



The Patriot Reader Newsletter

P.O. Box 2117

St. Augustine, FL 32085

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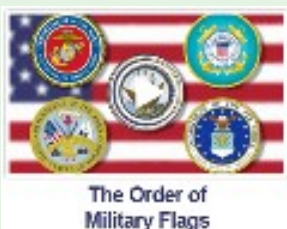
Volume 10, Issue 5

Message from the Chairman

May 2021

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Fellow Veterans,
On Monday, April 12, the Veterans Council was on hand to welcome fellow veteran Col. Dave Parramore home after a long and exhausting bicycle ride from San Diego to St. Augustine Beach. Dave left San Diego on March 1st on a cross country trek to raise money for the Wounded Warrior project and for those veterans affected financially by the COVID-19 pandemic. Dave exceeded his goal of raising \$30,000 for Wounded Warrior. The Veterans Council presented Dave with a check for \$500 as did the St. Augustine-Palm Coast Navy League Council. The Veterans Council thanks Col. Dave Parramore for his unselfish and thoughtful effort to help his fellow veterans.

The Veterans Council has been in discussions with the VA concerning a joint celebration of the new VA CBOC. After much discussion, the VA has agreed

to begin planning for this event with a firm decision to be made by August 2nd, 2021 to jointly host a Grand Opening ceremony with the Veterans Council on Veterans Day, Nov. 11. As in years past, the Veterans Council honors all our veterans on this special day with a major program remembering each of the wars or campaigns in which they have served. This year, we will celebrate this special day with the VA hosting a Grand Opening of our new VA CBOC and the Veterans Council conducting our traditional Veterans Day Program. The ceremony will be held at the new CBOC location on SR 207. Stay tuned for new developments as updates are released. This year's Memorial Day honoring our fallen comrades will be slightly different from years past. The location has been changed from the St. Augustine National Cemetery downtown on Marine St. to Anastasia Baptist Church at 1650 A1A S, St. Augustine Beach,



32080. The program is from 10 AM – 11AM, Monday 31 May 2021. The relocation was necessary due to the restrictions still in affect by the VA limiting crowd size. There are no Imitations on the number of people attending the Memorial Day service at Anastasia Church and parking is much easier. Our guest speaker this year is Alison Simpson, FLANG Command Historian. On June 26, 2021, the Veterans Council will mark its 20th anniversary. The Patriot Reader will have a special edition to celebrate and honor all those who have helped make this Council a huge success.

Bill Dudley
Chairman
Veterans Council of St. Johns County

Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home



Mr. Paul Lyman got to celebrate his 87th birthday (shown here with Activity Director Netta) at Green Cove Springs park last month!! The day could not have been more perfect for the first outing since pre-covid!!



Group photo of all that attended the outing!! Great times!! with Rajini Alecia, Activity Assistant



The view we saw from the dock at Green Cove Springs!!



Mr. Lyman wanted brownies for his birthday instead of a cake!! Ask and ye shall receive!! He was very happy!!



**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**. The meeting will be at **6:00pm**. 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 6:00 pm

DATES OF 2021 SC at JNC MEETINGS

Not Available

+++++2020 Officers of the SCJNC+++++

Chairman: Steve Spickelmier

Vice Chairman: Bill Dudley, Treasurer: Pat Welch

Secretary: Kathy Church, Judge Advocate: Don Guthrie

Master-At-Arms: Mike Smith, Historian: Win Delpizzo

Chaplain: Pat Archuleta, Public Affairs: Pat Mulvihill

The Veterans Council of St. Johns County meets on the last Thursday of the month, all are invited to attend. We meet at the

County Administration Building,

500 San Sebastian View, at 7 pm

All SJC Health Guidelines will be followed.

Please stay safe, Bill Dudley, Chairman, VC of SJC



Upcoming Veterans Council Meetings Speakers

April 29, Danielle Tapia, General Caregiver Support Services Coordinator,

Jessica Bradstreet, Local Recovery Coordinator and

Wendy Lay, FCTC with veteran Brian Hampton

May 27, Donald Earl, United Way of NE FL– Helping Veterans

June 24, Ken Moreland, Navy Gold Star Program

2021 Meeting Dates: April 29, May 27, June 24

July 29, August 26, September 30, October 28, November 18, December 30

Vietnam Veteran Remembrance Ceremony

March 29, 2021

Michael Isam

It was an overall somber mood at the St. Augustine National Cemetery as veterans, active duty military personnel and citizens gathered to pay respects to those who fought and especially to those who gave their “last full measure of devotion” in one of our history’s most contentious periods, the Vietnam War, (1954-1975).

History says “technically, it was a conflict” as there was never a formal declaration of war against North Vietnam and its allies.

For those who fought there and to the families of those who perished there, it was a war.

The number of participants at this years’ remembrance ceremony was limited to a total of 50 people due to the rules established by the Veterans Administration during this declared pandemic



VVA 1059 Welcomes Home Vietnam Veterans on National Vietnam Veterans Day



Welcome Home



World War II, Korea, and Vietnam Veteran George Smith (left), Chapter 1059 President David Treffinger and Chapter 1046 President Tony D'Aleo lay the TAPS Monument wreath. *Photo by Fran Ruchalski for The Florida Times-Union.*

“Welcome Home” was the underlining sentiment at the Saturday, March 27 Vietnam War Veterans Day Ceremony at the TAPS Monument in Green Cove Springs, Clay County.

The ceremony before an estimated crowd of 250 was held in conjunction with Vietnam Veterans of America Col. William G. Byrns Chapter 1059, Clay County Board of Commissioners, and community support.

Four of the five Northeast Florida VVA chapters – 1059, 1046 (Duval), 1084 (St. Johns) and 1088 (Nassau) were represented at the hour long ceremony along with several representatives from the Florida State Council.



Air Force Col. (retired) William G. Byrns (left), namesake of Chapter 1059, was the guest speaker. Col. Byrns is a former Vietnam POW and spoke about how he survived during his time at the Hanoi Hilton.

World War II, Korea, and Vietnam Veteran George Smith, who is 95, Chapter 1046 President Tony D’Aleo and Chapter 1059 President David Treffinger laid the TAPS Monument wreath.

The names of the 22 fallen Clay County servicemembers were read by Clay County

Commissioner J.B. Renninger, a retired Navy Captain, and Vishi Garig, Clay County archives specialist.

The Chapter 1088 Color Guard presented the colors for the ceremony which was dedicated in memory of Korea and Vietnam

Veteran Mason Edward "Ed" Wiggins who died last summer. Wiggins, a member of Chapter 1059, was instrumental in the development of the TAPS Monument, which honors the 66 fallen Clay County servicemembers.

There was a special rendition of "Old Glory" by Ret. Command Master Chief Mack Ellis with assistance from the Clay County Public Safety Honor Guard.

Proceeding the ceremony to honor the Vietnam Veterans, Florida State Council First Vice President, Chapter 1059 founder, and chair of the Vietnam Veterans Day committee Gary Newman along with Tara Green, Clay County Clerk of Court & Comptroller, unveiled the braille pedestal which features the Pledge of Allegiance in braille.

The Patriot Guard provided the flag line.



Some of the estimated crowd of 250 that attended the ceremony.



Retired Command Master Chief Mack Ellis presenting "Old Glory".



The Chapter 1088 Color Guard presenting the colors.

New VA CBOC on SR 207 to open this year



The **Fire Watch** is Northeast Florida's fight to end veteran suicide. Over 6,000 U.S. military veterans die by suicide each year, including 500 annually here in Florida. But suicide is preventable. And everyone can help. **Join us as a Watch Stander today.** Learn how to identify the risk signs of veterans in crisis and to direct them to the help they need.

3 minutes to enroll. 30 minutes to train. A lifetime of saving lives.

Visit: www.thefirewatch.org/watch-standers to learn more.

Thanks!

Nick Howland

Executive Director, The Fire Watch

www.thefirewatch.org

904.525.1761



St. Augustine Beach man rode his bike across the U.S. for veterans. "It was my honor."

