

The Patriot Reader

VETERANS COUNCIL OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY

CHAIRMAN BILL DUDLEY

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Newsletter Editor Michael Rothfeld



Volume 1, Issue 4

Newsletter Date: March, 2012

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Special points of interest:

- Chase/Rescorla Scholarship
- Wreaths Across America
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- VA News Releases
- Veteran's Farm
- Preventing Suicides
- A West Point Grad. 1965

Message from the Chairman

Fellow Veterans

This month's edition of *The Patriot Reader* is our best edition yet. There is tremendous coverage of many upcoming events and many personal interest stories about your fellow veterans.

Pages 2 and 3 cover the upcoming Battle of Midway Commemorative Dinner being held on June 9, 2012 at the Renaissance Hotel, WGV hosted by the Navy League of the United States. Last year's event had an attendance of 636 attendees. This year's attendance is expected to be our largest ever with attendance of over 1000. Our keynote speaker is the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Admiral Jonathan Greenert. We have also invited TV and movie personality Gary Sinise as well as our Governor Rick Scott and Lt. Gov. Jennifer Carroll. Tickets are available and special pricing has been negotiated for hotel

accommodations for anyone who may want to stay overnight. All information is included on the flyer in your newsletter.

Another important feature in this month's edition is the Wreaths Across America program. The Veterans Council has accepted the role of the sponsoring group for this year's program. Dan Blackman, committee chairman and his team are committed to assuring every marker and headstone in our St.

Augustine National Cemetery has a wreath placed on it this year. Information needed to purchase a wreath is found on page 17 of your newsletter.

At last month's Veterans Council meeting, the Coquina Veterans Assoc of Coquina Crossing was awarded the Col. Ed Taylor award. This award is given annually to individuals or organizations that have made a significant contribution to our veterans causes in St. Johns Co. or in support



of our military men and women in uniform. An article on the namesake of the award, Col. Ed Taylor appears on page 13 & 14 of the newsletter.

Please enjoy reading and keeping informed about your Veteran Council organizations and events that are occurring in your community.

We would appreciate feedback if you are enjoying the newsletter or if you would like to see changes or added information. Please write to Michael Rothfeld, our newsletter editor or myself with any comments or suggested changes you would like to see.

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

Battle of Midway Commemorative Dinner

Keynote Speaker, ADM Jonathan W. Greenert, Chief of Naval Operations



ADM Greenert

Event will be held at The Renaissance Resort at World Golf Village.

Cocktails begin at 6 PM, Dinner at 7 PM.

Reserved seating. Hosted by The Mayport Council Navy League of the United States, June 9, 2012

And you are invited! Tickets are now on sale, Ticket Information, Ticket costs are: Active Duty E-6 and below, \$25; E-7 to 03, \$35, 04 to 05, \$45, 06 and above, civilians, and retirees, \$60.

**Tickets available from the following- NAVY LEAGUE MAYPORT POC Bob Price Phone (904)246-9982
E-mail - bpricex4@Comcast.net**

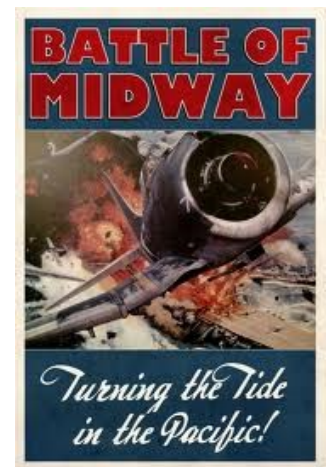
NAVY LEAGUE ST AUGUSTINE: POC Bill Dudley, Phone (904)806-4712 , E-mail - anuday00@aol.com

Make Checks payable to NAVY LEAGUE MIDWAY

**Special Hotel Rates for Battle of Midway, Rooms are available from the hotel - The Renaissance Resort at World Golf Village,
Special Room Rate - \$69.00, (includes 2 breakfast vouchers)**



YOU MUST INCLUDE: The Battle of Midway or Navy League to receive the above discounted rate, Hotel reservations must be made by calling Phone 1-800-266-9432 Monday thru Friday 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.



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A Short History of the Battle of Midway

4-7 June 1942



The Battle of Midway, fought over and near the tiny U.S. mid-Pacific base at Midway atoll, represents the strategic high water mark of Japan's Pacific Ocean war. Prior to this action, Japan possessed general naval superiority over the United States and could usually choose where and when to attack. After Midway, the two opposing fleets were essentially equals, and the United States soon took the offensive.

Japanese Combined Fleet commander Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto moved on Midway in an effort to draw out and destroy the U.S. Pacific Fleet's aircraft carrier striking forces, which had embarrassed the Japanese Navy in the mid-April Doolittle Raid on Japan's home islands and at the Battle of Coral Sea in early May. He planned to quickly knock down Midway's defenses, follow up with an invasion of the atoll's two small islands and establish a Japanese air base there. He expected the U.S. carriers to come out and fight, but to arrive too late to save Midway and in insufficient strength to avoid defeat by his own well-tested carrier air power.

Yamamoto's intended surprise was thwarted by superior American communications intelligence, which deduced his scheme well before battle was joined. This allowed Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, the U.S. Pacific Fleet commander, to establish an ambush by having his carriers ready and waiting for the Japanese. On 4 June 1942, in the second of the Pacific War's great carrier battles, the trap was sprung. The perseverance, sacrifice and skill of U.S. Navy aviators, plus a great deal of good luck on the American side, cost Japan four irreplaceable fleet carriers, while only one of the three U.S. carriers present was lost. The base at Midway, though damaged by Japanese air attack, remained operational and later became a vital component in the American trans-Pacific offensive.

Visit our Web Site at <http://www.midwaydinner.org/> for photos and more information

Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home



February brought a variety of party opportunities for the residents of Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home. In addition to our Valentine's Day party complete with ballroom dancers, a "snow" day and a Leap Day party, the residents enjoyed Mardi Gras. The staff of each of our six houses competed against one another in building Mardi Gras floats. We have very creative and very competitive staff! On the big day, our residents and families enjoyed a parade of music, color and fun. We even had a few pets join in.

Even before Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home opened in September 2010, we have had an outpouring of community

support. That support comes in the form of both volunteers and donations. Recently two such donations enabled our residents to watch the Super Bowl in grand style. Residents from the Delta houses had their tailgating party in the Delta foyer while enjoying the new large screen TV donated by the Veterans Support Group of the Cascades. Residents from the Alpha houses had their party and watched the game in the VA café on a new large screen TV donated by the American Legion Post #88. Our Veterans are also fortunate that Post #88 also gave us another large screen TV for the entrance living room. We all cheer a huge "THANK YOU" to all those individuals and groups that have supported our Veterans!





I REMEMBER.... Michael Berdy

I remember the first time I saw Michael Berdy. It was on a pebble strewn football field in Brooklyn's Seagate Community in 1956. Michael was very well built, all muscles, no neck, short blonde hair and fast. He was the perfect fullback. I on the other hand was thinner, had no muscles, but could run, not for yardage but for my life. I was an improbable halfback. Michael B. and Michael R. comprised the M & M backfield on a sandlot football team that never won a game. We never even came close. We were a rag tag group that wore very old, very thin equipment that was donated because no one wanted it but us, it was of no use to anyone.

