



The Patriot Reader Newsletter

P.O. Box 2117

St. Augustine, FL 32085

Bill Dudley, Publisher

Michael Rothfeld, Editor

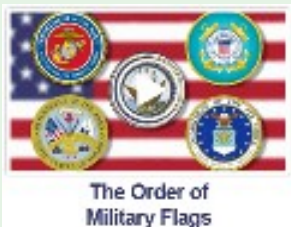
Volume 7, Issue 5

Message from the Chairman

Newsletter Date: May, 2018

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The Order of Military Flags

Fellow Veterans:

Last month our Veterans Council enjoyed one of its largest turnouts ever as our guest speaker Laura Wynn, Curriculum Specialist, Secondary Social Studies, Advanced Academic Studies spoke on "Vietnam Instruction in St. Johns County High Schools". Laura did an outstanding job of informing our veterans of the curriculum used in our High Schools to inform our students of this important time in our country and the service of our men and women in uniform. We were honored to have members of our Board of Education, County Commissioners, Sheriff's Dept, Judge Howard McGillin, and other notable guests attend our meeting to hear Laura's remarks on this very controversial period in our Nation's history.

We were also honored to have members of the Board of Directors from Forward March, Inc. attend for the purpose of presenting a check to our Veterans Council. Ron Birchall from the Forward March Board presented a check for \$35,000 to our Council. The

donation was the proceeds from our Military Ball that was held in January of this year. The donation was earmarked for four veteran's activities... Veterans Treatment Court, Wreaths Across America, Disabled American Veterans, and Vet 4 Vets. After receiving the donation, the Veterans Council presented the DAV and Vets 4 Vets a check for \$5,000 each. The money received from the Forward March donation will go into a restricted funds account to be used only for the veteran's organizations or activities designated.

On May 15, 2018, there will be a special flag raising ceremony at the St. Johns County Administration Building honoring our POW / MIA's. The Veterans Council has donated two flags to be flown at the County Administration Building and the County Health and Human Services Building. The ceremony will begin at 7:30 AM (0730) at 500 San Sebastian View. This will be followed by a Purple Heart ceremony at 9 AM in the County auditorium. The County Commissioners, by proclamation will declare St. Johns County a Purple Heart County. All St. Johns County combat wound-



ed veterans who have served in the armed forces and awarded a Purple Heart will be recognized by the County Commissioners during the regular Commission meeting. We would like to have a large turnout for both these special events as we honor our deserving veterans.

You will notice a different format for our Patriot Reader newsletter this month. Due to our large readership, we were limited to the number of newsletters we could send out in one day. Given this restriction, it took several days for our Editor, Michael Rothfeld to send out the monthly newsletter. We have selected a new format using MailChimp. We are not restricted with the use of this media source and it is much more efficient. Please bear with us as we go through the learning curve in the use of this new media tool.

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

Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home



The weather has been beautiful, and we've taken full advantage of our beautiful courtyard during this season. Lots and lots of activities, but our favorite has been the many cook outs we've been able to have outdoors.





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



The Support Committee invites everyone to attend its **next scheduled meeting, on Monday March 19, 2018**. The meeting will be at **7:00pm**. The meeting will take place at Community Hospice, **4266 Sunbeam Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32257 in Conference Room A**.

Jacksonville National Cemetery Support Committee Meetings for 2018
At Community Hospice of NE FL.
4266 Sunbeam Rd, Jacksonville, FL 32257
Hadlow Bldg – Conference Room A 7:00pm

Monday, May 14th

Thursday, May 24th - placement of Flags for Memorial Day (Details TBA)

Saturday, May 26th - Memorial Day Observance Ceremony (Details TBA)

Monday, Sept 17th

Monday, Oct 15th

Monday, Nov 5th

Monday, Dec 3rd

Saturday, Dec 15th - Wreaths Across America (Details TBA)

All are invited to attend our meetings and become a part of this Committee.

+++++2017/2018 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

From John Burgess : We have a name change and website change North East Florida Veterans Council will be changing to Veterans Council of Duval County Florida. We have started building our new web site:

www.duvalveteranscouncil.org

Veterans Council and VVA 1084 “Welcome Home” local Vietnam Veterans

Fifty years is a long time to wait, but recognition and acceptance arrived for Vietnam veterans on Thursday March 29th and Friday, March 30th. The First National Vietnam Veterans Day was celebrated in St. Augustine with two very special events.

In recognition of Vietnam Veterans Day, the St. Johns County Veterans Council assisted by County School Board member, Kelly Barrera, asked Laura Wynn, Curriculum Specialist, Secondary Social Studies to meet and speak to the Council about “How the Vietnam War” is taught in St. Johns County Secondary Schools. Laura’s detailed presentation was well received by an overflowing room consisting mostly of Vietnam veterans from NE Florida. A question and answer session followed and all felt confident that the Vietnam War was being taught fairly and its many complexities, both political and moral were adequately covered.

On Friday, March 30th, a solemn ceremony was held at the oldest National Cemetery in the country, St. Augustine National Cemetery. This event was supported by both the St. Johns County Veterans Council and the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1084, named after Leo C. Chase, the first St. Johns County serviceman Killed in Action. Council Chairman Bill Dudley and VVA President, John Leslie organized and led the event. BG Richard Capps, a Vietnam veteran was the guest speaker, and Congressman John Rutherford was the Keynote speaker. The most moving moment of the afternoon came when Commander John Leslie, USN (Ret) read aloud the 20 names of Vietnam era servicemen who were killed in action, several of whom are buried in the St. Augustine National. The afternoon’s commemoration ended with Congressman Rutherford presenting Vietnam pins to the veterans in attendance.

The Commemoration and Recognition came 50 years after the end of the Vietnam War, but Vietnam veterans now feel accepted by the American public as they should have been all these intervening years.

WELCOME HOME!



Chairman Dudley presenting Laura Wynn with a Thank You Plaque



Congressman Rutherford and Chairman Dudley



Commander John Leslie, USN Retired



Congressman Rutherford presents pin to Vietnam veteran Michael Isam



IN REMEMBRANCE FOR ALL OF OUR POW'S & PURPLE HEART RECIPIENTS & FAMILIES

Fellow Veterans

**The Raising of the POW/MIA Flag Will take place in front of the County
Administration Building on:
Tuesday May 15, 2018 at 7:30 A.M.**

**The St. Johns County Commissioners will issue a
Proclamation designating the county as a**

PURPLE HEART COUNTY

**A Purple Heart County Designates Our County as one that
recognizes those in our community who gave their
lives or were wounded in combat defending
our American Freedoms**

Date & Time: May 15, 2018 at 9:00A.M.

**Location: SJC County Commission Meeting at the
SJC Auditorium, County Administration Building,
500 San Sebastian View St. Augustine, Florida 32084**

We would like to have every veteran who has received a Purple Heart while serving in any military branch of the Armed Forces to join us at the County Commission meeting when the proclamation is presented to the Veterans Council. The County Commissioners and Veterans Council would like to recognize you on that day and thank you for your service to our country.

