



The Patriot Reader Newsletter

P.O. Box 2117

St. Augustine, FL 32085

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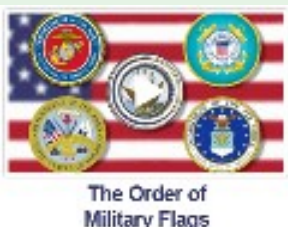
Volume 8, Issue 5

Message from the Chairman

May 2019

Inside this Edition

- Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home
- Jax Ntl. Cemetery Support Committee
- CBOC Update
- WW 2 Navy Flight Nurses
- Angels of the Airfields
- Sen. Rubio visits SJC VSO Office
- Veterans Council 2018 Summary
- The Ride Home New T's
- High Speed Pass Chapel Dedicated
- Korean Conference at UNF
- Honoring 12 Vietnam Veterans
- Vietnam Veterans Observance, Jax Ntl.
- Robert Richmond on TV
- Vietnam Recognition Day, Clay County
- BG Steve Ritchie
- Military Service for unknown Veterans
- A Thank You letter to the Chairman
- Chris Vedrick new FL MOPH Commander
- New Agent Orange Presumptives?
- Jax Pearl Harbor Sailor Identified
- MOPH 524
- New Desert Storm Memorial?
- Most Decorated Vietnam ex POW
- VVA 1084 Members Visit local schools
- MOPH 316 Volusia, Recognized
- VVA 1084 Observes Vietnam Veterans Day
- Local WW II Veterans Celebrates 100 Years
- V4V June 1 Gathering
- Remembering Beirut Bombing
- Ex Senator & Vietnam POW Passes
- VC SJC March Minutes
- Remembering SGT Stubby
- Sending CARE Packages
- Support Jax Special Forces Association



Fellow Veterans:

I hope everyone spent an enjoyable Easter with family and friends on Easter Sunday and able to celebrate this special day in accordance with your faith. On Monday, May 27, 2019, we will pay tribute to our fallen comrades on Memorial Day at the St. Augustine National Cemetery on Marine St. Our speaker for this year's Memorial Day ceremony will be retired Brigadier General (Ret) Valeria Gonzalez-Kerr, FLANG. In addition to the massing of the colors, we will have a cadre of cadets from our schools JROTC, young Marines, Sea Cadets, and CAP units from around the county assisting in the ceremony. Parking is always an issue but the City has graciously agreed to once again relax the yellow curb parking restriction along Marine and Cordova Streets adjacent to the National Cemetery in order to ease the parking. Since it is a public holiday, parking will also be available in the National Guard lots immediately in

front of and behind the main Headquarters Building. The program will begin at 10 AM and will be one hour in duration. Please plan to bring your family and friends and join us to honor those who gave their all in the service of our nation.

The plan for the construction of our new Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) is continuing to progress and if all goes according to plan, we should see the area shovel ready by late July or early August. The tall pole in the tent now is the environmental issues to be resolved with the St. Johns Water Management but these issues seems to be tracking satisfactorily through the system. The Veterans Council was recently notified that we will be allowed to select a name for our CBOC. Names are currently being received from the various veterans groups and a selection will be made by the Veterans Council on 26 April. The naming of the CBOC will have to be approved by the VA and Congress. We will request our Congressional Representative from this District to present a



bill before Congress approving the name. We will keep our veterans informed on the progress of this project.

Once again we find that our Confederate War Memorial is being threatened of being removed from the downtown area. Although the City negotiated an amicable solution to this issue last year, it did not seem to satisfy those who want to see all our veterans' memorials removed and our legacy destroyed. This issue is on the City Commission agenda for the Monday, 22 April meeting and several of us from the Veterans Council will be in attendance to speak before the City Commissioners to defend this sacred artifact of our veteran's history.

Bill Dudley
Chairman
Veterans Council of St. Johns County

Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home



The Golden Egg

Easter at Clyde E Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home



Bingo with the Sea Cadets



Ice Cream Sundaes with Allstate





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

Jacksonville National Cemetery Support Committee Meetings for 2018

At Community Hospice of NE FL.

4266 Sunbeam Rd, Jacksonville, FL 32257

Hadlow Bldg – Conference Room A 7:00pm

DATES OF 2019 SC at JNC MEETINGS

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

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

+++++2018/2019 Officers of the SCJNC+++++

Chairman: Steve Spickelmier

Vice Chairman: Bill Dudley, Treasurer: John Mountcastle

Assistant Treasurer: Michael Rothfeld, Secretary: Kathy Church

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

Historian: Kathy Cayton

Chaplain: Rev. Patrick A. Archuleta, Sr.

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

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

Future meeting Speakers:

April 25, Jessica Bradstreet, Dept. of VA, Local Recovery Coordinator

Chaplain Pat Archuleta, Jesus Loves Veterans Ministries

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

June 27 Bruce Thompson, Vets4Vets Jax

Zahara Veterans Network

July 25 Chris Young, Special Forces Association, NE FL Chapter 88

Florida Military Re-enactor

August 29 Gerald Timoney, Military Museum of N. FL

Crystal Timmons, Veterans Garden Project

From Council Chairman Bill Dudley

Fellow Veterans:

I received an update yesterday from Craig Pasanen, VA Asst. Director, Outpatient Clinics and Planning concerning our St. Augustine VA CBOC. The VA had a meeting with the contractor this week.



The following activities and updates have taken place:

- 1. The St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners have approved the PUD**
- 2. Land acquisition closing date set for end of April**
- 3. Sign identifying new CBOC will be placed on location after closing date**
- 4. Army Corp of Engineers will complete their engineering study by Apr. 12**
- 5. St. Johns Water Management will have comments by 2 May**
- 6. 30 days for any changes after comment period. (SJWMA total period is 60 days)**

Subject to any unusual findings, land should be shovel ready by mid August .

An update meeting will take place on 30 April here in St. Augustine. The Veterans Council will stay abreast of all activities concerning the construction of the VA CBOC and keep our veterans informed during the process

William Dudley, Chairman

Veterans Council of St. Johns County

anuday00@aol.com

World War II Navy Flight Nurses

Do you know of any local WW II Flight Nurses?

*Please let us know as we would like to recognize and Honor their unsung heroics
at our upcoming Veterans Day Event in St. Augustine*

Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley recently received an email from a former class mate asking him if he was aware of the heroic work of the World War II Navy Flight nurses? This piqued Bill's interest and Chairman Dudley and I opened up the history books.

The email was from Maureen Christopher, CDR, NC, USNR, Retired, a former Navy nurse. Though retired as a Navy Commander, she continues her interest in all things military as National Board Co-chair of the oral history committee in the Navy Nurse Corps Association (NNCA) (<http://nnca.org/>). Her committee's primary mission is to preserve the history and legacy of Navy nurses through videotaped oral histories. The videos are then transcribed for research, and possible entry into the Library of Congress. You're most likely aware of their chapters throughout the United States.

In Maureen's mothers class, which was the second class, we only know that she and one other are alive. Ages 96 and 97. Such brave women who hardly spoke of what they did, just knew they were "doing their job!" She never even told us she was in battle of Okinawa.

Maureen's 97 year old mother was one of the original 108 U.S. Navy flight nurses mentioned above. On one of mine and Ken's visits in Colorado, we were discussing her mom and Maureen asked if we'd like to see her mom's video (92 years old at the time) as she spoke about her experiences as a Navy flight nurse during WWII. It seems pretty remarkable that a force as great as America's U.S. Navy only established and trained five elite units, consisting of just 108 U.S. Navy nurses, to airlift injured military from evacuation of wounded military from both Iwo Jima and Okinawa battles to field hospitals in the Pacific. Even more interesting is that those 108 woman seem in sad parallel to our Viet Nam veterans who've only recently begun to be honored for their service.



Another unique item of interest is that they named a darling Warrior canine doggie after my mom Jacqueline, "Jackie". (Golden and Labrador Retrievers) It was voted upon at the Navy nurse (NNCA) convention/ reunion in Seattle last year. I will also send you Mom's story as a reference and there is a Facebook page on Warrior Canine Connection (WCC) which covers "Jackie's" antics every so often! If you punch in Warrior Canine Connection out of Maryland, you can see live cams etc of these wonderful dogs who live with puppy parents after growing a bit bigger and are then given to wounded veterans as service dogs, after 2 years of growth, to help and support them! Great mission!

There are quite a few references to the nurses on the internet: <http://www.med.navy.mil/bumed/nmhistory/Pages/showcase/Innovations/FlightNurses/main.aspx>

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Angels of the Airfields: Navy Air Evacuation Nurses of World War II

By Andre Sobocinski, historian, U.S. Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery

When the Naval Air Transport Service (NATS) R4D broke through the clouds of volcanic dust and smoke to land on Iwo Jima on March 6, 1945, it carried more than whole blood and medical supplies for the wounded.

On board this flight was a 22-year old Navy nurse named Jane Kendeigh, marking the first time in history that a Navy flight nurse appeared on an active Pacific battlefield. Kendeigh may have become a symbol for casualty evacuation and high altitude nursing on that day, but she was far from alone in this daring mission.

From 6 to 21 March 1945, Kendeigh and her fellow flight nurses air evacuated some 2,393 Marines and Sailors from Iwo Jima. Pictures of these first combat nurses show them offering encouragement and comfort to the rows of littered patients along the battlefield runways

In a recent telephone interview, Mary Hudnall, one of the first flight nurses on Iwo, recalled one patient being so grateful of his rescue that he insisted on giving her a memento from the battlefield. "He asked me to take a small medicine bottle and said 'It's sand from Iwo Jima. I don't want you to forget what we did here.'" When he fell asleep she tucked the trinket under his blanket. However, when he awoke he begged her to take it. As of April 2013, Hudnall still had this souvenir and still remembered the sacrifice of the men on Iwo.

