



The Patriot Reader Newsletter

*P.O. Box 2117
St. Augustine, FL 32085*

Bill Dudley, Publisher

Michael Rothfeld, Editor

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From Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley

September 2025

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Fellow Veterans,
Summer of 2025 is now behind us and hopefully cooler temperatures will soon be here. This Labor Day let's remember the men and women who have worn the uniform of our Nation that have given us the freedoms we enjoy and the richness of this Nation that provide the jobs that support our families.

At our last Veterans Council meeting, we recognized Cdr. John Leslie, USN ret for his year's of service as the



Veterans Treatment Court Mentor Coordinator. John was presented with the Col. Ed Taylor Award for his 8 year's of developing and lead-

ing our mentor program. On his watch, the program has developed into one of the best mentor programs in the state of Fla. providing our veteran participants a "battle buddy" when they needed reassurance or someone to just talk to. John's leadership and organizational skills were exactly what was needed to make this program such a huge success for our participants. Bravo Zulu, for a job well done. John is not leaving the program but is stepping back from a leadership role and is passing that over to Gary Alford. We know Gary will do an outstanding job as well and the Veterans Council will be there to support him as he takes the helm.

The veterans community recently lost a true patriot. Col. Gerald Timoney, USA, ret. passed away while on assignment for the DOD in Chad. Gerald was a mem-



ber of the local MOAA-ACC chapter, Board member and past President. He was also a member of the Veterans Council Veterans Day Program planning committee as well as many other veterans organizations. His military service was recently recorded by the MOAA Legacy Project Team. A Memorial service will be held at San Sebastian Catholic Church, SR 16 on Thurs. Sept 4 at 11 AM followed by a reception at Meehan's Irish Pub on the bayfront downtown.

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 28

Charlene Beymer, Community Hospice of St Augustine
Robert Covert, St Augustine Historical Society, Military History of St Augustine

September 25

Eddie Creamer, SJC Property Appraiser
Jerry Domask, Vietnam veteran speaks about Ted Gostas, POW

October 30

Jill Lancaster, Guitars for Vets
Eric Hernandez, Military Outreach Director, St Augustine YMCA
Peter Jennison, Veterans Disability Practice, VA Accredited Attorney

**** November 20 & December 18 meetings are a week earlier than usual because of the Holidays ****

****November 20****

David McCuistan, former Chapter Commander, MOWW
Ed Turner, Exec. Dir. Cecil Field POW MIA Memorial

****December 18****

Dr. Amy Giroux, Univ. of Central FL,
Identifying the two graves holding the remains of 12 Great Plains Native Americans who were among the 72 captured in the 1870s and became prisoners of war in St. Augustine.

January 29, 2026

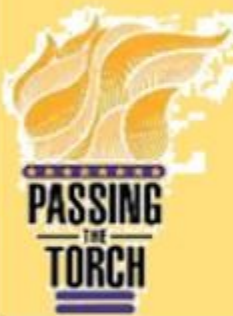
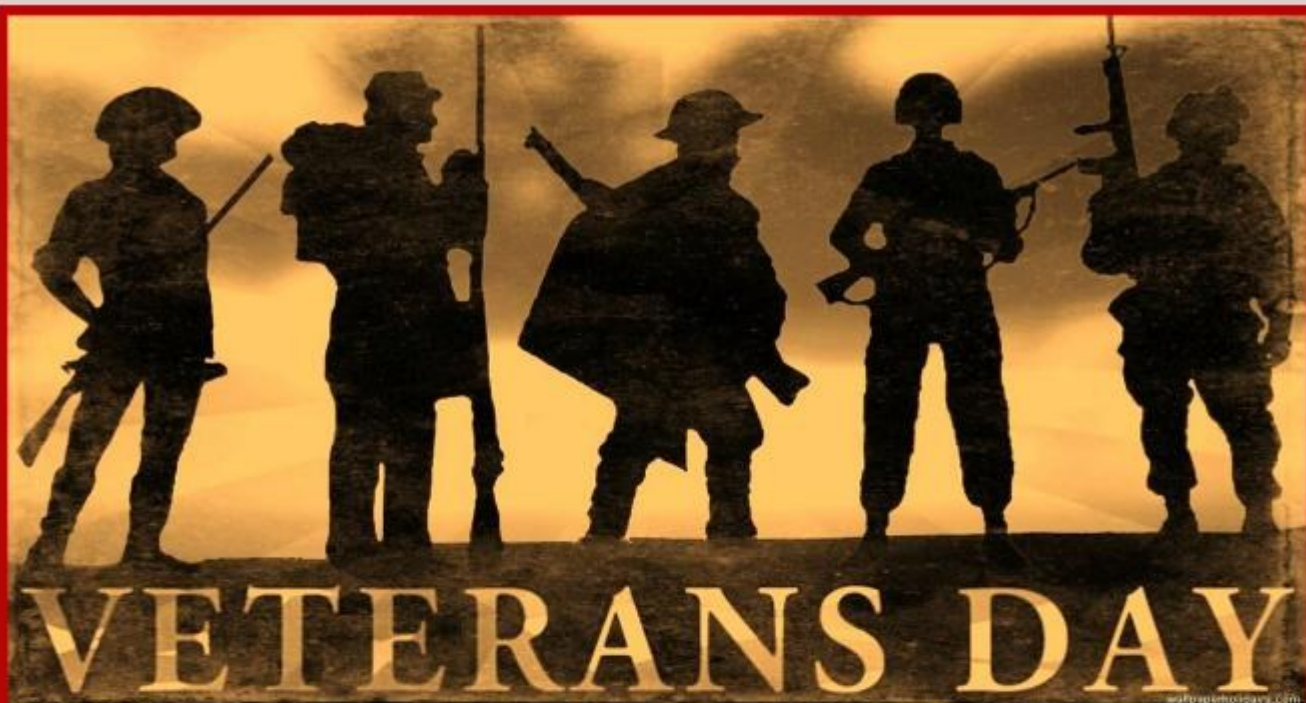
Tiffany Coffey, Administrator, Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home
Danial DiMarco, Soldiers Freedom Outdoors

February 26, 2026

Dr. Michael Butler, Prof. Flagler College, Vietnam Historian

May 28, 2026

Shalisha Bynoe, Proj. Dir., St Augustine Cares



St. Johns County Celebration

Tuesday, 11 November, 2025

Anastasia Baptist Church,
1650 A1A South (Anastasia Island)

FEATURING:

Remarks by our area's Veterans from WWII, the Korean War, Vietnam and Gulf Wars, plus Iraq and Afghanistan operations.

ACCOMPANIED by

JROTC Cadet escorts from the county's high schools.

PLUS:

The St. Johns Center for Performing Arts Chamber Singers.
The Traveling Vietnam and Global War on Terrorism walls.
Displays and tables from over 50 Veterans organizations.

**Organized by: The St. Johns County Veterans Council &
Military Officers Association of America, Ancient City Chapter.**
Doors open 9 AM. Program begins at 11 AM. Free parking on site.
More information at rothfeldm@gmail.com

VETERANS COUNCIL OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY
MINUTES OF GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
JULY 31, 2025



CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Dudley

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS: Chairman Dudley

PLEDGE: Chairman Dudley

INVOCATION: Chaplain William Jefferson

INTRODUCTION OF NEW GUESTS: New attendees introduced themselves and who they represent.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: Minutes of last meeting conducted June 26, 2025, were presented by Chairman Dudley. Copies of the Minutes 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 REPORT: Treasurer Mountcastle was not in attendance at this month's meeting and Chairman Dudley presented this month's Treasurer Report. As of June 25, 2025, the Council's total liquid cash balance was \$133,073.51; the net liquid cash balance plus credit card overpayment as of July 30, 2025, is \$137,168.52. Chairman Dudley went over the Treasurer Report's main expenses. The floor was open for any questions. The Treasurer Report was approved by voice vote with no questions or changes.

SPEAKERS:

LIZ TISSICINO, THE RED CROSS, REGIONAL SERVICE TO ARMED FORCES

Ms. Tissicino introduced herself and her role with The Red Cross, Manager to Regional Service to the Armed Forces and International Service Program for NE Florida. She presented a brief overview of the Red Cross's Resiliency Programs. The Resiliency Program is offered to members of the Armed Forces, Veterans, and their families. The three distinct programs include Coping with Deployment, Reconnection Workshops, and Mind-Body Workshops. Ms. Tissicino went over the three programs with a slide presentation. The floor was open to questions and answers.

PHILLIP "DOC" WILLIAMS, SJC CHAPTER VETERAN ENFORCERS

Mr. Williams introduced himself to the group. He is active-duty Navy, with 1 year, 10 months remaining in his enlistment. He introduced the Veteran Enforcers Motorcycle Association (VEMA), there are 17/18 chapters of VEMA up and down the east coast. VEMA pays honor and respect to law enforcement, firefighters, first responders, and military veterans. They ride to raise money to support those organizations and individuals within them. They also raise money for other charitable events for those in need. The floor was open for questions and answers regarding VEMA. They can be reached at VEMA-USA.com, which is their website. Mr. Williams can be reached at (904) 716-8521 (his personal number).

VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE, MAC MCDERMOTT

Mr. McDermott gave an update on the Veteran Service Office and the Burial Benefits available to the Veteran. The VA announced a tempo-

rary expanded Burial Benefit Improvement Act provided for medical and nursing care and VA Hospice care at their home when released from a VA Medical Center or Nursing Home. These temporary Benefits are available July 1, 2025, to October 1, 2026. Although it is temporary, there are hopes for expansion after the expiration date. Mr. McDermott also spoke of the VA's Caregiver Act and who is available for those benefits and the needed criteria needed to be accepted into the program. He discussed the status of the Veterans Service Office. There has been a new Service Officer hired, and they are going through the training process. The floor was open to questions.

VETERANS TREATMENT COURT

John Leslie, Mentor Coordinator, for the VTC gave a brief history of the VTC. At the recent graduation held for the VTC, six Veterans graduated and that brings the total to 128 graduates since the inception of the VCT over eight years ago. There will be two court sessions in August on the 8th and on the 22nd beginning at 10:00am at the Courthouse. Everyone is invited to attend. Mr. Leslie spoke of tables that are still available for the Veterans Day Program in November. The floor was open to questions.

UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Dudley gave an update on the Veterans Village of the repairs and renovations still ongoing. All the electrical work is complete, and plumbing is still being repaired. Veterans are still being received, and interviews are taking place. The SR 16 facility with Home Again St. Johns is near completion and hopefully will start receiving people into that facility by the middle of August.

Several automobiles have recently been donated to the Veterans Council for Veterans in need of transportation.

The Wreaths Across American program for this year has now been launched and Rick McCallister is the Co-Chairing the program this year. An information letter was provided.

The planning committee for the Veterans Day Program, to be held on November 11th, has been meeting and planning for the event to held at Anastasia Baptist Church. This year's event is expected to be one of the best.

The floor was open for further questions and new business.

Harry Manford presented information on the Liberty Tree program and spoke of the memorial bricks available for purchase to help the program that is expanding into Putnam County. A form was made available with brick purchase information.

Blair Craig spoke of the 105 Veterans that are locked up Raiford Prison, fifty-four are Vietnam Veterans and fifty are post-911 Veterans. Most are serving life terms. Every year they participate in a walk-a-thon within the prison, and they solicit funds for the event. They raise between seven and ten thousand dollars that they then contribute to charities that support Veterans. This year's recipients will be the We Can Be Heros Foundation and the Community Health Outreach Food Pantry. Information was provided to those wishing to make donations.

Vice Chairman Ron Birchall congratulated and thanked American Legion Post 37 for sponsoring six young men as delegates for Florida Boy's State last month. The six young men are students at 4 different St. Johns County high school.

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted, William Dudley, Chairman,

Veterans Council of St Johns County, FL Inc.

Officers and Directors

Chairman - Bill Dudley, U.S. Air Force

anuday00@aol.com

Vice Chairman - Ronald Birchall, U.S. Army

Treasurer - John Mountcastle, U.S. Coast Guard, sjcvc_treasurer@yahoo.com

Recording Secretary - Donna Pullium, donnapullium150@outlook.com

Secretary - Newsletter Editor, Michael Rothfeld, rothfeldm@gmail.com

Directors - Gerald Dedge

Chaplain - Bill Jefferson

Oversight Committee: Bill Dudley- Chairman,

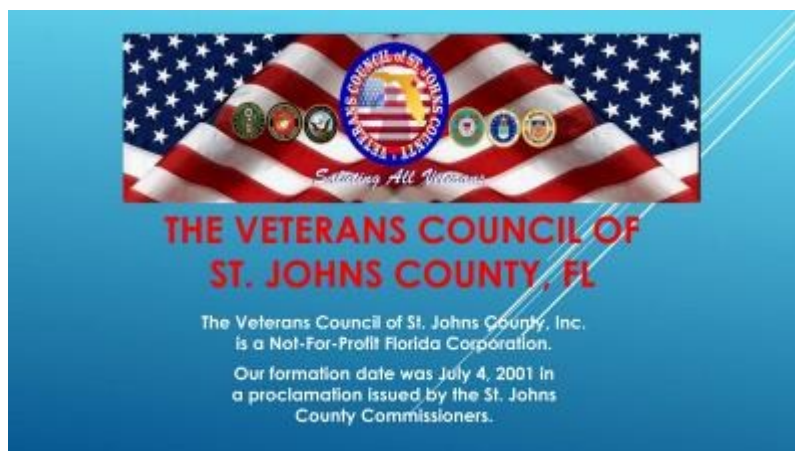
Ronald Birchall - Vice Chairman

Michael Rothfeld - Director, John Mountcastle - Director



Mission statement:

The objective of the Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Florida is to be of assistance to all veterans who have served in any of the military branches of service of the United States of America. This website is designed to serve our veterans and shall act as a communications center for this Council. The Council is proud of our past successes and we look forward to many more in the months and years to come



The Veterans Council's Highest Award is presented by Council Chairman Bill Dudley to this year's recipient, John Leslie.

"The Veterans Council recently recognized John Leslie with the Col. Ed Taylor Award for his years of service as the Veterans Treatment Court mentor coordinator. John developed the veteran mentor program into one of the best mentor programs in the state. His steadfast leadership provided our mentors all the training and education they needed to mentor to our VTC participants. The quality of our mentor program is due to his being at the helm for the past eight years"



St. Johns County flag rescue program secures 20,000th American flag for dignified ceremony

The American Flag Rescue Program provides residents with a respectful way to retire worn or damaged flags

ST. JOHNS COUNTY, Fla. – More than 20,000 American flags have been rescued from trash cans and collected from drop-off boxes throughout St. Johns County, thanks to a collaboration between veterans and the county’s Solid Waste Division.



Founded in 2019, the American Flag Rescue Program provides residents with a respectful way to retire worn or damaged flags.

On the table in front of Army Vietnam Veteran Rick McAllister, Solid Waste Outreach Coordinator Chris Benjamin, and Navy Veteran David Weir sat the 20,000th rescued flag in St. Johns County.

“Normally we’re on the average, what? Uh... 1,800 flags a month. We’re retiring,” Weir said. “Thanks to Chris’s help, he brings in 400 flags a month, more than that.”

