

# The Patriot Reader

## VETERANS COUNCIL OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY

**CHAIRMAN BILL DUDLEY**

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**SECRETARY MICHAEL ROTHFELD**

**TREASURER JOHN MOUNTCASTLE**

Newsletter Editor Michael Rothfeld

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### Message from the Chairman



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Fellow Veterans,

I trust everyone had a very Merry Christmas and were able to spend time with your family and friends. It's a time of year to not only share with our family but to remember those who are serving in uniform in faraway places like Afghanistan, Iraq, Djibouti, as well as underway by many of our deployed sailors. It has not been an easy year for our military as we see our forces being drawn down in one war zone and redeployed in another. Here at home it becomes even more paramount for us to continue our support for our returning Veterans. Please continue to serve in any way you can in support of our Veterans as they return home, many suffering from PTSD, TBI, and other malady's from time served in their Global War on Terrorism.

Our Wreaths Across America program on December 13 at St. Augustine National Cemetery was an overwhelming success. We had a large turnout by our community to assist with placing a wreath at all of the headstones in the cemetery. Our volunteers were again on hand this year to

assure our commitment to place a wreath on every headstone was kept. Our co-chairmen, Ray Quinn and Judy Davis did an outstanding job with this year's program and finished up with a large reserve of wreaths sold giving us a good start on our 2015 program. We thank everyone who volunteered to help and especially want to thank Col. Rob Keating, FLNG our guest speaker, Major Jeff Peppers, FLNG for the invocation and benediction, and CDR. John Donlin, SJSO who performed taps as well as the VFW Brian Tutten Post 2391 Honor Guard for performing a Firing Detail.

As we end 2014, we are shuttering the year with still no word from our VA as to the future of our local CBOC. We are well past the point where any decision by the VA will certainly have an adverse effect on our Veteran's health care service. I'm sure many of you have been receiving letters and updates from Secretary McDonald as I have about all the improvements in the VA system that are being made to better serve our Veterans. No doubt this is true...but

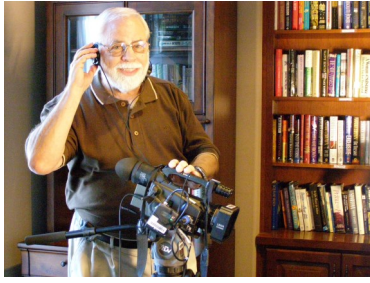
this in no way gives us any reassurance here in St. Johns County about the future of our Veterans Community Based Outpatient Clinic. The VA administration in Gainesville and Washington continue to stonewall us and refuse to even discuss the future of our local facility. I find the arrogance of these highly paid administrators appalling and contemptible. In this regard, I don't see much change in the way the VA has done business in the past and the ineptness of the management is still as prevalent as before.

We can only hope that our fear of an interruption or abatement of our Veterans health care services in St. Johns County will not become a reality.

I would like to wish all our Veterans a Happy and Peaceful New Year.

Bill Dudley,  
Chairman  
Veterans Council of  
St. Johns County





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By [JAKE MARTIN](#) [jake.martin@staugustine.com](mailto:jake.martin@staugustine.com)

Michael Rothfeld could have spent his retirement the way many others do.

In 2000, the former New York City high school teacher retired with his wife, Carol, to the St. Augustine area.

Rothfeld taught in special education for 35 years and got his master's degree in American history. He also had a strong appreciation for those who served when he didn't have to.

In 2006, he discovered that 34 of his Elkton neighbors in Coquina Crossing were World War II veterans.

"I heard their stories and I wanted to preserve those stories somehow," he said.

One jumped out of a plane on D-Day. Another was among the last U.S. soldiers to successfully cross the Ludendorff Bridge at Remagen, Germany. Another, at Tinian Island, had seen an atomic bomb being loaded onto a B-29 before knowing what it was.

"Everything clicked," Rothfeld said. "I knew what they were talking about and that once these men passed, which most of them have, those stories would be gone."

Thus, his documentary career began. But it wouldn't be easy.

### **Rallying the troops**

He started by calling colleges, museums and documentary film companies, but no one was interested. Then he called Michael Boylan, CEO of WJCT Public Broadcasting.

Boylan knew Ken Burns' "The War," a mini-series, was on the horizon. He decided to come to Rothfeld's community for two days to get 30- and 60-second promotional videos.

Afterward, Rothfeld asked him for the unedited video. There were about 22 hours worth of interviews, but he wasn't sure what to do next.

He eventually ran into William Proctor, chancellor of Flagler College, who expressed interest in the project.

Professor H. James Gilmore, then with Flagler, devoted one of his classes to putting together a documentary on the veterans. Rothfeld said it is now housed in the Library of Congress and several museums across the country.

Rothfeld has since produced several documentaries featuring local veterans and their stories. He also joined forces with Bill Dudley, chairman of the Veterans Council of St. Johns County.

The resulting films have highlighted those who served in World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

Their latest work, "Unleashing the Underdogs: The K9s for Warriors Story," follows local veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan who suffer from post-traumatic stress or injury. The veterans share stories of how rescued and trained K9s have helped them adapt to life after war.

Rothfeld and Dudley co-produced the film with Nadia Ramoutar, an instructor at the Art Institute of Jacksonville. Ramoutar also directed the film.

The City of Jacksonville chose the film to be featured in its “Week of Valor” events. The University of North Florida also hosted the documentary’s premier and a panel discussion.

Additionally, they have entered the documentary into the St. Augustine Film Festival, Jan. 23-25.

### **A special breed**

Shari Duval, of Ponte Vedra Beach, founded K9s for Warriors after her son returned from two tours in Iraq with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. He had served as a bomb dog handler for the Army.

The program pairs rescued service dogs with veterans suffering from PTSD and other combat-related injuries in an effort to help both the veterans and dogs heal.

About 95 percent of the dogs used in the K9s for Warriors program come from rescues, shelters or owner surrender.

“It’s helping the dogs and the veterans,” Rothfeld said. “It’s an incredible concept and it works. And I’m not sure anyone knows why.”

Dudley said while there may be a lack of scientific explanation for why it works, all he’s had to do is ask veterans about the effect it’s had.

“They may be in Afghanistan on a forward combat mission this week and in two weeks they may be back in the states and being discharged from the Army,” he said. “Just like that, they’re going from a kill-mentality to being thrown back into a civilian community and they can’t cope.”

For many veterans, having a dog to care for reintroduces some much-needed structure in their lives.

“One of the things that we’re finding is that these guys go over, they train as a unit and they go into combat as a unit, Dudley said. “Their whole focus is watching out for the guy to the left and the right of them.”

For this reason, perhaps, veterans also play a significant role in the training of their future companion. Each academy lasts three weeks, giving them a chance to rebuild their independence and develop a sense of responsibility toward the dog.

“These dogs have a calming effect on these veterans and they give them something to be responsible for,” he said. “... They can sense when these guys are about to have a meltdown and they act in a way that prevents the veteran from going into that state.”

For more information on K9s for Warriors, go to [k9sforwarriors.org](http://k9sforwarriors.org).



