



# *The Patriot Reader Newsletter*

**P.O. Box 2117  
St. Augustine, FL 32085**

**Bill Dudley, Publisher**

**Michael Rothfeld, Editor**

**Volume 15, Issue 7**

**From Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley**

**July 2025**

## **In This Issue**

VC Upcoming Meetings & Speakers  
SJC Supports Veterans Village  
The Colonel Ed Taylor Award  
Vets Center Opens in Middleburg  
Veterans Council Meeting Minutes  
VC of SJC Officers and Directors  
Veterans Council Mission Statement  
NE FL Women Veterans  
A St Augustine Veteran's Truck  
Florida National Guard  
Retiree Appreciation Day  
Celebrating the Army's Birthday  
Lt. Dan  
Ntl League of POW-MIA Families  
The **FIRE** Watch  
Winnie Mills WW 2 Vet at 102  
Flag Retirement in Palatka  
Military Spouse Night Out, Jax  
New Bill on MOH 5 yr Limitation  
GI Benefits Bill to Help Veterans  
56 Men  
WW 2 Veteran, Tony Bennett  
FL Veterans History Project  
Veterans Day Photography Contect  
Florida Veterans Foundation

Fellow Veterans, I was honored to serve on the veterans Florida Hall of Fame selection committee again this year. The committee met this past week and after much deliberation, made their selection as to who will be this year's inductees into the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame. In past years, we have been able to select 20 candidates out of all the names submitted. This year, the Florida Legislation reduced the number of inductees to 5. This made it exceedingly difficult for the selection committee but as I said, after much deliberation, 5 candidates were selected. These 5 will be notified by FDVA in the next several days and the induction ceremony will be held in November, a date yet to be determined. This was an extremely difficult process as there were so many excellent candidates whose names submitted this year. If you were not selected

for this year's HOF honors, the committee strongly recommends you reapply for next year.

This past week, Governor DeSantis signed 3 important Bills into Legislation that supports our veterans. > HB 797 streamlines access to long term care for veterans and their spouses...SB116 provides a comprehensive overhaul of how Florida supports its veterans by expanding suicide preventions programs to include early recognition of mental health conditions and SB910 which protects veterans from predatory practices by bad actors who seek to exploit veterans navigating the benefits process. More detail of each of these pieces of legislation appears in this month's Patriot Reader newsletter.

At this month's Veterans Council meeting, the Council presented the Col. Ed Taylor Award to the leadership team of the St. Augustine Sea Cadet Battalion. On hand to receive this most prestigious award were Joe and Shannon



Giammanco and Larry and Sherryl Mull. These four have provided the skills



and leadership to this outstanding Sea Cadet Battalion almost since it was stood up as a unit several years ago. Their dedication and unselfish giving of their time to provide the training needed to make this Battalion one of the best in the area is remarkable to say the least. A big Bravo Zulu to these four deserving Patriots in receiving this most prestigious award.

Thank you for your service.

Bill Dudley. Chairman  
Veterans Council of St.  
Johns County, Inc.

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



**Upcoming Speakers**

**July 31**

**Liz Tissicino: Regional Service to the Armed Forces and International Services Director, American Red Cross of North Florida  
Peter Jennison, SJC Chapter Veteran Enforcers Motorcycle Assoc.**

**August 28**

**Dr. Michael Butler, Prof. Flagler College, Vietnam Historian**

**September 25**

**Eddie Creamer, SJC Property Appraiser  
Jerry Domask, Vietnam veteran speaks about Ted Gostas, POW**

**October 30**

**Jill Lancaster, Guitars for Vets  
Eric Hernandez, Military Outreach Director, St Augustine YMCA**

**November 20\*\***

**David McCuistan, former Chapter Commander, MOWW  
Ed Turner, Exec. Dir. Cecil Field POW MIA Memorial**

**December 18\*\***

**Dr. Amy Giroux, Univ. of Central FL,  
Identifying the two graves holding the remains of 12 Great Plains Native Americans who were among the 72 captured in the 1870s and became prisoners of war in St. Augustine.**

**\*\* November 20 & December 18 meetings are a week earlier than usual because of the Holidays \*\***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



**St. Johns County Supports the Veterans Village of St. Johns**

**The Veterans Village is a sanctuary for military veterans to regain their footing and find a safe haven.**

ST. JOHNS COUNTY, Florida, May 22, 2025 – In recognition of May as Military Appreciation Month, St. Johns County announced the financial support of the Veterans Village of St. Johns and the debut of a special video on the project produced by the Office of Public Affairs. At the January 21, 2025, St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) Regular Meeting, the BCC approved a Resolution for allocating \$125,000 in funding for fiscal year 2025 to Home Again St. Johns, Inc. for operational costs for Veterans Village as well as recommending annual reoccurring funding subject to yearly appropriation and budget approval.

“Everything we like about living here in America and the right to voice our opinion about the things we don’t like - all those things are only possible because of our veterans putting themselves in harm’s way,” said County Commissioner Christian Whitehurst

Home Again St. Johns and the Veterans Council of St. Johns County joined forces to buy St. Augustine’s Old Town Inn and repurpose it into Veterans Village, supportive housing for military veterans.

“It’s been a great opportunity to give them the safety and security that they now have here at the Veterans Village,” said Bill Dudley, Chairman of Veterans Council.

Operated and managed by Home Again St. Johns, Veterans Village is a sanctuary for military veterans to regain their footing and find a safe haven. “This is a win-win not only for the community, but especially for our veteran community,” said County Commissioner Clay Murphy.

In March of 2024, Home Again St. Johns. Inc. purchased a motel on Anastasia Island called the St. Augustine’s Old Town Inn to serve as the Veterans Village. “It’s really unique and wonderful to see something that’s broken like the hotels or the apartment complexes that no one is using and it’s not anyone’s home and then we go and refurbish them and becomes someone’s home,” said County Commissioner Krista Joseph.

The 20-unit, one apartment facility provides supportive housing exclusively for military veterans, offering both transitional and permanent affordable options for residents and offers wraparound supportive services such as access to healthcare, mental health sup-

port, addiction recovery programs, and employment assistance. “When you look at what a veteran has done for us, to be honest, it seems like such a small way for us to show our appreciation,” said County Commissioner Ann Taylor.

Veterans Village serves as a sanctuary where veterans can rebuild their lives, fostering dignity, independence, personal growth, housing stabilization, and community. The \$125,000 in grant funding from the County is for veteran related needs and operational needs at Veterans Village to include, but not limited to, case management, resource and referral, employment-related activities, drug and alcohol support, transportation to appointments, deposits, rental assistance, food, durable medical equipment (not covered by insurance, VA, etc.), appliances to assist the veteran such as grab bars, shower chairs, etc. (not covered by any insurance, VA, etc.) and other needs a veteran may need to start work or continue employment and remain housed.

“It was so important that we helped stand this up; they were so close to making Veterans Village a reality, and it was our privilege and honor to be able to make that come to fruition,” said County Commissioner Sarah Arnold.

May is Military Appreciation Month, a special time for those in and out of the military. It is a time designated to honor and recognize the contributions, sacrifices, and service of the members of the armed forces, past and present. Congress designated May as National Military Appreciation Month in 1999 to ensure the nation was given the chance to publicly show their appreciation for troops past and present. It serves as a reminder of the profound contributions made by service members.

Veterans Village of St. Johns, the debut of a special video on the project produced by the Office of Public Affairs.

<https://youtu.be/SqWUKGdTKpM>





**Sea Cadet Commander Larry Mull, upon receiving the Veteran Council's most prestigious award, "The Colonel Ed Taylor Award" sent the following letter of appreciation to Chairman Dudley and the Veterans Council.**



Veterans Council of St. Johns County  
Chairman Bill Dudley

June 26, 2025

Dear Chairman Dudley,

On behalf of Joe, Shannon, Sherryl, and myself, I want to express our sincere gratitude to you and the Veterans Council of St. Johns County for honoring us with the Col. Ed Taylor Award. It is both a privilege and a humbling honor to be recognized on behalf of the United States Sea Cadets and the St. Augustine Battalion.

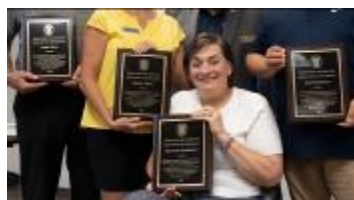
To receive an award bearing the name of Col. Ed Taylor—whom you so fittingly described as "the epitome of what a veteran should represent"—is profoundly meaningful to us. The Veterans Council continues to be the cornerstone of veteran support and recognition throughout our county, and we are truly grateful for your ongoing commitment and leadership.

Please extend our deepest thanks to the entire Council. We remain dedicated to mentoring and developing our youth into the leaders of tomorrow.

Very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry D. Mull".

Lt. Larry D. Mull, USNSCC  
Commanding Officer, St. Augustine Battalion



**To build strong moral character, instill leadership and responsibility, and foster a sense of patriotism and interest in maritime and military careers.**

## Clay County celebrates opening of Veteran's Center in Middleburg

*From Clay Today*

MIDDLEBURG – With the snip of scissors by Jessica Polvikoski, years of planning and prodding came to fruition when the Clay County Veterans Center opened June 21, Saturday morning at 2497 County Road 220 (behind Doctors Inlet Animal Hospital). The center is home to the Clay County Veterans' Council, which takes care of veterans and their families by conducting fundraising events, increasing communication and veteran knowledge, and cultivating partnerships. "Now this isn't just the opening of a building, it's the opening of a promise – a promise to the men and women who wore the uniform and served with honor, courage and distinction, and who now deserve our unwavering support," said keynote speaker Jim Renninger, Clay County Commissioner, veteran and former Navy pilot. "With four major military bases and several major military installations in the region, there are over 27,000 veterans who make Clay County their home." Saturday's event celebrated the center's opening and provided the community with an opportunity to tour the facility.



# **VETERANS COUNCIL OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY**

## **MINUTES OF GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**MAY 29, 2025**

**CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Dudley**

**WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS: Chairman Dudley**

**PLEDGE: Chairman Dudley**

**INVOCATION: Chaplain Jefferson**

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW GUESTS: New attendees introduced themselves and who they represent.**

**MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: Minutes of last meeting conducted April 24, 2025, were presented by Chairman Dudley. Copies of the Minutes are available on the sign-in table and were sent to members electronically by the Secretary. The minutes were approved by voice vote with no changes.**

**TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Mountcastle presented the Treasurer's Report to the Council. The Council's net liquid cash balance (less credit card balance) payable as of May 28, 2025, was \$133,901.84. Treasurer Mountcastle went over the Treasurer's Report including all incoming funds and expenses going out. The Treasurer went over the expense of a new laptop purchase and software for use by the Council in keeping accounts secure. The floor was open for any questions. The Treasurer's Report was approved by voice vote with no changes.**



## **SPEAKERS:**

### **HOLLY POWERS, ST. AUGUSTINE LIGHTHOUSE MUSEUM & WWII EXHIBIT**

Ms. Powers introduced herself and presented her background experience to the Council. She now works for the St. Augustine Lighthouse and Museum. Ms. Powers presented the history of the St. Augustine Lighthouse with a slideshow presentation. She also spoke of the Lighthouse Museum's WWII Exhibit and invited all to visit and enjoy the Lighthouse's history. The floor was open for any questions.

### **RICH POSSERT, OPERATION NEW UNIFORM**

Rich Possert introduced himself and gave his military background. Mr. Possert now represents Operation New Uniform (ONU). ONU is a career development training program that is designed to empower Service Members, Veterans and Military Spouses to successfully transition from military life to purposeful, stable careers. Mr. Possert gave a breakdown of how ONU uses corporate training to assist helping participants learn how the "outside business world" operates. They also follow up with the people that go through the program to see how they are doing in life after completing the program. The floor was open for questions and answers.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE, MAC MCDERMOTT**

Mr. McDermott spoke about the current situation in the Veterans Service Office and the hiring of the new Service Officer and his training and getting his experience in helping the Veterans that come into the



office to file claims for benefits. Mr. McDermott also spoke of the VSO's just returning from the annual training course to retain certification with Veterans Administration. All went well and all passed the testing requirements to continue assisting our Veterans.

Mr. McDermott also spoke of the St. Johns County program that offers discounts to Veterans at restaurants, shops, and other establishments within the County. It is the Salute to Service Program and Mr. McDermott went over the procedure of registering with the County to obtain these discounts.

