



# The Patriot Reader Newsletter

P.O. Box 2117

St. Augustine, FL 32085

Bill Dudley, Publisher

Michael Rothfeld, Editor

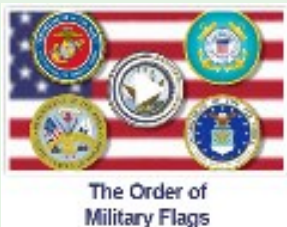
Volume 11, Issue 1

From Veterans Council Chairman Bill

January 2022

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Fellow veterans.

I hope that everyone had a very Merry Christmas spent with family, friends, and love ones. As veterans, we can remember those many Christmas' we were away from family at this special time. Please remember our service members in your thoughts and prayers that are spending this joyous time of the year separated from their families and friends.

As 2021 draws to a close, we reflect back over this very tumultuous year filled with many challenges due to the COVID virus. However we were blessed in many ways this year. The Veterans Council was able to resume live meetings, we were able to host one of the largest turnouts to honor our veterans on Veterans Day and an outpouring of volunteers and local residents made this year's Wreaths Across America program a huge success. The Veterans Council was also blessed to be able to help many veterans this year financially with housing, car repairs, utilities, gas cards, furniture for some of our veterans, health care, burial assistance, and

Christmas assistance just to name a few of the ways we were able to help.

Looking forward to 2022, we see a brighter side to housing opportunities for our veterans. Patriot Place will be finished early in the year providing 6 units for homeless veterans. (more detailed information on Patriot Place in this newsletter) There are two new apartment complexes that will complete construction in 2022, one with 10 units and the other with 13 units that will be available to veterans at affordable rates. This doesn't answer the problem of the need for homeless shelter in St. Johns County but it's a good start. Our County leadership is well aware of the need and are working very hard to help with this critical situation. Our Veterans Treatment Court continues to flourish having graduated 84 veterans from 93 participants. In January, the VTC will celebrate its 5th anniversary. There are plans to recognize the 5th anniversary date at the Veterans Treatment Court session on January 10th. I would also like to let our readers know that this year we have reached two more very



important milestones. In June of this year, our Council celebrated its 20th anniversary having been formed and approved by proclamation from the County Commissioners. And recently, the Veterans Council reached its 10th year of publication of our newsletter, The Patriot Reader. Our thanks go out to our Editor, Michael Rothfeld for launching our newsletter 10 years ago and for doing all the heavy lifting each month to collect and publish all the material that goes into every edition of the newsletter. A big Bravo Zulu to Michael for a job well done. We wish everyone a Happy, Healthy, and Prosperous New Year and don't forget to thank a veteran for their service. Bill Dudley  
Chairman  
Veterans Council of St. Johns County

## Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home



The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs operates six skilled nursing facilities and one assisted living facility. All facilities are licensed by the Agency for Health Care Administration and inspected annually by AHCA and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. The homes are supervised round the clock by registered and licensed nurses. Under the IRS tax code, monetary donations to specific state veterans' homes are tax deductible. Per Florida Statutes, all such donations are to be used for the benefit of the home and its residents. You may also support the State Homes for Veterans Trust Fund by making a \$1 contribution when renewing your Driver License. Let the clerk know you're a veteran.

**Resident Admission:** Basic admission requirements for all state veterans' homes include an honorable discharge, state residency prior to admission, and certification of need of assisted living or skilled nursing care as determined by a VA physician. A resident application package for each facility is available for view and downloading below. For specific questions regarding admissions, please contact the Admissions Coordinator at the numbers listed below.

**Employment:** Our State Veterans' Homes enjoy Five Star and Gold Seal ratings for the care they provide. You can come to work each day knowing your residents are receiving the best care possible. You can come to work knowing you will work with state-of-the-art technology and equipment to help you do your job well. You'll be part of a team that improves quality of life for our veteran residents. For employment opportunities, call the FDVA Human Resources Office at (727) 518-3202, Ext. 5579 or visit the People First website at <https://jobs.myflorida.com/joblist.html>.

Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans' Nursing Home in St. Augustine – The Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans' Nursing Home in St. Augustine (St. Johns County) opened to residents in 2010. The 120-bed facility offers skilled nursing care and can accommodate 60 residents with dementia/Alzheimer's disease.

Lewis Hubbard, Administrator

Call (904) 940-2193 for more information. Address: 4650 State Road 16, St. Augustine, FL 32092



## 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 **6:00pm**. 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 6:00 pm

### +++++2022 Officers of the SCJNC+++++

Chairman: Steve Spickelmier  
Vice Chairman: Bill Dudley, Treasurer: Pat Welch  
Secretary: Kathy Church, Judge Advocate: Don Guthrie  
Master-At-Arms: Mike Smith, Historian: Win Delpizzo  
Chaplain: Pat Archuleta, Public Affairs: Pat Mulvihill

The Veterans Council of St. Johns County meets on the last Thursday of the month, all are invited to attend. **NEW:** We meet at the County Health & Human Services Building, **200 San Sebastian View**, at 7 pm

**From the January 2022 meeting onward all Council meetings will be held at the VSO building, 200 San Sebastian View**

*All SJC Health Guidelines will be followed.*

*Please stay safe, Bill Dudley, Chairman, VC of SJC*



### Upcoming Veterans Council Meetings Speakers

**January 27, 2022:** Mary Anne Newman, Pres. Associates of Vietnam Veterans, FL Assoc.

Selena Hernandez-Haines, First Coast Honor Flight

**February 24, 2022:** Derek Collins, Program Manager, The Fire Watch

Suzanne Hoff Ogawa, The History of the POW Flag

**March 31,** Sharon Lynn Unger, Homeless Veterans Stand Down, Clay County

Dr. Matthew Burke, 10 CAN, Inc., Helping Veterans

**VETERANS COUNCIL OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY**  
**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
**17 NOVEMBER 2021**



CALL TO ORDER 7:00 P.M.

OPENING REMARKS: Chairman Dudley

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Chairman Dudley

INVOCATION: Vice Chair Quinn

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

David Kennett, Transition Assistance Advisor

Andrew Coughlan, Wounded Warrior Project

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: A copy of the last meeting minutes was made available to all in attendance. The minutes had also been posted on our Face Book page prior to the meeting as well. Chairman Dudley asked for both comments and approval of the minutes. There were no comments and the minutes were unanimously approved.

TREASURERS REPORT: As of 27 October 2021 the bank balance at Ameris Bank was \$58,051.93 and as of this date 17 November 2021 the balance is \$62,130.46.

About 4/7 of the \$62,130.56 is restricted to specific programs. Major deposits received since last report include, \$2,500 from PGA Tours and \$3,000 from the Jaguars Foundation. All other deposits, withdrawals and charges were itemized on the report. A vote was taken to approve the report and received unanimous approval.

SPEAKERS:

Mr. David Kinnett was introduced and he offered a presentation on his mission for retiring and discharged personnel from active duty, National Guard and Reserves. His office is located in the Mark W. Lance Armory at 190 San Marco Avenue, St. Augustine. He is able to provide counseling in finance, adjustment to civilian life and much more. No longer are our patriots terminated and forgotten but have a huge list of benefits and assistance available to them.

Mr. Andrew Coughlan offered a very informative presentation concerning the work of Wounded Warriors. He explained that warrior and veteran support is available and family support as well. There are extensive mental wellness programs within the array of assistance. Physical wellness programs are provided. One item not considered when thinking of the Wounded Warrior Program is career and VA Benefits counseling. This benefit assists the warrior or veteran by easing them into

the civilian environment.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

CSM McDermott gave an overview of current operations within the Veterans Service Office. He stated that claims submitted to the National Personnel Records Center are still delayed. He stated there are a half a million claims that have not been reviewed. He stated his office is running smoothly however he is seeing a large increase in the number of veterans wishing to apply for a disability.

John Leslie announced the current success rate of the Veterans Court is so great it has the highest percentage of success than any other Florida court. There have only been two failures among the almost 100 participants. Incredible results. He stated that anyone wishing to attend the next session it would be conducted Friday 19 November 2021.

Ray Quinn gave successful numbers for our Wreaths Across America project. Sufficient funds are on hand the wreaths will be shipped soon. Plan on assisting with unloading and placing the wreaths. We will unload wreaths at the St. Augustine National Cemetery at 0900 hours Saturday 18 December 2021. Our ceremony and placement of wreaths will begin at 1200 hours same day. Please assist.

#### CHAIRMAN DUDLEY:

Chairman Dudley gave an overview of the highly successful Veterans Day Observance held 11 November 2021 at the Anastasia Baptist Church. He thanked all those present that helped make the event possible. He estimated that there were 1,000 in attendance. Reports from the community continue to come in about how well the event was conducted. There was an incredible amount of planning that went into the event and now we turn our thoughts to Memorial Day.

Chairman Dudley explained that the grand opening of our community based clinic had been delayed once again. He states at present there is not a plan in progress.

Chairman wished all a Happy Thanksgiving and thanked all for their service.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Dudley asked for Good of the Order comments and afterwards declared the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Dudley, Chairman

Ray Quinn, Vice Chairman

# Wreaths Across America, December 18, 2021

## St. Augustine National Cemetery



*Photos by Mark Cubbedge*

**Wreaths Across America, December 18, 2021  
St. Augustine National Cemetery**



US Army



US Marines



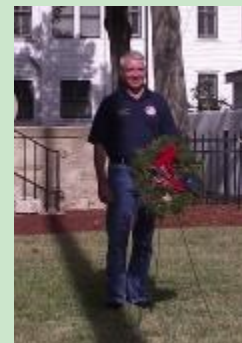
US Navy



US Air Force



US Coast Guard



US Space Force

*Photos by Michael Isam*

**Wreaths Across America, December 18, 2021  
St. Augustine National Cemetery**



*Photos by Liz Dahler*

“It was a great tribute to those who sacrificed for us and an honor to participate”



*ALL are invited to attend*

## **Veterans Council Upcoming Meeting Change**

**ALL Meetings in 2022 will be back at 200 San Sebastian View where the Veterans Service Office (VSO) is located.**

## **Upcoming Veterans Council Meetings Speakers**

### **January 27, 2022:**

Mary Anne Newman, Pres. Associates of Vietnam Veterans, FL Assoc.

Selena Hernandez-Haines, First Coast Honor Flight

### **February 24, 2022:**

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### **March 31,**

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Dr. Matthew Burke, 10 CAN, Inc., Helping Veterans

## Gold Star Family Parkway makes it easier to reach Jacksonville National Cemetery

By Joe Daraskevich

Gold Star Family Parkway Veterans and city leaders cut the ribbon to mark the opening of Gold Star Family Parkway, which leads to the Jacksonville National Cemetery. (City of Jacksonville)

Jacksonville — The Gold Star Family Parkway officially opened today, making the trip to the Jacksonville National Cemetery much easier for people coming from I-95 north of the Jacksonville International Airport.

Tuesday's ribbon-cutting ceremony marked the official transfer of ownership to the City of Jacksonville now that final construction is complete. We told you in September when the road first opened to traffic to the delight of veterans and their families looking to visit the cemetery.

The cemetery is on 526 acres of property that previously had one way in and one way out. Lannie Road was a dead end that went past the cemetery and was only accessible from Lem Turn Road. Now drivers can take the Gold Star Family Parkway from Arnold Road, which runs into Pecan Park Road.

Cox Media Group



# New exhibit brings to life stories of World War II soldiers from St. Johns County

Colleen Michele Jones, *St. Augustine Record*

When Pearl Harbor was attacked on Dec. 7, 1941, millions of Americans from communities across the nation soon enlisted or were drafted into the ensuing war.

Many of those soldiers were from St. Johns County, and local historian Susan Parker recently brought to life some of their stories in a new virtual exhibit sponsored by the St. Johns County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller.

On the 80th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, Parker said she and county officials wanted to commemorate the service of these individuals. The online exhibit, simply titled "The Greatest Generation," is based on discharge papers from World War II veterans returning to St. Johns County.

