



The Patriot Reader

VETERANS COUNCIL OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY

CHAIRMAN BILL DUDLEY

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SECRETARY GEORGE APRIL

TREASURER MICHAEL ROTHFELD

Newsletter Editor Michael Rothfeld

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Message from the Chairman

Fellow Veterans,

Spring has finally arrived and the warm days appear here to stay. Lots of good weather to get some volunteer work in for your Veterans Council.

I have two subjects I would like to share with you in my column this month. Both have to do with Veterans, past and present.

For the past several months, several of us in the Veterans Council have been working on a program I feel is much needed in St. Johns County for our Veterans. We daily read in the papers about Veterans who for one reason or another have run afoul of the law. They may be first time offenders and more than likely, they are suffering from PTSD or TBI. Under the current system, they must go through the regular court system and take their chances. Several weeks ago, several of us met with Charlotte Matthews, Veterans Justice Outreach Specialist to discuss creating a Veterans Court in St. Johns County. Following that meeting I met with Sheriff David Shoar and explained our plans for pursuing a Veterans Court in our County. After much discussion, Sheriff Shoar enthusiastically agreed to support the program and

said his department would help in any way they could. Subsequent to my meeting with the Sheriff, I arranged a meeting with the Mr. R.J. Larizza, States Attorney. Howard McGillian, Charlotte Matthews, and I met with Mr. Larizza and Chris France to discuss the program with their office. After much discussion about how we would engage in the framework of eligibility, staff the program, VA resources needed and other issues to assure success, Mr. Larizza completely embraced the program and said his department would support the program and assign a prosecutor that would handle all Veterans selected for the Veterans Court system. Our next steps are to speak with the Public Defender's office and then contact a judge willing to hear the cases of Veterans who have been vetted and meet the criteria for the Veterans Justice Program. Both of these actions are currently in process. I will report on this as we continue to make progress.

My second subject addresses the upcoming Battle of Midway Commemorative Dinner coming up on Saturday June 7 at the Renaissance Resort, World Golf Village. We are quickly running out of time to personally



honor these WWII veterans and National Treasures who participated in the turning point battle of the Pacific in those dark days when we were fighting a ruthless enemy who had attacked our country. Our keynote speaker for this year's program will be the Vice Chief of Naval Operations and VADM Mark Fox, Deputy Commander from CENTCOM will also speak at the Sponsor's reception. Please plan to attend this gala event and help us pay tribute to these men who fought so gallantly for our country in her time of need. Tickets are going very quickly as we are expecting between 850 – 1000 to attend this year's event. The evening begins with a social at 1800 and dinner at 1900. Please contact me if you would like to purchase tickets, anuday00@aol.com
Tel. 904-806-4712.
Bill Dudley, Chairman
Veterans Council of
St. Johns County

This letter to the St. Augustine Record is reprinted with the permission of its author, Bill Dudley.

I would like to congratulate the St. Johns Board of County Commissioners for the recent recognition by Standard and Poor's by increasing the County's rating increase from AA- to AA+. This is no small accomplishment and reflects highly on the sound financial management by this Board and those charged with the fiduciary management of our county and the use of our tax dollars.



Bill Dudley

Those of us who have lived in St. Johns County for a long time have recognized what a wonderful place this is to live, raise our families, and enjoy all that this county has to offer in the way of employment, great medical facilities, strong government leadership, affordable housing, and the benefit of our beaches and weather to enjoy all the we have been blessed with.

There is another very important attribute that was not mentioned in Chairman Morris's Record article that I would like to also cite to the credit of our County Commission Board.... the recognition of our Commissioners for our Veterans. The currently elected Commissioners have demonstrated repeatedly their support of our 20,000 + Veterans in this County at every opportunity and by every request. I think this speaks volumes about this Board and their recognition of our National Treasurers.

As Chairman of the Veterans Council for St. Johns County, I would like to express my appreciation to this esteemed group of elected officials for their fiduciary management of our tax dollars and their support of our Veterans. In military parlance, Bravo Zulu.

Respectfully,

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

Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home

Patriotism is our motto



Maria and Mikayla...two of our high school volunteers



Easter-A surprise visitor on Easter Sunday



Easter Eggs-Preparing for Easter



Easter Sunday-The Easter bunny surprised everyone



One of our wonderful volunteers at the Garden Party in their honor



Maria and Mr. Jones at the Volunteer Appreciation Garden Party

Ticket Information

Ticket costs are:
Active Duty E-6 and below, \$25;
E-7 to 03, \$40,
04 to 05, \$50,
06 and above,
civilians, and retirees, \$65.

Tickets available from the following-

NAVY LEAGUE MAYPORT

POC Bob Price
Phone (904)246-9982
E-mail - bpricex4@comcast.net

NAVY LEAGUE ST AUGUSTINE

POC Bill Dudley,
Phone (904)806-4712
E-mail - anuday00@aol.com

Make Checks payable to
NAVY LEAGUE MIDWAY DINNER
P.O. Box 331944
Atlantic Beach, FL 32233-1944

Tickets also available thru our WEB SITE
www.mayportnlus.org

Uniform will be 04 and above -
dinner dress white jacket;
03 and below - dinner dress white/dinner
dress white jacket optional
and civilian is black tie or business attire.

Special Hotel Rates for Battle of Midway

Rooms are available from the hotel -
The Renaissance Resort
at World Golf Village

Special Room Rate - \$99.00
(includes 2 breakfast vouchers)
This special rate good until May 9th only
Suites also available for \$139.00

YOU MUST INCLUDE
"2014 Battle of Midway"
to receive this discounted rate

Hotel reservations must be made
By calling
Phone 1-888-789-3090
Monday thru Friday 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.



Battle of Midway Commemorative Dinner

Guest Speaker

**Admiral Jonathan
Greenart USN**
Chief of Naval Operations
Invited

Event will be held at
The Renaissance Resort at
World Golf Village.
Cocktails begin at 6 PM
Dinner at 7 PM.
Reserved seating.
Hosted by
The Mayport Council
Navy League
of the United States
June 7, 2014

And you are invited!
Tickets are now on sale

A Short History of the Battle of Midway

4-7 June 1942

The Battle of Midway, fought over and near the tiny U.S. mid-Pacific base at Midway atoll, represents the strategic high water mark of Japan's Pacific Ocean war. Prior to this action, Japan possessed general naval superiority over the United States and could usually choose where and when to attack. After Midway, the two opposing fleets were essentially equals, and the United States soon took the offensive.

Japanese Combined Fleet commander Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto moved on Midway in an effort to draw out and destroy the U.S. Pacific Fleet's aircraft carrier striking forces, which had embarrassed the Japanese Navy in the mid-April Doolittle Raid on Japan's home islands and at the Battle of Coral Sea in early May. He planned to quickly knock down Midway's defenses, follow up with an invasion of the atoll's two small islands and establish a Japanese air base there. He expected the U.S. carriers to come out and fight, but to arrive too late to save Midway and in insufficient strength to avoid defeat by his own well-tested carrier air power.

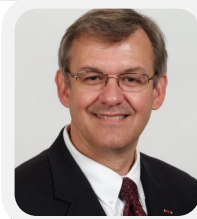
Yamamoto's intended surprise was thwarted by superior American communications intelligence, which deduced his scheme well before battle was joined. This allowed Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, the U.S. Pacific Fleet commander, to establish an ambush by having his carriers ready and waiting for the Japanese. On 4 June 1942, in the second of the Pacific War's great carrier battles, the trap was sprung. The perseverance, sacrifice and skill of U.S. Navy aviators, plus a great deal of good luck on the American side, cost Japan four irreplaceable fleet carriers, while only one of the three U.S. carriers present was lost. The base at Midway, though damaged by Japanese air attack, remained operational and later became a vital component in the American trans-Pacific offensive.

Visit our Web Site at <http://www.midwaydinner.org/>
for photos and more information





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, May 5th** at 7:00pm. The meeting will take place at Community Hospice, 4266 Sunbeam Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32257 in Conference Room A

Chairman Howard McGillin,
COL US Army ret.

This is the full text of JNC SC Chairman COL Howard McGillin's speech given at the Missing in America interment ceremony.



Fellow veterans, distinguished guests and most importantly, family members of those who we honor today, thank you for your service and thank you for being here.



When Kathy Church asked me to speak today, it came as a bit of a challenge. I struggled to put down in words the significance of today's event. But as I struggled, it occurred to me that a few things bothered me. A few words bothered me....

Missing in America.

How is it possible that a soldier, sailor, airman or Marine or their family could go missing in America?

Where was their unit, their service, their family?

How could this happen? I will leave to the social scientists the long list of possible answers – but I have come to my own thoughts.

My answer is rooted in my own experience – and I would beg your brief indulgence as I relate some thoughts from that experience.

My father and both of his brothers served in WWII. My father was US Army.

His brother Jack, US Navy, his other brother Bill a Navy Corpsman assigned to the Marines. My uncle Bob, on the other side of the family was in the Army Air Force. They served stateside, in England, France and an odd little place called Eniwetok.

They all came home from WWII and over the years we heard the stories. But the stories were mostly about times with their buddies, like a poorly thought out trip looking for hard cider in Normandy that my father concocted with one of his buddies – a trip that

ended up much closer to the German lines than he ever intended!

We heard stories of times spent on liberty in Paris and shore leave in exotic ports – we heard of the hurried weddings before shipping out for overseas, and the waiting back home of the families.

None of the stories were really about combat – none of it particularly serious. They just didn't talk about it. Although America welcomed them all home from WWII and celebrated their victory the veterans didn't dwell on the fight. It wasn't their way. It wasn't how they dealt with the memories.

It wasn't how America wanted to deal with the memories. But mostly, I don't think it's really how any veteran has ever dealt with the memories.

My father and uncle went on to serve in Korea and in my father's case, during the Vietnam era. Their generation went about building lives and families back home in America.

And so did these that we honor here today. We can surmise that they went from uniform and formations to lives that were regimented by alarm clocks, time cards, births, marriage, graduations and anniversaries. They worked in industry, in factories, on farms, in offices. As the years passed and the memories faded they merged into the American tapestry – as small - sometimes indistinguishable threads in a magnificent picture.

And then they went missing – we don't how, but I have a theory as to the “why.”

