

The Patriot Reader

VETERANS COUNCIL OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY

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Newsletter Editor Michael Rothfeld



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Message from the Chairman

Dear Fellow Veterans,

This month's *The Patriot Reader* newsletter is one of our best editions yet with many of our Veteran organizations contributing stories and events. Our editor, Michael Rothfeld works very hard to make this an informative media source for all our Veterans.

Beginning this month, Michael is increasing the frequency of our newsletter to a monthly edition so please get those stories, upcoming events, and action reports into Michael as soon as possible.

On Wednesday, Sept 5th, Dan Blackman, Joe McDermott, Michael Rothfeld,

and myself met with Charlene Beymer and Wendi Guyer at the Northeast Florida Community Hospice Center to present them with a set of National Guard flags. Several weeks ago when Mac and I were touring the Hospice Center, Ms. Guyer informed us that the Hospice Center had flags from all military branches except the National Guard. Intending to correct this situation, we immediately ordered 6 flags after obtaining Board approval and presented the flags on Sept 5.

I can not overstate the kindness and compassion our Community Hospice personnel provide to our Veterans and others in their end-of-life needs. They have trained staff who minister to the special care of Veterans whose end-of-life needs are usually very unique.

Community Hospice has established a Community Hospice Veterans Partnership (CHVP) program to reach out to Veterans



through 1) Outreach, 2) The Veterans History Project, and 3) Speaking Opportunities. This is an essential program for our elderly Veterans in our area.

Don't forget about our upcoming Veterans Day event coming up in November. This year we will recognize this important day on Nov. 12 at Francis Field in downtown St. Augustine. RADM Sinclair Harris, Commander, US Naval Forces Southern Command and U.S. Fourth Fleet, NS Mayport will be our keynote speaker. There are lots of other very special organizations that will be on hand to help us honor our Veterans, both past and present. Please plan to join us and bring your family and friends.

Bill Dudley, Chairman

St. Johns County
Veterans Council

Special Points of Interest

- Korean POW Speaks
- USMC Birthday Celebration
- Semper Fidelis Society
- Wreaths Across America
- SGM Ray Quinn, ret., USA
- Father Capodanno
- Haven Hospice Honors Veterans
- Filipino American Veterans Society



Joe McDermott, Charlene Beymer, Bill Dudley, Wendi Guyer & Dan Blackman presenting the Army National Guard flag to the Hospice Center

Wreaths Across America project thanks you. We continue to grow in the number of Wreaths collected each month. To date our most significant contribution has come from The Vietnam Vets-Legacy Motor Cycle Club. The chapter is located here in St. Augustine, FL and this chapter is as Chapter "N" of St. Johns County and the Chapter president is known as "Flip Flop". The Wreaths Across America project is one of their many annual undertaking. This year the chapter presented a check for \$1600.00 that will purchase more that 107 Wreaths.



My sincere thanks and appreciation for the Chapters leadership in this years contribution for 2012 WAA project. At this time we have collected 773 Wreaths toward or 1214, we need 441 to place a evergreen Wreath on every grave, marker and head stone in the St. Augustine National Cemetery on 15 December 2012 at noon. We have several potential donors that have committed to supporting this project to completion. Every donation counts, for those that have donated one to one hundred wreaths I truly thank you as no donation is too small.

If you have questions please call (904) 669-6423. Dan Blackman



The Florida National Guard Foundation will be traveling to Cary, North Carolina the first week in October to accept a check from the Pantry Organization. The Kangaroo Express convenient store chain every year holds a Salute to Troops Campaign from Memorial Day to Labor Day. The store donates all the profits from this fundraiser to different organizations in the 5 states, Wounded Warrior, USO and in Florida, the Florida National Guard Foundation. The Foundation receives 30% of the funds raised in this state. In turn, these funds help the Foundation to support over 12,000 men and women of the Florida National Guard. Currently the Foundation is working with the family of a paralyzed Soldier in hopes of securing a vehicle that will accommodate a wheelchair.



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Howard O. McGillin, Jr.
Colonel, US Army (Retired)
Attorney and Civil Mediator

**Fairbanks & McGillin PL Attorneys
and Counselors at Law**

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A TRIBUTE

Saturday Sept 8 was a very special day for Nancy and I. We were in Tampa, Florida to attend a Tribute Dinner to me for my past years of service to the Navy League as President of the Florida Region. The dinner was attended by Navy League members and their guests from all over the state.

The venue for the evening event was the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Tampa. The local Tampa Council Sea Cadets opened the evening gala with the presentation of the colors and the National Anthem sung by Nicole Desrosiers. The invocation was given by CDR. Gail Ryan, Commander, NSCC, Tampa.

The evenings tribute included a bit of a roasting for the evenings tributee including a song composed by Skip Witunski, my replacement as Region President and sung by Diane Wright and Chris Paddock to the tune of "Bill Bailey Won't You Please Come Home." Hilarious hardly describes their skit. There was also an empty chair skit that added to the evenings entertainment.

On the more serious side was a video presentation from Admiral Eric Olson, USN (Ret), RADM Jack Scorby, Commander, Navy Southeast Region, and CDR. H.B.Le, former Commanding Officer, USS Lassen and the namesake of our Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home. Also several of my Region President colleagues from around the country called in and spoke over the speaker system and paid their respects. It was a touching moment and I must admit to getting a big lump in my throat at the tribute paid by Admiral Jack Scorby whom I have worked with for many years and I consider a personal friend.

I was presented with several gifts at the evenings tribute dinner, one being a large painting by renowned artist Dean Mosher of "The Battle of Flamborough Head" in the epic battle engagement of John Paul Jones who rendered his famous saying, "I have just begun to fight" when asked to surrender his ship.

Several of my colleagues from around the state spoke including our Past National President Mr. Mike McGrath and Past National Vice President Ms. Pat Du Mont.

It was a memorable evening and I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to have served as the Florida Region President with so many true patriots in such a great organization as the Navy League of the United States.

On Thursday evening, Sept 13 at a mixer at St. Francis Barracks Officers Club, my home Council presented me with a painting from our local artist, John Shaw of a flight of returning WW II Corsairs returning to our shores as they fly by the Golden Gate Bridge. The painting is entitled, *The Homecoming*. I was completely surprised by this gift and by the honor paid by the members of the St. Augustine Navy League Council who attended the evenings event.

Bill Dudley



Bill Dudley



Jose Gutierrez, Bill Dudley,
Chris Paddock, Skip Witunski



Bill Dudley



Bill Dudley & Michael Zollar



Hello everyone,

Our first meeting of our Jacksonville National Cemetery Support Committee was informative with a lot of business pertaining to our ongoing mission and the future work of our ongoing projects. I hope that everyone has had a great summer with good health and happiness. As



Chairman Dan Hughes

our meeting dates are set and your ongoing attendance and support is very important to the committee and the work that is set before us to be accomplished. Our National Cemetery is growing and your ideas and support is always welcome. Let me give you an update on three of our most important projects.

Our Carillon Bell foundation funds are moving along. We have received commitments of materials. Some of the materials on our list will be donated and what is not donated will be funded. At this time we are getting close to construction. The Carillon Bell will add beauty as well as tranquility to our National Cemetery.

Our next project to update you on is the new road from I-95. At this time it is moving slow. I do want to say that every week I communicate with Washington, D.C. pertaining to the status of the funds to build the road. I see nothing happening on this project until after the November elections. The State Department of Transportation will receive the funds when they are released and at that time they will move forward with construction.

