



# The Patriot Reader Newsletter

P.O. Box 2117

St. Augustine, FL 32085

Bill Dudley, Publisher

Michael Rothfeld, Editor

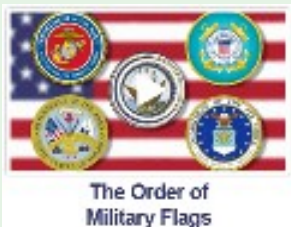
Volume 8, Issue 3

Message from the Chairman

Newsletter Date: March 2019

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Fellow Veterans, March is the month that we remember and honor our Vietnam Veterans. Although these veterans are never far from our thoughts, March has been determined to be the month we pay special tribute to our Vietnam Veterans. This past week, Governor Ron DeSantis by proclamation declared March 29, 2019 as official Vietnam Veterans Day in Florida. To observe this special day our Veterans Council and VVA 1084 Chapter will host a special ceremony at St. Augustine National Cemetery to honor all veterans who served in the period between 1955 and 1975 irrespective of whether you actually served in country during this period. Further details will be furnished once the program planning is completed but please put a place marker on your calendar for that day. Our Veterans Council will

participate again this year in the Active Boomer and Senior Expo that will be held at the St. Augustine Outlet Mall on Saturday, 2 March 2019 from 10 AM -2 PM. We will have 4 tables that will feature our Veterans Council, Navy League/Sea Cadets, Veterans Service Office and Gratitude America. Come out and join us next Saturday and enjoy the many exhibits, music, and other fun things to do that will be on exhibit during this 4 hour period. This past Tuesday, I had the privilege of briefing U.S.Senator Marco Rubio on the current status of our Community Based Outpatient Clinic. Several members of his staff accompanied the Senator and the meeting was also attended by several members of our County government. The Senator was given some of the historical data, current overview including issues that are being experienced due to oversites during the due diligence process, and



statistical data concerning the CBOC. On Wednesday morning I had a breakfast meeting with Congressman Michael Waltz and provided him with the same data. The Congressman's office has been very engaged with the VA in Washington and Gainesville from the outset concerning delays and issues surrounding the selection of the current site selection. They continue to track the program with frequent conference calls with the VA. The Veterans Council is very engaged in the progress of the CBOC construction and we will keep our veterans apprised of any changes that may occur. Bill Dudley, Chairman Veterans Council of St. Johns County

# Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home



Re-Creation is an organization of musicians and dancers who have been described as “America’s Ambassadors to Hospitalized Veterans”. These young entertainers travel all 50 states providing a high energy, high quality music and dance program to VA hospitals and VA nursing homes. We are fortunate to have them come perform for our veterans here at Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans’ Center each February. This year was their 9th year performing here!

We all have to have our Girl Scout Cookies!



A huge THANK YOU to the Oldest City Detachment Marine Corp League for their generous donation of 3 brand new grills! They will be put to great use!



**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 4**. 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  
At Community Hospice of NE FL.  
4266 Sunbeam Rd, Jacksonville, FL 32257  
Hadlow Bldg – Conference Room A 7:00pm**

**DATES OF 2019 SC at JNC MEETINGS**

**Monday, March 04, 2019 7:00pm (start of planning for Memorial Day**

**April 01, 2019 7:00pm ceremony at the JNC)**

**May 06, 2019 7:00pm Memorial Day Event (pre- meeting)**

**Other topics that concern both the JNC & the St. Augustine National Cemetery are discussed at these meetings.**

**+++++2018/2019 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**

**Chaplain: Rev. Patrick A. Archuleta, Sr.**

**The Veterans Council of St. Johns County meets on the following dates, all are invited to attend.**

**We meet at the county Health & Human Services building, 200 San Sebastian View, at 7 pm**

**Future meeting Speakers:**

**February 28, Jud Damon, Athletic Director, Flagler College, B2B, Battlefields to Ballfields**

**March 28, Michele Luthin, Memorial Park Assoc., (100 year old time capsule)**

**Trish Doran, Wekiva Springs Center, Military Liaison**

**April 25, Chaplain Pat Archuleta, Jesus Loves Veterans Ministries**

**Jessica Bradstreet, Dept. of VA, Local Recovery Coordinator**

**May 30, Dr. Susan Parker, Historian, Military Families of Old St. Augustine**

**July 25, Tom Richardson, Asst State Director, Veterans Employment & Training Service**

This past Tuesday, I had the privilege of briefing U.S.Senator Marco Rubio on the current status of our Community Based Outpatient Clinic. Several members of his staff accompanied the Senator and the meeting was also attended by several members of our County government. The Senator was given some of the historical data, current overview including issues that are being experienced due to oversites during the due diligence process, and statistical data concerning the CBOC.



Photos by  
Rick Rees

## Mission Statement:

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



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

## What the Council has done:

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

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## The Veterans Council's 2018 Activities

This past year has been an active one for the Veterans Council of St. Johns County as it continues its **Mission "To Help and Assist All Veterans"**.

The Council's help and assistance in 2018 has taken many forms.

### Honoring and Remembering Veterans

The Council's well attended **Memorial Day Ceremony**, and its donation to the St. Augustine National Cemetery of \$ 5000 to buy in ground flag extenders will enhance ceremonies for future generations.

**Veterans Day** this year was very memorable and may have been the best ever. It was hosted by the Veterans Council and **Anastasia Baptist Church**. The atrium displays were many and varied. **The Traveling Vietnam Wall, The Agent Orange**

**Quilt of Tears** and over 30 veterans related lobby tables were on display. The ceremony Commemorated the 100 year anniversary of the **"War to End All Wars"**.



The Council presented local **First Responders, all Veterans**, with plaques recognizing their outstanding service to the county and to the country.



**Wreaths Across America** was successful again this year as every headstone in **St. Augustine National Cemetery** was covered with a holiday wreath.

The Veterans Council in conjunction with the **Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1084** held a commemoration ceremony at **St. Augustine National Cemetery** to honor the Vietnam veterans buried there.



### Informing Veterans

The Council invites speakers to its monthly meetings that are informative and current. In 2018 we had speakers from the **Veterans Programs from Flagler College, Jacksonville University, and the University of North FL.**

**The University of Central Florida** presented their new app that provides military bios of those buried in St. Augustine National Cemetery.

Local **Historian, Dr. Michael Butler, from Flagler College** spoke about his many trips to Vietnam and how North Vietnam interprets the war and how it differs from reality.

**Laura Wynn, Social Studies Curriculum Specialist** spoke to the Council about how Vietnam history is taught.

### **Presentations and Donations**

**Chairman Dudley** has spoken at the **Hastings Rotary** and the **St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce Julington Creek** division and presented them with copies of the Council's 5 Military documentary series telling and preserving the stories of local county veterans.

The Council has donated a **Pew to the Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, POW/MIA flags** to the **St. Johns County Administration** buildings and to **Jacksonville Veterans Memorial Arena**.

Chairman Dudley spoke on behalf of all veterans at the First Annual **"Gathering In The Pines"** Ceremony at the Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial.

The Council initiated and was instrumental in having St. Johns County become a **Purple Heart County**.

The Council donated money and supplies to **HITRON** for those affected by the devastation of **Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico**.

The Council arranged for a **new roof to be installed for a needy local veteran**.

The annual **Homeless Veterans Stand Down at Elks Lodge 829** was well attended and baths, food, dental care, VA counseling and clothes were available to all.

The Council donated its 5 documentary series to the **Veterans Museum in Daytona Beach** and to **Vet Stream TV** which made the documentaries free to its national audience. The Veterans Council took part in the **Active & Senior Boomer Expo** held at the St. Augustine Mall and provided veterans information to attendees.

2018 marked the first of many graduates for the Veterans Council supported **Veterans Treatment Court** with the Council lending money to the enrollees for food, utilities and rent with a pay back agreement.

**Plans are already under way to continue supporting and assisting veterans in 2019**



Panoramic view of Anastasia Baptist Church's auditorium at Monday's Veterans Day Celebration featuring high school junior reserve officers training corps, patriotic music by the St. Johns County Center for the Arts Chamber Singers under the direction of Jeff Dodd and keynote address by Rear Admiral Sean S. Buck, Southern Commander, US Navy 4th Fleet.



## 2019 "Salute Across America" Tour

16 City Tour across the US paying Tribute  
to Veterans & Patriots

.....

Honoring the Importance of  
Sacrifice, Honor, Courage & Patriotism

### *Purpose of Tour:*

\* Show Appreciation to Our  
Nations Heroes

\* Inspire Patriotism,  
Community & Camaraderie



Wreaths Across America clean up at St. Augustine National  
Cemetery, a HUGE thank you to all the volunteers



**MISSING IN AMERICA PROJECT – FLORIDA**

**\*\*\*\*\*MISSION STATEMENT\*\*\*\*\***



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

**\*\*\*\*\*“IT’S THE RIGHT THING TO DO”\*\*\*\*\***

In cooperation with Seawinds Funeral Home & Crematory, Davis Seawinds Funeral Home & Crematory, and Baldwin Brothers Funeral & Cremation Society, MIAP will be interring the unclaimed cremains of 19 veterans, and 6 spouses of veterans, with full military honors, at the Cape Canaveral National Cemetery. Included will be a veteran that was sent to MIAP-FL by MIAP-Utah.

The veterans being interred served in the US Army, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard during World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Persian Gulf, and other non-war specific periods. The longest that any of these being interred has been unclaimed is since 1973.

There will be an escort for this service that will leave from American Legion Post 1, 1281 N. US Hwy. 1, Titusville, FL 32796, to the cemetery. Any and all motorcycle organizations, riders, and vehicles are welcome to participate. Meeting time is 8:30AM at the Post for a safety briefing, and the escort will depart (KSU) to the cemetery at 9:10AM.