You see, these are **American** soldiers, sailors, Airmen, Marines and their families. They did not seek praise or glory. They did not seek attention. They joined, or maybe were drafted – but they all understood they served a much larger whole governed by a document that starts with **“We the People.”**

They left behind their homes, their families and their jobs and travelled to places that we **now** all know by name and by heart. They made history. Today we know **those** places . And when they came home, they told us it was all fine and they were fine and that they had a swell time with their buddies.

Many of them sought to forget what they could not forget and what we must never forget. And some were lost – they went missing in America.

When Kathy sent me the list of names and their periods of service of those we honor

today I was amazed and a bit shaken. There are NO WW I veterans left alive in the United States – yet today, it is our solemn duty to lay to rest 8 WWI service members or their family members.

The War to End All Wars started 100 years ago this August. The US “officially” joined the war in 1917 – but to those who served in our Navy guarding the shipping lanes from U-Boat attack, that war had started years before. We may forget the service members’ names and even the Generals’ names, but we don’t easily forget the places.

WWI etched in the hearts of America names like Chatteau Thierry, the Marne, Belleau Wood, St. Miheil and the Meuse Argonne. And they came home, married, learned to jitterbug, lived through prohibition, a depression; they went to school, and raised families and went missing.

At least one of our honorees from WWI had to answer the call again in 1941. He was joined by several more that we honor here today – and millions from across this land. Theirs has been called the Greatest Generation. They didn’t ask for and some don’t agree with that label.

They faced a world gone dark with naked aggression, genocide and pure evil and hatred. The Second World War gave us a new list of places to remember, North Africa, Anzio, Midway, Guadalcanal, the Phillipines, Normandy, Okinawa, Burma and Bastogne to name a few.

These places are a part of history, places of battle, places to join Concord, Yorktown, Shiloh, Gettysburg and others in our history. And the soldiers came home, used the GI Bill, started the baby boom, eventually put a man on the moon and some went missing in America.

In the meantime war flared again in places far to the east, in Korea and Vietnam. One of our honorees served during the period starting with WWII through Korea and Vietnam. They fought a new but at the same time very old kind of war. And new places were added to the list, Pusan, Inchon and the Chosin Reservoir.

The Korean War ended with an armistice and the service members came home to the sounds of rock and roll, beautiful cars from Detroit and a new confident America that barely knew there was a war on....and they went missing.

Our final group of honorees were called to serve during an unpopular war. But they went and served anyway. Some served in the cold war on the Inner German Border and

on nuclear watches. Their places didn't get headlines and are already being forgotten like the Fulda Gap, Hof and Minot North Dakota.

Meanwhile around the world some of our honorees fought in a war that was broadcast into America's living rooms with reports of casualties posted like they were the box score of a sporting event. And another set of place names was added to our hearts, places like Da Nang, Hue, the A-Sha valley and the Hanoi Hilton. They served a year, or two, or three, came home to derision and scorn and some went missing.

But now today they are found. We don't always know why they went Missing in America. Today they are found and they come here to rest. In a few moments they will stand their final formation. Then they will rest in these hallowed grounds among the military family they served with for all those many years. These "gardens of stone" are a silent, simple, humble American way to honor these fallen heroes and their families. From a short distance away these graves all look alike. They are just like the American service member in formation.

The American service member and their family went to war to protect a way of life and so that millions of others might live in freedom and peace. They did not seek recognition. Some, like some of these, faded into an anonymity so deep they were lost.

But we have never forgotten them. We will never forget what they did or where they served. Whether they served in Khaki, olive drab, dungarees or Nomex, matters only a little.

The very fact that they or their family member served their country matters a lot.

That they went over the top, across the beach, through the air and under the sea in places we all know by heart and can never forget matters much much more.

As President Lincoln observed it was "what they did" there that must be remembered. Those places with famous names bear silent witness like this place to the service of these quiet, unassuming, and, for a time.... unknown heroes who made those places and this place worthy of memory.

Today they come home – home to Jacksonville, Florida – home to this place – this National Cemetery. Today they are found – they are no longer missing in America.



Disabled American Veterans begin new year By Michael Isam

St. Augustine, Fla, (April 15, 2014) –Florida DAV State Commander and National Executive Committee Director officiate installation.

“I....., Upon my word and honor, as a member of the Disabled American Veterans, in the presence of Almighty God, and my Comrades, and before the flag of my country, accept the office to which I have been elected or appointed. I promise to perform the duties of such office to the best of my ability. I pledge to act and conduct myself, in such a manner, at all times and places, as will only affect the good of the order... All of which, I now affirm.”

Just a few simple statements which carry the remembrance of every disabled veteran, whether known or not.

Guy Diffenbach, Florida State DAV Commander, and John Markiewicz, DAV National Executive Committee Director officiated at the installation of St. Augustine, FL DAV Chapter 6 officers for 2014-2015.

As Markiewicz lead the newly elected officers in repeating the oath, a myriad of memories came forth.

According to the DAV history at <http://www.dav.org/> it started when a WWI veteran was spotted selling pencils on a street corner. His sign read “Help me, I am a Disabled Veteran.” Records show more than 4.7 million Americans served and 53,500 sacrificed their lives in combat. Accidents and illnesses, mostly deadly influenza, took the lives of another 63,000. An astonishing 204,000 Americans in uniform were wounded during that war.

Not only was the government at a loss about what to do with those it had sent to war, it had very little to spend on programs for the veterans. By the time the war in Europe came to an end in 1918, it had drained our country’s economic resources, sapping 43 percent of the gross national product.

By the following year, four million Americans were jobless. For the next two years, recession and widespread unemployment crippled the American economy. The veterans of World War I came marching home to a country that was not at all geared up to deal with the aftermath of war.

The onset of a horrific epidemic of influenza didn’t help matters at all. Bed space in hospitals charged with treating veterans was severely overtaxed by the combined demand created by the flu epidemic and the need to provide medical care for the war wounded. To resolve this, the government contracted for space in private hospitals.

Some disabled veterans were lucky to get cots in the hallways. Others slept on the floor. Far too many were simply turned away

Adding to the current monumental numbers of veterans injured in WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm, and Desert Shield, today’s numbers for Operation New Dawn, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation Enduring Freedom show more than 51,000 servicemembers wounded in action according to a February 19, 2014 report issued by the *Congressional Research Service* (<http://www.fas.org/sqp/crs/natsec/RS22452.pdf>)

“Nationally, we have our work cut out for us,” said Markiewicz. “Locally, our chapters do their best to aid veterans in distress and, with our transportation system, provide free rides for veterans with appointments at the VA Medical Centers in Gainesville and Lake City.” “Continuing on that note,” said Diffenbaugh, “St. Augustine Chapter 6 is one of many DAV Chapters in our state providing that service. We are lucky to have a chapter so dedicated to assisting fellow servicemembers.”

The officers for the 2014-2015 year are Michael Isam, Commander; Judy Davis, Sr. Vice Commander; Shawn Prentiss, Jr. Vice Commander, A. J. Sartin, Treasurer; Art Dubois, Adjutant, Joseph McDermott, Officer of the Day and Rev. Al Deome, Chaplain.

Veterans requiring transportation from St. Augustine to Gainesville should contact the Council on Aging at 904-209-3710 and ask for veteran van scheduling.



(l-r) Guy Diffenbaugh, John Markiewicz, Joe McDermott, Michael Isam, Judy Davis, Shawn Prentiss, A. J. Sartin, Art Dubois

Weavers give \$1 million to K9s for Warriors to expand training, facilities

By Clifford Davis, this article used with the permission of its author Cliff Davis and the Florida Times-Union



The mountainous Navy veteran of Iraq and Afghanistan stood holding the leash of his “snoodle,” a giant schnauzer-poodle mix named General Patton.

But Sean Neely’s smile showed how much the dog meant to him.

“I know you’re fixing to ask me how a Navy guy has a dog named General Patton,” he said with a laugh. “But he helps me out a lot. If I’m in the store and there’s a lot of people around, he keeps my anxiety and anger down.

Neely was just one of the success stories of K9s for Warriors on hand Friday as Wayne and Delores Weaver gave the non-profit group \$1 million.

The nonprofit trains service dogs, most of which were abandoned by their owners, and gives them to disabled veterans. The dogs and owners then are put through a three-week training course together at the organization’s home in Ponte Vedra Beach — all free.

“This was like home to me,” Neely said. “I can’t tell you how much it meant to be here and to be cared for the whole time by these people.

“It was just the little things like they found out I like to have Cocoa Pebbles in the morning and every morning they made sure I had Cocoa Pebbles.”

One-hundred-fifteen pairs of dogs and disabled veterans have graduated from K9s for Warriors. The group has come a long way since the nonprofit’s president Shari Duval noticed her own son spiraling downward after he returned from Iraq.

Her son, Brett Simon, spent two tours in Iraq as a civilian contractor handling TED [tactical explosive detection] dogs. He spent much of his time clearing houses and paths for Army soldiers.

“I really didn’t know what was wrong with him,” Duval said. “He wouldn’t leave the house, he was depressed and losing weight.

“I thought I was going to lose him.” Duval began doing her own research and learned how service dogs helped wounded veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. “I asked him what he thought about starting an organization to help wounded veterans using service dogs and the light came on,” she said. “It was the first thing that got his attention.”

Three years and 115 veteran-dog pairs later, the nonprofit has a year-long waiting list for those wishing to enter its program.



Clifford Davis/The Times-Union
Four graduates of the K9s for Warriors program were on hand Friday to celebrate a \$1 million grant from the Weavers to K9s for Warriors.

Enter Delores Weaver.

“We had some mutual acquaintances and I invited her to an event we were having here,” Duval said. “She told me she could only stay for 15 minutes and she stayed for 2 1/2 hours.”

Currently, the group can only house and enroll four veterans at a time for the three-week course. With the donation from the Weavers as well as land donated by the Winn-Dixie-founding Davis family, K9s for Warriors will be moving into a 16,000 square-foot complex to be built by Summit Construction.

The organization then will be able to put 12 to 16 veterans at a time through the program. Also, it will hire more employees.

“I’m trying to hire back some of the graduates,” Simon said. “I’m teaching them to be trainers with the guys.

“I could put very good civilian trainers with them, but they don’t understand the mindset of the guys.”

Simon said he’s looking to hire four of the graduates back who will each be put in charge of training four veterans for each class cycle.

“It’s something I think it’s important to do,” he said.

Clifford Davis: (904) 359-4207

The St. Johns County Veterans Council and FVPPI have been working closely for over a year on producing a 28 minute documentary featuring the stories of the wounded warriors, suffering from PTSD, their families and dogs and how all three work together to assist the warrior transition to life back home.

