



# The Patriot Reader Newsletter

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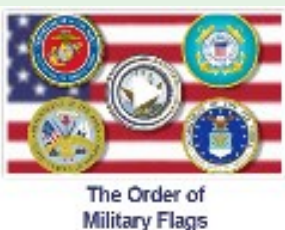
Volume 14, Issue 3

From Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley

March 2024

## Inside this Edition

- VC SJC Upcoming Speakers
- 4 Chaplains Memorial Service
- § Chaplains Humanitarian Awards
- Remembering COL Oscar Mauterer
- Nominations open for FL Veterans HOF
- Honoring a Local Fallen Hero
- WW II Vets Fly to Normandy for D Day
- Fort Matanzas
- Military Appreciation at The Players
- Run For the Fallen
- Ntl League of POW/MIA Families
- Vets4Verts Gathering
- Navy Gold Star Program
- Vietnam Veterans Day in Clay County
- RAO Office Moving
- Irreverent Warriors
- Mission United
- Women in the Military
- Rocky Bleier
- Renew Military ID Online
- Vet Freedom Fest



Fellow Veterans, After many years of pursuing a location for housing our homeless veterans, we are nearing a date when this will become a reality. On Wednesday, February 28, Home Again St. Johns and the Veterans Council are scheduled to close on the purchase of the Old Town Inn located on Anastasia Blvd. The motel will be repurposed into a facility for housing homeless veterans. This has been a long time in the making. There will be 20 units available to provide sleeping quarters for our homeless veterans as well as a dining facility and other amenities. Currently, it is an operational motel. We will have to make some modifications and improve

ments before we start to receive veterans, but the refurbishment time should be relatively short. FDVA in Tallahassee has been extremely helpful in processing our grant through the system and getting the funds needed for the acquisition. We are very excited that at long last we will have a location in St. Johns County to house our homeless veterans and not have to send them out of the County or put them up temporarily in local motels. MOAA-ACC and the Veterans Council have begun planning for this year's Memorial Day Service at St. Augustine National Cemetery. This year's service will be recognized on Monday, May 27 at 11am. This program grows exponentially each year as our



community gathers to honor our deceased veterans who have served our nation in uniform. The Veterans Council continues to help our veterans in need in our community who incur daily hardships. Last year, the Veterans Council expended over \$ 77,000 in expenses with assistance for veterans' needs. We are here to help our veterans as so many do not qualify for many of the government programs that are available. Thank you for your service.

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

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



**We meet at the County Health &  
Human Services Building, 200 San  
Sebastian View, at 7 pm in the Muscovy room.**

**Upcoming Speakers**

**February 29**

**Ramona Rood, Soldiers Angels  
Richard Cloninger, Veterans Service Attorney**

**March 28**

**Capt. Ed Turner, USN, Ret., Exec Dir. POW/MIA Memorial & Museum  
and Brandon Patty, St Johns County Clerk of Courts**

**April 25**

**Trish Doran, Military Liaison, Wekiva Springs Center  
Debbie Johnson, K9s United**

**May 30**

**Wendy Layton, Chapter Dir., Blue Star Families  
Dennis Graves, CJ 3 Foundation**

**June 27**

**Carey Picklesimer, CorpsStrength  
Angela Renner, VA, Suicide Prevention Supervisor**

**July 25**

**Vicky Oates, SJC Supervisor of Elections**

## Four Chaplains Memorial Service

Rafael Santiago of the City of Jacksonville Military Affairs and Veterans Department honored for his community service along with Kathy Cayton, Bob Adelhelm and Beth Heath. So very proud of Team MAVD!

Fellow Beirut Veteran LtCol. Robert Adelhelm, USMC-Ret. was honored this morning for his selfless service to Veterans in North Florida and in particular his beloved Marines and Navy Docs. I can't say enough about the many things he has done for others and always putting others before himself. It is simply awesome to be present as he was awarded the Legion of Honor Humanitarian Award by the Four Chaplains Foundation



**Thank you to everyone who attended the Four Chaplains Interfaith Memorial service at the Chapel of the High-Speed Pass on Saturday. We had an excellent turnout for the ceremony which featured William (Bill) Kaemmer (Executive Director, Four Chaplains Memorial Foundation Navy Yard Philadelphia, PA) as the guest speaker and Chaplain (Colonel) Eric Wester, US Army, (Retired)**

**Jacksonville VA, North Florida/ South Georgia Veterans Health System for the invocation.**

**We would also like to thank the Navy Wives Club of America, Inc.**

**DID #300 for the outstanding refreshments they provided at the fellowship reception. You can learn more about the Four Chaplains here <https://fourchaplains.org/>**





## Four Chaplains Legion of Honor Humanitarian Awards

February 3rd marks the anniversary of the sinking of the World War II United States Army Transport (U.S.A.T.) Dorchester and the selfless acts of four Army Chaplains. As the U.S.A.T. Dorchester went down, four 1st Lieutenant Chaplains of different faiths made the ultimate sacrifice and gave their life jackets to others. Two of the Chaplains were Protestant, one was a Rabbi, and one was a Catholic Priest. They assisted the crew, prayed, joined arms, and went down with the ship. The heartfelt story, pictures, and movie of The Four Chaplains can be accessed by clicking [here](#). We Can Be Heroes Foundation featured the Four Chaplains movie as our Movie of the Week earlier in the month.



Eighty-one years later, on February 3, Rev. Patrick Archuleta hosted the Annual Four Chaplains Interfaith Memorial Service in Jacksonville. The Service was held at the National POW-MIA Memorial Chapel of the High-Speed Pass, Cecil Field. The Executive Director of the Four Chaplains Memorial Foundation, Bill Kaemmer, was the keynote speaker.

Rev. Archuleta presented the prestigious Four Chaplains Memorial Foundation Legion of Honor Humanitarian Awards to four Americans. The awards recognize lifetime service to all people regardless of race or faith.

The Awards went to retired USMC LtCol. Robert Adelhelm of the Vets4Vets and Semper Fidelis Society, Kathy Cayton of the Navy Wives Club of America, Rafael Santiago of the Military Affairs Veterans Service Office-Jacksonville, and Beth Heath, CEO of the We Can Be Heroes Foundation. Rev. Archuleta spoke to the crowd about the four recipients' accomplishments and lifetime community service.

Click [here](#) to see photos of the awards ceremony and the We Can Be Heroes Team present at the awards. Click on the photos to enlarge.

Mark your calendar for February 3 each year to honor the Dorchester Chaplains and future recipients of the Four Chaplains Memorial Foundation Legion of Honor Humanitarian Awards.

## THE MEN ARE THE MISSION!

On February 15th, we remember and honor our unreturned Vietnam veteran still missing and unaccounted-for on Feb 15 COL Oscar Mauterer, father of Pam Cain (vice president and board member of (Mission: POW-MIA)

COL OSCAR MAUTERER  
MIA 15 FEB 1966 (LAOS)



# The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs

Nominations are open for the Class of 2024 Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame. If you know a Veteran who has made a significant civic, business or public service contribution to our state, nominate them today. Information & nomination forms available at:

<https://bit.ly/3IAgPP7>





**Thank you all for joining in as we honor an American Hero!  
Okefenoke REMC THANK YOU, for sending the bucket truck!  
NCFR & Hilliard Volunteer Fire Department, office staff, &  
public works departments were all blown away by the sup-  
port of our amazing community!**

**U.S. Army Sgt. Kennedy Landon Sanders, a fallen hero, as she returns to her hometown of Waycross, Georgia. Tragically, on Sunday, January 28, 2024, Sgt. Sanders made the ultimate sacrifice while serving her country in Jordan. Her service to our our nation will never be forgotten. As she makes her final journey home, know that she carries the eternal gratitude and prayers of us all.**





## Delta Air Lines To Fly 60 WWII Veterans To Normandy For 80th D-Day Anniversary

BYAARON BAILEY

This will mark the third time a US passenger airline will operate at Deauville Normandie Airport.

### SUMMARY

Delta Air Lines will honor 60 World War II veterans by chartering a flight to Normandy, France, for the D-Day 80th anniversary.

The airline works with organizations like the Best Defence Foundation and Michelin to support troops and veterans.

Delta aims to educate and engage people about the significance of D-Day and World War II through its initiatives and programs.

This year, SkyTeam partner Delta Air Lines will honor 60 World War II veterans and escort them directly to Normandy, France, to commemorate the D-Day 80th anniversary of the invasion that ended the war. This will be the third time Delta has chartered flights to the French airport, following 2022 and 2023.

Working with the Best Defense Foundations and with support coming from Michelin North America, the particular charter flight onboard a Boeing 767-300 will connect Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL) to Deauville – Normandie Airport (DOL) on June 2nd. A return flight will depart Normandy on June 12th to shuttle them home.

Approximately 11% of Delta team members are veterans and continue to dedicate their lives to serving the Guards and Reserves, in which the airline continues to support their troops and veterans with initiatives including military talent pipelines, a principal funder of the Fisher House Foundation, and onboarding new partners to help in the recruitment of veterans such as Military Mojo, Service Academy Career Conference, and MBA Veterans Network.

### Education and Engage

Delta's move to charter a flight once again to this historical and symbolic part of France for many Americans is to educate and engage people across the world about this critical part of history, and in partnership with the Best Defense Foundation, Michelin and the Consulate General of France, plan to select students for the chance to participate in the 'Next Generation Programme,' which is an opportunity to learn with past veterans regarding D-Day and World War II.

Up to 15 Delta employees work alongside the Best Defence Foundation to provide caretakers for this historic charter, and the airline Veteran Business Resource Group will be offered special training to ensure this trip is the safest and incredibly memorable for the veterans lucky to take flight. Delta is also taking the initiative to pilot a volunteer program where the airline crew will be buddied up with a veteran and provide



Jacksonville U.S. Navy veteran receives new roof as part of national project

WJXT News4Jax – by Jonathan Lundy

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – On Monday, a Jacksonville U.S. Navy veteran received a new roof from Reliant Roofing as part of the Owens Coming Roof Deployment Project (OCRDP).

According to the press release, through a partnership with Purple Heart Homes, Richard Haddix was selected for the roof replacement which was estimated to cost around \$18,000. The OCRDP is a nationwide effort to honor veterans and their families since its inception in 2016.

Haddix, who served in the Navy for 30 years, wasn't at home when Reliant Roofing arrived at his house to begin work on the roof. His son, Renco Santos was in the home with his younger sister and they were excited that their father was selected for the new roof.

“We haven't had a new roof since we moved in,” Santos said. He added that the roof would leak sometimes when it rained.

Mirio Chaves, product manager for Reliant Roofing, said the company wanted to honor Haddix.

“We want to say thank you to Mr. Richard for his service,” Chaves said. “We just want to give back to the community and that is a priority for Reliant.”



## Fort Matanzas



Fort Matanzas was built by the Spanish in 1742 to guard Matanzas Inlet, the southern mouth of the Matanzas River, which could be used as a rear entrance to the city of St. Augustine. Such an approach avoided St. Augustine's primary defense system, centered at Castillo de San Marcos. In 1740, Gov. James Oglethorpe of Georgia used the inlet to blockade St. Augustine and launch a thirty-nine-day siege. St. Augustine endured the siege, but the episode convinced the Spanish that protecting the inlet was necessary to the security of the town. Under Gov. Manuel de Montiano's orders, construction of the fort began that year and was completed in 1742. Engineer Pedro Ruiz de Olano, who had worked on additions to the Castillo de San Marcos, designed the fortified observation tower. Convicts, slaves, and troops from Cuba were used as labor to erect the structure, which was sited on present-day Rattlesnake Island and had a commanding position over Matanzas Inlet.

The fort, known to the Spanish as Torre de Matanzas (Matanzas Tower), is a masonry structure made of coquina, a common shellstone building material in the area. The marshy terrain was stabilized by a foundation of pine pilings to accommodate a building 50 feet (15 m) long on each

side with a 30-foot (9.1 m) high tower. The standard garrison of the fort was one officer in charge, four infantrymen, and two gunners, though more troops could be stationed if necessary. All soldiers at Fort Matanzas served on rotation from their regular duty in St. Augustine. Five cannon were placed at the fort—four six-pounders and one eighteen-pounder. All guns could reach the inlet, which at the time was less than half a mile away.

