



# The Patriot Reader Newsletter

P.O. Box 2117

St. Augustine, FL 32085

Bill Dudley, Publisher

Michael Rothfeld, Editor

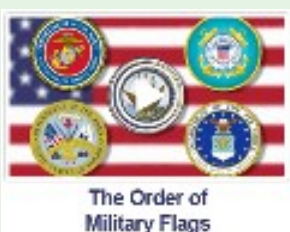
Volume 8, Issue 9

Message from the Chairman

September 2019

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When a Veteran Passes

Fellow Veterans,  
 On August 22, our Veterans Court graduated it's 19th and 20th veterans from the Veterans Treatment Court program. This highly successful program has been a turnaround in the lives of many veterans who have been enrolled in the program. Our recidivism has been at a zero percentage level as we have had no repeat offenders since the inception of our program. The national average for repeat offenders in the criminal court system is above 50% average. Our Veterans Treatment Court program is a tremendous success by any standard one chooses to apply. Our speaker for the graduation ceremony was Sheriff David Shoar. The Sheriff spoke eloquently of how his department views the success of this program and challenged the two graduates to continue to improve their lives and to continue to support their fellow veterans.

I am very pleased for the role our Veterans Council has played in making this program such a huge success. From planting the seed, working with all the agencies that have jurisdiction over the program, helping to achieve the funding necessary to stand up our VTC, helping with the mentoring program, and providing funding for many of our veterans who find themselves with personal financial issues, the Veterans Council has been an important part of the success of the VTC in St. Johns County. Lives are being changed as veterans stand with veterans to welcome our comrades back home. We are just days away from our annual Homeless Veterans Stand Down. On 14 Sept. 2019, we will host our Stand Down at the Elks Lodge in St. Augustine. This annual event is one of our signature programs that the Veterans Council conducts each year in corroboration with our county Veterans Service office. We are in need of volunteers on Thursday, 12 Sept. to help load the truck with all of the



collected clothing and other items we have for distribution. On Friday morning, 13 Sept. we need volunteers at the Elks Lodge to unload the truck, set up tables, place clothing on the tables and prepare the room at the Elks Lodge for the program on Sat. Then on Saturday, we will need volunteers to assist with helping veterans as they process through the lines to collect clothing and other items. If you can volunteer, please contact VSO officer Travis Neidig at 904-209-6160. And don't forget our Gathering in the Pines event on 21 Sept. 2019 starting at 10 AM at Cecil Field. The program is to raise awareness for our POW / MIA Memorial and Museum and to honor our POW / MIA's .  
 Bill Dudley, Chairman,  
 Veterans Council of  
 St. Johns County

# Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home



Bake Sale



Fresh Squeezed Lemonade



A double burger for Archie



Cheesecake for Gary



## The Jacksonville National Cemetery Greetings from the Support Committee at the Jacksonville National Cemetery



The Support Committee invites everyone to attend its **next scheduled meeting**. The meeting will 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 2019 SC at JNC MEETINGS**

**Sept. 9, Oct. 14, Nov. 4, Dec. 2**

**Other topics that concern both the JNC & the St. Augustine National Cemetery are discussed at these meetings.**

#### **+++++2018/2019 Officers of the SCJNC+++++**

**Chairman: Steve Spickelmier**

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

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

**Master-At-Arms: Joe McDermott**

**Historian: Kathy Cayton**

**Chaplain: Rev. Patrick A. Archuleta, Sr.**

**The Veterans Council of St. Johns County meets on the following dates, all are invited to attend. We meet at the county Health & Human Services building, 200 San Sebastian View, at 7 pm**

#### **Future meeting Speakers:**

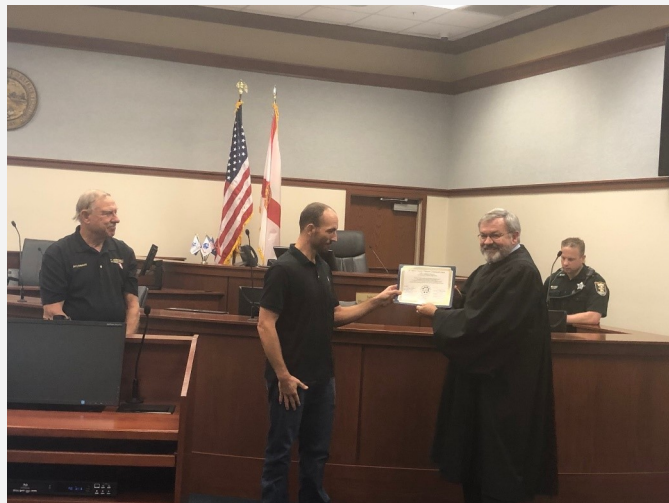
- August 29 Gerald Timoney, Military Museum of N. FL  
Crystal Timmons, Veterans Garden Project**
- Sept. 26 Bob Buehn, Capt. USN, (Ret), former Commanding Officer, Guantanamo Bay  
Char Miller, Community Hospice, Veterans Programs**
- Oct. 24 Chris Vedrick, Commander Dept of FL Military Order of the Purple Heart  
Derek Collins, The Mission Act explained**
- Nov. 21 Emily Jane Murray, Flagler College, Public Archeology Coord, The Seminole Wars and  
How it Changed All of Us**
- Dec. 19 Shiva Thompson, Yoga 4 Change**



**This is the graduation of our 19th and 20th veteran from our Veterans Treatment Court program. Sheriff David Shoar was our graduation speaker.**



Sheriff David Shoar



Veterans treatment Judge Howard McGillin presents Graduation Certificate

# 2019 SAINT JOHNS COUNTY HOMELESS VETERANS STAND DOWN



Saturday, September 14, 2019

9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

Elks Lodge

1420 A1A South

## SERVICES AND ITEMS AVAILABLE

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

## SPONSORS

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

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



## 2019 Saint Johns County Homeless Veterans Stand Down

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



[sjcfl.us](http://sjcfl.us)

In

In order to satisfy the needs of our community, we are requesting that your agency volunteer to participate in this important event. This Homeless Stand Down will meet the current needs of our Veterans and will take place September 14, 2019 at the Elks Lodge, 1420 A1A South St. Augustine, FL from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. We will evaluate the homeless and at-risk Veterans in our community and provide needed social services which we hope to include; employment, shelter, medical, identification, clothing, transitional and permanent housing, AIDS/HIV education/awareness, substance abuse awareness and benefits assessment. For this event we have the full support of the local Veterans Community Based Outpatients Clinic (CBOC) in our endeavor.

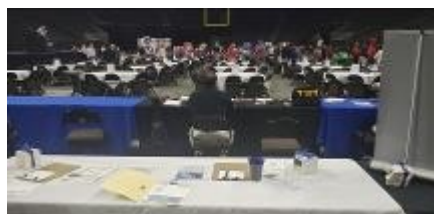
With your assistance we can make a difference. Please contact Travis Neidig @ (904) 209-6160 or email: [tneidig@sjcfl.us](mailto:tneidig@sjcfl.us) for further information.

Thank you for your consideration and support of Veterans.

Respectfully, Travis Neidig, VSO



# Here are some pictures from the August 8th Vets 4 Vets Quarterly Gathering *many photos by Al Bagocius*



# The Veterans Council Congratulates American Legion Post 194 on the recognition of its Kids Safe Program

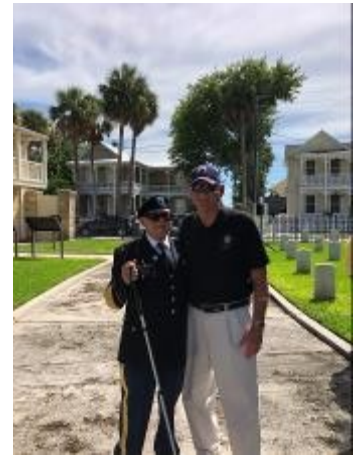
Way To Go American Legion Post 194!!

“St. Johns County recognized the contributions of the Kids Safe Zone Afterschool Tutorial and Enrichment Program with a proclamation on August 20, 2019.”





## Dedication Ceremony, August 5, at the St. Augustine National Cemetery of a Braille U.S. Flag Plaque



Greetings to all,

We are happy to announce the delivery of our 1st aircraft (static display) for Phase I. This A-7 Corsair aircraft is on loan from the National Naval Aviation Museum in Pensacola, Florida ([www.navalaviationmuseum.org](http://www.navalaviationmuseum.org)).

This will be one of four aircraft on display at Cecil Commerce Center to honor the former Naval Air Sta-

tion Cecil Field, Master Jet Base (1941-1999). We currently have a team led by Sam Houston in Pocahontas, Arkansas preparing the aircraft for its movement.

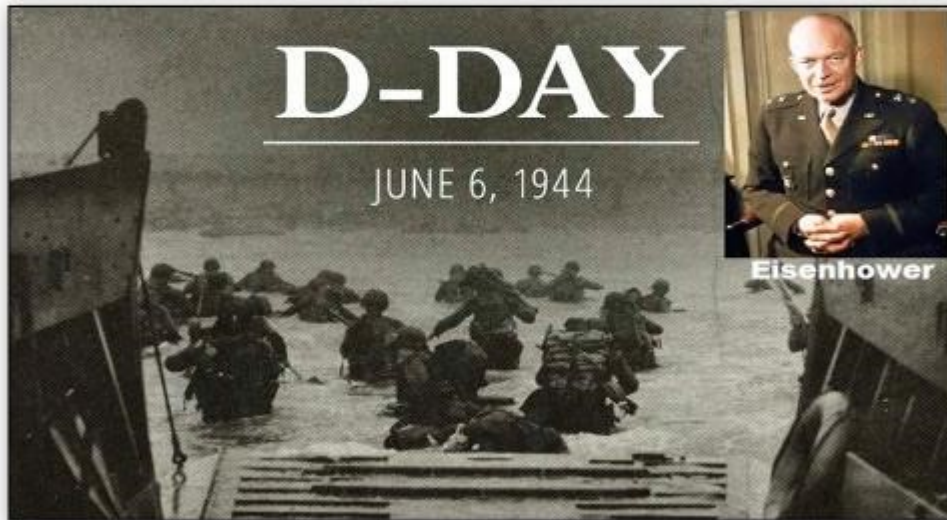
You are invited to cover this story upon delivery. The aircraft will be delivered at the Jacksonville JetPort hangar located at: 13365 Simpson Way, Jacksonville, FL 32221 where the aircraft will be temporarily located until the completion of the Phase I construction (expect Fall 2019).

We are partnering with Landstar ([www.landstar.com](http://www.landstar.com)) who is providing the trailers to transport the aircraft. They have been a great partner of ours and a strong supporter of the military. Mike Cashner, VP of Government Services is the lead contact representing the transporting company. Crane & Rigging ([www.cranenrigging.com](http://www.cranenrigging.com)) of Jacksonville will be providing the crane services led by Robert Bishop.

We will keep you updated on the timing and hope to see you there!

V/R, Mike Cassata, Executive Director

# Veterans Day



**Monday November 11, 2019**

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

**Atrium Displays Including Traveling Vietnam Wall**

**9:00 am to 11:00 am**



**Ceremonies begin at - 11:00 am**



**Doors Open 9:00 am - On Site Parking**

**“ Free Event - Public Welcome ”**



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

**Ted Pappas**

*This is Bob Dinkins Story, Vietnam Veteran, member of VVA 1084, Veterans Council,  
and Proud American*

### **The Dinkins Family - The Pinkney Dinkins Branch**

Our family, starting with Pinkney Dinkins, son of John Dinkins and Catherine of Rembert, South Carolina. The Dinkins family of South Carolina is a part of a much larger Dinkins family that started with the Dinkinses that landed in Charleston, South Carolina, from Ireland on October 19th, 1717.



