

# The Patriot Reader

## VETERANS COUNCIL OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY

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Newsletter Editor Michael Rothfeld



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Volume 2, Issue 1

Newsletter Date: January, 2013

### Message from the Chairman

**Fellow Veterans,**  
**As we reflect back over 2012, the Veterans Council can be very proud of all the activities we have been involved with to honor our Veterans. Our continuing involvement with community projects, cooperation with other Veterans groups, and our outreach through programs working with organizations such as FVPPI, MOAA, Elks, Rolling Thunder, Patriot Guard Riders and others has gained us recognition in the community as a stalwart representative for our Veterans.**

**Our recent Wreaths Across America program held this month at the St. Augustine National Cemetery**

**is a classic example. Recent years has shown a poor performance for participation in this program. This year for the first time, the Veterans Council adopted the program and under the leadership of Dan Blackman, it was a huge success, achieving the goal his committee established at the outset and then some.**

**The Veterans Council continues to look for ways to assist our Veterans in St. Johns County. I applaud the support we get from other organizations and the turnout we get for events. This demonstrates a patriotic spirit and the appreciation our community has for it's Veterans.**

**I look forward to 2013 and the plans we have for an even**



**better year. As our 450<sup>th</sup> commemorative year draws closer, the Veterans Council will be involved in a big way to help celebrate 450 years of continuous military presence in St. Augustine. We thank the heroic efforts of so many of our valiant military men and women who have given so much for the protection of our city, our state and our nation. We salute them all.**

**My wish is for a very Happy, Healthy, and Patriotic New Year for each of you.**

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

The St. Johns County Bar Association handed out Pro Bono Awards this month, Howard McGillin is a three time recipient. McGillin attends nearly all the consumer classes, assists prior to class with consumer client interviews, accepts pro bono cases, and gives legal aid outreach educational lectures in the community when legal aid staff cannot cover them.

**The Veterans Council of St. Johns County congratulates COL McGillin.**



COL Howard McGillin, US Army, ret.



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Colonel, US Army (Retired)  
Attorney and Civil Mediator

**Fairbanks & McGillin PL Attorneys  
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# Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home

*Patriotism is our motto*



The residents and employees of **Clyde E. Lassen** had a wonderful holiday season and hope you all did as well. Here are some photos of just a few of the ways we enjoyed the season!

1. The Patriot Service Dogs and their owners stopped by to bring some holiday cheer to the residents.
2. Elvis gave a wonderful concert.
3. Mr. Isolda and his family are just a few who had a special visitor
4. Hmm.....?
5. The Peter Canerossi Dancers were a beautiful way to spend an afternoon.

Even the staff received a visit.



Santa & COL ED Taylor

Photo by George Milroy





A posting by Alex Horton on VA's website: **The Stories and Lessons of WWII Still Linger**

There have been a lot of reminders about World War II in recent weeks. The 71<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor was earlier this month, and WWII Vets [gathered at their memorial](#) in Washington for a special ceremony to honor the legacy of the Greatest Generation.

This week marked the 68<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of the [Battle of the Bulge](#), a last ditch effort by the German military to retake the European continent. The brutal fight—in freezing conditions with Americans running on little food, warmth, and ammo—defeated the last Nazi thrust in what has been called the greatest American battle in our history.

With these reminders of American resoluteness and victory, this week also brought somber news. Hawaii Senator Daniel Inouye, an Army Veteran of World War II's famous 442<sup>nd</sup> regiment, Medal of Honor recipient, and longstanding Veterans advocate, died Monday at the age of 88.

His heroics on the battlefield are nearly incomprehensible; check out his [Medal of Honor citation](#) to be astonished. VA Secretary Eric Shinseki counted Sen. Inouye as a friend and mentor.

Dozens of WWII Veterans pass away each day. It's never the wrong time to remember their stories and their sacrifices, especially when they're still around to share them.

WW2 Coquina Veterans

Aviation Machinist Robert Bansbach, US Navy 1944-1946  
Corporal Mary Boyle, US Marines, 1944-1946  
Master Sergeant Harold Brandt, US Army, 1942-1946  
Fireman 1st Class Roger Brooks, US Navy, 1943-1946  
Sergeant Don Burkebile, US Army, 1945-1947  
Storkeeper 2nd Class Marie Collins, US Navy Waves, 1944-1945  
Sergeant Walter Czechowicz, Army Air Corps, 1940-1952  
Captain Bill Finch, US Army Air Corps, 1943-1946  
1st Seaman Ted Gacek, US Navy, 1945-1947  
1st Lieut. Jerry Green, Army Air Corps, 1942-1946  
Electronics Technicians Mate 1st Class, Jack Hagan, 1943-1946  
Yeoman 1st Class, Robert Hollowell, US Coast Guard, 1942-1945  
Sergeant Joseph Jones, US Army, 1942-1945  
Senior Chief Engineman William Kelly, US Navy 1942-1962  
Boatswain Mate 2nd Class, Newman Landis, US Navy, 1941-1945  
Sergeant Robert Lentilhon, US Army 1942-1945  
Staff Sergeant Clay Lewis, Army Air Corps 1942-1945  
Corpsman 1st Class Paul Litchfield, US Navy 1945-1947  
Corporal Robert Ong, Army Air Corps, 1942-1946  
PFC Mario Patrino, US Army 1942-1945  
Sergeant Peter Pinto, US Army 1942-1945  
Staff Sergeant Al Rockafellow, Army Air Corps 1942-1945  
Lieut. (JG) Clinton Schoch, US Navy 1942-1946  
First Class Gunner Ed Spencer, US Navy 1943-1946  
Signalman Walter Timmerman, US Navy 1944-1946  
Lieut. Rollin Wilkens, US Navy 1942-1946  
2nd Class Petty Officer Richard Wilson, US Navy 1942-1946

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www.anyveteran.org 26:34  
Florida Veterans Programs & Projects, Inc

FLORIDA VETERANS PROGRAMS & PROJECTS, INC.

SERVE AND PROTECT: STORIES FROM WW II

World War II Veterans of  
Coquina Crossing, Elkton, FL

Produced and Directed by Michael Rothfeld



**The Veterans Council of St. Johns County, along with Florida Veterans Programs and Projects, Inc., and the Coquina Veterans are planning on presenting their recently re-finished World War II documentary to the veterans and their families of Coquina Crossing WW II veterans. More information to follow as it becomes available.**





Greetings,

I am pleased to announce that we have received our first donation toward the Carillon Bell Tower foundation in the amount of \$5,000.00 from the Florida National Guard Foundation. BG (ret) Capps plans to present the check to the Jacksonville National Cemetery Support Com-



Chairman Dan Hughes

mittee on Jan 8, 2013 meeting. This donation will offer support from the Florida National Guard Foundation to our fallen comrades for decades to come. By the time that you receive your Patriot Reader our National Cemetery would have completed Wreaths Across America. 5000 wreaths were placed on our grave sites at the National Cemetery out of respect to our veterans and their families. Thank you Patriot Guard for a well run project.

We wish you love, peace and happiness that is the true meaning of this holiday and a new year full of promise.

Yours through veterans,  
Dan  
Daniel V. Hughes  
Chairman; J.N.C.S.C.



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## The 2012 Wreaths Across America Ceremonies set dual records

By Michael Isam, St. Augustine, Fla. – St. Augustine National Cemetery sets record.



**I**n a November press release the Wreaths Across America (WAA) organization announced the 2012 ceremonies will see the one millionth wreath donated. The wreaths are placed in national cemeteries in all 50 states and nearly 30 locations overseas.

Closer to home, a second record was set when, for the first time since the observance began here in 2007, all 1218 grave markers received a wreath.

Dan Blackman, the WAA location leader for the St. Augustine National Cemetery, has not set a foot on the ground since the numbers were announced at a Veterans Council of St. Johns County meeting.

