



# The Patriot Reader Newsletter

P.O. Box 2117

St. Augustine, FL 32085

Bill Dudley, Publisher

Michael Rothfeld, Editor

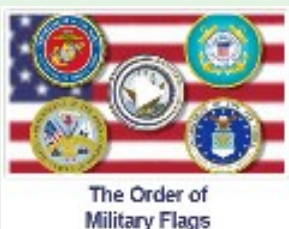
Volume 11, Issue 9

From Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley

September 2022

## Inside this Edition

- Jax National Cemetery Support Committee
- Veterans Council SJC Upcoming Speakers
- Veterans Centennial Park opens Sept 17
- Wreaths Across America
- FL Veterans Hall of Fame Inductees
- Homeless Veterans Stand Down
- Jacksonville National Cemetery Recognized
- Veterans Council July 28 Minutes
- Castillo de San Marcos
- Student Veterans of America
- HAM— Our Last Line of Communication
- American legion Post 194 Golf Tournament
- Veterans Games
- NAS JAX Air Show
- VetStream TV
- Names of Fallen List Completed
- USS Orleck hosts a wedding
- “Rocketman” Run
- A Famous veteran
- The New PACT Act
- New Desert Storm Memorial
- The Men are the Mission
- The Wall of faces Completed
- First Coast Honor Flight
- VA Survivor Benefits
- Military Medals Explained



Fellow Veterans,

On Oct. 8, the Veterans Council and Veterans Service Office will once again host the Homeless Veterans Stand Down at the Elks lodge. This has been a highly successful program over the years to help feed and clothe our homeless veterans in the community. They are provided with clothing, showers, haircuts, help with VA healthcare, legal aide, employment opportunities, housing, and other resources they may require to help them with their homeless situation. Volunteers are needed to help set up tables, place clothing on the tables and assist the veterans as they proceed through the lines to make their selection of services offered. If you would like to volunteer, please be

at the Elks Lodge on Friday, Oct. 7 at 9 am to help with the set-up and unload the truck and again on Sat. Oct 8 at 9 am to assist with the Stand Down.

Veteran’s homeliness in our county is on the rise. We are seeing evidence everyday of veterans losing their place of residency due to increase in housing costs, loss of income, landlord’s raising rent, lack of affordable housing, and other factors. The Veterans Council has been actively engaged in dealing with this crisis for a long time. The VC works with several local agencies to assist with finding housing for the homeless and if no housing is immediately available, we place the veteran in a local motel until housing becomes available. This is a temporary solution and expensive.



St. Johns County is in need of transitional housing for our veterans as a solution to this problem. Our Veterans Day Program planning committee is moving forward with great success in preparing for this year’s program on Nov. 11. Our keynote speaker has accepted our invitation and is most qualified to speak on this year’s theme on The Global War on Terror. Thank you for your service to our country.  
 Bill Dudley  
 Chairman  
 Veterans Council of St. Johns County



## 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 take place at Community Hospice, **4266 Sunbeam Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32257 in Conference Room A.**

Jacksonville National Cemetery Support Committee Meetings for 2022  
At Hadlow Community Hospice of NE FL.  
4266 Sunbeam Rd, Jacksonville, FL 32257  
Hadlow Bldg – Conference Room A 7:00 pm

### +++++2022 Officers of the SCJNC+++++

Chairman: Padraic Mulvihill

Vice Chairman: Bill Dudley Treasurer: Pat Welch

Secretary: Kathy Church, Judge Advocate: Don Guthrie

Master-At-Arms: Mike Smith, Historian: Win Delpizzo

Chaplain: Pat Archuleta, Public Affairs: Pat Mulvihill

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

Upcoming Veterans Council Meetings Speakers



**September 29**, Officer Kelly Kemp, Chaplain, SJSO,  
“Community Involvement”  
and Michael Anthony, CEO  
Gratitude America

**October 27**, Joe Snowberger, “Mission United”

**November 17**, TBA

**December 22**, Dr Amelia Lyons, Univ. Central FL,  
Veterans Legacy Project

# ST JOHNS COUNTY 2022 VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION

Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup>. Anastasia Baptist Church.



**Honoring All Who Served**

**MG. John Haas, Florida National Guard, keynote speaker.**

**The St. Johns Center for the Arts Chamber Singers. Static Displays.  
Video collage. Traveling Vietnam and Global War On Terrorism walls.**



**With special recognition of our  
“Global War On Terrorism” veterans.**

**Doors open 9 AM. Program begins at 11 AM.  
1650 A1A South (on Anastasia Island). Free parking on site.**



**Organized by the St. Johns County Veterans Council**

**Info at: [rothfeldm@gmail.com](mailto:rothfeldm@gmail.com)**

# ST. JOHNS COUNTY VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION

11 NOVEMBER 2022

## ANASTASIA BAPTIST CHURCH



This year we especially recognize all those who donned the uniform during the “Global War On Terrorism.” The shock and anger arising in millions of Americans in the aftermath of the 9/11 twin tower strikes were reminiscent of those after the Pearl Harbor attack, sixty years earlier. In both cases, a vicious war of global dimensions followed. Notably, as in all previous generations, millions of Americans left their homes to rally round the flag and shield their country from the further danger sure to follow. The 20<sup>th</sup> century WWII ended relatively quickly. The 21<sup>st</sup> century war on terrorism stretched over two decades, yet we note with special pride that the millions of American women and men who participated in it were all volunteers, including hundreds of thousands from Florida. Here, the 53<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Brigade Combat Team has just completed training at Ft. Hood Texas in early 2010 before deploying 7,000 miles east for combat duty in Iraq.



While the anti-terror mission continues in far flung crisis areas around the globe, with this year’s withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan major combat forces have returned once more to their homeland. It is now time to recognize the sacrifices all those in uniform made, whether at home or deployed abroad. **Join us in this tribute.**

**Anastasia Baptist Church, 1650 A1A South.  
On Anastasia Island. Free parking on site.  
Doors to exhibits open 9 AM.  
Program begins 1100.  
Info at: [rothfeldm@gmail.com](mailto:rothfeldm@gmail.com)**



**Organized by:  
The St. Johns County Veterans Council**

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

**August 1, 2022**

**VETERANS COUNCIL ANNOUNCES WREATH CAMPAIGN**

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

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

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

**The community is invited to the St. Augustine National Cemetery on December 17 2022 at 12:00 p.m. for a ceremony followed by placement of the wreaths. Youth organizations are encouraged to participate to learn and honor our veterans.**

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

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





*Just released, more to follow next month*

Florida Department of Veterans Affairs Executive Director James S. Hartsell told the Cabinet Tuesday 40 applications were submitted to the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame Council for consideration this year. The Council vetted the applications and submitted to Hartsell the names of 10 veterans selected for induction into the hall this year.

"They have my full support," Hartsell said as he announced the 2022 slate of inductees.

Included in the 2022 class are three veterans from Tampa and two from Tallahassee. They are Jeffery Cathey, Greg Holder and Maxine Reyes of Tampa; and Gordon Lightfoot and Glenn Sutphin of Tallahassee.

Other veteran inductees include Palm Harbor resident Mike Bousher; **Jacksonville resident Anthony D'Aleo**; Orlando resident John Gionet; Riviera Beach resident Don Lanman; and **St. Augustine resident John Leslie**.

The Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame Wall is on the Plaza Level of the Florida Capitol in Tallahassee. The Legislature created the Hall of Fame in 2012 as a way to honor the accomplishments of the 1.5 million veterans who live here.

Unlike a traditional military Hall of Fame, the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame recognizes veterans for their civic, business and community accomplishments. Only veterans who have been discharged honorably can be considered for induction. The law allows for as many as 20 veterans to be named to the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame each year.

Veterans, or those acting on their behalf, can submit applications between January 1 and May 31. The ceremony occurs on or near Veteran's Day, November 11. Including the inductees from the 2022 class 131 veterans are in the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame.



# Veterans Centennial Park & Anniversary Rib Cook-off

Sat, 17 Sept @ 1pm

- > LIVE MUSIC by Beautiful Bobbly & the B3 Band
- > Water-Slide Bounce House
- > Brisket & Ribs Judging @ 2
- > Cornhole Contest
- > Games & Vendors



American Legion Post 194 1029 Pearl St.

# 2022 SAINT JOHNS COUNTY HOMELESS VETERANS STAND DOWN



Saturday, October 8, 2022

9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

Elks Lodge

1420 A1A South

## SERVICES AND ITEMS AVAILABLE

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

## SPONSORS

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

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





## **2022 Saint John's County Homeless Veterans Stand Down**



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

In order to satisfy the needs of our community, we are requesting that your agency volunteer to participate in this important event. This Homeless Stand Down will meet the current needs of our Veterans and will take place October 8, 2022 at the Elks Lodge 1420 A1A South from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. We will evaluate the homeless and at-risk Veterans in our community and provide needed social services which we hope to include; employment, shelter, medical, identification, clothing, transitional and permanent housing, AIDS/HIV education/awareness, substance abuse awareness and benefits assessment. For this event we have the full support of the local Veterans Community Based Outpatients Clinic (CBOC) in our endeavor.

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

Thank you for your consideration and support of Veterans.

Respectfully, Lori Chapman

## CLOTHING ITEMS (CLEAN PLEASE):

<b>MEN:</b>	PANT'S/SHORTS	SM / MED / LARGE
	SHIRTS	SM / MED / LARGE
	SHOES	8 ½, 9, 9 ½, 10, 10 ½, 11, 11 ½, 12, 12 ½
	COATS/JACKETS	ALL SIZES
	UNDERSHIRT	MED / LARGE
	BOXER/BRIEFS	SM / MED / LARGE
	SWEATPANTS/SHIRTS	MED / LARGE
	SOCKS	

<b>WOMEN:</b>	PANT'S/SHORTS	SM / MED / LARGE
	SHIRTS	SM / MED / LARGE
	SHOES	6, 6 ½, 7, 7 ½, 8, 8 ½, 9, 9 ½, 10, 10 ½,
	COATS/JACKETS	ALL SIZES
	BRAS/PANTIES	ALL SIZES
	SWEATPANTS/	SM / MED / LARGE
	SWEATSHIRTS	
	SOCKS	

**The Veterans Council congratulates the staff at the Jacksonville National Cemetery for their recognition and dedication.**



Director | Jacksonville (928)/St. Augustine National Cemeteries (875)

4083 Lannie Road / Jacksonville, FL 32218

Office: 904.766.5222 / Christopher.morris1@va.gov

Press Release- North Jacksonville FL

For Immediate Distribution 19 August 2022

Contacts- Director Christopher L. Morris, 904.766.522; or

Padraic E. “Pat” Mulvihill, Cell 904.534.0035

Rotary Club & Charities of North Jacksonville

Support Committee Chairman-Public Information Officer

## **THE ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARD**

In Recognition of Superior Performance

The Jacksonville National Cemetery Team was presented with the Organizational Excellence Award on August 5, 2022, by the Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs, The Honorable Matthew T. Quinn. The award was presented to the Jacksonville National Cemetery in recognition of their superior performance that was demonstrated in exceeding national targets in management and operational areas during the Organizational Assessment and Improvement (OAI) review conducted on March 15 through 17, 2022.

