

# The Patriot Reader

## VETERANS COUNCIL OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY

**CHAIRMAN BILL DUDLEY**

**VICE CHAIRMAN RAY QUINN**

**SECRETARY GEORGE APRIL**

**TREASURER MICHAEL ROTHFELD**

Newsletter Editor Michael Rothfeld

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### Message from the Chairman



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**SPECIAL TO THE PATRIOT  
READER: from John Mountcastle**  
Changes to IRS filings  
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Fellow Veterans,  
November will be a very important month as our Veterans organizations around the County recognize all those who have served our country in uniform. The Veterans Council of St. Johns County along with the local MOAA chapter will again be conducting our annual Veterans Day ceremony at Francis Field. Our keynote speaker for this year's ceremony is Brigadier General Craig Crenshaw, USMC, Assistant Deputy Commandant for Installations and Logistics (Plans). General Crenshaw and his wife LaDonna will be flying down from US Marine Corps Headquarters in Washington. We are delighted to have a senior officer such as General Crenshaw to speak at

our Veterans Day ceremony. The program will begin at 11:00 AM and will involve our local military re-enactors, military displays, JROTC Cadets, and the reading of names of all our deceased veterans since last year's ceremony.

Also, St. Augustine Beach will be recognizing our veterans at a ceremony at the Beaches Veterans Memorial Park. This event will begin at 3 PM.

The St. Johns County Commissioners have graciously allocated space in the rotunda area of the County Administrative Building for the month of November for displays from any of our Veterans Organizations. This can be personal items, posters, or any memorabilia that

they would like to display that reflects our veteran's service. All personal items will be in secure display cases.

Our Veterans Council has long been recognized in Florida as one of the most active and progressive Councils around the state. I have been contacted by several counties in the past asking for help in organizing a Veterans Council in their county. It now appears our Veterans Council has gained recognition outside the State. I was recently contacted by Erie County, PA. asking for assistance from our Council in helping (continued)

them to start up a Veterans Council in their county as seen below in their email requests:

Mr Bill Dudley,

Hello my name is Conor Monaghan I am a Master's Level Intern writing on the behalf of Erie County Pennsylvania Councilman Jay Breneman. I was researching other Veterans Council's in America and came across the Northeast Florida Veterans Council and am very interested in some of the inner workings of the council. In Erie County Pennsylvania Council Breneman is in the beginning stages of creating a Veterans Council of Erie County. I am sending this email to gain some insight on the establishment of your Veterans Council.

- What events does your Veterans Council participate in and coordinate?
- How is your Council Received in the community?
- What if any difficulties did you encounter during the beginning stages of the formation of the Council?

Please respond at your earliest convenience we would appreciate any help or insight you could provide

Conor Monaghan MSW Intern  
On behalf of Councilman Jay Breneman  
Erie County Pennsylvania

Good morning Mr. Dudley –

I am currently working with Erie County Councilman Jay Breneman and his intern, Conor Monaghan, on the creation of a Veterans Council of Erie County. You sent an email on October 1, 2014, with an impressive explanation on the creation of your Council. I've been to your website and unfortunately was unable to find the by-laws and/or articles of incorporation. I am wondering if it might be possible to obtain a copy of your by-laws and/or articles of incorporation electronically. Please let me know at your earliest convenience. We appreciate any assistance you can provide, and thank you again for the previous insight to the establishment of your Council.

Deneé  
**Deneé Breter, Secretary/Office Administrator**  
**Erie County Council**  
**140 West 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 114**  
**Erie, PA 16501**  
**Work (814) 451-6302**  
**Fax (814) 451-6350**  
**[dbreter@eriecountygov.org](mailto:dbreter@eriecountygov.org)**

**I think we can take great pride in knowing that our Veterans Council in St. Johns County is recognized around the country as a model to be emulated.**

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

**Flagler College Men's Soccer will be holding Military Appreciation Night on Thursday, October 30, 2014. The game against Eckerd will take place at the Flagler College Athletics Complex on Saints Field at 7:00 PM. Anyone who presents a military, retired or VA ID will receive free admission. A ceremony is planned that is keyed toward recognizing veterans and their families for their service to our country.**

**The Flagler College Athletic Department would love to recognize as many military veterans at the game as we can.**

## Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home

*Patriotism is our Motto*



**Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans' Nursing Home in St. Augustine** – The Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans' Nursing Home in St. Augustine (St. Johns County) opened to residents in 2010. The 120-bed facility offers skilled nursing care and can accommodate 60 residents with dementia/Alzheimer's disease. Call (904) 940-2193 for more information. Address: 4650 State Road 16, St. Augustine, FL 32092.

**Resident Admission:** Basic admission requirements for all state veterans' homes include an honorable discharge, state residency prior to admission, and certification of need of assisted living or skilled nursing care as determined by a VA physician. For more information call (727) 518-3202 Ext. 5562.

**Employment:** For employment opportunities at the homes, call the FDVA Human Resources Office at (727) 518-3202, Ext. 5533 or visit the People First Website at <https://jobs.myflorida.com/joblist.html>

Clyde E. Lassen: On June 19, 1968, Lassen, then a 26-year-old [Lieutenant, junior grade](#) flying a [UH-2 Seasprite](#), embarked on a mission to recover two downed naval aviators whose plane had been shot down deep in [North Vietnamese](#) territory. Upon reaching the hilly terrain where the aviators were hiding, Lassen made several attempts to recover the aviators, but dense tree cover, enemy weapons fire and intermittent illumination frustrated his efforts. Lassen turned on the landing lights of the helicopter, despite the danger of revealing his position to the enemy. After the pilots made their way to the helicopter and with his bullet-riddled helicopter dangerously low on fuel, Lassen evaded further [antiaircraft](#) fire before landing safely at sea on board a [guided missile destroyer](#) with only five minutes of fuel left in the helicopter's fuel lines. The account of the rescue was logged as a successful, routine search and rescue mission.



LT Lassen became the first naval aviator and fifth Navy man to be awarded the Medal of Honor for bravery in Vietnam. He remained in the Navy for a career and retired in 1982 with the rank of [Commander](#), residing in [Pensacola, Florida](#) until his death in 1994. In 2001, a destroyer was commissioned and named after him: the [USS Lassen](#).<sup>1</sup> An [SH-60 Seahawk](#) was painted to commemorate his actions.

**Please join Veterans Council Chairman Bill Dudley in celebrating  
Veterans Day at:**

**Valley Ridge Academy on November 6th, 0900**

**University of N. FL on Nov. 7th, 1800**

**Pine Ridge Academy on Nov. 7th, 0900**

***Emcee at the Veterans Day ceremony on Nov. 11  
at Francis Field, 1100***

***The St. Augustine Beach Veterans Day ceremony at  
1500 on Nov. 11.***



## The Jacksonville National Cemetery Greetings from the Support Committee at the Jacksonville National Cemetery!

The Support Committee invites everyone to attend its next scheduled meeting on **Monday, November 3rd** at 7:00pm. The meeting will take place at Community Hospice, 4266 Sunbeam Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32257 in Conference Room A



Chairman Howard McGillin,  
COL US Army ret.



**From Cliff Shields, Director Jacksonville National Cemetery:** I want to say with mixed emotions that I have chosen to retire from federal service effective December 31, 2014.

I will be attending my last MIAP Ceremony on November 7<sup>th</sup> and my last Support Committee Meeting on November 3<sup>rd</sup>

Everyone take care and I wish you all well in life's road to happiness.

A search from internal candidates will start in a couple of weeks for my replacement.



Cliff Shields, Vietnam

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Retirement from federal service is a reward for years of hard work. In the all-too-short time you've been at the helm of the JNC, we have seen a renewed and invigorated staff, an up-tick in the already high quality of service and considerable support to the Veteran Community.

On behalf of veterans across the area, we thank you for your years of service. We wish you the very best in retirement - whether that includes travel, fishing, family, reading - whatever. Most importantly, please know that you have made a difference in the lives of the families of those entrusted to your care.

**Howard O. McGillin, Jr., Chairman, Jacksonville National Cemetery Support Committee**

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*I would like to convey my personal appreciation for the excellent job you have done as Director at JNC. You have brought true leadership, transparency, and integrity to the hallowed grounds of our Jacksonville National Cemetery and developed an outstanding team that has served our Veterans and their families with dignity and respect.*

*We wish you well in your upcoming retirement and hope you and your family will remain in the area.*

*With great respect.*

*Bill Dudley , Past National Vice President Navy League of the United States  
Chairman, Veterans Council of St. Johns County*

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Most people are grateful for what our veterans have done for our country, but sometimes we don't really understand the depth of their sacrifice. We don't understand that all who serve are changed by the experience, and for many that change is profound and life shattering. Their real battles begin when they confront the realities of their "new" world and the aftermath of traumatic experience. I had another wake-up call when I watched JP Cormier's Music Video "Hometown Battlefield." It would be pretty hard to capture the true extent of our veteran's experience, but this video does a good job of focusing on the challenges faced by our returning vet's.

