



The Patriot Reader Newsletter

P.O. Box 2117

St. Augustine, FL 32085

Bill Dudley, Publisher

Michael Rothfeld, Editor

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Fellow Veterans:

Planning for our upcoming Veterans Day Weekend is progressing nicely. The committee meets bi-weekly and each element of the weekend is beginning to fall into place. Fund raising is still an issue. I urge each organization and individual to consider making a donation, no matter how small or large. Each dollar helps in some way to defray cost. With our goal of \$25K, we will be able to have an outstanding program this year. The parade line-up is meeting our expectations and filling in nicely. The Film Festival at the Corazon Theater will be a big hit and highlights the many documentaries we have produced honoring our veterans. Ticket sales for the Lee Greenwood concert on Sunday as the climax to the weekend events are selling at a brisk pace and should be a sell-out. Please get the

word out to your organizations and to your neighbors to join us on Nov. 11, 12, 13 as we honor our veterans. Representatives from your Veterans Council kept their commitment this week when they presided over an indigent burial at Jacksonville National Cemetery. A lone Marine who had recently passed away in our County having no family or loved ones, was laid to rest with military honors with retired Sgt. Major Ray Quinn, VSO Joe McDermott, and Chairman Bill Dudley presiding over the ceremony. A Color Guard and Bugler detail from USMC / BIC performed the flag folding and taps. This Marine was then laid to rest in the columbarium with his comrades. Your Veterans Council committed years ago that no veteran from our county would ever be buried without having family or fellow veterans there to preside over his/her service. We have honored that commitment faithfully.



Our Wreaths Across America Chairman Ray Quinn has recently reminded us in a letter he sent out that our program is off to a slow start. Our Veterans Council committed to assuring every headstone in our St. Augustine National Cemetery would have a wreath each year at Christmas. Please help us honor that pledge by doing your part. A check from your organization, a reminder to your friends, family, or those you do business with will be a big help in achieving our goal. Bill Dudley, Chairman Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc



Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home



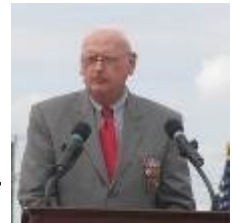
Congratulations to Kay Maley and her staff at the Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans' Nursing Home in St. Augustine. The 120-bed home has been notified by the American College of Health Care Administrators that it will receive the Eli Pick Facility Leadership Award, recognizing high performing skilled nursing facilities. Fewer than 9% of facilities nationwide qualify.



Several veterans from Clyde E. Lassen attended the Governor's Award Ceremony in Jacksonville this month. Each received a Governor's Service Medal.....



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



JNC SC Chairman,
Ray Quinn

The Support Committee invites everyone to attend its **next scheduled meeting, on Monday, January 9, 2017**. The meeting will be at **7:00pm**. The meeting will take place at Community Hospice, **4266 Sunbeam Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32257 in Conference Room A**.

+++++2015/2016 Officers of the SCJNC+++++

Chairman: Ray Quinn

Vice Chairman: Bill Dudley, Treasurer: John Mountcastle

Assistant Treasurer: Michael Rothfeld, Secretary: Kathy Church

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

JAG Officer: Patrick Bennett, Historian: Jody Raymond

*From the Editorial page of the August 27th
St. Augustine Record*

A BIG THUMBS UP

To all volunteers and organizations involved in the 10th annual Veterans Stand Down who worked together to gather the county's homeless or needy veterans for a day of haircuts, hot food, legal help and appreciation.

Quoted in the Record

"Veterans have served America... we (should) return the favor and sacrifice something we love- like our day and our time - to help them, because of how much they sacrificed for our country".

____ Troop 44 Boy Scout Ethan Repscoer, speaking of his take on the 10th annual Veterans Stand Down held at the Elks Lodge 829. Homeless vets were provided with hot meals, fresh clothes and a needed shot of appreciation for their service to their country.



Chairman Bill Dudley thanks volunteers for their help. VSO Tammy Shirley, Chairwomen of the Homeless Stand Down is on the right.

Saluting All Who Served

Veterans Day Weekend

November 11 - 12 - 13, 2016
St. Augustine, Florida



The weekend is a tribute to all veterans who have secured the freedom we enjoy today, and a testament to the enduring need for such selfless service. The festivities are dedicated to our patriotic service members who have served before, those serving now, and those who will serve in the future.

The Grand Parade Fri. Nov. 11- 11:00 AM - see map



Parade Route Map

The spectacular, nationally one of a kind, strictly Military 'Grand Parade' will have over 1,500 marchers: units from all the military services, 13th Army Field Band, re-enactor units representing every period from the founding of St. Augustine, St. Johns County ROTC / JROTC units, Generals and Admirals representing U.S. and foreign military, Consul Generals representing Spain, Great Britain and France. The U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for European and NATO Policy, James J. Townsend, Jr., will be our honored Grand Marshal.

The lead unit will arrive at the Reviewing Stand in front of the Castillo de Marcos at 11:00 AM. Church bells will ring and there will be a cannon salute from the fort officially starting the 'Grand Parade'. There will also be a flyover by vintage WW2 planes and current military aircraft.

Veterans Film Festival Corazon Cinema

36 Granada Street 32084



No Admission Fee
Public Welcome

FRIDAY November 11

1:00 pm The K9s For Warriors Story: Unleashing the Underdogs
1:30 pm Serve and Protect: Stories from WW II
3:00 pm Prisoners of War: Stolen Freedom

SATURDAY November 12

Noon K9s For Warriors Story: Unleashing the Underdogs
2:00 pm Serve and Protect: Stories from WW II
4:00 pm Korea: Forgotten War, Remembered Heroes
6:00 pm Vietnam: Service, Sacrifice and Courage
7:00 pm Prisoners of War: Stolen Freedom

SUNDAY November 13

1:00 pm Prisoners of War: Stolen Freedom
1:30 pm Vietnam: Service, Sacrifice and Courage
2:00 pm Korea: Forgotten War, Remembered Heroes

Lee Greenwood - 'God Bless The USA'

Veterans Benefit Concert St. Augustine Amphitheatre

Sun. Nov. 13 - 4:00 PM - Family Friendly Event



At 4:00 pm Sunday Lee Greenwood, Top of the "Country Charts" performer, will close the weekend with a spectacular patriotic benefit concert. Greenwood says of "God Bless the USA", "I wanted to write something that would unite Americans from coast to coast and to instill pride back in the United States. The song represents my family, my community and those men and women who have paid the price for the freedoms we all love and enjoy."

The net proceeds will be distributed to various veterans' organizations to assist our needy heroes through MOAA's 501(c)(3).

Tickets are available through St. Augustine Amphitheatre and Ponte Vedra Concert Hall Box Offices. 904-209-0367 Tickets will also be available at www.ticketmaster.com, all Ticketmaster outlets, or by phone at 800-745-3000

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



For additional information contact George Linardos CPT (USA-Fmr) at (904) 495-6111 or Bill Dudley LTC (USAF-Ret) at (904) 806-4712

Eleven Inducted into 2016 Class of the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame

TALLAHASSEE – Gov. Rick Scott and the Cabinet inducted eleven individuals into the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame. The unanimous vote for the Class of 2016 came during the Sept. 20 Cabinet Meeting at the Capitol.



Inductees are:

Reubin O. Askew, U.S. Air Force veteran (deceased)

LeRoy Collins, U.S. Navy veteran (deceased)

Jordon J. "J.J." Corbett, U.S. Army veteran

Rear Adm. Kevin Delaney, U.S. Navy, retired (deceased)

Lt. Col. Dennis O. Freytes, U.S. Army, retired

David L. Goetsch, U.S. Marine Corps veteran

Spessard Holland, Air Service, American Expeditionary Force veteran (deceased)

William L. Proctor, U.S. Army Reserve veteran

Col. Washington J. Sanchez Jr., U.S. Army, retired

CMSgt. Johnny E. Stewart, U.S. Air Force, retired

Frederick A. Taylor Jr., U.S. Army veteran

The Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame recognizes and honors those military veterans who, through their works and lives during or after military service, have made a significant contribution to the state of Florida through civic, business, public service or other pursuits. It is not a traditional military hall of fame, as it focuses on post-military contributions to the State of Florida.

An induction ceremony to honor the eleven inductees is scheduled for Nov. 9, 2016 at 2:30 p.m. in the Cabinet Room of the Florida Capitol.

For more information, visit <http://www.floridaveteranshalloffame.org/index.asp>

MOAA Presents Lee Greenwood in concert on November 13 at the St. Augustine Amphitheater. This is a Veterans Benefit Performance, tickets now on sale at the Amphitheater and Ticketmaster.

Lee Greenwood 'God Bless The USA'

Saluting All Who Served

Veterans Day Weekend
November 11 - 12 - 13, 2016

The Grand Parade

Fri. Nov. 11 - 11:00 AM
Castillo de San Marcos

Veterans Film Festival

Fri. - Sat. - Sun.
Corazon Theatre

Lee Greenwood - Concert

Sun. Nov. 13 - 4:00 PM
St. Augustine Amphitheatre

Family Friendly Event

**Veterans Benefit Concert St. Augustine Amphitheatre
Sunday Nov. 13 - 4:00 PM - Family Friendly Event
Tickets available through St. Augustine Amphitheatre or Ticketmaster**

Military Officers Association of America- Ancient City Chapter- 504(G)(E)
Veterans Council of St. Johns County- 504(G)(E)



For additional information contact George Linardos CPT (USA-Fmr) at (904) 495-6111 or Bill Dudley LTC (USAF-Ret) at (904) 806-4712



1340 E AIA South St. Augustine, FL 32080 Office: 904.209.0367 Fax: 904.209.3758 www.StAugAmphitheatre.com

**THE MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, ANCIENT CITY CHAPTER
AND THE VETERANS COUNCIL OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY FLORIDA PRESENT
“TOP OF THE COUNTRY CHARTS” PERFORMER LEE GREENWOOD WITH SPECIAL GUEST
AT THE ST. AUGUSTINE AMPHITHEATRE NOVEMBER 13, 2016**

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla. (August 24, 2016) – The Military Officers Association of America, Ancient City Chapter (MOAA) and the Veterans Council of St. Johns County (VCSJC) are pleased to announce that “Top of the Country charts” performer Lee Greenwood will perform a patriotic, family-oriented benefit concert on Sunday, November 13, 2016 at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre. All net proceeds will be distributed to various veterans’ organizations to assist our needy heroes through MOAA’s 501(c)(3). Tickets for Lee Greenwood will go on sale to the general public Friday, August 26 at 10 a.m.

Lee Greenwood is an icon in country music, with more than 30 albums to his credit. In fact, MCA released an album in 2013 called *Icon*.

With 7 number one songs and 25 charted singles, his hits include: “It Turns Me Inside Out”, “Ring on Her Finger Time on Her Hands”, “She’s Lyin’”, “I don’t Mind the Thorns if you’re the Rose”, “Dixie Road”, “Somebody’s Gonna Love You”, “Going Going Gone”, “You Got a Good Love Comin’”, “Fools Gold” and “Mornin Ride”. Several crossover hits include “Touch & Go Crazy”, “IOU” and the duet with Barbara Mandrell, “To Me”. An additional duet with Suzie Boggus, “Hopelessly Yours”, was nominated for a GRAMMY. The album *American Patriot*, recorded and released in 1992, went platinum in 3 months.