In 1957 Michael Berdy and I were freshmen at Abraham Lincoln High School in Brooklyn, NY. I was on the JV football team as was Michael B. My football career ended when my knee blew. Michael B. went on to play varsity football at Lincoln for three more years. He was the perfect football player and student, he was smart, well liked by all and we all knew that he was going to succeed at whatever he decided to do.

From 1961 to 1965 Michael attended West Point. Michael's father was a colonel in the Reserves and Michael's future was to follow in his father's footsteps. Although I lost personal contact with him I would watch him on TV once a year when Army played Navy in football. Michael was now the starting offensive guard for the Black Knights. When Michael graduated I would later learn he went to Vietnam.



Michael R., 1961



Michael Berdy,
Class of 1965,
West Point

This is what I have been able to find out: from the Vietnam Wall in Wash. D.C:

*Captain, HHC, 2ND BN, 8TH CAV RGT,
CAV DIV Army of the United States
29 December 1943 - 26 December 1967
New York, New York Panel 32E Line 061
CASUALTY DATA*

Start Tour: Sunday, 01/15/1967

Casualty Date: Tuesday, 12/26/1967

Age at Loss: 24 Remains: Body Recovered

Location: Binh Dinh, South Vietnam

Type: Non-hostile, Died Of Other Causes

*Reason: Air Loss, Crash - Land - Helicopter- Noncrew
Michael was not killed in battle. The helicopter he was in crashed.*

Upon further research I found that Public School 188 in Brooklyn's Coney Island section is named the Michael E. Berdy School and the Abraham Lincoln High School Field House Clock is similarly named after Michael. This is very appropriate, this was Michael's childhood neighborhood.

Today, the Berdy family is keeping its military heritage alive, Michael's brother Andy recently retired after 30 years of Army Service, Andy's son, Erik Michael was deployed in Iraq in the 3rd Infantry Div as Aide de Camp to the Commanding General, and Erik's younger brother Michael is an Infantry Captain assigned to the 25th Inf., and graduated West Point in the 1997 Class. The tradition lives on.

It was an honor to know Michael and watch him develop into a true American Hero. He is missed and thought about often.

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.

To Arms! –Telling the Story by Gary Bruce



Gary Bruce



Director Gary Bruce

Now that the dust – and black powder smoke – has settled, let's take a look at what was involved in creating *To Arms! 450 Years of Military History of St. Augustine*. The first challenge was to decide which wars, conflicts, invasions and events should and could be part of the show. Since its founding, St. Augustine has hosted a variety of military forces that included infantry, artillery, dragoons, sailors, rangers, militia, irregulars and Native American allies. From the 16th century through the middle of the 19th century, every occupying army has been forced to defend the city from one or more attacks. Each of these events provided a backdrop for countless stories of human drama.



Chad Light

Since *To Arms!* is a stage play, and not a reenactment, human drama and personal conflict became the central themes. Vignettes were used to dramatize the story of Pedro Menendez (Chad Light), the Pirate Invasions and the Francisco Menendez (James Bullock). Following these scenes, it was time to lighten up a bit! So, the end of the British Occupation of East Florida was played for comedy and was very well received.

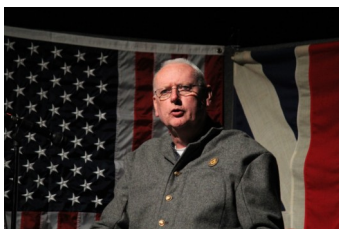
Whenever a character read a letter, a military report, proclamation or newspaper article, the item was recounted word for word from the historical record. For example, the British Occupation, though comic, was based directly on the correspondence Governor Tonyn sent to Spanish Governor Zepedes. Roger Smith, who played Tonyn, based his doctoral thesis on his research at the British National Archives and the University of Florida and in the process discovered many maps, letters and reports from 18th century British St. Augustine. These documents provided the basis for the scene portrayed on the deck of the HMS Cyrus.



Roger Smith

In the Civil War scene, Sergeant Douglas, USA, (Gerald Timoney) read the report recounting the surrender of St. Francis Barracks and Ft. St. Marks, claiming that little of military value was surrendered to the volunteers from Fernandina. This was his actual report from the U.S. military archives. In turn, the Fernandina Volunteer (Thom Parma) contradicts the Douglas report, stating that an arsenal was captured. His report, word for word, is the inventory of armaments as recorded that day, January 7, 1861.

In the few instances the words of an individual were recorded, these were used verbatim. Dialogue, by necessity, was developed from what was known of the time, the circumstances and in keeping with the character of the individuals being portrayed. To bring the historical figures to life, this creative was approach was used with care and concern to not contradict any of the known facts.



SGM Ray Quinn, ret

For example, Ray Quinn, as narrator portrayed 2nd Lieutenant Charles L. Ridgley of the 'St. Augustine Blues'. The facts about the character came from the muster roles of the Florida Independent Blues and the muster roles and action reports of the 3rd Florida Infantry. While Ray did not want to play an officer, very little information survives as regards the enlisted men who fought for the Confederacy. So, Ray was 'elected' 2nd Lieutenant, over his objections.

As the script developed, it was reviewed by people who are both familiar with the history and qualified to provide valuable comments, corrections and contributions. All of the narrators, Greg Moore, Howard McGillin, Ray Quinn and General J. Balskus vetted the entire script. In addition, Roger Smith, PhD., Chad Light and James Bullock contributed directly to the creation of their respective scenes. Steve Voguit researched and developed the visuals used during the show. Early on, it was decided to use as many heritage military paintings as possible to illustrate the show. Many of these original works of art were commissioned by the Florida National Guard. Also note that the flags displayed on stage were kindly on loan from the military museum at the St. Francis Barracks.

Let's not forget the music! Tommy Bledsoe, Ron Birchall, Jim Adams and Roger



Smith covered all or part of 45 songs in the course of the show. Keith Aclin was on the bagpipes and John Powell provided the drumming. There was much effort to try to match the music to both the action and the time period being portrayed. That said, historically incorrect though it was, we could not pass up the chance to have British Governor Tonymyn play bass and sing lead on "The Battle of New Orleans". Besides playing the banjo, Ron Birchall filled the key

role of producer, mustering people, resources and handling all the logistics.



General Balskus

One of the goals of *To Arms!* is to present history in such a way that it is accurate, educational and entertaining. This approach, often termed 'popular history', makes our heritage readily accessible and available to a wider audience than can be reached by expecting folks to read a history book. Popular history also interprets events in light of new research and fresh perspectives, conveying ideas that might not have been widely considered otherwise.

One of the ideas that we worked to show is that the militia muster of 1565 was the first such muster in North America and that today's Florida National Guard grew from these roots in to the fighting force that it is today. General Balskus stressed this idea in the final scene entitled 'Heritage to Horizons', which also told of the humanitarian missions of the Guard.

