



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 2025

Fellow Veterans,

Our community experienced another incredible Memorial Day service this past Monday. There was an impressive outpouring of citizens from our local community to participate in this year's Memorial Day service hosted by MOAA-ACC and the Veterans Council of St. Johns County. Our guest speaker was General Craig McKinley, USAF (Ret.) Gen. Mckinley delivered a stirring message about all those who have served our country in uniform and gave their last measure in the service to our nation. He cited two names of those who are buried at St. Augustine National Cemetery during his remarks. I was privileged to give the Tribute to a Fallen Comrade written by the late

Sgt. Major Ray Quinn. The massing of the colors, the display of flags that line the Avenue of Flags as well as each headstone that is ornated by an American flag presents a stirring of patriotism. The finale of the 21 gun salute and the playing of echo TAPS is always an emotional moment. The MOAA-ACC and Veterans Council are honored to conduct this ceremony each year to honor those who paid the supreme price for serving our country and to assure their names will never be forgotten.

It was my honor to speak to the Veritas veterans group at

Northrop Grumman Corp. this week at their monthly luncheon meeting. This is a group of veterans employed by NGC that highlights the needs of veterans and assists in the hiring of veterans at this major Defense Contractor. NGC is a good community partner and gives priority to veterans who apply for jobs that possess the needed skillsets. I was given a tour of the NGC production and assembly line and saw first hand the E2D Advanced Hawkeye in various stages of assembly. In addition to aircraft for the U.S. Navy, there were aircraft being assembled for the French and Japanese Navy forces as well. We are fortunate to have one of our



countries' largest Defense Contractors as a community partner.

The Veterans Council will begin planning in the next couple of weeks for this year's Veterans Day program on Nov. 11. As this is the 80th year since the ending of WW II and 50 years since the cessation of fighting in Vietnam, we look forward to honoring all those who served.

Thank you for your service.

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

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



Upcoming Speakers

May 29

Rich Possert, Operation New Uniform
James Smith, Holly Powers, St. Augustine Lighthouse

June 26

Maggie Beckerman, VP/Trainer, K9Line, Inc.
Kelly McDavid, Haven Hospice

July 31

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

August 28

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

September 25

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

October 30

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

November 20

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

December 18

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

<https://youtu.be/SqWUKGdTKpM>



Flag raising ceremony at the new St. Augustine Veterans Village (Home for the Hero's)



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

APRIL 24, 2025

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Dudley

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS: Chairman Dudley

PLEDGE: Chairman Dudley

INVOCATION: Chaplain Jefferson

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

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

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Mountcastle presented April 24, 2025, Treasurer's Report to the Council. The Council's March 26, 2025, liquid cash balance was \$152,026.62. As of April 23, 2025, the Council's total liquid cash balance was \$143,674.18. Treasurer Mountcastle went over the Treasurer's Report including all incoming funds and expenses going out. The floor was open for any questions. The Treasurer's Report was approved by voice vote with no changes.

SPEAKERS:

RON HOWARD, NATIONAL PATHFINDER ASSOCIATION

Mr. Howard introduced himself and he is the Treasurer of the National Pathfinder



Association. US Army Pathfinders are distinguished by the winged torch badge signifying the airborne and aviation along with the torch to light the path. Pathfinders are indelibly linked to the airborne and aviation's historic past from the origins of the airborne forces during WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Gulf War Afghanistan, and all other small unit operations in between. Pathfinders are trained to conduct unit operations to establish drop zone identification, determine the computed air release point (CARP) for both personnel and equipment along with landing zones for airmobile operations. Pathfinders are the eyes and ears of the airborne and aviation units prior to their operational insertion. Mr. Howard gave a slideshow presentation to the council thoroughly detailing Pathfinders and their mode of operation.

The floor was open to questions and answers.

After his presentation was complete, Mr. Howard presented the Pathfinder Challenge Coin to Chairman Dudley.

MATT MILDORF, WARRIOR-SCHOLAR PROJECT

Mr. Mildorf introduced himself and gave a brief history of his background. He is the Outreach Recruiting Manager for the Warrior-Scholar Project. The vision of his organization is to ensure that every degree-seeking enlisted Veteran and transitioning service member succeeds in their pursuit of higher education and beyond. Mr. Mildorf gave a slideshow presentation on the mission and accomplishments of the Project in helping Veterans transition back into the academic community – officially an academic bootcamp. It is an intensive program to help Veterans go back to school.

The floor was open for questions and answers.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Due to time constraints, there were no committee reports given for this meeting.

UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Dudley gave an update on the Veterans Village and the Flag Raising Ceremony that was conducted for the event.

On May 10th at 2:00 pm the ceremony for the Heritage Veterans Program will take place at St. Joseph Academy. Donna Boyce spoke of the Program and the book that will be presented for the Veterans that were interviewed for the publication.

Chairman Dudley reminded everyone of the Memorial Day program that will be held on May 26, 2025, at 10:00 am. Volunteers are needed for the “Flags In” on May 23rd and “Flags Out” on May 27th.

The Ray Quinn Scholarships for this year have been presented to a selected JROTC cadet at St. Augustine and Nease High Schools. The scholarship is in the amount of \$1,000 for each.

Chairman Dudley spoke of the renovation project for the St. Augustine National Cemetery. The Chairman spoke of each renovation aspect of the project. The estimated amount that has been appropriated for the renovation project is in excess of five million dollars. A Fall time period is expected for the project to start.

The floor was open for any new business to be presented by those in attendance.

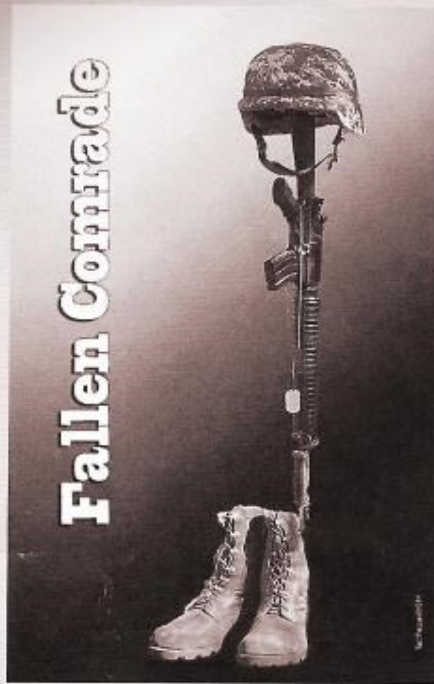
The meeting adjourned at 8:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

William Dudley, Chairman

**Recited by Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley
at the Memorial Day Ceremony at the St Augustine
National Cemetery**

TRIBUTE TO A FALLEN COMRADE



"Today we honor a fallen comrade. Soldiers honor their comrades with only a few time-honored traditions. Of these traditions, one of the most significant is surely the one you see before you today.

I draw your attention to the display you see before you of a soldier's tools. These tools would not be seen in a church, or a synagogue or even the soldier's favorite chapel. This is a scene reserved for a field of battle.

On the field of battle when the sounds have faded and the battle is done, brother must tend to brother, honor and respect the one who has fought the good fight. The soldier's tools of battle are simple and basically remain unchanged through the years. It is unique even to soldiers that the very tools of battle will mark their final resting place.

BOOTS: The boots of our comrade, the boots that carried him so many miles. Boots that carried him through times of joy and pain. The boots that carried him to this, his final resting place.

RIFLE: The rifle symbolizes the firepower of the individual soldier, the burden, the savior and the ultimate weapon to win, to survive. The bayonet is fixed, it is in place for the final fight. Today it symbolically penetrates the sacred soil of the soldier's final resting place. No more will this awesome tool be used to take a life, but now to mark the resting place of this dear comrade.

HELMET: Upon the rifle will rest the helmet of the soldier, that heavy, cursed helmet, that protector of life, that issue gear so valuable yet so miserable. Today it is transformed into a memorial. Not marble or granite, but yet a memorial.

DOG TAGS: Who lies here? What soldier has fallen? The dog tags on the rifle will tell us our comrade lies here.

Now we know our comrade's battle is done. His tools of battle are here. He would never leave them until his battle was done. Rest our comrade, rest."

Sgt. Maj Ray A. Quinn, FLARNG, (Ret).
Registered, U.S. copyright office 11 April, 2005.

Photo montage courtesy of Ted Pappas.

Memorial Day Ceremony at the St Augustine National Cemetery, 2025

Photos by Mark Cubbedge



ST. AUGUSTINE NATIONAL CEMETERY

ST. JOHNS COUNTY MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

MONDAY, MAY 26TH, 2025, 10AM

Join the community as we
honor the Veterans who
passed before us.

Guest speaker:

GEN. CRAIG R. McKINLEY, USAF (Ret.)
Former Chief of the National Guard Bureau

ORGANIZED BY:

MOAA-ANCIENT CITY CHAPTER
AND VETERANS COUNCIL OF
ST. JOHNS COUNTY



*WITH PIPES AND DRUMS, MASSING OF
COLORS, ROLL CALL OF PASSED
VETERANS, WREATH LAYING, RIFLE
SALUTE, AND TAPS.*

104 MARINE ST., PARKING IN FRONT AND BEHIND
ST. FRANCIS BARRACKS

A SPECIAL REMINDER OF THE TRUE MEANING OF MEMORIAL DAY

*Executive Mansion
Washington, Nov. 21, 1864*

To Mrs Bixby, Boston, Mass.

