

The Patriot Reader

VETERANS COUNCIL OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY

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Message from the Chairman

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Fellow Veterans,

There are many activities happening in the Veteran community as we near the end of the first quarter of the New Year. First, I would like to congratulate the Vilano Beach VFW Post 12142 for their recent chartering and standing up their new Post. They have worked hard and tirelessly to make this Post a reality. Bravo Zulu to the Officers and veterans of Vilano Beach Post 12142.

At long last our Veterans Treatment Court is nearing a launch date. On Friday, Feb.13, a meeting was held in Judge Howard McGillin's chambers for the purpose of discussing the final steps to initiate our VTC for St. Johns County. Present were staff from the State's Attorney and Public Defender's office as well as court staff personnel, Sheriff's Office, VA and veterans who have volunteered to serve as mentors. Judge McGillin outlined the several steps needed to be taken and each of these steps are being actioned. The Veterans Council is extremely excited that after so many months of preparation, we are near a launch date for this critically needed program.

I would also like to give a salute to American Legion Post 37 and the Forward March Program for a very successful Military Ball. The evening of January 17 was indeed a spectacular evening as our local military members, veterans who could still fit in their uniforms and the rest in tuxedos with ribbons gathered at the Mark W. Lance Armory for the first in what is to be an annual event each year. This was indeed a proud evening as military, veterans, and civilians gathered to honor all who have served our nation and to help raise money for a good cause, the Forward March Program that will fund the renovation of the Hamblen House and American Legion Post 37.

At long last it is finally move day for our local Veterans Service Office. In the coming days they will be relocating into their new offices in the recently completed County Health and Human Services building on San Sebastian View. Despite a bit of a set back with a few days of sick leave with an acute attack of kidney stones, Joe McDermott (Mac) and his team have continued to see vet-



eran clients while packing boxes and relocating files and other office furnishings to the new building. Their dedication to our veterans is commendable and worthy of a salute and a Bravo Zulu for a job well done.

Lastly, I would like to recognize The Florida National Guard Adjutant General, Major General Emmett Titshaw on his upcoming retirement next month. General Titshaw, a 45 year veteran of the USAF and Florida National Guard has served his country and this state honorably and with distinction. General Titshaw has also been a strong supporter of the Veterans Council. The Veterans of St. Johns County salute the TAG for his loyal service and thank him for his support.

Bill Dudley, Chairman
Veterans Council of St. Johns County



Veterans frustrated over VA clinic transition in St. Augustine

St. Augustine, Fl. — by Anneliese Delgado Used with the permission of News WOKV

Time is running out for the Community Based Outpatient Clinic in St. Augustine. Veterans Affairs has until the end of March to move locations or rack up thousands of dollars in fines every month.

Veterans and politicians have argued the transition has not been a smooth process.

To say the chairman of the Veterans Council of St. Johns County, Bill Dudley, is frustrated would be an understatement.

“They (the VA) are very arrogant, they are very non-transparent and they just refuse to communicate with the county administration,” Dudley said.

The VA has known for more than three years that they would have to move from their current location at 1955 U.S. 1 South. The VA said at the beginning of January that a new location for the clinic had been secured near the current location.

Even though the new location was selected, Dudley does not think it will be ready to serve the medical needs of veterans by the end of March. The VA maintains the transition will not impact the medical care of veterans.

Dudley isn’t buying the VA’s claims, neither is Gulf War veteran Joe Noplis.

The former U.S. Air Force Sergeant said he’s been going to the St. Augustine clinic since 2008.

“Something has to be done because veterans will have to start going different places, possibly Gainesville (or) Jacksonville,” Noplis said. Noplis drives about 15 miles to get to the clinic in St. Augustine. The 49-year-old said he would have to drive 25 miles to get to the Jacksonville clinic. He visits the St. Augustine clinic once or twice a month. “The VA has begun, once again, to let the veterans down,” Noplis said.

The clinic in St. Augustine serves more than 5,000 veterans, according to Dudley.

St. Johns County owned the land where the current facility is located, but sold it to Lowes for more than \$8 million. The VA is the tenant for the property, but if they do not leave the land by the end of March, the county will have to pay \$53,000 in fines every month for the first six months. After six months, the fine amount will increase.

Dudley, along with other veterans and politicians, thinks the VA has been focusing on issues surrounding other clinics instead of properly planning to move locations in St. Augustine.

A [report released by the Government Accountability Office](#) shows several examples of VA medical-facility construction projects increasing in cost and taking longer to complete.

The report said that a project cost in New Orleans increased by nearly \$40 million. It also said delays from an Orlando project extended from 39 months to 57 months.

The VA denied that the problems with other clinics are impacting the transition for the clinic in St. Augustine.

The VA released the following statement:

“The delays detailed in the GAO’s report have absolutely no bearing on the relocation of the St. Augustine CBOC. The VA’s first priority is providing care and benefits to the veterans who have earned and deserve the best care.”

St. Johns County offered the VA a facility for the same rate of the current facility. The VA passed on the offer. WOKV is reaching out to the VA to find out why they rejected the county’s offer.

Editorial: VA pens bailout deal with St. Johns County, but keep it quiet

Most readers have read Albert Einstein's definition of insanity: "Doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results."

It comes to mind in looking at the 11th hour pact penned between the Veterans Administration and St. Johns County.

The VA has basically done nothing but doled out lipservice to our veterans over and over again, and yet somehow expected an outcome other than nothing.

After four years of notice, and with 40 days remaining before the VA is supposed to have an outpatient clinic up and running for the county's 20,000 veterans, it has nothing. Understand, it is not close.

The VA apparently has a temporary site lined up, though even that is only a Band-Aid. But there is no facility there, and no equipment. Essentially, no nothing.

During the past few years St. Johns County has jumped through hoops to both aid and prod VA action—from offering temporary alternative sites, to space in the new Health and Human Service complex, to bankrolling a new, stand-alone facility for veterans, and charging the current lease payment at the functionally-obsolete site.

What the VA wants now, and what the county has agreed to, is a six-month extension at the old facility. The VA will have to pay the \$53,000 monthly penalty for not being out on time. It also agrees to pay the \$100,000 a month fee after six months. And the county gets about \$35,000 a month for running the show.

Lowe's bought the land expecting to be able to break ground next month. It can't be happy being held up with this roadblock. The county would like to be receiving the tax dollars, and dozens of locals are looking forward to the steady jobs the store would provide.

We've all been witness to the VA's snoozy indifference and arrogant foot-dragging all along. It is, however, moving at warp speed to ensure the continuing cascade of bad press and community ill will gets bottled up.

In the contract with the county there's a quirky paragraph titled "Reasonable cooperation with the media." In it, the parties agree "that before making any statements to the press or other third parties regarding the License, the party proposing to do so shall first ... coordinate in good faith with the underlying program and public affairs offices of other party, so that a unified, agreed-upon statement can be released to the fullest extent possible."

At this point in the saga, it's not fair to poke the county for yielding to a gag order. Administration, we believe, is simply swallowing hard—one more time—to come to the aid of our vets. Lawyers are examining the legality. But legal or not, it's just the bright beacon of transparency we've come to expect from the VA.

Since the county can no longer comment on the issue without censure (and with deep condolences to Assistant County Administrator Jerry Cameron), allow us.

Had the VA ever worked half as diligently in ensuring adequate health care for local vets as it now is in covering its bureaucratic backside, we wouldn't be in this situation at all.

On the bright side, as Eugene McCarthy once noted: "The only thing that saves us from the bureaucracy is its inefficiency."

If that were only true for our vets...

Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home

Patriotism is our Motto



Re-Creation put on another phenomenal show!