Relying strictly on reciting names, dates and places of history, we would miss the important and essential underlying human stories that both cause and result from the significant events of our past. It is people who shaped the past and people who create the future. To overlook the people is to overlook the many cultures in St. Augustine that collided, clashed, fought and finally blended to create who we are today. If we do not know who we are and from where we come, we have no past. If we have no past to guide us, we can little expect to chart an accurate path toward a brighter future.

I've mentioned just some of the folks involved. It would take another page to thank all of the wonderful people who made *To Arms!* so successful and so well received. On behalf of the many volunteers who devoted their time and energy to this project, we hope that we have increased understanding of our heritage, developed more appreciation of our history and have provided entertainment in the process!

The St. Augustine Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution meets on the 3rd Saturday, September through May, at 11:00 a.m. at the Le Pavillon in St. Augustine. The speaker for our March 17, 2012, meeting is COL Ron Radford. *Guests and those interested in membership are invited to attend*

What is Mrs. Vanairsdale little boy Jimmy doing here?

A Marine 2nd Lt Goes to War

In 1951 I graduated from Holy Cross College, was commissioned, attended The Basic School at Quantico, Virginia, was certified as ready to lead a Marine rifle platoon in combat and given a set of orders directing me to Camp Pendleton, California FFT (For Further Transfer) 'beyond the seas'. The latter meant "Go to Korea", which I did as a passenger first on Carolina Mars (a four engine flying boat) and then a C54 that island hopped across the Pacific to Japan and thence to K10, a dirt airfield on the northeast coast of South Korea. February was cold and the farther north and the higher altitude we went the colder it got.

Day 1 we were at Division HQ and Day2 at the 7th Marine Regiment Command Post.

The regimental C.O. addressed us (a gaggle of 2nd Lieutenants) telling us we were about to get the best job we would ever have in our lives and sent us on our way to a place called Hill 884—"That's meters not feet and you will think it is miles". We took off the next morning with first stop to be the 2nd Battalion CP. We immediately passed a contingent of Korean Service Corps lugging supplies to Marines up in the mountains. We looked down our noses as we passed them—we would meet later.



Ready to go up Hill 884

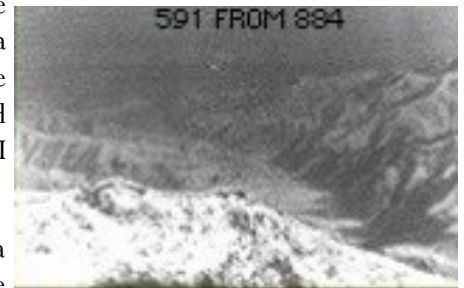


Our view from 884

The walk up 884 was an ordeal. We thought we were in shape. The Koreans WERE in shape. They passed us easily about an hour up the mountain as we took a break. The 'trail' was a very narrow passage on the crest of a ridgeline. One misstep to either side would result in sliding down a steep mountain side for a thousand feet or so. The only thing to stop a slide would be the unmarked intermittent mine fields. It was like walking on a knife edge. We had

company flying overhead all the way—big black birds. I swear they were saying Ha Ha Ha, not Caw Caw Caw.

We made a short stop at the Battalion CP where the CO informed us we had set a new record coming up the mountain. No one before had ever taken so long. He then sent us off to join our companies. At the Company CP we were sent to join our platoons, but not until the C.O. and others discussed who would get my brand new S&W K38 Combat Masterpiece pistol when I was killed. I didn't like the discussion.



From the top

The 1st Platoon was ensconced along the ridgeline in a string of rudimentary bunkers and sandbagged observation points. To the front was a steep slope, barbed wire, mines, bad guys, ice and snow, a river, higher mountains, more ice and snow and a whole lot of more bad guys. On the reverse slope was my CP (half bunker, half tent) and the all important "head".

My introduction to the platoon was right out of Beetle Bailey. I was carrying everything everyone had told me I couldn't do without. Everything external to my outer layer of clothing was secured with leather thongs. (Remember your mittens when you went to school in winter? Yes, that was me to the nth degree.) The steps leading down to the CP were hewn from ice. Part way down I lost my footing and went bumpety-bump the rest of the way on my butt, right through the door, ending up in front of the platoon sergeant and others. A deafening silence was followed by SSGT Wright's howling with delight as he pointed at me and said, "Look at our new platoon leader!!". I was sure that things could not get worse. That was before a nightlong bout with diarrhea!! /SS/Lt Fuzz

***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 250 words or less. Submissions may be edited &/or shortened and used if space permits.

Send to: mrothfeld@anyveteran.org



Constitution Obelisk in the
Plaza de Constitution

Important Online Veterans Links:

National Association of Senior Veterans:

<http://veteransupportcenter.org>

Military.com: largest online military destination offering free resources

Florida Dept. of Veterans Affairs:

<http://www.floridavets.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

Then and Now, Terry Allan



1967, An Khe, Vietnam on the left, Terry Allan sweeping the perimeter of his base camp.

Today, Terry and the “Sarge” Karen. Terry has been teaching 30+ years at Columbia College. He teaches: Business, Management & Real Estate.





2nd Annual Poker Run May 12, 2012, for the Residents of the Clyde E Lassen State Veteran's Nursing Home!!!



**Registration begins at
the VFW Post 2391 at
0930, KSU at 1100.**

\$10.00 per rider or \$15.00 per rider and passenger

Breakfast will be offered at \$5.00 a plate.
(Pancakes, scrambled eggs, w/choice of sausage or bacon)
50/50, Raffle, and Music

Poker Cards will be given out at:

- VFW Post 2391, 6184 US-1 South, St Augustine, FL 32086 (904) 797-5267
- AMVETS #45, 1030 East SR206 St. Augustine, FL 32086 (904) 217-4848
- AMVETS Post #59, 5959 North Oceanshore Blvd Palm Coast, FL 32137 (386) 597-2917
- VFW Post 8696, 47 Old Kings Road North Palm Coast, FL 32137 (386) 446-8696
- AMVETS #113, 2525 N US Highway 1 Suite A Bunnell, FL 32110 (386) 263-2972

!!!This event is open to all riders!!!

**~NO ATTITUDES~NO DRAMA~
~NO MISBEHAVING~**



We are an Association of Combat Veterans from all branches of the United States Armed Forces who ride motorcycles as a hobby. Our mission now is to support and defend those who have defended our country and our freedoms. Our focus is to help veteran care facilities provide a warm meal, clothing, shelter, and guidance, or simply to say "Thank You." and "Welcome Home."

Our membership is comprised of Full Members (those with verified combat service) and Supporter Members (those who have non-combat military service, and have a sincere dedication to helping veterans). We have members from nearly all 50 states and living abroad. Many members continue to serve in our Armed Forces, with several serving in combat areas now.

We sponsor and/or participate in many motorcycle-related charity events each year, and as a non-profit organization, donate to various veteran care facilities and veteran charities.

