



The Patriot Reader Newsletter

P.O. Box 2117

St. Augustine, FL 32085

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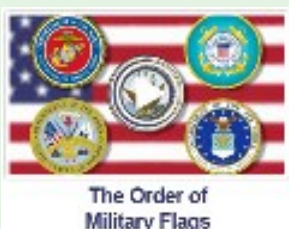
Volume 11, Issue 11

From Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley

November 2022

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Fellow Veterans

November 11 is nearing and we will soon celebrate another day of honoring our veterans who have served this great nation. Our program this year will not only honor all veterans who have served, but will honor specifically those who have served during the period of Oct. 2001 –Aug. 2021. This period is recorded as the Global War on Terrorism, the longest continuous engagement our country has ever been at war against our enemy. We have a wonderful program queued up with Maj. Gen John Haas, Asst. Adjutant General for the FLARNG as our keynote speaker and the St. Augustine High School Chamber Singers providing the music

with their medley of patriotic songs. We also have over 40 displays of local organizations that support veterans along with the Vietnam Traveling Wall and the Global War on Terrorism Wall. Please plan to join us and bring your family and friends. The Veterans Council has been heavily engaged over the past several months in fighting veteran homelessness in St. Johns County. This problem has grown to nearly crisis level brought on by our current economic inflation and the lack of affordable housing in St. Johns County. What is the Veterans Council doing to help these veterans that are experiencing this trauma? We are housing many of the veterans in local motels and providing food from our food pantry or furnishing the veteran with a gift card to buy food. We have also



provided many veterans with a gas gift card to help with the purchase of gas in order to make it to their job site.

The Veterans Council is working with several local agencies including the VA and other agencies to find suitable housing for these veterans but the problem has no easy solution, especially in St. Johns County with our massive development of high end housing being built. We will continue to support the needs of the homeless until a more suitable solution is found.

Bill Dudley
Chairman
Veterans Council of St. Johns County



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 take place at Community Hospice, **4266 Sunbeam Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32257 in Conference Room A.**

**NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2022
via ZOOM at 1900 hours**

Jacksonville National Cemetery Support Committee Meetings for 2022
At Hadlow Community Hospice of NE FL.
4266 Sunbeam Rd, Jacksonville, FL 32257

+++++2022 Officers of the SCJNC+++++

Chairman: Padraic Mulvihill

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 Health & Human Services Building,
200 San Sebastian View, at 7 pm**

Upcoming Veterans Council Meetings Speakers



**October 27, Ronald Hasty, UF Brain Wellness Program
Joe Snowberger, "Mission United"**

Please note dates have below have been changed due to Holidays

November 17, Kyle Mitchell, Project Help

**December 22, Dr Amelia Lyons, Univ. Central FL,
Veterans Legacy Project**

ST JOHNS COUNTY 2022 VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION

Friday, November 11th. Anastasia Baptist Church.



Honoring All Who Served

MG. John Haas, Florida National Guard, keynote speaker.

**The St. Johns Center for the Arts Chamber Singers. Static Displays.
Video collage. Traveling Vietnam and Global War On Terrorism walls.**



**With special recognition of our
“Global War On Terrorism” veterans.**

**Doors open 9 AM. Program begins at 11 AM.
1650 A1A South (on Anastasia Island). Free parking on site.**



Organized by the St. Johns County Veterans Council

Info at: rothfeldm@gmail.com

ST. JOHNS COUNTY VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION

11 NOVEMBER 2022

ANASTASIA BAPTIST CHURCH



This year we especially recognize all those who donned the uniform during the "Global War On Terrorism." The shock and anger arising in millions of Americans in the aftermath of the 9/11 twin tower strikes were reminiscent of those after the Pearl Harbor attack, sixty years earlier. In both cases, a vicious war of global dimensions followed. Notably, as in all previous generations, millions of Americans left their homes to rally round the flag and shield their country from the further danger sure to follow. The 20th century WWII ended relatively quickly. The 21st century war on terrorism stretched over two decades, yet we note with special pride that the millions of American women and men who participated in it were all volunteers, including hundreds of thousands from Florida. Here, the 53rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team has just completed training at Ft. Hood Texas in early 2010 before deploying 7,000 miles east for combat duty in Iraq.



While the anti-terror mission continues in far flung crisis areas around the globe, with this year's withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan major combat forces have returned once more to their homeland. It is now time to recognize the sacrifices all those in uniform made, whether at home or deployed abroad. **Join us in this tribute.**

**Anastasia Baptist Church, 1650 A1A South.
On Anastasia Island. Free parking on site.
Doors to exhibits open 9 AM.
Program begins 1100.
Info at: rothfeldm@gmail.com**



**Organized by:
The St. Johns County Veterans Council**



Save the Date

The Veterans Council of St. Johns County invites you to join us in Celebrating and Honoring our Veterans-on-Veterans Day, Friday, November 11th starting at 9:30am at Anastasia Baptist Church, 1650 A1A S in St. Augustine with over 40 Atrium display tables and back by popular demand is the Traveling Vietnam and War on Terrorism Walls.

Keynote speaker is MG John Haas, FL National Guard.

Entertainment is by the St. Augustine High School Chamber Singers.

This year we are recognizing all who served in the Global War on Terrorism.

No admission and free onsite parking.



FOR EVERY HERO, A STONE
FOR EVERY STONE, A WREATH.



WREATHS *across* AMERICA



August 1, 2022

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 17 2022 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.



The background of the entire flyer is a blurred image of the American flag, with the stars and stripes visible. On the left side, there is a vertical strip showing a clearer portion of the flag's stars and stripes.

Celebrate America

Thursday, November 10, 2022 @ 7 PM

An Evening of Patriotic Songs and Hymns of Praise.

Join us as we form a mighty chorus to give thanks for our Nation and all the men and women, past and present, who have served our country.

Brass Ensemble & Organ



TRINITY PARISH
St. Augustine

215 St. George Street
904.824.2876

Free Admission Parking Available



Help Young Marines Learn World War II History First-Hand

A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to participate in
D-Day Remembrance at Normandy

Help Atlantic Coast Young Marines Fulfill Their
Dream



The Young Marines are dreaming of a trip to France and Germany for June 3 - 15, 2023, with the Unit Commander and Adult Volunteers. They will participate in the D-Day Remembrance Ceremony on-site, as well as meet some of our remaining veterans from this era. They plan to visit the Beaches of Normandy, museums, cemeteries, and memorials dedicated to the lives sacrificed for the freedom of our country and world. From France, on to

World War II sites in Germany.

The trip will cost roughly \$4,500 per Young Marine, and they hope to bring 20. The Young Marines are working hard and raised \$9,000 as of Oct 18th, as pictured above on their Donation Goal Tracker, with car washes, tables around town at events and stores, silent auctions, drawings, and even door-to-door donation drives in their neighborhoods.

WE CAN BE HEROES FOUNDATION is raising funds to sponsor this once-in-a-lifetime educational trip. These remarkable and loving youth spend hundreds of hours helping veterans and our communities while they focus on building the leadership, discipline, and teamwork of the Young Marines. They've earned our support.

Here's how you can help with your tax-deductible donations of money, gift cards, or merchandise:

Donate with PayPal by clicking [here](#). Enter "Young Marines Trip" in the "Write a Note" box, or Mail checks. gift cards or gift certificates to the address shown below.

Donate new or like new items and gift baskets/gift boxes for the silent auctions at the Pearl Harbor Remembrance on December 3rd and our later events.

Email: Honor@WeCanBeHeroesFoundation.org or call 904 373-8817 to arrange your merchandise donations from now through April.

From Rory Diamond, K9s For Warriors

Last week, I met with the entire team at K9s For Warriors and let them know that I will be handing over the helm of our organization over the next several weeks. For the past eight years, it's been a humbling honor to lead K9s For Warriors and the team that built the nation's largest Service Dog agency serving disabled American veterans. Yet, I am compelled by my heart and convictions to focus on military service and serving a second term on the Jacksonville City Council. Earlier this year I earned a commission in the Florida National Guard and the U.S. Army and graduated from the Direct Commission Course at Ft. Benning, GA. Next, I will qualify as a Judge Advocate General and look forward to serving our state and nation as a JAG officer. I am incredibly proud of what we've achieved for veterans and rescue dogs, and our organization is strong. With six beautiful campuses across the country and a world-renowned reputation for fighting veteran suicide and saving incredible dogs, K9s For Warriors has been nothing short of a miracle. Please continue to support the team and mission as they build on our incredible success.



