



The Patriot Reader Newsletter

P.O. Box 2117

St. Augustine, FL 32085

Bill Dudley, Publisher

Michael Rothfeld, Editor

Volume 15, Issue 10

From Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley

October 2025

IN THIS ISSUE

St Augustine Veterans Day Event
Veterans Council August Minutes
Unaccompanied Decedents
Veterans Council Mission Statement
COL Ed Taylor Award
St Joseph Academy Honors Vets
Jax Ntl Cemetery Chairs Project
POW/MIA Recognition Day
Ceremony
Military Museum of N Florida
Habitat's "Veterans Build"
V4V Gathering of Vets, Oct. 11
Wreaths Across America
Lt Gen Harold Moore, Jr
Snowball Express needs Patches
VA Gives 1 year private health care
Vets Day Photography Contest
FL Veterans History Project
WW II Coast Guard
"Sand Pounders"
VFW Aux Scholarship Contest
Veterans Legacy Memorial
VA Burial & Memorial Benefits
US Navy 250 Birthday Celebration
at the USS Orleck

Fellow Veterans,

Around our County, there have been several civic and Veterans organizations that have honored and remembered

our veterans in some special way. The most prominent way has been the laying of bricks in Memorial gardens or Walls of Remembrance. On Thursday, Sept. 18th, Pedro Menendez High School performed such a dedication before their varsity football game that evening. The ceremony was conducted around the American flagpole at the entrance to the football field. This area contains many bricks honoring our local veterans from St. Johns County. The dedication service was attended by Veterans Service Officer Director Joseph McDermott and myself as the guest of the

school and participated in the dedication service. The Veterans Council purchased 5 bricks in honor of all former Chairmen of the Veterans Council.

As has been the custom of the Veterans Council of St. Johns County from a commitment taken years ago, no veteran from our county will ever be buried without a family member present. On numerous occasions, the Veterans Council has had to be that family member. This was the situation last Wednesday when Director, Veterans Service Officer Joseph McDermott and I transported the remains of an indigent veteran to Jacksonville National Cemetery for burial. Navy veteran Jacquis Hehelijah Rossiter had no known family that could be located. Director McDermott and I along with a member of the Jacksonville Ladies performed the services for



veteran shipmate Rossiter.

Our Wreaths Across America sales are now available for purchase. Purchase information is available in this addition of the Patriot Reader and will continue until the first week of December. Our WAA program will be held on Sat. 13 Dec 2025 at 12 noon at the St. Augustine National Cemetery again this year. Please purchase a wreath (or two) and plan to join us for this year's ceremony.

Thank you for your service.

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

October 30

Jill Lancaster, Guitars for Vets

Eric Hernandez, Military Outreach Director, St Augustine YMCA

Peter Jennison, Veterans Disability Practice, VA Accredited Attorney

**** November 20 & December 18 meetings are a week earlier than usual because of the Holidays ****

****November 20****

David McCuistan, former Chapter Commander, MOWW

Ed Turner, Exec. Dir. Cecil Field POW MIA Memorial

****December 18****

Dr. Amy Giroux, Univ. of Central FL,

Identifying the two graves holding the remains of 12 Great Plains Native Americans who were among the 72 captured in the 1870s and became prisoners of war in St. Augustine.

January 29, 2026

Tiffany Coffey, Administrator, Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home

Danial DiMarco, Soldiers Freedom Outdoors

February 26, 2026

Dr. Michael Butler, Prof. Flagler College, Vietnam Historian

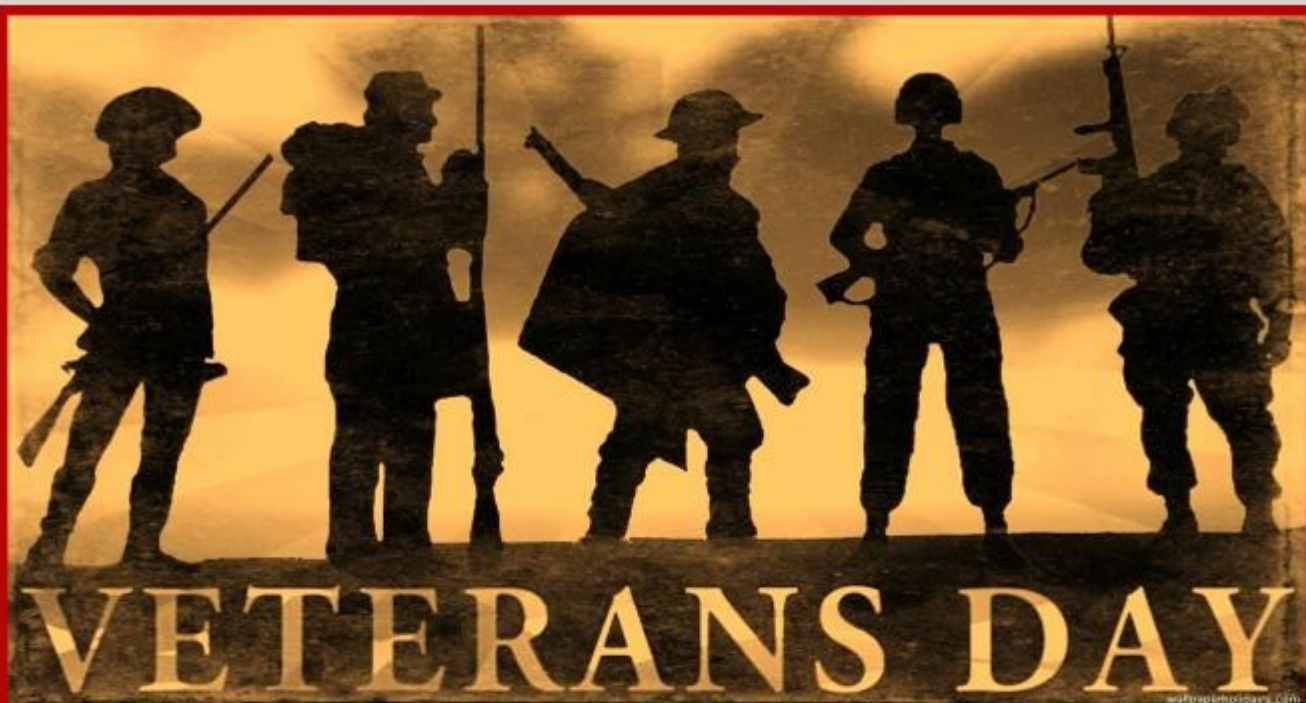
March 26, 2029

Elias Tavaréz, Project Savior Outdoors

May 28, 2026

Shalisha Bynoe, Proj. Dir., St Augustine Cares

**** November 20 & December 18 meetings are a week earlier than usual because of the Holidays ****



St. Johns County Celebration

Tuesday, 11 November, 2025

Anastasia Baptist Church,
1650 A1A South (Anastasia Island)

FEATURING:

Remarks by our area's Veterans from WWII, the Korean War, Vietnam and Gulf Wars, plus Iraq and Afghanistan operations.

ACCOMPANIED by

JROTC Cadet escorts from the county's high schools.

PLUS:

The St. Johns Center for Performing Arts Chamber Singers.
The Traveling Vietnam and Global War on Terrorism walls.
Displays and tables from over 50 Veterans organizations.

**Organized by: The St. Johns County Veterans Council &
Military Officers Association of America, Ancient City Chapter.**
Doors open 9 AM. Program begins at 11 AM. Free parking on site.
More information at rothfeldm@gmail.com

VETERANS COUNCIL OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY
MINUTES OF GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
AUGUST 28, 2025



CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Dudley

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS: Chairman Dudley

PLEDGE: Chairman Dudley

INVOCATION: Chaplain William Jefferson

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: Minutes of last meeting conducted July 31, 2025, were presented by Chairman Dudley. Copies of the Minutes are available on the sign-in table and were sent to members electronically by the Secretary. The minutes were approved by voice vote with no changes.

TREASURER REPORT: As of July 30, 2025, the Council's total liquid cash balance was \$137,168.52; the liquid cash net balance as of August 26, 2025, was \$138,723.04. Treasurer Mountcastle thoroughly went over the Treasurer's Report regarding money taken in and expenses for the month. The floor was open for any questions. The Treasurer Report was approved by voice vote with no questions or changes.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW GUESTS: New attendees introduced themselves and who they represent.

AWARD PRESENTATION: Chairman Dudley presented the Annual Colonel Ed Taylor Award to John Leslie for his years of service as the Mentor Coordinator for the Veterans Treatment Court.

SPEAKERS:

CHARLENE BEYMER, COMMUNITY HOSPICE

Ms. Beymer gave a brief introduction and her involvement with Community Hospice and Palliative Care and what they can do to help patients and families in later days of life. She also introduced Scott Hancock, Health Care Relations Representative with Community Hospice. They shared information and a slideshow presentation of Community Hospice and how they assist the community and our Veterans with their services. They also provided a complete handout folder to the audience on how Community Hospice can assist. After completing their presentation, the floor was open for questions and answers.

ROBERT COVERT, ST. AUGUSTINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Mr. Covert introduced himself, he is Special Collections Manager and Editor-in-Chief for the St. Augustine Historical Society. His discussion and slideshow presentation went through the 460 years of military history since the Spanish settlement of St. Augustine. His presentation was very thorough and provided great insight into St. Augustine and the conflicts that have affected it through the centuries. The floor was open for questions.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE, MAC MCDERMOTT

Mr. McDermott was not in attendance at this month's meeting.

VETERANS TREATMENT COURT

John Leslie has taken step back and is no longer the Mentor Coordinator for the VTC but will continue to serve on the team and give the updates each month to the Veterans Council. Mr. Leslie provided a brief history of the VTC. At the recent graduation held for the VTC, six Veterans graduated and that brings the total to 128 graduates since the inception of the VCT over eight years ago. There are currently 39

Veterans currently in-flow. There will be two court sessions in September on the 5th and again on September 19, 2025, beginning at 10:00am in Courtroom 355 at the Courthouse. Everyone is invited to attend. The floor was open to questions.

UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS

Rick McAllister gave an update on the Council's Wreaths Across America Program that places wreaths during the holidays on 1,240 graves in the National Cemetery here in St. Augustine. A handout was given out for donations to purchase the wreaths for the ceremony to held on December 13th at noon in the St. Augustine National Cemetery.

Chairman Dudley gave an update on the progress of the facility on State Road 16. It is now complete, and the Certificate of Occupancy has been issued, and furniture is being set up. Hopefully, it will be in complete operation by 2nd week in September.

Chairman Dudley also gave an update on the upcoming Veterans Day Program that will be held on November 11, 2025. The theme this year is "Passing the Torch." Veterans from each of the wars from WWII through the OEF/OIF conflicts will be on the stage and there will be Junior ROTC cadets presenting a bio on each of the on-stage Veterans. It is predicted to be one of the best programs ever presented on Veterans Day. All are invited to attend.

The floor was open for further questions and new business.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

William Dudley, Chairman

At the September 25th Veterans Council meeting

Lion's Club WAA donation

JD Decknick USAF ret., Rick McAllister (VC) , Suzanne Decknick, Aurora Sanks, USMC ret. present \$1,000 donation for Wreaths Across America



St. John's funeral home donation of \$ 695 by Randy Hudgins to the Veterans Council



From the FDVA, Forward March, the Veterans Newsletter, link below

[September 2025 Edition of the Forward March Veterans' Newsletter](#)

On Wednesday, 24 September 2025, VSO Joseph McDermott and I transported the cremains of Jacquis Nahelijah Rossiter to Jacksonville National Cemetery for burial. Jacquis had no family to claim her remains and according to the commitment made years ago by the Veterans Council, no indigent veteran will be buried without our standing as the family. Jacquis Rossiter served in the U.S.Navy from May 1986-Aug.91. She served in Operation Desert Storm and Operation Desert Shield.

