



# The Patriot Reader Newsletter

P.O. Box 2117

St. Augustine, FL 32085

Bill Dudley, Publisher

Michael Rothfeld, Editor

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Message from the Chairman

Newsletter Date: May, 2017

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Fellow Veterans,

April has been especially rewarding for our Veterans Council as we have had several opportunities to honor our veterans in special ceremonies.

On April 6, veterans and our local citizens gathered at St. Augustine National Cemetery to honor our WW I veterans in a wreath laying ceremony. The occasion was the 100th anniversary of the United States entering WW I, the "war to end all wars". There are 132 WW I veterans buried in our National Cemetery in St. Augustine and we proudly assembled to honor them on April 6.

On Friday, April 21, our Veterans Council joined

members of the Vietnam Veterans Association to pay respects to our Vietnam Veterans by the laying of a wreath in their honor. There are 7 Vietnam veterans buried at our St. Augustine National Cemetery. Sgt. Major Ray Quinn conducted a ceremony to honor those seven and all who served during the Vietnam war.

The Veterans Council along with cadets from the AFJROTC from Bartram Trail HS was pleased to serve our homeless this past week in a Dining with Dignity program to feed our less fortunate. Over 100 turned out for the evening's meal. It was humbling to see so many being fed and the appreciation they expressed to those serving. Home



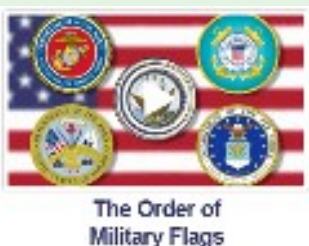
Again St. Johns organization deserves a big Bravo Zulu for the work they are doing in our community for our homeless of which many are veterans.

Please mark May 29 on your calendar as we gather at St. Augustine National Cemetery for this year's Memorial Day ceremony. Our special guest speaker for this year's program is Brig. General Brian Simpler, Asst. Adjutant General, Florida Air National Guard.

Bill Dudley

Chairman

Veterans Council of St. Johns County



# Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home



Recently the Leo C Chase Chapter of Vietnam Vets of America # 1084 placed a plaque in the Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans' Nursing Home. Leo C. Chase was the first St Johns County resident to be killed in the Vietnam Conflict. This plaque was placed in his memory.



Turning Point Academy made their annual trip to the nursing home to put on their "Living Museum". We heard from lots of famous people.....Lucille Ball, Beethoven, Betsy Ross, Davy Crockett, etc.



Living Museum



Easter Dinner with the Easter Bunny





**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, May 15, 2017**. The meeting will be at **7:00pm**. The meeting will take place at Community Hospice, **4266 Sunbeam Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32257 in Conference Room A**.

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

Chairman: Steve Spickelmier

Vice Chairman: Bill Dudley, Treasurer: John Mountcastle

Assistant Treasurer: Michael Rothfeld, Secretary: Kathy Church

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

Historian: Kathy Cayton

**April 6th marked the 100th Anniversary of America's entry into WW I, the War to end all Wars. Ceremonies were held at 12 noon at all National Cemeteries. Veterans Council Chairman William Dudley led the ceremony at St. Augustine National Ceremony, SGM Ray Quinn gave a very moving Benediction and comments were given by Stephen Farris of the National Cemetery Administration.**



**A letter to Chairman Dudley from the National Co-Chairman of  
The Ride Home 2017**

**HONOR-RELEASE-RETURN :THE RIDE HOME**

**Mr. William Dudley  
Chairman, Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc.  
P.O. Box 2117. St. Augustine, Florida 32285**

**1 April 2017**

**Good Day Mr. Dudley!**

**I want to ‘Thank YOU!’ Bill for having me at your meeting this past Friday of the Veterans Council of St. Johns County and for adjusting your published agenda to afford me the time to make a presentation to your members on the Prisoner of War/Missing in Action issue as well as the annual National event The RIDE HOME.**

**I have had the opportunity over the last two decades to be a part of or present to several Veterans Councils throughout the southeast and the midwest in my efforts to educate the public on the POW/MIA topic but I must compliment you on not only the quantity but specifically on the quality of the membership and their obvious commitment to their mission and to the Veteran community of northeast Florida. Your excellent leadership combined with your superior people skills are obvious in the overall performance of your team. Congratulations, Bill.**

**Looking ahead, I hope you will consider introducing me to and allowing me to present to your Navy League organization membership.**

**Thank YOU, Bill, for your service to our Republic and for your support of the POW/MIA issue.**

**Until they all come home.....**

**Jim ‘moe’ Moyer**

**National Co-Chairman**

**The RIDE HOME, Inc., 3818 Litchfield Loop, Lake Wales, FL 33859**  
**theridehome.com**



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

Honorees for the 2017 event will include former Prisoners of War and families of our Missing in Action from World War II, Korea, Cold War, Vietnam, USS Pueblo, Iraq and Afghanistan. As part of the tribute package to these true American Heroes, The RIDE HOME with the help and generosity of American Patriots, like you, will provide a room (3 nights), Heroes Dinner, Ground-Pounder & Fly-Boy Lunch, entertainment, Awards Ceremony as well as transportation to and from the events for the Honored Guest. This complete Tribute package is valued at \$375.00. For all they endured as Prisoners of War and the emotional torture the Missing in Action families struggle with every day, we hope you agree this is worthy of your participation. Remember, a full Tribute Package or a portion of one, either choice is greatly appreciated and will help us reach the goal of 200 Honored Guest for the 2017 event.

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

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

On behalf of The RIDE HOME, Inc. Board of Directors,

Thank You!

Respectfully,  
Jim 'moe' Moyer , Chairman

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I wish to help sponsor a former POW and/or a MIA Family member to The RIDE HOME 2017

\_\_\_\_\_ Tribute Package \$375. \_\_\_\_\_ Other

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

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

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

City \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

## Veterans Council members pay their respects to homeless veterans by joining them for dinner

### Dining With Dignity ~ Reaching Out To All Our Neighbors

Dining with Dignity is the very successful homeless meal program facilitated by Home Again St. Johns, coordinates the efforts of upwards of 40 faith-based and community groups. Each takes total responsibility for procuring, preparing and serving a hot meal one night each month, all year long. Since 2010, these volunteers have served upwards of 133,000 such meals in a make-shift dining room on a vacant St. Augustine parking lot. Once a new dining hall and kitchen are constructed at the One Stop Center, the service will be relocated to the new facilities on State Road 207.

#### Dining with Dignity

- Meal Serving: Volunteers procure, prepare and serve meals to our homeless neighbors. Dinner is served each evening at a vacant lot in downtown St. Augustine at the corners of Bridge and Granada Streets. This is a great community service project for organizations and groups.
- Call 904-687-6043 to Volunteer

Home Again St. Johns' goal is to create the solution that works here in our community. Identifying the appropriate location for a one-stop center to serve the homeless is the key next step to development of this long-term solution.

Home Again St. Johns was created by a group of concerned business leaders searching for an answer to tactically address increase in homelessness in St. Augustine and St. Johns County. All homeless services stakeholders were invited to collaborate in an effort to create solutions to end homelessness.



## Vets4Vets can be “ONE POWERFUL VOICE”

*“An’ Tommy ain’t a bloomin fool, you bet Tommy sees”*



Veteran’s organizations and veterans in communities throughout Florida can be an extremely powerful force that can press for legislation to improve Veteran’s benefits and services that are desperately needed, deserved and were earned. Unfortunately, many act too slowly, are unfocused and uncoordinated when trying to influence elected officials or when dealing with those elected officials who start to delay or block Veterans benefits and services. This lack of organization in the Veterans community paralyzes Veteran's efforts especially when dealing with those legislators who, for the most part, are and have been prone to ignore or just give “lip service” to fundamental needs of Veterans. The same legislators who use Veterans as a back drop for their political campaigns and then ignore their promises and responsibilities to Veterans while supporting frivolous “pork barrel” appropriations.

If Veterans are going to make a difference they need to get more organized and be more pro-active when it comes to dealing with issues affecting them. Vets 4 Vets can be a start and the catalyst towards getting the Presidents of all the County Veteran Councils to form a Council of Presidents. A Council of Presidents that would represent the majority of Veteran organizations across NE and Central Florida. This would provide one powerful voice and provide a greater platform to Inform, Connect, Unite and Organize Veterans.

Unfortunately, we still need to overcome those Veterans and organizations that fail to see the importance of power through numbers. Organizations that have their own agendas, their own goals and objectives which they do not wish to have infringed on by some other Veteran’s or Veteran organization, thus diminishing any collective ability to generate influence or create positive change. This is a problem when it comes to trying to address Veteran’s issues and ensure the promises made to Veterans are kept.

Although many Veteran organizations and individual Veterans take the time to write or

visit their legislators to present their concerns, the lack of any organized effort produces little to no results and usually generates the standard facsimile signed thank you letter for contacting me. These same actions, if pursued vigorously and collectively by powerful organized veteran organizations under a Council of County Veteran Council Presidents can more effectively gain attention and produce results towards focusing efforts where they need to be. The power of any organization comes from its membership. If we are going to continue to make a difference, we need to unite, so we can start to vigorously address the critical issues affecting our community.

“Patriotism is not a short frenzied outburst of emotion, but the tranquil and steady dedication of a lifetime”

Only Veterans take care of Veterans and as long as Veterans continue to “Remain Dispersed” they will not have the “Power of Numbers” needed to concentrate on the issues that affect them and get the attention of legislators who can ensure Veterans are given a square deal. We need to start taking care of our own and start focusing our efforts towards MAKING sure elected officials provide more than just a mere “lip service” or a meaningless thank you for your service; we need to make sure the “thank you for your service” equates to benefits and kept promises for our SACRIFICES and service; we need to make sure we are not treated as disposable cast-offs who are invisible to elected officials once we leave the battlefield.

Vets 4 Vets encourages all Veterans and Veteran organizations to support the movement. With your support V4V can help create the “ONE POWERFUL VOICE”, that can help make a difference for all Veterans.

"A man who is good enough to shed his blood for the country is good enough to be given a square deal afterwards". Teddy Roosevelt



*The Veterans Council congratulates Sean Karpf and would like to see all colleges adopt this sign on their campus.*

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. - Two parking spots at Jacksonville University were dedicated Monday to a special group of students: Purple Heart recipients.

The spots pay tribute to the university's active-duty and veteran students who were wounded in combat and received Purple Heart medals.



The signs for the parking spaces were donated by the Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 524.

JU student Sean Karpf, who spent 17 months in recovery after an IED explosion in Afghanistan resulted in a left below-the-knee amputation and a traumatic brain injury, spoke at the unveiling ceremony.

“This whole ceremony means more than you will ever know,” said an emotional Karpf, who earned a Purple Heart for his service in 2013. "When you see the love and support of the faculty and everyone here that works at JU provides, it makes you feel good and feel wanted to come to a university like this."

One of the dedicated JU parking spots is in front of the Council building across from Swisher Gymnasium. The other spot is in the parking lot in front of the Gooding building near the front of campus.

There are an estimated 1.8 million Purple Heart recipients nationwide. More than 10 JU students are medal recipients.

The Vietnam Veterans of America, chapter 1084 presented a plaque of remembrance to the **Clyde E Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home**, for one of St. Johns County's Vietnam Veterans (Leo C Chase Jr). The ceremony was held on Thursday, March 30, 2017.



*Reading:*

"Leo C. Chase Chapter #1084. Vietnam Veterans of America."



In Memory of this soldier who gave his life for his country in the Ia Drang Valley during the Pleiku campaign on November 15, 1965.

Leo Chase was the first man from St. Johns County to be killed in Vietnam. The Ia Drang battle where Chase died was dramatized in the book and film, "We Were Soldiers".

At 23 years old Army Pfc. Leo C. Chase, Jr., was killed while serving with an Airmobile unit in Vietnam. Five days later he would have gone home. Chase's life served as an inspiration to others before and since his death.

