



# The Patriot Reader Newsletter

P.O. Box 2117

St. Augustine, FL 32085

Bill Dudley, Publisher

Michael Rothfeld, Editor

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From Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley

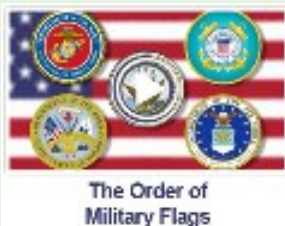
November 2024

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Fellow Veterans,  
We are nearing our November 11 date where we celebrate and pay honor to all our veterans. It's a very special day that has tremendous meaning for all those who have worn the cloth of this nation. A time for those of us who have served in uniform to reflect on what our time in service meant to us... a time for those who have not served to express their heartfelt gratitude for those who have. Our Veterans Day Program committee has put together another outstanding event for this year. Our theme is the Gulf War- Desert Shield-Desert Storm. As we always do, we will be honoring all veterans on this day for their service but mindful of those who served during the Gulf War in a harsh environment called the sandbox. We are very excited about having on the program this year, nationally acclaimed LCdr. Vann Morriss, USN (ret) . Commander Morris will be doing his rendition of "Old Glory and 21 Gun Salute"

You don't want to miss this. Also, for the first time, we will be live streaming this part of the program to our local schools and 300 students at an elementary school in Columbia, S.C. This promises to be our best program yet, so bring your family and friends and come help us honor all our veterans on this special day. Progress is being made at our new Veterans Village facility. We have recently met with several contractors to determine a scope of work for repairs needed at the Village. The major item needing replacement is a very old plumbing system that is barely functional most of the time. This will be a priority. Also, we were notified last week that FPL has selected Veterans Village for this year's Holiday Lighting program. We are very excited about being selected for this festive display to help boost the spirits of our veterans during the holiday season. FPL will also be placing a large Christmas tree on the front of the property near the location of the fountain and lighted with



many colored lights. A ladies ministry from Anastasia Baptist Church are also doing Christmas stockings for our veterans housed at the Village and will be passing those out the day of the lighting event. Again, thanks to a sizeable donation from our Community Partner FPL, and another veteran donor, we now have the funds available to purchase and install our 3 flagpoles out front. We are very anxious to give our Veteran Village its identity with our American and POW-MIA flag being prominently displayed. The Marine Corp Leaque has generously donated the service branch flags that will be displayed on the motel columns. Don't forget to join us on Nov. 11 at Anastasia Baptist Church for our Veterans Day Program. Thank you for your service.  
Bill Dudley Chairman

The Veterans Council of St. Johns County meets on the last Thursday of the month, all are invited to attend. We meet at the County Health & Human Services Building, 200 San Sebastian View, at 7 pm in the Muscovy room.



### **Upcoming Speakers**

#### **October 31**

Susan Nist, Location Coordinator, Support Committee  
Jackson National Cemetery and  
John Rundgren, Clerk of the Court Designee

#### **November 21**

Michael Mitchell, Director of Military & Veterans Resource Center,  
Jacksonville University and  
Steve Muskett, Special Forces Assoc. 88 Jax

#### **December 19, 2024**

Stephen Hudson, Founder, Exec Director, AI Ready Veteran  
Robert Speta, US Navy Veteran, First Coast News Meteorologist

#### **January 30, 2025**

Katie Eller, Director of Development, HorsePlay Therapy Center  
Alison Simpson, Historian · State of Florida, Department of Military Affairs

#### **February 27, 2025**

Maggie Beckerman, VP/Trainer, K9Line, Inc.  
Dr George Ann Rice, Patriots to Education, Zoom presentation

#### **March 27**

Matt Mildorf, Outreach Recruiting Mgr, Warrior Scholar

**The Veterans Council Congratulates its Chairman, William Dudley for receiving the City of St Augustine's Highest Honor, the Order of La Florida Award.**

**City to recognize William "Bill" Dudley with Order of La Florida Award**

**Presentation ceremony was held on Monday, September 9**

**On Monday, September 9, at 4:30pm in The Alcazar Room of City Hall, the City of St. Augustine City Commission recognized William "Bill" Dudley, presenting him with the city's highest honor, the Order of La Florida Award, for his selfless devotion of his time and talent to the welfare and betterment of our citizens, and his extraordinary service to our community.**

**City to recognize William "Bill" Dudley with Order of La Florida Award**

**Bill Dudley**

**Nominated by Mayor Nancy Sikes-Kline, Dudley exemplifies the qualifications of being nominated for the award, unselfishly devoting himself, his time, and his talent to the welfare and betterment of our citizens and contributing extraordinary services to this community, in particular his work with the military and our veterans.**

**Dudley joined the U.S. Air Force in January 1955, flying and instructing in various types of military aircraft and deploying**

during the Berlin Crisis and the Cuban Missile Crisis. After 10 years of active duty, he transferred to the USAF Reserves, retiring at the rank of Lt. Colonel. Dudley held executive-level management positions for several major domestic and international airlines before running an aerospace consulting business.

Since he fully retired in 2005, Dudley has served our local community, our veterans in particular, in many ways – as the National Director of the U.S. Navy League, the President of the Veterans Council of St. Johns County, and in various voluntary leadership roles with the National Cemetery, community veterans organizations, Flagler Health’s Continuum of Care, Home Again St. Johns, Veterans Treatment Court Advisory Board, and more.

The City of St. Augustine established The Order of La Florida Award in 1975, so that the City Commission, on behalf of the people of St. Augustine might recognize one who, “...over a long period of time has unselfishly devoted his or her time and talent to the welfare and betterment of St. Augustine’s citizens and heritage, who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship, and has contributed extraordinary services to the community.” Recipients must be 55 years of age and there may not be more than 10 living recipients at any one time. A nomination originates with a member of the city commission and is presented to the city manager who then puts it before the entire commission for confirmation.





## Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley Honored

Longtime veterans' advocate Bill Dudley was honored with St. Augustine's most prestigious award: the Order of La Florida. The award honors people over 55 for service to the community. Dudley, himself a veteran, serves as the chairman of St. Johns County's Veterans Council. He was instrumental in establishing the county's Veterans Treatment Court and aids a number of other veterans' groups and causes. Dudley is only the 25th person St. Augustine has recognized with the Order of La Florida since its creation in 1975; it's capped at only 10 living recipients at a given moment.







**There were no Veterans Council Minutes for September because the meeting was canceled due to Hurricane Helene.**





**Please share this Press Release with all your organizations,  
friends and Facebook Groups**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Honoring our Veterans**

**Veterans Day in St. Augustine, Monday November 11, at Anastasia Baptist Church, 1650 A1A S, join us as we all celebrate and honor our veterans.**

**Hosted by the Veterans Council of St. Johns County along with the Military Officers Association of America, Ancient City Chapter.**

**The Atrium doors open at 9am. On display in the Atrium will be the Traveling Vietnam and War on Terror Walls, and over 40 display tables from local Not for Profits, Military Groups, with military displays.**

**The Veterans Day Ceremony will start promptly at 11:00 am.**

**The Keynote speaker is Robert A. Hardwick, Sheriff, St. Johns County, an Operation Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom veteran.**

**This year we feature Nationally Acclaimed Vann Morris performing “Old Glory”.**

**Patriotic entertainment by the St. Augustine High School Chorale, participation by local JROTC’s and Sea Cadets.**

**This is a free event with plenty of onsite free parking.**

**Questions: [rothfeldm@gmail.com](mailto:rothfeldm@gmail.com)**

# HONORING ALL WHO SERVED



## THE ST. JOHNS COUNTY VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION, 2024 Monday, November 11. Anastasia Baptist Church.

### Keynote speaker:

**Robert A. Hardwick, St. Johns County Sheriff**

**Special focus, our Desert Shield & Desert Storm Vets.**

**Featuring "Vann" Morris's nationally acclaimed "Old Glory,"  
the St. Johns Center for the Arts Chamber Singers,  
Vet. Organization tables, and the Traveling Vietnam War Wall.**

**Doors open 9 AM. Program begins at 11 AM.**

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

**Organized by the St. Johns County Veterans Council**

**Info at: [rothfeldm@gmail.com](mailto:rothfeldm@gmail.com)**

The details for an escort for the traveling Vietnam Wall and GWOT wall are as follows:

Sunday Nov. 10,

Depart: 12 Noon: Harley Davidson facility in Ormond Bch

Arrive: 1:00-1:30 PM: Elks Lodge, Anastasia Blvd. St. Aug

Pizza / beverage will be served to entire escort party at Elks Lodge



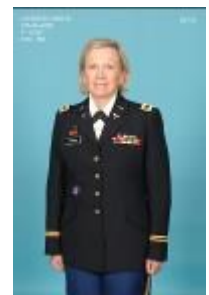
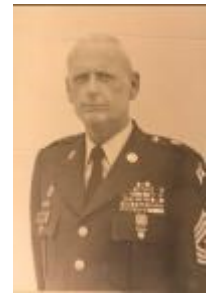
*We Appreciate SJSO making all arrangements with VCSO and FCSO for escorts*

**This Edition of the Patriot Reader is dedicated to the many veterans both living and deceased I have met over the years I have been in Florida.**

**I apologize if I don't have a picture of you in uniform as I have used only veterans I know who have served this fine country and have given me their pictures.**







**Medal of Honor recipient  
Thomas Noonan, US marine Corps  
Vietnam Veteran**



## From local Vietnam Veteran Frank Paco Arce

HOW DO I BEGIN TO THANK THE FIRST COAST HONOR FLIGHT FOR THIS UNFORGETTABLE DAY. BEING A VIETNAM VETERAN WITH MY BROTHER USAF, Victor Jr Arce, 2 TOURS AND HAD NOT RECEIVED THE WELCOME WE DESERVED 57 YEARS AGO, TODAY I AND 21 OTHER HEROES RECEIVED A BLESSED WELCOME HOME FROM THOUSANDS OF STRANGERS. WE WERE TAKEN CARE OF BY YOUR STAFF HERE IN JACKSONVILLE AND ALSO IN DC, LIKE THE KIDS WE WERE 60 + YEARS AGO AND I SAW A NAVY FEMALE CORPMAN TREAT THE WW II VET THAT SAT NEXT TO ME ON THE PLANE. I WILL CARRY THIS TRIP INTO MY NEXT LIFE AND I'M PLANNING TO HAVE AN ALL-FLAGLER COUNTY, VETERANS FLIGHT. THANK YOU AGAIN AND GOD BLESS ALL THOSE THAT HELPED IN ANY WAY TO PUT A SMILE AND A TEAR INTO 22 VETERANS LIFE !



## From Rick McAllister

The Honor Guard from VFW Post 2391 did a cookout for the vets at the new **Veteran's Village on Anastasia Island**. Burgers, hot dogs, baked beans, coleslaw, chips, and home made key lime pie along with a good dose of brotherhood brought some sunshine on an overcast evening. We'll be back.



**The Veterans Council visited Silver Creek Retirement Community in St. Augustine and invited all Silver Creek veterans and their wives to a complimentary lunch catered by our good friend Matt Sylvester at Carrabba's.**



**The meal was attended by nearly 20 veterans ranging from WW 2 to Vietnam. Many stories were told about the veterans time in service and a good time was had by all.**

**Attending the lunch from the Veterans Council was Chairman Bill Dudley, Vice Chairman Ron Birchall and Secretary Michael Rothfeld.**

**After everyone finished their delicious meal, Chairman Dudley presented all the veterans with the Council's Challenge coin, briefly discussed the Council's very successful programs and spoke about the county veterans service office and if needed, how to contact them for assistance.**





## From the Desk of Chief Brannon: Flagler County Veterans Day Parade Announces 2024 Grand Marshal

BUNNELL, Fla. – We are thrilled to announce this year’s Grand Marshal is Commissioner Randy Stapleford, Captain, US Navy (Ret.), a decorated veteran with over 31 years of active-duty service to our nation.

Capt. Randall Stapleford

2024 Grand Marshal: Captain Randy Stapleford, US Navy (Ret.)

Captain Stapleford served with distinction during a remarkable military career, accumulating:

- 13 years of sea duty
- Over 7,000 flight hours
- More than 725 carrier arrested landings

Throughout his Navy tenure, he held several critical leadership positions, including:

- Commander of an aviation squadron
- Nuclear Advisor to the Commander-in-Chief
- Naval Attaché to the U.S. Embassy in Ottawa, Canada
- Director of the Naval War College’s International Naval Staff College
- Commanding Officer and Professor of Naval Sciences at Carnegie Mellon University

Following his honorable retirement, Captain Stapleford continued serving his country through the U.S. Department of State, where he was the Iraq Country Coordinator for Antiterrorism Assistance under Secretary Condoleezza Rice. He also expanded his role as Country Coordinator for the Republic of the Philippines, where he collaborated with the President of the Philippines to establish the nation’s first National-level Antiterrorism Assistance Task Force.

In addition to his international service, Captain Stapleford remained dedicated to public service at home. He served as Military and Veterans Affairs aide to three U.S. Congressmen: Jason Altmire, Ron DeSantis, and currently Michael Waltz. Locally, he plays an integral role as a member of the Flagler County Veterans Advisory Council, working closely with veterans’ organizations to ensure they receive the resources and support they deserve.

In 2021, Governor Ron DeSantis appointed him to serve as the Flagler County Commissioner for the Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND). Through this role, Captain Stapleford helped secure over \$1.1 million in waterway grants for Flagler County and its cities.

Captain Stapleford holds a Master’s degree in National Security & Strategic Studies and a Master’s in Business Management. A lifetime advocate for veterans, he is actively involved in organizations such as Disabled American Veterans, Vietnam Veterans of America, the American Legion, and the Military Officers Association of America.

In 2023, Captain Stapleford was honored as the Veteran of the Year. He and his wife, Rhonda, are proud parents of two daughters, Heather and Allison, and recently welcomed their grandson, Benjamin Randall, into the family.