The documentary is in post production and will be ready in a few months.

We are looking for donations to help us finish this important educational work. Please send your tax deductible contributions to:

**The Veterans Council of St. Johns County
PO Box 2117**

St. Augustine, FL 32085

Please put K9 documentary on the memo line.

Here is a link to a short trailer of the documentary:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tfilo7-AURc&feature=youtu.be>



In the early morning hours of Friday, October 1, 2010 a true hero slipped his earthly bonds.

I was lucky enough to know that hero. **Charles F. "Chuck" Ziers** and I belonged to Chapter 6, Disabled American Veterans. He spoke many times of the stories he had written about his experiences in WWII.

Chuck laughed that he had toured Europe in a unique way. He watched the world go by from the interior of a Sherman tank. He and his 5 buddies, or "family" as he called them had the grand tour from Italy to the far side of the Rhine River.

At Willebabadessen, in the Höxter district of the Detmold region of North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany his life got a little bit rough.

In close range he could hear enemy tanks rumbling down the side-streets of the town. His tank was out of gas and the batteries that ran the electrical system to rotate the turret were dead. Chuck and his buddy, Steve Burcz, managed to manually turn the turret of their tank to a proper firing position. As a team, with Chuck firing and Steve loading, they knocked out a far superior German Tiger tank as it attempted to turn the corner into the main street. They had to manually move the turret again to repel another attack coming down a second side street. The streets blocked by their own burning tanks, the enemy retreated and left the area. Chuck and his crew were awarded the Bronze Star for gallantry in action by General George S. Patton.

Later, when he was part of the 9th Armored Division, his life was immeasurably altered resulting in his receiving a purple heart.

He and his crew were in their brand new Sherman tank which had a long barreled 76 mm and all new equipment. In a heartbeat, which seemed to last an eternity, he went from fully cognizant to total oblivion. He was the only surviving member of his tank crew. "I began to smell something; I began to smell explosive powder. There it was the unmistakable odor of burning gun powder. It was so wonderful I could smell oil, gasoline, smoke, and gun powder. I was alive and I was in my tank and it was on fire. I must get out of that tank or I would be killed. Oh Heavenly Days I am afraid of death so therefore I must be alive.

When I reached up to open my hatch cover an already bad situation became critical. The cover would not open as the main gun had been traversed to the right and rested squarely over my hatch cover and I could not get out. I was wounded and trapped in a burning tank that might explode at any time. My head was splitting with pain and I could feel warm wet blood running down my back. I prayed like never before and then I passed out again."

"When I again regained consciousness everything had changed. There was a way out of that tank. "Thank you LORD", I said. There was a narrow passage leading across to the driver's compartment. We had filled it full of little cheese boxes to store our valuables in. If I could tear those boxes loose and fit through that tiny space I would be home free. After many attempts and many failures finally I took off all of my clothes down to my green, "long-johns" and still no success. The smoke got thicker and I became more desperate. Finally I found a bucket of grease under my seat and smeared it all around the hole and tried again, and still no luck. This time I smeared the rest of the grease all over my body including my head and then somehow with the grace of God I was free. Into the driver's seat, then out through his hatch and then down to the ground. It seemed as though the entire affair took less than a second. After a few gulps of fresh air I crawled away from the still burning tank."

The last time I saw Chuck, we conversed for quite some time. It was a different kind of conversation as I would talk about things happening now and as his dementia had progressed to the point he lived in WWII most of the time. He had one lucid moment where he said "You have the advantage over me. You seem to know me and a lot about me, but I don't know you." He chuckled as he said "I meet a lot of new friends this way," and he drifted off to sleep

Rest in Peace my dear friend.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – by Kumasi Aaron. This article is used with permission of the author, Kumasi Aaron and WJXT TV

Families of more than a dozen local veterans gathered Friday to see their loved ones finally receive the honor in death that their service in life warranted.

For years, their cremated remains lay unclaimed in Jacksonville funeral homes until the Missing in America Project stepped in, making sure they received full military honors, and in some cases, connecting families.

With the playing of taps and a 21-gun salute, the remains of 15 veterans were interred at the Jacksonville National Cemetery.

James Lucas' father was one of the veterans honored. He and his brother were 21 and 13 respectively when their father, a World War II Army veteran, passed. They thought family members who handled the funeral had his remains.

"I didn't realize his ashes had been left. We were young when he passed, and we're just so glad that they have this program to do this," said Lucas.

Hardage-Giddens Funeral Home worked with the Missing in America Project to find all the veterans honored here.

"They originally provide us with a list of 565 unclaimed cremains. Now not all of them are veterans, but that's what our job is... to look through the paperwork and locate the veterans," said Kathy Church of Missing in America Florida.

The remains that were interred Friday had been in Jacksonville funeral homes for decades -- some since 1970 -- and included six World War I veterans, six World War II veterans, one Korean War veteran, two Vietnam War veterans, four spouses of World War I veterans and one infant son of a Vietnam veteran.

Of veterans being interred, 13 served in the Army, one from the Air Force, from from the Navy and one was a Marine. This ceremony will be held at the Jacksonville National Cemetery.

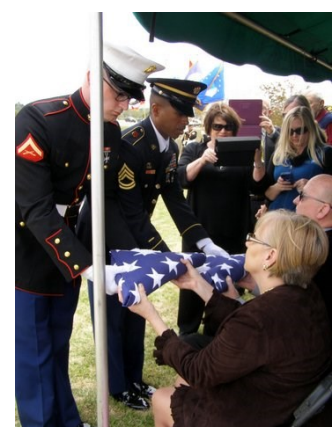
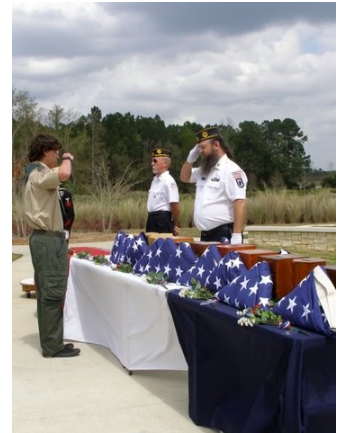
The Missing in America Project says its mission is to locate, identify and inter the unclaimed cremated remains of American veterans through the joint efforts of private, state and federal organizations. The group aims to provide honor, respect and dignity to those who have served this country by securing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

A rider escort led by the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office brought the remains from the Hardage-Giddens Town and Country Funeral Home/Riverside Memorial Park to the National Cemetery on Jacksonville's Northside, to a final and fitting resting place for our country's forgotten heroes.

And for their families, a chance for closure, respect and honor.

"It means a lot," Lucas said. "It's been a special day that I'll never forget -- to see all these people turn out to recognize his service and his sacrifice.

This was the second "Call to Honor" ceremony Missing in America has held in Jacksonville. The first ceremony was held in November 2013.



Photos by Sharon Gilley

Downtown Vietnam Monument Finds New Home

After talks with City councilmen and other Veteran organizations, the Vietnam War Monument has found a new home. On Friday, March 28, 2014 at 4 PM, the monument was rededicated at the corner of A Phillip Randolph and Duval outside the Jacksonville Veterans Memorial Arena. The site was selected with the cooperation from Military Affairs office, VVA 1046 and Semper Fi Society. This monument is the oldest in the state of Florida to honor Vietnam Veterans. The city has funded the building of the platform around the proposed site. A Vietnam Veteran has donate his time to move the monument from the existing site to the new site.

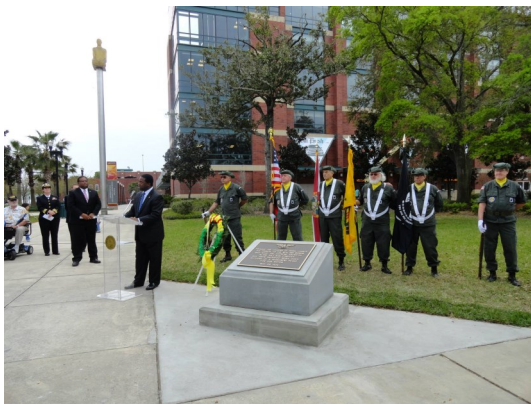


This has been an ongoing project since August 2013. During the Vietnam Veterans Convention held in Jacksonville, the area around the monument was found to be in a not so clean or maintained condition. The local chapter of the VVA cleaned and made the site presentable for a wreath laying ceremony during the Convention. The old site was not being maintained and needed to be moved so it could be properly maintained but also in an area where the community could view it. The new site was picked as the traffic from the Arena and Baseball grounds can view it and also in a dignified area next to the Veterans Memorial Arena. A city councilman, VVA 1046 president, Jacksonville Mayor and Admiral Gillory from Veterans Affairs gave short talks about why they felt this monument was now in the right place.

The original monument was given to the City in May 1974 as a way of remembering the Duval County soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen who gave their service to their country.

UH RAH, Semper Fi, Fair Winds and Wild Blue Yonder.

Welcome Home, Brothers and Sisters



[Watch the Clip.](#) A short video of the ceremony

This article is from the Gardner Report and used with the permission of George Gardner

War Memorial move project begins



George Gardner

The project to move the 1946 War Memorial from a corner further into the Plaza de la Constitución gets under way today with preparation of a base and sidewalk, according to contractor John Valdes, who assembled a contractor team to donate the work.



The city's Historic Architectural Review Board (HARB) last week approved a relocation to the Cathedral Place side of the public market and the plan to disassemble the existing coquina-faced concrete block monument and reassemble it at the new location. The move was prompted by objections to the memorial being obscured by electric panels at the corner of Cathedral place and Charlotte Street.

Young's Masonry will install a base and sidewalk on the new site and assist CDR Construction in the disassembly and reassembly next Wednesday and Thursday, while Glenn Easter Metals will remove and reinstall the memorial's bronze plaques, Valdes said.



Chapter 808 Military Order of the Purple Heart

Serving Flagler and St Johns County

The mission of the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) is to foster an environment of goodwill and camaraderie among Combat Wounded Veterans, promote patriotism, support necessary legislative initiatives, and most importantly, provide service to all veterans. Chapter 808 was the first chapter in the Department of Florida MOPH to be commanded by a Global War on Terror recipient of the Purple Heart Medal.



The MOPH is about realizing how difficult life is after the loss of a loved one, after the injury of a loved one, or being that warrior that not only gave his/her time, but their blood in defense of the country we love. We are about honoring the warrior not war.

