



# The Patriot Reader Newsletter

P.O. Box 2117

St. Augustine, FL 32085

Bill Dudley, Publisher

Michael Rothfeld, Editor

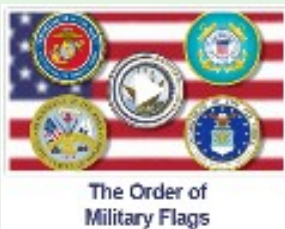
Volume 8, Issue 11

Message from the Chairman

November 2019

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Fellow Veterans,  
 Your Veterans Day Program planning committee has pretty much finalized their work for another spectacular event this year to honor our veterans. Our theme for this year's program is to remember and honor our brave men and women who fought in the major battles on "D-Day" and to remember all veterans past, present and future for their service. We encourage all our veterans to attend and bring their family and friends. Our keynote speaker is the Honorable Judge Howard. O McGillin, Colonel, USA ret. Also this year, in addition to the St. Augustine High School Center of Arts Chamber Singers, we will have the Liberty Express Quartet Gospel Singers providing some patriotic songs including their signature song, a rendition of "Angel Flight". Both groups are awesome and I know everyone will enjoy hearing them sing. As an added treat this year, I was notified this past Thursday that C-Span out of Washington, D.C. would like to participate by bringing their bus to our event. The C-SPAN Bus would be open for tours and visitors can check out their interactive bus and check out their American History TV programming. This would be great for the kids as well as adults.

The groundbreaking of our new Community Based Outpatient Clinic has been rescheduled for 22 November 2019 at 11 AM. Governor Ron DeSantis, Congressman John Rutherford and Michael Waltz are our invited speakers along with our County Commissioners, City Mayor and City Councilmen and other dignitaries. The groundbreaking ceremony is open to the public.

St. Johns County in collaboration with Baker, Clay, Duval, and Nassau Counties are embarked on a new program entitled FIRE-WATCH. This program is being developed to help reduce and ultimately prevent suicide amongst our veterans. Our County Commissioners by a vote of 5-0 approved this program at last Tuesday's Commission meeting. This is an important program to help reduce the suicide occurrences at a rate of 20 per day. The Veterans Council looks forward to being heavily involved in this program as it is developed here in northeast Florida.

Our state is beginning to prepare for next year's census taking. St. Johns County has already begun to prepare by appointing a SJC Complete Count Committee. Your VSO officer, Joe McDermott and I have been appointed to the Census Count Committee to represent the veteran population in St. Johns County. It is extremely important that we get as accurate a count as possible as the census is the means



by which Federal funds are allocated and disbursed to each county around the state. For veterans this helps determine federal dollars that will be spent on our health care and the many VA benefits that veterans are entitled to. For every person not counted, SJC will lose \$1445 per year for the next 10 years. The Census Team is currently hiring census takers for the task of visiting homes and businesses beginning April 1 of 2020. The form that each household receives is a simple 9 questions on the questionnaire form and only takes a few minutes to fill out for each member of your household. It is extremely important to complete the questionnaire and return it to the address provided. Don't forget, if you haven't already purchased your wreaths for this year's Wreaths Across America program, now is the time to make that purchase.

Bill Dudley  
 Chairman  
 Veterans Council of St. Johns County

# Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home



A HUGE thank you to the Green Cove Springs Elk's Lodge for hosting another fantastic fishing trip for our veterans!



The Only fish caught



October cook-outs

## Checkers Tournament





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



The Support Committee invites everyone to attend its **next scheduled meeting**. The meeting will be at **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 2019 SC at JNC MEETINGS**

**Nov. 4, Dec. 2**

**Other topics that concern both the JNC & the St. Augustine National Cemetery are discussed at these meetings.**

**+++++2018/2019 Officers of the SCJNC+++++**

**Chairman: Steve Spickelmier**

**Vice Chairman: Bill Dudley, Treasurer: John Mountcastle**

**Assistant Treasurer: Michael Rothfeld, Secretary: Kathy Church**

**Master-At-Arms: Joe McDermott, Historian: Kathy Cayton**

**Chaplain: Rev. Patrick A. Archuleta, Sr.**

**The Veterans Council of St. Johns County meets on the following dates, all are invited to attend. We meet at the county Health & Human Services building, 200 San Sebastian View, at 7 pm**

**Future meeting Speakers:**

- Nov. 21 Emily Jane Murray, Flagler College, Public Archeology Coord, The Seminole Wars and How it Changed All of Us  
John Powell, Historic Firearms**
- Dec. 19 Eddie Creamer, SJC Property Appraiser, Disabled Veterans Exemptions**
- Jan. 30 St. Augustine Sea Cadet Battalion, Pledge with Sea Cadets Color Guard  
Beth Heath, We Can Be Heroes Foundation**
- Feb. 27 Deborah Brannon, Regent, Daughters of the American Revolution, Maria Jefferson Chapt.  
Beth Heath, We Can Be Heroes Foundation**
- Mar. 26 Sharon Unger, President Veterans Village of NE FL  
Shiva Thompson, Yoga 4 Change**
- Apr. 24 Carl “Jeff” Lay, 1SG US Veterans Reserve Corps. FL**
- May 28 Dr. Roger Smith, Military History of Colonial St. Augustine**

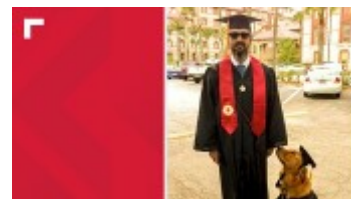


## 12 Who Care: Veteran Kevin Crowell served his country, continues to make a difference in his community Author: Jeannie Blaylock



Veteran Kevin Crowell is one of our 12 Who Care winners for his continued service to veterans and others down on their luck.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Kevin Crowell served our country in the military for many years. He came home from Iraq with PTSD. He even plotted out his suicide. But now with his service dog, Bella, from K9s for Warriors, Crowell is spending his energy helping others, especially other veterans in St. Johns County.



He spends countless hours in the blazing heat cleaning up homeless camps in St. Augustine. That involves carrying out heavy buckets of human waste to landfills in the area. He is careful to follow all rules, he says, and it's part of his desire to give folks better surroundings.

He and his neighbor also constructed the "LIFEBOX," a wooden box on legs grounded in cement off 312 and 207. People drop off everything from bandages to loaves of bread to granola bars for anyone who wants to get some free help. Crowell says people just pull off the shoulder onto the grass and walk a few steps to the "LIFEBOX" to donate, including employees from a local Panera Bread Company.



"I'm not here to judge people," Crowell explained. "I'm just here to help out." He says at the homeless camp behind the "LIFEBOX" are working people just struggling to make ends meet. "I saw young people with full-time jobs working at fast food places near here and they live back here," he said, pointing to the homeless camp in the woods.

Crowell also spends time working with veterans to guide them towards services and employment. He does motivational speeches for high school students and gathers donations for their events. Just recently, he was able to persuade a local eatery to donate two dozen pizzas to a high school band in St. Augustine.

As a member of the 82nd Airborne and then the 173rd Long Range Surveillance Detachment for Operation Iraqi Freedom, Crowell developed a deep pride in the U.S.

This past June for the 75th Anniversary of D-Day, he joined in re-enactment jumps in France to honor the 13,000 American paratroopers who jumped behind enemy lines and helped bring the end to World War II and Hitler's Nazi war machine.

Now Crowell is helping First Coast News teach high school students about the importance of D-Day.

Congratulations to Kevin Crowell for being one of our 12 Who Care Winners. He certainly goes way above and beyond.

*From the FL Times Union*

*A new program called The Fire Watch will soon be set up in five Northeast Florida counties to combat the rising tide of military veteran suicides with one-on-one counseling, emphasizing the local touch, organizers said.*



*Fire Watch: To a military veteran, it means a sentry watching over a nighttime encampment to make sure that everybody is awoken if a fire breaks out, or more recently, to catch someone sneaking up on the soldiers.*

*But in a nation where about 22 veterans a day commit suicide, five Northeast Florida counties are joining forces in a new program with the same name: The Fire Watch. With an estimated 125,000 veterans in Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau and St. Johns counties alone, program coordinator and Jacksonville City Councilman Rory Diamond said they hope to find ways to damp down the “completely and totally out of control” suicide rate.*

*“We have been waiting for years, waiting and waiting for Washington, D.C., to do something about veteran suicide and nothing is happening,” said Diamond, also head of K9s for Warriors. “The crisis is getting worse. We are tired of waiting and we have decided to take immediate action right here in Northeast Florida to get something done and save our warriors’ lives.”*

*In the next few weeks, Jacksonville’s City Council, along with the four other county commissions, will vote on bills to approve funding for each of their Fire Watch programs, then organize private as well as government veterans resources to combat suicide locally.*

*“What we want to do is a focused effort,” Clay County Commissioner Gavin Rollins said. “We will take the data in the five-county area and specifically track where we are at so it is not one more program, but a focused effort to reduce veteran suicide.”*

*“St. Johns County has 30,000 to 40,000 veterans,” added St. Johns County Commissioner Jeremiah Blocker. “I am a combat veteran myself and we understand what it means.”*

*The number of veteran suicide deaths per year nationally increased from 5,787 in 2005 to 6,139 in 2017, according to the recently released 2019 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report. The number of veteran suicides has been above 6,000 since 2008 and*

*increased by 129 from 2016 to 2017.*

*In Florida in 2017, 512 veterans committed suicide, 482 of them men and almost 71 percent committed with guns, according to the report. That same year, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs tallied 6,139 veterans suicides nationwide.*

