



# The Patriot Reader Newsletter

P.O. Box 2117

St. Augustine, FL 32085

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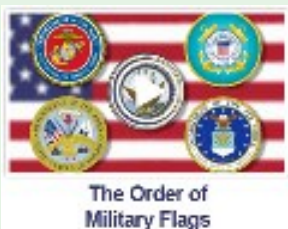
Volume 12, Issue 9

From Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley

September 2023

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Fellow Veterans,  
As Hurricane Idalia approaches the west coast of Florida and vectors towards northeast Florida, I pray each of our veterans and their families are in a safe place and are not affected in any adverse way from the ravages of this storm.

Please follow the advisories provided by our County and State Emergency Management personnel.

As a result of Hurricane Idalia, we have had to cancel our Veterans Council August meeting but are scheduled to resume our regular meeting on Sept. 28.

The Veterans Council has launched our Wreaths Across America program for 2023. The WAA donation forms have been printed and will be distributed to our local veterans organizations as well as local merchants who support our program each year. There has been a slight increase in the price of each wreath this year. A single wreath price is \$17 as opposed to last years price of \$15 but

the Veterans Council still gets a 3rd wreath free when 2 wreaths are purchased. The WAA ceremony this year will be on Saturday, Dec. 16 at 11 AM at the St. Augustine National Ceremony. Please plan to join us on Dec. 16 as we honor our veterans who have given their all for this country and by purchasing a wreath to be placed on a headstone at our National Cemetery.

In past years, the Veterans Council and Veterans Service Office have hosted a Homeless Veterans Stand Down to help our homeless veterans. They have been provided with clothing, shoes, tents, sleeping bags, toilet articles, camp stoves, and lanterns, just to name a few were given out by a raffle drawing for lucky veterans with a winning ticket. Organizations such as the VA, Legal Aide, employment agencies, American Red Cross, and others were on hand to assist the needs of our homeless veterans. However,



the past two years has seen a significant drop off in homeless veterans in our county, the result of a more focused effort on helping to find housing and employment for these veterans. Given the success of the various focus groups helping our veterans find housing and employment, the Veterans Service Office and Veterans Council has decided not to have a formal Stand Down this year but continue to support veterans with food from our well stocked food pantry as well as provide clothing and other hygiene items for those in need.

Stay safe and thank you for your service.

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



**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 in the Muscovy room.**

### **Upcoming Speakers**

**August 31**

**CANCELLED**

**September 28**

**Maj. Zach Malamud, “Marine For Life Network” and Mike O’Brien, Director of Development, 5 Star Veterans Center**

**October 26**

**Carl Cricco, CEO K9s For Warriors**

**November 30**

**Don Kabrich, a local veteran climbs Mt Everest in 2023  
Jennifer Jenkins, Wounded Warrior Project**

**From Lori Chapman, Assistant County Veterans  
Service Officer**



### **Update on Veteran homeless in St Johns County**

The count of Veteran's without housing at the time of last year's stand down was approximately 38 Veterans. Out of the 38 Veterans, only about 9 showed up for the stand down last year. The reason for the low turn out then is because those 38 Veterans were all engaged in case management services and working on housing placements. A majority of those Veterans at that time were able to be placed in hotel rooms while waiting on housing assistance due to special funding that came through because of Covid. This accounted for the low turn out at the stand down.

San Marcos Heights, an income-based apartment complex, opened up shortly after the stand down and we were able to place 13 Veterans without housing there. In January of 2023, the VA conducted a count of our homeless Veteran population and at that time there were 24. These 24 Veterans were all engaged with case management services to assist them in getting into permanent housing.

As of this date, we have approximately 12 homeless veterans that are all working with case managers for housing assistance. We have another income-based apartment complex opening up currently, Victoria's Crossing, and we have 10 units that are set aside for Veteran's preference there. St Johns Housing Partnership is opening Patriot Place soon and we are working on completing applications for Veteran's to be housed there now. We will be able to house 6 Veterans at Patriot Place.

The VA and community partners are making great strides in efforts to reach our homeless Veterans in St Johns County. These include VA has outreach workers that begin the process of approval for Hud VASH and other appropriate housing

opportunities, Changing Homelessness, The Veteran's Service Office, Home Again and The Society of St Augustine Street Outreach Team who seeks out homeless Veterans and connects them to needed resources. These Veterans are connected to health, counseling and other resources while working on housing goals.

Because of the amazing work that is being done to reach out to our homeless Veterans, they are being connected to resources more quickly at this time. Community agencies are working tirelessly to help end the homeless situation in St Johns County and expect to be at functional zero by December of this year which means 3 or less homeless Veterans identified in St Johns County.

Since the need for a Veteran Stand Down is very low at this time, the Veteran's service office will continue to have military surplus on hand at the VSO as well as a well-stocked food pantry for those that are in need. Our Veteran Homeless Coordinator assists with connecting Veterans to housing and other resources as needed and is able to deliver supplies to them or will work with other VA and Changing Homelessness case managers to ensure they have clothing, shoes, bicycles, food, hygiene items and other surplus while they work on being qualified for housing assistance.

There are other plans in place currently for a Day Center that will provide homeless with laundry and shower facilities. This facility will also provide a place for case managers to meet with the homeless and provide resources to them. There are other projects and plans being discussed and that will assist our homeless population even more in the near future.

We are grateful for the amazing support from our wonderful volunteers who donate food to our pantry, refurbished bicycles, gas and food gift cards and other items that meet the immediate needs of our brothers and sisters. Thank you for your support!

## PURPLE HEART DAY IN JACKSONVILLE

The saying “Some gave all but all gave some” rings true especially on days like Purple Heart Day today. We’re honored to recognize those brave men and women wounded or killed defending our nation. If you can, we encourage you take a moment to reflect on them, their families, and their sacrifices.



## Community Volunteers Come Together on Patriot Place Landscaping Project

ST. AUGUSTINE - Volunteers are landscaping Patriot Place, a project of Flagler Health+ and St. Johns Housing Partnership (SJHP) that will benefit homeless veterans in our community.



Volunteers and donors from St. Augustine Boy Scout Troop #234, the UF/IFAS Extension St. Johns County Master Gardener Program, the Northeast Florida Association of Realtors (NEFAR) Charitable Foundation, and Care Connect+ gathered on 79 Masters Dr. in St. Augustine the past two Saturdays.

Troop #234's Michael Korfhage took on the landscaping as an Eagle Scout project.

The Florida Master Gardener Volunteer Program is a citizen-driven program that benefits UF/IFAS Extension and the residents of Florida. The program relies on dedicated volunteers who have an interest in gardening and in giving back to their communities.



“The Master Gardener program spearheaded and supervised the planting. Their expertise in design and knowledge has been invaluable to creating a Florida Friendly landscape,” noted SJHP Executive Director Bill

Lazar.

The NEFAR Charitable Foundation donated funds to buy plants and shrubbery as well as interior paint. The foundation is a 501C3 corporation which was established to raise funds and assets to assist members of the public and member Realtors® in times of need.



Parents from Troop #234 also pitched in to help. As did volunteers from Care Connect+, established by Flagler Health+ to link area residents in need with available services and address social determinants of health in a coordinated way throughout Northeast Florida. By aligning community resources into a single access point, Care Connect+ increases coordination and access of available resources.

When it opens this summer, Patriot Place will be a six-unit complex for at-risk veterans who already live in St. Johns County. Each of the one-bedroom apartments will be 630-square feet.

Patriot Place will be certified “Florida Green” by the Florida Green Building Coalition (FGBC). Founded in 2000, FGBC is the state’s leading certifier of green projects.

There is still work to be done. You can help make Patriot Place special for at-risk and homeless Veterans. Contact the St. Johns Housing Partnership at [info@sjhp.org](mailto:info@sjhp.org) or donate below.



Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation provides college scholarships and educational counseling to military children, from all branches, who lost a parent in the line of duty.

We cover all college-related costs and there is a big need for our services as the VA does not cover the full cost of college. There is a \$25,000 average gap to cover one student for four years and we need your help.



**Scan here to support the children of those who made the ultimate sacrifice.**

*To mail a contribution, please send checks to:*

Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation  
ATTN: Courtney Nyren  
1818 Library Street, Suite 500  
Reston, VA 20190

**FALLENPATRIOTS.ORG**

**Thank you for your support of our mission. CFC #69859**



CFP is among top <1% of charities to receive a 100% rating in 2022



**Though  
Not Here...**



**Their Sacrifice  
Is Not Forgotten**

# NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

## Open House

**Friday  
September 15, 2023  
5PM - 6:30PM**

Tour our facilities and  
enjoy snacks and beverages

## Remembrance

**Friday  
September 15, 2023  
6:30PM - 8PM**

Evening remembrance ceremony  
and outdoor candlelight vigil

## Official Ceremony

**Saturday  
September 16, 2023  
1PM**

Chapel ceremony with  
Chaplain Patrick Archuletta



\*\*\*\*\*  
Keynote Speaker  
**CAPT Dale Raebal USN, Ret.**  
Former POW Vietnam  
September 16, 2023  
1 PM  
\*\*\*\*\*



## Vietnam Memorial Traveling Wall Memorial

**Saturday, September 16, 2023  
8AM to 3PM**

A special outside presentation/display  
Sponsored by the  
AMERICAN LEGION POST 250  
Patriot Guard, Middleburg, FL



## Seven Bridges POW/MIA Remembrance Day Ride

**Saturday, September 16, 2023  
12 PM**

Florida's 3rd Seven Bridges POW/MIA  
Remembrance Day Ride will be concluding  
at the National POW/MIA Memorial &  
Museum at 12PM.



