



# The Patriot Reader Newsletter

P.O. Box 2117

St. Augustine, FL 32085

Bill Dudley, Publisher

Michael Rothfeld, Editor

## Inside this Issue

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## Message from the Chairman

Fellow Veterans:

Our first Veterans Treatment Court trials were held last Thursday, 23 Feb at 2 PM in Judge Howard McGillin's courtroom. There were 10 veterans that appeared before the judge and 6 of these were selected for the program. The others will most likely be approved at a later date after some legal technicalities are sorted out. It was indeed a pleasure to see these veterans approved for the VTC knowing they will get the help needed from the VA, Legal Aide, and other sources of assistance available to them. Most importantly is they now have a battle buddy assigned to them through our mentor program. This is a valuable asset as they transcend the months ahead in the program. We will continue to track this program and provide assistance as needed.

This past month Michael Rothfeld and I have made two presentations of our documentaries to local organizations. On Tues 7 Feb we met with the Putnam County Board of Education and presented them with copies of our 5 documentaries. The Board members were very impressed and thanked us for our presentation. On Wednesday, 22 Feb. , Michael and I attended a Brigade Luncheon along with Col Carl Smith, USA ret. at Camp Blanding. After the luncheon and a tour of the Camp, we toured the military museum on base and presented the museum curator with copies of the 5 documentaries. Michael made a presentation earlier in the month to the Flagler County schools.

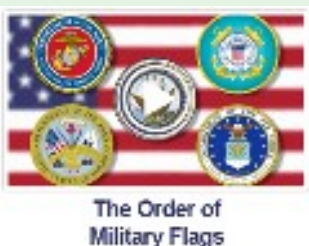
It was my honor to speak to the First Militia AUSA Chapter last Thursday, Feb. 22 as their guest speaker. I spoke about our Council's leadership role in bringing to



fruition a decision on our Community Based Outpatient Clinic ( CBOC ) and initiating the action to pursue our Veterans Treatment Court in St. Johns County. Both initiatives have resulted in positive outcomes. The AUSA members attending were very impressed with our Councils strong support for our Veterans in the community and commended our Council for the support we provide. Until further notice, we will continue to meet in the Muscovy Room at the County Health and Human Services Building at 200 San Sebastian View, St. Augustine.

Bill Dudley  
Chairman  
Veterans Council of  
St. Johns County

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# Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home



Re-Creation, an organization committed to providing entertainment to as many veterans as possible, is an annual treat for our residents. We love their high energy song and dance program. And we love their dedication to our nation's veterans.



Helping Hands of Nocatee came in to help with some Valentine Crafts

Mardi Gras!





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



The Support Committee invites everyone to attend its **next scheduled meeting, on Monday, April 3, 2017**. The meeting will be at **7:00pm**. The meeting will take place at Community Hospice, **4266 Sunbeam Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32257 in Conference Room A**.

**+++++2015/2016 Officers of the SCJNC+++++**

Chairman: Steve Spickelmier

Vice Chairman: Bill Dudley, Treasurer: John Mountcastle

Assistant Treasurer: Michael Rothfeld, Secretary: Kathy Church

Chaplain: Michael Halyard, Master-At-Arms: Joe McDermott

Historian: Kathy Cayton

Presenting the Camp Blanding Museum with copies of the five documentaries William Dudley and I produced for the Veterans Council of St Johns County.

*From the left Producer Michael Rothfeld, COL Carl Smith, President FL AUSA; Museum Curator Greg Parsons and Chairman Bill William Dudley, Producer*





The quarterly gathering of veterans met at 1100 at the Jacksonville Veterans Arena.

Following the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance, Bob Adelhelm welcomed the guests to the meeting. He also made an announcement of the funeral this afternoon for Joe Covella, Marine Corps veteran who passed away this past week.

Bob introduced Ashley Cook from Senator Rubio's office as well as members of the VVA State Council, Rod Phillips, and Service Officers from around our area.

Mike Mitchell, a retired Navy Chief, provided opening remarks and introduced speakers. 195 individuals attended with 107 being new to this gathering.

A roll call of counties represented included: Duval, Nassau, Clay, Baker, St. Johns, and a few from Brevard and Volusia. Out of state attendees came from Ft. Stewart, GA and Nashville, TN.

### 1. The Keynote Speakers:

**\*Daniel Schenstrom from "Mission 22" Ambassador**, phone# (317) 412-5498. Email: address: danielschenstrom@gmail.com. He was accompanied by Josh Collins from Task Force Dagger. They spoke about their focus of bringing awareness in the community of alternative medical treatments for our returning veterans, especially those with "invisible wounds". They want the community to be aware of the suicide rate among returning vets and offer programs such as paddling with other vets and other alternative treatments to help with PTSD and TBI instead of just medications. They are working on a movie called, "Torrent" dealing with those issues.

**\*C.J. Smith is a volunteer for Canine Companions**. Phone# (904) 710-3861, cell# (904) 783-6235 (h). Email address dymonblue@comcast.net. This program has been around 41 years and provides free companion dogs for individuals needing independence companions. The volunteers care for puppies 8 weeks old until 18 months and then return them to Canine Companions to be trained to be companion dogs. Once a year they hold a "Dog Fest Jacksonville" to raise funds. If you are interested please contact them.

**\*Mike O'Brien, Exec. Dir. of USO**, Phone# (904) 778-2821. Email: mobrien@usojax.com spoke of the history of 76 years helping military transition to civilian life. This organization provides entertainment to troops overseas and helps families of the active duty. It is 100 per cent self-supported.

**\* Greg Bourdreau of Hardage-Giddens Funeral Home – "Dignity Memorial"**, 7242 Normandy Blvd., work# (904) 9262. Email: Greg.Boudreau@DignityMemorial.com. He explained that

Hardage-Giddens is a member of the nation-wide “Dignity Memorial” Company. He provided that information about veterans benefits are available at funeral homes. He emphasized that at present, over 60 % of the families don’t know about or use the benefits available. They find that their task is to educate the public and assist the families of veterans. They also provide burial of homeless vets at no charge. They have also been helpful in the MIAP in locating cremains of unclaimed veterans. Anyone interested in more information was encouraged to stop by their table.

## **2. Informative Speakers:**

**\*Thomas P. Rentz, Command Sgt. Major, USA, VFW Post 8255.** Email: rentz@msn.com He gave an update on some of the VA Benefits explaining the long wait times for claims. He explained that some improvements have been made but at present, but the Appeals on Claims which is approximately 500,000 the backlog is taking up to 2 years with the possibility of a hearing which may take up to 5 years. There are two bills presently in congress to address improvements in the VA process.

**\*Karyn Morton, Chairwoman, REC, Duval County GOP.** Phone: (904) 652-7640. Email: kdmlady@yahoo.com. She explained she was here because she would like to ask veterans to partner with them on issues in our community that are of interest to our veterans and restarting Military Veterans Outreach Committee.

**\*Charlie Cofer, the new Public Defender of the 4th Judicial Circuit Court** spoke about our local Veterans Court. He explained that it is in the progress of designing uniformity among the 3 local Veterans Courts under 1 Circuit Court Judge, Judge Lester. The court is working presently to obtain funding to hire someone to evaluate admissibility and eligibility of future clients.

**\*Hellena I. Pugh, Zahara Veterans Network Inc.** Email hellen@zvetnet.org. A former Marine, she explained that women veterans numbers are growing and by 2020 will compromise 15% of the military. This organization sees 3 big issues for women vets to address: 1) Unemployment, 2) Homelessness, and 3) Suicide. Their goals are to establish a “Lighthouse of Empowerment”- a place to get help and support, assist with Career Readiness, and “Well Living” programs for improvement. February 16, 2017 there will be an event at Dave & Buster’s. 7025 Salisbury Road Jacksonville, FL. From 1930-2200. Any questions: call: (904) 469-6982.

**\* Patricia A. Piazza, Onward to Opportunity Program, Syracuse Univ.** Phone# (904) 563-7980. Email: ppiazza@syr.edu. She explained that they help transitioning veterans to obtain credentials, help with resume’s and do free on line training as part of their program.

**\*Kathy Church, Missing in America Project,** update: The next MIAP burial will be held April 1, 2017 at Lake Worth, FL. Military Cemetery with 23 cremains. They can always use volunteers. The organization can be found on line under, [www.miap.us](http://www.miap.us).

### 3. Announcements:

**Bob Johnson of VVA Chapter #1046** announced that he is the Sports Chair for this event. He explained that other organizations might use the Clay Shoots as a fund raiser.

**Jim Wagner of American Legion Post 283** spoke of the American Legion Patriot Riders raising funds for transplants for children. A future event is scheduled for March 2-15th, 2017.

Gathering adjourned at 1220 for lunch. Future meeting in April TBA.

**“Together We Are Stronger”**

### Reserved Tables:

Wounded Warrior Project	Supervisor of Elections	REC Duval County / GOP
Canine Companions	USO	Mission 22
Onward to Opportunity	Dignity Memorial	Zahara Women Vets Network
Reboot Combat Recovery	Changing Homelessness	VVA #1046
Missing in America Project	Turning Points in America	Florida Fallen Heroes
Clay County Vets Council	Survivor Outreach Services	Patriot Publishing USA, LLC
Five Star Veterans Center	American Legion Riders	



**The Veterans Council of St. Johns County**  
**“Record, Preserve and Educate”**

The Veterans Council believes strongly in educating students about the sacrifices veterans have made for all of us so that we all may enjoy the many freedoms we enjoy often take for granted. For the past 10 year's the Council has worked with students in the Flagler College Communications Dept. and students at the Art Institute of Jacksonville's Film Dept., in producing five documentaries featuring the stories of local veterans.

These documentaries have been broadcast many times on WJCT TV, the PBS affiliate in Jacksonville and on the Pentagon Channel which is beamed to over 20 million people world wide.

The Veterans Council is proud to have its documentaries at the following Museums, Libraries, Colleges and Schools: The Library of Congress, The National World War 2 Museum in New Orleans, Andersonville National Park and Cemetery, Flagler College, University of North Florida, University of Florida, Amelia Island Museum of History, Museum of Science and History in Jacksonville, the Orange County Regional History Center in Orlando, the Vietnam Museums in New Jersey and Texas, and the Lincolnvile Museum in St. Augustine.

