



The Patriot Reader Newsletter

P.O. Box 2117

St. Augustine, FL 32085

Bill Dudley, Publisher

Michael Rothfeld, Editor

Volume 12, Issue 6

From Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley

June 2023

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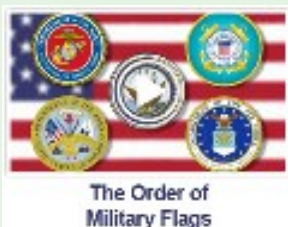
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Fellow Veterans,
This past week, our local MOAA-ACC chapter hosted the Florida Council of Chapters State Convention at the Renaissance Hotel at the WGV. By every measure, it was a huge success. Attendance was up from past years as many of the members were anxious to attend and explore the oldest city. Big shout-out to MOAA -ACC President Ron Birchall and his team for planning and execution of this years outstanding program.

This weekend is Memorial Day weekend. MOAA-ACC and the Veterans Council of St. Johns County will host a Memorial Day service on Monday, 29 May at 10 AM. Our

speaker for this year's ceremony will be Brig. Gen. Sean Boyette, Director of the Joint Staff, Joint Forces Headquarters, Florida National Guard. On Friday, 26 May at 1 PM, we will place the flags at all gravesites in the St. Augustine National Cemetery. Volunteers are always welcome to come out and assist in the placing of flags. Youth groups are especially encouraged to assist in placing flags at each of the gravesites. Please plan to attend our Memorial Day service and bring your family and friends to help honor those who have paid the supreme price for defending this country. Our Veterans Council continues to support our homeless veterans in the area. The demand



continues to grow exponentially as affordable housing in the area becomes more critical. We find more veterans sleeping in their cars these days and in some cases with other family members. Food and clothing parallel the need as well as housing. The Veterans Council continues to pursue a transitory housing location for those in need of shelter. Please remember our fallen comrades this Memorial Day and our Gold Star families.

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

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



Upcoming Speakers

June 29

**Michael Dionian, Volunteering at the Jax Naval Museum,
USS Orleck and**

**Rick McAllister: The Last Patrol: A Pilgrimage of Brotherhood.
Six Vietnam vets making a 500 mile healing pilgrimage on the
ancient Camino de Santiago across Northern Spain.**

July 27

**Roseann Vernon, Atlantic Coast Young Marines and
Erich Saks, Operation Lifeline**

August 31

Lynn Geiser, Hope 4 Veterans



LT Michael P. Murphy Navy SEAL Museum

Thank you Rebecca Lynn of St. Augustine, FL for sharing your sons project. He is our hero!

“My son, Grant, is in the 3rd grade at Ketterlinus Elementary School in St. Augustine, FL and was recently assigned a school project to give a presentation on someone whose life made a difference. He chose to do his project on LT Michael Murphy and I couldn't be more proud of the tribute he paid to a true American hero. I have attached a video of his presentation and speech (he wrote all on his own). I am hoping that you have a way to share it with LT Murphy's family to show them that he is still impacting the world today. -Rebecca Emert”

https://www.facebook.com/groups/972414459473010/?multi_permalinks=6115968821784189&ref=share



Flag Day is celebrated on June 14

In the United States, Flag Day is celebrated on June 14. It commemorates the adoption of the flag of the United States on June 14, 1777,

by resolution of the Second Continental Congress. The Flag Resolution, passed on June 14, 1777, stated: "Resolved, That the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation."

This was the resolution adopted by the Continental Congress on June 14, 1777. The resolution was made following the report of a special committee which had been assigned to suggest the flag's design. A flag of this design was first carried into battle on September 11, 1777, in the Battle of the Brandywine. The American flag was first saluted by foreign naval vessels on February 14, 1778, when the *Ranger*, bearing the Stars and Stripes and under the command of Captain Paul Jones, arrived in a French port. The flag first flew over a foreign territory in early 1778 at Nassau, Bahama Islands, where Americans captured a British fort.

In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation that officially established June 14 as Flag Day; on August 3, 1949, National Flag Day was established by an Act of Congress. Flag Day is not an official federal holiday.

Flag Day, also called National Flag Day, in the United States, a day honoring the national flag, observed on June 14. The holiday commemorates the date in 1777 when the United States approved the design for its first national flag.

According to the U.S. Flag Code, "The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning"

The Korean War Starts June 25, 1950

The Korean War was fought between North Korea and South Korea from 1950 to 1953. The war began on 25 June 1950 when North Korea invaded South Korea following clashes along the border and rebellions in South Korea. North Korea was supported by China and the Soviet Union while South Korea was supported by the United States and allied countries. The fighting ended with an armistice on 27 July 1953.

The fighting ended on 27 July 1953 when the Korean Armistice Agreement was signed. The agreement created the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) to separate North and South Korea, and allowed the return of prisoners. However, no peace treaty was ever signed, and the two Koreas are technically still at war, engaged in a frozen conflict. In April 2018, the leaders of North and South Korea met at the DMZ and agreed to work toward a treaty to end the Korean War formally.

The Veterans Council of St. Johns County, FL in its continual program to record and preserve the stories of local veterans has produced two Korean War Documentaries. Both documentaries have been broadcast on PBS and are in the permanent Korean War Archive at the Truman Library.

Here are links to both documentaries:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mh33aYTHwvg&list=UU5TLKyliWlqXdbKz2vRsXGg>

Korean documentary: "This special documentary created by the students of the Art Institute of Jacksonville spotlights the stories of five First Coast Korean War Veterans, all members of the Jacksonville KWWA chapter 200. Directed by Dr. Nadia Ramoutar, produced by Michael Rothfeld and Bill Dudley for the Veterans Council of St. Johns County."

"Korea: The Forgotten War Remembered", Produced and Directed by Bill Dudley & Michael Rothfeld

https://youtu.be/TUgNf_ryFPY



U.S. Navy vet, wife and service dog gifted mortgage-free home in Jacksonville

Aaron Farrar, Morning Show reporter

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – A U.S. Navy Veteran, his wife, and his service dog got the surprise of a lifetime on Thursday.

Petty Officer John Tappen and his wife, Emily, received a brand-new house in the St. Nicholas neighborhood.

Tappen was chosen to receive a mortgage-free home from K-9s For Warriors, the nation's largest veteran service organization focused on providing highly trained Service Dogs to Warriors.

“Just a few years ago, I was considering suicide,” Tappen said after walking into the first house he’s ever had. “To see this now, and all these people giving me the reason that I am pushing every day to hopefully end veteran suicide, it is giving me a reason to live.”

Tappen graduated from K9s For Warriors three years ago. He served in the Navy for more than four years, including a nine-month combat tour before being discharged in 2011.

The Tappens have been married for nearly two years and moved to northeast Florida from New England.

They told News4JAX the new home is life-changing.

“This is going to give us the opportunity to get out of debt [and] build a future for ourselves,” Emily Tappen said.



Tappen became the fifth veteran to receive a new house from K9s For Warriors.

Carl Cricco, the CEO of K9s For Warriors, said selecting Tappen and K9 Henry was easy.

“They are getting back to a life of dignity and independence,” Cricco said. “They are getting their life back. We are chiseling away at the anxieties that these veterans have to deal with in order for them to have the best chance of having a full and happy life.”

The brand-new house includes three bedrooms, two bathrooms and a garage. JWB Real Estate Capital provided the home.

The company’s president, Alex Sifakis, said the process took about six months from start to finish.

“Homelessness is a huge issue — affordable housing is a huge issue,” Sifakis said. “Giving someone a house can really transform their life.”

Tappen can attest.

“I would never have this without you guys. So, thank you so, so much,” Tappen said to the group of representatives from K9s For Warriors and JWB Real Estate Capital before being given a round of applause. “There is a community out there. For someone who might be suffering, you know what give it another day. Talk to someone. Reach out. People want to help you. This is a part of the reason why if I never reached out, I would never be here, and none of this would’ve ever happened.”

Cricco said K9s for Warriors graduates 16 veterans and K9 teams every month — 12 of them are in Florida and four in Texas.



Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation provides college scholarships and educational counseling to military children, from all branches, who lost a parent in the line of duty.

We cover all college-related costs and there is a big need for our services as the VA does not cover the full cost of college. There is a \$25,000 average gap to cover one student for four years and we need your help.



Scan here to support the children of those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

To mail a contribution, please send checks to:

Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation
ATTN: Courtney Nyren
1818 Library Street, Suite 500
Reston, VA 20190

FALLENPATRIOTS.ORG

Thank you for your support of our mission. CFC #69859



CFP is among top <1% of charities to receive a 100% rating in 2022

Annual D-Day Remembrance Honoring World War II Veterans Hear the story of the Navy Heroes of Normandy

Tuesday, June 6, 2023 - D-Day Anniversary

**5:30 PM Social | 6:00 PM Dinner
| 6:30 PM Presentation**

**Salem Centre Auditorium - 7235
Bentley Road, Jacksonville 32256**



Guests of Honor: CAPT Gregory Streeter, USN, Ret., US Naval Order, Jacksonville, and Floyd Chester “Chet” Galbraith, D-Day Veteran, USN Unsung Heroes

For over 6 decades, there was not a Navy Memorial in Normandy honoring the Navy men and women who gave their last full measure in the climactic World War II D-Day invasion at Normandy, France. Meet the local gentleman who spearheaded the beautiful Navy D-Day Memorial now at Utah Beach, Normandy.