Lee Greenwood has won numerous industry awards including, Male Vocalist of the year for the Academy of Country Music in 1983, two Male Vocalist of the Year awards from the Country Music Association, 1983 and 1984 and a GRAMMY for Top Male Vocal Performance in 1985 for “IOU”. He also won CMA Song of the Year in 1985 for writing “God Bless the USA.” The song, “God Bless the USA” has been voted the most recognizable patriotic song in America. The singer knows first-hand what it’s like to have loved ones fighting for the freedom of all Americans as his father served in the Navy & Merchant Marine in World War II. “USA” is now part of the film for Homeland Security shown when swearing in new citizens to the United States.

“God Bless the USA” went far beyond what Greenwood expected when he wrote it in the back of his tour bus in 1983. The song has been in the top five on the country singles charts three times (1991, 2001 and 2003), giving it the distinction of being the only song in any genre of music to achieve that feat. It was also number 1 on the pop charts after 9/11/01.

Greenwood says; “‘USA’ is the song I always felt the need to write. I wanted to have something that would unite Americans from coast to coast and to instill pride back in the United States. The song represents my family, my community and those men and women who have paid the price for the freedoms we all love and enjoy.”

Greenwood performs for many charitable events and gives his time and name to numerous organizations and fundraisers. He is the National spokesperson for “Products of Good”, the Honor 1 Campaign, and on the advisory board of the “Challenger Commission”. The singer is also a member of the National Endowment for the arts Council, a Presidential appointment.

Tickets for **MOAA Presents Lee Greenwood w/special guest** will go on sale Friday, August 26 at 10 a.m. at the St. Augustine Amphitheatre and Ponte Vedra Concert Hall Box Offices. Tickets also will be available at ticketmaster.com, all Ticketmaster outlets, or by phone at 800-745-3000.

EVENT: MOAA Presents Lee Greenwood w/special guest
DATE: Sunday, November 13, 2016
TIME: Doors 3:00 pm / Show 4:00 pm
LOCATION: St. Augustine Amphitheatre
1340C A1A South, St. Augustine, FL 32080
ADMISSION: \$75.00 – Golden Circle
\$55.00 – Seated Pit
\$45.00 – Level 100
\$35.00 – Level 200
WEBSITES: www.leegreenwood.com; www.staugamphitheatre.com
CONTACTS: George Linardos, CPT (USA – Fmr)
(904) 495-6111
Bill Dudley, LTC (USAF – Ret)
(904) 806-4712

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2016 VETERANS DAY WEEKEND SCHEDULE

Thursday - November 10:

Veterans Commemoration Ceremony
7:00 pm - Trinity Episcopal Church

Friday - November 11:

Parade:

11:00 am - Parade lead unit arrives at reviewing stand - bids, Church bells ring, cannon salute from Castillo de San Marcos.
11:05 am - Parade commences, flyovers

Castillo de San Marcos:

8-45 am - Castillo de San Marcos National Monument opens.
11:00 am - Cannon salute to start parade.
11:30 am, 1:30 pm, 2:30 pm and 3:30 pm - Historic weapons firing demonstrations.

The Castillo de San Marcos will be open free to the public. The Castle's military history, represented by park volunteers will include representatives of the First and Second Spanish periods, the British period, the Civil War period, and World War II.

Military Film Festival - Corazon Cinema:

1:00 pm - *The K9s For Warriors Story: Unleashing the Underdogs.*
3:30 pm - *Serve and Protect: Stories from WWII.*
4:00 pm - *Prisoners of War: Stolen Freedom.*

St. Augustine Beach Veterans Day Ceremony:

4:00 pm - St. Augustine Beach Veterans Park (behind - South of Police Department).

Saturday - November 12:

Military Film Festival - Corazon Cinema:

12:00 pm - *K9s For Warriors Story: Unleashing the Underdogs.*
2:00 pm - *Serve and Protect: Stories from WWII.*
4:00 pm - *Korea: Forgotten War, Remembered Heroes.*
6:00 pm - *Vietnam: Service, Sacrifice and Courage.*
7:00 pm - *Prisoners of War: Stolen Freedom.*

Sunday - November 13:

Military Film Festival - Corazon Cinema:

1:00 pm - *Prisoners of War: Stolen Freedom.*
3:30 pm - *Vietnam: Service, Sacrifice and Courage.*
2:00 pm - *Korea: Forgotten War, Remembered Heroes.*

Lee Greenwood Concert - Amphitheater:

3:00 pm - Pre-concert reception with Greenwood and VIPs.
4:00 pm - Opening remarks, Military Hymn Medley, Patriotic Songs.
5:00 pm - Greenwood Concert.

**Veterans Day Weekend
Military Film Festival**

**November 11, 12, 13, 2016
Corazon Cinema, 36 Cordova St.**

Hosted by

**Veterans Council of St Johns County and
The Military Officers Association
of America - Ancient City Chapter**



Saluting All Who Served
Veterans Day Weekend
November 11 - 12 - 13, 2016
St. Augustine, Florida

"Public Welcome"

The Grand Parade Fri. Nov. 11 - 11:00 AM
Castillo de San Marcos
St. Augustine

Veterans Film Festival Fri. - Sun. - Sun.
Corazon Theatre
St. Augustine

Lee Greenwood - "God Bless The USA"
Veterans Benefit Concert St. Augustine Amphitheatre
Show: 11:00 - 5:5 - 4:00 PM - Family Friendly Event
Tickets available through St. Augustine Amphitheatre and Ticketmaster

Military Officers Association of America - Ancient City Chapter - 9675 1/2
Veterans Council of St. Johns County - 9912 1/2

MOAA

For additional information contact through a military CPT, 2016 A and at 904.482.6177
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Veterans Council of St. Johns County

Bill Dudley, Chairman, LTC (USAF-Ret)

Military Officers Association of America - Ancient City Chapter

George Linardis, President/Director, CPT (USA Emr)

Military Film Festival, Corazon Cinema, 36 Cordova St., St. Augustine

This is a free event and open to the Public.

Serve and Protect: Stories From WWII: "From a small senior community near St. Augustine, Florida over 30 WW II veterans came together to share their stories. Produced by Flagler College TV Workshop Students and directed by Michael Rothfeld".
Times Nov. 11 @ 1:30 pm, and Nov. 12 @ 2:00 pm

Vietnam: Service, Sacrifice, and Courage: "NE Florida Vietnam veterans contributed their tender, often hurt feelings to shape this project. They could be and are your neighbors, friends and relatives. This documentary was produced by Michael Rothfeld & the Veterans Council of St. Johns County & directed by Josh Wallace and filmed and edited by the students in the Flagler College Communications Department."
Times Nov. 12 @ 6:00 pm, Nov. 13 @ 1:30 pm

Prisoners of War: Stolen Freedom: "Prisoners of War: Stolen Freedom compares the stories of four American servicemen through their time as prisoners of war in three major 20th century conflicts; World War II, Korea and the Vietnam war. Produced by Michael Rothfeld and the Veterans Council of St. Johns County, directed by Eric Hagg".
Times Nov. 11 @ 3 pm, Nov. 12 @ 7 pm, Nov. 13 @ 1 pm

Korea: Forgotten War, Remembered Heroes: "This special documentary created by the students of the Art Institute of Jacksonville, who filmed and edited it, spotlights the stories of five First Coast Korean War Veterans. Directed by Dr. Nadia Ramoutar, produced by Michael Rothfeld and the Veterans Council of St. Johns County".
Times Nov. 12 @ 4 pm, Nov. 13 @ 2 pm

Unleashing the Underdogs: The K9s For Warriors Story: "This documentary highlights a unique program that pairs dogs and veterans as companions, and to assist in healing of PTSD. Directed by Dr. Nadia Ramoutar, produced by Michael Rothfeld, Dr. Nadia Ramoutar, Bill Dudley and the Veterans Council of St. Johns County".
Times Nov. 11 @ 1 pm, Nov. 12 @ Noon

A Special Thank you to Karla Wagner, owner of the Corazon Cinema for partnering with us in the Military Film Festival.

Featured veterans in the documentaries



Bob Ong, WW II veteran, standing in front of the Enola Gay



WW II veterans Wally Czechowicz and Bob Ong



Mario Patrucco, waving, second from the left, D Day Paratrooper



Vietnam veteran, Green Beret, Tom Waskovich receiving ribbon



WW II veteran, ex POW, Bill Ingram



Vietnam veteran, ex POW, Giles Norrington



Vietnam veteran, ex POW, Hal Kushner returns home

The background of the entire page is a faded American flag, showing the stars and stripes. The text is overlaid on this background.

Celebrate America!

An Evening of Patriotic Songs and Hymns of Praise.

Thursday, November 10, 2016 at 7 pm

**Join us as we form a mighty chorus to give thanks to
God for our Nation, our Heritage, and for all those
Men and Women, past and present,
who have served our country.**

Jon Gates at the Organ.

**Trinity Episcopal Parish
215 St. George Street, St. Augustine
(904) 824-2876**

Free Admission

Root beer floats for all!

Parking Available

The Third Annual St. Augustine Military Ball January 14, 2017

Presented by Forward March, Inc.

Military Ball Sponsors

Ponce de Leon - \$25,000

*Includes up to two tables for sixteen guests, special recognition at the Ball, plaque at the Hamblen House (American Legion), recognition in the Military Ball Program, inclusion in print media promoting event, and being featured on the 4wardmarch.org website.

Menendez - \$10,000

*Includes admission for eight guests, recognition at the Hamblen House, recognition at the Ball, recognition in the Military Ball Program, inclusion in print media promoting event, and being featured on the 4wardmarch.org website.

Five Star - \$5,000

*Includes admission for six guests, recognition at the Hamblen House, recognition in our Military Ball Program, inclusion in print media promoting event, and being featured on the 4wardmarch.org website.

Three Star - \$3,000

* Includes admission for four guests, recognition at the Hamblen House, recognition in our Military Ball Program, and being featured on the 4wardmarch.org website.

One Star - \$1,000

*Includes admission for two guests, recognition at the Hamblen House, recognition in our Military Ball Program and on the 4wardmarch.org website.

Friend(s) of The Hamblen House / American Legion Post #37 - \$500.00 Website recognition.

Individual/Company Name: _____

Contact Name Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Reservations for #_____. Please reply by January 8, 2017, checks made payable to Forward March, Inc. Please contact Dan Sullivan, 904-824-6060, with any question, or visit 4wardmarch.org.

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. 100% of each contribution is received by Forward March, Inc. Registration #CH38284.

Press Release ST. JOHNS, FLORIDA

On Friday, September 30th, the Creekside High School Athletics Department, in conjunction with the Bartram Trail Athletics Department, will be hosting a Military Appreciation Event. This event will be held during the annual rivalry football game and will take place at Creekside's Freedom Fields.

The theme is Red, White, and Blue in honor of the men and women who have fought for our country and those who continue to sacrifice for us. All active, reserve, and military veterans are invited to attend and will be admitted FREE with a valid military ID.



Prior to the football game, from 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM, Creekside will host a community tailgate and festival event. This event will be held on campus (south of the portables) and will include music, food, and games with activities featuring the Armed Forces and area businesses. Additionally, both schools will be collecting donations for the USO in order to prepare care packages for our deployed military.