The documents were duplicate copies of the soldiers' originals and stored at the Clerk of the County's office, mostly in case vets needed to produce them as proof for medical, educational or other benefits following the war.

In digging through hundreds of papers, Parker chose to focus on just a handful to highlight, as she said, "the range of types of people who went and the types of service they did and where, because it really was such a global war."

The expertise of Parker, who formerly headed up the St. Augustine Historical Society, is Spanish Colonial history but she used her research skills to hone in recently on this chapter of local history.

"These are not the people whose names are on monuments; these are the ones who survived and returned home," Parker said.



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"These are not the people whose names are on monuments; these are the ones who survived and returned home," Parker said.

Their range of backgrounds surprised Parker the most. Among them: Upon return, their transition to civilian life had to have been challenging, especially with women at that point filling many jobs while men were overseas.

"There's a lot written about men trying to find jobs," added Parker.

Parker's research did not extend to learning what happened to the World War II soldiers she profiled in her exhibit; she imagines many of them may be gone now. But she hopes families connect with their stories and learn more.

Parker also hopes that the exhibit helps to make more real the stories of everyday men and women who were plucked from their local communities to serve in engagements across the world and how that experience impacted them.

"Going to war pulled people out of small rural areas and they were suddenly experiencing the rest of the world," said Parker. "I often wonder what difference it made in their lives, getting on a ship and going across the ocean to a different place with different people."

The Clerk's Office encourages St. Johns County's 20,000-plus veterans to record their discharge documents securely and free of charge.

By filing a discharge document — these days called a DD Form 214 — veterans can ensure future easy access. Original DD 214s can be filed at no cost at the county's Recording Department, located in the Richard O. Watson Judiciary Complex, 4010 Lewis Speedway, St. Augustine. The document will be digitally recorded on site and returned immediately.

For information, call 904-819-3632.

## St. Johns Housing Partnership Patriot Place Update!

Great progress is being made on our Patriot Place apartments for at-risk veterans. We finally have a roof and windows are going in soon. We're moving forward!

A big thanks to our vendors and subcontractors from Extreme Concrete Works, Turner's Construction LLC, Atlantic Plumbing Services, LLC, Premier Communications Group, Inc., 84 Lumber Company, Howland Truss, Taylor Tree Services, Inc, and Hicks Land Clearing for all of their hard work and dedication to this much-needed project.

When it opens in early 2022, Patriot Place will be a six-unit complex for at-risk veterans who already live in St. Johns County. Each of the one-bedroom apartments will be 630-square feet.

Veterans will receive individualized case management from their Care Connect+ caseworker for the duration of their time at Patriot Place. From workforce development, education, healthcare, and transportation, these caseworkers create a case plan based on the unique needs of each client and their goals.

In addition, Patriot Place will collaborate with other veteran service organizations to offer enrichment opportunities to foster mental health and wellbeing.



**Vietnam Veterans of America Florida State Council was the recipient of six awards at the VVA's 20th National Convention in Greensboro, North Carolina November 3-6.**

For the third straight convention, the Florida State Council's E-Recon newsletter won the State Council E-Newspaper of the Year. David Treffinger is the editor.

\*Chapter 1048 in Daytona Beach took home the E-Newsletter of the Year for membership of 200 or more. Rod Phillips is the editor.

\*Col. William G. Byrns Chapter 1059 in Clay County won the Newspaper of the Year for membership of 199 or less. David Treffinger is the editor.

\*Thomas M. Yarosz of Chapter 1125 in Boca Raton was named Member of the Year.

\*Marc McCabe of Chapter 522 was honored with the Minority Affairs Diversity Award.

\*Jerry Klein of Chapter 25 in Palm Beach received the VVA Commendation Medal. Klein has attended all 20 VVA National Conventions.

**The delegates to the convention approved a resolution that the VVA will be a "last person standing organization."**



## NF/SGVHS Breaks Ground on New VA Outpatient Clinic in Jacksonville, Fla.

Jacksonville, Fla. – On Wednesday, December 15, 2021, the North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System (NF/SGVHS) hosted a virtual groundbreaking ceremony to commemorate the construction of a new VA outpatient clinic being built at 145 Heron Bay Road in Jacksonville Fla. The virtual was conducted in order to remain within CDC and VHA Covid-19 guidelines.

“I am very proud of the accomplishment we have made in breaking ground for this new facility,” said NF/SGVHS Health System Director, Mr. David Isaacks. “This new clinic will be co-located with a brand new domiciliary which will provide an additional 30 beds of residential treatment capacity to our health system.”

Currently NF/SGVHS offers residential treatment in Lake City and in Gainesville. The additional beds will provide a substantial opportunity to treat Veterans with intensive mental health needs, Veterans who may be dealing with substance use disorders, post-traumatic stress disorder, homelessness and more.

The 173,200 square foot outpatient clinic will replace the Jacksonville VA SouthPoint and Jacksonville VA University sites of care. The Jacksonville Outpatient Clinic located on Jefferson Street will continue to remain open.

All existing VA services in the Jacksonville area will remain in place, with the exception of the expansion of radiology services which will include the ability to perform MRIs, CT scans, mammography’s, ultrasounds, general radiology services, fluoroscopies, and bone densitometry exams. Additionally, the new state-of-the-art clinic will ensure building construction is modern and designed to meet VA’s Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT) standards.

Since opening the first VA outpatient clinic in Jacksonville, NF/SGVHS continues to experience growth in both the number of individual Veterans accessing VA services at all 3 outpatient clinics and in the number of appointments requested by Veterans and completed. View the virtual groundbreaking ceremony here.

For more information on NF/SGVHS construction and modernization efforts, please visit: [Construction Updates | VA North Florida Health Care | Veterans Affairs](#).

### About the North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System

NF/SGVHS is nation’s largest VA healthcare system employing more than 5,800 medical professionals and support staff dedicated to providing high quality care to Veterans residing throughout North Florida and South Georgia. The organization operates 14 facilities to include two medical centers located in Gainesville and Lake City, a domiciliary and clinics located throughout a 50-county service area.



## St. Johns County veteran gets holiday surprise from his wife and FPL volunteers

Retired Marine Kevin Steele: 'I just couldn't ask for more'

Sheldon Gardner, St. Augustine Record

Thanks to volunteers and a little well-intended trickery, a surprise arrived on a veteran's doorstep just in time for Christmas.

Susan Steele and her husband, Kevin, are both retired Marines. They have lived for several years in northeast St. Johns County. This year, Susan worked with Florida Power & Light Company officials to surprise her husband with Christmas lights and decorations on their lawn and house.



Kevin Steele works for K9s for Warriors as an advocate for fellow veterans who are seeking help.

"FPL partnered with K9s for Warriors to recognize them as a way to say thank you, particularly during the holiday season, for their incredible commitment to this nation and community," according to a press release.

FPL employees spent part of Dec. 3 setting up the display before the family arrived home that evening. They put up "thousands of LED lights, solar-powered decorations and other energy-efficient décor," according to a press release. An inflatable Santa Claus in fatigues was part of the arrangement.



The team eagerly awaited Steele's arrival while holding up a banner that read, "Thank you for your service."

Kevin and Susan, with their sons Brayden, 10, and Caleb, 6, pulled up in their car. Kevin emerged slowly, expressing his surprise.



The team greeted the family with applause and cheers. FPL officials gave the family gifts before taking photos with them.

"I'm so grateful," Kevin Steele said in his driveway, surrounded by family, FPL workers and members of the media.



Susan said she was touched when she got the call about the plans.

"Kevin's such a great person," she said, adding he's also one to commit random acts of kindness.

Kevin paused for a few minutes to talk with members of the media gathered in his driveway.

"I don't know what to think. This is pretty unreal," he said. "I'm so incredibly thankful that someone would take the time to do this for us."

Kevin served in the Marines for 20 years, "leading and supporting combat and humanitarian missions in Afghanistan, Pakistan and other locations overseas," according to a press release for the event.

Typically Susan likes to decorate at least by around Thanksgiving, Kevin said.

"I don't get around as fast and as good as I used to, and she started letting me let it slide. ... Now I know why she was letting me slide all this time," he said.

He thanked the volunteers for thinking of him and his family.

"I feel like my life's purpose is to serve others, and I'm not so good at asking for help. ... I just couldn't ask for more," he said.



THE STATE OF FLORIDA ESTABLISHED THE FLORIDA VETERANS' HALL OF FAME IN 2013 TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THOSE MILITARY VETERANS WHO, THROUGH THEIR WORKS AND LIVES DURING OR AFTER MILITARY SERVICE, HAVE MADE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE STATE OF FLORIDA. IN SELECTING ITS NOMINEES FOR SUBMISSION TO THE GOVERNOR AND CABINET, THE COUNCIL WILL GIVE PREFERENCE TO VETERANS WHO WERE EITHER BORN IN FLORIDA OR ADOPTED FLORIDA AS THEIR HOME STATE. THE INDIVIDUALS THEY CHOOSE WILL HAVE MADE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE STATE IN CIVIC, BUSINESS, PUBLIC SERVICE, OR OTHER PURSUITS.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE COUNCIL CHAIRMAN IS SGT. MAJ. (RET.) RAY QUINN, WHO ALSO SERVES AS THE CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE VETERANS COUNCIL OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY



#### UPDATE ON VETERANS HALL OF FAME 2021

THE CLASS OF 2021 HAS BEEN SELECTED BY THE HALL OF FAME COUNSEL. THE FINAL COUNSEL MEETING AND FINAL VOTING ARE COMPLETED. THE NOMINEE LIST WILL NOW GO BEFORE THE CABINET AND GOVERNOR ON DECEMBER 14, 2021 FOR FINAL VOTING AND APPROVAL. THE CLASS OF 2021 WILL BE PERSONALLY NOTIFIED BY THE STATE OF THEIR INDUCTION STATUS. FOLLOWING NOTIFICATION OF ALL INDUCTEES, THEIR NAMES WILL BE POSTED HERE. THERE ARE 15 IN THE CLASS OF 2021.

THE INDUCTION DATE WILL BE IN THE THIRD WEEK OF MARCH DURING THE LEGISLATIVE CABINET SESSION. THE EXACT DATE OF THE MARCH SESSION HAS NOT BEEN POSTED YET. THE VENUE HAS NOT BEEN SET, BUT THE INDUCTION WILL PROBABLY TAKE PLACE IN THE FLORIDA STATE CABINET ROOM OF THE FLORIDA STATE CAPITAL BUILDING. FOLLOWING THE INDUCTION CEREMONY THERE WILL BE A RECEPTION FOR THE NEW INDUCTEES AND THE CLASS OF 2020, PROBABLY ON THE 22ND FLOOR OF THE STATE CAPITAL BUILDING.



# Sponsorship Levels

First Coast Honor Flight is 100% dependent upon donations from generous people and organizations.

Without your support, FCHF would not be able to transport WWII, Korean War, and other Northeast Florida Veterans to Washington, D.C. for a day of honor and remembrance.

Trip Sponsor : \$25,000

Honor Guard : \$10,000- \$24,999

Gold Star : \$5,000-\$9,999

Silver Star : \$2,500- \$4,999

Bronze Star : \$1,000- \$2,499

Contact FCHF @  
[info@firstcoasthonorflight.org](mailto:info@firstcoasthonorflight.org) for more  
information on sponsorship packages

First Coast Honor Flight is a 501(c)3 corporation and  
is in compliance with the Florida Solicitation of Contributions Act



## First Coast Honor Flight Donation

I would like to donate \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to honor Veterans.

Please make check payable to: First Coast Honor Flight, Inc.