“This is an incredible event in our history,” said Blackman. “In the past we have had as many as 100 wreaths and as few as 20. I can’t thank our contributors enough for this milestone.”

One contributor stands out for service “Above and Beyond” the call of duty. Danielle McQuarry, of Two Men and a Truck, has donated a truck to meet the semi carrying wreaths for several years. “It is an almost physical impossibility for a semi truck to navigate the streets in St. Augustine to unload the wreaths,” said McQuarry. “Our truck will meet the south-bound semi at SR 206 and I95 to off-load them and store them until they are to be placed.” This year she will also be serving coffee and doughnuts before the ceremonies begin.



Photo courtesy of George Gardner



Dan Blackman

Continuing a practice begun at the first observance in 2007, as wreaths for each branch of service is to be placed, members of the community who either served or had a loved one serve in the branch, will be asked to join in the placement. “We have had many people thank us for that simple act,” says Blackman. “For several people who were unable to be present at services for loved ones, it has provided a sense of closure.” “This year,” says Blackman, “we are involving active duty personnel and Junior ROTC cadets who will be carrying the special wreaths.”

The local ceremony was held on December 15, 2012 and began at noon sharp.

The St. Augustine National Cemetery is located on Marine Street, just south of the Florida National Guard headquarters.

The sequence of events was as follows:

Welcome and Introduction: SGM (Ret) Ray Quinn

Posting of the Colors: Nease HS Navy JROTC

Pledge of Allegiance: SGM (Ret) Daniel Blackman

National Anthem: Ms. Faith Miller

Invocation

Wreaths Across America Program

Firing Detail

Taps

(additional photos by Michael Isam)



Volunteers unload the wreaths



Transferring wreaths to the semi

[www.VeteransIsland.com](http://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"

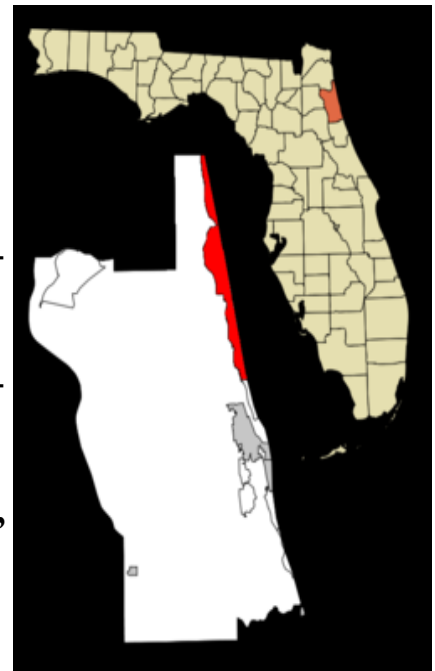
This will be the last chance to do this - ...EVER In America!!

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 !

**“The name has been approved by the US Board on Geographic names in DC.**



Proposed Veterans Island in **RED**

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Please eMail the St. Johns County Commissioners:

Cyndi Stevenson - District 1 [bccd1@sjcfl.us](mailto:bccd1@sjcfl.us)

Ron Sanchez - District 2 [bccd2@sjcfl.us](mailto:bccd2@sjcfl.us)

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**Please write to the State of Florida Senators & Representative**

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**Representative John Mica - 7th District**

2187 Rayburn HOB

Washington DC 20515-0907

(202) 225-4035

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**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

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## Original American Heroes: Creek Nation Honors POWs by Alice A. Booher

*This article is reprinted in its entirety with permission of the author. It is from the January/February 2013 AXPOW Bulletin. [www.axpow.org/bulletin\\_archives.html](http://www.axpow.org/bulletin_archives.html)*

The two remaining former POWs from the proud Creek Nation were present, front and center, as witnesses to the recent dedication of a magnificent POW statue at the Tribal Veterans' Building in Okmulgee, OK. Eighteen members of the Muscogee Creek Nation were POWs and all are listed on the new memorial. The POW survivors are Vernon Wright, who was held for 20 months by the Chinese in North Korea after his plane was shot down; and Philip W. Coon, who was captured and forced on the Bataan Death March.

Coon was raised in Okemah, part of the Alligator Clan of the Nuyaka Tribal Town. The current tribal Chief George Tiger referred to both men as national treasures. Said Coon, "we ran out of food, ammunition and men, but we didn't run out of prayer". And noting the tribal presence at the dedication, Wright observed, "the way these people love their people, you know, it's something you don't see very often". Both remembered their Creek brothers who died in captivity: three POWS from the Creek nation died in camp and one died when a POW transport ship sank in WWII; in North Korea, three died in captivity. In the latter case, to date the Koreans have been uncooperative in recovering their remains so that they can be brought home.

Both men recalled other Native Americans of other tribes with whom they were POWs, like Coon's friend Jacob Cornsilk, a Cherokee from North Carolina who died of malaria. Coon, and some of his family (including his wife Helen, with whom he celebrated a 65th wedding anniversary in December 2012), traveled to the Philippines 10 years ago to pay tribute to the fallen, and he was able to visit the grave of his friend Cornsilk.

Coon is proud to honor fellow veterans and when able, travels to do so. He and other OK veterans made the Honor Flight Oklahoma in May 2011 when it visited the WWII Memorial in Washington. For Coon, born May 28, 1919, Memorial Day 2011 was also a birthday party; he is one of the two oldest members of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, sharing the honor with Ann Holder, [a Euchee- Cherokee mother of 8, grandmother of 18 and great-grandmother of 10], who served as a WAC in WWII. Remarkably, Holder, Coon and Coon's wife Helen all attended Haskell Indian School as kids.



*PICS: Philip W. Coon, Bataan Death March Survivor; Okmulgee, OK POW Statue*



## Pal Day 2012

Members of the Ancient City Chapter 2232, United Daughters of the Confederacy participated in the Annual Pal Day Event held in St. Augustine the first Saturday in December to honor our military personnel, veterans and their families. This is the 10<sup>th</sup> year the Chapter has provided "Goodie Bags" for the children at the Luncheon held at the Elks Lodge. Members decorated 400 bags for the children filled with toys and candies and a stuffed animal and animal crackers for the babies. The Chapter held a yard sale earlier in the year to raise money for the project which is a highlight of the year for many of the members. This is one of many projects that the Chapter holds to support our military and thank them for their service to our country.



Photo: Back row: Marion Booth, Barbara McColskey, Patrice Izzo, Dana Cooper, Judy Davis; Front row: Chantal Izzo, Linda Miller and Katherine Owens, Judy Davis, 3<sup>rd</sup> VP and Treasurer



AS OF TUESDAY , DEC 4, A BILL HAS BEEN PASSED BY THE US HOUSE AND SENATE THAT DECLARES THAT OUR MILITARY WORKING DOGS OF ALL BREEDS WILL NO LONGER BE CLASSIFIED AS "MILITARY EQUIPMENT" TO BE LEFT BEHIND IN FOREIGN LANDS...BUT AS MILITARY VETERANS. THESE DOGS NOW WILL BE

RETURNING TO LACKLAND AFB , FOR THEIR SERVICES AS US HEROES. THEY WILL BE EVALUATED, AND RETRAINED AND REHOMED IF NEEDED. WE NOW AWAIT PRESIDENT OBAMA'S SIGNATURE TO MAKE THIS LAW. WE AS DOG LOVERS ARE ETERNALLY GRATEFUL TO THE CONGRESS FOR DOING WHAT HAS BEEN LONG OVERDUE.

BRAVO.



WASHINGTON (AP) — **Retired Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf**, who topped an illustrious military career by commanding the U.S.-led international coalition that drove Saddam Hussein's forces out of Kuwait in 1991 but kept a low public profile in controversies over the second Gulf War against Iraq, died December 27th. He was 78.



