



The Patriot Reader Newsletter

P.O. Box 2117

St. Augustine, FL 32085

Bill Dudley, Publisher

Michael Rothfeld, Editor

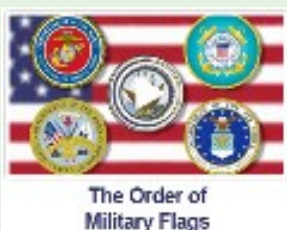
Volume 10, Issue 11

From Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley

November 2021

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Fellow Veterans.

Next week we will have an opportunity to honor our veterans on Veterans Day. We have an excellent program in store for all those who attend our Veterans Day event at Anastasia Baptist on Thursday, Nov. 11. The doors to the church will open at 9 AM for the general public. All organizations who will have a display table the doors will be opened at 8 AM. Our program begins at 11 AM with our keynote speaker, Dr. Hal Kushner, US Army Colonel, ret. Dr. Kushner was a POW in Vietnam for nearly six years and has a fabulous story to tell about his years in captivity. In addition to Dr. Kushner, we have many other exciting elements of the program that are sure to make you proud of our veterans and those who served our nation in uniform. Congressman

Michael Waltz will also address our visitors with remarks honoring our veterans. Please plan to join us next Thursday and bring your family and friends as we honor our veterans on Veterans Day.

I was honored to be recognized by the Board of County Commissioners on Tues at the regular County Commission meeting for my years of service to veterans in the community. The BCC issued a proclamation declaring Tuesday, Nov.2, 2021 as Bill Dudley Day. Pictures and the Proclamation appear in this month's Patriot Reader newsletter. The BCC also issued a proclamation honoring all our veterans on Veterans Day along with a Proclamation from Gov. Ron DeSantis.

On Friday, Oct. 29th, the Wreaths Across America Mobile Educational van was in St. Augustine in the parking lot at Anastasia Baptist Church. It was a very informative and inspiring dis-



play that espoused many personal stories from families and loved ones who have been honored by this program over the years. The Veterans Council would like to thank the WAA leadership for making this educational unit available to our area. This is also a reminder if you have not yet purchased your wreath(s) for this year's program on Dec. 18th there is still time to make a purchase. We are a little behind our goal for this year and need everyone to help us meet this year's target.

Bill Dudley
Chairman
Veterans Council of St.
Johns County

Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home



After being inside for many months, the Veterans at Clyde Lassen were thrilled to find out they were going on a trip to the Alligator Farm!!



Helen Delay waits patiently to board the bus!!



Veteran Michael Winchester was a little camera shy however he had a great time once he was there!!



John Wichers was one of the first to say yes to the trip!!



Activity Assistant Rajini assists getting people on the bus



Activity Director Netta Linn sits next to John Wichers for the trip



WOW! Look at the size of that Gator!

Macaw Birds greet us as we enter the park



Looks like someone missed his bus ride!





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 **6:00pm**. 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 6:00 pm

+++++2020 Officers of the SCJNC+++++

Chairman: Steve Spickelmier
Vice Chairman: Bill Dudley, Treasurer: Pat Welch
Secretary: Kathy Church, Judge Advocate: Don Guthrie
Master-At-Arms: Mike Smith, Historian: Win Delpizzo
Chaplain: Pat Archuleta, Public Affairs: Pat Mulvihill

The Veterans Council of St. Johns County meets on the last Thursday of the month, all are invited to attend. We meet at the County Administration Building, 500 San Sebastian View, at 7 pm

From the January meeting onward all Council meetings will be held at the VSO building, 200 San Sebastian View

All SJC Health Guidelines will be followed.

Please stay safe, Bill Dudley, Chairman, VC of SJC



Upcoming Veterans Council Meetings Speakers

November 17: David Kennett, “Transition Assistance Advisor (TAA) Program & Outreach for Florida Veterans/Service Members/Military Spouses”.

Andrew Coughlan, Wounded Warrior Project

December 16: Dan Bean, The New Jax Museum, the USS Orleck

January 27, 2022: Mary Anne Newman, Pres. Associates of Vietnam Veterans, FL Assoc.

Selena Hernandez-Haines, First Coast Honor Flight

February 24, 2022: Derek Collins, Program Manager, The Fire Watch

'Place for healing to begin': First Honor Flight leaves from Jacksonville to honor Vietnam veterans



Honor Flight is a program that flies veterans up to Washington, all expenses paid, to see the memorials dedicated to them. Author: Lewis Turner

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — History will be made this weekend as the first ever Honor Flight from Jacksonville takes off.

There are 128 Honor Flight hubs across the country, with multiple across the state of Florida. But Jacksonville has never had its own, until now.

But it hasn't come easy, as this group faced the same COVID-19 challenges as so many others.

"First Coast Honor Flight was officially formed, incorporated, March 3, 2020," said hub president Selena Hernandez-Haines. "That was about two weeks before the country shut down."

Honor Flight takes veterans on all-expense-paid trips up to Washington to visit the memorials and sites that have been built and dedicated to them.

But Honor Flight shut down nationwide because of the pandemic.

The first flight was supposed to be August 2020.

"Then it was October 2020," Hernandez-Haines said. "Then April 2021, May, June, August," she continued, counting the months that the trips had to be postponed.

But she says there was a delicate balance that had to be made between the No. 1 priority of protecting the veterans and the need to honor a mostly aging population.

"Time is short for these senior veterans," she said. Three veterans on the First Coast Honor Flight waitlist have died since the beginning of all the delays.

"We need to honor them, safely, while we still can," she said.

The flight will leave Jacksonville International Airport Saturday morning and after get-

ting a tour of D.C., the veterans all return that same evening.

The trip takes them to the World War II Memorial, Vietnam Wall, Korean War Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery and Women in Military Service memorial.

Hernandez-Haines says they're being compliant with the Honor Flight Network requirements that all trip participants have either provided a negative PCR test result no more than 72 hours before the flight, or have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 at least two weeks before the trip.

Lorenzo Neely is a Vietnam War veteran who is taking the trip.

"I was there for the Tet Offensive," Neely said. "It was a complete massacre."

He says he's had to deal with the horrible memories of Vietnam for decades, and it took a toll on him.

"Mentally it got to me," he said. "So here I am."

He and several other Vietnam Veterans who will be taking this trip say they hope it'll help them deal with the anger they faced when they came home from war.

"I'm really looking forward to it," Neely said. "It's going to be beneficial to me, I know it's going to be alright."

And that's exactly the goal, Hernandez-Haines said.

"For many of them, these Vietnam veterans, many have said being on an Honor Flight was the first time that they've felt appreciated and recognized," she said.

"The Honor Flight is a place for healing to begin all these decades later."

You can click [here](#) for more information on how to get involved with First Coast Honor Flight, as they're always in need of volunteers, guardians and veterans to take on these trips.

During the pandemic, all honor flights were halted. Many hubs gave virtual tours of the memorials to veterans, and the first flight from Florida since the pandemic took off with the Space Coast Hub in September.

A LONG OVERDUE RECOGNITION OF OUR CHAIRMAN, LEADER, INSPIRATION AND GUIDING FORCE, LTC BILL DUDLEY,

A Proclamation

by the
Board of County Commissioners
St. Johns County, Florida

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes the hard work, dedication and commitment of public servants in St. Johns County whose efforts in developing, promoting and sustaining St. Johns County Veteran's Services deserve special recognition; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Colonel Bill Dudley, after serving 10 years active duty U.S. Air Force then transferred to the Active Reserve Force for decades of service including several world crisis mobilizations; and

WHEREAS, thereafter Col. Dudley pursued a career in Aerospace where he served 45 years in management level positions including President and CEO of several Fortune 500 aerospace companies, in the U.S., U.K. and Singapore; and

WHEREAS, after retiring from his civilian profession, Col. Dudley served on the Navy League of the United States in several positions including Council President of the local Council, Area President of Northeast Florida, Region President of the State of Florida, and National Vice President and has continued to serve as a National Director for the past 12 years; and

WHEREAS, Col. Dudley is the Chairman of the Veterans Council of St. Johns, as well as the Jacksonville National Cemetery support committee and the Veterans Advisory Board in Tallahassee for the FDVA; and

WHEREAS, while chairing the Veterans Council Col. Dudley was instrumental in initiating the Veterans Treatment Court Program in the County, facilitating the opening of the new Leo C. Chase, Jr. Veterans Clinic in the County and provided vital support for numerous Veterans and youth programs; and

WHEREAS, the public service career of Col. Dudley included service not only to St. Johns County Veterans but also to the United States Air Force in a manner that exemplifies the professionalism, dedication to duty, and standard of achievement of what a public servant should be, to present and future generations.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED, by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, that Tuesday, November 2, 2021 be known as

BILL DUDLEY DAY

in recognition of his contributions to the Veterans of St. Johns County.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida this 2nd day of November, 2021.

Attest:

Brandon J. Patty, Clerk of Courts



Board of County Commissioners
of St. Johns County, Florida

Jeremiah Kay Blocker, Chairman

Pictured below, from left to right:

Veterans Council Vice Chairman Ray Quinn, Commissioner Henry Dean, Council Chairman Bill Dudley, Council Treasurer John Mountcastle and Council member Charles R. Hobbs, Jr







Sponsorship Levels

First Coast Honor Flight is 100% dependent upon donations from generous people and organizations.

Without your support, FCHF would not be able to transport WWII, Korean War, and other Northeast Florida Veterans to Washington, D.C. for a day of honor and remembrance.

Trip Sponsor : \$25,000

Honor Guard : \$10,000- \$24,999

Gold Star : \$5,000-\$9,999

Silver Star : \$2,500- \$4,999

Bronze Star : \$1,000- \$2,499

Contact FCHF @
info@firstcoasthonorflight.org for more
information on sponsorship packages

First Coast Honor Flight is a 501(c)3 corporation and
is in compliance with the Florida Solicitation of Contributions Act



First Coast Honor Flight Donation

I would like to donate \$ _____ to honor Veterans.

Please make check payable to: First Coast Honor Flight, Inc.

Mail to: First Coast Honor Flight, Inc.
P.O. Box 600785
Saint Johns, FL 32260

To make a donation by credit card please visit our website at:

www.firstcoasthonorflight.org

Click on "Help Our Cause" and then Click on "Donate Now" and submit your donation through PayPal. *Thank you!*

Name of Organization _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____ Email _____

This donation is: In Honor of _____ In Memory of _____

Name _____

Address _____

Veteran? Yes _____ No _____ Relationship _____

Branch _____ Dates Served _____

First Coast Honor Flight warrants that the information contained on this form is for internal use only and will not be shared, transmitted, or used for any purposes other than recording and acknowledging the donation. Donations are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. First Coast Honor Flight is a registered 501(c)3 Not for Profit EIN:84-4667182 For questions please Call: 888-400-1185 or email: info@firstcoasthonorflight.org.

