



The Patriot Reader Newsletter

P.O. Box 2117

St. Augustine, FL 32085

Bill Dudley, Publisher

Michael Rothfeld, Editor

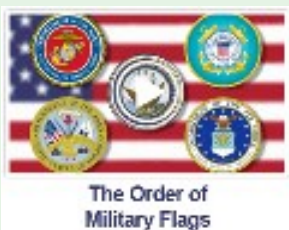
Volume 7, Issue 3

Message from the Chairman

Newsletter Date: March, 2018

Inside this Edition

- Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home
- Jax National Cemetery Support Comm.
- VVA 1059 Clay County
- George Gaspard, Special Force Legend
- Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial
- 3 Local VVAs & How to Join
- Semper Fidelis Society newsletter
- Bob Ong, My Neighbor
- From MOE
- MOAA St Augustine Chapter
- Dan Suttelle Remembered
- K9s For Warriors expands to Alachua
- New Veterans ID card information
- Veterans Council January Minutes
- Remembering Scott Speicher
- Former POW to speak in Flagler County
- Traveling Vietnam Wall in Melbourne
- Jacksonville Air Show
- Veterans Appreciation Day in Clay County
- Military Museum of N Florida
- Military Burn Pits
- Vietnam Wall of Faces
- Rosie the Riveter Passes
- Remembering the 4 Chaplains
- From the FL State VVA Council



Fellow Veterans:

On Friday, 30 March 2018, 10 AM, the Veterans Council and Vietnam Veterans Assoc. Chapter 1084 will honor our Vietnam veterans by conducting a Vietnam Memorial Wreath Laying Ceremony at the St. Augustine National Cemetery. Brig. Gen. Richard Capps will be our keynote speaker and Congressman John Rutherford will be a guest speaker. Congressman Rutherford will also present a Vietnam lapel pin to anyone who has not previously received a pin. You do not have to have served in Vietnam to be eligible to receive a pin...you are eligible if you served in any military branch during the period from Nov. 1, 1955 – May 15, 1975. Please mark the date and plan to attend as we honor our Vietnam veterans with this wreath laying ceremony.

The Veterans Council has taken on two new initiatives to honor our veterans. In early May, we will hold a ceremony in front of the St. Johns County Administration Building to hoist a POW / MIA flag on the main flag pole beneath the American flag that is currently on display in that location. The flag raising ceremony will be open to the public. We will also provide a POW / MIA flag at the Health and Human Services Building. Everyone will be made aware as soon as the date is firmed up with the Board of County Commissioners

After this ceremony, the Executive Board of the Veterans Council will appear before the Board of County Commissioners where they will receive a Purple Heart Proclamation declaring St. Johns County a Purple Heart County. Currently there are 17 out of 67 counties in the State of Florida that hold this distinction.



All Purple Heart recipients who reside in St. Johns County will be invited and honored as a part of this recognition ceremony.

Please remember to contact Michael Rothfeld if your organization has any news or events you would like to get out to our veteran community. Michael can be contacted at mrothfeld@anyveteran.org. He will put your organizations event on our web page, Facebook. and distribute to our extensive email list.

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

Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home



Another fabulous performance by Re-Creation, an organization of young adults traveling the country performing their music show for veterans homes, hospitals and clinics.



Making Valentines with "Helping Hands" Organization



Helping Hands Valentines



Valentine's Day Party



Valentines Day Social



We had a Girl Scout Troop come in to sell PLENTY of cookies to the residents and staff!



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 March 19, 2018**. 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**.

Jacksonville National Cemetery Support Committee Meetings for 2018

March 19th, 2018 Planning for Memorial Day Ceremony

April 16th, Memorial Day Planning

May 14th, Final Memorial Day Planning

Sept 17th, Begin Planning for WAA 2018

Oct. 15th

Nov 5th

Dec 3rd

+++++2016/2017 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

Gary Newman, President VVA 1059 Clay County, presents Clay County School Board Member Michael Wingate, Director of K12 Academic Services with sets of the dvd documentaries, for all county High Schools, produced by the Veterans Council of St



Johns County. The dvds tell the stories of local NE FL veterans in all wars.

POLICY of Veterans Council of St. Johns County
Written and approved by the EXCOMM of VC of SJC

ALL: Please read. We are instituting these guidelines because we have been allowing posts that are not veterans related, political in nature and for profit postings. I will remove postings that do not comply with the above, if it happens a second time I will be forced to prohibit you from using this site.

The Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc., is an IRC§501(c)(3) exempt organization, FEIN 27-1971825, registered (# CH31930) with the Florida Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Contributions are deductible from taxable federal income as charitable donations under IRC§170 and/or IRC§6115. The Council does not use professional solicitors. 100% of funds received benefit the missions of the Council: supporting, advising, advocating, recommending and assisting the various commissions, organizations and citizens of St. Johns County.

Please visit our website: [http:// StJohnsVetsCouncil.org](http://StJohnsVetsCouncil.org) for more information.

A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. The toll-free number of the Department is 1-800-HELP-FLA (435-7352) — calling from within the State of Florida, or (850) 488-2221 — calling from outside Florida.

It is the policy of the Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc. not to endorse or advertise any product(s) or service(s) that would promote personal gain for any individual or group, or otherwise violate the provisions of §501(c) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code. The Veterans Council reserves the right to remove any advertising or promotional postings or links thereto, which are not in compliance with the aims and ideals of our organization, or, directly or indirectly, are political in nature, at the sole discretion of the website administrator (with or without notice to those making the deleted posting). We appreciate your support and appreciate your compliance.



GEORGE GASPARD JR.

Lt. Col. George Wallace Gaspard Jr. was born at Maxwell Field, Montgomery, Ala., on August 5, 1926, the son of the late George W. Gaspard of MN and Annie Lou Bamberg of AL. He passed away on January 30, 2018 in his home in Saint Johns, FL. He served in the United States Marine Corps from 1944 to 1946 and first entered the U.S. Army on June 11, 1951. In May 1952, he reported to Fort Benning, Ga., as a student in the first all officer class at the Ranger course, followed by attendance at a special course at the Air Ground School located at Southern Pines, N.C. He then applied for transfer to the 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), which had just been organized at Fort Bragg, N.C. He served as a team leader in the 18th SF Operational Detachment, and in November 1952 attended Special Forces Class #1.

In March 1953, then Lt. Gaspard was assigned to FEC/LD 8240AU FECOM during the Korean War, where he commanded four enlisted men and 80 South Korean agents, who were dispatched behind enemy lines to gather intelligence on the North Koreans. In October 1954, Gaspard joined the 77th SF Group (A) as a guerrilla warfare instructor with the Psychological Warfare School's Special Forces Department. He was subsequently transferred to the 187th ARCT and honorably discharged in September 1957. From 1960-1962, he served as a civilian mobilization designee with the Special Warfare department in the Pentagon.

In April 1962, he was recalled to active duty and assigned to the 5th SF Group (A) at Fort Bragg, commanding Det A-13; and in September opened a new Special Forces Camp in Kontum Province at Dak Pek, Vietnam, which remained the longest continuously active SF/ARVN Ranger camp until it was overrun in 1972. Capt. Gaspard returned to Fort Bragg in 1963 as adjutant and HHC commander of the newly formed 6th SF Group (A). In July 1965, he reported to AID Washington, DC and subsequently to AID Saigon, assigned as a provincial

adviser in Quang Duc Province. He was instrumental in negotiations to peacefully transfer FULRO personnel to the Army of South Vietnam. He was promoted to major in 1966, and after completing this tour, reported to 1 SF Group (A), Okinawa.

In October 1967, he returned to Vietnam and directed the MACVSOG Strata program. With the SOG Commander, Col. Jack Singlaub, Maj. Gaspard briefed Gen. Westmorland and Gen. Abrams on future STRATA operations, resulting in 24 helo insertions and 22 1-2 extractions into North Vietnam' with one STRATA team becoming surrounded and requiring emergency extraction. Maj. Gaspard, riding a hydraulic penetrator, twice descended to remove a wounded agent and was awarded the Air Force Distinguished Flying Cross for Heroism and the Purple Heart Medal. He returned to SOG 1969; 2qw promoted to lieutenant colonel in 1971; and reported to 1st SF Group, Okinawa as the group executive officer, and later assuming command of the 1st Battalion. Lt. Col. Gaspard retired in August 1973.

His awards and decorations include: the Silver Star Medal, Distinguished Flying Cross, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal with V-device and five Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Medal with V-device and three Oak Leaf Clusters, Purple Heart Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Combat Infantryman's Badge with one Battle Star, Master Parachutist Badge, Pacific Theater Service Ribbon with one Campaign Star, Korea Service Ribbon with two campaign Stars, Vietnam Service Campaign Ribbon with 15 campaign Stars, 18 other service and foreign awards including the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross with Gold, Silver and Bronze stars, U.S. Navy Parachute Wings, Korea Master Parachutist Wings, Vietnamese Master Parachutist Wings, Thailand Master Parachutist Wings and Cambodia Parachute Wings. In 1985, Colonel Gaspard entered the South Carolina State Guard and was subsequently appointed in 1987 as Chief of Staff with the rank of Brigadier General. In 1991, he was inducted into the Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame at Fort Benning, Georgia. In 2010, BG Gaspard became a Distinguished Member of the Special Forces Regiment. Lt. Col. Gaspard was a member of SFA, SOA, VFW, MOAA, American Legion and Sons of Confederacy.

Lt. Col. Gaspard is survived by his loving wife Suzanne R. Fox Gaspard; children, Margaret A. Wornica (Dennis), George W. Gaspard, III., Michael B. Gaspard

(Donna), Jeannette G. Marshall (John), Graham C. Gaspard (Marla), Townsend Gaspard and Kirsten Gaspard; eight grandchildren; and three great grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to The Green Beret Foundation, The George C. Morton Memorial Scholarship Fund(SOA), Community Hospice of Jacksonville, FL, St Augustine Humane Society, St Augustine, FL, Jacksonville Humane Society, Jacksonville, FL.



MISSION BACKGROUND

Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, has been formed to restore and establish a national memorial that will serve as a historic and destination site for Jacksonville and to serve as an educational resource for generations to come.

The memorial site, located at the former Naval Air Station Cecil Field, was originally dedicated on September 11, 1973 and consisted of markers and associated trees for each of the 16 POW/MIA pilots (an area known as Hero's Walk and Freedom Trees), a pavilion, a stage area, a starburst metal display of aircraft, a granite base seal of NAS Cecil Field and a chapel. This property was given to the City of Jacksonville when Cecil Field was decommissioned in 1995. As a result, the existing memorial has been forgotten.

However, the non-profit organization was given a lease by the Jacksonville City Council and the Mayor's office, and given the rights to develop, expand and maintain the 26-acre memorial.



A FEW QUOTES SUBMITTED BY OUR NATIONAL LEADERS



"Your proposal to use part of the former Naval Air Station Cecil Field for a POW/MIA Memorial is a fitting location to pay tribute to this very special group. Given that Mary Hoff, the creator of the POW/MIA flag, is a long-time resident of Jacksonville, and that her husband, Lieutenant Commander Michael G. Hoff, is memorialized at Cecil Field, there could not be a more appropriate site for the POW/MIA Memorial."