MISSING IN AMERICA PROJECT

NATIONAL PROGRESS AS OF 4/24/2017

Total Funeral Homes Visited - 2,216 Cremains Found – 16,268
Veterans Cremains Identified - 3,773 Veterans Interred - 3,477

FLORIDA PROGRESS AS OF 4/25/2017

Total Funeral Homes Visited - 137
Cremains Found – 1225

Missions Pending - 46 Missions Scheduled – 7 Veterans Interred – 194
Spouses Interred – 85 Dependents Interred – 1

On April 23, 2018, with the assistance of the MIAP Texas State Coordinator MIAP interred a Vietnam Veteran who had been in the hands of the Miami-Dade Medical Examiner's Office for two years. We worked with the family and they agreed to have their loved one cremated so we could assist them in sending him sent to the Dallas -Fort Worth National Cemetery. He has now been laid to rest with dignity and honor with family in attendance.

CTH #15 will be held at the South Florida National Cemetery in Lake Worth. For this service we will inter 7 veterans, with military honors, at the South Florida National Cemetery located at 6501 Florida State Road 7, Lake Worth, FL 33449. These veterans being interred served in the US Army, Navy and Air Force, during the Korean and Vietnam War periods.

CTH #16 is being planned to be held in June, date TBA. This will be MIAP's first service to be held at the Cape Canaveral National Cemetery in Mims, FL.

Please go to our website at www.miap.us to read more about our project and find out how you can become involved with MIAP in your area.

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

Pictures are from CTH #14 South Florida National Cemetery

Lake Worth, FL, 4/14/2018 25 Veterans, 3 spouses (including a husband & wife) Army, Marine Corp, Navy & Air Force Veterans, WWII, Korea & Vietnam



Veteran County Councils of Northeast Florida



•Baker County

President: Larry Porterfield

Meetings:

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

Contact:

Baker County Veterans Council
PO Box 1434
MacClenny, FL 32063

Clay County

President: Bob Brewster

Meetings: First Wednesday of
each month

Location varies between the
different Veteran Organizations.
Time varies

•Duval County

President: Steve Spickelmier

Meetings:

Third Tuesday of each month in the 40/8
Building
Located at the American Legion Post 137
5443 San Juan Avenue
7pm

•Nassau County

President: Doc WP Manoghan

Contact:

Veterans Council of Nassau County
17195 Cornerstone Road
Hilliard, FL 32046-8265

•St. Johns County

President: Bill Dudley

Meetings:

Last Thursday of each month
Health and Human Services Building
Muscovy Room, 1st Floor
200 San Sebastian View
Muscovy Room 1st Floor
St. Augustine, FL 32084
7pm

Contact:

info@VeteransCouncilofStJohns.org

Message from: Col. Len Loving, USMC, Retired, CEO, Five Star Veterans Center

We continue to welcome veterans into The FIVE Star Veterans Center, where we help those experiencing homelessness get back to work by providing safe and secure housing with wraparound services, intensive case management and counseling that promotes mental and physical wellness. Since our inception in 2012, over 90 veterans have lived at the Center; we are currently hosting 31 veterans.



At Five Star, we are grateful to the private and group donations that allow us to continue our mission. In 2015 we have been the fortunate recipients of time, talent, funding and donations from many organizations and individuals, including The Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association, American Legion Post 283 and The 283 Legion Riders, The Knights of Columbus, TPC “Story Tellers”, Citibank, Bank of America, The Jacobs Foundation and Home Depot’s National Foundation. In addition, the J. Wayne and Delores Barr Weaver Veterans Fund through the Community Foundation of Northeast Florida awarded a grant to the Center to establish and fund a Mental Health Department with a Licensed Counselor and several interns from the University of North Florida. This Department is up and running with definite benefits for our residents and other Veterans.

We also give back to the community. Twice annually, we host Food Pantry events, providing much needed meat, fresh fruit, vegetables and various canned and packaged foods to residents of our neighborhood and local veterans.

As always, we are continually looking for enthusiastic volunteers to assist us in meeting our mission goals. All potential volunteers are encouraged to visit the Center to see our operation first hand and to meet the staff and Residents.

Two veterans look back at their time in the Vietnam War and why they now want to help others who served

March 29 is National Vietnam War Veterans Day by: Nichole Osinski Staff Writer Orange County Observer

Rod Phillips

Vietnam Veterans Chapter 1048 President Rod Phillips came from a military background that spanned from his father to his grandfathers. So it was only natural that in 1967, when Phillips was a junior in high school, he enlisted in the Army.



Rod in 1967

One year later, the orders for Phillips' division were nailed on the side of the building barracks — he was going to Vietnam.

On January 8, 1968, Phillips landed in South Vietnam around the area of Saigon. He remembers the heat, humidity and the long months of rain.

But he also remembers the beauty of the countryside filled with thick vegetation, vegetation he and other infantrymen would have to trek through with only a rucksack and 12 meals that would have to last. Phillips would also "walk point," which meant he and another man would trek ahead of a company with 120 men.

During the Tet Offensive, Phillips was one of the first to be shipped up to northern Vietnam.

"They said we need you up north to search and destroy," Phillips said. "We were in the jungle and we were looking for the enemy."

On July 19, 1968, Phillips was wounded and medivacked out only to return months later. He still has the telegram sent to his parents notifying them that their son had been injured but would recover.

When Phillips left the military in 1970 and was preparing to return home he, like Rosa, was told it would be preferred if he didn't wear his uniform. He had also heard stories about other soldiers returning from the war who were spit on and stopped by protests.

Phillips was provided with a new uniform but kept it in a clothes bag while he traveled home.

"When we came back we took a little bit of a low profile," Phillip said. "Back in the early '70s, it was a different time. The 'welcome home' today is widely used because we didn't get that welcome home when we came home."

Back in the U.S., Phillips entered a career in law enforcement for 38 years. It was during his time patrolling the streets that he began to realize how many veterans were homeless. Since that time, Phillips has worked to help other veterans through town halls and being a part of local groups, such as the Florida Vietnam Veterans Assistance Foundation.

Phillips' reason for helping other veterans comes down to this:

"We feel that if we're going to send young people to war, we need to take care of them

Joe Rosa

The year was 1970 and 17-year-old Jose "Joe" Rosa watched as plastic balls were poured into a container. It was a recurring event that, according to Rosa, had people glued to the TV. A ball containing the number 274 was picked. Rosa had

been drafted for the Vietnam War.

What followed was a letter from the Department of Defense notifying the teenager that he had been drafted. Rosa had been preparing for this moment and had already been in discussion with an Air Force recruiter who he then contacted after receiving the letter.

Rosa told the recruiter he would join the Air Force as long as he wasn't going to be sent to Vietnam. He was assured that he would not be sent to Vietnam and Rosa was soon sent off to Texas where he would learn how to be an aircraft mechanic.

However, Vietnam would soon become a reality.

Not long after Rosa turned 18, he was lined up with other men drafted into the military waiting to be told where they would be sent. When the man reading off the list got to Rosa two words stood out: Southeast Asia.

Rosa was going to Vietnam.

"I had just hit 18, I knew nothing about life," Rosa said.

