



# The Patriot Reader Newsletter

P.O. Box 2117

St. Augustine, FL 32085

Bill Dudley, Publisher

Michael Rothfeld, Editor

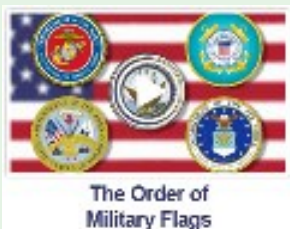
Volume 12, Issue 5

From Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley

May 2023

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Fellow Veterans,

There are several upcoming events in the next few weeks that our Veterans Council is engaged with and will play an important role in each of the upcoming events. On Sunday, Apr. 30 at 2 PM, St. Josephs Academy will present their Legacy Project annual edition of the book they have prepared over the school term from interviews conducted with local veterans. This is an awesome collection of stories and experiences collected from interviews collected by SJA students with local veterans. It is worth a couple hours of your time to come and hear about these veterans' stories from the interviews conducted by these students.

The local Military Officers Assoc of America, Ancient City Chapter will host the Florida State Convention in St. Augustine on May 19-21 at the Renaissance Resort at the World Golf Village. The Veteran's Council is supporting MOAA-ACC in hosting this very important annual event here in the old city. Proceeds from the convention will go to local JROTC programs and to homeless veterans through the Veterans Council.

On May 29, 2023 MOAA-ACC and the Veterans Council will again conduct a Memorial Day service at the St. Augustine National Cemetery. The service will begin at 10 AM. Our keynote speaker this year is Brig. Gen. Sean Boyette, Director of the Joint Staff, Joint Forces Hq. Florida National



Guard. As in the past years, we will honor all veterans who have passed away over the past year by the reading of their names and the ringing of the bell. On Friday, May 26 at 1 PM, we will place flags at each of the headstones in the cemetery. We are soliciting volunteers to assist with the placing of the flags on Friday. 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**

**May 25**

**DeAndrea Fuller, Outreach Director  
Steven A Cohen Military Family Clinic at Centerstone.  
Ryan Bauman, First Coast Honor Flight Board member**

**June 29**

**Michael Dionian, Volunteering at the Jax Naval Museum,  
USS Orleck**

**July 27**

**Roseann Vernon, Atlantic Coast Young Marines**

**August 31**

**Lynn Geiser, Hope 4 Veterans**

**From Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley**  
**I am honored to have been appointed to the council**  
**for the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame.**



**The Florida House of Representatives**  
**Office of the Speaker**

**Paul Renner**  
**Speaker**

February 17, 2023

LtCol., William Dudley, USAF, Ret.  
P.O. Box 2117  
St. Augustine, FL 32085

Dear Colonel Dudley:

It is my pleasure to appoint you to serve as a member of the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame Council. Your appointment is effective immediately and will expire on February 17, 2025.

By copy of this letter, I am advising Jeff Obos with the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs of your appointment.

Respectfully,

Paul Renner

cc: The Honorable Ron DeSantis, Governor  
The Honorable Kathleen Passidomo, Senate President  
Jeff Obos, Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs

**Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley, was also given an award by the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution**



THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE

**Daughters of the American Revolution**

*Certificate of Award*

*presented to*

**WILLIAM DUDLEY**

*for*

*Excellence in Community Service*


**MARCH 15, 2023**

*Date*

  
*Lynne R. Casor*  
Chapter Regent / State Regent  
NSDAR

  
*Michelle Cousins Wherry*  
National Chair  
Community Service Awards Committee

## From Saint Joseph Academy

 Andrew Stark  
Tyler Carver  
Adrian H. Kyle  
Victoria Lopez  
Jack Fox  
Ashton Aron  
Ricky Jarvondy

20 Apr. 2023

To the St. Johns County Veterans Council  
Mr. Dudley,

On behalf of the Veterans Heritage Project,  
Saint Joseph Academy Chapter, I want  
to thank you so much for your  
generous donation. It goes directly to  
the publication of our veteran interviews  
which are then preserved in the library  
of Congress. This year we published  
twelve interviews. Thank you again  
for your contribution.

VHP Club President...





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

**The St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners recognized decorated veteran John L. Patton, who turned 100 on March 23.**

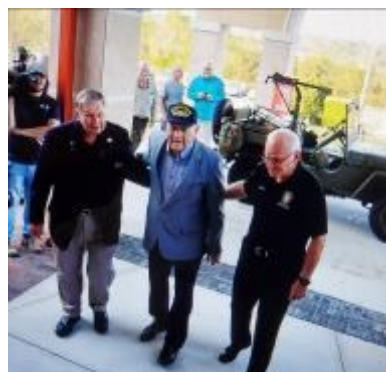
Mr. Patton is the recipient of six Bronze Stars from his service in the U.S. Navy during World War II. Aboard the U.S.S. Saratoga and U.S.S. Enterprise, Mr. Patton fought bravely for the United States in the Battle of Midway, the Battle of the Eastern Solomons, and the Battle of the Santa Cruz Islands. After the war, he served as an instructor for the U.S. Navy. In total, he served in the military for more than 20 years (1941-1961). Upon his retirement from the U.S. Navy in 1961, Mr. Patton continued to serve his country in the U.S. federal civil service as an Overhaul and Repair Planner and Estimator until his retirement in April 1978.

Mr. Patton arrived at the St. Johns County Administration Building in a WWII Jeep driven by retired Army Col. Alfred Pantano.

On behalf of the residents of St. Johns County, we thank veteran John L. Patton for his service and congratulate Mr. Patton on celebrating 100 years of life!



**Mr. Patton seen here escorted by Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley, and County Veterans Service officer Joe McDermott**



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

**MARCH 30, 2023**



**CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Dudley**

**WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS: Chairman Dudley**

**PLEDGE: Chairman Dudley**

**INVOCATION: Ray Quinn**

**INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKERS/GUESTS: Chairman Dudley**

There were several new attendees at this month's meeting that introduced themselves.

**MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:** Minutes of last meeting conducted February 23, 2023, were presented by Chairman Dudley. Copies of 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 John Mountcastle provided a detailed report that as of February 22, 2023, there was a balance of \$148,926.99 and as of date of meeting there is balance of \$156,439.53. Treasurer Mountcastle explained that the Council keeps about \$10,000 in the Ameris Bank account due to the current banking situation and the remainder in a money market through Fidelity Management in Boston. The fund the Council is in has an average maturity of 8 days, then paid off and reinvested in another week. Currently, the account is earning about 4.2%. Treasurer Mountcastle went over and explained the remainder of the report. The Treasurer's Report was approved by voice vote with no changes.