The MOPH is an outreach of men, women and families that understand exactly where you are, or where you've been, and where you're going, because we have been there.

The various programs and operations that Chapter 808 MOPH has participated in and/or worked with include, but are not limited to: Flagler Palm Coast and Matanzas High Schools JROTC Program, Teens in Flight, Emery Bennett and Clyde Lassen Veterans Nursing Homes, Jacksonville National Cemetery, Veterans in distress, Gratitude America, Wreaths Across America, Anastasia Veterans Park, Chase-Rescorla Memorial Scholarship, Purple Heart Hall of Honor, Heroes Park Purple Heart Monument Program, Purple Heart Medal replacements and recognition, etc.

Chapter 808 meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at 1800 hours at the VFW Post 8696, 47 Old Kings Road, Palm Coast, FL. Our website can be located at: www.moph808.org. For information you may contact Steve Lunsford in Palm Coast at 386-986-9516, or Tom Crawford in St. Augustine at 904-540-8587.

Please join us we need your help.

Veterans Council - alive, growing, and maturing, By Michael Isam



St. Augustine, Fla. (March 26, 2014) – The Veterans Council forges on after more than 10 years of service and it was a busy night.

On Wednesday night, The Veterans Council of St. Johns County installed officers for the 2014 calendar year. With Joe McDermott, Senior Veteran Service Officer for St. Johns County, administering the oath Chairman Bill Dudley; Deputy Chairman Ray Quinn; George April, Secretary; Treasurer, Michael Rothfeld swore to “faithfully execute the duties of the office to which they were elected or appointed.”

In other matters, Ms. Tracey Burke of the Garden Club of St. Augustine spoke to the membership of scholarships available to veterans. “Scholarships for veterans and active duty personnel are available in the amounts of \$500 and \$1000. Applicants can live anywhere, but must be rooted in St. Johns County.” Burke went on to explain, “This means if the applicant is from St. Johns County, and are committed to a career in Horticulture, Landscape Design, Landscape Architecture, Ecology,

Conservation, Botany, Forestry or related fields, please apply.” “This is the first time to traverse this avenue for applicants.” For more information contact Burke at 904-321-9497 or tracey949@gmail.com.

Kathy Church, Missing in America Project (MIAP) State Coordinator spoke briefly about the upcoming ceremony in the Jacksonville National Cemetery. “On March 28 at 1:30pm MIAP will conduct funeral services for 20 unclaimed veterans. The cremains, some of which have sat unclaimed in funeral homes for decades, will be interred in the columbarium at the cemetery,” said Church, “we will be interring 6 WWI, 6 WWII, 1 Korean War, 2 Vietnam War veterans, 4 WWI spouses and 1 infant son of a Vietnam veteran.”

Pallbearers and Flag carriers need to be at the cemetery by noon to meet the hearse. Motorcyclists or anyone wanting to take part in the escort of the hearse led by JSO need to be at the Town & Country Funeral Home located at 7242 Normandy Blvd, in Jacksonville by 10:30 a.m. KSU will be at 11:15 with a safety briefing by JSO personnel.

This service is open to the public so that all may honor these “forgotten heroes”.

Jacksonville National Cemetery is located at 4083 Lannie Road, north of Jacksonville. For more information, contact Kathy Church, MIAP State Coordinator at miapjax@yahoo.com or (904) 219-3035.

Other matters coming up for a report involved two new areas of ongoing commitment for the veterans of St. Johns County.

Chairman Bill Dudley brought the council up-to-date on the establishment of a Veterans Court system for the county. “Veterans Courts have proven to be successful in helping veterans get the care they need to break the cycle,” said Dudley. “We have the blessing of Sheriff Shoar and many of his deputies. We are now in talks with the court system of the county to find ways to implement the system in St. Johns.”

Often called a ‘Treatment Court’, the idea first came to fruition in Buffalo, New York in 2008. According to their website, <http://www.buffaloveteranscourt.org/>, “The Buffalo Veterans Treatment Court is a hybrid drug and mental health court that serves veterans who are struggling with addiction and / or mental illness by diverting them from the traditional criminal justice system into a specialized veter-

ans court.”

According to a December 23, 2013 article in *The Florida Times-Union*, Duval County, FL began their veterans court program in 2012 as an offshoot of drug and mental health court. The system is no cake-walk.

According to a quote from 23-year Navy veteran John Holzbaaur, Public Defender’s Office coordinator for military and veterans affairs, “It’s not an easy road for the participants, however. Many must wear alcohol monitors, ankle bracelets or submit to drug testing or risk being kicked out of the program.”

On the horizon is the formation of a Veterans Advisory Board. The board is in the inception stage and the future is not totally defined at the present time.



Fleet Reserve Guarding the back



Kathy Church (MIAP)



Randy Stapleton— Congressional Aide



Tracey Burke



(l to r) Joe McDermott, Senior Veteran Service Officer administering the oath; Treasurer, Michael Rothfeld; Chairman Bill Dudley; Deputy Chairman Ray Quinn; George April, Secretary

Photos by Michael Isam



PICTURE LT. POST COMMANDER JIM DURNAL RECEIVES A JACKSONVILLE CITY PROCLAMATION FROM MAYOR CHARLIE LATHAM DECLAIRING "FEBRUARY 17 VFW POST 3270 DAY"

During the City Of **Jacksonville Beaches** April 21 st Council meeting Mayor Charlie Latham presented **VFW Post 3270 Commander** Jim Durnal a PROCLAMATION declaring February 17 "VFW Post 3270 Day" that celebrates their 75 th anniversary..... This award honors the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3270 rich tradition of serving veteran and military families and their local community through the intervening years. VFW Post 3270 is the City's oldest continuous serving veterans organization, receiving its Charter February 17, 1939 with Carl U. Smith as their first Commander.

The VFW traces its roots back to 1899 when veterans of the Spanish American War (1898) and the Philippine Insurrection founded an organization to secure the rights and benefits for their service. There was no medical care or veterans pensions for them, and they were left to care for themselves while suffering from their wartime wounds. Since that time the VFW has been instrumental in creating the GI Bill; A National cemetery system; Compensation for Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Orange; And continues to lobby congress for veteran and active duty service member benefits.

Commander Durnal invites ALL active duty and veterans who have received a campaign medal for overseas service, received hostile fire or imminent danger pay to join our ranks. Simply bring your DD 214 to our Post located at 915 8 th Ave South, fill in your application, and become one of our "Band of Brothers". If you complete your application prior to April 30 th you will receive a free lunch and beverage of your choice, and a chance to meet other patriotic 'Brothers' at the Post. Call 631-3802 for information.

JACK BERRY, VFW POST 3270 220-3630

The HFOT house that's being built in St Augustine has a Volunteer Day on Saturday, May 3, 2014. It starts at 9 am and goes until the landscaping work is complete. The day will entail laying sod and planting landscape plants.

Everyone who participates will receive a free t-shirt. Drinks and lunch will be provided. The recipients of the house will be present as well.

If you'd like to spread the word, that would be wonderful. We will also be selling remaining Groundbreaking Ceremony shirts and having a 50/50 drawing.

Come out and join us for Brandon Long's Volunteer Day. We will be landscaping the grounds of his home being built by Homes for Our Troops. Bring your gardening gloves and tools and let's lay some sod and plant some plants. Wheelbarrows are especially welcomed if you have them!



Free food and drinks and a volunteer t-shirt will be provided for all attending.

Contact April Matt if you have any questions.

Event Details

LCpl Brandon Long's Volunteer Day

Sat, 3 May, 2014 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

For more information visit: www.hfotusa.org/long

Location: Lot 3 Honey Branch lane St. Augustine, FL 32092

Contact: atwigg@hfotusa.org

Did You Know? By Harry Manford

After taste, looks, expected performance, and price have been satisfied, do you look much further beyond that purchase? Do you know where it's made? Or how it got here? Or what it took to make? Many times not.



For example, how many of you have purchased a Hyundai or Kia auto? A Samsung smartphone? An LG refrigerator, or for that matter, a computer? These fine products, and others, come from a not too long ago impoverished, downtrodden nation that has transformed into a shining example of success.

Well, try the Republic of Korea, or as many call it, "Korea". That's right, Korea. And did you know that within the past 60 years, Korea has impacted global economies **all because of our American military! No other reason!!!**

Surprised? Many don't know the Korean conflict was at the time, and still is, "The Forgotten War." What a shame. Because of the US military, and a handful of allies, Korea has been reborn from the rubble of war to be an economic world leader and a prize example of how freedom and capitalization works.

That brings us around to the Coquina Veterans and our Korean veterans. This community has a large number of Korean vets, and the above facts would not be possible without their military service. Many of our Korean vets are silent on their service in that country while others speak of it. Either way, that's OK. They endured hardships beyond imagination; -30 degree temperatures, outnumbered in force, terrain completely inhospitable, inadequate food, and forgotten at home. The media didn't do its job (not surprised at that are you?), and I dare say history school teachers and textbooks only gave it mere lip service.

Just to name a few, take Jack Wentz, or Walt Timmerman, or Mike Barone. Don Burkebile, Herb Schuellinger, Robert Lee, Gordon Crosley, Mac McIntire, Jerry Davis, Bob Callari, Roger Haggemiller, Bill Sloane, Paul Reynolds, Jerry Jacobs, and many others served during this conflict. I unintentionally have left out some of our Korean vets, and I apologize for that. I simply don't know or can't recall them all. Each of these men served a vital role, and when you see one of our still living, give them your thanks.

Some of the more memorable events related to me are when Jack Wentz met Marilyn Monroe. Bob Lee, Navy Seabee, built structures and airstrips, Jerry Davis fought at the Chosin Reservoir (Jerry's experience was so horrific, he simply will not discuss it!), and even though Jim Murray didn't serve, his father did. At the time, Colonel Murray (Jim's father) was a combat commander and at the end helped establish the demarcation zone with the communists. Colonel Murray went on to become a Marine two star General. The next time you see Jim, ask him about his dad as he has some fabulous experiences of his father he'll share with you.

So you see, our little village has much to be proud about. Our men all contributed to a country that is today one of the largest economies on the globe. Whenever you see them, just say "Thank you." That's all they want.