Our last big project is our Veterans Memorial Center. At this time we are at a standstill. We are waiting for Congress to introduce a new E.U.L. Law which pertains to leasing of public buildings and lands. The law is being re-written and introduced into Congress for passage. Our lease of the land at the National Cemetery was among 29 other projects throughout the country when the law expired. We continue to communicate with our legislators in order to move this law to passage through Congress.

In closing we welcome your input and/or ideas on how we can better serve our National Cemetery and veterans as we move forward.

Yours through veterans,



400 N. Ponce de Leon Blvd.—St. Augustine, FL 32084-3587

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New Benefits for Veterans



First Coast Technical College announces unemployed veterans may qualify for additional career and technical education benefits to assist in training at FCTC's St. Augustine and Palatka campuses.

The **Vow to Hire Heroes Act** passed in 2011 includes the new **Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP)**. This tuition assistance program is for veterans who are unemployed and not eligible for other VA educational benefits.

Participating veterans may receive up to 12 months of assistance. FCTC's financial aid office encourages area veterans to learn more about these great benefits. Go to:

www.benefits.va.gov.WOW or

www.fctc.edu - click on admissions, financial aid, then military/VA educational benefits.

For your information, here is our webpage for Veterans, which you can refer to at any time: http://fctc.edu/?page_id=1452 We always post updates & news there as well as our Facebook page here: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Saint-Augustine-FL/FCTC-Financial-Aid-Office/143040109062530#!>.

FCTC's Financial Aid Office is available to assist you, Veterans, and their families. Our contact details are below.

For your information, here are links to our most recent news items for Veterans on our Facebook pages:

http://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10151045558148267&set=a.408531553266.183749.178288393266&type=1&relevant_count=1

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http://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=447884811911390&set=a.143545575678650.18339.143040109062530&type=1&relevant_count=1

FCTC Financial Aid Office × Fax 904.547.3506 | Ms. Pelletier × Phone 904.547.3511 × rebecca.pelletier@fctc.edu | Ms. Raburn × Phone 904.547.3512 × von.raburn@fctc.edu

www.VeteransIsland.com

Welcome to Florida's Veterans Island! - Doesn't that Name sound WONDERFUL !!

The name “Veterans Island” will be a Salute to all Active, Retired, and Former Military Personnel in the State of Florida and the United States of America and those who died, defending our Country.

The island that is being named, is a 37 mile stretch of Barrier Island, stretching from

Naval Station Mayport, south to Porpoise Point. (The Navy at Mayport covers 3,409 acres and is the third largest Naval Facility in the continental United States)

Included on the Barrier Island is Mayport Beach, Atlantic Beach, Neptune Beach, Jacksonville Beach, Ponte Vedra Beach (PGA Tour Headquarters), North Beach, Vilano Beach, and Porpoise Point.

This Barrier Island doesn't have a name yet.

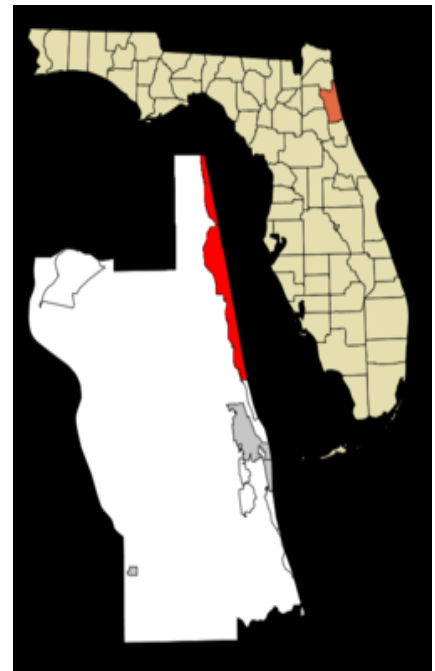
Please push for the name "Veterans Island"

This will be the last chance to do this - ...EVER In America!!

Let's make sure it gets a Proud Name and a name that reflects on the MILLIONS of America's Veterans.

Note: We already have several area streets & a school, and other places named San Pablo.

Let's do something FOR AMERICA !



Proposed Veterans Island in **RED**

Please eMail the St. Johns County Commissioners:

Cyndi Stevenson - District 1 bccd1@sjcfl.us

Ron Sanches - District 2 bccd2@sjcfl.us

Bill McClure - District 3 bccd3@sjcfl.us

Jay Morris - District 4 bccd4@sjcfl.us

Ken Bryan - District 5 bccd5@sjcfl.us

Please write to Florida Governor Rick Scott

Governor Rick Scott 400 S Monroe St, Tallahassee, FL 32399, (850) 488-7146

Please write to the State of Florida Senators & Representative

Senator Bill Nelson

716 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON DC 20510

(202) 224-5274

Senator Marco Rubio

317 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON DC 20510

(202) 224-3041

Representative John Mica - 7th District

2187 Rayburn HOB

Washington DC 20515-0907

(202) 225-4035

Number of Veterans in the Nation 23 Million *

Number of Veterans in Florida: 1,683,899 *

Number of Veterans in St. Johns County 17,845 *

~ Totals from the Veterans Administration in 2010 ~

A total of 1,346,000 Veterans gave their lives for this Country - 1775 to Present

Thanking You In Advance,

A. J. Sartin

403 17th Street , St. Augustine, FL 32084

(904) 824-3833

Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans' Nursing Home honors two Former Prisoners of War (POW)



In 1979, the United States Congress passed a resolution authorizing the national recognition of Prisoners of War (POWs) and those still missing in action (MIA). July 18th was the first National POW/MIA Recognition Day; it has been observed the third Friday of September since 1986. For many of us, this day passes unknown. Many of us may see a quick story about POWs or MIAs on the news. Most of us will feel a moment of sadness or a feeling of relief that we or those we loved have not been affected. But for some, the day is much more than just a “day of recognition”. Some may reflect back on their own personal experiences as POWs and still others may not want to remember or observe that day at all. Two veterans living at the Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans' Nursing Home may fall into this last category.



Art Kolke

On Tuesday, September 18, 2012, Arthur “Art” Kolke sat down and relayed his personal story as a WWII POW. In December of 1941, Art was serving his country in the Army National Guard. The attack on Pearl Harbor occurred and like many others, Art found himself being federalized. After some initial training, he was first sent to the North Pacific then to Southern France. As a member of the newly reactivated 42nd Rainbow Division, he was sent closer and closer to the front lines near Germany. When his division arrived in Baden Baden, the German military made a big push and Art was captured. Although Baden Baden is now known as a spa town, it was anything but during World War II. It was the first POW camp in which Art struggled to survive. The prisoners were taken from camp to camp using different transportation methods. Hands and feet were frozen in the dead of winter when on a march from Baden Baden to Ludwigsburg. Art and his fellow servicemen rode a train to Hammelburg only to have U.S. planes bomb the train, not realizing who it carried. After time spent in yet another camp, Mooseburg, the rumor mill started whispering that “something big” was going to happen. Art, who was working in these camps as an English/German interpreter, was also hearing rumors. Sure enough, Art looked up one day and saw the U.S. ground forces coming to liberate. He and his fellow POWs were re-patriated and sent to hospitals in France. After serving several more months in California, Art was discharged from the Army on December 20th, 1945. He married, Norma, the love of his

life, just 5 days after discharge.

