

The Patriot Reader

VETERANS COUNCIL OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY

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Newsletter Editor Michael Rothfeld



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Newsletter Date: October, 2013

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We are only a few weeks away from our Nov 3 documentary, ***Commitment to Honor*** that our Veterans Council will be showing at Anastasia Baptist Church. The CTH committee has been working hard on programming, raising money through sponsors, getting guest speakers, reaching out to organizations in the community who would like to be participating exhibitors, as well as arranging for our military and JROTC participants.

This is a major production that requires almost full time involvement by your committee members. This will be the fifth in a series of documentaries that has been produced by your Veterans Council in cooperation with FVPPI.

My personal request to all our Veterans member organizations is to reach out to your respective membership to mark this date on their calendar to attend. Please bring your family and friends. We would like to fill our venue at

Anastasia Baptist Church as we did at our last production for our POW's. The CLC at Anastasia Baptist holds 1250 people. Let's plan to fill it.

Through programs such as Commitment to Honor, we have an opportunity to pay tribute to those who have served our Nation, many who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for this great country.

There will be many great exhibits on display including the return of the traveling Vietnam Wall and this year, the Quilt of Tears. This is an extraordinary exhibit that has been many years in the making. You will enjoy seeing both these displays, I promise you.

I look forward to seeing all our Veterans on Nov. 3.

Tuesday, Sept 24 was a special day at Clyde E. Lassen Veterans Nursing Home as many of us gathered with our Veterans who are resident there to celebrate the 3rd anniversary of this outstanding facility. A flag was

presented to the Home by Navy CDR. Scott Olivolo that had been flown at his Base in Kandahar, Afghanistan. CDR. Olivolo hand carried the flag back with him on his return stateside. Receiving the flag on behalf of the Lassen Nursing Home was Col. Ed Taylor. It was quite a moving ceremony. The last 3 years were captured with pictures of the many events displayed on the Homes enlarged video screen. We are all very pleased with the outstanding job Diane King and her professional staff is doing in providing care for our Veterans. Be sure to thank her the next time you see her.

Bill Dudley
Chairman
Veterans Council of
St. Johns Co.

Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home

Patriotism is our motto



Bobby Johns (USN, ret), US Navy Commander and Captain Select Scott A. Olivolo, Diane King and Bill Dudley with the flag presented in honor of the third anniversary of the opening of Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans' Nursing Home

The flag flown over battle and it's certificate of authenticity



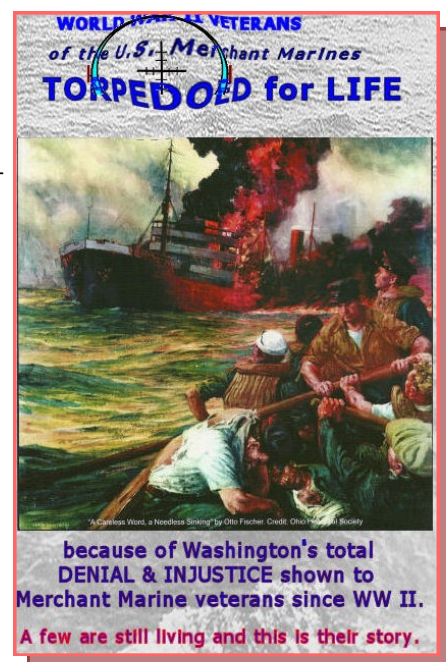
Colonel Ed Taylor (USA, ret) accepted the flag presented by Cmdr. Olivolo on behalf of Clyde E. Lassen SVNH

Ed Trester and Gerry Starnes, local residents of St. Augustine & both Merchant Marine combat veterans of WW II have written a book. The book entitled "World War II Merchant Marine Veterans Torpedoed for Life". Its the story of the Merchant Marine in WW II, and the denial and injustice shown to these veterans by Washington after the war and up to this day. A few are still living and this is their story. The book is being published by Amazon and will be out after October 10th.

FOR INFO CALL ED TRESTER (904) 471-8897



Ed Trester
left during
WW II,
right 2013





The Jacksonville National Cemetery

Greetings from the Support Committee at the Jacksonville National Cemetery!

The Support Committee invites everyone to attend its next scheduled meeting on Tuesday, November 5th, at 7:00pm. The meeting will take place at Community Hospice, 4266 Sunbeam Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32257 in Conference Room A



Chairman Howard
McGillin, COL US
Army ret.

Mark your calendars and plan to attend our next council meeting on Monday 14 October, 5:30pm at the St. Johns County Library SE Branch. Our guest speaker will be RADM Sinclair M. Harris Commander U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command and U.S. 4th Fleet. We will have a short business meeting beginning at 5:30pm and RADM Harris will speak at 6:15pm. Following questions and answers there will be a reception with light food and refreshments. Let's have a big turn out from the St. Augustine Navy League and give RADM Harris a warm welcome. ALL Veterans Welcome!

See you there!

**Mike Zollar, President St. Augustine Council
Navy League of the United States
904-460-1251**



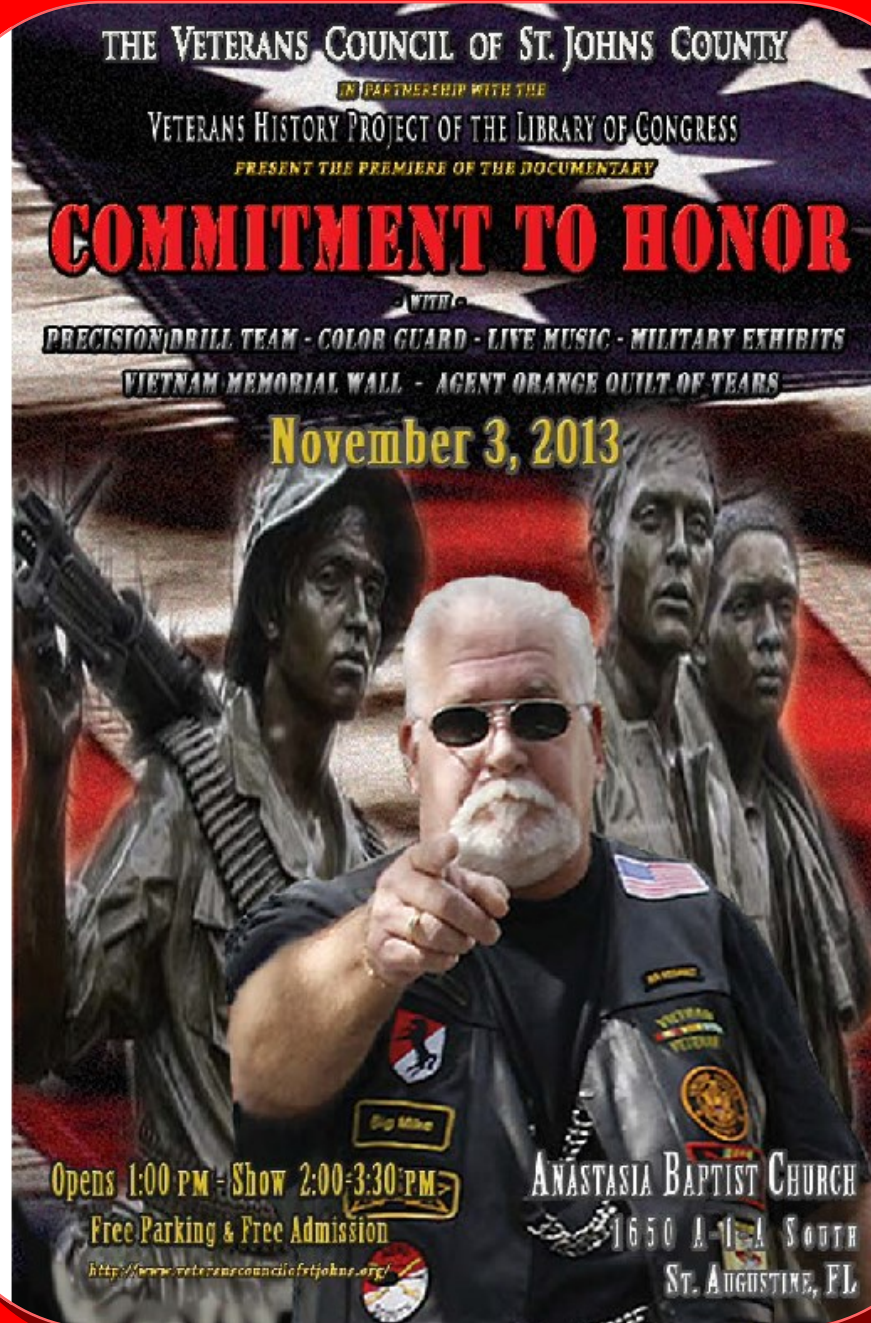
MODEL UNVEILING A HUGE SUCCESS

On 17 November USS *Houston* CA-30 Survivors David C. FLYNN, Howard BROOKS, and Bill INGRAM (Jacksonville), as well as former crewman Ray KESTER were among the over 80 people who gathered at the National Museum of



the US Navy in Washington, DC to celebrate the installation there of a magnificent 14-foot-long scale model of USS *Houston* CA-30. After a special ceremony, attendees applauded as mounted lights blinked on inside the new case for the first time in public, illuminating the beautifully restored 1929 model of USS *Houston* CA-30 by renowned model builder Horace E. Boucher.