Bob Callari



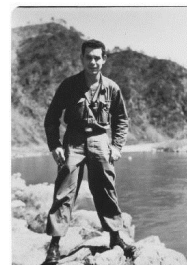
Paul Reynolds



Mike
Barone



Bill Sloane



Jerry Jacobs



Jack Wentz
and **friend**

Joint Chiefs advisor visits with veterans

by Clifford Davis, this article used with permission of its author and the FL Times Union

The grizzled Marine sergeant major with a chest full of medals and arms covered with stripes seemed more at home with the small group of residents at Five Star Veterans Center after the dignitaries left.

The senior enlisted advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff was much more at ease with “common” veterans than his long title would seem to suggest.

Sgt. Maj. Bryan Battaglia came to the center Thursday on a goodwill visit after hearing of the center’s work, but he also had a message for the young veterans.

“We have a dual obligation in the service,” he said. “We have this important responsibility on the front end to America’s sons and daughters to train them and educate them so you’re ready to do the nation’s bidding, whether it’s combat or whatever.

“But we also have a moral obligation on the back end to reintegrate you back into society and that’s the piece we don’t do so well with.”

Battaglia listened intently as the residents shared their struggles with the transition from military to civilian life from job training to problems in the work place. He looked the men in the eye and promised them to take their concerns back to Washington with him.

The visit marked a level of recognition the center has been striving for since new management took over, led by Col. Len Loving, after the Allied Veterans of the World scandal.

A representative from the city of Jacksonville’s Military Affairs and Veterans Department was on hand, as well as City Council President Bill Gulliford.

Gulliford read a resolution that will be brought before the City Council at its next meeting honoring the center for the work it performs in the community.

“I wish we could give you a check for a million bucks to go along with it because of your work, but it’s pretty tough in the city business these days,” Gulliford said. “But I can assure you that I, as a councilman, am committed to this work and will do whatever I can to assist you all.”

The center currently is being kept afloat by local veterans organizations, private donations and help from the business community. Bank of America had employee volunteers doing yard work outside as Gulliford spoke.

A \$100,000 grant from Wayne and Delores Weaver in December also helped keep the doors open.

“We’re still limping along financially,” Loving said.

Despite the limitations, the center is succeeding in its mission to house and reintegrate homeless veterans back into the community. Forty-seven veterans have gone through the center and all but one are now independent and employed.

But Loving said the high-profile visit said more about the city as a whole.

“As far as the visit today, it’s really more of a recognition of what is happening in the city of Jacksonville in terms of trying to support the veterans issues,” he said. “That’s the reason the city brought [Battaglia] here so he could see and be shown some of the variety of programs that are available in the Jacksonville area.”

Clifford Davis: (904) 359-4103



Clifford.Davis@jacksonville.com
Sgt. Maj. Bryan Battaglia, Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, speaks with residents of the Five Star Veterans Center .



MIAP – FL CALL TO HONOR #2

AFTER ACTION REPORT March 30, 2014



Kathy Church

Date & Time: Friday, March 28, 2014 – 1:30pm – 3:00pm

Location: Jacksonville National Cemetery
4083 Lannie Road
Jacksonville, Florida 32218

Total Interred: 20	Army – 13	WWI – 4 veterans, 4 spouses
# Of Veterans: 15	MC – 1	WWII - 9
# Of Spouses: 4	Navy – 5	Korea - 1
# Of Dependents: 1	AF – 1	Vietnam – 4 veterans, 1 infant son

(Oldest case dating back to 1970)

of Families Contacted: 3

of Family attended: 2 (6 from 1 family, 2 from another)

Supporting Veteran Organizations:

AFJROTC – NB Forrest High School

AF Sgt Association

American Legion/ALA/SAL/ALR (AL 5th District, FL)

Beaches Honor Guard

Fire & Iron Motorcycle Club (Jacksonville, FL)

Gold Star Mothers

Jacksonville Ladies

National Cemetery Support Committee

PGR

STJC Veterans Council

VFW

Vietnam Veterans of America

Active Duty Military from NAS Jax, Moody AF Base

St. Augustine Armory, USMC Reserve Center

Other Supporting Organizations:

Boys Scout Troop 181

Country Caterers

Hauck Enterprises

Jacksonville Sheriff's Office – Traffic Division

Speakers:

MC – Sgt Major Ray Quinn

Welcoming – Clifford Shields, Director of JNC

Roger Delaney, LFD Dignity Memorial

Colonel Howard O McGillin, Jr USA (retired)

Chaplains:

Tony Romano, AL Post 137

Bill Reno, AL 5th District & Post 129

Bell Ringer:

CE6 SS Michael Jim Edwards

Reading of Names:

Janis Diamond, Hardage-Giddens Funeral Home

Music:

Navy Band Southeast

Ms. Arvie Witherspoon – “National Anthem”

Mr. Jim Goodell – “Amazing Grace”

Media:

First Coast News, WTLV 12 – Roger Weeder

Action News, WTEV 47 – Sam King

New 4 Jax, WJXT – Kumasi Aaron

FL Times Union – Clifford Davis

MIAP – Special Guest

Charles Warthling, National Assistant Vice President

Sean Verma (photos)

SUMMARY:

It was a beautiful spring day for our service with slight winds. The hearse and riders escort led by JSO Sgt White, Roger Delaney, MIAP Escort Ride Cpt and Ted Boutwell, MIAP Tail Gunner left Hardage-Giddens Town & Country Funeral Home with KSU @11:15am. They arrived at the JNC at 11:45am and the urns were carried into the administration building by the Pallbearers for verification by JNC staff. Once this was completed the urns were placed back into the hearse. With the ringing of the Bell Tower promptly @ 1:30pm the riders escorted the hearse to the service location. Family members in attendance were escorted to their seats by MIAP Family Liaison, Sharon Gilley. MIAP volunteer Linda Williams did line formation of the Pallbearers and Flag Carriers and MC, Ray Quinn started the service.

The service included Flag detail by the PGR, Posting and Parading & Posting of Colors by the Military Honor Guard. Invocation was done by Chaplain Romano. The “National Anthem” was sung, speakers spoke, reading of names and bell ringing were done. Volley was done by the Beaches Honor Guard, “Taps” was performed by the Navy Band Southeast Bugler and the Flag folding was completed by Active Duty Military. Flags were presented to 2 families and to Kathy Church who was representing the other families. Chaplain Bill Reno did the benediction. Once the program portion of the service was completed, MIAP volunteer Steve Spickelmier invited all proceeded to Columbarium #12 (MIAP dedicated section) for interments. JNC staff verified each urn before the volunteer Pallbearers handed the urns to the Active Duty Pallbearer from each perspective branch of service. Last honors were given by the Active Duty Pallbearer and each veteran, spouse and infant was placed in their final resting place by the Active Duty Pallbearer.

Chaplain Bill Reno offered a final closing prayer and Kathy Church concluded the service by thanking everyone for attending and participating in the service. Kathy closed the service by stating **“YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN”**. Family members in attendance had a chance to walk up to their loved ones for one last respect.



OUR MISSION

Our mission is to provide college scholarships and educational counseling to military children who have lost a parent in the line of duty.

We are dedicated to serving the families of combat casualties and

military training accidents as well as other duty-related deaths.

We cover all branches of the armed forces.

We cover suicides and illness if VA rules the death was in the line of duty .

The vision of Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation is to ensure that EVERY such child receives ALL necessary college funding.

A college education is the single most important gift we can give these children.

This is an important investment in the future of America.

This is one of the best ways we can honor those who died defending our country

Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation's emotional support is just as important to families as our financial support.

- ☐ Surviving widows and children have had a huge hole torn in their lives
- ☐ They often need a friend and a mentor to share their experiences, hopes and troubles
- ☐ We strive to serve Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation families with the caring their lost loved ones would have wanted for them
- ☐ Our programs staff are surviving children who graduated with the assistance of Fallen Patriots. They are very well placed to relate with the experiences of the families we serve

Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation has best in class management practices.

- ☐ The board generously donates to cover all operating costs allowing all third party donations to go directly toward helping the children
- ☐ Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation is certified by the Better Business Bureau and Independent Charities of America
- ☐ Children of Fallen Patriots is a Gold-level GuideStar Exchange participant, demonstrating our commitment to transparency

Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation was founded to honor the memory of Sergeant Delaney Gibbs.

- ☐ Sergeant Delaney Gibbs, who was killed in 1989 during Operation Just Cause in Panama, five days before Christmas and had a baby daughter due in March
- ☐ Many years later, the Foundation tracked down his daughter and assisted her with college

What makes Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation unique versus other charities?

- ☐ What better way can we honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country than by investing the future of those they loved most in the world?
- ☐ There many ways to support wounded troops and our active military, but very few to support families of those who were killed
- ☐ This urgent need has never been fully served – no one has found all the survivors, but Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation aims to complete that mission
- ☐ Programs are administered by surviving children; and our customer service is unique
- ☐ The board currently covers all operating costs

Financial contributions are greatly appreciated and can go directly to our scholarship funds.

To donate online, [click here](#).

To send a check, please make it out to Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation and mail it to:

**Children of Fallen Patriots Foundation
419 Third Street North
Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250**



Mike Zollar, on left

The St. Augustine Council received an “Outstanding Council” award for 2013. This is quite an honor considering it was one of 14 councils chosen for this award out of 245 councils worldwide.



Thanks and congratulations go to all members who supported our many activities in 2013. A special thanks to the following members for their leadership roles:

- Bill Dudley – membership (brought in 16 new members alone)
- Lee Figliuolo – Golf Tournament, Communications, Membership, Annual Report Preparation
- Boyd Guttery – Membership, Retention, and Succession Planning
- Liaisons who led the way supporting our adopted units – Gary Cohen, Gene Finck, Ian Pollitt, Willard Gale, George Grech, Paul Kimmel, Norm Hale, Kathy Hale, Claude Caviness, Don Manson, Tammy Delaporte, Ron Powell, Frank Hunt, and Jana Teehan
- Bill Hamm – JROTC and Sea Cadet Youth Programs
- LTjg Eric Johnson – Sea Cadet Commander
- Lee Spancake – Youth Programs
- Claude Caviness – Public Affairs, got us published many times in local papers
- Dean Smith, Garry Karsner, Jean Hammer – Finance and Treasury
- Dave Sullivan – Legislative outreach

The St. Augustine Council will continue to need members who are willing to volunteer as leaders or team members to support our many activities. We have immediate openings for the VP Membership Position, VP Military Affairs, and also the position of President starting in 2015. Other areas where members can volunteer to assist are: Membership team to assist in recruiting, community outreach, and event planning; Military Liaison or Assistant Liaison; Youth Program event support; Preparation of Awards for Adopted Unit Sailors, Coasties, and Marines.