Mr. McDermott spoke of the current backlog with the claims filed with the VA, it is currently down 25% and claims are moving more swiftly through the system. Mr. McDermott also spoke of overpaid funds from the VA to Veterans and spouses. Mr. McDermott spoke about what can happen if there are overpayments and what to do to correct. The floor was open for questions.

#### **VETERANS TREATMENT COURT, JOHN LESLIE**

Mr. Leslie introduced himself and gave the history of and what the Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) does for our Veterans in the legal system. The VTC is now in its eighth year. Mr. Leslie gave an update on the VTC and the number of participants the VTC has helped through the legal system process.

Mr. Leslie gave the next court date for the VTC on June 5, 2025, and invited those interested to attend. There are currently seventeen mentors, but the VTC is always looking for additional volunteers to become mentors. The floor was open for any questions.

## **UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS**

**Chairman Dudley spoke of the success of the Memorial Day Ceremony that was held at the St. Augustine National Cemetery. Now planning is underway for the Veterans Day Program that will be held on November 11, 2025.**

**The SR16 facility is expected to be completed about the middle of June, permits take lots of time.**

**Chairman Dudley spoke of being invited to speak at the Northrop Grumman Veterans Group's monthly luncheon on Wednesday, May 28th. Mr. Dudley was pleased to address their group as Northrop Grumman is a great community partner.**

**Mr. Derek Collins, Regional Program Manager, gave an update on The Fire Watch, the State of Florida's Veterans Suicide Prevention Program that was founded in 2019. He also presented a Fire Watch flyer for additional information. He answered questions from the audience.**

**The floor was open for further questions and new business.**

**The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**William Dudley, Chairman**

# Veterans Council of St Johns County, FL Inc.

## Officers and Directors

**Chairman** - Bill Dudley, U.S. Air Force

anuday00@aol.com

**Vice Chairman** - Ronald Birchall, U.S. Army

**Treasurer** - John Mountcastle, U.S. Coast Guard,

john\_mountcastle@yahoo.com

**Secretary - Newsletter Editor**, Michael Rothfeld, rothfeldm@gmail.com

**Directors** - Gerald Dedge

**Chaplain** - Bill Jefferson

**Oversight Committee:** Bill Dudley- Chairman,

Ronald Birchall - Vice Chairman

Michael Rothfeld - Director, John Mountcastle - Director



## Mission statement:

The objective of the Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Florida is to be of assistance to all veterans who have served in any of the military branches of service of the United States of America. This website is designed to serve our veterans and shall act as a communications center for this Council. The Council is proud of our past successes and we look forward to many more in the months and years to come



**Northeast Florida Women Veterans, Inc. supports Women Veterans by helping ease the transition from military to civilian life. Through tailored programs, career support, housing assistance, and wellness services, they empower Women Veterans to rebuild, reconnect, and thrive in their next chapter. Learn more: <https://bit.ly/3SP2p1w>**



## After a marine's death in Afghanistan, St. Augustine veteran fights to restore his truck for the son he never met

*By Rebecca Rosenberg*

When Marine Corps veteran Preston Davenport thinks of his late friend Josh Dumaw, the memories cascade — of dirt roads, country music, and a battered old truck that carried more than just two men. It carried a bond forged in service and sacrifice.



Josh Dumaw, from Washington State, was more than a fellow Marine to Preston, a South Carolina native. He was a brother. On June 22, 2010, while serving together in Afghanistan, Josh was killed by an improvised explosive device.

“I lost my best friend,” Davenport told *The Citizen*.

Their last conversation was filled with the kind of back-and-forth only brothers share. They argued over who would carry the metal detector that day, teasing each other as always. Then Josh turned to Preston and said, “I’ve got a son to carry on my name.”

That son, Bodie, was born shortly after Josh’s death — a child who never met his father and knows him only through photos and the tearful recollections of those he left behind.

The pair became close friends while in the service. (Preston Davenport)

After the tragedy, Preston’s life took unexpected turns. He married Josh’s widow’s sister and moved to Washington State, becoming a de facto uncle to Bodie. From the boy’s earliest days, Preston stepped into the voice Josh never had a



chance to fill — taking him fishing, spending time together, keeping a promise to his fallen friend.

In 2019, Preston relocated to Orlando, Florida, launching a home repair business, PD Home Pros. A year later, Josh's mother and Bodie moved to be near him. Just recently, the entire crew moved to the Old City.

Throughout the years, Preston held onto Josh's 2000 Dodge Dakota Sport — a weathered truck that sat mostly idle but remained a powerful symbol of their friendship. "We would drive dirt roads together, blasting country music and just cruising," Preston recalls.

Recently, Bodie, now 14, made a passing comment about the old vehicle — and in that moment, Preston assigned himself a mission. He decided to restore the vehicle so Bodie could one day drive the same vehicle his father once did.

The truck, however, needs serious work — engine repairs, drivetrain and cooling system upgrades, new tires, bodywork, paint, and interior restoration.



So Preston quietly launched a GoFundMe campaign to raise funds for the restoration. To his amazement, donations poured in swiftly, coming from former Marines who served with Josh, family members, and even strangers moved by the story.

As of Friday, it had raised more than \$5,000 — a solid start.

"I was surprised how much money it raised so quickly," Preston said. The support brought tears to everyone involved. "It feels like a good way for Bodie to be with his dad, in a way."

For Preston, this project is about more than fixing a truck. It's about honoring a friend, a brother, a hero, and giving his son a piece of that past to carry into the future.

# Florida National Guard



Maj. Gen. John D. Haas, The Adjutant General of Florida, delivered remarks on Saturday, June 14, in St. Augustine, Fla., during a ceremony marking the U.S. Army's 250th birthday.

Haas was joined by historical reenactors as they honored the Army's legacy and enduring service.



This will be a GREAT event with lots of current information on retiree matters presented by government agencies

## Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield

# Retiree Appreciation Day

**Registration** begins 8:00 A.M.; **Presentations** begin at 9:00 A.M. **Meet representatives** from the different agencies during the RAD Information Fair, 1100 - 1400 hours

**August 22, 2025**

Club Stewart – 1020 Hero Road, Fort Stewart, GA 31314

### Presentations From:

U.S. Army Retirement Services Office  
GA Department of Veteran Service  
Department of Veteran Affairs



Walk-in registration can be accomplished at the event – “We” want you there!  
All branches welcome.

**On Site VA Claims!**

**Pre-Register at: <https://FSGARetireeAppreciationDay.eventbrite.com>**

**Follow us on Facebook at: [www.facebook.com/FtStewartRSO](http://www.facebook.com/FtStewartRSO)**

**ONCE A SOLDIER, ALWAYS A SOLDIER... A SOLDIER FOR LIFE!**

Receive Services | Understand Benefits | Learn about Program & Initiative | Socialize

# A few pictures from the celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the U.S. Army.

*From Rick McAllister*





## Disabled Army vet who couldn't leave home for months moved to tears after getting new ramp from Jacksonville nonprofit

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — A disabled Army veteran was confined to his home until a Jacksonville nonprofit built a ramp for him.

Ron White, SFC, U.S. Army, couldn't do simple things like get the morning paper or go to the mailbox.



"I couldn't get out of the house," White said. Knee problems left him unable to walk and in a wheelchair. He couldn't leave his home, go to doctor's appointments, but did what he could to help out his wife.

"I try to help around the house, I cook some, I clean some, I do the dishes every night. I feed the animals twice a day, in the morning and evening. That's my job," White said.

White talked about how he felt when the ramp was finished. "I thank God every day that they did this, and that's basically my life before they built the ramp. The first day I came down and I was in tears and thanking them so much. I thanked everyone personally. I said you have changed my entire life and that's what happened," White said. "I call it my ramp and I'm pleased that I'm so blessed that I have it."

White said he couldn't leave his home for six months until the ramp was built. A Navy veteran friend advised him to contact the Veterans of Foreign Wars organization to request a ramp to be built for him.

Someone contacted Builders Care, a faith-based nonprofit dedicated to critical home repair and providing handicap accessibility. Volunteers came to his home and built the ramp in less than five days.

White is getting more assistance through the Veterans Affairs office.

"They're giving me a new hospital bed, a shower bench, a shower. They're giving me all kinds of things that I never dreamed of having, that I can go bathe. I had to take sponge baths before, so I couldn't get into the bathroom," White said.

He said organizations like VFW aren't just making a difference in the community.

"Make a difference in the world," White said. "They are super special. I hope other people have contacted them, really after this interview, they go and talk to the boss."





Leading up to the American Revolution, a stately elm tree on the Boston Common became a rallying point for the growing resistance to the rule of King George over the American colonies. In August 1775, loyalists cut down the original elm to stop the colonists from gathering in private. In response, patriots throughout the 13 colonies began to designate new Liberty Trees.

Join us as we continue the tradition of planting Liberty Trees across America—symbolic reminders of the values that sparked the American Revolution and continue to unite us today. The Liberty Tree Project is a nonpartisan initiative working to engage every American in the 250th anniversary of the United States.

The Palatka Sunrise Rotary Club, the William Bartram Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and the St. Augustine Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution are in the process of designating an Americana Elm Tree as the Liberty Tree of Putnam County Florida. The tree has been planted. A brick circular area around the tree will allow for landscaping and benches. This is where you come in.

Honor a family member, an ancestor or hero with a customized brick that will become a permanent part of this special memorial.

To place your order on-line please visit:  
[donate.brickmarkers.com/putnam](https://donate.brickmarkers.com/putnam)



☐ **\$75 - 4x8 Brick**

3 lines of text, 20 characters per line (including spaces and punctuation)


Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL FORM AND PAYMENT TO:**

The Liberty Tree Project  
 5221 Basco Court  
 Elkton, FL. 32033

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:**

Sons of the American Revolution

## From the Spec Ops Magazine

In 1994, audiences watched a wounded soldier named Lt. Dan scream at the storm from the mast of a shrimp boat—and somewhere between the tears and the triumph, a legend was born.

For many, he was just a movie character. But for the real-life man behind



the role, Gary Sinise, Lt. Dan became much more than a part—it became a calling.

Thirty years after Forrest Gump premiered, Sinise still hears the name “Lt. Dan” whenever he walks onto a military base. Soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines—they rarely call him Gary. Instead, they greet him with smiles, sometimes salutes, and always gratitude.

“I’ve walked into rooms filled with thousands of wounded veterans,” Sinise says. “And every time, I know I’m right where I’m supposed to be.”

When he took the role, he already carried a deep respect for Vietnam veterans, having seen firsthand the pain many carried back home. But Lt. Dan was different from other portrayals. He didn’t just suffer—he survived. He came back, rebuilt, thrived.

“It was a story we hadn’t seen before,” Sinise said. “One with hope. With healing.”

After 9/11, he made a decision: he would spend his life serving those who serve. And so he raised his hand—again—not as a soldier, but as a citizen on a mission. He visited troops across the globe. He formed the Lt. Dan Band, performing more than 570 shows in war zones, hospitals, and hometowns. He built homes for wounded heroes. He comforted Gold Star families. And every Christmas, he brought hundreds of them to Disney World—because sometimes, the best way to honor the fallen is to bring joy to those they left behind.

At the 30th anniversary of Forrest Gump, the Grand Ole Opry was filled with music, memories, and love. Sinise’s foundation played on. Clips rolled. Tom Hanks sent a message. Mykelti Williamson showed up with a harmonica. And the crowd sang God Bless the USA with tears in their eyes.

But one song hit hardest—written by Sinise’s late son Mac, whose music now funds the very cause his father fights for.

They named their studio after him: The Mac Sinise Memorial Studio. The podcast they now record tells the stories of veterans, caregivers, and families—all part of a legacy born from a role, shaped by loss, and driven by purpose.

Gary Sinise once played a soldier who lost his legs. But in the decades since, he’s given so many others the strength to stand.

And Lt. Dan is still marching.

