



The Patriot Reader Newsletter

P.O. Box 2117

St. Augustine, FL 32085

Bill Dudley, Publisher

Michael Rothfeld, Editor

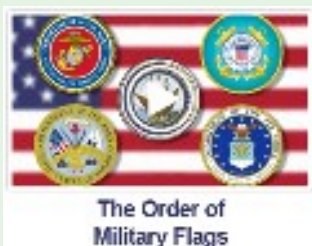
Volume 6, Issue 10

Message from the Chairman

Newsletter Date: October, 2017

Inside this Edition

- Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home
- Jax Ntl Cemetery Support Committee
- Veterans Day Parade, St Augustine
- Monuments, Vet Council's position
- POW/MIA Chair @ Jumbo Shrimp
- Vet Council Previews "The Vietnam War"
- Letters to the Record Editor
- V4V Quarterly Meeting, Nov. 4
- Passing: Bill Ingram, ex Navy POW
- Valley Ridge Academy Invites Veterans
- Wreaths Across America
- VA & CBOC, Same Story
- Veterans Treatment Court Legislation
- Veterans Council August Minutes
- Ken Burns; "The Vietnam War"
- History of POW/MIA Bracelets
- POW/MIA Memorial Bill Passes
- Homeless Stand Down 2017
- Capt. McVay & USS Indianapolis
- New VVA Honorary Lifetime Member
- St Augustine Civil War Docs Online
- Gary Aaron Newman, US Navy, 64, 67-8
- Tri County Navy Ball
- Community Hospice Helps Veterans
- German WW II U Boat Attacks Jax Beach
- Local WW II Glider Pilot Story
- Missing in America Stats
- USMC Recruiting Slogans
- Rosie the Riveter Passes
- Air Force Sergeant's Golf Tournament
- Sgt Stubby



Fellow Veterans: I hope everyone endured the recent onslaught on our community from Hurricane Irma with little or no damage to your property. Yours truly did not fair too well as Irma finished off the remnants of my pier that Hurricane Matthew left last October. That said, there was no personal casualties and I hope the same is true for each of you, so I consider myself blessed. Our County and State have set up help lines for those in need of help, with focus on helping veterans in need of assistance. Most importantly, please remember our Florida National Guard, US Army USCG, USN, US Marines, USAF, our St. Johns County Sheriff's Dept., our local Police Dept. and other First Responders who did an outstanding job of keeping us safe and providing assistance throughout the county and state during the ravages of Irma. We can never thank them enough.

As I have reported in past editions of The Patriot Reader on the status of our CBOC permanent location, I once again need to update you on the latest with regards to the status of the process. After

many months of working with the County under a sole source arrangement, the VA notified the County last month that they were cancelling that agreement and putting the contract back out for competitive bid. This is indeed a disappointment and further delays the process of finding a permanent site for our health care facility for our veterans. The County had launched a public-private bid set and was in the process of selecting a company to respond to the VA contracting office when the County was notified of the sole source cancellation. St. Johns County administration will continue to support the process by offering the land next to the Health and Human Services Building as a suitable site for the location of the CBOC. The response to the Request for Quotes (RFQ) were due to the VA Contracting Office on 20 Sept. As of now, I do not have a timeframe as to when the VA will make a selection or how many contractors have submitted bids. I will continue to pursue further updates and keep our veterans informed.

The Veterans Council and local VVA 1084 Chapter hosted a preview last Saturday evening at the Corazon Theater of the



Ken Burns documentary, The Vietnam War. It was an opportunity to gather and recognize those who served in Vietnam and express our appreciation as a community. The 63 minute preview of the Ken Burns documentary was followed by Q&A of 5 panelists who served in country during the height of the fighting in a war that was misunderstood and unappreciated by those not in uniform. A complete coverage of the evenings event appears on page 9 of this month's Patriot Reader.

Our Veterans Day Parade is developing into another spectacular event for Nov. 11. We encourage any of our Veterans organizations who would like to march in the parade and represent their unit to please contact Sgt. Major Ray Quinn. He can be reached at 904-540-1630 or rengade1@bellsouth.net. We encourage all our Veterans organization to participate.

Bill Dudley, Chairman
Veterans Council of St. Johns County

Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home



Enjoying lunch at Carrabbas



Several Sailor visits from personnel off the USS Roosevelt and again from the USS Lassen



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



The Support Committee invites everyone to attend its **next scheduled meeting, on Monday, October 16, 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: Steve Spickelmier

Vice Chairman: Bill Dudley, Treasurer: John Mountcastle

Assistant Treasurer: Michael Rothfeld, Secretary: Kathy Church

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

Historian: Kathy Cayton

This picture was taken at Union Correctional Institute where Gary Newman has a Vietnam Veteran chapter. Quarterly, veterans who participate in veterans court in DUVAL are transported to UCI where they meet one on one with the incarcerated vets. It's similar to a scared straight program, but not as intense. On this visit, the public defender and one of his attorneys was there to witness the program first hand. Gary and DUVAL VVA Prez, TONY D'Aleo, are responsible for the implementation of this program. So proud of these two men. The artwork in the background was done by the vets.



The Grand Parade

Veterans Day - St. Augustine



“Honoring Service and Sacrifice”



Saturday November 11th -10:45 AM.
Reviewing Stand - Castillo de San Marcos
Castillo Drive/San Marco Ave

Military Officers Association of America- Ancient City Chapter
Veterans Council of St. Johns County





Fellow Veterans Council of St. Johns County Members and all veterans



Ancient City Chapter

The Veterans Council of St. Johns County Florida (VCSJC) and The Military Officers Association of America, Ancient City Chapter (MOAA) are again sponsoring this year's landmark 3rd annual Veterans Day Parade on November 11, 2017 in beautiful St. Augustine, Florida. VCSJC and MOAA will be honoring all United States Military Veterans who served to protect and defend our great country.

Our parade is a tribute to those who have secured the freedom we enjoy today, and a testament to the enduring need for such selfless service. Veterans Day is dedicated to our patriotic service members who have served before, those serving now, and those who will serve in the future.

This year's spectacular, nationally one of a kind strictly military parade will have over 1,500 participants; marching units from all the military services, military bands, re-enactor units representing every war period from the Revolutionary War, ROTC and JRTOC units, local high school marching bands, military equipment review (ground and water borne), helicopters, a flyover, and of course our now famous V-LINE depicting historic and current veterans in period uniforms and equipment/ weapons.

As you are aware, our organizations, both being a charitable 501(c)(3), are very limited in resources. We are seeking your generous donations again this year to help cover the costs associated with such a large-scale venture. Please consider a donation in any amount to help defray our cost as we salute and honor our country's veterans.

Please remit this year's donation to: Veterans Council of St. Johns County
P.O. Box 2117
St. Augustine, Florida 32085-2117

Indicate in the memo: 2017VDP.

Looking forward to you joining our team this year in celebrating and honoring our veterans and the sacrifices they make and have made keeping us free.

Warmest personal regards,

Bill Dudley

LTC (USAF-Ret)

Chairman

Veterans Council of St. Johns County

George Linardos

CPT (USA-Fmr)

Past President/Director:

Military Officers Association of America,
Ancient City Chapter

From the Gardner Report

Pastor, veterans leaders clash over monuments

The leaders of two local veterans organizations are speaking out against a church leader's call to remove monuments honoring confederate soldiers.

In a joint letter to Mayor Nancy Shaver, Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dud-



ley and Military Officers Association President Ron Birchall "ask that the lives and memories of our Confederate fallen, both black and white, who were simply answering the call of their home state, be afforded all the respect and honor they deserve."



St. Paul AME Pastor Ron Rawls wrote in his social media post, "I call upon the leadership of the City of St. Augustine to redefine this city and make an expeditious, but correct decision to no longer revere the shameful cause of these symbols by removing them from public spaces."

The public is expected to weigh in at Monday's regular City Commission meeting, which begins at 5 pm in the Alcazar Room at City Hall and is live streamed on CoSA.TV.

The monuments include an obelisk in the Plaza de la Constitución honoring men who died serving the Confederate states, and an obelisk in the west garden of Government House, honoring native son and Confederate General William Loring.

From the FLTimes Union

By Joe Daraskevich

New seat at Jumbo Shrimp games will remain empty to honor POW/MIA service members.

The Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp added an additional seat to their stadium Monday before the season finale that isn't meant for anyone who will ever pass through the turnstiles.

The seat will forever remain vacant in honor of prisoners of war and missing-in-action service members to recognize the sacrifices they've made to the country. The chair of honor will be cordoned off to prevent people from sitting in it during home games going forward.

A dedication ceremony took place following Monday's national anthem featuring members of a group working to bring a national POW/MIA memorial to the former Cecil Field Naval Air Station.

The group is working to raise money for the project and hopes tributes like the chair at the Baseball Grounds of Jacksonville will help with awareness, said Mike Cassata, president of the nonprofit.

Anyone interested in donating money can visit the group's website powmiamemorial.org.

Joe Daraskevich: (904) 359-4308





Veterans Council previews Ken Burns “The Vietnam War”

Saturday evening, September 16th will be remembered by many for different emotional reasons.

The Veterans Council of St. Johns County was given a unique opportunity by WJCT TV President Michael Boylan. When Mr. Boylan contacted the Council and asked us if we would help him preview the new 18 hour Ken Burns documentary, “The Vietnam War”, we of course agreed.

The Council contacted Karla Wagner, owner of the Corazon Cinema in St. Augustine and asked her if she would again host an event honoring our veterans. Karla had helped us last year with our Veterans Day Military Film Festival which featured the five documentaries Michael Rothfeld and Bill Dudley produced for the Veterans Council. Karla again agreed and donated the use of one of her lovely theaters.

The preview at the Corazon Cinema was attended by about 90 people, mostly Vietnam Veterans and their families. The preview started after Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley greeted everyone and thanked them for coming to the preview. Mr. Michael Boylan, President and CEO of WJCT TV, the PBS affiliate in Jacksonville set the stage for the preview by speaking about his meeting with Ken Burns and how committed Mr. Burns was to this 10 year project, the keynote speaker, FL State Representative 24 Paul Renner spoke about what it is to be a veteran and what all veterans do, serve.

After the very moving, emotional and educational 63 minute preview Vietnam Veterans of America chapter 1084, St. Augustine, President John Leslie led a lively discussion of six local Vietnam veterans, touching on their preparation for going to Vietnam, their experiences in country helping the South Vietnamese, their return home and coping now with that war experience. The discussion was animated and very heart-felt and emotional.

Some veterans said they could not handle re-visiting the war again but most felt it a worthwhile contribution to the legacy and history of the Vietnam War.



Corazon Marque welcomes Vietnam veterans



Atlantic Coast Young Marines



POW/MIA Missing Man Table



Our audience



Vietnam Memorial map



WJCT TV President Michael Boylan introduces documentary preview



Chairman Dudley remembers WW II POW Bill Ingram



Chairman Bill Dudley



Keynote speaker FL Rep Paul Renner



VVA 1084 President John Leslie, panel moderator



Partial panel members; from left, Blair Craig, Paul Heagy, Terry Allan



Corazon owner Karla Wagner receiving thank you plaque

Letters to The Editor of the St. Augustine Record

Removing Confederate Monuments

We should honor our city's protectors

Bill Dudley & Ron Birchall, St. Augustine

In reviewing the events of the past two weeks, namely the violence in Charlottesville, Virginia over the removal of Confederate monuments, we and our families — as members of the military community of St. Johns County — feel an obligation and responsibility to respond.

Sanitizing the history of our wonderful city, as well as our beloved United States of America, is certainly not the solution. The source of the problem, the “human condition,” has not changed since the fall of Adam and Eve in the “Garden.”

Removing our storied past will not soften hearts or remove hate, racism or violence. Only the love of God and the peace that passeth all understanding can do that. Of course, we pretend not to need God any longer!