*Diamond announced Fire Watch at Jacksonville's City Hall, joined by commissioners from the other counties as well as supporters. Through inter-local agreements, the counties and Jacksonville will begin working soon to establish partnerships and collaborations between local, state and federal agencies who work with veterans, as well as nonprofit agencies. Those new programs will be aimed at supporting local veterans with one-on-one counseling as well as local telephone help lines.*

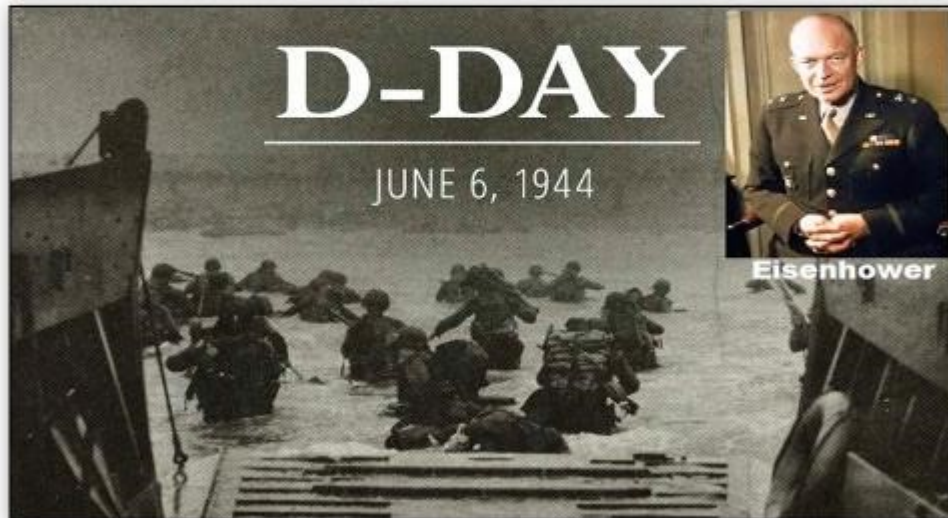
*That personal touch means a better chance to recognize when life becomes burdensome for the veteran, even getting help for them before a crisis occurs, Diamond said. That means setting up a network of 10,000 local veterans, clergy and experts to become their "brothers and sisters" and give support to those who need it, Diamond said.*

*"There's three days before a veteran may attempt suicide, and we need to focus our efforts on those three days to make sure we are organized and all of our veteran suicide efforts are personal, local, immediate and well-known," Diamond said. "We need to work on those things that shift the veteran toward crisis. We need to keep them out of crisis. ... We need to essentially create a support system around each and every veteran."*

*Each county will appoint local leaders and veterans to oversee their Fire Watch programs. The ultimate aim when Fire Watch begins in early 2020 is a website and phone app in each county that lets veterans with a problem contact a volunteer who they can establish a relationship with, organizers said. K9s for Warriors, which provides service dogs to veterans with medical issues or for support, will provide services for The Fire Watch for free, organizers said.*

*Dan Scanlan: (904) 359-4549*

# Veterans Day



**Monday November 11, 2019**

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

**Atrium Displays Including Traveling Vietnam Wall**

**9:00 am to 11:00 am**



**Ceremonies begin at - 11:00 am**



**Doors Open 9:00 am - On Site Parking**

**“ Free Event - Public Welcome ”**



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

Ted Pappas



# Pictures from last year's Veterans Day Program





Today at the St Johns County Board of Commissioners meeting a reserved parking sign was posted "Parking for Veterans Only". The Council thanks all the County Commissioners and their support staff for making this happen.



**USPS to dedicate Purple Heart medal stamp as a Forever Stamp**  
**The medal is 'the oldest military decoration in the world in present use and the first award made available to a common soldier.'**

## Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc. Minutes of September 26, 2019

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

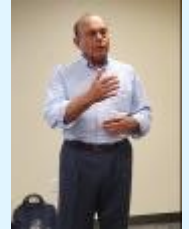
**Chairman Dudley called the meeting to order at 1900 hours**

**Chairman Dudley led the Pledge to the Flag and SGM Ray Quinn gave the Invocation**

**Minutes were approved as presented                      Treasurer's Report were approved as amended**

**Introduction of Guests: Char Miller, Bob Buehn, Wendy Lay, Chris Miller**

**Speaker: CAPT Bob Buehn, USN (Ret), former Commanding Officer Guantanamo Bay:** Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, officially known as Naval Station Guantanamo Bay or NSGB, (also called GTMO) is a United States military base and detention camp located on 120 square kilometers (45 sq mi) of land and water at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, which the U.S. leased for use as a naval base in 1903. The lease was \$2,000 in gold per year until 1934, when the payment was set to match the value in gold in dollars in 1974, the yearly lease was set to \$4,085.[3] The base is on the shore of Guantánamo Bay at the southeastern end of Cuba. It is the oldest overseas U.S. Naval Base. Since 2002, the naval base has contained a military prison, the Guantanamo Bay detention camp, for unlawful combatants captured in Afghanistan, Iraq, and other places during the War on Terror.



**Char Miller, Community Hospice Veterans Programs:** Military veterans, especially those who saw combat, can experience the end of life differently than those who didn't serve. We are honored to



not only serve veterans and their caregivers by providing specialized compassionate care to meet their unique needs now and at the end of life, but to also commemorate their sacrifices in meaningful ways that ensure their legacies live on.

We Honor Veterans supports the needs of more than 200,000 veterans in Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Clay, Columbia, Dixie, Duval, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Nassau, Putnam, St. Johns, Suwannee and Union Counties.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Mac:** The VA is now transferring medical records to a faster more secure server. VSO Travis Neidig did an outstanding job on his first Homeless Veterans Stand Down. Surpluses not distributed were sent to Duval County for distribution.



**John L: Veterans Treatment Court update-** Nov. 14 is VTC Mentors Boot Camp. VVA 1084 started its Veterans in the Classroom. John briefed all about types of VVA pins and who they go to.

**Ray:** Wreaths Across America: received a check from Sons of the American Revolution for \$ 150, & VVA for \$ 150. The Record is running WAA ads at no charge,

**Bill:** The Stand Down was outstanding. A visit to Silver Creek retirement Community – over 21 Veterans pictured on “Wall of Honor”. The County has 1 Veterans only parking spots at the County Admin building at 3 at the VSO building. Veterans Day



events Nov. 11 at Anastasia Baptist Church & St Augustine Beach, all invited.

**For the Good of The Order:** Paul Mayo, US Census Office: wants to hire 300 veterans for census at \$ 17. an hour, 1-855-JOB-2020, or 2020census.gov/jobs

**Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm, The next meeting of the Veterans Council will be on Thursday, October 24, 2019, 7 pm in the Health & Human Services Building, 200 San Sebastian View.**

**Future speakers:**

- Oct. 24 Chris Vedvick, Commander Dept of FL Military Order of the Purple Heart  
Derek Collins, The Mission Act explained
- Nov. 21 Emily Jane Murray, Flagler College, Public Archeology Coord, The Seminole Wars and How it Changed All of Us  
John Powell, Historic Firearms
- Dec. 19 Veterans Day Event: AAR  
Shiva Thompson, Yoga 4 Change
- Jan. 30 St. Augustine Sea Cadet Battalion, Pledge with Sea Cadets Color Guard  
Beth Heath, We Can Be Heroes Foundation
- Feb. 27 Deborah Brannon, Regent, Daughters of the American Revolution, Maria Jefferson Chapt.  
Wendy Lay, Veterans Expo at First Coast Technical College
- Mar. 26 Sharon Unger, President Veterans Village of NE FL
- Apr. 30 Carl "Jeff" Lay, 1SG US Veterans Reserve Corps. FL





## POW/MIA Memorial gets new name, bill introduced to Congress

The POW/MIA memorial complex at Cecil Commerce Center is a big step closer to a sought-after national historic designation that could help net funding for further development.



It also has a new name: The National POW/MIA Memorial & Museum.

Retired Navy Capt. Robert “Bob” Buehn said that U.S. Reps. John Rutherford and Al Lawson introduced legislation to the House Sept. 20 that would federally designate the memorial as the National POW/MIA Memorial and Museum.

The legislation is currently in committee but could be out on the floor for a vote as soon as mid-October, said memorial Executive Director Mike Cassata. From there, it would go to the Senate and, if passed, on to the president for signature.

“It’s a big step,” said Buehn, the keynote speaker at the memorial on Sept. 21, National POW/MIA Recognition Day. “We are going from just a base to a national memorial and museum.”

The event included status updates, a missing-man table ceremony by the Filipino American Veterans Society, a flyover, a car and bike show and an address by Buehn. Attendance was 400 to 450 compared to last year’s 350, said William “Bill” Dudley, retired Air Force lieutenant colonel, another event speaker.

Perhaps more importantly, the event foreshadowed big things on the horizon at the memorial.

While the legislation is not yet a done deal, Buehn told the crowd that “we are confident it will be a national memorial that honors all POWs and the 82,000 still listed as missing in action and unaccounted for.”

Cassata said that the volunteer group that staffs the non-profit memorial has now begun officially referring to it as the National POW/MIA Memorial & Museum. He said that in addition to possible funding opportunities, the national designation would comfort the families of POWs and those still missing in action.

“There is not a national memorial in the country,” Cassata said. He believes Jacksonville’s memorial should be that memorial, noting that the national flag devoted to prisoners of war and those missing in action – the iconic black flag with the soldier in the white circle – was created at Cecil Field.

He said that growing up as a military dependent, he was fortunate to have his father come home. Other families didn’t, he said, and for those who never learn what happened to their loved one, grief can be never-ending.

We could move on,” he recalled. “These families couldn’t. It’s a big deal, it’s an issue, and I am shocked that our nation does not have (an officially designated) national memorial.”

