



# The Patriot Reader Newsletter

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St. Augustine, FL 32085

Bill Dudley, Publisher

Michael Rothfeld, Editor

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From Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley

March 2022

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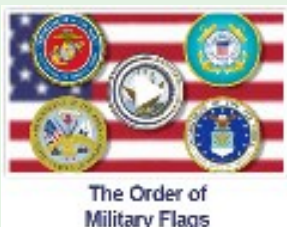
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Fellow Veterans,  
Since we published our last Patriot Reader newsletter, our veteran community unfortunately has lost a true patriot and a stalwart in the service of his fellow veterans. It saddens me to report the passing of Steve Spickelmier from Covid pneumonia. Steve was the past Chairman of the Duval County Veterans Council, President of the 5 County President's group, and Chairman of the Jacksonville National Cemetery Support Committee, a member of the Board of Directors of the POW-MIA Memorial and Museum, and many other veterans' organizations in the Duval area. Steve was retired from the USAF and never stopped serving his fellow comrades. He was a close personal friend and will be missed by all those who he has worked with over the years for the benefit of his fellow

veterans. Steve was laid to rest on Friday, Feb. 25 at Jacksonville National Cemetery with full military honors and a missing man flyover by the Dreamland Squadron.

The US Coast Guard Band will make a return engagement to St. Augustine on 4 April 2022. The concert will be at Anastasia Baptist Church at 7 PM. This will be their first stop in Florida. The Band had suspended all public appearances over the past two years due to the Covid virus. The concert is free but tickets are required to attend the performance. The link to obtain a ticket is shown below:

<https://us-coast-guard-band.ticketleap.com/st-augustine-fl/>

Please plan to join us for this outstanding performance by the elite USCG Band



The planning committee for this year's Memorial

Day ceremony met last week to plan for our upcoming event on 30 May 2022. The plan is to hold the ceremony this year at the St. Augustine National Cemetery as we have done in years past. The ceremony is hosted each year by the MOAA-ACC chapter and the Veterans Council. The NCA has not announced any restrictions on the number of attendees so we are planning on full attendance by the public. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend this year's ceremony.

Bill Dudley  
Chairman  
Veterans Council of St.  
Johns County



# The Florida Dept. of Veterans Affairs

**Mission:** To advocate with purpose and passion for Florida veterans and link them to superior services, benefits and support.

**Vision:** FDVA is the premier point of entry for Florida veterans to access earned services, benefits and support.

**Leadership Team:** To contact a Veterans' Claims Examiner, call (727) 319-7440 and they'll return your call within 24 hours. You may also contact them via e-mail at [VSO@fdva.state.fl.us](mailto:VSO@fdva.state.fl.us)

Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs, 11351 Ulmerton Road, Suite 311-K  
Largo, FL 33778-1630, (727) 518-3202

**Executive Director,** James S. Hartsell, (727) 518-3202, ext. 5587

**Forward March:** The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs has completed the regional assessment phase of the Forward March veterans' advocacy campaign. Participants engaged in a series of breakout sessions focusing on topics such as Community Services, Mental Health and Wellness, Benefits and Assistance, Transition and Legal Services and Veterans' Treatment Courts.

With the feedback gathered from the regional meetings, we are issuing this report of our findings and recommendations. The report will identify where Florida needs to reinforce best practices, reduce redundancies and implement solutions to fill gaps.

Watching over and advocating for our state's veterans and their families are the more than 1,100 men and women of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Florida has earned a reputation as the most veteran-friendly state in the nation. Our state's veterans bring more than \$18.4 billion federal dollars annually into Florida's economy.

Florida has the third largest population of veterans in the nation after California and Texas with more than 1.5 million veterans – 12 percent of the Sunshine State's population 18 and over.

If you are a veteran, thank you for your service. If you are the spouse or family member of a veteran, a special thank you for your dedicated support. For more information, call (727) 319-7440.

## **Fast Facts:**

Fiscal 2017 demographic information from the VA's Veteran Population Projection Model 2016. The VA reports there are 20.0 million veterans living in the United States.

There are 1,525,400 veterans in the State of Florida. There are 1,381,170 male veterans and 144,229 female veterans.

Note: Florida has the third largest veteran population in the nation, behind California with 1,681,730 veterans and Texas with 1,584,844 veterans.

There are 1,172,800 wartime veterans in the State of Florida.

There are 352,600 peacetime veterans in the State of Florida.

There are 31,000 World War II veterans in the State of Florida.

There are 105,000 Korean War veterans in the State of Florida.

There are 498,000 Vietnam-era veterans in the State of Florida.

There are 188,024 Gulf War veterans in the State of Florida. (1990 to 9/11/01)

There are 177,494 Post-9/11 veterans in the State of Florida (9/12/01 to present) There are 789,717 veterans in Florida 65 years of age and over. (There are 761,682 male veterans 65 years of age and older and 28,033 female veterans 65 years of age and older.)



**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 on Monday March 7, 2022**. 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 Hadlow Community Hospice of NE FL.  
4266 Sunbeam Rd, Jacksonville, FL 32257  
Hadlow Bldg – Conference Room A 6:00 pm**

**+++++2022 Officers of the SCJNC+++++**

Chairman: Bill Dudley  
Vice Chairman: Open 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. **NEW:** We meet at the County Health & Human Services Building, 200 San Sebastian View, at 7 pm**  
**From the January 2022 meeting onward all Council meetings will be held at the VSO building, 200 San Sebastian View**

*All SJC Health Guidelines will be followed.*

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



**Upcoming Veterans Council Meetings Speakers**

**March 31**, Sharon Lynn Unger, Homeless Veterans Stand Down, Clay County  
Dr. Matthew Burke, 10 CAN, Inc., Helping Veterans

**April 24**, Donna Boyce, Principal, St. Joseph's Academy with students speaking about  
their Veterans Interview Program

**May 26**, Bill Lazar, Patriot's Pl. Veterans Housing  
Dee Quaranta, Pres/CEO NE FL Women Veterans

**VETERANS COUNCIL OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY**  
**MINUTES OF GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
**JANUARY 27, 2022**



**CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Dudley**

**WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS: Chairman Dudley**

**PLEDGE: Chairman Dudley**

**INVOCATION: Vice Chair Quinn**

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS: Chairman Dudley**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Chairman Dudley offered a review of minutes of the last meeting. He noted that the minutes had been published on the council Face Book page. There was a motion and a second to accept the minutes as presented with a majority vote to approve.

**TREASURERS REPORT:** In the absence of our Treasurer John Mountcastle, Chairman Dudley presented the current report. The current balance of the council account is \$63,048.93. It was noted that 4/9 of this amount is restricted to specific programs. Chairman Dudley presented the major contributions and debts as presented on the written report. All members present were reminded that copies of the report were available at the meeting.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

**COLONEL ED TAYLOR AWARD:**

The annual presentation of the Colonel Ed Taylor award was conducted. The recipient for the year 2021 is Cynthia Thompson. Cynthia has distinguished herself in performance of her duties as coordinator for the

St. Johns County Veterans Treatment Court. Through her actions and professionalism no participant is left to struggle through any system. She acts immediately upon requests and works issues to completion. Her selfless service has had a positive impact not only on participants in the court but veterans county wide.

#### **UNSUNG HERO AWARD:**

Beth Heath of the We Can Be Heroes Foundation was present to recognize

Lt.Col. Larry Michalove as an Unsung Hero.

#### **BIBLE PRESENTATION:**

Chaplain Archuleta of the Jacksonville National Cemetery Support Committee was present to present Bibles that are a guide to law enforcement officers. The Bibles will be given to each of our St. Johns County deputies to provide daily guidance in performance of their duties. On hand to receive the Bibles was St. Johns County Sheriff Robert Hardwick along with his volunteer deputy chaplains.

#### **VETERANS HERITAGE PROJECT:**

Donna Boyce presented an overview of the Veterans Heritage Project currently in action at St. Joseph's Academy. Interested students are learning of local veterans and their service. Their intent is to document the service of our veterans. Ms Boyce has the students interested in supporting local veterans organizations and projects.

### **VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER REPORT:**

**CSM McDermott reported that the backlog at the Personnel Center in St. Louis, MO remains a severe problem. It is a problem for those veterans wishing to obtain their service records in order file a claim. He stated that the federal government has hired an additional 2,000 employees to overcome the backlog. He reminded our veterans that the Board of Appeals process is still available. He stressed that a personal appearance before the board is normally quite successful and recommended. The success rate in the personal appeal process is 97 to 98%.**

### **VETERANS TREATMENT COURT:**

**John praised the efforts and service of Cynthia Thompson. He stated she was most deserving of the receipt of the Colonel Ed Taylor Award. John reported that the court has worked with 92 veterans ranging in all ages and circumstances. There are currently 26 veterans undergoing the court process.**

**Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Dudley, Chairman  
Ray Quinn, Vice Chairman**

## SUMMARY OF VETERANS COUNCIL ACTIVITIES FOR 2021:

THE VCSJC HAD ANOTHER STELLAR YEAR IN SUPPORT OF OUR VETERANS. WE CONTINUED TO HONOR OUR VETERANS AS WE HAVE DONE EACH YEAR IN THE PAST ON VETERANS DAY, MEMORIAL DAY, WITH OUR HOMELESS VETERANS STAND DOWN, POW-MIA RECOGNITION DAY, AND WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA JUST TO NAME A FEW.

THE VETERANS COUNCIL CONTINUED ITS SUPPORT OF THE VETERANS TREATMENT COURT IN A VERY PROLIFIC WAY. OVER THE PAST 12 MONTHS WE WERE ABLE TO HELP MANY OF OUR VTC VETERANS WITH UTILITY BILLS, HOUSE REPAIRS, CAR REPAIRS, LODGING, INSURANCE PAYMENTS, TRANSPORTATION COSTS, COURT FEES, GIFT CARDS FOR FOOD AND GAS, AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AT CHRISTMAS, JUST TO NAME A FEW OF THE WAYS WE ASSISTED OUR VETERANS.

WE PRODUCED ANOTHER DOCUMENTARY THIS PAST YEAR, "KOREA, THE FORGOTTEN WAR, REMEMBERED", THE 6TH IN A SERIES OF DOCUMENTARIES BY INTERVIEWING 5 KOREAN WAR VETERANS WHO SAW COMBAT IN KOREA EITHER ON THE GROUND OR AT SEA. SEVERAL OF OUR DOCUMENTARIES WERE ACCEPTED FOR PERMANENT ARCHIVES INTO THE RONALD REAGAN AND HARRY TRUMAN PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARIES THIS YEAR.



WE REMEMBERED OUR VIETNAM VETERANS ON VIETNAM REMEMBRANCE DAY AT ST. AUGUSTINE NATIONAL CEMETERY AND ON VETERANS DAY AT ANASTASIA BAPTIST CHURCH. THIS



WAS A VERY MOVING AND EMOTIONAL EVENT AS OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKER, DR. HAL KUSHNER, A 6 YEAR POW GAVE AN ACCOUNTING OF HIS TIME IN CAPTIVITY. WE ALSO HONORED OUR FALLEN SONS FROM ST. JOHNS COUNTY AND



THE GOLD STAR FAMILY MEMBERS OF THESE FALLEN HEROES.

OUR ANNUAL WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA PROGRAM WAS ANOTHER SUCCESS THIS YEAR WITH NEARLY 400 ATTENDING FOR THE CEREMONY AND TO HELP PLACE WREATHS ON ALL THE GRAVESITES AT THE SANC.



AS PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED, OUR SIGNATURE EVENT EACH YEAR IS OUR VETERANS DAY PROGRAM AND THIS YEAR WAS NO EXCEPTION. WITH NEAR-

LY 1000 ATTENDING AND OVER 40 EXHIBITORS IN THE ATRIUM AREA AT ANASTASIA CHURCH, OUR COMMUNITY TURNED OUT IN HUGE NUMBERS TO HONOR OUR VETERANS. THE VETERANS COUNCIL IS PROUD OF OUR LOCAL CITIZENS, OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS, OUR FIRST RESPONDERS WHO TURN OUT EACH YEAR TO HONOR OUR VETERANS FOR THEIR SERVICE.