Please invite World War II Veterans you know to come as our guests. Contact beth@wecanbeheroesfoundation.org for the reservation.

**VETERANS COUNCIL OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY
MINUTES OF GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**



APRIL 27, 2023

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Dudley

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS: Chairman Dudley

PLEDGE: Chairman Dudley

INVOCATION: Ray Quinn

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKERS/GUESTS: Chairman Dudley

There were a couple of new attendees at this month's meeting that introduced themselves.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: Minutes of last meeting conducted March 30, 2023, were presented by Chairman Dudley. Copies of the 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 29, 2023, there was a balance of \$156,439.53 and as of date of meeting, with the liquid cash, there is balance of \$159,369.53. That includes the \$145,656.09 invested in the Money Market Fund. There is an available cash total of \$165,369.53. Treasurer Mountcastle went over the amounts spent this past month on various actions to assist our Veterans. The Treasurer's Report was approved by voice vote with no changes.

SPEAKERS:

ZACH PEYTON, WEST POINT SOCIETY OF NORTH FLORIDA

Zach Peyton is the President of the West Point Society of North Florida and spoke to share information about West Point and the local Society. Mr. Peyton graduated from West Point in 2004 and served 5 years in the Army as an Intelligence Officer. Mr. Peyton gave an overview of West Point through a slide presentation. He also provided information on what the Society does for West Point and for the Veterans of North Florida. The main effort as a Society is to support the Admissions Act, to tell the story of West Point and get the young people excited about attending. There is also an active Parent's Club for those who have students attending West Point. Mr. Peyton spoke of the intense process of applying for and being accepted to West Point by those wishing to attend. The Society started the Seminole War event reenactment in 2007 and Col. Joseph Naftzinger spoke of the event and its importance to the St. Augustine area. This year's event will be held on August 11-12, 2023. Col. Naftzinger encouraged everyone to try to attend the event. The floor was opened to questions and answers about the Society and the Seminole War Reenactment.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE UPDATE, JOSEPH MCDERMOTT

Mr. McDermott discussed dealing with Veteran's claims and being able to go into the new system to obtain information on the claim and it helps greatly. Sometimes the Veteran goes outside the system to get help with claims. He also spoke of a new program called VERA (Visitor Engagement Reporting Application) and you can go into the VA system and schedule a virtual appointment. The website address is

vets.forse.com/vavera/s/ - this is going to help to get you into the system faster. Mr. McDermott discussed obtaining the Veteran's Military/Service Medical Records from St. Louis. The VA is attempting to modernize the system to obtain the records. A lot of money is going into the system to get the appeals moving faster. "Predatory attorneys" are going to Veterans to help file claims, but it comes with an "attorney's fee," and it is costing the VA, and the Veteran, lots of money. The new system tries to resolve it at a lower level and keep the attorneys out of the picture. The Veteran Service Officers are going into training on May 4th and will return on May 5th. The floor was open to any questions.

VETERANS TREATMENT COURT, JOHN LESLIE

Mr. Leslie introduced himself, he is the mentor coordinator for the St. Johns County and Putnam County Veterans Treatment Court and how the Court operates. The Veterans Treatment Court is 1/3 of the way through its 7th year. The VTC has inducted 125 veterans into the court, 75 of the veterans have graduated successfully. There are currently 29 in-flow and on the docket. Every two weeks a court is held. All are invited to attend and observe. Unfortunately, there are 21 veterans of the 125 that have not successfully completed the program. The mentor's job is to help the veteran through the program and successfully complete it. There is a minimum requirement of 50 hours of community service. About 6 months ago the Judge charged the VTC to form a committee to have a reunion of the 75 graduates and everyone that works in the VTC system. The floor was then opened for questions and comments regarding the Veterans Treatment Court.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Dudley asked to bring a few things to the Council's attention. The month of May is going to be a very busy month. The Military Officer's Association of America, Ancient City Chapter is very active. The MOAA Convention will be held this year at the World Golf Village, May 18-21st. This is a big opportunity to showcase St. Augustine and to focus on the homeless veterans here in St. Johns County. The Veterans Council and MOAA collaborate on the Memorial Day Service held in St. Augustine at the National Cemetery on May 29th. Everyone is invited to attend the service that will be held at 10 am on Memorial Day.

Donna Boyce spoke of the Legacy Project that will be held at St. Joseph's Academy on Sunday, April 30th. One of the students spoke of his experience interviewing one of our Veterans for the program. Chairman Dudley was interviewed by one of the students and is one of the featured Veterans for this year's program. Everyone is invited to attend at 2:00 pm on April 30th at St. Joseph's Academy.

The floor was open to anyone wanting to make a statement to the Council.

Next Veterans Council meeting will be held on Thursday, May 25th beginning at 7:00pm.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

William Dudley, Chairman

Did you know that the POW/MIA flag was designed in 1970 by a member of the National League of POW/MIA Families? In Northeast Florida!

It has since become an important symbol for our missing service members.

Read the story:

<https://powmiamemorial.org/.../history-of-the-pow-mia-flag/>

<https://powmiamemorial.org/support-the-memorial/>

History of the POW/MIA Flag

In 1970, Mrs. Michael Hoff, an MIA wife and member of the National League of POW/MIA Families, recognized the need for a symbol of our POW/MIAs. Prompted by an article in the Jacksonville, Florida, Times-Union, Mrs. Hoff contacted Norman Rivkees, Vice President of Annin & Company, which had made a banner for the newest member of the United Nations, the People's Republic of China (PRC), as part of their policy to provide flags of all United Nations member states. Mrs. Hoff found Mr. Rivkees very sympathetic to the POW/MIA issue. He and an Annin advertising agency employee, Newt Heisley, designed a flag to represent our missing men.

Following approval by the League's Board of Directors at a meeting held January 22-23, 1972, POW/MIA flags were manufactured for distribution. Wanting the widest possible dissemination and use of this symbol to advocate for improved treatment for and answers on American POW/MIAs, no trade mark or copy



right was sought. As a result, widespread use of the League's POW/MIA flag is not restricted legally. The large volume of commercial production and sales now required to meet demands of federal and state laws does not benefit the League financially, though Annin & Company did contribute a modest amount on one occasion.

On March 9, 1989, an official League flag – flown over the White House on National POW/MIA Recognition Day 1988 – was installed in the US Capitol Rotunda as a result of legislation passed overwhelmingly during the 100th Congress. In a demonstration of bipartisan Congressional support, the leadership of both Houses hosted the installation ceremony, at which League Executive Director Ann Mills-Griffiths delivered remarks representing the POW/MIA families.

Mary Hoff with Mayor Tanzler (holding the flag) and Lynwood Roberts



The League's POW/MIA flag is the only flag ever displayed in the US Capitol Rotunda where it stands as a powerful symbol of America's determination to account for US personnel still missing and unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War. On August 10, 1990, the 101st Congress passed US Public Law 101-355, which recognized the League's POW/MIA flag and designated it "the symbol of our Nation's concern and commitment to resolving as fully as possible the fates of Americans still prisoner, missing and unaccounted for in Southeast Asia, thus ending the uncertainty for their families and the Nation".

The importance of the POW/MIA flag lies in its continued visibility, a constant reminder of the plight of America's UNRETURNED VETERANS. Other than "Old Glory," the League's POW/MIA flag is the only flag ever to fly over the White House, displayed since 1982 in this place of honor on National POW/MIA Recognition Day.

Passage by the 105th Congress of Section 1082 of the 1998 Defense Authorization Act required that the League's POW/MIA flag fly six days each year: Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, National POW/MIA Recognition Day and Veterans Day. It must be displayed at the White House, the US Capitol, the Departments of State, Defense and Veterans Affairs, the headquarters of the Selective Service System, major military installations as designated by the Secretary of Defense, all Federal cemeteries and all offices of the US Postal Service. In addition to the specific dates stipulated, the Department of Veterans Affairs voluntarily displays our POW/MIA flag 24/7. The National Vietnam Veterans, Korean War Veterans and World War II Memorials are now also required by law to display the POW/MIA flag daily. Most State Capitals have adopted similar laws, as have local governments nationwide.

LEAGUE POLICY ON POW/MIA FLAG DISPLAY was adopted at the League's 32nd Annual Meeting in June, 2001. Members present overwhelmingly passed the following resolution: "Be it RESOLVED that the National League of POW/MIA Families strongly recommends that state and municipal entities fly the POW/MIA flag daily to demonstrate continuing commitment to the goal of the fullest possible accounting of all personnel not yet returned to American soil."



