



The Patriot Reader Newsletter

P.O. Box 2117

St. Augustine, FL 32085

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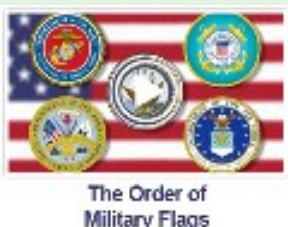
Volume 11, Issue 10

From Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley

October 2022

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Fellow Veterans,
The summer of 2022 is now behind us as we prepare for many activities in the veterans community this fall.

In just a few short days, the Veterans Service Office with the support of the Veterans Council will conduct the annual Homeless Veterans Stand Down at the Elks Lodge. This event will take place on Saturday, Oct. 8 at 0900. On Friday, Oct. 7, we will be setting up the Elks Lodge with tables in order to display all the clothing, DOD surplus and all the various organizations that support our veterans and provide services to homeless veterans. Volunteers are always welcome to help both days. Those wanting to volunteer on Oct. 7 should be at the Elks Lodge at 0900 and if you plan to volunteer on Oct. 8, please plan to be there by 0800. The program should last about 4 hours on Oct. 8.

The Veterans Day committee continues to meet to finalize plans for this year's Veterans Day Program to be held at Anastasia Baptist Church. We have an outstanding program lined up to honor all our veterans and this year's theme is the Global War on Terrorism. This is our nation's longest military engagement and many in our community have served during this period. Please plan to attend on Nov. 11 in order that we can honor you for your service. A flyer for the program appears in this month's newsletter giving all the details.

Our area is seeing a significant increase in the number of homeless veterans in our community. There are many reasons for this increase including the lack of affordable housing, increase in rental property costs due to inflation, cost of living increase, and transitory migration into our area just to name a few. Whatever the reason that brings about this unfortunate



circumstance for a veteran, the fact is our County does not have a housing provision for these less fortunate veterans. The Veterans Council has been housing these veterans in local motels and providing not only shelter but food gift cards to help with their nourishment needs. This is the most expensive way to provide food and shelter for our homeless veteran population. We are working with several agencies to try to obtain a more permanent solution to this problem but that has not happened yet. We continue to be hopeful this permanent solution is not too far off.

Thank you for your service.
Bill Dudley,
Chairman
Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc.



**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 take place at Community Hospice, **4266 Sunbeam Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32257 in Conference Room A.**

Jacksonville National Cemetery Support Committee Meetings for 2022
At Hadlow Community Hospice of NE FL.
4266 Sunbeam Rd, Jacksonville, FL 32257
Hadlow Bldg – Conference Room A 7:00 pm

+++++2022 Officers of the SCJNC+++++

Chairman: Padraic Mulvihill
Vice Chairman: Bill Dudley Treasurer: Pat Welch
Secretary: Kathy Church, Judge Advocate: Don Guthrie
Master-At-Arms: Mike Smith, Historian: Win Delpizzo
Chaplain: Pat Archuleta, Public Affairs: Pat Mulvihill

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



Upcoming Veterans Council Meetings Speakers

**September 29, Officer Kelly Kemp, Chaplain, SJSO,
“Community Involvement”
and Michael Anthony, CEO, Gratitude America
October 27, Ronald Hasty, UF Brain Wellness Program
Joe Snowberger, “Mission United”**

Please note dates have below have been changed due to Holidays

**November 17, Kyle Mitchell, Project Help
December 22, Dr Amelia Lyons, Univ. Central FL,
Veterans Legacy Project**

ST JOHNS COUNTY 2022 VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION

Friday, November 11th. Anastasia Baptist Church.



Honoring All Who Served

MG. John Haas, Florida National Guard, keynote speaker.

**The St. Johns Center for the Arts Chamber Singers. Static Displays.
Video collage. Traveling Vietnam and Global War On Terrorism walls.**



**With special recognition of our
“Global War On Terrorism” veterans.**



**Doors open 9 AM. Program begins at 11 AM.
1650 A1A South (on Anastasia Island). Free parking on site.**

Organized by the St. Johns County Veterans Council

Info at: rothfeldm@gmail.com

ST. JOHNS COUNTY VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION

11 NOVEMBER 2022

ANASTASIA BAPTIST CHURCH



This year we especially recognize all those who donned the uniform during the “Global War On Terrorism.” The shock and anger arising in millions of Americans in the aftermath of the 9/11 twin tower strikes were reminiscent of those after the Pearl Harbor attack, sixty years earlier. In both cases, a vicious war of global dimensions followed. Notably, as in all previous generations, millions of Americans left their homes to rally round the flag and shield their country from the further danger sure to follow. The 20th century WWII ended relatively quickly. The 21st century war on terrorism stretched over two decades, yet we note with special pride that the millions of American women and men who participated in it were all volunteers, including hundreds of thousands from Florida. Here, the 53rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team has just completed training at Ft. Hood Texas in early 2010 before deploying 7,000 miles east for combat duty in Iraq.



While the anti-terror mission continues in far flung crisis areas around the globe, with this year’s withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan major combat forces have returned once more to their homeland. It is now time to recognize the sacrifices all those in uniform made, whether at home or deployed abroad. **Join us in this tribute.**

**Anastasia Baptist Church, 1650 A1A South.
On Anastasia Island. Free parking on site.
Doors to exhibits open 9 AM.
Program begins 1100.
Info at: rothfeldm@gmail.com**



**Organized by:
The St. Johns County Veterans Council**

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

August 1, 2022

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 17 2022 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 the campaign chair, SGM (Ret) Ray Quinn at 904.797.5622.





Just released, more to follow next month

Florida Department of Veterans Affairs Executive Director James S. Hartsell told the Cabinet Tuesday 40 applications were submitted to the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame Council for consideration this year. The Council vetted the applications and submitted to Hartsell the names of 10 veterans selected for induction into the hall this year.

“They have my full support,” Hartsell said as he announced the 2022 slate of inductees.

Included in the 2022 class are three veterans from Tampa and two from Tallahassee. They are Jeffery Cathey, Greg Holder and Maxine Reyes of Tampa; and Gordon Lightfoot and Glenn Sutphin of Tallahassee.

Other veteran inductees include Palm Harbor resident Mike Bousher; **Jacksonville resident Anthony D'Aleo**; Orlando resident John Gionet; Riviera Beach resident Don Lanman; and **St. Augustine resident John Leslie**.

The Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame Wall is on the Plaza Level of the Florida Capitol in Tallahassee. The Legislature created the Hall of Fame in 2012 as a way to honor the accomplishments of the 1.5 million veterans who live here.

Unlike a traditional military Hall of Fame, the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame recognizes veterans for their civic, business and community accomplishments. Only veterans who have been discharged honorably can be considered for induction. The law allows for as many as 20 veterans to be named to the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame each year.

Veterans, or those acting on their behalf, can submit applications between January 1 and May 31. The ceremony occurs on or near Veteran's Day, November 11. Including the inductees from the 2022 class 131 veterans are in the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame.

2022 SAINT JOHNS COUNTY HOMELESS VETERANS STAND DOWN



Saturday, October 8, 2022

9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

Elks Lodge

1420 A1A South

SERVICES AND ITEMS AVAILABLE

- Healthcare Service
- Housing Resource
- Legal Resource
- Employment Service
- Homeless Outreach
- Clothing
- Personal Hygiene Items
- Haircuts
- Showers
- Hot Meal
- RAFFLE

SPONSORS

- St. Johns County Veteran's Council
- Career Source Northeast Florida
- VFW Post 2391
- VA Homeless Veterans Outreach Team
- American Legion Post 37
- St. Augustine CBOC
- BPO Elks # 829
- and Many Others

For more information or transportation needs contact: 904-209-6160



2022 Saint John's County Homeless Veterans Stand Down



St. Johns County, Florida a Military community with many Veteran Organizations has come together to support our homeless and at-risk/distressed Veterans. While most of our Veterans have successfully transitioned from Military service to civilian life, some are plagued by combat injuries and personal difficulties which hinder their assimilation back into our community. In order to best assist these patriots, the County Veterans Service Office, the Veterans Council of St. Johns County and the Elks Lodge #829 have teamed up to sponsor an annual Veterans Stand Down to provide an array of needed services, clothing, health, and comfort items to these Veterans. This event is a great way for the St. Johns County community to reach out and encourage these Veterans through a direct interest in their well being.