THE VETERANS COUNCIL ALSO SUPPORTED OTHER ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS DURING THE YEAR SUCH AS THE VETERANS ART EXHIBIT, LASSEN STATE VETERANS HOME, FIRST COAST HONOR FLIGHT, JACKSONVILLE AND ST. AUGUSTINE NATIONAL CEMETERIES, FLAGLER COLLEGE WW II EXHIBIT, CECIL FIELD POW-MIA MEMORIAL & MUSEUM, ST AUGUSTINE LIGHTHOUSE, MISSING IN AMERICA PROJECT, VETS FOR VETS, WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT, COL. DAVID PARRAMORE CROSS COUNTRY BIKE



RIDE, MOAA, FMC/AUSA, FIRE WATCH PROGRAM, SALVA-

TION ARMY HOMELESS VETERANS FROM PALM BEACH, SJC 200 YEAR TIME CAPSULE PROJECT, GOLD STAR PARKWAY AT JAX NATIONAL CEMETERY AND SEVERAL HOMELESS VETERANS HOUSING PROJECTS SUCH AS PATRIOT PLACE, SAN MARCO HEIGHTS AND VICTORIA CROSSING.



Patriot's Place

THE VETERANS COUNCIL WAS HONORED THAT THE CHAIRMAN WAS RECOGNIZED THIS YEAR BY ST JOHNS COUNTY FOR DESIGNATING NOV. 2 AS BILL DUDLEY DAY, AND BY THE JAX. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESENTING THE RADM KEVIN



Chairman Dudley receives AUSA Service Award

DELANEY MILITARY HALL OF FAME AWARD IN RECOGNITION FOR VETERANS SERVICE TO ST. JOHNS COUNTY AND NORTHEAST FLORIDA



AND TO AUSA FOR THE FIRST MILITIA CHAPTER SERVICE AWARD . THESE AWARDS RECOGNIZE THE HARD WORK AND COMMITMENT OF ALL THE TEAM MEMBERS OF THE VETERANS

## COUNCIL

During Calendar Year 2021, the Veterans' Council of St. Johns County, Inc. received more than \$40,500 in cash donations to support our missions.

This year, the Veterans' Council also created a semi-permanent endowment in the name of our Chairman, William Dudley; \$1,500 was donated specifically for this purpose. Grants would be made from income derived by this endowment; at the discretion of trustees, grants may also be made from principal invested.



In addition to the above cash transactions, the Veterans’ Council received donated goods and services valued at more than \$4,700, in furnishings reserved to assist deserving Veterans who will move into Veterans-dedicated housing provided by the St. Johns Housing Partnership this year.

**During 2021, the Veterans’ Council expended approximately \$39,500 in support of the missions of the Veterans’ Council; summarized by program expenses:**

	Cash Expense	As pct of \$46,000	As pct of \$ 41,300
Assistance to Veterans in Need	\$ 16,660	36.2%	40.3%
Flags (US, POW/MIA, Services)	\$ 1,801	3.9%	4.4%
Nov. 11 Veterans’ Day	\$ 7,132	15.5%	17.3%
Other Restricted	\$ 2,020	4.4%	4.9%
Stand Down	\$ 1,500	3.3%	3.6%
Veterans Treatment Court	\$ 7,127	15.5%	17.3%
Wreaths Across America	688	1.5%	1.7%
Programs Tools	\$ 36,928	80.3%	89.5%
General & Administrative	\$ 2,216	4.8%	5.4%
Fund Raising	\$ 360	0.8%	0.9%
	<b>\$ 39,504</b>		

Assistance to Veterans in Need aided more than ten families with temporary lodging, replacement of HVAC, car repairs, funeral expenses and emergency assistance. None of these were included in the Veterans’ Treatment Court, which had more than thirty participants who received assistance with court fees, gas and food cards, lodging assistance, vehicle repairs; at year-end, fourteen deserving participants identified by the Court each received \$200 checks as holiday gifts in recognition of their rehabilitation efforts.

Public Charities are evaluated by their ability to focus upon their missions, manage their expenses and be good stewards of the assets entrusted to them. With more than 80% of gross receipts expended on programs, less than 6% spent on overhead, and less than 1% spent on fund-raising, the Veterans’ Council compares quite favorably.

**Guidestar reports the Veterans’ Council has a gold rating.**

At the ceremony of the Four Chaplains at Cecil Field Chaplain Pat Archuleta presented a coin and plaque to Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley and Pres./ CEO Dee Quaranta of the NE FL Women Veterans.



**The award was The Legion of Honor Humanitarian Award**



February 3, 2022

Mr. William Dudley

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
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Howard Schaeffer, USMC Veteran

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Daniel A. Oeko, Esq.  
Frank Sardinha, III, Esq.  
Moujan Toloubadei

Dear Mr. Dudley,

Congratulations! The Chapel of Four Chaplains Awards Committee has reviewed and approved your nomination to receive The Chapel of Four Chaplains Legion of Honor Humanitarian Award. We are happy to have your name added to our Honor Roll.

As a recipient of the Legion of Honor Humanitarian Award you are a source of pride and inspiration for The Chapel of Four Chaplains, as well as those who come into contact with you. We encourage you to continue the selfless service which brought you to our attention and moves us to recognize you publicly.

We ask that you consider joining the growing Chapel family and enroll in one of our Annual Membership groups. Your contribution will be used to support the Chapel's many worthwhile programs, including the Legion of Honor, the National Student Scholarship Competition, Emergency Chaplain Corps and the Veterans Outreach Programs.

Sincerely,

*Howard Schaeffer*  
Howard Schaeffer, USMC Veteran  
Chairman



# Dedication of the Korean War Veterans Monument at the Jacksonville National Cemetery



From Col Jane Karp, USAF (Ret)

My Dad was with Patton from North Africa, Sicily, Italy, France, and Southern Germany. He was his communication man in North Africa. That meant Patton gave Dad his troop orders to deliver to the commanders because Patton did not believe radio communications were secure.

Then Patton would move 50 miles a day or more and Dad had to find him for the next day's orders. When they landed in Sicily Dad was transferred as Warehouse Manager because there was a supply shortage and knew Dad could scrounge for food, uniforms, blankets, etc.

Patton personally ordered Dad to re-open Palermo in a week. He and his people, along with support from the local inhabitants, re-opened the stores and the opera house. To this day there is a small plaque in the Opera House about my Dad. Dad was promoted the day Palermo re-opened. Dad was finally shipped home after 4 years overseas from Southern Germany because he was Jewish. They had heard about the atrocities in Dachau, probably from Stephen's father, and did not think Dad would tolerate it well. He wouldn't have.

My Dad was a man of honor, integrity, righteous character, deeply religious, never swore, drank, and had a great sense of humor. And that man could tell his stories like no other. He didn't believe in hiding what he saw or had done. He wanted people to remember. His legacy is in the Veterans History Project in the Library of Congress. I urge everyone to have their veterans record their stories and send them to the Project.

Jane



## To The Veterans Council of St. Johns County



Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you very much for your most generous donation providing monetary holiday gifts for veteran participants in need.

The extraordinary generosity of the Veterans Council throughout the year, in providing financial support for Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) and the court's participants, and in Veterans Council members' daily active involvement in VTC's activities, is essential to the accomplishment of VTC's mission to assist justice-involved veterans return to a healthy, productive way of life.

The veterans who received assistance this holiday season all asked me to express their heartfelt gratitude. Your generosity made a great impact in their lives. Among others, your gift helped:

A single mother of five who was able give her children the gifts she could not otherwise afford.

A young unemployed father, looking for work, who was finally able to afford the bicycle his five-year-old son has wanted since last Christmas.

A veteran who has overcome many hardships, who is now closer to achieving her goal of moving from a group sober living home into a shared rental.

A hard-working single father who could only give his ten-year-old son a practical gift of clothes, was able to put toys under the tree.

A combat veteran, disabled in service, who is facing several operations in the New Year, was able to afford holiday cheer instead of just life necessities.

The Veterans Council's magnanimity, both over the holidays and throughout the year gives veterans the greatest gift of all: the tangible reminder that their fellow veterans and members of their community actively support them and appreciate their service.

Sincerely,

Cynthia C. Thompson



**Tom Waskovich lives in St Augustine Beach, was one of the founders of the Veterans Council and its second Chairman.**



Tom proudly served his country as a famed Green Beret. His unit was MACV SOG, Military Assistance Command, Vietnam – Studies and Observations Group, was a highly classified, multi-service United States special operations unit which conducted covert unconventional warfare operations prior to and during the Vietnam War.

Tom was in the only "top secret" unit in Vietnam -- Military Assistance Command, Vietnam – Studies and Observations Group (MACV-SOG). He led a team of two Americans and five Montagnard (indigenous) mercenaries on a variety of commando-type missions into Laos and Cambodia. Waskovich was on the first covert mission to block the Ho Chi Minh Trail in Laos in 1969 and was awarded the Cross of Gallantry by the South Vietnamese Government for his part in blowing up four trucks during the roadblock.

Everyone knows the famous WWII unit , the 82nd airborne . They had two Medal Of Honor recipients and had over 10000 members assigned , or a ratio of 5000+ to one ratio and their accomplishments are well known and deserved .

My unit CCC had a little over 300 assigned who did cross border ops and we had SIX MOH recipients (Kedenburg, Sisler, Miller, Zabitoski, Howard and Rose).

A ratio of 50 to one ! Nobody knows who command and control central (CCC) was and no idea of their accomplishments . I was fortunate to serve at the same time as Miller and Bob Howard was our Recon Company 1SG and Fred Zabitoski was a friend of mine who visited me in NJ after the war . Most people never meet a MOH recipient and I was fortunate to know three and definitely had the opportunity to walk amongst heroes and legends .

We ran a variety of commando missions in Laos and Cambodia and I ran

the following missions: ambush, point Recon, General Recon, planted a vehicular mine in the Ho Chi Minh trail, bomb damage assessment (BDA), called in air strikes on NVA Hdqts units , first covert mission to block the Ho Chi Minh trail, blew up trucks on the trail with a 90 recoilless rifle and m60 machine gun, collect soil samples and depositing phsy ops material and bright light , which was a team that was always on call (rotated weekly) to rappelle in to aid a team in trouble or rescue downed aircraft personnel .



Prisoner snatch was always a secondary mission .

Other missions I didn't run included wiretapping comms lines, inserting tampered rounds and mortar rounds that would explode when the NVA tried to fire them, dropping a transistor radio on the trail that an NVA would find and turn on that would play local Laotian radio but would also send out a signal that would locate them and follow up with an air strike and I am sure a few that I have forgotten. These were all run in areas with thousands of NVA everywhere and specially trained anti SOG teams with dogs that were deployed to track us down. It is a special feeling to be hunted by a superior unit with tracking dogs (happened twice!).

SOG also was the first to do combat HALO (high altitude, low opening ) parachute insertions into Laos and Cambodia and had about a dozen halo insertions altogether . All our people were volunteers for extremely hazardous duty who could leave any time they wanted but very few did. They were very special people who ran on a much different frequency than normal people. We had an extremely high casualty rate.

Good luck trying to tell that story!

(continued on next pages)

*This information about MACV SOG was gathered from several sources on the Internet*

Military Assistance Command, Vietnam – Studies and Observations Group (MACV-SOG) was a highly classified, multi-service United States special operations unit which conducted covert unconventional warfare operations prior to and during the Vietnam War.

Established on 24 January 1964, it conducted strategic reconnaissance missions in the Republic of Vietnam (South Vietnam), the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (North Vietnam), Laos, and Cambodia; took enemy prisoners, rescued downed pilots, conducted rescue operations to retrieve prisoners of war throughout Southeast Asia, and conducted clandestine agent team activities and psychological operations.

The unit participated in most of the significant campaigns of the Vietnam War, including the Gulf of Tonkin incident which precipitated increased American involvement, Operation Steel Tiger, Operation Tiger Hound, the Tet Offensive, Operation Commando Hunt, the Cambodian Campaign, Operation Lam Son 719, and the Easter Offensive. The unit was downsized and renamed Strategic Technical Directorate Assistance Team 158 on 1 May 1972, to support the transfer of its work to the Strategic Technical Directorate of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam – part of the Vietnamization effort.

