



June Patriot Reader

Volume 7 Issue 6 June 2018

Bill Dudley, Publisher

Michael Rothfeld, Editor

Veterans Council of St. Johns County

Bill Dudley, Chairman

Ray Quinn, Vice Chairman

Michael Rothfeld, Secretary
Joe McDermott, Board Member

The Veterans Council of St. Johns County, FL is a 501 c3 not for profit 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*

The Veterans Council of St. Johns County would like to thank Ray Breault and Eric West for their help, guidance and knowledge in helping us get this "new" Patriot Reader completed. The newsletter needs more work to get it where we would like to have it so we will try again next month.



From the Chairman

Fellow

Veterans

The month of May has been a month of great opportunity for us to honor those who have served our great nation.

On May 3, we were privileged to receive Tracy Sefcik on the final part of her journey in a cross country bicycle ride from San Diego to St. Augustine. Tracy is a Navy veteran who wanted to do something for her fellow veterans, so she decided to embark on a cross country bicycle ride to raise money for the Gary Sinise Foundation. Her goal was \$25000. She easily exceeded her goal and was met with additional contributions when she arrived in St. Augustine, including a \$500 donation from the Veterans Council to thank her for her 3142 mile journey.

The morning of May 15, veterans, elected officials, and interested citizens from the community assembled at the St. Johns County Administration Building to participate in

Council. It was a very somber ceremony as we honored our POW / MIA's with a flag that will fly 365 days a year in front of our County Administration and Health and Human Services Buildings as a reminder to those who served in captivity or have not yet returned home and to honor their service.

Afterwards, the County Commissioners by Proclamation declared St. Johns County a Purple Heart County. Assembled at the County Commission meeting were 45 combat wounded veterans who are Purple Heart recipients. Each of the combat wounded veterans were presented a certificate from the County honoring them and thanking them for their service along with a Purple Heart lapel pin. This was extremely important to these veterans to be recognized for their service by the county officials and fellow veterans.

On Saturday, May 26, I was honored to MC the Memorial Day Ceremony at Jacksonville National Cemetery. Brig. Gen. Brian Simpler, Asst. Adjutant General – Air, Florida National Guard was our keynote speaker. There was a large turnout to witness the ceremony and the laying of 19 wreaths.

Memorial Day was remembered at the St. Augustine National Cemetery on Monday, May 28, 2018 to hear our keynote speaker Maj. Gen. Emmett Titshaw, USAF ret. honor those who paid the supreme price in the service of our country. General Titshaw's words clearly expressed the feelings of a grateful nation for the service of those soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines who gave their all for our country and to their families.

In spite of a tropical depression that was about to hit our state this weekend, we were blessed for both of our Memorial Day ceremonies to have the rains hold off and provide us with excellent weather for both ceremonies.

Bill Dudley, Chairman

Veterans Council of St. Johns County

Memorial Day 2018

St Augustine Record, edited

The city's annual Memorial Day observance was held 10 a.m. Monday on the grounds of St. Augustine National Cemetery.

The remembrance honors those who have served in the armed forces from the days of its founding to the current conflicts in the Middle East.

Maj. Gen. USAF Emmett Titshaw Jr. was the keynote speaker. Titshaw was Florida's Adjutant General from 2010 until 2015.

Featuring the "Fallen Comrade Tribute" and recognition of local veterans who have died in the past year, the ceremony began with appropriate music and the march-in of massed flags from local veterans' organizations.

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the National Cemetery in St. Augustine is one of the oldest military cemeteries in the nation. The cemetery is located adjacent to St. Francis Barracks, headquarters of the Florida National Guard, at [82 Marine Street](#). Limited public parking is available across from the barracks.

A long-standing local tradition, the observance was again organized by the Ancient City Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America, in conjunction with the Florida National Guard, the Veterans Council of St. Johns County and the National Cemetery Administration.



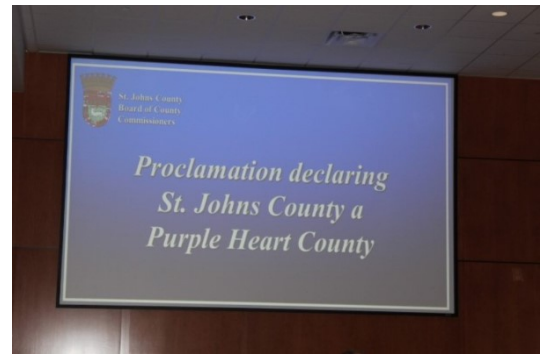


The Veterans' Council of St Johns County thanks videographer and producer of First Coast TV for this video of the 2018 Memorial Day Ceremony at the St Augustine National Cemetery.

<http://www.firstcoast.tv/memorial-day-in-st-augustine-2018/>

On May 15th, the Veterans Council of St. Johns County was proud to initiate and support the POW/MIA flag raising ceremony over the St. Johns County Administration building.

This was followed by the Board of County Commissioners proclaiming St. Johns County a Purple Heart County. The Commissioners presented county Purple Heart recipients with a pin commemorating their sacrifice for our country.



St. Johns County Administrator, Michael Wanchick sent this letter and picture to Veterans Council Chairman William Dudley thanking him and the Council for the POW/MIA flag raising and becoming a Purple Heart County.

Bill,

Congratulations on a wonderful and highly successful event! Everyone I spoke to was proud to have been part of the event and was impressed with how well planned and orchestrated the event was from start to finish. We were very gratified by the opportunity to provide a small amount of the recognition our County's veterans deserve for the sacrifices they have made on behalf of our county. As I look out my window this morning, I am truly humbled by the presence of the POW/MIA flag flying over the County Administration Building. In addition, I wanted you to know that I have asked staff to place a link on the County's home page declaring ourselves to be a "Purple Heart County".

