



The Patriot Reader Newsletter

P.O. Box 2117

St. Augustine, FL 32085

Bill Dudley, Publisher

Michael Rothfeld, Editor

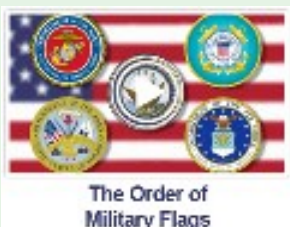
Volume 8, Issue 10

Message from the Chairman

October 2019

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Fellow Veterans:

This year's Gathering in the Pines was another huge success. On Saturday, 21 Sept. 2019, there was a large outpouring of veterans and supporters of the POW-MIA Memorial and Museum at Cecil Field to honor our POW-MIA's. The program began at 10 AM under favorable skies and pleasant temperatures. Our keynote speaker this year was Capt. Bob Buehn, USN ret. and the Director of UNF 's Military and Veterans Resource Center. Bob delivered some inspiring remarks about prisoners held captive during the Vietnam War. His account of Admiral Stockdale during his time as a POW were especially captivating to those who attended.

The Missing Man Table Ceremony performed by the Filipino American Veterans Society was as always a very emotional ceremony. I have witnessed this ceremony on several occasions and I am always very moved by the emotions I feel of this very solemn ceremony.

The Dreamland Squadron based at NAS Haller in Green Cove Springs performed the missing man formation flyover and did a superb job with a 12 aircraft formation. The missing man aircraft had a smoke generator that highlighted his aircraft as he pulled out of the formation. Bravo Zulu to the Dreamland Squadron.

We are just days away from seeing the reality of a long awaited event take place in St. Augustine. On Thursday, Oct. 3rd, many dignitaries and guests will assemble at the location of our new VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic for a groundbreaking ceremony. Those attending include Governor Ron DeSantis, Senator Marco Rubio, Congressman John Rutherford and Congressman Michael Waltz. Other local dignitaries include the Mayors of St. Augustine and St. Augustine Beach, the City Council members and the St. Johns County Commissioners. The public is invited to witness this years in the making special occasion. We look forward to the day our veterans



will have a permanent home for their health care.

Your Veterans Day planning committee is working hard to put together another outstanding program on Nov. 11 at Anastasia Baptist Church to honor our veterans. This year's focus will be on D Day and the Battle of Normandy. Our keynote speaker will be Judge Howard McGillin, Colonel, USA ret. Judge McGillin retired from the JAG Corp. and is a historian of military history. He has a superb knowledge of this major engagement that turned the direction of the war in Europe for the Allies from his father who was in several of the major battles.

Please mark Nov. 11 on your calendar and plan to join us as we honor our veterans on this special day. Bill Dudley, Chairman Veterans Council of St. Johns County

Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home



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

Facility/Provider Type: Nursing Home

Administrator: K MARGARET KAPLAN

Financial Officer: CATTIBELL RODRIGUEZ

Owner/Licensee: FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN'S AFFAIRS

Owner/Licensee Since: 9/13/2010

Profit Status: Not-For-Profit

Licensed Beds: 120

Bed Types:

Community Beds 120

Sheltered Beds 0

Pediatric Beds 0

Private Rooms 72

2-Bed Rooms 24

3-Bed Rooms 0

4-Bed Rooms 0

Basic admission requirements for all state veterans’ homes include an honorable discharge, state residency prior to admission, and certification of need of assisted living or skilled nursing care as determined by a VA physician. A resident application package for each facility is available for view and downloading below. For specific questions regarding admissions, please contact the Admissions Coordinator.



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



The Support Committee invites everyone to attend its **next scheduled meeting**. The meeting will 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 2019 SC at JNC MEETINGS
Oct. 14, Nov. 4, Dec. 2**

Other topics that concern both the JNC & the St. Augustine National Cemetery are discussed at these meetings.

+++++2018/2019 Officers of the SCJNC+++++

- Chairman: Steve Spickelmier
- Vice Chairman: Bill Dudley, Treasurer: John Mountcastle
- Assistant Treasurer: Michael Rothfeld, Secretary: Kathy Church
- Master-At-Arms: Joe McDermott
- Historian: Kathy Cayton
- Chaplain: Rev. Patrick A. Archuleta, Sr.

The Veterans Council of St. Johns County meets on the following dates, all are invited to attend. We meet at the county Health & Human Services building, 200 San Sebastian View, at 7 pm

Future meeting Speakers:

- Oct. 24 Chris Vedvick, Commander Dept of FL Military Order of the Purple Heart
Derek Collins, The Mission Act explained
- Nov. 21 Emily Jane Murray, Flagler College, Public Archeology Coord, The Seminole Wars and
How it Changed All of Us
John Powell, Historic Firearms
- Dec. 19 Veterans Day Event: AAR
Shiva Thompson, Yoga 4 Change
- Jan. 30 St. Augustine Sea Cadet Battalion Beth Heath, We Can Be Heroes Foundation
- Feb. 27 Deborah Brannon, Regent, Daughters of the American Revolution, Maria Jefferson Chapt.
Beth Heath, We Can Be Heroes Foundation
- Mar. 26 Sharon Unger, President Veterans Village of NE FL

Homeless veterans get much needed help

From the *St. Augustine Record*, by Travis Gibson tgibson@staugustine.com

For the last four years, Kimberly Hernandez has been giving free haircuts at the Homeless Veterans Stand Down, an event held each September at the St. Augustine Elks Lodge.

"I like it because it just really makes me feel good about everything," Hernandez said. "I can't volunteer money, but I can volunteer my time."

Hernandez, who works at Hair Express in St. Augustine, was at the event again on Saturday cutting the hair of homeless veterans and other homeless residents of St. Johns County.

"They love it," she said. "I like to put a bigger smile on their face."

According to Travis Neidig, a Veterans Service Officer with the Veterans Council of St. Johns County, there are between 27 to 35 homeless veterans currently living in St. Johns County and about 38,000 homeless veterans in the United States.

The goal of Saturday's event was to provide services to those veterans, along with other homeless residents in the area. They were offered showers, a hot lunch, legal resources, housing resources and clothes. There were also representatives from the Red Cross, the Florida Department of Health along with services to help veterans find jobs and receive mental health resources. Past results have shown the event works in helping veterans get back on their feet.

"This is an event we look forward to every year," said Bill Dudley, Chairman of the Veterans Council of St. Johns County. Saturday's event marked the 17th year the veterans council has been involved, he said.

Dudley said he was encouraged by all the volunteers who turned out to help Saturday, but added that there is still a lot that needs to be done to help local homeless veterans.

"We don't provide the shelter that they need and that's one that we are going to continue to make a primary focus for this county," Dudley said. "If they don't have a place every night that they know they can go and lay their head that's safe and their place, then you still aren't serving those veterans' primary needs."

Dudley said the group will continue to work on finding a place for a homeless shelter, whether it's a home to restore or land to build.

"Right now it doesn't have the momentum that I would like to see," he said. "We have to get some community leaders behind us."

Mike Banzen, a member of the Combat Vets Motorcycle Association St. Augustine Chapter, was at the Elks Lodge on Saturday helping hand out military surplus supplies like jackets, backpacks and sleeping bags to homeless vets in need.

"It's important just to give them a handshake and say thank you for your service," Banzen said. "Some of them are Vietnam-era guys and it means a lot to them."

Banzen and the other 50 veterans in the local chapter have been involved with the event since 2013. He and other members would like to see more events like the Stand Down.

"I think more things like this need to happen but there are just not a lot of people that care to do it," Banzen said. Homeless veterans get much needed help



Homeless Veterans Stand Down

The annual Homeless Veterans Stand Down was by all accounts a huge success. Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley dedicated this years Stand Down in memory of Council member and Elks leader, Fred Dupont. Fred was the “go to” person in years past and liaison between the Council and the Elks organizing the Homeless Veterans Stand Down.

This year’s Stand Down was led by St. Johns County Veterans Service Officer Travis Neidig, who in his first year with us. Welcome Travis.

Available to all: shoes, boots, socks, flash lights, clothes, hot meals, VA info, hair-cuts, showers, dental, legal services, and tents.





Lawson, Rutherford Introduce Bill to Establish a National POW/MIA Memorial and Museum in Jacksonville

Legislation would designate the POW/MIA Memorial at Cecil Field as the National Memorial

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, U.S. Rep. Al Lawson (FL-05) and Rep. John Rutherford (FL-04) introduced legislation to designate the POW/MIA Memorial and Museum at Cecil Field as the national memorial and museum to honor all former prisoners of war and those still missing-in-action.

“While there are museums to honor veterans across the country, there is no national POW/MIA memorial or museum to specifically honor all former prisoners of war,” Rep. Lawson said. “We must acknowledge and remember our nation’s missing heroes alongside the families who seek their return.”

According to the Department of Defense, there are approximately 142,000 former prisoners of war and roughly 82,000 service members still unaccounted for in the United States. This memorial and museum will serve as a historic destination site for the nation. The goal would be to educate the general public through exhibits, special events, and activities, connect generations through educational programs and inspire young leaders.

“More than 82,000 Americans currently remain missing from WWII, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and other conflicts,” said Rutherford. “Sadly, the loved ones of prisoners of war or those missing in action have no national memorial to visit in remembrance of the immense sacrifice of these men and women. I am proud to introduce this bill with my friend Rep. Lawson to designate the POW/MIA Memorial and Museum at Cecil Field as the national memorial. Having a location such as this is incredibly important to our POW/MIA families and a measure of thankfulness from a grateful nation.”

The bill would make the existing POW/MIA Memorial & Museum at Cecil Field, which is currently under construction, a national designation upon its completion. It is located on 26 acres in Northeast Florida at the former NAS Cecil Field Master Jet Base — now known as Cecil Commerce Center. Jacksonville’s Mary Hoff, wife of MIA pilot LCDR Michael G. Hoff, was a major driving force behind establishing the memorial. She was also instrumental in developing the POW/MIA flag, the only other flag authorized to fly over the White House and the only other flag that can fly on the same pole as the American flag.

Jacksonville has one of the highest veteran populations in the nation. Rep. Lawson, whose father was a World War II veteran, has sponsored several pieces of legislation to assist veterans including, H.R. 186, the Veterans Jobs Opportunity Act, which will allow for a tax credit for veterans who open small businesses in underserved communities; H. Res. 213, a resolution to create National Women Veterans Recognition Week to honor women veterans; and H.R. 1599, the Veterans Armed for Success Act to provide job readiness for veterans and their spouses. Last Congress, Rep. Lawson hosted a public briefing on Capitol Hill with Rep. Rutherford to address the critical issue of mental health within the veteran community.