HEY FLORIDA RESIDENTS!

Proudly Support Veterans and Honor Flight with an Honor Flight License Plate



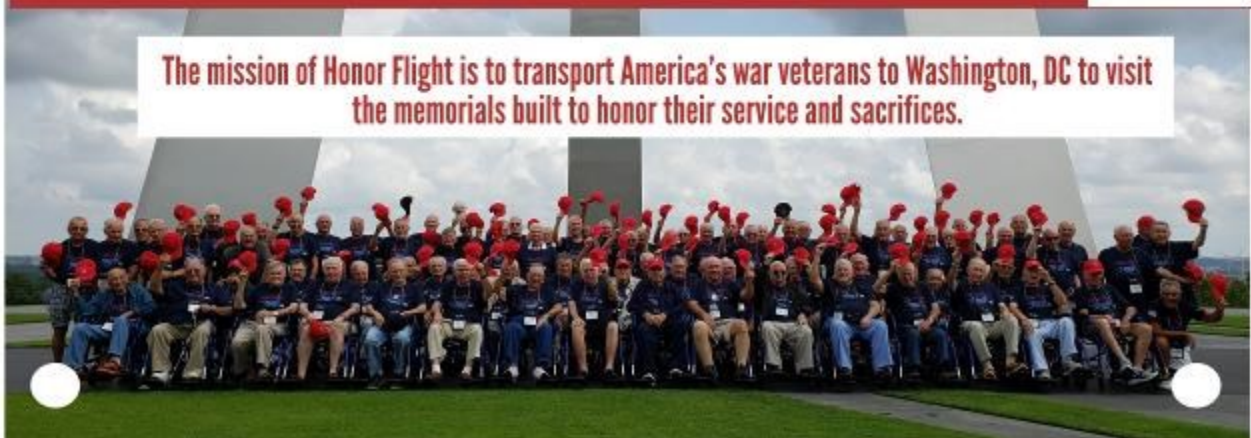
ACT NOW!

- Honor Flight is approved for *pre-sale* of an Honor Flight license plate.
- 3,000 *pre-sale* transactions must be made before the plate will be manufactured.
- Go to <https://bit.ly/3Fldyij> to purchase your voucher to help make this plate a reality.
- A portion of every plate purchase goes to the ten Honor Flight chapters in the state of Florida.
- Once the sales goal is met, you will receive instructions for exchanging your voucher for the Honor Flight plate.
- A plate replacement fee may apply.

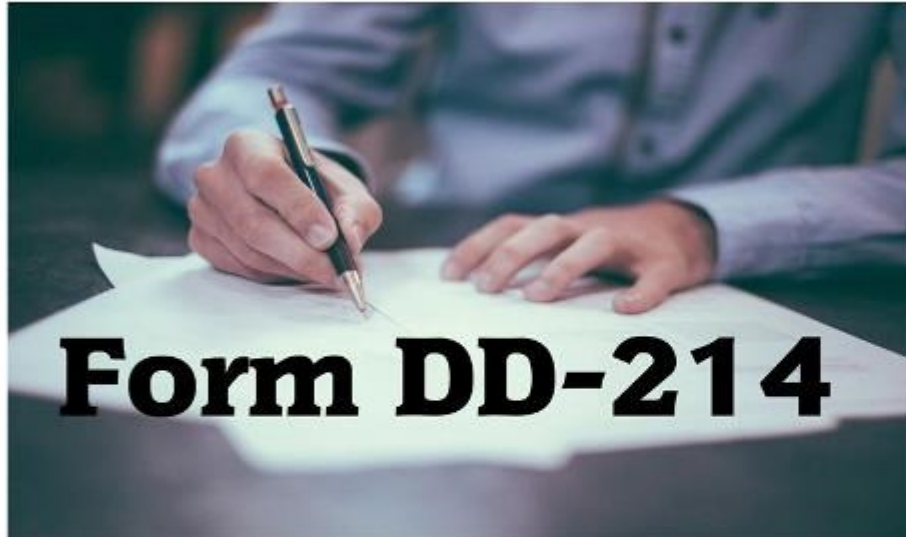
Scan me!



The mission of Honor Flight is to transport America's war veterans to Washington, DC to visit the memorials built to honor their service and sacrifices.



Safeguard your Military separation papers. The County Clerk will have a table at the Veterans Councils Veterans Day ceremony on Nov 11 at Anastasia Baptist Church.



Safekeeping your military separation records is secure, fast and free of charge and easy to access with the St. Johns County Clerk of Courts.

Bring your original DD-214 to the St. Johns County Veterans Council's Veterans Day Celebration where Clerk staff will officially record it:

- 9:30 a.m. – Noon, Nov. 11
- Anastasia Baptist Church, 1650 A1A S., St. Augustine
- Your record will be returned to you immediately.

Recording your DD-214 maintains a permanent digital copy on file for safekeeping. Your record is **protected** – it doesn't become a public record for 62 years after separation, per the National Archives.

Can't make it on Nov. 11? Record your discharge papers at the St. Johns County Courthouse, 4010 Lewis Speedway, St. Augustine. Call the Recording division at 904-819-3632 for details.

File your DD-214 with your
St. Johns County Clerk of Courts



Veterans, military receive complimentary passport photos and notary services throughout November

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla., Nov. 3, 2021 — In recognition of Veteran's Day, the St. Johns County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller is honoring veterans, active-duty military, reservists and their dependents by providing complimentary passport photos and notary services throughout November.

“Waiving these fees during November is a small gesture of our appreciation and gratitude to our nation’s heroes,” said Clerk Brandon Patty.

These free services are available 8 a.m.–5 p.m. Monday–Friday through Nov. 30 at the Richard O. Watson Judicial Center, 4010 Lewis Speedway, St. Augustine.

To demonstrate eligibility, present your DD 214, military ID, military dependent ID or show a driver’s license with the veteran designation.

Speaking of DD 214s, veterans who have been honorably discharged from military service may file their separation records — called a DD 214 — for free year-round with the Clerk of Courts for safekeeping and easy future access.

By recording your DD 214 with the clerk’s office, a copy is readily available to you in case the original is lost or destroyed. Plus, the record stays private — military separation documents don’t become public record for 62 years after separation, per the National Archives.

For more information on accessing these complimentary services, please call our office at 904-819-3632.

The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs

We solemnly salute U.S. Marine Corps Veteran Duane Edgar Dewey, a Medal of Honor recipient from the Korean War, who passed away last night in St. Augustine, Florida at the age of 89. Our condolences to your family and friends. Semper Fi!



Duane Edgar Dewey (November 16, 1931 – October 11, 2021) was an American combat Marine. He received the United States military's highest decoration for valor, the Medal of Honor, for his actions on April 16, 1952, during the Korean War. Although wounded by an enemy grenade, he smothered another exploding grenade with his own body to save the life of a corpsman and the other Marines around him.

Dewey was born on November 16, 1931 in Grand Rapids, Michigan and died October 11, 2021 at the age of 89 in St. Augustine, FL. He attended school in Muskegon until 1947. He then worked for six months on a farm in South Haven, and for a year as a foundry worker at National Motors, Inc. in South Haven.



Marine Corps

Dewey signed with the United States Marine Corps Reserve on March 7, 1951 for an "'indefinite' enlistment — the duration of the war plus six months.". He completed recruit training at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, South Carolina, and underwent intensive combat training at Camp Pendleton, California.

Dewey embarked for Korea in September 1951. He participated in the United Nations summer-fall offensive of 1951 and the second winter of Korean fighting. Corporal Dewey earned the Medal of Honor on April 16, 1952, near Panmunjom, while serving as leader of a machine gun squad with Company E, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division. He had been wounded by a grenade that had exploded at his feet, and was being treated by a navy medical corpsman when an enemy grenade landed at the squad's position. Yanking the corpsman to the ground and warning members of the squad, Dewey flung himself on the grenade shouting, "Doc, I got it in my hip pocket!" The grenade exploded, lifting Dewey off the ground and inflicting "gaping shrapnel wounds throughout the lower part of his body". In addition, he sustained a bullet wound to the stomach.

After treatment of his wounds in Korea, Dewey was evacuated to the United States Naval Hospital in

Yokosuka, Japan, and then to the naval hospitals at Mare Island, California, and Great Lakes, Illinois. Following his recuperation at Great Lakes, he was released from active duty on August 19, 1952.



On March 12, 1953, Dewey was the first person to receive the Medal of Honor from President Dwight D. Eisenhower. After presenting the medal to Dewey during the ceremony at the White House, Eisenhower said to him, "You must have a body of steel."

CORPORAL DUANE E. DEWEY

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RESERVE

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:



For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving as a Gunner in a Machine-Gun Platoon of Company E, Second Battalion, Fifth Marines, First Marine Division (Reinforced), in action against enemy aggressor forces near Panmunjom, Korea, on April 16, 1952. When an enemy grenade landed close to this position while he and his assistant gunner were receiving medical attention for their wounds during a fierce night attack by numerically superior hostile forces, Corporal DEWEY, although suffering intense pain, immediately pulled the corpsman to the ground and, shouting a warning to the other Marines around him, bravely smothered the deadly missile with his body, personally absorbing the full force of the explosion to save his comrades from possible injury or death. His indomitable courage, outstanding initiative and valiant efforts in behalf of others in the face of almost certain death reflect the highest credit upon Corporal DEWEY and enhance the finest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

/S/ DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

Duane Dewey was a resident at the Clyde Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home in St. Augustine when he passed

VETERANS DAY

**HONOR ALL WHO SERVED
CELEBRATE WITH US**

Thursday, November 11th, 2021

Anastasia Baptist Church

1650 A1A South (on Anastasia Island). Free parking on site.

Organized by the St. Johns County Veterans Council

Static Displays. Video collage. Traveling Vietnam Wall.

Doors open 9:00 am. Program begins 11:00.



**And special recognition for our
Vietnam War period veterans.**

Info at: rothfeldm@gmail.com



A Proclamation

by the
Board of County Commissioners
St. Johns County, Florida

WHEREAS, St. Johns County Board of Commissioners would like to honor America's Veterans for their patriotism, love of country, commitment to freedom and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good; and

WHEREAS, we recognize the significance of this commemoration and hope that a grateful Nation might pay appropriate homage to the veterans of all its wars who have contributed so much to the preservation of this Nation and have answered the prayers of millions around the globe; and

WHEREAS, on this day, let us solemnly remember the sacrifices of the men and women who stepped forward when America needed them, all those who fought so valiantly, on the seas, in the air, and on foreign shores, to preserve our heritage of freedom; and

WHEREAS, we resolve that their sacrifices will always be remembered by a grateful Nation. Let us task ourselves to the promotion of an enduring peace so that their efforts shall not have been in vain; and

WHEREAS, Florida is home to approximately 1.5 million Veterans and represents the third largest concentration of veterans in the nation.

