

# VETERAN VOICE

The Voice of Experience

35 cents

Vol. 1 / Issue 5

Friday, December 7, 2012



## State releases new service car tags

By Patrick McCallister  
For Veteran Voice

Veterans have growing choices to show pride in their service every time they drive. The Florida Department of Veterans Affairs recently announced expanding choices of military specialty license plates.

"The Vietnam War Veteran and Korean Conflict Veteran license plates shipped out to the counties last week," Jim Brodie, director of legislative and cabinet affairs, told members of the Florida Veterans Council at its November meeting.

Martin "Marty" Zickert, president of the Veterans Council of Indian River County, said it's good news for all veterans, but particularly Vietnam and Korea veterans. He said by making more people aware of who are veterans from different eras, the tags can help raise awareness and dispel stereotypes.

"I think the plates will do wonders," he said. "What I hope is the people who don't fit the stereotypes will get them. I'm hoping those guys will say, 'Yeah, I went there and look at what I accomplished with my life.'"

## Live or recorded, tradition of playing 'Taps' at military funerals has a storied history

By Patrick McCallister  
For Veteran Voice

Four notes arranged in the nation's most familiar and emotional bugle signal. *Taps* turned 150 this year, and a local bugler believes all veterans should get a live playing of the beloved call at their funerals. However, many don't.

"It's really not the same when they play a recording," Robert Hill, Vero Beach, said. "It's getting it done live that counts."

Mr. Hill is a volunteer bugler with Bugles Across America,

**"It's really not the same when they play a recording," Robert Hill, Vero Beach, said. "It's getting it done live that counts."**

an organization of horn players dedicated to giving live performances of *Taps* at veterans' funerals and memorial events.

Daniel Blackman, military honors state coordinator for the Florida Army National Guard Military Honors Program, said that budget cuts mean fewer veterans are getting live performances of *Taps*. Many are getting digital performances

done with music players that fit into bugles' bells. A user presses a button, and has a few seconds to raise the instrument to his or her lips to appear to be playing.

"The correct name is the ceremonial bugle, which is a recording made by a soldier," Mr. Blackman said. "I'd love to have a live bugler at every service."

See TAPS page 4

See TAGS page 4

# Hearing Aid Ads Confusing You?

## A Clients True Story of Superior, Compassionate Service and Care

### St. Lucie County

It was a hot night in July, 1995 when the world went completely dark for Rachel Guild. A passenger in a vehicle involved in a rollover crash on I-95, Rachel's mom was told her daughter would likely only survive for hours, and Rachel was still in a coma when her best friend (another passenger in the car that fateful evening) was buried. Seventeen years later, Rachel Guild is a testament to persistence, miracles, and caring professionals. Though completely blind as a result of the accident, Rachel lets absolutely nothing stand in her way, and she finds beauty in the way the world can be experienced through her remaining senses. As a matter of fact, that's how Rachel became acquainted with Joe Mutter of Mutter's Hearing in St. Lucie West.

### You Too Can Experience the Mutter Difference

One of the lesser injuries Rachel suffered as a result of the crash which claimed her best friend, Sarah, and her eyesight was some hearing loss due to scar tissue in her left ear. When some close friends told her about Joe and Mutter's Hearing, Rachel and her mom set up a free clinical hearing evaluation with Joe, a Florida Licensed Hearing Aid Specialist and retired law enforcement officer with the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office. Joe was ranked Top Cop in the State of Florida by the Florida Fraternal Order of Police and highly honored for his accomplishments and Commitment to the community through volunteerism. Mutter performed several tests on Rachel to determine the level of her hearing loss and then broke the news. "He didn't think I needed hearing aids," Rachel said. "He said I had a mild hearing loss and it may not be great enough to warrant the considerable expense that I would incur with hearing aids. Even though he could have easily made a big profit, that's

not the way he is. I explain to Joe that if I am ever going to regain total independence, I need to be able to hear everything with great clarity." For Rachel, the way that Mutter compassionately listened to her concerns, asked her questions about her needs, lifestyle, and was hesitant to make a sale simply for the sake of making a sale were the deciding factors in doing business with him. "I had consulted with other hearing aid dealers and I was very disappointed that their only concern was how I would be making payment," Rachel says. "Joe was the opposite; he wasn't just trying to make a sale he actually cared about me and my special needs!"

