



The Patriot Reader Newsletter

P.O. Box 2117

St. Augustine, FL 32085

Bill Dudley, Publisher

Michael Rothfeld, Editor

Volume 12, Issue 10

From Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley

October 2023

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Fellow Veterans,

The Veterans Council has launched our 2023 Wreaths Across America program for this year. Wreaths are now on sale and can be purchased by filling out the WAA sponsorship form and mailing it to our PO Box 2117, St. Augustine, Fl. 32085 along with a check made out to Wreaths Across America. The price of a wreath has increased slightly this year from \$15 to \$17. If you purchase two wreaths you still will receive three. The order form appears in this edition of The Patriot Reader or by contacting Jerry Hanchett, WAA Committee Chairman at 904-347-8293 or me at 904-806-4712. The WAA wreath laying ceremony will take place this year on Dec.16, 2023 at the St. Augustine National Cemetery. The program will begin at 12 noon. Volunteers will be needed to help unload the truck at 10 AM. Our guest speaker for this year's ceremony will be Sheriff Rob Hardwick.

Recently, the Jacksonville National Cemetery Support Committee announced the need to purchase a new golf cart for the Jacksonville Ladies. These ladies accompany the families of every veteran that is interred at JNC. A golf cart is the only means they have of moving between interment sites. Burials are scheduled approximately every 30 minutes during the day. The cost of a new golf cart to replace the old one is approximately \$12,000. The Support Committee has raised nearly \$8000. Our Council donated \$4500 this week in order to meet the goal and place an order for the golf cart.

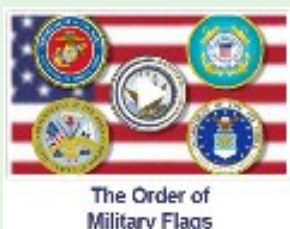
Be sure to put Friday, Dec. 8, 2023 on your calendar. That evening, World renowned Global Walk, Inc. will host the World Changers Concert at the St. Augustine Amphitheater featuring The Long Run / Eagles Tribute Band. Tickets are now on sale at the Amphitheater box office or online at www.theamp.com. Also, the guest speaker will be Karen Vaughn, a Gold Star mother and author of the bestseller book, World Changer, the story of her son, Navy Seal Aaron Vaughan who was killed in ac-



tion in the Tangi River Valley in Afghanistan on Aug. 6, 2011 when a Chinook helicopter with 29 other service members, was shot down from the sky while rushing into battle. All perished. You don't want to miss this concert and some of the proceeds will go to help homeless veterans in our area.

If you haven't put Nov.11 on your calendar, now is the time to do it. We have an excellent Veterans Day Program lined up to be presented at Anastasia Baptist Church with our featured speaker for this year's program, The Adjutant General of the State of Florida, Maj. General John Haas. The theme for this year's program is The Global War on Terrorism. I look forward to seeing you there.

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



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 in the Muscovy room.



Upcoming Speakers

September 28

**Maj. Zach Malamud, “Marine For Life Network”
and**

Mike O’Brien, Director of Development, 5 Star Veterans Center

October 26

**Lynn Geiser, Peer to Peer Therapeutic Art Program
for Military Women and**

Carl Cricco, CEO K9s For Warriors

November 30

**Don Kabrich, a local veteran climbs Mt Everest in 2023
and Jennifer Jenkins, Wounded Warrior Project**

December 28

Joseph Pearce, Wish for Our Heroes

January 25, 2024

Dennis Graves, CJ3 Foundation

Veterans Day Ceremony November 11

Please Join us as we Honor our Veterans

Veterans Day in St. Augustine, Saturday November 11, at Anastasia Baptist Church, 1650 A1A S, as we all celebrate and honor our veterans.



Hosted by the Veterans Council of St. Johns County along with the Military Officers Association of America, Ancient City Chapter.

The Atrium doors open at 9am. On display in the Atrium will be the Traveling Vietnam and War on Terror Walls, and over 40 display tables from local Not for Profits, Military Groups, any many more military displays.

The Veterans Day Ceremony will start promptly at 11:00 am.

The Keynote speaker is MG John Haas, Adjutant General FLANG.

Patriotic entertainment by the St. Augustine High School Chorale.

This is a free event with plenty of onsite free parking.

Questions: rothfeldm@gmail.com



ST JOHNS COUNTY 2023 VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION

Saturday, November 11th. Anastasia Baptist Church.



Honoring All Who Served

Keynote speaker:

Major General John Haas, The Adjutant General of Florida.

**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, 2023

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





WREATHS *across* AMERICA

2023 Wreath Sponsorship Order Form

Sponsored wreaths are placed on grave markers at state and national veterans' cemeteries, as well as at local and community cemeteries each December for National Wreaths Across America Day.

Your donation will ensure the placement of a veteran's wreath for one or more veterans laid to rest at the participating location of your choice.

All sponsored veteran wreaths are shipped directly to the location selected by the sponsor on this form. Wreaths are not shipped to individual wreath sponsors.

CHECKS PAYABLE TO
WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA
SEND TO:
VETERANS COUNCIL OF ST JOHNS COUNTY
P.O. Box 2117
St. Augustine, FL 32085
questions? Call 904-347-8293

SPONSORSHIP TYPE	PRICE	QUANTITY	TOTAL
Individual = 1 Wreath	\$17.00		
Family = 4 Wreaths	\$68.00		
Small Business = 10 Wreaths	\$170.00		
Corporate = 100 Wreaths	\$1,700.00		

For quicker processing and the convenience of paying with a credit card, debit card, Google Pay, or PayPal, veteran wreaths may be sponsored online by scanning the QR Code above or by visiting: www.wreathscrossamerica.org/FL0080

You should be the only one to enter your credit card information at checkout on the Wreaths Across America website. For your security, do not share this information with anyone else who offers to place an order for you. To verify the validity of the QR Code, always check that wreathscrossamerica.org is part of the web address when sponsoring wreaths online.

If you prefer to pay with a check, please complete this form and mail it along with your check to Wreaths Across America at the address listed in the box above.

CHECK #	CHECK DATE	SPONSOR NAME FOR DISPLAY
GROUP ID(s)	FL0080	EMAIL ADDRESS
LOCATION ID(s)	FLNSA	PHONE #
DOLLAR AMOUNTS(s)		MAILING ADDRESS

To split your donation between multiple groups and/or locations, please list the IDs and dollar amounts for each.

SPECIAL REQUESTS

Please note in memory/honor of requests do not place a wreath on a specific loved one's grave.

IN MEMORY OF REQUEST	The "In Memory Of" Name will be listed on the Wreaths Across America online Remember Wall along with your personal message.	IN HONOR OF REQUEST	An email will be sent to your chosen recipient from Wreaths Across America letting them know of your donation of sponsored veteran wreaths in their honor.
NAME FOR MEMORY WALL POST		RECIPIENT NAME	
SPONSOR EMAIL ADDRESS		RECIPIENT EMAIL ADDRESS	
MESSAGE (optional)		MESSAGE (optional)	

Thank you for supporting our mission to REMEMBER, HONOR, and TEACH!

**DANNY GARCIA, WALKING MAN
PRESENTS**

**WORLD
CHANGERS
— CONCERT —**

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

FEATURING



EXPERIENCE THE EAGLES



Tickets on sale @ The AMP Box Office
or www.theamp.com



TICKETS ON SALE NOW
AT ST. AUGUSTINE AMPHITHEATRE BOX OFFICE OR ONLINE AT WWW.THEAMP.COM

The World Changers Concert is Fri., Dec 8th at 6:30pm at the The St. Augustine Amphitheatre to honor and thank God, veterans, first responders, and their families. Guests of honor include Gold Star families who have lost military family members in the line of duty, to acknowledge their loss, grief, and continued healing.

The concert event will feature a favorite central Florida band, The Long Run (TLR), an Eagles tribute band. Event guest speaker is national bestseller Karen Vaughn, author of “World Changer”, the story of her son, Navy Seal Aaron Vaughn.

If you are interested in donating or sponsoring seats for our worthy vets, first responders, and families, please contact Director Chuck Burke at flaburke@hotmail.com.

Event Page: <https://thegarcias.cc/>

Buy Event Tickets: <https://www.theamp.com/.../detail/the-world-changers-concert>

Tickets on sale @ The AMP Box Office
or www.theamp.com



[Contacts](#)

Chuck Burke 321-693-3451

Jackie Garcia 703-615-9006

Danny Garcia 571-422-0963

email: globalwalk7@gmail.com

www.globalwalk.cc

National POW/MIA Recognition Day

In the United States, National POW/MIA Recognition Day is observed on the third Friday in September. It honors those who were prisoners of war and those who are still missing in action. It is most associated with those who were POWs during the Vietnam War.

The Veterans Council of St Johns County recognizing the many hardships, bravery and sacrifices of our POWs produced the documentary “Prisoners of War: Stolen Freedom”, which has been broadcast on PBS.

This documentary features the heroic stories of 4 of our local veterans.

Prisoners of War: Stolen Freedom

"Prisoners of War: Stolen Freedom" compares the stories of four American servicemen through their time as prisoners of war in three major 20th century conflicts; World War II, Korea and the Vietnam war. Their stories are supported by archival motion pictures and photographs obtained at the US National Archives as well as through sketches and memorabilia collected by each of the men. Their stories are less about atrocity than they are about the survival of the human spirit and the camaraderie that helped each man survive years of incarceration. Each story is followed by spectacular recounts of their days of release. Produced by Michael Rothfeld, Bill Dudley and the Veterans Council of St. Johns County, directed by Eric Flagg"

Below is a link to the FL PBS website.