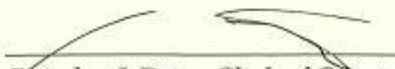
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida, that November 11, 2021 be designated as

VETERANS DAY

With respect for and in recognition of the contributions our service men and women have made to the cause of peace and freedom around the world.

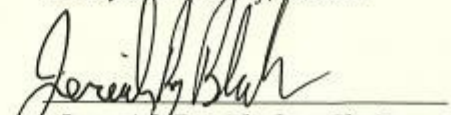
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of St. Johns County, Florida this 2nd day of November, 2021.

Attest:


Brandon J. Patty, Clerk of Courts



Board of County Commissioners
of St. Johns County, Florida


Jeremiah Ray Blocker, Chairman

Pictured below, left to right:

Veterans Service Officer Joseph McDermott, Veterans Council Vice Chairman Ray Quinn, Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley, Commission Chairman Jeremiah Blocker, Veterans Council Treasurer John Mountcastle



**Please join us at the Veterans Councils Annual Veterans Day Ceremony, this years Keynote speaker is Dr Hal Kushner, COL USA (Ret)
F. Harold Kushner, M.D., F.A.C.S., COL Medical Corps, U.S. Army (ret.)**



Dr. Kushner was born in Honolulu, Hawaii in June, 1941; his father was serving with the Army Air Corps. He was six months old when Pearl Harbor, and his family's home at Hickam Air Field, was bombed by the Japanese on December, 7, 1941.

He received his M.D. degree from the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond in 1966, winning the Mosby Scholarship Award. Dr. Kushner entered the Army while a medical student in 1965. He served his internship at Tripler Army Medical Center, the hospital of his birth, in Honolulu in 1966-1967, and received aviation medical training at Fort Rucker, Alabama and Pensacola, Florida before deploying to Vietnam in August, 1967 as an Army Flight Surgeon. He served consecutive residencies in Internal Medicine and Ophthalmology at Brook Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas from 1973 to 1977. Since September of 1977, Dr. Kushner has been engaged in the practice of Ophthalmology in Daytona Beach.

His military experience includes active duty in the United States Army from 1965 to 1977, and duty as an Army reserve officer from 1977 to 1986 when he retired with the rank of Colonel. Dr. Kushner's military awards include the Silver Star, the Soldiers' Medal, the Bronze Star, the Air Medal, 3rd award, the Purple Heart 3rd award, the Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Ribbon with ten battle stars, The Presidential Unit Citation, the Army POW Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Reserve Achievement Medal, the Reserve Service Medal, the Combat Medics' Badge, and the Senior Flight Surgeon's Badge.

In 1973 he was named Military Flight Surgeon of the year and in 1990, by order of the Secretary of the Army, he was made a permanent "Distinguished Member of the 9th Cavalry Regiment." In 2019, he was named a permanent "Distinguished Member of the Army Medical Department Regiment" by the Surgeon General.

Since 2001, he has been a member of the Board of Trustees of the Army Aviation Hall of Fame; and from 2009--2017, was Chairman of that Board. He is a member of the National Veterans' Affairs Advisory Committee on Former Prisoners of War. He is a member of the Vietnamese Helicopter Pilots Association, The Silver Sabre Society, The Order of Military Medical Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross Society, an honorary life member of the River Rats (Red River Valley Fighter Pilots Association), and was awarded the Order of St Michael Gold Medal in 2016.

Dr. Kushner served with the 1st Squadron, 9th US Cavalry, 1st Air Cavalry Division in Vietnam. He was captured on 2 December, 1967 west of Tam Ky, and released to American Control in Hanoi on 16 March, 1973. **November 11, 9:00 AM, 1650 A1A S, St Augustine at Anastasia Baptist Church**

This years Veterans Day Ceremony promises to be as big, as meaningful and as entertaining as our previous Veterans Day Events at the magnificent Anastasia Baptist Church, 1650 A1A S in St Augustine. Free admission and free parking.

Please invite your family and friends.

Here are some pictures from the Council's previous Veterans Day Ceremonies.





17th Annual

Marine & Navy FMF Corpsmen Memorial

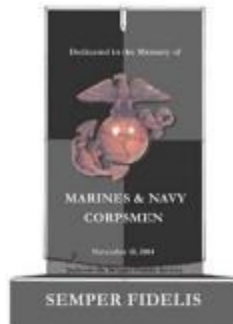
Evergreen Cemetery

N Main St
Jacksonville, Florida

November 10, 2021
4 PM

Dedicated by Marines and Navy FMF Corpsmen
of the
Jacksonville

Semper Fidelis Society



We have a responsibility to never forget!

AFGHANISTAN, IRAQ, GRENADA, BEIRUT, VIETNAM, KOREA, WWII, WWI...



~SEMPER FIDELIS~

GOLD STAR FAMILY PARKWAY NOW CONNECTS INTERSTATE 95 TO JACKSONVILLE NATIONAL CEMETERY

Joe Snowberger, U.S. Navy Mustang (Ret)

After ten years in the making, the formal dedication slated for October 28th, 2021 at 0930.

While there are some finishing touches to be completed as well as an official dedication ceremony in coming weeks, the Gold Star Family Parkway is now open making for easier access to the final resting place for Veterans at the Jacksonville National Cemetery.

The Gold Star Family Parkway connecting I-95 to the Jacksonville National Cemetery will be dedicated on October 28th at 9:30 AM. Photo: Dan Scanlan, Florida Times Union



The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) project known as the Jacksonville National Cemetery Access Road and the Arnold Road extension, connects Pecan Park Rd from I-95 (Exit 366) via the construction of approximately 3.4 miles of new two-lane road connecting Lannie Road, at the Ethel Road intersection, and Arnold Road.

The new roadway will be dedicated as the Gold Star Family Parkway in a few weeks. When completed, the parkway features bike lanes, trees and landscaping, new signage, ponds to promote drainage, a newly constructed bridge over Seaton Creek, and improve transportation options for motorists seeking to access the Jacksonville National Cemetery. FDOT states the two-plus year, 3.4 mile project cost \$13.1 million.

As of this writing, some of the signage and landscaping finishing touches on the to be dedicated Gold Star Family Parkway section are being installed. In the meantime, visitors trying out the new direct roadway from I-95 to the Jacksonville National Cemetery are advised to:

Exit I-95 at Pecan Park Road (exit 366) and turn west (follow the signs for the Jacksonville National Cemetery and Jacksonville Airport) onto Pecan Park Rd.

Continue west on Pecan Park Rd, past Int'l Airport Blvd.

Stay straight onto Arnold Road (yes, it is a little weathered) from Pecan Park Road where it makes a 90-degree turn toward Jacksonville International Airport.

Arnold Road will soon transform and it be very apparent that you are on a new road – the soon to be dedicated Gold Star Family Parkway.

At Lannie Road, turn right towards the entrance to the Jacksonville National Cemetery.

Previously the only route to the region's national cemetery was via the two lane Lannie Road off of Lem Turner Road from I-295's exit 32. Lannie Road is a two lane road that passes through several miles of farm land, a cor

rectional facility and a church in addition to the only national cemetery open to internments in Northeast Florida.

Congestion, delays and long walks from overflow parking were common any time there was a large funeral procession or large volunteer events like wreath laying during the Christmas holidays and flag placing near Memorial Day and Independence day.

Numerous pro-Veteran groups and individual champions were instrumental in influencing the completion of this project including the Support Committee at Jacksonville National Cemetery and the Rotary Club of North Jacksonville.

As with any large roadway project, having congressional support is a key factor to ensuring funding is secured. “Congressman John Mica was the initial pointy end of the spear on getting the transportation committees in the house and senate engaged,” said Pat Mulvihill, President of the Rotary Club of North Jacksonville. Always one to ensure proper credit is shared Pat added: “It was ten years ago when we were pitching the project to members of congress. Ander Crenshaw was right in the mix; he rolled up his sleeves as well to get this parkway properly funded and secured. The FDOT and the city are all in, ensuring this road is truly a beautiful parkway; it’s going to be a first class roadway.”

The soon to be dedicated Gold Star Family Parkway will be a more direct route and easier access to the 22,400 Veterans interned at the Jacksonville National Cemetery.

There are nine National Cemeteries in Florida. The nine counties of The Liberty Coast constitute the largest Veteran population in Florida and one of the largest in the nation. There was a large demand for a regionally located National Cemetery.

The nearby St. Augustine National Cemetery opened in 1828 as a final resting spot for those fallen during the Indian Wars. With just a little over an acre of land and nearly 2800 graves -mostly soldiers from the Civil War through WW II – it is closed to interments.

The next closest National Cemetery – the Cape Canaveral National Cemetery – is approximately 120 miles away in Mims, Florida.

The Jacksonville National Cemetery opened in 2009 and the need and strong desire of Veteran families for a regional National Cemetery was realized. This final resting place for Veterans currently holds nearly 22,500 and is growing. A huge expansion, nearly doubling the current footprint of available burial grounds is under development.

And now...folks have a direct and safer route to visit and honor the nation’s heroes interred on The Liberty Coast.

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 18, 2021 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 the campaign chair, SGM (Ret) Ray Quinn at 904.797.5622.

Wreath Sponsorship Form

*Sponsored wreaths are placed on the grave markers at state, national veterans cemeteries as well as local cemeteries each December. Wreaths may be purchased online at www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org

If you wish to make your sponsorship with a credit card please visit our website for a secure online transaction.

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____

CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA
SEND TO:
VETERANS COUNCIL OF ST. JOHNS
COUNTY:
 P.O. Box 2117
 ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA 32085

Sponsorship	Price	Quantity	Total
Individual= 1 Wreath	\$15.00		
Mailed "In Honor" card= If you wish to send a mailed honor card telling someone of your sponsorship-see "In Honor" section below. *Card will not be mailed if the \$2 fee is not included.	\$2.00		
Family= 4 Wreaths	\$60.00		
Small Business= 10 Wreaths	\$150.00		
Corporate= 100 Wreaths	\$1500.00		
Merchandise available on WAA Website			
		Grand Total	

****SORRY- WE CAN NOT TAKE GRAVE SPECIFIC REQUESTS****

In Honor of:

Please provide email of "In Honor Of" recipient, or mailing address so a card can be sent notifying them of your sponsorship in their honor. (if you have a specific message please write it on the back of this sheet and we will include it.)

Email:

Mailing:

In Memory of:

This name will be listed on our online memory wall, please provide name, rank, branch of service and state resided

Branch of Service: _____

Rank: _____

State: _____

Please note that **all** sponsorships are sent directly to the location and **no** wreaths are sent to the individuals purchasing sponsorships.