From the Adjutant General

Heroes

The past week has been a challenging one for all of us. The lives of thousands of Floridians – family, friends and neighbors – living along our state’s southwest coast have been changed forever.

Since Hurricane Ian made landfall last Wednesday, the Florida National Guard has been on the front lines of the state’s response. Alongside our brothers and sisters in arms from Louisiana National Guard, Washington National Guard, Mississippi National Guard, Montana National Guard, New York Army National Guard, Georgia National Guard and Tennessee National Guard, the Florida National Guard has mounted an unparalleled response to this natural disaster.

More than 5,000 of you responded to our state’s call to duty and we surged operations across 22 counties at the start of this response. We are responding as we always do, and are performing our “normal” tasks, such as search and rescue, law enforcement augmentation, and commodity distribution at our usual level of excellence. However, we also conducted the largest air-movement in support of domestic operations in the history of the Florida National Guard and executed a Tiger Dam installation for the first time ever. While our response up to this point has been historic in its scope, our commitment to aid our civilian partners over the long haul will likewise need to be one for the record books.

As I have toured the affected areas with the Governor over the past few days, I have seen first-hand the level of devastation suffered by communities like Fort Myers, Fort Myers Beach, Northport, Arcadia Sanibel and Pine Islands and others. The magnitude of the damage these counties sustained is monstrous in comparison to what we have seen with other hurricanes over the past decade.

Governor Ron DeSantis and I have witnessed how your presence and hard work can inspire our residents and provide hope that their lives can -- and will -- get back to normal. I thank you for the hard work you have already done, and I thank you in advance for your willingness to serve our state as our response to Hurricane Ian continues over the coming weeks. Our state knows that we will serve for as long as we’re needed.

Florida First!



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

October 6, 2022



CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Dudley

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS: Chairman Dudley

PLEDGE: Chairman Dudley

INVOCATION: Vice Chairman Quinn

OPENING: Chairman Dudley announced that this is the meeting that was postponed from September 29, 2022, due to Hurricane Ian hitting the State of Florida. The speakers that were scheduled to give presentations on that day would not be speaking this evening due to conflicts in scheduling.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: Minutes of last meeting conducted on August 25, 2022, were presented by Chairman Dudley. Copies of Minutes and Agenda are available on the sign-in table and were sent to members electronically by the Secretary. The minutes were approved by voice vote with no changes.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer John Mountcastle provided a detailed report showing that as of August 24, 2022, there was a balance of \$108,808.71 and as of September 30, 2022, there is balance of \$122,795.07. Appreciation was given to Chairman Dudley and David Shoar for reaching out to major donors, two of which donated contributions of \$10,000 each. This gives the Council an extra \$20,000 to help with the ever-rising costs of shelter expenses for our homeless veterans. A continued effort will continue to obtain funding from those "deep pocket" donors. A chart was provided to show that shelter costs for lodging homeless veterans exceeds 3x the other costs held by the Council. St. Johns County has become a very expensive temporary house of veterans. The Council's credit card was used \$4,554.05 in September, payments were made continuously to keep the credit card active and up to date. There is now a \$776.53 balance due on the credit card by October 20, 2022. The Treasurer's Report was approved by voice vote with no changes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER UPDATE, JOSEPH MCDERMOTT

Mr. McDermott spoke of the major push that is being put on to try to come up with transition housing for the Veterans in our area and the need for such housing. It's not cheap to house these veterans in local hotels.

Mr. McDermott mentioned the upcoming Veterans Homeless Standdown that will be held on October 8, 2022, at 9:00 am at the Elks Lodge. Set up will be on Friday, October 7, 2022, at 9:15 am for volunteers that would like to help. Last year's turnout for the Standdown was a disappointment and hopes that will not happen again this year. Every homeless camp within the county was visited by the Veteran's Service Office but many were empty due to the flooding from the hurricane. Fliers and information were left at the camps and other locations throughout the county in hopes of better attendance this year.

The Veteran's Service Office had a very good year this year with a number of increase of clients searching for help. There were 70 new clients added. The VSO has a very good crew helping all the veterans in our county. VSO will keep working hard for our county Veterans.

On the side, the "Camp Lejeune Lawsuit" was discussed and how that effects the VA funds that are received.

VETERANS TREATMENT COURT, JOHN LESLIE

Mr. Leslie informed that the Treatment Court has graduated 62 members currently in its 6 years of existence. There are 112 veterans that have been inducted. There have been 14 that have left the program, 2 by death. The court has been going very well and is successful. The Mentor Corp is growing and may be adding one more that was a recent graduate. It's a good way for the graduates to stay engaged in the court system. Next session is October 7, 2022, at the Courthouse Annex and is open to the public. The Treatment Court participants can achieve their community service credits by volunteering in events such as the Veterans Homeless Standdown and 7 are going help with this year's event.

NEW BUSINESS:

Vice Chairman Ray Quinn spoke for “Wreaths Across America” to place wreaths on the graves of our Veterans in the oldest National Cemetery in America here in St. Augustine. A handout was provided for donations. The price of the wreaths has not changed, \$15 per wreath, if you purchase two, the sponsor gets an additional wreath – so that is three wreaths for \$30. We need to raise \$12,000 and need more sales to get a wreath on every headstone. Saturday, December 17th is when the wreaths will be placed. Volunteers will place the wreaths at the event. Everyone and their families are invited to attend.

Chairman Dudley spoke about the Veterans that we are helping in homeless situations within the county. St. Johns County is one of the richest in the state and has the least amount of affordable housing for our Veterans. Many agencies are helping to find housing and affordable housing just cannot be found in SJC. Expenses to house our homeless veterans are too high and the county has to come around in some way to assist in helping these veterans. If it were not for the Veteran’s Council, there would be no help for these homeless veterans. Patriot Place update was given and the problems they are running into getting a Certificate of Occupancy. San Marco Heights is a new development that is supposed to have 10 units within the complex to help with veteran housing needs.

Erick Saks, Operation Lifeline, new nonprofit here in SJC. Their focus is on improving veterans housing. Will help veterans with needs by helping repairs and rehab to homeowner veterans in the lower income bracket.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

William Dudley, Chairman

Ray A. Quinn, Vice Chairman

Ethan Goedelman's Eagle Scout Flag Project at Anastasia Baptist Church





18th Annual

Marine & Navy FMF Corpsmen Memorial

Evergreen Cemetery

N Main St
Jacksonville, Florida

November 10, 2022

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~

The Fire Watch

The 3rd annual "Pledge to Prevent" was a great jointly hosted event with the VA and the Steven A Cohen Military Family Clinic at Centerstone.



Greetings All,

I am excited and honored to share the above news with you! The Installation from the THEN & NOW National veterans art exhibit host by the St. Augustine Art Association has been gifted by myself to the National POW/MIA Memorial & Museum, JAX, FL. It is in honor and recognition of Army Major Theodore Gostas (RET), former POW for 5+ years, 4.5 years of this time was spent in solitary confinement in a cell with a 5' X 8' footprint. The Installation shares Ted's story of grief and bravery against overwhelming odds, cruelty and hopelessness. The images include memorabilia, artifacts and artworks of Ted's incarceration, the Vietnam War and his life thereafter. Thank you to all the individuals that have made this effort possible. This story is part of the POW/MIA narrative of hardship, grief and cruelty they and their loved ones have endured for decades. We shall never forget them and the sacrifices they gave for us and our Nation! We will keep them in our prayers and thoughts forever. God bless America !



Jerry Domask

Vietnam Veteran/ Army (RET)

Artist & Curator

P.S. www.powmiamemorial.org. 904.303.8907

JeromeDomaskFineArt.com

Congratulations Jerry. This was a true calling and labor of love for you. The St. Augustine Art Association is truly honored to have been a part of your journey.

Take care and our very best to you and Ted and all of our wonderful veterans.

We love you and are so very grateful to each and everyone of you.

