



The Patriot Reader Newsletter

P.O. Box 2117

St. Augustine, FL 32085

Bill Dudley, Publisher

Michael Rothfeld, Editor

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From Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley

June 2022

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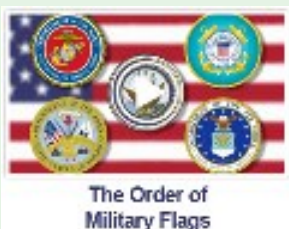
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Fellow Veterans,
 Your local MOAA-ACC chapter in collaboration with the Veterans Council of St. Johns County conducted another Memorial Day service today at the St. Augustine National Cemetery. This is the first time in two years since COVID-19 restrictions were imposed that we have been able to conduct the service at the SANC. Weather was excellent and the turnout for this year's service was estimated to be between 300-350. The speaker for today's ceremony was retired Command Sgt. Major David Lanham, FLANG. Sgt. Major Ret. Ray Quinn did another excellent job of conducting the service. We were pleased to have several youth groups participating including the St. Augustine Navy Sea Cadet Battalion as color guard for the event along with several JROTC units from

local high schools. The names of over 125 veterans who have died since last Memorial Day were read aloud by Nancy Birchall and Sheila Greenleaf in our final salute to these veterans. It was a fitting ceremony to honor those who paid the supreme price for serving their country. This past week, the Veterans Council assisted with helping the family of SSgt. Seth Plant, US Army for his funeral arrangements. Sgt. Plant met with a very bazaar and tragic death while serving with the US Army in Anchorage, Alaska. His unit was on a training exercise when they came upon a mother bear and 3 small cubs. The bear immediately attacked one of the soldiers and then attacked Sgt. Plant. Sgt. Plant's injuries were fatal. His body was flown back to Florida last Monday arriving in Jacksonville accompanied by 3 of his family members. An escort of several veterans'



motorcycle groups along with Sheriff's units from Duval, Clay, Branscombe, and St. Johns County provided an escort from Jacksonville International Airport to St. Augustine via Starke, Sgt. Plant's place of birth. This past Saturday his funeral was conducted at Anastasia Baptist Church attended by hundreds of family, friends, veterans, and elected officials. Burial in San Lorenzo Cemetery followed the church service with full military honors. The Veterans Council thanks all veterans for their service.

Bill Dudley
 Chairman
 Veterans Council of St.
 Johns County



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

The Support Committee invites everyone to attend its **next scheduled meeting**. The meeting will be at **7:00pm on Monday June 13**. The meeting will take place at Community Hospice, **4266 Sunbeam Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32257 in Conference Room A**.

Jacksonville National Cemetery Support Committee Meetings for 2022
At Hadlow Community Hospice of NE FL.
4266 Sunbeam Rd, Jacksonville, FL 32257
Hadlow Bldg – Conference Room A 7:00 pm

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

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

The Veterans Council of St. Johns County meets on the last Thursday of the month, all are invited to attend. We meet at the

**County Health & Human Services Building,
200 San Sebastian View, at 7 pm**

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



Upcoming Veterans Council Meetings Speakers


**May 26, Bill Lazar, Patriot's Pl. Veterans Housing
Dee Quaranta, Pres/CEO NE FL Women Veterans**

**June 30, Officer Kelly Kemp, Chaplain, SJSO, "Community Involvement"
Kathy Church, MIAP Update**

**July 28, Andrew Stack, FL State Coord for DoD Program
"Building Healthy Military Communities"**

August 25, Carmalita Gaines, Jacksonville Veterans Center

Veterans Council Vice Chairman SGM Ray Quinn, USA ret has been inducted into the Florida Veterans Class of 2021 Hall of Fame



FLORIDA VETERANS' HALL OF FAME SOCIETY, INC.
"Still Serving"

Quinn - FANG - St. Augustine, FL

EDUCATION AND TRAINING ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

MILITARY EDUCATION:


- Ft. Jackson Leader Course 14 Jan 80
- Advanced Individual Training, Ft. Jackson 14 Jan 80
- Jungle Operations Training, Ft. Sherman U.S. Canal Zone 15 Aug 74
- Admin Supply Technician 91 Apr 77
- Battalion Training Management System 1981
- Senior Noncommissioned Officer Course 28 Mar 82
- Reserve Component First Sergeant Course 13 Jan 85
- National Guard Bureau Training NCO Course 24 Apr 88
- Florida National Guard Personnel Training 28 Aug 88
- U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy 08 Jul 88
- Personnel Data Systems U.S. Air Force 27Feb 90
- Total Quality Management Course 17 Sep 93

CIVILIAN EDUCATION:

- Graduates Umatilla High School, Umatilla, Florida (1984)
- Awarded Life Experience Credits from Mercer County Community College (68) Awarded Life Experience Credits from Vincennes University (53)
- Awarded College Credits from U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy (18)

PROFESSIONAL HISTORY:

- Sergeant Major Quinn became a citizen Soldier on 13 Jun 85
- Worked for Wire-Dixie from 1965 to 1973.
- Parts Clerk for the Florida Army National Guard Organizational Maintenance Shop, Florida Army National Guard 1975 to 1977.
- Promoted to Administrative Supply Technician and First Sergeant of Combat Support Company, 2nd Bn 124th Infantry 1977 to 1985
- Promoted to Operations Sergeant and later Chief Personnel NCO for Full Time Manning of Florida Army National Guard (Promoted to Sergeant Major)
- Retired from Florida Army National Guard 30 November 1989 (30 years' service)
- Employed by Florida Department of Military Affairs December 1989 as Administrative Assistant
- Promoted to Director of Executive Services, Department of Military Affairs serving on the Staff of the Adjutant General
- Retired from the Department of Military Affairs February 2008



The complete Florida Veterans Hall of Fame write up listing his many accomplishments can be found here:

<https://www.fvhofsociety.org/quinn.html>



VETERANS COUNCIL OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

APRIL 28, 2022

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Dudley

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS: Chairman Dudley

PLEDGE: Chairman Dudley

INVOCATION: Vice Chairman Quinn

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: John Leslie presented Donna Pullium, widow of Michael Pullium, The Blue Star and certificate in honor of Michael's service in Vietnam.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: Minutes of last meeting conducted on 31 March 2022 were presented by Chairman Dudley. Copies of Minutes and Agenda 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 John Mountcastle provided a detailed report that as of March 30, 2022, there was a balance of \$112,427.02 and on April 27, 2022, there was a balance of \$111,441.01. There is an outstanding credit card balance of \$865.47. Treasurer went over recent deposits and expenditures of the account. Treasurer indicated that just under \$1,000 was spent to provide outside tables and umbrellas for the St. Augustine CBOC to provide a place for employees to eat their lunches. Chairman Dudley made a motion that the Treasurer's Report be approved as presented. The report was approved by voice vote with no changes.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS: Chairman Dudley

Students from the Veterans Heritage Club from St. Joseph's Academy introduced themselves along with their sponsor, **Donna Boyce**.

Peggy Gachet, St. Augustine Sunset Rotary Club.

Kelly Barrera, St. Johns County School Board

PRESENTATIONS:

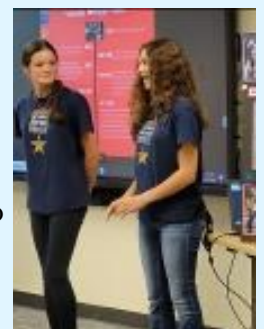
Selena Hernandez-Haines, First Coast Honor Flights

Honor Flights is a nationwide organization with 130 hubs (groups) in 45 different states. First Coast Honor Flights is a 501(c)3 based out of Jacksonville and its sole purpose is to transport critically ill and senior Veterans to Washington DC for the day to visit different memorial sites. First Coast Honor Flights was established in March 2020, and due to the pandemic, its first flight was in October 2021. Honor Flight transports critically ill WWII, Korean and Vietnam War Veterans on every flight. The Veteran that flies on an Honor Flight has a dedicated guardian to assist them throughout the trip. Volunteers are the ones that make the Honor Flight happen, dealing with flight morning departures, flight evening returns and reunions. A First Coast Honor Flight consists of 25 Veterans, 25 guardians and 6 staff, one of which is a medical doctor, usually there is also an EMT or RN as a guardian because it is all about the Veterans and their well-being. An Honor Flight event all happens within a one-day period. A video was shown of what the day of an Honor Flight consists of.

Honor Flight is planning two trips this year and one of their major goals is that they need volunteers with key skill sets such as technology and website management, help planning the flights and event planning coordinators, along with some with experience in purchasing and contract planning. First Coast Honor Flights wants to get the word spread on what they do for our critically ill and senior Veterans on these trips. Cards and brochures were left for anyone that may be interested in Honor Flights and volunteering.

Donna Boyce, St. Joseph's Academy, and her students

Kylie Guernick (a St. Joseph's senior), President, of The Veterans Heritage Project (VHP) introduced the club and its attending members. The VHP is a non-profit organization that originated in Arizona in 2009. The Mission of VHP is to connect students with Veterans in order to honor the Veterans, preserve American Heritage and develop future leaders. VHP is also helping to bridge the gap between civilian and military life. VHP strives to develop student's character and solo responsibility while recognizing the Veterans' legacy of service. Students receive the opportunity to interview the Veteran and publish the Veteran's story in a publication of the annual VHP book and host a book reception at the end of the year. Students also participate in local events such as Wreaths Across America and host assemblies at their school of notable events such as The Attack on 9/11 and Veterans Day. Through these interactions students develop long-lasting relationships with our Veterans and other in the community. The students talked about their experiences and what they have learned from the Veterans throughout the community. They interviewed and published the stories of fourteen local Veterans for this





year's book. The book may be ordered through the VHP and St. Joseph's Academy.. Donna Boyce discussed the process of developing and the orientation of the book that will be held May 1st at St. Joseph's Academy. The book will include short bios of the students and the Veterans that they interviewed, along with the Veteran's military story. All the stories are included in the book and after the book is completed it goes into The Library of Congress in Washington DC.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER UPDATE, JOSEPH MCDERMOTT

Talked about claims processing and asking the Veterans to do their best when submitting a new claim. The VA has been slow in processing claims but sometimes surprises with their quickness with a few of the claims. The Veterans Service Office currently has three claims that are over 300 days. Have found that those dealing with the new presumptive of Hyper-Thyroid in the Vietnam Veterans is moving terribly slow. Those claims where the Veterans is over 85 years of age or terminally ill can move faster, but not always. Asking the Veterans to be patient with the VA and their claims. If you know of a Veteran looking to file a claim for the first time or for an increase in an existing disability, please refer to the Veterans Service Office for help and assistance in the filing.

Spoke of recent trip to Tallahassee with Chairman Dudley and Vice Chairman Quinn to support and honor Sgt. Major Quinn and his induction to the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame.

VETERANS TREATMENT COURT, JOHN LESLIE

Gave a rundown of the current Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) which has been in existence for 5 year and 4 months and recently inducted the 100th Veteran into the VTC. The VTC currently has 33 Veterans in-flow, has graduated 54 and have only had two cases of recidivism. There have been 13 that left the program without officially graduating. With the 33 in-flow Veterans, VTC has only 12 mentors and those are dwindling. Looking for new mentors to join to help with the process, would like to have only two participants per mentor. Currently some mentors are dealing with too many participants and the load needs to be lightened.