Dear Madam,

I have been shown in the files of the War Department a statement of the Adjutant General of Massachusetts that you are the mother of five sons who have died gloriously on the field of battle. I feel how weak and fruitless must be any word of mine which should attempt to beguile you from the grief of a loss so overwhelming. But I cannot refrain from tendering you the consolation that may be found in the thanks of the republic they died to save. I pray that our Heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom.

Yours very sincerely and respectfully,

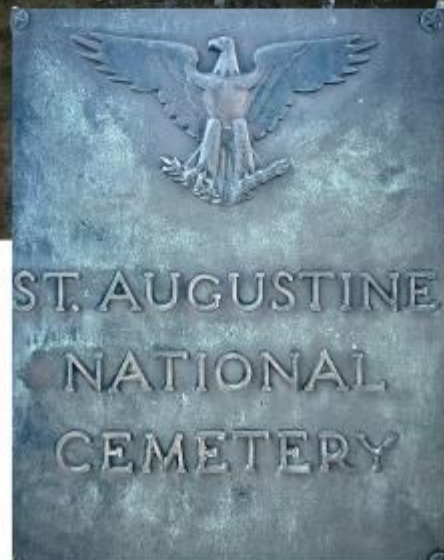
A. Lincoln

Find the cost of freedom
Buried in the ground,
Mother earth will swallow you
Lay your body down.

C,S,N & Y



MEMORIAL DAY
2025



From The St. Johns Citizen

Remembering the life and legacy of the first St. Johns County man to fall in Vietnam



By Selim Algar on May 25, 2025

This Memorial Day, St. Johns County honors Private First Class Leo C. Chase Jr., the first soldier from the area to perish in the Vietnam War.

Born on June 30, 1941, in St. Augustine, the native Floridian grew up in the historically African American community of Lincolnville.

His sister, Carla Chase, remembered her sibling as “a wonderful man. He was kind, gentle,” reflecting the person behind the uniform—a beloved brother and son whose death rocked his distant hometown like a mortar shell.

As the Vietnam War escalated, Chase Jr. enlisted in the U.S. Army. He was assigned as a rifleman with Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, a unit with a long and respected history.

In November 1965, Chase was deployed to South Vietnam and took part in the Battle of Ia Drang Valley, one of the earliest and fiercest battles of the war.

During heavy combat near the Cambodian border on November 15, 1965, PFC Chase was cut down in action at just 23 years old. His death marked the first loss from St. Johns County in Vietnam, bringing the cost of the remote conflict home to the Old City.

Chase’s passing exacted a steep toll on his immediate family and the Lincolnville community. His sister has spoken about the importance of remembering him as more than a soldier as the years pass.

“He was a gentle soul,” she told the St. Augustine Record in 2021. “We want

people in the community to know who he was and to remember his sacrifice.”

In 2021, the St. Augustine VA Clinic was officially named in PFC Leo C. Chase Jr.’s honor. The effort was spurred by former local lawmakers including John Rutherford and Michael Waltz, with support from current Secretary of State Marco Rubio.



The clinic serves thousands of veterans in St. Johns County and surrounding areas, providing care and support as a lasting tribute to Chase and all who served.

The dedication ceremony was a significant moment for Chase’s family and the local community, providing a visible and lasting recognition of his sacrifice.

Three years before his passing, his daughter, Dr. Nathalie Chase Thompson, wrote a comment on an online memorial.

“Leo although I was so young when I lost you, I can still see you standing in the living room door,” she wrote. “Thought you were a giant. The Holy Spirit has called you to be just that to me in my heart. I will forever love you and keep you in my heart.”



Operation Lifeline Inc. is in Green Cove Springs.

What an incredible day in the City of Green Cove Springs!

Today, we cut the ribbon on Clay County's first permanent supportive housing site for veterans—made possible through a powerful partnership with Operation Barnabas Inc. and the support of an amazing community. From the presentation of the colors to heartfelt remarks from our speakers, every moment reflected the mission: dignity, stability, and a fresh start for those who've served.

Thank you to everyone who joined us, supported us, and helped bring this vision to life. This home offers more than just a roof—it provides a foundation for healing and renewal. And it's only the beginning.

Let's keep opening doors!



Joe Shomo

On May 16th, World War II Veteran Joe Shomo passed away. When Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley received the news, he said: "I am very saddened to hear of Joe's passing. Another of our Greatest Generation has marched off for the last roll call".

On September 17th, 2024 Joe was recognized by the St Johns County Board of County Commissioners in a ceremony.

St. Johns County Honors 101-Year-Old World War II Veteran

On Sept. 17, 2024 St. Johns County celebrated the remarkable life and service of Mr. Joe Shomo, a resident of St. Augustine and a World War II veteran, during a recognition ceremony held in the St. Johns County Administration Rotunda.

Mr. Shomo, who turned 101 on Aug. 21, was honored with a ceremony and a Certificate of Recognition presented during the Board of County Commissioners regular meeting. Family, friends, and officials welcomed Mr. Shomo, who was provided a police escort by the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office.

Born in South Fork, Pennsylvania, on Aug. 21, 1923, Mr. Shomo grew up in Derry, Pennsylvania, where he developed a love for baseball and basketball. After graduating high school in 1941, he attended the University of Indiana in Pennsylvania until he was drafted into the U.S. Army on May 24, 1943.

Mr. Shomo underwent basic training and specialized as a T5 radio repairman, serving in various locations, including Fort McClellan, Alabama, and Fort Monmouth, New Jersey. He was deployed to France, where he provided critical radio repair support during the war. Following his honorable discharge on Feb. 9, 1946, he continued his education, earning degrees in education and accounting.

In addition to his military service, Mr. Shomo had a successful career working for several notable companies, including IBM, Trans World Airlines, Mack Trucks, U.S. Steel, and Hamilton Oil. He has lived in cities such as Baltimore, Jacksonville, and Littleton,

Colorado. He married Marcella Shomo on July 21, 1960, and they enjoyed nearly 50 years together before her passing. In 1996, he made St. Augustine his home, where he continues to enjoy retirement.

The ceremony featured remarks from officials, including U.S. Congressman John Rutherford, St. Johns County District 1 Commissioner Christian Whitehurst, St. Johns County Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley, and Ashley Cook, Senior Regional Director for U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio. The St. Augustine High School Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) cadets were also present to honor Mr. Shomo for his dedication to serving our country. St. Johns County extends its heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Shomo for his service and commitment to the nation. His legacy serves as an inspiration to all.

Chairman Dudley with Joe Shomo at the Ceremony



Joe Shomo with his sisters



Joe in Washington, DC 1943

On Friday, May 23rd BG Richard Capps led a Memorial Day Ceremony at Silver Creek, an Assisted Living facility on SR 207 in St Augustine.



BG Capps spoke of the meaning of Memorial Day and Honored the Silver Creek resident Veterans during the Ceremony.

One of the highlights of the talk was the presentation by General Capps of a plaque to Mo Light, a 97 year old World War II Navy Veteran.

It was a great day to be an American as small flags were given to all in attendance and patriotic songs were loudly sung.



BG Capps and
the Silver Creek
veterans



BG Capps pre-
senting WW II
Navy Veteran,
97 year old Mo
Light with a
plaque





St Johns County Parks & Recreation

In April, the county worked with the VA on a weeklong clinic for disabled veterans, including archery, fishing, and pickleball.

Sign up for their newsletter to learn about our own upcoming veterans programs.

sjcparksandrec@sjcfl.us

904-209-0333





SGT Sean Karpf

On June 15, 2012, Army Sergeant Karpf was



serving as an Infantry paratrooper with Company C, 1-508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division in Kandahar, Afghanistan when he was injured in an improvised explosive device (IED) blast. He sustained the loss of his left leg below the knee, back injuries, tinnitus, and traumatic brain injury (TBI).

Sean was airlifted to Landstuhl, Germany, then transported to Walter Reed Medical Center where he underwent more than 20 surgeries on his legs and spent 15 months in rehabilitation.

Owner of “A Leg Up”, the family pressure washing business, Sean and his wife, Brandy, are parents to a daughter, Marissa, and a son, Zachary. A former strength and conditioning coach and Warrior Games medalist, Sean recognizes the limitations in his current home are becoming more challenging as he ages. The inaccessible floor plan requires him to wear his prosthetic when he should be resting and recovering in his wheelchair, and the bathroom forces him to hop on one leg to access the shower.

A specially adapted custom home from Homes For Our Troops with a walkway around the entire house will allow Sean to be in his wheelchair more often, as well as get in and out of the

house safely and easily. The mortgage-free home will provide the opportunity to grow the family business. “This home is opening doors to the future,” he says.

Sean is choosing to remain in Florida where he and Brandy have been raising their children.

Sean would like to express his gratitude to HFOT donors and supporters for their generosity. “This home is not only giving me a new lease on life—it’s giving my family a new chapter that will set us up for a successful future. We are forever grateful.”

Welcome home! Homes For Our Troops presented the keys to Army SGT Sean Karpf's new specially adapted custom home in St. Augustine, FL.