Following the tailgate event, fans will move into the stadium where there will be a special recognition of our military guests, including our official game honoree, WWII veteran, Mr. Jim Snellen. In addition, Mr. Brennan Asplen, Deputy Superintendent of St. Johns County School District, will participate in the coin toss ceremony. The "Power of Creekside Band" combined with the "Spirit of Bartram Band" will perform the National Anthem while the BTHS Air Force JROTC presents the flag and colors. The two bands feature nearly 500 members and will put on a show you will not want to miss! During the game, concessions will be available with hamburgers, hotdogs, nachos, Chick-fil-A sandwiches, and more.

Creekside will host a Military VIP area in the east end-zone where refreshments will be served, compliments of our local Chick-fil-A. All Military guests and their families are encouraged to bring a lawn chair or blanket for seating closest to the action!

Attending and participating in the tailgate festivities is FREE. Tickets to the game are \$7.00/under 6 are free. Active military and veterans with military ID will be admitted FREE into the game and into the VIP area.

Tailgate festivities are from 4:30 PM – 6:30 PM and kickoff is 7:00 PM. All District rules apply. No alcohol, weapons, or tobacco will be permitted on campus.

Saluting All Who Served

Veterans Day Weekend

November 11 - 12 - 13, 2016

St. Augustine, Florida



“ Public Welcome ”

The Grand Parade

Fri. Nov. 11 - 11:00 AM
Castillo de San Marcos
St. Augustine

Veterans Film Festival

Fri. - Sat. - Sun.
Corazon Theatre
St. Augustine

Lee Greenwood - ‘God Bless The USA’

Veterans Benefit Concert St. Augustine Amphitheatre

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Tickets available through St. Augustine Amphitheatre and Ticketmaster

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



For additional information contact George Linardos CPT (USA-Fmr) at (904) 495-6111
or Bill Dudley LTC (USAF-Ret) at (904) 806-4712



Vilano Beach VFW Post 12142

Vilano Beach VFW Post 12142 now has 2 electric wheelchairs that can be give to a St. Johns County Veteran.

The Hoveround MPV5 is pictured below

We now also have a Hospital Bed (electric) complete with mattress for a St. Johns County Veteran.

A. J. Sartin, Commander - VFW VilanoBeachVFW@att.net (904) 669-1946



Now available TRUS T LIFT

Veterans Of Foreign Wars

" No One Does More For Veterans "

A local business, Beaver Toyota donates \$ 9000 to the local DAV Chapter to help them buy a new van to transport veterans to the VA facility in Gainesville. Well done Beaver Toyota!



Elks present \$2,000 to the Veterans Council to help fund the Homeless Stand Down. Passing on the grant from the Elks National Foundation, Fred DuPont presents the check from the Elks to Council President Bill Dudley, in return, Mr. Dudley presents a Council check to Tammy Shirley of the St. Johns County Veterans Service Office to begin purchasing needed items for our homeless veterans.



Reserve these dates, watch here for more information.

*The Ancient City Chapter, Military Officers Association of America,
and The Veterans Council of St. Johns County,*

Cordially invite you to join in celebrating

VETERANS DAY WEEKEND



*In St. Augustine, Florida,
November 11th, 12th, 13th.*

The Grand Parade

Friday, downtown, see reverse

Military Film Festival

*Friday, Saturday, Sunday,
at the Corazon Theater**

Patriotic Concert

*Sunday, St. Augustine Amphitheater**

**Times and details to be announced*

The Grand Parade

"SALUTING ALL WHO SERVED"

Route



Schedule

9:30 AM

*Parade participants assemble on Orange St.,
vicinity Visitors Center.**

10:00 AM

*Non-parading color guards assemble at the
Castillo de San Marcos.**

**Participants MUST report on time.*

11:00 AM

*Parade starts, column passes reviewing stand at
the Castillo de San Marcos, fly over.*

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



We are inviting all veterans to visit our website at:
<http://www.veteranscouncilofstjohns.org>

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

Please join our group on Facebook at:
VeteransCouncilofStJohnsCounty,FL

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

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

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

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



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
VETERANS COUNCIL ANNOUNCES
WREATH CAMPAIGN

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

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

The community is invited to send donations to purchase the wreaths. Individual wreaths are \$15.00. If two wreaths are purchased at \$30.00 the council receives a free wreath (3 for cost of 2). Corporate sponsorships are available and greatly appreciated.

The community is invited to the St. Augustine National Cemetery on December 17, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. for a ceremony followed by placement of the wreaths. Youth organizations are encouraged to participate to learn and honor our veterans.

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

For any additional information please contact the campaign chair, SGM (Ret) Ray Quinn at 904.797.5622.



Patient Access Progress Update

Release 53 – September 8, 2016



Department of Veterans Affairs

Summary

In keeping with the commitment to improve transparency in the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) processes and in accordance with Section 206 of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (VACAA), VA today released the [latest update of facility-level patient access data](#) and is highlighting notable access improvements. In this release, VA is providing one report:

- **Pending Appointments (Snapshot of Data on September 1, 2016)***

Notable Improvements:

1. Between June 1, 2014, and September 1, 2016, the electronic wait list (EWL) went from 56,271 appointments to 32,073 a 43 percent reduction.
2. When compared to the January 1, 2016 pending appointments data set, the September 1, 2016 pending appointment data set shows VA has increased the number of overall pending appointments by 618,952 while decreasing the number of pending appointments greater than 30 days by 12.54 percent.
3. VHA and the Choice contractors created over 3.1 million authorizations for Veterans to receive care in the private sector from July 31, 2015 through June 30, 2016. This represents a 5 percent increase in authorizations when compared to the same period in 2014/2015.



NAVY BASE BIRTHDAY BALL

Back in the days of old, when ships were made of Wood, and Sailors were made of steel, the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Admiral Elmo Zumwalt authorized recognition of 13 Oct as the Navy birthday. Unlike other Navy celebrations, the Navy Birthday is intended to be an internal activity for members of the active forces and reserves, as well as retirees, and dependents. Since 1972, each CNO has encouraged a Navy-wide celebration of this occasion “to enhance a greater appreciation of our Navy heritage, and to provide a positive influence toward pride and professionalism in the naval service”. This year’s theme is “America’s Sailor. For 241 Years:Tough, Bold and Ready.”

The 241st Navy Tri-Base Birthday Ball will be held on October 1, 2016 at the Renaissance Hotel in the World Golf Village in St. Augustine, FL. The keynote speaker will be Admiral Kurt Tidd, Commander, United States Southern Command. The public is welcome to attend and celebrate with our brave men and women who serve this great country. Attire: Civilian: Black tie or coat and tie. Military: Mess Dress with mini medals or Service dress blues with large medals.

Please join us as we celebrate 241 years of Honor, Courage and Commitment. The Cocktail Reception will begin at 6PM, the dinner and Official Program will start at 7 PM. Dancing will begin at the completion of the program.

Individual ticket prices are: E1-E6: \$25, E7-04: \$45 and 05-Civilian (including Retired): \$65.

Tickets can either be purchased through your Command or Base representative or online at www.tribasenavyball.com. A special hotel reservation link can be found on this website.

Don’t delay as tickets are limited and a sellout is expected.

St. Augustine's Military Film Festival

*Please mark your calendars and reserve these dates, November 11—13,
this is a free event and open to the public*

The Veterans Council of St. Johns County and the Military Officers Association of America is presenting a series of documentaries featuring the stories of local veterans who have honorably served our country.

Accompanying the documentaries will be talks by the veterans in the documentaries as well as representatives from various national veterans organizations.

The documentaries feature local veterans who have served in World War II, Korea, Vietnam and Iraq/Afghanistan.

The documentaries will be preceded by introductions by the men in the documentaries, as well as representatives from the Korean War Veterans Association, the Vietnam Veterans of America, the President/CEO of PBS TV in Jacksonville, the Chairman of the National POW/MIA Organization, "The Ride Home", and the producers and directors of the documentaries. More names to follow.

Friday, November 11

1:00 pm, K9s For Warriors, Unleashing the Underdogs

1:30 pm, Serve & Protect, Stories of Coquina Crossing World War II Veterans

3:00 pm, Prisoners of War, Stolen Freedom

Saturday, November 12

Noon, K9s For Warriors

2:00 pm, Serve & Protect

4:00 pm, Korea: Forgotten War, Remembered Heroes

6:00 pm, Vietnam: Service, Sacrifice & Courage

7:00 pm, Prisoners of War, Stolen Freedom

Sunday, November 13

1:00 pm, Prisoners of War, Stolen Freedom

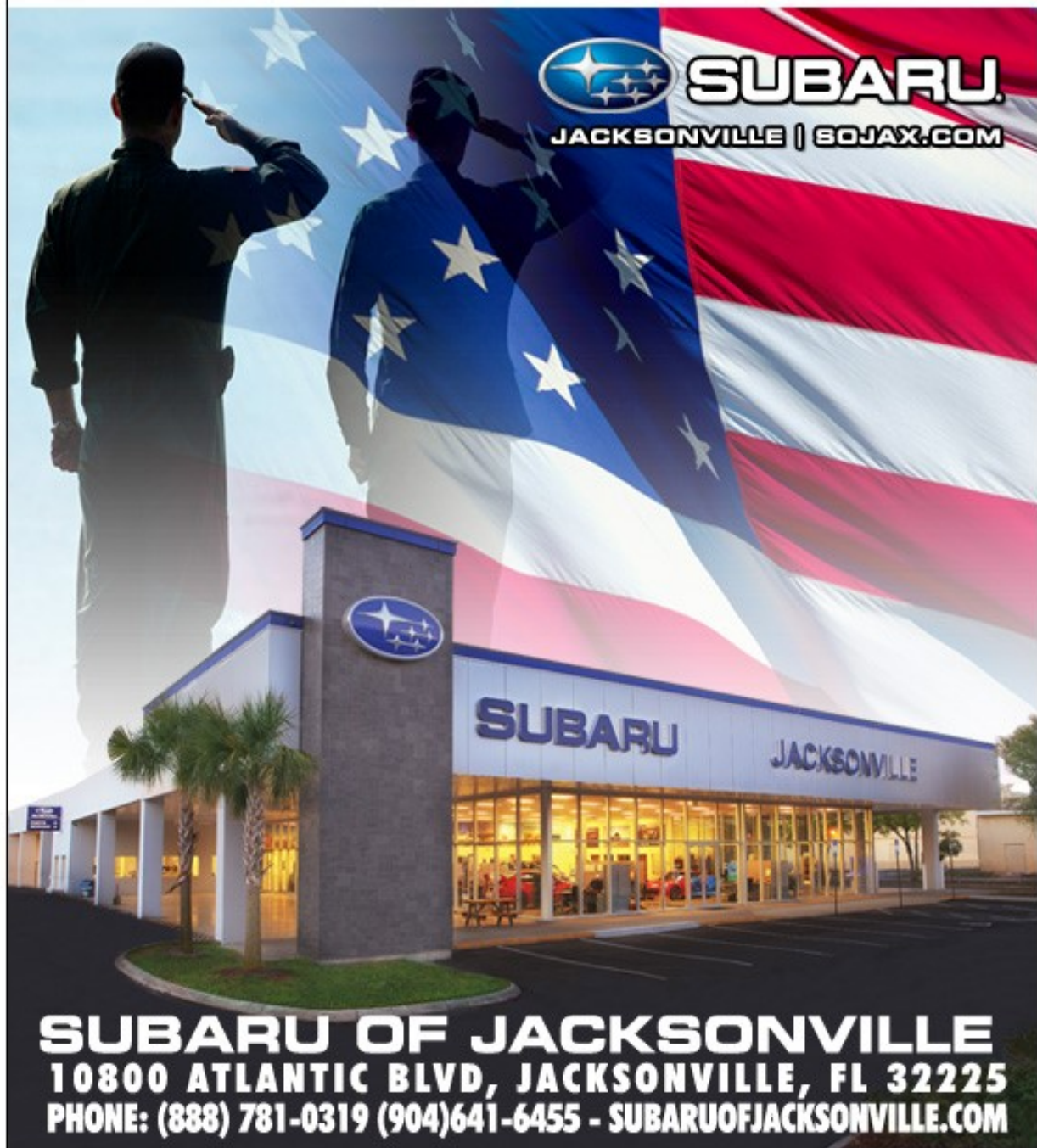
1:30 pm, Vietnam: Service, Sacrifice & Courage

