



# The Patriot Reader Newsletter

P.O. Box 2117

St. Augustine, FL 32085

Bill Dudley, Publisher

Michael Rothfeld, Editor

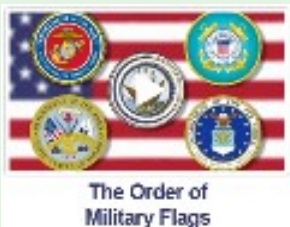
Volume 7, Issue 10

## Message from the Chairman

Newsletter Date: October, 2018

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Fellow Veterans:

By any metric, the Gathering in the Pines" event on 22 Sept at Cecil Field was a huge success. There was a large turnout of veterans, elected officials, military and civilians to witness the POW / MIA Memorial ceremony. The program started at exactly 0900 on Saturday with the posting of the colors by the Young Marines. After the invocation and National Anthem, the crowd was treated to amazing flyover by the DreamLand Squadron performing the missing man salute to a fallen comrade as they passed directly over the crowds below.

Retired Navy Commander Buddy Harris was the keynote speaker providing some insightful comments as to how and why the POW / MIA Memorial came to be a reality.

The Veterans Councils of Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau, and St. Johns have taken on the responsibility of meeting the ongoing needs of this project. There is still much work to be done and lots of money to be raised to meet the pro-

jects growth and development plans.

The Veterans Council next major program is the Veterans Day event that will be held on 12 Nov. 2018 at Anastasia Baptist Church. The planning committee is working hard to make this a memorable event to honor this year's WW I centennial. We have the traveling Vietnam Wall and Agent Orange Quilt of Tears displays under contract and the Sheriffs Depts from St. Johns and Flagler Counties will provide a motorcycle escort for the entourage as they pass through the county.

There are still a few table spaces left for a free display for your organization if you would like to inform the public about who you are and what you do for our veterans. If you are interested in having a table, please contact Michael Rothfeld at rothfeldm@gmail.com.

After many years of discussions and meetings with the VA, we now have a permanent sight location for our Community Based Outpatient Clinic. The Veterans Council was informed about a week ago that a permanent site has been selected. We



have a meeting setup with the VA and Chief Medical Officer Dr. Thomas McKenzie on Oct 2 to discuss details of the new facility. Obviously, our interest is finding out when we might see land being cleared and construction of the new facility underway. This is a build to suit plan and not a renovation of an existing facility so it will be a longer process but the sight location just off CR 207 is not a bad location. Although we would have preferred the selection had been adjacent to our Health and Human Services building on San Sebastian View, it's more important that we have a permanent home location for our St. Johns County veterans for their health care needs and that is now a reality.

Bill Dudley, Chairman,  
Veterans Council of  
St. Johns County

# Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home



**We Love our Sailor Visitors**



**Football, Tailgating and Dip Contest**



**Ice Cream Sundae Bar**



**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 15, 2018.** 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.**

**Jacksonville National Cemetery Support Committee Meetings for 2018  
At Community Hospice of NE FL.**

**4266 Sunbeam Rd, Jacksonville, FL 32257  
Hadlow Bldg – Conference Room A 7:00pm**

**DATES OF 2018 NEXT SCJNC MEETING**

**Monday, Oct 15th**

**Monday, Nov 5th**

**Monday, Dec 3rd**

**Saturday, Dec 15th - Wreaths Across America (Details TBA)**

**All are invited to attend our meetings and become a part of this Committee.**

**+++++2017/2018 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**

## **Group nixes plans for annual Veterans Day parade**

### **Financial, logistical challenges undermine plans**

By Colleen Michele Jones [cjones@staugustine.com](mailto:cjones@staugustine.com)

Those looking to wave flags along the parade route to honor local veterans will have to wait at least another year to do so.

In its August newsletter, the Veterans Council of St. Johns County — one of the major sponsors of the event — announced there would be no parade Nov. 12. A memorial program is planned instead.

In what would have been the third year the Veterans Council partnered with the local Military Officers Association of America to organize the parade in downtown St. Augustine, the organizations have decided to make other plans to honor those who served.

Bill Dudley, chair of the Veterans Council, said one reason was that costs had become unsustainable. Last year's parade was about \$25,000, including the cost of sheriff's deputies to provide security and traffic control.

"We've had to go back again and again to some of the same donors and we didn't feel like we were in a position to continue doing that," said Ray Quinn, Veterans Council vice chair.

Another challenge was rounding up enough members of the military to take part in the parade, Dudley said. With St. Augustine's smaller event competing with annual parades in Jacksonville, Dudley said his organization would have to transport officers from as far away as Georgia and south Florida, which also cost money.

Dudley estimated last year's Veterans Day parade drew between 3,000 and 3,500 spectators.

"It had started to become a signature event for us, and I will miss it, but it had become very challenging," Dudley said, adding that he did not rule out the possibility of a revival of the parade in 2019.



The Veterans Council of St Johns County will be hosting a Veterans Day event in St Augustine on Monday, November 12 between 10 am and noon at Anastasia Baptist Church.



This event will feature entertainment, JROTC students and veterans organizations display tables. The Military Museum of N FL will have military vehicles as well as uniforms, weapons and music from WW I as we celebrate 100 after the end of the War to end all Wars, WW I.

Our Keynote speaker will be announced shortly.

This year the Council will be hosting this large indoor event instead of a parade.

This will take place on Monday Nov. 12 from 10 am to 11 am at Anastasia Baptist Church, 1650 A1A S, St. Augustine, 32080, a beautiful venue with onsite free parking and seating for 1250.

We will be setting up display tables in the Atrium for veterans groups.

If you represent or are a member of a veterans organization that would like to join us and have a display table please contact me at: [mrothfeld@anyveteran.org](mailto:mrothfeld@anyveteran.org)

Thank you, Michael Rothfeld  
Secretary, VC of SJC





## REGION-WIDE CELEBRATION HONORING OUR VETERANS

Monday, November 12th, 2018

Anastasia Baptist Church, St. Augustine

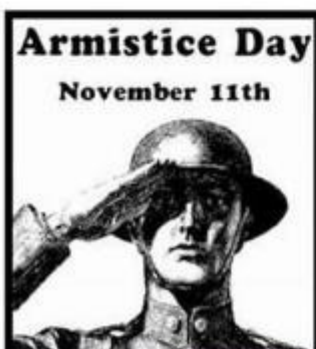
Organized by the Veterans Council of St. Johns County, and  
The Ancient City Chapter, MOAA.



**One hundred years** have passed since November 11th, 1918, when the "guns of August, 1914" fell silent on the western front, ending the tragic "war to end all wars." The event sparked impulses that would lead to today's national Veterans Day holiday. Early in the war, a Canadian Officer had penned the words to the moving poem, "In Flanders Fields." It connected the tragedy of death to the red poppies we associate with the day. But the poem also contained the charge above -- calling on those who followed to take up the torch of valor and win.

**And Americans have.** Generation after generation have heard the call and held that torch on high -- through WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm. They continue today in the Middle East and elsewhere. It is against this backdrop that we have planned this year's special celebration of Veterans. Join us and the multiple Veterans organizations from through northeast Florida as we honor and salute them in the 1,200 capacity auditorium.

**Celebration doors open at 9:30 AM.** The 46 foot long Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall exhibit and the multi-panel Agent Orange Quilt of Tears will anchor numerous displays from regional Veterans groups in the atrium. Doors to the auditorium open at 10:15 with a multimedia presentation of service and sacrifice from WWI on. The formal program starts at 11:11 with the traditional posting of colors. It continues with music provided by the 50 voice St. Johns County Center for Arts Chamber Singers, recognition of regional Veterans including those from the ranks of our First Responders, JROTC units, and the Rolling Thunder "Roll Call Presentation." Rear Admiral Sean S. Buck, Commander US Naval Forces Southern Command and US 4th Fleet, is the featured speaker. Service songs and "God Bless America" sung by all will close the program, with time afterwards to socialize and visit the exhibits.



**Don't miss this opportunity** to participate in the celebration of our nation's military and all those who served in it through the years. Meet and thank the Veterans of northeast Florida and the organizations, large and small, that support them.

More information at [anuday00@aol.com](mailto:anuday00@aol.com),  
or [rothfeldm@gmail.com](mailto:rothfeldm@gmail.com).