**SPEAKERS:**

**COL USA (Ret) Jeanette McMahon**



Colonel McMahon gave a presentation on the organization Children of Fallen Patriots. She has been working for them for over a year but has been associated with them for over a decade because they provided scholarships for her children. Children of Fallen Patriots help those children that have lost a parent in the line of duty. The organization started over 20 years ago and helps the children of all the military branches. Their mission is to provide those children with a college education debt free. Studies show that about 25,000 kids in our country qualify for these benefits. Each year the organization puts 1,000 students through school. The organization fills the gap of about \$25,000 for the students that are not provided by VA benefits they are entitled to. Colonel McMahon shared the touching story of her and her husband that she lost in an airplane crash and how the Children of Fallen Patriots help her three sons through college after they lost their father. The floor was opened to questions and answers from Colonel McMahon about the Children of Fallen Patriots organization.

#### **ROBERT COVERT, VETERANS ORAL HISTORY PROJECT**

Mr. Covert introduced himself, he is Special Collections Manager at the Research Library with the St. Augustine Historical Society, he was with us to talk about the Oral History Project that was started this year called Stories of Service. Stories of Service is an oral history project focused on collecting, documenting, and preserving the stories of our local Veterans here in St. Johns County. The goal is to collect audio interviews with the Veterans, gather them and create an exhibit and archive space within their collections. Mr. Covert discussed how the interviews are conducted. Along with the interviews, they also collect any documents or photos that the Veteran would like to share. The stories of our local Veterans need to be told and house the “modern” history within the St. Augustine Historical Society. The floor was open to questions and answers regarding the Veterans Oral History Project.

#### **DONNA BOYCE, ST. JOSEPHS ACADEMY**

Mrs. Boyce and her student spoke about interviewing Mr. Ed Trestler for their upcoming publication about Veterans and their military stories. Everyone is in-

vited to attend their ceremony of April 30th at St. Josephs Academy. The floor was open to questions and answers. If anyone wants a copy of the book, just email Donna Boyce.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

##### **VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE UPDATE, JOSEPH MCDERMOTT**

Mr. McDermott discussed the PAC Act and the confusion the Veterans are having with it. He discussed the different claims that can be filed under the PAC Act. Talked of appeals on the past denials. St. Johns County Veterans population is one of the fastest growing in the state. The Veterans Service Office is averaging about 80 new Veterans a month. The wait for filing new claims is now about 4-5 months before decisions are made. The floor was open to questions.

##### **VETERANS TREATMENT COURT, JOHN LESLIE**

Mr. Leslie introduced himself, he is the mentor coordinator for the Veterans Treatment Court here in St. Johns and Putnam Counties and how the Court operates. The Veterans Treatment Court has brought 122 Veterans into the program in the last 6 years and 3 months. There have been 71 graduates and there are 34 currently in-flow. Court is held every 2 weeks and the next Court will be held on March 31st beginning at 10:00am in Room 355 – including graduation. All are invited to attend and observe. There is a core of 14 mentors in the Treatment Court and a need for more. There is also a need for those that are already in the Court for treatment for community service hours and opportunities are needed to help the participants serve their 50 required hours.

Floor was then opened for questions and comments regarding the Veterans Treatment Court.

#### **OLD/NEW BUSINESS:**

Chairman Dudley asked to bring a few things to the Council's attention. First, on Tuesday morning, April 4th, at 8:00 am, at the County Commission meeting we are going to celebrate the 100th Birthday of Navy Chief Petty Officer (Ret) John Patton. He will be brought to the County Administration Building in a WWII Jeep. Invitation is extended to everyone to come and celebrate Chief Patton's 100th Birthday.

Second, the Memorial Day Service has been planned out and the speaker for that event will be Brigadier General Shawn Boyett from the National Guard. The invitation was extended for all to attend.

Lastly, this is the 50th Anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War and there will be many, many celebrations to honor all that served in the Vietnam War and to be recognized now as they should have been all those years ago when returning from war.

The floor was open to anyone wanting to make a statement to the Council.

Next Veterans Council meeting will be held on Thursday, April 27th beginning at 7:00pm.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

William Dudley, Chairman

## Vet says it's not too late to respect our Vietnam soldiers | Voices of Bravery, Vietnam

Tony D'Aleo talks openly about the gruesome tactics the enemy used in Vietnam. He believes people need a better understanding of what Vietnam vets endured.

Author: Jeannie Blaylock

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Tony D'Aleo says he served proudly in the United States Marines.

He believes it's not too late to show more respect to our Vietnam vets, 61,000 of whom still live in the North Florida and SE Georgia area.

He is open about his combat experience.

Most painful are the experiences of losing a buddy in battle. "I had to hold his intestines in. He got blown up," D'Aleo recalls.

"I was trying to wrap him in a poncho to keep his intestines in his body," he says.

And the memory, has it faded?

No. Now, some 50 years later, he says, "I wake up with sweats. Cold sweats."

Agent Orange, battles with the Veterans Administration, and frustration over recognition for veterans' issues all plague D'Aleo.

But he still cannot forget the evil tactics of the enemy in Vietnam.

He says the American soldiers' bodies "would be mutilated." He says because 'you never leave an American behind," he and his fellow marines would come back to the battle site.

But there they might find their fellow marine butchered, his private part "put in his mouth," and his body wired to a tree, he says.

The tactic was evil and tricky. "We would find it and that was to get our minds crazy... 'cause that would be the guy in our squad or our platoon. They used that to make us run" right into an ambush in a mad rush of revenge," he says.

He says some of their leaders figured out the strategy of the Vietcong and put a stop to the possibility of more fatalities.

He says, "I wish I didn't go to Vietnam." But he says, kids ask him why he went. His answer is this. "I went to help a country that was overrun."

But even all the trauma, D'Aleo continues to work in the community to garner more respect for veterans. D'Aleo was chosen for the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame. He's frequently at veterans' gatherings, such as the Semper Fidelis Society, to encourage his fellow vets.



## The USS Orleck

On March 25th, First Coast News, the USS Orleck, the Gary Sinise Foundation, and Mission BBQ held a Welcome Home event for the areas Vietnam Veterans. The event kicked off with comments from Captain Daniel Bean USN (Ret.) and president of the Jacksonville Naval Museum welcoming the veterans. Colors were then presented with Casey Robinson singing the national Anthem. The Invocation was given by Rev. Patrick Archuleta, Chaplain for the Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial. Master Chief Mack Ellis presented "Gratitude for the Veterans of Vietnam". Taps was played by Roger McCall from the American Legion Post 137 Color Guard and a moment of silence was observed for the Vietnam Veterans who are no longer with us. Jeannie Blaylock and Lew Turner from First Coast News welcomed the veterans to the ship.

At that point, from the quarterdeck 6 bells were struck and Captain Bean announced "Vietnam Veterans Arriving, Welcome Home" The veterans then walked thru a flag line provided by the Florida 5th District American Legion Riders. As the veterans walked up the gangway, many had tears in their eyes. At the top of the gangway, Captain Robert Whitkop USN (Ret) saluted each veteran and welcomed them aboard.

The veterans were also given a challenge coin by Jeannie Blaylock and Lew Turner. After the event, the veterans and their families were treated to BBQ by Mission BBQ. The food was all donated by the Gary Sinise Foundation.





