

The Patriot Reader

VETERANS COUNCIL OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY

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Newsletter Editor Michael Rothfeld



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Challenge Coins
Army Honors Vietnam Anniv.
IRS Reporting
Irish Water Dogs
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FL National Guard deploys

Volume 2, Issue 8

Newsletter Date: August, 2013

Message from the Chairman

It was my honor last Friday to participate in the burial of one of our Veterans who recently passed away at the Veterans Nursing Home. VSO Officer Joe McDermott and I were on hand representing all the Veterans from St. Johns Co. and the Veterans Council to assist in the ceremony for this Veteran. Also on hand to help conduct the service was Steve Spickelmeir and Kathy Church from the Missing in America (MIAP -FL) project. The Veterans Council made a pledge several years ago that no indigent Veteran would be buried from St. Johns County without our Veterans Council being there to honor them. It was my distinct honor to be this patriot's only family member at the ceremony and to receive the flag of our Nation for the service of this USAF

Korean War Veteran.

We are now mid-summer and things have slowed up a bit. We did not abate our meeting schedule for the summer however attendance has dropped off somewhat. Our Commitment to Honor committee is still meeting every two weeks to plan our program for Nov.3 at Anastasia Baptist Church. It is shaping up to be another excellent program to honor our Afghanistan and Iraqi Veterans as well as our Vietnam Veterans who have served as mentors. We have contracted to have the Vietnam mobile wall as well as the Quilt of Tears at this year's program. I think everyone will be impressed with both of these exhibits. We also have many exhibitors already signed up for our Commitment to Honor event.



Our editor, Michael Rothfeld has continued to solicit great articles for our **Patriot Reader** newsletter as you will see in this edition. Our newsletter has turned out to be an excellent means of communicating with all Veterans organizations as well as many others in the community and around the state who are interested in Veterans affairs and activities. Our circulation is growing exponentially and now reaches over 2000 readers.

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

Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home

Patriotism is our motto



Left: Uncle Sam and his Nephew dropped by on the Fourth of July for a visit!



Right: Skip and Joe waiting for the entertainment to start (or are they the entertainment?)



Left: Mr. and Mrs. Francis also dressed the party for Independence Day



Middle: Bill enjoying Taco Bell



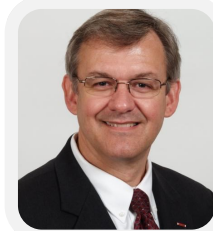
Right: Mr. Abraham and Mr. Snyder enjoying Taco Bell



The Jacksonville National Cemetery

Greetings from the Support Committee at the Jacksonville National Cemetery!

The Jacksonville National Cemetery Support Committee will next meet on Tuesday, September 3rd at 7:00 pm, at Community Hospice, 4266 Sunbeam Rd., Jacksonville, 32257. All are invited.



Chairman Howard McGillin,
COL US Army ret.

Vietnam Veterans of America will hold its 16th biennial National Convention August 13-17 at the Hyatt Regency in Jacksonville. Some 800 delegates from VVA chapters across the country are expected to join hundreds of other Vietnam veterans and guests in Jacksonville, along with members of the Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America (AVVA) which will be holding its National Convention in conjunction with the VVA event.



David Bonior, the former US Congressman spoke at the founding convention will be this year's Keynote speaker. In 1983, Bonior electrified the delegates and gave the VVA their founding principle when he said: "Never again shall one generation of veterans abandon another".

Re-printed from the St. Johns River Light, the newsletter of the St. Johns River Chapter, American Merchant Marine Veterans, editor Sharyn Lockhart



Aha! We found it! And, we had forgotten where it was. The Wainwright Memorial, that is. Actually, it is the General Jonathan M. Wainwright IV Memorial and is stocked with memorabilia donated by his son, Merchant Marine Captain Jonathan M. Wainwright V. On June 8th, we all met up at the Clay County Shrine Club on Hwy 209 in Green Cove Springs. In a conference room, named for the

General, the walls are covered with photos, documents and certificates, news articles and artifacts. Our host was Art Allison. The group included Les Ellison, ... Dave Swan, Frank Henley, John & Martha Simms, Ed Mueller and Sharyn Lockhart. Afterward, we met up for a good seafood lunch at Corky Bells on Hwy 17 in Orange Park.

The St. Johns River Chapter of the American Merchant Marine Veterans meets monthly on the second Saturday at noon. For further information contact Sharyn Lockhart, fbuglet@aol.com



General Jonathan M.
Wainwright IV



Chairman Bill Dudley

From the Editor: We are very pleased to inform you that our Veterans Council Chairman, Bill Dudley has been elected National Vice President of the Navy League of the United States, here is the release:

St. Augustine resident **Bill Dudley** is the new National Vice President of the Navy League of the United States. Dudley was elected last month during the group's national convention in Long Beach, California.

The Navy League of the United States is a civilian not-for-profit organization dedicated to informing the American people and the international community that the United States and its allies and friends are dependent upon a strong sea services for their economic well-being and national defense. The Navy League strongly supports the United States Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Merchant Marine, their families and Navy League-sponsored youth programs.

Dudley's portfolio will be National Vice President for field operations for the Navy League and for Navy Junior ROTC and Sea Cadets.

More than 300 members attended the convention from around the country and several foreign countries. The Navy League was host to several senior level military Flag and General officers who gave the membership an update on the readiness of the military service in today's world environment.

The Navy League was also guest onboard the USS Iowa to honor our Wounded Warrior veterans. The USS Iowa's permanent home is in Long Beach.

Membership in the Navy League is open to everyone, regardless of former military branch or having never served in the military. You need only believe in maintaining a strong sea service for the defense of our nation to be eligible to become a member.

For information, contact Michael Zollar at Mikzol8671@att.net or webmaster Lee Figliuolo, leefig@aol.com. or go to www.staugustinenavyleague.org.

Ill-Fated Mission Remembered With Dedication Of Cannons



By Michael Isam

St. Augustine, Fla, (July 1, 2013) – The actions of a shallow-draft vessel saved St. Augustine from British takeover.

Pomp and circumstance with pipes and drums, two local color guards and plenty of re-enactors, were the order of the day at Oglethorpe Battery Park in Davis Shores as over 400 people turned out for the dedication of three 18th century replica cannons.

Due to the foresight of Governor Manuel de Montiano sending a courier to Havana asking for supplies to endure a rumored siege by the British, it would be over 273 years before cannons were fired from Anastasia Island toward Fort Matanzas. Three symbolic mortar rounds fired by local re-enactor Brian Bowman, and answered by the cannoneers at the fort who kindly returned a cannon shot of their own.

According to records at the Fort Matanzas National Monument, James Oglethorpe, the Governor of the British colonies of Savannah, the Georgia Colony, and Fort Frederica on St. Simons Island used the War of Jenkins' Ear as an excuse to capture St. Augustine and its formidable fort.