The memorial is situated at the former NAS Cecil Field Master Jet Base (now Cecil Commerce Center) and has an existing memorial to NAS Cecil Field aviators stationed there during the Vietnam and Desert Storm conflicts. It contains markers for 16 pilots who were lost, a pavilion with a stage and a metal aircraft display.

The current memorial non-profit has a 26-acre lease with the City of Jacksonville and its volunteers plan to continue improving the property. They dedicated its Chapel of the High-Speed Pass in March after more than a year of restoration and renovation.

In November 2018, the Jacksonville City Council voted to designate the chapel as a historic landmark.

There are also plans to bring historic Viet Nam-era planes to the park soon, and parts for one of them are already nearby. Buehn said a nearby hangar contains an A-7 Corsair fuselage that will need to be rebuilt.

Albert “Buddy” Harris, memorial spokesman, said plans are on the table for at least four aircraft. He said those planes include the Corsair, an A-4 Skyhawk, an S-3 Viking and an FA-18 Hornet.

“There may be more in the future, but these four are definite,” Harris said. He said the first to go in would be the A-7, perhaps as soon as March 2020.

Meanwhile, Buehn encourages county residents to lend a hand at the memorial.

“If you can, get involved,” Buehn told the crowd at the gathering in September. “We are going to make it beautiful.”

But there were already would-be volunteers in attendance.

Frank Lange of Port St. Lucie, a retired aircraft mechanic, drove up especially for the event presentations and the car show that came after.

Local ties prompted him to offer his help.

“I was stationed here for almost 14 years,” Lange said. “And I had an uncle that was a POW.”

He hopes the name of his uncle, Joseph McCarthy, will join other names at a memorial wall that is among other future projects possibly in the works for the memorial.

By Jennifer Edwards  
Resident Community News

**National Cemetery voted unanimously to have the new roadway named: "Gold Star Families Memorial Parkway"**

**Jacksonville National Cemetery- Gold Star Families Memorial Parkway  
Ceremony Planned for 8 Nov 2019**

Jacksonville National Cemetery Director Richburg- Greetings!

On Monday, September 9th, 2019 the Members of the Support Committee At Jacksonville National Cemetery voted unanimously to have the new roadway named Gold Star Families Memorial Parkway

This Action, as per above, was entered into the Minutes and Approved at the subsequent Support Committee Meeting earlier this week on Monday the 7th of October 2019.



As you are aware, it has been approximately nine years since July 2010 that a group of Rotarians, including myself, from Northeast Florida, went to Washington DC advocating this new access-parkway project. In July 2019, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) formally announced that it is supervising the construction of this approximately 3.4 miles new two-lane parkway connecting Lannie Road, at the Ethel Road intersection, and Arnold Road ("Parkway"). We understand that this Parkway will have many features, including, but not limited to: ponds to promote drainage; a newly constructed bridge over Seaton Creek; and, of course, a significantly improved transportation option for the multitude of motorists seeking to access the Jacksonville National Cemetery throughout the Year, especially for major events such as: Annual Wreaths Across America in December, Memorial Day in May, and the many, many other special events and ceremonies held from time-to-time by Military Veterans and Civic organizations. Also, it has been reported to the Support Committee that at the conclusion of the construction, the ownership of this North Jacksonville Parkway will be transferred to the City of Jacksonville.

The Rotary Club of North Jacksonville over the years has been and is currently a major proponent and implementor of various high-profile military veterans projects, such as, but not limited to, the following- Veterans Memorial Wall at TIAA Bank Field; assisting AMVETS in the erection of the Carillon at the Jacksonville National Cemetery; the planning of the National POW-MIA Memorial Project at Cecil Field; the planting of over 70 trees at the Jacksonville National Cemetery;



Davis Family, The PARC Group donate Land for K9s for Warriors expansion in Nocatee

*By Stuart Korfhage St. Augustine Record*

K9s For Warriors announced Wednesday that it is expanding in Nocatee, thanks in part to some major donations.

Jed Davis, president of D.D.I. Inc., and Roger O’Steen, founder and chairman of The PARC Group, recently donated an additional 5.5 acres in Nocatee to K9s For Warriors to build the largest canine training center of its kind.

In 2014, the Davis family and The PARC Group donated the land for the organization’s current 9-acre training facility. K9s for Warriors serves veterans from around the country by pairing them with service dogs that will assist them in making the transition back into civilian life.

The program is the country’s largest provider of service dogs for veterans. K9s For Warriors provides service canines to veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury and/or trauma as a result of military service post-9/11.

“This new expansion will allow us to save nearly 400 additional dogs a year,” K9s For Warriors shared in a recent Facebook post. “The entire team at K9s For Warriors are so thankful for the impact that this tremendous donation will have on the warriors and rescue dogs that we serve.”

The training facility will be located in western Nocatee, at the intersection of U.S. 1 and Nocatee Parkway, near Racetrack Road. K9s For Warriors has not released a construction timeline yet.



PDF US VRC ... 18.pdf
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⋮
Sign In



**U.S. VRC Headquarters**

- 10<sup>th</sup> Battalion Virginia
- 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Maryland
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion Maryland (Medical)
- 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Florida

U.S. VRC will offer you:



- A chance to give back to your community and your country
- A chance for a veteran to get back into his or her boots
- A chance to serve in uniform if you have never done so
- A chance to experience the true fellowship and camaraderie that serving in a military unit can provide
- A chance to be a part of something bigger than yourself



**U.S. Veteran Reserve Corps**

US-VRC.ORG

MD—VA—FL

U.S. Veteran Reserve Corps — (U.S. VRC) is a military structured, uniformed, fraternal and service organization whose membership is comprised of those who have served honorably and steadfastly in, or retired from, the U.S. Armed Forces, State Defense Forces, federal, state, and local governments, as well as civilians with specialized professional skills, all of whom share a fervent desire to serve their communities and country.





The primary mission of the U.S. Veteran Reserve Corps is to utilize the years of service, leadership, skill, talent, and expertise gathered from both our veteran and civilian members. We stand ready to provide competent supplemental professional and technical support to our communities for readiness and response during times of disaster or emergency. Drawing on the fraternal nature, dedication to purpose, and leadership skills inherent in a military and service-oriented community, the U.S. VRC provides a source of trained and ready volunteers eager to assist when needed.

Apply Today!

US-VRC.ORG

Carrying on a Proud Tradition of Service



Company A, 10th U.S. Veteran Reserve Corps, Washington, D.C. May 1865. By James Gardner



US VRC, Memorial for America 2017



Veteran Reserve Corps Soldiers guarding President Lincoln's Funeral Car By Samuel M. Farnell

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*American Legion Auxiliary Unit 233  
Invites you to join us as we Celebrate the  
American Legion Auxiliary's 100th Anniversary*



*November 9, 2019*

*Cocktails start at 6 pm*

*Dinner served at 7 pm*

A SPECIAL NIGHT OF  
ENTERTAINMENT

MC: DANIEL SCHEIDER

**Silent Auction**  
**Beautiful Art**  
**Vintage Jewelry**  
**100 year old documents**  
**and many other valuable**  
**items!**

**Spin The Wheel**  
**For fabulous prizes,**  
**Spirits, and Gift cards!**

**Menu**

**Catered By:**  
**Carrabba's**

**85 tickets available**  
**For a \$15.00 donation**

*A portion of these proceeds will go to Angelwood*



Angelwood has been serving children, adults, seniors, and families living with intellectual and developmental differences such as Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Down syndrome, and Spina Bifida. Dignity and respect are our hallmarks as we offer services across the greater Jacksonville community.

American Legion ~ Post 233 ~ 560 N. Wilderness Trail  
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082 - [www.al233fl.org](http://www.al233fl.org) ~ 904.285.2484





## ***1<sup>st</sup> Annual Patriot's Expo***

Partnering with  
***First Coast Technical College Job Fair***  
**Character Counts Conference Center**  
2980 Collins Avenue  
St. Augustine

Thursday, March 26, 2020  
2:30 PM – 4:30 PM

**Networking event for St Johns County area Patriots and Patriots families**

- Static Displays
- Education & Training
- Banking
- Logistics
- Healthcare/VA Resources
- Mental Health Resources
- Job Fair – Career & Employment Services
- Transition & Business opportunities
- Home & Family Services
- Information Technology
- Legal, Financial & Insurance Information
- Veteran, Military & Family Resources all under one roof

 **First Coast  
Technical College**  
*Your Future Comes First*

**FCTC.EDU**    
2980 Collins Ave • St Augustine, FL 32084  
(904) 547-3282



## FCTC Spring 2020 Job Fair and St John's Patriot Expo Registration Form

It is important our students have the ability to complete their training/education in full prior to accepting employment that might conflict with this goal. FCTC asks that our employment and business partners refrain from actively recruiting and hiring students that are currently taking classes into a role that will interfere with their ability to complete their education in the designated timeframe.

In addition, we require the participating businesses to be ready no later than 2:15PM and stay for the entire event, packing up to start after 4:30PM. We encourage trinkets and table giveaways.

**PLEASE COMPLETE ALL THE QUESTIONS BELOW:**

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name/Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact email: \_\_\_\_\_

Number at table: \_\_\_\_\_ Patriots Expo Table: YES NO

Program(s) of interest: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- Please check if your company sponsors, employs and supports our military.
- Yes, I would like to participate in the FCTC Spring 2020 Job Fair on **March 26, 2020** and agree to adhere to the guidelines as stated above.
- Unfortunately, a representative from my company will not be able to attend this time, but keep me on your list for next year.