Chase was a rifleman in Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry. He flew into Landing Zone X-Ray in the Ia Drang Valley of South Vietnam, near the Cambodian border. The helicopter troops were immediately attacked by thousands of soldiers of the 320th, 33rd and 66th regiments of the North Vietnamese Army in a battle that lasted four days. Outnumbered nearly 10 to 1, Chase and the other members of his platoon bravely repulsed many massive ground assaults from the Viet Cong, all the while taking fire from enemy snipers.

In the end, Chase and many other members of his platoon lost their lives, but not without accomplishing their objective. The American lines held because of the courage and sheer determination of the Seventh Cavalry. 305 Americans and 3,561 North Vietnamese died.

Bob Dinkins - Chaplain

Vietnam Veterans of America

Florida State Council, Region 4

**Vietnam Veterans of America Leo C Chase chapter 1084, presented a plaque honoring CPL Chase's sacrifice to the Clyde Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home Administrator Neil Ramski.**

**Presenters were President John McGinty and Chaplain Robert Dinkins**



The Patriot Reader editor and documentary producer, Michael Rothfeld (on right), presenting copies of the Veteran Council's documentary series to President Gary Newman of Vietnam Veterans of America chapter 1059 at American Legion Post 250 in Middleburg, Florida. Gary will also be helping us place copies of the documentaries into all Clay County High Schools.



**From the FL Times Union  
by Joe Daraskevich**

**World War II veterans bring history  
lessons to life at UNF**

When Sarah Rogers found out a panel of World War II veterans would be speaking at the University of North Florida on Monday, she knew her sons needed to be in the audience.



Harold Ryce (left) a veteran of World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War, shakes hands with 20 year old Cassidy Connell after a panel discussion at the University of North Florida.

The timing was perfect because their home-school curriculum just finished covering the conflict. But she said even her oldest, 8-year-old Beckett Rogers, felt like the lessons were ancient history.

The 10 men on Monday's panel were all very-much alive, and Beckett said that made the war come to life for him.

"It was amazing for me, it's much clearer now," Beckett said of his new-found knowledge of World War II.

The veterans told stories of escape when they were prisoners of war. They talked about joining the military the day after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. They told the audience of all ages about the Normandy Invasion on Omaha Beach and the unlucky ones who died in the sand.

The experiences were their own, seen through their own eyes.

"The stench stayed around for months," said John Francis Frank, a Navy veteran who took part in the Normandy Invasion. He explained the beach was covered in land mines, so the bodies remained where they were until it was safe to give them proper burials.

Frank was 19 years old at the time, and he brought a German helmet with him to the discussion at UNF. The helmet still has a hole in the top where a bullet took the life of

the German who was wearing it. Frank was the one who first came across the dead German soldier.

“Helmets are good, but not if you take a direct hit,” Frank told the audience.

Beckett listened closely as Mike Spencer flipped through the pages of his new book about being a P-47 pilot. The boy thought it was funny when Spencer explained how difficult it was to go to the bathroom while flying the plane.

Beckett learned about dog tags and compared them to a driver’s license full of personal information. He and his brothers weren’t the only ones happy to breathe life into the pages of their history books.

“It was really interesting because they had all been through these really hard times, but they were able to get through it and remember the moments that really kept them going,” Cassidy Connell said after the discussion. The 20-year-old UNF student’s great grandfather fought in the war and she got the chance to ask if any of the veterans came across his unit.

Samantha Feaster, 18, was happy her biology class was canceled Monday so she could attend the discussion with a clear conscience. But she said she planned on skipping class if she had to when she heard there would be World War II veterans on campus.

“This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity,” Feaster said. “I go to bio three times a week.”

Two other UNF students were especially thrilled to shake hands with World War II veterans. Jack Spitler, 19, and Matt Linde, 20, volunteer at the Military Museum of North Florida and brought items from the museum to show to anyone who was interested.

Spitler said it was the best day he’s ever had on campus and a day he’ll never forget. He said in 50 years he’ll be able to look back on the time he shook hands with a World War II veteran the same way his relatives used to talk about meeting Civil War veterans.

That’s something he will cherish forever.

Joe Daraskevich: (904) 359-4308

## Vets 4 Vets: A Movement to Help Veterans

Vets 4 Vets tries to ensure Veterans are respected and recognized for their service, always receive the benefits and entitlements they were promised and earned. First Coast.TV got a chance to speak to Robert Adelhelm and Fred Blaz to get more details about this movement that is making a difference.



Robert  
Adelhelm, LTC,  
USMC, ret

Here is a link to a video that Bob Adelhelm and Fred Blaz did explaining Vets 4 Vets Mission.



[http://firstcoast.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?  
u=413c9e0c4bd283a7e8ee1a544&id=0fb745c1bc&e=4e3c93104c](http://firstcoast.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=413c9e0c4bd283a7e8ee1a544&id=0fb745c1bc&e=4e3c93104c)



**National League of POW/MIA Families    March 9, 2017**

**Dear Families and supporters of POW/MIA,**

A couple of years ago, we came upon the POW/MIA Memorial at former Naval Air Station Cecil Field, Jacksonville, Florida. Many are even unaware of the existence of this Memorial. It was later learned that the master plan for Cecil Commerce Center would include developing on and around some of the Memorial areas.

We believe these areas should be preserved and properly taken care of to continue honoring these brave men. Thus, we formed “Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc.”, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Our mission is to protect, preserve, educate and inspire.

We have been working directly with the City of Jacksonville and Mayor Lenny Curry’s office to acquire 30 acres on a long-term land lease. The lease includes the Hero’s Walk/Freedom Trees, Chapel, Memorial Park, and the necessary acreage for a future development of the POW/MIA Memorial Center. We presented our vision of the site, and there is now legislation written waiting for a vote by City Council members. We feel very optimistic we’ll successfully gain the necessary votes to make it official. In fact, we have an endorsement from U.S. Senator John McCain. He very graciously and very quickly signed a letter supporting our efforts. We anticipate many more.

At this time, we feel it’s important to notify all families of our mission and solicit any information you are willing to provide to us. We are looking for the history of their naval career, life and family. We are also in need of any information you may have on the original Memorial: dedications, services, artist/designer, etc. Our number one goal is to ensure these brave men are truly NEVER FORGOTTEN! We are going to educate the community and all that visit the Memorial so they will know who these men were and the sacrifices they made in service to our country.

We have a huge vision for this site and welcome any comments and/or concerns you may have regarding our efforts. In fact, we ask for this, and please feel free to contact me directly by phone or email, both listed below. When you respond, please inform us if you would like for us to send you information on our plans and vision for this POW/MIA memorial area.

Sincerely, M. Cassata

Mike Cassata President Cell (904) 813-8162

Email: [cecilfieldpowmia@gmail.com](mailto:cecilfieldpowmia@gmail.com)

Facebook: Cecil Field POW MIA Memorial



## Missing In America Project services at South Florida National Cemetery

FROM: Kathy Beaudoin Church MIAP-FL interred 15 veterans and 7 spouses for this service. The longest that anyone sat unclaimed on a funeral home shelf dates back to 1956, she was a spouse of a WWI veteran. We THANK everyone that participated or attended this service. It takes TEAMWORK to from start to finish, reaching out to funeral homes, doing research and working with the fh, getting all verified to be interred in a NC and then on to planning the service and the actual service itself. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer with MIAP please go to our website @ [www.miap.us](http://www.miap.us) and read all about what we are doing nationwide. You may also contact me at [miapjax@yahoo.com](mailto:miapjax@yahoo.com) or (904)219-3035. Kathy Church, MIAP FL State Coordinator.





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

**CALL TO HONOR #12**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 2017**

**11:00AM**

**MISSION STATEMENT**



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

**“IT’S THE RIGHT THING TO DO”**

On Saturday, June 17, 2017, at 11:00am, MIAP – Florida, in cooperation with the Boynton Memorial Chapel and Crematory, Boynton Beach, FL, will be interring the cremains of 13 veterans and 8 spouses of veterans, with full military honors, at the South Florida National Cemetery located at 6501 Florida State Road 7, Lake Worth, FL 33449.

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

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

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

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

**MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY  
JACKSONVILLE NATIONAL  
CEMETERY  
SATURDAY, MAY 27, 2017  
10:00AM**



**FLAG PLACEMENT  
THURSDAY, MAY 25, 2017  
2:30PM**

**Memorial Day** is a federal holiday in the United States for remembering the people who died while serving in the country's armed forces. The holiday, which is currently observed every year on the last Monday of May, originated as **Decoration Day** after the American Civil War in 1868

This ceremony is hosted by the Jacksonville National Cemetery and the Support Committee at Jacksonville National Cemetery.

We invite members of our communities to join us in honoring those that died while serving in our Armed Forces. We encourage families to bring your children to this ceremony so they may learn to honor and respect our veterans and family members.

**\*\*\*This year the flags will be placed on Thursday, May 25, 2017  
@ 2:30pm\*\*\***



**1941 – The Civil War Again**  
**George E. Cressman, Jr.**  
**Senior Historian**  
**Camp Blanding Museum**



An aerial photo of the Camp Blanding in 1941

The Civil War in 1941? The Civil War was indeed waged a second time, between Northern and Southern troops – at Camp Blanding!

Established in 1939 as the primary training site for the Florida National Guard, Camp Blanding was mobilized for Federal service in the summer of 1940. A large cantonment area, ranges of all kinds, and maneuver areas were designed. Construction on the newly mobilized Post began in September 1940, and Camp Blanding grew to encompass more than 150,000 acres.

The mobilized Camp Blanding was designed to accommodate the simultaneous training of two “square” infantry divisions – divisions with four infantry regiments. Although the Army had begun to “triangularize” infantry divisions (reducing from four regiments to three) in 1939, many National Guard divisions remained “square” divisions well into 1941. Camp Blanding’s Federal facilities were designed for training square divisions.

The first infantry division to arrive for training at Camp Blanding was a National Guard division, the 31st Division. The 31st included National Guard units from Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida, and was appropriately known as the “Dixie Division.” The Dixie Division began to arrive in Camp Blanding during December 1940.

The second infantry division to arrive for training at Camp Blanding was the 43rd Division, the “Winged Victory” Division. The 43rd was made up of National Guard units from Connecticut, Maine, Rhode Island and Vermont. The Winged Victory Division began to arrive at Camp Blanding in February 1941.

So the troops had arrived at what would become the Camp Blanding Battleground. The men of the 43rd Division expected to be greeted warmly by the men of the 31st Division. But that didn’t happen – it appears chilly relations were established early. After waiting days for a welcome, the 43rd Division Band took charge, and led an evening parade into 31st Division territory. The parade was followed by an impromptu concert, with the band playing requests from the men of the 31st. But, the evening took a turn for the worst when the 43rd Band played

“Yankee Doodle Dandy.”

Hostilities followed shortly! When men of the 43rd Division had a weekend pass, they had to go through the 31st Division area to exit the Post. Apparently there were regular calls for the Yankees to go home, some spoken in the Cajun of the Louisiana members of the 31st Division. Some of the Vermont and Maine men of the 43rd Division understood the Cajun well enough to respond in Acadian – and the response was typically challenging.

An important development in this second Civil War was the establishment of the Mason-Dixon Line. When Camp Blanding was mobilized for Federal service, a large parade ground was built. The parade ground was just west of the two division headquarters' areas. The headquarters areas were split by a smaller block designed as a fire break, with the fire break positioned at the center of the parade ground. A 1941 newspaper article shows men of the 43rd shaking hands with men of the 31st underneath a sign establishing the Mason-Dixon Line. A veteran of the 43rd commented this may have been the only time the two sides shook hands.

There were attempts to encourage friendly relationships between the two Divisions. In one experiment, mess halls tried serving foods the opposite Division favored. The experiment failed in a breakfast offering – grits were served to the 43rd men, with cream of wheat served to the 31st men. Apparently neither group would tolerate the other's preference. This cultural exchange is reported to have ceased shortly after the breakfast fiasco.