In order to satisfy the needs of our community, we are requesting that your agency volunteer to participate in this important event. This Homeless Stand Down will meet the current needs of our Veterans and will take place October 8, 2022 at the Elks Lodge 1420 A1A South from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. We will evaluate the homeless and at-risk Veterans in our community and provide needed social services which we hope to include; employment, shelter, medical, identification, clothing, transitional and permanent housing, AIDS/HIV education/awareness, substance abuse awareness and benefits assessment. For this event we have the full support of the local Veterans Community Based Outpatients Clinic (CBOC) in our endeavor.

With your assistance we can make a difference. Please contact Lori Chapman @ (904) 209-6160 or email: lchapman@sjcfl.us for further information.

Thank you for your consideration and support of Veterans.

Respectfully, Lori Chapman

CLOTHING ITEMS (CLEAN PLEASE):

MEN:	PANT'S/SHORTS	SM / MED / LARGE
	SHIRTS	SM / MED / LARGE
	SHOES	8 ½, 9, 9 ½, 10, 10 ½, 11, 11 ½, 12, 12 ½
	COATS/JACKETS	ALL SIZES
	UNDERSHIRT	MED / LARGE
	BOXER/BRIEFS	SM / MED / LARGE
	SWEATPANTS/SHIRTS	MED / LARGE
	SOCKS	

WOMEN:	PANT'S/SHORTS	SM / MED / LARGE
	SHIRTS	SM / MED / LARGE
	SHOES	6, 6 ½, 7, 7 ½, 8, 8 ½, 9, 9 ½, 10, 10 ½,
	COATS/JACKETS	ALL SIZES
	BRAS/PANTIES	ALL SIZES
	SWEATPANTS/	SM / MED / LARGE
	SWEATSHIRTS	
	SOCKS	

The Cecil Field POW MIA Memorial, Inc. held a memorial service for National POW/MIA Recognition Day in the Chapel of the High-Speed Pass today. We join them in remembering and honoring those who were former prisoners of war and those still missing in action or unaccounted for and their families.

There is also a special display of the Vietnam Memorial Traveling Wall until 4:30pm Saturday. Additionally, about 100 American Legion Riders will be participating in the 7 bridges motorcycle ride on Saturday and will end at the POW/MIA Memorial between noon and 1pm to visit the Memorial Wall and participate in an additional service in the Chapel. The public is also invited to visit the Memorial Wall, welcome the riders and attend the service.



VETERANS COUNCIL OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

AUGUST 25, 2022

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Dudley

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS: Chairman Dudley

PLEDGE: Chairman Dudley

INVOCATION: Chairman Dudley

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: Minutes of last meeting conducted on July 28, 2022, were presented by Chairman Dudley. Copies of Minutes and Agenda are available on the sign-in table and were sent to members electronically by the Secretary. The minutes were approved by voice vote with no changes.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer John Mountcastle provided a detailed report that as of July 28, 2022, there was a balance of \$108,808.71 and as of August 24, 2022, there is balance of \$103,781.74. There is a \$500 gift card donated, giving the balance amount of \$104,281.74. There is an outstanding credit card balance of \$1,120.50. The credit card gets a lot of use helping our Veterans that may need lodging. The Treasure went over the majority of the expenses and what they covered. The Treasurer's Report was approved by voice vote with no changes.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS: Chairman Dudley

There were numerous new attendees at this month's meeting that introduced themselves, including members that not been in attendance in a while.

PRESENTATIONS:

SPECIAL GUEST, Mr. Ed Trester, recipient of the Gold Medal in May 2022. Presentation was given in June locally here in St. Johns County. Mr. Trester, age of 96, spoke of the recognition and his time in the Merchant Marines during WWII. Mr. Trester left a flyer he made about information of the Merchant Marines and their duties during WWII.



SPEAKERS:

CARMALITA GAINES, JACKSONVILLE VET CENTER

Ms. Gaines gave her military background and talked of her service in the US Air Force. She then spoke of the programs and assistance the Vet Center Program offers to our Veterans. The Vet Center Program is a special program within the VA that offers a lot of counseling for Veterans and has nationally been in service since 1979; the local area of Jacksonville, opened in 1980. The Vet Center was opened as a place for Veterans, especially Vietnam Veterans, to have a “safe place” to talk and receive counseling for what they had experienced both in war and returning home to a society that was less than accepting. It gave them a place, other than medical, to express their feelings and talk with other Veterans that were experiencing the same thing. The Vet Center Program’s main purpose is to help Veterans deal with and get help with the trauma they have experienced. The therapists and counselors are licensed, and all discussions are confidential. Ms. Gaines provided a flyer with information about the Vet Center Program.

KATHY CHURCH, FL COORDINATOR, MISSING IN AMERICA PROJECT

The Missing In America Project is a non-profit, nationwide, 501(3)c organization whose goal is to locate, identify and interment of the unclaimed cremated remains of Veterans, spouses and dependents that have sat in many areas and not placed in cemeteries, memorials, etc., where they should have been. The Missing In America Project is the only organization that has permission from the VA to go to funeral homes and other places to locate these unclaimed cremated remains. They then identify that the cremains are eligible for placement in a National Cemetery. Once about 25 cremains are located and eligible for burial here in Florida, they prepare a full military service with honors at one of the 9 Florida National Cemeteries. The Program is operated by volunteers and there is a need for more volunteers to help with this program and its accomplishments.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER UPDATE, JOSEPH MCDERMOTT

Mr. McDermott mentioned the upcoming Veterans Homeless Standdown that will be held on October 8, 2022, at 9:00 am at the Elks Lodge. Set up will be on Friday, October 7, 2022, at 8:00 am for volunteers that would like to help.

The Veterans Service Office has made a flyer that details the PACT ACT. Please pick one up if you need help to simplify the need for assistance in dealing with the 20+ presumptive for burn pit and toxins exposure have been added for Gulf War and Post 9/11 Veterans. The flyer tries to make it as simple as possible to assist those Veterans in need to file claims. It also breaks down the Agent Orange presumptive. Hypertension has been added as a presumptive and a blood disease MGUS (bone marrow, blood protein). Also, the locations that are recognized for the presumptive. Some of the past denied claims can be looked at to see if the Veteran, or deceased Veteran, now qualifies.

VETERANS TREATMENT COURT, JOHN LESLIE

Mr. Leslie introduced himself to new attendees and explained the Veterans Treatment Court and its function. A mentor is assigned to each veteran that goes through this course to assist with navigation of this course. The Treatment Court is looking for new, younger mentors to help assist. The Treatment Court is in its sixth year and during those years have inducted 109 veterans into the court. Sixty-one have graduated. There are thirty-five veterans in-flow at this time. Thirteen left the program without graduating (one suicide). There was a graduation of three at the last session. Next court session is August 26th at 10:00am with an open invitation to anyone that wishes to attend and observe.

NEW BUSINESS:

Jerry Hanchett represented Ray Quinn for “Wreaths Across America” to place wreaths on the graves of our Veterans in the oldest National Cemetery in America here in St. Augustine. A handout was provided for donations. The price of the wreaths has not changed, \$15 per wreath, if you purchase two, the

sponsor gets an additional wreath – so that is three wreaths for \$30. We need to raise \$12,000 to get a wreath on every headstone. Saturday, December 17th is when the wreaths will be placed. Volunteers will place the wreaths at the event. Everyone and their families are invited to attend.

Chairman Dudley spoke of Veterans Day, November 11th, at 11:00 am and there will be a ceremony honoring our Veterans at the Anastasia Baptist Church. The Global War on Terror Wall and the Vietnam Veteran Wall will be there. The speaker will be Major General John Haas. Theme this year will be the Global War on Terror – which covers a 20-year period. Every Veteran that served during that time will be recognized. Each of the attending Veterans recognized that day will be presented with a lapel pin on the Global War on Terror as part of honoring them.

Chairman Dudley discussed the Continuum of Care Program that the Veterans Council and the Veterans Service Office is part of and teaming with Flagler Health. The main goal of Continuum of Care currently is to find housing for our homeless veterans. The Program is attempting to house 9 Veterans before the end of the year. Looking for ten volunteers to help gather the needed information to assist the Case Managers in placing the Veterans.

Chairman Dudley reported that he spoke with Dr. McKinsey at the CBOC about having a “dedication” for the Clinic that had to be postponed due to the pandemic. Currently looking at a date in November for the dedication to be held. A time and date will be given at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

William Dudley, Chairman

Ray A. Quinn, Vice Chairman

Ethan Goedelman's Eagle Scout Flag Project at Anastasia Baptist Church



The Castillo de San Marcos needs you!

Are you a military history enthusiast looking for a fun way to give back to your community? Have you ever thought about volunteering with the National Park Service? The Castillo de San Marcos needs your help! Volun-



teers-in-Parks (VIPs) perform a wide range of tasks, such as demonstrating historic weapons, giving interpretive programs, answering questions, assisting with safety, and generally helping visitors get the most out of their experience. Find Your Park, join our VIP corps, and help bring the Castillo to life!