But Rosa's introduction to being in the war was brief. After a quick stop in Taiwan, Rosa was in Vietnam where he became a crew chief on the C-130 aircraft, which transported troops and delivered equipment.

One time, Rosa remembers landing at a base in Saigon and seeing hundreds of body bags laid out across the tarmac.

"You see this on TV but imagine what that does to you [in-person]," Rosa said.

Because the plane was so frequently shot at, Rosa would put his helmet and bulletproof vest under him for protection. One night, the crew counted 38 bullet holes in the plane. In spite of what Rosa experienced while in Vietnam, returning home in 1972 was not what he had expected.

"They said, you can't wear your uniforms when you come back because the Americans are as hostile as the Vietnamese," Rosa said. "How hurt are you that you went off to serve your country and they don't want you back. That was a very bad feeling to have as happy as you are to be back."

Years later, friends told Rosa that even they had treated him differently and hadn't trusted him when he returned.

There was one positive moment that Rosa does remember. About 20 years after the war, Rosa heard about a Vietnam veterans parade being held in New York. Rosa decided to take the day off, put on his uniform and march with other veterans.

"Finally, I could say, I'm a Vietnam vet, I did serve," Rosa said.

Now, Rosa is the commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3282 and has a goal to help other veterans in any way he can.

"When these military folks come back they need help and they don't know where to get it," Rosa said. "We're still fighting to do everything we can to make life normal for them again."

when they get back."

Save the Date

V4V

Vets 4 Vets

**Quarterly Gathering of Veterans
Saturday June 9th, 2018**

**Veterans Memorial Arena
300 A Phillip Randolph Blvd
Jacksonville, FL 32202**

**1030 – 1100
Networking / Exhibitors Expo**

**1100 – 1230
Speakers**

**1230 – 1300
Free Lunch**

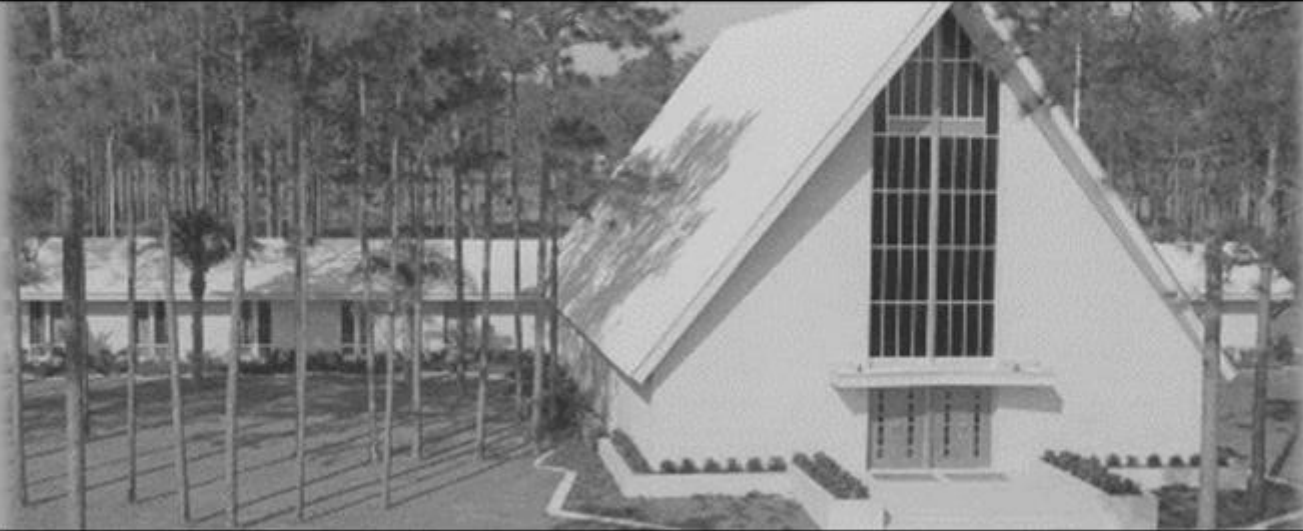
Listen, Learn, and Voice Your Opinion

TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER!!



Chapel Pew Restoration Campaign

6112 New World Avenue, Jacksonville, FL 32221
(904) 303-8907
www.powmiamemorial.org



The Chapel at Cecil Commerce Center was originally dedicated in 1963 as part of NAS Cecil Field. The Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc. organization's objective is to honor former Prisoners of War (POWs) and those who remain Missing in Action (MIAs) from all branches of the military. The Chapel serves as a focal point in this effort, as we restore the current chapel building. While the chapel will serve as the centerpiece for honoring former POWs and past and present MIAs, this organization will be building a place of education, respite, and reflection on their sacrifices.

To bring the historic chapel back to its intended use, we are seeking donations for the renovation of the chapel as well as the ability to purchase a pew in someone's honor or memory. If you would like to purchase a full pew (\$1,500) or donate towards the purchase of a pew, please fill out the information below. Each donor will be recognized on a plaque displayed in the chapel.



Donations and payments can be made on our website at www.powmiamemorial.org or mailed to:

Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc.
ATTN: Chapel Pews
6112 New World Avenue
Jacksonville, FL 32221

Purchaser Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

In Honor of

In Memory of

Name(s) In Honor /In Memory of: _____

Purchase: Pew (\$1500) Qty: _____ Donation Amount \$ _____ Total: \$ _____

CECIL FIELD POW/MIA MEMORIAL IS A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION - REGISTRATION NUMBER: CH51569. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE, 800 435 7352, WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. CECIL FIELD POW/MIA MEMORIAL IS AN IRS 501(C)(3), PUBLIC CHARITY. ID# 31954. CONTRIBUTIONS ARE DEDUCTIBLE.

MISSION BACKGROUND

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

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

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



A FEW QUOTES SUBMITTED BY OUR NATIONAL LEADERS



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

U.S. Congressman
John Rutherford

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

U.S. Senator
Marco Rubio

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

U.S. Senator
Bill Nelson



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

MISSION STATEMENT

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

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

MEMORIAL STRATEGIC PLAN

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

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



Hero's Walk & Freedom Trees



Chapel of the High-Speed Paves



Starburst Sculpture

CECIL FIELD NATIONAL POW/MIA MEMORIAL PARK



HOW YOU CAN HELP HONOR OUR MILITARY HEROES



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

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

ONLINE PowMiaMemorial.org

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

Twitter.com/CFPOW/MIA

Instagram.com/cecilfieldpowmia/

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

IMPORTANT TAX ADVICE AND INFORMATION

(From John Mountcastle)

Exempt organizations reporting on a calendar year basis (i.e., their tax year ends on Dec. 31) must file some version of form IRS 990 no later than May 15, 2018 for their 2017 filing?

While some may file on a group basis (i.e., their national organization submits the return on their behalf), many opt to file Form 990-N if their gross receipts are less normally less than \$50,000).