2:00 pm, Korea: Forgotten War, Remembered Heroes

PLEASE JOIN US and BRING THE FAMILY



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VA's Proposes Rule to Consider Certain Diseases Associated with
Exposure to Contaminants in the Water Supply at Camp Lejeune

VA to provide presumptive service connection for related diseases

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has published proposed regulations to *establish presumptions for the service connection of eight diseases affecting military members exposed to contaminants in the water supply* at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

The presumptive illnesses apply to active duty, reserve and National Guard members who served for no less than 30 days at Camp Lejeune *between August 1, 1953 and December 31, 1987, and are diagnosed with the following conditions:*

- adult leukemia
- aplastic anemia and other myelodysplastic syndromes
 - bladder cancer
 - kidney cancer
 - liver cancer
- multiple myeloma
- non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
- Parkinson's disease

"We have a responsibility to take care of those who have served our Nation and have been exposed to harm as a result of that service," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert A. McDonald. "Establishing a presumption for service at Camp Lejeune will make it easier for those Veterans to receive the care and benefits they deserve."

Environmental health experts on VA's Technical Workgroup conducted comprehensive reviews of scientific evidence, which included analysis and research done by the Department of Health and Human Service's Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), Environmental Protection Agency, the International Agency for Research on Cancer, the National Toxicology Program, and the National Academies of Science.

Military members with records of service showing no less than 30 days of service, either concurrent or cumulative, at Camp Lejeune during the contamination period can already be granted Veteran status for medical benefits, following passage of the Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012.

In the early 1980s, volatile organic compounds, trichloroethylene (TCE), a metal degreaser, and perchloroethylene, a dry cleaning agent (PCE), as well as benzene, and vinyl chloride were discovered in two on-base water supply systems at Camp Lejeune. These systems served the housing, administrative, and recreational facilities, as well as the base hospital. The contaminated wells supplying the water systems were shut down in February 1985.

VA acknowledges that current science establishes a link between exposure to certain chemicals found in the water supply at Camp Lejeune and later development of one of the proposed presumptive conditions. However, VA experts agree that there is no scientific underpinning to support a specific minimum exposure level for any of the conditions. Therefore, VA welcomes comments on the 30-day minimum exposure requirement and will consider other practical alternatives when drafting the final rule. VA also notes that the proposed 30-day requirement serves to establish eligibility for service connection on a presumptive basis; nothing in this proposed regulation prohibits consideration of service connection on a non-presumptive basis. The 30-day public comment period on the proposed rule is open until Oct. 10, 2016.

Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc. Minutes of August 25, 2016

Officers present: Chairman Bill Dudley; Vice Chairman Ray Quinn, Secretary Michael Rothfeld;

Not Present: Treasurer John Mountcastle

Chairman Dudley called the meeting to order at 1903 hours

Chairman Dudley led the Pledge to the Flag

Vice Chairman Quinn gave the Invocation

Last month's Minutes were approved as presented at the meeting.

The Treasurer's Report was approved as presented at the meeting.

Visitors:

Don Foy, Sr and Ed O'Sullivan from the Korean War Veterans Association Jacksonville chapter 200



Selena Hernandez-Haines, Director of Military Recruitment, Flagler College

Christopher Tatem from Humana MarketPoint

Jim Bush, North Area Manager, FPL

Hala Laquidara, Special Events Coordinator, St Augustine Beach

Speakers:

Selena Hernandez-Haines of Flagler College

Fred Dupont: Honor Guard performs Military Honors for Honorably Discharged Veterans only

Committee Reports:

Joe McDermott, SJCVSO: VA now provides approved service and guide dogs for vets with mental health issues.

CBOC negotiations with County are still ongoing for a permanent site.

Homeless Stand Down a huge success thanks to Tammy and the many volunteers who helped.

St Augustine DAV now has money to purchase a van, to take vets daily to Gainesville thanks to a \$ 8,900 donation from Beaver Toyota.

Ray Quinn: Ray will be in charge of the Wreaths Across America program again. WAA has to raise \$ 9,000 to cover all grave sites with wreaths. Please ask your organizations to donate to this very worthy cause.

Ray asked for Parade volunteers to meet at 8:30 am on Orange St.

John McGinty, VVA St Augustine chapter presented SGM Quinn with a check for Wreaths Across America, picture on right



Don Foy, Sr and Ed O'Sullivan from the Korean War Veterans Association Jacksonville chapter



Fred Dupont speaks about Military Honors



Michael Rothfeld: Michael spoke about the dates, times, location of the Military Film Festival as well as who the speakers for each documentary would be.

Chairman Dudley: spoke in detail about the Veterans Day Parade, there will be a vintage plane flyover, a Coast Guard Helicopter, Foreign Consulate representatives from Spain, France and England, Miami National Guard Band, High School JROTC marching in the parade, military rolling stock, etc.

Lee Greenwood concert tickets are now on sale, presented by MOAA Ancient City Chapter.

The Veterans Council is initiating a new program it hopes will go national: Vets 4 Cops. A LLC and a 501 C3 have been formed for this purpose. Chairman Dudley asked us all to thank all First Responders that we meet to show them our gratitude for all that they do to keep us and our families safe.

The name sake of the Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home, the USS Lassen is now Homeported in Mayport. The Skipper and Master Chief presented Lassen with a shadow box flag that flew over the USS Lassen.

Meeting ended at 2012

Next Meeting: Thursday, September 29th, 7 pm, Elks Lodge # 829, A1A S., St. Augustine

Respectfully submitted by Michael Rothfeld, Secretary, Veterans Council SJC



Chairman Dudley speaks about **Vets 4 Cops**



MISSING IN AMERICA PROJECT - NATIONWIDE STATISTICS AS OF 9/15/2016

Our Progress to Date

Total Funeral Homes Visited - 2,013

Cremains Found - 13,848

Veterans Cremains Identified - 3,149

Veterans Interred - 2,878

Please go to www.miap.us and read all about this project. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer for MIAP please let me know. IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO!!!!



State Veterans' Homes

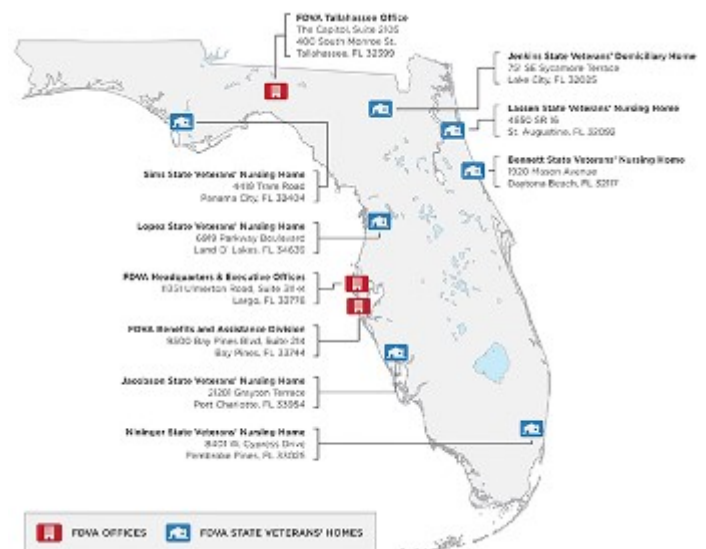
Florida's network of six state veterans' nursing homes has garnered the notable distinction of having all of its skilled nursing facilities rated at five stars by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. CMS created the Five-Star Quality Rating System in 2008 to help residents, their families and caregivers compare nursing homes more easily and to help make meaningful distinctions between high and low performing nursing homes. According to CMS, nursing homes with five stars are considered to be in the top 20 percent and have above average quality compared to other nursing homes in the state.

Nursing Homes

Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans' Nursing Home in St. Augustine – The Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans' Nursing Home in St. Augustine (St. Johns County) opened to residents in 2010. The 120-bed facility offers skilled nursing care and can accommodate 60 residents with dementia/Alzheimer's disease. Call (904) 940-2193 for more information. Address: 4650 State Road 16, St. Augustine, FL 32092.

Resident Admission: Basic admission requirements for all state veterans' homes include an honorable discharge, state residency prior to admission, and certification of need of assisted living or skilled nursing care as determined by a VA physician. For more information, call (727) 518-3202 Ext. 5562.

Employment: For employment opportunities at the homes, call the FDVA Human Resources Office at (727) 518-3202, Ext. 5615 or visit the People First Website at <https://peoplefirst.myflorida.com>



FALLEN HEROES MILITARY TRIBUTE – NOVEMBER 6 to 16, 2016

A Fallen Heroes Military Tribute occurs in Saint Johns' County every Memorial Day and Veterans' Day. This semi-annual event honors Floridian military service members who perished in Iraq and Afghanistan. Helping Hands of St John's County is a nondenominational volunteer group that sponsors this program with the hands-on assistance of different church congregations every six months. Our Lady of Good Counsel church at 5950 State Road 16 in Saint Augustine will stage the **4th Fallen Heroes Military Tribute** on church property. The remembrance event includes **Opening (Nov. 6th)** and **Closing (Nov. 16th)** ceremonies comprised of patriotic songs, a blessing of the Field of Crosses, distinguished speakers with military member talks, Honor Guard gun salutes and buglers rendering Taps. The keynote speaker for the Opening Ceremony (November 6th at 3:00 p.m.) is Ray Quinn, our Veterans Council Vice Chairman. At the Closing Ceremony there will be a reading of the deceased service member's names with a Ship's Bell rung for each name. A bagpiper will accompany the reading with "Amazing Grace." A gun salute and a bugler playing Taps at sundown will complete the tribute. The ceremonies are reverent and honor the ultimate sacrifice of Floridians.

The "Field of Crosses" memorial consists of 360+ four-foot white crosses to represent the Floridians who died in the subject wars. Each cross has a placard affixed to it with the service person's photo, name, rank, branch of service, birthplace, age, date and place of death. Eight larger white crosses are presented to honor all other American servicemen and women casualties from WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Persian Gulf, Beirut, Iraq and Afghanistan. The total number of troops deceased in each of these wars is on each respective cross. A stroll through the "Field of Crosses" can be sobering.

The "Field of Crosses" will remain open to the public daily from November 6th through the 16th. Each evening at 7:00 p.m. "Taps" will be performed. Visitors to the site are asked to be respectful and to refrain from bringing pets into the "Field of Crosses." This is an opportunity for families to pay respect to these "Fallen Heroes" during the time of Veteran's Day. No admission fee; no expected donation.

