



The Patriot Reader Newsletter

P.O. Box 2117

St. Augustine, FL 32085

Bill Dudley, Publisher

Michael Rothfeld, Editor

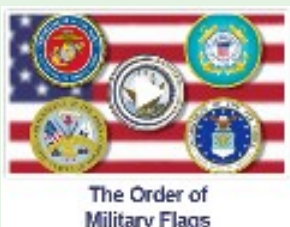
Volume 7, Issue 11

Message from the Chairman

Newsletter Date: November, 2018

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Fellow Veterans:

November will soon appear on the calendar and will usher in a very busy month in your veteran community.

The first is a reminder to be sure to get out and vote on Nov 6 if you haven't already done so in early voting. It's an important time in our country and just as you did your patriotic duty when serving your nation in uniform, it is no less your patriotic duty to help elect those who will lead our nation.

On Nov. 12, the Veterans Council and MOAA, Ancient City Chapter will conduct a Veterans Day Program at Anastasia Baptist Church to honor our Veterans Day Centennial. The Veterans Day committee has worked hard over the past months to make this a program worthy of the honor of all who have served this nation over the past 100 years. We have an excellent program planned that will reach across the span of the past century that will recognize the service of our veterans

from each era. Our keynote speaker will be RADM Sean Buck, Commander of US Navy Southern Command and US Navy Fourth Fleet at NS Mayport. We are very excited to have Admiral Buck as our featured speaker as he recognizes the service of our veterans over the past century. We will also recognize the military service of four of our first responders who are still serving the community today in law enforcement or firefighting. Please plan to join us on Nov. 12 along with your family and friends.

On Dec. 15, the Veterans Council will conduct our annual Wreaths Across America ceremony at St. Augustine National Cemetery. Sales of wreaths this year have been brisk but we are still in need of more wreaths to be sold to meet this year's goal. Our Vice Chairman, Sgt. Major Ray Quinn will be the Master of Ceremonies again this year for the WAA ceremony.

After nearly 7 years, we now have a permanent home location for our Veterans Commu-



nity Based Outpatient Clinic. A map and description of the clinic appears in this month's edition of the Patriot Reader. This has been an elusive goal for many years as we have been in nearly perpetual negotiations with the VA for a permanent home. The new location in the Deerfield Preserve just off CR 207 is a very desirable location only blocks from the current temporary site. Clearing of the landsite should begin in the spring of 2019 and building construction should begin by June of 2019. Completion of the clinic is planned for June 2020. At this time, there are no plans for additional services but that is subject to change as new patients are added.

Bill Dudley
Chairman, Veteran's Council
of St. Johns County

Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home



Pumpkin Decorating Contest



Early Voting



Enjoying Pancakes at IHOP



**The Jacksonville National Cemetery
Greetings from the Support
Committee at the Jacksonville
National Cemetery!**



The Support Committee invites everyone to attend its **next scheduled meeting, on Monday November 5, 2018**. The meeting will be at **7:00pm**. The meeting will take place at Community Hospice, **4266 Sunbeam Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32257 in Conference Room A.**

**Jacksonville National Cemetery Support Committee Meetings for 2018
At Community Hospice of NE FL.
4266 Sunbeam Rd, Jacksonville, FL 32257
Hadlow Bldg – Conference Room A 7:00pm**

DATES OF 2018 NEXT SCJNC MEETING

**Monday, Nov 5th
Monday, Dec 3rd**

Saturday, Dec 15th - Wreaths Across America (Details TBA)

All are invited to attend our meetings and become a part of this Committee.

+++++2017/2018 Officers of the SCJNC+++++

Chairman: Steve Spickelmier

Vice Chairman: Bill Dudley, Treasurer: John Mountcastle

Assistant Treasurer: Michael Rothfeld, Secretary: Kathy Church

Chaplain: Michael Halyard, Master-At-Arms: Joe McDermott

Historian: Kathy Cayton

Chaplain: Rev. Patrick A. Archuleta, Sr.

The Veterans Council of St Johns County will be hosting a Veterans Day event in St Augustine on Monday, November 12 between 10 am and noon at Anastasia Baptist Church.



This event will feature entertainment, JROTC students and veterans organizations display tables. The Military Museum of N FL will have military vehicles as well as uniforms, weapons and music from WW I as we celebrate 100 after the end of the War to end all Wars, WW I.

Our Keynote speaker will be announced shortly.

This year the Council will be hosting this large indoor event instead of a parade.

This will take place on Monday Nov. 12 from 10 am to 11 am at Anastasia Baptist Church, 1650 A1A S, St. Augustine, 32080, a beautiful venue with onsite free parking and seating for 1250.

We will be setting up display tables in the Atrium for veterans groups.

If you represent or are a member of a veterans organization that would like to join us and have a display table please contact me at: mrothfeld@anyveteran.org

Thank you, Michael Rothfeld
Secretary, VC of SJC





REGION-WIDE CELEBRATION HONORING OUR VETERANS

Monday, November 12th, 2018

Anastasia Baptist Church, St. Augustine

Organized by the Veterans Council of St. Johns County, and
The Ancient City Chapter, MOAA.



One hundred years have passed since November 11th, 1918, when the "guns of August, 1914" fell silent on the western front, ending the tragic "war to end all wars." The event sparked impulses that would lead to today's national Veterans Day holiday. Early in the war, a Canadian Officer had penned the words to the moving poem, "In Flanders Fields." It connected the tragedy of death to the red poppies we associate with the day. But the poem also contained the charge above -- calling on those who followed to take up the torch of valor and win.

And Americans have. Generation after generation have heard the call and held that torch on high -- through WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm. They continue today in the Middle East and elsewhere. It is against this backdrop that we have planned this year's special celebration of Veterans. Join us and the multiple Veterans organizations from through northeast Florida as we honor and salute them in the 1,200 capacity auditorium.

Celebration doors open at 9:30 AM. The 46 foot long Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall exhibit and the multi-panel Agent Orange Quilt of Tears will anchor numerous displays from regional Veterans groups in the atrium. Doors to the auditorium open at 10:15 with a multimedia presentation of service and sacrifice from WWI on. The formal program starts at 11:11 with the traditional posting of colors. It continues with music provided by the 50 voice St. Johns County Center for Arts Chamber Singers, recognition of regional Veterans including those from the ranks of our First Responders, JROTC units, and the Rolling Thunder "Roll Call Presentation." Rear Admiral Sean S. Buck, Commander US Naval Forces Southern Command and US 4th Fleet, is the featured speaker. Service songs and "God Bless America" sung by all will close the program, with time afterwards to socialize and visit the exhibits.



Don't miss this opportunity to participate in the celebration of our nation's military and all those who served in it through the years. Meet and thank the Veterans of northeast Florida and the organizations, large and small, that support them.

More information at anuday00@aol.com,
or rothfeldm@gmail.com.



Armistice - Veterans' Commemoration Day



Monday November 12, 2018

Anastasia Baptist Church - 1650 A1A South - St. Augustine FL.

Atrium Displays 9:30 am to 11:00 am

Traveling Vietnam Wall, Agent Orange Quilt of Tears, on display.

Main Event - 11:11am

Doors Open 9:30 - On Site Parking - Public Welcome



**Military Officers Association of America- Ancient City Chapter - 501(C)(3)
Veterans Council of St. Johns County- 501(C)(3)**

Ted Pappas



**Ancient City Chapter
St. Augustine, Florida**

Veterans Day in St. Augustine Monday November 12, 2018

**Anastasia Baptist Church
1650 A1A S, St. Augustine**

Please join us as we honor our Veterans, Purple Heart recipients and Gold Star families

On display, The Traveling Vietnam Wall



and the Agent Orange Quilt of Tears

Monday November 12, Hours: Atrium displays open at 9:30 am and Veterans Day Commemoration starts at 11:11 am with the St. Johns County Center for the Arts Chamber Singers along with Dr. Roger Geronimo perform patriotic songs and a rousing Service Anthems Salute.

The Traveling Vietnam Wall and Agent Orange Quilt of Tears Motorcycle Escort

Our plan is to meet in St. Cloud, FL at the Home Depot at 7:00AM 11/11/2018

Leave there by 7:45 going by the Lakefront to Narcoossee Rd. north to the 417

417 to the I-4 in Sanford to The Harley dealership at Destination Daytona.

From Destination Daytona, leave by 10:30-11:00 AM traveling route 1 north to St. Augustine.

Please pass this on to interested parties.



Armistice - Veterans'

Commemoration Day November 12, 2018



We need your financial assistance to help organize and execute our 2018 fantastic program to celebrate our veterans and currently serving men and women of the Armed Forces this coming Veterans Day. Any amount you can contribute will be greatly appreciated so we can continue the work of honoring those who have and are still serving. Please forward this email to your friends and colleagues. Send your donation to:

Veterans Council of St. Johns County
P.O. Box 2117
St. Augustine, Florida 32085-2117

Indicate in the return memo: 2018 VDP

Best Personal Regards,
Ron Birchall - MOAA
Bill Dudley - Veterans Council
St. Johns County



Military Officers Association of America - Ancient City Chapter - 501(C)(3)
Veterans Council of St. Johns County - 501(C)(3)





Department of Veteran Affairs

St. Augustine CBOC Fact Sheet

Lease was awarded on September 6, 2018 to Construction Manager, Inc of Goldsboro CMI was formed in 2007 with a focus on high-end design-build construction projects. CMI is proud to be a veteran owned and operated small business in eastern North Carolina. They have been awarded 11 VA leases, 10 VA-CBOC's and 1 Mental Health Clinic.

Project Scope

- The project includes the property acquisition, design, development, construction, and property operation management of the CBOC.
- The design for the clinic will be based upon the VA's PACT Team model.
- **Description:** A one story building of which the VA will be the sole occupant.
- **Net Usable Square Footage:** 16 ,595
- **Parking Spaces:** 136
- **Lease Term:** 20 years

Services Provided

- Primary Care
- Mental Health
- Podiatry
- Dietician
- Lab Services
- Home Based Primary Care
- Physical Therapy

Estimated Schedule

- **Shovel in Dirt:** Projected June 2019
- **Competition:** Estimated June 2020

St. Augustine CBOC 904-829-0814
Veteran Crisis Line 1-800-273-8255

CONCEPTUAL DESIGN

Department of Veteran Affairs

St. Augustine CRDC Fact Sheet



They have been awarded 11 VA leases, 10 VA-CBOCs and 1 Mental Health Clinic. CMI is proud to be a veteran owned and operated small business in western Florida. CMI was formed in 2007. Lease was awarded in 2010.

Site Location

Southwest Corner of Deerfield Preserve and CR 207





ADVOCATE FOR VETERANS

WILLIAM DUDLEY

After a lifetime of service, Bill Dudley had more to give; he stepped up and turned the St. Johns Veterans Council into the envy of the state.

By Meeka Anne | Photography by Brian Miller

The accolades of Lieutenant Colonel Bill Dudley are too many to list. He served ten years in the Air Force active duty flying and then moved on to the Active Reserve Force. He later pursued an Aerospace career in executive management positions both in the US and abroad. Even though Dudley has now retired, he has never slowed down. He served in various levels of the Navy League of the United States until six years ago when he became the Chairman of the **Veterans Council of St. Johns County**. "My responsibilities," says Dudley about his position at the Council, "are to provide leadership and direction for the Council in support of our veterans and inform the public about our veteran's service." Under his guidance, the Council has grown and become the model for other chapters across the state to emulate.

One noteworthy accomplishment of the Council with the Lieutenant Colonel at the helm is the relationship with the Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC). A man of action, Dudley says, "The Veterans Council was very instrumental in convincing the VA to share the plans for the future of the CBOC to provide healthcare for our St. Augustine veterans. We did this by hosting two town hall meetings, writing letters to the Secretary of

the VA, members of Congress, the President, and others. We meet quarterly with the VA Chief Medical Officer and County Veteran Service Officer to discuss the continuing service of the clinic for our veterans."

Dudley also assists in encouraging youth programs throughout the county. "Most of our youth programs that support veteran's activities," he says, "are organized through our high school programs such as JROTC. The exceptions are the Sea Cadets and the Young Marines." These programs are essential as one of Dudley's most significant challenges is getting younger veterans to volunteer in leadership roles in our veterans organizations.

An integral function of the Veterans Council is organizing events across the city like Wreaths Across America, Veterans Homeless Stand Down, and the Memorial Day Ceremony. "Our next event here in St. Augustine," says Dudley, "is the annual Veterans Day Program to honor all veterans. For the past four years, we have celebrated with a Veterans Day Parade.

This year we plan to recognize our veterans at a program at Anastasia Baptist Church, which will feature our local St. Augustine HS Chorale singing patriotic songs, the traveling Vietnam Wall, the Quilt of Tears, and many other exhibits as well as a featured speaker to speak about the Centennial of Veterans Day since WW1."

"I am honored," says Lieutenant Colonel Bill Dudley, "to give back to all those who have served our country and worn the cloth of our nation."

Dudley believes that knowledge is power and says, "The rewards of this position are assisting veterans in meeting the challenges of getting the care they are entitled to, educating youth groups in the community about veteran's service, and creating an awareness in our community about those who have served our country."

"St. Johns County is a veteran-friendly county, and the city and county commissioners are extremely supportive," says Dudley. "Locals contribute to many of the veteran's programs in a very benevolent way. I am honored to give back to all those who have served our country and worn the cloth of our nation."

www.veteranscouncilsjc.org



From David Treffinger
President, Col. William G. Byrns Chapter 1059, Clay County
Editor, Florida State Council E-Recon Newsletter

Saturday, Nov. 3

Vero Beach: 9 a.m., Veterans Parade Pocahontas Park, 21st St.