Dave Parramore said one of the benefits of the ride was connecting with veterans. Sheldon Gardner, St. Augustine Record

Retired U.S. Army Col. Dave Parramore dips his bicycle in the Atlantic off St. Augustine Beach on Tuesday to celebrate his crossing the country on the bike to raise money for the Wounded Warrior Project. Parramore left San Diego on March 1 and raised about \$30,000 for the organization.



The cross-country journey wasn't easy for Dave Parramore.

He set off on his bicycle from San Diego, California, on March 1, planning to make it back to his hometown in St. Augustine Beach on his bicycle alone. The goal: to raise awareness of military veterans affected by COVID-19 and raise money for the non-profit Wounded Warrior Project.

A closer look: Wounded Warrior Project names new CEO

Fierce storms in West Texas forced him to take a train from El Paso to Austin for safety reasons, and he got flat tires in New Mexico, among other challenges. But he also was able to connect with veterans and friends along the way.

On Tuesday afternoon, he made it to his destination and was welcome by family, friends and representatives from military organizations and the Wounded Warrior Project near the St. Augustine Beach pier. He spoke to the crowd after dipping his bicycle in the Atlantic Ocean.

"It was my honor to support veterans along the way and really connect with them," he said.

Retired U.S. Army Col. Dave Parramore celebrates crossing the country on his bike to raise money for the Wounded Warrior Project in St. Augustine Beach on Tuesday. Parramore left San Diego on March 1 and raised about \$30,000 for the organization.

St. Johns County veterans groups rally behind effort

Bill Dudley, chair of the Veterans Council of St. Johns County, and Patrick McCormack, president of the St. Augustine-Palm Coast Council of the U.S. Navy League, each presented a \$500 check to Parramore on behalf of their organizations.

Parramore said his trip raised about \$23,000 in donations for Wounded Warrior Project, and he said another \$10,000 grant could be coming to the nonprofit as part of the trip.

His wife, Anne-Marie, was also there to welcome him. She followed his journey online, which he streamed part of at twitch.tv/teamdustoff, and visited him on the road.

"I knew he'd make it back here," she said.

'Not about the pedal strokes'

Parramore, a business owner in government contracting, served in the U.S. Army for more than two decades, including as a medivac pilot, and he wanted to give back, he said.

He's been cycling seriously for about 22 years, including in the Ironman Triathlon.

He said the COVID-19 pandemic has had a negative impact on many veterans, including hurting revenue for veteran business owners and further isolating older veterans. "This one was not at all about how many pedal strokes or how many miles; it was more about connecting with veterans and people," he said. "And so that was a mission accomplished for me to connect with all the veterans along the way."

**Purple Heart recipient reflects on service & sacrifice on Vietnam War Veterans Day
by Brittany Muller, News4JAX**

For David Treffinger, National Vietnam War Veterans Day is recognition



The Vietnam Veterans of America Col. William G. Burns Chapter 1059 in Clay County dedicated the TAPS Monument in 2017 to honor the 66 Clay County veterans who lost their lives during combat dating back to the Civil War. Eighteen are Vietnam War veterans.

News4Jax spoke with a local Vietnam veteran, 71-year-old David Treffinger, who said it wasn't until he became more active with the Clay County chapter that he was able to look back and commemorate.

National Vietnam War Veterans Day was March 29. Treffinger said that for him, it's recognition -- a welcome home ceremony. Last month was his 50th anniversary of being back.

Treffinger, who's now the president of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1059, was only 19 years old when he was drafted. He went to basic training in 1969 and went to Vietnam a year later in 1970.

Treffinger was in Vietnam, serving as a clerk, for 13 months.

"On June 26, 1970, we got hit with rockets and mortars, and I am a Purple Heart recipient," said Treffinger. "It was scary because you could hear all the noise around. You could hear the rockets and mortars coming in."

Treffinger said it was a scary time. He was grazed on his knee and forehead and returned to duty knowing others did not survive.

"Our sergeant, he died that night because his building, his hooch, got hit with a rocket, and he died," Treffinger said. "You just go back to work. that's all you can do."

Treffinger returned home to Pennsylvania in February 1971 and moved to Clay County five years ago. He is married with two sons. In addition to being a Purple Heart recipient, he also received the Bronze Star Medal.

Treffinger said Vietnam veterans are a special breed and, for him, there's an equally special comradery between them.



Then & Now: 50 Years of Veterans Experiences - Art Exhibit Coming This Summer to the St. Augustine Art Association

ST. AUGUSTINE, FL, March 10, 2021 - The St. Augustine Art Association is proud to provide a voice and stage for Veterans with a riveting, sometimes raw, emotionally-charged exhibition, entitled Then & Now: 50 Years of Veterans Experiences, on display July 2 through August 22, 2021. This exhibit demonstrates the healing power of art by showcasing eight individuals who use painting, sculpture, photography, poetry and other creative outlets. These Veterans share their experiences from subtle murmurs of anguish to cries for support and understanding. Then and Now merges St. Augustine's art and history with today's global military awareness and experiences, providing both an educational narrative and outreach.

During the exhibit, the Art Association will open its gallery for Veterans and military groups to host meetings or workshops, field trips, lectures and other special events. "It is our hope that through this exhibit we raise awareness and sensitivity to our veterans' service and the importance of their mental health, while demonstrating how the power of creativity can be used as a tool for some to help heal a broken spirit," said Jerome Domask, artist, guest curator and member of the St. Augustine Art Association.

A focal point of the exhibit will be a replicated five-by-eight-foot holding cell. This is a special "shout out" to American Hero, Army Major (RET) Theodore Gostas, a former POW held in captivity for over five years, four-and-a-half spent in solitary confinement. The cell will be surrounded by a visual narrative of two Vietnam veterans, Gostas and exhibit curator Jerome Domask, supporting each other for over 50 years as Foxhole Buddies after Gostas' return to active duty.

"When Jerry [Domask] came to me last year with the idea for this exhibit, I knew that the Art Association had to host it," said Jennifer Flynt, Administrator at the St. Augustine Art Association. "The experiences these Veterans have gone through are very real, and I felt a strong conviction to help them tell their stories and tell them well."

With eight Veteran artists—five men and three women—the exhibit exudes a powerful message of support, strength and self-help. Together, these artists represent more than 50 years of military history from the Cold War to recent Middle East hostilities. They have served around the world—Europe, Vietnam, Cuba, Iraq, Afghanistan, Japan, Bosnia to name a few, and they're backgrounds are diverse in both civilian life and military service.

"Strong Women Warriors," a series by Barbara Barnett, will speak to screams of anguish, rejuvenation and molding of mind and soul, and USNR- (RET) Chaplain Ron Moses Camarda will bring his personal observations of life and death in a combat zone. The exhibit is further enriched by individual creations from "then and now" experiences filled with emotion, challenging perspectives and an undeniable support for each other's well-being as the artists explore a path forward with enlightenment and hope.

There are numerous ways for our St. Augustine community to get involved in Veteran support, and this exhibit is just one of those. If this is something you'd be interested in supporting, let us know! Details on the exhibit, artists, and ways you can get involved, can be found at staaa.org/then-and-now-2021 or by contacting the St. Augustine Art Association at (904) 824-2310 or info@staaa.org.

The St. Augustine Art Association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit arts organization founded in 1924. The Gallery is open free to the public and located at 22 Marine Street in historic downtown.

THEN & NOW

50 Years of Veteran Experiences



**July 2
through
August 22, 2021**

at the
St. Augustine
Art Association



The Healing Power of Art

The St. Augustine Art Association is proud to provide a voice and stage for Veterans with a riveting, sometimes raw, emotionally-charged exhibition, entitled **Then & Now: 50 Years of Veterans Experiences**, on display July 2 through August 22, 2021. This exhibit will demonstrate the power of healing through art by showcasing eight veteran artists' creations working through the trauma and grief sometimes incurred through military service. This exhibit merges St. Augustine's art and history with today's global military awareness and experiences, providing both an educational narrative and outreach.