*Jerry Cameron, Assistant County Administrator, Community Services*

**The County Commission has invited the Veterans Council of St Johns County to place an exhibit in the Rotunda of the new County Commission Building, to run the month of November and to commemorate both Veterans Day and all the Veterans living in this County. The exhibits will show the timeline of the military stationed here over 449 years and will include items from members of all 28 organizations that comprise the Council as well as from the Florida National Guard, the British Night Watch and the Battle of Midway organizers. If you have any items of military or historical significance you would like to display contact the Project Officer, Harry Metz, at [amazingmetz@yahoo.com](mailto:amazingmetz@yahoo.com).**

**Just a bit of reminder for folks** - There is a difference between veterans and military. Sometimes people get confused that veterans were once active military but they are not officially serving anymore. And our military are serving now and will one day be veterans. Retired veterans served a specified required time in service. All military retirees are veterans but not all veterans are military retired. Veterans Day honors all persons who once were in the military - especially the living. Memorial Day honors those who died while serving in the military. Armed Forces Day is the third Saturday in May - it was established in 1950 to replace separate Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Air Force Days. It is a day to pay tribute to men and women who currently serve the United States' armed forces.



## **VETERANS DAY EVENTS**

**Veterans of Foreign Wars, Bryan Tutton Memorial Post 2391, St. Augustine** and it Ladies Auxiliary will host a **Veterans Day event starting at 11 am November 11, 2014** with a ceremony at their Flag Pole, followed by music and a lunch of Lasagna, garlic bread, salad and deserts for \$5.00 (to be served until its gone)

**VETERANS DAY, NOVEMBER 11th, beginning at 2 pm in the Beaches Veterans Memorial Park (BVMP).** Veterans will again honor their comrades with a patriotic community program for all age groups. The Park is located at 1127 Atlantic Blvd, adjoining America Legion Post 316, and will have parking for all.

The Beaches Veterans Memorial Park, Inc., composed of American Legion Posts 316; 129; VFW Post 3270; FRA Branch 290, and the Mayport Chapter of the Military Officers Assoc. of America will honor our Veterans and Active Duty members with a special program this year featuring RADM Ret. Vic Guillory, Director of the Jacksonville Military Affairs and Veterans Department, presenting the BVMP 'Presidents Award' to fourth year Honor Cadets of Duval County High School Junior ROTC Programs. Also featured for your listening pleasure will be the Fletcher H.S. Brass Ensemble, and for the first time, the Fletcher H.S. Choir. The Terry Parker NROTC DRILL TEAM will perform at 2 pm, and the feature program at 2:30 pm. Please bring Chairs etc for your comfort.

Jack Berry, BVMP PR, 904-220-3630

**The annual Veterans Day Ceremony will take place on Tuesday, November 11th at Francis Field on Castillo Drive.** The Ceremony is hosted by the Veterans Council of St. Johns County with assistance from the Florida National Guard and the Ancient City Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America and will commence at 1100 am. The speaker for this event is Brigadier General Craig C. Crenshaw, United States Marine Corps. He is currently the Assistant Deputy Commandant for Installations and Logistics, Marine Corps Headquarters at the Pentagon. The Ceremony will begin with a minute or more of sustained gun and cannon fire, to simulate the barrage that was constant throughout World War One and which ended precisely at 1100 on the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 1918. This Ceremony honors all veterans, living and deceased, who have defended St. Augustine for the last 459 years and provided the continuous occupation of which the City is so very proud. We will have both re-enactors wearing uniforms of the past and some Active Duty currently serving men and women of the military services passing before the spectators. There will be some static displays to see and all the re-enactors and active duty personnel to speak with before and after the Ceremony.

The Field will be open at 0930 for the public. The Salvation Army and the Lions Club will provide water.

Parking is not allowed on the Field itself but the Parking Facility is right next door. The drop off lane will be available for that purpose but not for parking. Please join us as we honor the 20,000+ veterans now living in this County. If you need more information contact Lt. Col. (retired) Harry Metz at [amazingmetz@yahoo.com](mailto:amazingmetz@yahoo.com).

# ***2014 Week of Valor Schedule, Theme Announced at Jax City Hall, Oct. 20, 2014***

*Events Highlight Jacksonville's Commitment to Military & Veterans*

From November 4 through 12, Jacksonville will salute the service and sacrifice of our military men and women, and Jacksonville's large and growing military veteran community, during the third annual Week of Valor.



Joined by Rear Admiral Mary Jackson, the commander of Navy Region Southeast, as well as Director of the North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System Thomas Wisnieski, and Councilman Jim Love at City Hall, Mayor Alvin Brown today announced the schedule of events for the 2014 Week of Valor and this year's theme, "Jacksonville: Our Honor, Your Home."

"This third annual Week of Valor is an opportunity for Jacksonville to demonstrate its strong patriotic spirit and honor the service of our veterans and active-duty service members," said Mayor Brown. "In Jacksonville, we're proud of our tradition of military service. It goes to the very heart and soul of who we are as a community. The Week of Valor super-sizes our traditional observance of Veterans Day by expanding it into a full week of events to show our support for our veterans and military."

The 2014 Week of Valor includes a wide variety of educational, patriotic, community and civic events, all focused on demonstrating Jacksonville's deep appreciation and respect for those who serve, and those who have served, in the United States Armed Forces. The week also allows the community an opportunity to come together to address challenges faced by local veterans with events such as the Job and Resource Fair and Mental Health Summit.

"The city's support of our military - active duty, retirees, veterans and family members - is unsurpassed," said Rear Admiral Jackson. "I have lived in a number of communities during my Navy career, and I am truly struck by the genuine love and support of our military men and women here in Jacksonville."

"I think it's wonderful that the City of Jacksonville reserves a full week to recognize the service of our nation's military men and women," said City Councilman Jim Love. "I hope everyone will have a chance to experience the annual Veterans Day Parade, and the many other activities throughout our city that honor those who have served."

The week kicks off on Tuesday, Nov. 4, with the JAX Chamber's 12th annual Military Appreciation Luncheon at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront. The luncheon brings together business leaders from throughout the city to highlight their support for the military and the men and women who defend this country.

The third annual Week of Valor Military and Veterans Job and Resource Fair will take place on Wednesday, Nov. 5, at Kingdom Plaza at Normandy Mall. Employers and resource providers will be on hand with job opportunities and to provide career assistance for active duty military, veterans and eligible family members.

And on Tuesday, Nov. 11, the City of Jacksonville's signature Veterans Day event, the annual Veterans Day Parade, will take place in Downtown Jacksonville. Prior to the start of the parade the Mayor's Veterans Recognition Breakfast will honor Jacksonville's oldest veteran representative and the Grand Marshal for this year's parade. The parade will begin at EverBank Field at 11:01 a.m. and proceed west on Bay Street to the Prime Osborn Convention Center.



## 2014 WEEK OF VALOR CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The Week of Valor is a week-long of events honoring the service and sacrifice of Jacksonville's proud military and Veterans community. See below for a list of events highlighting the city's strong connection to the U.S. Armed Forces.

### **Jacksonville: Our Honor, Your Home**

**Tuesday, Nov. 4**

#### **12th Annual JAX Chamber Military Appreciation Luncheon**

11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront

Contact: Ashley Lyon, (904) 366-6638, [Ashley.Lyon@myjaxchamber.com](mailto:Ashley.Lyon@myjaxchamber.com)

**Wednesday, Nov. 5**

#### **3rd Annual Week of Valor Military and Veterans Job and Resource Fair**

10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Kingdom Plaza at Normandy Mall

Contact: Ken Johnson/George Davis, (904) 630-3680, [Kenjohns@coj.net](mailto:Kenjohns@coj.net) & [GCDavis@coj.net](mailto:GCDavis@coj.net)

**Thursday, Nov. 6**

#### **Veterans Affairs Mental Health Summit**

9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Bob Hayes Sports Complex and Legends Center

Contact: Ebony Benjamin, (904) 475-6065, [Ebony.Benjamin@va.gov](mailto:Ebony.Benjamin@va.gov)

**Friday, Nov. 7**

#### **Missing in America Project – Florida**

1 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Jacksonville National Cemetery

Contact: Kathy Church, (904) 219-3035, [maipjax@yahoo.com](mailto:maipjax@yahoo.com)

#### **K9s for Warriors Documentary (University of North Florida Film Series) Produced by the St. Johns County Veterans Council**

Reception at 6:30 p.m., Program begins at 7:00 p.m.

University of North Florida

Contact: Ray Wikstrom, (904) 620-2655, [ray.wikstrom@unf.edu](mailto:ray.wikstrom@unf.edu)

#### **United States Naval Academy Glee Club performing w/Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra**

Doors open at 6:45 p.m.