Bill Dudley, Chairman

Veterans Council of St Johns County, FL



PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR / "UNACCOMPANIED DECEDENTS" / AN HONORS CEREMONY / 0900 HOURS ON WEDS 8 OCTOBER 2025 AT JACKSONVILLE NATIONAL CEMETERY

www.SCJNC.com, Padraic E. "Pat" Mulvihill, Public Information Officer

4083 Lannie Road, JAX FL 32218, 904.534.0035

**A VERY SPECIAL QUARTERLY HONORS CEREMONY TO BE
HELD WEDNESDAY MORNING 8 OCTOBER 2025
AT THE JACKSONVILLE NATIONAL CEMETERY
AT 0900 HOURS / COMMITAL SHELTER # 2**



"UNACCOMPANIED HONORS CEREMONY"

GROUP OF DECEDENTS TO BE REMEMBERED & HONORED 8 OCTOBER 2025 / 0900 HOURS

Names of Decedents Are Read, and a Bell is Rung, for Each Military Member

Our National Cemetery Leadership Team, Patriot Guard Riders, Beaches Honor Guard Team, First Coast High School US Navy JROTC, and our Support Committee will hold an honors event on Weds. 8 Oct. 2025 at 0900. This very special quarterly ceremony will be held to render full military honors for servicemen & women who had been already interred during the July through September 2025 timeframe and had not received military honors at the time of their interment.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

**Public Information Officer- Support Committee
at The Jacksonville National Cemetery**

EMAIL pem@axisp.com



Veterans Council of St Johns County, FL Inc.

Officers and Directors

Chairman - Bill Dudley, U.S. Air Force
anuday00@aol.com

Vice Chairman - Ronald Birchall, U.S. Army

Treasurer - John Mountcastle, U.S. Coast Guard, sjcvc_treasurer@yahoo.com

Recording Secretary - Donna Pullium, donnapullium150@outlook.com

Secretary - Newsletter Editor, Michael Rothfeld, rothfeldm@gmail.com

Directors - Gerald Dedge

Chaplain - Bill Jefferson

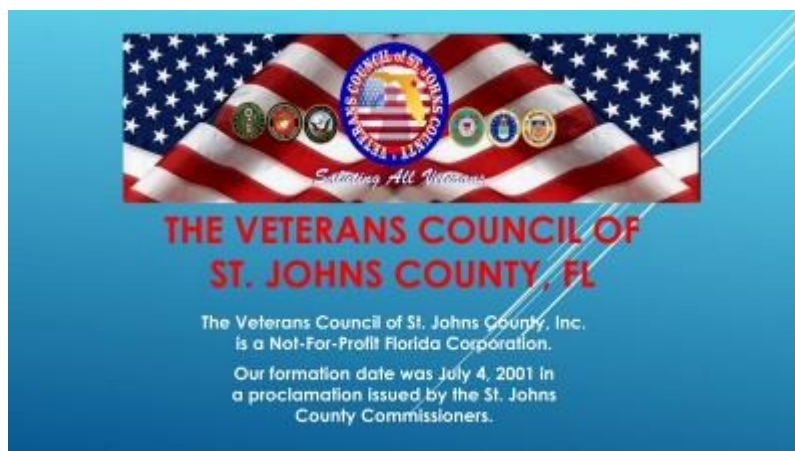
Oversight Committee: Bill Dudley- Chairman,
Ronald Birchall - Vice Chairman

Michael Rothfeld - Director, John Mountcastle - Director



Mission statement:

The objective of the Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Florida is to be of assistance to all veterans who have served in any of the military branches of service of the United States of America. This website is designed to serve our veterans and shall act as a communications center for this Council. The Council is proud of our past successes and we look forward to many more in the months and years to come



The Veterans Council's Highest Award is presented by Council Chairman Bill Dudley to this year's recipient, John Leslie.

"The Veterans Council recently recognized John Leslie with the Col. Ed Taylor Award for his years of service as the Veterans Treatment Court mentor coordinator. John developed the veteran mentor program into one of the best mentor programs in the state. His steadfast leadership provided our mentors all the training and education they needed to mentor to our VTC participants. The quality of our mentor program is due to his being at the helm for the past eight years"



St. Joseph Academy Honors Veterans



Want to watch a high school football game and be honored for serving our country?

Join the St. Joseph Academy Community on Friday, 10 / 10 for the game on Veterans Night! Game time is 7:00 p.m. at the field in St. Augustine off Route 207. When you enter -at no charge- your name will be taken so you can be introduced at half-time. Hope to see you there!

Donna Martellotto Boyce

Imprints of Honor -formerly Veterans

Heritage Project- Club Advisor

St. Joseph Academy



Jacksonville National Cemetery Chairs Project



The Support Committee at Jacksonville National Cemetery (SCJNC) is a charitable 501(c)(3) all volunteer organization. As a part of our mission, SCJNC, in consultation with the JNC Director, establishes programs, ceremonies and other projects not funded by the National Cemetery Administration which provide services to our veterans and their families.

White folding chairs are rented to accommodate the public for all events held at JNC. This expense is one of the largest for our special events and we are looking to reduce or eliminate these recurring expenses. The SCJNC is seeking donations to cover the purchase of 500 chairs, storage carts and covers. The items selected are sturdy and should have a lifespan of 10-15 years. All items purchased will become property of JNC and will be stored on-site.

We are asking for donations to help us reach this goal. All donations of at least \$500 will be acknowledged at events at JNC through 2026.

For more information, please contact Maria Hirsch, Vice Chair, SCJNC at 630-880-0040 or vicechair@scjnc.com.

Thank you for your consideration.

All checks should be made payable to:

The Support Committee at Jacksonville National Cemetery
Mailing address: Mrs. Dani Hernandez, SCJNC Treasurer
3294 Lake Effie Court North, Jacksonville, FL 32277

POW/MIA Recognition Ceremony at the National POW/MIA Memorial & Museum



MILITARY MUSEUM Have you been to The Military Museum of North Florida in Green Cove Springs? It's completely free and if you like memorabilia, it is jam-packed full of historical items! The displays are neatly done and informative. As you wind your way through the museum, you will find displays from all of our major conflicts. For the kids, there is a retired helicopter flight simulator that they can sit in and push all the buttons and pretend. Outside, you will find retired vehicles that you can walk up to, including a tank!

Get more info and links for the museum here

<https://tinyurl.com/y2xc38xt>



Veterans Build 2025



Habitat St. Johns Veterans Build November 7th & 8th from 8:00am – 3:00pm

Habitat St. Johns' Veterans Build Program provides affordable homeownership and a chance to build camaraderie as volunteers for U.S. veterans, military service members and their families.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

VOLUNTEER

Get involved with Habitat for Humanity of St. Johns County!

Your leadership skills and expertise can make an impact on many families in need of permanent housing. Join one of our Veterans Build events, help fellow veterans build the homes of others in need of affordable, high-quality homes. Your participation helps families build strength and self-reliance through shelter.

We welcome veteran volunteers to help on Friday November 7th and/or Saturday November 8th. This two-day event will be fun-filled, as well as very rewarding. Come meet your peers, network and help local families achieve the dream of homeownership. **Local heroes helping yet again!**

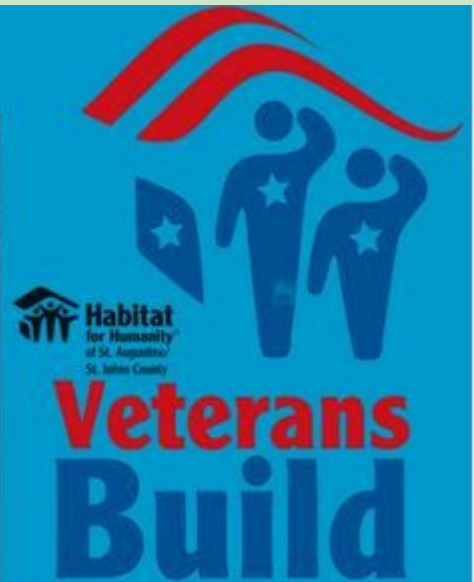
HOMEOWNERSHIP

We believe every veteran deserves to be welcomed home with dignity, honor and respect. We are looking to partner with military-connected families, veterans and their caretakers to build safe, stable and affordable homes in St. Johns County.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Tom Torretta - ttorretta@habitatstjohns.org or Julie Wesling jwesling@habitatstjohns.org

7 Hopkins St., St. Augustine, FL 32084 | (904) 826-3252 | www.habitatstjohns.org



ABOUT HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY

Habitat for Humanity of St. Johns County is a local nonprofit housing organization. We strive to change the systems that lead to inadequate housing and to build communities where everyone can afford to live.

To date, Habitat St. Johns has helped more than 180 families obtain the place they call home through hard work and teamwork.

OUR VISION

A world where everyone has a decent place to live.

OUR MISSION

Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope.



First Annual Veterans Build



We are inviting all veterans, active-duty military, and their families (16 years of age and older) to participate in our First Annual Veterans Build event on Friday, November 7th and Saturday, November 8th from 8:00am - 3:00pm (flier attached).

Please share this email and join us for this inspirational day of giving back.

We will offer two shifts each day. There will be an 8:00am - 12:00pm shift each morning and a 11:00am - 3:00pm shift each afternoon on those two days.

These two days will feature veterans, active-duty military, and their families helping local families reach their dream of homeownership in St. Johns County. Homeownership provides stability and security that cannot be achieved through renting. It also sets families up for new opportunities and career growth.

We all know the sacrifices made by veterans, active-duty military and their families -

"All Gave Some, Some Gave All!"

Here is a link with more information: <https://habitatstjohns.org/join-us-for-our-first-annual-veterans-build-november-7-8/>

Here is a link to the Adult volunteer waiver that must be completed before volunteering:

<https://habitatstjohns.charityproud.org/WebForm/Index/3871?formCode=bcf767a8-b3bc-4c85-a5c1-ebf5fc89c4cc>

Here is the Minor Waiver (16 - 18): <https://habitatstjohns.charityproud.org/WebForm/Index/3872?formCode=a9d6fa1b-5c58-48f1-ab1a-3f586c6d0ff0>

Once you have completed the above volunteer waiver, you can pick a timeslot(s):

To register to volunteer on Friday November 7th from 8:00am - 12:00pm click here:

<https://habitatstjohns.charityproud.org/VolunteerRegistration/Index/?activity=53265>

To register to volunteer on Friday November 7th from 11:00am - 3:00pm click here:

<https://habitatstjohns.charityproud.org/VolunteerRegistration/Index/?activity=54096>

To register to volunteer on Saturday November 8th from 8:00am - 12:00pm click here:

<https://habitatstjohns.charityproud.org/VolunteerRegistration/Index/?activity=53270>

To register to volunteer on Saturday November 8th from 11:00am - 3:00pm click here:

<https://habitatstjohns.charityproud.org/VolunteerRegistration/Index/?activity=54097>

We are also hoping you will help us inform your veteran and active-duty communities about the qualifications required to purchase a Habitat St. Johns home. Many people are eligible and don't know it, including veterans and active-duty military. I have attached the "Qualifications" form to this email as well.

If you may know someone trying to buy a home in St. Johns County but it is too costly, please send this to them. Habitat St. Johns may be their solution to homeownership!

We are hoping to have building permits approved to actually use tools and build walls on a new home. If the permits aren't ready in time, we will focus on completing homes in process at Volusia Woods.

Either way, this is a great opportunity to give back again in honor of Veterans Day and all those who have served and currently serve.

If you are interested in being a sponsor for this event, see the attached flier for the different levels of support available.

We hope you will join us and make a difference where we live.

Wishing you all the best & thanks to you and all your staff for your service!

Tom Torretta, Fundraising Director

Habitat for Humanity of St. Augustine/St. Johns County

office: (904) 826-3252, ext. 2001

www.habitatstjohns.org

DO YOU QUALIFY 2025

For A Habitat Home?