A focal point of the exhibit will be a replicated five-by-eight-foot cell. This is a special "shout out" to American Hero, Army Major (RET) Theodore Gostas, a former POW held in captivity for over five years—4.5 spent in solitary confinement. The cell will be surrounded by a visual narrative of two Vietnam veterans, Gostas and exhibit curator Jerome Domask, supporting each other for over a half century as "Foxhole Buddies" after Gostas' return to active duty.



• ST. AUGUSTINE •
ART ASSOCIATION

22 Marine Street, St. Augustine, FL 32084
(904) 824-2310 | www.staaa.org



“Death”
By Jerome Domask



“Lament”
By Skip Rohde



“Werewolf”
By Ted Gostas



“Holy Carburetor”
By Maria Mia Salazar

PARTNER & SPONSORSHIPS

The St. Augustine Art Association (STAAA) is a nonprofit organization. We cannot successfully produce an exhibit of this importance without the help of financial donors and community partners. Costs incurred for the exhibit include, but not be limited to, the **shipping and installation of artwork, accommodations for out-of-town Veterans whose work is in he exhibit, marking, and special events. See details below.**

Your generous support assists us in providing our Veterans a platform to tell their stories, and offers an outlet for current or recently returned military personnel to cope with their own experiences and hardships through the healing power of art.

THE GENERAL - TITLE SPONSOR • \$3,000

Funds to defray costs of exhibit production, marketing, artwork shipping, hospitality, special events. The General Title Sponsor will receive: A Full Page Ad Gallery Guide • A 150px x 300px Banner Ad w/Link on the website • Social Media Mentions on all posts for exhibit • Logo on print and digital advertising • Signage and Literature displayed in the gallery during the exhibit • An opportunity to speak and FOUR Invitations to the Opening Reception and Artist Meet-n-Greet on July 1, 2021.

COLONEL SPONSOR • \$1,000+

Funds to defray costs of exhibit production, marketing, artwork shipping, hospitality, special events. Colonel sponsors will receive: A 1/2 page ad gallery guide • A 150px x 300px Banner Ad w/Link on the Website • Social Media Mentions • Two Invitations the Opening Reception and Artist Meet-n-Greet on July 1, 2021.

MAJOR SPONSOR • \$500+

Funds to defray costs of exhibit production, marketing, artwork shipping, hospitality, special events. Major Sponsors will receive: A 1/4 Page Ad in the exhibit guide • A 150px x 300px Banner Ad w/Link on the Website • Two Invitations the Opening Reception and Artist Meet-n-Greet on July 1, 2021.

CAPTAIN SPONSOR • \$300+

Funds to defray costs of exhibit production, marketing, artwork shipping, hospitality, special events. Captain Sponsors will be: Listed with their logo in the Exhibit Gallery Guide • Receive a Link on the Website • One Invitation to the Opening Reception and Artist Meet-n-Greet on July 1, 2021.

LIEUTENANT SPONSOR • \$200+

Funds to defray costs of exhibit production, marketing, artwork shipping, hospitality, special events. Lieutenant Sponsors will be: Listed in the Exhibit Gallery Guide • Receive a Text Link on the Website • One Invitation to the Opening Reception and Artist Meet-n-Greet on July 1, 2021.

ENLISTED SUPPORT SPONSORS • \$25 - \$199

Funds to defray costs of exhibit production, marketing, artwork shipping, hospitality, special events. Enlisted Support Sponsors will be listed in the exhibit gallery guide unless they wish to remain anonymous. Donations of any amount in support for this exhibit will be greatly appreciated.

IN-KIND PARTNER

In-kind or discounted services to reduce costs of exhibit production, marketing, artwork shipping, and hospitality. In-kind partners will be listed in the exhibit gallery guide and on signage displayed in the gallery during the exhibit.

SOCIAL MEDIA REACH

Facebook - 5,280+ likes • 5,860+ follows
Instagram - 1,850+ follows
Google Searches - 14,000/mo



WEBSITE VISITS

Average 3,000 - 5,000/mo

GALLERY VISITORS

Average - 600/mo



Name (Individual or Business) _____

Primary Contact & Title _____

Address _____

City

State

Zip

E-mail Address _____

I wish to remain anonymous

Phone Number _____

Please select one of the sponsorship levels below and provide the amount:

The General Title Sponsor (\$3,000)



Colonel Sponsor (\$1,000+)

Lieutenant Sponsor (\$200+)

Major Sponsor (\$500+)

Enlisted Sponsor _____

Captain Sponsor (\$300+)

In-Kind Partner _____

To pay over the phone, please contact the St. Augustine Art Association at (904) 824-2310.

Please Select Payment Option:

VISA MASTERCARD DISCOVER Check (payable to the St. Augustine Art Association)

Name on Card _____

Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____
(No AMEX)

Billing Zip _____ Business Name _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Shelter for Florida Women Veterans Opens

The opening ceremony for HerSpace. HerSpace, an emergency temporary shelter for Florida women veterans and their children had its ceremonial opening Thursday morning, April 15, 2021, at its Beach Blvd. location in Jacksonville Beach. The 3,000-square-foot house is owned by nearby St. Andrews Lutheran Church by the Sea and is being operated by the nonprofit Northeast Florida Women Veterans and starting this summer, will house up to eight women veterans and their children.

BOB SELF/FLORIDA TIMES-UNION



For almost 50 years, Vietnam has been etched into Charles Reed's life.



And now he wants to help leave an indelible and historical mark to honor those who fought in the war.

Reed is working on two projects. Gary Bowler, president of the Veterans Midpoint Memorial Charitable Trust, his wife Judy, Stuart Berman of North Fort Myers and Renalto Camelio of Cape Coral all have been working with Reed.

For 11 years, Reed worked on finding photos of the original 80 fallen Vietnam veterans from Lee, Collier, Charlotte, Hendry and Glades counties whose names are on the Southwest Florida Vietnam Veterans Memorial. He then worked on the rest of the fallen veterans for the State of Florida. He then started working on the original 80 pictures/bios from a simple picture and a story to now include each individual person's medals, ribbons, badges, unit patches and rank, which took a year to complete.

A wreath commemorates the day.

“Chuck has a tireless drive to connect a face to every name on our Southwest Florida Vietnam Veteran's Memorial,” Gary Bowler said. “His labor of love and dedication to this project has made it possible for families here in Southwest Florida to honor those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

“His individual pictures with a record of their service awards and medals shows that they are not forgotten. This is a true gift to our community and all the families affected by the Vietnam War. “

In 2017, Reed was elected to be president of Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 594 Memorial Fund. The great grandfather also has been working with Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 594, the Gunterberg Foundation and the Brotherhood of Heroes Resource Center and Museum to move the Memorial from McGregor Boulevard at Colonial Fort Myers to Eco Park Veteran's area.

Newly-appointed Mayor John Gunter of Cape Coral attended the dedication.

“It’s my therapy,” said Reed. “I wasn’t in Vietnam but I did catch the pain these guys suffered.”

Reed said the first person to die in Vietnam was his high school gym teacher. That led him to joining the Marine Corps at 17.

By June 20, 2016, Reed found 80 photos of Southwest Florida men killed in action. Luc Century of Sanibel, who engraved names on the National Wall in Washington, D.C., engraved 76 of the men and was paid to do the final four. Reed found photos of all Florida veterans killed in action by Aug. 20, 2018, with the picture of PFC Thomas J Burton being posted on The Wall of Faces.

Two veterans walk past the memorial site at Eco Park in Cape Coral.

Moving the memorial from Fort Myers to Cape Coral has been a three-year project. Late last year, Reed said things escalated.

“We got larger donations, got half way to our goal of \$50,000,” he said. “A new museum in the Cape donated a chunk of money. And Walmart is trying to get us a grant.”