The Veterans Council has also provided copies of its documentaries to High Schools in St. Johns, Duval, Clay, Putnam and Flagler Counties and to public libraries in St. Johns, Duval, Clay and Putnam counties.

The Veterans Council provides copies of its WW II, Korea, Vietnam. Prisoners of War, and its K9s For Warriors documentaries, at no cost, to High Schools in St. Johns County, public libraries in St. Johns and Duval County, veteran's groups, local colleges and museums, the Library of Congress, the WW II Museum in New Orleans, the POW Museum in Andersonville, the Pentagon, the Museum of Military History in Kissimmee and the Vietnam Museums in New Jersey and Texas.

To further the Council's Mission of instilling Patriotism in today's youth, the Veterans Council hosted an auditorium program in 2016 to discuss the Vietnam War. The Council paid for and bussed in 11th grade students from 5 local St. Johns County High Schools. The students interacted with local Vietnam veterans and learned a lot about their service. By all accounts the program was hugely successful. The Council has hosted similar programs at the University of N. FL., Flagler College, The Maritime Heritage Center and at Valley Ridge Academy.

All of the Veteran Councils documentaries are located online on the Florida PBS website as well as on the new University of Florida's online digital military website.

The Veterans Council of St. Johns County is a 501 c3 corporation. It has as its Mission Statement: The objective of the Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Florida is to be of assistance to all veterans who have served in any of the military branches of service of the United States of America.

The Veterans Council is comprised of members from the more than 28 County veteran's organizations and meets the last Thursday of every month at the Elks Lodge 829, 1420 A1A S., at 7:00 pm. All veterans are welcome to attend.

Bill Dudley, Chairman, Veterans Council St. Johns County  
Michael Rothfeld, Secretary

## **MISSING IN AMERICA PROJECT – FLORIDA**

### **CALL TO HONOR #11**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 2017 11:00AM**



### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The purpose of the Missing in America Project (MIAP) is to locate, identify and inter the unclaimed cremated remains of American veterans through the joint efforts of private, state and federal organizations, and to provide honor, respect and dignity to those who have served this country by securing a final resting place for these forgotten heroes.

### **IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO**

On Saturday, April 1, 2017, at 11:00am, MIAP – Florida, in cooperation with the Boynton Memorial Chapel, Boynton Beach, FL, will be interring the cremains of 14 veterans and 6 spouses of veterans with full military honors at the South Florida National Cemetery located at 6501 Florida State Road 7, Lake Worth, FL 33449.

The veterans being interred served in the US Army, Marine Corps., Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard, during World Wars I and II, and Korea. The spouses sacrificed in the absence of their husbands during World Wars I and II. The longest that any of these being interred has been unclaimed is since 1956.

An escort led by the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office (PBCSO) will leave from the Southeast parking area (the Lantana Road side) of the Target Store at 5900 Florida State Road 7 (Rt. 441), Wellington, FL, on the Northeast corner of State Road 7 and Lantana Road. Any and all motorcycle organizations, riders, and vehicles are welcome to participate. Meeting time is 9:30AM for a safety briefing with the PBCSO, and the escort will depart (KSU) to the cemetery at 10:15AM.

You are cordially invited to attend this service. This service is open to all residents of our area communities.

Kathy Church, MIAP – FL State Coordinator, (904) 219-3035, miapjax@yahoo.com,



## Misrepresentation of Use or Training of Service Dog.

In accordance with F.S. § 413.08, a person who knowingly and willfully misrepresents herself or himself, through conduct or verbal or written notice, as using a Service Dog and being qualified to use a Service Dog or as a trainer of a Service Dog commits a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in F.S. § 775.082 or 775.083 and must perform thirty (30) hours of community service for an organization that serves individuals with disabilities, or for another entity or organization at the discretion of the court, to be completed in not more than six (6) months. Authorized personnel performing their duties required by the provisions of this article may ask if a purported service dog is required because of a disability and what work or task the dog has been trained to perform. Authorized personnel shall not require documentation, such as proof that the animal has been certified, trained, or licensed as a Service Dog. Generally, authorized personnel may not make these inquiries about a Service Dog when it is readily apparent that a Service Dog is trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability (e.g., the Service Dog is observed guiding an individual who is blind or has low vision, pulling a person's wheelchair, or providing assistance with stability or balance to an individual with an observable mobility disability). Nothing in this section shall apply to matters related to employment or housing as regulated by Florida and/or federal law.



**Rory Diamond** | Chief Executive Officer

K9s For Warriors



## Chairman Dudley, former National Vice President of the Navy League, speaks to the Army

It was an unusual presentation, Chairman Bill Dudley, LTC **USAF**, ret. and former National Vice President of the **Navy** League addressing the First Militia Chapter Association of the US **Army** quarterly dinner meeting.

Representing the Veterans Council of St. Johns County Chairman Dudley briefed the audience of the Veteran Council's activities for 2016.

Chairman Dudley covered many of the Council's projects, including: Wreaths Across America, the DAV van, Homeless Veterans Standdown, the Jacksonville National Cemetery Support Committee, the Veterans Day Weekend events including the hugely successful Veterans Day Parade and Military Film Festival.

Discussed at length in his talk was the work the Veterans Council did behind the scenes to ensure that the local CBOC was approved and a location selected to ensure continued health coverage for area veterans. Lastly Chairman Dudley spoke of the new Veterans Treatment Court, now operational and how the Council will provide Mentors for those in the program. Judge Howard McGillin, Jr., COL US Army ret. will be the judge handling these cases.



## THE STORY OF DUPONT CENTER

*By Fred DuPont September 17, 2013*

*Fred is a member of the Veterans Council of St. Johns County*

It is true that Confederate St. Augustine, Florida surrendered to Union Navy Admiral Samuel F. DuPont in 1862. It is also true that the DuPonts living here at that time were related to him. However, you have to go back to 1538 to find that relationship.



Samuel's branch of the family, the Delaware DuPonts, emigrated from France to this country in 1799. Our branch of the family emigrated from France to England circa 1680 and from England, to this country in 1699, and settled in the Charleston, South Carolina area.

The first DuPonts in the St. Augustine area were Josiah and Anne DuPont and their children. They acquired Spanish land grants for many acres. When the First Indian War broke out in 1800 they returned to the Charleston area; thus abandoning their land grants.

Josiah's nephew Abraham moved to St. Augustine with all of his children after his wife, Jane Verdier Pepper DuPont, died in 1828. He purchased a house in St. Augustine and 1,000 acres of land in what is now Flagler County. He was on the building committee for the Trinity Episcopal Church in 1830. He was also the Mayor of St. Augustine from 1842 to 1843. Upon his death in 1857, his estate was divided amongst his children, from whom the majority of DuPonts in St. Johns, Putnam, and Flagler counties descend.

It is Abraham's grandson, Cornelius Dennis DuPont, to whom DUPONT CENTER can be attributed.

DUPONT CENTER was originally a farm. It came into existence when Cornelius Dennis DuPont and his wife, Lenora Carter DuPont, purchased 40 acres of land in 1900. They subsequently purchased another 120 acres for a total of 160 acres. It was there, with their ten children, that they raised cattle and grew crops.

The farm was on both sides of the Old Kings Highway that became the Old Dixie Highway when it was paved with bricks in 1916. That road later became U.S. 1. During the first half of the 1900's, it was the accepted custom of landowners to donate the right of way that the government wanted for highways, which Cornelius and Lenora did when the government wanted to widen U.S. 1 and build State Road 206. Because of those "donations", the government declared that intersection to be "DUPONT CENTER".

In the 1930's when this intersection was established, the family decided that gas stations, restaurants, and a road house were more profitable than farming. It became a place for travelers to gas-up, cold hunters to get a warm bowl of bean soup, and Saturday night dances.

Upon the death of Cornelius in 1944, the land was further divided amongst Lenora and her children. Today most of the land has been sold. Their gas stations, restaurant and road house are gone..

Lenora and three of her daughters remained in the farm house until their passing. It is still stands abandoned next to the South East Branch of the Library, behind the convenience store.

## **From the Jacksonville Semper Fidelis Society:**

Thank you to all who paid their dues...  
Next Meeting March 21st...Working on having  
Wounded Warriors Representative as guest speaker to  
update us on their program and efforts to do  
more community outreach.



Semper Fidelis Society is in its 17th year! Over these 17 years, the Society has been responsible for ensuring Marines and those who served with Marines were recognized and honored; something that was unheard of in Jacksonville prior to the Semper Fidelis Society. There have been two monuments to Marines and FMF Corpsmen erected, one at Evergreen Cemetery and the Jax National Cemetery; Scholarships have been presented in honor of a FMF Corpsman annually to two local NJROTC Units, Marine Officer Sword has been present to the Marine Honor Grad at a local NROTC Unit annually, there has been an annual Gung Ho Awards Dinner recognizing those who still serve and sacrifice, there has been an annual memorial ceremony at the Marine and FMF Corpsmen Monument at Evergreen since 2004 and the Society has always made sure wreaths were placed at the City's Veterans Wall every year in honor of Marine and FMF Corpsmen. Thank you to all who helped make all this happen; we still have more to do!!

ST. AUGUSTINE SHORES GOLF CLUB  
707 SHORES BLVD.  
ST. AUGUSTINE, FL 32086  
904.794.4653

# GOLF.



## COASTAL REALTY

2ND ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT  
MARCH 18, 2017-9AM SHOTGUN START

# GATHER.

BEST BALL FORMAT  
CLOSEST TO THE PIN  
RAFFLE PRIZES  
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INCLUDES 18 HOLES  
RANGE BALLS  
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**Registration or Questions**  
**904.471.9212**  
**[deborah@coastalrealtyfl.com](mailto:deborah@coastalrealtyfl.com)**

# GIVE.

PROCEEDS BENEFIT  
K9S FOR WARRIORS  
PROVIDING SERVICE DOGS  
TO OUR MILITARY VETERANS



*From the Florida Times Union*

Juan Cabrera-Rosario retired from the U.S. Army after being injured when a bomb inside a truck exploded during his deployment to Iraq.