By the time of the invasion of Iwo Jima, the concept of air evacuation was nothing new. On 1 September 1942, the joint-service South Pacific Combat Air Transport Command (SCAT) began using cargo planes to evacuate wounded servicemen during the Guadalcanal campaign. These missions were initially free of medical personnel until November 1942, when Navy pharmacists mates were added to flights

In March 1943, SCAT formally established a joint medical section comprised of Army and Navy flight surgeons to supervise and select casualties for air evacuation in theater. Flight nursing first took off when the U.S. Army employed nurses on evacuation missions to North African campaign in December 1942. A year later, in June 1943, the Army formally established the Army Air Force School of Air Evacuation at Bowman Field, KY to offer specialized training for its flight nurses.

Owing to the need for flight nurses in the Pacific war, the Navy established its own School of Air Evacuation Casualties at Naval Air Station Alameda, CA in 1944. Overseeing the school was a former United Airline stewardess and registered nurse named Mary Ellen O'Connor, later dubbed the most "flyingest woman in the world" for her long career aboard airplane. On 10 December 1944, the first class, consisting of 24 Navy nurses and 24 pharmacists mates, commenced.

The eight-week course consisted of lectures and demonstrations on survival training, air evacuation techniques, physiology of flight, first aid with emphasis on shock, splinting/redressing wounds, and treatment of patients in non-pressurized cabins. Students also learned about artificial horizons, and altitude through flight simulation exercises. Hallmark in the course was the intensive 18-hour "watermanship" training organized to simulate conditions of a water landing/crash scenario. The prospective flight nurses were required to swim under water, swim one-mile, and be able to tow victims 440 yards in 10 minutes.

Following graduation in January 1945, 12 of the first flight nurses were sent to Naval Air Station Agana, Guam, to prepare for their first battlefield mission while the others were used to transport casualties in the Continental United States and from the (Territory of) Hawaii. By the end of March, after two more classes graduated from the school, the Navy had 74 trained flight nurses in its employ; almost all would be used for the next big challenge, perhaps the biggest of them all: Okinawa.

The Battle of Okinawa alone accounted for 17 percent of the total Navy and Marine Corps casualties suffered in World War II. Owing to the enormous casualty totals, Okinawa was the largest combat casualty evacuation operation in U.S. military history and marked the first time the Navy evacuated more



casualties by air than sea. Unsung heroes in this campaign, the Navy flight nurses, now using larger R5D which could accommodate up to sixty patient litters, would help evacuate some 11,771 to Guam.

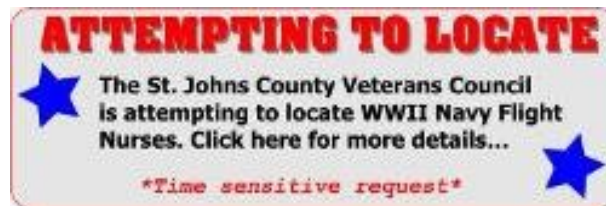


After Okinawa, many of the flight nurses were used to repatriate Prisoners of War from the Philippines to Guam. A few who stayed in service years after the war would participate in the Berlin Airlift.

Owing to a longstanding ban on marriage that was renewed after the war, the choice of service and family was not possible for flight nurses and most left the Navy.

Today, the story of the brave women of Iwo Jima and Okinawa remains a footnote in most histories of military nursing; they never achieved any medals for their service let alone much notoriety. Then again, most would say that they were just happy doing their jobs.

As ENS Jane Kendeigh would remark about her service: “our rewards are smiles, a slow nod of appreciation, a gesture, a word, accolades greater, more heart-warming than any medal.”



Do you know of any WWII Navy Flight Nurses living locally in our area? If you do, please notify the St. Johns County Veterans Council, thank you.

Please contact Council Secretary Michael Rothfeld

rothfeldm@gmail.com

Senator Rubio visits the St. Augustine Veterans Service Office



Photos by Michael Isam

Mission Statement:

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



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

What the Council has done:

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

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The Veterans Council's 2018 Activities

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

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

Honoring and Remembering Veterans

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

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

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



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



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

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



Informing Veterans

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

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

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

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

Presentations and Donations

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

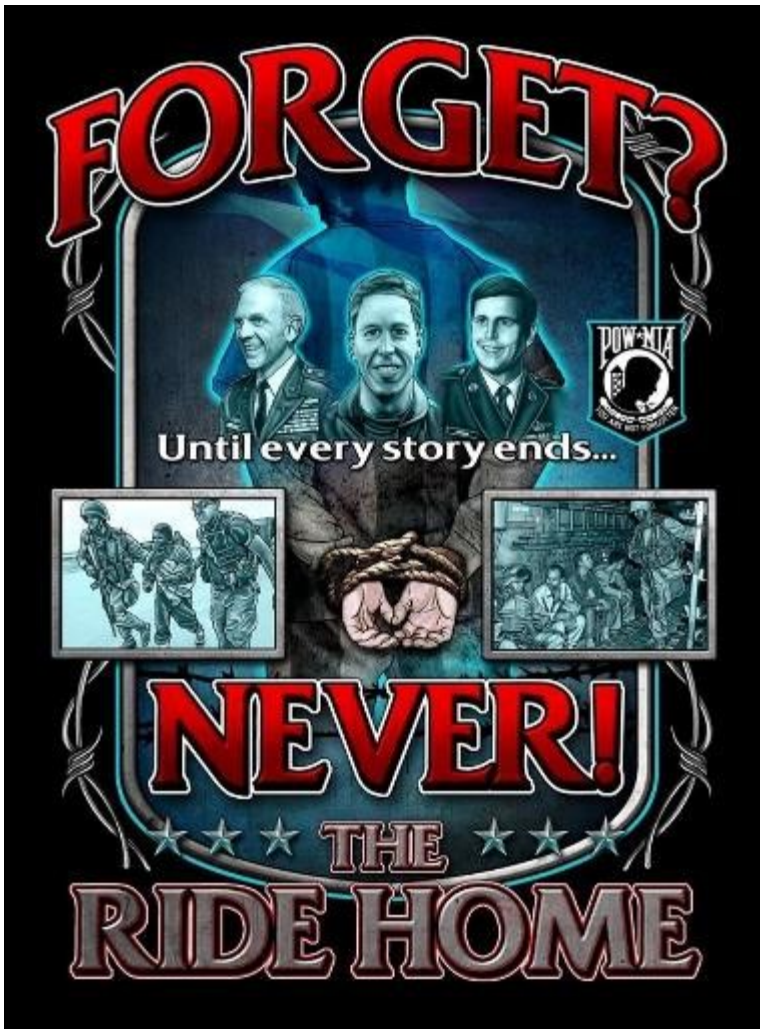
The Council donated its 5 documentary series to the **Veterans Museum in Daytona Beach** and to **Vet Stream TV** which made the documentaries free to its national audience. The Veterans Council took part in the **Active & Senior Boomer Expo** held at the St. Augustine Mall and provided veterans information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

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

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



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



Left- Colonel F. James Thompson -	26 March 1964 - 16 March 1973
Right - E-5 USAF Bill Robinson -	20 Sept 1965 - 12 February 1973
Center- Captain Scott Speicher -	17 January 1991 - 14 August 2009
Left Middle - <u>Spc. Shoshana Johnson</u>	23 March 2003 - 13 April 2003
Right Middle - <u>Spc. Edgar Hernandez</u>	23 March - 13 April 2003
PFC Patrick Miller	23 March - 13 April 2003
<u>Sgt. James Riley</u>	23 March - 13 April 2003
<u>Spc. Joe 'Gump' Hudson</u>	23 March - 13 April 2003

2019 shirts! \$25. each (includes shipping)

We do NOT have web master so please do snail mail,
shirts are not on pay pal merchandise yet!

Short sleeve red or black. Long sleeve sports grey.

The Ride Home

3818 Litchfield Loop

Lake Wales, Fl. 33859

Dedication of the Chapel of the High Speed Pass at Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial



The Korean Conference at UNF

The First Annual Conference: Korean War Remembrance was hosted by the University of North Florida and Community Hospice Veterans Partnership.

Captain Bob Buehn, US Navy, (Ret), UNF's Director of Military Veterans Resource Center and Chairman of the Community Hospice Veterans Partnership and Char Miller, Director of Marketing and Communications (CHVP), served as the hosts for this event.

The Keynote speaker was Chairman Ik Koon Chang, National Unification Advisory Council of the Republic of Korea.

The Jacksonville Korean Community was very involved in the event. Young Kim, President of the Jacksonville Korean Community served on the panel as did three members of the Korean War Veterans Association. The veterans spoke about their service in Korea and Sgt Kim spoke about his youth in Korea during war time.

Veterans Council of St. Johns County's Chairman Bill Dudley served as panel moderator and led the Q & A afterwards.

What I remember most, and will take away from this Conference was the quote from panelist Young Kim, current President of the Korean Association of Jacksonville's, he said "Thank You, We Remember". I will not forget that remark.

The Korean Community provided entertainment in the form of Korean costumed women and three young Korean drummers.

We are all looking forward to the next UNF/Hospice hosted event next year.



The Ceremony at St Augustine National Cemetery to honor the 12 Vietnam veterans interred there was cancelled due to flooding, but they were not forgotten.

Pictured VVA State VP John McGinty, Cemetery Directory Al Richburg and Veterans Council Chairman William Dudley



2019 "Salute Across America" Tour

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

.....

Honoring the Importance of Sacrifice, Honor, Courage & Patriotism

Purpose of Tour:

* Show Appreciation to Our Nations Heroes

* Inspire Patriotism, Community & Camaraderie



Vietnam Veterans Observance Ceremony at the Jacksonville National Cemetery



ON YOUR SIDE: Guam Agent Orange survivor fights for his benefits

Robert Richmond was in the OA division while stationed on Guam. He is now part of the group Agent Orange Survivors of Guam. Author: Kenneth Amaro

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — It's been decades since the Vietnam conflict. Now, a number of veterans who served in that theater are working to get the recognition they deserve.