<http://www.floridastoriesofservice.org/prisoners-of-war-stolen-freedom>



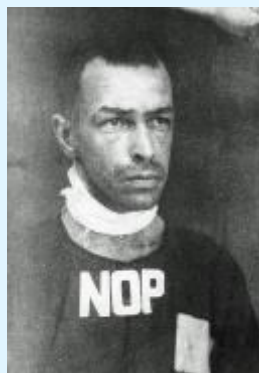
William Ingram
US Navy
Seaman Second Class
World War II



Richard Bassett
US Army
Corporal
Korean War



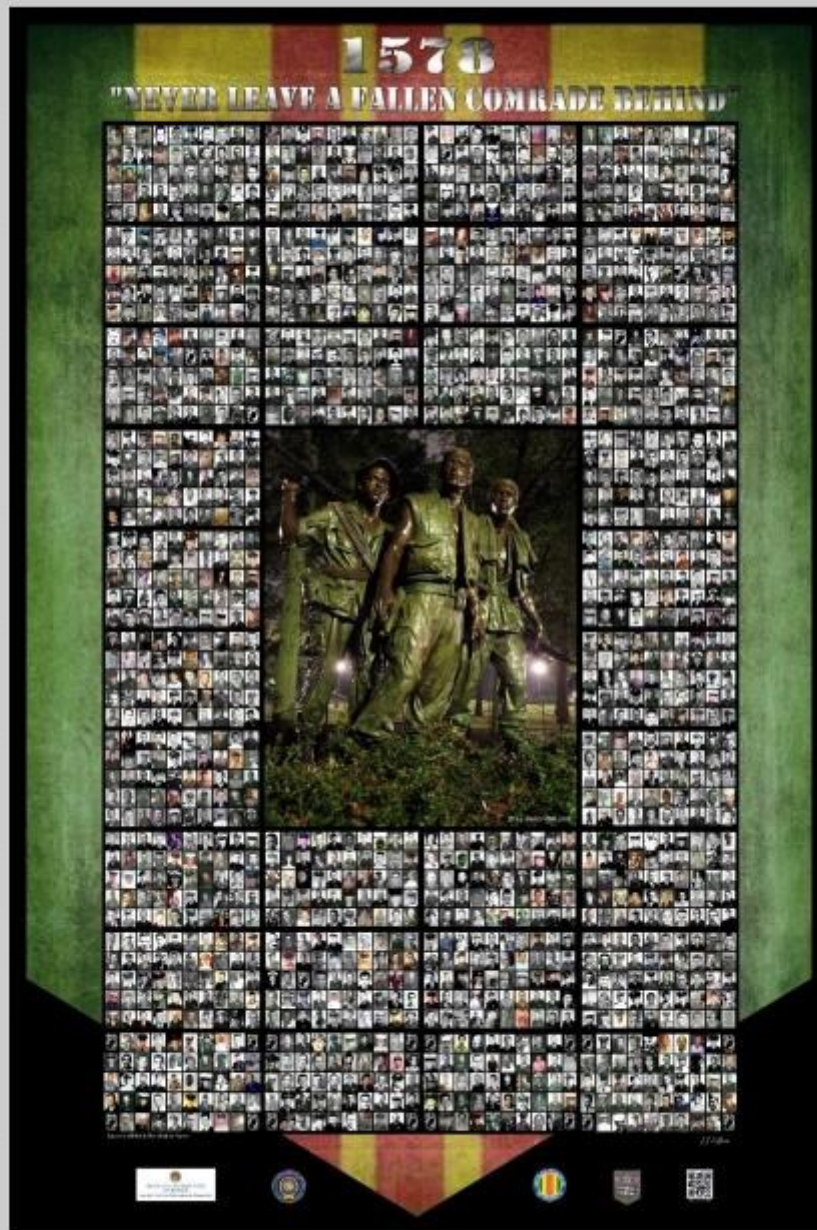
Dr Hal Kushner
US Army
Colonel
Vietnam War



**Giles Norring-
ton**
US Navy
Captain
Vietnam War

From Suzanne Hoff Ogawa

Mission POW MIA created this poster with pictures of our loved ones still missing from the Vietnam War. We will never stop trying to bring our loved one's home.



Stories of Service: Paddleboarding with Wounded Warrior Project

Wounded Warrior Project gave local veterans the opportunity to clear their minds and enjoy an afternoon of paddleboarding in Fernandina Beach.

Author: Rich Donnelly, First Coast News (OnYour Side)

FERNANDINA BEACH, Fla. — First Coast News is proud to share the Stories of Service of the brave men and women who wear the uniforms of our armed forces. And we're also proud to showcase the great opportunities available to those service members when they come home from the service.



Wounded Warrior Project is a national non-profit charity that supports veterans and active duty service members in a variety of ways from counseling, job placement and, for at least one day, paddleboarding.

"It's one of those days that you're able to get out of bed and feel alive, you get to go in the water and feel the ocean breeze, the wind and water, you can smell it and enjoy everything about it," said one Warrior who took part in the paddleboarding event. Wounded Warrior Project helped coordinate the event for more than a dozen veterans to paddle from Fernandina Beach to the Cumberland Island National Seashore. "We'll get ready to launch here in about 15-20 minutes, time for the tide to change on us but we do have the wind at our back," said one of the paddleboarding instructors.

"We're today going out on paddleboarding with Jeff from Latitude 29," said one of the Warriors, "it's one of those things that gives you peace and calm and helps you with your mindset."

Peace and calm is not easily achieved by many veterans who return from active duty.

"In 2012 I did try to commit suicide," said one of the Warriors, "depression, PTSD, everything along those lines, but Wounded Warrior Project, I keep coming back because it's a foundation where other veterans come around and just be, no questions of what's wrong with you, just enjoy one another's company."

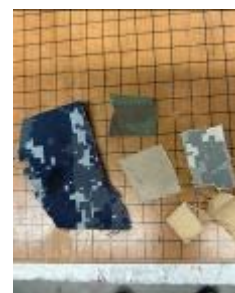
Another step closer to calm with every stroke of the paddle. "From 2006 when I was injured in Iraq Wounded Warrior Project has been there for me since day 1 and any event that I can support, I'll be there," said one of the Warriors.

Wounded Warrior Project is celebrating its 20th anniversary of serving veterans and their families. They're also based in Jacksonville and more information about programs that they offer can be found on their website.

If you have a Story of Service that you would like us to profile, send us an email to storiesof-service@firstcoastnews.com

From UNF, Captain Bob Buehn

Thankful to all who came to Combat Paper Workshop and had a life changing experience—community building, healing, reaching out, offering support! People make wars. Rags make paper. I make things happen with the support of many! Thank you Drew Francis Cameron, [@combatpaper](#), thank you RP, thank you [@unfmvrc](#), thank you all administrators and colleagues that came to the printshop to support this workshop and launching of UNF papermaking! Thank you veterans for sharing your stories and for your service. Thank you students for spending your weekend making paper and helping me facilitate this experience. In gratitude! Onward!



COMBAT PAPER[®] WORKSHOP

your story matters!

Combat Paper[®] is a hand papermaking workshop facilitated by artist and Iraq war veteran Drew Francis Cameron that teaches veterans to make paper from United States military uniforms.

Fridays: Combat Paper[®] Project, Process, and Practice.

Saturdays and Sundays: Workshops will cover the technical aspects of traditional hand papermaking techniques and rendering fabric into pulp and paper. Participants will create artwork on freshly formed sheets of paper using an innovative pulp stencil printmaking process.

You are welcome to register for one or two sessions and bring your own or use our donated uniforms. Bring photos, drawings, maps, and writings – to incorporate in the paper you will create.

Combat Paper[®] at combatpaper.org

Department of Art, Art History, and Design

UNF Printmaking Studio
Building 45/Room 1603

SCAN TO REGISTER



No previous experience necessary!

More info: (904) 620-5131 | a.j.felix@unf.edu

Session One

Friday, September 15

2 p.m. Presentation

3-5 p.m. Breaking Rag

5-6 p.m. Artist Talk

Saturday, September 16

10-6 p.m.

Papermaking/Printmaking

Sunday, September 17

10-4 p.m.

Papermaking/Printmaking

Session Two

Friday, November 3

2 p.m. Presentation

3-5 p.m. Breaking Rag

5-6 p.m. Artist Talk

Saturday, November 4

10-6 p.m.

Papermaking/Printmaking

Sunday, November 5

10-4 p.m.

Papermaking/Printmaking

All events are free and open to the public



Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation provides college scholarships and educational counseling to military children, from all branches, who lost a parent in the line of duty.

We cover all college-related costs and there is a big need for our services as the VA does not cover the full cost of college. There is a \$25,000 average gap to cover one student for four years and we need your help.



Scan here to support the children of those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

To mail a contribution, please send checks to:

Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation
ATTN: Courtney Nyren
1818 Library Street, Suite 500
Reston, VA 20190

FALLENPATRIOTS.ORG

Thank you for your support of our mission. CFC #69859



CFP is among top <1% of charities to receive a 100% rating in 2022

2023 RIVERWOOD MEN'S CLUB CHARITY GOLF EVENT
BENEFITTING
VETERANS COUNCIL OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY
AT WORLD GOLF VILLAGE, SLAMMER & SQUIRE ON 11/13/2023
SPONSORSHIPS



1. Platinum Sponsor - \$2500. Complimentary entry for a four person golf team, individual banner at registration table and awards luncheon, individual corporate business table at awards luncheon, business flyer/brochure in registration bag, hole sponsorship sign, special invite to Veterans Council VIP events, recognition on all tournament flyers and the main sponsor banner, special recognition in all media events.

2. Gold Sponsor - \$1500. Complimentary entry for two players, individual banner at registration table, business flyer/brochure in the registration bag and at the awards luncheon, hole sponsorship sign, special invite to Veterans Council VIP events, recognition on all tournament flyers and the main sponsor banner.

3. Tournament Special Events Sponsor - \$500

- *Registration Gift Bag Sponsor
- *Beverage Sponsor
- *Luncheon Sponsor
- *Team Prize Sponsor
- *Putting Contest
- *Closet-to-Pin (CTP) Contest
- *Special Team CTP Contest

Individual sign at location of event sponsored, hole sponsorship sign, business flyer/brochure at awards luncheon, recognition on all tournament flyers and the main sponsor banner.

4. Hole Sponsor - \$175. Sponsorship sign at one hole, recognition on all tournament flyers and the main sponsor banner.

5. Gift donations - Gifts suitable as prizes for tournament competition and for silent/live auctions and raffles will receive special recognition on all tournament flyers and the main sponsor banner.

Sponsor/Donation Info

Business or Individual Name: _____
 Contact Phone /Email: _____
 Sponsorship Type (See Above): _____
 Gift Item/Value of Donation: _____

Sponsorship/Donation Contacts: Jim Monahan, jimmonahan237@gmail.com

Please make checks payable to: Veterans Council of St. Johns County

Note: Please indicate in the check memo line "Veterans Council of St. Johns County Charity Golf Event"

Mail to: Jim Monahan, 118 Goldenrod Park Road, Ponte Vedra, FL. 32081.

**Thank you for your generous donation that will help improve the quality
 of our Veterans Lives**

*Donors will receive a letter from the charity documenting the value of their donation after
 conclusion of the event*



**There was NO meeting of the
Veterans Council of St. Johns
County in August because of
the Hurricane.**

Official Home of Florida National Guard Family Programs

Who wants to dress up and give out candy to Guard Kids? We need you! Come be a part of our epic event. Email us with questions on how to register your trunk : flngyouthprogram@gmail.com



 **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

FLNG CHILD & YOUTH PROGRAM
WITH SUPPORT SERVICES

ST. FRANCIS BARRACKS PARKING LOT
82 MARINE ST.
ST. AUGUSTINE, FL 32084

TRUNK OR TREAT

ARRIVE AT 3:00 TO PARK AND DECORATE YOUR TRUNK
EVENT IS 3:30-5PM.

