



# The Patriot Reader Newsletter

P.O. Box 2117

St. Augustine, FL 32085

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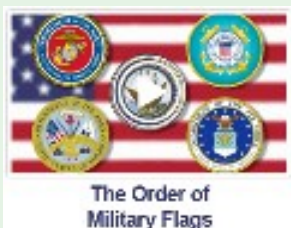
Volume 9, Issue 9

Message from the Chairman

September 2020

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Fellow Veterans:

I think we can all breathe easier now that the local elections are behind us. Congratulations to all the candidates who won their respective races and to all the candidates who were contenders. We are very fortunate in St. Johns County to have such a well-run election process under the capable leadership of Vicky Oakes and her team. Kudos to Vicky and her team of experts. They make it look so easy. Maybe a TDY assignment to Washington would be in order for Vicky for the upcoming Nov. election.

This year, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Veterans Council will be unable to host a live Veterans Day Program as in years past. However, we will still honor our veterans on Nov. 11 and pay our respects in a different way. The Veterans Council plans to produce a documentary honoring all our veterans with a focus on those who served in the Korean War. This year is the 70th year of the beginning of the engagement in

Korea in 1950. The documentary will highlight interviews with a number of veterans who served in Korea and are willing to tell their story. As we have done with past documentaries we have produced, we will release a link to U-Tube, have a CD for distribution and also plan to run it on local TV stations in Jacksonville on Veterans Day. Hopefully this will be the only year we will have to honor our veterans this way and next year we can do so by a live gathering as in years past.

Progress on our Community Based Outpatient Clinic is progressing well and has now taken on the shape of a building on the site. Driveways and parking lots are being laid out, curbing's have been poured, and all the piping to the building has been laid. The plan is still on track for occupancy by mid-summer next year. The Veterans Council is working with FDOT to conduct a traffic study on SR 207 at the intersection next to the CBOC for the purpose on placing a traffic light at the intersection.



Hopefully the traffic study will be done in a few weeks and will determine a need to place a traffic light at the busy intersection. We were very pleased this week to see our County Veterans Service Office reopen. Our Service Officers have been operating from home for the past several months and unable to see clients face to face. They are now able to keep face to face appointments with our veterans following the County's guidelines dealing with the Covid-19 virus. The Veterans Council will not have a live meeting in August but plans are to begin meeting again in Sept. if the virus tracking continues its current downward trajectory.

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

# Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home



Fresh Squeezed Lemonade Day



National Chicken Wing Day so we had a chicken sauce taste testing



Some special "visitors" to brighten the day!



Social Distance Voting



**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 **6:00pm**. 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 6:00pm**

**DATES OF 2020 SC at JNC MEETINGS, All on Mondays  
Oct 5th, Nov 2nd, Dec 7th**

**WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA 2020 - Saturday, December 19th.**

**+++++2020 Officers of the SCJNC+++++**

Chairman: Steve Spickelmier  
Vice Chairman: Bill Dudley, Treasurer: Pat Welch  
Secretary: Kathy Church, Judge Advocate: Don Guthrie  
Master-At-Arms: Mike Smith, Historian: Win Delpizzo  
Chaplain: Pat Archuleta, Public Affairs: Pat Mulvihill

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



*Fellow veterans, **the Veterans Council of St. Johns County August 27th meeting has been cancelled.***

*We were notified that the Elks Lodge 829 is closing until further notice due to an over abundance of caution because of COVID 19 concerns.*

*The Council will email everyone and post on the Council's Facebook page information when we will next meet and where.*

*Please stay safe.*

*Bill Dudley, Chairman, VC of SJC*

## From Moe Moyer, THE RIDE HOME

We hope this note finds YOU in Good Health as well as Great Spirit!

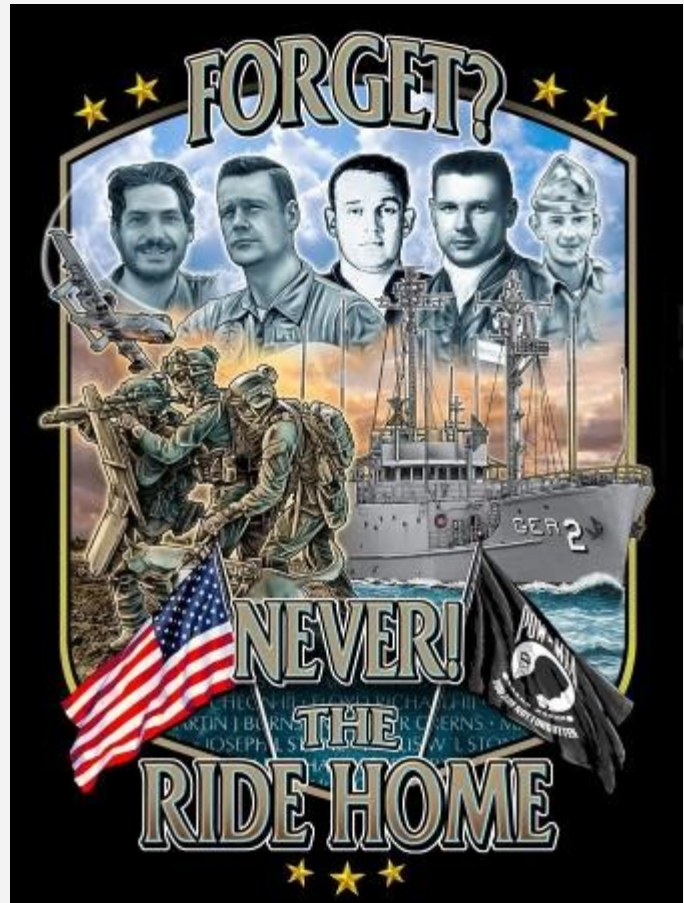
To say the past five (5) months have been a bit unusual might just be an understatement considering all that has transpired and all that has NOT transpired. We at HONOR-RELEASE-RETURN/The RIDE HOME were hoping for things to quiet down a bit but obviously that is just not happening. Andersonville is not even open to the public right now – just the National Cemetery and the Museum of Aviation, our primary Host for the RIDE HOME event is under a limited schedule. The Federal Guidelines and State Guidelines concerning the Covid 19 virus currently will NOT allow (legally) a gathering of 500 plus participants; combine that with the fact that Georgia is number 5 out of 50 states with the greatest increase in Covid Cases.

In light of these facts and much more a decision was made to Cancel the RIDE HOME 2020 for the safety of all concerned.

On a positive note; we will commence media and financial campaigns for THE RIDE HOME 2021 - 16, 17, 18 September 2021 - at the end of next month, (September, 2020). Our Goal for 2021 will be to provide the BEST National POW/MIA Recognition Day event in the Country. An event worthy of those we choose to Honor.

Current MIA/Unaccounted For: 81,880 (Not inclusive of 20,000 plus shipped into Russia)

Until they ALL come home.....



# DISCOVER FLORIDA'S FIRST LIGHTHOUSE




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ST. AUGUSTINE  
LIGHTHOUSE  
& MARITIME MUSEUM



ST. JOHNS COUNTY  
TOURIST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL  
Culture Around Every Corner | St. Augustine 9 Forts Years

## Local Marine gets historical marker in West Augustine

**Lt. Gen. Ronald Bailey honored was honored in his hometown, saying of America overcoming challenges, “There’s no question in my mind that we won’t get there.”**

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla — Not every legend gets a historical marker during their lifetime, but it was oh-so-fitting as retired Marine lieutenant general Ronald Bailey was honored at a ceremony Saturday afternoon in West Augustine.

“Well, I think it’s very important because a black young man growing up in West Augustine...” Bernice Harper of the Civil Rights Memorial Committee began. “Through the years people have labeled West Augustine as like a third world country.”

Harper said it had been a two-year process bringing the historic marker, bearing a picture and biographical information, to Collier Blocker Puryear Park.

“Hopefully it will encourage young people to follow in his footsteps,” she said.

Those footsteps include playing football at St. Augustine High School, receiving an undergraduate degree at Austin Peay State University in Tennessee, joining the Marines and becoming the national head of recruitment, and also becoming the first African-American to command the First Marine Division, the oldest and most decorated division in the entire Marine Corps.

On Saturday, Bailey spoke of placing service before self and urged his listeners, “Don’t let anyone define you. You define who you’re going to be and what you’re going to do.”

Bailey, who grew up in close proximity to Civil Rights protests in St. Augustine, compared and contrasted those times with present-day racial conflict in America.

“[The 1960s] was a traumatic time for our nation. I’m glad we passed through that,” Bailey said. “However, there are some lessons to be learned, that we need to go back and capture because I think it’s about behavior and attitude.”

The retired Marine, who made a 41-year career of defending country and Constitution, went on to speak of fundamental truths.

“It’s what you teach, it’s how you behave, and how you treat people - treat me the way you would like – like you treat other people,” he said. “And so that’s the fairness aspect of it, that’s the equality aspect of it. Try to be someone who understands and listens. Understand what’s being said and listen to what’s being said, so we can respond to it properly and not repeat it again.”

The only rights Bailey emphasized all day were a list of six “rights” he said led to his success. But they weren’t rights in terms of entitlement. He said:

Be the right person  
With the right people  
At the right places  
At the right times  
Making right decisions  
And doing the right thing.



“I learned that having a good mindset, you can get through anything in life,” 11-year-old Tymaya Williams of St. Augustine said after listening to Bailey speak.

Bailey also broke out in song, entertaining the crowd with the gospel hymn, “Jesus On The Mainline.”