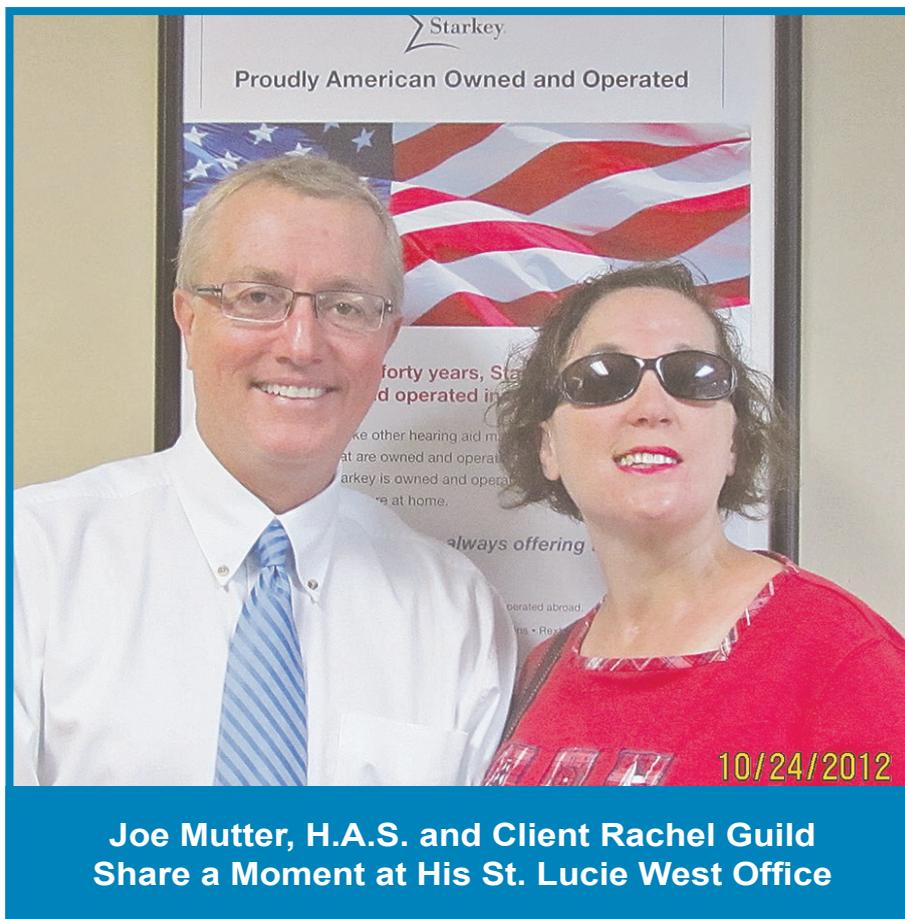
evaluations and he utilizes state-of-the-art technology. He even includes a hearing loss simulator to replicate for family members what their voices sound like to someone with a hearing loss because, of course, a hearing loss is invisible and affects every member of the family. "What I deal with is a very precious commodity - "my clients' trust and their hearing," says Mutter. "I care about my clients, not their pocketbook."

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Mutter's Hearing Center is conveniently located at 1420 SW St. Lucie West Boulevard, just west of the Wells Fargo bank, in St. Lucie West. The office is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., with evening and weekend appointments available, as well as home visits can be arranged by appointment. Mutter's Hearing Center will guide you through your insurance options and assist you with financing your hearing aids if necessary. The initial consultations and clinical evaluations are absolutely free. Call Mutter's Hearing Center today at (772) 871-1222 to arrange a your free hearing consultation. Mutter's Hearing Center has been voted the Readers Choice #1 Hearing Center in St. Lucie West since 2004 and is the ONLY full time hearing center in St. Lucie West.

### Deal With the Owner- He Can Make it Right

Being blind is difficult, but for Rachel Guild, losing her hearing would be so much worse. "I think it would be a very lonely world," she says. "Being deaf makes you feel so isolated; everyone has a conversation going, but when they try to talk to you, you cannot understand them. It's hard for people who haven't been there to realize, but being able to participate in the conversation when your loved ones and friends are talking is a way to keep from being isolated and alone. I am so grateful to Joe and Mutter's Hearing Center for helping me rejoin the conversation and regain my independence".