Mail to: First Coast Honor Flight, Inc.  
P.O. Box 600785  
Saint Johns, FL 32260

To make a donation by credit card please visit our website at:

[www.firstcoasthonorflight.org](http://www.firstcoasthonorflight.org)

Click on "Help Our Cause" and then Click on "Donate Now" and submit your donation through PayPal. *Thank you!*

Name of Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**This donation is:** In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_ In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

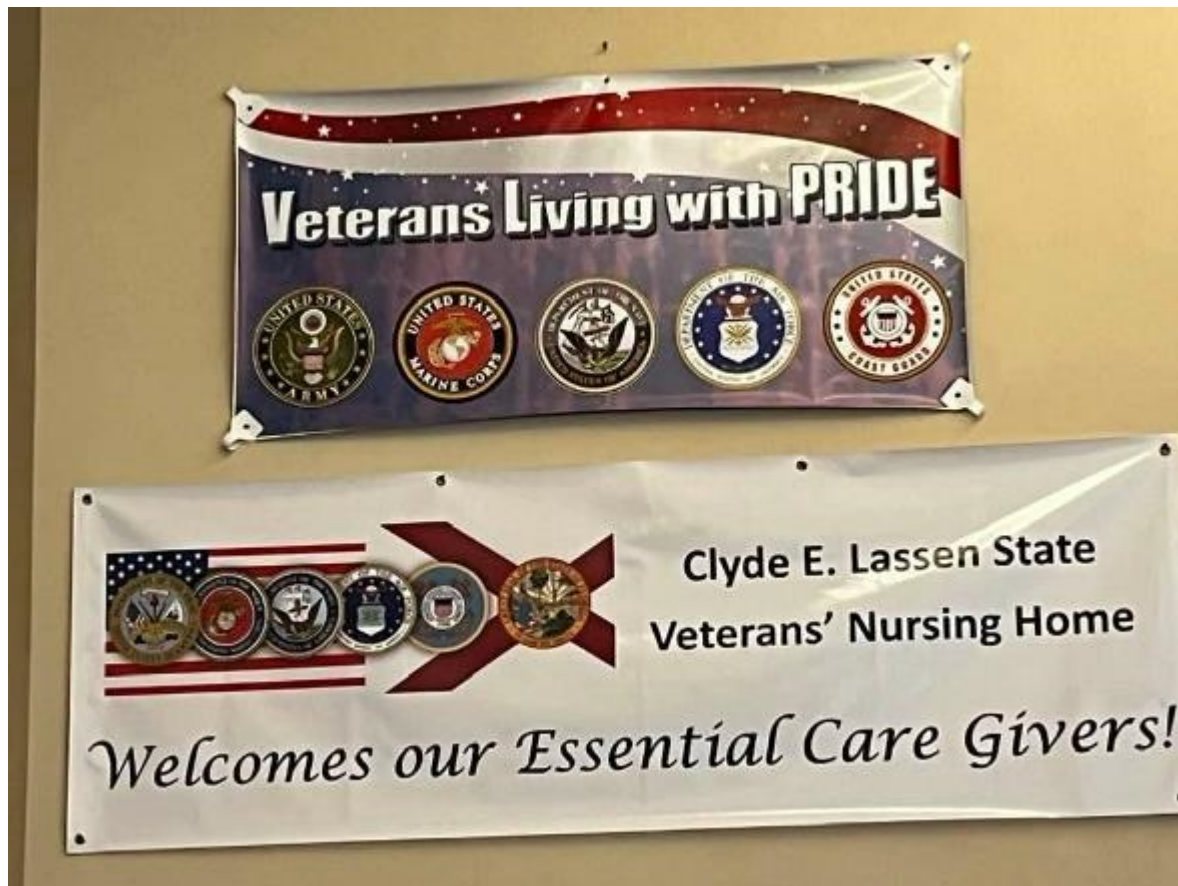
Address \_\_\_\_\_

Veteran? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Branch \_\_\_\_\_ Dates Served \_\_\_\_\_

**First Coast Honor Flight** warrants that the information contained on this form is for internal use only and will not be shared, transmitted, or used for any purposes other than recording and acknowledging the donation. Donations are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. First Coast Honor Flight is a registered 501(c)3 Not for Profit EIN:84-4667182 For questions please Call: 888-400-1185 or email: [info@firstcoasthonorflight.org](mailto:info@firstcoasthonorflight.org).

Clyde Lassen Veterans Nursing Home is looking for essential care givers including CNA, LPN, RN's. A shortage of staff has resulted in a significant waiting list-even though beds are available. We have some incredible veterans here in SJC being cared for at Lassen. If you or someone you know have these qualifications and would be interested in serving those who have defended our freedoms, please call Clyde Lassen for details.



## How K9s for Warriors pushed for new law that means more dog therapy for veterans

BY DAN SCANLAN • THE FLORIDA TIMES-UNION

A federal bill that finally makes service dogs an accepted part of U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs-approved therapy for military veterans with post-traumatic stress is now law.

Signed by President Joe Biden, the bill implements a new policy on service dog therapy for veterans, exactly what Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.-based K9s for Warriors has been pushing for in recent years to help them better manage their lives despite PTSD and other post-combat traumas.



K9s for Warriors CEO Rory Diamond began working on it five years ago with local congressmen, finding facts to back up the need that saw it finally passed. Now the VA must open a service dog referral program to veterans with PTSD to help organizations like K9s for Warriors.

"It doesn't have any money attached to it, so it won't answer our financial problems, but it makes it possible to do a pilot project on working together," Diamond said. "It will look more like an organization like K9s for Warriors working with the VA and finding a way to use current VA resources to get more dogs in the hands of more warriors. It's still in the formation stage of working with them as to how they will help organizations like us."

The National Center for PTSD reports that soldiers who have been on missions that exposed them to "horrible and life-threatening experiences" can lead to PTSD. It says that 11 to 20 of every 100 veterans who fought in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom have PTSD in a given year.

About 12 out of every 100 Gulf War and Desert Storm veterans have PTSD in a given year. And about 30 out of every 100 Vietnam War veterans have had it in their lifetime, according to a late 1980s National Vietnam Veterans Readjustment Study.

The nonprofit K9s for Warriors matches veterans with dogs that can help mitigate their symptoms as well as restore their confidence and independence. It has trained about 700 Warrior/K9 teams after rescuing about 1,300 dogs, many from high-kill rescue shelters.

Resilient efforts make it happen

Diamond said he began working on the first draft of the Puppies Assisting Wounded Servicemembers for Veterans Therapy Act — called PAWS — with then-Rep. Ron DeSantis, but it stalled in Congress. A second version presented the next year made it further, then Diamond said he worked with Rep. John Rutherford on a third version. The fourth attempt, sponsored by Rep. Steve Stivers, "was the one that worked," Diamond said. It was signed by the president on Aug. 25.

The PAWS bill specifically requires the VA to implement a five-year pilot program to "provide canine training to eligible veterans diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder" as part of a total health program. The bill mandates that the pilot program be carried out by not fewer than five VA medical centers in geographically diverse areas.

Eligible veterans are those enrolled in the VA health care system who have been recommended for participation by a mental health care provider or clinical team, the bill says. Then the VA must work with accredited non-government groups like K9s for Warriors that provide canine training.

"Veterans who participate in the program are authorized to adopt the dog they assisted in training if their health provider determines it is in the best interest of the veteran," the bill's summary states. "The VA must establish processes to document and track the progress of participating veterans with respect to health benefits and improvements."

The sad part is that many people probably thought the VA already helped a disabled military veteran get paired with a service dog. But the federal agency never has, until now, Diamond said.

"The VA has fought doing that year after year. In fact, they won't even acknowledge that a service dog will help a veteran with post-traumatic stress," he said. "So K9 for Warriors partnered with Perdue University and came up with a stack of peer-reviewed, published and prestigious journals (to) show that the dogs work, that they dramatically change the lives of warriors and took that to the VA."



A study by researchers Marguerite O'Haire and Kerri Rodriguez shows that psychiatric service dogs are a complementary treatment for military veterans with PTSD.

"The addition of trained service dogs to usual care may confer clinically meaningful improvements in PTSD symptomology for military members and veterans with PTSD, though does not appear to be associated with a loss of diagnosis," its conclusion states.

Only the beginning

The Congressional Budget Office expects the federal pilot program will cost the VA \$30 million over its five-year period. The program's national success will be monitored by the U.S. Government Accountability Office and Congress.

Diamond said the pilot program is a "strong first step" toward the VA recognizing that service dogs can help a veteran. He hopes that it becomes permanent and plans to work on a further PAWS act that has funding. "We will keep pushing and keep kicking that door open wider and wider until the VA becomes a full partner in this," Diamond said. "Until then, organizations like ours will be privately funded and we will simply not be able to serve the number of veterans we need to."

K9s for Warriors had been mainly helping veterans of more recent military operations in the Middle East, Iraq and Afghanistan. But when studies showed that suicide disproportionately affects older veterans who previously had not been eligible for K9s for Warriors' services, the 10-year-old organization began working to provide canine companions to Vietnam War veterans.

dscanlan@jacksonville.com



**Time:** 7:30 AM Registration 8:30 AM Shotgun Start

**Location:** Marsh Creek Country Club

169 Marshside Drive, St. Augustine, FL 32080

**Format:** 4 Person Captain's Choice

**Field:** First 36 Teams



**Entry Fee:** \$85.00 per player (Includes Green Fees, Cart, Lunch & Prizes)

**Prizes For:** 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

Hole Prizes Include: Longest Drive, Closest to Pin and Longest Putt  
Chipping & Putting Contests (During the Tournament)



**Golf Shoes Must Be Soft Spikes Only**

The Luncheon & Awards Ceremony will be held on-site after the Tournament

TEAM CAPTAIN: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE #: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

PLAYER #2: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE #: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

PLAYER #3: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE #: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

PLAYER #4: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE #: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

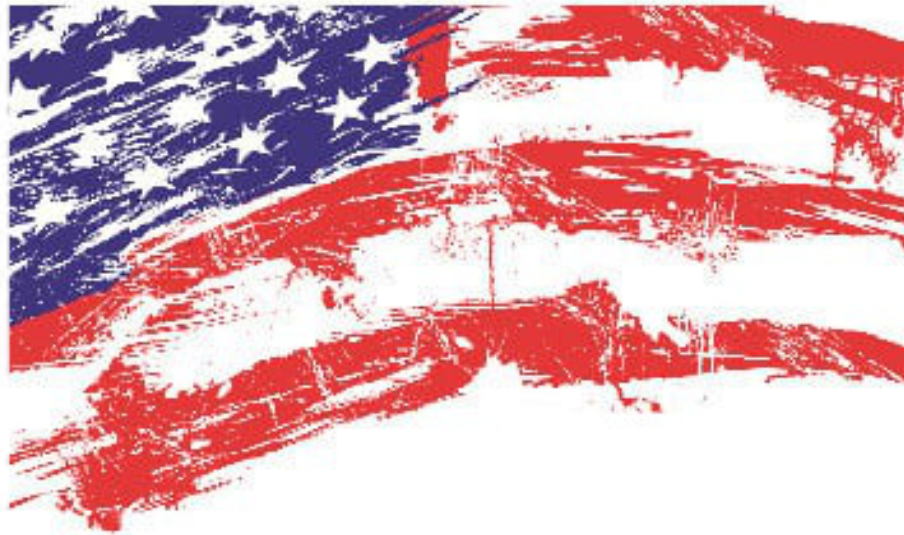
**MAIL ENTRY FORMS (whether paying by check or credit card) TO:**  
**Mr. Lee S. Diggs, C/O AUSA GOLF TOURNAMENT,**  
**P.O BOX 3883, ST. AUGUSTINE, FL 32085-3883. Phone (904) 827-8528.**  
**Lee.s.diggs.mil@mail.mil**

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## **Korean War Veterans**

*Semper Fidelis Society / Vets4Vets  
are proud to announce the*

### **KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL DEDICATION CEREMONY**

**The honor of your presence is requested at  
the unveiling,**

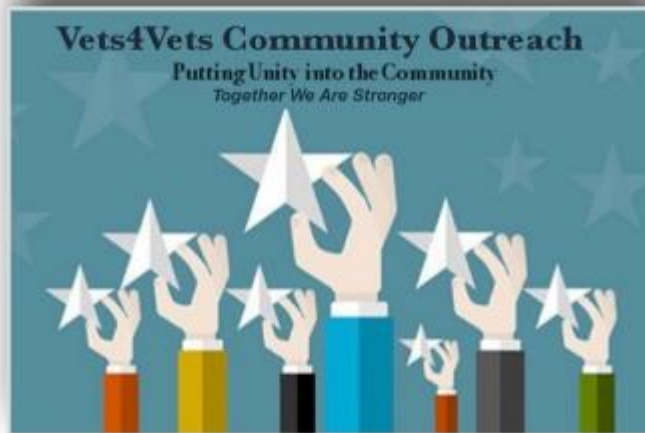
**Saturday Feb 5th at 1100**

*The memorial is dedicated in memory of all those  
who fought and served in and during the Korean  
War*

**Jacksonville Veterans Cemetery  
4083 Lannie Rd, Jacksonville, FL 32218-1247**

**INFO: [jsfs.usmc@gmail.com](mailto:jsfs.usmc@gmail.com)**

**Save these dates...**Feb 5th Dedication of Korean War Veterans Memorial at National Cemetery and Feb 19th V4V Community Outreach at the Jax Classical Academy...Honoring Veterans and Uniting Veterans with the Community....Honor, Courage, Commitment...Inform, Connect, Unite and Organize...**TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER with STRONG SENSE OF VALUES.**



Communities across the country are growing stronger because Veterans are finding ways to apply their skills and leadership within our community. V4V community outreach offers opportunities for veterans and civilians to work together, creating stronger networks with in the community for all.



