



# The Patriot Reader Newsletter

P.O. Box 2117

St. Augustine, FL 32085

Bill Dudley, Publisher

Michael Rothfeld, Editor

Volume 7, Issue 9

## Message from the Chairman

Newsletter Date: September, 2018

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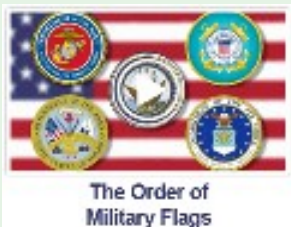
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Fellow Veterans,

As we move from the end of summer to the fall season, we find our Veterans Council engaged in several major upcoming events.

Our Veterans Homeless Stand Down will be held this year on Saturday, Sept 8, 2018 at the Elks Lodge. This year we will host a guest from Washington who has oversight over Veterans Homeless Stand Downs around the country. We are honored to have someone from the headquarters come down and observe how well we take care of our homeless veterans in St. Johns County. This year's Stand Down should be as big as or bigger than in years past. Elks Lodge 829 has given a generous donation \$3500 this year to assist with buying needed items for the Stand Down. Also, our community has been very generous with contributed clothing, toilet articles, towels, etc.

We will need volunteers for Friday, 7 Sept. beginning at 0900 to assist Tammy with unloading and setting up the tables at the Elks Lodge. If

you can assist on Friday with set-up or volunteer on Saturday with helping with the homeless veterans, please contact Tammy Shirley at 904-209-6160 or [tshirley@sjcfl.us](mailto:tshirley@sjcfl.us)

A very special event will occur on Saturday, 22 Sept. 2018 at Cecil Field. A GATHERING IN THE PINES will take place beginning at 0900. This special event is to honor all our POW-MIAs. The program will begin with a flyover followed by the parading of the flags and a keynote speaker. A not to be missed film, "The Solemn Promise" will be shown at 11:30 AM, 1:30 PM, 3:30 PM in Building 333. Also, a ceremony not to be missed is the Filipino American Veterans Society conducting the "Missing Man Table Ceremony." A marked walking tour of the proposed site for the POW-MIA Memorial will also be available.

Music will be provided during the day on stage by "The Liberty Express, Gospel Bluegrass Quartet"

The Veterans Council has opted not to have a parade this year but instead have a special program at Anastasia Baptist



Church to commemorate the WW I centennial, "The War to End All Wars". To help us honor all veterans who served since WW I, we have a special program all lined up which will include the massing of the colors, the St. Johns County Center for the Arts Chamber Singers, the Agent Orange Quilt of Tears exhibition, the Traveling Vietnam Wall, veterans' organizations displays, WW I military uniforms and weapons, military vehicles, JROTC performance and other salutes to our veterans. The doors to the atrium will open at 0930 to view all the displays and the program will begin at 11:11.

Be sure to put the dates on your calendar and plan to attend with your family and friends to help us honor our comrades who have worn the cloth of our nation.

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

## Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home



### Water melon eating contest



Since Clyde E Lassen SVNH opened 8 years ago the quilting ministry of Anastasia Baptist Church has provided each and every incoming resident with their own patriotic quilt. We would like to recognize the members of this ministry and give them a gigantic “THANKYOU”! We look forward to their visits and enjoy seeing the veterans as they are presented with the quilts.



The sailors from the USS Lassen recently came to visit with the residents of Clyde E Lassen State Veterans’ Nursing Home



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



The Support Committee invites everyone to attend its **next scheduled meeting, on Monday Sept. 17, 2018**. The meeting will be at **7:00pm**. The meeting will take place at Community Hospice, **4266 Sunbeam Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32257 in Conference Room A**.

**Jacksonville National Cemetery Support Committee Meetings for 2018  
At Community Hospice of NE FL.**

**4266 Sunbeam Rd, Jacksonville, FL 32257  
Hadlow Bldg – Conference Room A 7:00pm**

**DATES OF 2018 NEXT SCJNC MEETING**

**Monday, Sept 17th**

**Monday, Oct 15th**

**Monday, Nov 5th**

**Monday, Dec 3rd**

**Saturday, Dec 15th - Wreaths Across America (Details TBA)**

**All are invited to attend our meetings and become a part of this Committee.**

**+++++2017/2018 Officers of the SCJNC+++++**

**Chairman: Steve Spickelmier**

**Vice Chairman: Bill Dudley, Treasurer: John Mountcastle**

**Assistant Treasurer: Michael Rothfeld, Secretary: Kathy Church**

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

**Historian: Kathy Cayton**

## **Group nixes plans for annual Veterans Day parade**

### **Financial, logistical challenges undermine plans**

By Colleen Michele Jones [cjones@staugustine.com](mailto:cjones@staugustine.com)

Those looking to wave flags along the parade route to honor local veterans will have to wait at least another year to do so.

In its August newsletter, the Veterans Council of St. Johns County — one of the major sponsors of the event — announced there would be no parade Nov. 12. A memorial program is planned instead.

In what would have been the third year the Veterans Council partnered with the local Military Officers Association of America to organize the parade in downtown St. Augustine, the organizations have decided to make other plans to honor those who served.

Bill Dudley, chair of the Veterans Council, said one reason was that costs had become unsustainable. Last year's parade was about \$25,000, including the cost of sheriff's deputies to provide security and traffic control.

"We've had to go back again and again to some of the same donors and we didn't feel like we were in a position to continue doing that," said Ray Quinn, Veterans Council vice chair.

Another challenge was rounding up enough members of the military to take part in the parade, Dudley said. With St. Augustine's smaller event competing with annual parades in Jacksonville, Dudley said his organization would have to transport officers from as far away as Georgia and south Florida, which also cost money.

Dudley estimated last year's Veterans Day parade drew between 3,000 and 3,500 spectators.

"It had started to become a signature event for us, and I will miss it, but it had become very challenging," Dudley said, adding that he did not rule out the possibility of a revival of the parade in 2019.



The Veterans Council of St Johns County will be hosting a Veterans Day event in St Augustine on Monday, November 12 between 10 am and noon at Anastasia Baptist Church.



This event will feature entertainment, JROTC students and veterans organizations display tables. The Military Museum of N FL will have military vehicles as well as uniforms, weapons and music from WW I as we celebrate 100 after the end of the War to end all Wars, WW I.

Our Keynote speaker will be announced shortly.

This year the Council will be hosting this large indoor event instead of a parade.

This will take place on Monday Nov. 12 from 10 am to 11 am at Anastasia Baptist Church, 1650 A1A S, St. Augustine, 32080, a beautiful venue with onsite free parking and seating for 1250.

We will be setting up display tables in the Atrium for veterans groups.

If you represent or are a member of a veterans organization that would like to join us and have a display table please contact me at: [mrothfeld@anyveteran.org](mailto:mrothfeld@anyveteran.org)

Thank you, Michael Rothfeld  
Secretary, VC of SJC





William Dudley, Chairman  
Veterans Council of St Johns County  
[anuday00@aol.com](mailto:anuday00@aol.com)



Ron Birchall, President  
MOAA, Ancient City Chapter  
[rebirch@comcast.net](mailto:rebirch@comcast.net)

For Immediate Release

## **Celebrate Veterans Day With Us**

*100 Years After The War to End All Wars*

*The Veterans Council of St. Johns County and the Military Officers of America, St. Augustine Chapter invite everyone to join us in Honoring Veterans.*

*Join us on Monday, November 12 at Anastasia Baptist Church, 1650 A1A S, St. Augustine. There is plenty of free on site parking.*

*The Atrium displays (9:30 am to 11:00 am) will feature the Traveling Vietnam Wall, The Agent Orange Quilt of Tears, JROTC units, a large World War I display from the Military Museum of N. FL, featuring vehicles, uniforms, medals, pictures, weapons and military vehicles and The Veterans Legacy Program at the University of Central FL.*

*Local veterans groups will also be set up in the Atrium to showcase their activities and tell you about their community programs.*

*The Main Event will commence at 11:11 am and will feature the St. Augustine High School Chorale under the leadership of Director Jeff Dodd and Dr. Roger Geronimo will be performing a rousing Service Anthem finale.*

###



# Armistice - Veteran's Commeration Day



Monday November 12, 2018

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

Atrium Displays 9:30 am to 11:00 am

Traveling Vietnam Wall, Agent Orange Quilt of Tears, etc.

Main Event - 11:11am

Doors Open 9:30 - On Site Parking- Public Welcome



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

Ted Pappas



**Ancient City Chapter  
St. Augustine, Florida**

## **Veterans Day in St. Augustine Monday November 12, 2018**

**Anastasia Baptist Church  
1650 A1A S, St. Augustine**

**Please join us as we honor our Veterans, Purple Heart recipients and Gold Star families**

**On display, The Traveling Vietnam Wall**



**and the Agent Orange Quilt of Tears**

**Monday November 12, Hours: Atrium displays open at 9:30 am and Veterans Day Commemoration starts at 11:11 am with the St. Johns County Center for the Arts Chamber Singers along with Dr. Roger Geronimo perform patriotic songs and a rousing Service Anthems Salute.**



# Armistice - Veterans'

Commemoration Day November 12, 2018



We need your financial assistance to help organize and execute our 2018 fantastic program to celebrate our veterans and currently serving men and women of the Armed Forces this coming Veterans Day. Any amount you can contribute will be greatly appreciated so we can continue the work of honoring those who have and are still serving. Please forward this email to your friends and colleagues. Send your donation to:

**Veterans Council of St. Johns County**  
**P.O. Box 2117**  
**St. Augustine, Florida 32085-2117**

Indicate in the return memo: 2018 VDP

Best Personal Regards,  
Ron Birchall - MOAA  
Bill Dudley - Veterans Council  
St. Johns County



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



The **Veterans Council** is proud to announce that Tom Waskovich will be the Council's speaker at its January 31, 2019 meeting. Tom lives in St Augustine Beach, was one of the founders of the Veterans Council and its first Chairman.



Tom proudly served his country as a fabled Green Beret. His unit was MACV SOG, Military Assistance Command, Vietnam – Studies and Observations Group, was a highly classified, multi-service United States special operations unit which conducted covert unconventional warfare operations prior to and during the Vietnam War.

## **COMMAND AND CONTROL CENTRAL .**

**SOG was CCN , CCC and CCS .**

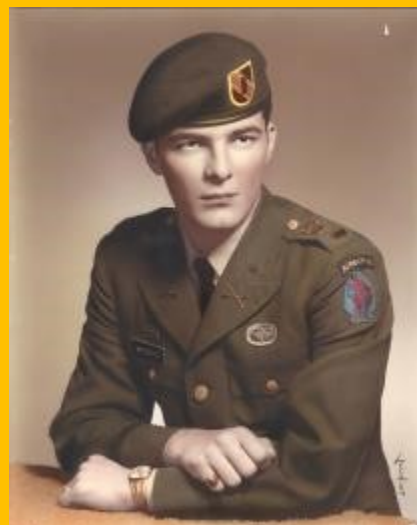
CCN ran missions in north Vietnam and central LAOS .

CCC ran missions in southern Laos and northern Cambodia.

CCN ran missions in Cambodia

CCC had about 300 Americans that ran cross border missions in their history .Of that small amount of men , we had SIX Medal of Honor recipients (AN UNHEARD OF RATIO OF 50 TO 1). Our most recent recipient , Gary Rose, was awarded the Medal a few months ago by President Trump.

I will talk about those men including the 3 I knew personally





National POW/MIA Recognition Day by Presidential Decree, is commemorated the 3rd Friday of September each year and “The Ride Home” is a special event held that week, sponsored by the org, “Honor-Release-Return,” which brings former POWs as well as families of MIAs together for a time of healing, fellowship, and honors. Moe Moyer who is speaking in this video, is the Chairman of this event as well as the Co-Chairman of Honor-Release-Return, with Bob Ousley being another Co-Chairman for this organization. In this Video, Moe gives the history of "The Ride Home," along with stories of healing among the honored guests, and he also shares general insight about the need to keep the search for our MIAs going, until they all come home.

**MISSING MANTABLE CEREMONY:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=89gtW95Ot6g&t=6s>

**THE RIDE HOME VIDEO:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BgiohgqjB3Y>

**THE RIDE HOME WEBSITE:** <http://theridehome.com/>

**HONOR-RELEASE-RETURN WEBSITE:** <http://honorreleasereturn.com/>

**THE RIDE HOME - ANN WOLF MUSIC WEBSITE:**

<https://www.annwolfmusic.org/2017/07/the-ride-home-powmia/>

**NEWSLETTER SIGN UP:**





**THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR SERVICE**

**JOHN MCCAIN**

1936-2018

PRINTED BY **PRINT STYLE**

## VFW Urges MIA Families to Provide DNA Samples

### Return of American MIAs from North Korea begins

Now that North Korea has unilaterally turned over 55 boxes of remains believed to contain missing American servicemen from the Korean War, the new national commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is urging the families of Korean and Cold War missing to ensure the Defense Department has a DNA reference sample on file to help speed the identification process.