# Stories of Service

## St. Johns County Veterans Oral History Project



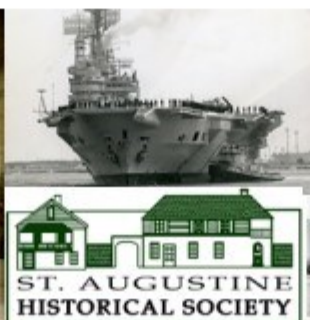
Stories of Service is an oral history project that aims to collect, document, and preserve the stories of local veterans for future generations by conducting audio interviews with them.



If you'd like to learn more about this project, contact Robert Covert:



904-825-2333 ext 203  
robert@sahs1883.com



## From The Florida National Guard

In one of the final acts of his storied career, Maj. Gen. James O. Eifert, Florida Adjutant General, received an orientation flight in an F-15C Eagle aircraft at the 125th Fighter Wing. His wife Beth, along with extended family and fellow pilots, gathered to witness his final flight and bid farewell to their commander.

Maj. Gen. Eifert retires later this month after serving four years as the state's highest ranking military official. Thank you, General, for your servant leadership and unfailing commitment to duty. Here's to smooth skies ahead in retirement.



## From Pam Cain

I invite you to read the attached press release and visit our website at [www.missionpowmia.org](http://www.missionpowmia.org). This is a 501(c)3 organization that is focused on expediting the fullest possible accounting for those who are still missing and unaccounted for. We welcome all family members, patriots, the general public and all who support our nation's promise to account for and bring home as many as possible. **Mission: POW-MIA** will be recognized for its transparency, determination and dedication to end the uncertainty faced by generations of America's POW/MIA families.

I'm happy to answer any questions and we hope you will join us!

Best regards to all, Pam

Pam Cain, Vice President, Mission: POW-MIA

Daughter, Col Oscar Mauterer, MIA Laos

2/15/66,

c: 703-798-8550



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Families and Supporters Launch Mission: POW-MIA March 23, 2023

Chesapeake, VA – Today, the Board of Directors announces the launch of Mission: POW-MIA, a national non-profit (501c3 status pending) organization dedicated to supporting the families of the 81,467 American prisoners of war and missing in action (POW/MIA) in their pursuit of the fullest possible accounting and repatriation of the remains of their loved ones who died serving our nation in past conflicts. Mission: POW-MIA's membership includes both POW/MIA family members from all generations as well as Veterans, active military, and the public at-large who share the common goal of seeking to increase government and private efforts to either bring these men and women home or account for their loss.

The objectives of Mission: POW-MIA are:

- S – seeking the fullest possible accounting for our missing and unaccounted-for Americans
- E – engaging with partner organizations
- A – advocating for the families of our missing
- R – researching and investigating for case resolution
- C – conducting outreach and education
- H – honoring the service and sacrifices of our missing and their families

"It is our firm belief that our nation owes a debt of honor to America's POW/MIA and their families," said retired U.S. Navy Rear Adm. Jon Kreitz, President of Mission: POW-MIA. "The mission to achieve the fullest possible accounting of all of our POW/MIAs and to return the remains of as many of them as possible is a uniquely American task that defines us as a nation. We will support U.S. Government and private efforts, and we will assist them where possible while encouraging them to do more. We are united in our resolve that bringing our missing home and providing their families with the answers they have been seeking is an essential component of America's keeping faith with her citizens, now and in the future."

Mission: POW-MIA was founded by POW/MIA family members and retired military officers to be the unified voice and advocate for the families, friends, and supporters of all missing and unaccounted for Americans from past conflicts. We are actively seeking family members of our POW/MIAs from past conflicts as well as all interested supporters of this honorable mission to join us. Membership information can be found at <https://www.missionpowmia.org>.

For more information, please contact Mission: POW-MIA at [info@missionpowmia.org](mailto:info@missionpowmia.org) or (757) 404-0315.

P.O. Box 153469, 1100 Battlefield Blvd. S.  
Chesapeake, VA 23322 / (757) 404-0315

*Mission Driven, Family Focused*



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



## **Attention Purple Heart recipients & families!**

We're thrilled to unveil the 2023 Purple Heart Scholarship Program! Let us help you achieve your dreams of higher education. Don't miss out, apply now before it's too late!



We are proud to announce the opening of the 2023 Purple Heart Scholarship Program! This program gives the Military Order of the Purple Heart the ability to assist Purple Heart recipients and their families with their goals of continued education. If you or a qualifying family member want to apply, please submit quickly.

The Purple Heart Scholarship Program is a very competitive program that awards scholarships to Purple Heart recipients and their spouses, children, and grandchildren each year. At least one applicant with military service will also be awarded a Navy SEAL LT Michael P. Murphy Memorial Scholarship Award.

### **Scholarship Deadline: July 15, 2023, At 5:00 PM EST**

The Purple Heart Scholarship Committee will evaluate all timely received applications and meet the eligibility and application requirements described below. All aspects of the application (academic achievement, extracurricular activities, community, and military service, work experience, letters of recommendation, and essay) are considered and evaluated by the Purple Heart Scholarship Committee. The Purple Heart Scholarship Committee shall make all decisions regarding the eligibility for a Scholarship and a Scholarship award. All decisions by the Purple Heart Scholarship Committee are final.

Not every applicant will receive a scholarship. This is not a full-tuition scholarship. The scholarship amount may vary each year, subject to funding levels. Both the student and the school must endorse Purple Heart Scholarship checks. Therefore, the college or university may exercise some control over how the funds are utilized, which can impact the level of financial benefit realized by the student.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

To be eligible to apply for a Purple Heart Scholarship, applicants need to be a member of one of the following categories:

A Purple Heart recipient who is a Member of the MOPH, or

The spouse of a Purple Heart recipient who is a member of MOPH, or

The direct lineal descendent (child, step-child, adopted child, grandchild, step-grandchild, or great-grandchild) of a Purple Heart recipient who is a Member of MOPH, or

The spouse, widow/widower, or direct lineal descendent as defined above of a service member killed-in-action or who died of wounds. If the Purple Heart recipient is listed as killed-in-action or died of wounds, supporting documentation and evidence must be included with the application.

A Purple Heart recipient who is not a member of the MOPH can become a member by applying online through the MOPH website: [www.purpleheart.org](http://www.purpleheart.org). To be eligible to apply for the scholarship, the Purple Heart recipient must be a current member, a member at the time of his or her death, or documented as killed-in-action or has having died of wounds.

A MOPH Associate membership or membership in the MOPH Auxiliary does not by itself convey scholarship eligibility. It is highly recommended that non-Purple Heart recipients become either Associate members or members of the Auxiliary, and such membership does convey additional credit in the application process.

To be eligible to receive a Purple Heart MOPH Scholarship, applicants must meet the following three requirements:

A graduate or upcoming graduate (current senior) of a high school or GED program, and Accepted by or enrolled as a FULL-TIME undergraduate student at an accredited U.S. college, university, or trade school at the time the scholarship is awarded, and

Able to demonstrate the capacity for advanced academic achievement or technical proficiency by maintaining at least a 2.75 cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) based on an un-weighted 4.0 grading system.