“He also inspired me of getting through school and being what I want to be when I grow up,” Williams said.

In that spirit, Bailey said, “I hope this marker inspires some young person to reach for their goal.” And he hasn’t slowed down. Bailey has walked the talk of inspiring youth by going back to Austin Peay, where he is the university’s vice-president of external affairs.

But while he’s left his military career, Bailey hasn’t lost the insight that made him a successful leader in the Corps. Speaking of whether America has a bright future beyond the racial friction and pandemic challenges that have dominated headlines in recent months, he said, “There’s no question in my mind that we won’t get there.”

“I know America’s youth recognizes that when it’s their time they’ll do what’s need to be accomplished to be successful,” he said.

There again, Bailey was looking with confidence and favor on generations that have come after him. “With all of America moving forward, you just don’t see one group of people protesting or saying there’s something wrong,” he said. “You see all or a whole lot of people from different backgrounds saying ‘Hey, listen, we’ve got some issues we need to work through,’ and they are committed to it and determined to see things change.

<https://www.firstcoastnews.com/mobile/article/news/local/local-marine-gets-historical-marker-in-west-augustine/77-c74f6728-e47b-4ac2-9459-0165922a1ee6>

St. Augustine, FL, August 14, 2020

## The Spirit of 45 (Wreath Laying Ceremony)

The National Cemetery Administration mandated a wreath laying ceremony (The Spirit of 45) be held honoring the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II.

On Friday, August 14, 2020, at 2:00 p.m., a solemn and dignified ceremony was held in the Saint Augustine National Cemetery. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, attendance was extremely limited and no public announcement was issued.

In attendance were representatives from the National Cemetery Administration, St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners, the cities of St. Augustine and St. Augustine Beach the Veterans Council of St. Johns County and several local veteran organizations. Mr. Jim Steele from Bugles Across America rendered Taps.





# World War II on America's Coast

## Part Four: Saboteurs Among Us and The Problem with the Inlet

By Rick Cain

In a few short months the threat of Nazi submarines off the coast slowly diminished and the East Coast of Florida, as well as the rest of the country was slowly secured with two exceptions. On the coast of Long Island, New York, and more importantly, right here on Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, eight Nazi spies were dropped off, four in each location, to infiltrate the country's infrastructure and sabotage factories, railroads, and other vital facilities supplying the war effort. Each man was chosen for having lived in the United States prior, and had some knowledge of the country. The Florida invaders were dropped off by U-584 on the night of the June 16, 1942. They were given explosives, primers and other incendiaries, civilian clothes, maps, and other supplies to complete their mission. It was called "Operation Pastorius" named ironically after the leader of the first organized German settlement in America founded in 1683 which would later become known as Germantown, Pennsylvania.



Photos above: The saboteurs (above left) were all captured and tried for espionage and all but two (Dasch and Burger) were executed. The men were given explosives resembling coal and other devices to sabotage the American war effort (above right).

The two groups boarded trains for Chicago and Cincinnati after burying their supplies and German uniforms on the beach, with plans to rendezvous in Cincinnati on July 4th to begin a two-year campaign against the American homeland. But the plan was doomed to failure. The leader of the eight, George Dasch called his second in command, Ernst Burger, into his hotel room and informed him that he had no intention of carrying out the mission. He would instead turn himself into the FBI and hope for leniency; Burger agreed. None of the other six saboteurs knew of their plan.

Over the next two weeks the other six men were arrested based on the information given by Dasch and Burger, and all were tried in Washington D.C. and sentenced to death. President Roosevelt commuted Burger's sentence to life in prison, and Dasch's sentence to thirty years for assisting in the capture of the rest of the Nazi team. On August 8, 1942, the other six Nazi agents were executed in the electric chair in the District of Columbia Jail and buried in a potter's field in Washington's Blue Plains area.

Adolf Hitler was infuriated by the failure of the mission and only one other attempt was made to infiltrate the American homeland in Maine in 1944; it was also unsuccessful. Dasch and Burger were later granted clemency by President Truman and were deported back to the American occupied zone of Germany but they were only welcomed back as traitors. Burger died in 1975 and Dasch in 1990 having never received a pardon from the United States or Germany.

Concern not only about spies and submarines occupied the Coast Guard Command in St. Augustine; there was also a problem with the inlet. This map from the U.S. Engineering Office in Jacksonville from 1887 clearly shows an S-shaped inlet.

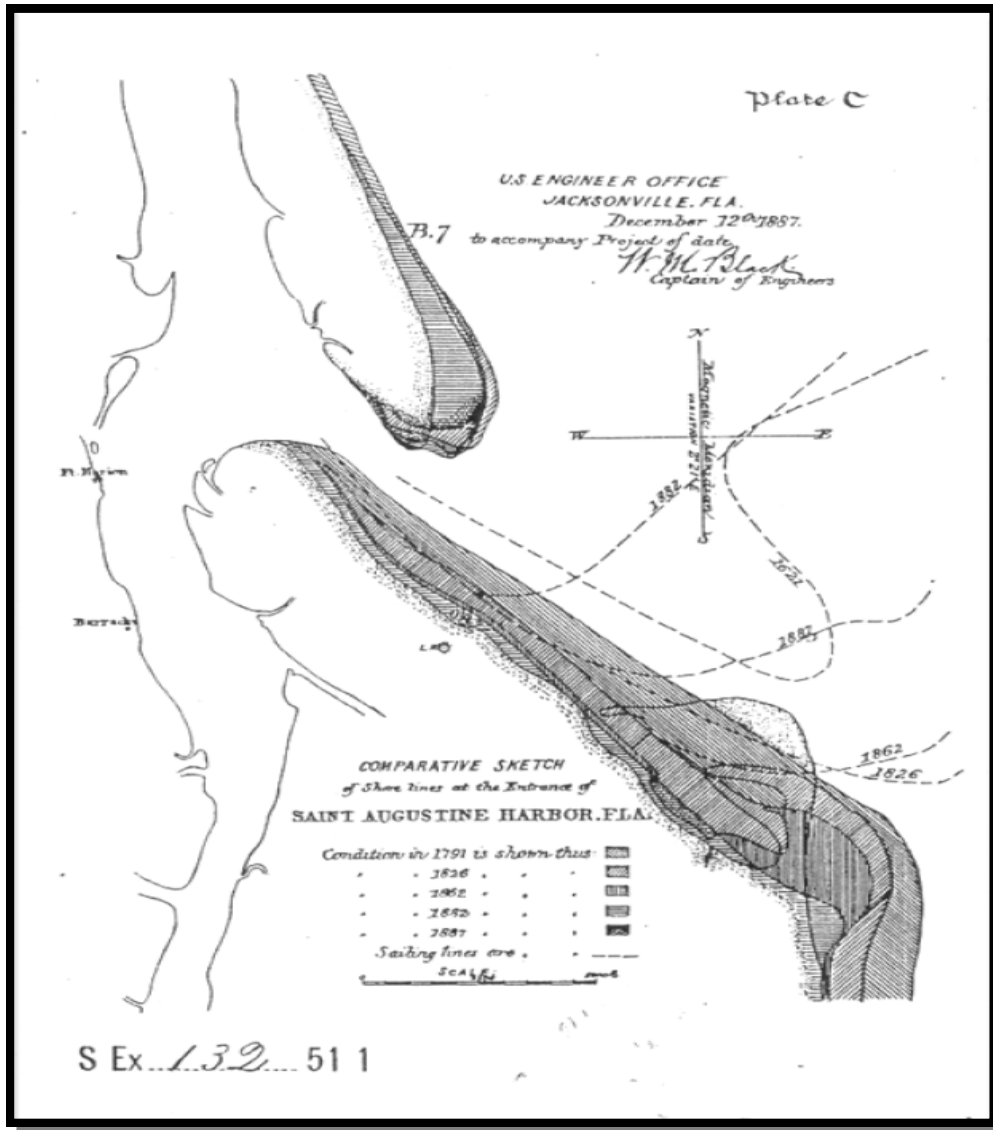


Photo above: A vessel leaving the port downtown (far left) has to proceed north into Matanzas Bay, make a turn to starboard (right) around the head of Anastasia Island, what is now Davis Shores, then proceed southeast down a narrow channel. After this, a turn to port (left) must be made to gain the open sea. As we learned from the attack on Pearl Harbor, ships under attack are more vulnerable when in port and must be able to come up to full steam and reach open water quickly. The old inlet would be a direct hinderance to this, leaving the port vulnerable. So, a plan was made to dredge a new channel, through the tip of the north peninsula, to provide straight access out of the bay to the sea.



Photo above and below: View from the tower circa 1930's looking due east at the small sandbar that was the original "Conch Island." The old inlet entrance was just to the left of Conch Island with the north peninsula visible in the bottom photo looking northeast from the Lighthouse tower over the narrow channel leading to the bay.



The plan was laid and Navy engineers, "Seabees," went to work dredging the new channel which left the remains of the north peninsula tip on the south side of the channel. Ships could now leave their docks or moorings, come up to full speed around the head of Anastasia Island and steam directly out to sea. This new channel that was created due to the outbreak of the war remains the current St. Augustine Inlet.



Photos left: U.S. Coast Guard base with the fleet occupying the same space as the current St. Augustine Marina



Photo left: Aerial photo of the new inlet showing the sharp edge of sand along the North dredge line now occupied by Vilano Beach. Some build-up of excess sand is already visible growing off the north side of the new channel formed by the same powerful currents that form St. Augustine's famous shifting sand bars known as the "Crazy Banks." These maritime hazards have historically been responsible for many ships running aground trying to enter St. Augustine's Matanzas Bay, and still wreak havoc with vessels trying to navigate the inlet in heavy seas.