Car Show and stunt motorcycles



Pillows of Comfort Ministry gave handmade pillows to each veteran



Mardi Gras fun!



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



JNC SC Chairman,
Ray Quinn

The Support Committee invites everyone to attend its next scheduled meeting on **Monday, April 6th, 2015** at 7:00pm. The meeting will take place at Community Hospice, 4266 Sunbeam Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32257 in Conference Room A.

Jacksonville National Cemetery Update

As all may be aware by now our Chairman of the National Cemetery Support Committee has been selected to serve as a judge. COL (Ret) Howard McGillin is to be congratulated upon his selection. We wish him well and we are sure to miss his leadership.

We are experiencing a change in leadership at the cemetery as well. Our interim director is Mr. Don Murphy. Don has done an excellent job while balancing Jacksonville, St. Augustine and Cocoa at the same time. Don tells us a new director should be appointed by the end of March.

We were all thrilled when the AMVET organization with the help of organizations locally constructed the carillon at Jacksonville National. This fall a terrific thunderstorm struck at the cemetery demolishing phone lines and electrical service. Most importantly the carillon's electrical system was destroyed and has been inoperable since that time. The cost to repair it is incredibly high. AMVETS cannot afford the repair and are pleading with the cemetery administration for assistance. No progress has been made. We will keep all informed of funding progress.

The committee has submitted a request to move the Memorial Day observance this year from Monday to Saturday. It is believed that attendance will be significantly increased. We have the annual conflict with the City of Jacksonville's great observance and this would cause more to participate at Jacksonville National. Groups will be invited to place the American flags across the cemetery on Saturday morning with the Memorial Day observance to follow. The date of the event is 23 May 2015.

Presentation of the Colonel George “Ed” Taylor Award

Each year the Veterans Council of St. Johns County presents the Colonel “Ed” Taylor Award. The award is meant to recognize the individual or organization selected for outstanding service to our county’s veterans.

The 2014 recipients of the Taylor Award are Mr. Herbie Wiles and LTC (Ret) Doug Wiles of Herbie Wiles Insurance.

The award is a lasting tribute to Colonel Taylor in recognition of his lifelong military service and his service to our veterans. Colonel Taylor was a founder of our council and his works have an enduring impact on all veterans.

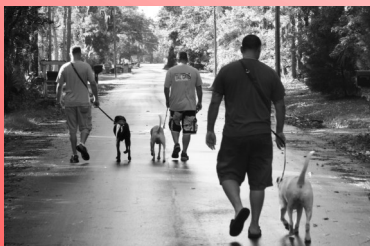


From left: Chairman Dudley, Doug Wiles, Herbie Wiles, Taylor Award Committee Chairman Ray Quinn

The Wiles team has stepped up in so many ways to ensure veteran recognition and a better quality of life for our veterans. They have ensured publicity for our organization as well as much needed financial support.

The council is so very appreciative of the service to our veterans and wish by the presentation of this award to recognize the Wiles team.

The Veterans Council of St. Johns County is proud to announce that its latest documentary production, “Unleashing the Underdogs: The K9s for Warriors Story” will be shown on WJCT TV, the PBS station in Jacksonville, broadcasting on channel 7, on Thursday, April 9th, at 8:30 pm.



It is the story of several Iraq/Afghanistan veterans, suffering from PTSD, and how they are assisted by rescued service dogs at K9s for Warriors in Ponte Vedra Beach. *Please go to their website and make a tax deductible*

donation:

www.K9sForWarriors.org



A Proud Daughter Remembers... From Jana Teehan George Mitchell Addison, Jr.

My father started with the U.S. Navy in the 1930's as a Seaman Apprentice, went through Chief, Ensign, and at the WW II Battle of Okinawa, with the Kamikaze attacks, he received a battlefield promotion to Lt. (jg) when he took over command of the ship due to problems with the CO and moved the ship to avert a suicide plane attack. He also received a Citation for Bravery when, after the Okinawa Campaign, the ships were put on radar picket duty (12 of them) and when a Destroyer nearby his ship was hit by a Kamikaze, and two sailors were blown off he took action. He had a raft deployed with two sailors along and started to go to pick up the sailors, and then one of them started to go under the water. My Dad, immediately dove off the raft, (this was under fire) and swam to the wounded sailor and got him into the raft, then got back safely to the LSM(R) 198, his ship. For this action he was cited for bravery, I have the citation on my wall. He spent all of his civilian life on the water, from freighters to tour boats', ending as a tour boat operator at Fort Matanzas National Monument, in St. Johns' County at the age of 80. He was a brave, modest wonderful man...a member of the Greatest Generation.

I have attended reunions, in Daddy's stead since 2000. In fact, I hosted one in 2010, and we were able to board the U.S.S. Gettysburg...at Mayport, (cruiser), those old sailors loved it. However time has taken its toll, and the one I attended last year in Charlottesville, VA is probably their last. We had about 20....These were members of the U.S.S. LSM(R) Association, which encompassed all 12 ships, but there were about 4 there from the 198.

There isn't much more to tell except that we were billeted on the "Isle of Palms", in Charleston, SC while the ship was being commissioned and fitted for battle. Bill was there, and the isle of Palms now is all condos, but in 1944 it was very barren and when we were there very cold. Each of the 12 LSM(R)'s Executive officers were billeted in little fishermen's' shacks. One of the pictures of him that I particularly love is missing....it is a picture of him as chief quartermaster on a seagoing tug, standing next to a huge wheel. We were in Puerto Rico then, Daddy was stationed at Roosevelt Roads, he was chief quartermaster on a sea going tug and a minesweeper, my mother and I went down there. On Dec. 7th, 1941, my 6th birthday, Pearl Harbor was attacked and my mother and I were evacuated with other Navy dependents on a troop ship to New York City. He was there for quite a long time, I'm not sure just how long...after that he was stationed stateside until the Okinawa campaign....I'm foggy on just where, I just know I went to about 5 different schools, mostly Norfolk, VA. (Head of Fifth Naval Dis-

trict). My Dad was a very, very modest man and never talked much about his wartime and his honors.....I do have a copy of the citation he received for bravery.....my father spent most of the postwar working on the water, he sailed as a First Mate, all around the world and on the Great Lakes, and late in his life he studied and took and passed the test for a Captain's license...no small task. When WW 2 started Daddy was actually a Navy Reservist but was put on active duty status.

After WW 2 ended, my father was ordered to the Navy Base at Green Cove Springs, that's how we got to Florida. There he had two jobs, as a Lt. jg, he was legal officer and he also commanded pier Able. A little history...the mothball fleet was ported at Green Cove, most all of the ships that were no longer on active duty were there...all up and down the St. Johns there were ships, all types and sizes. but one other thing....I was 10 yrs. old when Daddy was at Green Cove Springs Naval Base....My Dad, my mother and myself would have dinner or supper in the "Officers" Club about once a week, and the waiters had big P O W stenciled on the back of their shirts. They were Germans...and had not been repatriated yet....pretty interesting bit of history that I lived.

Pier Able was stacked with LCVPs, also known as "Higgins boats". When our relatives would from our hometown of Baltimore, Md., Daddy would commandeer an LCPV and we'd go out fishing on the St. Johns, anyway, the war was over and my mother was tired of him being gone all the time so Daddy resigned his commission became a reservist and we moved to St. Augustine...before that, we lived in Penney Farms. That was the end of his Naval Career, but as I stated previously, he spent the rest of his working life on the water.