You are cordially invited to attend this service. This service is open to all



**residents of our area communities.**

**NATIONAL PROGRESS AS OF 01/10/2019**

**Total Funeral Homes Visited - 2,313**

**Cremains Found – 18,780**

**Veterans Cremains Identified – 4,122**

**Veterans Interred - 3,760**

**FLORIDA PROGRESS AS OF 01/10/2019**

**Total Funeral Homes Visited - 165**

**Cremains Found – 1,566**

**Number to be interred - 97**

**Missions Scheduled – 1**

**Veterans Interred – 250**

**Spouses Interred – 98**

**Dependents Interred – 1**

**Kathy Church**

**MIAP - FL State Coordinator**

**1205 2nd Street S**

**Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250**

**miapjax@yahoo.com**

**(904)219-3035 - www.miap.us**

**CALL TO HONOR #18**

**Saturday, February 02, 2018 @ 10am**

In cooperation with Sea Winds Funeral Home & Crematory, Davis Sea Winds Funeral Home & Crematory, and Baldwin Brothers Funeral & Cremation Society, MIAP will be interring the unclaimed cremains of 16 veterans, and 6 spouses of veterans, with full military honors, at the Cape Canaveral National Cemetery located at 5525 US



**RON DeSANTIS**  
GOVERNOR

**VIETNAM VETERANS DAY IN FLORIDA**

**WHEREAS**, it is an honor to recognize the many veterans who have made countless sacrifices for Florida families; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2012, the United States began the commemoration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Vietnam War, a 13-year program to honor and thank those who answered the call to serve in the war; and

**WHEREAS**, more than 58,000 service members made the ultimate sacrifice during the Vietnam War, thousands more were wounded, and 1,600 remain missing in action; and

**WHEREAS**, the families and friends of missing service members continue to endure uncertainty concerning the fate of their loved ones who remain unaccounted for; and

**WHEREAS**, Vietnam veterans contribute to our state and nation by offering skills, education, leadership, and dedication learned in military service; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Florida is home to more than 519,000 Vietnam-era veterans; and

**WHEREAS**, we can never fully repay our debt of gratitude to those brave men and women who served, were wounded, or died in battle; and

**WHEREAS**, Vietnam Veterans Day presents the opportunity for the people of Florida to honor and thank our Vietnam veterans for their service to our country;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Ron DeSantis, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing March 29, 2019, as *Vietnam Veterans Day in Florida*.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 21st day of February, in the year two thousand nineteen.

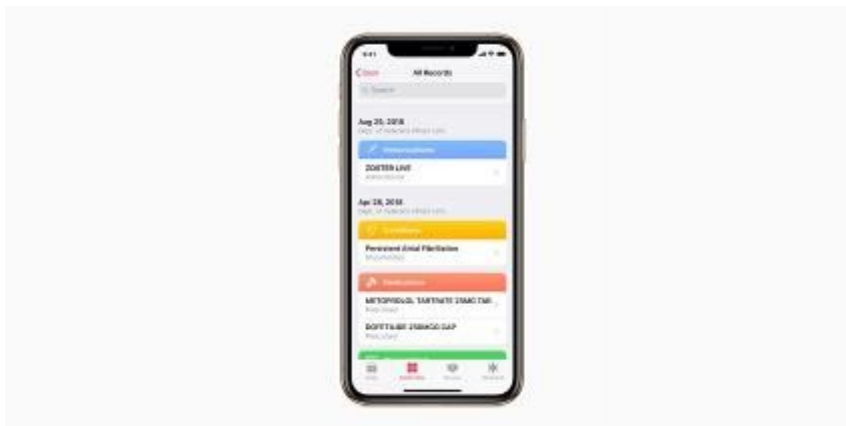
  
Governor

Great showing at the first meeting of the 2nd annual gathering in the pines at Cecil Feild. Counted 35 heads, VFW through the rolling thunder shown up. There was an American flag with 48 stars to POW MIA memorial.



**Apple teaming up with US Department of Veterans Affairs to bring digital health records to iPhone**

**<https://9to5mac.com/2019/02/11/apple-veterans-affairs-health-records-iphone/>**



## Nease NJROTC victorious at Terry Parker Drill Meet

For the past six years, Nease NJROTC's 40-person drill team has competed at the Terry Parker Sanctioned Drill Meet in Jacksonville. This year marks the sixth straight year the team has returned to Ponte Vedra with the competition's top prize.



Along with six consecutive Mandarin Drill Meet victories, Nease has dominated the NJROTC drill landscape in Northern Florida since 2013. Nease will compete in March 2019 at the Area-12 Florida-Georgia State Championships. Here, the team will be seeking a fifth consecutive title and trip to the Navy National Championships in April.

“Every JROTC program has a reputation,” Cadet Command Master Chief Peyton Gustafson said. “For some it’s academics, orienteering or marksmanship. But for Nease it’s drill.”

Drill meet championships include a series of 11 individual events including Unarmed and Armed Marching, Color Guard, Personnel Inspection, Academics, Pushups, Sit-ups and Running Relays. Points awarded in each event are combined to determine the day’s overall winner.

This year, Nease won first place in Personnel Inspection, Academics, Athletics Overall, Sit-ups and both the 16x100 Relay and 8x220 Relay. They also were second in Drill Overall, Color Guard, Unarmed Exhibition Drill, Armed Basic Drill and Pushups.

Several cadets took home individual medals. Teagen Pettit, Elizabeth Villalba and Isabella Rivera swept female sit-ups with first-, second- and third-place finishes. Nate Fagen and Thomas Olinger finished first and second in male sit-ups. Erin Sass and Pettit won second and third in female pushups, and Chris Oliver finished third in male pushups. Pettit’s 335 sit-ups were a personal record.

“Today gets us one step closer to the prize,” Cadet Battalion Commander Erin Sass said. “The road to the Navy National Championship only gets tougher with each competition.”

Nease is currently the No. 1 ranked NJROTC drill team in Area 12, which includes 59 programs in Northern Florida and Georgia. Nease has won the Area-12 Drill Championship each of the past four years. The team will seek to make it five in a row March 2 in Douglas, Georgia, where the best 16 schools in Area-12 will vie for top honors and the right to compete at the Navy National Drill Championships in April.

“Our seniors are truly leading from the front,” Naval Science Instructor Master Chief Duane Spears said. “The motivation, energy and enthusiasm of this group is unlike any I’ve seen.”

Other top schools in the competition were Coffee County High School in second place, Orange Park High School in third place, Cross Creek High School in fourth place and Middleburg High School in fifth place.



January 8, 2019

Colonel Bill Dudley  
1072 Alcalá Dr.  
St. Augustine, FL 32086

Dear Bill,

Please accept my sincere thanks to you and the Veterans Council of St. Johns County for your work to assist Herb Volk and help put a new roof on his home.

We owe a tremendous sense of gratitude to those who have served our nation. Your continued commitment to our servicemen and woman is to be commended. I am very grateful for the Veterans Council's kindness.

I thank you and your organization again for your generosity and look forward to seeing your continued success in the years to come.

Sincerely,

Marco Rubio  
United States Senator

**Saturday, April 27, 2019 at 11 AM – 3 PM**

**Putnam County Fairgrounds 118 Fairgrounds Rd, East Palatka, Florida 32131**

**FREEDOM**



**FEST**



**Honoring Military Veterans**

Freedom Fest aims to honor military veterans and bring information about opportunities for services and benefits to them.  
According to the 2010 census, over 7000 veterans live in Putnam County.



**Vietnam and all Veterans  
of Brevard**

*Present:*

# **Florida's 32nd Annual Vietnam and All Veterans Reunion**

**The Nation's Largest Veterans Reunion  
PUBLIC INVITED TO ATTEND**

## **May 9th – 12th**

The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall on display **May 5-12, 2019**

**LIVE MUSIC  
FOOD & DRINKS  
MILITARY VENDORS  
MILITARY DISPLAYS**



**THE SOME GAVE ALL MOVING TRIBUTE**

**Wall Escort May 5, 2019 Leaves at 10am  
Eastern Florida State College Cocoa Campus  
Reunion Web Page at:**

[floridaveteransreunion.com](http://floridaveteransreunion.com)

### **Wickham Park**

321-255-4307 - 2500 Parkway Dr  
Melbourne, FL

No Coolers, Glass or Pets allowed  
in the Reunion Area

Per Wickham Park: Golf Carts Permitted  
For the Handicapped Only And Must  
Abide By FL Highway Laws

Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall  
<http://travelingwall.us>



**Call For Info  
321-408-2698  
321-652-4185**

**Vendor call 321-652-4185**  
[Vet.reunion.vendor@gmail.com](mailto:Vet.reunion.vendor@gmail.com)  
[RaRusso1962@gmail.com](mailto:RaRusso1962@gmail.com)  
[Candy1540@yahoo.com](mailto:Candy1540@yahoo.com)  
**Club Escort Lineup Info**  
[vybreunionescort@gmail.com](mailto:vybreunionescort@gmail.com)

Friends, Family, and supporters of the Cecil Field POW MIA Memorial, please “Save the Date” for the Chapel Dedication Ceremony on 29 March 2019. More details and program info to follow.

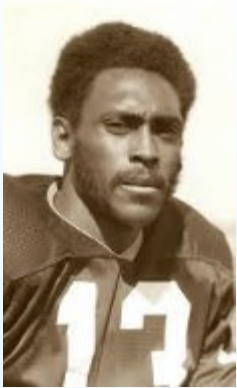


## This Ram Was a Patriot

*submitted by Tom Waskovich*



**Wide receiver Willie Miller served two tours of duty in Vietnam and won the Silver Star. Why has his story been forgotten?**



The Nov. 12, 1978, game between the Los Angeles Rams and Pittsburgh Steelers was widely regarded as a Super Bowl preview. Playing for the Steelers that night was Rocky Bleier, whose inspiring story was well known. The running back had served in Vietnam, where he was wounded when an enemy grenade peppered his lower right leg and foot with shrapnel. Lucky to survive, though he lost part of his foot, Bleier returned stateside, rehabilitated his body, and returned to the Steelers just as they started their long championship run. He eventually won four Super Bowl rings with Pittsburgh, and in 1980, the NFL would cooperate with ABC in the production of a made-for-TV movie titled *Fighting Back*:

### The Story of Rocky Bleier.

But on that night, on the Los Angeles Coliseum's muddy turf, Bleier could do little. He carried the ball two times for seven yards, and the Steelers—who would go on to win the next two Super Bowls—managed a measly 174 yards on offense. The Rams defense, which employed future Hall of Famer Jack Youngblood and All-Pros Jim Youngblood, Fred Dryer, and Isaiah Robertson, completely shut down Terry Bradshaw, Franco Harris, and the Steelers juggernaut. But the Rams couldn't get much going either. The game finally turned in the fourth quarter, when quarterback Pat Haden threaded a laser between two Steelers and into the hands of wide receiver Willie Miller.