St. Johns County launching program giving veterans access to discounts at restaurants, shops, and more.

ST. JOHNS COUNTY, Fla. – St. Johns County announced Monday that it is launching a new program to honor the brave men and women who have served in the military.



According to the St. Johns County Clerk of Court, the “Salute to Service Program” will connect local veterans to discounts and special offers from participating restaurants, retail shops, service providers, and local attractions.

“Veterans have given so much for our country, and this is one small way we can give something back,” said Brandon J. Patty, St. Johns County Clerk of the Circuit Court and County Comptroller. “The Salute to Service Program not only honors their sacrifice but also strengthens the bond between our veterans and the St. Johns County community.”

To access the program, veterans must record their DD-214 with the Clerk’s Office. Upon filling out the form, they will be issued an ID card that serves as member verification.

The process is free, offered year-round, and veterans typically receive their ID card within seven business days.

Local veteran Robert Shannon expressed his gratitude for the program, noting, “I registered my DD 214 with the county, and it’s readily available. I know where it is all the time.”

Veterans can visit the Richard O. Watson Judicial Center, 4010 Lewis Speedway in St. Augustine, Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. No appointments are needed.

For those who would like to make an appointment, the following locations are accessible:

Julington Creek Annex, 725 Flora Branch Boulevard, open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday

Ponte Vedra Beach Annex, 151 Sawgrass Corners Drive, open Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Additionally, the following businesses in St. Johns County are participating in the Salute to Service Program:

**Adventure Boat Tours Alligator Farm Anastasia Watersports
Ancient City Tours Black Raven Adventures Brusters Ice Cream
Brian Walker Fishing Charters Castillo de San Marcos National Monument
City Gate Spirits Distillery Classic Car Museum Colonial Quarter
Cruisin'Tikis Fountain of Youth Ghost Tours Lightner Museum
Lincolnvile Museum Local Refillery Marineland Dolphin Adventure
Oldest Wooden School House Red Boat Tours Red Express Tours
Ripleys Sabrage St. Augustine Schooner Freedom Charters
Sea Serpent Tours See America Tours Spanish Military Hospital Museum
St. Augustine Aquarium St. Augustine Boat Tours St. Augustine City Walks
St. Augustine Experiences St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum
St. Augustine Pirate & Treasure Museum St. Augustine Sailing
St. Augustine Scenic Cruise The Tasting Tours Villa Zorayda Museum
Witty Whisker Cat Café Ximenez-Fatio House Museum**

For more information about the Salute to Service Program, visit stjohnsclerk.com/salute-to-service-program/ or contact the office at (904) 819-3600.

Navy Wives Club of America #300 Jacksonville

The NWCA # 300 I attended the Jacksonville Ladies meeting. We stand to witness and to join in the final tribute to the veterans and their families that are buried the Jacksonville National Cemetery.



After our training meeting, Gold Star parents Dave & Monica joined us in placing flowers on the Graves the 16 Veterans Killed In Action from all the Wars as well as NWCA #300 members, family and friends.

Then we went to Dave and Monica's son Timmy's grave site at the Arlington Park cemetery to continue laying flowers for our Hero and Veterans in preparation for Memorial Day.

The Navy Wives Clubs of America, Inc. (NWCA) is our Country's only non-profit national organization of Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard enlisted spouses. We were incorporated on June 3, 1936, in Long Beach, California and have chartered clubs throughout the United States. NWCA received a Federal Charter from the United States Congress in October 1984. The purpose of NWCA is to unite all sea service enlisted spouses into bonds of mutual friendship, assistance and welfare for their families, bases and communities in which they live.



Military Ball Raises Funds to Support Local JROTC Programs

By Christina Swanson, Liberty Life Media

The first Military Officers Association of America Ancient City Chapter (MOAA-ACC) Saint Augustine Military Ball, hosted and coordinated by the Ancient City Chapter, took place recently to celebrate service and raise funds to support future military leaders. Although the ACC has helped coordinate this event for many years, this was the first year they hosted the black-tie affair that supports local JROTC and Sea Cadet programs.

More than 130 supported the event with attendees throughout the community including retired veterans from every branch of service, local citizens who support the organization, and St. Augustine Sheriff Robert Hardwick.

Each year, a community veteran is honored during the event with Circuit Judge Howard O. McGillin, Jr., receiving this year's honors. Judge McGillin served for 24 years in the U.S. Army, including 15 years as a lawyer, retiring as a colonel. Currently on the Seventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, he presides over a Unified Family Court Division and Veterans



MOAA-ACC President Sarah McLevy, Lt. Col. (Ret) presents the Outstanding Military Achievement Award to Circuit Judge Howard O. McGillin, Jr., Col. (Ret) at the recent annual officer's military ball that brings together all services.

Treatment Court at the Richard O. Watson Judicial Center in St. Augustine. He was instrumental in establishing the Veterans Treatment Court, and in April they graduated their 100th graduate.

Current MOAA-ACC President, Sarah McLevy, Lt. Col. (ret), was excited to have such a diverse group of supporters for this year's ball. "Every branch

of service was represented so when we toasted the event, someone from each branch participated,” said McLevy. McLevy served 33 years in the Army with 24 years in the Florida National Guard.

Since next year is the 250th anniversary of the start of the American Revolution, McLevy chose the ball’s theme as Future Leaders of America, to focus on our founding fathers as well as support future leaders in local Junior ROTC Cadet programs. Funds raised will be distributed to the three programs the ACC supports which are the Army JROTC at St. Augustine High School, the Navy program at Nease High School and the Air Force program at Bartram High School, as well as the St. Augustine Sea Cadets Battalion (for younger kids). During the program, teachers from these JROTC programs talked about how they were going to use the funds.

The MOAA-ACC is a non-profit organization dedicated to serving the St. Augustine and St. Johns County military communities, as well as local community residents. The MOAA-ACC, formed in 1998, currently has 104 members and welcomes veteran officers to join. “Our purpose is to educate and provide opportunities in our area to honor our veterans, as we do with our Veterans Day and Memorial Day programs, and help with veterans’ causes to ensure they are getting all their benefits,” said McLevy.

They meet the 3rd Wednesday of the month at the St Francis Barracks Officers Club in St. Augustine. For more information, visit the website at www.moaa-acc.org.

Florida Veterans' History Program

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

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

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

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





2025 WOMEN VETERANS WEEK OF RECOGNITION

"Igniting the Light in You"

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS



Sunday, June 8, 2025

Church Fellowship
The Bethel Church
215 Bethel Baptist Street, 32202
9:30 am

"Women Who Rock" Awards
Tea Party
Brick & Beam
1101 N Main Street, 32206
4:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Cost: \$10.00 - \$20.00

Monday, June 9, 2025

Opening Ceremony/Proclamation
City Hall Atrium
117 West Duval Street, 32202
10:00 am

Tuesday, June 10, 2025

Mental Health Summit For Professionals
Salem Center
7235 Bonneval Road, 32256
9:00 am - 1:00pm

Wednesday, June 11, 2025

Lunch and Learn
"Trauma to Triumph on the Pages"
The River Club, Ortega Room
1 Independent Drive, 32202
11:00 am - 1:00 pm
Cost: \$20.00

Thursday, June 12, 2025

VA Women Veterans Appreciation
Jacksonville North OPC, 2nd Floor
145 Heron Bay Road, 32218
10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Women Veteran Recognition Celebration
USS Orleck, 610 E Bay Street, 32202, Old Shipyard: Pier 1
Speaker: Col (ret) Eries Mentzer
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Friday, June 13, 2025

VSO Forum
Wounded Warrior Project
4899 Belfort Road, 32256
9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Saturday, June 14, 2025

Women Veterans Recognition Gala
Guest Speaker: Ann-Marie Knight, Vice President,
Community Engagement, UF Health

Southbank Hotel at Jacksonville Riverwalk
1515 Prudential Dr, 32207
Reception at 6:00 pm • Program at 6:30 pm
Cost: \$100.00 | \$120.00 after June 1, 2025

Other Events:

June 8-13: Women Veterans Documentary Display in City
Hall during business hours
HerVOICE video on [YouTube](#)
Honoring Women on the Wall on [YouTube](#)



Scan the QR code or use the link to register:
<https://bit.ly/2025wor>

Florida Blue 
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Flag Day June 14

Flag Day, celebrated annually on June 14th in the United States, commemorates the adoption of the United States flag on June 14, 1777, by the Second Continental Congress. It's a day to honor and celebrate the nation's flag, which represents freedom, liberty, and unity.

Here's a more detailed look at Flag Day:

1. Historical Significance:

The resolution of the Continental Congress on June 14, 1777, officially adopted the design for the United States flag.

The flag, often referred to as the "Stars and Stripes," became a symbol of American independence and national identity.

2. National Observance:

Flag Day was first formally recognized by President Woodrow Wilson in 1916.

In 1949, Congress officially established June 14 as National Flag Day.

3. How it's Celebrated:

Flag Day is typically celebrated with parades, essay contests, ceremonies, and other patriotic events.

Many people display the flag in front of their homes or businesses, and some schools and organizations host special events.

4. Flag Etiquette:

On Flag Day, it's customary to raise the flag briskly and lower it ceremoniously.