Flags are dropped off at any of 36 collection points around the county, including bins behind the Veterans of Foreign Wars building on U.S. 1, which is easily recognized by a large tank displayed outside.

The 20,000th flag came from a Home Depot location.

The mission to properly retire flags began after worn flags were found discarded in the trash, prompting the county and veterans to create a dignified program.

“We didn’t want them in the trash, and when these guys came along, it was just the marriage made in heaven for us,” Benjamin said.

McAllister emphasized the significance of the flag to all veterans.

“Every single veteran that has served in a United States military branch has raised their hand and taken an oath, and when they took that oath, they did that in front of that flag,” he said.

The flags are ceremonially retired with great respect.

“We don’t even let any of our flags touch the ground while we’re doing our ceremony. And matter of fact, the guys will even say, ‘Hey, get that up off the ground if it touches inadvertently.’ We don’t let that happen. That’s how much respect we have for the flag,” Weir said.



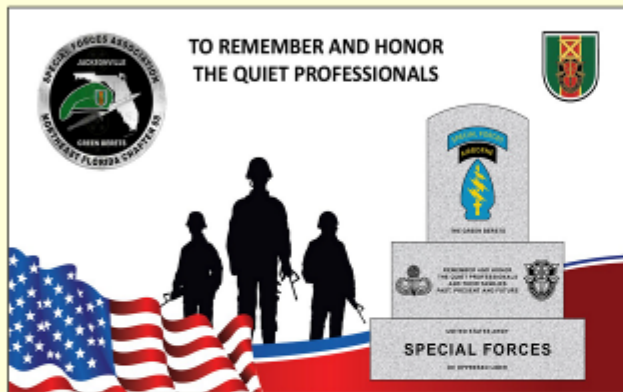
The American Flag Rescue Program offers residents a dignified way to dispose of their flags while honoring the sacrifices of those who served under them.

“That flag is probably the most important symbol of freedom and democracy in the United States. And every veteran will tell you that that’s what has led them through their service,” McAllister said.

By John Asebes, NEWS4Jax



Help Honor our Heroes Support the Special Forces Monument



SFA Chapter 88 (Northeast Florida) has an ambitious goal to raise **\$18,000** for a Special Forces monument for the Jacksonville National Cemetery. Donations are needed for the construction, delivery, installation and future maintenance of the monument; and fund the dedication ceremony -- planned in conjunction with the 39th anniversary of the Special Forces Branch.

Our goal is to raise the money before **Dec. 31, 2025**. This allows us time to complete a contract, finance the down payment and balance, construct the monument, deliver and install it in time for the unveiling ceremony this next year.

This monument project is very important for honoring the service of the Army veterans interred in Jacksonville. It also serves as a remembrance for the families, loved ones, friends, comrades in arms and visitors to the National Cemetery.

On **Saturday, April 11, 2026**, the public and our Special Operations veterans are invited to join us for this significant and historical event. More information will be forthcoming in 2026.

SFA Chapter 88 has partnered with **GoFundMe.Com** and donations are fast and easy at www.gofundme.com/f/SFA88-SF-Monument-Fund or scan the QR Code with your smartphone or tablet for direct access to the donation page. GoFundMe offers many ways for credit and debt payments. Use the "Enter Custom Tip" link to adjust any tips you want to leave for GoFundMe.

Are you Old School? We accept checks made payable to "**SFA Chapter 88**," write "**SF Monument**" on the memo line. Mail checks to: SFA 88 Monument, 10539 Inverness Dr., Jacksonville, FL 32257. We are a 501(c)(19) charity, Fed Tax EIN: 56-6148492, and donations are tax-deductible.

Your support is so important to reach our goal on time and finish this important and lasting monument. Thank you for your consideration and donation.

For more information, contact Padraic Mulvihill, Monument Committee Chairman, at (904) 534-0035 or email: pem@axisp.com. Corporate sponsors welcome.



Scan to Donate



The beginnings of the Jacksonville National Cemetery

I found some early pictures of the Jacksonville National Cemetery that I would like to share. The pictures were taken by me before the cemetery opened and burials started.

2008: The National Cemetery Administration (NCA) acquired the site. Initial construction began in August, with a 20-acre burial area and temporary facilities, according to Wikipedia.

2009: The cemetery was dedicated and opened for burials in January, according to the Florida Times-Union. The second phase of construction, including permanent buildings and infrastructure, began later in the year.

2011: The second portion of Phase 1 was completed.



Vietnam Purple Heart Veteran, Sgt. Roy Wilbur, right here in Saint Augustine, receives keys today to new home from Saint Augustine organization, Operation Lifeline! Congressman John Rutheford gave congratulatory remarks.



Veterans Build 2025



Habitat St. Johns Veterans Build November 7th & 8th from 8:00am – 3:00pm

Habitat St. Johns' Veterans Build Program provides affordable homeownership and a chance to build camaraderie as volunteers for U.S. veterans, military service members and their families.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

VOLUNTEER

Get involved with Habitat for Humanity of St. Johns County!

Your leadership skills and expertise can make an impact on many families in need of permanent housing. Join one of our Veterans Build events, help fellow veterans build the homes of others in need of affordable, high-quality homes. Your participation helps families build strength and self-reliance through shelter.

We welcome veteran volunteers to help on Friday November 7th and/or Saturday November 8th. This two-day event will be fun-filled, as well as very rewarding. Come meet your peers, network and help local families achieve the dream of homeownership. **Local heroes helping yet again!**

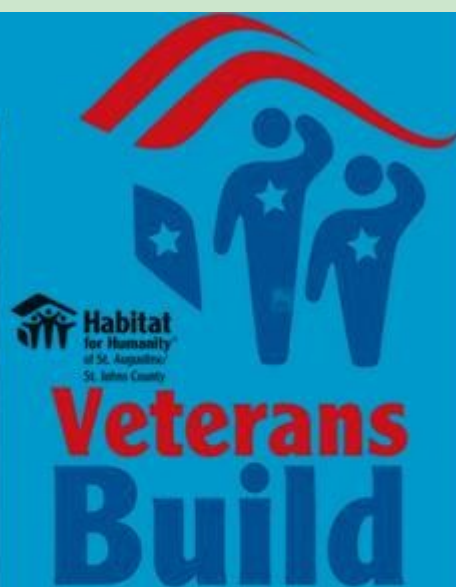
HOMEOWNERSHIP

We believe every veteran deserves to be welcomed home with dignity, honor and respect. We are looking to partner with military-connected families, veterans and their caretakers to build safe, stable and affordable homes in St. Johns County.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Tom Torretta - ttorretta@habitatstjohns.org or Julie Wesling jwesling@habitatstjohns.org

7 Hopkins St., St. Augustine, FL 32084 | (904) 826-3252 | www.habitatstjohns.org



ABOUT HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY

Habitat for Humanity of St. Johns County is a local nonprofit housing organization. We strive to change the systems that lead to inadequate housing and to build communities where everyone can afford to live.

To date, Habitat St. Johns has helped more than 180 families obtain the place they call home through hard work and teamwork.

OUR VISION

A world where everyone has a decent place to live.

OUR MISSION

Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope.



First Annual Veterans Build



We are inviting all veterans, active-duty military, and their families (16 years of age and older) to participate in our First Annual Veterans Build event on Friday, November 7th and Saturday, November 8th from 8:00am - 3:00pm (flier attached).

Please share this email and join us for this inspirational day of giving back.

We will offer two shifts each day. There will be an 8:00am - 12:00pm shift each morning and a 11:00am - 3:00pm shift each afternoon on those two days.

These two days will feature veterans, active-duty military, and their families helping local families reach their dream of homeownership in St. Johns County. Homeownership provides stability and security that cannot be achieved through renting. It also sets families up for new opportunities and career growth.

We all know the sacrifices made by veterans, active-duty military and their families -

"All Gave Some, Some Gave All!"

Here is a link with more information: <https://habitatstjohns.org/join-us-for-our-first-annual-veterans-build-november-7-8/>

Here is a link to the Adult volunteer waiver that must be completed before volunteering:

<https://habitatstjohns.charityproud.org/WebForm/Index/3871?formCode=bcf767a8-b3bc-4c85-a5c1-ebf5fc89c4cc>

Here is the Minor Waiver (16 - 18): <https://habitatstjohns.charityproud.org/WebForm/Index/3872?formCode=a9d6fa1b-5c58-48f1-ab1a-3f586c6d0ff0>

Once you have completed the above volunteer waiver, you can pick a timeslot(s):

To register to volunteer on Friday November 7th from 8:00am - 12:00pm click here:

<https://habitatstjohns.charityproud.org/VolunteerRegistration/Index/?activity=53265>

To register to volunteer on Friday November 7th from 11:00am - 3:00pm click here:

<https://habitatstjohns.charityproud.org/VolunteerRegistration/Index/?activity=54096>

To register to volunteer on Saturday November 8th from 8:00am - 12:00pm click here:

<https://habitatstjohns.charityproud.org/VolunteerRegistration/Index/?activity=53270>

To register to volunteer on Saturday November 8th from 11:00am - 3:00pm click here:

<https://habitatstjohns.charityproud.org/VolunteerRegistration/Index/?activity=54097>

We are also hoping you will help us inform your veteran and active-duty communities about the qualifications required to purchase a Habitat St. Johns home. Many people are eligible and don't know it, including veterans and active-duty military. I have attached the "Qualifications" form to this email as well.

If you may know someone trying to buy a home in St. Johns County but it is too costly, please send this to them. Habitat St. Johns may be their solution to homeownership!

We are hoping to have building permits approved to actually use tools and build walls on a new home. If the permits aren't ready in time, we will focus on completing homes in process at Volusia Woods.

Either way, this is a great opportunity to give back again in honor of Veterans Day and all those who have served and currently serve.

If you are interested in being a sponsor for this event, see the attached flier for the different levels of support available.

We hope you will join us and make a difference where we live.

Wishing you all the best & thanks to you and all your staff for your service!

Tom Torretta, Fundraising Director

Habitat for Humanity of St. Augustine/St. Johns County

office: (904) 826-3252, ext. 2001

www.habitatstjohns.org

DO YOU QUALIFY 2025

For A Habitat Home?



1 WILLINGNESS to partner

- ☐ I will volunteer 125 "Sweat Equity" hours on the construction site contributing to building houses

3 CREDIT score

- ☐ I have a credit score of 640 or higher*

*credit building programs available through third party



2 NEED for housing (Select one!)

- ☐ I currently live in an unsafe structure
- ☐ Spending more than 40% of income on housing (rent + utilities)
- ☐ The neighborhood I am living in has a high crime rate
- ☐ I recently applied for a mortgage and was denied
- ☐ I am living in over-crowded conditions
- ☐ Other - I have another reason that is not listed

4 ABILITY to pay

****NOTE:** You will need \$1,000 in checking/savings at the time of submitting your application. This is put toward your escrow deposit and closing costs.

- ☐ My household income is within these guidelines

How Many Family Members in the Home	Gross Yearly Minimum	Gross Yearly Maximum
1	\$35,900	\$86,160
2	\$41,000	\$98,400
3	\$46,150	\$110,760
4	\$51,250	\$123,000
5	\$55,350	\$132,840
6	\$59,450	\$142,680

Did you answer
YES to all
4 questions?

If so, fill out your application during the enrollment period and schedule your consultation appointment with our **Homeowner Services Manager, Candice Marhanka**

Contact Habitat St. Johns to learn more:

website: www.habitatstjohns.org

Phone: 904.826.3252 x2005

Email: cmarhanka@habitatstjohns.org

Veteran Build Sponsorship

Levels & Benefits

Sponsor Benefit	Veteran Build Title Sponsor \$10,000	Laying Foundations Sponsor \$5,000	Raise the Roof Sponsor \$2,500	Framing New Futures Sponsor \$1,000	Friends of Veteran Build \$500
Title Sponsor Designation	X				
Logo Printed on T-shirts	X				
Name Listed on T-Shirts		X	X		
Logo at Build Site	X	X			
Name in Home Dedication Program	X	X	X		
Recognition on Website	X	X	X		
Recognition on Social Media	X	X	X	X	
Veteran Build T-shirts	X	X	X	X	X
Food & Drinks Provided	X	X	X	X	X
Number of Volunteers Included (optional)	10	5	3	2	1

More ways to participate in Veteran Build and in general:

Participate as an individual or team on 11/7 or 11/8

Join us by volunteering on the build site & help us reach our fundraising goal.

Fundraise for Veteran Build

Can't join us in person? You can still help us meet our fundraising goal.

Register or learn more by calling. Emailing or visiting our blog page:

<https://habitatstjohns.org/join-us-for-our-first-annual-veterans-build-november-7-8/>



7 Hopkins St., St. Augustine, FL 32084 | 904-826-3252 | www.habitatstjohns.org

NEW TOUR! Fort Mose Historic State Park guided tours are available Friday through Sunday

at 10 AM & 1 PM

**Tours are approximately 1 hour long.
Tours consist of:**

Start with a 15-minute film highlighting the amazing history of the Fort Mose Community.

Then experience how it felt like to be a runaway Freedom Seeker trying to get from South Carolina to your freedom in St. Augustine on the Flight To Freedom Trail. Each panel on the trail has a QR code that has a short clip of the park's interpreters, which help guests get a password to gain entry to the fort.

This leads guests to the entrance way to the first Fort Mose fort, established in 1738. Here you will find your tour guide who will talk about the history of the fort and its great contribution and symbol of strength, resilience, but most importantly, Freedom!

The tour finishes up in the Museum with a self-guided tour so you guests experience the state of the art technology that introduces some of those Freedom Seekers that once inhabited Fort Mose as well as some of the artifacts that were found in excavations.

HOURS

Park: 9 AM to 5 PM daily

Museum: 9 AM to 4:30 PM Thursday through Monday

15 Fort Mose Trail

St. Augustine FL 32084



Fort Matanzas National Monument preserves the fortified coquina watchtower, completed in 1742, which defended the southern approach to the Spanish military settlement of St. Augustine. It also protects approximately 300 acres of Florida coastal environment containing dunes, marsh, maritime forest, and associated flora and fauna, including threatened and endangered species.



Plan your visit now: www.nps.gov/FOMA

Matanzas Inlet was the scene of crucial events in Spanish colonial history. The massacre of French soldiers here in 1565 was Spain's opening move in establishing a colony in Florida. The construction of Fort Matanzas in 1740-42 was Spain's last effort to ward off British encroachments on St. Augustine.

The visit to the fort is free, but you have to take a ferry over so be sure to check out the ferry schedule. Fort Matanzas is a part of the National Park Service and is only accessible by ferry.

Boarding Pass - There are no fees to enter the park or to take the ferry to the fort. The ferry operates with a Boarding Pass system. The passes are issued from the Fort Matanzas Visitor Center (not the St. Augustine city Visitor Center) on a first come, first served basis.