All the best,

Diane Bradley, President

St. Augustine Art Association



The Jacksonville Naval Museum Hours

OPEN
BUSINESS HOURS

MONDAY	CLOSED	TO	CLOSED
TUESDAY	CLOSED	TO	CLOSED
WEDNESDAY	9AM	TO	3PM
THURSDAY	9AM	TO	3PM
FRIDAY	9AM	TO	3PM
SATURDAY	9AM	TO	4PM
SUNDAY	10AM	TO	4PM

**LAST GROUP ON 30
MINUTES BEFORE CLOSING**

Made with PosterMyWall.com

From Lynn Geiser

We started the H4V Peer2Peer Therapeutic Art Program in Jacksonville at Cohen A Stevens Veteran Center and they supported us by sponsoring art supplies and their facilities. Other Veteran Organizations want to strengthen the military women population in Volusia and St John County also. H4V was asked to start a 6 week program in-person for Military women veterans and Spouses in 3 counties. Starting at the end of January 2023 we would like to offer a group in St Augustine and in Volusia county collaborating with MOAA and Counselors in the area. Duval county will be offered again at Steven A Cohen Veteran Centerstone.

We are always seeking volunteer military women that have backgrounds in facilitating, art and any other holistic way to help military women. If your interested in being a volunteer or teach a class for January class in either Volusia / St John or Duval counties or would like to participate please email me at Lgeiser@Hope4veterans.org or check out our website@ www.Hope4veterans.org

Art Therapy for Military Women

Purpose: Art Therapy to build a special connection between our military sisters. Bring a small group military woman together to prevent isolation and suicide but also to feel safe, comfortable, and fun to start sharing any struggles they may need help with. Connecting them to resources that are needed such as counseling, claims and financial. Women struggle seeking help but when you bring fun social activities women tend to come together and talk with one another.

Time Frame: Art therapy class would be 2-3hrs depending on intensity and struggles within the group. Allowing 1-1.5 hours to allow our military Women to explore their unconscious and struggles through art. 1.5 hours to reconnect after the project in a small group to talk about their projects. It will vary depending on where the military women are and what stages of recovery they are at, but we will meet them at where they are at.

Materials: Military Women can use any of the tools to create their masterpiece. Tools may include paint, canvas, scissors, magazine clippings, pastel, pencils, colored pencils, art products such as masks, clothing, and any safe products to be creative with their masterpiece. Tools will be provided by Hope4veterans and the community. We will be offered a few small projects to lead to a masterpiece.

Vision in the group: During the 1.5 hours they can explore their art ideas with the help of facilitators and counselors. After the 1.5 hours we come together in a small group for 1.5 hours to encourage them to talk about what they did as a project, how they felt and what are some thoughts that came up while drawing, writing or any art project that they started. If they struggle or are not ready to tell, ask permission if we can ask the group what they think of the art project. Share around the room. Encourage each woman if they felt they enjoyed the group next session to bring other military women to the group and/or ideas for art they would love to try or learn. Our goal is to bring women together and prevent isolation and suicide. Ask military women to help the group by utilizing their skills and talents. Hope4veterans also provides monthly meet & greets and/or fun activities for our women and 1-2 events per year for our families.

Group rules: Positive encouragement, clean up your area, encourage participation by bringing in fun ideas and allowing women to lead the project in some classes.

Other Creative ideas: Can add exterior/interior masks, Lanterns, Mandala, dreamcatcher, Wine glass art, Art Journaling, Paint to music, Vision board, Tie Blankets, Jewelry making, Mind mapping, egg painting, Family tree, Rock

Paintings, Forgiveness letters, Dream Drawing, Tile Art, Collage your vision and goals. Snow globes, Canvas bag art, pre drawn art add your touch.

Other additional: teaching mediation, breathing techniques, and other forms of relaxation before and after depending on the group dynamics.

Women Peer2Peer Therapeutic Art

6 week class over 3 month time frame (Every 2 weeks)

1. First meeting Art therapy
 - A. Group rules/ Instructions
 - B. Pre-Questionnaire/ survey
 - C. Journal/ Fancy Pen- given for projects outside class and resources
 - D. Break ice introduction/activities- Unmasking
 - E. H4V bring plain sketch pictures to color and write notes
 - F. Art support group talk about colors, meaning, feelings and thoughts/ Ice breaking

1. Second meeting Art therapy
 - A. Work on a tree adding growth/ positive journey
 - B. Adding your own Art with all Art tools provided/pencil/color/paint/cutting
 - C. Bring in next session a photo and/or inspiration quote that resonates toward growth
 - D. Art Support group talk about drawings, positive feedback, and meanings and next week project

2. Third meeting Art Therapy
 - A. Jewelry- inspiration positive words bracelet or necklace
 - B. Wine Painting/Glass painting/ Canvas painting
 - C. Art Support Group talks about art projects. Feelings, thoughts, and our goals/vision next week

3. Fourth meeting Art Therapy
 - A. Vision/ Goal Board positive affirmation
 - B. Drawing bubbles positive affirmations

- C. Art Support group talk about art project, feelings, thoughts and next week project
- 4. Fifth meeting Art therapy
 - A. Building trust in group- group member suggestion teaches an activity
 - B. Affirmation Jar
 - C. Art Support group talk about art project, feelings thoughts and next week project
- 5. Sixth week Art Therapy
 - A. Post survey/ questionnaire
 - B. Tell her story by art/ writing work as a team
 - C. Additional hands-on projects group decides
 - D. Art support talk about art project, feelings, thoughts, and future connections/events

During these 6 weeks our goal is build connection and trust within our group; Women Veterans and Women Spouses, to understand unconsciously, her strengths and challenges through Therapeutic art. As the founder and a Women Veteran herself, she went through Art therapy which discovered her unconscious emotions and thoughts. Each time she sees awareness within her artwork and others. She saw a positive change and self confidence within her clients and herself. Combining Peer2Peer Sister, Social monthly fun events, Therapeutic art and helping our women obtain the benefits they deserve and earned. Statistics have been shown by word of mouth and surveys to improve health and well-being. Hope4Veterans goals is to prevent isolation, homelessness, and suicide for our Women Veterans in Florida. That includes finding our military women.

Therapeutic Art Projects is geared to Honor, recognize, and hear HER voice in March and November Fundraiser/ gala events each year. In the Gala we will display their Therapeutic Art and be recognized for their art (Pinning them at the gala – Dog tags (Women Veteran Proud). Our counselors help bring awareness and walk them through any struggles or challenges they may face and if they need more 1 one 1 then we have the option because we have a counselor at the end of sessions.