The St. Johns County Veterans Council invites everyone to our annual Veterans Show. Please join us on Sunday, November 3rd, 1:00 pm at Anastasia Baptist Church. This is a free event and there is plenty of free parking.



For additional information please contact:

Michael Rothfeld: mrothfeld@anyveteran.org or

Gary Bruce: garyeburce@gmail.com

FEATURED PARTICIPANTS



COLONEL MIKE PRENDERGAST (US ARMY RET) OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKER was appointed Executive Director of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs by Governor Scott on June 22, 2011. A highly decorated U.S. veterans, Colonel Prendergast's awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit with 2 oak leaf clusters, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with 3 OLCs, Army Commendation Medal with 1 silver OLC, Army Achievement Medal with 1 OLC, National Defense Service Medal with 1 bronze service star, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Kosovo Campaign Medal with one bronze service star, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with two campaign stars, Iraq Campaign Medal with two campaign stars, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal with 1 OLC, Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, NATO Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon with numeral 5, and the Army Service Ribbon. Colonel Prendergast is an outstanding public speaker who will share what commitment to honor means to him.



RON DESANTIS - U.S. REPRESENTATIVE FLORIDA 6TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT and a distinguished military veteran who was sworn into the Judge Advocate General Corps of the U.S. Navy while a student at the Harvard Law School. He received orders from Trial Service Office Command South East at the Naval Station Mayport, Florida as a military prosecutor. He worked for the Joint Task Force-Guantanamo Commander working directly with incarcerated terrorists at the Guantanamo Bay Joint Detention Facility. In 2007, Lt. DeSantis reported to the Naval Special Warfare Command Group and was assigned to SEAL Team One and deployed to Iraq. He earned an appointment with the U.S. Department of Justice to serve as a federal prosecutor at the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Middle District of Florida. Lt. DeSantis was assigned as a Trial Defense Counsel. He was awarded the Bronze Star and the Iraq Campaign Medal. Congressman DeSantis is passionate about promoting participation in the Veterans History Project of the Library of Congress and will speak about the project and the importance for veterans, community groups and individuals to become involved in recording and preserving the experiences of our service men and women for both researchers and for future generations.



DR. JOSEPH JOYNER, SUPERINTENDENT OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY SCHOOLS is an outstanding educator and administrator who truly exemplifies and lives the philosophy of being a servant leader in his community. Through his efforts, vision and leadership, St. Johns County schools have consistently ranked highest in the state of Florida and gained national recognition for providing outstanding student education and high graduation rates for high school seniors. We are pleased and honored to have Dr. Joyner announce and recognize the winners of our Ben Meggitt Scholarship Award Essay Contest. This year's essay contest theme is "Commitment To Honor" and three St. Johns County High School students will be selected as First, Second and Third Place winners. No one could be more appropriate to recognize the academic achievements and writing ability of our St. Johns County students than Dr. Joyner.



All motorcyclists are invited to join the escort of the Vietnam Wall and the Agent Orange Quilt of Tears. We will be meeting between 9am and 10am on Saturday November 2 at Rossmeyer's Destination Daytona. Kickstands up at 10am. We will have a Sheriff's escort in Volusia, Flagler and St. Johns Counties. We will arrive at the St. Augustine Elks Lodge between 11:30 and 12 noon where we will have a pizza and beer lunch provided by the Elks Lodge. At 1:30 pm we will move 1/4 mile south to Anastasia Baptist Church where veterans will set up the Vietnam Wall and the Quilt. Contact is Heather Andrews, SJC VSO at: 904-209-6160.



Join Us
November 3, 2013



COMMITMENT
TO HONOR





The Wreath Across America project for the St. Augustine VA National Cemetery is a Community based project lead by community members and veterans of St. Johns County.

Our mission is to remember, honor and teach families of the sacrifices our fallen veterans made who are buried at this location. This project is a coordinated event conducted annually for the community and is scheduled this year on December 14, 2013 at noon nationwide.

The Wreaths Across America project is a 501 (c) (3) project with a goal to place an Evergreen Wreath on the grave of every veteran throughout the United States and especially at The St. Augustine VA National Cemetery.

Our project is in jeopardy of not providing 100% coverage without additional community support this year. For those that have donated we can't thank you enough, and for those that would like to ensure we provide 100% coverage again this year please print the below form mail it in or go on line and make your donation at www.wreathscrossamerica.org. We are told that we need approximately **269 Wreaths** at this time to complete this year's project. The cemetery has 1218 graves and markers and buried there are Soldiers from the Dade Battle, Civil War, Buffalo Soldiers and many others.

The project is headed by the Veterans Council of St. Johns County Inc. The Project Coordinator is SGM (Ret) Daniel Blackman. Dan Blackman may be reached at (904) 669-6423. Evergreen Wreaths are \$15.00 each. Help us reach our target... ask everyone you know to assist.

We invite the business community and citizens to assist in reaching our goal so that a wreath may be placed on every grave and marker on 14 December 2013 at noon. Your tax deductible donation may be made at www.wreathacrossamerica.org and select St. Augustine VA National Cemetery ID #FLSNSA and Sponsoring Group ID #FLVCSJC01 or contact me for a Sponsorship form for a direct donation by making your check payable to Wreaths Across America. Thanks for all of your support.

Daniel Blackman (904) 669-6423



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.

Wreaths Across America Day Saturday 14 December 2013

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mail check and form to:
c/o Daniel Blackman (WAA)
The Veterans Council of St. Johns County Inc.
P.O. Box 2117
St. Augustine, FL 32085-2117
Questions? Call (904) 669-6423

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

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

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA is an IRC§501(c)(3) exempt non-profit Maine corporation, FEIN 20-8362270, registered (# CH34722) with the Florida Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Contributions are deductible from taxable federal income as charitable donations under IRC§170 and/or IRC§6115. Wreaths Across America™ does not use professional solicitors. 100% of funds received benefit the mission: to purchase wreaths to lay at the gravestones of Veterans. More information may be obtained from our website <http://www.wreathsaacrossamerica.org>.

A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. The toll-free number of the Department is 1-800-HELP-FLA (435-7352)—calling from within the State of Florida or (850) 488-2221—calling from outside Florida.



Parade field becomes consecrated ground by Michael Isam

St. Augustine, Fla, (September 14, 2013) – “But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate -- we can not consecrate -- we can not hallow -- this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract.” Abraham Lincoln, Gettysburg Address

Thus Major General Emmitt Titshaw Jr., Adjutant General of Florida, began the ceremony to recognize 448 years of Citizen-Soldier muster and consecrate the St. Francis Barracks parade field at the Florida National Guard Headquarters.

For more than two years soil has been collected from 19 battlefield locations around the world where present day Florida National Guard and its militia predecessors served and fought. Most of the soil came easily and freely being collected by military and embassy personnel. The soil from Kuwait made the trip three times before finally finding its new home here.

The idea came from Senior Army Advisor Col. Dave Rodgers who saw a similar ceremony at Fort Benning, Ga. Rodgers met and discussed the idea with Maj. Gen. Emmett R. Titshaw Jr., and retired Lt. Col Greg Moore, Command Historian for the Florida National Guard. Titshaw gave his approval in 2011 and the daunting task began.