---

### Display Requests:

We will supply table and 2 chairs, let us know if you need electrical or any other specifications **PRIOR** to arrive (we cannot guarantee availability day of)

Please bring Table Cover, Displays, Business Cards, and Table Giveaways

---

**Please submit this registration **No Later than March 5, 2020****

**SPACE IS LIMITED SO PLEASE RESPOND ASAP**

Email completed form to [Beth.Abstein@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:Beth.Abstein@stjohns.k12.fl.us)

FCTC Job Fair Questions, call Beth Abstein (904)547-3389 Military Event Questions, call Wendy Lay (904)547-3512

**On behalf of North Florida South Georgia Veterans Health System (NF/SGVHS), we would like to invite you to attend in the 2019 Jacksonville VA Outpatient Clinic (OPC) Community Whole Health/ Mental Health Summit on Thursday, November 14th at Florida State College at Jacksonville's Advanced Technology Center, 401 W. State St. Jacksonville, FL. 32202. Registration will begin at 8:00 a.m.**



As part of the City of Jacksonville's Season of Valor, this will be the 7th year of facilitating VA/Community Summits in Duval County. The VA is striving to increase collaboration with the community in addressing subjects that reflect an integrated approach to health and mental health care in Jacksonville.

**Topics will include:**

**Whole Health and Integrated Care for Health and Wellness**

**Suicide Prevention Initiatives and Partnerships**

**Moral Injury & Post Traumatic Growth**

**Mission Act/Community Care**

**Transitioning Service Members Services**

**Same Day Access to Care & PCMHI**

**Built for Zero Homelessness Initiative**

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 at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/vacommunity-whole-healthmental-health-summit-tickets-70271488915>, 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](mailto: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 before and after the event.

Breakfast and lunch will be provided. CEU's pending. This year's event venue is sponsored by Florida State College at Jacksonville's Military and Veteran Service Center.

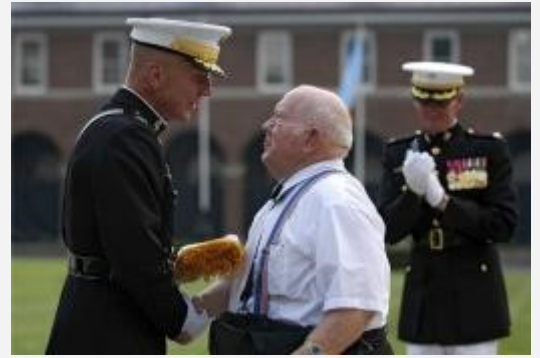
~This event is open to the Public~

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

## The Story of a Heroic Brave Marine

You wouldn't know it to look at him, but the little old man in the center of this photo was one of the toughest Jarheads ever.

In 1942 when he was only 14, Jacklyn "Jack" Lucas enlisted in the Marine Corps after convincing the recruiter he was 17.



Posted to a depot unit at Pearl Harbor, Jack was bored and wanted action, so in January of 1945, he rolled up a combat uniform under his arm, sneaked out of camp, and stowed away aboard a Naval Transport that was taking 1st Battalion, 26th Marines, 5th Marine Division to Iwo Jima.

Not knowing what to do with him, the Marine battalion commander busted Jack one rank, then assigned him as rifleman to C Company. A few days later, Jack turned 17.

The day after landing on Iwo Jima, Jack dove on top of one Japanese grenade then pulled another beneath him. The blast ripped through his body, but saved his comrades.

It took 21 surgeries to save him, and for the rest of his life carried in his body more than 200 large pieces of shrapnel.

On October 5th, 1945, Jack Lucas received the Medal of Honor from President Harry Truman in a ceremony on the White House lawn. He is the youngest Marine ever to receive the nation's highest honor.

He then returned to high school.... as a freshman.

After college, Jack entered the Army as a Captain in the 82nd Airborne, and survived a training jump in which neither his main chute nor his reserve chute opened.

Two years before he died in 2008, Jack was honored by the Commandant of the Marine Corps, General Michael W. Hagee, who presented him with a Medal of Honor ceremonial flag at the Marine Barracks in Washington, D.C.

It was during that ceremony that this photo was taken.

Semper Fidelis.





*You are invited to our Veteran's Day Luncheon*

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2019**  
**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. Johns County Council On Aging

Please call Lorain Vinson, Program Coordinator, COA's Hastings Community Senior Center at **904-729-9161** or email her at [lvinson@stjohnscoa.com](mailto:lvinson@stjohnscoa.com) by October 23 to RSVP.

Meals must be reserved in advance.

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St. Johns County  
**Council On Aging**

 **Community**  
Hospice & Palliative Care

**The Veterans Council of St. Johns County Website has been updated to include:**

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

**Main page: Veterans Day flyer, with a link to the press release document, Navigation bars now include:**

**Upcoming events (for 2019)**

**<https://veteranscouncilsjc.org/events.htm>**

**SJVC Highlights for 2018 <https://veteranscouncilsjc.org/index.htm/files/VC%202018%20Summary.pdf>**

**Past event for 2018 <https://veteranscouncilsjc.org/events2018.htm>**

**Veterans Resource Spreadsheet <https://veteranscouncilsjc.org/index.htm/files/VeteranResourceSpreadsheetUpdated2017.10.12.pdf>**

## Proposed Forever stamp would honor female veterans

By KELLY BYER | The Repository, (Tribune News Service)

A California congresswoman is proposing a Forever stamp series to honor women who served in the military, including two Stark County women killed in action.

The resolution introduced last week by U.S. Rep. Julia Brownley mentions 1st Lt. Ashley White-Stumpf, a Marlinton High graduate killed in Afghanistan, and 1st Lt. Sharon Lane, a Canton South High graduate killed in Vietnam. They are among 18 women suggested by name in the proposal.

"Through my work on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee and as Chairwoman of the Women Veterans Task Force, I have become keenly aware of the tremendous accomplishments and contributions of the over 2 million women who have served this nation in uniform," Brownley wrote in an email from her spokeswoman.

The House resolution, which would not go before the Senate, would encourage the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee to consider the stamp series and recommend it to the postmaster general, who issues such stamps.

White-Stumpf's mother, Deborah White, said she has not been involved in the resolution but wholeheartedly supports it.

"I think it would be wonderful if they honored the women veterans," she said. "There's a lot of women that have done a lot of strong, great things for the military, and I think it's about time they honored the women like they do the men all the time."

White-Stumpf, 24, graduated from Kent State in 2009 and served in the U.S. Army National Guard. She was part of a cultural support team (CST) assisting special operations forces when they triggered an improvised explosive device.

White-Stumpf was the first CST member to die in combat.

Lane was a U.S. Army nurse killed in 1969 — the only American servicewoman killed by direct enemy fire during the Vietnam War. She was an Aultman College of Nursing graduate and is memorialized outside the Canton hospital with a statue, the base of which lists the 110 Stark County servicemen killed in the war.

Brownley stated that her resolution is meant to recognize the "brave and remarkable women" who have served their country.

"I am also working on sending a letter to the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee (CSAC) requesting a stamp series honoring women veterans," she stated. "I am hopeful CSAC will issue such a series so that we can raise the visibility of women's service in the Armed Forces, and as a nation, we can collectively pay tribute and honor the sacrifices of women veterans."

1st Lt. Sharon Lane, left, who was killed in Vietnam, and 1st Lt. Ashley White-Stumpf, who died in Afghanistan, are among 18 women suggested by name in a Forever stamp proposal.



Chairman Dudley receives donation check from the St Augustine Lions Club for our Veterans Day Ceremony.



**Joe Snowberger, VP Duval County Veterans Council: As Neil Armstrong would have said "Good for Jacksonville, GREAT for the largest military, Veterans, and family population in America's Friendliest**



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In honor of Veteran's Day, join us for an exhilarating, interactive show that will have you singing, dancing, laughing and feeling a renewed love for our great nation. This timeless USO-style performance by *Letters From Home* will leave you dazzled by snappy tap dancing and jazzy harmonies – and touched by sincerity, hope and patriotism. With their mission to honor veterans, active military and their families by reviving patriotism for all generations, *Letters From Home* brings their toe-tapping 1940s-1960s musical salute to audiences all over the country. We are proud to welcome them back to Silver Creek.



**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9**  
**2:00 p.m.**

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 or visit [SilverCreekRetirement.com](http://SilverCreekRetirement.com) to RSVP.



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## NAVY WAVE DECODED SECRET GERMAN MESSAGES DURING WWII

*Happy 95th Birthday to WWII US Navy WAVES veteran Florence Johnson!*

At the age of 20, Florence entered service in the Navy and was stationed at WAVES Quarters D in Washington D.C., working in the cryptology department. She recalled serving alongside dozens of other Navy women decoding German messages and passing the information on to military leaders. They worked night and day to solve the constant flow of enemy commu- niques which were intercepted by their secret equipment. Florence and her unit lived in sepa- rate barracks and ate in a separate mess hall, as they were not allowed to discuss their work with anyone outside their specific assignment. -

WAVES in the cryptologic field were sworn to secrecy, and to this day, Florence won't go into great detail about her essential job during WWII. WAVES were never told the implications of their jobs, nor the im- pact their crucial work had to break the German enigma code. Their heroic efforts provided vital intelligence to the mili- tary, not only to keep many American troops out of harm's way, but ensure that our country emerged from war victori- ous. -

In the years following WWII, Mrs. Johnson worked for the FBI and later for a prominent Congressman. -

We had the honor to interview Mrs. Johnson in 2017 to ensure that her incredible memories from WWII are remem- bered for generations to come.