From left to right: Mandy Cain (MIA Granddaughter), John Sutherland (Communications Director), Congressman Rutherford, Pam Cain (MIA Daughter), Representative Al Lawson, Colleen Shine (MIA-RR) and Mike Cassata (Executive Director)

American Legion Auxiliary Blog

Official Blog of American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters

**Army veteran's daughter honors dad through
ALA membership**



A U.S. Army veteran forever changed the lives of Virna Keener Luke, her sister, and her mother. To honor the memory of that veteran — her father Fred Keener — and to help others, Luke joined the American Legion Auxiliary. She has been an ALA member for 10 years. Report this ad

“I take a lot of pride in being part of this big organization that supports and fights for veterans, service-members, and their families and supports children and entire communities. What a great way to pay tribute to my father for how he served his country and how he cared for his family,” said Luke of ALA Unit 316 in Atlantic Beach, Fla. Eligible through the service of her father, Luke originally joined Unit 233 in Ponta Vedra Beach, Fla. She changed units when she relocated to Jacksonville a few years ago.

Before becoming an Auxiliary member, Luke had never heard of the ALA. New to Jacksonville, she visited Post 233 a few times at the suggestion of a friendly neighbor who was an ALA member.

“She invited me on a social level as a way to meet people. It was mostly going to steak dinners, Wednesday night dinners, things that were happening there on the weekends, to hear music — things like that,” Luke explained.

After a while, she found that the ALA and The American Legion Family offered more than a great place for meals, mingling, and music.

“When I joined and finally started going to Auxiliary meetings, I was really moved by just the ritual itself that takes place: beginning with an opening prayer, the Pledge of Allegiance, the Auxiliary’s preamble. I had never been part of an organization that had such devotion,” Luke said.

“I was captivated by those words of the preamble. Every time I hear it, even now after being a member for 10 years, it still moves me. If you really listen, you gain an understanding of true devotion. You see that we still believe in God. And, we still believe in our country,” Luke added. rhis ad

What inspires Luke even more is seeing the ALA’s dedication — to God, country, veterans, service-members, families, and communities — put into action. Her unit and post home often lead or participate in ALA-based mission outreach activities and programs that help or honor those to whom the Auxiliary is dedicated to selflessly serving. For example, Unit 316 in Atlantic Beach plans to provide and serve Thanksgiving dinner aboard USS Roosevelt to servicemembers. The unit is in the fundraising phase of this endeavor.

Even while maintaining a full-time job, Luke contributes however she can toward ALA and Legion Family missions. She handles public relations, specifically social media pages for Unit 316, and for the Fifth District of Florida's American Legion Riders. She also serves as the administrator of the Facebook page of Legion Post 316.

"I help bring awareness of what we do and our accomplishments within our American Legion Auxiliary, our American Legion Riders, and our entire Legion Family. I promote not only our events, but also why you should be part of us, and what makes us so great. I try to encourage people to see us and want to become part of us," she said.

A Peruvian-born American citizen who spent most of her life in Texas, Luke said she has always felt welcomed within her ALA unit and among other members of the Legion Family. "I never felt that I was looked at differently because of my skin color, my looks, age, or anything like that. We are welcoming to one another. We respect one another, and we work together. That's true of our ALA unit and of all parts of our Legion Family that I have interacted with.

"We have a common goal and a common purpose related to our mission of service. Our post doesn't succeed in its goals if we don't work together," Luke added.

About Luke's father, U.S. Army veteran Fred Keener

Perhaps this is best coming from Virna Keener Luke. Recently, she shared this about her father on her personal Facebook page:

For those that don't know my world, Fred Keener — an amazing man from Gatesville, Texas was an Oil Man in Iquitos, Peru. He married my mom, and adopted my sister and me to ensure we would be called his daughters. He was a WW II veteran: 754th Railway Shop Battalion, 1943-1945. He is the only father I know. Every day I wake up, I thank this man for giving me the life I have. Cheers to all the men that step up to the call of parenthood!

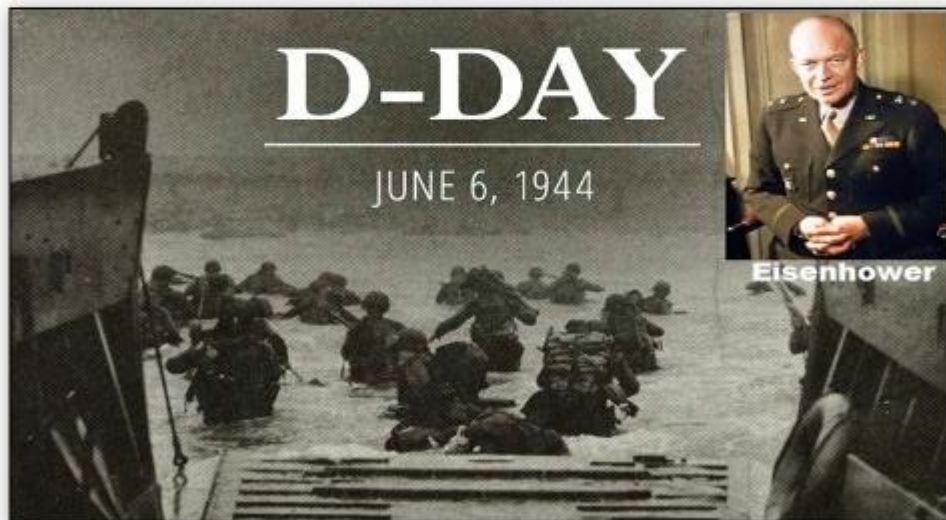


One of the numerous positive replies to this post came from her husband, U.S. Navy veteran Denton "Denny" Luke:

Thank you Fred. You raised an amazing daughter that, by the grace of God, I was able to meet, fall in love with, and ultimately marry.

Veteran Fred Keener died in 1996. Virna and Denny Luke were married earlier this year. Denny is a Legionnaire at Post 316 in Atlantic Beach, Fla.

Veterans Day



Monday November 11, 2019

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

Atrium Displays Including Traveling Vietnam Wall

9:00 am to 11:00 am



Ceremonies begin at - 11:00 am



Doors Open 9:00 am - On Site Parking

“ Free Event - Public Welcome ”



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

Ted Pappas

Clay County POW/MIA Recognition

The Clay County Board of Commissioners issued a proclamation on September 10 recognizing September 20 as the National POW/MIA Recognition Day. Joining the commissioners were nine Chapter 1059 members, including former Vietnam POW Col. William (Bill) G. Byrns (burgundy shirt and vest). Chapter 1059 is named in honor of Col. Byrns. Photo by David Treffinger



Women Veterans RETREAT

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- Comradery and fellowship with other women
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OCTOBER 2019

Thursday, Oct 31st
to
Sunday, Nov 3rd

REGISTRATION

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to reserve your space!!

EVENT IS FREE — REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

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3 Combined Federal Campaign Charitable
Organization #66227

Horse Sense of the Carolinas
8119 Meadows Town Rd. Marshall, NC
www.HorseSenseOTC.com

Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc. Minutes of August 29, 2019

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

Chairman Dudley called the meeting to order at 1900 hours

Chairman Dudley led the Pledge to the Flag and SGM Ray Quinn gave the Invocation

Minutes were approved as presented Treasurer's Report were approved as amended

Introduction of Guests: Sherri Cunningham, Robert Bauer, Paul Mayo, Viggo Melin, Linda Klages, Jim Cargilo, Mary Converse

Speaker: Gerry Timoney, Curator, Military Museum of N FL. Located on SR 16 in Green Cove Springs, web: themilitarymuseumofnorthflorida.com. Dedicated to honoring the service & sacrifices of American citizens that served in the armed forces, 904-410-0781 for hours and events. There are pictures & displays of uniforms, weapons and equipment from each of our major conflicts. As a 501 C3 donations are always needed.



Crystal Timmons, Veteran Garden Project, CEO and co-founder. The VGP of St Augustine



would like to help our returning & retiring veterans & their families grow & cultivate an organic garden with garden therapy & community support. This helps veterans transition from active duty to civilian life. VGP fosters personal growth, opportunities, & support. VGP is a 501 C3 and donations can be made at:

<http://www.gofundme.com/62qsuOg>

Always needed: plywood, hand trowels, gift cards, plants, etc.

Committee Reports:

Mac: Mac spoke about 3 pending presumptives: bladder cancer, Parkinsons & Hyper thyroidism. Blue Water claims can be made and will be filed.

John L: Veterans treatment Court update- next dates are Sept. 5 & 19, all open to public, meets in room 264, 2:30 pm.

Veterans Day Atrium displays filling up just a few left.

VVA 1084 supported reburial of a local Vietnam War veteran from neglected local cemetery to Arlington.

Ray, Wreaths Across America: donations from DAC 6 of \$ 150. \$ 14,300 needed to cover all head stones.



Bill: Sept. 14 is Homeless Veterans Stand Down at Elks, volunteers needed on Fri. 9 am for set up, Sept. 21 is Gathering in the Pines at Cecil Field to Honor MIAs and POWs. New CBOC Groundbreaking Oct. 3 at 10 am.

Veterans Day events Nov. 11 at Anastasia Baptist Church & St Augustine Beach

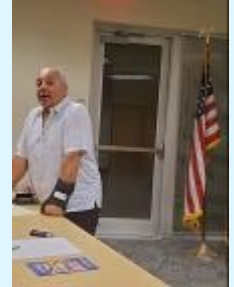
For the Good of The Order: Jim Cargilo, MOAA Shootout Fundraiser Oct. 14, AR 15 to be raffled, flyer distributed.

Travis Nedig, SJC VSO invited all to help with Stand Down set up on Sept.



13 and event at 9 am on Sat. Sept. 14 at Elks.

Paul Mayo, US Census Office: wants to hire 300 veterans for census at \$ 17. an hour, 1-855-JOB-2020, or 2020census.gov/jobs



Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm, The next meeting of the Veterans Council will be on Thursday, September 26, 2019, 7 pm in the Health & Human

Services Building, 200 San Sebastian View.