We're looking for outgoing individuals who love talking to people and can commit at least 4 hours a week to the Castillo. Schedules are flexible, and there are many ways that you can help connect visitors to our park. Love teaching but hate being stuck indoors? National Parks are some of the country's best open-air classrooms, and there are so many amazing stories to share with the people who come through our gates. Visitors come from around the world to see our historic city, and there's never a dull day at the Castillo de San Marcos.

Always wanted to fire the cannons and muskets on the weekends? Our historic weapons crews are primarily VIPs, and no experience is necessary; we provide extensive on-the-job training. We also have a cache of reproduction historic uniforms that VIPs can borrow while at the park, so there's no need for an expensive investment in a kit. Our Historic Weapons program is a major draw and an extremely memorable part of a Castillo visit, and we can't do it without our VIPs.

If you would like to read more about volunteer opportunities at both the Castillo and Fort Matanzas, you can visit www.nps.gov/casa/getinvolved/volunteer.htm and read through our VIP Handbook. If you have questions, or are ready to get started as a VIP, email our Volunteer Program Manager at casa_volunteer@nps.gov.

MILITARY SUPPORT RETREAT
 Thurs, Oct 6th at 5pm Thru
 Sun, Oct 9th at 2pm

FOR THOSE THAT DEPLOYED TO COMBAT ANYTIME DURING SERVICE TO ATTEND
 WITH THEIR PRIMARY SUPPORT PERSON (SPOUSE, PARTNER, FRIEND, ETC)
 NO CHILDREN PERMITTED & CHILDCARE IS NOT PROVIDED.

No cost to attend. Lodging, meals, and activities are provided. *Cannot assist with transportation.*

Split focus on nature-based recreation & education via interactive workshops & group discussions

Apply at:
gratitudeamerica.org/retreats

I wanted to share that our upcoming 3 night Military Support Retreat in still has several spots open, please see details below for this educational and meaningful no-cost program, link to apply is at the end. I have also attached a flyer.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions and share this email with anyone of interest: GratitudeAmerica's Military Support Retreat is a program offered at no-cost for military members to attend along with their primary support person (spouse, partner, friend, other adult family member) and has immediate openings for the October session that will be from Thurs, Oct 6th at 5pm through Sun, Oct 9th at 2pm in Marineland, FL (There is no cost to attend, and we provide all activities, lodging, meals. The program does not provide transportation)

Our Military Support Retreat program is a 3 night retreat program that has 2 focuses - 1 part of the program is focused on education through large and small group discussions led by mental health clinicians and military peer mentors and the 2nd focus is on Nature-based recreational activities focused on providing an opportunity for bonding, fun, and/or relaxation.

Additionally, the Military Support Retreats provides:

A supportive environment in which Veterans AND their support person can connect with their peers, gain critical coping skills, and other tools and techniques.

Many outdoor activities centered around nature-based recreation.

Large and small group discussions led by expert facilitators about concepts of post-traumatic growth.

Opportunity for participants to learn from themselves and their own experiences - not just learning from others.

Therapeutic approaches, not “therapy”

This program is available for any member of the military who deployed to combat anytime during service and open to all duty statuses (active, retired, etc) and all branches.

Program is for adults only, no children and the service member cannot attend alone as the program is uniquely designed to support the service member and their primary support person who is attending with them

Information and application to attend can be found here: <https://gratitudeamerica.org/retreats/>

Thank you, Ashley Semerenko, LCSW

Director of Veteran Engagement, GratitudeAmerica.org

The Royal Air Force in Florida

By Rick Cain

"Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."

This famous line was spoken by then British Prime Minister Winston Churchill to the British Parliament on August 20, 1940, in the midst of a desperate struggle between the British Royal Air Force (RAF) and the German Luftwaffe (Air Force). What has come to be known as "the Battle of Britain" is remembered each September 15th for a battle that was on-going for three months and three weeks in the skies over England.

The forces of Nazi Germany had taken control of Belgium, the Netherlands, Denmark, and Norway by May of 1940; France fell the following month. The only thing protecting England from invasion was water. The English Channel and the North Sea, two formidable barriers known for foul seas, still remained under the firm control of the British Navy. Germany's only option to prepare the way for invasion was to soften up British defenses along the southern coast by way of aerial bombardment. It was up to the RAF to defend the homeland from those massive formations of bombers coming across the water. The Spitfire fighter pilots flew day after day, week after week, short on sleep to the point of exhaustion, and short of personnel, to stop the German invasion. This was war in the skies on a grand scale, and in the end, the men and women of the RAF prevailed.



Photos Above: (Left) British Supermarine Spitfire on patrol;
(Right): Contrails in the sky over England after a dogfight

It was also during this time that radar systems were being fine-tuned so that incoming flights could be identified for their relative position and distance away from the English coast. Unknown to the German command, the German Enigma Code was also broken, and Churchill, with his command staff, could decode German orders and battle plans. He then could send his own coded messages, nicknamed "Ultra," to the RAF and naval command to launch preemptive bombing strikes against German naval invasion preparations on the coast of France. The German losses as a result of these efforts meant that the German Luftwaffe cut back to only performing nighttime bombing missions over the English homeland, particularly London, a period now referred to as "The Blitz," which continued through May of 1941. "Blitz" is short for the German word "Blitzkrieg," meaning "Lightning War." The British people held fast and survived, though serious damage was done across the nation. Nine American pilots joined the RAF as volunteers to fly in the Battle of Britain before America formally entered the war. These

men were allowed to maintain their American citizenship during their service in the RAF.



Photo Above: docks burn on the Thames River beyond the famous Tower Bridge during the Blitz, September 1940. The Docklands factories and wharfs were so important to the British war effort that the Germans dropped over 25,000 bombs here during the war.

Though England was successful in fending off an invasion, the Battle of Britain left the RAF very short of pilots. With virtually no calm airspace in which to train their incoming personnel, the RAF looked to America to help them in their time of need, or face being crushed eventually by the superior forces of Nazi Germany.

America had already been sending aid to Britain through Roosevelt's Lend-Lease Act of 1941. The RAF requested permission to train pilots at our existing Army Air Fields, but though we were not yet formally at war, these fields were already full of our own pilots. As a compromise, Roosevelt allowed the RAF to use two former WWI air fields in Florida: one in Arcadia and one in Clewiston.

Carlstrom Field in Arcadia had been abandoned for fifteen years when it was sold to John Riddle (of Embry-Riddle fame) for \$500.00. Here, he began training British pilots in Spring 1941, later acquiring the second airfield in Clewiston for the same purpose.

Due to America's formal neutrality at the time, British cadets entered the United States from Canada (part of the British Commonwealth), and then traveled by train to Florida. They were issued both RAF uniforms and civilian suits; since they had to enter the United States as civilians, they would not put on uniforms until arriving at the training base.



Photos Above: (Left) PT-17 Stearman Bi-plane trainer and (Right) another, Carlstrom Field, Florida 1941



Photo Above: RAF Cadets arrive at the Clewiston, FL airfield

Riddle, a civilian pilot, began training in Arcadia, calling the air field No. 5 British Flying Training School (No. 5 BFTS). After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, most of the RAF fliers changed locations and were trained at Clewiston when American cadets began to train at Arcadia. Some American cadets training with American instructors went on to take more extensive training with British instructors. They reported that the British instruction was more intense with heavier emphasis on night flying and solo flying with navigation. A few even received both their U.S. Army Air Corps wings and RAF wings upon graduation.



Photos Above: American Chuck Neyhart wears both RAF and USAF wings after completing his flight training at 5 BFTS (left), and a British graduation ceremony at Riddle Field Clewiston (right). *Photos courtesy of LIFT, the Alumni Magazine of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Spring 2017.

For the British who spent time here, Florida was a paradise after growing up in typical wet and cold English and Scottish weather. They wrote letters home of the glorious sunshine, warm weather, fresh fruit, especially Florida oranges, clear skies, and vast expanses of undeveloped land that was perfect for flight training. The bases boasted a pool and excellent training facilities and quarters for the cadets.



Photos Above: (Left) 5 BFTS dress parade at the Clewiston air field; (Right) British AT-6A Harvard Trainer

Following the war, the two training fields became public airports. Of the 1,500 men who trained there, not all of them made it home to Britain. Some 25 fliers lost their lives in training accidents, never leaving the United States. There is a British section in the Oak Ridge Cemetery in Arcadia with a marker commemorating their sacrifice to the war effort. A Union Jack flag flies there as well. The Clewiston airport terminal flies the Union Jack alongside the American flag and the State of Florida flag to commemorate when the war brought the RAF to Florida.

