



VETERANS COUNCIL OF ST. JOHNS COUNTY

CHAIRMAN BILL DUDLEY

VICE CHAIRMAN RAY QUINN

SECRETARY MICHAEL ROTHFELD

TREASURER JOHN MOUNTCASTLE

Newsletter Editor Michael Rothfeld

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Message from the Chairman



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Fellow Veterans,

This past Saturday was another successful Homeless Veterans Stand Down. Big Bravo Zulu to Tammy Shirley from the VSO office for her hard work and planning to make this another successful event. Although our homeless veteran numbers were smaller this year, the turnout of volunteers was incredible. The Veterans Council would also like to thank the Elks Lodge for their benevolent monetary support as well as their donation of the food and drinks. The veterans in St. Johns County are very fortunate to have a patriotic organization such as our local Elks Lodge that supports our many activities. And to all who donated clothing, toiletries, and volunteered their time, we thank you and salute your patriotism.

The Veterans Council and local MOAA are working diligently to plan this year's Veterans Day event. It promises to be the best ever as we plan for a military

parade which will be the culmination of the celebration of the 450th Anniversary of the founding of St. Augustine. Requests have been sent to the US Navy, USMC, and FLNG military marching bands for their participation in this year's parade. We are also planning for marching units from local high schools JROTC cadet units. We are contacting several sources for military assets such as WW II jeeps and other rolling units. The USCG will be displaying a drug interdiction helicopter on the grounds of the Castillo and some vessels from the USCG SECTOR at Mayport. One of the highlights of the event will be a vintage aircraft flyover as WW II Stearman Bi-Planes makes a formation flyover. The Spanish, French, and British Consulates have been contacted and plan to have representatives participate, some with marching units. Please mark Nov 11 on your calendar and plan to be on hand for this year Veterans Day event in the heart of downtown St. Augustine.

Sgt. Major Ray Quinn and Judy Davis are now at flank speed with this year Wreaths Across America program. They are working very hard at making this another successful year as they have in years past. Please plan to purchase your wreaths early this year and help out by signing up an organization in your community, your car dealer, barber, insurance person, doctor / pharmacist, church members, or any of the civic organizations you may be a member of.

Last month's attendance was a significant increase over our last several months. Let's keep up the good work and get back to filling the room as we used to.

Bill Dudley, Chairman
Veterans Council of
St. Johns County

Clyde E. Lassen State Veterans Nursing Home

Where Patriotism is our Motto



We brought the summer in with water balloons and said farewell with a dunk tank!



Left-Enjoying the pasta at Caddyshack



Right-Inspecting the goods at the Produce Stand



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, Tuesday, Sept. 8th.** The meeting will be at **7:00pm.** The meeting will take place at Community Hospice, **4266 Sunbeam Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32257 in Conference Room A.**

+++++2015 Officers of the SCJNC+++++

Chairman: Ray Quinn

Vice Chairman: Pat Mulvihill

Treasurer: John Mountcastle

Assist Treasurer: Michael Rothfeld

Secretary: Kathy Church

Grounding and lightning protection for the speaker system is now complete for the CARILLON at the Jacksonville National Cemetery.

The Support Committee thanks the MAXWELL LIGHTING PROTECTION COMPANY for their work on the Carillon.

Respectfully,

Steven H. Spickelmier



Veterans Helping Veterans in Annual Homeless Veteran Stand Down

By Michael Isam, St. Augustine, Fla, (August 23, 2015)

As with all things veteran, one thing is a time honored tradition. "Hurry up and wait!"

On Saturday nearly 40 volunteers were present at the requested start time of 0900, which is 9:00 a.m. to our civilian counterparts. An hour later the truck carrying the government surplus items had yet to find its way to the Elks Lodge on Anastasia Island.

Coordinator Tammy Shirley of the St. Johns County Veteran Service Office is extremely anxious for this to begin. "I have been putting this together for nearly a year," said Shirley. "I think there was maybe a one month break from the event last year before the planning for this year's event began."

Shirley had to excuse herself as a much expected phone call arrived. Those volunteers nearby heard a one-sided conversation that went, "Hello", "What?" "What do you mean you are lost, how do you get lost on SR16?" "No we are not at the State Veteran Nursing Home." The rest of the conversation is lost as she turns and walks away. It is probably just as well. The majority of veterans were doubled over with laughter, some to the point of losing their breath.

When the truck does arrive, it is attacked from all sides by veterans of several wars in typical military fashion. To the untrained eye there does not appear to be a method to the madness, but it soon makes its presence known.

"There is poetry in motion here," said one veteran who would not give his name. "It just does not follow any conventional academic definition."

Within an hour of the arrival of the truck, it was unloaded. There was a steady stream of volunteers pushing cardboard bins of various sizes and wheeling hand trucks laden with boxes of clothing, boots, and other sundry items too numerous to mention. The government surplus was here, out on display and ready to be put to good use.

All the while, donations of gently used clothing from the community continued to come through the door. Towels, socks, undergarments, and "ditty bags" of personal care items filled several tables. "It is absolutely amazing to see the outpouring from the community," said Bill Dudley, Chairman of The Veterans Council of St. Johns County. "Every year there seems to be more."

Vietnam Veterans outnumbered the veterans of any other era, but it is to be expected.

"It is not that other era veterans do not care," said Robert Dinkins of Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1084. "All veterans care, and care deeply. These people are family. They are our brothers and sisters. If we do not care for them," continued Dinkins, "then who will?"

Day two began much as day one with "The Wait". Volunteers and attendees waiting as

the clock advanced toward the magical hour. Set up preparations continued until, in some cases, the very first client sat down.

Following brief announcements for the volunteers by coordinator Tammy Shirley, there came a welcome by Veterans Council President Bill Dudley, a prayer led by retired Sergeant Major Ray Quinn, and a salute to the flag. The stand down began.

The most visible organization was a cadre of volunteers from the VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic. They were making sure all veterans were scheduled into the system to get the medical care they needed. A tall sign announcing services for Women Veterans was a welcome sight for many and was busy all during the day. Legal aid and a cadre of other services too numerous to mention had a steady stream of clients during the allotted four hour time frame.

Some, including a toddler, found the trip to one of the two barbers a most welcome relief. "It is amazing," said one attendee. "I feel so much cooler already." His hair, now almost recruit regulation length, once hung well below his shoulders.

After a small break to finish up last minute clients and fueling up on the well-known Elks hot dogs and hamburgers, everyone gathered inside for the annual raffle of items donated by local businesses.

Joe McDermott, Chief Veteran Service Officer for St. Johns County was all smiles. "Regardless of the number who show up, these events are necessary and each is a total success." "I am waiting for the day when we hold one of these events," he continued, "and absolutely nobody shows up because everyone has a home. That will be one grand day!"

Photo by Michael Isam



Re-enactors mark end of Second Seminole War at St. Francis Barracks

By [JENNA CARPENTER](mailto:jenna.carpenter@staugustine.com) jenna.carpenter@staugustine.com This article used with permission of the author and the St. Augustine Record

A gunshot fired from the St. Francis Barracks on the morning of Aug. 15, 1842, signaled the approach of hundreds of U.S. soldiers marching into St. Augustine to bury those who died during the Second Seminole War.

The parade, which was made up of soldiers, wagons, mules and townspeople, marched down Marine Street, past the St. Francis Barracks, and into the garden of the barracks, where the remains of the fallen were buried under three pyramids.

“The parade into St. Augustine was one of the biggest events in St. Augustine after it was colonized,” said Joseph Naftzinger, a retired Army colonel and member of the West Point Society of North Florida. “St. Augustine was the ground-zero for the war.”

While the total number of bodies buried under the pyramids is uncertain, it is estimated that between 193 and 243 bodies were laid to rest in the garden that later became a National Cemetery.

Exactly 173 years later, more than 80 historians and re-enactors from all over Florida took to Marine Street on Saturday to honor those who died during the Second Seminole War.

This is the second year organizations like the West Point Society of North Florida, the 450th Military Commemoration Committee and the Dade Battlefield Society have gathered together to re-enact the parade, Naftzinger said.

But re-enacting the parade is more than just a way to commemorate the dead; its organizers hope it will bring awareness to a war that is often glossed over in history books.

The war is often forgotten because those involved didn’t want to talk about it, Naftzinger said. “The war dominated life in territorial Florida, but it cost the government a lot of treasure — both in money and in casualties,” he said.

Another reason why it is forgotten is because other events like the Battle of the Alamo and the war with Mexico took center stage, said Steve Rinck, president of the Seminole Wars Foundation.

The Second Seminole War, which began on Dec. 28, 1835, was the result of the United States government’s continued efforts to force the Seminoles out of Florida.

That morning, a group of Seminoles ambushed a U.S. Army company as it was heading from Fort Brooke in Tampa to Fort King in Ocala.

The company, which was made up of 108 men, was led by Maj. Francis Langhorne Dade and included five West Point graduates.