Vero Beach: 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Velde Car Show, Indian River County Fairgrounds, 7955 58th Ave.

Monday, Nov. 5

Miami: 11:30 a.m., Florida International University Felsberg Veterans Plaza, located between Riccardo Silva Stadium and Parkview Hall.

Friday, Nov. 9

Melbourne: 11:30 a.m., 6769 N. Wickham Road, "Salute Our Valiant Veterans"

Saturday, Nov. 10

Green Cove Springs: 10 a.m., Spring Park, 106 Walnut St.

Melbourne: 10 a.m., Veterans Day Parade, East New Haven Ave.

Jacksonville: 2:30 p.m., 15th Annual Marine & Navy FMF Corpsmen Memorial, Evergreen Cemetery, 4535 Main St.

Crawfordville: Wakulla County Veterans Day Parade, call for start tme.

Sunday, Nov. 11

Gainesville: 10 a.m., Alachua County Veterans Day ceremony, Veterans Memorial Park, 7400 SW 41st Pl.

Stuart: 10 a.m., Veterans Day Parade, Amerigo Avenue to Memorial Park. VVA FSC Past President Ben Humphries is the guest speaker and Chapter 1041 President Lew Jones in the Grand Marshall.



Bay Pines: 11 a.m., C.W. Bill Young VA Medical Center Courtyard (between buildings 2 & 37), 10000 Bay Pines.

Gainesville: 2:30 p.m., Forest Meadows Cemetery, 3700 SE Hawthorn Road. Alumni from the 1960's local high schools will gather to honor classmates that died in Vietnam. This is the 25th year of the event.

Orange Park: 2 p.m., Veterans Memorial in Magnolia Cemetery, 1040 Kingsley Ave. (Parking is available at First Baptist Church Orange Park)

Kingsland, GA: noon, VFW, 150 Camden Woods Parkway.

Monday, Nov. 12

Green Cove Springs: 9 a.m., TAPS Monument Wreath laying ceremony, 915 Walnut St. VVA FSC 2nd Vice President Gary Newman is the guest speaker.

Vero Beach: 9 a.m., Veterans Memorial Sanctuary Island, located adjacent to Riverside Park on the Barrier Island, south of the Merrill Barber Bridge.

Palatka: 10 a.m., Veterans Parade.

Keystone Heights: 11 a.m., Keystone Heights Memorial Gardens Cemetery.

Jacksonville: 11:01 a.m., Veterans Day Parade, Downtown Jacksonville.

St. Augustine: 11 a.m., **Anastasia Baptist Church, 1650 A1A, 11 a.m. (Vietnam Traveling War and Agent Orange Quilt of Tears will be on display).**

Tallahassee/Leon County: Veterans Day Parade, call for start time.

A Hurricane Michael update from VVA 1084 President John Leslie

HURRICANE MICHAEL RELIEF UPDATE #4

1. A V V A State President Mary Anne Newman has been very active generating support from the five North-east Florida county (Clay, St. Johns, Duval, Nassau and Baker) A V V A representatives r collecting donations for Hurricane Michael victims. Mary Anne and Clay County A V V A Rep Kim Biddle along with other A V V A members collected and purchased toiletries, sorted them and made up approximately 140 hygiene kits for males and females. There was great A V V A participation throughout the collection, sorting and packaging of donated items.

2. On Monday 22 October 2018 I leased a 15 foot U-Haul box truck. A non veteran volunteer, Chapter # 1059 President, David Treffinger and myself loaded approximately 3,000 pounds of donated items from my garage and a local gun range collection site.

That evening the volunteer and I drove to Yulee in Nassau County where we met with V V A Chapter President Corky Rudd and his members. They loaded the truck with another 3,500 pounds of donated items.

3. On Tuesday 23 October 2018 V V A member Dan Sanchez and I drove the truck to St. Augustine Outlet Mall where we met with St. Johns County V V A Chapter President John Leslie and his volunteer members. They had around 3,000 - 3,500 pounds of donated items, including a new generator. After departing St. Augustine we traveled to Baker County where we met with Chapter President Johnny Crews and a volunteer member. We loaded another 2,500 pounds of donated items, including 4 gas camping stoves with gas bottles.

4. On Wednesday, 24 October 2018 my civilian volunteer and I drove to Tallahassee. We met several V V A members at their Chapter clubhouse and off loaded the donations. I was told the items were headed for Malone, Fl which is a small town that was in the direct path of the hurricane. I asked that they give the generator to the 1st responder's in Malone.

I also met with Marc McCabe and John McGinty who were assisting veterans.

While unloading we were able to make up a box of food and paper items for a Vietnam vet who was requesting aid.

5. While driving back from Tallahassee the U-Haul truck broke down. The Company sent a mechanic out but he couldn't repair it. The truck was towed and they provided a ride home for us. I went to U- Haul this morning and they agreed to cut our bill in half to compensate for the " inconvenience ". The receipt will be sent via e-mail and I will send to Ray Breault upon receiving it.

I want to report that the Chapter Presidents worked hard and did a wonderful job collecting donations. I found them energized and willing to go the extra mile. You can be proud of them, their membership, community and A V V A participation. There was a very wide range of items that will be helpful and meaningful to the hurricane victims.

Gary Newman, 2nd Vice President



Vietnam Veterans of America Chapters , 1059, 1084 and 1088 gathering and delivering much needed supplies to those affected by Hurricane Michael

Vets in the Classroom By Michael Isam St. Augustine, Fla, (October 27, 2018)

It was a whirlwind week for the Leo C. Chase, Jr. Chapter 1084, Vietnam Veterans of America.

Vietnam Veterans of America's "Vets in the Classroom", provided 4 teams of 2 persons each, to deliver a presentation entitled "Support and Defend the Constitution". The presentation was shared with 740 students at 13 venues, for a total of 37 classes, at 5 of the 6 St Johns County High Schools (Pedro Menendez, Nease, Bartram, Ponte Vedra, and Creekside), given during St. Johns County School Districts "Celebrate Freedom Week", Monday through Friday the last week of September 2018.

Chapter 1084 President John Leslie said " We were well received by the teachers, students, and the School District Staff. This week was one-year since our first "Vets in the Classroom" program, which has now reached 2300 middle and high school students, 50 Flagler College students, and 10 law enforcement officers in a Continuing Education program at the Criminal Justice Academy of St Johns River State College."

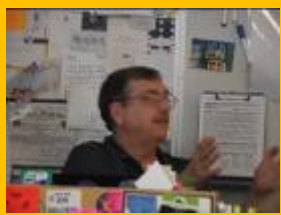
The chapter continues their involvement with the Clyde E Lassen State Veteran's Nursing Home and our members who reside there. We provide transportation for the ambulatory members to our weekly breakfast gatherings, our monthly meetings, and other veteran events in Northeast Florida such as Vets4Vets. We have breakfast on the first Monday of each month at their facility, and recently held a ceremony presenting 50-year Vietnam Lapel Pins and attending documents to 12 eligible veterans.

Meetings are held at 11:00 A. M., the 4th Tuesday of every month at the Village Inn restaurant, located at 900 N. Ponce De Leon Blvd.

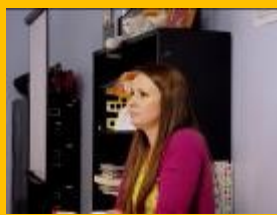
If you are a Veteran of the Vietnam War and wish to join, be advised, the cost of a lifetime membership has been reduced to \$50.00. Contact John Leslie at (904) 233-4712



John McGinty



Mr. Hoog



Ms Laura Wynn



Robert Dinkins

The Exhibit will be powerful, riveting and sometimes raw! The Exhibit gives voice to the artists and to society through their artworks. They probe and speak as not someone lost in darkness, but as one emerging into the light with more clarity and introspection, knowing where they came from, and who they are as human beings!

INVISIBLE BECOMING VISIBLE: AN EXHIBITION OF VETERANS' ART

October 29 - December 7, 2018

Reception: November 8, 2018
6:00 - 8:00 PM || Lufrano Gallery

University of North Florida
1 UNF Drive, Student Union, Room 2309, Jacksonville, FL 32224
Parking available for \$5 in Arena Garage



NATIONAL VETERANS ART EXHIBIT (NVAE)

is the first nationally curated veteran art exhibit of its genre; exploring the healing power of art by veterans with over 60 years of military service spanning part of the Cold War through the Middle East hostilities. The artists have embraced art as an outlet to manage their lives; to make the *invisible become visible*. Art becomes a catharsis to release the trauma and mental torture of the past, opening venues of healing and enlightenment, while fostering an understanding for their loved ones and society.

Invited artists are from diverse demographics and various services. They have been recognized with valor and meritorious awards, including the POW Medal, multiple Purple Hearts, Bronze Stars, and numerous service ribbons.

Art work is eclectic and diverse as the veterans themselves; some classical in style, others less structured, mixed with raw, edgy street art and a variety of media. Art creations are as different as each artist's experiences and deployments.

Veteran artists invited are _____

Theodore Gostas, WY

Army; Major (RET); former Vietnam POW; spent 4.5 years in solitary confinement of 5+ years as POW.

Barbara Barnett, WA

Army; Cold War (Germany) and Vietnam era.

Johnathan Clark, IL

Army; 173rd Airborne Brigade; Afghanistan.

David Keefe, NJ

Marine Corps; Iraq; Riverine Inf. Scout; co-developed Combat Paper NJ.

James Miller, IN

Army; Iraq; Team Delta/Task Force 293.

Skip Rohde, NC

Navy (RET); served in Cold War (Bosnia); Vietnam era & Afghanistan (civ).

DONATE NOW to Support These Veteran Artists



Our veteran artists served our country selflessly; with distinction, valor and honor. Please consider a donation to offset travel and lodging expenses for the artists while they honor us with their presence during the NVAE Reception. All donations will be spent on behalf of the veterans!

WWW.DONORBOX.ORG/VETERANS-ART-PROJECT



UNF Chapter of Student
Veterans of America

For more information contact Jerome Domask at
JerryDomask@gmail.com



Fellow veterans,

Please put this out to your veterans organizations. It is important that our constitutional officers remain as elected officials. This amendment assures these officers directly serve the people who elected them and not a charter government.

As we get closer to election time in Nov, please plan to have Sheriff Shoar as your invited guest to speak to your veterans about this important amendment.

William Dudley, Chairman
Veterans Council of St. Johns County
anuday00@aol.com

PROTECT10N AMENDMENT

Amendment 10:

The Protection Amendment

Your Sheriff wants you to learn more about Amendment 10 before this November's General Election, please visit Amendment10.org



■ PROTECTS OUR RIGHT TO VOTE

Ensures all constitutional officers in your county are elected (sheriff, tax collector, property appraiser, clerk of court and supervisor of elections).

■ PROTECTS OUR FAMILIES

Creates the Office of Domestic Security and Counterterrorism within the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.

■ PROTECTS OUR TAX DOLLARS

Improves state budgeting by starting the Legislature's annual session in January of even-numbered years.

■ PROTECTS OUR VETERANS

Preserves the structure and governance of the Department of Veterans' Affairs to support the changing needs of Florida's military members.

PROTECT10N AMENDMENT

No. 10
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
ARTICLE III, SECTION 3
ARTICLE IV, SECTIONS 4, 11
ARTICLE VIII, SECTIONS 1, 6

State and Local Government Structure and Operation

Requires legislature to retain department of veterans' affairs. Ensures election of sheriffs, property appraisers, supervisors of elections, tax collectors, and clerks of court in all counties; removes county charters' ability to abolish, change term, transfer duties, or eliminate election of these offices. Changes annual legislative session commencement date in even numbered years from March to January; removes legislature's authorization to fix another date. Creates office of domestic security and counterterrorism within department of law enforcement.

Yes

No

Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc. Minutes of October 25, 2018

Officers present: Chairman Bill Dudley, Vice Chairman Ray Quinn, Secretary Michael Rothfeld
Treasurer John Mountcastle

Chairman Dudley called the meeting to order at 1900 hours

Chairman Dudley led the Pledge to the Flag

Vice Chairman Ray Quinn gave the Invocation

Minutes were approved as presented, The Treasurer's Report was approved as amended

Introduction of Guests: Sam Williams, Director of SJC Prisons; Gary Newman, 2nd VP VVA FL State Council

Speakers:

Samuel Williams, Director of SJC Prisons: Director Williams spoke about Amendment 10 and how important it was to support it. The Amendment ensures all constitutional officers in SJC are elected and NOT appointed.

Dr. Michael Butler, History Professor Flagler College: Dr Butler spoke of his



Dr. Butler

two trips to Vietnam accompanied by Flagler students and what he observed there. Dr Butler traveled to Saigon, Khe Sanh, and Hanoi and toured with a Vietnamese (Communist) guide. All locations visited showed the Communist Party propaganda message that was in all cases false and opposite of what we know to be the truth. The students recognized the Vietnamese government's propaganda immediately. The most glaring falsehood was that the "Hanoi Hilton" did not house American POWs!".



Director Williams

Committee Reports:

Mac, SJC VSO: the VA has concerted all paper files to digital. The VA will issue a release clarifying the new CBOC location on SR 207. Nov. 6, SJC Commissioners will issue a Veterans Day Proclamation at 9am, all are asked to attend.