Future speakers:

- Sept. 26 Bob Buehn, Capt. USN, (Ret), former Commanding Officer, Guantanamo Bay
Char Miller, Community Hospice, Veterans Programs
- Oct. 24 Chris Vedvick, Commander Dept of FL Military Order of the Purple Heart
Derek Collins, The Mission Act explained
- Nov. 21 Emily Jane Murray, Public Archeology Coord, Flagler College, The Seminole Wars and How it Changed All of Us
John Powell, Historic Firearms
- Dec. 19 Veterans Day Event: AAR
Shiva Thompson, Yoga 4 Change



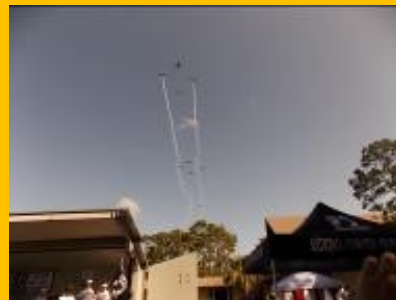
6 Chapters participate in POW/MIA event

Six VVA Chapter participated in the second annual National POW/MIA Memorial "A Gathering in the Pines" at the Chapel of the High-Speed Pass, 6112 POW-MIA Memorial Parkway, Jacksonville on September 21. The event was held in conjunction with the National POW/MIA Recognition Day.

Pictures by David Treffinger



Photos by David Treffinger
and others



MOAA
Military Officers Association of America

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PRIZES, FUN, FRIENDLY COMPETITION, EXCITEMENT,
CHARITY AND LUNCH! ALL ROLLED IN TO ONE!

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MOAA
Military Officers Association of America

SHOOTOUT!

EVENT SCHEDULE:
8:30A - 9A: REGISTRATION • 9:00A-9:15A: SAFETY BRIEFING • 9:30A - SHOOTOUT BEGINS

SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES:
MAJOR SPONSOR: \$1200. (includes 8 shooters, 10 team mulligans, 8 awards luncheon tickets, 2 station signs, article write up)
CORPORATE SPONSOR: \$500. (includes 4 shooters, 5 team mulligans, 4 awards luncheon tickets, 1 station sign, article mention)
STATION SPONSOR: \$120. (includes 1 station sign, 2 awards luncheon tickets)
INDIVIDUAL ENTRY: \$100. (includes random team entry, 1 awards luncheon tickets)
LUNCH ONLY: \$25. • SHOTGUN RENTAL: \$25. • BOX OF AMMO (12 OR 20 GAUGE): \$6.
For more information contact: Jim Cargilo at 904.377.9866 or email MOAAshootout@gmail.com

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*Please mail Check or Money Order payable to ACC-MOAA, PO Box 4571, St Augustine, FL 32075-4571
 RSVP or Questions to Jim Cargilo by phone or email. 904.377.9866 or MOAAshootout@gmail.com
 We look forward to seeing you there!*

Please note the correct ZIP CODE to enter is 32085

The Story of Rick Rescorla, Vietnam Vet and 9/11 Hero

Military.com | By Richard Sisk

The late Army Col. Rick Rescorla, a legend in Vietnam who acted heroically as a civilian in the south tower of the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001, will receive the posthumous award of the Presidential Citizens Medal, the nation's second-highest civilian award after the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the president said this week.

"Rick earned the Silver Star and the Purple Heart for his service in Vietnam," President Donald Trump said at the Pentagon's 9/11 memorial ceremony Wednesday. " ... On the day of the attack, Rick died while leading countless others to safety. His selfless actions saved approximately 2,700 lives."

"Today, I am honored to announce that I will soon be awarding the late Rick Rescorla the Presidential Citizens Medal for his extraordinary sacrifice," Trump added

A photo of Rescorla as a grizzled lieutenant in Vietnam, moving forward with bayonet fixed during the horrific 1965 battle of Ia Drang in Vietnam, became one of the iconic images of the war.



The photo was used on the cover of the gripping account of the battle written by veteran United Press International correspondent Joe Galloway, with Army Lt. Gen. Harold Moore, in the book "We Were Soldiers Once ... And Young." In the prologue, Galloway wrote: "This, then, is our testament and our tribute to 234 Americans who died beside us in Landing Zone X-Ray and Landing Zone Albany in the Valley of Death, 1965."

The book was made into the movie "We Were Soldiers," starring Mel Gibson in the role of Moore. Rescorla would later say he wouldn't see it. "All the heroes are dead," he said.

There is a life-sized monument to Rescorla, modeled after the Vietnam photo, at the National Infantry Museum's Memorial Walk of Honor near Fort Benning, Georgia.

In 2015, a conference center at Fort Hood, Texas, was dedicated in his name, and Army officials, his friends and widow, Susan Rescorla, recalled his actions in Vietnam and on Sept. 11, 2001, when he died at age 62.

Cyril Richard "Rick" Rescorla was born in Cornwall and served in the British Army before coming to America at age 24 to be commissioned as a lieutenant and fight in Vietnam. He had the habit of singing the Cornish and Welsh battle hymns of his youth during times of crisis to buck up the spirits of those around him. He sang them during the worst of it in the battle of Ia Drang, and he sang them again as the towers burned on 9/11.

Sam Fantino, Rescorla's radio operator in 1st Platoon, Company B, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regi-

ment, 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, recalled watching him with amazement during the battle of Ia Drang near the Cambodian border.

"We were all sitting in our holes with our knees knocking, we have dead guys all around us, and here comes Rick singing Cornish songs," Fantino said in the Army account of the conference room dedication written by Sgt. Brandon Banzhaf.

Fantino said that "pretty soon you are saying to yourself, 'If this guy can walk from hole to hole checking to see if you have your grenades in the right place, checking to see if you have your magazines, and standing up like he is going on a Sunday afternoon's walk -- what do you have to worry about?'"

Rescorla was head of security for Morgan Stanley when the World Trade Center towers were first attacked in 1993 with a truck bomb, killing six. He believed the towers would be attacked again and planned relentlessly for an evacuation.

In the chaos of the stairwells on Sept. 11, 2001, he was singing again. Few could recall later what the tune was, just that there was a calm and determined man with a British burr to his voice going about his dangerous work with a song.

Dan Hill remembered. One of Rescorla's last phone calls was to his friend, Hill, who had served with him in Vietnam. Hill had worked previously for Rescorla as a security consultant, and Rescorla was now telling him to get up to New York to help deal with the aftermath.

Rescorla broke off to sing again. It was the rousing "Men of Harlech," Hill later told the New Yorker magazine: "Men of Harlech stand ye steady, It cannot be ever said ye, For the battle were not ready, Stand and never yield!"

"Everybody said, 'Rick your folks are out. You've done what you need to do,' but he pointed up the stairwell and said, 'You hear those screams? There's more people up there. I have to help get them out,'" Lt. Col. Andrew Watson, then-commander of the 2nd Battalion of the 7th Cavalry, said at the conference room dedication, according to the Army account.

"How better can you epitomize selfless service to a nation than to first embark on the conflict in Vietnam, and then to continue to serve your community at every level you find yourself," Watson said.

"And to give that last full measure of dedication of service and support in an unexpected terrorist attack that in lesser countries, would bring the country down to their knees, but served as a galvanizing force," Watson said.

Susan Rescorla told the 7th Cav troops at the ceremony that she was so proud of her husband.

"He had a choice. He could have walked out of there anytime he wanted to. If he was here today, he would be proud. This is the 7th Cav, this is our home, our history."

T-SHIRT AND A
VERY COOL
MEDAL TO
FINISHERS

Whistling Death 5km

ENTRY FEE
\$25

OUT AND
BACK
COURSE



CHIPPED
TIMED

Saturday, October 5, 2019 • 8am

Historic Lee Field in Green Cove Springs, Florida

REGISTER ONLINE: www.1stplacesports.com

or for more info contact Chris Rodatz, Race Director, 904-655-6511, crodatz@bellsouth.net



MVPA'S FIRST FLORIDA CHAPTER

FALL RALLY and SWAP MEET

October 4-6, 2019 • 8am

Military Museum North Florida • 1 Bunker Avenue • Green Cove Springs, FL

REGISTRATION FOR VENDORS AVAILABLE AT WWW.FLMVPA.ORG

and are \$35 for the entire event. Spaces are assigned at arrival; first come, first served.

Contact Frank Cashman 904-219-7998
or email to nb1337@comcast.net

Battles and Demonstrations at 1pm on Saturday and Sunday. Bring a camera!
A Muzzle Flash photo opportunity with the tanks firing will be available late
Friday and Saturday just before sunset.



WWII BATTLE
RE-ENACTMENTS

WEAPONS
DEMONSTRATIONS

FOOD VENDORS



Clay County visitor information is available at: www.exploreclay.com

*American Legion Auxiliary Unit 233
Invites you to join us as we Celebrate the
American Legion Auxiliary's 100th Anniversary*



November 9, 2019

Cocktails start at 6 pm

Dinner served at 7 pm

A SPECIAL NIGHT OF
ENTERTAINMENT

MC: DANIEL SCHEIDER

Silent Auction
Beautiful Art
Vintage Jewelry
100 year old documents
and many other valuable
items!

Spin The Wheel
For fabulous prizes,
Spirits, and Gift cards!

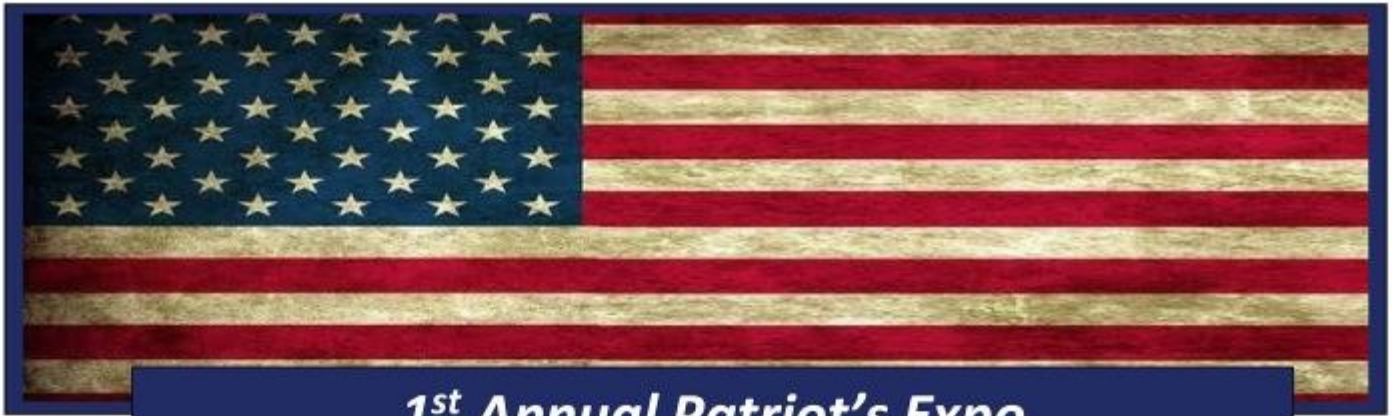
Menu
Catered By:
Carrabba's
85 tickets available
For a \$15.00 donation

A portion of these proceeds will go to Angelwood



Angelwood has been serving children, adults, seniors, and families living with intellectual and developmental differences such as Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Down syndrome, and Spina Bifida. Dignity and respect are our hallmarks as we offer services across the greater Jacksonville community.