Future site of  
The National POW/MIA Memorial and Museum  
**Chapel of the High-Speed Pass**  
6112 POW-MIA Memorial Pkwy, Jacksonville, FL 32221



**VETERANS COUNCIL OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY**  
**MINUTES OF GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**



**July 27, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Dudley**

**WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS: Chairman Dudley**

**PLEDGE: Chairman Dudley**

**INVOCATION: Ray Quinn**

**INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKERS/GUESTS: Chairman Dudley**

**New attendees introduced themselves to the group.**

**MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: Minutes of last meeting conducted June 29, 2023, were presented by Chairman Dudley. Copies of the 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 was unable to attend this month's meeting due to illness. Chairman Dudley presented a copy of the Treasurer's Report. Chairman Dudley did not go into details of the report, but stated, as in the report, the available cash total as of July 26, 2023, is \$186,348.31. The Treasurer's Report was approved by voice vote with no changes.**

**SPEAKERS:**

**JEFF ECKHOLM, ATLANTIC COAST YOUNG MARINES**

**Mr. Eckholm introduced himself and his military history and spoke of the mission of the Atlantic Coast Young Marines. The Atlantic Coast Young Marines is a National non-profit youth educational service program for male and females aged 8 – high school graduation. The program focuses on teaching the values of leadership, teamwork, self-discipline to its members to promote a healthy and drug free lifestyle. The program was started in Connecticut in 1959 by a group of former Marines and has grown since then to 238 units nationwide. The local group meets once a week in Jacksonville. They have recently re-**

ceived several national awards for their accomplishments. The kids learn how to march, they learn how to do PVT, they have signoffs, and they get promoted for their achievements just like the military on active duty. Memorial Day and Veterans Day are their 2 biggest weekends. They help with decorations on these days and also participate in Color Guard. Everyone was invited to attend the meetings to observe. The floor was open to questions and answers.

**ERICK SAKS, OPERATION LIFELINE, INC.**

Mr. Saks introduced himself and discussed the mission of Operation Lifeline, which focuses on Veteran Housing. They want to make sure all Veterans have access to safe and affordable housing. Within months of the founding of Operation Lifeline, they were able to obtain a grant through St. Johns County. The majority of the funding currently comes from personal donations while waiting for the grants to come in. They are focused on helping Veterans that have housing and can't afford to keep it safe and healthy to reside in. There is \$40,000 that can help Veterans, not with aesthetics, but updates for health and safety living. Mr. Saks discussed some of the housing they are working on for Veterans.

The other thing they are working on is helping Veterans with affordable home ownership. The costs in SJC make it difficult to provide affordable home ownership and they are now working with Clay County for affordable housing. The next step is to work with USDA to bring some programs into St. Johns County that is similar to Habitat for Humanity housing.

The last program Mr. Saks discussed was the Skill Bridge Training Program for people getting out the service. It's a transition program where, while still in the military, the last 6 months of their service they can work with a civilian organization in civilian clothes helping to learn skills for their transition back into everyday society.

The floor was open for questions and answers.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE UPDATE, JOSEPH MCDERMOTT**

Mr. McDermott gave an update of the Veterans Service Office. He talked about still trying to educate Veterans and doctors on the PAC ACT. Been having a little bit of a problem with the local VA Clinic sending over Veterans to the Service Office to file toxic exposure claim before August 10th to get the claim in. Unfortunately, many of the Veterans have none of the medical conditions that are on the toxic exposure list. The Veteran is then confused as to why the doctors at the Clinic sent them over to file. Mr. McDermott is going to meet with the doctors to help clarify the claims and presumptive required.

Mr. McDermott also discussed placing Veterans in the new Patriot Place and also discussed the upcoming Homeless Veterans Standdown. There are currently 12 homeless Veterans being helped through the VSO. He discussed the 6 apartments coming open at Patriot Place and 13 opening coming up in Victoria Crossing. Things are improving for our homeless Veterans here in St. Johns County. The VSO now has a storeroom to house things to help homeless Veterans, including canned goods for Veterans in need.

The VSO saw over 500 Veterans last month, with 100 new clients that had never been in the office before. The Veterans Service Office is very busy.

The floor was open for questions and answers.

#### VETERANS TREATMENT COURT, JOHN LESLIE

Mr. Leslie introduced himself, Mentor Coordinator for the St. Johns and Putnam County Veterans Treatment Court. Although the Treatment Court is actually taking Veterans from 8 other counties throughout the NE Florida area.

The Treatment Court is in its 7th year and brought in 135 veterans into the program and has graduated 78 participants. There are 36 veterans currently inflow and over time 21 have dropped out for various reasons. The next session is scheduled for August 4th at 10:00am in Room 355 of the Judicial Complex. All are invited to attend and observe the Treatment Court. Mr. Leslie is looking for any new mentors that would be interested in helping in the future.

The floor was open to any questions.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Dudley discussed the opening of Patriot Place and the good turnout for that ceremony. The first Veteran should be moved in during August.

The next discussion Chairman Dudley put before the Council was a transitional housing facility for homeless Veterans. There has been a site located and the property has been purchased on SR 16 for the facility to commence. The grant was submitted through Home Again St. Johns and approved. A contractor, Gulfstream Design, has been lined up and signs have been posted on the property. We are in negotiations with 2 other adjacent property owners. This will make the site the entire block in that area. It will be completed in 2 phases and Chairman Dudley showed a site plan of the anticipated units for the facility and discussed the use for all the units and buildings.

Chairman Dudley also gave an update on the upcoming Veterans Day program that will be held in November 2023. The theme for this year's program will be on the Global War on Terrorism and held at Anastasia Baptist Church. The program will honor all the Veterans that have served in the last 20 years on the war on terrorism. They will be recognized for their service and presented with a pin to honor them. Questions and answers were taken on these projects and programs.

The floor was open to all who wished to bring any new business before the Council.

Danny and Jackie Garcia discussed their organization, "Global Walk," and the World Changers Concert that will be held on December 8, 2023, at the Amphitheater. The theme of the concert is to Honor and Thank God, Veterans, First Responders, and families.

Next Veterans Council meeting will be held on Thursday, August 31st beginning at 7:00pm.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

William Dudley, Chairman

**2023 RIVERWOOD MEN'S CLUB CHARITY GOLF EVENT**  
**BENEFITTING**  
**VETERANS COUNCIL OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY**  
**AT WORLD GOLF VILLAGE, SLAMMER & SQUIRE ON 11/13/2023**  
**SPONSORSHIPS**



**1. Platinum Sponsor - \$2500.** Complimentary entry for a four person golf team, individual banner at registration table and awards luncheon, individual corporate business table at awards luncheon, business flyer/brochure in registration bag, hole sponsorship sign, special invite to Veterans Council VIP events, recognition on all tournament flyers and the main sponsor banner, special recognition in all media events.

**2. Gold Sponsor - \$1500.** Complimentary entry for two players, individual banner at registration table, business flyer/brochure in the registration bag and at the awards luncheon, hole sponsorship sign, special invite to Veterans Council VIP events, recognition on all tournament flyers and the main sponsor banner.

**3. Tournament Special Events Sponsor - \$500**

- \*Registration Gift Bag Sponsor
- \*Beverage Sponsor
- \*Luncheon Sponsor
- \*Team Prize Sponsor
- \*Putting Contest
- \*Closet-to-Pin (CTP) Contest
- \*Special Team CTP Contest

*Individual sign at location of event sponsored, hole sponsorship sign, business flyer/brochure at awards luncheon, recognition on all tournament flyers and the main sponsor banner.*

**4. Hole Sponsor - \$175.** Sponsorship sign at one hole, recognition on all tournament flyers and the main sponsor banner.

**5. Gift donations -** Gifts suitable as prizes for tournament competition and for silent/live auctions and raffles will receive special recognition on all tournament flyers and the main sponsor banner.

***Sponsor/Donation Info***

Business or Individual Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone /Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsorship Type (See Above): \_\_\_\_\_

Gift Item/Value of Donation: \_\_\_\_\_

**Sponsorship/Donation Contacts:** Jim Monahan, [jimmonahan237@gmail.com](mailto:jimmonahan237@gmail.com)

**Please make checks payable to:** Veterans Council of St. Johns County

**Note:** Please indicate in the check memo line "Veterans Council of St. Johns County Charity Golf Event"

**Mail to:** Jim Monahan, 118 Goldenrod Park Road, Ponte Vedra, FL. 32081.

**Thank you for your generous donation that will help improve the quality  
of our Veterans Lives**

*Donors will receive a letter from the charity documenting the value of their donation after  
conclusion of the event*



*You've made our country*  
A BETTER PLACE.

**Enjoy your well-earned retirement at Silver Creek.**

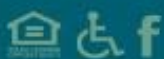
Thank you veterans for your service and sacrifice! At Silver Creek, you can live life as you choose with greater freedom, comfort and independence through the unique living options at our community - including independent concierge living, assisted living, enhanced assisted living and memory care.

Discover first-class amenities, holistic wellness programming, gourmet all-day dining and vibrant activities while enjoying camaraderie and friendship at our close-knit community.

Call **800-821-8170** to schedule a tour and learn more.



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

Explore VA benefits and health care, <https://www.va.gov>

## **Health care**

Apply for VA health care, find out how to access services, and manage your health and benefits online.



## **Disability**

File a claim for disability compensation for conditions related to your military service, and manage your benefits over time.

## **Education and training**

Apply for and manage your GI Bill and other education benefits to help pay for college and training programs.

## **Careers and employment**

Apply for vocational rehabilitation services, get support for your Veteran-owned small business, and access other career resources.

## **Pension**

Apply for monthly payments for wartime Veterans and survivors with limited or no income who meet certain age and disability requirements.

## **Housing assistance**

Find out if you're eligible for a VA-backed home loan. If you have a service-connected disability, see if you qualify for a housing grant to help you live more independently.



## **Life insurance**

Explore VA life insurance options for Veterans, service members, and families. Manage your policy online, file claims for benefits, and access helpful resources.

## **Burials and memorials**

Get help planning a burial in a VA national cemetery, order a headstone or other memorial item to honor a Veteran's service, and apply for survivor and dependent benefits.

## **Records**

Apply for a printed Veteran ID card, get your VA benefit letters and medical records, and learn how to apply for a discharge upgrade.