CHAIRMAN DUDLEY REMARKS:

Chairman spoke of attending the US Coast Guard concert that was held on April 4th and how well it

went. Hopes that they do not wait another 14 years before performing in St. Johns County again.

Chairman spoke of the Memorial Day Ceremony that will be held at the National Cemetery downtown St. Augustine on May 30th at 10:00am. Also spoke of the ceremony that will be held at the Jacksonville National Cemetery on May 28th at 9:30am. Invited everyone to attend both ceremonies if possible.

Chairman also spoke of the picnic tables provided to St. Augustine CBOC and some of the Veterans in the Veterans Treatment Court helping with the installation process for community hours they need for their program.

Spoke of the major need of affordable housing for our homeless Veterans as we have pay for them to stay in motels in our area because of no available housing. Sometimes the housing can turn into a week of aiding for some Veterans. We also have to purchase gift cards for food and gas. Finding more Veterans are falling into the category of "homeless Veteran." Chairman Dudley has agreed to sit on the Board of Directors for Home Again St. Johns as a Veterans Representative for that organization. We need a homeless shelter for our Veterans here in St. Johns County.

Free tickets available for American Hero's Bash at World Golf Village on May 7th to anyone interested in attending.

Chairman Dudley acknowledged Sgt. Major Ray Quinn and what an honor it was to attend Sgt. Major Quinn's acceptance and induction into the Veteran's Hall of Fame in Tallahassee on April 27th, along with fourteen others throughout the State of Florida.

NEW BUSINESS:

American Legion Post Shooting Team ended up placing 3rd in the district and congratulations were bestowed upon them. Looking for donation of pellets. Donations may be dropped off at St. Augustine High School with Colonel Nelson.

Joe Snowberger, Liberty Life Media, pro-military media house of 9 counties, including St. Johns, stated that if there are events, activities or stories that you wish to share, notify Liberty Life Media for publication.

Chairman recognized Jim Issacs, a regularly active member of the Council that will be moving back to West Virginia in a couple of weeks. He will be greatly missed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

William Dudley, Chairman

Ray A. Quinn, Vice Chairman

The Florida Veterans Hall of Fame Inductees

Chairman Bill Dudley and the Veterans Council Congratulates all the 2021 Inductees.

Veterans Council Vice Chairman is among those to be Honored and recognized for all the work he has done over the years to assist and support all veterans in their needs,

The Class of 2021 has been selected by the Hall of Fame Counsel. The final Counsel meeting and final voting are completed. There are 15 nominations approved for the Class of 2021.



- Robert P. Adelhelm
- Douglas Alexander, Sr.
- Thomas G. Bowman
- Robert D. Chelberg
- William “Billy” Francis
- Michael W. Hartford
 - Daniel V. Hughes
 - Stan Jordan
- Ray Arthur Quinn
- Darryl J. Reyes
- Frederick Robinson
- Gill Harry Ruderman
- William Donald Salter
- Harry Orvil “Skip” Taylor
- William David Wilson

ST. JOHNS COUNTY 2022 MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE RETURNS TO THE ST. AUGUSTINE NATIONAL CEMETERY



After a Covid induced displacement to the welcoming Anastasia Baptist Church in 2021, we are happy to announce that this year's observance carries on our tradition and will be held in the St. Augustine National Cemetery on Monday, May 30th at 10:00 AM. Command Sergeant Major David Lanham, Senior Enlisted Leader (CSEL) of the Florida National Guard, will keynote the event which begins with appropriate music and the march-on of massed flags from local Veterans organizations. St. Johns County veterans who have died in the past year will be recognized and honored with the traditional wreath laying and "Fallen Comrade Tribute."

Located at 82 Marine Street, near the Florida Guard's St. Francis Barracks Hqs., the serene National Cemetery is on the nation's Register of Historic Places and one of the oldest military cemeteries in the country. Its tombstones bear witness to veterans from all armed services who fought the nation's wars, from the early republic to current conflicts in the Middle East. The unique monuments are iconic testament to the military service and sacrifice of our fellow citizens. All are invited to join us as we honor them on this special day of remembrance. Public parking is available across from and behind the St. Francis barracks.



Organized by the Ancient City Chapter, Military Officers Association of America, in conjunction with the Veterans Council of St. Johns County and the National Cemetery Administration. Images courtesy of Ted Pappas.

The Veterans Council would like to thank Mark Cubbedge for his pictures and comments below.

A few sights from today's Memorial Day Ceremony at the St. Augustine National Cemetery. It's always a powerful visual to see my uncle tend to the grave of his brother, a Korean War Marine who was interred here in the 1950s.

St. Augustine also laid to rest one of its young Heroes Saturday in SSG Seth Plant, making this Memorial Day Ceremony even more emotional as his name was read. The reading was followed by a 21-gun salute and the playing of Taps.



Pictures by Garry Cohn CS1 USN-Ret, St. Augustine-Palm Coast Council, Navy League of the United States



Sgt. Maj. (retired) Ray Quinn, Florida Army National Guard, was inducted into the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame, Class of 2021, on Wednesday.

Sgt. Maj. Quinn remained active in the veteran community following his retirement. He was one of the founders of the St. Johns County Veterans Council and led the Wreaths Across America program at the St. Augustine National Cemetery for the past several years. He has also ensured that "no veteran goes home alone" by ensuring graveside services are held for veterans without family in St. Johns county.

Congratulations

on your induction, Sgt. Maj. Quinn, and thank you for being a true example of Selfless Service!



As reported in *February's Patriot Reader*, virtually all exempt organizations (i.e., Public Charities, Veterans' organizations, etc.), must file their information reporting for tax (fiscal) years ending after July 31, 2021 **electronically**. **For organizations using the calendar-year ending Dec. 31, 2021, the filing deadline for forms in the 990 series is May 16, 2022 and forms must be filed electronically.**

If your exempt organization does not file the free [IRS Form 990-N](#), aka "e-Postcard Form", your tax preparer must use software to prepare and file your exempt organization's return electronically. This not only entails a learning curve for most organizations, but also a longer timeline to file (i.e., once the return is finalized, the exempt organization must provide a signed IRS Form 8453-TE. This form will be generated by the software, must be printed and signed by an authorized individual, then provided to the software vendor for verification before the software vendor will electronically transmit the return to the IRS. Depending upon timing, this could entail several days delay, so it may be advisable to file IRS Form 8868 well before May 16.

Mail the completed Form 8868, no later than May 16 (for calendar-year returns) to:

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service Center
Ogden, UT 84201-0045

May 1 is the deadline by which all Florida corporations (including not-for-profit entities) must file their 2022 Annual Report, which may be filed on-line at <https://www.sunbiz.org>. ONLY not-for-profit entities are exempt from late filing penalties, but a well-run organization should be able to comply with little effort.

Most exempt organizations (except for Veterans' posts recognized under IRS §501(c)(19)) must also file a report with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs, under the **Florida Solicitation of Contributions Act**. The registration form for 2022 has been simplified. Filing deadlines depend upon each exempt organization's original application date, and can be checked at <https://csapp.fdacs.gov/CSPublicApp/CheckACharity/CheckACharity.aspx>

The Veterans Council would like to thank Big John Sutherland for recommending several veterans/friends to join the Veterans Council of St. Johns County's Facebook Group page.

We are now well over 550 active members and encourage you all to ask your friends to Join or Like us. We would like to have over 750 members by summer's end.



Once a member you will be allowed to post your organizations flyers/meetings/events/golf tournaments and pictures as long as they are for the benefit of veterans, their spouses, families and organizations. Fund raiser advertising is allowed for Not For Profits.

The Council is a 501 C3 Not For profit and does not allow political or religious comments on its Facebook Group site. If you violate this rule your posting will be deleted. If you do it more than once you will be deleted from our group.

If you would like me to post your organizations events instead of posting them yourselves, just email me at: rothfeldm@gmail.com.

The Council's Facebook Group is current and active daily. It is the best way to get the word out to hundreds immediately.

The Veterans' Council of St. Johns County also publishes a monthly newsletter, The Patriot Reader, with a circulation of over 8,000 veterans, organizations and families. If your Not For Profit would like to submit something for the newsletter please email it to me by the third Sunday of the month for inclusion in the next Patriot Reader. There is no charge for this service as long as you are submitting for a Not For Profit.

Please submit articles in Microsoft Word and pictures in jpg format.

Please remember Memorial Day is fast approaching and our Facebook page and Patriot Reader lists times, dates and locations of the Ceremonies. We hope you will attend one of these events.

Chairman Bill Dudley

Secretary Michael Rothfeld

The Jaguars Foundation Grant Commitment of \$100,000.00 for the National POW/MIA Memorial

The Jaguars Foundation Grant Commitment of \$100,000.00 for the National POW/MIA Memorial at Cecil Field was received by Chaplain Patrick Archuleta, a Board of Directors Member and Managing Chaplain for the Chapel of The High-Speed Pass.

Chaplain Archuleta recently visited the Jaguars Foundation Office to thank the Jaguars Foundation and present “POW/MIA and Chapel Challenge Coins” on behalf of the Board of Directors for their generosity

Coins were given to Mark Lamping, President of the Jaguars Organization, Whitney Meyer and Peter Racine of the Jaguars Foundation for supporting the ongoing project to bring The National POW/MIA Memorial & Museum to Northeast Florida.”



From left to right: Mark Lamping (President of the Jaguars Organization) Reverend Patrick Archuleta (Chaplain – Chapel of the High-Speed Pass, Whitney Meyer and Peter Racine of the Jaguars

The National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial is a new national monument to be built at the National Mall in Washington D.C. Our goal is to break ground on the Memorial in 2022, and to dedicate the completed Memorial in 2023.

National Desert Storm and Desert Shield War Memorial Act - Authorizes the National Desert Storm War Memorial Association to establish a commemorative work on federal land in the District of Columbia to commemorate and honor those who, as members of the Armed Forces, served on active duty in support of Operation Desert Storm or Operation Desert Shield.

Construction of the Memorial is led by the National Desert Storm War Memorial Association, a 501(c)3 organization in Washington, D.C. The association is led by a Board of Directors comprised of veterans who served during Operation Desert Storm.



The Veterans Council donated 3 picnic tables to the Leo C Chase Jr CBOC. Below is a letter of thanks from the doctors and staff.



Congress Bestows Its Highest Honor on WWII Merchant Marines

Congress has bestowed its highest honor on merchant mariners who fought in World War II, almost eight decades after the conflict in which more than 8,000 of them were killed.

By Associated Press, By MARY CLARE JALONICK, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress has bestowed its highest honor on merchant mariners who fought in World War II, almost eight decades after the conflict in which more than 8,000 of them were killed.