The attack was a sound defeat for the Seminoles — only two men survived, Naftzinger said. “The nation was shocked; nothing like that had happened before,” he said. The ambush is in ranks with Custer’s Last Stand and Pearl Harbor, Rinck said. “It was unexpected,” he said.

That ambush sparked a seven-year war that raged throughout the Florida peninsula. “The Second Seminole War is the longest war in the first 195 years in American history,” Rinck said.

The war ended in 1842, but not with a climatic battle or treaty, Rinck said.

Rather, Col. Rather, Col. William J. Worth “announced” the end of the hostilities.

“There were some reports of Indian activity out in the west, and we think that’s the real reason why Col. Worth decided to put an end to the conflict here,” Rinck said. “There was no real surrender, and the Seminoles are very proud that they remained unconquered.”

By the time the war ended, the U.S. suffered 1,400 casualties.

But the Seminoles also suffered mass losses; the war had dwindled the Seminole population to about 5,000.

While the majority of survivors were forced to relocate to Oklahoma, others moved into a reservation in the Everglades.

The conflicts and tensions of Second Seminole War were echoed during the Civil War, Rinck said.

“Escaped slaves joined the Seminoles. So even though this was 25 years prior, it was precursor to the war between the states because of the race, economic and displacement issues,” he said.



From Marl Cubbedge, "Faces of Freedom"

I had the privilege of watching a 92-year-old man cry today with his wife of 68 years, a granddaughter and one of his great grandchildren.

"I can't even put into words what this means to me," Warren Hewett said.

Hewett, a Pearl Harbor survivor whom I photographed two months ago, never received the medals and ribbons he earned for his service during WWII.

When I learned of this oversight I contacted Congressman Ron DeSantis' office regarding the protocol for researching and awarding military honors and awards. The Congressman's office took the case to heart and in about two months' time DeSantis personally awarded Hewett his medals in a framed shadow box today in a private ceremony in his office.



"We're very happy to be of service for this," DeSantis said. "[WWII] was an important time in our history and we want to recognize the people who served us well. On behalf of the office and the district, thank you for your service to the country."

Randy Stapleford, military and veteran affairs liaison for DeSantis' office, was instrumental in leaving no stone unturned for the awarding of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Medal.

Congress established the medal in 1990 and awarded them to members of the Armed Forces who were present in Hawaii on Dec. 7, 1941 and participated in combat operations that day.

That medal is no longer minted but Stapleford was able to locate one and include it in the presentation today.

"I just thank God for people like you who care enough about us to go and dig this information up and make it happen," Hewett said.

St. Augustine WWII vet Bill Murphy recalls service 70 years after fighting

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

Bill Murphy's childhood of poverty, rooting for the St. Louis Cardinals and dreaming big was followed by an early adulthood of combat and putting life on hold.

Now 90 years old and residing in St. Augustine Beach, he looks back on the nearly three years he spent served in Africa, Italy, France, Germany and Austria.

Murphy was drafted into the Army at age 18 after graduating from Christian Brothers College High School in St. Louis.

His service cost the then-6-foot-1, 210-pound Murphy a four-year basketball scholarship to Virginia Military Institute.

"I had went home, told my mom and dad [about the scholarship], and they were just elated," he said. "A week later they call me in again and tell me, 'You're No. 1 to be drafted.'"

It was a major letdown.

"Forty-five days later I'm in Fort McClellan in Alabama taking basic training and from that point on it was 'Go! Go!'" he said.

At 19, he became first sergeant of Company K of the 36th Infantry Division from Texas. The man he replaced had stepped on a land mine and lost his legs.

He was put in charge of about 180 men, leading them almost immediately into several combat situations.

"I knew I'd catch some flak, so I made sure to stay out of the saloon at night when they'd get to talking," he said. "I only had to fight one of them."

Murphy won the fight, and with it, the respect of his men.

In the meantime, his future wife, Dell, wrote him letters five days a week. It had been "love at first sight" at a dance party in a Missouri basement, but it would have to wait.



WILLOTT@STAUGUSTINE.COM World War II U.S. Army veteran Bill Murphy poses for a photograph in his home in St. Augustine Beach on Tuesday, August 18, 2015. During the war he served in Africa, Italy, France, Germany and Austria with the Texas 36th Combat Division. By 19, he was a 1st sergeant in command of 180 men

Life changes

On the morning of June 6, 1944, Murphy's unit was in Italy, en route to Rome.

Murphy had heard some commotion coming from the other side of the road as several servicemen huddled around a radio alongside a parked tank. He asked the group what all the noise was about.

"Great news," they said. "The allies have just invaded Normandy."

"Normandy, that's great. Where's Normandy?" Murphy said. "One guy answered, 'I think it's in Belgium!'"

In the south of France on Aug. 15, 1944, a bullet went through Murphy's neck, just missing his windpipe and jugular vein.

Dell said his family kept the bullet for years but was left behind in a Connecticut attic after a move and ultimately lost.

On May 8, 1945, Murphy said he had one foot in Austria and the other in Germany when two officers pulled up in a Jeep with news of German surrender.

"I asked if they had some ID on them because the Germans were cute with that," Murphy said. "I sent one of my guys to look for his badge and he said it looked OK. We didn't want to take any risks."

They ended up in Blaubeuren, Germany, for the final months of their service.

"We actually put a little team together in Blaubeuren after the war, but we couldn't find anyone to play," Murphy said. "We were probably the most unfit group of basketball players, really — we were terrible."

But it kept them busy for a while, he added.

"War doesn't bother me, except about two years ago they started putting all this stuff about it on TV," he said. "I swore I wouldn't watch it because it woke me up scared and shocked a couple times."

After the war

Murphy was 20 years old when he returned to the United States.

He had a friend he played baseball with in high school who was then a scout for the New York Giants and asked Murphy to try out.

Although Murphy had received a scholarship for basketball, it was baseball that he considered his true calling. It was also finally a chance to make a professional team.

Murphy signed with the Giants' minor league baseball team and was sent to Sanford, Fla., for spring training. But war had taken its toll.

"I kind of lost my punch and I couldn't get that bat around," he said. "After about four months, I knew I didn't have it."

Murphy was released by the Giants and enrolled at Washington University in St. Louis, although he left after just two years following the death of his father.

He assumed the responsibility of providing for the family, as his two younger brothers had enlisted after the war.

He and Dell were married in 1949. Now approaching their 67th anniversary, the Murphys have three daughters, two sons, eight grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

"If it wasn't for this gal here, I wouldn't have made it," Murphy, who will turn 91 in December, said of Dell.

Murphy worked as a sales manager for Kaiser Aluminum and Continental Can Co., retiring in 1984.

He joined the Knights of Columbus in 1950, finding his way to St. Augustine's Council 611 in 1986 and elected Grand Knight in 1990 and 1994.

"You look back some days on some things you'd have liked to change," he said. "There are a lot of things I'd have liked to change, but it's not possible."

He was awarded two Purple Hearts, four Bronze Stars and other citations.

"All of them have some kind of story related to them, and some I don't even remember," Murphy said. "Getting to breakfast on time, maybe."

Purple Heart recipients gather at Jacksonville Memorial Wall for Recognition Day

By **Clifford Davis** This article is used with permission of its author and the Florida Times Union

Ralph Sevelius was 23 when a land mine exploded and ripped into his lower legs in the Me-kong Delta in 1968.

Walter A. Hickey was 21 in 1945 when a Japanese soldier thrust his bayonet into Hickey's waist on a hilltop in the Philippines.

Friday evening, Sevelius and Hickey joined dozens of other recipients of the Purple Heart at the Jacksonville Memorial Wall to commemorate Purple Heart Recognition Day.

"Freedom is a fragile thing and it is never more than one generation away from extinction," said Jacksonville Naval Air Station commander Capt. Howard Wanamaker, quoting Ronald Reagan. "It is not our divine inheritance, it must be fought for and defended constantly by each generation."

The Purple Heart began as the Badge of Military Merit, created by Gen. George Washington on August 7, 1782.

It was largely forgotten after the American Revolution until efforts began to revive the medal in the late 1920s.

Gen. Douglas MacArthur finally rallied successfully to reinstitute the medal on Feb. 22, 1932, on what would have been Washington's 200th birthday.

The Purple Heart is earned by those who are wounded in combat. For those whose wounds are fatal, their survivors receive their medal.

It was for those as well, that the men gathered Friday.

"Even though they're not here physically, in some ways they are here," Ernest Serna said from the podium. "Because what they died for remains: A free United States of America."

For Sevelius, the memory of friends lost in combat remains a very personal reality.

The same blast that tore into his legs, killed his friend right behind him.

"My battalion commander said there had been some secondary explosions after an air strike nearby and wanted us to go check it out," Sevelius said. "When we got to the area, we found all kinds of medical supplies and weapons.

"That's when that sniper started shooting at us."

The company commander radioed to ask Sevelius if he could do anything about the sniper.