Times Union Center, Jacoby Hall, Contact: Linda Chaney, (904) 356-0426



**Sunday, Nov. 9**

**Salute to Military Race 5K Run**

8 a.m.

Downtown Jacksonville

Contact: (904) 910-5241, [website](#)

**Monday, Nov. 10**

**American Legion Re-dedication of Eternal Flame**

1 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Evergreen Cemetery

Contact: Tom Gora, (904) 583-4597

**USMC Ceremony for Fallen Hospital Corpsmen**

4:30 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Evergreen Cemetery

Contact: Lt. Col. R.P. Adelhelm, USMC Ret., (904) 234-3540

**Memorial Park Salute to Veterans Concert**

6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Memorial Park

Contact: Ms. Hallihan, (904) 614-0077

**Tuesday, Nov. 11 – VETERANS DAY**

**Jacksonville Veterans Day Parade**

11:01 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Downtown Jacksonville

[Website](#)

**Community Salute Veterans Past, Present and Future**

2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

1127 Atlantic Beach Blvd., Atlantic Beach

[Website](#)

**Wednesday, Nov. 12**

**Red Cross Centennial Luncheon**

12 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens

## **MISSING IN AMERICA PROJECT – FLORIDA**

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The purpose of the Missing in America Project is to locate, identify and inter the unclaimed cremated remains of American veterans through the joint efforts of private, state and federal organizations. To provide honor, respect and dignity to those who have served this country by securing a final resting place for these forgotten heroes.



### **CALL TO HONOR #4**

On Friday, November 07, 2014 at 1:00pm - MIAP - Florida along with Hardage Giddens Funeral Homes will be interring 10 veterans and 5 spouses of veterans at the Jacksonville National Cemetery located at 4083 Lannie Rd, Jacksonville, FL 32218.

#### **THE FOLLOWING WILL BE HONORED:**

ARMY:	6 veterans, 4 spouses	WWI:	2 spouses
NAVY:	3 veterans, 1 spouse	WWII:	9 veterans, 3 spouses
COAST GUARD:	1 veteran	KOREA:	2 Veterans, 1 spouse
		VIETNAM:	1 veteran

#### **MOTORCYCLE ESCORT:**

There will be a motorcycle escort leaving from Town & Country Funeral Home located at 7242 Normandy Blvd. The Jacksonville Sherriff's will lead this escort. Any and all motorcycle Organizations and riders are welcome to participate. Meeting time is 11:45am for a safety briefing with KSU at 12noon.

You are cordially invited to attend this service in which we will honor these veterans with full military honors. This service is open to all members of our area communities.

Kathy Church  
MIAP – FL State Coordinator  
(904) 219-3035  
[miapjax@yahoo.com](mailto:miapjax@yahoo.com)  
[www.miap.us](http://www.miap.us)





# FIVE STAR VETERANS CENTER

ARMY \* MARINES \* NAVY \* COAST GUARD \* AIR FORCE

*The St. Johns County Veterans Council invites all to attend our next meeting. It will be on Thursday October 30th, 7 pm at the St. Augustine Elks Lodge 829, 1420 A1A S. St. Augustine.*

*The Veterans Council is pleased to have as its guest, Len Loving, COL, USMC, ret. and CEO tor of the 5 Star Veterans Center.*

Colonel Francis L. "Len" Loving, USMC (Ret)

A native of Richmond, Virginia, Colonel Loving was commissioned a second lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps in 1960. Attaining the rank of Colonel of Marines, following 30 years of service with distinction as a Marine Infantry Officer. Colonel Loving served several tours of duty in the Republic of Vietnam during that war and the recipient of several military decorations for valor to include the Legion of Merit and Bronze Star of Valor.



Len Loving, COL, USMC, Ret.

Prior to retirement in 1989 Colonel Loving established in 1986 the Marine Corps Blount Island Command which has become a major economic engine of over two billion dollars in the Northeast Florida Region. The Command employs over 800 high skilled salary positions and the source of many large and small contracts for goods and services within the Region.

Colonel Loving accomplished several industry high lights following release from active duty to include serving as the Northeast Regional Director for the State of Florida's Office of the Comptroller, Department of Banking and Finance with regulatory responsibly for all licenses in 18 counties for 8 years. Late, he served as the Advisor to The President of The Florida Senate on military issues for a statewide project to assess the vulnerabilities of the all of the national military organizations, activities, commands and locations to the impending round of Base Realignment and Closure.



Since 2011 Col. Loving continues to serve our military and veterans as the Chief Executive Officer of the Five STAR Veterans Center, a transitional center for homeless veterans suffering from PTSD and Traumatic Brain Injury.

## History of Veterans Day

World War I – known at the time as “The Great War” - officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, in the Palace of Versailles outside the town of Versailles, France. However, fighting ceased seven months earlier when an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, November 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of “the war to end all wars.”

Soldiers of the 353rd Infantry near a church at Stenay, Meuse in France, wait for the end of hostilities. This photo was taken at 10:58 a.m., on November 11, 1918, two minutes before the armistice ending World War I went into effect

In November 1919, President Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day with the following words: "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations..."

The original concept for the celebration was for a day observed with parades and public meetings and a brief suspension of business beginning at 11:00 a.m.

The United States Congress officially recognized the end of World War I when it passed a concurrent resolution on June 4, 1926, with these words:

**Whereas** the 11th of November 1918, marked the cessation of the most destructive, sanguinary, and far reaching war in human annals and the resumption by the people of the United States of peaceful relations with other nations, which we hope may never again be severed, and

**Whereas** it is fitting that the recurring anniversary of this date should be commemorated with thanksgiving and prayer and exercises designed to perpetuate peace through good will and mutual understanding between nations; and

**Whereas** the legislatures of twenty-seven of our States have already declared November 11 to be a legal holiday: Therefore be it Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), that the President of the United States is requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the officials to display the flag of the United States on all Government buildings on November 11 and inviting the people of the United States to observe the day in schools and churches, or other suitable places, with appropriate ceremonies of friendly relations with all other peoples.

An Act (52 Stat. 351; 5 U. S. Code, Sec. 87a) approved May 13, 1938, made the 11th of November in each year a legal holiday—a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as "Armistice Day." Armistice Day was primarily a day set aside to honor veterans of World War I, but in 1954, after World War II had required the greatest mobilization of soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen in the Nation's history; after American forces had fought aggression in Korea, the 83rd Congress, at the urging of the veterans service organizations, amended the Act of 1938 by striking

out the word "Armistice" and inserting in its place the word "Veterans." With the approval of this legislation (Public Law 380) on June 1, 1954, November 11th became a day to honor American veterans of all wars.

Later that same year, on October 8th, President Dwight D. Eisenhower issued the first "Veterans Day Proclamation" which stated: "In order to insure proper and widespread observance of this anniversary, all veterans, all veterans' organizations, and the entire citizenry will wish to join hands in the common purpose. Toward this end, I am designating the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs as Chairman of a Veterans Day National Committee, which shall include such



other persons as the Chairman may select, and which will coordinate at the national level necessary planning for the observance. I am also requesting the heads of all departments and agencies of the Executive branch of the Government to assist the National Committee in every way possible."

President Eisenhower signing HR7786, changing Armistice Day to Veterans Day. From left: Alvin J. King, Wayne Richards, Arthur J. Connell, John T. Nation, Edward Rees, Richard L. Trombla, Howard W. Watts

On that same day, President Eisenhower sent a letter to the Honorable Harvey V. Higley, Administrator of Veterans' Affairs (VA), designating him as Chairman of the Veterans Day National Committee.

In 1958, the White House advised VA's General Counsel that the 1954 designation of the VA Administrator as Chairman of the Veterans Day National Committee applied to all subsequent VA Administrators. Since March 1989 when VA was elevated to a cabinet level department, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs has served as the committee's chairman.

The Uniform Holiday Bill (Public Law 90-363 (82 Stat. 250)) was signed on June 28, 1968, and was intended to ensure three-day weekends for Federal employees by celebrating four national holidays on Mondays: Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Columbus Day. It was thought that these extended weekends would encourage travel, recreational and cultural activities and stimulate greater industrial and commercial production. Many states did not agree with this decision and continued to celebrate the holidays on their original dates.

The first Veterans Day under the new law was observed with much confusion on October 25, 1971. It was quite apparent that the commemoration of this day was a matter of historic and patriotic significance to a great number of our citizens, and so on September 20th, 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed Public Law 94-97 (89 Stat. 479), which returned the annual observance of Veterans Day to its original date of November 11, beginning in 1978. This action supported the desires of the overwhelming majority of state legislatures, all major veterans service organizations and the American people.