Completing the e-Postcard requires the eight items listed below:

- 1. Employer identification number (EIN), also known as a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN).**
- 2. Tax year**
- 3. Legal name and mailing address**
- 4. Any other names the organization uses**
- 5. Name and address of a principal officer**
- 6. Web site address if the organization has one**
- 7. Confirmation that the organization's annual gross receipts are \$50,000 or less**
- 8. If applicable, a statement that the organization has terminated or is terminating (going out of business)**

**Annual Electronic Filing Requirement for Small Exempt Organizations —
Form 990-N (e-Postcard)**

<https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/annual-electronic-filing-requirement-for-small-exempt-organizations-form-990-n-e-postcard>

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

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

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

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

Contact information is as follows: Gary Newman, P.O. Box 626, Orange Park, Fl. 32067-0626
Tel: 904 269 1857, E-mail: agnjustice@yahoo.com

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

St Johns County, VVA Leo C Chase Chapter 1084: Those seeking information can call 904-233-4712 (leave message), or email to president@vva1084.org or membership@vva1084.org. One can also check out our website at vva1084.org. Our membership meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of each month at Jaybird's Restaurant at 2600 N Ponce de Leon Blvd, St Augustine. For the hardcore, a smaller group meets at Jaybird's every Monday morning around 8 AM for BB&B (Blather, BS, and Brotherhood). We have a great group, and all are welcome to visit and participate!

John Leslie, President, Vietnam Veterans
America

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

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



of

36 Granada Street, St. Augustine FL 32084

(904) 679-5736

Corazoncinemaandcafe.com



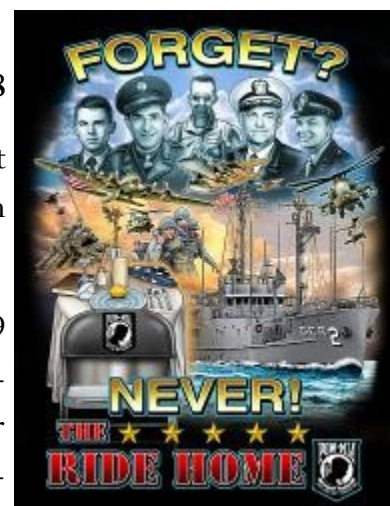
Stop by the Corazon Cinema and Café located in the heart of St. Augustine to catch a great film or a bite to eat (free parking). **Tell us you are a veteran and receive 10% off any food or drinks.** Beer and wine available.

A very important message from Moe Moyer, please read entire message! Please share with all your contacts and veterans groups.

National POW/MIA Recognition Day The RIDE HOME 2018

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. Remember the Bataan Death March? 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 14th 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 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; o 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, 20 September 2018, with honored guest checking in early afternoon followed by a Recognition Day Service, open to the public, commencing at 1500 hrs. at the Larry Walker Arena on the Central Georgia Technical College. Friday morning, 21 September, following a Law Enforcement escorted ride, service at the National Prisoner of War Museum, open to the public. Friday evening the Hero's Banquet will occur 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, 22 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 Warner Robins market.

For all former Prisoners of War, the Next of Kin of our Missing in Action who wish to attend the RIDE HOME 2017, go to our website, <http://www.theridehome.com/home-1.html> and on the home page you will see a link for the invitation letter and registration form. 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.

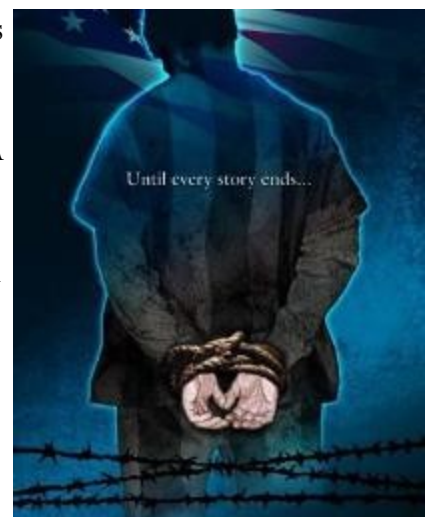
If you or your organization would like to Sponsor a Honored Guest, POW or NOK of an MIA, go to our webpage; <http://www.theridehome.com/donate-sponsor-1.html> - and click on the Sponsor link.

This is a National Event and all services are open to the Public. Heroes Banquet requires reservation.

Hope to see you in Georgia this September for National POW/MIA Recognition Day 2018.

For Questions or Concerns feel free to contact; moe – 407 448 1181 or moehog@verizon.net

Until they all come home.....



Florida Times Union By Joe Daraskevich

Carlton Chewing plays bass guitar in a bluegrass band, the Restless Rebels. Lilton Moore does handyman work around his sister's house and watches court shows on TV. Billie Teat Harbison enjoys her season tickets to the Jacksonville Icemen. Steve Verrigni cooks for his wife.



At 66, Verrigni is the youngest of the bunch, locals who represent a tiny sliver of the estimated 6.4 million Vietnam War-era veterans counted in a recently released study that estimated their numbers, ages, health challenges and finances. That study came out just as the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs staged hundreds of Vietnam Veterans Day Commemoration events all over the country last week. Thursday's was the second observance of National Vietnam Veterans Day, and this year marks 50 years since 1968, a pivotal year in the war.

The men and women who fought in Vietnam still numbered some 6.4 million in 2015, the last year studied for the VA's just-released Vietnam Veteran Deep Dive on Finance and Health. The report used data from the 2015 American Community Survey. Among Deep Dive's other findings:

The median age of the Vietnam veterans counted was 68.

Sixty-nine percent had left the labor force, while 22 percent were still at work.

Seventy-four percent of the vets were receiving Social Security income that averaged \$12,222 a year.

Forty-five percent of them had some other form of retirement income.

Thirty-one percent were earning a salary that averaged \$16,406 annually.

Twenty-two percent of the vets claimed a service-connected disability.

The most common disabilities reported were difficulties walking and hearing.

"We are all getting older and have a lot of aches and pains," Harbison said during a pinning ceremony held Thursday at the Jacksonville National Cemetery. "But we are still around and finally getting some recognition for our service."

Harbison, 72, got around just fine at the ceremony despite two artificial hips that aren't related to her service as an Army nurse. She said she does suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder.

The human body breaks down over time, Harbison said. But that's not stopping her from two of her favorite hobbies since retiring in 2007 from the state Department of Children and Families. She loves to shop; and she loves to go to hockey games.

"My seats are right by the ice," she said.

Harbison said she is happy with the treatment she receives at the VA clinic in Jacksonville.

Vietnam veterans are the largest demographic receiving VA care in Jacksonville, said Dan Henry, spokesman for the North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System. He said about 15,000 Vietnam veterans were seen there in 2017.

Like Harbison, Moore is enjoying retirement. The 71-year-old made a last-minute decision to attend Thursday's ceremony, which he heard about on television. He retired from CSX Corp. in 2006, and he's still relatively healthy. The Army veteran said to stay in shape he's tried his hand at two types of martial arts, Tang Soo Do and Taekwondo. Moore said he's not active in veterans organizations, but he might start attending functions more often now that people from his era seem to be getting more respect.

Thursday's pinning ceremony in Jacksonville was followed by a similar event Friday at the St. Augustine National Cemetery. Each veteran who was active-duty military from Nov. 1, 1955, to May 15, 1975, received a lapel pin with an eagle head and the words "Vietnam War Veteran" circling the border.