**The K9s for Warriors documentary will premier in the St. Augustine Film Festival and we invite you all to join us. It will take place on Friday evening, Jan. 23rd, 2015, at 5:00 pm, at the Corazon Theater # 3, 35 Granada St. in St. Augustine. General Admission is \$ 10.00, Seniors \$ 8.00. Tickets can be ordered online at:**

**<http://www.fliff.com/Film/1826/Unleashing%20The%20Underdogs%20-%20St%20Augustine>**

# Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home

*Patriotism is our Motto*



December pictures are posted at:

<http://www.veteranscouncilofstjohns.org/Lassen%20newsletter%201.pdf>



Patriot Service Dogs came for a visit again this year



Publix employees came Christmas caroling



Our annual Holiday Bazaar



Vinny applauding all the gifts



Unwrapping Christmas gifts



Our very own Santa!



Clay High School Show Choir



Skip showing off his door decorations



Jimmie telling Santa what he'd like for Christmas



## **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, January 5th, 2015** at 7:00pm. The meeting will take place at Community Hospice, 4266 Sunbeam Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32257 in Conference Room A.

### **Vietnam Veterans Chapter 1046, Jacksonville, Florida has received final approval for JNC Monument**

After a 15 month journey, Vietnam Veteran Chapter 1046 has accomplished an enormous project. The project was to erect a monument at Jacksonville National Cemetery to honor all Vietnam War Veterans. The National Cemetery department in Washington, D.C. has approved our design and we can now proceed with building and dedication.



Over the past year the chapter has raised the money for the project. With the help and support of our friends in the community and across Florida and the country, we are within months of dedication. Our date is now March 28, 2015. This day is significant to Vietnam Veterans as Congress has mandated that date a “Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans” day. This year is also part of the 50<sup>th</sup> Commemorative of the Vietnam War. The 50<sup>th</sup> is to recognize the 13 years of operation in Vietnam.

The monument will be placed to honor the sacrifices of all Veterans of the Vietnam War. It not only honors the returning Veterans but also the more than 58,000 Heroes that gave the ultimate sacrifice. It in turn will honor the pain and torture that our POW's went through after capture by the North Vietnamese Army. Their pain and suffering will never be forgotten. It will remember the 1600 plus that are still missing.

We are honored to dedicate this monument to our fellow Sisters and Brothers and to have our legacy as Vietnam Veterans remembered always.

## **Robert Keating promoted to colonel during St. Augustine ceremony**

**ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla. (Dec. 3, 2014)** – The Financial Manager for the Florida Army National Guard’s United States Property and Fiscal Office (USPFO) was promoted to the rank of colonel today during a ceremony at the historic St. Francis Barracks.



Family members of Col. Robert Keating (center) help affix his colonel rank onto his uniform during a promotion ceremony, Dec. 3, 2014, at the St. Francis Barracks in St. Augustine, Fla. Photo by Master Sgt. Thomas Kielbasa

Surrounded by friends, family and uniformed military, Col. Robert Keating received his silver colonel rank during the promotion ceremony this afternoon.

“He is always ready to step into the gap, at a critical time when we have a critical need,” Adjutant General of Florida Maj. Gen. Emmett Titshaw Jr. said of Keating during the ceremony. “And he does lead from the front. He motivates, he initiates, and he does everything with a smile and a wonderful attitude.”

In addition to his full-time position at the USPFO, Keating serves as the drilling Director of the Human Resources Office.

Keating enlisted in the Florida National Guard in 1983 with the 153rd Finance Section. He graduated from Officer Candidate School and Quartermaster Officer Basic Course in 1988. He served in various positions of increasing responsibility, including as Commander of the 2153rd Finance Detachment and Commander of the 153rd Finance Battalion. He deployed to Kuwait for Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2009 with USARCENT and has served as the Deputy Commander, 50th Area Support Group, Florida National Guard.

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Governor Rick Scott announced the appointment of Howard O. McGillin, Jr. to the Seventh Judicial Circuit Court.**

McGillin 55, of St. Augustine, is the Founder of the Allegiance Law Group. McGillin is a retired U.S. Army Colonel after serving for 24 years. He previously served as the Deputy Staff Judge Advocate for the U.S. Army in Hawaii from 1998-2000. From 1994-1997, McGillin was a professor and Deputy Director of the Academic Department of the U.S. Army Judge Advocate Generals School. McGillin began his legal career in 1989 with the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate. He received his bachelor's degree from the U.S. Military Academy, his law degree from the University of Florida College of Law, and his LLM from The Judge Advocate General's School of Law. McGillin fills a vacancy created by the resignation of Judge Carlos E. Mendoza.



Governor Rick Scott said, "With his military background and legal experience, Howard will make a great addition to the Seventh Judicial Circuit bench. I welcome him to this new position and look forward to his continued service to Florida families."



Happy New Year to all...We are starting off the new year with the first 2015 quarterly gathering on **JANUARY 31st in the VETERANS MEMORIAL ARENA...at 1130 to 1300**. Lunch will be served just like before. Entrances and parking in the same locations and there will be signage to the meeting location.

This is the opportunity to share information among all concerning the events in the new year...get all Vet Organizations on the same page. The city Veterans Services and the Veterans Court will provide updates. Much more to share.

Pass the word to other organizations to send representatives...United we stand, divided we fall. Important that we stand together; when we don't we are left with situations like the VA scandal and more that affect Veterans and their families.

January 31st Veterans Memorial Arena, 1130-1300, buffet lunch at no charge, parking in lot Z, signage will be out to direct to meeting location in the Arena, POC Bob Adelhelm at [ra0302@msn.com](mailto:ra0302@msn.com).

For new organizations; opportunity to share information and events with other organizations and to get information on activities and events other organizations are conducting.

There will be guest speakers sharing information on city wide events, veterans services and veterans court status along with others. These quarterly gatherings are opportunities for veterans and veterans organizations to get together and work together for the good and benefit of all veterans and their families in the NE Florida area.

Hope to see you all there! Bob



## Pausing to remember with “Wreaths Across America”

By Michael Isam

St. Augustine, Fla, (December 13, 2014) – Two things will always happen at any veteran commemoration; when the firing detail expends their rounds the body jumps and when the strains of “Taps” are played by a solitary bugler, tears will flow. Such was the case on Saturday at the St. Augustine National Cemetery as nearly 100 veterans, family and others gathered in remembrance of the service of veterans.

The Veterans Council of St. Johns County took over the fundraising efforts for the event three years ago and vowed that every year; all 1216 graves would receive a wreath.

The walkway in the cemetery was lined with those 1216 neatly placed wreaths for placement on the final resting places. That project in itself was quite a feat which was accomplished by over 30 volunteers who arrived at 8:00 a.m. waiting for the shipment of wreaths to be delivered.

The ceremony itself is always an emotional one. Each branch of service and a POW/MIA wreath was escorted by a member of that branch and anyone who served, or had a family member, in that branch.

“In every placing, there are tears shed for family or friends who did not return, but will never be forgotten,” said co chairman Ray Quinn, a retired Sergeant Major of the Florida Army National Guard. “For some, this ceremony aids to bring a time of closure. That is why we include families in the placing of the wreath.” Some attendees were unable to attend services for a friend or family member,” continued Quinn, “and this is their chance to pay their respects.”

One such person pausing to remember was Louise Rake of St. Augustine. Two brothers-in-law, Clark and Harold are interred in the cemetery. Harold’s wife, Eleanor, is interred with him.