Photo right: A frequent question from visitors to the St. Augustine Lighthouse is, "Why is the lighthouse so far away from the ocean?" Here the answer is made clear; when it was originally built, the Lighthouse was just a short distance off of the beach and built right on the main inlet. Though the inlet now is nearly two miles north of the tower, the Lighthouse (extreme left side of photo) is still the active navigation beacon in the Nation's Oldest Port City as a private aid to navigation for the United States Coast Guard.

Photo right: A frequent question from visitors to the St. Augustine Lighthouse is, "Why is the lighthouse so far away from the ocean?" Here the answer is made clear; when it was originally built, the Lighthouse was just a short distance off of the beach and built right on the main inlet. Though the inlet now is nearly two miles north of the tower, the Lighthouse (extreme left side of photo) is still the active navigation beacon in the Nation's Oldest Port City as a private aid to navigation for the United States Coast Guard.



**ST. AUGUSTINE  
LIGHTHOUSE  
& MARITIME MUSEUM**

Rick Cain has worked for the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum for 18 years after a 20-year career as a health care professional. He serves on the Board of Directors of the American Lighthouse Council and is Immediate Past Chair of the Florida Attractions Association. He also works closely with the United States Coast Guard to maintain their historic ties to the Lighthouse.



Florida veterans and military families have a new resource to receive the care they need thanks to a partnership dedicated to serving this most deserving population.

Centerstone and the Cohen Veterans Network have joined forces to offer compassionate, targeted behavioral health care for Post 9/11 veterans, National Guard, Reservists, their families and active duty family members at the Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at Centerstone, Jacksonville. <https://centerstone.org/cohen-military-family-clinic/jacksonville/>. The clinic’s skilled clinicians and staff have been trained to work specifically with veterans and their families, and some are veterans themselves. Services offered include individual therapy for children, adolescents and adults, couples therapy, family therapy, groups and workshops.

“Military families are some of the most resilient people you will ever encounter, but a life of service often gives way to invisible wounds and unique challenges that are difficult to navigate,” Elizabeth Sherr, clinic director said. “We understand those challenges and stand ready to support our veterans and their loved ones with effective, personalized care right now.”

The clinic’s ability to meet the needs of veterans and their families quickly is vital in today’s mental health environment where gaining access to care can often be daunting - with long wait times and all too common barriers to overcome. The Cohen Clinic at Centerstone is committed to reducing these barriers. Not only are military families currently able to receive same day appointments, the clinic also offers all therapy services via telehealth - breaking down time and distance concerns that can sometimes be problematic.

“We want to make getting help as easy as possible for our veterans and family members,” Brigadier General (ret.) Michael Fleming, the clinic’s outreach director said. “Sometimes just reaching out for help is difficult enough, and we want to ensure we meet this step with compassion and ease.”

For the time being, in an effort to ensure the safety of clients and team members amidst the COVID-19 physical distancing guidelines, that includes conducting all services via CVN Telehealth or telephone. Studies have shown telehealth has the same efficacy as in-person counseling and the clinic’s therapists are well trained in the delivery of this care. Additionally, front desk staff still have complete access to answer the appointment line during business hours, as before, and veterans, military families and outside organizations can continue to call directly for an appointment.

Veterans, National Guard, Reservists, their families and active duty family members may contact the clinic at (904) 431-3500 to schedule appointments. Clinic hours are:

Monday	8:00am – 5:00pm
Tuesday	8:00am – 5:00pm
Wednesday	8:00am – 7:00pm
Thursday	8:00am – 5:00pm
Friday	8:00am - 12:00pm

For more information on clinic services log on to <https://centerstone.org/cohen-military-family-clinic/jacksonville/> or call the appointment line at (904) 431-3500.

To Chairman Bill Dudley

Hello Bill

Just a follow up on me and Cross Country Cycle 4 Vets

I had my brain tumor removed on 5.20.20 at Loyola Medical Center in Maywood, IL, my neurosurgeon was able to remove the whole tumor and it was a grade I which was a non-cancerous. I am on the road to recovery and doing well. So my next ride of 2547 miles will be tumor-free, however, will still be with epilepsy and asthma.



My book is out there and many photos and thank you's are in the book for you all in FL. It is sold on Barnes & Noble and Amazon.

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/10-mph-tracy-r-sefcik/1136265307>

<https://www.amazon.com/10-MPH-Coast-Tracy-Sefcik/dp/1697816045>

For Cross Country Cycle 4 Vets, yes I am doing another ride for injured veterans supporting a foundation called "Oscar Mike" started by Noah which is a paralyzed Marine himself, and his foundation helps gets our men and women back on the move through adaptive sports programs. I have been able to raise \$17,755 and my goal is \$50k. It would be great if you could put something on your page and newsletter.

<https://www.crosscountrycycle4vets.com>

Take care, Tracy

(Navy League St Augustine - Palm Coast)

Tracy R Sefcik

Cross Country Cycle 4 Vets Finish in St Augustine

Cross Country Cycle 4 Vets





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Alton Green Memorial American Legion Post 194

Veterans Centennial Park

**BUY A BRICK**

Lend a Hand & Leave a Legacy

A promotional graphic for the 'Buy a Brick' campaign. The background is a red brick wall. In the center, there is a map of the park area with several circular callouts showing different sections. A hand in a black suit sleeve is holding a brick that says 'YOUR NAME HERE'. In the bottom right corner, there is a small American Legion logo and a yellow sign that says 'Kids SAFE ZONE'.

## Army Veteran begins PTSD awareness walk

By David Treffinger, E-Recon Editor

Retired Army Sergeant First Class Steve Meyers of Lees Summit, Missouri embarked on a 1,008-mile journey August 15 to walk from the Kentucky-Tennessee border to Jacksonville Beach all to bring more awareness to PTSD.



“My mission is to help people suffering with Post-Traumatic Stress,” Meyers said in an email prior to the walk, his second this year.

From February 15 to March 17, Meyers’ first PTSD Walk took him from Missouri to Kentucky only to have the walk suspended because of COVID-19. Following completion of his current walk through Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia and Northeast Florida, Meyers has planned a coast-to-coast walk beginning on New Year’s Day.

Retired Marine, Carl Curtis, an AVVA member from Chapter 862 in Western Pennsylvania, will accompany Meyers on the PTSD Walk. They will be averaging 22 miles a day, walking through Nashville, Huntsville, Atlanta, Macon, and Savannah on their way to Jacksonville Beach. They will be talking to people about PTSD and suicide prevention along the way, according to the website [ptsd-walk.com](http://ptsd-walk.com).

Meyers, who retired from the Army after 22 years in 2016, and Curtis are expected to arrive in Jacksonville Beach around noon on September 28.

“To me, the PTSD Walk is about giving people hope and validating the feelings they had, but were afraid to tell people about,” Meyers said in an email. “I have talked with lots of people who have lost hope and suffer in silence with past trauma



mas. When I tell them of my struggles, they nod and say that's right. If it was them, I can see them mentally withdraw and check to see if what I said aligns with their own memories. After it passes their BS filter, they usually share some of their struggles. If they are talking with me because of a loved one, I see them mentally connect the dots of the past. I helped to fill in the gaps of information their loved one left. Helping others feels good.”

It was in 2007 when Meyers first knew he had PTSD as documented from his profile on the website. He said he was sitting on a sofa in Tampa, Florida roughly about a week after his last Iraq deployment.

“My then fiancé Jessica and I were watching a very graphic horror movie from the SAW series. My vision filled with white and somehow, I was back in the driver’s seat of a “Humvee” in Zafaraniyeh Baghdad. Driving as fast as I could to FOB Rustamiyah after a roadside bomb attack. I drove while Eric’s eyes faded from blue to lifeless gray on the hood of my truck. Rami’s dead body lay behind me in the back seat, his face had been blown off. The radios looked fine but were useless after the blast. The smells, tastes, fear, and rage were all there. During this flashback, my whole body was convulsing like I had epilepsy. I made sounds that were not words. Jessica initially thought I was messing around, until she saw my eyes. She was scared. I was somewhere else for a period of time, and then I was back with her again. We talked about what happened and there was no doubt in our minds war changed me.”

Meyers, the eldest of five children from four men, was raised by a single mom in the low-income neighborhoods of Southern California. He went through his childhood with a chip on his shoulder and struggled with the more refined elements of society. His family moved several times during his childhood, and he attended four different high schools in order to get his diploma from Poway High in 1994. Poway is located north of San Diego.

At age 18, in 1994 he joined the California Army National Guard. In 1996, at age 20, he transferred to the United States Army. When asked why he joined the Army, Meyers, according to his profile online, tells people he joined so he could have a place to live. His family endured several crushing defeats in the early 1990's that culminated in 1995 with the matriarch of the family dying of bacterial meningitis. Meyers was living with her when she died.

He retired from the United States Army in 2016 as an SFC/E-7 after serving 22 years. He deployed seven times to Imminent Danger Pay Areas (Bosnia 1996-1997, Turkey 2003, Qatar 2005, Iraq 2005, 2006-2007, Egypt 2011-12, Afghanistan 2013). During his first deployment in 1996 he contracted tuberculosis in Bosnia-Herzegovina and had to be treated twice to make sure it was gone.

However, events from the 2006-2007 Iraq deployment deeply troubled him. Back then, it was common knowledge that if you sought mental health treatment, your security clearance would be in jeopardy. So, soldiers like Meyers suffered in silence since he held a top-secret clearance from 1999-2016.