U.S. Congressman
John Rutherford

"The proposal to build the Cecil Field Prisoners of War and Missing in Action Museum is a great opportunity to honor the service members who did not return home from war."

U.S. Senator
Marco Rubio

"With the Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, we can renew our commitment to all those who have worn the uniform, to the children and families, and thank them for their unselfishness and bravery."

U.S. Senator
Bill Nelson



JOIN THE MISSION TO BRING A NATIONAL POW/MIA MEMORIAL TO JACKSONVILLE

MISSION STATEMENT

HONOR ALL FORMER PRISONERS OF WAR;
REMEMBER AND NEVER FORGET THOSE
QUIET, MISSING IN ACTION HEROES AND THE
FAMILIES THAT WAIT FOR THEIR RETURN.

More than 82,000 are still Missing in Action and Unaccounted for since WWII

MEMORIAL STRATEGIC PLAN

With the help of the community, Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc. is raising funds to make this memorial a true national honor to all POW/MIA personnel from every state in America. These funds will enable the organization to accomplish the following memorial projects:

- Restore and use the historic chapel (named the "Chapel of the High-Speed Pave") for memorial services, ceremonies and weddings.
- Enhance the existing sacred grounds of the park and to construct a replica of the USS Saratoga (CV-60).
- Refurbish and utilize existing building 333 as a starting point for the POW/MIA memorial center and museum.
- Establish a new memorial center - to honor all Former Prisoners of War, acknowledge those still Missing in Action; feature the history of the Prisoner of War/Missing in Action flag; house the history of NAS Cecil Field.
- Educate the public on the Prisoner of War and Missing in Action issue through exhibits, videos, artifacts and memorabilia.
- Establish a national destination for military remembrance and celebration (there is not a national memorial for all Missing in Action in the United States).



Hero's Walk & Freedom Trees



Chapel of the High-Speed Pave



Starburst Sculpture

CECIL FIELD NATIONAL POW/MIA MEMORIAL PARK



HOW YOU CAN HELP HONOR OUR MILITARY HEROES



It will take considerable dollars to fund this sacred project. At this point, the project will depend on contributions from private citizens. You can help this effort by making contributions online by going to our website at powmiamemorial.org or to make checks payable to:

Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc.
612 New World Avenue Jacksonville, Florida 32227

ONLINE PowMiaMemorial.org

Facebook.com/Cecil-Field-POW-MIA-Memorial-Inc-1084025864845232/

Twitter.com/CFPOW/MIA

Instagram.com/cecilfieldpowmia/

Disclaimer: Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc. IS A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION. REGISTRATION NUMBER: CHECKED A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE OFFICE OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE, 800-435-1352, WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECEIPTMENT BY THE STATE.

How to Join and Who to Contact about joining a local Vietnam Veterans of America group

Duval County: Anyone can get in touch with the Duval County VVA 1046 at 904-419-8621 or email info@vva1046.com, or call me directly, info listed below.

Anthony (Tony) D'Aleo, President, Nicholas J. Cutinha
VVA Chapter 1046, Cell # 904-910-2386

Clay County: Anyone wishing to join the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter in Clay County should contact Gary Newman, Chapter # 1059 President. Any Vietnam veteran is eligible to join this very exclusive organization, era veterans are included.

Contact information is as follows:

Gary Newman, P.O. Box 626, Orange Park, Fl. 32067-0626

Tel: 904 269 1857, E-mail: agnjustice@yahoo.com

We meet on the 1st Saturday of each month at 11:00 AM @ the Middleburg American Legion, Post # 250. Come join your Brothers and Sisters.

St Johns County, VVA Leo C Chase Chapter 1084: Those seeking information can call 904-233-4712 (leave message), or email to president@vva1084.org or membership@vva1084.org. One can also check out our website at vva1084.org.

Our membership meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of each month at Jaybird's Restaurant at 2600 N Ponce de Leon Blvd, St Augustine. For the hardcore, a smaller group meets at Jaybird's every Monday morning around 8 AM for BB&B (Blather, BS, and Brotherhood). We have a great group, and all are welcome to visit and participate!

John Leslie, President, Vietnam Veterans of America
Leo C Chase Chapter 1084, (904) 233-4712



From left: Gary Newman and Tony D'Aleo receiving Member of the Year Award from the VVA FL State Council. On right is John Leslie receiving Award for Newsletter of the Year.
Photo by Dave Treffinger

How to Join and Who to Contact about joining a local Vietnam Veterans of America local group

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John Leslie, President, Vietnam Veterans
America

Leo C Chase Chapter 1084,
(904) 233-4712

The 3 Presidents: from left,
Tony D'Aleo, Gary Newman
and John Leslie



of

Saturday,
March 3, 2018
10:00AM - 2:30PM

3rd ANNUAL
**Active
Boomers & Seniors
Expo**

ST.AUGUSTINE
OUTLETS
500 Outlet Mall Blvd,
St Augustine, FL 32084

FOR VETERANS, ACTIVE BABY BOOMERS, SENIORS & CAREGIVERS



SPECIAL "VETERANS RECOGNITION DAY"!
THANK YOU VETERANS

The Expo will provide veterans and their families access to extensive and diverse services, resources and support available in St Johns County.

FREE ADMISSION - FREE PARKING

**VETERAN SERVICES
EXHIBITORS INCLUDE:**

- St Johns County Veterans Services
- The Veterans Council of St Johns County
- Vietnam Veterans of America St Johns County
- K9's For Warriors
- Veterans Treatment Court
- St Augustine Sea Cadets Battalion
- Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial...
and more

**OTHER EXHIBITOR
CATEGORIES:**

- Leisure Activities
- Health Screenings
- Finance
- Living Options
- Legal Services
- Insurance Services
- Aging in Place
- Healthy Food & Nutrition
...and Lots More!

**HIGHLIGHTS
INCLUDE:**

- SILENT AUCTION
to Benefit Vets 4 Vets
- Patriotic Songs
- Live Performances



Brought to you by...



Produced by...



In Association with...



FOR EXPO INFORMATION: 904-810-8535 ✉ BoomerSeniorExpo@gmail.com

36 Granada Street, St. Augustine

FL 32084

(904) 679-5736

Corazoncinemaandcafe.com



Stop by the Corazon Cinema and Café located in the heart of St. Augustine to catch a great film or a bite to eat (free parking). **Tell us you are a veteran and receive 10% off any food or drinks.** Beer and wine available.

The newsletter of the Semper Fidelis Society

<http://semperfidelisociety.org/newsletters>

MISSION STATEMENT:

The Semper Fidelis Society is an association of Marines whose purpose is to maintain the camaraderie, esprit-de-corps and sense of purpose that identifies us as United States Marines. We believe that the Marine Corps values of honor, courage and commitment, coupled with the historical tenacity of Marines to accomplish their mission are traits that are worthy of respect and emulation. In the interest of Marines taking care of Marines and sharing our values within our community, we will provide a forum/fraternity of Marines that will foster an atmosphere of friendship and cooperation with the intent of providing a network of Marines who will work towards the goal of Marines taking care of Marines and establishing a set of connections that can benefit Marines, Navy FMF Corpsmen and their families.

VISION STATEMENT

Ensure that Marines and Navy FMF Corpsmen are respected and recognized for their services, always receive their benefits and entitlements; are recognized for the sacrifices they and their families made on behalf of this nation.



NATIONAL VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY CEREMONY



Thursday - March 29, 2018 at 3 p.m.

**Camp Blanding Museum
5629 State Road 16 West, Starke, FL 32091**

HOST

Maj. Gen. Michael Calhoun
The Adjutant General, Florida National Guard

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Richard Capps
Former Assistant Adjutant General-Army,
Florida National Guard

REMARKS

Representative Ted Yoho
Florida's 3rd Congressional District

FLORIDA NATIONAL GUARD | CAMP BLANDING JOINT TRAINING CENTER | FOR MORE INFORMATION 904-682-3196



From Anthony G D'Aleo:

On Wed. Feb. 7th at the VVA 1046 Chapter meeting, I was proud to present Harrison Conyers, City of Jacksonville Manager of Military and Veterans Affairs with an Honorary Lifetime Membership of the Vietnam Veterans Association. Only few individuals were similarly recognized in

the nation!

Please join me in congratulating Harrison on this well deserved honor.



To all our citizens of St. Johns County, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the outpouring of donations, volunteers, and contributors to our 2017 Wreaths Across America program. The attendance on Saturday, December 16 was overwhelming and shows how much our community cares about our veterans and those who have served our country in uniform.

Bill Dudley Chairman
Veterans Council of St. Johns County

Bob Ong: An American Hero passes, his story lives on

Bob Ong passed away this week. I met Bob Ong about 11 years ago when I started my documentary career. Bob lived in my community, had a friendly personality and a good memory.

My first project, interviewing and recording WW II veterans service stories, started in my senior community in Elkton, FL when I found out that there were over 30 WW II veterans living in Coquina Crossing.

Bob Ong's story was historical and was one of the reasons I knew I had to record all my WW II neighbors stories for future generations to learn about the "Greatest Generation".

This is from Bob's testimony in our WW II documentary: Bob was stationed on Tinian Island in the Pacific during the war. One day he observed something different happening on the airfield. Although no one was allowed on the airfield Bob watched nearby. He noticed a plane, the Enola Gay, moving to cover a large opening in the ground and saw something being lifted up into the plane's belly. This was very different from the normal way things are loaded onto a plane. Normally, the objects are moved to the plane not the other way around. Not knowing what was being loaded Bob went about his assigned tasks.

Later on, Bob realized that he had witnessed the reason why WW II ended with the dropping of the world's first Atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Bob is pictured here standing in front of the Enola Gay and ready for an exercise.

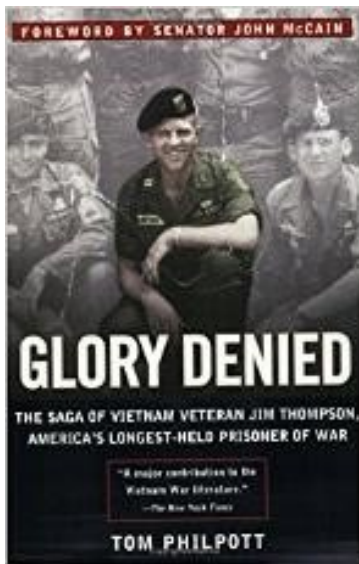


From Moe Moyer



A recent post on the VCSJC Facebook site - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/VCSJC/permalink/1574909622556821/> - referenced Everett Alvarez as being the longest held POW in

US History. That record is often attached to his eight plus years in captivity during the Vietnam War but it actually falls quite short of the true holder of that specific record. Colonel Floyd James Thompson is the true holder. He was held ten days short of ten years. 3,278 days in captivity. Thompson notes not talking to another American for five years while he was held in the jungle camps of South Vietnam. His life – military and civilian – was tragic to say the least from his return in 1973 until his death in 2002.



Here is Wikipedia's version of his bio - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Floyd_James_Thompson.

It is just my opinion but I believe that the USG/DoD concerns with Thompson's behavior after returning home was key in the lack of notoriety of Thompson's story.