The 1,100 pound cannons were secured by donations to the St. Augustine 450th Military Commemoration Committee in cooperation with the Veteran's Council of St. Johns County, the St. Augustine British Club, and the St. Augustine North Davis Shores Neighborhood Association (SANDS).

Speeches given by dignitaries included British Rear Admiral Tim Fraser who said "Talking about activities that place Britain on the 'other side' can, at times, feel a little uncomfortable." Fraser went on to say the on-going relationship with the United States is "one more of family than of just friends."

After Fraser's talk, the St. Augustine British Club, led by Gen. James Oglethorpe, portrayed by Scott Hodges, from Darien, Ga., proudly raised the British Colonial Flag, which will fly permanently at the park.

Other speakers were U.S. Navy Rear Admiral Sinclair M. Harris, Retired U.S. Army Col. Rik Erkelens, local historian Roger Smith, and Col. Ron Radford, chairman of the 450th Military Commemoration Committee.

Smith gave a delightful oral presentation of the historical event, beginning with "Y'all do know this is a British commemoration, right? You do know Pedro's not coming." "You will notice," continued Smith, "that the cannons are not of the field artillery type with large wheels so as to be easily transported and moved into position." "These are deck cannons from ships," said Smith, "and have very small wheels. If the weather in 1740 was anything like today, the British sailors and soldiers who literally 'dragged' the cannons, were appropriately pooped by the time they arrived at this spot." "Remember," said Smith, "this was 'Old Florida', not Davis Shores."

"It must have been very disheartening to the British," Smith continued, "to wake in the morning and not see evidence of any cannon strike anywhere on the walls of the fort." "Of course, what the British did not know was the Spanish would remove the imbedded cannon balls from the walls and then paint over the

holes.”

On July 7 the courier who had been sent to Cuba returned to St. Augustine with news that six supply ships were at Mosquito Inlet, known today as Ponce de Leon Inlet. The courier also reported the British had withdrawn the vessel blocking Matanzas Inlet, and re-provisioning the city could begin.

Information from a British deserter told of an impending night attack sometime during the next seven days. When no attack came after 6 days, Montiano sent five small vessels down the Matanzas River, out the Matanzas Inlet, and on to Mosquito Inlet to fetch the supplies.

According to more records at Fort Matanzas, “The returning boats met two British sloops, performing soundings, at Matanzas Inlet.” “The sloops opened fire and took up chase until twilight when they returned to their squadron. This withdrawal gave the Spanish flotilla the needed opening to enter the Matanzas Inlet, sail up-river, and anchor at St. Augustine.”

Fearing the approaching hurricane season, out of ammunition, now facing a Spanish flotilla and a well-supplied city, Gen. Oglethorpe and the British fleet sailed north for safer waters and raising the siege on July 20, 1740.

Radford offered “the glorification of war is not our agenda, but rather to establish St Augustine as the premier destination for learning about the vital role of the military, as demonstrated by 450 years of continuous protection of our city, our state, and our nation.” They appear to be off to a good start.

Photos by Michael Isam



Raising the British Flag



St. Augustine British Club



The dedicated cannons



Oglethorpe salutes as the colors
pass in review



Veterans Fundraiser a Tasty Event

By Michael Isam, St. Augustine, Fla, (July 19, 2013) – Never stand between a Veteran and hot food.

One of the items on the reporters “Things I Need To Know” list is “Never attempt to interview a person during a meal.” This holds doubly true if that person is a Veteran. They have a glare that can freeze an attacking tiger in mid-leap.

For Veterans the items on the “fiercely loyal” list are few. Family is at the top of the list and immediately following is comrades. There is no discernible difference in their dedication to a WWI Veteran, a Veteran of the current war or any war between the two. A notch below comrades is hot food. Ask any Veteran about C-Rats and LURPS and you will know why.

“Spirit Night,” hosted by Sonny’s Bar-B-Que, allowed the recognition for both. Held every Tuesday, the special night allows for recognition of not-for-profit organizations. Sonny’s donates 10 percent of the receipts between 5 and 8 p.m. to the organization. This particular night helped raise funds for the Wreaths Across America campaign to place a wreath on each of the 1218 graves in the St. Augustine National Cemetery.

The annual event began in 2007 with ceremonial wreaths being placed on white crosses made by Col. Ed Taylor. A wreath for the Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Merchant Marines, and the POW/MIA was presented.

“We have continued that ceremony every year since,” said Dan Blackman, the current Location Leader and driving force behind this year’s campaign. “Last year was a banner year for us,” he continued. “We placed a wreath on all the graves in the cemetery for the first time since we began.”

Donations, the mainstay for the program, range from individual wreaths to corporate sponsorships. “The wonderful part about tonight is we have people from across the United States contributing to our ceremony,” said Blackman. “Couples from California and Colorado, families from Tennessee and even a ‘Miami-ite’ contributed by buying dinner.”

Some of the visitors were unaware of Wreaths Across America. A visiting couple from California, who asked not to be identified, remarked “St. Augustine is a very patriotic town.” “I think we have a national cemetery in California,” said the husband, “but I can’t say for certain.”

On “Spirit Night”, two organizations presented Blackman with checks to purchase wreaths for the December event. Judy Davis represented the United Daughters of the Confederacy, and Kevin McKeefery represented American Legion Post 37.

“It was an incredible night,” said Blackman, “with the contributions just received as well as the donation from Sonny’s, we will be just a stone’s throw away from our goal.”

Judging by the “Saucy Smiles” on the faces of patrons, it was a grand night all around. The yearly event is held the second Saturday of December every year. This year’s event date is December 14, 2013.

For more information, go to <http://www.veteranscouncilofstjohns.org/Wreaths.html>

Veterans Fundraiser a Tasty Event

Top row from left: – Dan Blackman receives donation from Daughters of the Confederacy officer, Judy Davis, – A. J. Sartin, Commander DAV Chapter 6, – Bill Day of Rolling Thunder FL 4, Just bring the cow please!

Bottom row from left: Carol Rothfeld, Michael Rothfeld, Jane Karp, – Dan Blackman receives donation from American Legion Post 37 officer, Kevin McKeefery

photos by Michael Isam



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

July 29, 2013: Missing in America Project, Update

It has been some time for an MIAP-FL update so this will be lengthy as I want to let everyone know what we have been doing here in the State of Florida.



The handful of MIAP-FL volunteers have been diligently working to keep the ball rolling and it is starting to pay off. We have had to overcome some struggles with the untimely death of Tom O'Berry, FL Assistant State Coordinator, his replacement, Bob Morgan retiring and moved out of state and then our State Coordinator, Jim Scollen, became very ill and unfortunately has had to retire from MIAP as well. We have regrouped and we are back on track. Never once did our active volunteers give up with all of this going on.