“Some 5,300 of 7,699 American unaccounted-for war dead are believed to be in North Korea, and 111 of our 126 Cold War missing are in the vicinity of the Korean peninsula, yet family reference samples on file only account for 91 percent of Korean War missing and 85 percent of Cold War losses,” said new VFW National Commander Vincent “B.J.” Lawrence.

“We have to do better than that, and that’s why I’m calling on more than 1.6 million VFW and VFW Auxiliary members to canvas their neighborhoods and urge every MIA family — even distant relatives — to provide a family reference sample in the hope that the next identification announcement is their long-lost soldier, sailor, airman, Marine or contract civilian.”

According to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, all immediate family members, as well as maternal and paternal relatives, are eligible to donate a family reference sample, which is essentially a cotton cheek swab. Relatives should contact a military service casualty officer for information on how to provide a DNA sample. Those numbers are:

*United States Army: (800) 892-2490*

*United States Marine Corps: (800) 847-1597*

*United States Navy: (800) 443-9298*

*United States Air Force: (800) 531-5501*

*Department of State: (202) 485-6106*

“Today marks 65 years since the signing of the armistice, or cease-fire agreement,” said Lawrence, of Alamogordo, N.M. “The potential for peace on the peninsula in the macro sense has to be on denuclearizing North Korea, but to the families of the missing, their macro view of the world begins at home, where for more than six decades they have been asking questions that have mostly gone unanswered. This is why ensuring a family reference sample is on file is so important. Identifications can be made through strong circumstantial evidence, but nothing says proof-positive better than an actual DNA match.”

## Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc. Minutes of July 26, 2018

**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 Ray Quinn gave the Invocation

Minutes were approved as presented      The Treasurer's Report was approved as presented

**Introduction of Guests: Scot French & Amy Giroux, UCF; Al Richburg, Ntl Cemetery Director; Alison Simpson, FL Ntl Guard Historian; Joy Andrews, Asst County Administrator, Kelly Barrera, Member School Board; Carmalita Gaines, Veteran Outreach, COL Jim Vanairsdale, USMC ret; COL Ken Russom, USMC ret, Former VP Flagler College**

### Speakers:

**Dr Amy Giroux, Cemetery Researcher:** University of Central Florida project funded through a contract from the National Cemetery Administration. The project will allow users of smart phones to bring up biographies when near a cemetery headstone. Material gathered in research will be available for K12 students, with lesson plans, databases, diagrams, etc. All information will also be available on their website with bio cards of veterans researched.



**Dr Scot French,** objective is to memorialize deceased veterans, have their bios available for study and try to reach out to any living family members for information and pictures. Several DNA companies have this information available online and another objective is to have St Augustine bus and walking tours include the National Cemetery and interact with the UCF Virtual Reality program. UCF is looking into ways to involve local K12 students tour cemetery, volunteer and learn about those buried in our National Cemeteries.





In May 2016, Under Secretary Ron Walters of the National Cemetery Administration (NCA) launched the Veterans Legacy Program (VLP). His vision for the VLP is “to memorialize Veterans’ service to the nation by telling their stories.” The VLP’s goal is to partner with “academic communities”—scholars and students—to conduct “research about veterans’ lives, veterans in their local cemeteries” and to be able to share these stories of service and sacrifice from the 135 national cemeteries with younger students and the general public.

Our partnership honors veterans and brings cemeteries alive for students—at universities, elementary, middle and high schools—through a range of instructional materials and interactive digital history tools.

**Committee Reports:** No Reports because of the importance of our speakers.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm.

The next meeting of the Veterans Council will be on Thursday, August 30, 7 pm in the Health & Human Services Building, 200 San Sebastian View.

**Future speakers:**

**August 30, Jason Snodgrass**, Chief Operating Officer, K9s For Warriors  
September 27, Charles Tingley, St. Augustine Historical Society, Senior Reference Librarian, 100Years Ago: St. Johns County & WW I.

**October 25, Dr. Michael Butler**, Flagler College, “My trips to Vietnam”

**November 29, Andrew Coughlan**, Wounded Warrior Project, Resource Development and **Michele McManamon**, Co founder/ Executive Director, Operation New Uniform

**December 27, Margaret Kaplan**, Administrator, Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home

**January 31, Tom Waskovich**, Green Beret, MACVSOG

**Guests in attendance:**



MOAA President Ron Birchall & Kelly Barrera, St Johns County School Board Member



Alison Simpson, FL National Guard Historian and Ray Quinn, VP VC of SJC



COL Ken Russom, USMC (ret) & VVA 1084 President John Leslie



VVA Members: Bob Adkins, Dave Treffinger & Anthony D'Aleo



COL Joe Naftzinger, ret Seminole War Foundation

## *Korean War vets honored at Camp Blanding event*

*More 75 people gathered Monday, August 6 honor the Korean War Veterans during a ceremony at Camp Blanding in Clay County.*

*South Korean Ambassador H.E. Cho Yoon-Je was the guest speaker and was presented by Congressman Ted Yoho (R-3rd District).*

*There were 30 medals were presented by Cho to the veterans. There were other Korean War Veterans in the crowd and they will get medals at a later date.*

*Submitted by David Treffinger, E-Recon Editor*

*Below is a reprint of the story from the Aug. 9, 2018 Clay Today.*

By Wesley LeBlanc, Clay Today, claytodayonline.com



CAMP BLANDING – For four years, Americans and many other allies fought alongside South Koreans in a war that many dubbed “The Forgotten War.”

The Korean War, in which U.S. troops fought from June 25, 1950 to July 27, 1954, would see nearly 34,000 soldiers killed in action, another 20,000 killed as bystanders of the war and over 100,000 wounded. Many soldiers never returned home, only to be forgotten by the American people like the war itself.

However, there are those who did return home, such as Terry Fitzpatrick, 87, who served as a Sergeant at Arms for the Twenty Fifth Division of the Thirty Fifth Infantry Regiment for the U.S. Army. Fitzpatrick and others will never forget the lives the rest of the world no longer remembers.

On Aug. 6, U.S. Rep. Ted Yoho and South Korean Ambassador H.E. Cho Yoon-Je made their way to Camp Blanding to honor Fitzpatrick and over 30 other Korean War veterans. They also honored the soldiers who are no longer talked about with medals made of wire from the Korean Demilitarized Zone that’s been melted down and coated in gold.

This event was originally scheduled to happen last spring, but due to scheduling conflicts, it was moved to August. One of the main advocates for rescheduling the event was Yoon-Je himself. According to a Camp Blanding representative, Yoon-Je believed this commemoration was too important to allow it to fall to the wayside. Yoon-Je wanted to present these medals to the veterans himself.

To receive the medal at all was an honor for Fitzpatrick, but to receive it from Yoon-Je meant the world to him. According to Fitzpatrick, Yoon-Je serves as a living example of why Fitzpatrick and his fellow veterans did what they did over 50 years ago.

## A Walk They'll Never Forget

Four UCF graduate students piece together lost World War I stories from inside the shoes of their new heroes.

By Robert Stephens | August 9, 2018

### None of the past 100 Julys in France can compare to July 2018.

A family in Nantes became the first in the world to move into a 3D-printed home. Around Paris, temperatures were 10 degrees warmer than normal. People throughout France stopped everything, or at least slowed down, to follow the national soccer team on its run to the 2018 Men's World Cup title.

In the middle of all of this, four UCF graduate students completed their own journey of historic impact.

"Nothing compares to what I've just been through," says Kayla Campana '15, who, like her grad-school colleagues is working toward a master's in history. Her thesis: the psychological trauma of the female nurses who served in World War I. "The people I was with, the things we saw, the places where we walked ... it's impossible to describe."



Graduate students in the UCF Veterans Legacy Program James Stoddard '16, Marie Oury, Walter Napier '15 and Campana, display a headstone rubbing at the Aisne-Marne Cemetery, near Reims, France.

### Stories of the Past Come to Life

Even Amelia Lyons, professor of history and director of graduate programs for UCF's history department, didn't see this kind of impact coming when she first helped the university become both a partner and a poster child for the National Cemetery Administration's Veterans Legacy Program.

In May 2017, she led a group of about two dozen UCF students and 150 seventh graders to the Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, Florida. For the UCF students, the experience was the culmination of bigger project in which they'd spent a semester writing biographies about specific veterans who had served the United States during World War I. (The stories can be found at [vlp.cah.ucf.edu](http://vlp.cah.ucf.edu)). Campana was among the UCF students in the cemetery that day.

"The spark I saw in those kids made me want to do more to connect the stories of World War I veterans to the present and keep those stories alive," says Campana. "The support from the Legacy Program allowed me to take my research to France this year."

To say it was a moving experience is a huge understatement.

The four graduate students had their own boots on the same ground where the soldiers and nurses of World War I crawled, slept and knelt in prayer. They walked 64 miles and climbed 400 flights of stairs, through cities as big as Paris and villages as small as Belleau Wood, over fields and through trenches and along the very spot at Meuse-Argonne where 26,000 American soldiers lost their lives in just six weeks, a costly offensive that helped end the war, which at that time had been called "the war to end all wars."

Adding to the weight of the research experience: Two of the four grad students are American combat veterans themselves, having fought in Iraq and Afghanistan. One of them looked over the expanse of Meuse-Argonne from a hill, saying, "Even I can't believe how much territory our troops had to take, and with minimal resources."



# 2018 HOMELESS VETERANS' STAND DOWN



**Saturday September 8, 2018**

**9:00 am – 1:00 pm**

**Elks Lodge**

**1420 A1A South**

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

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## **SERVICES:**

- Healthcare Services
- Legal Resources
- Housing Resources
- Employment Service
- Homeless Outreach

## **ITEMS:**

- Clothing
- Personal Care Items
- Haircuts
- Showers
- Hot Meal
- RAFFLE

*SPONSORS: Vetran's Council of St. Johns Countl; BPO Elks #829; VFW Post 2391; American Legion Post 37; St. Augustine VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic; VA Homeless Veterans Outreach Team; CareerSource Northeast Florida; and many others!*





# *“A Gathering in the Pines”*

In Support of:



**September 22, 2018**

**9AM - 5PM**

**Location : Cecil Field - Conference Center  
13517 LAKE NEWMAN ST JACKSONVILLE, FL 32221**

**OPEN TO PUBLIC**

**Veterans and their Families**

VETERANS COUNCILS OF  
BAKER, CLAY, DUVAL  
NASSAU, ST. JOHNS  
COUNTIES

**A GATHERING IN THE PINES: CECIL FIELD POW/MIA MEMORIAL PARK**

**September 22, 2018 - 9:00am to 5:00pm**

Registration Form, (please print clearly)

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home # \_\_\_\_\_ Cell # \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Fee: \$25.00 Paid on Date: \_\_\_\_\_ by Check #: \_\_\_\_\_ or Cash: \_\_\_\_\_

Children's Activity  Yes  No

Tents, tables, etc. will not be provided. Sales permitted by registered organizations. Minimum of 10% of sales for profit sales must be donated to the Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial and Museum fund. This minimum donation does not apply to non-profit groups.

Make checks payable to: Cecil field POW/MIA Memorial

Mail checks to:

AFSA Chapter F0559; c/o Rick Wiggs; 15664 Forest Trail Road; Jacksonville, FL 32234.

Disclaimer: Cecil FieldPOW/MIA Memorial, Inc is a non-profit corporation-Registration Number CH51569. Copies of all tax and financial documents may be obtained by calling 800-435-7352 within the state. Registration does not constitute endorsement, approval or recommendation by the state.



## Korean War veterans receive medals from ambassador

STARKE — A Monday ceremony at Camp Blanding wasn't the first at which 85-year-old Ken Sassaman was honored for his service in the Korean War. But, he said, this one was special because of the person who recognized him.

Cho Yoon-Je, South Korea's ambassador to the United States, shook hands and thanked the 30 or so Korean War veterans as they approached a podium in blazing heat. He then placed medals around their necks in a gesture to the bond between the United States and the Republic of Korea.



“The Korean people will never forget the help and friendship you showed to us,” the ambassador said during the ceremony.