Schwarzkopf died in Tampa, Fla., where he had lived in retirement, according to a U.S. official, who was not authorized to release the information publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

A much-decorated combat soldier in Vietnam, Schwarzkopf was known popularly as "Stormin' Norman" for a notoriously explosive temper.

He served in his last military assignment in Tampa as commander-in-chief of U.S. Central Command, the headquarters responsible for U.S. military and security concerns in nearly 20 countries from the eastern Mediterranean and Africa to Pakistan.

Schwarzkopf became "CINC-Centcom" in 1988 and when Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait three years later to punish it for allegedly stealing Iraqi oil reserves, he commanded Operation Desert Storm, the coalition of some 30 countries organized by President George H.W. Bush that succeeded in driving the Iraqis out. "Gen. Norm Schwarzkopf, to me, epitomized the 'duty, service, country' creed that has defended our freedom and seen this great nation through our most trying international crises," Bush said in a statement. "More than that, he was a good and decent man — and a dear friend."

At the peak of his postwar national celebrity, Schwarzkopf — a self-proclaimed political independent — rejected suggestions that he run for office, and remained far more private than other generals, although he did serve briefly as a military commentator for NBC.

While focused primarily in his later years on charitable enterprises, he campaigned for President George W. Bush in 2000 but was ambivalent about the 2003 invasion of Iraq, saying he doubted victory would be as easy as the White House and Pentagon predicted. In early 2003 he told the Washington Post the outcome was an unknown: "What is postwar Iraq going to look like, with the Kurds and the Sunnis and the Shiites? That's a huge question, to my mind. It really should be part of the overall campaign plan," he said.

Initially Schwarzkopf had endorsed the invasion, saying he was convinced that former Secretary of State Colin Powell had given the United Nations powerful evidence of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction. After that proved false, he said decisions to go to war should depend on what U.N. weapons inspectors found.

He seldom spoke up during the conflict, but in late 2004, he sharply criticized then-Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and the Pentagon for mistakes that included inadequate training for Army reservists sent to Iraq and for erroneous judgments about Iraq.

"In the final analysis I think we are behind schedule. ... I don't think we counted on it turning into jihad (holy war)," he said in an NBC interview.

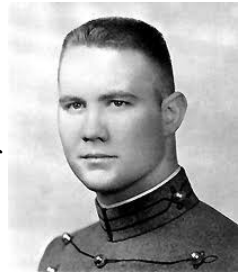
Schwarzkopf was born Aug. 24, 1934, in Trenton, N.J., where his father, Col. H. Norman Schwarzkopf Jr., founder and commander of the New Jersey State Police, was then leading the investigation of the Lindbergh kidnap case, which ended with the arrest and 1936 execution of German-born carpenter Richard Hauptmann for stealing and murdering the famed aviator's infant son.



The elder Schwarzkopf was named Herbert, but when the son was asked what his "H" stood for, he would reply, "H." Although reputed to be short-tempered with aides and subordinates, he was a friendly, talkative and even jovial figure who didn't like "Stormin' Norman" and preferred to be known as "the Bear," a sobriquet given



him by troops. He also was outspoken at times, including when he described Gen. William Westmoreland, the U.S. commander in Vietnam, as "a horse's ass" in an Associated Press interview.



As a teenager Norman accompanied his father to Iran, where the elder Schwarzkopf trained the country's national police force and was an adviser to Reza Pahlavi, the young Shah of Iran.

Young Norman studied there and in Switzerland, Germany and Italy, then followed in his father's footsteps to West Point, graduating in 1956 with an engineering degree. After stints in the U.S. and abroad, he earned a master's degree in engineering at the University of Southern California and later taught missile engineering at West Point.

In 1966 he volunteered for Vietnam and served two tours, first as a U.S. adviser to South Vietnamese paratroops and later as a battalion commander in the U.S. Army's Americal Division. He earned three Silver Stars for valor — including one for saving troops from a minefield — plus a Bronze Star, a Purple Heart and three Distinguished Service Medals.

While many career officers left military service embittered by Vietnam, Schwarzkopf was among those who opted to stay and help rebuild the tattered Army into a potent, modernized all-volunteer force. After Saddam invaded Kuwait in August 1990, Schwarzkopf played a key diplomatic role by helping to persuade Saudi Arabia's King Fahd to allow U.S. and other foreign troops to deploy on Saudi territory as a staging area for the war to come.

On Jan. 17, 1991, a five-month buildup called Desert Shield became Operation Desert Storm as allied aircraft attacked Iraqi bases and Baghdad government facilities. The six-week aerial campaign climaxed with a massive ground offensive on Feb. 24-28, routing the Iraqis from Kuwait in 100 hours before U.S. officials called a halt. Schwarzkopf said afterward he agreed with Bush's decision to stop the war rather than drive to Baghdad to capture Saddam, as his mission had been only to oust the Iraqis from Kuwait.

But in a desert tent meeting with vanquished Iraqi generals, he allowed a key concession on Iraq's use of helicopters, which later backfired by enabling Saddam to crack down more easily on rebellious Shiites and Kurds. While he later avoided the public second-guessing by academics and think tank experts over the ambiguous outcome of Gulf War I and its impact on Gulf War II, he told the Washington Post in 2003, "You can't help but... with 20/20 hindsight, go back and say, 'Look, had we done something different, we probably wouldn't be facing what we are facing today.'"

After retiring from the Army in 1992, Schwarzkopf wrote a best-selling autobiography, "It Doesn't Take A Hero." Of his Gulf war role, he said, "I like to say I'm not a hero. I was lucky enough to lead a very successful war." He was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II and honored with decorations from France, Britain, Belgium, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Bahrain.

Schwarzkopf was a national spokesman for prostate cancer awareness and for Recovery of the Grizzly Bear, served on the Nature Conservancy board of governors and was active in various charities for chronically ill children.

"I may have made my reputation as a general in the Army and I'm very proud of that," he once told the AP. "But I've always felt that I was more than one-dimensional. I'd like to think I'm a caring human being. ... It's nice to feel that you have a purpose."



## 122 Years Of Army-Navy Football



The Army-Navy game held on December 8 marked the 122nd anniversary of the great football rivalry. Their first game, played on a gridiron laid out on southeast corner of the West Point Parade Ground, was so sparsely attended that spectators could move up and down the field as the line of scrimmage shifted.

We have come a long way from that first encounter, but as Army and Navy get ready to play again, the legacy of that 1890 game is worth recalling.

In 1890 Army had only one player with any real football experience -- Dennis Michie, in whose honor today's West Point's football stadium is named. As a result Army was trounced 24-0 by a Navy team that had been playing football since 1886. The next year Army hired a part-time coach, played a series of early-season games, and with Michie (who would die tragically in the Spanish-American War) once again leading the way, Army avenged its earlier loss by a 32-16 score.

Both teams could now claim bragging rights. Their competition had gotten off to the perfect start. Five years before the advent of the modern Olympics, the two service academies had turned their new athletic rivalry into front-page news.

The Army-Navy game, as those reporting it noted, quickly became as much about character as physical skill. "Pluck was the most conspicuous feature of the game of football at West Point on Saturday between the cadets of the Naval and Military Academies," an 1890 account observed. "Where bravery was so common and so notable it would be unfair and unjust to cite one man as braver than another."

The public's response to that first encounter worked to the advantage of both schools, and they went out of their way to make sure their rivalry remained consistent with the military values they sought to display on the gridiron. When in the wake of the 1893 game, which drew a crowd of 8,000, animosities between the two academies reached such a fever pitch that a retired rear admiral and a brigadier general came close to fighting a duel, the game was canceled for six years by order of the Secretary of War and Secretary of the Navy.

The lessons the cancellation taught were absorbed by both sides, and when the game resumed in 1899 on a neutral site, Franklin Field in Philadelphia, before 27,000 people, everything went so smoothly that Army and Navy officials decided that the game must be played annually. Making sure their football rivalry did not deteriorate into petty squabbles paid further dividends two years later when President Theodore Roosevelt and 30,000 fans attended the 1901 Army-Navy game.