"We've been told for the last 40 years there was no Agent Orange on Guam, we've got pictures of it," said Robert Richmond.

The war was a long, costly and divisive conflict; 3 million killed including more than 58,000 Americans. Richmond survived and carries what he calls the wounds of his service.

"I've only got 15 percent of my heart left," Richmond said. "I had my thyroid taken out."

Richmond was in the OA division while stationed on Guam. He is now part of the group Agent Orange Survivors of Guam.

"(We had) 55-gallon drums, hundreds of them up there, it was used all over the island," he said. "I sprayed that stuff."

The group is fighting to get recognition.

"We didn't have any choice in what we did or where we went," he said.

A bill was recently introduced in Congress recognizing Agent Orange Survivors of Guam. Richmond said the problem is it does not cover those before January 1962. He left Guam November 1961

"Why are the rest of us getting treated like red headed step children?" asked Richmond.



A Vietnam Veterans Day Ceremony was held Saturday at the TAPS Monument in Green Cove Springs. The observance honored the sacrifices of Vietnam-era veterans and their families. It was hosted by the Vietnam Veterans of America Col. William G. Bryns Chapter 1059 and the Clay County Commission.

Clay honors Vietnam veterans and their families

By Teresa Stepzinski

GREEN COVE SPRINGS | “Welcome Home.” Two simple words packed with powerful emotion. Words seldom heard, if at all, by many of America’s sons and daughters as they returned home from the Vietnam War.

Saturday, those words were spoken. Handshakes and hugs were given to Clay County Vietnam veterans and their families who sacrificed so much during what would be one of the longest wars in the history of the United States.

The inaugural Vietnam Veterans Day Ceremony welcomed home an estimated 300 veterans and their families at the TAPS Monument on the grounds of the historic Clay County courthouse, 915 Walnut St. County elected officials as well as other dignitaries also attended the ceremony.

Open to all veterans, their families and the public, the ceremony was hosted by Vietnam Veterans of America Col. William G. Bryns Chapter 1059 and Clay County Commission. The ceremony also honored the 21 fallen Vietnam-era from Clay County.

“We should have been recognized a long time ago, and we should be recognized every day, to tell the truth, like every veteran should be recognized every day, and not just on Veterans Day,” said David Treffinger, president of the chapter which has 146 members. The veterans group welcomes those who served in Vietnam between Feb. 28, 1961, and May 7, 1975, or in any duty location between Aug. 5, 1964, and May 7, 1975.

Treffinger said it was an important day because Vietnam veterans should be recognized, although some shun attention because of their experiences during the war as well as challenges — physical and emotional, and hostility from the public — afterward as they returned to civilian life.

“We sacrificed like everybody in the military has sacrificed,” said Treffinger, noting that in

general the veterans are becoming more comfortable with letting people know they served in the war.

Some, however, still shun such recognition, he said. “That we are not to be forgotten,” replied Treffinger when asked what he and other Vietnam veterans to know about them.

Retired U.S. Air Force Col. William “Bill” G. Byrns of Fleming Island — the chapter’s name-sake — was the keynote speaker. A former Vietnam prisoner of war, he was shot down by anti-aircraft fire May 23, 1972, while on a mission over North Vietnam. He was taken prisoner and spent 309 days in captivity before being released during Operation Homecoming on March 28, 1973.

After being hospitalized for injuries he received from being shot down, Byrns returned to flying status as an instructor pilot on the F-4E in 1978.

Byrns served two tours in Vietnam. He later flew six F16-C missions in Desert Storm. He has over 4,200 hours of flying with 894 combat hours over 428 combat missions during two wars. His father had been in the military, and their family was “very unapologetic’ about being patriotic, he said of his decision to enter the Air Force.

As a POW, Byrns endured torture and beatings at the hands of his captors.

“Forty-six years and two days ago, I received my freedom back from man. This was a case where man could take my freedom away, my physical freedom. They hadn’t taken my mental freedom but they’d taken my physical freedom,” he said of being a POW. He was among the next-to-last group of prisoners released by the North Vietnamese, he said.

Back then, he said his release came as the result of President Richard Nixon ordering bombers to take off immediately if the prisoners weren’t freed. His captors complied as a result of Nixon’s threat, Byrns said.

“I really felt like a weight was lifted off my back when I stepped onto free soil in the Philippines. I physically felt that. That’s oppression,” he said. “Then, I released what makes America great. It’s freedom. It’s liberty. And we can keep it if we decide to. And we can give it up if we decide to, or if we go to sleep.”

Byrns said his Christian faith sustained him during his captivity.

Green Cove Springs, Clay County honors its Vietnam Veterans on Vietnam Recognition Day



Brig. Gen. Steve Ritchie and the Rescue of Roger Locher

Brig. Gen Steve Ritchie tells the amazing story of the rescue of downed pilot Roger Locher in Vietnam in 1972. In that same year Ritchie volunteered for his second tour in Southeast Asia and was assigned to the 432nd Tactical Reconnaissance Wing at Udorn, Thailand. Flying an F-4D with the famous 555th ("Triple Nickel") Tactical Fighter



Squadron, he became the only Air Force jet ace by downing a MiG-21 on May 10, another on May 31, two on July 8 and his last on Aug. 28. After completing 339 combat missions totaling more than 800 flying hours, Ritchie returned as one of the most highly decorated pilots of the war, having received the Air Force Cross, four Silver Stars, 10 Distinguished Flying Crosses and 25 Air Medals. His combat expertise brought him the 1972 "Mackay Trophy" for the most significant Air Force mission of the year (along with Capt. Jeff Feinstein and Charles DeBellevue), the Air Force Academy's 1972 Colonel James Jabara Award for Airmanship, and the 1972 Armed Forces Award, presented by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. In 1973 he was selected as one of the "Outstanding Young Men of America," and in 1974 he received the Eugene Zuckert Award from the Civil Air Patrol.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QvRcP4go-eg&feature=share>

Full military honors for veterans whose remains were left unclaimed

Twenty-five American veterans finally received proper burials on Saturday, after their cremated remains had gone unclaimed by relatives and others — even for decades.

After the playing of taps, the folding of flags and the singing of “God Bless America,” a mahogany urn for each veteran was placed inside a columbarium at the South Florida National Cemetery west of Lake Worth.

The burial with full military honors marked the 19th time unclaimed veterans were given a final resting place in Florida, said Kathy Church, coordinator for the state chapter of the Missing in America Project. “These veterans signed the blank check and gave everything for us to have our freedom,” she told the South Florida Sun Sentinel. “It’s the right thing to do.”

The names of each veteran were read aloud during the service, including 14 who served in the Army, five from the Air Force, four from the Navy and two who were Marines. They served the nation during World War II, and wars in Korea, Vietnam and the Persian Gulf, as well as in peacetime. The veterans included 24 men and one woman. One veteran’s remains had been unclaimed since 1975, and the others died in every decade to follow, Church said.

Army veteran Jeff Garten told WPEC-Ch. 12 that it was especially nice to see the tributes given after such a long time.

“You can imagine how long these veterans laid in a funeral home, house, even a garage” says Garten. “However, at least now they have been found and they are properly honored for their service.”

Church said there are a variety of reasons why the veterans’ remains were never buried until now. Some died poor, others died without any close relatives, and some whose family couldn’t be located.

For this ceremony, Missing in America Project-Florida was assisted by: Dignity Memorial’s Kraeer Funeral Home at Forest Lawn Memorial Gardens in Pompano Beach; Broward Burial and Cremation in Fort Lauderdale; and the Miami-Dade County Medical Examiner Department.

Motorcycle deputies with the Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Office led a procession to the cemetery.

Church said a similar service is planned at the cemetery in June, which would be the 10th such event. For more information, email Church at miapjax@yahoo.com.

All residents will be invited, keeping with the mission to “provide honor, respect and dignity to those who have served this country by securing a final resting place for these forgotten heroes.”



Material from WPEC-Ch. 12, a news partner of the South Florida Sun Sentinel, was used in this report.

mjfreeman@sun-sentinel.com

To our Chairman

Bill,

Thanks for sending me your report to the task force. I cannot thank you and the St. Johns County Veterans Council enough for the support you have given to the POW/MIA Memorial and Museum project and especially the restoration project of the Chapel. Your team has stepped up to the plate in every aspect of this endeavor. Thank you Colonel for your support and generosity. BTW, I apologize for not mentioning the piano and organ donation. Seems I got a little off track on acknowledgements. I do hope you enjoyed the dedication service.

Blessings

Rev. Patrick A. Archuleta Sr.

Chaplain

Cecil Field POW*MIA Memorial, Inc.

Chapel of The High Speed Pass

chaplain@powmiamemorial.org

Jesus Loves Veterans Ministries, Inc.

(904) 616-0327 jesuslovesveterans.com



President Rod Phillips presents awards to ROTC Cadet Juan O'Neal at the ROTC Eagle Battalion 2019 Awards Ceremony on April 11, 2019

The Veterans Council congratulates Christopher Vedvick on being elected as the new Commander of the Department of Florida Military Order of the Purple Heart!

I am very humbled to be elected as the first Post 9/11 Veteran to serve as Commander of Department of Florida Military Order of the Purple Heart.



It is my passion in life to assist Veterans and their families and I will ensure that I use this position to make a positive impact on those Veterans here in Florida.

Thank you to my wife Tiffany Farrall Vedvick and my family for always supporting my work with Veterans. I'd also like to thank Bob Puskar, Grateful Veteran, William F Weldon, William Smith, Eddie Harrison, and Lee Brown for their mentorship and guidance within the Military Order of the Purple Heart. Thanks also to Ernie T. Rivera for all of his tireless work on my behalf.

VA to Announce Decision on New Agent Orange Presumptive Conditions

Military.com | By Patricia Kime

Three years after a scientific body recommended that the Department of Veterans Affairs consider adding three conditions -- bladder cancer, hypothyroidism and Parkinson's-like symptoms -- to the list of qualifying diseases tied to Agent Orange, affected veterans may soon find out whether they are eligible for disability compensation and VA health care.