FYI – Longest held enlisted man – Bill Robinson, USAF, E-5 – 2,703 days -7 yrs. 4 months and a few days. 1965 September – 1973 February

CAREGIVER COALITION OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA 2018 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Throughout the year, the Caregiver Coalition of Northeast Florida hosts a series of free, public events that offer First Coast caregivers a time to network, relax and learn about resources from our valued community partners. Most programs include complimentary meals and respite care by request for loved ones.



HERE'S OUR LINEUP FOR 2018:

"CARING FOR THE CAREGIVER" CONFERENCE

Saturday, February 24, 2018 • 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Registration: 8:30 a.m.
Ramada Inn Mandarin
3130 Hartley Road
Jacksonville, FL 32257

CAREGIVER EXPO 2018

Saturday, April 14, 2018 • 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
EverBank Field US Assure Club East
1 EverBank Field Drive
Jacksonville, FL 32202

"CARING FOR THE CAREGIVER" CONFERENCE

Saturday, June 16, 2018 • 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Registration: 8:30 a.m.
Mary Singleton Senior Center
150 East First St.
Jacksonville, FL 32206

"CARING FOR THE MILITARY/VETERAN CAREGIVER" CONFERENCE

Friday, Sept. 21, 2018 • 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Registration: 8:30 a.m.
WJCT Public Broadcasting
100 Festival Park Ave.
Jacksonville, FL 32202



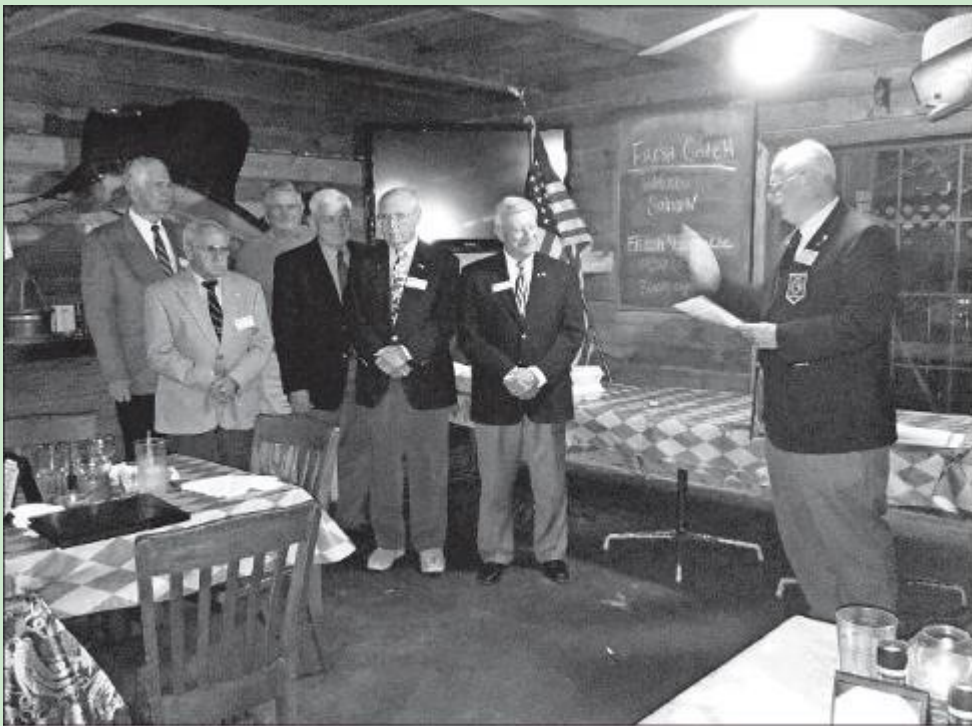
Visit MyCaregiverConnection.org throughout the year for the latest news and event info!

For more information, or to participate as a sponsor or exhibitor, contact Toula Wootan at Community Hospice & Palliative Care: 904.407.6211 or tfootan@communityhospice.com.

Caregiver Coalition of Northeast Florida Partners: Community Hospice & Palliative Care; AARP®; Aging True Community Senior Services; Alzheimer's Association, Central and North Florida Chapter; Area Councils on Aging; Baptist AgeWell Center for Senior Health; Brooks Rehabilitation; City of Jacksonville, Senior Services Division; ElderSource; Jewish Family & Community Services; Mayo Clinic Florida; YMCA of Florida's First Coast



**Newsletter of the Year award presentation to
John Leslie (President VVA 1084) , John
McGinty (1st Vice President, Florida State
Council) and Mike Bousher
(President, Florida State Council)
Photo by David Treffinger**



The Ancient City Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America installed its 2018 leadership in January during a dinner meeting at Creekside Restaurant. From left: Board Members Marcus Cornelius III, Ken Russon, Jerry Hanchett and Harry Metz; George McCrea, Treasurer; Rick Erkelens, 2nd Vice President; Gary List, 1st Vice President; Hap Thompson, Secretary; Ron Birchall, President, and Pat Ivory, Northeast Area Vice President of the State of Florida. Not pictured is Board Member Joe Naftziner.



Jose Concha, DPM * Richard Johnson, DPM
Board Certified by the American Board of Foot & Ankle Surgery

Let Us Help You Put a Spring In Your Step!

From relieving foot pain and treating fungal nails to diabetic care or reconstructive surgery, our knowledgeable physicians will help you get a spring back in your step. Call our caring staff and make an appointment today. Come experience the Coastal difference. Your feet will thank you!



St. Augustine: 904-826-1900 www.cfawc.com Palatka: 386-328-1122

This was the opening monolog in our Vietnam documentary, read by Vietnam veteran, Michael Isam

The myth that the war in Vietnam was not as intense as World War II

All wars are terrible and no single war could be any easier than another. Every soldier's life is in danger and each and every one of them has to fight for their own life and those of their fellow troops. Why does the myth that the war in Vietnam was not as intense as in World War II even exist?



During the Second World War, the average infantryman would see around 40 days of combat in four years, however, during the Vietnam war the average would be around 240 days in one year due to how mobile helicopters had gotten. A number of 2,7 million people served in Vietnam and one in ten of them was a casualty with a total of 58,148 being killed. One of the main differences between combat in both wars was that during the Vietnam war amputations and crippling wounds were 300 percent higher. Furthermore, over 900,000 of the soldiers were patients who had to be airlifted where about half were American.

Helicopters were a lot of times like gifts sent from above. From all the wounded soldiers who survived in the first 24 hours, less than one percent died due to the low average time lapse from wounding to hospitalization.

The mobility that the helicopters provided was one of the most significant differences between the wars and a welcome change that helped save many lives during the Vietnam war. However, the average Vietnam soldier did see more days of combat exactly because of the mobility of the helicopters so the Vietnam war was in no way less intense than the Second World War for the troops themselves and often in the eyes of the American public too.

St. Johns Family Funeral Home & Crematory
385 State road 207, St. Augustine, Florida 32084 904-824-1625



OBITUARY NOTICE

Daniel Allen Suttelle, age 96, of St. Augustine, passed away on Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2018 at Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home. Dan was born on Sept. 27, 1921 in Ambridge, Pa. to Frank and Margaret Griffin Suttelle. After graduating from high school, Dan joined the US Navy in Oct of 1939 serving as a Chief Pharmacist Mate specializing in Aviation Medicine. He served aboard the USS Seiverling, DE441 in most all of the major battles in the Pacific in WW II. His ship was tied up alongside the USS Missouri during the signing of the Japanese surrender in Japan at the end of the war and he witnessed along with many of his shipmates the signing of the surrender. He retired from the U.S. Navy in June of 1960 after 20 years of service.

Dan was married to the former Lois Marie Demko. She preceded him in death in 1990. After his retirement, Dan was employed as a Director at the Red Cross in Long Island, N.Y and United Way in Long Island. He later moved to St. Augustine in the early 70's and was employed by Deltona Real Estate and was heavily involved in development of St. Augustine Shores. He served as a docent at World Golf Hall of Fame giving tours, was a former President of the St. Augustine Navy League Council, a National Director and a member of the US Navy Fleet Reserve. He was also a member of the Knights of Columbus, Exchange Club, and Lions Club.

Dan will be best remembered as a caring and giving person who was always ready to help a friend or family member in need.

In addition to his wife, Dan was preceded in death by his parents Frank and Margaret Suttelle, brothers, Francis, Clayton, and John Suttelle. He is survived by a niece, Lynne Suttelle Stasi and her children Spencer Stasi and Alisa Daglio , and a nephew, Robert Schmetzer and his wife Kathy.

Funeral services will be held at 11 am on Saturday, February 17, 2018 at St. Johns Family Funeral Home with Father Nick Marziani officiating. Interment at Arlington National Cemetery will take place at a later date. In lieu of flowers a donation in Dan's memory can be made to the St. Augustine-Palm Coast Navy League Council, P.O. Box 2117, St. Augustine, FL. 32085. Bill and Nancy Dudley, longtime friends, neighbors, and caretakers for Dan would like to thank the nurses and staff of the Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home, Northeast Florida Community Hospice and the caretakers from Visiting Angels for their excellent and skillful care of Dan during his illness.

St. Johns Family Funeral Home in St. Augustine is in charge of arrangements.

From ABC 20 Alachua, A non-profit group that serves veterans is preparing their new property in Alachua for use this spring.

The K9s for Warriors (Ponte Vedra Beach) program helps veterans with PTSD, brain injuries, or other trauma.

Participants take part in a three-week live-in program where they train dogs with the goal of returning to independent civilian living.



The property was donated by the Gold family and features a nine-bedroom house on 67 acres.

"The warriors will come here. They'll get to stay in this beautiful house. They'll have everything paid for. You'll see us out in the community driving around in our K9s for Warriors vans as the warriors get to learn how to use their dogs at restaurants and sporting events. I mean, you're going to see us," said Rory Diamond, CEO of K9s for Warriors

They are working to get kennels for the dogs.

The facility will begin classes May 1st.

Anyone interested in volunteering or participating can find out more information at

<https://www.k9sforwarriors.org/>

Applications for new VA ID cards are open By: Leo Shane III

The Department of Veterans Affairs is accepting applications for new Veteran ID cards as of today, but questions surrounding the program's costs and private sector involvement remain unclear.

The cards — designed to be an easy way for veterans to prove their military service for a host of nongovernment services — will be delivered within 60 days of applying with digital copies available next month.

Veterans can start the application process now through the main VA website at www.vets.gov. The link to the ID application is on the bottom left of the page, labeled “Apply for printed Veteran ID Card.”

The cards were mandated by Congress in July 2015, with the expectation of distribution sometime in 2017. In a release announcing the official start of the program Wednesday, VA officials said their moves are “fulfilling a promise that has been unfulfilled since 2015.”

“The new Veterans Identification Card provides a safer and more convenient and efficient way for most veterans to show proof of service,” VA Secretary David Shulkin said in a statement. “With the card, veterans with honorable service to our nation will no longer need to carry around their paper DD-214s to obtain veteran discounts and other services.”

Cards will be printed and shipped by Office Depot, an arrangement that VA officials said will allow veterans to receive the IDs free of charge. VA officials declined to release the cost of the printing and shipping arrangement with Office Depot. The final design of the cards has not been finalized yet. Previous versions had the Office Depot logo on the back with the veteran's information on the front.