"People were and are entitled to their opinions about the merits of our involvement in Vietnam," U.S. Rep. John Rutherford said at Thursday's ceremony. "But they are never, ever entitled to diminish the sacrifice and commitment of our soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and their families, so many of whom gave their lives in combat." Rutherford is in his first term in Congress and has made an effort to reach out to the veteran community after taking over the seat from longtime veterans advocate Ander Crenshaw.

When Crenshaw was in office, Vietnam veterans made up a significant portion of the workforce in Northeast Florida. Their needs are changing now that they are making the transition to retirement; and it will be Rutherford's job to communicate those needs to Congress.

Don Redman, who spent three years on a Navy destroyer during the Vietnam War, has experience in local politics. He's served two terms on Jacksonville City Council and is running again. He received a pin Thursday for his service and passed out business cards afterward.

"The collective voice of the Vietnam veterans is stronger than it's ever been," Redman said. "In the last few years the patriotism has grown tremendously."

Redman said he's proud of the way Vietnam veterans are now being treated in Jacksonville. He said he hopes to win a spot back on the council so he can be a champion for all veterans, not just the ones from the Vietnam era.

Steve Sanson is a veteran, though not from the Vietnam era. He's the president of Veterans in Politics International and the co-host a radio show in Las Vegas that offers a forum for veterans in the political spotlight. He said in a phone interview that Vietnam veterans have always been great about coming together to fight for what they deserve.

“I don’t think they are going to lose their voice because the younger generation is bringing their voice to the table,” Sanson said. The younger veterans are better about using outlets like social media to get their messages to the public, he said.

Sanson said he feels a lot of the benefits and respect given to the military today are direct results of the outspoken veterans from Vietnam.

“What happened to Vietnam veterans when they came home would never happen to a present-day veteran,” Sanson said. “We are not going to treat veterans that way every again. It was a learning lesson and it took Vietnam veterans going through those hardships to make life easier for veterans who came after them.”

That sentiment was repeated at both the ceremonies held at local national cemeteries.

John Leslie is the president of Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1084 in St. Johns County, and he agrees that the Vietnam veterans are still making noise in politics. But he said there’s no denying the fact that they are all getting older and many of them are dying at a relatively young age.

“I’m 72, and I’m not sure how active I’ll be at age 82,” Leslie said.

He organized the Friday event in St. Augustine, where he said the contingent of Vietnam veterans is very active. They are making a push to educate students in the county with civics lessons straight from the mouths of Vietnam vets.

Leslie said it’s important to educate the youth of St. Johns County about the impact on the country of the Vietnam War because one day its veterans will be gone. He pointed to the motto of the Vietnam Veterans of America: “Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another.”

Leslie, a Navy pilot, said, “My return was marvelous. ... But I was a lot luckier than most.”

Chewning, the bluegrass musician, is a tall 69-year-old who wore a cavalry hat to Thursday’s ceremony. He said because of his size, he didn’t experience hostility when he returned from the war.

He stood out Thursday next to Verrigni, who was wearing a similar felt hat. The two had never met before and were drawn to each other because of their connection to the 1st Cavalry Division in Vietnam.

Verrigni pointed out that most of the people who went to Vietnam went there alone; and many of them didn’t have a choice.

“None of us went together,” he said. “Nobody knew anybody else. We all went as individuals. We became cohesive as a family there, and they took us out of that family when they sent us back to the States.”

Verrigni said events like Thursday’s serve as a reminder that “the camaraderie is what it’s all about.”

Joe Daraskevich: (904) 359-4308

Jacksonville FL

“Missing Man Chair”

Supports the Remembrance of the Men & Women who Went Off to War and Either Didn't Make It Back Alive, or Were Detained Against Their Will:



The Jacksonville Veterans Memorial Arena has one additional chair which was added this past weekend to honor Former Prisoners of War and those still Missing in Action.

The POW/MIA Chair, known as "One Empty Seat" was dedicated during the first intermission of the Jacksonville Icemen's hockey game this past Friday, April 6.

With over 8,000 fans in attendance to witness the occasion, this Chair of Honor is to show our nation's and Jacksonville's commitment of fully accounting for those still Missing in Action.

This Chair is to remain permanently empty and show there is always a seat for those still missing. The chair and dedication was made possible by SMG, The Icemen, Rotary District 6970 and the Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial groups.

The ceremony included: Ms. Pam Cain (ribbon cutter), daughter of Col. Oscar Mauterer (still MIA); Mrs. Cynde Covington, Past District Governor of Rotary International District 6970 and daughter of Lt. Cmdr. Fred Wright (accounted for); and, Michael Cassata, Executive Director of the Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial.

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The V.A. Community Resource and Referral Center is now open. This is a one of a kind 'one stop shop' for the regions VA system, for homeless veterans to have immediate access to such services as, Social Work, Dietitian, Community Employment Coordinator, Occupational Therapist, ARNP, and peer support specialists.



This center is located across from the Clara White Mission in downtown Jax., is open M-F 8:00 am-4:30 pm. (For housing assessments, it is asked that Veterans visit between 9:00 am-1:30 pm.) 904-798-2800.

Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc. Minutes of March 29, 2018

Officers present: Chairman Bill Dudley, Vice Chairman Ray Quinn, Secretary Michael Rothfeld, not present John Mountcastle



Chairman Dudley called the meeting to order at 1903 hours

Chairman Dudley led the Pledge to the Flag, Vice Chairman Ray Quinn gave the Invocation

Last month's Minutes were approved as read

The Treasurer's Report was approved as read

Introduction of Guests: Judge McGillin, St Johns County School Board Members Bill Mignon, Kelly Barrera & Bev Slough. St Johns County Commissioners J Morris, H Dean, J Smith. Forward March Board of Directors Ron & Nancy Birchall, Bill & Barbara McNees, Dan & Helene Sullivan & Ray Quinn. Dick Williams.

Check presentation: Ron Birchall, Chairman Forward March, presented the Veterans Council with a check for \$ 35,000, which was the profit from the annual Military Ball. Chairman Dudley then presented checks to St Augustine DAV, Vets4Vets for \$5000, with money to follow for Veterans Treatment Court & Wreaths Across America.

Speaker: Laura Wynn, Secondary Social Studies Curriculum Specialist: Laura gave a very detailed overview of how the Vietnam War is taught in County Secondary Schools, mentioning text books, benchmarks, causes, analysis and consequences. Students are taught to incorporate primary sources and are evaluated with a standardized state assessment.



The local chapter of Vietnam Veterans of America as well as the Veterans Council have been working with Laura for several years and many Vietnam War veterans have spoken to students about their experiences. Laura answered questions afterward and we all thought the schools were teaching the Vietnam War correctly.



Chairman Dudley then presented Laura with a plaque thanking her for passionate handling and supervision of "How the Vietnam

War” is taught to our future patriots.

Additional Comments: Commissioner Jay Morris spoke about his “Bird Dog” experiences in Vietnam and how he was the only pilot to have his plane shot at with an arrow.



Navy Commander, USN (Ret), and VVA 1084 President John



Leslie spoke about his flying A7s to escort B52s and flying missions twice a day into Saigon.

