a release date will be announced after that! As soon as I have more information, I'll pass it on right away!

Joe Lanter and I have been in communication with this team at Hannibal for several years and they're been so incredibly dedicated and passionate about telling this story and honoring the men. I couldn't be prouder to see it come to fruition and only wish more of our heroes & family members could see this unfold as well- they would be proud!

Please pass this trailer on and share the news!!!!

Sincerely,

Maria Eck Bullard

Chairman, USS Indianapolis Second Watch Organization

Daughter of USS Indianapolis Survivor Harold Eck

<http://variety.com/2016/film/news/nicolas-cage-uss-indianapolis-trailer-1201766909/>

Governor Rick Scott Awards Major General Burnett with the Governor's Medal of Merit

Major General Burnett served in the Florida Air National Guard for more than 50 years. He also served as Florida's Adjutant General from 2001 until 2010. Governor Scott also awarded 66 veterans with the Governor's Veterans Service Medal.

#MedalofMerit #FLANG #FloridasForce



The Story of the POW/MIA Flag



Heisley planned to add color to the black-and-white image, but those ideas were dropped

By Marc Leepson • Vietnam Magazine

You see it everywhere—the stark, black-and-white POW/MIA flag—flying in front of VA hospitals, post offices and other federal, state and local government buildings, businesses and homes. It flaps on motorcycles, cars and pickup trucks. The flag has become an icon of American culture, a representation of the nation’s concern for military service personnel missing and unaccounted for in overseas wars.

From the Revolution to the Korean War, thousands of U.S. soldiers, Marines, airmen and sailors have been taken prisoner or gone missing. But it took the Vietnam War—and a sense of abandonment felt by wives and family members of Americans held captive—to bring forth what has evolved into the nation’s POW/MIA symbol.

The POW/MIA flag is inextricably tied to the National League of POW/MIA Families, which was born in June 1969 as the National League of Families of American Prisoners in Southeast Asia. Its mission was to spread awareness of the mistreatment of prisoners of war at the hands of their captors. It was the brainchild of Karen Butler, wife of Navy pilot Phillip Butler, who had been shot down over North Vietnam in April 1965, and Sybil Stockdale, whose husband, Navy Commander James Bond Stockdale, was the highest-ranking POW in North Vietnam. Stockdale had been held prisoner since September 1965, when his A-4 Skyhawk went down over North Vietnam.

In 1971, League member Mary Hoff came up with the idea of creating a flag as the group’s symbol. Her husband, Navy pilot Lt. Cmdr. Michael Hoff, had been missing in action since January 7, 1970. Mary Hoff called the country’s oldest and largest flag-maker, Annin Flagmakers of Verona, N.J.

“Mary Hoff called out of the blue. I had no idea what the League of Families was when she called,” Norm Rivkees, then Annin’s vice president of sales, said. “She then explained everything and I went to our president, Randy Beard. There was no hesitation. He just said: ‘Absolutely. We would be honored [to create a flag].’”

Rivkees turned over the job of designing the flag to Annin’s small advertising agency, Hayden Advertising, where the task was assigned to graphic artist Newton F. Heisley.

Heisley, who died in 2009, had served in World War II as a C-46 twin-engine transport pilot with the 433rd Troop Carrier Group. After coming home from the war with a Bronze Star, he received a degree in Fine Arts from Syracuse University and worked as a graphic artist at the Pittsburgh Post Gazette before going to work for Hayden.

After getting the POW/MIA flag assignment, Heisley sat down at his drawing table and sketched three different designs. The one he chose had an image of a gaunt man in profile, with a guard tower and a strand of barbed wire in the background—the design that we recognize today.

When Annin began producing the flag, Heisley was still tweaking its design. He planned to add color to the black-and-white image, but those ideas were dropped.

Heisley modeled the flag's silhouette on his 24-year-old son, who was on leave from the Marines and looking gaunt while getting over hepatitis. Heisley also penned the words that are stitched on the banner, "You are not forgotten."

As Heisley told the Colorado Springs Gazette in 1997, the flag "was intended for a small group. No one realized it was going to get national attention."

It took nearly a decade, but the POW/MIA flag began getting attention in a big way in the early 1980s. In 1982 it became the only flag, other than the Stars and Stripes, to fly over the White House, after it was first displayed there on POW/MIA Recognition Day. In 1989 the flag was installed in the Capitol Rotunda.