FRIDAY OCTOBER 27

VOLUNTEERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING YOUR OWN DECORATIONS AND CANDY

REGISTER TO VOLUNTEER
[HTTPS://FLNGCYP.CAMPMANAGEMENT.COM/ENROLL](https://flngcyp.campmanagement.com/enroll)
SCROLL TO "TRUNK OR TREAT VOLUNTEER"

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: 904.599.5472
OR EMAIL FLNGYOUTHPROGRAM@GMAIL.COM

Don't forget to wear your costume!



You've made our country
A BETTER PLACE.

Enjoy your well-earned retirement at Silver Creek.

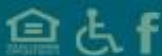
Thank you veterans for your service and sacrifice! At Silver Creek, you can live life as you choose with greater freedom, comfort and independence through the unique living options at our community - including independent concierge living, assisted living, enhanced assisted living and memory care.

Discover first-class amenities, holistic wellness programming, gourmet all-day dining and vibrant activities while enjoying camaraderie and friendship at our close-knit community.

Call **800-821-8170** to schedule a tour and learn more.



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



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

Assisted Living Facility #12928

Explore VA benefits and health care, <https://www.va.gov>

Health care

Apply for VA health care, find out how to access services, and manage your health and benefits online.



Disability

File a claim for disability compensation for conditions related to your military service, and manage your benefits over time.

Education and training

Apply for and manage your GI Bill and other education benefits to help pay for college and training programs.

Careers and employment

Apply for vocational rehabilitation services, get support for your Veteran-owned small business, and access other career resources.

Pension

Apply for monthly payments for wartime Veterans and survivors with limited or no income who meet certain age and disability requirements.

Housing assistance

Find out if you're eligible for a VA-backed home loan. If you have a service-connected disability, see if you qualify for a housing grant to help you live more independently.

Life insurance

Explore VA life insurance options for Veterans, service members, and families. Manage your policy online, file claims for benefits, and access helpful resources.

Burials and memorials

Get help planning a burial in a VA national cemetery, order a headstone or other memorial item to honor a Veteran's service, and apply for survivor and dependent benefits.

Records

Apply for a printed Veteran ID card, get your VA benefit letters and medical records, and learn how to apply for a discharge upgrade.

Service member benefits

Find out what benefits you may be eligible for during service and which time-sensitive benefits to consider when separating or retiring.

Family member benefits

Learn about the benefits you may qualify for as a spouse, dependent, or survivor. And find out what you're eligible for as a family member caring for a Veteran with disabilities.

VA department information

Learn more about the VA departments that manage our benefit and health care

From Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley, as of Sept. 1, 2023

Update on Veteran homeless in St Johns County

The count of Veteran's without housing at the time of last year's stand down was approximately 38 Veterans. Out of the 38 Veterans, only about 9 showed up for the stand down last year. The reason for the low turn out then is because those 38 Veterans were all engaged in case management services and working on housing placements. A majority of those Veterans at that time were able to be placed in hotel rooms while waiting on housing assistance due to special funding that came through because of Covid. This accounted for the low turn out at the stand down.

San Marcos Heights, an income-based apartment complex, opened up shortly after the stand down and we were able to place 13 Veterans without housing there. In January of 2023, the VA conducted a count of our homeless Veteran population and at that time there were 24. These 24 Veterans were all engaged with case management services to assist them in getting into permanent housing.

As of this date, we have approximately 12 homeless veterans that are all working with case managers for housing assistance. We have another income-based apartment complex opening up currently, Victoria's Crossing, and we have 10 units that are set aside for Veteran's preference there. St Johns Housing Partnership is opening Patriot Place soon and we are working on completing applications for Veteran's to be housed there now. We will be able to house 6 Veterans at Patriot Place.

The VA and community partners are making great strides in efforts to reach our homeless Veterans in St Johns County. These include VA has outreach workers that begin the process of approval for HUD VASH and other appropriate housing opportunities, Changing Homelessness, The Veteran's Service Office, Home Again and The Society of St Augustine Street Outreach Team who seeks out homeless

Veterans and connects them to needed resources. These Veterans are connected to health, counseling and other resources while working on housing goals.

Because of the amazing work that is being done to reach out to our homeless Veterans, they are being connected to resources more quickly at this time. Community agencies are working tirelessly to help end the homeless situation in St Johns County and expect to be at functional zero by December of this year which means 3 or less homeless Veterans identified in St Johns County.

Since the need for a Veteran Stand Down is very low at this time, the Veteran's service office will continue to have military surplus on hand at the VSO as well as a well-stocked food pantry for those that are in need. Our Veteran Homeless Coordinator assists with connecting Veterans to housing and other resources as needed and is able to deliver supplies to them or will work with other VA and Changing Homelessness case managers to ensure they have clothing, shoes, bicycles, food, hygiene items and other surplus while they work on being qualified for housing assistance.

There are other plans in place currently for a Day Center that will provide homeless with laundry and shower facilities. This facility will also provide a place for case managers to meet with the homeless and provide resources to them. There are other projects and plans being discussed and that will assist our homeless population even more in the near future.

We are grateful for the amazing support from our wonderful volunteers who donate food to our pantry, refurbished bicycles, gas and food gift cards and other items that meet the immediate needs of our brothers and sisters. Thank you for your support!

Room 7 had the first organized church service to be held in the prisons of North Vietnam. Permission was asked for by Stockdale, and twice denied by the Camp Commander. The room was warned not to do it.

Room 7 decided to do it anyway.

Ringleaders, Risner, Coker and Rutledge were led out of the room with guards at each arm (they were headed for more Heartbreak Hotel, solitary confinement and lots of punishment).

Bud Day was the one who then jumped up on his bed and started to sing “The National Anthem”.

Robbie later recalled his thoughts as his roommates burst out in song, “I felt like I was nine feet tall and could go bear hunting with a switch.”

Thirty one years later, on November 16, 2001 a nine-foot tall bronze statue of Brigadier General Robinson Risner, USAF, would be dedicated on the central plaza Of the United States Air Force Academy.

ROOM 7
ALWAYS REMEMBERED - NEVER FORGOTTEN
HOA LO PRISON, HANOI

NAME	RANK	DAYS	NAME	RANK	DAYS
01. ANDERSON, GARY	LT COL, USM	2151	25. JINKINS, HARRY	COL, USN	2648
02. BRADY, AL	COL, USN	2236	26. JOHNSON, SAM	MAJ, USAF	2494
03. COOPER, GEORGE	LT COL, USM	2281	27. KASLIS, JIM	MAJ, USAF	2400
04. COONEY, KEN	COL, USN	1658	28. KRYL, TOM	LCOL, USAF	1864
05. CRAMES, BOB	MAJ, USAF	1811	29. LAHAR, JIM	LCOL, USAF	2474
06. CRAYTON, RENEER	LCOL, USM	2562	30. LARSON, SWEDE	LCOL, USAF	2181
07. CROW, FRED	LCOL, USAF	2170	31. LAWRENCE, BILL	COL, USN	2076
08. CRUMPLER, CARL	LCOL, USAF	1743	32. LIEON, VERN	LCOL, USAF	1842
09. DANIELS, VERN	COL, USN	1988	33. MCCAIN, JOHN	LCOL, USN	1688
10. DODDREY, HOHLAM	CAPT, USAF	2751	34. MCKENRIFT, GEORGE	MAJ, USAF	2855
11. DAY, BOB	MAJ, USAF	2827	35. MADRE, MEL	COL, USN	2785
12. DENSON, JERRY	COL, USN	2726	36. MULLISAN, JIM	COL, USN	2521
13. DREHMUS, BOB	LCOL, USN	2729	37. PULLARD, BEN	MAJ, USAF	2123
14. FRANCIS, JOHN	CAPT, USAF	2153	38. RISNER, ROBBIE	LCOL, USAF	2726
15. GINN, HOMIE	MAJ, USMC	2624	39. RYLES, WENDY	LCOL, USN	2715
16. FELLOWS, JACK	LCOL, USN	2381	40. RUTLEDGE, HOWE	COL, USN	2023
17. FINLEY, JACK	LCOL, USAF	1781	41. SCHROFFEL, PETE	LCOL, USN	1581
18. FRANK, BILL	COL, USN	2728	42. SHIMMACKER, BOB	LCOL, USN	2822
19. FULLER, BY	COL, USN	2860	43. STOCKDALE, JIM	COL, USN	2711
20. GILLESPIE, CHUCK	COL, USN	1988	44. STOCKHAM, HERVEY	LCOL, USAF	2372
21. GURPING, LARRY	MAJ, USAF	2801	45. STRATTON, DICK	LCOL, USN	2310
22. RUTTERSON, LAIRD	MAJ, USAF	1846	46. TANNER, WELS	LCOL, USN	2338
23. HUMES, JIM	LCOL, USAF	2138	47. WEBB, BOB	CAPT, USAF	2018
24. JAMES, CHARLIE	COL, USN	1761			

ROOM 7 HAD THE FIRST ORGANIZED CHURCH SERVICE TO BE HELD IN THE PRISONS OF NORTH VIETNAM. PERMISSION WAS ASKED FOR BY STOCKDALE, AND TWICE DENIED BY THE CAMP COMMANDER. THE ROOM WAS WARNED NOT TO DO IT. ROOM 7 DECIDED TO DO IT ANYWAY.

RINGLEADERS, RISNER, COKER AND RUTLEDGE WERE LED OUT OF THE ROOM WITH GUARDS AT EACH ARM (THEY WERE HEADED FOR MORE HEARTBREAK HOTEL, SOLITARY CONFINEMENT AND LOTS OF PUNISHMENT). BUD DAY WAS THE ONE WHO THEN JUMPED UP ON HIS BED AND STARTED TO SING "THE NATIONAL ANTHEM".

ROBBIE LATER RECALLED HIS THOUGHTS AS HIS ROOMMATES BURST OUT IN SONG, "I FELT LIKE I WAS NINE FEET TALL AND COULD GO BEAR HUNTING WITH A SWITCH."

THIRTY ONE YEARS LATER, ON NOVEMBER 16, 2001 A NINE-FOOT TALL BRONZE STATUE OF BRIGADIER GENERAL ROBINSON RISNER, USAF, WOULD BE DEDICATED ON THE CENTRAL PLAZA OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY.