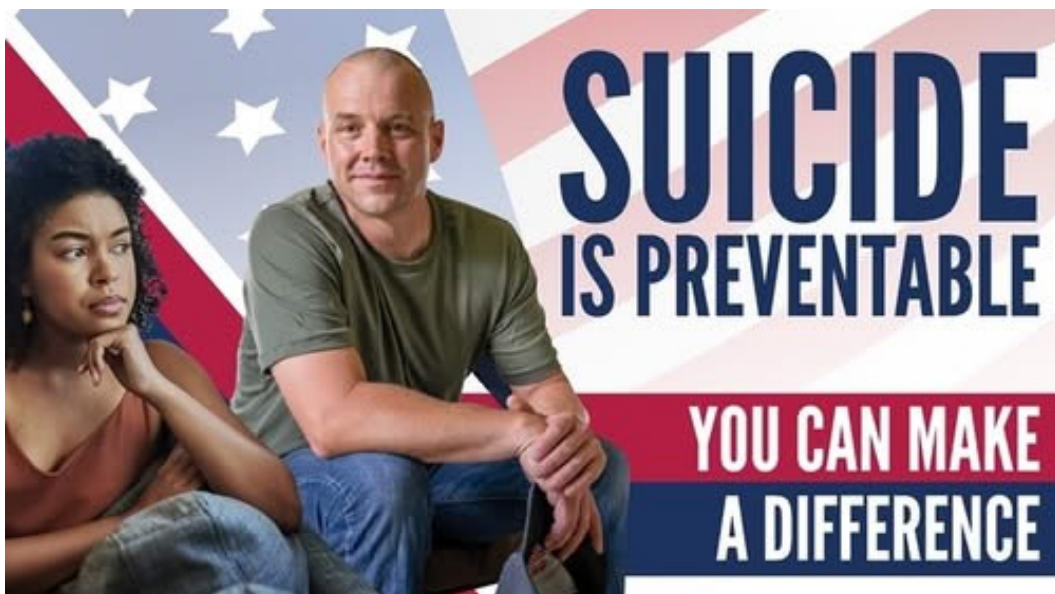
## The FIRE Watch

As our data and annual reports continue to affirm, suicide prevention is a full community effort. Help us support Veterans and end Veteran suicide in #Florida by completing two FREE suicide prevention training courses—our Watch Stander Training Program (40min) and LivingWorks' Start Course (90min)—both available online in partnership with the Florida Department of Health (DOH).

Online training registration is open until June 30th:

<https://tinyurl.com/VSP2OnlineTraining>

Additionally, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has made it easier for Veterans and caregivers to connect with VA health care providers from anywhere through the VA Video Connect mobile app - learn more & download the app here: <https://mobile.va.gov/app/va-video-connect>





## WWII veteran celebrates 104th birthday in Orange Park

Winnifred "Winnie" Mills, who at 21 enlisted in the Army during WWII in February 1943, worked as a cryptographer, decoding Japanese messages.

ORANGE PARK, Fla. — With 104 candles and countless memories, World War II veteran Winnifred "Winnie" Mills is being celebrated for a life of courage and kindness.

Mills, who at 21 enlisted in the Army during WWII on Feb. 24, 1943, is celebrating her 104th birthday in Orange Park. She reached the major milestone on Monday.

Mills' daughter-in-law, Delane Mills, told First Coast News Winnie was stationed in New Guinea and the Philippines during her military service, which ended when she was discharged at the end of the war in 1945.

For the Army, Mills said Winnie worked as a cryptographer, decoding Japanese messages.

Originally from Shippensburg, Pa., Winnie now holds the honor of being the oldest resident of Penny Farms in Clay County.

"Winnie and her late husband Harley proudly raised two children, Patrick and Kathy, and now Winnie is very proud to be a grandmother and great grandmother," Mills said.

Family and friends prepare to put on a party for Winnie Saturday in Orange Park — celebrating a remarkable life lived with love, resilience and grace.

*From First Coast News*





# American Legion Bert Hodge Poast 45, Palatka

## Flag Retirement on Flag Day



**8th Annual Military Spouse Night Out, Jacksonville.  
Hosting over 1600 Military spouses tonight for pampering  
and entertainment they so richly deserve.**



## The Jacksonville Naval Museum

Experience an unforgettable night at the USS Orleck Patriotic 4th of July celebration, where the spirit of Independence Day comes alive against the backdrop of our historic naval ship.

Dance to the vibrant beats of local DJ Caceres, indulge in delicious food and refreshing libations, and secure your front row seat for the stunning fireworks display at 9 PM.

This is a night designed for adults aged 18 and over, with a designated seating area at the end of the pier and the option to bring your own foldable chair.

Don't miss out on the chance to save money with pre-purchased tickets before noon on July 4th, ensuring your access to this special event. Enjoy the free parking provided in a spacious grass area near the museum, and make it a memorable evening filled with camaraderie, celebration, and the essence of patriotism.

We hope to see you there!







**The National League of POW/MIA Families**  
**UPDATE TO ALL LEAGUE MEMBERS & SUPPORTERS**  
**FROM ANN MILLS-GRIFFITHS**  
**CHAIRMAN EMERITUS & ACTING CEO**  
**JUNE 23, 2025**

**Vietnam's Knowledgeability Cooperation:**

A Follow-up Report on the League Assessment on "Achieving the Fullest Possible Accounting"

Today, the League is releasing Vietnam's Knowledgeability Cooperation: A Follow-up Report on the League Assessment on "Achieving the Fullest Possible Accounting". This document expands and reflects on the intelligence assessment authored by League Intelligence Advisor Dr. Jay Veith. The full original version, and supplementary material, can be found by clicking here. We are confident that this document will contribute to the mission of the fullest-possible accounting of the 1,571 still missing and unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War. A full copy of the report will be in the link following this paragraph and should also be accessible by clicking here. Thank you for your continued support and ensuring that we uphold the sacred promise that they are not forgotten!

[https://mcusercontent.com/51e5e8572c5e3f07933bc7716/files/3fd5174b-91ee-edaf-4b29-cecb34e1970d/VNKnowledgeability\\_Letterhead.01.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/51e5e8572c5e3f07933bc7716/files/3fd5174b-91ee-edaf-4b29-cecb34e1970d/VNKnowledgeability_Letterhead.01.pdf)

Copyright © 2025 National League of POW/MIA Families, All rights reserved.

You are receiving this email because you requested an electronic version of our Newsletter

Our mailing address is:

National League of POW/MIA Families

5673 Columbia Pike Suite 100

Falls Church, VA 22041

703-465-7432

The League (EIN #23-7071242) is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) nonprofit, also eligible for donations through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), #10218

## **New bill would expand exception to Medal of Honor 5-year limitation**

*By Claire Barrett*

If passed, the Valor Has No Expiration Act would remove arbitrary timelines and expand Medal of Honor criteria to include classified acts or those withheld from the public. (DVIDS)

Thanks to a new bill, the Medal of Honor may be awarded to service members for acts of valor that occurred decades ago.

“Valor never expires,” Rep. Darrell Issa, R-Calif., who introduced the Valor Has No Expiration Act, said in a recent press release. “Neither should the opportunity for our bravest heroes to be recognized with our highest honor. There is no reason why those who went above and beyond are ineligible for the Medal of Honor due to an arbitrary time standard, when their true account may not be known or was kept classified for decades.”

The act seeks to extend and expand upon the 1996 National Defense Authorization Act, which, according to Issa’s press release, waived the five-year limitation for Medal of Honor consideration — but only for actions occurring between 1940 and 1990 and only for classified “intelligence activities.”

The Valor Has No Expiration Act would remove such arbitrary timelines and expand the criteria to include classified acts or those withheld from the public record.

Issa notes that he was inspired to propose the bill due to his friend and constituent, Naval aviator Capt. Royce Williams, and his 1952 actions during the Korean War.

Flying a F9F-5 Panther fighter, Williams found himself alone, outmanned and piloting what was considered an inferior aircraft when he was swarmed by seven MiG-



15 aircraft. Despite initially flying with two other VF-781 pilots, Williams soon found himself alone.

“In the moment I was a fighter pilot doing my job ... I was only shooting what I had,” said Williams in a previous account of the fight. “They had me cold on maneuverability and acceleration. ... The only thing I could do was out-turn them.”

For 35 minutes, Williams engaged with the enemy, shooting down four of the planes in what is considered the longest dogfight in U.S. military history. According to the U.S. Naval Institute, no other American fighter pilot has ever shot down four MiG-15s in one fight. Williams’ action, however, was kept classified for more than 50 years, making the pilot ineligible for the Medal of Honor.

“Capt. Royce Williams — now 100 years young — is an American hero of the highest order. Every American should know his story and what he did on that day nearly 73 years ago should go unrecognized no longer,” said Issa. “With this reform legislation, America’s heroes — whether undiscovered, unknown, or unrevealed — can be honored as they should. Acts of valor have no expiration date.”



## **G.I. Bill benefits help veterans pursue higher education BY Victoria Crosdale and Erin**

Murray CLEARWATER, Fla. — U.S. veterans are thanked for years of service, through benefits. One of them is the G.I. Bill, which helps pay for higher education. And according to a 2024 study by the American Institutes for Research (AIR), only about 54% of veterans are claiming that benefit.



### **What You Need To Know**

According to a 2024 study by the American Institutes for Research, only about 54% of veterans are claiming their G.I. Bill benefit, which helps pay for higher education. Sarah Hicks is a sergeant in the U.S. Army, a member of the Oregon Army National Guard, and a student at St. Petersburg College. She's going back to school using her own G.I. Bill benefits.

The Post 9/11 G.I. Bill, or Servicemen's Readjustment Act, helps military members adapt to civilian life. In Florida, out-of-state tuition fees are waived for beneficiaries and their direct family. Sarah Hicks is one of them. She's a sergeant in the U.S. Army, a member of the Oregon Army National Guard, and a student at St. Petersburg College. She's going back to school, using her own G.I. Bill benefits.

"I am now an art student here," said Hicks. "I'm getting my Associates in Arts, but I will be transferring to USF to get my Bachelor of Fine Arts and painting. So yeah, different from my military career, for sure."

The Post 9/11 G.I. Bill, or Servicemen's Readjustment Act, helps military members adapt to civilian life. It's a federal program that pays for college classes and job training. The benefits can also be transferred to a veteran's spouse and children. The bill was first adopted in 1994 to help returning World War II veterans. At the time, it also paid for unemployment costs and housing.

According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the G.I. Bill has given more than \$143 billion to more than 2.7 million veterans. Hicks is grateful to be one of those recipients, after 10 years of service.

"I figured, well, I earned this blessing to go to college. I might as well get my degree in something that I love," she said.

The AIR study also found 47% of G.I. Bill users completed their degree within six years. Those with degrees went on to earn about \$50,000 a year. "If you're thinking about doing it, you should go for it," said Hicks.

In Florida, out-of-state tuition fees are waived for beneficiaries and their direct family.



## 56 MEN WHO SIGNED THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

Have you ever wondered what happened to the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence?

Here are some of their stories. Some you probably never heard, because our schools don't teach them anymore!

Five signers were captured by the British as traitors, and tortured before they died. Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned. Two lost their sons serving in the Revolutionary Army; another had two sons captured. Nine of the 56 fought and died from wounds or hardships of the Revolutionary War.

They signed and they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor. What kind of men were they?

Twenty-four were lawyers and jurists. Eleven were merchants; nine were farmers and large plantation owners. These were men of means, well educated. Most would have continued to lead comfortable lives under the status quo British government. But they valued liberty far more than their own security and signed the Declaration of Independence knowing full well that the penalty would be death if they were captured.

Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter and trader, saw his ships swept from the seas by the British Navy. He sold his home and properties to pay his debts, and died in rags.

Thomas McKean was so hounded by the British that he was forced to move his family constantly. He served in the Congress without pay, and his family was kept in hiding. His possessions were taken from him, and he too died a pauper.

Vandals or soldiers looted the properties of Dillery, Hall, Clymer, Walton, Gwinnett, Heyward, Rutledge, and Middleton. Their fortunes were ruined.

At the battle of Yorktown, Thomas Nelson, Jr., noted that the British General Cornwallis had taken over the Nelson home for his headquarters. Yet he quietly urged General George Washington to open fire. The home, his entire estate, was destroyed, and Nelson died bankrupt and in rags.

Francis Lewis had his home and properties destroyed. The enemy jailed his wife, and in prison she died.

John Hart was driven from his wife's bedside as she was dying. Their 13 children fled for their lives. His fields and his gristmill were laid to waste. For more than a year he lived in forests and caves, returning home to find his wife dead and his children vanished. He never saw any of his sons or daughters again, for a few weeks later he died penniless.