Location ID: FLSNA Fundraising Group ID: FL0080

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Cash \$: _____ Total \$: _____ Date: _____

Total # Checks: _____ Reconciled: _____

MO \$: _____

Entered: _____

GEN: _____

How to make Veterans Day more meaningful for Vietnam Vets

Veterans Day is just over two months away, and any organization who wants a simple, free way to make Veterans Day more meaningful for Vietnam Veterans can become the Vietnam War Commemoration's "commemorative partners."



The program is for federal, state and local communities, Veterans' organizations and other nongovernmental organizations. They can assist a grateful nation in thanking and honoring Vietnam Veterans and their families. More than nine million Americans served from Nov. 1, 1955, to May 15, 1975. Six million are still living, but commemorative partners can do more. "These patriots and their families deserve the nation's gratitude," said Phil Waite, chief of strategic engagement for The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration. "Our partners are the backbone of this national commemoration. We would be privileged to have your organization come alongside us in this noble mission."

Becoming a partner

Joining the Vietnam War Commemoration as a commemorative partner is easy. Simply visit www.vietnamwar50th.com and click "Apply" in the blue Commemorative Partner Program box. There's a simple, one-page application that requires two points of contact and one signature. Once approved as a partner, the commemoration provides organizations with a free starter kit of materials for developing and implementing their programs. Questions regarding the commemorative partner Program application process can be submitted to: whs.vnwar50th_cpp@mail.mil.

Creating an event

Once a group becomes a partner, they receive a partner portal login. This allows the partner to create an event that is searchable on <https://www.vietnamwar50th.com/events/>.

Partners can also receive the following free materials:

Lapel pins for Vietnam Veterans, as well as those Veterans and family members who qualify under the Certificate of Honor program, Presidential proclamations, Program brochures, Fact sheets, "I Served" and "We Heart" bumper magnets, 50th anniversary and Family Member tin pins, Vietnam War Patch Posters (all Services)

Search for an event

People can learn about events in their local community by visiting <https://www.vietnamwar50th.com/events/>. Visitors can search for event by name, date, country, zip code and category. The site also allows visitors to search within a 1, 5, 10, 25, 50 or 100 mile radius of a zip code.

To learn more about partnering with this national commemoration program, visit their site at <https://www.vietnamwar50th.com/> or any of the VWC social media sites found at <http://linktr.ee/VNWar50th>.

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla., Oct. 11, 2021 — Veterans now have preferred parking when doing business at the St. Johns County courthouse.

“It’s just one small way we can thank our veterans for their service to our country,” said St. Johns County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller Brandon J. Patty. “While this designation is an active demonstration of our appreciation, reserved parking also is a functional benefit for our veterans.”

Circuit Judge Howard O. McGillin Jr., Chairman Bill Dudley of the St. Johns County Veterans Council and Veterans Treatment Court Coordinator Cynthia Thompson joined Clerk Patty Friday to formally designate two parking spaces near the south entrance to the Richard O. Watson Judicial Center, located at 4010 Lewis Speedway, St. Augustine.

“A priority parking space is a small but meaningful gesture to extend to our veterans,” said Judge McGillin, who presides over Veterans Treatment Court in St. Johns County. “Many of the veterans in our program and other veterans who need to access the courthouse suffer from physical disabilities that do not qualify for handicapped parking. These spaces extend a courtesy to them in particular that simply says ‘thank you for your service.’”

“The reserved parking underscores the feeling of patriotism of our elected officials in St. Johns County and their support for our veterans,” said Dudley.

Veterans Court is an initiative in the 7th Judicial Circuit designed to focus on the distinctive needs of veterans in the criminal justice system. Veterans Treatment Court in St. Johns County started in 2017 under the leadership of Judge McGillin and Dudley and the Veterans Council, with support from St. Johns County.

Veterans Courts follow a positive, authoritative model to assist veterans with resolving legal matters while linking veterans to services to which they are entitled, such as medical, substance abuse and mental health treatment, housing and food.

With the north entrance closed indefinitely since spring 2020 due to the pandemic, the south entrance provides the only public access to the complex.

Disabled veterans with the appropriate permit from the Department of Motor Vehicles or a Disabled Veterans license plate or placard should continue to use designated parking spaces for disabled persons.

Pictured left to right: St. Johns County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller Brandon J. Patty, presiding Veterans Treatment Court Circuit Judge Howard O. McGillin Jr., St. Johns County Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley and county Veterans Treatment Court Coordinator Cynthia Thompson



Jacksonville Naval Museum

Wow! Look at this master plan from Riverfront Jacksonville - location #18 is where the Orleck is currently slated to go. We do believe as shown in this plan, location #22 is a better location for us. Here's why:



- 1) Creates museum synergy being next to the new MoSH #26
- 2) Provides room for us to grow and expand our museum - which is vital to the long term success plan. We can house the USS Jacksonville sail, historic aircraft, historic ship artifacts, and something fun like a flight simulator!
- 3) It relocates the Duval Veterans Memorial Wall near us, #21 to a more proper setting. Our museum that will have many Veteran volunteers and staff can help take care of the wall.
- 4) It returns the longest pier #18 back to the public to create a wonderful attraction: "The Jacksonville Pier"
- 5) This is a master plan that creates public park spaces and also helps activate the waterfront with cultural locations, parks, restaurants, things for families to do, tourists, and draw people here to work, live, & play.

We appreciate Riverfront Jacksonville of thinking of us and providing a vision to allow us to grow. Little known or forgotten fact, our friends @moshjax once started out of a house as a Children's Museum. Look at them now!

The plan is to have the USS Orleck Museum Ship in dry dock on 1 November this year! The tow would be an overnight tow, starting on 31 October.

She would then receive an inspection to ensure she is capable of being a museum ship for the next 10 years and within the JHNSA financial means. If she can not, the decision then will be made what to do with her. Preferably an artificial reef. But we hope it does not come to that.

Be advised: dates could shift depending on the work in dry dock that's ahead of us and also the speed of Orleck's work. She *could* be towed to Jacksonville by the end of November or early December! We will keep you posted!

City Council approved! 17-0!

Be a Patriot and help donate to a great cause! The Jacksonville Naval Museum! Check our link tree for the button how to donate or you can now text 'ORLECK' to 43506 or visit our website at: <https://www.jaxnavalmuseum.org/donate/>

The naval museum's center piece will be the USS Orleck, a WWII built Gearing Class Destroyer that will be 'A Bold Ship for the Bold City!'



The Ronald Reagan Presidential Library World War II Exhibit

The Veterans Council of St. Johns County is proud to announce that its World War II, POW/MIA documentary **“Stolen Freedom”**, and its recording of Dr. Giles McCoy speaking at the premier of the Council’s WW II documentary about his survival story after his ship the USS Indianapolis was torpedoed and sunk was accepted by the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library for their 2022 World War II Exhibit.

“Serve and Protect”

"From a small senior community near St. Augustine, Florida, over 30 veterans came together to share their stories. Produced by Flagler College TV Workshop Students, produced by Bill Dudley and directed by Michael Rothfeld".



“Stolen Freedom”

"Prisoners of War: Stolen Freedom compares the stories of four American servicemen through their time as prisoners of war in three major 20th century conflicts; World War II, Korea and the Vietnam war. Their stories are supported by archival motion pictures and photographs obtained at the US National Archives as well as through sketches and memorabilia collected by each of the men. Their stories are less about atrocity than they are about the survival of the human spirit and the camaraderie that helped each man survive years of incarceration. Each story is followed by spectacular recounts of their days of release. Produced by Michael Rothfeld & Bill Dudley and the Veterans Council of St. Johns County, directed by Eric Flagg" Pictured below is World War II Veteran Bill Ingram



Dr. Giles McCoy speech, WW 2, USMC, USS Indianapolis, filmed by the Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Chairman Bill Dudley, program director Michael Rothfeld.

Giles McCoy was a young Marine when his ship was sunk by a Japanese submarine. Giles spent 4 ½ days afloat in the Pacific Ocean with a deflated life raft, and no food. Less than 1/3 of the Indianapolis crew survived the ordeal.

The Indianapolis Captain was court martialed on the testimony of the enemy sub captain's testimony. The first time an enemy combatant's testimony was ever used at a Military court martial. Captain Charles McVay committed suicide years after the court martial but was exonerated years later in large part due to the effort of Dr. McCoy and his ship mates.



Lee Field Naval Air Station, Green Cove Springs, Florida
By Rick Cain, St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum

When taking an afternoon drive, leaving St. Augustine and heading west on State Road 16, I crossed the St. Johns River on the Shand's Bridge and enter Green Cove Springs. When I reached the west end of the bridge and looked north, I encountered an area littered with old boats and other industrial looking equipment. Upon first sight, the area and the nearby buildings standing silently among the towering pines, palms, and live oaks, reminds me of the devastating effects of humanity on nature. It is just what an uninformed person would think.

Upon further investigation, I discover that there is more to the story. What I was looking at was the remains of the Naval Air Station at Lee Field. Today, you will find Reynolds Industrial Park, housing multiple businesses and Reynolds Air Park, serving as the Green Cove Springs Airport. The Green Cove Springs Marina and several other private marinas are nearby, and more importantly, the Military Museum of North Florida is located on the site of the old WWII Naval Training Base.

Lee Field (later renamed NAS Green Cove Springs in 1943) was part of a larger complex of bases in and around the Jacksonville region for the training of Naval personnel during World War II. They all operated under the Naval Air Operational Training Command (NAOTC). Lee Field comprised 1,560 acres on the west side of the St. Johns River in Clay County. Other fields under the same command were NAS Cecil Field and NAS Jacksonville Municipal Airport #1, as well as a Naval Air Gunner's School located at Yellow Water and multiple other auxiliary fields within a 50-mile radius.