A Dinkins descendent, states that the name may be derived from Dene. The family originated in Wales in about the 1500's and moved into the lowlands of Scotland and then on to Londonderry in the north of Ireland. Dene is the old English name Dean and means small valley, a home site. The ending (kin) on a name means son of and would make the name Denekin. From there it would be simple enough to arrive at the name Dinkins.

A book by Captain James Dinkins, a Civil War veteran, states that the Dinkins family came to America from Ireland in 1717. Brothers James, John and Samuel with cousins Thomas and Joshua landed in Charleston, South Carolina.

Skirmish at Dinkins' Mill, Located off Dinkin's Mill Road, Sumter County, SC



The last large-scale battle in the East was fought at Dinkin's Mill, at the crossing of Rafting Creek a few miles north of Stateburg, SC.

Brigadier General Edward E. Potter took command of the two Northern brigades—2700 men—recently landed at Georgetown. Colonel Edward N. Hallowell, former commander of the famed 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment and wounded at Fort Wagner, led one of the brigades including his former unit now consisting of over 700 men. Under orders to disable railroads in South Carolina, Potter's brigades were forced to contend with Kentucky's "Orphan Brigade" of mounted infantry from April 9 at Dingle's Mill through 18 April.

On April 18, 1865, Potter's troops met again with the Kentuckians in the quiet town of Boykin, South Carolina. The Confederates held a strong defensive position in an abandoned fort. Following the battle of Boykin's Mill on April 18, 1865, Federal troops commanded by Brig. Gen. Edward E. Potter advanced south to Middleton's Depot, on the Wilmington & Manchester R.R. below Stateburg. Here, on April 19, they attacked and attempted to flank a Confederate force commanded by Maj. Gen. P.M.B. Young which defended this crossing. The 25th Ohio Inf. and 157th N.Y. Inf., supported by the 102nd U.S. Colored Troops, skirmished with the 1st Ky. Brigade (Cav.), 53rd Ala. Partisan Rangers, 11th Ga. Cav., Hamilton's Arty., and S.C. militia. After slight losses on both sides most of the Confederate force withdrew



towards Beech Creek.

Col. Lee's 2nd Kentucky Mounted Infantry, on detached service, laid a skillful ambush at Reynold's Ford (called McClernand's Ford by the Kentuckians) on Swift Creek, near Spring Hill (north of Sumter) on April 18, inflicting heavy casualties on the surprised enemy. Meanwhile, the rest of the Brigade fought Potter's troops at Boykin's Mill, ten miles south of Camden. In this battle, the Orphans fought the famous 54th Massachusetts regiment of black soldiers. The Confederates held the Federals for some six hours, but as they were outnumbered by over 2-to-1, they were finally compelled to retreat.

The 54th Massachusetts was given the job and sustained two killed and thirteen wounded. The dead men were Private James P. Johnson of Company F, a barber 21 years of age from Owego, NY, and First Lieutenant E.L. Stevens, the latter being the last Federal officer killed in action during the war. Edwards was killed by 14-year-old Burrell H. Boykin, a member of the Confederate Home Guard whose family owned the land the Union troops were moving through. Boykin's Mill was the site of the last Union officer killed in action during the American Civil War. It was also the location of the final battle on South Carolina soil. At the Atkinson-Dinkins Cemetery at Dinkins Mill Rd. A Burial Grounds for Unmarked Grave: A mass grave between Dinkins Cemetery and the road contains the remains of 19 Union soldiers killed in a battle at Dinkins community circa 1865.

However, the two opposing units (Potter's and the Kentuckians) continued to skirmish through April 19 at Dinkin's Mill where they fought the last major conflict of the Eastern Theater. The preliminary cessation of hostilities was announced to both sides two days later though Confederate General Johnston did not officially surrender until 29 April.

This final campaign was little more than a footnote in the history of the war. The 2nd Kentucky Mounted Infantry fought valiantly and skillfully to accomplish their missions, their numbers were never enough to seriously threaten or impede the Federals. However, they did manage to protect the railroad stock in western South Carolina for two weeks, and their constant harrying of Potter's flanks doubtless saved the surrounding countryside from much further devastation.



## Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc. Minutes of July 25, 2019

**Officers present: Chairman Bill Dudley, Secretary Michael Rothfeld, Vice Chairman Ray Quinn, Treasurer John Mountcastle**  
**Chairman Dudley called the meeting to order at 1902 hours**

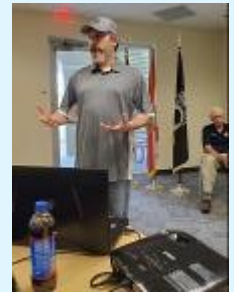
**Chairman Dudley led the Pledge to the Flag and SGM Ray Quinn gave the Invocation**

**Minutes were approved as presented      Treasurer's Report were approved as presented**

**Introduction of Guests: Celeste Sheble, Vince Hoelscher, Viggo Melin, Bruce Salyer**

**Speaker: Bruce Thompson, Vets4Vets NE FL**

(brucethompson4v@gmail.com) : MISSION: INFORM our Veterans about policy changes, resources, and issues; CONNECT our Veterans with organizations that will build a better future for tomorrow's Veterans. UNITE our Veterans to one another in an effort to build strong relationships. ORGANIZE the voice of our Veterans so that we are heard within our Community, our State, and our Country. TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER! VISION: Ensure Veterans are respected and recognized for their service, always receive the benefits and entitlements they were promised and earned and ensure all veterans especially disabled Veterans are given a fair deal.



**Michael Ricketts, Pres., Special Forces Assoc. , Chapter 88 Jax.**

(maricketts1@gmail.com) The Special Forces Association, North East Florida Chapter 88 Serves as the Local Voice for the Special Forces Community; Perpetuates Special Forces Traditions and Brotherhood; Advances the Public Image of Special Forces and Promotes the General Welfare of the Special Forces Community.



The purposes for the formation of the "Green Beret" Special Forces Association, North East Florida Chapter 88 are to unite fraternally all persons who are now or have been assigned to the United States Army Special Forces, to perpetuate the traditions of Special Forces and to commemorate the memory of Special Forces soldiers who have given their lives in defense of the United States and the free world.



**Committee Reports:**

**Mac:** Mac spoke about the new Mission Act, Blue Water Bill and will talk more

about it as info becomes available

**John L:** Veterans treatment Court update- 18 Mentors, Nov. 13, 14 Mentor training, Melbourne, FL. VVA 1084 received VVA National Award for Annual Member Growth, Dave Treffinger's E-Recon received an award for best newsletter



**Steve S:** Sept. 21. 10 am to 3 pm, all invited to Cecil Field for the annual



Gathering In The Pines

**Kathy,** MIAP: 21st Call To Honor in Sarasota on Sept. 26.

**Bill:** new CBOC Groundbreaking Oct. 3 at 10 am., Veterans Day events Nov. 11 at Anastasia Baptist Church & SA Beach

**For the Good of The Order:** Chris Vedvick, Purple Heart Ceremony @ Jax Wall, August 8.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm, The next meeting of the Veterans Council will be on Thursday, August 29, 2019, 7 pm in the Health & Human Services Building, 200 San Sebastian View.**

#### **Future speakers:**

**Aug. 29** Gerald Timoney, Military Museum of N. FL

Crystal Timmons, Veterans Garden Project

**Sept. 26** Bob Buehn, Capt. USN, (Ret), former Commanding Officer, Guantanamo Bay

Char Miller, Community Hospice, Veterans Programs

**Oct. 24** Chris Vedvick, Commander Dept of FL Military Order of the Purple Heart

**Nov. 21** Emily Jane Murray, Public Archeology Coord, Flagler College, The Seminole Wars and How it Changed All of Us

John Powell, Historic Firearms

**Dec. 19**



## Nearly 500 attend Agent Orange Town Halls

By David Treffinger, E-Recon Editor  
(photos by David Treffinger)

Nearly 500 people combined participated in two Agent Orange Town Halls on Wednesday, August 7 in Jacksonville and Friday, August 9 in West Palm Beach.

Both town hall events were held in conjunction with the Vietnam Veterans of America headquartered in Spring Springs, MD and Chapter 1046 in Jacksonville and Chapter 25 in West Palm Beach.

The Jacksonville Town Hall was attended by over 300 and held at the University of North Florida with Community Hospice & Palliative Care as a participating partner. The Palm Beach Town Hall was held at the West Palm Beach VA as nearly 200 were present.



In addition, there was involvement from community sources at both events along with representatives from the VA.

Keynote experts who participated in the Town Halls were VVA Director of Communication Mokie Porter, former AV-VA president and founder Nancy Switzer and Marc McCabe, VVA Department of Veterans Affairs Bureau Chief/Regional Director, of St. Petersburg. In addition, local representatives from the VA in Jacksonville and West Palm Beach participate along with medical officials.

VVA Chapter 1046 President Tony D'Aleo and Chapter 25 Board Member Jerry Klein will be instrumental in organizing the town halls.

The underlining opinion from all involved was for Vietnam Veterans to file a claim with the VA for Agent Orange exposure.

According to the VVA self-help guide to "Service-Connected Disability Compensation for Exposure to Agent Orange" to qualify, you generally need to show only two things:

You served on active duty in the military, naval, Coast Guard, or air service in the Republic of Vietnam, regardless of length of service during the period January 9, 1962 to May 7, 1975; in Korea between April 1, 1968 to August 31, 1971, in a unit recognized by the VA and DoD to have operated in an area in or near the Korean DMZ in which herbicides were ap-



plied (for a list of units currently recognized, go to <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/korea.asp>); in certain occupations at certain air bases in Thailand (for a list recognized bases and occupations, go to <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/thailand.asp>); or if you served with the U.S. Navy or U.S. Coast Guard in Vietnam between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975, and your ship/boat operated in Vietnam's inland waterways, ventured into Vietnam's inland waterways on occasion, or if you embarked ashore, you are eligible for compensation for a disability related to herbicide exposure (for a list of naval and Coast Guard vessels currently recognized go to <http://publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/shiplist/list.asp>).

You currently have been diagnosed with one of the diseases found on the VA's list of conditions linked to herbicide exposure, or you currently have been residual or secondary conditions from one of these illnesses.

**Acute Peripheral Neuropathy**

**Adult Onset Type II Diabetes Mellitus**

**AL Amyloidosis**

**Chloracne**

**Hodgkin's Disease**

**Ischemic (or ischaemic) Heart Disease**

**Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma**

**Parkinson's Disease**

**Peripheral Neuropathy**

**Porphyria Cutanea Tarda**

**Spina Bifida**

**Sub-acute Peripheral Neuropathy**

**Cancers**

**Cancer of the Bronchus**

**Cancer of the Larynx**

**Cancer of the Lung**

**Cancer of the Prostate**

**Cancer of the Trachea**  
**Adult Fibrosarcoma**  
**Alveolar Soft Part Sarcoma**  
**Angiosarcoma**  
**Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia**  
**Clear Cell Sarcoma or Aponeuroses**  
**Clear Cell Sarcoma of Tendons**  
**Congenital Fibrosarcoma**  
**Dermatofibrosarcoma**  
**Ectomesenchymoma**  
**Epithelioid Malignant Leiomyosarcoma**  
**Epithelioid Malignant Schwannoma**  
**Epithelioid Sarcoma**  
**Extraskeletal Ewing's Sarcoma**

The experts not only addressed Agent Orange exposure in Vietnam, but also the recently signed Blue Water Navy bill.

Again, filling a claim with a Veterans Service Officer was the underlining message by the experts.