Please join us in welcoming Commissioner Randy Stapleford, Captain, US Navy (Ret.), as your Grand Marshal for the 2024 Flagler Veteran’s Day Parade!





**From Robert Adelhelm, LTCOL USMC, Ret  
Still working with incarcerated Veterans...VVA  
Chapter 1080 at Raiford Prison...Got them making  
cremation urns for Veterans. They have done a great  
job ensuring fellow Veterans have a proper and dig-  
nified burial.**



## **K9s for Warriors planning Ponte Vedra expansion**

### **The nonprofit intends to add a veterinarian clinic for its service dogs.**

By J. Brooks Terry

Military service dog trainer and provider K9s for Warriors wants to expand its Ponte Vedra “mega kennel” location.

The St. Johns River Water Management District and St. Johns County are reviewing plans for the project.

K9s for Warriors is planning to add a 4,300-square-foot military veterinarian clinic for its service dogs at 70 Warrior Way between U.S. 1 and Nocatee Parkway in Ponte Vedra.

It is proposed to be a 4,300-square-foot military veterinarian clinic for its service dogs at 70 Warrior Way between U.S. 1 and Nocatee Parkway. The site plans show 23 parking spaces.

K9s for Warriors, through K9s for Warriors Inc., owns the land. CHW Professional Consultants of Alachua is the civil engineer. Gainesville-based Walker Architects is the architect.

According to [k9sforwarriors.org](http://k9sforwarriors.org), Shari Duval founded K9s for Warriors in 2011 to train and pair service dogs with veterans with military-related traumas. Duval’s son Brett was a civilian K9 bomb dog handler who returned from Iraq with post-traumatic stress disorder.

K9s for Warriors is planning to add a 4,300-square-foot veterinarian clinic at its Ponte Vedra location for its service dogs.

“Doctors couldn’t help her son, but she found that a Service Dog could. Shari found a new mission in life: to put all her time and resources into helping restore her son’s life and the lives of returning combat Veterans through the use of Service Dogs,” according to the website.

It says K9s for Warriors has paired 1,000 veterans with service dogs.

K9s for Warriors is a 501(c)(3) organization. In addition to the Ponte Vedra location, it has two facilities in San Antonio, Texas.





# FREE SERVICES

## for Veterans

The St. Johns County Clerk of the Circuit Court and County Comptroller is proud to honor veterans, active-duty military, reservists, and dependents by offering **complimentary passport and wedding photos, notary services, and recording services for DD-214s in November.**



Richard O. Watson Judicial Center  
4010 Lewis Speedway  
St. Augustine, Florida 32084  
904-819-3600

[www.stjohnsclerk.com](http://www.stjohnsclerk.com)



## ‘A friend to us all’: Local D-Day veteran who shared story of service, survival dies at 99



ST. JOHNS COUNTY, Fla. – Herbert

Griffin, the local D-Day veteran who shared his story of service and survival with News4JAX and other media outlets died Wednesday, according to Doug Myers, president of Jax Home Health, Inc.

Griffin was 99 years old.

In an email to News4JAX Wednesday morning, Myers wrote: “He was not only a true American hero, but a friend to us all. He will be missed!”

News4JAX spoke to Griffin a number of times, most recently ahead of Veterans Day in 2021. During that interview, Griffin shared how he was 18 years old on June 6, 1944, the invasion of Normandy.

“They didn’t tell us nothing about the invasion, not a thing,” Griffin said. “They kept us in the dark.”

During his interview with News4JAX, Griffin vividly recalled landing at Utah Beach. He shared how he and his fellow soldiers of the 79th Infantry Division could hear the gunfire, knowing they would soon be exposed to the Nazis.

“There in the bunkers, they had machine guns and mortars and all that. So, we had no protection,” Griffin recalled vividly. “The sergeant said, ‘Get off the beach! Get off the beach!’”



Griffin said the enemy fired over their heads, leaving him wondering if he'd make it out alive. At one point during the fighting, Griffin suffered a devastating injury, one that nearly cost him his arm. He was in and out of hospitals overseas and in the U.S. for a year before he was discharged from Waco, Texas. The trauma stayed with him for the remaining years of his life.

"I have nightmares sometimes about what happened, and I wake up in a real bad sweat," Griffin said. "I've tried to overcome that."

Griffin earned several medals, including a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart for the severe injury he suffered.

"All of that wasn't in vain, it was worthwhile," Griffin said. "I love my country, and I'd go back today if I could."

Griffin got that chance in 2014. The St. Johns County Fire Department gifted him the trip of a lifetime. They sent him back to Normandy for the 70th anniversary of D-Day. His brother, a fellow veteran, went with him.

"I enjoyed the second time much more than the first time," Griffin said. "It's something I'll never forget."

News4JAX is not currently aware of any plans for Griffin's funeral.

*Ashley Harding, News4Jax*

Please join the  
**Maria Jefferson Chapter, NSDAR,**  
**Saint Augustine Chapter SAR, and**  
**Jacksonville Chapter SAR**

for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual

# PATRIOT REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY

*“Giving Thanks”*

**We gather to recall the men and women who  
imperiled their lives, fortunes and sacred honor to  
form these United States.**

Date: **Saturday, November 16, 2024**  
Time: **11:00 am**  
Place: **Tolomato Cemetery, 14 Cordova Street**  
Dress: **Colonial attire is encouraged**  
Parking: **City Parking Garage is a short walk from  
cemetery**



This will be a short, outdoor ceremony.  
Bring lawn chair if unable to stand for 30 minutes  
Bring umbrella in case of rain.



Submitted by Ray Pascuzzi, Secretary  
VVA 1084



# UNSHELTERED VETERANS!

## CONNECT TO HOUSING & SERVICES

Friday, October 18 <sup>th</sup> 6:00am – 2:00pm	Friday, October 25 <sup>th</sup> 6:00am – 2:00pm	Friday, November 1 <sup>st</sup> 7:00am – 2:00pm
<b>Mercy Support Services</b> 515 College Dr. Middleburg, 32068	<b>Changing Homelessness</b> 725 Peninsular Place Jacksonville, 32204	<b>Jacksonville Main Library</b> 312 N. Main St. Jacksonville 32202 (enter Main Street doors)
<b>Peck Community Center</b> 516 S. 10th St. Fernandina Beach, 32034	<b>5 STAR Veterans Center</b> 40 Acme St. Jacksonville, 32211	
	<b>Mission House</b> 800 Shetter Ave. Jacksonville Beach, 32250	
	<b>Jacksonville Domiciliary</b> 145 Heron Bay Road Jacksonville, 32218	

Questions? Contact: [llane@changinghomelessness.org](mailto:llane@changinghomelessness.org)





## **A Navy veteran went from making six figures to being homeless. A Jacksonville nonprofit helped him find a new home**

### **Patriot Spring on Market will bring 17 affordable homes to Springfield by 2025**

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – A Navy veteran who went from making six figures to being homeless for nine years finally has a new home thanks to a Jacksonville nonprofit.

The nonprofit plans to create 17 safe, clean, and affordable homes in the historic Springfield neighborhood. It already started the restoration process at the 100-year-old Lauderdale Apartment Buildings.

But just across the Mathews Bridge at Patriot Plaza in Arlington sits the nonprofit's first Jacksonville property.

Derrick Wilkes said he went from the Navy to a banking executive making over \$100,000, to divorced and homeless for nine years with a brief prison stint in between.

He's said he's still getting used to his new home.

"Oh man, Friday, when I got the keys and...I was sitting here, and I kept looking around and, you know I sat there for a little, and I just couldn't believe it," Wilkes said.

Wilkes said he wouldn't be in his home without the help of Patriot Services Group. He contacted them on Wednesday and got his keys by Friday.

"This is something I never thought would happen to me," Wilkes said. "I had a 5,000 square foot house at the intercoastal with the boat dock, and I was making six figures and just to lose all that."

Paul Anderson, the Executive Director of Patriot Services Group said a lot of empathy goes into the work they do.

"We hear a Derrick story, I will say, hundreds of times a year. I was stable. One bad thing happened to me in my life and led me down this path, and trying to get out of it is hard," Anderson said. "And if you're homeless, it's almost impossible. So what we do is we provide the landing pad, and even if this is your temporary home or your forever home, we provide the resources that they need or will link them to the resources."

But there's more work to be done.

The nonprofit's newest \$2.8 million project, Patriot Spring on Market, will bring nearly 20 more affordable homes to the community by 2025.

Patriot Spring on Market (Copyright 2024 by WJXT News4JAX - All rights reserved.)

It will operate similarly to where Wilkes lives in Patriot Plaza.

You don't have to be a U.S. veteran to apply. You just have to make 30% of the area's median income to be approved.

"We've gone all the way to the level of asbestos removal...but we're starting construction this week, and we are proud to launch this program that we're going to be having here," Anderson said.

He said in a lot of cases, their properties are some of the last affordable housing options available to people at risk of homelessness.

"It's providing housing to people that may not qualify for a normal landlord," Anderson said. "They may have a charge from seven years ago, but yet it's showing on their record they've been a good member of the community, we look past that."

Wilkes said Patriot Services Group went the extra mile.

WJXT News4JAX - Tiffany Salameh



## U.S. Marine Captain Ron Forrester laid to rest after 50 years

### Captain Ron Forrester finally laid to rest at National Cemetery

By Isabella Garriga

ODESSA, Texas (KOSA) - After more than 50 years of uncertainty, U.S. Marine Corps Captain Ron Forrester, who had been missing in action since the Vietnam War, was finally laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery on Monday (10/7/24). His long-awaited homecoming brought both peace and pain to his family, marking the end of an emotional chapter that had remained open for decades.



Forrester's daughter, Karoni Forrester, spoke about the significance of the moment. "I don't know that there is such a thing as closure because the loss continues, but that torment that comes with not knowing what happened to him has gone, and I'm grateful for that. So grateful," she said.

Captain Forrester, originally from Odessa, Texas, was piloting an A-6A Intruder aircraft on a nighttime combat mission over northern Vietnam in 1972. Accompanied by co-pilot Captain Ralph Jim Chipman, the plane vanished without a trace. Despite search efforts, the U.S. military declared both men killed in action in 1978, six years after their disappearance.

For decades, their whereabouts remained a mystery. It wasn't until 2023 that the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency made a breakthrough, identifying Captain Forrester's remains through DNA testing and a gas card found at the crash site. Captain Chipman's remains had been identified earlier, and he was laid to rest in Utah on Veter



ans Day 2023.

Karoni Forrester expressed gratitude to the team that worked tirelessly to recover her father's remains, acknowledging the immense effort that went into the discovery. "This team of people was working in 120-130 degree temperatures, digging in a rice paddy. It was such a gift for me to meet them, hug them, and thank them for changing my life and my family's life," she said.

Now, after 331 days since his remains were identified, Captain Ron Forrester was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery alongside other American heroes. Karoni shared her pride in seeing her father honored in this way.

"For him to be laid to rest with all those heroes really represents the cost of freedom. It's incredible to know that he's there, and that's very much where he belongs."

**Karoni Forrester, Daughter of Captain Ron Forrester**

Despite the relief of finding peace for her own family, Karoni Forrester is mindful of the many families still awaiting answers. There are still 1,574 service members listed as missing from the Vietnam War. Karoni hopes the work of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency will continue, so more families can find the peace her family now has.

Captain Forrester's legacy, she hopes, will live on and inspire others for years to come.

## Popular kiosks returned to VA Clinics

WASHINGTON — The freestanding kiosks that veterans used to submit travel expenses for medical care at Department of Veterans Affairs clinics and hospitals have returned a year after the VA closed them nationwide for an online system plagued with problems.

More than 750 kiosks are being reactivated at VA clinics and hospitals, with plans to add dozens more at VA facilities across the country, according to the agency. The VA will again accept mail-in paper forms for remittance of travel costs.

The popular claims reimbursement program paid out \$1.3 billion in 2022 to cover fuel costs, tolls, parking and in some cases airfare that veterans incur commuting to medical appointments, the VA said. But problems with a new online system that replaced the kiosks confused and frustrated veterans, according to lawmakers and veterans.

“Personally, I feel the VA wanted to make the [online] reimbursement process more difficult to discourage veterans from using it,” said Marine Corps veteran David Seward, 53, who drives 30 minutes to the Pittsburgh VA Medical Center for medical care. “In my view, [the VA] made everything burdensome for the veteran to avoid spending more money.” Jon Retzer, assistant national legislative director of Disabled American Veterans, said his organization has urged the VA to make the online process easier for veterans but also to continue providing the service at kiosks and by postal service.

Veterans are reimbursed for their travel expenses to doctor’s appointments for treatment of service-connected injuries and illnesses. Veterans traveling for a compensation or pension exam also can submit their travel costs. In November 2020, the VA began phasing out the kiosks as it introduced the online program called the Beneficiary Travel Self Service System.

“We have heard feedback from many veterans who prefer the kiosks, and we are exploring ways that we can meet these specific veteran needs,” said Terrence Hayes, the VA press secretary. The inspector general review faulted the VA for not soliciting veteran feedback as it introduced the new system or providing training to veterans on how to enter claims correctly.

## Andersonville National Historic Site

On October 16, 1970, Public Law 91-465, also known as the Andersonville National Historic Site Authorization Act, authorized the establishment of Andersonville National Historic Site. The legislation's purpose was to:

- Provide an understanding of the overall prisoner of war story of the Civil War,
- Interpret the role of prisoner of war camps in history,
- Commemorate the sacrifice of Americans who lost their lives in such camps,
- Preserve the monuments located therein.

Today, Andersonville National Historic Site includes the National Prisoner of War Museum, the Historic Prison Site, and Andersonville National Cemetery and has seen over 7 million visitors.