There are some issues that puzzle the current group of historians at the Camp Blanding Museum. The first puzzle issue involves geography: the 31st Division, the Dixie Division, was located on the north side of the Mason-Dixon Line with the 43rd Division located to the south. This placement would probably have also confused both Mason and Dixon. The second puzzling issue involves victors – it is not clear who won this second engagement of the Civil War!

Some claim the U.S. Army has no sense of humor, but it is clear the Army has an immense sense of humor. Nine divisions trained at Camp Blanding during World War II. Of these nine, seven went to either the Mediterranean or European Theaters, and two went to the Pacific Theater. And the two that went to the Pacific Theater? The 31st and 43rd of course – both to MacArthur's troops in the South West Pacific Area – where they spent the rest of the War fighting alongside each other.

The second Civil War is only one of the treasure trove of stories you can hear and see at the Camp Blanding Museum. The Museum is open every day from noon to four PM – come visit with us!

**MISSING IN AMERICA PROJECT - FLORIDA, Call To Honor #11, SOUTH FLORIDA NATIONAL CEMETERY, LAKE WORTH, FL. APRIL 01, 2017, 11:00am**



MIAP interred 15 veterans & 7 spouses of veterans from every Branch of Service, Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard. The longest that anyone sat on the funeral home shelf was a spouse of a WW I veteran. She went unclaimed since 1956.

We can now say to these 15 veterans: **"YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN"**.

MIAP would like to THANK ALL the participants and all that attended this service to honor our veterans and their spouses. You can see by these pictures that there were many veteran organizations that were present. (please see the last picture for all acknowledgments.

DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) Chapters that participated in this service were: St. Lucie River, Fontenada, Spirit of Liberty, St. Petersburg, Major Wm Lauderdale & Lighthouse Chapter 6



**A ceremony to honor Vietnam Veterans buried in St Augustine National Cemetery.**

On Friday, 21 Apr 2017 at the St. Augustine National Cemetery a ceremony was conducted in honor of all who served our country in Vietnam during her time of need. The ceremony consisted of the laying of a wreath to honor the 7 Vietnam Veterans who are buried in our cemetery and for those who served.

Sgt. Major Ray Quinn was in charge of the services and will offered the invocation in remembrance and in honor of all who served.



**MISSING IN AMERICA PROJECT**

**NATIONAL PROGRESS AS OF 4/21/2017**

**Total Funeral Homes Visited - 2,048**

**Cremains Found - 14,908**

**Veterans Cremains Identified - 3,380**

**Veterans Interred - 3,116**



**MIAP FLORIDA PROGRESS AS OF 4/24/2017**

**Total Funeral Homes Visited - 120**

**Cremains Found - 898**

**Mission Scheduled – 22 (6/17/17 - South Florida National Cemetery)**

**Dependents Interred - 1**

**Spouse Interred - 63**

**Veterans Interred – 137**

JOHN H. RUTHERFORD  
4th District, Florida

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-0904

220 Cannon House Office Building  
20515-2501

HOUSING SECURITY  
SUBCOMMITTEE  
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOUSING, PLANNING,  
AND CONSTRUCTION

VETERANS' AFFAIRS  
SUBCOMMITTEE  
FLORIDA  
Economic Development

April 7, 2017

Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc.  
P.O. Box 44625  
Jacksonville, FL 32222

Dear Board Members,

Our nation owes a great debt of gratitude to those who selflessly serve our country any time, but especially during times of conflict. The ones who have suffered beyond what most people can imagine during these conflicts are our Prisoners of War (POW), Missing in Action (MIA) and their families. According to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, there are currently over 83,000 missing from WWII, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Cold War, the Gulf Wars and other conflicts. I salute you all in doing your part to honor and recognize those who have given so much for the cause of freedom. I am pleased to commend you for your efforts to secure the needed land for a POW/MIA Memorial here in Jacksonville.

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 (the only flag, besides the U.S. flag, to fly over the U.S. Capitol and the White House) 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.

With over 150,000 veterans and their families, three major Navy installations, various Florida National Guard units, and hundreds of veteran-friendly businesses, visitors will certainly come to Jacksonville from near and far to respect, honor, appreciate, and remember those who have made such tremendous sacrifices to preserve the God-given freedoms we all enjoy.

My best wishes to you and your organization for much success with this POW/MIA Memorial project.

Sincerely,

John H Rutherford  
Member of Congress

# Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial and Center

## Overview and Phasing Plan

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### ***MISSION STATEMENT:***

Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. The Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial's mission is to preserve the memorial, honor the POW/MIA pilots and service members that were lost over the Vietnam and Desert Storm conflicts, and distinguish the history of NAS Cecil Field as a base, and the major support and combat roles it provided throughout the years.

### ***BACKGROUND:***

The only known POW/MIA Memorial in Jacksonville, Florida is located at the former NAS Cecil Field (now Cecil Commerce Center). The memorial is dedicated to those Naval Aviators stationed at NAS Cecil Field during the Vietnam and Desert Storm War eras. The site consists of markers and associated planted trees for each of the 16 POW/MIA pilots (known as Hero's Walk and Freedom Trees), pavilion, stage area, starburst (metal display of aircraft), and a granite base seal of NAS Cecil Field. The Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial was dedicated in 1974 by the families and service members who wanted to ensure these brave men would never be forgotten. A driving force behind the Memorial was Mary Hoff, the wife of MIA LCDR Michael G. Hoff. Mary was also very instrumental in the creation of the POW/MIA Flag, making her the "Betsy Ross" of the POW/MIA flag. This flag has become an important symbol for the POW/MIAs, and the enduring cause that they will never be forgotten. The existing memorial is owned by the City of Jacksonville (herein the "City"). An existing adjacent historic chapel is also owned by the City as well as an existing theatre (Building 333) across the street.

### ***POW/MIA MEMORIAL AND POW/MIA MEMORIAL CENTER:***

The Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc. organization is proposing to acquire acreage for this area in a long-term land lease with the City. The vision is to preserve and enhance the existing memorial areas; renovate the Chapel back to use for ceremonies, weddings, and memorial services; initiate a memorial center in the existing theatre (Building 333) with related artifacts and memorabilia; fundraise for design and construction of a new memorial center; and construct a proposed 100,000 SF POW/MIA Memorial Center (reference *Exhibit A* for conceptual phasing plan). The organization is also proposing to relocate, restore, and repaint the F/A-18 Hornet (BuNo162462) located at Cecil Tower, A-7 Corsair (BuNo152650) located at Don Garlits Drag Racing Museum (same aircraft on display at front gate), along with other various aircraft stationed at Cecil for display at the Center. The Center will serve as a memorial for POW/MIAs and veterans with a memorial wall or high relief panels, provide educational programs (including American civics and STEM), and educate the public about POW/MIAs and the history of NAS Cecil Field.

This proposed Center will also provide the ability for veterans to connect with other fellow veterans, organizations and associations making this a premier military venue for Northeast Florida.



**Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc.**

**PO Box 440625, Jacksonville, FL 32222**

**cecilfieldpowmia@gmail.com**

Dear Friends of Atlantic Coast Young Marines,

We will have the Graduation for Recruit Class 3107 on Saturday, May 13th @ 6:30 pm at Moosehaven Chapel, 1701 Park Avenue, Orange Park, Florida, 32073. Guests will be welcomed at 6 pm.

We would love for you or a representative from your Organization to join us and welcome the 15 new graduates to our ACYM family.

Thank you for all you support of the Atlantic Coast Young Marines!





# SUBARU OF JACKSONVILLE SUPPORTS YOU

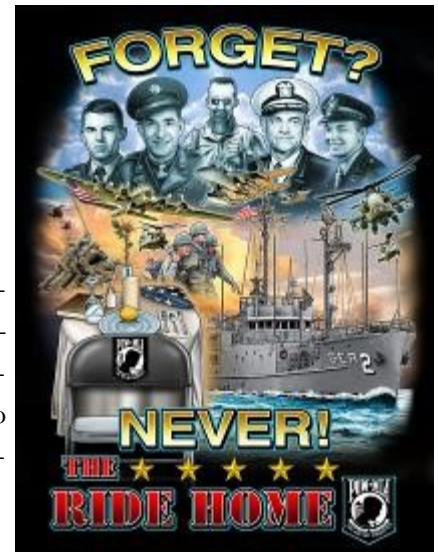


**SUBARU.**

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**HONOR –RELEASE –RETURN, Inc.**  
**3818 Litchfield Loop Lake Wales, Florida 33859**  
**www.honorreleasereturn.com**



**Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc. P.O. Box 440625 Jacksonville, Fl 32222**

To whom it may concern, My name is Jim ‘moe’ Moyer and I am currently the National Co-Chairman of HONOR-RELEASE-RETURN, Inc. Our goal; act as a catalyst for the POW/MIA community through communication, organization and coordination of efforts to foster common success of all and nurture a universal will to account for all the missing. I have been a Prisoner of War/Missing in Action advocate full time since the 1990’s.

I am writing today to express my support of the project – Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial – under the leadership of Mr. Mike Cassata and Mr. Sam Houston. Why Cecil Field? Aviators have played a significant role in our military mission since before the beginning of World War II. This Naval base played a vital role in the training of Navy & Marine aviators from the late 1930’s until mid-1990’s when the federal government decommissioned the base and turn much of the property over to the City of Jacksonville. To note just a few of those aviators – McCain, Speicher and Hoff. If those three names are NOT familiar to you – then that alone would be reason enough to create this National POW/MIA Memorial on this site to Educate the public! (McCain – POW – October 1967 – March 1973; Hoff – date of incident, January 1970 – Still Unaccounted for: Speicher – date of incident, January 1991 – remains recovered August 2009). These are just three (3) aviators with direct ties to this special military installation and to the POW/MIA issue and there are many more.

Why This Issue – POW/MIA? For over two (2) centuries Americans have united to defend this Republic when threaten and for over one hundred years we have chosen to Honor those who died while defending our Liberties (Memorial Day) and we have chosen to Honor all who served in defense (Veterans Day). But, what have we done for those who have served – HONORABLY – but have yet to come home? The number is by no means small. The Department of Defense estimates more than 80,000 plus American Military since the beginning of World War II are unaccounted for. Their story deserves to be told, every day, until they all come home. The proposed venue, National POW/MIA Memorial, is the right way to do that. This venue will be proof to the families of those that are still unaccounted for, as well as the soldiers themselves that the American people mean what they say – ‘You are NOT Forgotten!’

Support – I will work with Mr. Cassata and Mr. Houston, their Directors and Staff to ensure that Veterans Service Organizations at the local, State and National level are informed and involved, physically and financially. I will work with the National Family Organizations to ensure that the story of their soldier is told with the utmost accuracy and work with the proposed POW/MIA Memorial Center to obtain significant artifacts for display as well as story-telling. Will work to garner their financial support as well I will work with the Former Prisoner of War organizations to ensure their involvement at the production level and the financial. I look forward to seeing the vision of Mr. Cassata and Mr. Houston coming to fruition in the near future. Until they all come home.....

Moe, Jim ‘moe’ Moyer National Co-Chairman HONOR-RELEASE-RETURN, Inc

## The three soldiers Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Everyone has at least seen pictures of “The Wall” in the Vietnam Veterans memorial but not everyone has seen the addition of the three soldiers that was added to it in 1984 and designed by by Frederick Hart. Without this statue the wall itself would have probably not even been built due to the criticism about it looking like a giant tombstone.



Of the three men, the lead figure (in the middle) represents a Marine, the man on the right wears combat equipment consistent with a U.S. Army Soldier and so does the man on the left. However, the man on the left's gear and uniform seem to be less specific in the representation. With the aim to portray different ethnic groups that took part in the Vietnam war, it can be seen that the man on the left is Latin American, the one in the middle European American and the one on the right African American. Interestingly, the figures were actually modeled after real life people – The Caucasian figure was modeled after James E. Connell, III, then a Corporal in the Marines; the African-American figure was modeled after three men, Marine Corporal Terrance Green, Rodney Sherrill and Scotty Dillingham; the Hispanic figure was modeled after Guillermo Smith De Perez DeLeon. The fact that they were modeled after real people gives the memorial even more significance.