Our Veterans' Nursing Home is also honored to have another former POW. Mr. Edward Roser was serving his country as a B-24 tail gunner in the Air Force when his plane was shot down over Germany. Mr. Roser's son, Richard, stated his father has "never spoken one single word to me or to my mother about his time as a POW". He would also "never go into a VFW". You see, Mr. Roser spent ten months in Stalag Luft IV in what was then Prussia. Because his father never spoke of his experiences, Richard did his own research about this camp.



Edward Roser

It is the camp least written about and the only POW camp run by the SS. He found that there are still families looking for information on loved ones rumored to have been in Stalag Luft IV. As if that wasn't enough, at some point, Mr. Roser also spent two months in the Philippines as part of the Bataan Death March.

This year on Friday, September 21, the residents and staff at Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans' Nursing Home will be honoring all POW/MIAs. We will pay special attention to those former POWs who live here, who are a living part of our nation's history and who are a part of our daily lives. As part of our recognition, we will be viewing a locally produced film that documents the experiences of four local POWs. Although the experiences of our two residents were not highlighted in the film, we will honor them and the rest of our residents with a special pin and recognition ceremony. The POW/MIA pins were graciously donated by Judy Davis, Commander DAV Chapter 6.

The POW documentary, *Stolen Freedom*, produced by local Not for Profit, Florida Veterans Programs & Projects, Inc. was broadcast on Friday September 21, National POW/MIA Day on the Pentagon Channel. The Pentagon Channel has over 20 million

viewers. It features the stories of four Florida veterans, Bill Ingram (WW II), Richard Bassett (Korean War), Dr. Hal Kushner and Capt. Giles Norrington (Vietnam War). Harry Manford provided voice over and historical background, it was produced by Michael Rothfeld and directed by Eric Flagg. The POW documentary was supported by Allied Veterans who provided the funding and Rolling Thunder Florida, and FL Chapters 4 & 3 who paid for distribution and copies.



Drawing by Capt. G. Norrington

“Prisoners of War: Stolen Freedom”

by Harry Manford



eptember 21st is National POW/MIA Recognition Day, and as such, the veterans and staff of the Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans’ Nursing Home were given a personal viewing of the film “Prisoners of War: Stolen Freedom” on September 21st. The film, produced by Florida Veterans Programs and Projects, Inc., shows individual, unique interviews of four local POWs over the span of three wars; WW II, Korea, and Vietnam. During captivity, each of these men had one goal in mind, **“stay alive.”**

The veterans at this fine new nursing home were graciously hosted by Ms. Diane King, Administrator, and Ms. Leigh DeVane, Therapy Aide Supervisor. In attendance were twenty five (25) veterans, one of which, Mr. Arthur Kolke, was a WW II Prisoner of War. The nursing home has one other known POW, Mr. Edward Roser, also a WW II POW. Unfortunately, Mr. Roser could not attend.

Both Mr. Kolke and Mr. Roser were captured in Germany. Mr. Kolke nearly had his hands and feet frozen walking from one POW camp to another. Mr. Rosen spent time in Stalag Luft IV which was run by the German SS. Obviously Rosen’s experience was so traumatic as his son Richard stated his father has “never spoken one single word to me or to my mother” about his time as a POW.

On a side note, one of the men featured in the film, Mr. Richard Bassett, a Korean POW, after honorable discharge from the US Army became a St. Augustine High School US history teacher. He taught there for 25 years. Ms. Leigh DeVane announced that Mr. Bassett was her history teacher while a student at St. Augustine High. It is indeed a small world.

The experiences of the four men featured in the film are a first hand demonstration of courage, perseverance, and duty to our Nation. We are fortunate to have captured this on film to educate others of their horrible ordeals. Should any organization wish to have the film shown to their group, please contact either Michael Rothfeld (904-829-0381) or Harry Manford (904-827-1573) to make arrangements. It will be memorable.

House approves new Stolen Valor bill

By [STEPHANIE GASKELL](#) | 9/13/12 5:22 PM EDT

Congress is a step closer to closing a loophole in a law struck down by the Supreme Court this summer that made it a crime to lie about being a military hero.



A revised Stolen Valor Act overwhelmingly passed the House on Thursday, 410-3. It would make it illegal for a person to benefit from lying about being awarded military medals, including the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest award for valor in combat.

The Supreme Court ruled in June that the legislation passed in 2006 was over-reaching and that lying about military service protected by the First Amendment.

The case was brought by lawyers for Xavier Alvarez, a California water district board official who claimed he had received the Medal of Honor. In fact, he had never even served in the military. He was fined \$5,000 and sentenced to three years of probation. His lawyers challenged the conviction, arguing that his lies were protected free speech and not criminal.

"Although there are many statutes and common-law doctrines making the utterance of certain kinds of false statements unlawful, they tend to be narrower than the [Stolen Valor] Act," wrote Justice Anthony Kennedy in the 6-3 decision. "The act lacks any such limiting features."

"The act nonetheless has substantial justification," Kennedy continued. "It seeks to protect the interests of those who have sacrificed their health and life for their country by seeking to preserve intact the country's recognition of that sacrifice in the form of military honors. It may, however, be possible substantially to achieve the government's objective in less burdensome ways."

Rep. Joe Heck (R-Nev.) and Sen. Scott Brown (R-Mass.) heeded that advice and quickly introduced a more narrow version of the Stolen Valor Act, this time specifying that it be illegal not just to lie about military service, but to benefit from it.

"This is exactly what my legislation does," said Heck, who is also a colonel in the Army Reserve. "The Stolen Valor Act of 2011 resolves these constitutional issues by clearly defining that the objective the law is to target and punish those who misrepresent their alleged service with the intent of profiting personally or financially." "Defining the intent helps ensure that this law will pass constitutional scrutiny while at the same time achieving its primary objective which is to preserve and protect the honor and integrity of military service and awards," Heck said.

The Senate version of the bill has stalled. Brown and Sen. Jim Webb (D-Va.) told POLITICO they hope to reintroduce it in the Senate soon.

"Just as we recognize the extraordinary actions of our military heroes, we cannot allow thieves and fraudsters to profit by falsely claiming the distinctions our heroes have earned," said Brown, a colonel in the Army National Guard. "I will continue working in a bipartisan way to see this bill through the Senate, and I am hopeful we will act quickly so that President [Barack] Obama can sign the new Stolen Valor Act into law as soon as possible."

Read more: <http://www.politico.com/news/stories/0912/81185.html#ixzz26SH1IfEb>

***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: mrothfeld@anyveteran.org



**St. Augustine Foot Soldiers
Monument**

Important Online Veterans Links:

Vietnam War Commemoration
<http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/>

The Pentagon Channel
www.pentagonchannel.mil/

WW II Veterans website
<http://ww2.vet.org/>

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

**Visit our Website: www.veteranscouncilofstjohns.org
(please note the NEW web address)**

**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*

The locally produced *Vietnam documentary, Service, Sacrifice and Courage* has received 70,869 views to date on YouTube.

You can view part of it at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H8Cs6Th7Vnc>



Florida Veterans Programs & Projects, Inc. in association with Rolling Thunder Florida are making available free copies of its "Prisoners of War: Stolen Freedom" documentary to all Veterans Groups. Just contact Michael at: 904-829-0381 or mrothfeld@AnyVeteran.org and I will mail them or meet you to give you as many free copies as you need. Our goal is to have as many people see the documentary as possible.