The Andersonville National Historic Site, located near Andersonville, Georgia, preserves the former Andersonville Prison (also known as Camp Sumter), a Confederate prisoner-of-war camp during the final fourteen months of the American Civil War. Most of the site lies in southwestern Macon County, adjacent to the east side of the town of Andersonville. The site also contains the Andersonville National Cemetery and the National Prisoner of War Museum. The prison was created in February 1864 and served until April 1865.

The site was commanded by Captain Henry Wirz, who was tried and executed after the war for war crimes. The prison was overcrowded to four times its capacity, and had an inadequate water supply, inadequate food, and unsanitary conditions. Of the approximately 45,000 Union prisoners held at Camp Sumter during the war, nearly 13,000 (28%) died. The chief causes of death were scurvy, diarrhea, and dysentery.





## **The National Museum of the US Navy**

WASHINGTON — A new national museum for the U.S. Navy is planned for outside the historic Washington Navy Yard to give the public unfettered access to the sea service's history. The museum will be built at Tingey Street and M Street near the Washington Nationals baseball stadium, the Navy announced in a ceremony Friday at the new site. The museum is meant to replace the existing Navy National Museum located on base at the Navy Yard, which is largely off limits to the general public. "The new National Museum of the U.S. Navy will provide a dramatically improved opportunity for the American public to be inspired by the long history of valor and sacrifice of American sailors in the defense of our country, and to learn the vital importance of sea power to our way of life," said retired Rear Adm. Samuel J. Cox, director of the Naval History and Heritage Command. "It will showcase not only the legacy of the past but also the global operations of the Navy today, upholding the freedom of the seas, upon which our freedom depends."

The Navy evaluated 18 cities and 42 sites as candidates for a new location of the national museum, according to Kristina Higgins, spokeswoman for the Naval History and Heritage Command. The Washington site beat out locations in San Diego, New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Boston and Norfolk. Each city was evaluated for attendance, market diversity, operating gap, cost per visitor, fundraising potential and capital costs.

Estimates indicate the new National Museum of the U.S. Navy campus could attract more than 1.5 million visitors annually, Higgins said. In May, the Navy signed a land-exchange agreement that paved the way for the location.

The state-of-the-art facility is planned to expand beyond a traditional museum to a campus layout that combines the museum, a high-tech conference center and retail space with dining options. The museum is intended to be a self-funded tourist destination that aims to intrigue, inform and inspire generations of visitors, ac-

ording to the Naval History and Heritage Command. “The envisioned campus will serve as an educational, inspirational, cultural and ceremonial center for those serving in the Navy today. It would build public understanding of the Navy’s rich history and proud heritage, offer educational activities and programming, and act as a backdrop for notable career events for active, Reserve and retiring personnel,” Higgins said.

The construction of the museum is estimated to cost \$250 million, with opportunities for additional development that could total up to \$500 million, she said. To raise funds for the new museum, the Navy has partnered with the Navy Museum Development Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving naval history. A law also provides the opportunity for Congress to match funds raised by a nonprofit foundation for the purpose of financing a national museum.

The national museums of the Army, Marine Corps, and Air Force have all benefited from this statutory provision. The museum was first announced in 2020. The groundbreaking is planned for October 2025 coinciding with the Navy’s 250th birthday. It is projected to open by 2030. “This ceremony marks a significant step forward in our journey to reimagine the Navy Museum,” Navy Secretary Carlos Del Toro said. “This is a testament to our unwavering commitment to preserving and honoring the rich history of our Navy and to ensuring that its legacy continues to inspire and educate future generations.”

*CAITLYN BURCHETT* Caitlyn Burchett covers defense news at the Pentagon. Before joining *Stars and Stripes*, she was the military reporter for *The Virginian-Pilot* in Norfolk, Va. She is based in Washington, D.C.

Source - *Stars and Stripes*





20th Annual

## Marine & Navy FMF Corpsmen Memorial

### Evergreen Cemetery

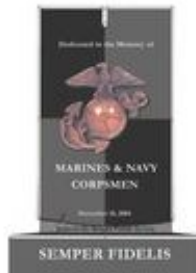
N Main St  
Jacksonville, Florida

**November 10, 2024**

**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~**



# DADDY BOOTCAMP

A class for new and expectant  
fathers

Join us as we discuss :

- Diaper changing
- Feedings
- Postpartum care
- Supporting mothers
- And more

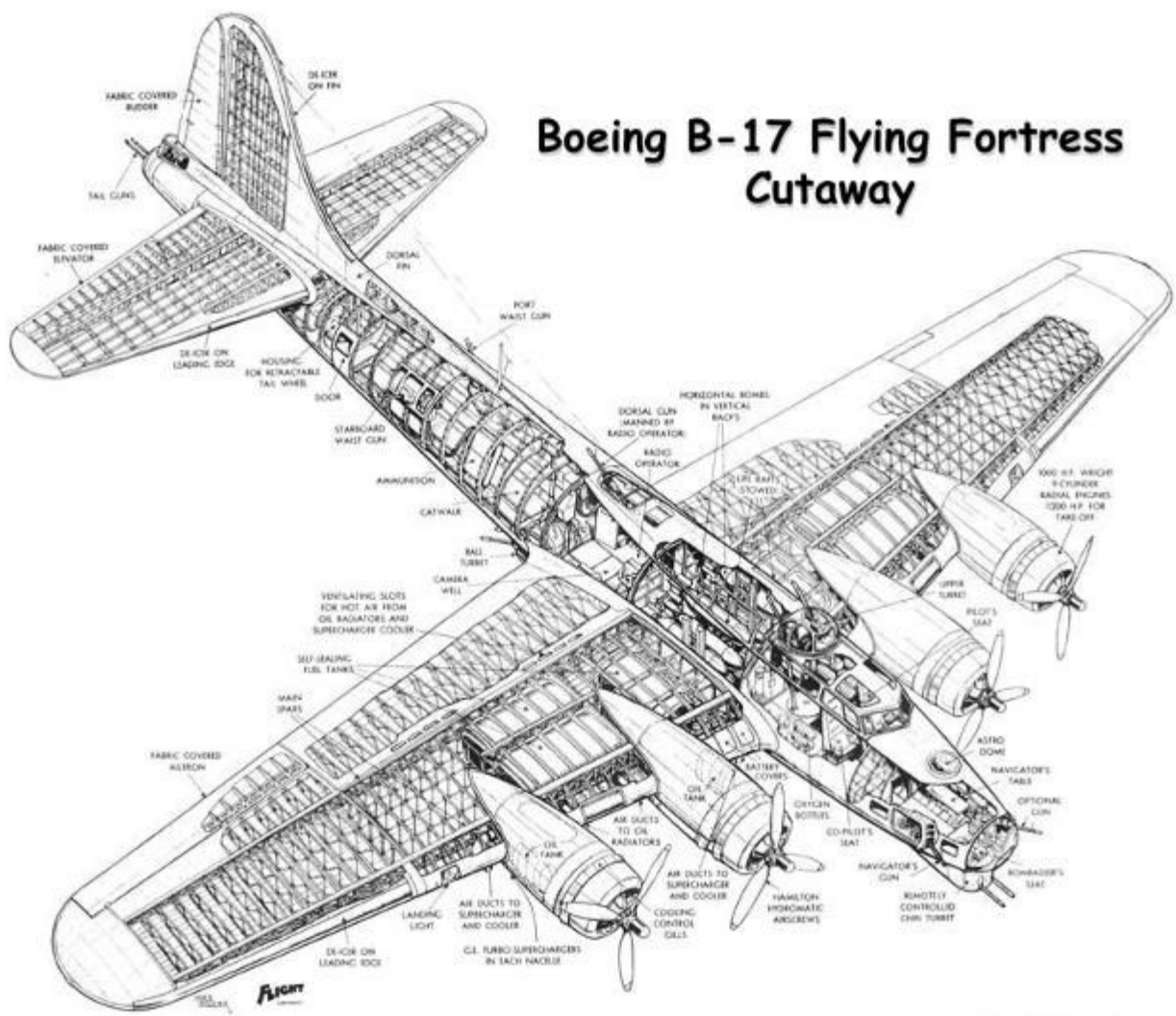


**November 6, 2024 at 12:00 pm**

Fleet and Family Support Center, NAS Jacksonville  
BLDG 27 Ranger Street,  
NAS Jacksonville, FL 32212

**Registration Required call (904) 542-5745 or email  
JAXS\_NAS\_FFSC\_CONNECT@navy.mil**





Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Which National Park is your favorite to use your free Military Lifetime Pass?

Don't have one yet? Don't miss out! Veterans, service members, dependents, and Gold Star families are eligible. Learn more: <https://www.nps.gov/playourvisit/passes.htm...>



From David “Flyboy” Shelton

Fellow PGR, Below is an updated schedule for the Vietnam and War on Terrorism Walls.

September will be a busy month, so any assistance you can provide would be greatly

### FL PGR Vietnam & WoT Wall Schedule

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

Email: [flsc@patriotguard.org](mailto:flsc@patriotguard.org) / 321-689-4699

Updated as of:  
08/09/24

Date	Time		Duration	Wall(s)	Location	Comments
08/08/24	1200 hrs	Set-Up	7 Days	WOT	VA Hospital Lake Nona 13800 Veterans Way Orlando, FL 32827	Display in hospital main lobby
08/09/24 - 09/13/24		Display				8-11 Remembrance
09/14/25		Take Down				Ceremony 08/11/24 @ 1100 hrs
09/21/24	0900 - 1700 hrs	Set-Up / Display	1 Day	Vietnam / WoT	OB's Restaurant & Lounge 1750 N. Woodland Blvd Deland, FL 32720	National POW / MIA Recognition Day 2024 CVMA 20-13 Event
09/27/24	1200 hrs	Escort	2 Days	Vietnam / WoT	American Legion Post 72 1500 N. Church Ave. Mulberry, FL 33860	Fall Festival
09/28/24	1400 hrs	Set-Up				Vietnam Vets
09/28/24	0900 - 1800 hrs	Display				ALR
10/25/25	1400 hrs	Set-Up	1 Day	Vietnam / WoT	American Legion Post 45 316 Osceola St. Palatka, FL 32177	
10/26/24	0900 - 1600 hrs	Display / Take Down				
<b>Possible escort of The Walls to the event</b>						
11/02/24	0700 hrs	1700 hrs	1 Day	Vietnam / WoT	City Hall (across the street) 300 W. Plant St Winter Garden, FL 34787	Challenge 22 Ruck Walk Suicide Awareness
11/10/24	1100 hrs	Escort / Set-Up	2 Days	Vietnam / WoT	Anastasia Baptist Church 1600 A1A S St. Augustine, FL 32080	Veteran's Day Ceremony
11/11/24	0900 - 1100 hrs	Display / Take Down				Escort from Daytona to St. Augustine
03/29/25	1100 hrs		2 Weeks	Vietnam	VA Hospital Lake Nona 13800 Veterans Way Orlando, FL 32827	Erect in hospital main lobby Vietnam War Veterans Day
<b>Dates and times to be verified</b>						
05/24/25	0800 hrs	Set-Up / Display	3 Days	Vietnam / WoT	City of Clermont Highland Pavilion Complex 330 3rd St Clermont, FL 32711	Memorial Day Ceremony
05/25/25	1600 hrs	Take Down				Stage - Home Depot Rt. 50 Clermont, FL
11/10/25	1100 hrs	Escort / Set-Up	2 Days	Vietnam / WoT	Anastasia Baptist Church 1600 A1A S St. Augustine, FL 32080	Veteran's Day Ceremony
11/11/25	0900 - 1100 hrs	Display / Take Down				Escort from Daytona to St. Augustine
03/25/26	0800 hrs	Escort / Set-Up	2 Days	Vietnam	Florida National Cemetery 6502 SW 102nd Ave. Bushnell, FL 33513	Vietnam War Veterans Day
03/25/26	To be verified	Display / Take Down				
<b>Dates and times to be verified</b>						





## ★ Veterans Food Assistance Program ★

### What?

Starting October 1st DVNF will be offering a one-time grant per veteran household to support their nutritional needs.

### How to Apply

We have an online application that will need to be completed by the Veteran. The application can be found at <https://www.grantinterface.com/sl/dI4NjA>. The link will be open starting October 1st, 2024.

### Veteran Qualifications

- Must have a DD214 or Veteran ID
- Was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable
- A letter of reference from a case worker or advocate may make the application more favorable.

### Other Details

- This is not a monthly grant.
- The groceries will be delivered directly to the Veteran using Walmart or grocery store delivery service.
- Veterans can receive up to \$450 worth of groceries

For more information, please contact us: (202) 737-0522 - [info@dvnf.org](mailto:info@dvnf.org)





SERVING THOSE WHO SERVE



**FREE**

**Day of Dentistry for  
Veterans**



Free cleanings, fillings,  
and/or dental extractions



FRIDAY



**15TH OF NOVEMBER  
2024**



9AM - 3PM

**CALL 386-761-2273 TO SCHEDULE**

Beville Dental Care  
911 Beville Rd #1, South Daytona, FL 32119



APPOINTMENTS MUST BE MADE!  
LIMITED APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE

## Veterans Day Event in Clay County

Join us at Oakleaf Community Park on Saturday, November 9, 2024, from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM as we celebrate our veterans with a 5K race and a softball exhibition game! The event will include food trucks, a ceremony, organizations supporting veterans, and more. All ages are welcome. This event is a joint collaboration between Veterans Council Clay County Florida and the Clay County Board of County Commissioners. Everyone is welcome to participate in the 5K race. Veterans can sign up for the Veterans' Softball Exhibition Game from August 28 to October 13. Family and friends of veterans can register from October 14 to October 25. To learn more and sign up, click here! <https://www.claycountygov.com/.../clay-county-veterans...>



**CLAY COUNTY**  
VETERANS DAY WEEKEND EVENTS

---

**Oakleaf Community Park**  
Saturday, November 9th | 8:00 am - 3:00 pm

**5K Run**  
Check-in begins at 6:30 am, Race starts at 8:00am

**Awards**  
10:00 am

**Ceremony**  
11:00 am

**Softball Exhibition Game**  
11:30 am

All ages are welcome, food trucks, vendors, and more...