You probably haven't heard of Miller. He was an undersize wide receiver with shifty moves, quick feet, and strong hands who played for the Browns and Rams. In 1978, he led the run-first Rams in receiving with 50 catches for 767 yards. His solid seven-year NFL career ended in 1982.

Just like Bleier, Miller fought in Vietnam. And just like the white running back, the black wide receiver was wounded in combat (in Miller's case, the bullet passed through the back of his thigh) and awarded the Purple Heart. Miller was a member of the Special Forces, and unlike any other NFL player, he voluntarily served two tours of duty in Vietnam, where he was awarded the Silver Star for his courage in combat. But nobody's ever made a TV movie about Miller. And when the Department of Defense and the NFL celebrated "Players Who Have Served in the Military" in 2016, Miller's experience went missing.



That's because, though Miller's story is every bit as heroic and compelling as Bleier's, it's far more complex. It speaks to problems Americans and the NFL continue to struggle with—such as the ways race informs American memory, how the residual trauma of combat can silence veterans, and the thorny issues arising at the nexus of patriotism, sports, and social justice.

Willie T. Miller was born in Birmingham, Alabama, on April 26, 1947. He graduated from Hooper City High School, where his athletic prowess and high grades earned him numerous college scholarship offers. But in 1965, he turned them down to join the military. “The truth is,” Miller told the Cleveland Plain Dealer a decade later, “I didn't know what I wanted to do with my life. I had to try to find myself—to see what kind of person I really was.” In 1965, when Miller joined the Army, the number of U.S. combat troops in Vietnam was only just beginning to ramp up. After training with the Special Forces, he shipped out to Southeast Asia. What happened to him in the jungles of Vietnam forever altered his life, but it wasn't something he enjoyed discussing.

Years later, when Miller earned a spot as the NFL's oldest rookie with the Cleveland Browns, sportswriter Hal Lebovitz was excited to profile the team's new player. Miller wasn't enthusiastic about cooperating. “If I had to write about myself,” Miller told Lebovitz, “I wouldn't.” So Lebovitz, who died in 2005, obtained Miller's Department of Defense records, using them as fodder for a story in the Plain Dealer. Lebovitz recounted how Miller had won his Silver Star (the third-highest U.S. military combat medal) by retrieving his wounded platoon sergeant while under heavy enemy fire. After euphemistically “eliminating some of the opposition,” Miller dragged his sergeant to safety and administered first aid.

Miller declined to elaborate on his war experience. “I want to put it out of my mind,” he told Lebovitz. “You don't like to talk about killing.” Miller did admit to being plagued by nightmares. “Anybody who doesn't have them over such events is either a fool or a liar. I don't care how many years have passed,” he explained. In 1979, after Miller signed with the Rams and became an NFL star, Dave Anderson of the New York Times profiled “The Ram From Vietnam.” But Miller remained reticent. Anderson asked the receiver what he told teammates who inquired about Vietnam. “I tell 'em the truth,” Miller explained. “Death isn't beautiful. When it gets gory, they drop the subject.” When asked specifically about combat, he told Anderson that “we had to kill a few of those [Viet Cong] ... or they would've killed us.” He also described the feeling of having a sniper's bullet pass through his thigh. “That lead burned like a hot poker,” he said.

When reading the 1975 Lebovitz article and the 1979 Times profile, one is struck by the dignity of Miller's laconic responses. In both cases, sports writers came looking for a great story, but Miller would only cooperate so much. It was his story, not theirs, and it wasn't an easy one to tell. Miller's attitude seemed to be that sports writers, and their audiences, couldn't imagine the truth about combat—and it wasn't his job to educate them. In sports journalism, war is too often considered nothing more than a metaphor. In Willie Miller's life, the war he fought was literal, real, and searing. And given his constant nightmares, it was never-ending.

## **Losing Our History: Who is Going To Remember?**

I read the obituaries every day in the FL Times Union and the St. Augustine Record, not because I have a morbid personality but rather to read about American History that will soon to be lost.

In today's St. Augustine Record there was an obituary about a WW II veteran who was on an Underwater Demolition Team & who helped form SEAL Teams 1 & 2, he served 20 years and then worked for the CIA.

A second obituary told the story of another WW II Navy veteran who served aboard an LST 012 and participated in the battle of Leyte Gulf, the largest naval battle of World War II.

Did anyone know them? They were not American Legion or VFW members. Who is going to remember their name or what they proudly did for our country?

We are losing 348 men & women like this every day all over the country. There are only 496,777 WW II veterans alive today out of over 16 million who served.

It is time for all of us to start taking an interest in recording military service stories as well as the stories relatives and friends who served. Contact the Library of Congress and get a Veterans History Project Field Kit and Individual Forms, <https://www.loc.gov/vets/kitmenu.html> .

Locally, veterans who would like to record their stories for future generations are encouraged to contact the St. Johns County Public Library System [www.sjcpls.org](http://www.sjcpls.org) and participate in the Veterans History Project.

The Veterans Council of St. Johns County supports and encourages all veterans to record their military service stories now.

# Inaugural Vietnam Veterans Day Ceremony

*Date: Saturday, March 30, 2019*

*Time: 10:30 am*

*(Reception to Immediately Follow)*

*Location: TAPS Monument,  
915 Walnut Street, Green Cove Springs FL*



*Join us as we recognize the sacrifices made by the Vietnam Era Veterans and their families.*



**IN PARTNERSHIP**





**25<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL FIRST MILITIA CHAPTER  
AUSA GOLF TOURNAMENT  
APRIL 8, 2019**



**Time:** 7:30 a.m. Registration • 8:30 a.m. 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 per player (includes Green Fees, Cart, Lunch, & Prizes)  
**Prizes for: 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, & 3<sup>rd</sup> Place**  
Hole Prizes include: Longest Drive, Closest to Pin, and Longest Putt  
Chipping & Putting Contests (during the Tournament)

***New this Year: Make a Hole-in-One on #15 and win a 2019 GMC Acadia  
from Jack Wilson GMC/Chevrolet***

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

**Golf Shoes Must Be Soft Spikes Only**

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) 823-0172**

**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

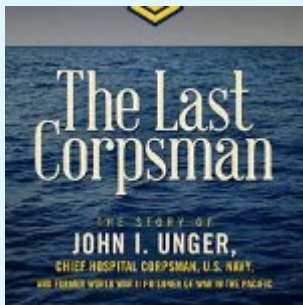
**From Lee Figliuolo, St Augustine/ Palm Coast Council, Navy League of the US:**

ALL are welcome and invited to meet John.

John Unger, a navy Corpsman, was serving on Wake Island when it was overrun by Japanese at the outbreak of WWII. He spent close to 4 years in captivity before his release. After his release he continued to serve and retired as a Chief Corpsman. I had invited John to be our guest of honor at our Council's Christmas luncheon, but he was unable to attend because of his failing health.



John's book the "Last Corpsman" has just recently been completed and his family is looking forward to having him do a book signing at Tuscan Gardens on Saturday March 2nd, from 1:00pm - 4:00 pm.



Johns' son Brian has invited our Council members to attend and take advantage of meeting this war hero and buy a signed copy of the book. His health is a challenge but he seems in good spirits and ready to sign!

The following article provides a brief but very interesting history of John's life:

[https://www.agingtree.com/articles/legacy-thriving-after-war-a-pow-embraces-life/?fbclid=IwAR2gM5kDE0DMU4g7Xy9SIXFQAeVOXUj7iDf7JHzVab21CEFH\\_c7LeqzlegI](https://www.agingtree.com/articles/legacy-thriving-after-war-a-pow-embraces-life/?fbclid=IwAR2gM5kDE0DMU4g7Xy9SIXFQAeVOXUj7iDf7JHzVab21CEFH_c7LeqzlegI)

I hope to see you there. Lee



## From Jerry Domask

Jan 31, 1968, TET OFFENSIVE, Saigon (Cholon District) 5 Oceans BOQ. View is from my destroyed mess hall, upper level. 85 to 90 percent of surrounding area leveled between one half to a mile distance. 51 YEARS AGO TODAY! I was a ARVN MACV Advisor in Cholon. We were not issued weapons of any type! We had no transportation! The first of many surprises in VN! We appropriated Thompson Submachine Guns from captured VC equipment/ammo, Took my roommate (U.S. assigned unit) to Thon Son Nhut Airport (Saigon) to return home. Kept his vehicle! Painting, "My Quarters", is 24" X 36" multimedia acrylic. It is from my Vietnam war series, "Reflections: Vietnam War 45 Years Later". See my website: [JeromeDomaskFineArt.com](http://JeromeDomaskFineArt.com). Memories still vivid!



## Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc. Minutes of January 31, 2019

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

**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

**Minutes** were approved as presented

The **Treasurer's Report** was approved as presented

**Introduction of Guests:** Karen Fernandez, Terry Allan, WR Dallarosa, Bill Barkley, Chuck Willoughby

**Speakers: Tom Waskovich, Green Beret, MACVSOG:** was a TOP Secret organization that



Pictured from left: SGM Wendell DellaRosa, USAF (ret), Bill Barclay, SOG Commando Team Leader: Chuck Willoughby, SOG Commando Team Leader: Tom Waskovich, tonight's featured speaker, SOG Commando Team Leader

had missions behind enemy lines in Laos, Cambodia and NVN. They did not wear US uniforms and did not use American weapons. Their missions were on the Ho Chi Minh Trail and buried mines, snatched prisoners, block the Trail and looked for POWs to rescue. They called in helicopter air targets.

**Veronica Nieves:** volunteers at the Red Cross, Mission Continues & RWB Veterans Programs. The free programs help veterans, their spouses and children with licensed health care providers. They are looking to expand into St. Augustine. If additional information is needed about any of these programs, contact Veronica Nieves: [veronca.z.nieves@gmail.com](mailto:veronca.z.nieves@gmail.com)



### Committee Reports:

**Mac:** spoke about the new veteran's appeal process, the new Blue Water Navy Bill, the new DAV van and the continued need to raise money for the next DAV van.