Cape Coral’s Parks and Recreation Department granted a site behind the electronic sign near other statues and monuments, which include the Felix de Weldon Iwo Jima Statue; Purple Heart Memorial; Iraq Monument; Merchant Marine Memorial and other memorials. There will be more room for parking while there also will be security, facilities and a pavilion for Veteran’s ceremonies.

DAR was signing up veterans for a pinning ceremony.

A dedication ceremony was held last weekend. Donations are needed for site work, brick work, benches, sidewalks and landscaping. The memorial isn't finished yet, but they hope to unveil it during the Memorial Day celebration.

“Chuck is a true inspiration,” Bowler added. “Where do you find a guy like this? I am proud to call him a fellow Marine and friend.”

From Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley

Subject: VA Transportation Assistance

I received the email below from Dr. McKenzie. If any of our veterans require transportation assistance to any VA medical centers, have them call our CBOC at 904- 829-0814 and ask for the primary social worker for help with transportation.

We recently found that we are able to assist with patients who have significant issues with transportation to VA medical centers. Our primary care social worker can assist with this problem. Patient can call here and ask that she be notified of problem. She will be able to contact them and attempt to provide assistance.

From Michael Isam

DAV van service to Gainesville returning on a limited basis.

Begins on Monday, 23 March 2021

The van will run on Monday and Wednesday ONLY

3 passenger limit

Masks are required to and from VAMC



Seagulls on Patrol

By Rick Cain

When we think of Naval aviation, most of us immediately picture the mighty aircraft carriers, decks bristling with a wide array of aviation assets that can take to the sky at a moment's notice. But aircraft carriers, as impressive as they are, are not the only vessels to launch and recover aircraft while underway at sea. In fact, they were not the first to do so either. Navies around the world began launching and recovering aircraft from destroyer and cruiser class ships at the turn of the 20th century, followed by, with few exceptions, the development of the first U.S. aircraft carriers in the 1920s. The focus of this article is on one of the mightiest "little" planes in the American arsenal in World War II, the Curtiss SOC "Seagull."

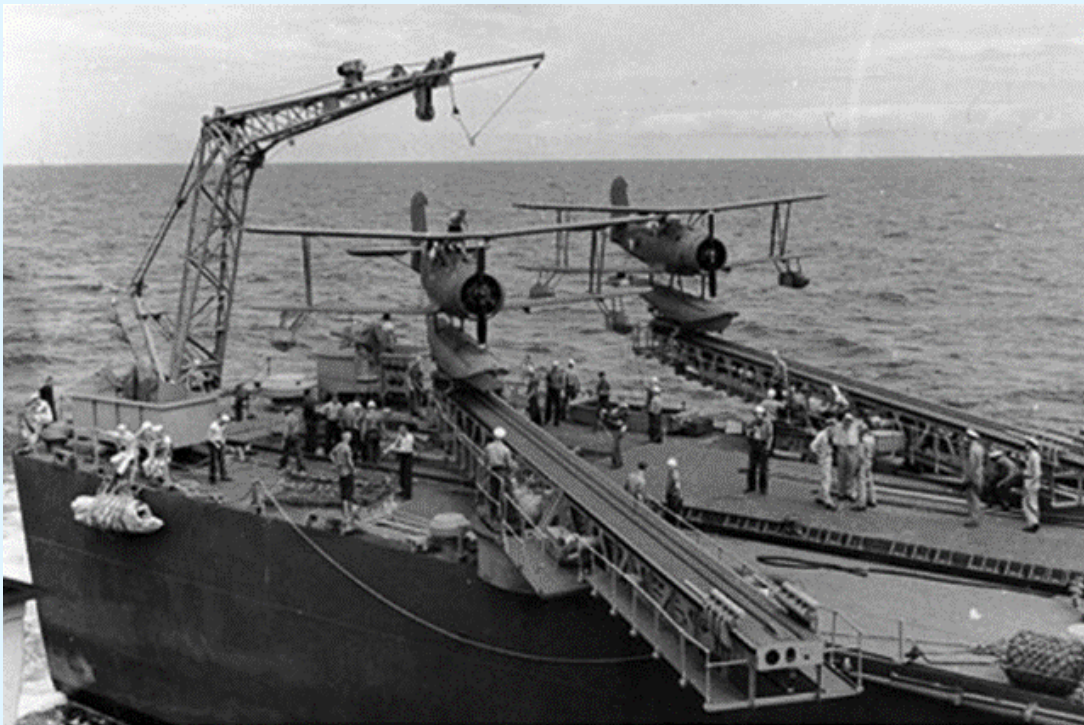


Above: Curtiss SOC Seagull (in seaplane configuration)

Produced by the Curtiss-Wright Corporation, the Seagull first took flight in 1934 and went on to serve not only the U.S. Navy, but also the U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Coast Guard through the end of WWII.

The scout-observation plane had a crew of two; one pilot who had control of the plane and a forward-facing Browning AN/M2 machine gun, and one observer who also served as a rear gunner utilizing a flexible-mounted M2 Browning. The plane could also carry up to 650 pounds of small bombs under its wings. It could be configured with regular landing gear for landing at airfields or on aircraft carrier decks, or be configured with seaplane pontoons. It had a cruising speed of 116 knots and an operational range of 587 nautical miles.

This little biplane, one that looked as though it belonged to a bygone era, proved most useful as a seaplane. It served aboard ships that would be the last thing one would think of has having aircraft that could be launched and recovered while underway at sea. Almost all of the training for the Seagull would be done from bases in Florida. To achieve this, cruiser and destroyer class vessels were equipped with two catapult rails for launching the small planes, and utilized a ship's crane for recovering the aircraft.

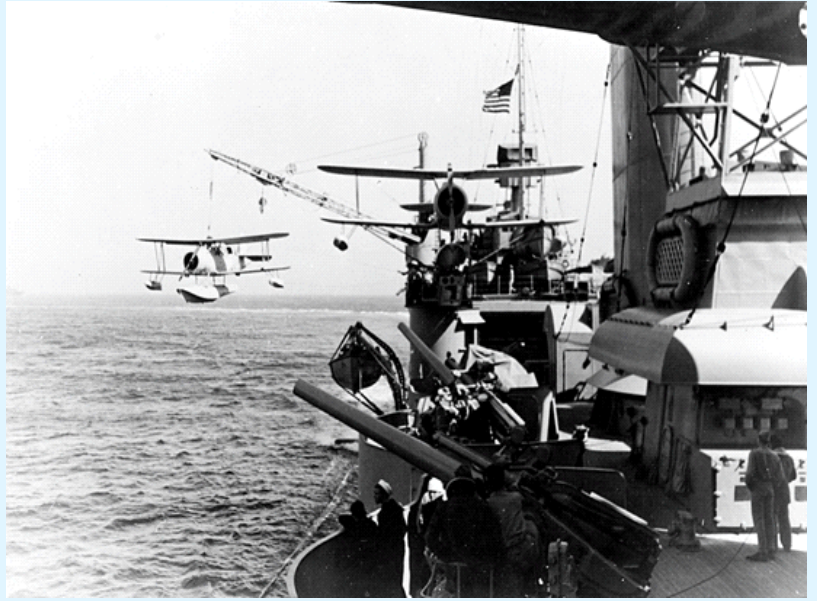
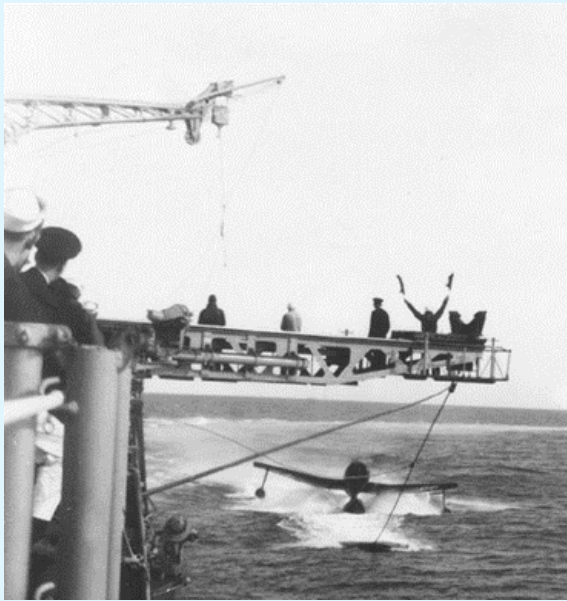


Above: Two Seagulls prepare for launch

When stowed and underway, the plane's wings folded back against the fuselage. The catapult rails, located at the stern of the vessel, ran from bow to stern in line with the vessel's deck. When preparing to launch, the rails could be swung across the ship's beam at an outboard angle of 30 degrees atop rotating turrets. Then the plane's wings were deployed. Four types of catapults were utilized, each powered by a different method: compressed air, gunpowder, hydraulics, or flywheel. Launch of the aircraft, though easier said than done, could then be achieved by turning the vessel into the wind. In certain conditions, the rails could be turned to 45 degrees, but this made launching the planes even more difficult.