Then in December 2007, his fiancé Jessica was diagnosed with stage IV colon cancer.

In 2008, the U.S. Army changed the security clearance policy, allowing soldiers with mental health issues to receive care without losing their job. Meyers used the opportunity and sought help on 26 March 2008. His trust was betrayed, and he refused to seek help again, according to his online profile.

Meyers had a rough 2009. He lost a half-dozen family members, to include his wife Jessica Meyers, who died of colon cancer in July. In late October 2009 he suffered a broken back when a tent fell on him during a field training exercise. His back never fully healed and he deals with chronic pain. In December 2009 he had suicidal thoughts and he gave away many of his possessions. He declined con

sideration for promotion from 2009-2016.

Meyers managed to get help for his mental health for the first time in January 2015 at a Veteran's Center at the urging of his girlfriend Vicki. If he had received help when he first sought it, his PTSD would likely be a shadow of the past by now, Meyers noted in his profile.

Some facts about the walk:

How long does it take him to walk 22 miles?

Between seven and eight hours walking at a three-mph pace. He prefers to walk 10 or less miles before a break as longer distances put more of a drain on his body which takes away from his ability to talk with people during breaks.

How does he have so much energy?

He needs to eat a lot, roughly three times the average adult in order to maintain his fitness goals. Some days he uses 8,000-plus calories.

Is he sleeping in a tent?

No. Meyers does not want to present the appearance of a homeless Veteran.

Does he get bored walking for so many hours?

No. If he is not talking with someone he likes to listen to audiobooks, YouTube videos, or music. He also has hit best short story ideas on his walks, so he does not get bored.

You can follow his journey on the website <https://ptsd-walk.com/>



ST. AUGUSTINE  
LIGHTHOUSE  
& MARITIME MUSEUM

**Here is a link to a short video from the St. Augustine Lighthouse and Maritime Museum, Introducing: “ Guardians of the First Coast: Building Readiness for World War 2”**

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xkWuvDBcGns>**

*The Press Release for this very important interesting event follows on the next few pages.*



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Media Contact: Gayle Ballard, 904-829-0745 ext. 208,  
gballard@staugustinelighthouse.org**

**ST. AUGUSTINE, FL – The St. Augustine  
Lighthouse & Maritime Museum proudly**



**announces the opening of a new exhibit, “Guardians of the First Coast: Building Readiness for World War II,” on August 1, 2020. This exhibition, housed in the Museum’s 1941 Coastal Lookout Building, honors the brave men and women who defended our coast as World War II began.**

**The exhibit showcases firsthand stories, letters, photographs and videos collected from those who served in World War II. While local men and women served around the world, the war also came to local shores. The Hotel Ponce de Leon closed to guests and reopened as the United States Coast Guard (USCG) Training Center, preparing men and women for service around the world. In addition, beginning in Winter 1942, German U-boats patrolled off the coast of Florida attacking the shipping lanes that provided the Allies with supplies. Florida citizens including local shrimpers formed boat patrols to report any U-boat sightings in the local waters.**

**Additional WWII history continues in the restored 1936 garage used by the USCG Beach Patrol. These armed men vigilantly patrolled in Jeeps to guard miles of coastline against enemy landings. Today the garage features not only the Tin Pickle, a gedunk (snack bar) featuring unique WWII-inspired snacks, but also additional artifacts and stories about wartime St. Augustine.**

**“These precious artifacts are treasures that tell a story of dedication**

and sacrifice,” said CAPT Bob Buehn, US Navy Retired, and Chairperson of the Museum Board of Trustees. He continued, “We are proud to bring this story to the public, and we want to thank the donors who made the exhibit possible. Special thanks are due to the Questers of Ponte Vedra Beach and to the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Historical Resources. We also thank the St. Johns County Veterans Council for sharing stories of service and bravery.”

“We have some powerful stories that brings to life the cultural diversity and unique perspectives reflected in local first-hand experiences,” said Kathy Fleming, the Museum Executive Director. The exhibit is offered at no additional charge when paying regular admission. The Museum offers discounts to schools, seniors, and veterans, and admission is always free to active military and first responders. St. Johns County residents pay once and come all year long. “We invite everyone to visit and learn about our local WWII history; it is truly eye-opening,” said Fleming.

“Every admission or donation helps our non-profit save more of these veterans’ stories,” added Buehn. “We honor those who served, and there is more to come.”

To donate to this project and help save veterans’ stories please contact Gayle Ballard at: [gballard@staugustinelighthouse.org](mailto:gballard@staugustinelighthouse.org) or call 904/829-0745 ext. 208.

For more details about the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum, visit [www.staugustinelighthouse.org](http://www.staugustinelighthouse.org) or call 904/829-0745.

Stay updated on social media at [facebook.com/staugustinelighthouse](https://facebook.com/staugustinelighthouse),

[Instagram.com/stauglighthouse](https://www.instagram.com/stauglighthouse), and [twitter.com/firstlighthouse](https://twitter.com/firstlighthouse).

Use the hashtag, #LoveYourLighthouse.

###

#### **ABOUT THE ST. AUGUSTINE LIGHTHOUSE & MARITIME MUSEUM:**

A pivotal navigation tool and unique landmark of St. Augustine for 145 years, the St. Augustine Light Station is host to centuries of history in the Nation's Oldest Port®. Through interactive exhibits, guided tours and maritime research, the 501(c)(3) nonprofit St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum is on a mission to discover, preserve, present and keep alive the stories of the Nation's Oldest Port® as symbolized by our working lighthouse. We are the parent organization to the Lighthouse Archaeological Maritime Program (LAMP) and an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution. ([StAugustineLighthouse.org](http://StAugustineLighthouse.org))

#### **ABOUT THE AMERICAN ALLIANCE OF MUSEUMS:**

The St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums (AAM), the highest national recognition afforded the nation's museums. The American Alliance of Museums has been bringing museums together since 1906, helping to develop standards and best practices, gathering and sharing knowledge, and providing advocacy on issues of concern to the entire museum community. As the ultimate mark of distinction in the museum field, accreditation signifies excellence and credibility. Accreditation helps to ensure the integrity and accessibility of museum collections, and reinforces the education and public service roles of museums and promote good governance practices and ethical behavior. Representing more than 35,000 individual museum professionals and volunteers, institutions, and corporate partners serving the museum field, the Alliance stands for the broad scope of the museum community. ([www.aam-us.org](http://www.aam-us.org)).

## BYU Students Helping to Identify the Remains of MIAs from WWII to the Present

It is gratifying to know that our government takes the military code of leaving no man behind very seriously. The Defense Department POW/MIA Accounting Office has been conducting this effort for many decades now and they are becoming more successful with each passing year.

This agency has various teams with varying skill sets that research and use all manner of information in their constant search to find and identify the remains of our military whose names still appear on the Missing in Action lists from WWII to the present. You will see how those teams work together to find and to identify our MIAs.

The advances in DNA science and in archeology, for example have improved the agencies ability to succeed in these difficult efforts to account for each and every one of our MIAs and to reunite them with their families.

But this video is also about how the students at one American university are also helping in this effort to identify MIAs. They are students at Brigham Young University

The students are learning how to use the vast store of genealogical information that is available in their library to help the researchers at the POW/MIA Accounting Agency to reunite these MIAs with their families. They are able to find living members of those who went Missing in Action as far back as WWII, which can be difficult because the immediate nuclear family members might be deceased as well by this time.

This program for students at BYU is wonderful for the families of the MIAs, but it is also wonderful for the students who are participating in it. It is an opportunity to both learn an important skill and serve a higher cause.

The Veterans Site respects and honors what the Defense Department's POW/MIA Accounting Agency is doing to honor both those listed as MIA and their families. We also send our thanks to BYU and to the BYU students who have chosen to be a part of this important effort. May they become even more successful in their efforts in the coming years.







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**I just came across an article about POW bracelets and immediately thought of our friend  
Capt. Giles Norrington, ex POW, American Hero. Please read until the end.**

From the POW Network

NORRINGTON, GILES RODERICK

Name: Giles Roderick Norrington

Rank/Branch: O3/United States Navy, pilot

Unit: RVAH 1

Date of Birth: 27 Sept 35

Home City of Record: Springfield OH

Date of Loss: 05 May 1968

Country of Loss: North Vietnam

Loss Coordinates: 181800 N 1053800 E

Status (in 1973): Returnee

Category:

Aircraft/Vehicle/Ground: RA5C

Missions: 22

Other Personnel in Incident: Richard Tangeman, Returnee

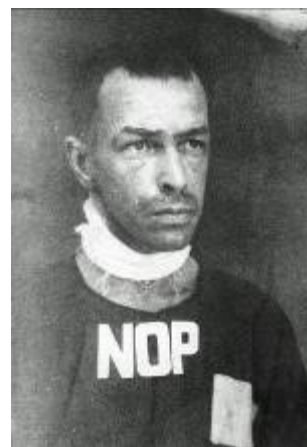
Source: Compiled by P.O.W. NETWORK April 1997 from one or more of the following: raw data from U.S. Government agency sources, correspondence with POW/MIA families, published sources, interviews. Update in 2001 with information from Capt. Norrington.

