



The Patriot Reader Newsletter

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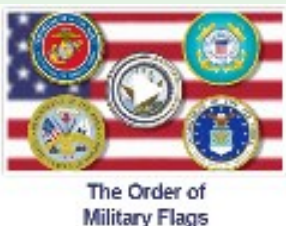
Volume 14, Issue 5

From Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley

May 2024

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Fellow veterans,.
 After many years of pursuing a location to house our veterans in need of shelter, we now have a permanent facility to accommodate them. Veterans Village is now fully operational in the former Old Town Inn at 427 Anastasia Blvd in St. Augustine. Our property, under the management of Home Again St. Johns, Inc. and managed daily by Renee Morris, on site manager, has been receiving applications for the past month. We now have 15 veterans who have applied for the 20 rooms that are available. Applications will be processed for these veterans which includes a background check and other criteria including a valid DD214. Renovations have already begun and many volunteers are showing up daily to help including veterans from our Veterans Treatment Court. Several local businesses have of-



ferred assistance with such things as paint, brushes, rollers, and other materials. The next few months will be focused on a complete facelift to the exterior as well as room upgrades and a new sign out front with Veterans Village proudly displayed. There will be many changes forthcoming that will make this facility a credit to the community as well as providing shelter for our veterans in need.

None of this would have been possible without the help of our elected officials. Our County Commissioners and County Administration has been 100% supportive. This week at the County Commission meeting, an allocation of \$125,000 was granted by the County to help with operational costs. A big Bravo Zulu to County Commissioner Roy Alaimo for championing this grant. And of course, none of this would have been possible without the support of State Rep. Speaker Paul Renner and Rep. Cyndi Stevenson with the original \$3 million grant to purchase the motel.



St. Johns County and the State of Florida continue to be the most veteran friendly of any state in the nation.

Don't forget to mark May 27 on your calendar for our Memorial Day ceremony at St. Augustine National Cemetery. Our program begins at 10am. We can also use volunteers on Sat. May 25 at 10 am to place flags at all the headstones in the cemetery.

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

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 Oakes, SJC Supervisor of Elections

August 29

Kim Simon, Director of Programs, Yoga 4 Change

**VETERANS COUNCIL OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY
MINUTES OF GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
March 28, 2024**



CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Dudley

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS: Chairman Dudley

PLEDGE: Chairman Dudley

INVOCATION: Bill Jefferson, Chaplain

INTRODUCTION OF NEW GUESTS: Chairman Dudley

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: Minutes of last meeting conducted February 29, 2024, 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 February 28, 2024, the cash balance was \$164,691.43. As of March 27, 2024, the balance is \$164,267.75. Available cash totals \$176,489.82. Treasurer Mountcastle went over the Treasurer's Report, explaining funds for the Dudley Foundation and Money Market accounts. Details of the month's expenses were also covered. The Treasurer asked if there were any questions regarding the Treasurer's Report. The Report was approved by voice vote.

SPEAKERS:

CAPTAIN ED TURNER, EXEC. DIR., NATIONAL POW/MIA MEMORIAL & MUSEUM

Capt. Turner spoke of the project of establishing a National Memorial for POW/MIA for all Branches of the Military. The Memorial and Museum will be at Cecil Field as there are already 14 Memorials for POW/MIA existing there. The City of Jacksonville donated twenty-six acres of land for the establishment of the Memorial and Museum, including the Chapel

that is located at Cecil Field. Capt. Turner gave a thorough breakdown of the history and plans to build the Memorial and Museum, including a video providing information on POW/MIA's. The floor was opened to questions and answers.

BRANDON PATTY, ST. JOHNS COUNTY CLERK OF COURTS

Mr. Patty gave his background and being elected to serve in office. He explained how the Clerk of Courts serves by retaining all the official documents of St. Johns County (SJC). He passed around the original book of discharge papers for residents of SJC that served in the Military. Mr. Patty gave a history of the function of the Clerk of Courts and their purpose for SJC accurate records. Records go back as far as the establishment of SJC in 1821. The Clerk's Office is now recording DD214's to help people who served obtain that information and more efficiently. The floor was open for questions and answers.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE UPDATE, JOSEPH MCDERMOTT

Mr. McDermott discussed two benefits available from the Veterans Administration, the Service-Connected Compensation and Pension Benefit. He explained the difference between the two benefits. He spoke of the need when on the Pension Benefit that any income changes must be reported to the VA to avoid an overpayment. The VA will check the reported income of the Veterans each year. The VSO collaborates with the Veterans to get a waiver for the overpayment.

There appears to be a better understanding of PACT ACT and the Veterans exposure to toxins while serving. It is similar to the Veterans that have filed for exposure to Agent Orange. Mr. McDermott gave a breakdown of what is needed and expected to be able to file these disability claims.

With the new Veteran Service Officers now staffed, the intake of Veterans is moving faster and more efficiently. Annual training will take place in May in Clearwater.

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

VETERANS TREATMENT COURT, JOHN LESLIE

John Leslie introduced himself to those in attendance and explained the operations of the Veterans Treatment Court (VTC). The Treatment Court is starting the third month of its seventh year of operation. In that time VTC processed a total of 145 Veterans. A total of 91 Veterans have graduated and moved on, 33 Veterans are currently inflow. There have been 21 Veterans that have either timed-out or they were terminated for multiple reasons.

Next court date is on the 5th of April and there will be three graduations on that day. Everyone is invited to attend the VTC on April 5, 2024, starting at 10:00am. There is also a need for more mentors.

Mr. Leslie opened the floor to any questions and answers regarding the VTC.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Dudley discussed the acquisition of the Veterans Village and operation duties were taken over on March 16, 2024. There are two full-time employees, the manager of the facility during the day is Renee Morris. There will be twenty rooms available for Veterans to occupy and as of this date, ten rooms already have Veterans in them. They are “checked in” as a hotel guest because they still have to be vetted for Veterans coming into the system. There was a walk through the Veterans Village with the FDVA and a punch list was generated for fixes that have to be satisfied to the FDVA standards. Home Depot Managers have also done a walk through, and they offered to supply materials and labor to construct a privacy fence around the Veterans Village. Home Depot has asked that we prepare a “wish list” of needs and they will help with painting both inside and outside the building. They will provide lawn furniture and picnic tables for the courtyard. Home Depot is very community-minded when it comes to helping Veterans in the State of Florida. The sign will be replaced soon to Veterans Village and will be lit at night. The fountain out front will be removed and an American Flag will be installed in that location and then around the periphery of that location, all the Ser

vice Flags will be flown. A request to the city has to be made to fly those flags so it will take a little longer to get those installed and they will also be lit at night.

The new facility that will be built of SR 16 will have eight individual cottages with each cottage housing two people. The Veterans Council met with Home Again St. Johns and selected the contractor that will be constructing the facility. Clearing for the facility will start around the 1st of April. Completion is hoped for around the end of the year.

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, April 25th beginning at 7:00pm.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

William Dudley, Chairman



Hotel purchased in St. Augustine to house veterans in need

Twenty hotel rooms on Anastasia Island will become new homes for veterans.

Author: Jessica Clark, First Coast News

The ink is still drying on a real estate deal that will turn a hotel into homes for veterans in St. Augustine.



It will be the first of its kind in St. Johns County. The Old Town Inn is less than a mile from the Bridge of Lions on Anastasia Island.