# Armistice - Veterans' Commemoration Day



**Monday November 12, 2018**

**Anastasia Baptist Church - 1650 A1A South - St. Augustine FL.**

**Atrium Displays 9:30 am to 11:00 am**

**Traveling Vietnam Wall, Agent Orange Quilt of Tears, on display.**

**Main Event - 11:11am**

**Doors Open 9:30 - On Site Parking - Public Welcome**



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

**Ted Pappas**



**Ancient City Chapter  
St. Augustine, Florida**

## **Veterans Day in St. Augustine Monday November 12, 2018**

**Anastasia Baptist Church  
1650 A1A S, St. Augustine**

**Please join us as we honor our Veterans, Purple Heart recipients and Gold Star families**

**On display, The Traveling Vietnam Wall**



**and the Agent Orange Quilt of Tears**

**Monday November 12, Hours: Atrium displays open at 9:30 am and Veterans Day Commemoration starts at 11:11 am with the St. Johns County Center for the Arts Chamber Singers along with Dr. Roger Geronimo perform patriotic songs and a rousing Service Anthems Salute.**



## The Traveling Vietnam Wall and Agent Orange Quilt of Tears Motorcycle Escort

Our plan is to meet in St. Cloud, FL at the Home Depot at 7:00AM 11/11/2018

Leave there by 7:45 going by the Lakefront to Narcoossee Rd. north to the 417

417 to the I-4 in Sanford to The Harley dealership at Destination Daytona.

From Destination Daytona, leave by 10:30-11:00 AM traveling route 1 north to St. Augustine.

*Please pass this on to interested parties.*



## Armistice - Veterans'

Commemoration Day November 12, 2018



We need your financial assistance to help organize and execute our 2018 fantastic program to celebrate our veterans and currently serving men and women of the Armed Forces this coming Veterans Day. Any amount you can contribute will be greatly appreciated so we can continue the work of honoring those who have and are still serving. Please forward this email to your friends and colleagues. Send your donation to:

**Veterans Council of St. Johns County**  
P.O. Box 2117  
St. Augustine, Florida 32085-2117

Indicate in the return memo: 2018 VDP

Best Personal Regards,  
Ron Birchall - MOAA  
Bill Dudley - Veterans Council  
St. Johns County



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

The **Veterans Council** is proud to announce that Tom Waskovich will be the Council's speaker at its January 31, 2019 meeting. Tom lives in St Augustine Beach, was one of the founders of the Veterans Council and its first Chairman.



Tom proudly served his country as a fabled Green Beret. His unit was MACV SOG, Military Assistance Command, Vietnam – Studies and Observations Group, was a highly classified, multi-service United States special operations unit which conducted covert unconventional warfare operations prior to and during the Vietnam War.

### **COMMAND AND CONTROL CENTRAL .**

**SOG was CCN , CCC and CCS .**

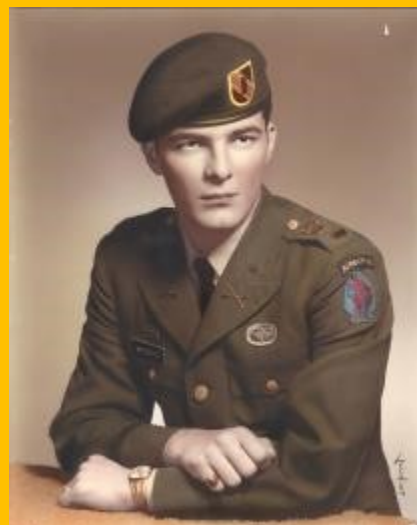
CCN ran missions in north Vietnam and central LAOS .

CCC ran missions in southern Laos and northern Cambodia.

CCN ran missions in Cambodia

CCC had about 300 Americans that ran cross border missions in their history .Of that small amount of men , we had SIX Medal of Honor recipients (AN UNHEARD OF RATIO OF 50 TO 1). Our most recent recipient , Gary Rose, was awarded the Medal a few months ago by President Trump.

I will talk about those men including the 3 I knew personally



The Veterans Council of St Johns County under the direction of Chairman Bill was proud to host the Annual Homeless Veterans Stand Down. Under the leadership of Tammy Shirley, St Johns County VSO, this years event was a great success.

The Veterans Council thanks Fred Dupont and Elks Lodge 829 for providing their Lodge for the Stand Down.

Available this year were the VA/FDVA, Dental Clinic Food, Showers, Veterans Health System, Bikes, Boots, Clothes, Caps, Legal Council, Vocational Rehab, Tents, Lanterns, Red Cross and Haircuts.





## **VA Clinic Finds New Home**

**Long-awaited plans for a permanent facility were revealed this week.**

**By Stuart Korfhage**

After several years of uncertainty, the Department of Veterans Affairs has decided on a location for a permanent medical clinic.

According to an announcement from U.S. Rep. John Rutherford's office, the VA has awarded a contract to build a St. Augustine Community Based Outpatient Clinic at 207 Stratton Rd. in St. Augustine — off of State Road 207.

The clinic will offer primary care, mental health services and specialty care to the more than 9,000 veterans in St. Johns County who currently receive services at the interim clinic. The facility, which will be leased for 20 years at the outset, will be 16,595 square feet and is set to begin construction this winter with an estimated completion date of spring 2020.

"This is welcome news for veterans in St. Johns County," Rutherford said in an email statement. "We must always ensure that our nation's veterans receive access to timely and quality medical care, so I am pleased that this facility will expand services in Northeast Florida."

It's been a long wait securing a permanent home. The VA used to have its clinic at 1955 U.S. 1 South, but that property, which also housed the county health department, was purchased by Lowe's for a new store.

After that, the VA built a temporary clinic at Southpark Boulevard and Old Moultrie Road that opened in 2015. VA spokesman Daniel Henry said that clinic will remain open as long as needed to accommodate patients.

"At no point will we ever stop serving veterans," Henry said. "We've been working very closely with the community to upgrade our ability to take care of veterans there."

According to St. Johns County Veterans Council chairman Bill Dudley, it's good for veterans to know they are going to have a place to go for care for years to come.

"We're happy that we finally have a location for a permanent home for our veterans' health care services," Dudley said.

The location itself is not exactly what Dudley was pushing for when he met with VA representatives during the bidding process. He said he advocated for a site close to the relocated health department facility on San Sebastian View. That's also close to the other county administration offices, including the Veterans Services office.

Dudley said that might have made things easier for veterans because so many services would have been clustered together.

In the end, the site near S.R. 207 was chosen. It's close to the current clinic and also fairly close to Flagler Hospital.

"The bottom line is that, for the most part, the veterans were anxious to just get a permanent home location selected, so that has now been achieved," Dudley said.

It's unclear what will happen with the temporary clinic since it will remain operational for about another year and a half. Henry said there are no definite plans yet.

Dudley and others in the veteran community obviously would have preferred a permanent solution right after the previous location was sold. However, he said the temporary clinic was a much better option than having to travel out of town for care.

"We did not want to see any interruption in our health care services for our veterans in the county," Dudley said. "In that respect, we were happy with the interim solution."

The new clinic will be entirely a VA project. The county government has no financial obligation in the new clinic.



# **INVISIBLE BECOMING VISIBLE: AN EXHIBITION OF VETERANS' ART**

October 29 - December 7, 2018

**Reception: November 8, 2018**  
6:00 - 8:00 PM || Lufrano Gallery

*University of North Florida*  
1 UNF Drive, Student Union, Room 2309, Jacksonville, FL 32224  
*Parking available for \$5 in Arena Garage*



## **NATIONAL VETERANS ART EXHIBIT (NVAE)**

is the first nationally curated veteran art exhibit of its genre, exploring the healing power of art by veterans with over 60 years of military service spanning part of the Cold War through the Middle East hostilities. The artists have embraced art as an outlet to manage their lives; to make the *invisible become visible*. Art becomes a catharsis to release the trauma and mental torture of the past, opening venues of healing and enlightenment, while fostering an understanding for their loved ones and society.

Invited artists are from diverse demographics and various services. They have been recognized with valor and meritorious awards; including the POW Medal, multiple Purple Hearts, Bronze Stars, and numerous service ribbons.

Art work is eclectic and diverse as the veterans themselves; some classical in style, others less structured, mixed with raw, edgy street art and a variety of media. Art creations are as different as each artist's experiences and deployments.

Veteran artists invited are

### ***Theodore Gostas, WY***

Army; Major (RET); former Vietnam POW; spent 4.5 years in solitary confinement of 5+ years as POW.

### ***Barbara Barnett, WA***

Army; Cold War (Germany) and Vietnam era.

### ***Johnathan Clark, IL***

Army; 173rd Airborne Bridge; Afghanistan.

### ***David Keefe, NJ***

Marine Corps; Iraq; Riverine Inf. Scout; co-developed Combat Paper NJ.

### ***James Miller, IN***

Army; Iraq; Team Delta/Task Force 293.