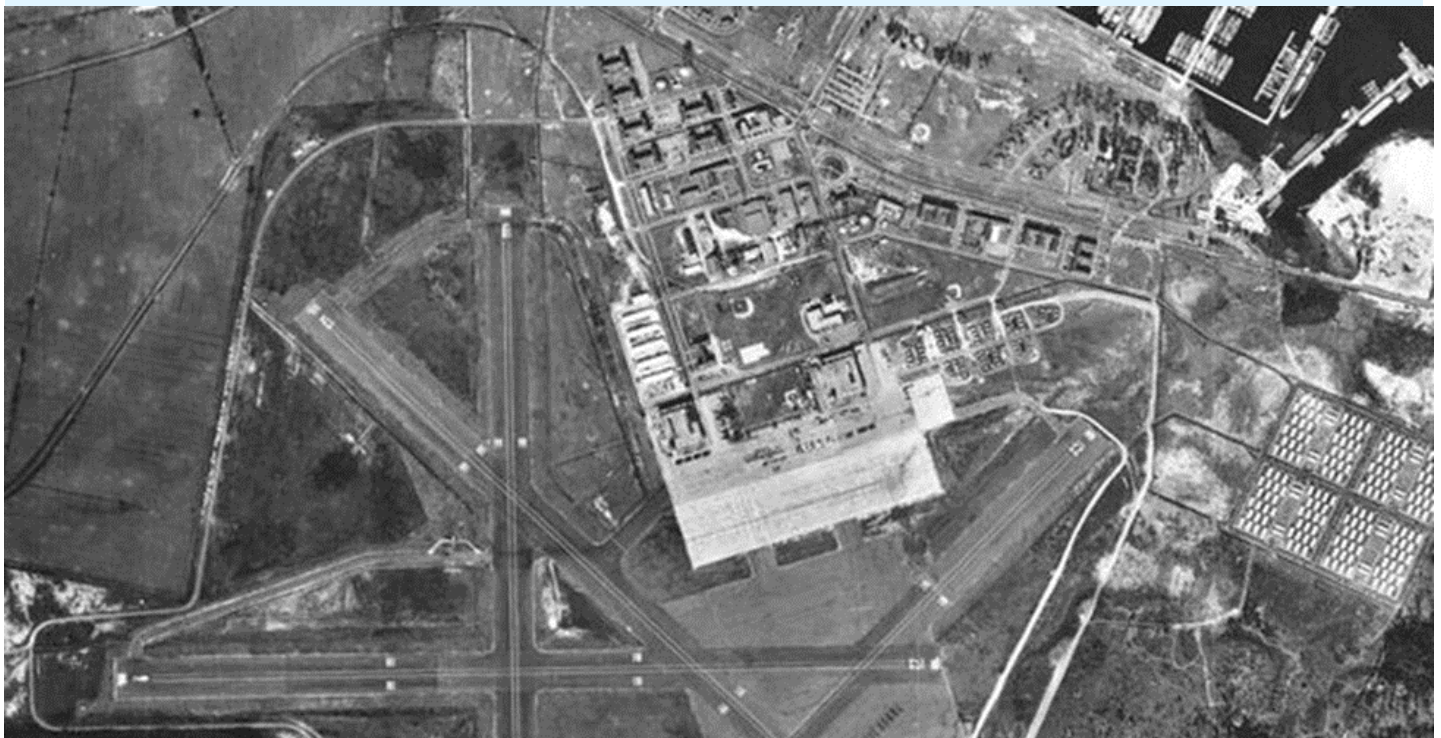


Photo Above: Aerial photo of Lee Field shortly after the end of World War II

The field was named after Ensign Benjamin Lee II, a member of the U.S. Naval Reserve Flying Corps (USNRF) who was declared missing in action on October 28, 1918. He flew seaplane missions out of NAS Killingholme, England for coastal patrol, anti-submarine, and troop transport escort missions. He would be later declared dead. Ensign Lee was awarded the Navy Cross posthumously in 1920 by the U.S. Secretary of the Navy.

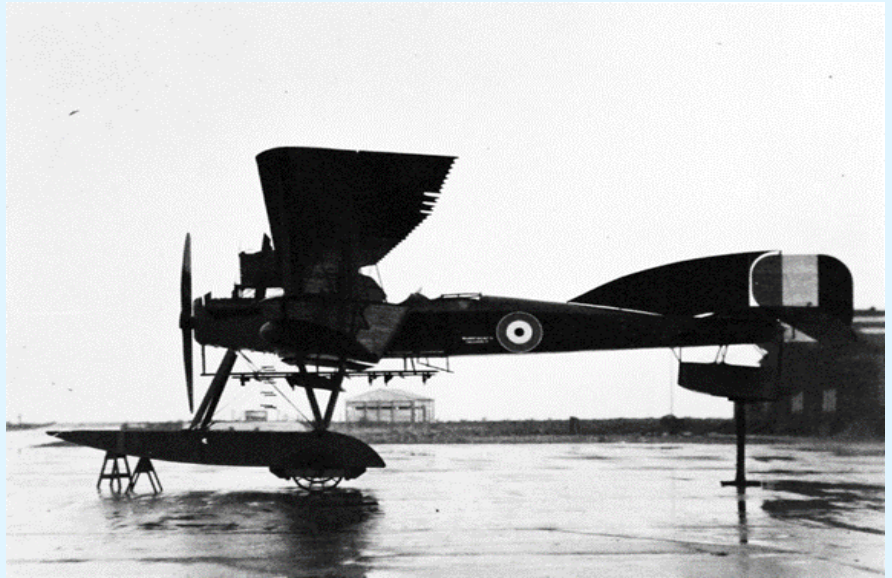


Photo Above Left: Ensign Benjamin Lee for whom Lee Field is named; Photo Above Right: British Seaplane, Killingholme, England, flown by American pilots during World War II.

By 1938, President Franklin Roosevelt became concerned about increasingly aggressive behavior by the Japanese military in Asia. His fears were suddenly punctuated by the Japanese attack on the USS Panay on the Yangtze River in China. The vessel was clearly marked with U.S. flags. The incident was recorded by journalists onboard who survived the attack, and their film made it back to Roosevelt. He began speaking to the American public about defense spending and Congress passed significant legislation to increase America's military forces immediately. In 1940, President Roosevelt ordered the U.S. Pacific Fleet moved from its base in San Diego to the forward base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii to provide a buffer of protection for the West Coast of the United States. He also ordered a build-up of U.S. forces in the Philippines. The U.S. watched as the world descended further and further into war.

Control of the Caribbean Sea and Panama Canal was vital to controlling a two-ocean war. In addition, it was becoming increasingly obvious, particularly after the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, that air superiority would be needed as much as controlling the oceans. Florida was positioned perfectly for the protection of the southeastern United States and surrounding waters. Its moderate climate, terrain, and jungles were ideal for military training of all branches of service. The area around Jacksonville was of particular interest to the Navy, and so the existing Florida National Guard's Camp Foster, located on Black Point on the west bank of the St. John's River, was relocated to what is now Camp Blanding to make way for the building of NAS Jacksonville. Lee Field in Green Cove Springs was one of many auxiliary fields and was located just south of NAS Jax as part of the newly created Jacksonville Naval Air Training Operation Base (NATOB). Later, Lee Field's primary focus would be on advanced Navy and Marine Corps flight training for aircraft carrier operations. The field officially opened on September 11, 1940. \$1.8 million was spent on its construction which boasted four, 5,000-foot runways with aircraft maintenance and support facilities. It would house 518 officers and 1,471 enlisted personnel by 1944. While many different aircraft were used for training there, Lee Field eventually focused on more advanced fighter aircraft training, earning the title of the post-graduate flight school for the U.S. Navy. Eventually, aviators only arrived here for their final flight training prior to deployment around the globe.

One such aviator was Ed McMahon, television and radio broadcaster who became Johnny Carson's sidekick for many years on NBC's Tonight Show. McMahon wanted above all to be a U.S. Marine Corps pilot and eventually got his wish when the college requirement for pilots was dropped during WWII. He had his pre-

liminary flight training elsewhere, but came to Lee Field for his final aircraft carrier take-off and landing training in a Vought F4U Corsair, the Marine Corps primary fighter aircraft. A later version of this same plane would gain fame as the one flown by the famous U.S. Marine Corps VM-214 “Black Sheep Squadron” led by Major Gregory “Pappy” Boyington.



Photo Above: Vought F4U-1's in formation over NAS Jacksonville, 1944

Edward McMahon completed his training at Lee Field only to be kept on as a flight instructor teaching carrier landings. He received his deployment orders to the Pacific fleet just as the atom bombs were dropped on Japan and the war ended. He would later fly 85 missions over 15 months and receive 6 air medals in the Korean War. McMahon flew an unarmed Cessna O-1 Bird Dog spotter plane to determine enemy artillery and troop positions. He formally retired from the Marines with the rank of Colonel but was eventually awarded a commission as Brigadier General by the California Air National Guard. Despite his fame in broadcasting, McMahon is quoted by his son as saying, “I want to be remembered as a good entertainer and a great Marine.”

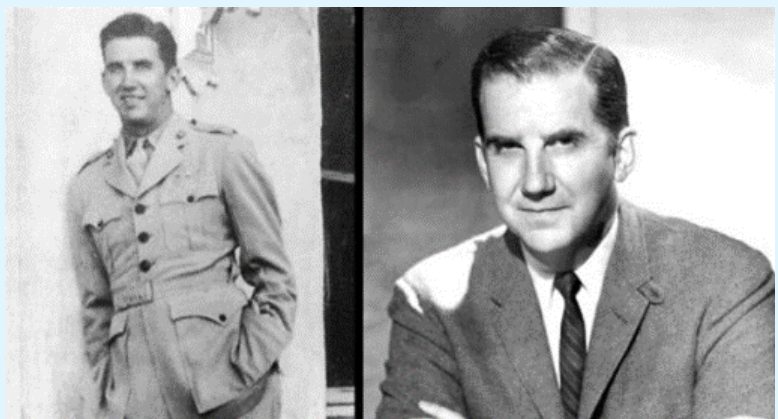


Photo Above Left: Cessna OE-1 B Another prominent Navy aircraft at Lee Field was the Grumman F4F

Wildcat and was one of the only available fighter aircraft for the U.S. Navy in the early years of the war. rid Dog; Photo Above Right: Brigadier General Ed McMahon



*Photo Above Left: Grumman F4F Wildcats in formation, 1944 ;
Photo Above Right: Wildcats stationed on Guadalcanal 1942*

The Wildcat did well in air-to-air combat against the Japanese, and its slower landing speed made it ideal for shorter carrier deck landings, but improvements to the Japanese Zero soon led to a need for change.



Photos Above: U.S. Navy Grumman F6F Hellcats in formation, and a crew services a Hellcat on a carrier deck, 1944 (courtesy of the U.S. Navy's National Museum of Naval Aviation, Pensacola, FL)

The Grumman F6F Hellcat sported a Pratt & Whitney R-2800 Double Wasp engine, the same used by the Corsair, and was deployed in 1943 to replace its younger brother, the Grumman Wildcat. It was designed specifically to take on the Japanese Mitsubishi A6M Zero that previously saw a 12 to 1 kill rate in dogfights. But the Hellcat soon gained air superiority in the Pacific, outflew the Zeros, and helped to win the war.

Lee Field was a primary training base for pilots flying the Hellcat. There is much more to this story than I have room for here, but a visit to the Military Museum of North Florida would be well worth your time to discover the rich history of Naval Aviation preserved by the staff and volunteers there. When you visit the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum on Anastasia Island in St. Augustine, you will see our WWII exhibit in the U.S.C.G. Coastal Watch Building there. You will also learn about the extraordinary work our staff and volunteers do in preserving these powerful stories.