Veterans Day continues to be observed on November 11, regardless of what day of the week on which it falls. The restoration of the observance of Veterans Day to November 11 not only preserves the historical significance of the date, but helps focus attention on the important purpose of Veterans Day: A celebration to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.



## Younger veterans bypass VFW, American Legion for service, fitness groups

Those who served in Iraq, Afghanistan gravitate toward modern organizations  
By [Jacqueline Klimas](#) - The Washington Times - Sunday, October 19, 2014

[Kate Hoit](#) served eight years in the Army Reserves, including a tour in [Iraq](#), but when she tried to join her local [Veterans of Foreign Wars](#) chapter, someone asked whether she needed an application for military spouses instead.

Now, [Ms. Hoit](#) said, she will never join the [VFW](#) or the [American Legion](#). She said the organizations are unwelcoming and out of touch with the needs of post-Sept. 11 veterans who served in [Afghanistan](#) and [Iraq](#).

Her complaint is echoed by other veterans of the war on terrorism, who see the venerable veterans groups as fraternities of older men from previous wars. The new generation of veterans instead is gravitating toward groups organized around activities such as running or volunteering, and groups that allow nonmilitary members to take part as well.

Younger veterans say the traditional organizations differ in many ways from groups that appeal to them, including the types of advocacy they do and their ways of communication — “snail mail” versus email.

Officials from the [Legion](#) and [VFW](#) say they are trying to maintain the valuable clout they have built on Capitol Hill and need support to help veterans navigate the bureaucracy of the Department of Veterans Affairs — benefits that the more modern groups don’t provide.

It’s a challenge for the traditional veterans organizations, who agree they need to change to stay relevant.

### Unwelcoming

Post-9/11 veterans say a typical experience at a local post involves walking into a dimly lit hall only to find unwelcoming veterans 30 years older who are having drinks at 10 a.m.

“It’s just the most depressing place,” said [Sgt. Matt Pelak](#), an Army veteran who spent three years in [Iraq](#) and still serves in the National Guard. “I can’t imagine a place that is further removed from my generation of veterans.”

Veterans also said such groups deepen the divide between civilian and military worlds because only veterans are allowed to join.

More [Iraq](#) and [Afghanistan](#) veterans say they are joining groups that allow them to stay active, continue to serve their country and interact with civilians to help reintegrate into society after serving overseas.



# Unleashing the Underdogs: The K9s for Warriors Story



Film by Michael Rothfeld, Bill Dudley & Dr. Nadia Ramoutar

The Veterans Council of St. Johns County



Friday, November 7 @ 6:30 p.m.  
University of North Florida  
Andrew A. Robinson Jr. Auditorium  
Bldg. 14E, Room 1700

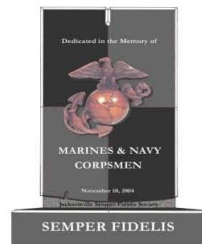




11th Annual  
**Marine & Navy FMF Corpsmen Memorial**  
**Evergreen Cemetery**

Dedicated by Marines and Navy FMF Corpsmen  
of the

Jacksonville  
**Semper Fidelis Society**



**November 10, 2014**  
**4:30 PM**

**We have a responsibility to never forget!**

AFGHANISTAN, IRAQ, GRENADA, BEIRUT, VIETNAM, KOREA, WWII, WWI...



**~SEMPER FIDELIS~**

The November/December Holiday issue of Old City Life magazine will feature an article about the Veterans Council of St. Johns County.

Please look for it in stores and offices in St. Augustine mid November or you can read it at:

<http://oldcitylife.com/>

**OLD CITY** *life*





The public is invited to join us on Saturday, November 15, 2014 for a day of fun, fellowship, great food and to help raise money for an extremely worthy cause.

For this year's event, we have again chosen as a benefactor, Homes for Our Troops. Homes for Our Troops (HFOT) is a national non-profit 501(c)3 organization based in Taunton, Mass. founded in 2004. Their mission is to build specially adapted homes for service members who have been severely injured in combat operations since September 11, 2001. All homes are built at no cost to the veteran through the generous support of individuals, foundations, and corporate contributors. Homes for Our Troops has received a Four Star Rating from Charity Navigator. Visit their website ([www.hfotusa.org](http://www.hfotusa.org)) for more information.

The unescorted ride starts at the Sam Hogg Pavilion, located at Seminole Electric. The approximate address is 274 West River Road, Palatka, FL. This will be our beginning & ending point for the ride. The ride will cover ~ 130 miles, with three stops. Registration will begin promptly at 9:45 a.m. Registration will **NOT** begin until 9:45! First bike out will be 10:00 a.m. with the last bike out at 10:30 a.m. and last bike in by 3:00. Lunch will be a BBQ dinner with the fixings, cooked by our volunteers, and will be served at 2:30. You will receive a Ride Package which will include a map route and detailed instructions of the run at sign-up at the Employee Pavilion. There will be prizes for best and worst roll of the dice, and drawings for door prizes. Additional dice roll sheets and 50/50 tickets will be available for sale. The cost is \$25.00 per rider which includes, an event t-shirt, a raffle ticket for door prizes, goodie bag, dice roll sheet with instructions, and a meal bracelet for the end of the ride. If you list your e-mail address on the registration form, a confirmation e-mail will be sent.

Marine Sgt Anthony McDaniel  
Florida  
[www.hfotusa.org/p/McDaniel](http://www.hfotusa.org/p/McDaniel)



Pre-registration deadline is 11/01/14 or you can register the day of the ride.

**YOU MUST BE PRE-REGISTERED to be guaranteed a t-shirt, ride packet and other items.**

(Some t-shirts will be available the day of the ride.)

T-shirts will be maroon this year, so you can wear them on Red Shirt Fridays!

All proceeds from this year's event will be going towards the home being built for Marine Sgt Anthony McDaniel. His home is being built in Navarre, FL.

All wheels are welcome to participate in this ride.  
Two wheels, three wheels, or four wheels are welcomed!!

You can also find us on Facebook! Just search for "2014 Seminole Electric Charity Motorcycle Ride" or type in [www.tinynurl.com/hfotride.com](http://www.tinynurl.com/hfotride.com)



The Ancient City Chapter meets at the Holiday Inn, St. Augustine Beach, FL at 1130 on the 4th Thursday of each month, excluding June, July and August, when there are no meetings,



**MOAA**  
Military Officers Association of America

and November and December, when we meet on the 3rd Thursday. Attendance is usually about 50, with a guest speaker at each meeting. The Chapter publishes a monthly newsletter. Membership is currently above 100 members, most of whom reside in St. Johns County. In cooperation with the Florida National Guard Bureau, the Chapter conducts two Veterans observances each year. Each Memorial Day, the Council, assisted by National Guard Headquarters staff, conducts observances at the St. Augustine National Cemetery, 104 Marine St., St. Augustine. Each Veterans Day, the Council assists the National Guard at ceremonies conducted at the City of St. Augustine's Special Events Field, west of the Castillo de San Marco. Please visit our chapter website at [www.ancientcitychaptermoaa.org](http://www.ancientcitychaptermoaa.org)

The mission of the Ancient City Chapter is to benefit the members of the uniformed services, active or retired, their families and survivors, and to advocate for a strong national defense, while providing needed support to the St. Augustine and St. Johns County community and its' citizens.

Please join us at our luncheon meetings, or call our Secretary, John Mountcastle, at (904) 471-1202. Our local annual dues are \$15.00, due upon joining and billed each January

In cooperation with the Florida National Guard Bureau, the Chapter conducts two Veterans observances each year. Each Memorial Day, the Council, assisted by National Guard Headquarters staff, conducts observances at the St. Augustine National Cemetery, 104 Marine St., St. Augustine. Each Veterans Day, the Council assists the National Guard at ceremonies conducted at the City of St. Augustine's Special Events Field, west of the Castillo de San Marco. In December, we work with the Salvation Army with a "Toys for Tykes" theme; funds and gifts are distributed to deserving families in St. Johns County.

**Three MIAs Identified:** The Defense POW/MIA Office has announced the identification of three American servicemen who had been missing in action since World War II, Korea and Vietnam. Returned are:

**Army Air Force 2nd Lt. Jimmie D. Collins III**, 32, from Talladega County, Ala., copilot of a B-24H that was lost over The Netherlands on June 21, 1944. He was assigned to the 446th Bombardment Group, Eighth Air Force, and will be buried with full military honors on a date and location yet to be determined.

**Army Cpl. Lonaldd D. Skeens**, of Johnson, Ky., was lost Sept. 4, 1950, in South Korea. He was assigned to Company E, 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division, and will be buried with full military honors on a date and location yet to be determined.

**Army Staff Sgt. James L. Van Bendegom**, 18, of Kenosha, Wis., was lost July 12, 1967, in South Vietnam, and later died of his wounds in a POW camp. He was assigned to Company B, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division, and will be buried with full military honors on a date and location yet to be determined.