## **Service member benefits**

Find out what benefits you may be eligible for during service and which time-sensitive benefits to consider when separating or retiring.

## **Family member benefits**

Learn about the benefits you may qualify for as a spouse, dependent, or survivor. And find out what you're eligible for as a family member caring for a Veteran with disabilities.

## **VA department information**

Learn more about the VA departments that manage our benefit and health care

## K9s For Warriors

We opened our doors in 2011, founded on a mother's love for her son. "Mom," the late Shari Duval would go on to save not only her own son but also the lives of countless others.

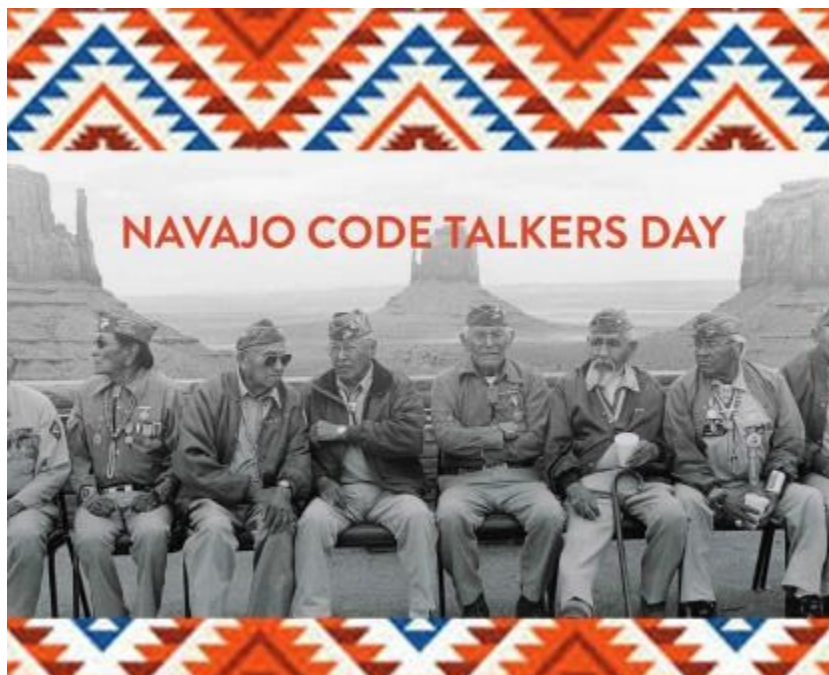
We lovingly renamed our national headquarters in her honor, now known as the "Shari Duval Campus," a place of home and healing for Warriors and their Service Dog



## HISTORY OF NAVAJO CODE TALKERS DAY

The C.I.A.'s official site has stated that Navajo was a near 'perfect' language that was used to create military codes. This is why it has been recorded in history and is recognized for its brilliance even today. However, the code wasn't the language itself but was a communication form that was encrypted using the Navajo language. Since many people couldn't decipher it, the code remained unbreakable throughout the war. It is this success of the code that is celebrated by Americans every year. National Navajo Code Talkers Day was made a legal state holiday in 2020 by Governor Doug Ducey who signed legislation to honor the courage of the Navajo Code Talkers and their critical role in the WWII victory. According to him, the Navajo Code Talkers are "American heroes."

It all started in 1942 when the U.S. was fighting World War II in the Pacific and needed an unbreakable code to ensure the success of military operations. During this time, Philip Johnston, the son of a missionary who had grown up in the Navajo Nation, suggested using the Navajo language as a code. After this, there was no turning back and the U.S. government recruited over 400 Navajo men to serve during the war. The Navajo Code Talkers successfully transmitted more than 800 messages without error and helped the U.S. win the war. Hence, in 1982, Navajo Code Talkers Day was established through a presidential proclamation by President Ronald Reagan. In 2014, Arizona passed legislation declaring every August 14 Navajo Code Talkers Day in Arizona.



## From We Are The Mighty

### Why WW II Veterans wore their Uniforms after they were discharged

*by Miguel Ortiz*

United States Code allows honorably discharged military veterans who served during a declared or undeclared war to wear their uniforms under certain circumstances. It states that service or dress uniforms may be worn to ceremonies like “military funerals, memorial services, weddings, [and] inaugurals” or for holiday or patriotic parades or ceremonies. Outside of these provisions, the wearing of the uniform is prohibited. However, during and after WWII, it was common for returning GIs to wear their uniforms weeks or even months after their discharge.

Beginning in 1925, honorably discharged veterans received the Honorable Service Lapel Button. Italian-American sculptor Anthony de Francisci designed the 1/2-inch gilt brass button on the left lapel of civilian clothes upon discharge. During metal shortages, the button was made of plastic. Veterans who received plastic buttons could later exchange them for brass buttons. In addition to the button, a cloth lozenge was also issued. Approximately 1.5 inches tall and 3 inches wide, the lozenge was sewn above the right breast pocket of a service member’s dress uniform when they were being discharged.

The design of the button and lozenge features an eagle with outstretched wings passing through a ring. However, the bird’s pose made it appear as if it was bursting. Moreover, the design of the eagle itself was likened more to a duck. As a result, it became known as the “ruptured duck.” From 1925-1939, the button featured red and white stripes as well as the words “NATIONAL DEFENSE” over a blue background above the eagle. The text was removed and the button became all gold from 1939-1946. do you feel?

During WWII, enlisted troops were prohibited from possessing civilian clothes unless they had specific orders to do so. This made desertion more difficult and ensured that captured troops could be identified as legal combatants and be treated as prisoners of war in accordance with the rules of war. As a result,

discharged troops returning home traveled in their uniforms bearing the Honorable Discharge Emblem. This unofficially served as proof of veteran status for railroads, buses, cabs or ferries offering free or discounted transportation to veterans.

Approximately 16 million Americans served in uniform during WWII. When the war ended, many of these men and women were discharged in a short period of general demobilization. Cloth rationing during the war created a clothing shortage in the U.S. and millions of troops returning at the same time would only make things worse. With the ruptured duck over the right breast pocket, honorably discharged veterans were allowed to wear their uniforms for up to 90 days after their discharge while clothes back home were scrounged up.

For years after the war, many veterans proudly wore Honorable Service Lapel Buttons on their civilian clothes. People wearing their button were often referred to as a “ruptured duck.” The term was later used to describe someone or something moving quickly, as discharged troops were in a hurry to get home after the war. A postage stamp featuring the button was also issued to honor WWII veterans. Notably, a B-25 Mitchell bomber that took part in the Doolittle Raid on Tokyo was nicknamed Ruptured Duck.

The post Why WWII veterans wore their uniforms after they were discharged appeared first on We Are The Mighty.



**From the St. Johns County Parks & Recreation Dept.**

Do you know a Military Veteran with a \*Blank Space\* on their calendar? Check out our upcoming Veteran Programs (SJC Parks and Recreation's Version).

**Veteran Fishing:** Don't be overwhelmed by fishing regulations, \*Shake It Off\* and learn all about Keeping It Legal in September. Then join us to explore the \*Wonderland\* of Surf Fishing in October!

**Veteran Art:** Discover your artistic \*Style\* and try out a different art medium every month. Upcoming programs include Print Making and Pumpkin Painting!

**Veteran Kayaking:** \*I Know Places\* for some great wildlife viewing in and \*Out Of The Woods\* around Hallowes Cove and in Deep Creek this fall.

\*All You Had To Do Was Stay\* until the end of this post and you'd find the link for more information and program registration here: <https://bit.ly/46HMhEt>

A large event poster with a dark background and a silhouette of a soldier in the foreground. The text is white and yellow. It includes the WJCT Public Media logo, the event title, date, time, and sponsorship details.

**wjct | PUBLIC MEDIA**

# Why "Thank you for your service" May Not be Enough: Talking to Our Veterans

November 6, 2023

**ABOUT THE EVENT:**

Join WJCT for a community conversation about the rewards and challenges of military life and exploring ways to express gratitude for someone's service. Clips will be shown from the PBS program, **After Action** featuring conversations about life before, during and after action that provide a deeper appreciation for those who've served.

**November 6, 2023**  
**6 PM** - Reception  
**7 PM** - Panel Discussion

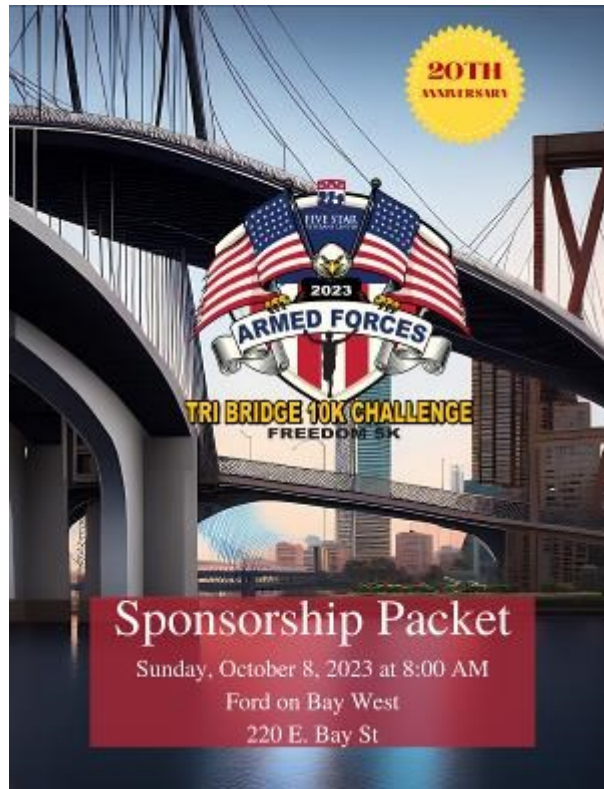
**SPONSORSHIP INCLUDES:**

- Company name and logo on 30 television spots
- Logo inclusion in promotion on [wjct.org](http://wjct.org)
- Logo on E-blast invitation
- Company name recognition from the stage
- Signage at the event
- Sponsor may have a display table
- 4 reserved tickets to the event
- Association with a high-profile program

**YOUR INVESTMENT: \$2,500**

in partnership with

The Roman A. Dikens Military Supply Club at Olatheville



## 2023 SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Proceeds to Benefit the Five Star Veterans Center

The 20th Annual Armed Forces Tri-Bridge 10K Challenge (formerly the Half Marathon) & Freedom 5K will be on Sunday, October 8th, starting at 8 AM! A new Start/Finish line and race registration and post-race celebration expo at Ford on Bay, 220 E. Bay St (Old Jacksonville City Hall).

