

The Patriot Reader

VETERANS COUNCIL OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY

CHAIRMAN BILL DUDLEY

VICE CHAIRMAN DAN BLACKMAN

SECRETARY GEORGE APRIL

TREASURER GEORGE MCCREA

Visit our Website: www.veteranscouncilofstjohnsco.org



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Special points of interest:

- Premier Issue
- Your comments welcome
- Veterans Links
- Tell us what your organization is doing
- Suggestions?

Please be advised that the Hyperlinks in the Newsletter are not active. To view the links you must copy and paste the link to your Browser.

Message from the Chairman

Welcome to the first edition of our Veterans Council newsletter, *THE PATRIOT READER*. The plan is to publish our newsletter quarterly. The purpose of this publication is to keep our Council members informed of Veteran's events in St. Johns County and to provide a media source for you to share happenings in your organization.

The Veterans Council has had a very exciting and busy period in the past several months with many of our members engaged in various local activities.

On Sept 24th, our annual Veteran's Stand Down was again held at the Elks Lodge and was highly successful. Many Veterans were fed, provided a large selection of clothing, furnished a hot shower and haircut. Our local Veteran's Clinic personnel were on hand to give flu shots as well as register Veterans in the system if required.

On Nov. 6, your Veterans Council in partnership with Florida Veterans Programs & Projects, Inc (FVPP) presented the documentary film, "Prisoners of War- Stolen Freedom".



The film featured 4 POWs from WW II, Korea, and Vietnam. It was an outstanding event by any standard and will long be remembered as one of the premier events honoring our deserving Veterans.

Nov. 10 and Nov. 11 were both dedicated to honoring our Veterans in St. Johns County. The 3rd annual Veterans Day Sunset Celebration at Veterans Park in St. Johns was a huge success with local schools providing patriotic music and BGEN Joseph Balskus our keynote speaker. Lots of great music and free food was available to the nearly 300 hundred who attended. The next day at Francis Field in St. Augustine, our community turned out to honor our WW II veterans along with all veterans who attended. This year's event was probably one of the best ever with re-enactors from the Men of Menendez and the 1740 Spanish Garrison Ancient City Fife and Drum Corps. An added never to be forgotten highlight was the



story of our local hero, Mario Patrino riding a horse across the parade field as his story was told by our emcee, Col. Howard McGillin.

We were again privileged to have BGEN Joseph Balskus as our keynote speaker. General Balskus remarks brought home the message that all Veterans can relate to as they left home to go and serve their country.

On Dec. 21, Allied Veterans of America will again be sponsoring a shopping trip at our local Wal Mart store for underprivileged kids. We need Veteran volunteers to help provide adult supervision and assist the children as they shop for Christmas. If you or someone from your family can assist, please be on hand at 1:30 PM at WalMart.

I encourage all Veterans Council member organizations to submit articles or information you would like to see communicated and shared to our newsletter editor, Mr. Michael Rothfeld. It's a great way for us to share information about our respective organizations.

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



Veterans Corner: SGM Dan Blackman, USA ret.

Dan Blackman is a graduate of the US Army Sergeants Major Academy and retired after 33 1/2 years of service.

Dan is currently the Military Funeral Honors Coordinator for the State of Florida. Dan supervises approximately 200 people state wide, provides training, budget management, quality control, and oversight of the operation for

veterans and their families. He has developed the state's program from a few services per month to more than 450 per month. Dan says that his focus is on quality and professional conduct not quantity.

Dan is a member of the National Guard Enlisted Association (Life Member), Association of the US Army, American Legion

Post 194, Vice Chairman of the Veterans Council of St. Johns County and the Jacksonville National Cemetery Support Committee.



Chase Rescorla Scholarship

The Chase Rescorla Scholarship Fund pays for awarded student's college or trade-school tuition as well as books and other needed educational tools. We are proud of its many Success Stories. In the time since CRSF's establishment in 2005, more than \$30,000 in scholarships have been awarded to top performing high school graduates that were seeking to continue their education.