During a Senate Veterans Affairs hearing Tuesday on the VA budget, Dr. Richard Stone, the executive in charge of the Veterans Health Administration, said a decision on the three illnesses likely would come in the next 90 days.

Responding to a question from Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, Stone said the VA is working "through this right now, and it would be my hope" to have a decision within three months. He added that the recommendation will go to VA Secretary Robert Wilkie for final approval.

"It's took this country far too long to come to terms with Agent Orange," Brown said.

Related content:

[VA to Drop Fight Against Blue Water Navy Veterans](#)

[Court Decides 'Blue Water' Navy Vets Should Be Eligible for Agent Orange Benefits](#)

[House Launches Renewed Push for Blue Water Navy Bill](#)

In March 2016, the National Academy of Medicine found evidence that two conditions, bladder cancer and hypothyroidism, are likely linked to Agent Orange exposure and that a third condition, Parkinson-like symptoms, also should be included on the list of diseases presumed to be related to contact with the herbicide.

The announcement brought hope to thousands of veterans living with bladder cancer and thyroid problems, as well as those who have essential tremors and other symptoms similar to Parkinson's, but who haven't been diagnosed with the disease.

In late 2017, former VA Secretary Dr. David Shulkin said he had made a decision on whether to add the three conditions to the list of 14 Agent Orange-related illnesses, but it was never announced.

In November 2018, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine also released a report finding sufficient evidence to link high blood pressure with exposure to Agent Orange.

High blood pressure, or hypertension, previously had been designated as having limited or suggestive evidence that it is related to contact with Agent Orange. A National Academies committee, having reviewed new studies, upgraded the association to say there is "sufficient" evidence that ties the disease to exposure.

But high blood pressure is so common among older Americans that it has never been added to the presumptive list, even though the suggested evidence shows it may be tied to exposure.

Brown did not ask about hypertension, and Stone did not volunteer any information on whether the VA is reviewing the most recent National Academies report.

The U.S. military sprayed millions of gallons of herbicides, including Agent Orange, in Vietnam to clear the jungle of foliage that obscured enemy movements.

More than 2.7 million veterans served in Vietnam. Veterans with health conditions connected to serving on the ground in Vietnam and inland waterways are eligible for health care and compensation from the VA.

Jacksonville sailor who died at Pearl Harbor finally accounted for 77 years after his death, Herbert Poindexter to be buried in his hometown

By Steve Patrick - News4Jax

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. - A 24-year-old Jacksonville man serving aboard the USS Oklahoma on Dec. 7, 1941 -- the day the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor -- was finally accounted for last fall, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced Monday.



Navy Seaman 1st Class Herbert J. Poindexter died in the initial attack that led to American's involvement in World War II.

The USS Oklahoma sustained multiple torpedo hits, which caused it to quickly capsize and resulted in the deaths of 429 crewmen, including Poindexter.

From December 1941 to June 1944, Navy personnel recovered the remains of the deceased crew, which were subsequently interred in the Halawa and Nu'uanu Cemeteries.

In September 1947, tasked with recovering and identifying fallen U.S. personnel in the Pacific Theater, members of the American Graves Registration Service disinterred the remains of U.S. casualties from the two cemeteries and transferred them to the Central Identification Laboratory at Schofield **Barracks**.

The laboratory staff was only able to confirm the identifications of 35 men from the USS Oklahoma at that time. In October 1949, a military board classified those who could not be identified as non-recoverable, including Poindexter.

Between June and November 2015, DPAA personnel exhumed the USS Oklahoma Unknown remains for analysis. To identify Poindexter's remains, scientists from the agency used dental and anthropological analysis and the Armed Forces Medical Examiner System used mitochondrial DNA analysis. 14

still unaccounted for from World War II. Poindexter's name is recorded on the Courts of the Missing, along with the others who are missing from WWII. A rosette will be placed next to Poindexter's name to indicate he has been accounted for.

Chapter 524 is at Plantation on Crystal River, enjoying the annual Department of Florida Military Order of the Purple Heart Convention.



We are here to conduct the business of helping Veterans and their families throughout Florida but we take the time to enjoy each other's company and share ideas with Military Order of the Purple Heart members from all across the state



Congress exploring flying POW/MIA flag everyday



WASHINGTON (Gray DC) -- The POW/MIA flag may become more prominent in America.

Senators are exploring the idea of flying that flag year-round.

Anne Mills-Griffiths, the CEO of the National League of POW/MIA Families, said she supports the idea. "There are 1,589 Americans that are still unaccounted for or missing from the Vietnam War," she said. More than 40 years after the Vietnam War ended, Mills-Griffiths is continuing her mission to bring closure to the families of those service members who were never found.

She leads the National League of POW-MIA Families, the group that created the flag in 1972.

Mills-Griffiths said, "Our objective then was to improve the treatment of POWs."

The POW-MIA flag flies over federal buildings on six days a year that are specifically tied to U.S. veterans and military service, such as Memorial Day and the Fourth of July. Senator John Thune (R-SD) is supporting a bipartisan bill to fly the flag every single day over buildings like the U.S. Capitol and local post offices.

"POW-MIA families veterans in this country and their families deserve to be recognized that way. All too often they get overlooked," Thune said.

Authors H. Bruce Franklin and Rick Holmes question the original intent of the flag and don't want to see it fly every day over places like the U.S. Capitol.

They say there are better ways to honor service members, like with a symbol of peace, or just simply with the American flag flying by itself. In the Senate, three Republicans and four Democrats are supporting the bill to fly the flag year-round.



**Vietnam and all Veterans
of Brevard**

Present:

Florida's 32nd Annual Vietnam and All Veterans Reunion

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

May 9th – 12th

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

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



THE SOME GAVE ALL MOVING TRIBUTE

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

floridaveteransreunion.com

Wickham Park

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Melbourne, FL

No Coolers, Glass or Pets allowed
in the Reunion Area

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

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



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

Vendor call 321-652-4185
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RaRusso1962@gmail.com
Candy1540@yahoo.com
Club Escort Lineup Info
vybreunionescort@gmail.com

Desert Storm vets to get their own memorial by Julia LeDoux

The National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial is one step closer to becoming a reality in the nation's capital. A site dedication ceremony was held this week at its location near the Lincoln Memorial.



“This war memorial is for each and every one of us,” said Scott C. Stump, CEO and president of the National Desert Storm War Memorial Association, which is in the process of raising money to construct the monument and finalizing its concept and design.

According to Stump, \$2.5 million of the \$34 million that is needed to build the memorial has been raised.

On Aug. 2, 1990, Iraq invaded Kuwait, leading to the formation of an international coalition of 34 nations led by the United States. The coalition sought to liberate Kuwait from Iraq's control through first political and when that failed military means. When Iraq did not meet a Jan. 15, 1991 United Nations mandate to leave Kuwait, a four-week aerial bombardment campaign began. That was followed by a 100-hour ground offensive that restored Kuwaiti sovereignty.

More than 380 coalition troops were killed during the operations, including 148 American service members.

“Although remembering our fallen is of utmost importance, this will not be a place of mourning,” he continued. “Instead, the efforts and achievements of Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield will be remembered and celebrated through the memorial.”

Speakers at the dedication ceremony included former Vice President Dick Cheney, who served as defense secretary during Desert Storm and Desert Shield.

“Desert Storm was so swift and certain in its result that to some, in retrospect, it looked almost easy,” he said.

The memorial itself is designed to resemble an arc and the structure itself will be made of limestone. Stump hopes it is completed before Veterans Day 2021.



DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY FACT OF THE WEEK



DPAA just completed the **largest Joint U.S.-Vietnam Field Activity (JFA)** to ever be conducted in the 30-year history of such operations between the two countries.



The JFA involved **139 DoD personnel**, along with members of DPAA's Vietnam counterpart organization, the Vietnamese Office for Seeking Missing Persons (VNOSMP). The JFA members divided into teams and dispersed to **nine land sites and one underwater site**.



The VNOSMP was established in the aftermath of the 1973 Paris Peace Accords. Since then, the US-Vietnam relationship to account for our missing personnel has matured into a full-fledged partnership, commemorated **1,246** last December by a dinner in Hanoi attended by senior Vietnamese and U.S. officials marking **30 years of sustained operations**.



DPAA conducts four JFAs each year in Vietnam seeking to find information and recover material related to the **1,246 U.S. personnel who remain missing in Vietnam** from the Vietnam War. This work in Vietnam is part of DPAA's effort to account for a total of **1,589 U.S. personnel who remain missing throughout Indochina from the Vietnam War**.

From the VA

Air Force Pilot, Vietnam POW Becomes Most Decorated Veteran Since MacArthur

The National Cemetery Administration (NCA) honors and recognizes our Vietnam Era Veterans and their families during our Nation's commemoration of the anniversary of the Vietnam War. VA, along with more than 9,000 organizations across the country, joined with the Department of Defense as a commemorative partner to help Americans honor our nation's Vietnam Veterans.



Today we recognize Medal of Honor recipient, Air Force Col. George E. "Bud" Day Sr. Day served in three wars including WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. To date, he is the only person to receive both the Medal of Honor and Air Force Cross. Day was shot down by enemy ground fire while flying over North Vietnam. Day was shot down by enemy ground fire while flying a top-secret mission over North Vietnam and Laos on Aug. 26, 1967. Day shattered his arm in three places and injured his back, knee, and eye when he struck the cockpit during ejection.

He was captured by enemy forces and taken to a prison camp where he was interrogated and tortured repeatedly. Day managed to escape after just five days of imprisonment. He successfully evaded enemy patrols by hiding in the dense jungles and surviving on a diet of wild berries and uncooked frogs.

Day made it as far as 25 miles from the camp before being discovered by Viet Cong, who shot him in the hand and thigh before recapturing him. He spent 67 months in captivity and was subsequently released on March 14, 1973 after the U.S. agreed to withdraw from the war.