Sassaman said, “Some people think of it as the forgotten war, but shaking hands with the ambassador all these years later means somebody must remember what we did.”

Cho said afterward that it's his goal to travel to every corner of the country to thank the American veterans who fought in the Korean War.

“This is how you heal nations,” said U.S. Rep. Ted Yoho of Gainesville, who serves as the chairman of the Asia and the Pacific Subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Yoho said he's built strong friendships with his counterparts from Korea, and the ambassador insisted on holding the ceremony at Camp Blanding during his visit this week to Northeast Florida.

The gesture from the Republic of Korea comes at a time when relations between the United States and North Korea are much more contentious. Talks between the leaders of the two countries have been ongoing in recent months, and last week marked a positive shift when North Korea returned what are believed to be the remains of more than 50



U.S. service members.

“Our hopes and our dreams and our prayers are that one day the whole Korean peninsula is denuclearized and they live in peace,” Yoho said during the ceremony.

He said that dream is only possible because Korean War veterans were willing to sacrifice their lives to help a nation on the other side of the world.

Sassaman said he’s always felt a little uncomfortable when people thank him for his service in Korea. He said like many war veterans, he believes the people who really deserve the respect are the ones who didn’t come back.

He said memories of his friends killed in the war filled his thoughts Monday.

Sassaman said watching the way the country has developed since the war has given him a great sense of pride.

“There wasn’t a single building taller than three stories high when I left,” Sassaman said.

Eddie Thomas, 84, was another of the veterans who received recognition Monday. He served as an Air Force policeman during the war and said it felt much hotter at Camp Blanding than it did during his overnight security shifts when he was in charge of the K-9 unit with 12 working dogs.


“The shift was from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m., so I slept during the heat of the day,” Thomas said.

He wiped beads of sweat from beneath his hat as he talked about how much pride he felt when he received his medal. Perspiration served as a tangible reminder for the ambassador’s message.

Cho pointed out that the Americans who shed their blood, sweat and tears along with the Korean people during the war will always have an important place in the country’s history.

Thomas said, “If I had to do it all over again, I wouldn’t hesitate. It was one of the greatest honors of my life.”

Joe Daraskevich: (904) 359-4308




# MOAA

Military Officers Association of America

# SHOOTOUT!


SPORTING CLAY FUNDRAISER  
BENEFITTING ANCIENT CITY CHAPTER  
**MONDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2018**

PRIZES FOR 1ST, 2ND AND 3RD PLACE TEAMS  
MAJOR RAFFLE PRIZE OPPORTUNITIES • MULLIGANS A MUST  
AWARD CEREMONY IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE EVENT



Saltwater's  
Shooting Club


900 BIG OAK ROAD  
ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA 32095  
904.819.9868 • www.saltwatersshootingclub.com



# MOAA

Military Officers Association of America

# SHOOTOUT!



**EVENT SCHEDULE:**  
11:30A - 12PM: REGISTRATION • 11:30A-12:45: SAFETY BRIEFING • 1:00P - SHOTGUN START

**SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES:**  
 MAJOR SPONSOR: **\$1500.** (includes foursome, lunch and station signage)  
 CORPORATE STATION SPONSOR: **\$450.** (includes foursome, lunch and station signage)  
 STATION SPONSOR: **\$100.**  
 INDIVIDUAL ENTRY: **\$100.**  
 LUNCH ONLY: **\$25.**

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**ENTRY FORM:**

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Please RSVP to Ron Birchall, 4009 Moultrie Foreside Blvd., St. Augustine, FL 32086 or Chris Nester, 900 Big Oak Road, St. Augustine, FL 32095  
 Ron Birchall can be reached at 904.669.5595. Chris Nester can be reached at 904.599.2847  
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Stars and Stripes

## Steelers legend Rocky Bleier 'Fighting Back' again, this time to benefit Vietnam vets

By KEVIN GORMAN | The Tribune-Review | Published: August 16, 2018

GREENSBURG, Pa. (Tribune News Service) — Rocky Bleier smiled and posed for photographs with a line of Pittsburgh Steelers fans, showing them his Super Bowl ring while autographing copies of his book, *Fighting Back: The Inspirational Journey of American Hero Rocky Bleier*.



But Bleier stopped when Bryan Bullock shared the story of his father, Ronald, a Vietnam veteran who was wounded by grenade shrapnel in his leg, foot and lower back — the same injuries Bleier suffered in the war.

Bullock was thrilled to meet the Steelers legend Monday after making the trip to training camp at Saint Vincent from Reidsville, N.C., just north of Greensboro, and happier to get a personalized autograph of *Fighting Back* to take home to his father.

“I read it as a young kid,” Bullock said. “That’s how I got to know who Rocky Bleier was.”

That was the inspiration for Bleier to re-release his biography, which chronicles his growing up in Appleton, Wis., to winning a national championship at Notre Dame to fighting in the Vietnam War and the remarkable recovery that led to four Super Bowl rings with the Steelers.

The new edition, partnered with Leadership League, includes a foreword by Steelers left tackle Alejandro Villanueva, a former Army Ranger who served three tours of duty in Afghanistan. It also has two new chapters written by Post-Gazette columnist Gene Collier, who collaborated with Bleier on his one-man play he has performed.

Proceeds of his campaign, *Fighting Back for Veterans*, will benefit the Veterans Leadership Program, Joint Training Facility and Legacies Alive, organizations that provide services for veterans and their families.

So Bleier isn't just fighting back. He's giving back, too.

"My idea was that there are a lot of people who tell me, 'The first sports book I read was Fighting Back,' " Bleier said of his biography, originally published in 1975. "Maybe there's a whole new generation for grandfathers and fathers to pass on a story that made a difference in their life."

That's not the most impressive part. Bleier, now 72, leaves Friday to visit Vietnam for the first time in 49 years, since he was seriously injured in 1969. An ESPN camera crew will film Bleier for a documentary as he visits battle sites such as Chu Lai and Heip Duc, where his battalion guarded landing zones and where he was twice wounded, first by enemy fire and then by shrapnel from a grenade.

Vietnam veteran Keith Welteroth can't imagine taking such a trip.

"I wouldn't want to. I have no desire to go back there," said Welteroth, 68, of Indiana, Pa., a Steelers fan who served in Chu Lai. "It was pure hell for a year. People think it's hot and humid here? It was hot, with monsoons and big snakes, not to mention the enemy."

Walt Yager was instrumental in bringing The Wall That Heals to Renziehausen Park in McKeesport last week to honor the city's two dozen soldiers killed in action during the Vietnam War. It was quite a scene to see Yager and his wife, Lavonne, asking Bleier to autograph their jerseys — Walt's a green Notre Dame replica with No. 28 and Lavonne's a black Steelers throwback with No. 20 — and thanking him for serving as a voice for Vietnam veterans.

"He's just a super individual," said Walt Yager of North Huntington, who is almost halfway in his attempt to raise \$58,318 — a dollar for each name on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. "I'm doing what he's doing. Any amount of time you want, he gives. He personifies what it means to respect the sacrifices of those who gave their lives."

Not that Bleier is expecting his trip to Vietnam to reopen emotional wounds, even though he lost friends with the deaths of fellow soldiers.

"No, I'm not expecting that," Bleier said. "I don't have any scars. I don't expect any hidden emotions. The reason is, maybe unlike the majority of Vietnam veterans, I've had the opportunity to tell my story."

Bleier knows he was blessed to return home to play for “one of the all-time great dynasties,” the Super Steelers of the 1970s. Instead, Bleier wants to use his visit to Vietnam “tell a story from the emotional point of view what it was like to be just a regular guy, a regular grunt who got drafted and went to Vietnam.”

“That story needs to be told,” Bleier said, “from the average guy.”

That’s the story of the Steelers fans, especially those who waited patiently in line to share their Vietnam War stories with Bleier.

Bullock got a personalized autograph for his father, Ronald, who earned two Purple Hearts but dealt with PTSD from the Vietnam War. Bryan didn’t understand why his father kept time with the Rolling Stones’ “Fade to Black,” pinching his leg or twitching until he was older. Finally, Ronald shared that it was how he trained himself to stay alert on overnight watch in the war zone.

As Villanueva notes in the foreword, the Army still uses the Vietnam War to teach its tactics to a generation of soldiers. Bleier is more concerned with a U.S. military that relies too heavily upon volunteers, noting we have been in the Middle East longer than Vietnam.

“The tragedies aren’t the number of deaths but really the deployment numbers,” Bleier said. “Soldiers are going back two, three, four times. That takes a toll on an individual and their family. There’s the stress of separation, higher rates of divorce and PTSD. It’s very easy to say, ‘Thank you for your service’ if you haven’t served.”

A Gold Star daughter, Noreen Doloughty has visited Vietnam in search of answers about her father’s life and death and is excited to watch the documentary, so that she can see Bleier visit places she didn’t go and how the places she did see have changed.

Vietnam holds a special place in her heart, as her father, Army Staff Sgt. James Cornelius Doloughty, was killed in Chu-lai in July 1969, when she was only eight months old. As Bleier signed autographs under a tent during a downpour, she shared her admiration for the Steelers legend.

“Rocky Bleier was the image of the Vietnam vet,” said Doloughty, 49, of Polish Hill. “I know he’s consistently done so much for vets. Everybody’s got a Rocky story.”

Now, Rocky Bleier is ready to tell a new one.



## From Moe Moyer

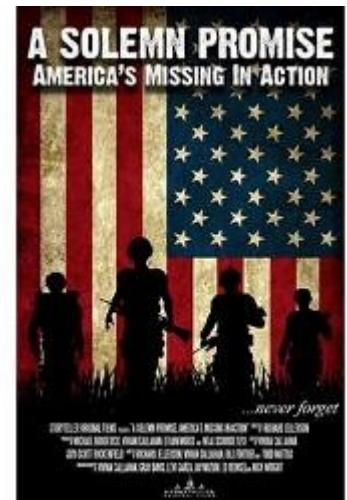
### A Perfect Film at the Perfect Time...

*By Colonel Bill Fortier, US Army, Retired*

...That is how Richard Jellerson of Storyteller Original Films, a former Vietnam helicopter pilot and filmmaker, refers to his heartfelt work of love that took four years to complete.

It is a perfect film and it is at a perfect time because presentation of his film, A Solemn Promise, America's Missing in Action comes at a time when North Korea has just released 55 boxes carrying the remains of Americans who died as a result of the Korean War. The film is also "just in time" to honor America's fallen warriors who are still missing and unaccounted for on America's National POW/MIA Recognition Day (Sep 21, 2018).

The concept for the film began eight years ago when Richard and fellow Vietnam helicopter pilot, Tom Lasser, discussed the fact that, had either of them gone down in Vietnam and still be missing and unaccounted for, America would still be conducting searches to locate their remains. That fact was fascinating to Richard, and it became the seed, which developed into a four-year project to produce A Solemn Promise.



The film tells about America's ongoing worldwide efforts to locate, identify and return each of America's fallen warriors to their families for burial with full military honors. The film was produced primarily from his personal funds, although AUSA and American Legion Post 43 in Hollywood, California provided some assistance along the way.

The film will be premiered in California and Georgia for National POW/MIA Recognition Day, Sep 21, 2018. In California it will show at the Palm Springs Air Museum and in Georgia at the Central Georgia Technical College in Warner Robbins, Georgia at The Ride Home, a major POW and MIA Families 3-day event that is held annually.

For more information about the two events for Sep 21st:

- Palm Springs Air Museum <https://palmspringsairmuseum.org>
- The Ride Home <http://www.theridehome.com/itinerary-2018.html>

For more information about the film, A Solemn Promise:

- Screen Storyteller Original Films at [storytellerfilms.tv](http://storytellerfilms.tv)



**Mark your calendars for Saturday, September 1st!**

Please join OPERATION HOMECOMING at PBI to welcome home 80 WWII and Korean War veterans from their day of tribute in Washington, DC. Your presence, cheers and handshakes touch these veterans so profoundly--many say it is the most touching part of their day. Help give them a welcome home most never received. Flight arrives at 7:20PM but arrive early! See you there!

**JOIN US**  
**WELCOME HOME 80 WWII & KOREAN WAR VETERANS**  
*FROM THEIR*  
**HONOR FLIGHT**  
*IN WASHINGTON, DC*



**Palm Beach International Airport**  
**2nd Floor, Concourse A/B**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1**  
**7:20PM**

**Shake hands with heroes.**  
**Bring your flags, cheers, signs, friends,**  
**family and love!**



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## DAV St. Augustine Chapter 6 Officers 2018-2019

l-r Joe McDermott-Commander, Herb Koch-Sr. Vice, Michael Isam-Jr. Vice, Judy Davis-Adjutant, George April-Treasurer, Shawn Prentiss-Chaplain Not shown Audrey Allen-Officer of the Day, Officiating John McGinty

Photo by J.C.