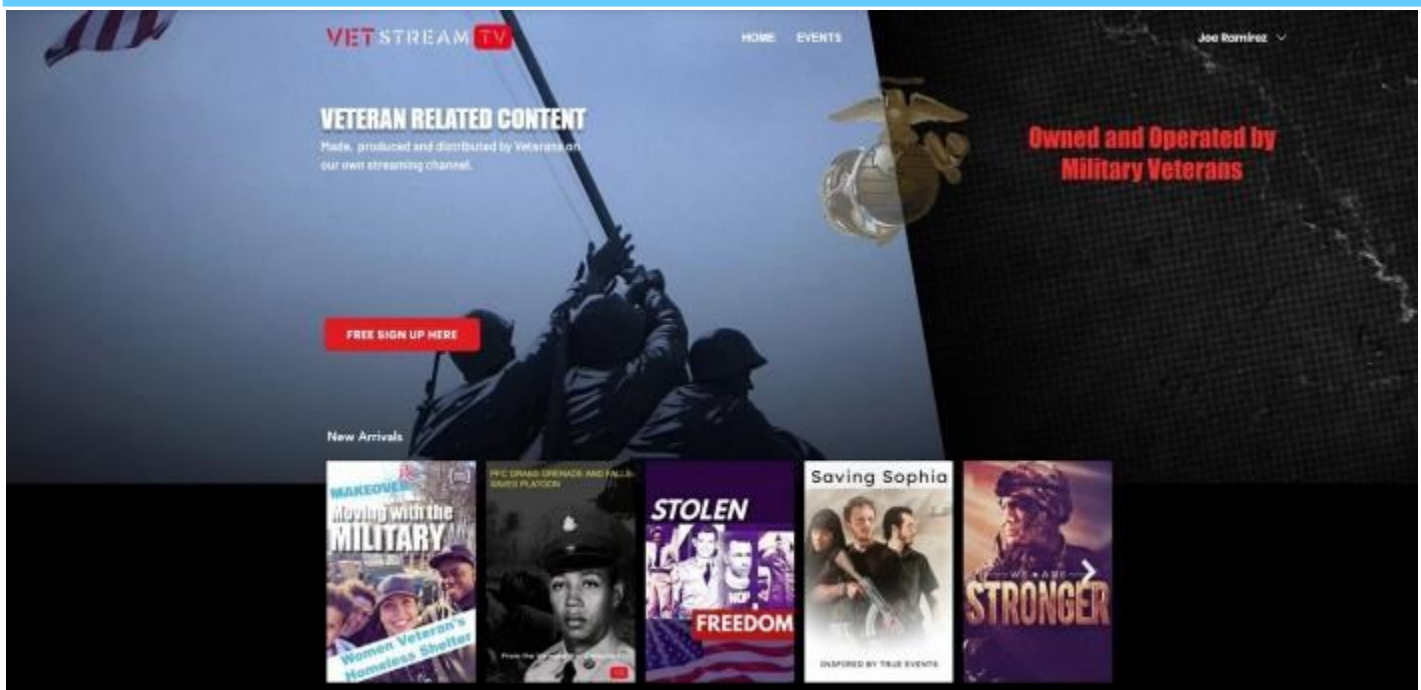


VetStreamTV is a free streaming channel and entertainment platform for veterans and their families. VetStreamTV was founded by Joe Ramirez, a Marine Veteran and LaVonne McIver James in January 2017 which launched in July of the same year. The company specializes in providing streaming media of interest to our nation's veterans and their families. The company has its headquarters in Austin, Texas. VetStreamTV offers feature films, shorts, television series, documentaries, and comedies. Their family of content also includes their own originals with one currently in production “Welcome Home” – the treatment of Vietnam Veterans, what changed and a special tribute. Their online talk show “More to be Told” debuts on August 3rd.

More to come with events and content is being added every week such as a new series “Moving with the Military” – a military spouse helps with renovations for military families.

The Veterans Council’s 6 documentaries featuring the stories of local NE FL Veterans can be viewed now on VetStreamTV - Service, Sacrifice and Courage is featured this week!

THIS IS FREE! For more info and to sign up, feel free to visit their website <http://www.vetstreamtv.com>





How the PACT Act is Already Helping Veterans

**Veterans are applying for benefits and
VA is expediting delivery**

The PACT Act is a historic new law that will help VA provide health care and benefits to millions of toxic-exposed Veterans and their survivors. Since President Biden signed the PACT Act into law on August 10, VA has been hard at work implementing this landmark bipartisan legislation—and Veterans have already begun to apply for the benefits they’ve earned and deserve.

Here’s an update on what’s happened since August 10th:

Veterans are applying for the PACT Act benefits they deserve

The day after the PACT Act was signed into law (August 11), Veterans set an all-time record for filing online disability compensation claims. Since the PACT Act was signed, Veterans have filed more than 200,000 total claims—an increase of more than 21% over the same period last year. And to date, VA has already received more than 70,000 PACT Act-related claims from Veterans since August 10.

Thousands of Veterans participated in toxic exposure screening pilot

As a part of the PACT Act, VA will begin providing 5-minute toxic exposure screenings to all Veterans enrolled in VA health care. On September 6, VA began a pilot of this program—screening 13,380 Veterans across 12 medical centers over a 2-week period, and finding a 37.4% concern of exposure among those Veterans. These results will help VA make toxic exposure screenings available to all Veterans in early November, and more importantly, make sure that VA provides all toxic-exposed Veterans with the care they need and the benefits they deserve.

VA expedited the timeline to deliver benefits to Veterans as soon as possible

Instead of phasing-in conditions over the coming years (as outlined in the legislation), the Biden Administration decided to make all conditions in the PACT Act presumptive for benefits as of August 10, the day the bill was signed into law. We will begin processing these benefits on the earliest date possible, which is January 1.

VA will expand health care eligibility in October

On October 1, VA will expand and extend eligibility for VA health care for certain Veterans of the Gulf Wars and post-9/11 era. This expansion will increase health care eligibility for hundreds of thousands of toxic-exposed Veterans. Additionally, VA has already expanded health care eligibility for certain Veterans of the Vietnam War. More detailed information about this expansion can be found on [VA.gov/PACT](https://va.gov/PACT).

Meeting Veterans where they are

Within minutes of the PACT Act passing the Senate, VA launched [VA.gov/PACT](https://va.gov/PACT)—a one-stop-shop website where Veterans and their families can learn about the PACT Act and apply for health care or benefits. This website, which is available in English and Spanish, has garnered nearly 2.5 million views to date.

Apply now. VA encourages Veterans and survivors to apply now for the PACT Act-related benefits and care they deserve. All Veterans and survivors can go to [VA.gov/PACT](https://va.gov/PACT) or call us at 1-800-MYVA411 to learn more about what this legislation means for them.



BATTLE OF THE BULGE MILITARIA SHOW
DECEMBER 17, 2022, 9AM - 4PM
MILITARY MUSEUM OF NORTH FLORIDA
1 BUNKER AVE., GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FL. 32043

SHOW TABLE SPOTS: \$20
CALL: John Murphy @
(904) 263-3950

- **MILITARY ANTIQUES**
- **HISTORIC MILITARY VEHICLES**
- **REENACTORS**
- **BAGPIPERS**
- **ROCK BAND**

- **FREE ADMSSION**
- **FREE PARKING**
- **FREE MUSEUM ENTRY**

VETERANS WANTED

The Americans in Wartime Experience is seeking the stories of those who served during combat deployments.

- ◊ Interviews are conducted remotely through Zoom.
- ◊ Veteran receives a copy of their video as well as a limited edition challenge coin.
- ◊ Videos are eligible for retention at the Library of Congress Veterans History Project.
- ◊ The service is free, the only thing you need to do is give us 45—60 minutes of your time.



To schedule your interview please contact Greg Pass at gregpass70@gmail.com

To learn more about the museum, please visit us at www.americansinwartime.org

Hello First Coast Honor Flight Supporters:



Our mission at First Coast Honor Flight (FCHF) is to provide a unique experience for our local Veterans in Washington D.C. to visit the memorials dedicated to honoring those who have served and sacrificed for our country.

We consider it our honor to give our Veterans the opportunity to remember, celebrate, grieve, and gain closure for the time they sacrificed for our country.

Unfortunately, the current limited commercial airline schedule from our Jacksonville Airport is not sufficient to provide our Veterans the experience they deserve in Washington D.C. Therefore, we have decided to postpone our planned October 2022 flight to April 2023.

We're making great progress towards an April 2023 flight which will allow us to bring more Veterans and allow more time for the true experience that we want to be able to give our Veterans.

Stay tuned for more information.

We would welcome any connections you may have and will be creating some fundraising opportunities for you to help us make our April 2023 flight a reality!

Your First Coast Honor Flight Team

Candace Mabry, Fundraising Director, First Coast Honor Flight

904-708-2445, cmabryfchf@gmail.com, www.firstcoasthonorflight.org

"We can't all be heroes, because somebody has to sit on the curb and applaud as they go by"

-Will Rogers

Boeing to do an additional \$264 million worth of work on Super Hornets and Growlers in Jacksonville

By Timothy Gibbons — Editor in chief, Jacksonville Business Journal

Boeing Co will do about \$264 million worth of work on the Navy's Super Hornets and Growlers in Jacksonville over the coming two years.

The St. Louis company received two contracts from the Naval Supply Systems Command Weapon Systems Support division for the projects, which will also see work done in Missouri and other locations.

Both contracts are for repairs of flight control surfaces on the aircraft.

The first is a \$168.8 million contract for work on two specific flight control surfaces on the F/A-18E/F and the E/A-18G aircraft. About 70% of the contract will be done in Jacksonville, with the project wrapping up by September 2024.

The F/A-18 is a multirole fighter known as the Super Hornet and comes in a one and two-seat variant. The E/A-19, known as the Growler, is an electronic warfare aircraft that replaced the EA-6B Prowler.

The second contract is for \$191.8 million and will see the company work on multiple flight control surfaces on the aircraft.

About 76% of the work will be done in Jacksonville, with the job expected to be complete by July 2025.