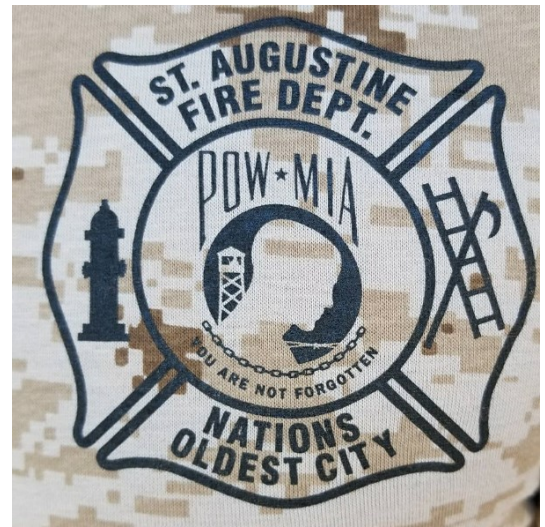
As always, thank you for all that you do for our County's and nation's veterans and please do not hesitate to contact me in the future if there is any way the County can be of service to you or your organization.

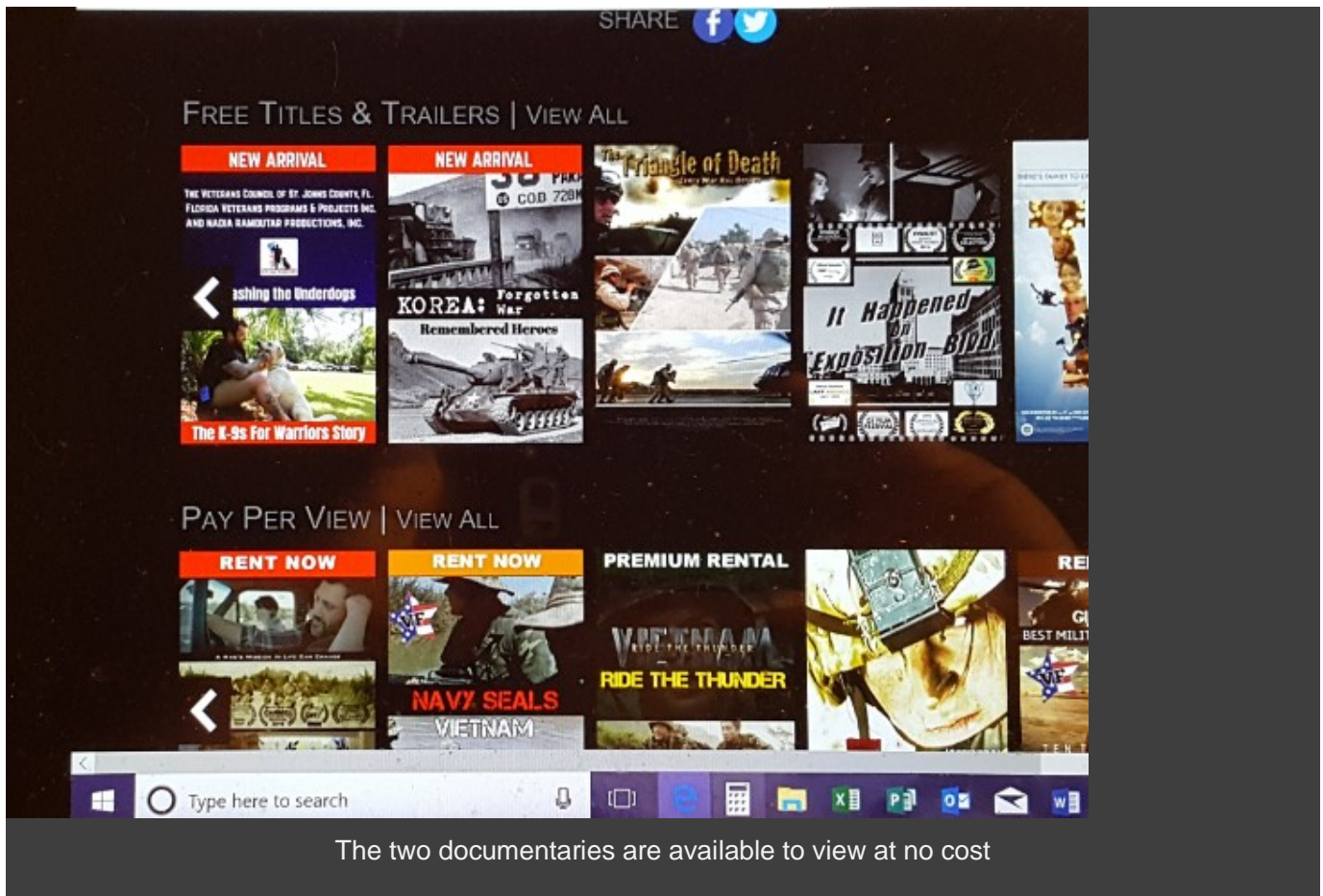
Thanks you again, Michael Wanchick



The first look at the St Augustine Fire Depts T shirts, designed with and to Honor veterans. The shirts feature the official seal of all 5 Military Branches, the SJC Veterans Council logo, a special SAFD seal that features the POW MIA logo. Lastly but most importantly the flag on the left sleeve displays the number 22. At the peak of Global War on Terrorism an estimated 22 Veterans a day committed suicide in this country. We wanted to ensure that figure is not forgotten. To all those who are serving or have served we thank you. To all the families that served with their service members we salute you. It's amazing to think that the most powerful military the world has ever seen is staffed by a completely volunteer force.

Thanks to the Veterans Council for all they do for our veterans everyday. Have a great Memorial Day and please share so others can see





The two documentaries are available to view at no cost

The documentaries Bill Dudley and I produced, directed by Dr. Nadia Ramoutar, a few years ago for the Veterans Council of St Johns County, about K9s For Warriors and the Korean War are now on Vet Stream TV. They can be viewed at no cost and available to everyone in the world with an internet connection.

We hope you can let your friends know.

Here is our release:

The Veterans Council of St Johns County is proud to announce that our documentary series featuring local NE FL veterans, from WW II through the Iraq/Afghanistan wars are

“Unleashing the Underdogs”, the K9s For Warriors Story and “Korea: Forgotten War, Remembered Heroes”.