In June HB 171 (which deals with "Release of Liability") was passed thanks to the efforts of several MIAP volunteers, Representative Ronald "Doc" Renuart, Representative Ken Roberson, Senator Maria Sachs and many others. MIAP-FL Field Operations, Steve Spickelmier and I had the chance to be in Tallahassee the day it passed the House and we were introduced to the House Floor by Representative Ken Roberson. I was privileged to attend the signing of this Bill by Governor Rick Scott on June 28th at Delray Beach City Hall.

Currently volunteers are continuing to work one funeral home in Jacksonville that store files from 12 locations in a shed with no electricity. We are beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel for this location. To date out of a list of 585 unclaimed cremains we have located and verified 38 veterans and 10 spouses with many more in the works.

Bob Morgan had previously worked and completed another location and had verified 10 veterans with 1 spouse. Seven were in the Navy and 4 were in the Army. We are in the planning stages of having our first multiple service for these 11 with a tentative date of Nov. 8th which is during the "Week of Valor" in Jacksonville.

In other areas of the state we have 5 veterans that have also been verified and will hold services in the future. Through the efforts of the Commander of the American Legion Post 401 in Hilliard, FL and MIAP two sons were reunited with the cremains of both their parents, their Dad having served in the Army. Their cremains were located in a shed on rental property and had been left there by another sibling. The two sons had been searching for their parents for years. Thankfully the girl hired to clean this property contacted her father who is the Chaplain for Post 401 and from there this story had a good ending.

We have also assisted a lady who has in her possession the cremains of her friend who was a Viet Nam Veteran. She had a list of his family member's names, brothers, sons, grandsons but was not sure how to locate them. Via Facebook we located his brother and his grandson in Portland, Maine. As of this publishing they are trying to decide what they would like to do.

In June we sent up a vendor table at the 95th Dept Convention of the American Legion in Orlando. This proved to be a very good way to reach out to many members of the AL Auxiliary and the SAL.

We have completed four missions and on Friday, July 19th we assisted a service for an Air Force Korean Veteran that passed away in March in a VA Nursing home in St. Augustine, FL with no next of kin. VCSTJC Chairman Bill Dudley and Joe "Mac" McDermott asked MIAP to assist. Bill Dudley spoke to

honor this Veteran.

Volunteers continually attend Veteran Council monthly meetings for both Duval and St Johns County and the American Legion District meetings in efforts to spread the word about MIAP and to get more volunteers on board.

Following is a Summary Report that we are keeping with a breakdown of how many have been verified, branch of service, war periods, etc.

We are still in need of VOLUNTEERS. Please go to our website @ www.miap.us or to our Facebook page Missing in America Project – FL to keep up with all of our efforts.

Respectfully submitted, Kathy Church, MIAP – FL State Coordinator, (904)219-3035,
miapjax@yahoo.com



Steve Spickelmier, MIAP-FL Field Operations Coordinator & Air Force SGT Gibson honoring Air Force Korean War Veteran Cartwright on July 19 at Jacksonville National Cemetery

MISSING IN AMERICA PROJECT

SUMMARY - JUNE 18, 2013

NAME/MILITARY SERVICE DATES				VET	SP	RANK	AR- RET MY	USA F	USM CG C	NA- VY	WWI	WWII	KO- REA	VN
MISSIONS COMPLETED														
1	Brown, Thomas Arval			X		PFC				X		X		
	3/23/1944 to 10/29/1954													
2	Garrity, Raymond Regis			X		SR					X			
	02/12/1958 to 04/20/1959													
3	Hill, Clarence H, Jr			X		A1C			X				X	
	12/19/1950 to 10/16/1955													
	SUB TOTAL - MISSIONS COM			3	0		0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0

The following article is reprinted from the July 18th Times Union and is used with permission of its author Matt Soergel and the Times Union.



Brett Bell says where he'd really like to be is with the soldiers in Afghanistan. Still fighting. Still on a mission.

He'd rather be there, even after his four tours in Iraq as a forward observer for artillery units, where he headed out on patrol each day not sure if he'd be coming back. Even after the suicide bomber's dump truck rammed his Humvee, leaving Bell with burns on his face and hands, putting him in the hospital until he could persuade doctors to clear him for one more deployment in Iraq.

"I think those four tours were the best time I had in my life," he said.

But it's not because he doesn't like where he is, living at Five Star Veterans Center, a place where homeless veterans can get housing and training to get their lives back together.



Bell said Five Star has saved him, giving him a place to sleep — and some of the structure and the camaraderie he had when he was a warrior.

A former nursing home painted red, white and blue, the center has been named Five Star since March. It opened a year earlier as Allied Veterans Center on property off Atlantic Boulevard bought and renovated by Allied Veterans of the World. But that name became toxic to many after news broke of a giant racketeering and money-laundering probe into gaming centers run by that group. The investigation led to 57 arrests and the resignation of the state's lieutenant governor.

"Disaster Day." That's what Len and Suzie Loving, who have been running the center since it began, call that day in March.

The center was set up as a separate entity from Allied Veterans of the World. That group, though, did provide most of its funding, and had signed over ownership of the property to the nonprofit that runs the operation.

That funding went away on Disaster Day. The center has made it since then on what was left, and with the help of volunteers, nonprofits and scattered, welcome donations — from a dollar to \$10,000.

Last week, Suzie Loving said Five Star had \$12,000 to its name. There's one paid employee left, a cook. The Lovings are there just about every day, but they haven't collected a paycheck since Disaster Day. They don't make a big deal about that; instead they joke good-naturedly about the challenge and then look for help every day.

Len Loving, a retired Marine colonel, said many people have been supportive. But in the city's corporate world, where big donors come from, there's definitely a stigma still connected to the racketeering scandal, he said.



Suzie and COL Loving, USMC ret.

That's hurt. But there is a future, he believes, for Five Star, a transitional center that takes in honorably discharged homeless veterans of the post-9/ 11 era, some of whom — like Bell — have been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder. By last week, 27 vets had graduated from the programs there, moving on to jobs and apartments of their own.

If the center can make it until January, it could be in line for significant Veterans Administration funding, the Lovings said. They also have other plans, other possible benefactors, that they can't yet talk about publicly: The place just needs to stay afloat a little while longer.

Besides, said Suzie Loving, what are they supposed to do? Put the 26 veterans who live there — her “kids,” she calls them — back on the streets?

WOUNDED WARRIOR

Bell, the Iraq War veteran, is 32. He was in the Army from 2002 to 2012, leaving as a sergeant. He was medically discharged, which wasn't his idea. Doctors told him he had traumatic brain injury as well as PTSD, leading to some short-term memory issues.

He's been accepted into a 12-month Wounded Warrior Project training program. He'll start next month, with a goal to go Jacksonville University and its aeronautics program. But earlier this year, he had no place to go. He was living in cheap motels and homeless shelters until referred to Five Star.

Bell helps around the center, washing dishes, doing odd jobs. He couldn't have made it this far without it. “You go from having nothing to going back to being a productive citizen in society,” he said.