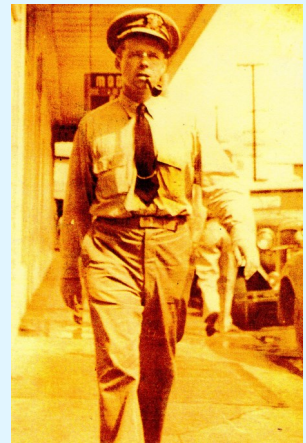


*Photo Caption: LTJG George Addison Jr. USN
Executive Officer LSMR 198 at Okinawa
Navy Leaguer and Father of Navy League member Georgeanna Teehan*

Exec. Officer LSMR
198 at Okinawa



Chief Quartermaster on Mine-
sweeper: 1940-1943



ENS. George Addison, Jr. in Hawaii
on way to Okinawa, 1945

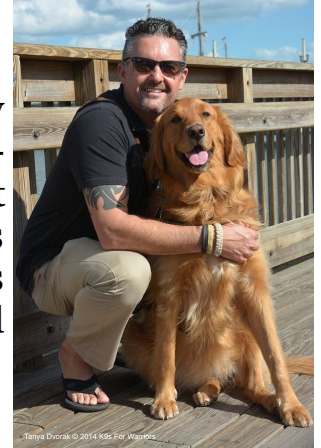


LSMR 198 off Okinawa,
April 1, 1945

K9s for Warriors uses dogs to reintroduce soldiers to society

By Billy Manes Orlandoweekly.com

"I went to grab my pistol and before my hand even touched it, my service dog started barking non-stop, which is not like him," recounts an unnamed graduate of Nocatee, Florida-based nonprofit K9s for Warriors, according to a January press release. "He was jumping in my face and wrapping his head around the arm I was going to grab the gun with. When I finally pulled away, he stopped barking and just stared at me."



Kevin and Bella

The release was issued in reference to the social-media "STOP22" campaign, launched on Jan. 22 as a means of drawing awareness to the fact that, across the country, 22 military veterans commit suicide daily as they deal with post-traumatic stress disorder, brain injuries or military sexual trauma following their experiences in the theaters of post-9/11 war.

"We have about five or six of those types of stories, but that was the one that I think kind of embodies our mission," K9s for Warriors executive director Rory Diamond says. "We've had warriors come through that would literally be in the basement and they would text their families what they needed, and it would be brought to the door. They refused to go outside."

Launched in 2011 by Shari Duval after her son Brett completed two tours of duty in Iraq and returned home with PTSD – "he isolated himself, stopped being a good father, stopped being a good son, and he self-medicated," Diamond says – K9s for Warriors has paired more than 150 recent veterans with canine companions in just four years. During that period, the organization says, it has had a 100 percent success rate in preventing more soldier suicides.

The recovery is actually a two-way street, Diamond says. The vast majority of the service dogs employed at the facility (which is near Jacksonville) are rescue animals themselves, many of them golden retrievers or Labrador mixes brought in from all over the country, because, he says, "not only are they smart dogs who like to work, but because dogs are a lot like people – some of them aren't that smart, and some of them don't like to work."

K9s for Warriors employs just 22 people, but has a rotating volunteer squad of more than 500, with an average of 50 to 60 people a day coming in and out of the facility

managing various tasks. There are dog walkers and "house moms," who, Diamond says, are there just as much for companionship as they are for housecleaning or for in-patient care.

"The stuff that really makes this organization run is the many points of love that you see in all parts of the process," he says – everything from food donations, to rescue services finding the appropriate dogs for the program, to the nonprofits that typically cover the travel expenses for military veterans en route to the Florida facility. The most recent tax forms available show that K9s for Warriors Inc. brought in nearly \$1.3 million in donations in 2013. (Those interested can donate or volunteer via k9sforwarriors.org)

The "warriors" live at the facility for three weeks with their dogs exclusively before they are tasked with fully re-entering society, at first in teams of four. It's a big step, Diamond says, especially considering that on the day that veterans arrive, many are heavily medicated and backed against the walls in fear – they've survived exclusively under the watch of spouses or parents acting as caretakers. A "hokey" ceremony in which the vets are matched with their dogs follows on the second day, and the reintegration proceeds from there.



"I can tell you it's just miraculous," Diamond says. "Someone who hasn't been to the store or been out to do things like run errands for their family for five years and suddenly he's in the middle of Target getting through it, or he's going to Costco. Sometimes they'll go to Costco and Target in the same day, which I won't even do!"

Veterans are monitored after their three-week inpatient period; recertification begins on the one-year anniversary of treatment and follows every second year thereafter. In March, K9s for Warriors is expected to move into a newly donated 17,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art facility in which Diamond expects the program to service 192 veterans per year.

"It's an amazing process over three weeks," Diamond says. "They come back to life. One of the main things we hear from spouses after [the veterans] get back home is that, for the first in however many years, their partner is finally laughing again. Just to hear their laughter changes everything."

MISSING IN AMERICA PROJECT

FEBRUARY 24, 2015

MIAP – FL is in the final planning stages for CALL TO HONOR #5 which will be held on Friday, February 27, 2015 @ 1:00pm at the Jacksonville National Cemetery. Currently for this service we will be interring 5 Navy, 2 Army and 2 Air Force veterans along with 1 Navy spouse and 2 Army spouses. We encourage and invite all members of our community to attend this service to inter with honor and dignity these veterans and spouses who have gone unclaimed on a funeral home shelves dating back to 1971. It is fitting and proper that we do this.



MIAP - FL is slowing branching out across the state getting more volunteers on board but we are still in dire need of more. This project will not be completed until we have worked with all funeral homes, crematoriums, medical examiner's offices, hospitals, etc. With that being said you can see this will be a very long working project. If you would like to become part of a dedicated team to help locate, identify and inter the unclaimed cremated remains of veterans, spouses and dependents please go to our website. Read what we have been doing nation wide. Sign up as a supporter (if you do so please keep an eye on your SPAM email) and you will receive a welcoming letter from Charlie Warthling, MIAP National Assistant Vic President. There are many ways in which you can work on this project.

As of 2/20/2015 below is our nation wide Progress to Date Statistics

Funeral Homes Visited	1,712
Cremains Located	10,546
Veterans Cremains Identified	2,509
Veterans Interred	2,298
Total # of States active	48

If you are a member of any organization and would like for myself and other MIAP volunteers to do a presentation on MIAP at one of your meetings we are available to do this. The more we can do this the more the word is spread about this important project.

Feel free to contact me at my info below if you want to learn more about MIAP further.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Church

MIAP-FL State Coordinator, miapjax@yahoo.com

(904) 219-3035, www.miap.us

Facebook - MISSING IN AMERICA PROJECT - FLORIDA

WHY DO YOU DO IT? By Cindy Pontrelli

I heard a commercial the other day that said, “Military families are uniquely grateful...” Many of you are military families and I’m sure you understand.

Millions of people are aware of war-time casualties. I have to wonder though how many are equally aware of countless personal, unseen sacrifices our veterans make.

I’m often asked why I do what I do. What do I do? I am the Administrative Assistant, Treasurer, and Librarian at the Military Museum of No. FL. Why do I do it? I am one of those uniquely grateful individuals. My activities at the museum are first, my way of saying thank you to the veterans in my family. Second, I want coming generations to be aware of the sacrifices made on their behalf and to be forever grateful. The longer I’m at the museum the more veterans I meet and the more I have to say thank you for.

Military service in my family dates back to WWI. Uncle Elmer served in the Cavalry in France when they still rode horses. He returned from France, raised a family, and grew old. I pedaled my bicycle past his house a thousand times and always stopped for a visit when he was outside. It wasn’t until I outgrew those visits that I learned of his service.



Elmer Bredenbeck can be seen next to his horse in the upper right

Another uncle served in a Navy Argus unit during WWII. We know nothing of his time; he wasn’t a big talker.