### ***Skip Rohde, NC***

Navy (RET); served in Cold War (Bosnia); Vietnam era & Afghanistan (civ).

## **DONATE NOW** to Support These Veteran Artists



Our veteran artists served our country selflessly; with distinction, valor and honor. Please consider a donation to offset travel and lodging expenses for the artists while they honor us with their presence during the NVAE Reception. All donations will be spent on behalf of the veterans!

**[WWW.DONORBOX.ORG/VETERANS-ART-PROJECT](http://WWW.DONORBOX.ORG/VETERANS-ART-PROJECT)**



UNF Chapter of Student  
Veterans of America

For more information contact Jerome Domask at  
[JerryDomask@gmail.com](mailto:JerryDomask@gmail.com)





Fellow veterans,

Please put this out to your veterans organizations. It is important that our constitutional officers remain as elected officials. This amendment assures these officers directly serve the people who elected them and not a charter government.

As we get closer to election time in Nov, please plan to have Sheriff Shoar as your invited guest to speak to your veterans about this important amendment.

William Dudley, Chairman  
Veterans Council of St. Johns County  
anuday00@aol.com

## PROTECT10N AMENDMENT

### Amendment 10:

## The Protection Amendment

Your Sheriff wants you to learn more about Amendment 10 before this November's General Election, please visit [Amendment10.org](http://Amendment10.org)



#### ■ PROTECTS OUR RIGHT TO VOTE

Ensures all constitutional officers in your county are elected (sheriff, tax collector, property appraiser, clerk of court and supervisor of elections).

#### ■ PROTECTS OUR FAMILIES

Creates the Office of Domestic Security and Counterterrorism within the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.

#### ■ PROTECTS OUR TAX DOLLARS

Improves state budgeting by starting the Legislature's annual session in January of even-numbered years.

#### ■ PROTECTS OUR VETERANS

Preserves the structure and governance of the Department of Veterans' Affairs to support the changing needs of Florida's military members.

## PROTECT10N AMENDMENT

No. 10  
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT  
ARTICLE III, SECTION 3  
ARTICLE IV, SECTIONS 4, 11  
ARTICLE VIII, SECTIONS 1, 6

#### State and Local Government Structure and Operation

Requires legislature to retain department of veterans' affairs. Ensures election of sheriffs, property appraisers, supervisors of elections, tax collectors, and clerks of court in all counties; removes county charters' ability to abolish, change term, transfer duties, or eliminate election of these offices. Changes annual legislative session commencement date in even numbered years from March to January; removes legislature's authorization to fix another date. Creates office of domestic security and counterterrorism within department of law enforcement.

Yes

No

## Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc. Minutes of August 30, 2018

**Officers present:** Chairman Bill Dudley, Vice Chairman Ray Quinn, Secretary Michael Rothfeld, Treasurer John Mountcastle

**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

Minutes were approved as presented

The Treasurer's Report was approved as presented

**Introduction of Guests:** None

### Speakers:

**Jason Snodgrass, COO, K9s For Warriors,** K9s For Warriors is dedicated to providing service canines to our Warriors suffering from Post-traumatic Stress Disability, traumatic brain injury, and/or military sexual trauma as a result of military service post-9/11. The goal is to empower them to return to civilian life with dignity and independence. We are the nation's largest provider of service dogs for disabled American veterans. Their new facility in Alachua will open soon and alleviate the waiting list.



Chairman Dudley presented K9s For Warriors a donation of \$ 250.00

**Karen Miscovich, President, Program Our Future.** We are a 501 c3, that provides educational and health monitoring technology to PTSD veterans, veterans organizations and to children's organizations. They provide free Fitbits, Spires, and QardioArm blood pressure monitoring devices.



### Committee Reports:

**Tammy, SJCVSO:** volunteers still needed for Sept. 8th Homeless Veterans Stand Down. Volunteers needed Friday Sept. 7 for set up and for event on Sept. 8 by 8:30am.

**John L.:** VVA 1084 celebrated its 5th birthday party which was highlighted by attendance of Leo Chase's mother and brother William. Veterans Treatment Court: 2 new participants, 8 graduates so far, 33 veterans in program so far.



**Bill:** Instead of a costly parade, this year the Veterans Council and MOAA will be hosting a large Veterans Commemoration on Monday November 12 at Anastasia Baptist Church. Highlights include The Traveling Vietnam Wall, The Agent Orange Quilt of Tears, the St Augustine High School Chorale, Rolling Thunder, JROTCs, The N FL Military Museum's WW I exhibit, to include uniforms, weapons and military vehicles.

If your military organization would like a free display table please contact Michael Rothfeld, at rothfeldm@gmail.com

**Steve S:** Please attend the Cecil Field POW/MIA Sept. 22 A Gathering in the Pines, 9am to 5 pm with a Missing Man Flyover.

MIAP: Nov. 3 Saturday the 17th MIAP burial at Cape Canaveral

Meeting adjourned at 8:09 pm.



**The next meeting of the Veterans Council will be on Thursday, October 25, 7 pm in the Health & Human Services Building, 200 San Sebastian View.**

#### **Future speakers:**

**September 27, Charles Tingley, St. Augustine Historical Society,** Senior Reference Librarian, 100 Years Ago: St. Johns County & WW I.

**October 25, Dr. Michael Butler, Flagler College,** "What I Learned in Vietnam"

November 29, Andrew Coughlan, Wounded Warrior Project, Resource Development and

**Michele McManamon, Co founder/ Executive Director, Operation New Uniform**

**December 27, Margaret Kaplan, Administrator, Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home**

**January 31, Tom Waskovich, Green Beret, Vietnam Veteran, MACVSOG**



Saturday, October 20  
**USO Armed Forces Half Marathon & Freedom 5K**

7:00 A.M., Metropolitan Park,  
Race Hotline: 760-994-2168

Saturday, October 27 - Sunday,  
October 28

**NAS Jax Air Show**

10:00 A.M., NAS Jacksonville,  
POC: [nasjaxairshow@navy.mil](mailto:nasjaxairshow@navy.mil)

Monday, October 29 - Friday,  
December 7

**Invisible Becoming Visible: An  
Exhibition of Veterans' Art**

UNF Student Union, Lufrano Gallery,  
POC: [JerryDomask@gmail.com](mailto:JerryDomask@gmail.com)

Sunday, November 4

**7th Annual Salute to Veterans 5K**

8:00 A.M., Riverside Arts Market ,  
POC: [S2V5k@yahoo.com](mailto:S2V5k@yahoo.com)

Monday, November 6

**JAX Chamber 16th Annual Military  
Appreciation Luncheon**

11:30 A.M. – 1:30 P.M.  
Hyatt Regency Riverfront, POC:  
[Rachel.Harris@myjaxchamber.com](mailto:Rachel.Harris@myjaxchamber.com)

Thursday, November 8

**University of North Florida Veterans  
Day Tribute**

10:30 A.M., Veterans Plaza at UNF  
Student Union ,  
POC: [mvrc@unf.edu](mailto:mvrc@unf.edu)

Friday, November 9

**Veteran Art Display (through Nov.  
16th)**

3:00 P.M., City Hall Atrium,  
POC: [KenJohns@coj.net](mailto:KenJohns@coj.net)

Saturday, November 10

**Wounded Warrior Project Carry  
Forward 5K**

7:30 A.M., Wounded Warrior Project

Headquarters,

POC: [carryforward@woundedwarriorproject.org](mailto:carryforward@woundedwarriorproject.org)

Saturday, November 10

**15th Annual Marine & Navy FMF  
Corpsmen Memorial**

2:30 P.M., Evergreen Cemetery,  
POC: [adelhelm0302@gmail.com](mailto:adelhelm0302@gmail.com)

Monday, November 11

**Veterans Day Parade**

11:01 A.M., Downtown Jacksonville,  
POC: 904-630-3690, [events@coj.net](mailto:events@coj.net)

**Memorial Park Veterans Day Program**

5:00 P.M., Memorial Park  
POC: [info@memparkjax.org](mailto:info@memparkjax.org)

Wednesday, November 14

**Department of Veterans Affairs Mental  
Health Forum**

9:00 A.M., Legends Center,  
POC: [Jessica.Bradstreet@va.gov](mailto:Jessica.Bradstreet@va.gov)

Thursday, November 15

**Dental Services for Veterans Provided  
by Aspen Dental**

(Pre-registration required)  
9:00 A.M.—2:30 A.M.  
POC: [CarolineA@coj.net](mailto:CarolineA@coj.net)

Tuesday, November 14

**Military and Veteran Job and  
Resource Fair**

10:00 A.M.- 2:00 P.M., Kingdom Plaza,  
POC: [KenJohns@coj.net](mailto:KenJohns@coj.net)

Sunday, December 2

**Jacksonville Jaguars vs. Indianapolis  
Colts Military Appreciation Game**

1:00 P.M., TIAA Bank Field

**Military and Veteran High School  
Visits**

POC: [HConyers@coj.net](mailto:HConyers@coj.net)

**ESGRSU**

## Vietnam Veterans of America Leo C. Chase Jr. Chapter 1084 Celebrates Five Years of Supporting Local Veterans

(St. Augustine, FL) On August 28, 2018, Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) Chapter 1084 of St Johns County, FL held a celebration at Treaty Park in recognition of their fifth birthday. They received their charter as Chapter 1084 on 22 August 2013 and renamed the chapter in 2015 honoring Leo C. Chase, Jr. Chase was the first resident of St. Johns County to be killed in the Vietnam War. He lost his life at Landing Zone X-Ray, Ia Drang Valley, 15 November 1965.