Just having the aircraft aboard was dangerous. Storing highly flammable aircraft fuel created a much greater fire hazard for the vessel. As a result, the aircraft, its fuel and catapults remained in the stern and away from the larger gun turrets and shells which were the ship's primary weapons at sea. The mission of the Seagulls was one of reconnaissance, anti-submarine and anti-enemy spotter aircraft, and sea rescue operations. The pilots who flew these planes had to be very skilled indeed. Training took place at NAS Jacksonville and NAS Pensacola, while final check-out training at sea was done out of Port Everglades, Florida, aboard the U.S.S. Absecon.

Landing and recovery of the planes proved to be as challenging, if not more so. Landing on water is easy, as long as the water is calm. That was rarely the case in the open sea, so the ship would make a wide turn, or a series of turns, to flatten the water surface for the planes to land. It would then be up to the pilot to maneuver his plane alongside the vessel without damaging his wings against the side of the ship. If the seas were terribly rough, an aluminum mat with a hook could be dragged over the side creating a smooth run-up surface for the aircraft. Once on the mat, the pilot could cut his engines and the hook would engage as the plane slid backward. The pilot would then climb up from his cockpit and attach the crane hook for a ride back aboard his vessel via a wench on the crane. It was challenging to say the least. Occasionally, seas were so rough, the pilot would have to land in the ship's wake before running up alongside.



Above: Recovery at sea (note that the plane in the photo on the left is the larger monoplane Curtiss SO3C Seamew)

The sturdy little Seagull was compact, reliable, and a workhorse for Curtiss and the United States military. But with the on-going improvements in aviation, Curtiss introduced its next plane to replace the humble Seagull. It was the SO3C Seamew, a monoplane that was larger and more powerful. The Seagulls were pulled out of active service and sent back stateside to be retrofitted as trainers for young cadets learning to fly. Unfortunately, the new Seamew was immediately plagued with problems; the primary one being severe instability while in flight. Navy, Coast Guard, and Marine Corps pilots hated and dreaded flying them. While the Curtiss Corporation scrambled to make changes to improve the aircraft, the U.S. military simply gave up on the SO3C Seamew and returned the reliable SOC Seagulls to active service where they continued to serve with distinction until the end of the war in a variety of capacities.



Above: A mechanic and crew take a break while in port

The use of rail catapults aboard cruisers and destroyers, however useful, was short-lived in the grand scheme of things. Patrol aircraft could be launched and recovered much more easily and reliably from aircraft carriers, and by the mid to late 1940s, catapult rails would be replaced with new helicopter landing pads, the first of such aircraft seeing action in the China-Burma-India theater near the end of WWII.

Most of the Curtiss Seagulls were scrapped as the war came to an end, but for a short time, crews of determined men were trained in our home state of Florida, and then deployed to fly some of the most challenging missions ever to take place on the world's oceans. Many downed pilots and sailors, adrift in the sea, owed their rescue to Seagull crews. The crews either provided cover fire for protection, relayed their position to friendly ships, or simply landed their planes on the ocean surface and allowed the stranded men to climb onto the wings. They would then wait for rescue, or taxi their plane back to their ship regardless of the risk to themselves or their planes.

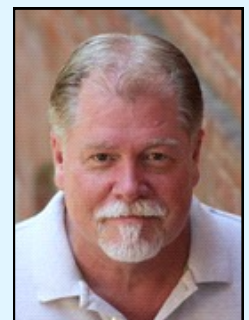
The next time you are out taking a stroll on the beach, and you hear a seagull cry, look overhead and out to sea. Take a quiet moment to remember the SOC Seagull and the crews who made them fly, and perhaps share their story with a friend. The service of these American heroes should never be forgotten.



Above: The U.S.S. Arizona in 1940, a year before the attack on Pearl Harbor, sporting two Seagulls on her stern.

Right the Author: Rick Cain

Rick Cain has worked for the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum for 18 years after a 20-year career as a health care professional. He serves on the Board of Directors of the American Lighthouse Council and is Immediate Past Chair of the Florida Attractions Association. He also works closely with the United States Coast Guard to maintain their historic ties to the Museum.



MISSING MANTABLE AND HONORS CEREMONY

As you entered the room, you may have noticed a special table; it is reserved to honor our missing men.

Set for six, the empty chairs represent Americans who were or are missing from each of the services – Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard – and civilians, all with us in spirit.



Some here were very young, or not yet born, when the Vietnam War began; however, all Americans should never forget the brave men and women who answered our nation's call and served the cause of freedom in a special way.

Let me explain the meaning of this table, and then join me for a moment of silent prayer.

The table is round – to show our everlasting concern.

The cloth is white – symbolizing the purity of their motives when answering the call to serve.

The single red rose reminds us of the lives of these Americans...and their loved ones and friends who keep the faith, while seeking answers.

The yellow ribbon symbolizes our continued uncertainty, hope for their return and determination to account for them.

A slice of lemon reminds us of their bitter fate, captured or missing in a foreign land.

A pinch of salt symbolizes the tears of our missing and their families.

The lighted candle reflects our hope for their return.

The Bible represents the strength gained through faith to sustain us and those lost from our country, founded as one nation under God.

The glass is inverted – to symbolize their inability to share a toast.

The chairs are/chair is empty – they are missing..... (moment of silence)

Let us now raise our water glasses in a toast to honor America's POW/MIA's, to the success of our efforts to account for them, and to the safety of all now serving our nation!

REQUIREMENTS

MILITARY

SERVED MINIMUM 90 DAYS ACTIVE DUTY,
1 DAY DURING WARTIME, WITH AN
HONORABLE DISCHARGE

MEDICAL

NEED FOR ASSISTANCE WITH ACTIVITIES OF DAILY
LIVING (ADLS) DUE TO A NON-SERVICE CONNECTED
DISABILITY

FINANCIAL

INCOME AND EXPENSES IN RELATION
TO MEDICAL EXPENSES

| VA RECOGNIZED WAR PERIODS | BEGINNING | ENDING |
|---------------------------|---------------|--|
| WORLD WAR II | Dec 7, 1941 | Dec. 31, 1946 |
| KOREAN CONFLICT | June 27, 1950 | Jan. 31, 1955 |
| VIETNAM ERA | Aug. 5, 1964 | May 7, 1975 |
| PERSIAN GULF WAR | Aug 2, 1990 | End date to be set by law or Presidential Proclamation |

MEDICAL SCREENING

The Veteran or surviving spouse must have a medical condition causing the need for assistance with activities of daily living (ADLs), such as bathing, dressing, grooming, using the toilet, preparing meals, and moving about safely).

MONETARY SCREENING

The veteran and or veteran plus spouse can have a maximum of \$129,094 in liquid assets. A primary residence and auto are not counted as part of the total liquid assets. Ongoing non-reimbursable medical expenses may reduce the annual countable income.

| MAXIMUM PENSION AMOUNTS | PER MONTH | ANNUALLY |
|-------------------------|-----------|----------|
| SURVIVING SPOUSE | \$1,244 | \$14,928 |
| VETERAN | \$1,936 | \$23,232 |
| COUPLE | \$2,295 | \$27,540 |

From Lynn M Geiser
Here are the Aid & Attendance requirements and qualifications for 2021. This is for veterans and their spouses who qualify and need assistance with their Activities of Daily Living (ADL's).