**Join Us!**

**Saturday, February 19, 2022**

1030 to 1300 hrs

**Jacksonville Classical Academy**

**2043 Forest Street**

**Jacksonville, Florida 32204**

*Guest Speakers, Free Parking and Lunch*

**Sponsored by Vets4Vets**

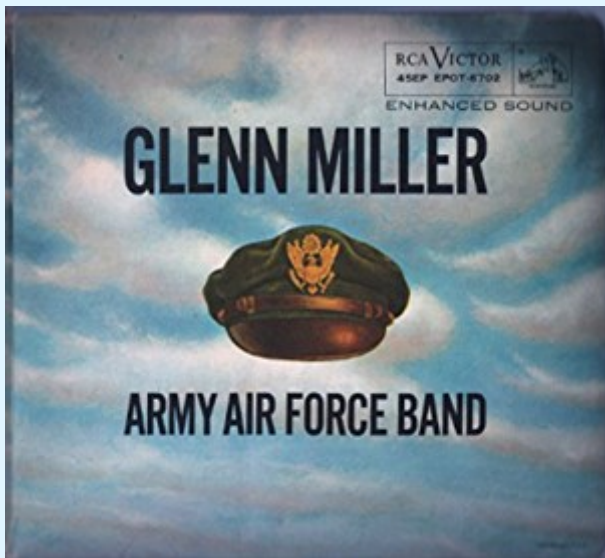
*Americanism is a question of principle, of idealism, of character.  
It is not a matter of birthplace, creed or line of descent.*

**Vets4VetsNJax@gmail.com**

## A Treasure Lost by Rick Cain

Growing up in my home in the Southwest Missouri, many Saturdays meant house cleaning day. During my childhood in the late 1950's and 60's, on these Saturdays, the housework was always accompanied by music. And not just any music. One set of vinyl LP's was always on the big stereo console in the living room and turned up so loud it could be heard from the yard. It was my father's favorite collection of music from his war days; Glenn Miller Army Air Force Band released by RCA Victor as LPM-6700 in 1955 to commemorate the era and the American music legend. We still have the boxed set in my family's possession complete with the booklet insert and the wax paper covers for the albums.

Glenn Miller was born in Iowa in 1904 but his family ended up in Colorado where he played the trombone in the Fort Morgan high school band. He turned professional after high school but soon quit to attend college at the University of Colorado, which is now the home of the Glen Miller Archives, College of Music in Boulder. His college work lasted only one year before he returned to his professional aspirations. He would play and arrange music for the famous Tommy and Jim Dorsey before finally forming his own band and determining his unique sound featuring tightly harmonized woodwinds, clarinet and saxophones in particular. His big break came when his band played at the Glen Island Casino in New York and performances were broadcast to audiences who would otherwise not have had a chance to hear him. It was 1939; a time when his particular form of Jazz, called "Swing," was widely popular. It was also the year of Hitler's invasion of Poland that started World War II.



*Photos Above: left: Glenn Miller Army Air Force Band, RCA Victor (1955)  
and right: Glenn Miller, Billboard Magazine (January 1, 1942)*

*With the coming of war, Miller gave up a very lucrative civilian career leading one of the most popular swing bands in the country, to use his musical talents to help his fellow service members. He was 38 years old when he was rejected for service by the U.S. Navy. But he soon found a home with the U.S. Army where they would utilize his talents to update the current Army band. The best example of this effort was his composing of the "St. Louis Blues March," which injected his famous jazz-swing style into a traditional army march. This tune raised a few of the more traditional Army Brass eyebrows, but was immediately embraced by servicemen in every theater of war and raised morale. The moment is wonderfully depicted in the film "The Glenn Miller Story" starring Jimmy Stewart as Major Miller, and featuring June Allyson as Miller's wife Helen.*

*He first reported for service in October of 1942 with the rank of Captain and formed an official marching band, but was soon transferred to the Army Air Corps and promoted to the rank of Major. He would quickly realize his dream of serving allied forces around the world. His contributions offered them moments of respite*

from the horrors of war by bringing music from home into their camps with portable recordings, radio broadcasts, and live performances with his classic jazz band. And wherever his music was heard, people danced.



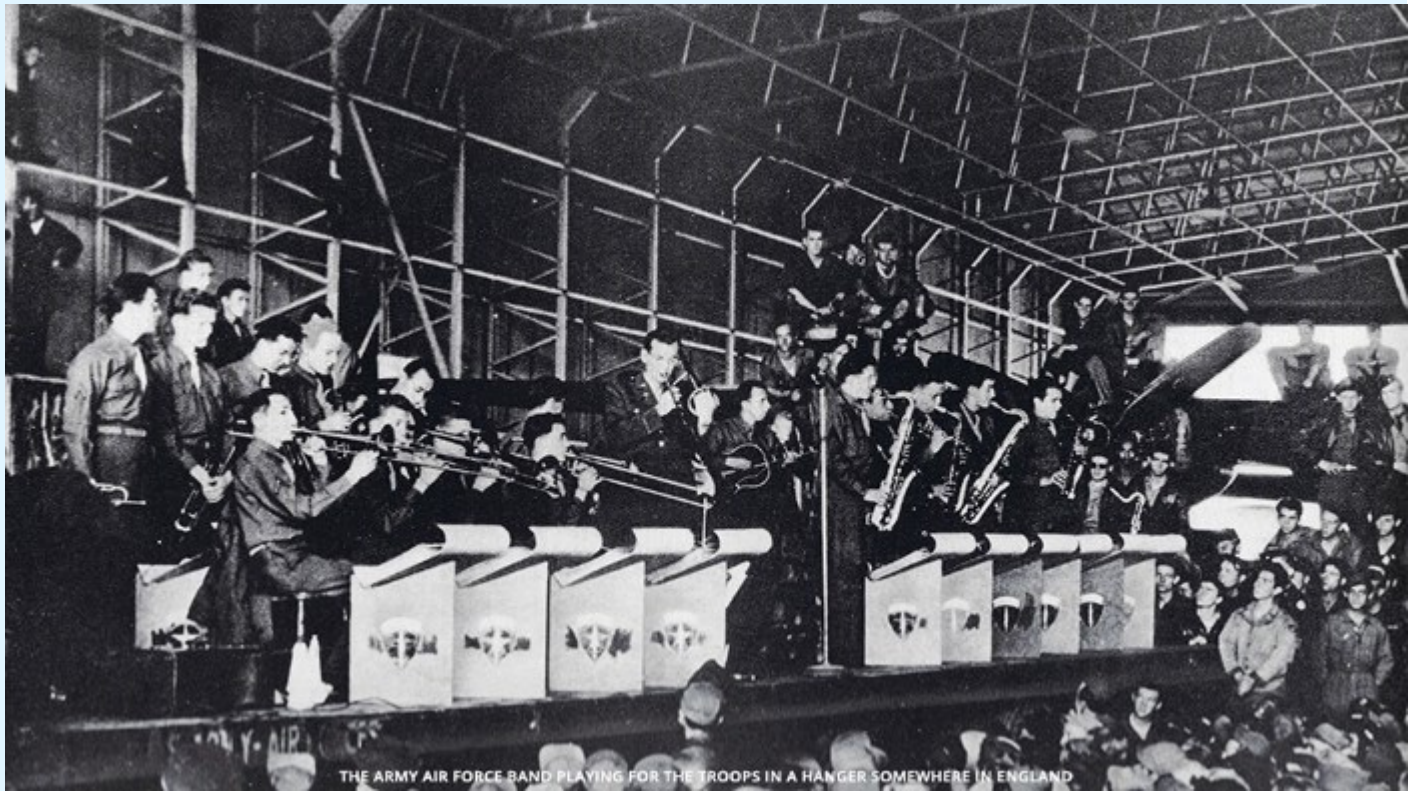
*Photos Above: Jimmy Stewart in "The Glenn Miller Story," Universal-International Films, 1954*



*Photos Above: During the war years, local dance halls were packed with the unique sound of Maj. Glenn Miller's swing music among which were tunes like "Chattanooga Choo Choo," "Tuxedo Junction," "Tail-End Charlie," "In the Mood," and "String of Pearls." The extensive collection of his recordings represents the pinnacle of American Swing music during the war years and prior.*

June 6th of 1944 was the allied invasion of Nazi occupied Europe, and shortly afterward, Miller moved his band to England where he gave 800 performances. He would also make recordings of many of his tunes at Abbey Road Studios (owned by EMI Records) in London. When a Nazi bomb landed three blocks from the studio that summer, however, he moved his band's headquarters to Bedford, England. The day after he moved, his office was destroyed by a Nazi V-1 flying "buzzbomb."

Unfortunately, tragedy occurred on December 15th, 1944 when Maj. Miller boarded a U.S. Army Air Corp UC-64 Norseman to fly across the English Channel to recently liberated Paris. The flight left RAF Twinwood Farm, Clapham, England, just outside Bedford. He planned to relocate his band to Paris to be closer to the men and women serving on the front lines of the war. Paris had been liberated by Allied Forces on August 25th, 1944, just three months after the D-Day invasion.



THE ARMY AIR FORCE BAND PLAYING FOR THE TROOPS IN A HANGER SOMEWHERE IN ENGLAND

*Photo Above: The Glenn Miller Band performing for troops in a hangar in England. Note the servicemen sitting on a bomber above and to the right of the band.*



*Photo Above: Another one of the 800 live performances for the troops*

But somewhere over the English Channel, well known for its unpredictable weather, Maj. Miller's flight disappeared. America's most beloved band leader and composer was gone, along with his pilot, John Morgan (rank unknown?), and Lieut. Col. Norman Baessell. His plane was never recovered and speculation was that it flew into cold weather and succumbed to carburetor freeze-up, subsequently going down in the icy waters of the channel. The American public was not notified of his disappearance until Christmas Eve of that same year.

General Jimmy Doolittle said about Maj. Miller and his band, "Next to a letter from home, that organization was the greatest morale builder in the European Theater of Operations."



*Photos Above: left: CU-64A Norseman, National Museum of the U.S. Air Force, and right: Major General Glenn Miller, Glenn Miller Archives*

Here in N.E. Florida, it is highly likely that many of the songs performed by the Coast Guard Band and local singer Bobby Hatchet, were those of Maj. Glenn Miller. While this story is a sad, Glenn Miller's family wanted his legacy to live on. You can find the current Glenn Miller Orchestra touring the country today, still playing his timeless music. They are headquartered in Lake Mary, just north of Orlando, and are scheduled to perform in New Smyrna, Ormond Beach, and Jacksonville in January of 2022. And you should visit the Glenn Miller Archives online. The links are below. I still listen to his music frequently and with a great deal of gratitude for his self-sacrifice and what he brought to our troops in our time of need. It really does take me back to a time, and a soldier, we should never, ever forget!