To qualify for the Organizational Excellence Award, the cemetery underwent a rigorous independent review by a team of National Cemetery Administration (NCA) subject matter experts trained in evaluation methods. The cemetery’s performance positively supports the NCA’s mission, Veterans, and their families.

## **. VETERANS COUNCIL OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY**

### **MINUTES OF GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, JULY 28, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Dudley

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS: Chairman Dudley

PLEDGE: Chairman Dudley

INVOCATION: Vice Chairman Quinn



MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: Minutes of last meeting conducted on JUNE 30, 2022, were presented by Chairman Dudley. Copies of Minutes and Agenda are available on the sign-in table and were sent to members electronically by the Secretary. The minutes were approved by voice vote with no changes.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer John Mountcastle provided a detailed report that as of May 26, 2022, there was a balance of \$108,342.62 and as of July 18, 2022, there is balance of \$108,808.71, there has been \$5,300 in expenditures with receipts. About \$3,000 more that on events that are all itemized on the submitted Treasurer's Report. Around one-quarter of the funds are restricted specific for specific events. All remaining funds are unrestricted for urgent events that may come up. The Treasurer's Report was approved by voice vote with no changes.

#### **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS: Chairman Dudley**

There were numerous new attendees to this month's meeting that introduced themselves.

#### **PRESENTATIONS:**

##### **Houston Bowles, Chairman, Players PGA Tour**

Mr. Bowles is in charge of the 2,000 volunteers that assist with the Players Tournament each year and discussed the "jewel" that the tour is to our community. A media presentation was shown to those in attendance and discussion held of the "Patriot Outpost" that the PGA holds at the tournament for our Veterans. Military Appreciation Day is

held on the Tuesday of the PGA Player's Tournament each year. The grant programs were discussed and how each gives back to the community. Question and answers were held about the Tournament and what it represents for Northeast Florida.

### **Andrew Stack, Florida Coordinator for Dept. of Defense Programs**

Andrew Stack gave a brief introduction of himself, he was in the Air Force for 6 years active duty, an Arabic linguist and spent a lot of time on the ground in Saudi Arabia. Mr. Stack is a published author and presented his book "The Black Hand" as a gift to all in attendance. He talked about exactly what is "Building Healthy Military Communities," a pilot program established in 2017 by the Department of Defense to specifically address some of the challenges that are faced by our geographically dispersed service members around the United States. Helps veterans understand services and programs that are available to them in the communities in which they live. Discussed the percentage of American youth that are qualified (age 17-25) to enlist in the Service, the percentage is low (23%) and needs to be increase for the future of our Armed Services. Standards are being lowered in an attempt to increase qualifications. What can we do to address these problems – get involved. Opened the floor for questions and answers. Mr. Stack was presented with the Veterans Council Coin.

Ron Hasty, US Air Force, Ret. UF Health Veteran Outreach

Mr. Hasty's program, Brain Wellness, was instituted to help minimize the veteran suicide rate. The program is held in Jacksonville and was established by monetary donations to help prevent suicides. There is a 3-day assessment available for veterans in need. After the assessment and the if the veteran qualifies, they are asked to participate in a 3-week, 8 hours a day, program where they are provided help by doctors, psychiatrists, speech pathologists, physical therapists, etc. to help with all their issues. All expenses are paid by the program. There will be a scheduled time in the future for Mr. Hasty to give a more specific presentation to the Veterans Council.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

#### **VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER UPDATE, JOSEPH MCDERMOTT**

The Veterans Administration has a new Veterans Crisis Hotline - #988, press one for assistance. Update of the National Personnel Records available and personnel is back on site. Requests are at "high" and being processed as quickly as they can. The backlog should be complete and restored by the end of the year.

Update on HR 3967, a lot of changes and good things are going to come out of this bill. It includes an expansion of health care availability, toxic exposure for presumptive claims due to the burn pits, Atomic Veterans Health Care Act, Fair Care Act for Vietnam Veterans, and research matters. In the process of adding hypertension for presumptive due to exposure to Agent Orange. There are twenty-three more presumptive that they want to add for burn pit exposure. When this passes, there will be a lot more claims filed. Filing claims with the VA is slowing down due to the number of claims they are receiving. More Veteran Service Officers will be hired nationwide in order to assist with these claims.

Homeless Veteran Stand Down will be held on October 8, 2022, at 9:00 am at the Elks Lodge. There are about thirty-one homeless veterans in St. Johns County. Going to visit each homeless site to let homeless veterans know of the Stand Down, and how they can be helped with this event.

The Veterans Service Office is averaging about fifty new clients a month, some never have filed claims. This is moving up to about 60 a month. If you know of a veteran in need, please send them to the Service Office for assistance.

## **VETERANS TREATMENT COURT, JOHN LESLIE**

Explained the Veterans Treatment Court and its function to the new members in the audience. A mentor is assigned to each veteran that goes through this course to assist with navigation of this course. The Treatment Court is in its sixth year and during those years have inducted 107 veterans in the court. Fifty-eight have graduated. There are thirty-six veterans in-flow at this time. Thirteen left the program without graduating (one suicide). Next court session is July 29th at 10:00am with an open invitation to anyone that wishes to attend to observe. On the 12th of August there will be two graduations. Offer was extended to consider becoming a volunteer mentor. The men-

tor's role is to work outside of the court with the veteran to help navigate the system. Training is provided for the mentors.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Vice Chairman Quinn spoke of the Florida National Guard, since September 11th the Florida National Guard has deployed to combat theater over 22,000 men and women from one state in our great nation with not one embarrassing moment. Accomplished the mission and they are still standing ready.

Time to kick off the annual drive for "Wreaths Across America" to place wreaths on the graves of our Veterans in the oldest National Cemetery in America here in St. Augustine. The price of the wreaths has not changed, \$15 per wreath, if you purchase two, the sponsor gets an additional wreath – so that is three wreaths for \$30. We need to raise \$12,000 to get a wreath on every headstone.

Chairman Dudley talked of the Veterans Homeless Stand Down that had been previously discussed by Joe McDermott and will be held on October 8th at the Elks Lodge. On Veterans Day, November 11th, at 11:00 am there will be a ceremony honoring our Veterans at the Anastasia Baptist Church, the Global War on Terror Wall and the Vietnam Veteran Wall will be there. Organizations will have thirty-four tables to present their subjects and information. Theme this year will be the Global War on Terror.

The American Legion Post #194 is having a golf tournament on September 17th at Marsh Creek.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

William Dudley, Chairman

Ray A. Quinn, Vice Chairman

**The Castillo de San Marcos needs you!**

**Are you a military history enthusiast looking for a fun way to give back to your community? Have you ever thought about volunteering with the National Park Service? The Castillo de San Marcos needs your help! Volun-**



**teers-in-Parks (VIPs) perform a wide range of tasks, such as demonstrating historic weapons, giving interpretive programs, answering questions, assisting with safety, and generally helping visitors get the most out of their experience. Find Your Park, join our VIP corps, and help bring the Castillo to life!**

**We're looking for outgoing individuals who love talking to people and can commit at least 4 hours a week to the Castillo. Schedules are flexible, and there are many ways that you can help connect visitors to our park. Love teaching but hate being stuck indoors? National Parks are some of the country's best open-air classrooms, and there are so many amazing stories to share with the people who come through our gates. Visitors come from around the world to see our historic city, and there's never a dull day at the Castillo de San Marcos.**

**Always wanted to fire the cannons and muskets on the weekends? Our historic weapons crews are primarily VIPs, and no experience is necessary; we provide extensive on-the-job training. We also have a cache of reproduction historic uniforms that VIPs can borrow while at the park, so there's no need for an expensive investment in a kit. Our Historic Weapons program is a major draw and an extremely memorable part of a Castillo visit, and we can't do it without our VIPs.**

**If you would like to read more about volunteer opportunities at both the Castillo and Fort Matanzas, you can visit [www.nps.gov/casa/getinvolved/volunteer.htm](http://www.nps.gov/casa/getinvolved/volunteer.htm) and read through our VIP Handbook. If you have questions, or are ready to get started as a VIP, email our Volunteer Program Manager at [casa\\_volunteer@nps.gov](mailto:casa_volunteer@nps.gov).**



**From Bruce Thompson**

**Fantastic opportunity for Women Veterans.**

**Student Veterans of America are proud to partner with The Mission Continues, a national organization dedicated to connecting veterans through community service. Applications are now open for their fifth cohort of the Women Veterans Leadership Program (WVLP). This five-month program – the only one of its kind – changes the narrative on what it means to be a woman veteran by leveraging their leadership skills and authentic selves to become change-makers, all while enhancing their personal and professional networks.**

**Women engage in meaningful coursework designed to build the necessary skills to combat challenges all women face in their rise to leadership, as well as those challenges research shows us are unique to women veterans. Additionally, WVLP program members will have opportunities to engage a nationwide network of women leaders and The Mission Continues staff throughout the program and beyond.**

**Thanks to generous funders, like Raytheon Technologies, all costs associated with travel, lodging, and most meals are covered by The Mission**



**Continues. Are you a woman veteran or know one who could benefit from this program? Visit their website to learn more, apply now and join us in building a movement so we can pursue equal opportunities for all women in leadership attainment.**

## **HAM – Our Last Line of Communication**

By Rick Cain

We've probably all seen the recent news of the severe flooding in Eastern Kentucky or the wildfires in California. In each case, as in all disaster scenarios, homes and lives are destroyed and communication breaks down. It's tough to call for help when the power is out and internet and cellular service is down. Since ancient times, lighthouses served as physical signals of safety to mariners, guiding them to inlets, and marking positions on the coast for reference. Even when mariners couldn't see the light, fog bells and fog horns took the place of the light so they could fix their position in reference to the sound. With the outbreak of World War II, the old U.S. Lighthouse Service was absorbed into the U.S. Coast Guard, and at light stations up and down the coasts of our country, Coast Guardsmen were stationed at the top of each tower with a wireless radio to communicate ship traffic and spot Nazi or Japanese submarines operating in our home waters. The main St. Augustine U.S. Navy wireless station was located in a home that still stands to the northeast of our lighthouse.



**U.S. Navy Wireless Station from the top of the lighthouse circa 1942 “The Island Navy Base” Photo from St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum Photo Archive Library**

Wireless radios were as valuable in warfare as any weapon developed for use on the battlefield. Communications must be maintained between command and soldiers, airmen, and sailors in the field or chaos ensues, as well as the importance of capturing and decoding enemy communications.

Wireless radios were invented in the late 19th Century and continued to improve over the subsequent decades. They were used in WWI and even more extensively during WWII. They were placed aboard ships and in bombers, and installed around the globe by all sides involved in the conflict. After the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, a secret Navy wireless station was installed atop an incredibly steep mountain on the windward side of Oahu in Hawaii. On the narrow top of the mountain, a bomb-proof bunker was constructed with great difficulty, along with a dangerous stairway climbing up to the top. Referred to now as the Haiku Stair, the entire project was considered top-secret so that communications would be maintained with other stations across the Pacific theater as far away as Australia. Shortly after the war, the famous “Stairway to Heaven” was replaced with a metal one which eventually closed in 1987 due to the number of individuals trying to climb the decaying structure and requiring rescue. In 2001 it was announced the historic stair to the once top-secret station would be dismantled.