These are among the references and resources regarding Agent Orange:

VVA Agent Orange/Dioxin and other toxic substance committee: [www.vva.org/Committees/AgentOrange](http://www.vva.org/Committees/AgentOrange)

VA's Agent Orange webpage: [www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange)

The Veterans Health Council, a program of Vietnam Veterans of America:  
[www.veteranshealth.org](http://www.veteranshealth.org)

Agent Orange Zone blog: <https://agentorangezone.blogspot.com/>



## Clay County honors Purple Heart recipients

Clay County Board of Commissioners honored six Clay County Purple Heart recipients on August 13 prior to their commissioners meeting. Clay County is one of 26 Purple Heart counties in Florida. Pictured are Bill Thompson (left), Commissioner Gayward Hendry, Commissioner Diane Hutchings, David Treffinger, Commissioner chairman Mike Cella, Bill Smith (holding proclamation), Henry Silvers, Jeffrey Wyatt, Ernest Serna, Jack Biddle and Commissioner Wayne Bolla. Thompson, Treffinger, Silvers and Biddle are members of VVA Chapter 1059. Thompson, Smith, Silvers, Wyatt and Serna are members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart.



Photo by David Treffinger

## The VVA lives on

By David Treffinger, E-Recon Editor

A proposed vote to dissolve the Vietnam Veterans of America has been put off until at least the 2021 National Convention in Greensboro, NC.



of

The two proposed changes to the constitution of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. to dissolve the organization were defeated by the delegates at the July 15-20 19th Biannual National Convention in Spokane, Wash.

However, a proposed resolution to require the VVA officers and board of directors to investigate the requirements to change the name of Vietnam Veterans of America to a name that would entice Post-Vietnam veterans to join the renamed organization and open up membership to these newer veterans was approved by a majority of the 668 delegates.

This proposed change would be presented to the delegates at the 2021 Convention for ratification.

The resolution was originally passed during the morning session on July 18, however, the results were challenged and a division of the house re-vote was taken. Needing just a majority vote, the resolution passed again.

“The resolution we passed will change history down the road,” John Rowan (photo above), who was elected to his eighth two-year term as president, said at the banquet, the final event of the convention, on July 20. “We are willing to sacrifice ourselves to get younger veterans involved. I am proud that we are going to open up our organization to new recruits, we need them badly.”

Rowan said in his final remarks to the delegates that “we are not finished, we have a lot of work to do and some of that is mentoring.”

The question of if and when the VVA, nearly 85,000 members strong, will be dissolved will bring plenty of discussion in the chapters, the state councils and with the national board of directors over the next two year prior to the 20th National Convention that will be held in 2021 in Greensboro, NC.

The two proposed amendments that failed to gain approval by the delegates was dissolution of the VVA and that the corporation should be legally dissolved on or about December 31, 2028.

In addition, the proposed constitutional amendment submitted by South Carolina State Council President Samuel Brick that would leave closing down the corporate body to all our members to include state councils and chapters rather than the corporate board was ruled not in order at this time.

The VVA is incorporated in New York State and is subject to state laws. The Florida State Council and the Florida chapters are incorporated in the State of Florida.

One of questions throughout this process is preserving the VVA legacy and allocation of funds when the corporation is dissolved.

There are some in the membership feel that the VVA is a last man standing organization.

The debate and discussion will continue over the next 24 months on the future of the VVA.



Delegates at the VVA National Convention in Spokane, Washington.

**From Vietnam veteran Jerry Domask:** The St. Augustine Art Association (STAAA), will feature a veteran art exhibit for the month of January 2020, in the North Gallery, pending final approval by STAAA Board of Directors (BOD). The veteran exhibit is considering a theme of "Looking Back; Looking Forward". We are looking for local veteran artists interested in exhibiting their visual creations (paintings, photography, graphics, multi-media, sculptures, etc). Subject matter of creations is wide open at this time. Any veteran artists interested in participating please contact me either by email or phone. Thank you for your support and that of the JCVA!

Jerome (Jerry) Domask [jerrydomask@gmail.com](mailto:jerrydomask@gmail.com) Vietnam Veteran/  
Army (RET) Artist (Painter & Sculptor) 904-386-0622





**One of Us: Brett Simon** from The Ponte Vedra Reporter

Brett Simon, a founder of K9s For Warriors, currently serves as the organization's president. When he's not working with canines, he might be found on the golf course or out fishing. He caught the love of his life in Ponte Vedra and has called Florida home ever since.



**What can you share about your background?**

I was born and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio. I am a graduate of Purcell Marian High School where I played on the football team, wrestling team and golf team. Cincinnati will always be home to me, but I hate snow and traded snow for the Florida sun.

**Where did you work in law enforcement?**

I was a police officer in the City of Milford, Ohio and Miami Township, Ohio for nearly 14 years.

**Did you request the K9 unit or were you assigned that duty?**

I requested to be on the K9 unit. It took a few years, but I finally made it and worked three different dogs over a 10-year period.

**How do you spot a puppy that may be suited for working and then how do you determine the best “job” for the dog?**

Finding the right dog for the right job takes a lot of ability to read the dog's body language. If you know what cues to look for, dogs show their temperament. When we are out looking for a dog for a veteran at a shelter or rescue, we spend time evaluating each one. I am looking for a dog that wants to engage with a person and shows confident behavior — not being shy or hanging back — one that's not reluctant to come meet me. I am also looking for a dog that has a medium play drive, wanting to play catch or fetch, but not bouncing off the walls. While playing with toys, I watch for possessive behavior, whether it's trying to tear up the toy or if the dog is afraid of running on different types of floors or surfaces. You can learn so much just observing a dog and determining what the dog is communicating. It just takes time and experience to know what the dog is trying to tell you.

**How does a human learn to be a dog trainer?**

There are several national dog training academies in the U.S. to learn how to become a trainer.

The training programs vary from just learning to teach obedience all the way to becoming what some call a master trainer — learning to work with service dogs, law enforcement or search and rescue. It is up to the individual how far to take the training. There is always on-the-job training, and there are several great trainers in our area. Some will take on an apprentice and teach individually. There are hundreds of books and videos to learn from as well, but nothing beats getting as much experience as possible. The more dogs you work with, the more knowledge you gain.

### **Tell us about your time at K9s For Warriors.**

Through my career from founding K9s For Warriors to today there have been so many amazing moments. It never gets old watching a veteran getting paired with a dog or seeing a family back together again with the assistance of a service dog that we trained. I wish I could pick just one to share but that would not be fair. The starting of K9s For Warriors, to me, was one of the most poignant and memorable moments in my life. How much better does it get when you are saving two lives, the life of a veteran and the life of a rescue/shelter dog.

### **What brought you to Florida?**

My mom had moved to Ponte Vedra in 1988 from Cincinnati, Ohio. I would visit often and loved the area. When I returned from Iraq at the end of 2005, our travel plans got mixed up and instead of being flown to the D.C. area on our way back, we landed at Hunter Army Airfield in Savannah, Georgia. We were all quite shocked to say the least, and they told us it was going to take a few days for the Army to set up new travel plans.

I called my mom and told her I was going to rent a car and drive down to see her. While I was visiting her, I met my future wife. After meeting her and then getting out-processed, I packed up everything I had in Ohio and moved to Ponte Vedra to be with her.

### **What is your favorite part of living in Ponte Vedra?**

Ponte Vedra is just a beautiful area. There is so much to do from going to our beautiful beaches, golfing, fishing and great variety of dining. There is something for everyone.


What do you like to do in your free time?

I enjoy golf and fishing, bike riding and spending time with my family.

### **What is your hidden talent?**

Grilling. I love to grill everything and create recipes and seasonings.

## Bruce Thompson, ALWAYS helping Veterans



**Thank You,  
Ponte Vedra residents!**  
for voting us the  
**Best Place to Volunteer  
&  
Best Nonprofit Organization!**  
**We couldn't do it without you!**



**K9SFORWARRIORS.ORG**



Save the date 20 Sept 2019! Join us at Veterans United Brewery for Bike Night in remembrance of our POWs and MIAs and to raise \$\$ to support our mission!



**VETERANS UNITED**  
CRAFT BREWERY  
JACKSONVILLE FLORIDA U.S.A.

**POW REMEMBRANCE  
BIKE NIGHT**

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup> (6PM-9PM)**

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MEMORIAL**



## ‘Thank You’ message in a bottle, 50 years later

The letter from Vietnam veteran Rich Newcombe to the helicopter gunship crew that saved him during the war.



By Gillian Graham



This letter is to the crew of the gunship flying in Binh Duong province South Vietnam on May 17, 1969. To me, it’s like a message in a bottle. I hope one of you is still alive somewhere, and by some coincidence read this. I’m writing to say “thank you.”

Fifty years ago on that day, I was a soldier in the First Infantry Division near the Iron Triangle just north of Lai Khe. I was ambushed and lost five men within seconds. Two of us survived. Within a few hours, I found myself the sole survivor. Your gunship and crew of the First Cavalry Division Airmobile rescued me.

Under fire you flew in; landed; took out enemy forces; and picked up me and my best friend and flew us to a nearby base camp for treatment. We were both bleeding to death. I would not be writing this today without you. And I’ve never had the opportunity to thank you. I don’t know your names; where you’re from; or how to contact you. But you gave me a chance at life that others didn’t have.

After eight months in the hospital and several more thereafter recovering, I returned to college, learned a trade, became successful, have enjoyed the love of a woman, and have created memories that others didn’t have the opportunity to make. All because of you. I now live in a beautiful part of the country, and will spend my remaining years thankful that you risked your lives saving mine. But, more importantly, I hope that you survived as well and have had the same happiness that you have given me to enjoy all these years.

Bless you. Rich Newcombe

## **Jacksonville City Councilman Rory Diamond, a first-term Republican serving the Beaches, is already making an impression.**

Diamond has been outspoken on issues of the day like the proposed school sales tax (he's a skeptic as the proposal currently is constructed), but he's also addressing issues that unfortunately are timeless. One such concern is veteran suicide. Diamond has been a staunch advocate of the PAWS Act, which would fund service dogs for vets who need them.



Diamond, whose K9s for Warriors non-profit is leading the way when it comes to helping veterans who have PTSD and related post-service adjustment issues, has been especially vocal on this issue, and for good reason.

As the Washington Examiner noted last week, rates are spiraling in our second decade of extended Asian deployments. 2018's 325 veteran suicides is a record.

Some groups are more susceptible to the urge: Veteran suicides are predominately white males who have been deployed. Nearly half had behavioral health diagnoses. And nearly half reached out for help within the 90 days before the final act, an indication of how the suicidal impulse surges and pulls back before that ultimate decision.

Diamond, who has been an advocate for veterans his entire political career, noted that the PTSD crisis is the main driver.

And driving PTSD? Multiple deployments, says the Councilman, with some people being sent back to Iraq or Afghanistan as many as six times.

And there's no opting out. Diamond says, "the military culture is to be with your battle buddies. You're not going to let down your family. They want to serve."

However, the trouble compounds after their time of service is done, with the VA obstructing treatments beyond those recommended by Big Pharma.

“Pills, pills, and more pills,” is how Diamond sums up the VA approach to veterans with PTSD, with the agency looking to downplay that diagnosis.

Pharmaceuticals may work for one in six veterans who need help with these post-battlefield issues. But the rest, Diamond says, who could benefit from therapies ranging from talk and acupuncture to service animals, are underserved by the model.

It’s a model driven, says Diamond, by political patronage.

“The pharmaceutical industry donates massive amounts of money to both parties,” Diamond said. “The VA is one of its greatest customers.”

In that context, Diamond contends the agency is trying to actively stop legislation that would help with therapies like service dogs, for vets who have experienced PTSD, traumatic brain injuries, or sexual abuse in the service.

The House Veterans Affairs Committee is no help. They are “fully engaged,” said Diamond, with “VA bureaucrats.”