Links to additional information:

<https://glennmillerorchestra.com/tour-schedule/>

<https://www.colorado.edu/amrc/glenn-miller-archives>

\*all photos, unless otherwise noted, are in public domain or used under fair use

### **About the Author: Rick Cain**

Rick Cain has worked for the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum for 18 years after a 20-year career as a health care professional. He serves on the Board of Directors of the American Lighthouse Council and is Immediate Past Chair of the Florida Attractions Association. He also works closely with the United States Coast Guard to maintain their historic ties to the Museum.



## Here's the Real Reason why US Flags are Backwards on Military Uniforms



by Matthew Russell, The Veterans Site

For over 230 years, whenever our troops have marched, sailed, flown, swam, or paraded into battle, the American flag has been there. Between the Mexican and Civil Wars, it was carried out front by a flag bearer. In later conflicts, the standard was converted into a patch worn on the service member's right shoulder.

And it's always "backwards."

Most Americans see the flag every day, flying outside government buildings, schools, and other institutions. We saluted it in primary school, and we know what it looks like. The blue field of white stars is in the top left corner, with red and white stripes making up the rest of the right and bottom.

So, did someone make a mistake on these uniforms?

Actually, the flag patch is worn backwards to give others the same impression it did when it was first carried into battle. The momentum of the flag bearer would leave the flag streaming behind, appearing backwards to enemies, or anyone else close enough to catch a glimpse.

According to Army Regulation 670-1: "The American flag patch is to be worn, right or left shoulder, so that the star field faces forward, or to the flag's own right. When worn in this manner, the flag is facing to the observer's right, and gives the effect of the flag flying in the breeze as the wearer moves forward."

This feature is unique to U.S. military uniforms. No other country in the world maintains this symbolic standard.

The next time you see an American service member in uniform, show them your gratitude, and take pride in the fact that the flag is always on the advance, never retreating.

## **Army Veteran creates two Halls of Heroes to honor local Veterans** *as posted in Vantage Point*

Wyatt L. Anthony is a Navy Veteran and a public affairs specialist for the Columbia VA.

“I’m just a nobody who knows everybody,” says Carey Bolt, retired Army Veteran, Laurens County Veterans Service Officer (VSO) and Halls of Heroes creator.

A South Carolina country boy from Hickory Tavern, Bolt was raised around the world. He moved from place to place every few years as his father received orders to a new duty station. His story was written long before his birth, as he came from a long line of men who served their country.

Less than a month after graduating high school, Bolt enlisted in the Army to carry on the tradition of family service into its third generation.

“Bootcamp was easy, it was like I was back at the house,” laughed Bolt. “There were boys in there crying and I was just thinking ‘Damn, this is like my daddy.’ This is something I’ve seen all my life.”

When asked what it was like to wear the uniform his father used to wear? “It gave me more clarity about the man my father was,” Bolt said. “I felt a lot of pride wearing the uniform.”

### **Army career around the world**

Over the course of the next 22 years, Bolt’s tours of duty included:

Presidential Honor Guard serving under Presidents Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan

Recruiting duty in Boston

A tour in East Germany bordering the Soviet Union during the Cold War

Instructor duty at Fort Benning, Georgia

Tour as a special forces recruiter for U.S. bases





across Europe.

After retiring in 1996, Bolt served his local community for the next five years as a police officer where he helped restructure its community service program for the county, focusing on helping young kids going down the wrong path.

“Through the years, I’ve met kids who still remember me,” he said. “When I helped those young kids, I was saving them from the wolves of their future, the penitentiary, things like that. I looked at them like they were my kids. A little compassion could make a big difference in their lives.”

While serving as a cop, Bolt forged many friendships, one of those being Barney Blackwell, the VSO for Laurens County. When Blackwell was preparing to step away from his position, he asked Bolt if he wanted to interview for the opening. He did, and when asked why he thought he could perform the duties of the job, he said “I lived the military as a kid and I lived it as a soldier. If you can find somebody better than that, give them the job.”

### **Hall of Heroes a way to recognize area Veterans**

In 2004, Bolt was appointed VSO for Laurens County, a position he still holds. By his second year, he had forged strong bonds with the local Veterans in the community, most of them being Vietnam and World War II Vets.

“I got to looking at the discharges of some of the men I worked with and these men were like the Rambos of their time,” he said. “These men came back, went to work and never looked back. It was just another part of their life.”

Bolt recalls that the man who first inspired him to start the Hall of Heroes was W.R. Garrett, a local farmer. Garrett was awarded a Silver Star and three Bronze Stars for acts of heroism and bravery during his service in WWII.

“It killed me that people only knew that man as a damn farmer,” he added. “It was wrong, mind-boggling, that people didn’t know the awesome things he did.”

These Veterans only being recognized as farmers, neighbors, or shop owners didn’t sit right with Bolt. He wanted to ensure they received the recognition they deserved. Bolt started the Laurens County Hall of Heroes, a way of recognizing Veterans around the local communities.

## **Expected 50 for ceremony – 500 showed up**

Activities of the Hall include a ceremony awarding the new inductees with plaques, shadow boxes, and an outpouring of love from friends, family members and complete strangers.

The Hall of Heroes doesn't require a Veteran to have performed heroic duties. Bolt wanted to highlight Veterans who impacted their local community as well. Though he thought the Hall of Heroes would be a one-time event for seven Veterans would draw a small crowd of 50-60 people, on the day of the induction, nearly 500 people attended.

“When I saw the crowd there to honor those men, I could not believe it,” he remarked.

After three years, Bolt's Hall of Heroes has expanded to Greenwood County. His efforts have ensured that several hundred Veterans around the surrounding communities have been recognized for the sacrifices and contributions to the nation and local communities.

Along with the Halls of Heroes, Bolt established a military museum in Greenwood. Veteran volunteers operate the museum. It has thousands of pieces of memorabilia from guns and knives to uniforms, photos, and newspaper articles. All the items were donated by local Veterans.

## **Time to focus on grandchildren**

Approaching retirement, Bolt says he is ready to focus on being a grandfather to his three grandchildren.

“All I want when I walk away is to know I laid down the cornerstone that will allow the successor to be take things to new heights,” he said.

Bolt receives health care services at the Columbia VA.

For a man who claims to be a nobody, Bolt's impact can be seen and felt across multiple South Carolina counties. Ask him about any Veteran in the Hall of Heroes and he'll tell you their story.

## A Helping Hand for Our Protectors



### **OnStar is working to help keep our veterans safe when they return home**

Across the nation, we celebrate and thank the heroic Americans who serve in our military, both at home and overseas, for their work to help keep us all safer. But sometimes those heroes need our help once they return home. An average of 20 veterans die by suicide each day, and the suicide rate among veteran adults is 1.5 times greater than for nonveterans, according to U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

### **It's crucial to ensure veterans know about the resources that are available to them.**

To help prevent these tragedies, it's crucial to ensure any veteran who is suffering or contemplating suicide knows about the resources that are available to them. In recent years, advocacy groups have launched social media campaigns — you may have seen the 22 Pushup Challenge, for instance — to help bring attention to the plight of veteran suicide prevention and to make sure veterans know how to reach help if they need it.

In addition, it's vital that those sources of help are easy to reach, 24/7. For that reason, OnStar is furthering its commitment to veterans by working with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. When a veteran suffering a crisis pushes the red Emergency button\* in their vehicle, OnStar Emergency-Certified Advisors\* are able to, if appropriate, connect them with the VA's Veterans Crisis Line. The Veterans Crisis Line offers confidential support that is available around the clock. The VA is also providing additional training to OnStar Advisors to help them determine if a caller may be a military veteran.

### **OnStar Advisors can connect veterans to the VA's Veterans Crisis Line.**

“Being able to quickly access help during a crisis can be crucial for those with thoughts of suicide,” says Dr. Jerry Reed, senior vice president for Practice Leadership at the Education Development Center, executive committee member at the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention and himself a veteran of the U.S. Navy.

“Every moment counts when someone is in crisis and considering suicide,” he says. “If there is some opportunity for someone to connect in that moment of crisis, we have an opportunity to save a life.”

“Every chance for someone to reach help when in a crisis is an essential and life-saving opportunity that we should not miss.” —Dr. Jerry Reed

OnStar Emergency-Certified Advisors are already trained to help Members experiencing a crisis. If a Member pushes the red Emergency button, Advisors can connect them with a crisis counselor, or if necessary, contact emergency services near the Member's location.

“Every chance for someone to reach help when in a crisis is an essential and life-saving opportunity that we should not miss,” says Reed.

If you or somebody you know is experiencing a crisis, push your red Emergency button or call 1.800.273.8255 to contact the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

# HEY FLORIDA RESIDENTS!

Proudly Support Veterans and Honor Flight with an Honor Flight License Plate



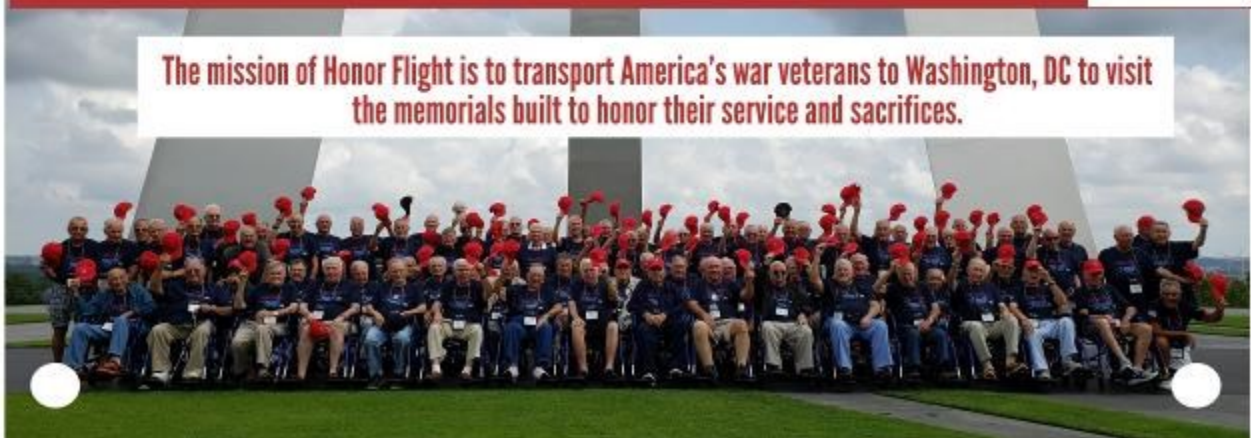
## ACT NOW!

- Honor Flight is approved for *pre-sale* of an Honor Flight license plate.
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- A portion of every plate purchase goes to the ten Honor Flight chapters in the state of Florida.
- Once the sales goal is met, you will receive instructions for exchanging your voucher for the Honor Flight plate.
- A plate replacement fee may apply.

Scan me!



The mission of Honor Flight is to transport America's war veterans to Washington, DC to visit the memorials built to honor their service and sacrifices.





Safekeeping your military separation records is secure, fast and free of charge and easy to access with the St. Johns County Clerk of Courts.

Bring your original DD-214 to the St. Johns County Veterans Council's Veterans Day Celebration where Clerk staff will officially record it:

- 9:30 a.m. – Noon, Nov. 11
- Anastasia Baptist Church, 1650 A1A S., St. Augustine
- Your record will be returned to you immediately.

Recording your DD-214 maintains a permanent digital copy on file for safekeeping. Your record is **protected** – it doesn't become a public record for 62 years after separation, per the National Archives.

*Can't make it on Nov. 11? Record your discharge papers at the St. Johns County Courthouse, 4010 Lewis Speedway, St. Augustine. Call the Recording division at 904 819 3632 for details.*

File your DD-214 with your  
St. Johns County Clerk of Courts



## FLORIDA CLERK OF COURTS WILL "LOCK IT UP" FOR FREE

Do you have your DD-214? That is the first question Veterans are asked when engaging in almost every benefits or Veteran-status related process. Often, it is the first question Veteran widows and widowers are asked after hearing "I'm sorry for your loss."