The president became so excited about the play, which featured a 105-yard kickoff return by Army's star quarterback, that at one point he left his seat and moved to the sidelines to get closer to the action. But Roosevelt was careful, despite having served as Assistant Secretary of the Navy, to maintain public neutrality. At halftime he inaugurated the presidential tradition of moving from one team's side of the stadium to the other's.

Since TR's time, the Army-Navy football game has always had a life of its own. In his memoir, "You Have to Pay the Price," legendary Army coach Earl "Red" Blaik wrote, "The primary objective of Army football must be victory over Navy. It cannot be achieved by anything less than complete dedication." For Navy's coaches victory over Army has the same priority. Coaches at both schools know that success in the Army-Navy game is crucial to keeping their jobs. How far this pressure to win goes is epitomized by the story former Army coach Paul Dietzel [we called him Pepsodent Paul] tells in his autobi-

ography, "Call Me Coach," of a dinner party at the home of Gen. William Westmoreland, later Commander of American troops in Vietnam, who while Superintendent of West Point hired Dietzel in 1962 to revive Army's football fortunes. "There's one thing you'll need to understand right from the beginning," the general's wife, Kitsy, told Dietzel. Then, turning around, she flipped up her skirt to reveal a pair of blank panties with "BEAT NAVY!" printed on them in bright gold letters.

In 1944, when Army, led by its All-American running backs "Doc" Blanchard and Glenn Davis, [their quarterback was Arnold Tucker from Miami High] was ranked No.1 in the nation and Navy, with a line superior to Army's, was ranked No.2, they played an epic game, won by Army, that helped sell more than \$58 million in war bonds. At the game's conclusion, sports' columnist Allison Danzig wrote, "The country can now return to the normalcy of fighting the most terrible war ever inflicted upon mankind. This Army-Navy game has passed into history."

But an even more revealing comment on the place the Army-Navy football game had come to occupy in World War II America was summed up by a telegram that General Douglas MacArthur, then leading American forces in the Pacific, sent to Army's coach in 1944. "THE GREATEST OF ALL ARMY TEAMS," MacArthur wired. "WE HAVE STOPPED THE WAR TO CELEBRATE YOUR MAGNIFICENT SUCCESS."

MacArthur's hyperbole was deliberate, but there was nothing exaggerated about his belief that the Army-Navy game should serve as an antidote to dark times. When the Army-Navy game of 1963 was canceled as a result of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, it was played a week later at the request of the Kennedy family, and the coin that President Kennedy would have flipped to decide which team received the opening kickoff was sent as a gift by Secretary of the Army Cyrus Vance to Navy's winning football captain Tom Lynch '64.

The following year, with the Vietnam War in its early stages, retired President Dwight Eisenhower, then living in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, put his own stamp on the Army-Navy game. Ike, a 1915 West Point graduate, had desperately wanted to be a football star, and in 1912 he was heralded as one of the best running backs in the East. A knee injury ended his football career and kept him out of the 1912 Army-Navy game, but over the years, Ike maintained his interest in Army football. When he was asked by a cadet interviewing him for West Point's student-run Pointer magazine to send the 1964 Army team a telegram on the eve of the game, he happily complied.

The telegram was designed to rally Army's players, who had lost five straight games to Navy, then led by All-American quarterback and future Dallas Cowboys star Roger Staubach '65. But what emerged from Ike's telegram was much more than a call for victory.

For Ike, the essence of the Army-Navy game was the pressure it put on everyone who participated in it to hold nothing back. "You will always have what you give today. The more you give the more you will keep!" Ike wrote in a message that is as relevant today as it was in 1964.

Army-Navy football remains a stellar attraction but it has suffered from the increased competition for fans' attention at the pro and college ranks. That doesn't, however, take away from what the game stands for.

This year's game, like those of the past, marks the last time most of both teams' seniors will ever step on a football field. As they have known ever since they arrived at West Point and Annapolis, what awaits them is not a tryout in the National Football League or a lucrative job in business, but active service, which these days amounts to a five-year commitment. In no other athletic rivalry is the price of participation higher.



## *“Marines Always Faithful”*

On Saturday December 22nd at the Elks Lodge in St. Augustine, the Oldest City Detachment #383, Marine Corps League, St. Augustine proved once again that they are “always faithful!” On this date 834 children from 323 families throughout the St. Augustine and St. Johns County Community discovered that the spirit of Christmas does not necessarily have a red suite and a white beard, but also wears a red cover (“hat”) bearing an ornament of an eagle, globe and anchor. This red cover belongs to the Oldest City Detachment #383, Marine Corps League, St. Augustine.



Detachment #383's sleigh was led by its own special reindeer; this one did not have a “big red shinny noise”, but a “big red shinny heart.” He does not go by the name of “Rudolph”, but by the name of detachment member Gary Maguire. We all know who was driving the sleigh; yes it was his wife Ellen, president of the Detachment's Auxiliary. The remaining reindeer consisted of detachment members who did not hesitate to answer the call for collection and distribution of toys. There were also many, Northrop Grumman Elves, Elks Lodge Elves and Social Services Elves' who assisted with the distribution of toys, and countless more unnamed St. Augustine and St. Johns County Elves' who gave from their hearts by supporting the Marine Corps Toys for Tots program with their unselfish contribution of toys. For; (i) those unnamed Elves, (ii) Florida East Coast Railroad's train stop, (iii) Northrup Grumman, (iv) Walmart, (v) Walgreens, and (vi) all of the local St. Johns County businesses who served as collection box drop off locations; the United States Marine Corps, its Marine Corps League and especially its Oldest City Detachment #383, St. Augustine extends its sincere warm appreciation and gratitude, because all of this would not be possible without you – we thank you with the smiles from our children!

*SEMPER FIDELIS THE OLDEST CITY DETACHMENT #383*

*more pictures at: [http://www.photoshow.com/watch/Rx9WG9Hq?source=em\\_ps\\_show\\_owner](http://www.photoshow.com/watch/Rx9WG9Hq?source=em_ps_show_owner)*





**Meeting:**  
**First Tuesday of each month**  
**Time: 1900**  
**St. Augustine Elks Lodge #829**  
**1420 A1A South**  
**St. Augustine, FL 32080**



**Mailing Address:**  
**MCL #383**  
**P.O. Box 1752**  
**St. Augustine, FL 32085**  
**Telephone: (904) 461 – 0139**  
**[www.mclfl.org](http://www.mclfl.org)**



Department of  
Veterans Affairs

Office of Public Affairs  
Media Relations

Washington, DC 20420  
(202) 461-7600  
[www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)

# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 7, 2012

## **VA Seeks to Expand TBI Benefits**

### *Proposes Adding 5 Diagnosable Illnesses Secondary to Service-Connected TBI*

WASHINGTON— The Department of Veterans Affairs is publishing a proposed regulation in the Federal Register that would change its rules to add five diagnosable illnesses which are secondary to service-connected Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI).

“We must always decide Veterans’ disability claims based on the best science available, and we will,” Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki said. “Veterans who endure health problems deserve timely decisions based on solid evidence that ensure they receive benefits earned through their service to the country.”

VA proposes to add a new subsection to its adjudication regulation by revising 38 CFR 3.310 to state that if a Veteran who has a service-connected TBI also has one of the five illnesses, then the illness will be considered service connected as secondary to the TBI.

Service connection under the proposed rule depends in part upon the severity of the TBI (mild, moderate, or severe) and the period of time between the injury and onset of the secondary illness. However, the proposed rule also clarifies that it does not preclude a Veteran from establishing direct service connection even if those time and severity standards are not met. It also defines the terms mild, moderate, and severe, consistent with Department of Defense (DoD) guidelines.

Comments on the proposed rule will be accepted over the next 60 days. A final regulation will be published after consideration of all comments received.