For additional information, contact Ed Moitoza at 940-8956 (Moitozaed@gmail.com) or Denny Kompare at 940-7820 (dkompare39@yahoo.com).

Vets 4 Vets
Quarterly Gathering of Veterans
Oct 22nd (1100-1300)

in the

VETERANS MEMORIAL ARENA



Attention Veterans and Veteran organizations

Join us!

Quarterly gathering of Veterans in the arena named in honor of Veterans

V4V contact information:

Email: Vets4VetsNJax@gmail.com

Phone: 904-234-3540

Mission

Unite the Veterans and Veteran Organizations in NE Florida in order to gain the collective support needed to address issues concerning Veterans and their families, provide a forum where Veteran organizations can get informed, share agendas with other organizations, communicate Veterans' information, link up with prominent civic entities to gain support for Veterans and Veterans issues; be an advocate for the Veterans community in Jacksonville/NE Florida, share Veteran's values with the community through civic action programs; identify, support and encourage qualified Veterans to run for public office.

Vision

Form a Veterans Council made up of representatives from NE FL Veterans organizations that will ensure Veterans are always respected and recognized for their service, that they always receive the benefits and entitlements they were promised and earned; ensure all veterans especially disabled Veterans are given a fair deal. Gathering of Veterans



Wounded Warrior Project
4899 Belfort Road, Suite 300
Jacksonville, Florida 32256
O: 904.405.1287



09/21/2016

Robert Adelhelm,
Lt. Colonel, USMC, Retired

Robert Adelhelm,,

Thank you for supporting Warriors Speak, a Wounded Warrior Project (WWP) program. Warriors Speak is a prestigious group of wounded warriors and caregivers who share their unique stories with the public. While sharing their inspirational stories of courage, perseverance, recovery, and growth the speakers describe how WWP has aided them in recovery and the transition back to civilian life.

When you arrange to have a wounded warrior or caregiver speak at your event, you are not only providing a wonderful opportunity for your guests—you are also helping that hero in his or her recovery and drawing much-needed attention to the growing needs of our wounded warriors.

With this letter, we are confirming Jennifer Mackinday will be speaking on 10/22/2016 at the Veterans Memorial Arena from 11:00 AM to 11:15 AM. Jennifer will bring informational pamphlets to distribute. Speakers will not be permitted to move equipment or assist in heavy-lifting during your event set-up or breakdown.

The goal of Warriors Speak is to educate the American public on the struggles our nation's service members overcome through the extraordinary and inspiring stories shared by wounded warriors and caregivers. If you have any questions prior to the speaking event, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Again, we appreciate your support of Warriors Speak, and we look forward to attending your event!

Sincerely,

The Warriors Speak Team

DUTY ★ HONOR ★ COURAGE ★ COMMITMENT ★ INTEGRITY ★ COUNTRY ★ SERVICE

woundedwarriorproject.org



JENNIFER MACKINDAY

SPOKESPERSON

Jennifer Mackinday understands the complexities of being a full-time caregiver. “I had to start from scratch finding the answers,” says Jennifer. “My brother’s care required a unique set of skills that my background did not include. That’s why the connections I’ve made through Wounded Warrior Project® (WWP) have been invaluable.”

In 2005, her brother James suffered multiple injuries while on a mission with his Army Stryker Brigade Combat Team in Iraq. James endured partial hearing and vision loss, traumatic brain injury (TBI), and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Jennifer discovered WWP when another injured veteran invited James and his family to the Chicago Air & Water Show with a group of WWP Alumni. As Jennifer recalls, they almost didn’t make the trip. “It’s a challenge for my brother to travel. However, learning more about WWP was important because my family felt isolated. At the time, we didn’t know any other military families going through what we were going through. A support structure for us didn’t exist – or so we thought.”

Jennifer’s teenage son, Grant, recognized the spirit of camaraderie among the WWP Alumni and families at the event. As Jennifer remembers it, he said to her in the car on the way home, “These people understand. They really get it. They know what it’s like to be us.”



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woundedwarriorproject.org





That outing to the air show was the beginning of a life-changing experience for James. Now, Jennifer says her family has a team of people through WWP who are eager to provide support. Perhaps most importantly was her discovery of the WWP Independence Program, which has helped James live on his own without sacrificing the care he needs.

“Wounded Warrior Project has been a real difference-maker for us,” says Jennifer. “The progress I’ve seen my brother make has inspired me to help others.”

Jennifer’s journey has helped her understand the sacrifices, challenges, and unmet needs that caregivers face every day. Her message of love and support is clear and unapologetic: “I do not see my brother’s needs as a burden. If I had to drop everything to help him, I would and, quite frankly, I sometimes have. Thankfully, Wounded Warrior Project helps shoulder the needs.”

Today, Jennifer wonders what life would be like if she had declined the invitation to attend the air show. “Sometimes you have to take a very scary step off a very steep cliff. I look forward to helping as many people as I can and tell them, ‘You can make it.’”



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woundedwarriorproject.org

Veterans Treatment Court looks to new approach

By JARED KEEVER jared.keever@staugustine.com

This article is reprinted in its entirety from the St. Augustine Record



Likely before the end of the year, veterans in St. Johns County caught up in the legal system may be able to get a hand up with the help of Veterans Treatment Court.

Speaking before a small gathering at St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church in Lincolnton Monday night, Judge Howard O. McGillin provided some insight about the genesis of the veterans court — a concept first developed by a judge in Buffalo, New York — in this county and how he came to be involved.

A veteran himself, McGillin came up as an Army lawyer with the Judge Advocate General's Corps. There, working as a prosecutor, he said there were five guiding principles for legal proceedings: punishment, specific deterrence, general deterrence, retribution and rehabilitation. According to McGillin, that fifth component is missing in much of the criminal justice system today for a variety of reasons.

"In most of America we have largely given up on rehabilitation," he said.

That can be a problem for veterans living with post traumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injury. Problems for veterans living with those conditions, according to McGillin, often manifest as drug charges for individuals who are "self-medicating," or they can include DUI or even domestic violence charges.

With statistics suggesting that at least 26 percent of those having served in recent wars are coming back afflicted — and countless others from wars past — he said there is a significant problem that can't be addressed appropriately by focusing only on deterrence and punishment.

McGillin, who just won his first election after having been appointed to the bench in the 7th Judicial Circuit about 1½ years ago, said he started working incrementally toward a veterans court about three years ago when he was in private practice.

That was when St. Johns County Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley contacted him to help a veteran who was struggling with PTSD from his time as a medic in Iraq. The man had lost his wife to divorce, then just a few months later lost a child who was hit by a car.

Stricken with grief, the man couldn't work, was in arrears with child support payments and had been arrested for not paying.

Working together, Dudley and McGillin were able to sort out the man's legal issues and get him the help and benefits he needed through the Department of Veteran's Affairs and the Social Security Administration.

It took a lot of work — McGillin estimated his firm put in about 200 hours of volunteer work to do it — but they got it done. It was an eye-opening experience for McGillin.

"That's what told me that we've got a problem with veterans," he said.

A year after that experience began, Dudley suggested to McGillin they work toward getting a veterans court started in the county. McGillin agreed.

The two made important progress in May when they got unanimous approval from the County Commission to fund administrative costs for the program.

In the meantime they have been coordinating with others from the State Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office and St. Johns County Legal Aid to garner support.

Now on the bench, McGillin will preside over the court about twice a month.

The first step for helping those in need will be identifying who is eligible.

Qualifying offenses will include misdemeanor drug- and alcohol-related offenses as well as some lower level felonies.

The State Attorney's Office can offer veterans court as an alternative course of action. If they don't the Public Defender's Office can ask for it, in which case the judge would have the final say, McGillin said.

Veterans must be eligible for VA benefits, meaning that those who have dishonorable or bad-conduct discharges won't be eligible.

Those meeting initial requirements must admit to the crime they are accused of committing.

Once in the system, they have to complete the 12- to 18-month program, which is modeled after the drug court program already in place in the county. During their time in the program veterans must stay employed if they are able to work, submit to drug testing and attend all VA appointments for treatment.

"If they are required to attend [Alcoholics Anonymous or Narcotics Anonymous] meetings they have to take a sign-in sheet," McGillin said.

Once completed, veterans would be eligible to have charges dismissed or their records expunged.

Similar programs in Duval and Clay counties have recidivism rates as low as less than 1 percent, McGillin said.

After his talk Monday, McGillin said that he hopes to have a ceremonial opening for the program in November to coincide closely with Veterans Day.

Officials are already reviewing cases for those who might be eligible and he expects he will hear the first case by the end of the year, he said.

In a phone interview with The Record on Tuesday, Dudley said that the benefits of the program will be hard to count. The program will not only reduce the amount of money spent to incarcerate those caught in the system, it will also restore self-esteem, reunite families and help get some back to work, he said.

Dudley said there is plenty of opportunity in the county for more successes like the story McGillin mentioned in his talk.

"There are going to be cases that are just as touching and just as heart-wrenching," he said. "There are a lot of these guys that are incarcerated or have been through the courts and it just breaks your heart to see what's happening to them."

The (2016) Ride Home

Published Wednesday, September 14, 2016 By BETH ALSTON
beth.alston@americustimesrecorder.com
www.americustimesrecorder.com

AMERICUS — About 700 visitors from around the nation arrived in Americus for the Ride Home 2016. This the 14th year the event has been held in Americus and Sumter County. Rolling Thunder organizes and sponsors the event and provides escort for the special guests which number 160 this year.

Events started at 11 a.m. Friday when Georgia Southwestern State University, in conjunction with Andersonville National Historic Site host the 11th annual Prisoner of War/Missing in Action (POW/MIA) Convocation in GSW's Student Success Center. Derek R. Mallett, Ph.D., will be the speaker. The event is free and open to the public.

Mallett, who is currently an assistant professor of military history at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Gordon, spent three years as a research historian for the former Joint Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Accounting Command in Honolulu, Hawaii.

He has 15 years of teaching experience and has taught courses in American history, world history, military history, and Asian civilizations at institutions ranging from high school and community colleges to state universities and the professional military education system. Mallett's research interests focus of World War II and the early Cold War and prisoner of war studies.

The convocation is in conjunction with the POW/MIA Recognition Day events, which honor service members who were prisoners of war and those who are still missing in action.

Recognition Day will be observed on Friday. The weekend will also honor former POWs and the families of those still MIA with The Ride Home event.



On Thursday, the group will travel to the Warner Robins Air Force Base for POW/MIA Service.

On Friday morning, the entourage will line up at 8 a.m. in the Walmart parking lot for its ride to the Andersonville National Historic Site. The ceremony begins at 9 a.m. at the National Prisoner of War Museum inside the park. Member of the crew of the USS Pueblo will hold a reunion in conjunction with The Ride Home.



The Pueblo, an environmental research ship which was attached to Navy intelligence, was attacked by North Korean forces on Jan. 23, 1968, and captured, along with its 83 crew members. According to Wikipedia, “North Korea stated that Pueblo deliberately entered their territorial waters 7.6 miles away from Ryo Island, and that the logbook shows that they intruded several times. However, the U.S. maintains that the vessel was in international waters at the time of the incident and that any purported evidence supplied by North Korea to support its statements was fabricated.”