On October 29, 1974, Day was awarded the Air Force Cross, "for extraordinary heroism in military operations against an opposing armed force as a Prisoner of War in North Vietnam." Later, on March 6, 1976, President Gerald Ford presented Day with the Medal of Honor. The citation reads, "His personal bravery in the face of deadly enemy pressure was significant in saving the lives of fellow aviators who were still flying against the enemy."

Day received more than 70 military decorations during his career, 50 of which were earned during combat. Day is often referred to as being the most decorated U.S. service member since Gen. Douglas MacArthur. Day died July 27, 2013 at the age of 88. He is interred at Barranca's National Cemetery, section 51, site 30.

Authorized by Congress, established under the Secretary of Defense, and launched by the President in May 2012, the Vietnam War Commemoration recognizes all men and women who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces from Nov. 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975. Nine million Americans served during this period, and the Commemoration makes no distinction between Veterans who served in-country, in-theater, or were stationed elsewhere during those 20 years. All answered the call of duty. Throughout the year, NCA will participate in honoring Vietnam Veterans, with a special emphasis during the week of March 23 – March 31, 2019.

VVA 1084 visits Pacelli Bay Middle School on Vietnam Veterans Day



From NewsTarget: **U.S. finally admits Agent Orange residue poisoned its own soldiers**

After decades of denial, the Department of Veteran Affairs finally acknowledged that Monsanto's Agent Orange, a herbicide sprayed across Vietnam during the war, was responsible for the health ailments of over 2,100 Air Force servicemen.

Federal officials have agreed to release over \$45 million in disability benefits to Air Force active duty personnel and reservists who were exposed to Agent Orange from residue off C-123 aircraft, despite never having been to Vietnam.



The admission follows an Institute of Medicine study that concluded that "some C-123 reservists stationed in Ohio, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts had been exposed to Agent Orange residues in the planes and suffered higher risks of health problems as a result," according to a report from ABC. "Opening up eligibility for this deserving group of Air Force veterans and reservists is the right thing to do," said VA Secretary Bob McDonald in a statement.

The toxicity of Agent Orange: According to the non-partisan Aspen Institute in Washington D.C., Agent Orange was a herbicide used by the military to defoliate the Vietnamese jungle and expose Vietnam Cong and North Vietnamese troops using the jungle as a cover to move men and material to South Vietnam. Even though its use ended decades ago, the toxic contaminant of Agent Orange, dioxin, did not degrade as readily and is still causing health problems in Vietnam.

"The Red Cross estimates that three million Vietnamese have been affected by dioxin, including at least 150,000 children born with serious birth defects," said the Institute. "Millions of Americans and Vietnamese are still affected, directly and indirectly, by the wartime U.S. spraying of Agent Orange and other herbicides over southern and central Vietnam."

Monsanto is still in business



**Military Order of the Purple Heart Volusia County Chapter 316
Recognized at the 74th Annual
Department of Florida Military Order of the Purple Heart State Convention**



Crystal River, FL~April 10-14, 2019~Military Order of the Purple Heart Volusia County Chapter 316 (MOPH 316) was among many other chapters who were recognized for their outstanding accomplishments over the past year. MOPH CH 316, represented by Commander Rolf Mattar, Denise Mattar and Senior Vice Commander Rod Phillips were extremely proud to receive the “Runner Up Chapter of the Year” award for the chapters dedication to the MOPH Department of Florida, helping veterans, increased membership, Community Outreach, supporting our local Vet Center and VA Clinic, “Purple Heart Trail” dedications, Chapter Newsletter, taking on the challenge of bringing a Purple Heart Monument to Volusia County and much, much more.

**Top Left: L-R PH 316 Cmdr. Rolf Mattar and Past State Commander Jack Brunton
Top Right: L-R MOPH Nat’l Inspector Richard Hunt, DFMOPH Chief of Staff Ernie Rivera Sr., Cmdr. Rolf Mattar and Senior Vice Commander Rod Phillips**

For more information contact: Senior Vice Commander Rod Phillips 386.690.9553

Department of Florida Military Order of the Purple Heart Commander Christopher Vedvick pre-



sented the Military Order of the Purple Heart Leadership award to University of North Florida ROTC Cadet Anya Rambaram.

Cadet Rambaram demonstrated her excellence in leadership this year and always held herself accountable for her unit and sacrificed her time in order to achieve mission success at all levels. — with Christopher Vedvick and Military Order of the Purple Heart, USA.

VVA 1084 Observance of Vietnam Veterans Day at the Corazon Cinema in St. Augustine

The Corazon Cinema and Cafe was the venue for the 50th Anniversary Vietnam War Commemoration Ceremony. The keynote Speaker was LT COL (RET) Barry Bridger, who was a prisoner at the Hanoi Hilton for over 6 years. His message was powerful and thought provoking. Authorized by Congress, established under the Secretary of Defense, and launched by the President in May 2012, the Vietnam War Commemoration recognizes all men and women who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces from Nov. 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975. Nine million Americans served during this period, and the Commemoration makes no distinction between Veterans who served in-country, in-theater, or were stationed elsewhere during those 20 years. All answered the call of duty. This year NCA will participate in honoring Vietnam Veterans during the week of March 23 – March 31, 2019. During the event there was a presentation of Certificates of Honor.



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

SECOND ANNUAL MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

May 24, 2019

Royal St. Augustine Golf and Country Club



JOIN US FOR THE SECOND ANNUAL
Vietnam Veterans of America Golf Tournament
to support the Vietnam Veterans of America Leo C. Chase Jr. Chapter 1084

- \$100 per player, \$400 per team
- Limited to 112 Players
- 8:30 am Shotgun Start



Thanks to Our Sponsor

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS OF ALL GENERATIONS AND FOR THE GOOD OF OUR COMMUNITY OF ST JOHNS COUNTY AND NORTHEAST FLORIDA

Format

- 4-person scramble
- 9 Par 3 and 9 Regulation Holes
- 9 Golfer Closest to Pin on Par 3 Hole
Qualify for \$10k Shootout

Hole in One Prizes include

- \$10k Cash, TV, Golf Clubs
and Gift Cards



Register for Golf at <http://www.vva1084golf.com>

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".

SECOND ANNUAL MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

An updated Prize List for the subject Golf Tournament on 24 May 2019 at the Royal St Augustine Golf and Country Club to include the following:



Event:

Putting Contest – One round at the Slammer and Squire

4-Person Scramble

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------|
| 1st place low gross | Foursome San Jose CC |
| 2nd place low gross | Foursome Palencia CC |
| 3rd place low gross | Foursome Royal St. Augustine |

Hole-In-One Shootout \$10,000

Closest to the Pin Shootout

- | | |
|-----|------------------------------|
| 1st | Foursome Dye's Valley Course |
| 2nd | TPC Stadium Course for 2 |
| 3rd | TPC Stadium Course for 1 |
| | 4th TBD |
| | 5th TBD |
| | 6th TBD |
| | 7th TBD |
| | 8th TBD |
| 9th | Foursome Royal St. Augustine |

The St. Augustine VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic was abuzz with activity as preparations for a special event was underway.

“It is not often we get to celebrate one of our Veterans turning 100 years of age,” said Dr. Thomas McKenzie, Clinic Administrator.

Nearly 30 doctors, nurses, family and friends came to wish Army veteran George Rackard Sr. a “Happy Birthday!”

Rackard, a fiercely religious man, said he gives credit for his longevity to being blessed by God, whom he thanks every day.

The staff shared presents and cards with him and he received a commemorative coin from Ray Quinn, SGM (ret'd), Vice-Chairman of the Veterans Council of St. Johns County.

By Michael Isam



The largest regular gathering of Veterans in the state of Florida. Free parking, entry, exhibitor tables, and lunch. Over 75 exhibitors/resources will be on hand to provide you with information on what they do and how they might be of service to you. Also, a speaker program to discuss vital issues here in the Northeast Florida region.

Save the Date
V4V
Vets 4 Vets

Quarterly Gathering of Veterans
Saturday, June 1st, 2019

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

1000 – 1100
Coffee, Networking and Exhibitors

1100 – 1200
Speakers

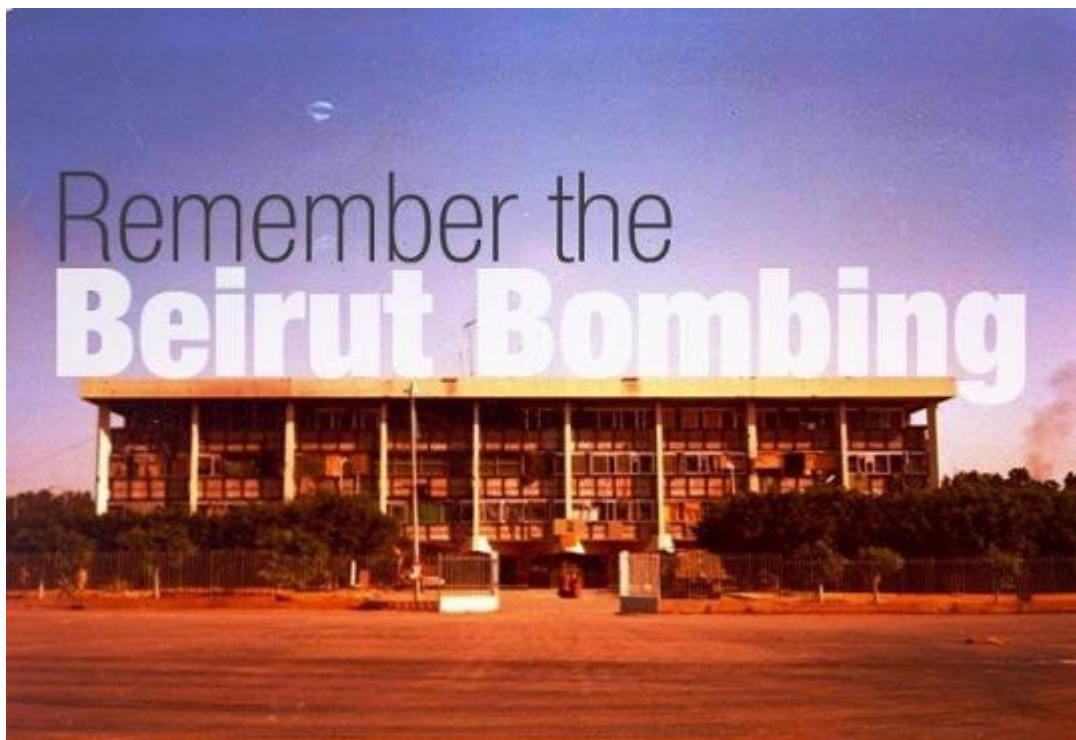
1200 – 1300
Free Lunch, Networking and Exhibitors

Listen, Learn, and
Let your Voice be Heard

TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER!!