"I looked and looked for him and figured he was long gone," he said. "I stood up and walked forward a few steps when it exploded."

Most landmines, like this one, throw shrapnel out and increasingly up the farther one is away from the blast.

"I got it in the legs and Sgt. Warner got it in the chest," he said. "The medic came out there

and I was yelling back at Sgt. Warner asking him if his legs were hurting as badly as mine.

“The medic said, ‘You don’t have to worry about Sgt. Warner, he’s dead.’ ”

Sevelius said Warner was only behind him for one reason.

“Sgt. Warner had no reason to be with me,” he said. “The only reason he was with me was because he was my friend.”

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The annual Purple Heart Recognition Day ceremony was held at the Veterans Memorial Wall and along the Purple Heart Trail Friday.



Bruce.Lipsky@jacksonville.com

Vietnam veteran Ralph Sevelius was wounded when a mine exploded killing the soldier he was on patrol with. The annual Purple Heart Recognition Day ceremony was held at the Veterans Memorial Wall and along the Purple Heart Trail Friday.

Bill Gamble, President of the Marsh Creek Veterans Association brought Vietnam fighter pilot, Fred Olmsted to speak at the Veterans Council July meeting. Fred's bio follows.



Frederick S. Olmsted, Jr - A History

There is no doubt that most of our illustrious class individual histories will start with something like "I left for the AF Academy a couple of weeks after graduating from high school." So, staying true to form, 10 days after graduating from Chula Vista High school, I, too, headed for the shiny, impressive, intimidating military academy that I had seen in various advertising brochures in my school counselor's office. I had no idea what was in store for me when I jumped on that Continental plane and left Lindbergh Field in San Diego (Chula Vista is about 10 miles south of San Diego), and of course it wasn't what I had hoped it would be!! After that hellacious first summer, I was put in the brand-new 20th Squadron, and there I was privileged to start long-lasting friendships with fine, fine men like Doug Jenkins, Todd Jageron, Joe Griffith, Ray Blunt, "Roadrunner" Glenn, "Bumaga" Cobeaga, and on and on.

We had a proud, close squadron, and most of us spent our most productive time studying, shining shoes, polishing floors, and trying to stay out of trouble. I managed to keep a decent GPA while playing four years of baseball for the Falcon team. My most productive baseball year was the season of 1964, when our team (featuring power hitters like shortstop Darryl Bloodworth and catcher Al McArtor) won the mountain regional for the first time in Academy history. As a reward, we got to take on the #1 ranked college team in the US--Arizona State--for a berth in the College World Series in Omaha, Nebraska. We lost in a 3-game series, and I took my only pitching loss of the season. My record that season was 8 wins and 1 loss, and I still own a couple of all-time pitching records for AFA baseball players. I was honored to be named to the NCAA All-Western baseball team as the first-team left-handed pitcher.

After graduation, it was off to UPT at Vance in Class 66-B. I loved flying the White Rocket, and ended up winning the Outstanding Flying Award (T-38) at the end of the year. I think this contributed to my being assigned to ATC as a T-38 IP, and I arrived at Reese AFB in Dec. 1965. Reese was a superb training base, and while I was there I participated in all the wing sports (football, basketball, and of course, baseball). In the 3 years I served at Reese, I was named the Reese IP of the Year, and also the Athlete of the Quarter. With the help of the mayor of Lubbock, I was also allowed a little extra time- off to pitch for the Texas state semi-pro baseball team in two semi-pro world series tournaments featuring teams from all 50 states. I was named as the all-state semi-pro pitcher for the Texas team.

In 1968, my volunteer request for SEA combat duty finally got to somebody's desk, and to my joyous surprise I was given orders to Davis-Monthan AFB to check out in the F-4 Phantom. I entered F-4 CCTS in Mar. 1969 and finished up in Sep. 1969. Within a month, I was heading for combat in SEA. I was privileged to serve in combat in SEA for the next 30 months. My last 20 months (Dec 1970-Jun 1972) were spent in the 13th TFS at Udorn RTAFB, Thailand. We were part of the 432d TRW, the famous "MiG Killer Wing," whose motto was "...and kill MiGs."

While at Udorn, I served as a Laredo Fast FAC, and when the air war heated up once again in early

1972 I was selected as one of the special cadre of MiGCAP flight leaders. Our mission was to dash ahead of the strike fighters that were bombing Hanoi so as to keep the MiGs from engaging our bomb-laden fighter brethren. While I was leading these MiG sweep missions over Hanoi, I shot down two enemy MiG-21s in aerial combat. The first kill took place on Mar. 30, 1972, and the second kill was on Apr. 16, 1972.

It was the second kill that became quite famous after it was featured on the History Channel Dogfights episode entitled "Hell Over Hanoi." I was flying as Basco Flight lead on that particular mission, leading a four ship of Phantoms from Udorn. It is interesting to note that my aircraft that day was the now-iconic "MiG Killer Phantom" that sits in front of Mitchell Hall, tail # OY 463! At the end of this mission, the proud warrior Phantom would have another red star adorning the splitter plate!

Our mission on 16 April was to act as MiGCAP for a major strike against Hanoi that morning. We were in orbit on the western border of NVN when we were alerted that there were four blue bandits closing head-on at 20 miles. I positioned Basco Flight for the imminent dogfight and ordered the flight members to jettison the 3 external fuel tanks we were all carrying. Just then, my backseater (Capt. Stu Maas) picked up two of the bandits on the radar. At twelve miles Stu obtained a full radar lock-on, and informed me that these bogeys were indeed MiG-21s. As we closed head-on and came into firing range, I hesitated to fire my Sparrow missiles fearing that the bogeys might be friendlies drifting into our area. I just didn't trust the new, top-secret electronic gear that was installed in the airplane which allowed us to shoot BVR, or beyond visual range. I disregarded Stu's insistent intercom calls to me to "shoot 'em, Fredo, shoot 'em, they are MiG-21s."

At that time, I saw the two aircraft pass immediately overhead, and they were indeed shiny MiG-21s!! I immediately alerted my #3 (Major [now General] Dan Cherry) of my visual sighting and made a high-g turn up and to the right to engage the MiGs. As we were rolling out behind the lead MiGs, the third MiG entered the fight from behind. Doing his usual superb job as an element leader, Dan Cherry picked this MiG-21 up and engaged him in a high-speed fight that I could hear taking place.

As I pulled OY 463 in behind the two lead MiGs, the MiG leader performed a split-s directly in front of my nose and was gone from the fight, leaving his wingman to fend for himself. I tracked this MiG through a number of high-speed, high-g vertical vector rolls until I got into good Sparrow firing position. I fired a missile at the MiG while we were both in a hard left turn. The missile impacted the aircraft and blew about half of his wing off, but the pilot didn't eject and the aircraft kept on turning hard. So I fired 2 more Sparrows at him, and the second of these two shots scored a direct hit. The missile went through the top of the MiG's canopy, and the shiny enemy fighter exploded into two, huge fireballs.

After the war in SEA had ended, various books and documents were written extolling the tactics that I employed to shoot down my adversary in that dogfight, calling the dogfight "the textbook example as to how a Phantom should fight against a MiG-21." I left the 432nd in Jun. 1972, after flying more than 300 combat missions. I was awarded 2 Silver Stars, the Distinguished Flying Cross, and the Air Medal with 21 Oak Leaf Clusters.

I am proud and humbled to say that I was privileged to fly combat with some of the greatest fighter pilots the AF has ever produced. Our classmate Bob Lodge was a mentor to all of us in our wing, and he was a

fearless combat pilot with a brilliant understanding of combat flying. Likewise, our classmate and fighter ace Steve Ritchie was a superb combat leader who flew and fought with extraordinary skill in his three combat tours. I was honored to fly many missions with both of these inspirational members of our illustrious class. To this day, they bring all of us a great deal of pride.

When I returned to the US, I had decided that the peacetime AF didn't particularly suit me. It seems that I had spent too much time "calling all the shots" as a combat flight lead! Consequently, I resigned from the AF in Dec. 1972.

In early 1973 I was hired by Eastern Airlines as a B-727 pilot, and I spent the next 16 years flying for EAL. My domiciles were NY, Boston, and Houston.

In my spare time, I trained and practiced 4 hours each day, 6 days a week, attempting to gain recognition as a USTA tournament tennis player. All this work eventually paid off in 1986 when I was ranked #7 in the US in Men's Singles (Over-40s) and #4 in Men's Doubles.

Unfortunately, in the mid-80s EAL fell upon hard financial times so I decided to carve out an alternate career. I interviewed and tested for law school in 1987, and that same year I was accepted into South Texas College of Law in Houston. I continued flying for EAL during these years, but managed my flight schedule so that I graduated with my class in 1989. I became a member of the Texas Legal Bar that same year, and was admitted to practice before the Texas Supreme Court.