The Pueblo was taken into port by the North Koreans and its crew moved to POW camps. After being starved and tortured for months, the North Koreans threatened Pueblo Commander Lloyd Bucher, saying they would execute his men in his presence. Bucher relented and agreed to confess to spying, offered an apology and pledging not to spy in the future. As soon as the crew was released, the U.S. retracted the admission, apology and assurance.

The Pueblo’s POWs were required to appear before a Navy Court of Inquiry. According to Wiki, “a court-martial was recommended for the CO and the Officer in Charge of the Research Department, Lt. Steve Harris for surrendering without a fight and for failing to destroy classified material.” Secretary of the Navy, John Chafee, rejected the recommendation, saying that they had suffered enough. Bucher was never found guilty of any indiscretions and continued his Navy career until retirement.

Couple's search for Korean veteran's fate raises POW/MIA awareness

By JARED KEEVER jared.keeper@staugustine.com

This article is from the St. Augustine Record and re-printed in its entirety.



PETER.WILLOTT@STAUGUSTINE.COM

James Foulks and his wife, Mary, hold a photograph of James' father, Capt. James Arch Foulks, in their home Monday in St. Augustine.

Capt. Foulks was listed as missing in action after his plane was shot down on a mission over North Korea in 1951 during the Korean War.

Mary Foulks never met her husband's father, and when she married James "Jay" Arch Foulks III four years ago she didn't know she would end up spending her days looking for him.

Jay hasn't seen his father, James Arch Foulks Jr., since he was 4 years old. He was lost in the Korean War.

"He was an aircraft commander in a B-29, lost on a daylight raid ... Oct. 23, 1951," Jay said Monday, seated next to his wife in the living room of their St. Johns County home.

That raid, on Namsi airfield in North Korea, is said to have been the last time the lumbering bombers were used in a daylight raid.

"It's become known as Black Tuesday," Jay said. "It was a squadron of nine B-29s (that) left Okinawa. One returned to base."

Of those nine planes, three were shot down and five were so badly damaged they were forced to land elsewhere, Jay said.

His father was the pilot of one of the three ill-fated planes and all Jay and Mary really know at this point is that James did make it out of the plane and opened his parachute before it went down.

Of the 13 crew members who were aboard, one was rescued later by an Australian frigate. One body was recovered on the mud flats off the Korean coast and five men were taken as POWs and returned to the United States after the war. James is among the six who remain unaccounted for.

The couple's journey to find out what happened to him began about two years ago when Jay, in an effort to learn more about his dad, went back and read his father's old letters to his mom. They also got in contact with others. Some of those are people, like them, who lost loved ones in what is sometimes referred to as "the forgotten war." They have also talked to survivors who were on James' crew, which is how they know there were 13 parachutes that October day.

They've inched toward closure. They were honored as guests in South Korea when they and families of others lost in the war took a trip there. They've been to a memorial service in Arlington National Cemetery for James — his first and only service — that was also attended by the last surviving member of his crew. But they still don't have a definitive answer as to what happened to Jay's father.

The question lies in the father's official designation with the U.S. government.

"That's where we really got involved with this," Jay said of the ongoing search. "Because of the entire crew, other

than the one body that was recovered, he is the only member of the crew that the government has listed as KIA (killed in action). And he has had numerous classifications. He has had POW (prisoner of war), body not recovered, MIA (missing in action) and it's the conflicting statuses that really got us involved."

For years, claims have circulated that some U.S. POWs from the Korean War were sent to Russia.

Politically, that is, and has been, a difficult thing for governments on either side of the conflict to admit to, they said. While it might be a stretch to say that James' fate has been shrouded in secrecy because of it, it has certainly been obscured.

"One of the big, big issues today is a lot of the information is still classified," Jay said.

"Or it is in the archives and they can't find it, or won't find it," his wife added.

Jay said his dad's official designation is now KIA, but the couple says they have seen at least one older document that had him listed as a POW. If James was, in fact, a POW it means he survived for some time after the crash and his son would like to know about it.

Asked whether the two are trying to get a definitive answer as to James' fate or his appropriate designation, Jay said either would give him closure. "I think they are interrelated," he said. "If I get one, I get the other."

For Mary the search for an answer, which she said she works on every day, has made her vividly aware of what other families whose loved ones seem lost in the limbo of POW and MIA status go through. That awareness makes tomorrow, which is National POW/MIA Awareness Day, important to her because making others aware of the sacrifice and pain can also help bring closure for other families.

One of the most important things for people to be aware of is that the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, or DPAA, has the unidentified remains of many U.S. servicemen at a facility in Hawaii. They also operate a lab there that can match the DNA of family members to those remains to secure an identity, Mary said. While immediate family members are dying as the years progress, technology is also improving so hope is not lost.

"I don't think some of the second- and third-generation people understand and realize now that their DNA can identify some of those remains because they have improved their methods so much over the years," she said.

She encourages anyone who knows they lost even a distant family member in past wars to contact the DPAA to have a DNA swab done.

The search has also become personal for Mary. She continues the work, she said, to not only honor her own father's memory but also to preserve the memory of her husband's father.

"My dad was in the Air Force too and he was stationed in Alaska," she said. "He came home."

"I had my daddy," she added, motioning to her husband. "He didn't have his."

She's converted a corner of a guest bedroom into her research station. She jokingly referred to it as her "war room" on Monday.

"I've got crew lists and books and pictures spread all over the place," she said. "I am not going to give up until I find him."

For more information about the efforts to account for those listed as POW or MIA visit www.dpaa.mil.

An update on the Jacksonville National Cemetery

The long route to the Jacksonville National Cemetery that winds through a rural part of town north of the International Airport is about to get a lot more direct if a plan by the Florida Department of Transportation is put into place.

Lannie Road is a dead end off Lem Turner Road that passes through about seven miles of farm land and happens to have a correctional facility, a church and the only national cemetery open to new internments in Northeast Florida.



The two-lane road is the only way to get to and from the cemetery, and it causes congestion any time there is a large funeral procession, according to transportation officials.

The limits of the road also makes for a long commute for anyone trying to visit the cemetery from outside the area.

The solution presented by the Transportation Department will be to cut a direct path from Interstate 95 to the cemetery by extending Arnold Road through a stretch of undeveloped land to Lannie.

The proposal would give drivers a relatively straight shot from the Pecan Park Road exit off I-95.

Cemetery officials declined to comment on the proposed access road, but plenty of people voiced their opinions at a public hearing Thursday night.

“What will change my life will be the traffic coming from Yulee, Callahan and South Georgia,” said Stephanie Shifflett before the hearing. “I’ll almost need a traffic light to get out of my driveway.”

Shifflett has lived on Lannie for about 35 years and she said she will probably move away if the access road is built.

Martin Owens won’t move away, but he has similar concerns.

He said he’s worried about commuters on their way to work in Jacksonville who will use the new road as a cut-through to I-95.

“We have a speeding problem out here already,” Owens said.

The community outcry is nothing new for projects like this, said Transportation Department spokesman David Fierro.

“We have to weigh all of those things,” he said. “We believe that providing access to our veterans is important and we think it’s [building the road] the right decision.”

Ray Quinn is one of the veterans Fierro is talking about.

Quinn is the chairman of the Jacksonville National Cemetery Support Committee, and he’s also affiliated with the Veterans Council of St. Johns County.

The St. Augustine National Cemetery closed to new internments in 1997 - outside of second burials for dependents - so Quinn said the cemetery in Jacksonville is now the best option.

But getting to the cemetery from I-95 is inconvenient and the new access road will make it easier for veterans to pay their respects, Quinn said.

Fierro said the Transportation Department will weigh all the issues raised at Thursday’s hearing, but the project has already been listed as a priority by the North Florida Transportation Planning Organization.

“We are going to evaluate the comments to determine if there is anything we can do to modify the project, but ultimately the project is moving forward,” Fierro said.

Joe Daraskevich: (904) 359-4308

The West Point Society Of North Florida and the Seminole Wars Foundation Commemorate The End Of The Second Seminole War, And Honors Those, Including The Many Graduates, Who Perished In It.

St. Augustine, August 20, 2016

For the past eight years, the West Point Society of North Florida has honored the soldiers and officers who were killed or died of disease during the Second Seminole War, and whose remains are buried under the three pyramids in St. Augustine's National Cemetery. In recent years, the Seminole Wars Foundation has joined the socie-



ty in organizing the event. Our overarching goals are to increase public awareness of the Second Seminole War and its impact on the early development of Florida and the United States, to highlight the vital role West Point graduates played in it, and to remember the suffering and sacrifice of all those -- soldier, citizen, and Seminole alike -- caught up in this long, difficult conflict.

The commemoration's centerpiece is the remembrance of the August 15, 1842 parade and ceremony that marked the termination of the Second Seminole War and honored those who fell in it. The war had begun in December, 1835, when Seminole Indians ambushed and destroyed a column of 108 regular army troops commanded by Major Francis L. Dade. In July, 1842, Colonel W. J. Worth, then commanding officer in Florida, ordered the remains of these men, and selected others who had been buried throughout Florida during the war, re-interred under three pyramids in the then gardens of St. Francis Barracks. The parade which escorted the remains through the streets of St. Augustine was a solemn, impressive funeral procession -- the ceremony at the pyramids poignant and historic, bringing to a close nearly seven years of war.



This year, the event drew re-enactors, living historians, and groups engaged in the promulgation of Seminole War history from throughout Florida, including a substantial contingent from the Loxahatchee Battlefield Preservation Society. Prior to the march from the St. Francis Barracks, Mrs. Alison Simpson, National Guard Historian, reviewed the history of the cemetery and its pyramids and monuments for those present. At the cemetery, the remembrance ceremony took place by the very pyramids under which the remains of Major Dade and his men are interred and where the original ceremony was held. There, COL (ret) Joe Naftzinger reminded the assemblage of the significance of the war to the developing Florida Territory and the role West Pointers played in it. Mr. Steven Rinck, Seminole War Foundation President, underscored the important role re-enactors, or



living historians play in keeping such important events alive in the public consciousness. As the St. Augustine National Cemetery has just been included in the National Register of Historic Places, Mr. Alphaeus Richburg, regional director, spoke to the importance of the National Cemetery System, and the responsibility of honoring all those who served and sacrificed in the armed forces of their country. He then joined COL (ret) Ned Woolfolk in laying the West Point Society's memorial wreath. The ceremony closed with COL (ret) Howard McGillin leading the 60 or so assembled in the Cadet Prayer.

MSG (ret) Art Tenney performed bagpipe and bugle music throughout the proceedings, featuring the funeral dirge "Scot what hae" or "Bruce's Address" which is known to have been played at the original burial of Major Dade and his men at the battlefield where they fell. An authentic replica of the 6 pounder cannon with Dade's column, manned by members of the Peace River Artillery led by Doug Killian, fired half-hour salutes as done in 1842. Sgt Tom Fitzgerald, USMC former, and his wife Denise supplied the impressive caisson and limber bearing the flag draped coffin, evoking the aura of the seven mule drawn wagons which bore the remains through the city to their final resting place under the pyramids in the garden.

About 80 attended the lunch and program in the St. Augustine Officers Club at the St. Francis Barracks follow-



ing the ceremony at the cemetery. During lunch, Steve Rinck awarded this year's re-enactor commemorative coin to those who participated in, or supported, the event. This was the third year that these coins have been specially struck as icons for the ceremony, and they are well on their way to being collectors' items.