The cemetery is the final resting place for veterans dating back to the Seminole Wars with the 3 pyramids in the southwest corner recognizing the Dade Command. Others include the Spanish American War, WWI, WWII, Korea and the Vietnam War. One grave of interest is the resting place of James H. Malloy, a WWII Navy veteran who served as Director of the National Cemeteries.

“This year was a challenge,” said Judy Davis, an Army retiree who co chaired the fundraising effort with Quinn. “We lost three soloists for the National Anthem in a short period of time,” she continued. “There seems to be a wave of flu wreaking havoc with the community. None of them could talk above a whisper, let alone sing.” “As always, the attendees came through and sang a capella. They were great.”

A short but “to the heart” speech was delivered by keynote speaker Col. Rob Keating of the Florida National Guard. Major Jeff Peppers, Florida Air National Guard Chaplain provided the invocation and benediction.

At the end of the ceremonies, VFW Brian Tutton Post 2391 firing detail provided the final salute followed by “Taps” offered by John Donlin, a retired veteran and retired commander of the St. Johns County Sheriffs Office.

“Wreaths Across America” was started by Merrill Worchester, owner of the Worchester Wreath Company in Harrington, Maine. “The task to get the wreathes to our St. Augustine National Cemetery is not easy,” said Davis. “The wreaths are put together in Maine and delivered by volunteer truckers to over 900 locations around the country.”

“For our cemetery,” continued Davis, “we meet a semi in the back parking lot of the Flying J Truck

Stop where a cadre of volunteers transfer the boxes of wreaths to a moving van provided by Two Men and a Truck. They store the wreaths until the morning of the event when the wreaths are delivered to the cemetery,” she continued. “Another cadre of volunteers, mostly veterans, unload the boxes and place the wreaths on the cemetery walk way for later dispersal.”

“None of this would happen without the private and corporate donations to purchase the wreaths,” said Davis. “We ask for blessings on each and every one who contributed.”

###

I grant permission to the recipients of this story to use the article and accompanying photos for publication provided I receive the accreditation for the story and the photos. Michael T. Isam



The wreaths arrive



The truck stop crew



Attendees



Taps Buglar



The Cemetery Crew

## **K9s help service men/women readjust** from the Record, Contributed

The men and women deployed in active military service post-9/11 have had high rates of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and/or traumatic brain injury (TBI).

Members of the St. Johns County Civic Association Roundtable learned at their December meeting how the nonprofit organization K9s for Warriors gives “a new leash on life” to rescued dogs and military heroes, empowering warriors to return to civilian life with dignity and independence.



Matt Masingill displayed the typical symptoms of PTSD. Masingill served multiple deployments in the Navy. Among his duties was piloting skiff boats for the Navy Seals. He experienced the all-too-common perception of going “from a hero to a zero” on his return to civilian life.

This resulted in Masingill becoming angry and bitter, unable to hold onto a job or do many of the simple tasks of everyday life. As is typical, Masingill was treated with a wide variety of medications for his symptoms — many of them prescribed to treat anxiety and depression. The pills did not alleviate his sense of isolation, and Masingill’s wife insisted that he seek an alternate form of therapy. That was when Dozer came into his life.

K9s for Warriors matched Masingill with Dozer, a Labrador mix. Masingill kept a log of his time with Dozer.

Over a span of a few weeks, Dozer woke Masingill from 248 nightmares and frequently alerted Masingill of oncoming anxiety attacks.

Gradually, he was able to reduce his medications from over 20 a day to just a few — none of them for PTSD symptoms.

With Dozer’s help, Masingill was able to shed his sense of isolation and “hit the reset button,” enabling him to become an intern for K9s for Warriors. He has been a full-time trainer since January, preparing dogs to help other veterans adjust to civilian life.

Shari Duval, president and founder of K9s for Warriors, said this positive outcome is typical of warrior/certified service dog pairings.

The majority of warriors have had the same remarkable reduction in prescribed medications, and the program has had a 100 percent success rate in suicide prevention.

Duval stressed that selecting the dogs — all of which come from shelters or have been rescued — is key: “Not all dogs like to work, and a certified service dog is NOT a companion or therapy dog. These dogs are only used by medically disabled persons and have public access, including V.A. hospitals.” The dogs that qualify are put through a long training program that focuses on specific tasks. Once matched with a warrior, a “battle buddy” trainer accompanies the dog until the warrior and certified service dog are ready to help each other lead their new lives with respect and dignity.

K9s for Warriors’ expanding program is built on the generosity of businesses, corporations and individuals. A new facility in Nocatee is in the works. Major donors for this project are the Summit Contracting Group, the Parc Group, ETM, Group 4 and the Davis Family. Almost as remarkable as its success rate is the organization’s efficiency — audits have shown that 94 cents of every donated dollar goes directly back into the program for training dogs and pairing them with warriors nationwide.

**For information, go to [k9sfwarriors.org](http://k9sfwarriors.org).**

## A Very MOSH Surprise by Carol Rothfeld

For nearly three years we had been looking forward to a visit to *The Museum of Science and History* (MOSH), but somehow hadn't found the time to include it in our schedule of "sights to see". This past summer two of our grandchildren were visiting and we thought that this was an ideal opportunity to instill a little culture into their lives. One Sunday in August, our grandchildren, Michael, my sister Jackie McManus and I headed to Jacksonville. By mid-afternoon we had toured most of the museum; attended a program in the Planetarium and another in the Science Lab about propulsion when we came upon an exhibit titled "*Currents In Time*" ... *Northeast Florida by the Decade* from its earliest known history to the present.

We wandered through rooms, passage ways and corridors. Jackie and I were especially enjoying rooms furnished and accessorized with articles from the 1960's. We reminisced about items that we recognized as once having had. Suddenly we entered an area in which exhibits commemorated what we now know as the Naval Station Mayport (NAS). Right before us, on a wall that seemed to go on forever, was a floor to ceiling photograph of Airman standing at attention near the noses of their WW II aircraft. As I looked across this panorama of heroes one face looked familiar. I walked closer and then backed away. I was excited but didn't want Jackie to see it. I didn't want to plant a suggestion in her mind. I turned away from that huge photo and asked her if anything on the wall looked familiar, she carefully looked at the men in the photo, pointed to one and said, "that's Daddy".



It was the same person that I had recognized as being our father. Michael tried to speak with the Museum curator. However, no one was in the office. Not to be deterred the first thing on Monday morning, Michael called MOSH and was given information regarding whom to call at NAS Jax. Michael spoke to the Base Historian, Ron Williamson, who searched the archives and e-mailed the picture to us, which had been taken in March. He had no further information regarding the names of the airmen but he identified the planes as SNB's, VA-ATU 4's (a training unit Bomber). Dad had enlisted in the Army Air Corp in mid 1942. He had served with the peace time Army before our parents' marriage in 1934. As a result of Dad's prior experience he was assigned as an instructor to an air-base in Florida. Later in the war he served in the CBI campaign, (China, Burma, India) Theatre. I was 5 years old and Jackie was 6 months old when our dad enlisted.