Present for the celebration in addition to VVA 1084 members were Leo's mother Pauline Chase, his brother William Jefferson, and distinguished guests from St Johns, Clay, and Duval counties.



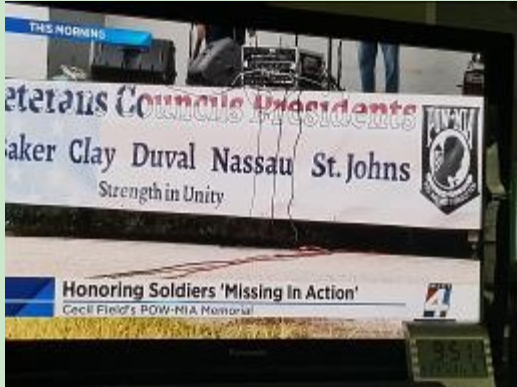
Pictured above from the Left: Gary Newman, 2nd Vice President of the Florida State Council, John McGinty 1st Vice President of the Florida State Council, John Leslie President Chapter 1084 St Johns County, Mrs. Pauline Chase, Bill Jefferson, Mary Ann Newman President of the AVVA Florida State Council, Tony D'Aleo President Chapter 1046 of Duval County, Kim Biddle Treasurer AVVA Florida State Council and the AVVA Representative for VVA Chapter 1059 of Clay County, and Judy Davis Chapter 1084 AVVA Delegate. Present but not shown is Eric Davidson, Vice President Chapter 1059.

(photo by Michael Isam)



# Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial

## In The Pines





## The Ride Home 2018

The Ride Home began in 2002 as a retreat and rededication. Our founding members chose the National Historic Site at Andersonville, GA, home of the National Prisoners of War Museum. We took up the challenge of a Presidential Proclamation, "I call upon the people of the United States to join me in honoring and remembering all former American prisoners of war and those missing in action who valiantly served our great country. I also call upon Federal, State, and local government officials and private organizations to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities." Our goal each year is to invite, as our guests, former POWs and MIA family members, offering a recognition commensurate with their extraordinary courage and valor; to increase the number of participants paying tribute; and to increase public awareness and commitment that we will never forget. For more information, contact: [www.theridehome.com](http://www.theridehome.com)

The RIDE HOME, Inc. a Florida not-for-profit corporation (the "Corporation") is organized and shall be operated for the purposes of the promotion of social welfare within the meaning of Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future tax code, for the purpose of honoring and remembering all former American prisoners of war (POW) and those who are missing in action (MIA) who valiantly have served the United States of America.



### The Ride Home Flag Presentation:

<https://www.photographybyfran.us/POW-MIA-events/Old-Glory---The-Ride-Home/>

## St. Augustine's Hamblen House closes, leaving American Legion Post 37 without a home

By Colleen Michele Jones [cjones@staugustine.com](mailto:cjones@staugustine.com)

The American Legion has defaulted on loans and the financial terms of its lease with the historic Hamblen Club, terminating both use of the property by Post 37 as well as the closure of its on-site public restaurant.



The building, at 1 Anderson Circle, is located on the bayfront in downtown St. Augustine. According to an agreement reached last week with the Charles F. Hamblen Club Inc. — the nonprofit that was deeded the property through the Hamblen family estate in 1933 — American Legion Post 37 relinquished use of the building Monday. The veterans organization will hold its September meeting at the location but after that will be searching for a new home for the first time since the early 1940s.

The American Legion had paid \$1 in rent annually for its lease with the Hamblen Club, plus all building maintenance expenses and taxes. It also managed the Hamblen House restaurant.

Pre-existing contracts reserving the Hamblen House for future events will not be honored, according to Loretta Lombard, president of the Charles F. Hamblen Club.

According to a statement included in the agreement between the Charles F. Hamblen Club and American Legion Post 37: “Due to the financial situation the ALP37 has developed over multiple preceding years — which has resulted in ALP37’s inability to make payment on debts and obligations that are conditions, provisions, covenants and obligations of the lease, in a timely manner, or not at all — ALP37 is unable to maintain compliance with the terms of the lease.”

The Hamblen House Restaurant and Bar opened in July 2017 after an extensive two-year renovation that transformed what was previously a modest lounge and eatery into an updated restaurant space with an expanded menu. Recent reviews on several social media sites such as Yelp and Trip Advisor earned the restaurant high marks from customers.

Speaking with The Record Monday, Ron Birchall, who spearheaded a fundraising campaign for renovation of the building, said he was “very disappointed” with the situation, not the least of which was the failure of the restaurant to turn a profit.

“The Legionnaires had no business being in the restaurant business,” said Birchall, who is a member of the local post.

Mick Barnes, commander of Post 37 from 2014 to 2017, didn’t disagree.

“That’s true, we didn’t have experience managing a restaurant,” Barnes said in an interview with The Record

Monday.

Barnes said that's why leadership hired a restaurant consultant, an executive chef and an accountant.

In 2013, Birchall and his wife, Nancy, launched Forward March Inc., a non-profit, with the idea of making the restoration of the Hamblen Club a legacy project for St. Augustine's 450th anniversary. Renovations were to have included refurbishment of the first, second and third floors of the building, as well as the creation of a military museum.



The group was able to raise more than \$750,000 — one-quarter of the cost of just the first phase of the renovations — by late 2016, according to a press release issued Monday by American Legion leaders and the Charles F. Hamblen Club. It was then that Forward March began to distance itself from the project.

“The intent of the project changed,” Birchall said. “We never wanted a mega restaurant there, because we knew it would be hard to sustain, especially in that area.”

Barnes acknowledged that the original plan had been altered, but only with the approval of Post 37's executive board.

According to the press release, the money raised by Forward March was used as collateral for a line of credit of almost \$1.5 million used to complete the renovation of the restaurant as well as club meeting space.

Nancy Birchall, the current president of the auxiliary, said she was sad for her local American Legion chapter.

“We really had a wonderful location and the opportunity to serve the community using that building,” Birchall said.

According to Lombard, the property will be rented out as a venue for community groups, weddings and other special events in an attempt to catch up with payments on the building's insurance, taxes and utilities — bills the American Legion defaulted on because the restaurant was in the red.

“We need to generate whatever revenue we can from the building,” Lombard said.

The American Legion Post 37 in St. Augustine has closed after the organization terminated its lease with the owner of the historic building which had been its home since the early 1940s. [PETER WILLOTT/THE RECORD]

The long-term plan is to find a new tenant to take over management of the restaurant, said Lombard, who also sits on the executive board of Post 37.

Calls made by The Record to current American Legion Post 37 Commander Jim C r u t c h f i e l d w e r e not returned before press time.



## Veterans deserve to be honored too...

Why are Veterans excluded from the memorial named in their honor, the city of Jacksonville's Veterans Memorial Wall?



The current criteria as written actually precludes Veterans from being eligible and was recently made even more confusing by an ill advised mayoral executive order. The criteria stated home of record Jacksonville or attended HS in Jacksonville, served in time of war (last declared War was WWII) and killed or died on active duty. The criteria now has changed home of record to merely residing in Jacksonville.

The criteria and the mayoral executive order still do not address the exclusion of Veterans. A Veteran is defined, under Title 38, US Code of Federal Regulations, as a person who served in the active military and who was discharged or released under conditions, other than dishonorable. Criteria that states: die or killed on active duty this automatically excludes Veteran. It excludes Veterans like Cpl Tyler Southern USMC and others warriors like him simply because they survived their wounds and were discharged under honorable conditions, yet allows decisions to be made to honor in perpetuity anyone on active duty who dies of anything and is from anywhere, it seems, on this hometown memorial.