With federal solutions foreclosed currently, Diamond’s K9’s for Warriors is getting state funding (but nothing from the city of Jacksonville, he added).

The Councilman is looking to use the levers of government to move policy. A five-county Veterans Suicide Task Force is in the conceptual stage.

The goal: to reduce incidences of veteran suicide regionally, with an eye toward exportable solutions.

With D.C. standing in the way, action on this issue must be local, Diamond reckons.

The Veterans Council of St Johns County will again be hosting the Traveling Vietnam Wall for its Veterans Day event on Monday, November 11, 2019.

In addition to the Vietnam Wall, we also will have on display the War on Terror Wall.

Chairman Dudley will be arranging a tri county Sheriff's dept. Wall Escort and PGR Ride Captain has provided the attached Ride/Escort schedule.

Food and beverage will be provided upon arrival in St Augustine on Sunday Nov. 10.



### PGR's Vietnam Wall Escort / Setup

Sunday / Monday, November 10 & 11, 2019

Fellow PGR, we are Honored to be able to escort and set up our very own Vietnam Wall for a Veteran's Day Celebration.

There are three segments of the escort prior to reaching the final destination in St. Augustine, FL.

1. Depart Saint Cloud, escort to Bruce Rossmeyer's Harley Davidson in Ormond Beach (Daytona) (approximately 90 miles) where other Veteran organizations and LEO will join us.
2. Depart Ormond Beach with LEO assisted escort to the Elks Lodge 829 in St. Augustine (approximately 45 miles traveling on US 1 north) where food and beverage will be provided.
3. Depart Elks Lodge 829 to Anastasia Baptist Church (approximately ½ miles south) where we will erect The Wall for a Veteran's Day Ceremony on Monday 11/11/2019

A lot of help will be needed to set up The Wall on Sunday and to take it down on Monday after the ceremony. This will be a good opportunity to get experience in erecting The Wall for future PGR Wall missions.

Feel free to join the escort at any staging point along the route.

Flag Bikes are encouraged



**Part 1**

**Shell Station, 5355 Irlo Bronson Memorial Hwy, Saint Cloud, FL.  
34771**

**Map: <https://goo.gl/QJSbvR>**

**0930 hrs – Stage**

**0945 hrs – Brief**

**1000 hrs – KSU**



**Ride Captain: David "Flyboy" Shelton, [pgrfldavid@gmail.com](mailto:pgrfldavid@gmail.com), 321-689-4699**

-----

**Part 2**

**Bruce Rossmeyer's Harley Davidson, 1637 US-1, Ormond Beach, FL 32174**

**Map: <https://goo.gl/vALJyX>**

**1130 hrs – Stage**

**1145 hrs – Brief**

**1200 hrs – KSU**

**Ride Captain: David "Flyboy" Shelton, [pgrfldavid@gmail.com](mailto:pgrfldavid@gmail.com), 321-689-4699**

-----

**Part 3**

**Elks Lodge 829, 1420 US-1, St. Augustine, FL 32084**

**Map: <https://goo.gl/EKJB5H>**

**1300 hrs – Stage**

**1345 hrs – Brief**

**1355 hrs – KSU**

**Ride Captain: David "Flyboy" Shelton, [pgrfldavid@gmail.com](mailto:pgrfldavid@gmail.com), 321-689-4699**

-----

**Part 4**

**Anastasia Baptist Church, 1650 A1A S., St. Augustine, FL 32080**

**Map: <https://goo.gl/NCoa6h>**

**1400 hrs – Arrival & Wall setup**

**Ride Captain: David "Flyboy" Shelton, [pgrfldavid@gmail.com](mailto:pgrfldavid@gmail.com)**





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**There's a new sign on SR 207, just west of the Record building  
VA clinic groundbreaking set**

**Groundbreaking for a new veterans Community Based Outpatient Clinic is set for October 3, with completion of the project by late August or early September 2020.**

**"It will be a significant event with invitations to many of our elected officials including Governor DeSantis, U.S. Senators Rubio and Scott, Congressmen Rutherford and Waltz and other elected officials," says St. Johns Veterans Council Chair Bill Dudley. "This has been a long time coming for our deserving veterans who rely on the clinic for their health care needs."**

**The new location is off SR 207 south of SR 312.**

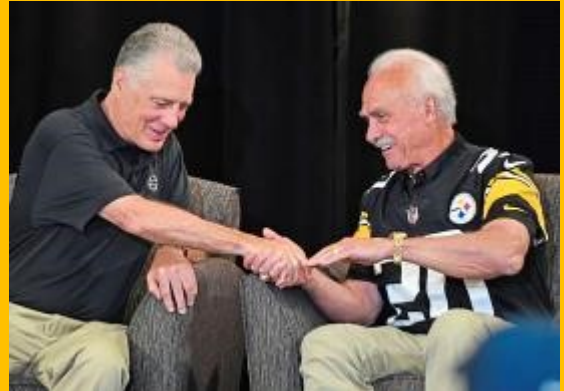
**Dudley was in the forefront of efforts to secure a new location and clinic for nearly ten years after announcement the old location at the county health complex on US 1 was to be sold to Lowe's.**

**"It has at times been extremely contentious, but our persistence has been rewarded with a permanent location and the clinic will soon be under construction," says Dudley.**



A captivated crowd sat in spellbound silence for 30 minutes while watching the story of Pittsburgh Steelers great Rocky Bleier's return to Vietnam 49 years after fighting in the war.

They saw Bleier break down into tears upon reaching the rice paddy where he was wounded by gunshot and grenade shrapnel, then watched as his Charlie Company comrades did the same in trying to describe their reaction.



"I didn't know what to expect," Bleier said of his reaction to seeing the documentary for the first time, especially the scene upon returning to Hiep Duc where he breaks down in tears. "Obviously, parts of the story were very vulnerable. ... Unfortunately, it ruined the image of the Rock."

It was quite the opposite, actually, at the sneak preview of "The Return" that was shown to select Steelers fans Thursday afternoon at Fred M. Rogers Center on the Saint Vincent College campus. The SC Featured documentary will air in an abbreviated form on ESPN's SportsCenter this weekend and in full on ESPN2 on Aug. 20, the 50th anniversary of Bleier being wounded.

As the film ended and the credits rolled, the crowd started clapping. A young child shouted, "Go Rocky Bleier!" When Bleier's fellow soldiers from his Charlie Company, Jim Sipe and Jim Lytle, were introduced and became emotional, the Steelers fans rose to their feet and gave the trio a standing ovation.

"Everybody deals with it differently," said Lytle, 70, of Westerville, Ohio. "It's gratifying to have people thanking you."

ESPN producer Jon Fish and reporter Tom Rinaldi attended the private screening for a film that was a decade in the making, saying that it took a serious pitch to convince Bleier.

"If you thought he was difficult to tackle in his prime," Rinaldi said, "Jon is underselling the incredible effort and persistence it took for us to get him to do this. ... We are so deeply indebted to Rock for letting us do this, the trust he placed in us."

Bleier, worried that he was wasting their time, warned them repeatedly not to expect an emotional reaction. He believed that his talking about his time in Vietnam both during and after his NFL career had been cathartic and that, unlike other soldiers, he carried no emotional scars from the Vietnam War.

The Return proved him wrong, in a powerful, unexpected way. "It just refreshed memories," said Sipe, 70, of Palmyra. "Probably not a day goes by that I don't think of that day. It's etched permanently, forever."

Kevin Gorman is a Tribune-Review staff writer. You can contact Kevin by email at [kgorman@tribweb.com](mailto:kgorman@tribweb.com) or via Twitter .

[https://triblive.com/sports/screening-of-the-return-shows-steelers-great-rocky-bleiers-vulnerable-side/?fbclid=IwAR1Yn-JgfJXGDusOf\\_J\\_KqHYNpN\\_sj3UfXfPlsjkoz0pe6Cmwh2jRBs5H1Q](https://triblive.com/sports/screening-of-the-return-shows-steelers-great-rocky-bleiers-vulnerable-side/?fbclid=IwAR1Yn-JgfJXGDusOf_J_KqHYNpN_sj3UfXfPlsjkoz0pe6Cmwh2jRBs5H1Q)



*Save the date*

**V4V**

*Vets 4 Vets*

**Quarterly Gathering  
Saturday, October 26th**

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UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES**

O-1	O-2	O-3	O-4	O-5	O-6	O-7	O-8	O-9	O-10	SPECIAL
<b>NAVY</b>										
ENSIGN	LIEUTENANT JUNIOR GRADE	LIEUTENANT	LIEUTENANT COMMANDER	COMMANDER	CAPTAIN	COMMODORE ADMIRAL*	REAR ADMIRAL (O-7 & O-8)	VICE ADMIRAL	ADMIRAL	FLEET ADMIRAL
<b>MARINES</b>										
SECOND LIEUTENANT	FIRST LIEUTENANT	CAPTAIN	MAJOR	LIEUTENANT COLONEL	COLONEL	BRIGADIER GENERAL	MAJOR GENERAL	LIEUTENANT GENERAL	GENERAL	
<b>ARMY</b>										
SECOND LIEUTENANT	FIRST LIEUTENANT	CAPTAIN	MAJOR	LIEUTENANT COLONEL	COLONEL	BRIGADIER GENERAL	MAJOR GENERAL	LIEUTENANT GENERAL	GENERAL	GENERAL OF THE ARMY
<b>AIR FORCE</b>										
SECOND LIEUTENANT	FIRST LIEUTENANT	CAPTAIN	MAJOR	LIEUTENANT COLONEL	COLONEL	BRIGADIER GENERAL	MAJOR GENERAL	LIEUTENANT GENERAL	GENERAL	GENERAL OF THE AIR FORCE

## From Civil War Drummer boy to Major General

In May of 1861, 9-year-old John Lincoln "Johnny" Clem ran away from his home in Newark, Ohio, to join the Union Army, but found the Army was not interested in signing on a 9-year-old boy when the commander of the 3rd Ohio Regiment told him he "wasn't enlisting infants," and turned him down. Clem tried the 22nd Michigan Regiment next, and its commander told him the same. Determined, Clem tagged after the regiment, acted out the role of a drummer boy, and was allowed to remain. Though still not regularly enrolled, he performed camp duties and received a soldier's pay of \$13 a month, a sum collected and donated by the regiment's officers.



The next April, at Shiloh, Clem's drum was smashed by an artillery round and he became a minor news item as "Johnny Shiloh, The Smallest Drummer". A year later, at the Battle Of Chickamauga, he rode an artillery caisson to the front and wielded a musket trimmed to his size. In one of the Union retreats a Confederate officer ran after the cannon Clem rode with, and yelled, "Surrender you damned little Yankee!" Johnny shot him dead. This pluck won for Clem national attention and the name "Drummer Boy of Chickamauga."

Clem stayed with the Army through the war, served as a courier, and was wounded twice. Between Shiloh and Chickamauga he was regularly enrolled in the service, began receiving his own pay, and was soon-after promoted to the rank of Sergeant. He was only 12 years old. After the Civil War he tried to enter West Point but was turned down because of his slim education. A personal appeal to President Ulysses S. Grant, his commanding general at Shiloh, won him a 2nd Lieutenant's appointment in the Regular Army on 18 December 1871, and in 1903 he attained the rank of Colonel and served as Assistant Quartermaster General. He retired from the Army as a Major General in 1916, having served an astounding 55 years.

General Clem died in San Antonio, Texas on 13 May 1937, exactly 3 months shy of his 86th birthday, and is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.