Last year the tail cone of a WWII era Grumman F4F Wildcat washed ashore during a storm in Ponte Vedra Beach. Archaeologists from the St. Augustine Lighthouse Museum were called upon to retrieve and preserve the delicate, aluminum tail piece. The object was brought to our state-of-the-art, Charles Cox Conservation Lab where work began immediately to stabilize the metals and make sure this piece of WWII history remains available for future generations. It is just another testament to the flyboys from NAS Jacksonville and Lee Field, in their selfless service to America at war, and our determination to preserve and tell their stories.

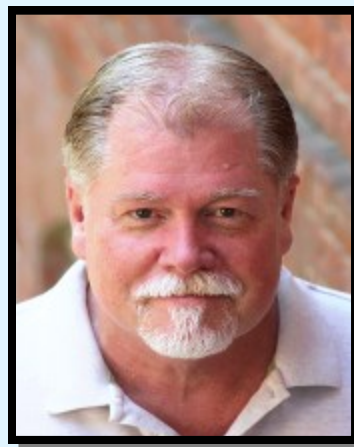


*Photo Above: LAMP conservators Starr Cox, Dorothy Rowland, and Andrew Thomson inspect the tailpiece of a WWII era Grumman F4F Wildcat upon arrival at the museum in October of 2020. Note the prominent tail hook is still in place, used to capture the arresting cable during a carrier landing.
(Copyright St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum, Inc.)*

*Unless otherwise noted, all photos are in Public Domain and used under the Fair Use agreement

About the Author: Rick Cain

Rick Cain has worked for the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum for 20 years after a 20-year career as a health care professional. He has served on the Board of Directors of the American Lighthouse Council and as Past Chair of the Florida Attractions Association. He also works closely with the United States Coast Guard to maintain their historic ties to the Museum.



All active duty service members and Veterans are invited to the Warbird Air Museum's Open House, November 13 – 14 in Titusville. Admission is free for Veterans, their accompanying family members and Florida residents. The museum features more than 50 vintage warbirds, and many Veteran pilots that flew these aircrafts will be present to talk about their flying experiences. For more details, click here: <https://bit.ly/3pnliuU>.



The poster features a background of a cloudy sky with several vintage warbirds flying. At the top left is the Warbird Museum logo, which includes a shield with an eagle and stars, and the text 'WARBIRD MUSEUM' and 'VALIANT AIR COMMAND'. A red banner across the top reads 'WARBIRD AIR MUSEUM' in white, and a blue banner below it reads 'OPEN HOUSE - FREE ADMISSION *' in yellow and 'NOVEMBER 13TH & 14TH' in white. Below the banners, a list of activities is provided: 'Flybys • Displays • Memorabilia', 'Food & Drink Available For Purchase', 'Car Clubs • Model Trains & Planes', 'Radio Controlled Airplanes', and 'Combat Pilots On Hand • And More'. The main title 'VETERANS DAY WEEKEND OPEN HOUSE' is in large, bold, red letters, followed by 'PLANES - TRAINS - AUTOMOBILES' in red. Three lines of text in yellow and red specify: 'Free * FOR ALL US MILITARY & VETERANS (PAST & PRESENT)', 'Free * FOR FAMILY MEMBERS ACCOMPANYING VETERANS', and 'Free * FOR ALL FLORIDA RESIDENTS'. A yellow box on the left contains '20% OFF one regular priced item in the Gift Store (GOOD FOR VETERANS DAY WEEKEND ONLY)'. A yellow starburst on the right says 'Please bring a non-perishable food donation for a local food bank'. At the bottom, it says 'Saturday & Sunday 9am to 5pm'. The footer includes '25% Discount on All New Museum Memberships', the museum's address 'Warbird Air Museum, 6600 Tico Road, Titusville, FL 32780', phone number '(321) 268-1941', website 'www.valiantaircommand.com', and a blue accessibility icon.

WARBIRD AIR MUSEUM
OPEN HOUSE - FREE ADMISSION *
NOVEMBER 13TH & 14TH

Flybys • Displays • Memorabilia
Food & Drink Available For Purchase
Car Clubs • Model Trains & Planes
Radio Controlled Airplanes
Combat Pilots On Hand • And More

VETERANS DAY WEEKEND OPEN HOUSE
PLANES - TRAINS - AUTOMOBILES

Free * FOR ALL US MILITARY & VETERANS (PAST & PRESENT)
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Saturday & Sunday
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veterans and those that
support them.

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Keynote Speaker

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6:00 - 9:00 PM
CLASSIC CAR MUSEUM OF ST. AUGUSTINE**

FRIDAY
NOVEMBER 12TH
6:00 - 9:00 PM



Honoring women veterans and
those that support them.

HEAR HER VOICE, HEAR OUR VOICES

Classic Car Museum of St. Augustine
4730 Dixie Hwy, St. Augustine, FL 32086

Tickets available on Eventbrite
[Click here to purchase tickets](#)

Nominate a hero today at:
<https://hope4veterans.org/nomination-form/>



Michelle Poitier
Keynote Speaker



Master Chief Ellis



Yencris Baez
Peer2Peer Sister
Program Manager

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- Justin Smith, CBGC Mortgage
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Wegotchu Enterprises/Overflow

We still need sponsors!
<https://hope4veterans.org/sponsorship-form/>



Come out dressed in your
favorite era (1920's - present)
and bring your dancing shoes

[HOPE4VETERANS.ORG](https://hope4veterans.org)



Faith Leader Military Awareness and Support Training

Service members, veterans and military families across Northeast Florida are members of all religious faiths and look to their faith leaders for guidance and support. However, many faith leaders have a limited understanding of the essential issues common to the military community. With greater understanding, faith communities can better veterans and family members who otherwise may feel isolated, alienated and helpless. Also, military members, Veterans and their families can be remarkably resilient and provide great support to those who need some help.

To enhance the understanding of the military by our faith community and to gain practical resources for providing assistance, please register for our upcoming Faith Leader Military Awareness and Support Training. Hear examples of congregations with outreach and support for military members, Veterans and their families. Please take the time to give back to those who have given so much to us.

Monday, November 15th, 2021

9:00am – 11:15am

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

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

To attend in person, please register here:

<https://tinyurl.com/ydy9etma>

To attend online, please register here:

<https://tinyurl.com/kypbspkc>

For more information, please contact Brigadier General (ret) Michael Fleming at:

michael.fleming@centerstone.org





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For more information, please contact Brigadier General (ret) Michael Fleming at: michael.fleming@centerstone.org

All the best, Mike

Michael P. Fleming

Brigadier General (ret)

Outreach Director | Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinics at Centerstone

7011 A.C. Skinner Parkway | Jacksonville, FL 32256

Clinic: (904) 431-3500 | Fax: (904) 431-3501

Mobile: (904) 525-3633

michael.fleming@centerstone.org

The Fire Watch is Northeast Florida's fight to end veteran suicide. Check out Patriots 22 Poker Run at Boogerville Hideout on November 13th- they are helping NE Florida Vets. All proceeds benefit The Fire Watch and K9s for Warriors.

KS FOR WARRIORS
Proud Supporter

FW
THE FIRE WATCH
THEFIREWATCH.ORG
TOGETHER WE WILL END VETERAN SUICIDE

PATRIOTS 22 POKER RUN

Starting & Ending at Boogerville
6043 Highway 17 S Green Cove Springs, FL 32043

November 13, 2021

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STOPS Saloon 17 American Legion 250 Madness at McGee's Crossroads	\$15 Rider \$5 Passenger Registration starting at 9am KSU 10:30am Last bike in 4pm	Silent Auctions 50/50's Best/Worst Rolls Vendors
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ALL PROCEEDS GO TO K9s for WARRIORS AND THE FIRE WATCH
FOR MORE INFO OR TO GET VIP TICKETS 904/652/8170

Tribute to gold star families arrives at Florida National Cemetery; first of several planned monuments

By Jennifer Holton, Military FOX 13 News

BUSHNELL, Fla. - Guarded by an army of patriots, several pieces of stone delivered to Bushnell's Florida National Cemetery will soon become a symbol of strength for gold star families across America.



"It's very heartwarming because every day to a gold star family is Memorial Day," gold star mother Ronna Jackson said.

The cemetery received the Gold Star Families Monument Wednesday morning – the first part of a massive project by the joint veterans support committee and the Woody Williams Foundation, named for the 97-year-old WWII veteran and Medal of Honor recipient.

Tony Kamus of the Joint Veterans Support Committee says it's the first of a few monuments that will be built on the cemetery's property.

"This is just our first monument," Kamus said. "Our centerpiece monument is going to be the veteran funeral that will show to active-duty military persons folding the flags over a casket. In the background along the retaining wall, it's going to be our defender of freedom wall and there's going to be 75 different panels depicting different times of wartime in our history of our country."

The project didn't receive a dime from the federal government, Kamus says. The \$100,000 they've raised so far is thanks to private donors.

"Whether they be corporate, foundations, or individuals, and a lot of the veteran organizations have stepped up to the plate," he said.

The entire project is expected to cost millions of dollars, so they still have a long way to go, but just a few days before Gold Star Family Day this Sunday, Jackson says, the timing of this monument's installation couldn't be better.

"The ride down here was very emotional," she said. "To see the people pull off the road, waving their flags. Seeing them on top of the bridges. That just lets our family know that people of the community do still care."

The monument will be unveiled on October 6 in a ceremony that's expected to include more than 1,000 attendees, including 150 gold star family members.

The Joint Veterans Support Committee says the entire project, including the other memorials, is expected to be completed over the next 10 years because they're still fundraising for parts of it.

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 18, 2021 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 the campaign chair, SGM (Ret) Ray Quinn at 904.797.5622.



You are all invited, please try to join us at the Wednesday, November 17th meeting of the Veterans Council of St. Johns County,

We have two interesting, informative speakers.

(please note that for November we are meeting a week early and on a Wednesday because of the Holidays)



St. Johns County
Board of County Commissioners

St. Johns County Veterans Council November Meeting

- Wednesday, November 17 | 7:00 p.m.
- County Administration Building | 500 San Sebastian View
- Speaker | David Kennett, Transition Assistance Advisor
- Speaker | Andrew Coughlan, Wounded Warrior Project

For more information, please call 904.209.6160.

VETERANS COUNCIL OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

30 SEPTEMBER 2021



WELCOME: Chairman Bill Dudley

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Chairman Bill Dudley

INVOCATION: Vice Chair Ray Quinn

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS: Chairman Bill Dudley

TREASURERS REPORT: Treasurer John Mountcastle reported a current balance of \$59,326.03. He reported expenses for the month totaling \$1,110. He reminded all that 50% of the current balance is restricted to certain accounts. There was a unanimous vote to accept the report as presented.