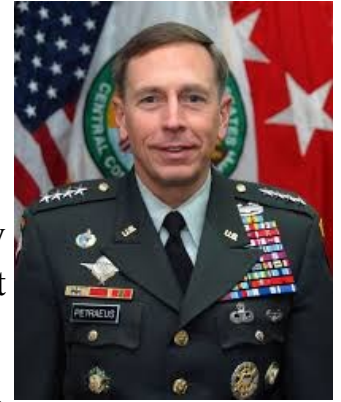
I urge every member to consider how you can help the St. Augustine Council maintain its Outstanding record. Contact Mike Zollar at 904-460-1251 or mikzol8671@att.net if you would like to help.

Bravo Zulu to the St. Augustine Council!

Mike Zollar, President St. Augustine Council, Navy League of the United States

904-460-1251

General Petraeus About Our Military Today



Thanks to my fellow veterans:

I remember the day I found out I got into West Point. My mom actually showed up in the hallway of my high school and waited for me to get out of class.

She was bawling her eyes out and apologizing that she had opened up my admission letter. She wasn't crying because it had been her dream for me to go there. She was crying because she knew how hard I'd worked to get in, how much I wanted to attend, and how much I wanted to be an infantry officer.

I was going to get that opportunity. That same day two of my teachers took me aside and essentially told me the following:

"David, you're a smart guy. You don't have to join the military. You should go to college, instead."

I could easily write a theme defending West Point and the military as I did that day, explaining that USMA is an elite institution, that separate from that it is actually statistically much harder to enlist in the military than it is to get admitted to college, that serving the nation is a challenge that all able-bodied men should at least consider for a host of reasons, but I won't.

What I will say is that when a 16 year-old kid is being told that attending West Point is going to be bad for his future then there is a dangerous disconnect in America, and entirely too many Americans have no idea what kind of burdens our military is bearing.

In World War II, 11.2% of the nation served in four (4) years.

During the Vietnam era, 4.3% served in twelve (12) years.

Since 2001, only 0.45% of our population has served in the Global War on Terror.

These are unbelievable statistics. Over time, fewer and fewer people have shouldered more and more of the burden and it is only getting worse.

Our troops were sent to war in Iraq by a Congress consisting of 10% veterans with only one person having a child in the military. Taxes did not increase to pay for the war. War bonds were not sold. Gas was not regulated. In fact, the average citizen was asked to sacrifice nothing, and has sacrificed nothing unless they have chosen to out of the goodness of their hearts.

The only people who have sacrificed are the veterans and their families. The volunteers. The people who swore an oath to defend this nation. You stand there, deployment after deployment and fight on.

You've lost relationships, spent years of your lives in extreme conditions, years apart from kids you'll never get back, and beaten your body in a way that even professional athletes don't understand.

Then you come home to a nation that doesn't understand. They don't understand suffering. They don't understand sacrifice.

They don't understand why we fight for them. They don't understand that bad people exist. They look at you like you're a machine - like something is wrong with you. You are the misguided one - not them.

When you get out, you sit in the college classrooms with political science teachers that discount your opinions on Iraq and Afghanistan because YOU WERE THERE and can't understand the macro issues they gathered from books, because of your bias.

You watch TV shows where every vet has PTSD and the violent strain at that.

Your Congress is debating your benefits, your retirement, and your pay, while they ask you to do more. But the amazing thing about you is that you all know this. You know your country will never pay back what you've given up. You know that the populace at large will never truly understand or appreciate what you have done for them.

Hell, you know that in some circles, you will be thought as less than normal for having worn the uniform. But you do it anyway.

You do what the greatest men and women of this country have done since 1775.

YOU SERVED. Just that decision alone makes you part of an elite group.

"Never in the field of human conflict has so much been owed by so many to so few." -Winston Churchill- Thank you to the 11.2% and 4.3% who have served and thanks to the 0.45% who continue to serve our Nation.

General David Petraeus,

West Point Class 1974

"Some people spend an entire lifetime wondering if they made a difference in the world. But the U.S. ARMED FORCES don't have that problem." R. Reagan

Nearly 60 years later children learn of father's WWII service, gallantry

By [Clifford Davis](#), this article is used with permission of its author Clifford Davis and the Florida Times Union

Alexander “Sandy” Rulkiewicz Jr. followed in his father’s footsteps, even though he never knew him.



Clifford Davis/The Florida Times-Union: Staff Sgt. Alexander

Rulkiewicz was an infantryman in World War II. He fought in the Battle of the Bulge and other campaigns throughout North Africa, the Middle East and Europe.

He joined the Army and served with the 1st Special Forces Group in Vietnam.

Rulkiewicz Sr., an Army infantryman in World War II, died shortly after the war in a car crash.

“He was just a small child when Daddy died,” his sister Barbra Kirkman said.

In fact family members didn’t know much at all about what their father did in the war. Like many who have searched for the service records of World War II veterans, the Department of Defense told them their father’s records were destroyed in the 1973 fire at the National Archives in St. Louis.

“I tried two times with ...” she paused, “someone else who was in Congress, but they stopped when it came to the fire and said I couldn’t get anything.

“I started thinking I was never going to find out.”

That’s when Kirkman contacted U.S. Rep. Ted Yoho’s office.

Yoho set his team on the case, headed by his constituent advocate Dorothy Richardson.

Richardson stood in front of a long table Monday with Rulkiewicz’s service record and a few other items: a Bronze Star, Purple Heart, European-African-Middle Eastern service medal with three bronze service stars and an American flag that was flown over Capitol Hill, among others.

“We found out that not only was Mr. Rulkiewicz a veteran of World War II, he was a highly decorated veteran of World War II,” said Greg Rawson, another member of Yoho’s staff.

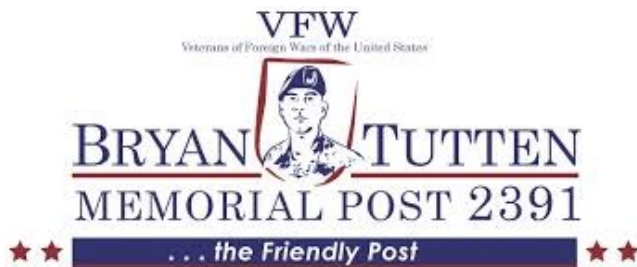
Kirkman and Rulkiewicz were both visibly emotional as they looked over their father’s things.

“I’m just glad that my children and grandchildren will finally know something of my dad,” Kirkman said. “Now he can be the hero to them that he always was to me.”

Clifford Davis: (904) 359-4103



Robin Cole holds the picture of her grandfather, Alexander Rulkiewicz, an infantryman in World War II



Congratulations to the Officers of VFW, Bryan Tuten Memorial Post 2391

POST 2391 ELECTION RESULTS 2014 - 2015

Commander:..... Vernon Stroman, Jr.

Senior Vice-Commander:..... Ron Seery

Junior Vice-Commander Marvin Apte

Quartermaster:..... Nancy Wray

Chaplain: Vernon Stroman, Sr.

3-Yr Trustee:..... Jimmy Barker

Appointed Surgeon: Ron Granger

Appointed Judge Advocate: Jim Sisk

House Committee - Elected: Bob Dinkins, Charlie Wade, Ron Seery,
..... Marvin Apte

House Committee – Appointed: Ron Shirley, Ron Granger, Bob Fulayter

House Committee – By Position: Vernon Stroman, Jr. - Commander,
..... Nancy Wray – Quartermaster

The Locals' Guide to Saint Augustine will promote any veteran related events, fundraisers or programs at no charge. We can also make a page on our website for any group that meets regularly and does not have a website of their own. I can also create a page that lists all Veteran services, groups and websites if you send me the information in a word doc.

Tracey Burke

The Locals' Guide to Saint Augustine

"Know What the Locals Know"

904-321-9497

info@localsguidesa.com

www.localsguidesa.com



Greater Jacksonville Area USO

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SUPPORTING OUR LOCAL TROOPS AND FAMILIES?

DID YOU KNOW THAT GREATER JAX AREA USO IS AN "INDEPENDENT CHARTERED USO AFFILIATE ORGANIZATION, OPERATING THIRTY LOCAL USO CENTERS SERVING OVER 250,000 MILITARY PERSONNEL AND THEIR FAMILIES. GREATER JAX AREA USO RELIES TOTALLY UPON DONATIONS AND VOLUNTEERS FROM THE LOCAL COMMUNITY AND BUSINESSES FOR SUPPORT AND DOES NOT SOLICIT FOR DONATIONS VIA LOCAL NEWSPAPER, NEWS OR J.C. MAIL. DONATIONS COLLECTED IN THAT MANNER DO NOT COME BACK TO JACKSONVILLE TO HELP US SUPPORT OUR CENTERS OR PROGRAMS. PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO VISIT WWW.JAXUSO.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION.

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Vietnam and All Veterans of Brevard Presents:

Florida's 27th Annual Vietnam and All Veterans Reunion

The Nations Largest Veterans Reunion
Supported by the Vietnam and All Veterans of Florida, Inc. - VVOF.org

May 1, 2, 3, 4, 2014

Additionally, come visit The Vietnam Traveling Memorial WALL April 27 - 4, 2014

LIVE MUSIC
FOOD & DRINKS
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MILITARY DISPLAYS
POW / MIA
CEREMONIES
THE LAST PATROL
THE MOVING
TRIBUTE



Also visit the Reunion Web Page at:
floridaveteransreunion.com

Meet Your Vet Brothers & Sisters
All Veterans, Families and Public Invited

Wickham Park
321-255-4307 - Melbourne, FL
Take I-95 to Exit 191 or old Exit 73
No Coolers, Glass or Pets allowed
in the Reunion Area

Per Wickham Park: Golf Carts Permitted
for the Handicapped Only And Must
Abide By FL Highway Laws

Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall
<http://travelingwall.us>

**Vietnam and All Veterans of
Brevard, Inc**
PO Box 237225
Cocoa, FL 32923-7225



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321-652-4185
Vendor call 321-652-4185
Fax (321) 690-0106
Vet.reunion.vendor@gmail.com
Daydrmr333@aol.com
vets2gether@cfl.rr.com
roosterusso@cfl.rr.com



"Thanks for Serving Our Country"

Dear Supporter of Our Troops:

A wonderful event is on the horizon which will provide you and/or your company an opportunity to showcase its efforts to SUPPORT OUR TROOPS here on the Space Coast. **AVET Project has a front row spot at the Vietnam and ALL Veterans Reunion May 1-4 (4 DAYS) at Wickham Park.**

I personally want to invite your participation through a corporate or personal sponsorship of this important event. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit assisting past & present military members and their families, AVET Project offers you an "Appreciation Statement" for your tax deductible donation of goods/money/services which will go towards providing a memorable "Thanks for Serving Our Country" welcome for these warriors and their families. We need everything from food, paper products, beverages, gift cards and drawing items.