Registration Sign up: <https://bit.ly/ClayVeteranDayEvents>





**Alton Green Memorial  
American Legion Post 194**

*Save the Date*

**19 SEPT 2025**

*77th Anniversary*

**GOLF**  
*Tournament*

**St. Johns Golf Club  
4900 Cypress Links Blvd  
Elkton, FL 32033**

6<sup>th</sup> Annual

2024 GOLF TOURNAMENT



MON  
NOV 4<sup>th</sup>  
2024



**Eagle Harbor Golf Club**  
2217 Eagle Harbor Pkwy  
Fleming Island, FL 32003

**Monday, November 4th, 2024**

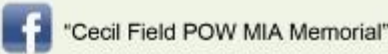
Registration/Warm-up/Pre-Event	9:00 am – 10:30 pm
Shot Gun Start	11:00 am
Italian Dinner/ Awards Ceremony/Raffle	5:30 pm – 6:30 pm

*Silent auction and raffle will be held!*  
All proceeds benefit **National POW/MIA Memorial and Museum**

**Deadline to Register:**  
**October 25th, 2024**

*Sponsorship Packages and  
Player Registration Forms  
attached, or register online at:*  
[www.powmiamemorial.org](http://www.powmiamemorial.org)

Follow the 2024 Golf Tournament  
Event from our Facebook page:



CECIL FIELD POW/MIA MEMORIAL IS A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION - REGISTRATION NUMBER: CH51568. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE, 800 435 7352, WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. CECIL FIELD POW/MIA MEMORIAL IS AN IRS 501(C)(3), PUBLIC CHARITY. ID# 31954. CONTRIBUTIONS ARE DEDUCTIBLE.



**6<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL NATIONAL POW/MIA MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM  
2024 GOLF TOURNAMENT**

**TOURNAMENT/HOLE SPONSORSHIP & INDIVIDUAL  
REGISTRATION FORM**

---

**Hole Sponsor Information**

Company Name \_\_\_\_\_ Company Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Company Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

---

**Sponsorship Level:**

Tournament Sponsor (\$5500)

Silver Sponsor (\$1000)

Platinum Sponsor (\$2500)

Single Player (\$175)

Gold Sponsor (\$1500)

**Donations:**

Separate donation in support of National POW/MIA Memorial and Museum \$ \_\_\_\_\_

---

**Important Sponsorship Information:**

1. Payment of sponsorship donation or player registration fee(s) can be done online at [powmiamemorial.org](http://powmiamemorial.org) or mail check payable to "National POW/MIA Memorial and Museum" to: **ATTN: 2024 Golf Tournament  
National POW/MIA Memorial and Museum  
6112 POW-MIA Memorial Pkwy.  
Jacksonville, FL 32221**
  2. For those sponsorship levels that include golf participation, please register each golfer by **Friday, October 25, 2024**
- 

Player 1 Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Player 2 Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Player 3 Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Player 4 Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

***\*Additional players may be added on a separate sheet.***

CECIL FIELD POW/MIA MEMORIAL IS A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION - REGISTRATION NUMBER: CH51589. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE, 800 435 7352, WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. CECIL FIELD POW/MIA MEMORIAL IS AN IRS 501(C)(3). PUBLIC CHARITY. ID# 31954. CONTRIBUTIONS ARE DEDUCTIBLE.

6<sup>th</sup> Annual

2024

GOLF

TOURNAMENT

TOURNAMENT/HOLE SPONSOR PACKAGES  
AND PLAYER FEES

<b>TOURNAMENT SPONSOR</b>	<b>\$5500</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Listed as Title Sponsor on:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Hole Sponsor Signage</li> <li>– Tournament Program</li> <li>– Facebook Event Page</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Website with link to sponsor’s website</li> <li>– Recognition at Tournament Award Ceremony</li> <li>• Up to Eight (8) player entries</li> </ul>

<b>PLATINUM SPONSOR</b>	<b>\$2500</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Listed as Platinum Sponsor on:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Hole Sponsor Signage</li> <li>– Tournament Program</li> <li>– Facebook Event Page</li> <li>– Website with link to sponsor’s website</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Up to Eight (8) player entries</li> </ul>	

<b>SILVER SPONSOR</b>	<b>\$1000</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Listed as Silver Sponsor on:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Hole Sponsor Signage</li> <li>– Tournament Program</li> <li>– Facebook Event Page</li> <li>– Website with link to sponsor’s website</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Up to Four (4) player entries</li> </ul>	

<b>GOLD SPONSOR</b>	<b>\$1500</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Listed as Gold Sponsor on:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Hole Sponsor Signage</li> <li>– Tournament Program</li> <li>– Facebook Event Page</li> <li>– Website with link to sponsor’s website</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Up to Six (6) player entries</li> </ul>	

<b>SINGLE PLAYER FEE</b>	<b>\$175</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Includes:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Tournament Entry</li> <li>– Tournament Gift</li> <li>– Italian Dinner</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

TOURNAMENT/HOLE SPONSOR FORM AND PLAYER REGISTRATION FORM ATTACHED.

CECIL FIELD POWWYA MEMORIAL IS A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION – REGISTRATION NUMBER: CH51589. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE, 800 435 7362, WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. CECIL FIELD POWWYA MEMORIAL IS AN IRS 501(C)(3), PUBLIC CHARITY. ID# 31954. CONTRIBUTIONS ARE DEDUCTIBLE.

# Form 180 to get DD214

Standard Form 180 (Rev. 09/2011) (Page 1)  
Prescribed by NARA (24 CFR 1231.1042)

Authorized for local reproduction  
Previous editions obsolete

OMB No. 3095-0029 Expires 04/30/2024

## REQUEST PERTAINING TO MILITARY RECORDS

Requests can be submitted online using eVetBoes at <https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/>  
To ensure the best possible service, please thoroughly review the accompanying instructions before filling out this form. PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY OR TYPE BELOW.

### SECTION I - INFORMATION NEEDED TO LOCATE RECORDS (Furnish as much information as possible.)

1. NAME USED DURING SERVICE (last, first, full middle)	2. SOCIAL SECURITY #	3. DATE OF BIRTH	4. PLACE OF BIRTH			
5. SERVICE, PAST AND PRESENT (For an effective records search, it is important that ALL service be shown below.)						
	BRANCH OF SERVICE	DATE ENTERED	DATE RELEASED	OFFICER	ENLISTED	SERVICE NUMBER (If unknown, write "unknown")
a. ACTIVE				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
b. RESERVE				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
c. NATIONAL GUARD				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

6. PLEASE LIST LAST FOUR DUTY STATIONS, IF KNOWN: 1. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_

7. IS THIS PERSON DECEASED?  NO  YES - MUST provide Date of Death if veteran is deceased: \_\_\_\_\_

8. DID THIS PERSON RETIRE FROM MILITARY SERVICE?  NO  YES

### SECTION II - INFORMATION AND/OR DOCUMENTS REQUESTED

1. CHECK THE ITEM(S) YOU ARE REQUESTING:

DD Form 214 or equivalent: Year(s) in which form(s) issued to veteran (Date of Separation): \_\_\_\_\_  
This form contains information used to verify military service. An UNDELETED DD Form 214 is ordinarily required to determine eligibility for benefits. If you request a DELETED copy, the following items will be blacked out: authority for separation, reason for separation, reenlistment eligibility code, separation (SPD/SPN) code, and, for separations after June 30, 1979, character of separation and dates of time lost. Please note - recent veterans may be able to request a DD Form 214 through milConnect by visiting: <https://www.va.gov/records/get-military-service-records/>  
An UNDELETED copy will be sent UNLESS YOU SPECIFY A DELETED COPY by checking this box:  I want a DELETED copy.

Official Military Personnel File (OMPF): The OMPF may include duty stations and assignments, training and qualifications, awards and decorations received, disciplinary actions, administrative remarks, enlistment and/or discharge information (including DD Form 214, Report of Separation, or equivalent), and other personnel actions. Detailed information about the veteran's participation in battles and their military engagements is NOT contained in the record.

Medical Records: Includes health (outpatient), extended ambulatory, and dental records. If inpatient/hospitalization records are requested, please specify below.  
 I request inpatient/hospitalization records from \_\_\_\_\_ (facility), last treated in \_\_\_\_\_ (year). (NOTE: Fields are required)  
If available, you may receive copies of inpatient narrative summaries, operative reports, discharge summaries, etc. contained in the record.

Dental Records: Please check this box if ONLY dental records are needed from the medical record.

Other (Please Specify): \_\_\_\_\_

2. PURPOSE: (Providing information about the purpose of the request is voluntary; however, it may help to provide the best possible response and may result in a faster reply. Information provided will in no way be used to make a decision to deny the request.)  
 Benefits (explain)  Employment  VA Loan Programs  Medical  Genealogy  Correction  Personal  Other (explain)  
Explain here: \_\_\_\_\_

### SECTION III - RETURN ADDRESS AND SIGNATURE

1. REQUESTER NAME: _____	2. RELATIONSHIP TO VETERAN: _____
3. <input type="checkbox"/> I am the MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER OR VETERAN identified in Section I, above.	<input type="checkbox"/> I am the VETERAN'S LEGAL GUARDIAN (MUST submit copy of Court Appointment) or AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE (MUST submit copy of Authorization Letter or Power of Attorney)
<input type="checkbox"/> I am the DECEASED VETERAN'S NEXT-OF-KIN (MUST submit Proof of Death. See item 2a on instruction sheet.)	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (Specify): _____
4. SEND INFORMATION/DOCUMENTS TO: (Please print or type. See item 4 on accompanying instructions.)	5. AUTHORIZATION SIGNATURE: I declare (or certify, verify, or state) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the information in this Section 3 is true and correct and that I authorize the release of the requested information. (See items 2a or 3a on the accompanying instructions sheet. Without the Authorization Signature of the veteran, next-of-kin of deceased veteran, veteran's legal guardian, authorized government agent, or other authorized representative, only limited information can be released unless the request is archival. No signature is required if the request is for archival records.)
Name _____	Signature Required - Do not print _____ Date _____
Street Address _____ Apt. # _____	* This form is available at <a href="https://www.archives.gov/veterans-military-service-records/standard-form-180.pdf">https://www.archives.gov/veterans-military-service-records/standard-form-180.pdf</a> on the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) web site. *
City _____ State _____ ZIP Code _____	
Daytime Phone _____ Fax Number _____	
Email Address _____	

# Form 180 to get DD214

The various categories of military service records are described in the chart below. For each category there is a code number which indicates the address at the bottom of the page to which this request should be sent. Please refer to the Instruction and Information Sheet accompanying this form as needed.

BRANCH	CURRENT STATUS OF SERVICE MEMBER	Personnel Record	Medical or Service Treatment Record
AIR FORCE	Discharged, deceased, or retired before 5/1/1994	14	14
	Discharged, deceased, or retired 5/1/1994 - 9/30/2004	14	11
	Discharged, deceased, or retired 10/1/2004 - 12/31/2013	1	11
	Discharged, deceased, or retired on or after 1/1/2014	1	13
	Active (including National Guard on active duty in the Air Force), TDRL, or general officers retired with pay	1	
	Reserve, IRR, Retired Reserve in non-pay status, current National Guard officers not on active duty in the Air Force, or National Guard released from active duty in the Air Force	2	
	Current National Guard enlisted not on active duty in the Air Force	2	13
COAST GUARD	Discharged, deceased, or retired before 1/1/1898	6	
	Discharged, deceased, or retired 1/1/1898 - 5/31/1998	14	14
	Discharged, deceased, or retired 6/1/1998 - 9/30/2006	14	13
	Discharged, deceased, or retired 10/1/2006 - 9/30/2013	3	11
	Discharged, deceased, or retired on or after 10/1/2013	3	14
	Active, Reserve, Individual Ready Reserve or TDRL	3	
MARINE CORPS	Discharged, deceased, or retired before 1/1/1895	6	
	Discharged, deceased, or retired 1/1/1905 - 4/30/1994	14	14
	Discharged, deceased, or retired 5/1/1994 - 12/31/1998	14	11
	Discharged, deceased, or retired 1/1/1999 - 12/31/2013	4	11
	Discharged, deceased, or retired on or after 1/1/2014	4	8
	Individual Ready Reserve	5	
	Active, Selected Marine Corps Reserve, TDRL	4	
ARMY	Discharged, deceased, or retired before 11/1/1912 (enlisted) or before 7/1/1917 (officer)	6	
	Discharged, deceased, or retired 11/1/1912 - 10/15/1992 (enlisted) or 7/1/1917 - 10/15/1992 (officer)	14	
	Discharged, deceased, or retired 10/16/1992 - 9/30/2002	14	11
	Discharged, deceased, or retired (including TDRL) 10/1/2002 - 12/31/2013	7	11
	Discharged, deceased, or retired (including TDRL) on or after 1/1/2014	7	9
	Current Soldier (Active, Reserve (including Individual Ready Reserve) or National Guard)	7	
NAVY	Discharged, deceased, or retired before 1/1/1896 (enlisted) or before 1/1/1903 (officer)	6	
	Discharged, deceased, or retired 1/1/1896 - 1/30/1994 (enlisted) or 1/1/1903 - 1/30/1994 (officer)	14	14
	Discharged, deceased, or retired 1/31/1994 - 12/31/1994	14	11
	Discharged, deceased, or retired 1/1/1995 - 12/31/2013	10	11
	Discharged, deceased, or retired on or after 1/1/2014	10	8
	Active, Reserve, or TDRL	10	
PHS	Public Health Service - Commissioned Corps officers only	12	