*Save the Date*

**V4V**

*Vets 4 Vets*

**Quarterly Gathering of Veterans  
Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

Veterans Memorial Arena  
300 A Phillip Randolph Blvd  
Jacksonville, FL 32202

1030 – 1100

Coffee, Networking and Exhibitors

1100 – 1215

Speakers

1215 – 1300

Free Lunch, Networking and Exhibitors

Listen, Learn, and  
Let your Voice be Heard

**TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER!!**

## Digital mapping brings veterans' stories to life By Colleen Jones, St Augustine Record

Holding up a copy of the etching on one of the headstones, Scot French stood in the St. Augustine National Cemetery on Tuesday and had a student read aloud the description for one Lt. J.W.S. McNeil.



He asked the group — an assortment of home-schooled students from Orlando — what the words could tell us about the way McNeil, a U.S. Army veteran of the Second Seminole War, lived and died.

French, an associate professor of history at the University of Central Florida, pointed out it was interesting the narrative specified that the 21-year-old was killed by Uchee Billy, a Seminole chief, in 1837.

He then had the group examine the text on another headstone, this one for Dr. Charles Noyes, a 27-year-old Army surgeon who “never knew a stranger,” as noted by his loved ones.

“I think the detail of the emotion here is pretty amazing,” commented Connie Linch, an eighth-grader from Geneva.

Through the work French, his colleagues, undergraduate and graduate students of UCF are doing, the aim is to use technology to help bring the stories of veterans from many chapters of American history to life.

The Veterans Legacy Program, a joint project of the National Cemetery Administration and educational partners like the University of Central Florida, is in the process of digitally mapping and cataloguing all 1,227 grave sites at the St. Augustine National Cemetery, including those of Noyes and McNeil. By later this year, an “augmented reality” mobile application will allow smartphone users to hold their device up to a headstone which will then pull up the matching background information on that specific veteran.

The project at UCF is being led by associate professor Amelia Lyons. Since 2016, the group has used primary source-based research to learn more about veterans buried in St. Augustine as well as the Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, an offshoot of the same project. The goal of the student-authored biographies is to frame those stories in greater historical context and with richer personal details. Eventually, they will all be compiled on this website: <https://vlp.cah.ucf.edu/>. The group hopes to finish its work in time for Veterans Day, when the mobile app will also be available for visitors.

The St. Augustine National Cemetery was established as a 1.5-acre burial place on the grounds of a military post, the St. Francis Barracks, with the first known plot in 1828. The cemetery is closed to new interments. Veterans from the following American wars are memorialized there: War of 1812, Second Seminole War, Civil War, Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, Korean War and Vietnam War.

The Dade Monument is made up three coquina pyramids erected in 1842 to mark the end of the Seminole Wars. The monuments pay homage to the 1,468 soldiers who died during the wars, some of whose remains are contained within.

The headstone for one plot in the cemetery reads simply: “Six unknown Indians.”

“But now,” French said, “they are unknown no longer because of the research we’re doing to fill in the blanks.”

Another goal of the Veterans Legacy Program is to create a K-12 curriculum around the project which allows students to interact with the data at a grade-appropriate level for use by teachers nationwide. UCF faculty led the home-schooling group through what they called a “Day of Learning” Tuesday at the St. Augustine National Cemetery.

Said Glenn Powers, deputy under-secretary for field programs with the National Cemetery Administration for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, said, “I think any of our national cemeteries are extraordinary places to learn about service and sacrifice. .. It’s said that no veteran ever dies, and with programs like this their lives live on, their stories go on.”



Governor Scott declares Florida support for our military and their families. The guide was prepared by the Florida Defense Support Task Force of which I am a Task Force member.

William Dudley, Chairman, Veterans Council of St. Johns County, [anuday00@aol.com](mailto:anuday00@aol.com)

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Today, Governor Rick Scott announced the release of the 2018 Florida Military-Friendly Guide. The annual guide, created by the Florida Defense Support Task Force, offers a summary of Florida’s laws, programs and services benefitting military service members and their families. It also highlights Florida’s low tax and financial advantages, educational benefits, professional licensure opportunities and fee waivers for service men, women and their families stationed in Florida. A digital copy of the 2018 Florida Military-Friendly Guide is available [HERE](#).

Governor Scott said, “As a proud Navy veteran, and the son of a World War II veteran, I want to make sure our military and their families have access to the services they need. Florida is the most military and veteran friendly state in the nation, and since I took office, we’ve invested hundreds of millions in funding for services and benefits for our military and veterans. Our Florida Military-Friendly Guide is another great resource for our military members to learn more about these great benefits and everything Florida has to offer to those who serve.”

Florida is home to more than 1.5 million veterans, 20 major military installations and three unified commands. Since 2011, under the leadership of Governor Scott, Florida has invested hundreds of millions in funding to support active military, veterans and their families – including more than \$180 million in this year’s budget. Governor Scott’s focus on serving those that serve our nation has also helped drive down the unemployment rate for veterans in Florida to a low 2.9 percent – nearly an entire percent lower than the national average and a decrease of more than six percent since 2010. To foster enhanced cooperation between state agencies and Florida’s military installations, Governor Scott holds regular meetings with Florida’s base commanders and heads of state agencies.

Representative Jay Trumbull of Panama City, Chair of the Florida Defense Support Task Force, said, “The Florida Military-Friendly Guide is a great resource for military service men, women and their families in the Sunshine State. Enterprise Florida and the Florida Defense Support Task Force will continue to support military members and their families, and work to maintain Florida’s status as the most military-friendly state in the nation.”

The defense industry provides an annual economic impact of \$84.9 billion and accounts for more than 801,000 jobs in Florida. Defense continues to be the fourth largest contributor to the state economy behind agriculture and tourism. The Florida Military-Friendly Guide is distributed annually to Florida’s military bases and defense communities.

The **Florida National Guard** Command Historian welcomed academics, reenactors and guests to the historic St. Francis Barracks and nearby National Cemetery in St. Augustine, Fla, during the annual Seminole War Commemoration Parade and Ceremony. The procession, commemorating the end of the Second Seminole War in 1842, was marked by a reef laying at the Dade pyramids, as well as reflections by members of the Northeast Florida West Point Society. The ceremony also included additional presentations by the faculty of the University of Central Florida, as well as from members of the Seminole Wars Foundation, Inc.. and Alison Simpson, the Florida National Guard Command Historian.





## ***OPERATION HandUP (8/21/2018 – 9/8/2018)***

We are creating care pouches with edibles, for our women veterans not living in stabled housing. Items needed are:

Cup of Noodles  
Cookies or Crackers  
Nuts  
Dried Fruit  
Protein or breakfast bars  
Pop Tarts  
Capri Suns or something similar to drink  
Canned microwaveable soups/veggies  
Peanut Butter and Jelly  
Canned fruit  
Tuna Fish or chicken in the pack  
Canned pasta  
Fruit and Jello cups  
Small water bottles

Gift cards are acceptable too.

***Deliver to:***

***2133 Broadway Ave.***

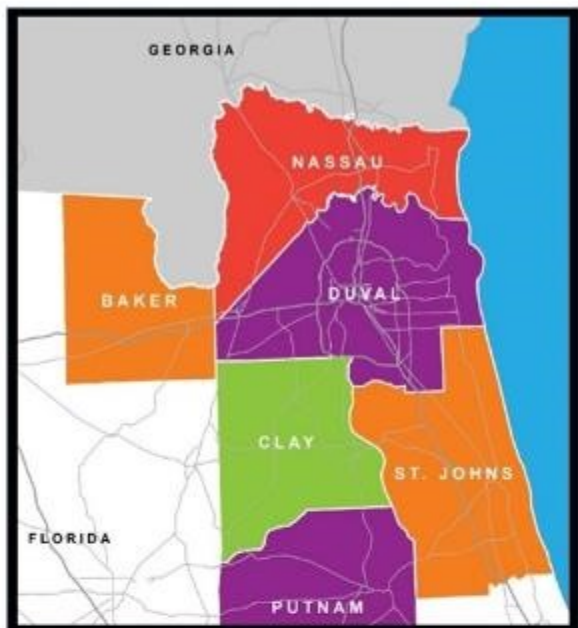
***Monday – Friday 9:00am – 3:00pm***

***904-862-6039***

***[www.forwomenvets.org](http://www.forwomenvets.org)***



# Veteran County Councils of Northeast Florida



## Duval County

President: Steve Spickelmier

Meetings:

Third Tuesday of each month in the 40/8 Building

Located at the American Legion Post 137  
5443 San Juan Avenue

7pm

## Nassau County

President: Paul Kicker, Chairman  
Veterans Council of Nassau County

76347 Veterans Way,  
Veterans Service Office

Yulee, FL 32097

Meets the first Thursday of every month  
at the Theodore Hernandez American  
Legion Post 54, 626 South 3rd Street,  
Fernandina Beach, FL 32034 at 7 pm

## Baker County

President: Larry Porterfield

Meetings:

Second Thursday of each month  
MacClenny Primitive Baptist Church  
Fellowship Hall on North Boulevard  
6pm

Contact:

Baker County Veterans Council  
PO Box 1434  
MacClenny, FL 32063

## Clay County

President: Bob Brewster

Meetings: First Wednesday of  
each month

Location varies between the  
different Veteran Organizations.

Time varies

## St. Johns County

President: Bill Dudley

Meetings:

Last Thursday of each month  
Health and Human Services Building  
Muscovy Room, 1st Floor  
200 San Sebastian View  
Muscovy Room 1st Floor  
St. Augustine, FL 32084  
7pm

Contact:

[info@VeteransCouncilofStJohns.org](mailto:info@VeteransCouncilofStJohns.org)

Florida has been known as having the third largest population of women veterans for years. New data released by the VA now rank Florida as having the SECOND largest population of women veterans...trailing Texas.

There is work to be done to help these women who served, have a healthy transition into civilian life. Some of you have made an effort to do just that but we still have a long way to go. As you know, I've always said that their are unique needs that must be addressed. As you prepare your 2019 plans, please include women veterans. If you are not sure what to do, let's talk.

Thank you. Dee Quaranta, President / CEO, (904) 862-6036, 2133 Broadway Avenue, Jacksonville, Florida 32209

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



Department of  
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## Fact Sheet

November 2, 2017

### Women Veterans Population

The total Veteran population in the United States, Puerto Rico, and Territories/Foreign, as of Sept. 30, 2017, was 19,998,799. The population of women Veterans numbered 1,882,848. States with the largest number of women Veterans were Texas, California, Florida, Virginia and Georgia. State-by-state totals are as follows:

Alabama	39,317	Montana	8,512
Alaska	9,465	Nebraska	11,863
Arizona	46,399	Nevada	21,715
Arkansas	19,212	New Hampshire	8,541
California	143,211	New Jersey	25,550
Colorado	45,279	New Mexico	16,354
Connecticut	13,645	New York	58,855
Delaware	6,945	North Carolina	82,582
District Of Columbia	3,905	North Dakota	4,937
Florida	144,229	Ohio	61,697
Georgia	88,735	Oklahoma	29,100
Hawaii	11,906	Oregon	25,498
Idaho	10,611	Pennsylvania	60,021
Illinois	49,534	Puerto Rico	4,396
Indiana	31,169	Rhode Island	5,039
Iowa	15,140	South Carolina	42,965
Kansas	17,972	South Dakota	6,515
Kentucky	24,415	Tennessee	44,405
Louisiana	29,754	Texas	177,507
Maine	9,103	Utah	10,438
Maryland	51,974	Vermont	3,784
Massachusetts	22,391	Virginia	103,918
Michigan	43,095	Washington	56,867
Minnesota	23,789	West Virginia	10,218
Mississippi	20,385	Wisconsin	28,907
Missouri	35,883	Wyoming	4,672
		Territories/Foreign	10,524

**Total Women Veterans** 1,882,848

**Source:** Office of Enterprise Integration, National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics, VA Veteran Population Projection Model 2016, Table 6L at <http://www.va.gov/vetdata/>