The pain that forced him to leave the military eased a little Thursday when he accepted the keys to a home in a sprawling community near Jacksonville's River City Marketplace.



Mojo (left) joins Juan Cabrera-Rosario in their new home.

Wells Fargo and the Military Warriors for Support Foundation donated the mortgage-free home on West Crestwick Drive after the army veteran and his fiancée, Carrie Moffitt, arrived with their belongings from Orlando.

Their little Chihuahua, Mojo, made the trip as well and ran around in the backyard for the first time.

“He’s never really had a backyard like this before,” Cabrera-Rosario said as he watched Mojo inspect his new surroundings.

An American flag hanging outside the front door matches a black-and-white tattoo on the veteran’s right forearm. The tattoo shows nine Army paratroopers blended with the flag and a fallen soldier battle cross.

Each parachute represents one of Cabrera-Rosario’s friends from the 1st Squadron, 40th Cavalry Regiment who lost their lives. They all died in combat, and Cabrera-Rosario said he could have easily suffered the same fate in 2007 when he and fellow soldiers were shooting at an enemy truck. The explosion shook the building he was standing on, wounding him in the aftermath.

In a flash he went from doing what he always thought he was meant to do to no longer being able to serve his country.

“I loved being in the military. It felt like I was where I needed to be,” he said.

His journey to a life in Jacksonville started as a boy in Puerto Rico.

Cabrera-Rosario joined the National Guard in 1993 before enlisting in the Army where his service took him to Florida, Georgia, Alaska and Italy.

He said deployments to Bosnia, Hungary, Kosovo and Iraq were opportunities to see the world, but now he hopes to lay down roots in Jacksonville where he plans to go back to school.

Wells Fargo donated the home to the Military Warriors for Support Foundation as part of the Homes4WoundedHeroes program. The program is open to anyone wounded in combat who has proper documentation from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

All recipients are paired up with a mentor for three years to help with any issues that come with homeownership and to get their finances back in order. They receive the deed to the house once they complete that program.

Interested veterans can apply for consideration at [militarywarriors.org](http://militarywarriors.org).

Families get the chance to see pictures of the homes before they're renovated, but they don't get to see the finished product until the day they're handed the keys. That happy moment came Thursday for this couple, and they both said they were overwhelmed by all the improvements throughout the house.

The warm weather reminded the happy couple how close they now live to the beach. Moffitt said she can't wait to make the short drive to the ocean, but Cabrera-Rosario cautioned her about going in the water.

He chuckled when asked if the water was too cold for swimming since the couple met in Alaska while he was recovering from his injuries. Cold water isn't really a concern, Cabrera-Rosario said.

The veteran pulled out his cellphone to open his OCEARCH Global Shark Tracker application and said they've been monitoring several great white sharks currently in the area.

"I'm not scared to go in the water," Cabrera-Rosario said. "But my wife will probably wait for the sharks to leave."

JOE DARASKEVICH: (904) 359-4308

**The National World War 2 Museum requested a copy of our first documentary,  
Serve & Protect, Stories from World War 2**

The pictures below were taken on the set the day of the filming. The documentary was filmed in the library of the Coquina Crossing Clubhouse in Elkton, FL, in October 2006.

Most of these Greatest Generation Heroes are no longer with us but their stories of service live on through these pictures and the documentary.





*From Shari Duval, President of K9s For Warriors*

### **A Story You Can't Make Up**

Trying to make a long story short, but this is the magic of K9s. Joe Sfara a huge supporter of ours rescued Delaney as a pup. He wanted the dog named after Admiral Kevin Delaney, now Passed. Kevin was my mentor starting K9s for Warriors. His wife Pat is on our Board. Next Mary Daniel fostered Delaney, not an easy job. Delaney is one free spirit, but she let him be Delaney, she let his spirit to flourish. Delaney returned to our kennel for formal training. We have all held our breath and prayed this "free spirit" would make the program. He did. But are you sitting down.....He is paired with a Marine named.....

YES .....KEVIN. You cannot make this up. They were destined to be together. Thank you Joe, Thank you Mary, thank you to our trainers, and Delaney has found his purpose. Rip Admiral Kevin Delaney, I know you are smiling And you knew this all along.



## Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc. Minutes of January 26, 2017

Officers present: Chairman Bill Dudley; Vice Chairman Ray Quinn, Secretary Michael Rothfeld, Treasurer John Mountcastle,

Chairman Dudley called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

Chairman Dudley led the Pledge to the Flag and SGM Ray Quinn gave the Invocation.

Last month's Minutes & Treasurers reports were approved as presented at the meeting.

Visitors: none

### Speakers:

**Alexander Warmker, FL Dept of Ag & Consumer Affairs.** Alex spoke about their Mission of Educating Consumers from unfair business practices and how thru their website and phone number, these frauds can be checked and help given on gas prices, charities, medicare, etc.. Phone 1-800-435-7352, or [www.800helpfla.com](http://www.800helpfla.com) .



**Stan Halter, Capt USN (ret) and Treasurer of the USS Adams project** to bring the Adams and a Museum to Jacksonville. They expect to have the Museum operating in about 4 ½ months. Contributions and volunteers are needed. Phone 904-910-5241. The Adams will also be used for weddings, reunions, meetings, etc. It is expected to bring 165,000 visitors a year and generate \$ 31 million a year for the city with plenty of nearby parking.

### Committee Reports:

**Joe McDermott, Sr SJC VSO:** The VA has listed 8 presumptive conditions for the Camp Le Jeune Marines who served during specific time frame.

The VA CBOC is now in the bid process

**Michael Rothfeld, Secretary:** Documentary dvds will be distributed to schools and libraries in the surrounding 4 counties.

**Kathy Church, MIAP FL:** April 1 will be the 11th Call to Honor at Lake Worth, 20 veterans & spouses will be interred.

**Ray Quinn:** Spoke about the Military Ball Honoring Council Chairman Bill Dudley as Outstanding Military Person of the Year. An honor only bestowed twice before on two generals.

**Chairman Dudley:** Veterans Treatment Court Coordinator Brian Jacobson will be the speaker at the February 23rd Veterans Council meeting.

**New Business: none**

### Good of the order:

**Fred Dupont's** Vietnam Marines will be invading town shortly so be prepared.

**John Leslie** updated group about his attendance at a VA Health Committee meeting.

**Jim Crutchfield,** VTC coordinator of mentors: Jan. 29 VTC officially begins, there are 9 possible candidates. First Court date is February 24.

Meeting ended at 8:19 pm

**Next Meeting: Thursday, February 23rd at the Health & Human Services Building, Muscovy Room**

## Howard McGillin holds first veterans treatment court



With a “We Support Our Troops” flag hanging on the wall of his courtroom Thursday, Circuit Court Judge Howard McGillin presided over the first session of St. Johns County Veterans Treatment Court.

The flag set the tone for Thursday’s afternoon session as about 10 defendants appeared before McGillin to learn their options in the program designed to help those who find themselves on the wrong side of the law as they struggle to transition back to civilian life from military service.

After leading those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance, McGillin, an Army veteran himself, explained why the court was set up and who it is meant to help.

“It is not some sort of free ride or special deal for veterans,” he said, opening his remarks.

Instead, he explained, it is meant to deal with the veterans’ criminal cases in a way that keeps them from cycling through the criminal justice system and getting them in touch with the resources and support they need.

“We are here today to deal with the both the criminal aspects of what has happened, but also to provide an opportunity to those who want to participate in the Veterans Treatment Court program,” McGillin said.

By doing so, the defendants will be able to avoid jail time, engage in treatment and to “seek a multidisciplinary approach to help correct whatever was going wrong,” he explained.

McGillin then went around the courtroom allowing those in attendance to introduce themselves and explain who they are and how they can help. Representatives from the Department of Veterans Affairs, the St. Johns County Veterans Service Office and St. Johns County Legal Aid were all in attendance, as were the Veterans Treatment Court coordinator, the mentor coordinator for the new court and numerous volunteer mentors.

As McGillin has explained in recent months as he made appearances in the county touting the new program, the concept of a treatment court for veterans was first developed in Buffalo, New York, by a judge who realized that vets suffering from post traumatic stress disorder, and other conditions associated with service, often find themselves caught in a cycle in the criminal justice system without getting the help they need to get them out. As such veterans struggle to cope with their conditions, they often self-medicate with drugs and alcohol — behavior which can lead to various criminal charges.

From that original New York court, the concept has spread to jurisdictions around the country, including Duval, Clay and Volusia counties where officials boast recidivism percentages in the single digits after de

defendants successfully complete the program.

Those who agree to enter the system have to complete a 12- to 18-month program, which is modeled after the drug court program already in place in the county. During their time in the program veterans must stay employed if they are able to work, submit to drug testing and attend all VA appointments for treatment.

After successful completion, they may be eligible to have charges dismissed and their records expunged.

This is much of what McGillin explained to defendants Thursday as judge, prosecutor, public defender and private attorneys all felt their way through the first day of the special court.

About half of those defendants who appeared entered the program Thursday, with the cases of others pending approvals from judges in other courts or clearance of some other administrative hurdle.

Defendants were mostly men, but there was one woman. Charges included DUIs, lower-level property crimes, drug-related offenses and others.

Those who agreed to the program were required to stay through the session and meet with the probation officer if necessary and then to speak with the VA representative, the court coordinator, the mentor coordinator and representatives from any other offices present that might be able to help them. Those who may enter the program at a later date were asked to stay and watch to learn more about their options.

McGillin kept the mood in the courtroom lighter than most sessions in criminal court. He chatted with each defendant as they appeared before him, asking them about the military branch in which they served and bantered with at least one Army veteran who served in a rival division.

After court, McGillin said he was pleased with how the first day went.

“I really enjoyed the enthusiasm that some of them expressed,” he said, and suggested that some of that chatting about their service was by design.

Many of the defendants, he said, seemed like they perked up a bit when they were reminded that they had served their country.

“They stand up a little straighter,” he said.

And it may have just helped focus them on finally getting the help they need.

“I think they see this as their new mission, and that’s a good thing,” McGillin said.