Joe Mutter, H.A.S. and Client Rachel Guild Share a Moment at His St. Lucie West Office

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# Veteran Voice mission statement

*Veteran Voice* is a weekly publication designed to provide information to and about veterans to veterans and to the broader community. Veterans are an integral part of their Florida communities, which currently have individual organizations of their own, such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, the Vietnam Veterans of America and many other groups with a narrow focus, but no convenient way to connect to a wider population of veterans and to the community in general within a limited geographic area, their community.

The mission of *Veteran Voice* is to publish a weekly source of information that will provide, in one place, a listing of resources available to veterans, articles about changes in policies or organizations affecting veterans and events of interest to veterans as well as articles about veterans of interest to the general public.

*Veteran Voice* LLC is organized as a partnership of experienced newspaper executives with an interest in veterans and in the communities of Florida veterans and friends. VV is a start-up intended to address a perceived lack of information readily available to veterans on programs and policies affecting them and objective reporting of veteran affairs to the public. To our knowledge, and based on comments from leaders of local veterans organizations, there was no media or website currently meeting this need until the launch of *Veteran Voice*.

We hope you agree, and will support this publication with your subscription. Without subscriptions there will be a limited number of people we can help, without which this mission will not be realized. As part of our commitment to supporting local veteran communities, we will donate 10 percent of our profits each quarter to qualified veteran charities recommended by you, our readers and subscribers. Please let us know what you think by emailing [editor@veteranvoiceweekly.com](mailto:editor@veteranvoiceweekly.com) or mailing your comments to us at 1919 S.W. South Macedo Blvd., Port St. Lucie, FL 34984.

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**TAGS from page 1**

Mr. Zickert is also president of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1038.

According to the state department, the Combat Action Badge plate will be out by January. By May, veterans should be able to get the Air Force Cross, Combat Infantry Badge, Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross and Silver Star tags. These join a number of other military and veterans specialty tags.

In addition to the new license plates, the state offers Florida Salutes Veterans, Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, and Navy tags. It also has U.S. Paratroopers.

“Some of them you have to be one to get a tag,” said Steve Murray, communications director at the FDVA. “Others, anyone can get that tag.”

The plates range from an extra \$15 to \$20. The Salutes Veterans tag raised \$266,550 in fiscal year 2010-2011, according to a Florida Department of Revenue spokesperson. That money goes to the State Homes for Veterans Trust Fund. The state has seven nursing homes for veterans, including the **Emory L. Bennett**