Just as I was starting w a law firm in Houston, my best buddy Al McArtor called me from his executive office in Memphis where he was Fed Ex's Sr. VP of Flight Operations. Al invited me to Memphis for an interview with FedEx, and I was quick to accept. I happily took FedEx' job offer in 1989, and was back flying the B-727 once again! I spent the next 19 years happily employed by this wonderful company.

In 1998 I left the B-727 captain's seat for the captain's seat of the Airbus A-300. This flying assignment took me to the Philippines for the next 2 years, where I experienced the finest flying and work conditions an airline pilot could ever imagine. When I reached the statutory age of retirement (60 years old) I was summoned back to the US and to FedEx World Headquarters in Memphis. It was at this time that the VP of Flight Operations asked if I would stay on for a few more years as a Special Assistant to him. My tasking by him was to conceptualize and then implement an administrative accident investigation policy for FedEx to use in litigation after a major aircraft accident. His rationale was that my 24,000 hours of flying time plus the JD degree would be a perfect combination for devising how this idea for a new policy could be brought from imagination to reality to actual day-to-day use by FedEx executives.

The policy that I devised and implemented is still the official FedEx administrative accident investigation SOP. In the years from 2003 until I formally retired in 2008, I investigated and helped litigate 7 major aircraft accidents at FedEx. Recently, I was re-hired by FedEx as an accident investigation consultant. I was proud and happy to note that the official guidebook that I authored is still in use by the company today!! I retired from full-time work for FedEx in 2008 and moved to St Augustine, FL with my life-long love and wife Barbara.

Mrs. Barbara and I both savor all of the life-changing experiences we were privileged to enjoy during our service with the Air Force and our years spent with the commercial airlines. Most importantly, we have been blessed by having the finest, dearest, truest friends we could ever wish for. I'm proud to say that the friends I am speaking of are my brothers from the USAFA Class of 1964...finer men never served this country!!

Best always, Fred "Fredo" Olmsted



FROM Fred Olmsted: Picture of my Phantom at the US Air Force Academy where it now sits in front of Mitchell Hall (cadet dining hall). We dedicated OY 463 in 1988.

I had to get permission to miss a few days of my law school classes in Texas!!——



Interesting note re the Best Hands pic of me (Fred) talking w/ Dan Cherry. The young back seater to the far left of the pic is Jeff Feinstein, who was Dan's GIB that day w/ Basco Flight. Jeff went on to record 5 MiG kills as a back seater.

This picture speaks for itself. It was used in a book detailing the Basco dogfight in 1972.

Good shot of Lt. Hong My, who when he initially saw me in the hotel elevator in Orlando (I was standing there w/ Mrs. Barbara) he tapped me on the shoulder from behind.

I turned, and I saw this Oriental man (very impressive looking) staring right at me. He said (w/ a heavy accent): "Are you Captain Olmsted." After my initial shock, I said that I was indeed Olmsted. At which time he paused, lifted his index finger near me, and said so very slowly: "I was supposed to kill you that day!"

My dear wife almost fainted.

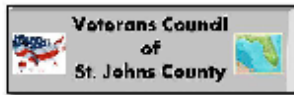
True story.

Fredo



THREE JET FIGHTER PILOTS WHO BATTLED FOR CONTROL OF THE SKIES OF VIETNAM ON APRIL 16, 1972

The Photography of John Fleck



HONORING OUR VETERANS

Please join us on Sunday November 8th, 1:00 pm,
for a patriotic afternoon 'Honoring Our Veterans'

Anastasia Baptist Church - 1650 A1A S. St. Augustine

Highlights

St. Augustine High School Chorus

Iraq/Afghanistan Memorial will be on display

**Local veterans organizations will be in the Atrium
from 1:00 to 2:30pm displaying their activities**

**As broadcast on PBS, See the very moving story of
the Warriors at 'K9s for Warriors' and how rescued
K9s are trained to assist these warriors with PTSD
adjust to life back home**

PROUD SUPPORTER OF



K9s for Warriors

**Open To The Public
No Admission
Charge**



Hosted by the Veterans Council, Inc. of St. Johns County and Anastasia Baptist Church

Re-enactors needed for September 7th: looking for re-enactors in period uniform for WW II, Korea, and Vietnam. A small stipend and parking will be provided by the City, contact: Wanda Bray, City of St. Augustine, Dept. of Public Affairs, 904-825-1004

Furor erupts after POW-MIA flag, a creation of a Jacksonville woman, is called 'racist'

Columnist apologizes for use of 'over the top' word

By **Clifford Davis** , article used with permission of the author and the Florida Times Union

The Confederate Stars and Bars tipped off a debate this summer along racial lines.

Now, the widely recognized POW-MIA flag, designed by a Jacksonville woman, is coming under fire.

A columnist — who referred to the POW/MIA flag as a “racist flag,” a “banner of lies” and called for it to be taken down on Tuesday — touched off a tornado of criticism.

The column by Rick Perlstein, the national correspondent for the little-known and left-leaning Washington Spectator, came to national attention after it was picked up and posted on Newsweek’s website.

In the column, Perlstein asserts the flag and the issue of POWs, were just tools of the Nixon administration to drum up support for what had become an unpopular war in Vietnam.

“In 1971, that damned flag went up,” Perlstein wrote. “The flag was the creation of the National League of Families of Prisoners of War, later the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia, a fascinating part of the story in itself.”

There, Perlstein got it wrong.

The flag wasn’t a creation of the group.

The flag was an effort by one Jacksonville woman to make sure Americans did not forget that men were fighting, dying and missing in Southeast Asia.

One of the missing was her husband, Navy Cmdr. Michael G. Hoff, who was shot down in his F-4 Phantom over Laos in 1970.

“In World War II they had the banners people would hang from their windows with the blue stars or gold stars,” Ret. Col. Carl Crumpler said. “She started thinking, ‘Well, here I am an MIA’s wife and I don’t really have anything to identify me as such.’ “

Crumpler and his wife became life-long friends with Hoff.

Crumpler, an Air Force pilot, was shot down in 1968 and was a prisoner at the infamous Hanoi Hilton when Hoff was shot down.

He’d moved his wife to Jacksonville, his hometown, when he deployed so his family could help out with their four children.

“My wife and the kids were going to St. Catherine’s Catholic Church on Kingsley Avenue in Orange Park,” Crumpler said. “Mary Hoff had been a longtime member there and, when her husband was shot down, the priest asked my wife to go and visit her.”



Times-Union file

Mary Helen Hoff, left, whose husband, Lt. Cmdr. Michael G. Hoff has been missing in action since his plane crashed over Laos on Jan. 7, 1970, presents the first of a newly designed banner and emblem which will serve as a reminder of our captured and missing American servicemen to Jacksonville Mayor Hans Tanzler, center, and city council president Lynwood Roberts.

Crumpler had already been missing two years by 1970.

“He’d just been shot down,” Jane Crumpler said. “She was just like all the rest of us, just in shock.

“We knew nothing and had to wait to find out because, being shot down over Laos, it was almost impossible to get anything.”

With five children, Hoff could barely leave the house. Still, she wanted to do something for her husband, Jane Crumpler said.

One day Hoff read a story in the Times-Union about Annin & Co. The flagmaker had refused to produce flags for the Chinese communists to display at the United Nations.

Hoff reached out to the company’s vice president and proposed the creation of the POW/MIA flag.

The company contracted graphic designer Newt Heisley to design the emblem.

Heisley’s first attempt didn’t suit Hoff and she returned it.

“I said, ‘I don’t want a lot of colors,’ “ Hoff told the Times-Union in 2009. “I had seen a picture of one of those POWs wearing black-and-white pajamas. And because of that I said, ‘We need a stark, black-and-white flag.’”

The first flags were actually hanging, verticle banners like the blue and gold star-adorned banners of World War II. They were sold out of Hoff’s home.

“She took the banner to a local meeting of the National League of Families of Prisoners of War and asked them what they thought about it,” Carl Crumpler said. “Then they took it to the state group and that’s when they turned it into a flag.”

The POW/MIA flag is today, for many Americans, the instantly recognizable and stark reminder Mary Hoff hoped it would be.

“For me, that flag represents a lot of friends that didn’t come back,” Carl Crumpler said. “A lot of guys would crash land, make contact with their camp — and then, poof! they were gone.”

As far as Perlstein’s column, Carl Crumpler threw up his hands in exasperation.

“Oh my god,” he said. “There’s always going to be those people who run around and say things like this.

“There was no racism in it — none.”

As for Perlstein, he issued an apology of sorts that has since been attached to his column at the Washington Spectator’s website.

“I sincerely regret the use of the word ‘racist’ to describe how the POW/MIA flag distorts the history of the Vietnam War,” he wrote. “The word was over the top and not called for.”

However, both he and his editor said they stood by the column.

For Mary Hoff, it’s unclear whether she knows of the controversy.

According to the Crumplers, the 84-year-old woman’s health is quickly deteriorating and she is being cared for by family.

Her husband’s body was never recovered.