Under rules developed by VA, individuals who served in the armed forces, including the reserve components, and have a character of discharge of honorable or general under honorable conditions are eligible for the new IDs. Veterans with other than honorable status are not eligible.

That has upset some veteran's groups, which have noted that the legislation to create the cards had no such restrictions.

The new cards won't replace VA medical cards or official defense retiree cards and will not carry any force of law behind them. Veterans will also need to register for an online account with VA to apply for the card.

Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc. Minutes of January 25, 2018

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



Chairman Dudley called the meeting to order at 1900 hours

Chairman Dudley led the Pledge to the Flag,

Vice Chairman Ray Quinn gave the Invocation

Last month's Minutes were approved as read

The Treasurer's Report was approved as read

Introduction of Guests: Mike Lee (USN), BG Mike Fleming (Ret), Craig Soleim (USN), Arnold Shaheen VVA 1084

Speakers: Mike Mitchell, Jacksonville Univ., Veterans Student Coordinator. JU Program for active duty, veterans & retirees. Teach them the GI Bill, and Chapter 35 and how to use money for schooling. Available to all students- beginner's orientation, counseling, tutoring and financial aid. 424 students in program, 40 staff.

BG Fleming, Sr VP- asks all students to set examples for other students.



Alison Simpson, Historian, FL National Guard. The FLNG has been in St Augustine since 1907. There are 12,000 NG in FL



in 128 Units, 200 are deployed now. The NG Museum building was a Friary until 1960. Alison discussed in detail the 5 most common myths associated with the Museum building,

see <https://www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu/histarch/sa.htm>

Committee Reports:

Mac: The SJCVSO will be at SPIN (Sr. Provider Information Network) at the Outlet Mall on March 3 from 1000 to 1430. The gov't is now refunding severance pay that was incorrectly taxed.

Ray Quinn: Thanked all who helped with the WAA cleanup.

The **COL Ed Taylor Award**, in honor of the founder of the VC of SJC and highly decorated,

was presented to Judge H. McGillin, COL, USA ret, and co-founder of the Veterans Treatment **Court**. Judge McGillin accepted the Award on behalf of the VTC Team. There are 24 in court program, 22 still involved, 1 graduated, 1 dropped out.

Michael R: Invited all to the AUSA Dinner meeting on Feb. 15 to hear Judge McGillin speak about VTC and to attend the March 28th Council meeting to hear the County Secondary Social Studies Curriculum Specialist talk about how Vietnam is taught in County Schools.

Ron Birchall: the Military Ball profits will be donated to the Veterans Council to be used to directly help veterans.

Chairman Dudley: Met with Dr McKenzie (CMO) and VA about location of new permanent CBOC- still no decision. Also discussed new ways to keep veterans in existing VA Health Care. Under discussion was a plan to add another van to start/end in Palm Coast travel to St Augustine and from there to either Jacksonville or Gainesville VA facilities.

The Council may purchase (with Grant money) 22 flag holders for St Augustine National Cemetery to line walkways during events. Also briefly discussed, but for further discussion is to have St Johns County designated as a Purple Heart County.

John Leslie, president VVA 1084 presented Vets4Vets President George McCrae with two checks totaling \$ 1000.



The Council will be raising the **POW/MIA Flags** over the two County buildings in a ceremony with the County Commissioners (flags donated by **Mike Cassata of the Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial**).

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm. The next meeting of the Veterans Council will be on Thursday, February 22, 7 pm in the Health & Human Services Building, 200 San Sebastian View.

Future speakers:

February 22, Leigh Devane, Traci Mansour, Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home

Chairman Dudley will speak about the Council's 2017 programs, projects, and events.

March 28, Laura Wynn, Curriculum Specialist, Secondary Social Studies, Advanced Academic Programs, SJC School District

April 26, Thomas Richardson, Asst Director, Veterans Employment & Training Service (VETS)

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Our Executive Director, Mike Cassata, and Communications Director, John Sutherland, CDR, USN, Ret., were invited guests of the Speicher Family for this moving tribute to one of the heroes of Cecil Field. Bravo Zulu to FSU for such a tremendous ceremony and lasting memorial legacy for "Spike". We are committed to ensure all of Cecil Field Heroes are honored and Never Forgotten. Join our cause now!

FSU unveils memorial in honor of U.S. Navy war hero Scott Speicher

By: Dave Heller

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — The spirit of Scott Speicher, an FSU alumnus celebrated as a true American war hero, is alive and well on the campus of Florida State University.

FSU President John Thrasher joined members of Speicher's family Friday to unveil a new memorial honoring the U.S. Navy pilot whose fighter jet was shot down on the first night of the Iraq War in 1991.

The memorial, located at the entrance of the tennis facility named after him in 1993, features a bronze pilot's helmet and eventually will include a bronze flight jacket and hat similar to what Speicher would have worn.



The memorial includes a bronze helmet similar to one that Scott Speicher would have worn as a pilot of the F/A-18 Hornet. A bronze flight jacket and aviator hat will be added later. (FSU Photography Services)

“It’s important that future generations understand who he was and what he did for his country,” Thrasher said. “Twenty-five years ago, we named this tennis center in his honor. Today, we continue to tell the story of Scott Speicher with the dedication of this beautiful memorial and plaza.”

The story of Scott Speicher became an agonizing journey of twists and turns that continued for nearly 20 years because it was unclear if he was dead or alive.

On Jan. 17, 1991, as the United States launched Operation Desert Storm, Lt. Cmdr. Speicher was piloting his F/A-18 Hornet toward Baghdad in the pitch black of night around 3 a.m. as his aircraft carrier, the USS Saratoga, fired tomahawk missiles into Iraq. His mission was to destroy a battery of surface-to-air missiles.

Speicher was within 45 seconds of his target when an enemy MiG-25 appeared and fired a missile that ripped off one of the wings on his jet. Witnesses saw a fireball in the sky and then about 20 seconds later, a huge explosion on the ground. It looked like Speicher was killed in the crash, and the U.S. military classified him as killed in action.

Years later, new evidence indicated Speicher had actually ejected from his jet around 13,000 feet. Satellite photos spotted the wreckage; the plane's canopy was located 1,400 yards away, indicating an ejection; and Speicher's status was changed to missing in action in 2001. It marked the first time in the history of the

U.S. military that a soldier was reclassified from KIA to MIA. In 2002, he was promoted to the rank of captain.

Speicher's remains were discovered in the Iraq desert west of Baghdad in 2009 — 18 years after his plane was shot down — and his case resulted in fundamental changes in the way the military handled cases of missing soldiers. Now, there must be proof of death before a search is called off; previously, that action would happen when there was no proof of life after 12 months.

Speicher's friend and fellow Navy pilot Buddy Harris, one of the speakers at the memorial unveiling, said the new military protocol is saving lives.

“That will continue to save lives, as long as we have conflicts, and he's brought back hundreds of veterans who've been repatriated,” said Harris, who worked for years to change the military protocol. “That's his legacy along with his family, he'd be so proud of them. We all have the Speicher spirit, and we will continue that Speicher spirit forever.”

Jennifer Hyde, head women's tennis coach, appreciates that Speicher spirit. She first felt it 25 years ago when FSU dedicated its new tennis facility and named it the Scott Speicher Tennis Center. Hyde, a student-athlete in 1993, attended the ribbon cutting for the tennis center, and she was one of the tennis players to hit the first ball on the new courts.

On Friday, Hyde pulled out that same tennis ball at the ceremony, held it up to the crowd gathered there and said she developed over the years a new understanding and gratitude for Speicher's legacy.

“We are so honored and humbled that our facility, our home for student-athletes and student-veterans, is built upon the bravery and uncompromising spirit of Scott Speicher and his legacy,” Hyde said. “Our tennis programs will continue to do our very best to honor Scott, his service, his sacrifice, and most importantly, his family to the absolute best of our ability.”

The memorial project was a collaboration between FSU's Grounds and Landscape Operations, Master Craftsman Studio, Mad Dog Construction and Student Veterans Center.

Billy Francis, director of FSU's Student Veterans Center, said just as members of the military come from all backgrounds and unite in a common purpose to safeguard freedom, he believes the Speicher Memorial will spur the same kind of response.

“It is my hope that this memorial will inspire all of us to come together to care for each other to the point of sacrifice — one for the other — together,” Francis said.

The memorial unveiling was held as part of Military Appreciation Weekend hosted by FSU Women's Tennis. The women's team plays Air Force at noon Saturday, and in a show of support for Speicher's memory and his family, members of the Air Force tennis team turned out to participate in Friday's ceremony.

Former prisoner of war (POW) Bill Robinson, the longest held enlisted military captive in our country's history – will speak in Palm Coast, March 14, 2018 at 6 p.m. at the VFW Post 8696. Tickets are required for entry but are FREE (see below).

Come hear his story... Bill spent 2,703 days in captivity. He has a lot to say about his experiences. Time will be available after Bill's talk for hand shaking, photo opportunities, and book signing. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

TICKETS are free and can be reserved at www.FlaglerVeteran.com . Do not wait! Get your tickets now for this rare opportunity to hear and meet a POW. (Sponsored by the Flagler County Veterans Advisory Council and organizations: VFW, DAV, American Legion, AMVETS, MOAA, and Marine Corps League.)



www.FlaglerVeteran.com

Inaugural

2018

Cecil Field
POW*MIA
MEMORIAL
GOLF

TOURNAMENT

MON
 APR 9
 2018



St. Johns Golf & Country Club
 219 St. Johns Golf Drive
 St. Augustine, FL 32092

Monday, April 9, 2018
 "National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day"

Registration/Warm-up/Pre-Event	11:45am - 12:45pm
Shot Gun Start	1:00 pm
BBQ Dinner/Awards Ceremony/Raffle	5:00 – 6:30 pm

Raffle tickets available throughout the day. Winners will be announced at the conclusion of the award ceremony.

All proceeds benefit **Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc.**

CECIL FIELD POW/MIA MEMORIAL IS A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION – REGISTRATION NUMBER: CH51569. 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. CECIL FIELD POW/MIA MEMORIAL IS AN IRS 501(C)(3), PUBLIC CHARITY. ID# 31954. CONTRIBUTIONS ARE DEDUCTIBLE.

**Deadline to Register*:
 April 4, 2018**

Sponsorship Packages and Player Registration Forms attached, or register online at:
www.powmiamemorial.org

Follow the 2018 Golf Tournament Event from our Facebook page:



Inaugural

2018



**Cecil Field
POW★MIA
MEMORIAL**

GOLF

TOURNAMENT

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| PLATINUM SPONSOR | \$2500 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listed as Platinum Sponsor on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Hole Sponsor Signage – Tournament Program – Facebook Event Page – Website with link to sponsor’s website • Recognition at Tournament Award Ceremony • Up to Eight (8) player entries | |
| GOLD SPONSOR | \$1500 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listed as Gold Sponsor on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Hole Sponsor Signage – Tournament Program – Facebook Event Page – Website with link to sponsor’s website • Up to Six (6) player entries | |
| SILVER SPONSOR | \$800 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listed as Silver Sponsor on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Hole Sponsor Signage – Tournament Program – Facebook Event Page – Website with link to sponsor’s website • Up to Four (4) player entries | |

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| SINGLE PLAYER FEE | \$150 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Tournament Entry – Tournament Polo Shirt – Green, Cart, and Pro Fee – BBQ Dinner | |

HOLE SPONSOR FORM AND PLAYER REGISTRATION FORM ATTACHED.

