



# The Patriot Reader Newsletter

P.O. Box 2117

St. Augustine, FL 32085

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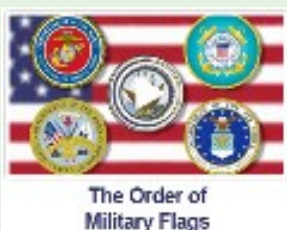
Volume 10, Issue 9

From Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley

September 2021

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Fellow Veterans,  
 The Veterans Day Program committee has met several times over the past weeks to plan for this year Veterans Day. As I had previously reported, the plan was to have a joint program this year shared with the VA and a grand opening for our new VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic. However, the VA is still under COVID-19 restrictions so we are unable to pursue that plan. The committee decided to move the program back to Anastasia Baptist Church as the preferred venue. Our event will take place on Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021. We have another outstanding program lined up so be sure to put the date on your calendar and plan to bring your family and friends to help honor our veterans. We have added a few things to the program this year that I think you and

your friends will be very pleased with. Our new VA CBOC is now opened and fully functional. I have heard nothing but compliments from those who have had appointments at the new clinic. The Veterans Council is concerned about the traffic at the intersection adjacent to the entrance coming into the clinic. The traffic on SR 207 is extremely heavy at certain times during the day. There is also a new Rehab Hospital being built directly across the street from the CBOC that will only add to the traffic flow. The Veterans Council has contacted Florida Dept. of Transportation to do a traffic study on placing a traffic light at this intersection. We'll keep you posted on the progress of our request. The Veterans Council has been conducting live meetings since last Nov. Attendance at the meetings is not up to the levels of pre-COVID. We would encour



age all our members and visitors to join us the last Thursday of the month. The meeting venue is at the St. Johns County Main Administration Building, 500 San Sebastian View. It provides more than adequate spacing and seating to assure proper distancing. Masks are optional in accordance with State guidelines. We have had excellent speakers at each meeting. I encourage you to come out and join us on the last Thursday at 7:00 PM and bring a friend or fellow veteran.

Bill Dudley  
 Chairman  
 Veterans Council of St. Johns County

## Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home



This month was Elvis Month as August is the month he passed away. If you are not aware, Elvis was a HUGE advocate for donating to children's hospitals when he was alive. So, on behalf of Elvis, I thought it would be great for the Veterans to donate to our Local Wolfson's Children Hospital in Jacksonville. I created a flyer posted it up at work for staff to get involved and the turn-out was astounding!! Many staff members went to their local dollar stores and purchased items for the children!! We have ended up with so much stuff that we have enough to fill 50 reusable bags with items like coloring books, reading books, stickers, toys, stuffed animals and more!! Thursday August 26th our veterans will be hand picking items and filling the bags for the children and then on Tuesday, August 31st we will be delivering the bags and bringing our oldest living Veteran 101yrs young, Edward Eisele to hand them over to a volunteer Veteran that works at the hospital!! We are very excited to make some children happy!! I will have pics next month from our drop-off day!!



Picture on right is Miss Carmen Rodes, Chairman for the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation division of the American Legion Unit 283 Jacksonville, FL and Miss Netta Linn Activity Director at Clyde Lassen. Carmen and her associates at the American Legion donated all 50 reusable bags, 25 stuffed animals, and a whole bin full of amazing toys!! The Veterans Thank you American Legion 283!!!



Shown here are Richie Inman-Holmes activity assistant, and Netta Linn Activity Director at Clyde Lassen accepting the generous gifts on behalf of our Veterans for the Children at Wolfson's Children's hospital. Thank you American Legion 283!!! □



Richie, Netta and Administrator Lewis Hubbard saying "Thank You" to Carmen Rodes and the American Legion Unit 283 of Jacksonville, FL !!



Picture on bottom: Richie and Netta accepting the Bags that were donated by the American Legion Unit 283.





## 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 6:00 pm

DATES OF 2021 SC at JNC MEETINGS

Not Available

### +++++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 Administration Building, 500 San Sebastian View, at 7 pm

*All SJC Health Guidelines will be followed.*

*Please stay safe, Bill Dudley, Chairman, VC of SJC*



### Upcoming Veterans Council Meetings Speakers

**September 30:** Emily Spencer, The Heartillary Group

David Abramowitz, “Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans” Event

**October 28:** BG Michael Fleming, the Steven A Cohen Military Family Circle

Jason Snodgrass, COO K9s For Warriors, Expansion and new Mega Kennel

**November 18:** David Kennett, “Transition Assistance Advisor (TAA) Program & Outreach for Florida Veterans/Service Members/Military Spouses”.

2021 Meeting Dates: September 30, October 28, **November 18, December 30**



After nearly 11 years of pursuing a permanent home for the health care for our veterans in St. Johns County, the dream is nearing reality. On Tuesday, June 22, the new state of the art VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic will open it's doors to receive veterans who are in need of primary care and certain medical specialty needs.

**The Veterans Council of St. Johns County is pleased to have played an important role in bringing this health care facility to fruition.**





## St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners

Office of Public Affairs

July 21, 2021  
For Immediate Release

### ST. JOHNS COUNTY MARKS 200 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE WITH TIME CAPSULE CEREMONY

*TIME CAPSULE TO BE UNSEALED IN 2071*

**St. Johns County, FL** – St. Johns County, Florida, was founded on July 21, 1821. To mark the County’s 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners, community leaders, and partner agencies celebrated on July 21, 2021, with a birthday present fitting for the occasion – a historical time capsule. Local artist Isaac Outley, owner of The Driftwood Company, created a beautiful, one-of-a-kind time capsule, donated in part by Flagler Health +, for this special milestone. It will now decorate the halls of the County Administration building for the next 50 years.

Dozens of partner agencies, including the County’s two municipalities, the City of St. Augustine and the City of St. Augustine Beach, participated by placing an item they believed captured the current significance of their organizations and their impact on the community into the capsule. Items included the 2021 St. Augustine Amphitheatre show poster, a St. Johns County Public Library System library card, the current issue of the St. Augustine Record newspaper, a commemorative St. Johns County Sheriff’s Office badge, a special St. Johns County Fire Rescue patch, the 2020 general election ballot, and many other significant items. The ceremony was catered by The Purple Olive and Crème de la Cocoa, who created a menu and desserts that highlighted local flavors enjoyed by residents and visitors in the county.

The time capsule will remain sealed until 2071, when it’s set to be opened during the County’s 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This year’s Board of County Commissioners hope the items placed inside will give our future leaders a glimpse into what life was like in 2021 as well as offer a snapshot of the tremendous work that goes on in our community.

###

**For additional information, please contact:**

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## St Johns County 200th Anniversary Time Capsule Ceremony

Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley placed in the Time Capsule video recordings of local veterans who served in WW II, Korea and Vietnam as well as documentaries with the stories of veterans at K9s For Warriors and former American POWs.

In addition Chairman Dudley placed a PowerPoint slide presentation of the Council's events and programs over the last 15 years.

Lastly he placed a thumb drive with the Vietnam booklet we published and distributed at the premiere of the Council's Vietnam documentary.

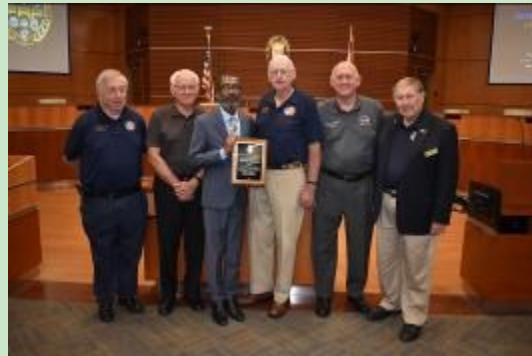




# Director Al Richburg to retire

At the August Veterans Council meeting Chairman Bill Dudley presented a plaque of appreciation and recognition to Jacksonville National Cemetery

Director Al Richburg



## Iraq War vet from St. Augustine comes to terms with 'Alive Day,' runs a mile 17 times to honor friends

### Tribute also raises money for the Wounded Warrior Project

*Matt Soergel, Florida Times-Union*

At 4:30 a.m. Monday, Army veteran Andrew Coughlan stepped out of his garage and ran into the predawn darkness — the first steps in another mission, 17 years to the minute after an Army buddy was killed as he used his body to shield Coughlan from a mortar blast in Iraq.



*Andrew's wife Ashley joins him for mile 1*

July 19 is Coughlan's "Alive Day," the day he figures he should have died in the desert.

For many years he drew reclusive as that day approached, struggling with guilt and grief. But as time went by after he went through therapy for post-traumatic stress disorder, after he tried to give back to other veterans (he even donated a kidney to one), some of the guilt and grief began to recede.

And as this July 19 approached, he decided on action. At the bottom of the hour, he would run a mile loop through his St. Augustine subdivision near the World Golf Village. He would do it 17 times, once for every year since his Alive Day.

He ran to raise money for Wounded Warrior Project, where he works, so other vets in need can get help, as he did.

He ran to encourage veterans to go get help: You don't deploy alone, he said, so you shouldn't struggle alone.



*Andrew Coughlan (left) with fellow soldiers SGT Dale Lloyd (middle) & PFC Charles Persing*

And he ran to keep alive the stories of his friends Sgt. Dale Lloyd, 22, and Pfc. Charles Persing, 20, who died in a ferocious mortar attack on July 19, 2004.

Coughlan was 20 on that day. He's now 37, alive, able to make a difference. That's how he looks at it.

"I've been given a second or third, or even fourth or fifth opportunity at life — and I don't want to waste it."

Andrew Coughlan (left) with fellow soldiers Sgt Dale Lloyd (middle) and Pfc. Charles Persing, in Iraq. Coughlan survived a 2004 bombing attack that killed Lloyd and Persing. He credits Persing, who shielded Coughlan with his body, with saving his life. Their stories are a tribute to brave men



Coughlan, a specialist by rank, and his fellow soldiers in the 10th Mountain Division had gone through mortar attacks before. But he could tell right off that there was something different about this one. It was accurate, relentless, zeroed right in on their forward operating base in Iskandariyah.

Coughlan and teammates Persing and Adam Bouse ran from their tent — which soon took a direct hit — toward armored vehicles, but with mortars landing in the camp they were forced to take shelter in a covered concrete bunker. It was no bigger than a kitchen table, open at both ends.

Within seconds, another mortar struck, knocking the soldiers around. Coughlan remembers what happened after that: Persing, who was at one end of the bunker, in a flak jacket and helmet, told the unprotected Coughlan to hold on to him, and put him in a bear hug.

Then another bomb hit, killing Persing and leaving Coughlan unscathed.

“The last decision Charles made was to save my life,” Coughlan said.

The camp was in chaos as flames spread from tent to tent. He could hear screams for help. Coughlan and another soldier brought a wounded comrade into the bunker and began first aid.

Coughlan was there as his severely wounded team leader, Lloyd, was loaded onto a stretcher.

Coughlan told him he loved him and that it would be all right. But it wasn't. Lloyd died too.

“Some of this stuff that I've lived with ...” Coughlan said, his sentence coming to a stop.

“I was covered with blood from my feet to the top of my head. All of our stuff burned. I had to live in that same uniform for a couple of days. And none of that blood was mine.”

Andrew Coughlan stretches in his driveway as he and his wife prepare for Coughlan's first mile run just before 4:30 a.m. Monday. He would run a mile at a time each hour until he reached 17. That is the number of years since he was nearly killed in Iraq.



Persing grew up in Louisiana, often in foster homes and with different relatives. He told Coughlan he enlisted because he wanted to provide a better life for himself and his brother.

“He was a jokester, funny,” Coughlan said. “But also that guy who would do anything for you.”

Lloyd, from Pennsylvania, was a well-respected noncom, a history buff who, Coughlan believes, would have become a history teacher. He could do impressions and was good with jokes. You could pull a long guard shift with him and never run out of things to talk about.

“He was that leader that I strive to be,” Coughlan said.

The memories of both men live with him still.

“I’m the storyteller, if that’s what you want to call me, who tells the stories about them,” he said. “Honestly, a lot of decisions in my life, I think, how would Sgt. Lloyd handle this? What would Persing do?”

Andrew Coughlan and wife Ashley get ready to start Coughlan's first mile run just before 4:30 Monday morning.

Survivor's guilt, but soldiering on

On Sept. 11, 2001, Coughlan was a senior at Michigan's Ludington High School. He enlisted in the Army just after he graduated. He served until January 2006 when he was medically discharged after being diagnosed with PTSD.

He married his wife Ashley, a friend since high school, moved back to Michigan and worked for a utility company. He had a tough time holding down jobs and was drinking and on medication.

“I’ve lived with a lot of survivor's guilt,” he said. “I asked myself, why didn’t I do this? I could’ve done that. That drove me crazy for years.”

Slowly though he began to build his life together. He and Ashley remarried after divorcing and now have two daughters. He began working for Jacksonville-based Wounded Warrior Project, which in 2018 honored him with its Courage award.