“I never stopped thinking he wasn’t coming home,” Hoff told the Times-Union in 2004. “I know he isn’t coming home alive, but I never stopped thinking he wasn’t coming home.”

Clifford Davis: (904) 359-4103



ARE YOU A VETERAN'S CAREGIVER? YOU ARE NOT ALONE!

As more Northeast Florida veterans need full-time care, there is help for family caregivers who want to better understand their veteran's special needs and how, when and where they can find help—for themselves and their loved ones.

By attending our "Caring for the Veteran's Caregiver" workshop, you'll connect with professionals and resources that will support you in your caregiving journey. You'll also meet fellow caregivers, share stories and build friendships.

Come hear national speaker **Deborah Grassman**, ARNP, author of "Peace at Last" and former nurse practitioner at Bay Pines VA Healthcare System.

Topics will include:

- Caring for the Caregiver
- Chronic Sorrow: Revitalizing the Weary Caregiver's Heart
- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD): A Different Brain after Trauma
- Veterans' Benefits: Benefits you may have overlooked for you and your veteran
- V.A. Caregiver Support Program: Did you know there's care for you?

You'll also enjoy a light breakfast and lunch, and a chance to win door prizes. Exhibitors, many of which are veteran-specific organizations, will offer information on community services to assist you in your caregiving role.

Attend our free workshop for tips and advice to help you and your loved one live better.

**FRIDAY
SEPTEMBER 18, 2015**

Caring for the Veteran's Caregiver

WJCT Studios
100 Festival Park Ave.
Jacksonville, FL 32202

Registration at 8:30 a.m.
Program 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

To register, please call **904.407.6790** by September 15.



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Green Cove Springs Mothball Fleet left more behind than memories

Concerns rise over hazards dumped in river when facility scuttled

By **Clifford Davis** , article used with permission of author and the FL Times Union

Standing along the lonely docks in what used to be Lee Naval Air Station in Green Cove Springs, one can almost feel the sailors pass by in their uniforms, or denim work gear.

They've been gone for 53 years.

However, things much more tangible than memories remain.

A few of the original buildings are left, like the one now inhabited by the North Florida Military History Museum.

Inside the museum is a radial engine out of a Hellcat fighter found just months ago, according to museum curator Herb Steigelman.

Mothball Fleet: Memories of Lee Naval Air Station in Green Cove Springs

Along with the docks, buildings and engines are contaminants from a time when the military didn't have the environmental concerns it has today.

For decades, the Army Corps of Engineers has worked to sanitize the leftovers from underground fuel tanks, landfills and incinerators on the land, according to Clay County Port's executive director Ted McGowan.

"We've personally talked to a number of former servicemen who said it was just normal military practice at the time to just dump stuff off the side of the boat or when they did sandblasting and repainting, to just let it fall into the river," McGowan said.

During World War II, the naval station, established in 1940, trained thousands of Navy and Marine Corps pilots in Wildcats, Hellcats and Corsairs.

"At one time, there were about 15,000 to 20,000 sailors here and about 5,000 pilots, both Navy and Marine Corps," Steigelman said. "In fact, Ed McMahon, Johnny Carson's sidekick, was here as a student.

"He did so well they kept him here as an instructor and a test pilot, so he spent quite a bit of time here in Green Cove."

Just months after the Japanese surrendered in August 1945, the Navy downgraded the base to an auxiliary base for Jacksonville Naval Air Station and became known as Florida Group, Atlantic Reserve Fleet.

Soon, hundreds of ships built for the war, but not currently needed, began arriving in Green Cove Springs.

At the end of the war with Germany and Japan, the U.S. and Soviet Union began their standoff. The ships were nearly new and the Navy wasn't about to scrap them when the fears of another war against the Soviet Union loomed large.

The solution was to find a calm, freshwater port and "mothball" the ships by sealing their guns in plastic, putting dehumidifiers inside then, chipping the old paint off and repainting them with sealant.

Frank Purpura, of Jacksonville, landed troops on the beaches of Normandy on D-Day in Landing Ship, Tank 356. He was then sent to the Pacific where he took part in multiple invasions with the



Clay County Historical Society A naval officer looks out at ships in what was known as the "Mothball Fleet" in Green Cove Springs. The docks were used to store more than 600 ships in the late 1940s at the end of World War II.

ship.

At the end of the war, he and the crew took the ship to Green Cove.

"We brought in the LST and it was the second ship in Green Cove Springs in the Mothball Fleet," he said. "There ended up being a huge fleet there."

Purpura wasn't alone.

"From September to December 1945, they brought 350 warships into Green Cove, still fully manned," said local historian Frank Haggard, who is writing a book about the base's history. "At the end of 1945, Green Cove Springs became one of the most populated cities in the state of Florida."

The piers, however, weren't built until 1947.

That left many war-weary sailors languishing on the St. Johns River on ships some of them had lived on for years.

"When they brought those ships in here, there were no piers or barracks," Haggard said. "They lived on the ships that were lined up from where the Shands bridge is, clear up to Doctors Inlet."

More than 600 ships eventually called Green Cove's docks home.

REACTIVATED, SCRAPPED

Most of the ships were destroyer escorts and patrol boats, but there were also many LSTs that carried cargo and troops across oceans.

When the Cold War against communism blossomed in late 1950 when North Korea invaded its neighbors to the south, about 150 of the ships were reactivated.

"Those were recommissioned for the Korean War because they needed to get the heavy stuff over there fast," Steigelman said.

In the years after the war, the ships remained growing older and obsolete.

"In March 1961, Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara announced that it would be closing the reserve fleet activities at Green Cove Springs," according to the National Archives.

Some ships of the Mothball Fleet were sold to foreign countries like Peru, while the majority was sent to Orange, Texas, and were eventually scrapped.

"It seems the decision to move the Atlantic Reserve Fleet from Florida to Orange, Texas, was part of a much larger military reorganization plan by the Department of Defense," according to Dana Bronson at the John F. Kennedy Library. "At the time, 73 other domestic and foreign bases were also closed."

However, many in Green Cove Springs believe it was not McNamara nor Kennedy, but Vice President Lyndon Johnson, a Texan, who orchestrated the move.

During research for this story, the Times-Union repeatedly encountered the claim that the move was part of Johnson's first executive order as president.

It wasn't.

"No, it was completely closed by June of 1962," Haggard said.

Kennedy was president until his assassination Nov. 22, 1963, though Haggard still feels Johnson's family had something to do with it.

"They took these ships out of a river that is 2 1/2-miles wide, 12 to 18 feet deep," he said. "They took

a lot of the ships down to Orange, Texas, to the Sabine River, which is only 800 feet wide and 12 feet deep max.

“That’s a Texas thing.”

As the sailors prepared the ships to leave, any incomplete or inconvenient equipment was simply thrown overboard, Haggard said, based on interviews with approximately 175 former sailors who served in Green Cove.

“They said one of the things they did in 1962 was, they had to do paper work on all that stuff,” Haggard said. “Anything that wasn’t complete, tools and stuff, if they were not complete, they threw them overboard.

“To keep from doing triplicate paperwork, they deep-sixed it.”

Haggard also was told by some former sailors that two Jeeps were pushed off the end of a pier in 1962.

McGowan said his main concerns were the lead-based paint stripped from the ships over the water and oil used in electrical transformers.

However, exactly what lies beneath the murky waters of the St. Johns River off the Clay County cove — as well as what environmental hazards it might cause — remains largely unknown.

“The Navy dredged the river here down to about 18 feet deep and now it’s about 8 feet on average,” McGowan said. “So after they left, you’ve got five or 10 feet of silt on top of it.

“That’s why there’s been a low sense of urgency on their [Army Corps of Engineers] part to come here, because we know there’s stuff down there.”

WHAT LIES BENEATH?

Conventional wisdom in the past when dealing with buried contaminants on riverbeds has been to leave them undisturbed, McGowan said. Unless new development calling for dredging or building near the water comes about, there would be little incentive to disturb it.

“The Florida Department of Environmental Protection, from what I hear, is changing to an idea that it’s not best to leave it forever,” he said. “I don’t think anybody has really figured out how to address it.

“If you go to get it out and you stir it up, will it redistribute around the river?”

The Army Corps of Engineers is in the process of developing a game plan that may involve an answer.

“We did run an article asking folks if they had any knowledge of how that site was used during that time,” said Army Corps of Engineers spokeswoman Amanda Parker. “We’re currently in what we call a remedial investigation phase that identifies that we have found contamination on the site and now we’re trying to determine if that contamination was attributable to the military.

“Once that investigation has concluded, we’ll put forth a proposed plan that we believe will be presented late this year or early next year.”

The Corps of Engineers is asking anyone with knowledge of operations at the base to call Julie Hiscox at (888) 974-8227.

Clifford Davis: (904) 359-4103



Wreath Sponsorship Form

*Sponsored wreaths are placed on the grave markers at state, national veterans cemeteries as well as local cemeteries each December. Wreaths may be purchased online at www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org

If you wish to make your sponsorship with a credit card please visit our website for a secure online transaction.