It was a busy year for the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association Chapter 20-2. We have donated to or participated in many programs including the Florida Veterans Programs and Projects, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, the Clyde E. Lassen Veterans Nursing Home, and the St. Augustine Homeless Veterans Stand-Down.

We also donated to the Healing Heroes Network, Joe's Sock Fund for Homeless Veterans, VFW Post 54 and VFW Post 4833. For 2012, we have already donated to the USO of North Carolina for the Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home which will be on March 31, 2012.

The Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association – Veterans Helping Veterans.



The **first 200** riders/passengers receive a ride T-Shirt with paid registration

5th Annual

POW/MIA Remembrance Ride

- A JSO escorted event

March 31, 2012

Location: ADAMEC Harley Davidson, Baymeadows Location, Jacksonville, FL.

Cost: \$25.00 donation per rider / \$10.00 donation per passenger.

Registration: 08:30 or pre-register via our website at

www.rollingthunderjax.org - click on "Ride Registration" link.

POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony: 10:00 with special guest speakers:

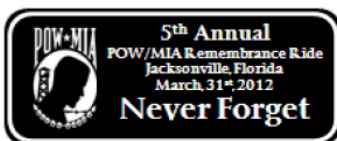
Pam Cain, Karoni Forrester, and Jo Anne Shirley – National League of POW/MIA Families.

Activities: 50/50 raffle, various prize giveaways, lots of good food and drink , and an auction for an original painting by artist, Duffy Soto of Lake City. View some of his work:

http://jacksonville.com/news/metro/2008-12-05/lake_city_man_learns_to_soar_with_his_art

Ride: Kick Stands Up at 12:00.

Entertainment: Live Music.



Ride Patch



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VA Budget Request Tops \$140 Billion for Veterans Programs

WASHINGTON — With more than 1 million active-duty personnel scheduled to join the ranks of America's 22 million Veterans during the next five years, the President has proposed a \$140.3 billion budget for the Department of Veterans Affairs for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1.

"As our newest Veterans return home, we must give them the care, the benefits, the job opportunities and the respect they have earned, while honoring our commitments to Veterans of previous eras," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki.

Shinseki said the budget proposal, which must be approved by Congress, would fund services for newly discharged Veterans, continue the drive to end homelessness among Veterans, improve access to benefits and services, reduce the disability claims backlog, improve the Department's collaboration with the Defense Department and strengthen its information-technology program that is vital for delivering services to Veterans.

"As we turn the page on a decade of war, we are poised at an historic moment for our Nation's armed forces," Shinseki said. "The President has charged VA to keep faith with those who served when they rejoin civilian life."

The budget request includes \$64 billion in discretionary funds, mostly for medical care, and \$76 billion for mandatory funds, mostly for disability compensation and pensions.

If approved by Congress, the new spending levels would support a health care system with 8.8 million enrollees and growing benefits programs serving nearly 12 million Servicemembers, Veterans, family members and survivors, including the eighth largest life insurance program in the nation; education benefits for more than 1 million Americans; home loan guarantees for more than 1.5 million Veterans and survivors; plus the largest national cemetery system in the country.

Here are highlights from the President's 2013 budget request for VA.

Medical Care

The President's proposed budget seeks \$52.7 billion for medical care, a 4.1 percent increase over the \$50.6 billion approved by Congress for the current fiscal year, and a net increase of \$165 million above the advance appropriations level already enacted for FY 2013.

For the next fiscal year, VA estimates 6.33 million patients will use VA for health care. About 610,000 of those patients will be Veterans of the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. The budget request also would provide:

- \$403 million for the gender-specific health care needs of women Veterans, improving their access to services and treatment facilities;
- \$6.2 billion for mental health, a 5.3 percent increase in funding over the current level, making possible increased outreach and screenings, expansion of innovative technologies for self-assessment and symptom management of post-traumatic stress disorder, and enhancements to programs that reduce the stigmas of mental health;
- \$7.2 billion for long-term care, meeting VA's commitment to provide long-term care in the least restrictive and most clinically appropriate settings, such as non-institutional programs that serve a daily population of about 120,000 people;
- \$583 million in direct appropriations for medical research, which receives another \$1.3 billion from other sources, with emphasis on research for traumatic brain injury, suicide prevention, PTSD and genomic medicine;
- \$792 million to support the activation of health care facilities, including new hospitals in New Orleans, Las Vegas, Denver and **Orlando, Fla.**

Funding in VA's major construction account of \$396.6 million is provided to continue construction of new medical facilities at Seattle, Dallas, St. Louis and Palo Alto, Calif.

AMERICAN LEGION POST 194

MARCH MADDNESS FISH FRY



WATCH THE GAMES WITH US AT POST 194

\$5.00 FISH DINNERS, SERVING FISH, FRENCH FRIES,
HUSH PUPPIES & BREAD

STARTING Saturday 17, MARCH 4-8 pm

AGAIN Friday 23, MARCH 4-8 pm

AND Saturday 31, MARCH 4-8 pm

NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP GAME 2, APRIL 2012
at AMERICAN LEGION MONDAY NIGHT

\$2.00 HOTDOGS & \$3.00 HAMBURGERS WILL BE SERVED

WANTED: Your War Stories and Pictures, the Editor of this Newsletter is looking for your help & cooperation. We want to tell your story, anecdote, remembrances of your time in service. It can be short or long and please include pictures if you have them. They can be e-mailed to:

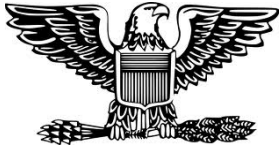
mrothfeld@anyveteran.org or mailed to:

Michael Rothfeld, 4905 Los Altos Circle

Elkton, FL 32033

all pictures mailed will be returned





George Edwin Taylor "Colonel Ed"



Ed Taylor was born in Greenville, SC in 1930 and grew up around cotton mills in Georgia and South Carolina. He graduated from Clemson University in 1952 as the "ROTC Distinguished Graduate" and earned a regular commission as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army.

He completed a 30-year career and retired as a full colonel in 1982 having served one combat tour in Korea during the Korean War and two combat tours in Vietnam. Upon retirement, he built a home in St. Augustine, Florida where he has lived and served the community for the past 29 years. One of the most highly decorated veterans in northeast Florida, he earned the Silver Star (our nation's third highest award for valor in combat) three separate times. Among other awards, he earned the Bronze Star (with "V" for valor) three times; the Army Commendation Medal (with "V" for valor) three times; the Air Medal (with "V" for valor) eight times; the Soldier's Medal for bravery; and the Purple Heart for injuries sustained during combat.

Once referred to as "The Soldier's Soldier" in a front page article of the Saint Augustine Record (his hometown newspaper), he was a competent and confident combat leader with determination and grit, yet he earned a reputation as a man of deep compassion for others with fairness to all. In 1965, a snapshot was taken by an Associated Press photographer in Vietnam that showed him carrying a wounded Viet Cong soldier. The photograph was published in many national periodicals during the politically charged mid-1960s. He always downplayed the significance of the photograph, stating he was simply helping transfer the prisoner from a helipad to a nearby truck...but the picture is a subtle indication of the heart of the "Soldier's soldier."