Nº 5B.F.T.S. Royal Air Force



Image used courtesy of the American Air Museum in Britain per their Terms and Conditions agreement. Please visit their website at <https://www.americanairmuseum.com/> to support their extraordinary work in preserving this history.

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The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration

Ret. Lieutenant Colonel Blair Craig describes his year-and-a-half with D Troop, 2/17 Cav, a special unit of the 101st Airborne Division that was used for a variety of hair-raising operations in northern I Corps in 1969 and 1970. #MCM #ThankVietnamVets

VIDEO: <https://www.vietnamwar50th.com/.../oral.../craig,-blair/>

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
**VIETNAM WAR
COMMEMORATION**

50th

#MCM

LIEUTENANT COLONEL (DAVID) BLAIR CRAIG, U.S. ARMY (RET)

Join the Nation ... thank a Vietnam veteran!

vietnamwar50th.com

Following military veteran's death, his family gets new roof on Arlington home

The family of Victor Hunt, who died in July, is getting a new roof from Tadlock Roofing. (Copyright 2022 by WJXT News4Jax - All rights reserved.)

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — The family of a local military veteran who recently died is getting a new roof on their Arlington home.

The Hunt family lost their husband and father, Victor Hunt, in July.

His loved ones — including his son, Lucas, who has special needs — were left living in a home with a roof that was leaking and desperately needed to be replaced, but they couldn't afford to pay the deductible for their insurance.

The family of a local military veteran who recently died is getting a new roof on their Arlington home.

A sales representative from Tadlock Roofing met the family through day-to-day roofing business, and after hearing about their plight, the company's management decided to provide the family with a roof — free of charge — as part of its effort to help those in need.

“I started crying, and I told my husband, guess what? That's one less stress I have to worry about. I just inherited the home and I have no clue how to start from one side of the house to the other,” said Mollie Hunt, Victor Hunt's daughter. “I was so thankful. I was crying.”

The family said Lucas Hunt was faced with having to live in a group home because of the conditions resulting from the leaky roof, but now that the roof is fixed, he will be able to stay at home with them.



NAVAL AIR STATION JACKSONVILLE

@NASJAXAIRSHOW

NAS JAX AIR SHOW 2022



OCTOBER 22 & 23 • GATES OPEN 9 AM
FREE ADMISSION • FREE PARKING • KIDS ZONE
NASJAXAIRSHOW.COM

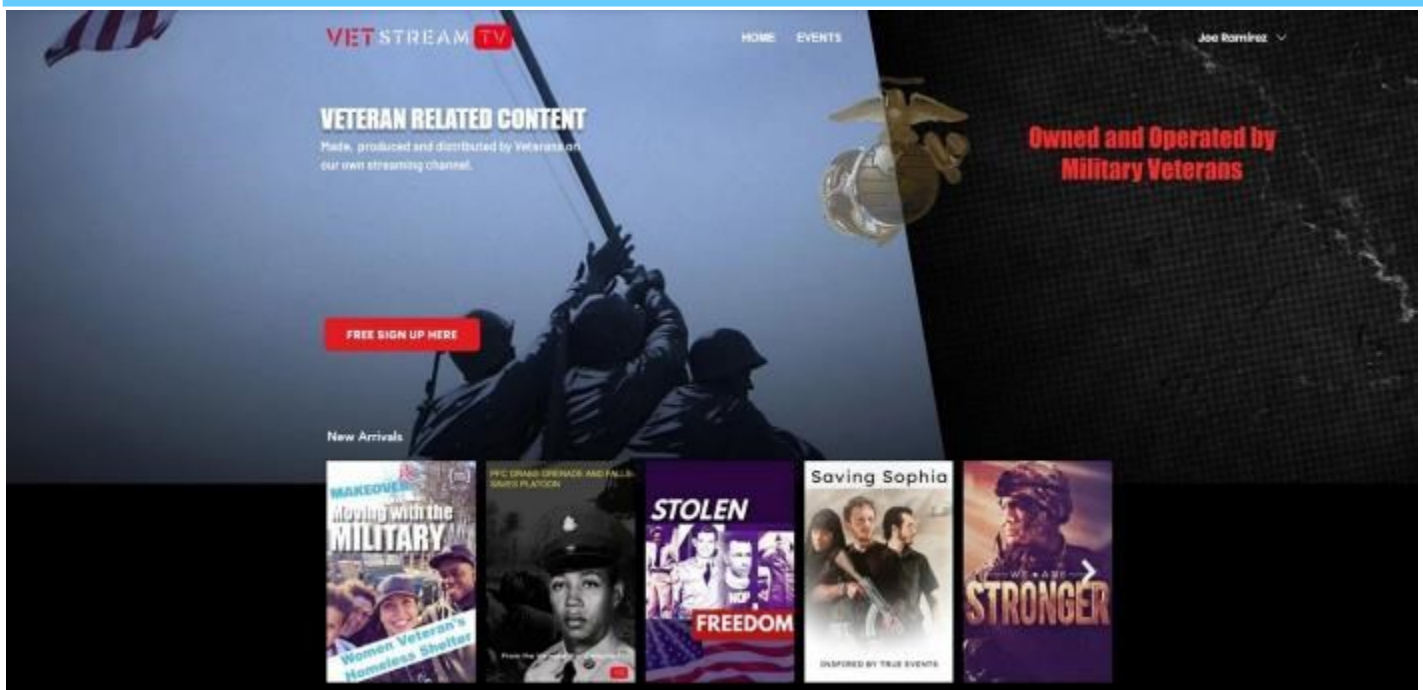


VetStreamTV is a free streaming channel and entertainment platform for veterans and their families. VetStreamTV was founded by Joe Ramirez, a Marine Veteran and LaVonne McIver James in January 2017 which launched in July of the same year. The company specializes in providing streaming media of interest to our nation's veterans and their families. The company has its headquarters in Austin, Texas. VetStreamTV offers feature films, shorts, television series, documentaries, and comedies. Their family of content also includes their own originals with one currently in production “Welcome Home” – the treatment of Vietnam Veterans, what changed and a special tribute. Their online talk show “More to be Told” debuts on August 3rd.

More to come with events and content is being added every week such as a new series “Moving with the Military” – a military spouse helps with renovations for military families.

The Veterans Council’s 6 documentaries featuring the stories of local NE FL Veterans can be viewed now on VetStreamTV - Service, Sacrifice and Courage is featured this week!

THIS IS FREE! For more info and to sign up, feel free to visit their website <http://www.vetstreamtv.com>



'An amazing feeling': Phoenix veteran is first in Arizona to walk with robotic exoskeleton



Camila Pedrosa, Arizona Republic

Richie Neider, a U.S. Army veteran from Phoenix, is the first Arizona veteran who is taking home a robotic exoskeleton that will help him walk independently again.

Neider was serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2005 when he received a spinal cord injury that left him unable to walk. For nearly a decade, he has been in a wheelchair, but will now have the opportunity to stand and walk on his own with the help of his new ReWalk Personal 6.0 Exoskeleton, fully funded by Veterans Affairs through a national program.

"It feels like walking," Neider said. "Even though I know my legs aren't actually doing it, I'm doing it, so it just an amazing feeling."

The device is a battery-powered, motorized system that helps individuals with spinal cord injuries or other disabilities walk again. Motors at the hip and knee joints move the legs whenever the device senses a change in the person's center of gravity.

It takes 28 sessions over about 2.5 months for a patient to be trained to use the exoskeleton, according to Dan Bonaroti, a physical therapist and owner of Touchstone Rehabilitation, where Neider trained. Touchstone is the only location in Arizona currently training individuals to use the technology.

"It's super exciting for our vets to be able to have another option to literally be able to get up and walk," Bonaroti said.

The ReWalk device was approved for commercial use by the federal government in 2014. As it is a relatively new technology, each unit can go for upwards of \$75,000.

But a national VA program, started in 2015, has helped fully offset the cost of a unit and training for many veterans, including Neider.

About 30 veterans have received a ReWalk exoskeleton through the VA program, according to Matt Fuller, ReWalk's business development manager for the southwest U.S. region.

The process for receiving a unit through the VA starts with an evaluation on whether an individual

meets certain criteria for using the device — including whether their body is fit — before they are given a short trial

Fuller said Neider contacted ReWalk in the summer of 2021 to begin the process of procuring an exoskeleton. It took Neider around six to eight conversations with the VA to get his trial approved by May 2022.