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____

Veterans Council of SJC

P.O. Box 2117

St. Augustine, FL 32085-2117

Checks payable to: Wreaths Across America TM

Sponsorship	Price	Quantity	Total
Individual= 1 Wreath	\$15.00		
Mailed "In Honor" card= If you wish to send a mailed honor card telling someone of your sponsorship see "In Honor" section below. *Card will not be mailed if the \$2 fee is not included.	\$2.00		
Family= 4 Wreaths	\$60.00		
Small Business= 10 Wreaths	\$150.00		
Corporate= 100 Wreaths	\$1500.00		
Merchandise available on WAA Website			
		Grand Total	

"SORRY- WE CAN NOT TAKE GRAVE SPECIFIC REQUESTS"

In Honor of:

Please provide email of "In Honor Of" recipient, or mailing address so a card can be sent notifying them of your sponsorship in their honor. (if you have a specific message please write it on the back of this sheet and we will include it.)

Email: _____

Mailing: _____

In Memory of:

This name will be listed on our online memory wall, please provide name, rank, branch of service and state resided

Branch of Service: _____

Rank: _____

State: _____

Please note that all sponsorships are sent directly to the location and no wreaths are sent to the individuals purchasing sponsorships.

Location ID: FLSNSA

Fundraising Group ID: FL0080

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Cash \$: _____

Total \$: _____ Date: _____

Total # Checks: _____

Reconciled: _____

MO S: _____

GEN: _____

Entered: _____

Books about the USS Indianapolis

Fatal Voyage by Dan Kurzman

Out of the Depths by Survivor Edgar Harrell, USMC

Only 317 Survived by The Survivors

All the Drowned Sailors by Raymond Lech

Goodbye Indy Maru by Survivor wife Katherine Moore, husband died on the ship.

We Were There by L. Peter Wren LCDR on rescue ship USS Bassett

**1st Annual
George Holman
CHARITY
WEEKEND**

**Golf Tournament
Bid Whist/Spades Tournament
Fri Fish Fry
Sat BBQ Ribs Cook-Off
Sat Nite 70s Party
Sun AM Church Service**

COLUMBUS DAY WEEKEND
All Proceeds to Benefit the Kids Safe Zone Program

**1029 Pearl St
ST. AUGUSTINE
904-829-8189
October 9 - 12 2015**

AMERICAN LEGION POST 194

We at Post 194 in St Augustine challenge all other Posts in the 5th District to join us for a weekend of fun, competition and just a plain ole American Legion good time on Columbus Day Weekend (9-11 Oct 2015). Please see attached and request you send a team to participate in each one of our competitions. It's all in fun and again, a good time to be had by all. www.falpost194.com

Derry (D.R.) Greene, Commander, Alton Green Memorial Post 194



Format

Four-Person Team/Captain's Choice/Best Ball Scramble

Registration & Continental Breakfast 7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.

Shotgun Start 9:00 a.m. Tee Time

Lunch will also be served.

Registration limited to 140 participants

*Rain Date: November 22, 2015 * No Refunds*

Corporate Sponsors - \$300

* Name on Hole * One FREE Team

Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Sunday, November 15th, 2015
at the St. Augustine Shores Golf Club
Proceeds to benefit the
LEO C. CHASE JR. CHAPTER #1084
FLORIDA NATIONAL GUARD FOUNDATION INC.



Special Events

*50/50 Drawing *Putting Contest* Prize Drawing

* Mulligans \$\$\$*Landing on the Green for Par 3

* "Most Creative" Attire Contest

Prizes

1st, 2nd & 3rd Teams Overall Longest Drive
 for Men and Women * Straightest Drive

* Closest to the Beer* Closest to the pin

* Last Place

Special Prize

Hole-in-One **Hole TBD

Hole Sponsors - \$50

Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Early Registration: \$50 per player until Nov. 8 * After Nov. 8 \$55 per player

1 **Captain's Name** _____
Email _____
Phone _____
Address _____

3 **Name** _____
Email _____
Phone _____
Address _____

2 **Captain's Name** _____
Email _____
Phone _____
Address _____

4 **Name** _____
Email _____
Phone _____
Address _____

For more information, call George, 904-826-6098 or Bob, 904-540-1898
Make checks payable to: Leo C. Chase VVA Chapter 1084
PO Box 860151, St. Augustine, FL 32086

Sponsor/Donor Brief for Golf Tournament

VVA Chapter #1084 Community Outreach

A very significant part of VVA Chapter #1084's purpose is to give back to our community. We have several programs or projects to which our members are giving their time, talent and treasure. Some of these are ongoing and others are seasonal. Some are directly related to veterans while others such as the Education Committee are involved with mentoring and recognizing youth in our community. We are a 501c(3) organization.

Florida National Guard Foundation

The Florida National Guard Foundation is a non-profit organization that provides support to the men and women of the Florida National Guard in times of emergencies and deployments. Due to its low administrative costs, 95 percent of the donations to the Foundation go directly to assisting the men and women of the Florida National Guard. The Foundation is a 501c(3) organization.

In the past year, the Florida National Guard Foundation provided \$85,000 to support Soldiers and Airmen and their families by providing assistance with vehicle repairs, groceries, gas, medical expenses and household bills.

Regards, Bob Dinkins - President, Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter 1084, St. Johns County, FL, 904-540-1898, president@vva1084.org
"Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another."

Florida National Guard in the News

-- Veterans 2 Volunteers is an initiative that links Veterans (active, guard and retired) to our Guard members and Families that are currently serving. No one understands the life of the Military and their Families like our Veterans. Veterans know what it means to give all for all. They also know the cost and the benefits of volunteerism. Family Day events, welcome home ceremonies, departure ceremonies, or appointed positions in a Commander's Family Readiness Group are a few of the ways that our Veterans can assist the Florida National Guard Family Readiness Program. We are actively recruiting Veterans all over the State of Florida to assist our National Guard and their Families.

To get involved contact Veterans2volunteers@gmail.com or visit <https://www.facebook.com/Veterans2Volunteers>

Veterans 4 Veterans
3rd Quarterly Gathering of 2015 in the Veterans Memorial Arena
SEPTEMBER 19th, 1130 to 1300
Parking in lot Z, Buffet lunch

We will share information common to all with guest speakers. Veteran organization representatives will be provided an opportunity to share information about their organizations events and support needed. This is our opportunity to work together and support one another.

Pass the word to your membership this is open to all VETERANS. This is also an opportunity to network among organizations and with individual Veterans.

The VA issue has not been resolved and getting worse, the city of Jax is downgrading the Veterans Services, Veterans remain jobless and homeless, 22 Veterans commit suicide per day. Now that the wars are over, it seems those who served are once again being ignored by those who didn't serve. This can change if we unite and start working together.

Taking care of Veterans means more than having a parade once a year. Think about it!

"A man who is good enough to shed his blood for his country is good enough to be given a square deal afterwards."

"nation (and a city) is judged by how well it treats its veterans."

Join us on Saturday Sept 19th
Veterans Memorial Arena





Palm Valley Post 233

560 N. Wilderness Trail Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

Proudly presents:

The 2015 Law & Order Awards



Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

Deputy Rafael Fuentes

St. Johns County Sheriffs Office

Firefighter of the Year

Firefighter Jason Baer

St. Johns County Fire - Rescue



Saturday, September 12th, 2015 from 1:00pm to 5:00pm

Enjoy BBQ Roasted Chicken and sides.

Meet and greet our local heroes, the first responders.

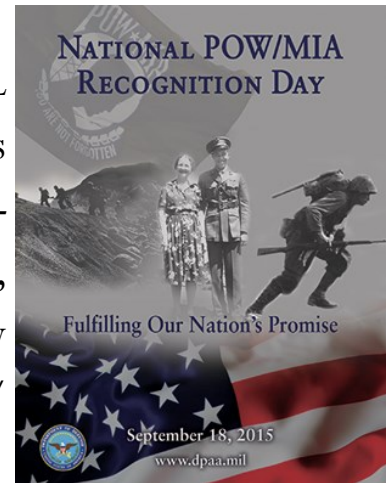
Meet and greet the American Legion Family of Post 233.



This event is open to the public.



WJCT TV, the PBS affiliate in Jacksonville, FL has just contacted the Veterans Council to let us know that our *Prisoners of War: Stolen Freedom* documentary will be broadcast on Sunday, September 13th at 4:00 pm and on Thursday September 17th at 8:00 pm to celebrate National POW/MIA Day.



The documentary features the stories of four local ex POWs, from N. FL.

Bill Ingram served aboard the USS Houston in WW II. Bill was captive in Burma and worked on the Bridge on the River Kwai.

Richard Bassett served in the US Army during the Korean War. When Richard returned home he taught History for 22 years in St. Augustine.

Dr. Hal Kushner was held captive in the Hanoi Hilton. Dr. Kushner is a practicing Eye Doctor.