Norris and Livingston suffered similar fates.

Such were these sacrifices of the American Revolution. Such were these sacrifices for freedom.

These men were not wild eyed, rabble-rousing ruffians. They were not 'radicals' as our children are nowadays taught. They were not eager to sever the ties of emotional, cultural, financial, and military security afforded by their British citizenship.

They were soft-spoken men of means and education. They had security, but they valued liberty more.



HOPE4VETERANS

# July Meet & Greet Event

Join us for camaraderie and support



Join us for a casual Meet & Greet to connect, share experiences, and build a strong support network with other amazing women in the military community. Whether you're active-duty, veteran, or a military spouse, this is a great opportunity to chat, share stories, and create lasting friendships!

 **Save the date: July 19th, 2025**

 **11:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

**11:30 Walk in the garden- meet at Swing sets**

**1:00pm - 3pm Fort Matanzas Beach - Family Day**

 **Washington Oaks Gardens State Park**

**\$5 Parking Fee unless you have a State Pass**

**6400 N Ocean Shore Blvd,**

**Palm Coast, FL 32137**

Come for the beach, stay for the camaraderie! Let's support each other and create a welcoming space for all military women, and their families.





# Help us find the next veteran recipient of a new home.

And let's support America's heroes.



Since 2019, KB Home has partnered with Jared Allen's Homes for Wounded Warriors (JAH4WW), a nonprofit organization dedicated to raising money to build fully accessible homes for America's combat-injured Veterans.



KB Home has built mortgage-free, accessible homes for veterans in our San Antonio, Tampa and Denver divisions. We are honored and humbled to support those who have given so much for our country and its citizens. We would like to continue this important mission and are actively seeking your help in identifying our next recipient.

If you know a veteran who meets the qualifications and whose family would like to live in a market where we currently build, please encourage them to apply at:

[homesforwoundedwarriors.com/veteran-application](https://homesforwoundedwarriors.com/veteran-application)

## Applicant must meet these qualifications:

- Injuries sustained in combat with the U.S. military while serving in Iraq or Afghanistan during Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) or Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF)
- Declared 100% disabled by the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) or Veterans Affairs
- Purple Heart recipient
- Wounds resulting in the loss of a major limb, blindness or paralysis



[kbhome.com](https://kbhome.com) | [homesforwoundedwarriors.com](https://homesforwoundedwarriors.com)

## **Tony Bennett's World War II Experience Was a 'Front-Row Seat in Hell'**

**Military.com By Blake Stilwell**

Singer Tony Bennett's stint in the U.S. Army during World War II led him to legendary entertainer Bob Hope, which inspired him to pursue a career spanning more than seven decades. Only after he announced he was suffering from Alzheimer's disease in 2021 did the crooner retire from performing live shows.

He continued to rehearse his repertoire, however, and broke the Guinness World Record for the oldest person to release an album of new material, at age 95. It was just one more honor earned by a man who spent a lifetime receiving awards and accolades for his work. Bennett died on July 21, 2023, two weeks shy of his 97th birthday.

His experience in World War II not only shaped the rest of his life, it put infantry rifleman Anthony Dominick Benedetto in the spotlight as a member of Special Services, singing for the Allied troops in the trenches, sometimes literally.

"The main thing I got out of my military experience was the realization that I am completely opposed to war," Bennett wrote in his 1998 autobiography, "The Good Life." "Although I understand why this war was fought, it was a terrifying, demoralizing experience for me... life can never be the same once you've been through combat."

From the age of 15, young Tony watched as his friends and relatives were drafted into service. Bennett turned 18 in the summer of 1944, and that November, he received a draft notice of his own. He was sent to the Army, completed basic training at Fort Dix, New Jersey, and became an infantry rifleman at Fort Robinson, Arkansas.



After his post-training furlough, he waited to hear about his next assignment. He was shipped to Le Havre, France, to become a replacement troop for units that suffered heavy casualties fighting the Germans in Europe. Bennett was sent to G Company, 7th Army, 63rd Infantry Division.

Bennett's group of replacements were taking over for casualties lost during the Battle of the Bulge. He recalled his batch being awakened at 4 a.m. by none other than Gen. George S. Patton himself, shouting: "Now listen up! Forget your mothers and everything else you've ever known! You're going up to the line."

The line was a terrifying place for all the replacements. Many, Bennett wrote, had no experience in combat and some had never fired a weapon. The idea was that more experienced soldiers would help instruct the replacements, but there was no time for that.

"Snow covered the ground and the front was a front-row seat in hell," he wrote. "It was an absolutely terrifying spectacle."

They quickly found themselves digging foxholes in the hard ground to protect themselves from German 88-millimeter artillery. During his first night on the line, Bennett was almost killed by shrapnel from a German 88. He learned the rules for the front line quickly: "Don't move."

"Most nights, we'd be awakened by the bombs that were going off around us," Bennett wrote. "On the front line, we'd see dead soldiers, dead horses and big craters in the ground where bombs had exploded. To me, it's a joke that they make 'horror' movies about things like Dracula and Godzilla, and they make 'adventure' movies about war. War is far more horrifying than anything anyone could dream up."

Bennett's company entered Germany in March 1945, pushing the Wehrmacht back and fighting house by house to take German towns. When he was finally pulled off the line, he went with a thousand other GIs to see Bob Hope perform a USO show.

"All the GIs loved him so much for boosting our dismally low morale," wrote

Bennett. "He became a big part of the reason I went into show business, because at that moment he made me realize that the greatest gift you can give anyone is a laugh or a song."

The last official mission of his regiment was the liberation of a concentration camp near the town of Landsberg, 30 miles south of the Dachau Concentration Camp. The camp was still being defended by German prisoners, but Bennett's regiment fought hard to liberate those people, even fording the treacherous Lech River.

"Many writers have recorded what it was like in the concentration camps much more eloquently than I ever could, so I won't even try to describe it," he recalls in his autobiography. "Just let me say I'll never forget the desperate faces and empty stares of the prisoners as they wandered aimlessly around the campgrounds."

"We immediately got food and water to the survivors, but they had been brutalized for so long, they couldn't believe that we were there to help them and not to kill them."

Germany eventually surrendered, then Japan. Bennett had only been in the war for four months, so he had to stay on with the occupying force. He was transferred to Special Services to entertain the Allied troops who had to stay behind. There, he met many musicians and performers who would see similar success on stage in their postwar years.

In 1946, he set sail for New York, where he was honorably discharged on Aug. 15, where the war had "changed everything in ways I couldn't explain." He was ready to get his life started again.





## Florida Veterans' History Program

Secretary of State Cord Byrd encourages Florida veterans to participate in the Major John Leroy Haynes Florida Veterans' History Program by sharing their stories. "The stories from Florida veterans provide valuable lessons about courage, sacrifice and resilience," said Secretary Byrd. "This program honors their service by capturing and preserving their unique experiences and making those narratives available now and for future generations."

The program is seeking Florida veterans to record their histories. Veterans of all ranks and branches are encouraged to schedule an oral history interview to document their experiences.

The Florida Veterans' History Program will be in Miami this week to collect oral histories from local veterans. To schedule an oral history interview email [Folklife@DOS.FL.gov](mailto:Folklife@DOS.FL.gov) or call 850-245-6780.

More information about the program can be found at <https://dos.fl.gov/veteranshistory>



ST. AUGUSTINE VFW POST 2391



ANNOUNCES

THE FIRST ANNUAL  
VETERANS DAY PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

CONTEST & IMAGE THEME:

THE VETERAN AND THE AMERICAN FLAG



sample image not in contest

Open to EVERYONE

SUBMISSIONS start 8/1/25 and end 9/30/25

JPG entries

VERY SPECIAL AWARDS announced Veterans Day (11/11/25)

DETAILS on FaceBook site: VETERANS DAY PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Questions: Rick McAllister, [fotowurks@aol.com](mailto:fotowurks@aol.com)

A SPECIAL THANKS to:

First City Honor Guard

Chelsea Cornelius, St. Johns Culture Council

Terry Bottom and the St. Augustine Camera Club



# TFH1 GUARDIAN SURF CLASSIC

WHEN: AUGUST 23RD  
WHERE: JAX BEACH



REGISTER HERE!



Join us for an unforgettable day at Jax Beach filled with sun, surf, and stoke — all in support of our nation's heroes!

- ★ 6 Competition Categories
- ★ Fun for All Ages & Skill Levels
- ★ Your Chance to Win Prize!

**TFH1's mission** is to create a rallying point, sanctuary, and support community for Active Military, Veterans, First Responders, and their families, united by a shared commitment to address mental health challenges and support those facing illnesses developed in service, through water-based activities and a caring, empowered community.







# MILITARY SUPPORT RETREATS

Military Support Retreats (MSR) are a 3-day immersive program that is recreational, educational, and evidenced based with activities and group discussions led by peers & experts in the veterans' wellness field.

**MSRs are designed for the service member to attend WITH the person they feel most closest to with the intention of strengthening connection & resilience together. MSRs provide:**

- Transformative information
- Deepening of relationships
- Better understanding of self & others
- Realistic & useful tools

**Banning Mills, GA: June 19<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Sarasota, FL: July 10<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup>**

**Amelia Island, FL: Aug 7<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup>**

All Retreats begin at 5pm the first day & end at 2pm the last day.

**★ To apply to attend, visit our website at ★**

**[GratitudeAmerica.org/retreats](https://GratitudeAmerica.org/retreats)**

Service member must bring 1 adult support person to attend with them. Children are not permitted. All accommodations, food, & activities are provided at no cost; travel is not provided.



The flyer on the previous page has information about an upcoming Military Support Retreats that still have openings! Below is more info on both of our programs - (MSR) and our Warrior PATHH Program. Both programs are at no cost to attend and are held monthly:

Our Military Support Retreat (MSR) has 2 focuses:

1) focus is on education through large and small group discussions and interactive led by experts in veterans' wellness and military peer mentors. The 2nd focus is on Nature-based recreational activities focused on providing an opportunity for bonding, fun, and/or relaxation. There is no cost to attend, and we provide all activities, lodging, and meals.

This retreat is available for any member of the military (open to all branches and duty statuses) and is for the service member to attend WITH the adult in their life they feel the closest to (friend, spouse, partner, etc). Service member cannot attend alone. \*Program is for adults only, children cannot attend\*

This is not specifically a "couple's retreat", as some service members are attending with a close friend, parent, etc.

We are proud that our retreat is specifically designed to support both service member AND their support person attending with them - all activities, discussions, and topics are relevant to both and aim to strengthen connection & resilience together.

Information and application to attend can be found here: <https://gratitudeamerica.org/retreats/>

We also have a separate program that is only for service members to attend, Warrior PATHH, that is held monthly:



Leo C. Chase Jr. VA Clinic

# **Veteran Food Bank**

Donation Drop Off:  
100 Deerfield Preserve Blvd  
Monday-Friday 7:30am-4:30pm

Non Perishable Suggestions: canned  
meat/fish/vegetable/fruit, pudding, jello,  
crackers, dry pasta & sauce, ready meals,  
jerky, individual water & juice, condiments,  
peanuts, peanut butter & jelly, beans, cereal,  
applesauce, soup, re-usable bags




**The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs**  
**Florida Veterans: State Veterans' Service Officers are**  
**ready to connect you with earned services, benefits**  
**& support—at no cost. Contact us today.**



Make sure to add "Visit a National Park" to your summer bucket list!

Veterans, service members, dependents, and Gold Star Families receive free access to more than 2,000 federal recreation areas, including national parks, wildlife refuges, and forests. Learn more: <https://www.nps.gov/.../veterans-and-gold-star-families...>

National Park Service - thank you!



# I See You, Military Spouse

I see you military spouse,  
struggling through each day.  
You put a brave smile on,  
while your spouse is gone,  
when friends are sparse,  
and family is far away.

I see you military spouse,  
letting your tears out where no one can see.  
Simply not knowing how much stronger you can be.

I see you military spouse,  
trying hard to hold on to your career.  
Meanwhile, raising kids, holding your home together,  
and moving year after year.

I see you military spouse,  
your sacrifice, your strength, and your grace.  
I see the stress of this lifestyle and the worry  
written all over your face.

I see you military spouse,  
Getting up again and again.  
I see how much you stand up, show up,  
and give without end.

I see you military spouse,  
Loving, caring, working, volunteering, mothering,  
and so many other things too.