The City of Jacksonville & WJCT Public Broadcasting  
invite you to honor Vietnam Veterans



# THE WALL THAT HEALS

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL REPLICA & MOBILE EDUCATION CENTER



A PROGRAM OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL FUND  
FOUNDERS OF THE WALL

## APRIL 13 - 16, 2017

# METROPOLITAN PARK

*Open 24 hours a day and free to the public.*

The Wall That Heals honors the more than three million Americans who served in the US Armed forces in the Vietnam War and it bears the names of the more than 58,000 men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam.

★ ***Volunteer opportunities available.*** ★

For more information visit [wjct.org/storiesofservice](http://wjct.org/storiesofservice), email [storiesofservice@wjct.org](mailto:storiesofservice@wjct.org), or leave a message at (904) 358-6392.



## Toms River's POW/MIA Chair of Honor Dedicated

By Shore News Network, by Toms River Township

**TOMS RIVER-A "POW/MIA Chair of Honor" was dedicated today in a ceremony at Toms River Town Hall.**

Mayor Thomas Kelaher, Bob Smyth from Congressman Tom MacArthur's office, members of the Toms River Veterans Commission, American Legion Post 129 and Rolling Thunder NJ Chapter 2 were among those in attendance.

POW/MIA Chair of Honor Program is intended to support POW/MIA Chair of Honor.org's main mission by bringing daily reminders of the POW/MIA issue to towns across the nation. A POW/MIA chair in any location is to remain perpetually empty to help people remember that even though our soldiers are not here, there is still a space for them.

Mayor Thomas F. Kelaher stated, "This empty seat will serve as a constant reminder of all the sacrifices made for our country by soldiers who were held prisoner of war or were listed as Missing in Action and whose remains have not been recovered."

Since World War I, more than 91,000 service members are unaccounted for. The chair and related items were donated by the Rolling Thunder NJ Chapter 2 and are now on display in the main lobby of Town Hall.



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# National POW/MIA Recognition Day The RIDE HOME 2017



Did you know that there are only two (2) days on our Julian Calendar that we set aside to recognize all Americans, civilian and military, who have been held against their will by enemies of the United States?

The first date is 9 April, Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day. Why 9 April you ask, because that is the day the largest number of American Military were taken captive by an enemy during combat operations. After a three-month heroic battle in the Philippines, Major General King, Jr. surrendered all troops under his command to Colonel Mootoo Nakayama of the 14<sup>th</sup> Imperial Japanese Army. The total number varies by reporting source but it is safe to say the total exceeded sixty thousand (60,000) combat troops, at least, were taken as Prisoners of War. The second date, The Third Friday of September, came about more as a compromise than any historical significance to the date. It was Commander in Chief Jimmy Carter who initially requested a Joint Resolution from Congress annually to which he provided a Presidential Proclamation. The Recognition Day was held in April, to the liking of the American Ex-POW organization, or in July from 1978 through 1985. The debating parties, American Ex-POW and the Vietnam POW/MIA Families reached a compromise and starting in 1986 the day has been the Third Friday of September in which we recognize all former Prisoners of War (POW) as well as those who are still classified as Missing in Action (MIA).

For well over a decade a small group of POW/MIA advocates from across the country have been extending an invitation to Former Prisoners of War, civilian & military, and to the Families of those who are still classified as Missing in Action with the goal of fulfilling the Commander in Chief's proclamation, which notes:

***"I call upon the people of the United States to join me in honoring and remembering all former American prisoners of war and those missing in action who valiantly served our great country. I also call upon Federal, State, and local government officials and private organizations to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities."***

In their effort to meet the President's request this group, appropriately named "*The RIDE*



**HOME**” will be working in conjunction with; The National Prisoner of War Museum, located on the grounds of Andersonville Historical Site, Andersonville Georgia, Central Georgia Technical College, Warner Robins Campus, corporations, private organizations as well as individual patriots from the communities of Warner Robins, Perry, Georgia, and Andersonville Georgia.

The Itinerary for this national event begins on Thursday, 14 September 2017, with honored guest checking in early afternoon followed by a Recognition Day Service, open to the public, at the Museum of Aviation located at Warner Robins Air Force Base. Friday morning, 15 September, following a Law Enforcement escorted ride, service at the National Prisoner of War Museum, open to the public, also. Friday evening the Hero’s Banquet on the Central Georgia Technical College campus. (Dinner requires pre-paid reservation for everyone except the Honored guest.) KEEPING the PROMISE and Candlelight Services follow the dinner and are open to the public. Saturday, 16 September, Recognition Service followed by the FLY-BOY – GROUND-POUNDER Lunch, open to the public, followed by open socials at participating hotels/motels in the Perry/Warner Robins market.

For all the former Prisoner of War Honoree’s, the Next of Kin of our Missing in Action Honorees who wish to attend the RIDE HOME 2017, below we have included an invitation Letter as well as the registration form for this year’s event. Due to the fact this is a National event all registration applications will be vetted prior to acceptance. If you mail your application to the RIDE HOME Corporate address noted at the top of the form, we will start the process and you’ll be contacted acknowledging your participation at this year’s event. Due to popularity of the event all applications will be addressed on a first come first served basis. If you wish to have some of your family or friends join you at the event the RIDE HOME Team will be happy to help you obtain/arrange room accommodations as well as reservations for the two meals for your guest/friends.

We look forward to saying ‘Thank YOU!’ face to face, for not just your service to this great Republic, but for the sacrifices you have made and continue to make on our behalf.

For Questions or Concerns feel free to contact; moe – 407 448 1181 or [moehog@verizon.net](mailto:moehog@verizon.net)

Until they all come home.....

# The RIDE HOME, Inc.

3818 Litchfield Loop  
Lake Wales, FL 33859  
theridehome.com

On National POW/MIA Recognition Day we will be hosting **The RIDE HOME 2017**. This weekend event, **14-16 September 2017**, takes place in and around the cities of Warner Robins and Andersonville, Georgia, home of the *National Prisoner of War Museum*. **The RIDE HOME 2017** complies with the Presidential Proclamation by paying tribute to Former American Prisoners of War who have returned home and the families of those Americans still Missing in Action.

Honorees for the 2017 event will include former *Prisoners of War* and families of our *Missing in Action* from World War II, Korea, Cold War, Vietnam, USS Pueblo, Iraq and Afghanistan. As part of the tribute package to these true American Heroes, **The RIDE HOME** with the help and generosity of American Patriots, like you, will provide a room (3 nights), Heroes Dinner, Ground-Pounder & Fly-Boy Lunch, entertainment, Awards Ceremony as well as transportation to and from the events for the Honored Guest. This complete Tribute package is valued at \$375.00. For all they endured as Prisoners of War and the emotional torture the Missing in Action families struggle with every day, we hope you agree this is worthy of your participation. Remember, a full Tribute Package or a portion of one, either choice is greatly appreciated and will help to reach the goal of 175 Honored Guest for the 2017 event.

**The RIDE HOME** is open to the public and we encourage everyone to attend so that they may meet and spend time with the POW or MIA family member you help sponsor.

Please complete the form below and mail it with your contribution to **The RIDE HOME**. Contributions of \$375 or more will receive **The Ride Home 2017** t-shirt, patch, sponsor bar, and pin. If you would prefer to use your Debit or Credit Card, you can go to our website, [www.theridehome.com](http://www.theridehome.com), click on *DONATE* and follow the instructions.

On behalf of **The RIDE HOME, Inc.** Board of Directors,  
Thank You!  
Respectfully,  
Jim 'moe' Moyer  
Chairman

I wish to help sponsor a former POW and/or a MIA Family member to **The RIDE HOME 2017**  
\_\_\_\_\_ Tribute Package \$375. \_\_\_\_\_ Other

Includes a t-shirt for donations of \$375.00 or more: \_\_\_\_\_ size

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

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

City \_\_\_\_\_

State & Zipcode \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail check to: **The RIDE HOME, Inc.** 3818 Litchfield Loop, Lake Wales, FL 33859

**THE RIDE HOME, INC.** IS A NON PROFIT CORPORATION – REGISTRATION NUMBER: CH38670  
A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE, 800 435 7352, WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.

**The RIDE HOME, Inc.** is an IRS 501 c 3, public charity. ID# 31954. Contributions are deductible.



## **2017 Women Veterans Week of Recognition**

### **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

#### ***MONDAY, MARCH 13, 2017***

Women Veterans Benefits Conference, 9:00am – 2:00pm  
Mental Health Summit, 4pm – 6pm  
Location TBD

#### ***TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2017***

Employer Summit, 10:00am – 1:00pm  
Location TBD

#### ***WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 2017***

Health Fair, VA Clinic, 10:00am – 2:00pm  
1536 N Jefferson St, Jacksonville, FL 32209

#### ***THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2017***

Educational Fair, Mayport USO, 10:00am – 1:00pm  
Entrepreneurship Workshops/Small Business Ideas

#### ***FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 2017***

Bowling Meetup, 6:30pm – 8:30pm  
5310 Lenox Ave, Ste 18; Jacksonville, FL 32205

#### ***SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 2017, 6:30pm***

Women Veterans Recognition Gala  
Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverwalk  
225 E Coastline Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32202, Tickets: \$50.00



**WWW.FORWOMENVETS.ORG**

## **Florida Medal of Honor Recipients**

**The Medal of Honor is the highest military decoration awarded by the U.S. government. It is bestowed by the President in the name of Congress, and is conferred only upon members of the United States Armed Forces who distinguish themselves through “conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his or her life above and beyond the call of duty while engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States.”**