Andrew Coughlan takes a selfie with Army veteran Carlos De Leon, Marine combat veteran Joe Padlo and Brea Klratzert Todd, vice president of business development for Wounded Warriors, after they completed Coughlan's second 1-mile run of the morning.

His work, he said, is a way of paying off the debt he owes. As was his decision to donate a kidney to a soldier with whom he had served in Iraq.

And now, his 17 one-mile runs. His goal was to raise \$1,700, about what it costs to provide mental health therapy to a veteran who needs it, he said. By Monday morning, he’d raised twice that.

His alarm went off at 3:15 a.m. that morning. He'd slept well, though he did wake up a couple of times to make sure he hadn't overslept.

He planned to run every hour until 9:30 at night. He'd walk, he said, if he had to.

Co-workers and friends had pledged to run with him during the day, as had friends across the country who would run with him virtually.

Andrew Coughlan displays the bracelets of Dale Lloyd and Charles Persing, his two unit members who



*Andrew Coughlan takes a selfie with Army veteran Carlos DeLeon, Marine combat veteran Joe Padlo & Brea Klratzert Todd, VP of Business Development for WWP*

were killed when he was wounded in Iraq 17 years ago.

Ashley joined him for his first run, and right at 4:30 they turned left out of their driveway for the first mile. About 10 minutes later, the lights on Coughlan's hat could be seen as they approached his house.

The couple was smiling. Coughlan seemed fresh and energized, though he was already sweating in the pre-dawn humidity.

"It was good. First run was good. Sixteen to go," he said.

He thought about it. "Maybe that's what I should do. A countdown."

He went to a whiteboard on his garage wall. On it he'd already written "Against All Odds," his battalion's motto.

Now, at 4:44 a.m., he picked up a marker and added another short phrase: "16 to go."



Andrew Coughlan displays the bracelets of Dale Lloyd & Charles Persing, his two unit members who were killed when he was wounded in Iraq 17 years ago  
Bob Self, FL Times-Union

Ed Trester, WW II Merchant Mariner and local Jazz Musician, was interviewed recently by Action News out of Jacksonville. His interview can be seen on YouTube by opening YouTube on your phone or computer and putting in " Congressional Gold Bar Winner " in your search bar. Remember to put quotes around "Congressional Gold Bar Winner"

**Ed is currently in the hospital, prayers needed**





## HerSPACE: “DOING THE WORK” TO ASSIST WOMEN VETERANS AND THEIR CHILDREN

By Joe Snowberger, Liberty Life

### **An update with Northeast Florida Women Veterans regarding their temporary home for Women Veterans.**

HerSPACE Ribbon Cutting April 15th, 2021

Woven into the very pro-military community fabric of The Liberty Coast are collaborative partnerships that support the overall betterment of Veterans as they acclimate to civilian life. We introduced you to one such alliance that opened this past spring: HerSPACE: an emergency and temporary housing program for women Veterans (and their children). Having attended the ribbon cutting ceremony and [open house event on April 15](#), *Liberty Life* checked in with HerSPACE to see how it was going.

*“Thank you for reaching out! It has been a whirlwind month since we opened the doors at The Lighthouse”* shared Dee Quaranta, President/CEO, [Northeast Florida Women Veterans](#). *“We have ladies in the house now and today we will admit mother and son.*



According to the Dept. of Veterans Affairs and numerous agencies, Florida is home to the second-largest population of women Veterans in America and The Liberty Coast has the largest number of women Veterans in Florida. Many women Veterans transition well and go on to be very successful in their lives. There are also women Veterans who have not handled transition well or things have happened beyond their control and now find themselves needing a little help.

“The Lighthouse,” a four-bedroom, 3,000 square foot home on Beach Boulevard was donated for use as the HerSPACE house by [St. Andrews Lutheran Church By The Sea in Jacksonville Beach](#). The facility, alongside the other impactful programs offered through Northeast Florida Women Veterans, temporarily houses up to eight women Veterans and their children – assisting and empowering homeless women Veterans along their path to self-sufficiency.

Dee gave us a glimpse of the difference having The Lighthouse is already making – *“One of our first residents had a really good job but became ill. After spending 6 weeks in the hospital, she was laid off and found herself not able to recover. Another had her HUD voucher but needed a bed until she found permanent housing. Dee continued, “We may even have someone needing intensive care due to service-connected mental health challenges. The reasons vary but our organization serves as a cheerleader as they get themselves back on track.”*

One resident described her stay at HerSPACE as *“A powerful place for new beginnings“*. She came homeless and jobless. Today, she has been hired and found a place to live. *“Having a clean place to live and going through the HerTOTALWellness program has changed my life!”*

Dee shared an important adage, *“This is not just the work of the case manager, but the work of this Veteran who wanted to be in a better position.”* Having attended the ribbon cutting and absorbed the intentions of HerSPACE, *Liberty Life* asked Dee to share some of the realities and needs of day-today operations. It took her a minute to step back from the tree line to see the forest, as they say, before she said: *“Not sure what else I could update you on except funding. The HerSPACE program could always use funds to purchase needed items, pay the light bill or hire additional staff but it is the story of every non-profit.”*



Her pace picked up a bit as she said, *“As is the culture of our region’s wonderful Veteran’s community, local folks very naturally donated items needed to provide all the comforts of home for its temporary residents.”* Dee said the initial providers and supporters included K9s For Warriors, Wounded Warrior Project, Nicholas J. Cutinha Vietnam Veterans of America (Chapter 1046), and Ms. Sal’s family.

*“The diversity of community support always amazes me.”* Dee said with a smile. *“We reached out to The Home Depot to get a small grant to beautify the outside entrance. They approved it! We are now working with The Mission Continues to help us with the manual labor. Mrs Delores Barr-Weaver heard about the work and she reached out to see what she could do.”*

Dee was on a roll now and continued: *“We also reached out to Wekiva Springs Center and the Cohen Clinic at Centerstone to assist those in crisis or who just need recurring counseling with very favorable responses. I will always say – Just do the work – when you do the work, people will see your commitment and want to help.”*

Coming full circle, Dee reflected, *“Now that we are up and running, there are additional needs for The Lighthouse – like clothing and linens. We don’t take donations of used clothing or linen, but we will take gift cards to purchase those items. Thanks for asking, and tell your readers, the beds are all twin sized. We could always use laundry detergent, paper towels, toilet tissue, trash bags, and cleaning supplies.”*

Dee stated that *“funding is slow, so our staff has been filling in the gap for the house coverage. We try to maintain staff or security coverage 24 hours-a-day. This poses a challenge because the staff is working more hours than they are being paid and the security company covers the weekend and it is expensive. We have applied for grants but there is no guarantee. Nevertheless, we will keep working with the resources we have.”*

Dee concluded, *“This program is very much needed in our community so it will be around for a while.”*

After reading this you may now take notice of the cute, two story house sitting next to St. Andrews Lutheran Church By The Sea on Beach Boulevard, now knowing it is really a “home” with caring people “just doing the work” of operating this valuable resource and “cheerleading” women Veterans and their children towards overall betterment and sustainment.

For more information about HerSPACE, Northeast Florida Women Veterans, or to donate to this effort, go to our website at: [www.ForWomenVets.org](http://www.ForWomenVets.org), Photo Credit: Bob Self, Florida Times Union.



**Time:** 7:30 AM Registration 8:30 AM Shotgun Start

**Location:** Marsh Creek Country Club

169 Marshside Drive, St. Augustine, FL 32080

**Format:** 4 Person Captain's Choice

**Field:** First 36 Teams



**Entry Fee:** \$85.00 per player (Includes Green Fees, Cart, Lunch & Prizes)

**Prizes For:** 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

Hole Prizes Include: Longest Drive, Closest to Pin and Longest Putt  
Chipping & Putting Contests (During the Tournament)



**Golf Shoes Must Be Soft Spikes Only**

The Luncheon & Awards Ceremony will be held on-site after the Tournament

TEAM CAPTAIN: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE #: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

PLAYER #2: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE #: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

PLAYER #3: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE #: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

PLAYER #4: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE #: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL ENTRY FORMS (whether paying by check or credit card) TO:**  
**Mr. Lee S. Diggs, C/O AUSA GOLF TOURNAMENT,**  
**P.O BOX 3883, ST. AUGUSTINE, FL 32085-3883. Phone (904) 827-8528.**  
**Lee.s.diggs.mil@mail.mil**

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO FIRST MILITIA CHAPTER - AUSA or**

**To purchase online visit <https://first-militia-chapter-ausa.square.site>**

AUSA is an exempt organization under section 501 (c) (3) of the US Internal Revenue Code.



Join Us In Honoring

# NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

**Saturday, September 18, 2021  
9AM - 3PM**



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

Join us for this gathering of Veterans Organizations, Military Families, Community Service Organizations, Corporations and the Business Community of Northeast Florida



Activities Starting at 9AM

**Car and Bike Show**

**Veteran Service Organizations Booths**

**Run/Walk/Ruck Challenge**

**Live Entertainment**

Liberty Express

**Silent Auction**

**Kid's Entertainment**



**A-7 Corsair  
Static Display**



**Aircraft  
Flyover**



**Food Tent**

11:30AM - 1:30PM

*Fried Fish or Chicken Lunch with Sides*

Register online to reserve your special lunch for a \$10 donation

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



**The American Legion Riders Inaugural Motorcycle Ride/Run**

12:00 PM

Jacksonville Memorial Wall across 7 bridges of Jacksonville to the National POW/MIA Memorial Grounds at Cecil Field arriving at 1:30PM.



**Ceremony and Special Guest Speaker**

2 PM in the stage and bleacher area

This Event Is Open To The Public  
BRING YOUR LAWN CHAIRS

All proceeds from this event to benefit the  
**National POW/MIA  
Memorial & Museum**

Hosted By  
**VETERAN COUNCILS OF  
Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau and St. Johns Counties**



**Due to the sudden rise in the Delta variant,  
we have rescheduled this event to 30 Oct**

**Proof of vaccine required for entry**

Alton Green Memorial American Legion Post 194

## **73rd Anniversary Dinner**

Come Help Us Celebrate 73 Years of Serving  
Veterans in the St. Augustine Community

### **Saturday 30 October**

**Cocktail Reception & Hors d'oeuvres at Six o'clock**  
**Surf & Turf Dinner at Half Past Six \$25 Per Person**

Smoked Brisket<>Fried Shrimp<>Garlic Mashed Potatoes  
Vegetable Medley<>Dinner Rolls<>Sweet Tea<>Dessert



**Featuring Special  
Guest Speaker  
Lt Gen Ronald Bailey  
USMC, rt'd**



1029 Pearl Street, St. Augustine



## Jacksonville City Council approves agreement for USS Orleck Museum

**The Jacksonville Historic Naval Ship Association Inc. plans to operate the warship at Pier No. 1 in the St. Johns River Downtown.** From the Jax Daily Record by: Mike Mendenhall Staff Writer

The Jacksonville City Council signed off Aug. 10 on a plan by Jacksonville Historic Naval Ship Association Inc. to bring the USS Orleck DD-886 to Downtown Jacksonville as a naval museum.



The Council voted 17-0 to approve a 10-year development agreement between the association and the Downtown Investment Authority to move the warship to Pier No. 1 adjacent to the Berkman Marina at the Shipyards along the St. Johns River.

The vote gives the DIA the ability to authorize two five-year extensions.

Council members Ju’Coby Pittman and Tommy Hazouri were absent for the vote.

Retired Navy Capt. John O’Neil, executive director of the association, told the Council Finance Committee on July 20 that the 400-foot ship has been approved for a tow from Lake Charles,

If the ship is deemed safe, O’Neil said the Orleck will be painted, preserved and sealed before it is moved to Jacksonville.

The USS Orleck DD-886 is now a naval museum in Lake Charles, Louisiana. A Jacksonville group plans to tow it to the Shipyards.

“She was a very famous fighter, if you will, in the Korean War as well as in the Vietnam War,” O’Neil said July 20.

The ship is named after Lt. Joe Orleck and launched May 12, 1945. Its primary service during the Vietnam War was in the 7th Fleet in the Pacific.



This is the association’s third attempt to bring a warship Downtown and the second in three years.

It spent years trying to bring the 437-foot USS Charles F. Adams to Jacksonville. It secured \$2.8 million through donations, private capital, bank loans and state grants to refurbish the ship and move it Downtown.

The U.S. Navy decided not to donate the Adams and instead salvage the ship.

The Orleck deal with the city provides the nonprofit no tax money and requires the association to reevaluate the cost of running the ship every five years.

To protect the city from unforeseen expenses, the nonprofit will have to keep in reserve 110% of the cost of towing the Orleck from the Shipyards to a naval scrapyards in Brownsville, Texas.

An amendment to Ordinance 2021-0358 gives the association one year to execute its license agreement with the city and another nine months to open the museum.