We seem to be doing everything we can to remove Him from our culture. Europe made that decision decades ago, and now look at their predicament. We don't seem to have an “outmigration” problem to Europe from our country. Why are we following their failure?

The City of St. Augustine exists today as the oldest, continuous European settlement in North America for one reason — there was always a militia present to protect it. The operative word is “protect.” Our military was designed to protect, and that is exactly what the Confederate soldiers inscribed on our monuments were doing as they answered the call of duty. Our city's founding fathers, to include Ponce de Leon and Pedro Menendez d'Aviles, were soldiers. Atrocities did result during their watch, as in all wars.

Will we change history by eliminating their statues? I doubt very much that the desecrators of the monuments in Charlottesville, or anywhere else know that Gen. Robert E. Lee, according to many written verified documents, was very much against slavery. But, then again, we don't teach actual history anymore, only PC, sanitized history, so as not to offend anybody.

Right or wrong, slavery existed all over the world during the 1800s, including in the northern states — not only in the South.

The intent of the St. Augustine monuments was not to applaud the Confederate cause, not to stand as a beacon promoting slavery, but as a tribute to the city's citizens, black and white, who served because they believed it was the right thing to do for St. Augustine. We must honor their decision and intent, which we, in 2017, can only presume.

We strongly encourage our beautiful community to come together and look upward, praying for divine intervention and wisdom, so missing in our culture today. We might even become a “model” for the rest of our country to follow!

God does not dwell in the past, we shouldn't either.

We are to learn from our history so as not to repeat actions that cause division and destruction. We ask that the lives and memories of our Confederate fallen, both black and white, who were simply answering the call of their home state, be afforded all the respect and honor they deserve.

Confederate soldiers are recognized by our Congress as United States Veterans, requiring full recognition as such. Leave the monuments of all our veterans in place.

Dudley is chair of the Veterans Council of St. Johns County. Birchall is the President of the Ancient City Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America.

=====

Get over it

Being a student of history, I have learned many things over the years that upset me to the point of resentment. History is like that, but I realized that what happened in the past does not reflect the current state of affairs.

When my DuPont ancestors arrived in this country in 1699 and settled in Charleston, South Carolina, they were Huguenots. They fled France because, after Louis the XIV issued the Edit of Fontainebleau on Oct. 22 1685, the Catholics began again to persecute them.

When we arrived in St. Augustine in 1828 we learned of the Spanish massacre of the Huguenots at Matanzas Inlet back in 1565 because they were not Catholic. Should I then hate the Catholic religion and try to destroy all symbols of Catholicism?

When my Menorcan ancestors arrived in this country in 1768, they suffered under the indentured servitude of the British Dr. Andrew Turnbull. After almost half of them died or were killed, they escaped to St. Augustine, much as black people did to escape the slavery of the British colonies and found Fort Mose in 1738. Should I then destroy all symbols of the British and take down any mention of Turnbull?

When the Union Army thoroughly destroyed the South in 1865 and we lost everything, should I then hate the United States?

No because it was in the past. I served 23 years on active duty defending it alongside many brave men such as Leo Chase, Jr.

Fred DuPont, St. Augustine

=====

The world's greatest government is breaking down

George Linardos, St. Augustine

What is taking place in our country goes much deeper than any small group of the alt-left or alt-right is upset with. Seeing the stupidity of a very small group toppling monuments has no place in America.

Their lawlessness has nothing to do with false perceptions of the Confederacy, but rather their hate has everything to do with their lack of tolerance and anarchical behavior, putting their fellow Americans at risk.

Their behavior has nothing to do with oppression. Those who violently remove these monuments, and now monuments of non-Confederates, are no better than terrorists who attack the world on a daily basis, proclaiming flawed ideologies. Hatred and violence needs to be condemned and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

Sanitizing history has its consequences. First monuments, removal of books from libraries and then the 1st Amendment itself is diminished and ignored. Remember Pre-Nazi Germany, Japanese Empire, Fascism, ISIS, and all the totalitarian regimes America has fought and bled against. Take a look around you.

A woman who queried of Benjamin Franklin as he left Independence Hall on the final day of the Constitutional Convention of 1787 asked, "Well doctor, what have we got — a Republic or a Monarchy?" Franklin responded, "A republic if you can keep it!"

It won't be long before we sanitize our Founding Fathers out of existence. We possess a coveted Bill of Rights. It includes "Freedom of Speech" and "Freedom of (not from) Religion," which other societies can only yearn for.

Pusillanimous officials across the country cave to partisan political pressures. History is not for us to love or hate, but to learn from. If you ignore your history or try to sweep it under the rug you are bound to repeat it. Ignoring one's past and appeasing has always led to future violence.

Our country is beyond being divided — not just left or right, Republican or Democrat, black or white. We are splintered into factions where no one tolerates being disagreed with, including within our Congress and state legislatures, where hate and political posturing has taken over from reason.

If we want to condemn groups such as the neo-Nazis, White Supremacist and others, then we must also condemn groups such as BLM, Antifa and other groups who sponsor violence. We cannot engage in selective criticism and prosecution. If we don't stop the blatant hypocrisy, then we're sitting on a powder keg that will lead to a third civil war in America.

It is up to all of us not to let any political or ideological faction create havoc, subjecting us to harm and thus destroying the best form of government ever created. Stand strong against intolerance and the prevailing narrow-mindedness of destructive thought and action.

Reacting to a headline or byline without knowing all the facts appeals to anarchists. When you see a headline, take it with a grain of salt. It is meant to sell papers or get you to watch a news flash for market share, while tantalizing your emotions.

Our family fabric is being destroyed by Hollywood, the media and a failed family court system. Our educational systems, which do not require American history as a core course, rob our children of where we came from and how we got here as Americans.

It has failed by appeasing one or two individual's politically correct demands, rather than society's needs as a whole.

When God and religion were removed from our schools as an unacceptable precept, our country's moral decline was not far behind. These create the breeding grounds for what is taking place today.

V4V is still gaining momentum among Veterans around NE FL, despite the apathy, covert resistance by some Veterans and lack of any news coverage. Once again, Veterans gathered on July 15th where 240 Veterans heard 15 speakers and met over 32 organizations who introduced themselves and shared information with the gathering. Nothing reported, no media coverage and failure on the part of some organizations to inform their membership, yet 240 Veterans and supporters showed up.



For the first time in the history of any Veterans movement in NEFL, Presidents of 5 county Veteran Councils attended and met to form a Council of Presidents. A council that could become one powerful voice for Veterans.

This, however, doesn't bode well with some in the Veterans community for many reasons. There are those who feel it would adversely affect their organizations impact on Veterans thus negating their perceived power/influence, there are those who simply would like to see the Veterans community remain divided for political and in some cases self-serving reasons to more easily dismiss Veterans concerns or exploit Veterans for the purposes of making money off them.

One can only hope Veterans have arrived at the point where they finally realize, that unless they all act for the greater good rather than for personal gain or glory of a few or a few organizations, they ALL LOSE. It is time we have representation where Veterans voices will be heard and sent out in the hope that they will grow louder and gather other Veterans into a force for change that grows and grows to eventually sweep across all Veterans communities. But first we have to join forces to create that giant wave in order to make a difference. We are close, but we are handicapped by the resistance that is feed by ignorance, personal animosity and the resistance that always accompanies change.

Now is the time for change, we have never been closer and if not now when? Veterans shouldn't be left with being continually ignored, used and abused, grandstanded and will suffer as many are now. This is our moment, seize it and help bring about the change that is so urgently needed for all Veterans.

JOIN V4V, PASS THE WORD...TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER

Nov 4th Veterans Arena

**1030 to 1100 coffee social
and FREE buffet lunch**

1100 to 1300 Speakers

September 15th , National POW/MIA Remembrance Day WW II POW Bill Ingram was laid to rest at Jacksonville National Cemetery

Bill Ingram at the tender age of 17 joined the Navy for one reason-- to join his brother Robert on the USS Houston He requested duty on the USS Houston upon enlistment in June, 1941. "I was 17 and weighed a little over 100 lbs."



Once on board he found his brother, Robert, had recently departed from the USS Houston and been taken to Corregidor, eventually to be captured as a prisoner of war and sent to Japan.

The USS Houston was attacked on Feb. 4 with a shower from Japanese bombers. The crews on the Houston's guns fired their 5 and 8 inch guns only to find that three-fourths of their rounds didn't explode. Like much of the equipment in the early days of the Pacific War, the guns had not been tested with live ammunition in drills. The captain of the Houston, Captain Rooks tried to help the light cruiser Marblehead, which was being showered with bombs. The captain turned towards the Marblehead so that his gunners could fire at the Japanese planes. One of the Japanese bombs had gone astray, and Rooks looking for the trajectory missed seeing the bomb as it passed out of view. The 500-pound bomb hit Turret #3 setting off fires as it ignited the gunpowder bags. Forty-six men died from the blast and one of the men aboard stated that war had come to them in a real way.

It wasn't long before the USS Houston would face the Japanese again, this time in a battle that would cause severe losses. A fleet of ABDA ships gathered to search for Japanese forces headed for eastern Java. On Feb. 27th they met up with the Japanese and the first major surface battle of the Pacific War, the Battle of the Java Sea, ensued. After 8 hours, two Dutch cruisers were sunk as well as three destroyers. The Japanese hit the Houston twice with 8-inch shells, but the USS Houston and the Australian ship HMS Perth had survived. The next day, the 28th, the two ships partially refueled at Batavia before attempting to pass the Sunda Straits and head towards safety in the Indian Ocean and towards Australia. They met the Japanese invasion fleet made up almost a dozen destroyers, three cruisers, many torpedo boats and minesweepers. HMS Perth went down after being hit with four torpedoes, and after midnight, the Japanese targeted the Houston with a torpedo. Then a shell from the Japanese destroyed the number 2 turret and Capt. Rooks told the men to abandon ship. Capt. Rooks died when a shell hit a gun mount and the shrapnel hit him as he came down a ladder from the signal bridge. The order to abandon was remanded and the men from the Houston fought on, hitting three destroyers and a minesweeper.

But then the Houston was torpedoed and started sinking. The crew swam away. Red Clymer got a life ring for Bill who was now grateful he had taken swimming lessons at the YMCA. He was told to swim fast and as he looked back he could still see the ship and it was in flames. He said, "I was in the water from 2 in the morning until about 3 PM. Being in the dark was frightening because I didn't know what I would bump into-- a dead sailor, a dead Japanese or a dangerous fish." The Japanese picked him up and they interviewed him, and clobbered him when they didn't like his answers. Finally they threw him overboard. He swam to get a life ring and was eventually picked up by a fishing boat whose owner was letting people on the boat in ex-

change for gifts. Ingram said, "All I had on was a pair of navy shorts, white shorts, and a white belt and my knife...I gave him my jackknife to get on board."

The currents in the sea headed the men towards Java. Finally, the men on the boat had enough of the trading system and chucked the native overboard. Once on shore, the men walked into what they thought was a Dutch Red Cross site and instead found it was a front for an old prison and the Japanese took them prisoner. His first beating took place when he said Roosevelt was the greatest man, and not Tojo. After the Japanese sergeant hit Bill with a rifle and dug him with hob nailed boots, Bill Ingram said, "You stand there with blood running all over you and everything, and he (Tojo) becomes number one." Subservience became necessary to stay alive.



Bill worked on the Burma Road, an engineering feat that has been compared to building the pyramids because so much work was done by human labor. By the end of the war, Bill was suffering from malaria and dysentery and in retrospect he felt that a few more weeks in Burma might have cost him his life. He suffered malaria stupor so that his trip home through Calcutta and New York remained oblivious to him. "I woke from my "stupor" to find myself in a New York bar with some buddies. I had a head of lettuce in front of me and didn't know why I ordered it." He started crying and the bartender asked him why he was so disturbed and he said. "I just want to go home."