Below is the review of the POW documentary produced by Florida Veterans Programs & Projects, Inc. The review by Dr. Alice A. Booher and appeared in the AX-POW Bulletin, the official voice of the American ex Prisoners of War. The full bulletin can be seen at: <http://www.axpow.org/files/bulletins/sep-oct12.pdf>

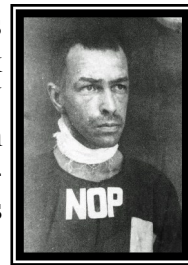
Stolen Freedom Re-Captured in Film

by Alice A. Booher

Those who attended the recent 2012 American Ex-POW Convention were able to view a DVD “played on a loop” in the hospitality Suite of an extraordinary POW documentary “Prisoners of War: Stolen Freedom”, featuring four former POWs: CPO William Ingram, USN; Cpl Richard Bassett, USA; COL Hal Kushner, USA and CAPT Giles Norrington, USN. The film has been widely shown throughout Florida, its state of origin, and on some PBS stations and at veterans’ meetings, but will hopefully now be seen nationwide to great acclaim. [At Convention, it shared the “loop” with “The Tragedy of Bataan”, a documentary by Jan Thompson whose father was a POW, and narrated by Alex Baldwin.] The 45 minute long documentary may be one of the best made to include three wars, four men and what the sub-header sums up as “One Mission: Stay Alive”. Credit must be given to the Director, Eric Flagg, and to the producer and cheerleader, Michael Rothfeld, the latter of whom graciously made another copy of the DVD available to the AxPOW Convention when the first one went missing, and to many other interested parties for wider distribution and educational viewing.

There has long been abundant available footage of war, including some showing POWs being taken prisoner, in captivity, and during repatriations. But more than any other prior film, Stolen Freedom’s programmers must have gone through hundreds of hours of film, because they have exquisitely isolated the exact moments of appropriate footage from which to illustrate the actions or circumstances actually discussed by the respective POWs. It is almost surreal to see the very raw

footage taken on one of dozens of buses during Operation Homecoming, at Clark Air Base, when Giles Norrington’s POW bracelet is handed through the window on a rolled paper on his exact bus. The technique and unique skill with which this marriage of film and text has been precisely implemented lends ultimate credibility to the entire process. The well edited content and articulate responses by the four POWs are utterly compelling but never overextended. The men are seated in a professional but relaxed fashion, and tell their stories in straight-forward but never dispassionate words that may have been modestly scripted for conciseness, but if so, the content was clearly from the hearts and minds of the men themselves. With the benefit of hindsight and a good deal of time on which to reflect on their respective experiences, their observations and insights, sometimes stated with pithy idiom, are simply extraordinary.



Giles Norrington



Bill Ingram

It is also rewarding to see demonstrated evidence that all four men returned with resilience to full and meaningful post-captivity lives and works. Ingram, taken POW when the Japanese sunk the USS HOUSTON in March 1942, worked on the railroad project to build the Bridge on the River Kwai in Thailand for 3 ½ years. On repatriation, he discovered his brother had also been a POW. Bassett was held during the bitter winter of 1950-1951 in the North Korean POW Camp 5. He later taught high school history for 20 years. Kushner, a surgeon and sole survivor of his helicopter crash, was befriended by a farmer who betrayed him to the Viet Cong after feeding him. Moved from camp to camp for 5 1/2 years, he ended up in the Hanoi Hilton. He returned to active practice. Norrington, shot down during a bombing mission in May 1968, and severely injured, was held in isolation until moved where two cellmates could help him address basic human needs, and then into a large room with 56 other navigators and pilots during his nearly 5 years captivity. He returned to active work with civilian and military communities including AIDS awareness and Red Cross.

The inside covers of the DVD generously reproduce some of Norrington’s 32 pen and ink drawings of captivity. Stolen Freedom is a well spent reflective use of time for everyone, even those who are already too painfully aware of the POW experience.



The Florida National Guard

Maj. Gen. Emmett R. Titshaw Jr., Adjutant General of Florida

Joint Force Headquarters - Florida, Leadership Announcement

Brigadier General Joseph G. Balskus selected for Promotion to Major General and Military Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff, Strategic Plans and Programs, Headquarters, United States Air Force

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla. (29 August 2012) - Major General Emmett R. Titshaw, Jr., Adjutant General of Florida, is pleased to announce that Brigadier General Joseph G. Balskus, Assistant Adjutant General-Air, has been selected for Military Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff, Strategic Plans and Programs, Headquarters, United States Air Force. Concurrent with his assignment, he will be promoted to the rank of Major General.

"We are proud of the accomplishments of Brigadier General Balskus and his selection for this critical assignment," said Major General Titshaw. "General Balskus' extensive experience at the joint level; his broad-based expertise in strategy, policy, and strategic planning; and his mature leadership make him the ideal candidate for this demanding position."

Brigadier General Balskus has served as the Assistant Adjutant General-Air and Commander of the Florida Air National Guard since 2006. Prior to this assignment, General Balskus served as Chief of Staff, Headquarters, Florida Air National Guard from 2001. Brigadier General Balskus received his commission as a second lieutenant in February 1980 and was the recipient of the Distinguished Graduate Award in Officer Training School. General Balskus has served in a variety of key command and staff assignments including, Deputy Director of Operations, 726th Tactical Control Squadron, Homestead Air Force Base; Commander, 125th Logistics Squadron; and the Support Group Commander, Florida Air National Guard.

Brigadier General Balskus has a Bachelors Degree and a Masters Degree of Science from Eastern Illinois University. He is also a graduate of the United States Air War College; Joint Task Force Commander Course; and, John F. Kennedy School, Harvard University, Senior Executives in International Security.

General Balskus' many awards include the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal (with three Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters); Air Force Commendation Medal (with one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster); Air Force Achievement Medal; Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (with four Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters); Air Force Organizational Excellence Award; and the Combat Readiness Medal.

Brigadier General Balskus and his wife, Lisa, live in Jacksonville, Florida. They have a son, Brandon, and two daughters, Brittany and Courtney.



Chairman Bill Dudley with General Balskus



Rolling Thunder FL Chapter 4 and Rolling Thunder FL Chairman Moe Moyer invited my wife Carol and I to join their annual **Ride Home 2012** Program in Americus, GA which is about 15 minutes from Andersonville. We wish to thank Moe, Mitch (FL 4 President), Bill Day (FL 4 Vice President) and his lovely wife Sandy for their hospitality and for inviting us to a most memorable, emotional and well deserved tribute to our heroic POWs and to the families of those who served this great country and have not yet returned. **NEVER FORGET**

**Reprinted from an article in by Beth Alston, Americus, GA- The Times-Recorder
Former POW from Korean Conflict speaks to POW group**

AMERICUS — A feeling of solemnity and respect permeated the POW Recognition Ceremony held Saturday on the campus of Georgia Southwestern State University (GSW). The event, sponsored by Rolling Thunder, was part of its annual The Ride Home.

The former POWs entered the Student Success Center — some bent and stooped with age, some in wheelchairs, some still standing ramrod straight. They came and were seated in a special area. They all are heroes.

As the GSW Band played the song of each military branch, the former POWs and all veterans present from each branch stood and saluted.

Featured speaker was David Mills, who was a corporal in the U.S. Army when he was captured and taken prisoner in Korea in 1953.

Mills, a tall man with a head full of snowy white hair, shared his story of suffering, surprise and redemption.

Mills joined the Army on his 17th birthday. He was stationed at Outpost Harry, about 50 miles from Seoul at the 38th parallel, which divided North from South Korea.