The inaugural marathon, then named the Marine Corps Half Marathon & Freedom 5K, was held on Saturday, October 2, 2004, setting the tone for Fall events in the Southeastern United States. Throughout the years, registration for this marathon has averaged 4,000-plus runners throughout many states. What began simply as a Saturday race in Jacksonville has evolved into a weekend celebration of running, physical fitness, and tributes to our military and veterans that have served our great nation.



The mission of the Five Star Veterans Center is to: **Rebuild the lives of veterans in crisis to ensure they thrive in civilian life.**

### Commander-In-Chief Presenting Sponsor \$25,000

- Corporate recognition / exclusive and prominent listing as "Presenting Sponsor" on all related program collateral (posters, print ads, flyers, and brochures), Five Star Veterans Center / Event website(s), as well as inclusion in all media (paid and PR) and all social media channels affiliated with the program.
- 50 race participant registrations.
- Prominent Recognition at the Five Star Veterans Center.
- Right to Co-Brand as Presenting Sponsor with the Armed Forces Tri-Bridge 10K Challenge & Freedom 5K to include: the right to establish a race-day "quadruple tent pavilion" with the company's products and representatives at Finish Line. If you do not have a branded tent, we will provide one.
- Prominent Recognition on our website, social media channels, as well as in our e-newsletter reaching over 15,000 of our military community members.
- Large Color Logo centered on the back of all race t-shirts and positioned on Race Bits.
- Large Color Logo on all course banners and signage.
- Exclusive recognition at the sponsorship dinner at the date and place TBD, with community leaders from the military, government, press, and businesses to celebrate the partnership with the Five Star Veterans Center.

**Secretary of Defense Sponsor****\$20,000**

- Corporate recognition (posting listing as "Secretary of Defense Sponsor" on all related program collateral (posters, print ads, flyers, and brochures), Five Star Veterans Center / Event website(s), as well as inclusion in all media (paid and PR) and all social media channels.
- 40 race participant registrations.
- Prominent Recognition at the Five Star Veterans Center.
- Prominent Recognition on our website, social media channels, as well as in our e-newsletter reaching over 15,000 of our military community members.
- Right to Co-Brand as "Secretary of Defense Sponsor" with the Armed Forces Tri-Bridge 10K Challenge & Freedom 5K to include the right to establish a race-day "tent pavilion" with company representatives and collateral at Finish Line. If you do not have a branded tent, we will provide one.
- Color Logo in a prominent position on the back of all race t-shirts.
- Color Logo on pavilion banners.
- Recognition at the sponsorship dinner at the date and place TBD, with community leaders from the military, government, press, and businesses to celebrate the partnership with the Five Star Veterans Center.

**Joint Chief Sponsor****\$15,000**

- Corporate recognition (posting as "Joint Chief Sponsor" on all related program collateral (posters, print ads, flyers, and brochures), Five Star Veterans Center / Event website(s), as well as inclusion in all media (paid and PR) and all social media channels affiliated with the program.
- 30 race participant registrations.
- Prominent Recognition at the Five Star Veterans Center.
- A press conference will be planned to unveil the recognition at a location to be determined with invited press and military dignitaries.
- Recognition on our website, social media channels, as well as in our e-newsletter reaching over 15,000 of our military community members.
- Right to Co-Brand as "Joint Chief Sponsor" with the Armed Forces Tri-Bridge 10K Challenge & Freedom 5K to include the right to establish a race-day "tent pavilion" with company representatives and collateral at the Finish Line. If you do not have a branded tent, we will provide one.
- Color Logo listed on the back of all race t-shirts.
- Logo or Company Name on all course banners and signage.
- Exclusive recognition at the sponsorship dinner at the date and place TBD, with community leaders from the military, government, press, and businesses to celebrate the partnership with the Five Star Veterans Center.

**Special Forces Sponsor****\$ 10,000**

- Corporate recognition (posting as "Special Forces Sponsor" on all related program collateral (posters, print ads, flyers, and brochures), Five Star Veterans Center / Event website(s), as well as inclusion in all media (paid and PR), and all social media channels affiliated with the program.
- 20 race participant registrations.
- Recognition at the Five Star Veterans Center.
- Recognition on our website, social media channels, and weekly e-newsletter reach over 15,000 military community members.
- Right to Co-Brand as "Special Forces Sponsor" with the Armed Forces Tri-Bridge 10K Challenge & Freedom 5K to include the right to establish a race-day "tent pavilion" with company representatives and collateral at Finish Line. If you do not have a branded tent, we will provide one.
- Color Logo listed on the back of all race t-shirts.
- Recognition at the sponsorship dinner at the date and place TBD, with community leaders from the military, government, press, and businesses to celebrate the partnership with the Five Star Veterans Center.

**Distinguished Service Sponsor****\$ 5,000**

- Corporate recognition (posting as "Distinguished Services Sponsor" on all related program collateral (posters, print ads, flyers, and brochures) where possible and appropriate, Five Star Veterans Center / Event website (s), as well as inclusion on all social media channels affiliated with the program.
- 10 race participant registrations.
- Recognition at the Five Star Veterans Center.
- Recognition on our website, social media channels, and e-newsletter reaches over 15,000 military community members.
- The right to Co-Brand as a "Distinguished Services Sponsor" with the Armed Forces Tri-Bridge 10K Challenge & Freedom 5K includes establishing a race-day "tent pavilion" with company representatives and collateral at Finish Line.
- Color Logo listed on the back of all race t-shirts.
- If you do not have a branded tent, we will provide one.
- Recognition at the sponsorship dinner at the date and place TBD, with community leaders from the military, government, press, and businesses to celebrate the partnership with Five Star Veterans Center.

**Uniformed Services Sponsor****\$ 2,500**

- Company listing as "Uniformed Services Sponsor" Five Star Veterans Center / Event website(s) and inclusion on all social media channels affiliated with the program.
- 5 race participant registrations.
- Recognition at the Five Star Veterans Center.
- Company Name listed on the back of all race t-shirts.
- Mention at the sponsorship dinner at a date and place TBD, with community leaders from the military, government, press, and businesses to celebrate the partnership with Five Star Veterans Center.

**Patriot Sponsor – Various In-Kind Donations****\$1,500**

- The value of GOODS must be at least \$1,500 (water, sports drinks, food, comfort items, etc.)
- If you do not have a branded tent, we will provide a tent for you.
- Recognition on Race Day and our website for one year.
- Provide 2,500 marketing materials or goodie bag items to be placed in the race bag.
- Other benefits and recognition TBD based on gifts and/or services provided.

For information regarding sponsorship, please contact Mike O'Brien, Development Director at [mohrien@5svc.org](mailto:mohrien@5svc.org) or please call the office at (904) 723-5950.

 [inbridge10kchallenge.org](http://inbridge10kchallenge.org)

 @jaxinbridge10kchallenge

 @jaxinbridge10kchallenge



5<sup>th</sup> Annual

2023 GOLF TOURNAMENT




MON  
OCT 30<sup>th</sup>  
2023



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

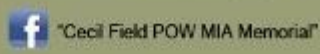
**Monday, October 30, 2023**

Registration/Warm-up/Pre-Event	11:15 am - 12:15 pm
Shot Gun Start	12:30 pm
Dinner/Awards Ceremony/Raffle	5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

**Deadline to Register:  
October 23, 2023**

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

Follow the 2023 Golf Tournament  
Event from our Facebook page:



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

CECIL FIELD POW/MIA MEMORIAL IS A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION - REGISTRATION NUMBERS, CHECKS, & COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE, (800) 455-7332, 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. EIN: 7954. CONTRIBUTIONS ARE DEDUCTIBLE.

*5th Annual*

**2023**  **GOLF**

**TOURNAMENT**

**TOURNAMENT/HOLE SPONSOR PACKAGES  
AND PLAYER FEES**

**TOURNAMENT SPONSOR \$5500**

**PLATINUM SPONSOR \$2500**

- Listed as Platinum Sponsor on:
  - Hole Sponsor Signage
  - Tournament Program
  - Facebook Event Page
  - Website with link to sponsor's website
- Recognition at Tournament Award Ceremony
- Up to Eight (8) player entries

**GOLD SPONSOR \$1500**

- Listed as Gold Sponsor on:
  - Hole Sponsor Signage
  - Tournament Program
  - Facebook Event Page
  - Website with link to sponsor's website
- Up to Six (6) player entries

**SILVER SPONSOR \$1000**

- Listed as Silver Sponsor on:
  - Hole Sponsor Signage
  - Tournament Program
  - Facebook Event Page
  - Website with link to sponsor's website
- Up to Four (4) player entries

**SINGLE PLAYER FEE \$150**

- Includes:
  - Tournament Entry
  - Tournament Hat
  - Dinner

**TOURNAMENT/HOLE SPONSOR FORM AND PLAYER REGISTRATION FORM ATTACHED.**

CECILE FIELD POWANNA MEMORIAL IS A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION - REGISTRATION NUMBER: CHS 1366. 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. CECILE FIELD POWANNA MEMORIAL IS AN IRS 501(C)(3), PUBLIC CHARITY, ID# 51564. CONTRIBUTIONS ARE DEDUCTIBLE.