American Legion ~ Post 233 ~ 560 N. Wilderness Trail
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082 - www.al233fl.org ~ 904.285.2484



1st Annual Patriot's Expo

Partnering with
First Coast Technical College Job Fair
Character Counts Conference Center
2980 Collins Avenue
St. Augustine

Thursday, March 26, 2020
2:30 PM – 4:30 PM

Networking event for St Johns County area Patriots and Patriots families

- Static Displays
- Education & Training
- Banking
- Logistics
- Healthcare/VA Resources
- Mental Health Resources
- Job Fair – Career & Employment Services
- Transition & Business opportunities
- Home & Family Services
- Information Technology
- Legal, Financial & Insurance Information
- Veteran, Military & Family Resources all under one roof

 **First Coast
Technical College**
Your Future Comes First

FCTC.EDU  
2980 Collins Ave • St Augustine, FL 32084
(904) 547-3282



FCTC Spring 2020 Job Fair and St John's Patriot Expo Registration Form

It is important our students have the ability to complete their training/education in full prior to accepting employment that might conflict with this goal. FCTC asks that our employment and business partners refrain from actively recruiting and hiring students that are currently taking classes into a role that will interfere with their ability to complete their education in the designated timeframe.

In addition, we require the participating businesses to be ready no later than 2:15PM and stay for the entire event, packing up to start after 4:30PM. We encourage trinkets and table giveaways.

PLEASE COMPLETE ALL THE QUESTIONS BELOW:

Company Name: _____

Contact Name/Title: _____

Contact email: _____

Number at table: _____ Patriots Expo Table: YES NO

Program(s) of interest: _____

- Please check if your company sponsors, employs and supports our military.
 - Yes, I would like to participate in the FCTC Spring 2020 Job Fair on **March 26, 2020** and agree to adhere to the guidelines as stated above.
 - Unfortunately, a representative from my company will not be able to attend this time, but keep me on your list for next year.

Display Requests:

We will supply table and 2 chairs, let us know if you need electrical or any other specifications **PRIOR** to arrive (we cannot guarantee availability day of)

Please bring Table Cover, Displays, Business Cards, and Table Giveaways

Please submit this registration **No Later than March 5, 2020**

SPACE IS LIMITED SO PLEASE RESPOND ASAP

Email completed form to Beth.Abstein@stjohns.k12.fl.us

FCTC Job Fair Questions, call Beth Abstein (904)547-3389 Military Event Questions, call Wendy Lay (904)547-3512

On behalf of North Florida South Georgia Veterans Health System (NF/SGVHS), we would like to invite you to attend in the 2019 Jacksonville VA Outpatient Clinic (OPC) Community Whole Health/Mental Health Summit on **Thursday, November 14th at Florida State College at Jacksonville's** Advanced Technology Center, 401 W. State St. Jacksonville, FL. 32202. Registration will begin at 8:00 a.m.



As part of the City of Jacksonville's Season of Valor, this will be the 7th year of facilitating VA/Community Summits in Duval County. The VA is striving to increase collaboration with the community in addressing subjects that reflect an integrated approach to health and mental health care in Jacksonville.

Topics will include:

Whole Health and Integrated Care for Health and Wellness

Suicide Prevention Initiatives and Partnerships

Moral Injury & Post Traumatic Growth

Mission Act/Community Care

Transitioning Service Members Services

Same Day Access to Care & PCMHI

Built for Zero Homelessness Initiative

The goal through the Jacksonville VA OPC/Community Whole Health Summit is to engage in active dialogue on how we, as a community, can address the health and wellness needs of Veterans and their families through collaboration between NF/SGVHS, Veterans, and community partners.

Please RSVP at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/vacommunity-whole-healthmental-health-summit-tickets-70271488915>, with your name and/or representative(s) who is attending. Pre-registration is appreciated.

If you are requesting to provide program/agency information at the event, Vendors are asked to direct their emails to Jessica.Bradstreet@va.gov. Vendor space is limited, Vendors must be pre-registered.

We ask that everyone bring business cards to share. There will be time for networking before and after the event.

Breakfast and lunch will be provided. CEU's pending. This year's event venue is sponsored by Florida State College at Jacksonville's Military and Veteran Service Center.

~This event is open to the Public~

Internet: <https://www.northflorida.va.gov/> Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/VANFSG/>

New platform creates digital memorials for all veterans in national cemeteries

Abbie Bennett radio.com

A new searchable online tool from the Department of Veterans Affairs and National Cemetery Administration allows creates digital memorials for fallen service members buried in national cemeteries across the United States.



The Veterans Legacy Memorial is an online memorial space managed by the National Cemetery Administration, which oversees the 136 national cemeteries where 3.7 million veterans are interred.

The VLM creates a profile page for each service member.

To find a memorial profile, go to vlm.cem.va.gov and search the name of your veteran, using their first and last name.

You can narrow your search by providing the veteran's branch of service and the cemetery name, along with other information.

Each veteran's page includes their name, dates of birth and death, last rank held, service branch, cemetery, address and contact information for the cemetery, section of the cemetery they are interred in and the date of their internment.

Upcoming features will include the ability to leave tribute messages, photographs and more to individual profiles.

"Veterans Legacy Memorial ensures 'no veteran ever dies' by honoring the legacy of our nation's veterans, not just in our cemeteries, but in a new and innovative digital setting," VA Secretary Robert Wilkie said in a statement announcing the new tool. "It enhances the onsite national cemetery experience and extends the experience to those who otherwise are unable to physically visit the cemetery."

For more information, go to va.gov/remember.

Eugene Jacques Bullard, National Hero

submitted by Tom Waskovich

Do you know who this is a photo of? Chances are you don't, but don't feel bad because probably not one American in one million does, and that is a National tragedy. His name is Eugene Jacques Bullard, and he is the first African-American fighter pilot in history. But he is also much more than that: He's also a national hero, and his story is so incredible that I bet if you wrote a movie script based on it Hollywood would reject it as being too far-fetched.



Bullard was an expat living in France, and when World War 1 broke out he joined the French Infantry. He was seriously wounded, and France awarded him the Croix de Guerre and Medaille Militaire. In 1916 he joined the French air service and he first trained as a gunner but later he trained as a pilot. When American pilots volunteered to help France and formed the famous Lafayette Escadrille, he asked to join but by the time he became a qualified pilot they were no longer accepting new recruits, so he joined the Lafayette Flying Corps instead. He served with French flying units and he completed 20 combat missions.

When the United States finally joined the war, Bullard was the only member of the Escadrille or the French Flying Corps who was NOT invited to join the US Air Service. The reason? At that time the Air Service only accepted white men.

Now here is the part that almost sounds like a sequel to 'Casablanca': After WWI Bullard became a jazz musician in Paris and he eventually owned a nightclub called 'L'Escadrille'. When the Germans invaded France and conquered it in WW2, his Club, and Bullard, became hugely popular with German officers, but what they DIDN'T know was that Bullard, who spoke fluent German, was actually working for the Free French as a spy. He eventually joined a French infantry unit, but he was badly wounded and had to leave the service.

By the end of the war, Bullard had become a national hero in France, but he later moved back to the U.S. where he was of course completely unknown. Practically no one in the United States was aware of it when, in 1959, the French government named him a national Chevalier, or Knight.

In 1960, the President of France, Charles DeGaulle, paid a state visit to the United States and when he arrived he said that one of the first things he wanted to do was to meet Bullard. That sent the White House staff scrambling because most of them, of course, had never even heard of him. They finally located him in New York City, and DeGaulle traveled there to meet him personally. At the time, Eugene Bullard was working as ... An elevator operator.

Not long after Eugene Bullard met with the President of France, he passed away, and today very, very few Americans, and especially African-Americans, even know who he is. But, now YOU do, don't you? And I hope you'll be able to find opportunities to tell other people about this great American hero that probably only 1 American in 1 Million has ever heard of.

Matanzas High School is proud to show our support of the Military Community by offering **Military Appreciation Night, Friday, October 18th @ 7pm**. The Pirates salute all of those who serve. All active and retired military personnel will receive 2 complimentary tickets to Matanzas vs Lyman High School. Please bring your official service ID to the gate. We would like all troops and veterans to arrive by 6:30pm to be apart of our National Anthem Ceremonies on the field. Thank you for your service!

1SG (Ret.) Troy Caraballo, U.S.Army JROTC Instructor, Matanzas High School
 3535 Pirate Nation Way, Palm Coast, FL 32137, WK: (386)-447-1575 Ext. 8191

Entry Form

DEADLINE: 20 September

Player 1 Name + Email & HDCP

Player 2 Name + Email & HDCP

Player 3 Name + Email & HDCP

Player 4 Name + Email & HDCP

Please detach and include completed form with registration fee(s)

Please make check or money order payable to American Legion Post 194

1029 Pearl St.
 St. Augustine, FL 32084

Alton Green Memorial Post 194
71st Anniversary
GOLF
Tournament

28 September 2019
 Registration 7- 8:15 am
 Shot Gun Start 8:30 am

Cimarrone Golf Club
 2800 Cimarrone Blvd.
 Jacksonville, FL 32259

AMERICAN LEGION

**Military Vehicle Preservation Association's
First Florida Chapter
Presents the First Annual North Florida**

Military Vehicle Show and Swap Meet

October 4, 5, and 6, 2019

Noon to 5:00pm Friday, 9:00am to 5:00pm Saturday,
9:00am to 2:00pm Sunday

**Free Admission
Open to the Public**

Reynolds Industrial Park, 1 Bunker Ave, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043
(adjacent to Highway 16)



Battle Reenactments and Weapons Demonstrations at

1:00pm Saturday and Sunday.