O’Neil said the association will hire two to three people to help operate the museum with a team of volunteers.

Jacksonville attorney and association President Daniel Bean and Vice President Justin Weakland also represented the nonprofit when the DIA board approved the project in January 2020.



## Jacksonville Naval Museum

City Council approved! 17-0!

With our ordinances are approved, we will work to schedule the ship's towing to dry dock in Texas to be inspected and preservation work. When dates are finalized, we will post them.

Be a Patriot and help donate to a great cause! The Jacksonville Naval Museum! Check our link tree for the button how to donate or you can now text 'ORLECK' to 43506 or visit our website at:

<https://www.jaxnavalmuseum.org/donate/>

The naval museum's center piece will be the USS Orleck, a WWII built Gearing Class Destroyer that will be 'A Bold Ship for the Bold City!'



## **Rubio Leads Colleagues in Urging National Archives and Records Administration to Reopen Facilities**

**AUG 26 2021**

**Miami, FL — U.S. Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) led bipartisan members of the Florida Congressional delegation in a letter to the National Archives and Records Administration to express concern over the growing backlog of constituents' requests for military records at the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) in St. Louis, Missouri. The lawmakers urged the Administration to fully reopen their facility so that veterans can access the records they need.**

**U.S. Representatives John Rutherford (R-FL), Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), Carlos Gimenez (R-FL), Stephanie Murphy (D-FL), Michael Waltz (R-FL), Maria Elvira Salazar (R-FL), Neal Dunn (R-FL), Scott Franklin (R-FL), Bill Posey (R-FL), Kat Cammack (R-FL), Darren Soto (D-FL), Byron Donalds (R-FL), and Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL) also signed the letter.**

**“We appreciate the situation the NPRC faces given the volume of records that are paper files and which can only be accessed by on-site staff,” the lawmakers wrote. “That is why it is imperative that NPRC must be open and operational to serve our nations' veterans who need information only the NPRC can provide. The NPRC website cites the rising rates of COVID-19 in the St. Louis area as the reason the center has returned to pre-vaccine pandemic levels of operation. Most of America is open and operating thanks to three safe and effective vaccines. We urge you to get your facility fully reopened so veterans can have access to the records they need.”**

**The full text of Senator Rubio's letter is below.**

**Dear Mr. Ferriero:**

**We write to express our increasing concern over the growing backlog of constituents' requests for military records at the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) in St. Louis, Missouri. Since mid-March 2020, the NPRC has been closed, with few exceptions, for weeks and months at a time due to COVID-19. The August 2, 2021 decision to significantly reduce operations comes amid a backlog of more than 500,000 routine records requests from constituents for copies of discharge documents, official military personnel files and service treatment records.**

**We appreciate the situation the NPRC faces given the volume of records that are paper files and which can only be accessed by on-site staff. That is why it is imperative that**

**NPRC must be open and operational to serve our nations' veterans who need information only the NPRC can provide. The NPRC website cites the rising rates of COVID-19 in the St. Louis area as the reason the center has returned to pre-vaccine pandemic levels of operation. Most of America is open and operating thanks to three safe and effective vaccines. We urge you to get your facility fully reopened so veterans can have access to the records they need.**

**In order to better understand how the NPRC operates and how it plans to eliminate its backlog, please provide the following information:**

**What is the current rate of vaccination of NPRC employees?**

**What efforts are you undertaking to allow for NPRC employees to obtain vaccinations?**

**On March 3, 2021, you told members of Congress that the backlog you were experiencing included 482,000 requests, a number which grows at the rate of 10,000 per week. You noted that it would take "18-24 months of operating at full capacity with the additional planned resources in place to eliminate the entire backlog."**

**Please provide information about the current backlog, its projected weekly growth, and information detailing your plans to eliminate the backlog.**

**In order to expedite the delivery of documents to Congressional offices, has the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) and the NPRC considered either (1) the creation of an online portal to send scanned documents to Congressional offices, or (2) similar to the VA and other agencies, send password-protected documents directly to the staffer submitting an inquiry and providing an email with a separate password? If not, please explain your reasoning.**

**Please provide additional information about your requests to the U.S. Department of Defense and to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for personnel and resources to help eliminate the backlog. If there are actions Congress can take to assist you in these matters, please list those as well.**

**Any other information you wish to provide to help us understand how the NPRC and NARA plan to respond to the pending backlog of constituents' requests and current conditions at the facility. We also suggest you widen your informative correspondence and updates on the NPRC's progress to all members.**

**We appreciate the NPRC and NARA employees, who under your leadership have responded to the emergent requests of our constituents since the onset of the pandemic. We would greatly appreciate a response by September 26, 2021.**



## **JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — President Biden signed the PAWS Act into law.**

The PAWS ACT, or 'Puppies Assisting Wounded Service members for Veterans Therapy Act,' authorizes the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to create a pilot program on dog training therapy that will provide dog-training skills and service dogs to veterans with mental illnesses.

"This has been a five-year battle to try and convince the federal government that what we do every day is valuable and helps veterans," Rory Diamond, CEO of K9s for Warriors said to First Coast News. "They're finally agreeing and we're getting a big breakthrough here."

The U.S. Senate unanimously passed the bill earlier this month after it was passed by the House in March.

Diamond said the \$10 million, five-year pilot program will take effect on Jan. 1, 2022. For the first time in American history, he says the VA will pay for service dogs for veterans with PTSD.

"We commend the White House for supporting this bill as a critical step in combatting veteran suicide, and we're confident in the path ahead for Service Dogs ultimately becoming a covered VA benefit to veterans with PTSD," Diamond said in a news release. "In communicating with veterans and their healthcare providers, it's more imperative than ever to embrace the lifesaving impact of a Service Dog and to raise awareness for this treatment option as a proven method for mitigating debilitating symptoms of PTSD and suicidal ideations."

The news release says the new law will also:

Designate eligible veterans to receive dog training instruction from nongovern

mental accredited 501(c)(3) nonprofit Service Dog training organizations (i.e., K9s For Warriors)

Allow eligible veterans to learn positive reinforcement training in skills that are unique to their own needs to help address or alleviate their PTSD symptoms

Provide veterans participating in the program with the opportunity to adopt a dog that they actively assisted in their training, provided that the veteran and their health provider determine it to be in the best interest of the veteran.

"There are over 100,000 veterans, we think who need a service dog because of their post-traumatic stress. Right now, K9s for Warriors can help a couple of hundred a year. What this will do is to take that little tiny hose pipe and turn into a whole avalanche of service dogs, eventually down the road, we'll see that happen," Diamond said earlier this month. "Twenty-two veterans a day taking their lives every day by suicide. This is one of the best ways we can fight it."

The pilot program will involve organizations across America.

Navy veteran John Tappen completed the K9s for Warriors three week program in April with his new companion, Henry. Tappen says Henry gave him a new lease on life - and saved his life.



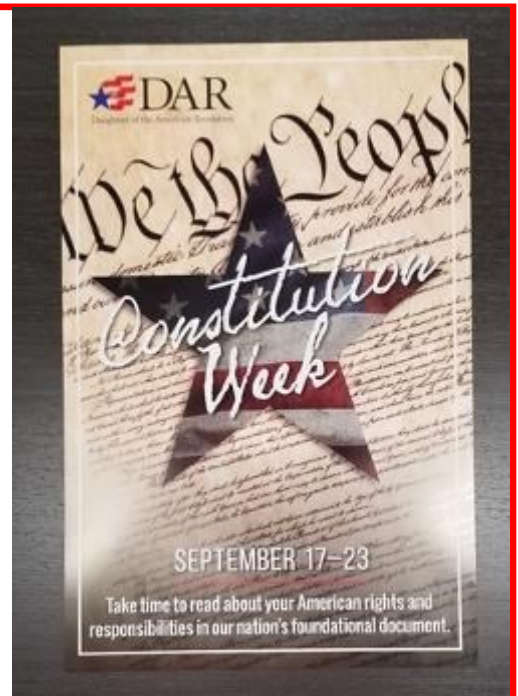
## Celebrating Constitution Week

Friday, September 17th 2021 marks the 234th anniversary of the drafting of the Constitution of the United States of America and the start of Constitution Week.

Every year, the President of the United States issues a proclamation designating September 17-23 as Constitution Week. The celebration of the Constitution was started in 1955 by the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) with an aim to emphasize citizens' responsibilities for protecting and defending the Constitution, inform people that the Constitution is the basis for America's great heritage and foundation for our way of life, and encourage the study of the historical events which led to the framing of the Constitution in 1787.

To kick off this year's Constitution Week locally, on Friday, September 17th 2021, the Maria Jefferson Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) will hold a time-honored event in the Plaza de la Constitucion, in downtown historic St. Augustine. At 4:00 pm, the event will commence when the bells of the Trinity Episcopal Church, Cathedral Basilica, Memorial Presbyterian Church, St. Augustine Fire Department, and Flagler College ring in concert with the DAR large ceremonial bell and community members handheld bells, signifying the signing of the U.S. Constitution.

This is a wonderful opportunity to join in with fellow veterans, friends, local leaders, residents, and visitors to our fantastic community, in honoring the Constitution and the freedoms it gave us.



## Today Jodie Raymond was laid to rest at the JNC

Reported by the Support Committee of Jacksonville National Cemetery

Passing of Truly Remarkable, Long-Time and Beloved Committee Member

OBITUARY, Johanne Harkins Raymond

DECEMBER 8, 1928 – JULY 16, 2021

Johanne (Jodie) Catherine Harkins Raymond, age 92 years young, passed into eternal life on July 16, 2021 in Jacksonville, Florida. She was born in Springfield, Ohio the first child to Clyde and Martha Harkins. Jodie was devoted to her family that included husband Robert J. Raymond for 72 years, children Robbie, Debbie and Steven. Along with her immediate family, Jodie cherished her extended family of 1 sister, 3 brothers, their spouses, eight nieces and nephews, 3 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. Jodie has achieved so much in her life asking for nothing in return:

First, Jodie was one of the contributors to the research and ultimate treatment for RH factor couples. Until she was 65, Jodie had her blood drawn every month to extract the antigen called RHoGAM that has saved the lives of millions of RH positive babies born to RH negative mothers. Second, in the early 80's, as technology was flourishing, Jodie and other mothers of hearing-impaired children thought of the idea of closed captioning on TV shows. They imagined a hearing-impaired person being able to understand what is being said on TV. Jodie and her army of persistent mothers pushed the big communication companies like ABC and CBS until they agreed to include closed caption TV programming. This was a group of moms who changed the world for hearing impaired. Third, Jodie used her normal attention to detail and persistence to search out the genealogy of her family. Based on her research, she discovered that her mother's ancestors have served in the American Revolution and the War of 1812. This has opened connections to such groups as the Daughters of the American Revolution and Daughters of 1812 for future generations of the Harkins and Raymond families. Fourth, at the same time, Jodie taught herself to work a knitting machine and began to design and create exquisite unique clothes under the label Jodie Raymond Originals. She wrote instruction manuals for other people to learn her techniques. The instructions were easy to understand and were a mainstay in the machine knitting community. Her outfits and books led to her traveling the world on knitting seminars to teach techniques. Fifth, after she chose to stop traveling, she turned to another project that was born from her father's death in the Battle of the Bulge during World War II and her family's commitment to military service.





She became one of the founding members of the Jacksonville Ladies who is a group of ladies who attend every burial at the Jacksonville National Cemetery to pay silent tribute to fallen soldiers. The Lady does not intrude but stands in silent witness in a Last Tribute to their service and sacrifice. Their mission is most significant when a soldier is buried without anyone else there to say goodbye.

Jodie was predeceased by her mother, Martha Genevieve Harkins, her brothers James David Harkins and Clyde Patrick Harkins, her sister Martha Jane Harkins Brown, her nephew James David Harkins, her daughter Deborah Joan Raymond Clinton and her son, Robert Joseph Raymond Jr. She is survived by her loving husband of 72 years, Robert J. (Bob) Raymond; their son Steven Curtis Raymond; her brother Gerald (Bob) R. Harkins.

In her final days, Jodie said that she had a wonderful life. She and her husband Bob enjoyed life and faced challenges hand-in-hand. She said she was proud of her work for babies, hearing impaired persons, genealogy, her knits, and the Jacksonville Ladies. "If there is good I can do, let me do it now for I shall not pass this way again"

Visitation at Hardage-Giddens Chapel Hills (850 St. Johns Bluff Rd. N) Wednesday, July 21 from 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM / Service at Hardage-Giddens Chapel Hills at 10:00 on Thursday July 22 / Followed by interment at the Jacksonville National Cemetery.

Family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Jacksonville Ladies in honor of Jodie / Checks can be mailed to the Support Committee at Jacksonville National Cemetery, Inc, 4083 Lannie Road, Jacksonville, FL 32218-1247.