The time has come to recognize the service and sacrifice of those who served in and died as part of the Multinational Forces in Beirut, Lebanon with a memorial monument. With your support, we hope to raise \$12,000 which will enable us to place a monument at Evergreen Cemetery. This new memorial monument will honor the 241 U.S. Marines, Navy Corpsmen and Soldiers of BLT 1/8 who lost their lives in the Marine Barracks terrorist bombing on October 23, 1983.

**Make checks payable to Semper Fidelis Society,
Attn: Beirut Memorial, PO Box 28188, Jacksonville,
FL 32226**



Ex-senator and Vietnam POW who blinked "torture" in Morse code dies

Prisoner of war Jeremiah Denton declared his loyalty to the U.S. government during a 1966 interview for what was supposed to be a propaganda film. But his enraged captors missed his more covert message: "T-O-R-T-U-R-E," blinked into the camera in Morse code, a dispatch that would alert the U.S. military to the conditions he endured.



Denton, who would survive 7 1/2 years confined in a tiny, stinking, windowless cell at the infamous "Hanoi Hilton" and other camps before his release in 1973, died of heart problems Friday in Virginia Beach, Va., at age 89, his grandson Edward Denton said.

The elder Denton later became the first Republican from Alabama elected to the U.S. Senate since Reconstruction, though the iron will that allowed him to persevere in captivity gave rise to criticism he was too rigid a politician.

In July 1965, a month after he began flying combat missions for the U.S. Navy in Vietnam, the Mobile native was shot down near Thanh Hoa. He was captured and recalled his captivity in a book titled "When Hell Was in Session."

"They beat you with fists and fan belts," he told the Los Angeles Times in 1979. "They warmed you up and threatened you with death. Then they really got serious and gave you something called the rope trick." The use of ropes - to cut off circulation in his limbs - left him with no feeling in his fingertips and intense muscle spasms, he said.

Some of the most severe torture came after the 1966 interview, in which he confounded his captors by saying that he continued to fully support the U.S. government, "and I will support it as long as I live."

"In the early morning hours, I prayed that I could keep my sanity until they released me. I couldn't even give in to their demands, because there were none. It was pure revenge," Denton wrote.

The tape was widely seen, and U.S. intelligence experts had picked up the Morse Code message. But Denton theorized later that his captors likely figured it out only after he was awarded the Navy Cross - the second-highest decoration for valor - for the blinks in 1974.

He said his captors never brought him out for another interview. But with the war's end drawing closer, he was released in February 1973.

Denton was the senior officer among former POWs who stepped off a plane into freedom at Clark Air Base in the Philippines. Denton epitomized the military spirit as he spoke for the returning soldiers: "We are honored to have had the opportunity to serve our country under difficult circumstances. We are profoundly grateful to our commander-in-chief and to our nation for this day. God bless America."

His words and bearing, beamed back to his country by television, gave heart to the military at a time of increasing uncertainty and bitter division over the course of the war.

He was promoted to rear admiral and retired from the Navy in November 1977. Denton then turned to politics, despite having no experience running for a statewide political office. With Ronald Reagan atop the GOP ticket, Denton became the first Republican elected to the Senate from Alabama since the Reconstruction era following the Civil War.

In Washington, he was a Reagan loyalist, a defender of military might and an advocate for a return to traditional family values and conservative stands on moral issues. But critics said his rigid stands left him no room for political compromise and lessened his influence, limiting his ability to help Alabama.

Denton lost his re-election bid in 1986 by only a fraction of a percentage point.

After his defeat, Denton founded the Coalition for Decency and lectured about family causes. Denton also launched a humanitarian outreach to needy countries through his National Forum Foundation, which arranged shipments of donated goods.

"He was a war hero, an honorable senator, and a family man who cared deeply about his country," said a statement from U.S. Sen. Richard Shelby, who as a Democrat defeated Denton in 1986. Shelby switched to the GOP in 1994 and was elected to a fifth term in 2010.

Arizona Sen. John McCain, who also was held captive as a POW in Vietnam, described Denton as his mentor.

"As a senior ranking officer in prison, Admiral Denton's leadership inspired us to persevere, and to resist our captors, in ways we never would have on our own," McCain said.

Alabama Sen. Jeff Sessions called Denton a "friend, warrior, leader, and hero."

"He was a man of grit and character that can't be manufactured," Sessions said in a statement. "His word was his bond and his loyalty was unshakable."

In later years, Denton lived in Williamsburg, Va., but he still appeared at patriotic gatherings. In November 2008, an emotional Denton watched at Battleship Memorial Park in Mobile, Ala., as a newly restored A-6 Intruder fighter/bomber - like the one he flew over North Vietnam - was rolled out in his honor.

Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc. Minutes of March 28, 2019

Officers present: Chairman Bill Dudley, Vice Chairman Ray Quinn, Secretary Michael Rothfeld, Treasurer John Mountcastle
Chairman Dudley called the meeting to order at 1905 hours

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

Minutes were approved as presented Treasurer's Report was approved as presented

Introduction of Guests: Geanelly Reveron, Mark Oakley, John Roberts, Mark Hensley
Minutes and Treasurer's Report- approved as presented

Chairman Dudley spoke about Council member Fred Dupont and dedicated the meeting to the memory of Fred, his many contributions to the veterans' community and Vice Chairman Ray Quinn eulogized Fred and asked us all to remember Fred in our prayers.



Speakers: Michele Luthin, Jax Memorial Park. A

Time Capsule was uncovered in Jax Memorial Park that contained the names of 1200 WW I military from FL who were killed in WW I. Michele showed a video and spoke about the work to save the water damaged lists. Work is under way to further preserve and contact the families of the deceased to tell their stories to future generations.



Trish Doran, Wekiva Springs Center Jax. The hospital treats all addictions as well as bipolar, depression and anxiety. Veterans needing help should contact 904-296-3533 24/7 for inpatient & outpatient services. Wekiva is a VA Provider.



Geanelly Reveron, JTA Transportation Planner. TransPortal provides a single point of access to plan & book NE FL and local multi-modal travel. TransPortal will offer immediate access to diverse transportation options. For more info: www.TransPortal.net or info@TransPortal.net Plan a trip by contacting TransPortal.net and sign up and check off veteran for savings..



Committee Reports:

Mac: spoke about the VA studying adding 3 diseases to Agent Orange pre-

sumptives. The VA will not try to stop Blue Water Navy presumptives. Brown Water Navy still in doubt. Tammy will be leaving and missed as Travis Neidig will take her place.

John L: VTC had a female graduate the program. VTC had 43 participants in 25 months, with 17 mentors.

VVA 1084 will be holding its Vietnam Day Ceremony at the Corazon Theater in St Aug. **Clay County** Ceremony March 30, 10:30 am in TAPS Park.

Kathy-MIAP. April 6th will be the next Call to Honor. Total interred in FL to date is 265 veterans. Planning now for June in South FL. MIAP is in need of volunteers, if interested contact Kathy at: miapjax@yahoo.com

Ray: attended the 100th birthday of a WW II veteran at the SA CBOC

Bill and Ray placed a wreath in SA National for cancelled Vietnam Veterans ceremony.

Bill: New CBOC slowly progressing, HUD permits filed with county, expect to turn dirt 90 days from April

LTC Barry Bridger, USAF ret. Col Bridger was shot down in Vietnam and held prisoner for over 6 years. He spoke at length about his ordeal and his spirit and attitude amazed us all. He will keynote the VN Corazon Commemoration.



Meeting adjourned at 9:07 pm, The next meeting of the Veterans Council will be on Thursday, April 25, 2019, 7 pm in the Health & Human Services Building, 200 San Sebastian View.

Future speakers:

- April 25 Chaplain Pat Archuleta, Jesus Loves Veterans Ministries
 Jessica Bradstreet, Dept. of VA, Local Recovery Coordinator
- May 30 Dr. Susan Parker, Historian, Military Families of Old St. Augustine
- June 27 Bruce Thompson, Vets4Vets Jax
 Zahara Veterans Network
- July 25 Chris Young, Special Forces Association, NE FL Chapter 88
 Historical Military Reenactor
- August 29 Gerald Timoney, Military Museum of N. FL
 Crystal Timmons, Veterans Garden Project
- Sept. 26 Char Miller, Community Hospice, Veterans Programs
- Nov. 21 Emily Jane Murray, Public Archeology Coord, Flagler College, The Seminole Wars
and How it Changed All of Us

rans
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Confidential chat at VeteransCrisisLine.net or text to 838255

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

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

Confidential chat at MilitaryCrisisLine.net or text 838255

VIETNAM VET

ARMY UNITS
OF THE VIETNAM WAR

The First Dog in American History to be Awarded Military Rank

The American army dog Sergeant Stubby (c. 1916-1926)

Sergeant Stubby was a World War I hero. He led a very successful military career and was the first dog to be granted military rank in the history of the U.S. Army.

He was awarded multiple decorations for his heroism and bravery, and not just by the US — he also received a medal from France.