Meanwhile, work is underway on an expansion of Boeing's operation at Cecil Airport, with the construction of a 394,000-square-foot facility that Jacksonville Aviation Authority CEO Mark VanLoh has called "one of the most significant in the JAA's history."

The \$116.5 million hangar and office facility at Cecil is on schedule and set to be

fully operational in January 2024, the company said.

Work done at the new operation will include maintenance on F-18 aircrafts as well as Boeing's P-8 Poseidon and C-40.

"There is a talent pool here that is growing. This is meant to be another center of aerospace," Boeing Global Services CEO Ted Colbert III said at the time of the groundbreaking. "We want to be here, and we want to help in that growth plan."

Boeing is also looking to build a 146,000-square-foot a components operations facility at the site.

"It's growth upon growth," Emmanuel Tormes, senior manager for government operations at Boeing, told the Business Journal earlier this year.

The recently awarded flight control surface contracts are just the most recent received by the aircraft giant: In January, it received a similar \$106 million contract, and in May had its contract to provide depot-level maintenance and modification work on the aircraft increased by \$95 million.



James “Jimmy” Maitland Stewart

James “Jimmy” Maitland Stewart was born in May 1908 in Indiana, Pennsylvania, to Elizabeth and Alexander Stewart. After earning a degree in architecture from Princeton University in 1932, the future star helped prepare a show for Broadway with the University Players based in Falmouth, Massachusetts, because he didn’t believe many jobs would be available to him. This experience led to his passion for acting and started a 56-year career in show business.

In 1935, Stewart began acting with Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, where he starred in many films during the Golden Age with actors such as Ginger Rogers and Clark Gable. He later signed a contract with the talent agency Music Corporation of America and completed films such as “Mr. Smith Goes to Washington” and “It’s a Wonderful Life.” He received various accolades during his acting career, including two Academy Awards and two Golden Globe Awards.

From a young age, Stewart had a passion for aviation, too, and he obtained his private pilot’s license at the age of 27. In March 1941, he was drafted into the Army, but was deemed unfit because he did not meet the weight requirement. A short time later, he enlisted into the Army Air Corps and was able to follow in the footsteps of his family: Stewart’s father and grandfather both served in the military.

The young actor completed basic training at Moffett Field, California. Despite his desire to fly overseas, he remained stateside, training pilots until he was finally able to travel to England as a captain with the Eighth Air Force. By the end of World War II, he had completed 20 combat missions as the leader of a squadron of B-24’s, received two Distinguished Flying Crosses and the Croix de Guerre while earning the rank of colonel.

After the Air Force became an independent branch of the military, Stewart continued his military career in the Air Force Reserve and showcased his expertise in aviation in some of his films. Following more than 27 years in the military, he retired in May 1968 with the rank of brigadier general. He was awarded a Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Ronald Reagan in 1985.

Stewart married Gloria Hatrick McLean in 1949, and the two remained together for 45 years, until Gloria died in 1994. He had four children: two twin daughters and two stepsons, one of whom died in the Vietnam War.

Stewart died in July 1997.

We honor his service.



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Registration 7 am, 18 four-man teams, Lunch included

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Daytona Beach, FL 32124

LPGA INTERNATIONAL

<https://vva1048.com/golf-tournament>

8 am Shotgun, Raffle, Ball Drop, 50/50,...more



Red Phillips

HOPE4VETERANS PRESENTS

SUBMITTED BY Sarah Rheyne Pace

As you prepare to join us for our 2nd Annual "Hear HER Voice, Here OUR Voices." Hope4veterans Gala on November 4th, please consider helping a woman veteran in need! We currently have a couple of our female veteran attendees in need of a formal dress for this incredible red carpet event. If you or someone you know has any formal gowns in sizes 8-10 or 14-16 that you are willing to donate, I know these ladies would be eternally grateful!

I will be in Ohio starting this Thursday and will return home to Jax next Thursday, the 20th. If you are in or around Columbus and would like to donate a gown, please reach out to me and we can plan to meet up! If you are in or around Jax, please reach out to either myself or Lynn M Geiser and we would be more than happy to set something up!

Our veterans have already given so much, let's give back and make this night so incredibly special for them!!



From the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

The PACT Act is a historic new law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans who were exposed to toxic fumes and other hazards while fighting for our country. Family members or dependents of a deceased Veteran may also qualify for various VA benefits.

VA is committed to ensuring all Veterans and their family members receive the benefits and care they have earned.

Learn more today, visit www.VA.gov/PACT or call 1-800-MyVA411 (800-698-2411).



The new PACT Act

- » Expands toxic-exposed Veterans access to VA care
- » Extends health care eligibility for Vietnam, Gulf War, and Post-9/11 era combat Veterans
- » Adds new presumptive conditions for radiation, Agent Orange, Gulf War toxins, and burn pit exposures

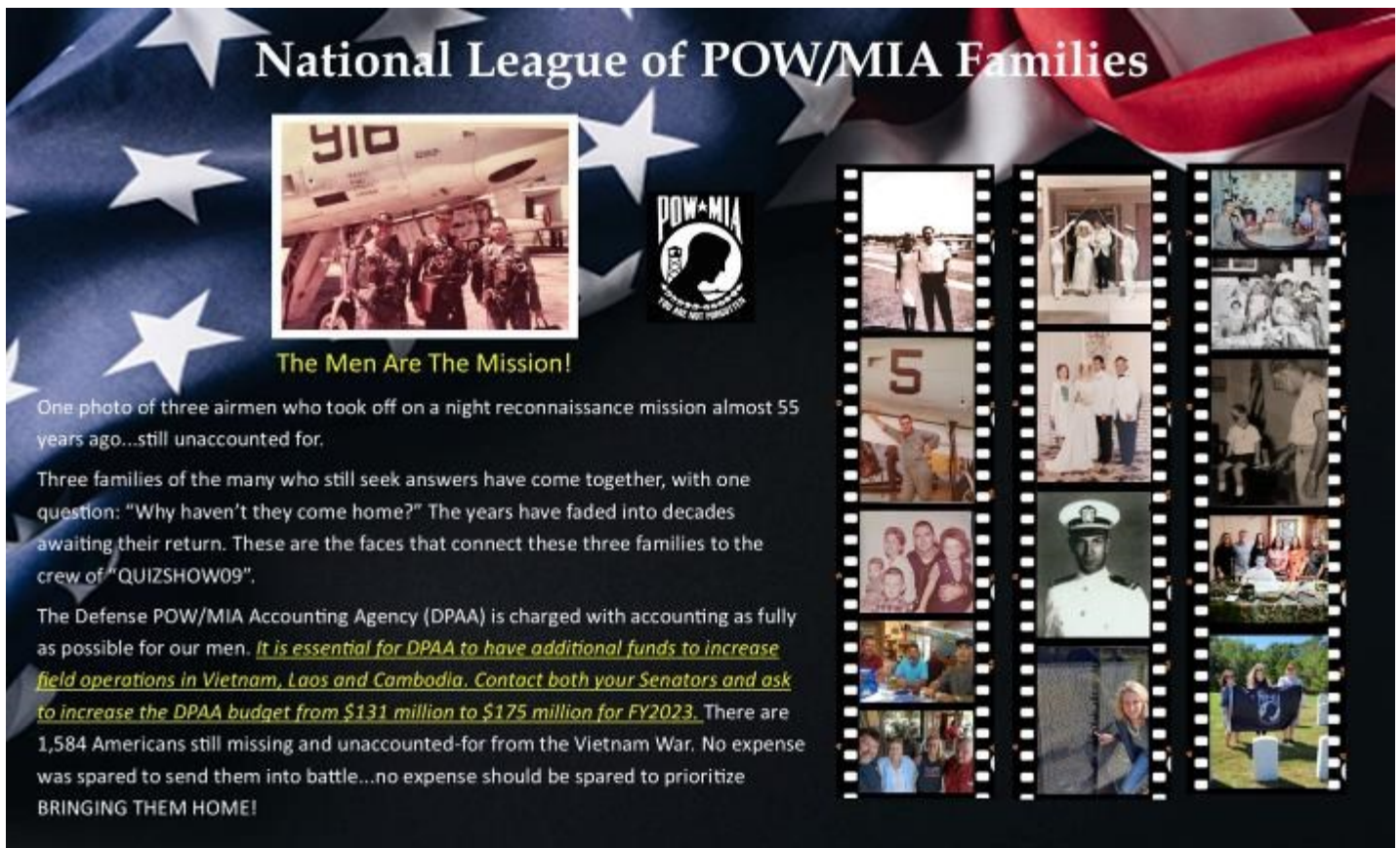
EXPANDED VA CARE & BENEFITS

Learn more at VA.gov
1-800-MyVA411 (800-698-2411)

VA  U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

The Men are the Mission!