Info is available at [www.jacksonvilleladies.org](http://www.jacksonvilleladies.org) Jodie loved working with these remarkable women serving in this capacity.

The Family (and Jodie) wishes to thank so many people for the kindness and support at McGraw Hospice and Kim Popovich as her senior advocate.

Hardage-Giddens Chapel Hills Funeral Home is proud to serve the Family

# Jacksonville National Cemetery. Win please give me a call or anyone else with concerns.

## **K9s for Warriors to expand facility, service dog program to all-era veterans**

*Colleen Michele Jones, St. Augustine Record*

Rory Diamond, CEO of Ponte Vedra-based K9s for Warriors, unveils the nonprofit's new logo during its 10-year anniversary event.



Since 2011, K9s for Warriors has paired companion dogs with post-9/11 veterans to help with post-traumatic stress disorder and other issues.

To date, the Ponte Vedra-based nonprofit has placed trained therapy canines with more than 700 vets. But studies show that suicide disproportionately affects older veterans, former military members who previously had not been eligible for K9s for Warriors' services.

On Wednesday, the organization announced that will soon change.

**K9s for Warriors will begin accepting service dog applications from any veteran experiencing service-connected symptoms of PTSD, traumatic brain injury, and/or military sexual trauma.**

According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' 2020 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report, veterans aged 55-74 accounted for virtually as many suicides (2,587) in 2018 as those aged 18-34 (874) and 35-54 (1,730) combined.

"The Campus for K9 Operations will fundamentally change both the volume and demographic of the veteran population we're able to pair with a service dog," Rory Diamond, CEO of K9s for Warriors, said in a news release. "This facility also will reduce the time our future Warriors have to wait between being accepted into the program and receiving their service dog, which can be life-altering to veterans experiencing severe symptoms of PTSD, including suicidal ideations."

The facility's expansion will be made possible through a new "mega kennel" that broke ground this week not far from the current training facility in Nocatee. It will be able to house more than 150 service dogs-in-training.



## WELCOME HOME VIETNAM VETERANS

Join the Jacksonville Bar Association, Vets4Vets,  
and the Vietnam Veterans Association (VVA) for a *Hero's Welcome*  
many Vietnam Veterans never received...

*Honoring their courage, valor, and selfless service.*

### SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, November 14, 2021

1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

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



Guest Speaker - Rocky Bleier, Vietnam Veteran &  
Pittsburgh Steeler Superbowl Champion

Performance by The Navy Band

Lunch & Parking Free for Veterans and their families

Sponsorships Levels Available

★ Gold Star - \$5,000 ☆ Silver Star - \$2,500 ★ Bronze Star - \$1,000

Event Sponsorships and donations may be made through the:

Semper Fidelis Society at <https://semperfidelissociety.org/donate/>

MARSH CREEK GOLF CLUB  
PRESENTS

VETERAN GARDEN PROJECT  
OF ST. AUGUSTINE

1ST ANNUAL  
**CHARITY GOLF  
TOURNAMENT**  
SHOTGUN SCRAMBLE

OCTOBER 11TH 2021  
9 AM



Sign up today: [crystaltimmons@avgp.org](mailto:crystaltimmons@avgp.org)



## VFW Flag Ceremony

Flags are still being found in our landfill Our post Honor Guard has the responsibility of properly retiring our national colors. Please turn in your old, torn, faded flags to the post, or in our collection box. Our post has joined our County Commissioners More Specifically Mister Chris Benjamin the Outreach Coordinator Solid Waste for the County all flags found or turned into the landfill will be delivered to our post for proper retirement. There is a plan Chris is trying to push thru, the replacement boxes now found in our Libraries and other important areas be replaced with new boxes Having our Tank and Post 2391 be printed on them.

### Restoring a Tradition

There existed a program where white crew socks were donated and dispersed to Veterans in our Nursing homes. This was Chaired by Herb Nauman (sock man) he did this for many years until he passed away. Since Herb death this noble gesture has fallen by the wayside. A new committee has been formed to reinstate the Sock Program. White crew socks can be donated – delivered to Post 2391 VFW call me at the post 797-5267 or me at 669-3305

Along with the sock program we plan to give each Veteran a set of gray Sweat Suits I will have each top imprinted Veteran across the chest. Come Christmas time the committee will wrap box and socks to be delivered by DEAN & COLLEEN MOKSNES ,(ALIAS) SANTA & MRS CLAUS ) We can use small ,medium, large , X and XX large . The suits can be bought at the big box stores i.e. Walmart. IF we don't get enough donations , our post will pick up the shortfall from our Relief fund which is generated from the POPPY drive If you can't afford to purchase Sweat Suits OR Socks to donate then please plan to donate some of your time during the POPPY DRIVE to man a store .We only do this Twice a year.

### Cell phone donation

Please do not throw your unusable cell phones in to the trash. Turn them into the post They will be donated to St Johns Sheriffs Dept. The phones will be reprogrammed and given to individuals that feel their lives are threaten.

### Flag Program



## CLAY COUNTY'S NEPTUNE PARK MONUMENT MEMORIALIZES NAVY AIRCREW

*August 02, 2021, By Joe Snowberger*



Since the 1950's, The Liberty Coast's contribution to and support of long-range reconnaissance and anti-submarine missions over vast oceans is stellar and well documented. Naval aircrews have and continue to travel across the globe from Naval Air Station Jacksonville and various other support airfields in the region.

Just inside the air station's Yorktown Gate, a P-3C Orion sits on display, paying tribute to the Navy's most recent mainstay maritime patrol aircraft and their crews. Even today, the Navy's newest maritime patrol aircraft, the P-8A Poseidon, is routinely spotted flying over the banks of the St Johns River, training and preparing crews for deployments around the globe.

As the Korean War ended and the Cold War intensified in the 1950's, the Lockheed P-2 Neptune (P2V) was the Navy's premier and mainstay, long-range, maritime patrol aircraft capable of performing anti-submarine and aerial mine warfare, aerial photographic intelligence and search and rescue missions.

On June 14th, 1951, a Navy P2V Neptune aircraft and crew on a training mission originating from NAS Jacksonville, in preparation for the Korean War, crashed during an attempted emergency landing at then Fleming Island Naval Outer Landing Field.

An aviation safety incident summary report reads: An inflight fire forced the crew of a Neptune to carry out an emergency landing at Flemings Island Field, Florida. The aircraft hit an 80 foot pine tree at the end of the runway during a pull-up and go-around and crashed.

Seven of the nine crew members were killed. The lost aircrew were Lt. Cmdr. L.B. Worley, Lt. Cmdr. Lester C Kee, Aviation Mechanic 1st Class Clair Meek Walizer, Aviation Mechanic 3rd Class Milton Trower, Aviation Radioman 3rd Class James A Logwood Jr., Aviation Ordnance Airman Turner Eugene Jones and Airman William Fred Stewart.

Lt. Junior Grade Ralph Howell Jones and Airman Apprentice John Dabbs Barnett survived the crash.

The air field is long since closed and the area was recently transformed into an athletic field and community park located off Thunderbolt Road in Fleming Island, Florida. Park amenities include three ball fields with clay infields, covered dugouts, backstops fences, bleachers, a concession stand, and restrooms.

In June, 2021, the Clay County Board of County Commissioners officially dedicated the facility as Neptune Park, unveiling a permanent monument to remember those who were aboard the P2V Neptune. The beautiful granite monument, designed by Broadus-Raines Funeral Home, features the engraved names of the seven killed aboard the aircraft and the two who survived the crash.

Among the more than 50 people who purposefully attended the monument's dedication and the dozens of ball players and families that were visiting the park that evening and who stopped their activities to witness the unveiling were several children of the fallen airmen. Lt. Commander Lester C Kee's daughter, Karen Kee Pierce, who was just four and a half years old when her father died and Michael Trower Carlucci, the son of Aviation Mechanic 3rd Class Milton Trower were able to attend.



Both shared their sense of peace and honor to have their father's service to the country and their sacrifice memorialized forever at such a special place.

“As stewards of our community, we are proud of this recreational facility with the beautiful ball fields, the concession stand and the enhancement that it is to this neighborhood and Clay County,” Board of County Commissioners member and retired Naval aviator J.B. Renninger said at the June 17 ceremony. “I am especially pleased that we are able to permanently honor and memorialize these brave heroes who risked everything to protect our country and our freedoms, especially in this community, with such a rich history of military service and families.”

Neptune Park is located at 2070 Thunderbolt Rd, Fleming Island, FL.

The **Fire Watch** is Northeast Florida's fight to end veteran suicide. Over 6,000 U.S. military veterans die by suicide each year, including 500 annually here in Florida. But suicide is preventable. And everyone can help. **Join us as a Watch Stander today.** Learn how to identify the risk signs of veterans in crisis and to direct them to the help they need.

3 minutes to enroll. 30 minutes to train. A lifetime of saving lives.

Visit: [www.thefirewatch.org/watch-standers](http://www.thefirewatch.org/watch-standers) to learn more.

Thanks!

Nick Howland

Executive Director, The Fire Watch

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

904.525.1761







## **Veterans from all eras are reacting to the events in Afghanistan, such as the U.S withdrawal and the takeover by the Taliban.**

You are not alone.

Veterans may question the meaning of their service or whether it was worth the sacrifices they made. They may feel more moral distress about experiences they had during their service. It's normal to feel this way. Talk with your friends and families, reach out to battle buddies, connect with a peer-to-peer network, or sign up for mental health services. Scroll down for a list common reactions and coping advice.

Resources available right now

Veterans Crisis Line - If you are having thoughts of suicide, call 1-800-273-8255, then PRESS 1 or visit <http://www.veteranscrisisline.net/>

For emergency mental health care, you can also go directly to your local VA medical center 24/7 regardless of your discharge status or enrollment in other VA health care.

Vet Centers - Discuss how you feel with other Veterans in these community-based counseling centers. 70% of Vet Center staff are Veterans. Call 1-877-927-8387 or find one near you.

VA Mental Health Services Guide - This guide will help you sign up and access mental health services.

MakeTheConnection.net - information, resources, and Veteran to Veteran

videos for challenging life events and experiences with mental health issues.

RallyPoint - Talk to other Veterans online. Discuss: What are your feelings as the Taliban reclaim Afghanistan after 20 years of US involvement?

Download VA's self-help apps - Tools to help deal with common reactions like, stress, sadness, and anxiety. You can also track your symptoms over time.

Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) - Request a Peer Mentor

VA Women Veterans Call Center - Call or text 1-855-829-6636 (M-F 8AM - 10PM & SAT 8AM - 6:30PM ET)

VA Caregiver Support Line - Call 1-855-260-3274 (M-F 8AM - 10PM & SAT 8AM - 5PM ET)

Together We Served - Find your battle buddies through unit pages

George W. Bush Institute - Need help or want to talk? Check In or call: 1-630-522-4904 or email: [checkin@veteranwellnessalliance.org](mailto:checkin@veteranwellnessalliance.org)

Elizabeth Dole Foundation Hidden Heroes - Join the Community

American Red Cross Military Veteran Caregiver Network - Peer Support and Mentoring

Team Red, White & Blue - Hundreds of events weekly. Find a chapter in your area.

Student Veterans of America - Find a campus chapter to connect with.

Team Rubicon - Find a local support squad.

*3<sup>rd</sup> Annual*

2021

GOLF

TOURNAMENT

MON  
NOV 1<sup>st</sup>  
2021



**Eagle Harbor Golf Club**  
2217 Eagle Harbor Pkwy  
Fleming Island, FL 32003

**Monday, November 1, 2021**

Registration/Warm-up/Pre-Event	11:45am - 12:45pm
Shot Gun Start	1:00 pm
BBQ Dinner/Awards Ceremony/Raffle	5:00 – 6:30 pm

*Raffle tickets available throughout the day. Winners will be announced at the conclusion of the awards ceremony.*

All proceeds benefit **National POW/MIA Memorial and Museum**

**Deadline to Register:  
October 26, 2021**

*Sponsorship Packages and  
Player Registration Forms  
attached, or register online at:*

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

Follow the 2021 Golf Tournament  
Event from our Facebook page:

 "Cecil Field POW MIA Memorial"

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## **St. Johns County funds program to help homeless veterans secure housing**

### **First year to bring more than \$123K to help with rent, utilities**

*Sheldon Gardner, St. Augustine Record*

St. Johns County commissioners have launched a new program to help homeless veterans get off the streets by providing financial assistance for rent and utilities.

It's part of a bigger effort in the county to address veteran homelessness and a lack of affordable housing.

The county approved spending up to \$123,652 to start the first year of a program to get homeless veterans into housing. The commission also approved hiring a new full-time employee to manage the program; the salary is not included in the original sum.

New businesses: Wawa among many commercial developments coming to St. Johns County

Housing costs rise: Construction costs pose fresh challenge for workforce housing in St. Johns County

Joy Andrews, deputy county administrator, said the program cost is based on an estimated 38 homeless veterans in the county and information from county social services that it takes more than \$3,000 to get a homeless person into stable housing. The money will go toward rent and utilities.