## First Militia Chapter of St. Augustine awards three scholarships

**First Militia Chapter, Association of the U.S. Army**, awarded three scholarships to students in Northeast Florida, presenting them each with a \$1,000 check this summer.

Recipients Anne Marie Widener, Daniel Riggins and Alexander Butler, joined by their sponsoring First Militia members and families, were recognized individually for their academic achievement and community contributions.

In addition to meeting, or surpassing, the established qualifications, each applicant submitted an essay on the U.S. Army, the Army National Guard, or Army Reserve, addressing what military service meant to them.

Anne Marie Widener wrote about her pride in being a “military brat,” growing up the daughter of Lt. Col. Mark Widener, construction and facility management officer for the Florida Army National Guard.



Anne Marie Widener receives her scholarship from First Militia Chapter of St. Augustine, recognizing her early appreciation of the sacrifices made by veterans in her family

Daniel Riggins wrote of his appreciation for the sacrifices and bravery of the Florida Army National Guard, particularly that of his grandfather, “Pap”, Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Gene Smith.

Alexander Butler, son of First Militia’s John Daniels and great-nephew of a deployed World War II Florida Guardsman, provided a recount of the Florida Army National Guard’s historical role in Operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, and New Dawn.

According to a press release from First Militia, the three recipients were commended for appreciating and recognizing, at an early age, what their families’ veterans have sacrificed for their state and their country.

The First Militia Chapter awards up to four \$1,000 scholarships annually. The 2015 program will be announced in March 2015.



**Saturday Nov 1, 2014 8am-1pm**

**Where: Pelican Housing - Poinsettia Drive, Satellite Beach, FL**

**FREE to Spectators**

**KIDS FUN  
ZONE AREA**

**VENDORS, RESOURCES, FOOD,  
ENTERTAINMENT, KIDS AREA**

**NO CHARGE for Active  
Duty, Reserve Military,  
1<sup>st</sup> Responder TEAMS.**



1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, Prizes in 3 categories: Fastest PULL – Lowest Combined Weight – Top Fundraiser

**ALL PUBLIC INVITED to form Team of 10  
for the Pull Challenge:  
Military, Schools, Businesses, Groups,  
Neighborhoods, Organizations,  
And compete against the Branches while  
supporting our Military Family**

5K & BOTB REGISTER at:  
[WWW.AVETPROJECT.ORG](http://WWW.AVETPROJECT.ORG)  
SPONSORSHIPS & VENDORS Available  
Contact: [kim@avetproject.org](mailto:kim@avetproject.org)

**8am - 5K Fun Run/Walk & Obstacle**

NO CHARGE for Active Duty, Reserve Military, 1<sup>st</sup> Responders

\$10 -Adult

\$ 5-Kids 17yrs & under

### \$ 5-Obstacle

Includes t-shirt or Dog Tag if registered by Oct 24, 2014

No T-shirts or Dog Tags guaranteed after Oct 24, 2014

YES YOU CAN REGISTER DAY OF BOTB NOV 1

**9am - PULL CHALLENGE** - includes t-shirts

### How to Join the FUN & compete against the Branches:

- Form a TEAM of 10
- Select a Captain
- Select a Team Name
- Select Fundraising Goal \$500 Minimum
- Captain register by Oct 24, 2014 for Team Name on t-shirts & publicity No guaranteed after 10/24
- YES YOU CAN REGISTER DAY OF BOTB Nov 1
- NO CHARGE for Active Duty, Reserve Military, 1<sup>st</sup>



**SUPPORT AVET PROJECTS RECUPERATION & REINTEGRATION RETREAT WHICH HELPS  
WARRIORS TRANSITION TO CIVILIAN LIFE & MORALE LIFTING FOR OUR LOCAL  
MILITARY FAMILY. NOBODY AT AVET PROJECT GETS A PAYCHECK.**



AVET PROJECT INC. P O BOX 254555 PATRICK AFB, FL 32925 WWW.AVETPROJECT.ORG 321-373-7046 EIN #26-4052103



**VFW, Bryan Tutton Memorial Post 2391  
Presents**

# **It's Christmas Time Again**

**December 7th**

**Ham, scalloped potatoes, mixed vegs, salad, rolls**

**Christmas Cookies for dessert**

**\$15.00**

**Dinner begins at 5 p.m.**

**Show Begins at 6:30 p.m.**



**For Tickets/Seating or Information Contact  
Debbie 460-9345**

**6184 US Hwy 1 South**

**St. Augustine**





## Forming a VFW Post on Vilano Beach - by A. J. Sartin

One Friday night, I and a couple other Vietnam Veteran friends met for refreshments at Beaches Lounge on Vilano Road. We were sitting at the outside tables watching the boats go by and discussing activities of the previous week. I was wearing a shirt with a VFW patch on it and a gentleman from another table said, "You know, I have often thought of joining the VFW." I asked him where he had served and he replied, "World War II".

I told him there were two VFW Posts nearby, one in Southeast St. Johns County and one in Southeast Duval County. He replied, yes he could drive way down US-1 to the Post with the Army Tank or up to the Post in Jacksonville Beach. He said he could drive to either one; however, he could not attend any meetings or events at night because he couldn't see to drive back to Vilano Beach because of his poor night vision.

So I asked him, "If there was a VFW Post on Vilano Beach, would you join"? He responded "Yes". A couple of gentlemen that had been listening at the adjoining table said they also would join...they had served in Korea.

The next day, I contacted the State VFW Membership Director, Glen Tilley, who referred me to John Burgess, District 6 Commander at the time. John made some phone calls and said that they would love to see a VFW Post on Vilano Beach, to serve North St. Johns County.

I made contact with a few Veterans in the area and we started planning toward that goal. We all burned up the phone lines and placed posters around the area.

We announced our first Organizational Meeting would be on Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup> 2014, at Beaches Restaurant next to the Vilano Fishing Pier on Vilano Road. I informed them of the number of new members we would need to be able to form a new VFW Post.

We had 12 eligible Veterans attend and all of them signed up to join the new Post. We also had 5 ladies wanting to form a Ladies Auxiliary as soon as we got our Post Charter.

For the next 7 months, all of those original 12 and many others "beat the bushes" and we finally had enough members to submit our application to form a new Post. All of our original members will be designated as Charter Members.

On Monday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, I and our prospective Senior Vice-Commander, Fred Johnstone, along with all the prospective members at the meeting at The Reef Restaurant, presented the VFW District 6 Coordinator our Application for VFW Charter for the Vilano Beach VFW.

We will not know the outcome for 60 to 90 days. I would like to THANK everyone that worked and helped us make this day happen!

Vilano Beach VFW meets at The Reef Restaurant on Coastal Hwy the First Monday of every month at 7pm.



Pictured L to R: Bob Hernandez, A. J. Sartin, Fred Johnstone



# Wine & War Stories

## IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN VETERANS OF AMERICA (IAVA) VET-TOGETHER

New Owners of The Wine Bar and a recently separated Vet back from Afghanistan team up for a great social networking and community building event at The Wine Bar.

Located on 1st Street, Jacksonville Beach!

This is open to Veterans, Active Duty, and Military Supporters.

We are hosting once a month so come on out meet new friends, bark at old ones and don't be afraid to stick around a little while longer! It is A Wine Bar.

Check out our Facebook Page and Web Site—Events for the next one!

Tweet, Text and Share IAVA VetTogethers for Vets in Jax



IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN  
VETERANS OF AMERICA

For More Information, Please Call  
or Email

Phone: 912-271-5748

Email: alex@stonefran.com

[www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/)

WineWarStories

[www.facebook.com/IAVA.org/](http://www.facebook.com/IAVA.org/)

RSVP :

[www.stonefran.com  
/events/wine-and-war-stories](http://www.stonefran.com/events/wine-and-war-stories)



STONEWORK FRANCHISING is proud to host another IAVA VetTogether in Florida. The IAVA (Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America) have dedicated quite a bit to helping vets get back on there feet, find employment, seek education and function within our communities upon separation. This is a chance to speak the lingo and get along with people who understand you.





## We've Got Your Back.

Whether you need help making sense of New GI Bill benefits, guidance on translating military skills for a civilian resume, assistance with obtaining health care, disability payments or mental health support – or just a place to connect with other veterans who understand your experiences because they've been there too, IAVA has got your back.

The first and largest NGO serving Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, IAVA is over 150,000 member veterans strong, we offer a range of programs in the areas of Health, Education, Employment, and Community.