The flag should never touch the ground, and it should be displayed proudly and respectfully.

New clinic opens in New Jacksonville treating first responders and veterans with brain conditions *by Drew Dixon*

Similar clinics have already opened in Orlando, Miami and Tampa.

U.S. military veterans and first responders in the Jacksonville area now have a new location for free access to a new program that provides Electroencephalogram Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (eTMS), which helps people recover from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and other mental health conditions.



eTMS Florida opened a new clinic Tuesday at 4651 Salisbury Road in Jacksonville, joining a growing statewide network of locations.

The business opened its second location in Tampa in February to help front-line public servants and U.S. military veterans with access to equipment designed to ease brain trauma and associated conditions. There are also locations in Miami and Orlando.

The Jacksonville location has already had some first responders and veterans use the facility ahead of its official opening.

“Before eTMS therapy, I felt physically present but mentally stuck in a fog. Now, it’s like a veil has been lifted,” said Kayleigh Marano, former EMT and firefighter at the Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department. “The treatment has had a calming effect on both my mind and nervous system. I feel more grounded, clear-headed and fully in control.”

The eTMS treatment is a primarily non-invasive brain stimulation used to ease mental health conditions such as PTSD, traumatic brain injuries, anxiety and sleep disorders. Among professionals, the treatment is seen as effective in easing depression.

The treatment sessions last about 15 minutes. Many conditions require up to 20 treatments produce a full benefit. There are similar facilities in Miami, and Orlando, and a previous location in Jacksonville. Those seeking treatment must have valid identification and proof of service at their appointments.

In addition to the brain stimulation procedures, patients can access group therapy, neurophysiological monitoring, and long-term resources. The eTMS facilities in Florida are operated by JLC-FL and have served about 1,000 military personnel over the past five years.

ST. AUGUSTINE VFW POST 2391



ANNOUNCES

THE FIRST ANNUAL
VETERANS DAY PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

CONTEST & IMAGE THEME:

THE VETERAN AND THE AMERICAN FLAG



sample image not in contest

Open to EVERYONE

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

JPG entries

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

DETAILS on FaceBook site: VETERANS DAY PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Questions: Rick McAllister, fotowurks@aol.com

A SPECIAL THANKS to:

First City Honor Guard

Chelsea Cornelius, St. Johns Culture Council

Terry Bottom and the St. Augustine Camera Club

Recently Timberlin Creek Elementary proudly honored military families with a special appreciation breakfast! It was a heartfelt morning filled with gratitude for the strength, sacrifice, and support these families bring to our school community. Thank you for your service!



At 5 Star Veterans Center, Jacksonville

We're thrilled to announce a fantastic donation from our friends at Home Depot! Today, they generously provided brand new patio furniture for the back seating areas here at Five Star Veterans Center. This thoughtful contribution will significantly enhance the comfort and appeal of our outdoor spaces, providing our veterans with a more relaxing and inviting environment to socialize, unwind, and enjoy the fresh air. We extend a huge thank you to Home Depot for their commitment to supporting our veterans and improving their quality of life. Their generosity is truly appreciated!



To All St Johns County First Responders and Service Organizations

We were disappointed that we found it appropriate to postpone the Joint Flag Retirement Ceremony this past April, however, there were significant public conflicts that weekend and we recognize that puts a burden on all three of your organizations.

We have rescheduled the ceremony for Saturday, October 18 and hope that works for everyone; if not please let me know. We opted to stay away from the summer months as the seasonal temperatures, when combined with the 1,300+ degrees coming out of the retirement barrels, makes for some very uncomfortable time. Traditionally, we start the ceremony much earlier in the morning just to find a little relief. October should be a little more comfortable.

As originally scheduled, we will start at 9:00am with an arrival/set-up time at 8:30am. Following the ceremony, we would again hope you will join us for breakfast that morning.

On behalf of my fellow honor guard brothers and sisters, and the members of VFW Post 2391, we thank you all for your service to our community. It will be our honor to share a little time with you during the Flag Retirement Ceremony.

I'm not sure where they are all coming from but the number of flags being retired is a little overwhelming. So far this year:

January: 1,650 flags

February: 750 flags

March: 620 flags

April: 2,025 flags

The St. Johns County VA Council cleaned out the flag storage at the St. Augustine National Cemetery the other day so this month will see us retire over 2,000 small cemetery flags in addition to our regular monthly drop-offs. With the increased exposure of this event, we are now receiving flags from other communities in Florida as well as a few from outside the State.

Rick McAllister, VFW Life Member

First City Honor Guard, Vietnam Combat Veteran (101st Airborne Division)



The Vietnam Wall

Beside each name on The Wall is a symbol designating status. The diamond symbol denotes that the service member is known dead or presumed dead. The cross symbol denotes that the service member was missing or prisoner status when The Wall was built in 1982 and remains unaccounted for today. When a service member is repatriated, the diamond is superimposed over the cross.



66 flags are displayed at the TAPS monument in Green Cove Springs in honor of the combat veterans from Clay County who paid the ultimate price for our freedom. There will be a brief ceremony on Monday at 9 am to pay tribute to these veterans. Let us never forget..... please join us. Hosted by the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1059.



VA's online legacy project adds names of 210,000 vets lost overseas

By Leo Shane III, May 8, 2025

As the nation celebrates the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe, Veterans Affairs officials have added about 210,000 names of veterans killed or lost overseas — including about 93,000 WWII veterans — to the department's expanding online memorial project.

The Veterans Legacy Memorial was launched in 2019 and creates websites recognizing the lives of deceased veterans, allowing relatives to update the online memorials with details for their service, post-military work and family history.

The scope of the project now includes more than 10 million names and has roughly doubled in the last two years, with the addition of millions of veterans buried in private cemeteries worldwide to existing lists of individuals interred at VA and military sites.

The American Legion Legacy Scholarship provides financial aid to eligible post-9/11 children of the fallen and disabled for higher learning.

The American Legion Legacy Scholarship is awarding over \$1.7 million to 559 military children for higher learning, a record amount for both in its 23-year history. Americanism Commission Chairman Mark Avis announced this significant achievement to members of the National Executive Committee gathered at National Headquarters on May 7 for the annual Spring Meetings.



Eligible recipients of the scholarship are children of veterans who died on active duty since Sept. 11, 2001, or children of post-9/11 veterans who have a combined Department of Veterans Affairs disability rating of 50 percent or higher. The needs-based scholarship supports the expense of graduate or post-graduate tuition, books, room and board, meal plans and other supplies. The grant amount each scholarship recipient receives is based on his or her financial need after all federal and state aid is exhausted. Legacy Scholarship recipients have a year to use the grant, and those eligible can reapply up to six times.

For the 2025 scholarship, 724 completed the application, with 559 demonstrating a financial need.

Past Legacy Scholarship recipient Colton Clay of Colorado Springs, Colo., said, "This scholarship is special because it helps honor my dad and his service and sacrifices that he's made. It's awesome that I'm able to represent him going forward through this scholarship. I want to say thank you to The American Legion. I really am appreciative of this opportunity and the support, and the belief that I can go on and do good things."

Since its inception in 2002, The American Legion Legacy Scholarship has provided 1,331 military children of fallen and disabled post-9/11 veterans over \$7 million in aid for higher learning. The 2026 American Legion Legacy Scholarship application will open Jan. 1, 2026. [Learn more here.](#)



MILITARY SUPPORT RETREATS

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

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

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

Banning Mills, GA: June 19th - 22nd

Sarasota, FL: July 10th - 13th

Amelia Island, FL: Aug 7th - 10th

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

★ To apply to attend, visit our website at ★

GratitudeAmerica.org/retreats

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

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

Our Military Support Retreat (MSR) has 2 focuses:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Please join us for our annual Operation Salute: Back to School Military Appreciation Bash on July 26th at 7 First Coast YMCA locations! In effort to thank our military families for your service, we hope you will join this event to get a kick start on next school year! Register today by clicking on the QR code below. We hope to see you there!



the Y
YMCA

OFFICIAL MILITARY OUTREACH PARTNER:

VyStar
Credit Union

MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY

**BACK-TO-SCHOOL
BASH!**

UNITED STATES ARMY
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
UNITED STATES NAVY
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD
UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE

**Saturday, July 26, 2025
10:00am – 12:00pm**

We invite all actively serving military members, veterans and their families to visit one of the listed locations to meet local vendors, participate in fun activities and pick up a backpack full of supplies for the new school year! You do so much to keep our country safe – let us give back to you.

The First Coast YMCA thanks you for your service to our country!

*Military member must be parent/legal guardian of dependents. Please email nshavers@fcymca.org with questions.