The intent is not to indefinitely pay for someone's expenses, but to get people into housing and help them live independently, Andrews said.

"That's the hope is that we can stabilize them and then we can house them and then case manage and provide the necessary services," she said.

The first year of the program will give the county a better idea of the need, and it is expected to take place annually. The money is coming from the general fund, so any unused funds will remain in the general fund, she said.

The new employee's salary will likely be around \$45,000, not including benefits, she said.

The county's Veterans Services Office is writing guidelines for the program and working on hiring the case manager. The money is budgeted for the next fiscal year, which begins on Oct. 1.

Andrews said she expects it to take a couple of months for the county to finish the program details and hire the new employee, and then the county will make the funds available.

### Priority housing for veterans

In addition to the new funds, veterans will be a priority for 10% of the new housing units that will be available in two separate affordable housing complexes around State Road 207, Andrews said.

One of those complexes is San Marcos Heights, a 132-unit development that is under construction a couple of miles northeast of Interstate 95.

The rents there are expected to be \$780 a month for a one-bedroom apartment, \$927 a month for a two-bedroom apartment and \$1,070 a month for a three-bedroom apartment, according to a financial model for the project. Leasing should begin by April or May.

Commissioners Jeb Smith and Paul Waldron voted against the new pot of funding for homeless veterans, citing concerns about spending money on a new employee to handle the funds.

The commission also asked that the Veterans Service Office pursue other sources of funding, such as federal grants, to help with the program.

Joe McDermott, veterans service officer for the county government, said the county is handling about 18 to 20 clients a day in its office, so current staff couldn't handle the additional work. But he said he will look for outside support to mitigate the cost.

The case manager will help the office handle other duties when not dealing with homeless veterans, McDermott said.

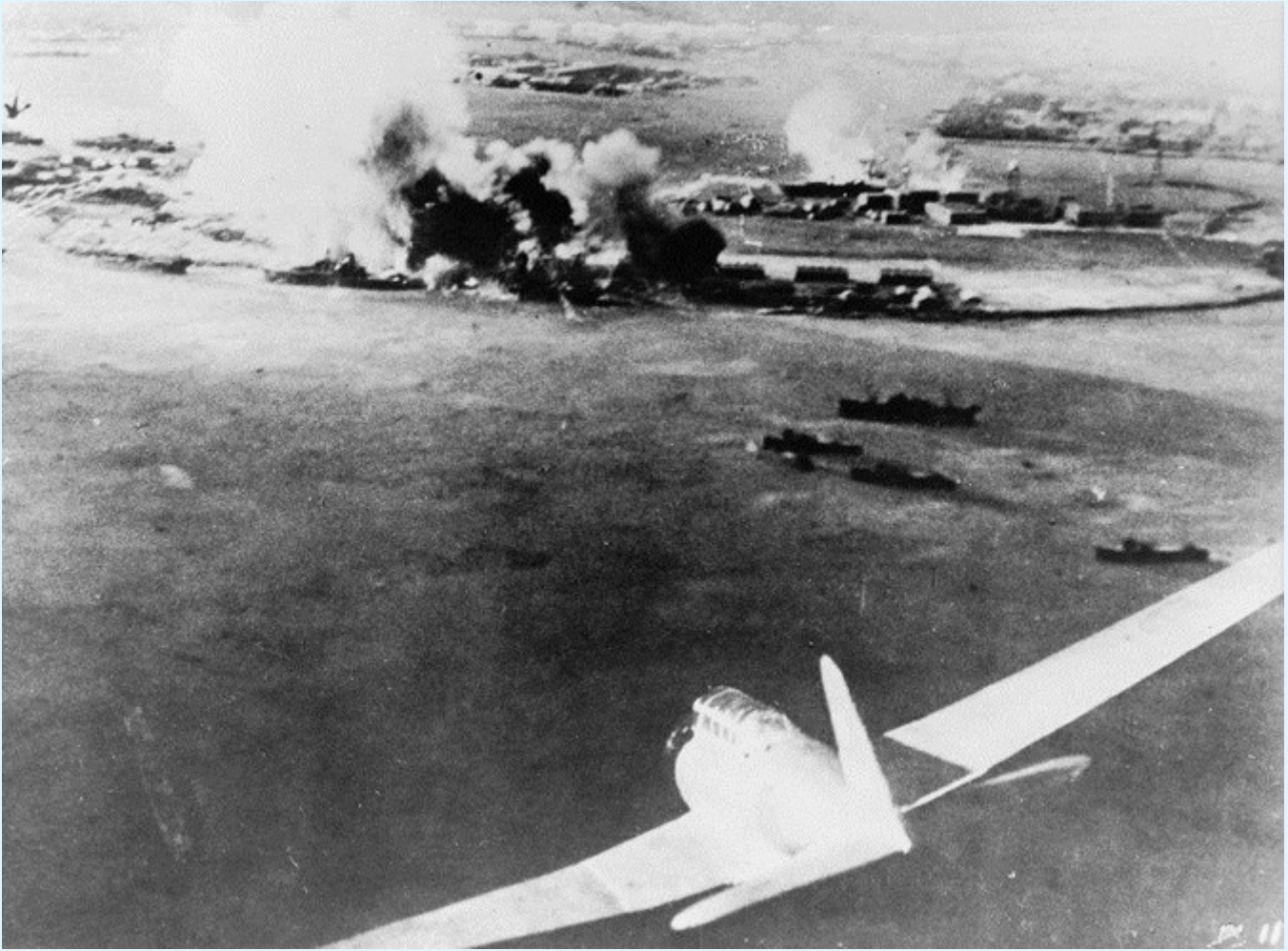
Commission Chair Jeremiah Blocker said many homeless veterans were of the Vietnam War era, and some have undiagnosed post-traumatic stress disorder.

"I think this is one of the very rare circumstances where we as a society effectively, you know, abused and used these young men and women, sent them all over to fight a war that the rest of us didn't have to fight, and now they're stuck with this problem. ... So that's why I am supportive of this because I think we as a society have put a lot of these people in this position, and we've benefited from that, from their service. So I do think we have an obligation to help," he said.



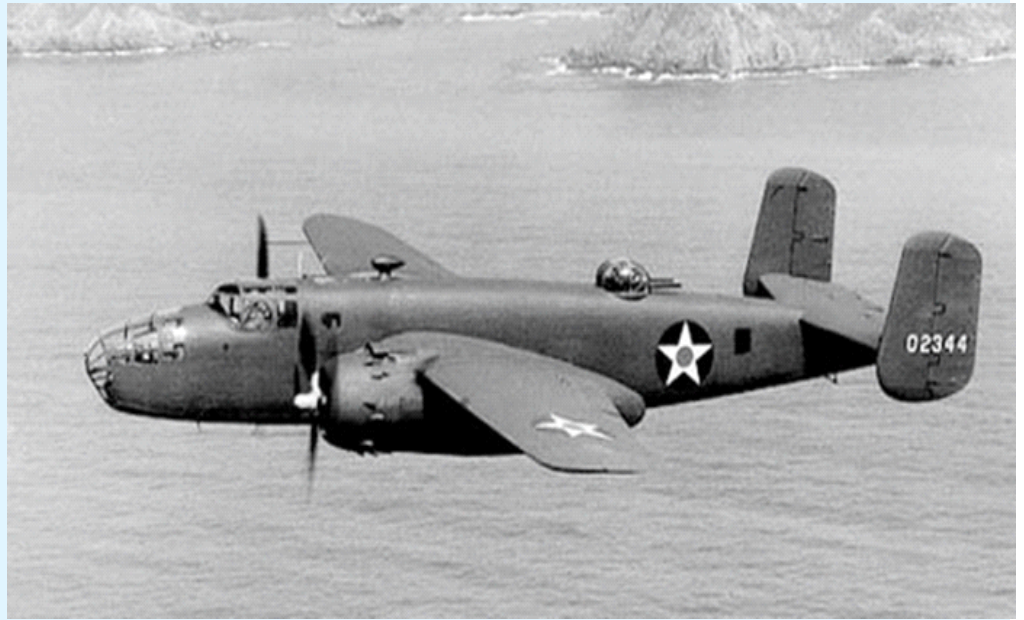
## Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo – From Florida

In the months immediately following the December 7th attack in 1941 on the American Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, American resolve was codified into a call for action. Something had to be done, and quickly, to send a message to Imperial Japan that they were not out of our reach. Payback was coming.



**Above: In this photo is what appears to be a Japanese Aichi D3A1 Dive Bomber taking up an attack angle for another run at Battleship Row; U.S. Navy battleships at anchor along the Southeast edge of Ford Island, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, 7 December 1941.**

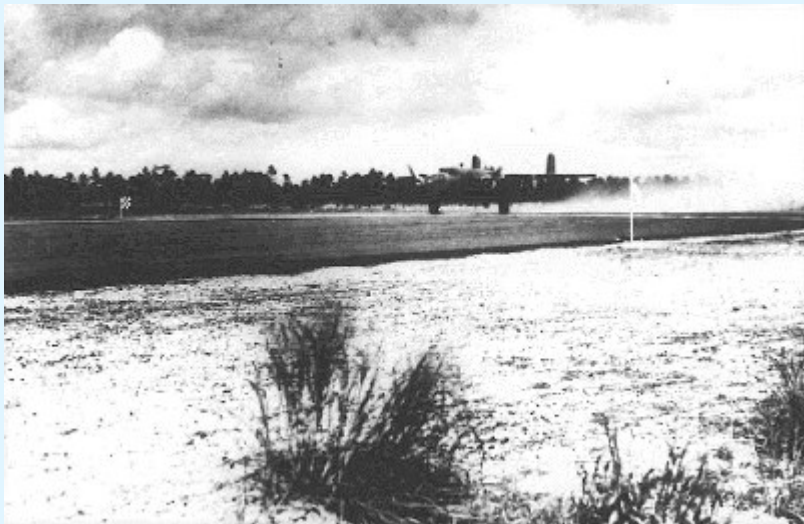
On December 21, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, with his Joint Chiefs of Staff assembled, stated that an attack on the Japanese homeland should be accomplished as soon as possible to help bolster American morale and place doubt in the minds of the Japanese people about the competency of their leadership. On January 10, 1942, Vice Chief of Staff, Navy Captain Francis Low reported that he had seen twin-engine Army bombers attempt to land in an area the size of an aircraft carrier at Norfolk, Virginia. He thought that bombers could be launched in the same way. The assignment of planning the raid was given to then Lt. Col. James H. “Jimmy” Doolittle, an aviation pioneer and military test pilot. Doolittle reviewed the potential candidates from planes for the mission and quickly chose the Mitchell B-25B for the mission.