In 1742, as the fort was nearing completion, the British under Oglethorpe approached the inlet with twelve ships. Cannon fire drove off the scouting boats, and the warships left without engaging the fort. This brief encounter was the only time Fort Matanzas fired on an enemy. Spain lost control of Florida with the 1763 Treaty of Paris, and regained control with the 1783 Treaty of Paris. With the Spanish Empire falling apart, Spain spent little effort maintaining the fort after this time. When the United States took control of Florida in 1821, the fort had deteriorated to the point where soldiers could not live inside. The United States never used the fort and it became a ruin.

Fort Matanzas was named for the inlet, which acquired its name after the executions, or matanzas (Spanish: slaughters), on its north shore, of Jean Ribault and his band of Huguenot Frenchmen, the last of the Fort Caroline colonists, by the Spanish in 1565.



## The PLAYERS Championship unveils military appreciation plans for 50th-anniversary tournament

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. — In commemoration of its 50th Anniversary, THE PLAYERS Championship has revealed its military appreciation plans, aiming to pay tribute to the active-duty service members and veterans in Northeast Florida. Partnering with CSX, THE PLAYERS is set to host thousands of service members and their families during the 2024 tournament.

Lee Smith, Executive Director of THE PLAYERS, expressed the organization's pride in honoring those who have made significant sacrifices for both the local community and the nation. "We are so



excited to honor and thank our brave active-duty service members and veterans with these special initiatives throughout the tournament," said Smith.

This year's program includes the return of Military Appreciation Day festivities on Tuesday, March 12th, featuring a performance of the Star-Spangled Banner by Matthew Johnson and a concert by multi-platinum country star Cole Swindell.

One of the highlights is the partnership with CSX to present the Patriots' Outpost, a private venue exclusively for the military, offering complimentary snacks and nonalcoholic beverages for all patrons.

Military and veteran ticket offerings for THE PLAYERS 2024 include complimentary admission for active duty, retired, reserve, and National Guard members on specific days, with accompanying digital vouchers for on-site purchases. Veterans and one dependent can also avail of discounted admission on designated days, with similar digital vouchers.



THE PLAYERS is proud of its longstanding tradition of honoring service members, veterans and their families.

**Military Appreciation Day | Tuesday, March 12, 2024**  
Ceremony & Concert  
4:30 p.m. | TPC Sawgrass | 17th Hole

**Military Tickets**

Complimentary admission will be provided to active-duty, retired, reserve and National Guard members and one dependent on Tuesday, March 12, and Wednesday, March 13, and one competition day (Thursday, March 14, to Sunday, March 17), while supplies last. Valid identification and credentials are required. All tickets also include a \$20 digital voucher that can be used for food and nonalcoholic beverages on-site.

**Veteran Tickets**

Discounted admission will be provided to veterans and one dependent on Tuesday, March 12, and Wednesday, March 13, and one competition day (Thursday, March 14, to Sunday, March 17), while supplies last. Valid identification and credentials are required. All tickets also include a \$20 digital voucher that can be used for food and nonalcoholic beverages on-site.

**Patriots' Outpost presented by CSX**

Service members, veterans and their families will receive complimentary access to the Patriots' Outpost presented by CSX, an exclusive military lounge with complimentary snacks and beverages.

**Fan Shop Discount**

On Tuesday, March 12, active-duty, retired and reserve service members will receive a 20% discount in the PGA TOUR Fan Shop in Stadium Village. Valid Tuesday, March 12 only. Must show a valid military I.D.



In addition to ticket offerings, THE PLAYERS is set to host a Military Job Fair on Saturday, March 9, in collaboration with the Jacksonville Military Veterans Coalition. Approximately 25 companies with job opportunities will participate in the event.

On Military Appreciation Day, March 12, a ceremony will take place at the Island Green 17th hole, followed by a concert featuring country artist Cole Swindell.

Active duty, retired, reserve, and National Guard members will receive a 20% discount in the PGA TOUR Fan Shop on Tuesday, March 12.

For more information on THE PLAYERS' military appreciation offerings, visit their website [HERE](#).

To obtain military and veteran tickets, follow these steps:

1. Go to [THEPLAYERS.com/tickets](https://THEPLAYERS.com/tickets) and click on CLAIM TICKETS in the Military Admission section.
2. Choose your preferred tournament day(s).
3. Confirm your military designation through GovX by clicking on the link provided on the checkout page.
4. After verification, finalize the transaction and retrieve your tickets on THE PLAYERS' digital portal.
5. Prior to arrival, add your ticket(s) to your mobile wallet.

Please note that parking passes are not included in ticket purchases. A separate parking pass is necessary for each day of the tournament week (Tuesday through Sunday) and should be bought online in advance via [THEPLAYERS.com/parking](https://THEPLAYERS.com/parking).



*From Dave Seamans*

Run for the Fallen today from Tallahassee to Jacksonville remembering our fallen heroes and honoring our Gold Star Families. It was an honor to speak to these great Americans. Tyler Conyers tagged along with me.



### National League of POW/MIA Families

Hello everyone!

The League is always seeking out photos of POW/MIA flags, monuments, Missing Man Honors Tables, POW/MIA empty chairs, etc. from your community to feature on our social media pages and website.

Sharing with us is easy, just message your photos to our email -

[nationalleague@pow-miafamilies.org](mailto:nationalleague@pow-miafamilies.org)

With your full name as well as a brief description of when & where the photo was taken.





# Join Our Team of Volunteers

We're currently looking for individuals who would be committed to restoring, maintaining, and being a docent on the USS Orleck.



## Requirements

- Veteran, Active Duty, Retired
- Minimum of 18 Years Old
- Healthy physically and mentally
- Youth groups with advisors
- Willing to volunteer where and when needed

## Registration On

[www.jaxnavalmuseum.org/volunteer](http://www.jaxnavalmuseum.org/volunteer)

## Skills Needed

- Welders & Electricians
- Docents & Office
- Painting, Cleaning, Events

## For More Info

[volunteer@jaxnavalmuseum.org](mailto:volunteer@jaxnavalmuseum.org)

## USS Orleck's Address

610 East Bay Street  
Jacksonville, FL 32202

**Veterans Council of Nassau County Florida is attending Annual Nassau County Vets4Vets Gathering at West Nassau High School.**

Thank you to the West Nassau AFJROTC, our guest speakers, attendees, exhibitors, sponsors, and supporters for making our 3rd Annual Nassau Vets4Vets a great success!



## Navy Gold Star Program •

Navy Gold Star Coordinator Ken Moreland attended the Florida Run for the Fallen event held February 11th at the Jacksonville Florida Memorial Wall. The runners blazed a 176-mile tribute trail across Florida to raise awareness for the lives of those who fought and died, to rejuvenate their memories and keep their spirits alive and to aid in the healing process for the Florida residents whose lives have been affected by the war.





# VIETNAM VETERANS DAY ★ CEREMONY ★

REMEMBER OUR FALLEN

"ALL GIVE ALL"



**Saturday, March 23, 2024**

**10:00 a.m.**

**TAPS Monument**  
**915 Walnut Street**  
**Green Cove Springs, FL**

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

*"I pray the anguish of the cherishes the solemn price so costly a sacrifice... leave you only the loved and lost, o... to have... of freedo..."*

**In Partnership**







## Retired Activities Office NAS Jacksonville

*"Assisting the Military Retiree Community"*

### *The Retired Activities Office at NAS Jacksonville is Moving!*

As of Tuesday, January 16, 2024 the Jacksonville Retired Activities Office (RAO) will be re-located in Room 120 in Building 13, the two-story yellow building with blue shutters just outside the Yorktown Gate of NAS Jacksonville (across from the USO).

The Office Hours and Contact Information remain the same:

- ❖ **Office Hours:** Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday/Friday 1000-1400. Or,
- ❖ **Call 24/7:** 904-542-5790 - speak to a staff member or leave a message.
- ❖ **EMAIL Contact:** [NASJAXRAO@navy.mil](mailto:NASJAXRAO@navy.mil)

Trained volunteers at NAS Jacksonville Retired Activities Office (RAO JAX) assist the NE Florida and SE Georgia military retiree community with problems and questions as well as Federal and Local benefits, programs and resources. ALL retiree families are eligible for assistance, regardless of military branch.

RAO staff provide direct assistance and information on Navy or other DoD programs. Referrals are made to Local, County or State agencies like the City of Jacksonville Military Affairs and Veterans Department, private organizations like Red Cross or Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society or other Federal Government agencies like Social Security, Tricare or the Veterans Administration.

For further information, contact Jacksonville Retired Activities Office – 904-542-5790



# Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD)

"Recruiting - Soldiers for Life"

## SAVE THE DATE!

### Saturday, May 18, 2024

University of Central Florida - Student Union  
12715 Pegasus Drive, Orlando, FL 32816

**Registration** begins 8:00 A.M.; **Presentations** begin at 9:00 A.M.

**Meet representatives from the below agencies during the RAD Information Fair, 1300 - 1600 hours**



Hosted by Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield, GA - Retirement Services Office

[www.facebook.com/FtStewartRSO](https://www.facebook.com/FtStewartRSO)

Walk-in registration can be accomplished at the event - "We" want you there!

**Retirees from all service branches and their Family members are also invited!**

**ONCE A SOLDIER, ALWAYS A SOLDIER... A SOLDIER FOR LIFE!**



*Greetings Retired Soldiers and Family Members! I would like to thank each of you for your service and commitment to the nation and for being a vital part of the Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield community for all these years. We would not be where we are today without the sacrifices made by brave men and women like you. I sincerely thank you for your service.*

*Ft. Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield Retired Soldiers Council acts as a regional (SC, GA and FL) center for Army retirees and their families providing news, advocacy on issues (directly to the Army Chief of Staff), and puts on an annual Retiree Appreciation Day (attracting 500-1000 Retirees and Family members) with updates on issues and opportunities, along with representatives from many agencies like VA, Medicare/Tricare, MOAA, etc. We look forward to seeing you at our event!*

~Fort Stewart RSO



**The National Museum of the Marine Corps (NMMC) Sixth Annual Marine Corps Student Art Competition opens March 1, 2024, to all U.S. students in grades K-12.**

**The theme for this year's NMMC student art competition is "Once a Marine, Always a Marine." Student artists are asked to create a piece of 2D art inspired by the theme.**

**Email entries begin on March 1, 2024, but no later than March 22, 2024. Only the first fifty submissions in each category will be accepted for consideration.**

**Learn more about the competition, view last year's winners, and fill out a form for entry on our website: <https://www.usmcmuseum.com/2024-marine-corps-student-art...>**

**:The image is a portion of the artwork titled, "John Philip Sousa's; Stars and Stripes Forever" by Carter Hogan 8th grade 1st place winner 2023.**

**[#USMC #Museum #StudentArt #USMCMuseum #Marines #SemperFi](#)**



VETERAN ACTIVE DUTY GUARD RESERVE

# JAX BEACH SILKIES HIKE



# IRREVERENT WARRIORS

BRINGING VETERANS TOGETHER



23 MARCH 2024

Greater Beaches  
VFW Post 3270

Eighth Ave S, Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250

Kick off: 0800



WE BRING VETERANS TOGETHER  
USING HUMOR AND CAMARADERIE  
TO IMPROVE MENTAL HEALTH  
AND PREVENT VETERAN SUICIDE

[www.IrreverentWarriors.com](http://www.IrreverentWarriors.com)





**Are you a Veteran with a passion for assisting Veterans  
navigate the complex system of services  
to address the barriers to living their best lives?**



**Cool, we are hiring **VETERAN CARE COORDINATORS**  
at the United Way of Northeast Florida**

Email resumes to [MissionUnited@UWNEFL.Org](mailto:MissionUnited@UWNEFL.Org)

AMPLIFY GOOD

FROM HELLO TO HELP, 211 IS HERE

2-1-1

988

UNITED WAY MISSION UNITED

INFORMATION AND REFERRALS

CRISIS AND SUICIDE

VETERAN CARE COORDINATION

Dial 2-1-1 for information, referrals and Mission United.  
Dial 9-8-8 for mental health crisis support.