SOURCE: WE CAME HOME copyright 1977

Captain and Mrs. Frederic A Wyatt (USNR Ret), Barbara Powers Wyatt, Editor

P.O.W. Publications, 10250 Moorpark St., Toluca Lake, CA 91602

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(continued next page)

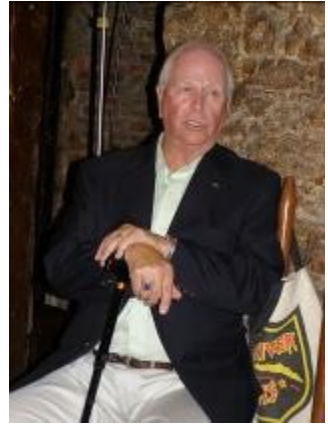
GILES R. NORRINGTON

Lieutenant Commander- United States Navy

Shot Down: May 5, 1968

Released: March 14, 1973

**An open letter to my fellow Americans:**



For almost five years I dreamed of looking at a horizon. I prayed for the day when we would all feel a fresh wind on our faces and feel the indescribable sensation of freedom. I have read a great deal of material written by people who asked, "Why Vietnam?" I would ask in return, "Why Lexington? Why Concord?

Why Okinawa?" Since its birth as a nation our United States has realized its international responsibility, and we have demonstrated time and time again that we are a nation of people who care. We care about the filth in which millions live; we care about the lack of medical care from which so many suffer; we care about children whose life expectancy is measured in months

rather than years; and we care about spiritual and political freedom . . . that's why Vietnam! All of us who have served in this conflict are grateful for having had the chance to do so. And those of us who were prisoners of war are the fortunate ones. We came home. It remains for us to continue our work.

We must have an accurate accounting of our missing brothers-in-arms. We must not forget Vietnam, or Laos, or Cambodia, or anywhere men fight for the right to govern themselves in Freedom.

My personal experiences in Vietnam are typical. I gained strength through my God and my fellow prisoners of war. They are giants among men, and I am privileged to have served with them. I have seen that beautiful horizon and now look forward to a full, happy life as a citizen of a free and responsible nation.

God Bless America . . . and preserve us as a Nation.-----

Giles Norrington retired from the United States Navy as a Captain. He and his wife Eileen reside in Merritt Island, FL



## CANADA, HISTORY, SPOTLIGHT

On This Day in 1945, Japan Released Me from a POW Camp. Then US Pilots Saved My Life

written by George MacDonell



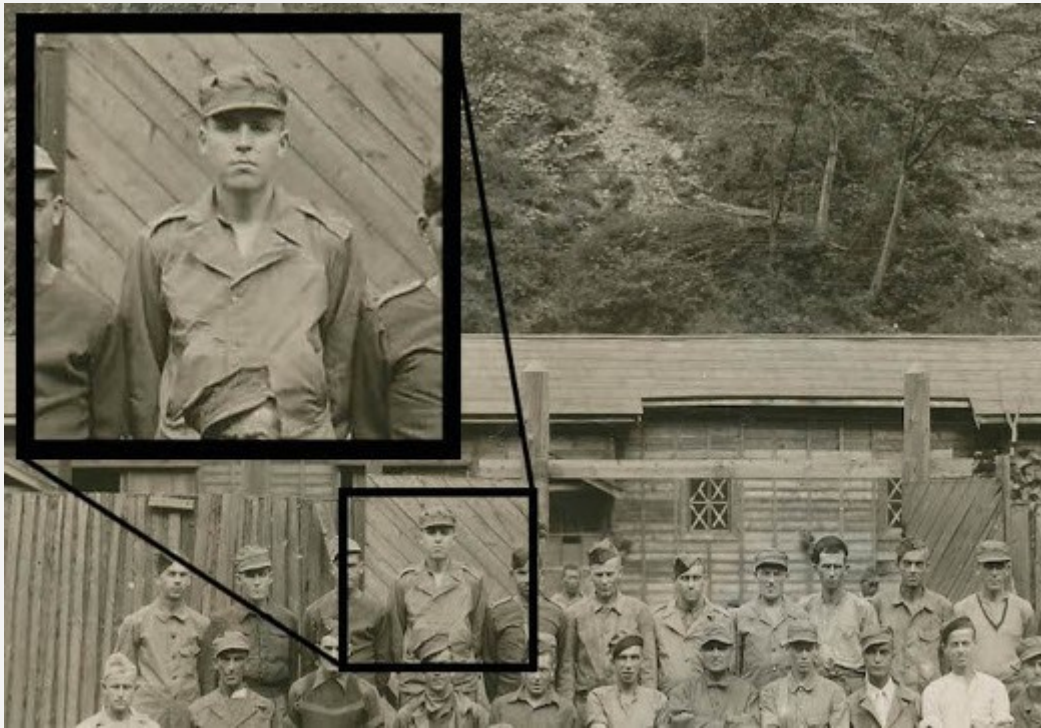
*It was noon on August 15th, 1945. The Japanese Emperor had just announced to his people that his country had surrendered unconditionally to the Allied Powers.*

*To those of us being held at Ohashi Prison Camp in the mountains of northern Japan, where we'd been prisoners of war performing forced labour at a local iron mine, this meant freedom. But freedom didn't necessarily equate to safety. The camp's 395 POWs, about half of them Canadians, were still under the effective control of Japanese troops. And so we began negotiating with them about what would happen next.*

*Complicating the negotiations was the Japanese military code of Bushido, which required an officer to die fighting or commit suicide (seppuku) rather than accept defeat. We also knew that the camp commander—First Lieutenant Yoshida Zenkichi—had written orders to kill his prisoners “by any means at his disposal” if their rescue seemed imminent. We also knew that we could all easily be deposited in a local mine shaft and then buried under thousands of tons of rock for all eternity without a trace.*

*We had no way of notifying Allied military commanders (who still hadn't landed in Japan) as to the location of the camp (about a hundred miles north of Sendai, in a mountainous area near Honshu's eastern coast), whose existence was then unknown. Because of the devastating American bombing, Japan's cities had been reduced to rubble, its institutions were in chaos, and millions of Japanese were themselves*

*close to starvation, much like us. The camp itself had food supplies, such as they were, for just three days. Lieut. Zenkichi seemed angry, and felt humiliated by the surrender. Yet he appeared willing to negotiate our status. And after some stressful hours, we reached an agreement: The Japanese guards would be dismissed from the camp, while a detachment of Kenpeitai (the much feared Military Police) would provide security for Zenkichi, who would confine himself to his office.*



*The author, who appears in the featured image, fourth from left in the top row*

*To our delight, the local Japanese farmers were friendly, and agreed to give us food in exchange for some of the items we'd managed to loot from the camp's remaining inventory—though, unfortunately, not enough to feed the camp. Meanwhile, through a secret radio we'd been operating, we learned that the Americans were going to conduct an aerial grid search of Japan's islands for prison camps. We followed the broadcasted instructions and immediately painted "P.O.W." in eight-foot-high white letters on the roof of the biggest hut.*

*Two days later, with all of our food gone, we heard a murmur from the direction of the ocean. The sound turned into the throb of a single-engine airplane flying at about 3,000 feet altitude. Then, suddenly he was above us—a little blue fighter with the white stars of the US Navy painted on its wings and fuselage. But the engine noise began to fade as he went right past us. Please, God, I thought—let him see our camp.*

*Then the engine sound grew stronger, and changed its pitch as we heard the roar of a dive. The pilot had wrapped around a nearby mountain and came straight down the centre of the valley, his engine now bel-  
lowing wide open. From just over treetop altitude, he flew over the centre of the camp. We all went wild:  
Our prayers had been answered.*



1945 American aerial photo of Ohashi prison camp

Then he climbed to about 7,000 feet while circling above us—we assumed he was radioing our location to base—before making another pass over the camp, as slowly as he dared, this time with his canopy back. He threw out a silver tin box on a long streamer that landed in the centre of the camp. Inside, we found strips of fluorescent cloth and a hand-written note: “Lieutenant Claude Newton (Junior Grade), USS Carrier John Hancock. Reported loca-  
tion.”

The instructions for the cloth strips were as follows: “If you want Medicine, put out M. If you want Food, put out F. If you want Support, put out S.” We put out “F” and “M.” Once more, Lieut. Newton flew over the camp, this time to read the letters we’d written on the ground. Wagging his wings, he headed straight out to sea to his floating home, the John Hancock.

Seven hours later, two dozen airplanes approached the camp from the sea. They were painted with the same US Navy colours, but these were much larger planes—Grumman Avenger torpedo bombers with a crew of two. Each made two parachute cargo drops in the center of

camp, leaving us with a ton or more of food and medicine. The boxes contained everything from powdered eggs to tins of pork and beans. There was also something called “Penicillin” that, I later learned, doctors had begun prescribing to infected patients in 1942. (Our camp doctor had understandably never heard of it.) That night, we had a feast and a party. Despite the doctor’s warnings not to overdo it, we did. The sudden calorie intake nearly killed us.



August 28, 1945 photo in the collection of Peter Somerville, son of a naval aviator operating on the USS Hancock

But it was one thing for the Americans to drop supplies, and another thing to get to us. The days passed, until one sunny morning we had another aerial visitor from the east. He circled the camp and dropped a note: “Goodbye from Hancock and good luck. Big Friends Come Tomorrow.”

The “friends” arrived at about 10am the next day, and they were indeed big: four-engine B-29 Superfortresses. Like the Penicillin, this was something new: These planes hadn’t entered service till 1944, and none of us had seen one.