I remember seeing him only once in uniform. I can recall it as clearly as if it had been yesterday. Mom had taken us to grand Central Station, in New York, to see him off. That must have been his last furlough before going overseas. Yet I knew, 60 years later, that the soldier in the picture at MOSH was my father. Michael cropped the picture and sent a print to to my older cousins who would remember our Dad from that time. The response was "yes, it's him". Then looking through our late mother's photo album we found a picture of Dad with an Air Corp buddy in front of an aircraft. On the back of the picture, in our Dad's hand writing, were the words, Burma and B-25. We couldn't ask him about our discoveries as we

lost him in 1958 at the age of 45. So there it was; our family history regarding our Dad's service to our country, stretching out before us as did the photo on that long wall at MOSH with Dad, a B-25 in Burma on a day of seeing the sights in our new home state.

## Thank you, Dad, from a grateful Korea – and a grateful son!

By Colonel Robert C. Keating

I recently had a special opportunity to honor my Dad not only as my father, but as a Veteran of the Korean War – the so-called “Forgotten war”. Naturally, my personal foundation of values and my appreciation for our nation’s freedom and its military Veterans who protected it, were instilled in my brother and sisters and me by our Dad. Never taking credit for himself, Dad often told us to thank the Vets of WWI and WWII that we grew up in a free country, speaking the English language versus another imposed upon us. He also taught me a great appreciation for our military’s enlisted personnel and non-commissioned officers; “Noncoms” as he and the Navy referred to them.

While attending the Association of the United States Army dinner meeting in November 2014, my good friend Sergeant Major (Ret) Ray Quinn, Vice Chair of the Saint Johns County Veterans’ Council, excitedly shared a copy of “Korea – a Nation Reborn”<sup>1</sup>. As passionate as always toward honoring our Veterans, Ray was rightfully touched by the book – written by a grateful South Korean nation wishing to honor the U.S. Veterans who secured its freedom some 60 years earlier. I, too was excited, for a very personal reason. I instantly saw the opportunity to present the book to my father, Chief Petty Officer James Robert Keating, U.S. Navy Korean War Veteran during my upcoming promotion ceremony. What a special way to honor Dad in a moment when mere words would not suffice. Dad served in the Navy 1953 to 1962, on an aircraft carrier during the Korean Conflict, and later, as instructor at Great Lakes Naval Station, Illinois. In 1953 Dad served as Machinist Mate on the *U.S.S. Lake Champlain*, the flagship of Carrier Task Force 77. The carrier's air group launched sorties cratering runways; assaulting enemy troops; attacking trenches, bunkers, gun positions; and giving close air support to hard-pressed ground forces. Her planes also escorted B-29 Super-fortress heavy bombers on their way to enemy targets. *Lake Champlain* continued to strike at the enemy until the truce was signed on 27 July 1953.

So, on 3 December 2014, while speaking on the



*Col. Robert Keating, (Left), presents a copy of “Korea Reborn” to his father, Chief Petty Officer James Keating (Right), while Col. Perry Hagaman (Center), Asst Adj. Gen. – Army joins in applause*

occasion of my promotion to the rank of colonel, I surprised Dad (and my entire family) by presenting him a copy of “Korea – a Nation Reborn”<sup>1</sup>, inscribed by our own Adjutant General for Florida, Major General Emmitt Titshaw. The inscription read, “Presented to Chief Petty Officer James R. Keating, in recognition of your service to our nation, including duty during the Korean Conflict. Both South Korea and the United States of America are free due to selfless service such as yours. Please know that the so-called “forgotten war” is not forgotten”. The audience rose to their feet in applause as I handed the book to Dad, and in a moment I knew we had done a great – a “grateful” thing.

Thank you once again, Dad, Chief Petty Officer James R. Keating, for helping secure freedom for our nation and for South Korea, and for providing me the foundation of a successful military career. May I bring our nation honor as you have!

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<sup>1</sup> To learn more about “Korea Reborn: A Grateful Nation Honors War Veterans for 60 Years of Growth”, visit <http://www.remembermyservice.com/koreapreview.html>

<sup>2</sup> The printing and distribution of the Korea Reborn books was generously paid for by the Republic of Korea to thank Korean War Veterans and their families for their service to their country.



*Chief Petty Officer James R. Keating*

# Group seeks photos for new Vietnam exhibit

## 127 still needed of soldiers from Jacksonville killed in war for 'Wall of Faces'

By [Clifford Davis](#) Fri, Dec 5, 2014 @ 11:46 am | updated Mon, Dec 8, 2014 @ 6:14 am

This article is used with the permission of the FL Times Union and its author, Clifford Davis

Capt. Roger P. Harrell was a helicopter pilot from Jacksonville Beach who was awarded the Silver Star for rescuing dozens of Marines cut off in the mountains of Quang Tin Province and surrounded by Viet Cong forces in 1966.

Five years later, Capt. Rusty Sachs flung Harrell's Silver Star over a fence at the Capitol in Washington to protest the war.

Harrell had no say in the matter.

He died in action on July 29, 1969 — about nine months after his younger brother Stanley.

Capt. Harrell is one of 220 men from Duval County whose names appear on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial along with over 58,000 others in Washington, D.C.

The group behind the D.C. monument, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, is now raising money for a two-story, underground education center at "The Wall." One of the main attractions will be known as the "Wall of Faces," but for that the group needs photos.

"We have less than 20,000 photos to go," said Tim Tetz of the VVMF. "We're approaching 39,000 photos in hand."

Duval County is still missing 127 photos of the 220 killed in Vietnam.

"We've had a lot of success because of the local volunteers who've said they want to take ownership of finding the photos from their high school or their units."

One of those volunteers, David Hine of Greenfield, Ind., reached out to the Times-Union after looking for photos from his brother-in-law's unit, the 1st Battalion, 83rd Artillery Regiment.

"I just picked a name, Fred Paddleford, who was from Jacksonville," Hine said. "When I plugged his name into research, I found your memorial wall that is absolutely gorgeous. 'I thought, well, I'll just contact you guys down there and see if you'd be interested in doing an article.'"

Paddleford was a 19-year-old medic and Forrest High School graduate who was killed on May 18, 1969.

Paddleford's brother left a message on his brother's page on the organization's website, VVMF.org.

"I think about you almost everyday, especially when I watch my son," his brother wrote. "He has many of your wonderful qualities and looks like daddy but has your eyes."

"I love you and miss you but I know you did what you knew in your heart was the right thing to do."

Paddleford's battalion surgeon, Joseph D. Babb, also posted.

"Fred was the medic in C Battery of 1/83 Artillery stationed at FireBase Bastogne when he received a fatal wound from shrapnel while tending to other wounded soldiers," Babb wrote. "As his battalion surgeon, I had gotten to know Fred well and had deep respect for him and his dedication to his job and his comrades.

"We lost a wonderful person, someone with a bright future."

"The Wall" in the nation's capital is a powerful and imposing monument that draws more than 4 million visitors each year. It offers a sense of the magnitude and breadth of loss the nation experienced during its involvement in Southeast Asia.

Yet names inscribed on a wall can't show the eyes Paddleford's brother sees in his son. The "Wall of Faces" exhibit will be a two-story screen that will show the photo of each casualty whose birthday falls on the day of the visit. Family members and friends will also be able to interactively search for a particular member's page.

Along with the Wall of Faces, another attraction at the education center will be a display of many of the artifacts left at the wall since construction began in 1982.

"The story goes that while we were putting in the foundations for the base of the wall, a gentleman came by and deposited his brother's Purple Heart," Tetz said. "That was the first thing left behind."

Since then, the U.S. Park Service has kept a warehouse of over 400,000 objects left behind.