Stories of Service

St. Johns County Veterans Oral History Project

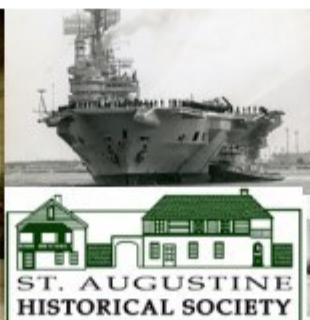


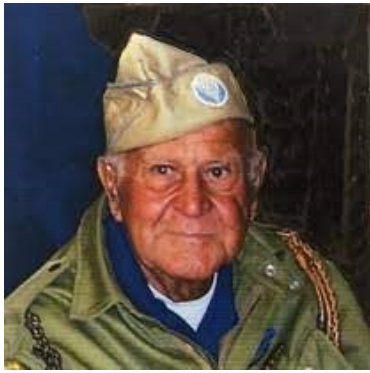
Stories of Service is an oral history project that aims to collect, document, and preserve the stories of local veterans for future generations by conducting audio interviews with them.



If you'd like to learn more about this project, contact Robert Covert:

904-825-2333 ext 203
 robert@sahs1883.com





June 6th, 1944: More than 150,000 Allied troops land on the beaches of Normandy, France, as part of the largest seaborne invasion in history. Known as "D-Day," the name and date loom large in the memory of World War II—perhaps second only to December 7th, 1941.

On D Day this year I remember WW II veteran, D Day paratrooper and neighbor Mario Patruno.

Mario was a quiet, humble man who was to the rest of us who knew him a true American Hero.



There's a scene in the miniseries "Band of Brothers" in which an American paratrooper is seen riding a white horse during the D-Day invasion of France.

That scene may have been inspired by 92-year-old St. Augustine resident Mario Patruno. During the Normandy invasion, Patruno was a 23-year-old paratrooper in Company F of the 506th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division. "Band of Brothers" follows an affiliated unit in the 506th, Company E.

Like many Americans who parachuted into Normandy in the early morning hours of June 6, 1944, Patruno ended up lost, separated from his company. But he was determined to rejoin Company F. To help him accomplish that goal, he "borrowed" a white horse from the occupying German forces.



Patruno's early morning ride is now the subject of a new permanent exhibit at the Military Museum of North Florida, located just south of Green Cove Springs on Florida 16. The exhibit includes a plastic Patruno, dressed in the uniform of a 101st Airborne paratrooper, seated on a white fiberglass horse.

On a recent visit to the museum, Patruno talked about his memories of D-Day. He jumped into France at 1:40 a.m. on June 6. The first American he encountered was a paratrooper who, like Patruno, was separated from his unit, a company in the 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment. Together they set out to find their respective units.

As they headed toward the beaches, they met a group of about 15 men from the 82nd Airborne Division under the command of a lieutenant. The lieutenant ordered them to join his group. But Patruno, determined to find his own unit, slipped away.

In a small village, he stopped a Frenchman who was riding a bicycle to ask for directions. But the Frenchman didn't answer him. Patruno walked away. Then several trucks with Germans in them arrived on the scene. Patruno saw the Frenchman pointing in his direction but the trucks kept going.

Later, Patruno said, he saw the same Frenchman bicycling down the road and shot him. He said he also encountered a German soldier who came at him with a bayonet. Patruno shot him as well.

"I was allergic to bayonets," he quipped.

As he continued in the direction of Vierville-sur-Mer, where he hoped to rendezvous with his unit, he saw a field with five horses in it. There was a stable nearby. There were guards outside two of the entrances to the stable, but a third entrance had been left unguarded. Patruno went into the stable and found a bridle.

"The first horse I saw was this guy," he said, gesturing to the fiberglass model of a horse. "He was gentle and friendly."

Because he was carrying equipment, including a bag of grenades, Patruno wasn't sure how he would get onto the horse. He solved that problem by leading the horse to a watering trough, climbing on the trough and hoisting himself onto the horse's back.

As he headed down the road on horseback, he saw two Germans on a motorcycle.

"One of them waved," Patruno said. "I waved back."

Several miles down the road, he heard the sound of a firefight and rode toward it. He had found Company F.

Seeing Patruno, known to the company as Gus, on horseback, a fellow G.I. called to him, "Hey Gus, there's a war going on."

Reunited with his unit, he joined his sergeant, named Swank, in an assault on a farmhouse held by Germans.

"I was itching to throw a grenade," Patruno said. "So I threw one in the window."

When he and the sergeant entered, the farmhouse appeared to be deserted. The sergeant started to go upstairs but, instead of joining him, Patruno went to the basement. He heard a shot behind him and turned. The sergeant had shot a German who had been hiding under the stairs.

"That's why he was a sergeant, and I was a private," Patruno said. "He went by the book. Always cover your partner."

Two days later, Patruno was hit by shrapnel and suffered burns, leading to his first Purple Heart. He got a second Purple Heart after he was shot in the face in September 1944, during Operation Market Garden, a failed effort to secure a bridgehead across the Rhine River into Germany. That was the last action for Patruno, who now lives with his wife, Ruth, in a St. Augustine retirement home.

On the day Patruno visited the museum, several people came to meet him.

One was C.C. Sprinkle, 91, who was the co-pilot of a B-26 Marauder during World War II and took part in Operation Dragoon, the invasion of South France in August 1944.

Another was Charles Fails, who served with Army Special Forces in the 1970s and 1980s and made 325 parachute jumps.

Fails' son, John, who works at the University of North Florida, served with the 325th Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 82nd Airborne in Iraq in 2003.

MARIO PATRUNO OBITUARY

Mario Joseph Patruno, a WWII Veteran and a “Screaming Eagle” Paratrooper with the 101st Airborne “Soared with the Eagles” March 10, 2015 at the Bailey Center. He was born in 1921 in Holyoke, Massachusetts and would have been 94 years of age on April 8th.

Mario was a member of: St. Pauls Episcopal Church, Federal Point, FL, The 101st Airborne Association, Coquina Crossing Veterans, American Legion Alton Green Memorial Post 194, The Disabled Veterans Association, The Veterans of Foreign Wars, The Purple Association, and 101st Chapters in Jacksonville, FL.

He was with the “F” (Fox) Company of the 506 Parachute Infantry Regiment (PIR) and The 2nd Battalion of the 101st Airborne. A recent book tells the story of the “Fighting Fox Company”: The Battling Flank of the “Band of Brothers”. Mario was among 23,000 Allied Paratroopers that jumped into Normandy on D-Day in 1944, behind enemy lines, to secure the bridges and causeways, the 7,000 ship invasion began at dawn. He was among 40,000 Allied Paratroopers that jumped into Holland, in September of 1944. (The “Market-Garden” Operation) “The Liberation of Holland”. Mario was wounded in Nijmegen and Normandy. He received the following medals: Parachute Wings with two stars, 2 Purple Hearts, Combat Infantry Badge, WWII Victory Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation with Oak Leaf Cluster, Campaign Ribbon with 3 Bronze Stars and 2 Spearheads, French Croix de Guerre and Netherlands Orange Lanyard-Bronze Star Medal.

Mario loved his country, the military, and the American Flag and was proud of his service and uniform. He participated in “Massing of the Colors” on Memorial Day, proudly carrying the 101st banner with his friend, Jim Robinson. Among the highlights of his life, he was greeted by Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands during their 65th Anniversary of Liberation in 2009, and when he and his wife were guests of the Royal Dutch Army in 2014 for the 70th Anniversary of Liberation. Let’s not forget the solider on the white horse on Veteran’s Day at Francis Field in 2011! That was Mario. It was one of the best days of his life.

Cecil Field POW MIA Memorial, Inc.

In 2016, the Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial Museum was formed and received its 501 C3 Tax exempt status from the IRS.

Your support helps us continue to honor our nation's heroes. [#SupportOurMission](#)
[#CecilFieldPOWMIAMemorialMuseum](#)
[#POWMIADayeveryday](#)





LEAVE A LEGACY

at the St Augustine Lighthouse
& Maritime Museum



Military Honor Plaza



Commemorative Brick

\$300

Each brick features 3 lines of 20 characters.

We suggest that the brick include the individual's name, rank and branch of service.

Includes a certificate suitable for framing. We reserve the right to approve any text prior to ordering the brick.

The St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum is proud to announce the opening of the Military Honor Plaza featuring commemorative bricks to honor members of the nation's armed forces. During World War II, the St. Augustine Light Station served as a United States Coast Guard station. Housed in the former Coast Guard Barracks built in 1941, "the Guardians of the First Coast: Building Readiness for World War II" exhibit highlights the history of northeast Florida in the early years of World War II.



Attention Purple Heart recipients & families!

We're thrilled to unveil the 2023 Purple Heart Scholarship Program! Let us help you achieve your dreams of higher education. Don't miss out, apply now before it's too late!