Their giant bomb-bay doors opened and out came wooden platforms, each loaded with parachute-equipped 60-gallon drums. These were packed with tinned rations and other sup-

plies, including new uniforms and footwear. None of this was lost on nearby Japanese villagers, who saw us POWs going from starvation to a state of plenty. Since our newfound wealth was scattered all over hell's half acre, we asked these locals to bring us any drums they might find, which they did, in return for the nylon chutes (which local seamstresses and homemakers would put to good use) and a share of the food. That night, we had another party, except at this one, everyone was dressed in a new American uniform of his choice: Navy, Army, or Marine.

The next day brought another three lumbering aerial giants—from the Marianas Islands, it turned out. Again, the local Japanese residents helped us, amid much bowing, collect the aerial bounty. By now, the camp was beginning to look like an oil refinery, with unopened 60-gallon oil drums stacked everywhere.

When the daily ritual was repeated the day after that, some of the parachute lines snapped in the high winds, and the oil drums fell like giant rocks. Several hit the camp, went through the roofs of huts, hit the concrete floors and exploded. One was packed with canned peaches, and I don't have to describe what the hut looked like. There were several very near-misses on our men, Japanese personnel and houses in the nearby village. When the next drop generated a similar result, I looked up to see that I was right under a cloud of falling 60-gallon oil drums. It was a terrifying moment. And I imagined the bizarre idea of surviving the enemy, surviving imprisonment, and then dying thanks to the kindness of well-meaning American pilots.



Excerpts from a surviving biographical monograph on former camp commander Masake Naganuma



We now had tons of food and supplies—enough for months, and more was arriving. The camp had begun to look as if it had been shelled by artillery. So we painted two words on the roof: NO MORE! The next day, the big friends came from the Marianas and, as we watched from the safety of a nearby tunnel, they circled the camp and, without opening their bay doors, flew back out to sea, firing off red rockets to show they'd received the message.

It was a surreal scene. But it didn't distract us from the fact that the generous and timely American response saved many of our lives. In the days that followed the drum showers, we settled down to caring for our sick and to some serious eating. Thanks to the US supplies, we began to gain a pound a day. The American generosity was especially notable given that few of the prisoners at Ohashi were American. Almost all were Canadian, Dutch, or British.

At about this time, I decided to go back to the nearby mine where we'd worked as prisoner labourers. I wanted to say goodbye to the foreman of the machine shop, a grandfatherly man who'd called me hanchō (squad leader), and had been as kind to me as the brutal rules of the country's military dictatorship permitted. It was both joyous and sad. We were happy that the war was over, yet sad at the knowledge that this would be our last meeting. I promised him that I would take his earnest advice and return to school as soon as I got home. "Hanchō, you go Canada now," he said.



Photo of mine workshop at Ohashi prison camp, where many POWs worked

I later learned that about three million Japanese soldiers and civilians lost their lives in the war. Millions more were left wounded. The country had been hit with two atomic bombs. Whole cities had been gutted by fire. At every level, the war had been an unmitigated disaster for Japan. Its people had become cannon fodder in a cruel and pointless project to conquer East Asia.

My fellow ex-POWs and I visited the camp graveyard, and said one last goodbye to our comrades who'd found their last resting place so far from home. It was an unjust reward for such brave young men. And it was then that tears I couldn't control welled up in my eyes and streamed down my cheeks.



Interpreter Hiroe Iwashita, remembered fondly by many prisoners

These were veterans of the long Pacific campaign. They'd survived many terrible encounters with the Japanese in their westward campaign across the Pacific, and they looked the part. After our captain saluted the colonel, they embraced, and the colonel told us how he planned to evacuate us, giving specific orders as to how it was all to be accomplished.

After he issued his orders, the Colonel asked, "Are there any questions?" Our captain said, "Yes, I have one. Sir. What in the hell took you so long to get here?" That at least brought a smile to those tough, weather-beaten Marine faces.

Following the Colonel's instructions, we mounted up, said sayonara to Ohashi and, after almost four years of imprisonment, began the glorious journey home to our various loved ones. I was in the last vehicle that left the camp that day. And as we departed, I observed a compound that was now completely empty—save for one forlorn figure, who'd emerged from his office and now stood at the center of a camp that once held 400 men. It was Lieutenant Zenkichi.

George MacDonell was born in Edmonton, Alberta in 1922. He served in the Royal Rifles of Canada, which deployed to Hong Kong in 1941 as part of C-Force, shortly before Hong Kong's capture by the Japanese army

Vietnam War - US Army and USMC individual weapons



## History's highlight: The Dade Monument

Reprinted from the St. Augustine Report, From Dr. Bronson's  
St. Augustine History

In 1821, the old fort barracks was set aside for a post cemetery. According to historical records, the first interment took place in 1828. Most early burials were soldiers who died during the “Indian War,” either in battle or due to sickness and disease—not uncommon in Florida’s subtropical climate. The native Seminoles resisted the U.S. government’s attempts to forcibly remove them from their territory and seven years of fighting ensued.

On Dec. 23, 1835, Maj. Francis L. Dade and his company were ordered to reinforce Gen. Wiley Thompson’s troops stationed at Fort King, Ocala. During the trek from Tampa to Fort King, Dade became lost and announced to his men that they had successfully passed through Seminole-controlled territory. As a result, he failed to take appropriate precautions. The heavy winter garments of the soldiers covered their weapons, so that when the Seminoles staged an attack, Dade's troops were virtually wiped out—only one soldier purportedly survived. A few months later, when travel in the area was again possible, the massacred soldiers were buried at the site.

In 1842 when hostilities ceased, the Army proposed to transfer the remains of all who died in the territory, including those who fell with Dade, to a single burial ground. Re-interment took place at the St. Augustine Post Cemetery. In addition to Dade's command, more than 1,400 soldiers were interred in three collective graves. Three distinctive pyramids constructed of native coquina stone were erected in their memory, as well as several nearby plain white markers to designate the graves of Seminole Indian scouts.

The Dade Monument is composed of three distinct pyramids constructed of native coquina stone. The pyramids were erected in 1842 and were orig-

inally covered with white stucco. The memorials were dedicated at a ceremony on Aug. 14, 1842, that marked the end of the Florida Indian Wars. The pyramids cover vaults that contain the remains of 1,468 soldiers who died during the Florida Indian Wars, from 1835 to 1842.

### Inscription on the Monument

**North side. Sacred to the Memory of the Officers and Soldiers Killed in Battle and died on Service during the Florida War.**

**South side. A minute record of the officers who perished and are here or elsewhere deposited, as also a portion of the soldiers, has been prepared and placed in the office of the adjutant of the post, where it is hoped it will be carefully and perpetually preserved.**

**East side. This monument has been erected in token of respectful and affectionate remembrance by their comrades of all grades and is committed to the care and preservation of the garrison of St. Augustine.**

**West side. This conflict in which so many gallant men perished in battle and by disease, commenced on the 25th of December, 1835, and terminated on the 14th of August, 1842.**



## Effort continues for homeless vets facility

“Under current Covid conditions, there has been some diminishment of effort,” says Veterans Council Chair Bill Dudley, “but we’re still pursuing the repurposing of the temporary facility once the VA vacates.”

Dudley is working with county officials and the current property owners of the temporary clinic location on Southpark Blvd. and of its modular units on terms of lease or purchase of the temporary facility.

The Veterans Council began working earlier this year with the County, State, and Veterans Administration to convert those modular units of the temporary clinic into a Homeless Veterans facility.

“This would satisfy a long sought-after solution to the veteran homeless problem we have pursued for several years,” Dudley noted at the time. “St. Johns County has no suitable facilities for our homeless veterans and must relocate them to either Duval or Volusia Counties.”



## Vietnam Veterans of America

If you are a Vietnam Era Veteran and live in one of these counties, please contact the President for information as to how to join



### Chapter/President/email/Location

1046	Tony D'Aleo	adaleo5579@gmail.com; Duval
1048	Rod Phillips	cobra101st@gmail.com; Daytona
1059	David Treffinger	dtreffinger433@msn.com; Clay
1084	John Leslie	john_leslie15@yahoo.com; St. Johns
1088	Roy (Corky) Rudd	corkstopper50@yahoo.com; Nassau
1092	Forest Hope	foresthope@usa.net; Gainesville
1134	Marvin Lagle	mdlagle@gmail.com; Baker

## Osceola capture site considered for National Register



The site of Seminole War Chief Osceola's capture in 1837 is among places St. Johns County government officials have approved for potential nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

The site off Deer Chase Drive was featured in the St. Augustine Report in 2017.

Only a foliage shrouded coquina post remains today of a marker which once carried the notice, "OSCEOLA captured on this spot while under the protection of a flag of truce, Oct. 26th, 1837."

Kyle Doney, Deputy Executive Director of the Seminole tribe's Native Learning Center in Hollywood, noted in a letter to County Commissioner Paul Waldron in 2017, "The site is not well kept and there is no marker, but it has incredible significance to our people and the history of Florida."





