



The Patriot Reader Newsletter

P.O. Box 2117

St. Augustine, FL 32085

Bill Dudley, Publisher

Michael Rothfeld, Editor

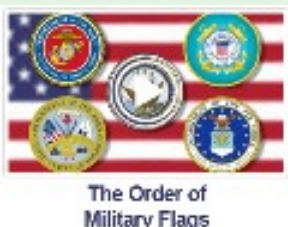
Volume 8, Issue 6

Message from the Chairman

June 2019

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Fellow Veterans, I hope you were able to join us on Monday as we gathered to honor our fellow comrades who paid the ultimate sacrifice for our country. The Memorial Day services at our local St. Augustine National Cemetery were attended by the largest attendance we have ever had. Our guest speaker, Florida National Guard Brig. Gen. Valeria Gonzalez Kerr ret. did a superb job of delivering the message of the importance of this day of remembrance. The General spoke of the importance of keeping the tradition of Memorial Day and why we, as Americans, should never lose sight of this day. Our large turnout from the community was greatly appreciated. This year's event was probably the largest in

attendance we have had over the many years we have been honoring this day and our veterans The Military Officers of America, Ancient City Chapter and the Veterans Council of St. Johns County, sponsors of the Memorial Day ceremony wish to thank all who attended. On Saturday, May 25th the Jacksonville National Cemetery Support Committee hosted the Memorial Day ceremony at Jacksonville National Cemetery. I was honored to be the Master of Ceremonies for this event. Our two guest speakers were Cheryl Mason, Chairman, VA Board of Veterans Appeals and Brig. Gen. Michael Fleming, FLANG, ret. Both speakers gave powerful and insightful remarks about Memorial Day and sighted several personal experiences that reach to



the heart of this national day of remembrance. There were 16 wreaths presented by local organizations as a token of gratitude to honor those who lost their lives in the service of our nation. It is essential that in these trying times in our country, we not let important days like Memorial Day and Veterans Day fade as a distant memory. Our country will remain free so long as the 1% continue to protect the 99% with their service and lives if necessary. Remember them.

Bill Dudley, Chairman
Veterans Council of St. Johns County

Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home



Memorial Day Remembrance Service



Each year we celebrate National Nursing Home Week with contests and competitions. Monday Match up, Building your own paper airplanes and competing for distance, "Are You Smarter Than The Administrator" game and Hungry, Hungry Hippo (and favorite). We end the week with the Navy Band and Banana Splits!





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



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

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

DATES OF 2019 SC at JNC MEETINGS

June 24, Sept. 9, Oct. 14, Nov. 4, Dec. 2

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

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

Chairman: Steve Spickelmier

Vice Chairman: Bill Dudley, Treasurer: John Mountcastle

Assistant Treasurer: Michael Rothfeld, Secretary: Kathy Church

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

Historian: Kathy Cayton

Chaplain: Rev. Patrick A. Archuleta, Sr.

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

Future meeting Speakers:

May 30, Dr. Susan Parker, Historian, Military Families of Old St. Augustine

**June 27 Bruce Thompson, Vets4Vets Jax
Zahara Veterans Network**

**July 25 Chris Young, Special Forces Association, NE FL Chapter 88
Florida Military Re-enactor**

**August 29 Gerald Timoney, Military Museum of N. FL
Crystal Timmons, Veterans Garden Project**

**Sept. 26 Bob Buehn, Capt. USN, (Ret), former Commanding Officer, Guantanamo Bay
Char Miller, Community Hospice, Veterans Programs**

Oct. 24 Chris Vedrick, Commander Dept of FL Military Order of the Purple Heart

**Nov. 21 Emily Jane Murray, Flagler College, Public Archeology Coord, The Seminole Wars and
How it Changed All of Us**

From Council Chairman Bill Dudley



Fellow Veterans:

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

The following activities and updates have taken place:

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

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

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

William Dudley, Chairman

Veterans Council of St. Johns County

anuday00@aol.com

For Immediate Release

Rutherford, Waltz, Rubio Introduce Bill to Name St. Augustine VA Facility after Vietnam War Hero

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, Congressman John Rutherford (FL-04), Congressman Michael Waltz (FL-06), and Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) introduced legislation to name a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) clinic in St. Johns County after Private First Class Leo C. Chase, Jr., the first man from St. Johns County to be killed in the Vietnam War.



The new VA outpatient clinic will be located at 207 Stratton Road in St. Augustine, and this bill would designate it as the “Leo C. Chase, Jr. Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic.” Groundbreaking for the clinic is expected in October. “We owe our military and veterans, especially those who made the ultimate sacrifice, a debt of gratitude that can never be repaid.” said Rutherford. “Through his actions in battle and his answer to the call of service, Private Chase displayed the honor and courage that characterizes so many of our Vietnam Era veterans.

With this legislation, we make sure every person walking into that building remembers the life and legacy of Private Leo C. Chase, Jr.” “I’m honored to recognize the first St. Johns County hero who sacrificed his life for our country in Vietnam,” said Waltz. “The Leo C. Chase Jr. clinic will expand and improve health care for Northeast Florida veterans who earned this commitment from their government.”

“At 23 years old Private Chase was killed while serving with an Airmobile unit in Vietnam just five days before he would have gone home. Private Chase’s life served as an inspiration to others before and after his death,” said Rubio. “While we can never repay his sacrifice to our nation, I am proud to introduce this legislation that will name the new VA clinic in St. Augustine after an American hero who gave the ultimate sacrifice.” Army Private First Class Leo C. Chase, Jr., was killed on November 15, 1965, in the Ia Drang battle dramatized in the book and film, *We Were Soldiers*. Chase was a rifleman in Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry. He flew into landing zone X-Ray in the Ia Drang Valley of South Vietnam, near the Cambodian border. The helicopter troops were immediately attacked by thousands of soldiers of the 320th, 33rd, and 66th regiments of the North Vietnamese Army in a battle that lasted four days. Outnumbered nearly ten to one, Chase and the other members of his platoon bravely repulsed many massive ground assaults from the Viet Cong, all the while taking fire from enemy snipers. In the end, Chase and many other members of his platoon lost their lives, but not without accomplishing their objective. The American lines held because of the courage and sheer determination of the Seventh Cavalry.

World War II Navy Flight Nurses

Do you know of any local WW II Flight Nurses?

*Please let us know as we would like to recognize and Honor their unsung heroics
at our upcoming Veterans Day Event in St. Augustine*

Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley recently received an email from a former class mate asking him if he was aware of the heroic work of the World War II Navy Flight nurses? This piqued Bill's interest and Chairman Dudley and I opened up the history books.

The email was from Maureen Christopher, CDR, NC, USNR, Retired, a former Navy nurse. Though retired as a Navy Commander, she continues her interest in all things military as National Board Co-chair of the oral history committee in the Navy Nurse Corps Association (NNCA) (<http://nnca.org/>). Her committee's primary mission is to preserve the history and legacy of Navy nurses through videotaped oral histories. The videos are then transcribed for research, and possible entry into the Library of Congress. You're most likely aware of their chapters throughout the United States.

In Maureen's mothers class, which was the second class, we only know that she and one other are alive. Ages 96 and 97. Such brave women who hardly spoke of what they did, just knew they were "doing their job!" She never even told us she was in battle of Okinawa.

Maureen's 97 year old mother was one of the original 108 U.S. Navy flight nurses mentioned above. On one of mine and Ken's visits in Colorado, we were discussing her mom and Maureen asked if we'd like to see her mom's video (92 years old at the time) as she spoke about her experiences as a Navy flight nurse during WWII. It seems pretty remarkable that a force as great as America's U.S. Navy only established and trained five elite units, consisting of just 108 U.S. Navy nurses, to airlift injured military from evacuation of wounded military from both Iwo Jima and Okinawa battles to field hospitals in the Pacific. Even more interesting is that those 108 woman seem in sad parallel to our Viet Nam veterans who've only recently begun to be honored for their service.



Another unique item of interest is that they named a darling Warrior canine doggie after my mom Jacqueline, "Jackie". (Golden and Labrador Retrievers) It was voted upon at the Navy nurse (NNCA) convention/ reunion in Seattle last year. I will also send you Mom's story as a reference and there is a Facebook page on Warrior Canine Connection (WCC) which covers "Jackie's" antics every so often! If you punch in Warrior Canine Connection out of Maryland, you can see live cams etc of these wonderful dogs who live with puppy parents after growing a bit bigger and are then given to wounded veterans as service dogs, after 2 years of growth, to help and support them! Great mission!

There are quite a few references to the nurses on the internet: <http://www.med.navy.mil/bumed/nmhistory/Pages/showcase/Innovations/FlightNurses/main.aspx>

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Angels of the Airfields: Navy Air Evacuation Nurses of World War II

By Andre Sobocinski, historian, U.S. Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery

When the Naval Air Transport Service (NATS) R4D broke through the clouds of volcanic dust and smoke to land on Iwo Jima on March 6, 1945, it carried more than whole blood and medical supplies for the wounded.

On board this flight was a 22-year old Navy nurse named Jane Kendeigh, marking the first time in history that a Navy flight nurse appeared on an active Pacific battlefield. Kendeigh may have become a symbol for casualty evacuation and high altitude nursing on that day, but she was far from alone in this daring mission.

From 6 to 21 March 1945, Kendeigh and her fellow flight nurses air evacuated some 2,393 Marines and Sailors from Iwo Jima. Pictures of these first combat nurses show them offering encouragement and comfort to the rows of littered patients along the battlefield runways

In a recent telephone interview, Mary Hudnall, one of the first flight nurses on Iwo, recalled one patient being so grateful of his rescue that he insisted on giving her a memento from the battlefield. "He asked me to take a small medicine bottle and said 'It's sand from Iwo Jima. I don't want you to forget what we did here.'" When he fell asleep she tucked the trinket under his blanket. However, when he awoke he begged her to take it. As of April 2013, Hudnall still had this souvenir and still remembered the sacrifice of the men on Iwo.

By the time of the invasion of Iwo Jima, the concept of air evacuation was nothing new. On 1 September 1942, the joint-service South Pacific Combat Air Transport Command (SCAT) began using cargo planes to evacuate wounded servicemen during the Guadalcanal campaign. These missions were initially free of medical personnel until November 1942, when Navy pharmacists mates were added to flights

In March 1943, SCAT formally established a joint medical section comprised of Army and Navy flight surgeons to supervise and select casualties for air evacuation in theater. Flight nursing first took off when the U.S. Army employed nurses on evacuation missions to North African campaign in December 1942. A year later, in June 1943, the Army formally established the Army Air Force School of Air Evacuation at Bowman Field, KY to offer specialized training for its flight nurses.

Owing to the need for flight nurses in the Pacific war, the Navy established its own School of Air Evacuation Casualties at Naval Air Station Alameda, CA in 1944. Overseeing the school was a former United Airline stewardess and registered nurse named Mary Ellen O'Connor, later dubbed the most "flyingest woman in the world" for her long career aboard airplane. On 10 December 1944, the first class, consisting of 24 Navy nurses and 24 pharmacists mates, commenced.

The eight-week course consisted of lectures and demonstrations on survival training, air evacuation techniques, physiology of flight, first aid with emphasis on shock, splinting/redressing wounds, and treatment of patients in non-pressurized cabins. Students also learned about artificial horizons, and altitude through flight simulation exercises. Hallmark in the course was the intensive 18-hour "watermanship" training organized to simulate conditions of a water landing/crash scenario. The prospective flight nurses were required to swim under water, swim one-mile, and be able to tow victims 440 yards in 10 minutes.