Mills, now 76, was a member of Company F, 15th Infantry Regiment of the 3rd Infantry Division

On April 24, 1953, Chinese troops nearly took Outpost Harry. There ensued two days of hand to hand combat.

Mills was captured after being shot nine times, twice in the head, six times in the legs and once in the arm. The only people he saw alive besides himself, were the three Chinese soldiers who took him captive.

“There were dead everywhere,” he said.

He said he was initially listed as missing in action, and then killed in action. He said his regiment even held a memorial service for him and others which was reported back home.

He was taken to a cave and the following morning, was ordered to walk but with his injuries and his weakened condition, he could not although he tried. He was ordered to sit on a rock and expected “the worst” since he couldn’t walk. He was surprised when four Chinese soldiers appeared with a stretcher and carried him all day until that evening.

He said he was only a private, “a wounded, 17-year-old private of no value, certainly no prize.”

He was placed alone on the floor of a hut, with one Chinese soldier, who spoke “very good English,” sitting in chair with a pistol on his lap. Mills had not eaten in 24 hours.

He was sleep-deprived when the interrogations began. His captors first asked if there were any Japanese in his unit. The second question: “Why do you Americans fight so fiercely when you are cornered?” The third was “Are you a Christian?”

“I was somewhat taken aback,” he said. “What a strange question. ... There is the enemy asking about my religious faith.”

He said that having grown up in a family in the Christian faith, he recalled scripture when God said, “If you confess me before man, I will confess you before the Father ... if you deny me before man, I will deny you before the Father.”



David Mills

“My situation seemed hopeless,” he said. “I was hurt, hungry, scared and quite frankly, I thought I was going to die.”

He said he prayed while he was on the ground, looking up a gun muzzle three inches from his nose. Anticipating his execution, he silently prayed “the prayer of a sinner. ‘Oh God, have mercy on my soul.’ I didn’t ask God to save my life ... I asked God to save my soul. And so I answered this Chinese officer, ‘yes, I am Christian.’”

The next morning, he said the same four Chinese soldiers appeared with a stretcher and carried him for the next seven or eight days, from morning to dusk, to a prisoner collection point, while protecting him from North Korean civilians along the way who tried to do him harm.

He then fast forwarded 53 years, to 2006, to a military reunion in Iowa where he first spoke publicly about his POW experience. He met a man from Detroit, Warren Settles, and his Chinese wife. This man had also been stationed at Outpost Harry but in a different battle than Mills.

Settles told Mills he was personally acquainted with the former chief interrogator of the Chinese 74th Infantry Division. He confirmed that that was the unit they had faced at Outpost Harry.

“I asked if the former chief interrogating officer was a Christian,” Mills said.

He told Settles why he asked. Settles said he didn’t know. Mills asked him, upon his return to China, to give the former Chinese officer a message.

“First, give him my regards. And secondly, thank him for not killing me.”

Then in 2009, Mills and Settles met again at another stateside reunion.

“He told me the former indeed a Christian,” Mills said.

They met again in 2010 at another reunion.

“He (Settles) was beside himself ... He couldn’t wait to tell us that the chief interrogating officer ... was not only Christian but had been educated in a Christian missionary school,” Mills said in a hushed tone, to a completely still and silent audience.

He posed a question to those in attendance: “What do you think the mathematical probability is that a set of circumstances that I’ve just shared with you could just randomly occur?”

“Faith is defined in the scriptures,” he said, reading from the first chapter of Hebrews, “as ‘the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen.’”

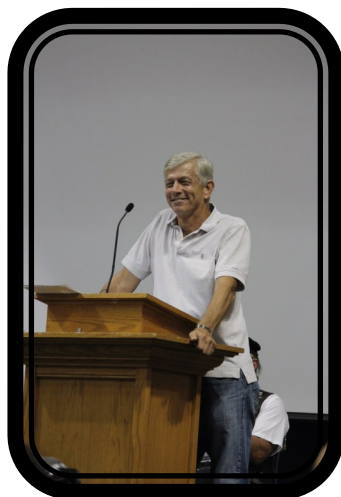
“My brethren and my sisters, here’s the evidence. As a believer I do know calculations. My family and friends in a little Christian college community in upstate New York called Hope, N.Y., of about a thousand people when school is not in session, prayed for me and I believe I’m here today speaking to you as a result of their prayers. There is not a day of my life that I don’t think about Korea and Outpost Harry and thank God for His mercy and for all of you who fought and prayed for me, all of us who were prisoners of war ...

“May God continue to bless the United States of America. Thank you to Rolling Thunder and to God for this wonderful privilege.”

Following a ceremony when each former POW was paid tribute to, and the playing of Taps, an ice cream social was held.



Bill Ingram of Jacksonville & former WW 2
POW with Robert Mitchell, Rolling Thunder
FL 4 President



Moe Moyer, Rolling Thunder
FL President, was the Master
of Ceremonies



Bill Day, Rolling Thunder FL 4 VP & Rolling Thunder FL 4
President Robert Mitchell salute the POWs in attendance
as well as the families of the MIA's.

Photos by Michael Rothfeld



We are conducting our Rose sale
at the Publix on SR16- Oct 6.

Coffee & Donuts at the VA Clinic
on Oct 15

OLDEST CITY DETACHMENT 383
ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA



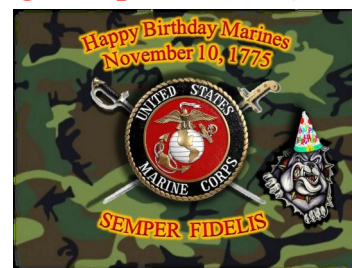
“Happy 237th Birthday United States Marine Corps!”

“We have fought in every clime and place...” On 10 November 1775, the Continental Congress passed a resolution to raise two battalions of American Marines. However, George Washington, as commander of the Continental Army was not too enthusiastic about the idea, but the Continental Congress still went ahead with the raising of the Marines. Captain Samuel Nicholas, just newly commissioned, was authorized to organize the recruitment proceedings which took place at a popular local gathering facility on the waterfront in the city of Philadelphia, PA known as “Tun Tavern.”

Marines take the date of 10 November 1775 as their birthday and celebrate it around the globe. To all non-Marines, please do not be mistaken – it is a birthday celebration and not an anniversary! Also, the music of the Marines is not a “song”, but a “hymn.” Just as you celebrate with a birthday cake so do the Marines and tradition at all “birthday balls” is for the youngest and oldest Marine in attendance to make the first slice of the birthday cake. The Oldest City Detachment #383, St. Augustine of the Marine Corps League will keep this tradition alive by celebrating the Marine Corps birthday on Saturday 10 November 2012. All are invited to attend - for further details and ticket information visit the Oldest City Detachment #383 @ <http://www.mclfl383.org>. Semper Fidelis (“always faithful”) and Happy Birthday Marines!

Marine Corps League Detachment 383 meets the 1st Tuesday of each
month at 1900 hrs, at the St. Augustine Elks Lodge 829

1420 A1A So., St. Augustine 32080. Phone 904-461-0139,
mclfl383.org



Late Breaking News



Haven Hospice and the St Johns County Libraries are working together to start the Veterans History Project in our County .

*If you would like to be interviewed please contact:
Amy Ackerman, St Johns County Libraries at–*

aackerman@sjcfl.us or Jill Tager of Haven Hospice at– jbtager@havenhospice.org

More information to follow next month

For when you come home, either standing or dead, know we will remember you fought and you bled. Our payment to you, and this you can trust, that we will always remember, we will always be faithful, as you were faithful to us.