VETERANS COUNCIL OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

25 MARCH 2021

CALL TO ORDER: CHAIRMAN BILL DUDLEY

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: CHAIRMAN DUDLEY

INVOCATION: VICE CHAIR RAY QUINN

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

BUDDY HARRIS, CECIL FIELD POW-MIA MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM, RICK REES, FORMER ST. JOHNS COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER, CHRISTIAN WHITE-HURST, COUNTY COMMISSIONER, ST. JOHNS COUNTY, RANDY STAPLEFORD, REPRESENTING CONGRESSMAN MICHAEL WALTZ

MINUTES:

A review of the February meeting minutes was conducted and unanimously approved by the membership.

FINANCE REPORT:

Our finance report for March was presented by John Mountcastle. The report rendered was in detail including all expenditures and previous balances. The ending balance for the month of February is \$61,028.97. The report was approved by the membership.

RECOGNITION OF RICK REES:

First item on the evening's agenda was to recognize Rick for his years of service to our county's veterans. Rick first served as a service officer for Duval County where he worked along side Joe McDermott. When an opportunity became available he came to serve our veterans. His work history as stated by all honoring him was always outstanding.

Many veterans of our county owe their success with the VA system to Rick. Rick was recognized by Randy Stapleford on behalf of Congressman Waltz presenting him with a certificate and challenge coin. He was then recognized by the County Attor



ney who read a letter from the Chairman of the County Commissioners and also presented him with a challenge coin. Chairman Dudley then read a letter from Congressman John Rutherford commending Rick for his service to his country for his military and time served as a Veteran Service Officer. Both Congressman sent truly outstanding messages of appreciation of Rick's service. Joe McDermott thanked Rick for his years of service and on behalf of the office presented Rick with an eagle. Joe remarked on his many years working along side Rick and how he would truly be missed. A plaque from the Veterans Council of St. Johns County was presented to Rick by Chairman Bill Dudley.

CECIL FIELD PROGRAM PRESENTED BY: BUDDY HARRIS

Buddy Harris provided an excellent overview of the work done at Cecil Field over very short time. He commended all the volunteers that have brought them to this stage and will be there as the work continues.

Cecil Field is now the home of the National POW-MIA Memorial and Museum. The property it inhabits is leased from the City of Jacksonville. Along with the POWs the facility honors the 82,000 listed as MIA and unaccounted for.

The existing memorial was dedicated in 1973. A re-dedication of the chapel was conducted in 2019 and is named the Chapel of the High Speed Pass. Currently there is a static display of an A-7 aircraft with plans for three more aircraft of various models.

The facility is home to the only Gold Star Memorial in North East Florida.

To achieve further progress toward recognizing the POW-MIAs, the Gold Star Families and more the watchwords for progress are: Honor and Remember, Recognize, Educate and Partner.

Future plans for the facility are to include; Reflection Pond, Gallery of Light, MIA Mall, all included in the master plan.

SERVICE OFFICER REPORT:

Joe Mc Dermott reiterated the difficulty all service officers now experiencing a backlog of requests. He states there is a backlog of 480,000 requests at the National Military Records Center at St. Louis. Apparently, the issue is the effects of the pan

demic.

VETERANS COURT AND VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA 1084:

John rendered a brief report stating the next court will be conducted on 09 April 2021. He stated they have 39 graduates and there are 29 currently in the program. He did a comparison of our program to the Tampa Veterans Court. They currently have 200 enrolled.

The VVA Chapter 1084 participated in the St. Johns County Spring Fling held at the county fairgrounds. He stated the winds and the rain dampened the event but they held fast!

John reminded all of the upcoming golf tournament held to benefit the projects of the chapter. The event will be their 4th annual to be held at the Palencia course. Please contact John for more information.

THE CHAIRMAN REPORTS:

Chairman Dudley announced the new Community Based Outpatient Clinic is coming along quickly.

There has been a soft opening date established. The Veterans Administration has announced the facility will open on 22 June 2021. A grand opening was requested by our chairman to no avail. The pandemic remains a threat to how we normally do business. The chairman was assured that when conditions change we will have a grand opening.

Use of the temporary CBOC as a veterans homeless shelter is continuing with discussions with the County.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

RAY A. QUINN

VICE CHAIR

WWII Veteran's Dog Tags Reunited With Family After Being Found in Thrift Store

Morris A. Johnson's dog tags from WWII were reunited with his family members after being found in a thrift store. By Siobhan McGirl •

When Amie Wirth was thrift shopping last week, a colorful sewing basket caught her eye. "Because it was \$2.99. You can't go wrong," said Wirth, who lives in New Britain. What started out as a bargain find for Wirth, though, quickly turned into a trip back in time.



Inside the sewing basket, Wirth found dog tags from World War II belonging to a Morris A. Johnson. She found the sewing basket at a Savers store and had no idea the dog tags were inside. "He was a veteran. He served the country. That is a real personal item," said Wirth. She was determined to make a family connection and return the dog tags. Her friend, Tamara Zinn, saw Wirth's post on Facebook about the dog tags and she got to work.

"I told my family to call me Nancy, Nancy Drew," said Zinn.

Zinn did some online sleuthing and retraced the veteran's family tree. Her work eventually led her to Bruce Eberhardt, who lives in New Britain.

"They said they have these dog tags for Morris Johnson, do you know who that is? Well, yeah! That's my uncle. Where the heck did she find that?" said Eberhardt.

Eberhardt has no idea how his uncle's dog tags ended up in a thrift shop. He said that Morris was a kind and quiet man who lived with his beloved wife Mitsy, or Myrtle. Morris kept to himself and did not talk about the war. He died in 1988. Eberhardt said that his uncle had a big heart. "Just a generally good guy," said Eberhardt.

All of those memories were at the top of his mind Wednesday as he held his uncle's dog tags for the first time.

"When I saw those tags it just all came running back. It was beautiful," said Eberhardt. "Very emotional."

Eberhardt said that he and his wife are planning on framing Morris's dog tags with a picture of him. He was very grateful that Wirth and her friend went to such great lengths to return the special piece of history.

"He wore these while he was fighting for our country and I can't think of a better thing to do than to reunite them with the family," said Zinn.

"It was worth every penny," said Wirth. "And then some."

Eberhardt said he will cherish the day for the rest of his life.

"I hope he's up in heaven looking down on this," said Eberhardt.

The mystery is not completely solved yet. There were also pictures of a young girl and buttons from a Hartford firefighter inside the sewing basket. Wirth is still searching for their owners.

New Monument to Women Veterans

Monument to Women Veterans announces a groundbreaking event for a museum and monument to women veterans, and the announcement of a state-of-the-art national training center in construction for veterans. The museum and monument site is being developed to honor all women, past, present, and future, who served in the United States military and to provide on an unmet critical resources for female veteran care. Founded in 2011 by Navy Veteran Michelle Caldwell, Monument to Women Veterans has been granted a 30-year lease (with extension options) by the City of Pensacola to restore and remodel the Amtrak depot on Heinberg Street. The location will provide space for a museum and the first monument dedicated to the 25% of active-duty military women plus 2.8 million women veterans who have honorably served in combat since 1948.



VIETNAM HELICOPTER WAR STATISTICS

1961 - 1975

HELICOPTERS SENT 11,827
HELICOPTERS DESTROYED ... 5,086

HELICOPTER PILOTS SENT 40,000
HELICOPTER PILOTS KILLED . 2,202
NON-PILOT CREW KILLED 2,704

HUEY HELICOPTERS SENT 7,013
HUEYs DESTROYED 3,305
HUEY PILOTS KILLED 1,074
OTHER HUEY CREW KILLED ... 1,103

TOTAL HUEY HOURS FLOWN 7,531,955
(1966 - 1975)



REMEMBER WHAT OUR MEDAL STANDS FOR:

- RED:** REPRESENTS THE THREE ANCIENT VIETNAMESE EMPIRES OF TONKIN, ANNAM AND COCHIN.
- YELLOW:** THE IMPERIAL COLOR OF VIET NAM.
- GREEN:** SURROUNDED BY EXPANSIVE JUNGLE.

|TED PIECKO, The NAM.