 Register by scanning the QR code, using the link below or texting **YMCAMILITARY25** to **41444** to RSVP for the event and reserve your child's backpack. isfn.us/form/k0xWkg

LOCATIONS:

Barco-Newton Family YMCA
2075 Town Center Blvd. | Fleming Island, FL 32003

Brooks Family YMCA
10423 Centurion Parkway N. | Jacksonville, FL 32256

Williams Family YMCA
10415 San Jose Blvd | Jacksonville, FL 32257

Winston Family YMCA
221 Riverside Ave. | Jacksonville, FL 32202

YMCA at Baptist North
11236 Baptist Health Drive | Jacksonville, FL 32218

YMCA at Flagler Health+ Village
98 Turin Terrace | St. Augustine, FL 32092

YMCA at Wildlight
251 Breezeway St., Suite 120 | Yulee, FL 32097

BOLDLY SERVING MORE THAN 35 YEARS



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

WOMEN VETERANS

P_{rospering} **A**_{ffirming} **C**_{onnecting} **T**_{ransforming}

"ROOTED IN STRENGTH, RISING IN UNITY"



JUNE 7, 2025

**Al Lawson Multipurpose Center
1800 Wanish Way
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32307**

HOSTED BY WOMEN VETERANS UNITE



MEET & GREET / SELFCARE WORK SHOPS / RESOURCES

SCAN QR CODE OR CLICK LINK FOR TICKETS: <https://www.eventbrite.com>



Leo C. Chase Jr. VA Clinic

Veteran Food Bank

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

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

The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs


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



The graphic features a shield-shaped logo on the left with the text "FDVA" in large blue letters, "FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS" in smaller blue letters below it, and the tagline "Honoring those who served U.S." in italicized blue letters. A blue banner across the bottom of the shield reads "HELPLINE". To the right of the shield is a bulleted list of services. The background is a stylized American flag with stars and stripes.

- **Disability and Pension**
- **Access to Health Care**
- **Property Tax Exemptions**
- **Education Benefits**

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



I See You, Military Spouse

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

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

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

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

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

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

I see you military spouse,
because I am you.

-Wendi Iacobello



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

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



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

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

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

About Florida Veterans Foundation (FVF):

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

About Wounded Veterans Relief Fund (WVRF):

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

What was your division?



Florida's Largest Veterans Day Experience

ZEPHYRHILLS



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PUBLIC

NOV.
7th - 9th

BATTLE FOR VETERANS

Hosted By

ZEPHYRHILLS



MUSEUM

OF MILITARY HISTORY

ZMMH.org



For Updates!

Featured Guest

WW2Armor.org



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

Friday, Saturday & Sunday:

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

Saturday:

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

Sunday:

- WW2 Battle Reenactment

Tanks in
Action
During
Battles!



MILITARY SUPPORT RETREATS

GratitudeAmerica Military Support Retreats (MSR) are a 3-day immersive & impactful program centered around nature-based recreational activities and education via interactive workshops and group discussions.

MSRs are a breakthrough experience designed to enhance relationships and build connections between veterans, first responders, & their closest support person who attends with them.

Banning Mills, GA: April 10th - 13th

Marineland, FL: May 15th - 18th

Banning Mills, GA: June 19th - 22nd

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

★ To apply to attend, visit our website at ★

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

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

Why Warrior PATHH?

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

Eligibility & More:

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



Apply At:

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



SAVE THE DATE
FOR
NATIONAL WREATHS
ACROSS AMERICA DAY

DECEMBER 13, 2025

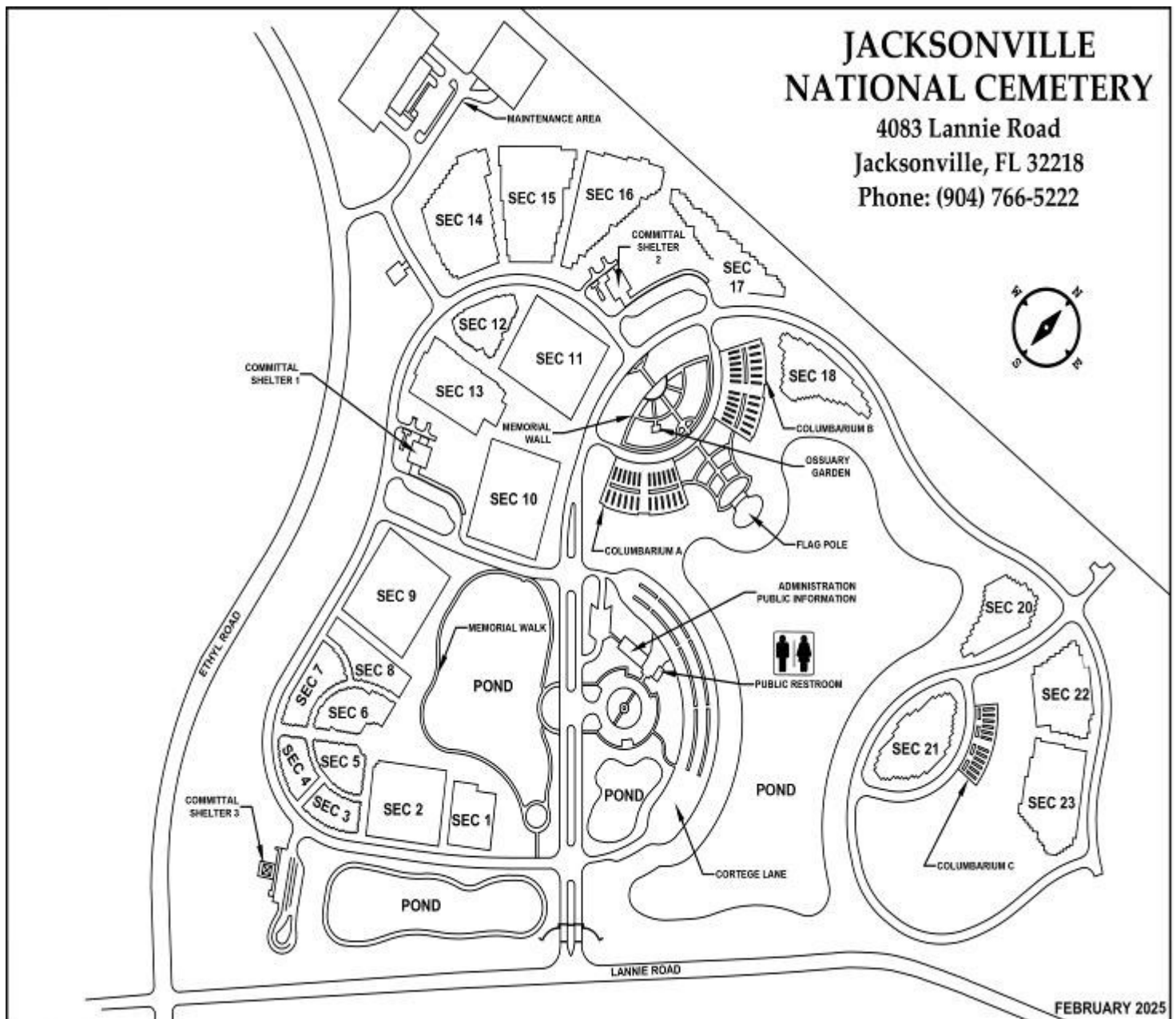


Jacksonville National Cemetery, Updated Map / 12 February 2025

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

Padraic E. “Pat” Mulvihill, Public Information Officer

4083 Lannie Road JAX 32218, 904.534.0035 / www.SCJNC.com



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

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

**2ND THURSDAYS
OF THE MONTH
10 AM-12 PM**

**FOOD
FARMACY**

**4TH THURSDAYS
OF THE MONTH
2-4 PM**

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


City of Jacksonville, Florida **MAVD** **Humana** **CATHOLIC CHARITIES** **BEAM** **FEEDING**
MILITARY AFFAIRS & VETERANS DEPARTMENT Military Transforming Lives NORTHEAST FLORIDA



Guitars 4 Vets

Open Sessions

2nd & 4th Saturday

of the month

3 to 5pm

Supported by



Jim Booe # 86



Palm Coast Chapter

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

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

Use the back entrance to enter the class.

Music Therapy Heals
Judgement Free Zone

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

fl.palmcoast@guitarsforvets.org



P-51 'MUSTANG'

5,944
VICTORIES



P-47 'THUNDERBOLT'

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VICTORIES



P-38 'LIGHTNING'

3,785
VICTORIES



P-40 'WARHAWK'

2,225 ½
VICTORIES



SPITFIRE

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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.