**Ray:** Thanked ALL for the successful WAA clean up and especially George Linardos & Judy Davis.

**John L.: Veterans Treatment Court** 11 veterans have graduated in 2 years. Now have 26 mentors.

**A Ceremony will be held on Vietnam Veterans Day on March 30 at the Corazon Cinema, more info to follow.**

**Veterans in the Classroom** continues for VVA 1084. They have spoken to over 1450 students and will be doing a program at Flagler College with Vietnam Historian Dr. Michael Butler & Flagler College students.

**Clay County & VVA 1059 will also host a Vietnam Veterans Day Celebration on Saturday March 30, 10:30am** at the TAPS Monument, 915 Walnut St, Green Cove Springs, ALL are invited.

**Crystal Timmons, Veterans Garden Project:** have been bringing garden supplies into veterans homes and will be updating the Council at our August meeting.

**Chairman Dudley:**The new CBOC ground breaking will be delayed 90 to 120 days, we will update all when more information becomes available.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm

**The next meeting of the Veterans Council will be on Thursday, February 28, 2019, 7 pm in the Health & Human Services Building, 200 San Sebastian View.**

**Future speakers:**

- February 28, **Jud Damon, Athletic Director, Flagler College, B2B, Battlefields to Ballfields**  
**Tom Richardson, Asst State Director, Veterans Employment & Training Service**
- March 28, **Michele Luthin, Memorial Park Assoc., (100 year old time capsule)**  
**Trish Doran, Wekiva Springs Center, Military Liaison**
- April 25, **Chaplain Pat Archuleta, Jesus Loves Veterans Ministries**  
**Jessica Bradstreet, Dept. of VA, Local Recovery Coordinator**
- May 30, **Dr. Susan Parker, Historian, Military Families of Old St. Augustine**
- July 25, **Tom Richardson, Asst State Director, Veterans Employment & Training Service**
- August 29 **Crystal Timmons, Veterans Garden Project**



THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 233  
CELEBRATES

**100 YEARS**  
**March 30, 2019**

COCKTAILS 5:30PM DINNER 6:15-7:30PM CASINO 7:30-10:30PM

TICKETS - \$50/PERSON INCLUDES: DINNER, CHAMPAGNE, & CASINO ENTRY

**Proceeds to support  
veteran suicide prevention**

**TO PURCHASE TICKETS:**  
AMERICAN LEGION POST 233 AT 560 NORTH WILDERNESS TRAIL

OR GO TO [WWW.AL233FL.ORG](http://WWW.AL233FL.ORG)

904 - 285 - 2484

Themed Black Tie Encouraged



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

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

**STAND BY THEM**  
Confidential help for Veterans and their families

**NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE**  
1-800-273-TALK (8255)  
[www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org)

**Military/Veterans Crisis Line**  
1-800-273-8255

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

Confidential chat at [VeteransCrisisLine.net](http://VeteransCrisisLine.net) or text to 838255

Confidential chat at [MilitaryCrisisLine.net](http://MilitaryCrisisLine.net) or text 838255



## Families, Welcome to FamWeb

The "FamWeb" is an online space for sharing general information with families of missing personnel, such as case synopses and battlefield summaries. As always, family members of missing personnel should stay in contact with their designated casualty officer to get specific details on their missing loved ones and the government's efforts to account for them. If you do not know your casualty office, the following link provides a list of each one: <http://www.dpaa.mil/Families/Contact-Information>.

Some of the highlights of the new content and features you will find on FamWeb are:

Operations and battle narratives that provide a summary of some large military battles and operations for each conflict. With the Vietnam War content complete, and the Korean War and World War II narratives in-progress, this new information offers a view of an individual's loss circumstances in the larger context of operations taking place at the time of the loss incident.

FamWeb links information from the Service Member Profiles Project with the relevant operations and battle narratives to provide more context and history for each loss incident. We strive to publish new loss profile narratives every day, so through these updates the history behind brave Americans who dutifully served and sacrificed for this great nation is better available.

Enhanced statistics and reporting tools are explained in more detail to help generate on-demand lists of individuals from your home state who are still missing or were recently accounted-for.

Forms to ask a question, register for upcoming Family Member Updates, or order a POW/MIA Recognition Day Poster, are now easier to find than before.

## Veterans rally to establish national POW/MIA museum at Cecil Field

Clay Today, By Nick Blank

JACKSONVILLE – When Naval Air Station Cecil Field was decommissioned in 1999, its base housing was turned into apartment homes and its former administration buildings became bank branches.

Opened in 1941, the base trained thousands of pilots and brought many to Duval and Clay counties. The base theater was just sitting there. The chapel was used by the City of Jacksonville for storage.



Dismayed with the chapel's neglect, veteran Mike Cassata began a grassroots campaign to establish the Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial. Now serving as the memorial's executive director, Cassata saw potential for theater to become home to a national museum.

"The place was kind of forgotten if you ask me," said Cassata, whose father and grandfather were stationed at Cecil Field. "There's a lot of history here. I remember as a kid what it used to look like."

He said even a memorial for 14 pilots who were missing in action was neglected.

A group was organized that acquired a 26-acre lease and presented Jacksonville city officials plans to open a museum, restore the Chapel of the Hi-Speed Pass and install a static display outdoors. The group held a dedication for the metal wings on the outside of the chapel last summer. The street New World Avenue was changed to POW-MIA Memorial Parkway.

Cassata's aiming for a September opening date. He's also trying to land a national designation from Congress for the museum. He said the goal of the museum is to honor those who didn't come home. He wants visitors to learn about one POW/MIA when they left. There are more than 80,000 veterans unaccounted for.

"This is something for the families. That's our most important thing. People don't realize there's thousands out there," Cassata said. "They don't have a place they know they're loved ones will always be remembered."

As for opening the museum, Cassata said the organization is acquiring memorabilia and setting up displays. Cassata said he had a volunteer group ready.

"It's just getting everyone's schedule coordinated and roles and responsibilities and finding a couple of

people who are knowledgeable about his field as well,” Cassata said.

Across the street from the chapel, Chaplain Patrick Archuleta, a 30-year U.S. Air Force veteran, refers to the restoration as a mission rather than a project. The city gave the chapel a landmark designation.

The chapel’s interior just received a new paint job. He’s waiting on 28 rows of pews and to install new carpet. The chapel won’t hold regular services, but will host events like weddings, funerals and reunions.

Late March is Archuleta’s tentative opening date.

“It will serve as a focal point if you will,” Archuleta said.

Museum spokesman Buddy Harris had finished giving a speech at Florida State University when he was asked to join the project. Harris worked extensively with reforming the military’s POW/MIA processes. The military’s interest would wane if the veteran was missing for a year, Harris said.

Harris said families might have gravestones, but they knew there was no one there. He recalled a family of a Korean War veteran from Kansas. Harris said a few members of his family doubted what bringing him back would accomplish.

“The brother said we were creating all this stuff that doesn’t need to be created, he said he moved past it and we were making things worse,” Harris said. “I’ll tell you what (when the veteran’s body was returned), it was a complete metamorphosis. The brother started crying and thanking everybody. It’s a huge weight on these people’s shoulders. When I brought Scott Speicher home, I saw it in my own family.”

Pilot Scott Speicher was missing in action during the Persian Gulf War in 1991. His body was found by Marines and returned in 2009. Harris was best man at Speicher’s wedding at the Cecil Field chapel and present for Speicher’s memorial at the same venue.

“It’s always been near and dear to my heart, Harris said. “When they showed me what they planned on doing, I had to be a part of it.”

Bob Buehn, of Fleming Island, is the executive director of the University of North Florida Military Veterans Resource Center and POW/MIA Memorial board member. A U.S. Navy pilot, and former Jacksonville Mayor John Peyton’s Chief of Military Affairs, Buehn served at Cecil Field and said he is excited to move the project forward.

“It’s nice that this little section is going to be preserved,” Buehn said. “We want to remind people or teach someone for the first time (of their sacrifices.)”



## Vietnam Veterans of America Daytona Beach Chapter 1048 Members Inducted as Honorary Members



L-R Chuck Husbands, Rod Phillips, General McWaters, Jose Rosa and Cmdr. Joe Sicinski

Vietnam Veterans of America Daytona Beach Chapter 1048 (VVA 1048) members **Master Sergeant Jose Rosa**, United States Air Force and **Staff Sergeant Rod Phillips**, United States Army Airborne, were inducted as Honorary Life Members into the Korean War Veterans Association Robert McGuire Chapter 189 Department of Florida.

KWV Commander Joe Sicinski presented Jose and Rod with a framed certificate, a 1991 Korean War Memorial Coin and a book entitled Korea Reborn A Grateful Nation. General McWaters was our guest speaker. Thank you VVA 1048 members Bob Adkins, Bob Hayes, Tommie Mabe and Jerry Gomes for being there. rlp/

## **Continental Army Historical Facts**

### **Birth of the Army**

Congress initially opposed a standing army. The First Continental Congress feared that a standing army could be used as an instrument of tyranny. This attitude changed after the Battle of Lexington and Concord. The Second Continental Congress approved the formation of the army on June 14, 1775. The legislation placed the militia forces, then fighting outside Boston, under federal control. These troops formed the nucleus of the army. The date is still celebrated as the birthday of the U.S. Army.

### **Its One and Only Commanding General**

George Washington was named commander in chief on June 15, 1775. He assumed command of the army in a field in Cambridge, Massachusetts the following month. Washington served as commanding general for the entire war without a salary.

### **A Diverse Fighting Force**

The Continental Army reflected the diversity of the colonies. Coming from all 13 colonies, soldiers were native-born and immigrants of almost every nationality as well as free and enslaved African-Americans. Several women also disguised themselves as men in order to fight. The army accepted volunteers as young as 16. A 15-year-old could join with a parent's permission. Artilleryman Jeremiah Levering is reported to have been only 12-years-old.



### **The Size of the Army**

Over 230,000 soldiers served in the Continental Army during the American Revolution, although no more than 48,000 at any one time. The largest number of troops gathered in a single place for battle was 13,000.

### **Becoming a Well-Trained Fighting Force**

Training initially varied in quantity and quality from one regiment to another based on how much experience their leaders had. Congress hired Prussian Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben to direct the army's training at Valley Forge. He published a training manual containing the regulations for order and discipline in 1779. Von Steuben organized a company of 100 soldiers that would demonstrate proper drill and battle tactics to newly recruited regiments. His efforts were instrumental in creating a professional army.