The featured speaker after lunch was Andrew Foster, great grandson of Capt. Charles H. Coe who authored the influential 1898 book, Red Patriots: The story of the Seminoles. George Godfrey, the West



Point Society President, thanked Andrew for the well received presentation regarding his grandfather's work, and presented him a memento of West Point -- as did Steve Rinck, who closed the program by noting that special plans are in the works next year. 2017 will be the 175th anniversary of the original parade and ceremony,



and also the tenth year that it has been remembered in this fashion.

The organizers are especially appreciative of the strong support the Ancient City Chapter, Military Officers Association of America continues to give this effort. The re-enactors were superbly organized and led by CSM David Lanham, Florida National Guard. COL (ret) Mark Tolzmann and his scouts from Troop 205 provided essential logistical support, as did CDR USN (ret) Deborah Geanuleas who made the lunch arrangements. The complete program identifying the numerous participants and vital supporters, and providing background material with a focus on the two monuments to Major Dade and his command as well as the original parade and ceremony can be accessed on the on the Seminole Wars Foundation and West Point Society of North Florida web sites and face book pages: seminolewars.org and wpsnf.net, respectively.

For the organizers, COL (ret) Joe Naftzinger.

The article below was sent to Lee Kyser by his friend, McBlair Lee. Lee was a flight engineer on the AC119K Gunship in Vietnam. The AC 119 G/K aircraft were modified to Gunships here in St. Augustine in the late 60's by Fairchild - Republic Corp in the facility now owned by Northrop Grumman. Bill Dudley was head of the flight line / flight operations department for this program.

This is from Lee's Vietnamese friend, "in order to protect my innocent relatives who still live in Vietnam, I must go by my pen name, McBlair Lee".

My final military duty was as a Flight Mechanic on the C-7A Caribou. My connection with you is through a dear friend I trained with in the Vietnamese Air Force Flight Engineer School, MSgt Phan Quoc Tuan. After graduating from that school, MSgt Tuan was trained by you on the AC-119K Stinger at DaNang Air Base, starting in December 1972. He was the ranking flight engineer and was

chosen to train with the VNAF 821st commander, Major Nuoi Huong. His USAF instructor was MSgt Lee Kyser.

Thirty eight years ago, on the unforgettable morning of 29 April, 1975, the beginning of the end for Saigon arrived. During that day, devastating artillery fire and rocket attacks would destroy Tan Son Nhut Air Base and shoot down AC-119K Stinger 52-5889. Nine of the ten man aircrew would perish, including my dear friend, MSgt Tuan.

For all of those who witnessed that event, myself included, the memory of it is as if it had occurred just yesterday. It will haunt us for the rest of our lives.

As a Vietnam War witness and a freelance Vietnamese writer, my desire is to write several historical VNAF articles about what I witnessed while in the middle of that Tan Son Nhut battle field. Those writings may help readers, including future Vietnamese generations, learn what really happened during the final days of Saigon's existence. I hope all who read my articles will sincerely understand the hardships our Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces had to endure and how brave they were in their vain efforts to preserve the freedom of South Vietnam.

The day following the destructive attack on Tan Son Nhut, I pondered the loss of my friend and his fellow crew members. Realizing the sacrifices they made, I felt obligated to honor them in the best manner I could. Lest they be forgotten, I vowed to memorialize them by documenting the true events leading to their death. The valiant efforts of the aircrew members of AC-119K 52-5889 delayed the loss of Saigon long enough for thousands of citizens to evacuate the city and escape the wrath of the Viet Cong.

Thirty eight years have passed since I made that vow. Today, I am so happy to realize that promise I made to the spirit of my dear friend, MSgt Phan Quoc Tuan. My VNAF articles might also help all who read them better understand the situation in Saigon at the conclusion of that terrible war.

In closing, my deepest appreciation goes to all of you who had a part in assisting us in fighting for our freedom. And a special thank you to all who participated in training the VNAF aircrew members on the AC-119 gunships. McBlair Lee

If you would be interested in anything McBlair Lee he has to offer, you can reach him at phuonglongle@yahoo.com. He has no trouble reading English but needs a translator for proper sentence structure and spelling of any articles he sends to those of us who only speak English.

Special note: MSgt Tuan's last flight with USAF instructors on board occurred on 1 March, 1973. I had signed him off as a fully qualified flight engineer and this flight was his first one without an instructor FE monitoring him. There were trainers and trainees in every other crew position. The aircraft was AC-119K Stinger T/N 53-7839. The instructor pilot on board was Lt. Col. Roy (Tony) Simon. That training flight would have a tragic ending that resulted in the early termination of Project Enhance Plus (the training of the VNAF by USAF instructors). The full account of that flight, as well as the photos of all personnel involved, can be found at www.ac-119gunships.com/stories/story9.htm. I will briefly detail that situation. Da Nang Air Base was transferred back to the VNAF on 2 Jan, 1973. All base operations were controlled and manned by VNAF personnel with USAF instructors available where needed. On the night of 1 March, 1973 it was clear weather and the VNAF had shutdown the ground controlled approach facility (GCA). Unexpected fog rolled in quickly preventing Col Simon to make a visual landing. Not having adequate GCA available, the decision to bailout became a necessity due to low fuel levels and no alternate airfield. The aircraft was lost, as well as the student navigator.

Lee Kyser





[Making a Difference: Women Veterans Share Their Stories -](#)

The Library of Congress Veterans History Project (VHP) and the Department of Veterans Affairs Center for Women Veterans launch the first blog post in a collaborative series centered on women veterans. Every Wednesday through September 7th, look to both “Folklife Today” and “Vantage Point” and read more about the women whose uniformed service is part of our national memory.

Among an archive comprising more than 100,000 stories, approximately 6,000 women speak to the crucial role of women in the armed forces. As a forum for any man or woman who served in the U.S. military during the 20th and/or 21st centuries, VHP traces women’s military service from World War I pioneers such as [Nettie Eurith Trax](#), of the Army Nurse Corps, through recent conflict veterans like [Jaden J. Kim](#), a combat pilot who served in the Afghan War.

Nevertheless, VHP collections are skewed towards male service; therefore, we are constantly encouraging more women veterans to share their stories. Current estimates from the Department of Veterans Affairs indicate that women account for approximately 10 percent of the national veteran population, whereas only one in every six VHP participants is female. As a “grass roots” oral history project, VHP relies on volunteer interviewers to sit down with the veteran in their life and record at least 30 minutes of military memories and lasting thoughts of service. Among the 80-100 new VHP voices that arrive at the Library of Congress every week, will yours be one of them? Visit www.loc.gov/vets today.

The Mission of the Veterans History Project of the Library of Congress American Folklife Center is to collect, preserve and make accessible the personal accounts of American war veterans so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the realities of war. Learn more at www.loc.gov/vets. Share your exciting VHP initiatives, programs, events` and news stories with VHP to be considered for a future RSS. Email vohp@loc.gov and place “My VHP RSS Story” in the subject line.

Mary Walker - the only female recipient of the Medal of Honor.

Today, Rolling Thunder Washington, DC Inc., honors, remembers and salutes US Army physician and Civil War Veteran, Mary Walker, the only woman ever to receive the Medal of Honor.

Walker volunteered with the Union Army at the outbreak of the Civil War and served as a surgeon. She was captured by Confederate forces after crossing enemy lines to treat wounded civilians and arrested as a spy. She was sent as a prisoner of war (POW) to Richmond, Virginia until released in a POW exchange.



After the war, she was approved for the highest United States Armed Forces decoration for bravery, the Medal of Honor, for her efforts during the Civil War.

Ms. Walker's Medal of Honor Citation:

Battle of Bull Run, July 21, 1861; Patent Office Hospital, Washington, D.C., October 1861; Chattanooga, Tenn., following Battle of Chickomauga, September 1863; Prisoner of War, April 10, 1864-August 12, 1864, Richmond, Va.; Battle of Atlanta, September 1864 Whereas it appears from official reports that Dr. Mary E. Walker, a graduate of medicine, "has rendered valuable service to the Government, and her efforts have been earnest and untiring in a variety of ways," and that she was assigned to duty and served as an assistant surgeon in charge of female prisoners at Louisville, Ky., upon the recommendation of Major-Generals Sherman and Thomas, and faithfully served as contract surgeon in the service of the United States, and has devoted herself with much patriotic zeal to the sick and wounded soldiers, both in the field and hospitals, to the detriment of her own health, and has also endured hardships as a prisoner of war four months in a Southern prison while acting as contract surgeon; and Whereas by reason of her not being a commissioned officer in the military service, a brevet or honorary rank cannot, under existing laws, be conferred upon her; and Whereas in the opinion of the President an honorable recognition of her services and sufferings should be made: It is ordered, That a testimonial thereof shall be hereby made and given to the said Dr. Mary E. Walker, and that the usual medal of honor for meritorious services be given her. Given under my hand in the city of Washington, D.C., this 11th day of November, A.D. 1865. Andrew Johnson, President (Medal rescinded 1917 along with 910 others, restored by President Carter 10 June 1977.)

In addition to being the only woman to receive the Medal of Honor, she is one of eight civilians to receive it.

Thank you for your service, ma'am., You Are Not Forgotten.

Sources: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Congressional Medal of Honor Society

Compiled by MSgt Rob Wilkins, USAF, Ret.

*American Legion Auxiliary Unit 194
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Labor Day Luau



DATE: Saturday, September 3, 2016
TIME: 9:00 PM to 1:00 AM
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Salty Paws: A New Leash On Life
A Warrior. A Labrador and Attention to Detail
By Bryan Foltz



I grasped a dog treat in my hand, as I looked at my new service dog, a black lab. “Cover” I demanded. Instead of turning his body around to perform the command, Dell’s ears perked up. His attention was no longer focused on me. I could hear the sound of laughter echoing throughout the park where we were training. Dell and I walked off the course away from the other warriors, dogs and trainers to take a timeout. Frustrated, I thought to myself “what am I doing here?” I told Dell to “Heel”. He and I began hiking back to rejoin the group. I remember the way the sun felt; its intense heat beating down on the top of my shoulders. Each step I took felt like a mile long. Exhausted, I was afraid to look up.

I stared fiercely at the freshly cut grass, dew drops sparkling on the tips of each green blade. Suddenly Dell jumped up with excitement. He wanted to play. A large group of frolicking children ran swiftly past us. A shot of adrenaline rushed through my body. My heart started pounding. “Something terrible is happening” I thought. The smell of something burning engulfed my nostrils. The hypothetical part of my brain told me it was a family grilling on a summer day. All of a sudden smoke soaked into my skin covering every cell in my body. The serene park scene melted away as memories of combat began to flood my mind. I felt my boots kick up desert sand and the sound of artillery ringing in my ears. “What are those kids running from?” There must be an attack. I began pacing quickly toward the area where they were hiding. During my time in the Army I was required to barge into extreme situations, not run from them. I assessed the landscape, scanning for any possible threats. “Dell!” I returned to the park. The children were just playing hide and seek. I squatted down to get on Dell’s level and looked into his eyes. He gazed back at me as he began to yelp. He knew something was wrong. He could sense that I had a panic attack.

At that moment, everything became clear. Something clicked. I grabbed Dell, pulling him closer to me as a soothing feeling of comfort cleansed me. I took a deep breath. My lungs were lighter. I stood up proud and tall. Dell looked up at me. “Cover” I said assertively. He stepped into stride, quickly turned around and sat down in a firm, noble position. He had my back. At that point I knew that my life was changed for the better.