For more information, please read the application packet and our website at [www.purpleheart.org/ScholarshipProgram](http://www.purpleheart.org/ScholarshipProgram).



*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

## VETERANS, IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO PREPARE YOUR END-OF-LIFE DOCUMENTS



All forms that are referred to below are available to download on this site:  
[veteranfacilitator.com](http://veteranfacilitator.com)

### ATTENTION VETERANS, FAMILY MEMBERS, AND CAREGIVERS

“Preparing for death doesn’t have to be a difficult process. However, it’s a part of living. Being proactive and taking the right steps won’t only give you peace of mind at the time of your passing it will ease the minds of your loved ones, especially your spouse. As mentioned, it’s never too early to prepare and assemble important end-of-life documents. Advance-care planning lets loved ones and healthcare providers know your wishes regarding medical care if at any point you’re unable to express your wants.

Without these documents, families of loved ones often experience much anxiety and stress in attempting to make decisions, causing an already difficult time even more difficult.

Putting your affairs in order may not be a priority, but it should be. Having a Legacy Binder, containing these documents stored in one place and within easy reach of your spouse and family members – will help ease the pain.

The first step to receiving assistance and benefits for a veteran’s death is to report it to the appropriate agencies. Social Security can be notified by calling 1-800-772-1213. The Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) can be notified by calling 1-800-538-9552.

**FOR THE VETERAN, WHEN DISCUSSING YOUR FINAL WISHES WITH YOUR LOVED ONES DISCUSS YOUR MILITARY SERVICE AND ANY VA DISABILITY RATING INFORMATION WITH YOUR FAMILY AND IF POSSIBLE, LOCATE COPIES OF YOUR MILITARY SEPARATION DOCUMENT(S), SUCH AS YOUR DD214.**

**USE VA-FORM 21-686C TO DOCUMENT YOU AND YOUR SPOUSE’S MARITAL HISTORIES.**

**THIS INFORMATION MAY BE NEEDED IF YOUR SPOUSE APPLIES FOR VA BENEFITS AFTER YOUR PASSING. CLICK ON DOWNLOAD ICON TO DOWNLOAD FORM. VISIT: [HTTPS://WWW.VA.GOV/VIEW-CHANGE-DEPENDENTS/](https://www.va.gov/view-change-dependents/)**

**DISCUSS YOUR FINAL WISHES REGARDING YOUR REMAINS. IF YOU WISH TO BE BURIED IN A NATIONAL CEMETERY AFTER YOUR PASSING, CONSIDER APPLYING NOW FOR PRE-NEED BURIAL ELIGIBILITY.**

**BE SURE TO COMPLETE AND ANNUALLY REVIEW YOUR LIFE INSURANCE BENEFICIARY DESIGNATION(S), WHICH WILL MAKE IT MUCH EASIER TO FILE A CLAIM AND RECEIVE BENEFITS QUICKLY.**

**FOR THE VETERAN'S FAMILY, AS THE VETERAN IS APPROACHING END OF LIFE**

**SPEAK TO THE VETERAN'S DOCTOR ABOUT HOW TO OBTAIN COPIES OF MEDICAL RECORDS BEFORE AND AFTER THE VETERAN'S PASSING, IN CASE THEY MAY BE NEEDED IN THE FUTURE.**

**USE VA-FORM 21-686C TO DOCUMENT YOU AND YOUR SPOUSE'S MARITAL HISTORIES. THIS INFORMATION MAY BE NEEDED IF YOUR SPOUSE APPLIES FOR VA BENEFITS AFTER YOUR PASSING.**

**DISCUSS YOUR FINAL WISHES REGARDING YOUR REMAINS. IF YOU WISH TO BE BURIED IN A NATIONAL CEMETERY AFTER YOUR PASSING, CONSIDER APPLYING NOW FOR PRE-NEED BURIAL ELIGIBILITY.**

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## **END-OF-LIFE DOCUMENTS FOR VETERANS AND FAMILIES**

### **MY RECORD OF PERSONAL AFFAIRS**

**This form on the website lets you record personal information such as date and place of birth, information about your parents, names of your children, including Date of Birth, and Social Security Numbers. When completing this form, you may want to include other information not shown on this form, when this is the case, download the Notes form shown on this page to record your thoughts and attach it to this document.**

## **YOUR WILL**

**This form on the website lets you record information regarding your Will. The process begins by asking you if you have a Will or not. This information is followed by Power of Attorney information such as the name of POA, location of the POA, including City, State, Zip Code, marital history. In addition, you may want to include personal information such as the name of your spouse, marriage location, date of marriage for all your marriages. When completing this form may you think may want to include other information shown on this form, when this is the case, download the Notes form shown on this page to record your thoughts and attach it to this document.**

## **MILITARY DOCUMENTS**

**This form available for free on their website lets you record important information about your military service. Such as the location of your DD214 (separation papers), active and retired military status, funeral and burial arrangements including location, name, address, and phone number of your funeral director, church, clergy, or desired officiant, as well as wishes for interment in a VA National Cemetery, pallbearers, special instructions, and obituary biography. When completing this form you may want to include other information shown on this form, when this is the case, download the Notes form shown on this page to record your thoughts and attach it to this document.**

## **WISHES FOR BURIAL AND FUNERAL SERVICE**

**This form lets you record important burial and funeral service arrangements. Information may include the name of resting place and phone number, hymns, music, scriptures, poetry, any special requests, flowers, memorials in lieu of flowers, memorial, and remembrances. Additional information may include prepaid burials, plot confirmations, pallbearers, special instructions, and obituary biography. When completing this form you may want to include other information shown on this form, when this is the case, download the notes shown on this page to record your thoughts and attach them to this document.**

### **ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS**

**This form lets you record additional information such as Advanced Directives, Do Not Resuscitate orders, Living Will/Health Directives, Checklist of Important Documents, and copies of documents that may be needed by the spouse or dependent children such as Death Certificates, Spouse's Birth Certificate, Minor or Adult Birth Certificates. When completing this form you may want to include other information shown on this form, when this is the case, download the notes form shown on this page to record additional information and attach it to this document.**

### **DURABLE POWER OF ATTORNEY**

**An Advance Directive is a legal form that helps your doctors and loved ones understand your wishes about medical and mental health care and make decisions about your care if you are not able to make decisions for yourself. An Advance Directive is the best way to ensure that your future medical care reflects your wishes. The VA Advance Directive includes sections that allow you to identify the person who would make decisions for you (also called a Health Care Agent) and to specify your treatment preferences. When completing this form, you may want to include other information shown on this form, when this is the case, download the notes form shown on this page to record additional information and attach it to this document.**

### **ADDITIONAL NOTES**

**When completing this document, you may want to include other information not asked for on this form. When this is the case, record your notes, print, and download additional notes and attach them to the appropriate document. For example, if you are completing Military Documents, and need more information to complete the document, use this form attached or file behind the associated document. Make sure you reference the associated document as shown.**

## WHY MEN WHO HAVE BEEN TO WAR YEARN TO REUNITE

I NOW KNOW WHY MEN WHO HAVE BEEN TO WAR YEARN TO REUNITE. NOT TO TELL STORIES OR LOOK AT OLD PICTURES. NOT TO WEEP OR LAUGH.