## **Army Food**

On paper, a soldier was supposed to be supplied with one pound of meat, one pound of bread and three pints of dried vegetables each day as well as a pint of milk and a quart of cider or spruce beer. This rarely happened. The army typically had to forage for food and often went hungry.

## **Army Pay**

Soldiers were promised a pay of \$29 per month, a small fortune for the time. Many of the colonies maintained their own currencies and exchange rates. The Continental dollar was almost worthless. Congress often lacked the funds to pay the soldiers, who remained true to the cause of liberty despite the hardships.

## **Major Battles**

Between 1775 and 1783, the Continental Army fought numerous skirmishes and minor engagements as well as more than a dozen major full-blown set-piece battles against British and Hessian forces. The fledgling army won slightly more than half the battles ranging from South Carolina to upstate New York. Important victories include Saratoga, Trenton, Cowpens, and Yorktown.

## **Casualties in the Cause of Liberty**

During the war, as many as 8,000 soldiers were killed in battle and twice that number died from illness or starvation. Approximately 25,000 were wounded. Nearly 30 percent of the army was killed, wounded or captured.

## **Swords into Ploughshares**

The Continental Army was mustered out of service by early 1784. Only a small token of 80 soldiers remained on active duty. The following year, the First American Infantry Regiment was created. It consisted of eight infantry companies and two artillery batteries. This unit was enlarged a decade later and renamed the Legion of the United States.

In his famous “Farewell Orders” to the soldiers on November 2, 1783, Washington offered his impressions of the Continental Army. He reflected on their unparalleled perseverance to overcome disadvantageous circumstances of almost every possible kind over eight years. He also stated that their victory was “little short of a miracle.”



## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

*Women Veterans Recognition Week is a week-long observance celebrating achievements as well as bringing awareness to the challenges women veterans face. Join with us as we salute Women Who Served.*

<p><b><u>Sunday, March 10, 2019</u></b>          Women of The Wall Memorial Service          Jacksonville Veterans Memorial Wall          1145 E Adams St. Jacksonville, FL 32202          Time: 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM</p>	<p><b><u>Monday, March 11, 2019</u></b>          Opening Ceremony and Proclamation Presentation          Women Veterans History Display          City Hall Atrium, 10:00am          117 West Duval Street. Jacksonville, FL 32202</p>
<p><b><u>Tuesday, March 12th, 2019</u></b>          Employer Summit (<b>FOR EMPLOYERS ONLY</b>)          NE Florida CareerSource          215 N. Market Street          Jacksonville, FL 32202          Contact Penny Justice for info: 904-553-9265</p>	<p><b><u>Wednesday, March 13th, 2019</u></b>          Rising Ranks: Women Veterans Through the Ages          9 am to noon          UNF, Adam W. Herbert University Center,          Board of Trustees room          12000 Alumni Drive          Contact Theresa Hammock at 904-620-5042 for info</p>
<p><b><u>Thursday, March 14th, 2019</u></b>  <b>Ignite Jacksonville</b>          For women veterans, active duty service women and women military spouses/life-partners who are exploring the opportunity of small business ownership as a career path.          Register at: <a href="https://ignite_jacksonville.eventbrite.com">https://ignite_jacksonville.eventbrite.com</a>          Thursday, March 14th, 2019          8:00 AM – 3:30 PM          DoubleTree Jacksonville Riverfront Hotel          1201 Riverplace Boulevard</p>	<p><b><u>Thurs, March 14 – Sat, March 16, 2019</u></b>          HerTOTALWellness Conference &amp; Health Fair          Early Checking Lexington Hotel &amp; Conference Center          1515 Prudential Dr, Jacksonville, FL 32207          Time: 4:30 PM – 6:30 PM          Conference is open to ALL women (Veterans, Active, Reserves, Guard, and civilians)          Visit: <a href="http://www.forwomenvets.org">www.forwomenvets.org</a> for more information</p>
<p><b>Saturday, March 16, 2019</b>  <b>Women Veterans Recognition Gala</b>          Lexington Hotel &amp; Conference Center          1515 Prudential Dr., Jacksonville, FL 32207          Time: 6:00 PM, Cost: \$60.00          Tickets may be purchased online at: <a href="http://www.forwomenvets.org">www.forwomenvets.org</a> or at the office</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div data-bbox="272 1375 511 1459"> </div> <div data-bbox="1226 1375 1323 1470"> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div data-bbox="251 1501 414 1648"> </div> <div data-bbox="519 1575 738 1638"> </div> <div data-bbox="803 1575 1047 1648"> </div> <div data-bbox="1193 1491 1299 1585"> </div> </div> <div data-bbox="1136 1585 1356 1648" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">         American Legion Auxiliary          Ocean Beaches Unit 129       </div>	

2133 Broadway Ave, Jacksonville, FL 32209

[www.forwomenvets.org](http://www.forwomenvets.org)

904-862-6039





**25<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL FIRST MILITIA CHAPTER  
AUSA GOLF TOURNAMENT  
APRIL 8, 2019**



**Time:** 7:30 a.m. Registration • 8:30 a.m. 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 per player (includes Green Fees, Cart, Lunch, & Prizes)

**Prizes for: 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, & 3<sup>rd</sup> Place**

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

***New this Year: Make a Hole-in-One on #15 and win a 2019 GMC Acadia  
from Jack Wilson GMC/Chevrolet***

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

**Golf Shoes Must Be Soft Spikes Only**

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



**"The Green Beret"**  
**Special Forces Association**  
*Northeast Florida Chapter LXXXVIII*



**Christopher Young**  
42 Division Ave  
Ormond Bch, FL 32174

9-Jan-2019

TO: Prospective Community Supporter

SUBJECT: **Letter of Introduction for SFA Chapter 88 and Request for Your Support**

We are here today asking for your support with our 4<sup>th</sup> annual golf tournament, Friday May 17th at Golf Club of South Hampton, St. Augustine, FL. The funds are used to support our mission. You can support us by choosing a sponsorship. Your business will be promoted at the tournament with signs, pin flags, golf cart stick-on signage, social media, billboards, local TV and newspaper. You will receive a good ROI on your investment.

Please review our sponsor packages at <https://secure.perfectgolfevent.com/eventweb/6977/>

The members of the Special Forces Association of NE FL are current and veteran US Army Green Berets. We are a behind the scenes support network for deployed active component Special Forces, Florida National Guard 20<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group, headquarters in Jacksonville, and Green Beret soldiers' families. Whenever we get an e-mail or phone call with a simple, *"We need help!" our assistance is immediate and not hindered by bureaucratic processes.* Our Chapter provides assistance with charitable contributions to:

- **JROTC** in our northeast Florida high schools with five scholarships awarded annually. Building leader warriors of tomorrow.
- **The Warrior Fund 3/20<sup>th</sup> SFG** headquartered at Camp Blanding, FL Special Forces warriors are the tip of the spear in our continuing battle for our nation's safety and freedom in America. Their missions often require rapid and discrete responses to unique situations. Their deployment often takes place at short notice. The family has no idea or the timeline of the mission, It is important that these soldiers remain in the service of our country. When they deploy our association is here to assist them and their families
- **Green Beret Green Beret Foundation**  
Provides Casualty and Family Support <https://www.greenberetfoundation.org/>
- **Special Forces Charitable Trust**  
The Special Forces Charitable Trust is a primary resource center ensuring timely and consistent support and services to the 9,500 + member Special Forces Assoc. <http://specialforcescharitabletrust.org>
- **Operation Smile**- Give a life changing surgery to a child [www.operationssmile.org](http://www.operationssmile.org)

Help us support our mission while having fun at a great event at South Hampton Golf and Country club. We invite you to play in our tournament and support a good cause. Donation of merchandise used for silent auction or prizes.

Please register for your sponsorship using the registration at [greenberetcharitygolf.com](http://greenberetcharitygolf.com)

*Christopher Young*  
Vice President, SFA CH 88  
Youngchristopher17@gmail.com  
904-460-6044

<http://www.sfachapter88.org>

SFA Chapter 88 is located in Jacksonville, FL; is classified under Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(19), non-profit veteran organization  
(IRS ID = EIN# 56-6148492). Contributions are tax deductible

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



**SATURDAY**  
MARCH 23TH 2019  
9 AM TEE TIME

**Bent Creek Golf Course**  
10440 Tournament Lane  
Jacksonville, Florida 32222

## **The Air Force Sergeants Association Chapter F0559**

*8th Annual Golf Tournament*

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

### **Sponsorship Opportunities**

#### **BRONZE SPONSORSHIP: \$150**

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

#### **GOLD SPONSORSHIP: \$500**

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

#### **SILVER SPONSORSHIP: \$250**

Includes: Sign on the hole and the ability to setup your tent on a hole or at club house (one sponsor per hole).

#### **PLATINUM SPONSORSHIP \$750**

Includes: foursome, sign on the hole and the ability to setup your tent on a hole or at club house (one sponsor per hole) Hole in One Challenge. Call 904-703-0601 for more information.

#### **BALL SPONSORSHIP: \$300**

Includes your company's logo on balls given to all golfers at event.