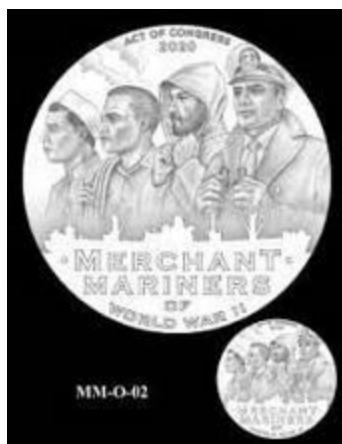
More than two years after Congress voted to approve the award, leaders on Capitol Hill on Wednesday awarded the Congressional Gold Medal to surviving merchant mariners who provided equipment, food, fuel and other materials to military troops around the world during World War II. While they suffered what was thought to be the highest per capita casualty rate in the war, they did not receive veteran status until 1988 because they are not a branch of the military.

Dave Yoho, a 94-year-old veteran of the service, said at the ceremony in Statuary Hall that he and his fellow mariners “brought home the scars of war” but were forgotten.

The U.S. Merchant Marine provided goods in many different arenas during the war, including at the invasion of Normandy. The legislation passed by Congress in March 2020 awarding the medal cites a 1944 New York Times article that said the Normandy invasion “would not have been possible without the Merchant Marine.”

Congressional leaders thanked the mariners for their service and said it was long overdue.

The medal will be displayed in the American Merchant Marine Museum in New York.



The Jacksonville Bar Association past president is leading the campaign that is establishing a warship museum in Downtown Jacksonville.

For 12 years, each day when attorney Daniel Bean drove across the Main Street Bridge to his law office, he looked at the St. Johns River and imagined what it would be like if a U.S. Navy warship museum was docked along its northbank Downtown.

“I don’t have to think about it anymore,” said Bean, president of the Jacksonville Historic Naval Ship Association.

The USS Orleck DD-886 was towed March 26 into Downtown, the latest home port in the guided-missile frigate’s 78-year history.

The warship will be moved to a dock at the Shipyards property in June to begin its next tour of duty as a naval military museum.

Bean is a retired Navy surface warfare officer and judge advocate, former managing partner of Holland & Knight’s office in Jacksonville and a founding partner of Abel Bean Law.

He began leading the effort to establish a naval museum Downtown in 2010 as he was ending his term as president of the Jacksonville Bar Association.

At the time, the historic naval ship association was working to bring the USS Charles F. Adams, a Cold War-era guided-missile destroyer that was in the Philadelphia Navy Yard waiting to be scrapped, to Jacksonville.

The process for the Navy to transfer ownership of the Adams to the association went on for years while the Adams continued to rust in the ship graveyard.

The effort turned into nothing but frustration, Bean said.

“They kept changing the terms for transferring the warship. We had hundreds of action items complete, but they canceled the donation plan.”

That didn’t sink the association’s commitment to establish a warship museum in Jacksonville. It just forced a change in course.



From warship to museum

After highly decorated service in the U.S. Navy from 1945 to 1982 spanning the Cold War, the wars in Korea and Vietnam and service as a training vessel, the USS Orleck was transferred to the Turkish government, which changed its name to TCQ Yüce-tepe.

After eight years of service under the Turkish flag, the warship was retired and transferred to the Southeast Texas War Memorial and Heritage Foundation in Orange, Texas, to become a museum bearing its original name.

When Hurricane Irma struck the Gulf Coast in September 2005, the Orleck was substantially damaged.

After it was repaired, the city of Orange refused to allow it to return to its berth at a city park, so the Orleck was anchored off two coastal islands for nearly four years.

The Jacksonville Naval Museum is planned at the Shipyards.

In 2009, the Lake Charles, Louisiana, City Council approved an ordinance authorizing a cooperative endeavor agreement with the group in Texas.



The warship then was towed to Lake Charles and opened to the public, but over time the museum struggled to remain in operation.

In 2019, the decision was made to either sink it, sell it for scrap or find someone who wanted it.

The USS Orleck Museum needed to find its next new floating home.

Within hours of the Jacksonville association announcing it abandoned its campaign for the Adams, the museum's operators contacted Bean and his colleagues with a proposal.

After a 25-hour road trip to visit and inspect the Orleck, Bean said the association decided to partially underwrite the museum to preserve right of first refusal for the warship's impending disposition.

Final leg of the voyage

In consideration of a \$1 million grant from the state and considerable investment from Bean and other association board members for a decade, in early 2020 Jacksonville City Council approved moving the Orleck to the St. Johns River Downtown.

A month later, a global event intervened.

The coronavirus pandemic shutdown that began in March 2020 delayed the transfer.

The Orleck also was in the path of Category 4 Hurricane Laura that made landfall Aug. 27 near Lake Charles.

The museum broke free of its mooring during the storm surge and drifted more than a mile from the dock, but was found floating and upright after the hurricane passed, Bean said.

The Orleck was towed to dry dock at Gulf Copper Manufacturing Corp. in Port Arthur, Texas, in December 2021 for inspection to determine whether it made financial sense to repair damage caused by the storm and paint the exterior to prepare the Orleck to again be a museum.

“We put a ton of steel on her. We believe we have increased her life by 10 or 15 years,” Bean said.

The cost of towing to Port Arthur and the shipyard work came to nearly \$2 million.

It cost more than \$300,000 for the final part of the voyage to tow the Orleck from Texas to its new temporary home near the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront, Bean said.

Preparing for opening day

Having a 390-foot warship that looks like it did the day it was commissioned in 1945 docked Downtown made people pay attention to the museum project on a level the ship association had not experienced, Bean said.

“It’s human nature. People had to see the Orleck before they could begin to dream.”

Within hours of the warship’s arrival in Jacksonville, people were calling to ask how they could help get the museum ready for the public.

“We have high school students volunteering. People are scraping paint and cleaning. Someone offered to illuminate the American flag on the stern at night. There is a retired Navy captain who is on board every day painting. We get stronger every day,” Bean said.

Bean predicts that when the museum opens, unless guests have served aboard a destroyer, they will find some surprises.

“People are shocked at how tight the quarters are because everything is compressed to save space.”

With annual maintenance expenses estimated at \$1 million, financial support will be needed in addition to admission fees and memberships, so the museum is seeking financial donations along with volunteer labor.

“It’s just like an active warship. It’s in the water. It rusts,” Bean said.

Visit jaxnavalmuseum.org to learn more about the Orleck and the museum.

TALLAHASSEE – Fifteen Florida Veterans were inducted into the Florida Veterans’ Hall of Fame before a capacity crowd at the Florida Capitol on April 27. Florida Department of Veterans’ Affairs Executive Director James S. “Hammer” Hartsell presided over the ceremony for the members of the Class of 2021. The class was the ninth class to enter the Florida Veterans’ Hall of Fame.

Gov. Ron DeSantis and the Cabinet voted unanimously to induct the 15 Veterans into the Florida Veterans’ Hall of Fame during the March 29 Cabinet Meeting.

The Florida Veterans’ Hall of Fame recognizes and honors those military veterans who, through their works and lives during or after military service, have made a significant contribution to the State of Florida through civic, business, public service or other pursuits. It is not a traditional military hall of fame, as it focuses on post-military contributions to the State of Florida.

Class of 2021 inductees include:

1. Robert Adelhelm, Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps (Ret) – Jacksonville
2. Bishop Dr. Douglas Alexander Sr., U.S. Army Veteran – Hernando
3. Thomas Bowman, Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps (Ret) – Spring Hill
4. Robert D. Chelberg, Lieutenant General, U.S. Army (Ret) – North Palm Beach
5. William W. Francis II, Colonel, U.S. Air Force (Ret) – Tallahassee
6. Michael W. Hartford, Captain, U.S. Navy (Ret) – Ellenton
7. Daniel V. Hughes, U.S. Marine Corps Veteran – Palm Coast
8. ep. Stan Jordan, Colonel, U.S. Army (Ret) – Jacksonville
9. Ray A. Quinn, Sergeant Major, U.S. Army (Ret) – St. Augustine
10. Darryl J. Reyes, Colonel, U.S. Army (Ret) – Tampa
11. Frederick Robinson, U.S. Marine Corps Veteran – Apopka
12. Gill Ruderman, Colonel, U.S. Army (Ret) – Bradenton
13. William D. Salter, U.S. Army Veteran – Milton
14. Harry O. “Skip” Taylor, Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army (Ret) – Viera
15. William David Wilson, U.S. Air Force Veteran – Tallahassee





The State of Florida established the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame in 2011 to recognize and honor those military veterans who, through their works and lives during and after military service, have made a significant contribution to the State of Florida, their city, town and community through civic, business, public service and other worthy pursuits.

The Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame Society, Inc. was formed in 2019 as a supportive non-profit organization to provide financial and administrative support to the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs and the Florida Veterans Foundation as requested to insure the continuing success of the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame.

This year's Inductees from NE FL.

The Veterans Council of St Johns County Congratulates LTC Bob Adelhelm, USMC Ret for being inducted into the FL Veterans Hall of Fame Class of 2021.

His full bio is located here:

<https://www.fvhofsociety.org/adelhelm.html>



The Veterans Council of St Johns County Congratulates Dan Hughes, USMC for being inducted into the FL Veterans Hall of Fame Class of 2021.

His full bio is located here:

<https://www.fvhofsociety.org/hughes.html>



The Veterans Council of St Johns County Congratulates Ray Quinn, SGM USA Ret, Vice Chairman of the Veterans Council of St Johns County for being inducted into the FL Veterans Hall of Fame Class of 2021.

His full bio is located here:

<https://www.fvhofsociety.org/quinn.html>



First Coast Honor Flight

From: Lew Turner, WTLV NBC Channel 12 Jacksonville~still trying to come down from the awesome Honor Flight this weekend. I hope it was as amazing an experience for everyone else as it was for me.



By Ponte Vedra NewsLine Staff, mail@floridanewslines.com

Competing against the top 27 NJROTC drill teams across the country, Nease placed third at the 2022 Navy National Academic, Athletic and Drill Championships

in Pensacola on April 1 – 2. The Navy Nationals comprise a series of 10 events — personnel inspection, five drill, three athletic and one academic — where the cumulative scores are added to determine the overall national champion. Nease represented NJROTC Area-12, which covers the 60 NJROTC programs across Northern Florida and the state of Georgia, having won the Area-12 Drill Championship last month in Coffee County, Georgia.

Nease won first place in two events: the 16 x100 Relay and Unarmed Basic Drill. The team garnered eight additional trophies, including second place in Personnel Inspection, third place in Overall Athletics and Pushups; fourth place in Overall Drill, Unarmed Exhibition Drill and Situps; and fifth place in Armed Basic Drill and Academics. Five cadets earned individual medals – Emmelie Neff finished second in Situps, Keegan Mapa – fifth in Situps, Emily Chang and Nicholas Gallego, 10th in female and male Pushups, and Ben Prohofsky, 10th in Academics.

“These young men and women have persevered since August practicing at 7:30 a.m.,” said senior naval science instructor Captain Scott LaRochelle. “Finishing third in the nation validated their commitment to excellence.”

Nease has qualified and competed at the Navy Nationals every year since 2015 with this year being the team’s best finish. Pace High School in Pensacola and Troy High School in Fullerton, California placed top two.