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) is charged with accounting as fully as possible for our men. It is essential for DPAA to have additional funds to increase field operations in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. Contact both your Senators and ask to increase the DPAA budget from \$131 million to \$175 million for FY2023. There are 1,584 Americans still missing and unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War. No expense was spared to send them into battle...no expense should be spared to prioritize BRINGING THEM HOME!



National League of POW/MIA Families

The Men Are The Mission!

One photo of three airmen who took off on a night reconnaissance mission almost 55 years ago...still unaccounted for.

Three families of the many who still seek answers have come together, with one question: "Why haven't they come home?" The years have faded into decades awaiting their return. These are the faces that connect these three families to the crew of "QUIZSHOW09".

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) is charged with accounting as fully as possible for our men. It is essential for DPAA to have additional funds to increase field operations in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. Contact both your Senators and ask to increase the DPAA budget from \$131 million to \$175 million for FY2023. There are 1,584 Americans still missing and unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War. No expense was spared to send them into battle...no expense should be spared to prioritize BRINGING THEM HOME!

The poster features a collage of images: a large photo of three airmen in front of a plane, a POW/MIA logo, and a film strip containing various photos of families and individuals. The background is a stylized American flag.



RUCK FOR LIFE NO VETERAN LEFT BEHIND



Start:

8:00 AM

Saturday, November 12

560 N. Wilderness Trail, Ponte Vedra

<https://runsingup.com/Race/FL/PonteVedraBeach/RuckforLifeNoVeteranLeftBehind>

Register Now



Race options:

- "Get Rucked 5k+" challenges along the route (Individual \$35 or 2 Person Team \$60)
- "Tough Rucker 5k" \$30
- "Freedom Mile" (Walk, Ruck, Run) \$25

No Ruck? No Problem.
Some loaner equipment
will be provided by

GORUCK

Please write your federal legislators (Congressmen and Senators) requesting they support the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022.

First, a little history: During the 35-day shutdown between December 2018 and January 2019, the U.S. Coast Guard continued to work without compensation, providing vital services which safeguarded our nation's coastline and waterways. The Veterans' Council of St. Johns County, Inc. contributed \$500, and, by working with the USO at Mayport and local Navy League Chapters, worked to provide other emergency aid to local Coast Guard members.

This bill, introduced into the US Senate (S. 4802) on Sept. 8, includes a sorely-needed provision (§256) to ensure members of the U.S. Coast Guard continue to receive pay and allowances during a government shutdown. While members serving under the Department of Defense already have this benefit, the Coast Guard is under the Department of Homeland Security and, until this pending legislation, does not enjoy the same protection of the benefits to which they would otherwise be entitled.

This bill, which covers the service's funding through Fiscal Year 2023 (starting Oct. 1), also includes improvements for Coast Guard families which are critical for retention.

To e-mail your Representative, enter your zip code, then enter your residential address, then click on your Representative's link to send an e-mail.

To e-mail your Senator, click on your state, then click on your Senator's Contact link to send an e-mail.

The Veterans' Council of St. Johns County, Inc. advocates providing Coast Guard military personnel with the same benefits and emoluments enjoyed by those serving in the military services under the Department of Defense. Educating our elected officials about existing inequities, such as discussed above, and encouraging their support of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022, perhaps the Coast Guard military personnel will be treated as their Department of Defense counterparts.

The Veterans' Council of St. Johns County, Inc., as a public charity, (recognized under IRS §501(c)(3)), is prohibited from directly or indirectly participating in, or intervening in, any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for elective office. However, public charities are permitted to conduct some lobbying (i.e., attempting to influence legislation) such as urging the public to contact members or employees of a legislative body for the purpose of supporting or opposing such legislation, provided r such activities are "not substantial" based upon level of effort and expenditures.

The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs

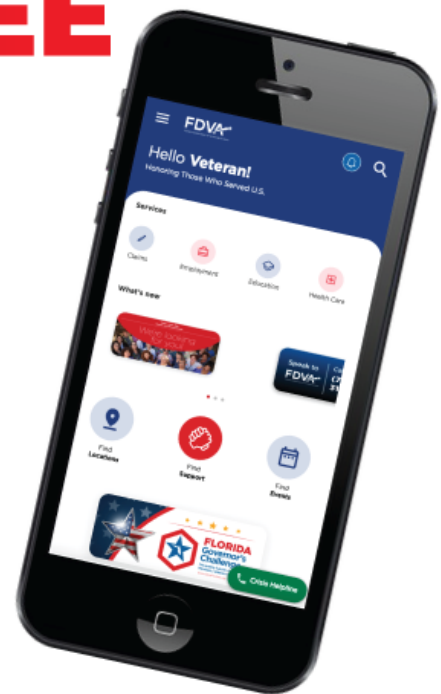
Our App got an upgrade! The free App is a quick and easy way to access benefit information, look for available jobs, and connect to the latest news regarding Veterans' issues. Get it now!

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

#FDVA #FLVets

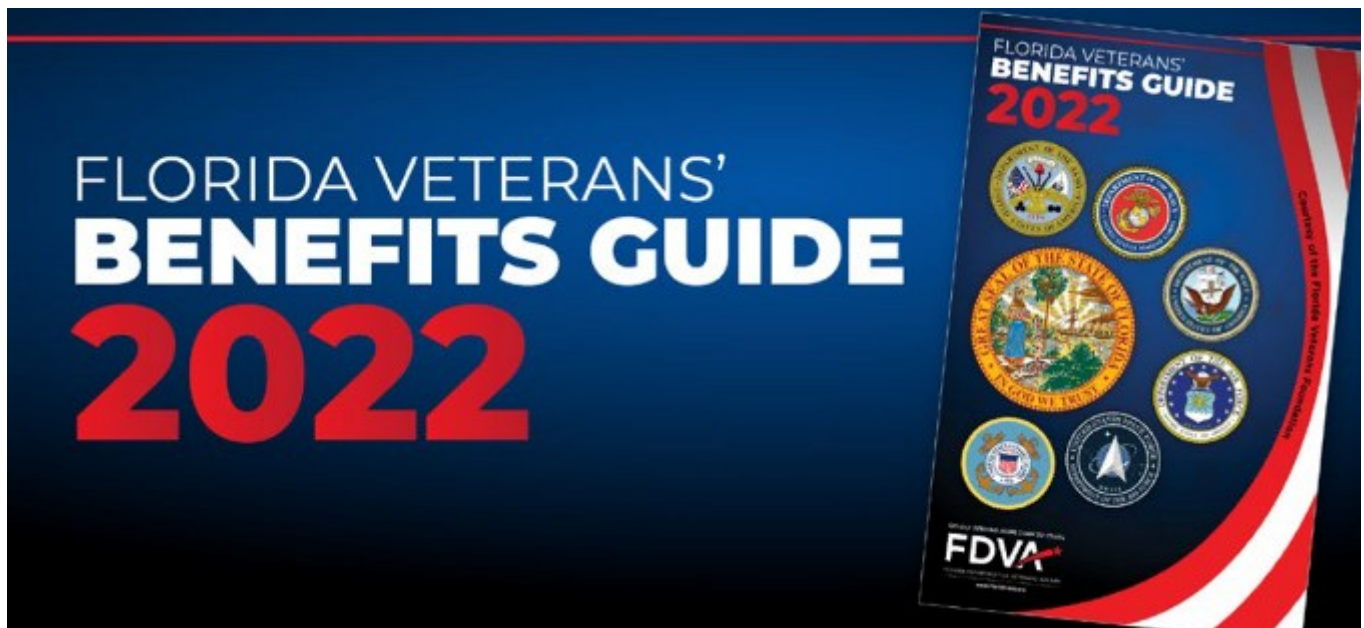
**GET OUR FREE
UPGRADED
APP.**

It won't take
up space on
your phone.