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**See TAGS page 5**

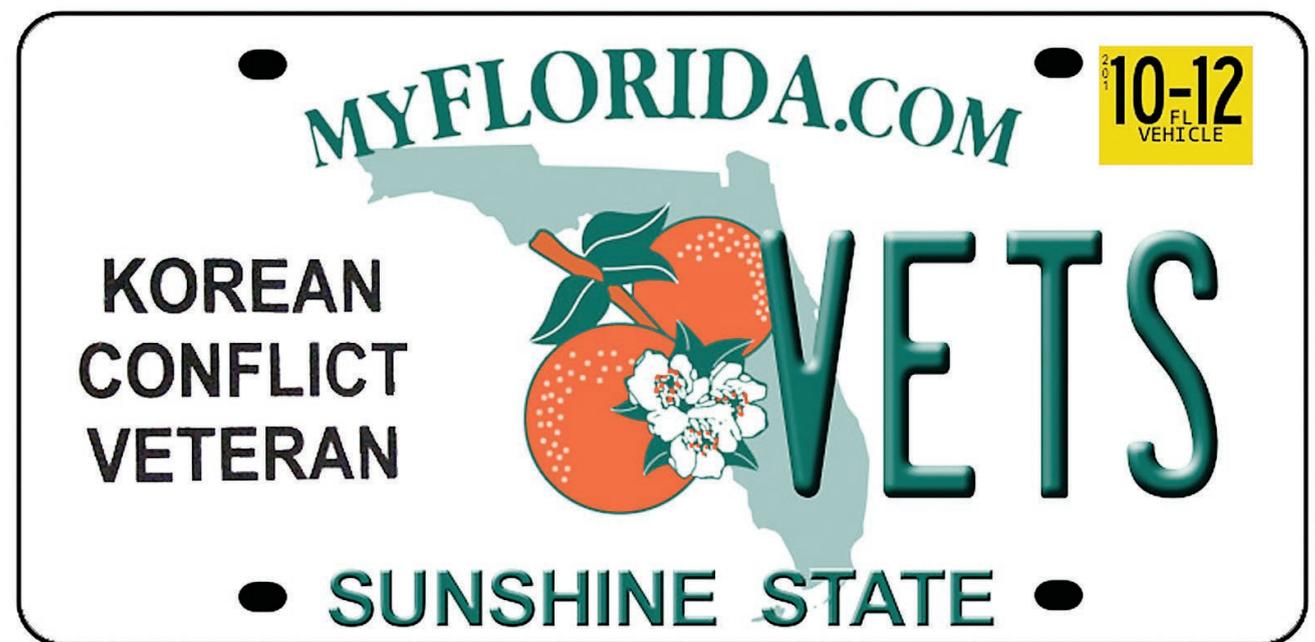
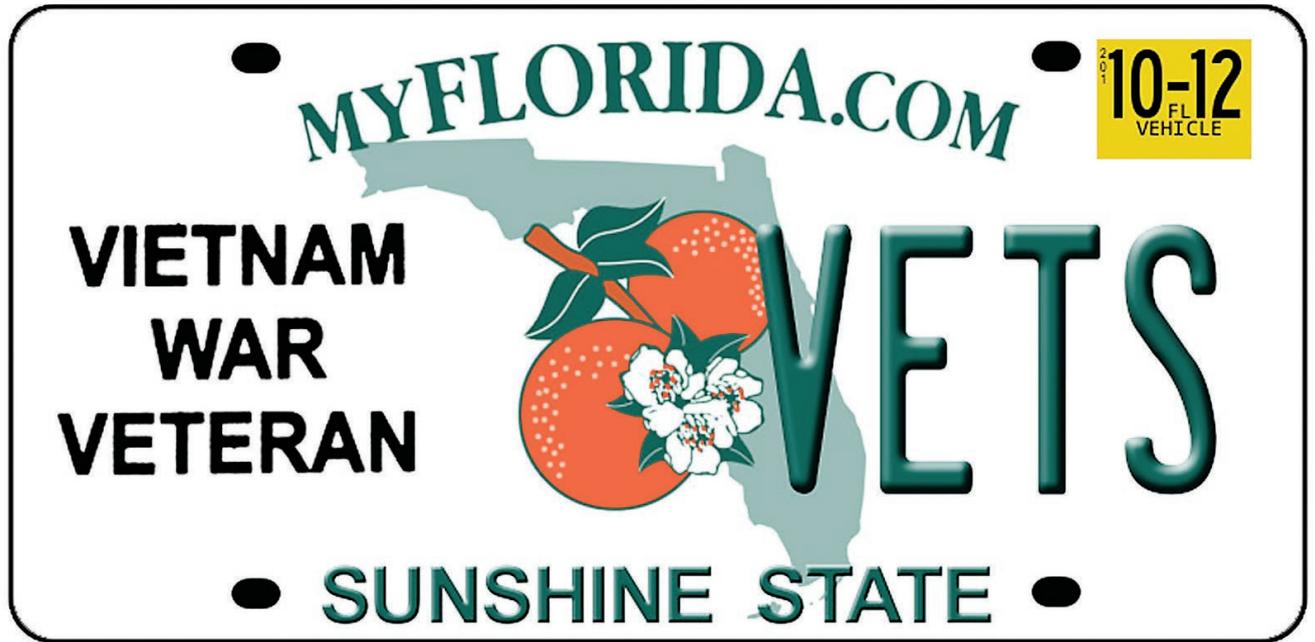


Photo illustration by Mitch Kloorfain

The above renditions are illustrations of the new service tags, available in January. The Fort Pierce tax collector's office did not receive any samples of the new tags from the state Department of Motor Vehicles for display, so Veteran Voice was not allowed to photograph a real tag, which contains an actual number assigned to a motor vehicle.

# VETERAN VOICE

The Voice of Experience

Veteran Voice is a newspaper for veterans, active military, their families and their friends.