MARCH 24TH, 2012 SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATION GALA

The 2012 CHASE RESCORLA SCHOLARSHIP FUND award recipients will be recognized for their achievements at the annual presentation dinner to be held at the St. Augustine Elk's Lodge #829, 1420 A1A South, on Saturday, March 24th @ 6:00pm. Following the Reception, our Dinner & Scholarship.

Presentations will be featured beginning at 7:00pm. The Annual Dinner provides an opportunity

for fun, comradery and special recognition of our award recipients and the wonderful contributors who make a difference in our lives.

Leo C. Chase and Rick Rescorla have ties to St. Augustine and both were at the Ia Drang Valley in Vietnam in November 1965.

Please join me for this momentous occasion, 2012 Keynote Speaker

**Ret. Brigadier General
Holsey A. Moorman**



Thursday February 16, 2012

To Arms! Four & One Half Centuries of Military History in St. Augustine.

From its very beginnings, St. Augustine has had a military presence. The town has been shaped by wars, battles, and military campaigns for centuries.

From the soldiers of Menendez and the Fort Mose militia to the Revolutionary, Seminole and Civil Wars, and finally to the modern-day National Guard, 450 years of military history is covered in 100 minutes. Soldier re-enactors recreate historic

moments through vignettes.

This FREE Program is hosted by St. Augustine 450th Military Commemoration Committee (St. Johns County Veterans Council). It will be held at the Flagler College Auditorium.

Jacksonville National Cemetery, Phase 1B Completion Ceremony, Nov. 12, 2011

Medical Service Corps Director and Commander, Navy Medicine Support Command Rear Adm. Eleanor Valentin and NAS Jacksonville Capt. Jeffrey Maclay joined nearly 100 invited guests at the Jacksonville National Cemetery Veterans Day Ceremony and Phase One Completion Celebration Nov. 12.

Valentin said the opportunity to participate in the ceremony served to reaffirm the strong ties the significant military population boasts with the United States' largest geographic population.

"The city of Jacksonville and surrounding communities have always had a wonderful relationship," she said. "Seeing the amount of infrastructure improvements designed to honor the Sailors, Soldiers, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen who served their country further demon-

strates the strong connection the Jacksonville community shares with its military population - those who are currently serving, and those who have served."

The 526-acre National Cemetery is designed to serve veterans' needs for the next century, and with the completion of the facility's Phase 1B plan - which included a new entrance with a wall, new roadways named in honor of local military installations, a memorial walkway, a flag assembly area and additional committal shelters and interment areas - the Jacksonville National Cemetery will serve the approximately 189,000 veterans in the northeastern Florida/southeastern Georgia areas.

U.S. Rep. Ander Crenshaw, a Jacksonville native, along with U.S. Rep. Corrine Brown also attended the event. Crenshaw, a member of

the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, was instrumental in securing funding for the Jacksonville National Cemetery as a prior member of the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Subcommittee.

Capt. Maclay explained that the NAS Jacksonville Honor Support Team performs its duty at Jacksonville National Cemetery, as well as other cemeteries in northeast Florida and southeast Georgia. "Each team member is trained as a flag bearer, rifleman and flag folder." What they do really matters to mourners at burial ceremonies," said Maclay."

Valentin oversees operations at NMSC to provide a single point of accountability for education, training and public health resources for Sailors and Marines.

Ray Quinn was the Master of Ceremonies



Veterans Legislation Update

By Ledyard King
Tallahassee Democrat
Washington Bureau
November 17, 2011

WASHINGTON — Thousands of veterans struggling to find work across the nation will have a better chance to land a job under a measure the House unanimously passed Wednesday. The bill, which the Senate passed earlier, now heads to President Barack Obama for signing. "No veteran who fought for our country should have to fight for a job when they come home," Obama said in a statement after the vote.

The measure will provide tax breaks to companies that hire veterans. It includes a provision authored by Rep. Jeff Miller, R-Chumuckla, that temporarily extends unemployed veterans' eligibility for additional training and

education under the GI bill. It also requires those leaving the military to take classes to help them make the transition to civilian life, aligns state licensing requirements for technical jobs with the skills service members learned in the military, and monitors the performance of retraining programs in placing veterans in appropriate jobs. "Today's victory is only the first step," Miller, chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, said after the vote. He promised to "champion this issue until we reach the final step, when our veterans are out of the unemployment lines and on the path to success."