INTRODUCTION OF Emily Spencer: Emily Spencer introduced the council to a non-profit entitled Heartillery Group. This 501(c)3 was created by Emily to ensure no service member (active duty or retired) felt alone or was not appreciated. The group began as simply a family act of support and connection and is now a global campaign. The Group collects, assembles and mails cards, letters and care packages across the globe. Since 2013 the Group has mailed 4 million cards and 10,000 packages. Emily stated the Group is always looking for volunteers to help in this massive effort.

INTRODUCTION OF David Abramowitz: David's mission at our meeting was to ensure the members were aware of an upcoming event. The event is entitled WELCOME HOME VIETNAM VETERANS. It is sponsored by the Jacksonville

Bar Association and the Vietnam Veterans Association. It is considered a hero's welcome home that they never received. It will be conducted Sunday, November 14, 2021 at the VStar Veterans Memorial Arena, 300 A. Phillip Randolph Blvd, Jacksonville, Florida. The doors open at noon. It is well to note that the guest speaker will be Rocky Bleirer, Vietnam Veteran and Super Bowl Champion player for the Pittsburgh Steelers. All the public is invited to come and say thank you!

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

CSM (Ret) Joe McDermott our Veterans Service Officer rendered a brief report on the 2021 Homeless Veteran Stand Down. It was with regret he reported there was a very low turn out this year. A committee has been formed to examine the reason and make adjustments as necessary.

He noted that the backlog at the National Personnel Records Center continues to slow the claim and document requests to a crawl. It is estimated there are a half million requests pending. Senator Rubio is conducting an investigation of the backlog.

He wanted all to know that our veteran population is appreciated and his office sends thanks for the help our veterans provide them. He stated there are approximately 22,000 veterans living in St. Johns County.

John Leslie offered a report on Veterans Treatment Court. The current enrollment in the program is 32. He stated they had received the first application from an active-duty individual. He reported 43 graduates to date and 13 non-completes. Repeat offender rate is a remarkable 4.3%.

Steve Spickelmier of the Jacksonville National Cemetery Support Committee and the Missing in America Project offered a brief report on each. He stated the new road to enter the Jacksonville National Cemetery is nearing completion and a ribbon cutting is on the horizon. New access will allow entrance using the Pecan Park exit off I-95. The road is named the Gold Star Family Parkway.

Steve's Missing in America report included the update of the number of interments made for our missing and forgotten. To date there have been 27 services to lay our comrades and spouses to rest.

Steve offered a report and thanks for the participation in the POW/MIA Recognition Day on 18 September 2021.

CHAIRMAN DUDLEY:

Our chairman reported that the effort to obtain the old temporary CBOC had fallen through. Despite the best efforts and cooperation of our council and the county we were unable to obtain the property. The buildings would have remained in place however an out of state property owner had other plans for the property.

Our chairman reported that the plan to conduct a ribbon cutting and Veterans Day program at the new CBOC has been terminated. The VA had not started planning nor is there a prediction of the type of pandemic rules would be in place on that date. There is good news a very exciting program is planned and will take place 11 November 2021 at the Anastasia Baptist Church. Doors will open to visit displays and the program will be at 11:00 a.m.

A request from the chairman for a motion to adjourn and the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Dudley

Chairman Veterans Council of St. Johns County



**Alton Green Memorial Post 194 Presents
Veterans Day Weekend BBQ Dinner Sale**

**Friday Nov 12 &
Saturday Nov 13
11 am-4pm**



Deliveries on 5 or more orders
Call Greg White @ 904 377-4159
Buy a dinner, salute a vet!

**Social Distancing
& Masks Required**

**Rib Dinner \$12
Chicken Dinner 10
Sausage Dinner \$8**

1029 Pearl St. West Augustine



YARD

SALE

Meet us at
**Bert Hodge
American
Legion Post 45**

**316 Osceola St.
Palatka**

328-6976

**Friday and Saturday
NOV 5th and 6th
9:00 - 3:00**

*Thanks for
helping us
support our local
Veterans!*

*We have
STUFF!
(no clothing)*



ACTIVE DUTY ★ RETIRED ★ NATIONAL GUARD & RESERVE ★ ALL SERVICE BRANCHES

MILITARY SUPPORT RETREATS

RETREATS FOR FLORIDA AND GEORGIA POST 9-11 COMBAT VETERANS
AND THEIR PRIMARY SUPPORT PERSON



Lake Chatuge
(Hiawassee), Georgia



AUG. 5-8



St. Augustine
Florida



SEPT. 9-12



Marineland
Florida



OCT. 7-10



Amelia Island
Florida



NOV. 4-7

From Thursday at 5:30pm - Sunday at 2:00pm



★ RESTORATION ★ RECREATION ★ RELAXATION ★

*Strengthen and restore connections, enjoy the natural beauty of each location,
be inspired by fun outdoor activities, learn about available support resources,
and relax while discovering post-deployment strategies.*

★ Small, friendly group setting ★

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

★ Facilitated by Vets, VA/DoD experts, and Community Nonprofit Support Organizations ★

Please note: Must be 18 to attend and no childcare is provided.

TO LEARN MORE AND TO APPLY VISIT: [GRATITUDEAMERICA.ORG/RETREATS](https://www.gratitudeamerica.org/retreats)



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





WELCOME HOME VIETNAM VETERANS

Join the Jacksonville Bar Association, Vets4Vets,
and the Vietnam Veterans Association (VVA) for a *Hero's Welcome*
many Vietnam Veterans never received...

Honoring their courage, valor, and selfless service.

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, November 14, 2021

1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena
300 A. Phillip Randolph Blvd.
Jacksonville, FL 32202



Guest Speaker - Rocky Bleier, Vietnam Veteran &
Pittsburgh Steeler Superbowl Champion

Performance by The Navy Band

Lunch & Parking Free for Veterans and their families

Sponsorships Levels Available

★ Gold Star - \$5,000 ☆ Silver Star - \$2,500 ★ Bronze Star - \$1,000

Event Sponsorships and donations may be made through the:

Semper Fidelis Society at <https://semperfidelissociety.org/donate/>

The **Fire Watch** is Northeast Florida's fight to end veteran suicide. Over 6,000 U.S. military veterans die by suicide each year, including 500 annually here in Florida. But suicide is preventable. And everyone can help. **Join us as a Watch Stander today.** Learn how to identify the risk signs of veterans in crisis and to direct them to the help they need.

3 minutes to enroll. 30 minutes to train. A lifetime of saving lives.

Visit: www.thefirewatch.org/watch-standers to learn more.

Thanks!

Nick Howland

Executive Director, The Fire Watch

www.thefirewatch.org

904.525.1761



From Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley

Subject: VA Transportation Assistance

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

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

From Michael Isam

DAV van service to Gainesville returning on a limited basis.

Begins on Monday, 23 March 2021

The van will run on Monday and Wednesday ONLY

3 passenger limit

Masks are required to and from VAMC



The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs

If you are looking for a simple way to help Florida Veterans, consider upgrading to a military themed specialty plate when you renew your tag. Revenue from military themed specialty license plates sales supports capital improvements to our State Veterans' Homes. For more information, click here: <https://bit.ly/3gxSZ8c>



REQUIREMENTS

MILITARY

SERVED MINIMUM 90 DAYS ACTIVE DUTY,
1 DAY DURING WARTIME, WITH AN
HONORABLE DISCHARGE

MEDICAL

NEED FOR ASSISTANCE WITH ACTIVITIES OF DAILY
LIVING (ADLS) DUE TO A NON-SERVICE CONNECTED
DISABILITY

FINANCIAL

INCOME AND EXPENSES IN RELATION
TO MEDICAL EXPENSES

VA RECOGNIZED WAR PERIODS	BEGINNING	ENDING
WORLD WAR II	Dec 7, 1941	Dec. 31, 1946
KOREAN CONFLICT	June 27, 1950	Jan. 31, 1955
VIETNAM ERA	Aug. 5, 1964	May 7, 1975
PERSIAN GULF WAR	Aug 2, 1990	End date to be set by law or Presidential Proclamation

MEDICAL SCREENING

The Veteran or surviving spouse must have a medical condition causing the need for assistance with activities of daily living (ADLs), such as bathing, dressing, grooming, using the toilet, preparing meals, and moving about safely).

MONETARY SCREENING

The veteran and or veteran plus spouse can have a maximum of \$129,094 in liquid assets. A primary residence and auto are not counted as part of the total liquid assets. Ongoing non-reimbursable medical expenses may reduce the annual countable income.

MAXIMUM PENSION AMOUNTS	PER MONTH	ANNUALLY
SURVIVING SPOUSE	\$1,244	\$14,928
VETERAN	\$1,936	\$23,232
COUPLE	\$2,295	\$27,540

From Lynn M Geiser

Here are the Aid & Attendance requirements and qualifications for 2021. This is for veterans and their spouses who qualify and need assistance with their Activities of Daily Living (ADL's).



Legal Aid for Veterans

The Florida Veterans Legal Helpline is a project of the Major General Ernest A. and Marilyn Bedke Veterans Law Center at Bay Area Legal Services, Inc. The helpline is a free service for eligible Florida veterans and their family members.

When you call, you will speak to a screener who will determine your eligibility and set your appointment with an attorney.

1.866.486.6161

Call Today!
Hours: Monday – Friday
9 AM to 4:30 PM



We Can Help With

- Landlord-Tenant Matters
- Consumer Credit Issues
- Foreclosure
- Divorce + Child Support
- Drivers Licenses/ID cards
- Social Security + Public Benefits
- Discharge Upgrades
- VA Benefits
- And Other Civil Legal Matters
(No Criminal or Traffic Matters)

Supported by the: **FDVA**
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL SERVICES
ESTABLISHED BY PUBLIC LAW 101-508

Become a Watch Stander with The Fire Watch



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Disaster Resources Available to Veterans

“Veterans and their families should be focused on their health and safety during the natural disasters,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie.

“VA is taking action to give those with pending debts greater flexibility during these challenging times.”

Health Care Assistance

If you have questions such as where to go for care or how to receive prescribed medications, VA has established a toll-free number for assistance in areas that have been impacted by disasters. Veterans or their families can call the VA Veterans Disaster Response line 24 hours, seven days a week at 1-800-507-4571.

Debt Relief

If you are affected by a natural disaster, have a VBA benefit debt and need temporary financial relief, please contact VA's Debt Management Center at 1-800-827-0648 to request assistance.

If you have questions on Compensation or Pension benefits: Call toll-free 1-800-827-1000 Monday - Friday 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. CST.

Other Resources

Find a VA Vet Center near you 877-WAR-VETS (927-8387) or <https://www.va.gov/find-locations>

Mobile Vet Centers and Vet Center teams are actively responding to disaster-affected areas to offer counseling and grief support as well as connection and referral services to other VA and community resources.

Find a VA facility near you <https://www.va.gov/find-locations>

Call the White House VA Hotline 24 hours a day, seven days a week at 1-855-948-2311.