I FELT LIKE I WAS NINE FEET TALL

MILITARYSTORYPOETRY.WORDPRESS.COM ©2022 JHM PHOTOGRAPHICS #001

This Is How 'RED Friday' Became a Thing and Why It Still Matters Today

We Are The Mighty | By Eric Milzarski

It's a tiny act that means much more than people seem to realize. On Fridays, civilians back home wear an article of red clothing — a shirt, a tie, anything — as a reminder to all to Remember Everyone Deployed. These Fridays became known as R.E.D. Friday.

Today, you'll see this tradition honored by most AAFES workers, military family members, and supporters of the troops, but it actually got its start about a dozen years ago. Let's talk about how this patriotic way of showing your support for the troops that are in harm's way got started and why it's an important movement.

If every one of our members shares this with other acquaintances, fellow workers, friends, and neighbors, I guarantee that it will not be long before the USA will be covered in RED — and make our troops know there are many people thinking of their well-being. You will feel better all day Friday when you wear RED!

Now, there's no telling if this chain email tactic is really what got people wearing red on Fridays, but if it was, it has to be one of the only times that people actually read one of those chain emails.

For once, we're lucky that forwards from grandma don't get filtered directly into spam...

In March, 2006, another more-tangible movement began in Canada that implored subscribers to wear red to support the troops who are deployed. Now, there's no telling if this movement got its start from the previously-mentioned email chain, but they do credit it as being an "American initiative."

Military spouses Lisa Miller and Karen Boier organized an event and rallied

many of their fellow Canadians to show up wearing red. While the "RED" is the color that fits the acronym, it also happens to work perfectly with the Canadian flag.

These events gathered steam and grew continuously until, eventually, its reach extended all the way up to the Canadian Prime Minister, Stephen Harper. On Sept 23rd, 2006, Harper led a rally of thousands in a show of solidarity for the Canadian soldiers deployed to Afghanistan as part of the Global War on Terrorism.

The tradition may not entirely be an American concept, but the sentiment is the same. Our brothers to the North still have troops in harm's way, too. (Air Force photo by Justin Connaher)

RED Fridays seem to wax and wane in terms of popularity among civilians, but the core of the movement is important: to Remember Everyone Deployed. The Global War on Terrorism is now officially older than troops eligible to enlist and serve in that same war — it's important to remember that we've still got men and women out there fighting for us.

It's not hard to show your support for the troops: Simply pick something red from your wardrobe and be ready to wear it on Friday, volunteer your time organizing care packages for troops who still need essential items, or write a deployed troop. I know from personal experience that every letter I received was a boost to morale that I happily honored with a reply. Simple gestures go a long way.

Remember everyone deployed.



SMOKY, THE WAR DOG

Smoky was probably born in 1943. The tiny Yorkshire Terrier was found by American soldiers in an abandoned fox hole on the island of New Guinea. He weighed about 4 pounds and was 7 inches tall. He was soon sold to Corporal William Wynne for \$6. They became fast friends. Wynne



was an airman. He slept on a blanket in Wynne's tent. Wynne shared his rations with the little dog. He went on 12 reconnaissance and rescue missions. He survived 150 air raids and a typhoon on Okinawa. He once saved Wynne's life when he warned him of a Japanese shell that ended up killing or wounding eight other men. His greatest feat was pulling a telegraph wire through a 70-foot pipe. It was a tight fit and very scary, but Smoky made it through, saving a lot of time and a dangerous task for engineers.

Wynne would bring Smoky to hospitals. In one of them, his presence caused an uncommunicative PTSD patient to start talking. He also entertained groups of soldiers like a very tiny USO show. Smoky had a lot of tricks that he could do. When the war ended, he returned home to America and quickly became a national celebrity. He toured the U.S. for many years and appeared on TV doing his tricks. He also was a common sight at veterans' hospitals. One of his tricks was walking a tightrope blindfolded. He is considered to be the first therapy dog. He died in 1957. In 2022, he was awarded the Animals in War and Peace Distinguished Service Medal. He was the first dog to receive the newly created medal to honor valorous animals.

Marine Corps League - Jacksonville

You're invited: Memorial dedication ceremony



Jacksonville community partners,

Please join Marine Corps League of Jacksonville for a special dedication to honor all past, present and future Marines, FMF Navy Corpsman and FMF Navy Chaplains.

October 21, 2023 at 0930

Dedication and celebration: Jacksonville National Cemetery
4083 Lannie Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32218

Guest Speaker: LtGen Richard T. Tryon
USMC Ret., Deputy Commandant for Plans, Policies and Operations

Post dedication reception:
Lannie Road Baptist Church, 5998 Lannie Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32218

Monument supporters:

MCL Detachment Members, Bullseye Charlie Dublin rifle auction, Shoreline Wealth Mgmt., Pesterfield Wealth Mgmt., Vietnam Veterans of America, Teamsters Union 512 and 947, Realco Recycling Company, Northside Collision, Navy Federal Credit Union, Semper Fidelis Society, Commonwealth Roofing Co, Fleet Reserve Association Fund and Club 290, ILA Clerks and Checkers Local 1593, Ironworkers Local 597, American Legion Post 88, Jacksonville Skeet and Trap Club, Lake City Elks Club, Eleven Atlantic Charities LLC, Mr. & Mrs. Aoki, Roxana Barnes, Brenda Boone, Dorothy Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Camara, Mr. and Mrs. Catlin, Tony D'Aleo, Jeanette Doolittle, Keith and Ethel Enos, Joyce Enos, Sayo Enos, Stephen Fudjinski, Barbara Grissom, Mr. and Mrs. Hall, Kevin and Judy Hession, Mr. and Mrs. Hufett, Brian Kennedy, Mr. and Mrs. Lacouture, Mr. and Mrs. Lessler, Mr. and Mrs. Litchford, Mr. and Mrs. Lung, Mr. and Mrs. McDonald, Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Myers, Mr. and Mrs. Lanahan, Mr. and Mrs. Paulino, Don Shugart, Mike Tessler, Janet Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. Urick, Henry Vorpe, Mr. and Mrs. Walters, Mr. and Mrs. Wihour, Jack and Sheila Caulkins, and others working gun show collections.



Florida Marine Corps League Det 059
PO Box 331419
Atlantic Beach, FL 32233
Meetings: Five Star Veterans Center, 40 Acme St
0930 Breakfast 1000 meeting
www.mcljacksonville.org
1st Saturday each month



From the St. Johns County Parks & Recreation Dept.

Do you know a Military Veteran with a *Blank Space* on their calendar? Check out our upcoming Veteran Programs (SJC Parks and Recreation's Version).

Veteran Fishing: Don't be overwhelmed by fishing regulations, *Shake It Off* and learn all about Keeping It Legal in September. Then join us to explore the *Wonderland* of Surf Fishing in October!

Veteran Art: Discover your artistic *Style* and try out a different art medium every month. Upcoming programs include Print Making and Pumpkin Painting!

Veteran Kayaking: *I Know Places* for some great wildlife viewing in and *Out Of The Woods* around Hallowes Cove and in Deep Creek this fall.

All You Had To Do Was Stay until the end of this post and you'd find the link for more information and program registration here: <https://bit.ly/46HMhEt>



wjct | PUBLIC MEDIA

Why "Thank you for your service" May Not be Enough: Talking to Our Veterans

November 6, 2023

ABOUT THE EVENT:

Join WJCT for a community conversation about the rewards and challenges of military life and exploring ways to express gratitude for someone's service. Clips will be shown from the PBS program, **After Action** featuring conversations about life before, during and after action that provide a deeper appreciation for those who've served.

November 6, 2023
6 PM - Reception
7 PM - Panel Discussion

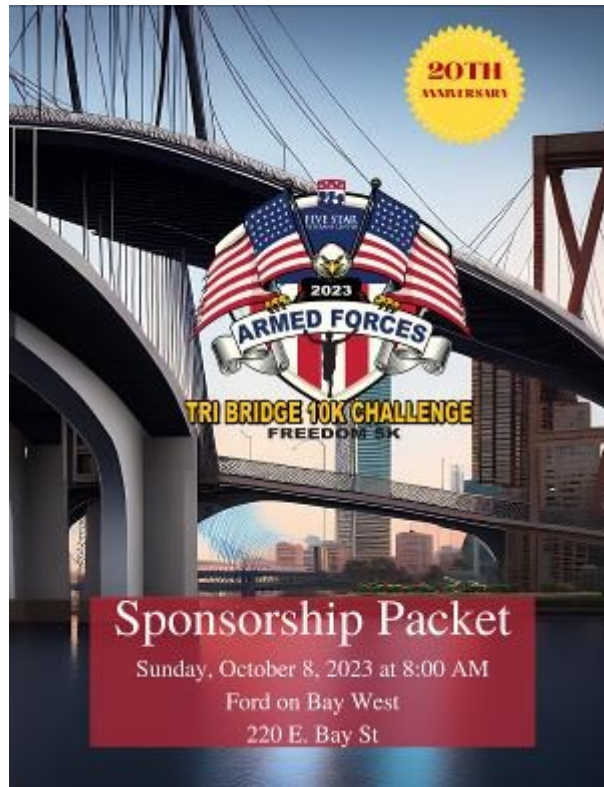
SPONSORSHIP INCLUDES:

- Company name and logo on 30 television spots
- Logo inclusion in promotion on wjct.org
- Logo on E-blast invitation
- Company name recognition from the stage
- Signage at the event
- Sponsor may have a display table
- 4 reserved tickets to the event
- Association with a high-profile program

YOUR INVESTMENT: \$2,500

in partnership with





2023 SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Proceeds to Benefit the Five Star Veterans Center

The 20th Annual Armed Forces Tri-Bridge 10K Challenge (formerly the Half Marathon) & Freedom 5K will be on Sunday, October 8th, starting at 8 AM! A new Start/Finish line and race registration and post-race celebration expo at Ford on Bay, 220 E. Bay St (Old Jacksonville City Hall).

The inaugural marathon, then named the Marine Corps Half Marathon & Freedom 5K, was held on Saturday, October 2, 2004, setting the tone for Fall events in the Southeastern United States. Throughout the years, registration for this marathon has averaged 4,000-plus runners throughout many states. What began simply as a Saturday race in Jacksonville has evolved into a weekend celebration of running, physical fitness, and tributes to our military and veterans that have served our great nation.



The mission of the Five Star Veterans Center is to: Rebuild the lives of veterans in crisis to ensure they thrive in civilian life.