-



Article submitted by Blair Craig

## Army proposes restricting eligibility for burial at Arlington National Cemetery

By NIKKI WENTLING | STARS AND STRIPES

<https://www.stripes.com/news/us/army-proposes-restricting-eligibility-for-burial-at-arlington-national-cemetery-1.600407>

WASHINGTON — The Army is proposing to restrict eligibility criteria for burial at Arlington National Cemetery in a move to extend its use as an active cemetery well into the future, acting Secretary of the Army Ryan McCarthy announced Wednesday.

Under rules now, most veterans and military retirees are eligible for either above- or below-ground burial in Arlington. The Army will begin a monthslong rule-making process to change the criteria.

The Army proposed restricting below-ground burial to servicemembers killed in action, Purple Heart recipients, former prisoners of war, presidents and vice presidents, combat veterans who were awarded the Silver Star or above, servicemembers who had combat-related deaths and combat veterans who also served as government officials and “made significant contributions to the nation’s security at the highest levels of public service.”

Arlington also would reserve 1,000 burial plots for Medal of Honor recipients.

Under the proposed changes, above-ground inurnment would be available to World War II veterans, armed forces retirees, combat veterans who served at least two years on active duty and veterans without combat service who worked as government officials and contributed to national security.

A spokesman for the cemetery said the Army couldn’t comment on the details of the proposed criteria until they were posted to the Federal Register. The rule-making process is expected to take at least nine months.

“The hard reality is we are running out of space,” said Karen Durham-Aguilera, director of the cemetery. “To keep Arlington National Cemetery open and active well into the future means we have to make some tough decisions that restrict the eligibility.”

Last September, the cemetery opened a 27-acre expansion, which had been in the works since the 1990s. Another project, the Southern Expansion, is in the planning stages and would add 37 acres of burial space to the cemetery.

Even with the extra acres, Arlington National Cemetery is expected to reach capacity in the mid-2050s.

The National Defense Authorization Act approved by Congress for fiscal year 2019 ordered the secretary of the Army to develop new criteria for burial at Arlington — restrictions that would allow it to remain an active cemetery for the next 150 years.

The Federal Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery, which includes a Medal of Honor recipient, military retirees, military families and former members of Congress, began discussing new eligibility criteria years ago.

The rule-making process will include a period of public comment, during which the Army will collect more feedback.

“This is a lengthy process, but it’s another opportunity to have a say in what the future of Arlington National Cemetery should be for our nation,” Durham-Aguilera said in a statement.

<https://www.stripes.com/news/us/army-proposes-restricting-eligibility-for-burial-at-arlington-national-cemetery-1.600407>



## *From Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley*

### **AC-119 Gunship Story and Mission**



These gunships were built here at the Fairchild Plant ( now Northrop Grumman ) in 67-68. I was the Director of Flight Test / Flight Ops on this program and flew a lot of these aircraft before they were turned over to the USAF. A lot of the AF crews trained here before the aircraft were delivered to Lockbourne and Bakalar AFB.

The Fairchild AC-119G Shadow and AC-119K Stinger were twin-engine piston-powered gunships developed by the United States during the Vietnam War. They replaced the Douglas AC-47 Spooky and operated alongside the early versions of the AC-130 Spectre gunship.

#### Design and development

By late 1967, the idea of the fixed-wing gunship had been proven so successful, the United States Air Force was having a difficult time keeping up with demand. The newer AC-130s that had been created under Project Gunship II were effective, but were being mostly used for armed reconnaissance and interdiction of the Ho Chi Minh Trail. Furthermore, the C-130 airframe was in active service as a transport, vital to the war effort in Southeast Asia. The Air Force desperately needed a new gunship to replace the vulnerable and underpowered AC-47 in the close air support role, as well as supplementing the AC-130 in attacking targets on the Ho Chi Minh Trail.

The Fairchild C-119 Flying Boxcar presented an obvious choice, having been phased out of front-line service in favor of the C-123 and C-130, and with the stock of available airframes in U.S. Air Force Reserve being sufficient. In February 1968, under the USAF program Project Gunship III, 26 C-119Gs were converted to AC-119G standard, initially taking on the name "Creep", but later assigned the callsign "Shadow".

In addition, Fairchild-Hiller, which was contracted for all the conversions, converted another 26 C-119Gs into AC-119Ks, primarily for the "truck hunter" role over the Ho Chi Minh Trail. These aircraft were called "Stingers" primarily in reference to the two M61 Vulcan 20-mm cannons they carried in addition to the AC-119G's four GAU-2/A miniguns. The AC-119K could be visually distinguished by the addition of two General Electric J85 turbojet engines in underwing pods. The conversions were completed at Fairchild-Hiller's facility in St. Augustine, Florida.

Project Gunship III, being a follow-on to the success of the AC-130 series, meant that the AC-119 was a more advanced aircraft in both its iterations than the AC-47. Even the TIC AC-119G featured some of the most up-to-date electronic countermeasures and radar equipment, as well as more basic technology, including an AVQ-8 xenon light, a night observation sight, and an LAU-74/A flare launcher.

The AC-119K, designed to hit trucks on the Ho Chi Minh Trail, was more advanced. Included in the conversion was the AN/APN-147 Doppler navigation radar, AN/AAD-4 forward looking infrared, AN/APQ-133 side-looking beacon tracking radar and AN/APQ-136 search radar.

The armament scheme for both aircraft was simpler than that of the AC-130. The AC-119G had a total of four GAU-2A/A miniguns in SUU-11A/A pods, all on mounts similar to those used on early AC-47s. Like late-model AC-47s, these were soon changed to the purpose-built MXU-470/A minigun modules. The AC-119K, needing a more powerful and longer range "punch" to take out vehicles, featured two M61 20-mm cannons in addition to the four miniguns of the AC-119G.



## Operational history

By November 1968, the aircraft had deployed to Vietnam and joined the 14th Special Operations Wing at Nha Trang Air Base. The AC-119Gs were placed in the 71st Special Operations Squadron which was formed from the activated 71st Troop Carrier Squadron, of the Air Force Reserve located at Bakalar Air Force Base in Columbus, Indiana. When the 71 SOS returned to continental USA in 1969, the gunships were taken over by the newly formed 17 SOS.

The AC-119Ks were placed in the 18th Special Operations Squadron. With the addition of the two types, the 14 SOW for a time in 1968 was flying eight different aircraft from ten different bases in South Vietnam. The 14 SOW was inactivated in 1971. Limited numbers continued to be operated out of Thailand as late as the fall of 1972, but the AC-119 was phased out shortly after from the US Air Force. The AC-119G and 119K continued to serve with the Republic of Vietnam Air Force (RVNAF) until the Fall of Saigon in 1975. During the Vietnam War, only five AC-119 Gunship IIIs were lost to all causes.

## Specifications (AC-119G)

### General characteristics

Crew: 6 (day), 8 (night)

Length: 86 ft 5¾ in (26.36 m)

Wingspan: 109 ft ¾ in (33.31 m)

Height: 26 ft ¾ in (8.12 m)

Wing area: 1,400 ft<sup>2</sup> (130 m<sup>2</sup>)

Empty weight: 40,125 lb (18,200 kg)

Max. takeoff weight: 62,000 lb (28,100 kg)

Powerplant: 2 × Wright R-3350-85 "Duplex Cyclone" radial engines, 3,500 hp (2,610 kW) each

### Performance

Maximum speed: 180 knots (210 mph, 335 km/h)

Cruise speed: 130 knots (150 mph, 240 km/h)

Range: 1,680 nm (1,930 mi, 3,100 km)

Service ceiling: 23,300 ft (7,100 m)

### Armament

4× GAU-2/A 7.62 mm (0.30 in) miniguns, 1,500 rounds/gun

2× M61 Vulcan 20 mm (0.787 in) 6-barreled Gatling cannon (AC-119K variant only)

60× Mk 24 flares in a LAU-74/A flare launcher



**Here is the AC-119 Gunship Story and Mission**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=64EbN2AJHfA&feature=youtu.be>



## Favorite song of General Custer and the 7th Cavalry

### Garry Owen

Garry Owen was the unofficial marching song of the Seventh Cavalry. Gen. Custer reportedly heard the song among his Irish troop and liked it. The tune was then played so often the 7th became tied to it.

The tune is first documented as Auld Bessy in 1788. It was later (1800) in the opera Harlequin Amulet (the Majic of Mona). About that time it was attributed to "Jackson of Cork" by a book of Country Dances by William Campbell. It also appeared in part two (1802) of Nathaniel Gow's four volume Complete Repository of the Original Scotch Slow Tunes.

Thomas Moore also wrote a set of lyrics to the tune The Daughters of Erin.

Let Bacchus' sons be not dismayed  
But join with me, each jovial blade  
Come, drink and sing and lend your aid  
To help me with the chorus:

#### Chorus

Instead of spa, we'll drink brown ale  
And pay the reckoning on the nail;  
No man for debt shall go to jail  
From Garryowen in glory.

We'll beat the bailiffs out of fun,  
We'll make the mayor and sheriffs run  
We are the boys no man dares dun  
If he regards a whole skin.

#### Chorus

Our hearts so stout have got no fame  
For soon 'tis known from whence we came  
Where'er we go they fear the name  
Of Garryowen in glory.

# VIETNAM

## UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

**III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE**

9TH MARINE AMPHIBIOUS BRIGADE

1ST MARINE DIVISION

3RD MARINE DIVISION

1ST MARINE AIR WING

1ST MARINE REGIMENT

3RD MARINE REGIMENT

4TH MARINE REGIMENT

5TH MARINE REGIMENT

7TH MARINE REGIMENT

9TH MARINE REGIMENT

26TH MARINE REGIMENT

27TH MARINE REGIMENT

15T-3RD RECONNAISSANCE BTTLNS.