**According to the Congressional Medal of Honor Society, 23 Medal of Honor recipients have been accredited to Florida.**

**Captain Charles Albert Varnum**

**U.S. Army**

**Indian Wars**

**Sergeant Clarence M. Condon**

**U.S. Army**

**Philippine War**

**Chief Machinist’s Mate Francis Edward Ormsbee Jr.**

**U.S. Navy**

**World War I**

**Lieutenant Commander William Merrill Corry Jr.**

**U.S. Navy**

**World War I**

**Second Lieutenant Alexander Ramsey Nininger Jr.**

**U.S. Army**

**World War II**

**Private James Henry Mills**

**U.S. Army**

**World War II**

**Commander David McCampbell**

**U.S. Navy**

**World War II**

**Second Lieutenant Robert Edward Femoyer**

**U.S. Army Air Corps**

**World War II**

**Major Thomas Buchanan McGuire Jr.**

**U.S. Army Air Corps**

**World War II**

**Private Robert Miller McTureous Jr.**

**U.S. Marine Corps**

**World War II**

**First Lieutenant Baldomero Lopez**

**U.S. Marine Corps**

**Korean War**

**Private First Class Emory L. Bennett**

**U.S. Army**

**Korean War**

**Hospital Corpsman Third Class Robert R. Ingram**

**U.S. Navy**

**Vietnam War**

**Corporal Larry Eugene Smedley**

**U.S. Marine Corps**

**Vietnam War**

**Staff Sergeant Clifford Chester Sims**

**U.S. Army**

**Vietnam War**

**Specialist Fourth Class Nicholas J. Cutinha**

**U.S. Army**

**Vietnam War**

**Lieutenant Junior Grade Clyde Everett Lassen**

**U.S. Navy**

**Vietnam War**

**Private First Class Robert H. Jenkins Jr.**

**U.S. Marine Corps**

**Vietnam War**

**Staff Sergeant Hammett L. Bowen Jr.**

**U.S. Army**

**Vietnam War**

**Private First Class Bruce Wayne Carter**

**U.S. Marine Corps**

**Vietnam War**

**Sergeant Ardie R. Copas**

**U.S. Army**

**Vietnam War**

**Sergeant First Class Paul R. Smith**

**U.S. Army**

**Iraq**

**Staff Sergeant Robert J. Miller**

**U.S. Army**

**Afghanistan**

## Secretary Carter Opens Vietnam War Commemoration Pentagon Corridor Honoring Vietnam Veterans and Their Families

*AUSA Press Operations, Release No: NR-452-16, Dec. 20, 2016*



Secretary of Defense Ash Carter, along with former Defense Secretary and Vietnam veteran Chuck Hagel, provided remarks before cutting the ribbon and officially opening a corridor in the Pentagon honoring Vietnam veterans and their families.

The secretaries joined 15 Vietnam veterans Tuesday afternoon to mark the official opening of the museum-quality exhibit. The permanent exhibit, located on the 3rd floor of the Pentagon between corridors 2 and 3, uniquely documents and illustrates the history of U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War through a variety of media outlets of the time. It exhibits historically accurate material and interactive experiences that will help today's American public better understand and appreciate the service of our Vietnam veterans and their families, and the history of U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War.

The commemoration took place at the center of the exhibit, an alcove that features two Huey helicopters. Other highlights in the corridor include a binnacle from the SS Mayaguez, iconic memorabilia left at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, statues and paintings, and chronological and thematic timelines of the Vietnam War.

"Today's unveiling and the government-wide commemoration that accompany it are an important part of commitment to honor veterans from Vietnam and their families, for service, for valor, for sacrifice," said Secretary of Defense Ash Carter.

"This exhibit really and truly represents the service of a generation of citizens who were asked to do something for their country at a difficult time, as difficult a time as probably we've seen in our lifetimes," said former Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel. "This exhibit very much reflects all that and pays tribute to men and women who never asked for anything in return; they never came back to any expectations. They wanted to get on with their lives and put that war experience behind them."

The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration leads the nation's effort to thank and honor the more than seven million living Vietnam veterans and the families of the nine million who served. The commemoration was authorized by Congress, established under the secretary of defense, and launched in 2012 by President Barack Obama. The commemoration has partnered with more than 10,000 organizations to thank veterans and their families in their hometowns across the country.

Further information regarding The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration, including how organizations can become commemorative partners and how individual veterans can find events in their hometowns, can be found at <http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/>

# National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day



*April 8, 2017*

*Hillsborough County Veterans Park & Museum  
3602 Hwy. 301 N., Tampa, FL*

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***10:00 AM - Meet & Greet***

*Join Us In Welcoming Former Prisoners of War and Family  
Members of Those Still Missing In Action*

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***11:00 AM - Recognition & Remembrance***

*Featured Guest - Vietnam War Former Prisoner of War  
Captain William Y. Arcuri - USAF  
Heroism during Linebacker II earned him  
Distinguished Flying Cross with Valor  
B-52 Shot down 20 December 1972*

*Candlelight Ceremony*

*Honoring those who can not be with us today*





## COMMISSARY OPENS AT NAVAL AIR STATION

The new commissary at Jacksonville Naval Air Station opened for business Thursday although parking will be an issue for shoppers until a new lot is built.



Active military, their dependents and retired military can shop at the new 64,000-square-foot facility, which is 18,000 square feet larger than the old one.

The old store closed for good Wednesday and will be demolished to make room for a 500-spot parking lot.

The project started with a groundbreaking ceremony in February 2015 and was completed with a \$30 million budget, according to base officials. Goods at the commissary come with a 5 percent surcharge — which was used to cover the entire construction budget.

A construction worker opens the front doors of the new commissary at Jacksonville Naval Air Station after base officials took a tour of the facility on Dec. 15. The commissary opened on Thursday. (Joe Daraskevich/Florida Times-Union)

Base officials are projecting \$6 million in sales each month in the store compared to \$5.5 million in the old one.

On top of the limited parking, shoppers can expect delays getting on and off the base due to an annual anti-terrorism exercise through Feb. 10, according to the Navy.

## Jacksonville could be in line for new \$18 million VA outpatient clinic

### Congressional approval needed to combine three Jax facilities into one

By Robert Alonso

It could soon change how Jacksonville's veterans get medical care in a very big way.



A new bill filed in the United States Senate with the support of a group of senators from both sides of the political aisle - including Republican Marco Rubio and Democrat Bill Nelson of Florida - would allocate over \$18 million dollars towards the lease of a new facility in Jacksonville aimed at consolidating medical services currently offered locally through the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The "Providing Veterans Overdue Care Act of 2017" would authorize over \$243 million towards 24 pending VA outpatient clinic leases in 15 states, including five in the Sunshine State. Those include Daytona Beach, Gainesville, Ocala, and Tampa along with Jacksonville.

"Our veterans have fought selflessly to defend our country and protect our freedoms, and they deserve easy and convenient access to quality healthcare," Rubio added. "I will do everything it takes to ensure Florida's veterans get the care they need when they need it."

Among those proposals, only locations in North Carolina (Raleigh) and California (Mission Bay) would cost taxpayers more than the one in Jacksonville, with another one in Virginia (Hampton Roads) coming close.

According to Congressional paperwork, a building of over 160,000 square feet would be leased and become the new home for all three of Jacksonville's existing VA clinics if approved, bringing them together under one roof and providing one location for the nearly 200,000 or so Jacksonville-area veterans projected to use its services for the next 20 years or so.

All three of Jacksonville's current VA outpatient clinic locations have just under 30,000 square feet combined.

Locally, the VA is projecting a 16% increase in enrollees between the years 2014 and 2034 and a more than 43% outpatient workload, even though the actual veterans population of Jacksonville is projected to drop by 4% during the same time frame.

The proposal goes into several alternatives - including keeping the status quo - but comes to the conclusion that leasing a new "energy-efficient" location that's "right-sized" and "state-of-the-art" would allow the VA the space it needs to provide and expand its primary care, mental health and specialty care services, especially the "growing need" for inpatient space for mental health patients and to expand women's health services.

Officials say leasing the new facility instead of buying or building would allow the VA to get it running faster and allow the flexibility to move in the future should demographics make that necessary or desirable.

Should Congress approve, that new facility - which doesn't have a specified location at this point but must be within a five to 10 mile radius from the "nearest suburban market" to Jacksonville - likely wouldn't be ready to go for nearly five years, which would time out with the expiration of the leases at the VA's current Jacksonville area outpatient clinics.

A lease would be awarded within 26 months of the authorization from Congress, with construction completed within 32 months of the lease award. The VA would then have another 6 months from that point to move in.

Rent for the new location is projected to cost over \$4.5 million a year for a 20-year period, while a lump-sum payment of over \$13 million would be authorized for any necessary alterations to the facility. The current VA facilities cost just over \$592,000 yearly to operate.



THE  
**HONOR CENTER**  
 FOR VETERANS

**1st Annual AMVETS 444  
 Charity Golf Tournament  
 April 1st, 2017**



\$75 Per Player

Registration begins 8:00 AM

Shotgun start at 9:00 AM

<http://www.tournevents.com/Amvetscharity>



Prizes Awarded for

- Closest to the pin front and back
- Longest drive      Longest Putt
- First, Second and Third Place Teams
- 50/50 Drawing      Door Prizes

Provided with registration:

- Continental Breakfast
- Lunch: Burger, Chips,  
1 Draft Beer
- Water all day

- \* The course will provide beverage carts on front and back, for additional purchases.
- \* Mulligans available for purchase

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

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 and his web design company PageAuthors. The VC strongly recommends that you contact Roy, 904-287-6909, if you or your vet group wants to create a website or Facebook page.*

## **Record, Preserve, Educate**

***Presenting Putnam County School Board with 4 sets of the Veteran Council's Military DVDs for their High School Libraries.***

***Pictured from left: two High School principals, the Superintendent of Schools, [Michael Rothfeld](#), [William Dudley](#) (documentary producers) and Dr. Dianne Taylor of the Rotary Club of Palatka who arranged the presentation. Following the presentation, Dr. Taylor gave the also documentaries to the counties 4 Public Libraries and to the Haven Hospice Library.***



***On January 31 I delivered 5 sets of the Veterans Council's documentaries to Lynn Pinilla, Administrator, Clay County Libraries for distribution to the Clay County Libraries. "Record, Preserve and Educate" is the Council's motto.***

***Presenting all Veterans Council documentaries to the Flagler County School Board to be used in the county high schools. All 5 of the documentaries feature local veterans from NE FL. We believe in "Recording, Preserving and Educating" all students the values and sacrifices our veterans have made for all of us so that we can enjoy our freedoms that we often take for granted.***



## A Letter from My Grandson Garen

Hey guys. Sorry it took me so long to get back to you. I've been very busy. There have been many IEDs out here using the carcasses of dead people. As far as anything else for the next package the only other thing I could use is tuna fish. I don't know if you ever saw them but they make little tuna snack packages which are great for taking out with me. If you happen to see any in the supermarket that would be great. Thank you!!