Commander-In-Chief Presenting Sponsor \$25,000

- Corporate recognition / exclusive and prominent listing as "Presenting Sponsor" on all related program collateral (posters, print ads, flyers, and brochures), Five Star Veterans Center / Event website(s), as well as inclusion in all media (paid and PR) and all social media channels affiliated with the program.
- 50 race participant registrations.
- Prominent Recognition at the Five Star Veterans Center.
- Right to Co-Brand as Presenting Sponsor with the Armed Forces Tri-Bridge 10K Challenge & Freedom 5K to include: the right to establish a race-day "quadruple tent pavilion" with the company's products and representatives at Finish Line. If you do not have a branded tent, we will provide one.
- Prominent Recognition on our website, social media channels, as well as in our e-newsletter reaching over 15,000 of our military community members.
- Large Color Logo centered on the back of all race t-shirts and positioned on Race Bits.
- Large Color Logo on all course banners and signage.
- Exclusive recognition at the sponsorship dinner at the date and place TBD, with community leaders from the military, government, press, and businesses to celebrate the partnership with the Five Star Veterans Center.

Secretary of Defense Sponsor**\$20,000**

- Corporate recognition (government listing as "Secretary of Defense Sponsor" on all related program collateral (posters, print ads, flyers, and brochures), Five Star Veterans Center / Event website(s), as well as inclusion in all media (paid and PR) and all social media channels.
- 40 race participant registrations.
- Prominent Recognition at the Five Star Veterans Center.
- Prominent Recognition on our website, social media channels, as well as in our e-newsletter reaching over 15,000 of our military community members.
- Right to Co-Brand as "Secretary of Defense Sponsor" with the Armed Forces Tri-Bridge 10K Challenge & Freedom 5K to include the right to establish a race-day "tent pavilion" with company representatives and collateral at Finish Line. If you do not have a branded tent, we will provide one.
- Color Logo in a prominent position on the back of all race t-shirts.
- Color Logo on pavilion banners.
- Recognition at the sponsorship dinner at the date and place TBD, with community leaders from the military, government, press, and businesses to celebrate the partnership with the Five Star Veterans Center.

Joint Chief Sponsor**\$15,000**

- Corporate recognition (listing as "Joint Chief Sponsor" on all related program collateral (posters, print ads, flyers, and brochures), Five Star Veterans Center / Event website(s), as well as inclusion in all media (paid and PR) and all social media channels affiliated with the program.
- 30 race participant registrations.
- Prominent Recognition at the Five Star Veterans Center.
- A press conference will be planned to unveil the recognition at a location to be determined with invited press and military dignitaries.
- Recognition on our website, social media channels, as well as in our e-newsletter reaching over 15,000 of our military community members.
- Right to Co-Brand as "Joint Chief Sponsor" with the Armed Forces Tri-Bridge 10K Challenge & Freedom 5K to include the right to establish a race-day "tent pavilion" with company representatives and collateral at the Finish Line. If you do not have a branded tent, we will provide one.
- Color Logo listed on the back of all race t-shirts.
- Logo or Company Name on all course banners and signage.
- Exclusive recognition at the sponsorship dinner at the date and place TBD, with community leaders from the military, government, press, and businesses to celebrate the partnership with the Five Star Veterans Center.

Special Forces Sponsor**\$ 10,000**

- Corporate recognition (listing as "Special Forces Sponsor" on all related program collateral (posters, print ads, flyers, and brochures), Five Star Veterans Center / Event website(s), as well as inclusion in all media (paid and PR), and all social media channels affiliated with the program.
- 20 race participant registrations.
- Recognition at the Five Star Veterans Center.
- Recognition on our website, social media channels, and weekly e-newsletter reach over 15,000 military community members.
- Right to Co-Brand as "Special Forces Sponsor" with the Armed Forces Tri-Bridge 10K Challenge & Freedom 5K to include the right to establish a race-day "tent pavilion" with company representatives and collateral at Finish Line. If you do not have a branded tent, we will provide one.
- Color Logo listed on the back of all race t-shirts.
- Recognition at the sponsorship dinner at the date and place TBD, with community leaders from the military, government, press, and businesses to celebrate the partnership with the Five Star Veterans Center.

Distinguished Service Sponsor**\$ 5,000**

- Corporate recognition (listing as "Distinguished Services Sponsor" on all related program collateral (posters, print ads, flyers, and brochures) where possible and appropriate, Five Star Veterans Center / Event website (s), as well as inclusion on all social media channels affiliated with the program.
- 10 race participant registrations.
- Recognition at the Five Star Veterans Center.
- Recognition on our website, social media channels, and e-newsletter reaches over 15,000 military community members.
- The right to Co-Brand as a "Distinguished Services Sponsor" with the Armed Forces Tri-Bridge 10K Challenge & Freedom 5K includes establishing a race-day "tent pavilion" with company representatives and collateral at Finish Line.
- Color Logo listed on the back of all race t-shirts.
- If you do not have a branded tent, we will provide one.
- Recognition at the sponsorship dinner at the date and place TBD, with community leaders from the military, government, press, and businesses to celebrate the partnership with Five Star Veterans Center.

Uniformed Services Sponsor**\$ 2,500**

- Company listing as "Uniformed Services Sponsor" Five Star Veterans Center / Event website(s) and inclusion on all social media channels affiliated with the program.
- 5 race participant registrations.
- Recognition at the Five Star Veterans Center.
- Company Name listed on the back of all race t-shirts.
- Mention at the sponsorship dinner at a date and place TBD, with community leaders from the military, government, press, and businesses to celebrate the partnership with Five Star Veterans Center.

Patriot Sponsor – Various In-Kind Donations**\$1,500**

- The value of GOODS must be at least \$1,500 (water, sports drinks, food, comfort items, etc.)
- If you do not have a branded tent, we will provide a tent for you.
- Recognition on Race Day and our website for one year.
- Provide 2,500 marketing materials or goodie bag items to be placed in the race bag.
- Other benefits and recognition TBD based on gifts and/or services provided.

For information regarding sponsorship, please contact Mike O'Brien, Development Director at mohrien@5svc.org or please call the office at (904) 723-5950.

 inbridge10kchallenge.org

 @jainbridge10kchallenge

 @jainbridge10kchallenge

Camp Lejeune Water Victims Offered Quicker Payout Option by Navy and Justice Department

6 Sep 2023 Military.com |

By Rebecca Kheel



Some veterans and family members sickened during the decades of contaminated drinking water at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, will be able to choose to take a standard payout from the government if they want their claims resolved faster, the Navy and Justice Department announced Wednesday.

Under the so-called "elective option" unveiled Wednesday, claimants can get between \$100,000 and \$550,000, depending on their diagnosis and how long they were exposed to the toxic water.

Officials said they hope the new option will speed up processing for the tens of thousands of claims that have been filed since last year and more quickly give closure to veterans and others.

"The elective option is a critical step in bringing relief to qualifying claimants impacted by the contaminated water at Camp Lejeune, who will now have an avenue for receiving quick and early resolution of claims under the Camp Lejeune Justice Act," Associate Attorney General Vanita Gupta said in a news release Wednesday.

The Camp Lejeune Justice Act, which was passed last year as part of the sweeping PACT Act, created a pathway for former Marines, sailors and families poisoned by contaminated drinking water at the military base to sue and recover damages. Those harmed by the water can file an administrative claim with the Navy, and if the service denies the claim or takes longer than six months to respond, they can then sue in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina.

More than 93,000 administrative claims have been filed since the law was enacted, a

number that is expected to grow until the Aug. 10, 2024, deadline to file a claim, officials said Wednesday. Another 1,100 lawsuits have already been filed.

To qualify for the new elective option, claimants must have specific illnesses that have been previously linked to the chemicals at Camp Lejeune and been exposed to the water for a specific amount of time.

Those diagnosed with kidney cancer, liver cancer, non-Hodgkin lymphoma, leukemia and bladder cancer could receive settlements of \$450,000 if they were exposed for more than five years; \$300,000 if they were exposed between one year and five years; or \$150,000 if they were exposed between 30 and 364 days.

Those suffering from multiple myeloma, Parkinson's disease, kidney disease (end stage renal disease) or systemic sclerosis/systemic scleroderma would get settlement offers of \$400,000 for exposures of more than than five years; \$250,000 for between one years and five years of exposure; or \$100,000 for exposures between 30 and 364 days.

Claims involving death would get another \$100,000, according to the news release.

Officials will reach out to anyone who has already filed a claim who is eligible, the release adds. Once a settlement is offered, claimants have 60 days to accept or deny it, and if they accept it, they can expect to get paid within 60 days, according to Navy guidance. Claimants who deny the offer can still pursue their administrative claim or file a lawsuit, according to the guidance.

Those who don't qualify for the elective option can still file an administrative claim or sue, it adds.

More information on filing a Camp Lejeune water claim and the elective option is available at www.navy.mil/clja/.

5th Annual

2023 GOLF TOURNAMENT




MON
OCT 30th
2023



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

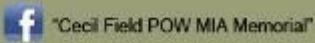
Monday, October 30, 2023

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

**Deadline to Register:
October 23, 2023**

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

Follow the 2023 Golf Tournament
Event from our Facebook page:



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

CECIL FIELD POW/MIA MEMORIAL IS A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION - REGISTRATION NUMBER: C187894. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE, (800) 455-7332, 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. EIN: 7954. CONTRIBUTIONS ARE DEDUCTIBLE.

5th Annual

2023  **GOLF**

TOURNAMENT

**TOURNAMENT/HOLE SPONSOR PACKAGES
AND PLAYER FEES**

TOURNAMENT SPONSOR **\$5500**

PLATINUM SPONSOR **\$2500**

- Listed as Platinum Sponsor on:
 - Hole Sponsor Signage
 - Tournament Program
 - Facebook Event Page
 - Website with link to sponsor's website
- Recognition at Tournament Award Ceremony
- Up to Eight (8) player entries

GOLD SPONSOR **\$1500**

- Listed as Gold Sponsor on:
 - Hole Sponsor Signage
 - Tournament Program
 - Facebook Event Page
 - Website with link to sponsor's website
- Up to Six (6) player entries

SILVER SPONSOR **\$1000**

- Listed as Silver Sponsor on:
 - Hole Sponsor Signage
 - Tournament Program
 - Facebook Event Page
 - Website with link to sponsor's website
- Up to Four (4) player entries

SINGLE PLAYER FEE **\$150**

- Includes:
 - Tournament Entry
 - Tournament Hat
 - Dinner

TOURNAMENT/HOLE SPONSOR FORM AND PLAYER REGISTRATION FORM ATTACHED.