Neider said he never believed he would be able to walk again, and even after learning about the ReWalk device, he felt skeptical, but said he is glad that he was wrong.

"It'll be used every day," Neider said with a laugh.

Neider used a wheelchair for nearly a decade before receiving the exoskeleton. At first, he said, being in the wheelchair made him depressed and angry, saying he often felt like yelling at people who were able to walk because it felt unfair.

It was Neider's wife who inspired him to find ways to overcome this depression, he said.

"What I found out through all of it was the biggest disability is not my inability to walk, but it was the way I was looking at things, it was the mental side of it," Neider said.

Neider has a newfound appreciation for his ability to ride motorcycles, which he has loved to do since he was seven years old.

Since getting back on his bike, Neider said he's joined a group of combat veterans who enjoy riding motorcycles together and traveling annually to the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally in Sturgis, South Dakota.

Neider said he will be taking his ReWalk device with him next year to the rally.

"I'll have legs and be able to walk with everybody instead of rolling with everybody," he said.

Walking with his buddies at motorcycle events is one of the things Neider said he was most excited to do with his ReWalk exoskeleton. He also said he was looking forward to simply being able to walk around the neighborhood with his wife.

"There's no words to actually describe it," Neider said. "Normal is, I guess, a good word, like you're like everybody else. And that's all we ever want, is to be with everybody else."



BATTLE OF THE BULGE MILITARIA SHOW
DECEMBER 17, 2022, 9AM - 4PM
MILITARY MUSEUM OF NORTH FLORIDA
1 BUNKER AVE., GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FL. 32043

SHOW TABLE SPOTS: \$20
CALL: John Murphy @
(904) 263-3950

- **MILITARY ANTIQUES**
- **HISTORIC MILITARY VEHICLES**
- **REENACTORS**
- **BAGPIPERS**
- **ROCK BAND**

- **FREE ADMSSION**
- **FREE PARKING**
- **FREE MUSEUM ENTRY**

VETERANS WANTED

The Americans in Wartime Experience is seeking the stories of those who served during combat deployments.

- ◊ Interviews are conducted remotely through Zoom.
- ◊ Veteran receives a copy of their video as well as a limited edition challenge coin.
- ◊ Videos are eligible for retention at the Library of Congress Veterans History Project.
- ◊ The service is free, the only thing you need to do is give us 45—60 minutes of your time.



To schedule your interview please contact Greg Pass at gregpass70@gmail.com

To learn more about the museum, please visit us at www.americansinwartime.org



Hello First Coast Honor Flight Supporters:

Our mission at First Coast Honor Flight (FCHF) is to provide a unique experience for our local Veterans in Washington D.C. to visit the memorials dedicated to honoring those who have served and sacrificed for our country.

We consider it our honor to give our Veterans the opportunity to remember, celebrate, grieve, and gain closure for the time they sacrificed for our country.

Unfortunately, the current limited commercial airline schedule from our Jacksonville Airport is not sufficient to provide our Veterans the experience they deserve in Washington D.C. Therefore, we have decided to postpone our planned October 2022 flight to April 2023.

We're making great progress towards an April 2023 flight which will allow us to bring more Veterans and allow more time for the true experience that we want to be able to give our Veterans.

Stay tuned for more information.

We would welcome any connections you may have and will be creating some fundraising opportunities for you to help us make our April 2023 flight a reality!

Your First Coast Honor Flight Team

Candace Mabry, Fundraising Director, First Coast Honor Flight

904-708-2445, cmabryfchf@gmail.com, www.firstcoasthonorflight.org

"We can't all be heroes, because somebody has to sit on the curb and applaud as they go by"

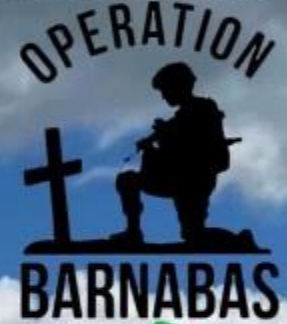
-Will Rogers

Saturday, November 19th 2022 Seventh Annual "ROCKETMAN" RUN

Registration: 9:00-11:00
Last bike out: 11:00 am
Last bike in: 4:00 pm
Drawings begin: 5:00 pm



COST
\$20. Per Person
\$5. Per Passenger
\$5. For Extra Dice



Food
Music
Vendors
Auctions
Raffles



Start: VFW Post 1988-421 S. Orange Ave. ,Green Cove Springs
1st Stop: Molasses Junction County Str.-6300 Co Rd-214, St. Augustine
2nd Stop: Cheyenne Saloon-327 South U.S. 17, East Palatka
3rd Stop: Howlin Wolf-1701 State Rte 100, Melrose
4th Stop: American Legion Post 250-2608 Black Creek Dr. ,Middleburg
Final Stop: VFW Post 1988-421 S. Orange Ave. ,Green Cove Springs



Fundraiser Benefiting Operation Barnabas



ANNUAL

2ND

GOLF



20

23

TOURNAMENT DONATION \$100 PER PERSON

Registration 7 am, 18 four-man teams, Lunch included

01. 07. 2023

call: Gabe 386.690.4008

1000 Champions Dr



Daytona Beach, FL 32124



LPGA INTERNATIONAL

<https://vva1048.com/golf-tournament>

8 am Shotgun, Raffle, Ball Drop, 50/50,...more

Red Phillips



RUCK FOR LIFE NO VETERAN LEFT BEHIND



Register Now



Start:

8:00 AM

Saturday, November 12

560 N. Wilderness Trail, Ponte Vedra

<https://runsignup.com/Race/FL/PonteVedraBeach/RuckforLifeNoVeteranLeftBehind>

Race options:

- "Get Rucked 5k+" challenges along the route (Individual \$35 or 2 Person Team \$60)
- "Tough Rucker 5k" \$30
- "Freedom Mile" (Walk, Ruck, Run) \$25

No Ruck? No Problem.
Some loaner equipment
will be provided by

GORUCK

From the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

The PACT Act is a historic new law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans who were exposed to toxic fumes and other hazards while fighting for our country. Family members or dependents of a deceased Veteran may also qualify for various VA benefits.

VA is committed to ensuring all Veterans and their family members receive the benefits and care they have earned.

Learn more today, visit www.VA.gov/PACT or call 1-800-MyVA411 (800-698-2411).



The new PACT Act

- » Expands toxic-exposed Veterans access to VA care
- » Extends health care eligibility for Vietnam, Gulf War, and Post-9/11 era combat Veterans
 - » Adds new presumptive conditions for radiation, Agent Orange, Gulf War toxins, and burn pit exposures

EXPANDED VA CARE & BENEFITS

Learn more at VA.gov
1-800-MyVA411 (800-698-2411)



VA  U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

The Men are the Mission!

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) is charged with accounting as fully as possible for our men. It is essential for DPAA to have additional funds to increase field operations in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. Contact both your Senators and ask to increase the DPAA budget from \$131 million to \$175 million for FY2023. There are 1,584 Americans still missing and unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War. No expense was spared to send them into battle...no expense should be spared to prioritize BRINGING THEM HOME!



National League of POW/MIA Families



The Men Are The Mission!

One photo of three airmen who took off on a night reconnaissance mission almost 55 years ago...still unaccounted for.

Three families of the many who still seek answers have come together, with one question: "Why haven't they come home?" The years have faded into decades awaiting their return. These are the faces that connect these three families to the crew of "QUIZSHOW09".

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) is charged with accounting as fully as possible for our men. *It is essential for DPAA to have additional funds to increase field operations in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. Contact both your Senators and ask to increase the DPAA budget from \$131 million to \$175 million for FY2023.* There are 1,584 Americans still missing and unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War. No expense was spared to send them into battle...no expense should be spared to prioritize BRINGING THEM HOME!



**MAY NO SOLDIER
GO UNLOVED
MAY NO SOLDIER
WALK ALONE
MAY NO SOLDIER
BE FORGOTTEN
MAY NO SOLDIER
BE LEFT BEHIND
WHEN THEY RETURN
HOME**

Please write your federal legislators (Congressmen and Senators) requesting they support the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022.

First, a little history: During the 35-day shutdown between December 2018 and January 2019, the U.S. Coast Guard continued to work without compensation, providing vital services which safeguarded our nation's coastline and waterways. The Veterans' Council of St. Johns County, Inc. contributed \$500, and, by working with the USO at Mayport and local Navy League Chapters, worked to provide other emergency aid to local Coast Guard members.