The truth about the Vietnam Veterans memorial is that it was under way too much criticism, more than you can probably even imagine. The negative attitude towards the design of the wall was so strong that even several Congressmen complained, and Secretary of the Interior James G. Watt refused to issue a building permit. A more traditional approach for the memorial was needed and that is when the Three Soldiers came into the picture.

Interestingly, even though the design of the Three Soldiers helped the Wall become real, the designer of the Wall was so unhappy with the addition to her monument that she refused to attend the dedication of the sculpture. She has said that she hadn't received even one negative letter from a veteran complaining about the simplicity of her wall design.

Lastly, a fact you may not know is that a replica of the sculpture was created and dedicated on July 12, 2008, in Apalachicola, Florida. So, if you live nearby and don't have the opportunity to see the real memorial, you might want to consider visiting the replica.

## **SERGEANT JOHN DICK and his MILITARY SERVICE, & PRISONER OF WAR DURING THE AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR**

**By Darrell Goss VVA Chapter 1059**

### **John Dick (b. 1747, d. 1832)**

Few people know that the American Revolution was won in the Southern Colonies. John Dick (my 5th Great Grandfather) was born of Scots-Irish parents in Antrim, Ireland around 1747, the son of William James Dick and Margaret McQuillan. As a young man of about 20, he arrived in Charles Town, in the colony of South Carolina, on December 22, 1767 aboard the ship Earl of Donegal after an 81-day voyage from Belfast, Ireland. On the same ship was Margaret Wylie, then 9 years old (who would become his future wife), with her parents James Wylie and Sarah McKinney, as well as other Wylie families.

Nearly half of all Scots emigrants came from Ulster, in Northern Ireland, which their parents and grandparents had colonized during the 1690s. During the early 1700s they clashed with the Irish Catholics and endured difficult economic conditions. Emigration of the “Ulster Scots” to the American Colonies began in 1718. They left in groups, generally organized by their Presbyterian ministers, who arranged their passage with shippers. Once in the Colonies, they headed to the inland frontier, where land was cheaper, and large groups settled together. Here, they became known as “the Scots-Irish.” Many of them filled the lands of the Carolinas. The Wylie and Dick families settled in the area of Rocky Creek Settlement in South Carolina and attended nearby Old Catholic Presbyterian Church and Old Purity Presbyterian Church, located close to present-day Chester.

On December 8, 1774 John Dick was granted 100 acres of headright land in the Camden District of South Carolina. This land was about 3 miles from the 350-acre land grant of his future father-in-law, James Wylie and close to the present-day town of Richburg, S.C.

In 1775, the American colonists, unhappy with unfair taxation and other injustices on the part of Britain, decided to break from their homeland. They were being treated by England as badly as their parents and grandparents had been in Great Britain. All through the colonies, patriots were assembling to fight the British for their freedom.

In South Carolina in March 1776, John Dick enlisted as a Private in the company of Captain William Brown under Lt. Colonel Thomas Sumter commanding officer of the 2nd South Carolina Rifle Regiment.

Margaret Dick related that her husband was enlisted for 4 months in 1779, 3-4 months in 1780, and 4 months in 1781. It appears John Dick was active in 1778 also. She also stated that he was out often on scouting forays seeking the British, Tories, and Indians in the periods of time between active service acting as scout.

Besides Margaret’s account in her pension application papers about the early activities of her husband, we have available much written material about the American Revolution and in particular the area around South Carolina where John Dick lived. Newly available research material makes it possible to form a credible outline of his activities during these years. Much has been written about the officers, almost nothing about the privates. However, if one were to follow the activities of the Captains (i.e., William Brown, Alexander Turner and John Bell) mentioned in the papers pertaining to John Dick, it can be assumed that John Dick would likely have been with them.

## **A Chronological Summary of the Military Life of Sgt John Dick**

1776---- John Dick enlisted for a period of 15 months as a rifleman in the 2nd South Carolina Rifle Regiment, in Captain William Brown's Company under Lt. Colonel Thomas Sumter, on Sunday March 10, 1776 until approximately June 1777 when his enlistment expired. He was present at the major Battle of Fort Moultrie on June 28, 1776, probably at the north end of Sullivan's Island in the little-known Battle of Breach Inlet on the same day. He may have been wounded in the hip earlier (June 24) on Long Island where the British were encamped. Later, in July his militia unit was ordered to join the First Expedition to take Florida from the British to become the 14th Colony, but his unit was immediately recalled and the expedition cancelled. From August to September, he participated in the Cherokee campaign of 1776. His Militia Regiment was renamed the 6th South Carolina Regiment and became part of the American Continental Line under Gen George Washington but was only to fight in the Southern Department.

1777---- Around May 1777, John Dick was in the Second Florida Expedition against the British in Florida which culminated in the Battle of Thomas Creek, close to present day Jacksonville, Florida. Soon after, his enlistment expired and he returned home.

1778---- On Sunday, March 1, 1778, he married Margaret Wylie. The ceremony was performed by Captain Alexander Walker, his friend and neighbor, and a fellow Revolutionary soldier in the 6th South Carolina Regiment. John and Margaret lived for about a year in her father's house. In November, their first child, Sarah, was born. In September, Col. Thomas Sumter (a very prickly man) resigned from the 6th South Carolina Regiment and did not return until May 1780 after the fall of Charles Town. John Dick enlisted in the Camden District Militia as a Sergeant. In December of 1778 Sgt. John Dick was encamped at Monck's Corner with Captain Alexander Turner of the Camden District Militia commanded by Col. Richard Richardson.

1779---- Early in the year, John Dick was called into service for four months, with the Camden District Militia. John and Margaret Dick moved to their own house about three miles northwest of her parents' home. Little is known of what else he did during this year.

1780---- After Charles Town was captured on May 12, Col. Thomas Sumter recalled his partisans and took up the fight again. John Dick was again called into service with Captain John Bell for three or four months with the Camden District Militia commanded by Col. Thomas Taylor who served under Sumter. John Dick participated in the Battle of Hanging Rock on August 6 and probably in the attack on Fort Carey on Aug 15.

1781---- Early in 1781, Sgt. John Dick was drafted for a term of four months. During this tour of duty as a horseman, he was appointed Sergeant of the Troop, possibly under the command of Captain Wade Hampton. He was at the siege of Fort Granby (Columbia, SC) on February 19. I believe he was taken prisoner by the British at Manigault's Ferry on February 22, spent four weeks in the Orangeburg jail and was then exchanged for a British prisoner. It was highly unusual for a sergeant to be exchanged, as customarily only officers were exchanged, which indicates the importance of Sgt. John Dick to the patriot leaders. He may also have been at the capture of Fort Granby and Fort Orangeburg later in May, however, that is unknown for certain. In September, according to Margaret Dick, he participated at the major Battle of Eutaw Springs.

## Local Military Officers Association honors Vietnam War veterans    CONTRIBUTED



The Ancient City Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) observed the anniversary of the commemoration of Vietnam Veterans Day March 23.

Mayor Nancy Shaver took part in the ceremony by thanking and honoring the Vietnam-era veterans with a message on behalf of the City of St. Augustine.

Shaver also assisted in presenting a Presidential Proclamation by Barack Obama and a State of Florida Proclamation by Governor Rick Scott.

The 2008 National Defense Authorization Act empowered the Secretary of Defense to conduct a program on behalf of the nation that commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. This law also authorized the Secretary of Defense to coordinate, support and facilitate federal, state and local government commemorative programs and activities. To that end, The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration was formed.

By presidential proclamation on May 25, 2012, the commemoration extends from Memorial Day 2012 through Veterans Day 2025. Congress articulated five objectives for this commemoration:

To thank and honor veterans of the Vietnam War, including personnel who were held as prisoners of war, or listed as missing in action, for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States, and to thank and honor the families of these veterans.

### CONTRIBUTED

To highlight the service of the Armed Forces during the Vietnam War and the contributions of federal agencies and governmental and nongovernmental organizations that served with, or in support of the Armed Forces.

To pay tribute to the contributions made on the home front by the people of the United States during the Vietnam War.

To highlight the advances in technology, science and medicine related to military research conducted during the Vietnam War.

To recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by the allies of the United States during the Vietnam War.

The next meeting of the Ancient City Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America will be at 11:45 a.m. April 27 at Amici's Restaurant. For reservations, call Harry Metz at 461-5453 or email [amazingmetz@yahoo.com](mailto:amazingmetz@yahoo.com).<sub>30</sub>The deadline for reservations is April 23.

**From Don Severns, American Legion Post  
372 Auxiliary Unit**

Our Post has quite a few members in the northern St. John's county area.

An American Legion Auxiliary informational meeting was held on March 28th at the Mandarin/St. Johns Elks lodge. American Legion Post 372 Commander Myra Jowers hosted Robbin Walker, President Auxiliary District 5, Carolyn Brown, Auxiliary



5th District Membership Chair, and Erna Schwabe, Past Florida Department President.

President Walker spoke about the history of the Auxiliary, its organization structure, and why she joined the Auxiliary with the blessing and guidance of her Father. She explained the mission of the Auxiliary as "In the spirit of Service Not Self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifices of those who serve by enhancing the lives off our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad.

Chairman Brown talked about how important membership is in an all volunteer organization. She described how it takes good people to good things. She shared that her Mother signed her up when she was 1 day old and she is proud of her 61 years of continuous service. Membership in the American Legion Auxiliary is for the grandmothers, mothers, sisters, wives, and direct and adopted female descendants of members of The American Legion. Also grandmothers, mothers, sisters, wives, and direct and adopted female descendants of any deceased Veterans who were in the Armed Forces of the United States and were eligible for American Legion membership can join the Auxiliary. Any female Veteran who is eligible for Legion membership is also eligible for membership in the Auxiliary.

All eligible ladies are invited to join the new Unit. The Unit will be forming on May 2nd at 6:00 at the Mandarin/St. Johns Elks lodge, 4280 Oldfield Crossing Drive, Jacksonville, FL. The ladies joining during this initial time period will be identified as Charter members of the Unit. The Charter period is only open for 30 days after signing of the Charter by the Post Commander.

Don Severns

5241 Chicora Court

Jacksonville, FL 32258-2214

**Sometimes you find something on the Internet that has profound meaning. Thank you Shawn Prestiss for bringing this to our attention. Whether true or not, is immaterial, the story speaks for itself.**

This has been circulating a bit. If you haven't taken the time to read it by now, please do:



In September of 2005, on the first day of school, Martha Cothren, a History teacher at Robinson High School in Little Rock, did something not to be forgotten. On the first day of school, with the permission of the school superintendent, the principal and the building supervisor, she removed all of the desks in her classroom. When the first period kids entered the room they discovered that there were no desks.

'Ms. Cothren, where are our desks?'

She replied, 'You can't have a desk until you tell me how you earn the right to sit at a desk.'

They thought, 'Well, maybe it's our grades.' 'No,' she said.

'Maybe it's our behavior.' She told them, 'No, it's not even your behavior.'

And so, they came and went, the first period, second period, third period. Still no desks in the classroom. Kids called their parents to tell them what was happening and by early afternoon television news crews had started gathering at the school to report about this crazy teacher who had taken all the desks out of her room.

The final period of the day came and as the puzzled students found seats on the floor of the desk-less classroom. Martha Cothren said, 'Throughout the day no one has been able to tell me just what he or she has done to earn the right to sit at the desks that are ordinarily found in this classroom. Now I am going to tell you.'

At this point, Martha Cothren went over to the door of her classroom and opened it. Twenty-seven (27) U.S. Veterans, all in uniform, walked into that classroom, each one carrying a school desk. The Vets began placing the school desks in rows, and then they would walk over and stand alongside the wall. By the time the last soldier had set the final desk in place those kids started to understand, perhaps for the first time in their lives, just how the right to sit at those desks had been earned.