Reenactments include vehicles and tanks in action

See a variety of Military Vehicles, from WWII through
current day.

Jeeps, Halftracks, Trucks, and Tanks, and a Viet nam era
UH-1 Huey Helicopter are scheduled to be there

For a unique photo opportunity, the tanks will fire again late
in the afternoon, shortly before sunset. Capture photos of a
WWII Sherman tank's muzzle flash !



Clay County visitor
information is available at:
www.exploreclay.com



Please visit our web page at
www.flmvpa.org

The event will take place next to the The Military Museum of North Florida, located at 1 Bunker Ave. on the Reynolds Industrial Park. The Industrial Park is the former Naval Air Station, Green Cove Springs, Benjamin Lee Field. The base was the main training base during WWII for the navy's F6F Hellcat fighter which had over 5000 shoot-downs in WWII.

**Joe Snowberger, VP Duval County Veterans Council:
As Neil Armstrong would have said "Good for
Jacksonville, GREAT for the largest military,
Veterans, and family population in America's
Friendliest Military and Veterans City!"**





We invite you to attend the Fall Department Executive Committee Meeting for the Department of Florida of the Military Order of the Purple Heart in Orlando, Florida this October 19-20. We will be conducting the business of the Order, building a fellowship amongst our Combat Wounded Veterans, as well as sharing lessons learned and successes throughout all of the Chapters here in Florida.

These DEC meetings remain critical to the success of our Department as they allow us the opportunity to engage each other directly regarding the way ahead for our Order, learn new things, and participate in a constructive discourse.

There will be a joint Department Purple Heart Golf Tournament with the Department of Georgia following the DEC. We need everyone's support (playing or volunteering) for this event.

For more information please contact the Department Adjutant Bill Smith at 1bilcsmret@comcast.net or at 904.210.7362.

Agenda:

October 19:

1 pm - 3 pm	PHVFL Board Meeting	Buena Vista 3
3 pm - 4 pm	Bylaws Committee	Buena Vista 3
4 pm - 5 pm	Finance Committee	Buena Vista 3

October 20:

9 am - 12 pm	DEC Meeting	Buena Vista 3
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October 21:

8 am - 2 pm	Purple Heart Golf Tournament	Hawk's Landing Golf Club
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Location:

Hotel: Embassy Suites Lake Buena Vista Resort

Address: 8100 Lake Street Orlando, Florida 32836

Room Rate: \$129.00

Group Code: MPH

Reservations: 1-800-EMBASSY or <https://bit.ly/2NyAbYp>

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From the Queens, NY Chronicle

Flags of the fallen looking for a home

VVA Chapter 32 President Manfred Edenhofer in the group's headquarters with their unclaimed flags of indigent veterans who were buried without family.



*VVA Chapter 32 president carries on in his quest to honor those lost
photo by Michael Shain*

There are dozens of burial flags in the basement of Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 32 headquarters on 149th Street in Whitestone — and no one to claim them.

After years of seeing that indigent veterans get a proper military funeral — more than 125 to date — they have been the only ones to accept the flags given to military families at their funerals.

At first, they put the flags, each with a name tag, up on the walls of the headquarters. But now there are just too many.

In 2008, then-VVA Chapter 32 President Pat Toro and Life Associate Member Robert Boisselle learned about the hundreds of veterans buried without ceremony at Hart Island. Toro had the chapter declared Organizational Friends of Indigent Veterans in New York City.

The organization works with Hess-Miller Funeral Home and accompanies each veteran's hearse to Calverton Cemetery in Suffolk County, where a graveside service is held, taps is played and a flag is presented to a chapter member in lieu of next of kin.

Toro died in 2014 but current-chapter President Manfred Edenhofer is carrying on the legacy.

“For the last year we have not gotten a burial,” said Edenhofer. “Now you can’t

tell me that in the last year no veteran who had no family died in the City of New York. You can't make me believe that."

During recent Memorial Day parades, Francis Lewis High School JROTC members have walked with flags as veterans gave out pamphlets with more information as they look for next of kin.

But Edenhofer asks, "If the city can't find them, what chance do we have with a piece of paper?"

And if a late veteran had no family?

"They're still veterans," Edenhofer said. "We're their family."

City Department of Veterans' Services spokesman Gabriel Ramos said in an email, "Our agency works with a number of [Voluntary Service Overseas] partners across the city including chapters from VVA, American Legion, and VFW among others. It may be the case that the bulk of the veterans buried this year were concentrated in other boroughs and were better handled by other chapters. I assure you, the important work of ensuring proper burials and final honors for our City's indigent or unclaimed veterans continues."

Edenhofer was in Junior ROTC at Xavier High School in Manhattan. He wore his uniform every day, inspected and took rifles apart, learned how to shoot in the basement and learned about war history.

Then he joined ROTC at Fordham.

"I figured I'm going to get drafted I might as well go in as a second lieutenant," Edenhofer said.

It was the middle of the 1960s and there were antiwar protests at the school.

"I'm ROTC," Edenhofer said. "What side do you think I'm going to be on? I was, before the war, 'Yeah, we should be over there.' My classmates are across the street telling us to go screw ourselves, we shouldn't be over there. Turns out they

were probably right.”

He added, “We were spoon-fed what they wanted us to hear,” Edenhofer said. “Some of us bought in and some didn’t.”

Because he was in ROTC he was told he could go anywhere he wanted for 22 months before being shipped to Vietnam in exchange for an extra year of active duty, meaning he would do two years of active duty and two more in the Reserve.

Edenhofer went to Germany — he spoke the language fluently and there was a favorable exchange rate.

“Did I have it made over there,” he said.

After a month back in the States he left for Vietnam.

“I’m lucky,” Edenhofer said. “I went in as an MP. Nobody was trying to kill me.”

When he arrived he was sent to Officer Basic Training and was called in by Sgt. Arthur Todd, who had been his sergeant in Germany. The two men embraced.

“Nobody’s shooting at my lieutenant,” Todd said. “I got you a good job.”

Edenhofer did airport security at Cam Ranh Bay. “Easy job. Boring as hell.”

However, he got Agent Orange because of what was being transported in.

“I’m lucky,” he said. “We’ve got a lot of guys with Purple Hearts.”

Edenhofer was surprised when a veteran he knew took a trip to Vietnam. He wondered why a soldier would want to go where 58,000 Americans had died but his friend simply said, “It’s a beautiful country.”

The welcome-home World War II soldiers received was not the same for the Vietnam veterans. They were turned away from VFW posts, told “Vietnam was not a war.”

The VVA operates under the principle “Never again will one generation of veter-

ans abandon another.”

At a street fair several years ago, Edenhofer saw a younger-looking Asian man with a Vietnam veterans hat. Edenhofer asked if he was a veteran and the man said he was.

Edenhofer said, “Welcome home” and hugged the man, who started laughing.

“I wasn’t on your side,” he said. “I was a kid. They made me a tunnel rat. They said they’d kill my family if I didn’t. I was trying to kill you f---ing guys.”

Edenhofer’s reply: “You’re a Vietnam vet, ain’t you? You live here now? Welcome home.”

Then Edenhofer introduced the man to the rest of the veterans at the booth.

“Hey guys, meet the enemy,” he joked.

Michael Shain contributed to this story.

Who is this Vietnam veteran?
And a member of VVA 1084



The Veterans Council of St Johns County will again be hosting the Traveling Vietnam Wall for its Veterans Day event on Monday, November 11, 2019.

In addition to the Vietnam Wall, we also will have on display the War on Terror Wall.

Chairman Dudley will be arranging a tri county Sheriff's dept. Wall Escort and PGR Ride Captain has provided the attached Ride/Escort schedule.

Food and beverage will be provided upon arrival in St Augustine on Sunday Nov. 10.



PGR's Vietnam Wall Escort / Setup

Sunday / Monday, November 10 & 11, 2019

Fellow PGR, we are Honored to be able to escort and set up our very own Vietnam Wall for a Veteran's Day Celebration.

There are three segments of the escort prior to reaching the final destination in St. Augustine, FL.

1. Depart Saint Cloud, escort to Bruce Rossmeyer's Harley Davidson in Ormond Beach (Daytona) (approximately 90 miles) where other Veteran organizations and LEO will join us.
2. Depart Ormond Beach with LEO assisted escort to the Elks Lodge 829 in St. Augustine (approximately 45 miles traveling on US 1 north) where food and beverage will be provided.
3. Depart Elks Lodge 829 to Anastasia Baptist Church (approximately ½ miles south) where we will erect The Wall for a Veteran's Day Ceremony on Monday 11/11/2019

A lot of help will be needed to set up The Wall on Sunday and to take it down on Monday after the ceremony. This will be a good opportunity to get experience in erecting The Wall for future PGR Wall missions.

Feel free to join the escort at any staging point along the route.

Flag Bikes are encouraged

Part 1

**Shell Station, 5355 Irlo Bronson Memorial Hwy, Saint Cloud, FL.
34771**

Map: <https://goo.gl/QJSbvR>

0930 hrs – Stage

0945 hrs – Brief

1000 hrs – KSU



Ride Captain: David "Flyboy" Shelton, pgrfldavid@gmail.com, 321-689-4699

Part 2

Bruce Rossmeyer's Harley Davidson, 1637 US-1, Ormond Beach, FL 32174

Map: <https://goo.gl/vALJyX>

1130 hrs – Stage

1145 hrs – Brief

1200 hrs – KSU

Ride Captain: David "Flyboy" Shelton, pgrfldavid@gmail.com, 321-689-4699

Part 3

Elks Lodge 829, 1420 US-1, St. Augustine, FL 32084

Map: <https://goo.gl/EKJB5H>

1300 hrs – Stage

1345 hrs – Brief

1355 hrs – KSU

Ride Captain: David "Flyboy" Shelton, pgrfldavid@gmail.com, 321-689-4699

Part 4

Anastasia Baptist Church, 1650 A1A S., St. Augustine, FL 32080

Map: <https://goo.gl/NCoa6h>

1400 hrs – Arrival & Wall setup

Ride Captain: David "Flyboy" Shelton, pgrfldavid@gmail.com





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Younger Vets Are on a Mission to Change the American Legion from Within

INDIANAPOLIS -- Older men sporting ball caps, and perhaps leather-patched vests, sit in a dark bar, smoke wafting about while they talk about their war days.