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**5th ANNUAL NATIONAL POW/MIA MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM
2023 GOLF TOURNAMENT
TOURNAMENT/HOLE SPONSORSHIP & INDIVIDUAL
REGISTRATION FORM**

Hole Sponsor Information

Company Name _____ Company Phone (____) _____
Company Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Contact Name _____
Contact Phone _____ Email _____

Sponsorship Level:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tournament Sponsor (\$5500) | <input type="checkbox"/> Silver Sponsor (\$1000) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Platinum Sponsor (\$2500) | <input type="checkbox"/> Single Player (\$150) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gold Sponsor (\$1500) | |

Donations:

- Separate donation in support of National POW/MIA Memorial and Museum \$ _____
-

Important Sponsorship Information:

1. Payment of sponsorship donation or player registration fee(s) can be done online at powmiamemorial.org or mail check payable to "National POW/MIA Memorial and Museum" to: **ATTN: 2023 Golf Tournament**
National POW/MIA Memorial and Museum
6112 POW-MIA Memorial Pkwy.
Jacksonville, FL 32221
 2. For those sponsorship levels that include golf participation, please register each golfer by **Monday, October 23, 2023**
-

Player 1 Name _____ Phone (____) _____
Email Address _____

Player 2 Name _____ Phone (____) _____
Email Address _____

Player 3 Name _____ Phone (____) _____
Email Address _____

Player 4 Name _____ Phone (____) _____
Email Address _____

****Additional players may be added on a separate sheet.***

CECIL FIELD POW/MIA MEMORIAL IS A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION - REGISTRATION NUMBER: 041569. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE, 800 435 7362, WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. (CECIL FIELD POW/MIA MEMORIAL IS AN (RS 501)(C)(3), PUBLIC CHARITY, (DB 31954. CONTRIBUTIONS ARE DEDUCTIBLE.



Stories of Service

St. Johns County Veterans Oral History Project



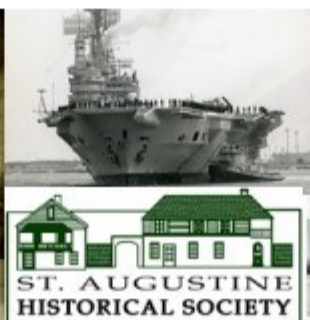
Stories of Service is an oral history project that aims to collect, document, and preserve the stories of local veterans for future generations by conducting audio interviews with them.



If you'd like to learn more about this project, contact Robert Covert:



904-825-2333 ext 203
 robert@sahs1883.com





248th Birthday

NAVY BALL

Hosted by NSB Kings Bay, NAS Jacksonville,
NS Mayport

FRIDAY
OCTOBER 13

JACKSONVILLE RIVER FRONT
HYATT REGENCY

DOORS OPEN AT 6:00PM

The Events

**BIRTHDAY CEREMONY
GALA DINNER
DANCING & PRIZES**

TICKET

\$80

Per Person

ON-LINE
TICKET PURCHASE



For ticket information:

YNSC ZANE · 912-573-9620 · NSB KINGS BAY
CSCS BROWN · 904-270-3529 · NS MAYPORT
CSCS FRAZIER · 443-564-0934 · NAS JACKSONVILLE

V4V

VETS4VETS

Inform ★ Connect ★ Unite ★ Organize

"Brand New Day"

Save the Date:

Quarterly Gathering

Saturday January 6th 2024

Veterans Memorial Arena



3RD ANNUAL

**Hear Her Voice,
Hear Our Voices
Gala**

PRESENTS

Hero's Journey



11 • 4 • 23

At 06:00 PM

**Palencia Club
600 Palencia Club Dr,
St. Augustine, FL 32095**



GET YOUR TICKETS HERE

**Emcee:
Jasmine Boothe**



**Keynote Speaker:
Jean Gautreaux**



LAW ENFORCEMENT

K9 COMPETITION



Presented By:
K9s UNITED

SATURDAY, 1 - 5 P.M.

NOVEMBER 18, 2023

BISHOP KENNY ATHLETIC COMPLEX
1055 KINGMAN AVE, JACKSONVILLE, FL 32207

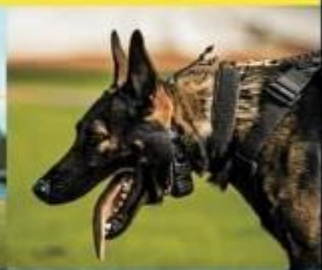
This event will showcase the remarkable skills of police dogs. K9 teams throughout the state will compete in a timed obstacle course meant to mimic situations the officers and dogs may encounter while doing police work.

All money will benefit K9s United to help fulfill their mission in supporting law enforcement K9 units here in NE Florida.



k9competition.eventbrite.com

\$5 Adults | Kids 18 & Under FREE | FREE Parking



K-9 Photobooth | Specialized Units | Kids Activities | Food Trucks

★★★ **PROJECT HELP** ★★★

CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT

COME OUT FOR FUN,
FOOD, LIVE MUSIC, CRAFT
VENDORS, AND COMPETITION
AT OUR FIRST-EVER CHARITY
CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT FOR
OUR STRUGGLING VETERANS!

DATE

**10/21
2023**

REGISTRATION
DEADLINE

**10/01
2023**

FEE

\$100

PER TEAM
(16 SLOTS)

CONTACT

**904-304-
6228**



BOONE SOUTH PARK

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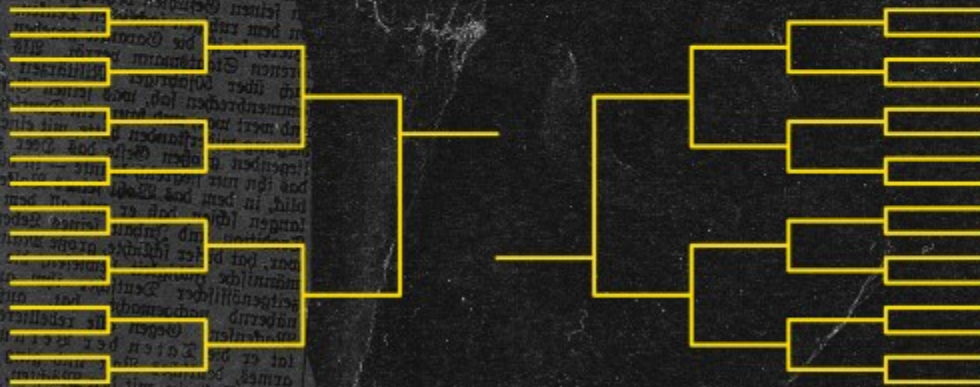
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PROJECT





LEAVE A LEGACY

at the St Augustine Lighthouse
& Maritime Museum



Military Honor Plaza



Commemorative Brick

\$300

Each brick features 3 lines of 20 characters.

We suggest that the brick include the individual's name, rank and branch of service.

Includes a certificate suitable for framing. We reserve the right to approve any text prior to ordering the brick.

The St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum is proud to announce the opening of the Military Honor Plaza featuring commemorative bricks to honor members of the nation's armed forces. During World War II, the St. Augustine Light Station served as a United States Coast Guard station. Housed in the former Coast Guard Barracks built in 1941, "the Guardians of the First Coast: Building Readiness for World War II" exhibit highlights the history of northeast Florida in the early years of World War II.





NATIONAL LEAGUE OF POW/MIA FAMILIES
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100, Falls Church, VA 22041
Chartered May 28, 1970

www.pow-miafamilies.org

PH --703/465-7432

STATUS OF THE POW/MIA ISSUE: August 26, 2023

1,578 Americans are now listed by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) as missing and unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War: Vietnam - 1,238; Laos--285; Cambodia-48; Peoples Republic of China territorial waters--7. On March 23rd, DPAA posted the accounting for two USAF officers, listed MIA in Vietnam on April 12, 1969. Their identities – Colonel Ernest DeSoto and Captain Frederick Hall – were released on April 7, 2023.

These country numbers fluctuate due to investigations resulting in changed locations of loss. The League seeks the fullest possible accounting for those still missing and repatriation of all recoverable remains, and the highest priority is accounting for Americans last known alive. US intelligence indicates some Americans known to be in captivity in Vietnam (SRV), Laos (LPDR) and Cambodia (KOC) were not returned at the end of the war. In the absence of evidence to the contrary, the US Government should not rule out that possibility and should try to account for them as a matter of highest national priority.

Vietnam established comprehensive wartime and post-war processes to collect and retain information and remains. Thus, Vietnam's unilateral efforts still offer significant potential, especially when reinforced by December 12, 2022, pledges by H.E. Minister of Public Security To Lam to League Chairman Ann Mills-Griffiths to look into all categories raised as needing unilateral SRV efforts.

Until the pandemic halted in-country operations, Vietnam had increased unilateral provision of long-sought archival records with relevant, case-related information. This was due in part to improved working-level efforts, but also to increased bilateral relations across the board. The January 2018 League Delegation brought commitments that offered real promise for increased success. SRV officials were participating with greater seriousness and professionalism, including Unilateral Recovery Teams (URT), led by Vietnamese, some of whom are US-trained. Budget reductions interfered with planning for FY2023, and only two small Joint Field Activities (JFAs) were scheduled. With a budget plus-up, two additional JFAs were added in an effort to "increase the pace and scope of field operations," as requested by Vietnam since 2009. Due to improved military-to-military cooperation, US Navy assets participated in underwater operations, as did DPAA partner, Scripps Institute of Oceanography.

After an initially tough period, JFAs in **Laos** began to increase productivity. Though more difficult than elsewhere, Laos is now authorizing an increased number of US personnel in-country for JFAs, allowing ground transportation to accessible field sites, and contracting an SRV drone company to provide smaller scale, more capable technology to pursue case-related investigations, recently resulting in trilateral US-LPDR-SRV operations. A Lao/Cambodian border dispute impeded field operations there but now, with no DPAA detachment in **Cambodia**, Stony Beach-led/private partner operations for FY 2023 resumed and are encouraging.

DIA's Stony Beach Team: One Cambodia specialist works full time at the US Embassy in Phnom Penh, and research and field operations in Cambodia have received excellent support from US Ambassador Patrick Murphy and Cambodian officials. US Ambassador to Laos, Dr. Peter Haymond, is knowledgeable and supports full use of DIA's Stony Beach (SB) specialist. Importantly, the LPDR authorized two additional Lao officials to work year-round with DIA's Stony Beach POW/MIA specialist, assigned full time in-country. Although Lao officials had approved SB field investigations outside DPAA-scheduled field operations, SB has recently been further restricted. For years, two Stony Beach personnel have rotated on temporary duty in and out of Vietnam, collecting information via archival research and interviewing witnesses. The League and DIA have long sought Vietnam's agreement to permanently station a Vietnam specialist in Hanoi, a proposal to which Vietnam finally agreed. Now, the Vietnam Office for Seeking Missing Persons (VNOSMP) has indicated that DIA's Stony Beach Vietnam specialists will be restricted to operating in the field only during DPAA-scheduled JFAs, an unacceptable restriction. Three Stony Beach specialists dealing with Vietnam recently participated in larger-scale field operations, but a permanent Stony Beach presence in Hanoi is still unfulfilled, due to the SRV's imposition of varied restrictions.