Back at home while Bill and Robert were just beginning their hardships, their parents read the headlines in the local paper, titled "Parents Who Lost One Son In Sea War Notified Second Boy Missing in Action." It wasn't until the captured could send out a postcard home that Bill's parents could know for sure that their boys were still alive. In the article, Mrs. Ingram said, "I still believe they will come back to me," in spite of last official reports had them both missing in action. The Navy sent her three reports about Robert, saying he was missing, then that he was alive and then again that he was missing. The postcards sent out by the captured prisoners allowed for choices that said that the men were fine and treated well. But the men coming home knew differently. They had not been fine or treated well. After telling his trials to the bartender in New York, the bartender put Bill on a train to Illinois. Once there, he returned to his childhood home only to find his parents had moved. After several inquiries he made his way to the neighborhood where he was told they lived. Once there, he knocked on doors hoping someone would know of his parents. Finally, he noticed a mailman who told him he was within four doors of his parent's house. "My mother almost fainted when she answered the door. She was not expecting me. It was a relief to be home, and Bill stayed home for a month, healing at Great Lakes Naval Hospital. Bill decided to stay on in the navy. He met his wife Yvette in French Morocco and they had two children. He retired from the Navy as a Chief Boatswain Mate.

More information can be found about the U.S.S. HoustonCA-30 Survivors Association at <http://www.usshouston.org/> The USS Houston was a favorite of Pres. Roosevelt and he often sailed on the ship. The museum has resources on the Houston and the Burma Thailand railway. Its story has been chronicled in the book Ship of Ghosts by James D. Hornfischer. Bill Ingram is quoted in the book.

The number of men on the Houston was over 1,000 and those who survived were 369. Thirteen remain as of

March 12,2013, Written by Jane Kraina

Sources: Ship of Ghosts by James D. Hornfischer, Stolen Freedom DVD, Phone Interviews with Bill Ingram

AN INVITATION

An invitation for Thursday November 9, celebrating Veterans Day

Date: November 9

Time: 8:45am-9:30am

Location: Valley Ridge Academy 105 Greenleaf Dr. Ponte Vedra, Fl 32081



Event: Our school is K-8 so we have each grade participating in a different way. K-2 will have posters displayed for Veterans when you enter for coffee. Grades 3-8 will be writing letters that we will give to the Veterans nursing home. The ceremony that day will include grades 3-5. Students will be reading letters they wrote, the Presidential proclamation, and Veteran's seal. We will also have music by our students.

Hope you all can attend.

Veterans Council announces Wreath Campaign

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

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.

Our local businesses are also encouraged to participate.

Individual wreaths are \$15.00, but for each two wreaths purchased, the council receives a third wreath without charge. Checks should be made payable to WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA and mailed to: Veterans Council of St. Johns County, P. O. Box 2117, St. Augustine, FL 32085-2117. Quinn can be contacted by telephone at 904.797.5622 if you have additional questions.

Looking ahead, the community is invited on **December 16, 2017 at 12:00 noon** for a ceremony followed by placement of the wreaths. Youth organizations are encouraged to participate in honoring our veterans.





Wreath Sponsorship Form

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

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

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

Veterans Council of SJC
 P.O. Box 2117
 St. Augustine, FL 32085-2117
 Checks payable to: Wreaths Across America TM

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

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

In Honor of:

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

Email: _____

Mailing: _____

In Memory of:

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

Branch of Service: _____

Rank: _____

State: _____

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

Location ID: FL5NSA Fundraising Group ID: FL0080

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Cash \$: _____ Total\$: _____ Date: _____
 Total # Checks: _____ Reconciled: _____
 MO \$: _____
 Entered: _____

GEN: _____

VA shifts course (again) on clinic in St. Augustine » New competitive process starts for lease procurement

BY JAKE MARTIN jake.martin@staugustine.com

It's back to the drawing board again for the St. Augustine Community Based Outpatient Clinic.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs this week announced it will commence a new, competitive lease procurement process, complete with a revised set of parameters and requirements, for the already long-awaited facility.

"VA is committed to delivering a longterm clinical solution that meets the needs of veterans and their families in the St. Augustine area," the department said in a news release Monday. "VA ensures there will be no interruption in health care, and is committed to identifying opportunities to streamline this process and delivering the facility as expeditiously as possible."

St. Johns County was informed of the VA's latest shift in approach during a conference call Monday, just prior to the public notification.

"We are disappointed in the change in policy direction the Veterans Administration has chosen to take in addressing the needs of St. Johns County veterans in regard to constructing a permanent Community Based Outpatient Clinic," the county said in a statement to The Record on Tuesday. "St. Johns County will continue to participate in the effort to ensure a permanent Community Based Outpatient Clinic is constructed for our veterans and remains open providing a site adjacent to the Health and Human Services building so our veterans can receive an array of services in a single, convenient location."

The VA acknowledged the county's efforts to provide built-to-suit space for the department to lease but said a workable plan has remained elusive and that market conditions in the St. Augustine area have changed, prompting the change in direction.

An expanded delineated area that the VA said "more fully aligns" with health care enrollment data still includes the county's original proposed location, next to its Health and Human Services complex on San Sebastian Drive.

However, the new area under consideration also encompasses a good chunk of central St. Johns County, aside from the immediate coastal areas and along the St. Johns River. Its southern boundary is more or less at the Flagler County line, minus the southwest and southeast corners, while its northern boundary cuts off around State Road 16/County Road 208.

On Monday, the VA posted an advertisement for expressions of interest – essentially a notice of "potential opportunity" and not a solicitation for offers or a request for proposals – accessible from www.fbo.gov. Responses are due Sept. 20.

"VA recognizes that St. Johns County has attempted in good faith for the last 18 months to present an actionable offer and sincerely hopes that the county will continue to refine its approach and participate as part of a full and open competition for this lease procurement," the VA said.

County spokesman Michael Ryan said the county's role in the VA's new procurement process is "uncertain and undefined," at least at this time.

He said county staff will still explore options and opportunities to bring the facility to fruition.

The whole process of moving the clinic from its previous location, at 1955 U.S. 1 South, began several years ago.

In 2011, the county notified the VA of the possible sale of that property to Lowe's and the requirement for the clinic to relocate by the end of March 2015. Even with years of lead time, the move was delayed.

The VA eventually opened its current, temporary location at 195 South-park Blvd. in September 2015, but not without paying lease extension fines. The VA cited procurement regulations as the reason for overstaying its welcome.

The VA also did not accept a more than \$5 million offer made by the county in August 2014 to build a new, permanent clinic, citing a regulatory need to keep the process competitive. Local officials at the time said a contractor was ready to begin work at the Health and Human Services complex site.

The plight of the VA clinic, which serves thousands of veterans, attracted the attention of local, regional and national officials, causing them to get involved and make calls for action. Nonetheless, deadlines have been set and extended for numerous steps throughout the process, which keeps changing.

Just getting to this latest iteration of the ongoing saga from its previous form took more than a year and a half.

After a solicitation process on the open market failed to yield a lease contract, the VA in December 2015 announced its intent to enter into a sole-source contract with the county to lease a built-to-suit facility. The county then hired an architectural and engineering firm to work through project feasibilities, estimate the costs of the VA's construction requirements and assist in negotiations to reduce expensive building components.

Although the VA in November amended its solicitation to reduce some of those requirements, the estimated costs still exceeded the county's ability to recoup the construction expense within a reasonable period.

County commissioners in December unanimously approved spending an additional \$65,000 from reserves to beef up a consulting team working on the county's offer to the VA to make the clinic a reality. The county had already spent \$50,000 on the effort.

At the time, Damon Douglas, project manager for the county, told commissioners the VA's requirements were "voluminous" and that staff and consultants didn't initially realize the complexities of certain components, including security, technology, communication design and medical planning.

In July, the county announced it had received an unsolicited, preliminary proposal for a public-private partnership to construct a new VA clinic. The commission earlier this month gave the go-ahead to seek competing offers and to negotiate a contract with the highest-ranking firm for construction and operation of the clinic.

Commissioner Jay Morris, who has dealt with the issue of the VA clinic for much of his two terms on the board, called it "the biggest light at the end of the tunnel that I have seen."

Local officials said the preliminary offer, which came from a non-local entity with experience building VA clinics, opened up some real possibilities. By then, staff had determined it would still be cost prohibitive for the county to proceed building the facility on its own. The hopes were to have a firm offer to the VA by December and a Certificate of Occupancy for the clinic by August 2019.

The VA in its news release did not make any specific mention of St. Johns County's latest efforts to pursue a public-private partnership. While only referring to the county's general efforts over the past 18 months to deliver a workable plan under a sole-source contract, the department seemed to be consciously aware of the larger timeline on which they're operating.

"Given the long history of this lease replacement, VA does not foresee a significant delay with this change of approach and is taking steps in the best long-term interest of the VA, St. Augustine veterans, and U.S. taxpayers," the VA said.

**This is important, we need your support,
please respond to the link below.**



The veterans' treatment court model was established to remove veterans from the regular criminal justice process and to provide an opportunity for the veteran to address conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder and substance abuse disorder that that may have led to their involvement in the justice system. In a veterans' treatment court, the presiding judge works with the veteran and a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Veterans Justice Outreach specialist to establish a structured rehabilitation program and treatment plan that is tailored to the specific needs of the individual veteran.

S. 946, the Veterans Treatment Court Improvement Act of 2017, requires the VA to hire additional Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO) specialists to ensure veterans have greater access to effective and tailored treatment.

The bill authorizes \$5.5 million for each fiscal year beginning in FY 2017 through 2027 to hire 50 additional VJO Specialists. Funding priority would be given to VA facilities that work with newly established or existing but understaffed veterans' treatment courts. The legislation requires annual reporting on the implementation of the bill as well as its effect on the VJO program and a mandate for the Government Accountability Office to review and report on the implementation of the bill and the overall effectiveness of the VJO program for justice-involved veterans.

DAV Resolution No. 105 notes that veterans' treatment courts evolved from a proven national model of diversionary drug and mental health courts to address the specific challenges many wartime veterans face post service and calls for the continued growth of veterans' treatment courts.

Please use the prepared letter to write to your Senators and request support and passage of S. 946, the Veterans Treatment Court Improvement Act of 2017. Thank you for your efforts and support of the Commander's Action Network.

Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc. Minutes of August 31, 2017

Officers present: Chairman Bill Dudley; Vice Chairman Ray Quinn, Secretary Michael Rothfeld, John Mountcastle, Treas.,

Chairman Dudley called the meeting to order at 1900 hours
Chairman Dudley led the Pledge to the Flag
Vice Chairman Ray Quinn gave the Invocation

Last month's Minutes were approved as presented at the meeting.
The Treasurer's Report was approved as amended at the meeting

Introduction of Guests:

Kimberly Gibbons, Atlantic Coast Young Marines

Milk Klim American Legion Post 233

Jeremiah Blocker & Jason Odom of N FL Lawyers

Speakers:

Kimberly Gibbons, Atlantic Coast Young Marines: Their Mission is to positively impact America's future by providing quality youth development for all children nurturing them into responsible citizens who enjoy & promote a healthy, drug free lifestyle. Open to all children 8 thru High School.

Committee Reports:

Mac: The appeals process has been over hauled. The VSO does not have all the info yet. Mac discussed the new GI "Forever Bill", educational benefits available without a time frame. As of Nov. 11 military exchanges will be online. The VSO saw over 1000 new clients in 2016.

Michael: There are still a few seats available for the Sept. 16th Ken Burns Vietnam War preview, contact Michael if you want to attend.

John Leslie: FL VVA wants to be prepared for any reaction to the Vietnam documentary. He will be meeting with PBS on Sept. 13 to discuss how to get the word out via PBS about Veterans Crisis Call Centers.

John presented Michael with an Honorary Life Membership to the Vietnam Veterans of America.