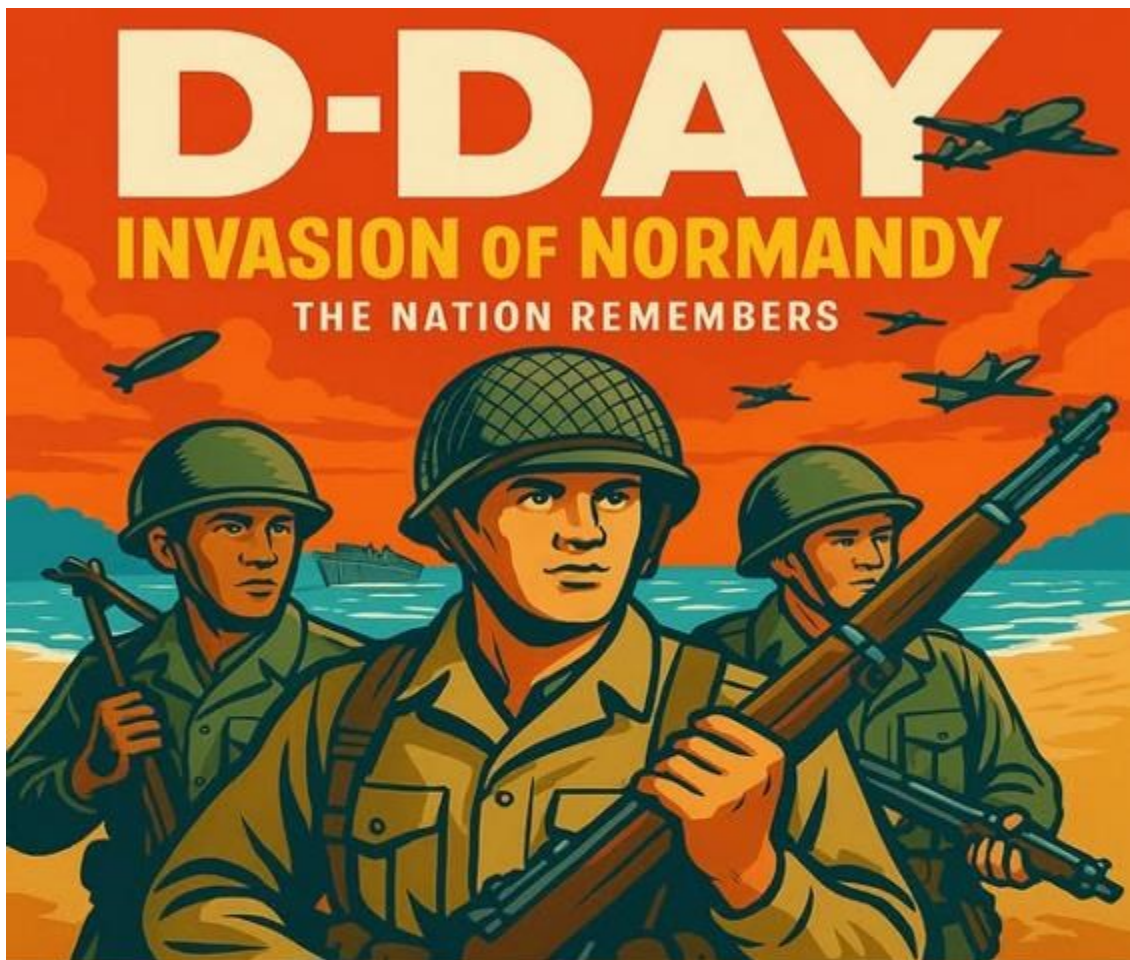


165 Silver Lane | St. Augustine, FL 32084 | SilverCreekRetirement.com



Independent Concierge Living – Assisted Living
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Zephyrhills Museum of Military History

SATURDAY, JUNE 7TH, 2025

10:00 AM TO 4:00PM

Opening Ceremony
at 11:00 AM

39444 South Avenue, Zephyrhills, Florida

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:

- Skydivers
- Reenactors/Living History Displays
- WWII Vehicles and Aircraft on display

FREE EVENT

Sponsored by ZMMH
The State of Florida,
Department of State.

For More information, Call Cliff / 352-206-1819 or Visit www.zmmh.org

DELIVERING ON THE NATION'S PROMISE



NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY



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

SEPTEMBER 19, 2025

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FREE



Free Membership

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

Contact
Matthew.Burke@10CAN.org

Join Today
www.10CAN.org



LEARN TO GATOR HUNT



Registration Ends Soon
Hunts throughout Florida



Highlights:

- ✓ Empowering Women
- ✓ Youth Development
- ✓ Healing Heroes
- ✓ Protect Natural Resources



Sign Up!

Email: Founder@10CANoutdoors.com
www.10can.org/events/florida-gator-hunt



GATOR HUNTS

For Heroes

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



307-306-8937



Matthew.Burke@10CAN.org



www.10CAN.org

Helicopter During Vietnam War



Sikorsky CH-37 Mojave



Sikorsky H-34 Choctaw



Sikorsky CH-53 Sea Stallion



Sikorsky H-19 Chickasaw



Bell AH-1 Super Cobra



Hughes OH-6 Cayuse



Hiller OH-23 Raven



Bell UH-1 Iroquois



Sikorsky HH-3E Jolly Green Giant



Boeing CH-47 Chinook



Piasecki H-21



Sikorsky CH-54 Tarhe



Boeing Vertol CH-46 Sea Knight



Bell OH-58A Kiowa



Bell H-13 Sioux





FREE SERVICES

for Veterans

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



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

www.stjohnsclerk.com

SAVE the DATE

Mayor Donna Deegan and the City of Jacksonville
Military Affairs and Veterans Department To:

THE 8TH ANNUAL MILITARY SPOUSES NIGHT OUT

★ JUNE 5, 2025 | 5-8 PM ★

HELD AT

**VyStar Veterans
Memorial Arena**

300 A Philip Randolph Blvd,
Jacksonville, FL 32202

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 info contact Tiffany Morales
904.255.5524 // tmorales@coj.net



REGISTER TODAY

jacksonville.gov/msno

Persons with Disability
Accommodations are
available upon request.

Please contact Disabled
Services at VM 255-5466,
TTY 255-5475, or email your
request to karat@coj.net