**Haiku Wireless Station installation on Oahu built in 1942 with cable house (top left), Remains of main radio bunker (top right), and the famous Haiku Stair (bottom left)**

During the war, however, the station, known as Station HYPO, was one of two primary communications command centers for the entire Pacific fleet, known also as Fleet Radio Unit Pacific (FRUPAC). These stations were not only for communications but also were the primary intelligence gathering stations and worked in conjunction with Australia's wireless command station (FRUMEL) in Melbourne to intercept and decipher Japanese coded communications. Station HYPO was under the command of CDR Joe Rochefort.

Meanwhile, back here in Florida, the U.S. Navy would establish another secret wireless facility at Jupiter Inlet around the Jupiter Lighthouse station. To the Navy it was known as U.S. Navy Supplementary Radio Station Jupiter, but it was code-named simply, "Station J."

With Nazi U-boats patrolling U.S. coastal waters in early 1942, it was vital that our intelligence community be able to listen, decipher, and locate their communications when the U-boat captains would surface their boats at night and communicate with other subs and their own command center back in Nazi-occupied France. The sailors working at Station J used high-frequency direction-finding equipment (HF/DF or "Huff Duff") to locate, monitor, and record the messages from the enemy vessels. This information was forwarded to Naval Communications in Washington D.C. for code deciphering and translation. At its height, Station J had 95 servicemen and 12 marines to guard the facility. They operated 24 radio receivers in the operations building on a 12-acre compound surrounding the lighthouse.



**Left: Top-secret Station J, Jupiter Inlet, FL taken from the top of the lighthouse;  
Right: Operators use some of the wireless radio and listening equipment located at Station J**

This work of intercepting and deciphering coded enemy communications was done by the Naval Cytological Warfare Division which established the bases already discussed, as well as stations on Guam, in the Philippines, and in Singapore, and it was their work on which Admiral Nimitz relied to position his naval forces to intercept the Imperial Japanese Navy in the Battle of Midway. The work was also done by U.S. Army Signal Corps. But it was at Station J, in coordination with sea-going listening stations and the British Navy, who cracked the Nazi Enigma U-boat codes and saved our supply convoys crossing the North Atlantic. Suffice it to say that the position of these listening stations was highly guarded and before war's end, thousands of people worked around the globe as our Allied Forces ears, 80% of whom were women.



**Wireless operator aboard a B-17 Bomber using a Morse Code J-38 straight key, 1943 (left), American wireless operator on New Guinea, 1943, part of the U.S. Army Signal Corps, using Morse Code, or radiotelegraphy (right)**

Though the heyday for wireless technology has past, fortunately, wireless radios remain a passion hobby for many amateur enthusiasts (referred to as “HAM operators”) in most countries. It is during times of massive, wide-spread power loss, that HAM operators may be the only way for people to communicate across distances, powering their wireless radios with generators. We are fortunate that there are HAM Radio Clubs around the country where members not only operate for fun, but volunteer their services during disasters. Our own St. Augustine Club is one such group that volunteers with St. Johns County Emergency Management in time of need.



In 1993, a group of HAM operators in Scotland wanted to start a fun weekend for HAM Radio enthusiasts to meet “on the air” so to speak, and see how many other stations they could contact. Many locations were considered, but finally, one of the original ideas was agreed upon; they would gather at all of the lighthouses around the country and spend the weekend practicing their skills and enjoying their hobby. A summer month was also desired since they were starting in Scotland. Long story short, the idea spread and other clubs eagerly set up at their local light stations, and even lightships, around the globe. This event is now held on the third weekend of August every year. Today, there are approximately 450 participating stations in over 50 countries

around the globe, and it is known as the International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend or the ILLW. Our own St. Augustine HAM Radio Club, the St. Augustine Amateur Radio Society, comes to our lighthouse every year to participate on the third weekend in August, along with members of St. Johns County Emergency Management, to educate the public on disaster preparedness and the joys of learning to operate a wireless radio. Our thanks to all of our veterans who continue the important work of cryptology and in communications on land, at sea, and in the air.



**Members of the St. Augustine HAM Radio Club document contacts made by voice or Morse Code (upper left), and St. Johns County Emergency Management also attended (upper right) ILL Weekend Aug. 20 & 21, 2022 here at the lighthouse. Most distant contacts were made with Alaska and Belize.**

**\*Photos courtesy of the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum or are in public domain unless otherwise noted.**

## From AL 194 Commander Derry Green

Golfers, we do hope your future plans include joining us in beautiful, historical St Augustine, FL the weekend of 16-19 Sept.

We have a whole weekend of fun! Fri. after 3pm, our host golf club will allow play for under \$30! Fri nite we have an "All u Can Eat Fish Fry"; Sat. we have the grand opening of our Veterans Park with our annual Rib Cook-off with live band.

Sunday morning brunch by our Auxiliary.

Monday golf tourney.

We have the course all to our selves!! I have discount rooms at the Fairfield by Marriott off SR16 and I 95.

**Gold Sponsor** \$2,000

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

**Silver Sponsor** \$1,000

Two Teams  
Golf Bag Contributor

**Bronze Sponsor** \$500

One Team  
Golf Bag Contributor

**One Hole Sponsor** \$200

**Poster Name Recognition** \$50

**Deadline: 14 Sep 22,**



**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

Two years ago, our Post embarked upon a project to build & dedicate a "Veterans Centennial Park" & playground to community kids & veterans. Unfortunately, numerous turns of events severely hampered our fund-raising efforts & we lost the use of our free parking lot. This necessitated we center fundraising efforts on the purchase of new properties. We purchased two additional parcels of land, which, when finished, should help with future fund-raising efforts. Your donations will help us finish the veterans park & enable us to start work on the new parcels. All monies spent on this trip are completely tax-deductible & receipts will be given upon requests. Thank you. For God & Country



**\$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



# VETERANS GAMES

OCT. 8, 2022



**REGISTER ONLINE**  
**OperationBarnabas.com**

**HOSTED BY**  
**BOOGERVILLE HIDEOUT**

**MOTORCYCLE AND JEEP POKER RUN**  
**REGISTRATION:**  
**BOOGERVILLE HIDEOUT**  
**9:30AM - 11AM**  
**KICK STANDS UP: 11AM**

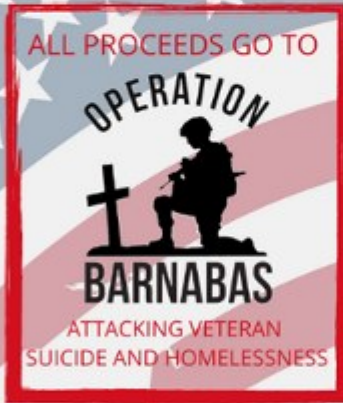
**STOPS INCLUDE**  
**BOOGERVILLE HIDEOUT • GCS**  
**VFW • PALATKA**  
**LIL CEASARS • INTERLACHEN**  
**THE HOWLING WOLF • MELROSE**  
**CROSSROADS • PALATKA**  
**LAST BIKE 3:30PM GROUP RIDE**  
**TO BOOGERVILLE**

**COMPETITIVE OR FOR FUN**  
**REGISTRATION:**  
**\$80 PER TEAM**  
**CHECK-IN AT 8AM**  
**EVENT STARTS AT 9AM**  
**TWO PERSON TACTICAL TEAMS**

**SIMS ROUND ACTIVE SHOOTER**  
**ENGAGEMENT ROOM CLEARING**  
Graded by Ground Operation Development



**WEAPONS STATION**  
**AXE THROWING**  
**MAX DEADLIFT**  
**PULL-UPS & HANG**  
**ARM WRESTLING**



**MAIN EVENT • 4PM**  
**PRESENTING OF THE COLORS - BLACK CREEK MARINES**  
**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**  
**OLD GLORY - COMMAND MASTER CHIEF ELLIS**  
**PATRIOTIC FLYER OVER**  
**OPERATION BARNABAS SUCCESS STORIES**  
**LIVE MUSIC - BIG ENGINE**  
**FOOD & VENDORS**  
**50/50 RAFFLE/AUCTION/GAMES AND MORE**

**INCLUDES:**

**VIP** MEAL WITH BAR ACCESSIBILITY **\$50**  
**MOTORCYCLE & JEEP EVENT**



NAVAL AIR STATION JACKSONVILLE



# NAS JAX AIR SHOW

2022



OCTOBER 22 & 23 • GATES OPEN 9 AM  
FREE ADMISSION • FREE PARKING • KIDS ZONE  
[NASJAXAIRSHOW.COM](http://NASJAXAIRSHOW.COM)

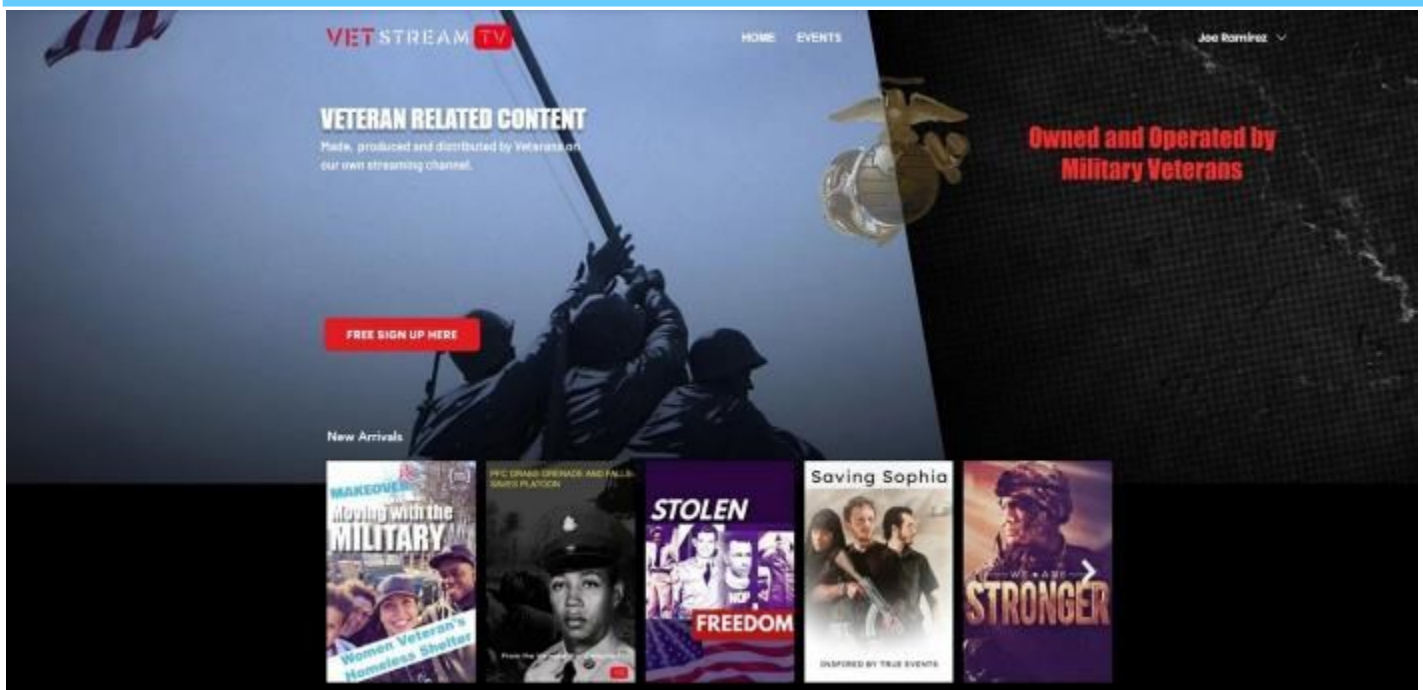


VetStreamTV is a free streaming channel and entertainment platform for veterans and their families. VetStreamTV was founded by Joe Ramirez, a Marine Veteran and LaVonne McIver James in January 2017 which launched in July of the same year. The company specializes in providing streaming media of interest to our nation's veterans and their families. The company has its headquarters in Austin, Texas. VetStreamTV offers feature films, shorts, television series, documentaries, and comedies. Their family of content also includes their own originals with one currently in production “Welcome Home” – the treatment of Vietnam Veterans, what changed and a special tribute. Their online talk show “More to be Told” debuts on August 3rd.