Judy Davis/Ray Quinn: funds are needed for Wreaths Across America to cover ALL headstones at St Augustine National Cemetery. It is \$ 15 a wreath. Donation forms distributed and all asked to circulate.

Kathy: Kathy gave a to date summary of MIAP's, 3177 interred veterans so far. She is now meeting with Craig in St. Augustine. All invited to Amer. Legion 233 on 9/16 for a VA Burial Benefits presentation, from 9 to 11am.

Chairman Dudley spoke at length on the new developments regarding the St Augustine CBOC. The VA has changed its path for the third time. SJC still committed to working with the VA and seeing this project through to the end. The VA says the center of the veterans population is Dupont Center in southern St Johns County. Capt. USN (Ret) Randy Stapleford of Cong. DeSantis's office was part of the meeting with the VA via phone as was Chairman Dudley and SJC VSO Joe McDermott.

The monument issue was briefly discussed, Chairman Dudley said St Augustine monuments are to veterans and should be respected and not moved, The north and south soldiers were only obeying orders. The Council's policy is don't desecrate monuments to veterans.

New Business: Eric West, publisher of Military Deals magazine spoke about how veterans can get free tickets to the Tax Slayer Bowl by going to milsaver.com

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 pm.

The next meeting of the Veterans Council will be on Thursday, September 28, 7 pm in the Health & Human Services Building, 200 San Sebastian View.

Future speakers:

September 28, Bob Buehn, Capt USN (Ret), Coordinator of the UNF Veterans Resource Center

Andrew Coughlan, from the Wounded Warrior Project

October 26, Mike Mitchell, Jacksonville University Veteran Students Coordinator

Scott Grant, speaking about the German U Boat attack in Jacksonville Beach

November 30, Cynthia Thompson, Veterans treatment Court Coordinator

Eric Heineman, Executive Director K9s United



Ken Burns and Co-Director Lynn Novick on the Lessons in Their Latest Documentary, *The Vietnam War*

For onscreen realism, nothing gets you closer than a documentary. Filmmaker Ken Burns and his production partner and co-director Lynn Novick unveil their latest documentary, *The Vietnam War*, a new 10-part, 18-hour series, September 17 on PBS. It joins their other collaborations, which include *Baseball*, *The War* and *The Civil War*.

Parade asked Burns and Novick, why Vietnam, why now? Here's what they said: All wars are fought twice, writer Viet Thanh Nguyen has said—first on the field of battle and then in our memory. *The Vietnam War*, the most important event in our history since World War II, is no exception.



It has been more than four decades since the conflict ended in failure, witnessed by the entire world, and Americans are still arguing about what really happened, why everything went so badly wrong and who is to blame. The war was a decade of agony that tore our country apart, as Phil Gioia, an officer in the 82nd Airborne, told us. It “drove a stake right into the heart of America, polarized the country as it had probably never been polarized since before the Civil War,” Gioia said. “And we’ve never recovered.”

What We’ve Forgotten

The seeds of many of the troubles that beset us today—alienation, resentment and cynicism; mistrust of our government and each other; breakdown of civil discourse and civic institutions—were sewn during the Vietnam War. Until we find a way to come to terms with this unsettled and enormously consequential event, its ghosts will continue to haunt us. At this fractious moment we are obligated more than ever to study the complicated history of the war, to rediscover what we have forgotten, reexamine what we remember and misremember and to learn what we never knew.

For teachers and students heading back to school this fall, an open-minded exploration of the history of the Vietnam War could not be more relevant, more timely. As filmmakers and amateur historians, we have spent 10 years trying to unpack and understand the war, to absorb its myriad lessons. We have tried to see the conflict with fresh eyes, and from many different perspectives. Dozens of generous men and women who lived through it—Americans and Vietnamese—bravely shared their personal stories with us, stories of humanity and inhumanity; of courage, comradeship, and perseverance; of terror, hatred, and grief; of doubt, conscience, sacrifice and love.

It’s Never Over

Throughout we have been inspired by the profound work of art and memory created by Maya Lin, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. She designed the Wall, Lin said, “to make you experience death, and where you’d have to be an observer, where you could never really fully be with the dead. [It isn’t] something that’s going to say, ‘It’s all right, it’s all over.’ Because it’s not.”

Nothing can make the tragedy of the Vietnam War all right. But if we are to heal this festering wound, we should begin by remembering, and honoring, the more than 58,000 soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines, nurses and other servicemen and women who were killed in it and the hundreds of thousands more who were wounded. And to Vietnam veterans who came home to a country deeply divided over the rectitude and necessity of the war, we can say what our country failed to say adequately at the time: “Thank you, and welcome home.”

Don’t Blame the Soldiers

History of the POW/MIA Bracelets



Over the years, people have contacted the League looking for information on the history and background of the POW/MIA bracelets, originated and worn extensively in the 1970s, and continuously since by POW/MIA family members, veterans and other interested Americans. The following historical information was written by Carol Bates Brown, one of the originators:

I was the National Chairman of the POW/MIA Bracelet Campaign for VIVA (Voices In Vital America), the Los Angeles based student organization that produced and distributed the bracelets during the Vietnam War. Entertainers Bob Hope and Martha Raye served with me as honorary co-chairmen.

The idea for the bracelets was started by a fellow college student, Kay Hunter, and me, as a way to remember American prisoners of war suffering in captivity in Southeast Asia. In late 1969, television personality Bob Dornan (who several years later was elected to the US Congress) introduced us and several other members of VIVA to three wives of missing pilots. They thought our student group could assist them in drawing public attention to the prisoners and missing in Vietnam. The idea of circulating petitions and letters to Hanoi demanding humane treatment for the POWs was appealing, as we were looking for ways college students could become involved in positive programs to support US soldiers without becoming embroiled in the controversy of the war itself. The relatives of the men were beginning to organize locally, but the National League of POW/MIA Families had yet to be formed.

During that time, Bob Dornan wore a bracelet he had obtained in Vietnam from hill tribesmen, which he said always reminded him of the suffering the war had brought to so many. We wanted to get similar bracelets to wear to remember US POWs, so rather naively, we tried to figure out a way to go to Vietnam. Since no one wanted to fund two sorority-girl types on a tour to Vietnam during the height of the war, and our parents were livid at the idea, we gave up and Kay Hunter began to check out ways to make bracelets. Soon other activities drew her attention and she dropped out of VIVA, leaving me, another student Steve Frank, and our adult advisor, Gloria Coppin, to pursue the POW/MIA awareness program. The major problem was that VIVA had no money to make bracelets, although our advisor was able to find a small shop in Santa Monica that did engraving on silver used to decorate horses. The owner agreed to make 10 sample bracelets. I can remember us sitting around in Gloria Coppin's kitchen with the engraver on the telephone, as we tried to figure out what we would put on the bracelets. This is why they carried only name, rank and date of loss, since we didn't have time to think of anything else.

Armed with sample bracelets, we set out to find someone who would donate money to make bracelets for distribution to college students. It had not yet occurred to us that adults would want to wear them, as they weren't very attractive. Several approaches to Ross Perot were rebuffed, including a proposal that he loan us \$10,000 at 10% interest. We even visited Howard Hughes' senior aides in Las Vegas. They were sympathetic but not willing to help fund our project. Finally in late summer of 1970, Gloria Coppin's husband donated enough brass and copper to make 1,200 bracelets. The Santa Monica engraver agreed to make them and we could pay him from any proceeds we might realize.

Although the initial bracelets were going to cost about 75 cents to make, we were unsure about how much we should ask people to donate to receive a bracelet. In 1970, a student admission to the local movie theater was \$2.50. We decided this seemed like a fair price to ask from a student for one of the nickel-plated bracelets. We also made copper ones for adults who believed they helped their "tennis elbow". Again, according to our logic, adults could pay more, so we would request \$3.00 for the copper bracelets.

At the suggestion of local POW/MIA relatives, we attended the National League of Families annual meeting in Washington, DC in late September. We were amazed at the interest from the wives and parents in having their man's name put on bracelets and in obtaining them for distribution. Bob Dornan, who was always a champion of the POW/MIAs and their families, continued to publicize the issue on his Los Angeles television talk show and promoted the bracelets.

On Veterans Day, November 11, 1970, we officially kicked off the bracelet program with a news conference at the Universal Sheraton Hotel. Public response quickly grew and we eventually got to the point we were receiving over 12,000 requests a day. This also brought money in to pay for brochures, bumper stickers, buttons, advertising and whatever else we could do to publicize the POW/MIA issue. We formed a close alliance with the relatives of missing men – they got bracelets from us on consignment and could keep some of the money they raised to fund their local organizations. We also tried to furnish these groups with all the stickers and other literature they could give away.

While Steve Frank and I ended up dropping out of college to work for VIVA full time to administer the bracelet and other POW/MIA programs, none of us got rich off the bracelets. VIVA's adult advisory group, headed by Gloria Coppin, was adamant that we would not have a highly paid professional staff. As I recall the highest salary was \$15,000 a year and we were able to keep administrative costs to less than 20 percent of income.

In all, VIVA distributed nearly five million bracelets and raised enough money to produce untold millions of bumper stickers, buttons, brochures, matchbooks, newspaper ads, etc., to draw attention to the missing men. In 1976, VIVA closed its doors. By then the American public was tired of hearing about Vietnam and showed no interest in the POW/MIA issue.

Veterans Day Parade in St. Augustine



“Come to the Veteran's Day Grand Parade in downtown St. Augustine. The parade, which will begin when the church bells ring and there is a cannon salute from the fort, is to honor the military history of St. Augustine and all those who served and continue to

serve our country. It will include historic military vehicles, military units, military marching bands, local high school bands, vintage and military aircraft flyovers, military aircraft on static display beside the fort and some of the Castillo's living history volunteers.

Starting on Orange Street at 10:45am, the parade will continue east on Orange Street, south on S. Castillo Dr./Avenida Menendez, west on Cathedral Pl., north on Cordova Street, returning to Orange Street near Francis Field. The parade is being presented by the Veterans Council of St. Johns County and the Ancient City Chapter of the Military Officers Association in America. Our Veterans Day Parade this year will be focused on our local heroes who have served our nation.

After the parade, the vehicles and volunteers will make their way to the Castillo, where the vehicles will be on display in the visitor parking lot from approximately 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. There will be free admission to the Castillo where you'll find volunteers of various time periods, displaying a timeline of the Castillo's military history, and living history encampments represented by park volunteers.”

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. -- Jacksonville's Mayor, Lenny Curry, signed a bill establishing an agreement for a POW/MIA memorial honoring service men and women at Cecil Field.

The bill was sponsored by Councilman Doyle Carter. Carter said the initial idea was just a small project at first but as more and more people got on board, the project grew.

"[Our veterans] went through a lot of stuff and they came back, but the ones that didn't come back or were in the POW, this is a great way to another them," Carter said.

As the City of Jacksonville expands its military presence, this memorial will honor the tremendous sacrifice and service from military servicemen and servicewomen throughout the city, the Mayor's office wrote in a press release.

"It's humbling to be here and be a part of this today," Mayor Curry said.



SUBARU OF JACKSONVILLE SUPPORTS YOU



 **SUBARU.**
JACKSONVILLE | SOJAX.COM

SUBARU OF JACKSONVILLE
10800 ATLANTIC BLVD, JACKSONVILLE, FL 32225
PHONE: (888) 781-0319 (904)641-6455 - SUBARUOFJACKSONVILLE.COM

2017 HOMELESS STAND DOWN



Saturday September 30, 2017

9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Elks Lodge

1420 A1A South

For more information contact: (904) 209-6160

SERVICES:

- Healthcare Services
- Legal Resources
- Housing Resources
- Employment Service
- Homeless Outreach

ITEMS:

- Clothing
- Personal Care Items
- Haircuts
- Showers
- Hot Meal
- RAFFLE

SPONSORS: *St. Johns County Veterans Service Office; St. Johns County Veterans Council; BPO Elks #829; VFW Post 2391; American Legion Post 37; St. Augustine VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic; VA Homeless Veterans Outreach Team; CareerSource Northeast Florida; and many other!*



YOUR GO TO TEAM IN SJC

FOR YOUR HOME SELLING & BUYING NEEDS

Featuring one of our **Customer Service Specialists** and one of our **Top Individual Producers**



Marianne Bach
(904) 349-0456



Call Us TODAY!