I see you military spouse,  
because I am you.

-Wendi Iacobello





## **Florida Veterans Foundation Launches Dental Program with First Grant Award to Wounded Veterans Relief Fund By Brooke K Dennison**

May 16, 2025 – The Florida Veterans Foundation (FVF) is proud to announce a major milestone in its mission to serve those who served us. FVF has awarded its first-ever grant under the Veterans Dental Program to the Wounded Veterans Relief Fund (WVRF)—marking a significant step forward in providing vital dental care to Florida’s veterans.



As the driving force behind this initiative, FVF is leading the charge to address one of the most overlooked healthcare gaps among veterans: dental care. With many veterans not qualifying for VA dental benefits, this new program is set to change lives by offering essential services that restore health, dignity, and quality of life.

Through the support of FVF, WVRF will begin offering dental services to qualified veterans in their coverage area. Veterans can now visit [www.helpflvets.org/dentalservicelocator](http://www.helpflvets.org/dentalservicelocator) to access an interactive map that connects them with local participating dental providers. Simply click on your county’s name to view provider contact information and follow the dedicated link to begin the application process for care.

To stay informed on program updates, eligibility information, and future announcements, follow FVF online at [www.helpflvets.org](http://www.helpflvets.org) and on social media platforms including Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and X. To access all our accounts in one place, visit our LinkTree at <https://linktr.ee/helpflvets>.

About Florida Veterans Foundation (FVF):

Established in 2008 by the Florida Legislature, the Florida Veterans Foundation is the state’s leading organization advocating for veterans and their families. Operating as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and Direct Support Organization of the Florida Department of Veterans’ Affairs

About Wounded Veterans Relief Fund (WVRF):

Founded in 2009, WVRF is a Florida-based, veteran-led 501(c)(3) nonprofit that provides free, life-changing dental care and urgent financial assistance to wounded and disabled veterans. Through a network of over 300 dental professionals.

Florida's Largest Veterans Day Experience

# ZEPHYRHILLS



FREE  
TO THE  
PUBLIC

NOV.  
7th - 9th

## BATTLE FOR VETERANS

Hosted By

ZEPHYRHILLS



MUSEUM

OF MILITARY HISTORY

ZMMH.org



For Updates!

Featured Guest

WW2Armor.org



November 7th-9th, 2025 - Fri, Sat & Sun - 10am-5pm  
5200 Airport Rd, Zephyrhills, FL 33542

### Friday, Saturday & Sunday:

- Military Vehicle Show & Display
- Weapons Demonstrations
- Food & Military Vendors
- Aircraft on Display
- Museum Open During Event

### Saturday:

- 10AM Veterans Day Parade in Downtown Zephyrhills
- WW2 Battle Reenactment

### Sunday:

- WW2 Battle Reenactment

Tanks in  
Action  
During  
Battles!

# Why Warrior PATHH?

- Designed to harness the power of Veteran's military training and combat experience to enable them to unlock their remarkable potential at home
- Gathers small groups of warriors that have walked similar paths
- Teaches Veterans how to "struggle well" and turn deep struggle into profound strength and growth

## Eligibility & More:

- Open to any US Military Service Member (includes all branches & all duty statuses)
- Open to any US civilian First Responder (current or past)
- Sessions held monthly in Macclenny, FL & program provides travel, lodging, and meals



**GratitudeAmerica**



**WARRIOR  
PATHH**

## Apply At:

<https://gratitudeamerica.org/warrior-pathh/>



SAVE THE DATE  
FOR  
NATIONAL WREATHS  
ACROSS AMERICA DAY

DECEMBER 13, 2025



- Health Care
- Education
- Earned Benefits

**FDVA.VSO@FDVA.FL.GOV**  
**727-319-7440**

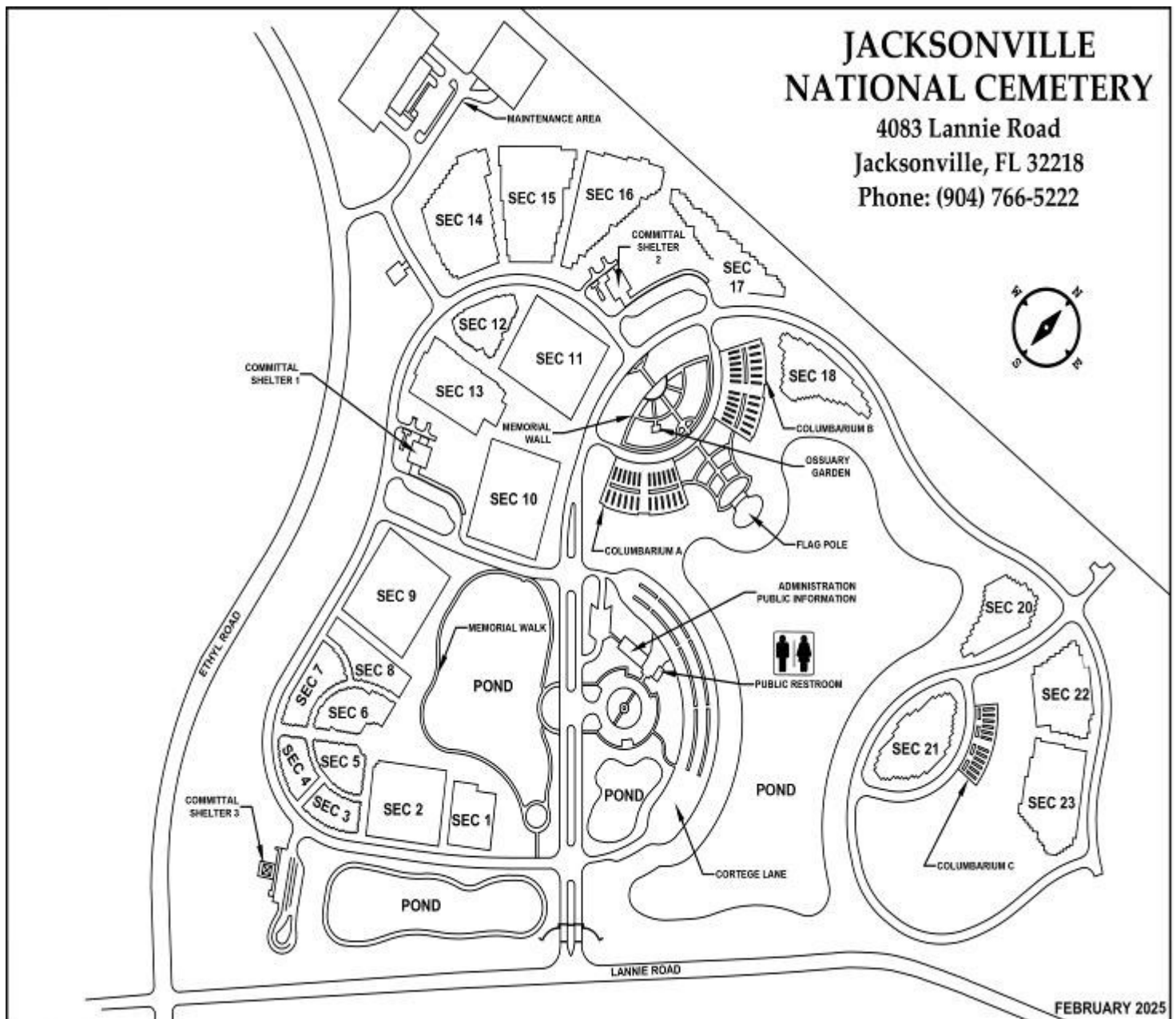


## Jacksonville National Cemetery, Updated Map / 12 February 2025

Mapping Technicians have updated all key areas/reference points on the attached.. This will be useful for those who are unfamiliar with the cemetery and to provide better customer service to our Veterans and their families. Please reach out to [pem@axisp.com](mailto:pem@axisp.com) if there are questions.

Padraic E. “Pat” Mulvihill, Public Information Officer

4083 Lannie Road JAX 32218, 904.534.0035 / [www.SCJNC.com](http://www.SCJNC.com)



Twice a month, the Jacksonville Military Affairs & Veterans Department hosts this free food distribution for active-duty military members and their families with valid military ID.

THE CITY OF JACKSONVILLE'S MILITARY AFFAIRS AND VETERANS DEPARTMENT PRESENTS

**2<sup>ND</sup> THURSDAYS  
OF THE MONTH  
10 AM-12 PM**

**FOOD  
FARMACY**

**4<sup>TH</sup> THURSDAYS  
OF THE MONTH  
2-4 PM**

**ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY FAMILIES WITH MILITARY ID**  
**390 Mayport Rd. Atlantic Beach Fl, 32233**





# Guitars 4 Vets

## Open Sessions

**2nd & 4th Saturday**

**of the month**

**3 to 5pm**

Supported by



Jim Booe # 86



Palm Coast Chapter

Experienced instructors will guide the Open Sessions for a fun learning experience.

Join us at DAV Chapter #86, 27 Florida Park Drive, Palm Coast, FL

Use the back entrance to enter the class.

**Music Therapy Heals**  
**Judgement Free Zone**

If you need a guitar for the course  
please email [Robert Rosania](mailto:Robert.Rosania@guitarsforvets.org) >> at:

**[fl.palmcoast@guitarsforvets.org](mailto:fl.palmcoast@guitarsforvets.org)**







## *You've made our country* A BETTER PLACE.

### **Enjoy your well-earned retirement at Silver Creek.**

Thank you veterans for your service and sacrifice! At Silver Creek, you can live life as you choose with greater freedom, comfort and independence through the unique living options at our community – including independent concierge living, assisted living, enhanced assisted living and memory care.

Discover first-class amenities, holistic wellness programming, gourmet all-day dining and vibrant activities while enjoying camaraderie and friendship at our close-knit community.

Call **800-821-8170** to schedule a tour and learn more.



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



# DELIVERING ON THE NATION'S PROMISE



## NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY



WORLD WAR II + COLD WAR + KOREAN WAR  
VIETNAM WAR + PERSIAN GULF WAR

SEPTEMBER 19, 2025

[WWW.DPAA.MIL](http://WWW.DPAA.MIL)



**SAVING HEROES  
BY**

# *Raising Warriors*

**For God, Country, & Community**

**FREE**



## *Free Membership*

- ✓ Prepare Future Heroes
- ✓ Support Warrior Families
- ✓ Heal Combat Trauma
- ✓ Prevent Suicides

**Contact**  
**Matthew.Burke@10CAN.org**

**Join Today**  
**[www.10CAN.org](http://www.10CAN.org)**





# GATOR HUNTS

*For Heroes*

Join our mission to stop suicides by getting warriors back in the fight. Adaptive Alligator hunting provides unmatched therapy sessions, strengthening mental fortitude and excitement for life.