Saint Augustine Sons Of the American Revolution

Honor to the Dead Parade

On August 16th, the St. Augustine Chapter and Color Guard participated in the "Honor to the Dead" Parade and Ceremony at the St. Augustine National Cemetery. Present for the SAR St. Augustine Chapter were Jerry Hanchett, Larry Kaiser, and David Watt, who also participated in the parade for the chapter's Color Guard

Photos:

(Compatriot David Watt bearing the colors in the parade, Compatriots David Watt and Jerry Hanchett, Compatriot David Watt prior to the Ceremony)





2025

Bill Dudley: Chairman
Rick McAllister: Co-Chair



WE NEED YOUR HELP

As we have in the past, our mission is to place a holiday wreath on every veteran headstone in our St. Augustine National Cemetery, and we can't do it without your help. Just \$17 purchases one wreath for us, and every single wreath counts.

Let these veteran brothers and sisters, as well as their families, know that we have not forgotten them. When we are celebrating with our loved ones, we are also celebrating with them.

The Wreaths Across America ceremony is Saturday, December 13 at noon, and we hope you will join us at our National Cemetery.

If you can contribute, please make your checks payable to *Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc.* and mail them to Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Inc., P.O. Box 2117, St. Augustine, FL 32085-2117. We are a 501 (c) (3) organization.

If you have any questions, please call Rick McAllister at 904-501-7777.

THANK YOU

This is a story of one a road in St Augustine that I wrote a while ago

A Wild Drive on Wildwood Drive by Michael Rothfeld

Many of us have driven south on Wildwood Drive from SR 207. It is a short distance to Publix in Moultrie on Wildwood Drive. It's a typical Florida back road, full of palm trees, small houses and several churches. A very scenic, quiet and peaceful road. We don't give it a second thought. Nothing ever happens there. How wrong we are! Almost 185 years ago this non-descript road was at the heart of one of America's earliest wars, the Seminole Wars. The word Seminole was derived from the Spanish word, "Cimarron", which means "wild ones", referring to the fact that the Seminole Indians lived in wild, sparsely occupied areas.

The story of Osceola, a Seminole Indian, may not be well known, but his brave attempts to remain in Florida and fight the U.S. Government are well documented. Osceola was one of the leaders of the Seminole Indians in the 1830's during the Second Seminole War against the United States. Although born in Alabama, Osceola and his Creek Indian mother moved to Florida, which was the homeland of the Seminole Indians. When white settlers began moving into the state, they wanted the Seminoles to move to Indian territories west of the Mississippi River. Osceola led a group of Seminoles opposed to relocation. Using tactics unfamiliar to the settlers and by hiding in the Everglades, Osceola and some of the Seminoles were successfully able, for a time, to resist the United States Government's attempts to remove them from Florida. It was not until the capture of Osceola and his death in 1838 at Fort Moultrie in South Carolina that the Seminoles were forced from their homeland.



Chief Osceola

Our journey begins 1 mile south east of SR 207 on Wildwood Drive, at Treaty Park. In 1823, two years after Florida was acquired by the United States,

leaders of the Seminole and Miccosukee Tribes met with government officials, including William F. Duval, (who was to become the territorial governor following Andrew Jackson) on the banks of the creek near this site in order to settle conflicting claims to Florida lands. After twelve days of negotiation, they signed the treaty of Moultrie Creek on September 18, 1823. The tribes were to occupy a four million acre reservation on the interior peninsula. The government was to assist in relocating the Indians and help to support them there for a period of twenty years. The Indians being removed from their traditional hunting grounds were forced to change their way of life from farming to raising cattle. Failure on both sides to comply with the terms of this and later treaties led to the Second Seminole War (1835-1842). The exact site of the treaty signing is unknown. Treaty Park is dedicated in commemoration of that historical event.



Continue on Wildwood Drive and turn right onto Fort Peyton Drive. Hidden in an alley in the Wildwood Pines subdivision, is the old Fort Peyton site. This fort, among others, were established during the Second Seminole War. Fort Peyton housed the soldiers who captured Osceola. There are two markers at the Fort Peyton site, a

bare coquina marker and a metal historical marker erected in 1966. There are scrawled obscene words on the metal marker, which also has a gaping hole from a large caliber bullet.



*General Joseph
Hernandez*

Further east on Wildwood Drive is the Stonegate subdivision. It was here in October 1837 that General Joseph Hernandez, acting under orders from General Thomas Jesup, seized the Seminole Indian leader Osceola and seventy of his braves while assembled under a white flag of truce. The soldiers threw the white flag to the ground and put chains on Osceola's hands and feet. The Indians were taken to Fort Marion (now the Castillo de San Marcos) in St. Augustine. A three foot tall monument that marks the actual spot where

the famed warrior Osceola was captured is surrounded by palmettos and is not visible from Wildwood Drive. A recent wildfire left a patch of burned pine trees near the coquina marker. At the capture site the monument, erected in 1916, was once topped with a metal sign which read "Osceola captured on this spot while under the protection of a flag of truce, October 24, 1837." Now the sign is missing and the monument has been nicked by bullets. The Seminole Tribe of Florida, St. Johns County, and the St. Augustine Historical Society are hoping to upgrade these monuments.

The section of St. Augustine where all of these historical events occurred is Moultrie, Florida. It was named after Dr. John Moultrie who is thought to have resided in the area. Dr. Moultrie studied medicine at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. A Justice of the Peace, member of the Commons House of Assembly, and a major in the British militia, he also raised indigo, manufactured turpentine and was appointed Governor of East Florida in 1771 though his brother, General William Moultrie became a revolutionary war hero, Dr. Moultrie remained loyal to the King and Parliament of England.



Dr John Moultrie

So the next time you travel Wildwood Drive, lean back in your car seat, lower the radio, listen for the war whoops and think of all that happened a long time ago on your WILD DRIVE down WILDWOOD DRIVE.



WALK-IN CLINICS

**NOW SERVING
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Ocala CBOC <i>*No radiology services*</i>	0800-1630	(352) 369-3320
Gainesville Primary Care	0800-1630	(352) 548-1900
Tallahassee OPC	0730-1630	(850) 878-0191
Jacksonville North	0700-1630	(904) 470-6900
Jacksonville Jefferson	0700-1630	(904) 475-5800
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- Minor Cuts, Bruises, and Sprains
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- Headaches and Migraines
- Pulled or Strained Muscles
- Respiratory Infections
- Skin Conditions
- Sore Throats

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
North Florida / South Georgia Veterans Health System

2ND ANNUAL VETERANS COUNCIL VETERANS DAY 5K



**Saturday, November 8th
at Oakleaf High School**

Race starts at 8:00 am

Walker and runner friendly! Finisher medals for all participants!

Early registration: \$35

Registration sign up: <https://runsignup.com/Race/FL/OrangePark/CLAYVETERANS5K>



Sponsored By:



FLORIDA'S 5TH 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 32211) 5pm

All Riders Welcome!

Scan QR for:
Registration
Hotel Info
Event page...



Saturday September 20, 2025, from 9am to 5pm



Patches Needed

The Florida Patriot Guard Hosts the PGR Room at the Gary Sinise Foundation Snowball Express each December. Each child that attends gets a leather motorcycle vest, and can choose patches to place on that vest.

Snow Ball Express takes the children of fallen Military and First Responder heroes to Disney World for a couple days to be with other kids and families and enjoy the Disney Parks along at No Charge.

The patches range from Military, Fire, EMS, Police, and just fun ones

We are holding a Patch Drive to get patches for this event
You can donate any you have stocked up at home, or if you would like to buy some online and have them shipped to us

To find out more ask. Or go to
[www.https://www.garysinisefoundation.org/snowball-express](https://www.garysinisefoundation.org/snowball-express)
<https://patriotguard.org/snowball-donation/>

We will take care of getting them to the event.
You can mail/ship patches to

Don Stamford
6233 Lowery St. #601
Bushnell, Florida 33513



USF doctoral student, Army veteran named 2025 Tillman Scholar

By Paul Guzzo, University Communications and Marketing

Nathaniel Hays has spent his adult life serving and protecting the United States — first through 23 years in the U.S. Army, including three deployments to Iraq, and now as a University of South Florida doctoral student studying cellular and molecular biology with hopes of advancing cancer research.



“When I was a little kid, all I wanted, was to be in the Army,” said Hays, a 54-year-old retired first sergeant. “Now, I want to fight cancer, wage war on the disease and help people in need.”

This month, the Pat Tillman Foundation honored Hays’ dedication by naming him to the 2025 class of Tillman Scholars, an elite recognition that includes a \$40,000 scholarship. The program, named for the late Arizona Cardinals safety who left the NFL to serve in the military and was killed while on active duty, supports military service members, veterans and spouses pursuing leadership roles in and beyond their fields.

“I’m pretty floored,” Hays said. “This scholarship is one of the more prestigious within the military community because of who Pat Tillman was. I’m honored.”

Out of roughly 1,700 applicants, only 42 were selected for the 2025 class. Since 2004, the Pat Tillman Foundation has invested more than \$40 million in academic scholarships and leadership development.

Nathaniel Hays (middle) during a 2012 training exercise at Fort Benning [Photo courtesy of Nathaniel Hays]

“We are honored to welcome this new class of Tillman Scholars and support them as they pursue bold goals and create meaningful change,” said Katherine Steele, CEO of the Pat Tillman Foundation and a 2014 Tillman Scholar. “Their passion, vision and commitment to service embody what it means to be a Tillman Scholar.”

Hays enlisted in the Army National Guard in 1991 at age 19 while living in Hawthorne, California. After three combat deployments, he was assigned as a Ranger instructor in 2008 at Fort Benning, GA.





In 2011, he was assigned as his unit's air operations non-commissioned officer, overseeing parachute, fast rope and special patrol insertion and extraction techniques.

Upon retiring from the military in 2014, Hays received a push from his sister, a U.S. Air Force major.

"She told me to get off my butt and start pursuing my education," Hays said. "She's not the type who can sit still and wasn't going to let me be idle either."

A long family history of cancer inspired Hays to change his mission from combat to cancer research

"When I was 9, my grandfather died of cancer — that was the first time I'd heard of it," he said. "Since then, I've lost five more family members to various cancers and have four who are survivors."

Determined to make a difference, Hays earned an associate of science degree in public health from Mt. San Antonio College in Walnut, California, before enrolling at USF in 2022.

"USF is the perfect fit," he said. "It's a premier medical research university." Nathaniel Hays at a research conference at Niagra Falls this past June [Photo courtesy of Nathaniel Hays]

He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in cellular and molecular biology in 2024 and is now working toward a doctorate at USF. Under the mentorship of Associate Professor Li-bin Ye, Hays is researching how vital proteins in the cell change shape as they transmit signals and control cell activity, knowledge that could lead to better, more targeted cancer treatments.

The Tillman Scholarship will help fund this next phase of his mission.

"Each new class of Tillman Scholars reminds us why we started this foundation: to honor Pat's example by empowering remarkable individuals who choose to lead and serve," said Marie Tillman Shenton, board chair and co-founder of the Pat Tillman Foundation. "We're inspired by the 2025 class and look forward to seeing how they create lasting change in their communities and beyond."



VA gives veterans a year of uninterrupted private health care for 30 different medical specialties By LINDA F. HERSEY STARS AND STRIPES •

August 5, 2025 Veterans will now be able to receive a year of uninterrupted specialty health care outside the Department of Veterans Affairs network without seeking re-authorization, the agency announced. Veterans previously had to get a new referral every three to six months. (Stars and Stripes) WASHINGTON — From cardiology and eye care to addiction treatment and mental health counseling, 30 different types of private medical services will be available to veterans for up to a year without interruption under a new policy announced by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Veterans previously had to obtain a new referral from their VA doctor every 90 to 180 days to continue receiving many specialty health services at “VA expense,” the agency said. “This change means better continuity of care, which leads to better health outcomes,”

VA Secretary Doug Collins said Monday. The policy change is effective immediately. When veterans cannot get timely medical appointments at VA clinics or hospitals, they are referred to vendors, which are private doctors in the community. But expanding the length of time that non-VA care is delivered to veterans is controversial. Opponents of expanding non-VA health care argue the money that the VA spends on private care takes resources away from the agency’s extensive medical care system.

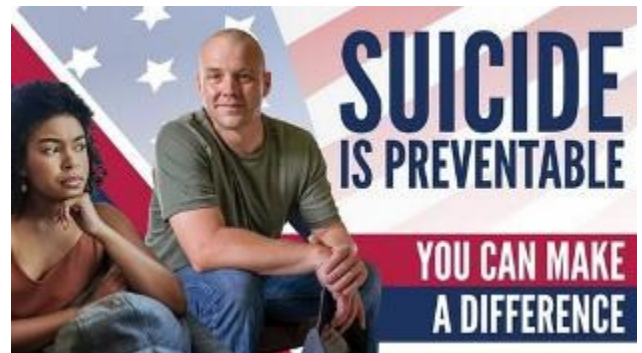
The National Association of Veterans Affairs Physicians and Dentists has stated the increase of community-based medical care for veterans should not detract from VA operations. The organization has urged Congress to continue investing in VA infrastructure and services. “The goal should always be to provide timely, high-quality care without undermining VA services,” according to the association. But the VA expects to reduce its workforce by 30,000 in fiscal 2025, which ends Sept. 30, as part of President Donald Trump’s order to downsize the federal government. Decreases in the VA workforce will be through attrition, a hiring freeze and deferred resignations, the VA said. The agency has pledged to maintain staffing for essential clinical positions and not cut front-line workers. The Mission Act, enacted in 2019, authorized veterans for the first time to seek non-VA health care from private providers. But mandates for frequent reauthorizations can delay and interrupt the delivery of health care, Collins said. By extending authorizations to 12 months, doctors and other health care providers can focus more on treating veterans than on clearing administrative hurdles to continue care, he said. Having uninterrupted care also adds convenience for veterans seeking specialty medical services outside the VA, the

agency said.

The VA is advising veterans to check in with their local VA medical center community care office to find out how their care might be affected by the change. Veterans will not have to seek new referrals for 12 months after an initial authorization on the following health care services: Cardiology, dermatology, endocrinology, neurology and otology, otolaryngology or ENT, gastroenterology, urogynecology, addiction psychiatry outpatient, family and couples psychotherapy outpatient, mental health outpatient, nephrology, neurology, nutrition intervention services, oncology and hematology, neuro-ophthalmology, oculoplastic, eye care examination, optometry routine, orthopedic hand, orthopedic general, orthopedic spine, pain management, podiatry, podiatry DS, addiction medicine outpatient, pulmonary, physical medicine and rehabilitation (physiatry), rheumatology, sleep medicine and urology. Source - Stars and Stripes

The FIRE Watch

As our data and annual reports continue to affirm, suicide prevention is a full community effort. Help us support Veterans and end Veteran suicide in #Florida by completing two FREE suicide prevention training courses—our Watch Stander Training Program (40min) and Living-Works' Start Course (90min)—both available online in partnership with the Florida Department of Health (DOH).



Online training registration is open until June 30th:

<https://tinyurl.com/VSP2OnlineTraining>

Additionally, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has made it easier for Veterans and caregivers to connect with VA health care providers from anywhere through the VA Video Connect mobile app - learn more & download the app here: <https://mobile.va.gov/app/va-video-connect>

St. Johns Cultural Council & VFW Post 2391 Shine Spotlight on Veterans with A Veterans Day Photography Contest & Juried Exhibition

As part of our continued partnership, the St. Johns Cultural Council and St. Johns County are expanding the Art in Public Spaces program to include the Health & Human Services Building. The expansion will begin with an opportunity for photographers to capture the image of Veterans.

