



# The Patriot Reader Newsletter

P.O. Box 2117

St. Augustine, FL 32085

Bill Dudley, Publisher

Michael Rothfeld, Editor

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Volume 5, Issue 9

Newsletter Date: September, 2016

## Message from the Chairman

Fellow Veterans:

Your Veterans Council in collaboration with the Veterans Services Office conducted another highly successful Veterans Stand Down on Saturday, August 20 at the Elks Lodge. The number of volunteers and volumes of clothing, toilet articles, and other items needed by the homeless was overwhelming. A huge thanks to the Elks Lodge for providing the facility at no charge, preparing the food, coffee, donuts and other amenities and the many Elks volunteers who gave of their time Friday and Saturday. To top that off, they also gave a donation of \$2000 to help with the purchase of bicycles, and other gifts for the homeless veteran's ticket drawing. The number of homeless veterans attending Saturdays Stand Down was down from previous years but still exceeds our goal for the county. Our objective is to reach our goal of zero. This should become a reality once our homeless shelter is built. Another notable event on Saturday took place at the Lassen Veterans Nursing Home. The crew from the US Navy USS Lassen recently homeported at NS Mayport visited the Lassen Nursing Home to pay their respects to

our Veterans who reside there. The ships Commanding Officer, Command Master Chief along with several Chief Petty Officer selectees were on hand to thank the veterans for their service and present them with a plaque and ships flag. It was a very touching scene to see these sailors interact with the veterans as they shared stories and socialized for several hours. Bravo Zulu to the Skipper and his crew from this great gray hull warship. Your Veterans Council and MOAA are working hard raising money and putting together plans for this year's Veterans Day Parade. With Veterans Day falling on a Friday this year, we have decided to celebrate Veterans Day weekend. In addition to the parade, we are hosting a film festival the entire weekend at the Corazon Theater. We will be showing the 5 documentaries that have been produced by the Veterans Council and FVPPI. This is a free event and open to the public. St. Augustine Beach will also host a Veterans Day event at 3 PM at the Veterans Memorial Park next to City Hall. We will conclude the weekend with a patriotic show at the St. Augustine Amphitheater with our guest performer, Lee Greenwood. Tickets will go on sale Friday, 8-26-2016 and can be purchased at the Amphitheater or through Ticketmaster.



For those who attended last month's Veterans Council meeting, you heard our guest speaker, Sheriff David Shoar give a rousing and emotional talk concerning the unacceptable behavior of certain organized groups in this country against our police officers. These actions are particularly offensive to veterans and veteran's organizations. A large number of police officers in this country are veterans and we stand in solidarity with our police officers around the country. To show our solidarity with our local law enforcement, we have organized a program appropriately named ..... VETS- 4 -COPS. This will be a LLC non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. We have filed for the charter with the appropriate filings with the state. As we do with our veterans, please remember to thank a cop or first responder for their service each time you have the opportunity.

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



## Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home



Congratulations to Kay Maley and her staff at the Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans' Nursing Home in St. Augustine. The 120-bed home has been notified by the American College of Health Care Administrators that it will receive the Eli Pick Facility Leadership Award, recognizing high performing skilled nursing facilities. Fewer than 9% of facilities nationwide qualify.



Recently Several "Misses" came for a visit! Miss Manatee County, Miss Daytona Beach and Miss Duval County, Outstanding Teen had a wonderful visit with the veterans.



Teens



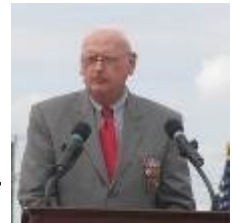
Teens



K9s for Warriors is a fabulous program based right nearby in Ponte Vedra Beach. Recently they brought many of their "ambassadors" to visits the veterans.



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



JNC SC Chairman,  
Ray Quinn

The Support Committee invites everyone to attend its **next scheduled meeting, on Monday, September 12, 2016.** The meeting will be at **7:00pm.** The meeting will take place at Community Hospice, **4266 Sunbeam Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32257 in Conference Room A.**

**+++++2015/2016 Officers of the SCJNC+++++**

Chairman: Ray Quinn

Vice Chairman: Bill Dudley, Treasurer: John Mountcastle

Assistant Treasurer: Michael Rothfeld, Secretary: Kathy Church

Chaplain: Michael Halyard, Master-At-Arms: Joe McDermott

JAG Officer: Patrick Bennett, Historian: Jody Raymond

*The First Muster*

*The Florida National Guard and Florida Department of Military Affairs join with Florida Living History, Inc. to commemorate the 451st anniversary of the first mustering of America's original citizen-soldiers, The annual First Muster event will be held from 4 to 5 p.m. on September 16, 2016, at the St. Francis Barracks.*



*The first muster took place on September 16, 1565, in the newly established San Agustín de la Florida, and involved around 50 men. This heritage event commemorates that initial muster of America's militia and the "birthday" of Florida's National Guard.*

*Florida Living History, Inc. will provide historians specializing in living history dressed in traditional garb as well as Spanish citizen-soldiers who formed Florida's first militia. Historians will also be bearing 16th-century weapons and will discuss and demonstrate the military arts of the period.*

*Admission: Free*

*When: Friday, September 16, 2016, 4 - 5 p.m.*

*Where: The St. Francis National Guard Barracks is located at 82 Marine Street in St. Augustine FL 32084.*

## **Homeless get helping hand at Veterans Stand Down**

**By JAKE MARTIN      [jake.martin@staugustine.com](mailto:jake.martin@staugustine.com)**

**This article used with permission of its author and the St. Augustine Record**

Dozens of homeless or in-need veterans were given hot meals, clothing, military surplus supplies and a fresh dose of appreciation at the 10th annual Homeless Veterans Stand Down at St. Augustine Elks Lodge #829 on Saturday.

Volunteers from local organizations, working with the St. Johns County Veterans Council, teamed up to provide veterans with haircuts, showers and assistance applying for benefits and answers to legal questions.

Several community groups helped collect, organize and hand out supplies to veterans and other area homeless.

Bill Dudley, chairman of the St. Johns County Veterans Council, said at any given time there are about 35-38 homeless veterans, with a variety of needs, living in the county.

“This is just one of the things we can do in this county for our homeless veterans,” he said. “We make sure this is their day and to recognize them for their service as well as to give them some kind of assistance.”

Dudley said there were as many as 100 other area homeless who would be given some food and clothing once veterans were checked in and received their supplies and services.

Personnel from organizations including the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the local Wildflower Health & Dental Clinic, the National Alliance on Mental Illness and CareerSource Northeast Florida were on hand to address any needed care.

Among those helping out Saturday were several Boy Scouts with Troop 44. Scouts Ethan Repscer, 13, Vaughn Hughes, 13, and Bradley Plum, 11, said it felt good to give back and that it was important to recognize the sacrifices made by those who have served in the military.

“Veterans have served America,” Repscer said. “We should kind of return the favor and sacrifice something we love — like our day and our time — to help them, because of how much they sacrificed for our country.”

Local U.S. Army veteran in need William Healey, 73, shook hands and gave hugs to just about every volunteer he encountered, picking out a jacket and a pair of boots along the way.

“That’s it,” he declared with a smile upon finding a camouflage jacket that was a perfect fit. Mem-

bers of the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association, Chapter 20-2, told him it was the least they could do.

“This is great,” Healey said of the event. “We’ve done what we’ve done for them, and now they’re doing it for us.”

U.S. Navy veteran James Lyles, who picked out a backpack, sleeping bag and some shirts, shared those sentiments. “It’s a good thing because there’s a lot of homeless vets and they actually need this,” he said. “People need food, clothing and shelter. Food is on yourself, really, but it’s shelter that’s most difficult. If I had shelter, I’d be way farther ahead than where I am.”



Photos by Rick Rees and  
Michael Rothfeld



## Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc. Minutes of July 28, 2016

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

Chairman Dudley called the meeting to order at 1900 hours

Chairman Dudley led the Pledge to the Flag Vice Chairman Quinn gave the Invocation

Last month's Minutes were approved as presented at the meeting.

The Treasurer's Report was approved as presented at the meeting.

### Visitors:

Officers from **American Legion Post 45**, Palatka were at the meeting, Commander David Wilkinson, Ted Rodda, Stan Owens and Greg Andries, welcome to the Veterans Council of St Johns County monthly meeting



### Speaker:

St Johns County Sheriff David Shoar: The Veterans Council strongly supports the Sheriff's Dept. and will be joining with them to show their support by forming a "Vets and Cops: One Team" initiative to let the greater community know. This will be done initially with bumper stickers and pins.



### Committee Reports:

**Joe McDermott**, SJC VSO: Mac updated us on the new CBOC.

**Tammy Shirley:** The Homeless Veterans Standdown is on August 20th, setup on the 19th at the St. Augustine Elks Lodge. The Stand Down is still in need of clothes, towels and volunteers



**George Linardos**, Chairman MOAA: George spoke about plans for the Veterans Day Parade, the 3 day Veterans Film Festival, and the planned concert at the Amphitheater featuring a big name Country singer. The parade will feature several military bands, JROTC, ROTC, helicopters and a fly over. Consul Generals of France, Spain and England will attend the parade.



**Steve Spickelmier**, FL Director of MIAP: MIAP is in need of volunteers. Next interment will be in October in Lake Worth.



**Ray Quinn:** Ray will be in charge of the Wreaths Across America program again. WAA has to raise \$ 9,000 to cover all grave sites with wreaths. Please ask your organizations to donate to this very worthy cause.

**Michael Rothfeld:** Michael spoke about the VCs Facebook page as well as the 3 day Military Film Festival Nov. 11, 12, 13.

There will be featured speakers before each documentary, names to be announced shortly.