"The world's largest museum display case will house some of the 400,000 items that have been left at the wall," Tetz said. "So you'll see things like POW/MIA bracelets, the wedding gowns, the baseball gloves, the letters and all the various memorabilia.

"It will be the first time the artifacts have been displayed on a large scale."

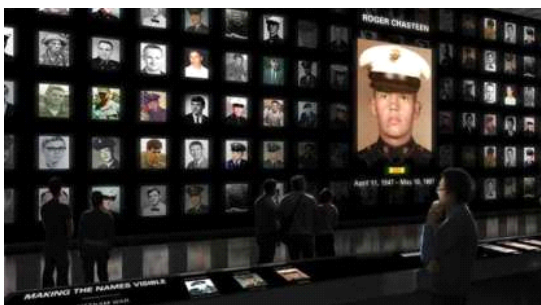
One of Congress' mandates for the structure was that it could not interfere with view of the National Mall, so the entire 30,000-square-foot structure will be underground.

The other restriction was that no federal money would be spent on the project. So like the original monument, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund will be dependent on private donations.

"Right now, we're a little over \$28 million of \$119 million needed," Tetz said.

The project is supposed is scheduled to be completed in 2019.

To donate, submit photos or see an interactive preview of the "Wall of Faces," visit [VVMF.org](http://VVMF.org).



Clifford Davis: (904) 359-4103

Ralph Appelbaum Associates An artist's rendering of what the Wall of Faces will look like at the future Vietnam Veterans Memorial education center. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund is still missing about 20,000 photos of the 58,300 names on the wall.

*By Master Sgt. Thomas Kielbasa*  
*Florida National Guard Public Affairs*

**JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (Dec. 9, 2014)** – Florida’s Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Emmett Titshaw Jr. was honored on Sunday for his nearly 45 years of military service, during a Jacksonville Jaguars’ game at EverBank Field.



Adjutant General of Florida Maj. Gen. Emmett Titshaw Jr. is honored at EverBank Field in Jacksonville during the Jacksonville Jaguars-Houston Texans game on Dec. 7, 2014. Photo by Master Sgt. Thomas Kielbasa

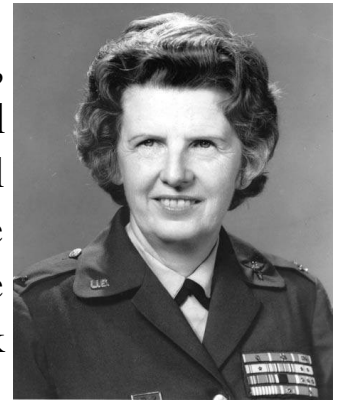
The general – who will retire from the Florida Air National Guard in March 2015 – was named “Honoree of the Game” during the regular season NFL matchup between the Jacksonville Jaguars and the visiting Houston Texans.

Despite dropping temperatures and a slight drizzle, the general was brought onto the field in the third quarter of the game and applauded by the fans of both teams.

Titshaw, who enlisted in the Florida Air National Guard in May 1970, is a native of Jacksonville with strong family ties to the area. During his lengthy and distinguished career, the general has also served as a military command pilot and commercial airline pilot with more than 4,500 hours in the F-15, F-16, C-131, F-106, and the F-102 aircraft.

Titshaw has served as Florida’s Adjutant General since June 2010.

A survivor of two wars, a prison camp and near starvation, **Colonel Ruby Bradley**, was one of the most decorated women in U.S. military history. Bradley entered the United States Army Nurse Corps as a surgical nurse in 1934. She was serving at Camp John Hay in the Philippines when she was captured by Japanese forces three weeks after the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.



In 1943, she was ...moved to the Santo Tomas Internment Camp in Manila. It was there that she and several other imprisoned nurses earned the title "Angels in Fatigues" from fellow captives. For the next several months, she provided medical help to the prisoners and sought to feed starving children by shoving food into her pockets whenever she could, often going hungry herself. As she lost weight, she used the room in her uniform for smuggling surgical equipment into the prisoner-of-war camp. At the camp she assisted in 230 operations and helped to deliver 13 children.

When U.S. troops liberated the camp on February 3, 1945, Bradley weighed only 86 pounds (39 kg). She was then returned to the United States where she continued her career in the Army. She received a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of California in 1949.

Bradley served in the Korean War as Chief Nurse for the 171st Evacuation Hospital. In November 1950, during the Chinese counter-offensive, she refused to leave until she had loaded the sick and wounded onto a plane in Pyongyang while surrounded by 100,000 advancing Chinese soldiers. She was able to jump aboard the plane just as her ambulance exploded from an enemy shell. In 1951, she was named Chief Nurse for the Eighth Army, where she supervised over 500 Army nurses throughout Korea.

She was promoted to the rank of colonel in 1958 and retired from the Army in 1963.



On December 1 the Vilano Beach VFW Post 12142 became official and all of our officers were sworn in! I'm excited to serve as our Post Judge Advocate. Pictured in the center, is FL Commander of the VFW, on the right is the District 6 Commander and on the left



is AJ Sartin, our new Post 12142 Commander. Present were the Commanders and Officers of the surrounding VFW Posts in District 6, the District 6 leadership, Ladies Auxiliary leaders and members from the District, all of the members and officers of Post 12142.

### **"Honoring the Dead by Helping the Living"**



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

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

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

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

### **VETERANS HELPING VETERANS**

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

by Pride , Model No. SC40E

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

18AH battery option for extended drive range

Comes with blue, and red shroud covers

Front frame-mounted seat post offers maximum stability

#### **Key Specs**

Top Speed: 4.25 mph

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

Heaviest Piece: 28 lbs.

Rider Weight capacity: 300 lbs.

Weight: 96 lbs.

## **VFW grants patriotic awards**

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Bryan Tutton Memorial Post 2391, recently announced the winners of the Voice of Democracy (VOD) Audio Essay Scholarship Contest, Patriots Pen Essay Contest and Teachers of the Year.

### **Voice of Democracy**

Each year, nearly 40,000 high school students from across the country enter to win a share of the \$2.2 million in educational scholarships and incentives awarded through the Voice of Democracy audio essay competition.

For 2014, Isabella Pantano's audio essay took first place. Lyndsay Powers took second place and Peighton Jones took third. All are students at Nease High School.

### **Patriot's Pen**

The Patriot's Pen program is open to students in 6th through 8th grades who are enrolled in a public, private or parochial school or home-study program. The program encourages young minds to examine America's history and their own experiences in American society by drafting a 300- to 400-word essay expressing their views.

Cheyenne Genovar from Gamble Rogers Middle School was the first place winner; second place went to Alexandra Hudson from Switzerland Middle School and third place to Erin Ledbetter of Gamble Rogers Middle School. The first place winner will advance to the district competition.

### **Teacher of the Year**

The Teacher of the Year contest recognizes three exceptional teachers for their outstanding commitment to teaching Americanism and patriotism to their students. This year, Teacher of the Year honors went to Lisa Fink at Pacetti Bay Middle School and Gary Hoog from Pedro Menendez High School. They will also advance to the district level for judging.



VFW 2391 Ladies Auxiliary President Debbie Tilley presents awards to Voice of Democracy Essay Winners Isabella Pantano, Peighton Jones and Lyndsay Powers. All are students at Nease High School.