More to come with events and content is being added every week such as a new series “Moving with the Military” – a military spouse helps with renovations for military families.

*The Veterans Council’s 6 documentaries featuring the stories of local NE FL Veterans can be viewed now on VetStreamTV - Service, Sacrifice and Courage is featured this week!*

**THIS IS FREE!** For more info and to sign up, feel free to visit their website <http://www.vetstreamtv.com>





## Rededicated Korean War Memorial lists names of fallen

By C. Todd Lopez, DOD News July 29, 2022

WASHINGTON — The Korean War Veterans Memorial was rededicated today with a new feature: a "Wall of Remembrance" that features the names of the more than 43,000 U.S. service members and Korean augmentees to the U.S. Army who were killed during the war.



"Today ... we commemorate the sacrifice of those Americans and Koreans who bravely fought together, side-by-side to defend our freedom, laying the foundation for a thriving Democratic Republic of Korea and a strong, unbreakable United States/Republic of Korea alliance," Second Gentleman Douglas Emhoff said.

The Korean War Veterans Memorial on the National Mall in Washington was first dedicated 27 years ago, on July 27, 1995. Construction on the rededicated memorial began in March 2021. The \$22 million project was funded by donations from the peoples of the United States and South Korea, formally named the Republic of Korea.

The names on the Wall of Remembrance are arranged in order of rank and branch of service to demonstrate to visitors how the war's burden fell unevenly across the military.

Another important element of the wall is that the names of U.S. service members and Korean augmentees to the U.S. Army are not listed separately. Instead, they're mingled together — just as they fought together during the war.

Korean augmentees to the U.S. Army, or KATUSAs, are members of the Republic of Korea Army who are assigned to the U.S. Army, wear U.S. Army uniforms, and are equipped with the same gear as U.S. soldiers. They also live and fight alongside U.S. soldiers. The KATUSA concept was first developed during the Korean War and continues today.

"This wall reminds us of the depths of their sacrifice and instills in us a call of duty to carry on their fight," Korean Ambassador to the United States Cho Tae-yong said. "The service members we are here today to honor stood their ground in battlefields so that future generations could live in a vibrant democracy — indeed, the Republic of Korea is a vibrant democracy today. Recognizing this, I promise to follow their lead and work to build an even stronger ROK/U.S. alliance. On behalf of the whole of Korean people, I'd like to express my gratitude to all the veterans of the Korean War and their families. We are eternally and profoundly grateful."



According to statistics from the Korean War Veterans Memorial

Foundation, the Wall of Remembrance features the names of 29,857 U.S. soldiers, 4,522 U.S. Marines, 668 U.S. sailors, 1,587 U.S. airmen, and 7,174 Korean augmentees to the U.S. Army. A total of 43,808 names appears on the wall.

"It's beautiful monument," Emhoff said. "It's a poignant reminder of the individual sacrifices of the more than 36,000 U.S. service members and the more than 7,000 Korean troops who served together and died together in Korea. Their names are now forever engraved here on our incredible Washington mall."

In addition to the Wall of Remembrance, work at the Korean War Veterans Memorial included: refinishing the 19, 8-foot-tall, stainless-steel statues that represent service members from each of the U.S. military services that fought in the war, replacing the engraved names of participating countries and casualty figures with stainless steel letters, and extensive landscaping efforts.

Chairman of the Korean War Veterans Memorial Foundation, retired Army Gen. John H. Tilelli Jr. said the Wall of Remembrance and enhancements to the memorial will better educate visitors on the importance of remembering the Korean War.

"We are hopeful that this memorial will remind the millions of people who visit here each year that freedom is not free," Tilelli said.

The foundation, he said, had three goals when redesigning and rededicating the memorial:

To honor those who fought in the war and ensured a free and democratic South Korea.

To educate visitors about the cost of war. Nearly 1,000 soldiers died each month during the 37 months the war was fought.

To show the strength of the existing ironclad ROK/U.S. alliance.

"Today, we honor the veterans of the Korean War and the families of the fallen heroes," Tilelli said.

"With this dedication ceremony, I hope that it is no longer the 'Forgotten War,' but the 'remembered victory' that was won by these veterans."





**BATTLE OF THE BULGE MILITARIA SHOW**  
**DECEMBER 17, 2022, 9AM - 4PM**  
**MILITARY MUSEUM OF NORTH FLORIDA**  
**1 BUNKER AVE., GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FL. 32043**

**SHOW TABLE SPOTS: \$20**  
**CALL: John Murphy @**  
**(904) 263-3950**

- **MILITARY ANTIQUES**
- **HISTORIC MILITARY VEHICLES**
- **REENACTORS**
- **BAGPIPERS**
- **ROCK BAND**

- **FREE ADMSSION**
- **FREE PARKING**
- **FREE MUSEUM ENTRY**

## VETERANS WANTED

The Americans in Wartime Experience is seeking the stories of those who served during combat deployments.

- ◊ Interviews are conducted remotely through Zoom.
- ◊ Veteran receives a copy of their video as well as a limited edition challenge coin.
- ◊ Videos are eligible for retention at the Library of Congress Veterans History Project.
- ◊ The service is free, the only thing you need to do is give us 45—60 minutes of your time.



To schedule your interview please contact Greg Pass at [gregpass70@gmail.com](mailto:gregpass70@gmail.com)

To learn more about the museum, please visit us at [www.americansinwartime.org](http://www.americansinwartime.org)

## Couple celebrates 50th wedding anniversary on USS Orleck -- reuniting man with ship he once served aboard

Rick Butler spent 3 years and 8 months aboard the USS Orleck



JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – A couple from Colorado, and their family from all over, came to Jacksonville on Friday to celebrate a big milestone on the USS Orleck.

Rick and Patti Butler celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, also known as the golden anniversary, to mark half a century of a loving, committed relationship. The two renewed their vows during a beautiful and emotional ceremony on the USS Orleck, the ship that was once a WWII-era Gearing Class destroyer, which Rick Butler served aboard during the Vietnam War.

The day was made possible after the ship was remodeled into a Naval Museum and docked in Jacksonville earlier this year. The USS Orleck has been docked on the Northbank since the end of March, and visitors can now experience what life was like on board.

Rick and Patti said “I Do” in 1972. News4JAX asked what the secret to a happy and healthy marriage was. “Saying yes,” Rick said. “All the time,” Patti joked.

The couple laughed and Rick said the real secret is just loving each other. “You have to trust one other and be able to fight -- that’s important -- and makeup after you fight,” Patti added.

A couple from Colorado renewed their vows during their 50th wedding anniversary on the USS Orleck on Friday.

The couple said it is important to honor each other, be considerate and not take each other for granted. Rick said having this celebration on the ship he spent three years and eight months on meant everything.

“Most of the time was spent in Vietnam,” Rick said. “We were over there for about 30 months off and on.”

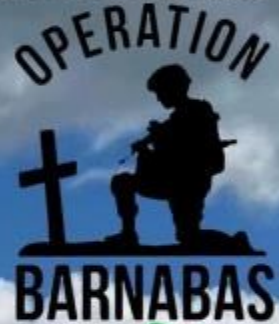
The couple expressed the importance of the USS Orleck Naval Museum -- noting the importance of being able to share the ship’s history.

# Saturday, November 19th 2022 Seventh Annual "ROCKETMAN" RUN

Registration: 9:00-11:00  
Last bike out: 11:00 am  
Last bike in: 4:00 pm  
Drawings begin: 5:00 pm



**COST**  
\$20. Per Person  
\$5. Per Passenger  
\$5. For Extra Dice



**Food**  
**Music**  
**Vendors**  
**Auctions**  
**Raffles**



Start: VFW Post 1988-421 S. Orange Ave. ,Green Cove Springs  
1st Stop: Molasses Junction County Str.-6300 Co Rd-214, St. Augustine  
2nd Stop: Cheyenne Saloon-327 South U.S. 17, East Palatka  
3rd Stop: Howlin Wolf-1701 State Rte 100, Melrose  
4th Stop: American Legion Post 250-2608 Black Creek Dr. ,Middleburg  
Final Stop: VFW Post 1988-421 S. Orange Ave. ,Green Cove Springs



## Fundraiser Benefiting Operation Barnabas



**UNIVERSITY**

**OF**

**SOUTH VIETNAM**



**65-75**



## Famous Veteran: Kris Kristofferson



Military.com | By Blake Stilwell

Country music legend and Army veteran Kris Kristofferson has a list of accomplishments so long, it might be faster to list off things he hasn't done.

He was an Army brat and brother to a naval aviator, so it was only natural that Kristofferson would find himself in the military. But his life both before and after the military has been more than interesting -- it's downright legendary.

In his younger years, Kristofferson was an accomplished athlete, skilled at rugby and American football. He also was a Golden Gloves amateur boxer. Pretty much anything that required giving or taking a beating, he was up to it.

For anyone who might be thinking he was a dumb young jock-turned country star, think again. Kristofferson studied literature at California's Pomona College, where he became a Rhodes Scholar. He carried on his literature studies at Oxford's Merton College, where he continued boxing. Upon graduating from college, he joined the U.S. Army.

### **Kris Kristofferson: Soldier in the U.S. Army**

Joining the Army in 1960, Kristofferson earned his Ranger tab before becoming a helicopter pilot, which was critical in getting his country music career off the ground (more on that later). He would reach the rank of captain during his service. In the meantime, he was making music and formed his own band while stationed in Germany.

Kristofferson was offered the prestigious position of teaching literature at West Point in 1965, but turned it down and left the Army. It was a move that caused his family, full of veterans, to disown him. His first wife divorced him four years later, which is some prime country music songwriting fodder.

It was finally time for Kristofferson to focus on music. He moved to Nashville, where he worked as a janitor and flew helicopters for oil rigs. He also worked in construction and fought forest fires in Alaska, anything he could do to keep focused on the music. It also was good experience from which to draw country music inspiration.

As he turned 30 years old, he was still moonlighting as a janitor in Nashville recording studios, strategically dropping demo tapes onto desks and hoping they would get into the hands of some of the biggest names in country music.