It also has the distinction, historians and flag experts believe, of being the only non-national flag that any federal government anywhere in the world has mandated to be flown regularly. That began with a 1990 law to recognize the POW/MIA flag and designate the third Friday of September as National POW/MIA Recognition Day.

In 1998, Section 1082 of the Defense Authorization Act—codified as Title 36, Section 902 of the U.S. Code—mandated that the POW/MIA flag be flown over the Capitol, the White House, the Korean and Viet-nam Veterans Memorials, the offices of the secretaries of State, Defense and Veterans Affairs, of the Selective Service System, and on the grounds or in the lobbies of every major military installation, every post office and all VA Medical Centers and national cemeteries on six days: POW/MIA Recognition Day, Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Fourth of July and Veterans Day.

Since then, some states have passed laws that also mandate flying the POW/MIA flag. Oregon, for example, requires that the POW/MIA flag be flown on or near the state capitol on the same holidays as the national law. In Washington, a 2002 law requires every state agency, every state institution of higher education, and every county, city and town to display the flag on the same six holidays. Florida requires the flag at state parks year round. Arizona enacted a law requiring the POW/MIA flag to be flown over every town and city hall, Superior Court building and county office on the designated holidays. And in 2011, Idaho became the first state to require that the POW/MIA flag be flown over all state buildings, 24 hours a day, seven days a week "or until such time as all our unaccounted for and missing members of the Armed Forces return."

Marc Leepson, arts editor and senior writer for *The VVA Veteran*, is the author of seven books, including *Flag: An American Biography*, a history of the American flag from its beginnings to the 21st century.

Gratitude America

www.vetsguide.org

Mission

VetsGuide.Org's mission is to directly connect veterans and their families to community and government services and benefits. Our resource network of providers in Northeast Florida work together to deliver vital resources for those struggling with reintegration and to mobilize our community's ability to provide wrap-around care. After users have visited the site, they will have the option to receive personal follow-up contact from VetsGuide.Org's care navigators to further ensure successful connections with providers, to measure the impact and effectiveness of the resources, and to encourage help-seeking.

Vision

Every service-member, veteran, and their family should be able to easily access the full range of comprehensive services required to achieve their unique goals and enjoy a first-class service experience in Northeast Florida.

Veterans often return home with a wide range of injuries that are compounded by a sense of isolation and multiple deployments. Their families have also been thrust into their own repeated deployment modes. These issues are worsened by the difficult nature of connecting with the available services and programs for our warriors. VetsGuide.Org strives to provide value to Northeast Florida veterans and military families by identifying gaps in access to care and facilitating the development of partner-driven solutions to close these gaps. We are committed to enabling lasting improvements in the lives of our service members and their families through our resources network. Once we have developed a strong foundation for VetsGuide.Org in Northeast Florida, we plan to expand VetsGuide.Org to additional communities that are in need of such a resource and where key stakeholders have shown enthusiasm towards our programs.

About Gratitude America

GratitudeAmerica champions VetsGuide.Org and was founded in 2011 by Lewis Jordan and his wife, Joni. GratitudeAmerica is a local 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides critical support for our past and present military service members and their families during their transition to civilian life. We provide this support by offering restorative retreat programs to assist participants affected by deployment exposures such as Post Traumatic Stress and Traumatic Brain Injury, and by connecting warriors and their caregivers to resources through our network of community partners.

Retired Army Lieutenant Colonel Glenn Sutphin was appointed Interim Executive Director of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs by Gov. Rick Scott and the Cabinet April 26, 2016. The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs, on behalf of the Governor and Cabinet, is the premier point of entry for Florida veterans to access earned services, benefits and support. His official biography is below.

Regards, Steve Murray, Lieutenant Colonel, USAF (Ret), Communications Director



Glenn Sutphin

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Colonel Sutphin served as Legislative Affairs Director and Chief of Staff for the Florida Department of Military Affairs from March 1999 until his appointment as FDVA Interim Executive Director.

He entered active duty service as an enlisted soldier in 1969, received his commission as a Field Artillery Officer, and finished his military service in the Florida National Guard. The colonel, who is qualified in five branches of the Army, led soldiers in seven operational deployments during his 30 years in uniform before retiring in 1999.

The colonel's civilian education includes a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration from the University of South Florida and a Master of Science degree in Business Management from Central Michigan University.

His personal awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, three Meritorious Service Medals, three Army Commendation Medals, an Army Achievement Medal and four Humanitarian Service Medals. He is a recipient of several National Guard decorations, including the Florida Cross, the Florida National Guard's highest award. In addition, he is a recipient of the Order of Saint Barbara from the U.S. Field Artillery Association and the Bronze Order of Mercury from the Signal Corps Regimental Association.