## 4-H club honors local veterans

St. Johns County 4-H Outdoor Buckaroos club held its Fourth Annual Veterans Day Dinner honoring St. Johns County veterans Nov. 7 at the county agricultural center.

At the spaghetti dinner, three local veterans were recognized individually for their service. The honorees were Sgt. Allison Justice, Master Sgt. Kevin Kelly and Capt. David Skaggs, all of the Florida National Guard.



St. Johns County 4-H Outdoor Buckaroos Club honored local veterans Nov. 7 at the county agricultural center.

The dinner was prepared by Outdoor Buckaroo parents and served by club youth. The event began with the presentation of the colors by club members. The Masters of Ceremonies were club president Javier Bermeo and club parliamentarian A.J. Kulpa.

Club members escorted each of the honorees to the front for the presentation of a plaque thanking them for their service. A slideshow of the current and past honorees played during the event. The event closed with a group photo of past and present honorees and club members.

Enrollment for the 4-H Youth Development Program takes place each September and is for youth ages 5-18, as of September 1st.

To enroll in the St. Johns County 4-H program for the 2014-2015 4-H year, go to <http://stjohns.ifas.ufl.edu/4-H.shtml>. Adults who are interested in working with youth can learn about volunteering with the 4-H Youth Development Program by calling 209-0430.

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

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





December, 2014

Dear Veterans' Friend:

The Clay, Duval and St. John's chapters of the VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA are hosting a town hall meeting on March 27, 2015, 6:30 pm, at 7235 Bonneval Road, Jacksonville, FL. This forum will include professional speakers from VVA Headquarters.

The purpose of this meeting is to bring awareness of the health problems associated with exposure to Agent Orange and other toxic chemicals, in addition to their affect on the veterans, their children and grandchildren. Veterans of all wars are subjected to many contaminates and most are not aware of what was being used and what effects these have on their health. Veteran Service Officers will be on site to assist with filing claims.

Our goal is to publicize this meeting to the tri-county community in an effort to make this important forum known to as many veterans as possible.

"NEVER AGAIN WILL ONE GENERATION OF VETERANS ABANDON ANOTHER." This is the founding principle of VVA

Your donation to assist in defraying the cost of this event is greatly appreciated. Please mail your tax-exempt donation to Vietnam Veterans of America, P. O. Box 626, Orange Park, FL. 32067

Any questions, please call Gary Newman, 904-269-1857 or [agrijustice@yahoo.com](mailto:agrijustice@yahoo.com). Thank you.

Respectfully,

Tony D'Aleo, President, Duval Chapter 1046.  
Gary Newman, President, Clay Chapter 1059.  
Bob Dinkins, President, St. John's Chapter 1084



Chloe Dresback

## Veteran McGinty Makes An Appearance at Valley Ridge Academy

Contributed by Chloe Dresback, 4th grade

From the Veterans Council, Veteran John McGinty made an appearance to almost half of the fourth graders at Valley Ridge Academy on November 18<sup>th</sup>. Mr. McGinty showed the fourth graders his Purple Heart, dog tags, war trophies, and bead calendars. The Purple Heart was if you were wounded in combat. Dog tags were for tracking you. His war trophies were some belongings from prisoners. The bead calendars were for counting how days left till you were off of deployment.

What I thought of his presentation was interesting because someone who served came in and talked to us. We learned about his experiences in the military and in Vietnam. It was interesting to his experiences during wartime and then returning home. I liked the Veteran Council's flag and whole presentation. My sister, Emma, heard another Veteran speak to her class. I am glad we had Veterans speak to our school.

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Numbers...we're surrounded by them. Your Age, Your Phone Number, Your V.A. Number, Your Social Security Number, Your Street Number and yes, Your Military Service Number. Numbers, Numbers, they are everywhere!

All of the numbers listed above mean something to each and every one of you. Well, there is now a New Number that means a lot to the Veterans of "The No Name Island" and Vilano Beach.

The Vilano Beach VFW now has a number....and that is the VFW Number. Now Vilano Beach VFW 12142.

While most people will just call us the Vilano Beach VFW, 12142 is a number we are very Proud to have. Remember VFW 12142, we are getting larger and stronger every day. [www.VilanoBeachVFW.org](http://www.VilanoBeachVFW.org)

Next to come in 90 days, is our Post Charter! Come join the fun....

A. J. Sartin, Commander - VFW; [VilanoBeachVFW@att.net](mailto:VilanoBeachVFW@att.net)

[www.VilanoBeachVFW.org](http://www.VilanoBeachVFW.org); Every Day Is Veterans Day !



**THE JACKSONVILLE LADIES - JACKSONVILLE NATIONAL CEMETERY** is a local organization that is asking for volunteers. Daily there are two ladies at the JNC and they attend every funeral service for that day to comfort family members. If you would like to volunteer for one day a month please read below and contact Gail Williams or me and I will put you in contact with Gail. About The Ladies - Mission Statement: No Veteran will be buried alone in the Jacksonville National Cemetery!



Objective: To honor those who have served this nation; to assist, accompany and promote a sympathetic relationship with Veterans and their families at internment services as needed; and be present when family or friends are unable to attend.

In September of 2008, a new volunteer service was formed for the Jacksonville National Cemetery. At the Dedication Ceremony the Jacksonville National Cemetery Advisory Committee suggested that local women's organizations take on this "Last Tribute" to our Veterans that will be buried in the cemetery. The Jacksonville Ladies started meeting in November 2008 and were present for the first internments that began in January 7, 2009. This non-profit volunteer program shadows the Arlington Ladies, a volunteer group of military wives and lady veterans at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia, whose service began in 1948.

Veterans with no family in attendance are of particular concern and the Jacksonville Ladies will be present when family or friends are unable to attend the services to ensure no Veteran will be buried alone. The intent of participation by the Jacksonville Ladies is strictly not to interfere with funeral services, but rather to support any Veteran or Veteran's widow or family during a time when they feel the loss of a loved one. One Jacksonville Lady will be represented to honor and attend each Veterans service at the cemetery as requested by the family. A condolence card will be presented to the families and the Jacksonville Ladies will affirm that they are there to assist, accompany and promote a sympathetic relationship with Veterans and their families.

Membership and participation in the Jacksonville Ladies is strictly voluntary and not limited to military service related women and is not connected to membership or participation in any other affiliation. Members are obtained through word of mouth and participants will volunteer for specific dates depending on their availability with morning and afternoon shifts available. Up to four volunteers may be assigned to a specific date to cover the possibility of multiple funeral services running simultaneously.

The first service begins as early as 9:00 a.m. and can take place every thirty minutes with the last service ending by 2:30 p.m. from Monday through Friday. There is no minimum or maximum number of times a volunteer may participate; however, training is mandatory before being put on the schedule. The Jacksonville Ladies will wear a uniform consisting of a navy blue suit with a patriotic collar and Jacksonville Ladies name tag at all services and events so they can be clearly identified. Volunteers will demonstrate a sincere desire to support Veterans and their families, and exhibit a willingness to honor those who have served this nation. In addition, Jacksonville Ladies will assist the cemetery staff with other volunteer duties as needed.