VA’s decision is based on a report by the National Academy of Sciences, Institute of Medicine (IOM), “Gulf War and Health, Volume 7: Long-Term Consequences of TBI.” In its report, the IOM’s Committee on Gulf War and Health concluded that “sufficient evidence of a causal relationship” - the IOM’s highest evidentiary standard - existed between moderate or severe levels of TBI and diagnosed unprovoked seizures. The IOM found “sufficient evidence of an association” between moderate or severe levels of TBI and Parkinsonism; dementias (which VA understands to include presenile dementia of the Alzheimer type and post-traumatic dementia); depression (which also was associated with mild TBI); and diseases of hormone deficiency that may result from hypothalamo-pituitary changes.

Specific information about the Defense and Veteran Brain Injury Center is available at <http://www.dvbic.org/>. Information about Gulf War and VA’s services and programs are available at <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/gulfwar/index.asp>.



***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](mailto:mrothfeld@anyveteran.org)



Dade's Pyramids in St Augustine  
National Cemetery

**Important Online Veterans Links:**

Top 25 military sites

<http://topmilitarysite.top.site-list.com>

All Things Military

<http://www.military.com>  
<http://topmilitarywebsites.com>

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

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

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

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

**The St. Johns County Veterans Council meets the last  
Thursday of the month at 7 pm at the Elks Lodge,  
1420 A1A So., St. Augustine.**

Visit our Website: [www.veteranscouncilofstjohns.org](http://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 **86,733** 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](mailto: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.*

## Sr. Augustine's Bill Tatel

**D**uring WWII William Tatel served for 3 years in the 7<sup>th</sup> Army Western Task Force, under the command of General George Patton. He participated in the invasions of Africa, Sicily, Rome-Arno, Southern France and Rhineland campaigns and in overseas battles. He was awarded American Defense Medal, EAME (European African Mediterranean) Medal and the Purple Heart. Served our country in the US Army from March 1941 to December 1952 when, as a Captain, he was honorably discharged.



While in the Army he attended and graduated Officer's Candidate School. Second Lieutenant Tatel was supposed to receive a ten day leave upon graduation. He planned to return home and marry his fiancé and childhood sweetheart, Phyllis. Instead, by 2200 hours he was aboard a ship headed for war. Picture all 100 pounds of Bill, loaded down with a backpack, side arm, more ammunition than you could imagine and a Thompson gun in water up to his shoulders trying to wade to shore. Finally, they successfully made camp in Casablanca. During this time, they did not use radio communication to relay orders, instead they used runners, like Lt Tatel to deliver General Patton's troop movements and engagements or "action plans" in the field. After taking Palermo in Sicily, the Colonel came to Bill and said, "General Patton would like you to open the department stores." Not speaking Italian or knowing anyone in Palermo, this may have been a problem. However, Tony an American stranded in Italy because of the war had offered to help. The department store owners, dignitaries, opera company, orchestra and other notables were hiding in the floors beneath the Cathedral in Monreal on top of a mountain. They had also hidden all of their goods hidden in caves throughout Sicily. Lt Tatel requisitioned five trucks from the motor-pool for five days and in a week the department stores were open. General Patton promoted Bill to First Lieutenant. On his return to the US, he married his wife Phyllis on May 8, 1945 VE Day. Phyllis and Bill moved to St. Augustine in 1997.



Pictured in France

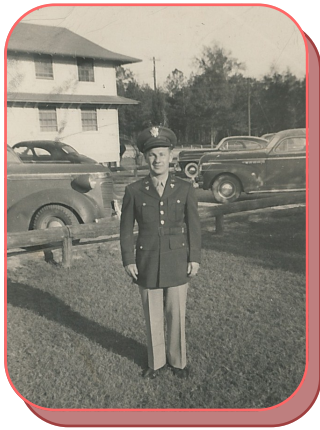
### Organizations:

Charter Member and Past Commander of Milton, MA, Post 696 Jewish War Veterans

Life Member Disabled American Veterans.

Member Military Officers Association of America

Life Member, Temple Shalom of Milton, MA



CPT Bill Tatel graduates  
OCS in Virginia

Life Member, Civil Service Employees, Inc.

Member, Penny Whitman Post #300 Jewish War Veterans, Palm Coast, FL

Trustee, Congregation Sons of Israel, St. Augustine, FL

Past Member, Cosmopolitan Lodge, Ancient Free & Accepted Masons, Mass.

Member, Ashlar Lodge # 98 of St. Augustine and the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of FL. Mason since April 2, 1954.

Member, Council on Aging

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### **VA Trademarks ‘GI Bill’ to Shield Vets from Deceptive Marketing**

For about two years, VA’s online communications team has been closely tracking the advertising and recruitment efforts of for-profit schools looking to bring in GI Bill tuition dollars. In some cases, these schools have ensnared Veterans looking for info by using official-looking websites, which funneled potential recruits to those schools without any balanced, objective information. We aimed to get the word out in order to help Veterans make the best decision possible.

This all came to a head earlier this year, when a group of state attorneys general led an effort to sue the company that owned GIBill.com, a particularly deceptive site. The company settled, and the website was turned over to VA and now redirects to our GI Bill page.

Today, VA announced the next step in the fight against misleading info campaign waged by schools after your hard-earned benefits. The term ‘GI Bill’ has been trademarked by VA with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. VA is the sole owner of the mark, and in the coming months, it will issue terms of use for the phrase. This move goes a long way to enforce accountability to those who would deceive student Veterans for financial gain.

Of course, with millions of dollars up for grabs, schools and marketing firms won’t lie down because of the trademark, so we’ll remain vigilant to ensure Veterans aren’t victims of deceptive recruitment when they decide to make the most out of their education benefits.



## VA Purchases Land for Two New National Cemeteries in Florida

WASHINGTON- The Department of Veterans Affairs has announced that it has purchased land for two new national cemeteries in Florida.

“We are pleased to expand burial service to families in the Sunshine State where so many Veterans live,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. “Acquiring this land is a key step forward in bringing these national shrines to Florida.”

VA plans to construct one of the cemeteries in central eastern Florida between the cities of Daytona and Melbourne, and the other in northwestern Florida, in the Tallahassee area. Together, the facilities will serve an estimated population of 247,000 Veterans and family members who are not currently served with an open national, state or tribal Veteran’s cemetery within 75 miles of their residence.

VA completed acquisition of the central eastern Florida property on July 31 and paid \$2 million for 318 acres of land. The property, formerly known as Acosta Groves, is located on U. S. Route 1 in northern Brevard County in Scottsmeer, approximately two miles from Interstate 95.

VA purchased the Tallahassee property for \$6.8 million on Aug. 14. The 250-acre parcel is in Leon County with frontage along U.S. Highway 27 (Apalachee Parkway). VA purchased the land from the St. Joe Company, one of Florida’s largest real estate development firms. The cemetery will also serve Veterans in southwestern Georgia and southeastern Alabama.

VA has opened three new national cemeteries in Florida over the past five years including Jacksonville National Cemetery (2009), Sarasota National Cemetery (2009) and South Florida National Cemetery (2007).

Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell opened in 1988 and is now the second busiest VA national cemetery in the country with 6,728 interments completed in fiscal year 2011. Of VA’s 131 cemeteries across the nation, the state of Florida is home to six national cemeteries that rank among the top 32 busiest by interment workload.

Barrancas National Cemetery in Pensacola, established in 1868, serves Florida’s western panhandle and southern Alabama. A recent expansion of the historic cemetery ensures that it will remain open with a full range of burial options for decades to come

Bay Pines National Cemetery was established in 1933 and has been closed to first interment casketed burials since 1989. The facility still offers cremation burial sites. St. Augustine National Cemetery, established in 1881, has been closed since 1997.