# U.S. ARMY COMMANDS OF THE VIETNAM WAR



1. Military Assistance Advisory Group, Vietnam, 1955-1964, Saigon
2. U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, 1962-1973, Saigon
3. U.S. Army, Vietnam, 1965-1972, Saigon, Long Binh
4. I Field Force, Vietnam, 1966-1971, Nha Trang
5. II Field Force, Vietnam, 1966-1971, Long Binh
6. XXIV Corps, 1968-1972, Phu Bai, Danang
7. Capital Military Assistance Command, 1968-1972, Saigon
8. 1st Infantry Division, 1965-1970, Bien Hoa, Di An, Lai Khe
9. 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), 1965-1972, An Khe, Phong Dien, Bien Hoa
10. 4th Infantry Division, 1966-1970, Camp Enari (south of Pleiku City)
11. 9th Infantry Division, 1966-1969, Bear Cat, Dong Tam
12. 23d Division (Americal), 1967-1971, Chu Lai
13. 25th Infantry Division, 1966-1971, Cu Chi, Long Binh
14. 101st Airborne Division, 1965-1971, Bien Hoa, Phan Rang, Phu Bai
15. 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized), 1968-1971, Dong Ha



16. 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 1966-1971, Bien Hoa, Xuan Loc, Di An
17. 11th Infantry Brigade (Light), 1967-1971, Duc Pho
18. 3d Brigade, 82d Airborne Division, 1968-1969, Phu Bai, Phu Loi
19. 173d Airborne Brigade, 1965-1971, Bien Hoa, An Khe, Bong Son
20. 196th Infantry Brigade (Light), 1966-1972, Tay Ninh, Chau Lai, Tam Ky, Danang
21. 198th Infantry Brigade (Light), 1967-1971, Duc Pho, Chau Lai
22. 199th Infantry Brigade (Light), 1966-1970, Long Binh, Bien Hoa
23. 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), 1964-1971, Nha Trang
24. 1st Logistical Command, 1965-1970, Saigon, Long Binh
25. 1st Aviation Brigade, 1966-1973, Long Binh, Saigon
26. 1st Signal Brigade, 1966-1972, Saigon, Long Binh
27. 18th Engineer Brigade, 1965-1971, Saigon, Dong Ba Thien
28. 18th Military Police Brigade, 1966-1973, Long Binh
29. 20th Engineer Brigade, 1967-1971, Bien Hoa
30. 44th Medical Brigade, 1966-1970, Saigon, Long Binh





# MAJOR U.S. AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONS OF THE VIETNAM WAR



- |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
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| 1. Pacific Air Force (PACAF), 1967-1975, Hawaii | 11. 21st Tactical Fighter Wing, 1966-1975, Tan Son Nhut AB, RVN | 21. 37th Young Carrier Group, 174th Tactical Airlift Wing, 1966-1975, Chong Chuan Kang AB, Taiwan | 31. 39th Strategic Wing, 1975-1991, Kadena AB, Guam | 41. 43rd Tactical Airlift Wing, 1966-1975, Clark AB, Philippines | 51. 31st Strategic Wing, 1967-1975, Andersen AFB, Guam | 61. 31st Strategic Wing, 1967-1975, Andersen AFB, Guam | 71. 31st Strategic Wing, 1967-1975, Andersen AFB, Guam | 81. 31st Strategic Wing, 1967-1975, Andersen AFB, Guam | 91. 31st Strategic Wing, 1967-1975, Andersen AFB, Guam | 101. 31st Strategic Wing, 1967-1975, Andersen AFB, Guam | 111. 31st Strategic Wing, 1967-1975, Andersen AFB, Guam | 121. 31st Strategic Wing, 1967-1975, Andersen AFB, Guam | 131. 31st Strategic Wing, 1967-1975, Andersen AFB, Guam | 141. 31st Strategic Wing, 1967-1975, Andersen AFB, Guam | 151. 31st Strategic Wing, 1967-1975, Andersen AFB, Guam | 161. 31st Strategic Wing, 1967-1975, Andersen AFB, Guam | 171. 31st Strategic Wing, 1967-1975, Andersen AFB, Guam | 181. 31st Strategic Wing, 1967-1975, Andersen AFB, Guam | 191. 31st Strategic Wing, 1967-1975, Andersen AFB, Guam | 201. 31st Strategic Wing, 1967-1975, Andersen AFB, Guam | 211. 31st Strategic Wing, 1967-1975, Andersen AFB, Guam | 221. 31st Strategic Wing, 1967-1975, Andersen AFB, Guam | 231. 31st Strategic Wing, 1967-1975, Andersen AFB, Guam | 241. 31st Strategic Wing, 1967-1975, Andersen AFB, Guam | 251. 31st Strategic Wing, 1967-1975, Andersen AFB, Guam | 261. 31st Strategic Wing, 1967-1975, Andersen AFB, Guam | 271. 31st Strategic Wing, 1967-1975, Andersen AFB, Guam | 281. 31st Strategic Wing, 1967-1975, Andersen AFB, Guam | 291. 31st Strategic Wing, 1967-1975, Andersen AFB, Guam | 301. 31st Strategic Wing, 1967-1975, Andersen AFB, Guam | 311. 31st Strategic Wing, 1967-1975, Andersen AFB, Guam | 321. 31st Strategic Wing, 1967-1975, Andersen AFB, Guam | 331. 31st Strategic Wing, 1967-1975, Andersen AFB, Guam | 341. 31st Strategic Wing, 1967-1975, Andersen AFB, Guam | 351. 31st Strategic Wing, 1967-1975, Andersen AFB, Guam | 361. 31st Strategic Wing, 1967-1975, Andersen AFB, Guam | 371. 31st Strategic Wing, 1967-1975, Andersen AFB, Guam | 381. 31st Strategic Wing, 1967-1975, Andersen AFB, Guam | 391. 31st Strategic Wing, 1967-1975, Andersen AFB, Guam | 401. 31st Strategic Wing, 1967-1975, Andersen AFB, Guam | 411. 31st Strategic Wing, 1967-1975, Andersen AFB, Guam | 421. 31st Strategic Wing, 1967-1975, Andersen AFB, Guam |
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## CARING FOR THE MILITARY/VETERAN CAREGIVER: A FAMILY CAREGIVING CONFERENCE

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 CAREGIVING EXPERTS WILL INCLUDE:

- Supporting Our Hidden Heroes: The Military Caregiver Journey
- Wounded Warriors: Their Last Battle
- Operation Family Caregiver: Supporting Military Caregivers
- VA Caregiver Support Program: There's Help for You
- VA Healthcare Benefits and City of Jacksonville VA Services

**FRIDAY, SEPT. 21, 2018**

**WJCT Public Broadcasting**

**100 Festival Park Ave., Jacksonville, FL 32202**

**Registration 8:30 a.m.**

**Program 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

Registration is free, and a complimentary breakfast and lunch will be provided. To register, call **904.407.6790** or visit **[militarycaregiver.eventbrite.com](http://militarycaregiver.eventbrite.com)**.

To request complimentary respite care for your loved one, call Aging True Community Senior Services at 904.807.1319 by Friday, Sept. 14.

Hosted by:



Presented by:



A Generous Donation from:



Platinum Sponsors:



Additional Support from:



**National Order  
of  
Trench Rats**



Continuing education credit will be available for eligible professional disciplines. See the registration website for CE details and learning objectives.

Caregiver Coalition Partners: Community Hospice & Palliative Care; 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

The Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial and Museum has posted the Veteran Council's 5 documentaries on its new website.



Here is a link to it if you haven't already seen the documentaries, which feature many local veterans.

<https://www.powmiamemorial.org/education/historical-videos/>

# TRI-BASE JOB FAIR

Fleet and Family Support Centers  
NS Mayport, NAS Jacksonville, NSB Kings Bay

Wednesday, September 5, 2018  
9:00am-2:00pm

**Employers Onsite**  
Local and out of area employers will be onsite for you to meet. Be prepared for possible interviews on the spot.

**Community Resources**  
Local organizations will be onsite to discuss their services.

**Open to the Military Community**  
Events this day are at no cost and open to Active Service members, Retirees and their families.

Morocco Shrine Center  
3800 St. Johns Bluff Road South  
Jacksonville, FL 32224

The  
Fleet & Family Support  
Center



For more information, contact FFSC Mayport at 904-270-6600



# BUILD YOUR OWN PASTA DINNER

TAKE THE "LABOR" OUT OF YOUR LABOR DAY & LET US DO THE COOKING FOR YOU!

## WHEN:

September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 (Labor Day)  
5pm - 8pm

## WHERE

American Legion Bert Hodge  
Post 45

316 Osceola St, Palatka, FL 32177

**FEATURING** • Meal served by local teen scouts • Learn more about local Venturing group and what we do • Venturing Scout Court of Honor • Thank you presentation to various contributors • Various fun activities fit for all ages

FOR MORE INFO OR TO PURCHASE ADVANCE TICKETS:

- CONTACT TARYN HOFFMAN OR HEATHER BY CALL/TEXT @ (386) 546-8778 OR (386) 336-7560
- EMAIL: VENTURECREW45PALATKA@GMAIL.COM
- LIKE OUR FACEBOOK AT: WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/VENTURINGCREW45

**ADVANCE  
TICKETS**  
\$8 per meal

**TICKETS AT THE  
DOOR**  
\$10 per meal

Child Size portions  
for ages 10 & under -  
\$5.00 each with purchase  
of adult meal (limit 4)

## Dinner Includes:

- Choice of Pasta,
- choice of sauce (red, meat, alfredo),
- salad,
- garlic bread,
- Drink (free refills on select drinks),
- Dessert

## FUNDRAISER BENEFITING

Venturing Crew 45, a co-ed High Adventure scouting group for teens age 14-21, sponsored by American Legion Bert Hodge Post 45

**The Drive for a veterans hospital, FLTimes Union  
by Joe Daraskevich**

**The nearest VA Hospital is in Gainesville, sparking complaints and maybe  
now some action**

[www.jacksonville.com/news/20180706/lack-of-va-hospital-in-jacksonville-means-long-drives-for-certain-types-of-care](http://www.jacksonville.com/news/20180706/lack-of-va-hospital-in-jacksonville-means-long-drives-for-certain-types-of-care)

**LAST 10 VA HOSPITALS TO OPEN**

New Orleans, opened 2017. Current veteran population in metro area: 63,145

Orlando, opened 2015. Current veteran population in metro area: 139,801

Las Vegas, opened 2012. Current veteran population in metro area: 141,476

Detroit, opened 1996. Current veteran population in metro area: 209,616

West Palm Beach, opened 1995. Current veteran population in Miami metro area: 204,522

Seattle, opened 1994. Current veteran population in metro area: 241,776

Houston, opened 1992. Current veteran population in metro area: 267,689

Baltimore, opened 1992. Current veteran population in metro area: 173,616

Portland, Ore., opened 1988. Current veteran population in metro area: 147,603

**Metro Jacksonville's current veteran population: 144,569**

All veteran populations are according to 2016 American Community Survey

## Seminole Wars Heritage Trail

For over four decades the Seminole people fought for the right to remain in their Florida homeland. Many factors led to tensions between white Americans and Seminole Indians. It was a fight for freedom, identity and dignity played out over a wild landscape that shaped the future for both sides.

These wars were significant events, not just for Florida, but for the nation as a whole. According to historians, there were three Seminole Wars, (1817-1818), (1835-1842), and (1855-1858). For the Seminole People, it was a continual 40-year struggle to remain in their ancestral homeland.

The 56-page Florida Seminole Wars Heritage Trail guidebook includes a background essay on the history of the Seminole Wars in Florida, a timeline of events, sidebars on related Florida topics, issues and individuals of the period, and a selected bibliography. It also includes information on battlefields, cemeteries, museum exhibits, monuments, historical markers, and other sites in Florida with direct links to the Seminole Wars. This publication is an educational resource for residents and visitors that will enhance our knowledge and understanding of the Florida places, people, and events that played a role in this momentous struggle.

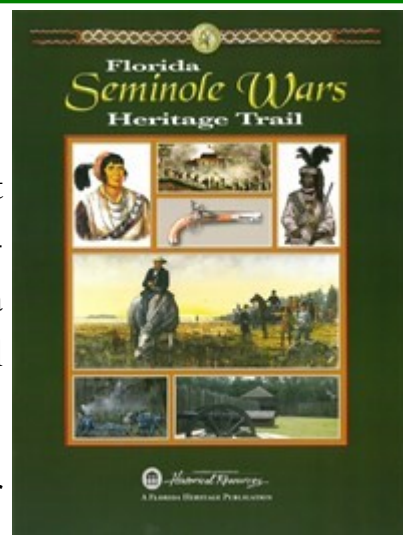
The Florida Seminole Wars Heritage Trail publication was produced by the Seminole Wars Foundation, Inc., with historic preservation grant support provided by the Florida Department of State's Division of Historical Resources, assisted by the Florida Historical Commission. For more information about the Seminole Wars Foundation, visit [seminolewars.org](http://seminolewars.org)

Published by the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources.