This bill, introduced into the US Senate (S. 4802) on Sept. 8, includes a sorely-needed provision (§256) to ensure members of the U.S. Coast Guard continue to receive pay and allowances during a government shutdown. While members serving under the Department of Defense already have this benefit, the Coast Guard is under the Department of Homeland Security and, until this pending legislation, does not enjoy the same protection of the benefits to which they would otherwise be entitled.

This bill, which covers the service's funding through Fiscal Year 2023 (starting Oct. 1), also includes improvements for Coast Guard families which are critical for retention.

To e-mail your Representative, enter your zip code, then enter your residential address, then click on your Representative's link to send an e-mail.

To e-mail your Senator, click on your state, then click on your Senator's Contact link to send an e-mail.

The Veterans' Council of St. Johns County, Inc. advocates providing Coast Guard military personnel with the same benefits and emoluments enjoyed by those serving in the military services under the Department of Defense. Educating our elected officials about existing inequities, such as discussed above, and encouraging their support of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022, perhaps the Coast Guard military personnel will be treated as their Department of Defense counterparts.

The Veterans' Council of St. Johns County, Inc., as a public charity, (recognized under IRS §501(c)(3)), is prohibited from directly or indirectly participating in, or intervening in, any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for elective office, However, public charities are permitted to conduct some lobbying (i.e., attempting to influence legislation) such as urging the public to contact members or employees of a legislative body for the purpose of supporting or opposing such legislation, provided r such activities are "not substantial" based upon level of effort and expenditures.

4th Annual

2022  GOLF

TOURNAMENT

MON
OCT 24th
2022



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

Monday, October 24, 2022

Registration/Warm-up/Pre-Event	11:15am - 12:15 pm
Shot Gun Start	12:30 pm
BBQ Dinner/Awards Ceremony/Raffle	5:30 – 6:30 pm


Raffle tickets available throughout the day. Winners will be announced at the conclusion of the awards ceremony.

All proceeds benefit **National POW/MIA Memorial and Museum**

**Deadline to Register:
October 17, 2022**

*Sponsorship Packages and
Player Registration Forms
attached, or register online at:*
www.powmiamemorial.org

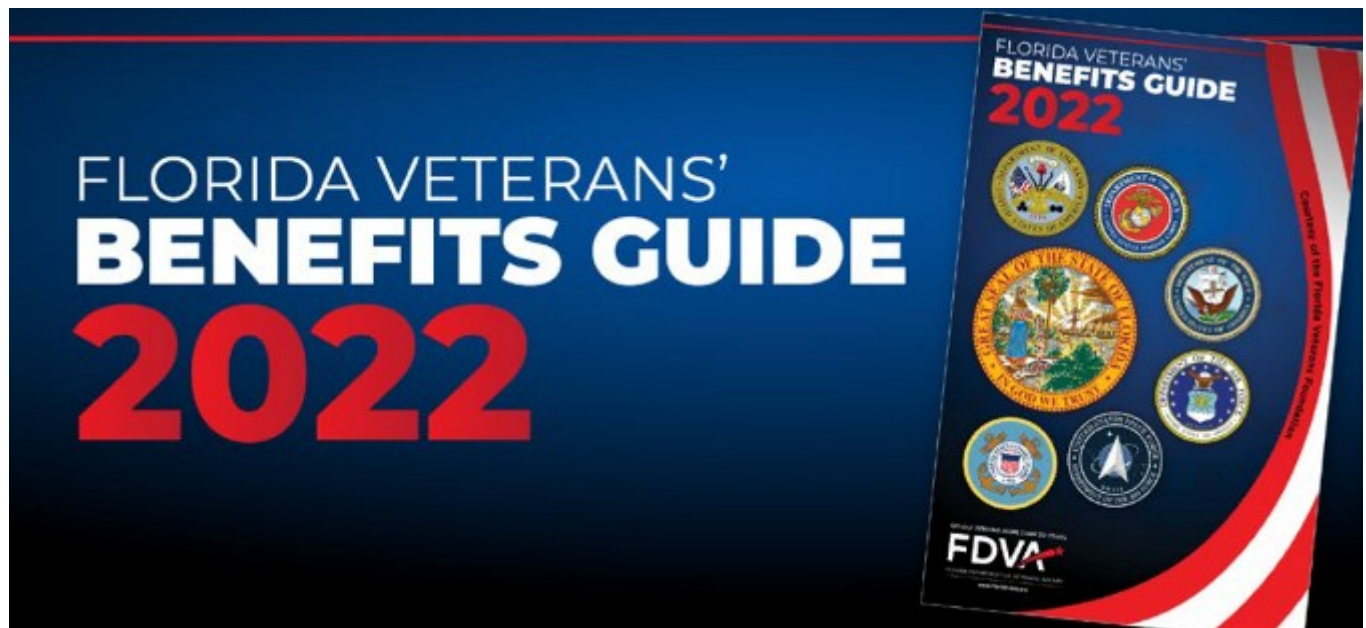
Follow the 2022 Golf Tournament
Event from our Facebook page:

 "Cecil Field POW MIA Memorial"

CECIL FIELD POW/MIA MEMORIAL IS A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION - REGISTRATION NUMBER: CH515059. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE, 800 435 7352, WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. CECIL FIELD POW/MIA MEMORIAL IS AN IRS 501(C)(3), PUBLIC CHARITY. ID# 31954. CONTRIBUTIONS ARE DEDUCTIBLE.

The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs

Have you checked out the new 2022 Florida Veterans' Benefits Guide? It is now available for download. The annual guide helps connect Florida's Veterans and their families with earned federal and state benefits, services and support. It also contains helpful phone numbers and website addresses for additional information. To view online, click here: <https://bit.ly/3BovveB>. To download a copy for your records, click here: <https://bit.ly/3HYgTF0>.





FIRST COAST HONOR FLIGHT

Would love to come talk with you!

Can we come speak to your
organization
or church?

We would LOVE to share our
stories with you!

We are a new non-profit
and would love
to come share our goal
of honoring our local Veterans!
First Coast Honor Flight creates a
"once in a lifetime" day
of flying our local Veterans to Washington D.C.
to see our national memorials and
monuments.

Please help us spread the word by
connecting us with your groups!

Contact us at info@firstcoasthonorflight.org
or call 888-400-1185





Hello First Coast Honor Flight Supporters:

Our mission at First Coast Honor Flight (FCHF) is to provide a unique experience for our local Veterans in Washington D.C. to visit the memorials dedicated to honoring those who have served and sacrificed for our country.

We consider it our honor to give our Veterans the opportunity to remember, celebrate, grieve, and gain closure for the time they sacrificed for our country.

Unfortunately, the current limited commercial airline schedule from our Jacksonville Airport is not sufficient to provide our Veterans the experience they deserve in Washington D.C. Therefore we have decided to postpone our planned fall flight to the spring of 2023.

We are working towards a private charter flight in the spring 2023 which will allow us to set our own schedule, bring more Veterans, and allow more time for the true experience that we want to be able to give our Veterans.

Stay tuned for more information.

We would welcome any connections you may have and will be creating some fundraising opportunities for you to help us make this spring 2023 flight a reality!

Your First Coast Honor Flight Team



Sponsorship Levels

First Coast Honor Flight is 100% dependent upon donations from generous people and organizations.

Without your support, FCHF would not be able to transport WWII, Korean War, and other Northeast Florida Veterans to Washington, D.C. for a day of honor and remembrance.

Trip Sponsor : \$25,000

Honor Guard : \$10,000- \$24,999

Gold Star : \$5,000-\$9,999

Silver Star : \$2,500- \$4,999

Bronze Star : \$1,000- \$2,499

Contact FCHF @
info@firstcoasthonorflight.org for more
information on sponsorship packages

First Coast Honor Flight is a 501(c)3 corporation and
is in compliance with the Florida Solicitation of Contributions Act



First Coast Honor Flight Donation

I would like to donate \$ _____ to honor Veterans.

Please make check payable to: First Coast Honor Flight, Inc.

Mail to: First Coast Honor Flight, Inc.
P.O. Box 600785
Saint Johns, FL 32260

To make a donation by credit card please visit our website at:

www.firstcoasthonorflight.org

Click on "Help Our Cause" and then Click on "Donate Now" and submit your donation through PayPal. *Thank you!*

Name of Organization _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____ Email _____

This donation is: In Honor of _____ In Memory of _____

Name _____

Address _____

Veteran? Yes _____ No _____ Relationship _____

Branch _____ Dates Served _____

First Coast Honor Flight warrants that the information contained on this form is for internal use only and will not be shared, transmitted, or used for any purposes other than recording and acknowledging the donation. Donations are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. First Coast Honor Flight is a registered 501(c)3 Not for Profit EIN:84-4667182 For questions please Call: 888-400-1185 or email: info@firstcoasthonorflight.org.