As well as his military service, Stubby also met three sitting presidents, attended numerous veterans commemorations, and was involved in community organizations. He was known by millions of Americans and stayed a celebrity until his death in 1926.

Ambulance dog during WWI

Stubby's story begins in 1917, when a young private, J. Robert Conroy found a brindle puppy with a short tail at Camp Yale where his unit was undergoing basic training, according to the Smithsonian.

Conroy named the puppy Stubby, and the pup was soon the unofficial mascot of Conroy's unit, the 102nd Infantry, 26th Yankee Division.

Stubby was soon training with the soldiers, learning drills and bugle calls, and even a doggy version of a salute. Because Stubby had a good effect on the soldiers' morale, he was allowed to stay, even though dogs were forbidden in the camp.

When the division left for France in October 1917, Stubby went too, hidden in the coal bin until the ship was well out to sea. When the division arrived in France, Stubby was smuggled off the ship.

He was soon discovered by Conroy's commanding officer, but the CO let him stay after being charmed by the saluting dog. When the soldiers headed for the front lines, Stubby accompanied them, and soon became used to the noise and chaos of gunfire and artillery.

Stubby's first war injury was from gas exposure. While he was taken to a field hospital and eventually recovered, that early exposure left him very sensitive to even the smallest amounts of gas in the air. When his division was the subject of an early morning gas at-

tack, Stubby tore through the trench, waking sleeping soldiers to sound the gas alarm and preventing many men from being injured.

Stubby would also help find wounded men who were between the trenches. He would listen for the sound of English being spoken and follow that to the wounded soldiers, barking for the paramedics, or if the wounded were mobile, he would lead them back to camp.

According to the Connecticut Military Department, Stubby himself was injured again in April 1918, when the 102nd was part of a raid on a German-held town. As the Germans were withdrawing, they were also lobbing hand grenades at the pursuing American forces and Stubby was wounded on a foreleg when one of the grenades went off. After that, the women of the town made him a blanket, embroidered with the flags of all the allies, to show their gratitude. The blanket also held his various stripes and awards.

Once he even found and captured a German spy. The spy was attempting to map the American trenches when Stubby spotted him.

The German tried to soothe the dog, but Stubby attacked the spy and bit his legs, causing him to fall over. He continued his attacks until his own soldiers could arrive. That capture is what earned him his promotion to the rank of sergeant, given by the commander of the 102nd.

At the war's end, Stubby was smuggled back to the United States, but his career wasn't over. On his return, he was made a lifetime member of the American Legion, attending their conventions and marching in their parades until his death. He was also made a lifetime member of the Red Cross and the YMCA. He regularly went recruiting for members for the Red Cross.

In addition to all his other awards, in 1921 he also received a gold medal from the Humane Society, which was presented to him by General John Pershing, who was the Commander General of the United States Army. J. Robert Conroy, Stubby's owner, eventually went on to study law at Georgetown University and again, Stubby went, too. He was made the mascot of the Georgetown Hoyas and remained so until his death.



Sending CARE PACKAGES to Our Troops

May 18 is Armed Forces Day. It is a day to pay tribute to the brave women and men who serve in the United States' military. During these times, soldiers and civilians alike must make sacrifices to help one another. Those at home may find themselves in the situation of wanting to contribute but being unsure how to go about it. To directly support the morale of a loved one in the military, sending a personalized letter can make a huge difference. Supporters who want to go one step further can put together a unique and individualized care package to help make deployment a little easier.



What Are Care Packages?

Care packages began in World War II, when the Cooperative for American Remittances to Europe began packaging surplus military rations and delivering them to people in war-torn areas. When there was no more surplus available, CARE helped organize the first CARE package movement. Businesses could contribute money or food, and CARE packaged and mailed the supplies. When food was no longer a scarcity, CARE packages expanded to include recreational materials, like books and tools, and medical supplies.

Today, care packages are typically prepared by family members at home or community groups and sent to soldiers serving far away. They usually include food and snacks that will store well without refrigeration as well as items necessary for basic personal care, such as razors, body wash, and other toiletries. As with the original CARE packages, methods of entertainment, like movies and video games, are always popular inclusions. A care package can be designed to cater to the specific needs of any individual. Thoughtful packers will consider the soldier's environment, military-issued supplies, hobbies, and food availability.

What to Send

While it can be tempting to heap home-cooked meals and treats into a box, the lengthy shipping time and lack of refrigeration make pre-packaged, shelf-stable snacks a better option. Personal letters and photos of loved ones would be special gifts, as would a favorite movie or book. If sending a care package to an unknown soldier, generic gifts may not seem flashy but can make a world of difference. Things like lip balm and muscle relaxant cream go a long way toward helping to make a deployment more comfortable.

Be aware that not all foods can be sent through the mail. Different countries and postal services have different restrictions, so before dropping a care package off at the post office, check online or with the military branch to make sure all mailed items comply with existing regulations. Avoid packing food in bags, since the different air pressure that comes from being carried via air mail might cause them to burst. Try

to keep the needs of the service member in mind by packing snacks that can be easily carried and reliably stored.

Toiletries and other items may contain liquids. Check regulations to make sure they will be allowed, and take steps to prevent accidental spillage. Wrapping the top of a bottle with plastic wrap is a good way to ensure that a letter from home isn't rendered illegible by wayward shampoo. As with food, the needs of the soldier should be considered when selecting items for a care package. If the soldier is stationed in a cold climate, hand warmers might be a nice treat. If the climate is hot or tropical, sunscreen or burn ointment could make the stay much more pleasant.

Organizations

Many organizations, especially in the United States, facilitate the arrangement and delivery of care packages. Some even have services where, for a fee, they will take care of the entirety of the care package, from buying the items to addressing and sending the parcel. This can be useful for individuals who want to contribute but are unable to physically make it to a packaging location. These services can also widen the variety of items that a soldier receives, which helps keep a long deployment interesting.

Most organizations, however, seek to retain personal touches as an integral part of care packages. States, churches, community groups, and families make it a mission to put together care packages by hand. Drawings from children, letters from strangers, or small, silly toys help bring civilian life a little closer and help the soldier feel like they're still part of the community. No matter whether a package is put together at a community drive or on the dining room table at home, soldiers around the world will be happy to receive a care package full of supplies and sentiments from loved ones.

Any Soldier	Adopt a U.S. Soldier	Operation Gratitude
Operation Care Package	Soldiers' Angels	Military Missions: Care Packages
Support Our Troops	Operation Care Package Michigan	Military Connections
Operation Care and Comfort	Move America Forward	American Recreational Military Services
For the Troops	Just Our Soldiers' Helpers	Blue Star Moms
Help Our Military Endure	CarePacks	Forgotten Soldiers Outreach
Bad Ass Boxes	Project M.O.T.	Freedom Alliance
Operation Jersey Cares	Support Our Soldiers Alabama	Operation Interdependence
Troop Care Packs	Operation With Love From Home	Hugs for Soldiers
Adopt a Platoon	Operation Soldier Care	Operation Shoebox



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



Christopher Young
42 Division Ave
Ormond Bch, FL 32174

9-Jan-2019

TO: Prospective Community Supporter

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

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

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

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

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

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

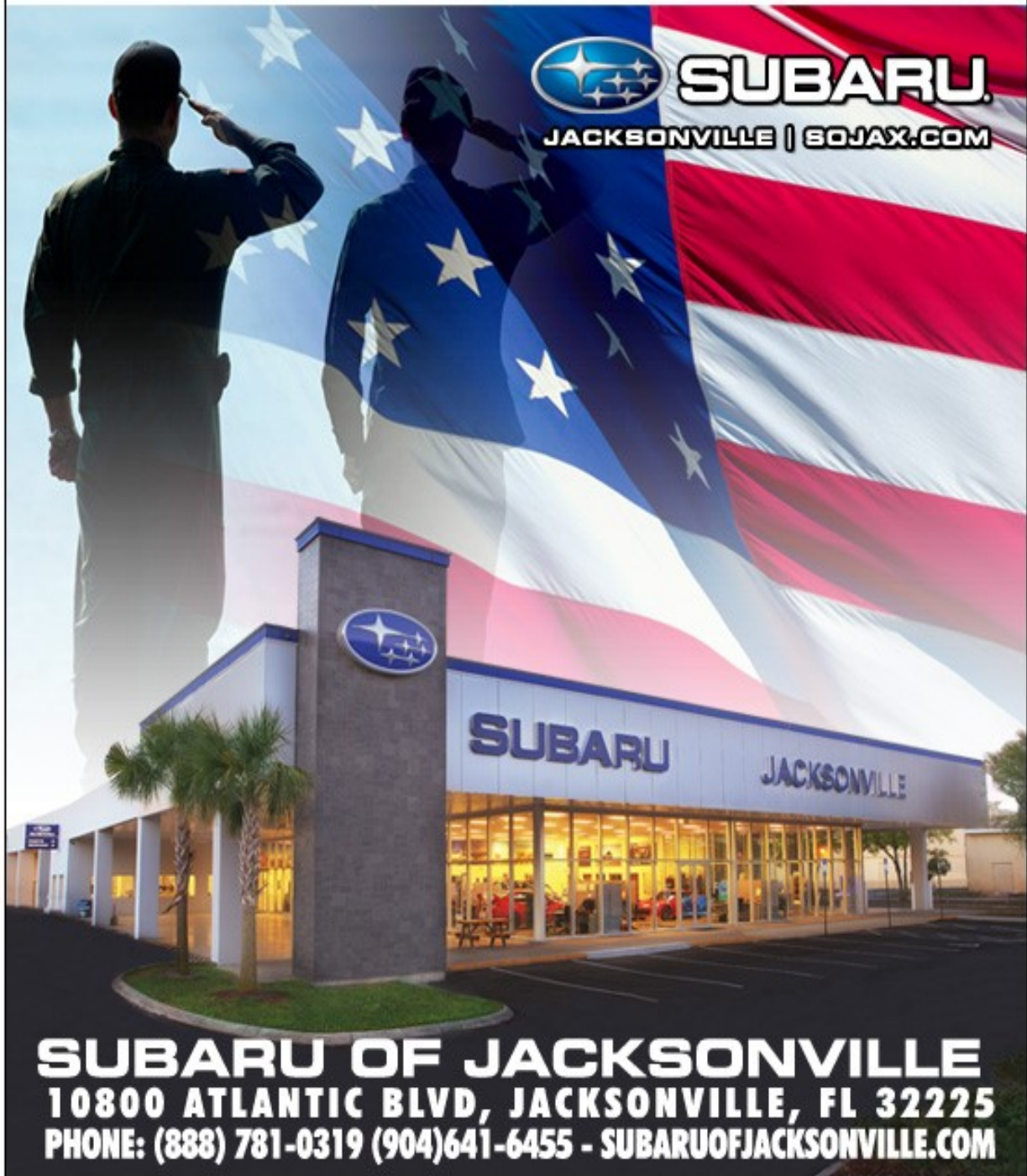
Please register for your sponsorship using the registration at greenberetcharitygolf.com