The Studies and Observations Group (also known as SOG, MACSOG, and MACV-SOG) was a top secret, joint unconventional warfare task force created on 24 January 1964 by the Joint Chiefs of Staff as a subsidiary command of the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV). It eventually consisted primarily of personnel from the United States Army Special Forces, the United States Navy SEALs, the United States Air Force (USAF), the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), and elements of the United States Marine Corps Force Reconnaissance units.

The Studies and Observation Group, as the unit was initially titled, was in fact controlled by the Special Assistant for Counterinsurgency and Special



Activities (SACSA) and his staff at the Pentagon. This arrangement was necessary since SOG needed some listing in the MACV table of organization and the fact that MACV's commander, General William Westmoreland, had no authority to conduct operations outside territorial South Vietnam. This command arrangement through SACSA also allowed tight control (up to the presidential level) of the scope and scale of the organization's operations. Its mission was:

...to execute an intensified program of harassment, diversion, political pressure, the capture of prisoners, physical destruction, acquisition of intelligence, generation of propaganda, and diversion of resources, against the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

These operations (OPLAN 34-Alpha) were conducted in an effort to convince North Vietnam to cease its sponsorship of the Viet Cong (VC) insurgency in South Vietnam. Similar operations had been under the purview of the CIA, which placed agent teams in North Vietnam with airdrops and over-the-beach insertions. Under pressure from Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara, the program, and all other agency para-military operations, was turned over to the military in the wake of the disastrous Bay of Pigs Invasion operation in Cuba.

Colonel Clyde Russell (SOG's first commander) had difficulty creating an organization to fulfill his mission since, at the time, United States Special Forces were unprepared doctrinally or organizationally to carry it out. At this point the Special Forces' mission was to conduct guerrilla operations behind enemy lines in the event of an invasion by conventional forces, not conducting agent, maritime, or psychological operations. Russell expected to take over a fully functional organization and assumed that the CIA (which would maintain a representative on SOG's staff and contribute personnel to the organization) would see the military through any teething troubles. His expectations and assumptions were incorrect.[5] The contribution of the South Vietnamese came in the form of SOG's counterpart organization (which used a plethora of titles, and was finally called the Strategic Technical Directorate [STD]).

On 21 September 1965, the Pentagon authorized MACV-SOG to begin

cross-border operations in Laos in areas contiguous to South Vietnam's western border. MACV had sought authority for the launching of such missions

(Operation Shining Brass) since 1964 in an attempt to put boots on the ground in a reconnaissance role to observe, first hand, the enemy logistical system known as the Ho Chi Minh Trail (the Truong Son Road to the North Vietnamese).

MACV, through the Seventh Air Force, had begun carrying out a strategic bombardment of the logistical system in southern Laos in April (Operation Steel Tiger) and had received authorization to launch an all-Vietnamese recon effort (Operation Leaping Lena) that had proven to be a disaster. U.S. troops were necessary and SOG was given the green light.



In 1966, Woodcock was awarded the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry from Col. Ngao The Linh, commander of the South Vietnamese special commandos.

By the end of 1965, MACV-SOG had shaken itself out into operational groups commanded from its Saigon headquarters. These included Maritime Operations (OPS-31), which continued harassment raids and support for psychological operations (via kidnapped fishermen); Airborne Operations (OPS-34), which continued to insert agent teams and supplies into the north; Psychological Operations (OPS-33), which continued its "black" radio broadcasts, leaflet and gift kit drops, and running the operation at Cu Lao Cham; the revised Shining Brass program; and Air Operations (OPS-32), which supported the others and provided logistical airlift. Training for SOG's South Vietnamese agents, naval action teams, and indigenous mercenaries (usually Nùng or Montagnards of various tribes) was conducted at the ARVN Airborne training center (Camp Quyet Thang) at Long Thành, southeast of Bien Hoa. Training for the U.S. personnel assigned to recon teams (RTs) was conducted at Kham Duc.

## Recognition

The U.S. military (and MACV-SOG personnel) kept tight security over knowledge of the unit's operations and existence until the early 1980s. Although there had been some small leaks by the media during the conflict, they were usually erroneous and easily dismissed.[57] More specific was the release of documents dealing with the early days of the operation in the Pentagon Papers and by the testimony of ex-SOG personnel during congressional investigations into the bombing campaigns in Laos and Cambodia in the early 1970s.[58] Historians interested in the unit's activities had to wait until the early 1990s, when MACV-SOG's Annexes to the annual MACV Command Histories and a Pentagon documentation study of the organization were declassified for the Senate Select Committee on POW/MIA Affairs' hearings on the Vietnam War POW/MIA issue.[59][clarification needed]

One early source of information (if one read between the lines) were the citations issued for the award of the Medal of Honor to MACV-SOG personnel (although they were never recognized as such). One USAF helicopter pilot, two U.S. Navy SEALs, one U.S. Army medic, and nine Green Berets earned the nation's highest award on SOG operations:

Staff Sergeant Roy P. Benavidez (who had to wait until he received his award from President Ronald Reagan)

Staff Sergeant Jon Cavaiani

First Lieutenant James P. Fleming (USAF 20th Special Operations Squadron)

First Lieutenant Loren D. Hagen (posthumous), CCN/TF1AE

Sergeant First Class Robert L. Howard (awarded on his third separate recommendation)

Specialist 5 John J. Kedenburg (posthumous)

Staff Sergeant Franklin D. Miller (5th Special Forces Group)

Lieutenant Thomas R. Norris (Navy SEAL)

Sergeant Gary M. Rose

First Lieutenant George K. Sisler (posthumous)

Engineman Second Class Michael E. Thornton (Navy SEAL), STDAT-158

Sergeant First Class Fred W. Zabitosky

Twenty-two other members of the unit received the Distinguished Service Cross, the nation's second highest award for valor. On 4 April 2001, the U.S. Army officially recognized the bravery, integrity, and devotion to duty of its covert warriors by awarding the unit a Presidential Unit Citation during a ceremony at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, the home of U.S. Army Special Forces.



**MISSION STATEMENT**

"To conduct and distinguish ourselves with respect, integrity, and honor for effective reintroduction into society."

**JUST THINKING...**

...what's in a name? The names, FOB Madison and the FOB Madison Veterans Bugler are important to veterans for a few reasons. First, the term FOB stands for Forward Operating Base. In the military a FOB is a home away from home. It is a small operating outpost of a much larger, permanent main base or garrison. It is a temporary place to live while conducting combat and support operations in a specific area of operation. These FOB's are extremely limited in resources, normally somewhat crude, with little if any infrastructure or amenities. The name "FOB Madison" was proposed by David Doll, a U.S. Army Veteran, and adopted unanimously within the program as the term fits with our current living arrangement.

The word "Bugle" in the title of the newsletter brings a sense of nostalgia of earlier days within the U.S. Armed Forces. A horn-like instrument used far and wide was able to convey mass amounts of information in simple bugle calls. One tone, song, or bleat would signal revile, another to charge in combat, one for chow, or time to end the days activities. There are many more bugle calls; therefore, the name "The FOB Madison Veterans Bugler" will be used as a call to convey information to you all. We hope you enjoy this first edition and many more to come.

-S. Howe



**THE RED TAILS**

-Michalik

The Tuskegee Airmen are known today as the first black pilots in the U.S. military as well as operating as navigators, mechanics, instructors, and other supporting soldiers within their unit. The Tuskegee Airmen were established in 1941 building an impressive combat record of sorties, helping the Allies win World War II, and putting the U.S. Armed Forces on the road to a successful integration. Listed here are 10 known or unknown facts about the Tuskegee Airmen you may or may not know.

**MONTHLY SPOTLIGHT**

-Michalik & Stringer



Not a minor tussle, the 3-year Korean conflict was one of the bloodiest wars in history. Before her enslavement, Korea had been a united, peaceful country of simple farmers and fishermen.

In 1895, Japan invaded Korea to seize their resources and enslave their people. In 1941, when WWII ended, the Japanese withdrew leaving Korea with no government. Korea's northern

half known as the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea (DPRK) embraced communism, while the southern half known as the Republic of Korea (RK), set up a free government. In 1950, the DPRK invaded the RK, occupying over 90% of the country in 3 months and killing at least a million civilians.

The RK called out for help and the United Nations (U.N.) agreed to oversee a military force to free them. Sixteen U.N. countries voluntarily sent combat troops and surprised the northern invaders. Quickly repelling them in one month, the U.N. had liberated the RK and occupied 90% of the DPRK. With the changing tide it was now the communists turn to cry out for help.

China sent soldiers beyond their borders while, Russia sent equipment to aid the demoralized DPRK. With this support, the DPRK military promptly reclaimed their territory and 20% of the RK territory. The U.N. increased their combat forces with a continued push and pull from forces north and south. Every time the U.N. started to gain ground, the Chinese would put more men into the field, with utter determination that the DPRK would not loose.

Mobile Army Surgical Hospitals otherwise known as MASH were also involved in this push and pull having to secure their site, relocate and begin operations within an extremely short time period. An average, this 60 personnel detail of officers and enlisted would support Army troops numbering from 10,000 to 20,000 not more than twenty miles from the front lines of the war. When a soldier was wounded, a medic on the front lines would provide aid as best they could and arrange transportation under fire for further care. No easy feat in this area, however, mortality rates noticed a significant decrease due to MASH operations. The term "Golden Hour" was coined here and attributed to a 97% chance of survival from injury to arriving at a MASH. No matter the overflow, MASH service members did all they could to prevent unnecessary loss of life.

No cost too high, neither side resigned nor surrendered day after day. Instead, each side fortified their own positions with land mines, barriers, and fencing. Giving a 2.5-mile-wide strip from one side of the country to the other side of "No Man's Land." Labeled the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) or 38<sup>th</sup> Parallel as we know it today. **Story continued on page 2...**

- Their roots as a unit were in Illinois before moving to Alabama.
  - The Tuskegee Institute trained the 1<sup>st</sup> black pilot.
  - No one addressed them as the Tuskegee Airmen until a book published in 1955.
  - Eleanor Roosevelt supported and advocated for the Tuskegee Airmen when others did not in the higher echelons.
  - An exemplarily record for their bomber escort missions.
  - Some were dubbed the "Red Tails" for painting the aircraft tails red.
  - The first 3 Generals in the U.S. Airforce were members of the Tuskegee Airmen.
  - Faced segregation head and peacefully on base winning the admiration and respect of fellow service members.
  - A Tuskegee Airmen was a lead into classified inquires with UFOs in Project Bluebook.
  - In 2007 Tuskegee Airmen members were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal.
- Information courtesy of Reporter/Writer Mark Mancini.

**WRITER'S BLOCK**

**Who Am I?**

*Wrapped at birth,  
Wrapped at death,  
Serving God with every breath,  
Entering through a womb,  
Leaving through a borrowed tomb.  
Who am I?*

-M. Stringer

**What Am I?**

*I moved about once a month, I had to be packed up onto trucks within six hours of orders to move. During the Korea War I helped lower the Army's fatality rate from 4.5% down to 2.5%. Seven of us were set up in different strategic locations, approximately twenty miles from the front lines. Some days I had twice as many patients then I had bed space, but I never turned anyone away.*

**Poem**

*The breeze has no path  
Unlike the lives that we lead.  
The breeze then fades.*

-T. Reardon

**MONTHLY SPOTLIGHT CONTINUED**

This conflict to this day still has no victor, only a cease-fire agreement, and the war has never officially ended. The last active MASH Unit in the Republic of South Korea deactivated in 1997. The Republic of South Korea, the U.N. and the United States of America attempted to peacefully end this war recently but still falls on the deaf ears of the current dictator Kim, Jung-Un.

**VET OF THE MONTH**

Mark Porter – A U.S. Army Veteran has contributed time and his skills with an artistic touch to the military styled murals as well as being an active voice within the program. Improving quality of life in the dorm, as a Squad Leader, elected by his peers and his vast support into the "Squad Challenges."