We are proud to announce the opening of the 2023 Purple Heart Scholarship Program! This program gives the Military Order of the Purple Heart the ability to assist Purple Heart recipients and their families with their goals of continued education. If you or a qualifying family member want to apply, please submit quickly.

The Purple Heart Scholarship Program is a very competitive program that awards scholarships to Purple Heart recipients and their spouses, children, and grandchildren each year. At least one applicant with military service will also be awarded a Navy SEAL LT Michael P. Murphy Memorial Scholarship Award.

Scholarship Deadline: July 15, 2023, At 5:00 PM EST

The Purple Heart Scholarship Committee will evaluate all timely received applications and meet the eligibility and application requirements described below. All aspects of the application (academic achievement, extracurricular activities, community, and military service, work experience, letters of recommendation, and essay) are considered and evaluated by the Purple Heart Scholarship Committee. The Purple Heart Scholarship Committee shall make all decisions regarding the eligibility for a Scholarship and a Scholarship award. All decisions by the Purple Heart Scholarship Committee are final.

Not every applicant will receive a scholarship. This is not a full-tuition scholarship. The scholarship amount may vary each year, subject to funding levels. Both the student and the school must endorse Purple Heart Scholarship checks. Therefore, the college or university may exercise some control over how the funds are utilized, which can impact the level of financial benefit realized by the student.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to apply for a Purple Heart Scholarship, applicants need to be a member of one of the following categories:

A Purple Heart recipient who is a Member of the MOPH, or

The spouse of a Purple Heart recipient who is a member of MOPH, or

The direct lineal descendent (child, step-child, adopted child, grandchild, step-grandchild, or great-grandchild) of a Purple Heart recipient who is a Member of MOPH, or

The spouse, widow/widower, or direct lineal descendent as defined above of a service member killed-in-action or who died of wounds. If the Purple Heart recipient is listed as killed-in-action or died of wounds, supporting documentation and evidence must be included with the application.

A Purple Heart recipient who is not a member of the MOPH can become a member by applying online through the MOPH website: www.purpleheart.org. To be eligible to apply for the scholarship, the Purple Heart recipient must be a current member, a member at the time of his or her death, or documented as killed-in-action or has having died of wounds.

A MOPH Associate membership or membership in the MOPH Auxiliary does not by itself convey scholarship eligibility. It is highly recommended that non-Purple Heart recipients become either Associate members or members of the Auxiliary, and such membership does convey additional credit in the application process.

To be eligible to receive a Purple Heart MOPH Scholarship, applicants must meet the following three requirements:

A graduate or upcoming graduate (current senior) of a high school or GED program, and Accepted by or enrolled as a FULL-TIME undergraduate student at an accredited U.S. college, university, or trade school at the time the scholarship is awarded, and

Able to demonstrate the capacity for advanced academic achievement or technical proficiency by maintaining at least a 2.75 cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) based on an un-weighted 4.0 grading system.

For more information, please read the application packet and our website at www.purpleheart.org/ScholarshipProgram.



You've made our country
A BETTER PLACE.

Enjoy your well-earned retirement at Silver Creek.

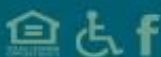
Thank you veterans for your service and sacrifice! At Silver Creek, you can live life as you choose with greater freedom, comfort and independence through the unique living options at our community - including independent concierge living, assisted living, enhanced assisted living and memory care.

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

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



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



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

Assisted Living Facility #12928



Media Contact

Chris Obarski, Dalton

cobarski@daltonagency.com

636.233.0229

Veteran Suicide Rates Drop Dramatically in Northeast Florida

*The Fire Watch's annual statewide report represents
the most current and comprehensive data available*

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. May 3rd, 2023 – According to comprehensive data released today by [The Fire Watch](#), veteran suicides are down by nearly 50 percent in Northeast Florida from 2019 to 2021. Collected by NLP Logix from the Florida Department of Health and the American Community Survey, the report represents the most current data available on the crisis facing Florida veterans. The data was released at the beginning of Military Appreciation Month and Mental Health Awareness Month, both designated in the month of May.

The report details trends both statewide and in Northeast Florida, which is defined in the report as Duval, St. Johns, Clay, Baker, and Nassau counties. Veteran suicides in Northeast Florida dropped from 78 in 2019 to 42 in 2021, representing a 46 percent decrease. During the same period, veteran suicides decreased 4 percent across the entire state of Florida.

“We’re encouraged by the trends we’re seeing in Northeast Florida, where we launched the organization in late 2019. But we recognize there is still a lot of work left to do to eliminate veteran suicide,” said The Fire Watch executive director and U.S. Navy veteran Nick Howland. “At The Fire Watch, we’re committed to collecting this comprehensive data in a manner that accurately reflects the crisis among our veterans in Florida. This data helps us to better plan the implementation of our veteran suicide prevention programs. Our programs are working, and there is a role for everyone to play. Visit our website to learn how you can help us stand watch over the men and women that have served our country. Together, we will end veteran suicide.”

Among the other key findings in the report are:

- An increasing number of female veterans are dying by suicide. Although women represent 10 percent of the overall veteran population in Florida, the suicide rate for female veterans rose significantly in 2021, reaching its highest point over the past 10 years.

In the spring of 2020, The Fire Watch launched its key veteran suicide prevention initiative – the Watch Stander program. To date, 4,000 Floridians have taken our free training to learn to: (1) recognize the signs of veterans in crisis, and (2) connect at-risk veterans to the resources they need. In doing so, these trainees became “Watch Standers.” Of our 4,000 Watch Standers, more than 3,000 live here in Northeast Florida. Our goal is to build our Watch Stander network in those places where Florida’s at-risk veterans live, work, and play.

Thank you again for your partnership. Together, we will end veteran suicide.

Best regards, Nick Howland

Executive Director, The Fire Watch Project, Inc.

www.thefirewatch.org 904.525.1761



- As in previous years, suicide is disproportionately common in Caucasian veterans. However, there was a 3 percent increase in the proportion of minority veteran suicides statewide in 2021.
- The percentage of veteran suicides in Florida involving a firearm increased to 81 percent in 2021. That represents a six-point increase from 2019.

The Fire Watch is striving to reduce veteran suicide in Florida by empowering the community to recognize suicidal behavior in veterans. The nonprofit offers free, suicidal behavior intervention training through its Watch Stander program on its website. The training covers basic military culture and key steps supporters can take to connect veterans with life-saving resources. Currently, 4,000 supporters throughout the state have completed the training (referred to as Watch Standers) with a large majority of them residing in Northeast Florida.

To review the full data report or to register to become a Watch Stander, please visit www.thefirewatch.org

###

About The Fire Watch:

Based in Florida, The Fire Watch is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to ending veteran suicide by raising awareness of the urgent need for intervention. By training community members to recognize suicidal behaviors in veterans, The Fire Watch strives to build a life-saving network of co-workers, family and friends that stands watch over our nation’s heroes and can direct a veteran in need to vital resources and certified mental health professionals. Learn how you can stand watch with us at www.thefirewatch.org.

VETERANS, IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO PREPARE YOUR END-OF-LIFE DOCUMENTS



All forms that are referred to below are available to download on this site:
veteranfacilitator.com

ATTENTION VETERANS, FAMILY MEMBERS, AND CAREGIVERS

“Preparing for death doesn’t have to be a difficult process. However, it’s a part of living. Being proactive and taking the right steps won’t only give you peace of mind at the time of your passing it will ease the minds of your loved ones, especially your spouse. As mentioned, it’s never too early to prepare and assemble important end-of-life documents. Advance-care planning lets loved ones and healthcare providers know your wishes regarding medical care if at any point you’re unable to express your wants.

Without these documents, families of loved ones often experience much anxiety and stress in attempting to make decisions, causing an already difficult time even more difficult.

Putting your affairs in order may not be a priority, but it should be. Having a Legacy Binder, containing these documents stored in one place and within easy reach of your spouse and family members – will help ease the pain.

The first step to receiving assistance and benefits for a veteran’s death is to report it to the appropriate agencies. Social Security can be notified by calling 1-800-772-1213. The Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) can be notified by calling 1-800-538-9552.

FOR THE VETERAN, WHEN DISCUSSING YOUR FINAL WISHES WITH YOUR LOVED ONES DISCUSS YOUR MILITARY SERVICE AND ANY VA DISABILITY RATING INFORMATION WITH YOUR FAMILY AND IF POSSIBLE, LOCATE COPIES OF YOUR MILITARY SEPARATION DOCUMENT(S), SUCH AS YOUR DD214.

USE VA-FORM 21-686C TO DOCUMENT YOU AND YOUR SPOUSE’S MARITAL HISTORIES.

THIS INFORMATION MAY BE NEEDED IF YOUR SPOUSE APPLIES FOR VA BENEFITS AFTER YOUR PASSING. CLICK ON DOWNLOAD ICON TO DOWNLOAD FORM. VISIT: [HTTPS://WWW.VA.GOV/VIEW-CHANGE-DEPENDENTS/](https://www.va.gov/view-change-dependents/)

DISCUSS YOUR FINAL WISHES REGARDING YOUR REMAINS. IF YOU WISH TO BE BURIED IN A NATIONAL CEMETERY AFTER YOUR PASSING, CONSIDER APPLYING NOW FOR PRE-NEED BURIAL ELIGIBILITY.