### **Army Training Lands Him in the History Books ...**

... also at Johnny Cash's house. By now, we know Kristofferson learned to fly helicopters in the Army and ran into financial trouble while trying to make it in country music. In a big gamble, he stole a helicopter, flew to Cash's house and landed on the Man in Black's front lawn.

In retrospect, Kristofferson admits he's lucky Cash didn't try to shoot him down with a shotgun. Instead, the icon listened to his demo for "Sunday Morning Coming Down." Cash liked it so much, he recorded it, and Kristofferson took the first step toward becoming a country music legend.

Now "lifted from obscurity" (as Kristofferson puts it), he wrote some of his biggest hits, including "Vietnam Blues," "Help Me Make It Through the Night" and "Me and Bobby McGee." Later, he would form The Highwaymen, a country music supergroup comprised of himself, Willie Nelson, Waylon Jennings and Johnny Cash.

There are few country music stars that Kristofferson hasn't worked with or influenced during his career, even to this day. His music fame led him to the silver screen, where he appeared in 119 roles, including the "Blade" trilogy, the third remake of "A Star Is Born" and the History Channel miniseries "Texas Rising."

Kristofferson was inducted into the songwriter's Hall of Fame in 1985 and has earned more than 48 different BMI Country and Pop awards. In 2004, he was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame and received the Veteran of the Year Award at the American Veteran Awards in 2011, with fellow country legend and vet Willie Nelson presenting the honor.

-- *Blake Stilwell can be reached at [blake.stilwell@military.com](mailto:blake.stilwell@military.com). He can also be found on Twitter @blakestilwell or on Facebook.*



**JACKSONVILLE**  
N A V A L M U S E U M

**Interested in Volunteering?**



Please visit our online website volunteer interest form at:  
<https://www.jaxnavalmuseum.org/volunteer>



# STRATEGIC PARTNERS

Together, we **FIGHT** to **#ENDVETERANSUICIDE!**



**22 Zero**  
813-221-6304  
dan@22zero.org



**Veterans Counseling Veterans**  
407-516-8398  
ellsworth@vetscounselingvets.org



**First Counseling Center**  
407-468-0004  
karirusso@firstorlando.com



**Paint 22**  
727-490-7338  
contact@paint22.com



**IGY6 Foundation**  
321-505-9005  
andy.igotyour6@gmail.com



**SOF Missions**  
910-382-6492  
damon@sofmissions.org



**K9 Line**  
386-566-7438  
slowe@k9line.org



**The Grey Team**  
561-203-3815  
david@greyteam.org



**Liberty OVE**  
757-778-5337  
scott.hendrick@liberty-ove.com

**Norman Bissel, LMHC**  
614-259-7414  
normanbisselpc@gmail.com

*\*PROJECT: VetRelief is an official program of the American Legion, Department of Florida*

1912A Lee Road, Orlando, FL 32810 | 407-295-2631  
**WWW.PROJECTVETRELIEF.ORG**



## From the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

The PACT Act is a historic new law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans who were exposed to toxic fumes and other hazards while fighting for our country. Family members or dependents of a deceased Veteran may also qualify for various VA benefits.

VA is committed to ensuring all Veterans and their family members receive the benefits and care they have earned.

Learn more today, visit [www.VA.gov/PACT](http://www.VA.gov/PACT) or call 1-800-MyVA411 (800-698-2411).



### The new PACT Act

- » Expands toxic-exposed Veterans access to VA care
- » Extends health care eligibility for Vietnam, Gulf War, and Post-9/11 era combat Veterans
  - » Adds new presumptive conditions for radiation, Agent Orange, Gulf War toxins, and burn pit exposures

## EXPANDED VA CARE & BENEFITS

Learn more at [VA.gov](http://VA.gov)  
1-800-MyVA411 (800-698-2411)

**VA**  U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

## Desert Storm veterans welcome recognition at last with groundbreaking ceremony for new memorial on National Mall

By SHIFRA DAYAK, STARS AND STRIPES

WASHINGTON — As retired Gen. Rhonda Cornum stood in the blazing sun Thursday morning, looking out over hundreds of veterans, their family members, international ambassadors and others, she recalled the day her Black Hawk helicopter was shot down in Iraq during Operation Desert Storm.



It's the day she was captured as a prisoner of war, suffering several broken bones and a gunshot wound.

“We’ve heard a lot of things about Desert Storm, but there’s one thing that really stands out,” Cornum said. “It’s that it was a demonstration of all the good things that can happen when there’s an unambiguous and positive moral mission like liberating Kuwait from a brutal invasion.”

Cornum was one of the 697,000 American troops that served during Desert Storm in 1991. In the 30-plus years since the conflict, those troops have not been recognized among the many other service members memorialized in Washington, D.C.

But now, as the nation approaches the 32nd anniversary of Operation Desert Storm and its preceding ground offensive Operation Desert Shield, a memorial is finally taking shape.

The National Desert Storm War Memorial Association (NDSWM) broke ground Thursday on a memorial at the corner of 23rd Street and Constitution Avenue, not far from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the Lincoln Memorial.



At the groundbreaking, where over 100 veterans and their family members gathered, Scott C. Stump, NDSWM’s CEO, emphasized the long journey that the group has taken to make the memorial a reality.

“The road getting here has been fraught with obstacles, impediments and the need for our team to constantly improvise, adapt and overcome,” he said.

The effort to build a memorial in honor of Desert Storm has been ongoing since 2013, when former Rep. Phil Roe, D-Tenn., introduced legislation in Congress to allow construction on federal land in Washington, D.C.

President Barack Obama authorized construction of the memorial in 2014, and President Donald Trump

signed legislation in 2017 allowing for the memorial to be built near the National Mall.

Originally, the memorial was slated to be on the Constitution Avenue Belvedere, a strip of land along the Potomac River. Members of the National Desert Storm War Memorial Association opposed the location because they said it would be too hard to access from other memorials.

In 2018, after the National Capital Planning Commission decided on the southwest corner of 23rd Street and Constitution Avenue, the Commission of Fine Arts voted in favor of the new location, marking the end of a multiyear process to select the site.

“The supposed 18-month site selection process, which commenced in January 2015, took us 39 months of toil struggle, pain, heartache, ups and downs to finally win approval for this phenomenal location we’re occupying here this morning,” Stump said.

The memorial will lie just over a block from the U.S. Department of State — a location that Derek Chollet, Counselor of the U.S. Department of State, called “fitting.”

“It’s fitting because the international coalition that acted to liberate Kuwait was one of the great triumphs of American diplomacy, harnessing the power of America’s alliances of America’s partnerships in organizations like the United Nations,” Chollet said.

However, the location has not been without some controversy. One member of the fine arts commission, Elizabeth Meyer, voted against the 23rd Street location in 2018 because of opposition to the large number of war memorials on the National Mall.

Thursday’s milestone also came after funding setbacks.

The National Desert Storm War Memorial Association aimed for an opening before the end of 2021 so it could commemorate the 30th anniversary of Desert Storm. By law, however, the association had to finish fundraising the entire expected \$40 million cost before it could start construction on the memorial.

In mid-2019, the association was \$32 million short of its \$40 million goal.

Kuwait played a major role in the memorial moving forward. The nation pledged \$10 million toward the memorial in February 2020.

Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Kuwait’s ambassador to the United States, said the decision to finance the memorial was a tribute to the alliance between the two countries that formed when American troops liberated Kuwait in Desert Storm.

“It is a concrete testament to our ironclad partnership forged and solidified 31 years ago by blood, sweat and tears,” Al-Sabah said at the ceremony, where he and several other members of Kuwait’s government gathered. “While a monument can never fully encapsulate the depth of our indebtedness to this great na-



tion, we nonetheless eagerly await its completion in this great city.”

In March, Kuwait contributed additional funds toward the memorial, which gave NDSWM enough money to move forward with construction plans.

“When we saw that the process was a bit slower than we expected, we said, ‘OK, you know, we’ll step in, and we’ll make this happen,’” Al-Sabah told Stars and Stripes.

NDSWM will lead the construction of the memorial over the next couple of years and hopes that it will be finished before Veterans Day in 2024, Stump said.

The memorial will be shaped roughly like a half circle to commemorate the “left hook” formation that U.S. troops used to move north and then east during Desert Storm, effectively cutting off Iraqi forces in Kuwait.

To Adm. Christopher Grady, who is vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and served in Desert Storm, the military’s path and memorial’s shape also represent the strength of America’s troops.

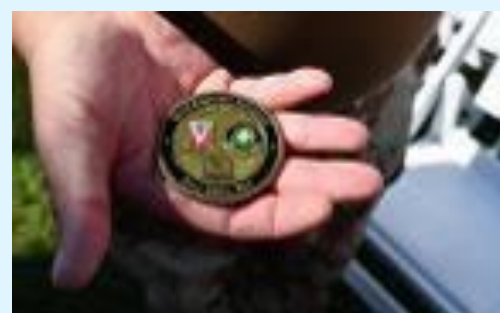
It was “a left hook so ingenious in design and so lethal in execution that reminds us of the indomitable warrior spirit of all of our service men and women,” Grady said at the ceremony.

After the memorial is finished, NDSWM will “turn over the keys” to the National Park Service, which will take over maintenance once the memorial is formally dedicated.

“While the National Park Service’s role in the care of this memorial won’t start till this is formally dedicated, we have been active in the planning and design,” said Jeffrey Reinbold, superintendent of the National Mall and Memorial Parks.