Meeting ended at 2030

Next Meeting: Thursday, August 25th, 7 pm, Elks Lodge # 829, A1A S., St. Augustine

Respectfully submitted by Michael Rothfeld, Secretary, Veterans Council SJC

# Saluting All Who Served

## Veterans Day Weekend

November 11 - 12 - 13, 2016

St. Augustine, Florida



**“ Public Welcome ”**

### **The Grand Parade**

Fri. Nov. 11 - 11:00 AM  
Castillo de San Marcos  
St. Augustine

### **Veterans Film Festival**

Fri. - Sat. - Sun.  
Corazon Theatre  
St. Augustine

### **Lee Greenwood - ‘God Bless The USA’**

**Veterans Benefit Concert St. Augustine Amphitheatre**

Sun. Nov. 13 - 4:00 PM - Family Friendly Event

Tickets available through St. Augustine Amphitheatre and Ticketmaster

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



For additional information contact George Linardos CPT (USA-Fmr) at (904) 495-6111  
or Bill Dudley LTC (USAF-Ret) at (904) 806-4712





**Vilano Beach VFW Post 12142 has been a Post, for only 1 year 6 months.**

**We were notified July 5th by the State VFW Headquarters that we have been made a “All State Post”.**

**We were notified July 6th by the National VFW Headquarters, that we have been made an “All American Post”.**

**I would like to Congratulate all our Members and the Auxiliary for all their hard work !!**

**Vilano Beach VFW Post 12142 now has 2 electric wheelchairs that can be give to a St. Johns County Veteran.**

**The one on the left is a Pride Jet 2 HD. The one on the right is a Hoveround MPV5**

**We now also have a Hospital Bed (electric) complete with mattress for a St. Johns County Veteran.**

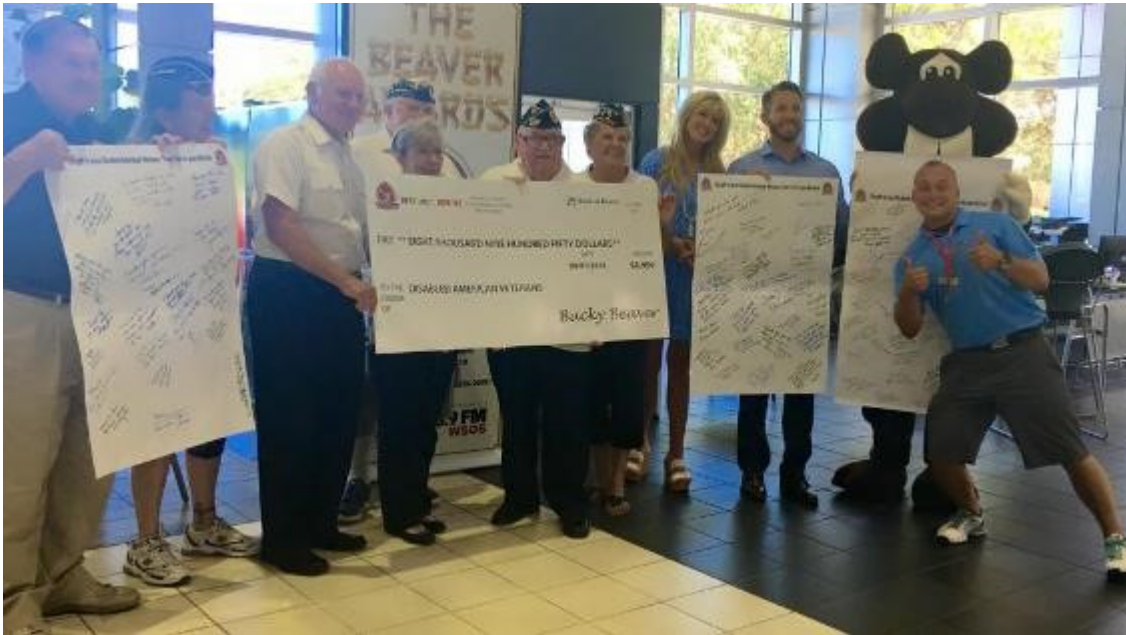
A. J. Sartin, Commander - VFW [VilanoBeachVFW@att.net](mailto:VilanoBeachVFW@att.net) (904) 669-1946



*Veterans Of Foreign Wars*

*“ No One Does More For Veterans ”*

**A local business, Beaver Toyota donates \$ 9000 to the local DAV Chapter to help them buy a new van to transport veterans to the VA facility in Gainesville. Well done Beaver Toyota!**



**Elks present \$2,000 to the Veterans Council to help fund the Homeless Stand Down. Passing on the grant from the Elks National Foundation, Fred DuPont presents the check from the Elks to Council President Bill Dudley, in return, Mr. Dudley presents a Council check to Tammy Shirley of the St. Johns County Veterans Service Office to begin purchasing needed items for our homeless veterans.**



**The Veterans Council wants to remind everyone of several events coming up that we know you will enjoy.**

**Please mark your calendars and reserve these dates:**

**August 20th, 2016, Saturday**

**Join us for the 9th Annual Parade and Ceremony Commemorating the end of the 2nd Seminole War.**

**Please see flyer attached for more information regarding the luncheon and special presentation.**

-----  
**November 11th, Friday**

**Join and watch the Second Annual Veterans Day Parade in St. Augustine.**

**Whether you are marching, riding, or watching you won't want to miss the Parade.**

**Bring the family, the children will love the Patriotic Parade.**

**See the marching bands, helicopters, military vehicles and honor our veterans.**

**Please see flyer attached.**

-----  
**November 11, 12, 13**

**Join us Saluting our Local Veterans at the Corazon Theater for the first ever Military Film Festival, times to be announced.**

**This is a free event and open to the public over the Veterans Day Weekend.**

**The documentaries will be honoring Florida veterans and many of the featured veterans will be at the Corazon Theater to answer your questions.**

**We will have many surprise speakers so look for more information on the Veterans Council of St. Johns County's website and Facebook page as well as in the monthly Patriot Reader.**

-----  
**November 13th, Sunday**

**MOAA presents Lee Greenwood, a Patriotic Concert to benefit local veterans organizations at the St. Augustine Amphitheater.**

Reserve these dates, watch here for more information.

*The Ancient City Chapter, Military Officers Association of America,  
and The Veterans Council of St. Johns County,*

*Cordially invite you to join in celebrating*

## **VETERANS DAY WEEKEND**



*In St. Augustine, Florida,  
November 11th, 12th, 13th.*

### **The Grand Parade**

*Friday, downtown, see reverse*

### **Military Film Festival**

*Friday, Saturday, Sunday,  
at the Corazon Theater\**

### **Patriotic Concert**

*Sunday, St. Augustine Amphitheater\**

*\*Times and details to be announced*

## **The Grand Parade "SALUTING ALL WHO SERVED"**

### *Route*



### *Schedule*

*9:30 AM*

*Parade participants assemble on Orange St.,  
vicinity Visitors Center.\**

*10:00 AM*

*Non-parading color guards assemble at the  
Castillo de San Marcos.\**

*\*Participants MUST report on time.*

*11:00 AM*

*Parade starts, column passes reviewing stand at  
the Castillo de San Marcos, fly over.*

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



We are inviting all veterans to visit our website at:  
<http://www.veteranscouncilofstjohns.org>

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

Please join our group on Facebook at:  
**VeteransCouncilofStJohnsCounty,FL**

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

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

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

*You may have noticed the Veterans Council's new logo, it was created by Roy Havekost and his web design company PageAuthors. The VC strongly recommends that you contact Roy, 904-287-6909, if you or your vet group wants to create a website or Facebook page.*



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**July 2016**

**VETERANS COUNCIL ANNOUNCES  
WREATH CAMPAIGN**

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

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

The community is invited to send donations to purchase the wreaths. Individual wreaths are \$15.00. If two wreaths are purchased at \$30.00 the council receives a free wreath (3 for cost of 2). Corporate sponsorships are available and greatly appreciated.

The community is invited to the St. Augustine National Cemetery on December 17, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. for a ceremony followed by placement of the wreaths. Youth organizations are encouraged to participate to learn and honor our veterans.

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





The West Point Society of North Florida hosted the ninth annual Seminole War Commemoration ceremony alongside the Dade Monuments in St. Augustine National Cemetery on Saturday, August 20. The event is held in remembrance of an original parade and ceremony, marking the end of the Second Seminole War and honoring those who died in it, that took place on Aug. 15, 1842.



## **NAVY BASE BIRTHDAY BALL**

Back in the days of old, when ships were made of Wood, and Sailors were made of steel, the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Admiral Elmo Zumwalt authorized recognition of 13 Oct as the Navy birthday. Unlike other Navy celebrations, the Navy Birthday is intended to be an internal activity for members of the active forces and reserves, as well as retirees, and dependents. Since 1972, each CNO has encouraged a Navy-wide celebration of this occasion “to enhance a greater appreciation of our Navy heritage, and to provide a positive influence toward pride and professionalism in the naval service”. This year’s theme is “America’s Sailor. For 241 Years:Tough, Bold and Ready.”

The 241st Navy Tri-Base Birthday Ball will be held on October 1, 2016 at the Renaissance Hotel in the World Golf Village in St. Augustine, FL. The keynote speaker will be Admiral Kurt Tidd, Commander, United States Southern Command. The public is welcome to attend and celebrate with our brave men and women who serve this great country. Attire: Civilian: Black tie or coat and tie. Military: Mess Dress with mini medals or Service dress blues with large medals.

Please join us as we celebrate 241 years of Honor, Courage and Commitment. The Cocktail Reception will begin at 6PM, the dinner and Official Program will start at 7 PM. Dancing will begin at the completion of the program.

Individual ticket prices are: E1-E6: \$25, E7-04: \$45 and 05-Civilian (including Retired): \$65.

Tickets can either be purchased through your Command or Base representative or online at [www.tribasenavyball.com](http://www.tribasenavyball.com). A special hotel reservation link can be found on this website.

Don’t delay as tickets are limited and a sellout is expected.