307-306-8937



Matthew.Burke@10CAN.org



www.10CAN.org



# FREE SERVICES

## for Veterans

The St. Johns County Clerk of the Circuit Court and County Comptroller is proud to honor veterans, active-duty military, reservists, and dependents by offering **complimentary passport and wedding photos, notary services, and recording services for DD-214s in November.**



Richard O. Watson Judicial Center  
4010 Lewis Speedway  
St. Augustine, Florida 32084  
904-819-3600

[www.stjohnsclerk.com](http://www.stjohnsclerk.com)



# Information about FL veterans organizations by county

ORGANIZATION	PHONE	PAGE	ORGANIZATION	PHONE	PAGE	ORGANIZATION	PHONE	PAGE
<b>POLK</b> (Veteran Pop. 55,159) 1st CAVALRY 'A' TROOP meets @ VFW 2093 2nd Tues. AMERICAN LEGION POST 3 (863)633- 8893 1575 HWY 17 S., Bartow, FL 33630 4 Lakes Veteran Ctrp 590 La Quinta Blvd, Winter Haven, FL 33881 <b>AMERICAN LEGION POST 4</b> (863) 863-8710 1375 Ariana St., Lakeland, FL 33803 <b>AMERICAN LEGION POST 8</b> (863) 293-7029 p 33 300 Ave. M. NW, Winter Haven, FL 33881 AMERICAN LEGION POST 34 (863)422-6940 107 11th St. N., Haines City, FL 33845 <b>AMERICAN LEGION POST 71</b> 863-689-6689 P.O.Box 442, Ft. Meade, FL 33841 <b>American Legion POST 72</b> (863) 425-0644 1500 SR 37 N., Mulberry, FL AMVETS POST 32 (863) 688-3413 1339 E. Gary Rd., Lakeland, FL 33801 KOREAN WAR VETERANS Chapt. 158 (863) 533-7374 Buck Rogers 863-856-3559 buckrogers66@earthlink.net meets @ Amer. Leg. Post3, HWY 17S, Bartow 3rd Saturday MARINE CORPS LEAGUE HEART OF FL #1107 863-207-4200 meets @ A.L. Post 8, 300 AVE. M. Winter Haven, FL 4th Thursday at 1830 hrs (6:30 PM) Military Order of Purple Heart Chptr 535-FL-4 407-350- 0224 Azalea pk 1325 Grasslands Blvd., Lakeland, 33803 1st mon 5 POLK VETERANS COALITION 2938 Grasslands Dr., Lakeland, FL 33803 US Mil. Vets Motorcycles (863)294-5810 <b>VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE Polk City:</b> (863)634-6220 1290 Golfview Ave., Ste 116, BARTOW FL 33831 VETERANS OF BATTLE OF BULGE 32 (863) 866-2121 330 E. Palm Dr., Lakeland, FL 33803 <b>VA OUTPATIENT</b> (866) 838-4400 p 56 2080 Meadowland Park, Lakeland, FL 33803 VFW POST 2297 (863) 687-5148 305 N. Central Ave., Lakeland, FL 33815 VFW POST 2420 (863) 676-9166 200 Central, Lake Wales, FL 33853 VFW POST 4289 (863) 293-7469 2441 7th St. SW., Winter Haven, FL 33880 VFW POST 6002 (863) 815-4777 9096 US 90N., Lakeland, FL 33810 PO 328, Kathleen 33849 <b>PUTNAM</b> Veteran Population 6,697 AMERICAN LEGION POST 45 386-328-8967 316 Osceola St., Palatka, FL 32177 AMERICAN LEGION 263 386-684-4464 145 S. CR 315, Interlachen, FL 32148 FLEET RESERVE Branch 153 386-684-6289 207 Commonwealth Ave., Interlachen, FL 32148 <b>PUTNAM COUNTY VETS SVC OFC.</b> (904) 329-0327 PO Box 771, 2509 Crill Ave., Palatka, FL 32177 VFW POST 3349 386-328-2963 3201 Reid St., Palatka, FL 32177 VFW POST 10164 386-684-0839 1034 SR 20, Interlachen, FL 32148 (ALSO Amvets 1064) <b>SARASOTA</b> (Veteran Pop. 50,353) Air Force Association Sarasota-Manatee Sarasota-manatee.afaflorida.org (941) 371-0375 AMERICAN LEGION POST #30 (941) 360-8719 4015 Lookwood Ridge Rd., Sarasota, FL 34234 AMERICAN LEGION POST 159 (941) 485-4748 1770 E. Venice Ave., Venice, FL 34292-3190 <b>AMERICAN LEGION POST 254</b> (941)423-7311 8648 Taneytown St., North Port, FL 34287-0915 AMERICAN LEGION POST #298 (941) 371-1326 5201 Richardson Rd., Sarasota, FL 34232 <b>AMVETS POST 312</b> (941) 429-5403 p 31 7050 Chancellor, North Port, FL 34287 AMVETS Post 2020 (941)429-1999 401 Ortiz Blvd., N. Port, FL 34287-1332 DAV CHPTR. 101 (941)489-4500 MARINE CORPS LEAGUE DET. 643 941-406-7450 meets @ 600 E. Colonia Ln., Nokomis, FL 34275-2725 DAV CHAPTER 97 (941)371- 7544 7177 Bee Ridge Rd., Sarasota, FL 34241 FLORIDA VETERANS FOR COMMON SENSE Mike Bums/ former POW, 654 Siesta Dr., Sarasota, FL OPERATION ECO VETS - (941) 219-8715 Vet Services - 350 Braden Ave., Sarasota, 34243 <b>SARASOTA COUNTY VETERAN Commission</b> 941-544-6306 PO BOX 2055 Sarasota, FL 34230 presidentsco@gmail.com <b>SARASOTA CITY VETERAN SERVICES</b> (941) 861-2899 2200 Ringling Blvd., Ste. 125 Sarasota FL, 34237 <b>SARASOTA CITY VETERAN SERVICES</b> (941) 861-3047 4000 S. Tamiami Trail, Ste. 139 Venice, FL 3482 <b>SARASOTA COUNTY VETERAN SERVICES N. PORT</b> (941) 429-7214 4970 City Hall Blvd., Room 264 N.Port, FL 34286 (941) 861-2099 JEWISH WAR VETERANS (941) 355-1227 4008 78th Pl. E. Sarasota, FL 34242 <b>SARASOTA VA NATIONAL CEMETERY</b> 941-861-6040 or toll free 877-861-8640 9510 SR72, Sarasota, FL 34241 UKRAINIAN AMERICAN VETS Post 40 941-587-3024 4100 S. Biscayne Dr., N. Port, FL 34287 <b>SARASOTA VET CENTER</b> 941-927-8286 ext.23106 4801 Swift Rd., Suite A, Sarasota, FL 34231 SRQ VETS.org = 941-777-8387 Mtg. at DAV Post 97, 7177 Bee Ridge Rd Sarasota, FL 34241. mail to:SRQ Bee Ridge Rd, Sarasota, FL 34233 email info@srqvets.org <b>VAOPC SARASOTA</b> (941) 371-3349 p 56 5682 Bee Ridge Rd., #100, Sarasota, FL 34233 VFW POST 3233 941-365-1918 124 S. Tuttle Ave., Sarasota, FL 34282 VFW POST 8118 (941) 484-0118 832 E. Venice Ave., Venice, FL 34285	VFW POST 8203 (941) 426-8665 4860 Trot Circle, North Port, FL 34287-3419 VFW POST 10178 (941) 474-7516 550 N. McCall Rd., Englewood, FL 34223 <b>VIETNAM BROTHERHOOD ALPHA COMPANY, now</b> <b>meets every Thurs at 7:30 PM at DAV 97, 7177 Bee Ridge Rd,</b> <b>Sarasota, FL 34241. 941-371-7444</b> <b>SEMINOLE</b> (Veteran Pop. 39,000) American Legion Post 53 407 678 3654 2544 Park Dr., Sanford, FL 32773 <b>American Legion Post 183</b> (407) 831-8004 2706 Wells Ave., Fern Park, FL 32730 <b>American Legion Memorial Post 241</b> https://veterandkings.org/ 491 W Broadway St., Oviedo, FL 32765 AMVETS POST 17 (407) 322-2886 915 W. 11th Street, Sanford 32771 CASSELLBERRY VETERANS CLUB 407 260-1404 200 N. Concord St., Casselberry FL 32707 DAV 30 (407) 323-2710 3512 S. Orlando Dr., Sanford, FL 32773 FLEET RESERVE BRANCH 147 407-330-1706 3040 W. SR 46, Sanford, FL 32771 MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART Chapter 400 2651 Peony Dr., Oviedo, FL 32765 (407) 378-4560 PARALYZED VETS OF AMERICA (407) 328-7041 2711 S. Design Court, Sanford @200 N. Concord St., Casselberry, FL 3rd Sat @ 10am <b>SEMINOLE CITY VETERANS SERVICES</b> (407) 685-2347 520 W. Lake Mary Blvd Suite 100, Sanford, FL 32773 US SUBMARINE VETS (407) 222-8161 mtg @ Casselberry Vet, 200 Concord Dr Casselberry 32707 <b>VA OUTPATIENT</b> (386) 456-2080 p 55 2583 S. Volusia Ave., Ste 300, Orange City, FL 32763 VFW POST 5425 (407) 327-3151 420 N. Edgemoor Ave., Winter Springs, FL 32708 VFW POST 8207 (407) 339-6016 1520 N. Ronald Reagan Blvd, CR 427, Longwood, FL 32750 VFW POST 10139 (407) 883-5615 300 Lake Mills Rd., Chuluota, FL 32768 post10139@vfw.org <b>St. Johns</b> (Veteran Pop. 17,554) AMERICAN LEGION POST 37 alp37adjutant@gmail.com PO Box 2204 St. Augustine, FL 32084 AMERICAN LEGION POST 233 (904) 285-2484 590 N. Wilderness Tr., Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082 AMERICAN LEGION POST 194 (340) 412-1325 1029 Pearl St., St. Augustine, FL 32084 VFW POST 2391 (904) 797-5267 6164 US 1 S., St. Augustine, FL 32086 <b>VFW POST 8696</b> (904) 446-8696 47 Old Kings Rd., Palm Coast, FL 32137 <b>ST. JOHNS COUNTY VETS SVC OFC.</b> (904) 209-6160 1955 US 1 S., Ste 550, St. Augustine, FL 32086 VVA Leo C. Chase chapter 1084 Pres. James Campeau St. Johns Co. campeaugames@gmail.com 904-315-6167 VVA Leo C. Chase chapter 1084 Pres. James Campeau <b>St. Lucie</b> (Veteran Pop. 36,852) AIR FORCE VETS ASSOC. 844 772-871-8687 1150 SW California Blvd., Port St. Lucie, FL 34953 AMERICAN LEGION POST 40 (772) 461-1280 610 US HWY 1, Ft. Pierce, FL 34950 AMERICAN LEGION POST 171 (772)595-8798 1814 N 21st St., Ft. Pierce, FL 34960 AMERICAN LEGION 355 (772) 871-6667 1150 SW California, Blvd., Pt. St. Lucie, FL 34968-0427 AMERICAN LEGION 358 (772) 595-0856 4350 Olander Ave., Ft. Pierce, 34982 AMVETS POST 15 (772)464-7751 2024 SOUTH US 1, Ft. Pierce, FL 34960 Disabled American Veterans, Chap 113 772-671-6667 1150 SW California Blvd., Port St. Lucie, FL 34953 Jewish War Veterans, Chapter 705 772-871-6667 1150 SW California Blvd., Port St. Lucie, FL 34953 Korean War Veterans, Chapter 106 772-871-6667 1150 SW California Blvd., Port St. Lucie, FL 34953 MARINE CORPS LEAGUE DET. 688 1150 SW California, Pt. St. Lucie, FL 34953 PO Box 1765 (3475 Douglas Rd.), Ft. Pierce, FL 34981 VVA 566 (772)579-5730 PO BOX 7365, Pt. St. Lucie, FL 34965 VFW POST 8058 (772)464-1675 PO Box 1765 (3475 Douglas Rd.), Ft. Pierce, FL 34981 VVA 566 (772)579-5730 PO BOX 7365, Pt. St. Lucie, FL 34965 <b>SUMTER</b> (Veteran Pop. 8,905) AMERICAN LEGION POST 18 401 E. Gulf Atlantic HWY, Wildwood, FL 34785 <b>AMERICAN LEGION POST 62</b> (352)444-2164 3287 North CR 479 Lake Panasoffee, FL AMERICAN LEGION POST 101 352-660-0201 PO BOX 101, 2881 E-C-48, Bushnell, FL 3351 AMVETS POST 793 (352)793-2054 @VFW POST 10084 CR 470, Lake Panasoffee BUSHNELL VA NATIONAL CEMETERY (352)793-7740 6902 SW 102nd Ave., Bushnell, FL 33513 Sumter County Veterans Service Offices 352-689-4450 7375 Powell Rd., Wildwood, FL 34785 VFW POST 10084 (Lake Panasoffee) (352) 793-2054 PO BOX 391, Lake Panasoffee, FL 33538 VFW POST 10137 (352) 793-8511 6036 CR 618, Veterans Memorial Hwy., Bushnell, FL 33513 <b>VOLUSIA</b> (Veteran Pop. 60,090) AMERICAN LEGION POST 6 386-740-0622 1087 Biscayne Blvd., Deland, FL 32724 AMERICAN LEGION POST #17 (386) 427-9007 619 W. Canal St., New Smyrna Bch., FL 32168 AMERICAN LEGION POST 120 386-258-5275 481 Walker St. Holly Hill, FL 32117 AMERICAN LEGION POST 295 321-696-8272 or 386-532-7915 www.alp.255deltona.org	AMERICAN LEGION POST # 267 (386) 672-7678 156 New Britain Ave., Ormond Bch., FL 32174 AMERICAN LEGION POST # 270 (386) 788-8800 119 Howes St., Port Orange, FL 32127 AMERICAN LEGION POST 295 386-210-4926 4497 US HWY 1, Edgewater, FL 32141 AMERICAN LEGION POST # 361 (386) 760-3887 PO Box 4581, 2648 S. Ridgewood, S. Daytona, FL 32121 <b>AMVETS POST 2</b> 386-402-7602 1208 S. Ridgewood, Edgewater, FL 32132 AMVETS POST 13 (386) 943-9311 645 W. New York Ave., Deland, FL 32720 AMVETS POST 911 (386) 788-1014 5624 S. Ridgewood Ave., Pt. Orange, FL 32127 The West Volusia MOAA Chapter 368 479 3400Mtg monthly. Call Maj Curt Voebel or gtorc@gmail.com Thomas Jackson OWA USA (RET) Thomas Jackson@outlook.com Military Order of the Purple Heart Chptr 316 386-690-9533Mtg. @ VA Home, 1520 Mason Ave., Daytona Bch., July 7@1pm <b>VA OUTPATIENT</b> (386) 323-7600 p 55 551 National Healthcare Dr., Daytona Bch., FL 32117 <b>VET CENTER OF DAYTONA BEACH</b> (386) 266-5600 1620 Mason Ave ste C, Daytona Bch., FL 32117 <b>VA Deltona Community Based Outpatient Clinic</b> p 55 1200 Deltona Blvd., Deltona, FL 32725 386-575-5000 VFW POST # 1590 (386) 252-5844 1013 Veterans Ct., Daytona Bch 32114 VFW POST # 2380 (386) 738-2380 510 S. Alabama Ave., Deland 32724 VFW POST # 3282 (386) 761-7217 5810 S. Williamson Blvd Port Orange 32134 VFW POST # 4250 (386) 423-1789 2350 Sunset Dr., New Smyrna Bch. 32168 VFW POST 8093 (386) 666-8648 351 S. Charles Richard Beal Blvd (17992), DeBary, FL 32713 <b>VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA CHAPTER 1048</b> 386-690-9553 PO Box 290262 Port Orange, FL 32128 Volusia County Veterans Service Office 386-740-6102 123 W. Indiana Ave., Deland, FL 32720						