Jacksonville Semper Fidelis Society

You are cordially invited to attend

Dedication Ceremony

of the

Marines and Navy FMF Corpsmen

Memorial Monument

Nov 10th at 1100

Located at

The Jacksonville National Cemetery

Contact the Semper Fidelis Society

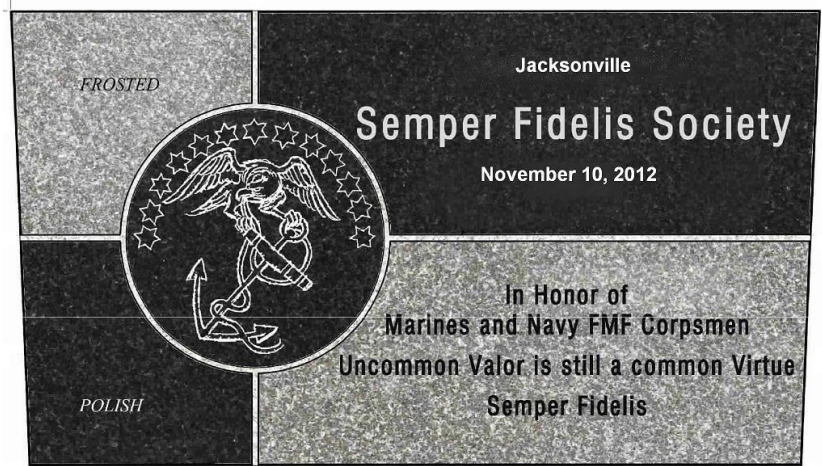
at

Jsfs.usmc@gmail.com



SHOWN WITH STEEL FIN

National Cemetery Memorial



Memorial Face/Inscription



Evergreen Cemetery Memorial



Top Left: Black Granite with Steel Fins in Key Stone cut...Current Eagle, Globe and Anchor adorns the face of the black granite. **Top Right:** Monument face depicted in picture above has the Continental Eagle, Globe and Anchor. The memorial design was donated by Tat Chan of Via Concepts of Jacksonville Beach. He is also the designer of the Marine and FMF Corpsmen Memorial at the Evergreen Cemetery (**Bottom left**) dedicated on Nov 10th 2004. Our next project is to try and place a Marine and Navy FMF Corpsmen Memorial along the downtown Jacksonville River walk.

Recognizing the men and women who served our nation in times of war keeps us mindful of the freedoms we enjoy. To ensure that their sacrifices are not forgotten, we honor those who stood proudly for us so that we might live fully and learn to better understand and create opportunities for a more peaceful world.

It's exactly the right thing to do...honoring those who served and sacrificed. The memorial at Jacksonville's Evergreen Cemetery to Marines and FMF Navy Corpsmen and now the memorial soon to be installed at the Jacksonville National Cemetery are symbols of our appreciation and remembrance that where once common place in communities across our nation. These memorials are also beacons shining out into the community as reminders that there are still some amongst us they have values like Honor, Courage and Commitment.



Wreath Sponsorship Form

*Sponsored wreaths are placed on the grave markers at state, national veterans cemeteries as well as local cemeteries each December. Wreaths may be purchased online at www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org If you wish to make your sponsorship with a credit card please visit our website for a secure online transaction.

Name:		Cemetery ID Number FLNSA
Address:		
City:		
State:	Zip :	Sponsoring Group ID Number FLVCSJC01
Phone: ()		
Email:		

Cemetery Designation: **St. Augustine National Cemetery**

Sponsoring Group Contact: Daniel Blackman sgm500@gmail.com or 904-669-6423

Sponsorship	Price	Quantity	Total
Individual = 1 Wreath	\$15.00		
Family = 4 Wreaths	\$60.00		
Small Business = 10 Wreaths	\$150.00		
Corporate = 100 Wreaths or more	\$15.00 each wreath		
Grand Total			

****WE REGRET WE ARE UNABLE TO ACCEPT GRAVE-SPECIFIC REQUESTS****

Please make checks payable to: **Wreaths Across America™**

**Mail check and form to: c/o Daniel Blackman (WAA), St. Johns County Veterans Service Office
P.O. Box 2117, St. Augustine, FL 32085-2117**

Questions? Call (904) 669-6423 or (904) 540-1630

Thank you for your Sponsorship and joining us in our mission to Remember, Honor and Teach!

Please note that **all** sponsorships are sent directly to the location and
no wreaths are sent to the individuals purchasing sponsorships.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA is an IRC§501(c)(3) exempt non-profit Maine corporation, FEIN 20-8362270, registered (# CH34722) with the Florida Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Contributions are deductible from taxable federal income as charitable donations under IRC§170 and/or IRC§6115. Wreaths Across America™ does not use professional solicitors. 100% of funds received benefit the mission: to purchase wreaths to lay at the gravestones of Veterans. More information may be obtained from our website [http:// www.wreathscrossamerica.org](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org). 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. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. The toll-free number of the Department is 1-800-HELP-FLA (435-7352)—calling from within the State of Florida or (850) 488-2221—calling from outside Florida.

THE FLORIDA SENATE

SENATOR MIKE HARIDOPOLOS , *President*

September 4, 2012

Sergeant Major Ray A. Quinn

St. Augustine, Florida

Dear Sergeant Major Quinn:

It is my pleasure to appoint you to serve as a member of the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame Council. Your appointment expires January 1, 2014.

By copy of this letter, I am notifying Mr. Jim Brodie with the Department of Veterans' Affairs of your appointment. Any questions regarding the Council may be directed to Mr. Brodie at (850) 487-1533.

Thank you for your willingness to serve on behalf of the Florida Senate.

Sincerely,

Mike Haridopolos , President

CC: The Honorable Rick Scott, Governor

The Honorable Dean Cannon, Speaker

Mr. Jim Brodie, Department of Veterans' Affairs

OUR CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FRIEND SGT MAJOR RAY QUINN, USA RET.



*I recently came across this story and thought it would be of interest to you all.
I lived on Staten Island for 22 years. Michael*

Remembering Father Capodanno on the 40th anniversary of his death

as printed in the Staten Island Advance

Of all the Staten Island stories, the Rev. Vincent Capodanno's may be the most storied. Though he died exactly 40 years ago tomorrow on a battlefield in Vietnam, his story was far from over. His last acts made sure of it -- and made sure his name would never be forgotten. "Forty years, it seems like yesterday," said James Capodanno, the man largely responsible for keeping that story from dying with his brother in the Que Son Valley. "Forty years and there isn't a day that goes by I don't pray to him and pray for him."

On Staten Island, it is easy to remember the 38-year-old Navy chaplain who gave his life while administering last rites to a Marine. Here a street in South Beach bears his name. So does a chapel in Fort Wadsworth and an auditorium in his elementary school. The Military Order of the Purple Heart and a chapter of the Sons of Italy chose him to be their namesake. Father Capodanno's story began Feb. 13, 1929, when he was born in Elm Park, the youngest of nine siblings to Vincent Capodanno and Rachel Basile.

Around the world, the heroics of Father Capodanno are recalled in the Vincent R. Capodanno Branch Medical Center in Gaeta, Italy, the place his father left in 1901 for a new life in America; and they are recalled in the Saint Vincent Chapel in Taiwan. There are countless chapels on countless naval bases in countless cities. Perhaps the first place to call witness to the Curtis High School graduate -- voted best looking in his class -- was a small chapel on Hill 51 in Vietnam. Constructed of thatched palms and bamboo, it was dedicated near the spot where he died praying the "Our Father" with one of his own.