1 WILLINGNESS to partner

- ☐ I will volunteer 125 "Sweat Equity" hours on the construction site contributing to building houses

3 CREDIT score

- ☐ I have a credit score of 640 or higher*

*credit building programs available through third party



2 NEED for housing (Select one!)

- ☐ I currently live in an unsafe structure
- ☐ Spending more than 40% of income on housing (rent + utilities)
- ☐ The neighborhood I am living in has a high crime rate
- ☐ I recently applied for a mortgage and was denied
- ☐ I am living in over-crowded conditions
- ☐ Other - I have another reason that is not listed

4 ABILITY to pay

****NOTE:** You will need \$1,000 in checking/savings at the time of submitting your application. This is put toward your escrow deposit and closing costs.

- ☐ My household income is within these guidelines

How Many Family Members in the Home	Gross Yearly Minimum	Gross Yearly Maximum
1	\$35,900	\$86,160
2	\$41,000	\$98,400
3	\$46,150	\$110,760
4	\$51,250	\$123,000
5	\$55,350	\$132,840
6	\$59,450	\$142,680

Did you answer
YES to all
4 questions?

If so, fill out your application during the enrollment period and schedule your consultation appointment with our **Homeowner Services Manager, Candice Marhanka**

Contact Habitat St. Johns to learn more:

website: www.habitatstjohns.org

Phone: 904.826.3252 x2005

Email: cmarhanka@habitatstjohns.org

Veteran Build Sponsorship

Levels & Benefits

Sponsor Benefit	Veteran Build Title Sponsor \$10,000	Laying Foundations Sponsor \$5,000	Raise the Roof Sponsor \$2,500	Framing New Futures Sponsor \$1,000	Friends of Veteran Build \$500
Title Sponsor Designation	X				
Logo Printed on T-shirts	X				
Name Listed on T-Shirts		X	X		
Logo at Build Site	X	X			
Name in Home Dedication Program	X	X	X		
Recognition on Website	X	X	X		
Recognition on Social Media	X	X	X	X	
Veteran Build T-shirts	X	X	X	X	X
Food & Drinks Provided	X	X	X	X	X
Number of Volunteers Included (optional)	10	5	3	2	1

More ways to participate in Veteran Build and in general:

Participate as an individual or team on 11/7 or 11/8

Join us by volunteering on the build site & help us reach our fundraising goal.

Fundraise for Veteran Build

Can't join us in person? You can still help us meet our fundraising goal.

Register or learn more by calling. Emailing or visiting our blog page:

<https://habitatstjohns.org/join-us-for-our-first-annual-veterans-build-november-7-8/>



7 Hopkins St., St. Augustine, FL 32084 | 904-826-3252 | www.habitatstjohns.org



**Gathering of Veterans and those who support Veterans
and their families.**

**Organizations encouraged to set up a table
Speakers on subjects of interest to Veterans and their
families**

Free Buffet Lunch

Contact: Vets4VetsNJax@gmail.com

(Tables provided with two chairs...2 per table; Table setup/check in at 0900...)

Doors open at 0900 for set up and coffee

Vets4Vets and the **Jacksonville Bar Association's**
Veteran and Military Affairs Committee present a



VETERANS WELLNESS CLINIC

**Supporting Veterans: Legal
Rights & Resources and other
topics for Veteran support**

**OCTOBER 11, 2025
9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.**



Guest Speaker Topics:
Duval Veterans Council
Veteran Debt Relief
Veterans Disability Benefits
Veterans Administration Assistance
Military Discharge Upgrades

CLICK THE LINK TO REGISTER FOR FREE LUNCH
JAXBAR.ORG/VETS2025

VYSTAR VETERANS MEMORIAL ARENA

300 A. Philip Randolph Blvd
Free parking Lot Z
Jacksonville, Florida 32202

Reserve a table for exhibits

Contact: Vets4VetsNJax@gmail.com



**21st Annual
Marine & Navy FMF Corpsmen Memorial**

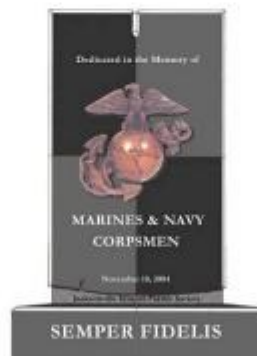
Evergreen Cemetery

N Main St
Jacksonville, Florida

**November 10, 2025
4 PM**

Dedicated by Marines and Navy FMF Corpsmen
of the
Jacksonville

Semper Fidelis Society



We have a responsibility to never forget!

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



~SEMPER FIDELIS~



AFSA Chapter 559

Jacksonville Florida Chapter 559 joined the U.S. Marine Corps, Rotary International, Naval JROTC Cadets and local veteran service organizations at Jacksonville International Airport on September 4 2025 to recognize patriot Prisoners of War and Missing in Action, at the Airport POW* MIA Table





2025

Bill Dudley: Chairman
Rick McAllister: Co-Chair



WE NEED YOUR HELP

As we have in the past, our mission is to place a holiday wreath on every veteran headstone in our St. Augustine National Cemetery, and we can't do it without your help. Just \$17 purchases one wreath for us, and every single wreath counts.

Let these veteran brothers and sisters, as well as their families, know that we have not forgotten them. When we are celebrating with our loved ones, we are also celebrating with them.

The Wreaths Across America ceremony is Saturday, December 13 at noon, and we hope you will join us at our National Cemetery.

If you can contribute, please make your checks payable to *Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc.* and mail them to Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc., P.O. Box 2117, St. Augustine, FL 32085-2117. We are a 501 (c) (3) organization.

If you have any questions, please call Rick McAllister at 904-501-7777.

THANK YOU

Wreaths Across America ceremony also will be held in the Orangedale Cemetery on Saturday, December 13th at 12 noon.

Harold Gregory Moore Jr. (February 13, 1922 – February 10, 2017) was a United States Army lieutenant general and author. As a lieutenant colonel, he commanded the 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, at the Battle of Ia Drang in 1965, during the Vietnam War. The battle was detailed in the 1992 best-seller *We Were Soldiers Once... and Young*, co-authored by Moore and made into the film *We Were Soldiers* in 2002, which starred Mel Gibson as Moore. Moore was the "honorary colonel" of the regiment. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the U.S. Army's second-highest decoration for valor, and was the first soldier in his West Point graduating class of 1945 to be promoted to brigadier general, major general, and lieutenant general.

Hal Moore was more than a soldier—he was a leader who lived by loyalty and sacrifice. As commander of the 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment in the 1965 Battle of Ia Drang, he faced overwhelming odds yet never wavered. For three days under relentless assault, he moved among his men, steadying them, refusing to abandon them, and proving his creed: first on the field, last to leave.



US Armed Forces Cross-Service Terms Primer

		
Navy / Marine Corps	Army	Air Force
Head	Latrine	Foxhole
Mess Deck / Chow Hall	Mess Hall / Mess Tent	Dining Facility / Café
Rack	Bunk	Single w/Ruffle & Duvet
"Cookie"	Mess Cook	Contract Chef
Coffee / Mud	Cup of Joe	Vanilla Latte
Bug Juice	Kool-Aid	Shirley Temple
Utilities	BDU's	Casual Wear
Seaman / Private	Private	Bobby or Jimmy
Chief / Gunny	Sergeant	Bob or Jim
Skipper / Captain	Colonel	Robert or James
Captains Mast	Article 15	Time Out
Berthing / Barracks	Barracks	Apartment
Skivvies / U-Trau	Underwear	Underoo's
Thrown in the Brig	Put in Confinement	Grounded
Zoom Bag	Flight Suit	Business Casual
Cover	Beret	Optional
Ships Store / PX	PX	AAFE's Shopping Mall
TAD	TDY	PCS w/Family
Cruise / Afloat	Deploy	HUH?
Ground Grabbers	Athletic Shoes	Flip Flops
Boondockers	Jump Boots	Air Jordans
Low Quarters	Low Quarters	Croc's
SEAL	Special Forces	Librarian
OOH-RAH!	HOO-AW!	Uh-Oh!
MRE	MRE	Happy Meal
Grinder	Drill Field	What?
Go-Dunk	Snack Bar	Chucky Cheese
Midshipman	Cadet	Debutant



WALK-IN CLINICS

**NOW SERVING
YOU BETTER**

The Villages OPC	0800-1630	(352) 674-5000
Ocala CBOC <i>*No radiology services*</i>	0800-1630	(352) 369-3320
Gainesville Primary Care	0800-1630	(352) 548-1900
Tallahassee OPC	0730-1630	(850) 878-0191
Jacksonville North	0700-1630	(904) 470-6900
Jacksonville Jefferson	0700-1630	(904) 475-5800
Call for current wait times/availability		

We offer **same-day services** for non-life threatening conditions at our **Primary Care locations**

- Allergies
- Bladder/Urinary Tract Infections
- Cold or Flu Symptoms
- Minor Cuts, Bruises, and Sprains
- Ear and Eye Infections
- Headaches and Migraines
- Pulled or Strained Muscles
- Respiratory Infections
- Skin Conditions
- Sore Throats

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
North Florida / South Georgia Veterans Health System

2ND ANNUAL VETERANS COUNCIL VETERANS DAY 5K



**Saturday, November 8th
at Oakleaf High School**

Race starts at 8:00 am

Walker and runner friendly! Finisher medals for all participants!

Early registration: \$35

Registration sign up: <https://runsignup.com/Race/FL/OrangePark/CLAYVETERANS5K>



Sponsored By:





Patches Needed

The Florida Patriot Guard Hosts the PGR Room at the Gary Sinise Foundation Snowball Express each December. Each child that attends gets a leather motorcycle vest, and can choose patches to place on that vest.

Snow Ball Express takes the children of fallen Military and First Responder heroes to Disney World for a couple days to be with other kids and families and enjoy the Disney Parks along at No Charge.

The patches range from Military, Fire, EMS, Police, and just fun ones.

We are holding a Patch Drive to get patches for this event. You can donate any you have stocked up at home, or if you would like to buy some online and have them shipped to us.

To find out more ask. Or go to
[www.https://www.garysinisefoundation.org/snowball-express](https://www.garysinisefoundation.org/snowball-express)
<https://patriotguard.org/snowball-donation/>

We will take care of getting them to the event.

You can mail/ship patches to

Don Stamford
6233 Lowery St. #601
Bushnell, Florida 33513





HONORING THE US NAVY 250TH ANNIVERSARY

October 11th, 2025

USS ORLECK - 610 E Bay St Jacksonville, FL

Packet Pick Up: Oct 10th 2-6 PM REI Town Center

Registration: 6:30 AM

Race Start: 8:00 AM

Fall Festival 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Kids Costume Contest, Food, Vendors & More!

**Sponsors, Vendors, Runners
SIGN UP TODAY!**



SPONSORED BY:

JACKSONVILLE
JAGUARS

GORUCK ➔

Come Meet: The Lady Roar, Jaguar Legends, and Jaxson!



WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA RIDE POKER RUN

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS POST 137



OCTOBER 4TH 2025

REGISTRATION - 8A-9A

\$20 PER BIKE; \$5 ADDITIONAL PASSENGER

SAFETY BRIEFING - 9:15

KSU - 9:30A

**ALL PROCEEDS GO TOWARDS
WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA**

**ROUTE IS POST 137 TO POST 250 TO POST 56 TO
POST 83 BACK TO POST 137**

VA gives veterans a year of uninterrupted private health care for 30 different medical specialties By LINDA F. HERSEY STARS AND STRIPES •

August 5, 2025 Veterans will now be able to receive a year of uninterrupted specialty health care outside the Department of Veterans Affairs network without seeking re-authorization, the agency announced. Veterans previously had to get a new referral every three to six months. (Stars and Stripes) WASHINGTON — From cardiology and eye care to addiction treatment and mental health counseling, 30 different types of private medical services will be available to veterans for up to a year without interruption under a new policy announced by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Veterans previously had to obtain a new referral from their VA doctor every 90 to 180 days to continue receiving many specialty health services at “VA expense,” the agency said. “This change means better continuity of care, which leads to better health outcomes,”

VA Secretary Doug Collins said Monday. The policy change is effective immediately. When veterans cannot get timely medical appointments at VA clinics or hospitals, they are referred to vendors, which are private doctors in the community. But expanding the length of time that non-VA care is delivered to veterans is controversial. Opponents of expanding non-VA health care argue the money that the VA spends on private care takes resources away from the agency’s extensive medical care system.