Soil from the 19 locations was spread from mess tins in memory of those who served. “Many of you in the audience today,” said Moore, “have probably seen the classic Steven Spielberg movie ‘Saving Private Ryan,’ and remember the scene shortly after the last German bunker was secured on Omaha Beach where Technical Sergeant Mike Horvath, played by Tom Sizemore, gathers dirt and places it in a ration tin labeled ‘France.’” “He then shoves it in a satchel with two other tins labeled ‘Italy’ and ‘Africa.’ Sergeant Horvath, like many of his fellow soldiers, wanted to bring back something tangible to remind him of the hard-fought battles he was a part of in three different countries.”

Connecting the locations together builds quite an itinerary. Moore gave the following locations during the ceremony.

Begin at the grounds of the present day Fountain of Youth, site of the first militia muster on the North American continent, to the Kanapaha Prairie in mid-Florida during the Seminole Wars. Then after a scant two year rest take a quick jaunt to Vera Cruz, Guadeloupe, and Puebla, Mexico during the Mexican War. The first, but hardly the last time members of the Florida National Guard served outside of the State of Florida.

Switching uniforms to the Confederate States of America travel to Gettysburg, the west bank of Chickamauga Creek, Olustee, and Cold Creek.

Advance forward to 1918 and the First World War, travel to Camp Pontanezen, near Le Mans, France.

Pack your gear, travel to various locations in the continental United States followed by a cruise to western New Guinea in the summer of 1944. From July 10 to August 25, 1944, call the area of the Drinimur River your home. Take a journey to Morotai, a small island in the former Netherlands East Indies. Remember to travel to Mindanao Island in the Philippine Archipelago.

Beginning in August, 1951 deploy to Misawa Air Base in Japan and spend time flying over the landscape

of North Korea.

In late 1990, arrive in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia and travel to two locations in the United Arab Emirates and one in Oman.

After the fall of the Twin Towers, arrive at Camp Phoenix in Kabul, Afghanistan. Spend ten months walking the streets of Baghdad, Iraq with occasional side trips over the border to Jordan.

Find locations such as Turkey, Qatar, Kuwait, Germany, Kyrgyzstan, Iraq and Afghanistan on your itinerary. These are mandatory stops.

While touring those areas, remember Camp Buehring, Kuwait. Witness the last troops leaving Taji at the end of the Iraq war.

There is nothing whimsical meant about the itinerary above. The deployments were real. The citizen-soldiers, men and women, paid a dear price for their desire to serve their country. Some paid with their lives, others paid in a myriad of ways. Always remember, "For those who have fought for it, freedom has a flavor the protected will never know."

Many of the participants left St. Augustine following the 448th muster event to pay last respects to a fallen comrade at Camp Blanding.

When passing the parade field, take a moment to reflect on these deployments, reflect on the sacrifices made. And Give Thanks!



Lt. Col Greg Moore,
(retired) Command Historian for the Florida National Guard.



Soil from 19 locations
around the world in mess
kit tins.



Dirt from Fountain of Youth Archaeological Park, birthplace of the Florida National Guard, is spread by Major General (retired) Ronald O. Harrison, former Adjutant General of the Florida National Guard.



Major General Emmitt
Titshaw Jr., spread the
dirt from Olustee.



Spreading the dirt from
Misawa is Lieutenant
Colonel (retired) Tiger
Homes.



Chief Warrant Officer 4 Tim
Deener, 1st Battalion 111th
Aviation Regiment, spreads
soil from Taji , Iraq.



To Honor our Veterans,
Servicemen and Servicewomen,
We cordially invite you to the
Annual Liberty Parade & Celebration

November 8, 2013

9:00 AM

Liberty Pines Academy

10901 Russell Sampson Road

St. Johns, FL 32259

Continental Breakfast Reception

at 8:15 AM

RSVP by October 21st to

Mrs. Kim Martin- 547-7900

**The mission of the National Vietnam Museum is: To promote
an understanding of the of the Vietnam era
while honoring those who served.**



www.NationalVNWarMuseum.org

Gathering of Veterans Organizations...Vets 4 Vets

The Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1046 and the Jacksonville Semper Fidelis Society would like to invite Veterans Organizations to participate in a gathering of Veterans here in NE Florida under a Veterans for Veterans banner...V4V.



The goal is to unite as many Veterans Organizations as possible in order to not only have the collective support needed to address issues of concern to all Veterans and their families, but also provide a forum where Veterans Organizations can share their agendas with other Veterans Organizations, provide support to each other and collectively participate in civic ceremonies as a united group of Veterans. We envision meeting and coordinating at a quarterly lunch gathering of organizational representatives at the 5 Star Veterans Center.

This is an attempt to work towards improving the lives of Veterans and their families here in NE Florida by working together. As a start, the “Welcome Home” Saturday’s currently being conducted by several Veterans Organizations is a spring board to reaching out to Veterans Organizations and Veterans. This effort is currently being supported by the local VVA Chapter 1046, Semper Fidelis Society, Filipino American Veterans, Marine Corps League Detachment 059, Korean War Veterans, Florida Fallen Heroes Foundation and VFW Post 7909. Each organization takes the Saturdays from 0930 to 1130 in a designated month and meet at the 5 Star Veterans Center. Organizations bring donuts and coffee to share when they meet and greet fellow Veterans from other organizations or walk-ins looking for some camaraderie or assistance. The “Welcome Home” Saturday’s began on July 13th.



If Veterans Organizations are going to make a difference, they need to unite with the intention of being focused and pro-active when it comes to Veterans and Veterans issues. It is understood that some Veteran Organizations have their own agendas, their own goals and objectives and may not want to be infringed on by some other initiative, but there has to be some effort by all to unite and start working towards a unified Veterans approach in our community if Veterans want to make a difference.



FIVE STAR
VETERANS CENTER
ARMY • MARINES • NAVY • COAST GUARD • AIR FORCE

A failure to unite Veterans Organizations has been a problem in the past; it has hindered getting Veterans the support needed when dealing with Veterans issues. This can change through a unified effort when addressing concerns and issues associated with Veterans, their families and our organizations. Change will come quicker through uniting. As long as we continue to move dispersed, we will never be able to concentrate our efforts on the issues affecting Veterans or ensure Veterans are given a square deal. We can start now by organizing to coordinate amongst our organizations, address issues that affect our organizations and start putting forth a united front to all who deal with Veterans.

We are reaching out to all Veterans Organizations and encouraging them to consider helping unite Veteran's under a Veterans 4 Veterans Banner. Together we can be "ONE POWERFUL VOICE" that can make a difference for all our organizations and Veterans here in NE Florida.

For additional information about Veterans 4 Veterans contact Bob Adelhelm at jsfs.usmc@gmail.com, Ray Breault at 1vp@vva1046.com or Anthony D'Aleo at president@vva1046.com ... www.vets4vetsjax.org

A generous offer for veterans. Don Girvan FMR Captain Armor and MOAA member has 4 new hearing aids that he would like to give to veterans who can use them. There is NO charge. Please contact Don at:
mailto:girvan@comcast.net



Veterans Veterans of America Chapter 1046
Jacksonville Semper Fidelis Society
Florida, Veterans of America
Marine Corps League Detachment 052
Korean War Veterans
WWII Vet 2565
Jacksonville Veterans Center



September 9, 2013

Fellow Veteran:

On behalf of the 5 Star Veterans Center and Veterans 4 Veterans, you are invited to meet the Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman of the JCS, Bryan Baggila on October 15th at 0900 at the 5 Star Veterans Center, 40 Acme Street, Jacksonville Florida 32225.

All veterans' organizations are encouraged to attend or send representatives to show this gentleman the Jacksonville veterans' community is engaged. This is an opportunity for veterans to gain the support of additional agencies in our ongoing efforts to help Veterans and their families.

It's meetings/opportunities like this that can show those not familiar with the plight of local veterans or familiar with the local veterans organizations that Jacksonville's veterans are united in their efforts to ensure all veterans are respected and recognized for their services, always receive their benefits and entitlements and are recognized for the sacrifices they and their families made on behalf of this nation.

We encourage all veterans' organizations to consider helping present a united front during this visit. Together we can show that we are a powerful force striving to make a difference for all Veterans in Jacksonville.

For additional information, you can contact Anthony D'Aleo at 904-910-2386; email: president@vva1046.com or Colonel Len Loving at 904-723-5950 email: len.loving@5starveteranscenter.org

"To care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and orphan."