In a Congress divided by partisan rancor, helping veterans is a cause supported by both parties. The House overwhelmingly passed Miller's bill last month and sent it to the Senate, which added the tax

breaks and sent the revised version back to the House, where it passed 422-0 Wednesday.

Veterans have had an especially tough time finding work after leaving the military. The latest government data shows unemployment among "Gulf War-era II" veterans at 11.7 percent, compared to 9.1 percent for the entire country.

Miller, whose Panhandle district is home to more than 100,000 veterans, said the Veterans' Affairs Committee has used those same funding sources in the past to expand other veterans benefits.

Veterans groups say they support the bill despite how it would be financed, because jobs are so important to their members. As many as 1 million veterans are estimated to be unemployed.



Who is eligible for Military Funeral Honors?

- Military members on active duty or in the Selected Reserve (National Guard or Army Reserves).
- Former military members who served on active duty and departed under conditions other than dishonorable.
- Former military members who completed at least one term of enlistment or period of initial obligated service in the Selected Reserve and departed under conditions other than dishonorable.



How do I establish Veterans eligibility?

- The preferred method is to provide a copy the DD Form 214, NGB Form 22, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty. If the DD Form 214 is not available, any discharge document showing other than dishonorable service can be used. The DD Form 214 may be obtained by filling out a Standard Form 180 and sending it to: National Personnel Records Center 9700 Page Blvd. St. Louis, MO 63132 Phone: (314) 801-0800 FAX: (314) 801-9201

Who can request Military Funeral Honors?

Any next of kin or funeral home can request Military Funeral Honors
Funeral Honors Team makeup:
Veteran service – Two person team
Retired service – 6-9 person team

Who should they contact?

Army (912) 767-6325; Navy (904) 542-4008; Air Force (229) 257-4142
USMC (866) 826-3628; Coast Guard (305) 535-4326

Who is eligible to be placed in a VA National Cemeteries?

Call (800) 535-1117 / Fax (866) 900-6417

For additional questions call: SGM (Ret) Daniel Blackman (904) 823-0630



The St. Johns County Public Library System is pleased to announce Unbroken: a World War II story of survival, resilience, and redemption by Laura Hillenbrand as the chosen title for 2012 St. Johns Reads. Hillenbrand tells the story of Olympic runner Louis Zamperini who was a Prisoner of War in Japan for over two and a half years. She captures Louie's spirit as a child growing up in California, and as a young man fighting for his life during World War II. Louie's war does not end upon his return home, but through his salvation he is able to forgive those that hurt him. Please join us for related programming during the month of February, culminating with a "Welcome Home" dance at the COA Riverhouse in downtown St. Augustine on Sunday, February 26th from 2pm-5pm. Please visit our website at www.sjcpls.org or contact us at 904-827-6925 for programming information.



NEWS RELEASE

**Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs Executive Director
Mike Prendergast names Al Carter as Chief of Staff**



LARGO, Fla. – FDVA Executive Director Mike Prendergast today named retired Army Colonel Alfred D. “Al” Carter as Chief of Staff of the Florida Department of Veterans’ Affairs. Carter, a combat veteran of Afghanistan and Iraq, retired in October 2011 after 28 years of military service.

“Al is an exceptional leader and outstanding patriot who distinguished himself through selfless devotion to duty in peace and war,” said Mike Prendergast, FDVA’s Executive Director. “He’s a superb choice to advocate for our state’s more than 1.6 million veterans, their families and survivors.”

The chief of staff serves as deputy executive director and provides operational and administrative oversight of the department.

“I am extremely proud and honored to join the dedicated men and women of the FDVA team”, said Al Carter, incoming Chief of Staff. “It’s no surprise that Florida is the most veteran-friendly state in the nation. Serving our state’s veterans is an honor and privilege.”