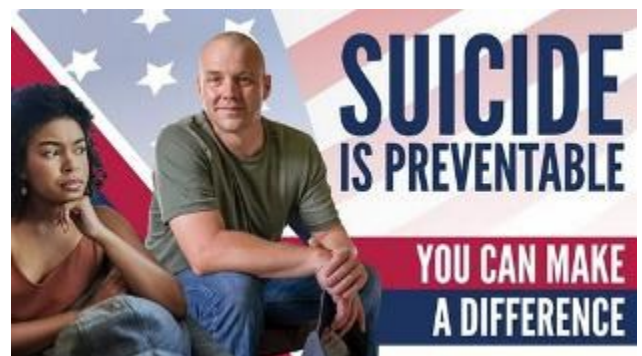
The National Association of Veterans Affairs Physicians and Dentists has stated the increase of community-based medical care for veterans should not detract from VA operations. The organization has urged Congress to continue investing in VA infrastructure and services. “The goal should always be to provide timely, high-quality care without undermining VA services,” according to the association. But the VA expects to reduce its workforce by 30,000 in fiscal 2025, which ends Sept. 30, as part of President Donald Trump’s order to downsize the federal government. Decreases in the VA workforce will be through attrition, a hiring freeze and deferred resignations, the VA said. The agency has pledged to maintain staffing for essential clinical positions and not cut front-line workers. The Mission Act, enacted in 2019, authorized veterans for the first time to seek non-VA health care from private providers. But mandates for frequent reauthorizations can delay and interrupt the delivery of health care, Collins said. By extending authorizations to 12 months, doctors and other health care providers can focus more on treating veterans than on clearing administrative hurdles to continue care, he said. Having uninterrupted care also adds convenience for veterans seeking specialty medical services outside the VA, the

agency said.

The VA is advising veterans to check in with their local VA medical center community care office to find out how their care might be affected by the change. Veterans will not have to seek new referrals for 12 months after an initial authorization on the following health care services: Cardiology, dermatology, endocrinology, neurology and otology, otolaryngology or ENT, gastroenterology, urogynecology, addiction psychiatry outpatient, family and couples psychotherapy outpatient, mental health outpatient, nephrology, neurology, nutrition intervention services, oncology and hematology, neuro-ophthalmology, oculoplastic, eye care examination, optometry routine, orthopedic hand, orthopedic general, orthopedic spine, pain management, podiatry, podiatry DS, addiction medicine outpatient, pulmonary, physical medicine and rehabilitation (physiatry), rheumatology, sleep medicine and urology. Source - Stars and Stripes

The FIRE Watch

As our data and annual reports continue to affirm, suicide prevention is a full community effort. Help us support Veterans and end Veteran suicide in #Florida by completing two FREE suicide prevention training courses—our Watch Stander Training Program (40min) and Living-Works' Start Course (90min)—both available online in partnership with the Florida Department of Health (DOH).



Online training registration is open until June 30th:

<https://tinyurl.com/VSP2OnlineTraining>

Additionally, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has made it easier for Veterans and caregivers to connect with VA health care providers from anywhere through the VA Video Connect mobile app - learn more & download the app here: <https://mobile.va.gov/app/va-video-connect>

St. Johns Cultural Council & VFW Post 2391 Shine Spotlight on Veterans with A Veterans Day Photography Contest & Juried Exhibition

As part of our continued partnership, the St. Johns Cultural Council and St. Johns County are expanding the Art in Public Spaces program to include the Health & Human Services Building. The expansion will begin with an opportunity for photographers to capture the image of Veterans.

Coming on the heels of the 250th anniversary of the army and navy, what better time to celebrate all who have served.

VFW Post 2391 and member Rick McAllister (professional writer, photographer, & VFW Life Member, First City Honor Guard, and Vietnam Combat Veteran) initially reached out to the St. Johns Cultural Council with the idea. The St. Johns Cultural Council, St. Johns County, Health & Human Services, and Veterans' Services were all unanimously in favor of the concept and support this intersection of art, community, and honoring Veterans.

Local, regional, and national artists are invited to submit up to three of their original photos that contain an image of a veteran and an American flag. See the attached flyer for further criteria and details about submission, email Rick McAllister (fotowurks@aol.com) or visit the St. Johns Cultural Council's [website](#) for more information.

The Veterans Day Photography Contest will be open for submissions starting August 1st through September 31st, 2025. The Contest will be juried by members of the St. Augustine Camera Club & Rick McAllister

Join us on **Veterans Day, Tuesday, November 11, (time to come)** at the VFW Post 2391 when all Winners will be announced.

20-35 works will be selected for the juried exhibition, *Stories of American Veterans*, and displayed in the reFrame Gallery at the St. Johns County Health & Human Services Building, 200 San Sebastian View.

Join us for the opening reception on **Thursday, November 20, from 5:30 to 7 PM** at the St. Johns County Administration Building. Three award winners and Best of Show will be announced at the opening reception. Enjoy hors d'oeuvres and celebrate these talented photographers and the Veterans!

Click here to learn more about the inspiration behind the event and additional contest criteria.

Veterans Day 2025 Photo Contest



VFW POST 2391
St. Augustine

THEME

The theme of the photo contest is "the veteran and the American Flag." A submitted image should show this or tell this story. For instance, the veteran could be represented by a headstone depicting a veteran's name or inscription. The flag could be imposed on a piece of clothing. The Key is that the image tells the story of an American veteran

SUBMISSIONS

ALL IMAGES must be submitted and will only be accepted between Friday, AUGUST 1 and Tuesday, SEPTEMBER 30.

Submit via email to fotowurks@aol.com

Make sure the email includes your name and the "title" of each image being submitted. Neither your name or the image title should be visible on the image itself.

DETAILS

1. This contest is open to the general public.
2. You may submit up to 3 images.
3. You must be the photographer of the images submitted and they should have been taken within the past 3 years.
4. Post editing is acceptable. AI is OK for post editing, however, original image must be camera generated by submitter.

5. Image criteria: JPG format
300 dpi
Color or B&W
Max 2400 x 3000 pixels
Landscape or vertical

AWARDS

The TOP 4 images will receive a book of the images that were submitted, as well as a special awards ceremony at the VFW Post 2391.

In addition, a special group of selected images will be framed and displayed on the walls in the St. Johns County Health and Human Services Building where the Veterans Administration Service Office is located. When this viewing period is over, they will be displayed at the VFW Post for a limited period, and submitted to the National VFW Magazine for publication.

SCHEDULE

Image Submissions: August 1 - September 30
Jury Selections: October 1 - October 25
Jury Selection Announcements: November 1
Awards Announcement: Veterans Day, Nov. 11

If you have any questions, please contact Rick McAllister at 904-501-7777 or at fotowurks@aol.com.

Additional information available on Face Book at *Veterans Day Photo Contest 2025*

Co-Sponsors: St. Johns Cultural Council
St. Augustine Camera Club

ST. AUGUSTINE VFW POST 2391



ANNOUNCES

THE FIRST ANNUAL
VETERANS DAY PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

CONTEST & IMAGE THEME:

THE VETERAN AND THE AMERICAN FLAG



sample image not in contest

Open to EVERYONE

SUBMISSIONS start 8/1/25 and end 9/30/25

JPG entries

VERY SPECIAL AWARDS announced Veterans Day (11/11/25)

DETAILS on FaceBook site: VETERANS DAY PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Questions: Rick McAllister, fotowurks@aol.com

A SPECIAL THANKS to:

First City Honor Guard

Chelsea Cornelius, St. Johns Culture Council

Terry Bottom and the St. Augustine Camera Club

VETERANS DAY

PHOTO CONTEST



THEME:

“The Veteran and the American Flag”



SUBMISSIONS: Aug. 1 – Sept. 30

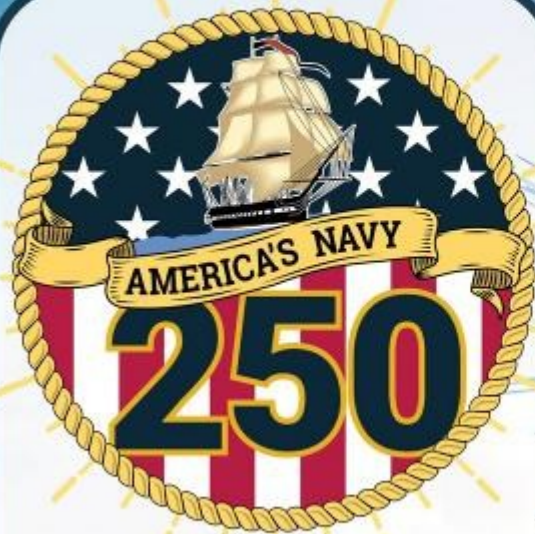


FOTOWURKS@AOL.COM





JACKSONVILLE NAVAL MUSEUM



10 AM
Welcome Service



Food Trucks



Family Fun



Music 2-6 PM



Join us for our
US NAVY
250th
Birthday
Celebration

October 13th, 2025

9 AM to 6 PM

Navy Pier Side At The

USS ORLECK



Special Ship
Tour Rate

\$8.86



GratitudeAmerica

6th Annual Gratitude America Veteran's Day Golf Tournament

Tuesday, November 11 | Ocean Course & Conservatory Course

7:30 am | Registration (Breakfast Included)

8:00 am | Shotgun at Conservatory

8:30 am | Shotgun at Ocean

4-Person Scramble Format / **Game Day Pass** can be purchased per Team
\$20 per person includes 2 mulligans per person, Putting Contest, Closest to the Pins,
Longest Drive, Hole-In-One for a \$20,000 prize and more!

Members: \$180.00 per person | Guests: \$230.00 per person

Cost includes Golf and Cart, Golf Shirt, Individual and Team Awards, Breakfast and Lunch.
Immediately following the Tournament will be the Awards Presentation for the
Top 3 Teams at each course and featured guest speakers in the Atlantic Ballroom.

[Click Here to Register Via Golf Genius](#)

Or email Eric.Sargent@hammockbeach.com to register

Deadline to Register is Saturday, November 1, 2025

For More Information and payment visit gratitudeamerica.org/golf,
or contact Steve Gallagher at (646) 204-7610 or StephenGallagher5@yahoo.com

Payment Options (Make checks payable to Gratitude America):

- Mail to Steve Gallagher at: 4 Court Del Mar, Palm Coast, FL 32137
- Pay with Zelle/Venmo directly to Steve Gallagher
- Pay Cash or Credit the day of the tournament

We are looking for Hole Sponsors at \$110 for 2 signs, or \$250 for 6 signs

**We are also looking for Auction items such as sports memorabilia, golf foursomes
from other golf courses, Second Home short stays, etc.**

With your help, we are looking forward to another great event!

The WW II Coast Guard Sand Pounders

In the darkest days of World War II, the Coast Guard Beach Patrol stood as a quiet but unbreakable line of defense along America's shores. Covering more than 3,700 miles of coastline, nearly 24,000 men answered the call, riding shoulder to shoulder with duty and courage.

Mounted on horseback, these patrols, known with pride as the "Sand Pounders", moved in pairs, spaced only 100 feet apart, tirelessly sweeping two-mile stretches of sand, dunes, and surf. Their mission was simple yet vital: guard the homeland against all threats.



VFW Auxiliary-National Organization ·

Are you aware of all VFW and VFW Auxiliary scholarship, contest and award deadlines for the 2025-2026 Program Year?