COMRADES GATHER BECAUSE THEY LONG TO BE WITH THE PEOPLE WHO ONCE ACTED THEIR BEST; WHO ONCE SUFFERED AND SACRIFICED, WHO WERE STRIPPED OF THEIR HUMANITY.

I DID NOT PICK THESE MEN, THEY WERE DELIVERED BY FATE AND THE MILITARY. BUT I KNOW THEM IN A WAY I KNOW NO OTHER MEN. I HAVE NEVER GIVEN ANYONE SUCH TRUST.

THEY WERE WILLING TO GUARD SOMETHING MORE PRECIOUS THAN MY LIFE. THEY WOULD HAVE CARRIED MY REPUTATION... THE MEMORY OF ME.

IT WAS PART OF THE BARGAIN WE ALL MADE, THE REASON WE WERE ALL WILLING TO DIE FOR ONE ANOTHER. AS LONG AS I HAVE MEMORY, I WILL THINK OF THEM ALL, EVERY DAY.

I AM SURE THAT WHEN I LEAVE THIS WORLD, MY LAST THOUGHTS WILL BE OF MY FAMILY, AND MY COMRADES.

**SUCH GOOD MEN!"**



**"A STRONG WOMAN IS A WOMAN DETERMINED TO DO SOMETHING  
OTHERS ARE DETERMINED NOT BE DONE."  
- MARGE PIERCY**



## 3RD ANNUAL HEAR HER VOICE, HEAR OUR VOICES GALA

Join Us For our 3rd Annual Hope4veterans "Hear Her Voice, Hear Our Voice" Gala. Theme this year is Empower, recognize and honor our Shero's Journey.

Palencia Club  
600 Palencia Club  
St Augustine Florida 32095  
6 pm to 9pm

- Help us support Military women and their Families
- Honor, Recognize and empower thru Shero Journeys
- Support military women in need for christmas
- Support Military women in Need for Immediate Funds
- Expand P2P Therapeutic Art Program in Duval, Clay and St John counties
- Expand our household goods and Laptop program

Find more info here: [hope4veterans.org/hear-our-voices-gala/](https://hope4veterans.org/hear-our-voices-gala/)



## MILITARY SPOUSE HONOREE: SHAULANDA DELANO

*"LIFE IS NOT MEASURED BY THE NUMBER OF BREATHS WE TAKE, BUT BY THE MOMENTS THAT TAKE OUR BREATH AWAY."*

*"I've been supporting my soldier for 23 years. Marriage has been almost 22 of that."*

Shaulanda is a spouse to an army soldier who is currently active in the National Guard. She works as a school nurse in a rural area for elementary students. She is a mom to four boys and has a Doberman who think she's a princess.

Please join us in honoring Shaulanda as our Military Hero/Spouse of the month!

## MILITARY FAMILY DAY

- April 29th from 10-2
- Register in advance by following this link: <https://bit.ly/h4vbdays>
- You can also register by scanning the QR code below:



## ST. AUGUSTINE DAY OF GIVING

We need your help! Please join our campaign and help us reach our goal of \$30,000! We need you to tell your friends and family members about the important work we do and ask them to join us in helping to make a difference.

Get ready to give! On May 3 - 4, visit [www.givingday2023.com](http://www.givingday2023.com) and make a donation to us and/or to any of the great participating nonprofit organizations in your community. All giving will end at 11:59 AM on May 4, so make sure to get your gift in on time!

Questions? If you have any questions or would like more information, let us know at [lgeiser@hope4veterans.org](mailto:lgeiser@hope4veterans.org). Thank you in advance for your generosity to our organization!



## CONTACT US

- [hope4veterans.org](https://hope4veterans.org)
- [lgeiser@hope4veterans.org](mailto:lgeiser@hope4veterans.org)
- (904) 430-2388

**VOLUNTEER WITH US!**





# JOIN US FOR GIVING DAY 2023!

**May 3rd-4th, 2023**

Donate Here!  
[bit.ly/H4VGive2023](https://bit.ly/H4VGive2023)



Mayor Lenny Curry and the City of Jacksonville Military Affairs and Veterans Department invite you to the 6th Annual

PRESENTING SPONSOR



**VyStar**  
Credit Union

# MILITARY SPOUSES NIGHT OUT

**JUNE 15, 2023 | 5 - 8 PM**

**VYSTAR VETERANS  
MEMORIAL ARENA**

**300 A PHILIP RANDOLPH BLVD. | JACKSONVILLE, FL 32202**

PLEASE VISIT [TINYURL.COM/SPOUSES NIGHT OUT 2023](https://tinyurl.com/spousesnightout2023) TO REGISTER.

**FREE PARKING IN LOT Z**



Open to U.S. and allied military spouses of active-duty, guard, reserve, and retired service members. Valid ID required. No childcare provided. For more information, call Tiffany Morales at (904) 255-5524 or email [tmorales@coj.net](mailto:tmorales@coj.net).

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST. PLEASE CONTACT DISABLED SERVICES AT VM 255-5466, TTY 255-5475, OR EMAIL YOUR REQUEST TO [KARAT@COJ.NET](mailto:KARAT@COJ.NET).



**Vietnam and all Veterans  
of Brevard**

*Present:*

## **Florida's 35th Annual All Veterans Reunion**

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

# **May 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall on display **April 30<sup>th</sup> – May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

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



**THE SOME GAVE ALL MOVING TRIBUTE**

Wall Escort Sunday April 30th, 2023 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)

**PAGE 12 BIVOUAC - P.O. BOX 2931, INVERNESS, FL. 34451 - Toll Free 877-299-3140 BIVOUAC33@GMAIL.COM APRIL 2023**

MILITARY AFFAIRS & VETERANS DEPARTMENT PRESENTS

# PACT ACT

## INFORMATION FORUM



CALLING ALL VIETNAM , GULF WAR AND POST 9/11 ERA COMBAT VETERANS.

**COME LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PACT ACT**

The PACT Act (Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxins) is a historical new law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances.

**SATURDAY | MAY 6, 2023 | 9AM-12PM**

FREE PARKING · BREAKFAST PROVIDED · ALL VETERANS AND FAMILIES WELCOME

**VYSTAR VETERANS MEMORIAL ARENA**  
**300 A RANDOLPH BLVD., DUVAL ROOM**



Accommodations for persons with disabilities are available upon request. Please contact Disabled Services at VM 255-5466, TTY 255-5475, or email your request to KaraT@coj.net.