Following graduation in January 1945, 12 of the first flight nurses were sent to Naval Air Station Agana, Guam, to prepare for their first battlefield mission while the others were used to transport casualties in the Continental United States and from the (Territory of) Hawaii. By the end of March, after two more classes graduated from the school, the Navy had 74 trained flight nurses in its employ; almost all would be used for the next big challenge, perhaps the biggest of them all: Okinawa.

The Battle of Okinawa alone accounted for 17 percent of the total Navy and Marine Corps casualties suffered in World War II. Owing to the enormous casualty totals, Okinawa was the largest combat casualty evacuation operation in U.S. military history and marked the first time the Navy evacuated more



casualties by air than sea. Unsung heroes in this campaign, the Navy flight nurses, now using larger R5D which could accommodate up to sixty patient litters, would help evacuate some 11,771 to Guam.

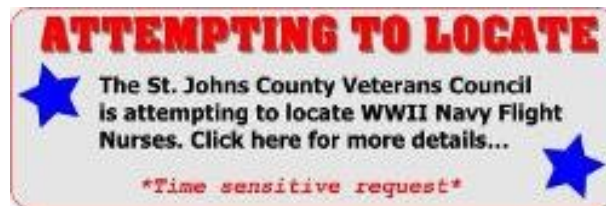


After Okinawa, many of the flight nurses were used to repatriate Prisoners of War from the Philippines to Guam. A few who stayed in service years after the war would participate in the Berlin Airlift.

Owing to a longstanding ban on marriage that was renewed after the war, the choice of service and family was not possible for flight nurses and most left the Navy.

Today, the story of the brave women of Iwo Jima and Okinawa remains a footnote in most histories of military nursing; they never achieved any medals for their service let alone much notoriety. Then again, most would say that they were just happy doing their jobs.

As ENS Jane Kendeigh would remark about her service: “our rewards are smiles, a slow nod of appreciation, a gesture, a word, accolades greater, more heart-warming than any medal.”



Do you know of any WWII Navy Flight Nurses living locally in our area? If you do, please notify the St. Johns County Veterans Council, thank you.

Please contact Council Secretary Michael Rothfeld

rothfeldm@gmail.com

A Salute To The Unspoken Heroes Of WWII, The Army Nurse Corps

By Dan Doyle

Ruth Miller could not sit by and do nothing when she heard what our soldiers were enduring on the battlefield during WWII. She was a nurse and she felt she had to do something more to help in the war effort.

She joined the Army Nurse Corps.

Miller was assigned to the 110th Army Evacuation Hospital in Europe. She arrived in England in June of 1944 and then the 110th Evacuation Hospital unit was moved to Luxembourg in September of that year to be on the front lines, to help bandage the wounded and to help with necessary surgeries, if needed.

She quickly discovered both how important that work was and how much the wounded soldiers appreciated the presence of these nurses. Not only were they instrumental in helping them begin to recover from their battle wounds physically, but the soldiers' morale went up when they saw these nurses too. They associated them with home, maybe with girlfriends or wives.

This has always been one of the often unknown positive effects of the healing process. It is not the medical care alone that begins the healing, but the care, the tender and kind care of the nurses who are the "soldiers" on the front lines of the healing arts.

When morale is good, somehow it affects the unconscious, psychological powers of self-healing in the patients.

Listen to Ruth Miller as she remembers those times. She was there in Luxembourg when, in December 1944, Hitler launched a final, desperate counter-offensive that would come to be called the Battle of the Bulge, one of the bloodiest battles in the late days of the war in the European Theater. It was nurses like 2nd Lt. Ruth Miller who took care of the wounded at the 110th Evacuation Hospital, bandaging them, helping in surgeries, and getting them transported to the rear for more intensive and sophisticated care.

We must not forget the importance of these unsung heroes in the success of the war effort. Their presence so close to the front and their medical skills made it possible for many of the more severely wounded to survive their wounds.

They were the first to raise the morale of the wounded and thereby to help to speed up their healing time.



Memorial Day in St. Augustine

Veterans are Remembered!

St. Augustine National Cemetery, St. Augustine, Fla

May 27, 2019 Michael Isam

On what appears, so far, to be the hottest day of 2019, an estimated crowd of 300-400 citizens turned out to honor veterans who have given their last full measure of devotion to their country.

Amid the pageantry of the “Massing of the Colors”, marshalled by CW4 George McCrea, USA (Ret.), a stirring offering of military themed songs was provided by Ancient City Pipes and Drums.

The guest speaker, BG Valeria Gonzalez-Kerr (Ret.) provided a very knowledgeable history of Memorial (Decoration) Day dating back to April, 1866.

As Mrs. Nancy Birchall and Mrs. Gretchen Titshaw, both of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 37, read the names of nearly 200 Veterans of St. Johns County who have died since Memorial Day, 2018, a bell salute, given by Cadet Erin Sass of the Allen D. Nease H.S. Navy JROTC, rang out for each branch of service.

Wreaths honoring the fallen were presented by Helene Sullivan and Carol Mathews, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 37, and Lt Col Bill Dudley, USAF (Ret.), Community Hospice Veterans Partnership.

Following the Rifle Salute by VFW 2391 and Taps by Sgt. Sheldon York, SJCSO, the colors were retired the benediction and concluding remarks were given.





Photos by Michael Isam
& Ted Pappas

Memorial Day at Jacksonville National Cemetery



Memorial Day at Jacksonville National Cemetery



Sacred Duty: A Soldier's Tour at Arlington National Cemetery

Tom Cotton, U.S. Senator from Arkansas and Author, Sacred Duty: A Soldier's Tour at Arlington National Cemetery



Tom Cotton was elected to the U.S. Senate from Arkansas in 2014, following one term in the U.S. House of Representatives. He serves on the Senate Banking Committee, the Senate Intelligence Committee, and the Senate Armed Services Committee. A graduate of Harvard College, he studied government at the Claremont Graduate School and received his J.D. from Harvard Law School in 2002. In 2005, he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army, rose to 1st Lieutenant, and served deployments in Iraq with the 101st Airborne and in Afghanistan with a Provincial Reconstruction Team. His military decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Combat Infantry Badge, and Ranger Tab. He is the author of *Sacred Duty: A Soldier's Tour at Arlington National Cemetery*.

The following is adapted from a speech delivered on April 9, 2019, at Hillsdale College's Allan P. Kirby, Jr. Center for Constitutional Studies and Citizenship in Washington, D.C.

What follows is an edited version of Sen. Cotton's speech with a link at the end to his full speech.

Every headstone at Arlington tells a story. These are tales of heroes.

Bending over to plant the flags brought me eye-level with the lettering on those marble stones. The stories continued with each one. Distinguished Service Cross. Silver Star. Bronze Star. Purple Heart. America's wars marched by. Iraq. Afghanistan. Vietnam. Korea. World War II. World War I. Some soldiers died in very old age; others were teenagers. Crosses, Stars of David, Crescents and Stars. Every religion, every race, every age, every region of America is represented in these fields of stone.

I came upon the gravesite of a Medal of Honor recipient. I paused, came to attention, and saluted. The Medal of Honor is the nation's highest decoration for battlefield valor. By military custom, all soldiers salute Medal of Honor recipients irrespective of their rank, in life and in death. We had reminded our soldiers of this courtesy; hundreds of grave sites would receive salutes that afternoon. I planted this hero's flag and kept moving.

Walking down Arlington’s leafy avenues, we passed Section 60, where soldiers killed in Iraq and Afghanistan were laid to rest if their families chose Arlington as their eternal home. Unlike in the sections we had just completed, several visitors and mourners were present. Some had settled in for a while on blankets or lawn chairs. Others walked among the headstones. Even from a respectful distance, we could see the sense of loss and grief on their faces.

Once we finished in the Columbarium, “mission complete” came over the radio. In just a few hours, we had placed a flag at every grave site in this sacred ground, more than two hundred thousand of them. From President John F. Kennedy to the Unknown Soldiers to the youngest privates from our oldest wars, every hero of Arlington had a few moments that day with a soldier who, in this simple act of remembrance, delivered a powerful message to the dead and the living alike: you are not forgotten.

Read the entire article, which speaks of the “Old Guard”, The Old Guard is literally the old guard, the oldest active-duty infantry regiment in the Army, dating back to 1784, three years older even than our Constitution.

The Old Guard has fought in every major battle in our country’s history.

Since 1948, when The Old Guard became the Army’s ceremonial unit and official escort to the president, it has marched in inaugural parades, performed ceremonies at the White House and the Pentagon, and provided color guards and a drill team for events around the capital, among other missions. But one mission takes priority above all else: military-honor funerals in Arlington National Cemetery.



Nothing interferes with The Old Guard’s mission in Arlington—and when I say nothing, I mean nothing, not even 9/11. On that beautiful morning, the 9 o’clock funerals were underway when American Airlines Flight 77 slammed into the Pentagon, blasting debris across Washington Boulevard into the cemetery’s southeastern corner. The Old Guard’s Medical Platoon rushed to the scene, becoming the first soldiers to deploy to a battlefield in the War on Terror. Yet those funerals continued. So did the 10 o’clock funerals. And the 11 o’clock funerals. Over the next month, even as hundreds of Old Guard soldiers pulled guard duty at the Pentagon and carried remains from the crash site, funerals never stopped in Arlington.

No one summed up better what The Old Guard of Arlington means for our nation than Sergeant Major of the Army Dan Dailey. He shared a story with me about taking a foreign military leader through Arlington to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Sergeant Major Dailey said,

Erin Sass, a JROTC student at Nease High School thanks the St. Augustine/Palm Coast Council for its support.

The Navy League of the United States,

I just wanted to say it was an honor to receive your scholarship for Outstanding Leadership. It has been an absolute privilege over the past four years to be in my NJROTC unit and have the opportunity to step up and lead by example. I can honestly say that NJROTC has changed my life and I am so grateful for everything the Navy League does to support our unit. I am looking forward to serving as an officer in the Coast Guard one day.
Thank you, Erin Sass

“I was explaining what The Old Guard does and he was looking out the window at all those headstones. After a long pause, still looking at the headstones, he said, ‘Now I know why your soldiers fight so hard. You take better care of your dead than we do our living.’”

To read more about “The Old Guard” please click on this link:

https://imprimis.hillsdale.edu/sacred-duty-soldiers-tour-arlington-national-cemetery/?utm_campaign=imprimis&utm_source=housefile&utm_medium=email&utm_content=aprilmay2019sacred-duty&hsenc=p2ANqtz-oLdJuTNYbXjvRnjhrxUfSL3p8OnhRZJ3XDulhOQ2agbDmXspaot8oPTVoMk2r-uvuvuCRmeM1lfc8RnCdZjqnkqEg&hsmi=72653428



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

NATION WIDE PROGRESS AS OF 5/17/2019

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



MIAP - FL PROGRESS AS OF 5/23/2019

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

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO SHARE THIS INFO.

K. [Kathy Beaudoin Church](#)
MIAP-FL State Coordinator
(904) 219-3035

USS Alabama Crewmates with Moe Moyer, Honor Release Return/The Ride Home POW/MIA Organization explaining the meaning of the POW/MIA flag and what The Ride Home and HRR Orgs do to honor those who have sacrificed so much for our Freedom.