He almost never related any of his experiences in combat, but on one instance shared with his only son nearly thirty years after the fact a story of when he was charged with leading convoys into jungle areas known to harbor high concentrations of North Vietnamese forces in July 1966. The purpose behind those convoys was to "flush out the enemy." He described the detailed planning that went into one operation and then the actual execution of the plan. As predicted, enemy fire was intense and at one point during the firefight when the Viet Cong nearly overran his convoy, he had no choice but to call in air support that resulted in U.S. 500-pound bombs being dropped from aircraft onto his own position. The enemy was rebuffed and the mission was considered a high success. For his efforts, he earned the Silver Star...and three days later upon his return home after 13 months in combat, was spat upon by a passerby in the San Francisco airport and called a "baby killer."

"Colonel Ed" Taylor, as he is referred to by most veterans in St. Johns County, Florida, has dedicated his life to the service to others. Once asked what his favorite Bible verse is, he responded: *"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I, send me.'"* (Isaiah 6:8)

Colonel "Ed"



Vietnam 1968



Firefight Vietnam 1966



Jungle Patrol Vietnam 1968



Saigon 1968



Coffee with General
Creighton Abrams 1968



Carrying a wounded
North Vietnam soldier



First trip to Vietnam
1965 with wife Jan and
son Dwyn



Shooting a Howitzer 105 mm



H-13 Helicopter,
Vietnam 1966



Briefing General James F. Hollingsworth in 1967. Note: General Hollingsworth, who earned 3 Distinguished Service Crosses, 4 Distinguished Service Medals, 4 Silver Stars, 3 Legions of Merit, 3 Distinguished Flying Crosses, The Soldiers Medal, 4 Bronze Stars for Valor, 38 Air Medals, 1 Army Commendation Medal and 6 Purple Hearts, once told me, "Your Dad (Ed Taylor) was one of the bravest combat soldiers I ever met."



Assisting the wounded 1968



With General Haig and
son Dwyn in 1974



With his father, Wyllys H. Taylor, Sr. in 1952--just after commissioning as a new 2nd Lt. (Note: His father was a Army Engineer Officer in France in WWI).



Inspecting the Corps of Cadets at Clemson in 1951.



Dancing with his wife, Jan, in Berlin, Germany 1961

PRESENTATION BANQUET - MARCH 24, 2012
Keynote Speaker - Ret Brigadier General Holsey Moorman

General Moorman achieved his prestigious Brigadier One Star status with the United States Army in June, 1995, based on his extensive term of service, his exceptional educational background, varied assignments and his outstanding Officer Evaluation Reports. For eleven years prior, he served the Army at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., specializing in Human Resources, Special Operations Manpower as a Personnel Policy Integrator for the Deputy Chief of Staff for Army Personnel; as an Equal Opportunity Officer for the Chief of the National Guard Bureau; as the Assistant Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Reserve Forces and Mobilization; as the Military Executive, Army Reserve Forces Policy Committee in the Office of the Secretary of the Army.



In April of 1994, Brigadier General Holsey Moorman was appointed by New Jersey Governor Christine Todd Whitman as the Deputy Adjutant General for the New Jersey National Guard. He subsequently served for six years, handling vital National Guard internal operations and personnel matters.

Gen. Moorman currently serves as a Palm Coast City Councilman.



The Scheidel Foundation

Please contact Ms Ann Lawton at

amlawton@bellsouth.net or

Tom Crawford 904-827-6891



WWW.CHASERESCORLAFUND.ORG



CHASE RESCORLA FUND

Pickled Pigs Feet



In 1968, my future brother-in-law, Sonny, knew that he would soon be drafted and he wanted to prove himself by being a Marine, so he enlisted and was sent to Parris Island for basic training with the 26th Marines.

Right after graduation from basic, he was shipped straight over to Viet Nam on the next to the last plane to make it into the Khe Sahn base with reinforcements. He was briefed and told "you will probably not make it out of here alive". Sonny (unbeknownst to us at the time) was in all

the major action there at Khe Sahn including the surrounding hills and was trapped there for the duration.



Sonny receiving one of his three Purple Hearts

I got his overseas address from my sister and proceeded to try to let him know we cared and were thinking of him. Back then, the waxed cartons for milk had just come out. We lived in a young and full of vinegar neighborhood and I asked everyone I knew who got Playboy magazines to save them for me. When ready to pack, I would line the milk carton with a magazine or two, then place everything else in the middle.

Sonny was a pure "ole" country boy from a farming county in Virginia and I knew that one of his favorite things was pickled pigs feet. However at that time, everything was packed in glass so I didn't know if a jar of them would get to him or not as I knew if the glass broke, it would just destroy all of the other contents. I decided to chance it anyway and imagined the smile on his face when he opened the box and saw what was in it.



Sonny (r) on patrol in Vietnam

After Sonny returned to the states, he was a bitter, confused, and sick person who just didn't talk about Khe Sahn in particular, so I didn't know what, if any, packages he had gotten from us. (Supplies and mail were air dropped into the base while he was there and many times they would land outside the perimeter.)

One day many years later he finally started talking and I felt it was finally safe to ask him about the packages. He said he only got 3 care packages during that time - one from my sister and two of the boxes from us during that hell on earth and one of them contained the pickled pigs feet. He is also able to laugh now about the Playboy magazine having most of the pictures cut out (unbeknownst to me when I packed it!!!) But he said,

"Patty, you will never know what that meant to me".

As bad as his mental condition was when he came back, I like to think that perhaps what it meant was that those packages helped to sustain him enough to keep surviving.

And that, everyone, is why I keep trying to encourage others to support our troops by sending care packages to our troops in harm's way.

Pickled Pigs Feet - I think of it every time a box is mailed!!!!!!



Submitted by Patty Worsham, Elkton, FL - coordinator for Coquina Crossing Vets troop support program.



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 FLSNSA |
| 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 can 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 THE TOLL-FREE NUMBER WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. The toll-free number of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is 800-HELP-FLA (435-7352)—calling from within the State of Florida or (850) 488-2221—calling from outside Florida.

- **Group: Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) Career Networking**
- **Subject: Announcement from Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) Career**

The White House released details of its personnel and healthcare budget proposals on Monday of this week. All told, the TRICARE fee proposals envision shifting about \$13 billion in health costs from the Pentagon to retirees over the next 5 years.

The changes would phase in significant fee hikes for nearly every segment of the military population, including retirees of all ages, drilling Guard and Reserve members, and currently serving family members.

TRICARE Prime annual enrollment fees for retired families (currently \$520) would rise as high as \$820 starting October 1, 2012, and rise to as much as \$2,048 within five years, with fees based on military retired pay amount.

TRICARE Standard beneficiaries would start paying a \$140 annual family enrollment fee and a slightly increased deductible (\$320) starting Oct 1, with the enrollment fee and deductible rising to \$250 and \$580, respectively within 5 years. These would be flat fees for all Standard beneficiaries.