**From COL Bob (USMC) ret**

**I presented "A Code to Keep" Award on behalf of the Capt Ernest C Brace USMC Vietnam Veterans Chapter 1080 at Raiford Prison to Duval Vet Court grad to recognize his accomplishment and encourage him to stick to our code of honor.**



**Award was created and is sponsored by incarcerated Veterans who still try to help their fellow Veterans...Certificate, Ernest Brace's book A Code to Keep and \$250...and the knowledge he is not alone and apart of a Veteran family...Vets take care of Vets.**

We invite you to join us for a "Women Veterans Recognition Week" celebration. Attached is a tentative schedule of events and the sponsorship letter. As we draw closer, we will send an updated flyer for the week of events. I hope you will participate!



**2023 Women Veterans Week of Recognition**  
"Continuing the Legacy"  
**Schedule of Events:**

**Sunday, June 4, 2023**  
Honoring Women on the Wall  
Candlelight Vigil  
Veteran's Memorial Wall  
Time: 7:30pm  
Also view them at:  
[\(68\) 2021 Week of Recognition - Women on the Jacksonville Veterans Memorial Wall - YouTube](#)

**Monday, June 5, 2023**  
Opening Ceremony/Proclamation  
City Hall, 117 West Duval Street  
TBD

Paint N Sip N Fun  
TBD

**Tuesday, June 6, 2023**  
Lunch & Learn "Breaking the Ceilings"  
Hosted by Women in Defense  
3130 Hartley Road  
Time: 11:00am - 1:00pm  
Cost: \$25.00  
<https://bit.ly/3hA9i1W>


**Wednesday, June 7, 2023**  
Women, Wealth & Wine  
TBD

**Thursday, June 8, 2023**  
Mental Health Conference  
TBD

**Friday, June 9, 2023**  
**HerVOICE**  
TBD

**Saturday, June 10, 2023**  
***Women Veterans Recognition Gala***  
***"Continuing the Legacy:"***  
***Guest Speaker: TBD***  
Time: 6:00 PM, Cost: \$100.00  
(Tickets \$120.00 at the door)  
Southbank Hotel at Jacksonville Riverwalk  
1515 Prudential Dr  
Purchase tickets at:  
*Also, visit the Women Veterans Documentary Display in City Hall, 7-11 June 2021*

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



## Southeastern Guide Dogs offer free dogs to Gold Star families

By: Jada Williams

PALMETTO, Fla. (WFTS) — Emily Hoey never imagined she would become a Gold Star spouse.

Hoey's husband, John, was killed while serving in Afghanistan almost 14 years ago. Their daughter, Isabella, was only a year old.



"It's definitely been a journey losing John. So when Isabella was so young, you know she didn't have any memories of her own. I feel really fortunate that I was able to capture a lot of special moments between John and Isabella with my camera, and I think it's through those pictures that I've been able to create sort of the memories for Isabella, because it's those pictures that you tell stories," she said.

A pivotal part of handling their grief comes from community support.

"I'm still so warmed at the heart, and you know I get goosebumps even just now talking about it because it's when we stop saying their names and helping one another that then their memory has been forgotten," she said.

While her husband, John, is irreplaceable, the newest family member, Elle, is filling a void.

"We couldn't be happier to have been given the beautiful Elle. She's such a soulful dog, and she just makes our family feel complete again."

While Southeastern Guide Dogs primarily focuses on seeing eye dogs and service dogs, they also provide free dogs to Gold Star families. It's a lesser-known program for the organization, but one that's filling a critical need, they say.

Hoey said the companionship Elle gives them, even on the toughest days, is the greatest gift.

"It's truly heartfelt, and I feel so much gratitude for them, taking the time and creating this program to help other families and other gold stars that are also, you know, feeling their loss every day," she said.

If you're a Gold Star family or looking for a service dog, you can get involved with Southeastern Guide Dogs.



## The Long Blue Line: Myrtle Hazard—first woman in the United States Coast Guard

Myrtle Hazard was ready to operate a telegraph the day she mistakenly walked into Coast Guard Headquarters. Not only was she prepared, but she was determined, a trait she exhibited throughout her life.

She was born in 1896 in Baltimore. As a child, she suffered from polio and one of her legs was smaller than the other. Myrtle willed herself to walk without braces. By age 26, Myrtle was married and living in Baltimore together with her husband, their three-year-old son, and her parents.

Just as she was determined to walk without braces, Myrtle was determined to qualify for specialized war work. During September and early October 1917, the Y.M.C.A.'s Wireless and Commercial Telegraphy School ran classified ads in the Baltimore Sun.

The ad promised “Good Salaries” and “Operators in Great Demand.” She enrolled in the night class and earned a commercial license three months later.

To read more about Hazard, visit: <http://ow.ly/WnmL50NxxR9>



## **From the Treasurer**

This year, there are many changes to laws, only a few of which are more advantageous to the Veteran than in prior years.

### **Vote-By-Mail**

One of the little-known requirements is that Florida Voters' Vote-By-Mail requests expire at the end of the calendar year in which there is a general election **which was a recent change in the law**. In 2022, there was a general election, voting for Federal and State elected officials (remember those annoying ads?), **so all requests from the 2022 elections have now expired**.

If you prefer to Vote-By-Mail, now would be a good time to request mail ballots be sent to your St. Johns County residence, another address, or, if deployed, request an Overseas or Military Ballot, by going to <https://www.votesjc.gov/vote-by-mail>. Your Vote-By-Mail request will be valid for all local and state elections, and for the federal (general) elections in 2024.

You may choose an "All Elections Request" (valid through 2024) or request a mail ballot for a specific Individual Election (though I believe it makes life easier to submit an "All Elections Request"). **If you have questions, or need assistance, please reach out to the Elections Office at (904) 823-2238.**

### **Exempt Organization 2023 Filing Deadlines and Reminders**

**January 31, 2023:** Provide 1099-MISC and 1099-NEC to recipients, and file 1099-NEC with the IRS with 1096

**February 28, 2023:** File IRS copies of 1099-MISC together with 1096

**May 1, 2023:** File Florida Secretary of State Annual Report

**May 15, 2023** (for calendar-year exempt organizations): File Form 990 family (990, 990-EZ or 990-N) electronically (this is the second year that only electronic filings are accepted). For exempt organizations with other fiscal years, due date is the fifteenth of the fifth month after the fiscal year-end.

Various dates (for charities, not Veterans' organizations recognized under §IRS 501(c)(19)), renew registration under the Florida Solicitation of Contributions Act with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs. To check your renewal date, go to [Florida Charity Check](#).

### **Personal Federal Income Tax Deadline**

The IRS's Free File program, **available only at IRS.gov**, allows taxpayers who made \$73,000 or less in 2022 to file their taxes electronically for free using brand-name software provided by commercial tax filing companies. Free File Fillable forms, a part of this effort, is available to any income level and provides free electronic forms that people fill out and file themselves also at no cost.

**Tuesday, April 18, 2023**, for most taxpayers, instead of April 15, because of the weekend and the District of Columbia's Emancipation Day holiday, which falls on Monday, April 17. The IRS will commence accepting 2022 individual federal income tax returns on January 23.