The Council’s documentaries are free to view by anyone in the world with internet. Go to their website, <https://www.vetstreamtv.com> and select “Take A Tour” then view the “Free Titles & Trailers” to view.

The VetStreamTV mission is simple: Provide the world’s first and best comprehensive media outlet for veterans and their loved ones. VetStreamTV offers feature films, shorts, television series, documentaries, and comedies. Soon, the VetStreamTV family of content will include exclusive one-time events, news, talk shows, family entertainment, career assistance content, and medical information for veterans. Hundreds of videos will be added each month. Anyone can subscribe - By Joining VetStreamTV, you help make our channel available anywhere in the world that has an internet connection.



FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE

Contact

Joe Ramirez

jramirez@vetsteamtv.com

310.261.2788

and producer Michael Rothfeld from St. Augustine Florida who worked along side co-producer Bill Dudley, Chairman of the Veterans Council of St. Johns County in producing and distributing them, at no cost, to schools, libraries, colleges, museums and veterans' groups. They are all over the country.

Santa Monica, May 21, 2018--VetStreamTV today announced that it has acquired five documentaries produced by Michael Rothfeld featuring the heroic stories of local veterans from primarily NE Florida: (1) Prisoners of War-Stolen Freedom (2) Korean War – Remembered Heroes (3) K9s for Warriors Story (4) Vietnam: Service, Sacrifice and Courage and (5) Serve and Protect: Stories from WWII.

They highlight local veterans who served in WW II, Korea, and Viet Nam. All the documentaries have been broadcast on WJCT TV, the Jacksonville PBS affiliate. His POW documentary, “Stolen Freedom” was streamed to over 23 million service men serving all over the world on National POW Day.

“These documentaries are enlightening and informative,” said Joe Ramirez, CEO of VetstreamTV. “Mr. Rothfeld is a wonderfully gifted storyteller and a man who is dedicated to telling the valiant stories of our nation’s veterans and we are just as dedicated to streaming these stories.”

Rothfeld is a former New York City High School Special Education teacher with 35 years of experience. He and his wife, Carol, retired to St. Augustine in 2000. Rothfeld has a Master's Degree in American History and Special Education, and when he found out in 2006 that 34 of his neighbors were World War II veterans his documentary career began.

His latest work is, "Unleashing the Underdogs: the K9s for Warriors story", filmed at its current location in Ponte Vedra Beach, FL. The veterans are from Iraq and Afghanistan and share their stories of how rescued trained K9s have helped them adapt to life back home.

Rothfeld is the Secretary of the Veterans Council of St. Johns County, a member of the First Militia Chapter of AUSA and the Jacksonville National Cemetery Support Committee although he is not a veteran. Bill Dudley, Chairman of the Veterans Council of St. Johns County has co-produced the last three documentaries with Michael.

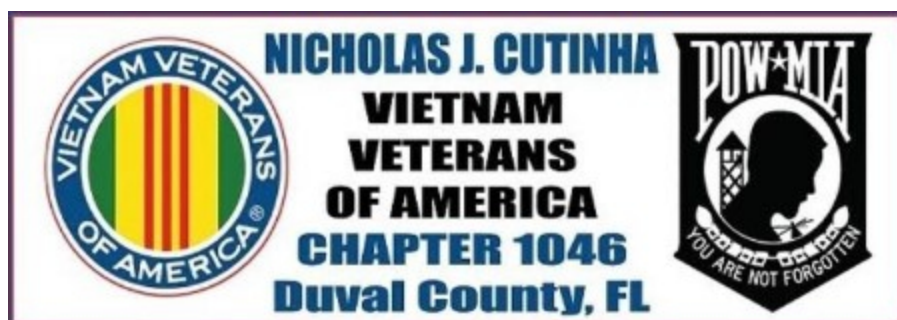
He publishes a monthly 50-page online newsletter for the Veterans of St Johns County, a quarterly newsletter for the First Militia Chapter of the Association of the United States Army, is webmaster of the County Veterans website, is an Honorary member of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1084 and has just been selected to be only one of eight in the country to become an honorary member of the Vietnam Veterans of America.

Schools, Flagler College, University of N. FL., Andersonville National POW Museum, the WW II Museum in New Orleans, the Library of Congress, the Museum of Science and History, the Amelia Island Museum of History, the Orange County Regional History Museum in Orlando, the Vietnam Museum in Texas and New Jersey, and posted online for all to see and learn from.

About VetStreamTV

VetStream TV is an American entertainment company specializing in providing streaming media of interest to our nation's veterans and their families. VetStreamTV offers feature films, shorts, television series, documentaries, and comedies. Soon, the VetStreamTV family of content will include exclusive one-time events, news, talk shows, and family entertainment. The company has its headquarters in Santa Monica, California. VetStreamTV is available at

<http://www.vetstreamtv.com>





UCI Officer Mary Goodge (left to right), VVA Chapter 1046 President Tony D'Aleo, Michelle Watson from the Duval County Public Defender's Office, Acting Warden Tifani Knox, Mike Hrin from the Duval County State Attorney's Office, Sharon Shoup from the Duval County Problem Solving Court, David Kirby from the Duval County Veterans Treatment Court and Assistant Warden Paul Kish gather in front of the art work of a veteran.

Veterans Court visits Union Correctional Institution

The staff of the Duval County Veterans Court accompanied VVA Chapter 1046 President Tony D'Aleo on May 17 for a tour of the Union

Attending were members of the state prosecutor attorney's office, public defender's office, attorneys and clerks of the Veterans Court as they were introduced to the inmate mentors and visited the dorm and viewed the art work painted by a veteran.

The group talked with different inmates during the tour.



Atlantic Coast Young Marines, joined by Tony D'Aleo (back row, right), President of VVA Chapter 1046, form up for the graduation photo.