Each of Florida's county Clerk of Courts knows how valuable it is having a copy of your DD-214 safely and privately stored, with easy access. Click and read how you can record your DD-214 for free, year-round, regardless of what county you live in.

BONUS- St Johns County Clerk of the Circuit Courts is providing complimentary passport photos and notary services for military and Veterans through November 30th. Click below for the details.

*From Liberty Life Media*



## From the Florida Dept. of Veterans Affairs

One hundred catastrophically injured Veterans and their families, as well as surviving widows of fallen service members, will soon be living in mortgage free homes. The homes will be nestled in a new Land O' Lakes subdivision called "Let Us Do Good Village." The first-of-its kind community will feature world-class amenities, including an indoor basketball court, a pool, a tennis court, an ADA-accessible gym, a theater, an outdoor playground and a game room. For more details, click



## OVERVIEW OF THE WALL OF REMEMBRANCE BEING BUILT AT THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL - Washington DC

This is a great video segment with interview of General Tilelli and Colonel Dean of the Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation, providing an explanation of the current construction of the Wall of Remembrance at the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington DC. This video contains a walkthrough to the area where the Wall of Remembrance is being built.



This long awaited Wall of Remembrance will finally make known by name of over 36,000 American heroes who sacrificed their precious lives in the Korean War. Finally, these American heroes will be come known and honored by their names.

The sloped, granite Wall of Remembrance will encircle the existing Pool of Remembrance, complementing the original design of the memorial.

This Wall of Remembrance will be such a sacred and cherished memorial for all Gold Star families, Korean War veterans and for many generations of Americans and Koreans. I am so grateful these fallen American heroes and their families will finally have a place to be honored and remembered.

I will continue to post any updates as I receive. Please feel free to share this post with anyone who may be interested.

I thank the Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation - KWVMF for their continued dedication to building this important and sacred Wall of Remembrance to our nation's Korean War Veterans Memorial.

This Wall of Remembrance is expected to be dedicated on July 27, 2022.

The tremendous sacrifices of all who gave their lives during the Korean War, to save my family and the Korean people from communism, will never be forgotten.

This Wall of Remembrance will be the clearest reminder to all of us that "Freedom is not free".

With everlasting gratitude, love, and respect to these American Korean War fallen heroes who will become known each by their name and never forgotten, Susan Kee - Honoring Korean War Veterans

TO WATCH THE VIDEO PRODUCED BY MILITARY TIMES:

Please click on this link to the segment: <https://youtu.be/BpyqeAXRohl>

OTHER RESOURCES:

Link to Facebook page for Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation :

<https://www.facebook.com/kwvmfusa>

Link to website for Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation:

<https://koreanwarvetsememorial.org/wall-of-remembrance/>

## From Lynn Geiser

**Hope 4 Veterans-Florida** is expanding our nonprofit 501 (c)3 and a few opportunities (women veterans, spouses or passionate male or females that want to help our military families) in operations area for 2 intake coordinators, social media to monitor LinkedIn, facebook and twitter and few extra projects.. We are looking for qualified, passionate candidates for these volunteer positions. If interested to volunteer or learn more about these position join us January 10th @7pm zoom or send resume to [Lgeiser@hope4veterans.org](mailto:Lgeiser@hope4veterans.org)



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[lgeiser@hope4veterans.org](mailto:lgeiser@hope4veterans.org)



## Are You eligible to file for benefits based on Presumptive Exposure?

Were you exposed to hazardous materials while serving in the military, such as from Agent Orange or burn pits? Did you serve in Vietnam, Thailand or Southwest Asia? If so, you may be eligible to file for service-connected benefits based on presumptive exposure.

Over the course of the last six months, VA has begun processing service-connected disability claims for six new presumptive conditions related to exposure to hazardous materials.

In May 2021, VA started implementing provisions of the William M. Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (NDAA), adding bladder cancer, hypothyroidism and Parkinsonism to the list of medical conditions presumptively associated with exposure to Agent Orange. A few months later, VA added asthma, rhinitis and sinusitis (to include rhinosinusitis) on a presumptive basis based on particulate matter exposures during military service in Southwest Asia and certain other areas.

Any Veteran who was previously denied service-connection for any of these six conditions but had symptoms manifest within 10 years of military service would need to file another claim. Be sure to use VA Form 20-0995, "Decision Review Request: Supplemental Claim" when filing. The claim form should include the name of the medical condition and also specify that the medical condition is being claimed due to in-service exposure to environmental hazards.

VA is committed to assisting Veterans who may have been exposed to hazardous materials during their military service.

Be sure to stay plugged in to [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov) for the most recent developments around environmental hazards; VA is constantly conducting research and surveillance, as well as reviewing scientific literature for conditions that may be related to exposure during military service.

If you feel you have a chronic condition attributed to an in-service exposure, we highly encourage you to file a claim. For more information about VA benefits and eligibility, or how to file a claim, Veterans and survivors can visit VA's website at [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov) or call toll-free at 1-800-827-1000.



# V4V

## Community Outreach

Inform ★ Connect ★ Unite ★ Organize

### Save the Date

**February 19th 2022**

**Jacksonville Classical Academy**

**2043 Forest Street**

**Jacksonville, Florida 32204**





# 2022 VA DISABILITY PAY RATES



ANNOUNCED 2022 COLA OF 5.9%	DISABILITY RATING									
	10%	20%	30%	40%	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%	100%
<b>DEPENDENT STATUS</b>										
<b>Veteran Alone</b>	152.50	301.82	467.02	673.52	958.40	1,213.61	1,530.26	1,778.06	1,998.33	3,331.61
<b>Veteran with Spouse</b>	N/A	N/A	522.46	747.41	1,050.57	1,325.22	1,609.15	1,926.69	2,164.79	3,517.84
<b>Veteran with 1 child only</b>	N/A	N/A	504.45	721.99	1,019.86	1,288.16	1,616.79	1,876.92	2,109.72	3,456.30
<b>Veteran with 1 child and spouse</b>	N/A	N/A	563.76	801.42	1,118.35	1,406.77	1,754.46	2,035.77	2,287.63	3,653.89
<b>A D D I T I O N A L</b>										
<b>Parent 1 only (not in VA)</b>	N/A	N/A	44.48	59.30	74.13	88.96	103.78	118.71	133.43	149.10
<b>Each additional parent under age 18</b>	N/A	N/A	27.53	36.01	45.54	55.07	64.60	73.07	82.60	92.31
<b>Each additional child over age 18 (not in VA)</b>	N/A	N/A	88.96	118.61	148.26	177.91	208.62	238.28	267.93	298.18
<b>Spouse (includes aid and attendance)</b>	N/A	N/A	50.83	67.78	85.78	101.66	119.67	136.61	153.56	170.38

\*Use the compensation rates table to find your monthly payment amount. The monthly payment amounts are based on your disability rating and your eligible dependent family members.\*

## Lights, camera, holiday action: FPL, local veterans decorate injured Marine's home



*Britt Kennerly, Florida Today*

Josh Frey knew he and his wife were having lunch together Tuesday, and that after their daughters got out of school, the family would head to the Brevard Zoo.

What this Marine veteran who was badly wounded in Fallujah, Iraq, in 2004 didn't see coming, until the family returned to their West Melbourne home just before sunset, was a holiday extravaganza bedecking the house and front yard.

Solar candy canes. Thousands of LED lights on the house, trees and bushes. A camo-clothed, inflatable Santa by a "God Bless America" sign. Gifts for the family, which includes Frey, his wife, Sarah Starr, and their two daughters, Emma, 9, and Lily, 13.

"All right, all right, all right," Frey, 45, told the 20 or so volunteers who'd shown up hours hours before to prepare the energy-efficient surprise. "I don't even know what's going on, but thank you ... you're gonna catch a Marine crying. It's a little overwhelming.

"This means the world. It truly is something special. We live in a beautiful place and a beautiful community ... I felt like I was forgotten for a lot of years. I don't feel forgotten now."

The magical display is all part of a effort spearheaded by Florida Power & Light for the past 14 years. The program, which decorated another wounded Brevard veteran's home last year, sends volunteers from FPL to decorate veterans homes for the holidays, honoring their service and commitment to their country.

"When FPL came back to me in August and said, 'Okay, Donn, we'd like to try it again. Who do you recommend?'" said Donn Weaver, who chairs the Brevard Veterans Council.

"That includes younger veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan who have been grievously wounded, and live here in Brevard County. It's really an honor to do this. They were at our Aug. 7 ceremony to honor the Military Order of the Purple Heart, and Josh now has a brick placed in the Veterans Memorial Center in honor of his service and sacrifice. We're just very delighted that this is a new mechanism we can use if FPL keeps choosing us. We'll go to those Military Order of the Purple Heart with families, because young kids delight in Christmas stuff, especially surprises."

Given that the gift to Frey fell on the 80th anniversary of Pearl Harbor Day, the day "has a special meaning for all of us and especially for our veterans," said Bart Gaetjens, FPL's external affairs manager and local spokesman.



And giving back during the holiday season is important to the company, Gaetjens said.

"One of the ways we do this is by thanking local heroes in our communities who've made sacrifices to keep our nation and community safe," he said. "Working with Brevard Veterans Memorial Center ... we are thrilled to give back to this deserving hero and his family."

Frey's wife had to feign surprise, but her smile and a few tears were real. She'd been in on the project for a while with the help of FPL and the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center, the latter of which selected Frey for the gift.

The show of love was especially moving for the couple, Starr said, not just because of the upcoming holidays, but also because Dec. 12, her husband's "Alive Day," is just around the corner.

"That's the day Josh didn't die. The day he beat all the odds and survived," Starr said.

"They lost a lot of guys, so there's a lot of survivor's guilt. And so the holidays are always hard for him. It's a real juggling act ... he's sad because he's here celebrating Christmas and a lot of his brothers who should be here with him did not make it home to have that. And then by the same token, he feels like the best thing that he can do to honor his brothers who didn't come home was to live for them. Kind of a Catch-22. So I think this is a nice time to kind of bring some joy back into a not-so-easy time."

So many of the past 17 years haven't been easy for the couple, who moved to Melbourne in 2013.

In that 2004 firefight, at the end of a seven-month deployment — his first — Frey was hit in the right shoulder and "blown up," his wife said.

It happened two weeks shy of the couple's first wedding anniversary.

Frey, a native of Clearwater, came home with two Purple Hearts, a traumatic brain injury and PTSD. He had 23 post-injury surgeries and though his right arm was saved, he lost

much of the function in it.

But medical retirement from the U.S. Marine Corps hasn't stopped Frey from being an advocate for his fellow Marines, one who wants to combat veteran suicide, to ensure that "the ones who do come home don't die on this side," Starr said.



Frey is also a staunch supporter of medical marijuana for veterans, "to get them off these combat cocktail pills," he said.

Starr tells people that her husband's injury and what they've been through "was the hand of cards that we were dealt ... but we learned from it."

"We were advised and guided early on, that this situation would either make us or break us. It would make us stronger as a couple or completely destroy the relationship ... but that the good part was that we get to choose," she said.

"So we chose early on that we were going to be a team in this, get through it together. And here we are. We're still figuring it out, so it works."

Standing at the entrance to their now-twinkling home, Frey's smile got bigger and bigger as he talked about the power of support in his life, that of his wife, children, the military and community.

"We can't do it without each other. Together we're a complete team, and that goes from the military to the civilians to the family," he said, his wife and daughters beaming.

"God bless America."

Contact Kennerly at 321-242-3692 or [bkennerly@floridatoday.com](mailto:bkennerly@floridatoday.com). Twitter: [@bybrittkennerly](https://twitter.com/bybrittkennerly)  
Facebook: [/bybrittkennerly](https://www.facebook.com/bybrittkennerly).