**5<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL NATIONAL POW/MIA MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM  
2023 GOLF TOURNAMENT  
TOURNAMENT/HOLE SPONSORSHIP & INDIVIDUAL  
REGISTRATION FORM**

---

**Hole Sponsor Information**

Company Name \_\_\_\_\_ Company Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Company Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

---

**Sponsorship Level:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tournament Sponsor (\$5500) | <input type="checkbox"/> Silver Sponsor (\$1000) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Platinum Sponsor (\$2500)   | <input type="checkbox"/> Single Player (\$150)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gold Sponsor (\$1500)       |  |

**Donations:**

- Separate donation in support of National POW/MIA Memorial and Museum \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- 

**Important Sponsorship Information:**

1. Payment of sponsorship donation or player registration fee(s) can be done online at [powmiamemorial.org](http://powmiamemorial.org) or mail check payable to "National POW/MIA Memorial and Museum" to: **ATTN: 2023 Golf Tournament**  
National POW/MIA Memorial and Museum  
6112 POW-MIA Memorial Pkwy.  
Jacksonville, FL 32221
  2. For those sponsorship levels that include golf participation, please register each golfer by **Monday, October 23, 2023**
- 

Player 1 Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Player 2 Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Player 3 Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Player 4 Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Additional players may be added on a separate sheet.**

CECIL FIELD POW/MIA MEMORIAL IS A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION - REGISTRATION NUMBER: 041569. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE, 800 435 7362, WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. (CECIL FIELD POW/MIA MEMORIAL IS AN (RS 501)(C)(3), PUBLIC CHARITY, (DB 31854. CONTRIBUTIONS ARE DEDUCTIBLE.



# Stories of Service

## St. Johns County Veterans Oral History Project



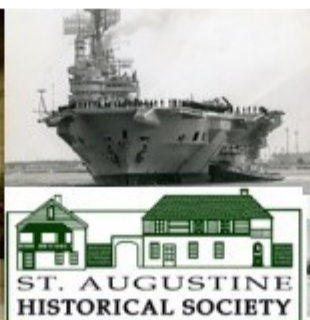
Stories of Service is an oral history project that aims to collect, document, and preserve the stories of local veterans for future generations by conducting audio interviews with them.



If you'd like to learn more about this project, contact Robert Covert:



904-825-2333 ext 203  
robert@sahs1883.com





# SAVE THE DATE

## VISN 8 Suicide Prevention Awareness Day Event

### "Cultivating Community Connections"

Friday, September 15, 2023 | 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

This event is for Veterans, families, and VA employees, to raise awareness of suicide prevention. Everyone has a role to play to save lives and cultivate healthy and strong individuals, families, and communities.

**VIRTUAL WEBEX EVENT - REGISTRATION NOT NEEDED**

To join,  
Scan QR Code



Or join via link below

<http://bit.ly/474K46q>

Password:  
ktPpjmN\*433  
(use for link and QR Code)

Or join by calling in

Dial:  
1-404-397-1596

Access Code:  
276 365 06764

**VA Employees: CEUs Offered; Register via TMS - Course ID VA 4646144**

Join us Friday, September 15 and learn more on the following:

- Suicide Prevention Awareness Training by the Experts
- Training on Screening and Evaluation for Suicide Risk
- Governor's Challenge Priorities
- Information on COMPACT Act
- VA and Community Resources will be shared



# V4V

VETS4VETS

Inform ★ Connect ★ Unite ★ Organize

*"Brand New Day"*

**Save the Date:  
Quarterly Gathering  
Saturday January 6th 2024**

*Veterans Memorial Arena*

## The Meaning of Flag Folds

The first fold of our flag is a symbol of life.

The second fold is a symbol of our belief in eternal life.

The third fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans departing our ranks who gave a portion of their lives for the defense of our country to attain peace throughout the world.



**3RD ANNUAL**

# Hear Her Voice, Hear Our Voices Gala

PRESENTS

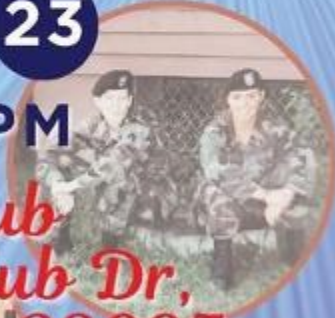
*Hero's Journey*



**11 • 4 • 23**

**At 06:00 PM**

**Palencia Club  
600 Palencia Club Dr,  
St. Augustine, FL 32095**



**GET YOUR TICKETS HERE**

**Emcee:  
Jasmine Boothe**



**Keynote Speaker:  
Jean Gautreaux**

# Stronger Together



## WOMEN SURVIVORS: BREAKING STIGMA

### RESOURCES AND PREVENTION

Women telling their stories about breaking the stigma and showing how they survived



**SEPTEMBER 30, 2023**  
9am-2pm



### LOCAL VENDORS ON SITE

Holistic, Mental Health, and Other local vendors

[HOPE4VETERANS.ORG/VENDOR-REGISTRATION-FORM/](https://www.hope4veterans.org/vendor-registration-form/)



### LOCATION

St John River College  
283 College Drive  
Orange Park FL 32065



### REGISTER HERE

[HTTPS://BIT.LY/H4VBTS23](https://bit.ly/h4vbts23)



[www.hope4veterans.org](https://www.hope4veterans.org)





Project Help, a 501c3 Charity, is dedicated to the welfare of veterans and their families. We work with them to provide essential services that will carry them through difficult times and put them on the road to success and fulfillment. We provide, not only basic needs, but continue with the veteran for as long as needed to assure their success and make every attempt to provide them with great employment opportunities.



★★★ **PROJECT HELP** ★★★

# CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT

COME OUT FOR FUN,  
FOOD, LIVE MUSIC, CRAFT  
VENDORS, AND COMPETITION  
AT OUR FIRST-EVER CHARITY  
CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT FOR  
OUR STRUGGLING VETERANS!

DATE

**10/21  
2023**

REGISTRATION  
DEADLINE

**10/01  
2023**

FEE

**\$100**

PER TEAM  
(16 SLOTS)



**BOONE SOUTH PARK**

3735 ST JOHNS AVE,  
JACKSONVILLE, FL 32205

CONTACT

**904-304-  
6228**

FOR MORE INFO VISIT

US AT [WWW.PROJECTHELP.US](http://WWW.PROJECTHELP.US)

# SPONSOR PACKAGES



## LEGENDARY SPONSOR - \$1000 - 1 SLOT

Same as Hero Sponsors  
Plus 5-10 Minute Speech  
And Title (Presented By Your Company)

## HERO SPONSORS - \$500 - 3 SLOTS

Same as Boss Sponsors  
Plus 2 Free Teams And A  
3 Minute Promotional Speech

## BOSS SPONSORS - \$250 - 5 SLOTS

Same as Stud Sponsors  
Plus Logo on Marketing Material  
And Signage Next to Boards

## STUD SPONSORS - \$150 - 10 SLOTS

1 Free Team Ticket  
Logo on Event Banner  
Shoutout During Event

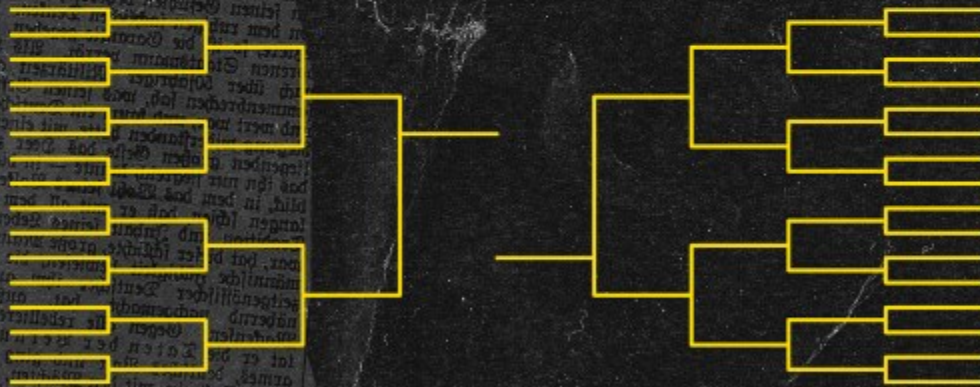
# ADDITIONAL PRICING



CRAFT VENDORS - \$45 - 25 SLOTS

FOOD VENDORS - \$75 - 3 SLOTS

PLAYING TEAMS - \$100 - 16 SLOTS



Double Elimination Bracket  
No Reset For Going Over  
Play To 21 Points  
20 Min Games

PROJECT





# LEAVE A LEGACY

at the St Augustine Lighthouse  
& Maritime Museum



## Military Honor Plaza



### Commemorative Brick

**\$300**

Each brick features 3 lines of 20 characters.

We suggest that the brick include the individual's name, rank and branch of service.

Includes a certificate suitable for framing. We reserve the right to approve any text prior to ordering the brick.

The St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum is proud to announce the opening of the Military Honor Plaza featuring commemorative bricks to honor members of the nation's armed forces. During World War II, the St. Augustine Light Station served as a United States Coast Guard station. Housed in the former Coast Guard Barracks built in 1941, "the Guardians of the First Coast: Building Readiness for World War II" exhibit highlights the history of northeast Florida in the early years of World War II.



# Incarcerated VVA Chapter 2080 newsletter



*When one goes forth a-voyaging, he has a tale to tell. —Asmus*



## THE POINT

Official Newsletter Of The Incarcerated Vietnam Veterans Of America - Union C.I. - Chapter 1080 - Summer - 2023

### NOTEWORTHY DATES

**June 14, 2023**  
Flag Day



**June 18, 2023**  
Father's Day

**July 4, 2023**  
Independence day  
(Remembrance Walk)



**August 1, 2013**  
VVA 1080 Anniversary

**September 4, 2023**  
Labor Day

**September 10, 2023**  
Grandparent's Day

**September 11, 2023**  
Patriot Day



**September 21, 2023**  
International Day of Peace

**September 23, 2023**  
8<sup>th</sup> Annual UCI Walk-a-thon

### UCI MENTORING TOUCHES LIVES

By Allen Brinkman, US Navy

In the years that I have had the privilege to be a part of the Veterans Treatment Court Mentoring Program, I have known many rewards. Most of all, the feeling that comes from knowing fellow veterans are earning a second chance. For them and for their families, what we do applies the breaks on a fast and sure ride to destruction.