# St. Augustine's Military Film Festival

*Please mark your calendars and reserve these dates, November 11—13,  
this is a free event and open to the public*

The Veterans Council of St. Johns County and the Military Officers Association of America is presenting a series of documentaries featuring the stories of local veterans who have honorably served our country.

Accompanying the documentaries will be talks by the veterans in the documentaries as well as representatives from various national veterans organizations.

The documentaries feature local veterans who have served in World War II, Korea, Vietnam and Iraq/Afghanistan.

The documentaries will be preceded by introductions by the men in the documentaries, as well as representatives from the Korean War Veterans Association, the Vietnam Veterans of America, the President/CEO of PBS TV in Jacksonville, the Chairman of the National POW/MIA Organization, "The Ride Home", and the producers and directors of the documentaries. More names to follow.

## Friday, November 11

1:00 pm, K9s For Warriors, Unleashing the Underdogs

1:30 pm, Serve & Protect, Stories of Coquina Crossing World War II Veterans

3:00 pm, Prisoners of War, Stolen Freedom

## Saturday, November 12

Noon, K9s For Warriors

2:00 pm, Serve & Protect

4:00 pm, Korea: Forgotten War, Remembered Heroes

6:00 pm, Vietnam: Service, Sacrifice & Courage

7:00 pm, Prisoners of War, Stolen Freedom

## Sunday, November 13

1:00 pm, Prisoners of War, Stolen Freedom

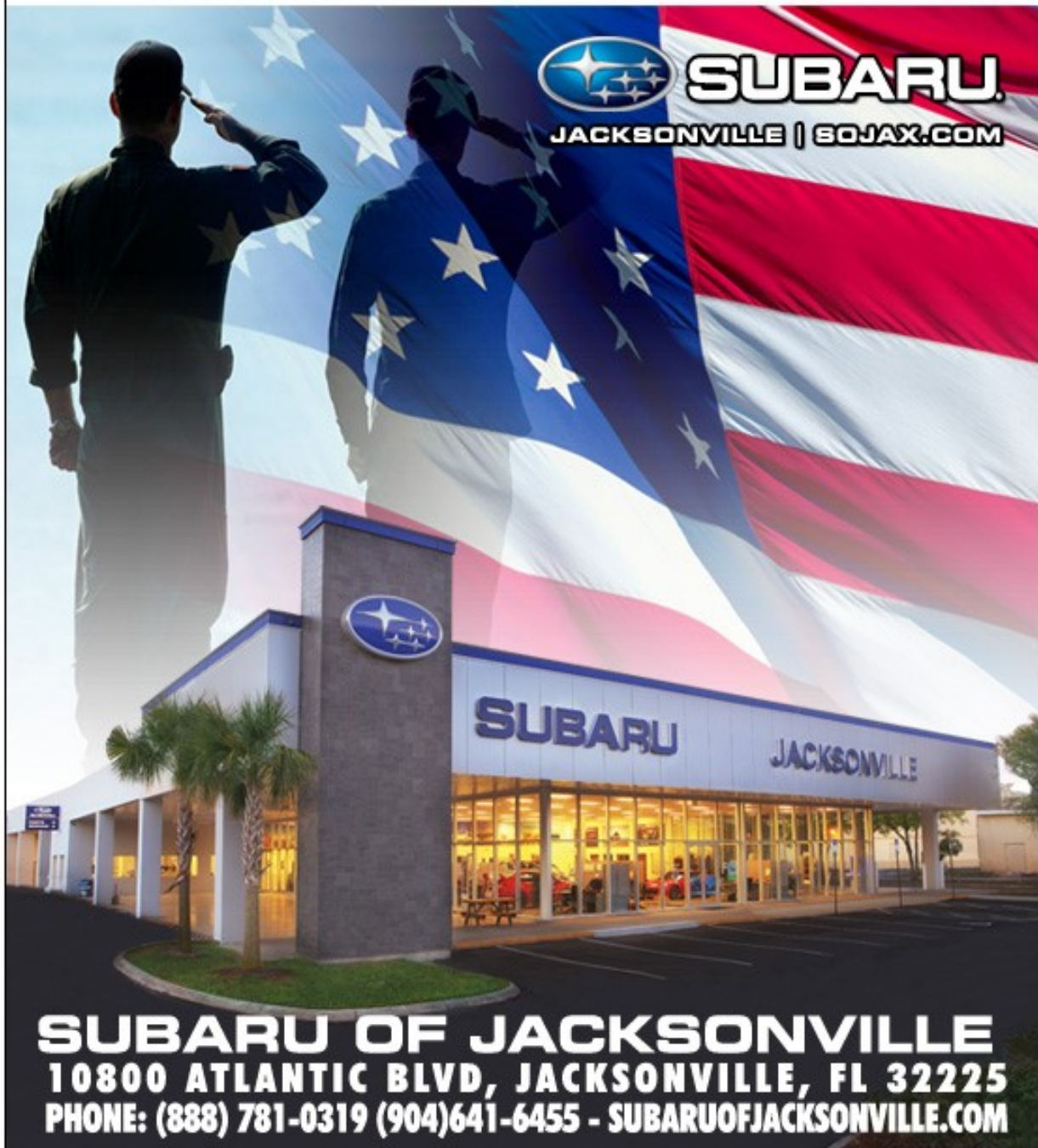
1:30 pm, Vietnam: Service, Sacrifice & Courage

2:00 pm, Korea: Forgotten War, Remembered Heroes

**PLEASE JOIN US and BRING THE FAMILY**



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*This is from Bob Adelhelm, Vets 4 Vets*



*Jacksonville City Veterans Memorial Wall: Excludes Veterans! (This letter in no way is an attempt to question the service and sacrifice of anyone who has served this country, in war time or not and is currently on this Wall)*

*What is of concern to Veterans... Why are Veterans excluded? Why are some added to the wall who don't have a home of record from Jacksonville? Why aren't we primarily recognizing those Veterans who actually have Jacksonville, as their "Home of Record".*



*Current criteria for being considered to have a name placed on the City Veterans Memorial Wall states: one has to have his or her home of record in Duval County or have attended one of the local high Schools. To have served in time of war and this is key..."died or killed on active duty". Died or killed on active duty automatically precludes any Veteran from ever being considered to have his or her name placed on the "VETERANS MEMORIAL WALL".*

*A Veteran is one who has completed his or her active duty status and as a result is now considered to be a Veteran. Active duty and Veterans status are two entirely different things. Those who served know and understand this.*

*What we now have is a Memorial Wall to honor Veterans, but set up using criteria that actually precludes Veterans from ever being consid*

*ered. WHY?*

*Veterans understand there needs to be guidelines/criteria, but also understand there needs to be exceptions to the guidelines/criteria at times or a time when guidelines need to be reviewed and/or changed. When it comes to adding Marine Randall Hansen to the Wall there doesn't seem to be any willingness on the part of those who make the decisions as to who will or will not be honored to add him because they state, he doesn't meet the criteria. Yet, there seems to be several examples of exceptions having been applied for whatever reasons to several others who have been added to the Wall despite the fact they seemingly did not meet the criteria. Why?*

*Theses exceptions seemingly involve Home of Record and Time of War. Who is making the decisions has always been a mystery, but some seem to think it involves a couple of non Veterans and this maybe the reason for the obfuscation involving the definition of Home of Record and what actually is consider to be a Time of War.*

*Home of Record is defined as the state (FL) recorded by the military as your home when you were enlisted, appointed, commissioned, inducted or ordered in a tour of active duty. It does not mean where you are living when stationed at a particular base or station.*

*What is NOT Understandable?*

*Why no exception for Sgt Hansen a real hometown Jacksonville Marine Veteran?*

*Why is a Jacksonville, Florida, Fletcher HS Grad not*



*allowed an exception to be on the wall?*

*Why is a “Veteran” with two combat tours in Fallujah, Iraq, who succumbed to the invisible wounds of combat, not honored on a “VETERANS WALL”, in his own city?*

*Randall Hansen, Sgt., USMC VETERAN, if added to the VETERANS Memorial Wall in Jacksonville, Florida, may very well be the First Veteran placed on it under the current criteria. Adding him to the Wall would not only recognize this Marine in his home town, but also help bring attention to the PTSD issue that plagues the Veterans community.*

*Unfortunately, the city of Jacksonville’s Military and Veterans Affairs, Mr Bill Spann, has done nothing, but pushed back on this issue. He as fallen back on just restating the criteria and has made no effort to reach out to the Veterans supporting this initiative to discuss the criteria or the reasons why the Veterans feel Sgt Hansen deserves to be recognized for his service to this country. It seems the only folks Mr Spann has reached out to are the members of the city council to try and give the impression this is a worthless cause by misguided Veterans.*

*Sadly, one would think an appointed city employee and retired Navy Commander being paid \$115k per year by the taxpayers would at least try to address the Veterans concerns with the Veterans community he is suppose to support.*

*Despite the obvious attempt to undermine this effort, the Veterans spearheading this initiative, led by the Vietnam Veterans, are continuing to move forward and plan on submitting the petitions along with a letter of recommendations to Mayor of Jacksonville. Those recommendations are as follows:*

*Add Sgt Hansen to the Wall to not only honor him, but also bring attention to the PTSD issue affecting Veterans since other exception to the criteria have been seemingly already been made in the past.*

*Form a Veterans Council made of Veterans who will review all nominations to the Wall in the future and make appropriate recommendations to the city involving the VETERANS MEMORIAL.*

*Review the current criteria for inclusion on the Wall that currently excludes Veterans.*

*If Criteria remains the same, rename the Wall to more actually reflect who's is being recognized.*

*Review the possibility of adding another memorial to the Veterans Memorial Arena recognizing those from Duval County with home of record who died of PTSD and Agent Orange or consider using the back side of the Wall to honor them.*

*One would think a military and Veterans heavy community like Jacksonville would set the example and lead in bringing attention to PTSD and the pain in causes Veterans and their families.*