www.FemaleVeteransNetwork.org

Cynthia Henderson  
Founder/President 2015

cynthia@femaleveteransnetwork.org

2719 W. Woodbrook St.  
Lecanto, FL 34461  
(H) 352-628-6481 (C) 352-613-3215

**Meetings are September - May at 1:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month at Faith Lutheran Church fellowship hall 935 S. Crystal Glen Drive, Lecanto, FL.**

**Female Veterans Network is selling commemorative pins recognizing Female Veterans.**

**Pins are available at Mac-I Signs, 7068 Grover Cleveland, Homosassa and Citrus County Radio Stations 964 Crystal Glen Drive, Lecanto**

**Call Cynthia Henderson: 352-628-6481**

she wore these.



It's our job to give her the best care anywhere.

WOMEN VETERANS HEALTH CARE



Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs ·

Which National Park is your favorite to use your free Military Lifetime Pass?

Don't have one yet? Don't miss out! Veterans, service members, dependents, and Gold Star families are eligible Learn more: <https://www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/>



# Installation of Officers 2025-2026

Thursday, Jul 10, 2025 at 7:00PM

American Legion Post 37  
Mark Lance Armory  
190 San Marco Ave, St.  
Augustine, FL 32084

AMERICAN  
**LEGION**  
FAMILY



## Veterans Radio

The Voice of America's Veterans since 2003

Over 1,000 programs  
featuring:

- ★ 2,000+ Veteran interviews and stories
- ★ Monthly Veteran Benefits Hour with expert panellists
- ★ Small business highlights
- ★ Artists, musicians, authors, and more!

Every Veteran has a story to tell.  
Listen to stories of service from all branches, all eras.  
**Listen live or stream the podcast!**

Veterans Radio is a 501(c)3 non-profit.



From David “Flyboy” Shelton

Fellow PGR, Below is an updated schedule for the Vietnam and War on Terrorism Walls. September will be a busy month, so any assistance you can provide would be greatly appreciated.

### FL PGR Vietnam & WoT Wall Schedule

To request one or both of the walls for display, contact FL State Captain

Email: [flsc@patriotguard.org](mailto:flsc@patriotguard.org) / 321-689-4699

Updated as of:  
08/09/24

Date	Time		Duration	Wall(s)	Location	Comments
08/08/24	1200 hrs	Set-Up	7 Days	WOT	VA Hospital Lake Nona 13800 Veterans Way Orlando, FL 32827	Display in hospital main lobby
09/09/24 - 09/13/24		Display				9-11 Remembrance
09/14/25		Take Down				Ceremony 09/11/24 @ 1100 hrs
08/21/24	0900 - 1700 hrs	Set-Up / Display	1 Day	Vietnam / WoT	OB's Restaurant & Lounge 1750 N. Woodland Blvd Deland, FL, 32720	National POW / MIA Recognition Day 2024 CVMA 20-13 Event
08/27/24	1200 hrs	Escort	2 Days	Vietnam / WoT	American Legion Post 72 1500 N. Church Ave. Mulberry, FL 33860	Fall Festival
	1400 hrs	Set-Up				Vietnam Vets
09/28/24	0900 - 1800 hrs	Display				ALR
10/25/25	1400 hrs	Set-Up	1 Day	Vietnam / WoT	American Legion Post 45 316 Osceola St. Palatka, FL 32177	
10/26/24	0900 - 1600 hrs	Display / Take Down				
Possible escort of The Walls to the event						
11/02/24	0700 hrs	1700 hrs	1 Day	Vietnam / WoT	City Hall (across the street) 300 W. Plant St Winter Garden, FL 34757	Challenge 22 Ruck Walk Suicide Awareness
11/10/24	1100 hrs	Escort / Set-Up	2 Days	Vietnam / WoT	Anastasia Baptist Church 1650 A1A S St. Augustine, FL 32080	Veteran's Day Ceremony
11/11/24	0800 - 1100 hrs	Display / Take Down				Escort from Daytona to St. Augustine
03/29/25	1100 hrs		2 Weeks	Vietnam	VA Hospital Lake Nona 13800 Veterans Way Orlando, FL 32827	Erect in hospital main lobby Vietnam War Veterans Day
Dates and times to be verified						
05/24/25	0800 hrs	Set-Up / Display	3 Days	Vietnam / WoT	City of Clermont Highland Pavilion Complex 330 3rd St Clermont, FL 32711	Memorial Day Ceremony
05/25/25	1600 hrs	Take Down				Stage - Home Depot Rt. 50 Clermont, FL
11/10/25	1100 hrs	Escort / Set-Up	2 Days	Vietnam / WoT	Anastasia Baptist Church 1650 A1A S St. Augustine, FL 32080	Veteran's Day Ceremony
11/11/25	0800 - 1100 hrs	Display / Take Down				Escort from Daytona to St. Augustine
03/28/26	0800 hrs	Escort / Set-Up	2 Days	Vietnam	Florida National Cemetery 6502 SW 102nd Ave. Bustnell, FL 33513	Vietnam War Veterans Day
03/29/26	To be verified	Display / Take Down				
Dates and times to be verified						



**SAVING HEROES  
BY**

# *Raising Warriors*

**For God, Country, & Community**

**FREE**



## *Free Membership*

- ✓ Prepare Future Heroes
- ✓ Support Warrior Families
- ✓ Heal Combat Trauma
- ✓ Prevent Suicides

**Contact**

**Matthew.Burke@10CAN.org**

**Join Today**

**www.10CAN.org**





## ★ Veterans Food Assistance Program ★

### What?

Starting October 1st DVNF will be offering a one-time grant per veteran household to support their nutritional needs.

### How to Apply

We have an online application that will need to be completed by the Veteran. The application can be found at <https://www.grantinterface.com/sl/dI4NjA>. The link will be open starting October 1st, 2024.

### Veteran Qualifications

- Must have a DD214 or Veteran ID
- Was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable
- A letter of reference from a case worker or advocate may make the application more favorable.

### Other Details

- This is not a monthly grant.
- The groceries will be delivered directly to the Veteran using Walmart or grocery store delivery service.
- Veterans can receive up to \$450 worth of groceries

For more information, please contact us: (202) 737-0522 - [info@dvnf.org](mailto:info@dvnf.org)

A background image of a golfer in mid-swing, wearing a white shirt and a red and white striped tie, with a golf club visible. The golfer is positioned centrally, with the text overlaid on the image.

**Alton Green Memorial  
American Legion Post 194**

*Save the Date*

**19 SEPT 2025**

*77th Anniversary*

**GOLF**  
*Tournament*

**St. Johns Golf Club  
4900 Cypress Links Blvd  
Elkton, FL 32033**



## The Fire Watch

Our stand against Veteran suicide took great strides forward in 2024, with The Fire Watch's network of individuals and organizations trained to identify and support Veterans in crisis continuing to grow and have a positive impact throughout Florida – thank you to all the Watch Standers and Veteran Safe Places that have joined our mission to end Veteran suicide in our state!





# HOW VA DISABILITY RATINGS WORK

**BENEFITS CHART** - Each increased level includes all benefits of the previous levels.

SERVICE CONNECTED PERCENTAGE	DESCRIPTION
<b>0%</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10-point Veteran preference in federal hiring</li> <li>• No cost health care and prescription drugs for service-connected disabilities. Small co pays may be applied for inpatient and prescription drugs-Must be enrolled in VA Healthcare</li> <li>• VA Life Insurance guaranteed acceptance up to age 81 up to \$40,000.</li> <li>• Use of commissaries, exchanges, and morale, welfare and recreation (MWR) retail facilities, in-person and online. -Must be enrolled in VA Healthcare</li> <li>• Non-VA Urgent Care visits at \$30/visit including 14-day prescription (<b>in network</b>)-Must be enrolled in VA Healthcare</li> <li>• Non-VA Emergency Room for service-connected conditions or non-service-connected conditions. If you have OHI (Other Health Insurance), but it does not fully cover the costs of treatment, VA may pay certain costs for which you are personally liable – Email to: VHAEmergencyNotification@va.gov OR Call 844-72HRVHA (844-724-7842) <b>within 72 hours</b>-Must be enrolled in VA Healthcare</li> <li>• VA Dental Insurance Program (VADIP)-Must be enrolled in VA Healthcare</li> </ul>
<b>10%-20%</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No cost health care - Must be enrolled in VA Healthcare</li> <li>• Prescription drugs for service-connected disabilities. Small co pays may be applied for inpatient stays and prescription drugs-Must be enrolled in VA Healthcare</li> <li>• Waiver of VA funding fee for home loan</li> <li>• Vocational Rehabilitation &amp; Employment (10% with a serious employment handicap)</li> <li>• Burial and plot allowance</li> </ul>
<b>30%-40%</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Travel allowance for scheduled appointments for care at a VA medical facility or VA authorized health care facility</li> <li>• Additional compensation for eligible dependents (may include aid and attendance for eligible spouse)</li> </ul>
<b>50%-90%</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No cost health care and prescription medications – no copays-Must be enrolled in VA Healthcare</li> <li>• Concurrent receipt of military retired pay with 20 years (15 TERA)</li> <li>• Add 3 no cost Non-VA Urgent Care visits including 14-day prescription per calendar year for the Urgent Care visit</li> </ul>
<b>100%</b> No restriction to income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No cost dental care at the VA</li> <li>• DoD Uniformed Services ID card</li> <li>• Federal student loan forgiveness</li> <li>• Space-A Flights (Cat VI) – Veteran &amp; Dependents INCONUS/Territories</li> <li>• <b>--With Permanent &amp; Total (P&amp;T) Status--</b></li> <li>• All Non-VA ER – Must contact your VAMC within 72 hours</li> <li>• Dependents Educational Assistance (DEA or CHAPTER 35)</li> <li>• Dependent's healthcare through CHAMPVA–Civilian Health and Medical Program (if not Tricare eligible)</li> <li>• VA Dental Insurance Program (VADIP) for CHAMPVA eligible dependents</li> </ul>
<p align="center"><b>Individual Unemployability – 60%-90%</b></p> <p>Same as 100% except must be unemployable due to service-connected disabilities with part time income restriction \$15,852/year (2024)</p>	
<p align="center"><b>VA Derivative Benefits Eligibility Service-Connected Matrix</b></p> <p align="center"><a href="https://benefits.va.gov/benefits/derivative_sc.asp">https://benefits.va.gov/benefits/derivative_sc.asp</a></p>	



## National League of POW/MIA Families

Hello everyone!

