

# The Patriot Reader

## VETERANS COUNCIL OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY

**CHAIRMAN BILL DUDLEY**

**VICE CHAIRMAN DAN BLACKMAN**

**SECRETARY GEORGE APRIL**

**TREASURER GEORGE MCCREA**

**Newsletter Editor Michael Rothfeld**



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### Special Points of Interest

*Vietnam Veterans of America  
Jax Maritime Heritage Center  
Missing in America update  
National POW/MIA Day  
Air Force Sergeants Assoc.  
"A Monument of Honor"  
Veterans History Project  
New Home for Disabled Veterans  
5 Star Veterans Center  
The Ride Home 2013*

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## Message from the Chairman

The Veterans Council continues to be very busy with many activities ongoing. Our Veterans Stand-down on Saturday, 24 August was another overwhelming success. Although the number of homeless Veterans was somewhat less this year than in previous years, it was nonetheless a big success. We had a huge turnout of volunteers who helped make the day one to remember for those Veterans who have fallen on hard times. The turnout for other homeless in the community was likewise well represented by those needing assistance and our Veterans Council along with the many volunteers were there to help.

On August 20, Michael Rothfeld and I spoke at a Semper Fi Luncheon at Hidden Hills Country Club in Jacksonville. We were accompanied by retired LCOL. Jim Vanairsdale, USMC and Jim Belamy from the Oldest City Detachment 383, Marine Corps League. It was a great opportunity for us to showcase our Veterans Council.

Our Wreaths Across America program for 2013 is doing extremely well and it appears we

are nearing our goal for this year. A big Bravo Zulu to Dan Blackman and his committee who have worked tirelessly this year to make this program another huge success.

The local Navy league Council recently turned out to make a presentation to the Clyde E. Lassen Veterans Nursing Home. The gift of a picture painted by local artist John Shaw entitled, "Hornets' Nest" was presented by the Navy League. The full article with picture appears in this edition of the newsletter.

On Monday, 26 August, I will appear on the Becky Reichenberg Talk Show on WFOY. I will be discussing Veterans issues and our many Veterans Council activities.

St. Johns County will be conducting a day long Safety Expo at the Agriculture Center on Sept. 11. The event will be opened with a tribute to Veterans and First Responders at 0900. Please plan to join us for the one hour ceremony as we honor all those who have worn the cloth of our nation or who are currently serving as a firefighter or police officer.

Our signature event of the year



will be on November 3, 2013. Our Veterans Council in corroboration with Florida Veterans Programs and Projects, Inc. will be showing a documentary. "Commitment to Honor" at Anastasia Baptist Church. This is another in a series of documentaries we have produced with FVPPI over the past four years, all a huge success. Please put a place marker on your calendar and save the date for this all inspiring production that will honor our warriors who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan as well as Vietnam who have served as mentors for these veterans who have returned home, many struggling with PTSD and other issues from extreme combat conditions. Please plan to come out and help us honor our men and women who have given so much for our country.

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

# Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home

*Patriotism is our motto*



## Florida Governor Rick Scott visits Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home



Governor Rick Scott addresses the residents and staff while on his visit to present medallions to the veterans and to say "thank you."



Rick Scott presenting the Governor's Veterans Service Award to Richard Remieres. Also pictured Art Axelson has already received his.



Dan Davis presenting Jack Foreman with the Governor's Veterans Service Award after the ceremony.



Digging in at the watermelon eating contest



Mr. Lenhoff was the obvious winner of the watermelon eating contest



Navy League of the US Council President, Mike Zollar, presents a John Shaw painting of the Battle of Midway to Ed Williams, Director of Nursing for the nursing home



Seated is resident Jay Powell. Jay was on the Hornet (in the photo) during the Battle of Midway. He was shot down three times during the course of his service on the Hornet.



Ed Burns showing his find after searching in the tiki at our recent luau



Colonel Dowdy showing off what we believe to be "the world's biggest lei."



Larry Carubia looking for his prize in the tiki



## 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.



Annual Reunion week-end including Memorial Service to honor the men of the USS Houston CA-30

March 13-15, 2014

Hyatt Downtown, Houston Texas

Specific information still in development and will be available at:  
[usshouston.org](http://usshouston.org)

Thank you,

John Keith Schwarz

Executive Director- USS Houston CA-30 Survivors Association & Next Generations

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Jacksonville's Bill Ingram,  
USS Houston survivor

### *Sarasota veteran wants to reclaim ship from North Korea*

**Sarasota (AP) -** A Sarasota veteran who spent 11 months in captivity in North Korea wants to bring his Navy ship back to the U.S. from behind enemy lines.

Richard Rogala served aboard the USS Pueblo when it was captured in 1968. He was released, but the Pueblo wasn't, it's still in North Korea.

Rogala is part of a group of Pueblo veterans who want the ship to come home.

The Pueblo is still listed as a commissioned U.S. Navy vessel, the only one being held by a foreign nation.