## What are suicide red flags for veterans?

*PTSD (US Army / Released)*

*LYNN HULSEY - JOURNAL NEWS*

**Veterans commit suicide at higher rates than the general population, but experts say that the warning signs are similar for both groups.**

**“Many veterans may not show any signs of intent to harm themselves before doing so, but some actions can be a sign that a person needs help,” according to the Veterans Crisis Line, a free, confidential resource to assist veterans.**

**“Veterans in crisis may show behaviors that indicate a risk of self-harm.”**

**The risk factors do not always mean someone is considering suicide. But there are some that require immediate attention, according to the Veterans Crisis Line.**

**Those include: — Considering or researching ways to hurt or kill yourself — Talking about death, dying, or suicide — Self-destructive behavior such as activities involving drug abuse or weapons**

**Some other warning signs include: — Frequently sad or depressed — Hopelessness and feeling there is no way out — Anxiety, agitation, sleeplessness or mood swings — Feeling as if there is no reason to live — Feeling excessive guilt, shame or sense of failure — Rage or anger — Engaging in risky activities without thinking — Losing interest in hobbies, work or school — Increasing alcohol or drug misuse — Neglecting personal welfare and appearance — Withdrawing from family and friends — Showing violent behavior — Giving away prized possessions — Getting affairs in order or writing a will**

**You can take a confidential Veterans Self-check Quiz to learn if stress and depression may be affecting you. The quiz was created by the Department of Veterans Affairs, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.**

**There are resources available to help people who are in crisis or struggling with thoughts of suicide. Those include: — National Suicide Prevention Lifeline — 1-800-273-8255 — Veterans Crisis Line — 1-800-273-8255 Press 1 or Text 838255 <https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/> — Dayton Veterans Affairs Medical Center Suicide Prevention Team 937-268-6511 Ext. 2675 \_\_\_\_\_**

For many, the biggest battles are after they come home...



The **Fire Watch** is Northeast Florida's fight to end veteran suicide. Over 6,000 U.S. military veterans die by suicide each year, including 500 annually here in Florida. But suicide is preventable. And everyone can help. **Join us as a Watch Stander today.** Learn how to identify the risk signs of veterans in crisis and to direct them to the help they need.

3 minutes to enroll. 30 minutes to train. A lifetime of saving lives.

Visit: [www.thefirewatch.org/watch-standers](http://www.thefirewatch.org/watch-standers) to learn more.

Thanks!

Nick Howland

Executive Director, The Fire Watch

[www.thefirewatch.org](http://www.thefirewatch.org)

904.525.1761





**From Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley**

**Subject: VA Transportation Assistance**

**I received the email below from Dr. McKenzie. If any of our veterans require transportation assistance to any VA medical centers, have them call our CBOC at 904- 829-0814 and ask for the primary social worker for help with transportation.**

**We recently found that we are able to assist with patients who have significant issues with transportation to VA medical centers. Our primary care social worker can assist with this problem. Patient can call here and ask that she be notified of problem. She will be able to contact them and attempt to provide assistance.**

**From Michael Isam**

**DAV van service to Gainesville returning on a limited basis.**

**Begins on Monday, 23 March 2021**

**The van will run on Monday and Wednesday ONLY**

**3 passenger limit**

**Masks are required to and from VAMC**



## The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs

If you are looking for a simple way to help Florida Veterans, consider upgrading to a military themed specialty plate when you renew your tag. Revenue from military themed specialty license plates sales supports capital improvements to our State Veterans' Homes. For more information, click here: <https://bit.ly/3gxSZ8c>



**REQUIREMENTS**

**MILITARY**

SERVED MINIMUM 90 DAYS ACTIVE DUTY,  
1 DAY DURING WARTIME, WITH AN  
HONORABLE DISCHARGE

**MEDICAL**

NEED FOR ASSISTANCE WITH ACTIVITIES OF DAILY  
LIVING (ADLS) DUE TO A NON-SERVICE CONNECTED  
DISABILITY

**FINANCIAL**

INCOME AND EXPENSES IN RELATION  
TO MEDICAL EXPENSES

VA RECOGNIZED WAR PERIODS	BEGINNING	ENDING
WORLD WAR II	Dec 7, 1941	Dec. 31, 1946
KOREAN CONFLICT	June 27, 1950	Jan. 31, 1955
VIETNAM ERA	Aug. 5, 1964	May 7, 1975
PERSIAN GULF WAR	Aug 2, 1990	End date to be set by law or Presidential Proclamation

**MEDICAL SCREENING**

The Veteran or surviving spouse must have a medical condition causing the need for assistance with activities of daily living (ADLs), such as bathing, dressing, grooming, using the toilet, preparing meals, and moving about safely).

**MONETARY SCREENING**

The veteran and or veteran plus spouse can have a maximum of \$129,094 in liquid assets. A primary residence and auto are not counted as part of the total liquid assets. Ongoing non-reimbursable medical expenses may reduce the annual countable income.

MAXIMUM PENSION AMOUNTS	PER MONTH	ANNUALLY
SURVIVING SPOUSE	\$1,244	\$14,928
VETERAN	\$1,936	\$23,232
COUPLE	\$2,295	\$27,540

**From Lynn M Geiser**  
**Here are the Aid & Attendance requirements and qualifications for 2021. This is for veterans and their spouses who qualify and need assistance with their Activities of Daily Living (ADL's).**



## Legal Aid for Veterans

The Florida Veterans Legal Helpline is a project of the Major General Ernest A. and Marilyn Bedke Veterans Law Center at Bay Area Legal Services, Inc. The helpline is a free service for eligible Florida veterans and their family members.

When you call, you will speak to a screener who will determine your eligibility and set your appointment with an attorney.

**1.866.486.6161**

**Call Today!**

Hours: Monday – Friday  
9 AM to 4:30 PM



## We Can Help With

- Landlord-Tenant Matters
- Consumer Credit Issues
- Foreclosure
- Divorce + Child Support
- Drivers Licenses/ID cards
- Social Security + Public Benefits
- Discharge Upgrades
- VA Benefits
- And Other Civil Legal Matters  
(No Criminal or Traffic Matters)

Supported by the: **FDVA**  
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL SERVICES  
FLORIDA BAR ASSOCIATION

**Become a Watch Stander with The Fire Watch**



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

## Disaster Resources Available to Veterans

**“Veterans and their families should be focused on their health and safety during the natural disasters,”** said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie.

“VA is taking action to give those with pending debts greater flexibility during these challenging times.”

### Health Care Assistance

If you have questions such as where to go for care or how to receive prescribed medications, VA has established a toll-free number for assistance in areas that have been impacted by disasters. Veterans or their families can call the VA Veterans Disaster Response line 24 hours, seven days a week at 1-800-507-4571.

### Debt Relief

If you are affected by a natural disaster, have a VBA benefit debt and need temporary financial relief, please contact VA's Debt Management Center at 1-800-827-0648 to request assistance.

If you have questions on Compensation or Pension benefits: Call toll-free 1-800-827-1000 Monday - Friday 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. CST.

### Other Resources

Find a VA Vet Center near you 877-WAR-VETS (927-8387) or <https://www.va.gov/find-locations>

Mobile Vet Centers and Vet Center teams are actively responding to disaster-affected areas to offer counseling and grief support as well as connection and referral services to other VA and community resources.

Find a VA facility near you <https://www.va.gov/find-locations>

Call the White House VA Hotline 24 hours a day, seven days a week at 1-855-948-2311.

Apply for \$500 grant for your damaged primary residence (on a first come, first serve basis subject to funding) from PenFed Foundation.

National Resource Directory - Search for local resources for Veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors.

FEMA - FEMA helps with temporary housing, repair or replacement of existing homes.

American Red Cross - The American Red Cross offers emergency financial assistance to the most impacted counties. Please call 1-800-733-2767 to see if you qualify.

Disaster Assistance – An easy way to determine if your zip code has been declared a disaster and eligible for assistance. The website also allows users to complete an online application and the ability to check FEMA application status.



Florida veterans and military families have a new resource to receive the care they need thanks to a partnership dedicated to serving this most deserving population.

Centerstone and the Cohen Veterans Network have joined forces to offer compassionate, targeted behavioral health care for Post 9/11 veterans, National Guard, Reservists, their families and active duty family members at the Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at Centerstone, Jacksonville. <https://centerstone.org/cohen-military-family-clinic/jacksonville/>. The clinic’s skilled clinicians and staff have been trained to work specifically with veterans and their families, and some are veterans themselves. Services offered include individual therapy for children, adolescents and adults, couples therapy, family therapy, groups and workshops.

“Military families are some of the most resilient people you will ever encounter, but a life of service often gives way to invisible wounds and unique challenges that are difficult to navigate,” Elizabeth Sherr, clinic director said. “We understand those challenges and stand ready to support our veterans and their loved ones with effective, personalized care right now.”

The clinic’s ability to meet the needs of veterans and their families quickly is vital in today’s mental health environment where gaining access to care can often be daunting - with long wait times and all too common barriers to overcome. The Cohen Clinic at Centerstone is committed to reducing these barriers. Not only are military families currently able to receive same day appointments, the clinic also offers all therapy services via telehealth - breaking down time and distance concerns that can sometimes be problematic.

“We want to make getting help as easy as possible for our veterans and family members,” Brigadier General (ret.) Michael Fleming, the clinic’s outreach director said. “Sometimes just reaching out for help is difficult enough, and we want to ensure we meet this step with compassion and ease.”

For the time being, in an effort to ensure the safety of clients and team members amidst the COVID-19 physical distancing guidelines, that includes conducting all services via CVN Telehealth or telephone. Studies have shown telehealth has the same efficacy as in-person counseling and the clinic’s therapists are well trained in the delivery of this care. Additionally, front desk staff still have complete access to answer the appointment line during business hours, as before, and veterans, military families and outside organizations can continue to call directly for an appointment.

Veterans, National Guard, Reservists, their families and active duty family members may contact the clinic at (904) 431-3500 to schedule appointments. Clinic hours are:

Monday	8:00am – 5:00pm
Tuesday	8:00am – 5:00pm
Wednesday	8:00am – 7:00pm
Thursday	8:00am – 5:00pm
Friday	8:00am - 12:00pm

For more information on clinic services log on to <https://centerstone.org/cohen-military-family-clinic/jacksonville/> or call the appointment line at (904) 431-3500.



*You sacrificed for our country.*

**AT SILVER CREEK,**  
FREEDOM IS YOURS.

Because of your commitment, you helped us achieve the American Dream. At Silver Creek, we want to return the favor – by providing the freedom, independence and personal attention you deserve. Since 2016, Silver Creek has served the St. Augustine community, offering military retirees and seniors at large a vibrant, community lifestyle complete with everything except the burdens of home maintenance. Impeccably-appointed independent concierge living, assisted living and memory care apartments homes, first-class amenities, holistic wellness programming, gourmet, all-day dining and abounding opportunities for enrichment are just a few of the many options you'll find.

Silver Creek provides residents the perfect balance of elegant, upscale living with the warmth and intimacy of home – inspiring socialization and fellowship within a close-knit community.

Call **800-665-9492** to schedule a tour and learn more.

**SILVER CREEK**

THE FUTURE OF SENIOR LIVING

165 Silver Lane | St. Augustine, FL 32084 | [SilverCreekRetirement.com](http://SilverCreekRetirement.com)



**Independent Concierge Living – Assisted Living**  
**Memory Care – Short-Term Stays**

Assisted Living Facility #12928

## Vietnam Veterans of America

If you are a Vietnam Era Veteran and live in one of these counties, please contact the President for information as to how to join



### Chapter/President/email/Location

1046	Tony D'Aleo	adaleo5579@gmail.com; Duval
1048	Rod Phillips	cobra101st@gmail.com; Daytona
1059	David Treffinger	dtreffinger433@msn.com; Clay
1084	Salvatore Sorrentino	suncler1951@aol.com
1088	Roy (Corky) Rudd	corkstopper50@yahoo.com; Nassau
1092	Forest Hope	foresthope@usa.net; Gainesville
1134	Marvin Lagle	mdlagle@gmail.com; Baker





**PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO MEET VETERANS' UNIQUE NEEDS**

**Advance Care Planning**

Community Hospice & Palliative Care offers Honoring Choices® Florida, a program to help you document your health care wishes in advance, so that, in the event you become ill and cannot speak for yourself, your wishes are known and can be followed.