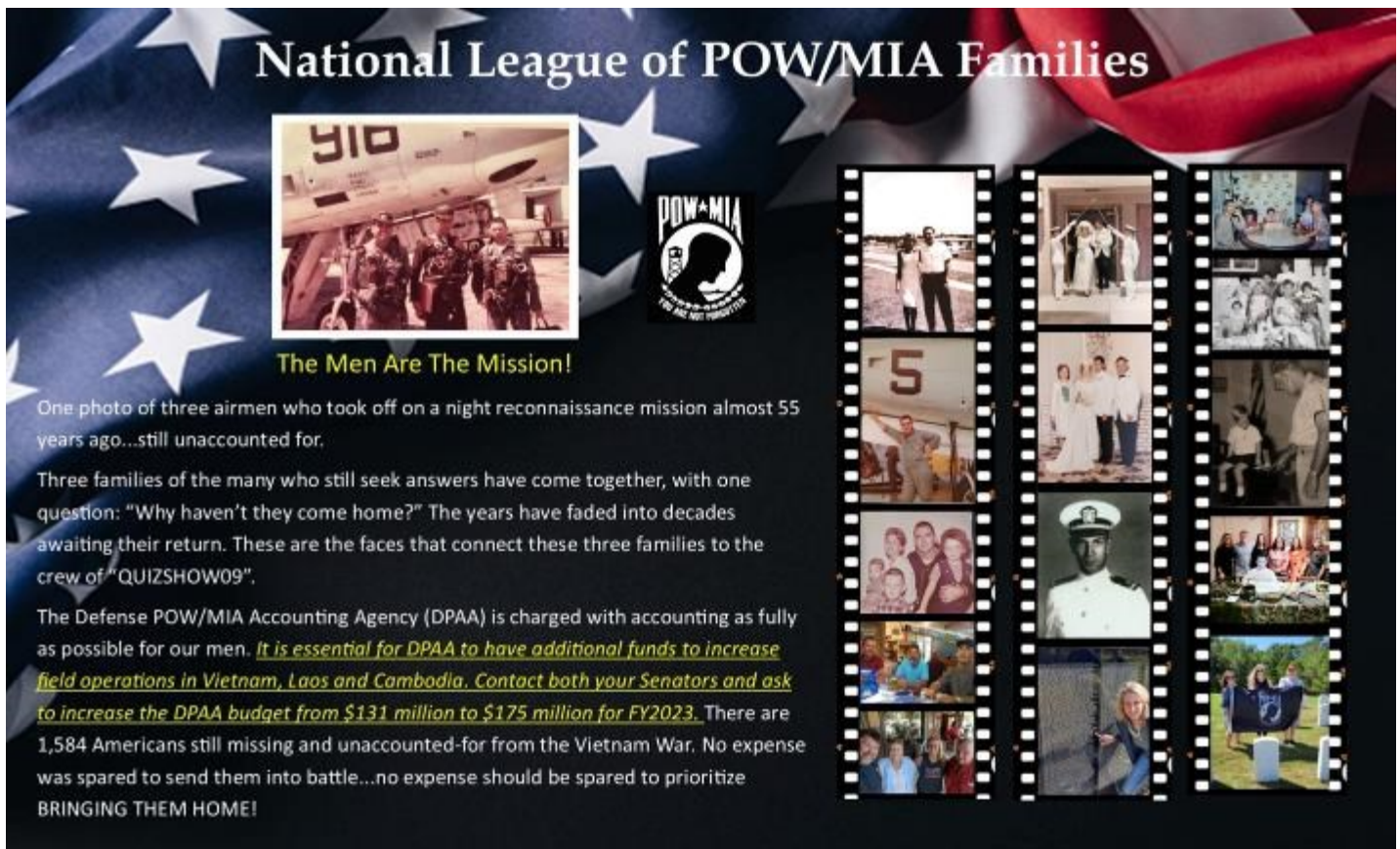
Stump acknowledged the long delay in construction but said he is glad the process has been carried out “the right way,” without compromising NDSWM’s core principles. When the memorial is finished, he hopes it will be a powerful representation of Desert Storm.

“We want it to be done. It’s time. It’s been over 30 years. It should have been done probably 10 years ago, actually,” Stump said. “It’s just great to see the enthusiasm. It really validates what we’re doing really does mean a lot to a lot of people.”





## The Men are the Mission!

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) is charged with accounting as fully as possible for our men. It is essential for DPAA to have additional funds to increase field operations in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. Contact both your Senators and ask to increase the DPAA budget from \$131 million to \$175 million for FY2023. There are 1,584 Americans still missing and unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War. No expense was spared to send them into battle...no expense should be spared to prioritize BRINGING THEM HOME!



**National League of POW/MIA Families**




**The Men Are The Mission!**

One photo of three airmen who took off on a night reconnaissance mission almost 55 years ago...still unaccounted for.

Three families of the many who still seek answers have come together, with one question: "Why haven't they come home?" The years have faded into decades awaiting their return. These are the faces that connect these three families to the crew of "QUIZSHOW09".

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) is charged with accounting as fully as possible for our men. It is essential for DPAA to have additional funds to increase field operations in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. Contact both your Senators and ask to increase the DPAA budget from \$131 million to \$175 million for FY2023. There are 1,584 Americans still missing and unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War. No expense was spared to send them into battle...no expense should be spared to prioritize BRINGING THEM HOME!





# MILITARY VETERANS CERTIFICATION PATHWAY

Qualified veterans who have not yet earned their bachelor's degree can now obtain a

**5-YEAR TEMPORARY TEACHING CERTIFICATE.**

All certification criteria for a temporary certificate applies, except for the bachelor's degree requirement, providing the following conditions are met:

- ✓ Minimum of 48 months of military service with an honorable/medical discharge;
- ✓ Minimum of 60 college credits with a 2.5 grade point average;
- ✓ Passing score on a Florida subject area examination;
- ✓ Employment in a Florida school district, including charter schools; and
- ✓ Cleared background screening.

---

**TEACHING IS A HIGHLY REWARDING PROFESSION.**

*This new pathway helps veterans begin a career in Florida's top-ranked education system while bringing unique value to school districts looking for talent.*

---

*Apply today!*

**FLDOE.ORG/VETERANS**



## WALL OF FACES: MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

08-09-22



Wall of Faces gallery, [vvmf.org/wall-of-faces](http://vvmf.org/wall-of-faces)

**At least one photo has been found for each service member whose name is inscribed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial**

**Washington, D.C. – The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) is proud to announce that after more than two decades of effort, at least one photo has been found for each of the 58,281 service members whose names are inscribed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.**

**“When VVMF began this effort, the goal was to put a face with a name for each of the 58,281 service members whose names are inscribed on The Wall. To ensure that visitors to The Wall understand that behind each name is a face – a person with a story of a family and friends who were forever changed by their loss. Today, the Wall of Faces tells these stories through photos and remembrances left by both friends and family members. We couldn’t have done this without the tenacious work of a small army of volunteers across the country. Their ingenuity, commitment and dedication are tremendous,” said Jim Knotts, president and CEO of VVMF.**

**“This phase is now complete, but our team and many volunteers are continu**

ing to seek better quality photos and adding remembrances to show the full story behind each name. We ask the public to look at the photos on the Wall of Faces and add additional higher-quality images as well as leave remembrances so that with the name, the photos and the remembrances – fuller stories will begin to emerge about each of these heroes,” said Knotts.

To view and search the Wall of Faces, visit: [www.vvmf.org/wall-of-faces](http://www.vvmf.org/wall-of-faces)

In the Fall of 2001, a short-term initial effort was made to collect photos of those on The Wall, with a larger, more concerted effort launched in the Fall of 2009. Since then, hundreds of volunteers and family members have submitted photos for the effort. Volunteers tracked down photos in many ways.

The Wall of Faces features a page dedicated to honoring and remembering every person whose name is inscribed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. This effort further preserves the legacy of those who sacrificed all in Vietnam and allows family and friends to share memories, post pictures and connect with each other. To learn more, visit [www.vvmf.org/wall-of-faces](http://www.vvmf.org/wall-of-faces)

#### About the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) is the nonprofit organization that founded the Vietnam Veterans Memorial (The Wall) in Washington, D.C. in 1982. VVMF continues to lead the way in paying tribute to our nation’s Vietnam veterans and their families. VVMF’s mission is to honor and preserve the legacy of service in America and educate all generations about the impact of the Vietnam War and era. To learn more about VVMF, visit [www.vvmf.org](http://www.vvmf.org) or call 202-393-0090.

# # #

For more information:

Heidi Zimmerman, 202-765-3773

[hzimmerman@vvmf.org](mailto:hzimmerman@vvmf.org)

4<sup>th</sup> Annual

2022  GOLF

TOURNAMENT

MON  
OCT 24<sup>th</sup>  
2022



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

**Monday, October 24, 2022**

Registration/Warm-up/Pre-Event	11:15am - 12:15 pm
Shot Gun Start	12:30 pm
BBQ Dinner/Awards Ceremony/Raffle	5:30 – 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 17, 2022**

*Sponsorship Packages and  
Player Registration Forms  
attached, or register online at:*  
[www.powmiamemorial.org](http://www.powmiamemorial.org)

Follow the 2022 Golf Tournament  
Event from our Facebook page:

 "Cecil Field POW MIA Memorial"

CECIL FIELD POW/MIA MEMORIAL IS A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION - REGISTRATION NUMBER: CH515059. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE, 800 435 7352, WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. CECIL FIELD POW/MIA MEMORIAL IS AN IRS 501(C)(3), PUBLIC CHARITY. ID# 31954. CONTRIBUTIONS ARE DEDUCTIBLE.

# BE PART OF THE SOLUTION TO END VETERAN SUICIDE

#1

- Recognize the Problem of Veteran Suicide
- 20-22 Veterans Take Their Own Lives Each Day

#2

- Take 30-45 mins and Train to be a Watch Stander
- Explore Resource Guide
- Stand Vigilant to Concerns of Veterans and Direct Them to Needed Assistance

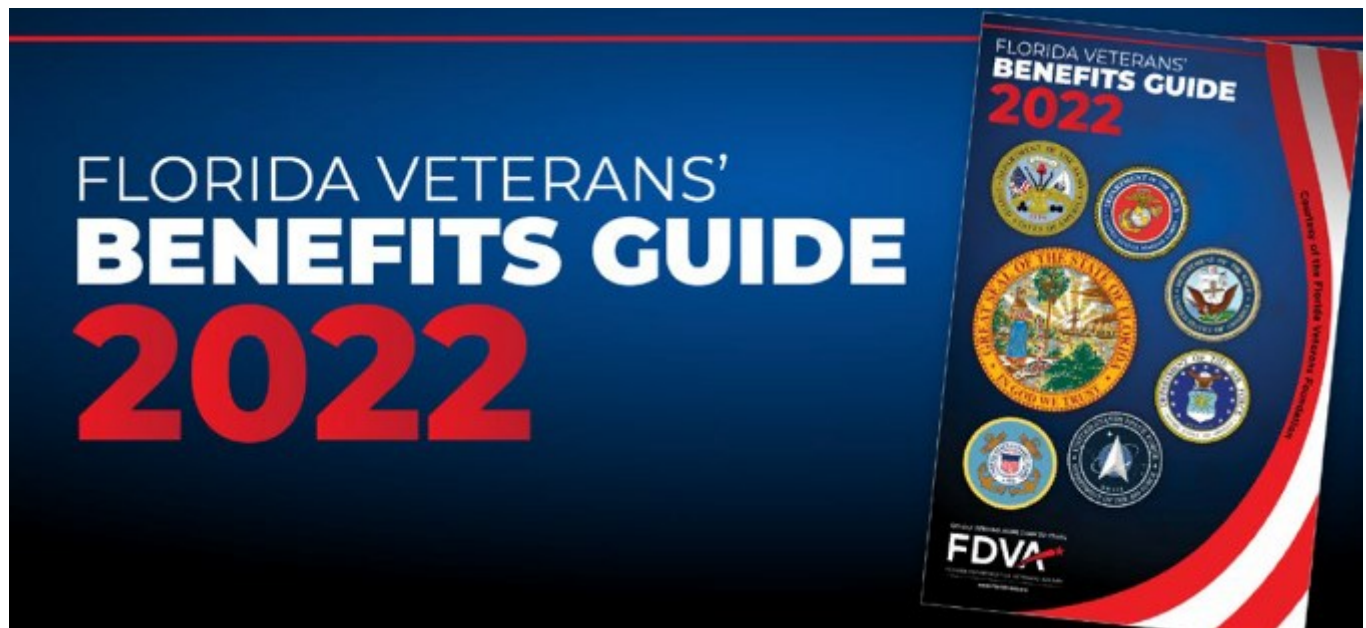
#3

- End the Tragedy of Veteran Suicide

**#YourTurnToStand**

## The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs

Have you checked out the new 2022 Florida Veterans' Benefits Guide? It is now available for download. The annual guide helps connect Florida's Veterans and their families with earned federal and state benefits, services and support. It also contains helpful phone numbers and website addresses for additional information. To view online, click here: <https://bit.ly/3BovveB>. To download a copy for your records, click here: <https://bit.ly/3HYgTF0>.