## HISTORY OF THE POW/MIA FLAG

In 1970, Mrs. Michael Hoff, an MIA wife and member of the National League of POW/MIA Families, recognized the need for a symbol of our POW/

MIAs. Prompted by an article in the Jacksonville, Florida, Times-Union, Mrs. Hoff contacted Norman Rivkees, Vice President of Annin & Company, which had made a banner for the newest member of the United Nations, the People's Republic of China (PRC), as part of their policy to provide flags of all United Nations member states. Mrs. Hoff found Mr. Rivkees very sympathetic to the POW/MIA issue. He and an Annin advertising agency employee, Newt Heisley, designed a flag to represent our missing men.

Following approval by the League's Board of Directors at a meeting held January 22-23, 1972, POW/MIA flags were manufactured for distribution. Wanting the widest possible dissemination and use of this symbol to advocate for improved treatment for and answers on American POW/MIAs, no trade mark or copyright was sought. As a result, widespread use of the League's POW/MIA flag is not restricted legally. The large volume of commercial production and sales now required to meet demands of federal and state laws does not benefit the League financially, though Annin & Company did contribute a modest amount on one occasion.

On March 9, 1989, an official League flag – flown over the White House on National POW/MIA Recognition Day 1988 – was installed in the US Capitol Rotunda as a result of legislation passed overwhelmingly on a bipartisan basis during the 100th Congress. In a demonstration of further bipartisan Congressional support, the leadership of both Houses hosted the installation ceremony, at which

League Executive Director Ann Mills-Griffiths delivered remarks representing the POW/MIA families.

The League's POW/MIA flag is the only flag ever displayed in the US Capitol Rotunda where it stands as a powerful symbol of America's determination to account for US personnel still missing and unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War. On August 10, 1990, the 101st Congress passed US Public Law 101-355, which recognized the League's POW/MIA flag and designated it "the symbol of our Nation's concern and commitment to resolving as fully as possible the fates of Americans still prisoner, missing and unaccounted for in Southeast Asia, thus ending the uncertainty for their families and the Nation".

The importance of the POW/MIA flag lies in its continued visibility, a constant reminder of the plight of America's UNRETURNED VETERANS. Other than "Old Glory," the League's POW/MIA flag is the only flag ever to fly over the White House, displayed since 1982 in this place of honor on National POW/MIA Recognition Day.

Passage by the 105th Congress of Section 1082 of the 1998 Defense Authorization Act required that the League's POW/MIA flag fly six days each year: Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, National POW/MIA Recognition Day and Veterans Day. It must be displayed at the White House, the US Capitol, the Departments of State, Defense and Veterans Affairs, the headquarters of the Selective Service System, major military installations as designated by the Secretary of Defense, all Federal cemeteries and all offices of the US Postal Service. In addition to the specific dates stipulated, the Department of Veterans Affairs voluntarily displays our POW/MIA flag 24/7. The National Vietnam Veterans, Korean War Veterans and World War II Memorials are now also required by law to display the POW/MIA flag daily. Most State Capitols have adopted similar laws, as have local governments nationwide.





Join Us On

# **NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY**

Saturday  
September 21, 2019  
10am - 3pm

at the

## **GATHERING IN THE PINES EVENT**

Chapel of the High-Speed Pass - 6112 POW-MIA Memorial Pkwy, Jacksonville, FL 32221

Join us on National POW/MIA Recognition Day under the pines with many great veteran organizations.

Events of the day will include:

### **POW/MIA Recognition Ceremony**

10 AM

### **POW/MIA Movies**

**Stolen Freedom & Missing Presumed Dead**

shown throughout the day in the  
Chapel Conference Room starting at 11:30AM



🌲 **Car and Bike Show**

🌲 **Food Trucks**

🌲 **Live Entertainment**

🌲 **Silent Auction**

🌲 **Kid's Area**

Please bring your lawn chairs and spend the day!

### **THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES**

All proceeds from this event to benefit the

**The National POW/MIA Memorial & Museum**

Hosted By

**VETERAN COUNCILS OF**

**Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau and St. Johns Counties**



**NATIONAL POW/MIA MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM**

Proudly hosts

**A Gathering In The Pines**

**September 21, 2019 10:00am to 3:00pm**

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

**Set up time: 0800**

Tents, tables, etc. will not be provided. Sales permitted by registered organizations. Minimum of 10% of **sales for profit** 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 Fund**

**Mail checks to:**

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

Disclaimer: Cecil Field POW/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.

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## NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY



SEPTEMBER 20, 2019

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∞ CITY OF JACKSONVILLE ∞

# HOMELESS VETERANS STAND DOWN

**ALL VETERANS INVITED** Army • Marines • Navy • Air Force • Coast Guard • National Guard • Reserves

## DAY 1

THURSDAY  
OCTOBER 10, 2019

### JOB FAIR PREP DAY

Jacksonville Fairgrounds  
510 Fairgrounds Place  
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Prepare for Friday's Job Fair with resume assistance, interview preparation and work clothes.

## DAY 2

FRIDAY  
OCTOBER 11, 2019

### HOMELESS VETERANS JOB FAIR

Jacksonville Fairgrounds  
510 Fairgrounds Place  
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Join employers from all over Jacksonville who are hiring veterans NOW!

## DAY 3

SATURDAY  
OCTOBER 12, 2019

### HOMELESS VETERANS RESOURCE FAIR

Jacksonville Fairgrounds  
510 Fairgrounds Place  
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

- VA Services
- Dental Services
- Food & Clothing
- Job Services
- Medical Services
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## **A sixth grade history project exonerated the captain of the USS Indianapolis**

In 1945, the USS Indianapolis completed its top secret mission of delivering atomic bomb components to Tinian Island in the Pacific Theater of World War II. The heavy cruiser was sunk on its way to join a task force near Okinawa. Of the ship's 1195 crewmembers, only 316 survived the sinking and the subsequent time adrift at sea in the middle of nowhere. Among the survivors was the captain of the Indianapolis, Charles B. McVay III.

McVay would be charged with negligence in the loss of the ship. Even though he was restored to active duty after his court-martial and retired a rear admiral, the guilt of the loss haunted him for the rest of his life. He committed suicide with his Navy revolver on his own front lawn with a toy sailor in his hand.



The Navy was partly to blame. They didn't warn Indianapolis that the submarine I-58 was operating along the area of the ship's course to Okinawa. They also didn't warn the ship to zigzag in its pattern to evade enemy submarines. When the Indianapolis radioed a distress signal, it was picked up by three Navy stations, who ignored the call because one was drunk, the other had a commander who didn't want to be disturbed, and the last thought it was a trap.

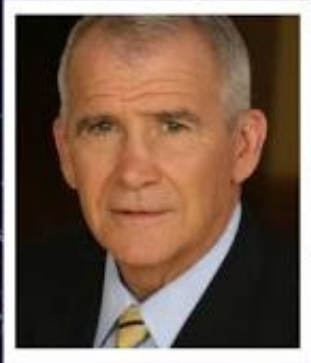
Three and a half days later, the survivors were rescued from the open water, suffering from salt water poisoning, exposure, hypothermia, and the largest case of shark attacks ever recorded. It was truly a horrifying scene. The horror is what led to McVay's court martial, one of very few commanders to face such a trial concerning the loss of a ship. Even though the Japanese commander of I-58, the man who actually destroyed the Indianapolis, told the U.S. Navy that standard Navy evasion techniques would not have worked – Indianapolis was doomed from the get-go. Even that didn't satisfy McVay's critics.

It wasn't until sixth-grader Hunter Scott began a history project in school about the sinking of the Indianapolis. He poured through official Navy documents until he found the evidence he needed to conclusively prove that McVay wasn't responsible for the loss of his ship. His project caught the attention of then-Congressman Joe Scarborough and Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich who helped pass a Congressional resolution exonerating McVay. It was signed by President Bill Clinton in 2000.

Hunter Scott, the onetime sixth-grader and eternal friend to the crew of the Indianapolis, is now a naval aviator. He attended the University of North Carolina on a Navy ROTC scholarship and joined active duty in 2007. He even spoke at the dedication of the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.

**2019 HEROES GALA**

Featuring nationally recognized speaker and retired Marine  
Corps Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North.



NOVEMBER **08** 6:00 PM

The Ponte Vedra Inn & Club  
200 Ponte Vedra Blvd, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

Visit [ONUVets.org](http://ONUVets.org) to review our sponsorship levels or  
purchase an individual ticket to attend.  
Call us at (904) 328-1600 to discuss sponsorship opportunities.

Proceeds from this event will benefit Operation New Uniform, a 501(c)3 tax-exempt charitable organization.  
Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Working dogs have been supporting the American military since World War I.  
**Military Dog Stamp out soon**



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

## VETERANS COUNCIL ANNOUNCES WREATH CAMPAIGN

Chairman Bill Dudley of the Veterans Council of St.

Johns County has announced the annual drive for Wreaths Across America has begun.

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

The community is invited to send donations to purchase the wreaths. Individual wreaths are \$15.00. If two wreaths are purchased at \$30.00 the council receives a free wreath (3 for cost of 2). Our local businesses are encouraged to participate. With more than 1,200 gravesites the project is truly considerable.

The community is invited to the St. Augustine National Cemetery on December 14, 2019 at 12:00 p.m. for a ceremony followed by placement of the wreaths. Youth organizations are encouraged to participate to learn and honor our veterans.

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

For any additional information please contact the campaign chair, SGM (Ret) Ray Quinn at 904.797.5622.



The Veterans Council of St. Johns County would like to invite our St. Augustine community to Wreaths Across America Day, Saturday, December 14, 2019 at 12:00 pm (noon) at the St. Augustine National Cemetery on 104 Marine Street, next to the Florida National Guard Headquarters. Parking is at a premium so be sure to arrive early. Youth organizations are encouraged to participate to learn about and honor our veterans.



Wreaths Across America is dedicated to ensuring that headstones in all America's National Cemeteries are adorned with a live holiday wreath at Christmas.

A 12 year old paperboy for the Bangor Daily News named Morrill Worcester, now owner of Worcester Wreath Company of Harrington, Maine, won a trip to Washington D.C. Arlington National Cemetery made an especially indelible impression on him. Later in life, this experience reminded him that his good fortune was due to veterans, especially by those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

In 1992, the Worcester Wreath Company found themselves with a surplus of 5,000 wreaths nearing the end of the holiday season. Seeing an opportunity to honor our country's veterans arrangements were made for the surplus wreaths to be placed at Arlington National Cemetery, which included a special ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. This year we will place over 2 million wreaths at 1,640 National Cemeteries.

Donation levels for individual wreaths start as low \$15.00 per wreath. If two wreaths are purchased at \$30.00 the council receives a free wreath (3 for cost of 2). Our local businesses are encouraged to participate. With more than 1,200 gravesites the project is truly considerable. Make your checks payable to WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA and send to: Veterans Council of St. Johns County, P. O. Box 2117, St. Augustine, FL 32085-2117. We are a 501(c)(3) for donation purposes.



SEMINOLE HARLEY-DAVIDSON™ PRESENTS

# COMBAT VETS ASSOCIATION



VETERANS HELPING VETERANS

## 7<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL STATE RALLY WEEKEND

### NOV 1 - 3, 2019



### FRIDAY

REGISTRATION  
BEGINS AT 5PM

MEET & GREET  
7PM - ??

### SUNDAY

BREAKFAST  
BEGINS AT 8AM

MORNING RIDE?  
9AM - ??