Coming on the heels of the 250th anniversary of the army and navy, what better time to celebrate all who have served.

VFW Post 2391 and member Rick McAllister (professional writer, photographer, & VFW Life Member, First City Honor Guard, and Vietnam Combat Veteran) initially reached out to the St. Johns Cultural Council with the idea. The St. Johns Cultural Council, St. Johns County, Health & Human Services, and Veterans' Services were all unanimously in favor of the concept and support this intersection of art, community, and honoring Veterans.

Local, regional, and national artists are invited to submit up to three of their original photos that contain an image of a veteran and an American flag. See the attached flyer for further criteria and details about submission, email Rick McAllister (fotowurks@aol.com) or visit the St. Johns Cultural Council's [website](#) for more information.

The Veterans Day Photography Contest will be open for submissions starting August 1st through September 31st, 2025. The Contest will be juried by members of the St. Augustine Camera Club & Rick McAllister

Join us on **Veterans Day, Tuesday, November 11, (time to come)** at the VFW Post 2391 when all Winners will be announced.

20-35 works will be selected for the juried exhibition, *Stories of American Veterans*, and displayed in the reFrame Gallery at the St. Johns County Health & Human Services Building, 200 San Sebastian View.

Join us for the opening reception on **Thursday, November 20, from 5:30 to 7 PM** at the St. Johns County Administration Building. Three award winners and Best of Show will be announced at the opening reception. Enjoy hors d'oeuvres and celebrate these talented photographers and the Veterans!

Click here to learn more about the inspiration behind the event and additional contest criteria.

ST. AUGUSTINE VFW POST 2391



ANNOUNCES

THE FIRST ANNUAL
VETERANS DAY PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

CONTEST & IMAGE THEME:

THE VETERAN AND THE AMERICAN FLAG



sample image not in contest

Open to EVERYONE

SUBMISSIONS start 8/1/25 and end 9/30/25

JPG entries

VERY SPECIAL AWARDS announced Veterans Day (11/11/25)

DETAILS on FaceBook site: VETERANS DAY PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

Questions: Rick McAllister, fotowurks@aol.com

A SPECIAL THANKS to:

First City Honor Guard

Chelsea Cornelius, St. Johns Culture Council

Terry Bottom and the St. Augustine Camera Club

A man wearing a light blue baseball cap with 'VIETNAM VETERAN' and a small American flag patch is crouching and holding a folded American flag. He is wearing a black t-shirt and dark sneakers. The background is a blurred outdoor setting.

VETERANS DAY

PHOTO CONTEST

?

THEME:

“The Veteran and the American Flag”



SUBMISSIONS: Aug. 1 – Sept. 30



FOTOWURKS@AOL.COM



Veterans Day 2025 Photo Contest



VFW POST 2391
St. Augustine

THEME

The theme of the photo contest is "the veteran and the American Flag." A submitted image should show this or tell this story. For instance, the veteran could be represented by a headstone depicting a veteran's name or inscription. The flag could be imposed on a piece of clothing. The Key is that the image tells the story of an American veteran

SUBMISSIONS

ALL IMAGES must be submitted and will only be accepted between Friday, AUGUST 1 and Tuesday, SEPTEMBER 30.

Submit via email to fotowurks@aol.com

Make sure the email includes your name and the "title" of each image being submitted. Neither your name or the image title should be visible on the image itself.

DETAILS

1. This contest is open to the general public.
2. You may submit up to 3 images.
3. You must be the photographer of the images submitted and they should have been taken within the past 3 years.
4. Post editing is acceptable. AI is OK for post editing, however, original image must be camera generated by submitter.

5. Image criteria: JPG format
300 dpi
Color or B&W
Max 2400 x 3000 pixels
Landscape or vertical

AWARDS

The TOP 4 images will receive a book of the images that were submitted, as well as a special awards ceremony at the VFW Post 2391.

In addition, a special group of selected images will be framed and displayed on the walls in the St. Johns County Health and Human Services Building where the Veterans Administration Service Office is located. When this viewing period is over, they will be displayed at the VFW Post for a limited period, and submitted to the National VFW Magazine for publication.

SCHEDULE

Image Submissions: August 1 - September 30
Jury Selections: October 1 - October 25
Jury Selection Announcements: November 1
Awards Announcement: Veterans Day, Nov. 11

If you have any questions, please contact Rick McAllister at 904-501-7777 or at fotowurks@aol.com.

Additional information available on Face Book at *Veterans Day Photo Contest 2025*

Co-Sponsors: St. Johns Cultural Council
St. Augustine Camera Club

Florida Veterans' History Program

Secretary of State Cord Byrd encourages Florida veterans to participate in the Major John Leroy Haynes Florida Veterans' History Program by sharing their stories. "The stories from Florida veterans provide valuable lessons about courage, sacrifice and resilience," said Secretary Byrd. "This program honors their service by capturing and preserving their unique experiences and making those narratives available now and for future generations."

The program is seeking Florida veterans to record their histories. Veterans of all ranks and branches are encouraged to schedule an oral history interview to document their experiences.

The Florida Veterans' History Program will be in Miami this week to collect oral histories from local veterans. To schedule an oral history interview email Folklife@DOS.FL.gov or call 850-245-6780.

More information about the program can be found at <https://dos.fl.gov/veteranshistory>



Fort Mose Historical Society is at Fort Mose Historic State Park.

Volunteer Spotlight: Charles Ellis

Meet Charles Ellis, President of the Fort Mose Historical Society. Charles has been instrumental in setting up and following through many events that are put on at the park. He also works diligently to set up the logistics of these events and the event chairs. He was most instrumental in his work to bring into fruition the Reconstruction of the 1738 Fort Mose I, alongside of many others as well as the Florida Parks Foundation and the Florida State Parks. He is also a member of the Fort Mose Militia. He has worn many hats within this CSO group but has steadfastly worked toward the most important goal of telling the Fort Mose Story.

Charles has worked hard to maintain an amazing relationship with the park management and park staff throughout the years and through some difficult circumstances. His will to keep moving forward to complete the dream of having a fort at Fort Mose Historic State Park is a testament to his integrity and strength as a leader in the Fort Mose Historical Society and it will be his legacy to this park.

When you come out for an event, make sure to say hello to Charles and thank him for the hard work that has made Fort Mose a huge success!

If you would like to Volunteer at Fort Mose, click the link to get started!!!!

<https://volunteers.floridastateparks.org/>



SJHP Receives \$550,000 Grant from The Delores Barr Weaver Legacy Funds at The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla. –The St. Johns Housing Partnership (SJHP), a nonprofit developer of affordable housing, today announced the receipt of a \$550,000 grant from the Delores Barr Weaver Legacy Funds at The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida.

The Legacy 2024 grant to St. Johns Housing Partnership, Inc., is to support the retirement of outstanding construction debt for Patriot Place. Patriot Place comprises six new, low-income housing for at-risk and homeless veterans in St. Johns County.

“Mrs. Weaver’s grant is an incredible gift that will last for decades providing housing for some of our local at-risk and low-income veterans. We hope the gift will not only support Patriot Place but also inspire other donors who want to create more truly affordable housing in our area,” said St. Johns Housing Partnership Executive Director Bill Lazar.

Delores Barr Weaver has an extraordinary legacy of philanthropy in Northeast Florida since moving to Jacksonville as co-owner of the Jacksonville Jaguars in 1993. Since establishing the Delores Barr Weaver Legacy Fund in 2012, she has partnered with The Community Foundation on her philanthropy through numerous, multi-million-dollar gifts, including the Foundation’s largest-ever gift of \$61 million in 2023, the source of this grant to the SJHP.

“I am deeply grateful for the hard work that our Legacy 2024 agencies do every day,” said Delores Barr Weaver. “They share an unwavering commitment to making our world a better place for all. The work they do comes directly from the heart and touches our hearts, as well.”

Founded in 1996, the SJHP provides low- to moderate-income housing solutions by working with the public and private sectors to rebuild neglected homes and revitalize neighborhoods in disadvantaged areas.

“Delores Barr Weaver is a transformational force for good through bold, local initiatives, such as Patriot Place,” said SJHP Board President Don Mullinex. “We are grateful to be among the beneficiaries of her generous commitment to improving our community and the

lives of residents.”

This generous contribution is poised to play a pivotal role in furthering SJHP’s mission to ensure every person has a safe, clean, affordable place to live and a vision for solving the enormous challenges of affordable housing.

Patriot Place became a reality through MountainStar Partners, SJHP, and St. Johns County. MountainStar Partners committed over \$500,000 for the land acquisition and construction costs. Bryan McCloskey served as the architect with construction completed by Robert Marshall of World Island Builders. Patriot Place has earned Gold Certification under the Florida Green Building Coalition (FGBC) Homes Standard. Patriot Place is also the most recent development to receive the Florida Water Star certification.

“For years, our local veterans’ office has struggled to help veterans who need a one-bedroom apartment to remain living in St. Johns County,” added Lazar. “Getting homeless vets on the path to affordable housing is just one of the goals of the St. Johns Housing Partnership in its collaboration with the UF/Flagler Health+ and MountainStar Partners.”

Additional funds, materials and time to build Patriot Place were provided by The Northeast Florida Association of Realtors; Bo Strange, owner of Lovely Loo; the Snodgrass Family Foundation; The Home Depot Store # 6334; Eagle Scout Michael Korfhage; Boy Scout Troup 243; the University of Florida IFAS Master Gardeners; and FGBC certifying agents Bill Kachman and Ralph Locke, military veterans who waived their fee and volunteered their time. Everybody Solar, JinkoSolar and Synergy Solar donated the solar panels.

The concept for Patriot Place was conceived by Suzanne Konchan, the county’s former Development Services director.



Therapeutic Art Workshops For

Military Women



Reclaim your Voice
Restore your strength
Connect with sisters that understand



Open to military women who are: currently serving, veterans, spouses, caregivers and survivors of all branches.

Locations:

Duval - Hope4Veterans Office
Start August 19th 2025 6-8pm
6821 Southpoint Drive N Suite 208

Duval - The Steven A Cohen Military Family Clinic Centerstone
Start August 28th 5:30-7:30pm
7011 AC Skinner Parkway
Childcare Provided

St Johns - STA Reality office
Start August 21st 2025 6-8pm
1965 A1A S St Augustine

Clay - YMCA Barco Fleming Island
Start August 27th 5:30-7:30pm
2075 Town Center Blvd Fleming Island
Childcare provided

H4V 6 Biweekly Workshops

Week 1: Self Compassion/Art

Week 2: Boundaries/Art

Week 3: Identity/ Art

Week 4: Relationships/Art

Week 5: Positive growth/Art

Week 6: Self care/Art



Must register-
Art supplies and Food is Provided



The Steven A. Cohen
Military Family Clinic
at Centerstone



Therapeutic Art Workshops For Military Women Dates, Times and Locations

Duval H4V Office-6821 Southpoint Drive Suite 208 - Tuesday -

Tuesday, August 19, 2025 - 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Tuesday, September 2, 2025 - 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Tuesday, September 16, 2025 - 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Tuesday, September 30, 2025 - 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Tuesday, October 14, 2025 - 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Tuesday, October 28, 2025 - 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

St John County - 1965 A1A S 32080 STA Realty - Thursday -

Thursday, August 21, 2025 - 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Thursday, September 4, 2025 - 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Thursday, September 18, 2025 - 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Thursday, October 2, 2025 - 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Thursday, October 16, 2025 - 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Thursday, October 30, 2025 - 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Clay County - YMCA Barco Fleming Island - Wednesday -

Childcare Provided:-
Wednesday, August 27, 2025 - 5:30-7:30 PM
Wednesday, September 10, 2025 - 5:30-7:30 PM
Wednesday, September 24, 2025 - 5:30-7:30 PM
Wednesday, October 8, 2025 - 5:30-7:30 PM
Wednesday, October 22, 2025 - 5:30-7:30 PM
Wednesday, November 5th, 2025 - 5:30-7:30 PM

Duval - Steven A. Cohen at Centerstone - Thursday -

Childcare Provided:-
Thursday, August 28, 2025 - 5:30-7:30 PM
Thursday, September 11, 2025 - 5:30-7:30 PM
Thursday, September 25, 2025 - 5:30-7:30 PM
Thursday, October 9, 2025 - 5:30-7:30 PM
Thursday, October 23, 2025 - 5:30-7:30 PM
Thursday, November 6, 2025 - 5:30-7:30 PM



The Steven A. Cohen
Military Family Clinic
at Centerstone



Castillo de San Marcos National Monument

Did you know that Castillo de San Marcos and Fort Matanzas National Monuments have one of the oldest and largest historic weapons programs in the National Park Service? Thousands visit the two forts to witness the power of the forts' cannons during our cannon firing demonstrations!

But a word of caution: This experience is not for everyone. If you don't like loud noises, you may not enjoy the demonstration.

We suggest before joining us for one of our weapon demonstrations, you watch a video of the cannon and musket firing demonstrations from the comfort and safety of your own home!

To view Castillo de San Marcos: A Long Legacy - An Effective Defense, please visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l9KnEcbq6JM>



If you have any concerns during or before your visit, please talk to one of our rangers. They will help make your visit a safe and memorable experience!

VFW Auxiliary-National Organization ·

Are you aware of all VFW and VFW Auxiliary scholarship, contest and award deadlines for the 2025-2026 Program Year?

They are:

October 31, 2025: VFW Voice of Democracy

October 31, 2025: VFW Patriot's Pen

November 15, 2025: VFW "Sport Clips Help A Hero" Scholarship - spring semester

February 15, 2026: VFW Auxiliary Continuing Education Scholarship

March 1, 2026: VFW Scout of the Year (recognition award, not monetary)

March 31, 2026: VFW Auxiliary Illustrating America

March 31, 2026: VFW Auxiliary Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest

March 31, 2026: VFW Auxiliary 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest

April 30, 2026: The VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero" Scholarship - fall semester

Please promote these scholarships, contests and awards, which benefit children as young as five through adults continuing their education beyond high school.

Learn more on www.vfw.org under Assistance:

Student Veteran Support or under Community - Youth & Education and

on www.vfwauxiliary.org under Scholarships & Contests.



Military History

Navy logbook that recounted Pearl Harbor recovered after 84 years

By Claire Barrett

After more than 80 years, an old logbook containing the initial descriptions of U.S. vessels after the Japanese attack on Navy Yard Pearl Harbor in 1941 was recovered, the National Archives recently announced. The logbook covers the 16 months before and after the attack that was the catalyst for the U.S. entry into World War II.



Its whereabouts can be traced back to the moment it was plucked from a trash bin in the 1970s at the old Norton Air Force Base in San Bernardino, California, by Oretta Kanady, The Washington Post first reported.

In an interview with the Post, Kanady's son, Michael William Bonds, said she found it in the bin while working as a civilian employee and thought it looked interesting. She asked if she could have it, and it remained in her possession until her death in 2000. Bonds then inherited it.

"In the last few years, I've moved here, moved there, it's just been in a box," Bond's told The Post. "I hadn't really looked at it."