John L: Please try to attend the VA Whole Health Summit at UNF, Nov. 14, 8:30 am to 1 pm, The Veterans Treatment Court has 3 new mentors. Nov. 5-9, VVA 1084 will be resuming its "Veterans in the Classroom" program. VVA 1084 has collected over \$ 2300 in cash and the same in donations. VVA now has only one membership level, Lifetime for \$ 50.

VVA 1084 has an upcoming Fundraise on Dec. 31, at the St Aug Beach Pier pavilion, from 5 to 10 pm. Please support this.

Ray: Wreaths Across America is on target to reach its goal this year of having a wreath placed on every headstone in the St Augustine National Cemetery. Judy Davis is the co-coordinator. The event is 12 noon

on Saturday Dec. 15.

Bill: Please ask everyone to attend the Veterans Day Commemoration on Monday Nov. 12 starting at 9:30 am at Anastasia Baptist Church, 1650 A1A S. On exhibit The Traveling Vietnam Wall, the Agent Orange Quilt of Tears, the Lighthouses 100 year old time capsule with 1200 Florida KIAs, and a WW I exhibit by the NE FL Military Museum. There will be a special recognition of local First Responders who were also veterans, Purple Heart recipients and Gold Star families. Local JROTCs and the St Augustine High School Chamber Singers will be performing a medley of Patriotic Songs.

Steve: MIAPs next ceremony will be on Nov. 3rd at Cape Canaveral National Cemetery.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

The next meeting of the Veterans Council will be on Thursday, November 29, 7 pm in the Health & Human Services Building, 200 San Sebastian View.

Future speakers:

November 29, Andrew Coughlan, Wounded Warrior Project, Resource Development and

Michele McManamon, Co founder/ Executive Director, Operation New Uniform

December 27, Margaret Kaplan, Administrator, Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home

Jill M. Lancaster, 2nd VP, Women's Army Corps Veterans Association, Chapter # 56, Jax.

January 31, Tom Waskovich, Green Beret, Vietnam Veteran, MACVSOG and

Veronica Nieves, Red Cross, Team RWB, American Red Cross- Service to the Armed Forces

February 28, Jessica Bradstreet, Dept. of VA, Local Recovery Coordinator

Mr. Jud Dannon, B2B, Battlefields to Ballfields



Veteran and his K-9 companion surprised with new home

Real estate company donates home to graduate of K9s for Warriors program

By **Joy Purdy** - 5:30, 6:30 & 11 p.m. anchor

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. - After serving his country, then experiencing some of the worst trauma afterward, a local Army veteran had hit rock bottom.

Rick Smith has been through it all after serving overseas -- post-traumatic stress disorder, a traumatic brain injury and suicide attempts.

But Smith's recovery has been remarkable with the help of a K-9 companion from K9s for Warriors, which rescues dogs then trains them to be service dogs for veterans suffering from PTSD and traumatic brain injuries.

Then, on Wednesday, Smith was surprised with the ultimate gift: a new home. Smith was seemingly overwhelmed as a crowd of people greeted him for the housewarming party of sorts.

Smith was handed the keys before he and his service dog, Berkeley, walked into their new home in the Lakeshore area of Jacksonville's Westside for the first time.

"It's like I'm in a dream," Smith said. "I mean, it's like, 'Is this really happening?'"

He shared the special moment with his family, who said it was also a celebration of the huge life strides Smith has made.

"He's had it rough, but he's had a lot of good people standing behind him and help him," said Alton and Brenda Smith, his parents.

That help came from the nonprofit K9s for **Warriors** pairing canine companion Berkeley with Smith, after the Army and Alabama National Guard veteran suffered severe head trauma in Kuwait, followed by PTSD, including blackouts, nightmares and flashbacks.

"I'm just overwhelmed (with) compassion and thankfulness for what they've done for me here," Smith said.

With Berkeley's help, Smith has powered back, and is now very active, volunteering in his community.

He had been living with his parents until now.

The house was donated to Smith by local real estate company JWB, which wanted to give back to veterans in the Jacksonville community when its team met Smith, the graduate of the K9s for Warriors program.



When will the MC upgrade this Marines Navy Cross for his extraordinary heroism, Rick Binns USMC 1st Recon Battle of Hill 488. LTC Robert Adelhelm, USMC (Ret)



Rick Binns was born in The Bronx, New York on 25 December 1945. In 1963, he enlisted in the Marine Corps and attended recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island. He was subsequently trained in an infantry specialty as an anti-tank assault man, assigned the Military Occupational Specialty code of 0351. He was then assigned to 1st Battalion 8th Marines at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune until he volunteered for duty in the Vietnam War. There, he served with a military police unit until assigned to 2nd Battalion 9th Marines. He was reassigned to Company C of 1st Reconnaissance Battalion after volunteering for training as a reconnaissance man and was awarded a meritorious promotion to Lance Corporal.

On the evening of 13 June 1966, Binns's platoon of 18, under the leadership of then-Staff Sergeant Jimmie E. Howard were dropped behind enemy lines atop Hill 488, known to locals as Nui Vu, near Chu Lai and Tam Kỳ, with a mission to observe enemy troop movements in the Hiệp Đức Valley, and call in artillery and airstrikes. Within two days, the North Vietnamese Army detected the observation post and descended on them in force. On the night of the 15th, a nearby Army Special Forces team radioed warning that a full battalion of about 200 to 250 regulars and several Viet Cong were closing in. At 2200 that night, Binns fired the first shots from his M14 rifle, and the enemy soon engaged the Marines too close for their fire support to assist, though a C-47 did deploy flares for illumination. Binns exposed himself numerous times to recover wounded personnel despite his own wounds, as he was distributing ammunition and taking charge when Howard was wounded or busy on the radio. Late into the night of the 15th, as Marines traded taunts with the enemy, desperate pilots began dangerously close air support missions. By dawn on the 16th, the beleaguered platoon held their position, killing approximately 200 enemies at a cost of 6 of the platoon in the 12 hours of intense fighting. Binns was one of four Navy Cross recipients during the battle, while Howard would be awarded the Medal of Honor and the remaining thirteen received Silver Stars.

Wounded in the battle, Binns refused assistance once a company from 1st Battalion 5th Ma-

rines arrived to relieve the Marines.[7] Awarded his second Purple Heart, he was unable to fully recover, placed on a temporary retirement list and eventually medically discharged in 1971. In 2011 he resided in Idaho.

Navy Cross Citation

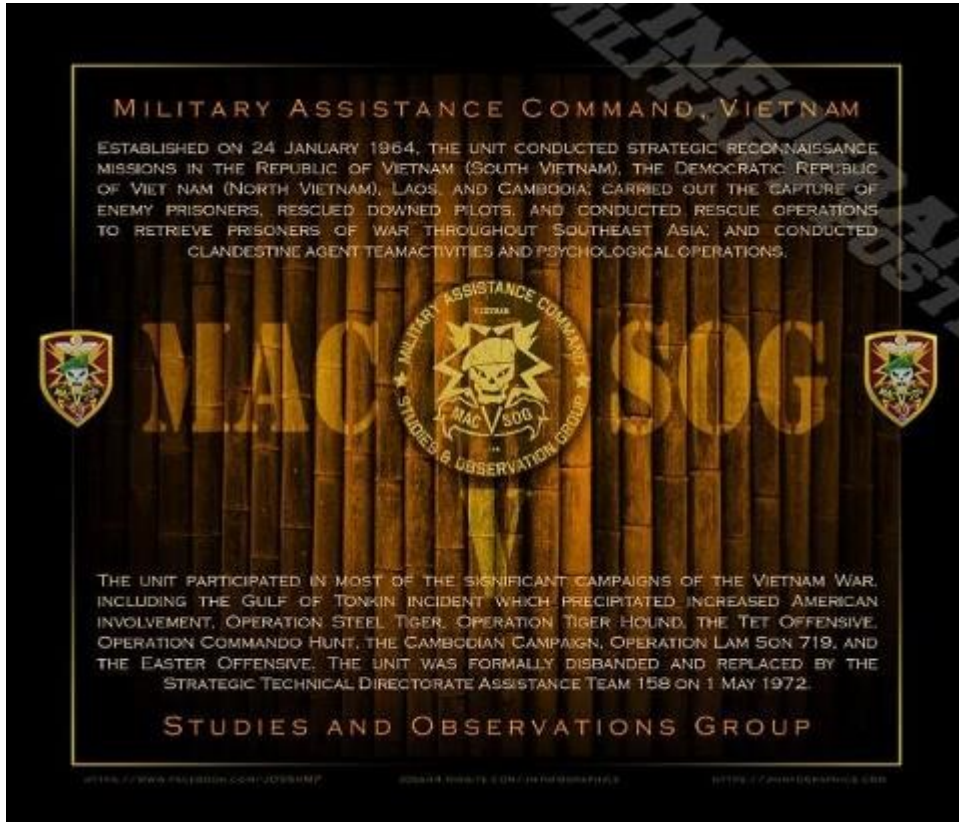
**The President of the United States
Takes Pleasure in Presenting The Navy Cross To**

Corporal Ricardo C. Binns

United States Marine Corps for service as set forth in the following citation:

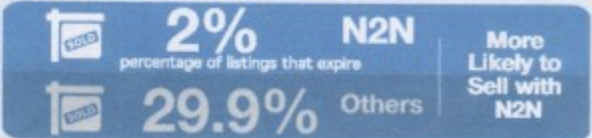
The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Navy Cross to Corporal [then Lance Corporal] Ricardo C. Binns, United States Marine Corps, for extraordinary heroism as a Scout Team Leader, Company C, First Force Reconnaissance Battalion, First Marine Division (Reinforced), Fleet Marine Force, in the Republic of Vietnam on the night of 15–16 June 1966. Corporal Binns' platoon established an observation post deep within communist controlled territory to observe enemy movement. At 0100 a massive assault was launched against the Marine position by a determined and well-trained North Vietnamese battalion. The murderous enemy fire was so intense that five of the eighteen-man platoon were killed and the remainder wounded. On two separate occasions, with complete disregard for his personal safety, Corporal Binns braved the withering enemy fire to forcibly pull to the ground severely wounded Marines who had unconsciously exposed themselves to almost certain death. Realizing that his Platoon Leader was wounded and unable to move, and preoccupied with the direction of close support aircraft, Corporal Binns took it upon himself to direct the fire of the remaining seven Marines, redistribute the ammunition of those who could not use it, and care for the wounded. Although painfully wounded in both legs, Corporal Binns displayed magnificent courage throughout the night and long into the following morning. His selfless devotion to duty, superb professional skill, deep concern for his fellow Marines, and extraordinary heroism inspired all who observed him and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and of the United States Naval Service.

The Veterans Council of St. Johns County is proud to announce that our guest speaker at our January 31st meeting will be Tom Waskovich, Vietnam Veteran, Green Beret who will speak about his military experiences.



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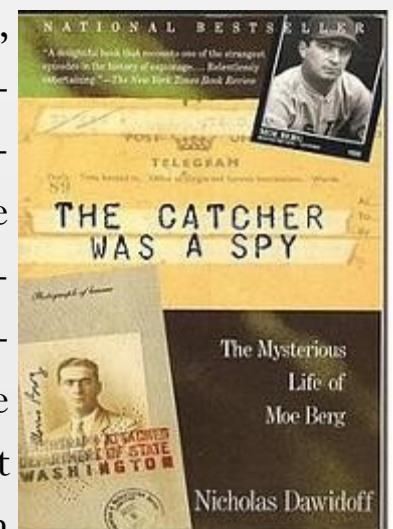


Moe Berg, Baseball Player, Spy

Morris Berg (March 2, 1902 – May 29, 1972) was an American catcher and coach in Major League Baseball who later served as a spy for the Office of Strategic Services during World War II. Although he played 15 seasons in the major leagues, almost entirely for four American League teams, Berg was never more than an average player, usually used as a backup catcher, and was better known for being "the brainiest guy in baseball" than for anything he accomplished in the game. Casey Stengel once described Berg as "the strangest man ever to play baseball".

A graduate of Princeton University and Columbia Law School, Berg spoke several languages and regularly read 10 newspapers a day. His reputation was fueled by his successful appearances as a contestant on the radio quiz show *Information, Please*, in which he answered questions about the derivation of words and names from Greek and Latin, historical events in Europe and the Far East, and ongoing international conferences.

As a spy working for the government of the United States, Berg traveled to Yugoslavia to gather intelligence on resistance groups the U.S. government was considering supporting. He was then sent on a mission to Italy, where he interviewed various physicists concerning the German nuclear program. After the war, Berg was occasionally employed by the OSS's successor, the Central Intelligence Agency, but, by the mid-1950s, was unemployed. He spent the last two decades of his life without work, living with various siblings.