VVA Chapter 1046 President Tony D'Aleo attended the Atlantic Coast Young Marines graduation on Saturday, May 5 at Moose Haven in Orange Park to honor this year's

The Young Marines is a youth education and service program for boys and girls, ages 8 through completion of high school. The program promotes mental, moral and physical development of its members by focusing upon character building, and leadership in a drug-free lifestyle. The Marines graduated to the first phase of the program with 17 moving onto the second phase. Others who presented awards included representatives from the Semper Fi Society, Marine Detachment 059, and Vets 4 Vets.

"We are grateful to be able to be part of the Young Marines graduation ceremony," D'Aleo said. "It's an important community interaction for our Chapter because it helps us to help the youngest in our community."

The members of Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1046, together with their Associate members, and friends, are committed to serve all veterans and our community. The Chapter, with its motto "In Service to America", has supported countless community outreach and service projects in Jacksonville.

Association, Chapter 1046, please contact Anthony (Tony) D'Aleo, (904) 910-2386.

Prepared by Joseph Tavares



Clay shoot participants from the Clay County Sheriff's Office, May 3, flanked by Bob Johnson, VVA Chapter 1046 Event Chairman (right), are (left to right) Chief Richard Elkins, Under-Sheriff Ray Walden, Sheriff Darryl Daniels, and Chief Kenny Stivers. Photo by Steve Stewart.

VVA 1046 holds 3rd Annual Charity Clay Shoot

The 3rd annual Vietnam Veterans Charity Clay Shoot was held at Jacksonville Clay Target Sports (JCTS) on New Berlin Road on May 3

This shoot, which represents the group's major fund raiser of the year, brought in nearly \$40,000 to assist in its charitable work. These much-needed funds allow the group to assist homeless and other needy veterans in their time of need. The event was chaired by Bob Johnson who serves on the Board of Directors and is the Shooting Committee Chairman. Participating members of the group included Tony D'Aleo, President; Mac Hines, 1st Vice President, and William "Kombat" Karandos, Treasurer, along with other VVA Chapter 1046 members.

During the event, some 100 shooters competed in 4-person teams on the sporting clays north course at JCTS. The highest scoring three teams were each awarded a unique shot-shell trophy and the highest three individual shooters were acknowledged with "walnut clay birds" for their accomplishments on the gun range. In addition, a BBQ lunch, smoked wings and individual gifts were also presented to each participant.

While its primary focus is helping veterans of the U. S. Military, proceed funds are also given to other local charities such as the Sulzbacher Center, which is in the process of opening a new Village for the homeless and others in downtown Jacksonville. The Village will house over 300 persons including men and women veterans, along with single women, and single and low-income two-parent families with children. Sulzbacher has long been in the forefront along with other charitable groups in the city in their assistance to the homeless members of our community. At Sulzbacher, VVA members recently assisted the Center (along with local fire fighters and active military members from the U.S. Navy) in the assembly of furniture from Ikea for the new facility. A

population of U.S. Veterans in Duval, Clay and Nassau Counties has been reduced by 81 percent during the period from 2009 to 2018. VVA Chapter 1046 is proud to play a part in this program.

The Vietnam Veterans group, which has nearly 150 members, is 100 percent volunteer, as no members get paid a salary or other compensation for assisting in the clay shoot or any other of the chapter's charitable functions. In addition to the Sulzbacher Center, VVA Chapter 1046 has several other programs that receive assistance from funds raised during the clay shoot and other fund raisers. These include its Veteran Court Program, administered by the Duval County Court system, which boasts an 85 percent success ratio for its 12-month, no second chance program that is an innovative and well-respected approach to helping Veterans and active duty military personnel who have made poor choices and found themselves in the court system. Participants must have a desire to get their life back on track. This program requires weekly progress reports in front of a Duval County judge.

In addition to the Veterans Court program, VVA 1046 helps Veterans of all wars by assisting with information in filing a claim with the Veterans Administration. The group also maintains a Color Guard, conducts Community Outreach, and has an annual youth Scholarship Fund for three deserving youths on their way to college. In addition, the group also sponsors the Atlantic Coast Young Marines with funds for uniforms and travel-related expenses. These often-at-risk youth are led by Military Veterans in a rigid "military-like" program that requires good grades, good conduct, and a strong desire for self-improvement.

Finally, in 2015, the group raised over \$45,000 to design and install the

Lannie Road in northwest Jacksonville which was dedicated on March 28, 2015.

The Vietnam Veterans group would like to especially thank members of the Clay County Sheriff's Office for sponsoring a team for the event.

In addition, VVA Chapter 1046 would like to thank its other sponsors some of which included Barber & Associates, Bender & Modlin Fire Sprinklers, Bozard Ford Lincoln, Cecil W. Powell, Environmental Resource Solutions, Jaguar Technologies, Miller Electric, Smith Brothers Plastering, Sun State Nursery & Landscaping, Vallencourt Construction, and Wild West Guns & Gold among others, for their generosity in sponsoring the Clay Shoot event.

Coast-to-coast trek assists fellow vets

3,142-mile journey raises more than \$25,000

An exclusive to the Patriot Reader from Tracy Sefcik about her cross country bike ride to raise awareness for the Gary Sinise Foundation.

My name is Tracy and I am a Navy Veteran, as I started my journey in 2016 I never thought it would come so fast. Well, it did and before I knew it I was on a train to San Diego CA on Feb 26th, 2018, to start my 3000 plus mile journey across the United States that would take me cycling across the following states, California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and into Florida. When I started thinking about my journey, I knew I had to help someone, I was going to get the joys of completing this however, I wanted to do so much more. I needed to help my brothers and sisters therefore I made a call to Gary Sinise Foundation to see if I could turn my event into a fundraiser for Veterans and 1st Responders. They said yes, and we started it as a fundraiser. I had many local fundraisers back home to get donations which pulled in a few

\$2,420 donation to put me at my goal she was also one of my sponsors.