Retirees and family members age 65 and older would start paying an annual TRICARE For Life (TFL) enrollment fee of up to \$135 per person starting this Oct. 1. This fee also would be graduated based on retired pay amount, and would rise to as much as \$475 per year within 5 years.

Pharmacy copays for retail and mail-order brand-name medications would more than double (from \$12 to \$26) starting Oct 1. Copays for non-formulary medications that currently cost \$25 would also more than double, to \$51, and availability would be mostly restricted to the mail-order venue, with only limited retail access. The brand-name and non-formulary copays would rise to \$34 and \$66, respectively, within 5 years.

MOAA understands that there will always be new reviews of retirement and other compensation programs, but objects strongly to subverting the normal congressional vetting process for the military retirement system that is so essential to long-term retention and readiness.

Finally, the Administration put additional details on its military pay raise proposal. It envisions no change for FY2013, when the law calls for a 1.7% pay raise to keep pace with private sector pay growth.

MOAA believes strongly that maintaining the tie to private sector pay growth is essential. Hard experience shows that, when previous Administrations and Congresses abandoned that link for budgetary purposes, retention and readiness eventually suffered.

We also understand that the DoD budget must play a role in solving our nation's debt crisis. But what we take issue with is the Pentagon's first reaction, especially in the healthcare arena, to pass the buck to beneficiaries rather than fulfilling their own responsibilities for efficient management of military healthcare.

We have a tough fight ahead of us, but our battle now is for the hearts and minds of Congress.

Please use MOAA's web site (www.moaa.org) under legislative updates to urge your legislators to oppose disproportional health fee increases for military beneficiaries and subscribe to MOAA's weekly legislative update for continuing details as the budget process progresses. Use the eNewsletters link from the top right of the homepage to subscribe.

About MOAA:

Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) is the nation's largest officers association with 370,000 members from every branch of service, including active duty, retired, National Guard, Reserve, and former officers and their families and survivors. MOAA is a nonprofit and politically nonpartisan organization and an influential force in promoting a strong national defense. MOAA represents the interests of service members and their families in every stage of their lives and careers.

Submitted by: Jim Carman, MOAA Director of Career Transition Services; jimc@moaa.org.

Since enactment of the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act in 2009, VA includes an advance appropriations request for medical care in the Budget submission. Included in today's spending request is \$54.5 billion for FY 2014, which begins Oct. 1, 2013. This request for advance appropriations will support nearly 6.38 million unique patients and fulfill our commitment to Veterans to provide timely and accessible high-quality medical services. The Administration will review the initial advance appropriations request in the FY 2014 budget cycle.

Veterans Job Corps

The 2013 budget proposes \$1 billion over five years for a Veterans Job Corps, a new effort to leverage skills Veterans developed in military service for a range of jobs protecting and rebuilding America's public lands. The initiative would put up to 20,000 Veterans to work on projects to restore America's lands and resources.

Disability Pay, Pensions

In the next fiscal year, VA projects it will receive about 1,250,000 claims for Veterans disability benefits. This is a 4 percent increase from the 1.2 million projected for this fiscal year.

Shinseki noted that today's claims from Veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, on average, total 8.5 disabilities per Veteran, a rate nearly double that for claims by Veterans of earlier eras and a substantial increase in the workload for VA employees who administer the benefits system.

By 2013, the budget projects no more than 40 percent of compensation and pension claims will be more than 125 days old, a significant cut from the 60 percent of claims exceeding that mark this year. Other improvements funded by the new budget include:

- A new case-management operating model that moves less complicated claims more quickly through the system;
- Additional eBenefits self-service features that allow registered Servicemembers, Veterans and their families to apply for benefits and manage certain aspects of their benefits accounts online;
- Publicly available electronic medical questionnaires that allow private physicians to provide VA with exactly the information needed for Veterans claims for disability compensation; and
- National implementation of a system for processing disability claims that will have all of VA's regional offices, working in a digital, near-paperless environment by the end of 2013.

Veterans Homelessness

The proposed VA budget for fiscal year 2013 contains nearly \$1.4 billion for programs that prevent or treat homelessness among Veterans. This is an increase of 33 percent, or \$333 million, over the 2012 level, continuing the Department's steady progress toward ending Veteran homelessness by 2015.

In the past year, the number of Veterans homeless on a given night has declined from 76,300 in 2010 to about 67,500 in 2011. By emphasizing rescue and prevention, the budget request envisions driving down the numbers to 35,000 by the end of fiscal year 2013. Some specific efforts funded in the new budget are:

- \$21 million to provide 200 coordinators who will help homeless Veterans with disability claims, housing problems, job and vocational opportunities, and problems with the courts;
- \$300 million to provide grants and technical assistance to community non-profits to maintain Veterans and their families in their current housing or to get them rapidly into housing;
- Provide grants and per diem payments to community-based organizations offering transitional housing to 32,000

homeless Veterans; and

- Build upon the recent success of a VA hiring fair in Washington, D.C., which drew about 4,000 Veterans and has led to about 500 hiring offers to date.

Education Program

The Post-9/11 GI Bill will help pay the educational expenses of more than 606,000 Servicemembers, Veterans, family members and survivors during the next fiscal year. Over the past two years, VA has successfully deployed a new IT system to support processing of Post-9/11 GI Bill education claims, and has seen a dramatic improvement in the timeliness and accuracy of its processing program during the same period.

A separate funding increase of nearly \$9 million would expand the “VetSuccess on Campus” program from 28 campuses to 80, serving approximately 80,000 Veterans. The program provides outreach and supportive services during their transition from the military to college.

Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment

The budget request for 2013 would provide \$233 million, a 14 percent increase over 2012, to administer VA’s vocational rehabilitation and employment program. The increase is focused on expanding services to wounded, ill and injured Servicemembers to ease their transition to the civilian sector. Program participants are expected to increase from 108,000 in 2011 to 130,000 next fiscal year.

National Cemeteries

Fiscal year 2013 will see \$258 million for operation and maintenance of VA’s system of 131 national cemeteries if the budget proposal is accepted. The budget supports the initial implementation of a new policy to establish a national cemetery presence in eight rural areas.

Funding in VA’s Minor Construction budget request would finance \$58 million for land acquisition, gravesite expansion and columbaria projects. Also included in the budget request is funding for online mapping of gravesite locations from the IT account.

With a funding request of \$46 million, VA will continue its partnership with the states by funding the construction, expansion and improvement of state Veterans cemeteries, while continuing its support to Veterans cemeteries on tribal lands.

Information Technology

The 2013 budget proposal includes \$3.3 billion for information technology, a \$216 million increase over the current budget. VA operates one of the largest consolidated IT organizations in the world, supporting over 300,000 VA employees and about 10 million Veterans and family members who use VA programs. About 80 percent of the IT budget supports the direct delivery of health care and benefits to Veterans and their families.