United Way of Northeast Florida



# MILITARY

## APPRECIATION DAY

Hosted by the Clay County Board of County Commissioners

**SATURDAY**  
**MARCH 16**  
**9 A.M. - 3 P.M.**

Clay County Fairgrounds  
**2463 SR 16 West**  
**Green Cove Springs**

Join us in honoring our active duty, veteran, and military families. This free event is open to the public and features Food Trucks, vendors, resources for veterans and their families, entertainment, guest speakers, and a kids' zone.





**"MY MOTHER TOLD ME TO BE A LADY. AND FOR HER, THAT MEANT BE YOUR OWN PERSON, BE INDEPENDENT."**

**— RUTH BADER GINSBURG**



## NARRATIVES OF WOMEN IN THE MILITARY

- Hope4Veterans will present *She Served*, a photography exhibition by Martina Schmidt to showcase women veterans, and produce *Single Black Female in the Navy*, an original play by Kim Mullins, a Navy veteran and theater teacher, about her experiences as a woman in the Navy.
- June 9, 2024 - Waterworks in St. Augustine 2-5PM
  - 184 San Marco Avenue, St. Augustine, Florida 32084

Sponsored in part by:



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT for the ARTS

## VETERAN SPOTLIGHT: KIM MULLINS



K.E. Mullins is a Florida native, an accomplished author, poet, upcoming playwright, and director. Her full-length play, "Single Black Female in the Navy," was selected out of hundreds of submission. The play was one of six in the Tampa Bay Festival competition in September 2023.

She's also been accepted in Women Writing for Change Showcase, April 22, 2022. Her play, mini-version of "Single Black Female in the Navy," was selected by Acrosstown Repertory Theatre for a zoom reading with live actors, January 2022. Her short story - "I'm Toni and I Approve this Message" was accepted in Lolwe's Online Magazine for publication in May 2021. February 1, 2021. Ms. Mullins' monologue, "Black by Unpopular Demand," was published in the "8:46 Collection - The New World of Theatre" available on Amazon.

Additionally, her novel excerpt - "Iben...I've been through some sh!t!" was accepted by Writer's Launch and published February 2021. She's also a Harness Magazine - Contributor. In March 2021, she was selected to participate in Hermitage Retreat as one of five artists in Florida for the Florida Alliance of Arts and Education. During COVID, Ms. Mullins participated in the Kaz Comedy Writing for Women - Workshop in February 2020. K.E. Mullins is the author of four fiction novels, "7475 Samona Drive," "The Friends and Family Connection: Get Unplugged," "In the Company of Strangers," "Murder: Another Name for Revenge, and "7475 Samona Drive." She also published a book of poetry, "Thinking Aloud: Dimension of Free-Verse," all available on Amazon, Barnes and Nobles, and Walmart online.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- P2P Therapeutic Art Program in Duval - Steve A. Cohen Center from 5:30-7:30, February 6th and 20th
- P2P Therapeutic Art Program in Clay - 108 Kingsley Ave. Room 210 from 6-8 PM, February 8th and 22nd
- P2P Therapeutic Art Program in St. John's - The Link in Nocatee 6-8 PM February 15th and 29th
- She Served and Narratives of Women in the Military, June 9th 2-5 PM Waterworks in St. Augustine
- Submit your upcoming events for us to share to our readers by clicking the "Submit Events" button at the bottom of the newsletter

Become a H4V Sponsor and see your business listed here!



The Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at Centerstone



## CONTACT US

- hope4veterans.org
- lgeiser@hope4veterans.org
- (904) 430-2388

## **St. Johns County's Parks & Recreation receives \$54,000+ for disabled veterans' adaptive sports programs**



Funds awarded by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs will offer three, monthly veteran-exclusive, kayaking, fishing and art programs.

According to Ryan Kane, the county's Parks & Recreation director, monies will fund programs uniquely designed for disabled military veterans.

"These men and women will compete in activities in parks that display the American flag," he said. "And they'll know that the county cares about their physical, mental, and spiritual health."

"This phenomenal program enriches the quality of life for military veterans injured in their service in protecting our freedoms," continued Joseph McDermott, the county's veterans service director.

County commissioners authorized the Parks & Recreation Department to apply for the grant last April.

"Our slogan in Parks & Recreation is 'Play Your Way.'" Kane concluded.

"That's what we're offering – opportunities for these brave men and women of our military forces to play their way."

The Veterans Programs include archery, pickleball, art, fishing, and kayaking.





# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

## Military Museum of North Florida

Wednesday-Saturday

**10am-3pm**

1 Bunker Ave  
Green Cove Springs FL,  
32043

Call or email the Military  
Museum @  
(904) 863-3527  
[militarymuseumnf@ol.com](mailto:militarymuseumnf@ol.com)



Made with PosterMyWall.com



## **Burials and Memorials**

**VA honors the service and sacrifice of Veterans and their family members.**

### **How to Apply**

**To find out in advance if a Veteran or family member is eligible for burial in a VA national cemetery, click “Apply for Pre-Need Burial Eligibility” to fill out and submit the application.**

### **Apply for Pre-Need Burial Eligibility**

**If pre-need eligibility has not been determined, upon the death of the Veteran or his or her spouse or dependent (also called the time of need), family members should locate the Veteran’s DD-214 or other discharge papers if readily available and click “Schedule a Burial” to begin the process. Then make arrangements with a funeral home, National Cemetery Scheduling Office, or directly with a VA national cemetery.**

### **VA Memorial Benefits**

**VA takes special care to pay lasting tribute to the memory of Veterans who served and sacrificed and that of their families. VA meticulously maintains 155 VA national cemeteries in 44 states and Puerto Rico and is working to increase access to accommodate Veterans and eligible family members close to home. Currently, more than 94 percent of Veterans have a burial option in an open VA, state or tribal veterans cemetery located within 75 miles of their home.**

**Note that most if not all of these benefits may be provided for Veterans who are interred in a State, Territorial or Tribal Veterans cemetery. Check with the cemetery to ensure coverage. Some benefits are also available for Veterans who choose burial in a private cemetery.**

**Veterans with a qualifying discharge are entitled to VA burial benefits. Spouses and dependent children are eligible too, even if they predecease the Veteran.**

**The following burial benefits may be provided:**

**Burial in a VA national cemetery**

**Opening and closing of the grave for burial of casketed or cremated remains, or placement of cremated remains in an above-ground vault, also called a columbarium**

**A government furnished grave liner**

**Perpetual care of the gravesite**

**A headstone or marker with an inscription**

**A burial flag**

**A Presidential Memorial Certificate**

**A dedicated memorial page on the Veterans Legacy Memorial site where friends and family can upload photos and remembrances**

**Burial in a private cemetery**

**A government headstone, marker, or medallion**

**A burial flag**

**A Presidential Memorial Certificate**

**Some survivors may also be entitled to VA burial allowances as partial reimbursement for the costs of funerals and burials for eligible Veterans**

**Please note that gravesites in a VA national cemetery cannot be reserved in advance. To prepare for a private cemetery burial, VA suggests families review these questions and complete required forms in advance.**

**VA Requirements**

**Discharge papers to establish your eligibility for burial services**

**VETERANS COUNCIL OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY  
MINUTES OF GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**January 25, 2024**

**CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Dudley**

**WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS: Chairman Dudley**

**PLEDGE: Chairman Dudley**

**INVOCATION: Chairman Dudley**

**MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: Minutes of last meeting conducted December 28, 2023, were presented by Chairman Dudley. Copies of the Minutes and Agenda are available on the sign-in table and were sent to members electronically by the Secretary. The minutes were approved by voice vote with no changes.**

**TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Mountcastle presented the Treasurer's Report to the Council. As of December 27, 2023, the cash balance was \$167,146.48. As of January 24, 2024, the balance is \$168,055.12. Treasurer Mountcastle went over the expenses of the Treasurer's Report in detail. It was announced that starting in May of 2024, The Dudley Foundation will administer two \$1,000 scholarships to students in our local high schools. Treasurer Mountcastle discussed the expenses that will be incurred with the year-end financials. Chairman Dudley asked if the Treasurer could provide an estimate of the total amount the Veterans Council spent last year helping veterans and that amount was \$77,000 directly to helping Veterans. The Treasurer asked if there were any questions regarding the Treasurer's Report. The Report was approved by voice vote.**

**SPEAKER:**

**CANDANCE MABRY, PRESIDENT, FIRST COAST HONOR FLIGHT**

**Selena Hernandez-Haines, the former founding President of First Coast Honor**





Flight, introduced the new President, Candance Mabry, who has been with the program since inception and will continue the honor to our Veterans.

First Coast Honor Flight is a 501(c)3 non-profit that honors Veterans for their sacrifices. There are 125 Honor Flights across the nation and First Coast Honor Flight is the 10th hub in the State of Florida and the newest. First Coast Honor Flight covers the nine counties in NE Florida. In the 9-county area there are more than 168,000 Veterans. The Honor Flight “target” Veterans that have served in the Vietnam War, Korean War and WWII. Honor Flight provides a day of flight to Washington DC to visit the Memorials.

Candance Mabry went into detail as to what is provided to the chosen Veterans on the Honor Flight that day. Each Veteran has a guardian/chaperone for the day that helps assist them with their needs as they make the tour of the Memorials. Honor Flight also provides a staff of six, one being a doctor.

Flight Day starts incredibly early on the chosen day and returns later that evening on the same day. It departs out of Jacksonville and flies into Washington DC. It is a busy day for all, and the Veterans not only appreciate the honor but also all that is included by First Coast Honor Flight.

It was requested that if anyone should know of a Veteran that would benefit from the Honor Flight, they are asked to help them submit their application to be included in the future First Coast Honor Flights. They do not have to be Combat Veterans, just must have served during the war times.

The floor was open to questions and answers regarding the organization.

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW GUESTS: Chairman Dudley**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE UPDATE, JOSEPH MCDERMOTT**

Mr. McDermott spoke of “good news” in a couple of areas. First, the National Personnel Records Center from March of 2020 to March of 2022, had a backlog of over 600,000 requests pending. The great news is that as of this date, there is no longer a backlog. This makes it much easier for the Veterans Administration

to obtain the needed records for filing claims.

Second, the Veterans Service Office has two new Service Officers that are now certified with the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs and are allowed to take and submit claims to the Veterans Administration. It has made a huge difference in the operation of the office. Veterans can now get into to see the Veterans Service Officer within a week's period. There has also been an Office Specialist hired to help with the phone calls and office interactions with the Veterans. The Veterans Service Office will see over five hundred Veterans for the month of January and will hit the number of one hundred new clients. The numbers continue to stay high.

Mr. McDermott also discussed working with the Disability Questionnaire (DBQ). DBQ's are completed by the Veteran's doctor that is outside the VA so there is medical evidence to submit with the claim. There now has become a problem with false DBQ's by doctor's not filing it out completely, or filling out a DBQ for a Veteran in the State of Florida but the doctor is in another state. They are having to be looked at very closely in the Veterans Service Office and make sure the pertinent information has been submitted by the appropriate source.

Another thing that is being looked at is "Claim Sharks." These people are not certified to take claims or, "We'll do this claim for you, but we want 3 months of what you are awarded." Every county in the State of Florida has a Veterans Service Office and does not charge Veterans with filing claims.

Mr. McDermott opened the floor to any questions regarding the Veterans Service Office.

#### VETERANS TREATMENT COURT, JOHN LESLIE

John Leslie was not in attendance at this meeting due to a conflicting family event.