## ADDRESS LIST OF CUSTODIANS and SELF-SERVICE WEBSITES (BY CODE NUMBERS SHOWN ABOVE) - Where to write/send this form

1	Air Force Personnel Center AFPC/DP2SSM 550 C Street West JBSA-Randolph TX 76150-4721 Fax Number: 214-565-3124 Email: DP2SSM.MILRECS.INCOMING@USAF.MIL	6	National Archives & Records Administration Research Services (RDTIR) 700 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Washington, DC 20460-0061	11	Department of Veterans Affairs ATTN: Release of Information Claims Intake Center P.O. Box 4444 Janetville, WI 53547-4444 Fax Number: 844-531-7818 <a href="http://www.va.gov">http://www.va.gov</a>
2	Air Reserve Personnel Center  Total Force Service Center: 1-800-525-0102 <a href="https://reqprc.af.mil/">https://reqprc.af.mil/</a>	7	US Army Human Resources Command's web page: <a href="https://www.hrc.army.mil/content/1113">https://www.hrc.army.mil/content/1113</a>  or 1-888-ARMYHRC (1-888-276-9472)	12	Division of Commissioned Corps Officer Support ATTN: Records Officer 1101 Wooten Parkway, Plaza Level, Suite 100 Rockville, MD 20852
3	Commander, Personnel Service Center (BOPS-C-MR) MS7100 US Coast Guard 2703 Martha Luther King Jr Ave SE Washington, DC 20593-7200 <a href="https://www.dcms.uscg.mil/omg/">https://www.dcms.uscg.mil/omg/</a>	8	Navy Medicine Records Activity (NMRA) BUMED Detachment St. Louis 4300 Goodfellow Boulevard, Building 103 St. Louis, MO 63120 Fax number: 314-260-8128	13	AF STR Processing Center ATTN: Release of Information 3370 Macgregor Road, Suite 116 San Antonio, TX 78217
4	Headquarters U.S. Marine Corps Manpower Management Records & Performance (MMRP-10) 2098 Elliot Road Quantico, VA 22134-5030 SMB.MANPOWER.MMRP-10@usmc.mil	9	AMEDD Army Record Processing Center 3370 Macgregor Road, Suite 116 San Antonio, TX 78217 Fax Number: 210-201-8310	14	National Personnel Records Center (Military Personnel Records) 1 Archives Drive St. Louis, MO 63138-1062 <a href="https://www.archives.gov/retirees/military-service-records/">https://www.archives.gov/retirees/military-service-records/</a>
5	Marine Corps Forces Reserve 2090 Opelousas Avenue New Orleans, LA 70114	10	Navy Personnel Command (PERS-313) 5720 Integrity Drive Millington, TN 38055-3130		



## St. Johns County Parks and Recreation

Come paddle down memory lane as we relive last Thursday's **Veterans Kayaking** at Trout Creek, where we rowed onto the St. Johns River to watch the sunset.

Want to come along for real? Sign up for our newsletter to find out about future trips and other fun programs:

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/vgkHwTm/SJCParksandRec>



Let Us Do Good

### Support Our Heroes

#### ABOUT US

The Tunnel to Towers Foundation provides mortgage-free homes to our nation's catastrophically injured veterans and first responders as well as Gold Star and fallen first responder families with young children.

#### IN THE LINE OF DUTY PROGRAMS

##### Smart Home Program

The Foundation provides specially adapted, mortgage-free homes that help our most catastrophically injured veterans and first responders to reclaim their day-to-day independence.

##### Fallen First Responder Program

The Foundation pays-off the mortgages for the families with young children of law enforcement officers and firefighters who are killed in the line of duty.

##### Gold Star Family Home Program

The Foundation honors the legacy of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice while serving our country by paying off the mortgage or providing the surviving spouses and young children with mortgage-free homes.

##### Homeless Veterans

In 2022, Tunnel to Towers launched a new national campaign aimed at eradicating homelessness in the veteran community. In addition to housing support, the foundation will also provide comprehensive care by connecting veterans with appropriate local services that include mental health counseling, skills training, and addiction support.



For More Information on Tunnel to Towers GolfSEFlorida T2T.org

**ST. JOHN'S GOLF CLASSIC**  
GOLF FOR HEROES



Hosted by Tunnel to Towers Foundation

**NOVEMBER 8, 2024**

The Golf Club at South Hampton  
315 South Hampton Club Way  
St. Augustine, FL 32092

Registration 7:30AM  
Shotgun Start 9:30AM  
Lunch to Follow

#### PAYMENTS & QUESTIONS

For event information or if you have any questions please reach out to:

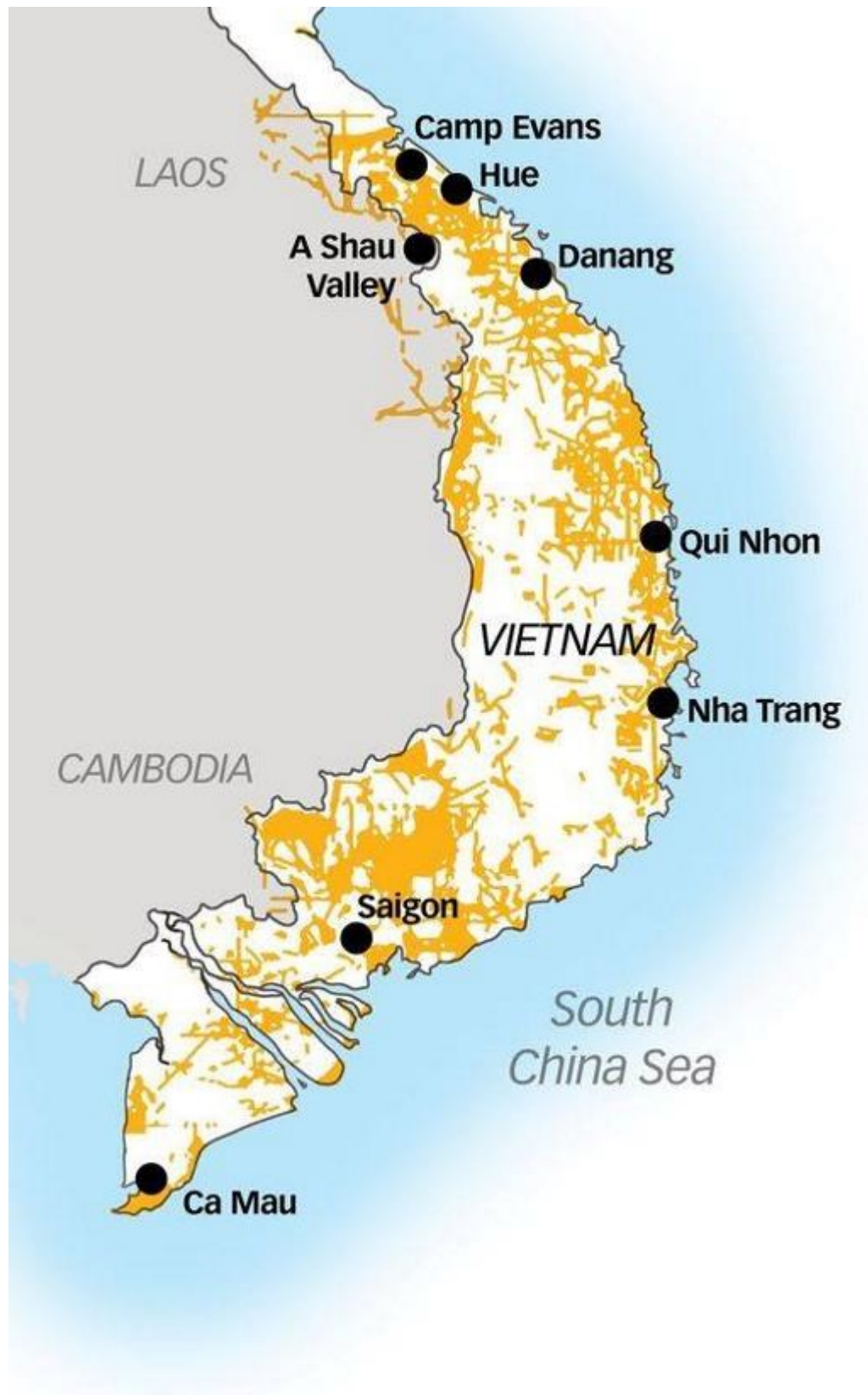
**Richard Wipe**  
StJohnsGolfClassic@T2T.org

### Thank You For Supporting America's Heroes And Their Families.

The Tunnel to Towers Foundation hosts a number of charitable golf events to benefit our programs and efforts. Join us in supporting our nation's first responders and service members.



# Agent Orange Disbursement Map Vietnam





Florida's Largest Veterans Day Experience

# ZEPHYRHILLS



## BATTLE FOR VETERANS

Hosted By

**ZEPHYRHILLS**



Featured Guest

**WW2Armor.org**

ZMMH.org



For Updates!



November 8th-10th, 2024 - Fri, Sat & Sun - 10am-5pm

5200 Airport Rd, Zephyrhills, FL 33542

- World War II Battle Reenactment on Saturday & Sunday
- Reenactors & Living Displays
- All-Era Military Vehicle Show & Display
- Saturday Morning Veterans Day Parade in Downtown Zephyrhills
- Free Event
- RV & Camping Sites
- Food & Military Vendors
- Online Registration Open
- Museum Open During Event

Sponsored By



FLYER NSN 7610-01-VP3-2024

37th Annual All Veterans Reunion May 8th-May11th, 2025!!



**One of the Nations "Largest and Longest Running" Reunions!**

**PUBLIC IS ALWAYS INVITED TO ATTEND!**

**Reunion Date: May 8th—11th, 2025**

**@ Wickham Park in Melbourne FL**

**Reunion Information can be found at: [www.veteransmemorialreunioninc.org](http://www.veteransmemorialreunioninc.org)**

The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall and Some Gave All—The Moving Tribute are being donated for the duration of the Reunion by the VVB.

Wall escort will be on May 4th, departing the Eastern Florida State College (EFSC) Cocoa Campus @ 10am sharp and escorted to Wickham Park.

**First Responders Honored and Requested to join in!**

Scan here for all  
of our links!



**Family Friendly!**

**There will be a  
"Kid Zone"**

Vietnam Memorial Traveling Wall:  
<https://travelingwall.us>



Wickham Park: 2500 Parkway Dr. Melbourne, FL 32935





- Health Care
- Education
- Earned Benefits

**FDVA.VSO@FDVA.FL.GOV**  
**727-319-7440**



**OPERATION STRONG & READY**  
A Military Wellness Program

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

**STARTING JULY 30<sup>TH</sup> , 2024**  
**OSR - VETERANS ONLY!**

**To register stop by the  
Welcome center or  
email  
[EHernandez@fcymca.org](mailto:EHernandez@fcymca.org)**

**Program Overview**

Operation Strong & Ready (OSR) – "Veterans Only" is an 8-week/16 session program is designed to not only help our veterans get back into shape physically, but also mentally and emotionally. The program is held twice a week for approximately 1.5-hours. Each week a new topic will be discussed or a new resource will be provided to help better assist the veterans during their 8-week journey.

**Program Goals**

Increase participant's physical and mental health through exercise, peer support and educational resources.

**Who Can Participate?**

The program is open to any military veteran who desires to increase their physical activity, improve their overall health, and to connect with other like-minded veterans.

For more information, email our Military Outreach Program Coordinator, Eric Hernandez, at [EHernandez@fcymca.org](mailto:EHernandez@fcymca.org).

**STRENGTHENING OUR MILITARY FAMILIES™**  
YMCA OF FLORIDA'S FIRST COAST | [FCYMCA.org](http://FCYMCA.org)

**Program Cost**

Thanks to generous donations and sponsorships, this session is FREE for anyone qualified. Future programs may have a participant costs pending future funding.

**Program Details**

In a small group setting, an OSR Instructor will safely guide participants through 8 weeks of exercise programming designed specifically to meet the veteran's needs. The program consists of pre and post assessments, 16 exercise sessions with a certified instructor, healthy living and veteran resource discussions, and a YMCA membership for the participant and their immediate family members for the 8-week duration of the program.

**The 90-minute OSR session consists of:**

- ✓ Healthy-Living/Resources Discussions
- ✓ Warm-Up
- ✓ Teamed Cardio + Strength Workout
- ✓ Cool-Down

**Program will be held at  
Dye Clay Family YMCA. We  
will meet twice a week on  
Tuesday and Thursday's  
from  
10:00AM – 11:30AM.**



# 2023 FACT SHEET

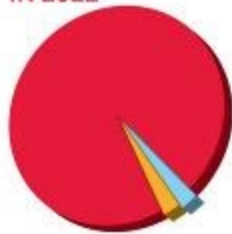
## OUR MISSION

On September 11, 2001, FDNY firefighter Stephen Siller laid down his life to save others when America was attacked. For over 20 years, the Tunnel to Towers Foundation has honored Stephen's legacy by supporting the heroes who continue to risk life and limb in the line of duty.

To date, Tunnel to Towers has delivered over 1,000 mortgage-free homes to our nation's heroes and committed over \$500 million across all of our programs.

This year the Foundation is delivering over 200 mortgage-free homes to catastrophically injured veterans and first responders, Gold Star families, families of first responders who leave behind young children and more than 1,500 housing units to combat veteran homelessness.

## ACCOUNTABILITY & TRANSPARENCY IN 2022



**95%**

of Fundraising Dollars  
Went Directly to Programs

**2.5%** **2.5%**  
Fundraising Management & General

Tunnel to Towers is committed to practicing sound fiscal management, organizational efficiency and program integrity.

The Foundation keeps fundraising and administrative costs to a minimum, with only a small percentage of funds allocated to overhead expenses.