The book is in good condition, and while it may not alter the basic understanding of the events of Pearl Harbor, where more than 2,400 sailors, Marines, soldiers and civilians were killed after Japanese war planes attacked U.S. military installations near Honolulu, it helps to verify the story of the day that lives in infamy.

"We have nothing, nor does the nation have anything similar to this," Mitchell Yockelson, an investigative archivist at the National Archives, stated as the book was unveiled at the Archives facility in College Park, Maryland.

The Dec. 8, 1941 entry for the "Log Book U.S. Navy Yard Pearl Harbor." (National Archives)

Logbooks, used by the Navy, were brief daily records of events and observations. In the case of "Log Book, U.S. Navy Yard Pearl Harbor," it documented several of the ships that were at Navy installation the day of the Dec. 7 attack.

Dec. 5, 1941, records the arrival of the battleships Arizona and Oklahoma. Both were famously sunk just two days later.

On Dec. 8, one day after the attack that left the harbor — and a nation — reeling, the logbook recorded that at 07:35 that the damaged battleship USS Utah "appears to be drifting out in the channel, recommend tug be sent to secure it alongside quay."

Other notations from that day include:

At 21:30: "Tower reports fire at ammunition depot."

At 22:15: "Fire at Hickam field secured."

Interestingly, the pages for Dec. 6 and 7, and into the 8th, have brown stains splattered across their sheets.

"That's another question that we've been wondering" about, Yockelson said during the unveiling. "We like to think that maybe ... somebody was so agitated at what went on that he spilled his thermos."

A fully digitized copy of the logbook is available online.



V4V

Joint Event with

Jacksonville Bar Association

Inform ★ Connect ★ Unite ★ Organize

Save the Date
October 11th 2025

Veterans Memorial Arena

300 A. Philip Randolph Blvd
Jacksonville, Florida 32202

CHAPTER 20-2

COMBAT VETERANS MOTORCYCLE ASSOCIATION®
CHAPTER 20-2

10th Annual

Rocketman Run

September 27th, 2025

Registration 0900
Last Bike Out 1100
Last Bike In 1600

Sanctioned Event

Cost
\$25 Per Rider
\$10 Passenger
\$5 Extra Roll

**Food
Music
Auctions
Raffles**

Start/End
American Legion Post 250
Middleburg, FL

Stops
Boogerville Hideout
VFW Post 3349
Melrose Pub

Benefiting
Hope 4 Veterans

Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association® 20-2 is a 501(c)(3) Non-profit Organization. EACES.gov registration. CHECK FOR A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL FREE WITHIN THE STATE 1-800-HELP-FLA (345-7352).



VETERANS RESOURCE FAIR

Explore more than 80 valuable resources from the community and Veteran Affairs
all while enjoying a free catered lunch!

Guest speakers from 1 Degree of Separation will make their appearance. They provide a show that combines comedy with life-saving education. Through humor and personal stories, this program provides essential mental health first aid by demonstrating what an open, supportive conversation looks like.



September 11, 2025

10:00am - 2:00pm



Vystar Veterans Memorial Arena

300 A Phillip Randolph Blvd, Jacksonville, FL 32202

Please join us for our 2nd annual suicide prevention event at the Veteran VyStar arena on 9/11/25. Veterans, families, and staff will be greeted by the Jacksonville Jaguars mascot, drumline and Roar cheerleaders. Sweet treats by catered carts will be provided. We are also having musical guest, Bold City Brass playing music prior to our renowned guest speakers, One Degree of Separation, speaking about mental health and suicide prevention.

Please see the attached link regarding our guest speakers. We hope you can join us for this exciting event.

Please feel free to share far and wide.

<https://www.1degreeofseparation.life/>

Save the Date – Mark Your Calendars



**Northeast Florida MOWW Chapter #250
Meeting Announcement**

Tuesday, 16 September 2025

Luncheon 1100 to 1330

The Hilltop Restaurant

2030 Wells Road

Orange Park, FL 32073

Choices: Beef; Salmon; Chicken; Vegetables and dessert.
\$30 per person, remit at luncheon.

RSVP & Meal Choice no later than 11 September 2024

Adjutant – Capt. Jim Ransom

904-609-8472; jprthree@mac.com

Attire: MOWW Polo Shirt or Business Casual
Spouses are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Guest Speaker



Region VI Commander
COL Adolfo Menendez

“It is Nobler to Serve than to be Served”

Ride with SANTA Poker Run!

Food, Vendors, Live Music

(Santa themed costumes welcomed!)

Sunday, September 21, 2025



Proceeds for Operation Santa Cause INC 501c3 Non-profit
providing toys for Florida National Guard and Gold Star Children

\$20 Riders \$10 Passenger

REGISTRATION 830 AM KICK STANDS UP 9:30 AM

@ AMERICAN LEGION 250 (with SANTA)

RED DOG SALOON

HOWLING WOLF

CHEYENNE SALOON

BOOGERVILLE

American legion 250 (Vendor Fair)

**PRIZES FOR BEST/WORST HAND DRAWINGS, 50/50, AND SO
MUCH MORE!**

FOR MORE INFORMATION TO SPONSOR OR BE A VENDOR

JEANNE SCHOLL (904) 945-4142

operationsantacause@gmail.com

Your Story, Your Legacy

You can now share your story in your own words through the Veterans Legacy Memorial's (VLM) "Your Story, Your Legacy" feature. Use this tool to upload images, autobiographies, written tributes, military and life milestones, and historical documents. After your passing, VLM will publish your submissions on its website—the nation's largest online memorial dedicated to honoring America's Veterans.

To access the "Your Story, Your Legacy" page, start by submitting a VA pre-need burial eligibility application online. Once approved, you will receive an email to set up your personal VLM page. Watch this short video to learn more.



Understand Your Eligibility and Plan Ahead with Confidence

The National Cemetery Administration (NCA) proudly honors your service and sacrifice by helping ensure your legacy lives on.

Too many Veterans and families miss out on VA burial and memorial benefits simply because they don't know they're eligible. Whether you choose burial in a VA national cemetery or a private cemetery, these benefits are a meaningful part of end-of-life planning.

That's why NCA launched Plan Today, Honor Forever, a nationwide campaign designed to help you understand your options and plan ahead. Why Planning Ahead Matters

With Plan Today, Honor Forever you can:

- Learn what burial and memorial benefits you may be eligible for

- Share important information with your family or caregivers

- Check your eligibility for burial in a VA national cemetery

- Understand how VA burial allowances may help cover costs

Apply for Pre-need Burial Eligibility

Veterans and spouses can apply in advance to determine their eligibility for burial in a VA national cemetery. The online application takes less than 10 minutes and helps reduce stress and uncertainty for loved ones during a difficult time. [Complete Your Pre-need Burial Eligibility Application](#)

NCA is committed to ensuring that all eligible Veterans and their families understand and can access the burial benefits they've earned. As part of this effort, we've developed resources that address the unique needs of different Veteran communities.

Download our new infosheet,



Join us for the celebration of the US Navy's 250th birthday on October 13th, 2025 at Navy Pier next to the USS Orleck from 9 AM to 6 PM. The festivities will kick off with a welcome service at 10 AM, followed by a day filled with food trucks, family-friendly activities, and a live musical performance featuring PROJECT X from 2 to 6 PM. Additionally, enjoy a special tour rate of only 8.86 for the USS Orleck. This is a FREE event and we hope you can make it!

<https://jaxnavalmuseum.org/event/us-navy-250th-birthday/>

250TH NAVY BALL JACKSONVILLE



OCTOBER 11, 2025

117 Ceremonial Hangar, NAS Jax

E4 & BELOW \$45

E5 & E6 \$55

E7 & ABOVE/CIVILIAN

PERSONNEL \$65

POC

CSCM Reikowski, QMC Watts,

MCC Vinson, ACC Dantzler

250thnavyball.com

**1800 cocktail HOUR/ 1900 START
NAVY BAND, DJ & COLOR GUARD**

What are the rules about saluting as a Retired Soldier?

As described in the Retired Soldier Handbook in Section 3-9, federal law authorizes retired service members to salute the flag during the Pledge of Allegiance; during hoisting, lowering, or passing of the American flag; and during the National Anthem.



There are specific requirements for each situation, so make sure you check out the Retired Soldier Handbook (<https://soldierforlife.army.mil/Army.../Post-Retirement>) so you are in the know!

UPCOMING EVENT

**5 STAR Veterans Center
Community Gathering**

Date: Oct. 31 2025 5PM-7PM
**Location: 40 Acme St.
Jacksonville, FL 32211**
Games * Prizes * and More

We have space for 8-10 Organizations to Join Us
If you would like to reserve table space
Contact Amanda Mills amills@5svc.org
or Call 904-450-1236

You Can Decorate Your Space,
Wear Costumes and Bring Candy


5STARVETERANSCENTER.ORG

"Train Buster of the Korean War"

"Gray Ghost of the Vietnam Coast"



JACKSONVILLE NAVAL MUSEUM



THE MOST DECORATED
Post-World War II Ship In The US Navy



Join us for the

USS ORLECK



Birthday ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ BASH!

September 13th, 2025

10 AM
Navy Pierside

**Food
Trucks**

Car Show

Family Fun

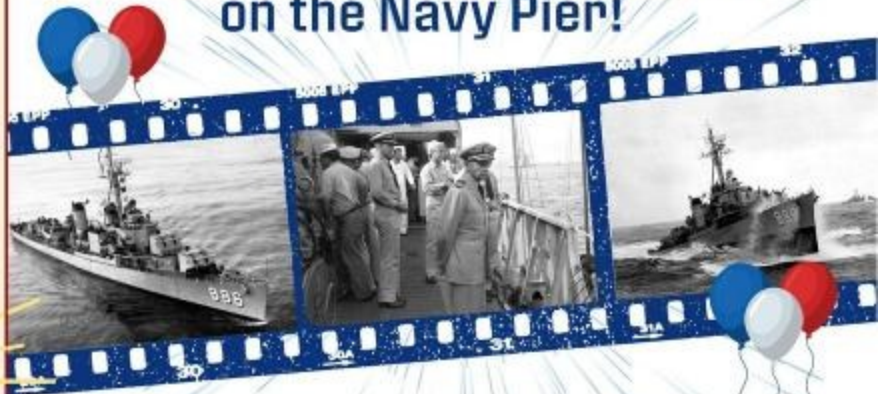
Music By

DJ Angst

2-6 PM

Special Ship
Tour Rate
\$8.86

Join us as we celebrate the
USS ORLECK's 80th Birthday
on the Navy Pier!



Commissioned on September 15, 1945, the USS Orleck was the last destroyer to enter service at the end of World War II—and today, she stands proudly on display in Jacksonville.

USO: US Army LTG (ret), Michael Linnington

The USO, America's leading nonprofit supporting service members and their families, proudly announced the appointment of Lieutenant General (retired) Michael Linnington as its new Chief Executive Officer, effective October 20, 2025.

He Served in Both Iraq & Afghanistan as an Infantry Brigade Commander in the 101st Airborne Division

USO, America's leading nonprofit supporting service members and their families, proudly announced the appointment of Lieutenant General (retired) Michael Linnington as its new Chief Executive Officer, effective October 20, 2025.

Arlington, VA, Aug. 15, 2025 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- The USO, America's leading nonprofit supporting service members and their families, proudly announced the appointment of Lieutenant General (retired) Michael Linnington as its new Chief Executive Officer, effective October 20, 2025.

Linnington is a distinguished figure within the military community, having served in the U.S. Army for 35 years in a career marked by several key leadership positions. His roles included Infantry Brigade Command (101st Airborne Division) in both Iraq and Afghanistan, Commandant of Cadets at West Point, Commanding General of the Military District of Washington, and Military Deputy to the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. After his military tenure, he became the first civilian Director of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, overseeing efforts to account for missing U.S. service members since World War II. In 2016, he was named CEO of the Wounded Warrior Project, where he led the organization through a significant transformation—broadening its programs and enhancing support for wounded veterans and their families.

“Wearing the uniform was one of my life's greatest honors. Now, I have the privilege to continue that service by leading the USO, a storied organization committed



to strengthening and supporting service members and their families,” said Linnington. “The USO is an organization that provided many memorable experiences and meaningful support to the units I’ve been a part, and I am humbled and honored to join this organization and carry forward its vital work.”

Linnington steps into the role at a defining moment. In 2026, the USO will celebrate its 85th birthday, and the United States will mark its 250th birthday. These dual milestones offer a powerful opportunity to reflect and to reimagine how the USO can meet the evolving needs of the military community in the years to come.

“The Board conducted an extensive search for a leader who could honor our proud legacy while positioning us for future success. With a distinguished record of military service and a proven ability to lead with integrity, vision, and heart, Mike Linnington is exactly the leader our organization needs for this next chapter,” said USO Board Chair General (Ret) David Goldfein. “His deep understanding of the military community, coupled with a steadfast commitment to service, will ensure that the USO mission will not only endure—it will thrive.”

Linnington will succeed J.D. Crouch II, who is stepping down as USO CEO after 11 years. He led the USO through a transformative journey, consolidating 19 independent USO chapters into one strong, unified organization. It was a pivotal shift that set the organization up for future success.

About the USO:

The USO is the leading nonprofit dedicated to the well-being of all people serving in the U.S. military and their families. Since 1941, the USO has been by the side of servicemembers throughout their military service. Impactful support is provided through our 250+ locations around the world, a robust care package delivery program, entertainment, military spouse and youth programming, and much more, all made possible by dedicated donors, corporate partners, volunteers and staff.

Library of Congress Veterans History Project

Last month we kicked off the celebration of the U.S. Army's 250th birthday!

To honor the Army's founding in June 1775, the Veterans History Project launched a new installment of *Serving: Our Voices*—"This We'll Defend: The U.S. Army."

This online exhibit features 25 powerful narratives from Army veterans, including members of the Army Nurse Corps and Women's Army Corps. Told through letters, diaries, photos and oral history interviews, their stories reflect the depth and diversity of service across generations.

With more than 55,000 Army stories in our archive, these featured veterans represent just a glimpse into the legacy of the nation's oldest and largest military branch.

Explore the exhibit at <https://www.loc.gov/.../ser.../this-well-defend-the-us-army/>

This We'll Defend: the U.S. Army

SERVING OUR VOICES Stories from the Veterans History Project

[Listen to this page](#)

Happy birthday to the U.S. Army! Established in June 1775 as the Continental Army, the United States Army celebrates its 250th birthday in 2025. In honor of the occasion, the Veterans History Project (VHP) presents this array of narratives from the U.S. military's largest and oldest service branch. Army veterans comprise the majority of VHP participants, having donated over 55,000 individual narratives to date, with more arriving every day. In this online presentation, we feature a handful of these—25 narratives from veterans of the U.S. Army, including the Army Nurse Corps and the Women's Army Corps. In their own words, through personal letters, diaries, photographs, and oral history interviews, these veterans relate and reflect on their Army experiences.