# 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



# CHIEF PETTY OFFICERS

## IT'S IN THE CREED



## DECKPLATE LEADERS

CHIEF PETTY OFFICERS MAKE UP THE HIGHEST ENLISTED RANKS IN THE U.S. NAVY. KNOWN AS "DECKPLATE LEADERS" CHIEFS ACT AS A BRIDGE BETWEEN OFFICERS AND JUNIOR ENLISTED.

## APRIL 1, 1893

DATE PROCLAIMED BY NAVY CIRCULAR #1 (EARLY NAVADMIN MESSAGE) THAT CREATED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CHIEF PETTY OFFICER RANK.



# 55

NUMBER OF CHIEF PETTY OFFICERS THAT HAVE EARNED THE MEDAL OF HONOR.



## DECKPLATES TO KEELS

CHIEFS ARE SO VITAL TO THE NAVY THAT TWO SHIPS HAVE BEEN NAMED USS CHIEF (BOTH MINESWEEPERS).



## OLDEST RATINGS

SINCE 1797, ONLY TWO RATINGS HAVE CONTINUOUSLY INCLUDED CHIEFS AMONG THEIR RANKS: BOATSWAIN'S MATE AND GUNNER'S MATE.

## GOATLOCKER

FROM THE AGE OF SAIL TO STEAM, GOATS WERE KEPT ABOARD SHIPS IN SEPARATE COMPARTMENTS KNOWN AS "GOAT LOCKERS." STUBBORN, SURE-FOOTED AND TOUGH, GOATS WERE USED FOR THEIR FRESH MILK AND MEAT - THEY ALSO HELPED LIFT UP MORALE. GOAT LOCKERS WERE EVENTUALLY ADOPTED BY CHIEFS WHO KEPT THE NAME AND ADOPTED THE GOAT MONKER.



## FIRST FEMALE CHIEF

ON MARCH 21, 1917, LORETTA WALSH BECAME THE FIRST WOMAN NAVY CHIEF PETTY OFFICER WHEN SWORN IN AS A CHIEF-YEOMAN.

## FOULED ANCHOR

THE CHIEF PETTY OFFICER CAP DEVICE WAS AUTHORIZED IN 1897. CPO COLLAR DEVICES WERE INTRODUCED IN 1969.

## ROCKER DEVICE

THE ADVENT OF A ROCKER DEVICE WAS THE FIRST INSIGNIA FOR CHIEFS TO WEAR, AND WAS ORIGINALLY BORROWED FROM THE MASTER-AT-ARMS RATING. IT BECAME OFFICIAL IN 1894.



## CREED

THE ORIGINAL VERSION OF THE CPO CREED WAS WRITTEN IN THE LATE 1940S. READING THE CREED BECAME A FIXTURE IN THE TRANSITION OF A FIRST CLASS TO THE VISIBLE, CONFIDENTLY HUMBLE DECKPLATE LEADERS CHIEFS STRIVE TO BE.



8th Annual



# Rocketman Run

Benefiting

## Service Dogs for Patriots



September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**Cost**  
\$20 Per Rider  
\$5 Passenger  
\$5 Extra Roll

**Registration 9:00-11:00 AM**  
**Last Bike Out 11:00 AM**  
**Last Bike In 4:00 PM**  
**Drawings Begin At 5:00 PM**  
**Sanctioned Event**

**Food**  
**Music**  
**Auctions**  
**Raffles**

Start: American Legion Post 250 - Middleburg  
1<sup>st</sup> Stop: VFW Post 1988 - Green Cove Springs  
2<sup>nd</sup> Stop: Orioles Nest - North St. Augustine

3<sup>rd</sup> Stop: Cheyenne Saloon - East Palatka  
4<sup>th</sup> Stop: Howlin Wolf - Melrose  
Final Stop: American Legion Post 250 - Middleburg





★ ACTIVE DUTY ★ VETERANS ★ NATIONAL GUARD & RESERVE ★

# MILITARY SUPPORT RETREATS

RETREATS FOR COMBAT VETERANS AND THEIR PRIMARY SUPPORT PERSON



**Marineland**  
Florida



**MAY 4-7**



**Helen**  
Georgia



**JUNE 1-4**



**Amelia Island**  
Florida



**JULY 6-9**



**Helen**  
Georgia



**AUG. 17-20**

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



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

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

★ Small, friendly group setting ★

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

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

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

**TO LEARN MORE AND TO APPLY VISIT: [GRATITUDEAMERICA.ORG/RETREATS](http://GRATITUDEAMERICA.ORG/RETREATS)**



**GratitudeAmerica**

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



# 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**

# Blue Angels Show Schedule 2023

## Jacksonville in October

*Blue Angels*

### ► 2023 | SHOW SCHEDULE

#### **MARCH**

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11 | NAF El Centro, CA | NAF El Centro Annual Air Show  
18 · 19 | NAS Point Mugu, CA | Point Mugu Air Show  
25 · 26 | Barksdale AFB, LA | Defenders of Liberty Air Show

#### **APRIL**

---

1 · 2 | Lakeland, FL | Sun 'n Fun Aerospace Expo  
15 · 16 | NAS Key West, FL | Southernmost Air Spectacular  
22 · 23 | MCAS Beaufort, SC | MCAS Beaufort Air Show  
29 · 30 | Fort Lauderdale, FL | Fort Lauderdale Air Show

#### **MAY**

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6 · 7 | Corpus Christi, TX | Wings Over South Texas Air Show  
13 · 14 | Scott AFB, IL | Scott AFB Air Show  
20 · 21 | Seymour Johnson AFB, NC | Wings Over Wayne Air Show  
24 | USNA, Annapolis, MD | U.S. Naval Academy Air Show  
26 | USNA, Annapolis, MD | U.S. Naval Academy Fly Over  
27 · 28 | Long Pond, PA | The Great Pocono Raceway Air Show

#### **JUNE**

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10 · 11 | Smyrna, TN | The Great Tennessee Air Show  
17 · 18 | Columbus, OH | Columbus Air Show

#### **JULY**

---

1 · 2 | Oklahoma City, OK | Tinker AFB Star Spangled Salute  
8 | Pensacola Beach, FL | Pensacola Beach Air Show  
15 · 16 | Duluth, MN | Duluth Air and Aviation Expo  
22 · 23 | Milwaukee, WI | Milwaukee Air and Water Show

#### **AUGUST**

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5 · 6 | Seattle, WA | Boeing SeaFair Air Show  
12 · 13 | Billings, MT | Yellowstone International Air Show  
19 · 20 | New Century, KS | KC Air Show  
26 · 27 | Lincoln, NE | Guardians of Freedom Air Show

#### **SEPTEMBER**

---

2 · 4 | Toronto, ON, Canada | Canadian International Air Show  
16 · 17 | NAS Oceana, VA | NAS Oceana Air Show  
23 · 24 | MCAS Miramar, CA | MCAS Miramar Air Show  
30 | McMinnville, OR | Oregon International Air Show

#### **OCTOBER**

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1 | McMinnville, OR | Oregon International Air Show  
7 · 8 | San Francisco, CA | San Francisco Fleet Week  
14 · 15 | Grand Junction, CO | Grand Junction Air Show  
21 · 22 | Jacksonville Beach, FL | Sea and Sky Air Show  
28 · 29 | Greenfield, IN | Crossroads Air Show

#### **NOVEMBER**

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3 · 4 | NAS Pensacola, FL | NAS Pensacola Homecoming Air Show

# The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs

Our App got an upgrade! The free App is a quick and easy way to access benefit information, look for available jobs, and connect to the latest news regarding Veterans' issues. Get it now!