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THIS RIFLE**

 **BROWNING**

**270 Rifle - Bolt Action,
Long Barrel with Suppressor
& Bushnell Trophy Scope**

\$20 TICKETS

MAX. OF 300 TICKETS WILL BE SOLD

DO NOT NEED TO BE PRESENT TO WIN - DRAWING HELD DECEMBER 1ST

 **BAKER COUNTY
VETERANS COUNCIL** 

Larry **904-769-2445**

Dan **904-962-5845**

Jim **904-254-7539**

Hank **904-707-1799**



**ALL PROCEEDS
TO BENEFIT
BAKER COUNTY
VETERANS IN NEED
& THEIR FAMILIES**



Saturday, October 20
USO Armed Forces Half Marathon & Freedom 5K

7:00 A.M., Metropolitan Park,
Race Hotline: 760-994-2168

Saturday, October 27 - Sunday,
October 28

NAS Jax Air Show

10:00 A.M., NAS Jacksonville,
POC: nasjaxairshow@navy.mil

Monday, October 29 - Friday,
December 7

**Invisible Becoming Visible: An
Exhibition of Veterans' Art**

UNF Student Union, Lufrano Gallery,
POC: JerryDomask@gmail.com

Sunday, November 4

7th Annual Salute to Veterans 5K

8:00 A.M., Riverside Arts Market ,
POC: S2V5k@yahoo.com

Monday, November 6

**JAX Chamber 16th Annual Military
Appreciation Luncheon**

11:30 A.M. – 1:30 P.M.
Hyatt Regency Riverfront, POC:
Rachel.Harris@myjaxchamber.com

Thursday, November 8

**University of North Florida Veterans
Day Tribute**

10:30 A.M., Veterans Plaza at UNF
Student Union ,
POC: mvrc@unf.edu

Friday, November 9

**Veteran Art Display (through Nov.
16th)**

3:00 P.M., City Hall Atrium,
POC: KenJohns@coj.net

Saturday, November 10

**Wounded Warrior Project Carry
Forward 5K**

7:30 A.M., Wounded Warrior Project

Headquarters,

POC: carryforward@woundedwarriorproject.org

Saturday, November 10

**15th Annual Marine & Navy FMF
Corpsmen Memorial**

2:30 P.M., Evergreen Cemetery,
POC: adelhelm0302@gmail.com

Monday, November 11

Veterans Day Parade

11:01 A.M., Downtown Jacksonville,
POC: 904-630-3690, events@coj.net

Memorial Park Veterans Day Program

5:00 P.M., Memorial Park
POC: info@memparkjax.org

Wednesday, November 14

**Department of Veterans Affairs Mental
Health Forum**

9:00 A.M., Legends Center,
POC: Jessica.Bradstreet@va.gov

Thursday, November 15

**Dental Services for Veterans Provided
by Aspen Dental**

(Pre-registration required)
9:00 A.M.—2:30 A.M.
POC: CarolineA@coj.net

Tuesday, November 14

**Military and Veteran Job and
Resource Fair**

10:00 A.M.- 2:00 P.M., Kingdom Plaza,
POC: KenJohns@coj.net

Sunday, December 2

**Jacksonville Jaguars vs. Indianapolis
Colts Military Appreciation Game**

1:00 P.M., TIAA Bank Field

**Military and Veteran High School
Visits**

POC: HConyers@coj.net

ESGRSU



NEIGHBORS IN NEED



The Veterans Council of St. Johns County would like your help in the annual drive for **Wreaths Across America**.

The council is dedicated to ensuring that every headstone in the St. Augustine National Cemetery is adorned with a live holiday wreath this year. You have probably seen this campaign on local and national news.

The community is invited to send donations to purchase the wreaths. Individual wreaths are \$15.00. If two wreaths are purchased at \$30.00 the council receives a free wreath (3 for cost of 2). Our local businesses are encouraged to participate. With more than 1,200 gravesites, the project is truly considerable.

The community is invited to the St. Augustine National Cemetery on December 15, 2018, at 12:00 p.m. for a ceremony followed by placement of the wreaths. Youth organizations are encouraged to participate to learn and honor our veterans.

Make your checks payable to **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA** and send to: Veterans Council of St. Johns County, P. O. Box 2117, St. Augustine, FL 32085-2117. We are a 501(c)(3) for donation purposes.

For any additional information please contact: CPT-USA (Fmr) George Linardos at 904-495-6111.

St. Anastasia Catholic Church in conjunction with The Knights of Columbus Council # 7121 will host its 16th year Veterans Day Tribute mass Friday November 9th at 9.00 am. The Mass will Honor Veterans of all Wars, Living and Deceased. Veterans of all Branches and those who presently serve in the military are invited to attend.

The Mass Tribute is open to men and women of all faiths. Participants are asked to gather in the Church Northex by 8.45 am.

Veterans will be escorted into the Church by The Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Color Guard. Military uniforms or Organization attire and Unit hats are encouraged.

The Knights of Columbus Council # 7121 will again Host a reception after mass in the New Formation Center, to further Honor all Veterans their Families and everyone who attends the Mass are also invited.

Anyone who needs Assistance to attend the Mass, Please call Tom Peckenham 904-797-2295 to make arrangements.

St Anastasia Catholic Church is located at 5201 A1A South Thanks Tom Peckenham

MISSING IN AMERICA PROJECT - FLORIDA

9/27/2018

NATIONAL PROGRESS AS OF 9/26/2018

Total Funeral Homes Visited - 2,293
Cremains Found - 17,923
Veterans Cremains Identified - 3,996
Veterans Interred - 3,669

FLORIDA PROGRESS AS OF 9/27/2018

Total Funeral Homes Visited - 154
Cremains Found - 1,404
Number to be interred - 82
Missions Scheduled - 1
Veterans Interred - 220
Spouses Interred - 92
Dependents Interred - 1



MIAP is in the planning stages for CALL TO HONOR #17 which will be on Saturday, November 3, 2018 at the Cape Canaveral National Cemetery @ 10:00am. We will continue to publish details of this service as the planning progresses. For this service we will be interring 18 veterans and 6 spouses from two funeral homes close to the CCNC. The longest that any of these went unclaimed is 1964. Included in this service are veterans that served in the USA, USMC, USN and the USAF during the WWI, WWII, Korea and Vietnam wars. There are 3 husbands and wives that will be interred together.

Our volunteers continue to dedicate their time to locate the unclaimed cremains of veterans in the State of Florida. I myself continue to travel the State doing presentations to get more supporters and volunteers to join us so we can continue our work in Florida. We have a team starting up in Volusia County and a new team in Brevard County as well.

Donations are graciously accepted. You can donate to MIAP by check, made out to MIAP-FL and mail to the address below. You can also donate via PayPal by going to our website, click on Make a Donation, choose option #3 PayPal and click on Florida. Your donations will help MIAP to continue our work with this honorable project. We will gladly send you a donation receipt.

Please go to our website at www.miap.us to read more about our project and find out how you can become involved with MIAP in your area. Please feel free to contact myself at my info listed below.

Kathy Church, MIAP – FL State Coordinator

(904) 219-3035, 1205 2nd Street S

Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250

miapjax@yahoo.com

GUESS WHO?



Rick Rees



Terry Allan

November 3rd, 2018
0800-0945 Registration
\$20 Per Bike \$10 Per Passenger

**AIR FORCE SERGEANTS ASSOCIATION/AMERICAN LEGION CHAPTER 9
POKER RUN**

1000 hrs Kick Stands Up
Middleburg Post 250
Post 202 Keystone Heights for Lunch
The Timbuktu Lounge
Post 137 San Juan Ave
End @ Post 9 Last Card Draw

BREAKFAST @ POST 9

RAFFLES **TICKET** **50/50**

AMERICAN LEGION POST 9 6242 OLD SOUTEL CT, JACKSONVILLE, FL 32219

CHARITIES BENEFITED
WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA
K9'S FOR WARRIORS
MISSING IN AMERICA PROJECT





“Imagine”, by John Zimmerlee October 2, 2018

Imagine, you’re 18 years old and a proud American. World War II has been over for five years and you are not sure what you want to do for the rest of your life, so you take a chance, sign up for Active Army Duty to see the world and make up your mind.



First stop . . . Japan! Wow, what an experience!

Days later, you learn that North Korea has invaded South Korea and your upcoming assignment is in Pusan to push back the North Koreans. Fresh off the boat, you immediately hit the battlefields and wind up in Hadong where bodies are dropping everywhere. Your commander tells you to surrender and you drop your weapon. It is July 27, 1950.

Almost immediately, your government lists you as MIA, “Missing in Action” . . . along with 46 others who were also known to be captured, yet labeled MIA. But, you assume that your country knows you are a POW and will be coming to get you very soon.

Your captors line you up and start marching you North. The line is as far North as you can see. Fear rushes in.

Months later you are finally in Pyongyang. American Forces were approaching. Three of you are bound together at the East Gate Ferry site along the Taedong River in Pyongyang. The guards beat you up and toss you into the river. You all drown.

Days later, your Comrades recovered your 3 remains and buried them on the west side of the courtyard of the Provincial Government Building. On October 24, 1950, George Gibbs disinterred the bodies and found your ration card in the jacket pocket of one of the remains. The remains were moved to the Military Cemetery in Pyongyang and buried on plot A, Row 1, Grave 9. A report was filed that you died as a POW but your family was never told and you remained just “Missing in Action.”

According to enemy documents that our government claims . . . to this day . . . to be confidential, your name appeared in those documents during the war. Prior to your death, you were photographed by the enemy and you were identified by the “Office of Special Investigation” from those photos as an obvious POW, but your family was never told and you remained “Missing in Action.”

After the war, remains were shipped from North Korea to South Korea and N-17030 was among them. It appears to be the same remains that had your ration card in the shirt pocket. But as of 1955, your remains were reburied as an unknown in the National Cemetery of the Pacific in Hawaii, grave number 333 and you remained “Missing in Action”.

With a budget of \$140 million a year, DPAA has been sitting on this compelling information while their laboratory was just 9 miles from your remains . . . for the last 63 years.

In reality, James Elbert Beller, we hope that our government will soon open your file; give your case the attention it so deserves; disinter these remains; identify you; return you to your family . . . and no longer refer to you as just “Missing in Action”!!!

John Leslie: Johnny and all of the donated supplies and the supplies he purchased with money donated in the last few weeks, for the hurricane relief. Florida was hit pretty hard in certain parts. They need the help so badly. Luckily these people won't have to deal with the cold weather that is just beginning to happen for most people. That is about the only blessing, besides the help they get from groups like the Vietnam Veterans Of America, Chapter 1048, St. John's County, St. Augustine, Florida. These supplies will be added to other donations from around the county tomorrow morning. They will be loaded in to a large truck and driven down to the people who are waiting for them. God bless them and all of you who gave so generously. John was so humbled by the generosity of his old friends and fellow workers at the yearly Northrup Grumman picnic a few weeks ago. Thank you to all of those who gave, he really appreciated it.



UCF Veterans Legacy Program launches event to showcase veterans' research


ORLANDO, FL. (Oct. 23, 2018) – The University of Central Florida History Department and Center for Humanities and Digital Research faculty, staff and students will share research and discoveries during “Bringing their Stories to Life: The Veterans Legacy Program at St. Augustine National Cemetery.”

The event will take place Thursday, November 29, 2018 at 10 a.m. and is free and open to the public. The event will commemorate the centennial of the US role in World War I through the stories of African American soldiers buried in St. Augustine and Floridians who fought and are buried in France. We will also highlight 19th Century Wars as part of an introduction to the history of the St. Augustine National Cemetery. An interactive demonstration will also take place, allowing community members the opportunity to explore biographies of veterans buried in national cemeteries.

Launched in 2016, the National Cemetery Administration's Veterans Legacy Program aims to memorialize veterans' service to the nation. By partnering with academic

communities of scholars and students to conduct research about the lives of veterans, the program is able to share their stories and service with younger students and the general public.

The National Cemetery Administration selected UCF as one of three schools awarded contracts as inaugural VLP partners in 2017. UCF is proud of its continued partnership with the NCA as it was awarded an additional contract in 2018. The History Department and the Center for Humanities and Digital Research are committed to doing publicly engaged research and this partnership builds on a number of ongoing and relevant research projects, including the UCF Community Veterans History Project and RICHES digital archive.



THE NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION &
THE UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA
VETERANS LEGACY PROGRAM
PRESENT

**BRINGING THEIR
STORIES TO LIFE:**

THE VETERANS LEGACY PROGRAM AT
ST. AUGUSTINE NATIONAL CEMETERY

Thursday, November 29, 2018
10:00am to Noon
St. Augustine National Cemetery
104 Marine Street, St. Augustine, FL 32084

This event showcases the research and discoveries of
UCF History Department and Center for Humanities and Digital Research
faculty, staff and students.

- Free and open to the public -
RSVP to Tiffany.Rivera@ucf.edu by November 26.

SAVE THE DATE

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

North Florida / South Georgia Veterans Health System

On behalf of North Florida South Georgia Veterans Health System (NF/SGVHS), we would like to invite you to attend in the 2018 **Jacksonville VA Outpatient Clinic (OPC)/Community Whole Health Summit** on Wednesday, November 14th at The Legends Center 5054 Soutel Drive in Jacksonville, FL 32208. The event will begin at 8:30 a.m.

As part of the City of Jacksonville's Week of Valor, this will be the 6th year of facilitating VA/Community Summits in Duval County. Previously the focus has been on topics related the overall mental health and well-being of Veterans. This year, VA is striving to increase collaboration with the community in addressing subjects that reflect an integrated approach to health and mental health care.

Topics will include:

- * **Whole Health and Integrated Care for Health and Wellness**
- * **Suicide Prevention Initiatives and Partnerships**
- * **Mindfulness in Emotional Environments**
- * **Medication Assisted Therapies for Opiate Treatment Alternatives**
- * **Local Opioid Epidemic Initiatives Information**
- * **Same Day Access to Care**
- * **The New Jacksonville VA OPC Community Resource and Referral Center**

The goal through the Jacksonville VA OPC/Community Whole Health Summit is to engage in active dialogue on how we, as a community, can address the health and wellness needs of Veterans and their families through collaboration between NF/SGVHS, Veterans, and community partners.