Comment: The greatest obstacles to increased Vietnam War accounting are 1) too few qualified US intelligence analysts; and 2) no current National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) to determine valid accounting expectations. Over 90% of unaccounted-for Vietnam War Veterans were lost in Vietnam and areas of Laos and Cambodia where SRV forces operated. Due to DPAA's refusal to request, much less conduct, an objective analysis, Executive Director Dr. Jay Veith is now finalizing the assessment to determine where the Vietnam War accounting mission stands. In view of international political and policy uncertainties, US-SRV bilateral relations are expected to grow from a comprehensive to a strategic partnership. **NOW IS THE TIME FOR INCREASED RESULTS!**

POW/MIA STATISTICS

Statistics provided by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) cannot be verified!

Live Sightings: 1,996 first-hand live sighting reports have been received since 1975, none recently. 1,941 (97.24%) are resolved: 1,340 (67.13%) equated to Americans previously accounted for (i.e. returned POWs, missionaries or civilians detained for violating SRV codes); 45 (2.25%) correlated to wartime sightings of military personnel or pre-1975 sightings of civilians still unaccounted-for; 556 (27.86%) were determined to be fabrications. The remaining 55 (2.76%) unresolved first-hand reports are the focus of continuing analytical and collection efforts: 48 (2.40%) concern Americans reported in a captive environment; 7 (0.35%) are non-captive sightings. The unresolved 55 first hand sightings are listed below:

Pre-1976	1976-1985	1986-1995	1996-2005	2006-2015	Total
36	3	1	14	1	55

Accountability: As of today, the Department of Defense lists **1,678** Americans as missing and unaccounted-for, over 90% of them in Vietnam and in areas of Cambodia and Laos where Vietnamese forces operated during the war. A breakdown by year of recovery for Americans accounted for from Vietnam War-related losses after the official end of the war on April 30, 1975 follows:

1965-1974	War years	2
1974-1975	Winding down USG effort	28
1976-1978	US/SRV normalization negotiations	47
1979-1980	US/SRV talks break down	1
1981-1985	1st Reagan Administration	23
1985-1989	2nd Reagan Administration	169
1989-1993	George H.W. Bush Administration	129
1993-1997	1st Clinton Administration	327
1997-2001	2nd Clinton Administration	57
2001-2004	1st George W. Bush Administration	64
2004-2008	2nd George W. Bush Administration	62
2008-2012	1 st Obama Administration	51
2012-2016	2 nd Obama Administration	27
2016-2020	Trump Administration	21
2020-2024	Biden Administration	6

According to the DPAA Lab, unilateral SRV repatriations of remains with scientific evidence of storage have accounted for less than 200 of the 730 remains from Vietnam; two were mistakenly listed as KIA/BNR in Vietnam in 1968, but remains were actually recovered at that time. All but nine of the 288 Americans accounted for in Laos since the end of the war have been the result of joint recoveries; nine were turned over by indigenous personnel to DIA Stony Beach specialists. In addition, three persons identified were recovered in Vietnam before the end of the war. There follows a breakdown by country of the **1,063 Americans accounted for since the official April 30, 1975, end of the Vietnam War:** Vietnam, 730; Laos, 268, Cambodia, 42 and the PRC, 3. An additional 63 US personnel were accounted for between 1973 and 1975. Of the 63, 9 were from Laos, 53 from Vietnam, and 1 from Cambodia for a **grand total of 1,126**. These Americans were accounted for by unilateral US efforts in areas where access was possible, not post-war cooperation with Vietnam, Laos or Cambodia. Added to results from government-to-government humanitarian cooperation post-war, a total of 297 have been recovered and identified from Laos, 783 from Vietnam, 43 from Cambodia and 3 from the PRC.

**For the latest information, call the League Office (703) 466-7432 or
check the League website: www.pow-miafamilies.org
CFC #10218**



**NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES OF AMERICAN
PRISONERS & MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA**
5672 Columbia Pike, Suite 100, Falls Church, VA 22041

703/465-7432

Chartered May 28, 1970

www.pow-miafamilies.org

VIETNAM'S ABILITY TO ACCOUNT FOR MISSING AMERICANS
August 26, 2023

Family members, veteran organizations and other POW/MIA supporters throughout the country consistently opposed steps to improve economic and political relations with Vietnam until their leaders decided to cooperate fully in accounting for America's POW/MIAs. The League supported a Reagan-developed policy of reciprocity – steps by the US to respond to efforts by Vietnam to locate and return remains and provide issue-related archival documents. During subsequent stages of the normalization process, important leverage was lost without commensurate results; however, there has since been much greater responsiveness by Vietnam.

One way of examining Vietnam's ability to respond more fully is to look at what US intelligence and other data confirmed at the end of the war. At that time, 196 missing Americans were last known alive in captivity or reliably reported alive in close proximity to capture. Vietnam knows that these high priority cases are directly related to the live prisoner issue and has improved responsiveness but, thus far, has accounted for fewer than expected of these Americans by returning identifiable remains or archival evidence as to why such is not possible. In that regard, archival documentation is as yet incomplete. In all but very few of these cases, joint field operations have reportedly been sufficient to confirm death. Logically, if deceased, remains of these Americans should be recoverable; they were in captivity or on the ground in proximity to Vietnamese forces (other than those who died in captivity in South Vietnam). Recent unilateral efforts by Vietnam to conduct recoveries and provide working level archival research and records are encouraging and most welcome, as is the increased number of partnership agreements being reached.

On unilateral SRV provision of Archives, US wartime and post-war reporting on specific cases, captured SRV documents on the handling of US prisoners and casualties, and wartime debriefs of communist captives, reinforced by US-monitored directives and other reporting, form a clear picture of a comprehensive Vietnamese system for collection of information and remains, dating back to the French-Indochina War. Vietnam's leaders placed great value on recovery and/or recording of burial locations of US remains. In wartime, if jeopardized by imminent discovery or recovery by US forces, burial to hide remains was immediate; remains were later disinterred, photographed, when possible, reburied or, when feasible, transferred to Hanoi. Evidence of this complex process was confirmed by US intelligence.

Community-wide intelligence assessments served as the basis for long-standing US estimates that Vietnam could account for hundreds of Americans by unilaterally locating and returning remains. In 1986-87, the entire intelligence community concluded that Vietnam could unilaterally account for a significant number of US remains. The evidence was subsequently evaluated to establish the most realistic targets for Vietnam's government to meet. A thorough assessment was requested of DoD to weigh cooperation to date against earlier evidence-based expectations and determine realistic goals. Results were expected early in 2022 but, on September 15, 2022, the League was informed that a two-page assessment was published, but viewed by DPAA as "useless." Since that time, and despite several compelling requests sent to senior US officials, the DPAA Director has declined to request or conduct the intelligence assessment.

In his most recent refusal letter, DPAA Director Kelly McKeague stated, "an intelligence assessment may have been helpful in the past [but] it is anachronistic today given DoD's increasingly solid relationship with the VNOSMP, and as illustrated in assistance the government and people in Vietnam invariably provide to our accounting effort."¹ The VNOSMP, or Vietnam Office for Seeking Missing Persons, just celebrated its 50th anniversary at a highly visible ceremony in Hanoi, attended by the DPAA Director. Since US-SRV cooperation began in the mid-1980s, their interagency personnel comprising the VNOSMP have managed incoming funds and the level of SRV cooperation directed by the Politburo.

With the DPAA Director's third refusal, there was no longer any option for the League but to undertake the assessment necessary to determine realistic expectations, central to forming operational plans to accomplish and establish core objectives. League Executive Director Dr. Jay Veith is now focused on finalizing the needed assessment on SRV archives that have been and could yet be provided unilaterally if Hanoi decides it is in their interest. Due to pressing international policy and political concerns, now is a critical time to consider increasing bilateral and multilateral relations across the board. With Vietnam, that means moving from a comprehensive partnership to a comprehensive strategic one, a step the League has worked to support, so NOW IS THE TIME.

¹ Letter from Kelly McKeague, Director, DPAA, to Ann Mills-Griffiths, League Chair of the Board, April 12, 2023.

On unilateral SRV provision of remains, sources such as the mortician in 1979, substantiated in the 1980s by others, highlighted remains collection and storage as key aspects of Vietnam's policy leading to discussions with the US. After arduous and sustained negotiations, the US and Vietnam reached agreement to return remains of Americans that had been stored for years. Thus far, the number repatriated has not met evidence-based US expectations.

Forensic evidence serves as another basis for establishing expectations. Per the DPAA Lab, scientific evidence of above or below ground storage, or both, exists on fewer than 200 of the 730 identified remains returned from Vietnam since the end of the war. The count, confirmed by DPAA forensic scientists, is far below US expectations, based on reliable intelligence indicating that many more were recovered and stored by the Vietnamese government and could be repatriated, if authorized by Vietnam's leadership.

During a September 1982 ABC "Nightline" program, the late Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Co Thach denied that Vietnam was holding any US remains. In 1983, Vietnam returned eight remains with clear evidence of storage. Vietnam later admitted storage of remains. In 1985, following up an initiative through a regional government, a US National Security Council (NSC) official met privately with an SRV Politburo member during an NSC-led US delegation to Hanoi in which the League participated. The carefully drawn plan was for negotiations on live prisoners and remains, but the minister indicated live prisoners were not on the table for discussion. Rather, as discussed with a third party, the subject was a large number of remains.

Negotiations in 1985 for a two-year plan brought the largest number of remains obtained to that point; nearly all showed evidence of long-term storage. Two specific cases were officially presented to officials in Hanoi in 1985-86, requesting unilateral assistance. Both losses were assessed by US officials as having occurred in Laos, in areas under Vietnamese control during the war. One was returned unilaterally in 1988, 98% complete and stored above ground since his 1972 incident along the border between Vietnam and Laos. From 1985 – 1989, 169 remains were repatriated, most showing clear evidence of long-term storage. In addition to locating remains in highly populated areas, Vietnam repatriated stored remains from Cambodia and remote locations.

In 1991 and 1993, the SRV provided grave registration lists with names of unaccounted-for Americans. Inclusion of these names appears to have been an intentional signal, as was filtering through private channels photographs of deceased Americans, some of whose remains have yet to be returned. SRV leaders directed combat photography; their soldiers did not own personal cameras, much less carry them. Regardless of mixed or conflicting assessments, these and other actions by SRV officials signaled the US of remains availability. At the time, remains fragments in Vietnam's possession were not repatriated, believed not to be identifiable, but US ability to identify very fragmentary remains has dramatically improved. If not yet fully repatriated, now is the time for all fragmentary, potential US remains to be returned.