They are:

October 31, 2025: VFW Voice of Democracy

October 31, 2025: VFW Patriot's Pen

November 15, 2025: VFW "Sport Clips Help A Hero" Scholarship - spring semester

February 15, 2026: VFW Auxiliary Continuing Education Scholarship

March 1, 2026: VFW Scout of the Year (recognition award, not monetary)

March 31, 2026: VFW Auxiliary Illustrating America

March 31, 2026: VFW Auxiliary Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest

March 31, 2026: VFW Auxiliary 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest

April 30, 2026: The VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero" Scholarship - fall semester

Please promote these scholarships, contests and awards, which benefit children as young as five through adults continuing their education beyond high school.

Learn more on www.vfw.org under Assistance:

Student Veteran Support or under Community - Youth & Education and

on www.vfwauxiliary.org under Scholarships & Contests.



Florida Military Collector Show

Saturday 11 Oct 2025

**Hosted by Renningers Mount Dora Flea Market and Antique Center 20651 Us Hwy
441 Mount Dora, Florida**



The Florida Military Collectors' show is a one-day event on Saturday, from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM. It is one of the largest all-military collectibles shows in the Southeast and averages over 100 tables. The show features military antiques, relics, memorabilia and Military Vehicles from historic conflicts to modern fighting forces. Free Admission - Free Parking - Free Appraisals. Military vehicles and living history displays all eras

For information on dealer tables/ Vendor Spaces please contact: Greg Spalding at qed4@aol.com | (407) 462- 2163 or Jon Anderson at (407)376 -2614 film1270@gmail.com

Lunch is included with Vehicle and Living History Preregistration Military vehicle owners and living history displays all eras wanted contact Douglas Suzukovich 813-361-7849 or suzunbc@gmail.com

V4V

Joint Event with

Jacksonville Bar Association

Inform ★ Connect ★ Unite ★ Organize

Save the Date
October 11th 2025

Veterans Memorial Arena

300 A. Philip Randolph Blvd
Jacksonville, Florida 32202

CHAPTER 20-2

COMBAT VETERANS MOTORCYCLE ASSOCIATION®
CHAPTER 20-2

10th Annual

Rocketman Run

September 27th, 2025

Registration	0900
Last Bike Out	1100
Last Bike In	1600

Sanctioned Event

Cost
\$25 Per Rider
\$10 Passenger
\$5 Extra Roll

**Food
Music
Auctions
Raffles**

Start/End
American Legion Post 250
Middleburg, FL

Stops
Boogerville Hideout
VFW Post 3349
Melrose Pub

Benefiting
Hope 4 Veterans

Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association® 20-2 is a 501(c)(3) Non-profit Organization. EMDCS.gov registration. CHECK FOR A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL FREE WITHIN THE STATE 1-800-HELP-FLA (345-7352).

WHISTLING DEATH 5km & 10km

SATURDAY, OCT 4, 2025

5km and 10km - 8am start

WHERE: Historic Lee Field in Green Cove Springs, Florida, WWII training base for the F4U Corsair and F6F Hellcat fighters.

TIME LIMIT: 5km = 2 hrs, 10km = 3 hrs

COURSE: Run the perimeter of the old air base through WWII bunkers on paved and dirt roads.

AWARDS: Technical T-shirt and a very cool medal to all finishers.

RACE TIMING:
Chip timed



For visitor information, go to www.exploreclay.com

REGISTER ONLINE:
www.1stplacesports.com

ENTRY FEE
\$35

Your Story, Your Legacy

You can now share your story in your own words through the Veterans Legacy Memorial's (VLM) "Your Story, Your Legacy" feature. Use this tool to upload images, autobiographies, written tributes, military and life milestones, and historical documents. After your passing, VLM will publish your submissions on its website—the nation's largest online memorial dedicated to honoring America's Veterans.

To access the "Your Story, Your Legacy" page, start by submitting a VA pre-need burial eligibility application online. Once approved, you will receive an email to set up your personal VLM page. Watch this short video to learn more.



Understand Your Eligibility and Plan Ahead with Confidence

The National Cemetery Administration (NCA) proudly honors your service and sacrifice by helping ensure your legacy lives on.

Too many Veterans and families miss out on VA burial and memorial benefits simply because they don't know they're eligible. Whether you choose burial in a VA national cemetery or a private cemetery, these benefits are a meaningful part of end-of-life planning.

That's why NCA launched Plan Today, Honor Forever, a nationwide campaign designed to help you understand your options and plan ahead. **Why Planning Ahead Matters**

With Plan Today, Honor Forever you can:

- Learn what burial and memorial benefits you may be eligible for

- Share important information with your family or caregivers

- Check your eligibility for burial in a VA national cemetery

- Understand how VA burial allowances may help cover costs

Apply for Pre-need Burial Eligibility

Veterans and spouses can apply in advance to determine their eligibility for burial in a VA national cemetery. The online application takes less than 10 minutes and helps reduce stress and uncertainty for loved ones during a difficult time. **Complete Your Pre-need Burial Eligibility Application**

NCA is committed to ensuring that all eligible Veterans and their families understand and can access the burial benefits they've earned. As part of this effort, we've developed resources that address the unique needs of different Veteran communities.

Download our new infosheet,



MILITARY VETERAN

POWERED BY



CAMP RETREAT

AT YMCA CAMP IMMOKALEE



October 17 – 18
FREE for Military Veterans
(any prior service)

YMCA CAMP IMMOKALEE
6765 Immokalee Rd. | Keystone Heights, FL 32656

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 canoe, tent 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 Neena Shivers at [redacted] to make this arrangement ahead of time.

Recommended items:

Sunglasses, Closed-toed shoes, Hat, Sunscreen, 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





Join us for the celebration of the US Navy's 250th birthday on October 13th, 2025 at Navy Pier next to the USS Orleck from 9 AM to 6 PM. The festivities will kick off with a welcome service at 10 AM, followed by a day filled with food trucks, family-friendly activities, and a live musical performance featuring PROJECT X from 2 to 6 PM. Additionally, enjoy a special tour rate of only 8.86 for the USS Orleck. This is a FREE event and we hope you can make it!

<https://jaxnavalmuseum.org/event/us-navy-250th-birthday/>

250TH NAVY BALL JACKSONVILLE



OCTOBER 11, 2025

117 Ceremonial Hangar, NAS Jax

E4 & BELOW \$45

POC

E5 & E6 \$55

CSCM Reikowski, QMC Watts,

E7 & ABOVE/CIVILIAN

MCC Vinson, ACC Dantzler

PERSONNEL \$65

250thnavyball.com

**1800 cocktail HOUR/ 1900 START
NAVY BAND, DJ & COLOR GUARD**

What are the rules about saluting as a Retired Soldier?

As described in the Retired Soldier Handbook in Section 3-9, federal law authorizes retired service members to salute the flag during the Pledge of Allegiance; during hoisting, lowering, or passing of the American flag; and during the National Anthem.



There are specific requirements for each situation, so make sure you check out the Retired Soldier Handbook (<https://soldierforlife.army.mil/Army.../Post-Retirement>) so you are in the know!

UPCOMING EVENT

**5 STAR Veterans Center
Community Gathering**

Date: Oct. 31 2025 5PM-7PM
**Location: 40 Acme St.
Jacksonville, FL 32211**
Games * Prizes * and More

We have space for 8-10 Organizations to Join Us
If you would like to reserve table space
Contact Amanda Mills amills@5svc.org
or Call 904-450-1236

You Can Decorate Your Space,
Wear Costumes and Bring Candy


5STARVETERANSCENTER.ORG

Library of Congress Veterans History Project

Last month we kicked off the celebration of the U.S. Army's 250th birthday!

To honor the Army's founding in June 1775, the Veterans History Project launched a new installment of *Serving Our Voices*—"This We'll Defend: The U.S. Army."

This online exhibit features 25 powerful narratives from Army veterans, including members of the Army Nurse Corps and Women's Army Corps. Told through letters, diaries, photos and oral history interviews, their stories reflect the depth and diversity of service across generations.

With more than 55,000 Army stories in our archive, these featured veterans represent just a glimpse into the legacy of the nation's oldest and largest military branch.

Explore the exhibit at <https://www.loc.gov/.../ser.../this-well-defend-the-us-army/>



2025

7th Annual



GOLF

TOURNAMENT

MONDAY
NOVEMBER 17TH, 2025

EAGLE HARBOR GOLF CLUB

2217 Eagle Harbor Pkwy
Fleming Island, FL 32003

Help us find the next veteran recipient of a new home.

And let's support America's heroes.



Since 2019, KB Home has partnered with Jared Allen's Homes for Wounded Warriors (JAH4WW), a nonprofit organization dedicated to raising money to build fully accessible homes for America's combat-injured Veterans.



KB Home has built mortgage-free, accessible homes for veterans in our San Antonio, Tampa and Denver divisions. We are honored and humbled to support those who have given so much for our country and its citizens. We would like to continue this important mission and are actively seeking your help in identifying our next recipient.

If you know a veteran who meets the qualifications and whose family would like to live in a market where we currently build, please encourage them to apply at:

homesforwoundedwarriors.com/veteran-application

Applicant must meet these qualifications:

- Injuries sustained in combat with the U.S. military while serving in Iraq or Afghanistan during Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) or Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF)
- Declared 100% disabled by the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) or Veterans Affairs
- Purple Heart recipient
- Wounds resulting in the loss of a major limb, blindness or paralysis



kbhome.com | homesforwoundedwarriors.com

PLAN TODAY. HONOR FOREVER.

PLANNING AND SCHEDULING A BURIAL AT A VA NATIONAL CEMETERY

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemetery Administration (NCA) ensures those who served this nation are never forgotten. VA operates more than 155 national cemeteries and maintains more than 4 million graves to honor their service and sacrifice. Burial services at VA national cemeteries are provided at no cost to eligible Veterans, their spouses, and qualifying family members.

If you've lost a loved one and need to plan a burial at a VA national cemetery, we are here to guide you through the process. In many cases, we can schedule the burial with a single phone call.

1. **Gather Information and Documents:** Collect personal information identifying the deceased* and military documents showing the Veteran's qualifying service. If the Veteran's discharge documents are not readily available, do not delay calling the Scheduling Office; VA will get copies of them.
2. **Decide on Burial Details:** Determine the cemetery location, type of burial, and whether you will be requesting military funeral honors. If you are using a funeral home, your funeral director will assist.
3. **Contact the National Cemetery Administration:** Contact the National Cemetery Scheduling Office to schedule a burial. If you have a pre-need decision letter, VA will already have much of the required information.

*A death certificate is not usually required but may be in some cases. A representative will explain if needed.

National Cemetery Scheduling Office

To request a burial, call 800-535-1117 (TTY: 711)
Hours: Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. ET,
and Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. ET.

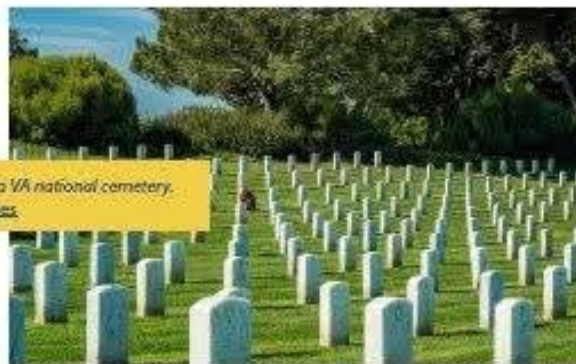


Scan for more information on burial in a VA national cemetery.
www.cem.va.gov/veterans.asp#families

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
National Cemetery Administration





NATIONAL
VETERANS
GOLDEN AGE GAMES

SAVE THE DATE:

TAMPA, FLORIDA

JUN 27 – JUL 2, 2026

Support our Veterans as they go for the gold!



To donate electronically click continue on form,
select James A. Haley as Facility and for Program
select National Veterans Golden Age Games 2026

For questions email:

VHATAMGoldenAgeGames@va.gov

www.veteransgoldenagegames.va.gov

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS FOOTBALL

JAGUARS VS ALL Y'ALL LIBERTY TRIPS



Open to all Liberty eligible sailors.
Limited spaces available.

Free to attend!