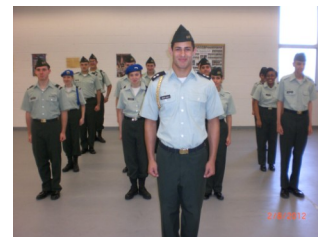
The Department will build upon its unparalleled success rate of 89 percent on-time delivery of IT milestones by continued improvements in support of access to health care, ending Veterans homelessness and improved benefits delivery. VA will implement the integrated Electronic Health Record with Department of Defense, easing the transition from active status to the VA health care system by upgrading electronic health records for all Veterans to a single, common platform.

IT funding will enable VBA’s transformation to a digital and near paperless environment using the Veterans Benefits Management System, decreasing claims processing times by 50 percent, while VA’s telehealth programs will take advantage of new IT technologies, increasing VA’s ability to provide health care to Veterans in remote locations.

#

ST. AUGUSTING HIGH SCHOOL ARMY JROTC

LEADERSHIP EDUCATION & TRAINING



*Cadet CPT Dave Martinez,
Alpha Company Commander*

SAI Chief Warrant Officer Five Castiglione

Phone (904) 547-8423

AI First Sergeant Brown

Phone (904) 547-8424

(This is the information sent to parents) **Dear Parents,**

We would like to welcome new and returning cadets to AJROTC. We are a proud and distinguished unit and we will continue the traditions of **CHARACTER, TRUST, TEAMWORK, SELF-GROWTH, and SERVICE!** We are also a unit of strict accountability: accountability in dress and appearance, attitude and effort, drill, PT (physical training), and with grades in both JROTC and core classes. We want to help your child graduate as a young person who appreciates our nation and its freedoms. This is the country where you can be a success. But each student has to make it happen, starting with a successful high school experience. Keep in mind: we are not recruiters, we strive to nourish leadership skills for your child to be a better American citizen.



*Cadet LTC Madesyn Jarriel,
BN Commander*

Weekly Schedule:

Monday --- Academics, LET Text Lesson

Tuesday --- Academics, LET Text Lesson

Wednesday --- Uniform Inspection, Drill

Thursday --- Academics, Quiz

Friday --- Physical Fitness Training / Cadet Challenge



ISG Carlton Brown, Army Instructor

Drill Team Practice --- 3:45 – 4:45 Tues & Thu

Raider Team Practice --- 3:45 – 4:45 Mon & Wed

Rifle Team Practice --- TBA

Uniform wear is mandatory on Wednesday and a cadet may receive an "F" if they do not wear their uniform.

Uniform turn-in is two (2) weeks prior to the end of school.

Anthony F. Castiglione

CW5, Retired, US Army

SAI, JROTC

☎ : (904) 547-8723

📠 : (904) 547-8723

✉ : anthony.castiglione@stjohns.k12.fl.us

Army Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps, (Army JROTC)

Mission

The JROTC program is a comprehensive effort on behalf of the U.S. Army and St. Augustine High School to provide secondary students a unique opportunity for personal growth and development. The U.S. Army and the school jointly fund the program. The Army provides equipment (uniforms and supplies), books, and partial salary for the instructors. The JROTC learning experience is intended to be useful to students in any future career endeavor, military or civilian. Satisfactory completion of the program can lead to advance placement credit in Senior ROTC (College) or advanced rank in the active Army, Reserves, National Guard, or any branch of the armed forces. JROTC is not an officer accession program, but it is designed to create favorable attitudes towards the service and possible service careers. JROTC instructors are not recruiters; JROTC participation does not obligate the student to perform military or any other federal service. JROTC cadets are expected to perform at a higher level than their peers.

Objectives

JROTC objectives are to develop the following in each cadet:

Good citizenship and patriotism

Self-reliance, leadership, and responsiveness to constituted authority

Ability to communicate effectively, solve problems, and work in a team

Appreciation for the importance of physical fitness and healthy life style

Appreciation for the role of the U.S. Army in national defense and in our society.

Grading

Cadets will be evaluated in the areas of Academics, Leadership, Discipline, Inspections, Drill, and Physical Fitness. Battalion projects and events account for twenty percent of the academic grade for cadet in command and staff positions.

Strengths

JROTC motivates students to learn, not just in JROTC but also in all their classes.

JROTC foster a disciplined and constructive learning atmosphere.

JROTC instills essential skills like time management, planning and organization, responsibility, goal setting and teamwork.

JROTC provides extracurricular activities that build students self confidence and enhance their involvement with their peers, school, and community.

For students who choose to enter the military, it offers advanced status. For those who attend college, it offers ROTC preparedness, scholarships and the possibility of Academy nominations

We are generally available by appointment after school from 3:45 to 4:30 Monday thru Thursday.

HEADQUARTERS
JACKETS US ARMY JROTC BATTALION
ST. AUGUSTINE HIGH SCHOOL
ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA 32084

MEMORANDUM FOR The Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Cadets of the Jackets Battalion.

SUBJECT: Senior Army Instructor's Philosophy

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to inform the cadets of the Jackets Battalion of the unit's mission and the tenets upon which we will define the leadership and academic climate of the battalion.
2. The ST. Augustine High School Mission. The mission of St. Augustine High School is to cultivate self-reliant, productive citizens with aspirations for long-life success in a diverse, changing, and complex society.
3. The JROTC Mission. The mission of JROTC is to motivate young people to be better citizens.

The leadership and academic philosophy is simple and consists of five tenets:

CHARACTER, TRUST, TEAMWORK, SELF-GROWTH and SERVICE

CHARACTER. Our word is the only true asset we possess.

TRUST. The assumption that we are good for our word is the foundation of this unit.

TEAMWORK. Individually, our capabilities are limited. Together, we are greater than ourselves.

DISCIPLINE. Discipline is derived from the Latin word, Discere, "to learn" Discipline yourself to grow personally, academically, socially, and spiritually.

SERVICE. Citizens of liberty are the foundation of this great nation, serve it. Remember, liberty is right to choose. Freedom is the result of the right choice.

"MY Interest Is In The Future Because I'm Going To Spend The Rest Of My Life There" Charles F. Kettering



CW5 Anthony Castiglione, Senior Army Instructor

Anthony F. Castiglione
CW5(Ret), USA, AVN
Senior Army Instructor





**Department of
Veterans Affairs**

Office of Public Affairs
Media Relations

Washington, DC 20420
(202) 461-7600
www.va.gov

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 15, 2012

VA Introduces Text Messaging to Expand Efforts to Prevent Suicide

Veterans Crisis Line Provides Confidential Help to Veterans and Families

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs is expanding its efforts to prevent suicide through several new initiatives that increase the availability of services for Veterans, Servicemembers and their families.

The new initiatives include a new, free, confidential text-messaging service in the existing Veterans Crisis Line, introduction of toll-free access from Europe, and collaboration with Vets Prevail and Vets4Warriors, two groups providing crisis help to Veterans, Servicemembers and their families.

“Offering text messaging services will help VA reach more Veterans and their friends and families,” said Dr. Janet Kemp, VA’s national mental health director for suicide prevention. “We are working to meet their needs by communicating through multiple channels -- over the phone, through online chat, and now via text, which provides quick, easy access to support. VA wants all Veterans to know that confidential support is only a text message away.”