Please RSVP to Jessica Bradstreet, LCSW at Jessica.Bradstreet@va.gov or 904-239-8812, with your name and/or representative(s) who is attending. Pre-registration is appreciated.

If you are requesting to provide program/agency information at the event, Vendors are asked to direct their emails to Jessica.Bradstreet@va.gov. Vendor space is limited, Vendors must be pre-registered.

We ask that everyone bring business cards to share. There will be time for networking after the event.

Breakfast will be provided. CEU's pending.

~This event is open to the Public~

Internet: <https://www.northflorida.va.gov/>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/VANFSG/>

Veterans deserve to be honored too...

Why are Veterans excluded from the memorial named in their honor, the city of Jacksonville's Veterans Memorial Wall?



The current criteria as written actually precludes Veterans from being eligible and was recently made even more confusing by an ill advised mayoral executive order. The criteria stated home of record Jacksonville or attended HS in Jacksonville, served in time of war (last declared War was WWII) and killed or died on active duty. The criteria now has changed home of record to merely residing in Jacksonville.

The criteria and the mayoral executive order still do not address the exclusion of Veterans. A Veteran is defined, under Title 38, US Code of Federal Regulations, as a person who served in the active military and who was discharged or released under conditions, other than dishonorable. Criteria that states: die or killed on active duty this automatically excludes Veteran. It excludes Veterans like Cpl Tyler Southern USMC and others warriors like him simply because they survived their wounds and were discharged under honorable conditions, yet allows decisions to be made to honor in perpetuity anyone on active duty who dies of anything and is from anywhere, it seems, on this hometown memorial.

Veterans like Cpl Southern are currently ineligible from being recognized in his home town, his Home of Record, where he went to HS and volunteered to serve during a war. But the criteria and mayoral executive order allows and has opened the door for individuals to be added to this memorial who: never served in combat, in harm's way, died of motor vehicle accidents, domestic disputes, sport sky diving accidents, training for a marathon, suicide while under investigation and they or a family member who merely resided in Jacksonville can be added to this "Hometown Memorial". This diminishes the honor and significance of this memorial's intended purpose. It also demeans the sacrifices of those on this memorial like PFC Robert Jenkins USMC Medal of Honor recipient who jumped on a grenade to save the lives of his fellow comrades. It is hard to equate being recognized on the wall, for any of the aforementioned and compare it to jumping on a grenade to save lives, yet this is exactly what is happening here.

If the intent was to exclude Veterans, maybe it is time to change the name of this memorial to simply “Memorial Wall”. But, if it is to be a true Veteran’s Memorial, than start adding Veterans to the memorial and start restoring the honor and integrity to process of recognizing those being added to this Veterans Memorial.

The current selection process needs to change along with the criteria and there needs to be more Veteran involvement in the selection process. A council of Veterans should be allowed to review the criteria of both home of record and time of war. Initial criteria called for “Home of Record” to be Jacksonville, FL. But recently, it has become clear that some are being added from other states, even though their home of record is not Florida. They did not go to HS here, enlist here nor are some even buried here; they are buried in their hometowns. The adding of those from outside of our community is confusing; the sole purpose of the wall was to honor those whose “hometown” was Jacksonville. Most importantly, Veterans like Cpl Southern need to be made eligible to be recognized on their hometown memorial for their service and sacrifice.

An appropriate distinction needs to be made between merely serving and those who served and sacrificed and equally as important those who survived the wounds of war during their service and were discharged...a Veteran. A Council of Veterans can help in avoiding the confusion currently surrounding why some have been placed on the wall from outside the state of Florida and didn’t die as a result of combat or combat support. Most Veterans know who should be honored and who should be recognized on a Veterans Memorial in perpetuity. In my humble opinion, Cpl Tyler Southern and warriors like him from this community should be eligible to be recognized.

R Adelhelm

LtCol USMC ret

The Rotary Club of Apopka, the City of Apopka, and the Harper Family Charitable Foundation are proud to host the Fall Family Festival & Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall Veterans Day Weekend Nov 7-11 at Kit Land Nelson Park, Apopka Florida



THE VIETNAM TRAVELING MEMORIAL WALL ®

Open 24hrs per day Wednesday Nov 7th 6pm till Sunday Nov 11th @8pm

**Schedule of Events
Wednesday**

10am Honor Escort
Escort Celebration 11:30a
Live Music & Food Trucks

Opening Ceremony

Wed 6pm - Gazebo
Veterans Appreciation
Celebration

Thurs/Friday 9a-4p

School/Youth Group
Field Trips

Saturday 10am

Flag Honor Walk Roll Call
Vietnam Veteran Honor Roll Call

Sunday 11am

VFW Service
Military Flyover
8pm - Taps

Static Displays

Military Vehicles
Helicopters
VFW
American Legion
Orlando VA
Florida Hospital
Vitas Healthcare
Armed Services Recruiters

Weekend Features

Live Music
Food Vendors
Merchandise Vendors
Beer/Wine Garden
Carnival Rides

HONOR Escort Info

Orlando Apopka Airport
1321 Apopka Airport Rd
US hwy 441 just west of SR429
Wednesday Nov 7th
Line up at 8:30a-9:00a
Escort Starts @10:00a Sharp



Distributed by:

VITAS
Healthcare
SINCE 1980

Info @ FallFamilyFestival.com

From Robert Adelhelm, LTC, USMC (Ret)

Semper Fidelis Society



Taking care of Marines is a SF priority. Adding Sgt Randall Hansen to the the city memorial is one of these priorities. Although we have been stonewalled, dismissed and ignored by the representatives, we still fight on...it's called SEMPER FIDELIS and some of us still have it.

There is now talk of adding another wall in another area of the city to include PTSD victims like Sgt Hanson...Those the city reps feel are not worthy enough to be recognized on a home town Veterans Memorial Wall with other Veterans. Placing/isolating all the victims of PTSD in ANOTHER SEPARATE LOCATION... Is this a good idea? Are victims of PTSD less worthy? PTSD, TBI are are result of service and in most cases COMBAT and are worthy of being recognized; it shows the true cost of war.

If we can add individuals to this memorial who died as a result of a domestic dispute, auto mobile accident, civilian sky diving accident, running and getting hit by a car, suicide while under investigation and others like this...WHY can't we start recognizing those who died as result of combat related PTSD and TBI??

Not recognizing service related PTSD and TBI is no different than if the NFL said CTI has nothing to do with football. It is time we wake up and stop allowing those who never served and wouldn't serve from making decisions as to who is worthy of being recognized or not. PTSD victims in most cases are combat related casualties and their deaths as a result caused by combat...They are Veterans worthy of being remembered and not forgotten.

Oh, to the local radio host when approached to help, said he doesn't believe in PTSD and equated those who have it and suffer from it as no different than his own experience as an 11 year old of being told the Disney world gates had closed and he couldn't get in to Disney world...UNBELIEVABLE...YOU ARE FOOL...GOD HELP YOU!! Yes, these are the types we have to deal with.

“The brave men and women, who serve their country and as a result, live constantly with the war inside them, exist in a world of chaos. But the turmoil they experience isn’t who they are; the PTSD invades their minds and bodies.”

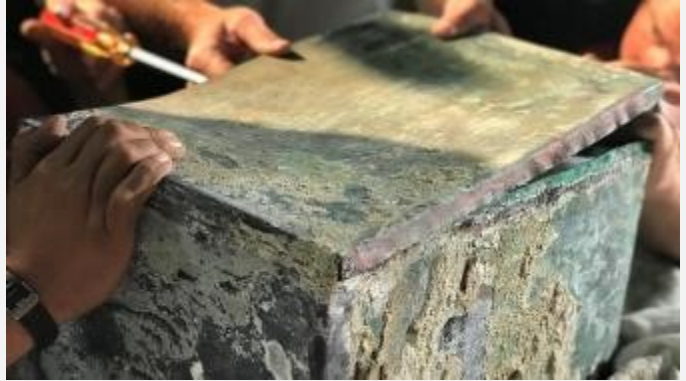
Unearthing names of Floridians who died in World War I, a century later

By Matt Soergel, *FL Times Union*

The names were written on a parchment scroll in India ink, placed in a metal box inside another metal box, and buried under the bricks at Memorial Park almost 94 years ago.

They are the names of 1,220 Floridians who died while serving in the military during World I, and on Christmas Day 1924 they were put under a plaque honoring the war dead.

On Thursday, workers carefully sawed away at the bricks at the foot of the park's iconic bronze sculpture called Life; it took some five hours, but finally the plaque was removed and the boxes were lifted carefully out of the earth.



Volunteers plan to catalog the names and then return the parchment scroll to that spot, along with the names of more than 300 other men and women from Florida who died in the war.

The goal is to bury them together at a ceremony on Nov. 11, Armistice Day, 100 years after the war's end.

Michele Luthin, who is on the board of directors of the Memorial Park Association, a nonprofit group that works to preserve the riverfront park in Riverside, said volunteers are hoping to find relatives of the war dead and invite them to that event.

The names, though, are still unknown: There were so many it was deemed too expensive to engrave them on a memorial, so instead they were put on parchment and buried until Thursday.

The newly unearthed boxes were taken to the Museum of Science and History, where firefighters painstakingly pried open the top of the outer box, made of copper, 17¼ inches high, 12 inches wide and 9½ inches deep.

Inside, a tight fit, was a lead box containing the names.

“Wait!” cried Memorial Park Association volunteer Kelly Varn. “It’s got writing!”

She was right. Etched on the top of the inner box were these words: “Made by J.C. Cheshire Dec. 4, 1924.”

The volunteers had hoped to open that box to remove the parchment scroll on Thursday afternoon. The scroll would then be taken to the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum's archaeological lab to be assessed and eventually unrolled, to finally reveal the names.

That plan was called off though: Ann Seibert, an expert in paper conservation, noticed a small amount of corrosion on the rim of the copper box. That might mean water intrusion, she feared, and that's highly damaging to parchment.

“Water is its biggest enemy,” she said.

She suggested taking the box, unopened, to the lab in St. Augustine, for further examination before opening.

The Memorial Park volunteers quickly agreed; they worried about the three feet of water that surged into the park from the St. Johns during Hurricane Irma, but it's too early to tell if that was what led to the corrosion.

The Memorial Park group has been helped in its project by R.B. Rosenberg, a history professor at Clayton State University in Georgia, who since 2006 has been compiling a list of more than 4,500 men and women from that state who died during World War I.

They readily agreed last year to help make a list of the Florida dead too, working from war records. So far he's found 1,568 names, service members from the Army, Marines, Navy and Coast Guard, white and black, men and some women as well.

The names from Duval County take up almost three pages on a list he made, ranging from Randolph Andrews of Jacksonville to Walter B. Young of Baldwin. Both were listed as "colored."

Duval's war dead came from Jacksonville and from the communities of Baldwin, Whitehouse, Plummers, South Jacksonville, Phillips, Grand Crossing, Lackawanna, Mayport, West Jacksonville, New Berlin, Mandarin and Atlantic Beach.

If the 1,220 names on the long-buried parchment scroll can be deciphered, volunteers hope to match them against Rosenberg's names to come up with a conclusive list of those who died during the war and in the years after, from injuries or illnesses related to it.

Rosenberg said many of the dead didn't even make it to Europe but died in camps in Jacksonville or Macon, Ga., or elsewhere.

About three of every four fatalities came from disease, including many from the influenza pandemic that swept the globe in 1918.

Rosenberg said the troops were housed in crowded barracks in conditions tailor-made for illnesses to spread. "They're coughing on each other, not getting the treatment they need, not even understanding what could be done to stop this contagion," he said.

The military was thorough in listing the causes of death: Victims drowned, were hit by trains, died in motorcycle or car crashes. They died when weapons were accidentally discharged. They committed suicide. Some were executed after riots, in attempts to keep discipline.

Those killed in action or who died of wounds made up about 10 percent of the fatalities. Florida's biggest loss came on Sept. 26, 1918, when a German U-boat sunk a Coast Guard cutter, the USS Tampa, off the coast of Wales. Sixty Floridians, Rosenberg said, were among the 131 killed.

He researched the years after the war too, and included those who died of wounds or gas attacks from battle, as well as those who died during their time in occupied Europe after fighting ended.

Rosenberg acknowledged that the research has become something of a quest for him as he tracks down the names, the hometowns, the many ways men and women can die during a war.

"We want to know their names," he said. "We want to know who they are."

Matt Soergel: (904) 359-4082

From K9s For Warriors: Please share this as it benefits 2 great causes. The first which I have been part of since the start is the USS Adams Museum which is saving the US Navy's first missile capable ship as a floating museum. The 2nd is K9's for Warriors who provide trained service dogs for our veterans. K9's not only help our veterans, but the dogs they use are primarily rescue dogs!! If you don't live in the Jacksonville, FL Area please consider a donation to the event! If you do live in the Jax Area, come out and see me the morning of the run or participate in the run itself!!!

7th Annual Salute to Veterans 5K Run/Walk!



BENEFITTING
THE USS ADAMS MUSEUM

K9S FOR WARRIORS

SPONSORED BY CHASE

November 4th, 2018

RUN/WALK THE 5K, THEN PARTY!