Mission Statement:

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



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

What the Council has done:

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

SA-0003147064-01

Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc. Minutes of April 25, 2019

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

Chairman Dudley called the meeting to order at 1904 hours

Chairman Dudley led the Pledge to the Flag **Vice Chairman Ray Quinn** gave the Invocation

Minutes were approved as **presented**
amended

Treasurer's Report was approved as

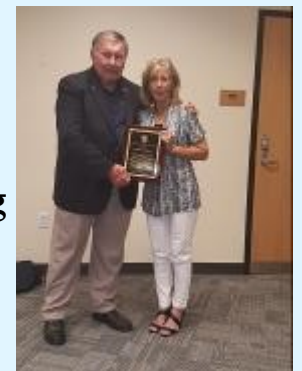
Introduction of Guests: Hellena Pugh, Mike Lee, Travis Neidig, Charlotte Matthews, Ron Delisle, Cynthia Thompson

Speakers: Jessica Bradstreet, VA, Local Recovery Co-ord., helping Veterans improve their own health & well being to their fullest potential. The Council has posted Jessica's extensive list of VA contacts/information on the Council's Facebook page and will be in the June Patriot Reader. Jessica can be reached at: Jessica.Bradstreet@va.gov; (904) 239-8812 for help and information.



Reverend Patrick & Mary Archuleta: Jesuslovesveterans.com is a faith based non profit whose Mission is to help homeless and incarcerated veterans after discharge. Rev Pat works with other vet organizations to provide spiritual guidance and prayer.

Chairman Dudley presented a plaque to VSO Tammy Shirley thanking her for her years of dedicated service and for organizing the annual Homeless Veterans Stand down.



Committee Reports:

Mac: You must see your VA doctor at least once in a 24 month period or have to start the whole process over when you next visit a doctor. Check to see if VA will pay for a non VA medical service first. Mac handed out a very informative "Fact Sheet" called Veterans Com

munity Care- General Information: VA Mission Act of 2018. We will include it in the next Patriot Reader.

John L: VTC has 2 new participants, now up to 27, 45 in VTC from beginning, 3 drop outs, next Court date is May 9

VVA 1084: Vietnam Veterans have been visiting 5 high schools & Pacetti Middle School; March 30 was the Vietnam 50th Commemoration held at the Corazon Cinema with LTC Barry Bridger, former VN POW was the Keynote. Gold and Blur Star families were recognized & honored.

May 24th is the big annual golf tournament.

Steve S: spoke about the MIAP last Call to Honor and the next one scheduled in S FL on May 25.

Bill: new CBOC estimated start of work is summer 2019 and finish 12 months after start. A new procedure in effect, services come to veteran, not other way around.

Nominations taken for naming of new CBOC and results out shortly.

All invited to Memorial Day Ceremony, Monday May 27, 10 am, in the historic St. Augustine National Cemetery. Jacksonville's Memorial Day Ceremony will be on Saturday, May 25, 10 am in Jacksonville National Cemetery.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm, The next meeting of the Veterans Council will be on Thursday, May 30, 2019, 7 pm in the Health & Human Services Building, 200 San Sebastian View.

Future speakers:

May 30 Dr. Susan Parker, Historian, Military Families of Colonial St. Augustine

June 27 Bruce Thompson, Vets4Vets Jax

Zahara Veterans Network

July 25 Chris Young, Special Forces Association, NE FL Chapter 88

Bob Alvarez, Historical Military Reenactor

August 29 Gerald Timoney, Military Museum of N. FL

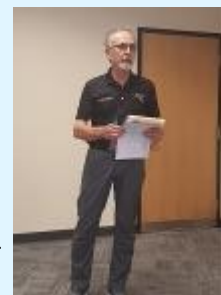
Crystal Timmons, Veterans Garden Project

Sept. 26 Bob Buehn, Capt. USN, (Ret), former Commanding Officer, Guantanamo Bay

Char Miller, Community Hospice, Veterans Programs

Oct. 24 Chris Vedrick, Commander Dept of FL Military Order of the Purple Heart

Nov. 21 Emily Jane Murray, Public Archeology Coord, Flagler College, The Seminole Wars and How it Changed All of Us



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you,

Jessica Bradstreet, L.C.S.W.

Web Resources:

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

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

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

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

<https://maketheconnection.net/>

Chartered by an Act of Congress for Combat Wounded Veterans

Chartered by Congress in 1958, The Military Order of the Purple Heart is composed of Military men and women who received the Purple Heart Medal for wounds suffered in Combat. Although our membership is restricted to the combat wounded, we support all veterans and their families with a myriad of nation-wide programs by Chapters and National Service Officers.



Department of Florida Purpose

The purpose of the Department of Florida, Military Order of the Purple Heart of the United States of America (MOPH USA) is to foster patriotic allegiance to the United States of America, fidelity to its Constitution and laws, the security of civil liberty, the permanence of free institutions, allegiance to the constitution and laws of the State of Florida and its political subdivisions by serving as an educational, fraternal, historical and patriotic body to perpetuate the core ideals and principles upon which the United States of America was created.

Department of Florida Overview

Departments of the MOPH U.S.A. may be organized when there are three or more active chapters with a minimum combined membership of 100 members in good standing in any state, territory or foreign country. When so organized, all chapters within such state, territory or foreign country are subject to the jurisdiction of the department.

Departments are geographically grouped by states and territories for the purpose of membership expansion. There are six MOPH regions with the Department of Florida belonging to Region IV. Other Region IV departments include the states of Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

The Department of Florida is presently comprised of 20 active chapters with over 2,980 members. Department officers are selected at the annual Department Convention held between May 1 and June 30. Elected officers include a Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Finance Officer, Trustees, Judge Advocate, Inspector and Sergeant-at-Arms. Department officers appointed by the Commander include an Adjutant, Service Officer, Federal Legislative Officer, State Legislative Officer, Welfare Officer, Historian, Chaplain, Americanism Officer, Surgeon and Chief of Staff.

Department of Florida MOPH. info@arboregroup.com

Apr. 13, 2019, Congratulations to the 2019-20 newly elected and appointed Dept of Florida MOPH and MOPHA officers.



National Military Signing Day at Nease

Nease NJROTC hosted its National Military Signing Day for six graduating seniors receiving appointments to the United States Service Academies or full ROTC scholarships at public universities on April 30.

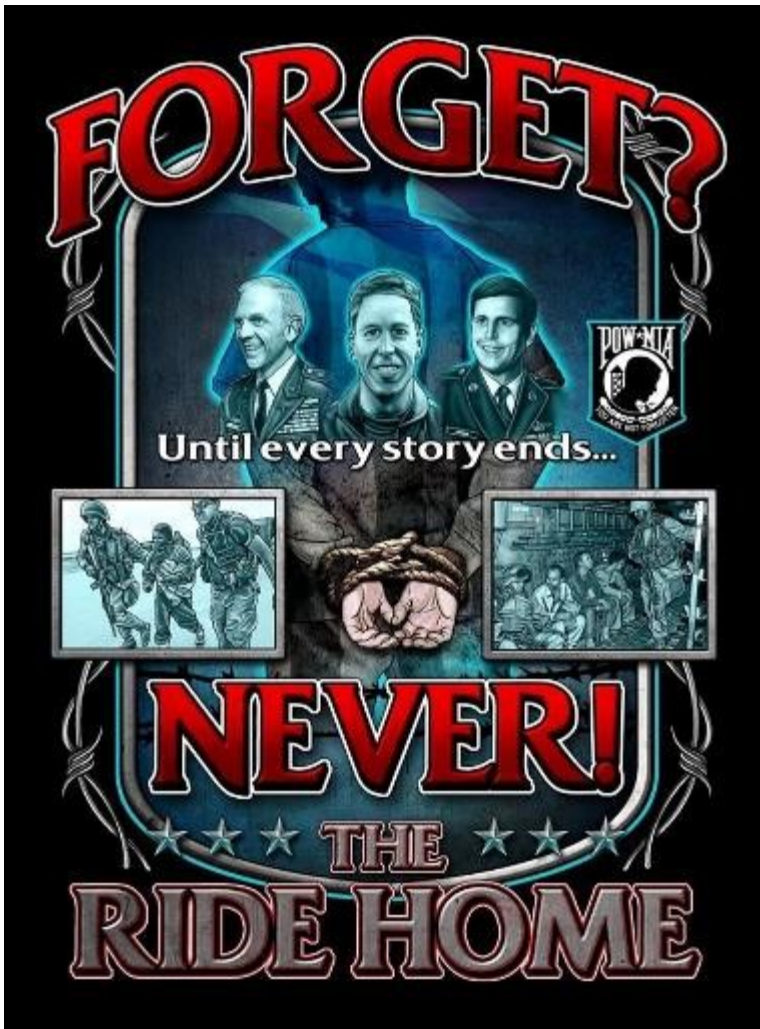
Six cadets signed letters of intent during a formal ceremony held on campus and attended by family, teachers and classmates.

“This is Nease NJROTC,” said Capt. Scott LaRochelle, Nease’s senior naval science instructor. “This is what we do – produce future leaders for the United States of America.”

The six Nease students receiving appointments/scholarships were Troy Barber (full Air Force ROTC scholarship to attend Florida State University), Peyton Gustafson (full Marine Corps ROTC scholarship to attend Savannah State University), Konnor Matthews (full Navy ROTC scholarship to attend Jacksonville University), Sinead Morgan (appointment to attend the United States Military Academy), Brandon Mum (full Army ROTC scholarship to attend Embry Riddle Aeronautical University), and Erin Sass (appointment to attend the United States Coast Guard Academy Scholars program).

Nease is currently the top rated NJROTC program in Area-12 (northern Florida and the state of Georgia), and was ranked as the nation’s No. 5 program in 2018.