In his March 20, 2002, Certification to Congress, President George W. Bush formalized criteria for steps Vietnam should take unilaterally to be fully responsive on the accounting effort, further defined by Secretaries of State Powell and Rice three times. On March 7, 2008, the Bush Administration issued its Determination to Congress stating, *".....we urge Vietnam to work aggressively to improve tangibly its unilateral provision of POW/MIA-related documents and records, focused initially on archival data pertaining to Americans captured, missing or killed in areas of Laos and Cambodia under wartime Vietnamese control. Vietnam should also focus greater attention on locating and providing information on discrepancy cases with priority on those last known alive in captivity or in immediate proximity to capture, and to locating and repatriating the remains of those who died while in Vietnamese control that have not yet been returned..."*

Vietnam's cooperation has continued to improve, including provision of some archival documents. There remain sensitive areas seldom accessible by US officials, but most are no longer off-limits. Importantly, SRV officials are now unilaterally conducting investigations, locating witnesses and making them available. With the DoD decision due to COVID restrictions, DPAA canceled all joint field operations for almost two years. In the interim, SRV officials authorized unilateral recoveries in various areas, a long-sought, welcome development with positive results. CDR Paul Charvet, USN, MIA in 1967, was unilaterally recovered Aug-Sep 2020 in the Hon Me area off the coast of northern Vietnam and identified on March 1, 2021. Unilateral recoveries in this area are a long-sought goal and adding private partnerships would likely help increase results that end the uncertainty of Vietnam War POW/MIA families. December 12, 2022, pledges by SRV Minister of Public Security To Lam to address increased unilateral steps are encouraging.

Information obtained from post-war US field operations reveals that central SRV authorities systematically directed the recovery of American remains. Eyewitnesses reported central-level supervision of remains recoveries of US personnel. Vietnam's leaders have repeatedly pledged to renew and increase their own efforts to locate and return remains and provide relevant documents, and have moved incrementally. Recently, SRV responsiveness has further increased. Further Increasing military-to-military cooperation and moving toward a comprehensive strategic partnership means now is the time for Vietnam to accelerate unilateral efforts to close these historic gaps.



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We are inviting Military Veterans and a spouse or supporter to join us at no cost for a weekend of camp fun. Veterans will enjoy taking part in camp activities, such as canoeing, archery, the zipline and barn visits. We look forward to a memorable retreat and a chance for everyone to relax and become a kid again!

Ages 18 and older only please.

Scan the QR code to register!

This is for all prior service members regardless of discharge status. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. A \$25 deposit per person is required to be refunded only upon check-in.



Important:

Bring Photo ID and signed waiver to receive a complimentary camo tote and camp map. Each person will need to bring their own twin-size bedding and toiletries. Tent camping will be available if preferred but you must bring your own tent. Participants may also join the fun on **Saturday only** but will need to contact Dana Troeger at dtroeger@fcymca.org to make this arrangement ahead of time.

Recommended items:

Sneakers/Closed-toed shoes, Hat, Sunglasses, Bug Spray and Sunscreen. You may bring your own lawn chairs, but not required. Water stations will be available throughout the day at camp.

Military Outreach Partners:

FCYMCA.org



From the VFW Aux-National Organization

Spread patriotism through song!



Youth are encouraged to enter the VFW Auxiliary's national anthem singing contest, Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue! Contestants may sing "The Star-Spangled Banner" in the arrangement and genre of their choice: rock, pop, reggae, R&B, hip-hop, country, classical and other genres are accepted. But they can't change the words!

The contest consists of two grade divisions: K-8 and 9-12. Entries are due to a local VFW Auxiliary by March 31, 2024.

Visit <https://vfwauxiliary.org/what-we-do/youth-activities/> for contest eligibility, rules, an entry form, to see the 2023 winners' videos and more.



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MARINE FOR LIFE NETWORK

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We focus on connecting Marine Veterans to local and national resources, as well as encouraging networking through Marine For Life events and meet ups.

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marineforlife.org

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★ Small, friendly group setting ★

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August 18, 2023 12:00 pm – 1:00 p.m.	Dissolution of Marriage (“Divorce”)
September 1, 2023 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Paternity, Visitation, and Child Support
September 15, 2023 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Landlord/Tenant and Housing Issues
October 6, 2023 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Bankruptcy and Credit Issues
October 20, 2023 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Wills, Powers of Attorney, Living Wills, and Healthcare documents

Please Note: Lunches will not be provided, but feel free to bring your own. Attorneys will not be accepting cases for representation. Attorneys will provide general information on the above areas of law.

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As of July 16, 2022 the United States transitioned to using the three digit dialing code of 988 press 1 in addition to the existing Veterans Crisis Line of 1-800-273-8255 press 1

FACTS ABOUT 988

ACCESSIBLE - It serves as a universal entry point so that no matter where you live, you can reach a trained crisis counselor who can help people in suicidal crisis or mental health-related distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, across the U.S.

COMPREHENSIVE - 988 is a direct connection to compassionate care and support for anyone experiencing mental health related distress whether that is thoughts of suicide mental health or substance use crisis or any other kind of emotional distress

FOR EVERYONE - People can also dial 988 if they are worried about a loved one or someone who may need crisis support



988

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I am here to help with the following benefits:

- State and Local Benefits
- VA Assistance for Physical and Mental Health
- Disabled Veterans Program Assistance
- Education and Training Assistance
- Employment Assistance
- Health and Life Insurance
- Financial Assistance
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- Relocation Assistance
- Effects of a Career Change

Since 2005, RCTAAs have assisted Reserve Component service members with 180 days or more T-10 AD service obtain their federal benefits and entitlements. You could save an average of:

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Average benefit per eligible Reserve Component service member across all benefits areas=\$11,970.

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Thank you for serving, now let me serve you.

According to the National Defense Authorization Act 2013, [Reserve Component] transition assistance advisors "serve as points of contact to assist eligible members of the reserve components in accessing benefits and health care furnished under laws administered by the Secretary of Defense and benefits and health care furnished under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs" (Sec. 513).

David "Dave" Kennett

Reserve Component
Transition Assistance Advisor

Federal Contractor

202-987-3864

DKennett@gapsi.com

DIRECTION | BENEFITS | COMPASSION



RESERVE COMPONENT SERVICE MEMBERS AND VETERANS

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RCTAAs provide **DIRECTION** through the maze of programs available to the Reserve Component and connection to earned **BENEFITS** with the **COMPASSION** of someone who knows what it's like to transition.



*Ask your Reserve Component
Transition Assistance Advisor (RCTAA)
to show you the way!*



BENEFITS:

- » State and Local Benefits
- » VA Assistance for Physical and Mental Health
- » Disabled Veterans Program Assistance
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- » Employment Assistance
- » Health and Life Insurance
- » Financial Assistance
- » Legal Assistance
- » Relocation Assistance
- » Effects of a Career Change



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By law, Transition Assistance Advisors "serve as points of contact to assist eligible members of the Reserve Components in accessing benefits and health care furnished under laws administered by the Secretary of Defense and benefits and health care furnished in the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs" (NDAA, 2013, Sec. 513).

From American Legion 5th District FL

IMPORTANT VETERAN INFORMATION

Every spouse of a veteran should have in his/her personal file the following:

Veteran's Birth Certificate - 3 copies
Spouse's Birth Certificate - 3 copies
Children's Birth Certificate - 3 copies
Certificate of Marriage - 3 copies
Wills (for veteran & spouse) - 2 copies
Spouse's Social Security number
Veteran's Social Security number
Discharge papers - 2 copies
Separation records - 2 copies
V.A. "C" number
G.I. Insurance Policy Number
All Insurance Policies with addresses and numbers. (Originals needed)
Cemetery plot or vault locations and numbers
Death Certificates and divorce decree of all prior marriages (if applicable)

Copies of the following are needed to file a Claim for Death Benefit:

Certificate of Marriage
Birth Certificate of minor children
Death Certificates or divorce decrees of all prior marriages on either side
Service discharge papers
Service separation papers
V.A. "C" number
Social Security number of both parties
V.A. insurance papers
Proof of Death Certificate (minimum 4 copies)
Bills from Funeral Home

ALL originals should be kept in a safety deposit box or equivalent.

NEVER release an ORIGINAL copy.

APPOINT an administrator for minor children.

FURTHER ASSISTANCE: contact your County Veterans' Service Officer

KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION



CALLING ALL KOREAN WAR AND KOREAN DEFENSE VETERANS

We invite you to join the KWVA Brotherhood. There are KWVA Chapters throughout America. Go to our KWVA Facebook Page, our KWVA Website at kwva.us or call the KWVA National Office to join the KWVA at **217-345-4414**



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.



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.



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.



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/)



LIVE ASSISTANCE
General information, directory assistance and technical support for VA.gov

VA HEALTH CARE
Eligibility, enrollment, locations and COVID-19

COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE
MISSION Act eligibility, copayments

NATIONAL CEMETERIES
Burial benefits, interment scheduling and headstone/Veteran marker

VETERANS CRISIS LINE
Immediate connection to caring, qualified responders

DEBT MANAGEMENT
Debt details, payment options and debtor rights

FACILITY LOCATOR
Locations of medical centers, benefits offices or cemeteries

BENEFITS ASSISTANCE
Information about a variety of VA benefits

HOMELESS VETERANS LINE
Information and support for homeless and at-risk callers

COVID-19 INFORMATION
Frequently asked questions and live assistance for COVID-related questions

FLORIDA SURVIVOR OUTREACH SERVICES AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY



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.



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



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	Albert White	
1048	Bob Adkins	adk123robert@outlook.com
1059	Dave Treffinger	dtreffinger433@msn.com
1084	Bill Jefferson	bill_jefferson@comcast.net
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.

Veterans Council of Clay County:

President: Ansil Lewis

Meeting day is the same, first Wednesday of the month, but the location is changed to Clay County Administration Building, 1st floor conference room, 477 Houston St., Green Cove Springs, FL 32043. Meeting start at 11 a.m.

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**

STAND BY THEM

Confidential help for Veterans and their families

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE

1-800-273-TALK (8255)

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



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**
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL SERVICES
FLORIDA BAR ASSOCIATION

Become a Watch Stander with The Fire Watch

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

Meetings:

Third Tuesday of each month

Location:

American Legion Post 37
Main Building
San Juan Avenue

Time: 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.