ISBN #1-889030-24-0

Read the Florida Seminole Wars Heritage Trail online:

<https://archive.org/stream/FloridaSeminoleWarsHeritageTrail#page/n0/mode/2up>





*(This is an article I wrote in 2012)*

## **A Wild Drive on Wildwood Drive**

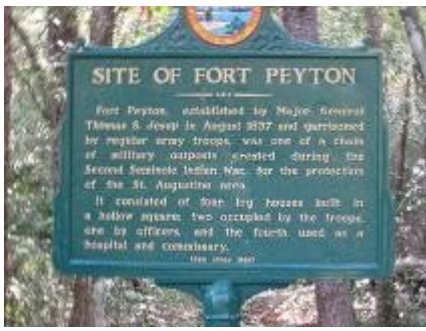
Many of us have driven south on Wildwood Drive from SR 207. It is a short distance to Publix in Moultrie on Wildwood Drive. It's a typical Florida back road, full of palm trees, small houses and several churches. A very scenic, quiet and peaceful road. We don't give it a second thought. Nothing ever happens there. How wrong we are! Almost 185 years ago this non-descript road was at the heart of one of America's earliest wars, the Seminole Wars. The word Seminole was derived from the Spanish word, "cimarron", which means "wild ones", referring to the fact that the Seminole Indians lived in wild, sparsely occupied areas.

The story of Osceola, a Seminole Indian, may not be well known, but his brave attempts to remain in Florida and fight the U.S. Government are well documented. Osceola was one of the leaders of the Seminole Indians in the 1830's during the Second Seminole War against the United States. Although born in Alabama, Osceola and his Creek Indian mother moved to Florida, which was the homeland of the Seminole Indians. When white settlers began moving into the state, they wanted the Seminoles to move to Indian territories west of the Mississippi River. Osceola led a group of Seminoles opposed to relocation. Using tactics unfamiliar to the settlers and by hiding in the Everglades, Osceola and some of the Seminoles were successfully able, for a time, to resist the United States Government's attempts to remove them from Florida. It was not until the capture of Osceola and his death in 1838 at Fort Moultrie in South Carolina that the Seminoles were forced from their homeland.



**Chief Osceola**

Our journey begins 1 mile south east of SR 207 on Wildwood Drive, at Treaty Park. In 1823, two years after Florida was acquired by the United States, leaders of the Seminole and Miccosukee Tribes met with government officials, including William F. Duval, (who was to become the territorial governor following Andrew Jackson) on the banks of the creek near this site in order to settle conflicting claims to Florida lands. After twelve days of negotiation, they signed the treaty of Moultrie Creek on September 18, 1823. The tribes were to occupy a four million acre reservation on the interior peninsula. The government was to assist in relocating the Indians and help to support them there for a period of twenty years. The Indians being removed from their traditional hunting grounds were forced to change their way of life from farming to raising cattle. Failure on both sides to comply with the terms of this and later treaties led to the Second Seminole War (1835-1842). The exact site of the treaty signing is unknown. Treaty Park is dedicated in com



memoration of that historical event.

Continue on Wildwood Drive and turn right onto Fort Peyton Drive. Hidden in an alley in the Wildwood Pines subdivision, is the old Fort Peyton site. This fort, among others, were established during the Second Seminole War. Fort Peyton housed the soldiers who captured Osceola. There are two markers at the Fort Peyton site, a bare coquina marker and a metal historical marker erected in 1966. There are scrawled obscene words on the metal marker, which also has a gaping hole from a large caliber bullet.

Further east on Wildwood Drive is the Stonegate subdivision. It was here in October 1837 that General Joseph Hernandez, acting under orders from General Thomas Jesup, seized the Seminole Indian leader Osceola and seventy of his braves while assembled under a white flag of truce. The soldiers threw the white flag to the ground and put chains on Osceola's hands and feet. The Indians were taken to Fort Marion (now the Castillo de San Marcos) in St. Augustine. A three foot tall monument that marks the actual spot where the famed warrior Osceola was captured is surrounded by palmettos and is not visible from Wildwood Drive. A recent wildfire left a patch of burned pine trees near the coquina marker. At the capture site the monument, erected in 1916, was once topped with a metal sign which read "Osceola captured on this spot while under the protection of a flag of truce, October 24, 1837." Now the sign is missing and the monument has been nicked by bullets. The Seminole Tribe of Florida, St. Johns County, and the St. Augustine Historical Society are hoping to upgrade these monuments.

The section of St. Augustine where all of these historical events occurred is Moultrie, Florida. It was named after Dr. John Moultrie who is thought to have resided in the area. Dr. Moultrie studied medicine at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. A Justice of the Peace, member of the Commons House of Assembly, and a major in the British militia, he also raised indigo, manufactured turpentine and was appointed Governor of East Florida in 1771. Though his brother, General William Moultrie became a revolutionary war hero, Dr. Moultrie remained loyal to the King and Parliament of England.

So the next time you travel Wildwood Drive, lean back in your car seat, lower the radio, listen for the war whoops and think of all that happened a long time ago on your WILD DRIVE down WILDWOOD DRIVE.



*Quality Care in a Relaxing Environment*

At Coastal, we believe that a visit to the doctor's office can be a relaxing experience. Come in for your appointment and let our massage exam chairs, hot towels and aromatherapy ease the stresses of your day. From diabetic care to ingrown nails to reconstructive surgery, our board certified physicians can help you with all of your foot and ankle needs. Call today experience the Coastal difference for yourself.

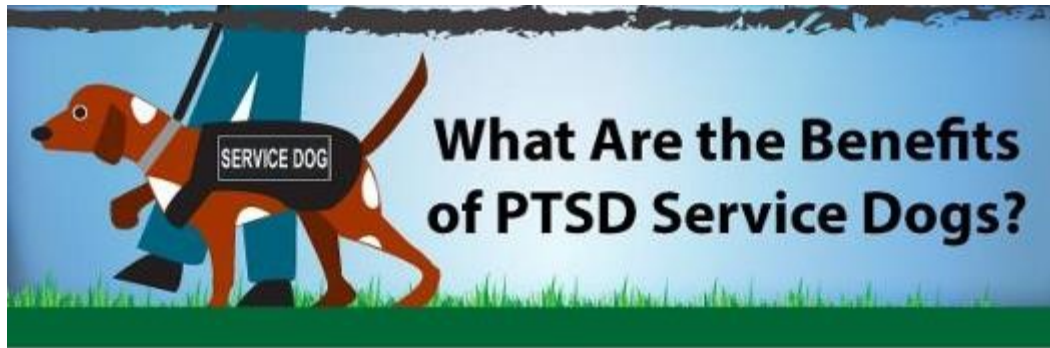


Jose' Concha, DPM \* Richard Johnson, DPM  
Board Certified by  
the American Board of Foot & Ankle Surgery



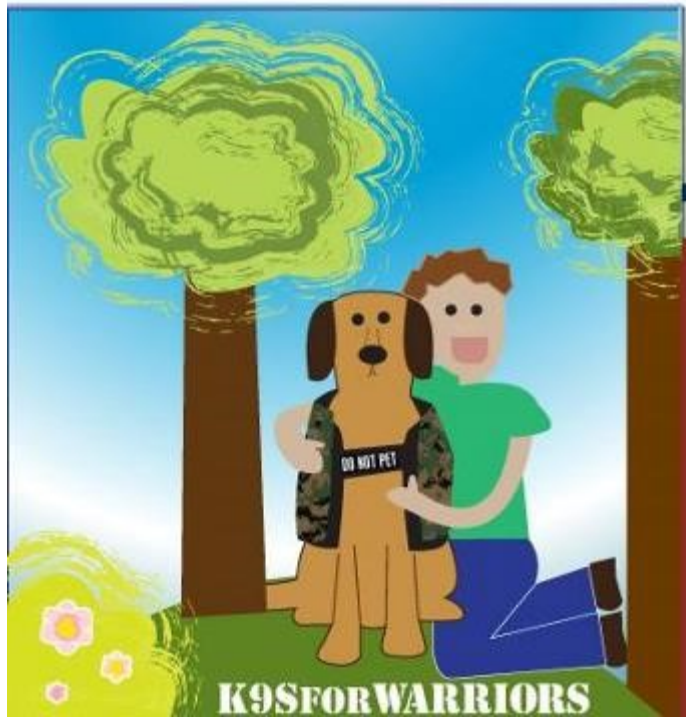
St. Augustine: 904-826-1900 [www.cfawc.com](http://www.cfawc.com) Palatka: 386-328-1122





# What Are the Benefits of PTSD Service Dogs?

- Reduce in use or even elimination of prescription drugs.
- Decrease in anxiety, anger, and depression.
- Decline in suicidal thoughts.
- Decrease in medical costs.
- Decrease in need for other treatments.



According to collaborative research performed by Purdue University & K9s For Warriors, veterans with a service dog reported:

- better ability to cope with flashbacks & anxiety attacks
- less overall sleep disturbances, including nightmares
- lower levels of depression & anger
- higher levels of companionship & social reintegration
- increased life satisfaction
- improved physical health

### This Year's Event:

We will base the event out of Warner Robins Georgia this September 20, 21 & 22. We will be working with Robins AFB POW/MIA Committee, Andersonville Historical Site, home of the National Prisoner of War Museum, Houston County Sherriff Office, Central Georgia Technical College and many local veterans and Patriotic citizens in an effort to comply with the Presidential Proclamation for National POW/MIA Recognition Day. All services are open to the Public. The HERO's Banquet, which is scheduled on 21 September, 1700 hrs. at Central Georgia Technical College, Larry Walker Auditorium, does require pre-registering and a minimum donation of \$25 per person. Seating for the Banquet is limited to 500 total attendance (which includes Honored Guest), so if you wish to break bread with these true American Hero's register soon.

For all requiring hotel accommodations, the following hotels are centrally located to where the Honored Guest will be staying. As always, it is 'first come, first served'.

La Quinta - POC Billy - 478 333 6920

Country Inn - POC David - 478 971 1664

Comfort Inn - POC Peggy - 478 953 3000

Holiday Inn Express - POC Sarita - 478 333 2737

The majority of Honored Guest and Familes will be housed at the Fairfield and the Wyndham. These hotel will be hosted by Monica & Billie, respectfully. They will be POC for their Hotels.

### Proposed Itinerary for the event;

Thursday, 20 September;

1400 hrs. depart hotels to Central Georgia Technical College (CGTC)

1500 hrs. Robins AFB POW/MIA Committee Recognition Service

1600 hrs. Meet & Greet

1630 hrs. Recording artist, RICKY LEE, preforms

Friday, 21 September

0630 hrs. Law Enforcement escort to Andersonville

0830 hrs. POW/MIA Recognition Day Service

1130 hrs. Law Enforcement escort to Warner Robins.

1530 hrs. Law Enforcement escort to CGTC

1700 hrs. Hero's Banquet CGTC

1800 hrs. Keeping the Promise - premiere of 'A SOLEMN PROMISE'

1930 hrs. Candlelight Service

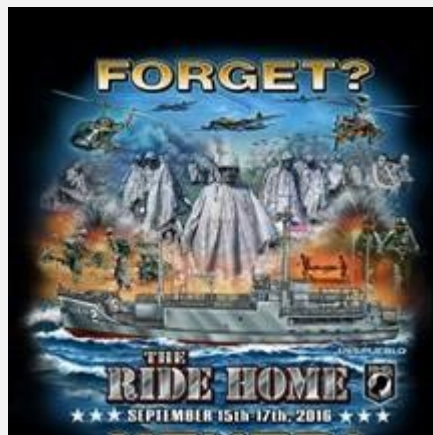
Saturday, 22 September

0900 hrs. Law Enforcement escort to CGTC

1000 hrs. Recognition Service - (POW Story & Flag History Story)

1330 hrs. Ground-pounder/Fly-boy Lunch

Join us in Georgia this September as we salute those who were held against their will by enemies of this Republic





## MISSION BACKGROUND

Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, has been formed to restore and establish a national memorial that will serve as a historic and destination site for Jacksonville and to serve as an educational resource for generations to come.

The memorial site, located at the former Naval Air Station Cecil Field, was originally dedicated on September 11, 1973 and consisted of markers and associated trees for each of the 16 POW/MIA pilots (an area known as Hero's Walk and Freedom Trees), a pavilion, a stage area, a starburst metal display of aircraft, a granite base seal of NAS Cecil Field and a chapel. This property was given to the City of Jacksonville when Cecil Field was decommissioned in 1995. As a result, the existing memorial has been forgotten.