*Many Veterans also feel it is time to get Veterans involved in the decision making process involving the selection of names to be honored on a "Veterans Memorial". It is incompressible this noble effort and memorial started off honoring those who were combat casualties some who are Medal of Honor and Purple Heart Recipients then seemingly fudged the criteria to add others who died in a auto accident on active duty, under the War on Terrorism and may not have any connection with Duval*

*County or Jacksonville High schools other than being stationed in the area when they died.*

*Veterans feel this has lessened the true meaning and intentions of recognizing Valor and to honor those who demonstrated it on a battlefield or in support of combat operations.*

*Sgt Randall Hansen who is a combat Veteran, a trigger puller with two combat tours in Fallujah, Iraq is currently denied the honor of being recognized on a Veterans Memorial in his home of record merely because he was not on active duty. He was failed by the Veterans Administration that exacerbated his PTSD condition; one can only hope his home town will not fail him by denying him rightful recognition among his fellow Veterans. Exceptions have been made in the past for those who have no combat experience, why not an exception for a true combat Veteran.*

*Help us! Support this initiative by contacting Jacksonville Mayor Mr. Lenny Curry and request this Marine be added to the Wall to show him proper respect for his combat service and bring attention to the PTSD issue in this community and across the country.*

*Mayor's Office, City Hall at St. James Building*

*117 W. Duval St. Suite 400, Jacksonville, FL 32202*

*MayorLennyCurry@coj.net*

*Marine RP Adelhelm*

*LtCol USMC Ret*

**SEMPER FIDELIS**



*Rolling Thunder Florida Chapter 4 invites you  
a guest to be part of our POW, MIA and Gold  
Mothers Recognition Dinner. This dinner  
honor you, family members of those who have  
yet returned and those who did not return.*

*W/MIA Gold Star Mothers Recognition Da  
Dinner*

*Date: September 10, 2016*

*Time: 2PM to 5PM*

*Moroccan Shrine Auditorium*

*3800 St. Johns Bluff Road S*

*Jacksonville, Florida, 32224*

*Rolling Thunder's mission to educate the  
public on the plight of those who were and are  
prisoner of our enemies and those who have  
to war to serve their country and have not  
returned home.*

*parking is at the rear left side of the building.*





# American Legion Palm Valley Post 233

560 N. Wilderness Trail Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

## *Proudly presents our 5th annual :* **2016 Law & Order Awards**



**Firefighter of the Year**

**Firefighter Robert Harper**

**Station 14**

**St. Johns County Fire - Rescue**



FF Alumni: Katrina Silvia, Casey Lane, Art Naidzich, Jason Baer

**Sunday, September 11, 2016 from 10:00am to 12:00pm**

**Enjoy a Buffet Breakfast prepared by our Auxiliary**

**Alumni and co-workers are cordially invited**

**Meet and greet the American Legion Family of Post 233.**



an officially sanctioned Department of Florida American Legion program

[www.AL233FL.org](http://www.AL233FL.org)

[www.facebook.com/groups/AL233FL](http://www.facebook.com/groups/AL233FL)

Post: 904-285-2484

## Captain William Tatel's 100th birthday celebration

Bill served under General Patton during World War II and was promoted to the rank of Captain by General Patton.

Here is a link to Bill's interview by NBC channel 12 Jacksonville.

<http://www.firstcoastnews.com/news/local-love-story-90-years-in-the-making/290510312>



**William Tatel**, a 60+ year member of Ashlar Lodge No. 98 in St. Augustine and a World War II veteran who is possibly the last surviving staff officer who served with Gen. George Patton in Africa, Italy, and Germany, celebrated his 100th birthday on August 5th.

A birthday celebration in his honor was held on Sunday, August 7, 2016, at Ashlar Lodge No. 98 Free and Accepted Masons in St. Augustine. More than 80 family members, friends and Lodge Brothers attended. Tatel received greetings not only from those in attendance, but also from President Obama, Governor Scott, Senator Nelson, and other officials in recognition of his military service and his longevity.

Tatel served for three years with the 7th Army Western Task Force participating in the invasions of Africa, Sicily, Rome-Arno, and Southern France as well as during the Rhineland campaign. He received the Purple Heart and other military awards.

Tatel graduated from college in 1938 and was drafted in early 1941. After initial training, he attended Officer's Candidate School. Upon graduation, Second Lieutenant Tatel was entitled to a ten-day leave, but instead received embarkation orders and left for North Africa. At about 100 pounds and loaded with a backpack and Thompson submachine gun, the barely five feet tall Tatel waded through the African surf eventually camping in Casablanca.

His first assignment in Africa was to carry messages for Patton's army regarding troop movements. When Patton's army arrived in Palermo, Sicily, Tatel was ordered to "open the streets and department stores." Working with just a few men, trucks and local residents, the task was accomplished in five days highlighted by the reopening of the famed Palermo Opera House. A plaque dedicated to Tatel is located on a wall at the opera house.

Tatel is married to his childhood sweetheart, Phyllis. They lived across the street from each other and have been together for more than 90 years. Bill and Phyllis planned to marry during Bill's leave after OCS, but the war intervened. They finally wed on VE day in 1945. He remained in the U.S. Army after the war and received an Honorable Discharge in 1952. Bill and Phyllis Tatel have been residents of St. Augustine since 1996.



*The American Legion Post 45 in Palatka is named after WW I American Hero Bert Hodge, thanks to Commander Wilkinson for sending me the below information.*

*Excerpted from an article by Asia Aikins*

Although he lived in the US for a short time, **Bert Hodge** made the ultimate sacrifice for his new home and birthed a legacy that would resonate with Putnam County residents for generations to come.

Henry Gilbert “Bert” Hodge was the first Putnam County resident to die in World War I.

According to family documents, Bert Hodge, was born Feb. 29, 1892 in Wales, arriving in the US at 14.

When the US forces joined the fight in WW I, Bert Hodge enlisted and was assigned to the clerical department. After three weeks in a camp in North Carolina he was sent to France. The clerical work proved to his dislike so he requested to be sent to the front. His request was granted.

According to a September 8, 1918 Palatka News and Advisor article, Bert Hodge died August 10th, 1918, the date written on his headstone in Palatka’s Oak Hill Cemetery.

“Bert Hodge was one of Palatka’s best, beloved young men, and his loss is really a calamity to the whole community”, the Morning Post said.

American Legion Post 45 was chartered in 1919 and named for Bert Hodge, honoring his sacrifice. The Post, located at 316 Osceola St. in Palatka, unveiled a mural in August 2015 depicting Bert Hodge. Post officials also hosted memorial ceremony for Bert Hodge at his gravesite in August.



“Bert Hodge is dead, but his name will go down in the annals of Putnam County’s splendid sons who died for a continuation of that freedom for which our forefathers fought and died”, the Morning Post said in 1918 and Putnam County residents proved to be true.

## Cemetery added to National Register of Historic Places list

Photo by: Peter Willott

Secretary of State Ken Detzner announced Monday that St. Augustine National Cemetery on Marine Street in St. Augustine was one of six new properties in Florida to be listed on the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places. The St.



Augustine National Cemetery has served as the cemetery for Fort Marion and later as a National Cemetery. The cemetery may be best known as the home of the Dade Pyramids, which are believed to be the oldest memorial in any national cemetery. Also on the list is the Arthur Milam House in Ponte Vedra, which was constructed in 1962 as a private residence. It was the last of the Florida houses designed by famous modernist architect Paul Rudolph, who is identified with the Sarasota School of Architecture, a regional post-World War II architectural style that emerged in and around Sarasota. The National Register of Historic Places is a list maintained by the National Park Service which includes historical or archaeological properties including buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts, that are considered worthy of preservation because of their local, statewide and/or national significance. Nominations for properties in Florida are submitted to the National Park Service through the Florida Department of State's Division of Historical Resources. Florida has over 1,700 listings on the National Register, including 291 historical districts and 172 archaeological sites.

## **News about a new access road to Jacksonville National Cemetery, a public hearing is set.**

The Florida Department of Transportation will hold a Sept. 15 public hearing about the proposed Jacksonville National Cemetery access road.

The project would connect the I-95/Pecan Park Road interchange to the Lannie Road/Ethel Road Intersection near the cemetery entrance, according to the agency. Beginning Aug. 25, a draft environmental assessment will be available for review at the Highlands Regional Library, 1826 Dunn Ave. or the FDOT Urban Office, 2198 Edison Ave., both in Jacksonville.

The hearing will be at Lannie Road, Baptist Church, 5998 Lannie Road, in Jacksonville, with a 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. open house, followed by a presentation and public comment period. For more information, contact Project Manager Terri Newman at (386) 961-7713 or (800) 749-2967 or [terri.newman@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:terri.newman@dot.state.fl.us).

## Letter from the Executive Director of K9s For Warriors

The last quarter introduced the start of a pivotal chapter in K9s For Warriors' story. We're thriving in all areas of our organization. Our internal team continues to grow to support the changes to our program. The opening of our second kennel is a highly anticipated example of our growth, critical to our mission of serving more warriors. This key addition will drastically reduce wait times for veterans entering into our program, so they can focus on rebuilding their lives and mitigating the traumatic effects of their military service sooner.



Furthermore, we're excited about the expansion of some of our partnerships, thanks to those who see the life-changing work of K9s For Warriors and want to contribute more. Our corporate sponsors Merrick, DOGZAZ, and Bayer Animal Health have all been increasing their support, ensuring we rescue more dogs to rescue more warriors.

However, we are still a small organization that relies heavily on the generosity of you, our fundamental supporters. All of your vital contributions are evident day-in and day-out to every warrior, staff member, and fellow supporter at Camp K9. We thank you for your steadfast commitment to our cause and look forward to sharing even more success stories with you.

From all of us, thank you.