Glenn and his wife, Kay, have one grown daughter, Katrina.

(As of April 2016)



Did you know 22 veterans will commit suicide every day?

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

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

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

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



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



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

The items needed:

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

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

DROP OFF BOX

AT POST 233



American Legion ~ Post 233 - 560 N. Wilderness Trail

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



The Korean War Veterans Memorial

The Korean War Veterans Memorial is located near the Lincoln Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, DC.

It was dedicated on July 27, 1995. The memorial commemorates the sacrifices of the 5.8 million Americans who served in the U.S. armed services during the three-year period of the Korean War.

The war was one of the most hard fought in our history. During its relatively short duration from June 25, 1950 to July 27, 1953, 36,574 Americans died in hostile actions in the Korean War theater.

Of these, 7,819 are listed as missing in action or lost or buried at sea.

In addition 103,284 were wounded during the conflict.

The statues

The 19 stainless steel statues were sculpted by Frank Gaylord of Barre, VT and cast by Tallix Foundries of Beacon, NY.

They are approximately seven feet tall and represent an ethnic cross section of America. The advance party has 14 Army, 3 Marine, 1 Navy and 1 Air Force members.

The statues stand in patches of Juniper bushes and are separated by polished granite strips, which give a semblance of order and symbolize the rice paddies of Korea.

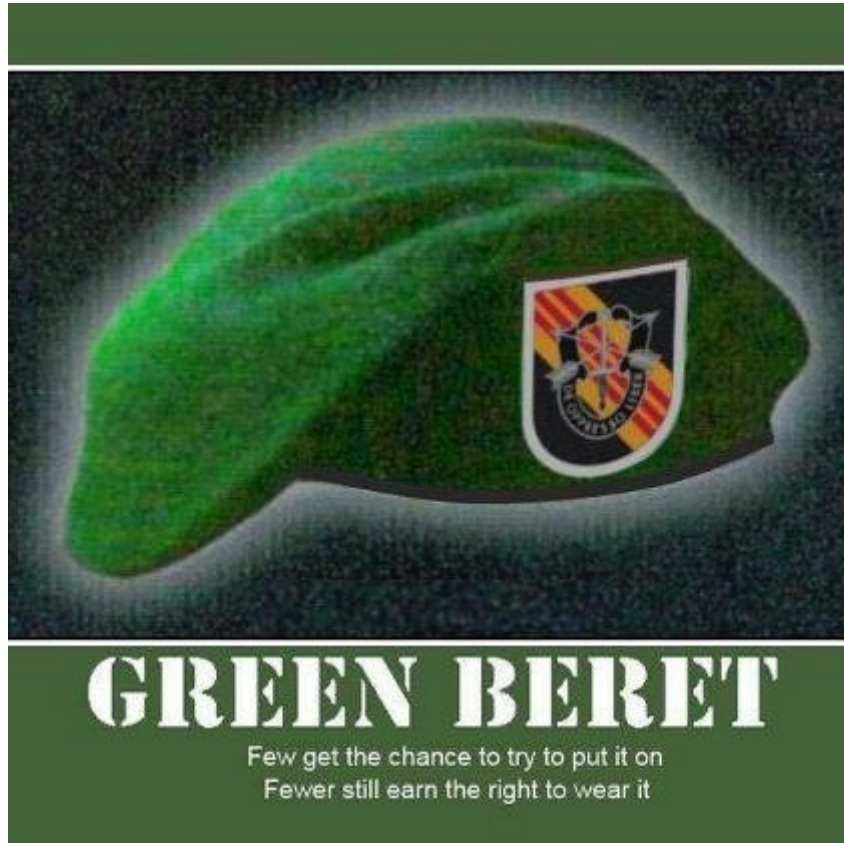
The troops wear ponchos covering their weapons and equipment. The ponchos seem to blow in the cold winds of Korea.

To Korean War Veterans

To all Korean War veterans, thank you for your service.

Welcome Home!