They come here not knowing what to expect or what to do, and then experience surprise at meeting two older brothers, fellow veterans who care enough to listen, care enough to share.

Despite our incarceration, the men who come in for mentoring recognize we are no different in the way of being human beings. As we help them to see just how much alike we really are, that we can all take this fall to the bottom rung in society's standings, they begin to benefit, begin to change. Just a couple of hours and you can see it plain—this man has taken something from the experience.



The Duval County Veterans Treatment Court is a program designed to provide essential substance abuse treatment services, mental health treatment services, or both, to current and former military service members who have been arrested for a criminal offense, and in which a nexus between the offense or diagnoses and the veteran's military service exists. Union C.I.'s incarcerated veterans provide mentoring to those in the Veterans Treatment Court Program on a quarterly basis. During the mentoring programs, the UCI mentors talk about the many things they lost when they continued on the wrong path and found themselves incarcerated. Some of those losses include time with family, having pets, choosing when and what to eat, etc.

By Thomas Worland, US Navy

One of the veterans I was recently given the chance to mentor (together with our brother, Elwin Rose), was on his third visit to see us here in the visiting park. This guy has made a 180° turn in his life, completely retooling the way he goes about making decisions. He told us, with some excitement, that he is only four weeks away from graduating the program, and that he has been inspired to become a mentor himself.

What an honor to be a part of something like that!

The mentoring program's success rate continues to be very high, and I hope my fellow veterans here continue the high level of involvement that results in changed lives inside and outside of UCI.

Thank you Veterans Treatment Court for letting me be a part of something good like this. It blesses the lives of those men trying not to end up where I am, and it blesses me in more ways than I can put into easy words.

I know I would be joined by everyone involved when I say thank you to UCI's administration, for all of your help in the mentoring process, and for allowing us in the Veterans Dorm Program the opportunity to participate in this worthy cause.

*We few, we happy few, we band of brothers; for he today that sheds his blood with me shall be my brother. —King Henry V*

### **Native American Veterans**

By Bob Oulton, US Navy

A little known fact : More than 42,000 Native Americans served in Vietnam, with 90% by voluntary enlistment.

In the midst of those two stats is our own George Roberts.

Coming from the Cherokee Tribe of Tennessee, our Government had George deployed throughout 'Nam during most of '70 through '72.

Also volunteering for active duty and joining the Marines, is our Chaplain, Raymond Gregg, with a mixed heritage of Cherokee, Choctaw, and European stock. While Gregg was active duty from 1967-'72, and then '73-'77, the Marines needed his skills elsewhere, keeping him from assignment In-Country—but he was trained and ready to go.

Life works in strange ways. Former Marine and G-Dorm resident, Ronald "Moon Hawk" Winters was also of the Cherokee Nation and served multiple tours In-Country... only to end up succumbing to COVID here at UCI.

In addition to Vietnam, the *Intertribal Life* newspaper (available in our chapel) wrote that Native Americans have always been a significant strength within our military. During World War II, a full 13% of all Native American men fought, making them the demographic with the highest voluntary enlistment rate.

Thank you, men!

### **Message from the Chaplain**

By Raymond Gregg, USMC

Do you know that we all have a friend who empathizes with us in anything we go through? This ally has been through whatever and everything we have, yet He never, and I mean never, ever folded or gave in. That friend is Jesus.

Do you know we have the greatest privilege ever given to man? The privilege of Prayer. Yes, Prayer. We are welcome at any time, in any place, for any reason, with absolute freedom, to approach the Lord and, when we are in His presence, the free will to discuss whatever is bothering us, or to be joyous with Him over the things we are grateful for, in length if need be. We can ask for wisdom, comfort, and power, and all because He is both our high priest and our friend.

Our loving God *wants* to lead and direct us through life, and He sent His Holy Spirit to be an ever present guide, a constant help through thick and thin, and all in a way that glorifies the God.

The process of prayer leads to us being better men, more effective members of His kingdom and our community. Just talk to Him as you would to any loving person, but with reverence, for He is a Holy God.

---

### **A Declaration of Support**

By Larry Woodward, US Navy

After the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, a group of Vietnam veterans issued a "Declaration of Support" to a new generation of young men and women, about to fight a new and deadly war:

We combat veterans of the 11<sup>th</sup> Armored Cavalry Regiment (Black Horse), fought for the United States of America in Vietnam and Cambodia. As our nation now prepares for a long struggle against a new enemy, our freedom and way of life threatened...

On September 11, 2001, our fallen caretakers of freedom welcomed new heroes, those valiant and heroic victims who perished on American soil in New York, Virginia, and Pennsylvania. As a nation, we grieved our loss, mobilized to defend our country and pledged to lead the world against the threat of terrorism. We, a nation of diverse religions and cultures, turned our collective eyes to the woman in the harbor who welcomed those tired and poor; those yearning to be free who stood unified as one people, Americans! Now we, combat veterans of another generation, are once again stirred by the hallowed words of General Douglas MacArthur: "Duty, Honor, and Country".

We solemnly offer our unqualified Declaration of Support to our civilian and military leadership, and to the valiant men and women of our Armed Forces. We ask all Americans, regardless of race, religion, or creed, to nothing less. May God bless the United States of America, and all freedom-loving nations of the world.

The men behind this Declaration of Support had fought a war with little apparent public support. Even though many Americans were behind the war efforts in Vietnam, radical voices against the war dominated the media. These veterans of the 11<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment understood that feeling support is not enough. They knew that it had to be made tangible and effective. Likewise, every American citizen should do something tangible and specific in support of our men and women in harm's way, today. These brave young Americans need this support, and deserve it. Remember our Vietnam Veterans of America Motto: "Never again will one generation of veterans leave another generation of veterans behind".

---

*In much wisdom is much grief; and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow. —Arthur Schopenhauer (1788-1860)*

## Community Service Projects

By Russell Burch, US Navy

As participants of the Veteran Dorm program, we take part in various community service projects, each designed to serve a purpose beyond the confines of UCI.

We mentor to civilian veterans going through trying times in their lives, men navigating the legal system while trying to avoid serving prison time. These individuals are participants of a life saving Veterans Court serving surrounding outside communities. Our mentor program has an impressive success rate and, as mentors to these men, we become lifesavers.

We paint the wooden slats that are made into white wooden crosses by local high school kids, which are then, in turn, planted by outside volunteers alongside major Florida highways as monuments to fallen veterans. Oh, the simple joy of standing out in the elements of nature brushing white paint on slats of wood—a simple, yet profound, community service.

Most recently, we made Christmas cards for the Robert H. Jenkins Jr. Veterans Domiciliary Home. I signed up. There's an old saying "*Never Again Volunteer Yourself,*" but I've never paid attention to such things, like back in '74 when I joined the U.S. Navy and spent ten good years serving our mighty nation—best act of volunteering my service ever.



---

## The Most of the Moment

Submitted by Richard Mills, US Navy

A soldier who served in Vietnam was assigned the duty to meet a senator at the airport near his command. It was his responsibility to see that he was taken safely to the office of the commanding general.

As they walked to the car, the soldier stopped to help an elderly woman who was having difficulty carrying her luggage. After a few more steps, he picked up some items that had fallen from the arms of a mother who was having a problem with her child. Then he picked up a child that had tripped and fallen down.

Impressed, the senator asked, "Who taught you to be so kind and gentle and helpful?"

Quickly, and without hesitation, the soldier replied, "During my tour of duty in Vietnam, Sir, it was my duty to clear the fields of mines. I never knew if my next step would be my last. So I learned then and there to get everything I could out of every moment I had."

---

## From the President

By Edward Shook, US Army

Vietnam Veterans of America—Earnest C. Brace—Chapter 1080 will be celebrating their 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on August 1, 2023. It doesn't seem like it's been 10-years since we all gathered in the chow hall to vote for our first president on August 1, 2013 (that would be George Ballman), but it's a fact, and it sure was the start of something remarkable here at Union Correctional Institution.

Four years later, in 2017, we were Vietnam Veterans National Incarcerated Chapter of the Year.

10-years has seen us accomplish so much for this compound, for the outside local community, and for a number of veterans organizations all over the state of Florida. The #1 project, our annual **Walk-a-thon**, has raised over \$38,000 (all for great charities), and our **1<sup>st</sup> annual Presidential 125-mile walk for PTSD Awareness** raised a respectable \$4100. Both of these events are still alive and kicking, lace up and look to get involved this year!

Our Veterans Court Mentoring Program, in which we mentor free-world veterans taking part in the Veterans Court, has been a gigantic success. We work to keep veterans free by telling them about prison life and about the things they will lose if they end up wearing prison blue.

None of the countless opportunities we've been given, and none of the success or feelings of satisfaction for work well done, would have ever come about without the support of the Administration here at UCI, or without staff sponsors, like you, Officer Cardinal. **Thank you!**

A troop truck full of gratitude to our outside sponsors, (Gary Newman, we'll never forget you!) Tony D'Aleo, and Lt. Col. Robert Adelhelm—thanks for believing in and supporting us—you're the greatest!

And thank you, Chapter Members, for showing confidence in my leadership (by re-electing me as 1080's president), and just for all of your efforts on behalf of our chapter. You are good men.

I salute you all!

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*The life of the fool is worse than death.—Arthur Schopenhauer (1788-1860)*



## **P.T.S.D. and an Educational Opportunity for First Responders**

By Larry Woodward, P.T.S.D. Program Facilitator

A couple months ago, I posted a flyer in each dorm advertising a new P.T.S.D. class, which is meant to create awareness and educate our veterans on the subject of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Those considering joining should know that, if you sign up, you would not find yourself being sold on God, and no one will assume one way or the other about whether you suffer from the disorder.