Legal Aid for Veterans

The Florida Veterans Legal Helpline is a project of the Major General Ernest A. and Marilyn Bedke Veterans Law Center at Bay Area Legal Services, Inc. The helpline is a free service for eligible Florida veterans and their family members.

When you call, you will speak to a screener who will determine your eligibility and set your appointment with an attorney.

1.866.486.6161

Call Today!

Hours: Monday – Friday
9 AM to 4:30 PM



We Can Help With

- Landlord-Tenant Matters
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- Foreclosure
- Divorce + Child Support
- Drivers Licenses/ID cards
- Social Security + Public Benefits
- Discharge Upgrades
- VA Benefits
- And Other Civil Legal Matters
(No Criminal or Traffic Matters)

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& MARITIME MUSEUM



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U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Disaster Resources Available to Veterans

“Veterans and their families should be focused on their health and safety during the natural disasters,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “VA is taking action to give those with pending debts greater flexibility during these challenging times.”

Health Care Assistance

If you have questions such as where to go for care or how to receive prescribed medications, VA has established a toll-free number for assistance in areas that have been impacted by disasters. Veterans or their families can call the VA Veterans Disaster Response line 24 hours, seven days a week at 1-800-507-4571.

Debt Relief

If you are affected by a natural disaster, have a VBA benefit debt and need temporary financial relief, please contact VA's Debt Management Center at 1-800-827-0648 to request assistance.

If you have questions on Compensation or Pension benefits: Call toll-free 1-800-827-1000 Monday - Friday 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. CST.

Other Resources

Find a VA Vet Center near you 877-WAR-VETS (927-8387) or <https://www.va.gov/find-locations>

Mobile Vet Centers and Vet Center teams are actively responding to disaster-affected areas to offer counseling and grief support as well as connection and referral services to other VA and community resources.

Find a VA facility near you <https://www.va.gov/find-locations>

Call the White House VA Hotline 24 hours a day, seven days a week at 1-855-948-2311.

Apply for \$500 grant for your damaged primary residence (on a first come, first serve basis subject to funding) from PenFed Foundation.

National Resource Directory - Search for local resources for Veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors.

FEMA - FEMA helps with temporary housing, repair or replacement of existing homes.

American Red Cross - The American Red Cross offers emergency financial assistance to the most impacted counties. Please call 1-800-733-2767 to see if you qualify.

Disaster Assistance – An easy way to determine if your zip code has been declared a disaster and eligible for assistance. The website also allows users to complete an online application and the ability to check FEMA application status.



Florida veterans and military families have a new resource to receive the care they need thanks to a partnership dedicated to serving this most deserving population.

Centerstone and the Cohen Veterans Network have joined forces to offer compassionate, targeted behavioral health care for Post 9/11 veterans, National Guard, Reservists, their families and active duty family members at the Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at Centerstone, Jacksonville. <https://centerstone.org/cohen-military-family-clinic/jacksonville/>. The clinic’s skilled clinicians and staff have been trained to work specifically with veterans and their families, and some are veterans themselves. Services offered include individual therapy for children, adolescents and adults, couples therapy, family therapy, groups and workshops.

“Military families are some of the most resilient people you will ever encounter, but a life of service often gives way to invisible wounds and unique challenges that are difficult to navigate,” Elizabeth Sherr, clinic director said. “We understand those challenges and stand ready to support our veterans and their loved ones with effective, personalized care right now.”

The clinic’s ability to meet the needs of veterans and their families quickly is vital in today’s mental health environment where gaining access to care can often be daunting - with long wait times and all too common barriers to overcome. The Cohen Clinic at Centerstone is committed to reducing these barriers. Not only are military families currently able to receive same day appointments, the clinic also offers all therapy services via telehealth - breaking down time and distance concerns that can sometimes be problematic.

“We want to make getting help as easy as possible for our veterans and family members,” Brigadier General (ret.) Michael Fleming, the clinic’s outreach director said. “Sometimes just reaching out for help is difficult enough, and we want to ensure we meet this step with compassion and ease.”

For the time being, in an effort to ensure the safety of clients and team members amidst the COVID-19 physical distancing guidelines, that includes conducting all services via CVN Telehealth or telephone. Studies have shown telehealth has the same efficacy as in-person counseling and the clinic’s therapists are well trained in the delivery of this care. Additionally, front desk staff still have complete access to answer the appointment line during business hours, as before, and veterans, military families and outside organizations can continue to call directly for an appointment.

Veterans, National Guard, Reservists, their families and active duty family members may contact the clinic at (904) 431-3500 to schedule appointments. Clinic hours are:

| | |
|-----------|------------------|
| Monday | 8:00am – 5:00pm |
| Tuesday | 8:00am – 5:00pm |
| Wednesday | 8:00am – 7:00pm |
| Thursday | 8:00am – 5:00pm |
| Friday | 8:00am - 12:00pm |

For more information on clinic services log on to <https://centerstone.org/cohen-military-family-clinic/jacksonville/> or call the appointment line at (904) 431-3500.



You sacrificed for our country.

AT SILVER CREEK,
FREEDOM IS YOURS.

Because of your commitment, you helped us achieve the American Dream. At Silver Creek, we want to return the favor – by providing the freedom, independence and personal attention you deserve. Since 2016, Silver Creek has served the St. Augustine community, offering military retirees and seniors at large a vibrant, community lifestyle complete with everything except the burdens of home maintenance. Impeccably-appointed independent concierge living, assisted living and memory care apartments homes, first-class amenities, holistic wellness programming, gourmet, all-day dining and abounding opportunities for enrichment are just a few of the many options you'll find.

Silver Creek provides residents the perfect balance of elegant, upscale living with the warmth and intimacy of home – inspiring socialization and fellowship within a close-knit community.

Call **800-665-9492** to schedule a tour and learn more.



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Memory Care – Short-Term Stays

Assisted Living Facility #12928

Vietnam Veterans of America

If you are a Vietnam Era Veteran and live in one of these counties, please contact the President for information as to how to join



Chapter/President/email/Location

| | | |
|------|------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1046 | Tony D'Aleo | adaleo5579@gmail.com; Duval |
| 1048 | Rod Phillips | cobra101st@gmail.com; Daytona |
| 1059 | David Treffinger | dtreffinger433@msn.com; Clay |
| 1084 | John Leslie | john_leslie15@yahoo.com; St. Johns |
| 1088 | Roy (Corky) Rudd | corkstopper50@yahoo.com; Nassau |
| 1092 | Forest Hope | foresthope@usa.net; Gainesville |
| 1134 | Marvin Lagle | mdlagle@gmail.com; Baker |



First Coast Honor Flight Donation

I would like to donate \$ _____ to honor Veterans.

Please make check payable to: First Coast Honor Flight, Inc.

Mail to: First Coast Honor Flight, Inc.
P.O. Box 600785
Saint Johns, FL 32260

To make a donation by credit card please visit our website at:

www.firstcoasthonorflight.org

Click on "Help Our Cause" and then Click on "Donate Now" and submit your donation through PayPal. *Thank you!*

Name of Organization _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____ Email _____

This donation is: In Honor of _____ In Memory of _____

Name _____

Address _____

Veteran? Yes _____ No _____ Relationship _____

Branch _____ Dates Served _____

First Coast Honor Flight warrants that the information contained on this form is for internal use only and will not be shared, transmitted, or used for any purposes other than recording and acknowledging the donation. Donations are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. First Coast Honor Flight is a registered 501(c)3 Not for Profit EIN:84-4667182 For questions please Call: 888-400-1185 or email: info@firstcoasthonorflight.org.



PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO MEET VETERANS' UNIQUE NEEDS

Advance Care Planning

Community Hospice & Palliative Care offers Honoring Choices® Florida, a program to help you document your health care wishes in advance, so that, in the event you become ill and cannot speak for yourself, your wishes are known and can be followed.

Palliative Care

Our palliative care services can help people with serious illnesses get relief from physical, emotional, and spiritual pain, symptoms, and stress while seeking curative treatment.

Hospice Care

We also provide support during the final phase of advanced illness, with a focus on comfort and quality of life.

- ★ **Team Approach:** Trained clinicians identify and address the psychological, physical, spiritual and emotional needs of veterans and their caregivers.
- ★ **Pinning Ceremony:** We provide a veteran-to-veteran pinning ceremony to honor the service of our nation's bravest.
- ★ **Service Branch Flags:** For veterans who receive care at our inpatient centers, we fly the flag of their service branch outside their room and entrust the flag to the family following death.
- ★ **Veterans History Project:** Members of our Community Hospice Veterans Partnership (CHVP) record veterans' stories and share them online and with the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress.
- ★ **Community Hospice Veterans Partnership:** A select group of veteran leaders serving as brand ambassadors throughout Northeast and North Central Florida bringing awareness to, and providing access for, veterans and their caregivers facing advanced illness and end-of-life care.

Complementary Therapies

In addition to routine home care, respite care, continuous care and inpatient hospice, we also provide the following services to patients and their families:

- ★ **Grief and Loss Support**
- ★ **Certified Music Therapy**
- ★ **Certified Pet Therapy**
- ★ **Pet Promises**

We Need Volunteers

Whether you offer companionship and a listening ear or assist at fundraising events, there's a volunteer role for everyone. Opportunities include pinning ceremonies, Veterans History Project recordings, CHVP membership and other special programs.

WE HONOR VETERANS
Partner

Community Hospice & Palliative Care participates in We Honor Veterans, a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization program that honors veterans for their service and sacrifices.

For more information or to volunteer, call toll free **866.253.6681** or visit **CommunityHospice.com**.

★ Along with traditional reimbursement for hospice services, we offer payment options to veterans with TRICARE. As with all Community Hospice & Palliative Care patients, we provide care and support to all who need it, regardless of their ability to pay. VET 007.5/20



SURVIVOR OUTREACH SERVICES

Strength
built on
Sacrifice

Your Florida SOS Team

St. Augustine Area

Keith Ham
Support Coordinator
310 Charlotte Street
St. Augustine, FL 32085
(904) 823-0157 (desk)
(904) 472-7689 (cell)
keith.c.ham.ctr@mail.mil

Tallahassee Area

Matthew Reeves
Support Coordinator
1225 Easterwood Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32311-3599
(850) 617-0192 (desk)
(850) 459-6630 (cell)
matthew.p.reeves.ctr@mail.mil

Orlando Area

Shinekqua Baines
Support Coordinator
9500 Armed Forces Reserve Drive
Orlando, FL 32827
(407) 240-5939 ext. 1743
shinekqua.l.baines.ctr@mail.mil

Tampa Bay Area

LaShawnda S. Strother
Support Coordinator
2801 Grand Avenue
Pinellas Park, FL 33782
(727)-563-3647
lashawnda.s.strother.ctr@mail.mil

Miami Area

Support Coordinator
9301 NW 33rd Street
Doral, FL 33172-1202
(305) 437-2178

Scholarships & Application Deadlines

There are two primary VA Programs offering educational assistance. While federal benefits do not technically have a due date, it is important to apply as early as possible.

The Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship (Fry Scholarship) is currently available for children of those who died in the line of duty after September 10, 2001. Beginning January 1, 2015, Fry Scholarship will also be available for surviving spouses of those who died in the line of duty after September 10, 2001.

The Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA) Program offers education and training opportunities to eligible dependents of Veterans who are permanently and totally disabled due to a service-related condition or of Veterans who died while on active duty or as a result of a service-related condition.

Application Deadlines for surviving children

Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation

No set amount, available for children of those who died in the line of duty or of a service-connected disability. No application due date.

Freedom Alliance

Scholarships of up to \$5,000 for children of those who died in the line of duty. No application due date.

Fisher House Foundation/ Heroes Legacy Scholarship

Amount varies, for children of those who died while on active duty on or after September 11, 2001. Applications available from early December to March 14.

Special Ops Warrior Foundation

Amount varies, for surviving children of Special Operations Service Members who died in the line of duty. Applications due at least sixty days prior to the start of the semester.

Deadline for multiple relationships

Army Emergency Relief Fund

Amount varies, for surviving spouses and children of soldiers who die while on active duty or in retiree status. Applications available from January 2 to May 1, 2015.

Application Deadlines: For surviving spouses

Aspire

\$3,000 scholarships per semester for spouses of those who died on active duty. Applications due by October 31 for spring semester and June 30 for fall semester each year.

National Military Family Association

\$500 to \$2,500 scholarships for surviving spouses of those who died while on active duty on or after September 11, 2001. Applications available from December 1 to January 31.

Pat Tillman Foundation

Amount varies, scholarships for surviving spouses of those who died on active duty, in veteran status, or in retiree status. Applications available from February 1 to March 6.

Application Deadlines: For surviving siblings

Matthew Freeman Project

\$1,000 scholarships for siblings of those who have died in the line of duty. No application due date

Deadline for multiple relationships

Folds of Honor

\$5,000 scholarships for surviving spouses and children of service members who die in the line of duty or from a service-connected disability. Applications available from January 15 to March 15.

Disclaimer: The information presented in this newsletter is for informational awareness only and does not represent endorsement, sponsorship, recommendation, or promotion of any commercial events, commercial names or brands by the editors of this Newsletter, the Department of Defense, US Army, US Navy, US Air Force, US Coast Guard, National Guard, Reserve, or the federal government. Usage of commercial or trademark names is for identification purposes only.

FLORIDA SURVIVOR OUTREACH SERVICES AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY



Survivor Outreach Services provides long-term support and advocacy for families of the fallen. Our support coordinators and financial counselors are dedicated to helping survivors from all eras understand and apply for benefits as well as stay connected to the Army family for as long as they desire.

Although Survivor Outreach Services is the focus of this newsletter, please know that all branches of the Armed Forces are equally committed to taking care of surviving military families. Please contact us, and we will connect you with additional resources that may be available for your branch of service. To find the Survivor Outreach Services location nearest you, check out the map on this page, or visit www.sos.army.mil.



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...

SA-0003147064-01

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

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

STAND BY THEM
Confidential help for Veterans and their families

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE
1-800-273-TALK (8256)
suicidepreventionlifeline.org

..... 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

Veterans Councils of Northeast Florida



BAKER COUNTY

President: Larry Porterfield

Meetings:

Second Thursday of each month

Location:

MacClenny Primitive Baptist Church
Fellowship Hall on North Boulevard

Time : 1800 (6pm)

CLAY COUNTY

President: Harry Silvers

Meetings:

First Wednesday of each month

Location:

American Legion Post 250
3939 County Rd 218
Middleburg, FL 32068

Time: 1400 (2pm)

DUVAL COUNTY

President Steve Spickelmier

Meetings:

Third Tuesday of each month

Location:

American Legion Post 37
Main Building
San Juan Avenue

Tome: 1900 (7 pm)

NASSAU COUNTY

President: Mike Doran

Meetings:

First Thursday of each month

Location:

American Legion Post 54
626 South 3rd St
Fernandina Beach fit 32034

Time: 1900 (7pm)

St. Johns County

President: Bill Dudley

Meetings:

Last Thursday of each month

Location:

Health & Human Services building
Muscovy room, 1st floor
200 San Sebastian View, St. Augustine

Time: 1900 (7pm)

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

<http://veteranscouncilsjc.org>

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.

*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: rothfeldm@gmail.com



**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 Administration Building
500 San Sebastian View
Auditorium, 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
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.