BE SURE TO COMPLETE AND ANNUALLY REVIEW YOUR LIFE INSURANCE BENEFICIARY DESIGNATION(S), WHICH WILL MAKE IT MUCH EASIER TO FILE A CLAIM AND RECEIVE BENEFITS QUICKLY.

FOR THE VETERAN'S FAMILY, AS THE VETERAN IS APPROACHING END OF LIFE

SPEAK TO THE VETERAN'S DOCTOR ABOUT HOW TO OBTAIN COPIES OF MEDICAL RECORDS BEFORE AND AFTER THE VETERAN'S PASSING, IN CASE THEY MAY BE NEEDED IN THE FUTURE.

USE VA-FORM 21-686C TO DOCUMENT YOU AND YOUR SPOUSE'S MARITAL HISTORIES. THIS INFORMATION MAY BE NEEDED IF YOUR SPOUSE APPLIES FOR VA BENEFITS AFTER YOUR PASSING.

DISCUSS YOUR FINAL WISHES REGARDING YOUR REMAINS. IF YOU WISH TO BE BURIED IN A NATIONAL CEMETERY AFTER YOUR PASSING, CONSIDER APPLYING NOW FOR PRE-NEED BURIAL ELIGIBILITY.

BE SURE TO COMPLETE AND ANNUALLY REVIEW YOUR LIFE INSURANCE BENEFICIARY DESIGNATION(S), WHICH WILL MAKE IT MUCH EASIER TO FILE A CLAIM AND RECEIVE BENEFITS QUICKLY.

END-OF-LIFE DOCUMENTS FOR VETERANS AND FAMILIES

MY RECORD OF PERSONAL AFFAIRS

This form on the website lets you record personal information such as date and place of birth, information about your parents, names of your children, including Date of Birth, and Social Security Numbers. When completing this form, you may want to include other information not shown on this form, when this is the case, download the Notes form shown on this page to record your thoughts and attach it to this document.

YOUR WILL

This form on the website lets you record information regarding your Will. The process begins by asking you if you have a Will or not. This information is followed by Power of Attorney information such as the name of POA, location of the POA, including City, State, Zip Code, marital history. In addition, you may want to include personal information such as the name of your spouse, marriage location, date of marriage for all your marriages. When completing this form may you think may want to include other information shown on this form, when this is the case, download the Notes form shown on this page to record your thoughts and attach it to this document.

MILITARY DOCUMENTS

This form available for free on their website lets you record important information about your military service. Such as the location of your DD214 (separation papers), active and retired military status, funeral and burial arrangements including location, name, address, and phone number of your funeral director, church, clergy, or desired officiant, as well as wishes for interment in a VA National Cemetery, pallbearers, special instructions, and obituary biography. When completing this form you may want to include other information shown on this form, when this is the case, download the Notes form shown on this page to record your thoughts and attach it to this document.

WISHES FOR BURIAL AND FUNERAL SERVICE

This form lets you record important burial and funeral service arrangements. Information may include the name of resting place and phone number, hymns, music, scriptures, poetry, any special requests, flowers, memorials in lieu of flowers, memorial, and remembrances. Additional information may include prepaid burials, plot confirmations, pallbearers, special instructions, and obituary biography. When completing this form you may want to include other information shown on this form, when this is the case, download the notes shown on this page to record your thoughts and attach them to this document.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

This form lets you record additional information such as Advanced Directives, Do Not Resuscitate orders, Living Will/Health Directives, Checklist of Important Documents, and copies of documents that may be needed by the spouse or dependent children such as Death Certificates, Spouse's Birth Certificate, Minor or Adult Birth Certificates. When completing this form you may want to include other information shown on this form, when this is the case, download the notes form shown on this page to record additional information and attach it to this document.

DURABLE POWER OF ATTORNEY

An Advance Directive is a legal form that helps your doctors and loved ones understand your wishes about medical and mental health care and make decisions about your care if you are not able to make decisions for yourself. An Advance Directive is the best way to ensure that your future medical care reflects your wishes. The VA Advance Directive includes sections that allow you to identify the person who would make decisions for you (also called a Health Care Agent) and to specify your treatment preferences. When completing this form, you may want to include other information shown on this form, when this is the case, download the notes form shown on this page to record additional information and attach it to this document.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

When completing this document, you may want to include other information not asked for on this form. When this is the case, record your notes, print, and download additional notes and attach them to the appropriate document. For example, if you are completing Military Documents, and need more information to complete the document, use this form attached or file behind the associated document. Make sure you reference the associated document as shown.



Calling all graduating local Military High School Seniors!

The Military Affairs and Veterans Department along with the Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp would like to celebrate you and your accomplishments by inviting you and a guest to watch your Jumbo Shrimp take on the Memphis Redbirds on June 13 for free!

WHEN: Tuesday, June 13 at 7:05 p.m.

WHERE: 121 Financial Ballpark

THEME: Military High School Senior Appreciation

To get your free tickets, email Tiffany Morales at:

Veteranceservicecale@coj.net before June 6. There are a limited number of tickets available so hurry and claim yours!



SAVE THE DATE

**FRIDAY
15 SEPT 2023
One o'clock**

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



**AMERICAN
LEGION**



**Who Will Dethrone
Three-Time Champion
Tony Johnson**



**"A STRONG WOMAN IS A WOMAN DETERMINED TO DO SOMETHING
OTHERS ARE DETERMINED NOT BE DONE."
- MARGE PIERCY**



3RD ANNUAL HEAR HER VOICE, HEAR OUR VOICES GALA

Join Us For our 3rd Annual Hope4veterans "Hear Her Voice, Hear Our Voice" Gala. Theme this year is Empower, recognize and honor our Shero's Journey.

Palencia Club
600 Palencia Club
St Augustine Florida 32095
6 pm to 9pm

- Help us support Military women and their Families
- Honor, Recognize and empower thru Shero Journeys
- Support military women in need for christmas
- Support Military women in Need for Immediate Funds
- Expand P2P Therapeutic Art Program in Duval, Clay and St John counties
- Expand our household goods and Laptop program

Find more info here: hope4veterans.org/hear-our-voices-gala/



MILITARY SPOUSE HONOREE: SHAULANDA DELANO

"LIFE IS NOT MEASURED BY THE NUMBER OF BREATHS WE TAKE, BUT BY THE MOMENTS THAT TAKE OUR BREATH AWAY."

"I've been supporting my soldier for 23 years. Marriage has been almost 22 of that."

Shaulanda is a spouse to an army soldier who is currently active in the National Guard. She works as a school nurse in a rural area for elementary students. She is a mom to four boys and has a Doberman who think she's a princess.

Please join us in honoring Shaulanda as our Military Hero/Spouse of the month!

MILITARY FAMILY DAY

- April 29th from 10-2
- Register in advance by following this link: <https://bit.ly/h4vbdays>
- You can also register by scanning the QR code below:



ST. AUGUSTINE DAY OF GIVING

We need your help! Please join our campaign and help us reach our goal of \$30,000! We need you to tell your friends and family members about the important work we do and ask them to join us in helping to make a difference.

Get ready to give! On May 3 - 4, visit www.givingday2023.com and make a donation to us and/or to any of the great participating nonprofit organizations in your community. All giving will end at 11:59 AM on May 4, so make sure to get your gift in on time!

Questions? If you have any questions or would like more information, let us know at lgeiser@hope4veterans.org. Thank you in advance for your generosity to our organization!



CONTACT US

- hope4veterans.org
- lgeiser@hope4veterans.org
- (904) 430-2388

VOLUNTEER WITH US!



Volusia County's Veterans Services Division will host its annual Veterans Stand Down from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, June 9, in the Hester Building at the Volusia County Fairgrounds, 3100 E. New York Ave., DeLand.

Veterans and their families may stop by for free clothing, toiletries and haircuts. They can also learn about service dogs, health care resources and housing assistance and speak to representatives from various agencies about benefits and resources. Also, staff from multiple divisions will be present to discuss employment opportunities within Volusia County Government.

In addition to Volusia County Government, agencies that will be onsite include, but are not limited to, the Department of Veteran Affairs, Florida Department of Health-Volusia, CareerSource Flagler Volusia, Daytona State College and Daytona Beach Vets Center.