Kathy Jordan
(904) 401-0476

*** As a VETERAN (Navy, Army, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, Reserves) SAVE 25% when buying or selling with us! ***

EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE WE CAN MAKE FOR YOU!

Navy to Navy Homes Llc
10605 Theresa Drive, Suite 5
Jacksonville, FL 32246
Office: 904-900-4776



*****PROGRESS TO DATE*****

NATIONWIDE PROGRESS AS OF 8/20/2017

Total Funeral Homes Visited - 2,117

Cremains Found - 15,160, Veterans Cremains Identified - 3,467, Veterans Interred - 3,177

FLORIDA'S PROGRESS AS OF 8/01/2017

Total Funeral Homes Visited – 134, Cremains Found – 999, Veterans Interred – 152

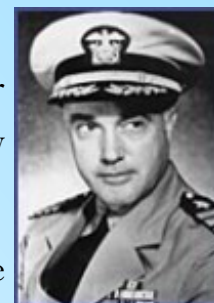
Spouses Interred – 72, Dependents Interred – 1, Missions pending - 43

Call to Honors = 13

Historically Speaking: The Real Tragedies of the USS Indianapolis

Among the many tragic stories of World War II, the sinking of the USS Indianapolis resulted in a miscarriage of justice that sent its skipper to his doom.

Capt. Charles B. McVay III was the commanding officer of the heavy cruiser USS Indianapolis (CA-35) when it was lost in July 1945, after being torpedoed by a Japanese submarine, I-58.



The Indianapolis departed Tinian after delivering the two atomic weapons to the U.S. Army Air Corps destined for Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The ship's mission was top secret and had no escort destroyers protecting it. Because of the secrecy, none of the surrounding fleet knew of the ship's mission or whereabouts even after delivering its cargo. As the ship was going down, SOS calls for help went unheeded because ships in the area thought the signals might be a Japanese trap trying to lure U.S. ships.

The submarine attack on the Indianapolis resulted in a massive loss of life. More than 300 of the ship's 1,100-man crew were lost, primarily to sharks as well as wounds sustained in the torpedo attack. It took five days before a Navy scout plane finally spotted the survivors.

While the surviving crew was lauded as heroes, the Navy, not wanting to admit to the tragic mistake of not protecting one of its capital ships, decided someone had to take the blame. Of all the captains in the history of the United States Navy, McVay is the only one court-martial for losing a ship sunk by an act of war. The fact he was on a top-secret mission maintaining radio silence fell on deaf ears in Washington. Even Japanese Commander Mochitsura Hashimoto I, who sunk the Indianapolis, testified in McVay's behalf. He told the court there was no way the American skipper could have avoided the attack.

The surviving Indianapolis crew members knew their captain was being sacrificed. Nonetheless, for years the captain was deluged with hate mail and harassing phone calls from family members of those lost at sea.

McVay's record up until the sinking was superb. He guided the Indianapolis through the invasion of Iwo Jima, then the bombardment of Okinawa in the spring of 1945.

For years the Navy claimed the Indianapolis' SOS messages were never received because the ship was operating under a policy of radio silence. However, declassified records now show that three SOS messages were received separately, but none were acted upon because one of the officers

thought it was a Japanese ruse, another had given orders not to be disturbed, and a third was drunk.

Admiral Chester Nimitz, commander of the Pacific Fleet, issued McVay a letter of reprimand to McVay for not using the “zig-zag” maneuver. However, in Washington, D.C., Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Ernest King overturned Nimitz’s decision and recommended a court-martial.

In his book *Abandon Ship*, author Richard F. Newcomb suggests one possible motive for Admiral King’s ordering McVay’s court-martial. According to Captain McVay’s father, Admiral Charles B McVay Jr: “King never forgot a grudge,” he replied in anger. King had been a junior officer under the old man’s command when King and other junior officers sneaked some women aboard a ship. Admiral McVay had letter of reprimand placed in King’s record. “Now,” he raged to his son, “King’s used you to get back at me.”

American submarine experts testified that “zigzagging” was a technique of negligible value in eluding enemy submarines. Sub Commander Hashimoto also testified in agreement. Despite that testimony, the official ruling was that visibility was good, and the court held McVay responsible for failing to zigzag.

On Nov. 6, 1968, Captain McVay committed suicide by shooting himself at his Litchfield, Conn., home. USS Indianapolis survivors organized, and many spent years attempting to clear their skipper’s name. Ironically, more than 50 years after the incident, a 12-year-old Pensacola, Fla., student, Hunter Scott, was instrumental in raising awareness of the miscarriage of justice carried out at the captain’s court-martial. As part of a school project for the National History Day program, the young man interviewed nearly 150 survivors of the Indianapolis sinking and reviewed 800 documents. His testimony before Congress brought national attention to the McVay case.

In October 2000, the United States Congress passed a resolution that McVay’s record should reflect that “he is exonerated for the loss of the USS Indianapolis.” President Clinton also signed the resolution. Commander Hashimoto died Oct. 25, five days before McVay’s exoneration.

In July 2001, Secretary of the Navy Gordon R. England ordered McVay’s official Navy record purged of all wrong-doing.





At this past Thursdays Veterans Council meeting Vietnam Veterans President John Leslie, chapter 1084 presented me, pictured in middle, with an Honorary Life Member certificate to the VVA, accompanied by a letter from VVA National President John P Rowan. John told me that there are over 81,000 VVA members and only 6 Honorary Lifetime members. I am very proud to become a member of this patriotic group.



From left, LTC Blair Craig, John McGinty USMC, Michael Rothfeld, Ken Weaver USA, and VVA 1084 President Capt. John Leslie USN ret.

Active Duty and retired military wanting to attend this year's TaxSlayer Bowl in Jacksonville can get a free ticket and a post game concert ticket valued at \$ 120 by registering at: taxslayerbowl.com

They have set aside 5000 free seats for veterans.

The game theme is "Honoring Our Heroes". The game is Saturday December 30, 2017.



St. Augustine documents from Civil War go online

On 10 March 1862, the USS *Wabash* hove to off the mouth of St. Augustine Inlet. Heavy weather that day restricted the use of ship's boats to cross the bar in the Inlet. The next day, 11 March, Commander C.R.P. Rogers entered the inlet in a ship's boat with an unarmed landing party and accepted the surrender of Ft. Marion (the present-day Castillo de San Marcos National Monument) and the adjacent Town of St. Augustine, Florida.

The St. Augustine Historical Society Research Library has created a digital archive of its rare collection of original and photocopied letters and documents related to the Union occupation of St. Augustine during the Civil War, important because there was no newspaper in St. Augustine during this period.

Chad Germany, a history major at the University of North Florida and a member of the Digital Humanities Initiative interning with the library, has developed www.sacivilwararchive.com, with correspondence, reports, journals, and poems authored by Union soldiers, Confederate soldiers, and civilians on both sides who experienced and wrote about the Civil War in St. Augustine. *Views of Civil War St. Augustine* are images of the period.

Says Germany, "Of particular note are three items highlighting the March 1862 Union occupation of St. Augustine, from three distinct vantage points: 'Letters from H.B. Jenckes (March 10-13),' 'A Confederate Soldier's Diary of the 3rd Florida Regiment,' and 'Capture of Fort Marion.'

"If you have any material you would like to add to the collection please let us know and we will scan it and return the original and a copy of the scan to you," says Chief Librarian Bob Nawrocki bob-nawrocki@sahs1883.com.

from the Gardner Report

Florida Voices: Vietnam Veterans WUFT | Gary Newman, Navy, 1964 and 1967 to 1968

By Ethan Magoc September 15, 2017 People of Florida

Historians generally connect the significant expansion of U.S. involvement in Vietnam back to an incident in the Gulf of Tonkin in August 1964. Gary Newman was there. Today, he is president of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1059, as well as Chapter 1080 in Union Correctional Institution. The past few years, he has committed himself to raising \$80,000 to construct a monument to those in Clay County who served in Vietnam. It will be dedicated in October in Green Cove Springs. Our conversation took place Aug. 14, 2017, at his home in Orange Park.



My name is Aaron Gary Newman. I go by Gary. I was born in Centerline, Michigan, which was a very small township at that time. I was born on February 28, 1942. I spent a good part of my younger years in orphanages and foster homes. I was kind of a rowdy teenager growing up. My stepfather was in the Air Force, and he had been stationed up in Fairbanks, Alaska, when Alaska was still a territory.

I didn't care much for school and got myself into a little bit of trouble. I desperately needed discipline and someone to guide me in the right way. When I turned 17, I went to an Air Force recruiter. Two weeks after I turned 17, I was in the military. The Air Force had sent me down to Anchorage to go through all of my physicals and to be sworn in. It was while there that I met two sailors, and they told me what the Navy life was like and how they enjoyed it. I felt that was the kind of life I wanted to have because I was young, adventurous. I got hold of the Navy recruiter, and they sent me down to Kodiak Island, where I was sworn into the Navy on March 15, 1959.

Can you recall your general impressions of Vietnam?

It's an absolutely beautiful country. It's even head and toes above the beauty of the Philippines and some parts of China that I've been in, but the people were extremely friendly, especially the children. The Americans were able to connect quickly with the children. They liked to hang around us and whatever. But these were only chance encounters with the kids as far as the riverines went, because we spent all of our time out on the water. When we weren't on the water, we were tied up to a dock at an Army base, which was Dong Tan. If we were on a mission and we happened to dock at the beach for whatever reason, the children would flock to us. We encountered quite a few firefights. We were basically set up to be ambushed. That was part of our purpose. We acted as a blocking force, where they would push the enemy into us.

What were those encounters with the enemy like?

At first, all of us felt pretty cocky. We were young people. When you're in that young age group, you feel almost like you're bulletproof. You can't do anything to me. Our first few initial firefights we were in went pretty smoothly. We got some good training in. Everything hit home after about our fourth month there, when our leading chief took a B40 rocket in his chest, and it killed him. That really hit home. The ones that fired the rocket itself at him were captured. They were on my boat for about two and a half or three hours, awaiting transportation to wherever they go to interrogate them... The anger. At that point, on our gun turrents, there was a word in Vietnamese — 'sat cong,' which means kill the Vietcong. We painted that on our gun mounts in eight or 10-inch letters as a dare to come get us. We're ready now. I think we had that feeling from that point on. We were there to fight. We all grew up when the death of our leading chief happened. From that point, on it was just bring it on. Let's do it.

You had about six or eight months left then? What was the remainder of that time like?

About eight months, yeah. I believe it was December 1967, we were ambushed. This was a huge ambush. We were taking the Vietnamese 5th Marine Battalion upriver to a seek and destroy mission. There was probably about 15 or more of us boats going in a convoy. Up ahead, a cable suddenly came up. The Vietcong had attached a cable around a tree on one side of the river, and on the other side did the same thing. When we got up to a certain point, they chopped one tree so that when it fell over, that cable popped up and prevented the boats from going any further. They also did the same thing at the end of our convoy. We were locked right in. They just threw a hale of B40 rockets at us, machine gun fire, rifle fire — everything they could throw at us. We immediately turned our boats into the shoreline, dropped our ramps, and it was just right-close-in fighting. The end result of that, after our two-hour battle, was we killed 250 Vietcong. Apparently, we had stumbled upon their main battalion, grouping up, probably getting ready for Tet, which was the following month. We virtually totally destroyed that battalion.