“I couldn’t be more proud of all of my teammates,” said Battalion Commander Kaitlyn Boggs, commander of the freshly minted #1 Unarmed Basic Drill team in the nation. “Coming out on top in this event knowing the talent from other programs in California, Virginia, Texas and Florida makes this trophy even more special.”



Photo courtesy Scott LaRochelle, from left Nease seniors Isabella Rivera, Kaitlyn Boggs, Brodie Mongon, Daniel Mahoney and Emmelie Neff receive the third place overall trophy from rear Admiral Peter A. Garvin at the Navy National Academic, Athletic and Drill Championships in Pensacola.

The Veterans Council presented a Certificate and a Blue Star lapel pin, both of which relate to the DoD Vietnam War Commemoration recognition for surviving spouses of veterans who have died after their time in the service. To be eligible the veteran had to have served anytime during the period 1 November 1955 to 15 May 1975, regardless of duty station.

It emphasizes and recognizes the support and sacrifice spouses give during and following a veterans time in service.

Michael David Pullium

Obituary

Michael David Pullium, 76, of St. Augustine, passed away on January 20, 2022, at Memorial Hospital in Jacksonville, Florida. Michael was born on April 22, 1945, in San Francisco, California, to Frank E. Pullium and Martha H. Pullium. Michael and his family moved to Tampa, Florida, in 1955. He joined the United States Army in 1967 and was a Vietnam Combat Veteran (1969). After returning from military duty to Tampa, he graduated from the University of South Florida in 1975 with a degree in Water Resources Engineering. Michael relocated to St. Augustine in 2000 with his wife and daughter and opened P&A Consulting Engineers, Inc. He was actively involved in the St. Augustine community including sitting on the Board of Directors for the Chase-Rescorla Memorial Scholarship Fund, a member of the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association ("Big Mike") and was honored to be a contributor to Homes for Our Troops.

Preceded in death by his parents and devoted stepfather, Tim Young; Michael is survived by his wife of 35 years, Donna Pullium, St. Augustine; daughters Delaney Pullium, Jacksonville, Florida, and Jennifer Shaw, Gainesville, Florida; sister, Christy Drechsler; brother, Jeff Young, both of Tampa, Florida, and many nieces and nephews.

A Memorial Military Ceremony and Interment was held on March 2, 2022, at the Jacksonville National Cemetery in Jacksonville, Florida. In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting a contribution be made in honor of Michael to the St. Johns County Housing Partnership, St. Augustine, Florida (sjhp.org).



The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration Commemorative Partner Program

The Veterans Council St Johns County (VCSJC) was accepted as a Commemorative Partner with The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration on 18 October 2021. The Commemorative Partner Program is designed for federal, state and local communities, veterans' organizations and other nongovernmental organizations to assist a grateful nation in thanking and honoring our Vietnam veterans and their families. Commemorative Partners are encouraged to participate in the Commemoration of the Vietnam War by planning and conducting events or activities that will recognize Vietnam veterans' and their families' service, valor, and sacrifice. Details of this special program can be found at [This Week In History | This Week in History | Vietnam War Commemoration \(vietnamwar50th.com\)](https://www.thisweekinhistory.com/vietnam-war-commemoration)

An important component of the Commemorative Partner Program is the presenting of the Blue Star lapel pin, awarded to the surviving spouse of a Vietnam War Period Veteran. A Vietnam War Period Veteran is a veteran who served in active duty between 01 November 1955 to 15 May 1975, regardless of duty stations. There is other such awards for Gold Star Families (direct family members of a veteran listed on the Vietnam Memorial Wall, and similar awards for POWs, MIAs, and equally the Veteran Lapel Pin for any active duty member who served anywhere during the Vietnam War Period.



*Bill Dudley receiving
Commemoration Flag 28
October 2021*

The VCSJC has presented six Blue Stars since its entry into the program, the first being during our 28 October Council meeting. If you are aware of eligible awardees in any of the categories, or if your organization wishes to become a Commemorative Partner, contact

John Leslie at john_leslie15@yahoo.com for information. It's easy!



*Kathy Goodman receives
Blue Star on behalf of her
mother Beatrice Maloney
in memory of Joe Maloney,
US Army, 28 October 2021*



*Lynne "Lil" Shirkey receives
Blue Star in memory of Jack
Shirkey, US Navy
11 November 2021*



*Pattie Foulk receives
Blue Star in memory
of Donald Foulk, Jr.
US Navy
11 November 2021*



*Joanie Hendricks receives
Blue Star presented by
Larry Kaiser in honor of
Paul Hendricks, US Navy
11 November 2021*

Other recipients receiving Blue Stars via mail were Gail Dilks in honor of Bob Dilks, US Navy, and Darlene Graves in honor of Tommy Graves, US Army.



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION



Commemorative Partner Program

Organizationally based, hometown-centric, and veteran-focused, this program unites and supports the efforts of local, state and Federal entities to thank and honor our Vietnam veterans and their families on behalf of a grateful Nation.

Commemorative Partners participate by planning, hosting or co-hosting, and reporting the success of events and activities that recognize the service and sacrifice of Vietnam veterans and their families each year during the commemorative period of 2021-2025.

These events and activities are designed to be dignified and memorable. They reflect sensitivity to and appreciation for the solemnity of war, the losses suffered by many and the sacrifices of all who served. They also should meet one or more of the congressionally articulated objectives of this national Commemoration, with an emphasis on the first:

1. To thank and honor veterans of the Vietnam War, including personnel who were held as prisoners of war, or listed as missing in action, for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States and to thank and honor the families of these veterans.
2. To highlight the service of the Armed Forces during the Vietnam War and the contributions of Federal agencies and governmental and non-governmental organizations that served with, or in support of, the Armed Forces.
3. To pay tribute to the contributions made on the home front by the people of the United States during the Vietnam War.
4. To highlight the advances in technology, science, and medicine related to military research conducted during the Vietnam War.
5. To recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by the allies of the United States during the Vietnam War.

It costs nothing to become a partner and the process is simple: organizations visit www.vietnamwar50th.com, click on the "Apply" button in the blue "Commemorative Partner Program" box, and follow the instructions to complete and submit a one-page application.

Once submitted, the approval process generally takes 30 days or less, and applicants are kept informed through electronic notifications. Upon approval, organizations will receive a starter kit consisting of a Commemoration flag, Commemorative Partner certificate, and other commemorative materials. In addition our partners are authorized to use our Commemorative Partner Seal for approved purposes, and also can access the Partner Portal on our website to request additional, free materials for events.

For questions regarding the application process, please email whs.vnwar50th_cpp@mail.mil.

July 2021

Join the Nation ... thank a Vietnam veteran!

vietnamwar50th.com



The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration

Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin Presentation Guidelines



Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin Presentation

- Commemorative events and activities should be dignified, memorable occasions that show a sensitivity and appreciation for the solemnity of war, the losses suffered by many and the sacrifices of all who served.
- When presenting a lapel pin to a Vietnam Veteran:
 - **Shake their hand.**
 - Inform them that the message “A Grateful Nation Thanks and Honors You” is embossed on the back of the pin, closest to the heart of the wearer.
 - Ask the veteran if they would like you to **pin the lapel pin on his/her lapel** OR you may hand the lapel pin to them following the handshake.
 - Say “On behalf of a grateful nation, thank you for your service.”
- **Provide each Vietnam Veteran with supporting material** that explains the symbolism and significance of the lapel pin (Lapel Pin Fact Sheet) and include a copy of the Presidential Proclamation.



Lapel Pin Eligibility

- **Living** United States veterans who served on **active duty** in the **U.S. Armed Forces** at any time during the period of **November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975, regardless of location of service**, are eligible to receive **one** lapel pin.
- If you encounter a Vietnam Veteran who **does not meet the above criteria**, or who has **already received their lapel pin**, please thank them for their service and sacrifice, but don't present them with another lapel pin.

Additional Notes

If any attendees have questions or concerns about Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin eligibility or the Vietnam War Commemoration, please provide them with a brochure and advise them to visit the Commemoration's website at www.vietnamwar50th.com or call the Commemoration's office at 877-387-9951.

Published: November 2019

www.vietnamwar50th.com



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION



Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin

“A lasting memento of the Nation’s thanks!”

Front



Back



Symbolism:

- **Eagle** - The eagle represents courage, honor, and dedicated service to our Nation. As one of the most recognizable and notable American symbols, it is emblazoned on numerous military insignia.
- **Blue Circle** - The color blue matches the canton of the American flag and signifies vigilance, perseverance, and justice. The circle shape and blue color also match the official seal of the Commemoration.
- **Laurel Wreath** - A time-honored symbol representing victory, integrity, and strength.
- **Stripes** - The stripes behind the eagle represent the American flag.
- **Stars** - The six stars represent the six allies who served, sacrificed, and fought alongside one another: Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Thailand, and the United States.
- **Message** - “A Grateful Nation Thanks and Honors You” is embossed on the back, closest to the heart of the wearer. The official name of the Commemoration is included to remind each veteran that this is a national initiative.

Join the Nation ... thank a Vietnam veteran!

vietnamwar50th.com

The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration



Deceased Vietnam Veteran's Surviving Spouse Lapel Pin



Front



Back



The **Deceased Vietnam Veteran's Surviving Spouse Lapel Pin** is for the surviving spouse at the time of death of a veteran who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces at any time during the period of November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975, regardless of location of service. The lapel pin is usually presented with the corresponding DoD Certificate of Honor.

Symbolism:

- **Blue Star** - Symbolic of the Blue Star Family during the veteran's period of service.
- **Red Circle** - Represents the sacrifice of both the veteran and their family in service to our country.
- **Blue Circle** - The color blue matches the canton of the American flag and signifies vigilance, perseverance, and justice.
- **Laurel Wreath** - A time-honored symbol representing victory, integrity, and strength.
- **Message** - "A Grateful Nation Honors the Service and Sacrifice of Your Family" is embossed on the back, closest to the heart of the wearer and is our Nation's lasting message of thanks.

Published: September 2019

www.vietnamwar50th.com



You are cordially invited to the

First Militia Chapter

U.S. Army

247th Birthday Ball

Mark Lance Armory
190 San Marco Ave
ST. Augustine, FL 32084
June 11, 2022
1800 – 2100

Attire
Black Tie/Formal
Service Dress with Bowtie
Service Mess

\$40 per person

Heavy Hors d'oeuvres served

Cash Bar Available

You may prepay by visiting <http://mkt.com/first-militia-chapter-ausa> Questions? Please contact Kyle Richardson @ (727) 919-3325

Urgent Volunteer Opportunity Available:

Please help support Council On Aging (COA) need for volunteers to provide lawn maintenance to elderly residents. "The Cutters" service about 20 yards every Thursday. COA provides all equipment and lunch. All hands on deck 0800 -1200 at 180 Marine St. 32084. Your service is greatly appreciated by our elderly clients.