"It's badly needed," said Bill Dudley with the Veterans Council of St. Johns County Council.

His organization has teamed up with the group Home Again St. Johns, which helps those in need of homes.

Wednesday afternoon, the two groups bought the Old Town Inn. All the money, \$3 million, came from the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs,

The plan is to put veterans who are struggling with housing into the hotel rooms.

"We have about 38 veterans that are in need of supportive housing in St. Johns County. This will take care of 20 of them immediately. It's turn-key," Home Again St. Johns Board President Troy Blevins said.

He noted that each veteran will have to pay a reduced price based on their income and benefits available. The veterans will also have to meet certain qualifications.

"They have to volunteer to be in the program," Blevins noted. "They

have to pass a background check, they have to meet the criteria."

Services will also help the veterans "get into the VA system, healthcare system, helping them with employment," Dudley explained.

Blevins said this will not be a shelter, and there will be no deadline for the veterans to leave their motel homes.

It will be for veterans who "have gone through a divorce, veterans that have had some PTSD and lost a job, who are struggling. They're living on a couch with their family or with a friend, or sometimes in a car. They are trying to get into a better situation."

There are some people who are currently living at the Old Town Inn. Blevins said:

"We're going to work with them. If they have veteran status and they qualify and they pass the background checks, then they'll be able to continue. Right now, they're on a week to week basis. But, with Home Again St. Johns doing what we do, we're going to help them find another facility and move with them. That's part of the transition plan."

Blevins added that because state money is paying for the hotel, and there is no mortgage, and the tenants will be paying a reduced price to stay there, "It'll be self-sustaining. We'll have to give it a little boost to start, but it'll be self-sustaining at that point."



Home Again St. Johns

Thank you to the St. Johns County Veterans Services office for donating this bicycle to a Veterans Village veteran. We hope to have full veteran occupancy by the first week of May. We are also working with those who are not veterans to find housing.

Home Again St. Johns Board President Troy Blevins and Board Member Bill Dudley, also from the Veterans Council of St. Johns County, accepted Andy Aschom's donation from SJC Veterans Services.

Together, we can change lives and end the cycle of homelessness and poverty in St. Johns County. If you can help or need help, please call Home Again St. Johns at (904) 436-5382



St. Johns Housing Partnership

Thank you so much to Florida Water Star for recognizing our efforts to make Patriot Place as energy—and water-efficient as possible.

The other day we met with Bill Lazar of St. Johns Housing Partnership to give him the #FloridaWaterStar certificate for Patriot Place, a six apartment Veterans' housing complex in St. Augustine, Florida. Thanks to ENERGY STAR appliances, low flow toilets and water-conserving faucets and shower heads, the new residents will save money every month on their utility bills.



This is an updated flyer that includes the Presenters and Pre-Registration information.



Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD)

"Recruiting - Soldiers for Life"

Saturday, May 18, 2024

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



Presentations From:

U.S. Army Retirement Services Office

Florida Department of Veteran Affairs

Winn Army Medical Center

Office of the Attorney General – Consumer Protection Division

Military Officers Association of America

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

Meet representatives from the different agencies during the RAD Information Fair, 1300 - 1500 hours



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

Pre-Register at: <https://2024RetireeAppreciationDay.eventbrite.com>

Walk-in registration can be accomplished at the event – “We” want you there!

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.

Future updates on our event will be sent via email. If you haven't already done so, follow us on Facebook for up-to-date information.

~Fort Stewart RSO

www.facebook.com/FtStewartRSO

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

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

21 veterans visit Washington D.C. for fifth First Coast Honor Flight

Twenty-one veterans came together for the fifth First Coast Honor Flight; 17 veterans who served during the Vietnam War and four who served in the Korean War.

Author: First Coast News (OnYour Side)

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — People lined the main terminal of the Jacksonville International Airport early Saturday morning to honor a group of veterans setting off to see memorials created in their honor at the nation's capital.

Twenty-one local veterans came together for the First Coast Honor Flight; 17 Vietnam War veterans and four Korean War veterans.

After landing in Washington D.C., veterans were greeted with music from a live orchestra.

One Vietnam veteran who spoke with First Coast News said he is glad he is being recognized decades after his service.

"It was nice to get the appreciation," said David Torres, a Vietnam veteran. "Stuff we didn't get...stuff we didn't get when we got home," he said, holding back tears.

The group was out early Saturday morning and will be back late Saturday night.

The trip is completely free, allowing veterans the chance to visit the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery.

Any veteran who has served in the U.S. military is eligible to participate in a First Coast Honor Flight.

The next First Coast Honor Flight is scheduled for Sept. 21, 2024.



Jacksonville Naval Museum

The Inaugural Gala Party “Bold Vigilance” aboard the USS Orleck Naval Ship promises to be a memorable event set against the historic backdrop of the ship’s storied past!

Here are some details about the event:

When: May 18th

Time: 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM

Location: USS Orleck Naval Ship

Sponsorship: Interested parties can become sponsors by reaching out to Events@JaxNavalMuseum.org.

Resort Casual for Dress: Embrace the relaxed atmosphere with a casual dress. Please no “High Heels”

Explore the decks of the US Orleck Naval Ship, a symbol of naval history and service. Enjoy panoramic views of the waterfront as you mingle, enjoy local drinks, apps, and silent auction.

For more information, please feel free to reach out to Events@jaxnavalmuseum.org



All are invited to join us as we pay our respects and honor our Veterans for the sacrifices they have made for all of us.

Memorial Day Ceremony, Monday, 10am, May 27.

Volunteers needed at 10am on Saturday, May 25 to place flags on all the headstones.



St. Johns County
MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY
St. Augustine National Cemetery
Monday, May 27th, 2024, at 10 AM
Guest Speaker:
Brigadier General Richard L. Coffey III
Asst. Adj. General Air, FLNG, and Commander, FLANG

All are invited as we remember and honor those veterans who have gone before us.

 **With Pipes and Drums, Massing of Colors, Roll Call of Passed Veterans, Wreath Laying, Rifle Salute, and Taps.**
104 Marine St. Parking in front and behind, St. Francis Barracks.

Organized by the:
MOAA-Ancient City Chapter and Veterans Council of St. Johns County.

St. Augustine's Patriot Place wins gold by Florida Green Building Coalition

Patriot Place earns gold certification for under the Coalition's Homes Standard

Lucia Viti, St. Augustine Record

Florida's Green Building Coalition (FGBC) awarded St. Augustine's Patriot Place, a housing community for at-risk veterans, a gold certification under the Coalition's Homes Standard.



Located at 79 Masters Drive, the six-unit apartment community offers one-bedroom apartments to veterans at 30% of the market value, with the balance subsidized by the St. Johns Housing Partnership (SJHP). In addition to safe, clean, and affordable housing, veterans can work with UF Health St. Johns social health programs and UF Health St. Johns Care Connect+ for resources inclusive of food pantries, counseling, workplace readiness and transportation.

The green building practices addressed FGBC's criteria of energy performance; water conservation; site conservation; health, air quality and moisture materials; and disaster mitigation.

As Florida's leading certifier of green projects, FGBC's Certification Program tailors its carbon-reducing green building standards to the state's climate, allowing builders, developers, and communities to meet green building standards while building properties suited to sustain Florida's ecosystem.