LTC Blair Craig, USA (Ret), thanked Laura for all she does to ensure Vietnam War history is taught correctly in our schools and asked all of us, “What did we learn from Vietnam” and “How can we avoid the same mistakes”.

Committee Reports: None tonight

Chairman Dudley: Invited all to the May 15th POW/MIA flag raising ceremony at the County Administration building and the County Declaring by Proclamation, that St Johns County will be a Purple Heart County and honoring our Purple Heart recipients. More detailed information to follow.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm. The next meeting of the Veterans Council will be on Thursday, April 26th, 7 pm in the Health & Human Services Building, 200 San Sebastian View.

Future speakers:

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

May 31, Toula F. Wootan, Director of Community Programs, Community Hospice and Palliative Care, Caregiver Coalition of Northeast Florida and Crystal Timmons, of the Veterans Garden Project.

June 28, Charlie Tramazzo of Greater Jacksonville USO and COL (Ret) Ann Johnson of Gratitude America

August 30, Jason Snodgrass, Chief Executive Officer, K9s For Warriors

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Association of the United States Army

VOICE FOR THE ARMY – SUPPORT FOR THE SOLDIER

FIRST MILITIA CHAPTER (FMC), AUSA

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING & DINNER

THURSDAY, 10 May 2018

Social @ 6:00 p.m. followed by Dinner @ 6:30 p.m.

LOCATION: Mark W. Lance Armory
190 San Marco Ave., St. Augustine, Florida

Cost: \$15.00 (At the Door), or \$14.00 in Advance (mail or online)
Dress: Casual

Guest Speaker:

General Carter Ham
AUSA National President

Program: General Ham's Remarks
Chapter Business Reports
50/50 Drawing

Menu: Chicken Marsala (Carrabbas)
Garlic Mashed Potatoes & Broccoli,
Cesar Salad & Bread,
Dessert, Tea and Water

DUE TO THE MENU

"ADVANCED PAID RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED"

Please submit your reservations and payment to arrive no later than 3 May 2018 by completing the form below to: First Militia Chapter, AUSA P.O. Box 3883, St. Augustine, FL 32085-3883. (Make checks payable to: First Militia Chapter). You can also pay online (preferred) at <http://mkt.com/first-militia-chapter-ausa>. For additional information, please call (904)823-0389 or email natasha.m.huertas.mil@mail.mil.

Name: _____ Number of Reservations: _____

Guest: _____ Amount of Check: _____



Event goes back in time to remember fatal U-boat attack off Jacksonville Beach

The musical performers and fashion on display Tuesday transported everyone in attendance back to the 1940s as organizers honored the 19 men who died in a fiery attack off the coast of Jacksonville Beach during World War II.

People danced to the music and posed for pictures in a military jeep in an effort to recreate what life was like in Northeast Florida during the war.

The occasion at the SeaWalk Pavilion marked the 76th anniversary of the night a German U-boat attacked the oil tanker SS Gulfamerica so close to shore that people stopped what they were doing to watch the flames rise from the ocean.

It was a normal Friday night in the lively beach community where people gathered on the boardwalk to ride a pair of Ferris wheels and a roller coaster. There was also a Firemen's Ball on the pier that night that made for an even more captive audience when a torpedo struck the ship just after 10 p.m.

Local historian Scott A. Grant has been giving a speech about the attack at various venues over the last year to keep alive the memory of the men who died. He guessed he's given the speech about 75 times since the 75th anniversary of the attack.

He said a quick internet search about what happened will bring back plenty of results about the U-123 or its famous skipper, Capt. Reinhard Hardegen. But there's very little out there about the men who died that night, Grant said.

"Nobody is talking about those 19 guys," he said. "In World War II the only people in the United States that were closer to shore and were killed by a foreign power was at Pearl Harbor. We want them [the 19 on the Gulfamerica] to have a plaque."

Grant threw the 1940s party Tuesday to promote a movement to have a marker placed

in memory of those men. There is a historical marker in Jacksonville Beach that commemorates the attack, but it just has a brief mention of the men who died.

That will no longer be the case if two local chapters of the National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution can accomplish their latest project.

“I may be optimistic, but I don’t see any reason why we shouldn’t be able to get this done by next year’s anniversary,” said Judy Delmar, the regent for the Ponte Vedra Beach chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution.

She said Grant spoke about the sinking of the Gulfamerica at one of the group’s recent monthly meetings, and many of the women were deeply moved after learning about the tragic event. She said they were even more shocked to find out there isn’t a commemorative marker near the site that names each of the 19 victims of the attack.

Delmar said the Ponte Vedra chapter is working with the Jean Ribault chapter in Neptune Beach to get approval to put a new monument on public property. She said once they get that approval they will submit their plan to the national Daughters of the American Revolution office, and they should be ready to dedicate their tribute by next year.

“This kind of project is right up our alley,” Delmar said.

Grant estimated about 50 or 60 people attended Tuesday’s event where participants walked down a runway to model military and civilian clothes from the 1940s. His son Xander dressed as a paperboy and carried a poster of an Associated Press story from April 17, 1942, that described hundreds of stalks of bananas that washed up on Jacksonville Beach after a separate attack on a cargo ship in the area.

“We just wanted to show what it was like back then,” Grant said.

Joe Daraskevich: (904) 359-4308

Bank employee leads team of volunteers to spruce up Five Star Veterans Center

By Joe Daraskevich, FL Times Union



The grounds at the Five Star Veterans Center look a lot different than they did five years ago when volunteers from Bank of America first started helping out there

Fresh paint, landscaping and chores as simple as picking up trash have gone a long way toward giving the veterans who live there a sanctuary from the stresses of post-military life.

Other organizations provide similar services throughout the year, said Five Star's Administrative Director Suzie Loving, but anything the facility needed was taken care of by bank employees over three days last week.

"We had about 100 people out here this week running around like a colony of ants," she said Wednesday.

The volunteers put up a retention wall in the parking lot and added fresh coats of paint wherever the building needed touch-ups.

Bettiemae Kitchens coordinated all those people as the leader of Bank of America's Military Support & Assistance Group. She said the company encourages volunteer work by paying employees for up to two hours a week when they volunteer in the community.

"The bank is very involved in volunteer activities," said Martha Barrett, the Jacksonville market manager for Bank of America. "They want people to be out in the community, and we just have wonderful volunteers."

She said the volunteer work is up to the individual and can be anything from coaching youth sports to working at homeless shelters.

Kitchens said she never has any trouble getting people to sign up for the annual event at Five Star.

"The emails just start coming in one after another," Kitchens said. "The event fills up in less than a week."

Kitchens grew up in a patriotic family full of Navy veterans in Pennsylvania and decided to join the Army in 1976. She said her Navy father taught her to respect all veterans, and until she started volunteering at homeless shelters in Jacksonville she had no idea some veterans struggle as much

as they do.

“I never knew about the homeless veteran population until I saw the problem for myself,” Kitchens said. “I thought they were all honored and everyone loved them.”