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

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

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

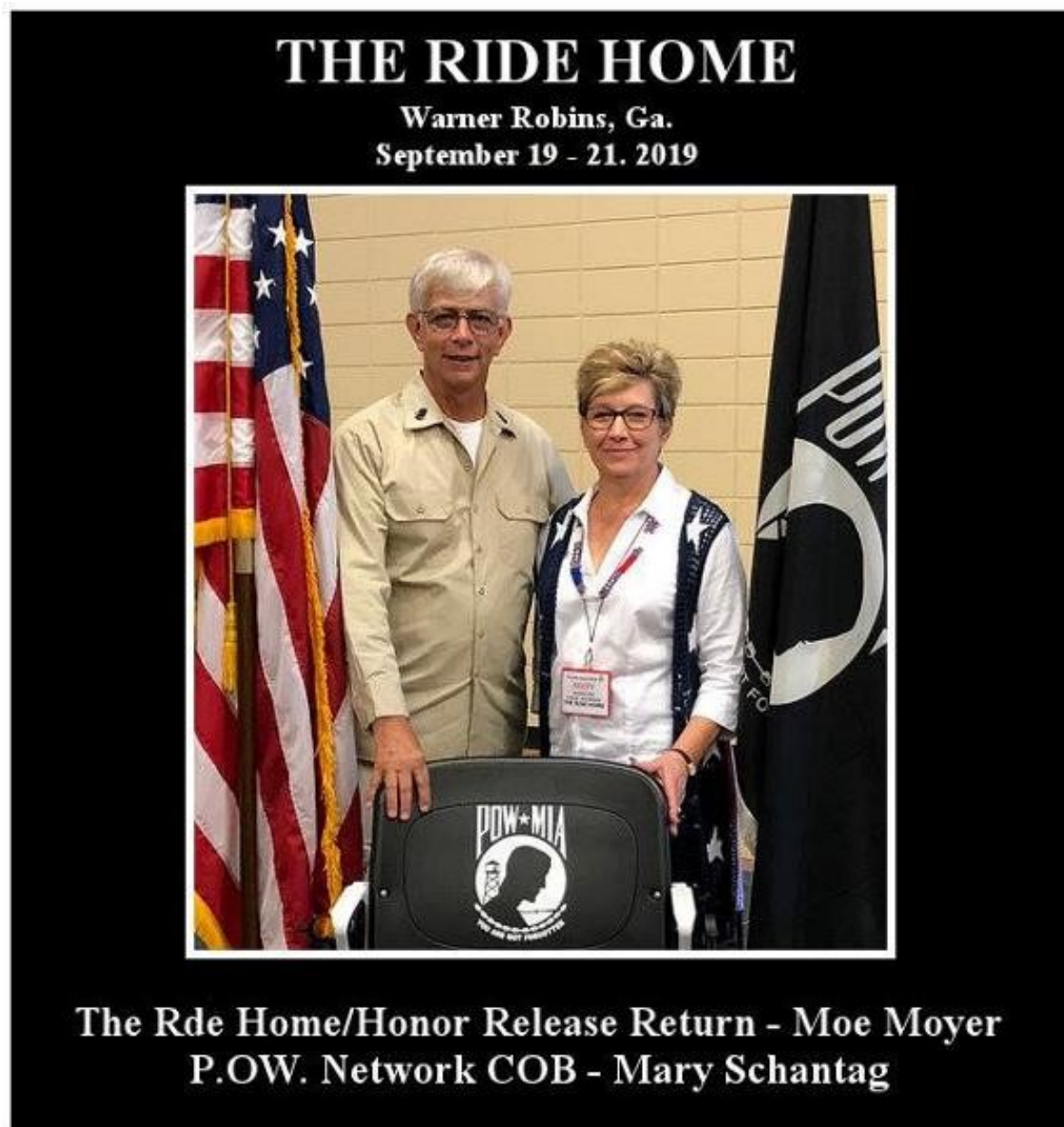
Short sleeve red or black. Long sleeve sports grey.

The Ride Home

3818 Litchfield Loop

Lake Wales, Fl. 33859

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





ClearCaptions™ Thanks You!

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

Where: Main Library 1960 N. Ponce de Leon Blvd

Date: Tuesday, June 25th, 2019

Time: Noon to 1:00 p.m.

RSVP: 904-568-4562

clearcaptions.com

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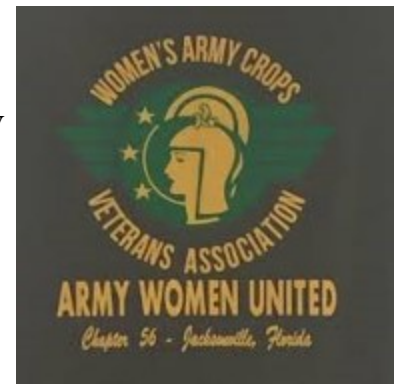

ClearCaptions.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

A reminder that veterans never stop serving.

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



2019 "Salute Across America" Tour

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

.....

Honoring the Importance of Sacrifice, Honor, Courage & Patriotism

Purpose of Tour:

* Show Appreciation to Our Nations Heroes

* Inspire Patriotism, Community & Camaraderie



Vietnam Veterans of America Daytona Beach Chapter 1048

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





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



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

PIPES, DRUMS & PATRIOTS

A CELTIC MUSICAL CELEBRATION OF AMERICA'S HEROES

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

ENTERTAINMENT BY
THE GLASGOW GIRLS CELTIC BAND & FRIENDS



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



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TICKETS BEFORE 6/22
AND GET 12!
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Peabody Auditorium, Daytona Beach, Florida
Tickets available from Box Office or www.peabodyauditorium.org

One box checked, many more before POW/MIA Memorial and Museum becomes reality

March 29, 2019 was a fitting day to dedicate the newly-restored Chapel of the High-Speed Pass and unveil two plaques which commemorate the chapel's historic landmark status. That date was also National Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day and local veterans were there to help celebrate the occasion at Cecil Field.

Hosted by the Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, a nonprofit dedicated to honoring all former prisoners of war and remembering those missing in action, the dedication service was preceded by a brief unveiling of two plaques on the front of the chapel. The first notes the historic landmark status, as legislated by the City of Jacksonville in 2018, for its part in the military base's 58-year history (1941-1999). The other plaque commemorates the day of dedication, March 29, 2019, following more than a year of renovation and restoration.



The Chapel of the High-Speed Pass hosted hundreds of weddings, baptisms, memorial and funeral services, in addition to Memorial Day and Veterans Day events since 1966. Built in the A-frame design popular in church architecture during the 1960-1970s, the chapel was designed by KJB Architects of Jacksonville.

The chapel restoration project was part of a larger, multi-million project to create a memorial and a museum. The \$30 million project is expected to take five to six years to complete.

Land preparation for Phase I of the project was expected to begin in early 2019. There will be a Jet Display area, replica of the Cecil runways, reflection areas, and a brick paved area known as Benefactor Plaza. There will be memorials for the different conflicts and campaigns the base was involved in from World War II to Operation Desert Shield and Storm. The USS Forrestal (CVA-59) incident, known as the "Forrestal fire" on July 29, 1967, will honor and remember the heroes lost.

The service included music by the Let Freedom Sing Choir, the First Baptist Academy Youth Choir and the Liberty Express Quartet, the presenting and posting of the colors by the Filipino American Veterans Society Honor Guard, dedication of the Missing Man Pew, a tribute to the four chaplains who served at the chapel during its heyday, and keynote speaker Richard "Richie" Perricone, a former POW.

Perricone, a St. Augustine resident, was captured by the North Vietnamese Army in 1967, two years after being drafted and assigned to Third Platoon of B Company, 112 Infantry Battalion, 4th Army Division. He was part of the infamous march up the Ho Chi Minh Trail and imprisoned at the "Hanoi Hilton," the Hoa Lo Prison, then released in 1973. His military decorations include the Silver Star, Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, two Purple Hearts, the POW Medal, National Defense Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, Vietnam Service Medal and the Vietnam Campaign Medal.

By Kate A. Hallock, Resident Community News

New billboard up along I-95 in Jacksonville bringing more attention to veteran suicide

By: Steven Ponson. News 104.5 WOKV

Jacksonville FL - It's a visual smack in the face on your drive through Jacksonville's southside. A new sign was revealed Wednesday on I-95 and Butler Boulevard that's designed to bring more awareness to veteran suicides. K9s for Warriors CEO Rory Diamond says the sign will show the number of veteran suicides so far in 2019 and then will be updated every week.



“Much like the national debt clock that we saw years and years ago where people started to realize that this is a problem that, ya know, this couldn't just be slept on, couldn't be just ignored.” Diamond says.

He says PTSD causes 20 suicides a day in the U.S. When the sign was first unveiled the number of suicides so far this year was 3000.

Afghanistan and Iraq war veteran Greg Wells says he hopes this reminder for drivers will help to ultimately bring positive change for veterans and the issues they face everyday.

“I find it a travesty that more people know what's going on in Hollywood than they know what that number actually means.” Wells says.

He says he wants to see changes made at the V.A.

“Where I'm treated I'm ok, but the bulk of the people that I talk to, it's not ok. Wells says.

He says he's heard from others that they've had to wait 9 to 10 months for an appointment and been told to just live with things the way they are among other problems.

Wells says for veterans who need help, don't be afraid.

“Never be afraid to ask for help, never.” Wells says.

According to the most recent data from the Department of Veterans Affairs Florida had a significantly higher veteran suicide rate than the national rate in 2016.

If you need help you can always call the National Suicide Prevention lifeline's Veterans Crisis Line at 1-800-272-8255 or you can send a text 838255.

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

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MOPH Chapter 524








Patriot George Crawford proudly awarded the Military Order of the Purple Heart ROTC Leadership Award to Cadet Heour of Palatka High School. We continue to serve



throughout the community covering 5 counties and over 3,000 square miles of Northeast Florida

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Over 6,000	Potential Buyers in N2N Database		
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	72	Others	
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GREAT TIME TO SELL!

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SAVE **25%** when buying or selling with us! ***



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RAFFLE TO HONOR LOCAL COMBAT WOUNDED VETERANS

DEL-TON DT1 AR - 15 .223 / 5.56

Tickets Only
\$20



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

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

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

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



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

www.moph524.org/moph-raffle

2ND ANNUAL PURPLE HEART

POKER RUIN



REGISTRATION
\$20
Per Hand

Saturday August 10

STARTS  ENDS AT THE BAYMEADOWS ADAMEC HARLEY-DAVIDSON

FOOD - FUN - FREEDOM

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

ALL MOTORCYCLES WELCOME!

\$200 FOR THE BEST HAND - \$100 FOR 2ND BEST HAND

\$50 FOR THE WORST HAND

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

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



The VA will host a VA/Community Council Interest Meeting on Wednesday June 12th from 11:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. at the St. Augustine VA Clinic, 195 Southpark Blvd. St. Augustine, FL. 32086 Room #110.



The purpose of this Council is to collaborate among the VA and local organizations for improved Mental Health specific experiences and resource/event sharing.

If you would like more information, you may email or call Jessica Bradstreet, L.C.S.W., Local Recovery Coordinator, Jessica.Bradstreet@va.gov, 904-239-8812.



Free National Park Service Lifetime Access Pass for Disabled Veterans

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



Congress exploring flying POW/MIA flag everyday



WASHINGTON (Gray DC) -- The POW/MIA flag may become more prominent in America.

Senators are exploring the idea of flying that flag year-round.

Anne Mills-Griffiths, the CEO of the National League of POW/MIA Families, said she supports the idea. "There are 1,589 Americans that are still unaccounted for or missing from the Vietnam War," she said. More than 40 years after the Vietnam War ended, Mills-Griffiths is continuing her mission to bring closure to the families of those service members who were never found.

She leads the National League of POW-MIA Families, the group that created the flag in 1972.

Mills-Griffiths said, "Our objective then was to improve the treatment of POWs."

The POW-MIA flag flies over federal buildings on six days a year that are specifically tied to U.S. veterans and military service, such as Memorial Day and the Fourth of July. Senator John Thune (R-SD) is supporting a bipartisan bill to fly the flag every single day over buildings like the U.S. Capitol and local post offices.

"POW-MIA families veterans in this country and their families deserve to be recognized that way. All too often they get overlooked," Thune said.

Authors H. Bruce Franklin and Rick Holmes question the original intent of the flag and don't want to see it fly every day over places like the U.S. Capitol.

They say there are better ways to honor service members, like with a symbol of peace, or just simply with the American flag flying by itself. In the Senate, three Republicans and four Democrats are supporting the bill to fly the flag year-round.

The American Legion Post 194

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

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



Alton Green Memorial American Legion Post 194
71st Anniversary Dinner

Saturday 7 September

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

\$25 Per Person Donation

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

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

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

1029 Pearl Street St. Augustine



Desert Storm vets to get their own memorial by Julia LeDoux

The National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial is one step closer to becoming a reality in the nation's capital. A site dedication ceremony was held this week at its location near the Lincoln Memorial.