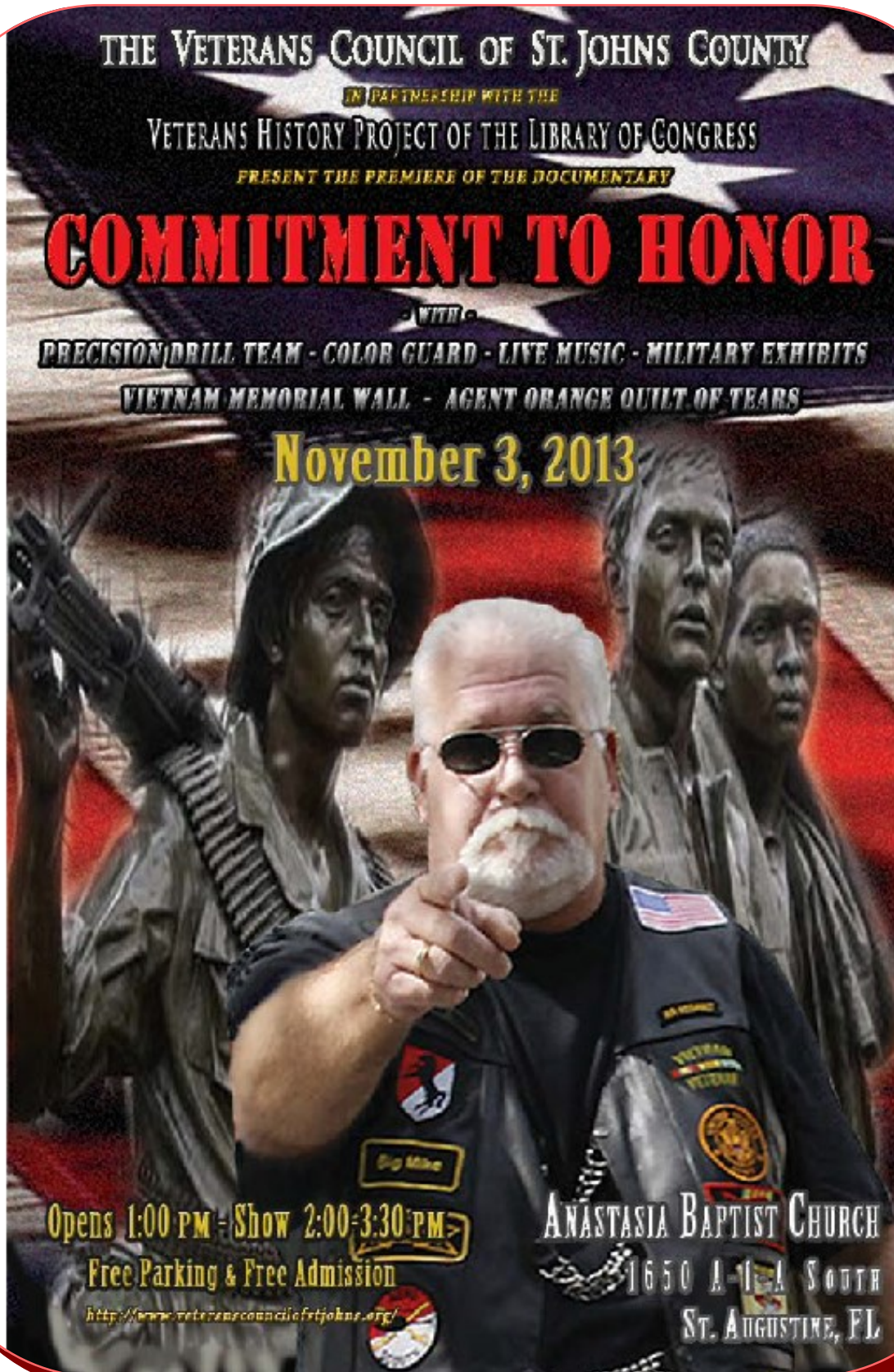


THE VETERANS COUNCIL OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY  
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE  
VETERANS HISTORY PROJECT OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS  
PRESENT THE PREMIERE OF THE DOCUMENTARY

# COMMITMENT TO HONOR

WITH  
PRECISION DRILL TEAM - COLOR GUARD - LIVE MUSIC - MILITARY EXHIBITS  
VIETNAM MEMORIAL WALL - AGENT ORANGE QUILT OF TEARS

**November 3, 2013**



Opens 1:00 PM - Show 2:00-3:30 PM  
Free Parking & Free Admission  
<http://www.veteranscouncilofstjohns.org/>

ANASTASIA BAPTIST CHURCH  
1650 A-1-A SOUTH  
ST. AUGUSTINE, FL

For additional information please contact:

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Gary Bruce: [garyebuce@gmail.com](mailto:garyebuce@gmail.com)



## Vietnam Veterans of America Congregate in Jacksonville, FL

by Michael Isam

St. Augustine, FL, (August 19, 2013) – There it was, an entire era in one place at one time. Talk about an overlap of the time-space continuum!

The weather was already in the 80's at 8 a. m. and predicted to be hotter by mid-afternoon. Just in the action of standing still, clothes became wet. Moving made the wet patches larger, and the shade offered little relief.

From seemingly nowhere came the thought “Hopefully the monsoon will cool things down.” Along with that thought, for an eternity-like moment, everything morphed to an abundance of jungle, then came the added weight of a flack jacket followed closely by the feel of a steel pot on the head. Was it the blink of an eye, a minute possibly an hour? Just as abruptly, the vision morphed into an expanse of the St. Johns River with tall buildings in the back ground. The reality of August 2013 in Jacksonville, FL took command.

The 16<sup>th</sup> biennial National Convention of the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) was about to get under way. Many veterans had yet to check in for rooms, convention ID, and delegate registration. Lines were long, reminiscent of the ‘hurry up and wait’ days. Bellhops pushing luggage carts were moving at the speed of the “Flash” darting between groups of people lost in conversation and oblivious to their surroundings. Some were just lost.

Small conclaves were forming by state, and in many cases, by the units in which time away from ‘the world’ was served. Black vests, with and without motorcycle insignia, but each proudly proclaiming the Vietnam Veterans of America logo and other choice phrases, were everywhere.

The most interesting attire appeared seemed to come from nowhere. Picture two men who appeared to be floating through the sea of bodies each wearing dark powder blue Polo-style shirts, black pants, military boots, and black berets. Standing out from the uniform was the gold star on the belt. The star echoed the words “VVA Marshal” emblazoned on the shirt. “We are basically directing people to the places they can’t seem to find,” said one marshal. “In the event of a problem, we are trained to handle situations that can easily get out of control.” “Luckily,” he added, “those are few and very far between.”

About noon delegates began massing in the main lobby. The air was filled with an underlying tenseness. The feeling appeared to physically manifest in a stiff posture. Movements became less animated, the eyes were in a constant motion of furtive side to side glances, and voices became almost whispers. The time for the wreath laying at the Vietnam Monument located on the lawn of the courthouse was close at hand.

VVA National President John Rowan and Nancy Switzer, National President of Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America (AVVA), flanked by the color guard of the Nicholas J. Cutinha VVA Chapter 1046, Duval County, placed wreaths honoring locals who died in Vietnam. “This is traditional,” said Rowan. “It is something we take very solemnly and seriously.”

A POW/MIA remembrance ceremony, led by former Vietnam POW Bill Byrnes, was held during breakfast. "This ceremony is held to honor our Prisoners of War for their sacrifices and to remember the ones who have not yet returned," said Les Bertrand of VVA Chapter 1046, Duvall County. According to information obtained from the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office," said Bertrand, "as of August 9, 2013, 1,645 are still missing from the Vietnam War: 1,276 in Vietnam; 309 in Laos; 53 in Cambodia; and 7 in China. From the state of Florida, there remain 57 servicemen unaccounted for.

Of special interest to Vietnam Veterans was the Agent Orange Town Hall meeting. The forum addressed the birth defects, diseases, and learning disabilities affecting the children and grandchildren of Vietnam veterans.