Uncle Maurice

Uncle Maurice, a gentle man, served in an Army Ordnance Supply position in Europe. What I know of his service I learned from a map he gave my mom. All he would ever say about it is that he had, “seen things no one should ever have to see.” My cousin asked him why he married so late in life.

“All the good girls (including the one he dated before he shipped out) were married by the time I got home from the service.” He struggled with two less than ideal marriages and had no children.

Uncle Namaan, another gentle soul, served as a Seabee on Guam. He enlisted at age thirty-three and left a wife and a good job. We know nothing of his duties because he returned with combat fatigue. Treatment at that time was electroshock therapy. It didn’t work. His wife divorced him and he spent the remainder of his life alone in the State Veterans’ Home under psychiatric “care”. As a child I was afraid of him; as an adult I’m sad I didn’t spend time with him before he passed.



Namaan Pickering



Kevin McKeown

I've been with a friend, boy-friend if you will, through deployments to Kosovo and Afghanistan. He endured a nine-month course of medication to treat encapsulated (latent) tuberculosis. It amounted to one headache and gastric unpleasanties that lasted the entire nine months. Why? He contracted the disease when one of his patrols in Kosovo visited a village where TB is still active.

Then...there is my dad, my hero, John McCray. I was born in Killeen, Texas while Dad was driving M42s at Ft. Hood. Shortly before I was born he volunteered for an Army experimental chemical testing program in Maryland. It is believed they were testing nerve gas and LSD among other things. Records never disclosed what he was exposed to. Whatever it was he's suffered no obvious effects. I knew about this but until a few years ago I didn't know why. Pay was lean back then and they needed more money for my arrival. Dad risked his health, present and possibly future, for me. I am very grateful. And that is the main reason I do what I do.



John McCray



The officers and members of the chapter are proud to launch our new website. (<http://www.vva1084.org>).

I invite you to visit the new site and enjoy the information and links. Please remember that this site is under construction and will contain much more information and sponsor links in the future.

Bob Dinkins - President, Vietnam Veterans of America

Chapter 1084, St. Johns County, FL

904-540-1898

God Bless You and America

bobdinkins@bellsouth.net

president@vva1084.org

St. Augustine WWII vet remembers fighting in the trenches

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

Jack Worley, 91, keeps his story inside a manila folder marked “Landed in trench full of German soldiers.”

In 1942 he was 18 years old and a private in intelligence with the U.S. Army, 6th Armored Division. He delivered messages throughout the unit via his Jeep.

On March 21, 1945, his company was en route to bring more troop support against a weakening German line.

It was dark by the time they reached the fighting zone. Worley’s unit was going one way when they approached a Nazi convoy going the other.

“I could reach out and touch their German tanks,” he said. “Evidently they didn’t want to fight and we didn’t want to fight, so we just passed in the dark.”

But somewhere between Zweibrucken and the Rhine River, he drove straight into trouble. Worley was riding with his sergeant and major, the company commander.

Looking for a bypass around a burning truck, machine gun fire and explosions nearby, his Jeep was swallowed whole.

“I ended up in the trenches with the Germans, of course,” he said.

His sergeant was killed almost instantly by gunfire. Worley and his major rolled out of the Jeep, fending off German soldiers coming around the corner of the narrow trench.

In the ensuing chaos, a young German soldier jumped down on top of Worley. But Worley “got the best of him,” shooting and killing him.

An explosion overhead knocked the major out cold, but Worley thought he was dead. He crawled under his Jeep and at the other end bumped his forehead against a German soldier’s helmet.

They scared each other and reached for their guns. Worley pulled his pistol faster than the German could with his rifle and shot him.

Worley came to the end of the trench, having killed two German soldiers, wondering what to do next. He put his pistol behind his back and played dead, eventually dozing off.

Making the rounds

At dawn, he heard the Germans moving around.

He crawled back the way he came, finding the dead Germans gone. His major was also gone, but the sergeant’s body was still there.

He wouldn’t learn his major was still alive until after the war.

Worley rummaged through his Jeep for medical supplies, cigarettes, canned food and chocolate.



CONTRIBUTED Jack Worley, 19, in France during WWII.

Bloodied, cold and dirty, he was searched by three German soldiers in the street. They didn't find his gun but they took his candy and cigarettes.

"I told them I was a Polish slave worker and they didn't pay any more attention to me," he said. "So I just started walking down the road."

Expecting a bullet to come into his back, he ended up getting a couple miles down the road.

He approached a group of German SS troopers drinking cognac and laughing with a couple of girls.

Worley asked for an English-speaking officer and told him the Americans had the area surrounded and not to shoot him. They took his gun and emptied the clip into the field.

Worley was taken to a covered shelter filled with German civilians.

A drunk soldier sauntered in, waving his gun, and shouting "I'll kill the American." But the civilians circled around Worley and he was moved into a farmhouse and offered a water glass full of cognac. "It was like a scene in a movie," he said. "It was really something."

Farmers discussed his fate as he exchanged toasts with an older man who had fought on the German side in World War I.

Worley was put on a Jeep and brought back to his. American troops with about 100 captured Germans were in a field nearby.

Getting help removing his half-blown-up Jeep from the trench, he then drove it 30 miles on its rims back to his unit.

For all that trouble, he was awarded his second Bronze Star.

Life after war

Worley and his wife Ruby have been married for 69 years.

He made a living in various businesses before selling insurance. Ruby was a photographer for a newspaper. They ended up in Fort Lauderdale before retiring to St. Augustine about 20 years ago.

The war has stayed with him. One time, a friend was talking about the war and Worley told him his story in the trenches.

"It was either kill or be killed and he said: 'Oh, so you're a murderer,'" Worley said. "That really hurt because I was just protecting myself. If you're going to get shot, you have to protect yourself."

Worley said he still has nightmares about the war and the killings.

"Sometimes I wake up crying or I get scared if an airplane flies overhead," he said. "Not so much now, but this went on for years."

He requires a wheelchair to get around and gets frustrated when he can't help with chores in the house. For all of his toughness, Worley still has his soft spots.

"It's hard," he said. "Sometimes I just sit around and cry, with no control."

After 70 years, Jacksonville airman finally arrives home; cousin never gave up hope

Reprinted with the authors and the FL Times Union's permission

By [Clifford Davis](#) February 16, 2015

By the time James Gatlin was 23, he was the only surviving member of his family.

The Andrew Jackson grad's only brother died when James was eight years old of complications from an appendectomy.

His mother followed three years later after a cerebral hemorrhage.

In 1943, while James was training to be an Army Air Corps pilot, his father died in a car crash in Fernandina.



James Gatlin

"He was no stranger to heartache," said Gatlin's cousin Connie Howard. "But he was a very loving and compassionate person."

Howard, 11 years younger than Gatlin, found this out personally after she lost a sister as a child.

"He would come by and see my mother and talk with me, to check on me and make sure I was OK," Howard, who was nine when her sister died in 1939, said. "After he joined the Army in January, 1941, he would write to me and tell me all about what was going on.

"I was just looking over the letters this morning."

Howard said she was crazy about her good-looking older cousin with the dark hair and nice smile.

Gatlin and Howard's father, a World War I veteran, were also very close, Howard said. Her father had been in some of the same locations during the Great War that Gatlin was seeing 27 years later.

"In one of James' letters, the last one from Dec. 11, 1944, he had completed 20 missions and wrote, 'Tell Uncle Wade it is nothing like I thought it would be,'" Howard said.

Twelve days after he wrote that letter, Gatlin sat in the pilot's seat of the B-26 Marauder nicknamed the "Silver Dollar" looking at thick, low clouds across the French landscape that cut visibility to two to three miles.

Not ideal flying weather by any stretch, but it would have to do.