Bill Lazar, SJHP's executive director, described Patriot Place as an example of what happens when the public and private sectors work together.

"I congratulate the partners, donors and supporters that made Patriot Place a reality for an at-risk segment of our community," he said in a press release. "Affordable housing must be sustainable in terms of affordability and debt along with building performance and long-term maintenance."

Bill Kachman, FGBC's president, noted the homes are built on a "beautiful infill lot with an incredible live oak for them to sit and relax under."

"To be involved means so much knowing that Patriot Place will house at-risk or homeless veterans, — after everything they've done for our country."

Founded in 1996, the SJHP provides low- to moderate-income housing solutions by working with the public and private sectors to rebuild neglected homes and revitalize neighborhoods in disadvantaged areas.

Touting a million-dollar price tag, Patriot Place became a reality through MountainStar Partners, SJHP, and St. Johns County. MountainStar Partners committed over \$500,000 for the land acquisition and construction costs. Bryan McCloskey served as the architect with construction completed by Robert Marshall of World Island Builders.

The news released underscored that Patriot Place was the first density credit exchange for low-income housing. Ameris Bank financed the construction.

Additional funds, materials and time were provided by The Northeast Florida Association of Realtors; Bo Strange, owner of Lovely Loo; the Snodgrass Family Foundation; The Home Depot Store # 6334; Eagle Scout Michael Korfhage; Boy Scout Troup 243; the University of Florida IFAS Master Gardeners; and FGBC certifying agents Kachman and Ralph Locke, military veterans who waived their fee and volunteered their time. Everybody Solar, JinkoSolar and Synergy Solar donated the solar panels.

The concept for Patriot Place was conceived by Suzanne Konchan, the county's former Development Services director. County Commissioners Roy Alaimo and Henry Dean helped Patriot Place become reality.



June 6th, 2024 will mark the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings along the Normandy coast during World War II.

June 6th, 1944: More than 150,000 Allied troops land on the beaches of Normandy, France, as part of the largest seaborne invasion in history. Known as "D-Day," the name and date loom large in the memory of World War II—perhaps



second only to December 7th, 1941. These two dates stand on opposite ends of American involvement in the war, and their meaning could not be more different. D-Day put the Allies on a decisive path toward victory. Beginning with the Normandy beaches, they pushed back against Axis forces until Germany was forced to surrender less than a year later. Their achievements were not accomplished without tremendous sacrifice, however, as the Normandy invasion resulted in over 6,000 American casualties.

On 6th June 1944, and during the long summer which followed, soldiers from the world over came to fight in Normandy to defeat Nazism and to re-establish Freedom. Normandy will bear the scars of the moment in history forever, and every year we remember and pay tribute to the veterans from America, Britain, Canada, Belgium, Denmark, Holland, Norway, Poland, Australia, France and their brothers in arms, to those many heroes who lost their lives here during that summer, and are at rest in the cemeteries to be found throughout the area. It is often forgotten that the people of Normandy also paid a heavy price in those terrible battles. Each anniversary year is the occasion to pay tribute to the fallen and to the veterans who will come to attend the commemorative events and celebrations organized in Normandy. Lest we forget.

80TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY COMMEMORATIONS

The 80th Anniversary of D-Day will be observed in a special ceremony at the **National D-Day Memorial in Bedford, Virginia** at 11am on June 6th.

Program highlights include recognition of D-Day and World War II veterans, guest speakers, music, and more. Representatives from each of the Allied nations and military personnel will take part.

To commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-Day—a day now known as the greatest amphibious landing in history—the **National WWII Museum** will explore the epic battle through events on Thursday, June 6, and Friday, June 7, 2024, on its campus in **New Orleans**.

The **Tampa History Center** will also be commemorating the 80th Anniversary of D Day, info@tampabayhistorycenter.org



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>



27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team

41 million men and women have served in the Armed Forces. 3,517 have been awarded the Medal of Honor for service “above and be-



yond the call of duty.” 11 are part of the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team lineage. On the 2024 National Medal of Honor Day, we remember and honor their sacrifices.

The Medal of Honor is our nation’s highest military award for valor, “conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity” in the face of battle.

The stories of the 27th’s recipients reinforce the importance of embracing and living our Army values and the Warrior Ethos: “I will always place the mission first. I will never accept defeat. I will never quit. I will never leave a fallen comrade.”

We hope you read them.

Pvt. Michael Valente, Company. D, 107th Infantry, 27th Division, WWI (www.cmohs.org/recipients/michael-valente)

Pfc. Frank J. Gaffney, Company G, 108th Infantry, 27th Division, WWI (www.cmohs.org/recipients/frank-j-gaffney)

Pfc. Alejandro R. Ruiz, 1st Platoon, Company A, 1st Battalion, 165th Infantry, 27th Infantry Division, WWII (www.cmohs.org/recipients/alejandro-r-ruiz)

Sgt. John C. Latham, 3d Platoon, Machine Gun Company, 107th

Infantry, 27th Division, WWI

(www.cmohs.org/recipients/john-clatham)



Cpl. Thomas E. O'Shea, 3d Platoon, Machine Gun Company, 107th Infantry, 27th Division, WWI
(www.cmohs.org/recipients/thomas-e-oshea)

Sgt. Thomas A. Baker, Company A, 105th Infantry, 27th Infantry Division, WWII (www.cmohs.org/recipients/thomas-a-baker-jr)

Sgt. Allan L. Eggers, 3d Platoon, Machine Gun Company, 107th Infantry, 27th Division, WWI (www.cmohs.org/recipients/alan-l-eggers)

Sgt. Reidar Waaler, Company A, 105th Machine-Gun Battalion, 27th Division, WWI (www.cmohs.org/recipients/reidar-waaler)

1st. Lt. William B. Turner, Company M, 105th Infantry, 27th Division, WWI (www.cmohs.org/recipients/william-b-turner)

Capt. Benjamin L. Salomon, 2nd Battalion, 105th Infantry Regiment, 27th Infantry Division, WWII (www.cmohs.org/recipients/benjamin-l-salomon)

Lt. Col. William J. O'Brien, 1st Battalion, 105th Infantry, 27th Infantry Division, WWII (www.cmohs.org/recipients/william-j-obrien)

[#MedalofHonor](#) [#MedalofHonorDay](#) [#27IBCT](#) [#NationalGuard](#)



FSCJ Earns Military Friendly Gold Status for Second Year

by Kelly Thurlow

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – Florida State College at Jacksonville (FSCJ) was once again named a Military Friendly® School with a “Gold” ranking for 2024-25, in recognition of leading practices, outcomes and effective programs for student veterans. This is the second year in a row the College has received this designation.

Postsecondary schools across the country were evaluated using public data sources and their responses to a survey. More than 1,800 schools participated in the 2024-25 survey, with 537 earning special awards for going above the standard.

Final ratings were determined by combining each institution’s survey responses with an assessment of their ability to meet thresholds for student retention, graduation, job placement, loan repayment, persistence (degree advancement or transfer) and loan default rates for all students, specifically for student veterans.

“FSCJ is proud to be recognized as a gold-level Military Friendly School again for the second year in a row,” said College President Dr. John Avendano. “Our faculty and staff consider it a privilege to walk alongside active-duty and veteran students, helping them to achieve their goals through higher education. We are grateful for their service and sacrifices, so it’s our honor to help them succeed in any way we can.”