Colonel Carter’s key assignments have included Deputy Chief of Staff, Provost Marshal, U.S. Army South, Fort Sam Houston, Texas; Director, Joint Security Office (Forward), and Deputy Chief of Staff (FWD) United States Central Command (USCENTCOM), Qatar; Director, Security Directorate, USCENTCOM, Tampa, Commander, 795th MP Battalion, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri; Deputy Inspector and Inspector General, XVIII Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Executive and Operations Officer, 19th Military Police Battalion (CID), Korea, and Headquarters’ Commandant and Chief, Plans Branch, U.S. Army Criminal Investigations Command, Fort Belvoir, Virginia. Additionally, he commanded three separate Company sized elements. His combat tour locations include Qatar, Afghanistan and Iraq.

During his final assignment as Deputy Chief of Staff, Provost Marshal, U.S. Army South, he deployed to Haiti in January 2010 following its devastating earthquake. In this capacity, he served as chief of staff for a 250+ member Joint Task Force providing relief support to the people of Haiti.

He is married to retired Army Lieutenant Colonel Marlene Carter. They have two daughters, Kala and Maia.

For more information on FDVA, visit: www.FloridaVets.org



**Veterans Day 2011
Honoring WW II Veterans**



Compliance Made Simple



Exempt Organizations have special benefits, but also must meet specific requirements to retain these benefits and not be taxed.

After earning their status as a Charity or a Veterans' Organization (known as §501(c) organizations) donations are deductible from federal taxable income; this includes dues of \$75 or less paid to Veterans' organizations where the Veterans' organization provides only token benefits).

However, your organization has some additional filing responsibilities to retain these benefits. The following appear in an order applicable to more exempt organizations first. Those less-likely to be applicable are lower in this compilation.

IRS Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax

Annually, between January 1 and May 15, file a form from the **990** family with the Internal Revenue Service. Annual gross receipts include not only donations but also gross revenues from events. are normally \$50,000 or less, **Form 990-N** may be filed on-line, otherwise Form 990 (or 990 EZ).

Gross Receipts	File Form
\$50,000 or less	990-N online
\$200,000 or less, with total assets <\$500,000	990-EZ
All others	990

Florida Solicitation of Contributions

Annually, on or before the anniversary of your organization's last filing, any organization soliciting donations from the public (i.e., not solely from your members) must renew its' Florida Solicitation of Contributions Registration by completing **Consumer Affairs Form 10100** (<http://www.800helpfla.com/socbus.html>). To find your anniversary date, enter your organization's name or license number at <https://csapp.800helpfla.com/cspublicapp/giftgiversquery/giftgiversquery.aspx>.

Florida Corporate Annual Report

Annually, between January 1 and April 30, file an **annual report** with the Florida Secretary of State (www.sunbiz.org) by corporations, including not-for-profits.

Fictitious Name Registration

Every five years, by December 31, renew a fictitious name registration (required of unincorporated entities and those other entities that use fictitious names) with the Florida Secretary of State (www.sunbiz.org).

Sales Tax on Unrelated Business Income

If your organization collects and remits sales taxes on unrelated business income, or has payroll, there are other, mostly monthly, federal and Florida filing obligations for these trust funds; significant penalties (both on the organization and persons in control) may be imposed for failure to file or to remit these trust funds promptly.

If your organization hosts an event where alcoholic beverages will be sold, the organization must apply for a ODP (one, two or three-day permit), collect and remit sales taxes. Such events can be obtained for a continuous period not to exceed three days, and not more than three events per calendar year, by filing **Form ABT-6003** (\$25) fee. This form requires Florida Dept. of Revenue concurrence. https://www.myfloridalicense.com/CheckListDetail.asp?SID=&xactCode=1030&clientCode=4002&XACT_DEFN_ID=6770. Further, purchase of a commercial liability policy is highly recommended. If you do not apply sufficiently in advance of the event, personal travel to two (possibly three) agencies in Duval County may be required.