Questions: Phil Topcik, Capt., USNR-R 904-716-1679



Alton Green Memorial Post 194

*Anniversary
Golf Tourney*

SAVE the **DATE**
19 SEPT 2022

*Marsh Creek Golf
& Country Club*

Each Participant Will Receive a
Round of 4 Certificate

The Army Special Operations Forces School in Key West, FL

It seems these days that the U.S. Navy SEALs get all of the press. They have been featured in movies like *GI Jane* and *American Sniper*, just two films among many others. SEAL Team Six figured prominently in the news with the capture of Osama bin Laden, a story that would be later immortalized in the movie *Zero Dark Thirty*.

While our SEALs are deserving of our nation's respect and gratitude, there are a whole bunch of folks who make up what we all know as Combat Divers serving in various capacities. They come from the U.S. Army Special Forces, as well as all of the other branches of our military who attend a Combat Diver Qualification Course (CDQC). Many receive their training at the Army Special Forces Underwater Operations School (SFUWO) or Army Special Operations Forces (ARSOF) School located in Key West, FL.

Prior to World War II, little had been done to advance the role of combat swimmers in our nation's military. The tradition of utilizing swimmers goes back to the American Revolution and the Civil War where swimmers were used to sabotage enemy shipping by setting fires, using explosives, or to covertly infiltrate harbors and scout enemy positions. A few divers worked with allied forces during World War I, but to "dive" usually meant to simply hold your breath underwater.

It was during World War II that the need to develop formal dive training and gear became very apparent. An early underwater breathing apparatus was the Momsen Lung used by submariners as a breathing device to escape to the surface in an emergency. Sometimes they worked, and sometimes they didn't.



Photo Above: *An instructor conducting a training session at the ARSOF (photo courtesy U.S. Army Website Videos, YouTube) Photo Right: ARSOF School in Key West today with their 50-foot dive tower*





*Photos Above: Left: Sailor posing with a Momsen Lung off Key West;
Right: a Momsen Lung used during training aboard a submarine*

In 1940, Dr. Christian Lambertsen developed the first, self-contained, closed circuit diving apparatus for the U.S. Navy. The Navy rejected it, but the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) hired him to further develop his invention and establish a program for training personnel in its use for a combat frogman program.



Lambertsen moved his new Marine Unit to Nassau, Bahamas for initial training, where he and U.S. Coast Guard Lieutenant James Booth conducted training dives to fine tune the equipment and give the men of the MU their first diving experience both in the Bahamas and later on Catalina Island, CA. His dive equipment had to be a closed-circuit rebreather to prevent bubbles from the diver's exhaled air from reaching the surface which would allow an enemy to detect their presence. The dive apparatus, the first of its type in the world, was called the "LARU," an acronym for the "Lambertsen Amphibious Respiratory Unit."

*Photo Above: Dr. Christian Lambertsen (left) and U.S. Coast Guard Lieutenant James Booth (right)
Photo Right: Dr. Christian Lambertsen*





Photo Above: The Lambertsen Amphibious Respiratory Unit “LARU”, Bahamas 1943

Photo Right: The “Sleeping Beauty” was a British submersible used in Burma in WWII by our OSS combat divers

In 1955, members of the 77th Army Special Forces who were trained to both parachute and scuba dive formed the first “Para-Divers” club at Fort Bragg. The U.S. Navy established a U.S. Naval Underwater Swimmer School in Key West, FL, while other special forces training centers popped up at U.S. bases around the globe. But the training lacked any central focus as the new diving gear was adopted haphazardly with little central command.



In the early 1960’s, Army Captain Ola Mize, a Korean War veteran, was called into the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center to bring some order to the chaos. Mize was trained in parachuting and he was given the underwater combat swimmer programs as well. He initially located the program at Camp Blanding, FL but later relocated to Fleming Key in Key West. Key West was the ideal location for the Army Special Forces swimmer school. There, the training was focused on both closed circuit and open circuit dive operations.

The rest is history, as they say, and today, the ARSOF in Key West is the primary training site for our Army Special Forces combat swimmers. The training base is complete with a 50-foot dive tower that gives trainees a safe, confined space to do deep dives and free ascents under the watchful eyes of their trainers, before moving out to sea for more advanced training in combat insertion and infiltration techniques. But to make certain there was no confusion about this being an Army base in the middle of the sea, they gave the dive tower a new paint job clearly marked with the insignia of the U.S. Army Special Forces Combat Diver. Once again, it all happens here in Florida. Go Army!!

The Marine Unit was later transferred to the China-India-Burma Theater beginning in 1944 and stationed with the British forces on the island of Galle where it engaged in intelligence gathering missions for our British allies and the Office of Strategic Services (OSS). It was the OSS that was the forerunner of our modern Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). They transferred from Galle focusing their main insertions of agents to gather intelligence along the Arakan Coast of Burma which was occupied by Japanese forces at the time.

The U.S. Army learned a lot during the war and put that experience to work with the formation of the Army Special Forces in the 1950’s. Part of their training included combat diving from the knowledge and experience gained from the OSS MU divers of the war. Dive equipment was advancing rapidly as well. Dr. Lambertsen continued to develop more advanced dive gear, and coined the catch-all acronym “SCUBA” which stood for “Self-contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus” that is still used today for both military and recreational diving.

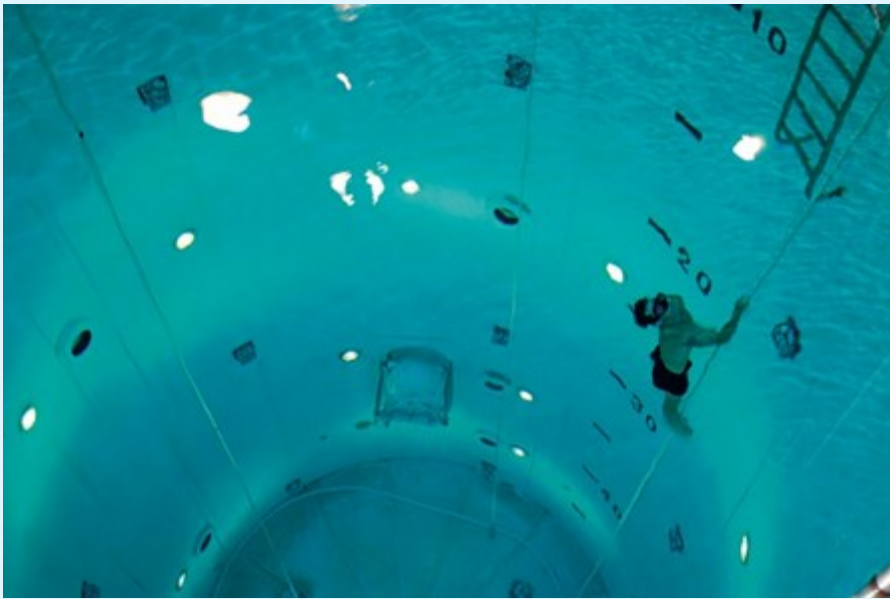
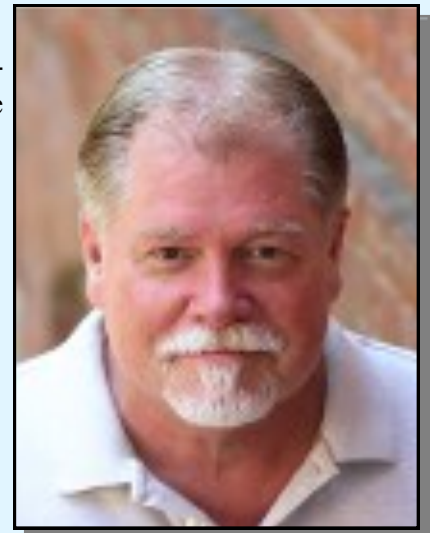


Photo Above: An Army combat swimmer candidate performs a free ascent in the dive tower

*All images used with permission, U.S. Army Office of the Command Historian. Please see https://arsof-history.org/articles/v3n1_key_west_page_1.html for more information on the AFSOF School in Key West.

About the Author: Rick Cain

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





THE PATRIOTS CENTER
Coffee & Donuts

VETERANS GATHERING

COME SEE WHAT'S BREWING
SATURDAY JUNE 4, 2022
@ 10AM
RNC COMMUNITY CENTER



5205-7 NORMANDY BOULEVARD JAX, FL 32205

SCAN QR CODE TO RSVP OR CALL / TEXT ALEXIA: 407-745-9812



ALL are invited to attend



Veterans Council Upcoming Meeting Change

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

Upcoming Veterans Council Meetings Speakers

June 30, Officer Kelly Kemp, Chaplain, SJSO, “Community
Involvement”

Kathy Church, Update on MIAP

July 28, Andrew Stack, FL State Coord for DoD Program
“Building Healthy Military Communities”

August 25, Carmalita Gaines, Jacksonville Veterans Center

Lynn M Geiser

MILITARY SISTERS (women veterans, active duty, national guard and women spouses)

I NEED YOUR HELP!!



WHAT AREA ARE YOU FROM IN FLORIDA?

The struggle is that there is only one of me and alot of sisters with talent and passion.. that would love to get meet and greets started in other areas.

1. Cooking
2. Art
3. Outdoor events
4. Happy hour
5. Horseback riding
6. Lunches
7. Hockey, jaguars games
8. Military women and/or military family beach days



Ssg Seth Michael Plant

Obituary



SSG Seth Michael Plant, age 30, the cherished son of Michael and Joy Plant tragically lost his life on Tuesday, May 10, 2022 while stationed in Anchorage, Alaska at JBER. Seth was born on November 16, 1991 in Jacksonville, Florida and was raised in Starke, Florida before moving St. Augustine where he lived the remainder of his life. Seth graduated from Pedro Menendez High School in 2010 and enlisted in the United States Army immediately after. Serving his country was a life-long dream for Seth, and the zeal he pursued his dream with was unmatched. During his time in the Army he served in Afghanistan as part of Operation Enduring Freedom with the United States Navy SEALs. He was a decorated soldier and received the Army Commendation Medal; Army Achievement Medal; Army Good Conduct Medal; National Defense Service Medal; Afghanistan Campaign Medal; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon; Army Service Ribbon; Overseas Service Ribbon; NATO Service Ribbon; Combat Infantryman's Badge; and the Parachutist Badge, and most recently the Arctic Tab. At the time of his passing, Seth had recently been promoted to the rank of Staff Sergeant in Company C, 3rd Battalion, 509th Infantry Arctic Airborne unit. He was a decorated war veteran, a leader, a fighter, and a hero.

While comforting a fellow fallen soldier's family member Seth said "Unfortunately that's how life works, it takes the most shining lights away from us. You just have to remember him and everything about him and don't let him be forgotten"

From The Giant Killer

The Only Father-Son Medal of Honor Recipients:

Only two father-son combinations have been awarded the Medal of Honor since its inception in 1863. Arthur and Douglas MacArthur and Theodore Roosevelt and Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., were awarded this signal of honor for their gallant efforts dating from the Civil War through World War II.

MacArthur Family

Arthur MacArthur served during the Civil War assigned to the 24th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Regiment. When he was just an 18-year-old lieutenant, MacArthur “seized the colors of his regiment at a critical moment and planted them on the captured works on the crest of Missionary Ridge.” Despite his heroic efforts, he was not awarded the Medal of Honor until 1890. MacArthur left the service in June 1865 as a lieutenant colonel, and after a brief study of law, re-entered the Regular Army in 1866, ultimately retiring in 1909 as a lieutenant general.