The Military and Veteran Services department is the principal advocate at FSCJ for active military, veterans, military spouses and dependents, ensuring their unique needs are met. The staff serve as a connection to educational, financial and support resources to help these students be successful in their academic, professional and personal pursuits. Learn more about FSCJ’s services for active-duty military, veterans, military spouses and dependents here: <https://www.fscj.edu/military-veterans>. To view the list of Military Friendly schools, visit <https://www.militaryfriendly.com/schools/>.

Dr. Mary Edwards Walker Medal of Honor recipient

Though not a commissioned officer, and after being denied a position in the Union Army during the Civil War, Dr. Mary Edwards Walker is the only woman to have received a Medal of Honor. She served as the first female surgeon in the U.S. Army, serving alongside Union forces. She was a prisoner of war after crossing enemy lines. Known for her unconventional attire after the war, she was an avid fighter for women's rights and women's dress reform, being frequently arrested for wearing men's clothes: "I don't wear men's clothes, I wear my own clothes."



Pictures from Kathy Church, Support Committee Jacksonville National Cemetery on March 29, 2024, Vietnam Veterans Day



Historic Forts in Florida

Dreaming of a bucket list trip to Dry Tortugas National Park in the Florida Keys? Historic Fort Jefferson is an amazing fort built in the 1800s, the islands are beautiful and surrounded by crystal clear blue water and teeming with wildlife. However, it's a very expensive, remote, full-day trip with a long ferry ride. Plus, a trip to Key West itself is costly and far away for many Floridians.



Instead, here are some great alternatives which might be closer to home, easier on the budget, and less challenging to get to!

(Fernandina Beach, near Jacksonville) - This is a fantastic fort to wander around. Right on the beach, the park also offers nature trails, beaches, snorkeling, and camping. [picture 2]

(Tampa Bay Area) - Enjoy the historic fort, a lighthouse, and beautiful clear blue water for snorkeling. You can only access this park by boat, making it a good remote island experience. [pic 3]

(Tampa Bay Area) - A favorite park in Tampa Bay, this park is amazing for a beach day, checking out the trails, and exploring the historic fort. [pic 4]

(St. Augustine) - This big fort is even older than Fort Jefferson, dating back to the late 1600s. This is a super accessible fort, located right in the heart of St. Augustine. [pic 5]

(outside St. Augustine) While visiting St. Augustine, don't miss Fort Matanzas, just south of the city. It is completely free and even includes a

short ferry ride to get to the fort. [pic 6]

(Key West) - If you're in Key West but can't make it to Dry Tortugas, this fort is a good alternative. It has some similar architecture and was built around the same time. This park also has one of the best beaches in Key West. [pic 7]

(Pensacola) - Fort Pickens, located inside Gulf Islands National Seashore, enjoy the beautiful architecture and history at this large fort.



(2)



(3)



(4)



(5)



(6)



(7)

Saint Augustine Historical Society - Oldest House Museum Complex is in Saint Augustine.

St. Augustine: A General's Winter Haven

Born into a prominent family in Jacksonville, Illinois with strong ancestral ties to the state of Kentucky and the young nation itself, Martin Davis Hardin graduated from West Point in 1859.



During his illustrious military career, Hardin eventually rose to the rank of Brigadier General in the United States Army during the Civil War. He fought gallantly at Malvern Hill, Second Bull Run, Bristoe Station, Mine Run, Gettysburg, and in many more pivotal battles. He suffered at least four major battle wounds, two of which nearly cost him his life and led to his left arm being amputated. Hardin was not only a soldier, but a practicing attorney as well as military historian that later became a long-term, prominent winter resident of St. Augustine.

Augustine.

Beginning in the early 1880s, Hardin and his first wife Estelle travelled south for the winter for their health. Hardin contracted malaria in 1862 during the Peninsula Campaign, and Estelle suffered from tuberculosis. In 1885, General Hardin and Estelle began renting the Tovar House at 22 St. Francis Street for fifteen dollars a month. Shortly thereafter, General Hardin's health vastly improved. Hardin thus decided to make the most out of his winter vacations in St. Augustine.

READ THE ENTIRE BLOG POST HERE: <https://staugh.com/victorian-st-augustine-a-generals.../>

[#staugustinehistoricalsociety](#) [#victorian](#) [#staugustine](#) [#florida](#) [#tovarhouse](#) [#historichouse](#) [#saintaugustine](#) [#1800s](#) [#history](#) [#floridahistory](#) [#gildedage](#) [#ushistory](#) [#henryflagler](#) [#lovefl](#)



NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES OF AMERICAN
PRISONERS & MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA
5673 Columbis Pike, Suite 100, Falls Church, VA 22041

PH ---703/465-7432

www.pow-miafamilies.org

FAX ---703/465-7432

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A four-member Delegation, representing the National League of POW/MIA Families is headed to Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia on February 25th.

Falls Church, Virginia (February 23, 2024) — The National League of POW/MIA Families a non-profit, 501(c) (3) organization whose threefold goal is the return of all prisoners, the fullest possible accounting of the missing, and the repatriation of all recoverable remains of those who died while serving our Nation during the Vietnam War, is proud to announce that another League Delegation is now headed to Hanoi. The purpose of the visit is to seek expanded efforts to bring home America's military and civilian Vietnam War Veterans still unreturned, thus ending the uncertainty of their families.

This is the first notable Vietnam War POW/MIA Delegation to visit Vietnam since the significant upgrade in bilateral relations to the level of Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, announced last September when President Biden visited Hanoi. The stated purposes for the upgrade were peace, cooperation and sustainable development. The League believes the new relationship offers potential opportunities for both countries to increase and improve the pace and scope of unilateral and joint accounting efforts, before it is too late.

The League has pursued the fullest possible accounting for America's missing Vietnam War Veterans – unreturned POW/MIAs – since before the end of active US involvement, ended by the Paris Peace Accords on January 27, 1973. Such efforts became "a matter of highest national priority" in the mid-1980s, after President Reagan came into office with a personal commitment.

As Governor of California, he was in office when the listed POWs came home in 1973, recognizing then that not enough was being done to account for those still missing. The first League delegations to talks with Vietnam's leaders in Europe date back to before war's end and, since then, the League has participated in or led many delegations seeking answers for the families, and always with the single goal of bringing American servicemen and civilians home, to the country they served.

For additional information contact Michael Bamarni, Social Media Coordinator.



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

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



NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES OF AMERICAN
PRISONERS & MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100, Falls Church, VA 22041

PH ---703/465-7432

www.pow-miafamilies.org

FAX ---703/465-7433

2024 ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Would you prefer to receive League material by email? Y__N__ Email: _____

_____ @\$20/member

_____ Total Amount: _____

IRS EIN# 23-7071242



**NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES
OF AMERICAN PRISONERS AND MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA**

5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100, Falls Church, VA 22041

PH ---703/465-7432

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FAX ---703/465-7433

ABBREVIATED LEAGUE DELEGATION TRIP REPORT

March 26, 2024

The League Delegation's recent visit to Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia took place from February 25 – March 14, 2024. We deeply appreciated the incredible policy and logistics support provided by the Defense Intelligence Agency and their Defense Attachés and Stony Beach Specialists in each country. Especially commendable is Stony Beach Operations Director & Cambodia Specialist Eric Phillips who was with us at every turn, in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.