It's a stereotypical image associated with American Legion posts: a place to retreat and share kinship with men who became close because they stood side by side in conflicts like the Vietnam War, or met in veteran outreach programs.

But it's not the image the next generation of vets wants people to think of.

As they attempt to change the image of the nearly two-million-member organization, younger veterans say it's time to go back to a grassroots campaign of family-oriented programs and community service.

Two Post-9/11 vets who spoke with Military.com during the American Legion's 101st National Convention at the end of August said the organization, like the military itself, must shift and offer more personalized, tailored positions that give prospective members -- or those thinking of leaving the Legion -- a sense of purpose and belonging.

"At some point in time, the American Legion ... and other legacy service organizations, switched from being a community-centered focal point to being an exclusive social club. And that is switching back," said Derric Grimes, an Army veteran and a member of the post in Fuquay-Varina, North Carolina. Military.com sat down with Grimes and Desiree "Dez" Guerra, a member of Department of Colorado District 7, during the convention.

The two say they've seen change gradually taking place: Post-9/11 vets find themselves more closely aligned to the Legion's founders, the World War I-era service members who were on a mission to give back to communities, build partnerships with local and state organizations and foster programs geared toward family events.

While the Legion has always maintained a responsibility to community initiatives, those efforts at some point became less prominent. The image of "a smoke-filled bar with a bunch of old guys sitting around complaining about the VA and swapping war stories" was born, Grimes said.

"We're fighting against our own perception of what the American Legion is -- because we're not a bar -- and we're fighting against the public perception because that's all they've seen for the last several decades," he said. "That's where you're seeing that positive growth across the country ... with doing stuff for our communities; that's what we're supposed to do."

Something for Everyone

John Raughter, the Legion's national deputy director of media relations, said he's heard this characteriza-

tion for decades.

"Oh yes, there is a perception," Raughter said. He quoted a Wall Street Journal article written in 1971 titled, "American Legion, Once Civic and Social Power, Is Slowly Fading Away."

"The article goes on to say the old members are dying off, the young ones aren't interested ... and [the organization] is slowly ebbing in importance. So the older vets that were fading away, according to the article, were the World War I veterans, and the young ones were the Vietnam War vets, and today, they represent the largest segment of our membership. So these are perceptions that have existed. ... That article is 48 years old now," he said.

Acknowledging there has been the long-standing stigma, Raughter said each vet has something different to offer either to their Legion post or to his or her community.

"So for us to be diminished as some sort of social club, I think is an unfair statement," he said.

Grimes, 34, said the social-club aspect of his delegation, Post 116, does help keep the lights on.

"But is that who we are? No," he said.

New posts are especially promising because they offer a fresh start and can be whatever they want to be.

"A lot of people think that they have to have a building," Grimes said. "You can do it anywhere, really. Your home, community, just have to have a place to host your meetings. It could be someone's house. It could be a Denny's ... it could be a virtual [community]" through online video conferencing.

There is a larger, long-term strategy to bring in new members. Grimes and Guerra said the Legion is long overdue to incorporate more targeted conversations and marketing efforts to recruit and retain members.


The Legion "needs to capitalize on the talents of the people that they're recruiting," Guerra said.

Please see for the full article: <https://www.military.com/daily-news/2019/09/08/younger-vets-are-mission-change-american-legion-within.html?fbclid=IwAR3-zDFb2UInxv6II7wKl8tvzAjf93v2VLin5THGMeM07ebYGIodK3vHWDI#.XXbMsehltic.facebook>




Installation of the Beirut Memorial Monument will go on the anniversary of the bombing, OCTOBER 23, time to be determined at Evergreen Cemetery. The formal Dedication will be on Nov 10th at 1600 and we will always have a remembrance every Nov 10th at Evergreen as we have done since 2004. We have now ensured our fellow Marines lost in Beirut and Grenada will never be forgotten here in Jacksonville, Florida. We call this SEMPER FIDELIS.


1775 ~Always Faithful~ 2019



Dedication of the Beirut Memorial
Honoring those who served in Beirut and Grenada especially those who
paid the ultimate sacrifice
&
Annual
**Marine & Navy FMF Corpsmen
Memorial Ceremony**
Evergreen Cemetery
4535 Main St Jacksonville, FL
Semper Fidelis Society
Beirut Veterans
Marines of NE FL



November 10, 2019 4 PM
We have a responsibility to never forget!



~SEMPER FIDELIS~

**There's a new sign on SR 207, just west of the Record building
VA clinic groundbreaking set**

Groundbreaking for a new veterans Community Based Outpatient Clinic is set for October 3, with completion of the project by late August or early September 2020.

"It will be a significant event with invitations to many of our elected officials including Governor DeSantis, U.S. Senators Rubio and Scott, Congressmen Rutherford and Waltz and other elected officials," says St. Johns Veterans Council Chair Bill Dudley. "This has been a long time coming for our deserving veterans who rely on the clinic for their health care needs."

The new location is off SR 207 south of SR 312.

Dudley was in the forefront of efforts to secure a new location and clinic for nearly ten years after announcement the old location at the county health complex on US 1 was to be sold to Lowe's.

"It has at times been extremely contentious, but our persistence has been rewarded with a permanent location and the clinic will soon be under construction," says Dudley.



The Veterans “Wall of Honor”

Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley and I recently visited Silver Creek, a new state of the art Senior Retirement Community in St. Augustine, located on SR 307 opposite the site of the new VA CBOC.

While walking around the facility, speaking about the 22 veterans living in Silver Creek, we came across the very impressive “Wall of Honor” pictured below.

Silver Creek is a senior living community offering an extensive range of services for both assisted living and memory care in an ideal setting that is second to none. Located in the historic city of St. Augustine, Florida, Silver Creek is close to all the unique eateries, shops, beaches and cultural attractions of downtown Old City, yet tucked away in a private setting on 21 acres of mature pine trees and natural woodlands.



Veterans Legacy Memorial honors deceased Veterans online



The Veterans Legacy Memorial, the country's first digital platform dedicated entirely to memory preservation for the 3.7 million Veterans interred in VA national cemeteries, launched Aug. 14.

Each Veteran will have their own memorial page on the VLM, a secure, web-based platform that creates a perpetual memorial extending beyond the physical border of the national cemetery.

“Veterans Legacy Memorial ensures ‘no Veteran ever dies’ by honoring the legacy of our nation’s Veterans, not just in our cemeteries, but in a new and innovative digital setting,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “It enhances the onsite national cemetery experience and extends the experience to those who otherwise are unable to physically visit the cemetery.”

NCA, in conjunction with VA’s Office of Information & Technology, built the architecture for the site starting with the information contained on every Veteran’s headstone.

In the initial rollout, the public will be able to search the site for Veterans, find out where they are buried and read the basic details of their lives and service. Future capabilities may be expanded to allow families, survivors, fellow Veterans and others to add historic photos and share memories to a deceased Veteran’s memorial page. Such capabilities will include provisions that allows NCA to manage the site in a manner that maintains the same level of decorum our customers experience in our national cemeteries.

For more information about the Veterans Legacy Memorial, visit <https://www.va.gov/remember>. Have questions about Veterans Legacy Memorial? Find what you’re looking for at VLM FAQ.

American Legion Riders Chapter 194

POKER RUN

NOV 9TH
KSU 10:30am

Register at
VFW 239 9:30am
\$20 for Riders
\$10 for Passengers
LUNCH INCLUDED!

50/50
RAFFLES
BEST & WORST
HAND PAYOUT

**Benefiting Kids Safe Zone and
Post 194 Veterans' Centennial Park**

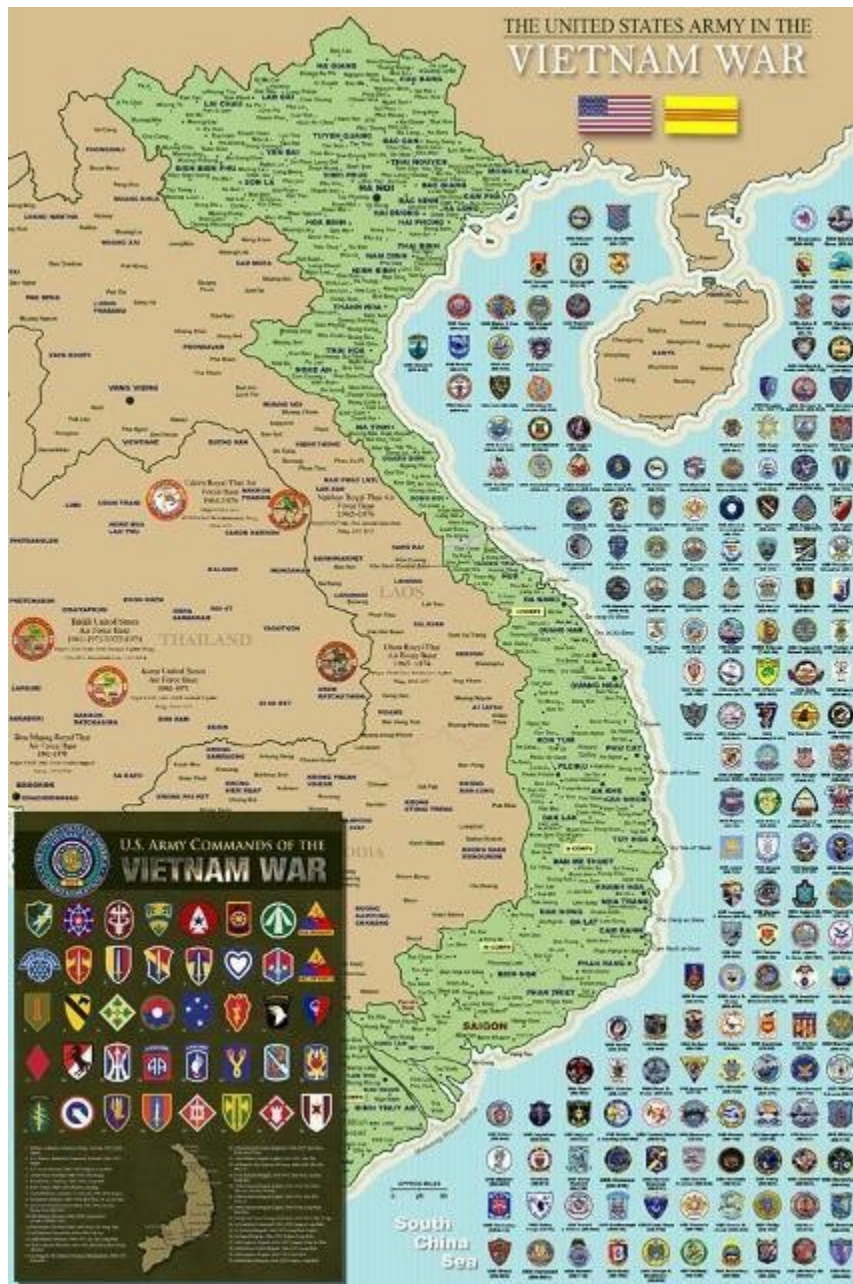
Stops:
VFW Post 239 US 1, St. Augustine
Finns Beachside Pub Flagler Beach
American Legion Post 267, Ormond Beach
AmVets Post 113, Bunnell
AL Post 194 St. Augustine