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



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

Thanks, Bob

It's Official, we've reached our goal for completing the **Gold Star Families Memorial Monument** and it will be completed and ready for Dedication on Sept. 25, at 3PM. We are hoping to have full participation from all our Gold Star Families of our Treasure Coast area. Our Medal of Honor recipient Hershel Woody Williams, who founded the Gold Star Families Monument foundation will be present also. We sincerely wish to thank all of our friends and families who made this event possible. Without your efforts and gifts of time, money, and prayers this would not have been possible. Our Gold Star Families will have a place of honor and respect, where they can come and reflect on their journey. The Gold Star Families Memorial Monument honors those families who sacrificed more than most of us, and illustrates that America has citizens in every community and hamlet willing to make such sacrifices. The memorial monument further illustrates that families suffer and grieve when a dear relative is lost. Without their sacrifices, freedom could not and would not have been preserved.



**A recent review of the Veterans Council's POW documentary by a member of
the American Ex POW Assoc.**

*Please continue to watch this site for important information about a local Military Film
Festival where this important work will be shown.*

Stolen Freedom

Re-Captured in Film

by Alice A. Booher, AXPOW contributing writer

Those who attended the recent American Ex-POW Convention were able to view a DVD “played on a loop” in the hospitality Suite of an extraordinary POW documentary “Prisoners of War: Stolen Freedom”, featuring four former POWs: CPO William Ingram, USN; Cpl Richard Bassett, USA; COL Hal Kushner, USA and CAPT Giles Norrington, USN. The film has been widely shown throughout Florida, its state of origin, and on some PBS stations and at veterans’ meetings, but will hopefully now be seen nationwide to great acclaim. [At Convention, it shared the “loop” with “The Tragedy of Bataan”, a documentary by Jan Thompson whose father was a POW, and narrated by Alex Baldwin.] The 45 minute long documentary may be one of the best made to include three wars, four men and what the subheader sums up as “One Mission: Stay Alive”. Credit must be given to the Director, Eric Flagg, and to the producer and cheerleader, Michael Rothfeld, the latter of whom graciously made another copy of the DVD available to the AxPOW Convention when the first one went missing, and to many other interested parties for wider distribution and educational viewing.

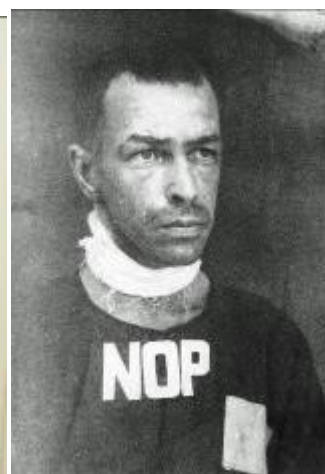
There has long been abundant available footage of war, including some showing POWs being taken prisoner, in captivity, and during repatriations. But more than any other prior film, Stolen Freedom’s programmers must have gone through hundreds of hours of film, because they have exquisitely isolated the exact moments of appropriate footage from which to illustrate the actions or circumstances actually discussed by the respective POWs. It is almost surreal to see the very raw footage taken on one of dozens of buses during Operation Homecoming, at Clark Air Base, when Giles Norrington’s POW bracelet is handed through the window on a rolled paper on his exact bus.

The technique and unique skill with which this marriage of film and text has been precisely implemented lends ultimate credibility to the entire process. The well edited content and articulate responses by the four POWs are utterly compelling but never overextended. The men are seated in a professional but relaxed fashion, and tell their stories in straight-forward but never dispassionate words that may have been modestly scripted for conciseness,

but if so, the content was clearly from the hearts and minds of the men themselves. With the benefit of hindsight and a good deal of time on which to reflect on their respective experiences, their observations and insights, sometimes stated with pithy idiom, are simply extraordinary.

It is also rewarding to see demonstrated evidence that all four men returned with resilience to full and meaningful post-captivity lives and works. Ingram, taken POW when the Japanese sunk the USS HOUSTON in March 1942, worked on the railroad project to build the Bridge on the River Kwai in Thailand for 3 ½ years. On repatriation, he discovered his brother had also been a POW. Bassett was held during the bitter winter of 1950-1951 in the North Korean POW Camp 5. He later taught high school history for 20 years. Kushner, a surgeon and sole survivor of his helicopter crash, was befriended by a farmer who betrayed him to the Viet Cong after feeding him. Moved from camp to camp for 5/1/2 years, he ended up in the Hanoi Hilton. He returned to active practice. Norrington, shot down during a bombing mission in May 1968, and severely injured, was held in isolation until moved where two cellmates could help him address basic human needs, and then into a large room with 56 other navigators and pilots during his nearly 5 years captivity. He returned to active work with civilian and military communities including AIDS awareness and Red Cross.

The inside covers of the DVD generously reproduce some of Norrington's 32 pen and ink drawings of captivity. Stolen Freedom is a well spent reflective use of time for everyone, even those who are already too painfully aware of the POW experience.