[View the blog post related to this online presentation.](#)

View: Gallery Sort by: Select

<p>PERSONAL NARRATIVE Kirk P. Adkins Collection Staff Sergeant, Army, Korean War, 1950-1953 - Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland; Fort Meade, Texas; Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Georgia; Hawaii, Korea.</p>	<p>PERSONAL NARRATIVE Mary L. Aubrey Collection Sergeant Major, Army, Vietnam War, 1961-1975 - Arlington, Virginia; Fort Meade and Fort Bliss, Texas; Fort McClellan, Alabama; Fort Benning, Harrison, Alabama; Hickory, Korea; Belgium, Army, Fordson, West Wall, 1991.</p>	<p>Vietnam History Project</p>	<p>PERSONAL NARRATIVE Palmer O. Choney Collection Second Lieutenant, Army, World War, 1926-1945 - Camp Douglas, Utah; Salt Lake City, Utah; Boston, Massachusetts; Fort Belvoir, Virginia; England.</p>
<p>PERSONAL NARRATIVE Denise Weidner Collection Private First Class, Army, Vietnam War, 1961-1975 - Fort Dix, New Jersey; Fort Wainwright, Georgia; Vietnam.</p>	<p>PERSONAL NARRATIVE Debra Moore Curry Collection First Lieutenant, Army, Korean War, 1950-1953 - Korea; Japan.</p>	<p>PERSONAL NARRATIVE Delbert Eugene Davis Collection Chief Warrant Officer, Army, Vietnam War, 1961-1975 - Fort Benning, Georgia; Norfolk, Virginia; Fort Belvoir, Virginia; Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Fort Bliss, Texas; Okinawa, Okinawa; Fort Belvoir, Germany; Vietnam; Chief Warrant Officer,...</p>	<p>PERSONAL NARRATIVE Delbert Preston Hester Collection Captain, Army, World War, 1918-1945 - Philippines; Japan; Camp Craneville, Philippines; Cabanatuan prison camp, Philippines; Tanagers; Granth Camp, Japan; Dumbo, Prison Camp, Japan; Kusunoki, Japan; Camp Hiroshima, Japan.</p>
<p>Vietnam History Project</p>	<p>PERSONAL NARRATIVE Anthony Johnson, Jr. Collection Army, Vietnam War, 1961-1975 - Fort Polk, Louisiana; Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri; Vietnam; Fort Benning, Georgia; Germany.</p>	<p>PERSONAL NARRATIVE Arystynia K. Kassis Collection Specialist, Army, Iraq War, 2003-2011 - Chicago, Illinois; Iraq.</p>	<p>PERSONAL NARRATIVE Kevin Ray Lee Collection Major, Army, Persian Gulf War, 1991 - Saudi Arabia; Kuwait; Iraq.</p>



Nassau
Duval
Clay
St. Johns

#OneTeamOneDream
#PassionForVets
#SALCares

★★★

**American Legion
District 5 Meeting**
S.A.L. at 12:30 PM
Legion & Auxiliary at 2PM
Sunday, Sep 14, 2025

American Legion Post 88
3662 Spring Park Rd
Jacksonville, FL 32207

7th Annual

2025



GOLF

TOURNAMENT

MONDAY
NOVEMBER 17TH, 2025

EAGLE HARBOR GOLF CLUB
2217 Eagle Harbor Pkwy
Fleming Island, FL 32003

77TH ANNIVERSARY

RIB COOKOFF

ALTON GREEN MEMORIAL VET'S
Centennial Park
27 Sept. 11-4pm

. PRIZES AWARDED FOR .

1st PLACE RIBS	▲	1st PLACE CHICKEN
2nd PLACE RIBS	▲	2nd PLACE CHICKEN
3rd PLACE RIBS	▲	3rd PLACE CHICKEN

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
3 DJS * *DANCE GROUPS
VENDOR BOOTHS

Ribs & Chicken Dinners on sale ... Sausage & Hotdogs on sale

VENDOR SPOTS AVAILABLE /// CONTACT 240.412.1325

INTERESTED RIB CONTESTANTS /// CONTACT 443.537.7411

All Proceeds to ALP and Kids Safe Zone.

Help us find the next veteran recipient of a new home.

And let's support America's heroes.



Since 2019, KB Home has partnered with Jared Allen's Homes for Wounded Warriors (JAH4WW), a nonprofit organization dedicated to raising money to build fully accessible homes for America's combat-injured Veterans.



KB Home has built mortgage-free, accessible homes for veterans in our San Antonio, Tampa and Denver divisions. We are honored and humbled to support those who have given so much for our country and its citizens. We would like to continue this important mission and are actively seeking your help in identifying our next recipient.

If you know a veteran who meets the qualifications and whose family would like to live in a market where we currently build, please encourage them to apply at:

homesforwoundedwarriors.com/veteran-application

Applicant must meet these qualifications:

- Injuries sustained in combat with the U.S. military while serving in Iraq or Afghanistan during Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) or Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF)
- Declared 100% disabled by the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) or Veterans Affairs
- Purple Heart recipient
- Wounds resulting in the loss of a major limb, blindness or paralysis



kbhome.com | homesforwoundedwarriors.com

FREE EVENT



**ATTENTION VETERANS
JOIN US FOR THE SECOND ANNUAL
“WILLS FOR HEROES”**

**Have your Will and
Advance Directives drafted for FREE**

..... ★
**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2025
12:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.**

**JACKSONVILLE CITY HALL
117 WEST DUVAL STREET, JACKSONVILLE, FL 32202
(GROUND FLOOR, OFF OF THE ATRIUM)**

..... ★
**WITH INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY
LAWRENCE “LARRY” DI RITA**
USN VETERAN & FORMER ASSISTANT TO THE
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

**FREE
Lunch**

..... ★
SCAN ME TO SIGN UP!



*****APPOINTMENTS ARE REQUIRED AND SPACE IS LIMITED*****



PLAN TODAY. HONOR FOREVER.

PLANNING AND SCHEDULING A BURIAL AT A VA NATIONAL CEMETERY

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemetery Administration (NCA) ensures those who served this nation are never forgotten. VA operates more than 155 national cemeteries and maintains more than 4 million graves to honor their service and sacrifice. Burial services at VA national cemeteries are provided at no cost to eligible Veterans, their spouses, and qualifying family members.

If you've lost a loved one and need to plan a burial at a VA national cemetery, we are here to guide you through the process. In many cases, we can schedule the burial with a single phone call.

1. **Gather Information and Documents:** Collect personal information identifying the deceased* and military documents showing the Veteran's qualifying service. If the Veteran's discharge documents are not readily available, do not delay calling the Scheduling Office; VA will get copies of them.
2. **Decide on Burial Details:** Determine the cemetery location, type of burial, and whether you will be requesting military funeral honors. If you are using a funeral home, your funeral director will assist.
3. **Contact the National Cemetery Administration:** Contact the National Cemetery Scheduling Office to schedule a burial. If you have a pre-need decision letter, VA will already have much of the required information.

*A death certificate is not usually required but may be in some cases. A representative will explain if needed.

National Cemetery Scheduling Office

To request a burial, call 800-535-1117 (TTY: 711)
Hours: Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. ET,
and Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. ET.

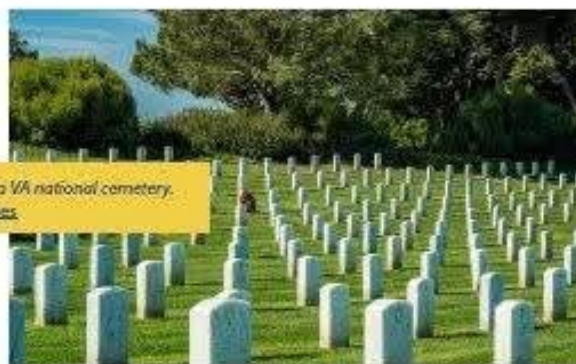


Scan for more information on burial in a VA national cemetery.
www.cem.va.gov/veterans.asp#families

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
National Cemetery Administration



National POW/MIA Recognition Day

DELIVERING ON THE NATION'S PROMISE



National POW/MIA Recognition Day



Saturday, September 20, 2025

National POW/MIA Memorial & Museum
Chapel Of The High-Speed Pass

Join us for a special day remembering the sacrifices of our nation's prisoners of war, those who are still unaccounted for, and their families.



**POW/MIA Museum
Open House**
11 AM - 4 PM



BBQ Lunch
Rotary Club North Jax
11 AM - 3 PM



**Dreamland Squadron
Flyover**
1 PM



**American Legion Riders
7 Bridges Ride**
Arrival by 1 PM



**Chapel Memorial
Ceremony**
1:30 PM



Live Music
Matt Altman Band
12:30 - 4:00 PM

WITH
Special Guests



Scan With
Your Camera

**A family-friendly event with activities
for children; all are welcome!**

BBQ lunch Provided by
Rotary Club of North Jacksonville
Food Trucks and Military Displays
Beer from Veterans United Craft Brewery
Pizza from Pizza Pit Stop
Flyover by Dreamland Squadron
www.powmiamemorial.org
6112 POW-MIA Memorial Pkwy, Jacksonville, FL 32221



JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS FOOTBALL

JAGUARS VS ALL Y'ALL LIBERTY TRIPS



Open to all Liberty eligible sailors.
Limited spaces available.

Free to attend!

SCHEDULE

Panthers: Sunday, Sept. 7. Muster at Liberty at 11 am, kickoff at 1 pm.

Texans: Sunday, Sept. 21. Muster at Liberty at 11 am, kickoff at 1 pm.

Chiefs: Monday, Oct. 6. Muster at Liberty at 5:45 pm, kickoff at 8:15 pm.

Seahawks: Sunday, Oct. 12. Muster at Liberty at 11 am, kickoff at 1 pm.

Chargers: Sunday, Nov. 16. Muster at Liberty 11 am, kickoff at 1 pm.

Call 904.542.1335 for more info | #DUUUVAL



STAY CONNECTED AND FOLLOW US ONLINE
@NASJAXMWR | NavyMWRJacksonville.com



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Does the VA pay for cremation or burial expenses?

The VA does not pay for cremation directly. Any item or service obtained from a funeral home will be at the families' expense. Some Veterans' families may be entitled to a burial allowance

Can I be buried in a National Cemetery if I'm cremated?

Yes, either in ground or above ground placement is available, depending on the cemetery.

Can my spouse be buried with me in a VA National Cemetery?

Yes. However spousal benefits do not apply if the Veteran is buried in a private cemetery.

Plan Today. Honor Forever. Visit cem.va.gov/veterans-and-families/





Leo C. Chase Jr. VA Clinic

Veteran Food Bank

Donation Drop Off:
100 Deerfield Preserve Blvd
Monday-Friday 7:30am-4:30pm

Non Perishable Suggestions: canned
meat/fish/vegetable/fruit, pudding, jello,
crackers, dry pasta & sauce, ready meals,
jerky, individual water & juice, condiments,
peanuts, peanut butter & jelly, beans, cereal,
applesauce, soup, re-usable bags

Florida's Largest Veterans Day Experience

ZEPHYRHILLS



FREE
TO THE
PUBLIC

NOV.
7th - 9th

BATTLE FOR VETERANS

Hosted By

ZEPHYRHILLS



MUSEUM

OF MILITARY HISTORY

ZMMH.org



For Updates!

Featured Guest

WW2Armor.org



November 7th-9th, 2025 - Fri, Sat & Sun - 10am-5pm
5200 Airport Rd, Zephyrhills, FL 33542

Friday, Saturday & Sunday:

- Military Vehicle Show & Display
- Weapons Demonstrations
- Food & Military Vendors
- Aircraft on Display
- Museum Open During Event

Saturday:

- 10AM Veterans Day Parade in Downtown Zephyrhills
- WW2 Battle Reenactment

Sunday:

- WW2 Battle Reenactment

Tanks in
Action
During
Battles!

Twice a month, the Jacksonville Military Affairs & Veterans Department hosts this free food distribution for active-duty military members and their families with valid military ID.

THE CITY OF JACKSONVILLE'S MILITARY AFFAIRS AND VETERANS DEPARTMENT PRESENTS

**2ND THURSDAYS
OF THE MONTH
10 AM-12 PM**

**FOOD
FARMACY**

**4TH THURSDAYS
OF THE MONTH
2-4 PM**

ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY FAMILIES WITH MILITARY ID
390 Mayport Rd. Atlantic Beach Fl, 32233







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



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

Assisted Living Facility #12928



FREE SERVICES

for Veterans

The St. Johns County Clerk of the Circuit Court and County Comptroller is proud to honor veterans, active-duty military, reservists, and dependents by offering **complimentary passport and wedding photos, notary services, and recording services for DD-214s in November.**



Richard O. Watson Judicial Center
4010 Lewis Speedway
St. Augustine, Florida 32084
904-819-3600