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**TAPS from page 1**

But he can't. Mr. Blackman said he has to pay buglers \$50 to perform *Taps* at funerals, or get unpaid volunteers. He said the price of travel often keeps buglers from volunteering, so members of the honor guard stand with ceremonial bugles and act like they're playing *Taps*. He said the honor guard attends about 425 funerals a month.

Tom Day, founder of Bugles Across America, said use of the ceremonial bugles has become so commonplace throughout the country that it's becoming rare for veterans to get live performances of *Taps* at their funerals.

“The guy who invented (the ceremonial bugle) — I'm on his list, but not his Christmas card list,” Mr. Day said.

The organization has about 8,000 volunteers throughout the nation. It does about 3,000 funerals a month; about 40 at the

Florida National Cemetery, 6502 S.W. 102nd Ave., Bushnell.

Mr. Hill moved to the area from New York about five years ago. The 34-year band director has been playing *Taps* at veterans' funerals and memorial services since he was 8. The American Legion got him into it.

“I did that all the way up through high school,” he said. “They gave me a scholarship to study music. As a band director, I sent my kids out to do *Taps* and *Echo*.”

*Echo* is the name for two buglers performing the call from different locations.

Mr. Hill joined Bugles Across America when he got to Indian River County, and found out that local volunteers are eager to give veterans live playing of *Taps*, and too few families know it's available.

“I put my name in the data

**See TAPS page 5**

**TAPS from page 4**

base, in case there was (a local funeral),” he said. “I haven’t had the occasion yet to be invited to do it (locally). Almost every time you reply (to the request e-mails), they’ve already found a bugler who volunteered to do it.”

Nevertheless, he’s found other opportunities to lend his horn to area veterans. He recently performed *Taps* at a Veterans Day service at Horizon Bay Assisted Living, where his father-in-law, Joseph Vincitore, resides.

Many count Jari Villaneuva as the nation’s foremost expert on military bugle calls, particularly *Taps*. He’s performed the call for thousands of funerals and memorial events at Arlington National Cemetery and others. Additionally, he was the curator of the *Taps* exhibit at Arlington. Mr. Villaneuva was inducted into the Buglers Hall of Fame in 2007, the first active duty bugler ever so honored.

“It’s a tune that’s easily recognized in the first couple notes,” Mr. Villaneuva said. “It’s a song that touches people in so many ways, and affects people in so many ways.”

Some also know the bugle call — that later had lyrics written for it — as *Day is Done* and *Butterfield’s Lullaby*.

“It’s a call played every single day in virtually every corner of the nation,” Mr. Villaneuva said. “I don’t know any other piece of music like that.” *Taps’* haunting beauty has a mys-

tique that evokes melancholy images which easily spin themselves into fantastic tales. One of the most circulated tales about *Taps* involves a Civil War Union captain, one Robert Ellicombe.

After a fierce day of pitched battle, Captain Ellicombe heard a wounded soldier moaning alone in the blackness of night. The captain risked his life that inky evening to retrieve the injured man who was trapped on a narrow piece of torn land separating the battle-hardened Union and Confederate armies. When the captain neared campfires he realized that he was saving a Confederate soldier — a Confederate soldier who turned out to be his son. The lad had been studying music in the South when the Civil War broke out. Unbeknownst to the captain, the younger Ellicombe volunteered for the Confederate Army.

Sadly, the young man died that night, but the heartbroken father found a short bit of music in his son’s pocket. The captain had the uncompleted melody played at his son’s burial the next day. Thus was *Taps* born.

Mr. Villaneuva said it’s a great story that captures the imagination, but it is bunk. To prove it, he has something for anyone who produces evidence Captain Ellicombe and his son existed.

“I was offering a \$2,000, gold-plated bugle,” he said. “All I need is the unit the guy was in and where he’s buried.”

At his website, [www.tapsbugler.com](http://www.tapsbugler.com), Mr. Villaneuva has the real story of *Taps*. Turns out that like so many tunes, calls and songs of the Civil War, *Taps* was a variation of an existing bugle call, which was itself a variation of another bugle call.

In July 1862, General Daniel Butterfield and brigade bugler Oliver Norton crafted the new extinguish-lights bugle call. Butterfield felt the Army’s official end-of-day bugle call, which was apparently a variation of a French bugle call, was too stiff and formal.