Since its founding July 2007, VA’s Veterans Crisis Line and the later Chat Service have received 500,000 calls and engaged in 31,000 chats resulting in over 18,000 rescues of Veterans in immediate crisis.

Now, in addition to the Veterans Crisis Line (1-800-273-8255 and Press 1) and online chat (www.VeteransCrisisLine.net), Veterans and Servicemembers in crisis—and their friends and families—may text free of charge to 83-8255 to receive confidential, personal and immediate support. The text service is available, like the Veterans Crisis Line and online chat, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year and connects a user with a specially trained VA professional -- many who are Veterans themselves.

As a part of the effort to extend VA’s reach, Veterans and members of the military community in Europe may now receive free, confidential support from the European Military Crisis Line, a new initiative recently launched by VA. Callers in Europe may dial 0800-1273-8255 or DSN 118 to receive confidential support from responders at the Veterans Crisis Line in the U.S.

VA’s Veterans Crisis Line continues to add external resources to provide Veterans with additional support. Two of these organizations include Vets Prevail (www.VetsPrevail.org) and Vets4Warriors (www.Vets4Warriors.com).

In December, Vets Prevail launched a chat service that connects Veterans to caring responders who provide information on a wide variety of resources. If the Veteran is in crisis or needs mental health support, the conversation is then seamlessly transferred to a VA Veterans Crisis Line responder.

Vets4Warriors has helped thousands of their peers connect with confidential assistance through a free hotline (1-855-838-8255/1-855-VET-TALK) and online chat (www.Vets4Warriors.com). If a Veteran is in need of professional crisis or mental health support, Vets4Warriors’ responders will transfer the Veteran to a responder at the Veterans Crisis Line.

For more information about VA’s suicide prevention program, visit:

http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/suicide_prevention/

Dear Friends:

Flagler College Students In free Enterprise (SIFE) is working on an exciting project that will change the lives of **disabled combat veterans**. The project is called **Veteran's Farm**.

Veteran's Farm is run by veterans for veterans. Their mission is to help disabled combat veterans get back into society through the use of horticulture therapy. Veterans work on the farm and develop skills to help them overcome their physical, mental, and employment problems.



Flagler College students in "Students in Free Enterprise"



Veteran produced, Datil Salt

They have entered Walmart's "Get on the Shelf" contest. The product with the most votes wins. If they win, Veteran's Farm products will be on Walmart shelves all over the country. The more products they sell, the more veterans they help. Flagler College SIFE students have made it their mission to help them win this contest. We're not asking you to buy any products or donate money, just to vote.

Voting is easy:

Text 4970 to 383838 and vote every day until April 3rd.

You can also Click on <http://www.getontheshelf.com/product/4970/Veterans-Farm-Datil-Pepp> and select Facebook and vote once a day, every day until April 3rd!

We need your vote to get on the shelf.

Enjoy the video <http://www.getontheshelf.com/product/4970/Veterans-Farm-Datil-Pepp>

Please pass this on and Help the Veterans win.

Sincerely,

Donna and Barry



Veterans Administration expands efforts to Prevent Suicide

In a 15 February news release the VA announced new efforts to prevent suicide through several initiatives to increase the availability of services.



Free confidential text-messaging service in the existing Veterans Crisis Line.. (text free of charge to 83-8255)

Toll-free access from Europe.



Collaboration with “Vets Prevail” (www.VetsPrevail.org) and “Vets4Warriors”.
(www.Vets4Warriors.com).

The latter two groups provide crisis help to Veterans, Servicemembers and their families. The VA wants all Veterans to know that confidential support is but a text message away. According to the News Release: “Since its founding July 2007, VA’s Veterans Crisis Line and the later Chat Service have received 500,000 calls and engaged in 31,000 chats resulting in over 18,000 rescues of Veterans in immediate crisis.”

Concurrently The VA has made available a new crisis “Dog Tag”, inscribed with the Crisis Line telephone number (1-800-273-8255 and Press 1). These are available at the local Veterans Service Office. It is suggested that local military service organizations keep a few on hand to meet the needs of their members. Organizational/Service ‘brothers’ can often spot a need for them before the veteran feels the need for him or herself. The Veteran should be encouraged to carry/wear the dog tag at all times.

Vets4Warriors has helped thousands of their peers connect with confidential assistance through a free hotline (1-855-838-8255/1-855-VET-TALK) and online chat (www.Vets4Warriors.com).

For more information about VA’s suicide prevention program, visit: http://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/suicide_prevention/

Late Breaking NEWS RELEASE

Florida House of Representatives Unanimously Approves

August 7 as Purple Heart Day in Florida



- Veterans' bill heading to Governor Rick Scott for signature -

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — The Florida House of Representatives today unanimously passed legislation establishing an annual Purple Heart Day in Florida, beginning in 2012. The legislation, which designates August 7 of each year as Florida Purple Heart Day, now goes before Gov. Rick Scott for signature.

“The Purple Heart Bill represents Florida’s outstanding commitment to veterans both past and present that have made sacrifices on behalf of our great nation,” said Washington Sanchez, state commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart. “We also salute those Purple Heart recipients throughout our history who have made the ultimate sacrifice. They will never be forgotten.”



Sen. Maria Sachs sponsored the bill (SB 276) in the Florida Senate, which passed unanimously in that body last month. Its companion, House Bill 469, was sponsored by Rep. Jimmie Smith.

The Purple Heart, established by General George Washington, in 1782, is the nation’s oldest military decoration still in use. The contemporary Purple Heart, reestablished in 1932, is a combat decoration awarded to military and civilian members of the U.S. Armed Forces who are wounded by an instrument of war in the hands of the enemy and posthumously to the next of kin in the name of those who were killed in action or die from wounds received in action. According to the Military Order of the Purple Heart, there have been about 1.7 million Purple Heart recipients in the nation’s history.

Once signed, Florida would join seven other states in commemorating the annual observance.

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This Press Release was just sent as we were going to press

**Senator Mike Fasano Announces Passage of Veterans
Priority Course Registration Bill**

**By Greg Giordano, Chief Legislative Assistant to
State Senator Mike Fasano**

Mar 08, 2012



State Senator Mike Fasano announces that HB 45/ SB 94 has passed both the House and Senate with unanimous votes in both chambers and is heading to the governor for his signature. The legislation requires institutions within the Florida College System and the State University System that offer priority course registration for a portion of its student population must also provide priority course registration for veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces. The veterans must be utilizing the educational benefits of the GI Bill.

"Florida has the third largest population of veterans in the nation." Senator Fasano states. "Many of those veterans are people returning from active duty and are ready to begin or resume their post-secondary learning. We have a responsibility to help these men and women get a leg up as they return to civilian life. They sacrificed their lives on a daily basis to keep our nation safe and our freedom intact. The least we can do is help them better themselves through pursuing their next level of education."

Once the governor signs the bill it will become law on July 1, 2012.

The 2012 "Regular" legislative session is scheduled to end today. A "Special" legislative session is expected to be announced to address the issue of reapportionment.

Respectfully,

Jim Brodie

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