Information about FL veterans organizations by county

ORGANIZATION	PHONE	PAGE	ORGANIZATION	PHONE	PAGE	ORGANIZATION	PHONE	PAGE
POLK (Veteran Pop. 55,159)			VFOW POST 8203 (941) 426-8665			AMERICAN LEGION POST # 267 (386) 672-7678		
1st CAVALRY 'A' TROOP meets @ VFOW 2093 2nd Tues.			4860 Trot Circle, North Port, FL 34267-3419			156 New Britain Ave., Ormond Bch., FL 32174		
AMERICAN LEGION POST 3 (863) 633-8893			VFOW POST 10178 (941) 474-7516			AMERICAN LEGION POST # 270 (386) 788-8800		
1575 HWY 17 S., Bartow, FL 33630			550 N. McCall Rd., Englewood, FL 34223			119 Howes St., Port Orange, FL 32127		
4 Lakes Veteran Ctrp			VIETNAM BROTHERHOOD ALPHA COMPANY, now			AMERICAN LEGION POST 285 386-210-4926		
590 La Quinta Blvd., Winter Haven, FL 33881			meets every Thurs at 7:30 PM at DAV 97, 7177 Bee Ridge Rd.,			4497 US HWY 1, Edgewater, FL 32141		
AMERICAN LEGION POST 4 (863) 683-8710			Sarasota, FL 34241. 941-371-7444			AMERICAN LEGION POST # 361 (386) 780-3887		
1375 Ariana St., Lakeland, FL 33803			SEMINOLE (Veteran Pop. 39,000)			PO Box 4581, 2648 S. Ridgewood, S. Daytona, FL 32121		
AMERICAN LEGION POST 8 (863) 293-7029 p 33			American Legion Post 53 407 678-3654			AMVETS POST 2 386-402-7602		
300 Ave. M. NW, Winter Haven, FL 33881			2544 Park Dr., Sanford, FL 32773			1208 S. Ridgewood, Edgewater, FL 32132		
AMERICAN LEGION POST 34 (863) 422-6940			American Legion Post 183 (407) 831-8004			AMVETS POST 13 (386) 943-9311		
107 11th St. N., Haines City, FL 33845			2706 Wells Ave., Fern Park, FL 32730			645 W. New York Ave., DeLand, FL 32720		
AMERICAN LEGION POST 71 863-689-6689			American Legion Memorial Post 241 https://www.veterans.org/			AMVETS POST 911 (386) 788-1014		
P.O. Box 442, Ft. Meade, FL 33841			491 W Broadway St., Oviedo, FL 32765			5624 S. Ridgewood Ave., Pt. Orange, FL 32127		
American Legion POST 72 (863) 425-0644			AMVETS POST 17 (407) 322-2886			The West Volusia MOAA Chapter 368 479 3400Mtg monthly..		
1500 SR 37 N., Mulberry, FL			915 W. 11th Street, Sanford 32771			Call Maj Curt Voebel or gtorc@gmail.com Thomas Jackson		
AMVETS POST 32 (863) 688-3413			CASSELBERRY VETERANS CLUB 407 260-1404			CWA USA (RET) Thomas Jackson thomasjackson@outlook.com Military Order of		
1339 E. Gary Rd., Lakeland, FL 33801			200 N. Concord St., Casselberry FL 32707			the Purple Heart Chptr 316 386-690-9533Mtg. @ VA Home,		
KOREAN WAR VETERANS Chptr. 158 (863) 533-7374			DAV 30 (407) 323-2710			1520 Mason Ave., Daytona Bch., July 7@1pm		
Buck Rogers 863-856-3559 buckrogers66@earthlink.net			3512 S. Orlando Dr., Sanford, FL 32773			VA OUTPATIENT (386) 323-7600 p 55		
meets @ Amer. Leg. Post3, HWY 17S, Bartow 3rd Saturday			FLEET RESERVE BRANCH 147 407-330-1706			551 National Healthcare Dr., Daytona Bch., FL 32117		
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE HEART OF FL #1107			3040 W. SR 46, Sanford, FL 32771			VET CENTER OF DAYTONA BEACH (386) 266-5600		
863-207-4200 meets @ A.L. Post 8, 300 AVE. M, Winter			MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART Chapter 400			1620 Mason Ave ste C, Daytona Bch., FL 32117		
Haven, FL 4th Thursday at 1830 hrs (6:30 PM)			2651 Peony Dr., Oviedo, FL 32765 (407) 378-4560			VA Daytona Community Based Outpatient Clinic p 55		
Military Order of Purple Heart Chptr 535-FL-4 407-350-			PARALYZED VETS OF AMERICA (407) 328-7041			1200 Deltona Blvd., Deltona, FL 32725 386-575-5000		
0224			2711 S. Design Court, Sanford			VFOW POST # 1590 (386) 252-5844		
Azalea pk 1325 Grasslands Blvd., Lakeland, 33803 1st mon 5			@200 N. Concord St., Casselberry, FL 3rd Sat @ 10am			1013 Veterans Ct., Daytona Bch 32114		
POLK VETERANS COALITION			SEMINOLE CITY VETERANS SERVICES (407) 685-2347			VFOW POST # 2380 (386) 738-2380		
2938 Grasslands Dr., Lakeland, FL 33803			520 W. Lake Mary Blvd Suite 100, Sanford, FL 32773			510 S. Alabama Ave., DeLand 32724		
US Mil. Vets Motorcycles (863) 294-5810			US SUBMARINE VETS (407) 222-8161			VFOW POST # 3282 (386) 761-7217		
VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE Polk City (863) 634-6220			mtg @ Casselberry Vet, 200 Concord Dr Casselberry 32707			5810 S. Williamson Blvd Port Orange 32134		
1290 Golfview Ave. Ste 116, BARTON FL 33831			VA OUTPATIENT (386) 456-2080 p 55			VFOW POST # 4250 (386) 423-1789		
VETERANS OF BATTLE OF BULGE 32 (863) 886-2121			2583 S. Volusia Ave. Ste 300, Orange City, FL 32763			2350 Sunset Dr. New Smyrna Bch. 32168		
330 E. Palm Dr., Lakeland, FL 33803			VFOW POST 5426 (407) 327-3151			VFOW POST 8093 (386) 668-8648		
VA OUTPATIENT (863) 838-4400 p 55			420 N. Edgemoor Ave., Winter Springs, FL 32708			351 S. Charles Richard Beal Blvd (17992), DeBary, FL 32713		
2080 Meadowland Park., Lakeland, FL 33803			VFOW POST 8207 (407) 339-6016			VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA CHAPTER 1048		
VFOW POST 2297 (863) 687-5148			1520 N. Ronald Reagan Blvd, CR 427, Longwood, FL 32750			386-690-9553 PO Box 290262 Port Orange, FL 32128		
305 N. Central Ave., Lakeland, FL 33815			VFOW POST 10139 (407) 883-5615			Volusia County Veterans Service Office 386-740-6102		
VFOW POST 2420 (863) 676-9166			300 Lake Mills Rd., Chuluota, FL 32768 post10139@vfw.org			123 W. Indiana Ave., DeLand, FL 32720		
200 Central, Lake Wales, FL 33853			St. Johns (Veteran Pop. 17,554)					
VFOW POST 4289 (863) 293-7469			AMERICAN LEGION POST 37 alps7adjutant@gmail.com					
2441 7th St. SW., Winter Haven, FL 33880			PO Box 2204 St. Augustine, FL 32084					
VFOW POST 6002 (863) 815-4777			PO Box 2204 St. Augustine, FL 32084					
9096 US 90N., Lakeland, FL 33810 PO 328, Kathleen 33849			590 N. Wilderness Tr., Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082					
PUTNAM Veteran Population 6,697			AMERICAN LEGION POST 194 (340) 412-1325					
AMERICAN LEGION POST 45 386-328-8967			1029 Pearl St., St. Augustine, FL 32084					
316 Osceola St., Palatka, FL 32177			VFOW POST 2391 (904) 797-5267					
AMERICAN LEGION 263 386-684-4464			6164 US 1 S., St. Augustine, FL 32086					
145 S. CR 315, Interlachen, FL 32148			VFOW POST 8696 (904) 446-8696					
FLEET RESERVE Branch 153 386-684-6289			47 Old Kings Rd., Palm Coast, FL 32137					
207 Commonwealth Ave., Interlachen, FL 32148			ST. JOHNS COUNTY VETS SVC OFC (904) 209-6160					
PUTNAM COUNTY VETS SVC OFC (904) 329-0327			1955 US 1 S., Ste 550, St. Augustine, FL 32086					
PO Box 771, 2509 Crill Ave. Palatka, FL 32177			VVA Leo C. Chase chapter 1084 Pres. James Campeau					
VFOW POST 3349 386-328-2963			St. Johns Co. camposugames@gmail.com 904-315-6167					
3201 Reid St., Palatka, FL 32177			VVA Leo C. Chase chapter 1084 Pres. James Campeau					
VFOW POST 10164 386-684-0839			St. LUCIE (Veteran Pop. 36,852)					
1034 SR 20, Interlachen, FL 32148 (ALSO Amvets 1064)			ASSOCIATES ASSOC. 844 772-871-8687					
SARASOTA (Veteran Pop. 50,353)			1150 SW California Blvd, Port St. Lucie, FL 34953					
Air Force Association Sarasota-Manatee			AMERICAN LEGION POST 40 (772) 461-1280					
Sarasota-manatee.afaflorida.org (941) 371-0375)			610 US HWY 1, Ft. Pierce, FL 34950					
AMERICAN LEGION POST #30 (941) 360-8719			AMERICAN LEGION POST 171 (772) 595-8798					
4015 Lookwood Ridge Rd., Sarasota, FL 34234			1814 N 21st St., Ft. Pierce, FL 34960					
AMERICAN LEGION POST 159 (941) 485-4748			AMERICAN LEGION 355 (772) 871-6667					
1770 E. Venice Ave., Venice, FL 34292-3190			1150 SW California, Blvd., Ft. St. Lucie, FL 34968-0427					
AMERICAN LEGION POST 254 (941) 423-7311			AMERICAN LEGION 358 (772) 595-0856					
8648 Taneytown St., North Port, FL 34287-0915			4350 Olander Ave., Ft. Pierce, 34982					
AMERICAN LEGION POST #298 (941) 371-1326			AMVETS POST 15 (772) 464-7751					
5201 Richardson Rd., Sarasota, FL 34232			2024 SOUTH US 1, Ft. Pierce, FL 34960					
AMVETS POST 312 (941) 429-8403 p 31			Disabled American Veterans, Chap 113 772-671-6667					
7050 Chancellor, North Port, FL 34287			1150 SW California Blvd., Port St. Lucie, FL 34953					
AMVETS Post 2020 (941) 429-1999			Jewish War Veterans, Chapter 705 772-871-6667					
401 Ortiz Blvd., N. Port, FL 34287-1332			1150 SW California Blvd., Port St. Lucie, FL 34953					
DAV CHPTR. 101 (941) 489-4500			Korean War Veterans, Chapter 106 772-871-6667					
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE DET. 643 941-406-7450			1150 SW California Blvd., Port St. Lucie, FL 34953					
meets @ 600 E. Colonia Ln., Nokomis, FL 34275-2725			MARINE CORPS LEAGUE DET. 688					
DAV CHAPTER 97 (941) 371-7544			1150 SW California, Pt. St. Lucie, FL 34953					
7177 Bee Ridge Rd., Sarasota, FL 34241			PO Box 1765 (3475 Douglas Rd.), Ft. Pierce, FL 34981					
FLORIDA VETERANS FOR COMMON SENSE			VVA 566 (772) 579-5730					
Mike Bums/ former POW, 654 Siesta Dr., Sarasota, FL			PO BOX 7385, Pt. St. Lucie, FL 34965					
OPERATION ECO VETS - (941) 219-8715			PO Box 1765 (3475 Douglas Rd.), Ft. Pierce, FL 34981					
Vet Services - 350 Braden Ave., Sarasota, 34243			VVA 566 (772) 579-5730					
SARASOTA COUNTY VETERAN Commission			PO BOX 7385, Pt. St. Lucie, FL 34965					
941-544-6306 PO BOX 2055 Sarasota, FL 34230			SUMTER (Veteran Pop. 8,905)					
presidentsco@gmail.com			AMERICAN LEGION POST 18					
SARASOTA CITY VETERAN SERVICES (941) 861-2899			401 E. Gulf Atlantic HWY, Wildwood, FL 34785					
2200 Ringling Blvd. St. Ste. 125 Sarasota FL 34237			AMERICAN LEGION POST 62 (352) 444-2164					
SARASOTA CITY VETERAN SERVICES (941) 861-3047			3387 North CR 479 Lake Panasoffee, FL					
4000 S. Tamiami Trail, Ste. 139 Venice, FL 3492			AMERICAN LEGION POST 101 352/660-0201					
SARASOTA COUNTY VETERAN SERVICES N. PORT			PO BOX 101, 2881 E-C-48, Bushnell, FL 3381					
(941) 429-7214			AMVETS POST 793 (352) 793-2054					
4970 City Hall Blvd., Room 264 N. Port, FL 34286			@VFOW POST 10084 CR 470, Lake Panasoffee					
(941) 861-2099			BUSHNELL VA NATIONAL CEMETERY (352) 793-7740					
JEWISH WAR VETERANS (941) 355-1227			6902 SW 102nd Ave., Bushnell, FL 33513					
4008 78th Pl. E. Sarasota, FL 34242			Sumter County Veterans Service Offices 352-689-4450					
SARASOTA VA NATIONAL CEMETERY 941-861-6040 or			7375 Powell Rd., Wildwood, FL 34785					
toll free 877-861-8640 9510 SR72, Sarasota, FL 34241			VFOW POST 10084 (Lake Panasoffee) (352) 793-2054					
UKRAINIAN AMERICAN VETS Post 40 941-587-3024			PO BOX 391, Lake Panasoffee, FL 33538					
4100 S. Biscayne Dr., N. Port, FL 34297			VFOW POST 10137 (352) 793-8511					
SARASOTA VET CENTER 941-927-8286 ext.23106			6036 CR 618, Veterans Memorial Hwy., Bushnell, FL 33513					
4801 Swift Rd., Suite A, Sarasota, FL 34231			VOLUSIA (Veteran Pop. 60,090)					
SRQ VETS.org - 941-777-8387 Mtg. at DAV Post 37, 7177 Bee			AMERICAN LEGION POST 6 386-740-0622					
Ridge Rd Sarasota, FL 34241. mail to:SRQ4 Bee Ridge Rd, Sarasota,			1087 Biscayne Blvd, DeLand, FL 32734					
FL 34233 email info@srqsports.org			AMERICAN LEGION POST # 17 (386) 427-9007					
VAOPC SARASOTA (941) 371-3349 p 55			619 W. Canal St., New Smyrna Bch., FL 32168					
5682 Bee Ridge Rd., #100, Sarasota, FL 34233			AMERICAN LEGION POST 120 386-258-5275					
VFOW POST 3233 941-365-1918			481 Walker St. Holly Hill, FL 32117					
124 S. Tuttle Ave., Sarasota, FL 34262			AMERICAN LEGION POST 295					
VFOW POST 8118 (941) 484-0118			321-696-8272 or 386-532-7915 www.alp.255deltona.org					
832 E. Venice Ave., Venice, FL 34235								