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INAUGURAL CECIL FIELD POW/MIA MEMORIAL 2018 GOLF TOURNAMENT

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Company Address _____
City _____ State ____ Zip _____
Contact Name _____
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Sponsorship Level:

- Platinum Sponsor (\$2500) Silver Sponsor (\$800)
 Gold Sponsor (\$1500)

Donations:

- Separate donation in support of Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial \$ _____
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Important Sponsorship Information:

1. Payment of sponsorship donation or player registration fee(s) can be done online at powmiamemorial.org or mail check payable to "Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc." to:
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Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc.
6112 New World Ave, Jacksonville, FL 32221
 2. For those sponsorship levels that include golf participation, please register each golfer by: **Wednesday, April 2nd**
-

Player 1 Name _____ Phone (____) _____

Email Address _____ Shirt Size _____

Player 2 Name _____ Phone (____) _____

Email Address _____ Shirt Size _____

Player 3 Name _____ Phone (____) _____

Email Address _____ Shirt Size _____

Player 4 Name _____ Phone (____) _____

Email Address _____ Shirt Size _____

****Additional players may be added on a separate sheet.***

Here is Chapter 1046 supporting the Vietnamese community for the 2018 Tet Celebration.



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HONORING OUR VETERANS ★ ★ ★

Date: APRIL 28th
Time: NOON to 4 PM
Place: Putnam County Fairgrounds
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Wickham Park, Melbourne, FL is open 24 hours each day during the week the Wall is visiting. You are welcome at any time.

Our **Wall is a 3/5 scale of the Vietnam Memorial** in Washington DC, it stands six feet tall at the center and covers almost 300 feet from end to end.



This Traveling Memorial stands as a reminder of the great sacrifices made during the Vietnam War. It was made for the purpose of helping heal and rekindle friendships and to allow people the opportunity to visit loved ones in their home town who otherwise may not be able to make the trip to Washington.

Welcome to the official 2018 NAS Jax Air Show event.

The NAS Jax Air Show, Birthplace of the Blue Angels, will be October 27 - 28, 2018 aboard NAS Jacksonville. Admission, parking and the Kids Zone is FREE.

At the NAS Jax Air Show you will witness thrills like never before from a variety of military and civilian demonstrations. The grand finale will be the Navy's flight demonstration team: The Blue Angels.

While you are at the show, enjoy military and civilian aircraft displays, shop at novelty, food and beverage booths, or head to the free Kids Zone for games and activities for all ages. While there will be 2 ATMs onsite, it is highly recommended that you bring cash with you.

Save the date! More details to come.

Visit our website: <http://www.nasjaxairshow.com>

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OCTOBER 27 - 28, 2018

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Duval County ceremony honoring Florida's Veterans

Veterans & Military Personnel are strongly encouraged to RSVP online:

If you would like to attend please click the link to RSVP:<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GVSA> **AND** fill out the attached form and bring it with you to complete your registration.

http://floridavets.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/GVSA_Veterans-Form.pdf#new_tab

Questions:

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To honor the Sunshine State's more than 1.5 million honorably discharged veterans.

Jacksonville

WHERE: National Guard Armory
9900 Normandy Boulevard
Jacksonville, FL 32221

WHEN: Tuesday, March 13, 2018
3:00 p.m.

REGISTRATION: 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Note: Veterans must provide some form of identification that validates their veteran status.

Includes: DD-214, VA ID Card, Retirement ID, Military ID, Veteran designation on your Florida Driver License, etc...

Honorably discharged Veterans of all ages are welcome to attend. Wearing of Veteran-related headgear is encouraged.

www.FloridaVets.org/gvsa

**2nd Annual
Clay County Veterans
APPRECIATION DAY
Thrasher-Horne Center
Saturday, April 14, 2018
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
FREE ADMISSION**

- ★ VA Representatives & Informational Booths
 - ★ Legal Service
 - ★ Clay County Cruzers Car & Legion Riders Motorcycle Display
 - ★ Universities & Colleges
 - ★ U.S. Small Business Administration
 - ★ All Day Free Kids Activities
 - ★ Vendors & Food Trucks
 - ★ Employers
 - ★ Community Booths
 - ★ Home & Healthcare Booths
 - ★ Guest Speakers
 - ★ Military & Construction Vehicles on Display
 - ★ Clay County High Schools NJROTC
 - ★ Military Recruiters
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claycountygov.com/departments/veterans-services/annual-veterans-appreciation-event



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MC: Jamie Nemeth
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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

This schedule is an estimate as we usually run on "Indian Time"

THURSDAY & FRIDAY

9am.....Flag Raising & School Field Trips Begin
1pm-5pm.....Social Dancing & Cultural Activities
7pm (FRIDAY).....Grand Entry & Intertribal Dancing
After Dancing (FRIDAY).....Trade Blanket

SATURDAY

9am.....Traders Open
4pm-5pm.....Social Dancing & Cultural Activities
7pm.....Grand Entry, Veterans & Memorial Songs,
Intertribal Dancing
After Dancing.....Moonlight Auction

SUNDAY

10am.....Traders Open
4pm-5pm.....Social Dancing & Cultural Activities
7pm.....Grand Entry, Veterans & Memorial Songs,
Intertribal Dancing
After Dancing.....Moonlight Auction



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FACEBOOK: ALL CREATIONS INTERTRIBAL POW WOW

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From FOX News

Court determines military burn pits caused lung disease in service members

The thousands of U.S. military personnel and private contractors whose health was compromised by the dense black smoke of burn pits - and who were then denied proper treatment - may finally be vindicated by a recent court ruling.



A judge under the U.S. Department of Labor's Office for Workers' Compensation Programs decreed last month that open-air burn pits -- where thousands of chemicals were released into the air after trash and other waste were incinerated at American military bases in Iraq and Afghanistan -- are connected to lung disease, Fox News has learned.

The decision marks a victory for the nearly 64,000 active service members and retirees who have put their names on a Burn Pit Registry created by the Veterans Administration, bringing them one step closer to getting adequate medical coverage, something that has never been guaranteed. Private contractors who were also exposed to the burn pit toxins also have been denied coverage.

"This case has legitimized the disease," former contractor Veronica Landry of Colorado Springs, whose case was a part of the recent ruling, told Fox News. "There are many people out there who are still not getting the treatment they need.

"This ruling changes that." Soldiers have fallen gravely ill or even died from exposure to burn pits in Afghanistan and Iraq, but they are not the only ones who have gotten sick. Civilian workers and private contractors like Landry are also suffering an array of maladies including cancer, respiratory problems and blood disorders and, like military victims, they say they are being ignored.

But private employees don't even have the Veterans Administration to lean on. Landry filed her case with the Labor Department for this very reason.

"I'm really grateful that the Judge looked over our case," Landry said. "That's why this is so important. We wanted to make sure that others can get help."

Landry said in her testimony that she was exposed to smoke from the burn pits "every day" while working at Mosul Air Force Base in Iraq for Kellogg, Brown, and Root [KBG], and that "every plastic water bottle that every soldier drank out of was also burned in the burn pits."

Landry was sent home early after developing PTSD and making matters worse, she started to develop problems with her lungs and other ailments such as migraines, chills and dangerously low blood pressure. She has been in out of hospitals for nearly ten years.

When symptoms flare up, Landry experiences severe pain and wheezing every time she takes a breath due to inflammation of her lungs. Tasks as simple as speaking can cause her to become light-headed when her condition acts up. She also suffers from fibrosis, which causes her to experience shallow breathing and swelling of her legs and feet from pitting edema.

Landry has been in out of hospitals for the past decade. Her employer's insurance company has re-

fused to provide coverage. KBG's insurance company, AIG, has refused to assist with her medical bills, but the recent judicial ruling made clear that AIG should be covering her expenses.

"This evidence is sufficient to establish Ms. Landry suffers from deployment-related lung disease," reads a line of the ruling obtained by Fox News. "Ms. Landry need not introduce affirmative medical evidence to show working conditions caused the alleged harm. She need only show working conditions which could conceivably cause the harm alleged."

The court's conclusion was that AIG and KBR should be covering Landry's expenses. "Employer [KBR] and Carrier [AIG] are liable for all past, present, and future reasonable and necessary medical treatment related to claimant's work-related post-traumatic stress disorder and deployment-related lung disease," reads the order.

Officials for Kellogg, Brown, and Root declined to comment on the ruling, instead referring to a previous comment made to back in 2016 when Fox News first reported on Ms. Landry.

"At the limited number of bases where KBR operated burn pits in Iraq and Afghanistan, KBR personnel did so safely and effectively at the direction and under the control of the U.S. military," read the written statement. "KBR complies with all applicable laws and contractual obligations, which includes providing the federally mandated and specified insurance coverage required for employees working overseas supporting the U.S. government."

KBR insurance provider, AIG, did not respond to requests for comment. Those in the military community feel that the ruling will help to shine an overdue light on the complications that have arisen for those exposed to burn pit fumes while serving their country.

"I believe this is a case of common sense and victory for military contractors and we can only hope that the same common sense is applied to our military war heroes and their widows," Rosie Torres, founder of Burn Pits 360, an advocacy group for service members who have fallen ill, told FoxNews.com.

Torres, whose husband, LeRoy Torres, became ill almost immediately after his return from Iraq in 2008, said that the federal ruling grants them evidence that determines that there is a strong association between lung disease and exposure to burn pits.

"Thousands of Veterans have lost their careers, some have taken their own lives and their widows are left without benefits," Torres said. "The actual numbers are obscured by a broken system. Unless we address this honestly, unknown thousands even millions will fade into history as the invisible and unacknowledged casualties of our country's longest war."

"We are tired of being stuck in a system of bureaucracy. Being told your lung disease or cancer is psychosomatic, losing your job and being denied benefits is only something the VA can fix."

While Landry has been able to keep her symptoms under better control through diet and constant care, she fears what the future may bring.

"The progression of my disease is scary for me," she says. "Will the nodules on my lungs turn to cancer? We don't know?"

"I knew what danger I was going to face when I went to Iraq, but I never imagined that I would bring it back home."



**5th District Annual Picnic
Hosted by Legion Post 283
Saturday, April 21, 2018 8am-Till...**

KIDS FISHING TOURNAMENT



**Ages 4 through 12 years old
9am to 11am**

**Prizes to be Awarded
Kids fun & games afterwards**



Chip, Toss & Shoot Event

"Chip" Golf Balls into floating circle in the pond

"Toss" Horseshoe Tournament

"Shoot" Turkey Shoot with Pellet Gun
Three 50/50 Pots, Winner Gets Half



**Come enjoy the great outdoors,
outside bar, grilled burgers, hot dogs,
sausage dogs, chicken skewers
and all the fixins!**

**for more info go to:
www.al5thdistrictfl.org/**



The Vietnam Veterans Memorial "Wall of Faces" is missing photos of FL Vietnam veterans.

There are quite a few from Jacksonville, one from Clay County, one from Palatka, and one from St Augustine. Does anyone know these names, below, or their families? Their photos should be on the Wall so they are not forgotten.