"We must not be silent about the ill health effects of battlefield exposures on our veterans, on our children, our grandchildren, and the generations to come," said Nancy Switzer, AVVA President. "We encourage all veterans and their families with children and/or grandchildren suffering from mysterious illnesses to research and gather as much knowledge and information as possible."

Besides the normal business of elections of officers and amending the organization constitution and bylaws, was the Awards Dinner, which was sold out well in advance.

Dr. Guion Guy Bluford, Jr., the former NASA astronaut who became the first African-American to enter outer space, and Dr. G. Reid Lyon, one of our nation's top neuro-psychologists, received Excellence in the Sciences Awards.

H. Lee Barnes, the award-winning novelist and short-story writer who served as an Army Special Forces A Team sergeant in the Vietnam War, received the Excellence in the Arts Award. "Lee Barnes's service as a Green Beret in the Vietnam War has had a strong influence on his top-flight fiction writing," said Rowan.

The award winner most well known, the famed singer/songwriter Arlo Guthrie received the President's Award for Excellence in the Arts. "Arlo Guthrie is a cultural icon of the Vietnam War era. His song 'Alice's Restaurant' resonates with all Americans who lived through that time, including Vietnam veterans," said Rowan.

Also popular during the convention was the area dubbed 'VA Gulch' where every area of the VA had a booth and were waiting to assist. The booth helping with the online connection to order prescriptions was by far the most popular.

Just beyond the gulch was 'Veterans Mall'. Standing out among all the patches, hats, vests, and other memorabilia was a banner proclaiming "For those who have been there and done that: your t-shirts are ready!"

A special note to all the brothers and sisters of the Vietnam War, a thorough search of all menus in the hotel and the menu for the dinner on Saturday night gave a smile of delight to many. The words "Lima Beans and Ham" were nowhere to be found!

Bon Appetite!





Photos by Michael Isam

# Veterans Supporting Veterans at Annual Stand Down

By Michael Isam

St. Augustine, Fla, (August 25, 2013) – Boots, sleeping bags, rain gear, backpacks, clothes and more were the finds of the day for many homeless Veterans.

It was an extremely busy day that began 24 hours earlier with setting up tables and getting items ready for a new home.

No, it was not the grand opening of a brick and mortar store. It was volunteers getting ready for the annual Homeless Veteran Stand Down.



Waiting for the Veterans

(A note to my readers - In this article and in the photos that go along with it, I do not use names of the homeless and I attempt to not photo their faces out of respect.)

“The numbers appear slightly lower at this year’s stand down,” said Joe McDermott, the Senior Veteran Service Office for St. Johns County. “We are not sure why until we can look over the numbers, but at first reading, this is a good thing.”

For 5 years Heather Andrews of the St. Johns County Veteran Service Office has spearheaded and coordinated the event. “I did not do it alone,” said Andrews. “I had some very great people with me all the way. Help from the Veterans Administration in St. Petersburg to obtain surplus supplies is an added Godsend.”

Adding to the myriad of VA personnel, were volunteers from almost every veteran organization in, and outside, St. Johns County. Some came from as far South as Melbourne and as far West as Interlachen.

During the busy time, amid all the noise and haste, there were always times when two or three veterans were huddled together and talking. In the Veteran community there is the phrase, “There but for the grace of God, and help from my comrades, go I.” Yes, civilians say it too, but for a Veteran, it takes on special meaning.

Tough circumstances for a civilian are one thing, but then, toss in war and it goes to another level. “One thing that amazes me still, to this day, 40 plus years later,” said a Vietnam Veteran “is with all the research and articles about the effects of war, there are people who think a ‘little blue pill’ cures you.” I wonder sometimes,” he added, “if we are really on the same planet in the same time and dimension.”

“I don’t want your pity,” said one homeless Veteran, “I just need a little help from time to time.” “I choose to live the way I live to escape the steady stream of energy from ‘normal’ people.” “Yes, I hear voices, I have for many years.” “At least,” he added “those voices tell me the truth and have only one face.”

“Thank you from the bottom of my heart,” said a homeless mother of 3. “Just a little respite means so much. Most of all, a HOT shower, all by myself,” she added. “It takes me back to a time before children when I could just soak in the tub.” “Bless you all!”



Bug spray was at the top of the list

Photo Credit: Michael Isam



*This article is reprinted in its entirety with the permission of the author, Marcia Lane and the St. Augustine record*

## **Re-enactors lead remembrance of those killed in Second Seminole War by Marcia Lane**

Amid precise rows of marble tombstones marking the graves of military men and their spouses, several dozen people gathered Saturday morning at the St. Augustine National Cemetery to remember those who died on the battlefield during the Second Seminole War.

The day was humid and bright, probably much like Aug. 15, 1842, when seven mule-drawn wagons covered with the American flags slowly neared what was once the garden of the St. Francis Barracks on Marine Street.

The wagons brought the remains of more than 1,300 officers and soldiers killed during the Second Seminole Indian War for a re-interment ceremony. On Saturday, the crowd remembered that day and the sacrifices.

Re-enactors in military uniforms from the 1800s fired rifle volleys. A wreath of yellow flowers was placed at the base of a marble obelisk. A bugler played taps as the West Point Society of North Florida held their annual ceremony that remembers those who died during the wars that pitted the United States against the Seminole and Miccosukee tribes. The 450th Military Commemoration Committee and the Seminole Wars Foundation joined with the Society for this year's event.

Earlier, historian Roger Smith reminded the group that "though this is a solemn commemoration, let's not forget that it's actually a celebration of the end of the hostilities — when peace returned to the land, even if only for a few years."

"And ... today we are remembering all of those who died, on both sides of this conflict. For, like the Civil War 20 years later, Americans died on both sides in the Seminole Wars," Smith said.

In 1842, the soldiers and officers were re-interred from locations around the state into three vaults near St. Francis Barracks. Pyramids built of coquina were placed atop the vaults.

Buried in the mass graves were the bodies of Maj. Francis Dade and the more than 100 individuals in his command who were ambushed and killed in December 1835 as they marched from Fort Brooke, near what is now Tampa, to Fort King, now known as Ocala. The attack on Dade helped spur the Second Seminole Indian War, one of three wars between 1817 and 1858.

Also buried beneath the pyramids were Capt. George W. Gardiner, first Comman-

dant of Cadets at West Point, who also died with Dade; Maj. David Moniac, the first Native American graduate of West Point, who died at the Battle of Wahoo Swamp; and Lt. Col. Alexander R. Thompson, commander of the Sixth Regiment of Infantry who was killed at the Battle of Okeechobee.