I ask you to please consider supporting this event and welcome the opportunity to discuss it further with you as soon as possible so we can firm up all the logistics necessary to pull this off successfully! AVET Project's AM radio outreach – AMERICAN WARRIOR RADIO – plans a special broadcast to honor those individuals and companies who lend their support to this "Thanks for Serving Our Country" celebration... please consider becoming a part of our team to honor our warriors and their families for the sacrifices they've made to keep our country free and safe!

Get your Company banner at AVET Project Booth that will be displayed May 1-4 for all to see. Approx. 7k guests last year.

\$2500	\$1000	\$500	\$100
Your 8ft banner displayed	Your 4ft banner displayed	Your 3ft banner displayed	
1-8ft table space	1-4ft table space	Business card on table	Business cards on table
10 – 30sec radio spot	5-30sec radio spot	Mentioned on AWR	Mentioned on AWR
8" x 1' logo on Truck	5x5" logo on truck	3"x3" logo on Truck	

Please contact: kim@avetproject.org

AVET Project Inc.
P O BOX 254555
PATRICK AFB, FL 32925
www.avetproject.org
321-373-7046
EIN #26-4052103

AVET Project Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. AVET Project Inc. is not a charity. AVET Project Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. AVET Project Inc. is not a charity.



Why did you join the Florida National Guard? Our reasons are as varied as our Soldiers and Airmen themselves. For some, it was for educational opportunities. For others, it was the desire to go and see places they never would have, and some may have chosen to join the FLNG for a job or because they were patriotic. Each of



you had a personal and unique circumstance that drew you to the Florida National Guard, but have you considered what has influenced you to remain a Soldier or Airman?

I've been in the Florida National Guard for almost 44 years, and for me, it all started when I was a kid wanting to be a pilot. I joined the Florida Air National Guard because they were in my hometown, right in my backyard, and because I had the opportunity to fly, which is what I always wanted to do. The chance to become a fighter pilot was what got me in the door, but as is the case with many of you, my "why" changed, almost imperceptibly, over the years.

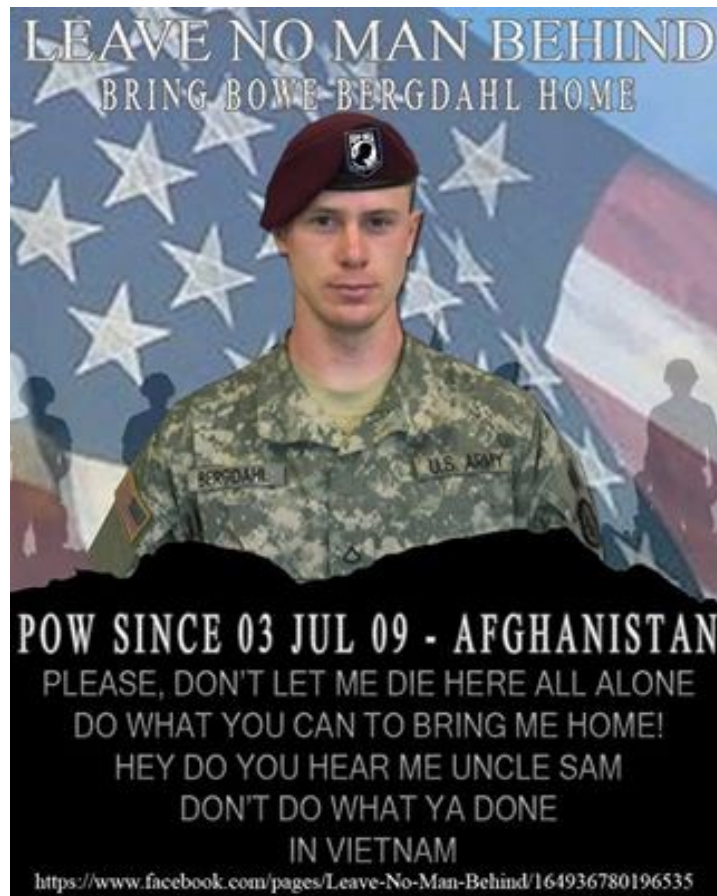
For me, I was always a team kind of person. Whether it was team sports or Boy Scouts, I gravitated to those organizations where I could belong to a group of people who shared common goals and values. That sense of camaraderie and "family" togetherness that I found in the FANG is what hooked me.

I've continued to serve for a number of reasons. I'm proud to wear the uniform that represents generations of fathers, mothers, sons and daughters that have answered the call for our state and nation. I'm proud of the dedication and professionalism I see every day in the eyes of our Soldiers and Airmen and their families that steadfastly support them. And I'm proud to be an American – and to know that I am a member of a team that is committed to preserving the freedom and liberties for which Americans have fought for nearly 250 years.

I submit that many of you continue serve because you truly believe in what you do and are proud of your contribution in completing the mission. Regardless of your motivations, the citizens of our state and nation are grateful for your service.

The next few years will be challenging for sure, but I am confident the collective strength of our "why" will enable us to adapt and remain the best air and space force in the world. Thank you for what you do to make us always ready... always there.

Maj. Gen. Titshaw



WASHINGTON - The White House says President Barack Obama will award the Medal of Honor to a former Army sergeant for courageous actions in Afghanistan.

Kyle J. White will be the seventh living recipient to be awarded the Medal of Honor for service in Iraq and Afghanistan.



White currently lives in Charlotte, N.C. and will receive the honor at the White House on May 13.

White spent more than a year on a combat tour in Afghanistan. He's being honored for his actions as a platoon radio telephone operator during a Nov. 9, 2007 combat operation in northeastern Afghanistan's Nuristan Province. The White House did not provide specific details about White's actions.

The Medal of Honor is awarded to service members who distinguish themselves above and beyond the call of duty.

Tampa-based military dog retires with honors

Reprinted from the Army Times

TAMPA, FLA. — Staff Sgt. Shannon Hutto thought his bomb sniffing dog Eddie was just being lazy when he wouldn't move from a certain spot one hot day in Afghanistan in 2012.



Security Forces Squadron flight chief Matthew Weaver salutes Staff Sgt. Shannon Hutto, a military working dog trainer and Eddie, a Belgian Malinois during a ceremony at MacDill Airforce Base in Tampa, Fla.,

But Hutto then saw what Eddie smelled: a homemade bomb, partially buried in the dirt. It was six inches from Hutto's foot.

"It was a high stress moment," Hutto said.

A short time later, Eddie sniffed out another improvised explosive placed on a bridge the patrol unit was about to cross.

Eddie saved Hutto's life, the lives of a dozen patrol members and countless people in the village.

For his service, Eddie retired Friday with full military honors. The ceremony was held at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, and a

few dozen soldiers turned out to cheer Eddie on.

The Belgian Malinois dog was assigned to MacDill's 6th Security Forces Squadron and has served for about five years. He's also helped sweep government buildings and helped the Secret Service by checking presidential and vice presidential visit venues.

In retirement, he will be reunited with his first handler, Andrew Grymes.

Hutto said he will be forever grateful to Eddie for saving his life.

During the brief retirement ceremony, Eddie wasn't quite sure what to make of all the people clapping, talking and saluting. He appeared nonplussed when someone formally handed Hutto a plaque.

But when Carol White, a private Air Force contractor, gave him a special cake made out of peanut butter and bananas, he dove right in.

As a working dog, Eddie wasn't allowed such luxuries. Now he's free to enjoy the pleasures of retirement.

"He can go and be a pet," said Hutto. "100 percent, sitting on the couch, playing with toys, sleeping in the bed."

Inspirational POW-US flag story is true

Reprinted from a local newspaper article, “Fact Check”

A story attributed to John McCain relates how a fellow Vietnam War POW was able to make an American flag for his shirt, to which the POWs said the Pledge of Allegiance each day.



Mike Christian

The facts: This inspirational story of Mike Christian of Selma, Ala. Who enlisted in the Navy at 17 and became a naval flight officer, was told by McCain, who also was shot down and captured in 1967.

The Vietnamese allowed some prisoners to get packages from home; Christian received various articles of clothing. He procured a bamboo needle and, over the course of a few months, created an American flag, which he sewed on the inside of his short. Every day, the POWs would hang the shirt on the cell wall and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

One day, the Vietnamese searched the cell, found the shirt and took it away. That evening, they returned and severely beat Christian for a couple of hours. The other POWs cleaned him up as best they could.

“After the excitement died down, I looked in the corner of the room, and sitting there beneath that dim light bulb with a piece of red cloth, another shirt and his bamboo needle, was my friend, Mike Christian. He was sitting therewith his eyes almost shut from the beating he had received, making another American flag.”

“He was making that flag because he knew how important it was to us to be able to pledge allegiance to our flag and country.”

John McCain, who was a POW with Christian, told the story several times on the campaign trail in 1999-2000 and in a speech before the 1988 Republican National Convention, according to Snopes.com, TruthOrFiction.com and ted Emory, urban legend researcher for the information website About.com.



John McCain

All the fact-finders rate it as true.

VETERAN HOSPITAL FLAGS

I WANT THE FLAGS IN ALL HOSPITALS NATION-
WIDE



It is my goal, to put the Flag of the Veteran's Branch of Service, on their hospital door, to indicate that a **United States Military Veteran** is in that particular hospital room.

Talk to the hospital in your area about putting Veteran Flags on their hospital doors.

NOW

Join the Crusade !!

NOW



A. J. Sartin - Veterans Island, FL

Vietnam Veteran

Please - make sure the Veteran is RECOGNIZED...

Put a Service Flag on their door !

www.VeteranHospitalFlags.com

"Welcome Home" is a new series being produced by Sleeping Dog Productions, Inc. It tells the story of Viet Nam Veterans, from all branches of the service. It is scheduled for release in 2015, the 40th anniversary year of the end of the War. It is a thank you -- and a welcome home that is long, long, overdue.