www.FemaleVeteransNetwork.org

Cynthia Henderson
Founder/President 2015

cynthia@femaleveteransnetwork.org

2719 W. Woodbrook St.
Lecanto, FL 34461
(813) 352-628-6481 (352) 613-3215

Meetings are September - May at 1:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month at Faith Lutheran Church fellowship hall 935 S. Crystal Glen Drive, Lecanto, FL. Female Veterans Network is selling commemorative pins recognizing Female Veterans. Pins are available at Mac-I Signs, 7068 Grover Cleveland, Homosassa and Citrus County Radio Stations 964 Crystal Glen Drive, Lecanto

Call Cynthia Henderson: 352-628-6481



she wore these.

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

WOMEN VETERANS HEALTH CARE



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

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

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





Veterans Radio

The Voice of America's Veterans since 2003

Over 1,000 programs
featuring:

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- ★ Monthly Veteran Benefits Hour with expert panellists
- ★ Small business highlights
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Every Veteran has a story to tell.
Listen to stories of service from all branches, all eras.

Listen live or stream the podcast!

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

From David “Flyboy” Shelton

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

FL PGR Vietnam & WoT Wall Schedule

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

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

Updated as of:
08/09/24

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

**SAVING HEROES
BY**

Raising Warriors

For God, Country, & Community

FREE



Free Membership

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

Contact

Matthew.Burke@10CAN.org

Join Today

www.10CAN.org



★ **Veterans Food Assistance Program** ★

What?

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

How to Apply

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

Veteran Qualifications

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

Other Details

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

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

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

**Alton Green Memorial
American Legion Post 194**

Save the Date

19 SEPT 2025

77th Anniversary

GOLF
Tournament

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

The Fire Watch

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



HOW VA DISABILITY RATINGS WORK

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

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



- Health Care
- Education
- Earned Benefits

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



National League of POW/MIA Families

Hello everyone!

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

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

nationalleague@pow-miafamilies.org

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



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

PH ---703/465-7432

www.pow-miafamilies.org

FAX ---703/465-7433

2024 ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Would you prefer to receive League material by email? Y__N__ Email: _____

_____ @\$20/member

_____ Total Amount: _____

IRS EIN# 23-7071242

How to report a Veteran's death to VA

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

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

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

How to report the death of a Veteran

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

Options for reporting:

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

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

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

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

Discharge document (like a DD214)

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

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

Discharge document (like a DD214).

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

Full name.

Social Security Number or VA claim number.

Date of birth.

Date of death.

Branch of service.

Best practices to avoid survivor benefit scams

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

For other scams predators use, visit www.VA.GOV/VSAFE.

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

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

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

Burials and Memorials

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

How to Apply

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

Apply for Pre-Need Burial Eligibility

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

VA Memorial Benefits

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

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

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

The following burial benefits may be provided:

Burial in a VA national cemetery

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

A government furnished grave liner

Perpetual care of the gravesite

A headstone or marker with an inscription

A burial flag

A Presidential Memorial Certificate

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

Burial in a private cemetery

A government headstone, marker, or medallion

A burial flag

A Presidential Memorial Certificate

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

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

VA Requirements

Discharge papers to establish your eligibility for burial services



Stories of Service

St. Johns County Veterans Oral History Project



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

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

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

A sincere thanks to them all.



View the Digital Exhibit:

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



Main: 904-824-2872

Research Library: 904-825-2333

271 Charlotte Street, St. Augustine, FL 32084

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

Surviving Spouse Milestones

Not all milestones apply to every person situation

One Year Mark:

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

Two Year Mark:

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

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

- Apply for Home of Selection (HOS) extension

Three Year Mark:

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

Spouse Turns 52:

- If disabled, can remain and retain SSA Survivor Benefits

Spouse Turns 55:

- Can remarry and not lose SBP eligibility

Spouse Turns 57:

- Can remarry not lose DIC eligibility

Spouse Turns 60:

- Can remarry and retain SSA Survivor Benefits

Surviving Youth Milestones

Not all milestones apply to every person situation

Child Turns 16:

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

Child Turns 18:

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

Child Turns 21:

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

Child Turns 22:

- Loss of Child-Only SBP regardless of school enrollment

Child Turns 23:

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

Child Turns 26:

- Loss of TRICARE Young Adult

Child Turns 33:

- Loss of Fry Scholarship eligibility

FLORIDA SURVIVOR OUTREACH SERVICES AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY



Vietnam Veterans of America



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

Chapter/President/email/Location

1046	Tommy Tittle	twt1968@att.net
1048	Bob Adkins	adk123robert@outlook.com
1059	Dave Treffinger	dtreffinger433@msn.com
1084	Bill Jefferson	bill_jefferson@comcast.net
1088	Roy (Corky) Rudd	corkstopper50@yahoo.com; Nassau
1092	Forest Hope	foresthope@usa.net; Gainesville
1134	Marvin Lagle	mdlagle@gmail.com; Baker



REMEMBER WHAT OUR MEDAL STANDS FOR:

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

Veterans Council of Clay County:

President: Ansil Lewis

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

Mission Statement:

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



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

What the Council has done:

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

SA-000314706401

Veterans Crisis Line

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

Veterans Crisis Line

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

STAND BY THEM

Confidential help for Veterans and their families

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE

1-800-273-TALK (8258)

www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org

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



FLORIDA VETERANS LEGAL HELPLINE



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

Legal Aid for Veterans

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

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

1.866.486.6161

Call Today!

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



We Can Help With

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

Supported by the:



Become a Watch Stander with The Fire Watch

Veterans Councils of Northeast Florida



BAKER COUNTY

President: Larry Porterfield

Meetings:

Second Thursday of each month

Location:

MacClenny Primitive Baptist Church
Fellowship Hall on North Boulevard

Time : 1800 (6pm)

CLAY COUNTY

President: Ansil Lewis, SgtMaj USMC, ret

Meetings:

First Wednesday of each month

Location:

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

Time: 1100 (11am)

904-658-0105

NASSAU COUNTY

President: Mike Doran

Meetings:

First Thursday of each month

Location:

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

Time: 1900 (7pm)

DUVAL COUNTY

President

Meetings:

Third Tuesday of each month

Location:

American Legion Post 37
Main Building
San Juan Avenue

Time: 1900 (7 pm)

St. Johns County

President: Bill Dudley

Meetings:

Last Thursday of each month

Location:

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

Time: 1900 (7pm)

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



We are inviting all veterans to visit our website at:

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

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

Please join our group on Facebook at:

<http://veteranscouncilsjc.org>

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

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

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

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

He can be contacted at webmaster@veteranscouncilsjc.org

*Veterans Council of St. Johns County,
"Helping All Veterans"*

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

Send to: rothfeldm@gmail.com



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

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

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

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

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

***The Veterans Council will meet at the Coun-
ty Health & Human Services Building,
200 San Sebastian View
Auditorium, 1st floor***

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

(physical location)

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

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

Service is by appointment.

Phone: 904-209-6160 Fax: 904-209-6161

Joseph D. McDermott Director

Lori Chapman Assistant VSO

Shauna Holton Assistant VSO

Jonathan Rojas Assistant VSO

Jeremy Sapien, Assistant VSO

April Manner Administrative Coordinator

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