“This war memorial is for each and every one of us,” said Scott C. Stump, CEO and president of the National Desert Storm War Memorial Association, which is in the process of raising money to construct the monument and finalizing its concept and design.

According to Stump, \$2.5 million of the \$34 million that is needed to build the memorial has been raised.

On Aug. 2, 1990, Iraq invaded Kuwait, leading to the formation of an international coalition of 34 nations led by the United States. The coalition sought to liberate Kuwait from Iraq's control through first political and when that failed military means. When Iraq did not meet a Jan. 15, 1991 United Nations mandate to leave Kuwait, a four-week aerial bombardment campaign began. That was followed by a 100-hour ground offensive that restored Kuwaiti sovereignty.

More than 380 coalition troops were killed during the operations, including 148 American service members.

“Although remembering our fallen is of utmost importance, this will not be a place of mourning,” he continued. “Instead, the efforts and achievements of Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield will be remembered and celebrated through the memorial.”

Speakers at the dedication ceremony included former Vice President Dick Cheney, who served as defense secretary during Desert Storm and Desert Shield.

“Desert Storm was so swift and certain in its result that to some, in retrospect, it looked almost easy,” he said.

The memorial itself is designed to resemble an arc and the structure itself will be made of limestone. Stump hopes it is completed before Veterans Day 2021.



DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY FACT OF THE WEEK



DPAA just completed the **largest Joint U.S.-Vietnam Field Activity (JFA)** to ever be conducted in the 30-year history of such operations between the two countries.



The JFA involved **139 DoD personnel**, along with members of DPAA's Vietnam counterpart organization, the Vietnamese Office for Seeking Missing Persons (VNOSMP). The JFA members divided into teams and dispersed to **nine land sites and one underwater site**.



The VNOSMP was established in the aftermath of the 1973 Paris Peace Accords. Since then, the US-Vietnam relationship to account for our missing personnel has matured into a full-fledged partnership, commemorated **1,246** last December by a dinner in Hanoi attended by senior Vietnamese and U.S. officials marking **30 years of sustained operations**.



DPAA conducts four JFAs each year in Vietnam seeking to find information and recover material related to the **1,246 U.S. personnel who remain missing in Vietnam** from the Vietnam War. This work in Vietnam is part of DPAA's effort to account for a total of **1,589 U.S. personnel who remain missing throughout Indochina from the Vietnam War**.

Important military holidays and observances for 2019

May 10, 2019 – Military Spouse Appreciation Day – This date recognizes the service and sacrifices of military spouses.

May 13, 2019 – Children of Fallen Patriots Day – A day to honor the children left behind by the brave men and women who gave their lives while defending our freedom.

May 18, 2019 – Armed Forces Day Observed on the third Saturday every May, this is a day dedicated to paying tribute to men and women currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

May 27, 2019 – Memorial Day A solemn occasion to honor the men and women who died while serving in the military.

June 6, 2019 – Anniversary of the World War II Allied invasion in Normandy, France, now known as D-Day.

June 14, 2019 – Flag Day – A day to celebrate the adoption of the U.S. flag.

June 14, 2019 – Army Birthday

June 23, 2019 – Coast Guard Auxiliary Birthday

June 27, 2019 – National PTSD Awareness Day – A day to bring awareness about issues related to PTSD.

July 4, 2019 – Independence Day

July 27, 2019 – Korean War Veterans Armistice Day

Aug. 4, 2019 – Coast Guard Birthday

Aug. 7, 2019 – Purple Heart Day – A time for Americans to pause to remember and honor the brave men and women who were either wounded on the battlefield or paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Aug. 29, 2019 – Marine Forces Reserve Birthday

Sept. 11, 2019 – Patriot Day – An annual observance to remember and honor those who were injured or killed during the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

Sept. 18, 2018 – Air Force Birthday

Sept. 29, 2019 – Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day – A day to honor the families of fallen Servicemembers.

Oct. 13, 2019 – Navy Birthday

Oct. 26, 2019 – National Day of the Deployed

Nov. 10, 2019 – Marine Corps Birthday

Nov. 11, 2019 – Veterans Day – This is the anniversary of the signing of the armistice treaty, which ended World War I and is also a day to thank military Veterans for their service.

Dec. 7, 2019 – Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day – The anniversary of the day Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, signaling the United States' entrance into World

Dec. 13, 2019 – National Guard Birthday

Dec. 21, 2019 – National Wreaths Across America Day

Significant Military Months

April – Month of the Military Child

May – National Military Appreciation Month

November – Military Family Month, Warrior Care Month



Alton Green Memorial AL Post 194 71st ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

Alton Green Memorial AL Post 194
71st Anniversary

RIB BATTLE

September
28th

BRING THE FAM!

Games Eats Music Prizes & More

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

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






Alton Green Memorial
AL Post 194
71st Anniversary

GOLF Tournament

Saturday
8:30 a.m.
September
28th

Cimarrone
Golf Club
2800 Cimarrone Blvd.
Jacksonville, FL 32230

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

Contacts: Charlie Ellis: ceellis@bellsouth.net 904 501 8299
Bob Ostenfeld: bobostenfeld@comcast.net 904 615-7258
Dwight Swearingen 904-228-3620 dswearigen01@bellsouth.net



FORT MOSE HISTORICAL SOCIETY AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY OF FREEDOM

Fort Mose Awarded 'Site of Memory' Designation by UNESCO Slave Route Project

Fort Mose, located at the northern boundary of St. Augustine Florida, has been awarded official designation as a 'Site of Memory' by

the UNESCO Slave Route Project.

Fort Mose Historic State Park marks the site of the first legally sanctioned free African American settlement within present-day US borders. Established in 1738 by Colonial Spanish Florida's Governor Montiano, Fort Mose offered sanctuary to courageous Africans who successfully escaped enslavement in the English Colony of Carolina.

UNESCO, formally known as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, is a UN agency dedicated to preserving cultural heritage and building a culture of peace. Its Slave Route Project, launched in 1994, breaks the silence surrounding transatlantic, Indian Ocean and Trans-Saharan slave trade that has impacted all world continents. Work of the project is rooted in the belief that ignorance or concealment of history creates obstacles to mutual understanding and reconciliation.

In its official award letter, the UNESCO Slave Project states:

Fort Mose provides a rich perspective of African American experience in the Spanish colonies and testifies to the active role that Africans and African Americans took in fighting for freedom. Given the importance of this site, we are pleased to grant the label 'Site of Memory associated with the UNESCO Slave Route Project' to Fort Mose.

To celebrate this international honor, the Fort Mose Historical Society will host a reception on

Tuesday May 21 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at Fort Mose Historic State Park. The main speaker for the event will be Dr. Jane

Landers, Gertrude Conaway Professor of History at Vanderbilt University. Dr. Landers will describe her recent work with the UNESCO Slave Project as well as her recent research findings on Captain Francisco Menéndez, heroic leader of the free black militia of Fort Mose.

All members of the community are warmly invited to join Fort Mose Historical Society in celebrating this important international designation. Light refreshments will be served.

#

Please Contact: Mr. Charles Ellis President, Fort Mose Historical Society, Email: ceellis@bellsouth.net; (904) 501-8299

Dr. Dorothy H. Israel Secretary, Fort Mose Historical Society, Email: deehisrael@comcast.net; (904) 471-8478



FLAG ETIQUETTE AT PARADES

When an American Flag passes:

- Stand up.
- Remove your hat.
- Place your right hand over your heart.
- Stop any conversation you are having.

Note: It is not necessary to salute every American Flag that passes.

- *If it is carried by an honor guard or in a group with other flags, stand up and salute (veterans) or pay respect to the Flag.*
- *Do not salute small hand-held flags carried by parade attendees and participants.*

Teach your children to respect our nation's Flag.
If they are given a small Flag, please do not
throw it on the ground or in the street.

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

www.vfwauxiliary.org



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Fact Sheet

Office of Public Affairs
Media Relations

Washington, DC 20420
(202) 461-7600
www.va.gov

March 2019

Veteran Community Care—General Information VA MISSION Act of 2018

Overview

Under the VA MISSION Act, Veterans can expect a variety of improvements to community care. Eligibility criteria will be different, a new urgent care benefit will be provided, and customer service will be better.

The process for receiving community care will be improved, including the following steps:

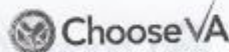
1. VA confirms Veteran's eligibility for community care under the new criteria.
2. A VA staff member assists the Veteran with scheduling the appointment or the Veteran schedules the appointment with their preferred community provider within the VA network.
3. Veteran receives care from a community provider in the VA network.
4. Community provider sends a claim to a Third Party Administrator or VA for payment.

Improvements

In addition to new eligibility criteria, there are a variety of improvements under the VA MISSION Act that will make community care work better for Veterans:

- **Single community care program.** Existing programs will be combined into one single community care program. The Veterans Choice Program is coming to an end but some of its elements are being adopted into the new program. With one program and a single set of rules and processes, there is less complexity and likelihood of errors and problems.
- **Better customer service.** VA is implementing redesigned, streamlined internal processes, with improved education and communications resources for Veterans, our Veterans Service Organization (VSO) partners, and VA employees involved in community care operations. This will make administering community care easier and support excellent customer service for Veterans.
- **New urgent care benefit.** A new benefit will provide eligible Veterans with access to non-emergency care for certain conditions in the VA network of community providers. Veterans can go to any urgent care or walk-in care provider in VA's network without prior authorization from VA. There may be copayments associated with this benefit depending on a Veteran's assigned priority group and the number

3/18/2019



of times the benefit is used. **Important:** Details about the new urgent care benefit are not yet final.

- **New Community Care Network.** VA is establishing a new Community Care Network (CCN) of community providers that will be set up and administered through Third Party Administrators (TPAs). Once CCN is implemented, VA will directly coordinate with Veterans to schedule community care appointments (and in some instances continue to be able to schedule their own appointments) and support care coordination. VA's TPAs will also be required to make timely payments to community providers.
- **Modern IT systems.** VA is modernizing its information technology (IT) systems to replace a patchwork of old technology and manual processes that slowed down the administration and delivery of community care. Once in place, the new IT systems will speed up all aspects of community care—eligibility, authorizations, appointments, care coordination, claims, payments—while improving overall communication between Veterans, community providers, and VA staff members.

Timing

The new community care program will start when VA publishes final, effective regulations, expected June 6, 2019. At that time, VA's traditional community care program and the Veterans Choice Program will end, the new program will start, and the new eligibility criteria will go into effect. The urgent care benefit is also expected to be available starting June 2019.

A complete rollout of all six regions of the Community Care Network (CCN) is expected by 2020. Upgraded IT systems are also being implemented, with some expected to be completed in 2019 and others in 2020.

Frequently Asked Questions

Eligibility

1. **Will I be eligible for community care under the new criteria?** Under the proposed Federal regulation, a Veteran could be eligible for community care based on the six eligibility criteria below:
 1. Veteran needs a service that is not available at VA (e.g., maternity care, IVF).
 2. Veteran resides in a U.S. state or territory without a full-service VA medical facility (Alaska, Hawaii, New Hampshire, and the U.S. territories of Guam, American Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands).
 3. Veteran was eligible under the distance criteria under the Veterans Choice Program on the day before the VA MISSION Act was enacted into law (June 6, 2018), lives in one of the five states with the lowest population (ND, SD, MT, AK, WY) or continues to meet the distance criteria, received care between June 6, 2017, and June 6, 2018, and requires care before June 6, 2020.
 4. Veteran meets specific access standards for average drive time or appointment wait-times (**Important:** Access standards are not yet final).