Welcome Home Trailer

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K-CTKFzWjjw&sns=em>

For updates on the series visit their website,:

www.sleepingdogtv.com; info@sleepingdogtv.com



For several years, D.A.V. Fl 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



Program provides veterans' certified service dogs unlimited veterinary care

A grant allows Trupanion to cover 100 percent of veterinary bills.



The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), in conjunction with Trupanion, launched the U.S. Veteran Service Dog Program on Jan. 27, 2014. The program will allow U.S. veterans with certified service dogs unlimited access to veterinary care. The program enables Trupanion to pay 100 percent of veterans' veterinary bills for certified service dogs.

The VA hopes the program will ease the financial stress veterans experience providing veterinary care for their animals. Trupanion says it's a "win-win-win" opportunity for dogs, veterans and veterinarians.

A spokesman for Trupanion says execution of the program will be simple: "All veterinarians have to do is send us the bill." Veterinarians can opt to be paid up front as well.

"Whether it's a regular veterinary practice or an emergency hospital in the middle of the night--they can call us at any time," the spokesperson says. "They then just need to e-mail or fax the bill to us and we can pay them directly through Vet Direct Pay, a system that allows them to receive direct payment. They can also request reimbursement. ... In that case they send us the bill and let us know how and when they want to be paid. We can even pay them over the phone if they wish as soon as the treatment is over and before the veteran walks out of the building."

The VA will provide a list of the certified service dogs eligible for the program to Trupanion. Each dog will have a tag with a policy number created by Trupanion. "All [veterans] have to do is show that to their veterinarian and the veterinarian can rest assured Trupanion will pay the bill," Trupanion's spokesperson says.

Trupanion has a two-year contract with the VA for the U.S. Veteran Service Dog Program. For more information, call Trupanion at (855) 482-0163.





Florida Fallen Heroes Banquet

May 3, 2014

5:00 – 9:00 PM

Jacksonville Fire Fighters Hall
618 Stockton St., Jacksonville, FL

Price: \$20.00 Single

\$30.00 Couple

\$150.00 Table

Guest Speakers: Rae Pike, Director Florida Military
Family and Community Covenant

&

Cathy Heigher of Homes for Heroes

Music Performed By: Frank Temple & Rod Salvador

Our Mission

The purpose and mission of this foundation is to create, establish, and help maintain the Fallen Soldier Monument at each hometown high school of a Florida graduate who have lost their lives defending the United States of America in our war against terrorism.

The Timothy J. Seamans Memorial Foundation, (Doing Business as Florida Fallen Heroes) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit exempt organization, registered (# CH34311) with the Florida Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Contributions are deductible from federal income as charitable donations under Section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code. Bequests, devises, transfers and gifts made in accordance with section 2066, 2108 or 2522 of the Internal Revenue Code are also tax deductible.

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Contact:

Dave Seamans

904-535-0747

seascoutda@comcast.net

Make Check or Money Order

Payable to:

Florida Fallen Heroes

P.O. BOX 11293

Jacksonville, FL 32239-1293



**FLORIDA FALLEN
HEROES**.ORG

The Timothy J. Seamans Memorial Foundation



PRESENTS THE FALLEN HEROES GOLF CLASSIC

Friday May 9th, 2014 8:30am T-Off

Eagle Landing Golf and Country Club

at OakLeaf Plantation

3989 Eagle Landing Pkwy, Orange Park, FL 32065

Please help support this great organization that is determined not to forget those that have given the ultimate sacrifice for our Freedom.

~ **Individual Golfer** (\$75.00)
(\$65.00 Military)

*Includes golf, lunch & prizes

~ **Hole Sponsor** (\$100.00)

*Includes a sign

~ **Tournament Sponsor** (\$500.00)

*Includes Banner and name on the monument

If you would like to donate monies and are unable to play please visit Compass Bank/Florida Fallen Heroes.

Schedule of Events

7:30 am Check-in opens

8:15 am All players must be checked in

8:30 am T-Off

1:00 pm Lunch /prizes

Contact Information

Company: _____

Address: _____

Golfer 1: _____

email: _____ phone# _____

Golfer 2: _____

email: _____ phone# _____

Golfer 3: _____

email: _____ phone# _____

Golfer 4: _____

email: _____ phone# _____

To register please send this form either by email: FLFallenGolf2@yahoo.com or fax to (904)328-3751. Provide the name, email and phone number of each player.

Please make checks payable to:

Florida Fallen Heroes

P.O. BOX 11293

Jacksonville, FL 32239-1293

For Information please contact:

www.floridafallenheroes.org

Dave Seamans 904-535-0747

send registration form to email: FLFallenGolf2@yahoo.com or fax 904-328-3751

The Timothy J. Seamans Memorial Foundation is based in the beautiful city of Jacksonville, Florida and was founded by the family of Jacksonville fallen soldier, Timothy J. Seamans, in August 2005. The purpose and mission of this foundation is to create, establish, and help maintain the Fallen Soldier Monument at each hometown high school of a Florida graduate who has lost their lives defending the United States of America in our war against terrorism. The Timothy J. Seamans Memorial Foundation, (Doing Business as Florida Fallen Heroes) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit exempt organization, registered (#CH34311) with the Florida Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Contributions are deductible from federal income as charitable donations under Section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code. Bequests, devises, transfers and gifts made in accordance with section 2055, 2106 or 2522 of the Internal Revenue Code are also tax deductible.

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Veterans and Friends of Veterans,

More than 40 years ago, hundreds of thousands of Vietnam Veterans returned home to a country they could no longer recognize. They were the first veterans of the United States of America to come home without a hero's welcome.

Over 58,000 young Americans gave their lives in that war. Many more came home with physical and mental health issues. Many of them continue to suffer as a result of their service.

The Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1046 wants to honor all veterans of the Vietnam War. We have committed to build a Vietnam Veterans Memorial Monument at Jacksonville National Cemetery.

The cost of erecting the monument will be \$40,000.

I am writing to ask for your assistance. We, the citizens of Northeast Florida, need to make this happen. It is not only a way of saying "thank you" to those who served and sacrificed, but a way to permanently remember all those that served in the Vietnam War with this monument at the Jacksonville National Cemetery.

It is our way of telling the families of those veterans that have passed, that we remember and that "We will never forget."

Please help us remember all Vietnam War Veterans by making a generous donation today to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Monument fund. Please fill out the flap on the attached brochure and enclose it with your donation.

Mail your checks to: Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1046, P.O. Box 331322, Atlantic Beach, FL 32233-1322

You can also make your donation online by going to our website at www.vva1046.com/monument. All donations are tax deductible. We appreciate support. We would also be grateful you would take the time to forward this to email, with your endorsement and recommendation, to your email list. Thank you for your support, God Bless America.

Semper Fi, Anthony(Tony)D'Aleo

Nicholas J Cutinha Chapter 1046, President

Vietnam Veterans of America

In Service of America

www.VVA1046.com





Event Information

- ♦ **DATE: May 5, 2014**
- ♦ **SIGN IN: 9:30 am**
- ♦ **TIME : 10 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**
- ♦ **LOCATION :**
UNF Herbert University Center
12000 Alumni Drive
Jacksonville, FL 32224-2678
- ♦ **REGISTRATION:**
<http://www.unf.edu/military-veterans>
(click on Upcoming Events)
or call MVRC at 620-5131
- * Registration end date is April 28th
- ♦ **FREE LUNCH & PARKING**



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Entrepreneurship Training for Veterans

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UNF Military & Veterans Resource Center

1 UNF Drive, Bldg 57, suite 2700
(904) 620-5131 mvrco@unf.edu

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



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

www.VeteransCouncilOfStJohns.org or
www.StJohnsVetsCouncil.org

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

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

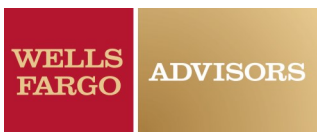
The Military Museum of North Florida is a non profit organization dedicated the honoring those men and women that have served their country in the armed forces via artifacts, displays and military memorabilia. Admission is free but donations are welcome.



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

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

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



Christopher Thompson, CFP®, CRPC®

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Colonel, US Army (Retired)
Attorney and Civil Mediator

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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



FL National Guard Morning Muster

<http://www.fl.ng.mil/morning-muster>

**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
Wednesday of the month at 7 pm at the Elks Lodge,
1420 A1A So., St. Augustine.**

Visit our Website: 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.*

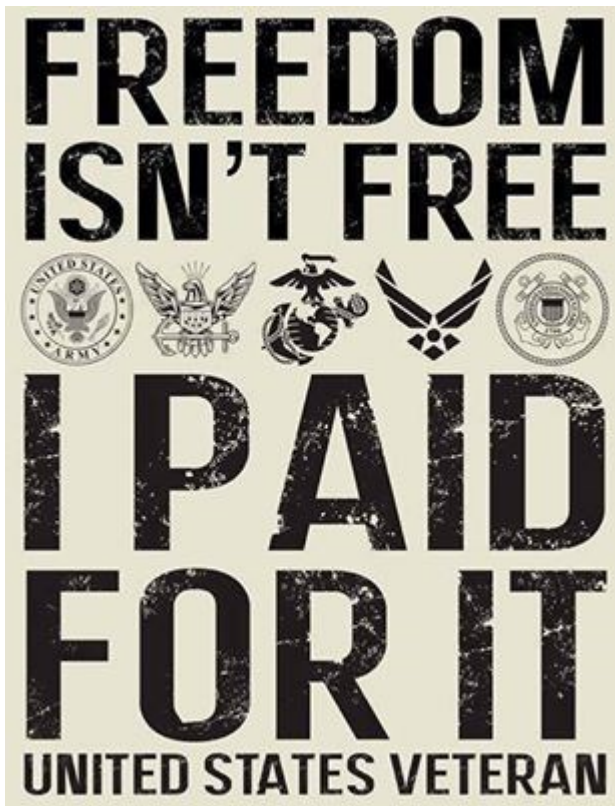
*Service is by appointment.
Phone: 904-209-6160 Fax: 904-209-6161
Joseph McDermott, CVSO
Rick Rees, Assistant VSO
Tammy Shirley, Assistant VSO*

The locally produced *Vietnam documentary, Service, Sacrifice and Courage* has received **156,607** views to date on YouTube.

You can view part of it at:

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

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



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

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

This is your Newsletter, please contribute.

The views expressed in The Patriot Reader Newsletter articles, submissions and spotlights are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Veterans Council of St. Johns County or the editors of The Patriot Reader. It is the purpose of this periodical to share a variety of information that pertain to local veterans and their organizations.