Veterans like Cpl Southern are currently ineligible from being recognized in his home town, his Home of Record, where he went to HS and volunteered to serve during a war. But the criteria and mayoral executive order allows and has opened the door for individuals to be added to this memorial who: never served in combat, in harm's way, died of motor vehicle accidents, domestic disputes, sport sky diving accidents, training for a marathon, suicide while under investigation and they or a family member who merely resided in Jacksonville can be added to this "Hometown Memorial". This diminishes the honor and significance of this memorial's intended purpose. It also demeans the sacrifices of those on this memorial like PFC Robert Jenkins USMC Medal of Honor recipient who jumped on a grenade to save the lives of his fellow comrades. It is hard to equate being recognized on the wall, for any of the aforementioned and compare it to jumping on a grenade to save lives, yet this is exactly what is happening here.

If the intent was to exclude Veterans, maybe it is time to change the name of this memorial to simply “Memorial Wall”. But, if it is to be a true Veteran’s Memorial, than start adding Veterans to the memorial and start restoring the honor and integrity to process of recognizing those being added to this Veterans Memorial.

The current selection process needs to change along with the criteria and there needs to be more Veteran involvement in the selection process. A council of Veterans should be allowed to review the criteria of both home of record and time of war. Initial criteria called for “Home of Record” to be Jacksonville, FL. But recently, it has become clear that some are being added from other states, even though their home of record is not Florida. They did not go to HS here, enlist here nor are some even buried here; they are buried in their hometowns. The adding of those from outside of our community is confusing; the sole purpose of the wall was to honor those whose “hometown” was Jacksonville. Most importantly, Veterans like Cpl Southern need to be made eligible to be recognized on their hometown memorial for their service and sacrifice.

An appropriate distinction needs to be made between merely serving and those who served and sacrificed and equally as important those who survived the wounds of war during their service and were discharged...a Veteran. A Council of Veterans can help in avoiding the confusion currently surrounding why some have been placed on the wall from outside the state of Florida and didn’t die as a result of combat or combat support. Most Veterans know who should be honored and who should be recognized on a Veterans Memorial in perpetuity. In my humble opinion, Cpl Tyler Southern and warriors like him from this community should be eligible to be recognized.

R Adelhelm

LtCol USMC ret

**Combat-injured disabled veterans may be due a refund**

The IRS is alerting certain veterans that they may be due a credit or refund. This is a result of the Combat-Injured Veterans Tax Fairness Act passed in 2016. It affects veterans who received disability severance payments after January 17, 1991, and included that payment as income.

Here is what these veterans should know:

Veterans who included their disability severance payments as income should file Form 1040X, Amended U.S. Individual Income Tax Return.

The veterans will file Form 1040X to claim a credit or refund of the overpayment attributable to the disability severance payment.

These veterans received a one-time, lump-sum disability severance payment when they separated from their military service.

Most of these veterans will have recently received a letter from the Department of Defense with information explaining how they should claim the related tax refunds.

Veterans can submit a claim based on the actual amount of their disability severance payment. However, there is a simplified method where veterans can instead choose to claim a standard refund amount. This amount is based on the calendar year in which they received the severance payment: – \$1,750 for tax years 1991 – 2005 – \$2,400 for tax years 2006 – 2010 – \$3,200 for tax years 2011 – 2016

Claiming the standard refund amount is the easiest way for veterans to claim a refund, because they do not need to access the original tax return from the year of their lump-sum disability severance payment.

The veteran must mail the claim generally by the later of these dates: – One year from the date of the Department of Defense notice – Three years after the due date for filing the original return for the year the disability severance payment was made – Two years after tax was paid for the year the disability severance payment was made.

Veterans eligible for a refund who did not get a letter from DoD should visit the Defense Finance and Accounting Service and IRS's Combat-injured disabled veterans page for more information on how to file a claim.

More Information:

FAQs: Filing Amended Returns for Combat-Injured Disabled Veterans

Publication 3, Armed Forces' Tax Guide

Form 1310, Statement of Person Claiming Refund Due a Deceased Taxpayer

Information for Veterans


Publication 525, Taxable and Non-Taxable Income

Publication 907, Tax Highlights for Persons with Disabilities

IRS News Release: IR-2018-148, July 11, 2018

Share this tip on social media -- #IRSTaxTip:  
Combat-injured disabled veterans may be due a refund <https://go.usa.gov/xPgcv>






# MOAA

Military Officers Association of America

# SHOOTOUT!


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BENEFITTING ANCIENT CITY CHAPTER  
**MONDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2018**

PRIZES FOR 1ST, 2ND AND 3RD PLACE TEAMS  
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# MOAA

Military Officers Association of America

# SHOOTOUT!



**EVENT SCHEDULE:**  
11:30A - 12PM: REGISTRATION • 11:30A-12:45: SAFETY BRIEFING • 1:00P - SHOTGUN START

**SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES:**  
 MAJOR SPONSOR: **\$1500.** (includes foursome, lunch and station signage)  
 CORPORATE STATION SPONSOR: **\$450.** (includes foursome, lunch and station signage)  
 STATION SPONSOR: **\$100.**  
 INDIVIDUAL ENTRY: **\$100.**  
 LUNCH ONLY: **\$25.**

---

**ENTRY FORM:**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL PAID: \_\_\_\_\_

MAJOR SPONSOR\_\_ CORPORATE SPONSOR\_\_ INDIVIDUAL SPONSOR\_\_ STATION SPONSOR\_\_ LUNCH ONLY\_\_

Please RSVP to Ron Birchall, 4009 Moultrie Foreside Blvd., St. Augustine, FL 32086 or Chris Nester, 900 Big Oak Road, St. Augustine, FL 32095  
 Ron Birchall can be reached at 904.669.5595. Chris Nester can be reached at 904.599.2847  
 Please make all checks payable to ACC-MOAA. We look forward to seeing you at the event!



The Veterans Council congratulates Council member Chris Vedvick on his appointment

Region 4 again leads the nation as Region Commander Lenny Lazzara appoints Christopher Vedvick as the regions Public Relation Officer. Region 4 is now the first region to have a Public Relations Officer. We look forward to Chris assisting the Region, Departments and Chapters this year.



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BEST OF IT BUSINESS  
MEDICAL  
2017



Jacksonville's own Purple Heart Hero, Christopher Vedrick, Military Order of the Purple Heart, and National Publications Committeeman being Honored on the Jaguars Jumbotron.



**HASTINGS COA/ FREE**

**Veteran's Day Celebration**



November 7, 2018  
 The Lord's Temple, 140 Gilmore St.  
 Hastings In The Fellowship Hall

Ceremony begins at 10AM to 1:00 PM. A Hot Lunch will be served. You must reserve a meal.



**Land of the Free**  **Because of the Brave**



**More Information: 904-729-9161**

PosterMyWall.com



Below is the flyer for the October 19th conference for Vietnam Veterans. The goal of this conference is to better understand the difficulties our Vietnam Veterans went through when they returned to the U.S, bring healing of some of the trauma, and discuss resources to assist them. We have many Vietnam Veterans in our area. Please share this widely to your distribution groups.

We're hoping to help.



## VIETNAM VETERANS WELCOME HOME & HEALING

A free conference for Vietnam veterans, their loved ones and all interested in learning tools to provide hope and healing across generations.

### PRESENTATIONS WILL INCLUDE:

- The Coming Home Experience
- Post-Traumatic Growth
- Panel on Services to Help

### AREAS OF FOCUS:

- Anger - Coming Home
- Healing - Programs to Help / PTSD
- Peace - Forgiveness / Understanding / Future

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2018

UNF - Adam W. Herbert, University Center  
12000 Alumni Dr.  
Jacksonville, 32224

Registration & Breakfast: 8:30 a.m.  
Program: 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Hosted by:



Military and Veterans  
Resource Center



A partnership with veteran leaders to bring awareness to programs and services designed for veterans.

Registration is free, and a complimentary breakfast will be provided.  
To register, call **904.407.6790** or visit **militarycaregiver.eventbrite.com**.

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TIAA Bank Field  
ONE EverBank Field Drive  
Jacksonville, FL

**Tuesday**  
**October 9th**  
**10AM-3PM**



P.O. Box 5147 | Jacksonville, FL 32247  
904-683-0918 (t) | 904-386-7568 (c)  
[www.veteransnewsnetwork.com](http://www.veteransnewsnetwork.com)  
[info@veteransnewsnetwork.com](mailto:info@veteransnewsnetwork.com)





Veterans Council of St. Johns County Chairman Bill Dudley spoke to the Hastings Rotary and presented the Hastings Public Library Librarian with the Council's 5 dvd documentary collection of documentaries featuring the stories of local veterans from WW II through Afghanistan.