D'Aleo

Anthony D'Aleo
President VVA Chapter 1046

Adelhelm

Robert P Adelhelm
Lt Col USMC Ret
Jacksonville Semper Fidelis Society



How the author got his story

Reprinted with permission of the St. Augustine Record and the author.
By [MARCIA LANE](mailto:Marcia.lane@staugustine.com) , Marcia.lane@staugustine.com

Not every author includes four pages of acknowledgements, “Sacred Ground” author Greg Moore admits, but he “had a lot of people to thank.”

Those include researchers across the country who helped him and family members of the fallen, who shared memories and history.

One of his best long-distance discoveries was made by an archivist at the University of Texas at Arlington who turned up a carte de visite, a type of photograph, of a painting made of Lt. John W.S. McNeil, who died at the age of 21 by the only shot fired when U.S. soldiers captured King Phillip in 1837 in Florida during the Second Seminole War.

The photograph was found in the papers of a family related to the McNeils, one of the numerous incidents of “six degrees of separation” Moore kept discovering.

“In the early days when there were fewer people, everybody really did seem to be connected to each other,” he said.

He worked at the Guard, in his home office and at his “alternative office” at Beachcomber Restaurant, noting that his wife Nancy put up with his absences for four years as he wrote.

Numerous resources available through the Internet meant he could do a lot of research without ever leaving the office.

And he’s quick to praise the inter-library loan system available through the St. Johns County Library System, which was able to help him find all but a couple of the 50-plus books he used in the research.

But it was families who added some of his best stories.

A stab-in-the-dark phone call led him to retired Maj. Gen. Selwyn D. Smith Jr. and stories of his military ancestors including Civil War soldier Sebree Smith, who buried three children in the cemetery. Two died while the family was posted to St. Augustine and the third died in an

accident while the family was at Fort Leavenworth. The family shipped the body back “rather than leave him alone in Kansas.” The general and his son ended up coming to visit the cemetery and see the graves.

A post to a website led Moore to meet the brother of Reginald M. Deas, who died in Korea at the age of 16. Deas’ brother Lee was a couple of years older and had earlier urged his parents not to let his younger brother enlist. It’s not certain how Reginald Deas got in the service; his records were among millions burned during a fire in Missouri. But Lee Deas shared a photo of his brother and recalled him: “He was a damn good brother ... A scrapper. That’s what he was.”

Moore also met Gertrude Brown Mickler, who told him the story of her father, John Tenney Brown of Federal Point. Brown enlisted in the Florida National Guard before World War I and served overseas, making it to France for the last 43 days of the war.

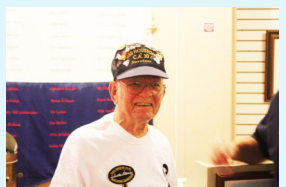
The connections continue.

On Sept. 13, Mickler will be a guest of honor, representing her father, when the Florida National Guard holds the 448th anniversary of the First Muster.

The “first muster” took place on Sept. 16, 1565, when Pedro Menendez de Aviles assembled his soldiers and St. Augustine’s civilian settlers to march on and capture the French settlement at Fort Caroline.



On Saturday September 28th, WW II Chief Boatswain Mate, Bill Ingram, US Navy ret., and ex Prisoner of War spoke at the Maritime Heritage Center at the Landing in Jacksonville. The presentation was hosted by Paul Ghiotto, Curator of the Museum. Michael Rothfeld, President of FVPPI spoke about why Bill was chosen for the POW documentary, “Stolen Freedom” and Robert Mitchell of Rolling Thunder FL



Bill Ingram



From left: Bill Ingram, Paul Ghiotto, Michael Rothfeld

Chapter 4 introduced and then led the discussion. Bill spoke about his incredible story of survival during his over three years of captivity by the Japanese in Burma. The Maritime Center provided drinks and refreshments and everyone in the audience was amazed by Bill’s heroic story.



Robert Mitchell, Bill Ingram

Historian spills local secrets of nation's bravest

Reprinted with permission of the St. Augustine Record and the author.

By MARCIA LANE, marcia.lane@staugustine.com



On his way to writing a history of the Florida National Guard's St. Francis Barracks, Gregory Moore took a detour, ending up with a 245-page book on the St. Augustine National Cemetery on Marine Street.

It's an area he probably knows better than any other living person. In his capacity as Guard historian he gives tours of the cemetery and talks about the history of the people there and of the Barracks, the site of the oldest military post in the United States.

"I love the position as historian here ... telling the history through the stories of the people here," Moore said.

As the Guard's former public affairs officer, he was the "de facto historian" before his retirement in 2001. Before he retired, he wrote a job description for a historian's post, one for a civilian.

Twenty-one people applied for the job, including several with doctorates. The 1974 West Point Army graduate ended up with the job. He was told "we know you know our history ... and you know the history of the National Guard. You won't have to get up to speed."

They also said he understood the job wasn't going to be 8 to 5 and would mean hours during holidays.

No problem for a career officer and the perfect niche for a man who can, without hesitation, recite the 15 lines of "In Flanders Field," a poem on honor and duty written in 1915 by Canadian Lt. Col. John McCrae after conducting the burial service for a soldier killed during a World War I battle.

Moore first recited it while in high school, learning it for a Veterans Day ceremony. Then, he remembers, there were lots of World War II guys (men his father's age), World War I guys (men his grandfather's age) and "the really incredible ones," men who had fought against Spanish troops in 1898.

"It's amazing to think I met men who fought in the Spanish-American War."

Even after he retired, Moore was able to go to the war in Afghanistan for a year, getting himself called back to service in public affairs with the Guard.

His book, "Sacred Ground: The Military Cemetery at St. Augustine," includes a

brief history of the grounds of the Florida National Guard Headquarters and focuses on 23 of the 2,800 men and women buried at the cemetery. The time period ranges from the War of 1812 to the Vietnam War.

His stories include a West Point graduate who resigned after a court martial, three children from one family who all died before the age of two, a Navy aviator killed while conducting a exhibition test flight, a Civil War prisoner of war who later served at Fort Marion (Castillo de San Marcos), a woman who was one of the first nurses in both the Army Nurse Corps (Female) and the Navy Nurse Corps (Female) and a St. Augustine soldier killed at the age of 21 in Vietnam.

Some of the people Moore knew personally — his father, Alvin A. Moore, one of the “Greatest Generation” which served in World War II, and his mentor and friend, Robert A. Hawk, who served in the U.S. Navy and later headed up the Historical Services Division of the Florida Department of Military Affairs.

On his deathbed in 2001, Hawk told Moore he wanted to be buried in the St. Augustine National Cemetery.

That, Moore told him, would be hard to do, but he promised to try.

The cemetery began reaching capacity by the late 1940s and there was no space by 2001. But, by a fluke, the officials at Bushnell were able to grant Hawk’s request. A shrub had died near the cemetery gate and two small spaces small enough for urns were available. Hawk, who had been cremated, was buried where he wanted.

Last week Moore signed some of the first copies of his book after the annual Seminole War Commemoration hosted by the West Point Society of North Florida in August.

The Florida National Guard Foundation published the book and Moore will donate any profits to the foundation.

“It was a rush,” Moore said. “I looked up and there were 31 people waiting in line for me to sign their book.”

Command Historian Florida National Guard's 448th Commemoration (YouTube) Enjoy knowing a little bit more of the role of the military in the history of Florida in St. Augustine. You may want to call Command Historian Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Gregory A. Moore at the Florida National Guard.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yFgXI7ler78>

Florida Veterans Programs & Projects, Inc. and the Veterans Council of St. Johns County are working on a new documentary to premiere in November 2014. In order to complete this important documentary about how wounded warriors are able to succeed in today's society with the aid of K9s, we are asking for your help. Please look at the short trailer of what we have done so far and please consider contributing: <http://vimeo.com/71966728>

All contributions are tax deductible. Please make checks out to Florida Veterans Programs & Projects, Inc. and mail to 4905 Los Altos Circle, Elkton, FL 32033. Thank you.



Short Summary

This documentary tells the story of the K9 For Warriors Program which month after month is radically changing the lives of Post-9/11 veterans who are suffering with PTSD and pairing them with rescued dogs trained to be service dogs. Veterans have described the success of the story as "waking up from a nightmare".

- **This short documentary is intended to promote the efforts of K9 for Warriors and recruit more donors and veterans**
- **It is important to educate the public about PTSD and how rescued dogs are being used to heal and comfort veterans who thought life for them was over**

This documentary will allow us to take the inspiring and positive message of K9 for Warriors global letting the world know that healing is not just possible, it's happening.