**VETERANS
STAND DOWN**

**10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Friday, June 9**

- ★ FREE HAIR CUTS
- ★ CLOTHING GIVEAWAYS
- ★ VA BENEFIT INFO
- ★ CAREER RESOURCES
- ★ EDUCATION RESOURCES
- ★ HEALTH CARE INFO

Hester Building
Volusia County Fairgrounds
3100 E. New York Ave., DeLand



Mayor Lenny Curry and the City of Jacksonville Military Affairs and Veterans Department invite you to the 6th Annual

PRESENTING SPONSOR



VyStar
Credit Union

MILITARY SPOUSES NIGHT OUT

JUNE 15, 2023 | 5 - 8 PM

**VYSTAR VETERANS
MEMORIAL ARENA**

300 A PHILIP RANDOLPH BLVD. | JACKSONVILLE, FL 32202

PLEASE VISIT [TINYURL.COM/SPOUSES NIGHT OUT 2023](https://tinyurl.com/spousesnightout2023) TO REGISTER.

FREE PARKING IN LOT Z



Open to U.S. and allied military spouses of active-duty, guard, reserve, and retired service members. Valid ID required. No childcare provided. For more information, call Tiffany Morales at (904) 255-5524 or email tmorales@coj.net.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST. PLEASE CONTACT DISABLED SERVICES AT VM 255-5466, TTY 255-5475, OR EMAIL YOUR REQUEST TO KARAT@COJ.NET.

Florida offers a treasury of World War II museums and sites, both to serious researchers and the casual history buff.

By Jon Wilson

World War II museums, monuments and archives are available around the state. From deep-research repositories to simple roadside markers, floating museums to fighting aircraft, Florida sites provide a picture of a war that claimed an estimated 45 to 60 million lives.

Reflected are stories of an entire world at war, but also of the Sunshine State's role and its heroes.

Several sites are widely known. The **Camp Gordon Johnston Museum in Carrabelle** comes to mind; it is said to be the only Florida museum entirely devoted to World War II.

Well-known as well are the museum and park at **Camp Blanding near Starke, the Jacksonville Naval Air Station's memorial aircraft park and the Pensacola Naval Air Station Museum** with its restored airplanes, movies and a flight simulator. (Note: Admission to the museum is currently limited to Department of Defense ID cardholders and their guests, and veterans with a Veterans Health Identification Card.)

But dozens of lesser-known World War II Museum exhibits, galleries, libraries and memorials are found throughout the state. A good place to find both the high-profile exhibits and the lesser-known spots is the Department of State's Florida's World War II Heritage Trail.

Here's a list of a few of the less obvious opportunities for absorbing World War II history:

In Tampa, the SS American Victory is docked at 708 Channelside Drive. This floating museum is one of 414 Victory ships built to carry cargo. Tours show off much of the original equipment aboard.

In Fort Pierce, the UDT-SEAL Museum is on the site where World War II Navy frogmen trained. It shows off many of the period's artifacts.

In Arcadia, Oak Ridge Cemetery contains the remains of 23 British RAF pilots who died in Florida during training. A ceremony for them is held each Memorial Day. Another memorial honoring British cadets is in Clewiston's Civic Center Park.

In Stuart, The House of Refuge at Gilbert's Bar features a museum with permanent exhibits, photographs and a map identifying American ships sunk by Nazi U-boats. During the war, the site was a naval and Coast Guard base to repel hostile submarines and aircraft.

In Avon Park, a museum in the old Seaboard railway station has World War II scrapbooks, uniforms, photos and artifacts.

In Orlando, a Battle of the Bulge Memorial, downtown at Lake Eola Park, honors participants in the battle, which cost more American lives than any other operation in the war. This unusual memorial has a statue of a victorious soldier on a base with the insignias of the 41 infantry and armored units that took part in the fight. Bulge veterans are recognized with named bricks in a Circle of Honor.

In Altoona, the McTureous Homestead and Museum honors Medal of Honor winner Robert M. McTureous Jr., who was mortally wounded on Okinawa. A genuine Florida hero, McTureous was originally classified 4F but financed two operations to correct a physical problem before he was allowed to join the Marines.

In DeLand, the Naval Air Station Museum features aircraft models and parts, practice bombs, ammunition, historical newspapers, books, photos and a video.

In Monticello, the Ernest “Boots” Thomas memorial honors Thomas, who led the patrol that raised the first (and famously depicted) American flag on Mount Suribachi during the Battle of Iwo Jima.

In Tallahassee, the Institute on World War II and the Human Experience is a researchers’ dream that offers personal diaries, newspapers, photos and other memorabilia relating to the everyday experiences of WWII participants. The Florida State archives also has WWII resources.

In Miami, the HistoryMiami (formerly the Historical Museum of Southern Florida) contains a huge collection of photos, posters and period maps relating to South Florida’s role in the war.

In Miami Beach, the Jewish Museum of Florida has a permanent exhibit entitled “Florida Jews in the Military,” with WWII references.

In Fort Lauderdale, the Naval Air Station was the training site for future President George Herbert Walker Bush, and is best known for being home base for the “Lost Patrol,” five TBM Avengers that, with their pilots, were mysteriously lost on a training run in 1945.



FAMILY & FRIENDS OF THE FALLEN SUPPORT RETREAT

Thurs, June 22nd at 5pm Through
Sun, June 25th at 2pm in Amelia Island, FL

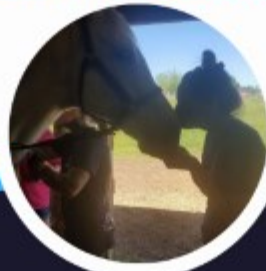
OPEN TO ANYONE WHO HAS BEEN SIGNIFICANTLY IMPACTED BY LOSS OF A LOVED ONE
IN SERVICE TO OUR NATION, REPRESENTING ALL CONFLICTS, ALL BRANCHES OF SERVICE
AND ALL CIRCUMSTANCE OF DEATH. ***No children permitted & childcare not provided.***

No cost to attend.
Lodging, meals, &
activities are provided.
***Cannot assist with
transportation***



GratitudeAmerica

Split focus on nature-
based
recreation &
education via
interactive workshops
& group discussions



Apply at:
gratitudeamerica.org/fallen

CHILD & ADOLESCENT SERVICES

at the Steven A. Cohen
Military Family Clinic at Centerstone



HOW WE CAN HELP

- ★ **CHILD PARENT PSYCHOTHERAPY (CPP)**
For small children that have been through difficult events.
- ★ **PARENT CHILD INTERACTION THERAPY (PCIT)**
For young children experiencing behavioral and/or emotional difficulties.
- ★ **TRAUMA FOCUSED COGNITIVE BEHAVIORAL THERAPY (TF-CBT)**
For children and adolescents who have experienced trauma.
- ★ **CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES**
Supporting young minds to reach their full potential.
- ★ **NURTURING PARENTING**
Helps parents improve relationships with children and gain healthy parenting skills.
- ★ **COMMUNITY ROOM EVENTS**
Regularly scheduled events available to the entire military community.

For a list of upcoming Cohen Clinic at Centerstone groups, workshops & events, please visit:

coheninthecommunity.com

HOW TO GET CONNECTED

The Steven A. Cohen
Military Family Clinic
at Centerstone



VISIT

7011 A. C. Skinner Parkway
Jacksonville, FL 32256



CALL

904-431-3500



LEARN MORE

cohenFL@centerstone.org
centerstone.org/cohen

Contact us to learn more about our care
available in-person or via CVN Telehealth



CENTERSTONE



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Gator Hunts for Heroes




Seeking donors, sponsors, and military or first responder families who have never experienced alligator hunting.

Email Founder@10CANoutdoors.com for more information or visit www.10CAN.us to become a member today.

Phone: 352-219-1138



We invite you to join us for a "Women Veterans Recognition Week" celebration. Attached is a tentative schedule of events and the sponsorship letter. As we draw closer, we will send an updated flyer for the week of events. I hope you will participate!



2023 Women Veterans Week of Recognition
"Continuing the Legacy"
Schedule of Events:

Sunday, June 4, 2023
Honoring Women on the Wall
Candlelight Vigil
Veteran's Memorial Wall
Time: 7:30pm
Also view them at:
[\(68\) 2021 Week of Recognition - Women on the Jacksonville Veterans Memorial Wall - YouTube](#)

Monday, June 5, 2023
Opening Ceremony/Proclamation
City Hall, 117 West Duval Street
TBD

Paint N Sip N Fun
TBD

Tuesday, June 6, 2023
Lunch & Learn "Breaking the Ceilings"
Hosted by Women in Defense
3130 Hartley Road
Time: 11:00am - 1:00pm
Cost: \$25.00
<https://bit.ly/3hA9iW>


Wednesday, June 7, 2023
Women, Wealth & Wine
TBD

Thursday, June 8, 2023
Mental Health Conference
TBD

Friday, June 9, 2023
HerVOICE
TBD

Saturday, June 10, 2023
Women Veterans Recognition Gala
"Continuing the Legacy:"
Guest Speaker: TBD
Time: 6:00 PM, Cost: \$100.00
(Tickets \$120.00 at the door)
Southbank Hotel at Jacksonville Riverwalk
1515 Prudential Dr
Purchase tickets at:
Also, visit the Women Veterans Documentary Display in City Hall, 7-11 June 2021

www.forwomenvets.org



NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS VETERAN HOMEOWNERS SAINT JOHNS COUNTY

FREE HOME REHAB

We believe everyone deserves to live in a healthy home. At Operation Lifeline Inc., we feel particularly indebted to those who served in the Armed Forces and have committed to helping as many struggling veterans as possible. Our program provides home rehabilitation services at no charge to eligible veterans to address accessibility and HUD's Eight Healthy Homes Principles.