Veterans with a discharge issued under conditions other than dishonorable, their spouses and eligible dependent children can be buried in a VA national cemetery. Also eligible are military personnel who die on active duty, their spouses and eligible dependents. Other burial benefits available for all eligible Veterans, regardless of whether they are buried in a national cemetery or a private cemetery, include a burial flag, a Presidential Memorial Certificate and a government headstone or marker. Families of eligible decedents may also order a memorial headstone or marker when remains are not available for interment.

In the midst of the largest expansion since the Civil War, VA operates 131 national cemeteries in 39 states and Puerto Rico and 33 soldiers’ lots and monument sites. More than 3.8 million Americans, including Veterans of every war and conflict, are buried in VA’s national cemeteries on more than 20,000 acres of land.

Information on VA burial benefits can be obtained from national cemetery offices, from the Internet at [www.cem.va.gov](http://www.cem.va.gov), or by calling VA regional offices toll-free at 800-827-1000. To make burial arrangements at any VA national cemetery at the time of need, call the National Cemetery Scheduling Office at 800-535-1117.

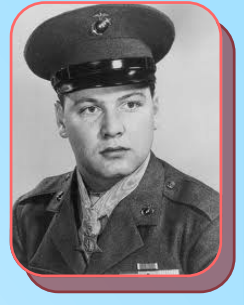
Submitted by Charlie Price



*On December 13th I had the honor of being introduced to Medal of Honor recipient Duane Dewey at the annual St. Augustine Navy League Christmas Party at the Marsh Creek Country Club in St. Augustine.*

Posted by NBC Nightly News, (01:22 pm ET, 06/22/07)

**DUANE E. DEWEY, Corporal, U.S. Marine Corps Company E,  
2nd Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division**



When 19-year-old Duane Dewey joined the Marines soon after North Korean forces rolled into the South, it was an “indefinite” enlistment—the duration of the war plus six months. Dewey was part of the 1st Marine Division, which was near Panmunjom in the spring of 1952. The command had established a series of outposts beyond the main American force. Corporal Dewey was the leader of a machine-gun squad in a reinforced platoon dug in at one of these positions when it was attacked by a battalion-size Chinese force around midnight on April 16.

The American outpost was quickly overrun. Carrying their machine guns, Dewey and his men fell back; now out of their foxholes and fighting on exposed ground, they tried to stabilize their position. Dewey worked his gun—firing so regularly that he feared the barrel might melt—and the bodies of Chinese soldiers piled up on one another in front of him. Seeing that he had only three cans of ammunition left, he ran to another machine gun for more. As he was returning, a grenade exploded at his feet, knocking him down. Bleeding heavily from the thigh and groin, he lay on the ground a moment, trying to reorient himself. A medic appeared, and as he knelt over Dewey to remove his blood-soaked pants, another grenade hit the ground beside them. Dewey grabbed it and for a second considered throwing it back. But he decided he didn’t have the time or the strength, so he tucked it underneath him, pulling the medic down with his other hand and yelling, “Hit the dirt, Doc.” The grenade detonated, lifting Dewey several inches off the ground and tearing up his hip.

The medic was unharmed. Dewey was taken back to the aid station. For an hour he lay outside waiting for treatment, not sure that he would make it. Then he was given a shot of morphine and taken to a trench filled with other wounded Americans. He spent the rest of the night wondering which side would win the battle raging outside. Shortly after dawn, when American troops relieved his company, he was evacuated. Doctors treating him in the field hospital found that in addition to the gaping shrapnel wounds throughout the lower part of his body, he had also taken a bullet in the stomach. He was hospitalized in Japan for a month, then flown to the States, where he would spend three more months convalescing.

On the way home, the plane stopped over briefly in Hawaii, where an officer visited him in the hospital and presented him with the Purple Heart. When Dewey casually mentioned that he had heard his captain was going to recommend him for the Medal of Honor, the officer shot him a look that made him resolve never to mention it again.

Dewey was back home in South Haven, Michigan, when he received a telegram informing him that he had indeed been awarded the Medal of Honor. On March 12, 1953, Dwight Eisenhower presented it to him at the White House. “You must have a body of steel,” the president said to him after reviewing his citation. Dewey and his wife returned home after a week in Washington to a great surprise: To honor him, the townspeople had built a three-bedroom pre-fabricated house for them, completely furnished and with fully stocked cupboards and refrigerator.



## CHASE-RESCORLA SCHOLARSHIP FUND



### Seventh Annual Scholarship Dinner

Saturday March 16, 2013

Elks Lodge, 1420 A1A South,  
St. Augustine, FL 32084

Cocktails 6:00 pm  
Dinner 7:00 pm

Master of Ceremonies  
SGM Ray Quinn, FLANG, ret.

Keynote Speaker: Capt.  
Giles Norrington, US Navy, ret

Tables of 8 are \$ 320.

Tickets are \$ 40.00/ person

Contact info:  
Cheryl Jefferson -- (904)-642-2929,  
William Jefferson— (904)-923-7669  
Greg White – (904) 377-4159

Checks payable to:  
Chase Rescorla Scholarship Fund  
2465 US 1 South, PMB # 72  
St Augustine, FL 32086

A 501 C3 Not for Profit Corp.

### Captain Giles Norrington, US Navy.

Navy Lt. Giles Norrington was making his 22nd reconnaissance flight into North Vietnamese territory when communist rebels shot off the right wing of his RA-5C Vigilante. The plane erupted into a fireball. As Norrington and his navigator, Richard Tangeman, tried to escape, Norrington thought, "It's taking a long time to die." Giles Norrington is a former Marine Infantryman, retired (after 34 years of service) naval aviator who spent 1,775 days as a POW in North Vietnam mostly at the "Hanoi Hilton", author of a number

of articles on ethics and military history and spokesperson for POW's and a variety of service organizations including the Salvation Army, executive director of the American Red Cross Chapter in New London Conn., director of the AIDS Service agency in Norfolk, Va., and Vice President of the Rotary Club of Baileys Crossroads in Virginia among others. Please join us to honor this great American hero and to award Scholarships to this year's winners in memory of Leo C. Chase and Rick Rescorla two other heroes of Vietnam and 9/11.

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

Chase Rescorla Scholarship Fund, 2465 US Highway 1 South, St. Augustine, FL 32086

## Study provides more clues to Gulf War illness - and hope

Gulf War illness, the series of symptoms ranging from headaches to memory loss to chronic fatigue that plagues one of four veterans of the 1991 Persian Gulf war, is due to damage to the autonomic nervous system, a study released Monday shows.

"This is the linchpin," said the study's lead author, Robert Haley, chief of epidemiology at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas. "The disease itself is so difficult to express and to understand," Haley said, explaining that veterans described simply that they "don't feel well" or "can't function," without being able to further explain a disease that affects the automatic functions of their bodies, such as heat regulation, sleep or even their heartbeats.

"Docs don't know what the disease is, so they can't help," Haley said. "But if you can figure out what the disease is, the other problems will fall in line."

Researchers spent 15 years researching a hypothesis, and then "we planned the ultimate study that proved that hypothesis," Haley said.

Along with Steven Vernino, chief of the neuromuscular division at Southwestern, Haley sent 97 veterans through 25 tests, including brain imaging, in seven days. The group had been drawn from a sample of 8,000 Gulf War veterans. The study was published Monday in Archives of Neurology.

"Veterans have high faith in Dr. Haley's dedicated and informative research," said Paul Sullivan of Veterans for Common Sense and a Gulf War veteran. "This finding is important because for the first time physicians who care for Gulf War veterans now have a medical explanation for many of the unusual symptoms."

The team conducted several studies, and then built a theory based on the results of that work. The doctors had funding from Congress until 2010, when they were dropped by the Department of Veterans Affairs after being accused of wasting millions of dollars in research money. That came directly after a 2009 study from Haley showed that neurotoxins such as anti-nerve agent pills, insect repellent and the nerve agent sarin caused neurological changes to the brain, and that the changes seem to correlate with different symptoms.