We want to share this uplifting and positive message in a sea of bad news and difficulty that will create a greater audience for the program and it's possibilities.

What We Need & What You Get

We need your help. There are production expenses involved in making any film. Please support us to make this film a reality!

- **Post 9/11 Veterans are suffering in unacceptably high rates and need relief beyond the medication and services that are being offered to them at no avail**

This project is being sponsored by FVPPI and the Veterans Council of St. Johns County.

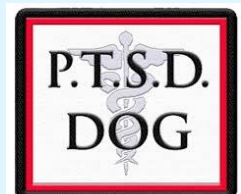
Other Ways You Can Help

- **Please help us spread the word about this film and fundraising.**
- **Forward the trailer on your social media.**

Email people or even call folks to help us make this happen



THANK YOU for being part of this important film about Veterans, rescued dogs and miraculous healing.



Coquina Veterans Tour of "The Military Museum of North Florida" by Harry Manford

On September 19th, the Coquina Veterans toured "The Military Museum of North Florida" in Green Cove Springs. What a neat little museum chock full of artifacts, photos, **equipment**, and all sorts of military paraphernalia spanning from our country's revolution to near current day. This museum honors all service men and women from every branch of our services showing bias toward none.



Once you go through the front door, you have the choice of a self-guided tour or their friendly volunteers will lead you. The array of photographs, pictures, uniforms, weapons (both hand held and mounted), displays, and settings are astounding. There is even an actual walk-in, fully set up, completely functional underground bomb shelter used by the Britons in London against Hitler's bombing raids. Touching and handling the many artifacts is not suggested, but many items are not glass encased so you can get as close as you wish to examine. This is most unlike typical museums you visit.

Let it be known, this is Mario Patruno's personal museum. Well almost! Mario is a long time, devoted Coquina Veteran, and Herb Steigelman, Curator, and his crew of volunteers have taken a shine to Mario and his wife Ruth. If you know anything about Mario's WW II 101st Airborne experiences, the most notable is the Normandy D-Day Landing whereby Mario was dropped miles off objective at night. In order to get back to his unit, he stole a German white horse and rode it. That horse is in the museum! Not bad for a city boy, eh? You must see it.

Those Coquina Veterans attending were Mario and Ruth Patruno, Jim McCollum, Jim Murray, Andy Anderson, Lew McCaw, Marie Collins, Walt Timmerman, and Harry Manford.

Go see this museum. It's close by, admission is free, and the exhibits inside and out are worth your time. Although there's no charge to get in, the museum will accept your donation. This is their only source of revenue.

Once there, you feel they genuinely "honor those who served."

Visit the website: militarymuseumofnorthflorida.com



On Saturday September 21 Rolling Thunder FL Chapter 4 held its annual Tribute in Honor of ALL POW/MIA/Gold Star Mother's at the Morocco Shrine Auditorium in Jacksonville.

Attending this ceremony was a group from Coquina Crossing, Commander George Milroy and his wife Janet, members Artie Giardiello, Wayne Ernissee, Walt Timmerman as well as Carol and Michael Rothfeld.

The ceremony honored the three EX American Prisoners of War and the three Gold Star Mother's families that were present.

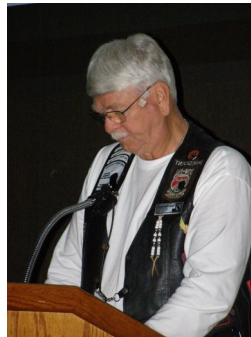
Robert Mitchell, Command Master Chief, US Navy, Ret. led the Remembrance Ceremony which honors those Missing in Action. It was very moving and led by several members of Rolling Thunder. Robert Mitchell pointed out that we still have a live POW in Afghanistan, Bowe Bergdahl, and he has to be brought home.



Sgt Bowe Bergdahl



Remembrance Table & Rolling Thunder Members



Robert Mitchell



HSL 48 Vipers Color Guard



Quilt donated to WW II EX
Photos by Margie Quintana



WW II EX POW Bill Ingram
with Michael Rothfeld



Bill Ingram and Robert Mitchell

[Vietnam POW 40th Reunion News Coverage - YouTube](#)

Remembrance Ceremony

This morning you may have noticed a small table in a place of honor. It is set for one. This table is our way of symbolizing the fact that members of our profession of arms are missing from our midst. They are commonly called POWs, MIAs and those who gave their all; we call them "Brothers." They are unable to be with us today so we want to remember them.

The Table set for one is small -- Symbolizing the frailty of one prisoner against his oppressors. Remember!

The Tablecloth is white -- Symbolizing the purity of their intentions to respond to their country's call to arms. Remember!

The Napkin is black- It represents the sorrow of captivity and the emptiness in the hearts of the families of those still missing. Remember!

The single Red Rose displayed in a vase reminds us of the families and loved ones of our comrades-in-arms who keep the faith awaiting their return. Remember!

The Red Ribbon tied so prominently on the vase is reminiscent of the red ribbon worn upon the lapel and breasts of thousands who bear witness to their unyielding determination to demand a proper accounting of our missing. Remember!

The Candle -- The candle will be lit to symbolize the upward reach of their unconquerable spirit. Remember!

A slice of Lemon is on the bread plate is to remind us of their bitter fate. Remember!

There is Salt upon the bread plate -- Symbolic of the family's tears as they wait. Remember!

The Bible represents the strength gained through faith to sustain those lost from our country, founded as one nation under God.

The Glass will be inverted -- They cannot toast with us. Remember!

The Chair -- The chair is empty. They are not here. Remember!

All of us who served with them and called them "Brothers", we depended upon their might and aid, and relied upon them, surely they have not forsaken us. Until the day they all come home we will, remember!



The Veterans Council wants to thank AJ Sartin for being the VC website administrator. John Mountcastle has set-up a guide for all veterans/not for profit groups on what you need to know to stay in compliance with IRS regulations.



The IRS info page has been added to the WebSite under the IRS & Charities button.

**www.VeteransCouncilOfStJohns.org or
www.StJohnsVetsCouncil.org**

If you click on them, the .pdf file opens. If the file does not open you can get Adobe Reader here, just click on <http://get.adobe.com/reader/> and you can download the file.

**If you still cannot open this link contact Michael at:
mrothfeld@anyveteran.org**

The Military Museum of North Florida is a non profit organization dedicated the honoring those men and women that have served their country in the armed forces via artifacts, displays and military memorabilia. Admission is free but donations are welcome.



The museum is located on Rt 16 in Green Cove Springs FL 1 1/2 miles East of US 17 and 1 1/2 miles West of the Shands Bridge.

**The Museums' hours are: 10:00 to 3:00
Thursday through Saturday and 12:00 to 4:00 on Sundays.**

**Call (904) 584-8719 for more information Herb Steigelman,
Curator**



American Legion Post 37

Thank you Adjutant Kevin McKeefery for sending the following news and pictures



American Legion Riders District meeting at the post home for the first time ever. Congratulations to American Legion Riders Post 37 you are now an official Charter as of September 2013.

The Director President is Freddie Rychlock, and we have over 15 members who are officially on the Charter.



Past American Legion Post 37 Commander Duke Solana passed away. Our condolences to Frances Solana and family. Duke was Commander 2003 and 2004 at American Legion. He also was in the Army from 1961 to 1963. He worked at the lounge as Manager for over 10 years or so.



We have a new American Legion Riders Motorcycle Charter and the President is Freddie Rychlock. We are up to 24 members at this time.



American Legion Vice Commander Kevin McKeefery helping a veteran at the Homeless Standown

Vietnam Veterans of America to form new chapter in St. Johns County

At the July meeting of the Veterans Council of St. Johns County we heard speaker John McGinty address the group about his plans to establish a local chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA).



Vietnam Veterans of America— Still proudly serving: Founded in 1978, VVA is the only national Vietnam veterans organization congressionally chartered and exclusively dedicated to Vietnam-era veterans and their families.

VVA's goals are to promote and support the full range of issues important to Vietnam veterans, to create a new identity for this generation of veterans, and to change public perception of Vietnam veterans.

VVA is organized as a not-for-profit corporation and is tax-exempt under section 501(c) (19) of the Internal Revenue Service Code.

VVA is a non-profit service organization. Programs and services are funded by members dues and public donations.