QUALIFICATIONS

Participant Eligibility:

- Verifiable veteran status
- Gross income below 80% of the area's median income
- Occupy the property as a principal residence and have proof of ownership
- Be in compliance with any existing mortgage on the property
- Be current with utility accounts and property taxes

Property Eligibility:

- Must be a single-family residence
- Must be the applicant's homestead
- Applicant must own the property by fee simple title
- Must be free of any encumbrances other than a first mortgage
- Located within the unincorporated portion of Saint Johns County or the City of Saint Augustine Beach

* Please review full eligibility criteria on our website *

CONTACT US TODAY

*Funding is Limited and Restricted
to Saint Johns County Homes*

Please visit our website to fill
out an application

WWW.OPLIFELINE.ORG



LIFELINE INC.

* Calling all rental property owners/managers *

SPRING IS HERE, HELP VETS SPRING INTO NEW HOMES

Many Veterans would love a place to call home this season

Our community is working to house Veterans experiencing homelessness in partnership with the US Veterans Administration. Pledge your rental unit to the effort!

We have Veterans connected to rental and move-in assistance, plus supportive services. All they need is a home!

Security deposit assistance and landlord incentives available.



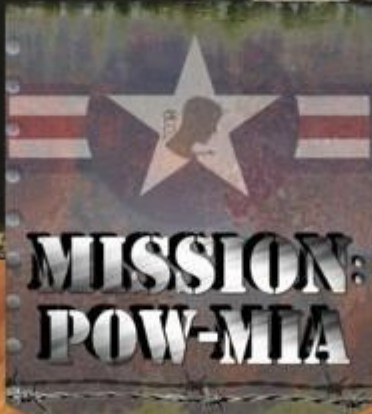
Have a rental?

Email: Charmin.Alston@va.gov

Phone: 904-534-1009



"BRING THEM ALL HOME"



Remember Everyone Deployed

Created by JJ Hoffman

RESERVE COMPONENT TRANSITION ASSISTANCE ADVISORS



Are you a member of a Reserve Component? Have you served 180 or more consecutive days on Title 10? Do you have a service-related injury or health care issue? Perhaps you're about to retire from service and need someone to show you how to get back into the swing of civilian life. Getting to know your Reserve Component Transition Assistance Advisor (RCTAA) means you'll have reliable, professional support when you need it.

I am here to help with the following benefits:

- State and Local Benefits
- VA Assistance for Physical and Mental Health
- Disabled Veterans Program Assistance
- Education and Training Assistance
- Employment Assistance
- Health and Life Insurance
- Financial Assistance
- Legal Assistance
- Relocation Assistance
- Effects of a Career Change

Since 2005, RCTAAs have assisted Reserve Component service members with 180 days or more T-10 AD service obtain their federal benefits and entitlements. You could save an average of:

- Employment Counseling (\$75/hour)
- Health Insurance (\$1430/Service Member)
- Legal Assistance (\$255/hour)
- VHA DAV Benefit Received (\$15,034/Service Member)
- VA Benefit Received (\$5786/Service Member)
- Education Benefits Received (\$15,285/Service Member)

Average benefit per eligible Reserve Component service member across all benefits areas=\$11,970.

If you or someone you know needs assistance with federal benefits and entitlements, don't hesitate to contact me. You can either scan this QR code and fill out the attached form or contact me directly using the information below.



Thank you for serving, now let me serve you.

According to the National Defense Authorization Act 2013, [Reserve Component] transition assistance advisors "serve as points of contact to assist eligible members of the reserve components in accessing benefits and health care furnished under laws administered by the Secretary of Defense and benefits and health care furnished under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs" (Sec. 513).

David "Dave" Kennett

Reserve Component
Transition Assistance Advisor
Federal Contractor
202-987-3864
DKennett@gapsi.com

DIRECTION | BENEFITS | COMPASSION



RESERVE COMPONENT SERVICE MEMBERS AND VETERANS

Do you need direction to your benefits?

RCTAAs provide **DIRECTION** through the maze of programs available to the Reserve Component and connection to earned **BENEFITS** with the **COMPASSION** of someone who knows what it's like to transition.



*Ask your Reserve Component
Transition Assistance Advisor (RCTAA)
to show you the way!*



BENEFITS:

- » State and Local Benefits
- » VA Assistance for Physical and Mental Health
- » Disabled Veterans Program Assistance
- » Education and Training Assistance
- » Employment Assistance
- » Health and Life Insurance
- » Financial Assistance
- » Legal Assistance
- » Relocation Assistance
- » Effects of a Career Change



*This picture might be worth
\$1000 or more in federal
benefits and entitlements!
Enter your contact
information to receive a call
from a RCTAA.*



*Locate your
closest RCTAA
here!*



By law, Transition Assistance Advisors "serve as points of contact to assist eligible members of the Reserve Components in accessing benefits and health care furnished under laws administered by the Secretary of Defense and benefits and health care furnished in the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs" (NDAA, 2013, Sec. 513).

From American Legion 5th District FL

IMPORTANT VETERAN INFORMATION

Every spouse of a veteran should have in his/her personal file the following:

Veteran's Birth Certificate - 3 copies
Spouse's Birth Certificate - 3 copies
Children's Birth Certificate - 3 copies
Certificate of Marriage - 3 copies
Wills (for veteran & spouse) - 2 copies
Spouse's Social Security number
Veteran's Social Security number
Discharge papers - 2 copies
Separation records - 2 copies
V.A. "C" number
G.I. Insurance Policy Number
All Insurance Policies with addresses and numbers. (Originals needed)
Cemetery plot or vault locations and numbers
Death Certificates and divorce decree of all prior marriages (if applicable)

Copies of the following are needed to file a Claim for Death Benefit:

Certificate of Marriage
Birth Certificate of minor children
Death Certificates or divorce decrees of all prior marriages on either side
Service discharge papers
Service separation papers
V.A. "C" number
Social Security number of both parties
V.A. insurance papers
Proof of Death Certificate (minimum 4 copies)
Bills from Funeral Home

ALL originals should be kept in a safety deposit box or equivalent.

NEVER release an ORIGINAL copy.

APPOINT an administrator for minor children.

FURTHER ASSISTANCE: contact your County Veterans' Service Officer



8th Annual



Rocketman Run

Benefiting

Service Dogs for Patriots



September 30th, 2023

Cost
\$20 Per Rider
\$5 Passenger
\$5 Extra Roll

Registration 9:00-11:00 AM
Last Bike Out 11:00 AM
Last Bike In 4:00 PM
Drawings Begin At 5:00 PM
Sanctioned Event

Food
Music
Auctions
Raffles

Start: American Legion Post 250 - Middleburg
1st Stop: VFW Post 1988 - Green Cove Springs
2nd Stop: Orioles Nest - North St. Augustine

3rd Stop: Cheyenne Saloon - East Palatka
4th Stop: Howlin Wolf - Melrose
Final Stop: American Legion Post 250 - Middleburg

★ ACTIVE DUTY ★ VETERANS ★ NATIONAL GUARD & RESERVE ★

MILITARY SUPPORT RETREATS

RETREATS FOR COMBAT VETERANS AND THEIR PRIMARY SUPPORT PERSON



Marineland
Florida



MAY 4-7



Helen
Georgia



JUNE 1-4



Amelia Island
Florida



JULY 6-9



Helen
Georgia



AUG. 17-20

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



KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION



CALLING ALL KOREAN WAR AND KOREAN DEFENSE VETERANS

We invite you to join the KWVA Brotherhood. There are KWVA Chapters throughout America. Go to our KWVA Facebook Page, our KWVA Website at kwva.us or call the KWVA National Office to join the KWVA at **217-345-4414**

Blue Angels Show Schedule 2023

Jacksonville in October

Blue Angels

► 2023 | SHOW SCHEDULE

MARCH

11 | NAF El Centro, CA | NAF El Centro Annual Air Show
18 · 19 | NAS Point Mugu, CA | Point Mugu Air Show
25 · 26 | Barksdale AFB, LA | Defenders of Liberty Air Show

APRIL

1 · 2 | Lakeland, FL | Sun 'n Fun Aerospace Expo
15 · 16 | NAS Key West, FL | Southernmost Air Spectacular
22 · 23 | MCAS Beaufort, SC | MCAS Beaufort Air Show
29 · 30 | Fort Lauderdale, FL | Fort Lauderdale Air Show