**The Sound Barrier**

*I was in transit, coming from the States, heading for my duty assignment in Vietnam. I was an Army officer, a helicopter pilot, and used to bunking in an officer's tent with one other pilot. The plane brought me most of the way, but I was given a cot in a large tent full of soldiers before the last leg of my journey the next morning. "I hope you don't snore," said the soldier in the cot next to me. Well, in fact, I do. I was exhausted from the long trip and slept on my side facing away from that soldier, hoping to not cause a problem. It was bright when I woke up the next morning, looking around, I realized why. I was in the same cot I went to sleep in, but the cot was now in the middle of the dirt road 30 yards from the tent. Everyone else was peacefully sleeping when I went back in to get my gear.*

-S. Wiengeroff

**Thank You**

*Are you in need of inspiration, kind words or the simple fact that you are on someone's mind? Here are some words from Veteran Boyd's Grandmother.*

*"Thank you all for your service to our country. It was an honor to contribute to your Veteran's Day meal. Victory is yours, just believe."*

-Grandma

HIDDEN ANSWERS: Who Am I? A: Army of Nurses. What Am I? A: US Army MASH. The Soldier: Army Surgeon Hospital

**"SOUTHERN STYLE"**

What is the plural of "y'all"?

Answer: All y'all

**EVENTS**



**In Search of Stones**

As I gather around the table with the members of the rock band, "In Search of Stones" they share a positive attitude and a steaming, hot cup of Koffee. Coming off a recent third place finish at Madison's Corrections Got Talent competition, where they performed Scars by Papa Roach, there is an air of excitement. What started as a six-piece band eventually dropped to four; three of the members being Veterans. From right to left: M. Porter drums, Army, S. Crews lead guitar, vocals, Navy, M. Michalik Bass, Vocals, Army & S. Knowles keyboard. While the exit of the other members goes unsaid, I can assure you it was not due to spontaneous combustion.

When asked about their third-place finish Crews stated with the limited time and equipment they had to practice and the fact that neither he nor Michalik are not actual vocalists it went well. Michalik added, "that this was not the direction we wanted to go with Scars when the original vocalist pulled out of the competition and it was too late to change at that point but overall pleased with the outcome. It was an exciting time and with-it being Florida we asked for a recount due to all the other talent showing up in the competition."

But not all shows go as planned. The big ending with the drummer standing at attention triumphantly spinning his sticks in a blur of solid wood was not to happen as he got caught up in the snare drum and could not stand up, leaving the others to pull off the ending on their own. Crews commented, Freddie Mercury of Queen said it best, "The show must go on."

Congratulations guys.

-W. Greene

**FOB HAPPENINGS**

New movies will continue in the game room. Stay on the lookout for the signup sheets coming to your dorm! 2022 is upon us, staffers returning from vacations and the extended weekends have come to an end. One may see this as a time things have slowed, and another may see the time flow ten times the speed of light. No matter the perspective one may have, FOB Madison is looking to our positive future for professional development and improvement to our programs. It starts with you. Charles Dickens once wrote, "No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another." Take this time to reflect and see what forms of inspiration flow from your thoughts.

-Michalik



*ALL are invited to attend*

**Veterans Council Upcoming Meeting  
Change**



**ALL Meetings in 2022 will be back at  
200 San Sebastian View where the Veterans Service  
Office (VSO) is located.**

**Upcoming Veterans Council Meetings Speakers**

**March 31:**

Sharon Lynn Unger, Homeless Veterans Stand Down, Clay  
County

Dr. Matthew Burke, 10 CAN, Inc., Helping Veterans

**April 28:**

Donna Boyce, Principal, St. Joseph's Academy with students  
speaking about their Veterans Interview Program

**May 26,** Dee Quaranta, Pres/CEO NE FL Women Veterans  
Bill Lazar, SJC Veterans Housing

# VIETNAM VETERANS DAY CEREMONY



Date: Saturday, March 26, 2022

Time: 10:00 AM

Location: TAPS Monument

915 Walnut Street

Green Cove Springs, FL

Questions: (904) 269-1857

*All CDC COVID-19 guidelines will be followed and face coverings are recommended.*



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



In Partnership



## A great milestone in Helping Veterans.

**From Chairman Dudley: I received the below congratulatory letter yesterday from Senator Rubio regarding our Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) 5 year anniversary.**

**Bill Dudley, Chairman**

**Veterans Council of St. Johns County, anuday00@aol.com**

MARCO RUBIO  
FLORIDA

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:  
APPROPRIATIONS  
FOREIGN RELATIONS  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE  
SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP  
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

January 21, 2022

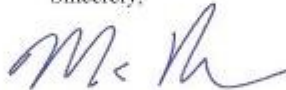
Dear Friends,

It is with great pleasure that I join you in celebrating the 5th anniversary of the St. Johns and Putnam County Veterans Treatment Court.

Since 2017, this court has worked to provide servicemen and women with programs designed to offer support to help veterans overcome challenges they face upon returning home. The dedication from members of the Veterans Treatment Court signifies their commitment to not only our veterans, but also to helping their families makes a true difference in the lives of many throughout the community. I am grateful for your efforts to support our veterans and all who have borne the burden to serve during these challenging times.

On behalf of the people of Florida, I extend my best wishes to all in attendance today and look forward to hearing of your continued good work for our veterans in the years to come.

Sincerely,



Marco Rubio  
U.S. Senator



## **Veterans Council Supports incarcerated veterans at the Madison Correctional Institution in Madison FL.**

**Mel Haynes, is a friend whom I met when I lived in Coquina Crossing. We were both members of the Coquina Veterans group, he was a veteran and I was an honorary member.**

**He had a love for history and we used to share stories about veterans we knew.**

---

**From Mel:**

**I've been working with incarcerated veterans at the Madison Correctional Institution in Madison FL.**

**They opened the dorm in June of this year, and they have been working hard to personalize it.**

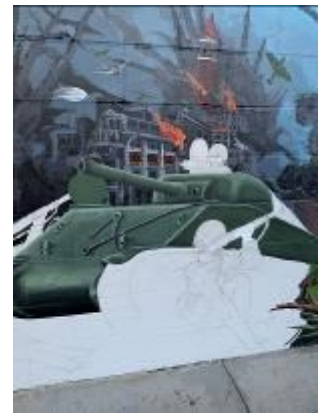
**They have named it FOB Madison. FOB stands for Forward Operating Base which is anyplace they find themselves temporarily.**

**When their mission is accomplished, they return to their "Home Base". That is very relevant to where they are in their lives now.**

**This mural, in progress, is 35 feet long and includes scenes from all this nations' wars and servicemen. There are several more in progress as well.**

**We have veterans from Vietnam forward, our oldest being 77.**

**These pictures are all approved for publishing so please feel free to post them anywhere you'd like.**





## Here are the 2022 Honor Flight Dates



### 2022 FCHF Flight Dates

EVENT	DATE
Orientation	Saturday, April 30, 2022
FLIGHT	Saturday, May 21, 2022
Reunion	Saturday, June 11, 2022

EVENT	DATE
Orientation	Saturday, October 1, 2022
FLIGHT	Saturday, October 15, 2022
Reunion	Saturday, November 5, 2022

*Dates are subject to change due to airline schedule adjustments and other factors beyond First Coast Honor Flight's control*

1/3/22



# Sponsorship Levels

First Coast Honor Flight is 100% dependent upon donations from generous people and organizations.

Without your support, FCHF would not be able to transport WWII, Korean War, and other Northeast Florida Veterans to Washington, D.C. for a day of honor and remembrance.

Trip Sponsor : \$25,000

Honor Guard : \$10,000- \$24,999

Gold Star : \$5,000-\$9,999

Silver Star : \$2,500- \$4,999

Bronze Star : \$1,000- \$2,499

Contact FCHF @  
[info@firstcoasthonorflight.org](mailto:info@firstcoasthonorflight.org) for more  
information on sponsorship packages

First Coast Honor Flight is a 501(c)3 corporation and  
is in compliance with the Florida Solicitation of Contributions Act



## 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](http://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](mailto:info@firstcoasthonorflight.org).



THE STATE OF FLORIDA ESTABLISHED THE FLORIDA VETERANS' HALL OF FAME IN 2013 TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THOSE MILITARY VETERANS WHO, THROUGH THEIR WORKS AND LIVES DURING OR AFTER MILITARY SERVICE, HAVE MADE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE STATE OF FLORIDA. IN SELECTING ITS NOMINEES FOR SUBMISSION TO THE GOVERNOR AND CABINET, THE COUNCIL WILL GIVE PREFERENCE TO VETERANS WHO WERE EITHER BORN IN FLORIDA OR ADOPTED FLORIDA AS THEIR HOME STATE. THE INDIVIDUALS THEY CHOOSE WILL HAVE MADE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE STATE IN CIVIC, BUSINESS, PUBLIC SERVICE, OR OTHER PURSUITS.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE COUNCIL CHAIRMAN IS SGT. MAJ. (RET.) RAY QUINN, WHO ALSO SERVES AS THE CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE VETERANS COUNCIL OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY



#### UPDATE ON VETERANS HALL OF FAME 2021

THE CLASS OF 2021 HAS BEEN SELECTED BY THE HALL OF FAME COUNSEL. THE FINAL COUNSEL MEETING AND FINAL VOTING ARE COMPLETED. THE NOMINEE LIST WILL NOW GO BEFORE THE CABINET AND GOVERNOR ON DECEMBER 14, 2021 FOR FINAL VOTING AND APPROVAL. THE CLASS OF 2021 WILL BE PERSONALLY NOTIFIED BY THE STATE OF THEIR INDUCTION STATUS. FOLLOWING NOTIFICATION OF ALL INDUCTEES, THEIR NAMES WILL BE POSTED HERE. THERE ARE 15 IN THE CLASS OF 2021.

THE INDUCTION DATE WILL BE IN THE THIRD WEEK OF MARCH DURING THE LEGISLATIVE CABINET SESSION. THE EXACT DATE OF THE MARCH SESSION HAS NOT BEEN POSTED YET. THE VENUE HAS NOT BEEN SET, BUT THE INDUCTION WILL PROBABLY TAKE PLACE IN THE FLORIDA STATE CABINET ROOM OF THE FLORIDA STATE CAPITAL BUILDING. FOLLOWING THE INDUCTION CEREMONY THERE WILL BE A RECEPTION FOR THE NEW INDUCTEES AND THE CLASS OF 2020, PROBABLY ON THE 22ND FLOOR OF THE STATE CAPITAL BUILDING.

## Palm Coast Bronze Star recipient celebrates 106th birthday at VFW

Laurie Hahn, *The Daytona Beach News-Journal*

VFW Post 8696 celebrated one lifetime member's 106th birthday Tuesday in what could only be described as an event.

Edmund J. DiBianco, or Ed, as he was called, patiently met with well-wishers, graciously accepted gifts and listened as his life was detailed. And what a life it was.

As described by Tom Piekarski, the junior vice commander of the post, DiBianco, the youngest of six children, was born Feb. 1, 1916, in New York City, where he grew up. After he graduated from New York University, he worked as a law clerk and got married before he enlisted in the Army following the attack on Pearl Harbor.

He was injured in northern France and returned home in 1945, the recipient of several distinctions and medals, including two Bronze Stars, which recognize service members who show acts of heroism in the field, or who are meritorious in their work, according to [medalsofamerica.com](http://medalsofamerica.com).

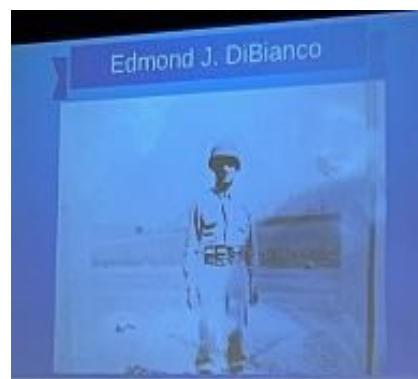
The DiBiancos retired to Palm Coast in 1967, and DiBianco's wife died in October 1992, "exactly 50 years to the day that they were married," Piekarski said. "But Ed was not one to sit around." He became a guardian ad litem, helping young people and presenting their cases to the court. He even took in three children, eventually adopting them and supporting them through college.