So as far as what I have done/do in the navy here it is:

So I went into the Navy with the idea that I wanted to do something exciting and elite as well as do my part in the fight in Iraq. Originally I went in planning on being a Seal. After I passed my physical screening test to go to BUDs I met a recruiter for EOD which I had not previously heard of. Basically what they told me was that I could do the same things as a seal but also get some more specific expertise in explosives/explosive devices. So I screened and got accepted to the program. So the training pipeline took almost two years. First, with any special operations program there is such a high attrition rate that everyone has to get training in another field first so that they have a job to do in case they don't make it. So off I went to Gunner's Mate "A" school in Chicago. It was largely a waste of time for me because it has nothing to do with what I do now but it still was part of my experience. Following that I went into PSI (perspective student indoctrination). This is where I first met the other people I would be going through training with. There we started with over 100 people hoping to eventually become EOD Technicians. Basically that course consisted of day upon day of physical preparation (which could easily have been mistaken for torture lol) for the rest of the pipeline. By the time we were done with PSI there were 31 people who would make of my class at Dive School in Panama City Florida. After 10 weeks in dive school we were down to 11 people. Dive school was also very physical but added in a very mental aspect teaching/testing us on everything from diving physics to medicine. I would learn to dive Scuba as well as the Mk16. The Mk16 is the only underwater breathing apparatus that can be dove up to 300' as a closed circuit system. Basically it is a "re-breather." It is a very technical rig that only Navy EOD is qualified to dive.

Following dive school I went onto EOD school at Eglin AFB in Florida. It was about a year of training in how to diffuse every type of military ordnance from bombs, missiles, rockets, mines, underwater ordnance, etc... We also learned how to take care of chemical, biological, nuclear weapons, as well as IEDs. The nuclear weapon aspect also required me to get a Top Secret Security clearance. At the end of EOD school only 7 of us remained and became EOD techs. After that I went onto tactical training in San Diego where we learned tactical shooting, fastroping, rapelling, land navigation, small unit tactics, etc... Then onto Jump School in Fort Benning Georgia and finally onto my unit... EOD Mobile Unit 2 at NAB Little Creek, Virginia.

Since getting to the unit I have gone through two majors "work-ups." Our work-ups are extremely intense, lasting anywhere from 6 to 18 months. As we deploy we often are attached to other special forces units. While we can deploy on our own, most other special forces units are required to have at least two EOD techs with them. That includes the seals, force recon, and green berets. So I was attached to force recon for my first deployment. I deployed aboard the USS Iwo Jima and while en route to Iraq war kicked off between Israel and Lebanon. As we were the closest possible military force at the time we were redirected to Lebanon and safely evacuated over 30,000 American Citizens. During the rest of the deployment I went on the train both Jordanian and French Special Forces personnel. I also would get to see Italy, France, Cyprus, UAE, Pakistan, and Djibouti. It was a good experience, especially being that it gave my career some diversity as my next deployment would be to Iraq.

Between deployments I also have had some very exciting experiences. As part of my job I've supported the Secret Service in protecting the president (I also got to meet him). I went to many schools as became qualified as a diving supervisor, parachute rigger, etc. Before I left on my second deployment in December I became qualified as a senior EOD technician and team leader. That means that I supervise my own team of three EOD personnel as well as 20-25 Army and Marine personnel. It has been a very exciting and amazing experience. At 23 I supervise over 20 men in combat who are often up to 10 years older than I am. I also have the positional authority that even though I am outranked by some of these people I am still their supervisor.

So that basically is it in a nutshell. I hope you guys enjoy hearing about what I have been through. I'll talk to you soon.

Love, Garen



**Raising Funds For:**  
The Missing in America Project  
Wreaths Across America  
serving Veterans in need  
K9's for Warrior



**SATURDAY**  
MARCH 11TH 2017  
8AM TEE TIME

**Bent Creek Golf Course**  
10440 Tournament Lane  
Jacksonville, Florida 32222  
**Million Dollar Hole-in-One Contest**

**The Air Force Sergeants Association Chapter F0559**  
6th Annual Golf Tournament

Play is Limited to 100 Players (includes Golf, Carts and Lunch)  
Pre-registration price: \$75.00 a player or \$65.00 for Military  
Day of Event: \$85.00 a player or \$75.00 for Military

Golfer #1: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Golfer #2: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Golfer #3: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Golfer #4: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

To Register: Fill out included form and email to 78pick@att.net or mail to AFSA F0559 at  
9088 Southwark Drive, Jacksonville, Florida 32257. Make Checks Payable to  
Air Force Sergeants Association Chapter F0559

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:  
Steve Spickelmier (904) 705-4849 or 78pick@att.net

**Raising Funds For:**  
The Missing in America Project  
Wreaths Across America  
serving Veterans in need  
K9's for Warrior



**SATURDAY**  
MARCH 11TH 2017  
8AM TEE TIME

**Bent Creek Golf Course**  
10440 Tournament Lane  
Jacksonville, Florida 32222  
**Million Dollar Hole-in-One Contest**

**The Air Force Sergeants Association Chapter F0559**  
6th Annual Golf Tournament

Your help in supporting our group as we strive to remember, honor and serve  
all who choose to sacrifice all or part of their lives for America will be  
greatly appreciated.

**Sponsorship Opportunity**

**BRONZE SPONSORSHIP: \$150**  
Includes: Sign on the hole and the ability  
to setup your tent on a hole or at club  
house (may be more than one sponsor per  
hole).

**GOLD SPONSORSHIP: \$400**  
Includes: Foursome, sign on the hole and  
the ability to setup your tent on a hole or at  
club house (one sponsor per hole).

**SILVER SPONSORSHIP: \$240**  
Includes: Sign on the hole and the ability  
to setup your tent on a hole or at club  
house (one sponsor per hole).

**PLATINUM SPONSORSHIP \$500**  
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the ability to setup your tent on a hole or at  
club house (one sponsor per hole) Hole in  
One Challenge call 904-705-4849 for more  
information on this level

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:  
Steve Spickelmier (904) 705-4849 or 78pick@att.net

## Camp Lejeune Update



1950s through the 1980s, people living or working at the U.S. Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, were potentially exposed to drinking water contaminated with industrial solvents, benzene, and other chemicals.

### Health benefits

Veterans and family members who served on active duty or resided at Camp Lejeune for 30 days or more between January 1, 1957 and December 31, 1987 may be eligible for medical care for 15 health conditions:

Esophageal cancer	Breast cancer	Kidney cancer	Multiple myeloma
Renal toxicity	Female infertility	Scleroderma	Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
Lung cancer	Bladder cancer	Leukemia	Myelodysplastic syndromes
Hepatic steatosis	Miscarriage	Neurobehavioral effects	

VA published a proposed regulation September 11, 2013, which discusses how the VA will improve health care to eligible Veterans. You may comment on the proposal by October 11, 2013.

The VA is working on regulations for family member care and will publish these separately.

### Veteran health Care

You can receive care now if you're eligible. You don't need to wait for the proposed regulation to become final.

If you're already enrolled in VA health care, contact your local VA health care facility to receive care.

### Family member health care reimbursement

VA will be able to reimburse you for eligible out-of-pocket expenses for the 15 covered conditions after they publish regulations. The VA can only pay for claims after you have received payment from all your other health plans.

You will be able to continue to receive health care from your providers. VA won't be providing you direct health care.

What you can do now if you have one of the covered conditions:

Call 1-877-222-8387 and ask to be added to VA's Camp Lejeune database. The VA will contact you when regulations are published.

Gather documents showing:

Your relationship to a Veteran who served at Camp Lejeune, such as marriage license or birth certificate

You lived on the base for 30 days or more between Jan. 1, 1957 and Dec. 31, 1987, such as copies of orders or base housing records

Keep receipts for health care expenses you paid for a covered condition on or after March 26, 2013. This is the date when Congress began to fund this program.

Hold on to your documents and receipts. We'll let you know when to submit these after regulations are published.

Don't cancel your health insurance. This program only covers the 15 health conditions listed above. It doesn't meet the minimum standard for health coverage under the Affordable Care Act.

### **Compensation Benefits**

The August 6, 2012 law applies to health care, not disability compensation. At this time, there is insufficient scientific and clinical evidence to establish a presumptive association between service at Camp Lejeune during the period of water contamination and the development of certain diseases.

VA is closely monitoring new research. VA representatives regularly attend the quarterly Community Action Panel meetings hosted by The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR).

Veterans may file a claim for disability compensation for health problems they believe are related to exposure to contaminated water at Camp Lejeune. VA decides these claims on a case-by-case basis.

## SUPPORT COMMITTEE AT JACKSONVILLE NATIONAL CEMETERY

January 23, 2017

The Support Committee at Jacksonville National Cemetery meets quarterly at Community Hospice located at 4266 Sunbeam Rd, Jacksonville, FL. Our first meeting for 2017 was held on Monday, January 8th @ 7:00pm. We held our elections of Officers for 2017-2019 with the following being voted in:



Chairman – Steven Spickelmier

Vice Chair – William Dudley

Treasurer – John Mountcastle, Assist Treasurer – Michael Rothfeld

Secretary – Kathy Church

Chaplain – Michael Halyard

Master-At-Arms – Joe McDermott

Historian – Kathy Cayton

The SCJNC is a registered 501©3 non-profit organization that supports the Jacksonville National Cemetery. The SCJNC assists the JNC Director, Mr. Alphaeus Richburg and the staff with special events and ceremonies held at the cemetery. We invite members of veteran organizations, funeral homes, etc. to join this committee.

The 526-acre national cemetery in Jacksonville, Florida will serve veterans' needs for more than 100 years. The cemetery is located north of the Jacksonville International Airport and approximately five miles from Interstate 295.

Per Mr. Richburg: The JNC is rated #25 out of 135 National Cemeteries in the US, by the Dept. of Veteran Affairs. This is very noteworthy.

As of 12/31/2016 the cemetery has interred 11,756 veterans, spouses and dependents of veterans since its first interment on January 07, 2009. Currently there is an average of 55 burials per week.