Sincerely,

Rory Diamond, Executive Director

**MISSING IN AMERICA PROJECT – FLORIDA**

**CALL TO HONOR #10**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2016 11:00AM**

**MISSION STATEMENT**



The purpose of the Missing in America Project (MIAP) is to locate, identify and inter the unclaimed cremated remains of American veterans through the joint efforts of private, state and federal organizations, and to provide honor, respect and dignity to those who have served this country by securing a final resting place for these forgotten heroes.

“IT’S THE RIGHT THING TO DO”

On Saturday, October 22, 2016, at 11:00am, MIAP – Florida, with cooperation from Edgley Cremation Services, will be interring 16 veterans and 4 spouses of veterans at the South Florida National Cemetery located at 6501 Florida State Road 7, Lake Worth, FL 33449. The longest that any of these being interred has been unclaimed is since 2006.

**THE FOLLOWING WILL BE INTERRED:**

US ARMY: 10 veterans, 2 spouses

US MARINE CORPS: 1 spouse

US NAVY: 4 veterans, 1 spouse

US AIR FORCE: 2 veterans

**WAR PERIODS:**

WWII: 7 veterans, 3 spouses

Korea: 5 veterans, 1 spouse

Vietnam: 3 veterans

\* 1 veteran served in 2 war periods

\* 2 veterans did not serve in war periods

ESCORT: There will be an escort for this service. Details will be forthcoming. Any and all are welcome to participate in this escort, motorcycles, cars and trucks included.

You are cordially invited to attend this service during which we will inter these veterans with full military honors. This service is open to all residents of our area communities. Please feel free to pass this invitation on to others.

Kathy Church MIAP – FL State Coordinator (904) 219-3035 miapjax@yahoo.com www.miap.us



**VA**



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
Veterans Health Administration

**Help us spread the word about the Women Veterans Call Center Chat Function!**



The Women Veterans Call Center (WVCC) is expanding its outreach to women Veterans with a new online, one-to-one chat function. The new service enables women Veterans to go online and anonymously chat via real-time text messaging with a trained WVCC representative. All the representatives at the Women Veterans Call Center are women, and many are Veterans themselves.

The new feature provides women Veterans with another avenue to ask general questions about benefits, eligibility and services specifically for women Veterans. WVCC chat is available by visiting the Women Veterans Health Care webpage at [www.womenshealth.va.gov](http://www.womenshealth.va.gov) and clicking the “Chat with the Women Veterans Call Center” icon.



As the chat function is anonymous; we are asking users to please do not use personally identifiable information such as social security numbers. WVCC Chat is available Monday through Friday 8 AM – 10 PM ET, and on Saturdays from 8 AM – 6:30 PM ET.

[Learn More.](#)

[WVCC\\_Poster\\_8\\_5x11\\_FINAL.jpg](#)

## Fred Dupont Reenlisting at Naval Recruiting District, Kansas City in 1983



## American Legion Fallen Heroes Mandarin Post 372 Annual Car Show



A fundraiser supporting American Legion Post 372's  
Boys State, NJROTC and School Medals programs.  
September 24, 2016. 9 AM – 1 PM at Mandarin Lowe's parking lot.

- ★ Bloodmobile will be present.
- ★ \$15.00 entry fee before September 20.
- ★ \$25.00 late entry fee from September 21 – 24.

Awards. Food. Door Prizes. Crafts.  
50/50 raffle and drawing.

Email [carljowers@yahoo.com](mailto:carljowers@yahoo.com) or call 904.553.1848 for more details or an  
entry application.

DEDICATION OF AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY MONUMENT  
JACKSONVILLE NATIONAL CEMETERY  
(4082 Lannie Road, Jacksonville, Florida 32218)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2016



The 5<sup>th</sup> District, Department of Florida, cordially invites you to attend the dedication of this monument at 10 AM, Saturday, September 10, 2016.

Limited covered seating available; you may want to bring a lawn chair. The Legion Riders will assemble at American Legion Post 283 to escort visiting dignitaries to the cemetery. This group will leave Post 283 at 9 AM and lead a procession to the cemetery.

There will also be a post-ceremony social gathering at American Legion Post 283 – Located at 9459 Fort Caroline Road, Jacksonville.

FOR OUT OF TOWN VISITORS WE RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING LOCAL HOTELS THAT ARE CLOSE TO POST 283:

Candlewood Suites  
2700 Jane Street, Jacksonville  
904-744-1244

Marriott Courtyard  
9845 Lantern Street, Jacksonville  
904-247-6782



**Nation Wide**

**Our Progress to Date as of 8/8/2016**

**Total Funeral Homes Visited - 1,994**

**Cremains Found - 13,435**

**Veterans Cremains Identified - 3,122**

**Veterans Interred - 2,804**

Thanks to all MIAP volunteers across the states who dedicate so much of their time for this project. I am very proud to be a part of this.



**Women currently make up 10% of the Veteran population and the population of women Veterans has been growing steadily each year. Most women Veterans alive today served during the Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom (OEF/OIF) and during peacetime. In fact, women comprise 20% of OEF/OIF Veterans – those who served after 9/11. Today, there are over two million women Veterans in the U.S. By 2043, it is expected that nearly 17% (2.4 million) of Veterans will be women.**

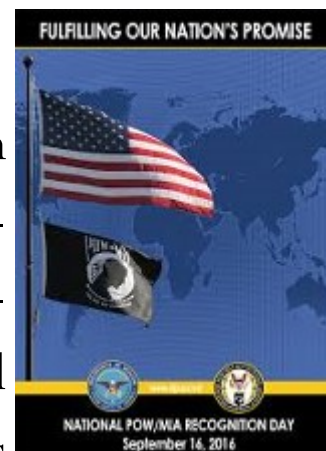
**While we must continue efforts to address the needs of women Veterans, we must also ensure women Veterans are valued and respected. In a recent study, only 37% of women Veterans indicated they felt "recognized, respected and valued as Veterans in civilian life." After all that they have done and continue to do, women Veterans deserve the support and respect that they have earned through their service.**

**Equal service, deserves equal experience and satisfaction with care!**

**[Learn more.](#)**

## Friday, Sept. 16, 2016 - National POW/MIA Recognition Day

Observances of National POW/MIA Recognition Day are held across the country on military installations, ships at sea, state capitols, schools and veterans' facilities. It is traditionally observed on the third Friday in September each year. This observance is



one of six days throughout the year that Congress has mandated the flying of the National League of Families' POW/MIA flag. The others are Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day and Veterans Day.

The flag is to be flown at major military installations, national cemeteries, all post offices, VA medical facilities, the World War II Memorial, Korean War Veterans Memorial, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the official offices of the secretaries of state, defense and veterans affairs, the director of the selective service system and the White House.

A Pentagon ceremony featuring members of each branch of military service is held annually on National POW/MIA Recognition Day.

This year it will be held Friday, Sept. 16, 2016.

To the 82,694 still unaccounted for from World War II to the present, You Are Not Forgotten.

## **Lead Letter to the Editor, FL Times Union: Marking a milestone of a forgotten war**



**By Jack Orth**

*I met Jack Orth at the recent Jacksonville Korean community's tribute to American Korean War veterans. Jack was the Keynote speaker*

**When the armistice was announced for the Korean War on July 27, 1953, I was on a hospital ship on my way to Japan with other wounded Marines.**

**The announcement came over the loud speaker to the entire ship.**

**Strangely enough, there was no jumping up and down with joy, by those of us who could have.**

**Our first thoughts were wondering how many of our fellow Marines never made it to the cease fire.**

**I think of that and the war practically every day and those who I knew that didn't make it.**

**That was 63 years ago on July 27.**

**Many of my thoughts on a regular basis since then are of the courageous Marines I served with and of the hundreds of Korean Service Corps civilians I saw in action.**

**Over 3,000 South Koreans from all ages up to 50 years or more were heroes to all Marines who saw them in action.**

**With A-frames on their backs, they would carry ammunition, C-rations, water and other supplies up to the Main Line of Resistance and beyond to outposts in no-man's land.**

**Many of them carried more on their backs than they weighed themselves!**

**One of the outposts, named "VEGAS," was a mile out in front of the Main Line of Resistance.**

They would trek out there with various supplies at night. Then they would return to the Main Line of Resistance with the dead or wounded Marines.

All of this was done with heavy incoming fire on a regular basis. On a number of occasions many Korean Service Corps people were killed in action, or wounded while working with our company.

I never realized until recently that a large number of South Korean people live in the Jacksonville area.

I know that every Marine I served with considers the Korean Service Corps people an amazing group, and salutes every one of them, and I'm sure other American servicemen and women and all United Nation countries who had troops in Korea felt the same way.

Somehow over the years the Korean War became known as "The Forgotten War," How and why I don't know.

But I do know that the South Korean people, along with all Korean Service Corps members and the troops who were there, will never forget one bit of it, and no one in our country should forget either!

At the present time there are over 28,000 American troops on the ground in South Korea.

This includes soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines.

Since the armistice was announced in 1953, American troops have been there to support South Korea and its incredibly successful efforts to rebuild the entire country.

A salute to all who played a part in the war and keeping the peace for all these years!

Jack Orth, Jacksonville



August 2nd marks the 26th Anniversary of the invasion of Kuwait, please take a moment to read this letter from our president, Scott Stump, urgently reminding us that now is the time, if ever, to support our memorial! We all must work hard to ensure that Desert Storm veterans, and their service and sacrifice, do not become a footnote in a history book, but remains recognized as a great victory and the pride of the American people.



Post Office Box 29091  
Washington DC 20017

George H W Bush  
President, USA  
Honorary Chairman

2 August 2016

Dear Friends & Supporters,

It's very hard to believe that we are into the 26<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the invasion of Kuwait! The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year absolutely flew by. It was very rewarding and very disappointing at the same time. I know how very frustrating to see the lack of interest and indifference displayed by the media, the general public, and even our government regarding the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and our mission to build the memorial, was for myself and for you!! However, the good news is that we commemorated the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in a huge way by having tremendous participation in the Memorial Day Parade in Washington, DC. It was humbling and an honor watching 500 Desert Storm Veterans and 15 Coalition Country Representatives, the largest gathering since the 1991 victory parade, march down Constitution Avenue and make a tremendous and lasting impact on the crowd, reminding them that WE ARE STILL HERE!