FLORIDA FRIENDS - Only 75 Vietnam War Heroes need photos submitted to their VVMF web page and the Wall Of Faces! Do Not Forget Your FLORIDA HEROES! <http://www.vvmf.org/how-to-submit>

Based in Arlington, Virginia, VVMF (the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund) is the nonprofit organization authorized by the U.S. Congress in 1980 to build a national memorial dedicated to all who served with the U.S. armed forces in the Vietnam War. Incorporated on April 27, 1979 by a group of veterans led by Jan C. Scruggs, the organization sought a tangible symbol of recognition from the American people for those who served in the war.

BECKWITH JR WALTER LEE 1/4/1949 DEERFIELD BEACH Broward County FL

BELL JR RUBEN 4/26/1948 ST PETERSBURG Pinellas County FL

BISHOP ROSTEN WAYNE 2/20/1933 TAMPA Hillsborough County FL

BRANNON CLAYTON CHARLES 10/31/1942 FREEPORT Walton County FL

BROCKMAN ROBERT DAVID 3/10/1949 HIALEAH Miami-Dade County FL



BROWN HERMAN FRANK 11/6/1942 JACKSONVILLE Duval County/City of Jacksonville FL

BROWN LARRY 1/13/1946 BALDWIN Duval County/City of Jacksonville FL

BROWN MANCE 1/15/1933 PENSACOLA Escambia County FL

BRUNSON LOUIS 4/30/1928 JACKSONVILLE Duval County/City of Jacksonville FL

BURTON THOMAS JOHN 11/16/1947 POMPAÑO BEACH Broward County FL

CAIN ALLEN 1/16/1947 MIAMI Miami-Dade County FL

CARTER GREGORY 6/2/1950 FT LAUDERDALE Broward County FL

CHARLTON JOHN WILLIAM 5/16/1947 ST AUGUSTINE St. Johns County FL

CHATMAN TYRONE 7/31/1950 PENSACOLA Escambia County FL

CRUTCHER JOE ALBERT 7/25/1946 WINTER PARK Orange County FL

DANCER WALTER JAMES 7/17/1945 FT LAUDERDALE Broward County FL

DAVIS ERNEST PETTWAY 1/3/1945 MIAMI Miami-Dade County FL

DEESON MICHAEL DANIEL 12/13/1944 MIAMI Miami-Dade County FL

DIXON ROBERT DALE 12/30/1947 PLANT CITY Hillsborough County FL

FERRA-FLORES PEDRO 5/20/1947 MIAMI Miami-Dade County FL

FIELDS KENNETH WAYNE 5/15/1947 FT PIERCE St. Lucie County FL

FURNISH THOMAS HAROLD 7/11/1951 MIAMI Miami-Dade County FL

GASKIN DAVID WILLIAM 7/24/1948 DEERFIELD BEACH Broward County FL

HARPER JOSEPH JAMES 6/10/1928 BELLE GLADE Palm Beach County FL

HATCHER ROBERT LEE 4/14/1950 JACKSONVILLE Duval County/City of Jacksonville FL

HICKS WILBUR LEE 12/25/1948 JACKSONVILLE Duval County/City of Jacksonville FL

HILERIO JR ALBERT 8/1/1950 MIAMI Miami-Dade County FL

HUYLER CECIL 1/21/1928 MIAMI Miami-Dade County FL

JACKSON HERMAN 2/28/1945 MIAMI Miami-Dade County FL

JACOBS GARY ORLAND 2/13/1948 SARASOTA Sarasota County FL

KIRBY MICHAEL CHARLES 10/10/1937 MIAMI Miami-Dade County FL

KURLIN WAYNE CARLTON 11/29/1949 ORANGE PARK Clay County FL

LABRECQUE ROBERT WILLIAM 5/21/1951 RIVIERA BEACH Palm Beach County FL

LADSON LAFON WINSTON 2/22/1943 JACKSONVILLE Duval County/City of Jacksonville FL

LEE EDGAR 8/17/1947 HOLLYWOOD Broward County FL

LEE JOE LEWIS 7/16/1948 JACKSONVILLE Duval County/City of Jacksonville FL

LILLIE JOE H 6/13/1949 PERRINE Miami-Dade County FL

LINDER JR JAMES 6/6/1948 MIAMI Miami-Dade County FL

LINTHICUM DON WILLIAM 11/8/1946 SARASOTA Sarasota County FL

LUTZ JOSEPH PATRICK 3/5/1951 DEERFIELD Broward County FL

MCCLENDON WILLIE JAMES 4/21/1945 MIAMI Miami-Dade County FL

MCCRAE JAMES HENRY 6/1/1943 MIAMI Miami-Dade County FL

MCCRAY EUGENE 1/25/1947 LAKE CITY Columbia County FL

MILLER EARNEST LEE 11/3/1949 JACKSONVILLE Duval County/City of Jacksonville FL

MILLER RICHARD DANCY 10/23/1951 DELRAY BEACH Palm Beach County FL

NELSON JR ARCHIE LEE 1/12/1948 DELRAY BEACH Palm Beach County FL

PALMER JOHNNY LEE 10/6/1940 OPA-LOCKA Miami-Dade County FL

PEACOCK JR NATHAN EDDLOW 7/5/1943 WINTER GARDEN Orange County FL

PETTIS LORENZO RICHARD 8/22/1949 WEST PALM BEACH Palm Beach County FL

PHILLIPS THOMAS FRANK 2/16/1946 POMPANO BEACH Broward County FL

PHILLIPS MARK JOHN 12/12/1948 HIALEAH Miami-Dade County FL

PICKETT WILLIE CLARENCE 7/10/1946 PENSACOLA Escambia County FL

POWELL JOHNNIE EARL 6/6/1947 JACKSONVILLE Duval County/City of Jacksonville FL

REID JR LEROY 12/21/1941 FT LAUDERDALE Broward County FL

RHUE CHARLES RUSSELL 1/12/1947 FT LAUDERDALE Broward County FL

ROBERTS ALBERT FRED 2/29/1932 MIAMI Miami-Dade County FL

ROYAL JAMES NORMAN 8/19/1947 MIAMI Miami-Dade County FL

SCOVILLE HOWARD JAMES 9/7/1943 HOLLYWOOD Broward County FL

SCRUGGS ALBERT JOSEPH 1/11/1949 WEST PALM BEACH Palm Beach County FL

SLOAN JR ARTHUR 12/2/1928 GRACEVILLE Jackson County FL

SMITH OTIS THOMAS 2/28/1944 JACKSONVILLE Duval County/City of Jacksonville FL

SOLIS ISMAEL 11/18/1947 LAKE WORTH Palm Beach County FL

STARLING WALTER LEO 6/26/1946 MIAMI Miami-Dade County FL

STEWART EDWARD SAMUEL 10/17/1936 PENSACOLA Escambia County FL

STRICKLAND BILLIE GRANVILLE 1/5/1947 SARASOTA Sarasota County FL

SULLIVAN GLENN 5/1/1947 PENSACOLA Escambia County FL

TURNER RAYMOND RIVERS 9/27/1947 MIAMI Miami-Dade County FL

TYNES GREGORY ALLAN 4/24/1949 OPA-LOCKA Miami-Dade County FL

VICKREY CHARLES CRAIG 8/1/1947 HOMESTEAD Miami-Dade County FL

WATTS FRANK TAYLOR 9/27/1949 PENSACOLA Escambia County FL

WILLIAMS JR JOHNNIE LEE 12/11/1944 JACKSONVILLE Duval County/City of Jacksonville FL

YOUNG CHARLIE M 6/8/1942 RIVIERA BEACH Palm Beach County FL

YOUNG WILLIAM 9/5/1947 PALATKA Putnam County FL

Rosie the Riveter Passes....

OUR GREATEST AMERICAN HEROES: The woman believed to be the "real" Rosie the Riveter died Saturday at age 96, according to her daughter-in-law Marnie Blankenship.

Naomi Parker Fraley, who Blankenship says died in hospice care, was not recognized as the inspiration for the famous World War II era poster until 2015.

During World War II, Fraley was a factory worker at Alameda Naval Station. She was one of millions of women across the United States who filled the labor force during the war. While Fraley was working a press photographer approached her to take her picture, Blankenship said.

Over 60 years later, Fraley attended a convention for women who, like Rosie the Riveter, worked during the war. There, said Blankenship, Fraley saw a photograph promoted as the likely inspiration behind the iconic image of Rosie the Riveter in the "We can do it" poster.

Blankenship says Fraley immediately recognized the picture as the one the photographer captured of her all those years ago.

But the picture was credited as being of another woman: Geraldine Hoff Doyle.

Doyle had previously been known as the real Rosie. According to Seton Hall University Professor James J. Kimble, Doyle's identity as Rosie the Riveter began when the photograph of the woman in the factory was first released as the most likely inspiration for Rosie. Kimble says Doyle recognized her likeness in the picture -- and the propaganda poster it inspired -- and her resemblance was accepted in reports as the origin of Rosie the Riveter.

But in 2015 Kimble's years of research into the iconic image revealed the original photograph with a caption that named the woman as Naomi Parker.

Even when she found out that Dr. Kimble's research claims that she was likely a face of both World War II propaganda and subsequent feminist movements, Blankenship says Fraley didn't make a big deal of it.

"She didn't think she did anything special," said Blankenship. "A lot of women did what she did. She just wanted her picture corrected."



Remembering The 4 Chaplains



It was the evening of Feb. 2, 1943, and the U.S.A.T. Dorchester was crowded to capacity, carrying 902 service men, merchant seamen and civilian workers.

Once a luxury coastal liner, the 5,649-ton vessel had been converted into an Army transport ship. The Dorchester, one of three ships in the SG-19 convoy, was moving steadily across the icy waters from Newfoundland toward an American base in Greenland. SG-19 was escorted by Coast Guard Cutters Tampa, Escanaba and Comanche.

Hans J. Danielsen, the ship's captain, was concerned and cautious. Earlier the Tampa had detected a submarine with its sonar. Danielsen knew he was in dangerous waters even before he got the alarming information. German U-boats were constantly prowling these vital sea lanes, and several ships had already been blasted and sunk.

The Dorchester was now only 150 miles from its destination, but the captain ordered the men to sleep in their clothing and keep life jackets on. Many soldiers sleeping deep in the ship's hold disregarded the order because of the engine's heat. Others ignored it because the life jackets were uncomfortable.

On Feb. 3, at 12:55 a.m., a periscope broke the chilly Atlantic waters. Through the cross hairs, an officer aboard the German submarine U-223 spotted the Dorchester. The U-223 approached the convoy on the surface, and after identifying and targeting the ship, he gave orders to fire the torpedoes, a fan of three were fired. The one that hit was decisive—and deadly—striking the starboard side, amid ship, far below the water line.

Captain Danielsen, alerted that the Dorchester was taking water rapidly and sinking, gave the order to abandon ship. In less than 20 minutes, the Dorchester would slip beneath the Atlantic's icy waters.

Tragically, the hit had knocked out power and radio contact with the three escort ships. The CGC Comanche, however, saw the flash of the explosion. It responded and then rescued 97 survivors. The CGC Escanaba circled the Dorchester, rescuing an additional 132 survivors. The third cutter, CGC Tampa, continued on, escorting the remaining two ships.