MAY

6 · 7 | Corpus Christi, TX | Wings Over South Texas Air Show
13 · 14 | Scott AFB, IL | Scott AFB Air Show
20 · 21 | Seymour Johnson AFB, NC | Wings Over Wayne Air Show
24 | USNA, Annapolis, MD | U.S. Naval Academy Air Show
26 | USNA, Annapolis, MD | U.S. Naval Academy Fly Over
27 · 28 | Long Pond, PA | The Great Pocono Raceway Air Show

JUNE

10 · 11 | Smyrna, TN | The Great Tennessee Air Show
17 · 18 | Columbus, OH | Columbus Air Show

JULY

1 · 2 | Oklahoma City, OK | Tinker AFB Star Spangled Salute
8 | Pensacola Beach, FL | Pensacola Beach Air Show
15 · 16 | Duluth, MN | Duluth Air and Aviation Expo
22 · 23 | Milwaukee, WI | Milwaukee Air and Water Show

AUGUST

5 · 6 | Seattle, WA | Boeing SeaFair Air Show
12 · 13 | Billings, MT | Yellowstone International Air Show
19 · 20 | New Century, KS | KC Air Show
26 · 27 | Lincoln, NE | Guardians of Freedom Air Show

SEPTEMBER

2 · 4 | Toronto, ON, Canada | Canadian International Air Show
16 · 17 | NAS Oceana, VA | NAS Oceana Air Show
23 · 24 | MCAS Miramar, CA | MCAS Miramar Air Show
30 | McMinnville, OR | Oregon International Air Show

OCTOBER

1 | McMinnville, OR | Oregon International Air Show
7 · 8 | San Francisco, CA | San Francisco Fleet Week
14 · 15 | Grand Junction, CO | Grand Junction Air Show
21 · 22 | Jacksonville Beach, FL | Sea and Sky Air Show
28 · 29 | Greenfield, IN | Crossroads Air Show

NOVEMBER

3 · 4 | NAS Pensacola, FL | NAS Pensacola Homecoming Air Show

The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs

Our App got an upgrade! The free App is a quick and easy way to access benefit information, look for available jobs, and connect to the latest news regarding Veterans' issues. Get it now!

<https://app.floridavets.org/>

#FDVA #FLVets

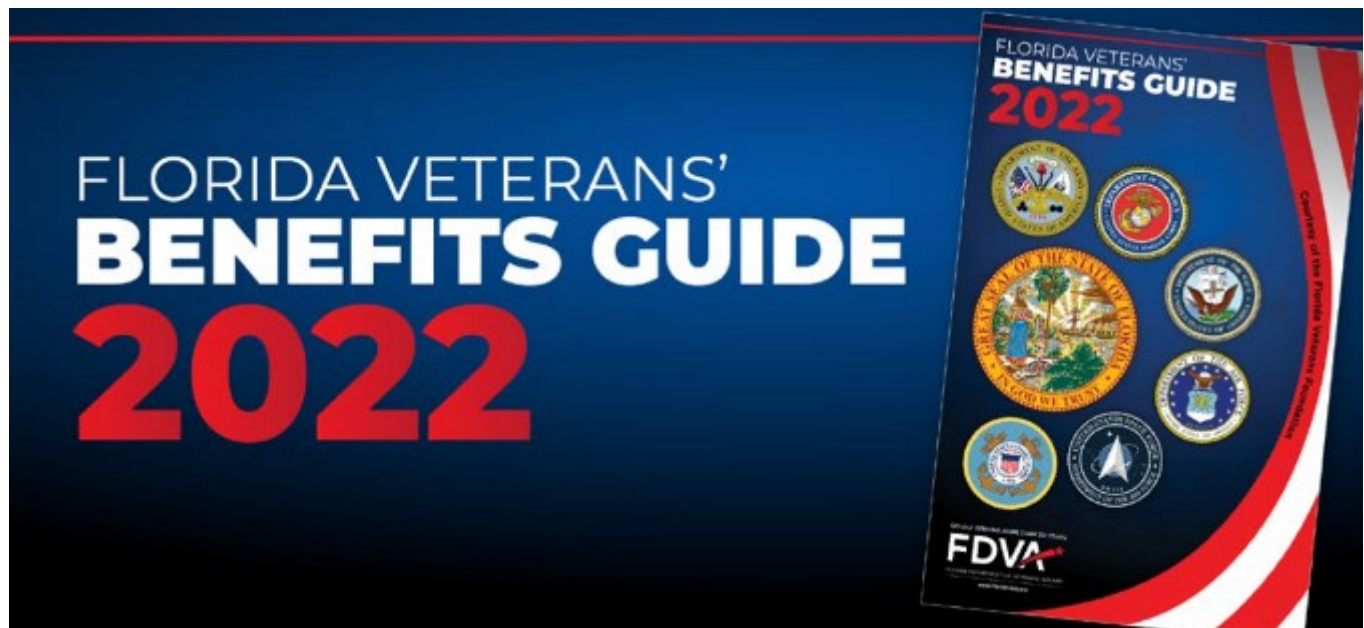
**GET OUR FREE
UPGRADED
APP.**

It won't take
up space on
your phone.



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>.





VA SURVIVOR BENEFITS & THE PACT ACT

ESGR4U

You may be eligible for VA benefits and services after your loved one has passed.



The PACT Act makes it easier for many survivors to receive Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC).

VA will be contacting survivors who were previously denied DIC benefits and may be newly eligible under the PACT Act. You do not need to wait for VA to contact you to submit a claim.

How to Apply for DIC and/or Accrued Benefits

Surviving family members may apply for these benefits using the appropriate VA form on va.gov/family-member-benefits.



Dependency and Indemnity Compensation

Monthly payment for the eligible surviving spouse, dependent children or parent(s) of the Veteran or service member IF Veteran or service member died in the line of duty or due to a service-related injury or illness.



Accrued Benefits

A one-time payment to a surviving spouse, dependent child(ren) or dependent parent(s) of a deceased Veteran based on relationship when the record shows additional benefits (such as VA compensation or pension) due to the Veteran prior to passing.

Additional Survivor Benefits Available:



Burials and Burial Allowance

Burial benefits available include a gravesite in any of our National cemeteries with available space, opening and closing of the grave, perpetual care, a government headstone, marker, or medallion, a burial flag, and a Presidential Memorial Certificate, at no cost. Some survivors may also be eligible for a plot allowance, transportation allowance, and burial allowances based on the service connected disability status of the deceased Veteran.



Final Monthly Payment

If a Veteran who is receiving VA compensation or pension benefits passes away, their last month of benefits can be paid to their surviving spouse.



Home Loan Guaranty

Certificate of Eligibility is available for surviving spouses receiving DIC.



Education and Training

Chapter 35 benefits and Fry Scholarship are the two main GI Bill programs offering educational assistance to survivors and dependents of Veterans who died in the line of duty or as a result of service-related disabilities.



Health Care

Survivors and dependents of Veterans may qualify for health care benefits, such as CHAMPVA.

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Learn more and sign up at [VA.gov/PACT](https://va.gov/PACT)
Download the [VA Health and Benefits App](#)
Call us at 1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411)
Find a VA at [VA.gov/find-locations/](https://va.gov/find-locations/)



LIVE ASSISTANCE
General information, directory assistance and technical support for VA.gov

VA HEALTH CARE
Eligibility, enrollment, locations and COVID-19

COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE
MISSION Act eligibility, copayments

NATIONAL CEMETERIES
Burial benefits, interment scheduling and headstone/Veteran marker

VETERANS CRISIS LINE
Immediate connection to caring, qualified responders

DEBT MANAGEMENT
Debt details, payment options and debtor rights

FACILITY LOCATOR
Locations of medical centers, benefits offices or cemeteries

BENEFITS ASSISTANCE
Information about a variety of VA benefits

HOMELESS VETERANS LINE
Information and support for homeless and at-risk callers

COVID-19 INFORMATION
Frequently asked questions and live assistance for COVID-related questions

FLORIDA SURVIVOR OUTREACH SERVICES AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY



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.



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

The DAV van is now operating 5 days /week!

It will now transport a full capacity of riders.

Schedule your seat on the DAV Chapter 6 van.

It departs from the large parking lot of the clinic at 0600!!!

Contact the VA Clinic at 904-823-2954





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**
FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Become a Watch Stander with The Fire Watch

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	Albert White		Duval
1048	Bob Adkins	adk123robert@outlook.com	
1059	David Treffinger	dtreffinger433@msn.com;	Clay
1084	Ron Howard	ronehoward@gmail.com	
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.

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

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

Meetings:

Third Tuesday of each month

Location:

American Legion Post 37
Main Building
San Juan Avenue

Time: 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 County
Health & Human Services Building,
200 San Sebastian View
Auditorium, 1st floor***

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

(physical location)

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

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

*Service is by appointment.
Phone: 904-209-6160 Fax: 904-209-6161
Joseph McDermott, VSO
Travis Neidig, Assistant VSO
Angela McKenzie, Assistant VSO
Lori Chapman, Assistant VSO
Anna Marie Scott, Office Specialist*

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.