Average drive time to a specific VA medical facility:

- o 30-minute average drive time for primary care, mental health, and non-institutional extended care services (including adult day health care).
- o 60-minute average drive time for specialty care.

Appointment wait time at a specific VA medical facility:

- o 20 days for primary care, mental health care, and non-institutional extended care services, unless the Veteran agrees to a later date in consultation with their VA health care provider.
 - o 28 days for specialty care from the date of request, unless the Veteran agrees to a later date in consultation with their VA health care provider.
5. Veteran and their referring clinician agree that it is in the Veteran's best medical interest to be referred to a community provider.
 6. Veteran needs care from a VA medical service line that VA determines is not providing care that complies with VA's quality standards.

2. When do the new eligibility criteria go into effect? The new eligibility criteria for community care will go into effect when the regulations are published and effective, expected June 6, 2019.

3. How will VA determine if I am eligible for community care based on the new criteria? The Veteran's VA provider and VA medical facility staff members will work with the Veteran to determine if they are eligible under the new criteria.

Appointments

4. Will VA still need to officially authorize the care I receive through a community provider? Community care generally must be authorized in advance by VA before a Veteran can receive care from a community provider. VA has proposed an exception to this when a Veteran receives emergency care from an in-network entity or provider and VA is notified within 72 hours, if certain additional conditions are met. The requirement for care to be authorized in advance by VA does not apply to the urgent care/walk-in care benefit that VA is establishing.

5. What is changing with community care appointments? Community care appointments will be scheduled directly by VA staff as VA implements its new Community Care Network (CCN) or, in some instances, Veterans will continue to be able to schedule their own appointments.

Getting Care

6. Will I be able to go to any community provider I want? If a Veteran is eligible for community care, they will be able to receive care from a community provider who is part of the VA network that is accessible to them.

7. Will the process for getting prescription medication change? There are no changes to how prescriptions are processed for Veterans receiving community care. As part of an authorized visit with a community provider, Veterans will be able to get a short-term, urgent prescription medication in their community, while long-term prescription medications will be filled by VA.

Billing

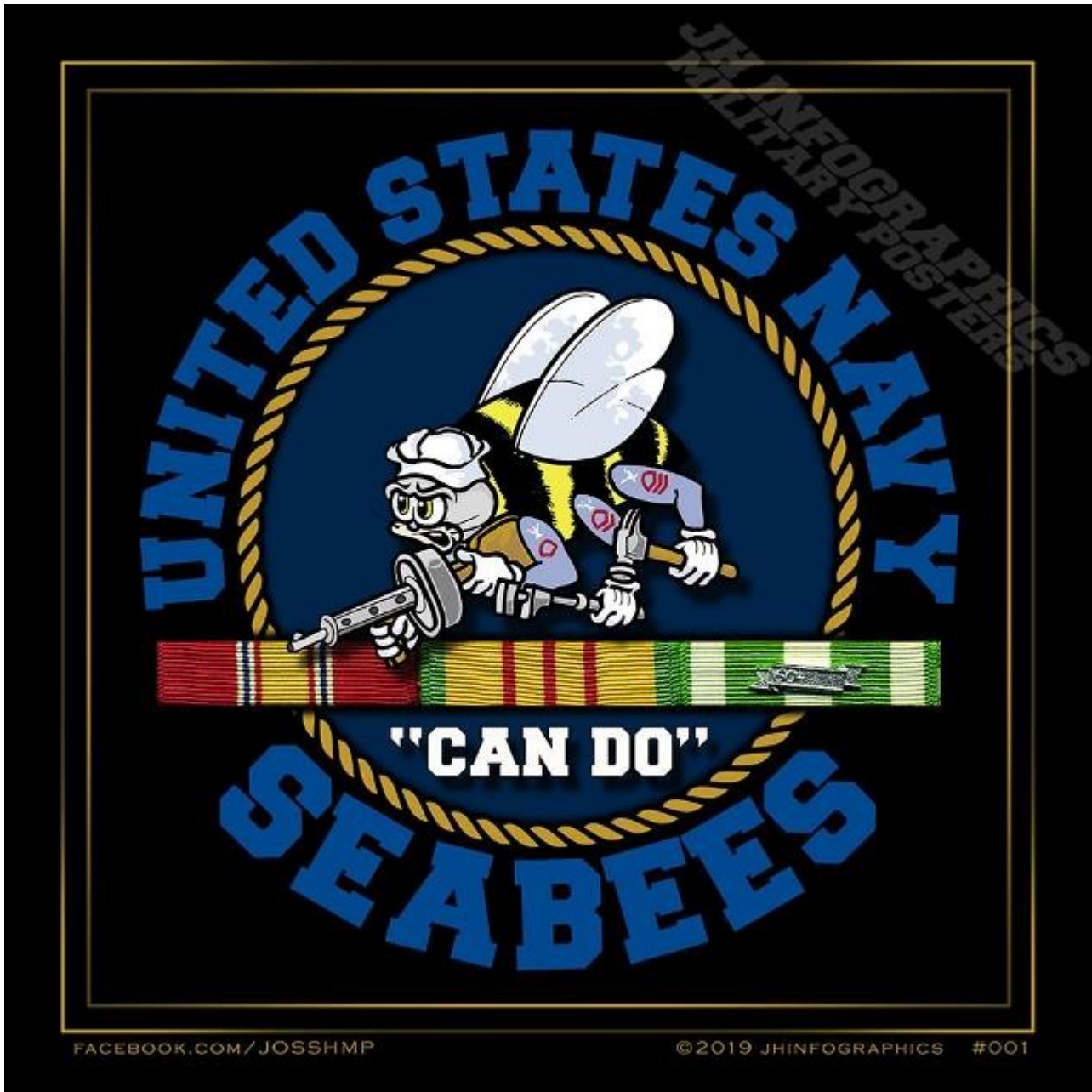
- 8. Will I have to pay a copayment for community care?** Copayment charges are the same for community care as care at a VA medical facility. Usually, this means Veterans who are required to pay copayments will be charged a copayment for treatment of their nonservice-connected conditions. Copayment bills are sent by VA, not the community provider. For the new urgent care benefit, Veterans may owe a copayment that would be different from their usual VA copayment, depending on their assigned Veteran priority group and the number of urgent care visits per calendar year.
- 9. Will VA pay beneficiary travel expenses if I am referred to a community provider?** If a Veteran is eligible for beneficiary travel, their eligibility will not change. Beneficiary travel is paid the same way whether the care is provided at a VA medical facility or through a community provider.
- 10. What rate does VA pay when a Veteran is referred to a community provider for care?** Generally, VA will pay Medicare rates, but there are several proposed exceptions to this rate that may apply, to be established through a contract or agreement.

Other

- 11. What is the difference between the Veterans Choice Program and the VA MISSION Act?** The Veterans Choice Program is the name of a Federal program started in 2014 to quickly expand access to care for Veterans. The VA MISSION Act is the name of a Federal law that establishes a new, single community care program, among other provisions. Some of these other provisions affect other types of VA benefits for Veterans beyond community care.

Do the changes to community care under the VA MISSION Act mean that VA is being privatized, or that funds meant for VA medical facilities will be rerouted to the private sector? The Administration is making no efforts to privatize VA or shift resources away from VA medical facilities. Improvements to community care under the VA MISSION Act are part of a larger effort to modernize the VA health care system and give Veterans greater choice over their health care.

- 12. What is the Community Care Network (CCN)?** CCN will serve as a high-performing network of community providers. VA is currently working to award contracts with Third Party Administrators to establish CCN nationwide.
- 13. What key information do community providers need to know about community care in the future?** To partner with VA to care for Veterans, most community providers will need to join VA's new Community Care Network. In addition, community providers will generally be required to submit claims using electronic data interchange (EDI), and providers must submit claims within 180 days of providing care. **Important:** Details about claim filing requirements are not yet final.



The largest regular gathering of Veterans in the state of Florida. Free parking, entry, exhibitor tables, and lunch. Over 75 exhibitors/resources will be on hand to provide you with information on what they do and how they might be of service to you. Also, a speaker program to discuss vital issues here in the Northeast Florida region.

Save the Date
V4V
Vets 4 Vets

Quarterly Gathering of Veterans
Saturday, June 1st, 2019

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

1000 – 1100
Coffee, Networking and Exhibitors

1100 – 1200
Speakers

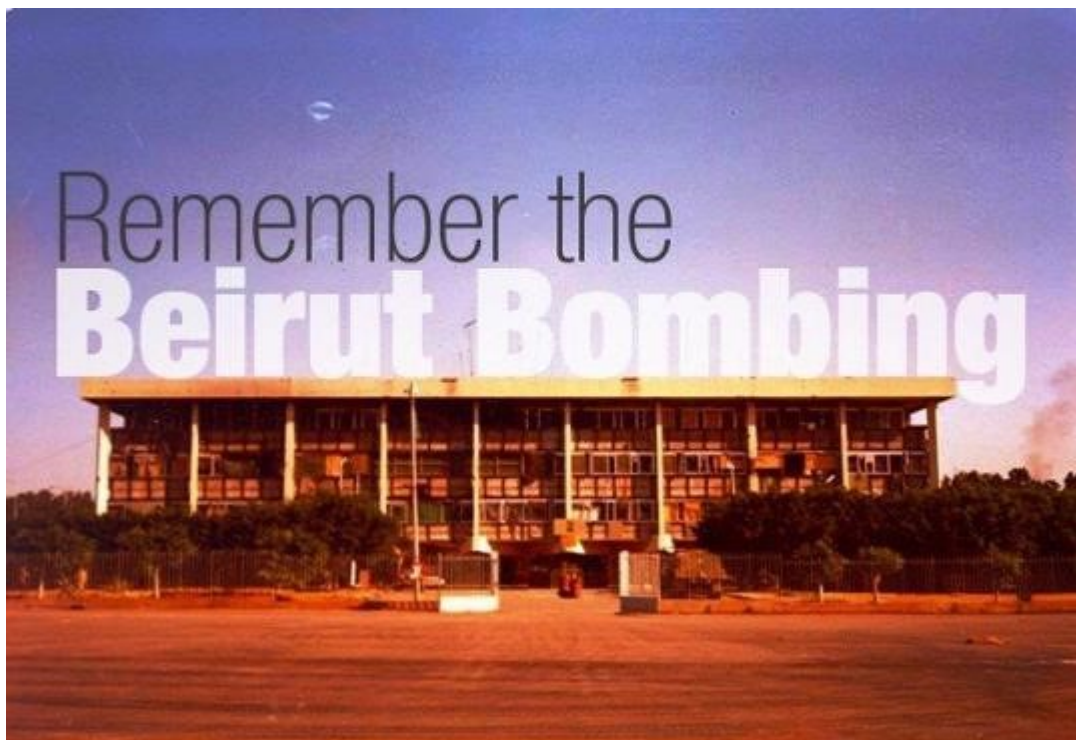
1200 – 1300
Free Lunch, Networking and Exhibitors

Listen, Learn, and
Let your Voice be Heard

TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER!!