In addition to men who died in battle are those who died of diseases such as yellow fever while serving.

## **OTHER MEMORIALS**

In 1881, a simple marble obelisk was added at the St. Augustine National Cemetery to commemorate Maj. Francis Dade and his command.

A monument to Dade and his command stands near the entrance to the West Point Cemetery in New York. It was unveiled in 1845.



**A wreath is placed in front of one of three pyramids by Andre Wright, left, and Maj. Gen. Don Tyre during the Seminole War Commemoration Ceremony at the National Cemetery on Marine Street Saturday**



**Re-enactors march south on Marine Street on their way to the National Cemetery during the Seminole War Commemoration Ceremony Saturday morning**



**The Bridge of Lions can be seen in the distance as re-enactors prepare to march south on Marine Street on their way to the National Cemetery during the Seminole War Commemoration Ceremony Saturday morning.**



*This article is used with permission of its author, Beth Cravey and the Times-Union.*

## **Veteran's welcome home: 'People you don't even know appreciate what you have done'**

**Posted:** August 16, 2013 - 3:35pm | **Updated:** August 16, 2013 - 3:49pm



**Photos:** [Bob.Self@jacksonville.com](mailto:Bob.Self@jacksonville.com)

First Lt. Ryan Timoney and wife, Kelby, is greeted by his mother, Diane Timoney, after the hero's welcome he received along the route to his parents' house in St. Johns County. He's gone through six months of surgery and rehab for wounds received in a suicide bomb attack in Afghanistan.

By [Beth Reese Cravey](#)

He had been home for quiet visits before, in between surgeries and rehabilitation, since he was severely wounded while serving in Afghanistan in 2012.

But Army 1st Lt. Ryan Timoney, who grew up in Mandarin and St. Johns County, had never received a hero's welcome home. The kind with a police escort and screaming fans and signs made especially for you and getting to ride in a cool convertible.

Until Friday.

"I never ever imagined myself having something like this," Timoney said. "Coming home and seeing people you don't even know appreciate what you have done. It feels really good."

His first clue that this 10-day visit would not be typical was the Florida Highway Patrol escort from the Jacksonville International Airport. His second clue was when his father, Greg, who was driving Timoney, his wife Kelby and mom Diane to their Julington Creek home, made a pit stop at the Fields Cadillac dealership on the Westside.

Dozens of military veterans on motorcycles were there, as well as many more state troopers and officers with the Jacksonville and St. Johns County sheriff's offices. Also there was Kathy Signorile, who founded the St. Michael's Soldiers volunteer nonprofit that organized the event, and her husband, Jim, general manager of the dealership, who had arranged a special ride for Timoney and his wife.

They were driven the rest of the way home in a 2012 BMW convertible, escorted by a large contingent of the veterans and law enforcement officers on motorcycles and in vehicles. A rolling roadblock cleared the way on Interstate 295 south.

As the motorcade passed St. Joseph's Catholic School in Mandarin, which Timoney attended, the entire student body was standing in line at the edge of the campus to wave to him.

"Going by my school ... It was wonderful. They were screaming," he said.

Kathy Signorile said everyone who she and her 150 volunteers asked to help with the event jumped on board.

"That's all you have to do in this town. People step up. They love our military," she said.

The veterans said they participate because they and other war heroes have not always been greeted enthusiastically upon their returns.

"One generation of veterans will not abandon the new generation," said Darryl Ingle, one of the other veterans on hand. In the past, returning veterans were not appreciated, much less welcomed.

"That should never happen," he said.

Timoney, 28, left for Afghanistan in April 2012. Less than a month later, he and five other soldiers were attacked by a suicide bomber. Two of them were killed, three injured. Timoney had a fractured left leg, shrapnel wounds to his abdomen, arms, legs and back and a devastating head wound from a ball bearing that crossed through his brain and lodged behind his right ear.

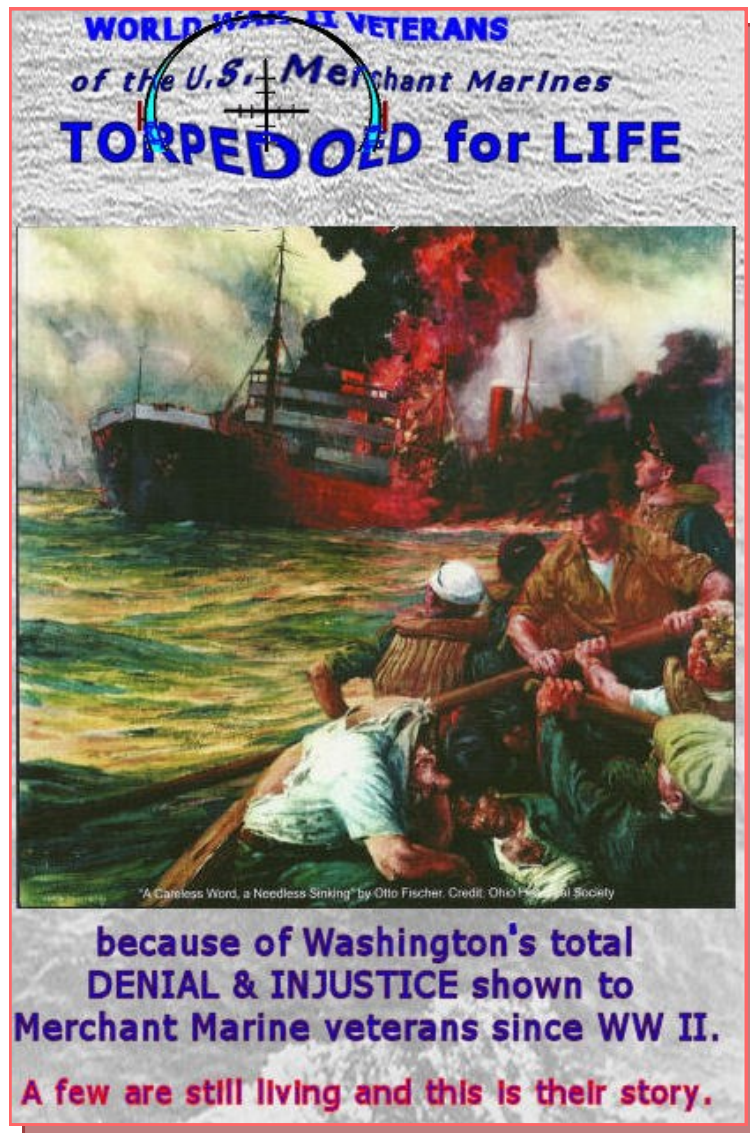
In Kandahar, surgery saved his life by relieving pressure on his brain. He was later moved to a hospital in Germany and then to Walter Reed in Bethesda, Md. Since then, Timoney has had multiple surgeries and hundreds of hours of physical therapy. One surgery replaced the portion of his missing skull with titanium, another amputated his left leg a few inches below the knee. At least one more surgery is expected within the next year or so, to remove that ball bearing.