Tony Centonze, 25, was a missile tech on a submarine based at Kings Bay in Georgia. He spent up to three months at a time under the sea. After leaving the Navy, he had trouble finding a job. Money ran out quickly, and after he got evicted he lived in abandoned buildings in downtown Jacksonville, part of a group that banded together for protection. He got to Five Star almost five months ago, and is now working at a Walmart.

In his future? He sees money getting saved up, his own car, his own apartment. “For now, this is home,” he said.

Nick Manson, 28, is taking classes at Florida State College, aiming to enter a nursing program. He’d planned to stay in the Navy for 20 years, so he didn’t save money, didn’t go to school — he had time for that later, he figured.

He worked on helicopter maintenance on a carrier until an Atlantic storm roared to life. He and another Navy man were running with a heavy box of chains to lash down helicopters on deck when the other guy stumbled. The weight shifted to Manson’s side, and he injured a disk in his back.

He was medically discharged, and after five years the stability of Navy life was gone. He worked low-paying jobs, and money got tight. He ended up on friends’ couches, when he wasn’t in a tent in the woods. Being homeless, he said, was brutal. It wasn’t him — yet there he was, with no place to go.

“It takes a lot out of you, after having the pride of being in the military, then having nothing,” Manson said. “Without this place?” He shook his head. “I’d be nothing.”

Matt Soergel: (904) 359-4082





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From Kevin McKeefery

American Legion Post 37

Thank you all for participating in our 4th of July outing. We had a great time with the cookout and blood drive. We also had the Leathernecks Sunday for lunch and gathering at the Post. The Blood drive was a success. We had 16 members (sons, legion and aux.) participate and four had donated 2 pints so the total is 20 and we are very happy about the success. Thank you for your participation. The cook-out was a success, we sold out at 8 p.m. and made over \$1300 for our boys state program. Once again we thank you all for participation and hope you enjoy the pictures.



Officers for the years 2013 and 2014

From left to right: Chaplain Scot Young, Exec. Jerry Hanchett, Historian Larry Weiss, Exec. Malcolm Kingsley, Exec. Frank Coleman, First Vice-Commander Kevin McKeefery, Exec. Chuck Weicking, Exec. and Director of Legion Riders of 37 Freddie Rychlock, Finance officer Dave Israel, Exec. Heidi Howard, Sergeant at Arms John Decknick and Commander Richard White.

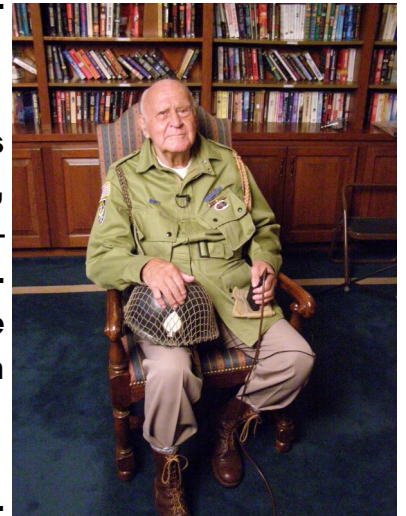
Veterans history project at St. Johns County libraries



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.



MISSION STATEMENT: Transport America's veterans to Washington, DC to visit those memorials dedicated to honor their service and sacrifices.

GOAL: Helping every single veteran in America, willing and able of getting on a plane or a bus, visit **THEIR** memorial.

PRIORITY: Top priority is given to America's most senior heroes, survivors of World War II and any veteran with a terminal illness who wishes to visit **THEIR** memorial. The program will naturally transition to Korean War, Vietnam and all other veterans who served, on a chronological basis.

ELIGIBILITY: All men and women serving stateside or overseas.

PHILOSOPHY: Since America felt it was important to build a memorial to the service and the ultimate sacrifice of her veterans, Honor Flight believes it's equally important that they actually get to visit and experience **THEIR** memorial.

MOTTO: "We can't all be heroes. Some of us have to stand on the curb and clap as they go by." - Will Rogers

If you know a veteran who would like to go to Washington, DC to visit **THEIR** memorial, please contact:

John Reardon: 904-982-2210 or

Donnie Taylor: 904-540-3945



This article is used with the permission of its author, David Bauerlein and the Times-Union

Jacksonville Aviation Authority dedicates pavilion in honor of Navy officer killed in Pearl Harbor



Seven decades after Pearl Harbor, Anne Craig Beere's memories still burn brightly of her father, Navy Lt. Cmdr. James Craig.

She remembers those Sundays when the family ate waffles for breakfast, headed to the Hawaii beach for picnics and spent many an afternoon playing mah jongg.

In her mind's eye, she can visualize her father returning home after a day's work.

"I was 13 when he was killed, 72 years ago," she recounted Friday at a dedication ceremony for the James Edwin Craig Memorial Pavilion in Jacksonville. "But I can still see him coming up the sidewalk in his uniform, glad to be home to his wife and two girls."

With the dedication of the pavilion, the Jacksonville Aviation Authority added another dimension to the civic remembrance of Craig, a Jacksonville man who was killed Dec. 7, 1941, during the Japanese attack.

The pavilion bears a plaque honoring Craig and overlooks the runway of Jacksonville Executive at Craig Airport.

"It's an opportunity to pay tribute to the military, their families and the namesake of this airport," aviation authority Executive Director Steve Grossman said. "His service and his sacrifice will never be forgotten."

City Councilman Bill Bishop, whose Arlington district contains the airport, said the pavilion recognizes all those who have served at military installations in Northeast Florida and Southeast Georgia.

"This is a great way to honor the local heroes past and present and pay tribute to all that

they do,” he said.

Craig’s name has been attached to the airport since 1946, but three years ago it appeared his legacy was fading with the passage of time. The aviation authority initially followed a consultant’s recommendation to rename Craig Airport as Jacksonville Executive Airport.

But the authority reconsidered and has called it Jacksonville Executive at Craig Airport since 2011.

The \$176,000 pavilion contains a sheltered public observation area with benches where people can sit and watch planes take off and land. There is a plaque describing Craig’s military career and also a timeline of the airport’s history.

When Japanese bombers attacked Pearl Harbor, Craig had been working an overnight shift on the USS Pennsylvania, which was in drydock for repairs. The Pennsylvania opened fire on the Japanese attack planes. Craig was killed in the battle.

Back home, his wife and daughter huddled against an interior wall, away from the windows in fear that explosions outside would shatter the glass, Beere recalled. It was a Sunday morning, which would have been a family day if Craig had returned. He was 40 years old.

On Friday, his daughter was joined by three of his grandchildren and a great-granddaughter at the pavilion dedication. They traveled from Texas.

“We were so honored when the airport was first named after him, and this memorial is icing on the cake,” Beere said.

His granddaughter Jean Arden Beere said the aviation authority’s recognition goes beyond the Craig name.