15T-3RD TANK BATTALIONS

1ST FIELD ARTILLERY GROUP

15T-3RD-7TH-9TH-11TH ENGINEERING BTTNS

15T-5TH-7TH RADIO BATTALIONS

15T-3RD MEDICAL BATTALIONS

**I CORPS TACTICAL ZONE**

DA NANG

CHU LAI - QUANG TRI

HUE - DONG HA

MONKEY MT. - MARBLE MT.

KHE SAHN - QUANG NAM

CAMP CARROLL - CAM LO

PHONG DIEN - HUE

PHU LOC - HOI AN

QUANG TIN - DA NANG

CON THIEN - DONG HA

HOI AN - PHU LOC

THUA THIEN - DA NANG

BA TO - DMZ - PHU BAI

LSD - 35 MONTICELLO

CVA - 34 ORISKANY

CVA - 43 CORAL SEA

CVN - 65 ENTERPRISE

LPH - 8 VALLEY FORGE

**'FOR THOSE WHO FOUGHT FOR IT,  
FREEDOM HAS A FLAVOR THE PROTECTED WILL NEVER KNOW'**

**1959 - 1975** ©JTK 2010

# VETERAN

Veterans Day in St. Augustine will be different this year. **Tom Twigg** will not be bringing his Traveling Vietnam Wall to our Veterans Day Celebration on November 11 at Anastasia Baptist Church. Tom has passed on but his patriotism and love for veterans will be taken up by the Patriot Guard Riders.





Big night for Northeast Florida veterans and their families. We are the first community to jump off the sidelines in the fight against veteran suicide. Tonight the Jacksonville City Council and the Clay County Commission unanimously passed The Fire Watch. That's all 5 counties! Time to get to work! #stop22 — with Jason Snodgrass, Jeremiah Blocker, Michael Fleming, Daniel Bean, Justin M. Taylor and Gavin Rollins.





The Veterans Council of St Johns County will again be hosting the Traveling Vietnam Wall for its Veterans Day event on Monday, November 11, 2019.

In addition to the Vietnam Wall, we also will have on display the War on Terror Wall.

Chairman Dudley will be arranging a tri county Sheriff's dept. Wall Escort and PGR Ride Captain has provided the attached Ride/Escort schedule.

Food and beverage will be provided upon arrival in St Augustine on Sunday Nov. 10.



### PGR's Vietnam Wall Escort / Setup

Sunday / Monday, November 10 & 11, 2019

Fellow PGR, we are Honored to be able to escort and set up our very own Vietnam Wall for a Veteran's Day Celebration.

There are three segments of the escort prior to reaching the final destination in St. Augustine, FL.

1. Depart Saint Cloud, escort to Bruce Rossmeyer's Harley Davidson in Ormond Beach (Daytona) (approximately 90 miles) where other Veteran organizations and LEO will join us.
2. Depart Ormond Beach with LEO assisted escort to the Elks Lodge 829 in St. Augustine (approximately 45 miles traveling on US 1 north) where food and beverage will be provided.
3. Depart Elks Lodge 829 to Anastasia Baptist Church (approximately 1/2 miles south) where we will erect The Wall for a Veteran's Day Ceremony on Monday 11/11/2019

A lot of help will be needed to set up The Wall on Sunday and to take it down on Monday after the ceremony. This will be a good opportunity to get experience in erecting The Wall for future PGR Wall missions.

Feel free to join the escort at any staging point along the route.

Flag Bikes are encouraged





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# WARRIOR PATHH



Warrior PATHH (*Progressive and Alternative Training for Healing Heroes*) is the nation's first non-clinical program designed to cultivate and facilitate Posttraumatic Growth amongst those struggling with PTSD and/or combat stress. Warrior PATHH enables these remarkable men and women to transform times of deep struggle into profound strength and growth. All Warrior PATHH instructors have walked this road from struggle to strength, and the blended team of trained combat veterans and civilians leverage their own experiences to guide attendees. This 18-month program begins with a 7-day retreat, initiating students into the Warrior PATHH. Students are then supported for the following 77 weeks via the myPATHH technology platform, regular Team Video Chats, alumni coaches, and the Warrior PATHH Student Guide and Journal.

Warrior PATHH was created by Boulder Crest, a pioneering nonprofit organization focused on developing transformative programs that ensure combat veterans can be as productive at home as they were on the battlefield. **GratitudeAmerica** and Boulder Crest have partnered to bring Warrior PATHH to Florida.

The Warrior PATHH is based on the decades-old science of Posttraumatic Growth (PTG) and enable participants to meaningfully and sustainably transform times of deep struggle into profound strength and lifelong growth. As a result, participants experience stronger and deeper relationships, new possibilities, an increased sense of gratitude for life, greater connection to their spiritual or religious life, and a renewed sense of personal strength.

➤ **Warrior PATHH is provided at no cost for post 9/11 combat veterans.**

➤ **No clinical diagnosis is required to attend.**

➤ **Programs are offered monthly in Gainesville, FL.**



**GratitudeAmerica**

TO LEARN MORE VISIT:

[GRATITUDEAMERICA.ORG/WARRIOR-PATHH](http://GRATITUDEAMERICA.ORG/WARRIOR-PATHH)

## CONTACT US

Mike Hilliard, *Warrior PATHH Program Director*

[warriorpathh@gratitudeamerica.org](mailto:warriorpathh@gratitudeamerica.org)


P.O. Box 16956

Fernandina Beach, FL 32035


**770-718-7108**

Installation of the Beirut Memorial Monument will go on the anniversary of the bombing, OCTOBER 23, time to be determined at Evergreen Cemetery. The formal Dedication will be on Nov 10th at 1600 and we will always have a remembrance every Nov 10th at Evergreen as we have done since 2004. We have now ensured our fellow Marines lost in Beirut and Grenada will never be forgotten here in Jacksonville, Florida. We call this SEMPER FIDELIS.


1775 ~Always Faithful~ 2019



**Dedication of the Beirut Memorial**  
Honoring those who served in Beirut and Grenada especially those who  
paid the ultimate sacrifice  
&  
Annual  
**Marine & Navy FMF Corpsmen  
Memorial Ceremony**  
**Evergreen Cemetery**  
4535 Main St Jacksonville, FL  
Semper Fidelis Society  
Beirut Veterans  
Marines of NE FL



November 10, 2019 4 PM  
**We have a responsibility to never forget!**



~SEMPER FIDELIS~

**There's a new sign on SR 207, just west of the Record building  
VA clinic groundbreaking set**

**Groundbreaking for a new veterans Community Based Outpatient Clinic has been re-scheduled. We will post the new date when we receive it.**

**"It will be a significant event with invitations to many of our elected officials including Governor DeSantis, U.S. Senators Rubio and Scott, Congressmen Rutherford and Waltz and other elected officials," says St. Johns Veterans Council Chair Bill Dudley. "This has been a long time coming for our deserving veterans who rely on the clinic for their health care needs."**

**The new location is off SR 207 south of SR 312.**

**Dudley was in the forefront of efforts to secure a new location and clinic for nearly ten years after announcement the old location at the county health complex on US 1 was to be sold to Lowe's.**

**"It has at times been extremely contentious, but our persistence has been rewarded with a permanent location and the clinic will soon be under construction," says Dudley.**





From War History Online

## **New Memorial Dedicated to Vietnam War Dogs and Their Handlers**

Motts Military Museum in Groveport, Ohio (a suburb of Columbus, Ohio), dedicated the new Vietnam War Dog Team Memorial.

It consists of three black granite panels which are made of granite from the same area of India that provided the granite for the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C. On the panels are inscribed the names of 4,244 dogs that served during the war and 297 names of the dog handlers plus one veterinarian and two vet technicians who died in Vietnam. The middle panel contains the words, “The Unbreakable Bond.”



The memorial also includes life-sized statues of Ed Reeves and his dog, Prince. Reeves was a dog handler in Vietnam. Whenever he visits the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, D.C., he looks at the names of the soldiers who died on September 12, 1970, and on February 14, 1971. He says that if it wasn't for Prince on those two days, his name would be on the monument.

The memorial in Groveport cost \$110,000. The granite panels were designed and constructed by Columbus Art Memorial. The sculpture was created by Alan Cottrill, a sculptor from Zanesville, Ohio.

Reeves attended the dedication of the new memorial. Tom King was another handler who attended. He said that only two things kept him going through the difficult time of war, letters from home and time with his dog, Fritz. Many dog handlers had a difficult time returning from the war. When they finished their tours of duty, their dogs remained behind to work with other handlers. Most of the dogs that survived the war were either euthanized or sent to work for the South Vietnamese Army. Only about 200 of the dogs came home to the US.

The Vietnam Dog Handler Association formed to help these veterans cope with the guilt of leaving their dogs behind. Vice president Ernie Ayala says that it is difficult to think about how these dogs saved their lives and in return the handlers went home and left the dogs behind.



Reeves has volunteered at Motts Military Museum since 2012. He researched what became of his dog, Prince, and published the results in a book he self-published in 2016. The assistant director of the museum, Lori Motts-Byrd, began raising funds in order to build a memorial to the dogs and the men who worked with them. Private donations poured in and a major \$50,000 grant from the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission was key in getting the project off the ground.

There is a long history of dogs being used in war that stretches back to ancient times. The first that the US authorized the use of training for dogs was in World War II. Dogs were trained as scouts and sentries as well as other duties.

The war dog association believes that as many as 4,900 dogs served in Vietnam but records from the early years of the war are incomplete so it is impossible to say for certain.