After they lost funding, Haley and the other researchers continued their work on their own time. "This is the most important study of all," Haley said. "The veterans want to know what's wrong with them. Now, for the first time, all the doctors in the country can say, 'Oh, maybe these are autonomic symptoms.' If you're not thinking autonomic, the symptoms can sound kind of flaky."

For years Gulf War veterans have been told the symptoms were all in their heads, which Haley and other researchers say isn't true.

There is no known treatment for Gulf War illness, Haley said, but a diagnosis can lead to clinical trials and a possible solution.

Veterans of suffering from Gulf War illness tend to fall in three categories:

- Syndrome 1, or cognitive and depression problems.
- Syndrome 2, or confusion ataxia, which is similar to early Alzheimer's disease.
- Syndrome 3, or severe chronic body pain.

Haley said studies released in the next several weeks will include theories as to what caused the syndromes. The study should encourage Congress to devote more money for Gulf War illness research, Sullivan said. The disease affects up to 250,000 veterans, according to the Institute of Medicine.

"Knowing the medical basis for a disease focuses the search for specific treatments and makes it possible to test them in clinical trials," Sullivan said. "If VA continues to be reluctant to fund research, then Congress should hold hearings that prompt VA to do the right thing for our veterans."



From [Stars and Stripes](#)

By KELLY KENNEDY

USA Today

Published: November 27, 2012



# *Florida National Guard serves the Nation at home and abroad*

Written by [Sgt. 1st Class Blair Heusdens](#) // December 13, 2012 // [Feature Stories](#), [News](#)

Soldiers from the Florida National Guard's 53rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team conduct a change of command ceremony in Pinellas Park, Fla., Dec. 1, 2012. Photo by Debra Cox

The National Guard celebrates its 376th birthday on Dec. 13, 2012, and your Florida National Guard continues to have an impact in communities throughout Florida, and in nations throughout the world.



The Florida National Guard stands 12,000 citizens strong – 10,000 Soldiers and 2,000 Airmen.

These part-time professional Soldiers and Airmen, or “Traditionals,” have civilian careers but spend weekends and evenings training and practicing their military specialties. Our Guardsmen stand ready each and every day to respond, when needed, and to contribute daily to programs that add value to our Florida communities.

The Florida National Guard supports both state and federal missions. This year, our organization reached an important milestone, marking 16,000 deployments since Sept. 11, 2001.

The Florida National Guard has always played key roles during hurricanes, and other domestic support and emergency responses. Our aviation Soldiers assisted U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents by patrolling the southwest border. Our air defense Soldiers continue to provide the manpower that defends the skies above our Nation’s capital, and our Airmen continue to support the nation’s space launch program with highly skilled experts. Florida National Guardsmen support counterdrug operations throughout the state in cooperation with local and state law enforcement.

In August of 2012, the Florida National Guard provided support to law enforcement agencies at the Republican National Convention in Tampa. You may have also seen Florida National Guardsmen making preparations for Hurricane Isaac at the same time, and assisting flood victims in northeast Florida after Tropical Storm Debby in June. Most recently we supported citizens in New York and New Jersey after Hurricane Sandy with a C-23 Sherpa transport aircraft. In addition, our Guard members pay homage to Florida’s veterans by providing military funeral honors at local cemeteries.

Our facilities at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center near Starke, Fla., host both military and civilian agencies throughout the year for training. Law enforcement agencies from throughout Florida come to Camp Blanding for training in partnership with the Florida National Guard and our Guardsmen work closely with first responders around the state. The Florida National Guard operates the Florida Youth Challenge Academy at Camp Blanding to educate and mentor at-risk youth from across the state.

The Florida National Guard also maintains strategic partnerships with other countries through the National Guard State Partnership Program. Florida’s state partners are Guyana and the countries of the Regional Security System in the Caribbean. We work closely with military and law enforcement agencies in these countries to share our knowledge and build relationships that are vital to the security of our nation.

This year, we’ve seen the unemployment rate of our Florida Guard Soldiers and Airmen drop to below the state’s average. This achievement is due to the efforts of our Florida Guard Family Career Connection and the local, state and federal partners that continue to support our mission of finding meaningful employment for all of our Guard members. Support from communities and employers means a lot to our Soldiers and Airmen who are returning home from deployments and looking to get back into the civilian workforce.

The Florida National Guard remains a community cornerstone, faithful to the heritage established back in 1636. With 61 armories in 39 Florida counties, we’re never far away when disaster hits. Our Soldiers and Airmen live and work in your towns, their children go to school with your children and they share the love we all have for this great state and nation. With your support, the Florida National Guard is always ready, always there. 25



On December 27th John Holzbaur, Veterans Outreach, for Matt Shurk, Public Defender, Fourth Judicial Circuit, spoke at a meeting of the Veterans Council of St. Johns County. John spoke about the newly formed Veterans Court. In future issues we hope to have more about this exciting new program to help troubled local veterans.



The following is from the University of North Florida's Military and Veterans Resource Center.

## Fact Sheet – MVRC

University of North Florida  
Military & Veterans Resource Center

**Mission Statement:** the MVRC provides a broad range of student services and resources focused on the special needs of today's military veteran, service members, and their families to enhance their smooth "transition" from the military environment to campus life leading to academic success, graduation and employment opportunities.



**Vision:** The MVRC's vision is to become a Veteran's Center of Excellence through a pillar approach. These pillars include: Entrepreneurship, Resource Center, Research, Endowment, and VetSuccess. The MVRC will touch not only the UNF military and veteran community and their families, but also the northeast Florida military and veteran community and will serve as a model of excellence.



## Major Functions:

**Center Facility** - Transition Coach, (7) Station Computer Lab, Copy Machine, Fax Machine, Group Study Room, Lounge with Refrigerator, Microwave, and TV; Counseling Room, VA Certifying Official Tuesday Visits, Open until 6:30 p.m.

**Campus Services** – Priority Registration for Veterans, Academic Advising, Tutoring, Workshops, Veteran Orientation, UNF Veteran's Handbook, Military Ambassador Program

**Campus Resources**- Disability Resource Center, Counseling Center, Financial Aid, VA Educational Benefits, Student Veterans of America, Student Government, Career Services, Veteran Scholarships, and Veterans Club of UNF Alumni Association

**Veteran Specific Offerings** – (22) Veteran-Specific Scholarships, (8) Veteran-Specific Internships, (5) VA Work-Study Positions, and (2) Student Assistant Paid Work Study Positions

**Workshops** – Eight noon hour workshops each semester to include non-academic areas of interest

**Special Events** – Veteran's Day Tribute each fall semester. Each Spring semester "College Ready Boot Camp" for newly released veterans or transfer students to assess their skill levels and Military Veterans Job Fair.

## Contact:

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## **Soldier Missing from Vietnam War Identified**



The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO) announced today that the remains of a serviceman, missing in action from the Vietnam War, have been identified and will be returned to his family for burial with full military honors. Army Sgt. John R. Jones, of Louisville, Ky., will be buried Dec. 6, in Arlington National Cemetery. On June 4, 1971, Jones was part of a U.S. team working with indigenous commandos to defend a radio-relay base, known as Hickory Hill, in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam. When enemy forces attacked the site, Jones and another serviceman took up a defensive position in a nearby bunker. The following morning, Jones was reportedly killed by enemy fire and the other soldier was captured and held as a POW until 1973.

From 1993 to 2010, joint U.S.-Socialist Republic of Vietnam (S.R.V.) teams, led by the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC), conducted several investigations, surveyed the site and interviewed multiple witnesses, including those involved in the battle. During that time, analysts from JPAC and DPMO evaluated wartime records and eyewitness accounts to determine possible excavation sites. In 2011, another joint U.S.-S.R.V team located human remains in a bunker suspected to be the last known location of Jones.