My boat had beached, and South Vietnamese were getting tore up at the beginning. As I got up on the bow of my boat, a sniper round went probably about an inch away from my ear. Right past my ear. The medic boat was right beside me. They were putting all the wounded in there. I left my boat and helped as best I could with the wounded — putting bandages on, comforting them, whatever I could do.

You're 26 years old. Were you able to see then how the war had changed you?

I did not realize how much the war changed me until several years later, after I got out of the military. Of course, I got into a field of law enforcement, and again I have a gun on my hip. I'm still thinking in certain situations that happened about still being in country. Nervous. Quick movements. Sudden noises. Always sitting with my back to the wall, where I can see everything.

It wasn't until after my law enforcement career, when I started working with veterans, when everything really started hitting home. I suddenly realized I've got PTSD. I deal with it the best I can. I'll give you an example. I was at a doctor's office one day with my wife. I met a young Marine sergeant, who had been in Iraq and he was hit with an IED and had lost his legs. I just broke down in tears. I don't know why. It happened to me when I had operations on my legs. I woke up — and again when I had this operation two or three weeks back — I woke up and was talking about killing Vietcong. When I came out of anesthesia. But I deal with those things the best I can.

How so?

How do I deal with it? A lot with my wife. She's the only one who I can really confide in with those things. And that didn't happen until we were married probably for over 30 years.

(After his leg operation...) My wife said, 'Listen. You've been in the house too long. You need to find something that you are interested in and just get out of the house.' I thought about it and said what do I know the best? I said, 'You know, I'm a veteran. What I know best are veterans.' I did not like any of the veterans' organizations. I decided to start a Vietnam Veterans of America chapter. That was 2011. I started going to different meetings, looking for Vietnam veterans who would come together with me. In January 2012, our national headquarters gave me a charter for Clay County. I'm the founder and president. I've had an opportunity to work closely with many Vietnam veterans who have serious issues about how they were treated when they came home. They're still extremely bitter about that. Even though we're getting a younger group and people are telling us, 'Thank you for your service.' Vietnam veterans accept that, but there's one thing always on our mind — are you saying that because you feel obligated to say it? Or are you saying it because you really mean it? We don't know.

The last 10 years, when the Vietnam veterans finally said we're coming out of the woods, we're coming out of our hibernation we've been in, and we're going to talk

about what we've done, leave a legacy behind to tell everybody we were not bad people, that we are good. That's where the TAPS Monument comes in. The Vietnam veterans have a motto: 'Never again will one generation of veterans leave another behind.' I look as far as I can into those veterans who have been forgotten. What better way of remembering those veterans from Clay County who gave everything than to have a memorial built just for them? It's going to be built on the west side of the old courthouse in Green Cove Springs, 915 Walnut Street. Our dedication is September 11th at 11 a.m. The property is a historic site because of the old courthouse and old jail. We had to get permission from the historical society to dig up the ground. The property sits within the city limits of Green Cove Springs, so we had to get the permission of the Green Cove Springs City Council. The actual property belongs to the county, so we had to go before the board of county commissioners and get their permission. It's been a two-year project. When we gave our presentations, we told everybody we do not want one single penny of taxpayer money going into this monument. I've raised \$83,000 in two years, all of it from the public. No taxpayer money. No government.

How many members are in the chapter you started in 2012?

I have 130 members. I also told you we don't forget any veterans. I started a chapter in Union Correctional Institution and have 108 members over there. All Vietnam veterans, every one of them with an honorable discharge. When they got back, they did not have the counseling available compared to our soldiers coming back today. There was no counseling, no drug or alcohol rehab programs they could be put into, no education programs, no job opportunities. They didn't have any mentors, and they were taken from a battlefield condition, thrown directly into society, which led them to have problems in their daily life. The people I work with — some are serial killers, murderers, rapists, pedophiles, everything you could think of. But we come together once a month as brothers — Vietnam veteran brothers. It's a healing program for them. They're getting their self-esteem, their self-worth, their self-value back. It's Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1080, and I go there monthly.

This interview transcript has been edited for clarity and brevity.

Tri-Base Navy Ball

Can you put this link on your webpage and in your newsletters? This year will be a blow out year and I anticipate tickets to go quickly.....we have requests for 100 already and the capacity is 1100....so I think ticket sales will cut off in early Oct.....tickets are available now....

Thanks. John Vargo

www.tribasenavyball.com



Where:

Renaissance Hotel and Resort at World Golf Village in St. Augustine, FL.
500 South Legacy Trail St. Augustine FL 32092
(904) 940-8000



When:

October 21, 2017
Cocktail Reception 6 PM
Official Program 7 PM

Attire:

Military: Dinner Dress Blues

Civilian: Tuxedo/Ballroom Gown
(Coat/Tie permissible)

Extra Info:

There will be a free photographer set up to take/print photos.

Everyone will receive a Commemorative Coin and Growler.



COMMUNITY HOSPICE
VETERANS PARTNERSHIP

Salute Our Heroes in Their Final Days: Support Flags & Pins for Veterans in Hospice Care

Honor our local veterans in hospice care with a dignified tradition when you support funding for flags and pins through Community Hospice & Palliative Care.

Since 2008, the Jacksonville-based organization has presented all veterans admitted to its hospice program with a commemorative pin to honor their service, as well as a certificate of appreciation. For veterans who get care at one of our eight inpatient centers, staff and volunteers erect the flag of the service branch in which they served outside their rooms. Flags are then presented to veterans' families following the death.



The need for funding is great as up to 25 percent of patients who receive hospice care at Community Hospice & Palliative Care are veterans. The nonprofit organization, which provides hospice care to nearly 1,300 patients each day, raises funds through individual support and community organizations who believe in serving those who have served our country so honorably.

If you or your organization would like to support our Flags & Pins initiative and honor our warriors one last time, please contact Toula Wootan, director of community programs at Community Hospice & Palliative Care, at 904.407.6211 or twootan@communityhospice.com.

On Friday, November 10, 2017, St Anastasia Catholic Church, 5201 A1A South, will host its 15th annual Veterans Day tribute beginning with mass at 9 a.m.. A reception will follow in the community center.



The mass will honor the country's Veterans of all wars, living and deceased. Veterans of all services and those who currently serve in the military are invited to participate. The tribute is open to men and women of all faiths. Participants are asked to gather in the church Narthex (front door area) by 8:45 a.m.. Veterans will be escorted into church by the Knights of Columbus, 4th Degree Color Guard. Military uniforms, and/or organization and unit hats are encouraged.

Following mass, Veterans, service men and women, and every one attending mass, are invited to a reception hosted by the Knights of Columbus, Council 7121, in the Community Center.



Please join us on Thursday October 26th at the Veteran Council's meeting to hear noted historian and lecturer Scott Grant speak about the little known German U-Boat attack on the Gulfamerica in the waters of Jacksonville Beach.

We meet at 7:00 pm, in the St. Johns County Health and Human Services building, 200 San Sebastian View, Muscovy room, first floor.

Help us remember those who have died defending our American Freedom. This year marks the 75th anniversary of the attack of Nazi Submarine U-123 on the SS Gulfamerica which took place less than 4 miles off the coast of Jacksonville Beach. Thousands of people on the beach watched in horror. This was one of the worst homeland disasters in American History predating 9/11. In the first three months of WWII Nazi U-boat attacks were responsible for over 3,000 deaths. Scott Grant has dedicated this year to educate us on this little known local event. His goal is to educate as many people as were killed that year in 1942. We are currently at 1,622.



Friends help WWII glider pilot to continue telling his story

Most of the men that Tom Roth served with aren't around any longer. It's a fact that he credits to his foresight as a teenager.

"I outsmarted them, I went in at 17," he said.

He said it years ago — over a decade ago, really — during a talk about World War II that he gave to neighbors in a North Carolina community where he kept a home. Some kind soul also had the foresight to record it on video.



That decision has allowed Roth, now in his 90s, to keep telling his story about how, at 17, he flew a glider on D-Day during the Normandy invasion.

Nine of the 15 men aboard were killed when the glider — one of many that were used during the invasion to get troops behind enemy lines — crashed miles beyond its intended destination. Roth was captured by the Germans. He would manage to escape not long after, only to be captured again and sent to southern France.

At a lunch recently at the clubhouse of the Glenmoor retirement community where he lives these days, it's apparent that time has made it difficult to retell most of the stories from his time overseas.

Accompanied by his wife, Colleen, and neighbor, Fred Jackson, Roth can answer — sometimes with help — a lot questions about his past.

He knows that as a teenager near St. Louis, Missouri, he was a drummer, who, because older drummers were off fighting in the war, got to play with Tommy Dorsey, Lawrence Welk and Glenn Miller as they came through town.

He remembers that he was able to join the war effort at 17 and chose to enter the glider program because, growing up, he had flown gliders with an administrator at his school.

And he remembers, quite well, going on to become president of the Smith Corona typewriter company after his return from war.

But the World War II stories mostly get told through the recorded talk, stored now on a DVD.

Jackson saw it after meeting Roth at Glenmoor and just recently arranged, with the help of St. Augustine Officers Club president Phil Topcik, to have it played, with Roth as a guest, for club membership at the St. Francis Barracks on Marine Street.

The talk, with stories from the D-Day crash, capture and escape, contains a bit of drama, and a lot of laughs. Roth, in the video, jokes a lot as he walks the North Carolina crowd through photos of a return trip to Normandy, when he was a guest of honor to President George W. Bush at the 60th anniversary of the D-Day landings.

The humor seems to be his way of deflecting what he must think is undue attention for his efforts.

“If there is anything I am not, it’s a hero,” he says near the beginning of the video. “I am a survivor.”

He makes light of three Purple Hearts he received (he also has a Bronze Star), saying he earned two of them while unconscious.

“And the third one really tops it off,” he says, pausing. “I got shot in the butt. And when you get shot in the butt you are not charging.”

While he was captured after that first glider crash, he was rescued shortly after as Allied forces eventually overwhelmed the Germans in the immediate area.

He was sent back to England and then returned — though not in a glider — for the invasion of southern France not long after.

There, a vehicle he was in with five others, got shelled, killing four. He and another man were captured.

“That time it stuck,” he says. “It hung on to me and I was a real POW.”

In the third part of his remarks, after showing a History Channel program on the gliders that featured captured German photos of him, Roth jokingly tells of the nine biggest mistakes he made throughout his service.

They include his decision to initially volunteer as a paratrooper for extra pay, and, using his ability to speak German (his grandparents were German immigrants) to mouth off to a POW-camp guard, earning him a beating that ruptured his liver.

Other stories get more laughs.

Complying with the rules of war, the Germans, Roth explains, paid the prisoners a weekly allowance for the work they were forced to do (disarming unexploded ordnance). Roth says he had gone roughly a year without toilet paper, when, having accumulated a good deal of the money, it dawned on him that the paper currency that he had no way to spend could serve a useful purpose.

The problem, he explains, was that the money featured a picture of Adolf Hitler and the guards had a problem with his choice.

“So I ended up with four weeks in solitary confinement for that,” he says.

It’s one of the few points, that, after the laughs, the talk turns slightly gloomy when he explains that that punishment stayed with him for decades, causing nightmares that initially startled Colleen, whom he married years after the war.

“I just can’t get over it, after 60 years,” he says.

He goes on to tell how he and an older enlisted man, nicknamed “Murph,” managed to escape one day while heading out to disarm bombs, and how they survived for weeks scrounging for food.

Their time on the run ended one morning, he says, when they awoke in a hayloft to the sound of an American tank rolling through.

Murph, having been lured away shortly after by two German women, was never heard from again. Roth tells the audience he suspects he was ambushed by hidden SS troops — something that was rumored to have happened toward the end of the war.

From there, Roth returned to “Camp Lucky Strike” where he was cleaned up and attended to medically.