When I started my journey in San Diego California, I started on the flight deck of the USS Midway which was dear to my heart. When I was in the Navy, I was on a tugboat and had pulled the USS Midway into and out of port every time the 7th fleet had left. I woke up next to it when she was in port. I also had the Southwest Navy Band performing and Nick Kimmel came to speak as an ambassador from Gary Sinise Foundation, God Bless you Nick. My family from far and near attended and then off to dip my back tire into the Pacific Ocean as I was overwhelmed with so many emotions; happy, excited, scared, sad, anxious, determined and proud. Then I was on that bike path heading east to the unknown.

As I cycled across the Southern Tier I had meet so many wonderful people, from Tom a Vietnam Veteran at Walmart in Clay Pool, AZ that not only repaired my bike to get me back on the road however, he paid for my seat and post when it broke, Terry that gave that talked to me at that rest stop in AZ and your kind words on Facebook, to Clint Fallen Hero's that hosted a BBQ and \$100 donation, to someone in Van Horn, TX that left at the front counter a bag that had Tide Pods, Dryer sheets and quarters for me to do my laundry. And to Stephanie that sent me that message before I started my journey to help my with my finish into St Augustine FL. To those throughout my way for giving me donations for Gary Sinise Foundation to people buying me meals, bike shops fixing my bike. To some WarmShowers host that opened their homes to me in AZ.

On my journey across the United States, I hit many things: mountains, hills that never seem to stop, deserts, dunes with blowing sand, wind / dust storms, 35 mile per hour side winds, 20 mph headwind, Texas Hill Country, rain, heat, cars blowing their horns at me, 100% humidity, snakes, hogs, dogs, miles and miles with nothing in between, trucks running me off the road, tumbleweed blowing at me, bridges with no shoulders (sorry cars for going so slow), 16 seizures, many days crying questioning myself, 2 flats, a broken seat post and many happy days meeting people along my way. On those days I wanted to give up. I thought of who I was doing this for, my sons and my brothers & sisters and 1st responders. That is what kept me going day after day, on those days I told myself I can't do this no more. I would ask myself why... "you're not hurt, tomorrow will be a better day". Some were, and some weren't. However, I can say as many times as I wanted to give up, I gave it 110% and finished it as I always told my sons to do. And "Yes, I did it in cycling 49 days and 3142 miles"

I have Several **Thank You's** first to Cindy (VP Amvets Riders Ch 113) and Dan; since I was few days early they had opened their home to me in its place of me staying in a hotel for those final 2 days. They took me to sightseeing in Palm Coast and Downtown St Augustine, I thank you my new friends. I want to thank, Stephanie Styles, Bill Dudley, Police Chief Robert Hardwick, Fire Chief Carlos Aviles, Commissioner Nancy Sikes-Kline, Vice Mayor Margaret England, City Manager Maxwell, Amvets Riders Ch 113, all the Police Officers that road that final 4.8 miles with me and that came to the staging area to talk to me, Jeff (FirstCoast

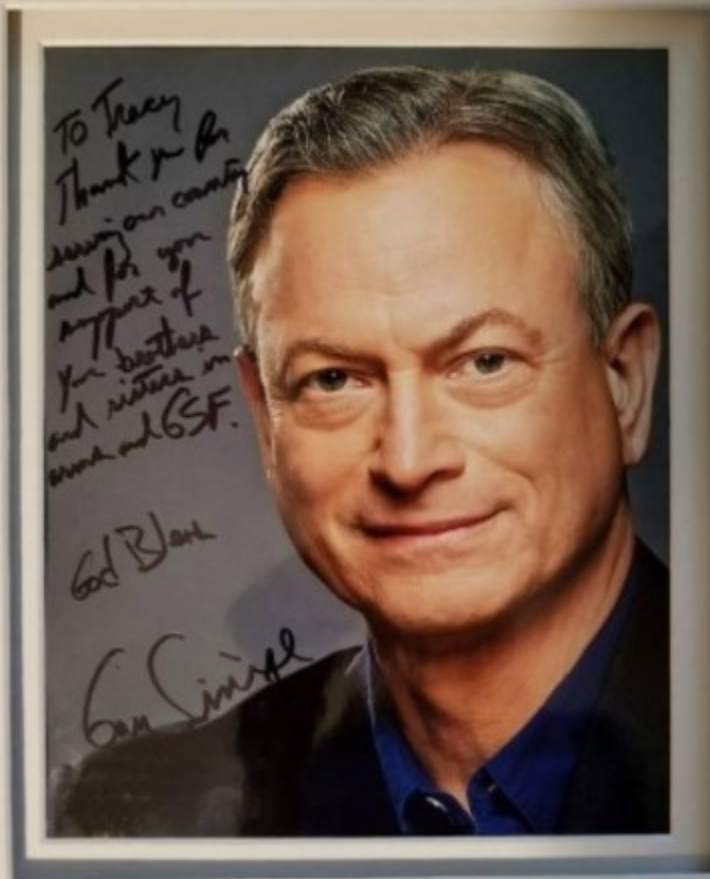
People keep asking me if I could come up with *one word* to describe my journey; it would be **“Amazing”** for I meet so many **amazing** people I cycled across so many miles, I was **amazed** of all the support and love I received along my way, **amazed** in the kind words as people as I talked to them as I cycled across the this great country, It was **amazing** that I made my goal of \$25,000 and I have went over my goal, **Amazing** that I made it, **Amazing** that I had such wonderful weather, except for the TX winds however, I never ran into any thunderstorms and **Amazed** of the love and support that St Augustine FL showed me on my final 5 miles, Thank you everyone.

I have made my goal of \$25,000 and trying to double my goal, I am currently at \$27,845 and still taking donations to Gary Sinise Foundation under on my website at <http://www.crosscountrycycle4vets.com/> until July 31st

Military donations: Navy League St John’s County - \$500, Amvets Riders Bunnell FL Chapter 113 \$250, Amvets Wheeling IL Post 66 \$500, VFW New Lenox IL Post 9545 \$500 and Veterans Council of St Johns County \$ 500.







Tracy received this picture thank you from Gary Sinise

The Clyde E Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home has had a very active

^^

Each year the Elk's Lodge in Green Cove Springs invites the residents and their families out to the lodge to enjoy a day of fishing and food. Thank you so much for the fabulous burgers with all the fixings and wonderful fellowship! Even caught a few eels and crabs!