Aboard the Dorchester, panic and chaos had set in. The blast had killed scores of men, and many more were seriously wounded. Others, stunned by the explosion were groping in the darkness. Those sleeping without clothing rushed topside where they were confronted first by a blast of icy Arctic air and then by the knowledge that death awaited.

Men jumped from the ship into lifeboats, over-crowding them to the point of capsizing, according to eyewitnesses. Other rafts, tossed into the Atlantic, drifted away before soldiers could get in them.

Through the pandemonium, according to those present, four Army chaplains brought hope in despair and light in darkness. Those chaplains were Lt. George L. Fox, Methodist; Lt. Alexander D. Goode, Jewish; Lt. John P. Washington, Roman Catholic; and Lt. Clark V. Poling, Dutch Reformed.

Quickly and quietly, the four chaplains spread out among the soldiers. There they tried to calm the frightened, tend the wounded and guide the disoriented toward safety.

“Witnesses of that terrible night remember hearing the four men offer prayers for the dying and encouragement for those who would live,” says Wyatt R. Fox, son of Reverend Fox.

One witness, Private William B. Bednar, found himself floating in oil-smearred water surrounded by dead bodies and debris. “I could hear men crying, pleading, praying,” Bednar recalls. “I could also hear the chaplains preaching courage. Their voices were the only thing that kept me going.”

Another sailor, Petty Officer John J. Mahoney, tried to reenter his cabin but Rabbi Goode stopped him. Mahoney, concerned about the cold Arctic air, explained he had forgotten his gloves.

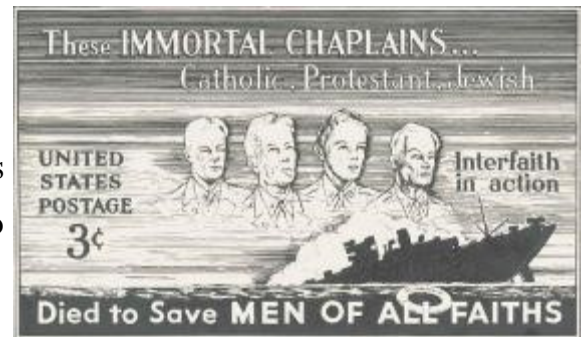
“Never mind,” Goode responded. “I have two pairs.” The rabbi then gave the petty officer his own gloves. In retrospect, Mahoney realized that Rabbi Goode was not conveniently carrying two pairs of gloves, and that the rabbi had decided not to leave the Dorchester.

By this time, most of the men were topside, and the chaplains opened a storage locker and began distributing life jackets. It was then that Engineer Grady Clark witnessed an astonishing sight.

When there were no more lifejackets in the storage room, the chaplains removed theirs

and gave them to four frightened young men.

“It was the finest thing I have seen or hope to see this side of heaven,” said John Ladd, another survivor who saw the chaplains’ selfless act.



Ladd’s response is understandable. The altruistic action of the four chaplains constitutes one of the purest spiritual and ethical acts a person can make. When giving their life jackets, Rabbi Goode did not call out for a Jew; Father Washington did not call out for a Catholic; nor did the Reverends Fox and Poling call out for a Protestant. They simply gave their life jackets to the next man in line.

As the ship went down, survivors in nearby rafts could see the four chaplains—arms linked and braced against the slanting deck. Their voices could also be heard offering prayers.

Of the 902 men aboard the U.S.A.T. Dorchester, 672 died, leaving 230 survivors. When the news reached American shores, the nation was stunned by the magnitude of the tragedy and heroic conduct of the four chaplains.

“Valor is a gift,” Carl Sandburg once said. “Those having it never know for sure whether they have it until the test comes.”

That night Reverend Fox, Rabbi Goode, Reverend Poling and Father Washington passed life’s ultimate test. In doing so, they became an enduring example of extraordinary faith, courage and selflessness.

The Distinguished Service Cross and Purple Heart were awarded posthumously December 19, 1944, to the next of kin by Lt. Gen. Brehon B. Somervell, Commanding General of the Army Service Forces, in a ceremony at the post chapel at Fort Myer, VA.

A one-time only posthumous Special Medal for Heroism was authorized by Congress and awarded by the President Eisenhower on January 18, 1961. Congress attempted to confer the Medal of Honor but was blocked by the stringent requirements that required heroism performed under fire. The special medal was intended to have the same weight and importance as the Medal of Honor.

MESSAGE FROM THE VA SECRETARY

VA Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War

In 2017, President Trump signed the Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act designating March 29 of each year as National Vietnam War Veterans Day. Our Nation's Vietnam War Commemoration is an opportunity for all Americans to recognize, honor, and thank our Vietnam Veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice during one of the longest wars in our country's history.

As a commemorative partner, VA joins nearly 10,000 organizations across the Nation supporting the Department of Defense in this mission to honor and thank our Vietnam Veterans. I encourage all VA leaders to either host ceremonies or participate in community events during the period March 25 – 29, 2018, to express our tremendous gratitude to this generation of warriors and their families.

The commemoration recognizes all men and women who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces during the United States' involvement in Vietnam—November 1, 1955 – May 7, 1975. Nine million Americans, approximately 7.2 million living today, served during that period. The commemoration makes no distinction between Veterans who served in-country, in-theater, or were stationed elsewhere during those 20 years. All answered the call to duty.

Please visit www.vietnamwar50th.com to learn how your organization or facility can become a commemorative partner and participate in this commemoration. VA currently sustains more than 400 commemorative partnerships, and I am so proud of their contributions to honor and thank our Vietnam Veterans. Importantly, a partnership provides historical media and the ability to request beautifully struck lapel pins and other recognition items for presentation to Vietnam Veterans.

Thank you for your continued service to VA and America's Veterans.

David J. Shulkin, M.D.

PLEASE PRODUCE LOCALLY FOR ALL THOSE WHO DO NOT ROUTINELY ACCESS EMAIL DUE TO THEIR SPECIALTIES.

Information on Running for Florida State Council Officers

January 19, 2018

<http://www.vvafsc.org/>

SPECIAL EDITION - ELECTION COMMITTEE REPORT

Attention Prospective Candidates BY Ben L. Humphries, Chair

Vietnam Veterans of America Florida State Council will conduct its election of all State Officer positions June 10, 2018 during FSC meeting in Orlando, Florida.



Fellow veterans: The Elections Committee invites you to think about your future role in the leadership of FSC. The committee encourages all those who are considering running for office in 2018 to think about and evaluate whether you are willing to take on the responsibilities of an Officer. Take time now to consult with your family, friends, and those whose opinions you value to determine if this is the next step you are willing to take in your involvement in FSC.

The election process started January 1, 2018 and the committee is accepting Letters of Intent, so be committed, and be sure. The future of FSC could be in your hands as a representative of this organization. The Elections Committee welcomes all those who wish to be a part of the elections process and who aspire to be the leaders of FSC.

POSITIONS OPEN FOR ELECTION:FSC President, FSC 1st Vice President, FSC 2nd Vice President, FSC Secretary and FSC Treasurer

TERM OF OFFICE: All State Officer positions are for terms of two years, beginning at the end of Officer reports at June FSC meeting.

ELIGIBILITY: Candidates for all positions open for election must be individual members of VVA in "good standing"

To qualify for election ... to any of these offices a candidate must have been an individual member of the Corporation, in good standing, (1) for a continuous period of not less than twelve months immediately preceding June 2018 FSC meeting ... and (2) such candidate must have held a position as an officer or board member at the National level or as an officer at the State Council or Chapter level, during any continuous period of twelve months prior to the date of the opening of the June 2018 FSC meeting at which such candidate seeks election."

LETTER OF INTENT: Prospective candidates must submit their Letters of Intent to the Ben L. Humphries at benlhumphries@gmail.com (<mailto:benlhumphries@gmail.com>) no later than May 18, 2018. Starting with the 2018 FSC Elections, prospective candidates considering running for positions will need to include their telephone numbers, e-mail address, and current physical mailing address in the body of the Letter of Intent or on a separate sheet of paper.

Prospective candidates must also include the position he or she wishes to run for. A prospective candidate may run for only one position.

Questions should be directed to Ben L. Humphries at 772-538-6963

RESTRICTIONS: Incumbents must not use their Position to solicit votes. Candidates may use the national flag of the United States of America, VVA national logo, and the VVA national flag on their campaign material. Any kind of VVA, State Council, or Chapter letterhead may not be used. Campaign materials are (but are not limited to) buttons, pins, brochures, posters, pictures, emails, websites, etc. A photograph of a candidate wearing his or her VVA National, State Council, or Chapter lapel pin is acceptable.

Candidates may not solicit or accept any campaign endorsements from VVA, any VVA State Council, Chapter, or VVA newsletters, newspapers, web, or electronic mail sites. It is strictly prohibited for any person to use VVA National, State Council, or Chapter letterhead, website, or e-mail for writing letters of endorsement. A candidate's own website or e-mail may be used to campaign, but the restrictions mentioned above remain in effect.

Failure to abide by all rules, instructions, and requirements set forth in this announcement will result in disqualification from the election.

The FSC Elections Committee welcomes those members willing to step forward and take part in a most important part of FSC: the election of Officers who will guide FSC for the next two years.

Ben L. Humphries, Chair Past President VVA FSC 772-538-6963 "Together Then, Together Now"

VVA Website (<http://www.vva.org>); VVA FSC Website (<http://www.vvafsc.org>)

<https://www.facebook.com/vvafsc/>, <http://www.vvafsc.org>, <mailto:e-recon@vvafsc.org>

WARBIRD AIRSHOW

Saturday, April 6,7,8, 2018 we have been given permission to have a Membership Drive and Buddy Poppy Campaign at the 2018 Space Coast Air Show at the Regional Airport in Titusville.

This event drew over 58,000 people according to last years gate attendance. Any post wishing to participate please let me know. This is a great opportunity to represent the VFW at the largest event in Florida that weekend.

2018 SPACE COAST WARBIRD AIRSHOW
APRIL 6, 7 & 8
SPACE COAST REGIONAL AIRPORT
TITUSVILLE • FLORIDA

FRIDAY
Afternoon & Night Shows
Ending with Giant Fireworks
Gates Open 12 Noon

SAT & SUN
Air-to-Air Combat
All-Day Fun on the Grounds
Gates Open 8:30a

AEROBATICS JET DEMOS FIGHTER & BOMBER FLIGHTS

BE AMAZED!

—FEATURING—
TORA! TORA! TORA!
BOMBING INSIDE WHO STRIPPED THE PACIFIC THEATER
1941-1945

Vintage Warbirds
WWII Parachute Team
Simulated Bombing & Strafing
Military Reenactments
Static Displays

PRESENTED BY
WARBIRD MUSEUM
VALIANT AIR COMMAND

GET YOUR TICKETS AT ValiantAirCommand.com
Purchase Advance Tickets at Discount Prices NOW!