While the two men later gave slightly different accounts of how *Taps* was composed, the new end-of-day bugle call caught on quickly with Union and Confederate buglers. Union and Confederate camps were often close enough that fifers, buglers and drummers could hear one another.

Mr. Villaneuva said that *Taps* has been an official bugle call at military funerals since 1891, but likely came to be used for that purpose long before then.

How the name *Taps* came about is open to some conjecture. It could have been a reference to the bugle call requiring the closure of beer taps. More likely it’s a reference to the fact that after a bugler played the end-of-day call, a drummer would sound a short series of taps.

To request live buglers to perform *Taps* at funerals and memorial events, visit [www.buglesacrossamerica.org](http://www.buglesacrossamerica.org).

**TAGS from page 4**

**State Veterans’ Nursing Home in Daytona Beach.**

Mr. Zickert said the tags’ prices are well worth the extra price.

“I’ve got the U.S. Air Force one,” he said.

Which has turned out to be a helpful way of getting other veterans’ attention to tell them about area organizations and services.

“Our biggest problem now with young veterans is getting to them; our biggest problem nowadays is finding them,” Mr. Zickert said.

“It’s hard to get the young people to come out. They’re a proud people.”

For additional information, visit [www.flhsmv.gov/dmv/specialtytags/](http://www.flhsmv.gov/dmv/specialtytags/).

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 Fax: (772) 337-5678  
 veterans@stlucieco.org  
 Dorothy J. Conrad Building  
 (formerly the Walton Road Annex  
 Bldg.)  
 1664 S.E. Walton Road, Suite 205

Port St. Lucie, FL 34952  
 By appointment  
 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday \* 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
 Wednesdays \* 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.  
 St. Lucie County Community Services Bldg.  
 (Corner of Avenue D and 7th Street)  
 437 N. Seventh St.  
 Fort Pierce, FL 34950  
 Walk-ins  
 Monday and Friday \* 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
 Brevard Veteran's Services Office  
 2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way  
 Bldg. B, Suite 102  
 Viera, FL 32940  
 Office: (321) 633-2012  
 Fax: (321) 637-5432  
 Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.  
 Wednesday and Friday, 8 a.m.-noon  
 Manager: Glenn McGuffie

Martin County Community Services  
 435 S.E. Flagler Ave.  
 Stuart, FL 34994  
 Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.  
 Important Telephone Numbers (from Martin website – need to check)  
 VA Life Insurance Center, Philadelphia, PA - 1-800-669-8477  
 •VA Regional Office - 1-800-827-1000  
 •VA Medical Center, W. Palm Beach - 1-800-972-8262  
 •Pharmacy, VA Medical Center - 1-800-317-8387  
 •Military Retired Pay Activities, Cleveland, OH - (Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force ONLY) 1-800-321-1080  
 •Military Retired Pay Activities, Topeka, KS - (Coast Guard ONLY) 1-800-772-8724  
 •Survivor Benefits (SBP), Denver, CO - 1-800-435-3396  
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## Martin County

Tony Reese, Veterans Service Office Supervisor  
 Nick Ciotti, Veterans Service Officer  
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 Veterans Services Office

## Okeechobee County

Veterans Services office  
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**NUMBERS from page 6**

West Palm Beach Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center  
7305 North Military Trail  
West Palm Beach, FL 33410  
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Telephone Care  
(561) 422-6838  
(866) 383-9036  
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Viera VA Outpatient Clinic  
2900 Veterans Way  
Viera, FL 32940  
Phone: (321) 637-3788  
1 (877) 878-8387  
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8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

St Lucie County PTSD Clinical Team (PCT) Outpatient Program

126 S.W. Chamber Court  
Port St Lucie, FL 34986  
Phone: (772) 878-7876

Fort Pierce Community Based Outpatient Clinic

727 North U.S. 1  
Fort Pierce, FL 34950  
Phone: (772) 595-5150  
Fax: (772) 595-6560

St Lucie Community Based Outpatient Clinic  
128 S.W. Chamber Court  
Port Saint Lucie, FL 34986  
Phone: (772) 344-9288

Stuart Community Based Outpatient Clinic

3501 S E Willoughby Boulevard  
Stuart, FL 34997  
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## For Veteran Voice

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a special and unique present for yourself, or someone you love. Call or email [vacwarbirds@bellsouth.net](mailto:vacwarbirds@bellsouth.net) for additional information, or to get on our reserve list and we will notify you of the flight schedule.