His son, Gen. Douglas MacArthur, was nominated for the Medal of Honor twice for service as a brigadier general in World War I, before receiving it for his service in the defense of the Philippines in 1942. His Medal of Honor citation noted his “conspicuous leadership in preparing the Philippine Islands to resist conquest, for gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action against invading Japanese forces, and for the heroic conduct of defensive and offensive operations on the Bataan Peninsula. . . . His utter disregard of personal danger under heavy fire and aerial bombardment, his calm judgment in each crisis, inspired his troops, galvanized the spirit of resistance of the Filipino people.”

The award, however, was not without controversy. Many military leaders, including Gen. Eisenhower, opposed it. Opposition to the award revolved around the belief that his actions did not meet the standard for the award in that he had not performed an act of valor. As the Japanese forces steadily advanced in the Philippines, President Franklin Roosevelt ordered Gen.

MacArthur to relocate to Australia. On March 12, 1942, MacArthur departed, under the cover of darkness, for Australia with his family and staff. He left behind Lt. Gen. Jonathan Wainwright and his greatly outnumbered troops to fight on Bataan. Near starvation and short of ammunition and other supplies, Wainwright surrendered the garrison, and he and those with him suffered misery and death as prisoners of the Japanese.

Army Chief of Staff George Marshall, who personally authored the citation, overruled opposition to MacArthur’s nomination, and justified it by pointing out that some past awards had been made to individuals who had not been responsible for front-line achievements. Critics contend the award was made for political reasons and some maintain it was in response to a propaganda campaign waged by Japan, Germany, and Italy that characterized MacArthur as a “coward” and “deserter.” Regardless of the circumstances, the MacArthur duo became the first father and son to be awarded the Medal of Honor.

Roosevelt Family

Theodore “Teddy” Roosevelt has the distinction of being the only U.S. president to have received the Medal of Honor. The Medal was for his actions as a member of the 1st Volunteer Cavalry, known as the “Rough Riders,” during the Spanish-American War: “Lieutenant Colonel Roosevelt, in total disregard for his personal safety, and accompanied by only four or five men, led a desperate and gallant charge up San Juan Hill, encouraging his troops to continue the assault through withering enemy fire over open countryside. Facing the enemy's heavy fire, he displayed extraordinary bravery throughout the charge, and was the first to reach the enemy trenches, where he quickly killed one of the enemy with his pistol, allowing his men to continue the assault. His leadership and valor turned the tide in the battle for San Juan Hill.”

Like that of Gen. MacArthur, President Roosevelt's nomination was marred by controversy. After the action was over, four general officers recommended that he receive the award. But the recommendation was rejected by a board of officers, though the reason for the denial was not documented. Some historians contend the board concluded President Roosevelt's conduct in Cuba was admirable but not worthy of the Medal of Honor. They believed when Roosevelt reached the hilltop, the main body of the Spanish was almost all gone, having retreated toward Santiago.

After numerous lobbying attempts over several decades after Roosevelt's death, Congress repealed the statute of limitations on military decorations in 1996. Though the Army opposed retroactive recognition, legislation passed in late 1998 provided for appointment of a board to review the matter. The board recommended approval and President Roosevelt was awarded the Medal of Honor two years later on Jan. 16, 2001.

Forty-six years after President Roosevelt's actions on San Juan Hill, his son received the nation's highest military award. Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., a Distinguished Service Cross recipient of World War I and one of the founders of the American Legion, was the only general officer and the oldest person at 56 years of age to land with the first wave assaulting enemy beaches on D-Day.

A reservist, he was called to active duty as a colonel and soon promoted to brigadier general. Twice denied his verbal requests to accompany the first wave on Utah Beach, his written request was approved. By coincidence, his son, Capt. Quentin Roosevelt II, landed with the first wave on Omaha Beach.

Armed only with a pistol and a cane — the latter was used for arthritis as a result of injuries received in World War I — Brig. Gen. Roosevelt “repeatedly led groups from the beach, over the seawall and established them inland. His valor, courage, and presence in the very front of the attack and his complete unconcern at being under heavy fire inspired the troops to heights of enthusiasm and self-sacrifice. Although the enemy had the beach under constant direct fire, Brig. Gen. Roosevelt moved from one locality to another, rallying men around him, directed and personally led them against the enemy.

Under his seasoned, precise, calm, and unfaltering leadership, assault troops reduced beach strong points and rapidly moved inland with minimum casualties.”When Brig. Gen. Roosevelt realized the troops had

landed about a mile off course, he is quoted as saying, “We are going to start the war right here.”

Unfortunately, Brig. Gen. Roosevelt died from a heart attack before he received the medal. On the day of his death, July 12, 1944, he had been selected for promotion to major general and command of the 90th Infantry Division. Several general officers served as pall bearers at his funeral and he is buried alongside his younger brother, Quentin, a casualty of World War I, in France.

The four recipients of the Medal of Honor represent two distinguished American families that faithfully served the nation for decades. Despite their record of service, people have speculated if all of the awards would be made under today’s standards. Regardless of reservations that linger, history currently records them as the only father-son recipients of the nation’s highest military award.

Story by Dr. Wayne Curtis



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 23, 2022

Contact: legislativeinfo@trea.org



Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Leaders Push to Deliver
Annual Cost-of-Living Increase for Veterans

WASHINGTON: Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Jon Tester (D-Mont.) and Ranking Member Jerry Moran (R-Kan.) have introduced the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) Act of 2022 to increase the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and military survivors under the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

“When it comes to our nation’s veterans and their families, we’ve got to see to it that they don’t fall back on hard times,” said Chairman Tester. “Our bipartisan bill will ensure their benefits are keeping pace with the changing economy—providing these folks with the support they need and earned.”

“We have a responsibility to take care of our veterans, many of whom rely on VA for financial support,” said Ranking Member Moran. “As rampant inflation is driving up the cost of living, this legislation helps makes certain veterans are able to keep up with our changing economy and receive the benefits they have been promised.”

The Senators’ bill would increase certain VA benefits including disability and dependent compensation, clothing allowances, and dependency and indemnity compensation for surviving spouses and children to reflect increases in the cost of living. The cost of living adjustment will be determined by the annual COLA adjustment to social security benefits, as determined by the Social Security Administration, and would go into effect Dec. 1, 2022. The Social Security Administration bases their annual COLA adjustment on the Consumer Price Index, as determined each December by the Labor Department's Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Text of the Veterans’ Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2022 can be found [HERE](#).

###



BE PART OF THE SOLUTION TO END VETERAN SUICIDE

#1

- Recognize the Problem of Veteran Suicide
- 20-22 Veterans Take Their Own Lives Each Day

#2

- Take 30-45 mins and Train to be a Watch Stander
- Explore Resource Guide
- Stand Vigilant to Concerns of Veterans and Direct Them to Needed Assistance

#3

- End the Tragedy of Veteran Suicide

#YourTurnToStand

A Celebration of THE SHERO WARRIOR



Shero Warrior ©
Design Owned by
Monument to
Women Veterans

Presented by **FDVA**
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS



FDVA Women Veterans
Celebration/Recognition Week

Guest Speakers

James "Hammer" Hartsell

Michelle Caldwell

Founder of the Monument to Women Veterans

Because She Serves



Breakfast & Lunch provided by the
Northeast Florida Women Veterans

➔ Register Here <https://bit.ly/FDVAWomenCelebration> ➔

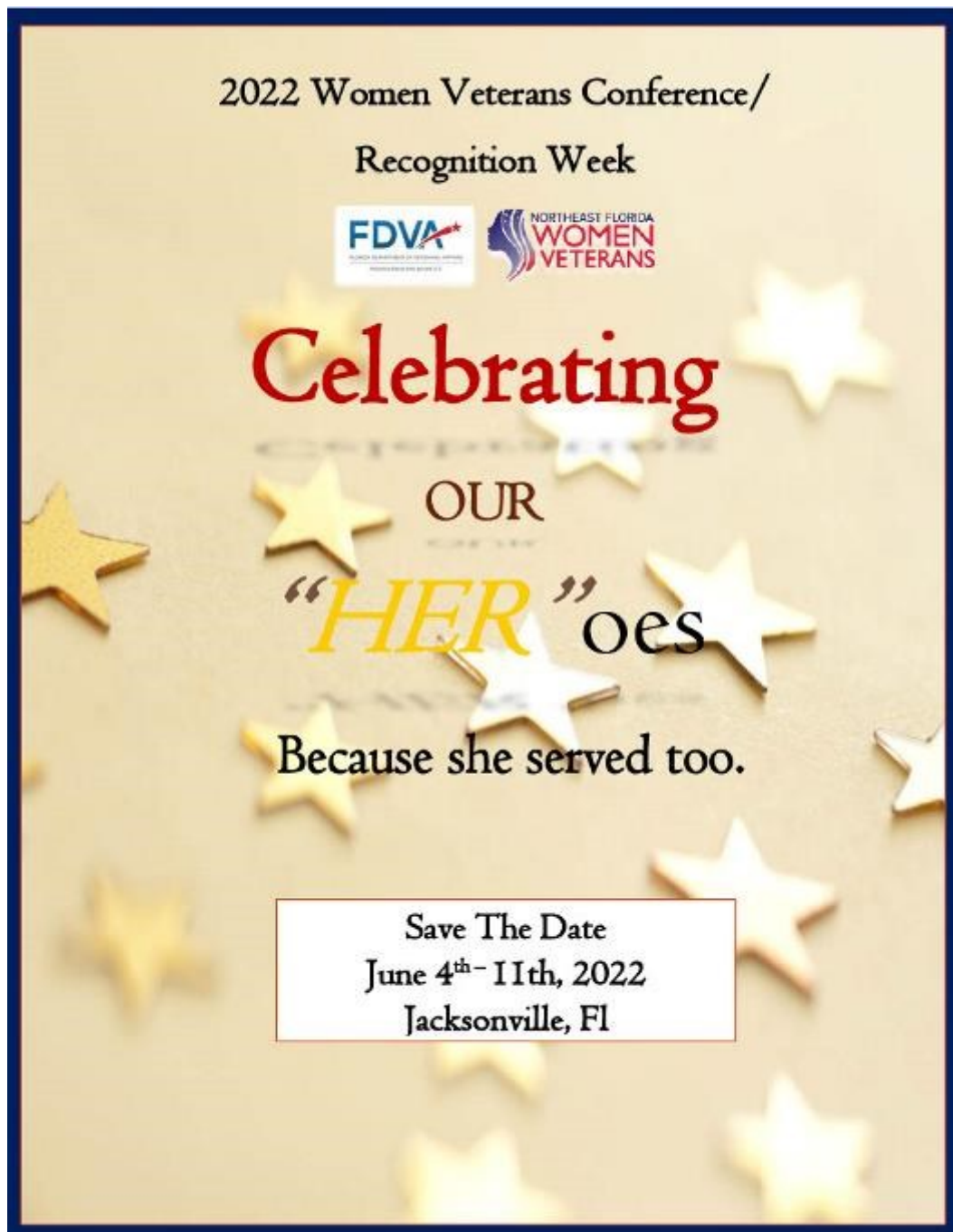
Southbank Hotel | Jacksonville, FL

June 4, 2022 | 8am – 4:30 pm



The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs

Save the Date! Women Veterans' Recognition Week is June 4 – 11. FDVA, in partnership with Northeast Florida Women Veterans, Wounded Warriors, First Watch, Steven A Cohen Military Family Clinic, and the Florida Veterans Foundation, will host a Women Veterans' Conference in Jacksonville. Please stay tuned for more information about this exciting opportunity!