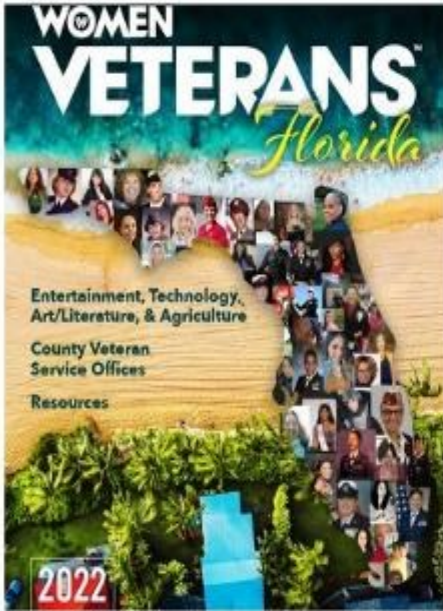
"Ed is a true American hero, a loving family man and a concerned and involved citizen of the United States and Palm Coast," Piekarski said. "We are proud to call Ed a fellow American veteran."

Piekarski gifted DiBianco with a World War II veteran's cap with an Army combat infantry badge "because he loves wearing ball caps."

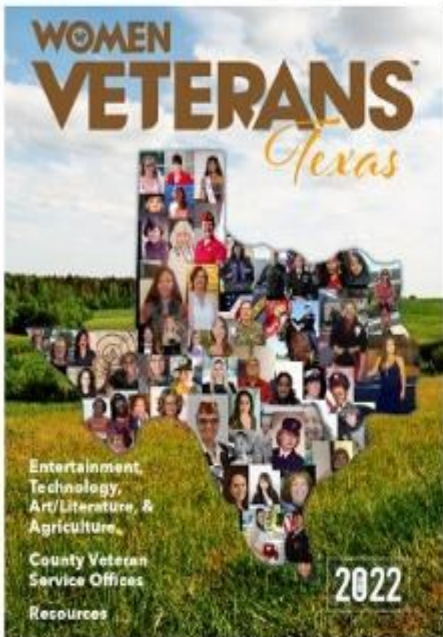
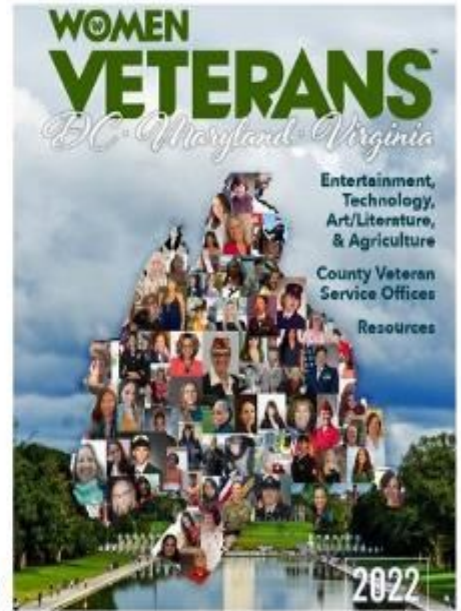
Veterans of several wars, including two fellow World War II veterans, lined up to pay their respects to DiBianco, who smiled and shook their hands. A close family friend, Amanda Gaisford, stayed close by, repeating or explaining things to DiBianco if they were said too far away for him to hear.

"I love that man," Gaisford said. "The things that he remembers are just incredible. The little things he forgets, but he remembers the big things — the war, his life with his wife."





**COMING TO  
TEXAS, FLORIDA,  
& DMV**

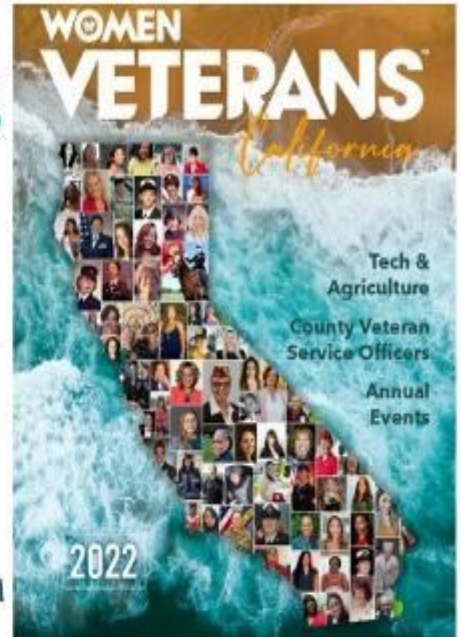


WOMEN VETERANS IN THESE STATES SUBMIT YOUR PHOTO FOR THE COVER COLLAGE. (PHOTOS ON THESE MOCK COVERS ARE FROM OUR CALIFORNIA EDITION)

WE ARE LOOKING FOR ARTICLES, BOOK AUTHORS AND ADVERTISERS

SUBSCRIPTIONS AVAILABLE IN PRINT & DIGITAL

[WOMENVETERANSMAGAZINE.COM](http://WOMENVETERANSMAGAZINE.COM)





## **THE PLAYERS Championship-March 8-13, 2022 at TPC Sawgrass**

### **Military Appreciation-GET YOUR TICKETS**

All active duty, retired, reserve and national guard members verified through the new military identification system and one dependent are provided access to complimentary tickets on Tuesday, March 8, and Wednesday, March 9, as well as one competition day during Thursday, March 10, through Sunday, March 13, while supplies last. Complimentary tickets secured through this verification process will include a \$20 digital voucher that can be used at any on-site food vendor for food and non-alcoholic beverages.



## **FREE to Vietnam Veterans**

Heroes Honor Festival

(HHF). HHF will be a **Welcome Home Tribute** hon-

**oring our Vietnam Veterans at the Daytona Speedway over Memorial Day Weekend (May 27th-28th).**



Below I have a few intro videos on the event and our website with more information. We are looking to connect with veteran support organizations to help Vietnam War Heroes get registered for their free ticket to the event. Would love to be connected with someone within the organization to get help spreading the word about HHF.

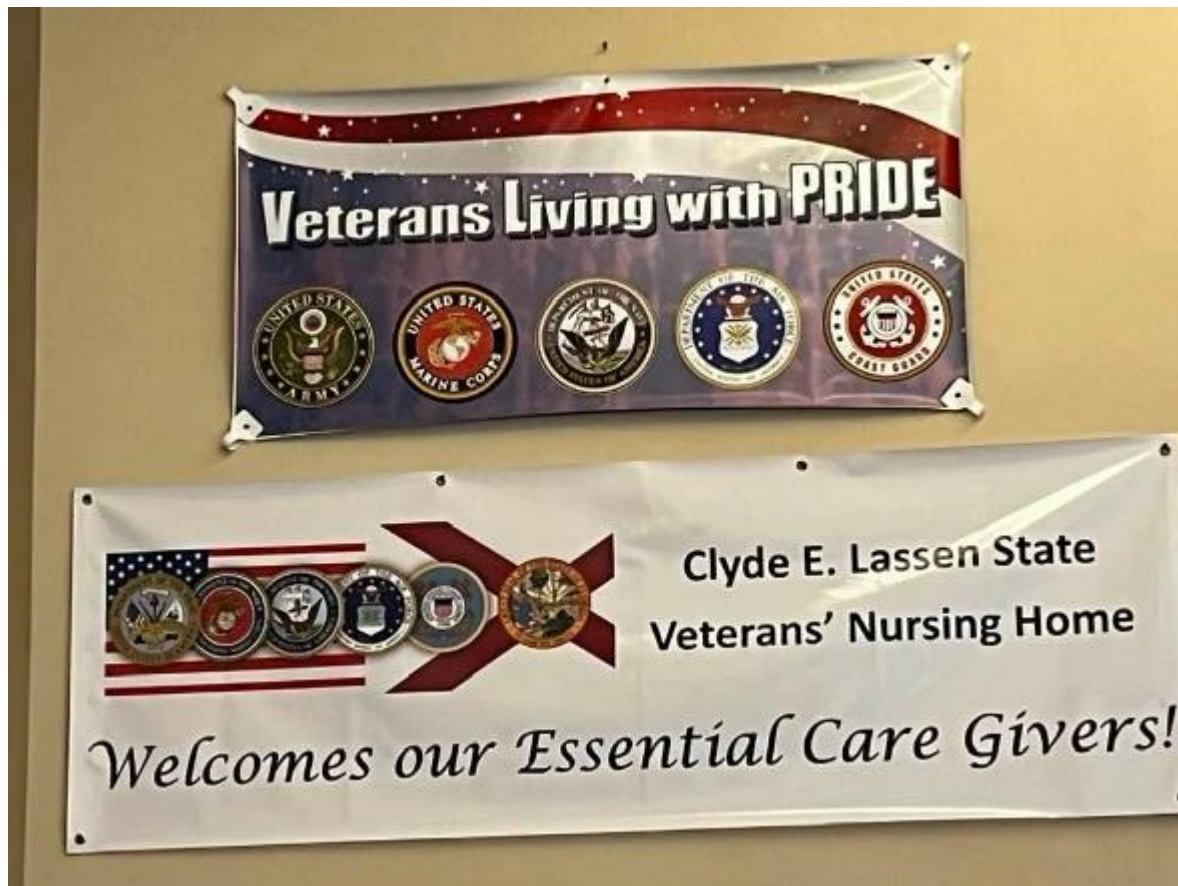
Couple 1-2min intro videos below:

HHF Intro Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GgEv-df0q74>

Why is HHF happening: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oo-RPxKyBY0>

HHF Website: <https://www.heroeshonorfestival.com>

Clyde Lassen Veterans Nursing Home is looking for essential care givers including CNA, LPN, RN's. A shortage of staff has resulted in a significant waiting list-even though beds are available. We have some incredible veterans here in SJC being cared for at Lassen. If you or someone you know have these qualifications and would be interested in serving those who have defended our freedoms, please call Clyde Lassen for details.



Friends – I want to make you aware of this initiative by the Florida Department of Veterans’ Affairs. Deadline for input is March 11. Thank you.

Regards, Steve

R. Steven Murray

Lieutenant Colonel, USAF (Ret)

Communications & External Affairs Director

Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs

###

State Seeks Name for New Veterans’ Home in Orlando

**FDVA invites public input for renaming Lake Baldwin State Veterans’ Nursing Home.**

ORLANDO, Fla. – The Florida Department of Veterans’ Affairs (FDVA) is accepting nominations for the renaming of the Lake Baldwin State Veterans’ Nursing Home, scheduled to open later in 2022. The 112-bed facility, a former U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Community Living Center on the VA’s Lake Baldwin campus, is currently being renovated as a state veterans’ home and scheduled to open to residents in 2022.

Florida’s existing veterans’ homes are named after Medal of Honor recipients. To be considered under naming protocols, an eligible nominee must be:

- One of 16 deceased Medal of Honor recipients accredited to the State of Florida by the Congressional Medal of Honor Society.
- Preference will be given to any eligible nominee with ties to the greater Orlando area.
- Honorably discharged from the U.S. Armed Forces

All correspondence for consideration should be postmarked by March 11, 2022 and mailed to:

Florida Department of Veterans’ Affairs  
Attn: Communications Director  
The Capitol, Suite 2105  
400 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001



The Department of Defense accredits Medal of Honor recipients and traditionally selects the city and state where the service member entered the service.