# FIRST COAST HONOR FLIGHT

*Would love to come talk with you!*

Can we come speak to your  
organization  
or church?

We would LOVE to share our  
stories with you!

We are a new non-profit  
and would love  
to come share our goal  
of honoring our local Veterans!  
First Coast Honor Flight creates a  
"once in a lifetime" day  
of flying our local Veterans to Washington D.C.  
to see our national memorials and  
monuments.

Please help us spread the word by  
connecting us with your groups!

Contact us at [info@firstcoasthonorflight.org](mailto:info@firstcoasthonorflight.org)  
or call 888-400-1185





## **Hello First Coast Honor Flight Supporters:**

Our mission at First Coast Honor Flight (FCHF) is to provide a unique experience for our local Veterans in Washington D.C. to visit the memorials dedicated to honoring those who have served and sacrificed for our country.

We consider it our honor to give our Veterans the opportunity to remember, celebrate, grieve, and gain closure for the time they sacrificed for our country.

**Unfortunately, the current limited commercial airline schedule from our Jacksonville Airport is not sufficient to provide our Veterans the experience they deserve in Washington D.C. Therefore we have decided to postpone our planned fall flight to the spring of 2023.**

**We are working towards a private charter flight in the spring 2023 which will allow us to set our own schedule, bring more Veterans, and allow more time for the true experience that we want to be able to give our Veterans.**

Stay tuned for more information.

We would welcome any connections you may have and will be creating some fundraising opportunities for you to help us make this spring 2023 flight a reality!

Your First Coast Honor Flight Team



# Sponsorship Levels

First Coast Honor Flight is 100% dependent upon donations from generous people and organizations.

Without your support, FCHF would not be able to transport WWII, Korean War, and other Northeast Florida Veterans to Washington, D.C. for a day of honor and remembrance.

Trip Sponsor : \$25,000

Honor Guard : \$10,000- \$24,999

Gold Star : \$5,000-\$9,999

Silver Star : \$2,500- \$4,999

Bronze Star : \$1,000- \$2,499

Contact FCHF @  
[info@firstcoasthonorflight.org](mailto:info@firstcoasthonorflight.org) for more  
information on sponsorship packages

First Coast Honor Flight is a 501(c)3 corporation and  
is in compliance with the Florida Solicitation of Contributions Act



## First Coast Honor Flight Donation

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Clyde Lassen Veterans Nursing Home is looking for essential care givers including CNA, LPN, RN's. A shortage of staff has resulted in a significant waiting list-even though beds are available. We have some incredible veterans here in SJC being cared for at Lassen. If you or someone you know have these qualifications and would be interested in serving those who have defended our freedoms, please call Clyde Lassen for details.





# VA SURVIVOR BENEFITS & THE PACT ACT

ESGR4U

You may be eligible for VA benefits and services after your loved one has passed.



## The PACT Act makes it easier for many survivors to receive Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC).

VA will be contacting survivors who were previously denied DIC benefits and may be newly eligible under the PACT Act. You do not need to wait for VA to contact you to submit a claim.

### How to Apply for DIC and/or Accrued Benefits

Surviving family members may apply for these benefits using the appropriate VA form on [va.gov/family-member-benefits](https://va.gov/family-member-benefits).



#### Dependency and Indemnity Compensation

Monthly payment for the eligible surviving spouse, dependent children or parent(s) of the Veteran or service member IF Veteran or service member died in the line of duty or due to a service-related injury or illness.



#### Accrued Benefits

A one-time payment to a surviving spouse, dependent child(ren) or dependent parent(s) of a deceased Veteran based on relationship when the record shows additional benefits (such as VA compensation or pension) due to the Veteran prior to passing.

### Additional Survivor Benefits Available:



#### Burials and Burial Allowance

Burial benefits available include a gravesite in any of our National cemeteries with available space, opening and closing of the grave, perpetual care, a government headstone, marker, or medallion, a burial flag, and a Presidential Memorial Certificate, at no cost. Some survivors may also be eligible for a plot allowance, transportation allowance, and burial allowances based on the service connected disability status of the deceased Veteran.



#### Education and Training

Chapter 35 benefits and Fry Scholarship are the two main GI Bill programs offering educational assistance to survivors and dependents of Veterans who died in the line of duty or as a result of service-related disabilities.



#### Final Monthly Payment

If a Veteran who is receiving VA compensation or pension benefits passes away, their last month of benefits can be paid to their surviving spouse.



#### Home Loan Guaranty

Certificate of Eligibility is available for surviving spouses receiving DIC.



#### Health Care

Survivors and dependents of Veterans may qualify for health care benefits, such as CHAMPVA.

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Learn more and sign up at [VA.gov/PACT](https://va.gov/PACT)  
Download the [VA Health and Benefits App](#)  
Call us at 1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411)  
Find a VA at [VA.gov/find-locations/](https://va.gov/find-locations/)

## **The True Story Behind Some Of The Military's Most Illustrious Medals**

With only 1% of the nation's population serving in the military at this time, most people may only have a vague idea of the medals that are given



to military personnel for acts of valor on the battlefield or for distinguished service and courageous acts off of the field of battle. This video gives a good clear idea of each of those medals and their history.

The highest medal awarded for valor beyond the call of duty is, of course, the Medal of Honor. The heroic actions that are awarded the Medal of Honor are so uncommonly valorous, they stand on a level of selfless courage that is rarely matched.

Over time, other medals recognizing courage on the battlefield have been designed and developed to recognize many other levels of heroism both in combat and for courageous acts off of the field of battle.

The second-highest level of award are the Distinguished Service Cross (DSC) for Army personnel, the Navy Cross for Navy and Marine Corps personnel, and the Air Force Cross, which was initiated in 1960.

The third-highest level is the Silver Star, which can be awarded to military members from all of the services. The Bronze Star, initiated in 1934, is the fourth-highest level of valor award.

The Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) is awarded to any service member whose "heroism or extraordinary achievement" was undertaken while flying in any form of aerial platform.

The Valor or "V" device is attached to the Silver Star, The DFC, and the Bronze Star when those awards are for valor in combat. Some of those medals can be awarded for valor actions undertaken in non-combat situations. These latter awards would not, then, have the "V" device attached.

## Bollinger Delivers 50th Fast Response Cutter to Coast Guard

Posted on August 5, 2022 by Seapower Staff

The Coast Guard Cutter William Chadwick in Key West. BOLLINGER SHIPYARDS

LOCKPORT, La. — Bollinger Shipyards LLC has delivered the Coast Guard Cutter William Chadwick to the U.S. Coast Guard in Key West, Florida, the company said Aug. 4. This is the 176th vessel Bollinger has delivered to the U.S. Coast Guard over a 35-year period and the 50th fast response cutter delivered under the current program.



“It’s incredibly meaningful that we could deliver the 50th FRC, the USCGC William Chadwick, on the Coast Guard’s 232nd birthday and that she’ll be homeported in Sector Boston, the birthplace of the Coast Guard,” said Bollinger President and CEO Ben Bordelon.

“Pound for pound, the quality and capabilities of the FRC platform is unmatched and can be looked upon as a model government acquisition program. Our unique experience building for the Coast Guard is unparalleled and has shown time and time again that we can successfully deliver the highest quality vessels on a reliable, aggressive production schedule and cost, even in the most challenging circumstances. We look forward to continuing our historic partnership with the U.S. Coast Guard.”

Chadwick will be the first of six FRCs to be homeported in Sector Boston, responsible for coastal safety, security and environmental protection from the New Hampshire-Massachusetts border southward to Plymouth, Massachusetts out to 200 nautical miles offshore. Sector Boston directs over 1,500 active duty, Reserve and Auxiliary members whose mission is to protect and secure vital infrastructure, rescue mariners in peril at sea, enforce federal law, maintain navigable waterways, and respond to all hazards impacting the maritime transportation system and coastal region.

Each fast response cutter is named for an enlisted Coast Guard hero who distinguished themselves in the line of duty. William P. Chadwick served as keeper of the Green Island Lifeboat Station in New Jersey and was awarded the Gold Lifesaving Medal for the rescue of the crew of the schooner George Taulane on Feb. 3, 1880. Even after suffering a debilitating injury from flying debris, Chadwick directed the repeated efforts to save the crew of the broken Taulane as they battled mother nature’s high winds, heavy rains and dangerous surf. Finally, after five and a half hours, Chadwick’s men were able to erect a breeches buoy. Within a half hour all the Taulane’s crew were safely ashore.



## From the FDVA THEY ARE HIRING!

New health care job opportunities at our State Veterans' Nursing Homes throughout Florida have recently been posted! If you are looking for a fulfilling new role, visit our jobs page to view the available positions. <https://bit.ly/FDVAJobs>

A central graphic of a smartphone displaying the VA logo at the top, the phone number "800-MyVA411 (800) 698-2411", and a numeric keypad with a green call button. Surrounding the phone are ten service categories, each with an icon and a brief description:

- LIVE ASSISTANCE** (Headset icon): General information, directory assistance and technical support for VA.gov
- VA HEALTH CARE** (Medical bag icon): Eligibility, enrollment, locations and COVID-19
- COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE** (Flame icon): MISSION Act eligibility, copayments
- NATIONAL CEMETERIES** (Gravestone icon): Burial benefits, interment scheduling and headstone/Veteran marker
- VETERANS CRISIS LINE** (Star and speech bubbles icon): Immediate connection to caring, qualified responders
- DEBT MANAGEMENT** (Stack of money icon): Debt details, payment options and debtor rights
- FACILITY LOCATOR** (Location pin icon): Locations of medical centers, benefits offices or cemeteries
- BENEFITS ASSISTANCE** (Dollar sign icon): Information about a variety of VA benefits
- HOMELESS VETERANS LINE** (House icon): Information and support for homeless and at-risk callers
- COVID-19 INFORMATION** (Microscope icon): Frequently asked questions and live assistance for COVID-related questions

# TOOLS OF THE TRADE VIETNAM



M-16



M79



M60



1911



M14



M1 CARBINE



M40-A1



M70



M870



M72



M26



M18 CLAYMORE



M67

★ ACTIVE DUTY ★ VETERANS ★ NATIONAL GUARD & RESERVE ★

# MILITARY SUPPORT RETREATS

RETREATS FOR COMBAT VETERANS,  
AND THEIR PRIMARY SUPPORT PERSON



**Marineland**  
Florida



**SEPT 15-18**

**Marineland**  
Florida



**OCT 6-9**

**Lake Chatuge/Hiawasse**  
Georgia



**NOV 3-6**

**From Thursday at 5:00pm – Sunday at 2:00pm**



★ **RESTORATION** ★ **RECREATION** ★ **RELAXATION** ★

*Strengthen and restore connections, enjoy the natural beauty of each location, be inspired by fun outdoor activities, learn about available support resources, and relax while exploring the stress coping concepts of Post Traumatic Growth.*

★ Small, friendly group setting ★

★ All accommodations, food, and activities are provided free of charge ★

★ Facilitated by Vets, Licensed Clinicians, and Community Nonprofit Support Organizations ★