2022 Women Veterans Conference/
Recognition Week

FDVA NORTHEAST FLORIDA
WOMEN
VETERANS

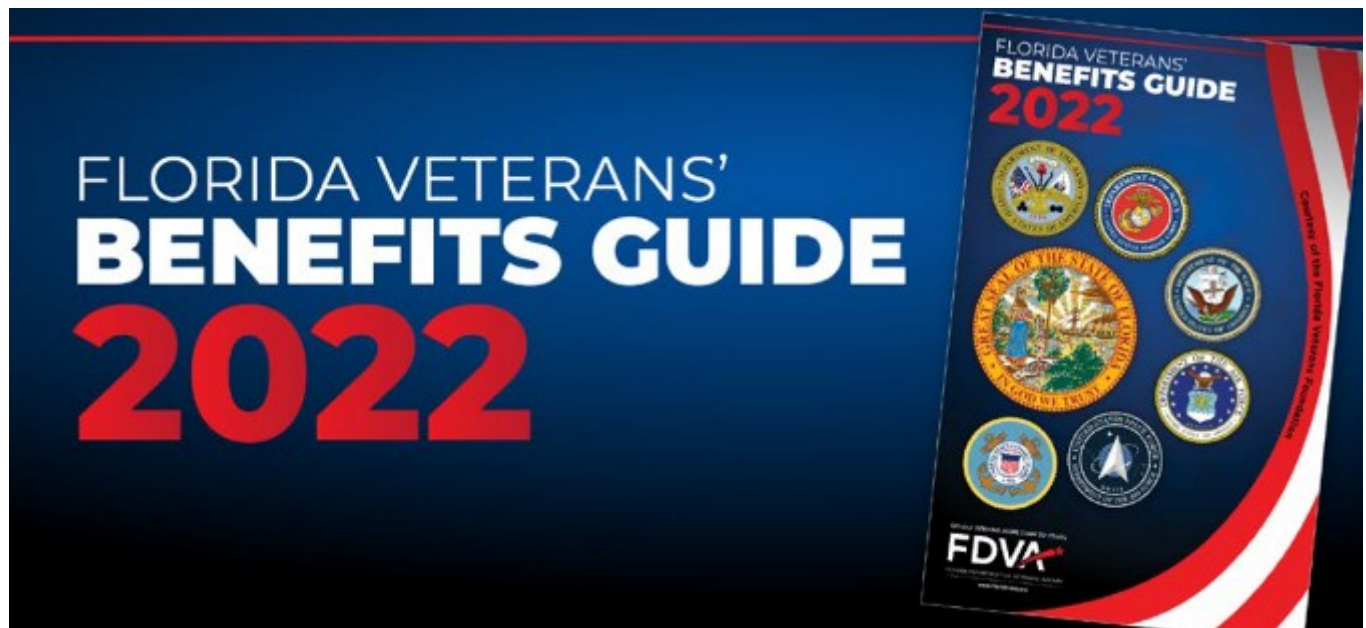
Celebrating
OUR
"HER"oes
Because she served too.

Save The Date
June 4th- 11th, 2022
Jacksonville, FL

The poster features a light beige background with scattered gold stars. At the top, the text reads "2022 Women Veterans Conference/ Recognition Week". Below this are the logos for FDVA (Florida Department of Veterans Affairs) and Northeast Florida Women Veterans. The main title "Celebrating OUR 'HER'oes" is written in a mix of red and gold fonts, with "HER" in a large, stylized gold font. Below the title is the phrase "Because she served too." in a black serif font. At the bottom, a white box with a thin red border contains the text "Save The Date June 4th- 11th, 2022 Jacksonville, FL".

The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs

Have you checked out the new 2022 Florida Veterans' Benefits Guide? It is now available for download. The annual guide helps connect Florida's Veterans and their families with earned federal and state benefits, services and support. It also contains helpful phone numbers and website addresses for additional information. To view online, click here: <https://bit.ly/3BovveB>. To download a copy for your records, click here: <https://bit.ly/3HYgTF0>.





Christine Blakley Collins

I served as a Guardian for the 5/21 Honor Flight to Washington DC, to take 25 Veterans to visit their Campaign Memorials (WWII, Korea & Vietnam), among other humbling & emotional DC Memorials. The youngest Vet on this flight is 71, the eldest 98. They are an amazing group that I very much am looking forward to sharing this journey with.

If you are an Amazon shopper - and haven't a charity chosen for your Amazon Smile Donation - would you consider adding First Coast Honor Flight as your donation beneficiary? It's a simple way to help the First Coast Honor Flight be able to provide "One More Mission"

Here is the link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/84-4667182>

If you aren't familiar with the Honor Flight Network, look them up on the Google Machine.. truly inspiring.

And if you've made it through my whole post and have a suggestion for a truly waterproof mascara - please send it along. Pretty sure 5/21 is going to test even the best mascaras...



FIRST COAST HONOR FLIGHT

Would love to come talk with you!

Can we come speak to your
organization
or church?

We would LOVE to share our
stories with you!

We are a new non-profit
and would love
to come share our goal
of honoring our local Veterans!
First Coast Honor Flight creates a
"once in a lifetime" day
of flying our local Veterans to Washington D.C.
to see our national memorials and
monuments.

Please help us spread the word by
connecting us with your groups!

Contact us at info@firstcoasthonorflight.org
or call 888-400-1185



Here are the 2022 Honor Flight Dates



2022 FCHF Flight Dates

EVENT	DATE
Orientation	Saturday, April 30, 2022
FLIGHT	Saturday, May 21, 2022
Reunion	Saturday, June 11, 2022

EVENT	DATE
Orientation	Saturday, October 1, 2022
FLIGHT	Saturday, October 15, 2022
Reunion	Saturday, November 5, 2022

Dates are subject to change due to airline schedule adjustments and other factors beyond First Coast Honor Flight's control

1/3/22



Sponsorship Levels

First Coast Honor Flight is 100% dependent upon donations from generous people and organizations. Without your support, FCHF would not be able to transport WWII, Korean War, and other Northeast Florida Veterans to Washington, D.C. for a day of honor and remembrance.

Trip Sponsor : \$25,000

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

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

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

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

Contact FCHF @
info@firstcoasthonorflight.org for more
information on sponsorship packages

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



First Coast Honor Flight Donation

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

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

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

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

www.firstcoasthonorflight.org

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

Name of Organization _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____ Email _____

This donation is: In Honor of _____ In Memory of _____

Name _____

Address _____

Veteran? Yes _____ No _____ Relationship _____

Branch _____ Dates Served _____

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

Save the Date



State of Florida
Women Veterans'
Benefits Fair

Monday

June 6, 2022

11 – 7pm

**Active Duty
and
Veterans**



- **Benefits**
- **Employment**
- **Healthcare**
- **Education**
- **Homeless**

SALEM CENTRE
7235 Bonneval Rd
Jacksonville, FL 32256



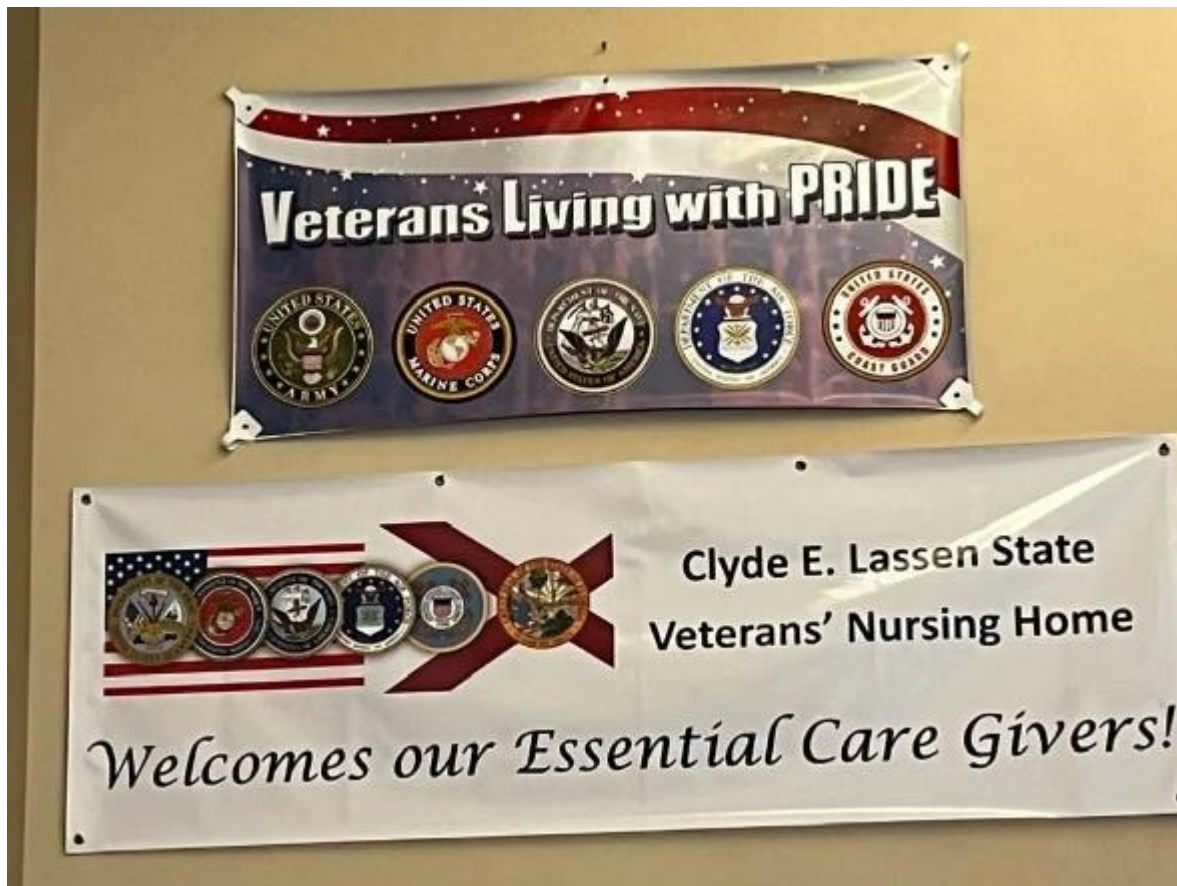
The Steven A. Cohen
Military Family Clinic
at Centerstone

MAKE YOUR APPOINTMENT

@ <http://my-business-102935.square.site/>

www.FloridaVets.org

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





Flag Etiquette

- Never allow the flag to touch the ground or any other object while on display.
- Salute the flag as it is hoisted and lowered, during the playing of the National Anthem and while saying the Pledge of Allegiance. Stand at attention with your right hand over your heart and your hat removed.
- Display the flag outdoors only between sunrise and sunset, unless illuminated by a spotlight.
- When displaying the flag indoors, always position it to the right of a speaker or staging area.
- To place a flag at half-staff, hoist it to the peak for an instant before lowering it to a halfway position.