However, the non-profit organization was given a lease by the Jacksonville City Council and the Mayor's office, and given the rights to develop, expand and maintain the 26-acre memorial.



## A FEW QUOTES SUBMITTED BY OUR NATIONAL LEADERS



*"Your proposal to use part of the former Naval Air Station Cecil Field for a POW/MIA Memorial is a fitting location to pay tribute to this very special group. Given that Mary Hoff, the creator of the POW/MIA flag, is a long-time resident of Jacksonville, and that her husband, Lieutenant Commander Michael G. Hoff, is memorialized at Cecil Field, there could not be a more appropriate site for the POW/MIA Memorial."*

**U.S. Congressman**  
John Rutherford

*"The proposal to build the Cecil Field Prisoners of War and Missing in Action Museum is a great opportunity to honor the service members who did not return home from war."*

**U.S. Senator**  
Marco Rubio

*"With the Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, we can renew our commitment to all those who have worn the uniform, to the children and families, and thank them for their selflessness and bravery."*

**U.S. Senator**  
Bill Nelson



## JOIN THE MISSION TO BRING A NATIONAL POW/MIA MEMORIAL TO JACKSONVILLE

### MISSION STATEMENT

HONOR ALL FORMER PRISONERS OF WAR;  
REMEMBER AND NEVER FORGET THOSE  
QUIET, MISSING IN ACTION HEROES AND THE  
FAMILIES THAT WAIT FOR THEIR RETURN.

More than 82,000 are still Missing in Action and Unaccounted for since WWII

## MEMORIAL STRATEGIC PLAN

With the help of the community, Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc. is raising funds to make this memorial a true national honor to all POW/MIA personnel from every state in America. These funds will enable the organization to accomplish the following memorial projects:

- Restore and use the historic chapel (named the "Chapel of the High-Speed Pave") for memorial services, ceremonies and weddings.
- Enhance the existing sacred grounds of the park and to construct a replica of the USS Saratoga (CV-60).
- Refurbish and utilize existing building 333 as a starting point for the POW/MIA memorial center and museum.
- Establish a new memorial center - to honor all Former Prisoners of War, acknowledge those still Missing in Action; feature the history of the Prisoner of War/Missing in Action flag; house the history of NAS Cecil Field.
- Educate the public on the Prisoner of War and Missing in Action issue through exhibits, videos, artifacts and memorabilia.
- Establish a national destination for military remembrance and celebration (there is not a national memorial for all Missing in Action in the United States).



Hero's Walk & Freedom Trees



Chapel of the High-Speed Pave



Starburst Sculpture

## CECIL FIELD NATIONAL POW/MIA MEMORIAL PARK



## HOW YOU CAN HELP HONOR OUR MILITARY HEROES



It will take considerable dollars to fund this sacred project. At this point, the project will depend on contributions from private citizens. You can help this effort by making contributions online by going to our website at [powmiamemorial.org](http://powmiamemorial.org) or to make checks payable to:

Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc.  
612 New World Avenue Jacksonville, Florida 32227

ONLINE [PowMiaMemorial.org](http://PowMiaMemorial.org)

Facebook.com/Cecil-Field-POW-MIA-Memorial-Inc-1084025864845237

Twitter.com/CFPOW/MIA

Instagram.com/cecilfieldpowmia/

Disclaimer: Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc. IS A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION. REGISTRATION NUMBER CHECKED A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE OFFICE OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE, 800-435-1352, WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR ACCEPTANCE BY THE STATE.



**From the Veterans Council of Duval County**

TO ALL: Below is the registration form for vendor tables for the POW/MIA Memorial - GATHERING IN THE PINES which will be on Saturday, September 22, 2018. 9am-5-m. Organizations, businesses and individuals are welcome to set up a table. Please see instructions on the form attached.

Contact information is also on the form if you have any questions.

A GATHERING IN THE PINES

CECIL FIELD POW/MIA MEMORIAL PARK

September 22, 2018 - 9:00am to 5:00pm

Registration Form below:

(please print clearly)



Organization:

\_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person:

\_\_\_\_\_

Address:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home # \_\_\_\_\_ Cell

# \_\_\_\_\_

Email:

\_\_\_\_\_

Fee: \$25.00 Paid on Date: \_\_\_\_\_ by Check #: \_\_\_\_\_ or Cash: \_\_\_\_\_

Children's Activity \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No

Tents, tables, etc. will not be provided. Sales permitted by registered organizations. Minimum of 10% of sales for profit sales must be donated to the Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial and Museum fund. This minimum donation does not apply to non-profit groups.

Make checks payable to: Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial.

Mail checks to:

AFSA Chapter F0559, c/o Rick Wiggs

15664 Forest Trail Road, Jacksonville, FL 32234.

## **Memorial at Cecil Field takes another step toward plan for national destination site**

More than 200 members of the community, including many veterans and current servicemembers, gathered on a sweltering morning July 10 to dedicate the POW-MIA Memorial Parkway, formerly known as New World Avenue, and to celebrate the unveiling of two sets of aviator wings on the front wall of the Chapel of the High-Speed Pass.

A bill introduced by Councilman Doyle Carter (District 12) and co-sponsored by Councilman Jim Love (District 14) was passed in May by the Jacksonville City Council to rename the six-mile road leading to Cecil Field, effective July 1.

Love and his executive administrator, Kevin Kuzel, attended the ceremony, which was poignant to both men, who flew A7 Corsairs out of Cecil Field. Additionally, Kuzel's father, Frank, will be commemorated at the memorial when the names of more than 82,000 missing and unaccounted for servicemembers will eventually be on display. As a member of the 101st Airborne glider troops, Frank Kuzel was captured and held as a POW by the Nazis for about six months during World War II.

Retired U.S. Navy Captain Sam "Shoebags" Houston, former base commander 1992-1994 and board chair for the Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, welcomed the attendees. Following the unveiling of the new street sign in front of the chapel, remarks were made by Retired U.S. Navy Commander Albert "Buddy" Harris, who described the formerly inadequate process undertaken by the federal government to locate and retrieve prisoners of war or missing in action.

Within two years of changing the process and getting the Missing Persons Act of 1996 passed, they brought back more missing people than had been brought back in 15 years, Harris said.

The second half of the program focused on two sets of wings constructed by 3D Forge Printing Studio and affixed to the chapel's exterior. After the wings were unveiled, re-

marks were made by Retired U.S. Navy Rear Admiral Mike “Carlos” Johnson, who represented the A-7 Corsair II Association, which funded the Aviator Wings, and by Retired U.S. Navy Captain Edmund “Junior” Turner, who represented the Viking Association, which funded the Naval Flight Officer Wings.

The Cecil Field POW-MIA Memorial was dedicated in 1973 by the families of POW-MIA pilots and servicemembers to ensure the soldiers are not forgotten.

The site currently consists of Heroes Walk and Freedom Trees, markers and associated planted trees for each of the 16 Naval Aviators stationed at NAS Cecil Field during the Vietnam and Desert Storm War eras, a pavilion with a stage area, a starburst metal display of aircraft, and a granite base seal of a former Master Jet Base.

In 2017, the nonprofit revealed an ambitious \$30 million, multi-phase plan to create a memorial center and museum to serve as a historic destination site with exhibits, special events and activities, artifacts and memorabilia.

By Kate A. Hallock

Resident Community News





IN 1982, YOU HELPED US BUILD THE WALL  
TO HONOR OUR VIETNAM FALLEN

## NOW HELP US BUILD THE EDUCATION CENTER AT THE WALL

TO CONNECT OUR NATION'S FUTURE  
WITH OUR NATION'S PAST



### Our Vietnam heroes deserve a place where their story is told.

In 1982, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was built with private funds from more than 275,000 individuals. Today, we need your help to build the Education Center at The Wall, an interactive learning facility on the National Mall where our military heroes' stories will be told.

#### Why?

With each passing day, we are losing the voices that can tell the first-hand accounts of the Vietnam War and era. We must act now and preserve these personal stories from the past to educate our future.

#### What you do matters.

It is only through the generosity of people like you that we can build the Education Center at The Wall. Together we can preserve the legacy of our Vietnam heroes and educate future generations about the impact of the Vietnam era.



**HELP US BUILD IT.**  
DONATE AT [VVMF.ORG/VVA-FL](http://VVMF.ORG/VVA-FL)



**36 Granada Street, St. Augustine**

**FL 32084**

**(904) 679-5736**

**Corazoncinemaandcafe.com**



Stop by the Corazon Cinema and Café located in the heart of St. Augustine to catch a great film or a bite to eat (free parking). **Tell us you are a veteran and receive 10% off any food or drinks.** Beer and wine available.

**ALERT: National Cemetery Scheduling Office Telephone System Upgrade**

We are writing you today to inform you that on Friday, August 3, 2018, 7 p.m. CST, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemetery Scheduling Office (NCSO) will transition to a new telephone system. The new phone system will be operational by the time the NCSO opens on Saturday, August 4, at 7 a.m. CST.

We are modernizing the telephone system to improve access for scheduling burials for Veterans, and their loved ones, at VA's national cemeteries. The new system will also help us improve our wait times to better serve you and those you serve.

Callers will still reach the NCSO at 1-800-535-1117. You will hear updated prompts but you will find the phone options unchanged. The Scheduling Office is open from 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. CST., Monday through Sunday, excluding Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

We value partnering with you and your fellow funeral professionals to serve Veterans and their families. We could not honor our Veterans and their loved ones without you. Thank you for your patience as we continue to modernize our infrastructure.

Should you experience any issues or have any concerns regarding the process for scheduling burials at VA national cemeteries, please contact us using our Inquiry Routing & Information System <https://iris.custhelp.com>, so we can track inquiries and respond promptly.

**An important message from Toulia Wootan**, I'm sending you the flyer for our September 21st conference for families caring for a veteran or an active military person. We are honored to have received a \$10,000 grant from The Elisabeth Dole Foundation for this conference. As you may remember, I worked to have Jacksonville declared a Hidden Heroes City in her program. We announced it at last years conference.



Someone from The Elisabeth Dole Foundation will be there to speak on how they support veterans and military caregivers.

My ask of you is that you send this flyer to all of your distribution lists. Please post it on social media, and on your organization website. I will have hard copies to give you at our meeting this coming Thursday the 26th at noon. The meeting will be held in Nevasier A. I will send a calendar invitation. Please plan to attend or send someone to this important meeting.

Thank you, and as always, contact me if you have any questions.

Toulia F. Wootan, Director of Community Programs,  
Community Hospice and Palliative Care, Caregiver Coalition of Northeast Florida  
904.407.6211, 4266 Sunbeam Road, Jacksonville, FL, 32257



## CARING FOR THE MILITARY/VETERAN CAREGIVER: A FAMILY CAREGIVING CONFERENCE

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 CAREGIVING EXPERTS WILL INCLUDE:

- Supporting Our Hidden Heroes: The Military Caregiver journey
- Wounded Warriors: Their Last Battle
- Operation Family Caregiver: Supporting Military Caregivers
- VA Caregiver Support Program: There's Help for You
- VA Healthcare Benefits and City of Jacksonville VA Services

**FRIDAY, SEPT. 21, 2018**

**WJCT Public Broadcasting**  
100 Festival Park Ave., Jacksonville, FL 32202

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

Registration is free, and a complimentary breakfast and lunch will be provided. To register, call **904.407.6790** or visit [militarycaregiver.eventbrite.com](http://militarycaregiver.eventbrite.com).

To request complimentary respite care for your loved one, call Aging True Community Senior Services at 904.807.1319 by Friday, Sept. 14.

Hosted by:



Additional Support from:



Continuing education credit will be available for eligible professional disciplines. See the registration website for CE details and learning objectives.

Caregiver Coalition Partners: Community Hospice & Palliative Care; 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

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**GratitudeAmerica**



# MILITARY SUPPORT RETREAT

*at Marineland, Florida*

**October 4th at 5:30pm - October 7th at 3:00pm**

A RETREAT FOR POST 9-11 NORTHEAST FLORIDA AND SOUTHEAST GEORGIA  
MILITARY/VETERANS AND THEIR PRIMARY SUPPORT PERSON

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CONTACT INFO: JACK GAFFORD, DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS

678-315-9028 OR [JACK@GRATITUDEAMERICA.ORG](mailto:jack@gratitudeamerica.org)

## New tech increases ease of contacting Veterans Crisis Line

*“Call the Veterans Crisis Line.”*



VA is excited to announce that service members and Veterans can connect to the Veterans Crisis Line using these simple words. The Siri function on Apple’s iPhone and the Google Assistant function on Android phones now automatically dial the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline which also serves the Veterans Crisis Line, even if the number (1-800-273-8255) is not saved in the phone’s contact list. Callers will need to Press 1 in order to reach the Veterans Crisis Line.