www.stjohnsclerk.com

Information about FL veterans organizations by county

ORGANIZATION	PHONE	PAGE	ORGANIZATION	PHONE	PAGE	ORGANIZATION	PHONE	PAGE
POLK (Veteran Pop. 55,159)			VFV POST 8203 (941) 426-8665			AMERICAN LEGION POST # 267 (386) 672-7678		
1st CAVALRY 'A' TROOP meets @ VFV 2093 2nd Tues.			4860 Trot Circle, North Port, FL 34267-3419			156 New Britain Ave., Ormond Bch., FL 32174		
AMERICAN LEGION POST 3 (863) 633-8893			VFV POST 10178 (941) 474-7516			AMERICAN LEGION POST # 270 (386) 788-8800		
1575 HWY 17 S., Bartow, FL 33630			550 N. McCall Rd., Englewood, FL 34223			119 Howes St., Port Orange, FL 32127		
4 Lakes Veteran Ctrp			VIETNAM BROTHERHOOD ALPHA COMPANY, now			AMERICAN LEGION POST 285 386-210-4926		
590 La Quinta Blvd., Winter Haven, FL 33881			meets every Thurs at 7:30 PM at DAV 97, 7177 Bee Ridge Rd.,			4497 US HWY 1, Edgewater, FL 32141		
AMERICAN LEGION POST 4 (863) 683-8710			Sarasota, FL 34241. 941-371-7444			AMERICAN LEGION POST # 361 (386) 780-3887		
1375 Ariana St., Lakeland, FL 33803			SEMINOLE (Veteran Pop. 39,000)			PO Box 4581, 2648 S. Ridgewood, S. Daytona, FL 32121		
AMERICAN LEGION POST 8 (863) 293-7029 p 33			American Legion Post 53 407 678-3654			AMVETS POST 2 386-402-7602		
300 Ave. M. NW, Winter Haven, FL 33881			2544 Park Dr., Sanford, FL 32773			1209 S. Ridgewood, Edgewater, FL 32132		
AMERICAN LEGION POST 34 (863) 422-6940			American Legion Post 183 (407) 831-8004			AMVETS POST 13 (386) 943-9311		
107 11th St. N., Haines City, FL 33845			2706 Wells Ave., Fern Park, FL 32730			645 W. New York Ave., DeLand, FL 32720		
AMERICAN LEGION POST 71 963-689-6689			American Legion Memorial Post 241 https://www.veterans.org/			AMVETS POST 911 (386) 788-1014		
P.O. Box 442, Ft. Meade, FL 33841			491 W. Broadway St., Oviedo, FL 32765			5624 S. Ridgewood Ave., Ft. Orange, FL 32127		
American Legion POST 72 (863) 425-0644			AMVETS POST 17 (407) 322-2886			The West Volusia MOAA Chapter 368 479 3400 Mtg monthly.		
1500 SR 37 N., Mulberry, FL			915 W. 11th Street, Sanford 32771			Call Maj Curt Voebel or gtorc@gmail.com Thomas Jackson		
AMVETS POST 32 (863) 688-3413			CASSELLBERRY VETERANS CLUB 407 260-1404			CWA USA (RET) Thomas Jackson thomasjackson@outlook.com Military Order of		
1339 E. Gary Rd., Lakeland, FL 33801			200 N. Concord St., Casselberry FL 32707			the Purple Heart Chptr 316 386-690-9533 Mtg. @ VA Home,		
KOREAN WAR VETERANS Chptr. 158 (863) 533-7374			DAV 30 (407) 323-2710			1520 Mason Ave., Daytona Bch., July 7th 1pm		
Buck Rogers 863-856-3559 buckrogers66@earthlink.net			3512 S. Orlando Dr., Sanford, FL 32773			VA OUTPATIENT (386) 323-7600 p 55		
meets @ Amer. Leg. Post 3, HWY 17S, Bartow 3rd Saturday			FLEET RESERVE BRANCH 147 407-330-1706			551 National Healthcare Dr., Daytona Bch., FL 32117		
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE HEART OF FL #1107			3040 W. SR 46, Sanford, FL 32771			VET CENTER OF DAYTONA BEACH (386) 266-6600		
863-207-4200 meets @ A.L. Post 8, 300 AVE. M. Winter			MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART Chapter 400			1620 Mason Ave. Ste C, Daytona Bch., FL 32117		
Haven, FL 4th Thursday at 1830 hrs (6:30 PM)			2651 Peony Dr., Oviedo, FL 32765 (407) 378-4560			VA Daytona Community Based Outpatient Clinic p 55		
Military Order of Purple Heart Chptr 535-FL-4 407-350-			PARALYZED VETS OF AMERICA (407) 328-7041			1200 Deltona Blvd., Deltona, FL 32725 386-575-5000		
0224			2711 S. Design Court, Sanford			VFV POST # 1590 (386) 252-5844		
Azalea pk 1325 Grasslands Blvd., Lakeland, 33803 1st mon 5			@200 N. Concord St., Casselberry, FL 3rd Sat @ 10am			1013 Veterans Ct., Daytona Bch 32114		
POLK VETERANS COALITION			SEMINOLE CTY VETERANS SERVICES (407) 685-2347			VFV POST # 2380 (386) 738-2380		
2938 Grasslands Dr., Lakeland, FL 33803			520 W. Lake Mary Blvd Suite 100, Sanford, FL 32773			510 S. Alabama Ave., DeLand 32724		
US MIL. Vets Motorcycles (863) 294-5810			US SUBMARINE VETS (407) 222-8161			VFV POST # 3282 (386) 761-7217		
VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE Polk City (863) 634-6220			mtg @ Casselberry Vet, 200 Concord Dr Casselberry 32707			5810 S. Williamson Blvd Port Orange 32134		
1290 Golfview Ave. Ste 116, BARTON FL 33831			VA OUTPATIENT (386) 456-2080 p 55			VFV POST # 4250 (386) 423-1789		
VETERANS OF BATTLE OF BULGE 32 (863) 886-2121			2583 S. Volusia Ave. Ste 300, Orange City, FL 32763			2350 Sunset Dr. New Smyrna Bch. 32168		
330 E. Palm Dr., Lakeland, FL 33803			VFV POST 5425 (407) 327-3151			VFV POST 8050 (386) 686-8648		
VA OUTPATIENT (863) 838-4400 p 55			420 N. Edgemoor Ave., Winter Springs, FL 32708			351 S. Charles Richard Beal Blvd (17992), DeBary, FL 32713		
2080 Meadowland Park., Lakeland, FL 33803			VFV POST 8207 (407) 339-6016			VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA CHAPTER 1048		
VFV POST 2297 (863) 687-5148			1520 N. Ronald Reagan Blvd, CR 427, Longwood, FL 32750			386-690-9553 PO Box 290252 Port Orange, FL 32128		
305 N. Central Ave., Lakeland, FL 33815			VFV POST 10139 (407) 883-5615			Volusia County Veterans Service Office 386-740-6102		
VFV POST 2420 (863) 676-9166			300 Lake Mills Rd. Chuluota, FL 32768 post10139@vfw.org			123 W. Indiana Ave., DeLand, FL 32720		
200 Central, Lake Wales, FL 33853			St. Johns (Veteran Pop. 17,554)					
VFV POST 4289 (863) 293-7469			AMERICAN LEGION POST 37 alps7adjudant@gmail.com					
2441 7th St. SW., Winter Haven, FL 33880			PO Box 2204 St. Augustine, FL 32084					
VFV POST 6002 (863) 815-4777			PO Box 2204 St. Augustine, FL 32084					
9096 US 90N., Lakeland, FL 33810 PO 328, Kathleen 33849			AMERICAN LEGION POST 233 (904) 285-2484					
PUTNAM Veteran Population 6,697			590 N. Wilderness Tr., Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082					
AMERICAN LEGION POST 45 386-328-8967			AMERICAN LEGION POST 194 (340) 412-1325					
316 Osceola St., Palatka, FL 32177			1029 Pearl St., St. Augustine, FL 32084					
AMERICAN LEGION 263 386-684-4464			VFV POST 2391 (904) 797-5267					
145 S. CR 315, Interlachen, FL 32148			6164 US 1 S., St. Augustine, FL 32086					
FLEET RESERVE Branch 153 386-684-6289			VFV POST 8696 (904) 446-8696					
207 Commonwealth Ave., Interlachen, FL 32148			47 Old Kings Rd., Palm Coast, FL 32137					
PUTNAM COUNTY VETS SVC OFC. (904) 329-0327			ST. JOHNS COUNTY VETS SVC OFC. (904) 209-6160					
PO Box 771, 2509 Crill Ave. Palatka, FL 32177			1955 US 1 S., Ste 550, St. Augustine, FL 32086					
VFV POST 3349 386-328-2963			VVA Leo C. Chase chapter 1084 Pres. James Campeau					
3201 Reid St., Palatka, FL 32177			St. Johns Co. camposugames@gmail.com 904-315-6167					
VFV POST 10164 386-684-0839			VVA Leo C. Chase chapter 1084 Pres. James Campeau					
1034 SR 20, Interlachen, FL 32148 (ALSO Amvets 1064)			St. Lucie (Veteran Pop. 36,852)					
SARASOTA (Veteran Pop. 50,353)			AMVETS POST 15 (772) 464-7751					
Air Force Association Sarasota-Manatee			2024 SOUTH US 1, Ft. Pierce, FL 34950					
Sarasota-manatee.afaflorida.org (941) 371-0375			Disabled American Veterans, Chap 113 772-671-6667					
AMERICAN LEGION POST #30 (941) 360-8719			1150 SW California Blvd., Port St. Lucie, FL 34953					
4015 Lookwood Ridge Rd., Sarasota, FL 34234			AMERICAN LEGION POST 40 (772) 461-1280					
AMERICAN LEGION POST 159 (941) 485-4748			610 US HWY 1, Ft. Pierce, FL 34950					
1770 E. Venice Ave., Venice, FL 34292-3190			AMERICAN LEGION POST 171 (772) 595-9798					
AMERICAN LEGION POST 254 (941) 423-7311			1814 N 21st St., Ft. Pierce, FL 34960					
8648 Taneytown St., North Port, FL 34287-0915			AMERICAN LEGION 355 (772) 871-6667					
AMERICAN LEGION POST #298 (941) 371-1326			1150 SW California, Blvd., Ft. St. Lucie, FL 34968-0427					
5201 Richardson Rd., Sarasota, FL 34232			AMERICAN LEGION 358 (772) 595-0856					
AMVETS POST 312 (941) 429-8403 p 31			4350 Chandler Ave., Ft. Pierce, 34982					
7050 Chancellor, North Port, FL 34287			AMVETS POST 15 (772) 464-7751					
AMVETS Post 2020 (941) 429-1999			2024 SOUTH US 1, Ft. Pierce, FL 34950					
401 Ortiz Blvd., N. Port, FL 34287-1332			Disabled American Veterans, Chap 113 772-671-6667					
DAV CHPTR. 101 (941) 488-4500			1150 SW California Blvd., Port St. Lucie, FL 34953					
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE DET. 643 941-406-7450			Jewish War Veterans, Chapter 705 772-871-6667					
meets @ 600 E. Colonia Ln., Nokomis, FL 34275-2725			1150 SW California Blvd., Port St. Lucie, FL 34953					
DAV CHAPTER 97 (941) 371-7544			Korean War Veterans, Chapter 106 772-871-6667					
7177 Bee Ridge Rd., Sarasota, FL 34241			1150 SW California Blvd., Port St. Lucie, FL 34953					
FLORIDA VETERANS FOR COMMON SENSE			MARINE CORPS LEAGUE DET. 688					
Mike Bums/ former POW, 654 Siesta Dr., Sarasota, FL			1150 SW California, Pt. St. Lucie, FL 34953					
OPERATION ECO VETS - (941) 219-8715			PO Box 1765 (3475 Douglas Rd.), Ft. Pierce, FL 34981					
Vet Services - 350 Braden Ave., Sarasota, 34243			VVA 566 (772) 579-5730					
SARASOTA COUNTY VETERAN Commission			PO BOX 7385, Pt. St. Lucie, FL 34985					
941-544-6306 PO BOX 2055 Sarasota, FL 34230			VFV POST 8058 (772) 464-1675					
presidentscvo@gmail.com			PO Box 1765 (3475 Douglas Rd.), Ft. Pierce, FL 34981					
SARASOTA CTY VETERAN SERVICES (941) 861-2899			VVA 566 (772) 579-5730					
2200 Ringling Blvd. St. Ste. 125 Sarasota FL 34237			PO BOX 7385, Pt. St. Lucie, FL 34985					
SARASOTA CTY VETERAN SERVICES (941) 861-3047			SUMTER (Veteran Pop. 8,905)					
4000 S. Tamiami Trail, Ste. 139 Venice, FL 3492			AMERICAN LEGION POST 18					
SARASOTA COUNTY VETERAN SERVICES N. PORT			401 E. Gulf Atlantic HWY, Wildwood, FL 34785					
(941) 429-7214			AMERICAN LEGION POST 62 (352) 444-2164					
4970 City Hall Blvd., Room 264 N. Port, FL 34286			3387 North CR 479 Lake Panasofflee, FL					
(941) 861-2099			AMERICAN LEGION POST 101 352-660-0201					
JEWISH WAR VETERANS (941) 355-1227			PO BOX 101, 2881 E-C-48, Bushnell, FL 3381					
4008 78th Pl. E. Sarasota, FL 34242			AMVETS POST 793 (352) 793-2054					
SARASOTA VA NATIONAL CEMETERY 941-861-6040 or			@VFV POST 10084 CR 470, Lake Panasofflee					
toll free 877-861-8640 9510 SR72, Sarasota, FL 34241			BUSHNELL VA NATIONAL CEMETERY (352) 793-7740					
UKRAINIAN AMERICAN VETS Post 40 941-587-3024			6902 SW 102nd Ave., Bushnell, FL 33513					
4100 S. Biscayne Dr., N. Port, FL 34287			Sumter County Veterans Service Offices 352-689-4450					
SARASOTA VET CENTER 941-927-8286 ext.23106			7375 Powell Rd., Wildwood, FL 34785					
4801 Swift Rd., Suite A, Sarasota, FL 34231			VFV POST 10084 (Lake Panasofflee) (352) 793-2054					
SRQ VETS.org - 941-777-8387 Mtg. at DAV Post 37, 7377 Bee			PO BOX 391, Lake Panasofflee, FL 33538					
Ridge Rd Sarasota, FL 34241. mail to:SRQ Bee Ridge Rd, Sarasota,			VFV POST 10137 (352) 793-8511					
FL 34233 email info@srqsports.org)			6036 CR 618, Veterans Memorial Hwy., Bushnell, FL 33513					
VAOPC SARASOTA (941) 371-3349 p 55			VOLUSIA (Veteran Pop. 60,090)					
5682 Bee Ridge Rd., #100, Sarasota, FL 34233			AMERICAN LEGION POST 6 386-740-0622					
VFV POST 3233 941-365-1918			1087 Biscayne Blvd. DeLand, FL 32734					
124 S. Tuttle Ave., Sarasota, FL 34262			AMERICAN LEGION POST # 17 (386) 427-9007					
VFV POST 8118 (941) 484-0118			619 W. Canal St., New Smyrna Bch., FL 32168					
832 E. Venice Ave., Venice, FL 34235			AMERICAN LEGION POST 120 386-258-5275					
			481 Walker St. Holly Hill, FL 32117					
			AMERICAN LEGION POST 295					
			321-696-8272 or 386-532-7915 www.alp.255deltona.org					



www.FemaleVeteransNetwork.org

Cynthia Henderson
Founder/President 2015

cynthia@femaleveteransnetwork.org

2715 W. Woodbrook St.
Lecanto, FL 34461
(813) 352-628-6481 (352) 613-3215

Meetings are September - May at 1:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month at Faith Lutheran Church fellowship hall 935 S. Crystal Glen Drive, Lecanto, FL.

Female Veterans Network is selling commemorative pins recognizing Female Veterans.

Pins are available at Mac-I Signs, 7068 Grover Cleveland, Homosassa and Citrus County Radio Stations 964 Crystal Glen Drive, Lecanto

Call Cynthia Henderson: 352-628-6481



she wore these.

It's our job to give her the best care anywhere.

WOMEN VETERANS HEALTH CARE



Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Which National Park is your favorite to use your free Military Lifetime Pass?

Don't have one yet? Don't miss out! Veterans, service members, dependents, and Gold Star families are eligible Learn more:

www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/



**SAVING HEROES
BY**

Raising Warriors

For God, Country, & Community

FREE



Free Membership

- ✔ Prepare Future Heroes
- ✔ Support Warrior Families
- ✔ Heal Combat Trauma
- ✔ Prevent Suicides

Contact
Matthew.Burke@10CAN.org

Join Today
www.10CAN.org



★ **Veterans Food Assistance Program** ★

What?

Starting October 1st DVNF will be offering a one-time grant per veteran household to support their nutritional needs.

How to Apply

We have an online application that will need to be completed by the Veteran. The application can be found at <https://www.grantinterface.com/sl/dI4NjA>. The link will be open starting October 1st, 2024.

Veteran Qualifications

- Must have a DD214 or Veteran ID
- Was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable
- A letter of reference from a case worker or advocate may make the application more favorable.

Other Details

- This is not a monthly grant.
- The groceries will be delivered directly to the Veteran using Walmart or grocery store delivery service.
- Veterans can receive up to \$450 worth of groceries

For more information, please contact us: (202) 737-0522 - info@dvnf.org

A background image of a golfer in mid-swing, wearing a white shirt and a red and white striped tie, with a golf club visible. The golfer is positioned centrally, with the text overlaid on the image.