Five Star is a nonprofit on Acme Street near Atlantic Boulevard that offers housing, meals and a program to re-integrate displaced veterans back into society at a price of just over \$600 a month. Many of the veteran residents pitched in this week to help spruce up the facility.

“It’s good for the veterans who live here to know that people care,” said retired Col. Len Loving, the CEO of Five Star. “Many of the people who have been here as volunteers have really never met a veteran before under the circumstances these young men and women are in.”

Len Loving said when the partnership with Bank of America started five years ago the building was white with blue and red trim.

It was very patriotic, he said, but it wasn’t the most aesthetic building to look at.

Volunteers painted the exterior walls light brown in past years, and this year they worked to add a black trim just below the roof.

Len Loving said Bank of America also helps out with funding and provides cleaning supplies for the center to use all year. And of course, Kitchens volunteers whenever she can outside of the service week.

“She’s been a wonderful addition for us,” Suzie Loving said. “If we have a need for something we can call her and she can help us find it or find someone who can find it for us.”

Kitchens volunteers about 300 hours a year to various veteran causes in the area, but she said she’s built a personal bond with the Lovings because of their “loving” personalities.

To show how much she cares about the people she helps at Five Star, Kitchens ends the three days of work by cooking a spaghetti dinner for everyone involved. She spent about three hours Tuesday night making 200 meatballs by hand.

Residents and volunteers sat down together to eat the meal Wednesday as Kitchens walked around to make sure everyone had enough food.

“It’s my favorite thing of the year, it really is,” she said

From the FL Times Union By Joe Daraskevich

The Special Forces Association chapter in Chicago is named for Maj. Gen. Michael Healy, but the Chicago native called Jacksonville home until his death on Saturday. He was 91.

During an Army career that spanned five decades and two wars, “Iron Mike” Healy earned three Distinguished Service Medals, two Silver Stars, the Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, seven Bronze Stars with Valor and two Purple Hearts among many other accolades. He was the inspiration for John Wayne’s character in the 1968 film “The Green Berets.”



“Despite everything he accomplished, he remained a humble man,” said Sean Healy, one of his six sons. “We always had to brag on him ourselves.” Sean Healy said when people mentioned the military he would ask them if they had heard of the John Wayne movie or of Iron Mike. “If they knew who that was I would let them go on for a while, and then I would say, ‘that’s my dad.’ ”

Sean Healy said his father moved to Jacksonville following his 1981 retirement to be closer to three of his sons — one in Jacksonville, one in Orlando and one in Sarasota.

Dewey Walker, president of Special Forces Association Chapter 88 in Northeast Florida, said the retired general kept such a low profile that he lived in Jacksonville for several years before anyone connected with the organization knew he was here. “I served under him back in the 1970s,” Walker said. “He was a very shy person.”

The son of a Chicago police chief enlisted in the Army as a private in 1945, two months before the end of World War II. He served with the 1st Cavalry Division in Japan before taking command of the 4th Airborne Ranger Company as a lieutenant.

The nickname “Iron Mike” came while he was serving as a young officer leading Army Rangers on combat patrols deep behind enemy lines in Korea in the early 1950s.

Maj. Gen. Healy attended several military schools before being recruited to serve as chief of the Special Warfare Operations and Foreign Intelligence Branch for the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence.

He went to Vietnam in 1963 as a Special Forces colonel and would ultimately serve five tours there over almost eight years. “He was one of the first Americans to go into Vietnam and one of the last to leave,” said retired Sgt. 1st Class Cliff Newman, executive director of the Special Forces Association. “He was just an icon in Special Forces. Everyone knew who he was; and he was just a presence — you knew you were talking to somebody who was somebody.”

Retired Col. Jack Tobin said he served under Maj. Gen. Healy in 1969 as part of the mobile strike group command. Before he took command, there was talk of disbanding the Special Forces, Tobin said. When Maj. Gen. Healy first addressed the men, he told them they were back in business, Tobin remembered.

“That man would move heaven and hell to help you,” Tobin said.

He said the general could look into your eyes knowing he was sending you to almost certain death, but he had a way of letting you know you were the most qualified person for the job and he wanted you to come back alive.

Tobin was once in a room with some younger Special Forces veterans who didn't know who Maj. Gen. Healy was when he found out he hadn't received the honor of joining the Distinguished Member of the Special Forces Regiment.

"I told them, 'The only reason you are sitting here with a green beret on that table is thanks to Iron Mike,' "

Tobin said Tuesday.

Maj. Gen. Healy was given the Distinguished Member of the Special Forces Regiment award at a ceremony in Jacksonville in 2015.

The U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School at Fort Bragg, N.C., said at the time that "He not only ensured the continued sustainment of Special Forces, Psychological Operations and Civil Affairs, but also increased its value. Furthermore, he raised morale and competencies of the soldiers, cadre and students."

"Iron Mike" battled heart problems for many years, his son said, and doctors thought he was going to die several times.

Bruce Pastorini first met the general during one of those hospital stays a few years ago. He said someone from the local Special Forces Association chapter told him Maj. Gen. Healy wasn't doing so well and encouraged him to pay a visit.

He had no idea such a distinguished member of the Special Forces lived nearby. They eventually built a bond so strong that Pastorini and his wife — also devout Catholics — would bring communion to Maj. Gen. Healy on a regular basis.

They often talked about the general's hometown of Chicago and his love for that city's sports teams. He was relieved in 2016 when the Chicago Cubs finally won the World Series, Pastorini said.

"He lived here, but he always loved the city he came from," Pastorini said.

Maj. Gen. Healy is survived by his wife of 67 years, Jacklyn; sons Michael Jr., Daniel, Timothy, Sean, Kirk and Patrick; 10 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

No services will be held in Jacksonville. Family members are coordinating efforts with the Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia for a burial later this year.

"He wasn't a big man, but he was a very, very large man," Tobin said. "Greatness like that is something that doesn't come along very often."

Drew Brooks of the Fayetteville Observer in North Carolina contributed to this report.

Joe Daraskevich: (904) 359-4308

Posted below is the official, flyer (2-page) for our Leo C. Chase Jr Chapter 1084 Golf Tournament, scheduled for 25 May 2018. This date is the Friday before Memorial Day.

Registration is handled online at LandingZoneXrayGolfTournament.com

I request your assistance in spreading the word about our fund-raiser Golf Tournament via your wide and diverse contacts. All proceeds will go to assist those Veterans most in need.

Thank you, John Leslie, President, Vietnam Veterans of America, Leo C Chase Jr. Chapter 1084
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Leo C. Chase Jr. Chapter 1084**
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The Vietnam of America (VVA) Chapter 1084 is a 501(c) (19) Corporation with 86 members, a subset of the Florida State Council (4,500 members), under the umbrella of the National VVA with a membership of 82,000.

An important part of VVA Chapter 1084's purpose is to give back to our veterans and our community. We are involved in many ongoing, seasonal and special programs that our VVA and AVVA members give their time, talent and treasure. Although we are all Vietnam Veterans, we do not limit our volunteer time and available funds to our own generation of veterans. The guiding principle of the VVA is "Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another".