In 2022, the Foundation's program service percentage on average was 95% — 95 cents out of every dollar went directly to our programs and services. Tunnel to Towers' Chairman and CEO, Frank Siller, is an uncompensated volunteer.

For nine years running, the Foundation has achieved the highest rating, four stars, from Charity Navigator, the nation's largest and most-utilized evaluator of charities.

OFFICE: (718) 987 1931 • WEB: T2T.ORG 2361 • Hylan Boulevard, Staten Island, NY 10306

## IN THE LINE OF DUTY PROGRAMS

To honor the lives lost on September 11, 2001, the Tunnel to Towers Foundation developed the **In the Line of Duty Program**, which provides mortgage-free homes to our nation's catastrophically injured veterans and first responders, Gold Star, and fallen first responder families with young children.

### ★ SMART HOME PROGRAM

The Foundation builds specially-adapted, mortgage-free smart homes that help our most catastrophically injured veterans and first responders to reclaim their day-to-day independence.

### ★ FALLEN FIRST RESPONDER PROGRAM

The Foundation pays off the mortgages for the families of law enforcement officers and firefighters who are killed in the line of duty, pass away from 9/11-related illnesses, and leave behind young children.

### ★ GOLD STAR FAMILY HOME PROGRAM

The Foundation honors the legacy of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice while serving our country by paying off the mortgage or providing the surviving spouses and young children with mortgage-free homes.

## HOMELESS VETERANS

In 2022, the Tunnel to Towers Foundation launched a new national campaign to eradicate homelessness in the Veteran community. This program provides a stable home and a wide range of needed services to diagnose and solve the root causes of veteran homelessness, addressing a veteran's specific emotional, financial, and physical issues.

In the program's first year, through grants and partnerships Tunnel to Towers has helped to provide 500 housing units and services to homeless veterans in their time of need.

This year Tunnel to Towers is providing more than 1,500 housing units and services to veterans. The Foundation believes no veteran should be living on the streets of the country they signed up to protect.

## NEVER FORGET PROGRAMS

The Tunnel to Towers Foundation made a promise to "NEVER FORGET" those lost on 9/11 and the continued impact the attacks have on America and its first responders.

To keep that promise and educate future generations, the Foundation engages people in events across America and is educating future generations. The Foundation launched the Tunnel to Towers 9/11 Institute™ in 2022.

The Institute comprises 9/11 Curriculum, the "Discovering Heroes®" Book series, a 9/11 Speakers Bureau, the 9/11 NEVER FORGET Mobile Exhibit and Russell F. Siller Memorial Scholarships.

The Tunnel to Towers 9/11 Institute™ Curriculum Units are unique and age appropriate for all K-12 students. By the end of 2022, the Institute's Curriculum Units were in use in 47 states and Puerto Rico.





## National League of POW/MIA Families

Hello everyone!

The League is always seeking out photos of POW/MIA flags, monuments, Missing Man Honors Tables, POW/MIA empty chairs, etc. from your community to feature on our social media pages and website.

Sharing with us is easy, just message your photos to our email -

[nationalleague@pow-miafamilies.org](mailto:nationalleague@pow-miafamilies.org)

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



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

PH ---703/465-7432

[www.pow-miafamilies.org](http://www.pow-miafamilies.org)

FAX ---703/465-7433

### 2024 ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you prefer to receive League material by email? Y\_\_N\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ @\$20/member

\_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

IRS EIN# 23-7071242

### WARRIOR WHEELS FOUNDATION INC

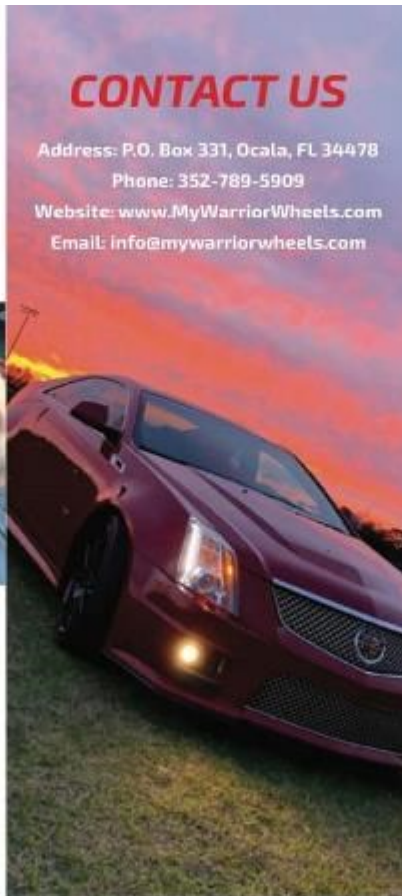
Originally established after the tragic passing of Sgt Terry Terrance Long, June 14 2019. In an effort to honor Terri & his passion for the FREEDOM OF THE RIDE, family, friends and community members came together and raised awareness to eliminate veteran & first responder suicide, as well to donate a motorcycle to a deserving hero. Thus, Warrior Wheels Foundation was established.



### HOW YOU CAN HELP

- **BECOME A MEMBER**
- **START A CHAPTER IN YOUR AREA**
- **ASK US HOW TO BE A MENTOR**
- **JOIN A WARRIOR WHEELS AUTO OR BIKE CLUB OR EVEN START ONE OF YOUR OWN**
- **DONATE**

VISIT  
[WWW.MYWARRIORWHEELS.COM](http://WWW.MYWARRIORWHEELS.COM)



## CONTACT US

Address: P.O. Box 331, Ocala, FL 34478  
Phone: 352-789-5909  
Website: [www.MyWarriorWheels.com](http://www.MyWarriorWheels.com)  
Email: [info@mywarriorwheels.com](mailto:info@mywarriorwheels.com)



SGT TERRANCE "TERRY" LONG  
UNITED STATES ARMY  
NOV 9, 1979 - JUN 14, 2014



### PURPOSE

Warrior Wheels Foundation's Purpose is to eliminate Veteran & First Responder suicide by providing crisis intervention, peer support & camaraderie that provides a healing environment & supportive community

### MISSION

Warrior Wheels Foundation's Mission is dedicated to providing freedom for Veterans, First Responders & their families through donated motorcycles and other vehicles, while raising support awareness and funds for other community organizations

### PROGRAMS

#### Freedom of the Ride

Donating motorcycles & other vehicles to Veterans & First Responders

The Warriors that join the FREEDOM OF THE RIDE program are hand selected by our board with community involvement. Recipients not only receive a motorcycle or other vehicle, but they embark on a one year journey with peer support, mentorship & camaraderie.



#### CAMARADERIE

Connecting with other Warriors & supporters to enjoy regular outings & the FREEDOM OF THE RIDE.

#### MENTORSHIP

Each recipient is assigned a mentor that will support them and their family on their journey through the program, transitioning into civilian life, employment & so much more, to ensure that they have the guidance & tools to be successful.

#### PEER SUPPORT

Warrior Wheels Foundation provides Peer Support Groups called "WARRIOR GROUPS" for all Veterans, First Responders & their Families. Warrior Groups provide a safe & confidential environment of camaraderie with fellow warriors that allow them find new ways to heal from trauma in their lives.

### Social Service Support



We provide 360° of support for our Veterans, First Responders & their Families through peer support, benefits assistance, financial assistance for vehicle recipients & other social services to ensure the success of our heroes

### Crisis Intervention



Warrior Wheels Foundation works alongside our police, fire, EMTs & other crisis Support organizations across the state and country to provide immediate crisis intervention support for our veterans, and first responders





# Join Our Team of Volunteers

We're currently looking for individuals who would be committed to restoring, maintaining, and being a docent on the USS Orleck.



## Requirements

- Veteran, Active Duty, Retired
- Minimum of 18 Years Old
- Healthy physically and mentally
- Youth groups with advisors
- Willing to volunteer where and when needed

## Registration On

[www.jaxnavalmuseum.org/volunteer](http://www.jaxnavalmuseum.org/volunteer)

## Skills Needed

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

## For More Info

[volunteer@jaxnavalmuseum.org](mailto:volunteer@jaxnavalmuseum.org)

## USS Orleck's Address

610 East Bay Street  
Jacksonville, FL 32202

I am sharing info and flyers for 2 of our different upcoming retreats that have openings: Military Support Retreat and Family & Friends of the Fallen Support Retreat. Each attached flyer has dates and locations for each retreat.

Both retreats are not no cost to attend and hotel, meal, and activities are provided (we cannot assist with transportation) and are for adults only. Details below on each:

**Military Support Retreat:** MSR is for the service member (any branch and any duty status) to attend WITH their primary adult support person (spouse, friend, partner,)

**MSR has 2 focuses:** -Education through large and small group discussions led by subject matter experts. -Nature-based recreational activities focused on providing an opportunity for bonding, fun, and/or relaxation.

Additionally, our Military Support Retreats provide:

A supportive environment in which Veterans & the person attending with them can connect with their peers, gain critical coping skills & insights, and interact with subject matter experts and other participants who can relate, understand, and offer support.

Many outdoor activities centered around nature-based recreation (I.E., Equine therapy, Marineland Aquarium visit with dolphin interaction, relaxation yoga class)

Large and small group discussions led by expert facilitators about concepts of post-traumatic growth, communication skills, soul injury, & more.

Peer support - “Soldiers saving Soldiers”      Methods that are supported by research

Therapeutic discussions and/or activities, not “therapy”      -Details and application directly at:

<https://gratitudeamerica.org/retreats/>

Family & Friends of the Fallen Support Retreat:

-This retreat supports those who lost a loved one in service to our nation and is open to all adult family members and/or those adults significantly impacted by the loss of the service member. The death can be from all conflicts/eras, all branches of service, and all circumstance of death.

-The retreat has a split focus on nature based recreation, creative arts, and interactive workshops and groups discussions with the goals of teaching supportive strategies & how to navigate challenges and to connect meaningfully with others at the retreat.

-This experience is recommended for those 1 year or more away from their loss.

-Details and application directly at: <https://gratitudeamerica.org/fallen/>

The 2 flyers are on the next page. Please do not hesitate to reach me with questions, etc

Thank you, Ashley

Ashley Semerenko, LCSW

GratitudeAmerica

Director of Veteran Engagement

GratitudeAmerica.org

THE  
**Family and Friends  
of the Fallen**  
SUPPORT RETREAT



**GratitudeAmerica**

*It's hard to  
forget  
someone  
who  
gave you  
so much to  
remember.*



Family and Friends of the Fallen Support Retreat is a transformative three-night experience providing solace and resilience-building for those who have lost loved ones as a result of service to our nation. This program provides a meaningful experience for participants to forge connections with peers and learn essential coping mechanisms for their healing journey. The retreat has a split focus on inspiring outdoor activities, and education focused on healing and supportive strategies.

Facilitated by a dedicated team of subject matter experts who serve as compassionate guides and mentors. The program is open to adult family members who have been directly impacted by the loss of one who served our nation, including all conflicts, all branches of service, and all circumstances of death. The circumstance of death does not have to be service-related. This Program is recommended for participants more than one year out from their loss.

**All accommodations, food, and  
activities are provided at no cost**

Please note: You must be 18 to attend, and no childcare is provided.

**Amelia Island, FL**

**Nov. 21 - 24, 2024**

***Thursday at 5:00pm – Sunday at 2:00pm***

If you are qualified and interested in applying,  
please visit our website at

**[GratitudeAmerica.org/fallen](https://GratitudeAmerica.org/fallen)**





## **How to report a Veteran's death to VA**

The passing of a Veteran is a solemn time that deserves to be recognized and reported with the utmost respect. Veterans have served their country and worked hard for their well-deserved benefits.

However, after a Veteran passes away, family members should report the death of the Veteran to VA as soon as possible to stop current benefits payments. If the death is not reported promptly, survivors or executors of the Veteran's estate may have to repay any overpayments received. Payments the deceased Veteran received may include compensation, pension, education or Veteran Readiness & Employment benefits.

VA encourages loved ones of deceased Veterans to follow the guidance below on reporting Veteran deaths to avoid falling victim to benefit scams.

### **How to report the death of a Veteran**

Calling is the fastest way to report a Veteran's death so VA will stop benefit payments, but there are other options available for reporting.

#### **Options for reporting:**

**By Phone:** Call VA 800-827-1000 (TTY: 711) and select 5. Agents are available Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. ET.

**In Person:** Go to a VA regional office. Find the nearest VA regional office.

**By Mail:** Department of Veterans Affairs Claims Intake Center, PO Box 4444, Janesville, WI 53547-4444. Include your relationship to the Veteran and any supporting documents that can help us verify the Veteran's identity. Examples of supporting documents are:

Death certificate or other public record of the Veteran's death

Discharge document (like a DD214)

If you report in person at a VA regional office or by mail, provide copies of:

Death certificate or other public record of the Veteran's death.

Discharge document (like a DD214).

Provide as much information about the Veteran as you can when you first report the notice of death to VA. This information will help VA verify the Veteran's identity. This information includes:

Full name.

Social Security Number or VA claim number.

Date of birth.

Date of death.

Branch of service.

### **Best practices to avoid survivor benefit scams**

Save important files, such as the Veteran's military service/treatment records, discharge papers and copies of their VA claims.

Go to the VA website. For guidance on creating an account and obtaining a VA security Personal Identification Number (PIN) to securely access benefit information. A VA Security PIN is an additional way to secure direct deposit accounts from theft and protect Personally Identifiable Information (PII).

Never give out PII via text, and be cautious of suspicious hyperlinks or unfamiliar hyperlinks.

If a survivor is missing a VA benefits payment, identifies a discrepancy in payments, or find suspicious activity with a direct deposit account, contact VA immediately at 800-827-1000.

Review all documents thoroughly. Survivors should never sign a blank form for some

one else to complete later. They should always review the completed form before signing and retain a copy of the completed form for their records.