**Above left: Lt. Col. Jimmy Doolittle; Above right: Mitchell B-25B, Medium-Range Bomber**

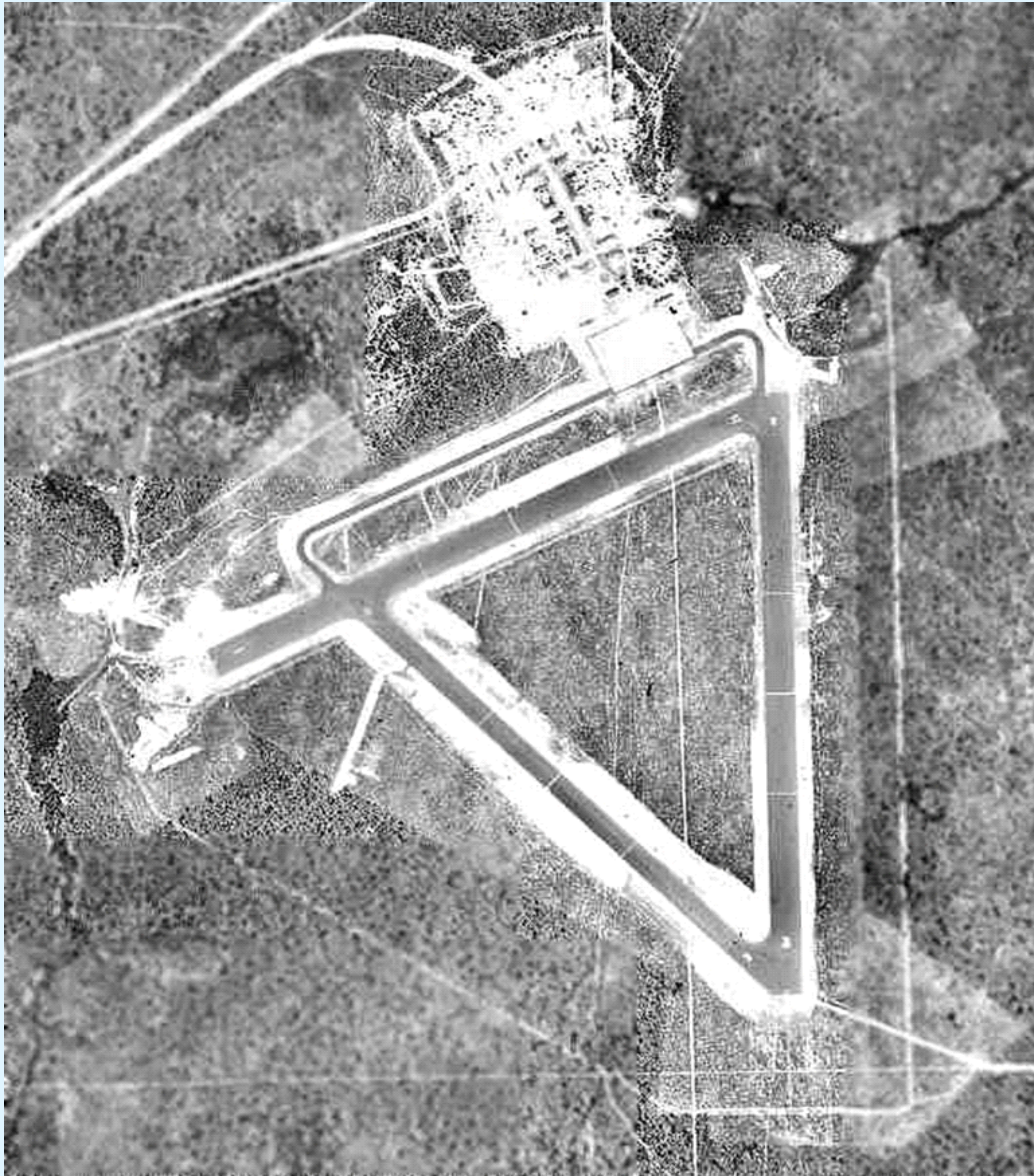
The B-25 only had a range of 1,350 nautical miles and so would need to be modified to carry enough fuel for its crew of five, a 2,000-pound bomb load, fly 2,400 nautical miles, and still be able to take off from a carrier deck at sea. It was a tall order but would prove to be one of the most daring missions of the war, and a mission that would be a one-way trip with plans to land in China or the Soviet Union. Since there would be no chance to return to the aircraft carrier, many thought of it as a suicide mission. Pilots from the 17th Bomber Group were chosen and simply given the choice to volunteer for “an extremely hazardous mission.” No details were given, and tight security was maintained for the entire project. The men who volunteered were nicknamed “Doolittle’s Raiders.”

Changes to the aircraft included removal of the bottom gun turret and installation of mock twin machine guns in the tail gunner’s position to save on weight. An extra, 160-gallon, collapsible fuel tank was installed above the bomb bay, and the center radio position was eliminated. The expensive Norden Bombsight was removed. A make-shift sighting tool, nicknamed the “Mark Twain,” was invented and installed, costing cost only twenty cents in materials. Each plane would carry three, 500-pound bombs and one bomb filled with incendiaries



**Photo Left: Doolittle B-25 crew practices take-off at Wagner Field, Pensacola, Florida, 1942**





**Photo Above: 1949 Aerial photo of Eglin Auxiliary Field #1, where horizontal markings across the runways can be clearly seen to provide the Doolittle Raiders with reference points for carrier take-off distances. The markings could still be seen in an aerial photo taken of the same runways in 2006.**

Here, our story moves to Florida. 22 crews were flown to the factory in Minneapolis to pick up the modified planes, and then they flew them to Eglin Field at Naval Air Station Pensacola in early March of 1942. Eglin Auxiliary Field #1 (later named Wagner Field after U.S.A.A.F. Major Walter J. Wagner) was situated northeast of the main base. The field became the primary training site for Doolittle's Raiders to master take-off within the short distance required aboard the aircraft carrier.

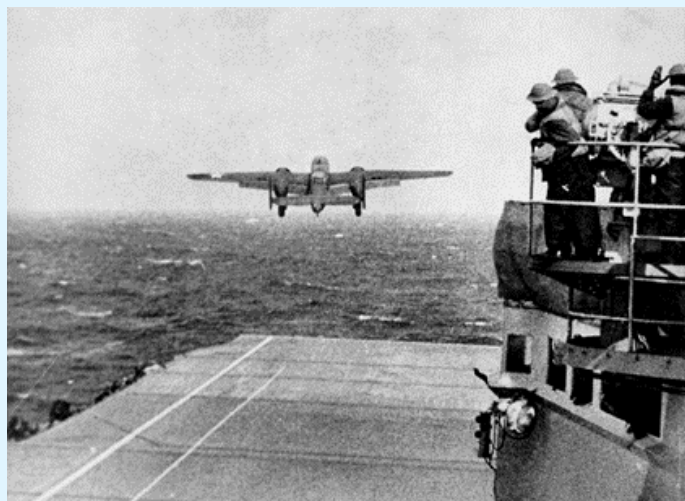
Daily practice involved locking the brakes on the main gear and running-up engines to the required RPM before releasing the brakes and hoping to be airborne before crossing the line of demarcation. Training was supervised by Lt. Henry Miller, a flight instructor from N.A.S. Pensacola who would eventually ship-out with the crews to assist with take-off on the actual mission. He formally became a member of Doolittle's Raiders even though he did not actually fly the mission.

Ultimately, 16 of the original crews shipped out aboard the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Hornet and Task Force 18 from San Francisco on April 1, 1942, headed west. This group joined up with aircraft carrier U.S.S. Enterprise and Task Force 16 and proceeded toward Japan. It would be the job of U.S.S. Enterprise's fighters to provide air cover for the Hornet from a Japanese air attack since the ship's deck was covered with the bombers and all her fighters were stowed below deck.



**Photos Above: B-25B's on the flight deck of the U.S.S. Hornet, April 1942**

On April 18th, the group was spotted by a Japanese Imperial Navy patrol boat that sent a radio warning to Japan. The boat was immediately sunk by American forces, but the group was 170 nautical miles from their original planned launch distance. Nevertheless, they decided to launch the planes at once. The reality for the crews was that they could reach Japan, but not necessarily their planned landing in China. They would run out of fuel before they got there. Lt. Col. Doolittle piloted the first plane into the air and all sixteen planes launched successfully.



**Photos Above: A Raider launches from the deck of U.S.S. Hornet. Later, the flight group is photographed over the island of Japan. The bombing run over Tokyo would last only thirty seconds.**



The mission continued with successful bombing of industrial targets in both Tokyo and Yokohama, then most of the crews ditched their planes in the South China Sea. The mission by all standards was a success and shocked the residents of the Japanese homeland. The mission provided the Japanese a foretaste of what results from war against American bravery and resolve.

The mission was immortalized in the book *Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo* written by Capt. Ted W. Lawson, one of the original Doolittle's Raiders pilots. The book became a movie of the same name released in 1944 and produced by MGM Studios starring Spencer Tracy, Van Johnson, and Robert Mitchum. The men of Doolittle's Raiders had their initial flight training in South Florida and then returned to Pensacola for the specialized training required of them to perform this impossible mission. Once again, the State of Florida provided essential service to the men of WWII.

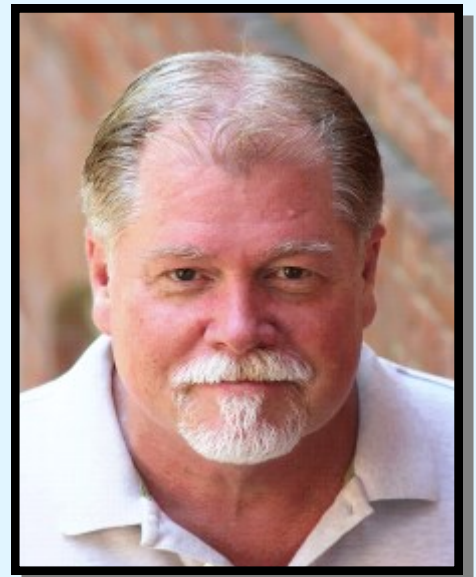


**Photo Left: Images from *Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo*, Copyright MGM Studios, 1944**

#### **About the Author: Rick Cain**

Rick Cain has worked for the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum for 20 years after a 20-year career as a health care professional. He has served on the Board of Directors of the American Lighthouse Council and as Past Chair of the Florida Attractions Association.

He also works closely with the United States Coast Guard to maintain their historic ties to the Museum.



# A Family/Survivor Reference Guide for When A Veteran Dies



## I Prior to Death- Discussion to Have and Action Items Prior to Death

1. Designate a "battle buddy," a go-to friend or family member who will provide support:
  - a. Assist with calls and gathering information
  - b. Reach out to local Veteran Service Group Chapter Personal Affairs
  - c. Reach out to Veteran Service Organization Chapter Chaplain (insert contact information here)
2. Locate servicemember's DD Form-214 - Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty. No DD-214? Request a DD-214 in any of these ways:
  - a) Contact your state or county Veterans agency
    - i. For North Carolina county veterans offices you can locate closest office at link: [https://files.nc.gov/ncdmva/documents/files/DMVA\\_Resource\\_Guide-2020.pdf](https://files.nc.gov/ncdmva/documents/files/DMVA_Resource_Guide-2020.pdf)
    - ii. For veterans in other states please refer to other state directory for veteran service offices closest to you: <https://www.va.gov/statedva.htm> or refer Appendix A
  - b) Mail or fax a Request Pertaining to Military Records (Standard Form SF 180) to the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC); download SF 180 <https://www.milvets.nc.gov/request-dd-form-214-certificate-release-or-discharge/open> (mailing addresses are included on the form) Be sure only one SF 180 is sent in or it can cause delays. Contact NPRC if veteran has already passed after sending in SF 180 to request it be expedited.
  - c) Get an eBenefits account with the VA: [Home - VA/DoD eBenefits](#)
3. Connect with Veterans Service Officer (VSO) [Benefits & Claims | Department of Military & Veterans Affairs \(nc.gov\)](#) or call (844-624-8387); Complete Form VA 21-22 (Appointment of VSO as Claimant's Representative): [21-22 \(va.gov\)](#), and Form VA 21-0845 (Third Party Disclosure): [21-0845 \(va.gov\)](#); VSO guides veterans and or surviving spouse through the benefit process, and provides entitled benefit information during final days, for example:



- a. Home skilled nursing (VA eligibility check)
  - b. VA state nursing home (Discuss)
  - c. Durable Medical Equipment (Wheelchair, ramps, etc. check)
  - d. Have VSO check for any possible service-connected conditions or pension eligibility
4. Obtain Military Bio if available
- Make/Review Funeral arrangements/disposition of remains:
- a. Local Mortuary
  - b. Arlington National Cemetery (877) 907-8585 [www.arlingtoncemetery.mil](http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil)
  - c. VA -contact closest local County Veteran Service Officer
  - d. Order flag [VBA form 27-2008](#) for burial from VA if meets criteria
  - e. [Military Funeral Honors](#) Directory- Military One Source
5. Know what the veteran's service-connected disability rating is and for what (if applicable):
- a. Contact local VA VSO for support
  - b. VSO will provide information on VA support for interment
    - i. Payment for interment varies on level of disability and if death is service-connected, or varies by location at time of death.
    - ii. Ceremony support (this is provided usually by funeral home directors)
6. Additional data needed: Complete forms from MOAA or other Veteran service organizations -in preparation of a death:
- a. Computer/phone passwords
  - b. Banking/ online passwords for bank accounts
  - c. Properties
  - d. CPA
  - e. Financial Advisor
  - f. Insurance (Property, Life, Extended Home Health Care)
  - g. Online passwords (utilities, any direct deposits, deposit box key locations)
  - h. Check for VGLI or SGLI (life insurances contact number (800) 669 8477)
  - i. Check for Survivors Benefit Plan "SBP" (call DFAS (800) 321-1080)
  - j.