Still, he has a positive outlook.

"God kept me a live for a reason," he said.

Beth Reese Cravey: (904) 359-4109





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 this fall.



A young Ed Trester



Ed Trester today

# Bomb disposal vet from Iraq War preserves his stories for Library of Congress

By [Matt Soergel](#), reprinted with permission of Matt Soergel and the Times Union.



Army vet Tim Frederickson reaches into his past to contribute his experiences to the Library of Congress' Veterans History Project.

ST. AUGUSTINE - Tim Frederickson — tall, muscular, looking every bit the elite ex-military man he once was — leaned forward in an armchair to tell some of his war stories.

He got through the details fine: where he grew up, when he served, the tough training. How it was all he ever wanted to do, how he went to an Army recruiting office the minute he got out of his California high school, how that was the easiest day that recruiter ever had.

Then he told of coming to Iraq for the first time: the U.S. air base under fire as his plane landed, the blazing heat, the unfamiliar sounds of a country at war.

His memories ambushed him. His voice faltered. Tears came.

George McLatchey handed over a box of tissues and turned off the recorder that was capturing those war stories.

Frederickson wiped his eyes. “Sorry about that.”

McLatchey spoke gently in reply. “Tim, you don’t need to apologize.”

Moments later, he turned the recorder back on, and Frederickson, with a tissue in his hand, started talking again. For 56 minutes, he told his stories — funny ones, sad ones, horrific ones — which will now be preserved for future generations, future historians.

**Hear what they have to say** To hear veterans telling their stories, go to [www.vhpfirstcoast.org](http://www.vhpfirstcoast.org) and click on “interviews.”

## Before it's too late

It's called the Library of Congress' Veterans History Project, and it's designed to make sure the stories don't die when the servicemen or women do. McLatchey, a retired educator, is a volunteer for Community Hospice of Northeast Florida, which is reaching out to veterans for their memories.

He's spoken with many, from a World War II vet who knew he had only hours to live, to Frederickson, a healthy 41-year-old with years of life to look forward to.

On this day, though, inside a small office at Community's Hospice St. Johns County branch, Frederickson looked back, to Iraq. That's where he won two Bronze Stars while with an Explosion Ordnance Disposal unit for the Navy. Its job: disarming improvised bombs before they went off and investigating bombs after they did their damage.

Think of the men in the movie “The Hurt Locker.”



That work is what he did, helped by a favorite bomb-disabling robot he called Johnny 5. He was the best robot in Iraq, Fredericksen said, and he grew used to him, attached to him.

He also grew too used to the daily grind of two tours of Iraq: Suicide car bombs and roadside explosions. Mangled bodies and the smell of burning flesh. It wasn't unusual to go on two or three missions a day, and that went on seven days a week.

It began on his first convoy to his base, just as he arrived in country. That's when a car laden with explosives hit the vehicle in front of him, and another hit a Humvee some distance behind, killing two soldiers. His voice faltered again as he described the frantic efforts of the men in the convoy to save the lives of their comrades.

"See, I don't like this," he blurted out as he told that story. But he carried on.

"That was my wake-up call into the country," he said into the recorder. "After that you kind of get desensitized. So it was a little bit hard. A little bit rough."

### **'Reaching back'**

Community Hospice volunteers have interviewed close to 100 veterans since 2008, said Toulia Wooten, who coordinates the group's Veterans History Project. The Amelia Island History Museum collects stories as well, as does the St. Johns County library system. All the recordings go to the Library of Congress, which has been archiving them since 2000.

"The Library of Congress truly depends on little grass-roots organizations figuring out how to do it," Wooten said.

She's sat in on recordings. Sometimes the veterans' spouses attend too, and are surprised by some of the stories — all those years of marriage, and they've never heard them.

"It's sometimes really hard, really painful, to share these stories," Wooten said. "A lot of these guys, they're reaching back in their memories for things they've repressed, stuffed down, so they can get on with their lives. Things that are really mortal injuries to your soul."

Making any big change in life can be difficult. For Fredericksen, there were adjustments to make when he got home, after so much time in a place where a car bomb at the gate was his morning alarm clock: "Every day, seven o'clock: *Boom!* Time to go to work."

He remembers one day just after getting back to America. His wife was driving. He was in the passenger seat. A car pulled up even with them, keeping pace. Go! He screamed at her, all-too aware of the moving car bombs in Iraq. Go, go, go!

Then there was the time he was behind the wheel, and up ahead was a speed detector strip lying across the lane. In Iraq, something like that is deadly. Here, he knew it was nothing, knew it was harmless. But he stopped, unable to go on. Cars behind honked, and honked some more. Finally he managed to creep across it, only by not looking down, wincing as he went.

Moving on after a life in the military — he was in the Army from 1990 to 1998, the Navy from 2000 to earlier this year — he's had police training and hopes to get a job at the Jacksonville Sheriffs Office or in St. Johns County.

It's easier now. Life in America seems normal again.

But after he told his stories, he wondered why he reacted as he did when McLatchey asked him about arriving in Iraq, in that heat and that clamor.

Why did he get so choked up? Perhaps, he thought, it was because you don't have time for those emotions when you're over there. Back home, though? It sneaks up on you.