Apply for \$500 grant for your damaged primary residence (on a first come, first serve basis subject to funding) from PenFed Foundation.

National Resource Directory - Search for local resources for Veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors.

FEMA - FEMA helps with temporary housing, repair or replacement of existing homes.

American Red Cross - The American Red Cross offers emergency financial assistance to the most impacted counties. Please call 1-800-733-2767 to see if you qualify.

Disaster Assistance – An easy way to determine if your zip code has been declared a disaster and eligible for assistance. The website also allows users to complete an online application and the ability to check FEMA application status.



Florida veterans and military families have a new resource to receive the care they need thanks to a partnership dedicated to serving this most deserving population.

Centerstone and the Cohen Veterans Network have joined forces to offer compassionate, targeted behavioral health care for Post 9/11 veterans, National Guard, Reservists, their families and active duty family members at the Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at Centerstone, Jacksonville. <https://centerstone.org/cohen-military-family-clinic/jacksonville/>. The clinic’s skilled clinicians and staff have been trained to work specifically with veterans and their families, and some are veterans themselves. Services offered include individual therapy for children, adolescents and adults, couples therapy, family therapy, groups and workshops.

“Military families are some of the most resilient people you will ever encounter, but a life of service often gives way to invisible wounds and unique challenges that are difficult to navigate,” Elizabeth Sherr, clinic director said. “We understand those challenges and stand ready to support our veterans and their loved ones with effective, personalized care right now.”

The clinic’s ability to meet the needs of veterans and their families quickly is vital in today’s mental health environment where gaining access to care can often be daunting - with long wait times and all too common barriers to overcome. The Cohen Clinic at Centerstone is committed to reducing these barriers. Not only are military families currently able to receive same day appointments, the clinic also offers all therapy services via telehealth - breaking down time and distance concerns that can sometimes be problematic.

“We want to make getting help as easy as possible for our veterans and family members,” Brigadier General (ret.) Michael Fleming, the clinic’s outreach director said. “Sometimes just reaching out for help is difficult enough, and we want to ensure we meet this step with compassion and ease.”

For the time being, in an effort to ensure the safety of clients and team members amidst the COVID-19 physical distancing guidelines, that includes conducting all services via CVN Telehealth or telephone. Studies have shown telehealth has the same efficacy as in-person counseling and the clinic’s therapists are well trained in the delivery of this care. Additionally, front desk staff still have complete access to answer the appointment line during business hours, as before, and veterans, military families and outside organizations can continue to call directly for an appointment.

Veterans, National Guard, Reservists, their families and active duty family members may contact the clinic at (904) 431-3500 to schedule appointments. Clinic hours are:

Monday	8:00am – 5:00pm
Tuesday	8:00am – 5:00pm
Wednesday	8:00am – 7:00pm
Thursday	8:00am – 5:00pm
Friday	8:00am - 12:00pm

For more information on clinic services log on to <https://centerstone.org/cohen-military-family-clinic/jacksonville/> or call the appointment line at (904) 431-3500.



You sacrificed for our country.

**AT SILVER CREEK,
FREEDOM IS YOURS.**

Because of your commitment, you helped us achieve the American Dream. At Silver Creek, we want to return the favor – by providing the freedom, independence and personal attention you deserve. Since 2016, Silver Creek has served the St. Augustine community, offering military retirees and seniors at large a vibrant, community lifestyle complete with everything except the burdens of home maintenance. Impeccably-appointed independent concierge living, assisted living and memory care apartments homes, first-class amenities, holistic wellness programming, gourmet, all-day dining and abounding opportunities for enrichment are just a few of the many options you'll find.

Silver Creek provides residents the perfect balance of elegant, upscale living with the warmth and intimacy of home – inspiring socialization and fellowship within a close-knit community.

Call **800-665-9492** to schedule a tour and learn more.



THE FUTURE OF SENIOR LIVING

165 Silver Lane | St. Augustine, FL 32084 | SilverCreekRetirement.com



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

Assisted Living Facility #12928

Vietnam Veterans of America

If you are a Vietnam Era Veteran and live in one of these counties, please contact the President for information as to how to join



Chapter/President/email/Location

1046	Tony D'Aleo	adaleo5579@gmail.com; Duval
1048	Rod Phillips	cobra101st@gmail.com; Daytona
1059	David Treffinger	dtreffinger433@msn.com; Clay
1084	Salvatore Sorrentino	suncler1951@aol.com
1088	Roy (Corky) Rudd	corkstopper50@yahoo.com; Nassau
1092	Forest Hope	foresthope@usa.net; Gainesville
1134	Marvin Lagle	mdlagle@gmail.com; Baker



PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO MEET VETERANS' UNIQUE NEEDS

Advance Care Planning

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

Palliative Care

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

Hospice Care

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

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

Complementary Therapies

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

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

We Need Volunteers

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

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

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

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



SURVIVOR OUTREACH SERVICES

Strength
built on
Sacrifice

Your Florida SOS Team

St. Augustine Area

Keith Ham
Support Coordinator
310 Charlotte Street
St. Augustine, FL 32085
(904) 823-0157 (desk)
(904) 472-7689 (cell)
keith.c.ham.ctr@mail.mil

Tallahassee Area

Matthew Reeves
Support Coordinator
1225 Easterwood Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32311-3599
(850) 617-0192 (desk)
(850) 459-6630 (cell)
matthew.p.reeves.ctr@mail.mil

Orlando Area

Shinekqua Baines
Support Coordinator
9500 Armed Forces Reserve Drive
Orlando, FL 32827
(407) 240-5939 ext. 1743
shinekqua.l.baines.ctr@mail.mil

Tampa Bay Area

LaShawnda S. Strother
Support Coordinator
2801 Grand Avenue
Pinellas Park, FL 33782
(727)-563-3647
lashawnda.s.strother.ctr@mail.mil

Miami Area

Support Coordinator
9301 NW 33rd Street
Doral, FL 33172-1202
(305) 437-2178

Scholarships & Application Deadlines

There are two primary VA Programs offering educational assistance. While federal benefits do not technically have a due date, it is important to apply as early as possible.

The Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship (Fry Scholarship) is currently available for children of those who died in the line of duty after September 10, 2001. Beginning January 1, 2015, Fry Scholarship will also be available for surviving spouses of those who died in the line of duty after September 10, 2001.

The Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA) Program offers education and training opportunities to eligible dependents of Veterans who are permanently and totally disabled due to a service-related condition or of Veterans who died while on active duty or as a result of a service-related condition.

Application Deadlines for surviving children

Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation

No set amount, available for children of those who died in the line of duty or of a service-connected disability. No application due date.

Freedom Alliance

Scholarships of up to \$5,000 for children of those who died in the line of duty. No application due date.

Fisher House Foundation/ Heroes Legacy Scholarship

Amount varies, for children of those who died while on active duty on or after September 11, 2001. Applications available from early December to March 14.

Special Ops Warrior Foundation

Amount varies, for surviving children of Special Operations Service Members who died in the line of duty. Applications due at least sixty days prior to the start of the semester.

Deadline for multiple relationships

Army Emergency Relief Fund

Amount varies, for surviving spouses and children of soldiers who die while on active duty or in retiree status. Applications available from January 2 to May 1, 2015.

Application Deadlines: For surviving spouses

Aspire

\$3,000 scholarships per semester for spouses of those who died on active duty. Applications due by October 31 for spring semester and June 30 for fall semester each year.

National Military Family Association

\$500 to \$2,500 scholarships for surviving spouses of those who died while on active duty on or after September 11, 2001. Applications available from December 1 to January 31.

Pat Tillman Foundation

Amount varies, scholarships for surviving spouses of those who died on active duty, in veteran status, or in retiree status. Applications available from February 1 to March 6.

Application Deadlines: For surviving siblings

Matthew Freeman Project

\$1,000 scholarships for siblings of those who have died in the line of duty. No application due date

Deadline for multiple relationships

Folds of Honor

\$5,000 scholarships for surviving spouses and children of service members who die in the line of duty or from a service-connected disability. Applications available from January 15 to March 15.

Disclaimer: The information presented in this newsletter is for informational awareness only and does not represent endorsement, sponsorship, recommendation, or promotion of any commercial events, commercial names or brands by the editors of this Newsletter, the Department of Defense, US Army, US Navy, US Air Force, US Coast Guard, National Guard, Reserve, or the federal government. Usage of commercial or trademark names is for identification purposes only.

FLORIDA SURVIVOR OUTREACH SERVICES AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY



Survivor Outreach Services provides long-term support and advocacy for families of the fallen. Our support coordinators and financial counselors are dedicated to helping survivors from all eras understand and apply for benefits as well as stay connected to the Army family for as long as they desire.

Although Survivor Outreach Services is the focus of this newsletter, please know that all branches of the Armed Forces are equally committed to taking care of surviving military families. Please contact us, and we will connect you with additional resources that may be available for your branch of service. To find the Survivor Outreach Services location nearest you, check out the map on this page, or visit www.sos.army.mil.



Mission Statement:

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



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

What the Council has done:

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

SA-0003147064-01

Veterans Crisis Line

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

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

STAND BY THEM
Confidential help for Veterans and their families

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE
1-800-273-TALK (8256)
suicidepreventionlifeline.org

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

Military/Veterans Crisis Line

1-800-273-8255

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

Confidential chat at MilitaryCrisisLine.net or text 838255

Veterans Councils of Northeast Florida



BAKER COUNTY

President: Larry Porterfield

Meetings:

Second Thursday of each month

Location:

MacClenny Primitive Baptist Church
Fellowship Hall on North Boulevard

Time : 1800 (6pm)

CLAY COUNTY

President: Harry Silvers

Meetings:

First Wednesday of each month

Location:

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

Time: 1400 (2pm)

DUVAL COUNTY

President Steve Spickelmier

Meetings:

Third Tuesday of each month

Location:

American Legion Post 37
Main Building
San Juan Avenue

Time: 1900 (7 pm)

NASSAU COUNTY

President: Mike Doran

Meetings:

First Thursday of each month

Location:

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

Time: 1900 (7pm)

St. Johns County

President: Bill Dudley

Meetings:

Last Thursday of each month

Location:

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

Time: 1900 (7pm)

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



We are inviting all veterans to visit our website at:

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

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

Please join our group on Facebook at:

<http://veteranscouncilsjc.org>

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

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

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

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

He can be contacted at webmaster@veteranscouncilsjc.org

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

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

Send to: rothfeldm@gmail.com



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

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

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

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

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

***The Veterans Council will meet at the St.
Johns County Administration Building
500 San Sebastian View
Auditorium, 1st floor***

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

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

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

*Service is by appointment.
Phone: 904-209-6160 Fax: 904-209-6161
Joseph McDermott, SR VSO
Travis Neidig, Assistant VSO
Angela McKenzie, 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.