From the FDVA THEY ARE HIRING!

New health care job opportunities at our State Veterans' Nursing Homes throughout Florida have recently been posted! If you are looking for a fulfilling new role, visit our jobs page to view the available positions. <https://bit.ly/FDVAJobs>

A central graphic of a smartphone displaying the VA logo at the top, the phone number "800-MyVA411 (800) 698-2411", and a numeric keypad with a green call button. Surrounding the phone are ten service categories, each with an icon and a brief description:

- LIVE ASSISTANCE** (Headset icon): General information, directory assistance and technical support for VA.gov
- VA HEALTH CARE** (Medical bag icon): Eligibility, enrollment, locations and COVID-19
- COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE** (Flame icon): MISSION Act eligibility, copayments
- NATIONAL CEMETERIES** (Gravestone icon): Burial benefits, interment scheduling and headstone/Veteran marker
- VETERANS CRISIS LINE** (Star and speech bubbles icon): Immediate connection to caring, qualified responders
- DEBT MANAGEMENT** (Stack of money icon): Debt details, payment options and debtor rights
- FACILITY LOCATOR** (Location pin icon): Locations of medical centers, benefits offices or cemeteries
- BENEFITS ASSISTANCE** (Dollar sign icon): Information about a variety of VA benefits
- HOMELESS VETERANS LINE** (House icon): Information and support for homeless and at-risk callers
- COVID-19 INFORMATION** (Microscope icon): Frequently asked questions and live assistance for COVID-related questions

★ ACTIVE DUTY ★ VETERANS ★ NATIONAL GUARD & RESERVE ★

MILITARY SUPPORT RETREATS

RETREATS FOR COMBAT VETERANS,
AND THEIR PRIMARY SUPPORT PERSON



Marineland
Florida



MAY 19-22

Amelia Island
Florida



JUNE 9-12

Helen
Georgia



JULY 7-10

Lake Chatuge/Hiawasse
Georgia



AUG. 4-7

From Thursday at 5:00pm – Sunday at 2:00pm



★ **RESTORATION** ★ **RECREATION** ★ **RELAXATION** ★

Strengthen and restore connections, enjoy the natural beauty of each location, be inspired by fun outdoor activities, learn about available support resources, and relax while exploring the stress coping concepts of Post Traumatic Growth.

★ Small, friendly group setting ★

★ All accommodations, food, and activities are provided free of charge ★

★ Facilitated by Vets, Licensed Clinicians, and Community Nonprofit Support Organizations ★

Please note: Must be 18 to attend and no childcare is provided. Participants are responsible for travel.

TO LEARN MORE AND TO APPLY VISIT: GRATITUDEAMERICA.ORG/RETREATS



CHRISTOPHER DUKE
770-298-7654
DUKE@GRATITUDEAMERICA.ORG



Please note: the Vietnam and War on Terror Walls will be in St. Augustine on display on Veterans Day, November 11, 2022 at Anastasia Baptist Church in St. Augustine.

Here is the Florida 2022 schedule

FL PGR Vietnam & WoT Wall Schedule

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

Email: fisc@patriotguard.org / 321-689-4699

Updated as of:

01/17/22

Date	Time	Duration	Wall(s)	Location	Comments	
02/19/22	Info forthcoming		WoT	Eustis Area		
02/26/22	0800 - 0830 hrs 0830 - 1100 hrs 1200 - 1600 hrs	Escort Set-up Walls Display & Take-Down	1 day	Vietnam / WoT	The Casements Ormond Beach 25 Riverside Dr. Ormond Beach, FL 32174	Military & First Responder Family Appreciation Expect to escort The Walls to the event from Holly Hill DAV at 0800 hrs.
03/25/22 03/26/22	1400 hrs 0800 hrs	Set up Walls Display Walls	2 Days	Vietnam / WoT	Gator Harley Davidson 1745 US 441 Leesburg, FL 34778	Benefit Active Duty Care Package Program JOBH - Just Our Soldier's Helpers Former USO Ride Overnight secretly provided by Gator Harley
03/28/22 03/31/22	0800 hrs	Set up Vietnam Wall Display & Take Down	3 days	Vietnam	Cape Canaveral National Cemetery 5525 US-1 Mims, FL 32754	National Vietnam War Veterans Day
05/21/22	0900 hrs	Set-UP & Display	1 day	Vietnam / WoT	American Legion Post 10 205 Lake View Dr. Kissimmee, FL 34741	Armed Forces Day Celebration
05/27/22 05/28/22	1400 hrs 1000 - 1600 hrs	Set-Up Display & Take Down	2 days	Vietnam / WoT	Daytona International Speedway 1801 W. International Speedway Blvd Daytona Beach, FL 32114	Heroes Honor Festival Memorial Day Event Vietnam Welcome Home
09/17/22	TBD	Info forthcoming		American Legion Jacksonville, FL.	American Legion Veteran Event	
09/24/22	TBD	Info forthcoming		Remembering Vets Inc. Palm Coast, FL.	Fall Festival	
11/10/22 11/11/22	TBD 0800 - 1100 hrs	Set-up Display	2 Days	Vietnam / WoT	Anastasia Baptist Church 1650 A1A S St. Augustine, FL 32080	Veteran's Day Ceremony Escort from Daytona to St. Augustine



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

From Liberty Life Media

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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





2022 VA DISABILITY PAY RATES



ANNOUNCED 2022 COLA OF 5.9%	DISABILITY RATING									
	10%	20%	30%	40%	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%	100%
Veteran Alone	152.50	301.82	467.02	673.52	958.40	1,213.61	1,530.26	1,778.06	1,998.33	3,331.61
Veteran with Spouse	N/A	N/A	522.46	747.41	1,050.57	1,325.22	1,609.15	1,926.69	2,164.79	3,517.84
Veteran with 1 child only	N/A	N/A	504.45	721.99	1,019.86	1,288.16	1,616.79	1,876.92	2,109.72	3,456.30
Veteran with 1 child and spouse	N/A	N/A	563.76	801.42	1,118.35	1,406.77	1,754.46	2,035.77	2,287.63	3,653.89

ADDITIONAL										
Parent 1 only (not in VA)	N/A	N/A	44.48	59.30	74.13	88.96	103.78	118.71	133.43	149.10
Each additional child under age 18	N/A	N/A	27.53	36.01	45.54	55.07	64.60	73.07	82.60	92.31
Each dependent (spouse and/or child) with Aid and Attendance	N/A	N/A	88.96	118.61	148.26	177.91	208.62	238.28	267.93	298.18
Spouse (married and not remarried)	N/A	N/A	50.83	67.78	85.78	101.66	119.67	136.61	153.56	170.38

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

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

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

Visit: www.thefirewatch.org/watch-standers to learn more.

Thanks!

Nick Howland

Executive Director, The Fire Watch

www.thefirewatch.org

904.525.1761



From Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley

Subject: VA Transportation Assistance

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

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

From Michael Isam

DAV van service to Gainesville returning on a limited basis.

Schedule your seat on the DAV Chapter 6 van.

Contact the VA Clinic at 904-823-2954 and ask for Veterans Van Scheduling.





Legal Aid for Veterans

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

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

1.866.486.6161

Call Today!

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



We Can Help With

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

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

Become a Watch Stander with The Fire Watch



You sacrificed for our country.

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

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

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

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



THE FUTURE OF SENIOR LIVING

165 Silver Lane | St. Augustine, FL 32084 | SilverCreekRetirement.com



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

Assisted Living Facility #12928

Vietnam Veterans of America



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

Chapter/President/email/Location

1046	Tony D'Aleo	adaleo5579@gmail.com; Duval
1048	Bob Adkins	adk123robert@outlook.com
1059	David Treffinger	dtreffinger433@msn.com; Clay
1084	Joan Whitfield	jlwbeach@bellsouth.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.



PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO MEET VETERANS' UNIQUE NEEDS

Advance Care Planning

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

Palliative Care

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

Hospice Care

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

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

Complementary Therapies

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

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

We Need Volunteers

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

WE HONOR VETERANS
Partner

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

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

★ Along with traditional reimbursement for hospice services, we offer payment options to veterans with TRICARE. As with all Community Hospice & Palliative Care patients, we provide care and support to all who need it, regardless of their ability to pay. VET 007 5/20



SURVIVOR OUTREACH SERVICES

Strength
built on
Sacrifice

Your Florida SOS Team

St. Augustine Area

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

Tallahassee Area

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

Orlando Area

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

Tampa Bay Area

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

Miami Area

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

Scholarships & Application Deadlines

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

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

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

Application Deadlines for surviving children

Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation

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

Freedom Alliance

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

Fisher House Foundation/ Heroes Legacy Scholarship

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

Special Ops Warrior Foundation

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

Deadline for multiple relationships

Army Emergency Relief Fund

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

Application Deadlines: For surviving spouses

Aspire

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

National Military Family Association

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

Pat Tillman Foundation

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

Application Deadlines: For surviving siblings

Matthew Freeman Project

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

Deadline for multiple relationships

Folds of Honor

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

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

FLORIDA SURVIVOR OUTREACH SERVICES AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY



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

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



Mission Statement:

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



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

What the Council has done:

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

SA-0003147064-01

Veterans Crisis Line

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

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

STAND BY THEM
Confidential help for Veterans and their families

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE
1-800-273-TALK (8256)
suicidepreventionlifeline.org

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

Military/Veterans Crisis Line

1-800-273-8255

Veterans Crisis Line

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

Confidential chat at MilitaryCrisisLine.net or text 838255

Veterans Councils of Northeast Florida



BAKER COUNTY

President: Larry Porterfield

Meetings:

Second Thursday of each month

Location:

MacClenny Primitive Baptist Church
Fellowship Hall on North Boulevard

Time : 1800 (6pm)

CLAY COUNTY

President: Harry Silvers

Meetings:

First Wednesday of each month

Location:

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

Time: 1400 (2pm)

DUVAL COUNTY

President Steve Spickelmier

Meetings:

Third Tuesday of each month

Location:

American Legion Post 37
Main Building
San Juan Avenue

Tome: 1900 (7 pm)

NASSAU COUNTY

President: Mike Doran

Meetings:

First Thursday of each month

Location:

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

Time: 1900 (7pm)

St. Johns County

President: Bill Dudley

Meetings:

Last Thursday of each month

Location:

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

Time: 1900 (7pm)

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



We are inviting all veterans to visit our website at:

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

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

Please join our group on Facebook at:

<http://veteranscouncilsjc.org>

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

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

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

You may have noticed the Veterans Council's new logo, it was created by Roy Havekost.

He can be contacted at webmaster@veteranscouncilsjc.org

*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 McDermott, SR VSO
Travis Neidig, Assistant VSO
Angela McKenzie, Assistant VSO*

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