The JNC is fortunate to have the Jacksonville Ladies. The JL is made up of volunteers with their #1 Mission to be there for those who have no family or friends present. We are their “final witness”; to say a prayer and to give the respect and thanks they so deserve. . . . From the 1st burial on January 07, 2009 there has been a JL present at every burial.

If you would like to become a volunteer with the JL please go to their website at <http://www.jacksonvilleladies.org/>.

If you are interested in joining the SCJNC please contact me at my info below. Our next regular meeting will be on Monday, April 3, 2017 at 7pm.

Please check out our Facebook page at Support Committee at Jacksonville National Cemetery.

Respectfully submitted, Kathy Church, CJNC - Secretary

**Vietnam and All Veterans of Brevard Presents:**  
**Florida's 30<sup>th</sup> Annual**  
**Vietnam and All Veterans Reunion**  
 The Nation's Largest Veterans Reunion  
 Supported by the Vietnam and All Veterans of Florida, Inc. - VVOF.org  
**May 4th – May 7<sup>th</sup>**

Additionally, come visit The Vietnam Traveling Memorial WALL. April 30- May 7

**LIVE MUSIC**  
**FOOD & DRINKS**  
**MILITARY VENDORS**  
**MILITARY DISPLAYS**  
**POW / MIA CEREMONIES**  
**THE LAST PATROL**  
**THE MOVING TRIBUTE**



Wall Escort April 30, 2017 Leave at 10am  
 Eastern Florida State College Cocoa Campus  
 Also visit the Reunion Web Page at:  
[floridaveteransreunion.com](http://floridaveteransreunion.com)

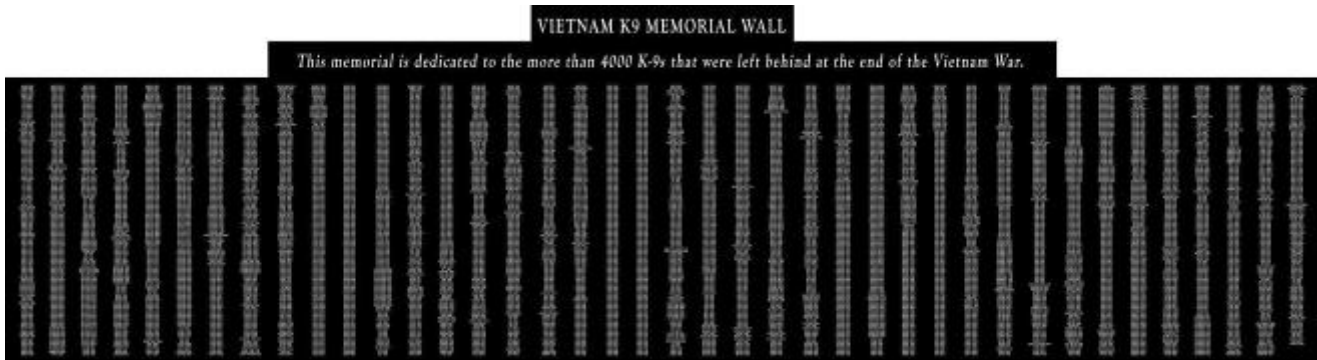
**Wickham Park**  
 321-255-4307 - Melbourne, FL  
 Take I-95 to Exit 191 or old Exit 73  
 No Coolers, Glass or Pets allowed  
 in the Reunion Area  
 Per Wickham Park; Golf Carts Permitted  
 For the Handicapped Only And Must  
 Abide By FL Highway Laws  
 Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall  
<http://travelingwall.us>  
 Vietnam and All Veterans of Brevard, Inc  
 PO Box 237225

Cocoa, FL 32923-7225



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[R.Russo1962@gmail.com](mailto:R.Russo1962@gmail.com)  
[Candy1540@yahoo.com](mailto:Candy1540@yahoo.com)  
**Club Escort Lineup Info.**  
[reunionescort@aaf.com](mailto:reunionescort@aaf.com)

In memory of over 4,000 War Dogs left behind at the end of the Vietnam war. The "Vietnam K-9 Memorial Wall" is currently being etched this month. It will be installed at the Michigan War Dog Memorial this spring.



## Speakers available for your Veterans Organization

My name is Alexander Warmka and I work for the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, specifically the Division of Consumer Services. We are the state's clearinghouse for consumer complaints, information and protection. Our outreach program offers free speakers that present to various community groups on consumer protection topics such as the Florida Do Not Call list, charitable solicitation (charities soliciting donations must register with our department and provide us with financial documentation reflecting how the donation money is being used), fuel inspection (including detecting skimmers at gas pumps), telemarketing fraud, and scams just to name a few.

Our department has previously presented to various veteran organizations such as the American Legion, Vietnam Veterans, Korea War Veterans, Amvets and Veterans of Foreign Wars. Our goal for 2017 is to continue to reach out to veteran organizations throughout the state and provide them with information on the consumer protection services offered by our department.

Please let me know if you are interested or feel that the members of the Veterans Council of St. Johns County would be interested in having one of our speakers come out and do a brief presentation at one of your next meetings. If you want more information on what we do, our website is [www.800helpfla.com](http://www.800helpfla.com) or you can call me directly at 850-410-3665.

Thank you for your time,

Alexander Warmka

Research and Training Specialist

Division of Consumer Services

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

(850) 410-3665, [Alexander.Warmka@FreshFromFlorida.com](mailto:Alexander.Warmka@FreshFromFlorida.com)

The Rhodes Building

2005 Apalachee Parkway

Tallahassee, Florida 32399

## **World War I Centennial Page Is Live - Dispatch February 23, 2017**

2017 marks the 100th anniversary of the United States' entry into World War I. Over the past century, the Library of Congress has collected hundreds of thousands of photographs, documents, maps, letters, and other materials documenting our country's role in The Great War. Some highlights of the collections are the personal papers of Generals Patton and Pershing, a huge collection of WWI art including recruiting and morale posters as well as period art depicting the war, and even audio recordings from major figures of the time.

Last week, loc.gov premiered their new WWITopics Page, your source for a wealth of Great War resources, including not only the materials listed above, but also a calendar of events commemorating WWI, a collection of blog posts about fascinating aspects of the war and time period, lesson plans for teachers, online presentations, and more. This page will be continually updated with new materials throughout 2017 and beyond.

VHP also has interviews, photographs, letters, and diaries from WWI veterans available for viewing at <http://www.loc.gov/vets>, along with over 100,000 other collections. For a more curated experience, follow our new Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/vetshistoryproject> for daily updates of our favorite, most interesting, and most topical featured collections.

The Mission of the Veterans History Project of the Library of Congress American Folklife Center is to collect, preserve and make accessible the personal accounts of American war veterans so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the realities of war. Learn more at <http://www.loc.gov/vets>. Share your exciting VHP initiatives, programs, events and news stories with VHP to be considered for a future RSS. Email [vohp@loc.gov](mailto:vohp@loc.gov) and place "My VHP RSS Story" in the subject line.

United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
*Senator Bill Nelson*

**MEDIA ADVISORY:** Feb. 15, 2017, **CONTACT:** (202) 224-1679; (202) 309-1985

## ***New U.S. Navy drone squadron coming to Jacksonville***



Photo: U.S. Navy

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – The U.S. Navy announced today that it has selected Naval Station Mayport in Jacksonville, FL to base its new squadron of unmanned aerial surveillance drones.

Naval Station Mayport in Jacksonville, FL was selected from three finalist the Navy named in April. The other two finalists were Naval Air Station Key West and the NASA Flight Facility in Wallops Island, VA.

U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson (D-FL), a senior member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, sent a letter to the Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus last year outlining why he thought Florida was the best choice for the new squadron.

Nelson cited the state's proximity to both the Atlantic Ocean and Caribbean Sea and the on-going maritime patrol operations already being performed there as reasons why Mayport should be chosen.

The Navy's MQ-4C Triton unmanned aerial vehicle is capable of flying for more than 24 hours at a time and surveying over 2.7 million square miles in a single mission. It's used to provide sailors and Naval officers with real-time intelligence and surveillance, as well as to assist in maritime search and rescue operations.

In addition to eight Triton drones, up to 400 sailors and their families will be stationed at Mayport.



***Following is the text of Nelson's letter to Secretary Mabus:***

April 22, 2016

The Honorable Ray Mabus, Secretary of the Navy

1000 Navy Pentagon, Washington, DC 20350

Dear Secretary Mabus,

I was pleased to see the U.S. Navy announcement that Naval Air Station Key West and Naval Station Mayport are installations being considered as permanent duty stations for MQ-4C Triton unmanned aircraft systems operations.

As you are aware, both installations meet the requirements established by the Department of the Navy as current operations at both airfields are compatible with MQ-4C operations, both airfields provide direct access to overwater operating areas without land overflight, and both installations have existing airfield facilities with the capacity and capability to meet the start-up and on-going operation schedule of the MQ-4C.

Additionally, proximity to both the Atlantic Ocean and the Caribbean Sea would be conducive to the U.S. Navy's need to provide continuous maritime information, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities in support of national defense objectives and policies.

Florida is also uniquely positioned to be able to respond to the U. S. Southern Command area of operations, which is in constant need of additional ISR assets like the MQ-4C Triton. Basing the Triton in Florida would take advantage of MQ-4C training and operations already being performed by Unmanned Patrol Squadron NINETEEN (VUP-19) and complement P-8A Poseidon maritime reconnaissance and patrol missions, both of which are conducted out of Naval Air Station Jacksonville, FL.