For protection against identity theft scams, notify the major credit bureaus (Equifax, Experian and TransUnion) to update the individual's credit report with a deceased notice and notify the Veteran's financial institutions so all accounts can be closed or transferred appropriately.

According to AARP, scammers also use names published in obituaries to pretend to be long lost relatives of the deceased. When it's time to write your loved one's obituary, consider leaving out the birthdate, middle name, home address, birthplace and mother's maiden name.

For other scams predators use, visit [www.VA.GOV/VSAFE](http://www.VA.GOV/VSAFE).

VA is committed to delivering world-class care and benefits to Veterans and their dependents by providing survivors with ongoing support and assistance. Check to see if you qualify for survivor benefits, such as health care coverage, Survivors' and Dependents' Education Assistance Program, housing assistance, or even help with burial costs.

For more guidance on how to report the death of a Veteran, submitting necessary documentation and finding additional resources available, visit [VA Benefits For Spouses, Dependents, Survivors, And Family Caregivers | Veterans Affairs](#).

To report a missing VA benefits payment, identify a discrepancy in payments, or find suspicious activity with a direct deposit account, contact VA immediately at 800-827-1000. You may also file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission if funeral homes charge to set up funeral honors or schedule a burial with VA's National Cemetery Administration by visiting [reportfraud.ftc.gov](http://reportfraud.ftc.gov). For other scams predators use, visit [va.gov/vsafe](http://va.gov/vsafe).



## **Burials and Memorials**

**VA honors the service and sacrifice of Veterans and their family members.**

### **How to Apply**

**To find out in advance if a Veteran or family member is eligible for burial in a VA national cemetery, click “Apply for Pre-Need Burial Eligibility” to fill out and submit the application.**

### **Apply for Pre-Need Burial Eligibility**

**If pre-need eligibility has not been determined, upon the death of the Veteran or his or her spouse or dependent (also called the time of need), family members should locate the Veteran’s DD-214 or other discharge papers if readily available and click “Schedule a Burial” to begin the process. Then make arrangements with a funeral home, National Cemetery Scheduling Office, or directly with a VA national cemetery.**

### **VA Memorial Benefits**

**VA takes special care to pay lasting tribute to the memory of Veterans who served and sacrificed and that of their families. VA meticulously maintains 155 VA national cemeteries in 44 states and Puerto Rico and is working to increase access to accommodate Veterans and eligible family members close to home. Currently, more than 94 percent of Veterans have a burial option in an open VA, state or tribal veterans cemetery located within 75 miles of their home.**

**Note that most if not all of these benefits may be provided for Veterans who are interred in a State, Territorial or Tribal Veterans cemetery. Check with the cemetery to ensure coverage. Some benefits are also available for Veterans who choose burial in a private cemetery.**

**Veterans with a qualifying discharge are entitled to VA burial benefits. Spouses and dependent children are eligible too, even if they predecease the Veteran.**

**The following burial benefits may be provided:**

**Burial in a VA national cemetery**

**Opening and closing of the grave for burial of casketed or cremated remains, or placement of cremated remains in an above-ground vault, also called a columbarium**

**A government furnished grave liner**

**Perpetual care of the gravesite**

**A headstone or marker with an inscription**

**A burial flag**

**A Presidential Memorial Certificate**

**A dedicated memorial page on the Veterans Legacy Memorial site where friends and family can upload photos and remembrances**

**Burial in a private cemetery**

**A government headstone, marker, or medallion**

**A burial flag**

**A Presidential Memorial Certificate**

**Some survivors may also be entitled to VA burial allowances as partial reimbursement for the costs of funerals and burials for eligible Veterans**

**Please note that gravesites in a VA national cemetery cannot be reserved in advance. To prepare for a private cemetery burial, VA suggests families review these questions and complete required forms in advance.**

**VA Requirements**

**Discharge papers to establish your eligibility for burial services**

# VA Sunshine Healthcare Network (VISN 8)

13000 Bruce B. Downs Blvd. • Tampa, FL 33612 • [www.visn8.va.gov](http://www.visn8.va.gov)

## TAMPA

- Lecanto VA Clinic**  
2800 W. Man Anghelini St. S  
Lecanto, FL 33462  
(813) 744-4880
- Brockville VA Clinic**  
1840 Carter Blvd. Ste 108  
Brockville, FL 34601  
(813) 681-4882
- Dougherty VA Clinic**  
10171 Tower Blvd  
Dougherty, FL 32042  
(904) 766-2500
- New Port Richey VA Clinic**  
9927 US-90  
New Port Richey, FL 34624  
(727) 868-5300
- Lakeland VA Clinic**  
4027 South Poplar St  
Lakeland, FL 33811  
(813) 701-2400
- Hidden River VA Clinic**  
1075 Lake Street East  
Tampa, FL 33617  
(813) 988-4880
- Tampa VA Clinic**  
1300 Bruce B. Downs Blvd  
Tampa, FL 33613  
(813) 972-2800
- Tampa VA Outpatient**  
1300 Bruce B. Downs Blvd  
Tampa, FL 33613  
(813) 972-2800
- Tampa VA Outpatient**  
1300 Bruce B. Downs Blvd  
Tampa, FL 33613  
(813) 972-2800
- South Hillsborough VA Clinic**  
12075 Hillsborough Crossing Blvd  
Hillsborough, FL 34729  
(813) 988-4880
- Forty Sixth VA VA Clinic**  
1401 W. 46th St  
Tampa, FL 33613  
(813) 972-2800
- Forty Sixth VA South VA Clinic**  
1401 W. 46th St. Ste 100  
Tampa, FL 33617  
(813) 972-2800
- Deer Park VA Clinic**  
1100 Deer Park Blvd. Ste 101 and 102  
New Port Richey, FL 34622  
(727) 868-5300
- Winters Circle VA Clinic**  
1401 W. 46th St. Ste 100  
Tampa, FL 33613  
(813) 972-2800
- New Port Richey VA Clinic**  
1401 W. 46th St. Ste 101  
New Port Richey, FL 34624  
(727) 868-5300
- Bruce B. Downs Blvd VA Clinic**  
1300 Bruce B. Downs Blvd  
Tampa, FL 33613  
(813) 972-2800, (813) 972-2800
- Medical/View Lane VA Clinic**  
1300 Bruce B. Downs Blvd  
Building 10-7  
Dougherty, FL 32042  
(904) 766-2500
- Tampa VA Mobile Clinic**  
1300 Bruce B. Downs Blvd  
Tampa, FL 33613  
(813) 972-2800
- Tampa VA Mobile Clinic**  
1300 Bruce B. Downs Blvd  
Tampa, FL 33613  
(813) 972-2800

## BAY PINES

- C.K. Hill Young VAMC**  
1300 Bay Pines Blvd  
Bay Pines, FL 33708  
(727) 868-4880
- St. Petersburg VA Clinic**  
1401 W. 46th St. Ste 101  
St. Petersburg, FL 33716  
(727) 868-5300
- Bradenton VA Clinic**  
1401 W. 46th St. Ste 101  
Bradenton, FL 34208  
(813) 724-4880
- Sarasota VA Clinic**  
1401 W. 46th St. Ste 101  
Sarasota, FL 34237  
(813) 724-4880
- Sebring VA Clinic**  
1401 W. 46th St. Ste 101  
Sebring, FL 33872  
(813) 724-4880
- Port Charlotte VA Clinic**  
1401 W. 46th St. Ste 101  
Port Charlotte, FL 33952  
(813) 724-4880
- Lee County VA Clinic**  
1401 W. 46th St. Ste 101  
Lee County, FL 33909  
(813) 724-4880
- Naples VA Clinic**  
1401 W. 46th St. Ste 101  
Naples, FL 34102  
(813) 724-4880
- North Preserve VA Clinic**  
1401 W. 46th St. Ste 101  
North Preserve, FL 33924  
(813) 724-4880

## NORTH FLORIDA/SOUTH GEORGIA

- The Villages VA Clinic**  
4000 W. 34th Avenue East  
The Villages, FL 32152  
(352) 274-5000
- Ocala VA Clinic**  
4025 W. 46th St  
Ocala, FL 34476  
(352) 369-1500
- Sergeant Ernest I. "Bertie" Thomas VA Clinic**  
23811 Orange Ave  
Tallahassee, FL 32310  
(904) 476-4100
- Wakulla VA Clinic**  
4075 Highway 90  
Wakulla, FL 32389  
(904) 776-3620
- Yalobaha VA Clinic**  
1400 Veterans Dr. Ste B  
Yalobaha, GA 31787  
(478) 229-8112
- Waycross VA Clinic**  
1100 City Blvd  
Waycross, GA 31591  
(478) 864-6112, (478) 490-0000
- St. Marys VA Clinic**  
2403 Johnson St. Ste 1  
St. Marys, GA 31558  
(912) 761-9400
- Jacksonville 1 VA Clinic**  
1100 W. Jefferson St  
Jacksonville, FL 32209  
(904) 476-3000
- Jacksonville 2 VA Clinic**  
1000 University Blvd  
Jacksonville, FL 32216  
(904) 712-6300
- Jacksonville Southpoint VA Clinic**  
4900 Southpoint Dr North  
Jacksonville, FL 32216  
(904) 476-4000
- Lee C. Chase Jr. VA Clinic**  
100 Duval Avenue East  
St. Augustine, FL 32080  
(904) 421-0814
- Palatka VA Clinic**  
4000 State St. Ste 40  
Palatka, FL 32137  
(904) 278-9000
- Perry VA Clinic**  
1224 N. Peach St  
Perry, FL 32047  
(904) 229-6987
- Lake City VAMC**  
4170 Veterans Ave  
Lake City, FL 32925  
(850) 745-3000
- Wakulla Rural VAMC**  
3401 W. Jackson St  
Gainesville, FL 32609  
(352) 336-1610
- Gainesville VA Outpatient**  
1000 Southpoint Dr  
Gainesville, FL 32609  
(352) 336-4900, (352) 336-1610
- A.J. Baker VA Clinic**  
400 College Dr. Ste 100  
Milledgeville, GA 31061  
(706) 773-2700
- Gainesville 900 VA VA Clinic**  
1700 W. 10th St  
Gainesville, FL 32609  
(352) 336-1610, (352) 336-1610
- Gainesville 640 VA VA Clinic**  
1000 W. 10th St  
Gainesville, FL 32609  
(352) 336-1610, (352) 336-1610
- Gainesville 440 VA VA Clinic**  
1000 W. 10th St  
Gainesville, FL 32609  
(352) 336-1610, (352) 336-1610
- Lake City VA Clinic**  
400 W. 10th St  
Lake City, FL 32925  
(850) 745-3000
- Gainesville VA Clinic**  
1700 W. 10th St  
Gainesville, FL 32609  
(352) 336-1610

- Gainesville 640 VA VA Clinic**  
1000 W. 10th St  
Gainesville, FL 32609  
(352) 336-1610
- Gainesville 640 VA VA Clinic**  
1000 W. 10th St  
Gainesville, FL 32609  
(352) 336-1610
- Gainesville VA VA Clinic**  
1000 W. 10th St  
Gainesville, FL 32609  
(352) 336-1610
- Lake City VA Clinic**  
400 W. 10th St  
Lake City, FL 32925  
(850) 745-3000
- Gainesville VA Clinic**  
1700 W. 10th St  
Gainesville, FL 32609  
(352) 336-1610

## ORLANDO

- Tavares VA Clinic**  
1200 Tavares Blvd  
Tavares, FL 32780  
(407) 224-2800
- Weeks Pavilion VA Clinic**  
1000 Weeks Pavilion  
Deerwood, FL 32714  
(407) 224-2800
- Orlando VA Clinic**  
1000 Weeks Pavilion  
Orlando, FL 32714  
(407) 224-2800
- Lake Baldwin VA Clinic**  
1000 Weeks Pavilion  
Lake Baldwin, FL 32050  
(904) 248-4700
- Orlando VA Medical Center**  
1300 Veterans Way  
Orlando, FL 32817  
(407) 431-7000
- Kissimmee VA Clinic**  
700 State St  
Kissimmee, FL 34746  
(407) 538-2000
- Wesley VA Clinic**  
2000 Wesley Blvd  
Wesley, FL 32795  
(407) 431-7000
- Deltona VA Clinic**  
1000 Deltona Blvd. Ste 410  
Deltona, FL 32717  
(407) 224-2800
- Port Orange VA Clinic**  
1000 Port Orange Blvd  
Port Orange, FL 32129  
(407) 710-0000
- William T. Chappell, Jr Veterans Outpatient Clinic**  
1000 William T. Chappell, Jr  
Deerwood, FL 32714  
(407) 224-2800
- Orlando VA Mobile Clinic**  
1000 William T. Chappell, Jr  
Deerwood, FL 32714  
(407) 224-2800
- Palm Bay VA Clinic**  
1000 William T. Chappell, Jr  
Palm Bay, FL 32909  
(321) 728-0000
- Orlando VA Mobile Clinic**  
1000 William T. Chappell, Jr  
Deerwood, FL 32714  
(407) 224-2800

## WEST PALM BEACH

- West Palm Beach VA Clinic**  
1000 West Palm Beach Blvd  
West Palm Beach, FL 33411  
(561) 224-4880
- Ft. Pierce VA Clinic**  
1401 W. 46th St. Ste 101  
Ft. Pierce, FL 34947  
(352) 336-1610
- Port St. Lucie VA Clinic**  
1401 W. 46th St. Ste 101  
Port St. Lucie, FL 34956  
(352) 336-1610
- Stuart VA Clinic**  
1401 W. 46th St. Ste 101  
Stuart, FL 34994  
(352) 336-1610
- Deerwood VA Clinic**  
1000 Weeks Pavilion  
Deerwood, FL 32714  
(407) 224-2800
- West Palm Beach VAMC**  
1000 William T. Chappell, Jr  
Deerwood, FL 32714  
(407) 224-2800
- Delray Beach VA Clinic**  
1000 William T. Chappell, Jr  
Deerwood, FL 32714  
(407) 224-2800
- Deerwood VA Clinic**  
1000 William T. Chappell, Jr  
Deerwood, FL 32714  
(407) 224-2800