SCHEDULE

Panthers: Sunday, Sept. 7. Muster at Liberty at 11 am, kickoff at 1 pm.

Texans: Sunday, Sept. 21. Muster at Liberty at 11 am, kickoff at 1 pm.

Chiefs: Monday, Oct. 6. Muster at Liberty at 5:45 pm, kickoff at 8:15 pm.

Seahawks: Sunday, Oct. 12. Muster at Liberty at 11 am, kickoff at 1 pm.

Chargers: Sunday, Nov. 16. Muster at Liberty 11 am, kickoff at 1 pm.

Call 904.542.1335 for more info | #DUUUVAL



STAY CONNECTED AND FOLLOW US ONLINE
@NASJAXMWR | NavyMWRJacksonville.com



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Does the VA pay for cremation or burial expenses?

The VA does not pay for cremation directly. Any item or service obtained from a funeral home will be at the families' expense. Some Veterans' families may be entitled to a burial allowance

Can I be buried in a National Cemetery if I'm cremated?

Yes, either in ground or above ground placement is available, depending on the cemetery.

Can my spouse be buried with me in a VA National Cemetery?

Yes. However spousal benefits do not apply if the Veteran is buried in a private cemetery.

Plan Today. Honor Forever. Visit cem.va.gov/veterans-and-families/





Leo C. Chase Jr. VA Clinic

Veteran Food Bank

Donation Drop Off:
100 Deerfield Preserve Blvd
Monday-Friday 7:30am-4:30pm

Non Perishable Suggestions: canned
meat/fish/vegetable/fruit, pudding, jello,
crackers, dry pasta & sauce, ready meals,
jerky, individual water & juice, condiments,
peanuts, peanut butter & jelly, beans, cereal,
applesauce, soup, re-usable bags

Florida's Largest Veterans Day Experience

ZEPHYRHILLS



FREE
TO THE
PUBLIC

NOV.
7th - 9th

BATTLE FOR VETERANS

Hosted By

ZEPHYRHILLS



MUSEUM

OF MILITARY HISTORY

ZMMH.org



For Updates!

Featured Guest

WW2Armor.org



November 7th-9th, 2025 - Fri, Sat & Sun - 10am-5pm
5200 Airport Rd, Zephyrhills, FL 33542

Friday, Saturday & Sunday:

- Military Vehicle Show & Display
- Weapons Demonstrations
- Food & Military Vendors
- Aircraft on Display
- Museum Open During Event

Saturday:

- 10AM Veterans Day Parade in Downtown Zephyrhills
- WW2 Battle Reenactment

Sunday:

- WW2 Battle Reenactment

Tanks in
Action
During
Battles!

Twice a month, the Jacksonville Military Affairs & Veterans Department hosts this free food distribution for active-duty military members and their families with valid military ID.

THE CITY OF JACKSONVILLE'S MILITARY AFFAIRS AND VETERANS DEPARTMENT PRESENTS

**2ND THURSDAYS
OF THE MONTH
10 AM-12 PM**

**FOOD
FARMACY**

**4TH THURSDAYS
OF THE MONTH
2-4 PM**

ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY FAMILIES WITH MILITARY ID
390 Mayport Rd. Atlantic Beach Fl, 32233


City of Jacksonville, Florida **MAVD** **Humana** **CATHOLIC CHARITIES** **BEAM** **FEEDING**
MILITARY AFFAIRS & VETERANS DEPARTMENT Military Transforming Lives NORTHEAST FLORIDA





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FREE SERVICES

for Veterans

The St. Johns County Clerk of the Circuit Court and County Comptroller is proud to honor veterans, active-duty military, reservists, and dependents by offering **complimentary passport and wedding photos, notary services, and recording services for DD-214s in November.**



Richard O. Watson Judicial Center
4010 Lewis Speedway
St. Augustine, Florida 32084
904-819-3600

www.stjohnsclerk.com

Information about FL veterans organizations by county

ORGANIZATION	PHONE	PAGE	ORGANIZATION	PHONE	PAGE	ORGANIZATION	PHONE	PAGE
POLK (Veteran Pop. 55,159)			VFV POST 8203 (941) 426-8665			AMERICAN LEGION POST # 267 (386) 672-7678		
1st CAVALRY 'A' TROOP meets @ VFV 2093 2nd Tues.			4860 Trot Circle, North Port, FL 34267-3419			156 New Britain Ave., Ormond Bch., FL 32174		
AMERICAN LEGION POST 3 (863) 633-8893			VFV POST 10178 (941) 474-7516			AMERICAN LEGION POST # 270 (386) 788-8800		
1575 HWY 17 S., Bartow, FL 33630			550 N. McCall Rd., Englewood, FL 34223			119 Howes St., Port Orange, FL 32127		
4 Lakes Veteran Ctrp			VIETNAM BROTHERHOOD ALPHA COMPANY, now			AMERICAN LEGION POST 285 396-210-4926		
590 La Quinta Blvd., Winter Haven, FL 33881			meets every Thurs at 7:30 PM at DAV 97, 7177 Bee Ridge Rd.,			4497 US HWY 1, Edgewater, FL 32141		
AMERICAN LEGION POST 4 (863) 683-8710			Sarasota, FL 34241. 941-371-7444			AMERICAN LEGION POST # 361 (386) 780-3887		
1375 Ariana St., Lakeland, FL 33803			SEMINOLE (Veteran Pop. 39,000)			PO Box 4581, 2648 S. Ridgewood, S. Daytona, FL 32121		
AMERICAN LEGION POST 8 (863) 293-7029 p 33			American Legion Post 53 407 678-3654			AMVETS POST 2 386-402-7602		
300 Ave. M. NW, Winter Haven, FL 33881			2544 Park Dr., Sanford, FL 32773			1209 S. Ridgewood, Edgewater, FL 32132		
AMERICAN LEGION POST 34 (863) 422-6940			American Legion Post 183 (407) 831-8004			AMVETS POST 13 (386) 943-9311		
107 11th St. N., Haines City, FL 33845			2706 Wells Ave., Fern Park, FL 32730			645 W. New York Ave., DeLand, FL 32720		
AMERICAN LEGION POST 71 963-689-6689			American Legion Memorial Post 241 https://veterans.org/			AMVETS POST 911 (386) 788-1014		
P.O. Box 442, Ft. Meade, FL 33841			491 W. Broadway St., Oviedo, FL 32765			5624 S. Ridgewood Ave., Pt. Orange, FL 32127		
American Legion POST 72 (863) 425-0644			AMVETS POST 17 (407) 322-2886			The West Volusia MOAA Chapter 368 479 3400 Mtg monthly.		
1500 SR 37 N., Mulberry, FL			915 W. 11th Street, Sanford 32771			Call Maj Curt Voebel or gtorc@gmail.com Thomas Jackson		
AMVETS POST 32 (863) 688-3413			CASSELBERRY VETERANS CLUB 407 260-1404			CWA USA (RET) Thomas Jackson Military Order of		
1339 E. Gary Rd., Lakeland, FL 33801			200 N. Concord St., Casselberry FL 32707			the Purple Heart Chptr 316 386-690-9533 Mtg. @ VA Home,		
KOREAN WAR VETERANS Chptr. 158 (863) 533-7374			DAV 30 (407) 323-2710			1520 Mason Ave., Daytona Bch., July 78 1pm		
Buck Rogers 863-856-3559 buckrogers66@earthlink.net			3512 S. Orlando Dr., Sanford, FL 32773			VA OUTPATIENT (386) 323-7600 p 55		
meets @ Amer. Leg. Post 3, HWY 17S, Bartow 3rd Saturday			FLEET RESERVE BRANCH 147 407-330-1706			551 National Healthcare Dr., Daytona Bch., FL 32117		
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE HEART OF FL #1107			3040 W. SR 46, Sanford, FL 32771			VET CENTER OF DAYTONA BEACH (386) 266-6600		
863-207-4200 meets @ A.L. Post 8, 300 AVE. M. Winter			MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART Chapter 400			1620 Mason Ave ste C, Daytona Bch., FL 32117		
Haven, FL 4th Thursday at 1830 hrs (6:30 PM)			2651 Peony Dr., Oviedo, FL 32765 (407) 376-4560			VA Daytona Community Based Outpatient Clinic p 55		
Military Order of Purple Heart Chptr 535-FL-4 407-350-			PARALYZED VETS OF AMERICA (407) 328-7041			1200 Deltona Blvd., Deltona, FL 32725 386-575-5000		
0224			2711 S. Design Court, Sanford			VFV POST # 1590 (386) 252-5844		
Azalea pk 1325 Grasslands Blvd., Lakeland, 33803 1st mon 5			@200 N. Concord St., Casselberry, FL 3rd Sat @ 10am			1013 Veterans Ct., Daytona Bch 32114		
POLK VETERANS COALITION			SEMINOLE CTY VETERANS SERVICES (407) 685-2347			VFV POST # 2380 (386) 738-2380		
2938 Grasslands Dr., Lakeland, FL 33803			520 W. Lake Mary Blvd Suite 100, Sanford, FL 32773			510 S. Alabama Ave., DeLand 32724		
US Mil. Vets Motorcycles (863) 294-5810			US SUBMARINE VETS (407) 222-8161			VFV POST # 3282 (386) 761-7217		
VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE Polk City (863) 634-6220			mtg @ Casselberry Vet, 200 Concord Dr Casselberry 32707			5810 S. Williamson Blvd Port Orange 32134		
1290 Golfview Ave. Ste 116, BARTON FL 33831			VA OUTPATIENT (386) 456-2080 p 55			VFV POST # 4230 (386) 423-1789		
VETERANS OF BATTLE OF BULGE 32 (863) 866-2121			2583 S. Volusia Ave. Ste 300, Orange City, FL 32763			2350 Sunset Dr. New Smyrna Bch. 32168		
330 E. Palm Dr., Lakeland, FL 33803			VFV POST 5426 (407) 327-3151			VFV POST 8093 (386) 666-8648		
VA OUTPATIENT (863) 838-4400 p 56			420 N. Edgemoor Ave., Winter Springs, FL 32708			351 S. Charles Richard Beal Blvd (17992), DeBary, FL 32713		
2080 Meadowland Park., Lakeland, FL 33803			VFV POST 8207 (407) 339-6016			VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA CHAPTER 1048		
VFV POST 2297 (863) 687-5148			1520 N. Ronald Reagan Blvd, CR 427, Longwood, FL 32750			386-690-9553 PO Box 290262 Port Orange, FL 32128		
305 N. Central Ave., Lakeland, FL 33815			VFV POST 10139 (407) 883-5615			Volusia County Veterans Service Office 386-740-6102		
VFV POST 2420 (863) 676-9166			300 Lake Mills Rd. Chuluota, FL 32768 post10139@vfw.org			123 W. Indiana Ave., DeLand, FL 32720		
200 Central, Lake Wales, FL 33853			St. Johns (Veteran Pop. 17,554)					
VFV POST 4289 (863) 293-7469			AMERICAN LEGION POST 37 alps7adjutant@gmail.com					
2441 7th St. SW., Winter Haven, FL 33880			PO Box 2204 St. Augustine, FL 32084					
VFV POST 6002 (863) 815-4777			PO Box 2204 St. Augustine, FL 32084					
9096 US 90N., Lakeland, FL 33810 PO 328, Kathleen 33849			590 N. Wilderness Tr., Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082					
PUTNAM Veteran Population 6,697			AMERICAN LEGION POST 194 (340) 412-1325					
AMERICAN LEGION POST 45 386-328-8967			1029 Pearl St., St. Augustine, FL 32084					
316 Osceola St., Palatka, FL 32177			VFV POST 2391 (904) 797-5267					
AMERICAN LEGION 263 386-684-4464			6164 US 1 S., St. Augustine, FL 32086					
145 S. CR 315, Interlachen, FL 32148			VFV POST 8696 (904) 446-8696					
FLEET RESERVE Branch 153 386-684-6289			47 Old Kings Rd., Palm Coast, FL 32137					
207 Commonwealth Ave., Interlachen, FL 32148			ST. JOHNS COUNTY VETS SVC OFC (904) 209-6160					
PUTNAM COUNTY VETS SVC OFC (904) 329-0327			1955 US 1 S., Ste 550, St. Augustine, FL 32086					
PO Box 771, 2509 Crill Ave. Palatka, FL 32177			VVA Leo C. Chase chapter 1084 Pres. James Campeau					
VFV POST 3349 386-328-2963			St. Johns Co. camposugames@gmail.com 904-315-6167					
3201 Reid St., Palatka, FL 32177			VVA Leo C. Chase chapter 1084 Pres. James Campeau					
VFV POST 10164 386-684-0839			St. LUCIE (Veteran Pop. 36,852)					
1034 SR 20, Interlachen, FL 32148 (ALSO Amvets 1064)			AMVETS POSTS ASSOC. 364 772-671-6667					
SARASOTA (Veteran Pop. 50,353)			1150 SW California Blvd., Port St. Lucie, FL 34953					
Air Force Association Sarasota-Manatee			AMERICAN LEGION POST 40 (772) 461-1280					
Sarasota-Manatee.afaflorida.org (941-371-0375)			610 US HWY 1, Ft. Pierce, FL 34950					
AMERICAN LEGION POST #30 (941) 360-8719			AMERICAN LEGION POST 171 (772) 595-9798					
4015 Lookwood Ridge Rd., Sarasota, FL 34234			1814 N 21st St., Ft. Pierce, FL 34960					
AMERICAN LEGION POST 159 (941) 485-4748			AMERICAN LEGION 355 (772) 871-6667					
1770 E. Venice Ave., Venice, FL 34292-3190			1150 SW California, Blvd., Ft. St. Lucie, FL 34968-0427					
AMERICAN LEGION POST 254 (941) 423-7311			AMERICAN LEGION 358 (772) 595-0856					
8648 Taneytown St., North Port, FL 34287-0915			4350 Chandler Ave., Ft. Pierce, 34982					
AMERICAN LEGION POST #298 (941) 371-1326			AMVETS POST 15 (772) 464-7751					
5201 Richardson Rd., Sarasota, FL 34232			2024 SOUTH US 1, Ft. Pierce, FL 34960					
AMVETS POST 312 (941) 429-8403 p 31			Disabled American Veterans, Chap 113 772-671-6667					
7050 Chancellor, North Port, FL 34287			1150 SW California Blvd., Port St. Lucie, FL 34953					
AMVETS Post 2020 (941) 429-1999			Jewish War Veterans, Chapter 705 772-871-6667					
401 Ortiz Blvd., N. Port, FL 34287-1332			1150 SW California Blvd., Port St. Lucie, FL 34953					
DAV CHPTR. 101 (941) 468-4500			Korean War Veterans, Chapter 106 772-871-6667					
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE DET. 643 941-406-7450			1150 SW California Blvd., Port St. Lucie, FL 34953					
meets @ 600 E. Colonia Ln., Nokomis, FL 34275-2725			MARINE CORPS LEAGUE DET. 688					
DAV CHAPTER 97 (941) 371-7544			1150 SW California, Pt. St. Lucie, FL 34953					
7177 Bee Ridge Rd., Sarasota, FL 34241			PO Box 1765 (3475 Douglas Rd.), Ft. Pierce, FL 34981					
FLORIDA VETERANS FOR COMMON SENSE			VVA 566 (772) 579-5730					
Mike Bums/ former POW, 654 Siesta Dr., Sarasota, FL			PO BOX 7365 , Pt. St. Lucie, FL 34965					
OPERATION ECO VETS - (941) 219-8715			PO Box 1765 (3475 Douglas Rd.), Ft. Pierce, FL 34981					
Vet Services - 350 Braden Ave., Sarasota, 34243			VVA 566 (772) 579-5730					
SARASOTA COUNTY VETERAN Commission			PO BOX 7365 , Pt. St. Lucie, FL 34965					
941-544-6306 PO BOX 2055 Sarasota, FL 34230			SUMTER (Veteran Pop. 8,905)					
presidentsco@gmail.com			AMERICAN LEGION POST 18					
SARASOTA CTY VETERAN SERVICES (941) 861-2899			401 E. Gulf Atlantic HWY, Wildwood, FL 34785					
2200 Ringling Blvd. St. Ste. 125 Sarasota FL 34237			AMERICAN LEGION POST 62 (352) 444-2164					
SARASOTA CTY VETERAN SERVICES (941) 861-3047			3387 North CR 479 Lake Panasofflee, FL					
4000 S. Tamiami Trail, Ste. 139 Venice, FL 3492			AMERICAN LEGION POST 101 352/660-0201					
SARASOTA COUNTY VETERAN SERVICES N. PORT			PO BOX 101, 2881 E-C-48, Bushnell, FL 3381					
(941) 429-7214			AMVETS POST 793 (352) 793-2054					
4970 City Hall Blvd., Room 264 N. Port, FL 34286			@VFV POST 10084 CR 470, Lake Panasofflee					
(941) 861-2099			BUSHNELL VA NATIONAL CEMETERY (352) 793-7740					
JEWISH WAR VETERANS (941) 355-1227			6902 SW 102nd Ave., Bushnell, FL 33513					
4008 78th Pl. E. Sarasota, FL 34242			Sumter County Veterans Service Offices 352-689-4450					
SARASOTA VA NATIONAL CEMETERY 941-861-6040 or			7375 Powell Rd., Wildwood, FL 34785					
toll free 877-861-8640 9510 SR72, Sarasota, FL 34241			VFV POST 10084 (Lake Panasofflee) (352) 793-2054					
UKRAINIAN AMERICAN VETS Post 40 941-587-3024			PO BOX 391, Lake Panasofflee, FL 33538					
4100 S. Biscayne Dr., N. Port, FL 34287			VFV POST 10137 (352) 793-8511					
SARASOTA VET CENTER 941-927-8286 ext.23106			6036 CR 618, Veterans Memorial Hwy., Bushnell, FL 33513					
4801 Swift Rd., Suite A, Sarasota, FL 34231			VOLUSIA (Veteran Pop. 60,090)					
SRQ VETS.org - 941-777-8387 Mtg. at DAV Post 37, 7377 Bee			AMERICAN LEGION POST 6 386-740-0622					
Ridge Rd Sarasota, FL 34241. mail to:SRQ Bee Ridge Rd, Sarasota,			1087 Biscayne Blvd. DeLand, FL 32734					
FL 34233 email info@srqsports.org			AMERICAN LEGION POST # 17 (386) 427-9007					
VAOPC SARASOTA (941) 371-3349 p 56			619 W. Canal St., New Smyrna Bch., FL 32168					
5682 Bee Ridge Rd., #100, Sarasota, FL 34233			AMERICAN LEGION POST 120 386-258-5275					
VFV POST 3233 941-365-1918			481 Walker St. Holly Hill, FL 32117					
124 S. Tuttle Ave., Sarasota, FL 34262			AMERICAN LEGION POST 295					
VFV POST 8118 (941) 484-0118			321-696-8272 or 386-532-7915 www.alp.255deltona.org					
832 E. Venice Ave., Venice, FL 34235								