**Membership is free** – you've already paid your dues in Iraq and Afghanistan. Your status as an IAVA member enables you to connect with thousands of other veterans, advocate on issues that impact our community, and access critical resources, recreational events, and supportive programs. Below is a sampling of current offerings for members:

### Health & Mental Health

- o [\*Rapid Response Referral Program \(RRRP\)\*](#): Qualified case managers, who get where you're coming from, assist with the process of identifying and obtaining benefits.
- o [\*Community of Veterans\*](#): An online social network exclusively for this generation of veterans to talk freely and receive critical peer-to-peer mental health support.
- o *Vets Prevail*: 24/7 online mental health and readjustment support services

### Education

- o [\*New GI Bill Calculator\*](#): Calculate your benefits with our online tool, and get your questions answered through one-on-one support from our staff experts.

### Employment

- o *Peer mentorship and industry guidance*: Get the advice you need to be successful in your employment search – learn from industry experts and Human Resources professionals, as well as from other veterans who have successfully navigated their own employment transitions. (*Coming soon!*)
- o *Resume workshops and interview support*: Get professional support with translating your military experience for a civilian workforce.
- o *Fullbridge Training*: Apply to be part of an intensive 3-week business and entrepreneurship training course, including personalized coaching.

### Community & Leadership

- o [\*The Rucksack\*](#): Access to dozens of products, services, and experiences – all for free.
- o [\*Storm the Hill\*](#): Apply to hone your leadership skills through a week of intensive training and real-world advocacy to policymakers and politicians on the issues that matter.
- o *Local events*: We host hundreds of free events each year for veterans and their families, ranging from football and baseball games to parades to film screenings.

Learn more and sign-up today at <http://www.iava.org> or contact us at [membership@iava.org](mailto:membership@iava.org).

IAVA 292 Madison Avenue, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor New York, NY 10017 [www.iava.org](http://www.iava.org)  
ph: 212-982-9699 fx: 212-982-8645 [info@iava.org](mailto:info@iava.org)

*Markey, Warren, Ayotte, Shaheen, Rubio Introduce Bipartisan Bill Honoring  
POW/MIA Service members*  
**Bill Would Establish Commemorative Chair on U.S. Capitol Grounds**

**Washington, DC** – United States Senators Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), Kelly Ayotte (R-N.H.), Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.), Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) and Edward J. Markey (D-Mass.) today introduced bipartisan legislation to honor American service members who are Prisoners of War (POW) or Missing in Action (MIA). The POW/MIA Commemorative Chair Act will honor these approximately 83,000 service members by establishing a permanent commemorative chair on the grounds of the United States Capitol.

"Our nation's POW-MIAs should never be forgotten. This bill will help every American visiting the nation's capital recognize the incredible sacrifice made by those brave Americans whose fate is still unknown and the courage of the families that are left behind," said Senator Edward Markey, "I appreciate the efforts of President Joe D'Entremont and the members of the Massachusetts Chapter of Rolling Thunder to ensure that our service members receive the recognition they earned through their noble service to our nation."

"All three of my brothers served in the military, and I understand the sacrifices our service members and their families make to defend our country every single day. We must honor the contributions of our brave men and women in uniform, including those who have not made it home," said **Senator Warren**, "I am proud to display the POW/MIA flag outside my office, and I am pleased to support Rolling Thunder Massachusetts Chapter 1's efforts to establish a commemorative chair on the U.S. Capitol grounds."

"More than 83,000 American service members remain missing or unaccounted for from past conflicts - including 49 missing service members from Vietnam and Korea from the State of New Hampshire alone," said **Senator Kelly Ayotte**, a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee. "Placing a commemorative POW/MIA chair on the Capitol grounds would serve as an enduring reminder of our nation's commitment to never forget our fallen and missing soldiers who made such tremendous sacrifices on behalf of our country."

"Service members have made great sacrifices for our country, and the POW/MIA Commemorative Chair Act will serve as an enduring reminder of the bravery and courage of the men and women who have served," **Senator Jeanne Shaheen** said. "This symbol of our nation's gratitude on the Capitol Grounds will underscore our commitment to American service members still missing and provide a measure of solace to the families of our nation's heroes who have also made extraordinary sacrifices."

"I am proud to support this commemorative act to honor the thousands of POW/MIA service members and their families, all of who have made great sacrifices for the protection and freedom of our nation," said **Senator Marco Rubio**, "While this can't fully express our gratitude to these brave men and women, this small act will serve as a reminder to everyone who visits the U.S. Capitol to never forget the service and sacrifices of our armed forces and their families."

The POW/MIA Commemorative Chair Act would direct the Architect of the Capitol to place a commemorative chair bearing the logo and colors of POW/MIA service members in a prominent location at the U.S. Capitol. This chair would remain unoccupied to serve as a reminder of the ongoing challenge of accounting for America's missing service members and in recognition of their sacrifices for our nation.

The POW/MIA Commemorative Chair Act is supported by veteran's advocacy groups such as the National League of POW/MIA Families, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), the American Legion, the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), and Rolling Thunder.





## Enjoy a short stack for a tall cause.

You're invited to an  
Applebee's® Flapjack Fundraiser breakfast to support  
**Coquina Crossing Veterans**

Tickets Cost: \$10.00

**November 8th, 2014 8am-10am**

Applebee's  
225 State Road 312  
St. Augustine, FL 32086

904-824-9702  
[gomjhm@comcast.net](mailto:gomjhm@comcast.net)

**Meal includes: Pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs and a beverage (coffee, juice, soda or tea.)**

Please contact organization to purchase a ticket. This flyer is only intended for advertising purposes. Ticket valid for pancake event only. Applebee's menu items are not included as part of purchase. [applebees.com](http://applebees.com)





**I have just finished refurbishing a Go-Go Elite power chair to go to a War Veteran.**

***For more information,  
contact A. J. Sartin (904) 669-1946***

Offered by the Vilano Beach VFW [VilanoBeachVFW@att.net](mailto:VilanoBeachVFW@att.net)

**Vilano Beach VFW collects Walkers, Wheel Chairs, and Power Wheel Chairs for distribution to other Veterans in need.**

#### **VETERANS HELPING VETERANS**

#### **Go-Go Elite Traveller 3-Wheel**

by Pride , Model No. SC40E

**Lightweight, agile, the Elite Traveller.**

18AH battery option for extended drive range

Comes with blue, and red shroud covers

Front frame-mounted seat post offers maximum stability



#### **Key Specs**

Top Speed: 4.25 mph

Drive Range: 10.00 miles (this may vary, depending on charge and life of battery)

Heaviest Piece: 28 lbs.

Rider Weight capacity: 300 lbs.

Weight: 96 lbs.

**The Disabled American Veterans Chapter 6, of St. Johns County, has a EZ-Access Modular Ramp System available for a Veteran that needs one that requires a turn, and two ramps to get from the porch to the sidewalk. This ramp cannot be parted out...must be used as manufactured.**

**For more information,  
contact A. J. Sartin (904) 669-1946**





# WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

## ST. AUGUSTINE NATIONAL CEMETERY CAMPAIGN

### All Veterans & Veterans Organizations



The St. Johns County Veterans Council is proud to announce that the campaign to fill “our” St. Augustine National Cemetery with holiday wreaths is underway. We are dedicated to placing a wreath at each gravesite.

**YOUR HELP** is needed. We ask that your organization begin immediately to collect donations to purchase wreaths.

Wreaths are \$15.00 each. If you purchase two (2) wreaths we receive an additional wreath free ( 3 for 2).

Checks can be written in any amount (\$100, \$200 etc.)



Former County Commissioner Mark Miner presents a check to Ray Quinn from the St. Augustine Sons of the American Revolution

Please contact your friends and neighbors as well as your organizations and ask them to participate as well.

**HOW:** Make checks payable to: Wreaths Across America

Send to: St. Johns County Veterans Council, P.O. Box 2117, St. Augustine, Florida 32085-2117

**Contacts:** Co-chair: Ray Quinn, 904.540.1630 Co-Chair Judy Davis, 904.797.2686

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*The City of Jacksonville as part of its November “Week of Valor” has selected the Veterans Council of St. Johns County’s documentary, “Unleashing the Underdogs: the K9s for Warriors Story to be presented at UNF on Friday, November 7th at 6pm. Following the documentary, Dr. Anne Freund will lead a panel discussion of former Iraq/Afghanistan veterans and representatives from K9s for Warriors.*



*We are inviting all of you to attend this free event. Parking on campus is free after 5pm and finger food will be available prior to the presentation.*





## From Conrad at the Pirate House

The public is invited to join us on Saturday, November 15, 2014 for a day of fun, fellowship, great food and to help raise money for an extremely worthy cause.

For this year's event, we have chosen again as the benefactor, Homes for Our Troops. Homes for Our Troops (HFOT) is a national non-profit 501(c)3 organization based in Taunton, Mass. founded in 2004. Their mission is to build specially adapted homes for service members who have been severely injured in combat operations since September 11, 2001. All homes are built at no cost to the veteran through the generous support of individuals, foundations, and corporate contributors. Homes for Our Troops has received a Four Star Rating from Charity Navigator. Visit their website ([www.hfotusa.org](http://www.hfotusa.org)) for more information.