POC: Pop Terry: 904.599.0012 Bridgette G: 240.412.1420



The US Army in Vietnam



THE AMERICAN SOLDIER

THEN & NOW



1968
(ENLISTED)



- 22 years old
- 79% high school graduates
- < 1% female
- 21% minority
- 60% draftees
- 36% married
- SGT base pay = \$279/mo*
- SGLI coverage = \$10,000*
- 35 lbs of equipment (\$1,856)*
- Individual replacements
- 62% survival rate if wounded

2018
(ENLISTED)



- 28 years old
- 96% high school graduates
- 15% female
- 48% minority
- 100% volunteers
- 52% married
- SGT base pay = \$2,490/mo
- SGLI coverage = \$400,000
- 75+ lbs of equipment (\$19,454)
- Unit rotations
- 88% survival rate if wounded

Save the date

V4V

Vets 4 Vets

Quarterly Gathering
Saturday, October 26th

Andersonville National Historic Site

When you imagine a prisoner of war (POW) what do you see? Chances are you're envisioning a male soldier suffering the hardships of captivity, but have you ever wondered – are there any female POWs?

The United States Department of Defense officially banned women from serving in combat in 1994. That ban was eventually lifted almost twenty years later in 2013. However, even with the ban in place women serving in the U.S. military often found themselves in combat zones or hostile situations.

Two of the more well-known female POWs are Shoshana Johnson and Jessica Lynch, who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom. They were both captured during the battle of Nasiriyah. Johnson was wounded by gunfire to both ankles and Lynch by rocket propelled grenades, causing her to crash her Humvee. Both were hindered by their injuries and consequentially, were taken into captivity where they spent many terrifying days, everyday facing the unknown.

On April 1st, 2003, Lynch was rescued from the Saddam Hospital in Nasiriyah, Iraq, and on April 13, 2003, Johnson was rescued. Both women were brought back to safety in the first successful POW rescue mission since World War II.

After returning home Johnson went to a rehab facility to help her heal from the ordeal and move on from the trauma that she endured. In 2013, she came to the National Prisoner of War Museum at Andersonville National Historic Site to talk to visitors about her experiences.

Lynch was hospital bound and continued medical treatments for the injuries that she sustained in battle. In a later interview about the moment she was captured, Lynch stated, "I went down praying to my knees. And that's the last I remember."

Both women were awarded Bronze Stars, the Prisoner of War Metal and Purple Hearts, and have both received numerous awards for their bravery, loyalty, and service to the United States. (GB)

Above Photo: Jessica Lynch and Army Specialist Shoshana Johnson at Glamor Magazine's Women of the Year awards in 2003; image from DailyMail.



∞ CITY OF JACKSONVILLE ∞

HOMELESS VETERANS STAND DOWN

ALL VETERANS INVITED Army • Marines • Navy • Air Force • Coast Guard • National Guard • Reserves

DAY 1

THURSDAY
OCTOBER 10, 2019

JOB FAIR PREP DAY

Jacksonville Fairgrounds
510 Fairgrounds Place
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Prepare for Friday's Job Fair with resume assistance, interview preparation and work clothes.

DAY 2

FRIDAY
OCTOBER 11, 2019

HOMELESS VETERANS JOB FAIR

Jacksonville Fairgrounds
510 Fairgrounds Place
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Join employers from all over Jacksonville who are hiring veterans NOW!

DAY 3

SATURDAY
OCTOBER 12, 2019

HOMELESS VETERANS RESOURCE FAIR

Jacksonville Fairgrounds
510 Fairgrounds Place
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

- VA Services
- Dental Services
- Food & Clothing
- Job Services
- Medical Services
- Shelter & Housing

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL (904) 255-5550.

ONE CITY. ONE JACKSONVILLE.



904.255.5550 | www.coj.net

*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

VETERANS COUNCIL ANNOUNCES WREATH CAMPAIGN



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

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

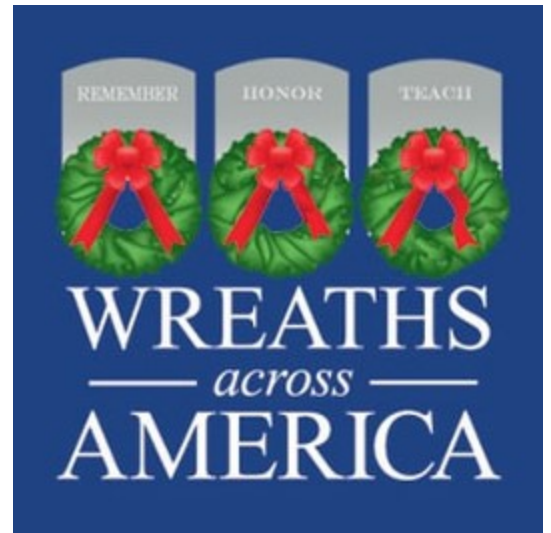
The community is invited to send donations to purchase the wreaths. Individual wreaths are \$15.00. If two wreaths are purchased at \$30.00 the council receives a free wreath (3 for cost of 2). Our local businesses are encouraged to participate. With more than 1,200 gravesites the project is truly considerable.

The community is invited to the St. Augustine National Cemetery on December 14, 2019 at 12:00 p.m. for a ceremony followed by placement of the wreaths. Youth organizations are encouraged to participate to learn and honor our veterans.

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

For any additional information please contact one of the campaign co-chairs, SGM (Ret) Ray Quinn at 904.797.5622 or CAPT George Linardos, USA (Fmr) at 904.495.6111.

The Veterans Council of St. Johns County would like to invite our St. Augustine community to Wreaths Across America Day, Saturday, December 14, 2019 at 12:00 pm (noon) at the St. Augustine National Cemetery on 104 Marine Street, next to the Florida National Guard Headquarters. Parking is at a premium so be sure to arrive early. Youth organizations are encouraged to participate to learn about and honor our veterans.



Wreaths Across America is dedicated to ensuring that headstones in all America's National Cemeteries are adorned with a live holiday wreath at Christmas.

A 12 year old paperboy for the Bangor Daily News named Morrill Worcester, now owner of Worcester Wreath Company of Harrington, Maine, won a trip to Washington D.C. Arlington National Cemetery made an especially indelible impression on him. Later in life, this experience reminded him that his good fortune was due to veterans, especially by those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

In 1992, the Worcester Wreath Company found themselves with a surplus of 5,000 wreaths nearing the end of the holiday season. Seeing an opportunity to honor our country's veterans arrangements were made for the surplus wreaths to be placed at Arlington National Cemetery, which included a special ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. This year we will place over 2 million wreaths at 1,640 National Cemeteries.

Donation levels for individual wreaths start as low \$15.00 per wreath. If two wreaths are purchased at \$30.00 the council receives a free wreath (3 for cost of 2). Our local businesses are encouraged to participate. With more than 1,200 gravesites the project is truly considerable. Make your checks payable to WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA and send to: Veterans Council of St. Johns County, P. O. Box 2117, St. Augustine, FL 32085-2117. We are a 501(c)(3) for donation purposes.

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COMBAT VETS ASSOCIATION



VETERANS HELPING VETERANS

7TH ANNUAL STATE RALLY WEEKEND

NOV 1 - 3, 2019



FRIDAY

REGISTRATION
BEGINS AT 5PM

MEET & GREET
7PM - ??

SUNDAY

BREAKFAST
BEGINS AT 8AM

MORNING RIDE?
9AM - ??

SATURDAY

BREAKFAST 8AM TRAVELLING VIETNAM WAR MEMORIAL WALL ESCORT 9AM
SPEED LIMIT 70 12PM-3PM BIKINI BIKE WASH 12:30PM-4:30PM
SHRINERS LOW-BOIL 3PM [\$25 FOR CVMA MEMBERS]
BIKE CONTEST AND GAMES 3PM-5PM LICKETY SPLIT 3:15PM-5:15PM
THUNDERJACK 6PM-8PM

CASH BAR PROVIDED BY



CONCERTS, CONTESTS AND GAMES OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

620 HICKMAN CIRCLE SANFORD, FL 32771

The logo consists of the letters 'V4V' in a bold, serif font. The 'V's are filled with a pattern of white stars on a dark blue background, while the '4' is a solid dark blue.

Together We are Stronger

**Keeping our Veterans
Informed, Connected, United, and Organized**

V4VFlorida.org

Vets4VetsNJax@gmail.com

Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram: @Vets4VetsNJax

#vets4vetsjax #Jointhevetsmovement #Togetherwearestronger



Mission Statement:

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



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

What the Council has done:

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

SA-0003147064-01

POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER AWARENESS

NOT ALL WOUNDS ARE VISIBLE...

11%-20% OF
OEF/OIF VETERANS
SUFFER FROM
PTSD



SYMPTOMS:

- FLASHBACKS
- NIGHTMARES
- FEELING ON EDGE
- TROUBLE SLEEPING
- HYPERVIGILANCE
- OVERWHELMING GUILT OR SHAME
- LOSS OF INTEREST IN ENJOYABLE ACTIVITIES
- SELF-DESTRUCTIVE BEHAVIOR
- STAYING AWAY FROM PLACES, EVENTS, OR OBJECTS THAT ARE REMINDERS OF THE EXPERIENCE
- HAVING DIFFICULTY SLEEPING, AND/OR HAVING ANGRY OUTBURSTS
- NEGATIVE THOUGHTS ABOUT ONESELF OR THE WORLD
- FEELING EMOTIONALLY NUMB

WAYS GBF ASSISTS:

- HYPERBARIC OXYGEN THERAPY
- LASER REGENERATION THERAPY
- CHILLIPAD®
- TRAVEL TO/FROM SUBSTANCE ABUSE FACILITIES
- INPATIENT/OUTPATIENT HEALTHCARE COSTS NOT COVERED BY TRICARE OR THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION
- HOLISTIC INFRARED LIGHT THERAPY
- ALPHA-STIM®
- NEUROFEEDBACK
- HOLISTIC ALTERNATIVE THERAPIES



A question we all may have to ask some day. What should I do if a Veteran passes away?