*Please note: Must be 18 to attend and no childcare is provided. Participants are responsible for travel.*

**TO LEARN MORE AND TO APPLY VISIT: [GRATITUDEAMERICA.ORG/RETREATS](https://www.gratitudeamerica.org/retreats)**



CHRISTOPHER DUKE  
770-298-7654  
[DUKE@GRATITUDEAMERICA.ORG](mailto:DUKE@GRATITUDEAMERICA.ORG)





**GratitudeAmerica**



# GOLD STAR FAMILY RETREAT

*At Marineland, Florida*

September 22 at 5:30pm – September 25 at 1pm

A 3-night program where those affected by military loss can feel supported, gain education, and spend time in nature

★ RESTORATION ★ RECREATION ★ RELAXATION ★

*Participants make connections, learn ways to navigate challenges, discover resources that aid in healing, and have a "time out" to refresh their minds. Open to anyone who lost a loved one in service to our nation, to include all family members, representing all conflicts, all branches of service and all circumstance of death. Strengthen and restore yourself, enjoy the natural beauty of each location, be inspired by fun outdoor activities, learn about resources and supportive strategies.*

- ★ Small, friendly group setting ★
- ★ All accommodations, food, and activities are provided free of charge; transportation is not provided. ★
- ★ Facilitated by Vets, members of the community, and peers. ★

*Please note: Must be 18 to attend and no childcare is provided.*



TO LEARN MORE AND TO APPLY VISIT: [GRATITUDEAMERICA.ORG/GOLDSTAR](https://GRATITUDEAMERICA.ORG/GOLDSTAR)  
CONTACT INFO: ASHLEY SEMERNEKO, VETERAN ENGAGEMENT DIRECTOR  
[ASHLEY@GRATITUDEAMERICA.ORG](mailto:ASHLEY@GRATITUDEAMERICA.ORG)

# Please note: the Vietnam and War on Terror Walls will be in St. Augustine on display on Veterans Day, November 11, 2022 at Anastasia Baptist Church in St. Augustine.

Here is the Florida 2022 schedule

## FL PGR Vietnam & WoT Wall Schedule

To request one or both of the walls for display, contact FL State Captain

Email: [fisc@patriotguard.org](mailto:fisc@patriotguard.org) / 321-689-4699

Updated as of:

**01/17/22**

Date	Time	Duration	Wall(s)	Location	Comments	
02/19/22	Info forthcoming		WoT	Eustis Area		
02/26/22	0800 - 0830 hrs 0830 - 1100 hrs 1200 - 1600 hrs	Escort Set-up Walls Display & Take-Down	1 day	Vietnam / WoT	The Casements Ormond Beach 25 Riverside Dr. Ormond Beach, FL 32174	Military & First Responder Family Appreciation Expect to escort The Walls to the event from Holly Hill DAV at 0800 hrs.
03/25/22 03/26/22	1400 hrs 0800 hrs	Set up Walls Display Walls	2 Days	Vietnam / WoT	Gator Harley Davidson 1745 US 441 Leesburg, FL 34778	Benefit Active Duty Care Package Program JOBH - Just Our Soldier's Helpers Former USO Ride Overnight secretly provided by Gator Harley
03/28/22 03/31/22	0800 hrs	Set up Vietnam Wall Display & Take Down	3 days	Vietnam	Cape Canaveral National Cemetery 5525 US-1 Mims, FL 32754	National Vietnam War Veterans Day
05/21/22	0900 hrs	Set-UP & Display	1 day	Vietnam / WoT	American Legion Post 10 205 Lake View Dr. Kissimmee, FL 34741	Armed Forces Day Celebration
05/27/22 05/28/22	1400 hrs 1000 - 1600 hrs	Set-Up Display & Take Down	2 days	Vietnam / WoT	Daytona International Speedway 1801 W. International Speedway Blvd Daytona Beach, FL 32114	Heroes Honor Festival Memorial Day Event Vietnam Welcome Home
09/17/22	TBD	Info forthcoming		American Legion  Jacksonville, FL.	American Legion Veteran Event	
09/24/22	TBD	Info forthcoming		Remembering Vets Inc.  Palm Coast, FL.	Fall Festival	
11/10/22 11/11/22	TBD 0800 - 1100 hrs	Set-up Display	2 Days	Vietnam / WoT	Anastasia Baptist Church 1650 A1A S St. Augustine, FL 32080	Veteran's Day Ceremony Escort from Daytona to St. Augustine



Safekeeping your military separation records is secure, fast and free of charge and easy to access with the St. Johns County Clerk of Courts.

Bring your original DD-214 to the St. Johns County Veterans Council's Veterans Day Celebration where Clerk staff will officially record it:

- 9:30 a.m. – Noon, Nov. 11
- Anastasia Baptist Church, 1650 A1A S., St. Augustine
- Your record will be returned to you immediately.

Recording your DD-214 maintains a permanent digital copy on file for safekeeping. Your record is **protected** – it doesn't become a public record for 62 years after separation, per the National Archives.

*Can't make it on Nov. 11? Record your discharge papers at the St. Johns County Courthouse, 4010 Lewis Speedway, St. Augustine. Call the Recording division at 904 819 3632 for details.*

File your DD-214 with your  
St. Johns County Clerk of Courts



## FLORIDA CLERK OF COURTS WILL "LOCK IT UP" FOR FREE

Do you have your DD-214? That is the first question Veterans are asked when engaging in almost every benefits or Veteran-status related process. Often, it is the first question Veteran widows and widowers are asked after hearing "I'm sorry for your loss."

Each of Florida's county Clerk of Courts knows how valuable it is having a copy of your DD-214 safely and privately stored, with easy access. Click and read how you can record your DD-214 for free, year-round, regardless of what county you live in.

BONUS- St Johns County Clerk of the Circuit Courts is providing complimentary passport photos and notary services for military and Veterans through November 30th. Click below for the details.

*From Liberty Life Media*

## Are You eligible to file for benefits based on Presumptive Exposure?

Were you exposed to hazardous materials while serving in the military, such as from Agent Orange or burn pits? Did you serve in Vietnam, Thailand or Southwest Asia? If so, you may be eligible to file for service-connected benefits based on presumptive exposure.

Over the course of the last six months, VA has begun processing service-connected disability claims for six new presumptive conditions related to exposure to hazardous materials.

In May 2021, VA started implementing provisions of the William M. Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (NDAA), adding bladder cancer, hypothyroidism and Parkinsonism to the list of medical conditions presumptively associated with exposure to Agent Orange. A few months later, VA added asthma, rhinitis and sinusitis (to include rhinosinusitis) on a presumptive basis based on particulate matter exposures during military service in Southwest Asia and certain other areas.

Any Veteran who was previously denied service-connection for any of these six conditions but had symptoms manifest within 10 years of military service would need to file another claim. Be sure to use VA Form 20-0995, "Decision Review Request: Supplemental Claim" when filing. The claim form should include the name of the medical condition and also specify that the medical condition is being claimed due to in-service exposure to environmental hazards.

VA is committed to assisting Veterans who may have been exposed to hazardous materials during their military service.

Be sure to stay plugged in to [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov) for the most recent developments around environmental hazards; VA is constantly conducting research and surveillance, as well as reviewing scientific literature for conditions that may be related to exposure during military service.

If you feel you have a chronic condition attributed to an in-service exposure, we highly encourage you to file a claim. For more information about VA benefits and eligibility, or how to file a claim, Veterans and survivors can visit VA's website at [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov) or call toll-free at 1-800-827-1000.





# 2022 VA DISABILITY PAY RATES



ANNOUNCED 2022 COLA OF 5.9%	D I S A B I L I T Y   R A T I N G									
	10%	20%	30%	40%	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%	100%
<b>DEPENDENT STATUS</b>										
<b>Veteran Alone</b>	152.50	301.82	467.02	673.52	958.40	1,213.61	1,530.26	1,778.06	1,998.33	3,331.61
<b>Veteran with Spouse</b>	N/A	N/A	522.46	747.41	1,050.57	1,325.22	1,609.15	1,926.69	2,164.79	3,517.84
<b>Veteran with 1 child only</b>	N/A	N/A	504.45	721.99	1,019.86	1,288.16	1,616.79	1,876.92	2,109.72	3,456.30
<b>Veteran with 1 child over 18 years</b>	N/A	N/A	563.76	801.42	1,118.35	1,406.77	1,754.46	2,035.77	2,287.63	3,653.89
<b>A D D I T I O N A L</b>										
<b>Parent 1 only (over 18)</b>	N/A	N/A	44.48	59.30	74.13	88.96	103.78	118.71	133.43	149.10
<b>Each additional parent (over 18)</b>	N/A	N/A	27.53	36.01	45.54	55.07	64.60	73.07	82.60	92.31
<b>Each dependent child under 18 years (not including spouse)</b>	N/A	N/A	88.96	118.61	148.26	177.91	208.62	238.28	267.93	298.18
<b>Spouse (including aid and attendance)</b>	N/A	N/A	50.83	67.78	85.78	101.66	119.67	136.61	153.56	170.38

\*Use the compensation rates table to find your monthly payment amount. The monthly payment amounts are based on your disability rating and your eligible dependent family members.\*



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



**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**

**The DAV van is now operating 5 days /week!**

**It will now transport a full capacity of riders.**

**Schedule your seat on the DAV Chapter 6 van.**

**It departs from the large parking lot of the clinic at 0600!!!**

**Contact the VA Clinic at 904-823-2954**





## 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: **FDVA**  
FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

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



*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	Bob Adkins	adk123robert@outlook.com
1059	David Treffinger	dtreffinger433@msn.com; Clay
1084	Ron Howard	ronehoward@gmail.com
1088	Roy (Corky) Rudd	corkstopper50@yahoo.com; Nassau
1092	Forest Hope	foresthope@usa.net; Gainesville
1134	Marvin Lagle	mdlagle@gmail.com; Baker



### REMEMBER WHAT OUR MEDAL STANDS FOR:

- RED:** REPRESENTS THE THREE ANCIENT VIETNAMESE EMPIRES OF TONKIN, ANNAM AND COCHIN.
- YELLOW:** THE IMPERIAL COLOR OF VIET NAM.
- GREEN:** SURROUNDED BY EXPANSIVE JUNGLE.

TED PIECKO, The NAM.



**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

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

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

## Veterans Councils of Northeast Florida



### **BAKER COUNTY**

President: Larry Porterfield

Meetings:

Second Thursday of each month

Location:

MacClenny Primitive Baptist Church  
Fellowship Hall on North Boulevard

Time : 1800 (6pm)

### **CLAY COUNTY**

President: Harry Silvers

Meetings:

First Wednesday of each month

Location:

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

Time: 1400 (2pm)

### **DUVAL COUNTY**

President Steve Spickelmier

Meetings:

Third Tuesday of each month

Location:

American Legion Post 37  
Main Building  
San Juan Avenue

Time: 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 Coun-  
ty Health & Human Services Building,  
200 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, VSO  
Travis Neidig, Assistant VSO  
Angela McKenzie, Assistant VSO  
Lori Chapman, Assistant VSO  
Anna Marie Scott, Office Specialist*

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