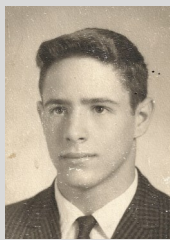
*matt.soergel@jacksonville.com, (904) 359-4082*

Read more at Jacksonville.com: <http://jacksonville.com/news/metro/2013-07-29/story/bomb-disposal-vet-iraq-war-preserves-his-stories-library-congress#ixzz2aYHhC0oN>

**Florida Veterans Programs and Projects, Inc. (FVPPI) has had its Vietnam documentary selected to be shown as part of Jacksonville's "Week of Valor". The documentary will be shown on November 15th at either Metropolitan Park or the UNF theater. This documentary features the stories of five local Vietnam veterans: Tom Crawford, Paul Heagy, Harry Manford, Coy McDonald and Tom Waskovich. Vietnam veteran Terry Allan was one of the interviewers and Vietnam veteran Michael Isam served as the narrator on this project. The documentary has been broadcast several times locally on WJCT TV, the PBS affiliate in Jacksonville and is also in the Vietnam War Museum in Mineral Wells, TX.**



Paul Heagy  
Navy Corpsman



Tom Crawford USMC



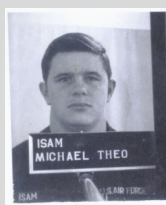
Harry Manford USMC



Coy McDonald US Army



Tom Waskovich US Army



Michael Isam  
US Army  
Narrator



Terry Allan  
US Army  
Interviewer

**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](http://www.VeteransCouncilOfStJohns.org) or  
[www.StJohnsVetsCouncil.org](http://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](mailto: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**



## The 60th Anniversary of the Korean War Armistice Celebration

The Korean Association of North Florida held its annual celebration of the end of the Korean War on Saturday July 27th at the Fleet Reserve Branch 126 building, Jacksonville. COL, USMC ret. Jim Vanairsdale, his wife Claire, my wife, Carol and I attended the very moving ceremony honoring the sacrifices US troops made during the Korean Conflict.

The proceedings started with the Pledge to the US Flag, followed by the Pledge to the Korean Flag, the US National Anthem and the Korean National Anthem. A prayer followed asking us to honor those from both countries who gave their lives so that S. Korea may remain free. Dr. Henry Moreland, Commander Korean War Veterans Association Jacksonville Chapter 200, thanked the Korean Association of North Florida for honoring Korean War veterans with the annual ceremony and luncheon. The keynote speaker was the Korean Consulate in Atlanta, Consul Mr. Minwoo Lee who thanked American Korean veterans for their sacrifices and for saving his country from the Communists. Mr. Jae Y. Lee and Mr. Il Un Chung also spoke on behalf of the Korean Community of North Florida. A duo performed songs for veterans and a sumptuous buffet lunch of Korean delicacies followed. It was very nice seeing and hearing a foreign country thank and honor our veterans. I look forward to this ceremony each year.



Saluting the American flag



Saluting the Korean flag



Mr. Jae Lee



Dr. Henry Moreland



Korean Consul Mr.  
Minwoo Lee



KANF President Mr.  
IL Un Chung





## 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](http://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](http://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



### The Jacksonville Maritime Heritage Center at the Jacksonville Landing

**The Jacksonville Maritime Museum Society is a non-profit, educational association and collects books, documents, artifacts, and other historical objects significant to General Maritime History of Jacksonville and Florida's First Coast; preserves their historical value; and interprets their meaning to the public by means of museum displays, educational programs, lectures and publications.**

**The mission of the Jacksonville Maritime Museum Society is to preserve and interpret the maritime history of Jacksonville and the First Coast in order to foster among all residents and visitors a deeper appreciation of our maritime heritage.**

**Open Tuesdays—Saturday 11am to 5pm, closed Sundays/Mondays,  
904-355-1101, [www.jacksonvillemaritimeheritagecenter.org](http://www.jacksonvillemaritimeheritagecenter.org)**

Admission: \$3 per adult, children \$1 (7-13), Discount for active duty or retired military and seniors

**Sept. 28th, 2 pm, Bill Ingram, ex WW II POW and survivor of the sinking of the USS Houston will be speaking about his heroic story of survival.**



Bill Ingram

## MISSING IN AMERICA PROJECT – FLORIDA, AUGUST 12, 2013

MIAP will hold its first multiple services at the Jacksonville National Cemetery

on Friday, November 08, 2013 @ 1:00pm. We will be interring 12 Veterans and 1 spouse as of this date. All but two of these were located at AB Coleman Mortuary.



As of today we have 63 Veterans and 19 spouses that have been verified by the DVA. This is out of just a handful of funeral homes, mainly two in Jacksonville and a few others down state. WE NEED VOLUNTEERS to help us in our mission.

There are many ways in which you can volunteer, you can do research at the funeral homes, we need to do fund raisers and we need help in just spreading the word.

The following is a list of expenses that MIAP incurs and the reason for fund raiser:

Sending out register letters to last known next of kin

Public “Notice of Intended Action” in newspapers

Administration expenses – Copies of Death Certificates

Burial Permits (in some cases)

Accounting

Expenses including Insurance to National

Long Escort Rides – on long rides we try to cover some expenses

Please go to our website @ [www.miap.us](http://www.miap.us), sign up as a supporter, read all about what MIAP is doing in other states. MIAP has actually located and interred two Civil War brothers from Indiana and in another state we interred a Civil War Soldier and his spouse. If you would then like to become a volunteer you can contact me at my info listed below.

There are also several MIAP Facebook pages you can join. Ours is Missing in America Project – Florida

Kathy Church

MIAP – Florida State Coordinator

(904) 219-3035

[miapjax@yahoo.com](mailto:miapjax@yahoo.com)