Martha said, 'You didn't earn the right to sit at these desks. These heroes did it for you. They placed the desks here for you. They went halfway around the world, giving up their education and interrupting their careers and families so you could have the freedom you have. Now, it's up to you to sit in them. It is your responsibility to learn, to be good students, to be good citizens. They paid the price so that you could have the freedom to get an education. Don't ever forget it.'

By the way, this is a true story. And this teacher was awarded the Veterans of Foreign Wars Teacher of the Year for the State of Arkansas in 2006. She is the daughter of a WWII POW.

Do you think this email is worth passing along so others won't forget either, that the freedoms we have in this great country were earned by our U.S. Veterans?... I did.

Let us always remember the men and women of our military and the rights they have won for us.





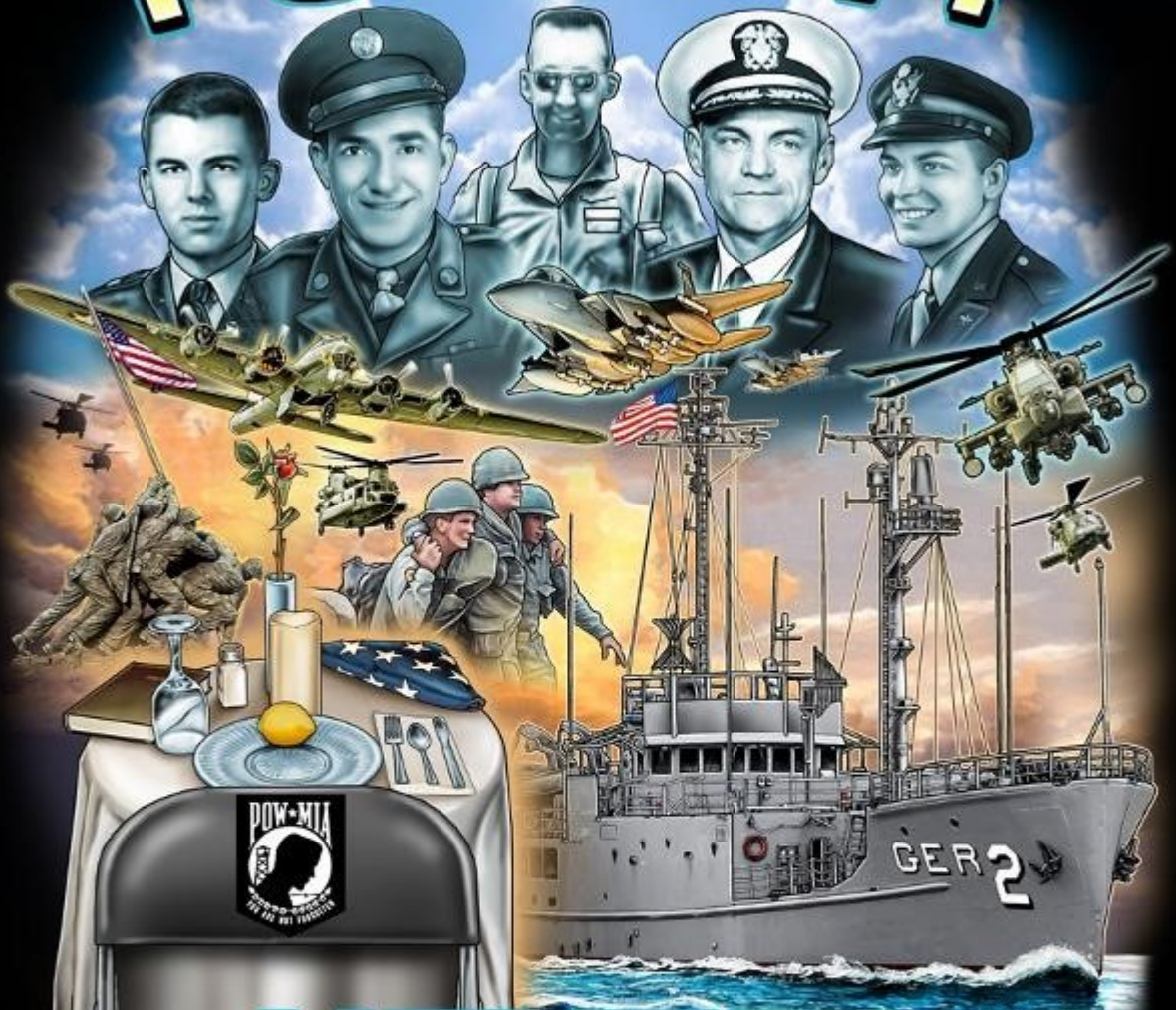
## **Semper Fidelis Society**

**Meeting May 16th 1130 to 1PM  
Hidden Hills CC  
Monument Rd Jax, Fl  
Buffet Lunch and Guest Speaker**

**JOIN US!**

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

# FORGET?



# NEVER!

THE ★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
RIDE HOME



# National POW/MIA Recognition Day The RIDE HOME 2017



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Until they all come home.....

# The RIDE HOME, Inc.

3818 Litchfield Loop  
Lake Wales, FL 33859  
theridehome.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

City \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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



MOË

Good Day Patriots and Veterans!

Special 'Thanks' to Crissy Churwell (our newest Team Member) for locking down our 'Line-Up' spots for the police escorted rides for the 2017 event. As you know, we have moved our base of operations over to Warner Robins/Perry Georgia this year. Crissy's efforts with the Warner Robins Police and Houston County Sherriff has resulted in us using the Georgia State Fair Grounds, in Perry, for our early Friday morning ride to Andersonville for opening services. Friday afternoon and Saturday morning's escorted rides will depart from the HARBOR FREIGHT parking lot, in Warner Robins.

We'll be posting specific times and addresses after we get passed Memorial Day.

On 27 February, John Butts, posted on this Facebook site, the list of hotels/motels that are currently working with The RIDE HOME 2017.

He included the prices they quoted us as well as the local contact for each unit. Don't forget to book your room early! The primary location for services this year will be the Central Georgia Technical College, 80 Cohen Walker Drive, Warner Robins, Georgia 31008.

The majority of the hotel/motels are with-in a few miles of line-up and destination site.

## Jennifer Serex-Helwig, Sacramento, CA

Another year has passed. Another year of waiting. Another year of the unknown. Another year of unresolved grief. Today marks 45 years as a POW/MIA. Daddy, you are not forgotten & you are greatly missed. Always in my heart, you will always be my hero, I love you Daddy!!!

My Dad, Lt. Col. Henry M Serex, was a crew member of an EB-66E, BAT-21, shot down during the Easter-Tide offensive April 2, 1972 at the Demilitarized Zone at Quang Tri Province. Today we also remember the rest of the crew aboard BAT-21 who also remain POW/MIA, Maj. Wayne L. Bolte, 1st Lt. Robin F. Gatwood, Lt. Col. Anthony R. Giannangeli, & Lt. Col. Charles A. Levis.

<http://taskforceomegainc.org/s188.html>



## Camp Blanding's World War II Combat Courses

George E. Cressman Jr.

Over 800,000 men trained at Camp Blanding during World War II. Training was provided for 150 different units, and in mid-1943, Camp Blanding became an Infantry Training Replacement Center.

Critical to the training mission was the need for men to become ready for the difficult situations they would face in a variety of different combat situations. Training started with a bayonet course, a grenade course, and the infiltration course.

The infiltration course was an early test of the ability for the trainee to stay low, crawling under barbed wire. Machine guns fired overhead, as shown here in these National Archives photographs. Buried explosives were triggered along the course to add noise and smoke to the scene. At the end of the infiltration course, the men were required to stand up and charge up a hill with fixed bayonets.



A variety of realistic combat scenarios were required for training the men, and this included combat in villages and jungles. Camp Blanding's North Post held a mock German village, where men were moved through the "village" assaulting different buildings while they uncovered and disarmed booby traps. Here are some photographs of the "German Village" in training use.



Some points about the photograph on the right: The officer standing on the far right is Lt. General Leslie McNair, then the Commander of Army Ground Forces. Note the helmet on the officer in coveralls; training cadre wore a



camouflage covering on their helmets for easy identification.

Camp Blanding's North Post also contained mock Japanese facilities and jungle courses. These courses were developed by First Lieutenant Phillip Plaza. Lt. Plaza came to Camp Blanding in early 1941 with the 43<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division. He served with Merrill's Marauders, and returned to the U.S. when he was wounded. After recovering from his wounds, Lt. Plaza was sent to the Infantry Replacement Training Center at Camp Blanding.

In early 1945, it was obvious the war in Europe was winding down, but the war in the Pacific Theatre was still intense. Lt. Plaza designed a series of combat courses for the men headed to the Pacific. The first involved an oriental village with an airstrip, shown in these National Archives photos:



There was also a jungle course, as seen in these photos:



On the left is a jungle village with a number of huts. A close up view of a hut is shown on the right: looking closely you will see a machine gun nest in the center of the hut.

These combat courses provided realistic assault training for the men at Camp Blanding. Only traces of the locations remain today.

**From: Alphaeus L. Richburg, Director, Jacksonville National Cemetery & Saint Augustine National Cemetery  
4083 Lannie Road, Jacksonville, FL 32218, Tele # 904-766-5975**

### **JACKSONVILLE NATIONAL CEMETERY**



1. Currently installing 1,351 in-ground preplaced crypts, 1100 Niches for cremations, and 932 in-ground cremation plots. Anticipated completion date October 2017.
2. Friday, April 21, 2017 at 12:00 p.m., short service observing the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War at the Vietnam Monument located at Jacksonville National Cemetery. Label pins will be distributed to all Vietnam Era Veterans. I have 200 hundred label pins in my possession.
3. Saturday, April 22, 2017 at 11:00 a.m. Ribbon cutting ceremony dedicating "Battlefield Cross" donated by American Legion Post 283.
4. Saturday, April 22, 2017 at 8:00 a.m., Worrell Contracting will be onsite at Jacksonville for weed treatment of turf.
5. Navy Seabee monument has been donated to the cemetery. The monument has been set but a dedication date has not yet been established.

### **MEMORIAL DAY**

1. Miniature gravesite flags will be placed at Jacksonville National Cemetery beginning at 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 25, 2017.
2. Memorial Day Ceremony for Jacksonville National Cemetery will be held at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, May 27, 2017.
3. Miniature gravesite flag pick-up will take place Tuesday, May 30, 2017 beginning at 9:00 a.m.

### **FUTURE PROJECTS/ISSUES (Jacksonville National Cemetery)**

1. I have requested funds to repaint the loft of the administrative building and enclose the atrium in glass. I expect funding in October 2018 (beginning of new fiscal year).
2. Possible Veterans Day Program in 2017. Will discuss with Jacksonville National Cemetery Support Committee at next regularly scheduled meeting.

### **SAINT AUGUSTINE NATIONAL CEMETERY**



1. Turf Renovation project scheduled to begin in May but has now been postponed until sometime in June due to Memorial Day fast approaching. The project will consist of killing all of the current turf, removing it, and establishing new turf.
2. Memorial Day program scheduled for Monday, May 29, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. (Cemetery Director will attend).
3. Currently the irrigation pump is inoperable due to being under water for a few days after the hurricane last November. Anticipated repair date is sometime in April, 2017.
4. Temporary lights for the U.S. Flag. One of the temporary flag lights has blown out and the entire unit must be returned before the manufacturer will send a new unit. I don't have a firm date yet but I believe the new lights along with the irrigation and electrical system will be replaced prior to Memorial Day.
5. Tree Stump. There is a tree stump near the pyramids in St. Augustine that has not been removed. Chemicals have been used to breakdown the remaining stump and it should all be removed by October 2017.
6. Committal building. The committal building at St. Augustine needs to be repaired due to mildew and leaks. The roof is made of asbestos and I am currently looking for a contractor who can handle this. Also awaiting word back from the National Cemetery Administration Historian due to the age of the cemetery.