**Palliative Care**

Our palliative care services can help people with serious illnesses get relief from physical, emotional, and spiritual pain, symptoms, and stress while seeking curative treatment.

**Hospice Care**

We also provide support during the final phase of advanced illness, with a focus on comfort and quality of life.

- ★ **Team Approach:** Trained clinicians identify and address the psychological, physical, spiritual and emotional needs of veterans and their caregivers.
- ★ **Pinning Ceremony:** We provide a veteran-to-veteran pinning ceremony to honor the service of our nation's bravest.
- ★ **Service Branch Flags:** For veterans who receive care at our inpatient centers, we fly the flag of their service branch outside their room and entrust the flag to the family following death.
- ★ **Veterans History Project:** Members of our Community Hospice Veterans Partnership (CHVP) record veterans' stories and share them online and with the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress.
- ★ **Community Hospice Veterans Partnership:** A select group of veteran leaders serving as brand ambassadors throughout Northeast and North Central Florida bringing awareness to, and providing access for, veterans and their caregivers facing advanced illness and end-of-life care.

**Complementary Therapies**

In addition to routine home care, respite care, continuous care and inpatient hospice, we also provide the following services to patients and their families:

- ★ **Grief and Loss Support**
- ★ **Certified Music Therapy**
- ★ **Certified Pet Therapy**
- ★ **Pet Promises**

**We Need Volunteers**

Whether you offer companionship and a listening ear or assist at fundraising events, there's a volunteer role for everyone. Opportunities include pinning ceremonies, Veterans History Project recordings, CHVP membership and other special programs.

**WE HONOR VETERANS**  
*Partner*

**Community Hospice & Palliative Care** participates in We Honor Veterans, a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization program that honors veterans for their service and sacrifices.

For more information or to volunteer, call toll free **866.253.6681** or visit **CommunityHospice.com**.



Along with traditional reimbursement for hospice services, we offer payment options to veterans with TRICARE. As with all Community Hospice & Palliative Care patients, we provide care and support to all who need it, regardless of their ability to pay.

VET 007 5/20



# SURVIVOR OUTREACH SERVICES

Strength  
*built on*  
Sacrifice

## Your Florida SOS Team

### St. Augustine Area

Keith Ham  
Support Coordinator  
310 Charlotte Street  
St. Augustine, FL 32085  
(904) 823-0157 (desk)  
(904) 472-7689 (cell)  
[keith.c.ham.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:keith.c.ham.ctr@mail.mil)

### Tallahassee Area

Matthew Reeves  
Support Coordinator  
1225 Easterwood Drive  
Tallahassee, FL 32311-3599  
(850) 617-0192 (desk)  
(850) 459-6630 (cell)  
[matthew.p.reeves.2.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:matthew.p.reeves.2.ctr@mail.mil)

### Orlando Area

Shinekqua Baines  
Support Coordinator  
9500 Armed Forces Reserve Drive  
Orlando, FL 32827  
(407) 240-5939 ext. 1743  
[shinekqua.l.baines.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:shinekqua.l.baines.ctr@mail.mil)

### Tampa Bay Area

LaShawnda S. Strother  
Support Coordinator  
2801 Grand Avenue  
Pinellas Park, FL 33782  
(727)-563-3647  
[lashawnda.s.strother.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:lashawnda.s.strother.ctr@mail.mil)

### Miami Area

Support Coordinator  
9301 NW 33rd Street  
Doral, FL 33172-1202  
(305) 437-2178

## Scholarships & Application Deadlines

There are two primary VA Programs offering educational assistance. While federal benefits do not technically have a due date, it is important to apply as early as possible.

The Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship (Fry Scholarship) is currently available for children of those who died in the line of duty after September 10, 2001. Beginning January 1, 2015, Fry Scholarship will also be available for surviving spouses of those who died in the line of duty after September 10, 2001.

The Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA) Program offers education and training opportunities to eligible dependents of Veterans who are permanently and totally disabled due to a service-related condition or of Veterans who died while on active duty or as a result of a service-related condition.

### Application Deadlines for surviving children

#### Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation

No set amount, available for children of those who died in the line of duty or of a service-connected disability. No application due date.

#### Freedom Alliance

Scholarships of up to \$5,000 for children of those who died in the line of duty. No application due date.

#### Fisher House Foundation/ Heroes Legacy Scholarship

Amount varies, for children of those who died while on active duty on or after September 11, 2001. Applications available from early December to March 14.

#### Special Ops Warrior Foundation

Amount varies, for surviving children of Special Operations Service Members who died in the line of duty. Applications due at least sixty days prior to the start of the semester.

### Deadline for multiple relationships

#### Army Emergency Relief Fund

Amount varies, for surviving spouses and children of soldiers who die while on active duty or in retiree status. Applications available from January 2 to May 1, 2015.

### Application Deadlines: For surviving spouses

#### Aspire

\$3,000 scholarships per semester for spouses of those who died on active duty. Applications due by October 31 for spring semester and June 30 for fall semester each year.

#### National Military Family Association

\$500 to \$2,500 scholarships for surviving spouses of those who died while on active duty on or after September 11, 2001. Applications available from December 1 to January 31.

#### Pat Tillman Foundation

Amount varies, scholarships for surviving spouses of those who died on active duty, in veteran status, or in retiree status. Applications available from February 1 to March 6.

### Application Deadlines: For surviving siblings

#### Matthew Freeman Project

\$1,000 scholarships for siblings of those who have died in the line of duty. No application due date

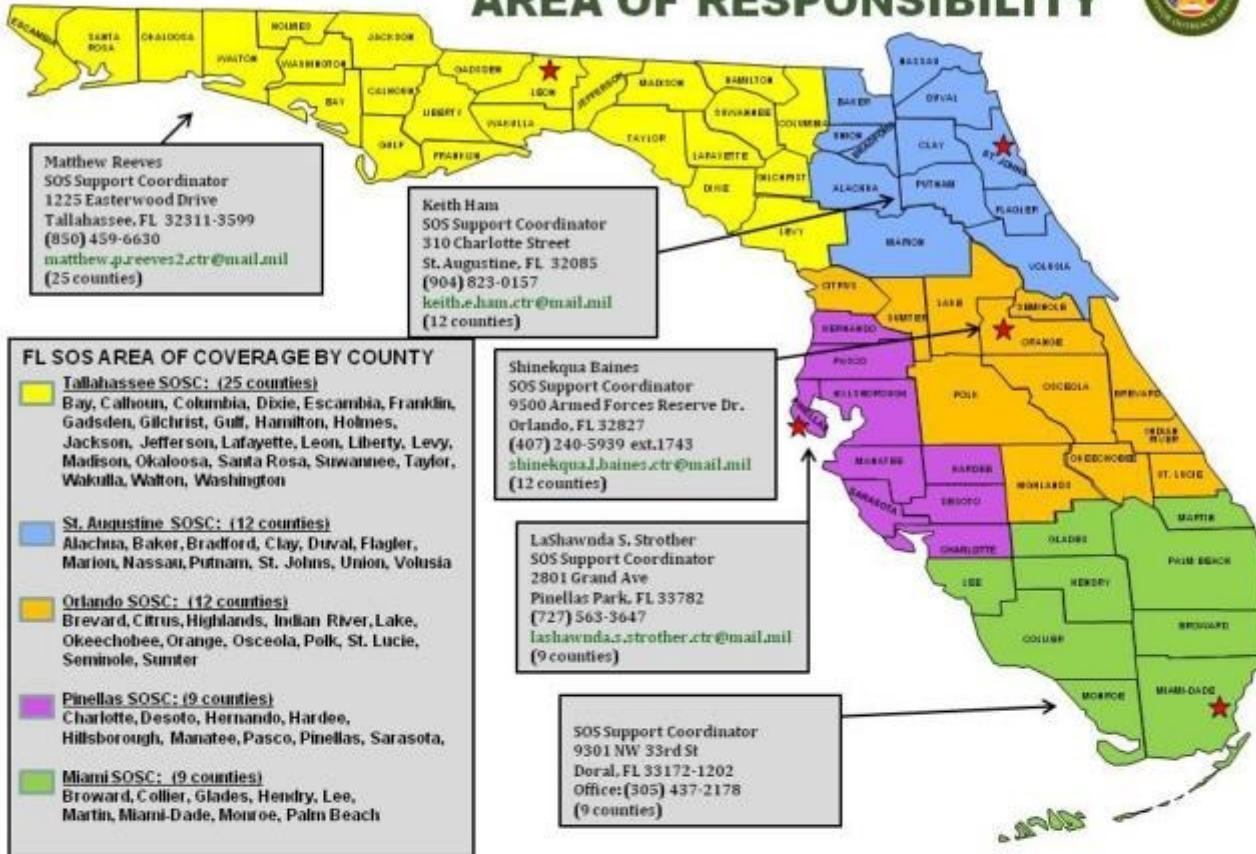
### Deadline for multiple relationships

#### Folds of Honor

\$5,000 scholarships for surviving spouses and children of service members who die in the line of duty or from a service-connected disability. Applications available from January 15 to March 15.

**Disclaimer:** The information presented in this newsletter is for informational awareness only and does not represent endorsement, sponsorship, recommendation, or promotion of any commercial events, commercial names or brands by the editors of this Newsletter, the Department of Defense, US Army, US Navy, US Air Force, US Coast Guard, National Guard, Reserve, or the federal government. Usage of commercial or trademark names is for identification purposes only.

# FLORIDA SURVIVOR OUTREACH SERVICES AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY



Survivor Outreach Services provides long-term support and advocacy for families of the fallen. Our support coordinators and financial counselors are dedicated to helping survivors from all eras understand and apply for benefits as well as stay connected to the Army family for as long as they desire.

Although Survivor Outreach Services is the focus of this newsletter, please know that all branches of the Armed Forces are equally committed to taking care of surviving military families. Please contact us, and we will connect you with additional resources that may be available for your branch of service. To find the Survivor Outreach Services location nearest you, check out the map on this page, or visit [www.sos.army.mil](http://www.sos.army.mil).



## 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 Crisis Line

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

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

**STAND BY THEM**  
Confidential help for Veterans and their families

**NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE**  
1-800-273-TALK (8256)  
[suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://suicidepreventionlifeline.org)

..... Confidential chat at [VeteransCrisisLine.net](http://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](http://MilitaryCrisisLine.net) or text 838255

## Veterans Councils of Northeast Florida



### **BAKER COUNTY**

President: Larry Porterfield

Meetings:

Second Thursday of each month

Location:

MacClenny Primitive Baptist Church  
Fellowship Hall on North Boulevard

Time : 1800 (6pm)

### **CLAY COUNTY**

President: Harry Silvers

Meetings:

First Wednesday of each month

Location:

American Legion Post 250  
3939 County Rd 218  
Middleburg, FL 32068

Time: 1400 (2pm)

### **DUVAL COUNTY**

President Steve Spickelmier

Meetings:

Third Tuesday of each month

Location:

American Legion Post 37  
Main Building  
San Juan Avenue

Tome: 1900 (7 pm)

### **NASSAU COUNTY**

President: Mike Doran

Meetings:

First Thursday of each month

Location:

American Legion Post 54  
626 South 3rd St  
Fernandina Beach fit 32034

Time: 1900 (7pm)

### **St. Johns County**

President: Bill Dudley

Meetings:

Last Thursday of each month

Location:

Health & Human Services building  
Muscovy room, 1st floor  
200 San Sebastian View, St. Augustine

Time: 1900 (7pm)

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

<http://veteranscouncilsjc.org>

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.***

***He can be contacted at [webmaster@veteranscouncilsjc.org](mailto:webmaster@veteranscouncilsjc.org)***

*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: rothfeldm@gmail.com



**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 County  
Health & Human Services Building,  
200 San Sebastian View  
Auditorium, 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  
Travis Neidig, Assistant VSO  
Angela McKenzie, 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.*