This day, Dec. 23, 1944, was the first day allied bomber crews would be able to operate since the beginning of Hitler's last major offensive, now known as the "Battle of the Bulge."

U.S. Army soldiers had been thrown back by a massive, last-ditch push by the Nazi assault. Thousands were dead and other units, like elements of the 101st Airborne at Bastogne, were cutoff and totally surrounded by the German onslaught.

To make matters worse, the weather, freezing and cloaked in cloud cover, had kept the superior allied air units grounded — unable to relieve their frozen and exhausted comrades on the ground.

Today would be the day.

Gatlin and the rest of the 391st Bomb Group would fly to Ahrweiler, Germany and bomb a railway viaduct upon which the Germans were rushing reinforcements to their advancing Panzers and soldiers.

The American bombers took off from the French airfield about 1030 and reached their target about noon.

“The mission was designed as a Pathfinder task, but the formations met flak in unexpected places along the route, and the Pathfinder planes were knocked out of the lead position, filling in farther back in the formations,” wrote Lt. Hugh Walker, another pilot with the 391st. “Visibility was not good in the target area, making it necessary for both boxes to make two runs over the target.”



B-26 Plane that James Gatlin flew

“They were engaged by intense heavy flak fire on the second run, but I suddenly ceased with a red-colored burst, and enemy fighters dove in to attack.”

The Army Air Corps estimated that between 50 and 75 German fighters engulfed the U.S. bomber formations. In Gatlin’s unit, 16 of 30 bombers would not return to their base in France — the unit’s most casualties in a single mission since the war began.

“After bombs away I moved aft to the navigator’s compartment to operate the navigation equipment,” wrote Lt. John Adair, the Silver Dollar’s navigator. “I had just set my equipment on the navigator’s table when we were hit in the bomb bay by fighters.”

“After I picked myself up, I opened the bomb bay door to check the damage and I found the bomb bay to be completely on fire.”

1st. Lt. John Garside, flying the lead plane on the mission said the fighters attacked just after bombs were dropped.

“The fighters attacked in waves of 15 to 20 at the time,” Garside wrote in his official report. Adair took off his flack jacket, donned his parachute and moved toward the cockpit to tell the pilots of the damage.

“I hesitated for a moment to they if they were ready to jump,” Adair said. “Lt. Biezis [the co-pilot] was out of his seat and waiting for me to go.

“Lt. Gatlin was flying the plane with his left hand and ringing the alarm bell with his right hand, still in the pilot’s seat.”

Garside said other planes were going down all around him. Then he spotted the Silver Dollar “with the left engine on fire and the right engine feathered.”

“I did not see any chutes leave the aircraft, but his position denoted that he was bailing out his crew,” Garside said.

One month later, Gatlin’s aunt who lived on Gregory Place off North Main Street was notified of his disappearance. A short notice ran in the January 23, 1945 edition of the Florida Times-Union.

Though Gatlin’s remains weren’t found, his status was changed to killed in action after one year per Department of War policy at the time.

However, at the end of the war, Lt. Adair was liberated from a German prisoner of war camp and was able to

provide his testimony.

He felt sure he wasn't the only one to bail out.

It turns out, two other men did bail out.

In 1950, an investigation revealed that German documents showed that Staff Sgt. Milton Cowart and Staff Sgt. William Weissker also made it out of the plane.

Though the German authorities said Cowart was found dead with a bullet wound to the chest and Weissker died of injuries from the fall.

Adair asserted his opinion that Germans killed the men after they bailed out of the Silver Dollar, but he never saw any of his fellow crewmembers after he jumped from the plane. He lived for at least 40 more years not knowing his buddies' fates.

Then a letter came from the Army dated 1985 listing the burial places and status of his comrades.

"You were the only one fortunate enough to survive," the letter said. "I hope these two documents provide the information you are seeking."

The documents still showed Gatlin, his co-pilot Lt. Biezis and Staff Sgt. Joe Sanchez as killed in action, but missing.

In 1999, a group of German researchers notified U.S. authorities they had found a crash site and remains. Once the technology became viable, the U.S. Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office requested DNA samples from Howard, who was by that time the only living close relative of Gatlin, and a second-cousin.

"Mine came back as a perfect match," she said.

The office began making preparations to have Gatlin's remains returned to Florida.

Howard was the only person there with a living memory of James Gatlin when soldiers removed the flag-draped coffin from the plane.

"You talk about flashbacks, I was 13 when his dad died and James came home from the service," Howard said. "He was so handsome, of course we all worshipped him anyways."

"When they brought that casket out of the belly of that plane over in Tampa," she paused to gain her composure, "I was very emotional because I was the only one left who knew him."

It's been a long journey from December, 1944 to the cemetery in Bushnell where Gatlin's remains were laid to rest on Jan. 30. After all other living relatives passed away, Connie Howard had to carry on the family's pursuit to find Gatlin's remains.

"It is nice to know he's finally home," Howard said. "I've been trying to find him since ... well, I never stopped searching for him."

Clifford Davis: (904) 359-4103

The Veterans Council of St. Johns County Website

<http://www.veteranscouncilofstjohns.org>



The Veterans Council of St. Johns County is very fortunate to have AJ Sartin, Commander of VFW Post 12142 in Vilano Beach as our webmaster. Thank you AJ for the outstanding design of the website and for always keeping it updated.

If you haven't visited the website recently I encourage you to do so now. Here is a partial list of what you will find on the site.

Event Flyers: we list here Veterans Organization flyers for fund raisers, golf tournaments, etc.

Wreaths Across America: an update of progress toward goal of having one wreath on every burial site at St. Augustine National

Jacksonville National Cemetery: an update on MIAP, and events, ceremonies, and dedications

How to get Veterans License Tags

Update on meetings, events at new VFW Post 12142, Vilano Beach

All editions of the Patriot Reader going back 4 years are available here

The Veterans Council produced documentaries, as seen on PBS, are available for viewing here, they all feature the stories of local veterans: World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War and Stolen Freedom, the story of 4 local ex American Prisoners of War. Soon to be available online, "Unleashing the Underdogs: The K9s for Warriors Story", filmed in Ponte Vedra Beach.



Happy 122nd birthday to General Omar Bradley, February 12, the last 5-star American General.

General Bradley became the last living five-star general in 1969 after the death of former President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

A contemporary of Eisenhower, Bradley and Eisenhower were in the same 1915 graduating class of the United States Military Academy at West Point and were teammates on the West Point baseball team.

His West Point class is known as "The Class the Stars Fell On" as it produced more than 30 generals who served during WW II.

During WW II, Eisenhower requested that Bradley serve under him in a number of important assignments including commander of the II Corps in North Africa and Sicily, then as commander of the First U.S. Army and 12th U.S. Army Group in the European Theater.

After WWII, General Bradley returned to Washington and took over as head of the Veterans Administration from 1945 to 1947. He then became Chief of Staff of the Army and served two terms as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, departing in 1954.

Photo - President Truman pinning the 5-star rank on General Bradley



Five-Star Generals and Dates of Rank:

General of the Army George C. Marshall: December 16, 1944

General of the Army Douglas MacArthur: December 18, 1944

General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower: December 20, 1944

General of the Army Henry H. Arnold: December 21, 1944
(Redesignated General of the Air Force pursuant to Public Law 58, 81st Congress, approved May 7, 1949)

General of the Army Omar N. Bradley: September 20, 1950

Source: <http://www.history.army.mil/html/faq/5star.html>

Compiled by: MSgt Rob Wilkins, USAF, Ret.

Thank you Michael Isam



Every veteran knows Michael Isam. He distributes a daily veterans newsletter, *Veterans Today*, which many of you receive via email. Michael is a major contributor to this publication, he usually writes several articles each month, covers all aspects of county veterans activities, takes pictures and writes veterans related articles for several NE FL publications.