“The sacrifice he made represents the sacrifice a lot of people made, and we’re honored that he is a symbol of that generation,” she said. “He represents the local boys of Jacksonville and the sacrifices they have made for this country.

“It’s not just a name. It’s a representation of that generation and of future generations to come.”

David Bauerlein: (904) 359-4581



Re-enactors share story of the Buffalo Soldiers

by Douglas Jordan

This article and pictures are used with permission of the author, Douglas Jordan, as well as with the St. Augustine Record

Re-enactor John Russell of Orlando, dressed in a 1903 U.S. Army uniform, loaded his sidearm and saber and mounted his horse Saturday morning in the Fountain of Youth Archaeological Park after spending the previous night there in a small tent. If he was a little bleary-eyed, he had a good excuse.

“Let’s just say I didn’t get the best night’s sleep,” Russell, 63, said, laughing. “It’s a good thing I’m not staying here tonight, or there might be a lot of dead peacocks around here tomorrow.” Less than 20 feet away, a bright blue male strutted by Russell’s campsite, crying out almost as if to object.

Russell was in St. Augustine on Saturday to represent Buffalo Soldiers of Florida, a historical re-enactment group he founded in 1992 “to tell the true story of the black men who were the first to serve in the Regular U.S. Army, starting in 1866.”

The 450th Military Commemoration Committee brought the group to St. Augustine as part of its efforts to raise awareness of the importance of the military presence in the area over the past 450 years, said retired U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Harry Metz.

The term “Buffalo Soldiers” originally referred to the black members of the U.S. 10th Cavalry Regiment of the United States Army, formed on Sept. 21, 1866, at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

Although several black regiments were raised during the Civil War to fight alongside the Union Army, the Buffalo Soldiers were established by Congress as the first peacetime all-black regiments in the regular U.S. Army.

“A lot of history books say the name ‘Buffalo Soldiers’ was first used by the Indians who they fought, but that’s not quite right,” Russell said. “The Indians actually called them ‘Wild Buffaloes.’ It was the newspapers of the era that adapted the name to ‘Buffalo Soldiers.’”

The term eventually became synonymous with all of the African-American regiments formed in 1866, including the 9th and 10th Cavalry Regiments and the 24th and 25th Infantry Regiments.

Russell was accompanied Saturday by Walter Anderson of Alachua. Two other members of the

group were supposed to make the trip, but they canceled, Russell said.

They explained how black men, many former Union soldiers during the Civil War, were recruited for the 9th and 10th Cavalry regiments to fight Indians in the Southwest for many years, and how they also took part in the Spanish American War, even storming San Juan Hill in Cuba alongside Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders.

"There was a misconception at the time that Negroes couldn't, or wouldn't fight, that they'd run away in the face of battle," Russell said. "That idea, of course, was wrong, and these units proved time and time again to be tenacious and courageous soldiers. After the Battle of San Juan Hill was over, Roosevelt spoke very highly of the Buffalo Soldiers, and said he'd fight alongside them anytime."

Anderson, who stands 6 feet 8 inches tall, brought his horse, Sonny Boy, over from Alachua, and enjoys being a member of Buffalo Soldiers of Florida, he said. He's also a member of several other historical re-enactment outfits.

"Our whole mission is to bring history to life," Anderson said. "And that's important, because people need to know this stuff."

Ken and Theresa Dames of St. Augustine talked to Russell at his campsite.

"We read about them coming to town in the paper," Ken Dames said. "We were very pleased with the amount of information that was presented. Some of the details were new to us, but because we've been interested in this subject for many years, a lot of it was not new. We've not had an opportunity to see anybody represent the Buffalo Soldiers in person, especially not African-American men, so this was a real treat. It's valuable information, not only for black people, but for everybody. It's American history."



The Challenge Coin Tradition

A BRIEF LOOK AT THE HISTORY OF CHALLENGE COINS IN THE MILITARY

Members of the U.S. military have a long-standing tradition of carrying a special coin symbolizing unit identity and esprit de corps. With bonds forged in battle thousands of miles from home, these custom coins minted for military units – each bearing their own revered symbols and mottos – capture in metal the essence of their affiliation and their fierce pride. Known to generations of American military personnel as challenge coins, they are a vital part of military life today and are revered by troops in every branch of service.

Today, challenge coins are carried by soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines, as well as lawmen and firefighters. These coins identify the bearer as a member of a particular unit with a well-defined history and mission. And, wherever warriors gather, they challenge each other by “coining.” The group’s unique coin is slammed on a bar to challenge all in the group to display their own coins; he who is last must pay a penalty.

The tradition of challenge coins can be traced to World War II when American forces deployed to the far reaches of the globe securing the nation’s freedom. Soldiers back to World War I and the Civil War left for battle with a coin from home in their pocket and kept it after the conflict as a lasting remembrance of their wartime experiences.

American soldiers stationed in Germany after the war adopted that country’s popular “pfennig check.” The pfennig was the smallest unit of German currency. When someone announced a pfennig check, a soldier who could not produce one had to buy a round of drinks for his buddies.

The popularity of challenge coins spread during the Vietnam War, inspired by Special Forces that minted coins to express the unique identity and strong bond forged between them. Other units wanted their own coin to build camaraderie and symbolize their pride of membership in an elite group.

A challenge coin is not merely a token. Challenge coins today are a tangible source of pride for America’s warriors at every level in the chain of command. Commanders use them as on-the-spot awards. Senior military leaders often dole out their coins as gifts to foreign dignitaries or civilian VIPs.

Most important, a challenge coin is carried at all times. Coin checks are still a part of military life, and various penalties are still handed out for those found without their coin. (Some cruelly choose locations apt to yield a victory. Rules commonly followed specify that the coin must be carried at all times; neither shower nor latrine exempt one from producing his coin.)



Army partners with Vietnam War Commemoration

His father refused then, resulting in a no-casualty report for what he told Mason would surely have been a disaster.



"If I was put in a situation like that," Mason said. "I hope I would have the guts to do what he did."

Mason represents the U.S. Army as one of many commemorative partners that will be involved in officially recognizing and commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War.

In May 2012, President Barack Obama signed a proclamation, officially declaring a more than 13-year period, from May 28, 2012 to Nov. 11, 2025, as the "Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War." In that proclamation, he called upon local, state and federal officials to take part in honoring veterans of the Vietnam War.

The Army, represented by Mason, is the first military service to sign on as a partner of the commemoration.

Retired Lt. Gen. Claude M. Kicklighter serves as the director of the United States Vietnam War Commemoration. During the June 19 ceremony in the Pentagon, he presented to Mason a Vietnam War Commemorative Partner Certificate and flag, marking the Army's official partnership status.

As the first commemorative partner in the Pentagon, and first representing any branch of service, Mason said it is important for service members to learn from stories like those told to him by his father, and to also preserve them through their retelling.