- ◆ Massive Family fun zone with bounce houses & games!
- ◆ Patriotic Puppy Parade! Dress your pup up for a fun walk!
- ◆ Patriotic Finisher Medals and Individual Awards
- ◆ Awards to fastest, largest, & most spirited military teams!
- ◆ Patriotic Salute to Veteran's T-Shirts WITH a LOCAL TOUCH!
- ◆ Post Race Party food & DRINKS
- ◆ Help support bringing the USS Adams Museum home!
- ◆ Go to www.ussadams.com for more information!!

500+ Participants! Many being our local Vets!





FIVE STAR VETERANS CENTER

ARMY · MARINES · NAVY · COAST GUARD · AIRFORCE

Most veterans who live at Five Star have mental health issues, including addiction (gambling and substance

abuse), combat-related Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), combat-related Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), Depressive Disorder, Bipolar Disorder, Anxiety Disorder, Panic Attacks, Adjustment Disorder, Personality Disorder and Neuro-cognitive Disorder (TBI and Huntington's Disease).

The mission of the Five S.T.A.R. Veterans Center is to assist veterans who are coping with the insidious effects of PTSD and/or TBI RESTORE their health, RECONNECT with friends and family, and REJOIN the work force with a job by providing safe and secure supportive housing with wraparound services and holistic counseling that promotes mental and physical wellness.



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At Coastal, we believe that a visit to the doctor's office can be a relaxing experience. Come in for your appointment and let our massage exam chairs, hot towels and aromatherapy ease the stresses of your day. From diabetic care to ingrown nails to reconstructive surgery, our board certified physicians can help you with all of your foot and ankle needs. Call today experience the Coastal difference for yourself.



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From Fred Dupont: Connecting Veterans, Caregivers
and Experienced Entrepreneurs

[https://mailchi.mp/44bad72318a6/100-
entrepreneurs-project-update-october-2018?
e=4b4b310502](https://mailchi.mp/44bad72318a6/100-entrepreneurs-project-update-october-2018?e=4b4b310502)

HASTINGS COA/ FREE



Veteran's Day
Celebration



November 7, 2018
The Lord's Temple, 140 Gilmore St.
Hastings In The Fellowship Hall

Ceremony begins at 10AM to 1:00
PM. A Hot Lunch will be served.
You must reserve a meal.



Land of
the Free  **Because of**
the Brave



More Information: 904-729-9161

PosterMyWall.com

Green Cove Springs will be honoring Veterans Day with a Veterans Recognition Ceremony 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Nov. 10 at Spring Park. Veterans from all branches of the military are welcome! Any veterans that want to be a part of the ceremony please arrive before 10 a.m.



VETERANS RECOGNITION CEREMONY
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH



**THE CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS INVITES ALL VETERANS TO
COME OUT TO SPRING PARK ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH
AT 10:00 AM FOR A SPECIAL
"VETERANS RECOGNITION CEREMONY"!**

**As you know, the 2018 Memorial Day Festival was cancelled
due to inclement weather, therefore the City of Green Cove
Springs will be honoring all veterans on this day!!**

**Contact Kimberly Thomas, Executive Assistant for more information at
904-297-7054 or kthomas@greencovesprings.com**



You are invited to our Veteran's Day Luncheon

**WEDNESDAY, NOV. 7, 2018
10:00 A.M. TO 12:30 P.M.**

The Lord's Temple Fellowship Hall

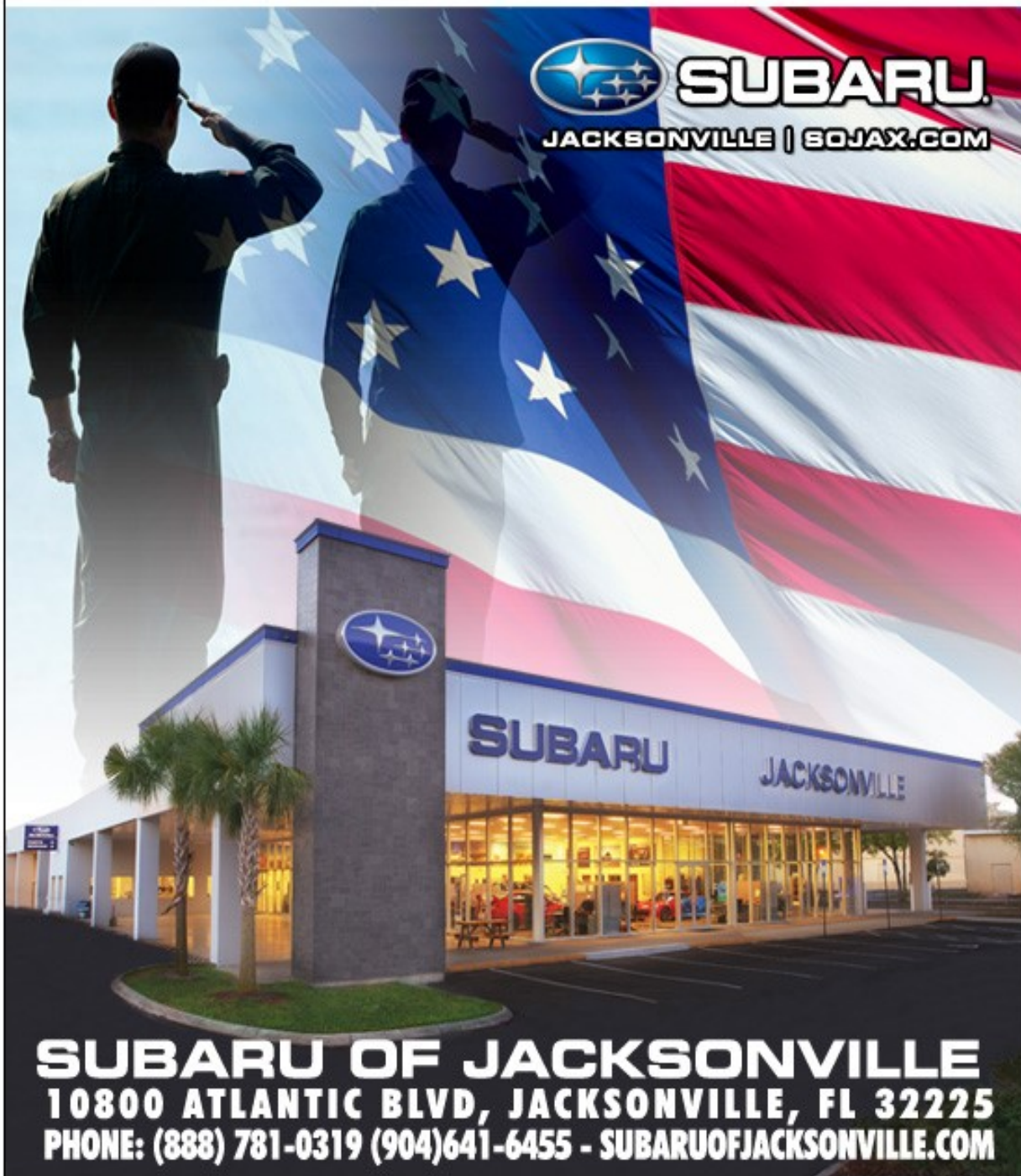
140 Gilmore Street, Hastings, FL 32145

Catered by:

The St. Augustine Council on Aging
Please call Lorain Vinson, St. Johns Council on Aging
904.729.9161 or lvinson@stjohnscoa.com by Oct. 28 to RSVP.
Meals must be reserved.



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US Navy's Most Decorated Ship – You've Never Heard of It Just as the Navy Intended



It's pretty likely that you have never heard of the US Navy's most decorated warship. That's because the Navy did not want you to hear of it while it was in service. What may be more fantastic is that it received all of those decorations

without once firing a weapon in attack or defense.

The USS Parche was built in 1970 as a hunter/killer submarine. No one, not even the shipbuilders that worked on it, knew what was in store for this special ship. The Parche was built to be a nuclear submarine which would follow enemy vessels both above and below the sea and then destroy them. Part of the Sturgeon class as built, it received its commission in 1974 and served two years in the Atlantic Fleet as intended.

In 1976, the Parche was retrofitted for the first time. There is not much information about what changed but after the work was complete, the Parche was rarely heard of by the public. The Navy had chosen the Parche to support the National Underwater Reconnaissance Office (NURO). NURO was a secretive joint effort between the Navy and the CIA.

The Parche went from being a typical attack ship to becoming a "ghost," spying on the enemy with advanced monitoring, reconnaissance, and surveillance systems. While the submarine force is referred to as the "silent service" because subs operate best when no one knows where they are, the Navy took this concept to the extreme with the crew of the Parche. Sworn to secrecy, they could tell no one the nature of their missions.

At the end of the 1970s, the Parche had traveled into the Sea of Okhotsk multiple times with the USS Halibut and the USS Seawolf in order to wiretap Soviet communications over the cables running across the seabed. Known as Operation Ivy Bells, the surveillance went undetected until the National Security Agency (NSA) accidentally leaked details of the operation in the mid-1980s.

Along with the invaluable intelligence gained from the wiretaps, the Parche recovered fragments of the USSR's anti-ship rockets. This allowed the Navy to analyze them and develop countermeasures to protect US ships.

The Parche received numerous additional retrofits throughout the 1980s and 1990s. These

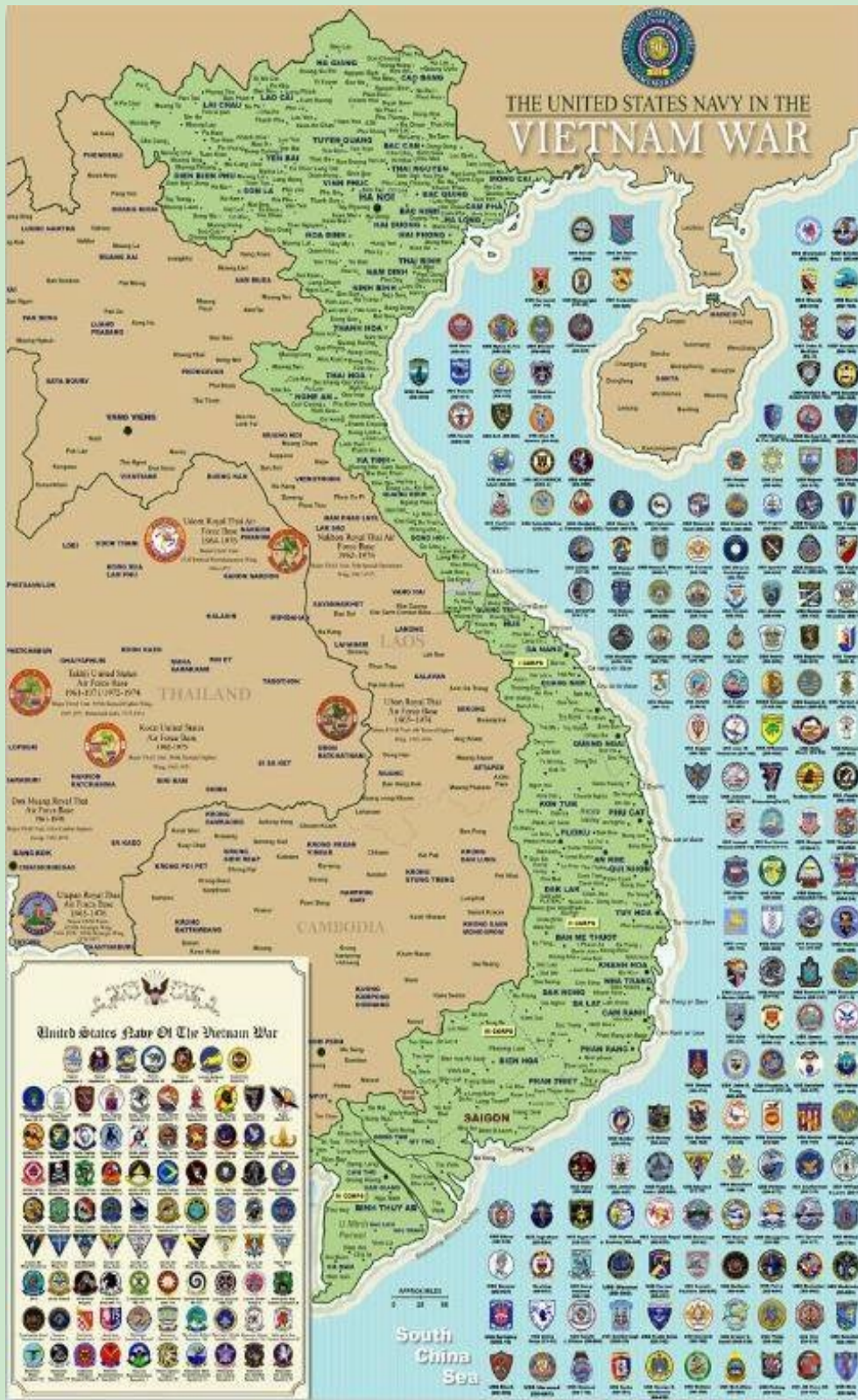
overhauls improved the systems used on the ship, adding cameras and a longer hull to fit more equipment and more crew – amongst other things.

The Seawolf and the Parche also received skegs. These legs on the bottom of the ships allowed them to sit directly on the ocean floor and allow divers to exit the vessel to perform their wiretap and debris recovery missions.

In the 2000s, it was determined that the Parche had reached the end of her lifespan. It was already one of the last Sturgeon-class vessels in the Navy – having been replaced by the Los Angeles and Seawolf classes. In 2004, the decision was made to decommission the Parche.