You will notice that there are no articles written by Michael this month in the Patriot Reader. Michael has let us all know that he has decided to slow down a little and focus on photographing veterans activities.

On behalf of the Veterans Council of St. Johns County I would like to thank Michael Isam for his years of dedicated volunteer work on behalf all veterans. Well done Michael and we look forward to working with you on future endeavors.

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

DIVERSITY WEEK

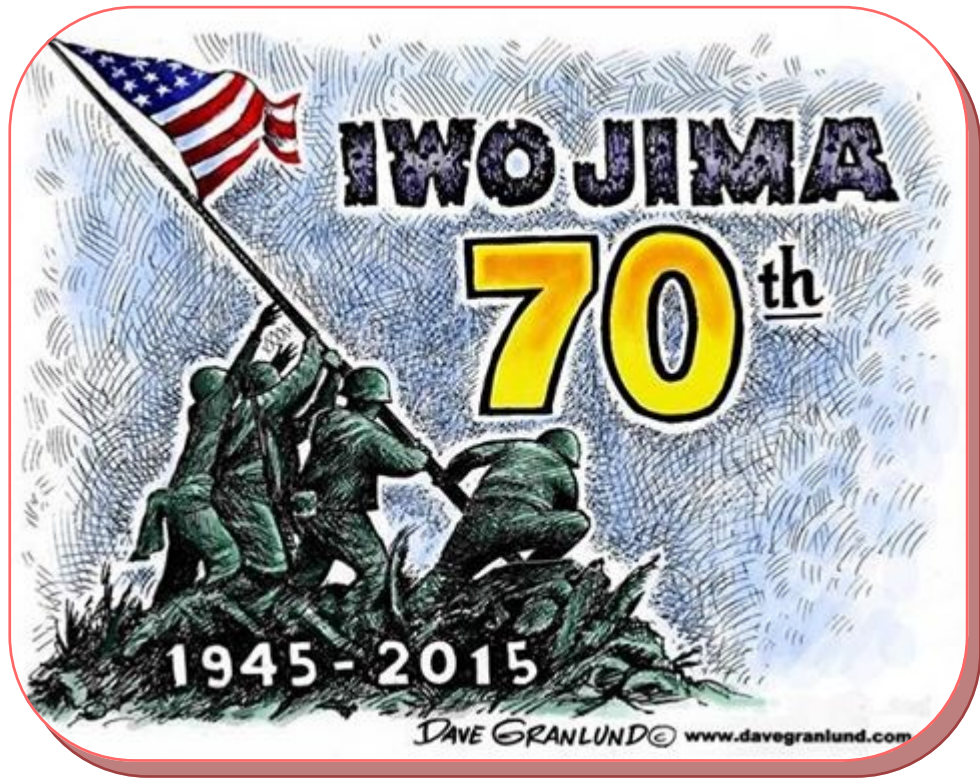
Save the date!

UNF Week of One
March 9 - 13, 2015



Join us in honoring and empowering
our campus community veterans!

Sponsored by the President's Commission on Diversity and Inclusion



Adjutant General takes to skies for final time as state's top Airman

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

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (Jan. 29, 2015) –

When the twin engines powered down on tail number 86-0181 on Thursday afternoon, you could feel a deep and sinking hum pass through your chest.

And then there was silence...as a 45-year career in the Florida Air National Guard drew even closer to its end for Maj. Gen. Emmett R. Titshaw Jr.

Titshaw – who will retire as the Adjutant General of Florida in March – rode in an F-15 Eagle fighter jet for the last time on Jan. 29 at the 125th Fighter Wing in Jacksonville. The 45-minute flight in the back seat of the Florida Air National Guard's tactical jet ended more than four decades in the air for Titshaw, who has been flying military and commercial aircraft since the early '70s.

Although he didn't pilot this particular flight, Titshaw accompanied the 125th's Maj. Kevin Wenger into the hazy-blue skies above Northeast Florida and southern Georgia. A second F-15 "two-seater" carried Rep. Richard Nugent for a distinguished visitor flight, as the jets performed high-speed maneuvers.

"It is a bittersweet day as nearly 45 years in the Florida National Guard come to an end," the general said. "It all started for me out here in May 1970 at this base – the 125th Fighter Wing. I went off to pilot training about a year later, and so (today) I go out and step to the jet and take that final flight."

The twin-engine tactical fighter jet was a far cry from the single-engine Cessna T-41 that Titshaw flew on his first flights as a young Air National Guard officer in pilot training.

"I was scared to death," Titshaw candidly related about his first flight. "I had never flown in an airplane before when I went to pilot training. I had about seven or eight lessons with an instructor and then he stepped out...He said 'You are on your own.' It was a feeling of apprehension. But once you get that first solo under your belt you know you can do it."

On this last F-15 flight Titshaw was taken through maneuvers he knew well: loops; low-level, high-speed passes; and acrobatics at six and seven "Gs" over the Okefenokee Swamp.

"We did one 8.1 G turn," Titshaw said with a smile after the flight ended and he climbed down from the cockpit. "It felt good."

Wife of the Adjutant General, Mrs. Gretchen Titshaw, stood out on the flightline at the Jacksonville International Airport to watch her husband on this last flight. She said she missed his final flight as a command pilot 17 years ago, so she was grateful to share in the closing of this chapter in his military life.

"It is definitely nostalgic, but a privilege to be out here," she said as F-15 engines growled and whined overhead.

With her husband netting more than 4,500 hours in the F-15, F-16, C-131, F-106

and F-102 during his extensive career, Mrs. Titshaw said she was always happy when the flights ended safely.

“It is always a little nerve-wracking, and it is a real treat to see ‘wheels on the ground’ (after each flight),” she said.

Titshaw enlisted in the Florida Air National Guard in May 1970 and received a direct commission the same year. In 1972, he completed Undergraduate Pilot Training at Columbus Air Force Base, Miss., receiving the Distinguished Graduate Award. After earning his wings, he was assigned as a Squadron fighter pilot with the 159th Fighter Interceptor Squadron in Jacksonville.

After successive assignments with the 125th Fighter Interceptor Group – later designated the 125th Fighter Wing – and other high-profile commands, he was selected to follow Maj. Gen. Douglas Burnett as the Adjutant General of Florida in 2010.

Now that he has removed his fighter pilot helmet for the last time and stepped safely from the cockpit, Titshaw admitted that although flying was a wonderful part of his career he really cherished the “people” aspect of the jet-fighter program – the squadron mates, the maintainers, and the support staff.

Flying, he said, “doesn’t compare to the camaraderie that you have with your brothers and sisters in arms.”



Adjutant General of Florida Maj. Gen. Emmett Titshaw Jr. prepares for his final ride in an F-15 Eagle at the 125th Fighter Wing in Jacksonville, Fla., Jan. 29, 2015. The 45-minute flight in the back seat of the Florida Air National Guard’s tactical jet ended more than four decades in the air for Titshaw, who has been flying military and commercial aircraft since the early ’70s. He will retire in March. Photo by Master Sgt. Thomas Kielbasa



Red Cross Submits Collection of Oldest Living War Veteran Richard Overton to VHP – Dispatch January 27, 2015



At an astounding 108 years old, Richard Overton is thought to be the oldest living war veteran, and there is not much that will slow him down. He is still very active, does yard work, attends church, and even still drives his truck around town.

Overton, born in 1906 in Texas, served in the Pacific Theater from 1942 to 1945 as part of the all-black 1887th Engineer Aviation Battalion. While there, he served on burial detail, as base security, and as a jeep driver for a Lieutenant.