**Business:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone#:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact:** \_\_\_\_\_

**To Register: Fill out included form and email to [rswiggs52@comcast.net](mailto:rswiggs52@comcast.net) or mail to AFSA F0559 at 15664 Forest Trail Rd, Jacksonville, Florida 32234.**

**Make Checks Payable to Air Force Sergeants Association Chapter F0559**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:**

**Rick Wiggs 904-703-0601 or [rswiggs52@comcast.net](mailto:rswiggs52@comcast.net).**

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



**SATURDAY**  
MARCH 23TH 2019  
9AM TEE TIME

**Bent Creek Golf Course**  
10440 Tournament Lane  
Jacksonville, Florida 32222

**The Air Force Sergeants Association Chapter F0559**  
*8th Annual Golf Tournament*

Play is Limited to 100 Players (includes Golf, Carts and Lunch)  
\$75.00 a player

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

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

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

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

**To Register: Fill out included form and email to [rswiggs52@comcast.net](mailto:rswiggs52@comcast.net) or mail to AFSA F0559 at 15664 Forest Trail Rd, Jacksonville, Florida 32234. Make Checks Payable to Air Force Sergeants Association Chapter F0559**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:**  
Rick Wiggs at 904-703-0601 or email [rswiggs52@comcast.net](mailto:rswiggs52@comcast.net)



**St. Johns Golf & Country Club**

219 St. Johns Golf Drive  
St. Augustine, FL 32092

**Tuesday, April 9, 2019**  
"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.**

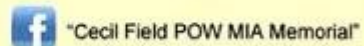
CECIL FIELD POW/MIA MEMORIAL IS A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION – REGISTRATION NUMBER: CH51569. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE, 800 435 7352, WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, 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 5, 2019**

*Sponsorship Packages and Player Registration Forms attached, or register online at:*

[www.powmiamemorial.org](http://www.powmiamemorial.org)

Follow the 2019 Golf Tournament Event from our Facebook page:



## Hanoi Taxi

On January 27, 1973, United States agreed to a ceasefire with North Vietnam allowing withdrawal of American military forces from South Vietnam. The agreement also included the release of about 600 American prisoners of war.

On Feb. 12, 1973, three C-141 flew to Hanoi, North Vietnam, and one C-9A aircraft was sent to Saigon, South Vietnam to pick up released prisoners of war. The first flight of 40 U.S. prisoners of war left Hanoi in a C-141A, later known as the "Hanoi Taxi". From February 12 to April 4, there were 54 C-141 missions flying out of Hanoi, bringing the former POWs home, the total number of returned was 591.

The return of the nearly 600 POWs increased the polarization of public and media. Many viewed the freed POWs as heroes, while others were questioning if treating these men as heroes served to distort and obscure the truth about the war. A majority of the POWs returned in Operation Homecoming fact bomber pilots shot down over enemy territory carrying out the campaign waged against civilian targets located in Vietnam and Laos. Some felt these men deserved to be treated as war criminals or left in the North Vietnamese prison camps.

Many worried that Homecoming hid the fact that people were still fighting and dying on the battlefields of Vietnam and caused the public to forget about the over 50,000 American lives the war had already cost. Veterans of the war had similar thoughts concerning Operation Homecoming with many stating that the ceasefire and returning of prisoners brought zero sense of an ending or closure.

*Operation Homecoming has been largely forgotten by the American public.*



Veteran's and active-duty military if you're in or around Palatka check this out and put it on your calendar it's almost that time again! We had a great time last year with everybody that came we want to see it grow this year.



**FREEDOM FEST**

★ ★ ★ HONORING OUR VETERANS ★ ★ ★

**Date: APRIL 27th**

**Time: 11 AM to 3 PM**

**Place: Putnam County Fairgrounds**  
*(118 Fairground Road; East Palatka, FL 32131)*

**MUSIC, BARBEQUE, GAMES, BOUNCE HOUSE, CAR SHOW, and INFORMATION BOOTHS**  
*(about Benefits for Veterans)*

**FREE MEAL FOR VETERANS & THEIR IMMEDIATE FAMILY**

**NON-VETERANS... \$8.00 per Meal**

*For information call (386) 546-9126 or see [VetsFreedomFest.org](http://VetsFreedomFest.org)*

# TO THE VIETNAM VETERAN



TO THOSE WHO RETURNED WITH NO ONE TO GREET THEM.

TO THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN TOLD PTSD WOULD GO AWAY  
IN TIME.

TO THOSE WHO HAVE NEVER BEEN TOLD THANK YOU OR  
WELCOME HOME.

TO THOSE WHO RETURNED BUT ARE STILL HAUNTED BY  
THE NIGHTMARES OF WAR.

TO THOSE WHO STILL REACT TO A BACKFIRE AND  
BREAK A SWEAT AT THE SOUND OF A CHOPPER.

TO THOSE WHO SUFFER FROM AGENT ORANGE EXPOSURE  
AND ARE STILL FIGHTING THE LAST BATTLE.

TO THOSE WHO FOUGHT BATTLES IN THE JUNGLES OF  
VIETNAM AND HERE AT HOME.

TO THOSE WHO HAVE MORE FRIENDS ON THE  
VIETNAM MEMORIAL WALL THAN ALIVE TODAY.



# THANK YOU!





## **Kris Kristofferson is the most interesting man in the world**

5 reasons Kris Kristofferson is the most interesting man in the world

Dos Equis' old ads featuring "The Most Interesting Man in the World" were supposed to be hilarious and ridiculous at the same time. But it left many thinking of people they knew who really might fit that man's mold. I would like to submit the argument in favor of 81-year-old Army veteran, actor, and musician Kris Kristofferson.



You might know him from his acting work – most recently portraying the most hardcore President of all time, Andrew Jackson, on the History Channel miniseries Texas Rising. Or maybe you know him as "Whistler" from the Blade movies. Older folks know him as the songwriter behind Janis Joplin's "Me and Bobby McGee" and as a country music performer in his own right. In 2003, he was presented with the "Veteran of the Year" Award at the 8th Annual American Veterans Awards.

While his father wanted him to continue the family's military tradition, even he would have to admit that Kris has a pretty great resume. But there are a lot of music stars turned movie stars. It's what he did before achieving stardom that makes him The Most Interesting Man in the World.

### **He was a Golden Gloves boxer.**

The Golden Gloves meant that Kristofferson was a talented amateur boxer. But to add to his tough-as-nails persona, he also was skilled at rugby and track, and was even featured in Sports Illustrated for his natural talent playing American football.

### **He was a Rhodes Scholar.**

He had two hobbies that just let him punch people in the face.

While studying literature at Pomona College in California, he was selected for a Rhodes scholarship to study literature at Merton College. While there, he continued boxing, performing at the highest levels. Remember: there's no shame in getting knocked out by Kris

Kristofferson. It doesn't matter if he's 18-years-old or 81-years-old.

### **He earned a Ranger tab.**

Kristofferson goes Airborne.

The younger Kristofferson was the son of an Army Air Forces officer who went into the service himself as an officer. He was a helicopter pilot who also finished Ranger training and Airborne school. He opted to get out of the Army in lieu of taking an assignment to teach at West Point.

### **He moonlighted as a janitor... while working on oil rigs.**

Kristofferson would sit on oil rigs, flying workers around in Louisiana one week. Then the next week he would moonlight as a janitor in Nashville recording studios so he could drop demo tapes on unsuspecting country music artists like June and Johnny Cash.

In one interview, he recommended having patience if you're pursuing a career as an artist. Sweeping floors at age 30 might not seem glamorous for a former Army Ranger officer, but ask Kris Kristofferson if it was worth it.

### **He landed a helicopter on Johnny Cash's lawn.**

What you think you look like holding a rifle.

The oft-told tale is true: Kristofferson really did land a helicopter on the Man in Black's lawn. He was trying to get Cash's attention so Cash would give that demo a listen. What isn't true is that Kristofferson wasn't actually drinking a beer at the time... and Cash wasn't even home.

Unfortunately his boozing is what led to him no longer working the controls of helicopters.

### **All that and he fought forest fires.**

One of Kristofferson's most often-offered pieces of advice is writing from your own experience. As if football, rugby, being an Airborne Ranger, and working on oil rigs weren't manly enough, he also worked in construction and fought wild fires in Alaska.

Because of course he did.

VIETNAM

# VETERANS

TRIBUTE RIDE



**Start** Malcom Randall VA Medical Center  
1601 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608  
30 MAR 2019 Meet 8:30am then Kickstands up at 9:30am

Veterans Memorial Park **Finish**  
7400 SW 41st Pl, Gainesville, FL 32608

**To  
Register**

Contact:

**Cherie Korn**

EMAIL: CKORN@ALACHUACOUNTY.US

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

Event sponsored by: NF/SG Veterans Health System and Alachua County Veteran Services



# **SAVE THE DATE!**

## **2019 Women Veterans Recognition Week**

MARCH 10, 2019— MARCH 16, 2019

**SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 3:00pm**  
WOMEN ON THE WALL MEMORIAL SERVICE

**MONDAY, MARCH 11**  
CITY HALL DISPLAY

**TUESDAY, MARCH 12**  
JOB FAIR/EMPLOYER WORKSHOP

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13**  
WOMEN VETERAN HEALTH FAIR  
WOMEN-WEALTH-WINE

**THURSDAY— SATURDAY**  
**MARCH 14—16**  
HerTOTALWellness Conference  
Lexington Hotel and Conference Center  
1515 Prudential Drive  
Jacksonville, FL 32207

**SATURDAY MARCH 16**  
**Women Veterans Recognition Gala**

### **HerTOTALWellness Conference**

**14-16 March 2019**

You have denied yourself time for you! Its countdown to change! We have recruited the best to help you soar beyond your expectations.

Why go to the conference?