On the heels of upgraded bilateral relations with Vietnam to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, our visit to Hanoi was timely, as was the transition within the League and a new generation of leaders in Cambodia. The atmosphere and environment seemed to fall into place for utilizing League Advisor Dr. Jay Veith's Intelligence Assessment to get the attention of Vietnam and DPAA. It did – positively with Vietnam's Ministry of Public Security (MPS), Minister To Lam, his Deputy LTG Quang, and the Vietnam Office for Seeking Missing Persons (VNOSMP).

Not so with DPAA, though the League had requested such a study for years! Further, in-country DPAA personnel assigned to Detachments 1, 2 and 3 were instructed not to attend any League-scheduled meetings in Vietnam, Laos or Cambodia. This DPAA leadership decision undermined priority and visibility on the accounting mission, consistently recognized as foundational by the Vietnamese, and denied our on-the-ground DPAA personnel the opportunity to meet senior officials.

From MPS and VNOSMP, we obtained specific pledges of cooperation, including on our proposal of a three-man team (one each Stony Beach, VNOSMP and DPAA) working year-round to expand the planned quarterly Joint Field Activities (JFAs). This longtime DIA/League objective now has potential. During our very positive meeting on March 13th with MPS, Minister To Lam arrived unexpectedly and reinforced the positive pledges made. Until MPS's pledge to consider our proposal, cooperation by Vietnam had been disappointing despite their known control of 85-90% of loss sites of all still missing and unaccounted-for Vietnam War Veterans.

In Cambodia, new Prime Minister Hun Manet indicated full cooperation will continue, as will direction by long-time POW/MIA Committee Chairman General Pol Saroeun, aided by another old friend and supporter, H.E. Sieng Lapresse. We couldn't ask for more in Cambodia, including an ongoing underwater partnership recovery. We passed along our best wishes to PM Hun Manet's father, former PM Hun Sen, and the other familiar fathers whose sons are now also designated Ministers.

A cordial, productive meeting on March 4th with Lao Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Saleumxay Kommasith brought his pledge to quickly issue a simple legal document to protect our DPAA and DIA/Stony Beach POW/MIA accounting specialists. This small corrective step has yet to be taken, likely due to too low-level staff policy attention, but we're cautiously optimistic about positive results coming soon. New US Ambassador to Laos Heather Variava has meetings this week with Deputy Minister Saleumxay and the Lao Deputy Minister of Defense. Laos already has set ongoing Stony Beach investigations year-round to take advantage of opportunities that arise during DPAA-scheduled Joint Field Activities.

A fuller, more descriptive League Delegation Trip Report will be completed soon, posted online and distributed by USPS mail to all League members.



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

Skills Needed

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

For More Info

volunteer@jaxnavalmuseum.org

USS Orleck's Address

610 East Bay Street
Jacksonville, FL 32202

NARRATIVE OF WOMEN IN THE MILITARY



**SUNDAY, JUNE 9
2 - 5PM**

**WATER WORKS
184 SAN MARCO AVENUE
ST. AUGUSTINE, FL 32084**

Sponsored in part by:



**NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT for the ARTS**

**2:00-2:30 PM: SHE SERVED- DISPLAY OF 20
INSPIRING WOMEN VETERANS AND THEIR STORIES**

**2:30-3:30 PM: ACT 1 - SINGLE BLACK FEMALE IN
NAVY THEATRE/ PLAY - WRITTEN AND PERFORMED
BY KIM MULLINS**

**3:35-3:45 PM: LADY STRUT - WOMEN VETERANS
WALKING WITH A PURPOSE**

**3:45-4:00 PM: INTERMISSION- REPRESENT STA
VETERAN HISTORICAL PROJECT AND H4V MILITARY
WOMEN**

**4:00-5:00 PM: ACT 2 - SINGLE BLACK FEMALE IN
NAVY THEATRE/ PLAY - WRITTEN AND PERFORMED
BY KIM MULLINS**

**Get your
tickets here:**



 **HOPE4VETERANS.ORG**

Flagler County Veteran of the Week: Susanne Kerper

Kerper enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1968 as an administrative specialist.

By David Lydon, Flagler County Veterans Services Officer

Branch of Military: U.S. Air Force

Dates of Service: 1968-1972

Rank / Occupation: Sergeant / Administration Specialist

Hometown: Norristown, Pennsylvania

Susanne Kerper lives in Bunnell.



Susanne Kerper enlisted in the U.S. Air Force as an administrative specialist. She was assigned to Shepard Air Force Base, Texas; Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, Japan; and Ellsworth Air Force Base, South Dakota, where she supervised the administrative staff for the commander of the 66th Strategic Missile Squadron, Strategic Air Command.

While in the Air Force, she met and married her late husband Julius, who everyone, including her, called “Abe”, due to his renowned honesty. Kerper received an honorable discharge and earned the National Defense Service Medal. She is past vice commander of American Legion Post 248 in Pennsylvania. While living in Pennsylvania she helped establish a foster grandparents program. Kerper and her husband moved to Florida and raised two daughters and a son in St. Augustine, while she worked as an accountant and office manager for the largest real estate company in the region.



When the kids were grown Kerper and her husband relocated to the Smokey Mountains in North Carolina, where she worked as a government contractor for the Internal Revenue Service. Kerper’s husband Abe passed away three years ago, and she then moved to Bunnell to be nearer to her children. She spends her time making quilts and caring for her two beloved cats.



IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL

ALL LEVELS YOGA CLASS

1ST MONDAY
12:00PM EST

3RD MONDAY
5:30PM EST



<https://bit.ly/3GVH3cC>



<https://bit.ly/3S3r0A9>



The Steven A. Cohen
Military Family Clinic
at Centerstone

7011 A.C. Skinner Parkway, Suite 155
Jacksonville 32256

SAVE THE DATE

Mayor Donna Deegan and the City of Jacksonville Military Affairs and Veterans Department invite you to the 7th Annual

MILITARY SPOUSES NIGHT OUT

JUNE 20, 2024 | 5 - 8 PM

VYSTAR VETERANS
MEMORIAL ARENA

300 A PHILIP RANDOLPH BLVD.
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32202



SCAN ME

REGISTER AT [JACKSONVILLE.GOV/MSNO](https://www.jacksonville.gov/msno)

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.

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.

ALR CHAPTER 194 FALLEN RIDERS CHARITY RIDE & DANCE



11 MAY 24
KSU 1030

IN REMEMBRANCE OF
Ms. IDA & POP TERRY

Hotels:



CHARITY RIDE

Registration: 0800-1000

Riders \$20, Passengers \$10

Early Registration: \$15

Passengers: \$7

Text 443-537-7411

for Early Registration

Route to be Determined

& Will Include Lunch Stop

CHARITY DANCE

Time: 0900-Til

American Legion Post 194

1029 Pearl St. 32084

Cost: \$10 per person

DJ Hundred Grand

Proceeds will be Donated

to a Scholarship

Fund & Charity



U.S. Navy

As we close out the month of March, the U.S. Navy continues to celebrate the trailblazing pioneers who paved the way for more than 134,000 women serving in our Navy today in honor of #WomensHistoryMonth. The Navy's goal is to empower women from the moment they walk in the door at their local recruiting station, and to continue to empower them through the end of their first service obligation, all along the way to what we hope will be a full career.