According to a Washington Post article from November 2014, Overton traveled to Washington in 2013 to meet President Obama, who spoke about him at an event at Arlington National Cemetery. "When the war ended, Richard headed home to Texas to a nation bitterly divided by race," Obama said. "And his service on the battlefield was not always matched by the respect that he deserved at home. But this veteran held his head high. He carried on and lived his life with honor and dignity."

The full Washington Post article is available here:

http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/national/wp/2014/11/11/meet-americas-oldest-living-vet-he-smokes-cigars-does-yard-work-drives-and-drinks-whisky-and-hes-108/?tid=pm_pop

Overton was interviewed for the Veterans History Project (VHP) in July 2013 by Katherine Cranford, as part of an initiative by the American Red Cross of Greater Texas to collect veterans' oral histories. To date, the Greater Texas region has contributed nearly 1,000 interviews to VHP.

The complete recorded video of Richard Overton interview may be found here:

<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/diglib/vhp/story/loc.natlib.afc2001001.89813/>

We encourage you – individuals and organizations alike – to follow in the footsteps of the American Red Cross to collect these important and timely stories so that future generations may learn the realities of war from people such as Richard Overton.

The Mission of the Veterans History Project of the Library of Congress American Folklife Center is to collect, preserve and make accessible the personal accounts of American war veterans so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the realities of war. Learn more at www.loc.gov/vets. Share your exciting VHP initiatives, programs, events, and news stories with VHP to be considered for a future RSS. Email vohp@loc.gov and place "My VHP RSS Story" in the subject line.

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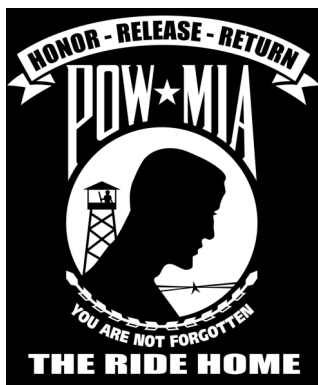


March 28, 2015, 11:30am

**“KEEPING THE PROMISE”
WE WILL NOT FORGET**

*Honor-Release-Return
Pow Medal Presentation*

**WORLD WAR – II
FORMER PRISONER OF WAR
U.S. ARMY PRIVATE
ARCH ANDREW SHEALY**



*Veteran's Memorial Park
2601 E Fort King St , Ocala, FL*

One Man's Service To Community And Nation. (Written by Rich Malfitano)

After a successful career in retail management in both Louisiana and Texas, Jim "Moe" Moyer a U.S. Coast Guard veteran and his lovely wife Ginny now enjoy their retirement in Lake Wales, Florida. Jim was always active in his community and spent countless hours volunteering to support veterans and active duty service men and women. He has a deep rooted concern for American servicemen who were left behind from all past wars, Prisoners Of War-Missing In Action (POW-MIA). Jim has been a long time volunteer for the Keep America Beautiful program where he served as a supervisor and served on the Board of Directors for the Planning & Zoning commission for the City of Cocoa.



In 1998 Jim attended "the Ride For Freedom" in Washington D.C., an annual demonstration for the accountability of Prisoners of War and Missing in Action. Already committed to the cause, he joined the National organization, Rolling Thunder, Inc. Jim excelled to leadership levels and served as the Director for Chapter's 1 and 6 in Florida and later served as the State Director overseeing 14 chapters within the states of Florida, Georgia and Alabama. In 2013 Jim resigned from Rolling Thunder Inc. and founded a new national Prisoner of War (POW) advocacy organization, "Honor Release Return Inc.", in which he is presently Co-Chairman. Its mission is clear; working for the repatriation of live Americans POW's in any form or captivity world-wide, and to educate the public on the Prisoner of War and Missing in Action issues. Jim is also the founder and chairman for The Ride Home, Inc. A national scaled annual event in observation of National POW/MIA Recognition Day, held in cooperation with the National Prisoner Of War Museum in Andersonville, Georgia. If that isn't enough, Jim is also currently serving as the Chairman of the Board of Directors for the newly chartered USO Central Florida, Inc. So much for retirement!



Jim's life long commitment to volunteer service for the POW-MIA cause, veterans of all wars and those presently serving our country, is second only to that of his wife Ginny, who has been 100% supportive and their family. On February 2nd 2015 Rich Malfitano of Rolling Thunder Fl. Chapter 8, certifying official for the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation, under the authority of the PVSAP, presented Jim "Moe" Moyer the President's Volunteer Service Award for his life-time service to community and nation. Thank you "Moe" for all you do for so many, and for your inspiration, reminding us that "When One American Is Not Worth The Effort To Be Found-Then We As Americans Have Lost".



Women Veterans

Employment Job Fair / Workshops

March 16, 2015 - 10 am to 3 pm

&

Entrepreneurship Workshop

March 17, 2015 - 9 am to 4 pm

"PLUS"

Kick-off and Network Social

March 16, 2015 - 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Adam W. Herbert University Center

12000 Alumni Drive, Jacksonville FL 32224

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For more details, visit FaceBook - Northeast Florida Women Veterans, Inc.





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

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.



As part the Vilano Beach VFW Veteran Outreach Program, we have presented another Disabled Veteran with a motorized Wheelchair.

We ask families of Veterans who can no longer use the equipment or have passed on, to donate their Standard Wheelchairs, Motorized Wheelchairs, and Walkers to the Post, and we re-distribute them to Veterans in need.

We presented a Go-Go Traveler motorized Wheelchair to George Kline, at the Pavilion, at the Bay-View Assisted Living Facility in St. Augustine. George proudly served in Korea.

This is the 2nd motorized wheelchair we have presented to a Veteran. We always leave with a smile on our faces and a warm feeling in our hearts. The first one was presented to a Veteran in his 80's, at the Clyde Lassen V.A. Nursing Home in St. Augustine.

Pictured is Post Commander A. J. Sartin, George Kline, and Post Adjutant Jim Crutchfield.



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

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





RECRUIT MILITARY

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EVERBANK FIELD

Thursday, April 9, 2015

11:00 am – 3:00 pm

1 EverBank Field Drive
Jacksonville, FL 32202

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FOR VETERANS, TRANSITIONING MILITARY PERSONNEL,
NATIONAL GUARD MEMBERS, RESERVE MEMBERS AND SPOUSES

COMPANIES ARE HIRING!

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Recruit Military is the top full-service military-to-civilian recruiting firm in the United States. We use online and offline products to connect employers, franchisors, and educational institutions with men and women who are transitioning from active duty to civilian life, veterans who already have civilian work experience, members of the National Guard and reserve forces, and military spouses. We serve veterans of all ranks, rates, and branches of the armed forces, and our services are free to all men and women who have a military background.

All of our senior officers and most of our other employees have served in the armed forces of the United States. As the nation's leading military-to-civilian recruiting firm, we have established working relationships with industry associations, non-profit organizations, and government agencies.

We invest considerable resources to keep our database stocked with fresh candidates. Our candidate-aggregation tactics include the publication of *Search & Employ*® print and digital magazine, a strong public relations program, web links and partnerships, and keyword purchases on major search engines

Our event will be held on the 9th of April at EverBank Field in Jacksonville, FL from 1100-3:00 PM. USAA's local wealth Management team is presenting a seminar prior to the Career fair at 10:00 AM. This seminar is titled "Practical Advice for all stages of Retirement Planning". All Veterans are welcome to attend this session that is provide information for all veterans and spouses to use as they consider their future retirement.