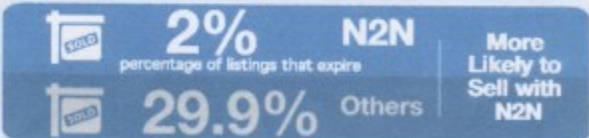
SECTION 8 Partial list of action to be undertaken upon the death of veteran or retiree.

1. Contact Funeral Director to set-up funeral arrangements and Military Honors (PAFB Mortuary Affairs)
2. Notify Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) (<https://cust-support.dfas.mil/rapiti/nod/>) or call 1-888-332-741
3. Notify Veterans Administration 1-800-827-1000
4. Notify Social Security Administration 1-800-772-1213
5. Notify Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) 1-800-538-9552
6. Notify VA Life Insurance, if applicable 1-800-669-8477
7. Notify SGLI and VGLI Insurance, if applicable 1-800-419-1473
8. Notify Civil Service Retirement System, if applicable 1-888-767-6738
9. Obtain at least 10 certified copies of long form death certificate and 10 copies of short form death certificate from Funerary Directors
10. Notify Life Insurance companies, and file appropriate claims
11. Notify Medical, health, disability, travel and accident insurance companies, and file appropriate claims
12. Notify Home owners insurance company
13. Notify Vehicle insurance company
14. Go to the County Property Appraiser's Office and transfer all real estate properties to surviving spouse.
15. Apply for widowed person's Homestead Exemption
16. Apply for appropriate (VA, Civil Service and other) benefits, if applicable
17. Apply for Veterans Burial Benefits and Survivor Benefits, if applicable
18. Check for non-government pension benefits, if applicable
19. Apply for Workmen's Compensation Benefits if applicable.
20. Notify your Accountant or Tax Preparer (unless Estate Lawyer is preparing the final tax returns) provide certified death certificate, previously filed tax return forms, and current earnings and dividend statements.
21. Notify your investment broker or company.
22. Change ownership of joint or solely owned stocks, mutual funds, etc.
23. Cancel any unfulfilled orders arranged by the deceased
24. Notify IRAs and other retirement and investment account administrators
25. Transfer the ownership of bonds
26. Notify your bank(s) and credit union(s)
27. Change all jointly held accounts and correct tax identification numbers (usually Social Security Numbers) (Leave joint accounts intact for 6 months)
28. Cancel direct deposit retirement benefit payments (for SBP, Civil Service and others, if applicable)
29. Re-establish the Title of your safe deposit box
30. Re-establish all outstanding mortgages, personal notes, etc.
31. Apply for any credit life insurance that may exist on loans, credit cards, and mortgages
32. Change Certificates of Deposit
33. Go to Department Of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to transfer titles of all registered vehicles, mobile homes and boats.
34. Notify all credit card companies and cancel all individually held cards of the deceased
35. Review trusts for required actions, if required.
36. If a Will must be probated, contact your attorney. Your name may also need to be revised.
37. Cancel the deceased's Voter Registration and Drivers License.
38. Obtain new military identification cards. Make appointment at <https://rapids-appointments.dmdc.osd.mil/default.asp> or contact Patrick AFB ID Card Section at 321-494-6144/6147
39. Send "Thank You" cards for flowers, memorial donations, food, etc.

From Nila Thompson

Navy to Navy Homes vs Others

N2N is outperforming the rest!



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Ask us for a **FREE HOME VALUATION**



Marianne Bach
(904) 349-0456



Kathy Jordan
(904) 401-0476

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



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

The American Legion Post 194

Make plans to help us celebrate 71 years of serving veterans in the St Augustine community.

Contact Post for more info and tickets. 904 829 8189.



Alton Green Memorial American Legion Post 194
71st Anniversary Dinner

Saturday 7 September

Cocktail Reception & hors d'oeuvres at 6 o'clock
3 Meat Buffet with Trimmings at half past 6

\$25 Per Person Donation

**Featuring Special Guest Speaker
Lt Col rt'd Bruce Alexander**

 Lt Col rt'd Bruce Alexander	 Serving America's Military Families	 #tbt Citadel vs USC
--	---	---

Former Citadel and All-European Football Standout, Former Deputy Commander 11th Operations Group, Current Vice President of Communications at Operation Homefront.

1029 Pearl Street St. Augustine



rans
s Line



**Veterans
Crisis Line**

73-8255
PRESS 1

1-800-273-8255 PRESS 1



**Veterans
Crisis Line**
00-273-8255 PRESS 1

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

STAND BY THEM

Confidential help for
Veterans and their families

..... Confidential chat at [VeteransCrisisLine.net](https://www.VeteransCrisisLine.net) or text to 838255

**NATIONAL
SUICIDE
PREVENTION
LIFELINE**
1-800-273-TALK (8255)

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



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

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

Veterans Councils of Northeast Florida



NASSAU COUNTY

President: Doc Monaghan

Meetings:

First Thursday of each month

Location:

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

Time: 1900 (7pm)

DUVAL COUNTY

President: Steve Spickelmier

Meetings:

Third Tuesday of each month

Location:

**American Legion Post 137
Moon Building
5443 San Juan Avenue**

Time: 1900 (7pm)

BAKER COUNTY

President: Larry Porterfield

Meetings:

Second Thursday of each month

Location:

**MacClenny Primitive Baptist Church
Fellowship Hall on North Boulevard**

Time: 1800 (6pm)

CLAY COUNTY

President: Harry Silvers

Meetings:

First Wednesday of each month

Location:

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

Time: 1400 (2pm)

ST. JOHNS COUNTY

President: Bill Dudley

Meetings:

Last Thursday of each month

Location:

**Health and Human Services Bldg
Muscovy Room, 1st Floor
200 San Sebastian View
St. Augustine, FL 3208**

Time: 1900 (7pm)

Contact Nila Thompson with updates
Nila.ThompsonV4V@gmail.com

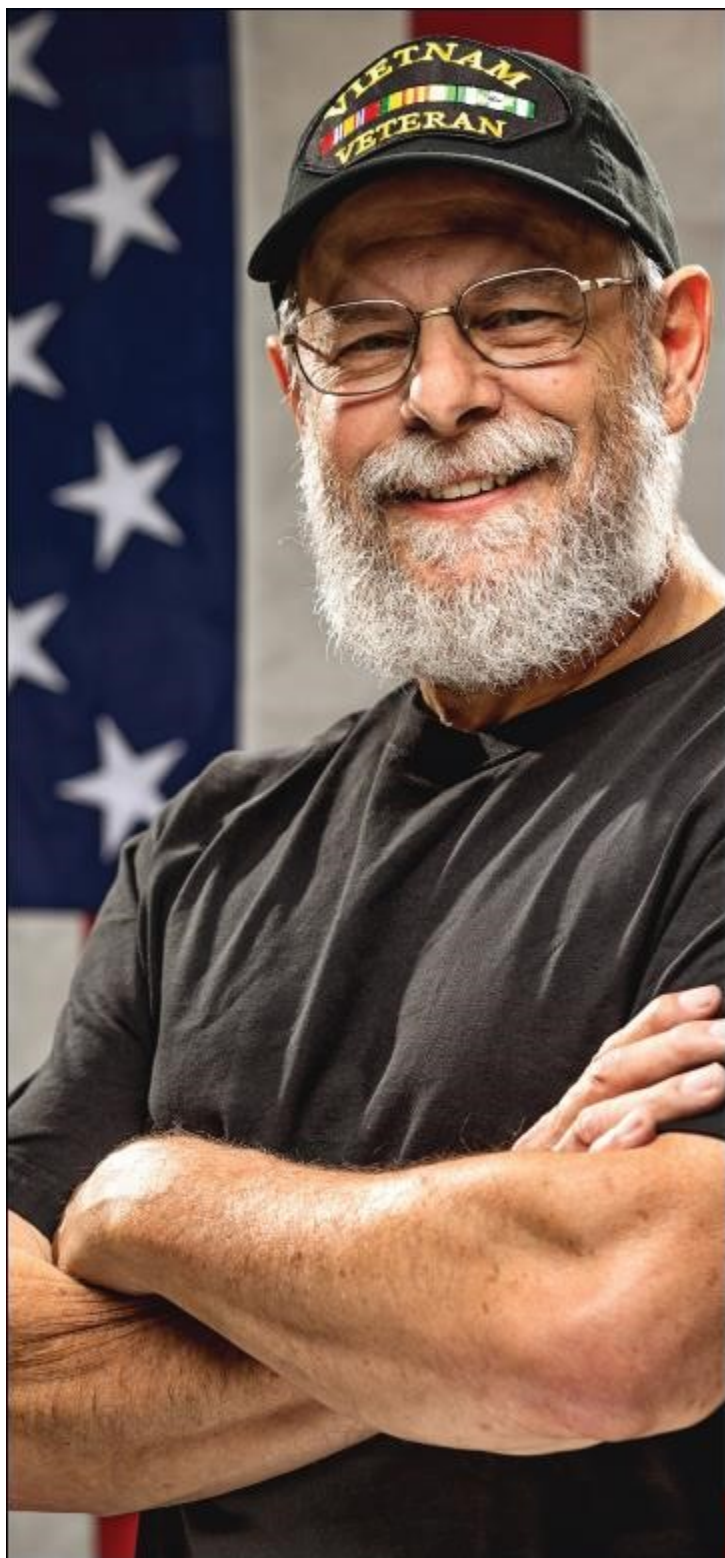
36 Granada Street, St. Augustine FL 32084

(904) 679-5736

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.



SERVING VETERANS SINCE 1979

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)





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.

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



We are inviting all veterans to visit our website at:

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

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

Please join our group on Facebook at:

<http://veteranscouncilsjc.org>

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

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

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

You may have noticed the Veterans Council's new logo, it was created by Roy Havekost and his web design company PageAuthors. The VC strongly recommends that you contact Roy, 727-487-6252, 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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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: rothfeldm@gmail.com



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

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

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

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

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

The Veterans Council will meet at the 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
Travis Neidig, 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.