TICKETS

ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT THE WARBIRD AIR MUSEUM

For your Safety: No Coolers • No Pets • No Large Umbrellas • No Firearms

Vietnam and All Veterans of Brevard Presents:
Florida's 31th Annual
Vietnam and All Veterans Reunion
The Nation's Largest Veterans Reunion
Supported by the Vietnam and All Veterans of Florida, Inc. - VVOF.org
April 19th – April 22nd

Additionally, come visit The Vietnam Traveling Memorial WALL April 15- April 22

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



Wall Escort April 15, 2018 Leave at 10am
Eastern Florida State College Cocoa Campus
Also visit the Reunion Web Page at:
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
www.travelingwall.us
Vietnam and All Veterans of Brevard, Inc
PO Box 237225

Cocoa, FL 32923-7225



Call For Info
321-408-2698
321-652-4185
Vendor call 321-652-4185
Vet.reunion.vendor@gmail.com
RaRusso1962@gmail.com
Candy1540@yahoo.com
Club Escort Lineup Info.
vvbreunionescort@gmail.com



Time: 7:30 AM Registration 8:30 AM Shotgun Start

Location: Marsh Creek Country Club

169 Marshside Drive, St. Augustine, FL 32080

Format: 4 Person Captain's Choice

Field: First 36 Teams



Entry Fee: \$80.00 per player (Includes Green Fees, Cart, Lunch & Prizes)

Prizes For: 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place

Hole Prizes Include: Longest Drive, Closest to Pin and Longest Putt
Chipping & Putting Contests (During the Tournament)



Golf Shoes Must Be Soft Spikes Only

The Luncheon & Awards Ceremony will be held on-site after the Tournament

TEAM CAPTAIN: _____ PHONE #: _____ EMAIL: _____
 PLAYER #2: _____ PHONE #: _____ EMAIL: _____
 PLAYER #3: _____ PHONE #: _____ EMAIL: _____
 PLAYER #4: _____ PHONE #: _____ EMAIL: _____

MAIL ENTRY FORMS (whether paying by check or credit card) TO:

Ms. Natasha Huertas, C/O AUSA GOLF TOURNAMENT,

P.O BOX 3883, ST. AUGUSTINE, FL 32085-3883. Phone (904) 682-4436.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO FIRST MILITIA CHAPTER - AUSA or

To purchase online visit <https://squareup.com/market/first-militia-chapter-ausa>

AUSA is an exempt organization under section 501 (c) (3) of the US Internal Revenue Code.



FIRST MILITIA CHAPTER
P.O. Box 3883
St. Augustine, Florida 32085-3883

1 Nov. 2018

Dear Sir/Madam,

Maybe you've seen a soldier in uniform and had the impulse to say thanks. Maybe you know how it feels to wear that uniform. Either way, soldiers and/or their families need your support.

Please consider partnering with the First Militia Chapter (FMC) of the Association of the United States Army (AUSA). We give the *"Voice for the Army, Support for the Soldier"* in Northeast Florida. Our members, with help from businesses like yours, provide programs that bolster the U.S. Army, soldiers, and their families. Here are a few of the ways:

- Help fund departure and welcome home ceremonies for our units
- Supply emergency financial assistance to families
- Present scholarships to deserving chapter applicants
- Provide senior officer and NCO cadre for Junior ROTC
- Award special recognition for the Florida Army National Guard Soldier and NCO of the Year
- Meet quarterly to hear notable leaders, such as members of the U.S. Congress, and bring our issues before them
- Sustain a young professionals group within our chapter

None of this could happen without help from businesses like yours. But in the past, the only way to become involved was as a sponsor for our annual golf tournament fundraiser.

Now we are opening more opportunities through recognition at our quarterly dinners, where you can describe your business to our members and the dignitaries who speak. Sponsors are also acknowledged in our newsletter, website, and social media. Golf tournament sponsors are also recognized with hole-sponsor signs at the tournament set for April 9th, 2018 at Marsh Creek Country Club.

More information and options to help are included. If you have a specific question, please contact LTC Vernon Dohmann at 904-823-0191 or vernon.j.dohmann.mil@mail.mil

I hope you will join us in continuing the good things we do for soldiers, their families, and the mightiest fighting force in the world. Our noble goal, and hopefully yours, is to help keep it that way. Please let us count on your support.

Sincerely,

Mike Canzoneri
Brigadier General, US Army
President, First Militia Chapter



FIRST MILITIA CHAPTER

Association of the United States Army

Sponsorship Form

Sponsorship Level (Choose from accompanying list):

_____ **Platinum Sponsor: \$2,000 Donation**

_____ **Gold Sponsor: \$1,000 Donation**

_____ **Silver Sponsor: \$500 Donation**

_____ **Bronze Sponsor: \$250 Donation**

Sponsor Information:

Corporate/Individual Name(s) for Donation Recognition:

Mailing Address: _____

Sponsor Point of Contact: _____

POC Phone Number: _____

POC Email: _____

Please forward this form to: **First Militia Chapter (AUSA) ATTN: Natasha M. Huertas**
P.O. Box 3883
St. Augustine, Florida 32085-3883
Checks payable to "First Militia Chapter – AUSA"
Register Online at: <http://mkt.com/first-militia-chapter-ausa>

Platinum Sponsor: \$2,000 Donation

1. Free attendance for two representatives at all four quarterly dinner meetings
2. Recognition at each dinner meeting and opportunities to speak about your business
3. Recognition in the AUSA First Militia Chapter newsletter (500+ Army supporters and sponsors)
4. Entry for your golf team (4 players) in the tournament (\$300 value)
5. Your corporate sign at a tournament tee box, at a green & at the banquet hall*
6. Your ad/coupon in the tournament goodie bag (144 golfers)
7. Complimentary AUSA Annual Corporate Sponsor Membership

Gold Sponsor: \$1,000 Donation

1. Free attendance for two representatives at three of our four quarterly dinner meetings
2. Recognition at each dinner meeting and opportunities to speak about your business
3. Recognition in the AUSA 1st Militia Chapter newsletter (500+ Army supporters and sponsors)
4. Your corporate sign at a tournament tee box, at a green & at the banquet hall*
5. Your ad/coupon in the tournament goodie bag (144 golfers)
6. Complimentary AUSA Annual Corporate Sponsor Membership

Silver Sponsor: \$500 Donation

1. Free attendance for two representatives at two of our four quarterly dinner meetings
2. Recognition at each dinner meeting and opportunities to speak about your business
3. Recognition in the AUSA 1st Militia Chapter newsletter (500+ Army supporters and sponsors)
4. Your corporate sign at a tournament tee box, at a green & at the banquet hall*
5. Your ad/coupon in the tournament goodie bag (144 golfers)
6. Complimentary AUSA Annual Corporate Sponsor Membership

Bronze Sponsor: \$250 Donation

1. Free attendance for two representatives at one of our four quarterly dinner meetings
2. Recognition at the dinner meeting and opportunity to speak about your business
3. Recognition in the AUSA 1st Militia Chapter newsletter (500+ Army supporters and sponsors)
4. Your corporate sign at a tournament tee box, at a green & at the banquet hall*
5. Your ad/coupon in the tournament goodie bag (144 golfers)

* Sign display on the day of the tournament (Custom signs welcome & must meet golf course limitations)

Thank you for supporting soldiers, their families, and the United States Army!

*AUSA is an exempt organization under section 501 (c) (3) of the US Internal Revenue Code.
Rev. August 10, 2016*



FIRST MILITIA CHAPTER

Association of the United States Army

Voice for the Army, Support for the Soldier

Background

Our chapter, established in November 1994, serves northeast Florida with a range of programs that support the Army, soldiers and their families, and our communities. The First Militia Chapter is an integral part of AUSA National, a strong member of the total military coalition and a vibrant voice representing soldiers on Capitol Hill. Here is how we support our goals:

How we support Excellence in the Army:

- Sponsor "First Militia Striders", our Army Ten Miler Team.
- Sponsor the University of North Florida ROTC Army Ten Miler Team.
- Provide AUSA tribute watches for Florida Reserve National Guard (FLARNG) Soldier and NCO of the Year.
- Conduct the Army Birthday celebration – a Community Affair.
- Contribute financially to the Army Institute of Land Warfare.
- Conduct quarterly dinner meetings with relevant speakers and leaders.

How we support Soldiers:

- Help fund departure and welcome home ceremonies for our units.
- Help fund FLARNG Platoon Leader's Course at Camp Blanding.
- Help fund Ft. Stewart Retiree Appreciation Day activities.
- Sponsor holes at other soldier related golf tournaments.

How we support Families:

- Provide emergency financial assistance to families where possible.
- Provide financial and manpower assistance to Family Readiness Programs.

AUSA is an exempt organization under section 501 (c) (3) of the US Internal Revenue Code.

How we support Excellence in America's Youth:

- Present \$1,000 scholarships to up to three deserving chapter applicants.
- Present AUSA medals and certificates to outstanding students in each of the fourteen high schools in our chapter footprint.
- Provide senior officer and NCO cadre for JROTC summer camp when requested by Cadet Command.

For Your Information

Current chapter membership is 527, exceeding our assigned goal of 500.
Approximately \$15,000 is needed annually to fund our support programs.
Currently we have 20 corporate sponsors. Our goal is to add 15 new sponsors!

All chapter officers are **volunteers**.

First Militia Chapter has been recognized as a "Chapter of Excellence" for multiple years,
and "Best Small Chapter" in the Southeast Region!

**For further information about First Militia Chapter, AUSA,
visit our website at www.ausa.org/first-militia**



AUSA is an exempt organization under section 501 (c) (3) of the US Internal Revenue Code.

Rev: August 10, 2016



COMMUNITY HOSPICE
VETERANS PARTNERSHIP

Salute Our Heroes in Their Final Days: Support Flags & Pins for Veterans in Hospice Care

Honor our local veterans in hospice care with a dignified tradition when you support funding for flags and pins through Community Hospice & Palliative Care.

Since 2008, the Jacksonville-based organization has presented all veterans admitted to its hospice program with a commemorative pin to honor their service, as well as a certificate of appreciation. For veterans who get care at one of our eight inpatient centers, staff and volunteers erect the flag of the service branch in which they served outside their rooms. Flags are then presented to veterans' families following the death.



The need for funding is great as up to 25 percent of patients who receive hospice care at Community Hospice & Palliative Care are veterans. The nonprofit organization, which provides hospice care to nearly 1,300 patients each day, raises funds through individual support and community organizations who believe in serving those who have served our country so honorably.

If you or your organization would like to support our Flags & Pins Initiative and honor our warriors one last time, please contact

Toula Wootan, director of community programs at Community Hospice & Palliative Care, at 904.407.6211 or twootan@communityhospice.com.

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.

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.



**SURVIVOR
OUTREACH SERVICES**

Survivor Outreach Offers Free Services to
Surviving Spouses and Family Members of Military Retirees

Contact Keith Ham

Survivor Outreach Services Support Coordinator, HRCI Contractor
310 Charlotte Street, St. Augustine, FL 32084
Office: 904-823-0157 Cell: 904-472-7689
Email: keith.e.ham.ctr@mail.mil

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*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

Please send to: 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 St. Johns County Health and
Human Services Building.*

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

*Service is by appointment.
Phone: 904-209-6160 Fax: 904-209-6161
Joseph McDermott, SR VSO
Rick Rees, Assistant VSO
Tammy Shirley, Assistant VSO*

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