The Jacksonville National Cemetery is located north of the Jacksonville International Airport at 4083 Lannie Road in Jacksonville, FL and is just a few miles off of I-295 and Lem Turner Road. For service information contact the office 766-5222. For information about the Jacksonville Ladies contact Chairman, Gail Williams, 2759 Ravine Hill Drive, Middleburg, FL 32068. Gail can be reached by phone at 904-291-0604 or send an email to [mgcwilliams1217@aol.com](mailto:mgcwilliams1217@aol.com) with "The Jacksonville Ladies" as the subject.

*The Veterans Council of St. Johns County has donated a copy of its Prisoners of War: Stolen Freedom documentary to the Jefferson Barracks POW– MIA Museum in St. Louis, MO. Here is a link to their website: <http://jbpow-mia.org/>*

*Below is the letter Chairman Dudley and I received from the POW/MIA Museum president.*

Dear Mr. Dudley,

My name is Paul Dillon and I am a next of kin member of the American Ex-Prisoners of War. During WWII my dad's B-17 was shot down on October 10, 1943, returning from a bombing mission over Munster, Germany, and he would spend the next year and 8 months as a Prisoner of War in Stalag 17-B, located near Krems, Austria.

I am also the president of the Jefferson Barracks POW-MIA Museum project underway here in St. Louis, Missouri. I am just one of many, and I am fortunate to have the honor of representing so many terrific people involved with this effort. The building is currently undergoing extensive and badly needed restoration and renovation construction.

We received from Mr. Michael Rothfeld a copy of his documentary, *Prisoners of War: Stolen Freedom*. He graciously donated the copy to the Museum and we wanted to thank him and let him know how much we appreciate his generosity and kindness.

Mike told me of your support, and that of the Veterans Council of St. Johns County, in his efforts to make this documentary and we at the Museum would like to thank you for helping make this remarkable video possible, along with Mike's other 4 documentaries about WWII, Korea, Vietnam, and Support Dogs for Veterans.

Indeed, one of the veterans working on the Museum project is a Vietnam Vet with PTSD and he has a Support Dog who, according to Jack, has basically saved his life.

**With your permission, I would also like to show it at the American Ex-Prisoners of War, Missouri Department's state meeting on April 11 of next year. Again, thank you Mr. Dudley. I have a feeling that you and the Veterans Council of St. Johns do so very much for our Veterans, and we thank you for that also!**

Kindest regards, Paul Dillon, President



**V.F.W. Post 2391**

# **Golf Tournament**

**17th Annual**

**at**

**St. Augustine  
Shores Golf Club  
April 11th. 2015**



**Where:** St. Augustine Shores Golf Club  
**When:** Saturday April 11, 2015. 7:00 AM Signup  
8:00 AM Shotgun Start.  
**Player Fee:** \$45 Per Player, \$180 Per Team  
**Hole Sponsor Fee:** \$50  
**Corporate Sponsor Fee:** \$100 +  
Coffee & Donuts

## **Prizes & Gifts**

- Prizes for 1st, 2nd & 3rd Place
- Prize for Longest Drive
- Prize for Closest to Pin
- Prize for Straightest Drive
- Putting Contest
- Prizes for Gaudy Golfer & Duffer Score
- Chance for Super Prize for Hole-in-One
- Other Prizes to be raffled off and Lunch held at VFW Post



For Further Information Contact: **Debbie Tilley (904) 460-9345**

or

VFW Post 2391 at 797-5267

**Proceeds to Sponsor Youth Activities & Charities**

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



### Short Story

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

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

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

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

### Long Story

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Upcoming Filing Date Reminder:**

Both organizations must file some version of IRS Form 990. If gross receipts are normally less than \$50,000, the organization MAY file the "post-card" Form 990-N on-line, due four and one-half months after the end of the organization's tax year (May 15 for most organizations). There is no extension of time available to file your 990-N. If the cognizant officers of an exempt organization are confident that their organization meets the requirements, Form 990-N may be filed as early as the day after the end of their tax year (January 1 for most organizations). I recommend filing early, to avoid inadvertent failure to file penalties. If the circumstances change, an amended paper return may always be filed.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Any organization required to register under the Florida Solicitation of Contributions Act which is required to file Form 990 or Form 990-EZ with the IRS must submit a complete copy of their Form 990 filing to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs.

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

### **Changes in Information**

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

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

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

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

### **Financial Statements and Disclosure**

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

prepares such forms or schedules in the ordinary course of his or her business.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



## U.S. Navy and Coast Guard Ships in Vietnam

VA maintains a list of U.S. Navy and Coast Guard ships associated with military service in Vietnam and possible exposure to Agent Orange based on military records.

This evolving list helps Veterans who served aboard ships, including "Blue Water Veterans," find out if they may qualify for presumption of herbicide exposure. Veterans must meet VA's criteria for service in Vietnam, which includes aboard boats on the inland waterways or brief visits ashore, to be presumed to have been exposed to herbicides. Veterans who qualify for presumption of herbicide exposure are not required to show they were exposed to Agent Orange or other herbicides when seeking VA compensation for diseases related to Agent Orange exposure.



Find your ship Ships or boats that were part of the Mobile Riverine Force, Inshore Fire Support (ISF) Division 93 or had one of the following designations operated on the inland waterways of Vietnam. Veterans whose military records confirm they were aboard these ships qualify for presumption of herbicide exposure.

During your Vietnam tour, did your ship or boat have one of the following designations?

**AGP (Assault Group Patrol/Patrol Craft Tender)**

**LCM (Landing Craft, Mechanized)**

**LCU (Landing Craft, Utility)**

**LCVP (Landing Craft, Vehicle, Personnel)**

**LST (Landing Ship, Tank) PBR (Patrol Boat, River)**

**PCF (Patrol Craft, Fast or Swift Boat) PG (Patrol Gunboat)**

**STABS (Strike Assault Boats) WAK (Cargo Vessel)**

**WHEC (High Endurance Cutter) WLB (Buoy Tender)**

**WPB (Patrol Boat) YFU (Harbor Utility Craft)**

Alphabetized ship list If your vessel is not included in the Mobile Riverine Force, ISF Division 93 or above designations, check VA's alphabetized ship list. Need help determining qualifying service? VA will help determine qualifying service in Vietnam after you file a claim for compensation benefits. To contact VA: Call 1-800-827-1000 or 1-800-829-4833 (TDD for hearing impaired) Go to your nearest VA benefits office - See more at: <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/shiplist/index.asp#sthash.h4MJdq99.dpuf>

## VA Secretary McDonald—Skepticism on Reform Welcomed

Veterans Affairs Secretary Bob McDonald says he understands skepticism that he can reform and rebuild his embattled department. In fact, he welcomes it. "A leader's job is to create a vision for winning, and to rally people around it," McDonald said. Outside advocates, he noted, "are appropriately skeptical, because they're not with me every single day. And that's OK. VA can't do this job by itself. We need help. ... But it's easy to dramatize the problem. It's harder to dramatize the solution." McDonald's comments, in an exclusive sit-down interview with Military Times, come at a time of increasing scrutiny for the secretary, finishing up just his fourth month in office.