It was Labor Day, Sept. 4, 1967. To begin with, Father Vince, as he was known to "the grunts" on the battlefield, was safe in the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division's combat operations center. He heard the reports coming in from the Thang Binh District. Elements of Company D were being overrun by 2,500 North Vietnamese Army regulars during the battle dubbed Operation Swift. They asked for reinforcements. Father Vince requested to go, too. His Marines needed him. When the reinforcements arrived in the small village, they were faced with fierce fighting. Father Vince was hit in the face and his left hand. His right arm was shredded, but he refused to seek cover. He spotted a man lying mortally wounded in a dangerously open field. He knew a machine gunner was lurking nearby. Still, Father Vince prayed with the young Marine. He fell by the corpsman's side, 27 wounds to his back, his neck, his head. Father

Vince was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military award. It hangs today in his brother's Eltingville home, next to the door, beside an American flag.

A few months before he was killed, Father Vince was home with his family on leave, all nine siblings there: Today only two survive, his brother and his sister, Gloria Holman, who lives on Lighthouse Hill. Back then, the family was gathered in the living room of a sister's home in New Jersey. The talk turned to criticisms of the war Father Vince would make the ultimate sacrifice for. "He nudged me," recalled James Capodanno, himself a Marine, a veteran of World War II's Pacific theater. "We excused ourselves into the kitchen. He didn't say anything. He didn't have to. We had a glass of Scotch together." That was the last time brother saw brother. Capodanno was working in Brooklyn when Father Vince was crouched over the last Marine. "It was like a beautiful day, but it was solemn," he said. When he got home from work -- the same house he still lives in -- his wife, Lydia, told him Navy officers came to the door, but left without a word. "That night on TV, they came out with a chaplain being killed in Vietnam," Capodanno said. "They didn't say a name. We just took it in our hearts." The Navy officers returned the next morning. At times, the loss seems as raw today as it did four decades ago. Sometimes, it's seems even more raw.

Over the years, though, Capodanno has heard first-hand stories from the men who served shoulder-to-shoulder with his brother. He's heard about the gentle priest whose words were few but whose comforts were many. He knows Father Vince would gather his Marines on a hillside or behind rocks to say mass or hear confession. Many of the stories have been related in person; others he's read in "The Grunt Padre," a book written by Father Daniel Mode. He clings to his memories and his mementos: A black and white portrait of Father Vince, battle-worn combat gloves, the silver chalice his brother received from their mother on the day he was ordained a Maryknoll priest.

There's one more story still being written. In May 2006, the Vatican accepted Father Capodanno as a Servant of God, a long process that could lead to eventual sainthood.

"I won't be around to see it," his brother said, "but that would be nice, real nice."

--- *Contributed by Stephanie Slepian*



We Honor Veterans

"It's About Living in a Country that is Free"

November 8, 2012

Special viewing of "Korea: Forgotten War, Remembered Heroes"

10:30 am

The Meeting Room, Ponce de Leon Mall

Veteran's History Project

Collaboration with St. Johns County Public Library

Opportunity for Veterans to record their military experience

and have it archived at the Library of Congress

Veteran's can record their experience with trained volunteers at the Library
or in their home

Family Outing for Families of Fallen Soldiers

January 12, 2013

11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

In collaboration with Survivor Outreach Services

All branches of military

19 Northern/Central Florida Counties

Grounds of Haven Hospice

4200 NW 90th Blvd., Gainesville, FL



St. Augustine Offices

200 Southpark Blvd., Ste 207

St. Augustine, FL 32084

904-810-2377

Geographics



The Filipino American Veterans Society of Greater Jacksonville



cordially invites you to its

1st Annual Military / Veterans Appreciation Gala

November 10, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.

**University of North Florida University Center
12000 Alumni Drive
Jacksonville, FL 32224**

Attire: Mess Dress / Black Tie / Formal

Ticket- \$ 48 (Prepaid)

CONTACT:

**Nick Chan (904) 994-1064 • Linda Limon (904) 476-5314
Rudy Alcantara (904) 655-9420 • Zeny Arzaga (904) 210-7084**



Ticket No. _____

The Filipino American Veterans' Society
of Greater Jacksonville
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November 10, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.

**University of North Florida University Center
12000 Alumni Drive
Jacksonville, FL. 32224**



Ticket No. _____

Attire: Mess Dress Uniform / Black Tie / Formal

Ticket: \$48 (PREPAID)

Sea Cadets participate in orientation



Sea Cadets of the St. Augustine Navy League were recent guests of the U.S. Coast Guard Helicopter Interdiction Tactical Squadron (HITRON) at Jacksonville's Cecil Commerce Center, formerly NAS Cecil Field. They received a day of operational orientation under the direction of Command Master Chief, Matthew Boyd, USCG.

Cadets Louis Danner, Luke Mahan, Joseph Quinines and Noah Shumacher received safety familiarization and airborne instruction in the HH-65C Dolphin helicopter operations.

Cadets Christian Cousart, Jordan Hall, Theodore Owens, Garrison Partridge, Hudson Shaw, Brandon Toomey and Kyle Wai received weapons orientation.

The Sea Cadets were accompanied by their commanding officer Eric Johnson and Bill Hamm, Leah Mahan and Paul Kimmel, all members of the Navy League.

Kimmel serves as the league's designated liaison to HITRON, one of the 13 active duty military units of the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard adopted by the league.

For information about the Navy League contact Mike Zollar, Mikzol8671@att.net, or Lee Figliuola, leefig@aol.com.

Membership application and roster are available at www.staugustinenavyleague.org.



USCG's GM1 Ken Dingman monitors closely Sea Cadet Garrison Partridge's firing the Sage enhanced M-14 battle rifle.



AMT3 Michael Cook, USCG, delivers final safety instructions to Sea Cadet Kyle Wai before firing the Sig Sauer .40 caliber handgun.

Not since 1966, when Sgt. Barry Sadler filled the air waves with his "Ballad of the Green Berets", has there been an opportunity to direct the national spotlight on the hero's of our armed forces like we have today!

This year our R&R group, **'The Jelly Bean Bandits'** wrote and recorded "*Rolling Thunder*", a music video that was tagged the Official theme of this years **'Rolling Thunder Tribute XXV, Washington DC'**, by the Center for American Military Musicians Opportunities (CAMMO). The song played several times throughout the day and opened for Gary Sinese and the Lt. Dan Band. Soon after we returned home from the Memorial Day services in DC, we were informed that our music video had been nominated for this years 55th Grammy Awards.



WE NEED YOUR HELP!!

We are asking ALL Military, Veterans and Supporting Organizations, to scan their membership and friends for any voting members of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (NARAS). We are asking for a vote on the first ballot due to arrive in October in **Field 80, "Best Short Form Musical Video"**.

This is an excellent opportunity to join together to be able to showcase the mission of **'Rolling Thunder'** on a world-wide stage and to give America's military the appreciation and rewards they so richly deserve while remembering the ultimate sacrifices of our POW's and MIA's

Sincerely thanking you in advance for all considerations, Fred, Jack, Joe, Mike

The Jelly Bean Bandits,

"Until they ALL come home!!"