Dell and I have been together for over a year. He has helped me in ways I didn’t know were possible. There is so much I want to do, and with Dell by my side I believe that I can do all of those things. Currently we are attending law school and interning at K9s For Warriors. Dell gave me a new leash on life.

Visit: K9sforwarriors.org

MISSING IN AMERICA PROJECT – FLORIDA

CALL TO HONOR #10

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2016 11:00AM

MISSION STATEMENT



The purpose of the Missing in America Project (MIAP) is to locate, identify and inter the unclaimed cremated remains of American veterans through the joint efforts of private, state and federal organizations, and to provide honor, respect and dignity to those who have served this country by securing a final resting place for these forgotten heroes.

“IT’S THE RIGHT THING TO DO”

On Saturday, October 22, 2016, at 11:00am, MIAP – Florida, with cooperation from Edgley Cremation Services, will be interring 16 veterans and 4 spouses of veterans at the South Florida National Cemetery located at 6501 Florida State Road 7, Lake Worth, FL 33449. The longest that any of these being interred has been unclaimed is since 2006.

THE FOLLOWING WILL BE INTERRED:

US ARMY: 10 veterans, 2 spouses

US MARINE CORPS: 1 spouse

US NAVY: 4 veterans, 1 spouse

US AIR FORCE: 2 veterans

WAR PERIODS:

WWII: 7 veterans, 3 spouses

Korea: 5 veterans, 1 spouse

Vietnam: 3 veterans

* 1 veteran served in 2 war periods

* 2 veterans did not serve in war periods

ESCORT: There will be an escort for this service. Details will be forthcoming. Any and all are welcome to participate in this escort, motorcycles, cars and trucks included.

You are cordially invited to attend this service during which we will inter these veterans with full military honors. This service is open to all residents of our area communities. Please feel free to pass this invitation on to others.

Kathy Church MIAP – FL State Coordinator (904) 219-3035 miapjax@yahoo.com www.miap.us



Department of Veterans Affairs

Did you know that you may be able to receive free community-based counseling at one of 300 VA [Vet Centers](#) across the country—even if you are not enrolled in VA [health care](#)?

Vet Centers provide individual and group counseling, and outreach and referral services to Veterans and active duty Servicemembers who served in any combat zone, area of hostility, experienced a military sexual trauma, or served as part of a drone crew.

Vet Centers are staffed primarily by Veterans, many of them combat Veterans. They can help you and your family with:

- Transitioning, readjustment, and issues related to marriage, family, and bereavement.
- Referrals to VA health care and benefits, employment, and other community services.
- Making connections to other Veterans and support in your community.

To learn more about Vet Centers and to find out which VA benefits you may be eligible for, visit [explore.VA.gov](https://www.va.gov/explore).

Watch this [video](#) to see how Vet Centers have changed the lives of other Veterans.



Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry

Join the Burn Pit Registry to document your exposures and health concerns, obtain a free health evaluation by a VA or DoD provider, and stay informed of VA's research. The registry is your opportunity to help answer the question of what burn pit exposure could mean for your health and that of fellow Veterans in the future. Over 80,000 Veterans have already joined the registry, but we have only just begun.

www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/burnpits/registry.asp

Here is a link to the **FL Survivor Outreach Services** Summer Newsletter

<https://www.facebook.com/FLSOS>

Keith Ham

Support Coordinator

keith.e.ham.ctr@mail.mil

If you or someone you know are one of the 48 million Americans who suffer from hearing loss, I have Great News to share with you!!!



ClearCaptions is a federally funded telecommunications company. The FCC has commissioned ClearCaptions to inform those experiencing any hearing loss of the federal program available to them based on Title IV of the Americans with Disabilities Act (mandated since 1990). Those with any hearing loss are entitled to our new technology **caption phone absolutely FREE, including installation, training and on-going service.** Those needing our phones need to have:

- 1.**a phone line (AT&T landline, Comcast landline, bundle, OOMA, Magic Jack, Vonage, or OOMA ...)
- 2.** Internet access (wired or wireless).

There is no income requirement. To schedule your installation or for more information, **please contact your North Florida Territory Manager Anas Benjelloun at (904) 568-4562 or anas.benjelloun@clearcaptions.com**

Sign-up, self-certify, and be using your Free ClearCaptions phone



Did you know 22 veterans will commit suicide every day?

Join the "Stop 22" movement to raise awareness and stand with K9s for Warriors as they help veterans with PTSD and brain injuries.

On the 22nd of every month, use the hashtag #Stop22 on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram and show your support. Watch below how people are "outdoing 22's" all over social media.

Learn more by visiting the Stop 22 website: <http://www.stop22.org/>

And check out K9s for Warriors for regular updates on their mission: <http://www.k9sforwarriors.org/>



Join Post 233's Campaign To help the 5 Star Veterans Center !



As you know they put military veterans back to work by providing safe and secure housing with extensive services, intensive case management and counseling that promotes mental and physical wellness. They are presently in need of various non-perishable items.

The items needed:

Canned goods, soups, stews, vegetables, chili, etc.

Cans of soft drinks, small bags of chips, Doritos, Fritos, pretzels, microwave popcorn,

Clorox, Windex, pine sol, dish detergent trash bags, paper towels, tissues, toilet paper !

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Email: keith.e.ham.ctr@mail.mil

Combat Vets Association Chapter 20-1 presents

COMBAT VETS ASSOCIATION

State



Rally

11th- Free Beer
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Carving Station
UFC Fight Night

12th- Pig Roast
Ride Games, 50/50
Prize Wheel, Cornhole
Door Prizes & Auction

Florida

November 2016



Friday 11th Welcome Buffet

Saturday 12th Pig Roast

*Sunday 13th Farewell
Breakfast*

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13th- Pancake, Bacon & Egg Breakfast,
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for More Information

VA Memorial Benefits

How to Apply

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 and click 'get started' to schedule a burial in a VA national cemetery. 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 134 VA national cemeteries in 39 states and is adding new cemeteries to accommodate Veterans and loved ones in their time of need. In a few years, 95 percent of Veterans will have a burial option in an open VA, state or tribal veterans cemetery located within an hour's drive of their home. 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 or burial of cremated remains or placement 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

Transportation of flower arrangements from the committal service shelter to the gravesite

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

Burials in a national cemetery take place during the week and cannot be conducted on a federal holiday.

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

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

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



ARE YOU inTANDEM WITH YOUR TYPE 1 DIABETES OPTIONS?



A new clinical research trial is now studying an investigational oral product inTANDEM with your current insulin regimen.

YOU MAY QUALIFY IF YOU:

- Are 18 years old or older
- Have a confirmed diagnosis of Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus
- Have A1C levels 7 - 10%



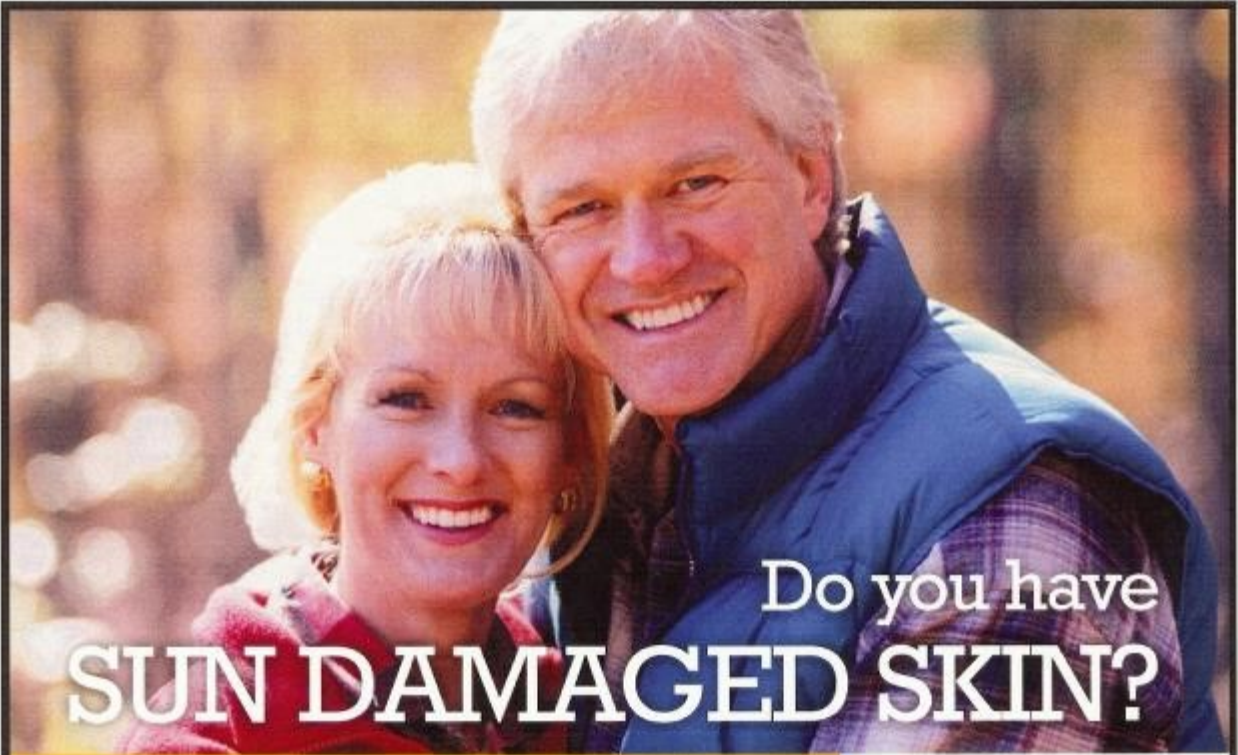
Lisa Thomas, BS, CCRC
President

Telephone (904) 619-8157
Facsimile (904) 683-4916
Mobile (904) 755-1374

lisa.thomas@jaxadvresearch.com
www.jaxadvresearch.com

Solutions Through Advanced Research, Inc.
10175 Fortune Parkway, Suite 1201, Jacksonville, Florida 32256

www.inTANDEM4trial.com



Do you have SUN DAMAGED SKIN?

Are you in the SUN a lot?

We are now conducting a clinical research study to evaluate an investigational cream and its effect on sun damaged skin (Actinic Keratosis).

Do you have scaly or rough lesions on your face or scalp?

Qualified participants will receive at no cost:
• Study related exams • Study cream or placebo

Qualifying participants will receive financial compensation for their time and travel.

You may be eligible to participate in a clinical research study if you:

- Are you 18 years or age or older
- Have scaly or rough lesions on your face or scalp
- Can visit our office 4 times in 20 weeks

For more information, or to schedule a screening, please contact us at :
Solutions Through Advanced Research, Inc.
12086 Fort Caroline Road
Jacksonville, FL 32225
904-619-8157

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

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

Send to: mrothfeld@anyveteran.org

Please send to: mrothfeld@anyveteran.org



Don't forget they always need volunteers

**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 meetings are
conducted at the the Elks Lodge
829, 1420 A1A S., St. Augustine.***

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

(physical location)

*The VSO Office is located in the new 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.
Closed for lunch daily from 11:30 am 12:30 pm*

Service is by appointment.

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

Joseph McDermott, CVSO

Rick Rees, Assistant VSO

Tammy Shirley, Assistant VSO

Lashonda Burns, Office Specialist

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