The unescorted ride starts at the employee pavilion at Seminole Electric. The closest address for this is 271 West River Road, Palatka, FL. This will be our beginning and ending point for the ride. The ride will cover approximately 100-120 miles, with three stops.

You will receive a Ride Package which will include a map route and detailed instructions of the run at sign-up. There will be prizes for best and worst roll of the dice, and drawings for door prizes. Additional dice roll sheets and 50/50 tickets will be available for sale. The cost is \$25.00 per rider which includes, an event t-shirt, a raffle ticket for door prizes, goodie bag, dice roll sheet with instructions, and a meal bracelet for the end of the ride. If you list your e-mail address on the registration form, a confirmation e-mail will be sent to you.

Pre-registration deadline is October 31, 2014, or you can register the day of the ride.

**YOU MUST BE PRE-REGISTERED** to be guaranteed a t-shirt, ride packet and other items.

(Some t-shirts will be available the day of the ride.)

**Thank you! Contact Conrad Matt at 904-501-0391 for further info**

*Reprinted from the Florida Times Union, lead editorial letter*

## **A memorial for disabled veterans**

Every year, more than 25 million people from around the world visit the National Mall in Washington.

The American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial will open to the public on Monday.

This new landmark in sight of the Capitol will serve as a constant reminder of the cost of human conflict.

My connection to the new American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial is deeply personal. While on patrol in June 1969 in Vietnam's Mekong Delta, my life changed forever.

In an instant, a land mine explosion made me a triple amputee. Though my life changed forever, I vowed to live my life as fully as I could and advocate for other disabled veterans.

I became involved with Disabled American Veterans and in 1983 served as the organization's national commander. Now I have been fortunate to work with a small group of men and women over the past 16 years who dedicated themselves to turn the memorial into a gathering place for veterans, their families and loved ones.

The memorial honors veterans with both physical injuries and disabilities and "invisible" ones, such as post-traumatic stress disorder.

It pays tribute to disabled heroes from all conflicts and each branch of the military, the first of the Washington monuments to do so.

Not only does the memorial cover more than two centuries of heroism and struggle, but also it includes the untold stories of the family and friends of our country's wounded warriors.

The star-shaped fountain and reflecting pool, surrounded by glass walls with embedded words and images depicting personal journeys of courage and sacrifice, serve as its focal point, mirroring the flickering light of a ceremonial flame.

Combining solemn reflection and a celebration of bravery and sacrifice, the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial dedication will honor those men and women whose service and struggle, on and off the field of battle, remind us of the true price of the freedoms we enjoy every day.

For more information, please visit [www.avdlm.org](http://www.avdlm.org).



**Dennis Joyner**, secretary, disabled Veterans Life Memorial Foundation board

## USS Alabama Sailor of the YEAR

The Geronimo family is pleased to announce that the Commanding Officer of the USS Alabama (SSBN 731) (Gold) has commended Electrician's Mate First Class, James Joseph Geronimo Jr. as "Sailor of the Year" for Calendar Year 2014. James has also qualified as the Senior Engineering Watch Supervisor aboard the USS Alabama, stationed out of Bangor, Washington. He is a graduate of St. Augustine High School.

*From Dr. Jane Karp, COL, USAF, ret. We've put the contacts for almost all your health questions in one convenient health index. Add this site to your FAVORITES for a link to take you to VA websites with valuable information:*

<http://www.va.gov/health/newsfeatures/2014/August/Veterans-Have-A-Health-Question-Search-Here.asp>

## Vietnam Women's Memorial



The Vietnam Women's Memorial is a memorial dedicated to the women of the United States who served in the Vietnam War, most of whom were nurses. It serves as a reminder of the importance of women in the conflict

For several years, D.A.V. FI Chapter 6 has furnished the passenger vans for the delivery of Veterans between the St. Augustine Clinic and the Gainesville, V.A. Hospital, and back, Monday – Friday. The Van departs the Clinic every weekday at 0600. Phone (904) 209-3710 to schedule a ride. Drivers furnished by the COA are:

**Monday – Lonnie Woodard;**  
**Tuesday – Jack LaLonde**  
**Wednesday – Floyd Bubba;**  
**Thursday – Bob Garlander**  
**Friday – Robert “Butch” Harrison**





Below is some information about the Florida Theatre's upcoming performance of *Beyond Glory* which stars Stephen Lang.

Please forward this to your contacts particularly those that support our service men and women or have interest.

Also, please let your contacts know that Florida Theatre President Numa Saisselin would like this to be a true community outreach as well as a way to honor our active and retired military residents.

Currently we are offering a 20% discount to military members and their families. In addition, The Florida Theatre would like to arrange for free tickets for those who can't afford to attend, provide opportunities for veteran's groups, USO organizations etc. to be on site the night of the performance to publicize their services and make blocks of tickets available to groups for their own fundraisers or as a method for them to thank their members.

If you know of groups or individuals who would like to attend, but may not be able to afford a ticket we can make arrangements for them to have complimentary tickets.

### Stage and Screen Star Stephen Lang Brings Veterans' Stories to Stage

Award-winning stage and screen star Stephen Lang brings the stories of eight different Medal of Honor recipients to the stage in his exciting one-man show *Beyond Glory* at the Florida Theatre, Nov. 14 at 8pm. Tickets can be purchased by calling [904-355-2787](tel:904-355-2787) or [floridtheatre.com](http://floridtheatre.com). Active and retired military receive a 20 percent discount on ticket purchase.

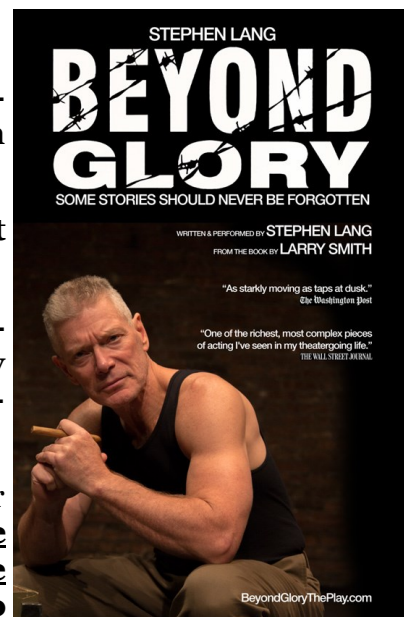
Adapted from Larry Smith's book, *Beyond Glory* presents the stories of eight veterans from World War II, Korea and Vietnam, rendering firsthand accounts of valor which resulted in the nation's highest military award, the Medal of Honor. The oral histories of these eight men are brought to life through Lang's commanding performance.

As a tribute to fallen soldiers, Lang performed the show on military bases and gave a command performance on the floor of Congress with Medal of Honor recipient Senator Daniel Inouye of Hawaii in attendance.

*Beyond Glory* enjoyed a celebrated run on Broadway and in Chicago's Goodman Theater.

### About Stephen Lang

Commended for film portrayals of Babe Ruth to Stonewall Jackson to AVATAR's Col. Quaritch, Lang began his career on Broadway and maintained a managing role at the Actor's Theatre. It is through Lang's stage adaptation of *Beyond Glory* that he has reached his most memorable work.



*From John Mountcastle: Times change, but the paperwork goes on. As we near the end of the year, some changes for next year are already in the pipeline.*



### Short Story

Your organization must have a Conflict of Interest Statement and each person in a position to influence the organization (e.g., principal officer, director, manager or member of a committee with governing board-delegated powers) must complete a Certification Statement annually, prior to the organization's renewing its' registration under the Florida Solicitation of Contributions Act.

Charities having any expenses for lobbying or otherwise attempting to influence political campaigns may have to complete Form 990 Schedule C. See form instructions for details.

Florida charities must update their websites and any documents (letterhead, solicitation pamphlets, etc.) with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Division of Consumer Services website [www.800helpfla.com](http://www.800helpfla.com) and their current registration number.

When registering or renewing their registration under the Florida Solicitation of Contributions Act, exempt organizations which prepare Form 990 or 990-EZ must include the entire Form and all appropriate schedules with their application. Each person named on the registration statement must provide a signed Conflict of Interest Certification Statement which must be included with the renewal application.

### Long Story

Some of these changes (i.e., required Conflict of Interest Statements) require formal adoption by the exempt organization; if the organization's Articles of Incorporation are amended, the change must also be filed with the Florida Secretary of State.

A reminder to Board Members and Officers of those exempt Veterans' organizations which have received recognition of their exempt status under IRC §501(c)(3) as a public charity (as compared with §501(c)(19) Veterans' organization), both Florida and IRS place additional requirements on your organization.

First, the IRS difference between a public charity and other exempt Veterans' organizations.

No organization recognized as exempt under §501(c) may promote or oppose the candidacy of any individual running for public office.