From left: WW II Navy Veteran Bill Ingram; Korean War Army Veteran Richard Bassett; Vietnam Veterans: COL Harold Kushner and Navy Captain Giles Norrington

**This information is from our good friend Danique Masingill:
PTS Service Dog Guide**



As you likely know, veterans face a daunting process in obtaining a Post-Traumatic Stress (PTS) service dog, since they receive limited (if any) guidance and resources on how a service dog may help them or how they should go about finding a qualified dog.

Therefore, American Humane Association has developed a “Guide to Getting a PTS Service Dog” to help military veterans, their families and caretakers and any others invested parties a better understanding of the benefits of a service dog and if a service dog would be right for them.

We will be disseminating this Guide to veterans and service dog organizations across the country free of charge and would be grateful if you would disseminate this information within your organization and to your contacts within the community.

We are planning to send out printed hard copies of the one-page brief version, if you would like a supply to keep at your facility to distribute.

Please contact Danique Masingill, Program Manager at American Humane Association, at daniquem@americanhumane.org if you are interested in having hard copies shipped to you – please provide your mailing address and optimal quantity. Also, we appreciate you letting us know if you plan to share the electronic version so we can track our distribution reach.

Thank you for helping us share this valuable Guide to Getting a PTS Service Dog to our military veterans in need.

Please feel free to share this with other contacts you have in the Veterans Service Industry, as we would love to reach and help as many Warriors as possible.

Respectfully, Danique N. Masingill, MPA

US NAVY Veteran, Program Manager for the Lois Pope LIFE Center for Military Affairs

American Humane Association 1400 16th St. NW, Suite 360

Washington, DC 20036

direct: 202-677-4224 xt1115 cell:904-502-4025 | email: daniquem@americanhumane.org

www.linkedin.com/in/daniquemasingill



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

www.theridehome.com

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



Contact: Lee Ann Sferrazza-Rios, sferrazza-riosl@fdva.state.fl.us

(727) 518-3202, Ext. 5572 office, (727) 831-1805 cell

Nominations Open for 2016 Class of the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – The Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame Council is currently accepting nominations for the fourth annual class of inductees into the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame. The nomination period is open until May 31, 2016. Anyone is permitted to nominate a military veteran.

The Florida Legislature established the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame to honor and recognize veterans, both living and deceased, for their post-military service to the state.

Those nominating a veteran will need to complete a nomination packet that can be downloaded from www.FloridaVeteransHallofFame.org. Nominations are based on established criteria including recognizing veterans who, through their works and lives during or after military service, have made a significant contribution to the state of Florida through civic, business, public service or other pursuits. It is not a traditional military hall of fame, as it focuses on post-military contributions to the State of Florida.

Up to 20 individuals may be selected for induction into the hall each year.

“We are privileged to be one of only nine other states that can honor its veterans for heeding the call to public service after they leave the military,” said retired Army National Guard Sgt. Maj. Ray A. Quinn, chairman of the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame Council. “As we roll into our fourth class, we are reaching far and wide to get nominations for those who exemplify continued service, sacrifice and commitment to a greater cause throughout their lifetime so that we can honor them by inducting them into the next Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame.”

Names honoring selected inductees are commemorated on a plaque in the Capitol Rotunda in Tallahassee. Since 2013, nineteen Florida veterans have been inducted into the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame.

“With nearly 1.6 million veterans and a proven track record of service to the country, the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame is honored to recognize those who have taken the passion of service one step further to make Florida a great state not only for veterans but for each and every Floridian,” said State Rep. Jimmie T. Smith, an Army veteran and vice chairman for the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame Council.”

The Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame Council, a seven-member advisory panel, is responsible for accepting nominations to be considered for induction into the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame. In selecting its nominees for submission, the council gives preference to veterans who were either born in Florida or adopted Florida as their home state. Each year, the council transmits its recommended list of nominees to the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs, which submits the nominations to the Governor and Cabinet, who will select the nominees to be inducted.

“Let us never forget our veterans, through whose selfless service and sacrifice we enjoy freedom and liberty,” said Mike Prendergast, executive director of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs. “Help us recognize the contributions and talents of America's finest.”

For nomination information, visit <http://www.FloridaVeteransHallofFame.org>.