### SATURDAY

BREAKFAST 8AM TRAVELLING VIETNAM WAR MEMORIAL WALL ESCORT 9AM  
SPEED LIMIT 70 12PM-3PM BIKINI BIKE WASH 12:30PM-4:30PM  
SHRINERS LOW-BOIL 3PM [\$25 FOR CVMA MEMBERS]  
BIKE CONTEST AND GAMES 3PM-5PM LICKETY SPLIT 3:15PM-5:15PM  
**THUNDERJACK 6PM-8PM**

CASH BAR PROVIDED BY  
**The West End Trading Co.**

CONCERTS, CONTESTS AND GAMES OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

620 HICKMAN CIRCLE SANFORD, FL 32771

# 3rd Annual Clay County Veterans Appreciation Day Event

**SATURDAY | MOOSEHAVEN**  
**SEPT 28 | 1701 Park Avenue**  
**9AM to 3PM | Orange Park, FL 32073**

Climbing Wall | Colleges | Face Painting | Food Trucks  
Free Entertainment | Free Haircuts | Free Kid Zone  
Military Museum Displays | Special Guest Speakers AND  
Veterans Resources on site!



**Hosted by the Clay County Board of County Commissioners**

For more information contact the VSO at (904) 284/269-6326



[www.claycountygov.com/departments/veterans-services](http://www.claycountygov.com/departments/veterans-services)

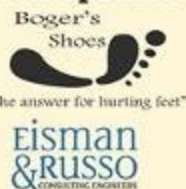
**"Serving Veterans Past, Present, and Future"**



**Gold Sponsors:**



**Silver Sponsors:**



**Bronze Sponsors:**

Tourist Development Council



*The Veterans Council congratulates Commander Derry Greene for his award and recognition as “Commander of the Year”*



The logo consists of the letters 'V4V' in a bold, serif font. The 'V's are filled with a pattern of white stars on a dark blue background, while the '4' is a solid dark blue.

**Together We are Stronger**

**Keeping our Veterans  
Informed, Connected, United, and Organized**

V4VFlorida.org

Vets4VetsNJax@gmail.com

Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram: @Vets4VetsNJax

#vets4vetsjax #Jointhevetsmovement #Togetherwearestronger



## Mission Statement:

**The Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc.  
is a 501 C3 Not-For-Profit Florida Corporation.**



The Veterans Council of St. Johns County is comprised of representatives from various veterans' organizations that work with city and county governments and organizations to assist with matters concerning veterans and veterans' activities.

## What the Council has done:

- The Veterans Treatment Court
  - Wreaths Across America
  - Homeless Veterans Standdown
  - Veterans Day Parade
  - Vets 4 Vets
- And so much more...

SA-0003147064-01





# WARRIOR PATHH



Warrior PATHH ([Progressive and Alternative Training for Healing Heroes](#)) is the nation's first non-clinical program designed to cultivate and facilitate Posttraumatic Growth amongst those struggling with PTSD and/or combat stress. Warrior PATHH enables these remarkable men and women to transform times of deep struggle into profound strength and growth. All Warrior PATHH instructors have walked this road from struggle to strength, and the blended team of trained combat veterans and civilians leverage their own experiences to guide attendees. This 18-month program begins with a 7-day retreat, initiating students into the Warrior PATHH. Students are then supported for the following 77 weeks via the myPATHH technology platform, regular Team Video Chats, alumni coaches, and the Warrior PATHH Student Guide and Journal.

Warrior PATHH was created by Boulder Crest, a pioneering nonprofit organization focused on developing transformative programs that ensure combat veterans can be as productive at home as they were on the battlefield. [GratitudeAmerica](#) and Boulder Crest have partnered to bring Warrior PATHH to Florida.

The Warrior PATHH is based on the decades-old science of Posttraumatic Growth (PTG) and enable participants to meaningfully and sustainably transform times of deep struggle into profound strength and lifelong growth. As a result, participants experience stronger and deeper relationships, new possibilities, an increased sense of gratitude for life, greater connection to their spiritual or religious life, and a renewed sense of personal strength.

➤ **Warrior PATHH is provided at **no cost** for post 9/11 combat veterans.**

➤ **No clinical diagnosis is required to attend.**

➤ **Programs are offered **monthly** in Gainesville, FL.**

## CONTACT US

Mike Hilliard, *Warrior PATHH Program Director*

[warriorpathh@gratitudeamerica.org](mailto:warriorpathh@gratitudeamerica.org)

P.O. Box 16956

Fernandina Beach, FL 32035

**770-718-7108**



**GratitudeAmerica**

TO LEARN MORE VISIT:

[GRATITUDEAMERICA.ORG/WARRIOR-PATHH](http://GRATITUDEAMERICA.ORG/WARRIOR-PATHH)

**From: Jessica Bradstreet, L.C.S.W., Local Recovery Coordinator**  
**Department of Veterans Affairs, NF/SG Veterans Healthcare System,**  
**904-239-8812**

Just wanted to provide you with some additional links and document attached (Social Media Suicide Prevention Efforts/Strategies) - feel free to share them to your Facebook page and within the Council, within your mailing lists, and save for use as needed.

<https://www.va.gov/welcome-kit/> A lot of good Enrollment/Intro VA information

<https://psycharmor.org/courses/s-a-v-e/> A public/community focused Suicide Prevention training- Free

<https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/> VA Link/Program

<https://www.mirecc.va.gov/coaching/> VA Link/Program

<https://maketheconnection.net/> VA Link/Program

[https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/suicide\\_prevention/docs/Office-of-Mental-Health-and-Suicide-Prevention-National-Strategy-for-Preventing-Veterans-Suicide.pdf](https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/suicide_prevention/docs/Office-of-Mental-Health-and-Suicide-Prevention-National-Strategy-for-Preventing-Veterans-Suicide.pdf)

Thank you,

Jessica Bradstreet, L.C.S.W.

Web Resources:

<https://www.va.gov/welcome-kit/>

<https://psycharmor.org/courses/s-a-v-e/>

<https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/>

<https://www.mirecc.va.gov/coaching/>

<https://maketheconnection.net/>

Jessica Bradstreet, L.C.S.W., Local Recovery Coordinator,  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
NF/SG Veterans Healthcare System, 904-239-8812

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## *Mission Act Communication Plan*

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*For billing/claims issues, Veterans should contact the Community Care Contact Center (C4):*

**1-866-606-8198**

*If a Veteran is already in collections, they should call the Adverse Credit Report line:*

**1-877-881-7618**

*If the Veteran needs assistance with appointments, referrals, and authorizations, they should contact our local Community Care call center:*

**1-888-493-3260**

*MISSION Act Call Center is established for general questions and basic eligibility or they can visit <https://missionact.va.gov/>.*

**1-844-698-2311**

*Below is a list of other VISN 8 Community Care Customer Service Call Centers if you should have traveling Veterans with questions regarding their appointments, referrals, and authorizations not coordinated at NFSG.*

**Bay Pines: 1-727-398-3252**

**Miami: 1-305-575-7666**

**Orlando: 1-407-646-4100**

**San Juan: 1-787-641-7582**

**Tampa: 1-866-972-8201**

**West Palm: 1-561-422-6470**

*A friendly reminder that first call resolution is the goal when any Veteran contacts the facility. Please use the Mission Act resources shared to attempt to answer questions as we continue to learn together. Thank you.*

## The NF/SG Healthcare System

This is your Invitation to attend An Interest Meeting! To learn more about building a Council within the St. Augustine VA Clinic and Community.

When: Tuesday Aug. 13th 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m., Where: St. Augustine VA Clinic  
195 Southpark Blvd. St. Augustine, FL. 32086 Room #110

Why: Collaboration among the VA and local organizations for improved Mental Health specific experiences and resource sharing.

If you would like more information, Email or Call: Jessica Bradstreet, L.C.S.W.

Local Recovery Coordinator, [Jessica.Bradstreet@va.gov](mailto:Jessica.Bradstreet@va.gov), 904-239-8812

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### What is a Local Recovery Coordinator?

Jessica Bradstreet, L.C.S.W. • (904) 239-8812 • [Jessica.bradstreet@va.gov](mailto:Jessica.bradstreet@va.gov)

Recovery is “a process of change through which individuals work to improve their own health and well-being, live a self-directed life, and strive to achieve their full potential.” (SAMHSA, 2012)

Purpose of LRC Role: “There is a mental health provider at each VAMC to help Veterans with serious mental illness (SMI) access recovery oriented services. The LRC provides education and support to Veterans, family members, the community, and VA staff members about mental illness and recovery. The LRC promotes activities that remove barriers and stigma that may be associated with mental illness and ensures that veterans with SMI have access to the rehabilitation and recovery services needed to attain their goals.”

“...Inform and improve all levels of MH care.”

“...participates in identifying and addressing barriers to high quality continuity of care.”

Often collaborates with community providers; Recovery Services (MH Care) Projects and Initiatives

Goals of the LRC Role: To help veterans and the VA system understand that mental health is essential to overall health.

To create a MH system that is veteran- and family- driven.

To eliminate any disparities, stigma, or discrimination associated with mental illness.

To promote full access to recovery-oriented services at every VA location and at every point of contact with veterans.

To ensure that excellent recovery-oriented care is delivered and that the VA system builds the body of knowledge about recovery.

To learn how technology can be used by veterans and family members to access resources and support the journey of recovery.

Transparency, education, and advocacy to Community Providers, Networks, Councils of Veterans



# POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER AWARENESS

NOT ALL WOUNDS ARE VISIBLE...

11%-20% OF  
OEF/OIF VETERANS  
SUFFER FROM  
PTSD



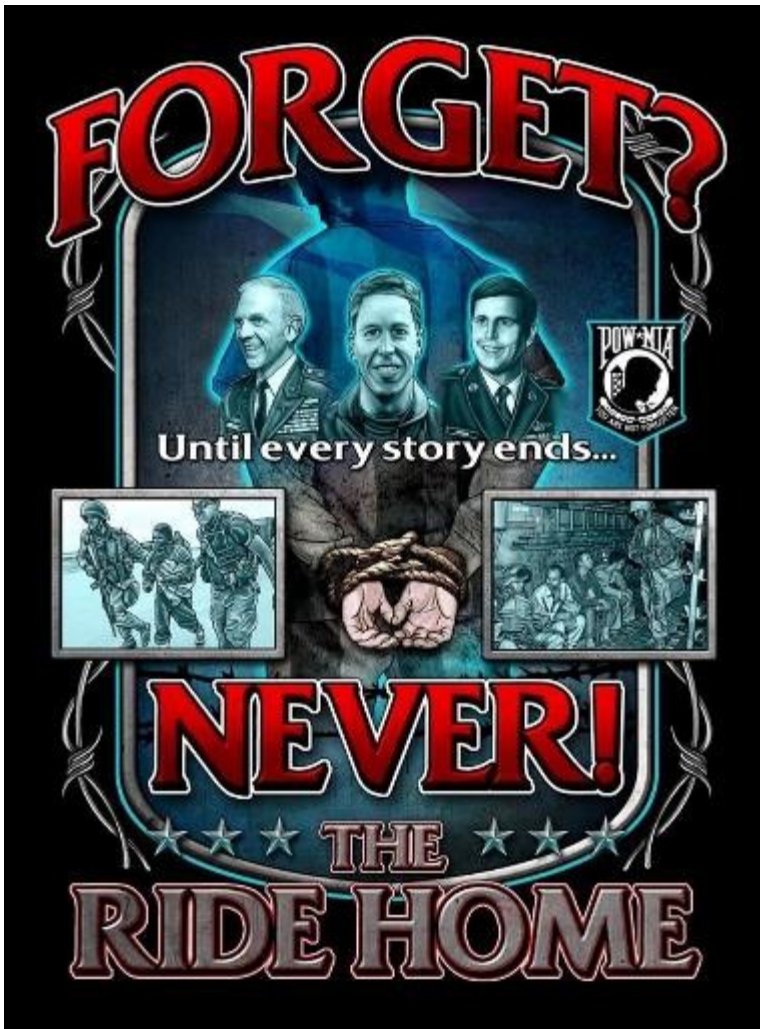
## SYMPTOMS:

- FLASHBACKS
- NIGHTMARES
- FEELING ON EDGE
- TROUBLE SLEEPING
- HYPERVIGILANCE
- OVERWHELMING GUILT OR SHAME
- LOSS OF INTEREST IN ENJOYABLE ACTIVITIES
- SELF-DESTRUCTIVE BEHAVIOR
- STAYING AWAY FROM PLACES, EVENTS, OR OBJECTS THAT ARE REMINDERS OF THE EXPERIENCE
- HAVING DIFFICULTY SLEEPING, AND/OR HAVING ANGRY OUTBURSTS
- NEGATIVE THOUGHTS ABOUT ONESELF OR THE WORLD
- FEELING EMOTIONALLY NUMB

## WAYS GBF ASSISTS:

- HYPERBARIC OXYGEN THERAPY
- LASER REGENERATION THERAPY
- CHILLIPAD®
- TRAVEL TO/FROM SUBSTANCE ABUSE FACILITIES
- INPATIENT/OUTPATIENT HEALTHCARE COSTS NOT COVERED BY TRICARE OR THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION
- HOLISTIC INFRARED LIGHT THERAPY
- ALPHA-STIM®
- NEUROFEEDBACK
- HOLISTIC ALTERNATIVE THERAPIES





Left- Colonel F. James Thompson -	26 March 1964 - 16 March 1973
Right - E-5 USAF Bill Robinson -	20 Sept 1965 - 12 February 1973
Center- Captain Scott Speicher -	17 January 1991 - 14 August 2009
Left Middle - <u>Spc. Shoshana Johnson</u>	23 March 2003 - 13 April 2003
Right Middle - <u>Spc. Edgar Hernandez</u>	23 March - 13 April 2003
PFC Patrick Miller	23 March - 13 April 2003
<u>Sgt. James Riley</u>	23 March - 13 April 2003
<u>Spc. Joe 'Gump' Hudson</u>	23 March - 13 April 2003

2019 shirts! \$25. each ( includes shipping)

We do NOT have web master so please do snail mail,  
shirts are not on pay pal merchandise yet!

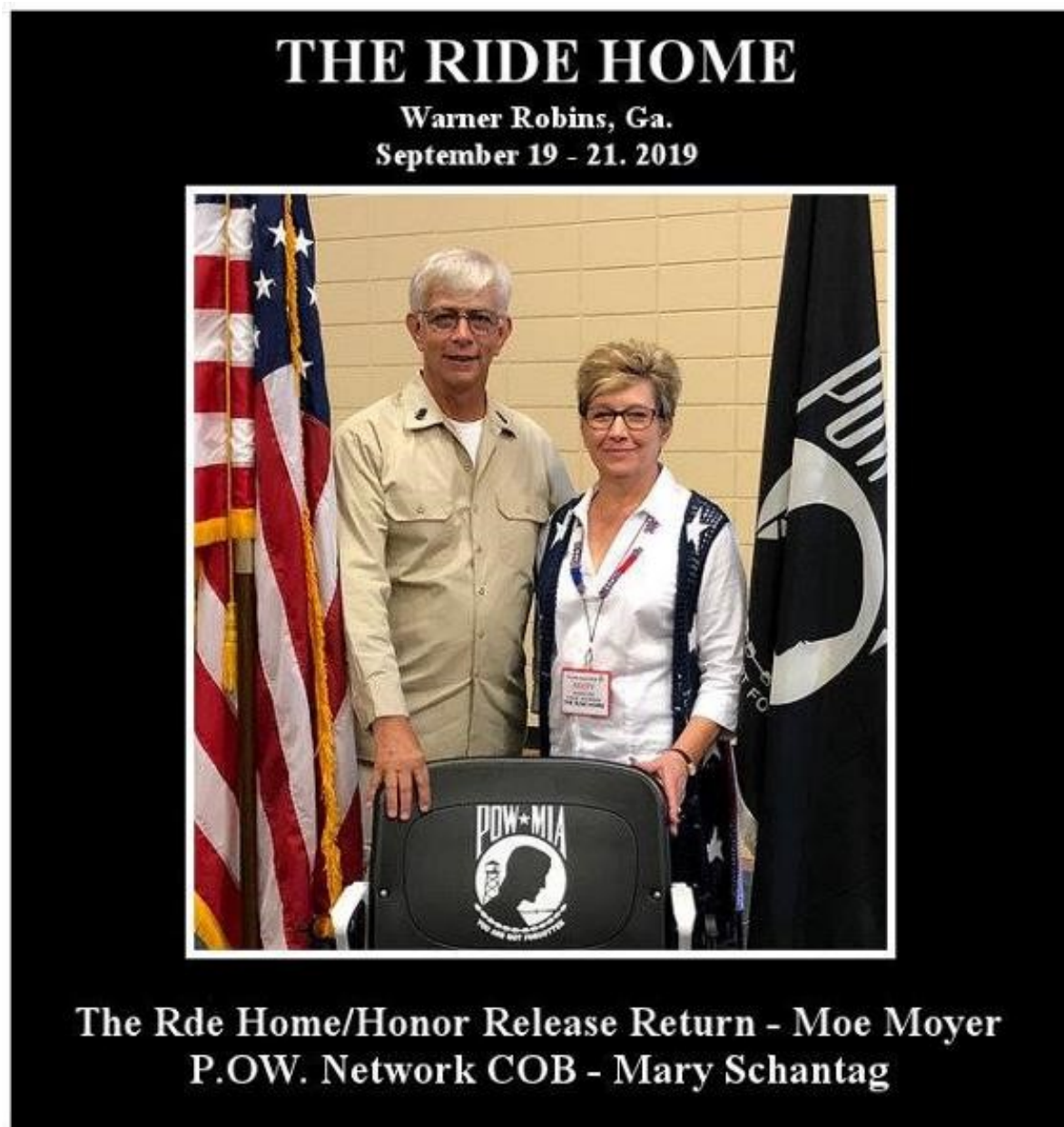
Short sleeve red or black. Long sleeve sports grey.

The Ride Home

3818 Litchfield Loop

Lake Wales, Fl. 33859

**Moe Moyer and Mary Schantag are busy preparing for THE RIDE HOME 2019 which will be held at the Museum of Aviation in Warner Robins Ga. September 19 - 21, 2019. The Vietnam Traveling Wall will be on exhibit during The Ride Home.**



## A letter to Chairman Bill Dudley from the daughter of PFC Lamar L. Williams on his journey to Arlington

Hi Bill,

"People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." -Maya Angelou

Words can never express how deeply grateful I am for you. We were not able to receive financial help from VA or resources you explored but I am not deterred. God blessed you so that you could still be a blessing to me and my family as my father Pfc. Lamar L. Williams completed his journey to Arlington National Cemetery on Wednesday, August 7th, 2019. The day (which also happened to be National Purple Heart Day!) was perfect in every way. There were so many wonderful highlights and miraculous history-in-the-making God-kissed moments that I'm still full. Like meeting the soldier who fought in the same battle my father died in and for the very first time, some forty-eight years later, learning exactly what happened on that fateful day in Vietnam.

My father's journey continues to touch and capture hearts everywhere. So much so that it even made the cover of the Washington Post Metro section (Thursday, August 8th edition) and there's still more to come! Thanks be to God and to your contribution and introduction to John Leslie that my father is now truly resting in peace and getting the honor he certainly deserves as a brave American war hero.

I certainly thank you for your gift of time, support, prayers, well-wishes, and service. I see you... I appreciate you!

Sharing the press below:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/history/2019/08/07/vietnam-vet-is-buried-arlington-national-cemetery-after-decades-run-down-graveyard/>

<https://youtu.be/wdSKSeFgxBI>

[https://youtu.be/8leDPRo\\_pdM](https://youtu.be/8leDPRo_pdM)

<https://youtu.be/TEqeAM9fgDs>

<https://youtu.be/iXZQuQX7h04>

[https://simpson-photography.smugmug.com/Lamonda-Williams/n-vgLqDF/i-C7PDc6G/A?fbclid=IwAR0IKGA8rHzXfTtwK4LuPr7\\_EGbnRzUR6MhjD-JoAZ7bRvh0EFNgJJ-iO04](https://simpson-photography.smugmug.com/Lamonda-Williams/n-vgLqDF/i-C7PDc6G/A?fbclid=IwAR0IKGA8rHzXfTtwK4LuPr7_EGbnRzUR6MhjD-JoAZ7bRvh0EFNgJJ-iO04)

<https://www.facebook.com/joe.simpson12/videos/10156080252922331/>

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2019/national/amp-stories/photos-of-the-week-august-01/>

Thanks,

Lamonda Williams

*The St. Augustine Record front page article follows on the next two pages*



## A Vietnam vet is buried at Arlington National Cemetery after decades in a run-down graveyard in St. Augustine

By IAN SHAPIRA | The Washington Post

ARLINGTON, Va. — She met him, but she never knew him.

Lamonda Williams was only 11 months old when her father, Pfc. Lamar Williams, was killed April 13, 1971, in Vietnam.

Since then, her father, who posthumously received a Purple Heart and Bronze Star, has always been a mythical figure in his daughter's life. She felt his absence as she moved from one milestone to the next, first college, then graduate school, then developing television shows for the A&E network, and ultimately hosting a popular satellite radio show on SiriusXM.



But her biggest achievement to date might be the one that would make her father the proudest: She got his remains exhumed from a run-down graveyard in his hometown of St. Augustine, Florida, after persuading Arlington National Cemetery that he deserved a place on its august grounds.



On Wednesday, Lamonda — along with her widowed mother, Carolyn Williams, 69, and Lamar's 90-year-old mother, Zethel Surrency — sat side by side, facing their loved one's flag-draped coffin in section 57 of Arlington, steps away from gravesite 296, his final resting place. Thanks to Lamonda, her father was buried with full military honors: a rifle volley by six soldiers, a bugler playing "Taps," and three folded U.S. flags for Lamar's mother, widow and daughter.

Afterward, the family waited for the burial crew to arrive, then watched as small trucks dumped dirt over Lamar's gleaming casket. "We got him out of there," Lamonda, 49, said triumphantly, referring to the Woodlawn Cemetery in St. Augustine, where local news outlets have reported that headstones appear sunken or overrun with weeds. "It's sad because I lost my father. But I'm also celebratory and ecstatic because he's in his rightful place. He's finally home."

Lamonda grew up hungry to learn everything she could about her father, treasuring every detail. Her mother, her grandmother and her father's three siblings all told her stories.

She heard about his love for his baby-blue 1963 Plymouth Fury convertible and how he buckled her into the car seat and rode her around town with the top down.

My grandmother told me that he'd lift me up on his shoulders and take me to the corner store to get me ice cream," Lamonda said. "When I heard that, I completely balled because when I have a craving for ice cream, it always hits me like a ton of bricks. I believe it's my soul and spirit trying to connect back to something familiar."

He attended R.J. Murray High School the late 1960s and spent the summers working at a motor lodge and restaurant. He liked saving money so he could buy shoes and that Plymouth Fury.

"It wasn't for vanity purposes," Lamonda said. "He always aspired to rise out of his environment."

Lamonda loved the story of her parents' romance: He met her at the end of his junior year in 1967, when a mutual friend was headed to Daytona Beach, about 50 miles south of St. Augustine, and asked him to come along. At first, Lamar wasn't into it. Then his friend showed him a photo of Carolyn. His reluctance turned into an instant yes.

Their courtship was intense: They took long strolls along Daytona Beach's boardwalk and attended concerts at the city's famous amphitheater, the Bandshell. Their first movie date: "To Sir, With Love" starring Sidney Poitier. And they loved dancing, especially to "La La Means I Love You" by the Delfonics and anything by Marvin Gaye or Aretha Franklin.

