



AUSA Sunshine Chapter Newsletter – Late Summer and Fall 2021 (July-Dec)

Well, we have tried to keep at our Prime Directive during this period of Covid-19 and its imposed restrictions. Not as busy as some years, but the Chapter is still moving and preparing for a re-opening. Here are some of the highlights and continuing events you don't want to miss!

As reported mid-Summer, we had a great Army Birthday Ball. Make sure you are looking for to one in person again, after the confounded Covid, next June. Plan on 18 June 2022, back in the Rosen Center. That is something to look forward to, a chance to break out of this cursed isolation.



Gold Star Families Memorial

The Joint Veterans Support Committee for Florida National Cemetery proudly announced the dedication of a GOLD STAR FAMILIES MEMORIAL MONUMENT at Florida National Cemetery on October 6, 2021. The committee worked on this project with the Woody Williams Medal of Honor Foundation for over a year. Hershel “Woody” Williams is an Iwo Jima Medal of Honor recipient and is now the last surviving World War II recipient. Woody always believed the real heroes were those and their families that gave the ultimate sacrifice.

Florida National Cemetery is in close proximity to the Dade Battlefield, the Wahoo Swamp, and the Withlacoochee River and State Forest, and has a special connection to Second Seminole War. David Moniac’s memorial marker is there, and now Seminole war chief Osceola’s image will also be one of the etchings on the Homeland Panel of the Gold Star Monument. For more information on what the committee is work, the point of contact is Doug Gardner, Joint Veterans Support Committee for Florida National Cemetery, Monument Committee—Chairman. He can be reached at (203) 856-8663.

Our very own Past President, COL (ret) DeLloyd Voorhees, Jr., has had the pleasure of serving as President of the Central Florida Veterans Memorial Park Foundation, starting with the ground-breaking ceremony in April 2013, contiguous to the Lake Nona VA Center. The Dedication Ceremony occurred on

Veterans Day that same year, adjacent to the Medical Center Chapel and peacefully overlooking the lake. This year, the 3rd Annual ceremony was celebrated on Sunday, 26 September, with Mayor Demings in attendance with COL Voorhees. The Living Memorial provides a powerful, therapeutic benefit for the Veterans, Gold Star Families, and others who continue to struggle with their loss. The granite pillars contain one thousand -one hundred eighty-six names representing heroes from World War I thru present-day conflicts. Among these are 4 Medal of Honor Recipients distinguished with a gold-filled “MOH” next to their names.



Recognized are the fallen from the six counties serviced by the Medical Center. Orange County claims 521 names, nearly half of the names etched in granite. Brevard County has 176 names, Lake County has 125, Osceola County has 36, Seminole County has 102, and Volusia County has 226.

The pillars are organized by war or conflict: The World War I wall contains 137 names. Next to it, World War II walls with 558 names. The Korea War wall contains 64 names. Next are the Vietnam walls, our 2nd longest war with 338 names. The last pillar is labeled as “Post Vietnam”. It contains the names of

those who made the ultimate sacrifice in designated conflicts since the Vietnam War, "Operation Enduring Freedom" – or the war in Afghanistan, our longest war has 35 names, "The War in Iraq" contains 45 names.

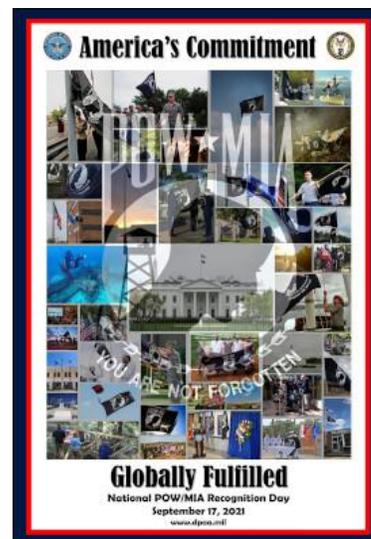
Highlighted in the Post-Vietnam section are Army Staff Sergeant Robert J. Miller, Company A, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group, Medal of Honor; Army Specialist 4th Class, Seteria Brown and Air Force Master Sergeant, Tara Jacobs Brown, the only women listed on any of these walls; and Army Sergeant First Class, Alwyn C. Cashe, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division who will soon posthumously receive the Congressional Medal of Honor - the first black servicemember to receive the Nation's highest award for valor since the Vietnam War.

Please visit the local website – www.cfvmpf.org - where you can learn more the memorial and these distinguished Americans.

Breaking News: On 21 December, 2021, the White House announced that SFC Alwyn Cashe, and two others, will be awarded the Medal of Honor in January of 2022. A long road is finally coming to an end. The Oviedo Post Office has already been named for SFC Cashe.

National POW/MIA Recognition Day

National POW/MIA Recognition Day was established by an Act of Congress, by the passage of Section 1082 of the 1998 Defense Authorization Act. In 2021, it was recognized on September 17th. Since 1982, the flag has flown just below the stars and stripes at the White House – the only other flag to ever do so. In 1998, Congress ordered it to also be displayed on Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day and Veterans Day. In 2022, we will recognize it on 16 September.



AUSA Sunshine Chapter Scholarship Returns

We are thrilled to announce the re-start of our annual scholarship program. The AUSA Sunshine Chapter will provide up to \$5,000 in Educational Scholarship Funds to one or more eligible AUSA Sunshine Chapter members. As a reminder, the AUSA Sunshine Chapter Educational Scholarship Program is not a military recruiting initiative, and acceptance of an AUSA Sunshine Chapter Scholarship does not cause a military service obligation. Call for applicants will go out at the beginning of February. Please follow us on Facebook and LinkedIn for updates on this announcement.

Late Chapter Member Recognized

On 25 October 2021, the second anniversary of his passing, COL (ret) Lee R. Barnes was recognized at his graveside by many members of the Chapter. Lee was an involved



member of the Sunshine Chapter, the local AAAA chapter, Chairman of the Board of Camaraderie Foundation, and a



member of First United Methodist Church of Oviedo, among other organizations. A



scholarship has been started in his name by the church. Any who are interested in contributed to Lee's memory and helping local high school kids, please contact Clay Edwards at

doubloon6@gmail.com. It was a grand and glorious day. It

rained a bit and stormed around the gathering but look at the



photos and see how the Almighty rewarded those honoring the memory of our fellow.



Stories were told and memories recounted.

The visit coincided with the "Band of Brothers" day made famous by William

Shakespeare in his play, Henry V. To visit Lee and many others of our kind, please visit Cape Canaveral National Cemetery just outside of Mims, FL.

<https://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/capecanaveral.asp>

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