**Squadron 283 Presents:**  
**7<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CHIP, TOSS, SHOOT EVENT**  
**2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL KID'S FISHING RODEO**  
**October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018**  
**9459 Fort Caroline Rd.**



**Fishing Rodeo 9:00 – 11:00 am. Fishing rods provided.**  
**Chip, Toss, Shoot Event starts at 1:00 pm.**  
**Chip** golf balls at a ring in the pond. **Cash Prizes**  
**Toss** horse shoes. (Tournaments). **Cash Prizes**  
**Shoot** – Turkey Shoot. **Cash Prizes**  
**Corn Hole Tournaments**  
**Raffle Drawing for Pull Tabs**  
**Burgers, Dogs, Sausage Dogs, Chicken Skewers**  
**FOOD DONATED BY MARCH MOTORS**  
**Proceeds are supporting K9LINE**  
**[www.k9line.org](http://www.k9line.org)**

## **St. Augustine Chapter 6 Disabled American Veterans recognize Van drivers**

**By Michael Isam**

**St. Augustine, Fla, (September 18, 2018) – Without support from volunteers a non-profit organization is doomed to demise.**

**This is particularly true for military organizations such as the Disabled American Veterans Transportation Network.**

**On weekday mornings about 5:45 a.m., a volunteer driver arrives at the St. Augustine Veteran Administration Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) for the pre-trip inspection of the van used to transport veterans to their appointments at the VA Medical Center in Gainesville. The riders for the day are usually already waiting for the 2 hour trip to begin.**

**On the trip, riders are treated to a tour of Palatka as the van winds its way to a predetermined pick-up point for veterans in the surrounding area. Next stop, Interlachen for a much needed break, then back on the road again to the final destination, the Malcolm Randall VA Medical Center on Archer Road in Gainesville. The van begins the journey back to St. Augustine about 2:00 p.m. so as to arrive home by 4:00 p.m.**

**All of this and their pay is lunch at the cafeteria.**

**"We appreciate our drivers and their dedication to our veterans," said Chapter Adjutant Judy Davis. "I know those who ride the van truly appreciate them. The trip is hard enough for the non-disabled."**

**To schedule a ride on the van, veterans can call the CBOC at 904-823-2954 and ask for Veteran Van Scheduling.**

**(l-r) Lonnie Woodward, Bob Garlinger, Chapter Adjutant Judy Davis, and George Loomis.**

**Photo by Michael Isam**



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\*\*\* As a **VETERAN**,  
SAVE **25%** when buying or selling with us! \*\*\*



Navy to Navy Homes Llc  
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Jacksonville, FL 32246  
Office: 904-900-4776





## ***OPERATION HandUP (8/21/2018 – 9/8/2018)***

We are creating care pouches with edibles, for our women veterans not living in stabled housing. Items needed are:

Cup of Noodles  
Cookies or Crackers  
Nuts  
Dried Fruit  
Protein or breakfast bars  
Pop Tarts  
Capri Suns or something similar to drink  
Canned microwaveable soups/veggies  
Peanut Butter and Jelly  
Canned fruit  
Tuna Fish or chicken in the pack  
Canned pasta  
Fruit and Jello cups  
Small water bottles

Gift cards are acceptable too.

***Deliver to:***

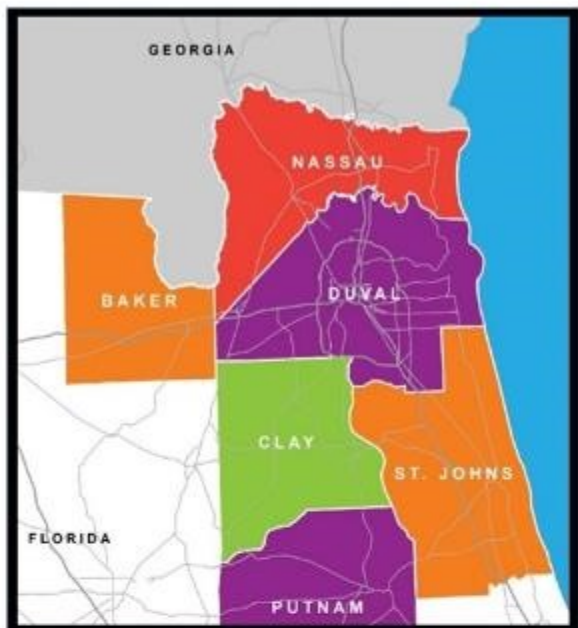
***2133 Broadway Ave.***

***Monday – Friday 9:00am – 3:00pm***

***904-862-6039***

***[www.forwomenvets.org](http://www.forwomenvets.org)***

# Veteran County Councils of Northeast Florida



## Duval County

President: Steve Spickelmier

Meetings:

Third Tuesday of each month in the 40/8 Building

Located at the American Legion Post 137  
5443 San Juan Avenue

7pm

## Nassau County

President: Paul Kicker, Chairman  
Veterans Council of Nassau County

76347 Veterans Way,  
Veterans Service Office

Yulee, FL 32097

Meets the first Thursday of every month  
at the Theodore Hernandez American  
Legion Post 54, 626 South 3rd Street,  
Fernandina Beach, FL 32034 at 7 pm

## Baker County

President: Larry Porterfield

Meetings:

Second Thursday of each month  
MacClenny Primitive Baptist Church  
Fellowship Hall on North Boulevard  
6pm

Contact:

Baker County Veterans Council  
PO Box 1434  
MacClenny, FL 32063

## Clay County

President: Bob Brewster

Meetings: First Wednesday of  
each month

Location varies between the  
different Veteran Organizations.

Time varies

## St. Johns County

President: Bill Dudley

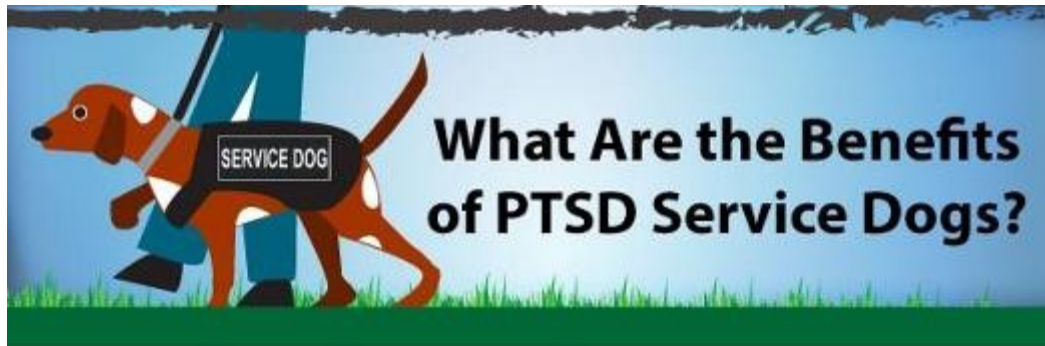
Meetings:

Last Thursday of each month  
Health and Human Services Building  
Muscovy Room, 1st Floor  
200 San Sebastian View  
Muscovy Room 1st Floor  
St. Augustine, FL 32084  
7pm

Contact:

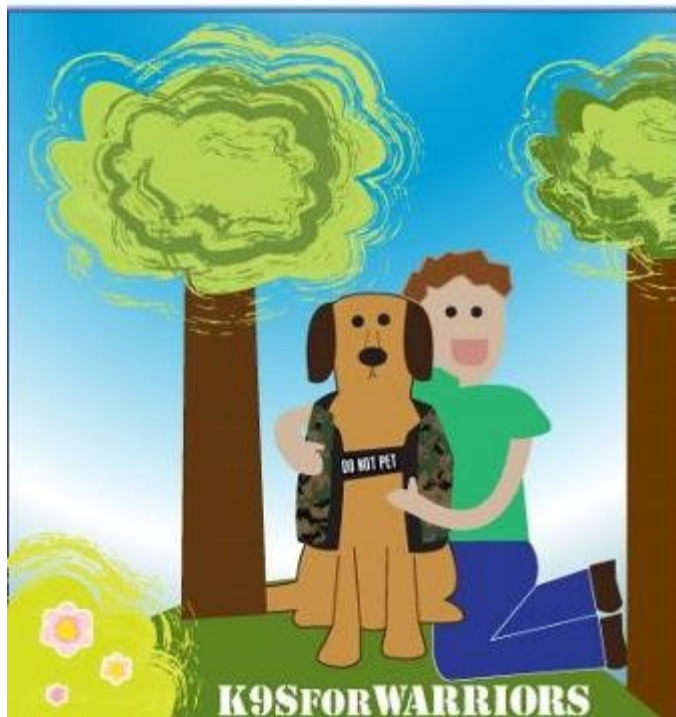
[info@VeteransCouncilofStJohns.org](mailto:info@VeteransCouncilofStJohns.org)





# What Are the Benefits of PTSD Service Dogs?

- Reduce in use or even elimination of prescription drugs.
- Decrease in anxiety, anger, and depression.
- Decline in suicidal thoughts.
- Decrease in medical costs.
- Decrease in need for other treatments.