#### OLD/NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Dudley discussed the purchase of the hotel on Anastasia Blvd., The

Old Town Inn, and the hopes to close on that facility by mid-February and then it will become The Veterans Village. Chairman Dudley has been contacting Tallahassee and pushing them help get grant completed, which is tied up in legal, to help with this process. He also contacted Speaker Paul Renner and requested help. We are coming up against a hard deadline and the owner is getting nervous about the sale. Rep. Renner called back and informed Chairman Dudley that he “has lit a fire” to get this accomplished. Once the sale is closed, the facility can start taking Veterans in almost immediately. There are a few procedures that must be completed and are already in the works. The expense of currently having to house homeless Veterans in a hotel is high and having The Veterans Village will help with this expense.

Chairman Dudley also spoke of the program, Students Against Child Trafficking, and bringing it to St. Johns County. With the migration of people crossing the borders and coming into our country illegally, there is a lot of trafficking of children because of it. A meeting was setup with the Sheriff’s Office and Chairman Dudley was assured that Sherriff’s Office would participate. The beauty of this program is that it is a Peer Program – a student to student program – to discuss the trafficking problem and it has been successful. It will be supported by Veterans.

Chairman Dudley also discussed the scholarship program that was mentioned earlier in the meeting. The Veterans Council Board has met and decided that it will be named after the late Sargent Major Ray Quinn. It will start off with two high schools, St. Augustine and Nease High Schools, with ROTC programs. The schools will be provided with guidelines of what is expected and the instructors of those two programs will make the selection of the Cadet to be awarded.

The floor was open to questions, answers and all others that had information to share with the Veterans Council.

Next Veterans Council meeting will be held on Thursday, February 29th beginning at 7:00pm.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted, William Dudley, Chairman



# AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS CHAPTER 37

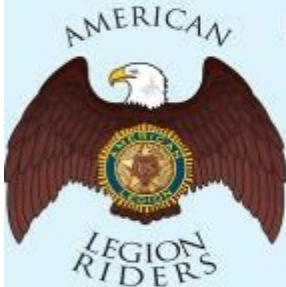


## *Charity Poker Run*

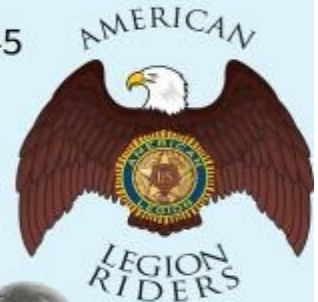
Benefitting Kids Bridge St. Augustine

**SATURDAY APRIL 13**

MUSIC-FOOD-50/50-SILENT  
AUCTIONS-BOTTLE AUCTIONS



Registration @ Legion Post 194, 0845-0945  
1st Card-Coffee & Donuts  
Safety Brief 0950 KSU 1000  
Final Card-(Post 37) Mark Lance Armory  
Last Bike in by 3:30



First 50 registered riders  
recieve a Veterans Challenge  
Coin



**\$20 Rider**  
**\$10 Passenger**



**Best Hand-Worst Hand  
Prizes**

Contact Derek or Chap  
derek.apter@gmail.com  
alp37riderschaplain@gmail.com





Vietnam and all Veterans  
of Brevard

*Present:*

# Florida's 36th Annual All Veterans Reunion

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

## May 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024

The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall on display **May 5<sup>th</sup> – May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**This will be the final reunion hosted by the VVB**

A new group of younger vets are taking the reins in 2025 but the reunion will happen

**2025 dates will be Escort 5/4/25 Reunion 5/8/25 to 5/11/25**

We are all getting older and costs have killed us over the past few years

**So come out and join us one final time to celebrate what has been a great 36 years**

**Wall Escort Sunday May 5th, 2024 Leaves at 10am  
Eastern Florida State College Cocoa Campus**

**Reunion Web Page at:**

**[floridaveteransreunion.com](http://floridaveteransreunion.com)**

### **Wickham Park**

**321-255-4307 - 2500 Parkway Dr  
Melbourne, FL**

**No Coolers, Glass or Pets allowed  
in the Reunion Area**

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

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



### **Call For Info**

**321-690-0805  
321-652-4185**

**Vendors call 321-652-4185**

**[RaRusso1962@gmail.com](mailto:RaRusso1962@gmail.com)**

**[VVBSecretary@gmail.com](mailto:VVBSecretary@gmail.com)**

**Club Escort Lineup Info**

**[vvbreunionescort@gmail.com](mailto:vvbreunionescort@gmail.com)**

## Skip the trip: More military ID cardholders can now renew online

By Karen Jowers, from the *Military Times*

Most retirees and family members living within the United States are now eligible for online renewal of their Uniformed Services Identification card. Pictured here, the ID Card office at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. (Wesley Farnsworth/ Air Force)



About 1 million people with Uniformed Services Identification cards are now eligible to renew their ID cards online, rather than visiting an office in person.

Most USID cardholders — including military retirees, reservists, spouses and dependents of U.S. service members — can file their requests online and receive new IDs by mail, defense officials said Jan. 16. The move expands a pilot program that began in February 2023 to allow uniformed sponsors with a common access card to request online renewals of USID cards.

The IDs are used to enter Defense Department facilities and to access benefits like health care.

DOD issues about 4.5 million ID cards each year, about 2.5 million of which are USID cards. Of those, around 1 million USIDs are eligible for online renewal.

For now, online renewal is limited to those who live in the United States, but officials are working to expand it to non-U.S. addresses as well. People whose IDs have expired and those seeking their first ID card are also ineligible for online services.

Allowing more beneficiaries to renew their IDs online frees up the pass and ID offices for active duty military and civilian government employees who need to apply for or

renew a CAC, officials said.

To request an online renewal, the sponsor must be able to log into the ID Card Office Online as a CAC holder or have a DOD Self-Service Logon username and password. Make sure to read the instructions on how to set up a DS Logon account when creating a new profile. Sponsors will request the renewal by clicking the “Family ID Cards” tab on the ID Card Office Online landing page.

According to DOD, other requirements include:

The USID card being renewed must be active, not expired. Children are eligible for online USID renewal if they have an active USID card.

The sponsor and the cardholder must have email addresses listed in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS). You can check your data in DEERS to make sure it’s up to date.

The cardholder must have a photo saved in DEERS that was taken within the last 12 years.

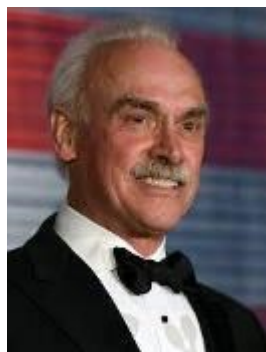
The cardholder must have a current U.S. address in DEERS. Cards can’t be mailed to P.O. boxes.

Once the request is processed, a new card will be created and mailed to the card recipient at the address listed in DEERS. The sponsor and the cardholder will receive an email once the card is shipped, directing the sponsor to acknowledge when they’ve received the card. Once the sponsor acknowledges receipt, the new USID card will be activated and the old one will be deactivated.

The deactivated card should be returned to the government, to the nearest Real-Time Automated Personnel Identification System (RAPIDS) site, or mailed to: DMDC-DSC, Attn: USID Card Returns, 2102 E. 21st Street N, Wichita, KS 67214.



Robert Patrick "Rocky" Bleier (born March 5, 1946) is an American former professional football player and a veteran of the United States Army. He played as a running back in the National Football League (NFL) for the Pittsburgh Steelers in 1968 and from 1970 to 1980.



Nicknamed "Rocky" as a baby, Bleier said, "As the first born of the family, my dad was proud, as all parents are. And the guys would come into the bar and say 'Bob, how's that new kid of yours?' And my dad would go, 'Aw, you should see him, guys, looks like a little rock sitting in that crib. He's got all these muscles.' So they'd come back in the bar and they'd say, 'Hey Bob, how's that little rock of yours?' So after that, that's how I got it. It stuck.

Born and raised in Appleton, Wisconsin, Bleier was the oldest of four children of Bob and Ellen Bleier, who ran a tavern, Bleier's Bar, while the family of six lived above it. He had a paper route as a youth,[5] and graduated from Xavier High School in 1964, where he starred in football and basketball. In football, Bleier was a three-time all-state selection as running back, and won all-conference honors at both linebacker and defensive back. He was a team captain in football, basketball, and track.

Bleier played college football at the University of Notre Dame in Notre Dame, Indiana, and graduated in 1968 with a degree in business management. During his junior season in 1966, the Fighting Irish won the national championship and he was a team captain as a senior in 1967. He was selected in the 16th round of the 1968 NFL/AFL Draft by the Pittsburgh Steelers, 417th overall.

After his rookie season with the Steelers, Bleier was drafted into the U.S. Army on December 4, 1968, during the Vietnam War. He volunteered for duty in South Vietnam and shipped out for Vietnam in May 1969 assigned to Company C, 4th Battalion (Light), 31st Infantry, 196th Light Infantry Brigade and assigned as a squad grenadier operating a 40mm M79 grenade launcher. On August 20, while on patrol in Hiep Duc, Bleier was wounded in the left thigh by an enemy rifle bullet when his platoon was ambushed in a rice paddy. While he was down, an enemy grenade landed nearby after bouncing off a fellow soldier, he tried to leap over it and it exploded sending shrapnel into his lower right leg. His right foot was severely damaged in the blast as well. He was later awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart. His rank was Specialist 4.

While he was recovering in a hospital in Tokyo, doctors told him that he could not play football again. Soon after, he received a postcard from Steelers owner Art Rooney which simply read "Rock - the team's not doing well. We need you. Art Rooney". Bleier later said, "When you have somebody take the time and interest to send you a postcard, something that they didn't have to do, you have a special place for those kinds of people". After several surgeries, he was discharged from the Army in July 1970, and began informal workouts with Steeler teammates.



Bleier rejoined the Steelers in camp in 1970. Upon his return, he couldn't walk without being in pain, and weighed only 180 pounds. He was put on injured reserve for the season, but returned in 1971 and played on special teams. He spent several seasons trying to get increased playing time, and was waived on two occasions. But Bleier never gave up and said that he worked hard so that "some time in the future you didn't have to ask yourself 'what if?'". An offseason training regimen brought Bleier back to 212 lb in the summer of 1974, and he earned a spot in the Steelers' starting lineup.

Since Preston Pearson was wearing number 26 (the number Bleier wore his rookie season before he went to Vietnam), Bleier switched to number 20 when he returned to the team. After Pearson was traded to the Dallas Cowboys in 1975, Bleier kept the number 20, with which he had become associated.

In addition to being a great lead blocker, Bleier was the second of the Steelers' rushing weapons (Franco Harris was the primary back), but was effective nonetheless at both blocking and rushing. In 1976, both Harris and Bleier rushed for over 1,000 yards, making this the second NFL team to accomplish this feat, after Mercury Morris and Larry Csonka of the 1972 Miami Dolphins.

Bleier played in the first four Steeler Super Bowl victories, and caught the touchdown pass from Terry Bradshaw that gave Pittsburgh a lead it would never relinquish in Super Bowl XIII. He also recovered Dallas's onside kick in the closing seconds, sealing the Steelers' victory.

Bleier retired after the 1980 season, with 3,865 rushing yards, 136 receptions for 1,294 yards, and 25 touchdowns. At the time of his retirement, he was the Steelers' fourth all-time leading rusher.