After serving for thirty years, the Parche was scrapped. The sail with her markings was retained and is on display in Bremerton, Washington. The USS Jimmy Carter serves the same purpose as the Parche today.

The Parche received nine Presidential Unit Citations, ten Navy Unit Commendations and thirteen Navy Expeditionary Medals, a total unmatched in the entire history of the US Navy. It will be decades before the public is informed of all that the Parche did while in service. But the number of citations and commendations received during her service is proof that she served her country well.





Thank you [Action News Jax](#) for covering [#veterans](#) stories. If you are a Veteran who is struggling, you are not alone. Please reach out to [Vets4Vets of Northeast](#)

[Florida](#) and attend our gatherings so we can connect you to the resources that can help. We are stronger together!



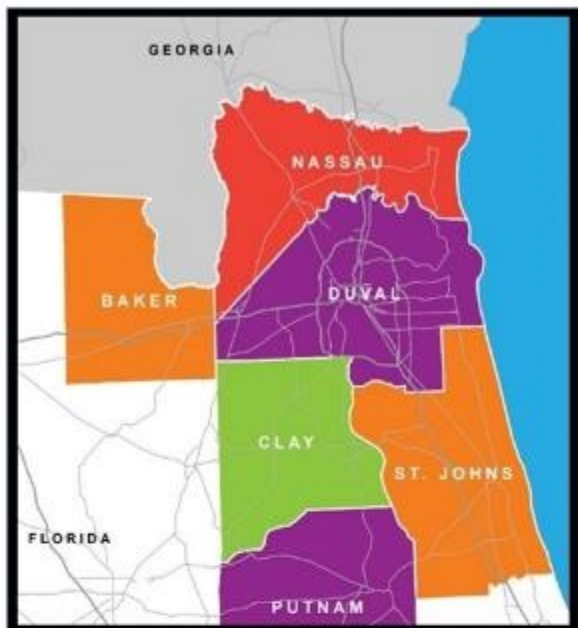
OPERATION HandUP (8/21/2018 – 9/8/2018)

We are creating care pouches with edibles, for our women veterans not living in stabled housing. Items needed are:

- Cup of Noodles
 - Cookies or Crackers
 - Nuts
 - Dried Fruit
 - Protein or breakfast bars
 - Pop Tarts
 - Capri Suns or something similar to drink
 - Canned microwaveable soups/veggies
 - Peanut Butter and Jelly
 - Canned fruit
 - Tuna Fish or chicken in the pack
 - Canned pasta
 - Fruit and Jello cups
 - Small water bottles
- Gift cards are acceptable too.

Deliver to:
2133 Broadway Ave.
Monday – Friday 9:00am – 3:00pm
904-862-6039
www.forwomenvets.org

Veteran County Councils of Northeast Florida



Duval County

President: Steve Spickelmier

Meetings:

Third Tuesday of each month in the 40/8 Building

Located at the American Legion Post 137
5443 San Juan Avenue

7pm

Nassau County

President: Paul Kicker, Chairman
Veterans Council of Nassau County

76347 Veterans Way,
Veterans Service Office

Yulee, FL 32097

Meets the first Thursday of every month
at the Theodore Hernandez American
Legion Post 54, 626 South 3rd Street,
Fernandina Beach, FL 32034 at 7 pm

Baker County

President: Larry Porterfield

Meetings:

Second Thursday of each month
MacClenny Primitive Baptist Church
Fellowship Hall on North Boulevard
6pm

Contact:

Baker County Veterans Council
PO Box 1434
MacClenny, FL 32063

Clay County

President: Bob Brewster

Meetings: First Wednesday of
each month

Location varies between the
different Veteran Organizations.

Time varies

St. Johns County

President: Bill Dudley

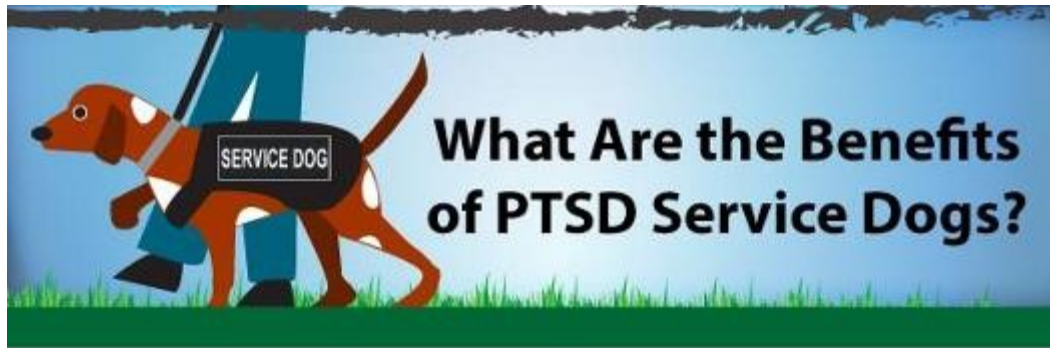
Meetings:

Last Thursday of each month
Health and Human Services Building
Muscovy Room, 1st Floor
200 San Sebastian View
Muscovy Room 1st Floor
St. Augustine, FL 32084

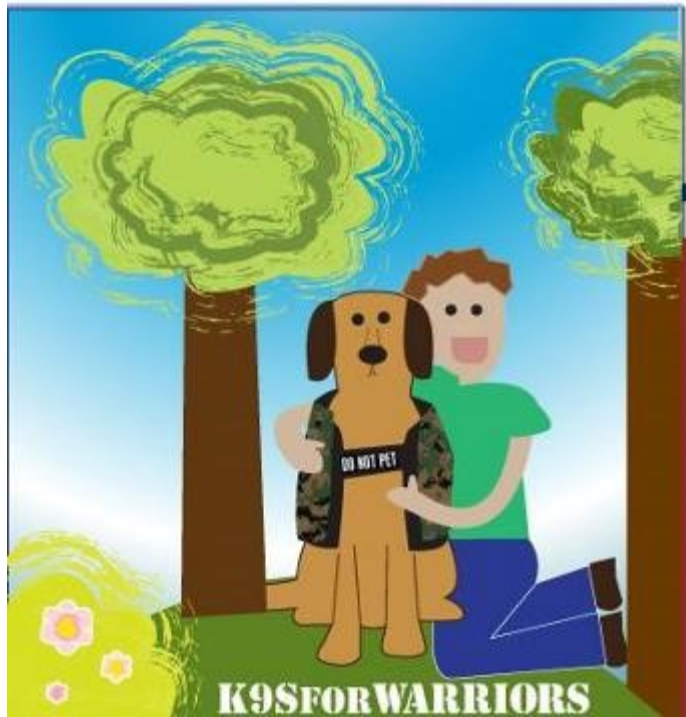
7pm

Contact:

info@VeteransCouncilofStJohns.org



- Reduce in use or even elimination of prescription drugs.
- Decrease in anxiety, anger, and depression.
- Decline in suicidal thoughts.
- Decrease in medical costs.
- Decrease in need for other treatments.



According to collaborative research performed by Purdue University & K9s For Warriors, veterans with a service dog reported:

- better ability to cope with flashbacks & anxiety attacks
- less overall sleep disturbances, including nightmares
- lower levels of depression & anger
- higher levels of companionship & social reintegration
- increased life satisfaction
- improved physical health

MISSION BACKGROUND

Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, has been formed to restore and establish a national memorial that will serve as a historic and destination site for Jacksonville and to serve as an educational resource for generations to come.

The memorial site, located at the former Naval Air Station Cecil Field, was originally dedicated on September 11, 1973 and consisted of markers and associated trees for each of the 16 POW/MIA pilots (an area known as Hero's Walk and Freedom Trees), a pavilion, a stage area, a starburst metal display of aircraft, a granite base seal of NAS Cecil Field and a chapel. This property was given to the City of Jacksonville when Cecil Field was decommissioned in 1995. As a result, the existing memorial has been forgotten.

However, the non-profit organization was given a lease by the Jacksonville City Council and the Mayor's office, and given the rights to develop, expand and maintain the 26-acre memorial.



A FEW QUOTES SUBMITTED BY OUR NATIONAL LEADERS



"Your proposal to use part of the former Naval Air Station Cecil Field for a POW/MIA Memorial is a fitting location to pay tribute to this very special group. Given that Mary Hoff, the creator of the POW/MIA flag, is a long-time resident of Jacksonville, and that her husband, Lieutenant Commander Michael G. Hoff, is memorialized at Cecil Field, there could not be a more appropriate site for the POW/MIA Memorial."

U.S. Congressman
John Rutherford

"The proposal to build the Cecil Field Prisoners of War and Missing in Action Museum is a great opportunity to honor the service members who did not return home from war."

U.S. Senator
Marco Rubio

"With the Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, we can renew our commitment to all those who have worn the uniform, to the children and families, and thank them for their unselfishness and bravery."

U.S. Senator
Bill Nelson



JOIN THE MISSION TO BRING A NATIONAL POW/MIA MEMORIAL TO JACKSONVILLE

MISSION STATEMENT

HONOR ALL FORMER PRISONERS OF WAR;
REMEMBER AND NEVER FORGET THOSE
QUIET, MISSING IN ACTION HEROES AND THE
FAMILIES THAT WAIT FOR THEIR RETURN.

More than 82,000 are still Missing in Action and Unaccounted for since WWII

MEMORIAL STRATEGIC PLAN

With the help of the community, Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc. is raising funds to make this memorial a true national honor to all POW/MIA personnel from every state in America. These funds will enable the organization to accomplish the following memorial projects:

- Restore and use the historic chapel (named the "Chapel of the High-Speed Pave") for memorial services, ceremonies and weddings.
- Enhance the existing sacred grounds of the park and to construct a replica of the USS Saratoga (CV-60).
- Refurbish and utilize existing building 333 as a starting point for the POW/MIA memorial center and museum.
- Establish a new memorial center - to honor all Former Prisoners of War, acknowledge those still Missing in Action; feature the history of the Prisoner of War/Missing in Action flag; house the history of NAS Cecil Field.
- Educate the public on the Prisoner of War and Missing in Action issue through exhibits, videos, artifacts and memorabilia.
- Establish a national destination for military remembrance and celebration (there is not a national memorial for all Missing in Action in the United States).



Hero's Walk & Freedom Trees



Chapel of the High-Speed Pave



Starburst Sculpture

CECIL FIELD NATIONAL POW/MIA MEMORIAL PARK



HOW YOU CAN HELP HONOR OUR MILITARY HEROES



It will take considerable dollars to fund this sacred project. At this point, the project will depend on contributions from private citizens. You can help this effort by making contributions online by going to our website at powmiamemorial.org or to make checks payable to:

Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc.
612 New World Avenue Jacksonville, Florida 32221

ONLINE PowMiaMemorial.org

Facebook.com/Cecil-Field-POW-MIA-Memorial-Inc-1084025864845232/

Twitter.com/CFPOW/MIA

Instagram.com/cecilfieldpowmia/

Disclaimer: Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc. IS A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION. REGISTRATION NUMBER CHECKED & COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE OFFICE OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE, 800-435-1352, WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR ACCEPTANCE BY THE STATE.

IN 1982, YOU HELPED US BUILD THE WALL
TO HONOR OUR VIETNAM FALLEN

NOW HELP US BUILD THE EDUCATION CENTER AT THE WALL

TO CONNECT OUR NATION'S FUTURE
WITH OUR NATION'S PAST



Our Vietnam heroes deserve a place where their story is told.

In 1982, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was built with private funds from more than 275,000 individuals. Today, we need your help to build the Education Center at The Wall, an interactive learning facility on the National Mall where our military heroes' stories will be told.

Why?

With each passing day, we are losing the voices that can tell the first-hand accounts of the Vietnam War and era. We must act now and preserve these personal stories from the past to educate our future.

What you do matters.

It is only through the generosity of people like you that we can build the Education Center at The Wall. Together we can preserve the legacy of our Vietnam heroes and educate future generations about the impact of the Vietnam era.



HELP US BUILD IT.
DONATE AT VVMF.ORG/VVA-FL



36 Granada Street, St. Augustine FL 32084

(904) 679-5736

Corazoncinemaandcafe.com



Stop by the Corazon Cinema and Café located in the heart of St. Augustine to catch a great film or a bite to eat (free parking). **Tell us you are a veteran and receive 10% off any food or drinks.** Beer and wine available.

Jacksonville honors military service members with flag-raising

5 military branch flags, POW / MIA flag now flown in front of City Hall

By Jennifer Ready - Reporter, Crystal Moyer – WJXT TV, Traffic/reporter, Crystal Chen - Assignment editor/reporter

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. - The city of Jacksonville honored the men and women who serve our country with a flag-raising ceremony Tuesday.

Music from the U.S. Navy Band filled the air as dozens of community members gathered downtown to watch six flags raised at Hemming Park. Five of the flags represent each branch of the military, and a sixth honors prisoners of war and service members missing in action.

Mayor Lenny Curry hosted the ceremony just weeks after he directed the installation of six new flagpoles to display the flags.

"There's been a lot of discussions about what we want our front door, front porch of City Hall to look like. What do we want people to think about, talk about when they're here?" Curry said.

In July, the mayor issued a statement that said the decision came to him after spending time reflecting following the Fourth of July celebrations.