"It's understanding what kind of things [veterans] go through in combat and what lessons we can learn," Mason said. "Few things in the military have been done for the first time."

Mason said commemorating the veterans and promoting and preserving their stories can help with both war tactics and the human side, such as post-traumatic stress or traumatic brain injuries.

Vietnam War veteran and Army logistics management specialist, Richard Dianich, attended

the ceremony and said the commemoration is important in preserving information about the war and is especially important now because it has been 50 years.

Dianich was drafted into the war and has remained either serving or working for the Army since Vietnam.

"I was an unsuccessful Ph.D candidate in chemistry, but I knew how to fly really well, so I stayed with the Army," Dianich said.

Mason and the Army are now among 4,600 organizations to join the list of commemorative partners with the American Vietnam War Commemoration, which was congressionally chartered.

"This is a multi-year event that was opened last year and will last until 2025," Mason said about the Commemoration's plans. "We're shooting for 10,000 commemorative partners throughout the United States."

The Commemoration's partners will organize ceremonies and outreach events to honor Vietnam veterans and their families throughout the next 12 years.



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



Accounting and IRS Reporting



By now, if you have followed this series of articles, you realize that it's a lot easier not to pour cream into the coffee than to get it out. Simplified cash accounting for all your transactions makes it much easier to compile monthly and year-end reports.

Fiscal Year

Your exempt organization's Board of Directors should authorize reporting on the same basis as your parent organization (most National Veterans' organizations use a fiscal (or financial) year starting July 1 and ending on June 30 of the next calendar year).

Whichever time period your Board selects, it must have one year's (in rare instances, 52 or 53 weeks') transactions to report.

Two months ago, I wrote about due dates. For the IRS, an exempt organization's returns are due no later than the fifteenth day of the fifth month following the close of the fiscal year (i.e., May 15th for calendar year filers, November 15th if the fiscal year ends on June 30). Your parent organization, if filing a group return on behalf of your local unit, must also adhere to these deadlines.

Your exempt organization's Board of Directors should also authorize reporting on the cash basis (i.e., only actual cash transactions are reported). There are some modifications for those organizations which have credit cards or have incurred other debt (e.g., a mortgage to build their current facilities) which will be addressed later.

Throughout this discussion, I use the term "bank" as a shorthand for Commercial Banks, Savings Banks, Internet Banks, Credit Unions and other institutions offering one or more banking services.

Cash Receipts

All cash receipts are reportable. Most cash receipts are generated from:

1. Contributions, Grants, Gifts (all Donations for which the donor received no tangible benefit) and gross proceeds of fund raising events, itemized as
 - a. Government Grants (all levels of Government)
 - b. Federated Campaigns (interstate fund-raising campaigns, such as the Combined Federal Campaign to which servicemembers and federal employees contribute)
 - c. Funds received from related organizations (e.g., state or national parent org.)
 - d. Membership Dues
 - e. Fund Raising Events (gross contributions)
 - f. Program Service Revenue
 - g. Fees to apply for benefits
 - h. Costs to avail of program services (e.g., bus fares for Council on Aging)
 - i. Investment Income (interest, dividends and similar returns on investments)
 - j. separately itemize income from investment of tax-exempt bond proceeds
 - k. Royalties
 - l. Gross Rents of Real or Personal Property
 - m. separately itemize by property
 - n. deduct rental expenses by property to determine net rents
 - o. Gross Receipts of sales of assets other than inventory

- p. separately itemize each security or other property
- q. subtract cost (or donated basis) and sales expenses to determine net gain (loss)
- r. Gross income from fund raising events (also reported above in item 1e)
- s. separately track each event
- t. subtract contributions included in gross proceeds (contribution is the difference between the gross proceeds of admission and the anticipated total costs of the event (e.g., a dinner fund raiser ticket cost \$100; total cost of all meals, entertainment, facility rental and gratuities divided by estimated number attending determined a cost per person of \$60; estimated contribution is \$40—this amount should also be included in any document publicizing the event). Report this contribution as Revenues from Fundraising Events (item 1 above).
- u. Identify the direct costs of each event, and subtract the direct costs as well as the contribution determined above, from the gross income to determine the net surplus (or deficit) from each event.
- v. Gross income from gaming activities (note; recent Florida legislation has severely restricted gaming activities, especially those of Veterans' organizations. Bingo continues to be an acceptable fund raising activity for Veterans' Organizations. Consult the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs for other permitted gaming.
- w. Subtract direct expenses (including winnings by participants) to arrive at net income from gaming activities.
- x. These activities are subject to additional reporting by the exempt organization
- y. Should your organization use a professional fund raiser, include the gross amounts (before the professional fund raiser's fees), then include the fund raiser's fees as direct expenses. Professional fund raisers must be previously registered with the Florida Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs under the Florida Solicitation of Contributions Act. If the event is run by volunteers, ensure that all tips received by the volunteers go directly to the exempt organization. Failure to comply with this may result in:
all gaming activities become unrelated business taxable income
the exempt organization becoming an employer, with requirements to withhold and report income tax, Social Security and Medicare tax, and pay Workers' Compensation and Unemployment Insurance premiums.
Those winning more than \$600 and at least 300 times the amount wagered are subject to withholding tax. If the winner has provided a valid taxpayer identification number (obtain on Form W-9; I also recommend obtaining a photocopy of the winner's drivers license). Medicare cards often contain the Social Security number.
Withhold and remit withholding taxes on gaming winnings of more than \$5,000; the withholding rate is 25% on the gross proceeds (total winnings less amount wagered) or total winnings (at the winner's option).
Enter the gross proceeds on Form W2G Box 1 and the withholding amount in Box 4.
- Non-cash winnings (e.g., a car) must be valued at fair market value
For non-cash winnings, there is an alternate withholding method if the payer of the tax is the sponsoring exempt organization. The withholding rate will 33 1/3% of the gross proceeds.
On Form W2-G, add the fair market value of the non-cash winnings and the withholding tax paid by the sponsoring exempt organization and enter this amount in box 1. Enter the withholding tax in Box 4.
- Should the winner not be able to provide a correct tax identification number, the winner is subject to higher "backup" withholding at 28% of the gross proceeds (or total winnings, at the winner's option).
- 10. Gross sales of inventory, less returns and allowances (e.g., logo'd shirts for your organization's members)
 - a. subtract the cost of inventory sales to arrive at net income (loss) from sales of inventory
 - b. If inventory is a substantial portion of your revenues, you may be required to register as a sales tax vendor, collect and remit sales tax on all non-exempt merchandise.

c. Miscellaneous Revenues

All revenues not better described as belonging to lines 2 thru 10. Restricted or Dedicated Funds

Occasionally, a donor may make a contribution for a specific purpose (e.g., purchase of US Flags for Memorial Day). These funds, once received, are considered "encumbered" and should be separately listed on the exempt organization's balance sheet until spent for the intended purpose.