Giles Norrington also was held captive in the Hanoi Hilton. One of Giles' drawings of his captivity is on the right.



As of August 13: The new temporary CBOC takes shape on Old Moultrie Road.

Photo by Michael Isam

I have been contacted by the Set Director of **the USS Indianapolis Men of Courage Movie** saying that they would love to include real photographs of the Indy Sailors in a Memorial wall scene in the movie! They will need copies of the photographs as well as a signed release form from a family representative to use the photograph, which I can forward to you.

(Looking for photos of the Lost At Sea or Survivors pre-1965, in uniform or civilian clothes.)

If you would like to submit you or your loved ones photograph for use in the movie, please email me at BullardMBullard@aol.com for more information and a copy of the release form.

So many people on the movie's production team have contacted me and expressed how "touched, amazed, awe-struck, humbled, grateful, etc" they are about this story and the bravery of the men.

Thanks!

Maria Eck Bullard

Daughter of USS Indianapolis Survivor Harold Eck

Chairman, USS Indianapolis Second Watch Organization

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**



VA Announces New Rules Regarding Service Animals in VA Facilities

August 17, 2015

WASHINGTON – Today the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced that it has revised its regulation regarding the presence of animals on VA property. The updated regulation will ensure VA practices remain consistent with applicable federal law. It will also assist individuals entering VA facilities in developing a clear and consistent understanding of the criteria governing facility access for service animals.

“As I have traveled to VA facilities throughout the country, I have heard from many Veterans about what a vital role their service animals play in their lives,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert A. McDonald. “The revised regulation will ensure Veterans and employees have clear guidance regarding the presence of service animals in our facilities. VA remains committed to ensuring America’s Veterans have access to the health care benefits for which they are eligible.”

Under the revised regulation, only dogs that are individually trained to perform work or tasks on behalf of an individual with a disability will be considered service animals. Other animals will not be permitted in VA facilities, unless expressly allowed as an exception under the regulation for activities such as animal-assisted therapy or for other reasons such as law enforcement purposes. The regulation further confirms that service animals may access VA property subject to the same terms that govern the admission of the public to VA property, and may be restricted from certain areas on VA properties to ensure that patient care, patient safety, and infection control standards are not compromised.

In accordance with required practices, the revised regulation was published in the Federal Register in November 2014, to obtain feedback from Veterans, advocacy organizations and other stakeholders.

Over the next thirty days, VA will provide training to frontline employees and ensure policies at all facilities are consistent with the new regulation.

MISSING IN AMERICA PROJECT PROGRESS TO DATE as of 7/22/2015.

Total Funeral Homes Visited - 1,818

Cremains Found - 11,721

Veterans Cremains Identified - 2,696

Veterans Interred - 2,444

If you would like to become a volunteer with MIAP please go to our website and sign up as a supporter. It only takes a second. You will receive a welcoming email from Charlie Warthling (check your SPAM emails). You can also contact me if you would like to talk about MIAP and how you can help out. www.miap.us

Locate, Identify and Inter - Missing in America Project

Recognize anyone?
Hint: President Jax VVA



"I now know why men who have been to war yearn to reunite. Not to tell stories or look at old pictures. Not to laugh or weep. Comrades gather because they long to be with the men who once acted at their best; men who suffered and sacrificed, who were stripped of their humanity.

I did not pick these men. They were delivered by fate and the military. But I know them in a way I know no other men. I have never given anyone such trust. They were willing to guard something more precious than my life. They would have carried my reputation, the memory of me. It was a part of the bargain we all made, the reason we were so willing to die for one another.

As long as I have memory, I will think of them all, every day. I am sure that when I leave this world, my last thought will be of my family and my comrades . . . Such good men."

George J. Marrett, from his book
*Cheating Death: Combat Air Rescues
in Vietnam and Laos*

Still Waiting to Come Home

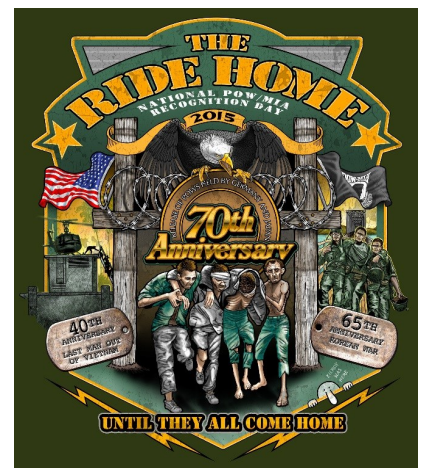


WWI 3,349	Cold War 126
WWII 73,515	Korea 7,852
Vietnam 1627	
Iraq & Afghanistan 6	

Every Soldier Deserves To
Come Home!



The Ride Home
2015



70th Anniversary WW II

62nd Anniversary Korea

42nd Anniversary Vietnam

12th Anniversary Iraq

150th Anniversary Civil War

WELCOME HOME!



The RIDE HOME, Inc.

3818 Litchfield Loop
Lake Wales, FL 33859
theridehome.com

On National POW/MIA Recognition Day we will be hosting **The RIDE HOME 2015**. This weekend event, **17-20 September**, takes place in and around the cities of Americus and Andersonville, Georgia, home of the **National Prisoner of War Museum**. **The RIDE HOME 2015** complies with the Presidential Proclamation by paying tribute to Former American Prisoners of War who have returned home and the families of those Americans still Missing in Action.

Honorees for the 2015 event will include former *Prisoners of War* and families of our *Missing in Action* from World War II, Korea, Cold War, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan. As part of the tribute package to these true American Heroes, **The RIDE HOME** with the help and generosity of American Patriots, like you, will provide a room (3 nights) in Americus, Heroes Dinner, Ground-Pounder & Fly-Boy Lunch, entertainment, Awards Ceremony as well as transportation to and from the events for the Honored Guest. This complete Tribute package is valued at \$375.00. For all they endured as Prisoners of War and the emotional torture the Missing In Action families struggle with every day, we hope you agree this is worthy of your participation. Remember, a full Tribute Package or a portion of one, either choice is greatly appreciated and will help to reach the goal of 175 Honored Guest for the 2015 event.

The RIDE HOME is open to the public and we encourage everyone to attend so that they may meet and spend time with the POW or MIA family member sponsored and you can have the honor of placing the Medallion on a Hero during the Recognition Service.

Please complete the form below and mail it with your contribution to **The RIDE HOME**. Contributions of \$375 or more will receive **The Ride Home 2015** t-shirt, patch, sponsor bar, and pin. If you would prefer to use your Debit or Credit Card, you can go to our website, www.theridehome.com, click on *DONATE* and follow the instructions for PAY PAL.

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

Thank You!

Respectfully,

Jim 'moe' Moyer

Chairman

-

I wish to help sponsor a former POW and/or a MIA Family member to **The RIDE HOME 2015**

_____ Complete Tribute Package \$375. _____ Other

Include a t-shirt for donations of \$375.00 or more: _____ size

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City _____

State & Zipcode _____

Phone/email: _____

Mail check to: **The RIDE HOME, Inc.** 3818 Litchfield Loop, Lake Wales, FL 33859

THE RIDE HOME, INC. IS A NON PROFIT CORPORATION – REGISTRATION NUMBER: CH38670 A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE, 800 435 7352, WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.



Marine Corps League

Jacksonville Detachment



1ST ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT SPONSORED BY JACKSONVILLE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE DETACHMENT 059

When: Friday October 2, 2015
Where: Windy Harbor Golf Course
Mayport Naval Base
Format: Captain's Choice Shotgun Start
At 12:30 pm.
Cost: \$75.00 per golfer
Includes: Greens Fees and Cart
Dinner at club house
Prize

Dinner Cost for Guest \$20.00

Please notify us if you need help to get on the base.

If you don't have a foursome, we will be happy to team you up

Captain _____ Phone _____

1st Player _____ Phone _____

2nd Player _____ Phone _____

3rd Player _____ Phone _____

For further information call : Joe Covella phone 955-5098 or 223-1002



Marine Corps League

Jacksonville Detachment



Marine Corps League
Jacksonville Detachment
C/O Joe Covella
12930 Rivermist Way
Jacksonville FL 32224
Phone 904 223 1002
Xguido83@yahoo.com

Dear Sir,

The First Annual Golf Tournament is just around the corner scheduled for October 2, 2015 at Mayport Naval Base Windy Harbor Golf course. The purpose of this letter is to offer your company an opportunity to participate via 3 levels of sponsorship or hole sponsor.