According to collaborative research performed by Purdue University & K9s For Warriors, veterans with a service dog reported:

- better ability to cope with flashbacks & anxiety attacks
- less overall sleep disturbances, including nightmares
- lower levels of depression & anger
- higher levels of companionship & social reintegration
- increased life satisfaction
- improved physical health



## MISSION BACKGROUND

Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, has been formed to restore and establish a national memorial that will serve as a historic and destination site for Jacksonville and to serve as an educational resource for generations to come.

The memorial site, located at the former Naval Air Station Cecil Field, was originally dedicated on September 11, 1973 and consisted of markers and associated trees for each of the 16 POW/MIA pilots (an area known as Hero's Walk and Freedom Trees), a pavilion, a stage area, a starburst metal display of aircraft, a granite base seal of NAS Cecil Field and a chapel. This property was given to the City of Jacksonville when Cecil Field was decommissioned in 1995. As a result, the existing memorial has been forgotten.

However, the non-profit organization was given a lease by the Jacksonville City Council and the Mayor's office, and given the rights to develop, expand and maintain the 26-acre memorial.



## A FEW QUOTES SUBMITTED BY OUR NATIONAL LEADERS



*"Your proposal to use part of the former Naval Air Station Cecil Field for a POW/MIA Memorial is a fitting location to pay tribute to this very special group. Given that Mary Hoff, the creator of the POW/MIA flag, is a long-time resident of Jacksonville, and that her husband, Lieutenant Commander Michael G. Hoff, is memorialized at Cecil Field, there could not be a more appropriate site for the POW/MIA Memorial."*

**U.S. Congressman**  
John Rutherford

*"The proposal to build the Cecil Field Prisoners of War and Missing in Action Museum is a great opportunity to honor the service members who did not return home from war."*

**U.S. Senator**  
Marco Rubio

*"With the Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, we can renew our commitment to all those who have worn the uniform, to the children and families, and thank them for their unselfishness and bravery."*

**U.S. Senator**  
Bill Nelson



## JOIN THE MISSION TO BRING A NATIONAL POW/MIA MEMORIAL TO JACKSONVILLE

### MISSION STATEMENT

HONOR ALL FORMER PRISONERS OF WAR;  
REMEMBER AND NEVER FORGET THOSE  
QUIET, MISSING IN ACTION HEROES AND THE  
FAMILIES THAT WAIT FOR THEIR RETURN.

More than 82,000 are still Missing in Action and Unaccounted for since WWII

## MEMORIAL STRATEGIC PLAN

With the help of the community, Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc. is raising funds to make this memorial a true national honor to all POW/MIA personnel from every state in America. These funds will enable the organization to accomplish the following memorial projects:

- Restore and use the historic chapel (named the "Chapel of the High-Speed Paves") for memorial services, ceremonies and weddings.
- Enhance the existing sacred grounds of the park and to construct a replica of the USS Saratoga (CV-60).
- Refurbish and utilize existing building 333 as a starting point for the POW/MIA memorial center and museum.
- Establish a new memorial center - to honor all Former Prisoners of War, acknowledge those still Missing in Action; feature the history of the Prisoner of War/Missing in Action flag; house the history of NAS Cecil Field.
- Educate the public on the Prisoner of War and Missing in Action issue through exhibits, videos, artifacts and memorabilia.
- Establish a national destination for military remembrance and celebration (there is not a national memorial for all Missing in Action in the United States).



Hero's Walk & Freedom Trees



Chapel of the High-Speed Paves



Starburst Sculpture

## CECIL FIELD NATIONAL POW/MIA MEMORIAL PARK



## HOW YOU CAN HELP HONOR OUR MILITARY HEROES



It will take considerable dollars to fund this sacred project. At this point, the project will depend on contributions from private citizens. You can help this effort by making contributions online by going to our website at [powmiamemorial.org](http://powmiamemorial.org) or to make checks payable to:

Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc.  
612 New World Avenue Jacksonville, Florida 32227

ONLINE [PowMiaMemorial.org](http://PowMiaMemorial.org)

Facebook.com/Cecil-Field-POW-MIA-Memorial-Inc-1084025864845237

Twitter.com/CFPOW/MIA

Instagram.com/cecilfieldpowmia/

Disclaimer: Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc. IS A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION. REGISTRATION NUMBER CHECKED A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE OFFICE OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE, 800-435-1352, WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECEIPTMENT BY THE STATE.



IN 1982, YOU HELPED US BUILD THE WALL  
TO HONOR OUR VIETNAM FALLEN

## NOW HELP US BUILD THE EDUCATION CENTER AT THE WALL

TO CONNECT OUR NATION'S FUTURE  
WITH OUR NATION'S PAST



### Our Vietnam heroes deserve a place where their story is told.

In 1982, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was built with private funds from more than 275,000 individuals. Today, we need your help to build the Education Center at The Wall, an interactive learning facility on the National Mall where our military heroes' stories will be told.

#### Why?

With each passing day, we are losing the voices that can tell the first-hand accounts of the Vietnam War and era. We must act now and preserve these personal stories from the past to educate our future.

#### What you do matters.

It is only through the generosity of people like you that we can build the Education Center at The Wall. Together we can preserve the legacy of our Vietnam heroes and educate future generations about the impact of the Vietnam era.



**HELP US BUILD IT.**  
DONATE AT [VVMF.ORG/VVA-FL](http://VVMF.ORG/VVA-FL)



**36 Granada Street, St. Augustine FL 32084**

**(904) 679-5736**

**[Corazoncinemaandcafe.com](http://Corazoncinemaandcafe.com)**



Stop by the Corazon Cinema and Café located in the heart of St. Augustine to catch a great film or a bite to eat (free parking). **Tell us you are a veteran and receive 10% off any food or drinks.** Beer and wine available.





**GratitudeAmerica**



# MILITARY SUPPORT RETREAT

*at Marineland, Florida*

**October 4th at 5:30pm - October 7th at 3:00pm**

A RETREAT FOR POST 9-11 NORTHEAST FLORIDA AND SOUTHEAST GEORGIA  
MILITARY/VETERANS AND THEIR PRIMARY SUPPORT PERSON

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

★ RESTORATION ★ RECREATION ★ RELAXATION ★

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

★ Small, friendly group setting ★

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

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

*Please note: Must be 18 to attend and no childcare is not provided.*



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

CONTACT INFO: JACK GAFFORD, DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS

678-315-9028 OR [JACK@GRATITUDEAMERICA.ORG](mailto:JACK@GRATITUDEAMERICA.ORG)

## New tech increases ease of contacting Veterans Crisis Line

*“Call the Veterans Crisis Line.”*



VA is excited to announce that service members and Veterans can connect to the Veterans Crisis Line using these simple words. The Siri function on Apple’s iPhone and the Google Assistant function on Android phones now automatically dial the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline which also serves the Veterans Crisis Line, even if the number (1-800-273-8255) is not saved in the phone’s contact list. Callers will need to Press 1 in order to reach the Veterans Crisis Line.

“Suicide prevention is VA’s top clinical priority, and we are working to reach Veterans where they are to help save lives,” said Dr. Keita Franklin. “The new feature on Apple and Android devices enables service members, Veterans, and their families to get quicker access to our network of certified crisis responders.”

Responders at the Veterans Crisis Line are specially trained and experienced in helping Veterans when mental health or related issues — such as chronic pain, anxiety, depression, sleeplessness, anger, and homelessness — reach a crisis point.

“Since its launch in 2007, the Veterans Crisis Line has answered over 3.5 million calls and initiated the dispatch of emergency services to callers in imminent crisis nearly 93,000 times,” said Dr. Matt Miller, director of the Veterans Crisis Line. “Since launching chat in 2009 and text services in November 2011, the VCL has answered over 397,000 and nearly 92,000 requests for chat and text services respectively.”

According to Miller, the ease of connecting to the Veterans Crisis Line is the technology’s biggest benefit.

“The ability to for Veterans to connect to the Veterans Crisis Line using just four simple words, and through a technology that so many people are familiar with already, is truly remarkable,” Miller said. “While some suicidal crises last a long time, most last minutes to hours. The quicker we can get Veterans connected to care, the more likely they are to survive.”