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

Combat Vets Association Chapter 20-1 presents

COMBAT VETS ASSOCIATION

State *COMBAT VETS* Rally



11th- Free Beer
Liquor Bar
Carving Station
UFC Fight Night

12th- Pig Roast
Ride Games, 50/50
Prize Wheel, Cornhole
Door Prizes & Auction

Florida

November 2016



Friday 11th Welcome Buffet

Saturday 12th Pig Roast

*Sunday 13th Farewell
Breakfast*

All Here at



13th- Pancake, Bacon & Egg Breakfast,
Bloody Mary's, then **Hasta La Vista Baby!**

LIVE MUSIC, FOOD, VENDORS, SLOW RIDE GAMES, 50/50

Call David at

for More Information



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VA Memorial Benefits

How to Apply

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

VA Memorial Benefits

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

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

The following burial benefits may be provided:

Burial in a VA national cemetery

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

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

Burial in a private cemetery

- A government headstone, marker, or medallion

A [burial flag](#)

A [Presidential Memorial Certificate](#).

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

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

VA Requirements

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

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

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

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

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



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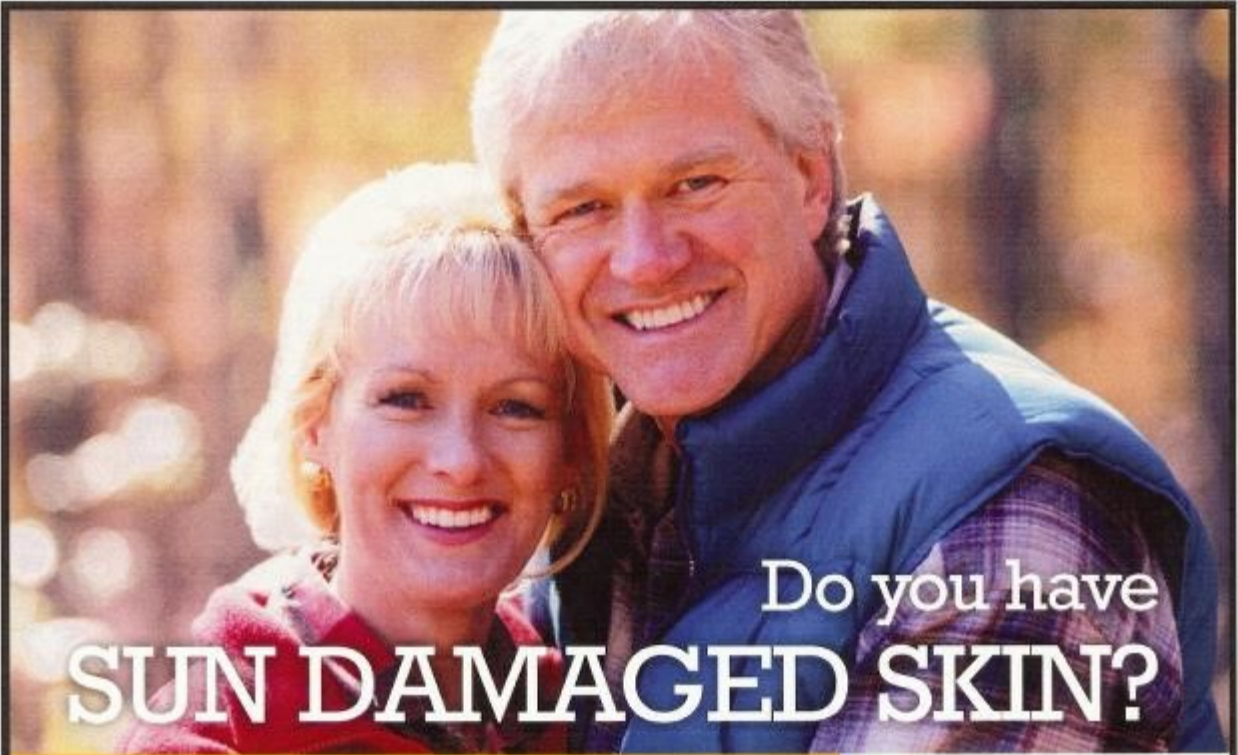
Lisa Thomas, BS, CCRC
President

Telephone (904) 619-8157
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*Veterans Council of St. Johns County,
"Helping All Veterans"*

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

Send to: mrothfeld@anyveteran.org

Please send to: mrothfeld@anyveteran.org



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(physical location)

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

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

Service is by appointment.

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

Joseph McDermott, CVSO

Rick Rees, Assistant VSO

Tammy Shirley, Assistant VSO

Lashonda Burns, Office Specialist

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