With that being said, **we desperately need your help!!** Many of you approached me in Washington, DC and pledged your help with the Desert Storm Memorial effort. **Whatever way you can help we need it now!** When I started this journey back in December of 2010, I knew that we had a limited window of opportunity to get this done or Operation Desert Storm and all who served and died would be forgotten.

I am afraid that my premonition has come true. The effort to build a Global War on Terror Memorial is in the works. We recognize the vital future need for this memorial, and we support the cause 100%. However, since we have NOT raised the needed money for our own memorial, we run the risk of being in a competitive fundraising situation with a group of 3 million veterans and a 15- year war that is fresh on everyone's minds!!

**Our time is NOW! This is YOUR memorial!** I urge all of you to PLEASE help us get this done so that Operation Desert Storm is not forever forgotten!

**It's up to all of us to make it happen!**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott C. Stump".

Scott C. Stump  
President & CEO

Admiral Stanley Arthur, USN  
Gy Sgt R Lee Erney, USMC

**ADVISORY BOARD**  
Jeff Miller, Co-founder - Honor Flight  
Hershel (Woody) Williams, CMOH recipient

General Walter Bomer, USMC  
General Fred Franks, US Army

Bob Adams, Vice President  
Jeff Karczek, Chair Finance

**EXECUTIVE BOARD**  
Scott C Stump, President

Bill Carragan, Secretary  
Kyle Leggs, Chair Design



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Florida Dept of Veterans Affairs**

Governor Scott and Florida Cabinet Appoint Lieutenant Colonel Glenn Sutphin as Executive Director of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Today, Governor Rick Scott and the Florida Cabinet approved the appointment of Lieutenant Colonel Glenn Sutphin to Executive Director of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs (FDVA). Sutphin has served as the interim appointee since April.

Governor Rick Scott said, "With more than 30 years of military service as a U.S. Army Officer in the Florida National Guard and nearly 20 years of experience at the Department of Military Affairs, Lt. Col. Sutphin is extremely qualified for this position. He has demonstrated an unyielding commitment to his fellow veterans, and I am confident he will continue to honorably serve our state and the many veterans who proudly call Florida home. I look forward to continuing to work with Lt. Col. Sutphin and the FDVA as we continue toward our goal of making Florida the most veteran friendly state in the nation."

Lt. Col. Glenn Sutphin said, "I am honored to be appointed Executive Director of the FDVA by Governor Scott and the Florida Cabinet today, and I appreciate the incredible opportunity to continue serving my fellow veterans across the state. Florida is home to more than 1.5 million veterans who have bravely fought for our families and our freedom. The FDVA will remain committed to not only honoring their courageous service, but to also providing them with the benefits and support they so rightfully deserve."

Sutphin has served as the Chief of Staff and Legislative Affairs Director of the Department of Military Affairs since 1999. Prior to that, he served in the Florida National Guard as a U.S. Army Officer and Field Artillery Officer for over 30 years. He also worked as the Desoto County Development Director while serving as a guardsman. He has been awarded over 50 medals including the Legion of Merit and the Florida Cross, the highest award in Florida, for exceptional performance in outstanding service and achievement. He was also awarded the Order of Saint Barbara and the Bronze Order of Mercury for outstanding innovation in programming.

The process of making this permanent appointment was governed by the Cabinet Governance Guidelines, which are available [HERE](#).



*Together We Are Stronger*  
**Vets 4 Vets**  
**August 6, 2016**

The quarterly gathering of veterans met at 1100 at the Jacksonville Veterans Arena. Following the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance, Ryman Schoaf provided opening remarks and introduced the speakers. 268 individuals attended.

A roll call of counties represented included: Duval, Nassau, Clay, Baker, and St. Johns plus a few individuals from other cities.

**Veterans running for office:**

John Craft for Duval County State Committeeman, David Bruderly Democrat for Congress, Florida's 4th District; David Trotti for Circuit Judge group 9 Clay, Duval and Nassau; Don Redman for State Representative, District 12; Lee Brown for Florida House of Representatives District 13; and Steve Kaufman for the Republican Congressional replacement for Andre Crenshaw.

**Primary Speaker:**

Ricky Schopp representing the Hospital Corps of America spoke about Memorial Hospital in Jacksonville as a pathway for VA care locally. She explained how "Veteran's Choice" can provide services for our local vets. Memorial Hospital has Debbie Sanderson as a "nurse navigator" and Cary Harold is the "Nurse Navigator" for Orange Park Hospital. Contact for information: <Ricki.Schopp@hcahealthcare.com>.

**Scheduled Speakers:**

1. Dave Stevens of the Fraternal Order of Police Foundation regarding projects they use to help veterans. The Southern Coast Roofing provides new roofs for needy vets. A contact number: 904 398-7010. Upcoming events: Oct. 7-8, 2016 will have a Leadership Series. April 22, 2017 is Guns and Hoses.

2. Marshall Woods, spoke on the interests of Craig Field Airport in Jacksonville, FL. He spoke on the economic growth that the airport brings to our area. The issue most important to private pilots is the ease and availability of Craig Airport to all of Jacksonville. As the city will not give permission for the airport to lengthen one runway, many private planes now have to fly to St. Augustine to land. He hopes that the need for improvement at Craig will attract the attention of those who could help.

3. Jarrod Smith of the Irreverent Warriors, a veteran/social group working to bring veterans together to prevent suicides are petitioning to allow one of their era vets to have his name placed on the local Veterans Wall. Sgt. Randall Hansen served in combat honorably. His suicide post war duty is the reason for the petition. For more info: 904 318-8646.

4. John Thomsetter of VVA Chapter #1030 spoke on the project "Faces on the Wall" which is a nationwide effort to have a picture for each of the names on the Wall in Washington, D.C. So far only 16 states have found pictures. Florida had 777 missing faces but by July 2016, 642 had been collected. For more information, go to: [www.vvmf.org/wall-of-faces](http://www.vvmf.org/wall-of-faces).

5. John Holzbaur from Veterans Treatment Court provided an update on the program which helps troubled veterans. He provided examples of the successful completion made by veterans who were in the 14 month, program. He recognized those Veteran Mentors in the audience and spoke on the need for more involvement by the veteran community to become Mentors.

6 Justin Brown of Builders Care explained that their organization help veterans who need handicap access or have water intrusion problems. <Builderscare.org>.

7. Tonja Goulet spoke for Frontline Formula Outdoors. This volunteer leadership training is 8weeks. They assist vets older than 65 who are disabled to get needed repairs to their homes under “Hands on Jacksonville” projects. <[handsonjacksonville.org](http://handsonjacksonville.org)>

1. The Volunteer Leadership Program that is 8 weeks long is called Frontline Families.

2. The 9/11 Project which I was speaking about is looking for elderly or disabled that need assistance with minor repairs/ upgrades around their home.

8. Beth Heath spoke of “Benghazi Matters”. Future local event is September 10, 2016 Benghazi Tribute held at 1500 at the Jacoby Theater. Times Union Center of Performing Arts. 300 W. Water Street, Jacksonville, FL. For more information or to make reservations for the reception held from 1330-1500. <http://benghazitribute.org> or call 904 705-6439. She also spoke about the “Veterans Small Business Directory” which is free to vets. At present it is provided by Turning Points of America. <http://turningpointsinamerica.org>.

9. Gail DiMarco spoke about the program that her son started 4 years ago, “Soldier’s Freedom”. This is held at Camp Freedom located in Melrose, FL. It is a 350-acre camp with a ranch and lake. The focus is on helping with physical and mental health of the individual. August 19,2016 at 1000, they will provide a tour of the camp.

10. Kimberly Gibbons, a former Marine spoke about the “Young Marines” There are 300 units in the USA. Boys and girls between 8 and 18 can become members. These young marines are focused on becoming good citizens and are outstanding volunteers representing leadership for the future. They go on trips to learn more about their country and patriotism. Locally there are 46 kids involved. In September they will be traveling to Charleston, SC. These trips are assisted by various local veteran’s groups as some of the participants are in need. Local VVA Chapter #1084 offered to sponsor those in need. This is a nonprofit 520c.3 organizations.

11. Jim Brewster American Legion announced that there will be a dedication on September 10, 2016 at the Jacksonville National Cemetery at 10 am of the Memorial of American Legion District 5. One of the legions projects is “Highway Cadet Program” which was held at Tallahassee, Fl. Jim also made an announcement that Clay County will hold a Clay County Veterans Appreciation Day on September 10,2016 from 0900-1500 at the county fairgrounds. There will be many activities for all ages.

12.Leslie Eglinger, the DVA Service Officer spoke to veterans who may need assistance in getting in claims and those wanting information about veteran’s needs. For more information, call: 904 720-0244.

The next meeting will be in October 2016, (date to be determined) at 1100 at the Jacksonville Veterans Arena.

Meeting adjourned at 1250. Lunch followed.

## **8th Annual Veterans Appreciation Bass Tournament**

**Date: September 24, 2016 Time: Safe Light (6:00 am) – 2:00 pm**

**Palatka, FL City Dock Open to all Veterans.**

**Free breakfast at the Ramp and a free Barbeque after weigh-in. Family and friends are welcome and enjoy. We are holding our 8th event to honor you for your many contributions and sacrifices. The veterans will be treated to a fun filled day complete with a bass fishing tournament launching from the ramp on the St. Johns River. Volunteer bass fishermen from all over the state will assist our HEROES during the tournament. The bass fishermen will supply the boat and all equipment to include rods, reels, baits, life vests, ice, Gatorade and water. Prizes and trophies will be awarded to the top finishing teams.**

**This event has no entry fee.**

**Get you entry form at the American Legion Post 45 Post Watch desk or the VA clinic. Entry form must be mailed NLT September 5, 2016 to Joe Nickol, 102 Browns Fish Camp Rd, Crescent City, FL 32112.**



# National POW★ MIA Recognition Day

## REMEMBER

"All of you who served  
With them and called them  
comrades, all of you who depended upon  
their might and aid,  
and relied upon them,  
for surely they have  
not forsaken you."