VA SURVIVOR BENEFITS & THE PACT ACT

ESGR4U

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



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

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

How to Apply for DIC and/or Accrued Benefits

Surviving family members may apply for these benefits using the appropriate VA form on va.gov/family-member-benefits.



Dependency and Indemnity Compensation

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



Accrued Benefits

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

Additional Survivor Benefits Available:



Burials and Burial Allowance

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



Education and Training

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



Final Monthly Payment

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



Home Loan Guaranty

Certificate of Eligibility is available for surviving spouses receiving DIC.



Health Care

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

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

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



18th Annual

Marine & Navy FMF Corpsmen Memorial

Evergreen Cemetery

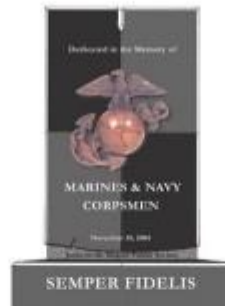
N Main St
Jacksonville, Florida

November 10, 2022

4 PM

Dedicated by Marines and Navy FMF Corpsmen
of the
Jacksonville

Semper Fidelis Society



We have a responsibility to never forget!

AFGHANISTAN, IRAQ, GRENADA, BEIRUT, VIETNAM, KOREA, WWII, WWI...



~SEMPER FIDELIS~



*In Remembrance
Of All
Affected By
Agent Orange*

**Respecting Our
Vietnam Veterans**



Art by Billy Roan

From the FDVA THEY ARE HIRING!

New health care job opportunities at our State Veterans' Nursing Homes throughout Florida have recently been posted! If you are looking for a fulfilling new role, visit our jobs page to view the available positions. <https://bit.ly/FDVAJobs>

A central graphic of a smartphone displaying the VA logo at the top, the phone number "800-MyVA411 (800) 698-2411", and a numeric keypad. Surrounding the phone are ten service categories, each with an icon and a brief description.

- LIVE ASSISTANCE** (Headset icon): General information, directory assistance and technical support for VA.gov
- VA HEALTH CARE** (Medical bag icon): Eligibility, enrollment, locations and COVID-19
- COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE** (Flame icon): MISSION Act eligibility, copayments
- NATIONAL CEMETERIES** (Gravestone icon): Burial benefits, interment scheduling and headstone/Veteran marker
- VETERANS CRISIS LINE** (Star and speech bubbles icon): Immediate connection to caring, qualified responders
- DEBT MANAGEMENT** (Stack of money icon): Debt details, payment options and debtor rights
- FACILITY LOCATOR** (Location pin icon): Locations of medical centers, benefits offices or cemeteries
- BENEFITS ASSISTANCE** (Dollar sign icon): Information about a variety of VA benefits
- HOMELESS VETERANS LINE** (House icon): Information and support for homeless and at-risk callers
- COVID-19 INFORMATION** (Microscope icon): Frequently asked questions and live assistance for COVID-related questions

★ ACTIVE DUTY ★ VETERANS ★ NATIONAL GUARD & RESERVE ★

MILITARY SUPPORT RETREATS

RETREATS FOR COMBAT VETERANS,
AND THEIR PRIMARY SUPPORT PERSON



Marineland
Florida



SEPT 15-18

Marineland
Florida



OCT 6-9

Lake Chatuge/Hiawasse
Georgia



NOV 3-6

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



★ **RESTORATION** ★ **RECREATION** ★ **RELAXATION** ★

Strengthen and restore connections, enjoy the natural beauty of each location, be inspired by fun outdoor activities, learn about available support resources, and relax while exploring the stress coping concepts of Post Traumatic Growth.

★ Small, friendly group setting ★

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

★ Facilitated by Vets, Licensed Clinicians, and Community Nonprofit Support Organizations ★

Please note: Must be 18 to attend and no childcare is provided. Participants are responsible for travel.

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



CHRISTOPHER DUKE
770-298-7654
DUKE@GRATITUDEAMERICA.ORG



Please note: the Vietnam and War on Terror Walls will be in St. Augustine on display on Veterans Day, November 11, 2022 at Anastasia Baptist Church in St. Augustine.

Here is the Florida 2022 schedule

FL PGR Vietnam & WoT Wall Schedule

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

Email: fisc@patriotguard.org / 321-689-4699

Updated as of:

01/17/22

Date	Time	Duration	Wall(s)	Location	Comments	
02/19/22	Info forthcoming		WoT	Eustis Area		
02/26/22	0800 - 0830 hrs 0830 - 1100 hrs 1200 - 1600 hrs	Escort Set-up Walls Display & Take-Down	1 day	Vietnam / WoT	The Casements Ormond Beach 25 Riverside Dr. Ormond Beach, FL 32174	Military & First Responder Family Appreciation Expect to escort The Walls to the event from Holly Hill DAV at 0800 hrs.
03/25/22 03/26/22	1400 hrs 0800 hrs	Set up Walls Display Walls	2 Days	Vietnam / WoT	Gator Harley Davidson 1745 US 441 Leesburg, FL 34778	Benefit Active Duty Care Package Program JOBH - Just Our Soldier's Helpers Former USO Ride Overnight secretly provided by Gator Harley
03/28/22 03/31/22	0800 hrs	Set up Vietnam Wall Display & Take Down	3 days	Vietnam	Cape Canaveral National Cemetery 5525 US-1 Mims, FL 32754	National Vietnam War Veterans Day
05/21/22	0900 hrs	Set-UP & Display	1 day	Vietnam / WoT	American Legion Post 10 205 Lake View Dr. Kissimmee, FL 34741	Armed Forces Day Celebration
05/27/22 05/28/22	1400 hrs 1000 - 1600 hrs	Set-Up Display & Take Down	2 days	Vietnam / WoT	Daytona International Speedway 1801 W. International Speedway Blvd Daytona Beach, FL 32114	Heroes Honor Festival Memorial Day Event Vietnam Welcome Home
09/17/22	TBD	Info forthcoming		American Legion Jacksonville, FL.	American Legion Veteran Event	
09/24/22	TBD	Info forthcoming		Remembering Vets Inc. Palm Coast, FL.	Fall Festival	
11/10/22 11/11/22	TBD 0800 - 1100 hrs	Set-up Display	2 Days	Vietnam / WoT	Anastasia Baptist Church 1650 A1A S St. Augustine, FL 32080	Veteran's Day Ceremony Escort from Daytona to St. Augustine



Safekeeping your military separation records is secure, fast and free of charge and easy to access with the St. Johns County Clerk of Courts.

Bring your original DD-214 to the St. Johns County Veterans Council's Veterans Day Celebration where Clerk staff will officially record it:

- 9:30 a.m. – Noon, Nov. 11
- Anastasia Baptist Church, 1650 A1A S., St. Augustine
- Your record will be returned to you immediately.

Recording your DD-214 maintains a permanent digital copy on file for safekeeping. Your record is **protected** – it doesn't become a public record for 62 years after separation, per the National Archives.

Can't make it on Nov. 11? Record your discharge papers at the St. Johns County Courthouse, 4010 Lewis Speedway, St. Augustine. Call the Recording division at 904 819 3632 for details.

File your DD-214 with your
St. Johns County Clerk of Courts



FLORIDA CLERK OF COURTS WILL "LOCK IT UP" FOR FREE

Do you have your DD-214? That is the first question Veterans are asked when engaging in almost every benefits or Veteran-status related process. Often, it is the first question Veteran widows and widowers are asked after hearing "I'm sorry for your loss."

Each of Florida's county Clerk of Courts knows how valuable it is having a copy of your DD-214 safely and privately stored, with easy access. Click and read how you can record your DD-214 for free, year-round, regardless of what county you live in.

BONUS- St Johns County Clerk of the Circuit Courts is providing complimentary passport photos and notary services for military and Veterans through November 30th. Click below for the details.

From Liberty Life Media

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

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

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

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

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

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

Be sure to stay plugged in to www.va.gov for the most recent developments around environmental hazards; VA is constantly conducting research and surveillance, as well as reviewing scientific literature for conditions that may be related to exposure during military service.

If you feel you have a chronic condition attributed to an in-service exposure, we highly encourage you to file a claim. For more information about VA benefits and eligibility, or how to file a claim, Veterans and survivors can visit VA's website at www.va.gov or call toll-free at 1-800-827-1000.