THE UNITED STATES NAVY MEMORIAL

In Support of the 25th Anniversary of the United States Navy Memorial

Exclusive 25th Anniversary Challenge Coin



We have created this commemorative United States Navy Memorial coin in celebration of our 25th Anniversary.

This extremely limited-edition coin celebrates 25 years of honor to the Sea Service warriors of yesterday, today and tomorrow.

It's yours FREE with a [gift](#) of just \$50 or more. So please help us celebrate our 25th Anniversary with a [generous gift](#) today!

In addition to the commemorative coin, your \$50 contribution also gets you a copy of our 25th Anniversary Celebration program where your name will appear as a supporter.

Florida Fallen Heroes dedicated a monument on the grounds of Fletcher High School in Neptune Beach on Saturday Sept. 15, 2012.

Program

Master of Ceremonies

David Seamans
President Florida Fallen Heroes

Color Guard

Terry Parker High School
Navy JROTC

Invocation

Chaplin Bill Reno
American Legion / SAL
5th District of Florida

Welcome

Donald Nelson
Principal
Duncan U. Fletcher High School

Star Spangled Banner by F. Scott Key
Maggie Johnson

Dedication and Unveiling

Keynote Speaker

The Honorable Jerry Holland
Supervisor of Elections
Duval County

Benediction

Chaplin Bill Reno
American Legion / SAL
5th District of Florida

Flag-Folding Ceremony

Filipino American Veterans Society

Taps

Beaches Honor Guard



Our Fallen Heroes

WWII

ARMY

ROBERT B. DAVID
WILLIAM C. KITCHLER
RALPH E. MORGAN
JOSEPH E. SHORNAK
IVAL R. WELLINGTON, JR.
ALLAN C. WRIGHT
KINJIRO YOSHIDO

ARMY AIR FORCES

JOHN J. AHERN
CHARLES B. MELTON
HAROLD C. TAYLOR

COAST GUARD

GUY D. PAUL

MARINE CORPS

OTIS D. BOXX
FLETCHER L. BROWN, JR.
CLARENCE J. BURNETT
CLARENCE E. HURST
ASBURY R. KELLY
L. E. PETERS

MERCHANT MARINES

EARL L. BRADNER
RILEY L. GANEY

NAVY

CARL E. BOULTER
ROBERT M. GILCHRIST
LEONARD A. JOHNSON
CHARLES B. MANN
JOHN A. MC CORD

ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE

A. W. LECKIE

SPARS

(COAST GUARD WOMEN'S RESERVE)

BETTY PACETTI

KOREAN WAR

ARMY

WILLIAM L. ROBINSON

MARINE CORPS

DAVID A. ABERNATHY
PHILLIP O. HAMMOND

NAVY

JOHN M. DUNLAP

VIETNAM WAR

ARMY

THOMAS C. BULLARD
DENNIS L. BUNTING
JOHN H. FRANKS
JIMMIE E. KEITH
RICHMOND R. LUCE
JAMES F. MYERS
BUDDY PAGE
PAUL D. SHAMP, JR.
JERRE M. SMITH
DEAN P. TOUCHTON
CHARLES W. WARNER, JR.

MARINE CORPS

DWAYNE CORBITT
STANLEY M. HARRELL
ROGER P. HARRELL

NAVY

JAMES F. THAMES
REXWOOD S. THAMES, JR.

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

SGT. 1ST CLASS GERRARD M. REED (NON-COMBAT)

MARINE CORPS

CPL. MARCUS W. FREUD'HOMME



Pictures by Rick Rees, St. Johns County VSO

The purpose of this is to see if the attached would be worthy of The veterans Council newsletter to print. This came from a speech I presented some years ago with respect to the anniversary of 9/11 and those who only fly the flag when convenient. I recently submitted this as an article to Detachment #383, Marine Corps League, St. Augustine USMC Birthday Ball program. Inasmuch as the celebration will not be held until November 10 and in the spirit of today's anniversary (9/11) I thought perhaps others might want to read it.



The above may be old news since it is such a late hour, but I thought occurred that I should give it a try.

Take care! **Charlie Myers, Semper Fi,** <http://www.mclfl383.org>

Back to the Future By Charlie Myers USMC 69-75



It wasn't that long ago that you thought I was "corny," in fact some may still look at me as being "corny." However, you must understand that I do sustain you, that I am within you like some dormant virus and most of all that I will comfort you when summoned.

Shunned at times, but you always come back to me, however I demand payment of an expensive toll. What's my price? Well the price is your blood, your sweat and your tears. Are you wondering who I am? Allow me to tell you a little something about myself. I was conceived not by just one man and one woman, but by the spirit of the oppressed wanting to be free. When you first anted up and paid my price I was forever rooted in your veins and became a habitual remedy for your worst nightmares.

I began with 13 separate components that forged me into what I am today. Countless times you used me as a blanket of infinite affection to cloak those who have paid my toll. Then I'm transformed by 13 triangular folds into a constellation to be caressed by love ones, and displayed as an eternal memory.

Do you remember the 1860s when you tried to split me in two? Everyone wanted the same thing, but you had to pay my price to make me whole again. It seems like every decade or so the assassins of innocence try to break your habit for me whereby you resurrect me to supply you with the fortitude needed to prevail. This costs you every time, doesn't it?

I'm not made of skin and bones, but composed of the souls of many. I have a face that waves in the wind as a banner of democracy to inspire the world. I radiate red with your blood, I'm bleached white with your sweat, and I'm blue with your tears. Some have tried to burn me, for they will not be rid of me because I have been consecrated with the dues you have paid. I am the spiritual vine of warming life, do not forsake me, and allow me to caress you.

Finally, I do understand that when all seems well, and threats seem a world away, you will return me to hibernation and I may be viewed as "corny" once more. However, when the time arises, know that I am there. For I am the spirit of freedom, I am you, I am America the future, come back to me!



Inglewood, California. Riveting team working on the cockpit shell of a C-47 heavy transport at North American Aviation

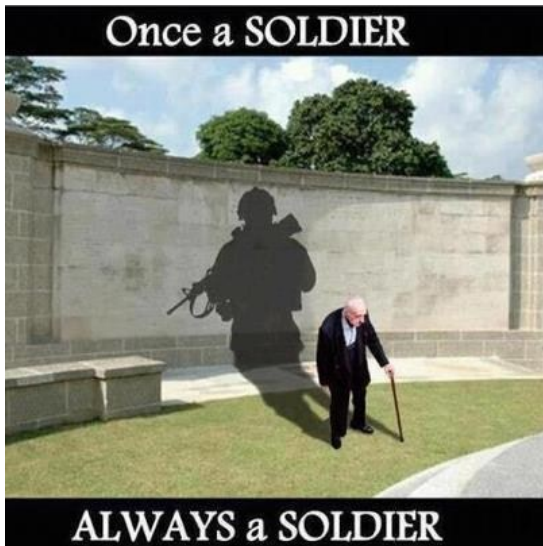


October 1942. "Lieutenant 'Mike' Hunter, Army test pilot assigned to Douglas Aircraft Company, Long Beach, California



May 1942. Langley Field, Virginia. YB-17 bombardment squadron.

Colorized World War II photos sent by Ed Trester



Please don't forget to send your articles or Veteran organization information for the Veterans Council of St. Johns County Newsletter to Editor Michael Rothfeld at: mrothfeld@anyveteran.org

We want to tell everyone about where you served, who you served with, any interesting or exciting battles you were in, etc. We also want to know what you are doing now, what veterans groups you belong to, how to join, when they meet and what they do.

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.