He proposed while they were riding a roller coaster in Daytona Beach. Amid all the frightening screams, it was her turn to give an instant yes. On Jan. 12, 1969, they got married at Carolyn's parents' home on a Sunday evening.

Soon, she was pregnant with their first child. But then, the draft notice arrived. He asked whether he could postpone his report-to-duty date until his daughter was born, and the military said it was okay. Lamonda was born May 6, 1970. Then he was off to the Army, deploying Jan. 11, 1971, to Vietnam. But, almost exactly three months later, shortly after his 21st birthday, he was killed by enemy fire.

His remains were flown back to Florida. Lamonda said her family tried burying him at two other cemeteries in St. Augustine, but they were turned down, she believes, because the family is African American. Instead, they settled on Woodlawn Cemetery, a historically black graveyard that later fell on hard times.

# A question we all may have to ask some day. What should I do if a Veteran passes away?

## SECTION 8 Partial list of action to be undertaken upon the death of veteran or retiree.

1. Contact Funeral Director to set-up funeral arrangements and Military Honors (PAFB Mortuary Affairs)
2. Notify Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) (<https://cust-support.dfas.mil/rapiti/nod/>) or call 1-888-332-741
3. Notify Veterans Administration 1-800-827-1000
4. Notify Social Security Administration 1-800-772-1213
5. Notify Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) 1-800-538-9552
6. Notify VA Life Insurance, if applicable 1-800-669-8477
7. Notify SGLI and VGLI Insurance, if applicable 1-800-419-1473
8. Notify Civil Service Retirement System, if applicable 1-888-767-6738
9. Obtain at least 10 certified copies of long form death certificate and 10 copies of short form death certificate from Funerary Directors
10. Notify Life Insurance companies, and file appropriate claims
11. Notify Medical, health, disability, travel and accident insurance companies, and file appropriate claims
12. Notify Home owners insurance company
13. Notify Vehicle insurance company
14. Go to the County Property Appraiser's Office and transfer all real estate properties to surviving spouse.
15. Apply for widowed person's Homestead Exemption
16. Apply for appropriate (VA, Civil Service and other) benefits, if applicable
17. Apply for Veterans Burial Benefits and Survivor Benefits, if applicable
18. Check for non-government pension benefits, if applicable
19. Apply for Workmen's Compensation Benefits if applicable.
20. Notify your Accountant or Tax Preparer (unless Estate Lawyer is preparing the final tax returns) provide certified death certificate, previously filed tax return forms, and current earnings and dividend statements.
21. Notify your investment broker or company.
22. Change ownership of joint or solely owned stocks, mutual funds, etc.
23. Cancel any unfulfilled orders arranged by the deceased
24. Notify IRAs and other retirement and investment account administrators
25. Transfer the ownership of bonds
26. Notify your bank(s) and credit union(s)
27. Change all jointly held accounts and correct tax identification numbers (usually Social Security Numbers) (Leave joint accounts intact for 6 months)
28. Cancel direct deposit retirement benefit payments (for SBP, Civil Service and others, if applicable)
29. Re-establish the Title of your safe deposit box
30. Re-establish all outstanding mortgages, personal notes, etc.
31. Apply for any credit life insurance that may exist on loans, credit cards, and mortgages
32. Change Certificates of Deposit
33. Go to Department Of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to transfer titles of all registered vehicles, mobile homes and boats.
34. Notify all credit card companies and cancel all individually held cards of the deceased
35. Review trusts for required actions, if required.
36. If a Will must be probated, contact your attorney. Your name may also need to be revised.
37. Cancel the deceased's Voter Registration and Drivers License.
38. Obtain new military identification cards. Make appointment at <https://rapids-appointments.dmdc.osd.mil/default.asp> or contact Patrick AFB ID Card Section at 321-494-6144/6147
39. Send "Thank You" cards for flowers, memorial donations, food, etc.

*From Nila Thompson*



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

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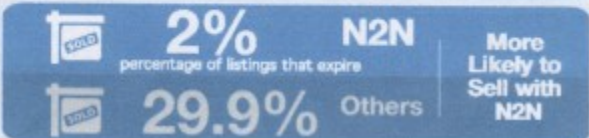


St. Augustine: 904-826-1900 [www.cfawc.com](http://www.cfawc.com) Palatka: 386-328-1122



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10605 Theresa Drive, Suite 5  
Jacksonville, FL 32246  
Office: 904-900-4776

## The American Legion Post 194

Make plans to help us celebrate 71 years of serving veterans in the St Augustine community.

Contact Post for more info and tickets. 904 829 8189.



Alton Green Memorial American Legion Post 194  
**71st Anniversary Dinner**

**Saturday 7 September**

Cocktail Reception & hors d'oeuvres at 6 o'clock  
3 Meat Buffet with Trimmings at half past 6

\$25 Per Person Donation

**Featuring Special Guest Speaker  
Lt Col rt'd Bruce Alexander**

 Lt Col rt'd Bruce Alexander	 Serving America's Military Families	 #tbt Citadel vs USC
--	---	---

Former Citadel and All-European Football Standout, Former Deputy Commander 11th Operations Group, Current Vice President of Communications at Operation Homefront.

1029 Pearl Street St. Augustine



rans  
s Line



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PRESS 1

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

**Veterans  
Crisis Line**  
00-273-8255 PRESS 1



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1-800-273-8255 PRESS 1

..... Confidential chat at [VeteransCrisisLine.net](https://www.VeteransCrisisLine.net) or text to 838255 .....

NATIONAL  
**SUICIDE  
PREVENTION  
LIFELINE**  
1-800-273-TALK (8255)  
[www.suicideline.org](https://www.suicideline.org)

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

Confidential chat at [MilitaryCrisisLine.net](https://www.MilitaryCrisisLine.net) or text 838255



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



## Veterans Councils of Northeast Florida



### **NASSAU COUNTY**

**President: Doc Monaghan**

#### **Meetings:**

**First Thursday of each month**

#### **Location:**

**American Legion Post 54  
626 South 3<sup>rd</sup> St  
Fernandina Beach FL 32034**

**Time: 1900 (7pm)**

### **DUVAL COUNTY**

**President: Steve Spickelmier**

#### **Meetings:**

**Third Tuesday of each month**

#### **Location:**

**American Legion Post 137  
Moon Building  
5443 San Juan Avenue**

**Time: 1900 (7pm)**

### **BAKER COUNTY**

**President: Larry Porterfield**

#### **Meetings:**

**Second Thursday of each month**

#### **Location:**

**MacClenny Primitive Baptist Church  
Fellowship Hall on North Boulevard**

**Time: 1800 (6pm)**

### **CLAY COUNTY**

**President: Harry Silvers**

#### **Meetings:**

**First Wednesday of each month**

#### **Location:**

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

**Time: 1400 (2pm)**

### **ST. JOHNS COUNTY**

**President: Bill Dudley**

#### **Meetings:**

**Last Thursday of each month**

#### **Location:**

**Health and Human Services Bldg  
Muscovy Room, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
200 San Sebastian View  
St. Augustine, FL 3208**

**Time: 1900 (7pm)**

Contact Nila Thompson with updates  
Nila.ThompsonV4V@gmail.com



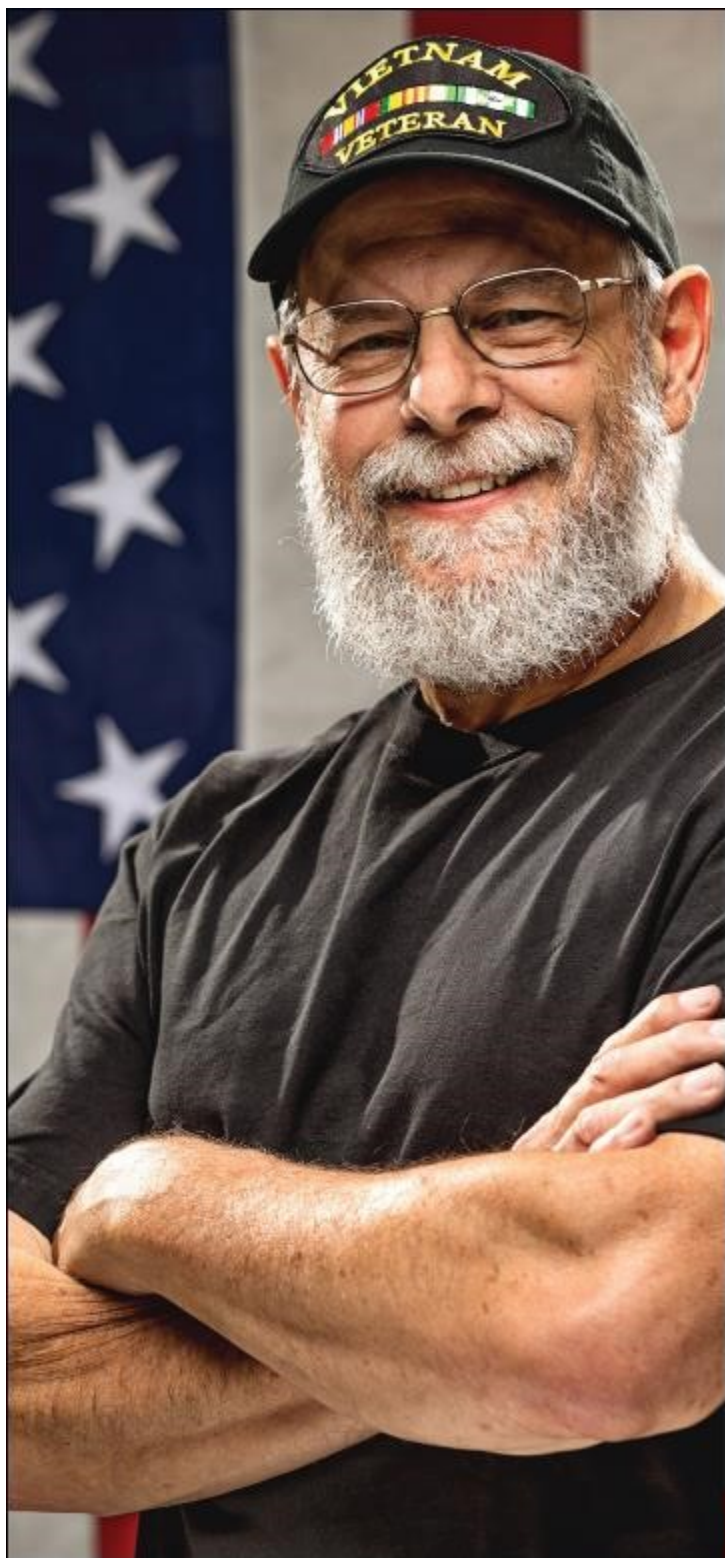
**36 Granada Street, St. Augustine FL 32084**

**(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.



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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.

- ★ Advance Care Planning
- ★ 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)





## 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 Facebook page.**



We are inviting all veterans to visit our website at:

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

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

Please join our group on Facebook at:

<http://veteranscouncilsjc.org>

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

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

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

*You may have noticed the Veterans Council's new logo, it was created by Roy Havekost and his web design company PageAuthors. The VC strongly recommends that you contact Roy, 727-487-6252, 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.



**SURVIVOR  
OUTREACH SERVICES**

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

**Contact Keith Ham**

Survivor Outreach Services Support Coordinator, HRCI Contractor  
310 Charlotte Street, St. Augustine, FL 32084  
Office: 904-823-0157 Cell: 904-472-7689  
Email: keith.e.ham.ctr@mail.mil

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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: rothfeldm@gmail.com



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

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

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

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

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

***The Veterans Council will meet at the 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  
Travis Neidig, 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.*