WOMEN IN NAVAL HISTORY



Rear Adm. Amy Bauerschmidt

2020: The Navy's first woman to command an aircraft carrier – USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72).

Lt. Madeline G. Swegle

2020: The Navy's first Black woman tactical aircraft pilot, Lt. j.g. Madeline G. Swegle, received her "Wings of Gold."



Master Chief Information Systems Technician (Submarine) Angela Koogler

2022: The first woman Chief of the Boat on a submarine – USS Louisiana (SSBN 743).

Lt. Cmdr. Kayla Barron

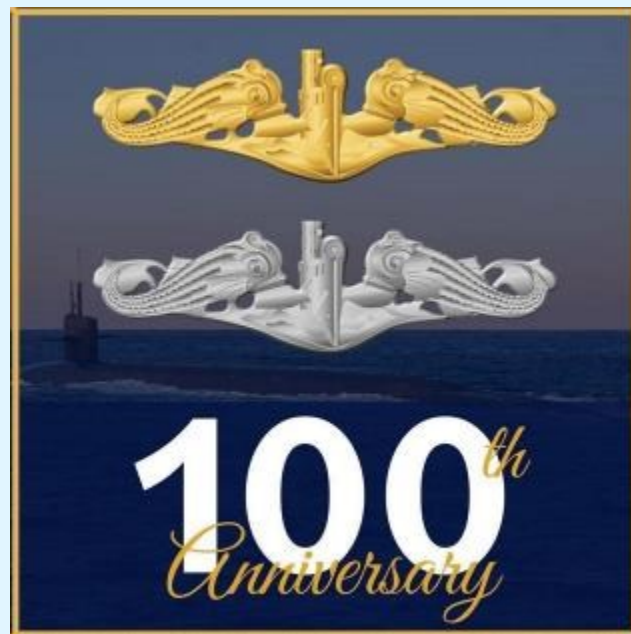
2024: Barron, pioneering submariner and astronaut, is a member of NASA's 2024 Artemis team. As a Submarine Warfare Officer, Barron was a member of the first class of women commissioned into the submarine community.



Submarine Force Museum Association, Home of the USS Nautilus

In the summer of 1923, while serving as Commander, Submarine Division Three, Captain Ernest J. King proposed that the Navy create a warfare insignia device for qualified submariners. The insignia came to be known as dolphins or fish and is one of the Navy's oldest warfare-devices. The hard-earned badge distinguishes and identifies the members of the submarine community and has since become a source of pride for the silent service.

Not only did King propose the idea for the submarine warfare device, but he also submitted the initial design. The final design of the device was approved for wear March 24, 1924. The dolphins depicted on the insignia are actually dolphinfish, or mahi-mahi.





**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

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



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



VOLUSIA VALOR DAYS

04 MAY (SAT.):

- 9:00 AM - EVENT OPENS & WW2 ARMOR SALUTE FIRE
- 11:00 AM - WW2 ARMOR SALUTE FIRE
- 11:30 AM - GUEST SPEAKER: RYAN LOWRY "WORLD WAR II'S IMPACT ON FLORIDA"
- 12:15 PM - GUEST SPEAKER: DR. JOHN MCMANUS "U.S. ARMY EXPERIENCES IN THE PACIFIC - 1945"
- 1:20 PM - ARMOR AND VEHICLE PARADE
- 2:00 PM - WWII BATTLE REENACTMENT 'BIAZZO RIDGE - SICILY 1943'
- 4:00 PM - EVENT CLOSES

05 MAY (SUN.):

- 9:00 AM - EVENT OPENS & WW2 ARMOR SALUTE FIRE
- 11:00 AM - WW2 ARMOR SALUTE FIRE
- 11:30 AM - GUEST SPEAKER: MR. DON FOX "4TH ARMORED DIVISION IN WORLD WAR II"
- 12:15 PM - GUEST SPEAKER: MR. HARRY YEIDE "STRATEGIC DECISIONS BY THE AXIS FORCES IN WORLD WAR II"
- 1:20 PM - ARMOR AND VEHICLE PARADE
- 2:00 PM - WWII BATTLE REENACTMENT 'BIAZZO RIDGE - SICILY 1943'
- 4:00 PM - EVENT CLOSES

Make sure to visit and follow us at:

ww2armor.org

Facebook.com/ww2armor

Instagram - @ww2armor

Twitter - @ww2armor

YouTube - @ww2armor



"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



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



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



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



Independent Concierge Living – Assisted Living
Memory Care – Short-Term Stays

Assisted Living Facility #12928

Vietnam Veterans Day at Silver Creek

On Friday, March 29 Silver Creek invited VVA 1084 President Bill Jefferson to Silver Creek to pin and honor Vietnam Veterans living at Silver Creek.

BG Richard Capps was honored and spoke about honor and service of those Vietnam veterans who returned and to never forget the sacrifice of those Vietnam veterans who did not return.





**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 9th – 12th, 2024



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
VVBSecretary@gmail.com
Club Escort Lineup Info
vvbreunionesort@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.



AMERICAN FLAGS

1767 - PRESENT



A FEW FACTS ABOUT THE

VIETNAM WALL



There are 58,267 names on the wall.

39,996 were just 22 or younger.

8,283 were 19. 33,103 were 18.

12 were 17 years old.

5 soldiers were 16.

There are 3 sets of fathers and sons on the wall.

31 sets of parents lost 2 of their sons.

997 were killed their first day.

1,448 were killed on their last day.