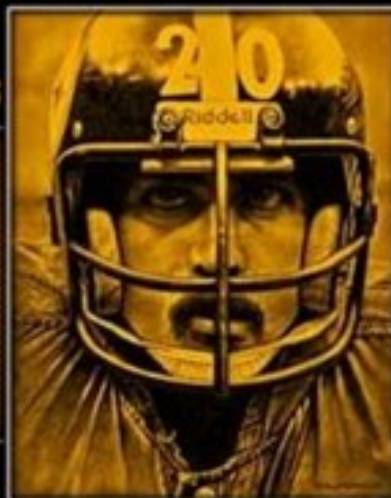


# ROCKY BLEIER

## PITTSBURGH STEELERS



20



20



### 196<sup>TH</sup> LIB



AFTER HIS 1968 ROOKIE SEASON WITH THE PITTSBURGH STEELERS, BLEIER WAS DRAFTED INTO THE U.S. ARMY IN DECEMBER 1968. HE VOLUNTEERED FOR DUTY IN THE VIETNAM WAR AND SHIPPED OUT IN MAY 1969, SERVING WITH THE 196TH LIGHT INFANTRY BRIGADE. ON AUGUST 20, WHILE ON PATROL IN HEIP DUC, BLEIER WAS WOUNDED IN THE LEFT THIGH BY A RIFLE BULLET WHEN HIS PLATOON WAS AMBUSHED IN A RICE PADDY. WHILE DOWN, AN ENEMY GRENADE LANDED NEARBY AFTER BOUNCING OFF A FELLOW SOLDIER, SENDING SHRAPNEL INTO HIS LOWER RIGHT LEG. HE LOST PART OF HIS RIGHT FOOT IN THE BLAST AS WELL. HE WAS LATER AWARDED THE PURPLE HEART AND THE BRONZE STAR. HIS RANK WAS SPECIALIST 4.

WHILE HE WAS RECOVERING IN A HOSPITAL IN TOKYO, DOCTORS TOLD HIM THAT HE WOULD NOT PLAY FOOTBALL AGAIN. SOON AFTER, HE RECEIVED A POSTCARD FROM STEELERS OWNER ART ROONEY WHICH JUST READ "ROCK - THE TEAM'S NOT DOING WELL. WE NEED YOU. ART ROONEY".

BLEIER LATER SAID "WHEN YOU HAVE SOMEBODY TAKE THE TIME AND INTEREST TO SEND YOU A POSTCARD, SOMETHING THAT THEY DIDN'T HAVE TO DO, YOU HAVE A SPECIAL PLACE FOR THOSE KIND OF PEOPLE".







OFFERED AT:

## Hilton Sandestin Beach Golf Resort & Spa

4000 S. Sandestin Blvd,  
Miramar Beach, FL 32550


### ABOUT THIS RETREAT:


The goal of this retreat is to strengthen relationship skills in an environment that is free from the every-day distractions of life.

- ✓ The retreat is free for those who attend.
- ✓ Two nights of lodging and five meals included.
- ✓ Offered for All Active Duty and Active Reserve.
- ✓ Childcare will NOT be provided.
- ✓ Travel is NOT included.

Spots fill fast so apply today, to request an application email us to:

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 [www.facebook.com/CREDO.Southeast](https://www.facebook.com/CREDO.Southeast)

# MISSION: POW-MIA



LT COL  
RUSSELL PALMER HUNTER JR

COL  
ERNST PHILIP KIEFEL JR

On February 10, 1966, a B-57B Canberra (tail number 52-1575) took off from Da Nang Airbase, Vietnam, carrying two crew members and flying with a C-130 flare aircraft on a night strike mission over Laos. As the flight neared Ban Vangthon, Laos, the pilot radioed that he observed light and would drop down to investigate its source. While checking out the light source as a possible target, the Canberra was hit by enemy ground fire. The Canberra's pilot radioed that he was in trouble and he and his other crew member would eject. The C-130's crew soon observed the Canberra impact with the ground near east of Sepone, Savannakhet Province, Laos. Search and rescue forces later located the wreckage, but there was no trace of its two crew members and their fate was unknown.

SOURCES: OMB & THE WALL OF NAMES







U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs



# VA S.A.V.E. Training

## Supporting Our Veterans

### What is VA S.A.V.E. Training?

VA S.A.V.E. Training will help you act with care and compassion if you encounter a Veteran who is in crisis or experiencing suicidal thoughts. The acronym S.A.V.E. helps you remember the important steps involved in suicide prevention:

- S** Signs of suicidal thinking should be recognized
- A** Ask the most important question of all — “Are you thinking of killing yourself?”
- V** Validate the Veteran’s experience
- E** Encourage treatment and Expedite getting help

You can prevent Veteran suicide.  
Start by learning the VA S.A.V.E. acronym.

02/2021

## Supporting our Veterans

You can support a Veteran through a crisis. Keep these tips in mind when talking with a Veteran who may be at risk for suicide:

- Remain calm
- Listen more than you speak
- Maintain eye contact
- Act with confidence
- Do not argue
- Use open body language
- Limit questions — Let the Veteran do the talking
- Use supportive, encouraging comments
- Be honest — There are no quick solutions, but help is available

## Additional Resources

**VA Mental Health Services:** Get information about inpatient and outpatient services available through VA at [www.mentalhealth.va.gov](http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov).

**Online Resource Locator:** Find VA facilities, Vet Centers, suicide prevention coordinators, and other VA resources at [www.VeteransCrisisLine.net/ResourceLocator](http://www.VeteransCrisisLine.net/ResourceLocator).

**Make the Connection:** Veterans and their loved ones can find out how to connect with VA resources at [www.MakeTheConnection.net](http://www.MakeTheConnection.net).

**Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Program:** Locate the VA PTSD program nearest you at [www.ptsd.va.gov](http://www.ptsd.va.gov).



Confidential chat at [VeteransCrisisLine.net](http://VeteransCrisisLine.net) or text 838255



# VA S.A.V.E. TRAINING: SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS

## Signs of Suicidal Thinking

There are behaviors that may be signs a Veteran needs support. Learn to recognize these warning signs:

- Hopelessness, feeling like there is no way out
- Anxiety, agitation, sleeplessness, or mood swings
- Feeling like there is no reason to live
- Rage or anger
- Engaging in risky activities without thinking
- Increasing alcohol or drug use
- Withdrawing from family and friends

The presence of the following signs in a Veteran requires immediate attention:

- When asked, they express a desire to hurt or kill themselves
- When prompted, they reveal they are looking for ways to kill themselves
- They talk about death, dying, or suicide
- They begin to exhibit self-destructive behavior, such as increased drug or alcohol use, talking about acquiring/using weapons for self-harm, and stockpiling medication

## Ask the Question

There are behaviors that may be signs a Veteran needs support. Know how to ask the most important question of all:

*“Are you thinking of killing yourself?”*

Other ways to ask the question include:

*“Are you thinking of suicide?”*

*“Have you had thoughts about taking your own life?”*

When asking the question, remember:

- **DO** ask the question if you’ve identified warning signs or symptoms
- **DO** ask the question in such a way that is natural and flows with the conversation
- **DO NOT** ask the question as though you are looking for a “no” answer (“You’re not thinking of killing yourself, are you?”)
- **DO NOT** wait to ask the question until he or she is halfway out the door

## Validate the Veteran’s Experience

As you listen to the Veteran, ask him or her to do the talking and use supportive, encouraging comments. Use the following steps to let the Veteran know that you are listening and acknowledge his or her experience:

- Talk openly about suicide
  - Be willing to listen and allow the Veteran to express his or her feelings
- Recognize the situation is serious
- Do not pass judgement
- Reassure them that help is available

## Encourage Treatment and Expedite Getting Help

If a Veteran is having suicidal thoughts, remain calm and reassure them that help is available:

- **DO NOT** keep the Veteran’s suicidal behavior a secret
- **DO NOT** leave him or her alone
- Try to get the person to seek immediate help from his or her doctor or the nearest hospital or emergency room, OR
- Call 911

You can also call the confidential Veterans Crisis Line at **1-800-273-8255 and Press 1**.

## Safety is Important

Never negotiate with someone who has a gun. Get to safety and call 911. If the Veteran has taken pills, cut himself or herself, or has done harm to himself or herself in some way, call 911.



You are invited to plan now for  
next Spring's event!



## **Vets Freedom Fest**

**2024**

### **HONORING OUR VETERANS**



**Date: APRIL 27th**

**Time: 10 AM to 4 PM**

**Place: Putnam County Fairgrounds  
118 Fairground Road, East Palatka, FL 32131  
Hosted by Hillcrest Baptist Church**

**MUSIC, BARBECUE, GAMES, PRIZES,  
KIDS' BOUNCE HOUSE,  
ANTIQUE CAR/TRUCK CRUISE-IN  
INFORMATION BOOTHS  
(About benefits for Veterans)**

**FREE MEAL FOR VETERANS  
& THEIR IMMEDIATE FAMILY  
PUBLIC INVITED  
Proceeds benefit veterans**



World War II Recruiting Poster

---



**FREE A MARINE**  
***TO FIGHT***





**NOTE: This flyer is for information purposes only and should not be considered as a government endorsement for any of the following organizations. It is also recommended to create a separate email address for your search since you may be inundated with responses.**



## Scholarships/Grants for Service Members and Veterans

AAPA Veterans Caucus Scholarships	<a href="http://www.veteranscaucus.org/index.php/services/scholarships/available-scholarships">http://www.veteranscaucus.org/index.php/services/scholarships/available-scholarships</a>
AMVETS Natl Scholarship for Veterans Chapter Scholarships - AFCEA	<a href="http://www.amvets.org/programs/scholarships/">http://www.amvets.org/programs/scholarships/</a> <a href="http://www.afcea.org/site/?q=foundation/scholarships/chapter-programs">http://www.afcea.org/site/?q=foundation/scholarships/chapter-programs</a>
DAV Auxiliary Natl Educ Scholarship	<a href="https://auxiliary.dav.org/membership/programs/">https://auxiliary.dav.org/membership/programs/</a>
Dolphin Scholarship Foundation	<a href="http://www.dolphinscholarship.org/">http://www.dolphinscholarship.org/</a>
Fort Meade Officers Spouse's Club Scholarships (members and dependents)	<a href="https://fortmeadecosc.wordpress.com/scholarships/">https://fortmeadecosc.wordpress.com/scholarships/</a>
FRA Education Foundation Scholarship (Navy, Marine, Coast Guard)	<a href="http://www.fra.org/fra/Web/Events_and_Programs/Fra_Education_Foundation_Scholarships/Web/Content/FRA_Education_Foundation.aspx">http://www.fra.org/fra/Web/Events_and_Programs/Fra_Education_Foundation_Scholarships/Web/Content/FRA_Education_Foundation.aspx</a>
Heroes Tribute Scholarship Program	<a href="https://www.mcsf.org/get-involved/invest-scholarships/heroes-tribute-scholarship/">https://www.mcsf.org/get-involved/invest-scholarships/heroes-tribute-scholarship/</a>
Imagine America Military Award Program	<a href="http://www.imagine-america.org/grantsformilitary">http://www.imagine-america.org/grantsformilitary</a>
Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant	<a href="https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/grants-scholarships/iraq-afghanistan-service">https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/grants-scholarships/iraq-afghanistan-service</a>
Leave No Veteran Behind	<a href="https://www.leavenoveteranbehind.org/retroactive-scholarship">https://www.leavenoveteranbehind.org/retroactive-scholarship</a>
MCA Chaplain Candidate Scholarship	<a href="http://mca-usa.org/scholarships/">http://mca-usa.org/scholarships/</a>
Military Commanders Scholarship Fund	<a href="https://sms.scholarshipamerica.org/militarycommanders/">https://sms.scholarshipamerica.org/militarycommanders/</a>
Military Order of the Purple Heart	<a href="https://www.purpleheart.org/military-order-of-the-purple-heart-scholarship-program/">https://www.purpleheart.org/military-order-of-the-purple-heart-scholarship-program/</a>
Nat Board Cert Counselors Foundation Scholarships	<a href="http://www.nbecf.org/programs/scholarships">http://www.nbecf.org/programs/scholarships</a>
Navy Seal Foundation (NSW personnel)	<a href="https://www.navysealfoundation.org/what-we-do/educational-opportunities/#1471371189919-2e69ad32-8dda">https://www.navysealfoundation.org/what-we-do/educational-opportunities/#1471371189919-2e69ad32-8dda</a>
Paralyzed Veterans of America	<a href="http://www.pva.org/find-support/membership/scholarship-program">http://www.pva.org/find-support/membership/scholarship-program</a>
Pat Tillman Education Scholarship	<a href="http://pattillmanfoundation.org/apply-to-be-a-scholar/">http://pattillmanfoundation.org/apply-to-be-a-scholar/</a>
Purple Heart Foundation	<a href="https://purpleheartfoundation.org/services/scholarships-2/">https://purpleheartfoundation.org/services/scholarships-2/</a>
ROTC Scholarship – AFCEA	<a href="https://www.afcea.org/site/?q=foundation/scholarships/rote-scholarships">https://www.afcea.org/site/?q=foundation/scholarships/rote-scholarships</a>
Student Financial Aid Guide for Veterans	<a href="https://www.moneygeek.com/education/college/resources/financial-aid-guide-for-veterans/">https://www.moneygeek.com/education/college/resources/financial-aid-guide-for-veterans/</a>
Segal AmeriCorps Education Award	<a href="https://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/ameri-corps/segal-ameri-corps-education-award">https://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/ameri-corps/segal-ameri-corps-education-award</a>
Sons and Daughters Pearl Harbor Survivor Scholarship	<a href="http://www.sdphs.org/index.php/about/scholarships">http://www.sdphs.org/index.php/about/scholarships</a>
Student Veterans of America	<a href="http://studentveterans.org/programs/scholarships">http://studentveterans.org/programs/scholarships</a>
Troops to Teachers Program	<a href="http://www.proudtoserveagain.com/Participants/FinancialAssistance">http://www.proudtoserveagain.com/Participants/FinancialAssistance</a>
VFW Help A Hero Scholarship	<a href="https://www.vfw.org/assistance/student-veterans-support">https://www.vfw.org/assistance/student-veterans-support</a>
War Veterans Scholarship - AFCEA	<a href="http://www.afcea.org/site/?q=foundation/scholarships/war-veterans">http://www.afcea.org/site/?q=foundation/scholarships/war-veterans</a>