The 16 eligible Medal of Honor recipients for naming consideration are:

Captain Charles Albert Varnum, U.S. Army, Indian Wars

Sergeant Clarence M. Condon, U.S. Army, Philippine War

Chief Machinist's Mate Francis Edward Ormsbee Jr., U.S. Navy, World War I

Lieutenant Commander William Merrill Corry Jr., U.S. Navy, World War I

Private James Henry Mills, U.S. Army, World War II

Commander David McCampbell, U.S. Navy, World War II

Second Lieutenant Robert Edward Femoyer, U.S. Army Air Corps, World War II

Major Thomas Buchanan McGuire Jr., U.S. Army Air Corps, World War II

Private Robert Miller McTureous Jr., U.S. Marine Corps, World War II

Corporal Larry Eugene Smedley, U.S. Marine Corps, Vietnam War

Specialist Fourth Class Nicholas J. Cutinha, U.S. Army, Vietnam War

Staff Sergeant Hammett L. Bowen Jr., U.S. Army, Vietnam War

Private First Class Bruce Wayne Carter, U.S. Marine Corps, Vietnam War

Sergeant First Class Paul R. Smith, U.S. Army, Iraq

Staff Sergeant Robert J. Miller, U.S. Army, Afghanistan

Sergeant First Class Alwyn C. Cashe, U.S. Army, Iraq

FDVA operates the following state veterans' homes.

- Robert H. Jenkins Jr. Veterans' Domiciliary Home in Lake City
- Emory L. Bennett State Veterans' Nursing Home in Daytona Beach
- Baldomero Lopez State Veterans' Nursing Home in Land O' Lakes
- Alexander "Sandy" Nininger State Veterans' Nursing Home in Pembroke Pines
- Clifford C. Sims State Veterans' Nursing Home in Panama City
- Douglas T. Jacobson State Veterans' Nursing Home in Port Charlotte
- Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans' Nursing Home in St. Augustine
- Ardie R. Copas State Veterans' Nursing Home in Port St. Lucie

For more information on FDVA and its State Veterans' Homes Program, visit

# Year End Reminders for Exempt Organizations from Veterans Council Treasurer, John Mountcastle

## Filing Reminder

Exempt organizations should provide donors of monetary gifts of \$250 or more with a [written acknowledgement](#) from the charitable organization, so the donor may be able to deduct their donation from their federal taxable income. The donor must get the acknowledgement by the earlier of:

1. The date the donor files the original return for the year the contribution is made, or
2. The due date, including extensions, for filing their return.

Non-cash contributions must not only meet the above timeline, but also include additional [required substantiation](#).

All payers of \$600 or more in the course of their business (including charities) must prepare Forms [1099-NEC](#) and/or [1099-MISC](#), submitting them to the IRS and to the payee by January 31, 2022. If the organization prepares 250 or more forms filed with the IRS (can be of any type, such as W-2s or 941s for employers, 1099s, etc.), all forms must now be filed electronically.

## New This Year

Virtually all exempt organizations (i.e., Public Charities, Veterans' organizations, etc.), must file their information reporting for tax (fiscal) years ending after July 31, 2021 electronically. For organizations using the calendar-year ending Dec. 31, 2021, the filing deadline for forms in the 990 series is May 16, 2022.

Any exempt organization (other than a private foundation) that normally has annual gross receipts of \$50,000 or less and therefore is eligible to file an [annual electronic notice](#) Form 990-N instead of an annual information return), although the organization may elect to prepare a full Form 990 (or 990-EZ) return for other reporting purposes. Form 990-N is an on-line form with only a few questions and should not require the services of a tax professional.

Exempt organizations having gross receipts of \$200,000 or more, or total assets of \$500,000 or more must file [Form 990](#) and related schedules. Exempt Organizations with gross receipts from \$50,000 to less than \$200,000, and with total assets less than \$500,000, may elect to prepare [Form 990-EZ](#).

Private foundations must file [Form 990-PF](#).

If the exempt organization does not use a tax professional to prepare and electronically file the appropriate returns, the organization's qualified reporting person must use appropriate tax software which is capable of submitting the organization's returns electronically.

The IRS website lists approved [vendors of qualifying software](#); most have significant annual costs to obtain a license to use the software. There is at least one vendor, [Form 990 Online](#), offering free use of their online software to prepare and electronically file Form 990-EZ ONLY IF the exempt organization's gross receipts are less than \$100,000. I have not had a chance to review their website and accordingly cannot endorse this vendor. My research is not all-inclusive and there may be other vendors offering free use of their software.

## “The Hell in Carrabelle:” Camp Gordon Johnston and Carrabelle, Florida by Rick Cain

The U.S. Army camp where Mort Walker spent several weeks during WWII training in radio repair and operation happened to be in the town where I spent my summers at my Grandparents home in southwestern Missouri. Camp Crowder was known to be wet, muggy, and mosquito-infested. Men stationed there had to spend a lot of time sandbagging to keep water out of their barracks, and it was his experience there that inspired Mr. Walker to create “Camp Swampy” as the setting for his famously popular cartoon strip “Beetle Bailey.”



*Photos Above: Mort Walker (left) and characters from his creation of “Beetle Bailey,” distributed by King Features Syndicate to 1,800 newspapers in 50 countries. It had a readership of two million people daily. 1st Lieutenant Walker served in Italy in WWII. [www.mortwalker.com](http://www.mortwalker.com)*

But if Camp Crowder was bad, it was here in Florida that recruits would discover a time they simply remembered as “The Hell in Carrabelle.” In the central Florida Panhandle just southwest of Tallahassee, the U.S. Military built a training base on the beach with what is now Tate’s Hell State Park to the north, and the waters of the Gulf of Mexico to the south. There is water everywhere. Tate’s Hell is a massive swamp that, as legend has it, is named for a certain Cebe Tate who got lost for a week in the swamp back in 1875, only to later stagger into the town of Carrabelle and state, “My name’s Cebe Tate, and I just came from hell.” He died shortly thereafter.



*Photo Above: D-Day training on the beach at Camp Gordon Johnston*



*Photos Above: Camp Gordon Johnston opened in 1942 and was closed in 1946*

The camp was laid out on a long stretch of land comprising 165,000 acres, with 20 miles of shoreline, sandwiched between the great swamp, and the waters of the Gulf, which made it an ideal training site for the military's Amphibious Training Center (ATC). It was here that thousands of recruits trained for Operation Overlord: the Allied invasion of Europe in June, 1944, as well as the later invasion of the Philippines. The camp was comprised of forest, swamp, and beaches.



*Photos Above: Amphibious landing drills on the beach, Camp Gordon Johnston*

But it was the activities of daily living that was more of a challenge for the men in Hell's swamp. Uniforms stayed damp and never dried out. The heat and humidity in the barracks were stifling, making sleep an elusive thing that was so desperately needed after long hours of training and drills while constantly being wet. The men and women training there had to dodge sharks, alligators, rattlesnakes, wild hogs, as well as the relentless mosquitos. Recreational swimming simply to "cool down" was not allowed due to the sharks. It became known as the place "where even the Chaplains go AWOL!" (Absent Without Leave). When General Omar Bradley arrived with the 28th Infantry Division to train at the camp, he famously stated that whoever had designed and placed the camp there should be immediately court-martialed. But as difficult as conditions were, and dangerous the training, the "Hell in Carrabelle" proved to be an ideal location to prepare fighting men for what they would later face in both theaters of war.



The camp was known for its barracks with dirt and sand floors, and even eating in a relatively comfortable spot was nearly impossible. A fine layer of sand dust covered everything and you had to check your bunk for scorpions. Overnight camping in the swamp was unbearable, and even if you avoided the larger animals, the chiggers were always there to remind you of where you were. But nearly a quarter of a million men would train here before leaving for duty around the globe.



*Photos Above: Waiting in line for chow (left) and women work at the camp sewing on unit insignias (right)*



*Photos Above: Conquering barriers and live rounds during training.*

*It was also here that two Black American Army Engineer Amphibious companies trained who would later see action in battles in Gaum, Iwo Jima, on Utah Beach in Normandy, and throughout Europe.*



*Photos Left: Black American Amphibious Units training at Camp Gordon Johnston*



*Photo Above: “Higgins Boats” landing craft practice delivering troops to Carrabelle Beach, while balloons overhead were used to keep enemy aircraft from making low-level strafing (machine gun) runs at the men on the beach. This same technique was used on the beaches at Normandy during the Allied invasion of Europe.*

Fortunately for us, a group of incredible people are working diligently in Carrabelle, FL to keep the historic record of what took place there alive for future generations. The Camp Gordon Johnston Museum now sits right across Highway 98 from the historic beach and just east of the Crooked River Lighthouse. It is there that a group of dedicated volunteers and veterans work to preserve the stories of the three infantry divisions and two amphibious brigades who trained there. Their efforts have resulted in a collection of vehicles, uniforms and other equipment, as well as photo archives, and rosters of some of the servicemen, including the two Black American Amphibious Units, which is a rare treasure. The museum was honored in 2021 with a Florida Preservation Award from the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation.



*Photos: a working Amphibious WWII DUKW “Duck” (left) made by General Motors Chevrolet Division on display at the museum; the Camp Gordon Johnston World War II Museum in Carrabelle (right)*

The museum celebrates each year with a parade through the town and a dice run during “Camp Gordon Johnston Days,” this year taking place on Saturday, March 12, 2022. The entire town comes out to celebrate their history and a good time is had by all with veterans’ reunions, cook-outs, and parties, all to help benefit the community and our state of Florida thanks to the museum.



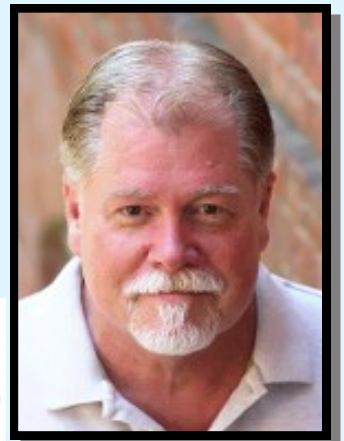
*Photos Above: Members in training of the 818th and 476th Amphibious Units who would later be deployed at Utah Beach, Normandy, and Iwo Jima*

So, for your Florida history bucket list, plan a trip over to Carrabelle and visit the museum and walk the beaches of this famous site where so many suffered the pains of what would later save the world; the United States Soldier. Thank you to all our veterans!



**About the Author: Rick Cain**

Rick Cain has worked for the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum for 20 years after a 20-year career as a health care professional. He has served on the Board of Directors of the American Lighthouse Council and as 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.



Presented by

**BW Unlimited Charity Fundraising Proudly Presents...**

Benefiting



# 2022 AMERICAN HEROES BASH

World Golf Village Renaissance St. Augustine  
St. Johns County Convention Center  
500 South Legacy Trail  
St. Augustine, FL 32092

**Saturday, May 7th, 2022  
7pm to 11pm**

### Your Tickets Include:

A Buffet filled with Smoked beef brisket, Pulled pork with BBQ sauce, Southern Green Beans, Baked Mac & Cheese, Garden Salad, Traditional Coleslaw, Southern Potato Salad, Cornbread, Banana Cream Pie, Bourbon Pecan Pie, Chocolate Cupcakes with Iced Tea & Iced water station and a Cash Bar.

### Featuring:

Music, a Live Auction for Worldwide Vacation Packages, Hunting & Fishing Trips, Autographed Memorabilia, Jewelry and much more. A huge silent auction featuring "One of a Kind" Memorabilia from national icons and celebrities, Decor and Jewelry along with Raffles giving away tons of prizes!



**Tickets:**  
Table of 10 - \$850.00  
Single Ticket - \$90.00

**For Tickets or Questions:**  
Fayth Janek  
219-614-1357  
faythjanek@gmail.com



## SPONSORSHIP PACKAGE



### Gold Sponsor - \$5,000.00

- 1 Table of 8 Guests - with Gold Sponsor Placard Displayed
- On Stage Acknowledgement and Introduction throughout the event as a Gold Sponsor
- Social Media Announcement and Acknowledgement
- Large Banner, supplied by Sponsor, displayed prominently in the front of the Room
- Marketing & Advertisement Materials, supplied by Sponsor, placed at each place setting
- Sponsor Tent Card placed in front of items on the Live Auction

### Silver Sponsor - \$2,500.00

- 4 Tickets - with Silver Sponsor Placard Displayed
- Introduction throughout the event as a Silver Sponsor
- Social Media Announcement and Acknowledgement
- Large Banner, supplied by Sponsor, displayed in the Room
- Marketing & Advertisement Materials, supplied by Sponsor, placed on each guest table
- Sponsor Tent Card placed in front of items on the Live or Silent Auction

Benefiting



### Bronze Sponsor - \$1,000.00

- 2 Guest Tickets
- Introduction throughout the event as a Bronze Sponsor
- Social Media Announcement and Acknowledgement
- Large Banner, supplied by Sponsor, displayed in the Room
- Sponsor Tent Card placed in front of items on the Silent Auction

Presented By



### Underwriting Sponsor

Prior to the event, members of the 10 CAN Inc. Team will have a list of items which include an associated "Cost to Non-Profit." A copy of the "Underwriting Catalog" will be provided or can be upon request for sponsorship. Each item can be sponsored by businesses or individuals. To sponsor an item or items, simply review the catalog and pick which items you would like to sponsor by paying the "Cost to Non-Profit." Your payment of the Cost to Non-Profit, it is considered a 100% donation to the charity.