When the sign-up posters were collected, I counted two names out of the seven dorms. That is a very poor showing. It seems that the many veterans on this compound are not interested in seeking help, or interested in being educated enough to recognize the symptoms so that they might help others.

It came to my attention that there are first responders serving time here at UCI who could benefit from this educational course, and I think that is a great idea. The percentage of first responders who develop P.T.S.D. is significantly higher than that of the soldiers who fought in both Vietnam and the Gulf Wars.

In researching the subject, I found a very interesting story I would like to share with you. It is about a Marine veteran of the Vietnam War who was also a career firefighter.

Combat veterans, police officers, and firefighters, have a lot in common—they are all required to face danger and deal with violence. Each repeatedly confronts horrific images, and they suffer that while working in professional cultures that value personal stoicism. Veterans and first responders often shun help from others, and they deal with a lot of disturbed feelings that get shoved below the surface.

Sometimes (often much later), problems begin to surface in the personal and family lives of these dedicated professionals. Irritability, quick temper, outbursts of anger, road rage, depression, and thoughts of suicide are some of the symptoms of the condition known as post-traumatic stress disorder, or P.T.S.D. Ron Rayner is a Marine veteran of the Vietnam war and a career firefighter. He has this to say of the condition:

"The real problem with P.T.S.D. is not that people are mentally wounded from traumatic life threatening events.... The real problem is that most of the victims are in denial and will not seek help with this life-threatening disability. These courageous individuals who risk their lives for others cannot accept that they may also need help from a mental health professional.

I know that I personally was in denial. I always thought I was a tough guy and did not need help. Being tough is definitely part of the job that these occupations demand. But what I learned and what these brave people have to realize is that mental wounds can ruin your life and kill you just like a physical wound. "

We have to acknowledge a problem before it can be solved and, unfortunately, because the person suffering from P.T.S.D. is usually the last to see it, understanding often only follows a catastrophic event. We would all benefit from talking out our problems with friends (Christian and secular), or professional counselors, before we explode, harming others and ourselves.

Prayerfully examine your conscience—look without bias at your own behavior—do you need help? If so, do yourselves and your family a favor. Don't be the last person to acknowledge it. Remember men, if you don't utilize our classroom in the movement center we will lose it.

---

### **Mother's Day Project Update**

By Richard Mills, US Navy

VVA Chapter 1080 touched the lives of many visitors' this past Mother's Day weekend. Presenters Ed Shook and Richard May made sure every woman visiting the institution received a colorful bouquet of paper roses. This was our seventh consecutive year carrying out our Mother's Day Rose Project.

Each year, volunteer members from the Chapter come together and make the paper roses. Shaping the red, pink, and yellow tissue paper into roses, and then assembling them into bouquets, is no easy task. Adding stems, leaves, and butterflies makes it even more difficult and time consuming, but they sure make for a beautiful finished product; just ask Ed and Richard about the appreciation expressed by the inmates entering the visiting park, as they received the roses to bring in to their families.

This year, a different design for our rose bouquets was submitted by inmate Franklin Nordell and adopted by the Chapter. Thank you for the upgrade, brother, your talents and labors are very much appreciated.

We do this to honor visitors in our own special way over the Mother's Day weekend, and we are grateful to everyone who contributed to what was a very successful event this year.

---

*We shall leave this world as foolish and as wicked as we found it on our arrival.—Voltaire*

**Sponsorships:**

**Gold Sponsor \$1000**  
Two Teams, Website Recognition,  
Golf Bag Contributor, 5 Minute  
Speech at Banquet

**Silver Sponsor \$750**  
One Team & Golf Bag Contributor

**Bronze Sponsor \$500**  
Golf Bag Contributor  
Poster Recognition

**One Hole Sponsor \$125**

**One Line Poster Recognition \$75**



**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**

Alton Green Memorial Post 194 provides a post home for our veterans while also sponsoring Kids Safe Zone, a free, "award winning" after-school program for our local youth, pre-k through 5th grade. We annually send a representative to Boys State and support numerous other veterans, youth and community programs. We also hope to finish another parking lot area next to our present one. Remember, all your \$ are completely tax deductible. Receipts given upon request. We thank you in advance for your support.

**Discounted Rooms Available**  
Fairfield Inn and Suites  
St. Augustine 1-95  
Tele 904 810-9892



**\$100 Entry Includes:**

- 18-Holes**
- Golf Cart**
- Lunch**
- Prize Opportunities**
- Awesome Raffles**



**Contacts:**

**Charles Ellis**  
ceellis@bellsouth.net  
904-501-8299

**Derry Greene**  
derrygreene1@hotmail.com  
240-412-1325



**Entry Form**

**DEADLINE: 10 Sept 2023**

**Player 1 Name • Email & HDCP**

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**Player 2 Name • Email & HDCP**

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**Player 3 Name • Email & HDCP**

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**Player 4 Name • Email & HDCP**

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Please detach and include completed form with registration fees!

Please Make Check or  
Money Order Payable to  
American Legion Post 194

1029 Pearl St.  
St. Augustine, FL 32084



Alton Green Memorial  
American Legion Post 194  
75th Anniversary

**GOLF**  
Tournament

Fri, 16 Sep 2023  
Registration: 12 pm  
Shotgun Start: 1:00 pm

St John's Golf Club  
4900 Cypress Links Blvd  
Elkton, FL 32033

## From the VFW Aux-National Organization

Spread patriotism through song!

Youth are encouraged to enter the VFW Auxiliary's national anthem singing contest, Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue!

Contestants may sing "The Star-Spangled Banner" in the arrangement and genre of their choice: rock, pop, reggae, R&B, hip-hop, country, classical and other genres are accepted. But they can't change the words!



The contest consists of two grade divisions: K-8 and 9-12. Entries are due to a local VFW Auxiliary by March 31, 2024.

Visit <https://vfwauxiliary.org/what-we-do/youth-activities/> for contest eligibility, rules, an entry form, to see the 2023 winners' videos and more.

## MILITARY TRI-BASE CAREER FAIR

September 6, 2023 | 0900 – 1400  
Adam W. Herbert University Center  
12000 Alumni Drive  
University of North Florida  
Jacksonville, FL 32224-2620

- National and local companies will be hiring!
- All Attendees bring your Military ID, Veteran ID, or DD 214
- Bring copies of your targeted resumes; Come Dressed For Success!

### ELIGIBLE JOB SEEKERS:

- Active Duty Military
- Separating, Retiring or Retired Service Members
- Military Spouses and Family Members
- National Guard and Reservist

For more information and a list of employers, contact:  
NAS Jacksonville, FL Fleet and Family Support Center  
Phone: 904-542-5711 or 904-542-5736  
Email: Jaxs\_nas\_ffsc\_tap@navy.mil

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





# MARINE FOR LIFE NETWORK

## MARINE FOR LIFE NETWORK

Connecting transitioning Marines and their family members to education resources, employment opportunities, and other Veterans services that aid in their career and life goals outside of military service.

ONCE A MARINE,  
**ALWAYS A MARINE!**

Marine for Life Network can guide your search for:



Career & Technical Opportunities



Educational Opportunities



Entrepreneurial Endeavors

### NETWORKING IS KEY

#### Linked in



Our online network utilizes LinkedIn to help Marines network with one another and connect with employers who want to hire Marines.

#### Face to Face Network



We focus on connecting Marine Veterans to local and national resources, as well as encouraging networking through Marine For Life events and meet ups.

[company/marine-for-life-network](https://www.linkedin.com/company/marine-for-life-network)

[marineforlife.org](http://marineforlife.org)

866-645-8762

[/MarineForLifeNetwork](https://www.facebook.com/MarineForLifeNetwork)

★ ACTIVE DUTY ★ VETERANS ★ NATIONAL GUARD & RESERVE ★

# MILITARY SUPPORT RETREATS

RETREATS FOR COMBAT VETERANS AND THEIR PRIMARY SUPPORT PERSON



**Marineland**  
Florida



**SEPT 7-10**

**Hiawassee**  
Georgia



**OCT 5-8**

**Marineland**  
Florida



**NOV 2-5**

**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  
877-912-7175 ext 102  
DUKE@GRATITUDEAMERICA.ORG





**SEPTEMBER 16, 2023**

# FLORIDA'S 3RD ANNUAL SEVEN BRIDGES POW/MIA REMEMBRANCE DAY RIDE & CEREMONY

Sponsored by: The American Legion Riders Department of Florida

*Police Escorted Ride from Adamec HD Baymeadows, over the Seven Bridges, crossing the St. Johns River, and ending at the National POW/MIA Memorial (6112 POW-MIA Memorial Pkwy, Jacksonville FL 32221) for a POW/MIA Ceremony at 1:00 PM.*

## All Riders Welcome!

Scan QR for:  
Event page  
Hotel Info  
Registration



*limit to 250 motorcycles or trikes (no autocycles)*

- **Meet & Greet on Friday Night September 15 at American Legion Post 283 (9459 Fort Caroline Rd, Jacksonville, FL 32225) at 5:00 PM**
- **Registration 8:30AM-10:15AM at Adamec Harley-Davidson® 8909 Baymeadows Rd Jacksonville, FL 32256**
- **KSU 10:30AM**
- **Cost: \$20.00 Per Bike**
- **After Event Social at American Legion Post 283**

POC: Denny Luke, POW/MIA Chair  
904-403-0181  
POWMIA@Legionmail.org



# JOB FAIR

Jacksonville Outpatient Clinic



## NOW HIRING!!

**Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
8:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.**

**Jacksonville OPC  
1536 North Jefferson St.  
Jacksonville, FL 32209  
(904) 475-5800**

**Representatives from the VA  
will be available to answer  
questions and assist in the  
application process.**

**A Career with VA comes with:**

- \* Strong initial salaries based on education, training and experience along with periodic pay raises that address inflation and local cost of living changes
- \* Comprehensive benefits to include health insurance, PTO, FSA and more
- \* Federal Employee Retirement Plan
- \* Opportunities for Advancement

**Veterans and Non-Veterans  
are encouraged to apply.**



- Registered Nurses (RNs)
- Dietician
- Clinical Pharmacist
- Pharmacy Technician
- Psychologist
- Social Worker
- Recreation Therapist
- Physician Assistant
- Medical Records Technician
- Audiologist
- Biomedical Equipment Support Specialist
- PA Psychiatrist MD/DO
- Psychiatrist MH/NP
- Optometrist
- Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN)
- VA Police
- Optometry Health Techs
- Medical Support Assistants
- Diagnostic Radiologic Technologist
- AND MORE

**All positions will be employed at the new  
Jacksonville North OPC and  
Domiciliary located at  
145 Heron Bay Rd.  
Jacksonville, FL 32218**

**Applicants are encouraged to view the event  
info utilizing the QR Code below or contact  
Mr. Maurice E. Moore at 352-548-7147  
or Colleta Lang at 352-548-7140**



# NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS VETERAN HOMEOWNERS SAINT JOHNS COUNTY

## FREE HOME REHAB

We believe everyone deserves to live in a healthy home. At Operation Lifeline Inc., we feel particularly indebted to those who served in the Armed Forces and have committed to helping as many struggling veterans as possible. Our program provides home rehabilitation services at no charge to eligible veterans to address accessibility and HUD's Eight Healthy Homes Principles.