Hungry, Hungry Hippo.....Clyde E Lassen style



Luau to celebrate National Nursing Home Week

The Support Committee invites everyone to attend its next scheduled meeting, on Monday May 14, 2018. The meeting will be at 7:00pm. The meeting will take place at Community Hospice, 4266 Sunbeam Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32257 in Conference Room A.

**At Community Hospice of NE FL.
4266 Sunbeam Rd, Jacksonville, FL 32257 Hadlow Bldg
A 7:00pm**

Conference Room

Monday, Sept 17th

Monday, Oct 15th

Monday, Nov 5th

Monday, Dec 3rd

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

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

+++++2017/2018 Officers of the SCJNC+++++

Chairman: Steve Spickelmier

Vice Chairman: Bill Dudley, Treasurer: John Mountcastle

Assistant Treasurer: Michael Rothfeld, Secretary: Kathy Church

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

Historian: Kathy Cayton

Digital mapping brings veterans'
stories to life

A UCF research group is helping to
catalogue St. Augustine National
Cemetery headstones

By Colleen Michele Jones



<https://vlp.cah.ucf.edu/>



The BEST VSOs, we are very lucky to have their knowledge, compassion and dedication.

(Left to Right) Joseph "Mac" McDermott St John's County Veterans Service Officer, Tammy Shirley, and Rick Rees Assistant County Veteran Service Officers complete annual recertification training with the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs in Tampa Florida



Update on the St. Augustine CBOC

From the St. Augustine Record, By Jake Martin

St. Johns County is essentially waiting for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to make its next move when it comes to finding a new permanent home for the St. Augustine Community Based Outpatient Clinic.

For years, the county has worked with the VA to build a facility adjacent to the county's Health and Human Services building on San Sebastian View, but to no avail.

The VA has continued providing veteran services and care in a temporary facility on Southpark Boulevard since the clinic was moved from its former location on U.S. 1 South to make way for the Lowe's.

suitable locations for development of a new clinic, including leased space located in existing buildings as well as build-to-suit lease options offered by potential sources, such as public-private partnerships. It was yet another shift in direction that immediately resulted in anything even resembling a completion date on the project being pushed months back.

The county commission subsequently approved terms and conditions for use of the desired county site in accordance with VA requirements, in order to encourage proposals by bidders interested in entering into a built-to-suit lease with the VA for completion of the project.

Commissioners at their April 17 meeting approved by consent to authorize a non-exclusive ground lease option for developers interested in building on the county's property at San Sebastian View. At the time, at least three developers had expressed interest in submitting proposals to the VA for completion of the project.

County spokesman Michael Ryan told The Record this week that it was more of a procedural move than anything else, just to be ready in case there's any interest in and movement toward using the property.

He said there's at least a tentative April 30 deadline for developers to send responses to the VA, but that there was nothing to say that

period of an undetermined length of time out of which, at least in theory, a contract will emerge.

Ryan said the county is essentially outside the bidding process at this point and it's in the VA's hands. He said the county's priority right now is just getting the clinic, some way, some how, on the desired piece of county-owned land next to the Health and Human Services building.

"If there's a way to make that happen, we will make it happen," he said. "We understand it's of interest to the veterans' community to have that facility on our property, so that they can easily access other services there, but the location is up to the VA, not us."

2018 HOMELESS VETERANS' STAND DOWN



Saturday September 8, 2018

9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Elks Lodge

1420 A1A South

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

SERVICES:

- Healthcare Services
- Legal Resources
- Housing Resources
- Employment Service
- Homeless Outreach

ITEMS:

- Clothing
- Personal Care Items
- Haircuts
- Showers
- Hot Meal
- RAFFLE

SPONSORS: Vetran's Council of St. Johns Counti; BPO Elks #829; VFW Post 2391; American Legion Post 37; St. Augustine VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic; VA Homeless Veterans Outreach Team; CareerSource Northeast Florida; and many others!



"Serve and Protect", was the Council's first documentary, we produced 4 more and have donated them to schools, colleges, libraries and museums all over the country.

The WW II documentary featured 4 local St Augustine veterans, Mario Patrino, 101st Airborne, who was a D Day paratrooper; Bob Ong, witnessed the loading of "Big Boy", the

"From a small senior community near St. Augustine, Florida, over 30 veterans came together to share their stories. Produced by Flagler College TV Workshop Students, produced by Bill Dudley and directed by Michael Rothfeld".



Mario Patrino, 101st Airborne, pictured second from the left in the left picture, getting ready to parachute into history. Mario on right, on the set of "Serve and Protect", getting ready to tell his story.



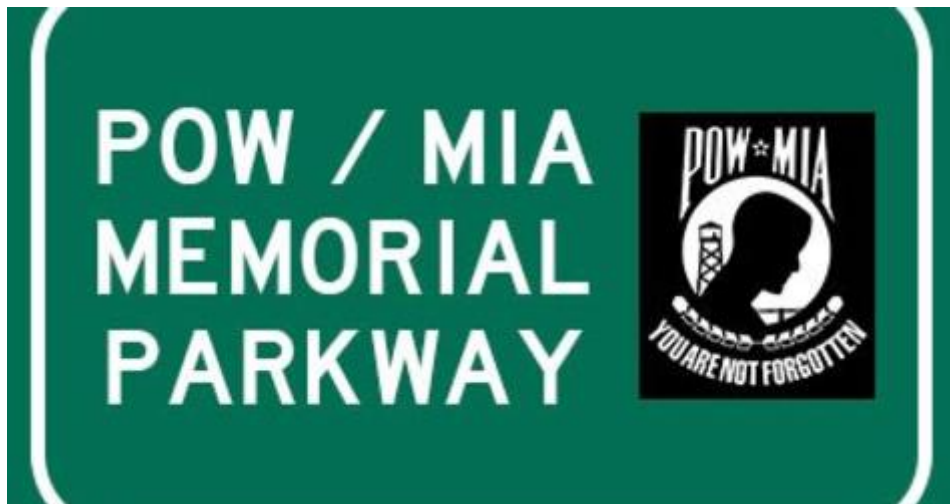
Bob Ong, pictured on the left, standing in front of the Enola Gay after it returned from dropping



Al Rockafellow, in uniform and on the documentary set.