**Friday**  
**September 16, 2016**  
**7:00pm**

**CANDLELIGHT VIGIL**  
**Tallahassee National Cemetery**  
US 27 Hwy East  
Tallahassee, Fl.

**Saturday**  
**September 17, 2014**  
**9:00am-6:00pm(?)**

**1<sup>st</sup> Annual POW\*MIA/  
Operation Zero  
Poker Run**  
**Tallahassee, Fl.**

Join with us on Friday night to honor our POW's and MIA's who so selflessly gave up their freedoms and their lives, so we may enjoy ours, only to be left behind and forgotten. We must do everything in our power to account for our brave warriors who remain unaccounted for and to assure that it never happens to another warrior ever again. If you love anyone who is, or has ever stood in defense of our country this is a must do event. There are over 80,000 families who have not and perhaps will never have closure without your help. For they have not forsaken us.

And then join us on Saturday for a fund raiser poker run starting at Just One More Bar and Games opening at 9:00am ...last bike out at 11:00am and winding up at the Shell Island Fish Camp...last bike in at 4:00pm.... your \$10 entry include a free meal at the last stop.... there will be door prizes, auctions, and a 50/50 drawing...monies raised will be split to the POW MIA Bring Them Home committee and to Operation Zero

## **THEIR SACRIFICE . . . OUR FREEDOM**

**THIS IS A PUBLIC EVENT FOR ALL THOSE WHO  
SUPPORT VETERANS AND VETERANS' ISSUES**

Events are being held to amass support for POW/MIA issues, including revising and passing A House Resolution, which requires the government to establish a Select Committee on POW and MIA affairs. When passed, this bill will require that our government conduct a full investigation of all unresolved matters relating to all United States personnel unaccounted for from ALL wars and conflicts.

Points of Contact: Front Row Joe: (850) 212-2587 or Pill-O: (850) 445-0090;  
For POW\*MIA information go to [WWW.POWMIABringThemHome.com](http://WWW.POWMIABringThemHome.com)



**FRIDAY, SEPT. 23, 2016**

**Caring for the Veteran's Caregiver**

WJCT Studios  
100 Festival Park Avenue  
Jacksonville, FL 32202

**Registration at 8:30 a.m.**  
**Program 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

Registration is free. To register, call **904.407.6790**,  
or visit [bit.ly/veteranscaregiver2016](http://bit.ly/veteranscaregiver2016).

To request complimentary respite care for your  
loved one, call Aging True Community Senior  
Services at **904.807.1319** by Friday, Sept. 16.

**CARING BETTER,  
TOGETHER**

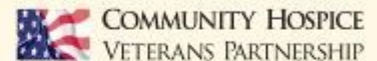
**Are you caring for a veteran?  
You're not alone!**

Your service as a caregiver to a veteran is unlike the  
experience of any other caregiver. Join us for a day  
dedicated to exploring the rewards and challenges  
unique to those who care for men and women who  
have served our country.

**Presentations led by caregiver experts include:**

- Caring for the Veteran's Caregiver
- Peace at Last: Stories of Hope and Healing for Veterans and Their Families
- Wounded Warrior: Their Last Battle
- VA Caregiver Support Program: There's Help for You!
- Caregiving and Intimacy

**Complimentary breakfast and lunch provided.**



Presented by:



Platinum Sponsors:



**Caregiver Coalition Partners:** Community Hospice of Northeast Florida; AARP; Aging True Community Senior Services; Alzheimer's Association; Area Councils on Aging; Baptist AgeWell Center for Senior Health; Brooks Rehabilitation; City of Jacksonville, Senior Services Division; ElderSource; Jewish Family and Community Services; Mayo Clinic Florida; YMCA of Florida's First Coast



# Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry

Join the Burn Pit Registry to document your exposures and health concerns, obtain a free health evaluation by a VA or DoD provider, and stay informed of VA's research. The registry is your opportunity to help answer the question of what burn pit exposure could mean for your health and that of fellow Veterans in the future. Over 80,000 Veterans have already joined the registry, but we have only just begun.

[www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/burnpits/registry.asp](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/burnpits/registry.asp)

Here is a link to the **FL Survivor Outreach Services** Summer Newsletter

<https://www.facebook.com/FLSOS>

Keith Ham

Support Coordinator

[keith.e.ham.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:keith.e.ham.ctr@mail.mil)



# The "Rocket Man" Run



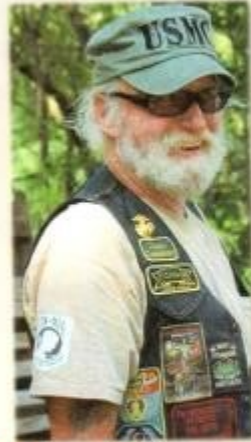
In memory of Wesley "Rocket Man" Roberts



### Food - Music



Music By:  
Dewy Via  
DJ Trashy



### Raffle Drawings Benefiting



### of St. Johns County, Inc.

There are two different routes  
Motorcycles and Cars or Jeeps and 4X4s



### Vendors - Events

Events for 4X4s  
Obstacle Course  
Car Crush  
Blind Gator  
Flex Ramp

Events for Bikes  
Hot Dog Grab  
Slowest Bike Race  
Barrel Push

Registration: 9:00 – 10:30  
Last Bike/Vehicle Out: 10:30  
Last Bike/Vehicle In: 4:30  
Events Begin: 5:00

Cost  
\$15 per driver  
\$5 per passenger  
\$5 for extra card

## 10 SEPT 2016

#### Motorcycles and Cars

Start: Donovan's Irish Pub – St. Augustine  
1<sup>st</sup> Stop: VFW Post 1988 – Green Cove Springs  
2<sup>nd</sup> Stop: Outback Crab Shack – St. Augustine  
3<sup>rd</sup> Stop: Cheyenne Saloon – Palatka  
4<sup>th</sup> Stop: VFW Post 2391 – St. Augustine  
Final Stop: St. Augustine Flea Market – St. Augustine

#### Jeeps and 4X4s

Start: Donovan's Irish Pub – St. Augustine  
1<sup>st</sup> Stop: Beaches – Vilano Beach – St. Augustine  
2<sup>nd</sup> Stop: Jack's – A1A Beach - St. Augustine  
3<sup>rd</sup> Stop: South Beach – St. Augustine  
4<sup>th</sup> Stop: VFW Post 2391 – St. Augustine  
5<sup>th</sup> Stop: Old Brick Road – St. Augustine  
Final Stop: St. Augustine Flea Market – St. Augustine



Vets 4 Vets is a non-profit all volunteer organization whose mission and purpose is to provide for the immediate financial needs of Honorably Discharged Veterans that may be homeless or in financial hardship.

Requests for help come directly from the Veteran's Service Office.

### All proceeds will go directly to the Veterans in need.

Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association (CVMA) is a 501(c)(19) Not For Profit Organization.







## National League of POW/MIA Families

UPDATE: August 2, 2016

**AMERICANS ACCOUNTED FOR:** The number of US personnel missing and unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War is still 1,618, unchanged since June 9th. Most recently accounted for was Colonel Patrick H. Wood, USAF, listed as MIA on 2/6/67, North Vietnam, remains returned on 12/14/15, and identified 2/29/16. Just prior to this was LCDR Frederick P. Crosby, USN, listed as KIA/BNR, North Vietnam, on 6/1/65, remains returned 12/14/15, and identified on 2/17/16, but not announced by DPAA until 5/25/16. Also recently confirmed as accounted for was Major Dean A. Klenda, USAF, listed as MIA, North Vietnam, on 9/17/65, recovered 12/8/14 and identified 12/30/14, but also only recently announced by DPAA. Prior to that release, the most recent was SFC Alan L. Boyer, USA/SF, listed as MIA 3/28/68, Laos, recovered 6/16/98, and identified 3/16/16.

This brings the total accounted for to 965 since the end of the Vietnam War in 1975. Another 63 US personnel, recovered by the US and identified before the end of the war, bring the total of US personnel accounted for from the Vietnam War to 1,028. Of the 1,618 still missing (POW/MIA) and unaccounted-for (KIA/BNR), 90% were lost in Vietnam or in areas of Cambodia and Laos under Vietnam's wartime control: Vietnam-1,261 (VN-463, VS-798); Laos-301; Cambodia-49; PRC territorial waters-7. These country-specific numbers can and do fluctuate when investigations result in changes to loss locations. Since formation in 1970, the League has sought the return of all POWs, the fullest possible accounting for those still missing, and repatriation of all recoverable remains.

**If you or someone you know are one of the 48 million Americans who suffer from hearing loss, I have Great News to share with you!!!**



**ClearCaptions** is a federally funded telecommunications company. The FCC has commissioned ClearCaptions to inform those experiencing any hearing loss of the federal program available to them based on Title IV of the Americans with Disabilities Act (mandated since 1990). Those with any hearing loss are entitled to our new technology **caption phone absolutely FREE, including installation, training and on-going service.** Those needing our phones need to have:

- 1.**a phone line (AT&T landline, Comcast landline, bundle, OOMA, Magic Jack, Vonage, or OOMA ...)
- 2.** Internet access (wired or wireless).

There is no income requirement. To schedule your installation or for more information, **please contact your North Florida Territory Manager Anas Benjelloun at (904) 568-4562 or [anas.benjelloun@clearcaptions.com](mailto:anas.benjelloun@clearcaptions.com)**

**Sign-up, self-certify, and be using your Free ClearCaptions phone**



Did you know 22 veterans will commit suicide every day?