For more information on Vietnam Veterans of America, visit: www.vva.org

Families, friends, supporters, and veterans of other eras can join the Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America. For more information visit: www.avva.org

Membership Eligibility Dates In Country

February 28, 1961—May 7, 1975

All Other Duty Locations, August 5, 1964—May 7, 1975

Local contact is John McGinty, 904-679-1947

Members of Semper Fidelis Society are most cordially invited to corral a foursome and come play in the 12th Annual Toys for Tots Handicap golf tournament to be played on October 26th at Amelia National. Cost is \$125 per player and includes a fine prime rib dinner after the tourney. Send an email to Cal Atwood (member of SFS) to reserve a slot: atwoodcw@bellsouth.net .

MISSING IN AMERICA PROJECT - UPDATE



The plan for MIAP - FL's first multiple service on Friday November 8, 2013 @ 1:00pm are coming along smoothly. The location for this service is at:

The Jacksonville National Cemetery

4083 Lannie Road

Jacksonville, FL 32218

MIAP will have a meeting on Monday October 21st @ 6:30pm at the American Legion Post 137 located at 5443 San Juan Ave, Jax, FL 32210

This meeting is for anyone who wants to be involved with our service or who wants to know more about what MIAP is doing here in Jacksonville. If you are planning on attending this meeting please let me know so I can get a rough head count in advance.

MIAP will also be holding a rehearsal the day before the service at the National Cemetery, November 7th @ 3:00pm. Please if you plan on attending this rehearsal, when pulling into the National Cemetery be respectful of services that might be going on at the cemetery at that time.

If you have any questions regarding any of our plans please contact me at any time.

Thank you and have a great day,

Kathy Church

101 Bowles Street

Neptune Beach, FL 32266

(904) 219-3035

bartenderpost233@yahoo.com

The Missing in America Project

MIAP - FL State Coordinator

miapjax@yahoo.com

www.miap.us

Army launches start of 50th Anniversary Commemoration of Vietnam War

By **J.D. Leipold** WASHINGTON (Army News Service, Aug. 29, 2013)

The afternoon in the Pentagon auditorium Aug. 28 was a time for reflection on a war that spanned 10 years and cost the country the lives of more than 58,000 young men and women. It was also an occasion to honor and thank nine Vietnam War veterans who served a total of 14 tours in-country and 225 years in uniform.

Kicking off the Pentagon's first event commemorating the 50th anniversary of the conflict, Lt. Gen. Raymond Mason, Army G-4, opened the ceremony recalling personal memories as well as his broader experiences as a young American citizen.

"I was a young Army brat and it was difficult for me to watch my dad come back after his third tour in Vietnam and not get treated appropriately, at least in my mind," he said. "I was just a pretty young guy at that time, but I could feel that it wasn't right. It struck me, and I knew if I ever had the opportunity to make that right I would do the best I could.

"Today, we are recognizing nine of our patriots and their families who stood up to the test of their generation and their decade," Mason continued. "I think it's well overdue. Nothing is more important than pausing and reflecting on the sacrifices of what these great men and women did and those who gave their last full measure."

On March 8, 1965, America's ground war in Vietnam began when 3,500 Marines were deployed with the American public's support. By Christmas, nearly 200,000 Soldiers, Marines, Airmen and Sailors were in the country. At war's end on April 30, 1975, nearly 3 million Americans had been on the ground, in the air and on rivers of Vietnam. More than 58,000 Americans lost their lives.

While the official 50th anniversary of the War will be in 2015, the president and Congress requested the secretary of Defense to begin planning the Vietnam War commemoration in 2007.

The goal is to get more than 10,000 corporations, civic groups as well as government and community organizations to join as partners and help sponsor hometown events to honor Vietnam veterans, their families and those who were prisoners of war and missing in action.

To date, 4,921 commemorative partners have signed on, including Army G-4, which became the first.

Following Mason's remarks, Vice Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. John Campbell thanked him and his team for leading the way for the rest of the nation to celebrate over the next few years the contributions of Vietnam veterans.

Son of an Air Force senior master sergeant, Campbell told of his years growing up on military bases around the world before attending West Point, and then recalled his first interaction with Vietnam veterans while a lieutenant in Germany.

"Both the battalion commanders were Vietnam veterans ... all the platoon sergeants, all the first sergeants, all the company commanders were Vietnam veterans," he said. The vets instilled in him their hard-fought lessons-learned from Vietnam and wanted to make sure the young lieutenants and Soldiers wouldn't make the same mistakes they had, he added.

Former G-4 and now retired Lt. Gen. Claude "Mick" Kicklighter serves as director of the U.S. Vietnam War Commemoration. During the event he previewed the timeline of plans for honoring Vietnam veterans across the country over the next few years.

"Veterans of Valor," a 30-minute documentary with the nine honorees recalling humorous and somber anecdotes of their war experiences and interspersed with still photographs of themselves in Vietnam was also premiered.



A break for disabled vets, current military

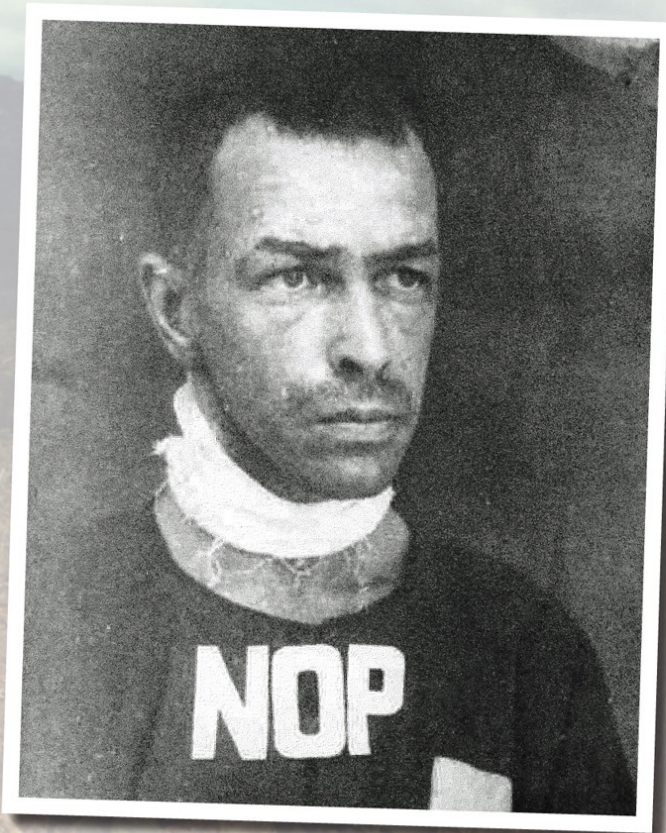
It's modest compensation for their sacrifice, but disabled veterans and current military personnel will be exempt from certain hunting and fishing license requirements in Florida.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission agreed to allow them and their immediate families to participate in hunting and fishing events without the need to get licenses. The event organizer would apply for the permit to exempt them.

"Our disabled veterans and military have given so much to us that we wanted to give something to them," Commission Chairman Richard Corbett said.

ORANGE COUNTY REGIONAL HISTORY CENTER

**LUNCH & LEARN WITH
CAPT. GILES NORRINGTON
AND MICHAEL ROTHFELD**



PRISONERS OF WAR: STOLEN FREEDOM

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7

Learn how four former American POWs who fought in World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War managed to survive the brutality of being captured—and hear from one of them, Capt. Giles Norrington, who was in the Hanoi Hilton.

NOON-1 P.M. • FREE • (407) 836-7010



United Arts
OF CENTRAL FLORIDA



THEHISTORYCENTER.ORG



ORANGE COUNTY
GOVERNMENT
FLORIDA

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. -- Freddie Woodard says it's been at least 15 years of feeling "ashamed." He says his teeth have been so bad he was embarrassed to open his mouth. But today at the Healing Hands Clinic Freddie got his new teeth.



He looked in the mirror and just beamed. "Thank you, God!" he kept saying.

Freddie knows without dental insurance that the cost for his dental care was out of reach. Even though he's a veteran, he does not have financial help for dentistry.

Healing Hands staff says they have about 20 veterans on the waiting list right now. They say unless a veteran is 100% disabled, dental is not covered.

So Freddie was facing the rest of his life without functioning teeth. His bill from a regular dentist would have been around \$5,000.

Volunteer dentist Dr. Dwight Jones says just seeing Freddie smile is worth the volunteer hours he puts in at the clinic.