The time has come to recognize the service and sacrifice of those who served in and died as part of the Multinational Forces in Beirut, Lebanon with a memorial monument. With your support, we hope to raise \$12,000 which will enable us to place a monument at Evergreen Cemetery. This new memorial monument will honor the 241 U.S. Marines, Navy Corpsmen and Soldiers of BLT 1/8 who lost their lives in the Marine Barracks terrorist bombing on October 23, 1983.

**Make checks payable to Semper Fidelis Society,
Attn: Beirut Memorial, PO Box 28188, Jacksonville,
FL 32226**





ENLISTED RANKS



E-1 SEAMAN RECRUIT

SR



E-2 SEAMAN APPRENTICE

SA



E-3 SEAMAN

SN



E-4 PETTY OFFICER THIRD CLASS

P03



E-5 PETTY OFFICER SECOND CLASS

P02



E-6 PETTY OFFICER FIRST CLASS

P01



E-7 CHIEF PETTY OFFICER

CPO



E-8 SENIOR CHIEF PETTY OFFICER

SCPO



E-9 MASTER CHIEF PETTY OFFICER

MCPO



E-9 COMMAND MASTER CHIEF PETTY OFFICER

CMDCM



E-9 FLEET-FORCE MASTER CHIEF PETTY OFFICER



E-9 MASTER CHIEF PETTY OFFICER OF THE NAVY MCPON



UNITED STATES NAVY



Thank you Michael Isam for sending this to the Patriot Reader

Committee Passes The Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act, 17 Other Bipartisan Bills

Washington, D.C. - Today, Ranking Member Phil Roe, M.D. (R-Tenn.) released the following statement after the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs passed 18 bipartisan bills out of committee:

"Today, the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs continued to deliver on our promise to take care of veterans and ensure that they receive the services and support they deserve. The many bipartisan bills reported to the full House today would accomplish worthy goals for veterans and their families.

"Several of the bills that the Committee passed are aimed at preventing servicemember and veteran suicide and I am glad that one of my bills, H.R. 1812, was one of them. This bill would expand eligibility for readjustment counseling at VA Vet Centers to certain members of the National Guard and Reserve and bring us one step closer to eliminating suicide among these brave men and women.

"I was also happy to see the passage of two of my Republican colleagues' bills that would improve veterans' access to education and economic opportunity and help create a more seamless transition from the military to civilian life. Rep. Andy Barr's bill, H.R. 2196, would improve GI Bill benefits for veterans pursuing a STEM degree and Rep. Brad Wenstrup's bill, H.R. 2045, would create a fourth administration within VA to ensure that education, employment, and transition benefits receive the attention they deserve from the Department.

"Additionally, I was glad to see the passage of Rep. Doug LaMalfa's bill, which was included in H.R. 1947, to honor veterans' families by authorizing VA to include inscriptions on headstones with the names of surviving spouses and dependent children.

"Perhaps the greatest achievement today was the passage of H.R. 299, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019. Blue Water Navy Vietnam veterans selflessly served this country, only to return home and wait decades for the benefits that they earned. It pains me that they have waited so long, which is why I remain dedicated to getting this bill to the President's desk as quickly as possible in their honor.

“I am grateful for the dedication of all of our Committee Members, particularly our Subcommittee Chairs and Ranking Members, for their hard work on this legislation and I look forward to working with them and Chairman Takano to move these bills quickly to the House floor.”

The following bills were passed out of committee:

H.R. 299: The Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019

H.R. 2340: FIGHT Veteran Suicides Act

H.R. 2372: Veterans’ Care Quality Transparency Act

H.R. 2359: Whole Veteran Act

H.R. 1947: To exempt transfers of funds from Federal agencies to the Department of Veterans Affairs for nonprofit corporations established under subchapter IV of chapter 73 of such title from certain provisions of the Economy Act.

H.R. 1812: Vet Center Eligibility Expansion Act

H.R. 2385: to permit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a grant program to conduct cemetery research and produce educational materials for the Veterans Legacy Program

H.R. 1988: the Protect Affordable Mortgages for Veterans Act

H.R. 2045: the VET OPP Act

H.R. 2333: Support for Suicide Prevention Coordinators Act

H.R. 1200: the Veterans’ Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act

H.R. 1199: The VA Website Accessibility Act

H.R. 95: the Homeless Veteran Families Act

H.R. 2109: the BRAVE Act

H.R. 2196: to amend title 38, United States Code, to reduce the credit hour requirement for the Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship program of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

H.R. 2326: the Navy SEAL Chief Petty Officer William Bill Mulder (Ret.) Transition Improvement Act of 2019

H.R. 2398: the Veteran HOUSE Act

H.R. 2399: the Home for Our Heroes Act of 2019

French consulate honors WWII veteran in Alachua

ALACHUA, Fla. (WCJB)-- A hometown hero was honored Tuesday morning for his service in World War II.

Family members and friends attended the First Baptist Church of Alachua to celebrate World War II veteran, Tam Cato.

"Oh its a wonderful feeling, I'll tell you," Cato said. "I didn't know this will ever happen."

Cato, 104, who is also known as "Sonny" was awarded the Knight in the Legion of Honor medal in his hometown of Alachua.

The honor was given to him by the Miami Consul General for France for his participation in the liberation of France during Word War II.



"To hear the stories, the accounts, the modesty, with which the veterans speak about their heroic acts," said Clement Leclerc, consul general of France in Miami. "I have to say, that it's a humbling experienced today was no exception and it was fantastic to meet Mr. Cato."

Representatives, family members, and friends attended the ceremony to be a part of the historic

moment.

"Our veterans are who we are," said Mel Schoychid, Cato's nephew. "They've taken this country to a certain spot because of veterans because they have the heart and desire to do these things and Sonny's right there on top."

Cato enlisted in the U.S. army in his mid-twenties in 1941 and trained at Camp Blanding in Starke, Florida that same year.

His regiment was deployed to France during the Battle of Normandy in 1944, where he repaired roads, bridges, and train tracks that were destroyed during the war.

"We just followed the troops all the way through," Cato said. "We were general service engineers."

He was relieved from active duty as a first lieutenant in January 1946. While he was being honored, Cato says the real honor was serving his country.

"Anybody that wouldn't fight for this country, they don't belong here. it couldn't be any better."

rans
Line

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Veterans
Crisis Line
00-273-8255 PRESS 1

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Veterans and their families

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**SUICIDE
PREVENTION
LIFELINE**
1-800-273-TALK (8255)
suicidprevention.org

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

**Military/Veterans
Crisis Line**
1-800-273-8255

**Veterans
Crisis Line**
1-800-273-8255 PRESS 1

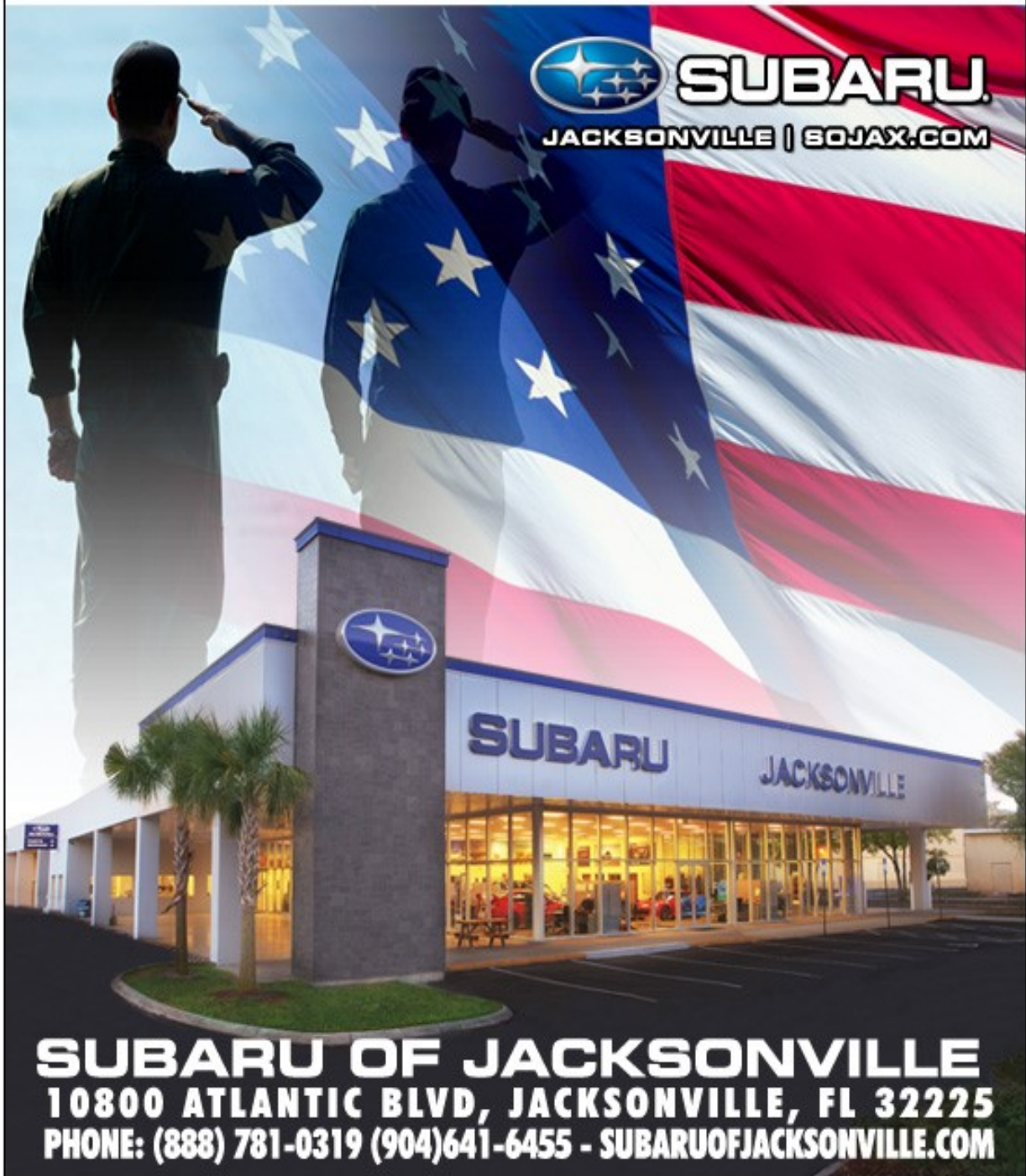
Confidential chat at MilitaryCrisisLine.net or text 838255

VIETNAM VET

ARMY UNITS OF THE VIETNAM WAR

A collection of various military unit crests and logos, including the 1st, 3rd, 4th, 7th, and 9th Infantry Divisions, and other units like the 1st Cavalry Division, 1st Air Cavalry, and various aviation and support units.

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Save the Date

Saturday, May 11, 2019

**1800 hours: Social Hour
1900 hours: Dinner Dance**

Military Ball for All

HONORING FIVE STAR VETERANS CENTER

Jacksonville Marriott
Ballroom
(JTB at I-95)

\$150 couple, \$80 single
Tables from \$850

Tax Deductible

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*ALL proceeds benefit
recovering, homeless
veterans*

Live Auction with
Senator Aaron Bean

Dinner Banquet

Dancing

Black Tie Optional

(904) 723-5950
5starveteranscenter.org





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

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

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

Gift cards are acceptable too.