The items will be utilized in the Live and Silent Auction and the items you picked will have a Tent Card placed in front of them with your name prominently displayed as the Sponsoring company or person.

This sponsorship will greatly assist 10 CAN Inc. raise a significant amount of funds.



Please Make Payable To "10 CAN Inc."

Friends, please send this out to your distribution lists and anyone who would benefit from these classes.



The Steven A. Cohen  
Military Family Clinic  
at Centerstone

The Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at Centerstone is committed to serving women veterans. Our clinicians have specialized training in areas that are unique to women veterans. Florida is home to the third largest population of women veterans in the nation and Northeast Florida is one of the fastest growing areas for women veterans to choose to reside.

Our Cohen Clinic at Centerstone will kick off 2022 by hosting the “New Year/New Me Women’s Health Series.” Workshops will be held monthly and will be offered both in-person at the clinic and virtually via zoom. All workshops are free and open to female service members, veterans or military family members. As outlined in the attached flyers, topics and dates are as follows:

3/22 – Nutrition

4/26 – Exercise

5/24 – Sexual Health

Online registration is easy, just follow the link in the flyer. If you have any further questions please feel free to email at [cohenFL@centerstone.org](mailto:cohenFL@centerstone.org).

We are thankful for the support of our community partners as all things are possible when we come together in support of our veterans community. The New Year/New Me Women’s Mental Health Series through the Cohen Clinic at Centerstone is supported by a grant from The Partnership: For Mental Health, a project of Baptist Health and the Delores Barr Weaver Legacy Fund at The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida. Together we will eliminate the stigma of mental illness. Start the conversation: <https://www.wolfsonchildrens.com/onoursleeves>

Please distribute to your contacts and anyone else who may benefit.

All the best, Mike

Michael P. Fleming, Brigadier General (ret)

Outreach Director | Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinics at Centerstone

7011 A.C. Skinner Parkway | Jacksonville, FL 32256

Clinic: (904) 431-3500 | Fax: (904) 431-3501, Mobile: (904) 525-3633

[michael.fleming@centerstone.org](mailto:michael.fleming@centerstone.org)



**Time:** 7:30 AM Registration 8:30 AM Shotgun Start

**Location:** Marsh Creek Country Club

169 Marshside Drive, St. Augustine, FL 32080

**Format:** 4 Person Captain's Choice

**Field:** First 36 Teams



**Entry Fee:** \$85.00 per player (Includes Green Fees, Cart, Lunch & Prizes)

**Prizes For:** 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

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



**Golf Shoes Must Be Soft Spikes Only**

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

TEAM CAPTAIN: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE #: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

PLAYER #2: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE #: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

PLAYER #3: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE #: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

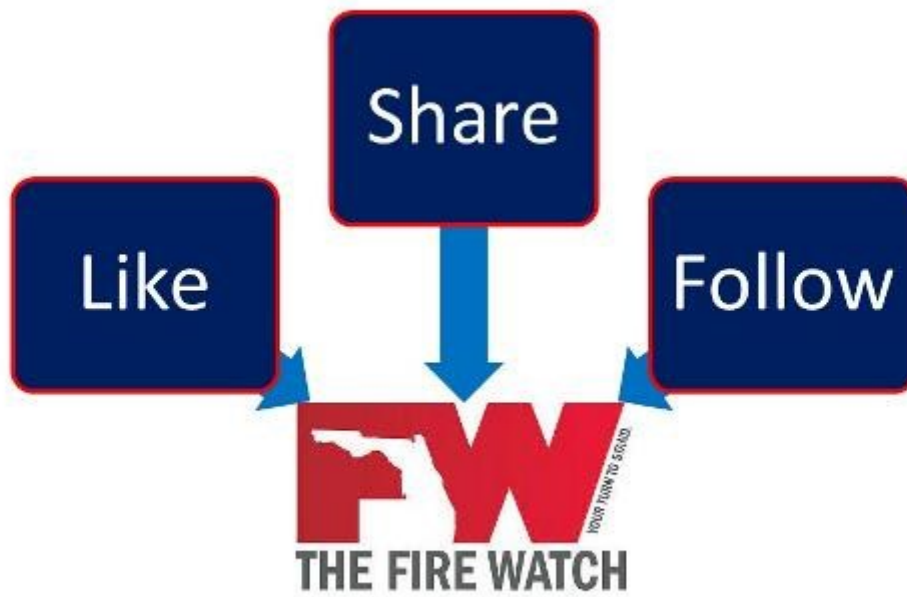
PLAYER #4: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE #: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL ENTRY FORMS (whether paying by check or credit card) TO:**  
**Mr. Lee S. Diggs, C/O AUSA GOLF TOURNAMENT,**  
**P.O BOX 3883, ST. AUGUSTINE, FL 32085-3883. Phone (904) 827-8528.**  
**Lee.s.diggs.mil@mail.mil**

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO FIRST MILITIA CHAPTER - AUSA or**

**To purchase online visit <https://first-militia-chapter-ausa.square.site>**

AUSA is an exempt organization under section 501 (c) (3) of the US Internal Revenue Code.





**From the FDVA  
THEY ARE HIRING!**

New health care job opportunities at our State Veterans' Nursing Homes throughout Florida have recently been posted! If you are looking for a fulfilling new role, visit our jobs page to view the available positions. <https://bit.ly/FDVAJobs>



**THE PLAYERS Championship-March 8-13,  
2022 at TPC Sawgrass**

**Military Appreciation-GET YOUR TICKETS**

All active duty, retired, reserve and national guard members verified through the new military identification system and one dependent are provided access to complimentary tickets on Tuesday, March 8, and Wednesday, March 9, as well as one competition day during Thursday, March 10, through Sunday, March 13, while supplies last. Complimentary tickets secured through this verification process will include a \$20 digital voucher that can be used at any on-site food vendor for food and non-alcoholic beverages.

<https://www.theplayers.com/.../ticket-program-military...>

## History of the Donut Dollies:

"They had the guts to brave incoming mortars, sniper and ground- to-air fire, and other wartime hardships and dangers to visit the firebases earned them the unarguable respect and admiration of the troops!"

During World War II numerous teams of three female Red Cross volunteers operated clubmobiles equipped with a kitchen area with a stove for heating water for coffee and a built-in donut-making machine. These clubmobiles traveled with the rear echelon units, but each day their teams ventured out to different operating areas to visit Soldiers, play Victrola records, pass out sundry items, and serve hot coffee and fresh-made donuts to the troops.

Female Red Cross workers answered the call to duty again during the Korean War. In its early stages, they earned the endearing nickname, "Donut Dollies," turning out up to 20,000 donuts a day for American Soldiers disembarking troop ships in Pusan.

The Donut Dollies were most visible to troops serving in Vietnam. Between February 1962 and March 1973, they logged over 2,000,000 miles by jeep, deuce-and-a-half, and helicopter, visiting combat troops at remote fire bases from An Khe to Yen Giang (there's no "Z" in Vietnamese). And they didn't pass out a single donut during this war. Instead, usually traveling at least in pairs and dressed in their signature pale blue outfits, this time they brought smiles, songs, games, and a touch of back home to the guys who were in the bush counting the days down from 365.

Over 600 Donut Dollies responded to the somewhat opaque Red Cross's ads seeking "qualified young women who were willing to serve one year overseas." They had to be at least 21, have a college education, and have that "girl next door" look. Among the understated requirements: "the job requires a capacity for hard work under less than ideal conditions."

After only two weeks of training in Washington, D.C. as Red Cross recreation workers, the women packed off for Vietnam where they set up recreation centers before the USO and Special Services arrived and wrote up and conducted recreation programs in the field for troops who couldn't visit the centers.

They also visited hospitals to hand out activity books and spent time in evac hospitals with the wounded. As one Donut Dolly put it, "Our job was to smile and be bubbly for an entire year— no matter what the situation."

No one appreciated the presence of the Donut Dollies more than the troops on the remote firebases. Minutes spent talking about home or sports or music or wives and girlfriends with a fresh-faced American girl with a pony tail wearing a tinge of lipstick and a splash of perfume was a terrific morale boost.

And the fact that these young women had the guts to brave incoming mortars, sniper and ground- to-air fire, and other wartime hardships and dangers to visit the firebases earned them the unarguable respect and admiration of the troops. And that's exactly how Vietnam veterans remember the Red Cross Donut Dollies nearly forty years later— with unarguable appreciation, respect, and admiration.



★ ACTIVE DUTY ★ VETERANS ★ NATIONAL GUARD & RESERVE ★

# MILITARY SUPPORT RETREATS

RETREATS FOR COMBAT VETERANS,  
AND THEIR PRIMARY SUPPORT PERSON



**Amelia Island**  
Florida



**JAN. 20-23**

**Marineland**  
Florida



**FEB. 24-27**

**Sarasota**  
Florida



**MAR. 10-13**

**Chattanooga**  
Tennessee



**APR. 7-10**

**From Thursday at 5:00pm - Sunday at 2:00pm**



★ **RESTORATION** ★ **RECREATION** ★ **RELAXATION** ★

*Strengthen and restore connections, enjoy the natural beauty of each location, be inspired by fun outdoor activities, learn about available support resources, and relax while exploring the stress coping concepts of Post Traumatic Growth.*

★ Small, friendly group setting ★

★ All accommodations, food, and activities are provided free of charge ★

★ Facilitated by Vets, Licensed Clinicians, and Community Nonprofit Support Organizations ★

*Please note: Must be 18 to attend and no childcare is provided. Participants are responsible for travel.*

**TO LEARN MORE AND TO APPLY VISIT: [GRATITUDEAMERICA.ORG/RETREATS](https://www.gratitudeamerica.org/retreats)**



CHRISTOPHER DUKE  
770-298-7654  
DUKE@GRATITUDEAMERICA.ORG



**SAVE THE DATE.....**

**National Vietnam Veterans Day**

**Saturday, March 26, 10 am**

**TAPS monument located at the Historical Triangle in  
Green Cove Springs.**



# Grunt

Term of affection used to denote that filthy, sweaty, dirt encrusted, foot sore, camouflaged painted, ripped trouser'd, tired, sleepy, beautiful son of a bitch, who has kept the wolf away from the door for over two-hundred years



# Please note: the Vietnam and War on Terror Walls will be in St. Augustine on display on Veterans Day, November 11, 2022 at Anastasia Baptist Church in St. Augustine.