While recognizing the need for crisis access and rapid care, VA continues to build and emphasize sustained access to care for Veterans to receive ongoing treatment as appropriate.

“VA is working to improve its services by providing evidence-based mental health care across a full spectrum of interventional services,” said Franklin. “We are anticipating and responding to Veterans’ needs and supporting returning service members as they rejoin their communities.”

VA is leveraging a public health approach to suicide prevention that addresses multiple risk factors for suicide to stage interventions before suicidal thoughts and behaviors occur. While VA has made great strides in crisis intervention, the public health approach uses the best evidence available to guide the development of innovative new strategies to serve all Veterans.

No one organization can tackle suicide prevention alone. To save lives, VA is using prevention strategies that reach beyond health care settings to involve peers, family members, and community members in order to reach Veterans where they are.

“Every day people across the nation reach out for support and are able to live healthy, productive lives. But VA alone can’t prevent Veteran suicide,” Franklin said. “To end Veteran suicide, we need support across sectors, and this type of technology is another step in the right direction. The quicker we can get service members and Veterans connected to care, the better.”

If you or someone you know is in crisis, support is available 24/7. The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is available to all at 1-800-273-8255. Veterans, service members, and their families and friends can call the Veterans and Military Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1, chat online at [VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat](https://VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat), or text to 838255.

*About the author: Megan McCarthy, Ph.D., is the deputy director for suicide prevention for VA’s Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention.*





# Let's go Fishing

## 2018 Dates

- Feb 11 Palm Valley
- Mar 11 Guana River
- Apr 22 Cedar Point
- May 4-6 Camping Sebastian Inlet
- Jun 10 Browns Creek
- July 15 Faver Dykes
- Aug 12 River Float  
Ichetucknee
- Sept 2 Mill Cove
- Sept 21 First Responders Event
- Oct 14 Browns Creek
- Nov 11 Veteran's Day Event

To RSVP - Facebook site  
Or email  
Northeastflorida@heroesonthewater.org

## JOIN US!

Heroes on the Water offers **free** kayak fishing excursions to injured service members from all branches of the Armed Services. Experience the peaceful water, the thrill of fishing from kayaks and the adventure of being outdoors, while enjoying the camaraderie of hanging out with other vets, passionate volunteers, and loved ones.

We provide all the equipment you need for a fun, relaxing day on the water.

"I was at peace with myself, enjoying the company of other wounded veterans, without a worry in the world, while enjoying the weather and casting a line."

Travis Clennon, Traumatic spinal cord injury

Like us on Facebook to get all the up to date information about the Northeast Florida Chapter: <http://www.facebook.com/HeroesOnTheWaterNortheastFloridaChapter>

Welcome to the official 2018 NAS Jax Air Show event.

The NAS Jax Air Show, Birthplace of the Blue Angels, will be October 27 - 28, 2018 aboard NAS Jacksonville. Admission, parking and the Kids Zone is FREE.

At the NAS Jax Air Show you will witness thrills like never before from a variety of military and civilian demonstrations. The grand finale will be the Navy's flight demonstration team: The Blue Angels.

While you are at the show, enjoy military and civilian aircraft displays, shop at novelty, food and beverage booths, or head to the free Kids Zone for games and activities for all ages. While there will be 2 ATMs onsite, it is highly recommended that you bring cash with you.

Save the date! More details to come.

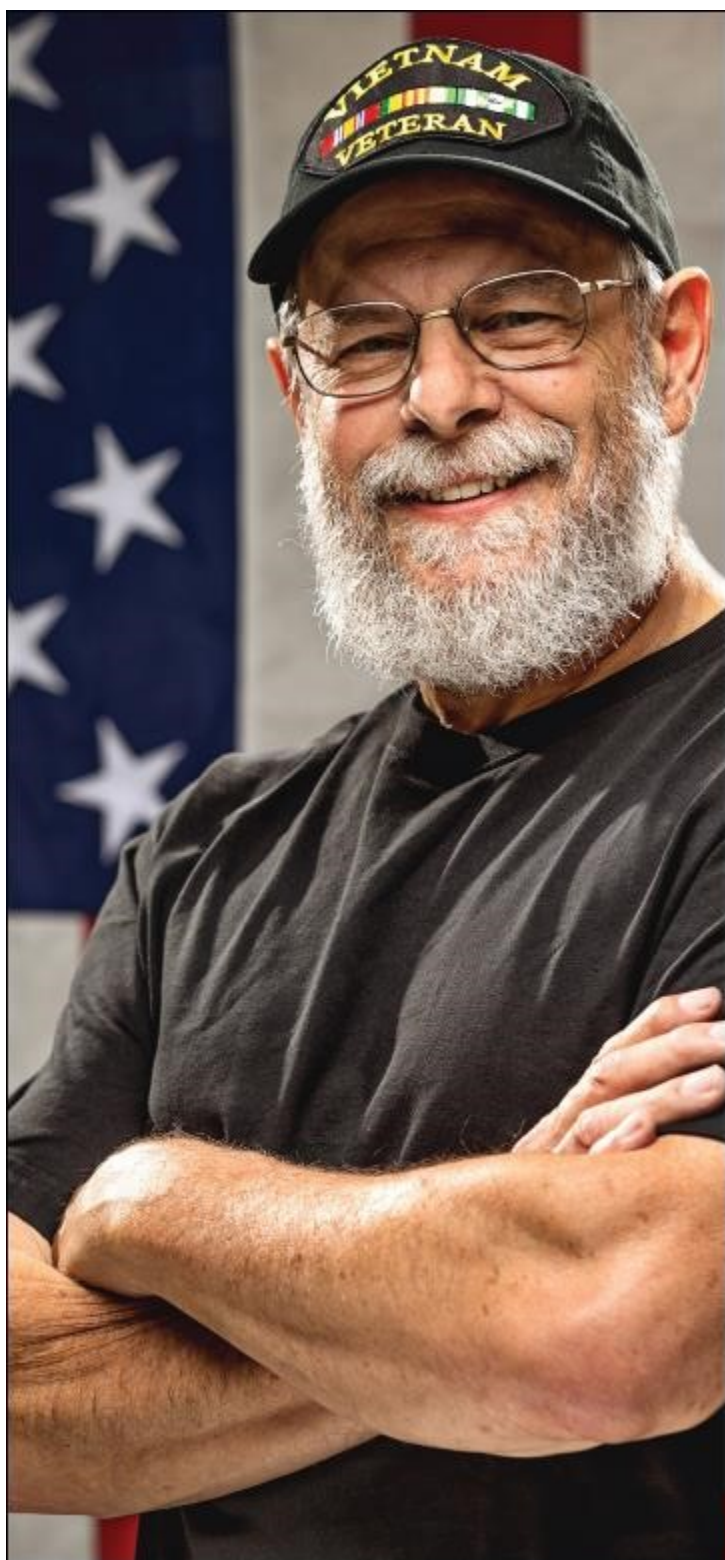
Visit our website: <http://www.nasjaxairshow.com>

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE  
2018 NAS JAX AIR SHOW!

**OCTOBER 27 - 28, 2018**

FREE ADMISSION, PARKING & KIDS ZONE





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# SERVING VETERANS SINCE 1979

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At Community Hospice & Palliative Care, we are honored to serve veterans and their caregivers by providing specialized programs to meet their unique needs now and at the end of life.

- ★ Advance Care Planning
- ★ Bereavement & Grief Support
- ★ Caregiver Education
- ★ Hospice Care
- ★ Palliative Care
- ★ We Honor Veterans Program

For more information about our We Honor Veterans program, any of our services or to become a veteran volunteer, call toll-free **866.253.6681** or go to **Veterans.CommunityHospice.com**.



*"I've proudly served as Chairman of the Community Hospice Veterans Partnership (CHVP) since 2011. CHVP partners with veterans service groups throughout the community to listen and learn how Community Hospice & Palliative Care can best serve our unique needs."*

**Bob Buehn, Captain, United States Navy (Ret.)  
Chairman, Community Hospice Veterans Partnership  
(2011 - present)**







## 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](mailto:twootan@communityhospice.com).

**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





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*Veterans Council of St. Johns County,  
“Helping All Veterans”*

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

Send to: [mrothfeld@anyveteran.org](mailto:mrothfeld@anyveteran.org)

Please send to: [mrothfeld@anyveteran.org](mailto: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 St. Johns County Health and  
Human Services Building.*

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

*Service is by appointment.  
Phone: 904-209-6160 Fax: 904-209-6161  
Joseph McDermott, SR VSO  
Rick Rees, Assistant VSO  
Tammy Shirley, Assistant VSO*

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