King was stationed as a military policeman at Lockbourne Air Force Base (now known as Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base) in Columbus, Ohio, when a commanding officer sent him to be trained as a dog handler. Fritz was trained to be a sentry dog. These dogs were rarely sent into combat. Instead, they were used to patrol the perimeters of military bases.

Fritz and King were shipped to Vietnam in January 1967. When King was sent home in January 1968, he had to leave Fritz behind.

Reeves grew up loving dogs so he volunteered for the opportunity to be a dog handler. He arrived in Vietnam with Prince on September 12, 1970. The two were trained to scout which meant they would go on patrols and search for people, mines and booby traps.

On their first day in Vietnam, they barely survived a firefight with the enemy. Then on February 14, 1971, Prince stopped Reeves as he was about to step over a fallen tree. When Reeves investigated the spot where he nearly stepped, he found an unexploded shell that had been rigged as a mine.

Reeves was sent home in 1971 but Prince stayed behind.

Since then both King and Reeves have been able to see the records of their dogs. King learned that Fritz was euthanized after the war. Reeves found out that Prince had been one of the few dogs that returned to the US. Prince worked in San Diego sniffing for drugs at the border.

## Veterans Legacy Memorial honors deceased Veterans online



The Veterans Legacy Memorial, the country’s first digital platform dedicated entirely to memory preservation for the 3.7 million Veterans interred in VA national cemeteries, launched Aug. 14.

Each Veteran will have their own memorial page on the VLM, a secure, web-based platform that creates a perpetual memorial extending beyond the physical border of the national cemetery.

“Veterans Legacy Memorial ensures ‘no Veteran ever dies’ by honoring the legacy of our nation’s Veterans, not just in our cemeteries, but in a new and innovative digital setting,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “It enhances the onsite national cemetery experience and extends the experience to those who otherwise are unable to physically visit the cemetery.”

NCA, in conjunction with VA’s Office of Information & Technology, built the architecture for the site starting with the information contained on every Veteran’s headstone.

In the initial rollout, the public will be able to search the site for Veterans, find out where they are buried and read the basic details of their lives and service. Future capabilities may be expanded to allow families, survivors, fellow Veterans and others to add historic photos and share memories to a deceased Veteran’s memorial page. Such capabilities will include provisions that allows NCA to manage the site in a manner that maintains the same level of decorum our customers experience in our national cemeteries.

For more information about the Veterans Legacy Memorial, visit <https://www.va.gov/remember>. Have questions about Veterans Legacy Memorial? Find what you’re looking for at VLM FAQ.

**American Legion Riders Chapter 194**

# **POKER RUN**

**NOV 9TH**  
**KSU 10:30am**

Register at  
VFW 239 9:30am  
\$20 for Riders  
\$10 for Passengers  
**LUNCH INCLUDED!**

**50/50**  
**RAFFLES**  
**BEST & WORST**  
**HAND PAYOUT**

**Benefiting Kids Safe Zone and  
Post 194 Veterans' Centennial Park**

Stops:  
VFW Post 239 US 1, St. Augustine  
Finns Beachside Pub Flagler Beach  
American Legion Post 267, Ormond Beach  
AmVets Post 113, Bunnell  
AL Post 194 St. Augustine



**POC: Pop Terry: 904.599.0012 Bridgette G: 240.412.1420**





# A FEW FACTS ABOUT THE VIETNAM WALL



**There are 58,267 names on the wall.**

**39,996 were just 22 or younger.**

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

**12 were 17 years old.**

**5 soldiers were 16.**

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

**31 sets of parents lost 2 of their sons.**

**997 were killed their first day.**

**1,448 were killed on their last day.**

**8 women were on the wall, nurses.**

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



# THE AMERICAN SOLDIER

## THEN & NOW



### 1968 (ENLISTED)



- 22 years old
- 79% high school graduates
- < 1% female
- 21% minority
- 60% draftees
- 36% married
- SGT base pay = \$279/mo\*
- SGLI coverage = \$10,000\*
- 35 lbs of equipment (\$1,856)\*
- Individual replacements
- 62% survival rate if wounded

### 2018 (ENLISTED)



- 28 years old
- 96% high school graduates
- 15% female
- 48% minority
- 100% volunteers
- 52% married
- SGT base pay = \$2,490/mo
- SGLI coverage = \$400,000
- 75+ lbs of equipment (\$19,454)
- Unit rotations
- 88% survival rate if wounded

\*\*\*\*\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*\*\*\*\*

## VETERANS COUNCIL ANNOUNCES WREATH CAMPAIGN



Chairman Bill Dudley of the Veterans Council of St. Johns County has announced the annual drive for Wreaths Across America has begun.

The council is dedicated to ensuring that every headstone in the St. Augustine National Cemetery is adorned with a live holiday wreath this year. The council has successfully sponsored the drive for several years.

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 14, 2019 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.

Checks made payable to WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA may be sent to: Veterans Council of St. Johns County, P. O. Box 2117, St. Augustine, FL 32085-2117.

For any additional information please contact one of the campaign co-chairs, SGM (Ret) Ray Quinn at 904.797.5622 or CAPT George Linardos, USA (Fmr) at 904.495.6111.

The Veterans Council of St. Johns County would like to invite our St. Augustine community to Wreaths Across America Day, Saturday, December 14, 2019 at 12:00 pm (noon) at the St. Augustine National Cemetery on 104 Marine Street, next to the Florida National Guard Headquarters. Parking is at a premium so be sure to arrive early. Youth organizations are encouraged to participate to learn about and honor our veterans.



Wreaths Across America is dedicated to ensuring that headstones in all America's National Cemeteries are adorned with a live holiday wreath at Christmas.

A 12 year old paperboy for the Bangor Daily News named Morrill Worcester, now owner of Worcester Wreath Company of Harrington, Maine, won a trip to Washington D.C. Arlington National Cemetery made an especially indelible impression on him. Later in life, this experience reminded him that his good fortune was due to veterans, especially by those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

In 1992, the Worcester Wreath Company found themselves with a surplus of 5,000 wreaths nearing the end of the holiday season. Seeing an opportunity to honor our country's veterans arrangements were made for the surplus wreaths to be placed at Arlington National Cemetery, which included a special ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. This year we will place over 2 million wreaths at 1,640 National Cemeteries.

Donation levels for individual wreaths start as low \$15.00 per wreath. 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. 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.

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# COMBAT VETS ASSOCIATION



VETERANS HELPING VETERANS

## 7<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL STATE RALLY WEEKEND

### NOV 1 - 3, 2019



#### FRIDAY

REGISTRATION  
BEGINS AT 5PM

MEET & GREET  
7PM - ??

#### SUNDAY

BREAKFAST  
BEGINS AT 8AM

MORNING RIDE?  
9AM - ??

#### SATURDAY

BREAKFAST 8AM TRAVELLING VIETNAM WAR MEMORIAL WALL ESCORT 9AM  
SPEED LIMIT 70 12PM-3PM BIKINI BIKE WASH 12:30PM-4:30PM  
SHRINERS LOW-BOIL 3PM [\$25 FOR CVMA MEMBERS]  
BIKE CONTEST AND GAMES 3PM-5PM LICKETY SPLIT 3:15PM-5:15PM  
**THUNDERJACK 6PM-8PM**

CASH BAR PROVIDED BY

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The logo consists of the letters 'V4V' in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The number '4' is smaller and positioned between the two 'V's. The letters are filled with a pattern of white stars on a dark blue background, reminiscent of the American flag.

**Together We are Stronger**

**Keeping our Veterans  
Informed, Connected, United, and Organized**

V4VFlorida.org

Vets4VetsNJax@gmail.com

Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram: @Vets4VetsNJax

#vets4vetsjax #Jointhevetsmovement #Togetherwearestronger



## Mission Statement:

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



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

## What the Council has done:

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

SA-0003147064-01

# POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER AWARENESS

NOT ALL WOUNDS ARE VISIBLE...

11%-20% OF  
OEF/OIF VETERANS  
SUFFER FROM  
PTSD



## SYMPTOMS:

- FLASHBACKS
- NIGHTMARES
- FEELING ON EDGE
- TROUBLE SLEEPING
- HYPERVIGILANCE
- OVERWHELMING GUILT OR SHAME
- LOSS OF INTEREST IN ENJOYABLE ACTIVITIES
- SELF-DESTRUCTIVE BEHAVIOR
- STAYING AWAY FROM PLACES, EVENTS, OR OBJECTS THAT ARE REMINDERS OF THE EXPERIENCE
- HAVING DIFFICULTY SLEEPING, AND/OR HAVING ANGRY OUTBURSTS
- NEGATIVE THOUGHTS ABOUT ONESELF OR THE WORLD
- FEELING EMOTIONALLY NUMB