## Scholarships for Dependents (Spouses and Children)

American Legion Legacy Scholarship	<a href="https://www.legion.org/scholarships/legacy">https://www.legion.org/scholarships/legacy</a>
AMVETS	<a href="http://www.amvets.org/programs/scholarships/">http://www.amvets.org/programs/scholarships/</a>
Children's Scholarship Fund (Elementary School)	<a href="http://www.scholarshipfund.org/apply/faq/">http://www.scholarshipfund.org/apply/faq/</a>

# TRI-BASE



# CAREER EXPO

NS Mayport, NSB Kings Bay, NAS Jacksonville

## Date

March 12, 2024

## Time

0900 - 1400

## Address

University of North Florida -  
Adam W. Herbert University  
Center  
12000 Alumni Dr.  
Jacksonville, FL  
32224 - 2620

Your service is appreciated, and your skills are valuable. Let us help you take the next step!

### ATTENTION JOB SEEKERS -

## 100 COMPANIES WILL BE IN ATTENDANCE!

- Make time to network with top agencies and schools
- Professional attire is highly recommended
- Bring several copies of your resume
- Bring your Military ID, Military Affiliated ID, Veteran ID, or DD-214

### ELIGIBLE JOB SEEKERS -

- Active Duty Military
- Separating, Retiring, or Retired Service Members
- Military Spouses and Dependents
- National Guard and Reservists

For more information and a list of employers, please contact:

 (904) 270 - 6600 x 1722/1308



[dominique.m.grier.ctr@us.navy.mil](mailto:dominique.m.grier.ctr@us.navy.mil)  
[david.j.ferguson1.ctr@us.navy.mil](mailto:david.j.ferguson1.ctr@us.navy.mil)



If you are unable to attend, please visit your local Fleet and Family Support Center and speak with their Employment Specialist!







## New payment amounts in January, after the 3.2% COLA increase.

### Disability Compensation - Basic Rates 2024

3.20%

Dep Status	10%	20%	30%	40%	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%	100%
Veteran	\$171.23	\$338.50	\$524.32	\$755.28	\$1,075.16	\$1,361.88	\$1,716.28	\$1,995.01	\$2,241.91	\$3,737.85
V-SP			\$585.20	\$838.87	\$1,178.36	\$1,486.75	\$1,861.79	\$2,161.16	\$2,428.70	\$3,946.25
V-SP-1C	V=Veteran		\$631.64	\$898.73	\$1,254.73	\$1,578.60	\$1,968.09	\$2,282.94	\$2,565.95	\$4,098.88
V-SP-2C			SP=Spouse	\$661.56	\$938.98	\$1,306.33	\$1,639.49	\$2,039.29	\$2,364.47	\$2,658.83
V-SP-3C	C=Child		\$691.49	\$979.22	\$1,357.93	\$1,700.37	\$2,110.50	\$2,445.99	\$2,751.71	\$4,305.98
V-SP-4C			\$721.42	\$1,019.47	\$1,409.53	\$1,761.26	\$2,181.71	\$2,527.52	\$2,844.59	\$4,409.53

Additional Child		\$29.93	\$40.25	\$51.60	\$60.89	\$71.21	\$81.53	\$92.88	\$103.55
18 y/o School Child		\$99.07	\$133.13	\$166.15	\$199.18	\$233.23	\$266.26	\$300.31	\$334.49
A/A Spouse		\$56.76	\$75.34	\$95.98	\$113.52	\$133.13	\$151.70	\$171.31	\$190.92

V-1C		\$565.59	\$811.01	\$1,145.33	\$1,445.47	\$1,821.54	\$2,105.43	\$2,366.78	\$3,877.21
V-2C		\$595.52	\$851.26	\$1,196.93	\$1,506.36	\$1,892.75	\$2,186.96	\$2,459.66	\$3,980.76
V-3C		\$625.44	\$891.50	\$1,248.53	\$1,567.25	\$1,963.96		\$2,552.54	\$4,084.32
V-4C		\$655.37	\$931.75	\$1,300.13	\$1,628.13	\$2,035.17	\$2,350.02	\$2,645.42	\$4,187.87

Auto Allow	\$25,603.02
Clothing Allow	\$968.52
Medal of Honor	\$1,619.34
Burial S/C	\$2,000 At VAMC
Burial Non S/C	\$300 ← 796
Plot Allowance	\$893

Dependent Indemnity Comp (DIC)	Single	\$1,612.75
	Spouse 1 Child	\$2,012.28
	Spouse 2 child	\$2,411.81
	Spouse A & A	\$2,012.27
	Spouse HB	\$1,799.91
Married 8 yrs	Add \$341.76	

Special Monthly Comp (SMC)-Added to current comp	SMC-K	ED/FSAD/ETC.	\$132.74
	SMC-L	LOU/A&A	\$913.21
	SMC-M		\$1,395.07
	SMC-N		\$2,101.23
	SMC-O		\$2,788.79
	SMC-R1		\$5,588.22
SMC-R2/T		\$6,959.38	
SMC-S	Housebound	\$446.00	

Chapter 35	Monthly
Full Time	\$1,488
3/4 Time	\$1,176
1/2 Time	\$862
1/4 Time	\$372

PENSION					
Your income must be less than:	Pension	\$16,476	Income Limits Survivor's Pension	Surviving Sp	\$10,876
	Pension Dep	\$16,077		Surviving Dep	\$14,234
	HouseBound	\$20,133		HouseB	\$13,292
	HouseB Dep	\$25,234		HouseB Dep	\$16,644
	A/A No Dep	\$27,482		A/A No Dep	\$17,382
	A/A Dep	\$32,581		A/A Dep	\$20,737
* Both	HouseBound	\$28,890			
* 1 A & A	1 HouseBd	\$36,230			
* Both	A & A	\$43,593		* Two Married Veterans	

Based on 3.2% COLA (Cost of Living Allowance) Will be reflected on the Dec 29, 2023 pay

NOTE: You may also multiply your current VA pay by 1.032 to get the new rates.



Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation provides college scholarships and educational counseling to military children, from all branches, who lost a parent in the line of duty.

We cover all college-related costs and there is a big need for our services as the VA does not cover the full cost of college. There is a \$25,000 average gap to cover one student for four years and we need your help.



**Scan here to support the children of those who made the ultimate sacrifice.**

*To mail a contribution, please send checks to:*

Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation  
ATTN: Courtney Nyren  
1818 Library Street, Suite 500  
Reston, VA 20190

**FALLENPATRIOTS.ORG**

**Thank you for your support of our mission. CFC #69859**



CFP is among top <1% of charities to receive a 100% rating in 2022





**Vietnam and all Veterans  
of Brevard**

*Present:*

# **Florida's 36th Annual All Veterans Reunion**

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

## **May 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall on display **May 5<sup>th</sup> – May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

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



**THE SOME GAVE ALL MOVING TRIBUTE**

**Wall Escort Sunday May 5th, 2024 Leaves at 10am  
Eastern Florida State College Cocoa Campus  
Reunion Web Page at:**

[floridaveteransreunion.com](http://floridaveteransreunion.com)

**Wickham Park**  
321-255-4307 - 2500 Parkway Dr  
Melbourne, FL

No Coolers, Glass or Pets allowed  
in the Reunion Area

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

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



### Call For Info

321-690-0805  
321-652-4185

Vendors call 321-652-4185  
[RaRusso1962@gmail.com](mailto:RaRusso1962@gmail.com)  
[VVBSecretary@gmail.com](mailto:VVBSecretary@gmail.com)  
Club Escort Lineup Info  
[vvbreunionescort@gmail.com](mailto:vvbreunionescort@gmail.com)



## Find old service friends fast!

Stars and Stripes has partnered with Togetherweserved.com (TWS), the largest online community of U.S Military Veterans, with over 2.2 million members, and a significant archive of personal military histories, to help you find and reconnect with people you served with in your units, squadrons, ships, or military bases.

Together We Served has just launched a brand new portal page to help you find old service friends more easily! Simply click on the button below to access TWS's "Buddy Finder" where you simply enter a unit you were in, and associated timeframe, to see how many TWS Members served with you, ready for you to make contact.

<https://togetherweserved.com/findpeople>





*You've made our country*  
A BETTER PLACE.

**Enjoy your well-earned retirement at Silver Creek.**

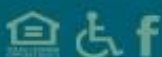
Thank you veterans for your service and sacrifice! At Silver Creek, you can live life as you choose with greater freedom, comfort and independence through the unique living options at our community - including independent concierge living, assisted living, enhanced assisted living and memory care.

Discover first-class amenities, holistic wellness programming, gourmet all-day dining and vibrant activities while enjoying camaraderie and friendship at our close-knit community.

Call **800-821-8170** to schedule a tour and learn more.



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

Explore VA benefits and health care, <https://www.va.gov>

## **Health care**

Apply for VA health care, find out how to access services, and manage your health and benefits online.



## **Disability**

File a claim for disability compensation for conditions related to your military service, and manage your benefits over time.

## **Education and training**

Apply for and manage your GI Bill and other education benefits to help pay for college and training programs.

## **Careers and employment**

Apply for vocational rehabilitation services, get support for your Veteran-owned small business, and access other career resources.

## **Pension**

Apply for monthly payments for wartime Veterans and survivors with limited or no income who meet certain age and disability requirements.

## **Housing assistance**

Find out if you're eligible for a VA-backed home loan. If you have a service-connected disability, see if you qualify for a housing grant to help you live more independently.



## **Life insurance**

Explore VA life insurance options for Veterans, service members, and families. Manage your policy online, file claims for benefits, and access helpful resources.

## **Burials and memorials**

Get help planning a burial in a VA national cemetery, order a headstone or other memorial item to honor a Veteran's service, and apply for survivor and dependent benefits.

## **Records**

Apply for a printed Veteran ID card, get your VA benefit letters and medical records, and learn how to apply for a discharge upgrade.

## **Service member benefits**

Find out what benefits you may be eligible for during service and which time-sensitive benefits to consider when separating or retiring.

## **Family member benefits**

Learn about the benefits you may qualify for as a spouse, dependent, or survivor. And find out what you're eligible for as a family member caring for a Veteran with disabilities.