The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs

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





FIRST COAST HONOR FLIGHT

Would love to come talk with you!

Can we come speak to your
organization
or church?

We would LOVE to share our
stories with you!

We are a new non-profit
and would love
to come share our goal
of honoring our local Veterans!
First Coast Honor Flight creates a
"once in a lifetime" day
of flying our local Veterans to Washington D.C.
to see our national memorials and
monuments.

Please help us spread the word by
connecting us with your groups!

Contact us at info@firstcoasthonorflight.org
or call 888-400-1185



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.



VA SURVIVOR BENEFITS & THE PACT ACT

ESGR4U

You may be eligible for VA benefits and services after your loved one has passed.



The PACT Act makes it easier for many survivors to receive Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC).

VA will be contacting survivors who were previously denied DIC benefits and may be newly eligible under the PACT Act. You do not need to wait for VA to contact you to submit a claim.

How to Apply for DIC and/or Accrued Benefits

Surviving family members may apply for these benefits using the appropriate VA form on va.gov/family-member-benefits.



Dependency and Indemnity Compensation

Monthly payment for the eligible surviving spouse, dependent children or parent(s) of the Veteran or service member IF Veteran or service member died in the line of duty or due to a service-related injury or illness.



Accrued Benefits

A one-time payment to a surviving spouse, dependent child(ren) or dependent parent(s) of a deceased Veteran based on relationship when the record shows additional benefits (such as VA compensation or pension) due to the Veteran prior to passing.

Additional Survivor Benefits Available:



Burials and Burial Allowance

Burial benefits available include a gravesite in any of our National cemeteries with available space, opening and closing of the grave, perpetual care, a government headstone, marker, or medallion, a burial flag, and a Presidential Memorial Certificate, at no cost. Some survivors may also be eligible for a plot allowance, transportation allowance, and burial allowances based on the service connected disability status of the deceased Veteran.



Education and Training

Chapter 35 benefits and Fry Scholarship are the two main GI Bill programs offering educational assistance to survivors and dependents of Veterans who died in the line of duty or as a result of service-related disabilities.



Final Monthly Payment

If a Veteran who is receiving VA compensation or pension benefits passes away, their last month of benefits can be paid to their surviving spouse.



Home Loan Guaranty

Certificate of Eligibility is available for surviving spouses receiving DIC.



Health Care

Survivors and dependents of Veterans may qualify for health care benefits, such as CHAMPVA.

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Learn more and sign up at [VA.gov/PACT](https://va.gov/PACT)
Download the [VA Health and Benefits App](#)
Call us at 1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411)
Find a VA at [VA.gov/find-locations/](https://va.gov/find-locations/)

American legion Post 194 presents

FREE HOLIDAY MEALS FOR VETERANS

Sat, 21 Nov 11-2pm

Sole surviving spouses included
Free delivery in immediate area
Please call Post before noon on day of event
Proof of veteran status encouraged

(904) 829-8189

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY



Alton Green Memorial American Legion Post 194 1029 Pearl Street 32084



COMPASS *Greater Tax*

8-9-10 November 6-9 PM
FREE Virtual Session
Open to all Navy Spouses

Navy History & Traditions
Resources and Benefits
Military Finance & PCS
Local Insights
Deployment Readiness
Healthy Communication

Register at:
www.nsfamilyline.org/compass-registration

BATTLE CREEK, Mich. (WOOD) — A veteran in Battle Creek not only reached an amazing milestone Thursday, he also celebrated it by going back to what he did decades ago.

Retired Col. Robert “Bob” Munie served in the U.S. Army during World War II in the European theater and then re-enlisted in the Air Force in 1953. He lived through it all, even to his 100th birthday. He told Retired Air Force Col. Frank J. Walker that his wish for his special day was to simply serve again.



“That just tells you what kind of patriot he is,” Walker said. Retired Col. Robert “Bob” Munie was surprised on his 100th.

Not only was it granted, but he was also warmly greeted by family and military members outside his home at Lakeview Assisted Living in Battle Creek. Walker said Munie did more than serve under two military branches. “He went on to work in the Department of Defense for 49 years,” Walker said. “Then every time I came out here (to Lakeview Assisted Living), he was in a World War II hat. (He is) proud of his service. So what else can we do?”

For starters, “Happy Birthday” was sung to Munie, and his grandson currently serving in the Army National Guard helped him put on a tailored Air Force uniform.

Michigan’s newest centenarian was also gifted his special wish. Munie received an order from the Michigan Active-Duty General, the highest-ranking officer in the state of Michigan, making him active duty for the day as an honorary member “in good standing” of the Michigan National Guard. He was not just re-enlisted, but also given a promotion higher than his previous rank of colonel.

Grand Rapids’ Veterans Memorial Park to get café supporting vets. “Know ye, that reposing special trust and confidence, and the patriotism, valor, fidelity and ability of Robert Francis Munie, I do hereby appoint you technical sergeant in the Michigan Air National Guard effective the sixth of October 2022,” read the proclamation from the Michigan Active-Duty General’s office.

The ceremony included many presentations, as well as a key to the city of Battle Creek from Mark Behnke and a special two-plane flyover by the Hooligan Flight Team. Munie also received many gifts, including a month’s salary in 1953 money — representing the year he re-enlisted with the Air Force — which came to just more than \$130.

“This is small compared to all of the accomplishments he has done,” Walker said. “So it is my privilege and our privilege to make his dream come true.” Munie was given a couple of “tasks” by Walker. One of them is that whenever Walker visits, Munie must be in uniform.

When asked what his favorite part of the surprise was, Munie said four simple words: “It was all good.”

From the FDVA THEY ARE HIRING!

New health care job opportunities at our State Veterans' Nursing Homes throughout Florida have recently been posted! If you are looking for a fulfilling new role, visit our jobs page to view the available positions. <https://bit.ly/FDVAJobs>

An infographic with a central smartphone graphic and ten service categories arranged around it. The smartphone screen displays the VA seal at the top, followed by the text "800-MyVA411" and "(800) 698-2411", and a numeric keypad with a green call button at the bottom. The service categories are as follows:

- LIVE ASSISTANCE** (purple box): General information, directory assistance and technical support for VA.gov. Icon: headset.
- VA HEALTH CARE** (blue box): Eligibility, enrollment, locations and COVID-19. Icon: medical bag.
- COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE** (orange box): MISSION Act eligibility, copayments. Icon: flame.
- NATIONAL CEMETERIES** (teal box): Burial benefits, interment scheduling and headstone/Veteran marker. Icon: tombstone.
- VETERANS CRISIS LINE** (maroon box): Immediate connection to caring, qualified responders. Icon: star and speech bubbles.
- DEBT MANAGEMENT** (purple box): Debt details, payment options and debtor rights. Icon: money stack.
- FACILITY LOCATOR** (blue box): Locations of medical centers, benefits offices or cemeteries. Icon: location pin.
- BENEFITS ASSISTANCE** (green box): Information about a variety of VA benefits. Icon: dollar sign.
- HOMELESS VETERANS LINE** (red box): Information and support for homeless and at-risk callers. Icon: house.
- COVID-19 INFORMATION** (purple box): Frequently asked questions and live assistance for COVID-related questions. Icon: virus and magnifying glass.

FLORIDA SURVIVOR OUTREACH SERVICES AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY



Please note: the Vietnam and War on Terror Walls will be in St. Augustine on display on Veterans Day, November 11, 2022 at Anastasia Baptist Church in St. Augustine.