There is little need to open separate bank accounts for such encumbered or restricted funds; however, they should not be included in the general fund balance reported to the Board; rather, each such fund should be separately itemized in each financial report.

Debit Cards

Bank debit cards should generally be avoided at all costs, as there is little to no control over their misuse. Debit card transactions should be recorded immediately, as an increase (debit) to an expense account and a decrease (credit) to the bank account linked to the debit card. Transactions made using bank debit cards do not require two signatures:

1. Each transaction automatically draws funds from the bank account to which the card is linked. Inadvertent overdrafts can run up bank fees rapidly (one local bank reportedly has charged four overdraft \$35 fees on one day, because someone forgot to enter a debit card transaction which resulted in the account being overdrawn).
2. There is virtually no protection against fraudulent use by someone who has skimmed (illegally swiped the card to get the magnetic data) or cloned (duplicated) the debit card. Further, any refund (a) can take days or even weeks and (b) have a deductible (often \$50 or more).
3. There is often no protection should an unauthorized person use the debit card to make on-line purchases.

There is a very short window (often only until the next bank statement is received) to make a claim that the transaction is fraudulent.

Credit Cards

Credit card transactions should also be recorded immediately as an increase (debit) in an expense account and an identical increase (credit) in a short-term liability account [Credit Card Liability]. Short-term liabilities are those due and payable within one year. Like debit cards, credit cards do not require two signatures. Depending upon your organization's credit agreement with your bank, liability for transactions may be shared with the authorized holder of the organization's credit card. Credit cards, under US Banking Law, also have more protections, such as:

1. Your right to dispute unauthorized charges (these must be "suspended" during the investigation and your organization would not be charged interest during this period)
2. There is no deductible if your dispute is upheld

There is a "look-back" 60-day window for you to discover and dispute the unauthorized transaction.

Mortgages and Other Debt

Mortgages, by their nature, are Long-term Liabilities (principal balances due and payable in future years) with a Short-term Liability component (the principal payments due within one calendar year). For simplicity, at the start of the organization's fiscal year, determine the principal due during the next year, and reclassify that debt from Long-term Liability to Short-term Liability. Future interest is not recorded as a liability. However, if points were paid to refinance the debt, those points should be capitalized and amortized over the remaining life of the refinanced debt.

When payment is made, the difference between the amortized principal due and the amount paid the bank is billed as current interest expense. Every mortgage or other long-term debt should have an amortization table (a table showing each month's interest, principal payment and balance due after the payment is made).

Late payments, even if described as penalties, should be recorded as an interest expense. For management purposes, these penalties should not be lumped into the mortgage interest expense account, but reported in a separate account. When preparing information returns, consolidate the two accounts' balances.

Expenses

Aside from transactions involving debt (as discussed above), all expenses should be recorded when incurred. When using cash accounting, many of the fund-accounting steps used by larger organizations are omitted (while appropriate, small organizations often do not have the resources to perform all these steps for each transaction).

It is therefore important to "set aside" funds when obligated by the Board of Directors, so that the cash will be available when the expense bill comes due.

Checks and other payments must be recorded immediately to avoid the possibility of overdrawing the bank account.

Expenses fall into four main categories:

- Program Expenses (often called Operating Expenses)
- Management Expenses (often call General and Administrative)
- Fundraising Expenses

Capital Expenditures

Program Expenses are those incurred to generate Program Service Revenues (see above). This includes expenses incurred to further the organization's exempt purposes. Include the costs of applying for grants (whether successful or not). They also include expenses related to the management investments which generate Program Service Revenues.

Management Expenses are those that relate to maintaining the operations of the exempt organization and those that are not more properly described as Program Expenses or Fundraising Expenses. Expenses related to the management of investments which do not generate Program Service Revenues are reported here. Lobbying expenses (whether allowable or not), costs of meetings (but not events which raise funds), insurance and rents are some of the more popular general and administrative expenses.

Fundraising Expenses are recorded separately because exempt organizations are often measured by the ratio of program costs to fundraising costs. An efficient exempt organization often has fundraising costs of less than 10% of gross revenues.

Expenses for events which both further the exempt organizations purposes and raise funds must be separated into direct costs (reported as an offset to the Revenues as noted in item 8 above), and indirect costs, which are reported as fundraising costs.

Should your organization use professional solicitors (i.e., solicitors who receive a portion of the funds collected, or a fixed fee), verify that each solicitor is properly registered and licensed with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs.

Capital Expenditures are those made to acquire assets with a useful life of one year or more. In the business world, these are depreciated and the cost recognized as spread over the useful life of the asset. In the not-for-profit world, these costs (if not grossly out of proportion to the organization's revenues) are often expensed. The obvious exception is a capital asset purchased with a mortgage. Such purchases are recorded as assets (debits on the balance sheet) offset by the decrease in cash spent to acquire the asset and an increase in a liability account (credit) to reflect the existence of the mortgage.

Transactions with Interested Parties

In small organizations, it is virtually impossible to avoid transactions involving "Interested Parties", that is, people who are present or past officials of the exempt organization or who have significant influence over the activities and actions of the exempt organization. A family relative of an Interested Party may also become an Interested Party.

Not all of these transactions are forbidden. Transactions involving the purchase of goods and services at fair market value should be verified against independent sources (e.g., retail prices). Donated property should not be sold to Interested Parties unless there is no other market—even then, the property should be sold at fair market value.

Reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses, such as postage, should only be made when a properly-completed receipt is provided the Treasurer.

Indirect expenses, such as reimbursement for local mileage, should not be reimbursed as there often is little to substantiate these incidental expenses.

In certain circumstances, Interested Parties can become "Disqualified Persons" who should not receive any benefit from the exempt organization. An Interested Person of any other exempt organization which is a substantial supporter (i.e., has donated \$5,000 or more) to the organization providing the benefit is also considered a Disqualified Person.

There is a fine line that must not be crossed when conducting transactions with Interested Parties. Please contact me before the transaction, so I may provide specific guidance on the situation at hand.



Hey folks, with summer here, we have some great pictures, posts and links for you all.

We have had some amazing outings with our Warriors program over the last month. Our High Springs Chapter took 22 Veterans down the Ichetucknee River and Army Specialist Tony St. Angelo shot a fantastic video of the trip.

Picture links here:

<http://www.irishwaterdogsforum.com/veterans-kayaking-ichetucknee-florida-irishwaterdogs-t1048.html>

And Tony's Video can be viewed here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FEdQp29TFwc>

At our Jacksonville Chapter this past Sunday, we had our July Jax event. We had 46 Veterans attend for a great day of kayaking, fishing and a wonderful cookout. We were also please to have The Florida times union come out and join us for a great day.