# MISSING IN AMERICA PROJECT - FLORIDA      (MIAP)

**SUMMARY AS OF :**                      **07/31/2**

|  |  |                                |            |
|--|--|--------------------------------|------------|
| <b><u>AIR FORCE</u></b> <b>TOTAL</b>                                 |  | <b>Veterans Verified</b>       | <b>63</b>  |
| 1 is a Korea Veteran   |  | <b>Spouse Verified</b>         | <b>19</b>  |
| 1 which is a WWII Veteran  |  | <b>TOTAL VERIFIED</b>          | <b>82</b>  |
| 1 which is a Vietnam (Retired) see also USN                          |  |                                |            |
| 1 is a spouse of a WWII Veteran                                      |  | <b>Missions Sched</b>          | <b>0</b>   |
| <b><u>ARMY</u></b> <b>TOTAL</b>                                      |  | <b>Missions Pending</b>        | <b>64</b>  |
| 2 are Korean War Veterans      1 spouse of a                         |  | <b>Eligible</b>                | <b>13</b>  |
| 12 are WWII Veterans                      veteran                    |  | <b>Missions Com-</b>           | <b>6</b>   |
| 1 is a Major   |  | <b>Awaiting Verifica-</b>      | <b>44</b>  |
| 4 are spouses of WWII Veterans                                       |  | <b>Need more re-</b>           | <b>12</b>  |
| 5 are spouses  |  | <b>Not Eligible</b>            | <b>126</b> |
| 1 is a spouse of a Korea & Viet Nam Veteran                          |  | <b>No Action Taken</b>         | <b>7</b>   |
| 1 was a Viet Nam Veteran   |  |                                |            |
| <b><u>COAST GUARD</u></b> <b>TOTAL</b>                               |  | <b>Total in Data Base</b>      | <b>271</b> |
| 1 is a Korea Veteran   |  |                                |            |
| <b><u>MARINE CORP</u></b> <b>TOTAL</b>                               |  |                                |            |
| 1 is a WWII Veteran & his spouse                                     |  |                                |            |
| <b><u>MERCHANT MARINE</u></b> <b>TOTAL WWII</b>                      |  |                                |            |
| <b><u>NAVY</u></b> <b>TOTAL</b>                                      |  |                                |            |
| 1 is a Korea & Vietnam Veteran(Retired)                              |  | 1 is a spouse of a WWI Vet     |            |
| 1 is a WWII, Korean & Viet Nam Veteran (Retired)                     |  | 1 sp-husband interred in ANC   |            |
| 1 is a Viet Nam Veteran (Retired)                                    |  | 1 is a sp of a WII & Korea Vet |            |
| 3 are WWII Veterans  |  | 1 is a spouse of a Veteran     |            |
| 1 is a WWII & Korean War Veteran (Retired)                           |  | 2 are spouses of WWII Veteran  |            |
| 1 is a Viet Nam Veteran (Retired) & Korea Vet                        |  | 1 is a sp of a VN Veteran      |            |
| <b><u>MISSION COMPLETE</u></b> <b>TOTAL</b>                          |  |                                |            |
| <b>(these 4 are included in the numbers above)</b>                   |  |                                |            |
| 1 - US Air Force AIC, Korean War Veteran                             |  |                                |            |
| 1 - US Air Force, A2C, Korean War Veteran                            |  |                                |            |
| 1 - US Navy SR   |  |                                |            |
| 1 - US Marine Corp PFC, WWII Veteran                                 |  |                                |            |
| 1 - US Navy SR (family reunited with Veteran & private service held) |  |                                |            |

Please Save The Date  
for the  
**National POW/MIA Day**  
Ceremony & Luncheon  
Friday, September 20, 2013



And join the  
Vietnam Veterans of America  
Chapter 1046  
Semper Fidelis Society  
Filipino-American Veterans Society  
At the  
Five STAR Veterans Center  
40 Acme Street  
Jacksonville, FL 32211

Invitation will follow

For more information please contact [suzie.loving@5starveteranscenter.org](mailto:suzie.loving@5starveteranscenter.org)

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

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



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 26<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:jordan.perry@us.af.mil)  
904-827-0022





## **4<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place teams and 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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**





## **"Welcome Home/A Monument of Honor"**

**A National Book Project To Honor the Humanity and Dignity of Vietnam Veterans**

Ross Lewis-Author/Producer...U.S. Army 1966-1968

Mission of Book: This is the only book of its kind produced about the Vietnam War. It is the Book of Tribute dedicated Vietnam veterans throughout America.

Website of book: [www.welcomemonument.com](http://www.welcomemonument.com)

Compelling biographies of 27 Vietnam Veterans from 1954 through the last Marines on the roof of U.S. Embassy in Saigon, April, 1975.

Never-before published brilliant, non-combat, in-country photographs taken by the Vietnam veterans during their tours.

*Ross Lewis lives in Jacksonville*

## **Veterans history project at St. Johns County libraries**

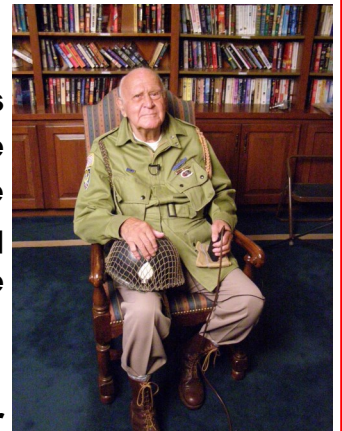


**V**eterans who have a story to tell and who would like to record it for future generations are encouraged to contact the St. Johns County Public Library System and participate in the Veterans History Project.

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.

Submitted by St. Johns County Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley

A true American hero from the Vietnam war  
Roy Benavide

<http://www.greatamericans.com/video/Portraits-of-Valor-Roy-Benavide>



*Recognizing a local hero: If the city (Jacksonville) ever wants to honor a World War 2 veteran and one of our own, I have the guy. His name is Robert Allen. He is in his late 80's. He served on the U.S.S. Cumberland Sound, which was a sea plane tender, and tended the sea-planes of Patrol Bomber Squadron 22. Robert was a flier in Patrol Bomber Squadron 22.*

*The U.S.S. Cumberland Sound rendezvoused with elements of the 3rd Fleet at Okinawa on August 18, 1945. On August 28, 1945 the occupation of Japan by the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers began. The U.S.S. Cumberland Sound was one of the first ships into Tokyo Bay, on August 28, 1945, a few days before the signing of the documents ending the war with Japan and was tasked with the setup of a seadrome.*

*Robert flew in a Sea plane that was circling over the surrender ceremony held on September 2, 1945 aboard the United States Navy battleship USS Missouri (BB-63), at which officials from the Japanese government signed the Japanese Instrument of Surrender, thereby ending the hostilities in World War II.*

*Robert has a very sharp mind and a great memory. He can be found every Thursday at the community hospice center, 5450 Ramona Blvd., Jacksonville, FL where he works there as a volunteer.*

*Submitted by Bruce Barney*

## Jacksonville disabled veteran, family get new home: 'Thank you is not enough'

This article is reprinted with permission of it's author Beth Reese Cravey and the Times Union



WILL DICKEY/The Times-Union

U.S. Army veteran Jeffery Taylor raises a flag at his new home presented by Purple Heart Homes during a Mission Complete ceremony Friday in Jacksonville. The television show "Designing Spaces" filmed the renovation for an episode scheduled to air in the fall.

For months disabled Iraq war veteran Jeffery Taylor and his wife, Tracy, had been speculating about what their new Jacksonville home would look like, inside and out.

When they and their three children finally got to see it Friday, the Army private first class said they were stunned.

"Everything we had dreamed about, times a million," said his wife.

They were also stunned by how the house on a quiet Mandarin street came to be their home through Purple Heart Homes.

The national nonprofit matches disabled Purple Heart recipients with donated foreclosed homes.

The 2,300-square-foot, ranch-style house was donated to the cause by Bank of America as Purple Heart Homes' first project in Florida.