But the Healing Hands clinic provided both upper and lower teeth for Freddie. Volunteer dentists couldn't save a single one of his teeth. They were all in such bad shape.

Freddie is thrilled. He even got a few tears in his eyes today.

However, the waiting list for Healing Hands dental care topped 500 going into this week. Since just this past Tuesday, dozens more have signed up to try and get free help.

The clinic is too small.

That's why we're doing the Apple Project. We're trying to build a free dental clinic which could serve thousands of people.

If you'd like to [donate](#), anything you'd like to give will be matched up to \$100,000 by the Weaver Foundation.

First Coast News, Jeannie Blaylock



Air Force Sergeants Association
Gateway Chapter Jacksonville, Florida
Federal ID #52-1246750

Dear Sir or Madam:

The Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA) is a non-profit organization made up of Active Duty, Reserve and Retired Air Force Personnel.

We provide community service projects locally, legislative awareness, help our military families and promote patriotism.

On October 26th 2013, we will be hosting the 4th Annual AFSA Charity Golf Tournament at the Saint Augustine Shores Golf Course. The money earned from the charity tournament will go to help: Wounded Warriors Foundation, Airmen Memorial Foundation, your local AFSA chapter 559 and Wreaths across America – St Augustine.

We are looking to raise money for these foundations by selling sponsorship holes. A Silver level sponsorship (\$100) will provide you a sign for your business on the tee box, shared with other sponsors. A Gold Level sponsorship (\$200) will provide you a larger sign on an exclusive tee box. Would you be willing to donate a Gold or Silver sponsorship level for this worthy event?

We would appreciate anything you can do for us.

Thank you in advance for your consideration,

JORDAN J. PERRY, TSgt, USAF Active Duty
1952 US Hwy 1 South
Saint Augustine, FL 32086
jordan.perry@us.af.mil
904-827-0022

The 2013 VA Benefits Book is out and available online at:

[VA Fed Benefits for Vet Book \(2013\).pdf](#)



4th Annual AFSA



Charity Golf Tournament

WHERE: Saint Augustine Shores Golf Course

707 Shores Blvd, Saint Augustine, FL 32086

WHEN: Saturday— 26 OCT 2013

TIME: 10:00 A.M. Shotgun Start

Lunch starts around 2:00 P.M.

TYPE: 4 Man Team Captains Choice

To register stop by the Shores Golf Course or Call 794-0303 and

Register for AFSA Charity Golf Tournament

COST: \$50 per Person

Includes Green Fees, Cart and Lunch

Pay the day of Tournament

Mulligan's will be able to be purchased: 5 for \$10, 2 for \$5 or 1 for \$3

---Max 5 per person---

PRIZES:

Prizes given to 1st, 2nd, 3rd Place teams and 1st, 2nd, 3rd Last Place teams

Longest Drive and Closest to the Pin for Men and Ladies

We will also have a raffle for multiple door prizes.

PLEASE COME AND HELP SUPPORT

This Charity Golf Tournament is for the Air Force Sergeants Association (AFSA).

All Proceeds will go to help these foundations:

The Wounded Warriors Foundation

Airmen Memorial Foundation

AFSA-Gateway Chapter

Wreaths Across America-St Augustine

Air Force Sergeants Association

Gateway Chapter Jacksonville, Florida

Federal ID #52-1246750



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We would appreciate anything you can do for us.

Thank you in advance for your consideration,

JORDAN J. PERRY, TSgt, USAF Active Duty



A promotional banner for Bozard Ford Lincoln. On the left, three people (two men and one woman) are smiling and making the number one gesture with their fingers. The background features a sunburst pattern. The text 'BOZARD' is in large red letters, followed by the Ford and Lincoln logos. Below this, it says 'Voted #1 in the United States in Customer Reviews'. At the bottom, an orange bar contains the DealerRater logo and two award titles: '2013 Ford Dealer of the Year' and '2013 Lincoln Dealer of the Year'.

BOZARD   **LINCOLN**

**Voted #1 in the United States
in Customer Reviews**

 **2013 Ford Dealer of the Year**
2013 Lincoln Dealer of the Year

Veterans history project at St. Johns County libraries



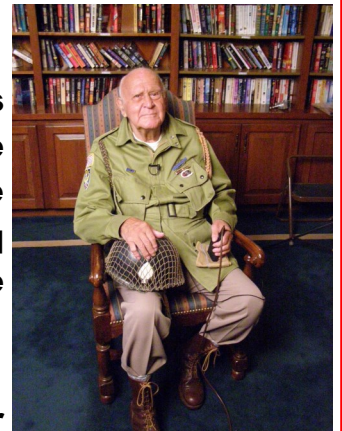
Veterans who have a story to tell and who would like to record it for future generations are encouraged to contact the St. Johns County Public Library System and participate in the Veterans History Project.

It is through personal narratives, correspondence and visual materials that the Veterans History Project is able to collect, preserve, and make accessible the personal accounts of American veterans so future generations can better understand the realities of war. The Congress created the Veterans History Project in 2000 as part of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. The St. Johns County Public Library System partnered with Haven Hospice in 2012 to offer this oral history service to local veterans.

The project collects first-hand accounts of U.S. Veterans from World War I (1914–1920), World War II (1939–1946), the Korean War (1950–1955), the Vietnam War (1961–1975), the Persian Gulf War (1990–1995), and the Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts (2001–present), as well as those serving in the armed forces during the years between these conflicts.

After veterans are matched up with a volunteer interviewer for approximately an hour, they not only will obtain their own personal copy, but they can elect to send their recorded account to the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. If desired, the veteran can request a copy be kept in the St. Johns County Library System, have it posted online for others to easily access, or both.

The Veterans History Project relies on volunteers to interview, record, compile and donate materials. Veterans, civilians, adults, young people, scholars, students, amateurs, and experts are all encouraged to participate. For information, contact the Bartram Trail Library at 827-6960; the Main Library at 827-6900 or Haven Hospice at 810-2377.



You Could Win One of These Awesome Prizes!



2006 Honda VTX 1800 S2 Trike

3,200 Actual Miles, Excellent Condition

Accessories: ISO Grips, Throttle Rockets, Leather Chaps, Dynojet PCIII, Air Cover Outer Wares, Dunlop Tires, Honda May Wheel, Reed Valve Blocks, Driving Lights, Lindy Chrome Bar, Back Off Module, Tachometer, MS Batwing Faring, Windshield Chrome Wind Deflectors, Engine Pegs, Backrest, Gel battery.

Valued at \$25,000

2nd Prize AR 15 Rifle \$1,000 Value



3rd Prize



This fundraiser is by The Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1046, Jacksonville, FL

The Drawing will be held on January 1, 2014 4:00 p.m. at the Five Star Veterans Center, Jacksonville, FL. You are encouraged to attend but **YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE PRESENT TO WIN.**

Winners will be responsible for all taxes, fees and picking up or transporting their prize. The gift card can be mailed. The rifle

Only \$20 per **DONATION with OPPORTUNITY!**

You may purchase from members of VVA 1046 or online www.VVA1046.com/trike. More information can be obtained by calling 904-419-8821 or by going to the website below.

www.VVA1046.com/trike

ODDS OF WINNING ARE 1/1,500

Proceeds to help pay for a Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Monument to be placed at the Jacksonville National Cemetery.



Donation

WITH

Opportunity

Only \$20



Above is an Artist's Rendition



"Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another"

The raffle tickets will be mailed to your home address, they only cost \$20.00. If you can pass the word or this email to other Veterans we would deeply appreciate your help.

The Wall

The source for this information is unknown as is its accuracy.

A little history most people will never know.
Interesting Veterans Statistics off the Vietnam Memorial Wall

There are 58,286 names now listed on that polished black wall.



The names are arranged in the order in which they were taken from us by date and within each date the names are alphabetized. It is hard to believe it is 36 years since the last casualties.

The first known casualty was Richard B. Fitzgibbon, of North Weymouth , Mass. Listed by the U.S. Department of Defense as having been killed on June 8, 1956. His name is listed on the Wall with that of his son, Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Richard B. Fitzgibbon III, who was killed on Sept. 7, 1965.

There are three sets of fathers and sons on the Wall.

39,996 on the Wall were just 22 or younger.

8,283 were just 19 years old.

The largest age group, 33,103 were 18 years old.
12 soldiers on the Wall were 17 years old.

5 soldiers on the Wall were 16 years old.