# GratitudeAmerica 5K RACE & FUN RUN

Proceeds to benefit Military Support Retreats

## Saturday, June 17

At Coastal Policy Center 9601 Oceanshore Blvd, Marineland, FL

**5K Race /Exploration Walk 8:30AM**

**Half Mile Fun Run (10 and Under) 9:30AM**



Medals to  
the top  
250  
finishers

## REGISTRATION

	5K (Adult)	5K (Under 18)	Fun Run
Until Midnight June 9, 2017	\$25	\$15	\$10
Until 9am June 16, 2017	\$30	\$20	\$10
Race Day	\$35	\$20	\$10

Race Day Registration begins at 7AM and closes sharply at 8:20AM

### REGISTER AT

[gratitudeamerica5k.itsyourrace.com](http://gratitudeamerica5k.itsyourrace.com)

SCAN CODE  
BELOW TO  
REGISTER NOW!



## ABOUT THIS EVENT

This all-terrain trail course will provide a scenic tour of Marineland's River-to-Sea preserve, the intracoastal, the ocean, and the town's unique facilities. Food, refreshments, and entertainment will be provided at awards ceremony. Age group awards will be presented.

2017 will showcase a NEW, faster "figure eight course" with more shaded hammock trails and fewer turns! In addition, a half mile Fun Run for younger runners has also been added. Your race entry also gains you entry to Marineland's Dolphin Adventure! Plan to visit the park and make it a fitness and family adventure for Fathers Day! Race proceeds will benefit Gratitude America's Military Support Retreats.

**THE 5K RACE WILL BE CHIP-TIMED.**

Active Duty, Reserve, Guard, Retired, and Veterans receive a discount code by emailing [race@gratitudeamerica.org](mailto:race@gratitudeamerica.org)

## CONTACT

FOR MORE  
INFORMATION

Michael Anthony, Executive Director

[michael@gratitudeamerica.org](mailto:michael@gratitudeamerica.org)

912-674-0332

## Former WAVES member is celebrated

BY JOE DARASKEVICH

*joe.daraskevich@jacksonville.com, FL Times Union*



When Maryellen “Mama Mike” French was 5 years old in Brooklyn, N.Y., she told her mother she had three goals: serve in the Navy, marry a Navy man and have 13 children.

Her mother told her the idea of having a large family was wonderful, but she needed to forget the dream of serving in the Navy because only men were allowed to do that.

“Needless to say, I was able to prove to her that she was wrong,” French said recently from her Middle-burg home.

During World War II the government implemented a program in the Navy Reserve called Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service, better known as WAVES, due to the need for additional military personnel. French said she jumped at the opportunity.

She served as a Navy hospital corpsman in Maryland, Iowa and Illinois helping soldiers who were wounded in combat. She met a Navy man who would become her husband and in 1948 they adopted the first of three children. She hoped for when she was a child, but on March 25 — her 95th birthday — she realized her family had grown much larger than she ever imagined. French said that’s because all her peers from her time in show business serve as a second family.

“You have to be in the theater to understand there’s a special kinship,” French said.

French started working at the Orange Park Community Theatre 20 years ago where she’s performed, directed and worked in various roles behind the scenes.

These days she takes tickets and greets the audience as they arrive each night to see the show.

“They call her the guardian of the gate because nobody gets past her without a ticket,” said Mike French, her son who also works at the theater and a big part of the reason everyone calls her Mama Mike.

She said she knew there would be a gathering for her birthday, but she had no idea how much her theater family had in mind. They made a video slide-show featuring photographs from throughout her life and decorated the walls to spotlight themes from each decade over that span.

“Every bit of it had the energy of putting together a (theater) production,” said her daughter, Denise French, who also works at the theater.

Part of the unexpected surprise was a tribute to Maryellen French’s Navy career. Jeffrey Richardson, a retired Navy lieutenant who’s acted in a play at the theater, presented her with a Citation for Meritorious Service from American Legion Post 250 in Middleburg.

“Her service to our nation in shore establishments allowed for the deployment of officers and men for sea duty in direct support of allied service members worldwide,” the citation said.

Maryellen French said the award presentation reminded her of one of the proudest moments of her life.

At times during her Navy career, she had to play the part of a “Dutch uncle” when sailors were feeling down about their injuries. She said she tried her best to give them the advice they needed to help move on with their lives.

She said one man in particular was so upset about losing a limb that he was too ashamed to return to his family.

“I told him I would want him home if I was his wife,” French said, remembering the young man’s reluctance to move on.

She was able to talk him into going home and then their paths crossed again about three years later.

The reunion came when French was at a grocery store in Yorktown, Va., where her husband was stationed at the time. She recognized her former patient with his children and his “very pregnant wife” along with him.

The man introduced French to his wife and explained French was responsible for reuniting their family. The pregnant woman pulled French aside to thank her and that moment of thanks will never be forgotten, the Middleburg resident said.

Other memories from a lifetime ago serving in the Navy came flooding back at the birthday party as Kyle Lowe — the son of theater president Vicki Lowe — played a lively rendition of “Anchors Aweigh” on his trumpet.

The guest of honor sang right along with the music and she even joked that at her age it’s nice to hear any song other than taps played on a horn.

JOE DARASKEVICH: (904) 359-4308



# 1 IN 10 VIETNAM VETS HAS HEPATITIS C AND MANY DON'T EVEN KNOW IT



## LEARN ABOUT YOUR RISK FOR HEP C AT AN IMPORTANT EDUCATIONAL EVENT

Vietnam Veterans, especially those born 1945-1965, are at high risk for having Hep C. That's why **you and your spouse or partner are encouraged to attend this free educational event**, co-hosted by Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #1059.



**DATE:** Saturday, May 6, 2017

**TIME:** 11:00 AM

**LOCATION:** Orange Park Medical Center

2001 Kingsley Ave, Orange Park, FL 32073

**RSVP:** Gary Newman at [agnjustice@yahoo.com](mailto:agnjustice@yahoo.com)

### THE HEP C FACTS

- Hepatitis C (Hep C) is a serious virus that infects the liver. It is the #1 cause of liver cancer and liver transplants in the U.S.
- Vietnam Veterans, especially those born 1945-1965, are at high risk for having Hep C
- Vietnam Veterans could have been exposed to Hep C due to unsterile vaccination procedures, or by coming into contact with contaminated blood during combat
- The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs recommends all veterans born 1945-1965 get tested for Hep C
- **If you have Hep C, it can be cured**

For more information, talk to your **healthcare provider**, visit [HEPCHOPE.COM](http://HEPCHOPE.COM), or call **844-9-HEPCHOPE**

**Veterans Health Council**  
improving veterans health through information and education  
Free Educational Program



**PROUD PARTNER**  
IN HEPATITIS C EDUCATION



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# Clay County Fallen Warriors Monument BRICK ADOPTION AND / OR DONATION



The Vietnam Veterans of America, Clay County Chapter # 1059, in partnership with other private sector organizations and volunteers are raising funds to build a permanent *Clay County Fallen Warriors Monument* to honor all past, current, and future - in theater - casualties of military war.

This permanent memorial will replace current monument at the Clay County Historical Triangle, *aka Veterans Triangle*, at 915 Walnut St. Green Cove Springs, FL 32043 (SR 16 West at the Railroad tracks).



Please join our efforts to create a NEW (summer <sup>2017</sup> ~~2016~~) Monument. **TAPS** (named for Civil War era musical that is sounded at dusk and funerals) will be placed on top of a 5'x5' marble monument that will have the names of all of our Clay County Fallen Warriors inscribed. **TAPS** will be surrounded by a brick area of 500 square feet.

Today, you have an opportunity to honor a loved one and or pay tribute to a Veteran(s), a military unit, a period of our history, etc. **ADOPT** (purchase) an inscribed memorial brick that will be installed around the memorial.

Each 4"x8" memorial brick is \$50. Private and corporate donations are also encouraged. Please mail your order form and payment to: **VVA Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 626, Orange Park, FL 32067-0626**. For more details contact Gary Newman at 904-269-1857 or [AGNJUSTICE@YAHOO.COM](mailto:AGNJUSTICE@YAHOO.COM). Vietnam Veterans of America Clay County Chapter #1059 is a non-profit, 501(c)(19) corporation. All proceeds go toward the TAPS Memorial project.

\*\*\*\*\* PLEASE CONSIDER HONORING OUR FALLEN, THOSE WHO SERVED, AND ARE SERVING TODAY \*\*\*\*\*

Submitted By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

DONATIONS (includes brick plus) \_\_\_\_\_ Bronze: \$ 150 — Letter of Appreciation \_\_\_\_\_ Silver: \$ 250 — Letter and Certificate  
\_\_\_\_\_ Gold: \$ 500 — Letter, Certificate and Honorable recognition \_\_\_\_\_ Platinum: \$1,000 — Letter, Plaque and Honorable recognition

**BRICK #1**

**Requested Inscription -PLEASE PRINT - limited to 13 characters (letters, space, punctuation) per line**



Line 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Line 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Line 3: \_\_\_\_\_

**VETERAN TRIBUTE SUGGESTION:** Veteran's name (first line), service branch (second line) and conflict name or service dates (third line). Or Military Unit (first line).... Each line can contain up to thirteen characters (characters include letters, numbers, punctuation marks and spaces). All inscriptions will be in capital letters for uniformity and readability. *Optional PAGE 2 (or back) provided to PURCHASE ADDITIONAL BRICKS.*

*Clay County Fallen Warriors Monument Brick Adoption Form - Additional Bricks page 2 (back)*

Submitted By: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**BRICK #2**

**Requested inscription - PLEASE PRINT - limited to 13 characters (letters, space, punctuation) per line**

Line 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Line 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Line 3: \_\_\_\_\_

**BRICK #3**

**Requested inscription - PLEASE PRINT - limited to 13 characters (letters, space, punctuation) per line**

Line 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Line 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Line 3: \_\_\_\_\_

**BRICK #4**

**Requested inscription - PLEASE PRINT - limited to 13 characters (letters, space, punctuation) per line**

Line 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Line 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Line 3: \_\_\_\_\_



**VETERAN TRIBUTE SUGGESTION:** Veteran's name (first line), service branch (second line) and conflict name or service dates (third line). Or Military Unit (first line).... Each line can contain up to thirteen characters (letters, spaces numbers, and punctuation marks). All inscriptions will be in capital letters for uniformity and readability.

**Each 4"x8" memorial brick is \$50.** Private and corporate donations are also encouraged. Please mail your order form and payment to: **VVA Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 626, Orange Park, FL 32067-0626.** For more details contact Gary Newman at 904-269-1857 or [AGNJUSTICE@YAHOO.COM](mailto:AGNJUSTICE@YAHOO.COM). Vietnam Veterans of America Clay County Chapter #1059 is a non-profit, 501(c)(19) corporation. All proceeds go toward the TAPS Memorial project.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **VA’s Rule Establishes a Presumption of Service Connection for Diseases Associated with Exposure to Contaminants in the Water Supply at Camp Lejeune**

*VA to provide disability benefits for related diseases*

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) regulations to establish presumptions for the service connection of eight diseases associated with exposure to contaminants in the water supply at Camp Lejeune, N.C. are effective as of today.



“Establishing these presumptions is a demonstration of our commitment to care for those who have served our Nation and have been exposed to harm as a result of that service,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Dr. David J. Shulkin. “The Camp Lejeune presumptions will make it easier for those Veterans to receive the care and benefits they earned.”

The presumption of service connection applies to active duty, reserve and National Guard members who served at Camp Lejeune for a minimum of 30 days (cumulative) between August 1, 1953 and December 31, 1987, and are diagnosed with any of the following conditions:

- adult leukemia
- aplastic anemia and other myelodysplastic syndromes
- bladder cancer
- kidney cancer
- liver cancer
- multiple myeloma
- non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma
- Parkinson’s disease

The area included in this presumption is all of Camp Lejeune and MCAS New River, including satellite camps and housing areas.

This presumption complements the health care already provided for 15 illnesses or conditions as part of the Honoring America’s Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012. The Camp Lejeune Act requires VA to provide health care to Veterans who served at Camp Lejeune, and to reimburse family members, or pay providers, for medical expenses for those who resided there for not fewer than 30 days between August 1, 1953 and December 31, 1987.