Different levels are:	Gold Sponsorship	\$2,000.00
	Silver Sponsorship	\$1,000.00
	Bronze Sponsorship	\$500.00
	Putting Contest	\$250.00
	Hole Sponsorship	\$150.00

We sincerely request your consideration in support of Marines Helping Marines. By your support of this tournament Marine Corps League Jacksonville Detachment 059 a 501(C)(3) charity can continue its mission of Marine Helping Local Marines. Your sponsorship pledge maybe mailed to the chairman of the tournament, Make check payable to "MCL Jacksonville Detachment 059". The mailing address is Marine Corps League Jacksonville Detachment, C/O Joe Covella, 12930 Rivermist Way, Jacksonville FL 32224 or call 904 223 1002 for any questions. Deadline for Hole sponsorship Sept 15, 2015 as we need time to prepare signage on the Golf course. Your company may also consider donating door prize, we will make a point to give your company recognition for it support. On behalf of Marine Corps League Jacksonville Detachment 059, we thank you for sponsorship consideration.

Joe Covella
Tournament Chairman
USMC RET

Mission Statement

Members of the Marine Corps League join together in camaraderie and fellowship for the purpose of preserving the traditions and promoting the interests of the United States Marine Corps, banding together those who are now serving in the United States Marine Corps and those who have been honorably discharged from that service that they may effectively promote the ideals of American freedom and democracy, voluntarily aiding and rendering assistance to all Marines, FMF Corpsmen, and FMF Navy Chaplains and former Marines, FMF Corpsmen, and FMF Navy Chaplains and to their widows and orphans; and to perpetuate the history of the United States Marine Corps and by fitting acts to observe the anniversaries of historical occasions of particular interest to Marines.

PROGRAMS OF THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

MARINES HELPING MARINES - WOUNDED MARINES PROGRAM

The program was created to support injured Marine Corps personnel located at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Washington, DC, San Antonio Military Medical Center in Texas, as well as the Naval Hospitals at Balboa, Camp Pendleton, Camp Lejeune and elsewhere. The Wounded Marines Program works closely with the Wounded Warrior Regiment. The scope of support encompasses; financial support, visits from Marine Corps League members, off site day trips to include family outings, dinners, short trips in support of the individual Marines' needs and professional sporting events as tickets and opportunities present themselves.

TOYS-FOR-TOTS

Marine Corps League Detachments in nearly every community take part annually in the United States Marine Corps Reserve Toys-For-Tots campaign to raise funds and collect and distribute toys to needy children. In communities where there is an existing Marine Corps Reserve Unit, the League works hand in hand supporting their campaign. In other communities, the Marine Corps League takes the lead, ensuring a successful campaign

YOUNG MARINES OF THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

The mission of the Young Marines is to positively impact America's future by providing quality youth development programs for boys and girls that nurtures and develops its members into responsible citizens who enjoy and promote a healthy, drug-free lifestyle.

VETERANS AFFAIRS VOLUNTARY SERVICE PROGRAM (VAVS)

Marine Corps League members contribute thousands of man-hours each year supplementing staffs at VA Hospitals and facilities in providing morale, comfort and assistance to institutionalized veterans.

MEMORIAL CEREMONY

Sep 11, 2015 10:00 am

Jacksonville National Cemetery

4083 Lonnie Road, Jacksonville 32218

Amphitheater - Flag Site



Doherty

Woods

Smith

**Honoring US Navy Veterans that fought
valiantly to the end in Benghazi on Sep 11, 2012**

- Veteran SEAL Glen Doherty
- Veteran SEAL Tyrone Woods
- Veteran Information Officer Sean Smith
- Special tribute to all fallen US Veterans

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www.veteransnewsnetwork.com info@veteransnewsnetwork.com (904) 570-9797

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Event Information: Suzanne Carson (904) 672-5872

Capitol Ceremony Honors Five Inductees into Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – Gov. Rick Scott hosted a ceremony on Monday, July 6 to honor five Floridians inducted into the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame Class of 2014.

Inductees are:

- 1. The late Rear Adm. LeRoy Collins Jr., U.S. Navy Reserve (retired)**
- 2. Maj. Gen. James Lee Dozier, U.S. Army (retired)**
- 3. Dr. (Col.) Harry Frank Farmer Jr., U.S. Army, Florida Army National Guard, U.S. Air Force Reserve (retired)**
- 4. Chief Master Sgt. Eugene Cecil Johnson, U.S. Air Force (retired)**
- 5. Lt. Gen. Lawrence F. Snowden, U.S. Marine Corps (retired)**

Gov. Rick Scott and the Cabinet inducted the five individuals into the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame during the March 24, 2015 Cabinet Meeting.

The Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame recognizes and honors those military veterans who, through their works and lives during or after military service, have made a significant contribution to the state of Florida through civic, business, public service or other pursuits. It is not a traditional military hall of fame, as it focuses on post-military contributions to the State of Florida.

Regards, Steve, R. Murray, Lieutenant Colonel,
USAF (Ret)

Communications Director, Florida Department of
Veterans' Affairs





Missing In America Project

SAVE THE DATE -SAVE THE DATE - SAVE THE DATE

Friday, Sept 25, 2015 - 1:00pm @ the Jacksonville National Cemetery.
CALL TO HONOR #6 - MIAP-FL will be interring 20 veterans/spouses that were located at Hardage-Giddens Funeral Home, Jacksonville, FL.

Our numbers keep increasing on a daily basis. As of 6/03/2015 here is our Nation-wide Progress to Date

Total Funeral Homes Visited - 1,777
Cremains Found - 11,269
Veterans Cremains Identified - 2,597
Veterans Interred - 2,360.

If you want more info on MIAP go to www.miap.us. Please feel free to also contact me @ miapjax@yahoo.com. There are many ways you can become involved with our Project.

MIAP - FL will be holding the following services on the dates listed.
Details will be published as it gets closer to the date.

September 25, 2015 @ 1:00pm (Friday)
Jacksonville National Cemetery

November 05, 2015 @ 1:00pm (Thursday)
Sarasota National Cemetery

December 05, 2015 @ 10:00am (Saturday)
South Florida National Cemetery



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

**Solutions Through
Advanced Research
(904) 619-8157**



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



“Honoring the Dead by Helping the Living”

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

Offered by the Vilano Beach VFW Post 12142, VilanoBeachVFW@att.net

**Vilano Beach VFW Post 12142 collects Walkers, Wheel Chairs, and Power
Wheel Chairs for distribution to other Veterans in need.**

VETERANS HELPING VETERANS

The P320 Travel-Ease Regal has an 18"W x 16"D swivel seat, flip up armrests, headrest and flip-up footboard. The Travel-Ease comes with batteries and runs up to 4.5 mph.

The small footprint is perfect for getting around indoors, but don't be fooled, it's outdoor performance is second to none. The P320 has an excellent torque-range for consistent pulling no matter what the terrain does.

The Merits P320 Travel-Ease Regal is stylish and compact. Its low center of gravity, tight turning radius of 23" and excellent maneuverability makes it extra stable and gives you a high level of freedom.



The P320's 9" Foam-Filled Drive wheels and 8" front casters can take you just about anywhere. Work great indoors and outdoors. The P320 has a maximum speed of 4.5 mph and a range of about 15 miles.

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.



**Wheelchair Walker Folding Combination, without basket
(pictured on left)**

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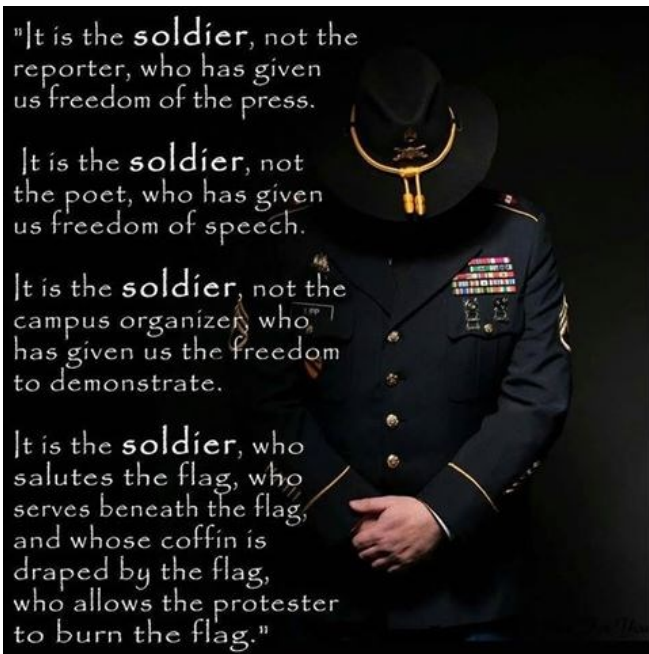
*Veterans Council of St. Johns County,
"Helping All Veterans"*

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 new Veterans Service Office is now open and ready to serve you.



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

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

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

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

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

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

Visit our Website: www.veteranscouncilofstjohns.org

**Veterans Service Office
200 San Sebastian View, Suite 1400
St. Augustine, FL 32084**

(physical location)

*The VSO Office is located in the new St. Johns County
Health and Human Services Building.*

*The office is open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily,
Monday through Friday excluding holidays.
Closed for lunch daily from 11:30 am 12:30 pm*

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