**Alton Green Memorial
American Legion Post 194**

Save the Date

19 SEPT 2025

77th Anniversary

GOLF
Tournament

**St. Johns Golf Club
4900 Cypress Links Blvd
Elkton, FL 32033**

HOW VA DISABILITY RATINGS WORK

BENEFITS CHART - Each increased level includes all benefits of the previous levels.

SERVICE CONNECTED PERCENTAGE	DESCRIPTION
0%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10-point Veteran preference in federal hiring • No cost health care and prescription drugs for service-connected disabilities. Small co pays may be applied for inpatient and prescription drugs-Must be enrolled in VA Healthcare • VA Life Insurance guaranteed acceptance up to age 81 up to \$40,000. • Use of commissaries, exchanges, and morale, welfare and recreation (MWR) retail facilities, in-person and online. -Must be enrolled in VA Healthcare • Non-VA Urgent Care visits at \$30/visit including 14-day prescription (in network)-Must be enrolled in VA Healthcare • Non-VA Emergency Room for service-connected conditions or non-service-connected conditions. If you have OHI (Other Health Insurance), but it does not fully cover the costs of treatment, VA may pay certain costs for which you are personally liable – Email to: VHAEmergencyNotification@va.gov OR Call 844-72HRVHA (844-724-7842) within 72 hours-Must be enrolled in VA Healthcare • VA Dental Insurance Program (VADIP)-Must be enrolled in VA Healthcare
10%-20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No cost health care - Must be enrolled in VA Healthcare • Prescription drugs for service-connected disabilities. Small co pays may be applied for inpatient stays and prescription drugs-Must be enrolled in VA Healthcare • Waiver of VA funding fee for home loan • Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment (10% with a serious employment handicap) • Burial and plot allowance
30%-40%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel allowance for scheduled appointments for care at a VA medical facility or VA authorized health care facility • Additional compensation for eligible dependents (may include aid and attendance for eligible spouse)
50%-90%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No cost health care and prescription medications – no copays-Must be enrolled in VA Healthcare • Concurrent receipt of military retired pay with 20 years (15 TERA) • Add 3 no cost Non-VA Urgent Care visits including 14-day prescription per calendar year for the Urgent Care visit
100% No restriction to income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No cost dental care at the VA • DoD Uniformed Services ID card • Federal student loan forgiveness • Space-A Flights (Cat VI) – Veteran & Dependents INCONUS/Territories • --With Permanent & Total (P&T) Status-- • All Non-VA ER – Must contact your VAMC within 72 hours • Dependents Educational Assistance (DEA or CHAPTER 35) • Dependent's healthcare through CHAMPVA–Civilian Health and Medical Program (if not Tricare eligible) • VA Dental Insurance Program (VADIP) for CHAMPVA eligible dependents
<p align="center">Individual Unemployability – 60%-90%</p> <p>Same as 100% except must be unemployable due to service-connected disabilities with part time income restriction \$15,852/year (2024)</p>	
<p align="center">VA Derivative Benefits Eligibility Service-Connected Matrix</p> <p align="center">https://benefits.va.gov/benefits/derivative_sc.asp</p>	



National League of POW/MIA Families

Hello everyone!

The League is always seeking out photos of POW/MIA flags, monuments, Missing Man Honors Tables, POW/MIA empty chairs, etc. from your community to feature on our social media pages and website.

Sharing with us is easy, just message your photos to our email -

nationalleague@pow-miafamilies.org

With your full name as well as a brief description of when & where the photo was taken.



NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES OF AMERICAN
PRISONERS & MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA
5673 Columbia Pike, Suite 100, Falls Church, VA 22041

PH ---703/465-7432

www.pow-miafamilies.org

FAX ---703/465-7433

2024 ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Would you prefer to receive League material by email? Y__N__ Email: _____

_____ @\$20/member

_____ Total Amount: _____

IRS EIN# 23-7071242

How to report a Veteran's death to VA

The passing of a Veteran is a solemn time that deserves to be recognized and reported with the utmost respect. Veterans have served their country and worked hard for their well-deserved benefits.

However, after a Veteran passes away, family members should report the death of the Veteran to VA as soon as possible to stop current benefits payments. If the death is not reported promptly, survivors or executors of the Veteran's estate may have to repay any overpayments received. Payments the deceased Veteran received may include compensation, pension, education or Veteran Readiness & Employment benefits.

VA encourages loved ones of deceased Veterans to follow the guidance below on reporting Veteran deaths to avoid falling victim to benefit scams.

How to report the death of a Veteran

Calling is the fastest way to report a Veteran's death so VA will stop benefit payments, but there are other options available for reporting.

Options for reporting:

By Phone: Call VA 800-827-1000 (TTY: 711) and select 5. Agents are available Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. ET.

In Person: Go to a VA regional office. Find the nearest VA regional office.

By Mail: Department of Veterans Affairs Claims Intake Center, PO Box 4444, Janesville, WI 53547-4444. Include your relationship to the Veteran and any supporting documents that can help us verify the Veteran's identity. Examples of supporting documents are:

Death certificate or other public record of the Veteran's death

Discharge document (like a DD214)

If you report in person at a VA regional office or by mail, provide copies of:

Death certificate or other public record of the Veteran's death.

Discharge document (like a DD214).

Provide as much information about the Veteran as you can when you first report the notice of death to VA. This information will help VA verify the Veteran's identity. This information includes:

Full name.

Social Security Number or VA claim number.

Date of birth.

Date of death.

Branch of service.

Best practices to avoid survivor benefit scams

Save important files, such as the Veteran's military service/treatment records, discharge papers and copies of their VA claims.

Go to the VA website. For guidance on creating an account and obtaining a VA security Personal Identification Number (PIN) to securely access benefit information. A VA Security PIN is an additional way to secure direct deposit accounts from theft and protect Personally Identifiable Information (PII).

Never give out PII via text, and be cautious of suspicious hyperlinks or unfamiliar hyperlinks.

If a survivor is missing a VA benefits payment, identifies a discrepancy in payments, or find suspicious activity with a direct deposit account, contact VA immediately at 800-827-1000.

Review all documents thoroughly. Survivors should never sign a blank form for some

one else to complete later. They should always review the completed form before signing and retain a copy of the completed form for their records.

For protection against identity theft scams, notify the major credit bureaus (Equifax, Experian and TransUnion) to update the individual's credit report with a deceased notice and notify the Veteran's financial institutions so all accounts can be closed or transferred appropriately.

According to AARP, scammers also use names published in obituaries to pretend to be long lost relatives of the deceased. When it's time to write your loved one's obituary, consider leaving out the birthdate, middle name, home address, birthplace and mother's maiden name.

For other scams predators use, visit www.VA.GOV/VSAFE.

VA is committed to delivering world-class care and benefits to Veterans and their dependents by providing survivors with ongoing support and assistance. Check to see if you qualify for survivor benefits, such as health care coverage, Survivors' and Dependents' Education Assistance Program, housing assistance, or even help with burial costs.

For more guidance on how to report the death of a Veteran, submitting necessary documentation and finding additional resources available, visit VA Benefits For Spouses, Dependents, Survivors, And Family Caregivers | Veterans Affairs.

To report a missing VA benefits payment, identify a discrepancy in payments, or find suspicious activity with a direct deposit account, contact VA immediately at 800-827-1000. You may also file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission if funeral homes charge to set up funeral honors or schedule a burial with VA's National Cemetery Administration by visiting reportfraud.ftc.gov. For other scams predators use, visit va.gov/vsafe.

Burials and Memorials

VA honors the service and sacrifice of Veterans and their family members.

How to Apply

To find out in advance if a Veteran or family member is eligible for burial in a VA national cemetery, click “Apply for Pre-Need Burial Eligibility” to fill out and submit the application.

Apply for Pre-Need Burial Eligibility

If pre-need eligibility has not been determined, upon the death of the Veteran or his or her spouse or dependent (also called the time of need), family members should locate the Veteran’s DD-214 or other discharge papers if readily available and click “Schedule a Burial” to begin the process. Then make arrangements with a funeral home, National Cemetery Scheduling Office, or directly with a VA national cemetery.

VA Memorial Benefits

VA takes special care to pay lasting tribute to the memory of Veterans who served and sacrificed and that of their families. VA meticulously maintains 155 VA national cemeteries in 44 states and Puerto Rico and is working to increase access to accommodate Veterans and eligible family members close to home. Currently, more than 94 percent of Veterans have a burial option in an open VA, state or tribal veterans cemetery located within 75 miles of their home.

Note that most if not all of these benefits may be provided for Veterans who are interred in a State, Territorial or Tribal Veterans cemetery. Check with the cemetery to ensure coverage. Some benefits are also available for Veterans who choose burial in a private cemetery.

Veterans with a qualifying discharge are entitled to VA burial benefits. Spouses and dependent children are eligible too, even if they predecease the Veteran.

The following burial benefits may be provided:

Burial in a VA national cemetery

Opening and closing of the grave for burial of casketed or cremated remains, or placement of cremated remains in an above-ground vault, also called a columbarium

A government furnished grave liner

Perpetual care of the gravesite

A headstone or marker with an inscription

A burial flag

A Presidential Memorial Certificate

A dedicated memorial page on the Veterans Legacy Memorial site where friends and family can upload photos and remembrances

Burial in a private cemetery

A government headstone, marker, or medallion

A burial flag

A Presidential Memorial Certificate

Some survivors may also be entitled to VA burial allowances as partial reimbursement for the costs of funerals and burials for eligible Veterans

Please note that gravesites in a VA national cemetery cannot be reserved in advance. To prepare for a private cemetery burial, VA suggests families review these questions and complete required forms in advance.

VA Requirements

Discharge papers to establish your eligibility for burial services



Stories of Service

St. Johns County Veterans Oral History Project



Stories of Service is an oral history project focused on the veterans of St. Johns County. The goal of this project was to collect, document, and preserve the memories of local veterans for future generations.

Materials collected by the Society for this project have allowed for the creation of two exhibits, one physical at the Oldest House Museum Complex at 14 St. Francis Street on display until January, one digital, accessible below and through our main website under the LEARN tab.

Items on display in both the digital and physical exhibits tell the stories of our local veterans, placing them proudly within the long and storied histories of St. Augustine and St. Johns County.

A sincere thanks to them all.



View the Digital Exhibit:

<https://sahsstoriesofservice.omeka.net/>



Main: 904-824-2872

Research Library: 904-825-2333

271 Charlotte Street, St. Augustine, FL 32084

Research Library located at 6 Artillery Lane, St. Augustine FL 32084

Surviving Spouse Milestones

Not all milestones apply to every person situation

One Year Mark:

- Moving out of quarters (if applicable)
- Storage at government expense expires
- Apply for Home of Selection (HOS) extension
- HEART Act (one year from date SGLI/DG received)

Two Year Mark:

- Loss of Spouse's VA Transitional DIC Benefits (\$250 per family per month)

only applies to spouse with one or more minor children in household

- Apply for Home of Selection (HOS) extension

Three Year Mark:

- TRICARE Healthcare and Dental benefits transitions to retiree rate for spouse
- Home of Selection (HOS) entitlement expires

Spouse Turns 52:

- If disabled, can remain and retain SSA Survivor Benefits

Spouse Turns 55:

- Can remarry and not lose SBP eligibility

Spouse Turns 57:

- Can remarry not lose DIC eligibility

Spouse Turns 60:

- Can remarry and retain SSA Survivor Benefits

Surviving Youth Milestones

Not all milestones apply to every person situation

Child Turns 16:

- Elimination of SSA entitlement for adult receiving Child in Care benefits

Child Turns 18:

- College - Fry Scholarship *Line of Duty Cases only*
- College - Dependence Education Assistance
- *VA Service Connected Death*
- Loss of annuities (SSA, DIC, SBP) unless enrolled in school full time. SSA depends on age when graduating High School
- Loss of annual benefit report
- If DG/SGLI beneficiary - If not already received

Child Turns 21:

- Loss of DFERS/TRICARE unless enrolled in school full time
- Enrollment in TRICARE Young Adult

Child Turns 22:

- Loss of Child-Only SBP regardless of school enrollment

Child Turns 23:

- Loss of DFERS/TRICARE transitional Survivor unless incapacitated
- Enrollment in TRICARE Young Adult

Child Turns 26:

- Loss of TRICARE Young Adult

Child Turns 33:

- Loss of Fry Scholarship eligibility

FLORIDA SURVIVOR OUTREACH SERVICES AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY



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	Tommy Tittle	twt1968@att.net
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-000314706401

This advertisement for the Veterans Crisis Line features a central image of a man's face. To the left, the text "Veterans Crisis Line" is repeated twice with the phone number "1-800-273-8255" and "PRESS 1". To the right, the text "Veterans Crisis Line" is repeated twice with the phone number "1-800-273-8255" and "PRESS 1". Below the man's face, the text "STAND BY THEM" is displayed in a blue box, followed by "Confidential help for Veterans and their families". To the right of the man's face, the text "Veterans Crisis Line" is repeated twice with the phone number "1-800-273-8255" and "PRESS 1". At the bottom right, the text "NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE" is displayed with the phone number "1-800-273-TALK (8255)" and the website "suicidepreventionlifeline.org".

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s Line
73-8255
PRESS 1

Veterans
Crisis Line
00-273-8255 PRESS 1

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

STAND BY THEM

Confidential help for
Veterans and their families

NATIONAL
SUICIDE
PREVENTION
LIFELINE
1-800-273-TALK (8255)
suicidepreventionlifeline.org

*** Confidential chat at VeteransCrisisLine.net or text to 838255 ***

This advertisement for the Military/Veterans Crisis Line features the text "Military/Veterans Crisis Line" and the phone number "1-800-273-8255". At the bottom, the text "Confidential chat at MilitaryCrisisLine.net or text 838255" is displayed.

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

Confidential chat at MilitaryCrisisLine.net or text 838255

This advertisement for the Veterans Crisis Line features the text "Veterans Crisis Line" and the phone number "1-800-273-8255" with "PRESS 1".

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



FLORIDA VETERANS LEGAL HELPLINE



Legal Aid for Veterans

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

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

1.866.486.6161

Call Today!

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



We Can Help With

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

Supported by the:



Become a Watch Stander with The Fire Watch

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: Ansil Lewis, SgtMaj USMC, ret

Meetings:

First Wednesday of each month

Location:

American Legion Post 250
2608 Black Creek Rd
Middleburg, FL 32068

Time: 1100 (11am)

904-658-0105

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)

DUVAL COUNTY

President

Meetings:

Third Tuesday of each month

Location:

American Legion Post 37
Main Building
San Juan Avenue

Time: 1900 (7 pm)

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

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

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

Send to: rothfeldm@gmail.com



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

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

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

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

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

***The Veterans Council will meet at the Coun-
ty Health & Human Services Building,
200 San Sebastian View
Auditorium, 1st floor***

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

(physical location)

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

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

Service is by appointment.

Phone: 904-209-6160 Fax: 904-209-6161

Joseph D. McDermott Director

Lori Chapman Assistant VSO

Shauna Holton Assistant VSO

Jonathan Rojas Assistant VSO

Jeremy Sapien, Assistant VSO

April Manner Administrative Coordinator

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.