<https://app.floridavets.org/>

#FDVA #FLVets

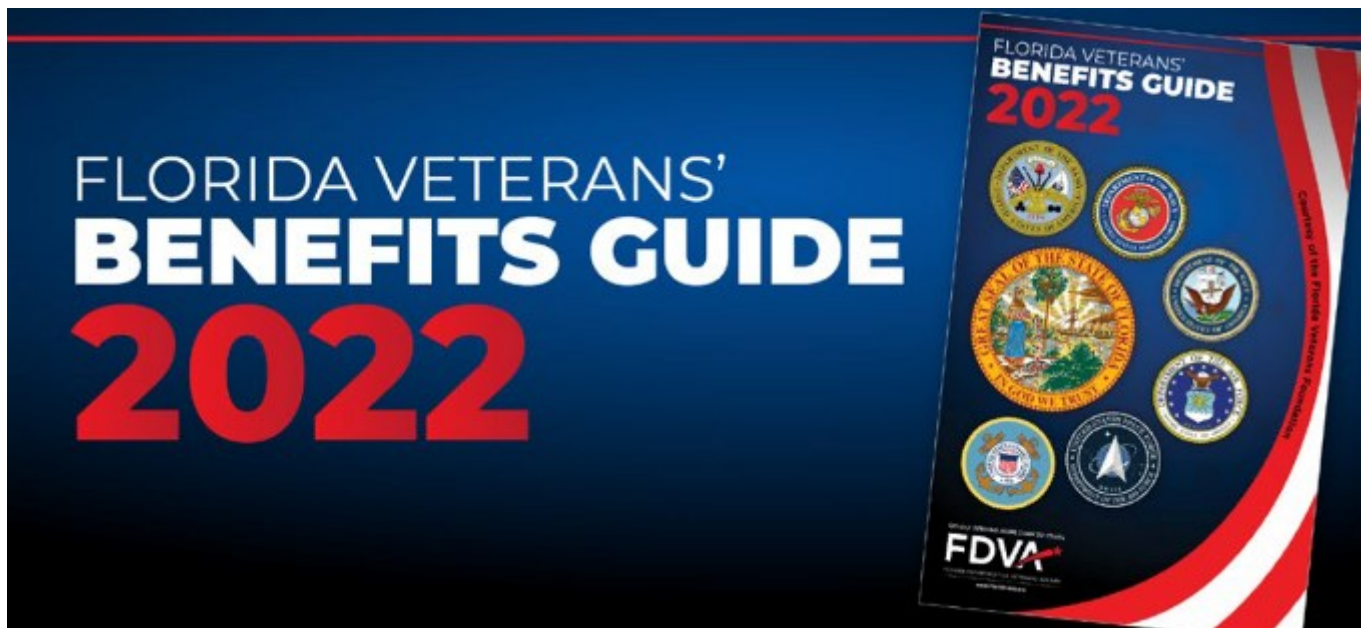
**GET OUR FREE  
UPGRADED  
APP.**

It won't take  
up space on  
your phone.



## The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs

Have you checked out the new 2022 Florida Veterans' Benefits Guide? It is now available for download. The annual guide helps connect Florida's Veterans and their families with earned federal and state benefits, services and support. It also contains helpful phone numbers and website addresses for additional information. To view online, click here: <https://bit.ly/3BovveB>. To download a copy for your records, click here: <https://bit.ly/3HYgTF0>.





# 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/)



**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

## 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



**From Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley**

**Subject: VA Transportation Assistance**

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

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

**From Michael Isam**

**The DAV van is now operating 5 days /week!**

**It will now transport a full capacity of riders.**

**Schedule your seat on the DAV Chapter 6 van.**

**It departs from the large parking lot of the clinic at 0600!!!**

**Contact the VA Clinic at 904-823-2954**





## 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  
ESTABLISHED BY PUBLIC LAW 101-508

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

## 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		Duval
1048	Bob Adkins	adk123robert@outlook.com	
1059	David Treffinger	dtreffinger433@msn.com;	Clay
1084	Ron Howard	ronehoward@gmail.com	
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.



**PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO MEET VETERANS' UNIQUE NEEDS**

**Advance Care Planning**

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

**Palliative Care**

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

**Hospice Care**

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

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

**Complementary Therapies**

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

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

**We Need Volunteers**

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

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

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

★ Along with traditional reimbursement for hospice services, we offer payment options to veterans with TRICARE. As with all Community Hospice & Palliative Care patients, we provide care and support to all who need it, regardless of their ability to pay. VET 007 5/20

## Mission Statement:

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



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

## What the Council has done:

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

SA-0003147064-01

# Veterans Crisis Line

1-800-273-8255 **PRESS 1**

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

**STAND BY THEM**  
Confidential help for Veterans and their families

**NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE**  
1-800-273-TALK (8256)  
[suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://suicidepreventionlifeline.org)

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

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

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

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

## Veterans Councils of Northeast Florida



### **BAKER COUNTY**

President: Larry Porterfield

Meetings:

Second Thursday of each month

Location:

MacClenny Primitive Baptist Church  
Fellowship Hall on North Boulevard

Time : 1800 (6pm)

### **CLAY COUNTY**

President: Harry Silvers

Meetings:

First Wednesday of each month

Location:

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

Time: 1400 (2pm)

### **DUVAL COUNTY**

President

Meetings:

Third Tuesday of each month

Location:

American Legion Post 37  
Main Building  
San Juan Avenue

Tome: 1900 (7 pm)

### **NASSAU COUNTY**

President: Mike Doran

Meetings:

First Thursday of each month

Location:

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

Time: 1900 (7pm)

### **St. Johns County**

President: Bill Dudley

Meetings:

Last Thursday of each month

Location:

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

Time: 1900 (7pm)



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



We are inviting all veterans to visit our website at:

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

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

Please join our group on Facebook at:

<http://veteranscouncilsjc.org>

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

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

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

***You may have noticed the Veterans Council's new logo, it was created by Roy Havekost.***

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

*Veterans Council of St. Johns County,  
"Helping All Veterans"*

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

Send to: rothfeldm@gmail.com



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

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

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

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

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

***The Veterans Council will meet at the County  
Health & Human Services Building,  
200 San Sebastian View  
Auditorium, 1st floor***

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

*(physical location)*

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

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

*Service is by appointment.  
Phone: 904-209-6160 Fax: 904-209-6161  
Joseph McDermott, 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.*