## **VA department information**

Learn more about the VA departments that manage our benefit and health care

## From the St. Johns County Parks & Recreation Dept.

Do you know a Military Veteran with a \*Blank Space\* on their calendar? Check out our upcoming Veteran Programs (SJC Parks and Recreation's Version).

**Veteran Fishing:** Don't be overwhelmed by fishing regulations, \*Shake It Off\* and learn all about Keeping It Legal in September. Then join us to explore the \*Wonderland\* of Surf Fishing in October!

**Veteran Art:** Discover your artistic \*Style\* and try out a different art medium every month. Upcoming programs include Print Making and Pumpkin Painting!

**Veteran Kayaking:** \*I Know Places\* for some great wildlife viewing in and \*Out Of The Woods\* around Hallows Cove and in Deep Creek this fall.

\*All You Had To Do Was Stay\* until the end of this post and you'd find the link for more information and program registration here: <https://bit.ly/46HMhEt>





# VOLUSIA VALOR DAYS

A WEEKEND HONORING OUR NATION'S HEROES

MAY 4 - 5, 2024  
VOLUSIA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS  
DELAND, FL

AN IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE OF WWII TANK & ARTILLERY DEMONSTRATIONS, WWII HISTORIC BATTLE REENACTMENTS, LIVING HISTORY CAMPS & DISPLAYS, AND MEMORABLE DISPLAYS OF FIRST RESPONDER VEHICLES AND MILITARY VEHICLES OF ALL ERAS.

**FREE EVENT**



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT [WW2ARMOR.ORG](http://WW2ARMOR.ORG)



# The Jacksonville Naval Museum Needs You!

## SKILLS NEEDED:

Docents  
Cleaning  
Welders  
Metal Workers  
Painters  
Cashiers  
Electricians  
& More

JACKSONVILLE NAVAL MUSEUM

We need

YOU!



*Volunteers are the backbone of every museum!*

*Step up to help out today!*

*Please don't wait for someone else to do it.*

*Email our Volunteer Coordinator at  
[volunteer@jaxnavalmuseum.org](mailto:volunteer@jaxnavalmuseum.org)*



## WHAT TO DO:

**Submit your name & contact information along with your skills using the above email.**

# HOW DISABILITY RATINGS WORK

SERVICE CONNECTED PERCENTAGE	DESCRIPTION
<b>0%</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10 point Veteran preference in federal hiring <b>*Compensable &amp; Non-Compensable*</b></li> <li>No cost health care and prescription drugs for service connected disabilities (if income limits are met) <b>*Compensable &amp; Non-Compensable*</b></li> <li>Travel allowance for scheduled appointments for care at a VA medical facility or VA authorized health care facility <b>*Compensable &amp; Non-Compensable*</b></li> <li>Commissary and Exchange Privileges <b>*Compensable &amp; Non-Compensable*</b></li> <li>Use of commissaries, exchanges, and morale, welfare and recreation (MWR) retail facilities, in-person and online. <b>*Compensable &amp; Non-Compensable*</b></li> <li>Waiver of VA funding fee for VA home loan <b>*Compensable*</b></li> <li>Burial and plot allowance <b>*Compensable*</b></li> </ul>
<b>10%</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No cost health care and prescription medications for service connected disabilities</li> <li>Travel allowance for scheduled appointments for care at a VA medical facility or VA authorized health care facility</li> <li>Waiver of VA funding fee for home loan</li> <li>10 point Veteran preference in federal hiring</li> <li>Vocational Rehabilitation &amp; Employment (with a serious employment handicap)</li> <li>Burial and plot allowance</li> <li>Commissary and Exchange Privileges</li> <li>Use of commissaries, exchanges, and morale, welfare and recreation (MWR) retail facilities, in-person and online.</li> </ul>
<b>20%</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No cost health care and prescription medications for service connected disabilities</li> <li>Travel allowance for scheduled appointments for care at a VA medical facility or VA authorized health care facility</li> <li>Waiver of VA funding fee for home loan</li> <li>10 point Veteran preference in federal hiring</li> <li>Vocational Rehabilitation &amp; Employment</li> <li>Burial and plot allowance</li> <li>Commissary and Exchange Privileges</li> <li>Use of commissaries, exchanges, and morale, welfare and recreation (MWR) retail facilities, in-person and online.</li> </ul>
<b>30-40%</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No cost health care and prescription medications for service connected disabilities</li> <li>Travel allowance for scheduled appointments for care at a VA medical facility or VA authorized health care facility</li> <li>Waiver of VA funding fee for home loan</li> <li>10 point Veteran preference in federal hiring - Direct hire authority</li> <li>Vocational Rehabilitation &amp; Employment</li> <li>Additional compensation for eligible dependents (may include aid and attendance for eligible spouse)</li> <li>Burial and plot allowance</li> <li>Commissary and Exchange Privileges</li> <li>Use of commissaries, exchanges, and morale, welfare and recreation (MWR) retail facilities, in-person and online.</li> </ul>
<b>50%</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No cost health care and prescription medications</li> <li>Travel allowance for scheduled appointments for care at a VA medical facility or VA authorized health care facility</li> <li>Waiver of VA funding fee for home loan</li> <li>10 point Veteran preference in federal hiring - Direct hire authority</li> <li>Vocational Rehabilitation &amp; Employment</li> <li>Additional compensation for eligible dependents (may include aid and attendance for eligible spouses)</li> <li>Concurrent receipt of military retired pay</li> <li>Burial and plot allowance</li> <li>Commissary and Exchange Privileges</li> <li>Use of commissaries, exchanges, and morale, welfare and recreation (MWR) retail facilities, in-person and online.</li> </ul>
<b>60-90%</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No cost health care and prescription medications</li> <li>Travel allowance for scheduled appointments for care at a VA medical facility or VA authorized health care facility</li> <li>Waiver of VA funding fee for home loan</li> <li>10 point Veteran preference in federal hiring - Direct hire authority</li> <li>Vocational Rehabilitation &amp; Employment</li> <li>Additional compensation for eligible dependents (may include aid and attendance for eligible spouses)</li> <li>Concurrent receipt of military retired pay</li> <li>Individual Unemployability (must be unemployable due to service connected disabilities) - Dependents Educational Assistance (unemployable condition must be considered permanent) : Special restorative training, CHAMPVA-Civilian Health and Medical Program (unemployable condition must be considered permanent), Dental care (if rated unemployable)</li> <li>Burial and plot allowance</li> <li>Commissary and Exchange Privileges</li> <li>Use of commissaries, exchanges, and morale, welfare and recreation (MWR) retail facilities, in-person and online.</li> </ul>
<b>100%</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No cost health care and prescription medications</li> <li>Travel allowance for scheduled appointments for care at a VA medical facility or VA authorized health care facility</li> <li>No cost dental care</li> <li>Waiver of VA funding fee for home loan</li> <li>10 point Veteran preference in federal hiring - Direct hire authority</li> <li>Vocational Rehabilitation &amp; Employment</li> <li>Additional compensation for eligible dependents (may include aid and attendance for eligible spouses)</li> <li>Concurrent receipt of military retired pay</li> <li>Dependents Education Assistance (must be considered permanent) - Special restorative training</li> <li>CHAMPVA-Civilian Health and Medical Program (must be considered permanent)</li> <li>Burial and plot allowance</li> <li>Uniformed Services ID card</li> </ul>
<b>100%</b> with an additional separate 60%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Statutory Housebound</li> <li>Commissary and Exchange Privileges</li> <li>Use of commissaries, exchanges, and morale, welfare and recreation (MWR) retail facilities, in-person and online.</li> </ul>

This matrix is the creation of former and current members of the Veterans Benefits Administration Web Communications Office.  
**VA Derivative Benefits Eligibility Service-Connected Matrix:** [https://benefits.va.gov/benefits/derivative\\_sc.asp](https://benefits.va.gov/benefits/derivative_sc.asp)







# Stories of Service

St. Johns County Veterans Oral History Project



Stories of Service is an oral history project focused on the veterans of St. Johns County. The goal of this project was to collect, document, and preserve the memories of local veterans for future generations.

Materials collected by the Society for this project have allowed for the creation of two exhibits, one physical at the Oldest House Museum Complex at 14 St. Francis Street on display until January, one digital, accessible below and through our main website under the LEARN tab.

Items on display in both the digital and physical exhibits tell the stories of our local veterans, placing them proudly within the long and storied histories of St. Augustine and St. Johns County.

A sincere thanks to them all.



**View the Digital Exhibit:**

**<https://sahsstoriesofservice.omeka.net/>**



Main: 904-824-2872

Research Library: 904-825-2333

271 Charlotte Street, St. Augustine, FL 32084

Research Library located at 6 Artillery Lane, St. Augustine FL 32084



## From the VFW Aux-National Organization

Spread patriotism through song!



Youth are encouraged to enter the VFW Auxiliary's national anthem singing contest, Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue! Contestants may sing "The Star-Spangled Banner" in the arrangement and genre of their choice: rock, pop, reggae, R&B, hip-hop, country, classical and other genres are accepted. But they can't change the words!

The contest consists of two grade divisions: K-8 and 9-12. Entries are due to a local VFW Auxiliary by March 31, 2024.

Visit <https://vfwauxiliary.org/what-we-do/youth-activities/> for contest eligibility, rules, an entry form, to see the 2023 winners' videos and more.



### WOMEN SURVIVORS: BREAKING STIGMA RESOURCES AND PREVENTION

Women telling their stories  
about breaking the stigma and  
showing how they survived



# MARINE FOR LIFE NETWORK

## MARINE FOR LIFE NETWORK

Connecting transitioning Marines and their family members to education resources, employment opportunities, and other Veterans services that aid in their career and life goals outside of military service.

### ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A **MARINE!**

### Marine for Life Network can guide your search for:



Career & Technical Opportunities



Educational Opportunities



Entrepreneurial Endeavors

### NETWORKING IS KEY

#### Linked in



Our online network utilizes LinkedIn to help Marines network with one another and connect with employers who want to hire Marines.

#### Face to Face Network



We focus on connecting Marine Veterans to local and national resources, as well as encouraging networking through Marine For Life events and meet ups.

[company/marine-for-life-network](https://www.linkedin.com/company/marine-for-life-network)

[marineforlife.org](http://marineforlife.org)

866-645-8762

[/MarineForLifeNetwork](https://www.facebook.com/MarineForLifeNetwork)





# CATHOLIC CHARITIES

www.ccbjax.org

## FOOD DISTRIBUTION

In an effort to assist children and families of Anchor Academy Elementary School and the Mayport Area, We are partnering with Feeding Northeast Florida and Humana Military to provide fresh produce, protein, and pantry staples.

This is a touchless, drive-through food giveaway. Please follow typical school pickup line procedures and remain in your car with windows up. You will pop your trunk for volunteers to place the food inside.

**Every 4th Saturday of the month  
Starts at 9:00 a.m.**

555 Wonderwood Dr.  
Jacksonville, FL, 32233



dcps.duvalschools.org/anchoracademy



**LIVE ASSISTANCE**  
General information, directory assistance and technical support for VA.gov

**VA HEALTH CARE**  
Eligibility, enrollment, locations and COVID-19

**COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE**  
MISSION Act eligibility, copayments

**NATIONAL CEMETERIES**  
Burial benefits, interment scheduling and headstone/Veteran marker

**VETERANS CRISIS LINE**  
Immediate connection to caring, qualified responders



**DEBT MANAGEMENT**  
Debt details, payment options and debtor rights

**FACILITY LOCATOR**  
Locations of medical centers, benefits offices or cemeteries

**BENEFITS ASSISTANCE**  
Information about a variety of VA benefits

**HOMELESS VETERANS LINE**  
Information and support for homeless and at-risk callers

**COVID-19 INFORMATION**  
Frequently asked questions and live assistance for COVID-related questions



# VETERANS CRISIS LINE 988

As of July 16, 2022 the United States transitioned to using the three digit dialing code of 988 press 1 in addition to the existing Veterans Crisis Line of 1-800-273-8255 press 1

## FACTS ABOUT 988

**ACCESSIBLE** - It serves as a universal entry point so that no matter where you live, you can reach a trained crisis counselor who can help people in suicidal crisis or mental health-related distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, across the U.S.