There, he says, he made another mistake by stuffing his stomach, shrunken from months of near starvation, with 13 donuts.

“They thought I had a heart attack, I passed out,” he says.

They sent him to a hospital where, while recovering, he missed the hospital ship he was supposed to be on, delaying his return home and to his first wife, whom he had married only days before leaving.

It’s during the telling of his return that Roth’s smile turns slightly mischievous.

“I am not very serious about this stuff, I never have been,” he says, setting up the joke.

As much of his hardship was coming to an end, Roth found himself, at 18 and having achieved the rank of captain, back in the U.S. with a young wife he had hardly spent any time with. The Army had given him \$2,000 in back pay and 90 days off with his new wife for a “recuperation furlough” that he says was anything but, given those circumstances.

“I damn near killed myself,” he says as the crowd erupts in laughter.

MISSING IN AMERICA PROJECT

“IT’S THE RIGHT THING TO DO”

The Missing in America Project (MIAP) is a registered 501(c)3 Non-profit Corporation. Our intention is to locate, identify and inter the unclaimed cremains of American veterans. Missing in America Project was launched nationwide in January, 2007.



NATIONWIDE PROGRESS AS OF 8/20/2017

Total Funeral Homes Visited - 2,127
Cremains Found - 15,167
Veterans Cremains Identified - 3,464
Veterans Interred - 3,174

FLORIDA’S PROGRESS AS OF 8/24/2017

Total Funeral Homes Visited – 124
Cremains Found – 1,000
Veterans Interred – 152
Spouses Interred – 72
Dependents Interred – 1
Missions pending - 43
Call to Honors = 12

Not only has MIAP interred so many as of today, we have also reunited families with their loved ones. MIAP also works with Medical Examiner’s Offices, hospitals, nursing homes, Police Departments, etc.

Our next CALL TO HONOR will be on Saturday, October 21, 2017 at the South Florida National Cemetery, Lake Worth, FL.

MIAP Florida volunteers will continue to do research and reach out to funeral homes during the summer but due to the hot weather we will not have any more services until the fall (November).

There are many ways one can get involved with MIAP. Please go to our website @ www.miap.us for more info. You may also contact me at my info listed below.

“YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN”

The 8 most iconic Marine Corps recruiting slogans

By Paul Szoldra

In addition to having the best uniforms (yes, I said it), the Marine Corps absolutely kills it when coming up with recruiting slogans. There is simply no denying the power behind the Corps recruiting messages, from the simple

“let’s go!” to “first to fight.” We looked back on some of the most iconic slogans that have driven men and

women to enlist for the last 240 years. Here they are:

1. “The Marines are looking for a few good men.”

Who doesn’t want to be among a select few “good men?” This phrase, or some variation of it, has appeared on quite a few recruiting posters throughout Marine history. But this one wasn’t created in an advertising boardroom. The roots of “a few good men” go back to 1799 with Marine Capt. William Jones plea in the Providence Gazette, according to About.com: “The Continental ship Providence, now lying at Boston, is bound on a short cruise, immediately; a few good men are wanted to make up her complement.” You’ll find this phrase on recruiting posters throughout Corps history, or as the title of the classic film starring Jack Nicholson. But perhaps its biggest impact came from this 1985 TV commercial:

2. “The Few. The Proud. The Marines.”

Eventually, the Marine Corps decided to shorten up its famous phrase and add “the proud” to the mix. It seems to have been quite effective, since “the few, the proud” is still used heavily in modern recruiting efforts. This recruiting slogan was so popular that the internet actually voted to place it on the “walk of fame” for advertising slogans on Madison Ave. in New York City in 2007.

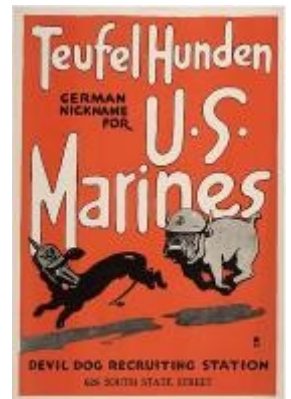
“This slogan reflects the unique character of the Marine Corps and underscores the high caliber of those who join and serve their country as Marines,” Maj. Gen. Richard T. Tryon, commanding general of Marine Corps Recruiting Command, said at the time.

3. “Teufelhunden.”

Long before the Corps found its footing with one of the best-known military slogans around, it went with simplicity. And there’s probably nowhere better to go for gung-ho phrases than what your enemy calls you. According to Marine Corps lore (with a heavy focus on “lore”), the Germans nicknamed the Marines “teufelhunden,” or “devil dogs,” after encountering them during the Battle of Belleau Wood, France, during World War I.

“The term very likely was first used by Marines themselves and appeared in print before the Battle for Belleau Wood,” Marine Corps History Division’s Bob Aquilina told Stars & Stripes. “It gained notoriety in the decades following World War I and has since become a part of Marine Corps tradition.”

While the nickname wasn’t actually legit, there’s no arguing that it made a solid recruiting poster and had significant staying power, since Marines still refer to themselves today as “devil dogs.”



4. “First to fight.”

Both a recruiting slogan and an enduring mantra of Marines, “first to fight” comes from the Marine Corps hymn of the late 1800s. In 1929, the Corps officially adopted the hymn and immortalized the words of “first to fight for right and freedom” in the memories of future generations of Marines. Potential recruits began seeing “first to fight in France” during World War I, and they still do. Marine Corps Recruiting Command still uses the phrase in promotional materials today: “Marines are first to fight because of their culture and because they maintain a forward-deployed presence near various global hotspots.”

5. “Tell that to the Marines!”

The Marine Corps has a flair for taking an insult and turning it into something of a badge of honor. Sailors used to call them “gyrenes” as an insult, and then they adopted it. Then they started calling them “jarheads,” and that insult was flipped into a term of endearment. So goes the phrase “tell that to the Marines.” It was originally an insulting way for sailors to chide British Royal Marines for believing any crazy story that they heard, according to The Marine Corps Historical Center. But with James Montgomery Flagg’s 1917 recruiting poster of an enraged man throwing a newspaper to the ground, the insult was recast as a challenge: if there is evil happening in the world, tell it to the Marines, because they will take care of it. Take that, squids.

6. “We don’t promise you a rose garden.”

One of the best recruiting slogans paired with a photo of a crazed drill instructor made “rose garden” one of the most legendary recruiting posters ever made for the Marine Corps. Sometime during the sixties/early 1970s, the Corps really distinguished itself from the other services with its messaging, and it has endured ever since.

Unlike other services that told potential recruits about awesome job opportunities, GI Bill money, or adventure, the Corps promised only pain, extreme challenges, and sacrifice. The messaging attracted a certain kind of recruit: One who was only interested in earning the title of Marine.



7. “If everybody could get in the Marines, it wouldn’t be the Marines.”

This classic line also played heavily alongside the “rose garden” campaign that ran from 1971 to 1984. Again, the Corps was sending the message that it was an exclusive club that only a select few could make it into. Of course, as a smaller service, the Corps has to be more exclusive, but this slogan also has the added bonus of throwing shade at the Army. Not everyone can get into the Army, but this slogan hinted that it’s much easier to get into the Army than the Marines.

8. “The Marine Corps builds men.”

Last but certainly not least is the recruiting slogan that spanned three decades. A series of recruiting posters bearing the phrase “The Marine Corps builds men” with images of Marines and Marine life first popped up around the time of the Korean War in the 1950s. The campaign continued all the way into the early 1980s, according to The Marine Corps Heritage Foundation.

An American Icon Passes at 93

As far as mascots for the collective effort, working grit, and fighting spirit of America during World War II, Rosie the Riveter is just about as good and iconic a mascot as one could find. With the simple motto of “We Can Do It!,” Rosie the Riveter’s message was full of determination and optimism. Rosie, however, wasn’t a real person — or more accurately, she wasn’t just one person. She was the embodiment of more than 310,000 women who joined the aircraft industry during the height of World War II to build military aircraft and munitions.

These women were known collectively as “Rosies,” and the tremendous work done by them dramatically improved wartime production and allowed more men to serve in the military instead of staying at home working in the factories. The willingness of so many strong women to take on the hard labor jobs — many of whom had no prior experience in such work — was praised the nation over, and the image of Rosie the Riveter soon became an icon.

Rosie the Riveter has continued to be a symbol of strength and empowerment for women in life and in the workforce ever since WWII.

Sadly, on Thursday, one of the original Rosie the Riveters died at the age of 93. Sarah Blanche Mahrle, of Plymouth, Michigan, passed away at St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia, according to her family.



Raising Funds For:
The Missing in America Project
Wreaths Across America
serving Veterans in need
K9's for Warrior



SATURDAY
October 14TH 2017
9AM TEE TIME

Bent Creek Golf Course
10440 Tournament Lane
Jacksonville, Florida 32222

The Air Force Sergeants Association Chapter F0559

Play is Limited to 100 Players (includes Golf, Carts and Lunch)
Pre-registration price: \$75.00 a player or \$65.00 for Military
Day of Event: \$85.00 a player or \$75.00 for Military

Golfer #1: _____
Address: _____
Email: _____
Phone _____

Golfer #2: _____
Address: _____
Email: _____
Phone _____

Golfer #3: _____
Address: _____
Email: _____
Phone _____

Golfer #4: _____
Address: _____
Email: _____
Phone _____

To Register: Fill out included form and email to rswiggs52@comcast.net or mail to AFSA F0559 at 9088 Southwark Drive, Jacksonville, Florida 32257. Make Checks Payable to Air Force Sergeants Association Chapter F0559

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:
Rick Wiggs at 904-703-0601 or email rswiggs52@comcast.net

Meet Sgt. Stubby — The Military’s Most Famous War Dog

By Jacob H.

Did you know that the most famous service dog in the U.S. military started out as a stray? Or that he captured German soldiers all by himself? Those are just a couple of the amazing facts about Sgt. Stubby, the fighting dog of WWI and the only service dog to be promoted through combat! And this unexpected hero got his start thanks to a caring soldier who took the time to care for the stray dog.



In July of 1917, members of the 102nd Infantry, 26th Yankee Division were training at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut. Watching the soldiers train was a stray dog, a terrier-mix with a short, stubby tail. Private J. Robert Conroy saw the stray dog and decided to take him in, caring for him at the barracks and naming him Stubby after his tail. Stubby was good-mannered, friendly, and obedient, and provided great amusement and distraction for the men as they were preparing to go off to fight in World War I. Conroy and the rest of the 26th Division were set to ship out for Europe in October of 1917, but by that time, Conroy had become too attached to his dog to leave him behind. So had the rest of his unit. He was a morale booster for the troops, and more importantly, he was a beloved pet. The Army’s rules, however, strictly forbade him from bringing an animal with him. Conroy also knew that if he left Stubby behind, he would become a stray again with no one to take care of him.

With the help of the other men, Conroy snuck Stubby onto the USS Minnesota that was to take them across the Atlantic to the war. For several days, they were able to keep the dog’s presence a secret from any of the officers. Then it happened. Conroy’s Commanding Officer found the two of them together and was immediately angry. Conroy pleaded his case to the officer and then pulled an ace out of his sleeve. While still at Yale, they had taught Stubby a special trick. Conroy gave the command “Present Arms!” and Stubby lifted his paw to his head in a salute.

That was enough to win over the officer. Not only was Conroy allowed to keep Stubby, but he was also made the official mascot of the unit and was to accompany them onto the battlefield. Of course, they all thought that Stubby would be just a mascot — something to boost morale and distract them from the misery of war — but the scrappy young dog would soon prove to be so much more.

The first time Stubby showed what he was really made of was on February 5, 1918. After being with Conroy and the other men in the trenches for some time, he followed his owner onto the battlefield at Chemin des Dames, France. Charging right along with the other soldiers, Stubby became a fighting military dog. Over the next 18 months, he would quickly develop useful skills, get wounded, save lives, and even capture enemies.