www.FemaleVeteransNetwork.org

Cynthia Henderson
Founder/President 2015

cynthia@femaleveteransnetwork.org

2719 W. Woodbrook St.
Lecanto, FL 34461
(813) 352-628-6481 (352) 613-3215

Meetings are September - May at 1:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month at Faith Lutheran Church fellowship hall 935 S. Crystal Glen Drive, Lecanto, FL. Female Veterans Network is selling commemorative pins recognizing Female Veterans. Pins are available at Mac-I Signs, 7068 Grover Cleveland, Homosassa and Citrus County Radio Stations 964 Crystal Glen Drive, Lecanto

Call Cynthia Henderson: 352-628-6481



she wore these.

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WOMEN VETERANS HEALTH CARE



Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Which National Park is your favorite to use your free Military Lifetime Pass?

Don't have one yet? Don't miss out! Veterans, service members, dependents, and Gold Star families are eligible. Learn more:

www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/



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BY**

Raising Warriors

For God, Country, & Community

FREE



Free Membership

- ✔ Prepare Future Heroes
- ✔ Support Warrior Families
- ✔ Heal Combat Trauma
- ✔ Prevent Suicides

Contact
Matthew.Burke@10CAN.org

Join Today
www.10CAN.org



★ **Veterans Food Assistance Program** ★

What?

Starting October 1st DVNF will be offering a one-time grant per veteran household to support their nutritional needs.

How to Apply

We have an online application that will need to be completed by the Veteran. The application can be found at <https://www.grantinterface.com/sl/dI4NjA>. The link will be open starting October 1st, 2024.

Veteran Qualifications

- Must have a DD214 or Veteran ID
- Was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable
- A letter of reference from a case worker or advocate may make the application more favorable.

Other Details

- This is not a monthly grant.
- The groceries will be delivered directly to the Veteran using Walmart or grocery store delivery service.
- Veterans can receive up to \$450 worth of groceries

For more information, please contact us: (202) 737-0522 - info@dvnf.org



National League of POW/MIA Families

Hello everyone!

The League is always seeking out photos of POW/MIA flags, monuments, Missing Man Honors Tables, POW/MIA empty chairs, etc. from your community to feature on our social media pages and website.

Sharing with us is easy, just message your photos to our email -

nationalleague@pow-miafamilies.org

With your full name as well as a brief description of when & where the photo was taken.



NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES OF AMERICAN
PRISONERS & MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100, Falls Church, VA 22041

PH ---703/465-7432

www.pow-miafamilies.org

FAX ---703/465-7433

2024 ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Would you prefer to receive League material by email? Y__N__ Email: _____

_____ @\$20/member

_____ Total Amount: _____

IRS EIN# 23-7071242

How to report a Veteran's death to VA

The passing of a Veteran is a solemn time that deserves to be recognized and reported with the utmost respect. Veterans have served their country and worked hard for their well-deserved benefits.

However, after a Veteran passes away, family members should report the death of the Veteran to VA as soon as possible to stop current benefits payments. If the death is not reported promptly, survivors or executors of the Veteran's estate may have to repay any overpayments received. Payments the deceased Veteran received may include compensation, pension, education or Veteran Readiness & Employment benefits.

VA encourages loved ones of deceased Veterans to follow the guidance below on reporting Veteran deaths to avoid falling victim to benefit scams.

How to report the death of a Veteran

Calling is the fastest way to report a Veteran's death so VA will stop benefit payments, but there are other options available for reporting.

Options for reporting:

By Phone: Call VA 800-827-1000 (TTY: 711) and select 5. Agents are available Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. ET.

In Person: Go to a VA regional office. Find the nearest VA regional office.

By Mail: Department of Veterans Affairs Claims Intake Center, PO Box 4444, Janesville, WI 53547-4444. Include your relationship to the Veteran and any supporting documents that can help us verify the Veteran's identity. Examples of supporting documents are:

Death certificate or other public record of the Veteran's death

Discharge document (like a DD214)

If you report in person at a VA regional office or by mail, provide copies of:

Death certificate or other public record of the Veteran's death.

Discharge document (like a DD214).

Provide as much information about the Veteran as you can when you first report the notice of death to VA. This information will help VA verify the Veteran's identity. This information includes:

Full name.

Social Security Number or VA claim number.

Date of birth.

Date of death.

Branch of service.

Best practices to avoid survivor benefit scams

Save important files, such as the Veteran's military service/treatment records, discharge papers and copies of their VA claims.

Go to the VA website. For guidance on creating an account and obtaining a VA security Personal Identification Number (PIN) to securely access benefit information. A VA Security PIN is an additional way to secure direct deposit accounts from theft and protect Personally Identifiable Information (PII).

Never give out PII via text, and be cautious of suspicious hyperlinks or unfamiliar hyperlinks.

If a survivor is missing a VA benefits payment, identifies a discrepancy in payments, or find suspicious activity with a direct deposit account, contact VA immediately at 800-827-1000.