View some pictures here:

<http://www.irishwaterdogsforum.com/veteran-kayaking-and-fishing-july-7th-jacksonville-pictures-t1057.html>

Or check out the times union here:

<http://jacksonville.com/news/health-and-fitness/2013-07-07/story/veterans-kayak-free-every-month-part-jacksonville-based>

For all of you who love to nature kayak, our latest post is up one our Explore site. 'Otters and Vipers' is a great trip on The Silver River, Florida. Where the main attraction may be the wild monkeys, but there is so much more to explore.

Check it out here: <http://www.irishwaterdogsexplore.com>

UPCOMING: WARRIORS.

For those of you wishing to attend our next High Springs Warriors Chapter outing. It is next Friday on the beautiful Florida Springs. So come join us and our Veterans for a great day out. All info here <http://www.irishwaterdogswarriors.org/location-information/florida/HighSprings.html>

UPCOMING: GLOW-STICKS AND GATORS.

July Full moon paddle on the Santa Fe river.

Our July full moon trip is scheduled for Monday, July 22nd folks.

We will meet at 8pm at the High Springs boat ramp and paddle to the 27 boat launch. We will have glow-sticks for everyone and it is always a ton of fun, so come join us. We will post details on our High Springs Facebook group page.

Finally folks, remember. If you need kayaks, paddles, camping or fishing gear, stop by and see us. Or rent a kayak and explore the Springs.

Until next time folks, Stay safe out there.



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Gathering of Veterans
at the

5 Star Veterans Center

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VETERANS WELCOME HOME

Every Saturday 0930-1130

Starting on July 13th

Stop by for a cup of Coffee & Donuts

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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

Gettysburg Reenactment Draws Thousands On 150th Anniversary

Read more at <http://www.inquisitr.com/822729/gettysburg-reenactment-draws-thousands-on-150th-anniversary/#xFImBSH2Rmv7HKWX.99>

The latest Gettysburg reenactment has drawn a crowd of thousands wishing to watch a piece of history take place on the battle's 150th anniversary.



The massive battle cost the lives of 51,000 soldiers in the first three days of July 1863. For the next two weekends, about 200,000 to 300,000 spectators will head to Gettysburg National Military Park to observe the [Civil War](#) reenactment festivities.

Gettysburg is considered a turning point in the war, which forced [Confederate](#) General Robert E. Lee's troops out of the north. Re-enactors on horseback will spend the next week [portraying what war was like 150 years ago](#).

And for those re-enactors, the hot weather will certainly take its toll, as they will wear wool from head to toe. Re-enactor Rex Orton joked, "Wool in July. They call it the Jenny Craig weight-loss program of 1863."

Those taking part in the Gettysburg reenactment have been studying and practicing for weeks, as they will present not only battle scenes, but camp life, drill demonstrations, period music, and more to visitors. Visitor Pamela Yates, a California resident, is already impressed. [She stated](#): "I'm just in awe, when I saw the cavalry go by. Where we're from, we have a lot of cavalry at the Moore Park event, which is the largest in California, but it's nothing compared to this."

And Orton, who is donning a Union uniform for the event, added, "We just love history, and the camaraderie." Along with the re-enactors, visitors will be able to portray the final charge of Gettysburg, called Pickett's Charge, on July 3. National Park Service rangers will guide thousands of visitors in loose formation across a rolling field where the charge took place 150 years before.

Read more at <http://www.inquisitr.com/822729/gettysburg-reenactment-draws-thousands-on-150th-anniversary/#xFImBSH2Rmv7HKWX.99>





The Florida National Guard

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Public Affairs Office: (904) 823-0166, Mr. A.J. Artley: (904) 814-3962

***-- MEDIA ADVISORY --**

Florida National Guard to collect soil sample

To be used later in the year to dedicate the parade field in front of the
St. Francis Barracks

WHAT: The Florida National Guard will collect a soil sample from the Fountain of Youth Archaeological Park.

WHEN: Wednesday, July 3, 2013, at 10:30 a.m.

WHERE: The Fountain of Youth Archaeological Park, St. Augustine.

The Florida Department of Military Affairs and the Florida National Guard have been collecting soil samples from around the state and around the world where Florida Guard members have fought.

Dr. Kathleen Deagan, Distinguished Research Curator of Archaeology and Adjunct Professor of Anthropology at the University of Florida's Florida Museum of Natural History, has been conducting research at the Fountain of Youth Park for several years.

Recent discoveries have led her to conclude that the site is the location of the Timucuan village where Pedro Menendez de Aviles established the first Spanish settlement in Florida.

Excavations by Dr. Deagan and her team this spring unearthed a number of musket balls and metal objects that could be a cross bow point, a belt loop and a button. The ground where the artifacts were found shows signs of having been burned, which fits written accounts of the fighting that took place between the Spanish and Timucuans in 1566.

With the information presently available, it is highly probable that this is the same location where Menendez gathered the male settlers on September 16, 1565, and in called them to the service of the King of Spain as militia.

In September, the soil collected will be used in a ceremony to dedicate the parade field in front of the St. Francis Barracks.

Prepared by the Florida National Guard Public Affairs Office

Phone: (904)823-0166



The Ride Home, Inc.
September 19-21, 2013
National POW/MIA Recognition

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They All
Come
Home**

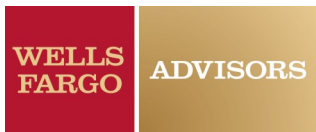
info@theridehome.com
theridehome.com

National POW/MIA Recognition Day
September 20, 2013



Keeping the Promise
www.dtic.mil/dpmo

"I will set him in the safety, for which he Yearns!" Robert Bergdahl



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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



**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)



**Hotline for women
Veterans**
**(855) 829-6636 or
(855) VA-WOMEN**

**Hotline to receive and respond to
questions from veterans, their families
and caregivers about the many VA ser-
vices and resources available to wom-
an veterans.**

**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 237,202 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.

Florida National Guard to hold 100th deployment ceremony since 9/11 More than 50 Soldiers to deploy to Southwest Asia

The 2nd Battalion, 111th Aviation Regiment's deployment ceremony at 11 a.m., July 11, 2013, marks the 100th federal deployment ceremony for the Florida National Guard since September 11, 2001.



More than 50 Soldiers from the battalion based at Camp Blanding will deploy to Southwest Asia to perform active federal service. They will first travel to Fort Hood, Texas, for additional training before deploying overseas.

Soldiers will provide airfield operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, to include locations in Afghanistan.

"This is not only a milestone for the Florida National Guard - it is a milestone for every Florida Guard member and everyone that supported our committed men and women over the past 11 years of deployments," said Adjutant General of Florida Maj. Gen. Emmett Titshaw Jr. "At each of our 99 deployment ceremonies we have asked for the support and confidence of every family member, employer, friend and colleague in attendance. This time I want to thank all of Florida's citizens for the continuous, unwavering support to the men and women of the Florida National Guard.

"This historic 100th ceremony reflects Florida's patriotism, resiliency, and strong support of our citizen-Soldiers and Airmen," he added.



Learning to hurry up and wait!

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.