Deliver to:

2133 Broadway Ave.

Monday – Friday 9:00am – 3:00pm

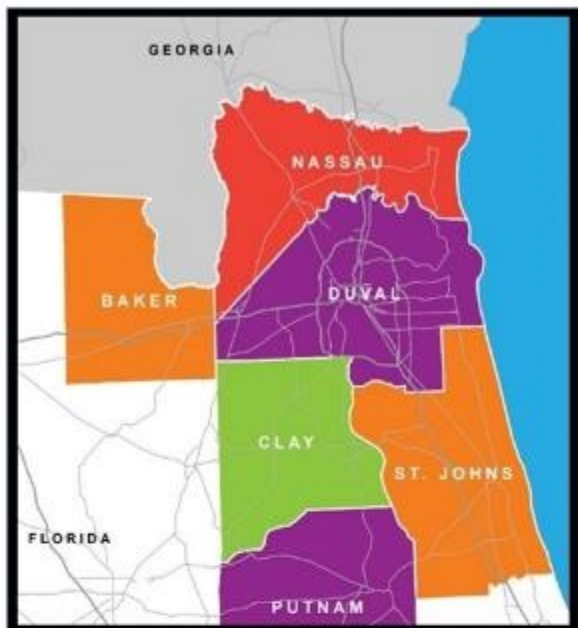
904-862-6039

www.forwomenvets.org

A Mural in Palatka



Veteran County Councils of Northeast Florida



Duval County

President: Steve Spickelmier

Meetings:

Third Tuesday of each month in the 40/8 Building

Located at the American Legion Post 137
5443 San Juan Avenue

7pm

Nassau County

President: Paul Kicker, Chairman
Veterans Council of Nassau County

76347 Veterans Way,
Veterans Service Office

Yulee, FL 32097

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

Baker County

President: Larry Porterfield

Meetings:

Second Thursday of each month
MacClenny Primitive Baptist Church
Fellowship Hall on North Boulevard
6pm

Contact:

Baker County Veterans Council
PO Box 1434
MacClenny, FL 32063

Clay County

President: Bob Brewster

Meetings: First Wednesday of
each month

Location varies between the
different Veteran Organizations.

Time varies

St. Johns County

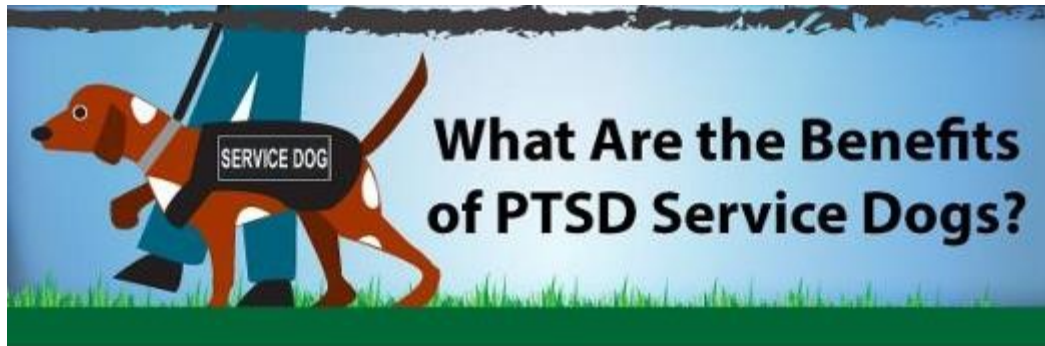
President: Bill Dudley

Meetings:

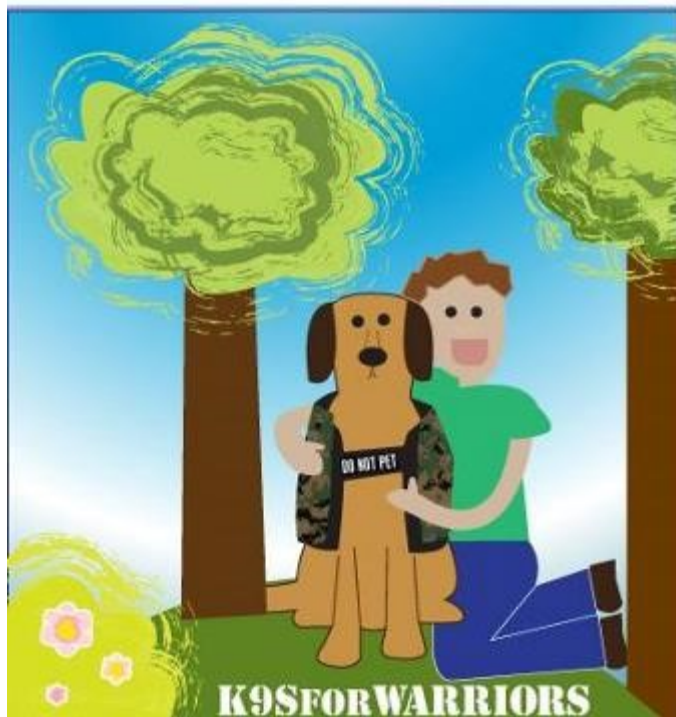
Last Thursday of each month
Health and Human Services Building
Muscovy Room, 1st Floor
200 San Sebastian View
Muscovy Room 1st Floor
St. Augustine, FL 32084
7pm

Contact:

info@VeteransCouncilofStJohns.org



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



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

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

MISSION BACKGROUND

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

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

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



A FEW QUOTES SUBMITTED BY OUR NATIONAL LEADERS



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

U.S. Congressman
John Rutherford

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

U.S. Senator
Marco Rubio

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

U.S. Senator
Bill Nelson



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

MISSION STATEMENT

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

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

MEMORIAL STRATEGIC PLAN

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

- Restore and use the historic chapel (named the "Chapel of the High-Speed Paves") for memorial services, ceremonies and weddings.
- Enhance the existing sacred grounds of the park and to construct a replica of the USS Saratoga (CV-60).
- Refurbish and utilize existing building 333 as a starting point for the POW/MIA memorial center and museum.
- Establish a new memorial center - to honor all Former Prisoners of War, acknowledge those still Missing in Action; feature the history of the Prisoner of War/Missing in Action flag; house the history of NAS Cecil Field.
- Educate the public on the Prisoner of War and Missing in Action issue through exhibits, videos, artifacts and memorabilia.
- Establish a national destination for military remembrance and celebration (there is not a national memorial for all Missing in Action in the United States).



Hero's Walk & Freedom Trees



Chapel of the High-Speed Paves



Starburst Sculpture

CECIL FIELD NATIONAL POW/MIA MEMORIAL PARK



HOW YOU CAN HELP HONOR OUR MILITARY HEROES



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

Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc.
612 New World Avenue Jacksonville, Florida 32225

ONLINE PowMiaMemorial.org

Facebook.com/Cecil-Field-POW-MIA-Memorial-Inc-1084025864845232/

Twitter.com/CFPOW/MIA

Instagram.com/cecilfieldpowmia/

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

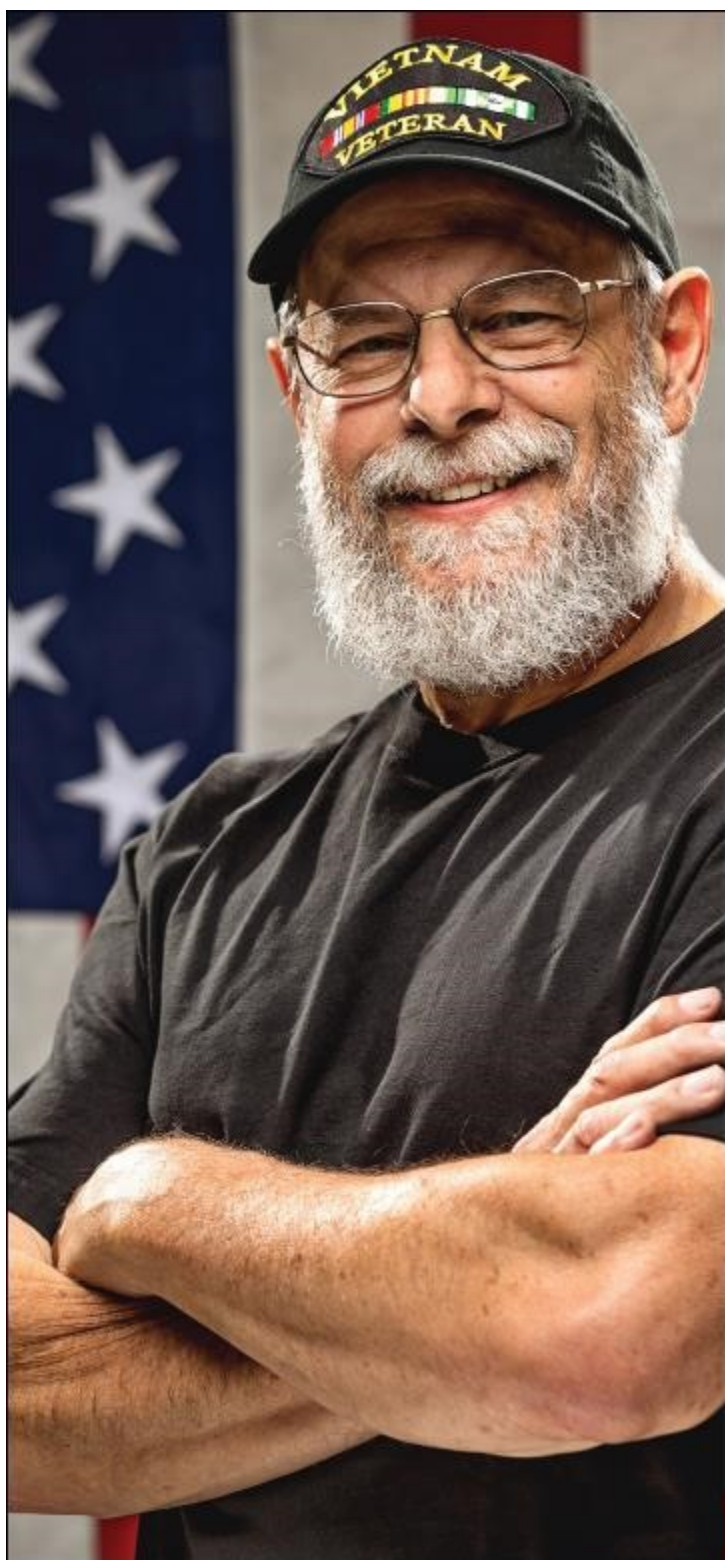
36 Granada Street, St. Augustine FL 32084

(904) 679-5736

Corazoncinemaandcafe.com



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



SERVING VETERANS SINCE 1979

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

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

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



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

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





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

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

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



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

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

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

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



We are inviting all veterans to visit our website at:

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

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

Please join our group on Facebook at:
VeteransCouncilofStJohnsCounty,FL

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

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

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

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

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



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

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



**SURVIVOR
OUTREACH SERVICES**

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

Contact Keith Ham

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

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*Veterans Council of St. Johns County,
“Helping All Veterans”*

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

Send to: mrothfeld@anyveteran.org

Please send to: mrothfeld@anyveteran.org



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

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

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

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

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

***The Veterans Council will meet at the St.
Johns County Health & Human Services
Building, 200 San Sebastian View
Muscovy Room, 1st floor***

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

(physical location)

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

*The office is open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily,
Monday through Friday excluding holidays.*

*Service is by appointment.
Phone: 904-209-6160 Fax: 904-209-6161
Joseph McDermott, SR VSO
Rick Rees, Assistant VSO
Travis Neidig, Assistant VSO*

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