The League is always seeking out photos of POW/MIA flags, monuments, Missing Man Honors Tables, POW/MIA empty chairs, etc. from your community to feature on our social media pages and website.

Sharing with us is easy, just message your photos to our email -

[nationalleague@pow-miafamilies.org](mailto:nationalleague@pow-miafamilies.org)

With your full name as well as a brief description of when & where the photo was taken.



NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES OF AMERICAN  
PRISONERS & MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA  
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100, Falls Church, VA 22041

PH ---703/465-7432

[www.pow-miafamilies.org](http://www.pow-miafamilies.org)

FAX ---703/465-7433

### 2024 ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Would you prefer to receive League material by email? Y\_\_N\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ @\$20/member

\_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

IRS EIN# 23-7071242

## **How to report a Veteran's death to VA**

The passing of a Veteran is a solemn time that deserves to be recognized and reported with the utmost respect. Veterans have served their country and worked hard for their well-deserved benefits.

However, after a Veteran passes away, family members should report the death of the Veteran to VA as soon as possible to stop current benefits payments. If the death is not reported promptly, survivors or executors of the Veteran's estate may have to repay any overpayments received. Payments the deceased Veteran received may include compensation, pension, education or Veteran Readiness & Employment benefits.

VA encourages loved ones of deceased Veterans to follow the guidance below on reporting Veteran deaths to avoid falling victim to benefit scams.

### **How to report the death of a Veteran**

Calling is the fastest way to report a Veteran's death so VA will stop benefit payments, but there are other options available for reporting.

#### **Options for reporting:**

**By Phone:** Call VA 800-827-1000 (TTY: 711) and select 5. Agents are available Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. ET.

**In Person:** Go to a VA regional office. Find the nearest VA regional office.

**By Mail:** Department of Veterans Affairs Claims Intake Center, PO Box 4444, Janesville, WI 53547-4444. Include your relationship to the Veteran and any supporting documents that can help us verify the Veteran's identity. Examples of supporting documents are:

Death certificate or other public record of the Veteran's death

Discharge document (like a DD214)



If you report in person at a VA regional office or by mail, provide copies of:

Death certificate or other public record of the Veteran's death.

Discharge document (like a DD214).

Provide as much information about the Veteran as you can when you first report the notice of death to VA. This information will help VA verify the Veteran's identity. This information includes:

Full name.

Social Security Number or VA claim number.

Date of birth.

Date of death.

Branch of service.

### **Best practices to avoid survivor benefit scams**

Save important files, such as the Veteran's military service/treatment records, discharge papers and copies of their VA claims.

Go to the VA website. For guidance on creating an account and obtaining a VA security Personal Identification Number (PIN) to securely access benefit information. A VA Security PIN is an additional way to secure direct deposit accounts from theft and protect Personally Identifiable Information (PII).

Never give out PII via text, and be cautious of suspicious hyperlinks or unfamiliar hyperlinks.

If a survivor is missing a VA benefits payment, identifies a discrepancy in payments, or find suspicious activity with a direct deposit account, contact VA immediately at 800-827-1000.

Review all documents thoroughly. Survivors should never sign a blank form for some

one else to complete later. They should always review the completed form before signing and retain a copy of the completed form for their records.

For protection against identity theft scams, notify the major credit bureaus (Equifax, Experian and TransUnion) to update the individual's credit report with a deceased notice and notify the Veteran's financial institutions so all accounts can be closed or transferred appropriately.

According to AARP, scammers also use names published in obituaries to pretend to be long lost relatives of the deceased. When it's time to write your loved one's obituary, consider leaving out the birthdate, middle name, home address, birthplace and mother's maiden name.

For other scams predators use, visit [www.VA.GOV/VSAFE](http://www.VA.GOV/VSAFE).

VA is committed to delivering world-class care and benefits to Veterans and their dependents by providing survivors with ongoing support and assistance. Check to see if you qualify for survivor benefits, such as health care coverage, Survivors' and Dependents' Education Assistance Program, housing assistance, or even help with burial costs.

For more guidance on how to report the death of a Veteran, submitting necessary documentation and finding additional resources available, visit VA Benefits For Spouses, Dependents, Survivors, And Family Caregivers | Veterans Affairs.

To report a missing VA benefits payment, identify a discrepancy in payments, or find suspicious activity with a direct deposit account, contact VA immediately at 800-827-1000. You may also file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission if funeral homes charge to set up funeral honors or schedule a burial with VA's National Cemetery Administration by visiting [reportfraud.ftc.gov](http://reportfraud.ftc.gov). For other scams predators use, visit [va.gov/vsafe](http://va.gov/vsafe).

## **Burials and Memorials**

**VA honors the service and sacrifice of Veterans and their family members.**

### **How to Apply**

**To find out in advance if a Veteran or family member is eligible for burial in a VA national cemetery, click “Apply for Pre-Need Burial Eligibility” to fill out and submit the application.**

### **Apply for Pre-Need Burial Eligibility**

**If pre-need eligibility has not been determined, upon the death of the Veteran or his or her spouse or dependent (also called the time of need), family members should locate the Veteran’s DD-214 or other discharge papers if readily available and click “Schedule a Burial” to begin the process. Then make arrangements with a funeral home, National Cemetery Scheduling Office, or directly with a VA national cemetery.**

### **VA Memorial Benefits**

**VA takes special care to pay lasting tribute to the memory of Veterans who served and sacrificed and that of their families. VA meticulously maintains 155 VA national cemeteries in 44 states and Puerto Rico and is working to increase access to accommodate Veterans and eligible family members close to home. Currently, more than 94 percent of Veterans have a burial option in an open VA, state or tribal veterans cemetery located within 75 miles of their home.**

**Note that most if not all of these benefits may be provided for Veterans who are interred in a State, Territorial or Tribal Veterans cemetery. Check with the cemetery to ensure coverage. Some benefits are also available for Veterans who choose burial in a private cemetery.**

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



**The following burial benefits may be provided:**

**Burial in a VA national cemetery**

**Opening and closing of the grave for burial of casketed or cremated remains, or placement of cremated remains in an above-ground vault, also called a columbarium**

**A government furnished grave liner**

**Perpetual care of the gravesite**

**A headstone or marker with an inscription**

**A burial flag**

**A Presidential Memorial Certificate**

**A dedicated memorial page on the Veterans Legacy Memorial site where friends and family can upload photos and remembrances**

**Burial in a private cemetery**

**A government headstone, marker, or medallion**

**A burial flag**

**A Presidential Memorial Certificate**

**Some survivors may also be entitled to VA burial allowances as partial reimbursement for the costs of funerals and burials for eligible Veterans**

**Please note that gravesites in a VA national cemetery cannot be reserved in advance. To prepare for a private cemetery burial, VA suggests families review these questions and complete required forms in advance.**

**VA Requirements**

**Discharge papers to establish your eligibility for burial services**



# Stories of Service

St. Johns County Veterans Oral History Project



Stories of Service is an oral history project focused on the veterans of St. Johns County. The goal of this project was to collect, document, and preserve the memories of local veterans for future generations.

Materials collected by the Society for this project have allowed for the creation of two exhibits, one physical at the Oldest House Museum Complex at 14 St. Francis Street on display until January, one digital, accessible below and through our main website under the LEARN tab.

Items on display in both the digital and physical exhibits tell the stories of our local veterans, placing them proudly within the long and storied histories of St. Augustine and St. Johns County.

A sincere thanks to them all.



**View the Digital Exhibit:**

**<https://sahsstoriesofservice.omeka.net/>**



Main: 904-824-2872

Research Library: 904-825-2333

271 Charlotte Street, St. Augustine, FL 32084

Research Library located at 6 Artillery Lane, St. Augustine FL 32084

## Surviving Spouse Milestones

*\*Not all milestones apply to every person situation\**

### One Year Mark:

- Moving out of quarters (if applicable)
- Storage at government expense expires
- Apply for Home of Selection (HOS) extension
- HEART Act (one year from date SGLI/DG received)

### Two Year Mark:

- Loss of Spouse's VA Transitional DIC Benefits (\$250 per family per month)

*\*only applies to spouse with one or more minor children in household\**

- Apply for Home of Selection (HOS) extension

### Three Year Mark:

- TRICARE Healthcare and Dental benefits transitions to retiree rate for spouse
- Home of Selection (HOS) entitlement expires

### Spouse Turns 52:

- If disabled, can remain and retain SSA Survivor Benefits

### Spouse Turns 55:

- Can remarry and not lose SBP eligibility

### Spouse Turns 57:

- Can remarry not lose DIC eligibility

### Spouse Turns 60:

- Can remarry and retain SSA Survivor Benefits

## Surviving Youth Milestones

*\*Not all milestones apply to every person situation\**

### Child Turns 16:

- Elimination of SSA entitlement for adult receiving Child in Care benefits

### Child Turns 18:

- College - Fry Scholarship \*Line of Duty Cases only\*
- College - Dependence Education Assistance
- \*VA Service Connected Death\*
- Loss of annuities (SSA, DIC, SBP) unless enrolled in school full time. SSA depends on age when graduating High School
- Loss of annual benefit report
- If DG/SGLI beneficiary - If not already received

### Child Turns 21:

- Loss of DFFRS/TRICARE unless enrolled in school full time
- Enrollment in TRICARE Young Adult

### Child Turns 22:

- Loss of Child-Only SBP regardless of school enrollment

### Child Turns 23:

- Loss of DFFRS/TRICARE transitional Survivor unless incapacitated
- Enrollment in TRICARE Young Adult

### Child Turns 26:

- Loss of TRICARE Young Adult

### Child Turns 33:

- Loss of Fry Scholarship eligibility

## FLORIDA SURVIVOR OUTREACH SERVICES AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY





## 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	Tommy Tittle	twt1968@att.net
1048	Bob Adkins	adk123robert@outlook.com
1059	Dave Treffinger	dtreffinger433@msn.com
1084	Bill Jefferson	bill_jefferson@comcast.net
1088	Roy (Corky) Rudd	corkstopper50@yahoo.com; Nassau
1092	Forest Hope	foresthope@usa.net; Gainesville
1134	Marvin Lagle	mdlagle@gmail.com; Baker



### REMEMBER WHAT OUR MEDAL STANDS FOR:

- RED:** REPRESENTS THE THREE ANCIENT VIETNAMESE EMPIRES OF TONKIN, ANNAM AND COCHIN.
- YELLOW:** THE IMPERIAL COLOR OF VIET NAM.
- GREEN:** SURROUNDED BY EXPANSIVE JUNGLE.
- TED PIECKO, The NAM.

### Veterans Council of Clay County:

President: Ansil Lewis

Meeting day is the same, first Wednesday of the month, but the location is changed to Clay County Administration Building, 1st floor conference room, 477 Houston St., Green Cove Springs, FL 32043. Meeting start at 11 a.m.

## 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-000314706401

**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 (8258)  
[www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org)

..... Confidential chat at [VeteransCrisisLine.net](http://VeteransCrisisLine.net) or text to (888)355 .....  
..... Confidential chat at [MilitaryCrisisLine.net](http://MilitaryCrisisLine.net) or text 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



## FLORIDA VETERANS LEGAL HELPLINE



Jacksonville Area Legal Aid  
St. Johns County Legal Aid  
Clay County Legal Aid

### 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:



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



## 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: Ansil Lewis, SgtMaj USMC, ret

Meetings:

First Wednesday of each month

Location:

American Legion Post 250  
2608 Black Creek Rd  
Middleburg, FL 32068

Time: 1100 (11am)

904-658-0105

### 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)

### DUVAL COUNTY

President

Meetings:

Third Tuesday of each month

Location:

American Legion Post 37  
Main Building  
San Juan Avenue

Time: 1900 (7 pm)

### 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 Coun-  
ty 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 D. McDermott Director*

*Lori Chapman Assistant VSO*

*Shauna Holton Assistant VSO*

*Jonathan Rojas Assistant VSO*

*Jeremy Sapien, Assistant VSO*

*April Manner Administrative Coordinator*

*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.*