For the identification of the remains, scientists from JPAC and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory (AFDIL) used circumstantial evidence and forensic identification tools, such as dental records and mitochondrial DNA that matched Jones' mother and brother.

Since 1973 more than 900 servicemen have been accounted for from the Vietnam War, and returned to their families for burial with military honors. The U.S. government continues to work closely with the governments of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia to recover all Americans lost in the conflict.

For additional information on the Defense Department's mission to account for missing Americans, visit the DPMO website at <http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo> or call 703-699-1169.



## Taming the Fire Within by Anne Freund A book for post combat veterans

Dr. Anne Freund recently spoke about her book at a Veterans Council of St. Johns County meeting.  
The information that follows is from her website.

Anne Freund, Ph.D., is a licensed psychologist who has been practicing since 1989. She graduated from Duke University with a Bachelor's in Psychology and from the University of Florida with a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology. Dr. Freund completed her internship at the VA in Bay Pines, FL. She has been in the Dept. of Veterans Affairs since 2005. Prior to that Dr. Freund conducted PTSD support groups.

It is this generation's obligation to talk openly about the effects of war without fear of negative repercussions. It is time to break the silence and speak the truth.

Anne appeared on Fox TV's Megyn Kelly show on December 24th, here is a link to her interview: <http://video.foxnews.com/v/2054776543001> The book is available at: **Amazon.com**

For a limited time download a free copy of the book at: [www.WWETributeToTheTroops.com](http://www.WWETributeToTheTroops.com)

# WAR *is* HELL *but* FOR MANY... HOME *is* WORSE

*Nightmares, flashbacks, paranoia, ANGER, insomnia, anxiety, mood swings, GUILT, shame, confusion, frustration, DESPAIR, erratic behavior and emotional detachment*

**Every soldier naturally experiences "Post-Combat Reactions" in varying degrees**



Many of our soldiers go from the front lines to their front yards with little time to decompress or transition back into civilian life after experiencing the *terrors of war*. Trained to "Suck It Up!" these unspeakable horrors often **remain unspoken** allowing the invisible wounds of war to fester.

### **Suicide is the most lethal and *insidious* enemy**

Last April the New York Times reported that *for every one American soldier killed in combat this year, 25 will commit suicide*

Department of Veterans Affairs says that  
**18 veterans commit suicide every day**



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**Anne Freund, Ph.D.**  
Licensed Clinical Psychologist

*"As a PTSD Specialist I know how hard it is for soldiers to share their feelings. I also know what happens when they don't. So I wrote a straight-forward, "no psychobabble" book designed to help Veterans and their families acknowledge, understand and appreciate the natural "Post-Combat Reactions" every soldier of every war experiences. Once I realized how profoundly my book resonated with this community, I've been donating thousands of copies to get it into as many hands as possible."*

### **Soul-crushing isolation can often lead to a downward spiral.**

Tragically, many of our bravest warriors don't receive training to distinguish between clinical PTSD and normal reactions they should expect to experience. Fearing the stigma of a psychological "disorder" and too proud or too scared to reach out, they revert to their combat training - **suffering in silence.**

### **These are the reasons why Dr. Anne Freund wrote this book:**



Available  
in Paperback  
and eBook

amazon.com



[tamingthefirewithin.com](http://tamingthefirewithin.com)



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# Arlington National Cemetery Launches Burial Database



Arlington National Cemetery has unveiled a public database of the 400,000 burials there. Called ANC Explorer, the database is available online and as a Mobile app. You can search it to locate gravesites on a map; get details including birth, death and interment dates, and branch of service; generate front and back photos of a headstone or monument (where available); and get directions to those gravesites. Building it led to the first review, analysis and coordination of almost 150 years of Arlington Cemetery records. The Army photographed 259,978 gravesites, niches and markers and instituted a rigorous process to review each headstone photo with cemetery records and other historical documents. The effort grew out of reports in 2010 of misidentified graves and poorly kept records at the cemetery. Arlington National Cemetery was established during the Civil War on the grounds of Arlington House, once the estate of the family of Martha Custis Lee, wife of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee. Veterans and family members from the Civil War and every subsequent US war are buried on its 624 acres. The first soldier buried there is Pvt. William Henry Christman of Pennsylvania, on May 13, 1864. It can be accessed through the cemetery's website: [www.arlingtoncemetery.mil](http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil). When a name is called up, a viewer can see when the person was buried and the dates of their birth and death. Photos of the front and back of the headstone can also be viewed. Monuments and memorials that commemorate the service of specific military units are also included in the database.

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**From the US Department of Veterans Affairs. Please disseminate widely.**



**VA Warning: "Veterans Affairs Services" Organization Not Affiliated, Getting Vet IDs.**

The Office of the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has requested dissemination of the following :

"An organization called Veterans Affairs Services (VAS) is providing benefit and general information on VA and gathering personal information on veterans.

"This organization is not affiliated with VA in any way." [The organization described itself at its web page at: <http://www.vaservices.org/us/index.html>] "VAS may be gaining access to military personnel through their close resemblance to the VA name and seal. Our Legal Counsel has requested that we coordinate with DoD to inform military installations, particularly mobilization sites, of this group and their lack of affiliation or endorsement by VA to provide any services. In addition, GC requests that if you have any examples of VAS acts that violate chapter 59 of Title 38 United States Code, such as VAS employees assisting veterans in the preparation and presentation of claims for benefits, please pass any additional information to Mr. Daugherty at the address below.

Michael G. Daugherty, Staff Attorney,  
Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of General Counsel



## **A MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**December 20, 2012**

**VA, SSA and IRS Cut Red Tape for Veterans and Survivors  
*New Policy Eliminates Paperwork, Allows More VA Staff to Focus on  
Eliminating Claims Backlog***



**WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs announced today it is cutting red tape for Veterans by eliminating the need for them to complete an annual Eligibility Verification Report (EVR). VA will implement a new process for confirming eligibility for benefits, and staff that had been responsible for processing the old form will instead focus on eliminating the compensation claims backlog.**

**Historically, beneficiaries have been required to complete an EVR each year to ensure their pension benefits continued. Under the new initiative, VA will work with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the Social Security Administration (SSA) to verify continued eligibility for pension benefits.**

**"By working together, we have cut red tape for Veterans and will help ensure these brave men and women get the benefits they have earned and deserve," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki.**

**VA estimates it would have sent nearly 150,000 EVRs to beneficiaries in January 2013. Eliminating these annual reports reduces the burden on Veterans, their families, and survivors because they will not have to return these routine reports to VA each year in order to avoid suspension of benefits. It also allows VA to redirect more than 100 employees that usually process EVRs to work on eliminating the claims backlog.**

**"Having already instituted an expedited process that enables wounded warriors to quickly access Social Security disability benefits, we are proud to work with our federal partners on an automated process that will make it much easier for qualified Veterans to maintain their VA benefits from year to year," said Michael J. Astrue, Commissioner of Social Security.**

**"The IRS is taking new steps to provide critical data to help speed the benefits process for the nation's Veterans and Veterans Affairs," said Beth Tucker, IRS Deputy Commissioner for Operations Support. "The IRS is pleased to be part of a partnership with VA and SSA that will provide needed data quickly and effectively to move this effort forward."**

**All beneficiaries currently receiving VA pension benefits will receive a letter from VA explaining these changes and providing instructions on how to continue to submit their unreimbursed medical expenses.**

**More information about VA pension benefits is available at <http://www.benefits.va.gov/pension> and other VA benefit programs on the joint Department of Defense—VA web portal *eBenefits* at [www.ebenefits.va.gov](http://www.ebenefits.va.gov).**



# THEN AND NOW

## TAMMY SHIRLEY, SJC VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE



Seaman Tammy Shirley in Rota, Spain



Tammy today in the St. Johns County Veterans Service Office

Once a SOLDIER



ALWAYS a SOLDIER

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](mailto: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.*