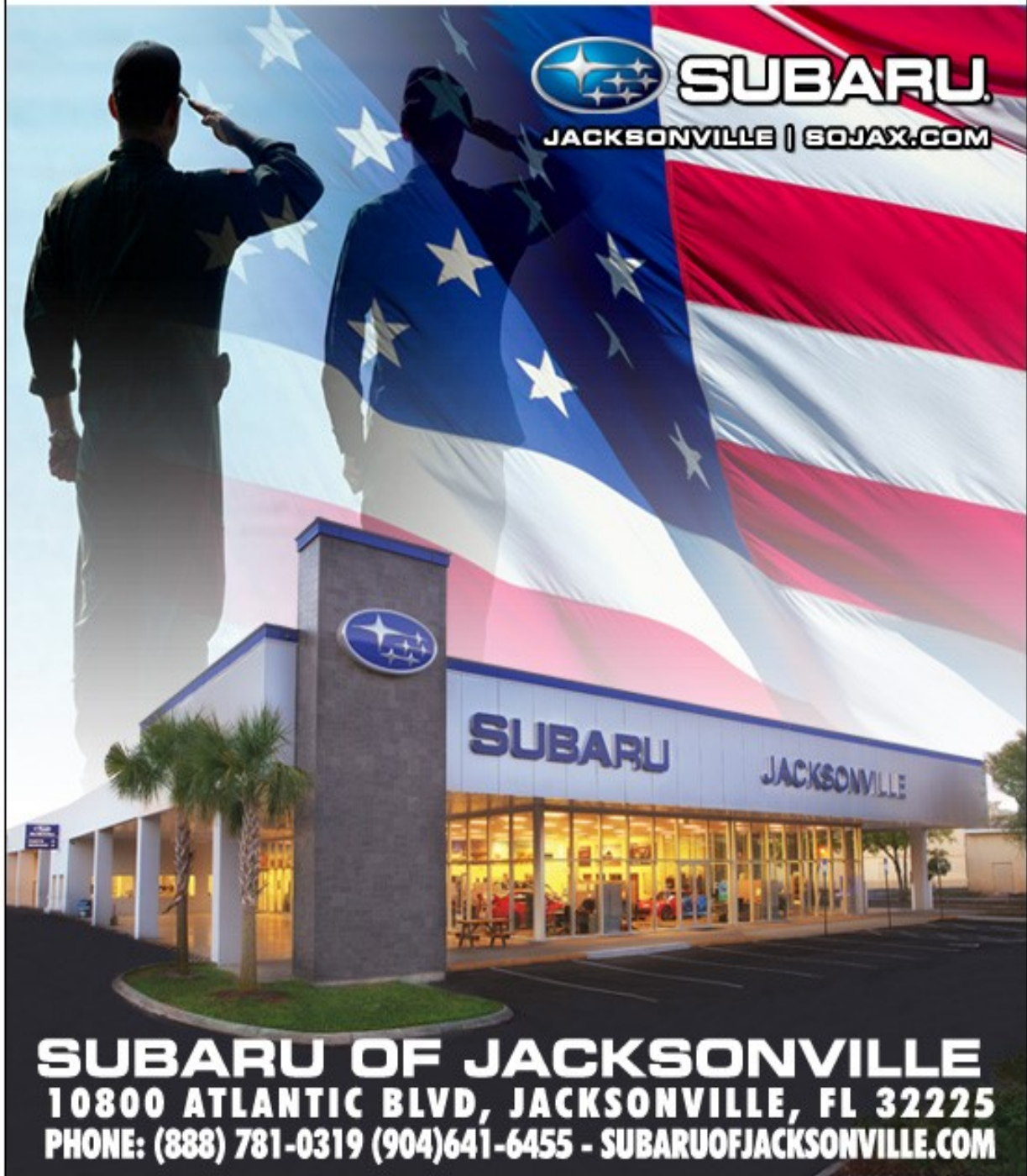
- ◊ National and State speakers
- ◊ Workshops that fit your needs
- ◊ Pamper time available
- ◊ Meeting other women who served
- ◊ Bring your non-veteran friend to enjoy.

**VENDOR OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE**

[WWW.FORWOMENVETS.ORG](http://WWW.FORWOMENVETS.ORG)



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# SUNSHINE MUSIC FESTIVAL


Sponsored by the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 88



10+ LIVE BANDS • PIG ROAST • OPEN HOUSE  
OPEN BAR • DOOR PRIZES

SILENT AUCTION • 50/50 • KIDS ACTIVITIES

MAY 25th 2019 ~ 1:00 - 11:00

All proceeds benefit:  **FIVE STAR**  
VETERANS CENTER  
ARMY • MARINES • NAVY • COAST GUARD • AIR FORCE

# AMERICAN LEGION 100TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION



## 5th District Family Picnic



**Saturday, March 16, 2019**  
**Hosted by Post 283**  
**9459 Ft. Caroline Rd.**



**Kids Fishing Tournament, 9 AM - 11 AM**  
**Kids Activities, 12 PM - 3 PM**



**Horse Shoe & Corn Hole Tournament, 1 PM - Till**  
**Separate 50/50 Pot**



**Chicken Drop, 11 AM - Till**  
**50/50 Pot**



**Weber Grill & Accessories Raffle, \$350.00 Value**  
**Tickets \$2.00 Each**  
**Drawing at 5 PM, Do Not Have to Be Present to Win**



**Free Food, Starting at 11 AM**  
**Burgers, Hot Dogs, Sausage Dogs & Chicken Skewers**



**Bake Sale by "Baker Bruce"**



**Live Music Starting at 11:30 AM Through 6 PM**



**Additional Parking Will Be Provided in Lot Across the Post**



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** Jan. 17, 2019

## **VA to implement appeals modernization in February**

*Act will simplify process for how Veterans make appeals*

**WASHINGTON** — Today the U.S. Department of Veterans’ Affairs (VA) announced that the Federal Register will publish on Jan. 18 regulations accompanying the [Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017 \(AMA\)](#), which will help Veterans experience a more transparent claims decision-review process.

After publication of the regulations, VA Secretary Robert Wilkie will certify the department’s readiness to implement appeals modernization, which will transform a complex appeals process into one that is simple, timely and provides greater choice to Veterans who disagree with a VA decision.

Implementation will occur 30 days after the Secretary certifies, as required by law. Accordingly, the AMA will become effective Feb 19.

“VA has been preparing for full implementation of the Appeals Modernization Act over the past 18 months,” Wilkie said. “Our staff has worked diligently, particularly in the last few weeks, to ensure the new, streamlined process is available to Veterans in February.

The AMA was signed into law Aug. 23, 2017. Under the act, Veterans will now have three options for claims and appeals: (1) supplemental claim; (2) higher-level review; or (3) direct appeals to the Board of Veterans’ Appeals. All decision reviews submitted after February 2019 will fall under the new system.

Once the Appeals Modernization Act is fully implemented, VA’s goal is to complete supplemental claims and higher-level reviews averaging 125 days. Decisions appealed to the Board under its direct docket will average 365 days. Under the legacy process, appeal resolutions averaged three to seven years.

For more information about VA appeals modernization, visit <https://benefits.va.gov/benefits/appeals.asp> and <https://www.bva.va.gov/>.



## Navy to Navy Homes vs Others

N2N is outperforming the rest!



**98.4%**  
of original list price

**N2N**

N2N Sells Houses for **MORE MONEY**



**95.5%**

Others



**Over 6,000**

Potential Buyers in N2N Database



**29**

average days on market

**N2N**

N2N Sells Houses **FASTER**



**72**

Others



**2%**

percentage of listings that expire

**N2N**

More Likely to Sell with **N2N**



**29.9%**

Others

## GREAT TIME TO SELL!

Ask us for a **FREE HOME VALUATION**



Marianne Bach  
(904) 349-0456



Kathy Jordan  
(904) 401-0476

\*\*\* As a **VETERAN**,  
SAVE **25%** when buying or selling with us! \*\*\*



Navy to Navy Homes Llc  
10605 Theresa Drive, Suite 5  
Jacksonville, FL 32246  
Office: 904-900-4776



*Quality Care in a  
Relaxing Environment*

At Coastal, we believe that a visit to the doctor's office can be a relaxing experience. Come in for your appointment and let our massage exam chairs, hot towels and aromatherapy ease the stresses of your day. From diabetic care to ingrown nails to reconstructive surgery, our board certified physicians can help you with all of your foot and ankle needs. Call today experience the Coastal difference for yourself.



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

*From all of us at Coastal, we wish you a very Merry  
Christmas and a Happy New Year!!*



St. Augustine: 904-826-1900 [www.cfawc.com](http://www.cfawc.com) Palatka: 386-328-1122



# Save the Date

**Saturday, May 11, 2019**

**1800 hours: Social Hour  
1900 hours: Dinner Dance**

## Military Ball for All

**HONORING FIVE STAR VETERANS CENTER**

Jacksonville Marriott  
Ballroom  
(JTB at I-95)

\$150 couple, \$80 single  
Tables from \$850

*Tax Deductible*

**Sponsorships Available**  
*ALL proceeds benefit  
recovering, homeless  
veterans*

Live Auction with  
Senator Aaron Bean

Dinner Banquet

Dancing

Black Tie Optional

(904) 723-5950  
5starveteranscenter.org





***OPERATION HandUP*** (8/21/2018 – 9/8/2018)

We are creating care pouches with edibles, for our women veterans not living in stabled housing. Items needed are:

- Cup of Noodles
- Cookies or Crackers
- Nuts
- Dried Fruit
- Protein or breakfast bars
- Pop Tarts
- Capri Suns or something similar to drink
- Canned microwaveable soups/veggies
- Peanut Butter and Jelly
- Canned fruit
- Tuna Fish or chicken in the pack
- Canned pasta
- Fruit and Jello cups
- Small water bottles

Gift cards are acceptable too.

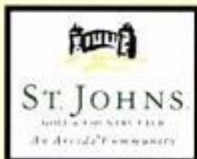
***Deliver to:***

***2133 Broadway Ave.***

***Monday – Friday 9:00am – 3:00pm***

***904-862-6039***

***[www.forwomenvets.org](http://www.forwomenvets.org)***



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

**Tuesday, April 9, 2019**  
 "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.**

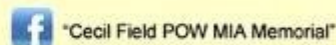
CECIL FIELD POW/MIA MEMORIAL IS A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION - REGISTRATION NUMBER: OHS1569. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE, 800 435 7352, WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, 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 5, 2019**

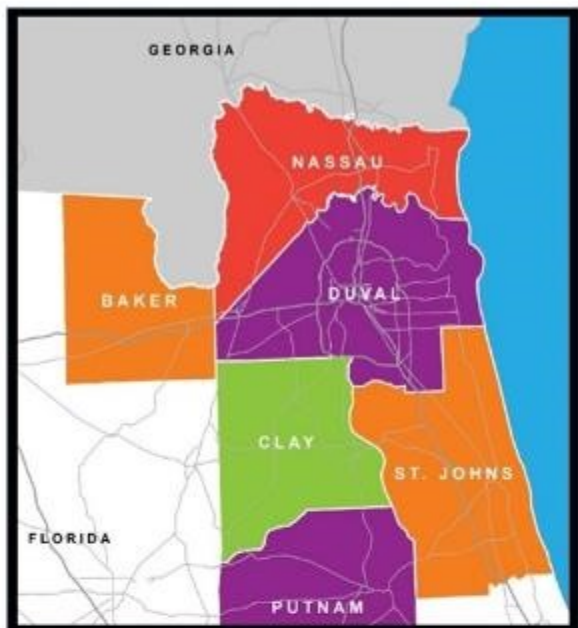
*Sponsorship Packages and Player Registration Forms attached, or register online at:*

[www.powmiamemorial.org](http://www.powmiamemorial.org)

Follow the 2019 Golf Tournament Event from our Facebook page:



# Veteran County Councils of Northeast Florida



## Duval County

President: Steve Spickelmier

Meetings:

Third Tuesday of each month in the 40/8 Building

Located at the American Legion Post 137  
5443 San Juan Avenue

7pm

## Nassau County

President: Paul Kicker, Chairman  
Veterans Council of Nassau County

76347 Veterans Way,  
Veterans Service Office

Yulee, FL 32097

Meets the first Thursday of every month  
at the Theodore Hernandez American  
Legion Post 54, 626 South 3rd Street,  
Fernandina Beach, FL 32034 at 7 pm

## Baker County

President: Larry Porterfield

Meetings:

Second Thursday of each month  
MacClenny Primitive Baptist Church  
Fellowship Hall on North Boulevard  
6pm

Contact:

Baker County Veterans Council  
PO Box 1434  
MacClenny, FL 32063

## Clay County

President: Bob Brewster

Meetings: First Wednesday of  
each month

Location varies between the  
different Veteran Organizations.