Review all documents thoroughly. Survivors should never sign a blank form for some

one else to complete later. They should always review the completed form before signing and retain a copy of the completed form for their records.

For protection against identity theft scams, notify the major credit bureaus (Equifax, Experian and TransUnion) to update the individual's credit report with a deceased notice and notify the Veteran's financial institutions so all accounts can be closed or transferred appropriately.

According to AARP, scammers also use names published in obituaries to pretend to be long lost relatives of the deceased. When it's time to write your loved one's obituary, consider leaving out the birthdate, middle name, home address, birthplace and mother's maiden name.

For other scams predators use, visit www.VA.GOV/VSAFE.

VA is committed to delivering world-class care and benefits to Veterans and their dependents by providing survivors with ongoing support and assistance. Check to see if you qualify for survivor benefits, such as health care coverage, Survivors' and Dependents' Education Assistance Program, housing assistance, or even help with burial costs.

For more guidance on how to report the death of a Veteran, submitting necessary documentation and finding additional resources available, visit VA Benefits For Spouses, Dependents, Survivors, And Family Caregivers | Veterans Affairs.

To report a missing VA benefits payment, identify a discrepancy in payments, or find suspicious activity with a direct deposit account, contact VA immediately at 800-827-1000. You may also file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission if funeral homes charge to set up funeral honors or schedule a burial with VA's National Cemetery Administration by visiting reportfraud.ftc.gov. For other scams predators use, visit va.gov/vsafe.

Burials and Memorials

VA honors the service and sacrifice of Veterans and their family members.

How to Apply

To find out in advance if a Veteran or family member is eligible for burial in a VA national cemetery, click “Apply for Pre-Need Burial Eligibility” to fill out and submit the application.

Apply for Pre-Need Burial Eligibility

If pre-need eligibility has not been determined, upon the death of the Veteran or his or her spouse or dependent (also called the time of need), family members should locate the Veteran’s DD-214 or other discharge papers if readily available and click “Schedule a Burial” to begin the process. Then make arrangements with a funeral home, National Cemetery Scheduling Office, or directly with a VA national cemetery.

VA Memorial Benefits

VA takes special care to pay lasting tribute to the memory of Veterans who served and sacrificed and that of their families. VA meticulously maintains 155 VA national cemeteries in 44 states and Puerto Rico and is working to increase access to accommodate Veterans and eligible family members close to home. Currently, more than 94 percent of Veterans have a burial option in an open VA, state or tribal veterans cemetery located within 75 miles of their home.

Note that most if not all of these benefits may be provided for Veterans who are interred in a State, Territorial or Tribal Veterans cemetery. Check with the cemetery to ensure coverage. Some benefits are also available for Veterans who choose burial in a private cemetery.

Veterans with a qualifying discharge are entitled to VA burial benefits. Spouses and dependent children are eligible too, even if they predecease the Veteran.

The following burial benefits may be provided:

Burial in a VA national cemetery

Opening and closing of the grave for burial of casketed or cremated remains, or placement of cremated remains in an above-ground vault, also called a columbarium

A government furnished grave liner

Perpetual care of the gravesite

A headstone or marker with an inscription

A burial flag

A Presidential Memorial Certificate

A dedicated memorial page on the Veterans Legacy Memorial site where friends and family can upload photos and remembrances

Burial in a private cemetery

A government headstone, marker, or medallion

A burial flag

A Presidential Memorial Certificate

Some survivors may also be entitled to VA burial allowances as partial reimbursement for the costs of funerals and burials for eligible Veterans

Please note that gravesites in a VA national cemetery cannot be reserved in advance. To prepare for a private cemetery burial, VA suggests families review these questions and complete required forms in advance.

VA Requirements

Discharge papers to establish your eligibility for burial services



Stories of Service

St. Johns County Veterans Oral History Project



Stories of Service is an oral history project focused on the veterans of St. Johns County. The goal of this project was to collect, document, and preserve the memories of local veterans for future generations.

Materials collected by the Society for this project have allowed for the creation of two exhibits, one physical at the Oldest House Museum Complex at 14 St. Francis Street on display until January, one digital, accessible below and through our main website under the LEARN tab.

Items on display in both the digital and physical exhibits tell the stories of our local veterans, placing them proudly within the long and storied histories of St. Augustine and St. Johns County.

A sincere thanks to them all.



View the Digital Exhibit:

<https://sahsstoriesofservice.omeka.net/>



Main: 904-824-2872

Research Library: 904-825-2333

271 Charlotte Street, St. Augustine, FL 32084

Research Library located at 6 Artillery Lane, St. Augustine FL 32084

Surviving Spouse Milestones

Not all milestones apply to every person situation

One Year Mark:

- Moving out of quarters (if applicable)
- Storage at government expense expires
- Apply for Home of Selection (HOS) extension
- HEART Act (one year from date SGLI/DG received)

Two Year Mark:

- Loss of Spouse's VA Transitional DIC Benefits (\$250 per family per month)

only applies to spouse with one or more minor children in household

- Apply for Home of Selection (HOS) extension

Three Year Mark:

- TRICARE Healthcare and Dental benefits transitions to retiree rate for spouse
- Home of Selection (HOS) entitlement expires

Spouse Turns 52:

- If disabled, can remain and retain SSA Survivor Benefits

Spouse Turns 55:

- Can remarry and not lose SBP eligibility

Spouse Turns 57:

- Can remarry not lose DIC eligibility

Spouse Turns 60:

- Can remarry and retain SSA Survivor Benefits

Surviving Youth Milestones

Not all milestones apply to every person situation

Child Turns 16:

- Elimination of SSA entitlement for adult receiving Child in Care benefits

Child Turns 18:

- College - Fry Scholarship *Line of Duty Cases only*
- College - Dependence Education Assistance
- *VA Service Connected Death*
- Loss of annuities (SSA, DIC, SBP) unless enrolled in school full time. SSA depends on age when graduating High School
- Loss of annual benefit report
- If DG/SGLI beneficiary - If not already received

Child Turns 21:

- Loss of DFERS/TRICARE unless enrolled in school full time
- Enrollment in TRICARE Young Adult

Child Turns 22:

- Loss of Child-Only SBP regardless of school enrollment

Child Turns 23:

- Loss of DFERS/TRICARE transitional Survivor unless incapacitated
- Enrollment in TRICARE Young Adult

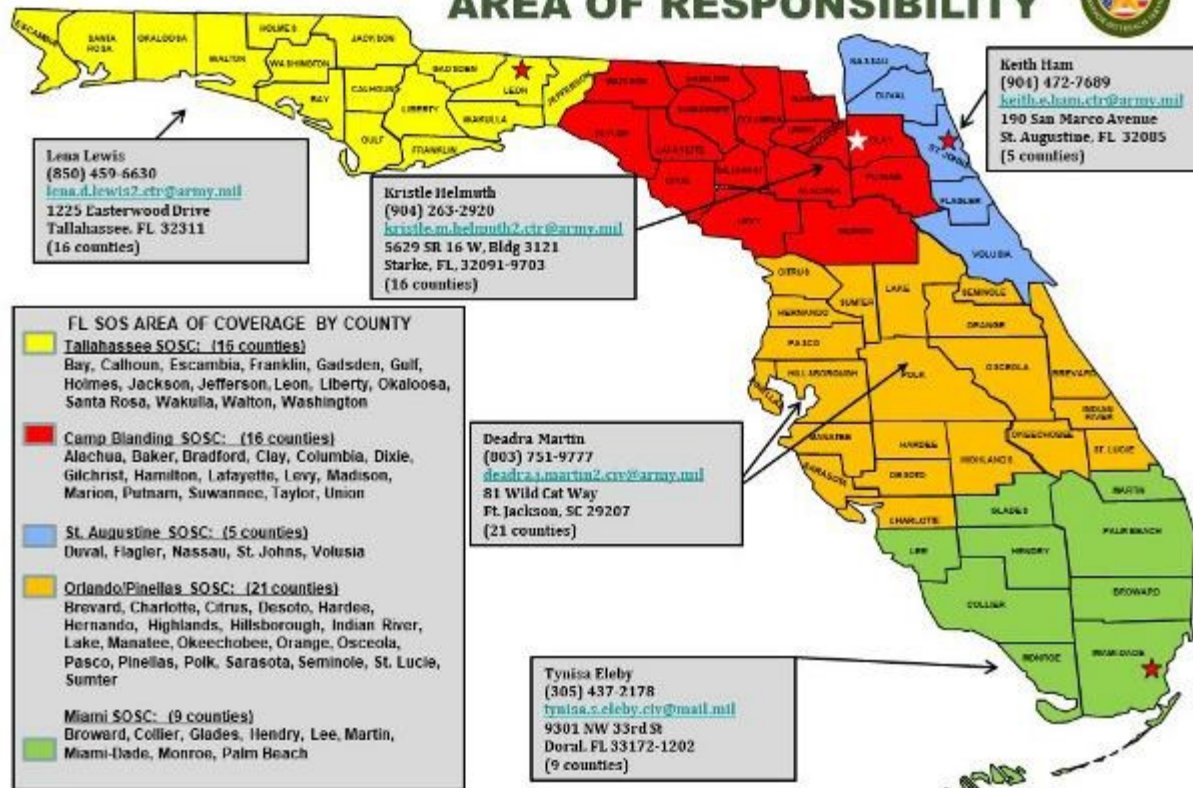
Child Turns 26:

- Loss of TRICARE Young Adult

Child Turns 33:

- Loss of Fry Scholarship eligibility

FLORIDA SURVIVOR OUTREACH SERVICES AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY



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	Tommy Tittle	twt1968@att.net
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-000314706401

This is a large advertisement for the Veterans Crisis Line. It features a blue speech bubble with a white star on the left. To its right is a grid of red dots. The text "Veterans Crisis Line" is prominently displayed in large, bold letters. Below this, the phone number "1-800-273-8255" is shown, followed by "PRESS 1" in a red circle. In the center, there is a photo of a man with a beard and a blue speech bubble that says "STAND BY THEM". Below the photo, it says "Confidential help for Veterans and their families". To the right of the photo is a logo for the "NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE" with the phone number "1-800-273-TALK (8255)" and the website "suicidepreventionlifeline.org". On the left side, there is a smaller version of the "Veterans Crisis Line" logo and phone number.

rans
s Line
73-8255
PRESS 1

Veterans
Crisis Line
00-273-8255 PRESS 1

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

STAND BY THEM
Confidential help for
Veterans and their families

NATIONAL
SUICIDE
PREVENTION
LIFELINE
1-800-273-TALK (8255)
suicidepreventionlifeline.org

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

This is a smaller advertisement for the Military/Veterans Crisis Line. It features a grid of red dots on the left. The text "Military/Veterans Crisis Line" is in bold, followed by the phone number "1-800-273-8255". At the bottom, it says "Confidential chat at MilitaryCrisisLine.net or text 838255".

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

Confidential chat at MilitaryCrisisLine.net or text 838255

This is another smaller advertisement for the Veterans Crisis Line. It features a blue speech bubble with a white star on the left. To its right is a grid of red dots. The text "Veterans Crisis Line" is in bold, followed by the phone number "1-800-273-8255" and "PRESS 1" in a red circle.

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



FLORIDA VETERANS LEGAL HELPLINE



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:



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: Ansil Lewis, SgtMaj USMC, ret

Meetings:

First Wednesday of each month

Location:

American Legion Post 250
2608 Black Creek Rd
Middleburg, FL 32068

Time: 1100 (11am)

904-658-0105

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)

DUVAL COUNTY

President

Meetings:

Third Tuesday of each month

Location:

American Legion Post 37
Main Building
San Juan Avenue

Time: 1900 (7 pm)

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 Coun-
ty 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 D. McDermott Director

Lori Chapman Assistant VSO

Shauna Holton Assistant VSO

Jonathan Rojas Assistant VSO

Henry Nocom, Assistant VSO

April Manner Administrative Coordinator

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.