Here is the Florida 2022 schedule

FL PGR Vietnam & WoT Wall Schedule

To request one or both of the walls for display, contact FL State Captain

Email: flsc@patriotguard.org / 321-689-4699

Updated as of:

01/17/22

Date	Time		Duration	Wall(s)	Location	Comments
02/19/22		Info forthcoming		WoT	Eustis Area	
02/26/22	0800 - 0830 hrs 0830 - 1100 hrs 1200 - 1600 hrs	Escort Set-up Walls Display & Take-Down	1 day	Vietnam / WoT	The Casements Ormond Beach 25 Riverside Dr. Ormond Beach, FL 32174	Military & First Responder Family Appreciation Expect to escort The Walls to the event from Holly Hill DAV at 0800 hrs.
03/25/22 03/26/22	1400 hrs 0800 hrs	Set up Walls Display Walls	2 Days	Vietnam / WoT	Gator Harley Davidson 1745 US 441 Leesburg, FL 34778	Benefit Active Duty Care Package Program JOSH - Just Our Soldier's Helpers Former USO Ride Overnight secretly provided by Gator Harley
03/28/22 03/31/22	0800 hrs	Set up Vietnam Wall Display & Take Down	3 days	Vietnam	Cape Canaveral National Cemetery 5525 US-1 Mims, FL 32754	National Vietnam War Veterans Day
05/21/22	0900 hrs	Set-UP & Display	1 day	Vietnam / WoT	American Legion Post 10 205 Lake View Dr. Kissimmee, FL 34741	Armed Forces Day Celebration
05/27/22 05/28/22	1400 hrs 1000 - 1600 hrs	Set-Up Display & Take Down	2 days	Vietnam / WoT	Daytona International Speedway 1801 W. International Speedway Blvd Daytona Beach, FL 32114	Heroes Honor Festival Memorial Day Event Vietnam Welcome Home
09/17/22	TBD	Info forthcoming			American Legion Jacksonville, FL	American Legion Veteran Event
09/24/22	TBD	Info forthcoming			Remembering Vets Inc. Palm Coast, FL	Fall Festival
11/10/22 11/11/22	TBD 0800 - 1100 hrs	Set-up Display	2 Days	Vietnam / WoT	Anastasia Baptist Church 1650 A1A S St. Augustine, FL 32080	Veteran's Day Ceremony Escort from Daytona to St. Augustine

Are You eligible to file for benefits based on Presumptive Exposure?

Were you exposed to hazardous materials while serving in the military, such as from Agent Orange or burn pits? Did you serve in Vietnam, Thailand or Southwest Asia? If so, you may be eligible to file for service-connected benefits based on presumptive exposure.

Over the course of the last six months, VA has begun processing service-connected disability claims for six new presumptive conditions related to exposure to hazardous materials.

In May 2021, VA started implementing provisions of the William M. Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (NDAA), adding bladder cancer, hypothyroidism and Parkinsonism to the list of medical conditions presumptively associated with exposure to Agent Orange. A few months later, VA added asthma, rhinitis and sinusitis (to include rhinosinusitis) on a presumptive basis based on particulate matter exposures during military service in Southwest Asia and certain other areas.

Any Veteran who was previously denied service-connection for any of these six conditions but had symptoms manifest within 10 years of military service would need to file another claim. Be sure to use VA Form 20-0995, "Decision Review Request: Supplemental Claim" when filing. The claim form should include the name of the medical condition and also specify that the medical condition is being claimed due to in-service exposure to environmental hazards.

VA is committed to assisting Veterans who may have been exposed to hazardous materials during their military service.

Be sure to stay plugged in to www.va.gov for the most recent developments around environmental hazards; VA is constantly conducting research and surveillance, as well as reviewing scientific literature for conditions that may be related to exposure during military service.

If you feel you have a chronic condition attributed to an in-service exposure, we highly encourage you to file a claim. For more information about VA benefits and eligibility, or how to file a claim, Veterans and survivors can visit VA's website at www.va.gov or call toll-free at 1-800-827-1000.






2022

VA DISABILITY PAY RATES


 VETERAN


 SPOUSE



 CHILD UNDER
18 YEARS OLD


 CHILD OVER
18 YEARS OLD


 PARENT 1


 PARENT 2


 SPOUSE WITH AID
AND ATTENDANCE

ANNOUNCED 2022 COLA OF 8.9%		D I S A B I L I T Y R A T I N G									
DEPENDENT STATUS	10%	20%	30%	40%	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%	100%	
 Veteran Alone	152.50	301.82	467.02	673.52	958.40	1,213.61	1,530.26	1,778.06	1,996.33	3,331.61	
 Veteran with Spouse	N/A	N/A	522.46	747.41	1,050.57	1,325.22	1,659.15	1,926.69	2,164.79	3,517.84	
 Veteran with 1 child only	N/A	N/A	504.45	721.99	1,019.86	1,288.16	1,616.79	1,876.92	2,109.72	3,456.30	
 Veteran with 1 child and spouse	N/A	N/A	563.76	801.42	1,118.35	1,406.77	1,754.46	2,035.77	2,287.63	3,653.89	
A D D I T I O N A L											
 Surviving parent not in 2	N/A	N/A	44.48	59.30	74.13	88.96	103.78	118.71	133.43	149.10	
 Surviving spouse under age 18	N/A	N/A	27.53	36.01	45.54	55.07	64.60	73.07	82.60	92.31	
 Surviving parent over age 18	N/A	N/A	88.96	116.61	148.26	177.91	208.62	238.28	267.93	298.18	
 Surviving spouse over age 18	N/A	N/A	50.83	67.78	85.78	101.66	119.67	136.61	153.56	170.38	

*Use the compensation rates table to find your monthly payment amount.
The monthly payment amounts are based on your disability rating
and your eligible dependent family members.*


WWW.VETERANSNETWORK.CLUB

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

**The DAV van is now operating 5 days /week!
It will now transport a full capacity of riders.
Schedule your seat on the DAV Chapter 6 van.
It departs from the large parking lot of the
clinic at 0600!!!**

Contact the VA Clinic at 904-823-2954





FLORIDA VETERANS LEGAL HELPLINE



Legal Aid for Veterans

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

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

1.866.486.6161

Call Today!

Hours: Monday – Friday
9 AM to 4:30 PM



We Can Help With

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

Supported by the:



Become a Watch Stander with The Fire Watch



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.



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	Bob Adkins	adk123robert@outlook.com
1059	David Treffinger	dtreffinger433@msn.com; Clay
1084	Ron Howard	ronehoward@gmail.com
1088	Roy (Corky) Rudd	corkstopper50@yahoo.com; Nassau
1092	Forest Hope	foresthope@usa.net; Gainesville
1134	Marvin Lagle	mdlagle@gmail.com; Baker



REMEMBER WHAT OUR MEDAL STANDS FOR:

- RED:** REPRESENTS THE THREE ANCIENT VIETNAMESE EMPIRES OF TONKIN, ANNAM AND COCHIN.
- YELLOW:** THE IMPERIAL COLOR OF VIET NAM.
- GREEN:** SURROUNDED BY EXPANSIVE JUNGLE.
- TED PIECKO, The NAM.



PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO MEET VETERANS' UNIQUE NEEDS

Advance Care Planning

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

Palliative Care

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

Hospice Care

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

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

Complementary Therapies

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

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

We Need Volunteers

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



WE HONOR VETERANS
Partner

Community Hospice & Palliative Care

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

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



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

VET 007 5/20

Mission Statement:

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



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

What the Council has done:

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

SA-000314706401

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 (8255)
suicidepreventionlifeline.org

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

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

Confidential chat at MilitaryCrisisLine.net or text 838255

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

Veterans Councils of Northeast Florida



BAKER COUNTY

President: Larry Porterfield

Meetings:

Second Thursday of each month

Location:

MacClenny Primitive Baptist Church
Fellowship Hall on North Boulevard

Time : 1800 (6pm)

CLAY COUNTY

President: Harry Silvers

Meetings:

First Wednesday of each month

Location:

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

Time: 1400 (2pm)

DUVAL COUNTY

President

Meetings:

Third Tuesday of each month

Location:

American Legion Post 37
Main Building
San Juan Avenue

Tome: 1900 (7 pm)

NASSAU COUNTY

President: Mike Doran

Meetings:

First Thursday of each month

Location:

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

Time: 1900 (7pm)

St. Johns County

President: Bill Dudley

Meetings:

Last Thursday of each month

Location:

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

Time: 1900 (7pm)

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



We are inviting all veterans to visit our website at:

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

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

Please join our group on Facebook at:

<http://veteranscouncilsjc.org>

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

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

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

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

He can be contacted at webmaster@veteranscouncilsjc.org

*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 Coun-
ty Health & Human Services Building,
200 San Sebastian View
Auditorium, 1st floor***

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

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

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

Service is by appointment.
Phone: 904-209-6160 Fax: 904-209-6161
Joseph McDermott, VSO
Travis Neidig, Assistant VSO
Angela McKenzie, Assistant VSO
Lori Chapman, Assistant VSO
Anna Marie Scott, Office Specialist

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