## QUALIFICATIONS

### Participant Eligibility:

- Verifiable veteran status
- Gross income below 80% of the area's median income
- Occupy the property as a principal residence and have proof of ownership
- Be in compliance with any existing mortgage on the property
- Be current with utility accounts and property taxes

### Property Eligibility:

- Must be a single-family residence
- Must be the applicant's homestead
- Applicant must own the property by fee simple title
- Must be free of any encumbrances other than a first mortgage
- Located within the unincorporated portion of Saint Johns County or the City of Saint Augustine Beach

\* Please review full eligibility criteria on our website \*

## CONTACT US TODAY

*Funding is Limited and Restricted  
to Saint Johns County Homes*

Please visit our website to fill  
out an application

[WWW.OPLIFELINE.ORG](http://WWW.OPLIFELINE.ORG)



**OPERATION  
LIFELINE INC.**



# RESERVE COMPONENT TRANSITION ASSISTANCE ADVISORS



Are you a member of a Reserve Component? Have you served 180 or more consecutive days on Title 10? Do you have a service-related injury or health care issue? Perhaps you're about to retire from service and need someone to show you how to get back into the swing of civilian life. Getting to know your Reserve Component Transition Assistance Advisor (RCTAA) means you'll have reliable, professional support when you need it.

I am here to help with the following benefits:

- State and Local Benefits
- VA Assistance for Physical and Mental Health
- Disabled Veterans Program Assistance
- Education and Training Assistance
- Employment Assistance
- Health and Life Insurance
- Financial Assistance
- Legal Assistance
- Relocation Assistance
- Effects of a Career Change

Since 2005, RCTAAs have assisted Reserve Component service members with 180 days or more T-10 AD service obtain their federal benefits and entitlements. You could save an average of:

- Employment Counseling (\$75/hour)
- Health Insurance (\$1430/Service Member)
- Legal Assistance (\$255/hour)
- VHA DAV Benefit Received (\$15,034/Service Member)
- VA Benefit Received (\$5786/Service Member)
- Education Benefits Received (\$15,285/Service Member)

Average benefit per eligible Reserve Component service member across all benefits areas=\$11,970.

If you or someone you know needs assistance with federal benefits and entitlements, don't hesitate to contact me. You can either scan this QR code and fill out the attached form or contact me directly using the information below.



***Thank you for serving, now let me serve you.***

According to the National Defense Authorization Act 2013, [Reserve Component] transition assistance advisors "serve as points of contact to assist eligible members of the reserve components in accessing benefits and health care furnished under laws administered by the Secretary of Defense and benefits and health care furnished under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs" (Sec. 513).

**David "Dave" Kennett**

Reserve Component  
Transition Assistance Advisor  
Federal Contractor  
202-987-3864  
DKennett@gapsi.com

**DIRECTION | BENEFITS | COMPASSION**



# RESERVE COMPONENT SERVICE MEMBERS AND VETERANS

## Do you need direction to your benefits?

RCTAAs provide **DIRECTION** through the maze of programs available to the Reserve Component and connection to earned **BENEFITS** with the **COMPASSION** of someone who knows what it's like to transition.



*Ask your Reserve Component  
Transition Assistance Advisor (RCTAA)  
to show you the way!*



### BENEFITS:

- » State and Local Benefits
- » VA Assistance for Physical and Mental Health
- » Disabled Veterans Program Assistance
- » Education and Training Assistance
- » Employment Assistance
- » Health and Life Insurance
- » Financial Assistance
- » Legal Assistance
- » Relocation Assistance
- » Effects of a Career Change



*This picture might be worth  
\$1000 or more in federal  
benefits and entitlements!  
Enter your contact  
information to receive a call  
from a RCTAA.*



*Locate your  
closest RCTAA  
here!*



By law, Transition Assistance Advisors "serve as points of contact to assist eligible members of the Reserve Components in accessing benefits and health care furnished under laws administered by the Secretary of Defense and benefits and health care furnished in the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs" (NDAA, 2013, Sec. 513).

# From American Legion 5th District FL

## **IMPORTANT VETERAN INFORMATION**

Every spouse of a veteran should have in his/her personal file the following:

Veteran's Birth Certificate - 3 copies  
Spouse's Birth Certificate - 3 copies  
Children's Birth Certificate - 3 copies  
Certificate of Marriage - 3 copies  
Wills (for veteran & spouse) - 2 copies  
Spouse's Social Security number  
Veteran's Social Security number  
Discharge papers - 2 copies  
Separation records - 2 copies  
V.A. "C" number  
G.I. Insurance Policy Number  
All Insurance Policies with addresses and numbers. (Originals needed)  
Cemetery plot or vault locations and numbers  
Death Certificates and divorce decree of all prior marriages (if applicable)

Copies of the following are needed to file a Claim for Death Benefit:

Certificate of Marriage  
Birth Certificate of minor children  
Death Certificates or divorce decrees of all prior marriages on either side  
Service discharge papers  
Service separation papers  
V.A. "C" number  
Social Security number of both parties  
V.A. insurance papers  
Proof of Death Certificate (minimum 4 copies)  
Bills from Funeral Home

ALL originals should be kept in a safety deposit box or equivalent.

NEVER release an ORIGINAL copy.

APPOINT an administrator for minor children.

FURTHER ASSISTANCE: contact your County Veterans' Service Officer



8th Annual



# Rocketman Run

Benefiting

## Service Dogs for Patriots



September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**Cost**  
\$20 Per Rider  
\$5 Passenger  
\$5 Extra Roll

**Registration 9:00-11:00 AM**  
**Last Bike Out 11:00 AM**  
**Last Bike In 4:00 PM**  
**Drawings Begin At 5:00 PM**  
**Sanctioned Event**

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

Start: American Legion Post 250 - Middleburg  
1<sup>st</sup> Stop: VFW Post 1988 - Green Cove Springs  
2<sup>nd</sup> Stop: Orioles Nest - North St. Augustine

3<sup>rd</sup> Stop: Cheyenne Saloon - East Palatka  
4<sup>th</sup> Stop: Howlin Wolf - Melrose  
Final Stop: American Legion Post 250 - Middleburg

# KOREAN WAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION



## **CALLING ALL KOREAN WAR AND KOREAN DEFENSE VETERANS**

We invite you to join the KWVA Brotherhood. There are KWVA Chapters throughout America. Go to our KWVA Facebook Page, our KWVA Website at [kwva.us](http://kwva.us) or call the KWVA National Office to join the KWVA at **217-345-4414**



# 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.



#### 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.



#### 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.



#### 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/)



**LIVE ASSISTANCE**  
General information, directory assistance and technical support for VA.gov

**VA HEALTH CARE**  
Eligibility, enrollment, locations and COVID-19

**COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE**  
MISSION Act eligibility, copayments

**NATIONAL CEMETERIES**  
Burial benefits, interment scheduling and headstone/Veteran marker

**VETERANS CRISIS LINE**  
Immediate connection to caring, qualified responders

**DEBT MANAGEMENT**  
Debt details, payment options and debtor rights

**FACILITY LOCATOR**  
Locations of medical centers, benefits offices or cemeteries

**BENEFITS ASSISTANCE**  
Information about a variety of VA benefits

**HOMELESS VETERANS LINE**  
Information and support for homeless and at-risk callers

**COVID-19 INFORMATION**  
Frequently asked questions and live assistance for COVID-related questions

## FLORIDA SURVIVOR OUTREACH SERVICES AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY



## 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.





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



## 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	Albert White	
1048	Bob Adkins	adk123robert@outlook.com
1059	Dave Treffinger	dtreffinger433@msn.com
1084	Bill Jefferson	bill_jefferson@comcast.net
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.

### Veterans Council of Clay County:

President: Ansil Lewis

Meeting day is the same, first Wednesday of the month, but the location is changed to Clay County Administration Building, 1st floor conference room, 477 Houston St., Green Cove Springs, FL 32043. Meeting start at 11 a.m.

## 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



## 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**  
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL SERVICES  
FLORIDA BAR ASSOCIATION

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

## 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

Meetings:

Third Tuesday of each month

Location:

American Legion Post 37  
Main Building  
San Juan Avenue

Tome: 1900 (7 pm)

### NASSAU COUNTY

President: Mike Doran

Meetings:

First Thursday of each month

Location:

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

Time: 1900 (7pm)

### St. Johns County

President: Bill Dudley

Meetings:

Last Thursday of each month

Location:

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

Time: 1900 (7pm)

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



We are inviting all veterans to visit our website at:

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

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

Please join our group on Facebook at:

<http://veteranscouncilsjc.org>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Send to: rothfeldm@gmail.com



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

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

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

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

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

***The Veterans Council will meet at the County 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.*