The house was then completely renovated with donated services from RTF Construction, as well as donated hardware, fixtures, interior furnishings and structural goods. It was all put together in about a month's time by hundreds of local volunteers from Bank of America, GE Aviation Veterans Network and other businesses and groups.

"I can't come up with the words. Thank you is not enough. This is the first home I have ever owned in my life," Jeffery Taylor, 36, told them all at a post-"reveal" party in his backyard. "It is crazy to think that somebody ... would help build a home for a person they don't even know. I can't even express how I feel."

He said he hoped to help out on a future Purple Heart Homes project for another military family, like Marine Corps veteran Derrick Pope of Hickory, N.C., did for him. Pope, whose home was renovated by the nonprofit about six months ago, was among the volunteers working on the Taylor home.

"I can't do much," Taylor said, "but I can do some things."

Taylor, who along with his wife is from Putnam County, served with the U.S. Army's 3rd Infantry Division during Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003. He was critically injured when his crew's vehicle came under mortar attack just outside the Baghdad airport, causing it to roll over into



a canal with Taylor trapped underneath. He was rescued but left with a crushed leg, nerve damage, post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury and hearing loss.

Purple Heart Homes was co-founded by combat-wounded Iraq veterans Dale Beatty and John Gallina. At the party, Gallina called the help a “hand-up,” not a handout: Taylor will be paying a mortgage of 50 percent of the home’s market value.

“It’s not enough to bring you home,” Gallina told him. “We want to lift you up.”

The kind of community support that came together to renovate the Taylor home, he said, is critical for veterans to reintegrate into society.

The crew of Lifetime TV’s “Designing Spaces” filmed the renovation and subsequent reveal for a three-part series that will air in September.

Beth Reese Cravey: (904) 359-4109

**On Tuesday, August 20, 2013 at 10:00am our Navy League Council presented the John Shaw painting “The Hornet’s Nest” to the Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home. The is the painting our council received from the Battle of Midway dinner committee for our support of that event. Since we have no place to display this beautiful painting the board has decide to present it to the State Veterans Nursing Home. The members of our Board of Directors attended the presentation and SANL council members also attended.**

**Mike Zollar, President  
St. Augustine Council**



## ***MARINE CORPS LEAGUE COLOR GUARD AT WGV***

As Mother Nature sounded revile for the sun on the morning of July 29<sup>th</sup>, and it was a Monday too, Detachment #383, Marine Corps League's Color Guard was standing tall at the World Golf Village Convention Center to present colors at the Florida Public Human Resources Association annual statewide meeting.

This was the Color Guard's first indoor appearance and a welcomed situation where the wind was of no concern. The only sound on the convention floor was the cadence of the Color Guard as they marched to present the colors. As the color Guard presented the colors, all in attendance, with hands placed over their hearts, united their voices in the recital of the pledge of allegiance. Even St. Augustine's Mayor Joe Boles personally greeted the Color Guard and commented that they did not miss a step.

Detachment #383 Marine Corps League would like to thank the Florida Public Human Resources Association for the honor and privilege of participating in the opening ceremony of this event.

Semper Fi!



**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](http://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](mailto:les-Bertrand@comcast.net)

Phone: 904-248-9453





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

**Until  
They All  
Come  
Home**

info@theridehome.com  
theridehome.com

**National POW/MIA Recognition Day**  
September 20, 2013



**Keeping the Promise**  
www.dtic.mil/dpma

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

# The RIDE HOME 2013

"I call upon the people of the United States to join me in honoring and remembering all former American Prisoners of War and those still missing in action who valiantly served our great country."

Those words have echoed from our Commander in Chief every year since 1978. Their intent - to establish the third weekend in September as a time to honor and acknowledge former prisoners of war and to renew our commitment to the families that still wait for their soldier to come home.

This is the perfect opportunity for you and your members to join with the RIDE HOME, Inc. to execute this mission and there is no better venue than the National Prisoner of War Museum in Andersonville, Georgia to accomplish this. The goal this year is to host 150 former POWs and 50 families of those still MIA. To achieve this goal, we respectfully request that you sponsor at least two Prisoners of War or two Missing in Action families. The average cost per POW/MIA family is \$350, which covers all three nights of lodging plus 2 ceremonial meals and local transportation, if needed. In recognition for your contribution, you will receive memorabilia from the event; plus, you will be listed in all media publications announcing our sponsors, i.e., programs, website, etc. We have included a sponsor form for your convenience. Just fill it out and drop the form along with your sponsorship funds in the mail to the address at the top of the form.

Our second request is for you to come to Andersonville and be a part of hosting The Ride Home; if not your entire Chapter, at least a representative. For this effort, you will be rewarded with an experience that you will cherish for a lifetime. You will escort true American heroes, break bread with them, learn the real story behind their uniform and best of all, make a new friend.

Please, feel free to contact us with your questions. We look forward to working with you and seeing you in Andersonville.

Until they all come home.....

On behalf of The RIDE HOME, Inc. Board of Directors,

Jim 'moe' Moyer  
863 324 7268 -home  
407 448 1181 - cell  
mohog@verizon.net  
[www.theridehome.com](http://www.theridehome.com)



**Please! forward this information to all organizations, any and all volunteers are encouraged to contact "TheRideHome.org" or Randy at 386-684-1930**



**Christopher Thompson, CFP®, CRPC®**

Vice President - Investment Officer  
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Ponte Vedra, FL 32082  
Direct 904-273-7908

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

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

Practice focusing on Estate Planning (Wills/Trusts), Probate, Elder and Veterans Law and Small Business Law

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St. Augustine, FL 32092  
904-687-1140  
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1475 Old Dixie Highway

St. Augustine, FL 32084

(904) 824-1672

(904) 824-4862

[www.CRAIGFUNERALHOME.COM](http://www.CRAIGFUNERALHOME.COM)

***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 15<sup>th</sup> 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



#### ***15<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:mrothfeld@anyveteran.org)



AUSA President COL Lisa Craig presents  
\$ 1000. scholarship award to Shelby Reinwald

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Community Hospice Jax supports:**

**National Hospice and Palliative Care's  
program, "We Honor Vets."**

See site at this link: [http://  
www.wehonorveterans.org/](http://www.wehonorveterans.org/)

**Florida National Guard morning muster:**

<http://www.floridaguard.army.mil/morning-muster>

**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 **251,790** views to date on YouTube.

You can view part of it at:

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

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

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

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

**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.*