Veterans groups and lawmakers have voiced concerns in recent weeks not only about the lack of firings related to the department's care delay scandal but also about the slow pace of reform. But McDonald insists the department is moving deliberately on significant cultural changes. He pointed to news this week that the Merit Systems Protection Board upheld VA's firing of a former Alabama director as proof that department accountability efforts are both swift and effective. "The most important message is the outcome of these cases," he said. "As these things come out over time, I believe they will reinforce we have done things in the right way." That cultural reform also involves plans for a massive internal reorganization of VA operations, including creating a new customer service branch and simplifying behind-the-scenes administration to better veterans program access. "We are approaching this reorganization as quickly and aggressively as I've ever done anything before," the former Procter & Gamble CEO said. "It's going to take time, but I'm bringing in to help us corporate and business leaders from the very best, and academic leaders who have a track record of having done this. "This has never been done before in government."

McDonald expects much of the simmering criticism to die down as the reorganization plans ramp up, and outsiders see the new vision for the department play out. But he acknowledged that he has found it "hard to tolerate when [criticism] is done for political reasons," saying VA still must develop better lines of communication with members of Congress. He said he is working closely with members of the veterans' affairs committees and congressional appropriators on the path ahead, to ensure they understand not only the coming changes but the ideas behind them. All those changes came after a months-long review of VA operations with staff, gathering suggestions for upheaval and improvements from every level. He has repeatedly defended the department's workforce as dedicated and hard-working, saying the recent scandals have forced all VA workers to re-examine their approach to helping veterans. "We have a very strong purpose. That is our trump card, our ultimate answer to any question," he said. "We have the most exalted purpose in government: to care for veterans." [Source: Military Times | Leo Shane | Nov. 21, 2014 ++]

## VA Choice Cards Update 01 ► Phase 2 Implemented

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today announced that it began mailing Veterans Choice Cards on 17 NOV to Veterans currently waiting more than 30-days from their preferred date or the date that is medically determined by their physician for an appointment at a VA facility. "VA continues to focus on implementation of this new temporary benefit so that Veterans receive the timely quality care they need in a way that reduces confusion and inefficiencies," said Secretary Robert A. McDonald, who penned an open letter to Veterans announcing the implementation of the Choice Card program.

The Choice Program is a new, temporary benefit that allows some Veterans to receive health care in their communities rather than waiting for a VA appointment or traveling to a VA facility. The first round of cards along with a letter explaining the program was issued on 5 NOV to Veterans who are eligible based on their place of residence. VA is now engaging in the next phase of its rollout –eligibility explanation letters are being sent to Veterans waiting more than 30 days from their preferred date to be seen or considered medically necessary by their physician. To improve service delivery, VA has prioritized efforts to accelerate Veterans off of wait lists and into clinics through the Accelerated Care Initiative begun over the summer. Through this initiative, VA medical centers have increased access to care inside and outside of VA, added more clinic hours and work days, deployed mobile medical units and shared their best practices from VA's high-performing facilities throughout the organization. Nationally, the following significant improvements have been seen:

- Scheduling more than 1.2 million more appointments in the past four months than in the same period last year. In total, VA medical centers have scheduled over 19 million Veteran appointments from June to October 1, 2014
- Reducing the national new patient Primary Care wait time by 18 percent;
- Completing 98 percent of appointments within 30 days of the Veterans' preferred date, or the date determined to be medically necessary by a physician;
- Authorizing 1.1 million non-VA care authorizations, a 47-percent increase over the same period last year; and
- Increasing the amount of time providers could deliver care to Veterans by increasing the amount of clinic hours in primary and specialty care and through adding weekend and evening clinics at our medical centers.

VA is America's largest integrated health care system with over 1,700 sites of care, serving approximately 9 million Veterans enrolled in health care services. The Choice Program is part of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (VACAA), enacted nearly three months ago, to enable VA to meet the demand for Veterans' health care in the short-term. For more information about the Choice Program, call 1-866- 606-8198 or visit <http://www.va.gov/opa/choiceact> . [Source: VA Press Release Nov. 18, 2014 ++]

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Posted by: "Terry King" <[tnking18@earthlink.net](mailto:tnking18@earthlink.net)>

# US Department of Defense

Release No: NR-598-14  
December 01, 2014

## AIRMEN MISSING FROM WWII ACCOUNTED FOR

The Department of Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office announced today that the remains of servicemen, missing in action from World War II, have been accounted for and are being returned to their families for burial with full military honors.

Army Air Forces 1st Lts. William D. Bernier of Augusta, Montana; Bryant E. Poulsen of Salt Lake City, Utah and Herbert V. Young Jr. of Clarkdale, Arizona; Tech Sgts. Charles L. Johnston of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and Hugh F. Moore of Elkton, Maryland; Staff Sgts. John E. Copeland of Dearing, Kansas and Charles J. Jones of Athens, Georgia; and Sgt. Charles A. Gardner of San Francisco, California, have been accounted for and will be buried with full military honors. Gardner will be buried Dec. 4 in Arlington National Cemetery.

On April 10, 1944, Gardner, along with 11 other B-24D Liberator crew members took off from Texter Strip, Nazdab Air Field, New Guinea, on a mission to attack an anti-aircraft site at Hansa Bay. The aircraft was shot down by enemy anti-aircraft fire over the Madang Province, New Guinea. Four of the crewmen were able to parachute from the aircraft, but were reported to have died in captivity.

Following World War II, the Army Graves Registration Service (AGRS) conducted investigations and recovered the remains of three of the missing airmen. In May 1949, AGRS concluded the remaining nine crew members were unrecoverable.

In 2001, a U.S.-led team located wreckage of a B-24D that bore the tail number of this aircraft. After several surveys, the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) teams excavated the site and recovered human remains and non-biological material evidence.

To identify Gardner's remains, scientists from JPAC and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory (AFDIL) used circumstantial evidence and forensic identification tools, including, mitochondrial DNA, which matched Gardner's maternal niece and nephew.

For additional information on the Defense Department's mission to account for missing Americans, visit the DPMO website at [www.dtic.mil/dpmo](http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo) or call 703-699-1169.



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## Wine & War Stories

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

Located on 1st Street, Jacksonville Beach!

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

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

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

Tweet, Text and Share IAVA VetTogethers for Vets in Jax



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

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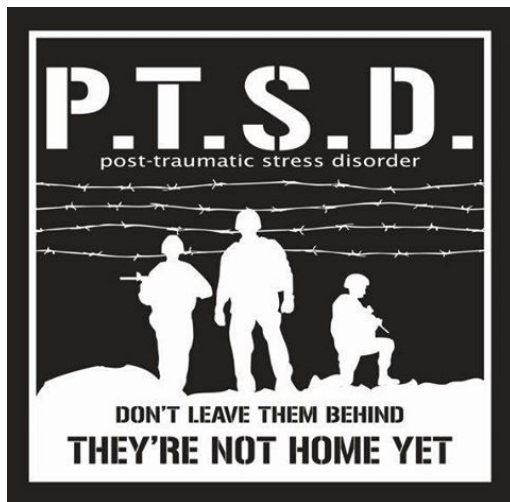
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*Veterans Council of St. Johns County,  
"Helping All Veterans"*

The Veterans Council of St. Johns County welcomes article submissions from all County Veterans & organizations. Articles should be of interest to all and veterans related. Submissions may be edited &/or shortened and used if space permits.

Send to: [mrothfeld@anyveteran.org](mailto:mrothfeld@anyveteran.org)



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

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

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

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

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

Visit our Website: [www.veteranscouncilofstjohns.org](http://www.veteranscouncilofstjohns.org)

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

*(physical location)*

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

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

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

*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.*