Time varies

## St. Johns County

President: Bill Dudley

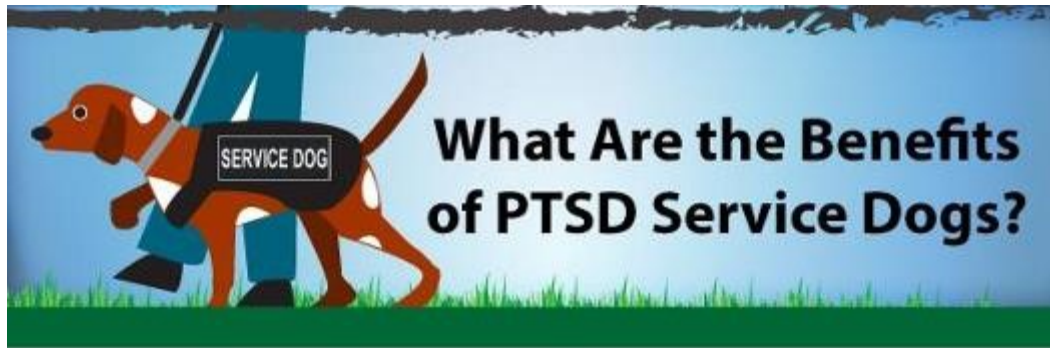
Meetings:

Last Thursday of each month  
Health and Human Services Building  
Muscovy Room, 1st Floor  
200 San Sebastian View  
Muscovy Room 1st Floor  
St. Augustine, FL 32084

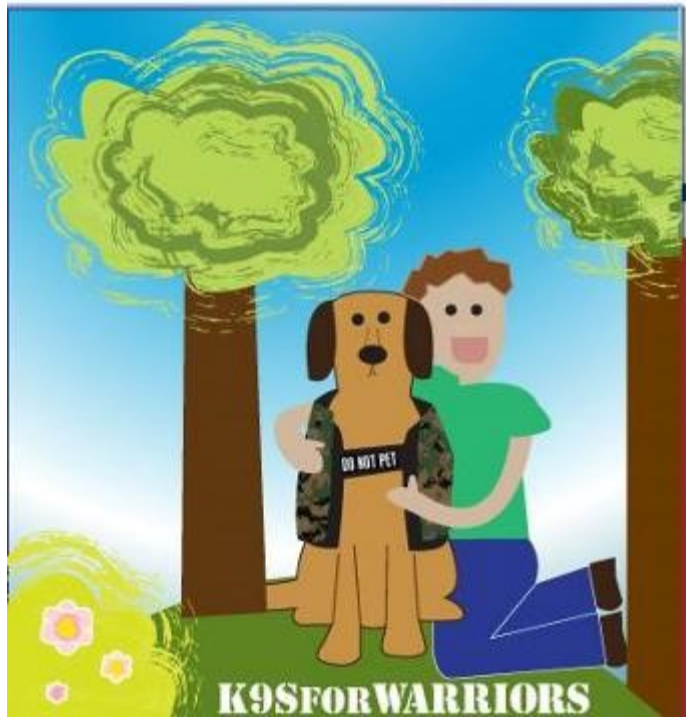
7pm

Contact:

[info@VeteransCouncilofStJohns.org](mailto:info@VeteransCouncilofStJohns.org)



- Reduce in use or even elimination of prescription drugs.
- Decrease in anxiety, anger, and depression.
- Decline in suicidal thoughts.
- Decrease in medical costs.
- Decrease in need for other treatments.



According to collaborative research performed by Purdue University & K9s For Warriors, veterans with a service dog reported:

- better ability to cope with flashbacks & anxiety attacks
- less overall sleep disturbances, including nightmares
- lower levels of depression & anger
- higher levels of companionship & social reintegration
- increased life satisfaction
- improved physical health

## 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](http://powmiamemorial.org) or to make checks payable to:

Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc.  
612 New World Avenue Jacksonville, Florida 32221

ONLINE [PowMiaMemorial.org](http://PowMiaMemorial.org)

Facebook.com/Cecil-Field-POW-MIA-Memorial-Inc-1084025864845237

Twitter.com/CFPOW/MIA

Instagram.com/cecilfieldpowmia/

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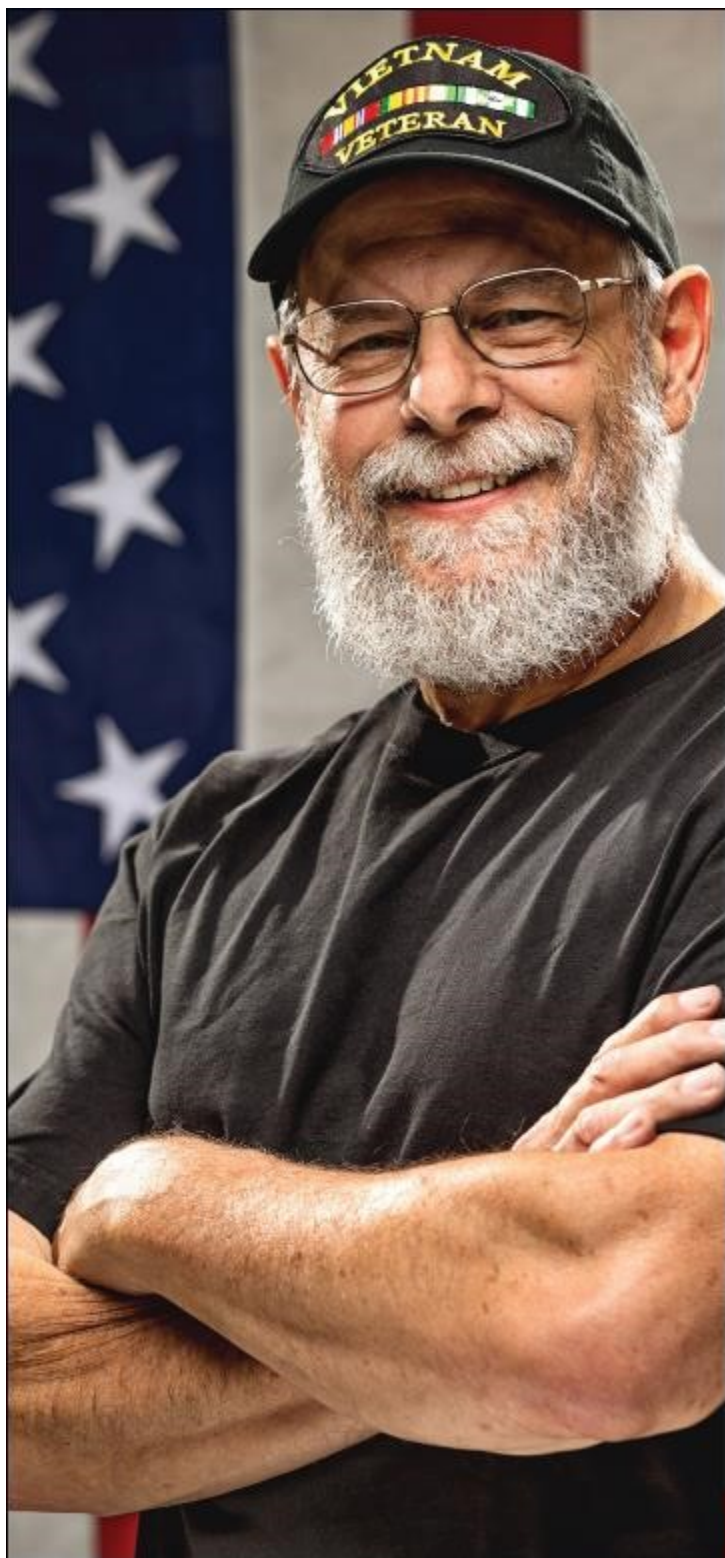
**36 Granada Street, St. Augustine FL 32084**

**(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.



---

# SERVING VETERANS SINCE 1979

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At Community Hospice & Palliative Care, we are honored to serve veterans and their caregivers by providing specialized programs to meet their unique needs now and at the end of life.

- ★ Advance Care Planning
- ★ Bereavement & Grief Support
- ★ Caregiver Education
- ★ Hospice Care
- ★ Palliative Care
- ★ We Honor Veterans Program

For more information about our We Honor Veterans program, any of our services or to become a veteran volunteer, call toll-free **866.253.6681** or go to **Veterans.CommunityHospice.com**.



*"I've proudly served as Chairman of the Community Hospice Veterans Partnership (CHVP) since 2011. CHVP partners with veterans service groups throughout the community to listen and learn how Community Hospice & Palliative Care can best serve our unique needs."*

**Bob Buehn, Captain, United States Navy (Ret.)**  
Chairman, Community Hospice Veterans Partnership  
(2011 - present)





## 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](mailto: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, 727-487-6252, 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

## Please support our sponsors


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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](mailto:mrothfeld@anyveteran.org)

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



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

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

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

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

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

***The Veterans Council will meet at the St.  
Johns County Health & Human Services  
Building, 200 San Sebastian View  
Muscovy Room, 1st floor***

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

*(physical location)*

*The VSO Office is located in the 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.*