It came months after a flag flap in April when the display of military flags at one Jacksonville business stirred up controversy. A Jacksonville city inspector issued a written warning citation to Jaguar Power Sports for flying several military flags on the roof of its business. She cited a violation of city code.

Shortly after the incident, Curry responded by stating all military flags should be treated just like the American flag and should be allowed to fly without the fear of getting a citation.

"I took action immediately. I took action within hours," Curry said.

A flag representing each branch of the military and a POW/MIA flag was raised outside City Hall during Tuesday's ceremony.

New tech increases ease of contacting Veterans Crisis Line

“Call the Veterans Crisis Line.”



VA is excited to announce that service members and Veterans can connect to the Veterans Crisis Line using these simple words. The Siri function on Apple’s iPhone and the Google Assistant function on Android phones now automatically dial the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline which also serves the Veterans Crisis Line, even if the number (1-800-273-8255) is not saved in the phone’s contact list. Callers will need to Press 1 in order to reach the Veterans Crisis Line.

“Suicide prevention is VA’s top clinical priority, and we are working to reach Veterans where they are to help save lives,” said Dr. Keita Franklin. “The new feature on Apple and Android devices enables service members, Veterans, and their families to get quicker access to our network of certified crisis responders.”

Responders at the Veterans Crisis Line are specially trained and experienced in helping Veterans when mental health or related issues — such as chronic pain, anxiety, depression, sleeplessness, anger, and homelessness — reach a crisis point.

“Since its launch in 2007, the Veterans Crisis Line has answered over 3.5 million calls and initiated the dispatch of emergency services to callers in imminent crisis nearly 93,000 times,” said Dr. Matt Miller, director of the Veterans Crisis Line. “Since launching chat in 2009 and text services in November 2011, the VCL has answered over 397,000 and nearly 92,000 requests for chat and text services respectively.”

According to Miller, the ease of connecting to the Veterans Crisis Line is the technology’s biggest benefit.

“The ability to for Veterans to connect to the Veterans Crisis Line using just four simple words, and through a technology that so many people are familiar with already, is truly remarkable,” Miller said. “While some suicidal crises last a long time, most last minutes to hours. The quicker we can get Veterans connected to care, the more likely they are to survive.”

While recognizing the need for crisis access and rapid care, VA continues to build and emphasize sustained access to care for Veterans to receive ongoing treatment as appropriate.

“VA is working to improve its services by providing evidence-based mental health care across a full spectrum of interventional services,” said Franklin. “We are anticipating and responding to Veterans’ needs and supporting returning service members as they rejoin their communities.”

VA is leveraging a public health approach to suicide prevention that addresses multiple risk factors for suicide to stage interventions before suicidal thoughts and behaviors occur. While VA has made great strides in crisis intervention, the public health approach uses the best evidence available to guide the development of innovative new strategies to serve all Veterans.

No one organization can tackle suicide prevention alone. To save lives, VA is using prevention strategies that reach beyond health care settings to involve peers, family members, and community members in order to reach Veterans where they are.

“Every day people across the nation reach out for support and are able to live healthy, productive lives. But VA alone can’t prevent Veteran suicide,” Franklin said. “To end Veteran suicide, we need support across sectors, and this type of technology is another step in the right direction. The quicker we can get service members and Veterans connected to care, the better.”

If you or someone you know is in crisis, support is available 24/7. The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is available to all at 1-800-273-8255. Veterans, service members, and their families and friends can call the Veterans and Military Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1, chat online at VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat, or text to 838255.

About the author: Megan McCarthy, Ph.D., is the deputy director for suicide prevention for VA’s Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention.



9th Annual

Warm Full Safe

Help put a Homeless Vet in
A BED FOR CHRISTMAS



Sunday, November 25, 2018

First Bike out, 10:00 am Last Bike In, 3:00 pm

\$15.00 for Rider, \$5.00 for Passenger

Music by SPANKS

1pm - 5pm

50/50 & Raffle

Food, Fun & Drinks

Best Hand
\$500

Best Hand
\$500

*****All Proceeds go to National Veterans Homeless Support*****

Local Run

American Legion Post 1 (Breakfast available)

Registration starts at 0900

First Bike out at 10am

Last Bike in at 3pm

1st Stop -- American Legion Post 359 7260 S US Highway 1, Titusville

2nd Stop -- Lone Cabbage Fish Camp 8199 King St, Cocoa

3rd Stop -- American Legion Post 242 17142 E Colonial Dr, Orlando, FL 32820

4th Stop -- The Eagles F.O.E. 3510 South St, Titusville, FL 32780zz

5th Stop -- American Legion Post 1 1281 Washington Ave, Titusville, FL

1281 N US HWY 1, Titusville, FL

Rescuing Veterans Lost in America



A Brief History Of The Dog Tag, by Sarah Sicard,

The use of the iconic form of identification has its roots in the Civil War.

During the Civil War, the inability of the military to identify battlefield casualties created the need for a soldier identification method.



According to the U.S. Army Quartermaster Foundation, prior to the Battle of Mine Run in northern Virginia 1863, Gen. George Meade's troops wrote their names and unit designations on paper tags and pinned them to their clothing. At the same time, other soldiers created prototype identification tags out of pieces of wood, perforating one end so that they could be worn on a string around their necks.

Between 1862 and 1913, while the military considered a number of options for identifying soldier remains on the battlefield, individual soldiers continued to utilize makeshift identification methods. In 1906, a circular aluminum disc was presented. By 1913, identification tags were made mandatory by the military.

The circular tags, hand stamped with name, rank, serial number, unit, and religion were used during World War I.

Dog tags, name tapes and memorabilia are displayed at the top of Mount Suribachi in Iwo To, formerly known as Iwo Jima, Japan, Dec. 17, 2014.

By World War I, soldiers wore two tags. "One tag remained with the body, tied around the legs or ankles or feet," Luther Hanson, curator at the U.S. Army Quartermaster Museum, told The New York Times in a 2013 interview.

Around World War II, the circular tag was replaced by the more oval shape used

by the military today. Its resemblance to dog collar tags led to the designation of “dog tag.” The tags used during World War II were stamped by a machine and had a rectangular shape with round ends and a notch on one side.

A gruesome rumor circulated that the notch was put in the tag so that the tag could be placed in a dead soldier’s mouth hold it open to prevent the body from gaseous bloating. However, the real reason for the notch was that the stamping machine required it to hold the tag in place during embossing.

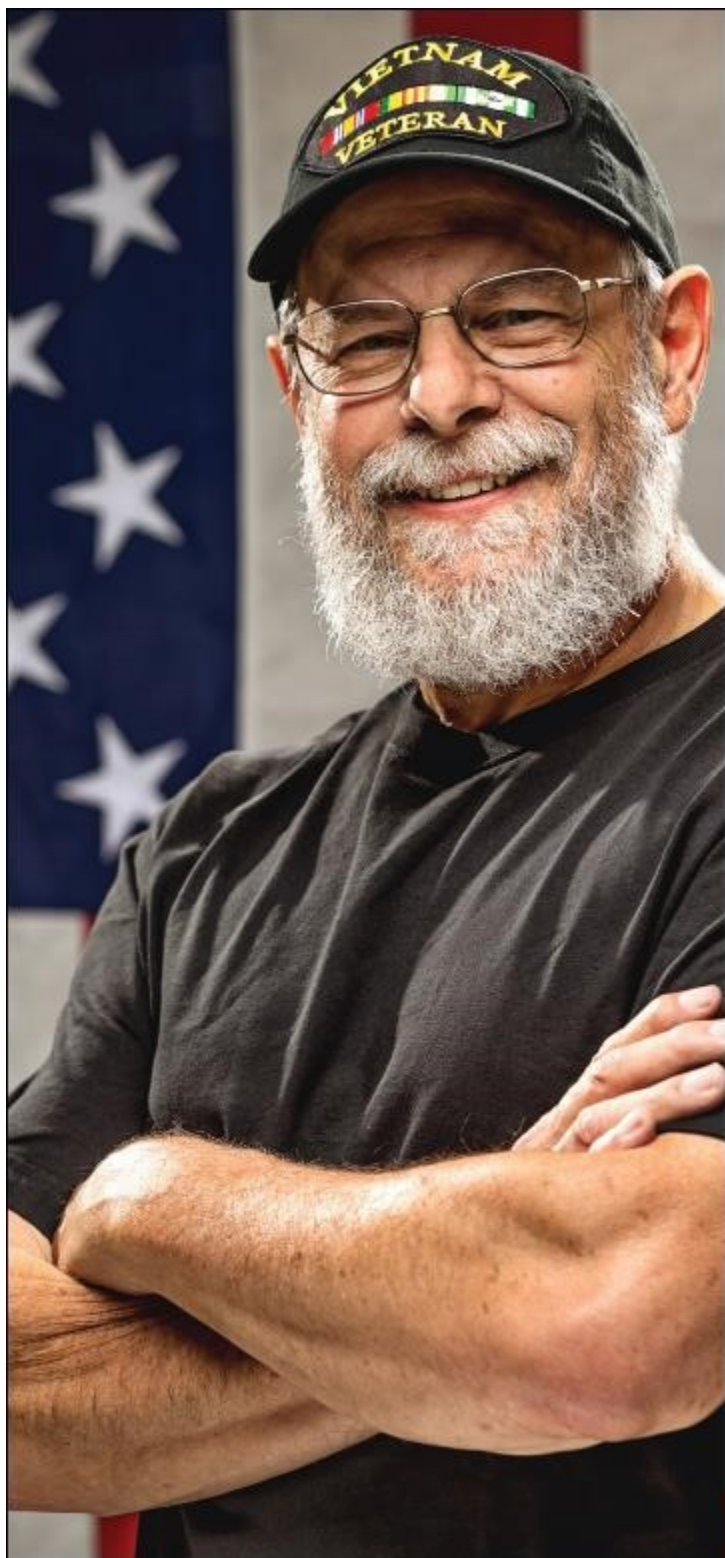
The point of the tag ultimately is to be left around the neck of a casualty, staying with the remains at all times. According the Library of Congress, during the Vietnam War, “changes were made to the information on dog tags. The dog tags went from the earlier eight digits with their prefix to the current nine-day digit Social Security number. You could have both stamped on your tag if you wanted; but, from this point on, the Social Security number was the main identifying number.”

Additionally, tags worn by the Marine Corps had a variety of additions including the size of their gas mask. A number of religions were added and full names were spelled out as well.

Current dog tags still utilize a two-tag system, with one on a long a chain around the neck and one interlinked by a smaller chain. The point of this method is to have one that remains around the neck and another for the toe for the coroner’s purposes.

Though the dog tag has remained largely unchanged since the Vietnam War, the Army is currently developing and testing several new dog tags known by various names including the soldier data tag, individually carried record, meditag, and the personal information carrier.

The new dog tags will contain microchip or USB technology, which will hold a soldier’s medical and dental records, reported The New York Times.



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At Community Hospice & Palliative Care, we are honored to serve veterans and their caregivers by providing specialized programs to meet their unique needs now and at the end of life.

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"I've proudly served as Chairman of the Community Hospice Veterans Partnership (CHVP) since 2011. CHVP partners with veterans service groups throughout the community to listen and learn how Community Hospice & Palliative Care can best serve our unique needs."

**Bob Buehn, Captain, United States Navy (Ret.)
Chairman, Community Hospice Veterans Partnership
(2011 - present)**





COMMUNITY HOSPICE
VETERANS PARTNERSHIP

Salute Our Heroes in Their Final Days: Support Flags & Pins for Veterans in Hospice Care

Honor our local veterans in hospice care with a dignified tradition when you support funding for flags and pins through Community Hospice & Palliative Care.

Since 2008, the Jacksonville-based organization has presented all veterans admitted to its hospice program with a commemorative pin to honor their service, as well as a certificate of appreciation. For veterans who get care at one of our eight inpatient centers, staff and volunteers erect the flag of the service branch in which they served outside their rooms. Flags are then presented to veterans' families following the death.



The need for funding is great as up to 25 percent of patients who receive hospice care at Community Hospice & Palliative Care are veterans. The nonprofit organization, which provides hospice care to nearly 1,300 patients each day, raises funds through individual support and community organizations who believe in serving those who have served our country so honorably.

If you or your organization would like to support our Flags & Pins Initiative and honor our warriors one last time, please contact

Toula Wootan, director of community programs at Community Hospice & Palliative Care, at 904.407.6211 or twootan@communityhospice.com.

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

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

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

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

You may have noticed the Veterans Council's new logo, it was created by Roy Havekost and his web design company PageAuthors. The VC strongly recommends that you contact Roy, 904-287-6909, if you or your vet group wants to create a website or Facebook page.

NEW INFO: Ride in comfort to your appointments at the VA Medical Center in Gainesville.



The van is provided by the Disabled Veterans Chapter 6, and leaves no later than 6AM from the new VA Clinic location at 195 Southpark Blvd. The corner of Southpark and Old Moultrie Road.

To schedule your seat please contact the VA Clinic at 904-823-2954 and ask for Veteran Van Scheduling.



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*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: mrothfeld@anyveteran.org

Please send to: mrothfeld@anyveteran.org



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

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

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

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

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

***The Veterans Council will meet at the St.
Johns County Health & Human Services
Building, 200 San Sebastian View
Muscovy Room, 1st floor***

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

(physical location)

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

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

*Service is by appointment.
Phone: 904-209-6160 Fax: 904-209-6161
Joseph McDermott, SR VSO
Rick Rees, Assistant VSO
Tammy Shirley, Assistant VSO*

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