Pete Pinto, who served in North Africa and fought against Rommel.



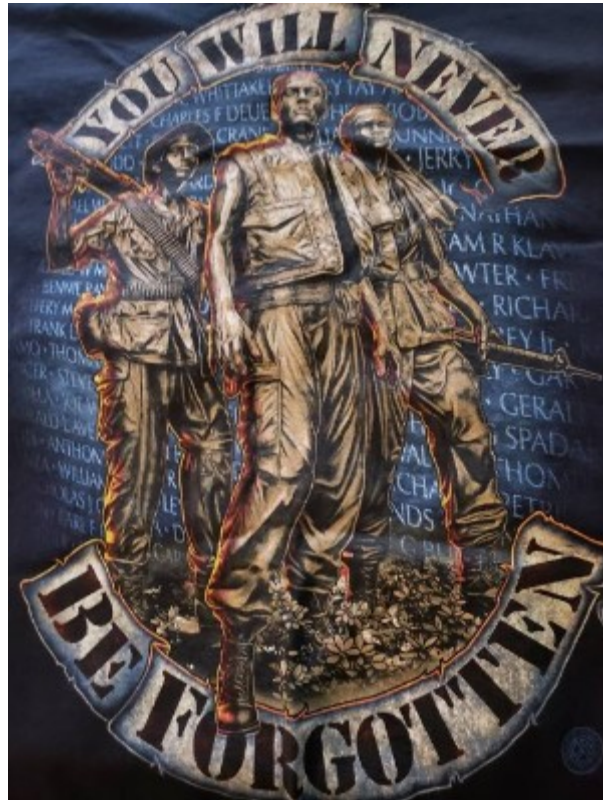
The Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial Bill to rename NEW WORLD AVENUE was passed unanimously by City Council Members this past week. Mayor

Jacksonville now has a new road named POW MIA MEMORIAL PARKWAY to honor our Former Prisoners of War and those unaccounted for and Missing In Action. The street signage will begin going up in the coming weeks.



"This table is reserved to honor our missing comrades in arms. The tablecloth is white, symbolizing the purity of their motives when answering the call of duty. The single red rose, displayed in a vase, reminds us of the life of each of the missing and their loved ones and friends of these Americans who keep the faith, awaiting answers. The vase is tied with a red ribbon, symbol of our continued determination to account for our missing. A pinch of salt symbolizes the tears endured by

the strength gained through faith to sustain those lost from our country, founded as one nation under God. The glass is inverted to symbolize their inability to share this evening's toast. The chair is empty to symbolize that they are missing."



The Ride Home, National POW/MIA Event video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BgiohgqjB3Y&feature=share>

MISSION BACKGROUND

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

The memorial site, located on the former Naval Air Station Cecil Field, was originally dedicated on September 15, 1955 and consisted of markers and associated areas for each of the 48 POW/MIA planes. Six areas known as Wings Walk and Freedom Flight. It consists of eight areas, a 100-foot metal display of aircraft, a 9.5 mile base east of Cecil Field and a chapel. This property was given to the City of Jacksonville when Cecil Field was decommissioned in 1980. As a result, the entire 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

U.S. Congressman
John R.ostenko

"I am pleased to see part of the former Naval Air Station Cecil Field for a POW/MIA Memorial is a fitting location to pay tribute to the very special group. Since they may lack the creator of the POW/MIA flag, it is a fitting one resident of Jacksonville, and that her husband, Lieutenant Commander Michael G. York, is remembered on Cecil Field, there could not be a more appropriate site for the POW/MIA Memorial."

U.S. Senator
Marco Rubio

"I am pleased to build the Cecil Field Presence of War and Missing in Action Memorial is a great opportunity to honor the service members who did not return home. Thank you."

U.S. Senator
Bill Nelson

"With the Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, we can show our commitment to all those who have seen the soldiers to the children and families, and those that for their unselfishness and bravery."

MISSION STATEMENT

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

More than 82,000 are still Missing in Action and Missing in Action. See us at MIA.

In 1715 the citizens of St. Augustine petitioned King Philip V of Spain to grant the city a coat of arms for its faithful and courageous service to Spain. In 1991, finding no record of the request being fulfilled, the City Commission made a formal request to King Juan Carlos I.

Vicente de Cardenas y Vicent, Herald, King of Arms, Dean of the Corps of Heralds for Spain, found that a Coat of Arms for the City had indeed been authorized November 26, 1715 - 276 years before the city came to realize it.

The shape is a 16th century Spanish shield, quartered by a gold cross representing Christianity.

The first quarter, the upper left side of the shield, is a gold fleur-de-lis on a royal blue background. This is a symbolic connection to the French House of Bourbon as King Philip V (1683 - 1746) was the grandson of the French King Louie XIV, who aided Philip in gaining the Spanish throne. The gold of the fleur-de-lis denotes generosity, valor and perseverance. The fleur-de-lis itself is a three leafed flower or lily, the leafs representing faith, wisdom, and valor. The blue background represents loyalty and splendor.

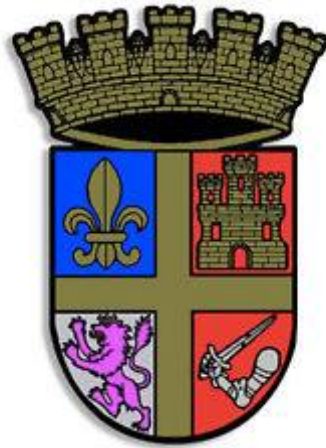
The second quarter is a golden castle with black masonry joints, windows and door in red, on a red background. This corresponds to the arms of the former kingdom of Castille. The castle is a sign of defense and safety. The red background represents fortitude and creative power.