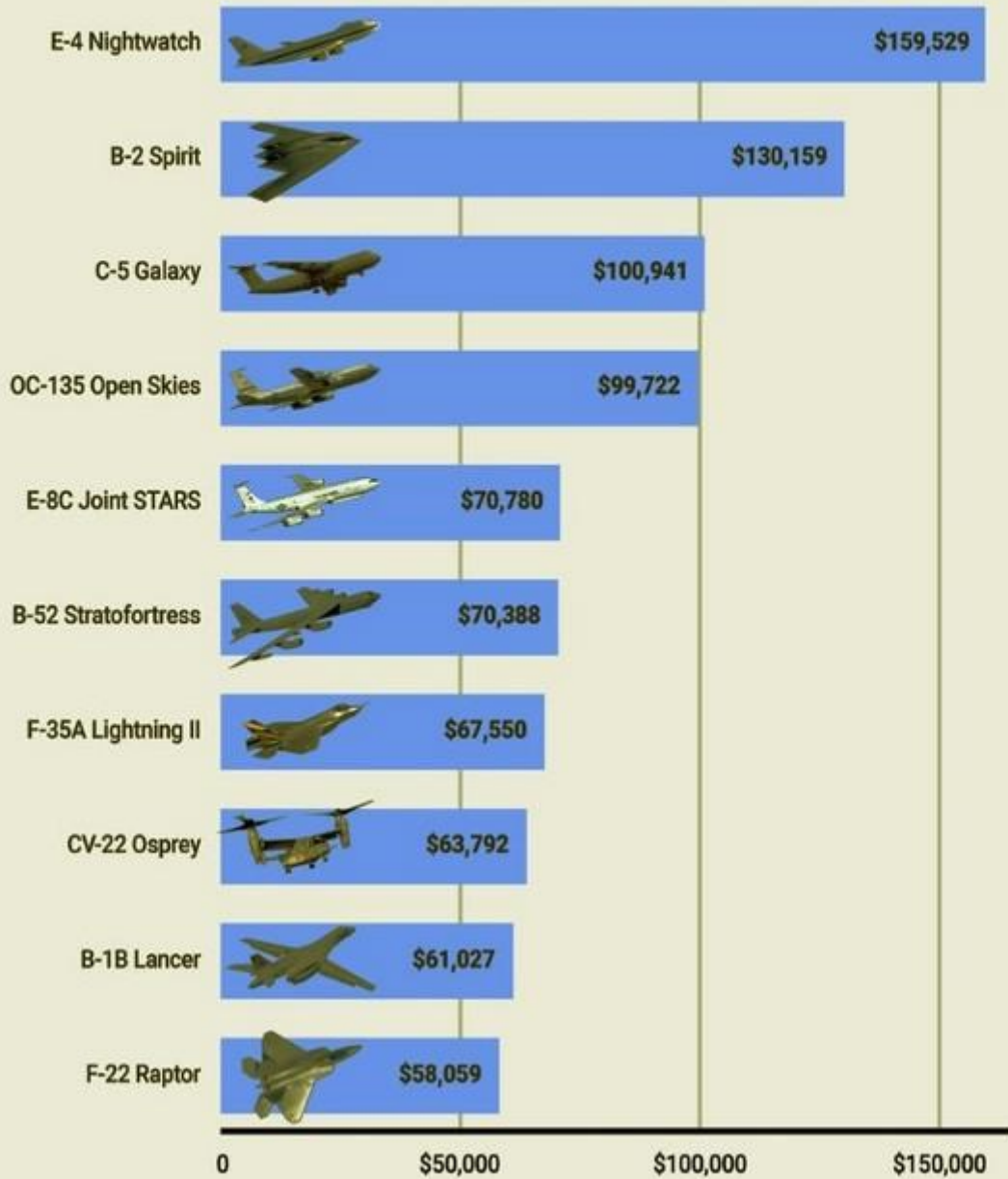
8 women were on the wall, nurses.

244 soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor during the war and 153 of them are on the wall.



THE AIR FORCE'S 10 MOST EXPENSIVE PLANES TO OPERATE

Sorted by cost per hour of flight.



US ARMY FUTURE VERTICAL LIFT (FVL)

FUTURE ATTACK RECONNAISSANCE
AIRCRAFT (FARA)

FUTURE LONG RANGE ASSAULT
AIRCRAFT (FLRAA)

TO BE REPLACED



CANCELED



HELICOPTERS IN COMPETITION



NARRATIVE OF WOMEN IN THE MILITARY



SINGLE
BLACK
FEMALE
IN THE
NAVY

SHE
SERVED

Celebrating Women Veterans

SUNDAY, JUNE 9, 2024
2 - 5PM

WATER WORKS
184 SAN MARCO AVENUE
ST. AUGUSTINE, FL 32084

Sponsored in part by:

 **NATIONAL ENDOWMENT for the ARTS**

2:00-2:30 PM: SHE SERVED SPONSORS A DISPLAY OF 20 INSPIRING WOMEN VETERANS AND THEIR STORIES

2:30-3:30 PM: ACT 1 - SINGLE BLACK FEMALE IN NAVY THEATRE/PLAY - WRITTEN BY KIM MULLINS AND PERFORMED BY 12 CAST MEMBERS

3:35-3:45 PM: LADY STRUT SPONSORING OUR WOMEN VETERANS WALKING IN EVENING GOWNS

3:45-4:00 PM: INTERMISSION- REPRESENT STA VETERAN HISTORICAL PROJECT AND H4V MILITARY WOMEN

4:00-5:00 PM: ACT 2 - SINGLE BLACK FEMALE IN NAVY THEATRE/PLAY - WRITTEN BY KIM MULLINS AND PERFORMED BY 12 CAST MEMBERS

Get your tickets here:



bit.ly/H4VJune9



HOPE4VETERANS.ORG



Faith Leader Military Awareness and Support Training, Spring 2024:

Understanding our Community and Resource Panel

Service members, veterans and military families across Northeast Florida are members of all religious faiths and look to Faith Leaders for guidance and support. As Faith Leaders, you make a difference through your ministry. The Spring hybrid program (in-person and online) features two expert presenters plus a resource panel to help your Faith Community support military members, Veterans and their families.

If you attend in-person, lunch is provided (starting at 11:30 am) so you can meet and greet one another. For those online via Zoom, the platform opens at 11:45 am and the program goes live from 12:00 noon until 2:00 pm.

Our vision is sustained engagement with community faith leaders fostering collaboration, information sharing and encouragement. By listening to and learning from colleagues in ministry and specialists in reaching military members, veterans and their families, we can equip one another in serving others.

This training is available both in-person and online.
Tickets and registration are free.

To attend in person, please register here:
<https://form.jotform.com/240646089416158>

To attend online, please register here:
<https://centerstone.zoom.us/join/register/tJ0kceGpqjwrH9dcXXaZFD1M894RVWwS5P0p>

PLEASE NOTE: For those of you using US gov't computers to register for the online option, you may need to use a personal computer. Some US gov't computer IT security requirements prevent access to this particular registration site.

To attend in person, register here:



To attend online, register here:



Tuesday, May 21st, 2024

11:30 am – 12:00 pm
(Onsite Lunch with Meet and Greet)

12:00 pm – 12:15 pm
(Welcome and Invocation – Rabbi Maya Glasser)

12:15 pm – 12:40 pm
(Navy Community Planning & Liaison Officer)

12:40 pm – 1:05 pm
(National Guard & Reserve in Jacksonville)

1:05 pm – 1:50 pm
(Faith Community Engagement and Support)

1:50 pm – 2:00 pm
Blessing and Benediction (Pastor Ida Iverson)

The Cohen Clinic at Centerstone
7011 A.C. Skinner Parkway
Jacksonville, FL 32256


For more information, please contact
Clinic Director Jodie Bielman
Jodie.bielman@centerstone.org
Brigadier General (ret) Michael Fleming
michael.fleming@cohenveteransnetwork.org
or **Chaplain Eric Wester**
franklin.wester@va.gov


We are especially grateful to our supporting organizations and the generous financial gift from the VyStar Foundation providing meals for the 2024 Faith Leaders Military Awareness and Support programs.