Join the "Stop 22" movement to raise awareness and stand with K9s for Warriors as they help veterans with PTSD and brain injuries.

On the 22nd of every month, use the hashtag #Stop22 on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram and show your support. Watch below how people are "outdoing 22's" all over social media.

Learn more by visiting the Stop 22 website: <http://www.stop22.org/>

And check out K9s for Warriors for regular updates on their mission: <http://www.k9sforwarriors.org/>



## Join Post 233's Campaign To help the 5 Star Veterans Center !



As you know they put military veterans back to work by providing safe and secure housing with extensive services, intensive case management and counseling that promotes mental and physical wellness. They are presently in need of various non-perishable items.

The items needed:

Canned goods, soups, stews, vegetables, chili, etc.

Cans of soft drinks, small bags of chips, Doritos, Fritos, pretzels, microwave popcorn, Clorox, Windex, pine sol, dish detergent trash bags, paper towels, tissues, toilet paper !

**DROP OFF BOX**

**AT POST 233**



American Legion ~ Post 233 - 560 N. Wilderness Trail

Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082 - [www.al233fl.org](http://www.al233fl.org) ~ 904.285.2484



**Support The Ride Home** - it is the largest gathering of former Prisoners Of War and still Missing In Action families tribute event held in the United States. Go to our website to sponsor a former POW or MIA family member. Corporate sponsorships available.

[www.theridehome.com](http://www.theridehome.com)

The RIDE HOME Inc. is a Non Profit Corporation paying tribute to Former American Prisoners of War and the families of those Americans still Missing in Action. National POW/MIA Recognition Day reminds us of the sacrifices our soldiers and their families make for our great country every day and our responsibility to let them all know that we Will NOT Forget. Combined Conflict totals in the last century equate to more than 120,000 Prisoners Of War repatriated and over 83,000 still listed as Missing in Action. To pay tribute to the Former Prisoners of War and The Families of those Still Missing In Action, we host The RIDE HOME. This annual event takes place in and around the cities of Americus and Andersonville, Georgia, home of the National Prisoners of War Museum. With the support of American Patriots, like you, we are able to provide dinner and lunch, as well as lodging for over 200 Honored Guest. This annual event is open to the public and we strongly encourage you to join us as we show our gratitude for the sacrifices these former POWs and MIA families have made for Our Great Country.





# SURVIVOR OUTREACH SERVICES

Survivor Outreach Offers Free Services to  
Surviving Spouses and Family Members of Military Retirees

## **Contact Keith Ham**

Survivor Outreach Services Support Coordinator, HRCI Contractor

310 Charlotte Street, St. Augustine, FL 32084

Office: 904-823-0157 Cell: 904-472-7689

Email: [keith.e.ham.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:keith.e.ham.ctr@mail.mil)

*Combat Vets Association Chapter 20-1 presents*

## COMBAT VETS ASSOCIATION

*State*



*Rally*

**11th-** Free Beer  
Liquor Bar  
Carving Station  
UFC Fight Night

**12th-** Pig Roast  
Ride Games, 50/50  
Prize Wheel, Cornhole  
Door Prizes & Auction

*Florida*

**November 2016**



*Friday 11th Welcome Buffet*

*Saturday 12th Pig Roast*

*Sunday 13th Farewell  
Breakfast*

All Here at



**13th-** Pancake, Bacon & Egg Breakfast,  
Bloody Mary's, then **Hasta La Vista Baby!**

**LIVE MUSIC, FOOD, VENDORS, SLOW RIDE GAMES, 50/50**

Call David at

for More Information

## VA Memorial Benefits

### How to Apply

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 and click 'get started' to schedule a burial in a VA national cemetery. 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 134 VA national cemeteries in 39 states and is adding new cemeteries to accommodate Veterans and loved ones in their time of need. In a few years, 95 percent of Veterans will have a burial option in an open VA, state or tribal veterans cemetery located within an hour's drive of their home. 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 or burial of cremated remains or placement 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

Transportation of flower arrangements from the committal service shelter to the gravesite

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

Burials in a national cemetery take place during the week and cannot be conducted on a federal holiday.



**NEW INFO:** Ride in comfort to your appointments at the VA Medical Center in Gainesville.

The van is provided by the Disabled Veterans Chapter 6, and leaves no later than 6AM from the new VA Clinic location at 195 Southpark Blvd. The corner of Southpark and Old Moultrie Road.

To schedule your seat please contact the VA Clinic at 904-823-2954 and ask for Veteran Van Scheduling.



# ARE YOU inTANDEM WITH YOUR TYPE 1 DIABETES OPTIONS?



A new clinical research trial is now studying an investigational oral product inTANDEM with your current insulin regimen.

## YOU MAY QUALIFY IF YOU:

- Are 18 years old or older
- Have a confirmed diagnosis of Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus
- Have A1C levels 7 - 10%



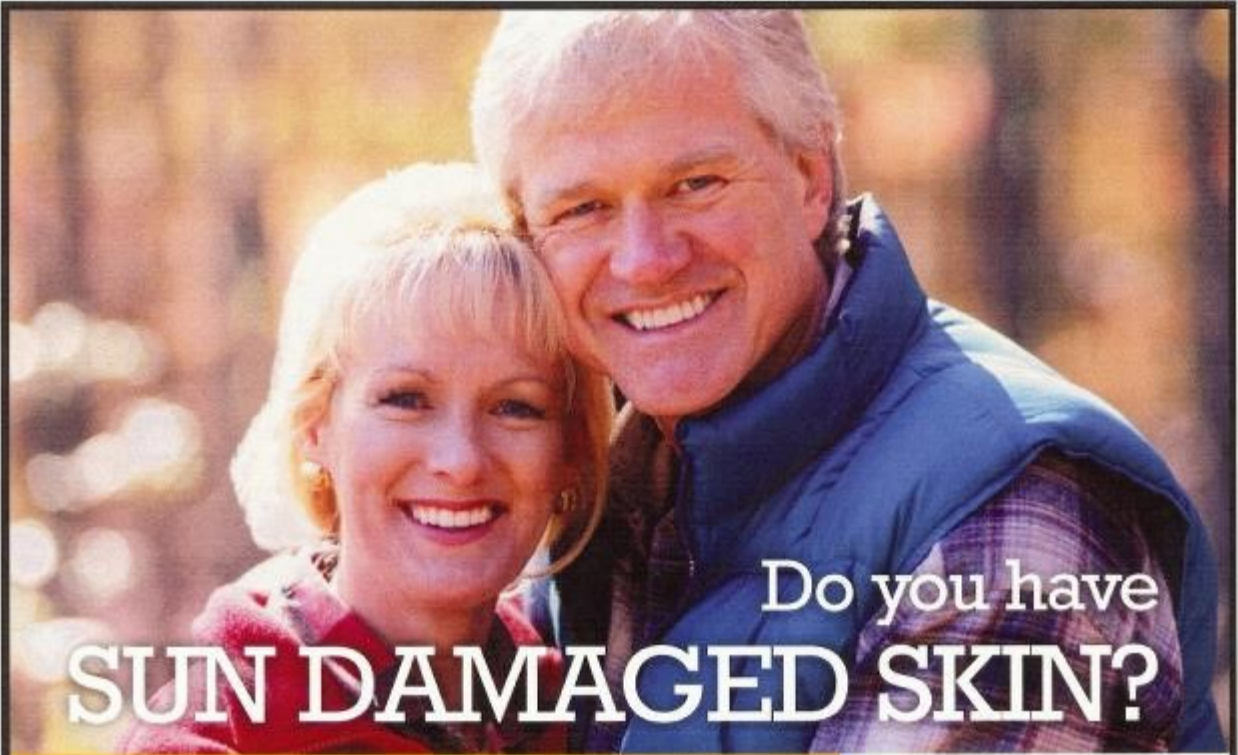
**Lisa Thomas, BS, CCRC**  
*President*

Telephone (904) 619-8157  
Facsimile (904) 683-4916  
Mobile (904) 755-1374

[lisa.thomas@jaxadvresearch.com](mailto:lisa.thomas@jaxadvresearch.com)  
[www.jaxadvresearch.com](http://www.jaxadvresearch.com)

**Solutions Through Advanced Research, Inc.**  
10175 Fortune Parkway, Suite 1201, Jacksonville, Florida 32256

[www.inTANDEM4trial.com](http://www.inTANDEM4trial.com)



# Do you have SUN DAMAGED SKIN?

## Are you in the SUN a lot?

We are now conducting a clinical research study to evaluate an investigational cream and its effect on sun damaged skin (Actinic Keratosis).

Do you have scaly or rough lesions on your face or scalp?

Qualified participants will receive at no cost:  
• Study related exams    • Study cream or placebo

Qualifying participants will receive financial compensation for their time and travel.

*You may be eligible to participate in a clinical research study if you:*

- Are you 18 years or age or older
- Have scaly or rough lesions on your face or scalp
- Can visit our office 4 times in 20 weeks

**For more information, or to schedule a screening, please contact us at :**  
Solutions Through Advanced Research, Inc.  
12086 Fort Caroline Road  
Jacksonville, FL 32225  
904-619-8157

**THANK  
YOU!**



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(904) 824-4862

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Michael J. Pelkowski • David D. Naples, Jr.

*Veterans Council of St. Johns County,  
"Helping All Veterans"*

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

***The Veterans Council meetings are  
conducted at the the Elks Lodge  
# 829, 1420 A1A S., St. Augustine.***



**Don't forget they always need volunteers**

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

*(physical location)*

*The VSO Office is located in the new 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.  
Closed for lunch daily from 11:30 am 12:30 pm*

*Service is by appointment.*

*Phone: 904-209-6160 Fax: 904-209-6161*

*Joseph McDermott, CVSO*

*Rick Rees, Assistant VSO*

*Tammy Shirley, Assistant VSO*

*Lashonda Burns, Office Specialist*

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