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

<http://www.sfachapter88.org>

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

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

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Save the Date

Saturday, May 11, 2019

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

Military Ball for All

HONORING FIVE STAR VETERANS CENTER

Jacksonville Marriott
Ballroom
(JTB at I-95)

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

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Sponsorships Available
*ALL proceeds benefit
recovering, homeless
veterans*

Live Auction with
Senator Aaron Bean

Dinner Banquet

Dancing

Black Tie Optional

(904) 723-5950
5starveteranscenter.org





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

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

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

Gift cards are acceptable too.

Deliver to:

2133 Broadway Ave.

Monday – Friday 9:00am – 3:00pm

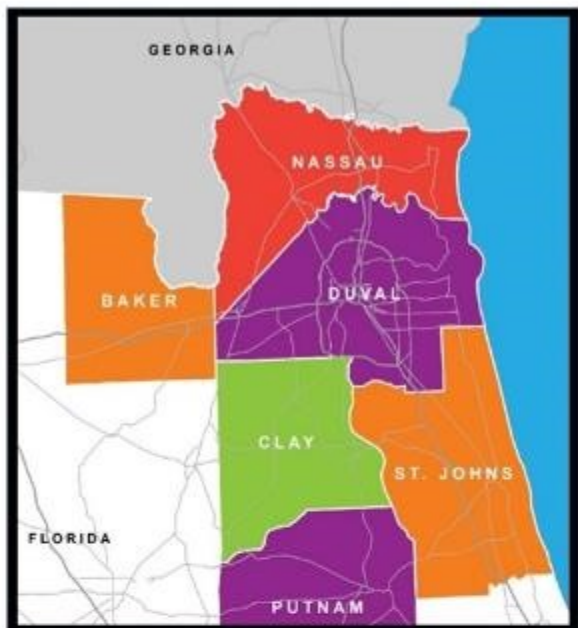
904-862-6039

www.forwomenvets.org

A Mural in Palatka



Veteran County Councils of Northeast Florida



Duval County

President: Steve Spickelmier

Meetings:

Third Tuesday of each month in the 40/8 Building

Located at the American Legion Post 137
5443 San Juan Avenue

7pm

Nassau County

President: Paul Kicker, Chairman
Veterans Council of Nassau County

76347 Veterans Way,
Veterans Service Office

Yulee, FL 32097

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

Baker County

President: Larry Porterfield

Meetings:

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

Contact:

Baker County Veterans Council
PO Box 1434
MacClenny, FL 32063

Clay County

President: Bob Brewster

Meetings: First Wednesday of
each month

Location varies between the
different Veteran Organizations.

Time varies

St. Johns County

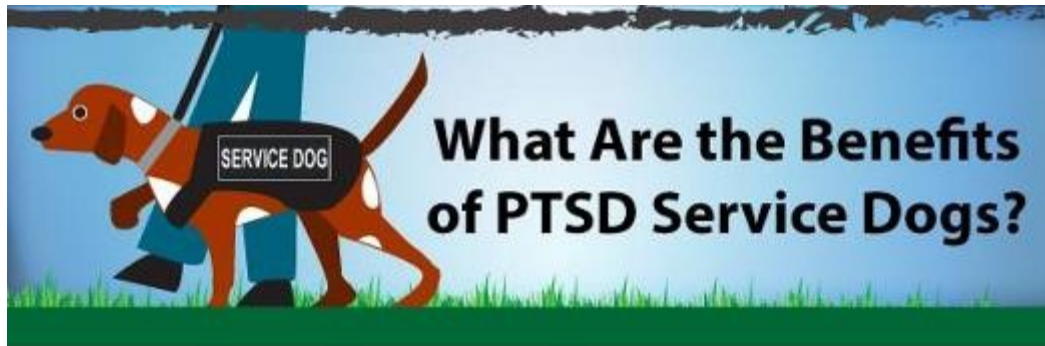
President: Bill Dudley

Meetings:

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

Contact:

info@VeteransCouncilofStJohns.org



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



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

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

MISSION BACKGROUND

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

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

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



A FEW QUOTES SUBMITTED BY OUR NATIONAL LEADERS



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

U.S. Congressman
John Rutherford

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

U.S. Senator
Marco Rubio

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

U.S. Senator
Bill Nelson



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

MISSION STATEMENT

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

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

MEMORIAL STRATEGIC PLAN

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

- Restore and use the historic chapel (named the "Chapel of the High-Speed 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 32225

ONLINE PowMiaMemorial.org

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

Twitter.com/CFPOW/MIA

Instagram.com/cecilfieldpowmia/

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

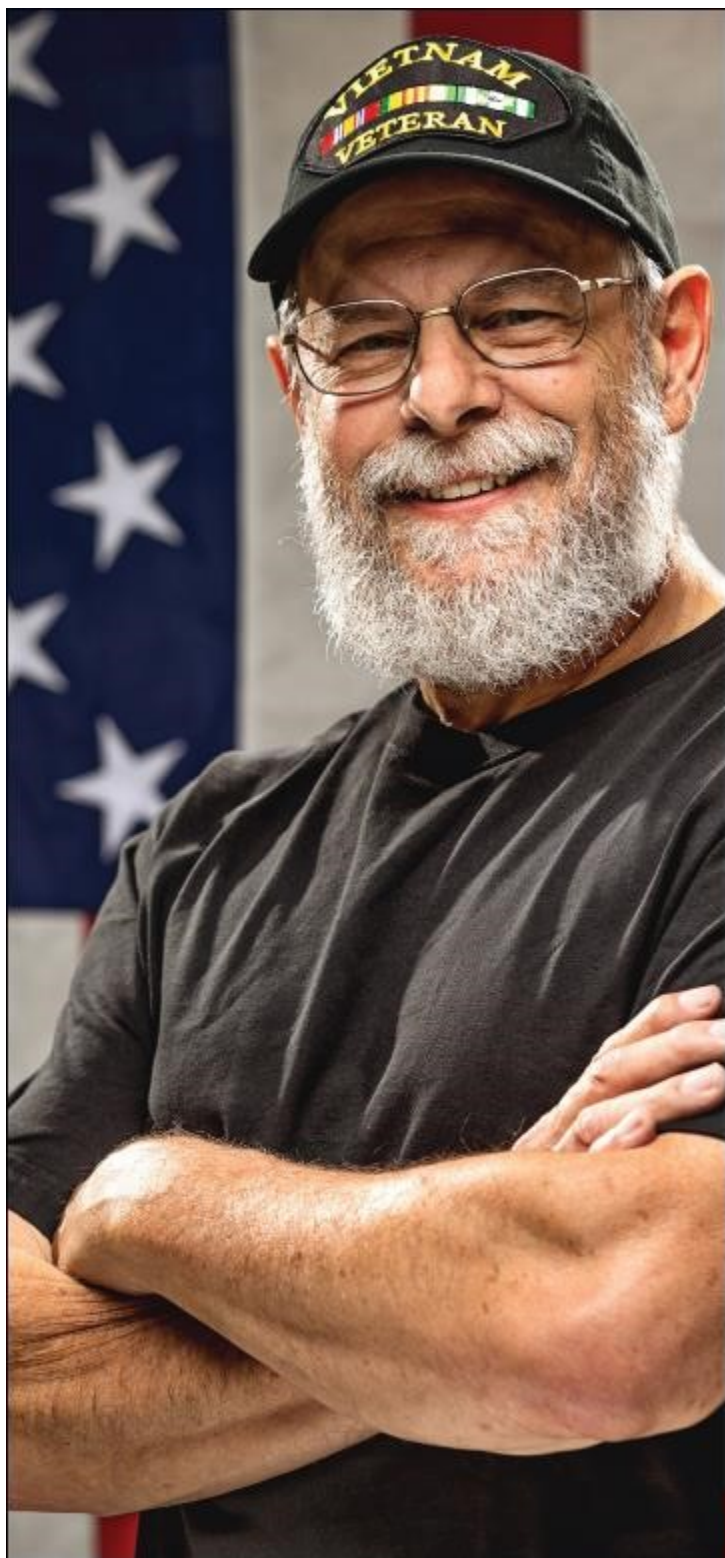
36 Granada Street, St. Augustine FL 32084

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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.



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

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

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



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

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





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

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

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



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

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

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

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



We are inviting all veterans to visit our website at:

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

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

Please join our group on Facebook at:
VeteransCouncilofStJohnsCounty,FL

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

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

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

You may have noticed the Veterans Council's new logo, it was created by Roy Havekost and his web design company PageAuthors. The VC strongly recommends that you contact Roy, 727-487-6252, if you or your vet group wants to create a website or Facebook page.

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



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

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



**SURVIVOR
OUTREACH SERVICES**

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

Contact Keith Ham

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

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

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

Send to: mrothfeld@anyveteran.org

Please send to: mrothfeld@anyveteran.org



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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