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs




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 WVZARMOR.ORG


American Legion Riders Chapter 88
16th Annual Fun Run
 April 6, 2024
SAVE THE DATE
 Registration 8:30AM - 10:00AM at Post 88
 Breakfast Sandwiches available - \$5.00
 \$20.00 per Bike / \$10.00 per Bike Passenger
 \$20.00 per Bus Rider / \$10.00 Bus Buddy
 Kick Stands Up at 10:30AM
Ride Stops
 TO BE DETERMIND
 Return to Post 88 for Dinner & Band - "ByeStanders"
 Proceeds to benefit Homeless Veterans

 American Legion Post 88
 3662 Spring Park Road
 Jacksonville FL 32207
 904-396-3754

Genuine Military Dog Tags

**Lose your originals?
We can make you new ones!**

\$12 Per set
Shipping included

Chains Included
5 lines of type
15 characters per line
Mail Checks or Money Orders to:

S.T.S. Products, Inc
P.O. Box 1710
Stuart, FL 34995
Cell: 772-215-1329

Last name
First name M.I.
Service number
Blood type pos or neg
Religion

Please specify if you want **NOTCHED** or **UN-NOTCHED TAGS**

This format varies a bit depending upon branch and time in service

Email: alrfla399@gmail.com


3rd ANNUAL HOMETOWN HERO'S RIDE
 HONORING **SSGT KARLTON BERRY** POLICE ESCORTED
SATURDAY • APRIL 13, 2024
 RIDE STARTS/ ENDS AT ADAMEC H-OP OF ST. AUGUSTINE
 380 OUTLET MALL BLVD ST AUGUSTINE, FL 32084
REGISTRATION: 8:30AM-10:30AM
KSU: 11AM
\$25 PER BIKE
FIRST 300 REGISTERED BIKES INCLUDE A ICE T-SHIRT. LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED UPON RETURN
FOOD, VENDORS, MUSIC, RAFFLES & MORE!
 SPONSORED BY

ALL MOTORCYCLES WELCOME!
Disclaimer: For St. Johns County, no Auto Cycles allowed. Example: Scooters, Trikes, etc.
WWW.HOMETOWNHEROSRIDE.COM

ROLLING THUNDER® , INC
Florida State
Nationwide Ride for Freedom XXXVI



SAVE THE DATE



Friday, May 24, 2024

Gold Star Families Dinner

Candlelight Vigil – Port St Lucie Veterans Park

Saturday, May 25, 2024

Thunder Alley, Food Trucks, Vendors, Car/Bike Show,

Live Music by Shovelhed and Preacher Stone

Sunday, May 26, 2024

Rolling Thunder®, Inc. Ride For Freedom XXXVI

(Ending at Treasure Coast Harley Davidson for after-ride celebration)

Contact:

Bob Staneruck, President

Rolling Thunder, Inc. Florida, Chapter 6

Cell: 267-377-0311

Email: RTFlorida6@gmail.com

Website: www.RTFL6.org



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.

Online Resource Locator: Find VA facilities, Vet Centers, suicide prevention coordinators, and other VA resources at 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.

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



Confidential chat at 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.



AMERICA'S \$18 BILLION SHOW OF FORCE



**F/A-18E / F
SUPER
HORNET**

**E-2D ADVANCED
HAWKEYE**

**MH-60R/S
HELICOPTERS**

**F-35
JOINT STRIKE FIGHTER**
Speed: 1,200mph
Weapons include
Sidewinder missiles,
laser-guided bombs

**USS GERALD R.
FORD**
Capacity: 90 aircraft,
inc. fighter jets and
attack helicopters
Firepower: 4x SAM
systems including
Evolved Seasparrow
Missile, 11x gun
systems
Engines: Two nuclear
reactors with 25-year
range
Cost (inc. R&D): ~\$18
billion
Dimensions: length
1,106ft, height 250ft,
width 256ft
Weight: 100,000 tons
Speed: >30 knots



SUPPORT SHIPS

**USS RAMAGE
GUIDED MISSILE
DESTROYER**

**USS NORMANDY
GUIDED MISSILE
CRUISER**

**USS ROOSEVELT
GUIDED MISSILE DESTROYER**

**USS CARNEY
GUIDED MISSILE DESTROYER**

**USS THOMAS HUDNER
GUIDED MISSILE DESTROYER**



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

Scholarships for Dependents (Spouses and Children)

| | |
|---|---|
| American Legion Legacy Scholarship | https://www.legion.org/scholarships/legacy |
| AMVETS | http://www.amvets.org/programs/scholarships/ |
| Children's Scholarship Fund (Elementary School) | http://www.scholarshipfund.org/apply/faq/ |

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 9th – 12th, 2024

The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall on display **May 5th – May 12th, 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

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
VVBSecretary@gmail.com
Club Escort Lineup Info
vvbreunionescort@gmail.com



Tax Tips for Survivors

September 2023

The Primary Next of Kin is responsible for the deceased Sailor's last tax return. Know your rights and benefits as a Surviving taxpayer.

What is my tax filing status as a Survivor?

| | |
|------------------|--|
| YEAR 1 | <p>If you were married at the time your spouse died, you may still file a joint return for the year of your service member's death. This gets you the best tax rate (and the largest standard deduction, if you do not itemize).</p> <p>Survivors filing a joint return may claim the full exemption amount for the decedent regardless of the date during the year when the death occurred.</p> |
| YEARS 2-3 | <p>If you have one or more children, you may file as a "qualifying widow or widower" for the next two tax years, so long as you do not remarry. This status lets you use joint-return tax rates.</p> |
| YEAR 4 | <p>Starting in year four, if you have dependent children, you may file your tax return as a "head-of-household." Tax rates are less favorable than those for joint returns but better than the rates for single taxpayers.</p> |

Which of my benefits are taxable?

| | | | |
|----------------|--|---|-------------------|
| TAXABLE | Salary income (including the "pay" portion of an unpaid compensation claim). | Life insurance benefits (including Servicemembers Group Life Insurance (SGLI)). | TAX EXEMPT |
| | Income from Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) payments. | Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) payments. | |
| | Social Security Survivor benefits (up to 85%). | Death Gratuity. | |

When will I get my service member's W-2?

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) issues a W-2 for deceased service members who had income during the tax year. The W-2 will be sent to the address on record for the service member after January 1 of the year following the member's death.



How do I replace a lost W-2?

If the address on record is incorrect and the W-2 cannot be delivered, or if the document is lost, you can request a reprint by calling DFAS (Cleveland) at 1-888-332-7471. Phone tree prompts are 4, 2, 4, then select the branch of service, then 1 and 1.

Are there any special tax provisions for Survivors?



Yes. In certain cases, widows and widowers get a tax break on individual retirement accounts (IRAs) inherited from a spouse and on proceeds from the sale of a home.

If the service member died as a result of active service in a combat zone (according to the definitions provided in the benefit laws), the member's Federal income tax liability may be forgiven. Any taxes paid for the year of death will be refunded, and any tax liability at the date of death will be forgiven.



What about state taxes?

Don't overlook the possibility that your state may offer its own tax benefits. See, for example, <https://marylandtaxes.gov/individual/estate-inheritance/>.

Most states also have income tax forgiveness policies in place for veterans who serve in combat zones; check with your state's revenue department to find out if you qualify.

Parents of an unmarried deceased service member must file a tax return on behalf of their child for the year of the death. See <https://www.irs.gov/publications/p559> or consult a tax professional.

www.NavyGoldStar.com | www.facebook.com/NavyGoldStar | 1-888-509-8759



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

HOW DISABILITY RATINGS WORK

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

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





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



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

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



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

988
SUICIDES & CRISIS
LIFELINE

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



**OPERATION
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



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.



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 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 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 to learn more.

Thanks!

Nick Howland

Executive Director, The Fire Watch

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

..... Confidential chat at VeteransCrisisLine.net or text to 838255

Military/Veterans Crisis Line

1-800-273-8255

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

Confidential chat at MilitaryCrisisLine.net or text 838255



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:



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

*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 D. McDermott Director
Lori Chapman Assistant VSO
Andrew Ashcom Assistant VSO
Shauna Holton Assistant VSO
April Manner 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.