I hope that the additional benefits Florida would bring to MQ-4C Triton operations will factor in your decision. I appreciate your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



**Katie Ross, MPA, Regional Director, Office of U.S. Senator Bill Nelson**

**1301 Riverplace Blvd., #2010**

**Jacksonville, FL 32207**

**Phone: 904-346-4500**

**Fax: 904-346-4506**

**Email: [Katie\\_Ross@billnelson.senate.gov](mailto:Katie_Ross@billnelson.senate.gov)**

**Web: <http://billnelson.senate.gov>**



# Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association

## 20-7

### Annual Poker Run

Food, Music, Games

\$20.00 Per Bike / Car

\$10.00 Per Passenger

**DRAWINGS at  
EVERY stop!**

\$5.00 Extra Hand

**Grand Prize: 3 Days/2 Nights**

**in Panama City Bch, FL**

April 22 2017

Registration: 12:00pm

RSU 12:30pm

Return: 4:30pm

Start/Finish at

Fleet Reserve Association 290

390 Mayport Rd. Atlantic Bch, FL

Cards:

American Legion Post 285

The Rooster

American Legion Post 255

American Legion Post 129

Fleet Reserve Assoc. 290

Proceeds going to:

Jacksonville Military and Veterans Affairs

and

Robert H Jenkins Veterans Domiciliary

Home



[cvma207pokerrun@gmail.com](mailto:cvma207pokerrun@gmail.com)

**If you or someone you know are one of the 48 million Americans who suffer from hearing loss, I have Great News to share with you!!!**



**ClearCaptions** is a federally funded telecommunications company. The FCC has commissioned ClearCaptions to inform those experiencing any hearing loss of the federal program available to them based on Title IV of the Americans with Disabilities Act (mandated since 1990). Those with any hearing loss are entitled to our new technology **caption phone absolutely FREE, including installation, training and on-going service.** Those needing our phones need to have:

- 1.**a phone line (AT&T landline, Comcast landline, bundle, OOMA, Magic Jack, Vonage, or OOMA ...)
- 2.** Internet access (wired or wireless).

There is no income requirement. To schedule your installation or for more information, **please contact your North Florida Territory Manager Anas Benjelloun at (904) 568-4562 or [anas.benjelloun@clearcaptions.com](mailto:anas.benjelloun@clearcaptions.com)**

**Sign-up, self-certify, and be using your Free ClearCaptions phone**



Did you know 22 veterans will commit suicide every day?

Join the "Stop 22" movement to raise awareness and stand with K9s for Warriors as they help veterans with PTSD and brain injuries.

On the 22nd of every month, use the hashtag #Stop22 on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram and show your support. Watch below how people are "outdoing 22's" all over social media.

Learn more by visiting the Stop 22 website: <http://www.stop22.org/>

And check out K9s for Warriors for regular updates on their mission: <http://www.k9sforwarriors.org/>

NEW INFO: Ride in comfort to your appointments at the VA Medical Center in Gainesville.



The van is provided by the Disabled Veterans Chapter 6, and leaves no later than 6AM from the new VA Clinic location at 195 Southpark Blvd. The corner of Southpark and Old Moultrie Road.

To schedule your seat please contact the VA Clinic at 904-823-2954 and ask for Veteran Van Scheduling.



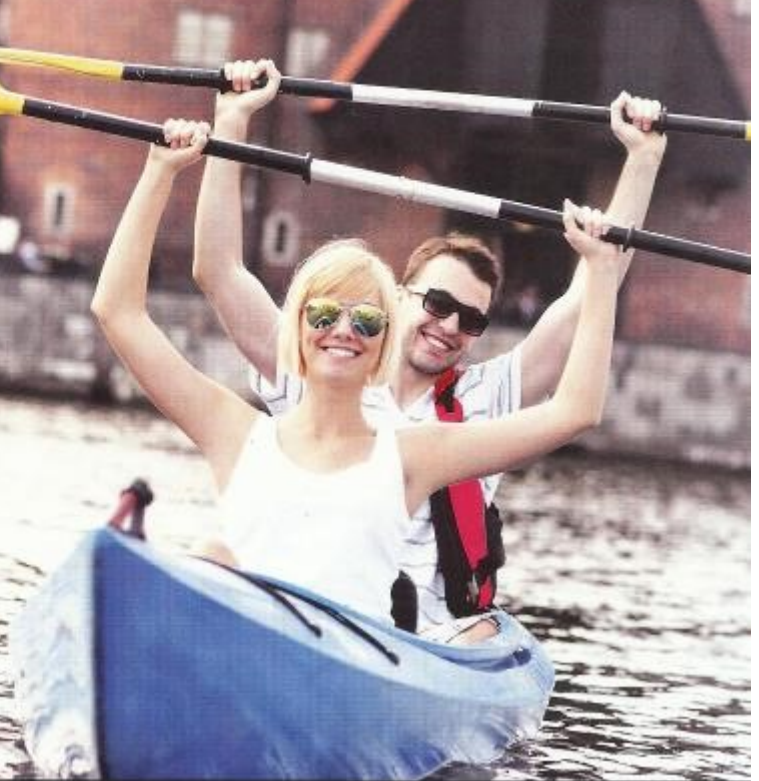
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**Contact Keith Ham**

Survivor Outreach Services Support Coordinator, HRCI Contractor  
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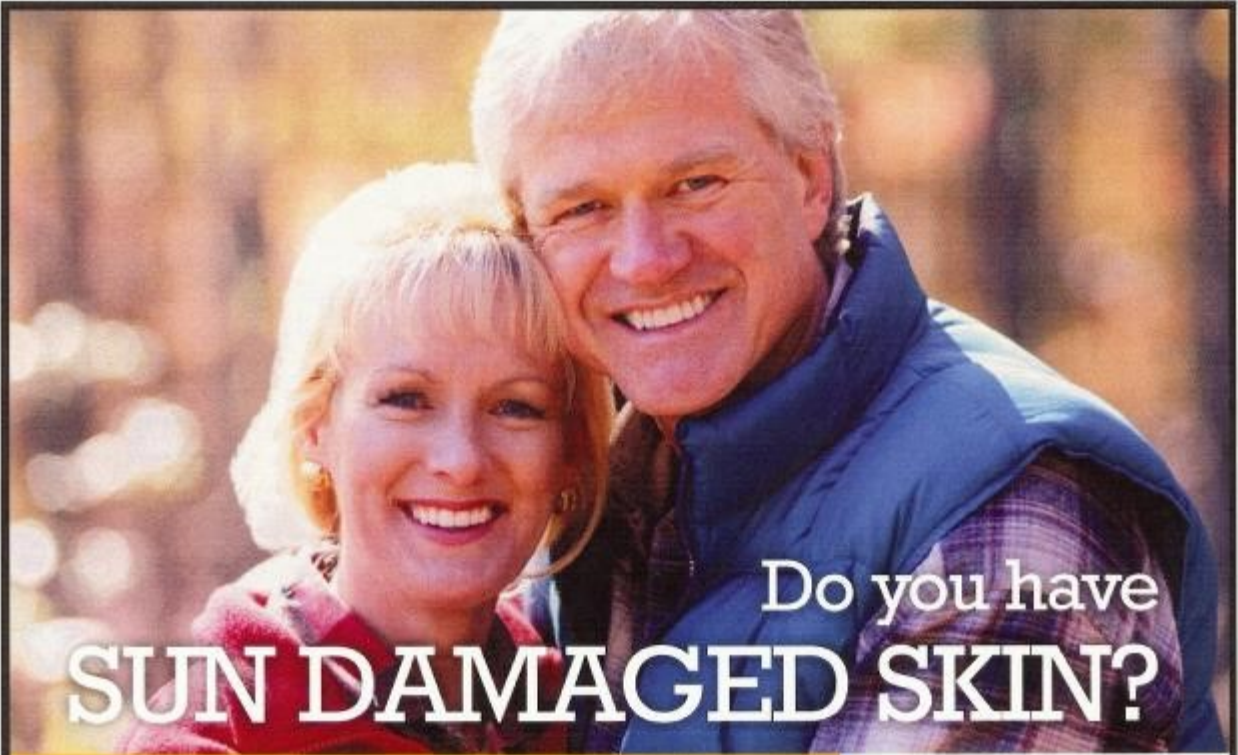
**Lisa Thomas, BS, CCRC**  
*President*

Telephone (904) 619-8157  
Facsimile (904) 683-4916  
Mobile (904) 755-1374

[lisa.thomas@jaxadvresearch.com](mailto:lisa.thomas@jaxadvresearch.com)  
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Qualified participants will receive at no cost:  
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Qualifying participants will receive financial compensation for their time and travel.

*You may be eligible to participate in a clinical research study if you:*

- Are you 18 years or age or older
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- Can visit our office 4 times in 20 weeks

**For more information, or to schedule a screening, please contact us at :**  
Solutions Through Advanced Research, Inc.  
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Thomas R. Pycraft, Jr. • John J. Spence  
Michael J. Pelkowski • David D. Naples, Jr.

*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: [mrothfeld@anyveteran.org](mailto:mrothfeld@anyveteran.org)

Please send to: [mrothfeld@anyveteran.org](mailto:mrothfeld@anyveteran.org)



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

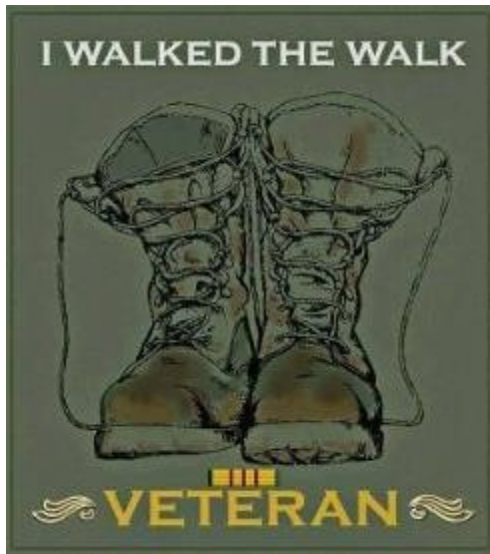
Our formation date was July 4, 2001 in a proclamation issued by the St. Johns County Commissioners. It is composed of representatives of the various veterans' organizations within St. Johns County.

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 St.  
Johns County Health & Human Services  
Building, 200 San Sebastian View  
Muscovy Room, 1st floor***



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

*(physical location)*

*The VSO Office is located in the new 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.  
Closed for lunch daily from 11:30 am 12:30 pm*

*Service is by appointment.  
Phone: 904-209-6160 Fax: 904-209-6161  
Joseph McDermott, CVSO  
Rick Rees, Assistant VSO  
Tammy Shirley, Assistant VSO  
Lashonda Burns, Office Specialist*

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