Here is the Florida 2022 schedule

## FL PGR Vietnam & WoT Wall Schedule

To request one or both of the walls for display, contact FL State Captain

Email: [fisc@patriotguard.org](mailto:fisc@patriotguard.org) / 321-689-4699

Updated as of:

01/17/22

Date	Time	Duration	Wall(s)	Location	Comments	
02/19/22	Info forthcoming		WoT	Eustis Area		
02/26/22	0800 - 0830 hrs 0830 - 1100 hrs 1200 - 1600 hrs	Escort Set-up Walls Display & Take-Down	1 day	Vietnam / WoT	The Casements Ormond Beach 25 Riverside Dr. Ormond Beach, FL 32174	Military & First Responder Family Appreciation Expect to escort The Walls to the event from Holly Hill DAV at 0800 hrs.
03/25/22 03/26/22	1400 hrs 0800 hrs	Set up Walls Display Walls	2 Days	Vietnam / WoT	Gator Harley Davidson 1745 US 441 Leesburg, FL 34778	Benefit Active Duty Care Package Program JOBH - Just Our Soldier's Helpers Former USO Ride Overnight secretly provided by Gator Harley
03/28/22 03/31/22	0800 hrs	Set up Vietnam Wall Display & Take Down	3 days	Vietnam	Cape Canaveral National Cemetery 5525 US-1 Mims, FL 32754	National Vietnam War Veterans Day
05/21/22	0900 hrs	Set-UP & Display	1 day	Vietnam / WoT	American Legion Post 10 205 Lake View Dr. Kissimmee, FL 34741	Armed Forces Day Celebration
05/27/22 05/28/22	1400 hrs 1000 - 1600 hrs	Set-Up Display & Take Down	2 days	Vietnam / WoT	Daytona International Speedway 1801 W. International Speedway Blvd Daytona Beach, FL 32114	Heroes Honor Festival Memorial Day Event Vietnam Welcome Home
09/17/22	TBD	Info forthcoming		American Legion  Jacksonville, FL.	American Legion Veteran Event	
09/24/22	TBD	Info forthcoming		Remembering Vets Inc.  Palm Coast, FL.	Fall Festival	
11/10/22 11/11/22	TBD 0800 - 1100 hrs	Set-up Display	2 Days	Vietnam / WoT	Anastasia Baptist Church 1650 A1A S St. Augustine, FL 32080	Veteran's Day Ceremony Escort from Daytona to St. Augustine

From Lynn Geiser, originally from the American Legion Dept. Of FL

## “Words of Wisdom”

### Tips for getting and keeping Younger Members

1. Be Honest and Transparent when sending out material to attract new members. Educate the younger generation by conveying to them what you have accomplished locally and nationally to ensure that veteran issues stay at the forefront of the discussion. Show them that you are making a difference. Let them know your whole organization, not just a narrow scope of membership and money.
2. Treat all veterans equally. Both men and women who have served honorable in the Armed Forces. To assume only men deployed or served is backwards thinking and has no room in the American Legion Family.
3. Update posts with free WIFI, offer video gaming like an XBOX or PlayStation and install flat screen TV's and select programming such as sports that appeal to all ages.
4. Seasoned Veterans have life experience and perhaps a different frame of reference. We should never think the younger generation is any different. Welcome new ideas younger members are full of ideas. Embrace their energy and let them share ideas about improving the post. Be open to new ideas.
5. When you see someone new walk in welcome them with open arms, make them feel like they are part of the post and have found new friends and family. Don't criticize the way they look or their time in service. If you are welcoming they may overlook the stale beer smell and the nicotine stained walls and windows and stay a while.
6. Keep meetings short and to the point. Assign younger members a task during the meeting and ask them to work with membership. Get them involved. The younger generation especially millennials like to solve problems by working and teaming with a group. This is a prime opportunity for leadership to mentor those younger members.
7. Turn your post into a community type of center. Our younger members want a place that includes their children or to do their homework.
8. Turn your post into a place where they can network the community. Invite local business owners, company executives, local college Veterans Representatives or members of the local Chamber of Commerce to speak at your meetings.
9. Don't be afraid to work with others within your community. Build a strong support network.
10. If you have a post near a military base begin working with the transition office.
11. Introduce yourself to the local Guard, Reserve centers and Recruiters. Most of the members live, work and shop in the community.
12. Sign up and attend every veteran event that you can. Make sure the people in your community know that you are the person and post to contact when it comes to supporting veterans and their families.
13. It is time to do away with the Old Bar and Night Club look of the Post. Have it bright in the Day time and avoid loud music.
14. Entertainment should be a way to bring new members, avoid catering to your tastes or keeping something due to tradition try something new and advertise in local papers and through social media.

# HEY FLORIDA RESIDENTS!

Proudly Support Veterans and Honor Flight with an Honor Flight License Plate



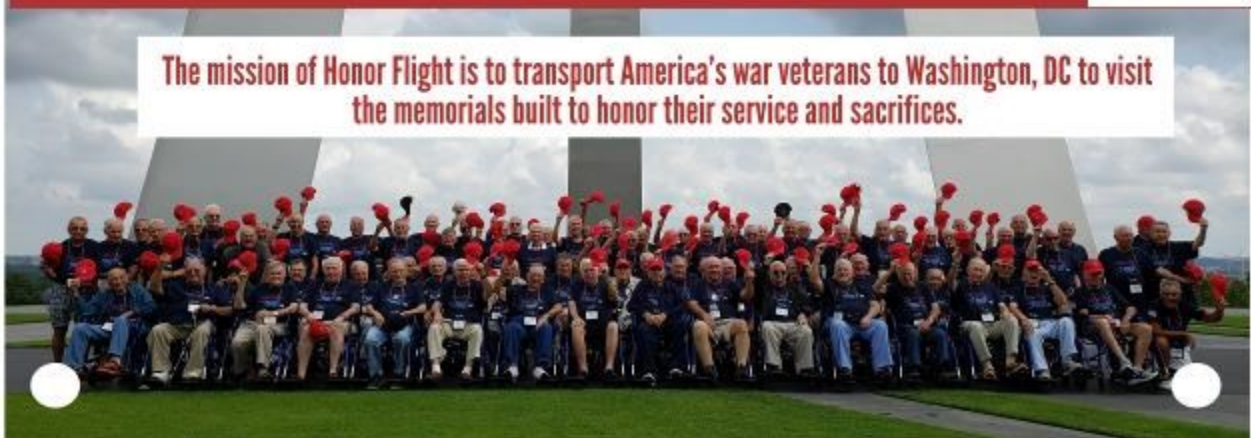
## ACT NOW!

- Honor Flight is approved for *pre-sale* of an Honor Flight license plate.
- 3,000 *pre-sale* transactions must be made before the plate will be manufactured.
- Go to <https://bit.ly/3Fldyij> to purchase your voucher to help make this plate a reality.
- A portion of every plate purchase goes to the ten Honor Flight chapters in the state of Florida.
- Once the sales goal is met, you will receive instructions for exchanging your voucher for the Honor Flight plate.
- A plate replacement fee may apply.

Scan me!



The mission of Honor Flight is to transport America's war veterans to Washington, DC to visit the memorials built to honor their service and sacrifices.







Safekeeping your military separation records is secure, fast and free of charge and easy to access with the St. Johns County Clerk of Courts.

Bring your original DD-214 to the St. Johns County Veterans Council's Veterans Day Celebration where Clerk staff will officially record it:

- 9:30 a.m. – Noon, Nov. 11
- Anastasia Baptist Church, 1650 A1A S., St. Augustine
- Your record will be returned to you immediately.

Recording your DD-214 maintains a permanent digital copy on file for safekeeping. Your record is **protected** – it doesn't become a public record for 62 years after separation, per the National Archives.

*Can't make it on Nov. 11? Record your discharge papers at the St. Johns County Courthouse, 4010 Lewis Speedway, St. Augustine. Call the Recording division at 904 819 3632 for details.*

File your DD-214 with your  
St. Johns County Clerk of Courts



## FLORIDA CLERK OF COURTS WILL "LOCK IT UP" FOR FREE

Do you have your DD-214? That is the first question Veterans are asked when engaging in almost every benefits or Veteran-status related process. Often, it is the first question Veteran widows and widowers are asked after hearing "I'm sorry for your loss."

Each of Florida's county Clerk of Courts knows how valuable it is having a copy of your DD-214 safely and privately stored, with easy access. Click and read how you can record your DD-214 for free, year-round, regardless of what county you live in.

BONUS- St Johns County Clerk of the Circuit Courts is providing complimentary passport photos and notary services for military and Veterans through November 30th. Click below for the details.

*From Liberty Life Media*

## Are You eligible to file for benefits based on Presumptive Exposure?

Were you exposed to hazardous materials while serving in the military, such as from Agent Orange or burn pits? Did you serve in Vietnam, Thailand or Southwest Asia? If so, you may be eligible to file for service-connected benefits based on presumptive exposure.

Over the course of the last six months, VA has begun processing service-connected disability claims for six new presumptive conditions related to exposure to hazardous materials.

In May 2021, VA started implementing provisions of the William M. Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (NDAA), adding bladder cancer, hypothyroidism and Parkinsonism to the list of medical conditions presumptively associated with exposure to Agent Orange. A few months later, VA added asthma, rhinitis and sinusitis (to include rhinosinusitis) on a presumptive basis based on particulate matter exposures during military service in Southwest Asia and certain other areas.

Any Veteran who was previously denied service-connection for any of these six conditions but had symptoms manifest within 10 years of military service would need to file another claim. Be sure to use VA Form 20-0995, "Decision Review Request: Supplemental Claim" when filing. The claim form should include the name of the medical condition and also specify that the medical condition is being claimed due to in-service exposure to environmental hazards.

VA is committed to assisting Veterans who may have been exposed to hazardous materials during their military service.

Be sure to stay plugged in to [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov) for the most recent developments around environmental hazards; VA is constantly conducting research and surveillance, as well as reviewing scientific literature for conditions that may be related to exposure during military service.

If you feel you have a chronic condition attributed to an in-service exposure, we highly encourage you to file a claim. For more information about VA benefits and eligibility, or how to file a claim, Veterans and survivors can visit VA's website at [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov) or call toll-free at 1-800-827-1000.





# 2022 VA DISABILITY PAY RATES



ANNOUNCED 2022 COLA OF 5.9%	D I S A B I L I T Y   R A T I N G									
	10%	20%	30%	40%	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%	100%
Veteran Alone	152.50	301.82	467.02	673.52	958.40	1,213.61	1,530.26	1,778.06	1,998.33	3,331.61
Veteran with Spouse	N/A	N/A	522.46	747.41	1,050.57	1,325.22	1,609.15	1,926.69	2,164.79	3,517.84
Veteran with 1 child only	N/A	N/A	504.45	721.99	1,019.86	1,288.16	1,616.79	1,876.92	2,109.72	3,456.30
Veteran with 1 child and spouse	N/A	N/A	563.76	801.42	1,118.35	1,406.77	1,754.46	2,035.77	2,287.63	3,653.89

A D D I T I O N A L										
Parent 1 (over 18)	N/A	N/A	44.48	59.30	74.13	88.96	103.78	118.71	133.43	149.10
Parent 2 (over 18)	N/A	N/A	27.53	36.01	45.54	55.07	64.60	73.07	82.60	92.31
Child over 18 (with spouse)	N/A	N/A	88.96	118.61	148.26	177.91	208.62	238.28	267.93	298.18
Spouse with aid and attendance	N/A	N/A	50.83	67.78	85.78	101.66	119.67	136.61	153.56	170.38

"Use the compensation rates table to find your monthly payment amount. The monthly payment amounts are based on your disability rating and your eligible dependent family members."

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](http://www.thefirewatch.org/watch-standers) to learn more.

Thanks!

Nick Howland

Executive Director, The Fire Watch

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

904.525.1761



**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**



**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).**



## 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
- Consumer Credit Issues
- 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)

Supported by the: **FDVA**  
FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

**Become a Watch Stander with The Fire Watch**



*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.



THE FUTURE OF SENIOR LIVING

165 Silver Lane | St. Augustine, FL 32084 | [SilverCreekRetirement.com](http://SilverCreekRetirement.com)



**Independent Concierge Living – Assisted Living  
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	Bob Adkins	adk123robert@outlook.com
1059	David Treffinger	dtreffinger433@msn.com; Clay
1084	Joan Whitfield	jlwbeach@bellsouth.net
1088	Roy (Corky) Rudd	corkstopper50@yahoo.com; Nassau
1092	Forest Hope	foresthope@usa.net; Gainesville
1134	Marvin Lagle	mdlagle@gmail.com; Baker



**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](mailto: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.2.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:matthew.p.reeves.2.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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](http://suicidepreventionlifeline.org)

..... Confidential chat at [VeteransCrisisLine.net](http://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](http://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.***

***He can be contacted at [webmaster@veteranscouncilsjc.org](mailto:webmaster@veteranscouncilsjc.org)***

*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 County  
Health & Human Services Building,  
200 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  
Angela McKenzie, 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.*