Vietnam Veterans of America Leo C. Chase Jr. Chapter 1084

G O L F T O U R N A M E N T

May 25, 2018

Royal St. Augustine Golf and Country Club



PIN FLAG OR HOLE SPONSORSHIP

Registration Form

Company: _____

Contact: _____

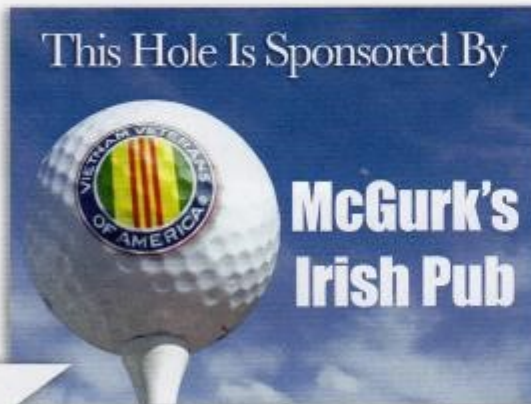
Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Check Sponsorship Hole Sponsor - \$100.00 Pin Flag Sponsor - \$150.00



Sample Hole Sponsor Sign



Sample Pin Flag Sponsor

Imprint Information for Sponsorship Sign/Flag
or E-mail Logo to bogie710@gmail.com

Line One (Company, Organization or Name) _____

Register for Golf at LandingZoneXRayGolfTournament.com

Additional Sponsorships Available

COME CELEBRATE

ARMED FORCES —WEEK—

MILITARY APPRECIATION DAYS

FREE SANDWICH for all active duty service members and veterans.
Thank You For Your Service.



ARMY MON, 5/14



MARINE CORPS TUE, 5/15



NAVY WED, 5/16

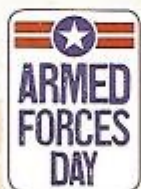


AIR FORCE THU, 5/17



COAST GUARD FRI, 5/18

AN INVITATION FOR ALL ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY & VETERANS



**LUNCH WITH
THE HEROES** SAT, 5/19

11:00AM-2:00PM

Join us for a **FREE SANDWICH** and be sure to arrive
before Noon for our live National Anthem.

MISSION BBQ[®]
The American Way.



The Vietnam Tribute Truck

About The Truck Project

The purpose of the truck project is to attract and locate Vietnam Veterans who need assistance with their post war issues and offer a direction of guidance and hope toward help. There will be a table of brochures with the truck at each appearance to hand to a veteran in need. Personal direction and assistance is also available on site.

Even just the simple act of signing the truck can give the war veteran some recognition, healing and offer a comradely experience that the veteran may not have had in a very long time.

There are thousands of signatures on this truck. It is estimated that about 90% of all of the veterans who have signed the truck have experienced a powerful moment when they signed it. This is a very worthy project that provides direction and hope for our war veterans in need.

Gold Star Families are not forgotten. The tailgate of the truck is also a very sacred place. A Gold Star Family member may sign the name of their fallen warrior on the tailgate of the truck.





Vietnam Helicopter Pilot and Crewmember Monument Dedication Ceremony

**Wednesday, April 18, 2018
4:00 p.m.**

Arlington National Cemetery Section 35

(Adjacent to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier)

Alternate location in case of rain:

Women in Military Service for America Memorial
Memorial Ave & Schley Dr., Arlington, VA

The Vietnam Helicopter Pilot and Crewmember Monument is the fulfillment of efforts commenced in the spring of 2014 by the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association (VHPA) to place a suitable national memorial honoring the sacrifice of all military helicopter crews who perished in the Vietnam War; appropriately remembered as "the Helicopter War."

The monument complements a living tree donated to ANC to honor rotary-wing casualties, and is the only monument known to exist that honors all helicopter casualties from all branches lost in the Vietnam War.



As a convenience to our members looking for "Vietnam War Buddies", VWHOrg has put together several sites and some additional information to assist you. On behalf of VWHOrg, good luck with your search.

Here are some tips to start your search.

Gather some personal information about the person you want to find.

The more, the better as this will make your search easier.

- * Branch of Service they were in (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps or Coast Guard)
 - * Military unit names/location
 - * Dates the person served in the military
 - * Birth date
 - * Service number and/or social security number
 - * Where the person was born or grew up
- * Location of where they entered and or exited the military

<http://www.military.com/buddy-finder/>

<https://www.archives.gov/vete.../locate-service-members.html>

Welcome to the official 2018 NAS Jax Air Show event.

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

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

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

Save the date! More details to come.

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


SAVE THE DATE FOR THE
2018 NAS JAX AIR SHOW!

OCTOBER 27 - 28, 2018


FREE ADMISSION, PARKING & KIDS ZONE



TPC Sawgrass May 8, Military Appreciation Day and Job Fair



MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY





FEATURING A SPECIAL PERFORMANCE
BY COUNTRY MUSIC STAR
LUKE COMBS

TUESDAY, MAY 8 | 5:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.
TPC SAWGRASS, 17TH HOLE

Free admission for all active duty, Reserve and military retirees and their dependents.
Discounted admission for non-career veterans. Youth 18 and younger free with ticketed adult.
Free parking off CR 210 / Palm Valley Rd. Please arrive early to avoid traffic.

MAY 8-13
THEPLAYERS.COM

THE PLAYERS |  |  | 



MILITARY VETERANS' JOB FAIR
AT THE PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE JACKSONVILLE MILITARY VETERANS COALITION

PRESENTED BY UNITED RENTALS

SATURDAY, MAY 5
10:00 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M.
TPC SAWGRASS

Veterans, active duty, reserve, retired military and spouses are invited to a Job Fair featuring local companies actively hiring

LOCATION
In The Patriots' Outpost Military Hospitality Tent located near the 16th Tee of THE PLAYERS Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass

PARKING
Free parking in Lot 6, near TPC Sawgrass Clubhouse

ATTIRE
Business Casual

BRING
Resume copies

THEPLAYERS.COM | **THE PLAYERS** |  |  | 

CAREGIVER COALITION OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA 2018 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

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



HERE'S OUR LINEUP FOR 2018:

"CARING FOR THE CAREGIVER" CONFERENCE

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

CAREGIVER EXPO 2018

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

"CARING FOR THE CAREGIVER" CONFERENCE

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

"CARING FOR THE MILITARY/VETERAN CAREGIVER" CONFERENCE

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



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

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

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





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

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

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



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

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

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

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



We are inviting all veterans to visit our website at:

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

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

Please join our group on Facebook at:
VeteransCouncilofStJohnsCounty,FL

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

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

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

You may have noticed the Veterans Council's new logo, it was created by Roy Havekost and his web design company PageAuthors. The VC strongly recommends that you contact Roy, 904-287-6909, if you or your vet group wants to create a website or Facebook page.

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



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

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



**SURVIVOR
OUTREACH SERVICES**

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

Contact Keith Ham

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

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Michael J. Pelkowski • David D. Naples, Jr.

*Veterans Council of St. Johns County,
“Helping All Veterans”*

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

Send to: mrothfeld@anyveteran.org

Please send to: mrothfeld@anyveteran.org



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(physical location)

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

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

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

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