## Women Soldiers Get More from the Guard

### Lieutenant Colonel Says Opportunities and Benefits for Women Growing Steadily

In honor of Women's History Month, On Your Guard takes a look at 21st century changes that are providing more opportunities for female Soldiers through the perspective of a West Point graduate who is now a leader in the Florida Army National Guard.

Fresh out of West Point in 2000, Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Elizabeth Evans chose Fort Hood, Texas, as her first duty station. As the largest Army installation in the country, she expected to find the widest range of opportunities for a female civil engineer like herself.

But out of 10 engineering battalions there, 9 were combat mechanized engineering battalions, restricted to men only, with women allowed to serve only in support roles within each headquarters company. The other was a construction battalion that was open to both men and women serving as an engineer platoon leader, but it had a waiting list more than two years long.

LTC Evans decided to request assignment to the 1st Cavalry Division's 20th Engineer Battalion, knowing she would be able to serve only in a support role. It was here that she served as a support platoon leader within a support company, handling logistics for her male engineer peers and friends from West Point, but her heart was in commanding a combat or construction unit.



She was later told that 80 percent of the Army's construction formations, which were 100% open to women, were in the Army's reserve components – the Army Reserves or Army National Guard, causing her to question if the opportunity for a female engineer officer to lead engineer Soldiers would ever truly exist for her or others on Active Duty.

So, in 2005, frustrated by the lack of options available, LTC Evans left the Army for the Florida Army National Guard, which has a dual mission of serving the Nation and responding to local emergencies, like extreme weather events.

“When I looked at the mission of the National Guard and the fact that they responded to states of emergency that the governor requests help on, I thought, ‘This is awesome. If a hurricane hits, we come in with our engineer equipment, and we get to help our citizens and neighbors restore the community that I will be a part of.’”

Because Guard service is part-time for the majority of its members, she also had the opportunity to pursue her engineering career in the private sector as a superintendent and project manager in residential and commercial construction. She is a certified General Contractor and serves as the Southeast U.S. Director of Construction for Source Refrigeration and HVAC, Inc.

Within 6 months of moving to Florida, she was asked to command a Horizontal Construction Company in Live Oak, Fla., finally having the opportunity to command engineers as an engineer officer. She is now Commander of the 53rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion outside of Tampa, a battalion that is comprised of a combat engineer company, signal company, military intelligence company, and a headquarters company.

“I had multiple opportunities for command which never would have happened had I stayed in the active Army,” she says.

Out of seven battalions in their Infantry Brigade within the Florida Army National Guard, two are led by women: LTC Elizabeth Evans, 53rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion Commander, left, and LTC Cindy Harkrider, 53rd Brigade Support Battalion Commander.

Still, LTC Evans has seen a lot of progress as far as the Army allowing equal opportunity for men and women, and in attitudes of acceptance of female Soldiers as equals in her 17 years of military service, pointing to these signs of progress: women were accepted and have graduated from Sapper School, the combat engineers' defining school for their field. Women have been accepted to and graduated from Army Ranger School, which is the Army's premier tactical leadership course; female Soldiers were successfully attached to Special Forces in Cultural Support Teams in Afghanistan; and in 2016, the Department of Defense opened all military direct combat jobs to women.

LTC Evans, who led 300 missions in a combat zone in Iraq, during Operation Iraqi Freedom II, is a proponent of equal opportunity, but ultimately, the fit needs to make sense.

"If there's a high-speed female Soldier that can throw on a ruck and march as long and as far and as well as her male peers, then she should absolutely have that opportunity," she said. "I don't think every male Soldier is right for some of the positions in the Army, just like I don't think every female Soldier is right for every position in the Army. But, if you evaluate Soldiers as a person and put the best person in the job, then I think we're going in the right direction."

But even just last year, LTC Evans said she felt she had to plead her case as to why she was the right person to serve as a task force commander for a counter-narcotics mission training military components in three Central American countries.

"There was some hesitation: is a female going to get the same respect from these other countries because they don't have females in leadership roles and because of the cultural differences between us?" she recalls. In the end, she was told by several high ranking officials, both in the U.S. and in Central America, "You proved to us that this can work. Women can do this and do it with record-setting results."

For LTC Evans, that mission was a chance to inspire cultural change in other countries. In her own unit and within the Florida Army National Guard, she enjoys the opportunity to develop and mentor Soldiers.

"I think I'm extremely fortunate to be a female in the Army National Guard because of the opportunities I have to be a role model to others, both male and female. I have the ability to show younger Soldiers coming in that anything is possible regardless of your gender."

Her advice for anyone considering joining the Guard is gender neutral.

"Go in all in. Push yourself. Don't be scared. Challenge yourself to be more and do more because you will get 10 times in return whatever you put in."

She looks at the Guard's future as being full of possibilities.

"There are great opportunities. We could sit here and focus on the past where there were restrictions on females serving in certain roles, but let's all move past that. Let's appreciate where we've come from, but let's focus on the opportunities all Soldiers have to lead our Army into the future."

So, if you are curious about all the opportunities within the Guard, our job board is a great place to start. You can search Guard careers by keyword, location, or category. There are more than 150 options available in fields like armor and field artillery, intelligence, and logistics support, just to name a few. Contact your local recruiter for more information.



**5 THINGS YOU  
(PROBABLY)  
DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT**  
the  
**MEDAL OF HONOR**

**Marines Blog “Conspicuous gallantry... selfless bravery...undaunted courage... unwavering devotion...above and beyond the call of duty”** — These are common phrases found throughout the Medal of Honor citations for Cpl. Kyle Carpenter, Sgt. Dakota Meyer, Cpl. Jason Dunham and other Marine recipients of our

nation’s highest military award. These Marines displayed the qualities of the ultimate hero through their actions and sacrifice, but they’re not the only ones who have these traits.

There are many others in our nation’s history whose actions were found deserving of this award. In fact, the Medal of Honor was first authorized for Marines and sailors in 1861, and while more than 3,400 of them have been given out since then; 297 of those awards have been earned by Marines. March 25th, has been designated as National Medal of Honor Day, marking the date that the first Medal of Honor was awarded. In recognition of all who have earned our nation’s highest military honor, here are five things you probably didn’t know about the award. What’s in a name? The “Congressional Medal of Honor”? Yeah, that thing doesn’t exist. Contrary to popular belief, the award is simply titled the “Medal of Honor”.

The media often refers to it as the “Congressional Medal of Honor”, probably because the citation states “in the name of Congress” or because there is a Congressional Medal of Honor Society. Making the ultimate sacrifice In 1863, four Union Army soldiers who were a part of Andrew’s Raiders were hung as spies, eventually being awarded the Medal of Honor for their service in the Civil War. This made them the first recipients to make the ultimate sacrifice. 1 in 3,486 Mary Edwards Walker is the only female recipient of the Medal of Honor for her actions during the Civil War. In 1917, the Army reviewed its Medal of Honor Roll and re-dacted her award, but President Jimmy Carter restored her medal posthumously 60 years later. The one and only At one point, the Medal of Honor was the U.S. military’s only award. If you fought valiantly during the Civil War, chances were you got a Medal of Honor. Almost half of all the Medals of Honor ever given were awarded during that conflict. Keeping it in the family Five sets of brothers and two father-son pairs have been recipients of the Medal of Honor. One of the father-son pairs is former president, Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., and his son, Theodore Roosevelt III.

Read more: <http://www.ibov.org/2015/5-things-you-probably-didnt-know-about-the-medal-of-honor/>

The term **Gold Star family** is a modern reference that comes from the Service Flag. These flags/banners were first flown by families during World War I. The flag included a blue star for every immediate family member serving in the armed forces of the United States, during any period of war or hostilities in which the armed forces of the United States were engaged. If that loved one died, the blue star was replaced by a gold star. This allowed members of the community to know the price that the family had paid in the cause of freedom.



The United States began observing Gold Star Mother's Day on the last Sunday of September, in 1936. The Gold Star Wives was formed before the end of World War II. The Gold Star Lapel Button was established in August 1947.

Today, the nation recognizes the sacrifice that all Gold Star Family members make when a father, mother, brother, sister, son, daughter, or other loved one dies in service to the nation. Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day is the last Sunday of September and Gold Star Spouses Day is April 5. The strength of our nation is our Army. The strength of our Army is our Soldiers. The strength of our Soldiers is our families. The Army recognizes that no one has given more for the nation than the families of the fallen.



**SATURDAY**  
SEPTEMBER 16TH 2017  
**1PM TEE-OFF**

Bent Creek Golf Club  
10440 Tournament Lane  
Jacksonville, FL 32222

PRESENTS  
**THE FLORIDA FALLEN HEROES**  
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Golfer #3: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Golfer #4: \_\_\_\_\_  
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To register please fill out this form and email to [ffhslunger@yahoo.com](mailto:ffhslunger@yahoo.com) Please provide each players name, address, phone # and email. Please make checks payable to : FLORIDA FALLEN HEROES and mail to P.O. Box 11293, Jacksonville, FL 32239-1293 or bring payment with you on day of event. Please make sure you register to save your team a place.

**FOR INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT SHARON LYNN UNGER**  
**(904) 680-8115 ( CALL OR TEXT) OR [FFHSLUNGER@YAHOO.COM](mailto:FFHSLUNGER@YAHOO.COM)**

The Timothy J. Seamans Memorial Foundation is based in the beautiful city of Jacksonville, Florida and was founded by the family of Jacksonville fallen soldier, Timothy J. Seamans, in August 2006. The purpose and mission of this foundation is to create, establish, and help maintain the Fallen Soldier Monument at each hometown high school of a Florida graduates who have lost their lives defending the United States of America in our war against terrorism. The Timothy J. Seamans Memorial Foundation, (Doing Business as Florida Fallen Heroes) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit exempt organization, registered (# CH34311) with the Florida Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Contributions are deductible from federal income as charitable donations under Section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code. Bequests, devises, transfers and gifts made in accordance with section 2055, 2106 or 2522 of the Internal Revenue Code are also tax deductible.

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## VA Selects UCF Historians to Archive Stories of Deceased Veterans

A University of Central Florida team of scholars has been awarded a \$290,000 contract from the National Cemetery Administration, an agency of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to archive the stories of veterans buried in the Florida National Cemetery for a new generation of students. UCF is one of three universities selected to launch the NCA's Veterans Legacy Program.



The project, led by Amelia Lyons, associate professor of history and director of graduate programs, will engage UCF students in research and writing about veterans' graves and monuments. In addition, UCF faculty and students will collaborate with Central Florida schools to produce interactive curriculums for K-12 students and organize a field trip to the cemetery in Bushnell, which is the county seat of Sumter County.

Involving students of all ages in the project will engage the community with the service and sacrifice of veterans, and will give undergraduate and graduate students a real-life lesson in professionalization, is like no other," Lyons said.

"Learning about the lives and stories of these soldiers is also teaching our students what a historian does," she said. "It makes history real for them."

Luke Bohmer, a history graduate student, recently participated in a field research day at the cemetery. "It is vital to go to where the history is, whether it's a cemetery, or an archive. This is more humanizing and palpable than any statistic could ever be," he said.

Janelle Malagon, an undergraduate, said she has "always had an interest in military history, and the VLP was a great hands-on experience where I had the unique opportunity to learn the stories of individual soldiers throughout American history."

The corresponding website exhibit created by the research team – including Scot French, digital historian, Amy Giroux, a computer research specialist in UCF's Center for Humanities and Digital Research, and graduate student assistants – will use software to virtually map the research, and UCF's RICHES Mosaic Interface to create a

digital archive.

The public will also be able to participate in the project through an interactive element at the cemetery. Giroux will lead the team in the creation of an augmented-reality app, which will include student-authored biographies of veterans for visitors.

Students are already aware of the impact the program will have. Malagon said the digital components will allow relatives to learn something about their veteran in a way that would not have been possible without the technology available today.