2022 VA DISABILITY PAY RATES



ANNOUNCED 2022 COLA OF 5.9%	DISABILITY RATING									
	10%	20%	30%	40%	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%	100%
DEPENDENT STATUS										
Veteran Alone	152.50	301.82	467.02	673.52	958.40	1,213.61	1,530.26	1,778.06	1,998.33	3,331.61
Veteran with Spouse	N/A	N/A	522.46	747.41	1,050.57	1,325.22	1,609.15	1,926.69	2,164.79	3,517.84
Veteran with 1 child only	N/A	N/A	504.45	721.99	1,019.86	1,288.16	1,616.79	1,876.92	2,109.72	3,456.30
Veteran with 1 child and spouse	N/A	N/A	563.76	801.42	1,118.35	1,406.77	1,754.46	2,035.77	2,287.63	3,653.89
A D D I T I O N A L										
Family member (not in VA)	N/A	N/A	44.48	59.30	74.13	88.96	103.78	118.71	133.43	149.10
Family member (not in VA) with 1 child only	N/A	N/A	27.53	36.01	45.54	55.07	64.60	73.07	82.60	92.31
Spouse dependent on your VA disability	N/A	N/A	88.96	118.61	148.26	177.91	208.62	238.28	267.93	298.18
Spouse dependent on your VA disability	N/A	N/A	50.83	67.78	85.78	101.66	119.67	136.61	153.56	170.38

Use the compensation rates table to find your monthly payment amount. The monthly payment amounts are based on your disability rating and your eligible dependent family members.

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

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

Visit: www.thefirewatch.org/watch-standers to learn more.

Thanks!

Nick Howland

Executive Director, The Fire Watch

www.thefirewatch.org

904.525.1761



From Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley

Subject: VA Transportation Assistance

I received the email below from Dr. McKenzie. If any of our veterans require transportation assistance to any VA medical centers, have them call our CBOC at 904- 829-0814 and ask for the primary social worker for help with transportation.

We recently found that we are able to assist with patients who have significant issues with transportation to VA medical centers. Our primary care social worker can assist with this problem. Patient can call here and ask that she be notified of problem. She will be able to contact them and attempt to provide assistance.

From Michael Isam

The DAV van is now operating 5 days /week!

It will now transport a full capacity of riders.

Schedule your seat on the DAV Chapter 6 van.

It departs from the large parking lot of the clinic at 0600!!!

Contact the VA Clinic at 904-823-2954





Legal Aid for Veterans

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

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

1.866.486.6161

Call Today!

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



We Can Help With

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

Supported by the: **FDVA**
FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Become a Watch Stander with The Fire Watch



You sacrificed for our country.

**AT SILVER CREEK,
FREEDOM IS YOURS.**

Because of your commitment, you helped us achieve the American Dream. At Silver Creek, we want to return the favor – by providing the freedom, independence and personal attention you deserve. Since 2016, Silver Creek has served the St. Augustine community, offering military retirees and seniors at large a vibrant, community lifestyle complete with everything except the burdens of home maintenance. Impeccably-appointed independent concierge living, assisted living and memory care apartments homes, first-class amenities, holistic wellness programming, gourmet, all-day dining and abounding opportunities for enrichment are just a few of the many options you'll find.

Silver Creek provides residents the perfect balance of elegant, upscale living with the warmth and intimacy of home – inspiring socialization and fellowship within a close-knit community.

Call **800-665-9492** to schedule a tour and learn more.



THE FUTURE OF SENIOR LIVING

165 Silver Lane | St. Augustine, FL 32084 | SilverCreekRetirement.com



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

Assisted Living Facility #12928

Vietnam Veterans of America



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

Chapter/President/email/Location

1046	Tony D'Aleo	adaleo5579@gmail.com; Duval
1048	Bob Adkins	adk123robert@outlook.com
1059	David Treffinger	dtreffinger433@msn.com; Clay
1084	Ron Howard	ronehoward@gmail.com
1088	Roy (Corky) Rudd	corkstopper50@yahoo.com; Nassau
1092	Forest Hope	foresthope@usa.net; Gainesville
1134	Marvin Lagle	mdlagle@gmail.com; Baker



REMEMBER WHAT OUR MEDAL STANDS FOR:

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



PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO MEET VETERANS' UNIQUE NEEDS

Advance Care Planning

Community Hospice & Palliative Care offers Honoring Choices® Florida, a program to help you document your health care wishes in advance, so that, in the event you become ill and cannot speak for yourself, your wishes are known and can be followed.

Palliative Care

Our palliative care services can help people with serious illnesses get relief from physical, emotional, and spiritual pain, symptoms, and stress while seeking curative treatment.

Hospice Care

We also provide support during the final phase of advanced illness, with a focus on comfort and quality of life.

- ★ **Team Approach:** Trained clinicians identify and address the psychological, physical, spiritual and emotional needs of veterans and their caregivers.
- ★ **Pinning Ceremony:** We provide a veteran-to-veteran pinning ceremony to honor the service of our nation's bravest.
- ★ **Service Branch Flags:** For veterans who receive care at our inpatient centers, we fly the flag of their service branch outside their room and entrust the flag to the family following death.
- ★ **Veterans History Project:** Members of our Community Hospice Veterans Partnership (CHVP) record veterans' stories and share them online and with the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress.
- ★ **Community Hospice Veterans Partnership:** A select group of veteran leaders serving as brand ambassadors throughout Northeast and North Central Florida bringing awareness to, and providing access for, veterans and their caregivers facing advanced illness and end-of-life care.

Complementary Therapies

In addition to routine home care, respite care, continuous care and inpatient hospice, we also provide the following services to patients and their families:

- ★ **Grief and Loss Support**
- ★ **Certified Music Therapy**
- ★ **Certified Pet Therapy**
- ★ **Pet Promises**

We Need Volunteers

Whether you offer companionship and a listening ear or assist at fundraising events, there's a volunteer role for everyone. Opportunities include pinning ceremonies, Veterans History Project recordings, CHVP membership and other special programs.

WE HONOR VETERANS
Partner

Community Hospice & Palliative Care participates in We Honor Veterans, a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization program that honors veterans for their service and sacrifices.

For more information or to volunteer, call toll free **866.253.6681** or visit **CommunityHospice.com**.



Along with traditional reimbursement for hospice services, we offer payment options to veterans with TRICARE. As with all Community Hospice & Palliative Care patients, we provide care and support to all who need it, regardless of their ability to pay.

VET 007 5/20

FLORIDA SURVIVOR OUTREACH SERVICES AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY



Survivor Outreach Services provides long-term support and advocacy for families of the fallen. Our Support Coordinators and Financial Counselors are dedicated to helping the Families of deceased Service Members from all eras understand and apply for benefits as well as stay connected to the Army Family for as long as they desire.

To find the Survivor Outreach Services location nearest you, check out the map on this page and contact the SOS Coordinator nearest you.



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

Veterans Crisis Line

1-800-273-8255 **PRESS 1**

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

STAND BY THEM
Confidential help for Veterans and their families

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE
1-800-273-TALK (8256)
suicidepreventionlifeline.org

..... Confidential chat at VeteransCrisisLine.net or text to 838255

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

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

Confidential chat at MilitaryCrisisLine.net or text 838255

Veterans Councils of Northeast Florida



BAKER COUNTY

President: Larry Porterfield

Meetings:

Second Thursday of each month

Location:

MacClenny Primitive Baptist Church
Fellowship Hall on North Boulevard

Time : 1800 (6pm)

CLAY COUNTY

President: Harry Silvers

Meetings:

First Wednesday of each month

Location:

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

Time: 1400 (2pm)

DUVAL COUNTY

President Steve Spickelmier

Meetings:

Third Tuesday of each month

Location:

American Legion Post 37
Main Building
San Juan Avenue

Tome: 1900 (7 pm)

NASSAU COUNTY

President: Mike Doran

Meetings:

First Thursday of each month

Location:

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

Time: 1900 (7pm)

St. Johns County

President: Bill Dudley

Meetings:

Last Thursday of each month

Location:

Health & Human Services building
Muscovy room, 1st floor
200 San Sebastian View, St. Augustine

Time: 1900 (7pm)

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



We are inviting all veterans to visit our website at:

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

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

Please join our group on Facebook at:

<http://veteranscouncilsjc.org>

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

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

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

You may have noticed the Veterans Council's new logo, it was created by Roy Havekost.

He can be contacted at webmaster@veteranscouncilsjc.org

*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 County
Health & Human Services Building,
200 San Sebastian View
Auditorium, 1st floor***

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

(physical location)

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

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

*Service is by appointment.
Phone: 904-209-6160 Fax: 904-209-6161
Joseph McDermott, VSO
Travis Neidig, Assistant VSO
Angela McKenzie, Assistant VSO
Lori Chapman, Assistant VSO
Anna Marie Scott, Office Specialist*

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