“Suicide prevention is VA’s top clinical priority, and we are working to reach Veterans where they are to help save lives,” said Dr. Keita Franklin. “The new feature on Apple and Android devices enables service members, Veterans, and their families to get quicker access to our network of certified crisis responders.”

Responders at the Veterans Crisis Line are specially trained and experienced in helping Veterans when mental health or related issues — such as chronic pain, anxiety, depression, sleeplessness, anger, and homelessness — reach a crisis point.

“Since its launch in 2007, the Veterans Crisis Line has answered over 3.5 million calls and initiated the dispatch of emergency services to callers in imminent crisis nearly 93,000 times,” said Dr. Matt Miller, director of the Veterans Crisis Line. “Since launching chat in 2009 and text services in November 2011, the VCL has answered over 397,000 and nearly 92,000 requests for chat and text services respectively.”

According to Miller, the ease of connecting to the Veterans Crisis Line is the technology’s biggest benefit.

“The ability to for Veterans to connect to the Veterans Crisis Line using just four simple words, and through a technology that so many people are familiar with already, is truly remarkable,” Miller said. “While some suicidal crises last a long time, most last minutes to hours. The quicker we can get Veterans connected to care, the more likely they are to survive.”

While recognizing the need for crisis access and rapid care, VA continues to build and emphasize sustained access to care for Veterans to receive ongoing treatment as appropriate.

“VA is working to improve its services by providing evidence-based mental health care across a full spectrum of interventional services,” said Franklin. “We are anticipating and responding to Veterans’ needs and supporting returning service members as they rejoin their communities.”

VA is leveraging a public health approach to suicide prevention that addresses multiple risk factors for suicide to stage interventions before suicidal thoughts and behaviors occur. While VA has made great strides in crisis intervention, the public health approach uses the best evidence available to guide the development of innovative new strategies to serve all Veterans.

No one organization can tackle suicide prevention alone. To save lives, VA is using prevention strategies that reach beyond health care settings to involve peers, family members, and community members in order to reach Veterans where they are.

“Every day people across the nation reach out for support and are able to live healthy, productive lives. But VA alone can’t prevent Veteran suicide,” Franklin said. “To end Veteran suicide, we need support across sectors, and this type of technology is another step in the right direction. The quicker we can get service members and Veterans connected to care, the better.”








If you or someone you know is in crisis, support is available 24/7. The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is available to all at 1-800-273-8255. Veterans, service members, and their families and friends can call the Veterans and Military Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1, chat online at [VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat](https://VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat), or text to 838255.

*About the author: Megan McCarthy, Ph.D., is the deputy director for suicide prevention for VA’s Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention.*



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- May 4-6 Camping Sebastian Inlet
- Jun 10 Browns Creek
- July 15 Faver Dykes
- Aug 12 River Float  
Ichetucknee
- Sept 2 Mill Cove
- Sept 21 First Responders Event
- Oct 14 Browns Creek
- Nov 11 Veteran's Day Event

To RSVP - Facebook site

Or email

Northeastflorida@heroesonthewater.org

### JOIN US!

Heroes on the Water offers **free** kayak fishing excursions to injured service members from all branches of the Armed Services. Experience the peaceful water, the thrill of fishing from kayaks and the adventure of being outdoors, while enjoying the camaraderie of hanging out with other vets, passionate volunteers, and loved ones.

We provide all the equipment you need for a fun, relaxing day on the water.

"I was at peace with myself, enjoying the company of other wounded veterans, without a worry in the world, while enjoying the weather and casting a line."

Travis Clennon, Traumatic spinal cord injury

Like us on Facebook to get all the up to date information about the Northeast Florida Chapter: <http://www.facebook.com/HeroesOnTheWaterNortheastFloridaChapter>



Welcome to the official 2018 NAS Jax Air Show event.

The NAS Jax Air Show, Birthplace of the Blue Angels, will be October 27 - 28, 2018 aboard NAS Jacksonville. Admission, parking and the Kids Zone is FREE.

At the NAS Jax Air Show you will witness thrills like never before from a variety of military and civilian demonstrations. The grand finale will be the Navy's flight demonstration team: The Blue Angels.

While you are at the show, enjoy military and civilian aircraft displays, shop at novelty, food and beverage booths, or head to the free Kids Zone for games and activities for all ages. While there will be 2 ATMs onsite, it is highly recommended that you bring cash with you.

Save the date! More details to come.

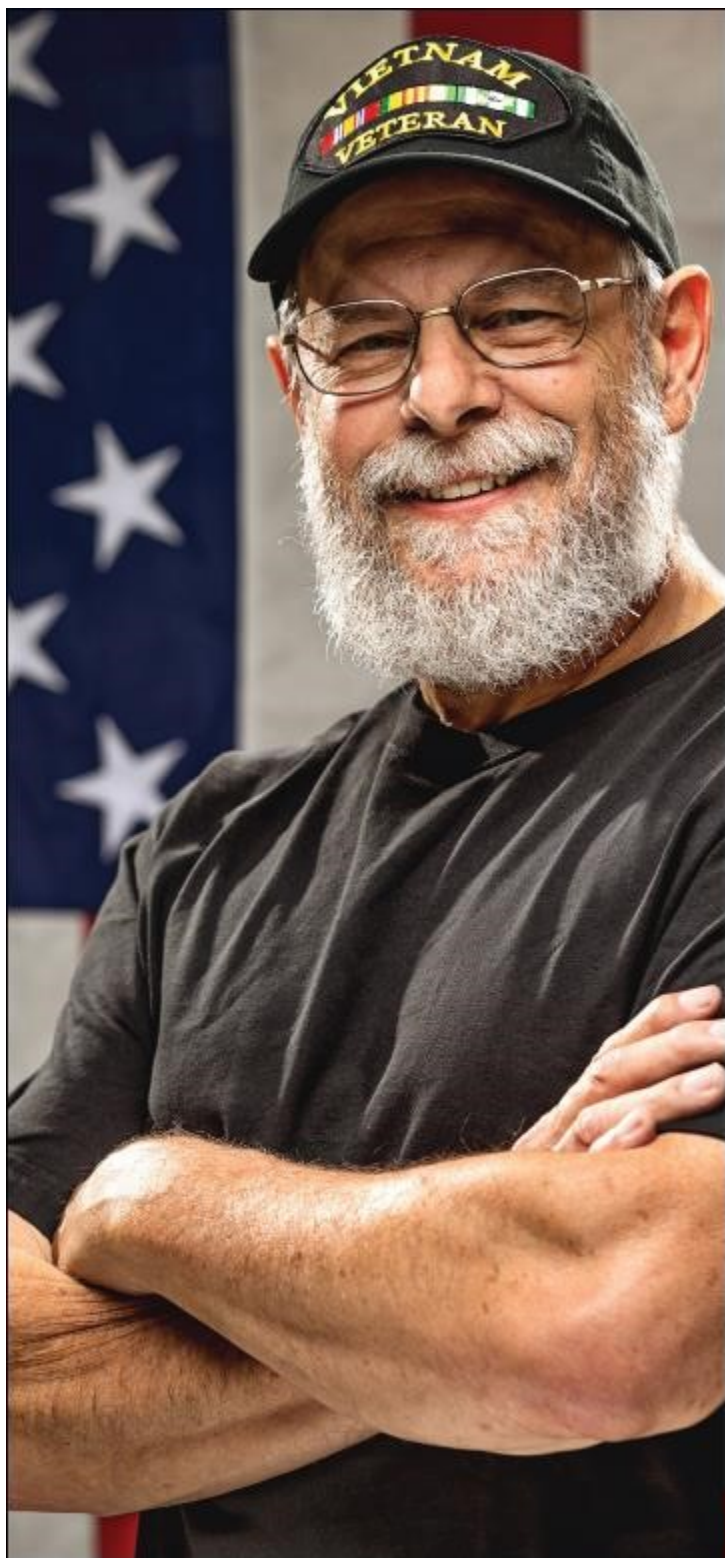
Visit our website: <http://www.nasjaxairshow.com>

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE  
2018 NAS JAX AIR SHOW!

**OCTOBER 27 - 28, 2018**

FREE ADMISSION, PARKING & KIDS ZONE





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# SERVING VETERANS SINCE 1979

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At Community Hospice & Palliative Care, we are honored to serve veterans and their caregivers by providing specialized programs to meet their unique needs now and at the end of life.

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- ★ Bereavement & Grief Support
- ★ Caregiver Education
- ★ Hospice Care
- ★ Palliative Care
- ★ We Honor Veterans Program

For more information about our We Honor Veterans program, any of our services or to become a veteran volunteer, call toll-free **866.253.6681** or go to **Veterans.CommunityHospice.com**.



*"I've proudly served as Chairman of the Community Hospice Veterans Partnership (CHVP) since 2011. CHVP partners with veterans service groups throughout the community to listen and learn how Community Hospice & Palliative Care can best serve our unique needs."*

**Bob Buehn, Captain, United States Navy (Ret.)**  
Chairman, Community Hospice Veterans Partnership  
(2011 - present)





# CAREGIVER COALITION OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA 2018 PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Throughout the year, the Caregiver Coalition of Northeast Florida hosts a series of free, public events that offer First Coast caregivers a time to network, relax and learn about resources from our valued community partners. Most programs include complimentary meals and respite care by request for loved ones.



## HERE'S OUR LINEUP FOR 2018:

### "CARING FOR THE CAREGIVER" CONFERENCE

Saturday, February 24, 2018 • 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Registration: 8:30 a.m.  
Ramada Inn Mandarin  
3130 Hartley Road  
Jacksonville, FL 32257

### CAREGIVER EXPO 2018

Saturday, April 14, 2018 • 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
EverBank Field US Assure Club East  
1 EverBank Field Drive  
Jacksonville, FL 32202

### "CARING FOR THE CAREGIVER" CONFERENCE

Saturday, June 16, 2018 • 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Registration: 8:30 a.m.  
Mary Singleton Senior Center  
150 East First St.  
Jacksonville, FL 32206

### "CARING FOR THE MILITARY/VETERAN CAREGIVER" CONFERENCE

Friday, Sept. 21, 2018 • 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Registration: 8:30 a.m.  
WJCT Public Broadcasting  
100 Festival Park Ave.  
Jacksonville, FL 32202



Visit [MyCaregiverConnection.org](http://MyCaregiverConnection.org) throughout the year for the latest news and event info!

For more information, or to participate as a sponsor or exhibitor, contact Toula Wootan at Community Hospice & Palliative Care: 904.407.6211 or [tfootan@communityhospice.com](mailto:tfootan@communityhospice.com).

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







COMMUNITY HOSPICE  
VETERANS PARTNERSHIP

## Salute Our Heroes in Their Final Days: Support Flags & Pins for Veterans in Hospice Care

Honor our local veterans in hospice care with a dignified tradition when you support funding for flags and pins through Community Hospice & Palliative Care.

Since 2008, the Jacksonville-based organization has presented all veterans admitted to its hospice program with a commemorative pin to honor their service, as well as a certificate of appreciation. For veterans who get care at one of our eight Inpatient centers, staff and volunteers erect the flag of the service branch in which they served outside their rooms. Flags are then presented to veterans' families following the death.



The need for funding is great as up to 25 percent of patients who receive hospice care at Community Hospice & Palliative Care are veterans. The nonprofit organization, which provides hospice care to nearly 1,300 patients each day, raises funds through individual support and community organizations who believe in serving those who have served our country so honorably.

If you or your organization would like to support our Flags & Pins Initiative and honor our warriors one last time, please contact

Toula Wootan, director of community programs at Community Hospice & Palliative Care, at 904.407.6211 or [twootan@communityhospice.com](mailto:twootan@communityhospice.com).

**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:

**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:  
**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.*

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.



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**Contact Keith Ham**

Survivor Outreach Services Support Coordinator, HRCI Contractor  
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*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 will meet at the St.  
Johns County Health & Human Services  
Building, 200 San Sebastian View  
Muscovy Room, 1st floor***

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

*(physical location)*

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

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

*Service is by appointment.  
Phone: 904-209-6160 Fax: 904-209-6161  
Joseph McDermott, SR VSO  
Rick Rees, Assistant VSO  
Tammy Shirley, Assistant VSO*

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