The Florida National Cemetery is one of 135 cemeteries overseen by the VA. Team members recently visited the site to begin their research.

And UCF researchers have already begun integrating assignments for the project into their graduate and undergraduate courses.

Students, including those in Lyons' Modern Europe and the First World War class and Professor Barbara Gannon's War and Society classes are conducting research, searching for any documented history on the veterans whose graves will be selected.

Undergraduate students are excited to participate in the project.

Kristina Himschoot comes from a family with deep military roots. Her parents met in the Air Force and both her grandparents served. "The VLP is becoming more important to me every time I learn something new about it," she said. "I have the utmost respect for this project."

Anson Shurr expects he will draw a deeper, more personal connection with veterans through his research. "Seeing their graves in person, epitaph and all, is personal enough, but once you realize that in many cases they lived in the same town or street as you, or you see a surname you know, it really hits home," he said. He was particularly struck by the fact that people his own age put their lives and dreams on hold in order to fight in a war.

Kenneth Holliday, who is both a student and Army veteran, said that because April 6 marks the 100-year anniversary of the nation's entry into World War I, the research is especially timely. "We are in the centennial of World War I, there is no better time to recognize the service of these veterans," he said.

Graduate students in Professor Caroline Cheong's Seminar in Historic Preservation course are helping to identify the graves and monuments to be included and are photographing the sites for both the webpage



and the app.

French, associate professor and director of public history, is having students in his Viewing American History in the 20th Century class create interactive digital materials for use on a website, and John Sacher, associate professor of history and liaison with public schools, is integrating the results of the project into K-12 curriculum that will be available for use in schools across the U.S.

In May, the UCF team and local middle- and high-school students will travel to the cemetery as a kickoff event for the program. UCF student researchers will interact with younger students at the cemetery, providing what Holiday sees as “a much more personal connection on an individual level. Instead of remembering the major battles and the big names of military and political leaders, the students and community can remember that at the heart of the conflict were average people that all of us can probably relate to in some way.”

Gannon, who is also coordinator of UCF’s Veterans History Project, said that because of the university’s engagement with veterans and rich history in creating extensive interactive exhibits and web-based tools, the funding doesn’t come of a surprise..

Other schools selected by the VA’s National Cemetery Administration for the project are San Francisco State University and Black Hills State University.

“The award of these three contracts signifies the VA National Cemetery Administration’s dedication and commitment to providing enhanced memorialization and lasting tributes that commemorate the service and sacrifice of veterans,” said Ronald E. Walters, interim undersecretary for memorial affairs.

The contracts are the first of many planned initiatives to engage educators, students, researchers and the general public through the Veterans Legacy Program. For more information, visit: [www.cem.va.gov/legacy](http://www.cem.va.gov/legacy).

# FLORIDA STATE YOUTH



FL Army & Air National Guard Teens

**19-20 May 2017**

**Radisson Resort Orlando-Celebration**

2900 Parkway Blvd, Kissimmee, FL 34747

Register at <https://2017flsymposium.eventbrite.com>

**Spaces are limited.**

**COORDINATED CONNECTED COMMITTED**



All youth interested in joining the FL Youth Advisory Council (YAC) must attend 2017 State Symposium and participate in the applicant interest meeting.

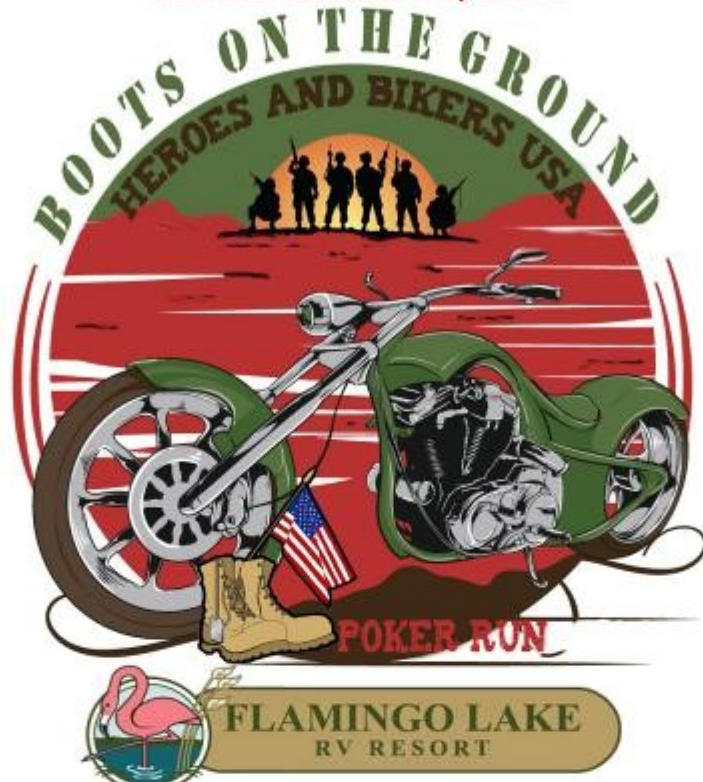
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Imani Graham CYPC 904.599.5472 [imani.m.graham.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:imani.m.graham.ctr@mail.mil)



Camp Blanding Band, February 2, 1942

From the president of the Camp Blanding Museum Association George Cressman Jr, who also serves as the Museum's senior historian.

**AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS CHAPTER 9**  
**5TH ANNUAL BOOTS ON THE GROUND POKER RUN AND CONCERT**  
**SATURDAY MAY 13, 2017**



Hosted by American Legion Riders Chapter 9 and Flamingo Lake RV Resort 3640 Newcomb Road, Jacksonville FL 32218. To support K9s For Warriors, The Florida Fallen Hero Memorial Fund and The American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund. Come out and honor and support this Nations Veterans, their families and memorialize your Fallen Heroes while supporting this great cause. Military Vehicle Display by American Military Historical Society. Registration at Flamingo Lake: 8:30 KSU at 11:00, Over 20 Poker stops to choose from. Live Music By: Curt Towne Band at 8:30AM, No Saints Band at 4PM and Blistur at 7PM until 10PM. Join us!!!

**POKER STOPS**

- AMERICAN LEGION POST 283
- THE ROOSTER
- AMERICAN LEGION POST 54
- DICK'S WINGS BAR AND GRILL
- VFW POST 4351
- KNUCKLEHEADS TAVERN
- VFW POST 10095
- THE BULL TAVERN
- AMERICAN LEGION POST 401
- GREYBEARDS
- AMERICAN LEGION POST 137
- RUSTY'S PUB
- AMERICAN LEGION POST 316

**\$20/Bike \$5/Passenger**  
 Minimum of 5 Poker Stops required  
**\$300 Best Hand /\$25 Worst Hand**  
**50/50, Auction and Raffle Items**  
**\$5 at the Gate for Non Riders**  
**Many Great Vendors**  
 Flyover by the Dreamland Squadron

**POKER STOPS**

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- WILD BILL'S SALOON
- AMERICAN LEGION POST 88
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- AMERICAN LEGION POST 233
- STEEL PONY
- AMERICAN LEGION POST 9
- THE LEATHER LADY
- DAMES POINT MARINA
- ADAMEC HD BAYMEADOWS
- FAT BOYZ ROADSIDE BAR
- THE SHACK
- PARTY AT FLAMINGO LAKE



**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.*

**Vietnam and All Veterans of Brevard Presents:**  
**Florida's 30<sup>th</sup> Annual**  
**Vietnam and All Veterans Reunion**

The Nation's Largest Veterans Reunion  
Supported by the Vietnam and All Veterans of Florida, Inc. - VVOF.org

**May 4<sup>th</sup> – May 7<sup>th</sup>**

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

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**MILITARY DISPLAYS**  
**POW / MIA CEREMONIES**  
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**THE MOVING TRIBUTE**



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

**Wickham Park**

321-255-4307 - Melbourne, FL  
Take I-95 to Exit 191 or old Exit 73  
No Coolers, Glass or Pets allowed  
in the Reunion Area

Per Wickham Park; Golf Carts Permitted  
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Abide By FL Highway Laws

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

Vietnam and All Veterans of Brevard, Inc  
PO Box 237225

Cocoa, FL 32923-7225



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321-652-4185

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[RaRusso1982@gmail.com](mailto:RaRusso1982@gmail.com)

[Candy1540@yahoo.com](mailto:Candy1540@yahoo.com)

**Club Escort Lineup Info.**

[reunionescort@aol.com](mailto:reunionescort@aol.com)

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



Did you know 22 veterans will commit suicide every day?

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

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

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

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



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



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

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



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Survivor Outreach Offers Free Services to  
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**Contact Keith Ham**

Survivor Outreach Services Support Coordinator, HRCI Contractor  
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Office: 904-823-0157 Cell: 904-472-7689  
Email: keith.e.ham.ctr@mail.mil

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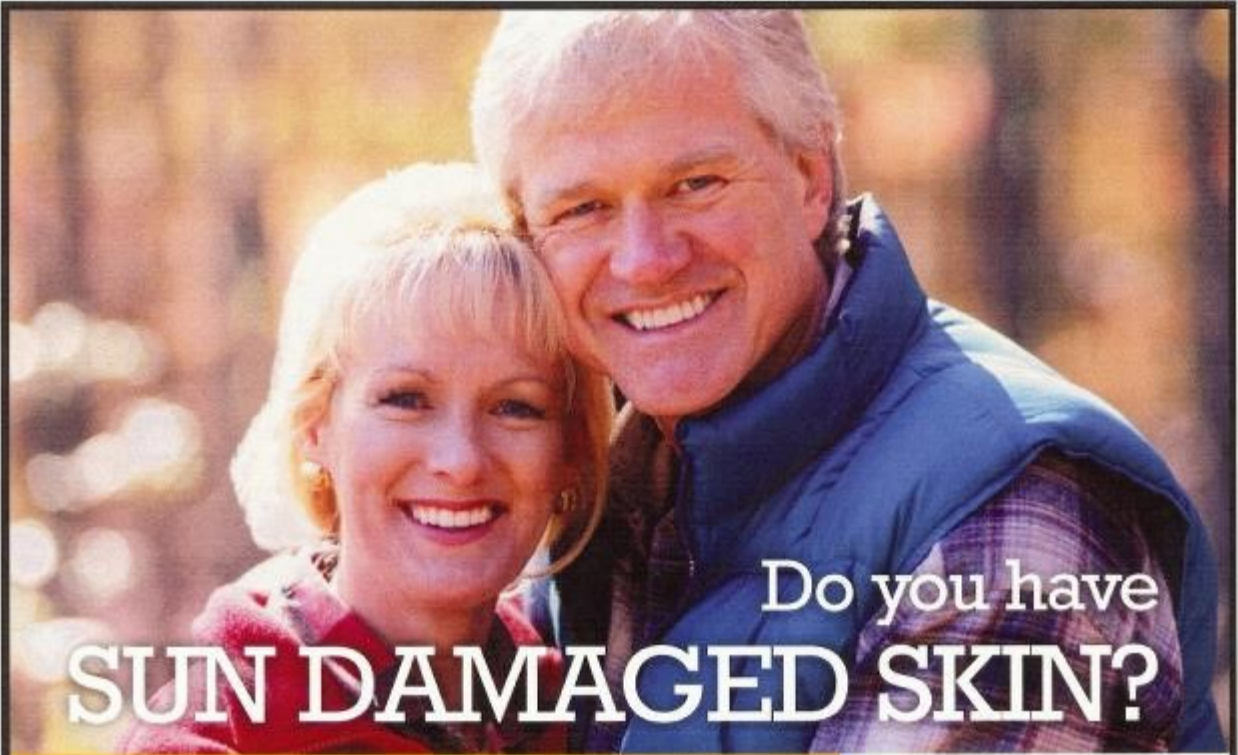
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*Veterans Council of St. Johns County,  
"Helping All Veterans"*

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 new St. Johns County Health and Human Services Building.*

*The office is open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily,  
Monday through Friday excluding holidays.  
Closed for lunch daily from 11:30 am 12:30 pm*

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

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