Stubby was first wounded by poison gas during an attack. As he recovered from that, it became clear that Stubby’s already keen canine smell was now more tuned to the gas. He could smell it before it would reach the men and he would bark to alert them of the coming poison. Early one morning while the soldiers were still sleeping, the Germans launched a gas attack, but Stubby smelled it first and woke the men to put on their gas masks. He received his second wound stripe at Schieprey, where retreating German soldiers started throwing hand gre-

nades behind them. His front leg and chest were injured by shrapnel, and he was sent to the rear to heal.

His hearing was also a lifesaver, as he could hear the whistle of artillery shells before it was audible to human ears. Again, he would bark in the trenches when he heard incoming artillery, giving the soldiers early warning to move or cover. There was no surprising the 26th Division or taking them off guard while Stubby was around. His bravery was also shown in his willingness and ability to go into No Man's Land — the desolate, bombed, bullet-strewn area between opposing trenches — to find and rescue wounded soldiers. Stubby would find the wounded and then bark for a medic to arrive. He also helped lost soldiers get safely back to the trenches.

Perhaps his most famous act during the war was when he singlehandedly captured a German spy. Stubby sniffed him out, bit him, and kept him pinned down until men could take him prisoner. When word got out of Stubby capturing a spy by himself, he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant, the only military dog to be given an official rank by the United States Armed Forces. Through thick and thin, he stayed and fought with his owner — whom he now out-ranked! — and lifted people's spirits wherever they went.

The women of the French town, Chateau-Thierry, freed from the Germans by the American soldiers, were so grateful to Sgt. Stubby that they made him a chamois coat, which was then decorated with his many medals, stripes, and chevrons. Sgt. Stubby would wear that decorated coat during parades, marches, and public appearances. In 1921, General John Pershing, General of the Armies of the United States, personally pinned a special medal on Sgt. Stubby. At the end of the war, after participating in 17 battles, Sgt. Stubby had to be smuggled home by Cpl. Conroy in the same way he brought him. But when they arrived, it was to a hero's welcome. Sgt. Stubby became a national hero and was celebrated throughout the country, leading parades and meeting fans both young and old. He was inducted as a member of the American Legion and the YMCA. Sgt. Stubby met three presidents — Woodrow Wilson, Calvin Coolidge, and Warren G. Harding — and continued to help by selling war bonds and recruiting for the American Red Cross.

Perhaps his most famous act during the war was when he singlehandedly captured a German spy. Stubby sniffed him out, bit him, and kept him pinned down until men could take him prisoner. When word got out of Stubby capturing a spy by himself, he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant, the only military dog to be given an official rank by the United States Armed Forces. Through thick and thin, he stayed and fought with his owner — whom he now out-ranked! — and lifted people's spirits wherever they went.

The women of the French town, Chateau-Thierry, freed from the Germans by the American soldiers, were so grateful to Sgt. Stubby that they made him a chamois coat, which was then decorated with his many medals, stripes, and chevrons. Sgt. Stubby would wear that decorated coat during parades, marches, and public appearances. In 1921, General John Pershing, General of the Armies of the United States, personally pinned a special medal on Sgt. Stubby.

At the end of the war, after participating in 17 battles, Sgt. Stubby had to be smuggled home by Cpl. Conroy in the same way he brought him. But when they arrived, it was to a hero's welcome. Sgt. Stubby became a national hero and was celebrated throughout the country, leading parades and meeting fans both young and old. He was inducted as a member of the American Legion and the YMCA. Sgt. Stubby met three presidents — Woodrow Wilson, Calvin Coolidge, and Warren G. Harding — and continued to help by selling war bonds and recruiting for the American Red Cross.

The Veterans Council is publishing this as a public service as it may affect our readers.

There is no charge to you to make a claim if you were effected.

Since USAA members are Active-Duty, Veterans, and/or their families, this news may apply to you.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For More Info: Chris Hall, Esq., Hall & Lampros, LLP, 404-876-8100, 404-226-7480 (M),
chall@hallandlampros.com

Tracy Markham, Esq. Avolio & Hanlon, PC, 904-794-7005(O), 904-806-3531 (M), tlm@avoliohanlonfl.com

50K Florida USAA Auto Policyholders to Receive Past-Due Sales Tax Averaging More Than \$450 Each if They Make a Claim

(Jacksonville, Fla.) USAA insurance companies agreed to pay an average of more than \$450 in past-due sales tax to approximately 50,000 Florida auto policyholders who experienced total loss claims, based on plaintiff's calculations in a class action lawsuit settlement.

The settlement provides for payments of up to approximately \$34 million. Notice of the settlement will be sent to more than 70,000 policyholders. Plaintiffs calculate that approximately 70% of these policyholders (approximately 50,000) will recover funds under the settlement if they timely submit pre-filled-in claim forms. USAA also agreed to no longer condition the payment of sales tax on the policyholder first purchasing a replacement vehicle.

Each class member will receive an email and mailing from Settlement Administrator Dahl Administration explaining how to make a claim. Claims can be made by mail or at the website USAAFloridaAutoSalesTaxSettlement.com.

All 70,000 total loss policyholders can submit a claim asking USAA to review their file to determine whether there was sales tax underpayment, and in turn USAA will pay the policyholder 108% of any sales tax that should have been paid.

The 2013 lawsuit claims USAA improperly withheld sales tax from total loss payments to auto policyholders. Class members include present and former USAA Florida policyholders who held auto insurance with a USAA company and were paid by USAA under their policy for a total loss to their automobile between October 13, 2008 and October 15, 2016.

Policyholders will receive payment only if they make a timely claim. Approximately 30% of policyholders with total loss claims received all sales tax due from USAA as part of their total loss, and will receive no payment even if they make a claim.

Plaintiffs are represented by Atlanta law firm Hall & Lampros, LLP, (404-876-8100) and St. Augustine, Fla. firm Avolio & Hanlon, PC (904-794-7005). More information can be found at USAAFloridaAutoSalesTaxSettlement.com. The lawsuit is Chantal Bastian, et al. v. USAA, et al., 3:13-cv-01454-TJC, USDC Middle District of Florida.

Lynn Brannon Florida State Coordinator - Contractor

Building Healthy Military Communities (BHMC)

310 Charlotte Street, St. Augustine, FL 32084

Office: (904) 827-8564, Cell: (904) 229-6440, Fax: (904) 827-8532



Building Healthy Military Communities Pilot

Working for Healthy, Ready, and Resilient Military Communities

What is the Building Healthy Military Communities (BHMC) pilot? BHMC is a multi-year pilot that aims to better understand unique challenges faced by geographically dispersed Service members and their families that may impact their readiness, resiliency, and well-being.

Background: The Department of Defense (DoD) is committed to supporting the health and well-being of Service members and their families. Many Service members live off of installations, creating a unique set of challenges in accessing resources that promote well-being. The DoD is launching the BHMC pilot in response to Senate Report 114-63, which calls a pilot for the "enhancement of recruitment, retention, readiness, and resilience" of the total force.



The BHMC pilot is being conducted in 7 pilot states: **Florida, Indiana, Oklahoma, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, and New Mexico**

Intended Impact: The DoD hopes to better understand resource challenges and develop a comprehensive strategy to support the Chairman's objective of Total Force Fitness (TFF), which is DoD's framework for improving health, readiness, and resiliency of its population through eight domains of fitness (physical, environmental, medical/dental, nutritional, spiritual, psychological, behavioral, and social). The BHMC pilot will inform the TFF Capabilities Based Assessment in evaluating and supporting current programs and services addressing TFF domain areas, identifying any capability gaps, and how the DoD can help meet the gaps.

Methodology & Evaluation: The BHMC pilot will be conducted in three phases:

Phase 1: Complete a Rapid Needs Assessment

Teams of 8 to 10 stakeholders will travel to each state from January to April 2017 to conduct a baseline assessment of available resources, existing needs, and current gaps in optimizing readiness, resiliency, and well-being. Our teams will speak with community program managers, unit leaders, and other resource providers to better understand program goals, successes, and challenges in supporting the local communities in which Service members may reside.

Phase 2: Develop Strategic Plan and Implement Key Interventions

Results of the needs assessment will inform the development of a strategic plan for each state to address identified needs and gaps in each pilot location. Outcomes of the needs assessment will also help tailor the three pilot interventions (described to the right) designed to coordinate DoD, national, state, and local resources.

Phase 3: Evaluate Interventions

The BHMC pilot will be evaluated using process measures and outcome measures. Process measures, such as utilization or awareness of resources, will assess if the interventions are effective in better addressing gaps and needs of Service members and their families. Outcome measures, such as % ready to deploy and health-related quality of life, will track long-term impacts on force readiness.

**Our
fundamental
responsibility
to the nation
is to be a
ready force.**

Gen. Joseph F.
Dunford Jr., Chairman
of the Joint Chiefs of
Staff

Three Key Interventions

1. Implement a State Coordinator



Each state will have a state coordinator to serve as the state focal point for well-being resources and develop a strategic plan to build relationships and leverage DoD, national, state, and local resources.

2. Promote an Information Campaign



We will execute a targeted information campaign to communicate initiatives and publicize outreach efforts to target populations based on need.

3. Utilize Mobile Health Technologies



Utilizing mobile health technologies, we hope to reduce barriers in accessing information and connect target populations with available resources.

For more information, please contact CAPT Kimberly Elenberg at kimberly.j.elenberg2.mil@mail.mil



WE ENSURE THE SUCCESS
OF VETERANS BY GIVING
THEM **CONFIDENCE,**
COMMUNITY AND CAREERS.

CONFIDENCE

ONU helps Veterans regain confidence in their skills through classroom training and coaching.



COMMUNITY

ONU inserts Veterans into the business community a network of supporters.



CAREERS

96% of ONU Veterans obtain fulfilling careers in the field of their choosing.



Operation New Uniform offers our community the chance to support our veterans and make a lasting impact in their lives. If you know of veterans in transition, or if you know of someone looking to commit to local veterans, please contact us at:
invest@OperationNewUniform.org

WWW.OPERATIONNEWUNIFORM.ORG

904.328.1600

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:

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

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

Please join our group on Facebook at:
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.

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



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

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



**SURVIVOR
OUTREACH SERVICES**

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

Contact Keith Ham

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

Please support our sponsors



RE/MAX
Specialists
Each Office Independently Owned and Operated

Scott Hum
Broker-Associate
Hum Sells, LLC

12646 San Jose Blvd
Jacksonville, FL 32223
Cell: (904) 707-0925
Office: (904) 260-4550
ScottHum@REMAX.net
www.NEFloridaHomes4Sale.com



400 N. Ponce de Leon Blvd.—St. Augustine, FL 32084-3587

904-829-2201— fax 904-829-2020— 800-997-1961

www.herbiewiles.com

The House That Trust Built


Homeowners 62 or older...
Learn how you can enjoy your retirement years with a Reverse Mortgage.

Call for a quote
JOHN REARDON
Mortgage Consultant &
Reverse Mortgage Specialist
Serving all of Florida



MS
community
mortgage solutions
904-982-2210
www.floridareversemortgagemadeeasy.com

NMLS 555210



Pycraft**LAW** LLC
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Foreclosure Defense • Bankruptcy • Debt Defense
Estate Planning • Wills • Trusts • Advanced Directives • Probate
Family Law • Criminal Defense • Civil Defense

www.pycraftlaw.com • (904) 940-0060

Thomas R. Pycraft, Jr. • John J. Spence
Michael J. Pelkowski • David D. Naples, Jr.

*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



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

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

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

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

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

***The Veterans Council will meet at the St.
Johns County Health & Human Services
Building, 200 San Sebastian View
Muscovy Room, 1st floor***

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

(physical location)

*The VSO Office is located in the 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.