## CARIBBEAN REGION

- Mayaguez VA Clinic**  
1000 Mayaguez Blvd  
Mayaguez, PR 00980  
(787) 509-4880
- San Juan VA Clinic**  
1000 San Juan Blvd  
San Juan, PR 00919  
(787) 509-4880
- St. Thomas VA Clinic**  
1000 St. Thomas Blvd  
St. Thomas, VI 00980  
(809) 724-4880
- St. Croix VA Clinic**  
1000 St. Croix Blvd  
St. Croix, VI 00980  
(809) 724-4880
- Virgen VA Clinic**  
1000 Virgen Blvd  
Virgen, PR 00980  
(787) 509-4880
- Cabo VA Clinic**  
1000 Cabo Blvd  
Cabo, VI 00980  
(809) 724-4880
- Camden VA Clinic**  
1000 Camden Blvd  
Camden, VI 00980  
(809) 724-4880
- Guayama VA Clinic**  
1000 Guayama Blvd  
Guayama, PR 00980  
(787) 509-4880
- Empire State Outpatient Clinic**  
1000 Empire State Blvd  
Empire State, NY 10000  
(212) 422-4000
- Shades VA Clinic**  
1000 Shades Blvd  
Shades, VI 00980  
(809) 724-4880
- San Juan VAMC**  
1000 San Juan Blvd  
San Juan, PR 00919  
(787) 509-4880

## MIAMI

- Overhead Beach VA Clinic**  
1000 Overhead Beach Blvd  
Overhead Beach, FL 33442  
(407) 224-2800
- William Bill King Outpatient Clinic**  
1000 William Bill King Blvd  
Sarasota, FL 34237  
(813) 724-4880
- Pembroke Pine VA Clinic**  
1000 Pembroke Pine Blvd  
Pembroke Pine, FL 33429  
(813) 724-4880
- Hollywood VA Clinic**  
1000 Hollywood Blvd  
Hollywood, FL 33021  
(813) 724-4880
- Miami VAMC**  
1000 Miami Blvd  
Miami, FL 33133  
(305) 441-0000
- Miami Flagler VA Clinic**  
1000 Miami Flagler Blvd  
Miami, FL 33133  
(305) 441-0000
- Kennelwood VA Clinic**  
1000 Kennelwood Blvd  
West Palm Beach, FL 33411  
(561) 224-4880
- Key Largo VA Clinic**  
1000 Key Largo Blvd  
Key Largo, FL 33037  
(305) 851-0000
- Key West VA Clinic**  
1000 Key West Blvd  
Key West, FL 33040  
(305) 242-4880





*You've made our country*  
**A BETTER PLACE.**

---

**Enjoy your well-earned retirement at Silver Creek.**

---

Thank you veterans for your service and sacrifice! At Silver Creek, you can live life as you choose with greater freedom, comfort and independence through the unique living options at our community - including independent concierge living, assisted living, enhanced assisted living and memory care.

Discover first-class amenities, holistic wellness programming, gourmet all-day dining and vibrant activities while enjoying camaraderie and friendship at our close-knit community.

Call **800-821-8170** to schedule a tour and learn more.



165 Silver Lane | St. Augustine, FL 32084 | [SilverCreekRetirement.com](http://SilverCreekRetirement.com)



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

Assisted Living Facility #12928



# Stories of Service

St. Johns County Veterans Oral History Project



Stories of Service is an oral history project focused on the veterans of St. Johns County. The goal of this project was to collect, document, and preserve the memories of local veterans for future generations.

Materials collected by the Society for this project have allowed for the creation of two exhibits, one physical at the Oldest House Museum Complex at 14 St. Francis Street on display until January, one digital, accessible below and through our main website under the LEARN tab.

Items on display in both the digital and physical exhibits tell the stories of our local veterans, placing them proudly within the long and storied histories of St. Augustine and St. Johns County.

A sincere thanks to them all.



**View the Digital Exhibit:**

**<https://sahsstoriesofservice.omeka.net/>**



Main: 904-824-2872

Research Library: 904-825-2333

271 Charlotte Street, St. Augustine, FL 32084

Research Library located at 6 Artillery Lane, St. Augustine FL 32084



# NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS VETERAN HOMEOWNERS SAINT JOHNS COUNTY

## FREE HOME REHAB

We believe everyone deserves to live in a healthy home. At Operation Lifeline Inc., we feel particularly indebted to those who served in the Armed Forces and have committed to helping as many struggling veterans as possible. Our program provides home rehabilitation services at no charge to eligible veterans to address accessibility and HUD's Eight Healthy Homes Principles.

## QUALIFICATIONS

### Participant Eligibility:

- Verifiable veteran status
- Gross income below 80% of the area's median income
- Occupy the property as a principal residence and have proof of ownership
- Be in compliance with any existing mortgage on the property
- Be current with utility accounts and property taxes

### Property Eligibility:

- Must be a single-family residence
- Must be the applicant's homestead
- Applicant must own the property by fee simple title
- Must be free of any encumbrances other than a first mortgage
- Located within the unincorporated portion of Saint Johns County or the City of Saint Augustine Beach

\* Please review full eligibility criteria on our website \*

## CONTACT US TODAY

*Funding is Limited and Restricted  
to Saint Johns County Homes*

Please visit our website to fill  
out an application

[WWW.OPLIFELINE.ORG](http://WWW.OPLIFELINE.ORG)



**LIFELINE INC.**

# RESERVE COMPONENT TRANSITION ASSISTANCE ADVISORS



Are you a member of a Reserve Component? Have you served 180 or more consecutive days on Title 10? Do you have a service-related injury or health care issue? Perhaps you're about to retire from service and need someone to show you how to get back into the swing of civilian life. Getting to know your Reserve Component Transition Assistance Advisor (RCTAA) means you'll have reliable, professional support when you need it.

I am here to help with the following benefits:

- State and Local Benefits
- VA Assistance for Physical and Mental Health
- Disabled Veterans Program Assistance
- Education and Training Assistance
- Employment Assistance
- Health and Life Insurance
- Financial Assistance
- Legal Assistance
- Relocation Assistance
- Effects of a Career Change

Since 2005, RCTAAs have assisted Reserve Component service members with 180 days or more T-10 AD service obtain their federal benefits and entitlements. You could save an average of:

- Employment Counseling (\$75/hour)
- Health Insurance (\$1430/Service Member)
- Legal Assistance (\$255/hour)
- VHA DAV Benefit Received (\$15,034/Service Member)
- VA Benefit Received (\$5786/Service Member)
- Education Benefits Received (\$15,285/Service Member)

Average benefit per eligible Reserve Component service member across all benefits areas=\$11,970.

If you or someone you know needs assistance with federal benefits and entitlements, don't hesitate to contact me. You can either scan this QR code and fill out the attached form or contact me directly using the information below.



***Thank you for serving, now let me serve you.***

According to the National Defense Authorization Act 2013, [Reserve Component] transition assistance advisors "serve as points of contact to assist eligible members of the reserve components in accessing benefits and health care furnished under laws administered by the Secretary of Defense and benefits and health care furnished under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs" (Sec. 513).

**David "Dave" Kennett**

Reserve Component  
Transition Assistance Advisor  
Federal Contractor  
202-987-3864  
DKennett@gapsi.com

**DIRECTION | BENEFITS | COMPASSION**





# VA SURVIVOR BENEFITS & THE PACT ACT

ESGR4U

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



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

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

### How to Apply for DIC and/or Accrued Benefits

Surviving family members may apply for these benefits using the appropriate VA form on [va.gov/family-member-benefits](https://va.gov/family-member-benefits).



#### Dependency and Indemnity Compensation

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



#### Accrued Benefits

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

### Additional Survivor Benefits Available:



#### Burials and Burial Allowance

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



#### Final Monthly Payment

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



#### Home Loan Guaranty

Certificate of Eligibility is available for surviving spouses receiving DIC.



#### Education and Training

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



#### Health Care

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

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

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

## Surviving Spouse Milestones

*\*Not all milestones apply to every persons situation\**

### One Year Mark:

- Moving out of quarters (if applicable)
- Storage at government expense expires
- Apply for Home of Selection (HOS) extension
- HEART Act (one year from date SGLI/DG received)

### Two Year Mark:

- Loss of Spouse's VA Transitional DIC Benefits (\$250 per family per month)

*\*only applies to spouse with one or more minor children in household\**

- Apply for Home of Selection (HOS) extension

### Three Year Mark:

- TRICARE Healthcare and Dental benefits transitions to retiree rate for spouse
- Home of Selection (HOS) entitlement expires

### Spouse Turns 52:

- If disabled, can remain and retain SSA Survivor Benefits

### Spouse Turns 55:

- Can remarry and not lose SBP eligibility

### Spouse Turns 57:

- Can remarry not lose DIC eligibility

### Spouse Turns 60:

- Can remarry and retain SSA Survivor Benefits

## Surviving Youth Milestones

*\*Not all milestones apply to every persons situation\**

### Child Turns 16:

- Elimination of SSA entitlement for adult receiving Child in Care benefits

### Child Turns 18:

- College - Fry Scholarship \*Line of Duty Cases only\*
- College - Dependence Education Assistance \*VA Service Connected Death\*
- Loss of annuities (SSA, DIC, SBP) unless enrolled in school full time. SSA depends on age when graduating High School
- Loss of annual benefit report
- If DG/SGL beneficiary - If not already received

### Child Turns 21:

- Loss of DFFRS/TRICARE unless enrolled in school full time
- Enrollment in TRICARE Young Adult

### Child Turns 22:

- Loss of Child-Only SBP regardless of school enrollment

### Child Turns 23:

- Loss of DFFRS/TRICARE transitional Survivor unless incapacitated
- Enrollment in TRICARE Young Adult

### Child Turns 26:

- Loss of TRICARE Young Adult

### Child Turns 33:

- Loss of Fry Scholarship eligibility

## FLORIDA SURVIVOR OUTREACH SERVICES AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY





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

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

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

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

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

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

Be sure to stay plugged in to [www.va.gov](http://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](http://www.va.gov) or call toll-free at 1-800-827-1000.





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

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

Visit: [www.thefirewatch.org/watch-standers](http://www.thefirewatch.org/watch-standers) to learn more.

Thanks!

Nick Howland

Executive Director, The Fire Watch

[www.thefirewatch.org](http://www.thefirewatch.org)

904.525.1761



## Vietnam Veterans of America



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

### Chapter/President/email/Location

1046	Tommy Tittle	twt1968@att.net
1048	Bob Adkins	adk123robert@outlook.com
1059	Dave Treffinger	dtreffinger433@msn.com
1084	Bill Jefferson	bill_jefferson@comcast.net
1088	Roy (Corky) Rudd	corkstopper50@yahoo.com; Nassau
1092	Forest Hope	foresthope@usa.net; Gainesville
1134	Marvin Lagle	mdlagle@gmail.com; Baker



### REMEMBER WHAT OUR MEDAL STANDS FOR:

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

### Veterans Council of Clay County:

President: Ansil Lewis

Meeting day is the same, first Wednesday of the month, but the location is changed to Clay County Administration Building, 1st floor conference room, 477 Houston St., Green Cove Springs, FL 32043. Meeting start at 11 a.m.

## Mission Statement:

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



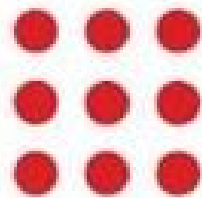
The Veterans Council of St. Johns County is comprised of representatives from various veterans' organizations that work with city and county governments and organizations to assist with matters concerning veterans and veterans' activities.

## What the Council has done:

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

SA-000314706401

rans  
Line



# Veterans Crisis Line

73-8255  
PRESS 1

## 1-800-273-8255 PRESS 1

Veterans  
Crisis Line  
00-273-8255 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 (8258)  
[www.suicideline.org](http://www.suicideline.org)

• • • • Confidential chat at [VeteransCrisisLine.net](http://VeteransCrisisLine.net) or text to (888)339 • • • •

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



## Veterans Crisis Line

1-800-273-8255 PRESS 1

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





## Legal Aid for Veterans

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

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

**1.866.486.6161**

**Call Today!**

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



## We Can Help With

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

Supported by the:



**Become a Watch Stander with The Fire Watch**

## Veterans Councils of Northeast Florida



### BAKER COUNTY

President: Larry Porterfield

Meetings:

Second Thursday of each month

Location:

MacClenny Primitive Baptist Church  
Fellowship Hall on North Boulevard

Time : 1800 (6pm)

### CLAY COUNTY

President: Ansil Lewis, SgtMaj USMC, ret

Meetings:

First Wednesday of each month

Location:

American Legion Post 250  
2608 Black Creek Rd  
Middleburg, FL 32068

Time: 1100 (11am)

904-658-0105

### 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)

### DUVAL COUNTY

President

Meetings:

Third Tuesday of each month

Location:

American Legion Post 37  
Main Building  
San Juan Avenue

Time: 1900 (7 pm)

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:rothfeldm@gmail.com)



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

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

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

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

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

***The Veterans Council will meet at the County Health & Human Services Building,  
200 San Sebastian View  
Auditorium, 1st floor***

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

*(physical location)*

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

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

*Service is by appointment.*

*Phone: 904-209-6160 Fax: 904-209-6161*

*Joseph D. McDermott Director*

*Lori Chapman Assistant VSO*

*Shauna Holton Assistant VSO*

*Jonathan Rojas Assistant VSO*

*April Manner Administrative Coordinator*

*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.*