## WAYS GBF ASSISTS:

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- NEUROFEEDBACK
- HOLISTIC ALTERNATIVE THERAPIES



# A question we all may have to ask some day. What should I do if a Veteran passes away?

## SECTION 8 Partial list of action to be undertaken upon the death of veteran or retiree.

1. Contact Funeral Director to set-up funeral arrangements and Military Honors (PAFB Mortuary Affairs)
2. Notify Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) (<https://cust-support.dfas.mil/rapiti/nod/>) or call 1-888-332-741
3. Notify Veterans Administration 1-800-827-1000
4. Notify Social Security Administration 1-800-772-1213
5. Notify Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) 1-800-538-9552
6. Notify VA Life Insurance, if applicable 1-800-669-8477
7. Notify SGLI and VGLI Insurance, if applicable 1-800-419-1473
8. Notify Civil Service Retirement System, if applicable 1-888-767-6738
9. Obtain at least 10 certified copies of long form death certificate and 10 copies of short form death certificate from Funerary Directors
10. Notify Life Insurance companies, and file appropriate claims
11. Notify Medical, health, disability, travel and accident insurance companies, and file appropriate claims
12. Notify Home owners insurance company
13. Notify Vehicle insurance company
14. Go to the County Property Appraiser's Office and transfer all real estate properties to surviving spouse.
15. Apply for widowed person's Homestead Exemption
16. Apply for appropriate (VA, Civil Service and other) benefits, if applicable
17. Apply for Veterans Burial Benefits and Survivor Benefits, if applicable
18. Check for non-government pension benefits, if applicable
19. Apply for Workmen's Compensation Benefits if applicable.
20. Notify your Accountant or Tax Preparer (unless Estate Lawyer is preparing the final tax returns) provide certified death certificate, previously filed tax return forms, and current earnings and dividend statements.
21. Notify your investment broker or company.
22. Change ownership of joint or solely owned stocks, mutual funds, etc.
23. Cancel any unfulfilled orders arranged by the deceased
24. Notify IRAs and other retirement and investment account administrators
25. Transfer the ownership of bonds
26. Notify your bank(s) and credit union(s)
27. Change all jointly held accounts and correct tax identification numbers (usually Social Security Numbers) (Leave joint accounts intact for 6 months)
28. Cancel direct deposit retirement benefit payments (for SBP, Civil Service and others, if applicable)
29. Re-establish the Title of your safe deposit box
30. Re-establish all outstanding mortgages, personal notes, etc.
31. Apply for any credit life insurance that may exist on loans, credit cards, and mortgages
32. Change Certificates of Deposit
33. Go to Department Of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to transfer titles of all registered vehicles, mobile homes and boats.
34. Notify all credit card companies and cancel all individually held cards of the deceased
35. Review trusts for required actions, if required.
36. If a Will must be probated, contact your attorney. Your name may also need to be revised.
37. Cancel the deceased's Voter Registration and Drivers License.
38. Obtain new military identification cards. Make appointment at <https://rapids-appointments.dmdc.osd.mil/default.asp> or contact Patrick AFB ID Card Section at 321-494-6144/6147
39. Send "Thank You" cards for flowers, memorial donations, food, etc.

*From Nila Thompson*

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average days on market

**N2N**

N2N Sells Houses **FASTER**



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Others



**2%**

percentage of listings that expire

**N2N**

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**29.9%**

Others

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(904) 349-0456



Kathy Jordan  
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Office: 904-900-4776



# The American Legion Post 194

Make plans to help us celebrate 71 years of serving veterans in the St Augustine community.

Contact Post for more info and tickets. 904 829 8189.



Alton Green Memorial American Legion Post 194  
**71st Anniversary Dinner**

**Saturday 7 September**

Cocktail Reception & hors d'oeuvres at 6 o'clock  
3 Meat Buffet with Trimmings at half past 6

\$25 Per Person Donation

**Featuring Special Guest Speaker  
Lt Col rt'd Bruce Alexander**

 Lt Col rt'd Bruce Alexander	 Serving America's Military Families	 #tbt Citadel vs USC
--	---	---

Former Citadel and All-European Football Standout, Former Deputy Commander 11th Operations Group, Current Vice President of Communications at Operation Homefront.

1029 Pearl Street St. Augustine



rans  
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**Veterans  
Crisis Line**

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PRESS 1

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



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

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

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



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

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

## Veterans Councils of Northeast Florida



### **BAKER COUNTY**

**President: Larry Porterfield**

**Meetings:**

**Second Thursday of each month**

**Location:**

**MacClenny Primitive Baptist Church  
Fellowship Hall on North Boulevard**

**Time: 1800 (6pm)**

### **CLAY COUNTY**

**President: Harry Silvers**

**Meetings:**

**First Wednesday of each month**

**Location:**

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

**Time: 1400 (2pm)**

### **NASSAU COUNTY**

**President: Doc Monaghan**

**Meetings:**

**First Thursday of each month**

**Location:**

**American Legion Post 54  
626 South 3<sup>rd</sup> St  
Fernandina Beach FL 32034**

**Time: 1900 (7pm)**

### **DUVAL COUNTY**

**President: Steve Spickelmier**

**Meetings:**

**Third Tuesday of each month**

**Location:**

**American Legion Post 137  
Moon Building  
5443 San Juan Avenue**

**Time: 1900 (7pm)**

### **ST. JOHNS COUNTY**

**President: Bill Dudley**

**Meetings:**

**Last Thursday of each month**

**Location:**

**Health and Human Services Bldg  
Muscovy Room, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
200 San Sebastian View  
St. Augustine, FL 3208**

**Time: 1900 (7pm)**

Contact Nila Thompson with updates  
Nila.ThompsonV4V@gmail.com



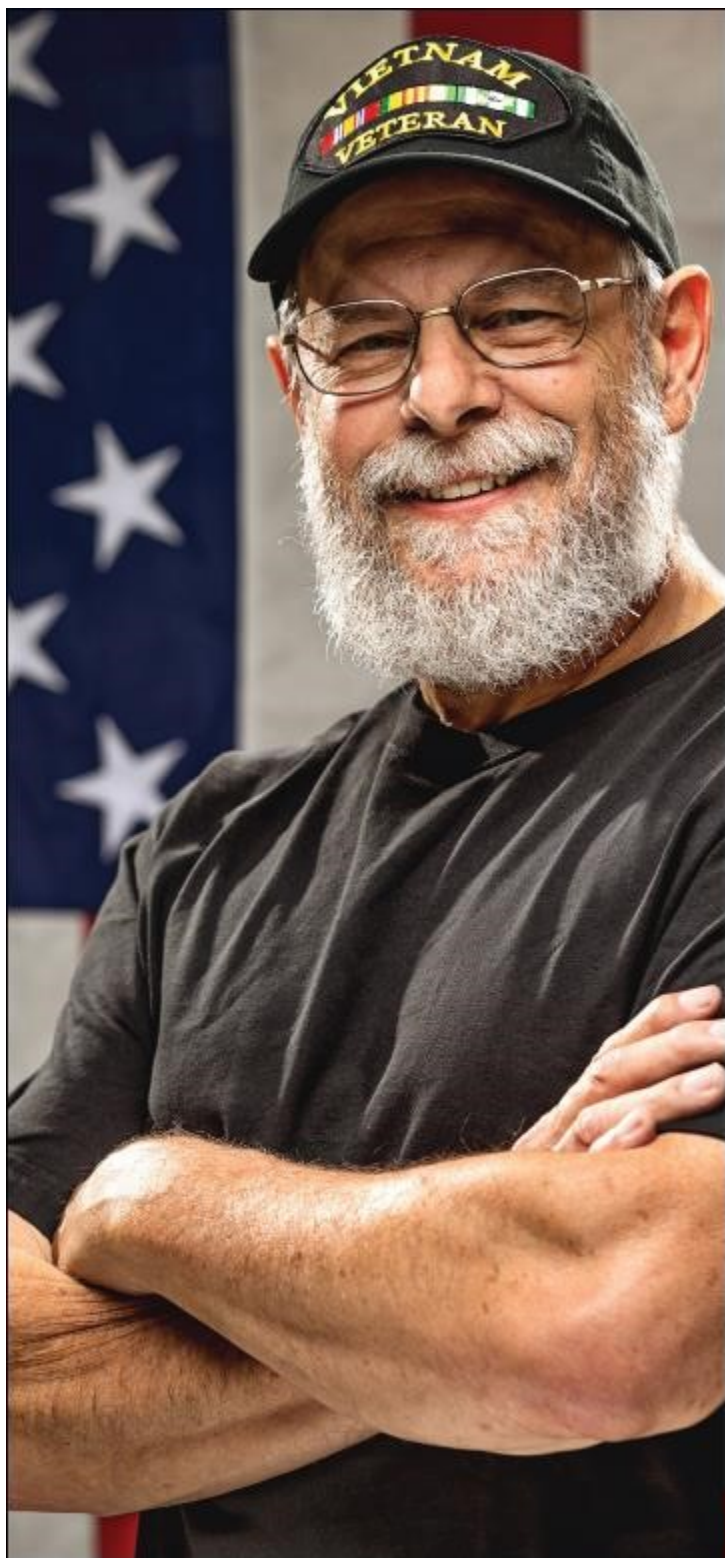
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**(904) 679-5736**

**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.



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# SERVING VETERANS SINCE 1979

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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.

- ★ Advance Care Planning
- ★ Bereavement & Grief Support
- ★ Caregiver Education
- ★ Hospice Care
- ★ Palliative Care
- ★ We Honor Veterans Program

For more information about our We Honor Veterans program, any of our services or to become a veteran volunteer, call toll-free **866.253.6681** or go to **Veterans.CommunityHospice.com**.



*"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)**





## 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](mailto:twootan@communityhospice.com).



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



We are inviting all veterans to visit our website at:

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

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

Please join our group on Facebook at:

<http://veteranscouncilsjc.org>

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

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

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

*You may have noticed the Veterans Council's new logo, it was created by Roy Havekost and his web design company PageAuthors. The VC strongly recommends that you contact Roy, 727-487-6252, 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.



**SURVIVOR  
OUTREACH SERVICES**

Survivor Outreach Offers Free Services to  
Surviving Spouses and Family Members of Military Retirees

**Contact Keith Ham**

Survivor Outreach Services Support Coordinator, HRCI Contractor  
310 Charlotte Street, St. Augustine, FL 32084  
Office: 904-823-0157 Cell: 904-472-7689  
Email: keith.e.ham.ctr@mail.mil

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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: rothfeldm@gmail.com



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

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

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

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

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

***The Veterans Council will meet at the 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  
Travis Neidig, 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.*