## **II After Death Occurs**

- 1. Connect with "battle buddy" or go-to friend
- 2. Speak with attending physician or medical support:
  - a. Discuss cause of death
  - b. Share VA disability rating with MD. Important note: To get certain survivor VA benefits (such as Dependents and Indemnity Compensation, DIC), a VA service-connected disability must be recorded on the death certificate as either part of the primary cause of death or additional/secondary/other causes)

### III Day One

1. Contact VA to report death of veteran (800) 623 1000
2. Have pertinent information ready: DD 214, date of death, place of death, Social Security Number
3. Notify agencies of veteran's death - all that apply
  - a. VA- work with Veterans Service Officer
    - i. Connect with county VSO or Veteran Service Organization (must have VSO)
    - ii. Is death service connected?
    - iii. Does the disability rating need to be adjusted?
    - iv. Start paperwork for DIC or survivor's pension if applicable (note: the federal VA will need a copy of the death certificate before they grant anything, this is why it is key to talk to coroner or attending physician before they sign off on death certificate.)
    - v. VSO will apply for other benefits/certificates
      1. DD-214
      2. Pay in arrears
      3. Possible appeals
      4. Survivor Pensions
      5. Aid and attendance
      6. Fiduciary if appropriate
  - b. [DFAS](#) (Defense Finance and Accounting Office) (800) 469-6559 (contact if veteran retired or received medical retirement from service)
    - i. Notify
    - ii. Request Survival benefit Plan claim
  - c. [DEERS](#) (800) 538-9552  
[https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/self\\_service/rapids/unauthenticated?execution=e1s1](https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/self_service/rapids/unauthenticated?execution=e1s1)
  - d. Prudential (VGLI/SGLI) (800) 669 8477- Prudential (if VGLI/SGLI in effect)
    - i. Notify (find out if the veteran was paying to receive VGLI/SGLI)
    - ii. Request paperwork to file
  - e. Privately issued insurance
  - f. [Social Security](#) <https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/survivors/> (800) 772-1213
    - i. Notify
    - ii. Request appointment to file for death benefits
  - g. Arlington National Cemetery (ANC)
    - i. (877) 907-8585 [www.arlingtoncemetery.mil](http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil)
    - ii. Arlington requirements- must meet criteria
    - iii. Review on ANC web or speak with ANC support staff
    - iv. To schedule must have
      1. DD214

2. Copy of Death Certificate
3. Copy of cremation certificate
- v. Funeral Home – Communicate that death is of a veteran
4. Reach out to [TAPS](#) - Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors if needed (grief counseling)  
www.taps.org (800) 959 8277, or closest [Vet-center](#) 1-877- 927-8387)

#### **IV Day Two+**

1. Continue with list above
2. Contact lawyer where the will or living trust is filed to inform of death
3. Contact USAA (or other auto insurance) check if there is a gratuity payment
4. Speak with attending physician regarding Cause of death. (Note: this might eliminate the surviving spouse from being eligible for DIC if the cause of death/other causes of death part of the death certificate does not include a service-connected disability)
5. Receive/Review Death Certificate from Mortuary
6. Communicate with attending physician
  - a. Cause of death
  - b. VA disability language should be included if applicable
  - c. Request death certificate be sent electronically
  - d. Talk with signer of death certificate if amendments are needed
7. File paperwork with the above agencies as directed to receive benefits
8. [COVID-19 Death Burial Benefit](#) (FEMA) If Veteran passed away from COVID-19
9. [Benefits to support Survivors](#) – Brochure Military One Source
10. [VA Survivor Tool Kit](#) <https://www.benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/docs/VASurvivorsKit.pdf>
11. Obituary
  - a. Use military bio to help
  - b. Mortuary provides service as needed
12. Interment
  - a. Announcements
  - b. Location
  - c. Reception

Citation: Military One Source

<https://download.militaryonesource.mil/12038/MOS/Trifolds/SurvivorMilestoneTrifold.pdf>

*This guide compiled by Western North Carolina Chapter, Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)-Personal Affairs. Dr. Vivianne Cisneros Wersel, Lead Author and Editor, in coordination with Jeremy Hughes, North Carolina Department of Military Veteran Affairs Regional Officer. Additional contributing team members: Katherine Knight, CAPT, USN Retired, Donna Culp, Capt, USAF, Frm, John D. Culp, LTC USA Retired*

# UNITED STATES ARMY KOREA 1950 - 1953



# VIETNAM 1961 - 1973



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HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES FORCES COMMAND, CHIEF OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
ICOM Form 130, 1-68-0





U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

## News Release

Office of Public Affairs  
Media Relations  
Washington, DC 20420  
(202) 461-7600  
[www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)

21-100

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Aug. 2, 2021

### **VA to start processing disability claims for certain conditions related to particulate matter**

**WASHINGTON** — The Department of Veterans Affairs will begin processing disability claims Aug. 2 for asthma, rhinitis and sinusitis on a presumptive basis based on presumed particulate matter exposures during military service in Southwest Asia and certain other areas — if these conditions manifested within 10 years of a qualifying period of military service.

VA conducted the first iteration of a newly formed internal VA process to review scientific evidence to support rulemaking, resulting in the recommendation to consider creation of new presumptions of service connection for respiratory conditions based on VA's evaluation of a National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine report and other evidence.

The process concluded that particulate matter pollution is associated with chronic asthma, rhinitis and sinusitis for Veterans who served in the Southwest Asia theater of operations beginning Aug. 2, 1990 to the present, or Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Syria or Djibouti beginning Sept. 19, 2001 to the present. VA's review also concluded that there was sufficient evidence to presume that these Veterans have been exposed to particulate matter.

"I announced my intent to initiate rulemaking on May 27 to consider adding respiratory conditions to the list of chronic disabilities," said Denis McDonough, Secretary of Veterans Affairs. "Through this process I determined that the evidence provided was sufficient to establish presumptions of service connection for these three respiratory conditions. This is the right decision, and VA will continue to use a holistic approach in determining toxic exposure presumptives moving forward."

The Southwest Asia theater of operations refers to Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the neutral zone between Iraq and Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, the Gulf of Aden, the Gulf of Oman, the Persian Gulf, the Arabian Sea, the Red Sea and the airspace above these locations.

VA will conduct outreach to impacted Veterans and survivors to inform them about their eligibility and will provide information on how to apply. Veterans and survivors who believe they may be eligible for the newly established presumptive conditions are encouraged to apply. They should file a [VA Form 21-526EZ](#) if applying for the first time or a [VA Form 20-0995](#) if they are reapplying for these conditions. For more information on the new presumptive conditions, visit our website at [Airborne Hazards and Burn Pit Exposures - Public Health \(va.gov\)](#).

To apply for benefits, Veterans and survivors may visit [VA.gov](#) or call toll-free at 800-827-1000. Within the next week, you can view the interim final rule at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov).

###



2021

# Save the Date

Fri, 24 Sept.

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





**Gold Sponsor** \$2,000

Two Teams  
Website Recognition  
Golf Bag Contributor  
5 Min Speech at Banquet

**Silver Sponsor** \$1,500

One Team  
Website recognition  
Golf Bag Contributor

**Bronze Sponsor** \$500

One Team  
Golf Bag Contributor

**One Hole Sponsor** \$100

**Poster Name Recognition** \$50



*Can't make it?*

**You can still help!**

Make checks payable to:  
American Legion Post 194  
Mail to:  
1029 Pearl St.  
St. Augustine, FL 32084



*Golf Fundraiser*

The deadly COVID-19 pandemic brought our fundraising activities to a screeching halt, preventing the completion of our Veterans Centennial Park. Proceeds from this tournament will help us finish this memorial salute to our veterans, our community, the kids who have been through our program, and those who will attend in the future. We thank you in advance for your support.



*\$100 Entry Includes:*

- 18-Holes**
- Golf Cart**
- On-Course Refreshments**
- Lunch**
- Drink Voucher**
- Prize Opportunities**



**Contacts:**

**Charles Ellis**

ceellis@bellsouth.net

904-501-8299

**Dwight Swearnigen**

dswearnigen@yahoo.com

904 228-3620

**From Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley**

**Subject: VA Transportation Assistance**

**I received the email below from Dr. McKenzie. If any of our veterans require transportation assistance to any VA medical centers, have them call our CBOC at 904- 829-0814 and ask for the primary social worker for help with transportation.**

**We recently found that we are able to assist with patients who have significant issues with transportation to VA medical centers. Our primary care social worker can assist with this problem. Patient can call here and ask that she be notified of problem. She will be able to contact them and attempt to provide assistance.**

**From Michael Isam**

**DAV van service to Gainesville returning on a limited basis.**

**Begins on Monday, 23 March 2021**

**The van will run on Monday and Wednesday ONLY**

**3 passenger limit**

**Masks are required to and from VAMC**





## The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs

If you are looking for a simple way to help Florida Veterans, consider upgrading to a military themed specialty plate when you renew your tag. Revenue from military themed specialty license plates sales supports capital improvements to our State Veterans' Homes. For more information, click here: <https://bit.ly/3gxSZ8c>



## Veterans Council's Korea Documentaries going to the Truman Library

The Veterans Council was just notified by the Senior Archivist of the Harry S Truman Library that the Council's two Korean War documentaries it produced have been accepted by the Library and will go into their permanent collection.

The documentaries are: **Korea: Forgotten War, Remembered Heroes** and **Korea: The Forgotten War Remembered**.

The Council would like to thank Dr Henry Moreland, President of the Korean War Veterans Association Chapter 200 Jacksonville for his assistance in both documentaries and a special thank you to all the Korean War veterans in both documentaries.



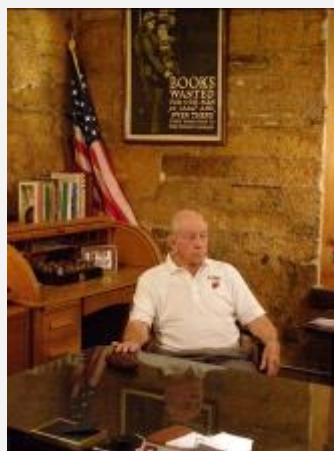
Jack Wentz



Richard Bassett



George Gaspard



Robert Bey



James Vanarsdale



Donald F Foy



Edwin O'Sullivan



Henry Moreland



John Printy



Boyd Guttery



Mike DePizzo



**REQUIREMENTS**

**MILITARY**

SERVED MINIMUM 90 DAYS ACTIVE DUTY,  
1 DAY DURING WARTIME, WITH AN  
HONORABLE DISCHARGE

**MEDICAL**

NEED FOR ASSISTANCE WITH ACTIVITIES OF DAILY  
LIVING (ADLS) DUE TO A NON-SERVICE CONNECTED  
DISABILITY

**FINANCIAL**

INCOME AND EXPENSES IN RELATION  
TO MEDICAL EXPENSES

From Lynn M Geiser

Here are the Aid & Attendance requirements and qualifications for 2021. This is for veterans and their spouses who qualify and need assistance with their Activities of Daily Living (ADL's).

VA RECOGNIZED WAR PERIODS	BEGINNING	ENDING
WORLD WAR II	Dec 7, 1941	Dec. 31, 1946
KOREAN CONFLICT	June 27, 1950	Jan. 31, 1955
VIETNAM ERA	Aug. 5, 1964	May 7, 1975
PERSIAN GULF WAR	Aug 2, 1990	End date to be set by law or Presidential Proclamation

**MEDICAL SCREENING**

The Veteran or surviving spouse must have a medical condition causing the need for assistance with activities of daily living (ADLs), such as bathing, dressing, grooming, using the toilet, preparing meals, and moving about safely).

**MONETARY SCREENING**

The veteran and or veteran plus spouse can have a maximum of \$129,094 in liquid assets. A primary residence and auto are not counted as part of the total liquid assets. Ongoing non-reimbursable medical expenses may reduce the annual countable income.

MAXIMUM PENSION AMOUNTS	PER MONTH	ANNUALLY
SURVIVING SPOUSE	\$1,244	\$14,928
VETERAN	\$1,936	\$23,232
COUPLE	\$2,295	\$27,540



**VETERANS COUNCIL OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY**

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**29 JULY 2021**

**CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Dudley**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Chairman Dudley**

**INVOCATION: Vice Chair Quinn**

**UPDATE: Update on Michael Rothfeld family.**

**REVIEW OF JULY MINUTES: Chairman Dudley conducted a review of the July minutes and asked for corrections or changes. Hearing none the minutes were unanimously approved.**

**TREASURERS REPORT: Treasurer John Mountcastle provided a detailed treasurers report. He stated the current balance stands at \$60,970.38. He noted that total includes funds that are restricted for specific purposes. Expenditures for the month of July totaled \$661.89. The printed report was available at the meeting for all members. A vote was conducted and the report was approved.**

**INTRODUCTION OF JASON WHITE, BIRDWELL FOUNDATION:**

**Jason White presented an overview of the Birdwell Foundation explaining the mission and involvement in Florida. The mission is described in the motto: NO ONE HEALS ALONE. The Birdwell Foundation provides warrior and family support groups across our great nation for our Veteran and First Responder communities. It is the mission to effectively assist our brothers and sisters whom have served and or continue to serve our country.**

**The program began when Mr. Birdwell established Camp Hope in San Antonio, Texas. The program expanded from there to 12 national chapters providing help to those suffering from the effects of PTSD. The assistance provided includes crisis intervention, housing/transition, response to calls from the suffering and a mentor program.**

**Operating in Florida is Camp Valor. Camp Valor is a refuge for healing and as the motto states: No One Heals Alone.**

**Jason is to be commended for his work with our warriors and he offers himself to those we find in need.**



#### **VETERAN SERVICE OFFICE REPORT:**

CSM McDermott provided an update from the service office. He provided a briefing on the status of the planned Homeless Veterans Stand Down. The event is to be conducted 11 Sep 21 at the Elks Lodge, A1A, St. Augustine. Volunteers are needed to guide the veterans through the process. If you wish to volunteer please arrive by 8:30 a.m. to receive a briefing on the day's activities. If our members know of vendors that would be of benefit to our veteran's please invite them to assist.