## Mid Florida's 2020 Whole Health Summit is GOING VIRTUAL

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Provide your Name, Email Address, Phone Number and License Number

CE's available for LCSW, LMFT, LMHC, RN, ARNP, and LPN

COVID Survival Tools - 9/3/2020- 10am-12pm

No CE's



Joseph Parra, MD-Chief Medical Officer, North Florida Regional Medical Center

VA Ocala/Villages Clinic Leadership

Jessica S. W. McCune, RN, LMHC- Community Awareness Manager,  
Hospice of Marion County

Marion County Community Providers

Suicide Prevention During Times of Crisis

9/17/2020- 10am-11am

CE-1.0



Kimberly Spencer, LCSW, Suicide Prevention Coordinator

North Florida/South Georgia VA Health Care System



Cultural Competency for our Diverse Veteran Population

9/24/2020- 10am to 12pm

CE-1.0

LCDR Reuben Keith Green, author of *Black Officer, White Navy*

Dr. Michelle Smith, Psychologist, Psychology Service Diversity Committee Chair,

North Florida/South Georgia VA Health Care System,

NF/SG VHS LGBT Co-Veteran Care Coordinator

Member- NF/SG VHS African American Special Emphasis program

Mary McNeloms, LCSW, Veterans Justice Outreach

North Florida/South Georgia VA Healthcare System

Shonda Fulwood-Johnson, MA, RMHCI, Lead Group Therapist Coordinator, Wekiva Springs

Cheryl Tillman, MHR,BSN,RN, Women Veterans Program Manager

North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health Care System

VA



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

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wekiva springs



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Our trip's priorities are to ensure the safety and dignity of our Veterans! To enhance the experience each Veteran is paired with a Guardian escort and has a wheelchair available. This is a long day and there is a fair amount of walking. In addition, we travel with several staff members to include a medical doctor and videographer.

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Selena Hernandez-Haines, President

Toll Free 888-400-1185

Website: [www.firstcoasthonorflight.org](http://www.firstcoasthonorflight.org)

email: [info@firstcoasthonorflight.org](mailto:info@firstcoasthonorflight.org)

Mail: First Coast Honor Flight , PO Box 600785

St. Johns, FL 32260

Please support and donate where you can



## First Coast Honor Flight Donation

I would like to donate \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to honor Veterans.

Please make check payable to: First Coast Honor Flight, Inc.

Mail to: First Coast Honor Flight, Inc.  
P.O. Box 600785  
Saint Johns, FL 32260

To make a donation by credit card please visit our website at:

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

Click on "Help Our Cause" and then Click on "Donate Now" and submit your donation through PayPal. *Thank you!*

Name of Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**This donation is:** In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_ In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Veteran? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Branch \_\_\_\_\_ Dates Served \_\_\_\_\_

**First Coast Honor Flight** warrants that the information contained on this form is for internal use only and will not be shared, transmitted, or used for any purposes other than recording and acknowledging the donation. Donations are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. First Coast Honor Flight is a registered 501(c)3 Not for Profit EIN:84-4667182 For questions please Call: 888-400-1185 or email: [info@firstcoasthonorflight.org](mailto:info@firstcoasthonorflight.org).



Over 6,000 U.S. veterans take their lives each year with more than 500 of those occurring in Florida. Almost 1 in 4 Northeast Florida citizens have a connection to the military and as a community we felt we must act on behalf of our veterans and their families. The Fire Watch Council ([www.thefirewatch.org](http://www.thefirewatch.org)) was established by the Counties of Baker, Clay, Nassau, St. Johns and City of Jacksonville as a multi-jurisdictional government entity to address veteran suicide prevention in Northeast Florida. Our Resource Guide provides a comprehensive list of resources for the Northeast Florida military community <https://resources.thefirewatch.org/#!/> and you can stand in the gap for veterans by becoming a Fire Watch Watch Stander <https://www.thefirewatch.org/watch-standers>. We are uniting our War Fighters and allies to swiftly activate local assets, stand watch, and build a life-saving network.

## Van T. Barfoot vs HOA



Remember the Guy who wouldn't take The flag pole Down on his Virginia Property awhile back? You might Remember the news story several Months ago About a crotchety old man in Virginia who Defied his local Homeowners Association, And refused to take down the Flag pole on His property along with the large American flag He flew on it.

Now we learn Who that old man was. On June 15, 1919, Van T. Barfoot was born in Ed- inburg, Texas . That probably didn't make News back Then.

But Twenty-five years later, on May 23, 1944, Near Carano , Italy, That same Van T. Barfoot, Who had in 1940 enlisted in the U.S. Army, set Out alone to Flank German machine gun

Positions From which gunfire was raining Down on his Fellow soldiers. His advance Took him through a mine- field but having done So, he proceeded to single-handedly Take out Three enemy machine gun positions, Return- ing With 17 prisoners of war.

And if that Weren't enough for a day's work, he Later Took on and Destroyed three German tanks Sent to Retake the machine gun positions.

That probably Didn't make much news either, Given the Scope of the war, but it did earn Van T. Barfoot, who retired as a Colonel after Also serving In Korea and Vietnam , a well deserved Congressional Medal of Honor.

What did make News...Was his Neighborhood Association's Quibble with how the 90-year-old Veteran chose To fly the American flag outside His suburban Virginia home. Seems the HOA rules Said it was OK to fly a flag on a house-mounted Bracket, but, For decorum, items such as Barfoot's 21-foot Flagpole were "unsuitable".

Van Barfoot Had been denied a permit for The pole, but Erected it anyway and was facing Court action Unless he agreed to take it down.

Then the HOA story made national TV, And the Neighborhood Association rethought Its position And agreed to indulge this Aging hero Who dwelt among them.

"In the Time I have left", he said to the Associated Press, "I plan to continue To fly the American flag without interference."

As Well he should. And if any of his neighbors had taken a Notion to Contest him Further, they might have done well to Read his Medal of Honor citation first. Seems it Indicates Mr Van Barfoot wasn't Particularly Good at Backing down.

If you've read this post and don't share it, - Guess what -You need your butt kicked. I share this with you because I don't want MY butt kicked anymore and I'm tired of seeing those who hate our country yet march in our streets, tear down our statues, burn our stores and loot our businesses have a free hand to do whatever they want.

**WE ONLY LIVE IN THE LAND OF THE FREE BECAUSE OF THE BRAVE! AND, BECAUSE OF BRAVE OLD MEN LIKE VAN BARFOOT!**



**PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO MEET VETERANS' UNIQUE NEEDS**

**Advance Care Planning**

Community Hospice & Palliative Care offers Honoring Choices® Florida, a program to help you document your health care wishes in advance, so that, in the event you become ill and cannot speak for yourself, your wishes are known and can be followed.

**Palliative Care**

Our palliative care services can help people with serious illnesses get relief from physical, emotional, and spiritual pain, symptoms, and stress while seeking curative treatment.

**Hospice Care**

We also provide support during the final phase of advanced illness, with a focus on comfort and quality of life.

- ★ **Team Approach:** Trained clinicians identify and address the psychological, physical, spiritual and emotional needs of veterans and their caregivers.
- ★ **Pinning Ceremony:** We provide a veteran-to-veteran pinning ceremony to honor the service of our nation's bravest.
- ★ **Service Branch Flags:** For veterans who receive care at our inpatient centers, we fly the flag of their service branch outside their room and entrust the flag to the family following death.
- ★ **Veterans History Project:** Members of our Community Hospice Veterans Partnership (CHVP) record veterans' stories and share them online and with the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress.
- ★ **Community Hospice Veterans Partnership:** A select group of veteran leaders serving as brand ambassadors throughout Northeast and North Central Florida bringing awareness to, and providing access for, veterans and their caregivers facing advanced illness and end-of-life care.

**Complementary Therapies**

In addition to routine home care, respite care, continuous care and inpatient hospice, we also provide the following services to patients and their families:

- ★ **Grief and Loss Support**
- ★ **Certified Music Therapy**
- ★ **Certified Pet Therapy**
- ★ **Pet Promises**

**We Need Volunteers**

Whether you offer companionship and a listening ear or assist at fundraising events, there's a volunteer role for everyone. Opportunities include pinning ceremonies, Veterans History Project recordings, CHVP membership and other special programs.

**WE HONOR VETERANS**  
*Partner*

**Community Hospice & Palliative Care** participates in We Honor Veterans, a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization program that honors veterans for their service and sacrifices.

For more information or to volunteer, call toll free **866.253.6681** or visit **CommunityHospice.com**.

★ Along with traditional reimbursement for hospice services, we offer payment options to veterans with TRICARE. As with all Community Hospice & Palliative Care patients, we provide care and support to all who need it, regardless of their ability to pay. VET 007.5/20

RELENTLESS PURSUIT



A DETERMINED NATION

NATIONAL  
★ POW/MIA ★  
RECOGNITION DAY

September 18, 2020

WWW.DPAA.MIL





# SURVIVOR OUTREACH SERVICES

Strength  
*built on*  
Sacrifice

## Your Florida SOS Team

### St. Augustine Area

Keith Ham  
Support Coordinator  
310 Charlotte Street  
St. Augustine, FL 32085  
(904) 823-0157 (desk)  
(904) 472-7689 (cell)  
[keith.c.ham.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:keith.c.ham.ctr@mail.mil)

### Tallahassee Area

Matthew Reeves  
Support Coordinator  
1225 Easterwood Drive  
Tallahassee, FL 32311-3599  
(850) 617-0192 (desk)  
(850) 459-6630 (cell)  
[matthew.p.reeves.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:matthew.p.reeves.ctr@mail.mil)

### Orlando Area

Shinekqua Baines  
Support Coordinator  
9500 Armed Forces Reserve Drive  
Orlando, FL 32827  
(407) 240-5939 ext. 1743  
[shinekqua.l.baines.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:shinekqua.l.baines.ctr@mail.mil)

### Tampa Bay Area

LaShawnda S. Strother  
Support Coordinator  
2801 Grand Avenue  
Pinellas Park, FL 33782  
(727)-563-3647  
[lashawnda.s.strother.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:lashawnda.s.strother.ctr@mail.mil)

### Miami Area

Support Coordinator  
9301 NW 33rd Street  
Doral, FL 33172-1202  
(305) 437-2178

## Scholarships & Application Deadlines

There are two primary VA Programs offering educational assistance. While federal benefits do not technically have a due date, it is important to apply as early as possible.

The Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship (Fry Scholarship) is currently available for children of those who died in the line of duty after September 10, 2001. Beginning January 1, 2015, Fry Scholarship will also be available for surviving spouses of those who died in the line of duty after September 10, 2001.

The Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA) Program offers education and training opportunities to eligible dependents of Veterans who are permanently and totally disabled due to a service-related condition or of Veterans who died while on active duty or as a result of a service-related condition.

### Application Deadlines for surviving children

#### Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation

No set amount, available for children of those who died in the line of duty or of a service-connected disability. No application due date.

#### Freedom Alliance

Scholarships of up to \$5,000 for children of those who died in the line of duty. No application due date.

#### Fisher House Foundation/ Heroes Legacy Scholarship

Amount varies, for children of those who died while on active duty on or after September 11, 2001. Applications available from early December to March 14.

#### Special Ops Warrior Foundation

Amount varies, for surviving children of Special Operations Service Members who died in the line of duty. Applications due at least sixty days prior to the start of the semester.

### Deadline for multiple relationships

#### Army Emergency Relief Fund

Amount varies, for surviving spouses and children of soldiers who die while on active duty or in retiree status. Applications available from January 2 to May 1, 2015.

### Application Deadlines: For surviving spouses

#### Aspire

\$3,000 scholarships per semester for spouses of those who died on active duty. Applications due by October 31 for spring semester and June 30 for fall semester each year.

#### National Military Family Association

\$500 to \$2,500 scholarships for surviving spouses of those who died while on active duty on or after September 11, 2001. Applications available from December 1 to January 31.

#### Pat Tillman Foundation

Amount varies, scholarships for surviving spouses of those who died on active duty, in veteran status, or in retiree status. Applications available from February 1 to March 6.

### Application Deadlines: For surviving siblings

#### Matthew Freeman Project

\$1,000 scholarships for siblings of those who have died in the line of duty. No application due date

### Deadline for multiple relationships

#### Folds of Honor

\$5,000 scholarships for surviving spouses and children of service members who die in the line of duty or from a service-connected disability. Applications available from January 15 to March 15.

**Disclaimer:** The information presented in this newsletter is for informational awareness only and does not represent endorsement, sponsorship, recommendation, or promotion of any commercial events, commercial names or brands by the editors of this Newsletter, the Department of Defense, US Army, US Navy, US Air Force, US Coast Guard, National Guard, Reserve, or the federal government. Usage of commercial or trademark names is for identification purposes only.



# FLORIDA SURVIVOR OUTREACH SERVICES AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY



Survivor Outreach Services provides long-term support and advocacy for families of the fallen. Our support coordinators and financial counselors are dedicated to helping survivors from all eras understand and apply for benefits as well as stay connected to the Army family for as long as they desire.

Although Survivor Outreach Services is the focus of this newsletter, please know that all branches of the Armed Forces are equally committed to taking care of surviving military families. Please contact us, and we will connect you with additional resources that may be available for your branch of service. To find the Survivor Outreach Services location nearest you, check out the map on this page, or visit [www.sos.army.mil](http://www.sos.army.mil).



Here is a good resource for vets who may be experiencing Covid 19 or flu like symptoms. The call center can be reached 24/7 and the vet will be able to reach a nurse. Also for Vets who qualify for the Vet Center they also have a 24/7 call center War Vets 877-927-8387. One of the Vet Center staff will be notified by both text and email to contact and follow-up with the veteran.

Ann McCulliss Johnson LCSW, USA COL (ret)  
 Clinical Director, 904-864-2885

**VA HealthNow<sup>24/7</sup>**  
 YOUR CLINICAL CONTACT CENTER  
**1-877-741-3400**

**VA HEALTH CARE WHERE AND WHEN YOU NEED IT.**

**Around the Clock Support**  
 Call us at 1-877-741-3400 to receive immediate clinical and administrative support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

**No Co-Pays**  
 Veterans who are eligible for VA Care are not subject to co-pays when using the Clinical Contact Center.

**Nurse Triage**  
 Connect with a nurse to discuss your health concerns and to determine the best course of action for your care.

**Connect with a Provider**  
 Connect with a doctor or nurse practitioner over the phone or by secure video to discuss your care.

**\*Pharmacy**  
 Pharmacists are available to assist you and your care team to support your path to healing.

**VISN 8 Clinical Contact Center**

The VISN 8 Clinical Contact Center is a service of the VA Sunshine Healthcare Network (VISN 8) - providing 24/7, virtual urgent care to Veterans enrolled for VA Health Care in Florida, South Georgia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Veterans who receive care in the network can call us around the clock to get their health questions or concerns answered from the comfort and convenience of their home, or wherever they may be.

Services include general administrative support, nurse advice and triage, virtual visits with a doctor or nurse practitioner via telephone or VA Video Connect.

There are no co-payments for using the VISN 8 Clinical Contact Center!

*Note: The Clinical Contact Center should not be used for emergency situations. In the event of a life-threatening emergency, please dial 911 or visit your closest emergency room.*

*\*Prescription medications may be subject to co-pays.*

To learn more, visit [www.visn8.va.gov/ccc.asp](http://www.visn8.va.gov/ccc.asp)

VA U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
 Veterans Health Administration  
 VA Sunshine Healthcare Network (VISN 8)

Rescheduled!

2nd Annual

# Save the Date

Saturday, December 5, 2020

1800 hours: Social Hour  
1900 hours: Dinner Dance

## Military Ball for All

HONORING FIVE STAR VETERANS CENTER

*All previously purchased tickets/sponsorships honored*

Omni Hotel  
Downtown Jacksonville  
\$150 couple, \$80 single  
Tables from \$1000

Tax Deductible

Sponsorships Available

\*Special Tribute to the American Heroes  
of Pearl Harbor - December 7, 1941



Dinner Banquet

Dancing with military  
stars & Heroes

Black Tie, Full Dress  
Uniform Optional

(904) 723-5950  
5starveteranscenter.org

**\*Reserve Tax Deductible Tickets @ 5starveteranscenter.org**

ALL proceeds benefit recovering, homeless veterans

*A hero's home for the holidays!*

Please contact the organization or POC of the event below to see if it is still scheduled or has been cancelled, or postponed.



2020

# Save the Date

26 Sept 2020

Alton Green Memorial  
Post 194  
2nd Annual  
Anniversary Golf  
Tournament

More info to follow  
[derrygreene1@hotmail.com](mailto:derrygreene1@hotmail.com)

Cimarrone Golf Club  
2800 Cimarrone Blvd.  
Jacksonville, FL 32259





# See Every Word

Your calls captioned. Whenever. Wherever.



Your calls captioned at **NO COST\*** to you.

- Fast-dial contacts and favorites
- Adjust font size and color
- Industry leading near real-time captioning
- Answering machine with captioned messages

\*No cost to qualified users through a federally-funded program.

FEDERAL LAW PROHIBITS ANYONE BUT REGISTERED USERS WITH HEARING LOSS FROM USING INTERNET PROTOCOL (IP) CAPTIONED TELEPHONES WITH THE CAPTIONS TURNED ON.

IP Captioned Telephone Service may use a live operator. The operator generates captions of what the other party to the call says.

These captions are then sent to your phone. There is a cost for each minute of captions generated, paid from a federally administered fund.

## REQUIREMENTS:

- Hearing loss
- Home phone service
- High-speed internet  
For home phone
- iPhone® 5s or newer  
For mobile app

Contact me today!  
**Anas Benjelloun**  
**904-568-4562**  
[clearcaptions.com](http://clearcaptions.com)

Available to present to groups!



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The logo consists of the letters 'V4V' in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The number '4' is smaller and positioned between the two 'V's. The letters are filled with a pattern of white stars on a dark blue background, reminiscent of the American flag.

**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

rans  
s Line



**Veterans  
Crisis Line**

73-8255  
PRESS 1

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



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

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

**STAND BY THEM**

Confidential help for  
Veterans and their families

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

**NATIONAL  
SUICIDE  
PREVENTION  
LIFELINE**  
1-800-273-TALK (8255)

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



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

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

## Veterans Councils of Northeast Florida



### **BAKER COUNTY**

President: Larry Porterfield

Meetings:

Second Thursday of each month

Location:

MacClenny Primitive Baptist Church  
Fellowship Hall on North Boulevard

Time : 1800 (6pm)

### **CLAY COUNTY**

President: Harry Silvers

Meetings:

First Wednesday of each month

Location:

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

Time: 1400 (2pm)

### **DUVAL COUNTY**

President Steve Spickelmier

Meetings:

Third Tuesday of each month

Location:

American Legion Post 37  
Main Building  
San Juan Avenue

Tome: 1900 (7 pm)

### **NASSAU COUNTY**

President: Mike Doran

Meetings:

First Thursday of each month

Location:

American Legion Post 54  
626 South 3rd St  
Fernandina Beach fit 32034

Time: 1900 (7pm)

### **St. Johns County**

President: Bill Dudley

Meetings:

Last Thursday of each month

Location:

Health & Human Services building  
Muscovy room, 1st floor  
200 San Sebastian View, St. Augustine

Time: 1900 (7pm)



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



We are inviting all veterans to visit our website at:

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

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

Please join our group on Facebook at:

<http://veteranscouncilsjc.org>

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

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

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

*You may have noticed the Veterans Council's new logo, it was created by Roy Havekost 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.*

*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.*