Doug Turner| Military Relations, Candidate Services

U.S. Marine First Sergeant (Retired), 24 years of active service

RecruitMilitary | Web: <http://RecruitMilitary.com/>
Office: 513-677-7047: dturner@recruitmilitary.com
[Search & Employ](#)® (Digital Magazine)

Connect & join the conversation: [Blog](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

Veterans Farm Programs contact info:

[NEW BEGINNING FARMER/RANCHER DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP](#)

K9s For Warriors has challenged everyone to #stop22, since we lose 22 veterans to suicide each day. Stop 22 is similar to the ice bucket challenge - so, get creative! (Kiss a dog 22 times, do 22 push ups, etc.) and then tag your friends and ask them to #OutDoMy22 - use the hashtag #K9sStop22 - when you post!



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. Thank you.

Respectfully,

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

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 50th Commemorative of the Vietnam War. The 50th 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.





Do you or someone you know suffer with *Psoriasis?*

We need your help, we are conducting a clinical trial with an investigational topical medication for those with moderate to severe **Plaque Psoriasis.**

If you are at least 18 years of age,
please call

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14546 Old St. Augustine Rd. Suite 107, Jacksonville, FL 32258
www.jaxadvresearch.com

#1001820718 (1/6 PG HORIZON(5in x 7in)) 10/06/2014 00:59 EST



**21ST ANNUAL FIRST MILITIA CHAPTER
AUSA GOLF TOURNAMENT
APRIL 13TH 2015**



Time: 7:30 AM Registration 8:30 AM Shotgun Start

Location: The Golf Club at South Hampton (CR-210)

Format: 4 Person Captain's Choice

Field: First 36 Teams



Entry Fee: \$75.00 (Includes Green Fees, Cart, Luncheon & Prizes)

Prizes For: 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Place

Hole Prizes Include: Longest Drive, Closest to Pin and Longest Putt
Chipping & Putting Contests (During the Tournament)

Golf Shoes Must Be Soft Spikes Only



The Luncheon & Awards Ceremony will be held on-site after the Tournament

TEAM CAPTAIN: _____ PHONE #: _____ EMAIL: _____

PLAYER #2: _____ PHONE #: _____ EMAIL: _____

PLAYER #3: _____ PHONE #: _____ EMAIL: _____

PLAYER #4: _____ PHONE #: _____ EMAIL: _____

MAIL ENTRY FORMS & FEES TO:

**MRS. REBECCA GIBSON, C/O AUSA GOLF TOURNAMENT,
P.O BOX 3883, ST. AUGUSTINE, FL 32085-3883.**

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO FIRST MILITIA CHAPTER - AUSA

AUSA is an exempt organization under section 501 (c) (3) of the US Internal Revenue Code.



AIR FORCE SERGEANTS ASSOCIATION

4th Annual Golf Tournament

To be held at Bent Creek Golf Course on March 21, 2015 tee time 0800.

Tournament will be a Captain's Choice Shotgun Start



Registration will begin at 0700 Sat. Mar 21 and fee will be \$75.00. Or visit our website at www.golfeventpro.com/events/AFSAGolf before Mar 19, 2015 and register early for \$65.00.

Registration includes practice balls  cart  and lunch.



Join us for some fun



a round of golf, lunch,



various other contests  and know that your donation will go to worthy projects.

Funds raised will go to support The Wounded Warrior Project, Wreaths Across America, the Missing in America Project and other programs for veterans.



Progress on Backlogged VA Claims

The Department of Veterans Affairs began 2015 with 519,530 pending veterans' benefits claims, 24 percent fewer than at the start of calendar year 2014. Of the pending claims, 253,522 are older than 125 days, the VA's processing goal. That is 37 percent fewer than at the start of 2014, a sign the VA is not just making progress on cutting claims but has put a significant dent in the oldest claims.

What to watch: The VA has been promising that the "backlog" of claims – those older than 125 days – would be eliminated in 2015, but that seems an almost impossible task. It takes 182 days, on average, for the VA to complete compensation and pension claims but some regions are slower than others. In Baltimore, for example, claims completed in December took an average of 363 days to complete.

Dear Veterans,

University of Florida will be hosting a Veterans Entrepreneurship Program, a training opportunity for disabled veterans who are interested in starting and running their own business. The program is scheduled for May 2015 and it covers all costs for the veterans.

The brochure is below and an introduction letter from our program director for you to learn more about our program. If you have any questions you can email me at annmarie-zhu@ufl.edu or contact our program coordinator (Dr. Morris) at 352-273-0330.

Best

Annmarie Zhu

Graduate Assistant

Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation University of Florida

COST

The VEP is free to veterans who are selected for the program. Instruction, materials, travel expenses, lodging, and meals for the Phase II Boot Camp will be provided at no cost to each delegate. The costs of the VEP are underwritten by sponsors and private donors, with operations and program development provided by the Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at the University of Florida.

ELIGIBILITY

VEP serves veterans who meet the following three requirements:

- Have separated from active duty service (or are currently in the administrative process of separating) with an honorable discharge
- Are identified as disabled by the Veteran's Administration or Department of Defense based on a "service-connected" disability (or) Are "service distinguished" based on exemplary military conduct
- Demonstrate an intense interest in entrepreneurship and small business ownership/management

HOW TO APPLY

The VEP has a selective application process that reflects the unique opportunity and valuable resources being offered to eligible veterans as part of this entrepreneurial education initiative. Successful candidates will demonstrate a strong interest in entrepreneurship and venture creation, the motivation to own and operate a business, and a high likelihood of active participation and completion of the entire VEP program.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

The Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation
(352) 273-0330
vep@warrington.ufl.edu

APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT:
warrington.ufl.edu/VEP

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

The University of Florida (UF) is a major, public, comprehensive, land-grant, research university. The state's oldest and most comprehensive university, UF is among the nation's most academically diverse public universities. UF has a long history of established programs in international education, research, and service. It is one of only 17 public, land-grant universities that belong to the Association of American Universities.

WARRINGTON COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

The Warrington College of Business Administration is one of the world's top-rated business programs, recognized for excellence by U.S. News & World Report, The Wall Street Journal, Financial Times, The Economist, and Fortune. As part of a Research I Institution Warrington is dedicated to a substantial research agenda, in addition to its teaching mission, from the undergraduate to the doctoral level. Warrington educates future business leaders using teaching methods that provide opportunities for development of leadership; interpersonal and total management skills; promoting mastery of business functional areas; and fostering the habits and attitudes that constitute a solid research and work ethic.

CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP & INNOVATION

The Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation (CEI) was created to teach, coach and inspire students to be entrepreneurial in their lives. The Center provides the tools and experiences necessary to creatively pursue new opportunities and innovations in the start-up, social, and corporate venture arenas. Through courses, degree programs and co-curricular programming, CEI currently serves more than 2,000 students per year.

A young man who does not have what it takes to perform military service is not likely to have what it takes to make a living. — John F. Kennedy



VETERANS ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAM

EMPOWERING DISABLED VETERANS

MAY 9-16, 2015
THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA



Presented by the University of Florida
In partnership with Oklahoma State University and
the University of Tennessee Chattanooga

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



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 THREE 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.
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Wine & War Stories

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

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

Located on 1st Street, Jacksonville Beach!

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

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

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

Tweet, Text and Share IAVA VetTogethers for Vets in Jax



For More Information, Please Call or Email

Phone: 912-271-5748
Email: alex@stonefran.com
www.facebook.com/
WineWarStories
www.facebook.com/IAVA.org/

RSVP :
www.stonefran.com
/events/wine-and-war-stories



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

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

Send to: mrothfeld@anyveteran.org

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

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

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

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

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

Visit our Website: www.veteranscouncilofstjohns.org

**It's our
responsibility
as Americans
and as
human beings
to make
sure
future
generations
do
not forget.**



**Veterans Service Office
San Sebastian View
St. Augustine, FL 32084**

(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.