CSM McDermott provided a briefing on the lack of housing for veterans and the federal governments current funding to assist. He stated \$480 million had been set aside for distribution to the states to help fund the need. He noted that the state and federal both are currently funding the effort. St. Johns County has set aside \$123K and funded a position to disperse funds to veterans found with a valid housing need. He noted that there are currently 38 homeless veterans in the county and not all would desire the assistance.

#### **VETERANS TREATMENT COURT:**

John Leslie provided a report on the current status of the St. Johns County Veterans Treatment Court. He stated that the court would be next conducted on 6 Aug 21 at 10:00 a.m. This marks only the second time the court has personally convened in more than a year. Previous sessions have been conducted via tele-conference. There are currently 26 veterans enrolled. Brandon Patty, St. Johns County Clerk of the Court will serve as keynote speaker for the graduation. John stated the program is fortunate to have a mentor for every two participants. All veterans are invited to attend the graduation.

#### **MISSING IN AMERICA AND JACKSONVILLE NATIONAL CEMETERY:**

Steve Spickelmier presented a report on the Missing In America Project. The project provides final honors and lays to rest those veterans or family members found neglected or unclaimed. There are thousands of unclaimed remains of our veterans across the nation and the Missing In America Project ensures final honors and a place of eternal rest in our nations veteran cemeteries. The next service will be conducted 29 Sep 21 and will be the 25th service conducted in Florida.

Steve also provided information on the upcoming POW-MIA Day which is nationally recognized on 18 Sep. The day will be recognized at Cecil Field beginning at 9:00 a.m. There will be speakers, displays, tours and an A-7 aircraft on display. As most are aware the chapel at Cecil Field is now the key element of our recognition of our POW-MIA's. Steve wanted to ensure all our veterans were made aware that the Jacksonville Jaguars donated the

funds to install an air conditioning system in the chapel.

He noted that the new road to the Jacksonville National Cemetery is tentatively scheduled to open in November. The new road will intersect with the entrance to the cemetery.

**CHAIRMAN DUDLEY REMARKS:**

Chairman Dudley offered remarks related to the opening of our new Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC). He stated it was truly a relief to have the facility after 11 years of effort. He stated there are currently 6,500 veterans signed up for care at the facility. He noted when that number increases to 10,000 a second building would be built on the same site.

Veterans Day planning has been ongoing for three months and it was hoped that we could conduct the Veterans Day observance in conjunction with the VA Ribbon Cutting for the CBOC. We have learned that the VA is hesitant to commit due to the ongoing pandemic. In view of the date rapidly approaching it was decided by the planning committee to cancel the plan and return our observance to Anastasia Baptist Church. Reservations have been made to use the church once again. We are most appreciative.

Chairman Dudley announced he has been contacted by the United States Coast Guard Band in reference to a concert here. They were well received previously and are certainly welcome again. Plans are for them to perform 4 April 2022 at the Anastasia Baptist Church. It is a free concert and the capacity for the event is 1250.

Chairman Dudley announced that efforts to obtain the former CBOC are still underway. There has been communication between the county, our council and the owner of the temporary buildings. The meetings have been positive and more updates will be provided.

**THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:55 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

**RAY A. QUINN, Vice Chair**

## **Reminder: Electronic Filing Mandate for Form 990-EZ for Exempt Organizations filing for years ending after July 31, 2021**

The Taxpayer First Act, enacted July 1, 2019, requires tax-exempt organizations to electronically file information returns and related forms. The requirement to file electronically generally became effective for tax years beginning after July 1, 2019. However, for small exempt organizations, the legislation specifically allowed a postponement ("transitional relief"). As a result:

For tax years ending before July 31, 2021, the IRS will accept either paper or electronic filing of Form 990-EZ, Short Form Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax. For tax years ending July 31, 2021, and later, Forms 990-EZ must be filed electronically. This not only includes 990-N, but also includes 990-EZ and full 990, with any appropriate related schedules.

IRS will be sending an educational letter (Letter 6194) to organizations that filed paper Forms 990-EZ previously. There is no need to reply to the letter.

### **On July 15, IRS also announced the following:**

The 2021 Virtual IRS Nationwide Tax Forum consists of a 5-week program of live webinars beginning on July 20, 2021. IRS webinars are offered every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday for the 5-week duration. Registration information is available on the Tax Forums webpage. There is a substantial registration fee of up to \$289.

The "Charities & Tax-Exempt Organizations Update" webinar is Thursday, July 22 at 2pm EST. In this session, you'll learn about recent law and guidance changes and how those changes may affect your exempt organization. The webinar will also discuss electronic filing requirements that affect many tax-exempt organization returns. You must register AND PAY for the Nationwide Tax Forum to attend this webinar.

### **FREE Online Training for Small to Mid-Sized Section 501(c)(3) Charities**

The IRS provides free interactive online training to help officers, board members, and volunteers maintain your organization's tax-exempt status at [StayExempt.irs.gov](https://stayexempt.irs.gov). The Maintaining 501(c)(3) Tax-Exempt Status course discusses what responsibilities your organization has and what activities can jeopardize your organization's 501(c)(3) status. The Tax-Exempt Organization Workshop provides additional information on the benefits, limitations and expectations of tax-exempt organizations.

*From John Mountcastle, Treasurer, Veterans Council of St. Johns County, FL, Inc.*



**From a June 16, 2021 IRS' Exempt Organizations Notice  
Information on Notices Received After Paper Filing Form 990-EZ  
or Form 8868**

**The IRS is experiencing delays in processing paper returns, including Form 990-EZ, Short Form Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax, and Form 8868, Application for Extension of Time To File an Exempt Organization Return.**

**The IRS encourages organizations to file these forms electronically. If you file Form 990-EZ on paper, you may receive a prematurely-issued CP259A notice of non-filing. If you file Form 8868 on paper, there may be a delay in receiving CP211A notice confirming approval of your extension request. If you filed your return or extension request on paper, you do not need to take any further action. Please don't file a second return or contact the IRS about the status of your filing. We appreciate your patience.**

**Note: this DOES NOT APPLY to exempt organizations filing annual information reports electronically. ALL exempt organizations must file annual information reports (990-N, 990-EZ or 990) electronically for tax years ending on or after July 31, 2021.**

**John Mountcastle,**

**Treasurer**

**The Veterans' Council of St. Johns County, Inc.**



IRC 501 (c) 19 Veterans Organization

*is pleased to announce the*

## 2021 FAVS / VYSTAR Scholarship Award

FAVS Scholarship is awarded to high school senior students who:

1. is a dependent child\* of an active, reserve, or retired military member.  
*\*Defined as natural and legally adopted child or stepchild living in the veteran's household, or primarily supported by a veteran.*
2. HS seniors or graduates who are in receipt of an acceptance letter and plan to enroll, or students who are already enrolled in full-time undergraduate study at an accredited two-year or four-year college, or vocational-technical school for the entire upcoming year.
3. Veterans\* themselves.  
*\*Veterans must have active military or DD-214 indicating honorable service.*
4. is a legal resident of Duval County, Florida.

*Award: TWO Cash Awards of \$1,500.00 each & Certificates*

Begin Date: Sunday 04 JUL 2021

Close Date: Thursday 30 SEP 2021

For RULES AND ENTRY FORMS PLEASE CONTACT 858-215-3931:

Completed application forms, together with all required enclosures must be received by the FAVS Scholarship Chairman not later than Thursday 30 SEP 2021

**PLEASE MAIL COMPLETED PACKAGES TO:**

**Mr. Marc Manor**  
Chairman, FAVS Scholarship Committee  
1301 Riverplace Blvd, Ste 800-145  
Jacksonville, FL 32207

Applications can be scanned and sent electronically (pdf) to [marcmanor@yahoo.com](mailto:marcmanor@yahoo.com)

**WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT THE FAVS VETERANS DAY PARTY IN NOVEMBER, 2021**





## Legal Aid for Veterans

The Florida Veterans Legal Helpline is a project of the Major General Ernest A. and Marilyn Bedke Veterans Law Center at Bay Area Legal Services, Inc. The helpline is a free service for eligible Florida veterans and their family members.

When you call, you will speak to a screener who will determine your eligibility and set your appointment with an attorney.

**1.866.486.6161**

**Call Today!**

**Hours: Monday – Friday  
9 AM to 4:30 PM**



## We Can Help With

- Landlord-Tenant Matters
- Consumer Credit Issues
- Foreclosure
- Divorce + Child Support
- Drivers Licenses/ID cards
- Social Security + Public Benefits
- Discharge Upgrades
- VA Benefits
- And Other Civil Legal Matters  
(No Criminal or Traffic Matters)

Supported by the:



**Become a Watch Stander with The Fire Watch**



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

## Disaster Resources Available to Veterans

**“Veterans and their families should be focused on their health and safety during the natural disasters,”** said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie.

“VA is taking action to give those with pending debts greater flexibility during these challenging times.”

### Health Care Assistance

If you have questions such as where to go for care or how to receive prescribed medications, VA has established a toll-free number for assistance in areas that have been impacted by disasters. Veterans or their families can call the VA Veterans Disaster Response line 24 hours, seven days a week at 1-800-507-4571.

### Debt Relief

If you are affected by a natural disaster, have a VBA benefit debt and need temporary financial relief, please contact VA's Debt Management Center at 1-800-827-0648 to request assistance.

If you have questions on Compensation or Pension benefits: Call toll-free 1-800-827-1000 Monday - Friday 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. CST.

### Other Resources

Find a VA Vet Center near you 877-WAR-VETS (927-8387) or <https://www.va.gov/find-locations>

Mobile Vet Centers and Vet Center teams are actively responding to disaster-affected areas to offer counseling and grief support as well as connection and referral services to other VA and community resources.

Find a VA facility near you <https://www.va.gov/find-locations>

Call the White House VA Hotline 24 hours a day, seven days a week at 1-855-948-2311.

Apply for \$500 grant for your damaged primary residence (on a first come, first serve basis subject to funding) from PenFed Foundation.

National Resource Directory - Search for local resources for Veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors.

FEMA - FEMA helps with temporary housing, repair or replacement of existing homes.

American Red Cross - The American Red Cross offers emergency financial assistance to the most impacted counties. Please call 1-800-733-2767 to see if you qualify.

Disaster Assistance – An easy way to determine if your zip code has been declared a disaster and eligible for assistance. The website also allows users to complete an online application and the ability to check FEMA application status.





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.



*You sacrificed for our country.*

**AT SILVER CREEK,  
FREEDOM IS YOURS.**

Because of your commitment, you helped us achieve the American Dream. At Silver Creek, we want to return the favor – by providing the freedom, independence and personal attention you deserve. Since 2016, Silver Creek has served the St. Augustine community, offering military retirees and seniors at large a vibrant, community lifestyle complete with everything except the burdens of home maintenance. Impeccably-appointed independent concierge living, assisted living and memory care apartments homes, first-class amenities, holistic wellness programming, gourmet, all-day dining and abounding opportunities for enrichment are just a few of the many options you'll find.

Silver Creek provides residents the perfect balance of elegant, upscale living with the warmth and intimacy of home – inspiring socialization and fellowship within a close-knit community.

Call **800-665-9492** to schedule a tour and learn more.



THE FUTURE OF SENIOR LIVING

165 Silver Lane | St. Augustine, FL 32084 | [SilverCreekRetirement.com](http://SilverCreekRetirement.com)



**Independent Concierge Living – Assisted Living  
Memory Care – Short-Term Stays**

Assisted Living Facility #12928

## 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	Salvatore Sorrentino	suncler1951@aol.com
1088	Roy (Corky) Rudd	corkstopper50@yahoo.com; Nassau
1092	Forest Hope	foresthope@usa.net; Gainesville
1134	Marvin Lagle	mdlagle@gmail.com; Baker





**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





# 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.2.ctr@mail.mil](mailto:matthew.p.reeves.2.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).



## 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

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

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

**STAND BY THEM**  
Confidential help for Veterans and their families

**NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE**  
1-800-273-TALK (8256)  
[suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://suicidepreventionlifeline.org)

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

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

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

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



## 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.***

***He can be contacted at [webmaster@veteranscouncilsjc.org](mailto:webmaster@veteranscouncilsjc.org)***

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

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

Send to: rothfeldm@gmail.com



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

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

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

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

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

***The Veterans Council will meet at the St.  
Johns County Administration Building  
500 San Sebastian View  
Auditorium, 1st floor***

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

*(physical location)*

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

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

*Service is by appointment.  
Phone: 904-209-6160 Fax: 904-209-6161  
Joseph McDermott, SR VSO  
Travis Neidig, Assistant VSO  
Angela McKenzie, 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.*