A public charity is not permitted to engage in substantial legislative activity (commonly referred to as lobbying). An organization will be regarded as attempting to influence legislation if it contacts, or urges the public to contact, members or employees of a legislative body for purposes of proposing, supporting or opposing legislation, or advocates the adoption or rejection of legislation.

If lobbying activities are substantial, a §501(c)(3) organization may fail the operational test and risk losing its tax-exempt status and/or be liable for excise taxes. Substantiality is measured by either the substantial part test or the expenditure test.

The substantial part test determines substantiality on the basis of all the pertinent facts and circumstances in each case. The IRS considers a variety of factors, including the time and expenditures devoted by the organization to the activity, when determining whether the lobbying activity is substantial.

The IRS also recognizes that certain organizations (usually recognized under a sub-section of §501(c) other than (3)), may have been formed to address an issue (e.g., most Veterans' organizations recognized under §501(c)(19) promote a strong military and national defense).

### Upcoming Filing Date Reminder:

Both organizations must file some version of IRS Form 990. If gross receipts are normally less than \$50,000, the organization MAY file the "post-card" Form 990-N on-line, due four and one-half months after the end of the organization's tax year (May 15 for most organizations). There is no extension of time available to file your 990-N. If the cognizant officers of an exempt organi-

zation are confident that their organization meets the requirements, Form 990-N may be filed as early as the day after the end of their tax year (January 1 for most organizations). I recommend filing early, to avoid inadvertent failure to file penalties. If the circumstances change, an amended paper return may always be filed.

Any exempt organization may prepare a paper return (even if filed electronically) such as IRS Form 990 long form, or the shorter Form 990-EZ; organizations with gross receipts of \$50,000 or more must complete a paper return. If gross receipts are less than \$200,000 AND total assets are less than \$500,000, the organization may file Form 990-EZ, otherwise must file Form 990. Due date is also four and one-half months after the end of the organization's tax year; extensions of time to file are available but require filing prior to the original due date to be effective.

Some exempt organizations which prepare paper returns, but are not required to do so, often believe the paper return lends more gravitas to the missions and programs of the organization, and also provides a fully-compliant document to provide prospective donors and those requesting financial information about your organization. If an organization prepares a paper return, it must also prepare and distribute all applicable schedules to Form 990.

While the IRS does not prescribe a specific Conflict of Interest Policy Statement (but does provide a great example at <http://www.irs.gov/instructions/i1023/ar03.html>).

### **Forthcoming New Requirements under the Florida Solicitation of Contributions Act**

Effective July 1, 2014, changes made during the 2014 legislative session to Florida's Solicitation of Contributions Act became law. While the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs. is currently in the process of implementing the changes, these are some of the updated requirements which WILL affect your organization's next registration:

#### **Registration/Solicitation Requirements**

The solicitation disclosure that is required on all solicitations should now include the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs's website, [www.800helpfla.com](http://www.800helpfla.com), in addition to the department's toll free number, 1-800-435-7352. This information must also be placed on an organization's website on any webpage that identifies a mailing address where contributions are sent, a telephone number to process contributions or a webpage that provides for online processing of contributions. Each charitable organization or sponsor that is required to register under s. [496.405](#) shall conspicuously display the organization or sponsor's registration number issued by the department under this chapter on every printed solicitation, written confirmation, receipt, or reminder of a contribution. If the solicitation consists of more than a single item, the statement shall be displayed prominently in the solicitation materials. s. 496.411, F.S. and s. 496.412, F.S.

Charitable organizations or sponsors that intend to solicit in or from the state of Florida must now register, regardless of whether they are soliciting Florida residents. s. 496.405(1), F.S. N.B. Any division, department, post, or chapter of a veterans' service organization granted a federal charter under Title 36, United States Code continues to be exempt under s. 496.406 (1)(c) provided they are recognized as exempt under IRC §501(c)(19).

Charitable organizations or sponsors AND their officers, directors, trustees and employees may not knowingly allow officers, directors, trustees and employees to solicit contributions if they have certain criminal histories. s. 496.405(8), F.S.

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs. has the right to deny or revoke the registration of a charitable organization or sponsor if the organization or an officer, director or trustee has had the right to solicit contributions revoked or has been ordered by a court or government agency to cease soliciting in any state. s. 496.405(9), F.S.

Charitable organizations or sponsors that cease soliciting in Florida are required to notify the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs. in writing. s. 496.405(10), F.S.

Charitable organizations and sponsors are required to adopt a policy regarding conflict of interest transactions.

The conflict of interest policy must be certified annually by all directors, officers, and trustees of the organization. A copy of the annual certification must be submitted to the department as part of the organization's annual registration. s. 496.405(2), F.S.

Any organization required to register under the Florida Solicitation of Contributions Act which is required to file Form 990 or

Form 990-EZ with the IRS must submit a complete copy of their Form 990 filing to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs.

The process for requesting an extension will change. Registration documents must now be filed timely, however, the department may grant up to a 180 day extension for submission of financial statements. s. 496.407(3), F.S.

### **Changes in Information**

Most changes in information filed by a charitable organization or sponsors can be updated on your next annual renewal statement.

However, any changes involving conviction or incarceration of a charitable organization's or sponsor's officers, directors, trustees, or employees for any felony or any crime involving fraud, theft, larceny, embezzlement, fraudulent conversion, misappropriation of property, or any crime resulting from acts committed while involved in the solicitation of contributions must be reported to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs. on a material change form [N.B. not yet published] within ten days after the change occurs.

Additionally, if a charitable organization or sponsor has been enjoined from soliciting contributions, been enjoined from violating any law relating to charitable solicitation, had its registration or authority denied, suspended, or revoked, or entered into an assurance of voluntary compliance, this information must be reported within ten days.

To ensure timely receipt of renewal applications, any changes in addresses or officers should be reported to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs. immediately upon those changes occurring. s. 496.405(1)(b), F.S.

### **Financial Statements and Disclosure**

Charitable organizations or sponsors that receive at least \$500,000 but less than \$1 million in annual contributions must submit a financial statement that has been reviewed or audited by an independent certified public accountant. Charitable organizations or sponsors that receive \$1 million or more in annual contributions must submit financial statements that have been audited by an independent certified public accountant. In lieu of a financial statement, any charitable organization or sponsor may submit an IRS Form 990. IRS Form 990s submitted by charitable organizations or sponsors that receive more than \$500,000 in annual contributions must be prepared by a CPA or a professional who prepares such forms or schedules in the ordinary course of his or her business.

When submitting an IRS Form 990, charitable organizations or sponsors may redact information that is not subject to public inspection pursuant to 26 U.S. Code 6104(d)(3).

Charitable organizations or sponsors that receive more than \$1 million in contributions but spend less than 25% of their annual expenses on program services will be required to submit a more detailed financial report. The report requires detailed information about salaries, travel expenses, fundraising expenses, overhead and administrative expenses, business transactions between the charitable organization or sponsor and officers, directors, trustees or their immediate family members, and the names of service providers who earned over \$100,000. The charitable organization or sponsor will have the opportunity to detail any extenuating circumstances as to why it spent less than 25% on program services, such as reserving money for a capital project. s. 496.4071, F.S.

The department has the authority to remove an organization's sales tax exemption as a penalty for violations of the Solicitation of Contributions Act. s. 496.430, F.S.

Administrative penalties for violations of the Solicitation of Contributions Act have increased to up to \$5,000. Penalties for fraudulent or deceptive acts have increased to up to \$10,000. Fines for failure to file a registration for a 501(c)(3) remain at \$500. s. 496.419(5)(f),(g), F.S.

There are also substantial additional changes affecting Professional Solicitors. Before engaging the services of any agent to solicit funds on behalf of your organization, review the filing and notice requirements of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs.



# THANK YOU!



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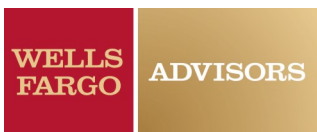
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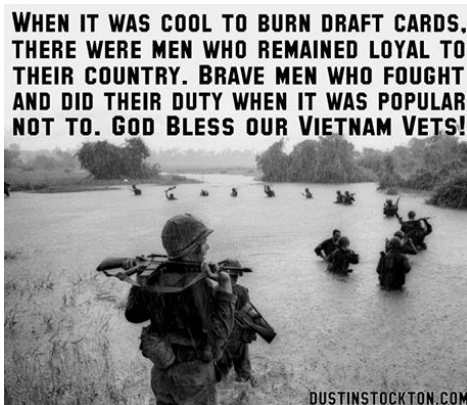
*Veterans Council of St. Johns County,  
"Helping All Veterans"*

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)



COL Ed Taylor carrying a wounded enemy  
POW, Vietnam 1966



*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.*

**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)

**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  
Tammy Shirley, Assistant VSO*