One soldier, PFC Dan Bullock was 15 years old.

997 soldiers were killed on their first day in Vietnam ..

1,448 soldiers were killed on their last day in Vietnam ..

31 sets of brothers are on the Wall.

Thirty one sets of parents lost two of their sons.

54 soldiers attended Thomas Edison High School in Philadelphia . I wonder why so many

from one school.

8 Women are on the Wall. Nursing the wounded.

244 soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War;

156 of them are on the Wall.

Beallsville, Ohio with a population of 475 lost 6 of her sons.

West Virginia had the highest casualty rate per capita in the nation. There are 711 West Virginians on the Wall.

The Marines of Morenci - They led some of the scrappiest high school football and basketball teams that the little Arizona copper town of Morenci (pop. 5,058) had ever known and cheered. They enjoyed roaring beer busts. In quieter moments, they rode horses along the Coronado Trail, stalked deer in the Apache National Forest. And in the patriotic camaraderie typical of Morenci's mining families, the nine graduates of Morenci High enlisted as a group in the Marine Corps. Their service began on Independence Day, 1966. Only 3 returned home.

The Buddies of Midvale - LeRoy Tafoya, Jimmy Martinez, Tom Gonzales were all boyhood friends and lived on three consecutive streets in Midvale, Utah on Fifth, Sixth and Seventh avenues. They lived only a few yards apart. They played ball at the adjacent sandlot ball field. And they all went to Vietnam. In a span of 16 dark days in late 1967, all three would be killed. LeRoy was killed on Wednesday, Nov. 22, the fourth anniversary of John F. Kennedy's assassination. Jimmy died less than 24 hours later on Thanksgiving Day. Tom was shot dead assaulting the enemy on Dec. 7, Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.

The most casualty deaths for a single day was on January 31, 1968 ~ 245 deaths.

The most casualty deaths for a single month was May 1968 - 2,415 casualties were incurred.

For most Americans who read this they will only see the numbers that the Vietnam War created. To those of us who survived the war, and to the families of those who did not, we see the faces, we feel the pain that these numbers created. We are, until we too pass away, haunted with these numbers, because they were our friends, fathers, husbands, wives, sons and daughters. There are no noble wars, just noble warriors.

Please pass this on to those who served during this time, to their families and those who wish to remember and honor our fallen heroes.



OLDEST CITY DETACHMENT #383
Marine Corps League
St. Augustine, FL
238th

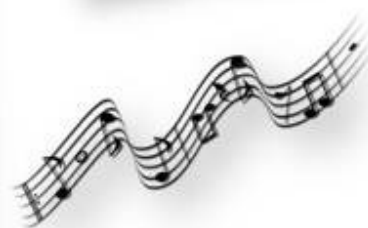
Marine Corps Birthday Ball
November 9th, 2013

**Prime Rib
or
Chicken Marsala**

Saturday: 5:30 pm

\$45 per person

Door Prizes



**"BYOB"
Setups**

**Music
Dancing**

Coquina Crossing

4536 Coquina Crossing Drive

Elkton, FL



Ticket Info: (904) 955-2389

www.mclfl383.org



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.mclfl383.org





Vets 4 Vets

Gathering of Veterans
at the

5 Star Veterans Center

40 Acme St.
Jacksonville, Florida

VETERANS WELCOME HOME

Every Saturday 0930-1130

Starting on July 13th

Stop by for a cup of Coffee & Donuts

****We will never forget****



Currently sponsored by the Jacksonville Semper Fidelis Society and the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1046. All veterans, those who support veterans and veterans organizations are welcome and encouraged to support this project. Contact information:

Les Bertrand

Welcome Home Coordinator

Email: les-Bertrand@comcast.net

Phone: 904-248-9453

VA Announces Award of Patient-Centered Community Care Contracts *Contracts Provide Expanded Access to Community-based Care*



WASHINGTON (Sept. 19, 2013) -- The Department of Veterans Affairs announced today that Veterans will have greater access to quality health care through a new initiative: Patient-Centered Community Care (PCCC).

“PCCC is an innovative solution that helps VA medical centers continue to provide quality care efficiently,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. “This will be a valuable option for VA medical centers to use to expand our Veterans’ access to care.”

Under PCCC, VA medical centers will have the ability to purchase non-VA medical care for Veterans through contracted medical providers when they cannot readily provide the needed care due to geographic inaccessibility or limited capacity. Eligible Veterans will have access to inpatient specialty care, outpatient specialty care, mental health care, limited emergency care, and limited newborn care for enrolled female Veterans following the birth of a child.

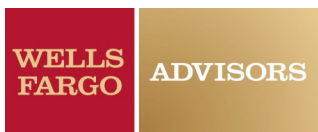
“PCCC provides a regional contracting vehicle for VA to work with local community providers to give Veterans access to high quality care,” said Dr. Robert Petzel, VA’s Under Secretary for Health. “It will also help VA in our continued efforts to ensure timely and accessible services are provided to Veterans for non-VA medical care.”

In total, VA has awarded two contracts under PCCC, one to Health Net Federal Services LLC and another to TriWest Healthcare Alliance Corp. These companies will set up networks in six regions covering the entire country. VA expects to have these regional contract networks available to its medical centers by the spring of 2014. The awarded contracts, estimated at \$9.4 billion, include one base year and four option years.

PCCC is part of the overall Non-VA Medical Care Program. It will provide all VA facilities with an additional option to purchase non-VA medical care when required Veteran care services are unavailable within the VA medical facility or when the Veterans benefit from receiving the needed care nearer to their homes.

Among the many benefits to the Veterans and VA under these new contracts, VA will enjoy standardized health care quality metrics, timely return of medical documentation, cost avoidance with fixed rates for services across the board, guaranteed access to care, and enhanced tracking and reporting of non-VA medical care expenditures over traditional non-VA medical care services.

For additional information, please visit: https://www.fbo.gov/index?s=opportunity&mode=form&id=3dde670a20dee9c5a6b38d8ca53642e1&tab=core&_cview=0



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Attorney and Civil Mediator

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***Our Family Serving Your Family
Since 1915***

***“Veterans and Family
Memorial Care”***



Ending homelessness, one person at a time

On October 3, 2013, the **Sulzbacher Center**, Northeast Florida's largest homeless services provider, will salute formerly homeless US Military Veterans, as they share their stories of hope and finding the *way home*.

Join in our 15th annual ***Transformations*** event, as we celebrate military veterans whose once-broken lives have been transformed by Sulzbacher Center programs and services.

How the Sulzbacher Center Helps Homeless Military Veterans

Unique Shelter Area

- Private veteran's-only dormitory
- 9 comfortably appointed, semi-private rooms
- TV and relaxation area
- 14 shower stalls and laundry



Special Case Management

- Designed to address Veterans' unique needs
- Works with the VA to prioritize stable housing

Veteran's Hope TEAM

- Mobile medical street outreach, specifically for homeless veterans living on the street
- Staffed by a physician and case managers with military experience
- Medical and psychiatric support
- Focus on relationship building to encourage vets to come into the Sulzbacher Center

Future Focus

- Create a special dorm and case management for women military veterans
- Developing partnerships for veteran job training and career development opportunities



15th Annual Transformations event

Tuesday, October 3, 2013

5:30 PM – 8:00 PM

Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront

Transformations has long been called the "feel good event" of the season. Substantial participation by supporters and new Sulzbacher Center *friends* will help make this year's event even more successful.

General admission: \$50.00 per person
Sponsorships available, starting at \$500.00

Transformations gifts help the Sulzbacher Center turn the overwhelming uncertainty of homelessness into hope.

Transformations Group Sales

Money raised will help initiate a special program at the Sulzbacher Center for homeless women military veterans and job training/placement for veterans over all.

Sales Goal: 600 tickets

Did You Know?

25% of America's chronically homeless are military veterans

400 homeless veterans live in Jacksonville

90% of homeless veterans received an honorable military discharge

It's time to improve the future of our homeless veterans by taking action in the present.

*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



A Vietnam War website, it has many websites to look at.

<http://www.besthistorysites.net/index.php/american-history/1900/vietnam>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(physical location)

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



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

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

The locally produced *Vietnam documentary, Service, Sacrifice and Courage* has received **263,554** views to date on YouTube.

You can view part of it at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H8Cs6Th7VNc>

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



Our soldiers often come home from war with more than they left with.

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

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

This is your Newsletter, please contribute.

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.