Reporting of Remittances & Reimbursements

During the calendar year, you must track interest payments, miscellaneous amounts paid to unincorporated entities (including individuals), and any amounts paid to attorneys (whether incorporated or not) and certain other payees. After year-end, total the amounts paid to each entity. If those amounts exceed IRS thresholds (most often \$600, but zero for attorneys), you must prepare a **Form 1099** (there are many different forms in this family) for each recipient and provide appropriate copies by January 31. You must prepare both

Forms 1099 and 1096 for filing with the IRS. For more information, please go to <http://www.irs.gov/efile/article/0,,id=98114,00.html>



Employment Taxes

If you have payroll, make deposits of withholding trust fund employment taxes quarterly or more frequently, and file federal employment tax forms on **IRS Forms 941** (there is no Florida income tax on wages); and unemployment taxes on **IRS Form 940** and **Florida Form UCT-6**. Filings dates are April 30, July 31, October 31 and January 31 for the quarters ended one month previously. Deposits must be made by the 15th of those months, or more frequently if significant. After year-end, you must prepare and file **IRS Forms W-2** to the employee (by January 31) and to the Social Security Administration (by February 28). For more information, please review IRS Publication 15 (also known as Circular E), Employer's Tax Guide, which may be found at <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p15.pdf> and Florida Unemployment Taxes at http://dor.myflorida.com/dor/taxes/unemploy_comp_law.html.

When you hire an employee, you must report certain information about that employee within 20 days. Use **DHS Form I-9** to collect this information; go to <https://newhire.state.fl.us/fl-newhire/> to report the required information.

If you provide pension or certain other employee benefits you (or your benefit plan provider) must file **Form 5500** annually with the U.S. Department of Labor, electronically. For more information, and filing instructions, please go to <http://www.efast.dol.gov/welcome.html>.

What if I Haven't Filed?

Unlike Monopoly's "Go to Jail! Do Not Collect \$200" this can be quite serious.

In the real world, you can reinstate the exempt organization's §501(c) status by filing a current, accurate **Form 990** and paying a fee of as little as \$100.

Filing a current, accurate **Form 10100** reinstates the Solicitation of Contributions authorization, but the organization will incur a penalty of at least \$25 per month.

Reinstating a lapsed corporation that is an exempt entity requires only filing the correct information—the Florida Secretary of State does not penalize charities.

There are significant financial penalties for failure to file employment, information or sales tax forms or to remit taxes timely. These can apply both the exempt organization and to the officers.

If you still have questions after reviewing the above and the references, you may wish to call John Mountcastle, a Veteran, who may be able to clarify your situation and provide guidance in becoming compliant.

His email is john_mountcastle@yahoo.com This information is offered as a guide only.

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.

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, veterans related and 200 words or less. Submissions may be edited &/or shortened and used if space permits.

Send to: mrothfeld@anyveteran.org



Veterans Park, St. Johns

Important Online Veterans Links:

WWW.FloridaVeteransFoundation.org

WWW.FloridaVets.org

WWW.myflorida.com/agency/49/

WWW.maketheconnection.net

Photographs by Rick Rees and Michael Rothfeld

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 Veterans 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 Veterans 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 at the Elks Lodge, 1420 A1A So., St. Augustine.

Visit our Website: www.veteranscouncilofstjohnsco.org

Veterans Service Office
1955 US 1 South, Suite 550
St. Augustine, FL 32086

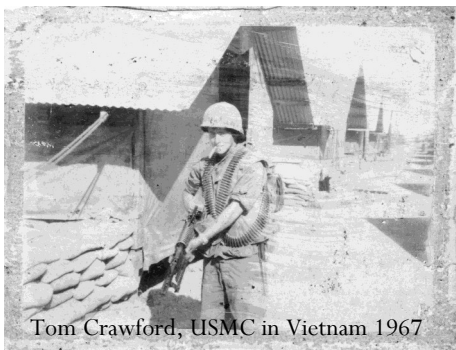
(physical location)

The VSO Office is located in the St. Johns County Health and Human Services complex, behind the VA Clinic.

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

Service is by appointment.
Phone: 904-209-6160 Fax: 904-209-6161
Joseph McDermott, CVSO
Rick Rees, Assistant VSO
Heather Andrews, Assistant VSO
Tammy Shirley, Office Specialist

Then and Now, 1967 and 2011



This picture was taken in Phu Bai when I was with the 2nd Battalion, 26th Marines. Later I was transferred to the Combined Action Group at CAP Hotel-6, midway between Da Nang and Phu Bai

Today, Tom Crawford, is Director of St. Johns County Housing and Community Services