The third quarter has the purple Lion of the province of Leon. The Lion is rampant, standing erect in the fighting position signifying majesty and kingship. In the Middle Ages the lion represented strength, courage, and generosity. The tongue and claws are red, and the

In the fourth quarter is an arm in armor, holding a silver sword on a red background, indicating a military connection. It honors the military garrison in St. Augustine as a Spanish military outpost. King Philip wanted to be sure the military history of the city was remembered. The silver of the armor indicates nobility and serenity and the red background is a tribute to the military garrisoned in St. Augustine.

On the crest, the circle of walls with gates, towers, windows and sentry boxes in gold indicates that this coat of arms is for a city.

The Coat of Arms is the official city seal and cannot be used without the consent of the City Commission.



Pictures are from Commitment To Honor #14

South Florida National Cemetery

Lake Worth, FL 4/14/2018

25 Veterans, 3 spouses (including a husband & wife)

Army, Marine Corp, Navy & Air Force Veterans,

WWII, Korea & Vietnam



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

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


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

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

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

<https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/annual-electronic-filing-requirement-for->

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Save the Date

V4V

Vets 4 Vets

Quarterly Gathering of Veterans

Saturday June 9th, 2018

Veterans Memorial Arena

1030 - 1300

All Military Veterans, Active Duty and spouses are cordially invited to attend the "Veterans for Veterans" Quarterly Gathering Saturday June 9th at the Jacksonville Veterans Memorial Arena. This includes free buffet lunch and parking (There will be guides for directions. Lot Z which will be marked). The schedule is 1030 to 1100 coffee social, event begins at 1100 (There will be guest speakers discussing issues that impact current veterans and their families) followed by a buffet lunch at 1230 PM allowing time for networking. With the numerous service organizations and businesses set up to help answer any questions that the veteran may have and to help for those in need. The event ends at 1300. Point of Contact is Clyde Slick at slickch1966@hotmail.com or 703-473-1261.

Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc. Minutes of April 26, 2018

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

Chairman Dudley led the Pledge to the Flag

Vice Chairman Ray Quinn gave the Invocation

Last month's Minutes were approved as read

The Treasurer's Report was approved as amended to include EXCOM transfer of funds to zero out St Aug. National balance

Introduction of Guests:

Abby Taylor, St Augustine Fire Fighter

Tom Richardson, Asst Director, Veterans Employment & Training Service (VETS)

Selena Hernandez-Haines, Director of Military Recruitment Flagler College

Check presentation: Fred Dupont & Exalted Ruler Lorin Austin of Elks Lodge 829 presented Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley with a check for \$ 3500 to be used by the Council to support the Sept. 8th Homeless Veterans Standdown.

Vilano Beach VFW repaid the Council (\$ 1,000) that the Council loaned it to help set up the new organization.

Speakers: St Augustine Fire Fighter Abby Taylor, spoke about a joint support effort by the Fire Dept and the Council. Firefighters will wear logo T shirts in November and on Veterans holidays. The shirts will have Council and Fire Dept logos and be

Tom Richardson, Dept of Labor, Veterans Employment & Training Service. Prepares America's veterans, transitioning service members, and their spouses for meaningful careers, promotes their employment opportunities and provides them with employment resources and expertise. Call Tom for additional information, 904-353-2187.

Selena Hernandez-Haines, Director of Military Recruitment Flagler College. There are 30 student veterans attending Flagler College. The college is actively encouraging increasing veteran numbers by acquiring a "Military Friendly" rating.

Committee Reports:

Mac, there are 31 known Purple Heart recipients for the May 15 ceremony. Mac and other VSOs will be attending training meetings from May 6 to May 11.

John Leslie, Veterans Treatment Court is now 14 months old. There are 19 active participants and 11 mentors.

VVA 1084 is holding its first Golf Tournament on May 25 at Royal St Augustine. Proceeds to go to needy veterans.

Gold Star Remembrance Day will be held at 6 pm at Beaver Toyota on May 26.

New Business: Eric West, There will be a Job Fair at TPC on May 5 and a Poker Run for Lassen Vets Nursing Home on May 12.

at the County Administration building and the County Declaring by Proclamation, that St Johns County will be a Purple Heart County and honoring our Purple Heart recipients.

Chairman Dudley met with the VA and location & bids will go out by the end of April and the VA will decide results by year end.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm. The next meeting of the Veterans Council will be on Thursday, May 31, 7 pm in the Health & Human Services Building, 200 San Sebastian View.

Future speakers:

May 31, Toulia F. Wootan, Director of Community Programs, Community Hospice and Palliative Care, Caregiver Coalition of Northeast Florida and Crystal Timmons, of the Veterans Garden Project.

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

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

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

September 27, Charles Tingley, St. Augustine Historical Society, Senior Reference



From top left, Lorin Austin Exalted Ruler St. Augustine Elks Lodge 829, Abby Taylor St. Augustine Fire Dept., Tom Richardson Ass't Director Veterans Employment & Training Service (VETS), and Selena Hernandez-Haines Director of Military Recruitment Flagler College

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FL 32084

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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.

Veteran County Councils of Northeast Florida



•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

•Duval County

President: Steve Spickelmier
Meetings:
Third Tuesday of each month in the 40/8
Building
Located at the American Legion Post 137
5443 San Juan Avenue
7pm

•Nassau County

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



•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



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The Memphis Belle's rebirth: Rehabbed WW II bomber rolling out

<https://apnews.com/c95e08e2ca1f41eeac206724f4276d99>

From Michael Isam's Veterans Today

24-hour Veteran Crisis Hotline – 1-800-273-8255 AND PRESS 1

Need transportation to your VA appointment in Gainesville?

Schedule your seat on the DAV Chapter 6 van.

Contact the VA Clinic at 904-823-2954

and ask for Veterans Van Scheduling.



Over 300 volunteers placed approximately 14,000 Flags at the Grave-sites on the hallowed grounds of The Jacksonville National Cemetery on Thursday Afternoon 24 May 2018: Supervised by a

POW-MIA Memorial Park, Jacksonville