**COMPREHENSIVE** - 988 is a direct connection to compassionate care and support for anyone experiencing mental health related distress whether that is thoughts of suicide mental health or substance use crisis or any other kind of emotional distress

**FOR EVERYONE** - People can also dial 988 if they are worried about a loved one or someone who may need crisis support



Call **988**, press 1 for Free, Confidential, 24/7  
Mental Health Support



VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
North Florida / South Georgia Veterans Health System

71822-1988-304

# NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS VETERAN HOMEOWNERS SAINT JOHNS COUNTY

## FREE HOME REHAB

We believe everyone deserves to live in a healthy home. At Operation Lifeline Inc., we feel particularly indebted to those who served in the Armed Forces and have committed to helping as many struggling veterans as possible. Our program provides home rehabilitation services at no charge to eligible veterans to address accessibility and HUD's Eight Healthy Homes Principles.

## QUALIFICATIONS

### Participant Eligibility:

- Verifiable veteran status
- Gross income below 80% of the area's median income
- Occupy the property as a principal residence and have proof of ownership
- Be in compliance with any existing mortgage on the property
- Be current with utility accounts and property taxes

### Property Eligibility:

- Must be a single-family residence
- Must be the applicant's homestead
- Applicant must own the property by fee simple title
- Must be free of any encumbrances other than a first mortgage
- Located within the unincorporated portion of Saint Johns County or the City of Saint Augustine Beach

\* Please review full eligibility criteria on our website \*

## CONTACT US TODAY

*Funding is Limited and Restricted  
to Saint Johns County Homes*

Please visit our website to fill  
out an application

[WWW.OPLIFELINE.ORG](http://WWW.OPLIFELINE.ORG)



**LIFELINE INC.**



# RESERVE COMPONENT TRANSITION ASSISTANCE ADVISORS



Are you a member of a Reserve Component? Have you served 180 or more consecutive days on Title 10? Do you have a service-related injury or health care issue? Perhaps you're about to retire from service and need someone to show you how to get back into the swing of civilian life. Getting to know your Reserve Component Transition Assistance Advisor (RCTAA) means you'll have reliable, professional support when you need it.

I am here to help with the following benefits:

- State and Local Benefits
- VA Assistance for Physical and Mental Health
- Disabled Veterans Program Assistance
- Education and Training Assistance
- Employment Assistance
- Health and Life Insurance
- Financial Assistance
- Legal Assistance
- Relocation Assistance
- Effects of a Career Change

Since 2005, RCTAAs have assisted Reserve Component service members with 180 days or more T-10 AD service obtain their federal benefits and entitlements. You could save an average of:

- Employment Counseling (\$75/hour)
- Health Insurance (\$1430/Service Member)
- Legal Assistance (\$255/hour)
- VHA DAV Benefit Received (\$15,034/Service Member)
- VA Benefit Received (\$5786/Service Member)
- Education Benefits Received (\$15,285/Service Member)

Average benefit per eligible Reserve Component service member across all benefits areas=\$11,970.

If you or someone you know needs assistance with federal benefits and entitlements, don't hesitate to contact me. You can either scan this QR code and fill out the attached form or contact me directly using the information below.



***Thank you for serving, now let me serve you.***

According to the National Defense Authorization Act 2013, [Reserve Component] transition assistance advisors "serve as points of contact to assist eligible members of the reserve components in accessing benefits and health care furnished under laws administered by the Secretary of Defense and benefits and health care furnished under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs" (Sec. 513).

**David "Dave" Kennett**

Reserve Component  
Transition Assistance Advisor  
Federal Contractor  
202-987-3864  
DKennett@gapsi.com

**DIRECTION | BENEFITS | COMPASSION**





# RESERVE COMPONENT SERVICE MEMBERS AND VETERANS

## Do you need direction to your benefits?

RCTAAs provide **DIRECTION** through the maze of programs available to the Reserve Component and connection to earned **BENEFITS** with the **COMPASSION** of someone who knows what it's like to transition.



*Ask your Reserve Component  
Transition Assistance Advisor (RCTAA)  
to show you the way!*



### BENEFITS:

- » State and Local Benefits
- » VA Assistance for Physical and Mental Health
- » Disabled Veterans Program Assistance
- » Education and Training Assistance
- » Employment Assistance
- » Health and Life Insurance
- » Financial Assistance
- » Legal Assistance
- » Relocation Assistance
- » Effects of a Career Change



*This picture might be worth  
\$1000 or more in federal  
benefits and entitlements!  
Enter your contact  
information to receive a call  
from a RCTAA.*



*Locate your  
closest RCTAA  
here!*



By law, Transition Assistance Advisors "serve as points of contact to assist eligible members of the Reserve Components in accessing benefits and health care furnished under laws administered by the Secretary of Defense and benefits and health care furnished in the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs" (NDAA, 2013, Sec. 513).

# From American Legion 5th District FL

## **IMPORTANT VETERAN INFORMATION**

Every spouse of a veteran should have in his/her personal file the following:

Veteran's Birth Certificate - 3 copies  
Spouse's Birth Certificate - 3 copies  
Children's Birth Certificate - 3 copies  
Certificate of Marriage - 3 copies  
Wills (for veteran & spouse) - 2 copies  
Spouse's Social Security number  
Veteran's Social Security number  
Discharge papers - 2 copies  
Separation records - 2 copies  
V.A. "C" number  
G.I. Insurance Policy Number  
All Insurance Policies with addresses and numbers. (Originals needed)  
Cemetery plot or vault locations and numbers  
Death Certificates and divorce decree of all prior marriages (if applicable)

Copies of the following are needed to file a Claim for Death Benefit:

Certificate of Marriage  
Birth Certificate of minor children  
Death Certificates or divorce decrees of all prior marriages on either side  
Service discharge papers  
Service separation papers  
V.A. "C" number  
Social Security number of both parties  
V.A. insurance papers  
Proof of Death Certificate (minimum 4 copies)  
Bills from Funeral Home

ALL originals should be kept in a safety deposit box or equivalent.

NEVER release an ORIGINAL copy.

APPOINT an administrator for minor children.

FURTHER ASSISTANCE: contact your County Veterans' Service Officer

# KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION



## **CALLING ALL KOREAN WAR AND KOREAN DEFENSE VETERANS**

We invite you to join the KWVA Brotherhood. There are KWVA Chapters throughout America. Go to our KWVA Facebook Page, our KWVA Website at [kwva.us](http://kwva.us) or call the KWVA National Office to join the KWVA at **217-345-4414**





# VA SURVIVOR BENEFITS & THE PACT ACT

ESGR4U

You may be eligible for VA benefits and services after your loved one has passed.



## The PACT Act makes it easier for many survivors to receive Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC).

VA will be contacting survivors who were previously denied DIC benefits and may be newly eligible under the PACT Act. You do not need to wait for VA to contact you to submit a claim.

### How to Apply for DIC and/or Accrued Benefits

Surviving family members may apply for these benefits using the appropriate VA form on [va.gov/family-member-benefits](https://va.gov/family-member-benefits).



#### Dependency and Indemnity Compensation

Monthly payment for the eligible surviving spouse, dependent children or parent(s) of the Veteran or service member IF Veteran or service member died in the line of duty or due to a service-related injury or illness.



#### Accrued Benefits

A one-time payment to a surviving spouse, dependent child(ren) or dependent parent(s) of a deceased Veteran based on relationship when the record shows additional benefits (such as VA compensation or pension) due to the Veteran prior to passing.

### Additional Survivor Benefits Available:



#### Burials and Burial Allowance

Burial benefits available include a gravesite in any of our National cemeteries with available space, opening and closing of the grave, perpetual care, a government headstone, marker, or medallion, a burial flag, and a Presidential Memorial Certificate, at no cost. Some survivors may also be eligible for a plot allowance, transportation allowance, and burial allowances based on the service connected disability status of the deceased Veteran.



#### Final Monthly Payment

If a Veteran who is receiving VA compensation or pension benefits passes away, their last month of benefits can be paid to their surviving spouse.



#### Home Loan Guaranty

Certificate of Eligibility is available for surviving spouses receiving DIC.



#### Education and Training

Chapter 35 benefits and Fry Scholarship are the two main GI Bill programs offering educational assistance to survivors and dependents of Veterans who died in the line of duty or as a result of service-related disabilities.



#### Health Care

Survivors and dependents of Veterans may qualify for health care benefits, such as CHAMPVA.

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Learn more and sign up at [VA.gov/PACT](https://va.gov/PACT)  
Download the [VA Health and Benefits App](#)  
Call us at 1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411)  
Find a VA at [VA.gov/find-locations/](https://va.gov/find-locations/)

## Surviving Spouse Milestones

*\*Not all milestones apply to every persons situation\**

### One Year Mark:

- Moving out of quarters (if applicable)
- Storage at government expense expires
- Apply for Home of Selection (HOS) extension
- HEART Act (one year from date SGLI/DG received)

### Two Year Mark:

- Loss of Spouse's VA Transitional DIC Benefits (\$250 per family per month)

*\*only applies to spouse with one or more minor children in household\**

- Apply for Home of Selection (HOS) extension

### Three Year Mark:

- TRICARE Healthcare and Dental benefits transitions to retiree rate for spouse
- Home of Selection (HOS) entitlement expires

### Spouse Turns 52:

- If disabled, can remain and retain SSA Survivor Benefits

### Spouse Turns 55:

- Can remarry and not lose SBP eligibility

### Spouse Turns 57:

- Can remarry not lose DIC eligibility

### Spouse Turns 60:

- Can remarry and retain SSA Survivor Benefits

## Surviving Youth Milestones

*\*Not all milestones apply to every persons situation\**

### Child Turns 16:

- Elimination of SSA entitlement for adult receiving Child in Care benefits

### Child Turns 18:

- College - Fry Scholarship \*Line of Duty Cases only\*
- College - Dependence Education Assistance \*VA Service Connected Death\*
- Loss of annuities (SSA, DIC, SBP) unless enrolled in school full time. SSA depends on age when graduating High School
- Loss of annual benefit report
- If DG/SGLI beneficiary - if not already received

### Child Turns 21:

- Loss of DFFRS/TRICARE unless enrolled in school full time
- Enrollment in TRICARE Young Adult

### Child Turns 22:

- Loss of Child-Only SBP regardless of school enrollment

### Child Turns 23:

- Loss of DFFRS/TRICARE transitional Survivor unless incapacitated
- Enrollment in TRICARE Young Adult

### Child Turns 26:

- Loss of TRICARE Young Adult

### Child Turns 33:

- Loss of Fry Scholarship eligibility

## FLORIDA SURVIVOR OUTREACH SERVICES AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY





## 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.





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



## 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	Albert White	
1048	Bob Adkins	adk123robert@outlook.com
1059	Dave Treffinger	dtreffinger433@msn.com
1084	Bill Jefferson	bill_jefferson@comcast.net
1088	Roy (Corky) Rudd	corkstopper50@yahoo.com; Nassau
1092	Forest Hope	foresthope@usa.net; Gainesville
1134	Marvin Lagle	mdlagle@gmail.com; Baker



### REMEMBER WHAT OUR MEDAL STANDS FOR:

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

### Veterans Council of Clay County:

President: Ansil Lewis

Meeting day is the same, first Wednesday of the month, but the location is changed to Clay County Administration Building, 1st floor conference room, 477 Houston St., Green Cove Springs, FL 32043. Meeting start at 11 a.m.

## 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





## 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**  
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL SERVICES  
FORMERLY FLORIDA BAR ASSOCIATION

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

## 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

Meetings:

Third Tuesday of each month

Location:

American Legion Post 37  
Main Building  
San Juan Avenue

Time: 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, VSO  
Travis Neidig, Assistant VSO  
Angela McKenzie, Assistant VSO  
Lori Chapman, Assistant VSO  
Anna Marie Scott, Office Specialist*

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