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June 6, 1944. A day when the freedom of a world hung in the balance as she made her way in the pre-dawn darkness towards the beaches of Normandy; part of the largest aerial invasion armada the world has ever seen.

The Valiant Air Command Museum is located at the Space Coast Regional Airport at 6600 Tico Road in Titusville. Our website is [www.vacwarbirds.org](http://www.vacwarbirds.org) and our phone number is (321) 268-1941.

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# Nonprofit formed during recession grows more than 46 percent year over year since 2007

Numbers show how patriotism and appreciation for veterans is reaching new levels

## For Veteran Voice

COLUMBIA FALLS, Maine — Wreaths Across America (WAA), a nonprofit organization founded to continue and expand the annual wreath laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery begun by Maine businessman, Morrill Worcester, in 1992, today announced that this year will mark the laying of the one-millionth remembrance wreath being donated to honor the service and sacrifice of our veterans. Wreaths Across America has reached a significant milestone this year and the organization credits the compassion and patriotic spirit of Americans for helping them achieve such an honorable goal. For 14 years the wreath laying was a company project for the Worcester's, completed with great pride and very little fanfare.

The first delivery of wreaths to Arlington numbered just 5,000. In 2005, the iconic image of the wreaths in the snow at Arlington, taken by James Varhegyi, became an instant hit on the Internet and thousands of people contacted Worcester Wreath to see how they could get involved.

“Originally we wanted to honor our country’s veterans with a gesture we felt would be a small symbol of appreciation. We chose Arlington National Cemetery because it was in the nation’s capital and when visitors came to their loved ones gravesite at the holidays, they would see they were not forgotten. We never dreamed our small gesture would become a national tradition,” said Karen Worcester, executive direc-

See WREATHS page 10

# Wreath-laying ceremony planned for White City Dec. 15 at noon

**White City Cemetery  
Associate, Inc.  
Fort Pierce**

**State: Florida  
Location Address:  
3800 Sunrise Blvd.,  
Fort Pierce FL 34982  
Location graves: 11,039**

**Location veteran graves:  
660  
Accepting sponsorship  
Wreaths: Yes  
Volunteer location leader:  
Diane Almodovar  
Telephone:  
(561) 248-9569  
E-mail: honeydi@comcast.net**

# VAC Warbird Fly-In/drive-in breakfast coming up

## For Veteran Voice

The Valiant Air Command Warbird museum in Titusville, located at the Space Coast Regional Airport TIX, will hold our next Fly-In pancake breakfast for area pilots and passengers on Saturday, Dec. 8 from 8:30-11 a.m. We are also inviting all those that wish to drive in and participate. This is a great opportunity for pilots and public to enjoy the camaraderie of each other, in the unique surroundings of the Valiant Air Command’s vintage

warbird environment. Museum admission is free for our fly-in guests and for those that want to drive in, your breakfast is free with your admission. Breakfast is catered by Chef Larry and is only \$8. So fly in or drive in have breakfast, take a tour and become a part of history. Please call with the number of your party, so that we can ensure the proper meals. Call us at (321) 268-1941 or email [vacwarbirds@bellsouth.net](mailto:vacwarbirds@bellsouth.net). Pass the word to pilots and friends. [www.vacwarbirds.org](http://www.vacwarbirds.org)

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# Calendar of events

St. Lucie County

## Friday, Dec. 7

**Winter Wonderland Light Show**  
Port St. Lucie Community Center. 7 p.m.- 9 p.m. Free. Drive or walk by to see the light and sound experience. Display takes place every night the Community Center is open, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., now through Jan. 2. 2195 S.E. Airoso Blvd., Port St. Lucie. *For more information, call (772) 878-2277.*

**Bird watching cruise** Departs at 4:30 p.m. on Fridays, from Rivergate Park, 2200 S.E. Midport Road, Port St. Lucie. Private charters are available, and reservations are required. *For more information, call (772) 489-8344.*

**Friday sunset cruise** at Rivergate Park. Boat leaves at 4 p.m. from 2200 S.E. Veterans Memorial Parkway, Port St. Lucie. Cost: \$18.78. Enjoy dining afterward at nearby restaurants. *For more information, call (772) 489-8344.*

**Feeding Frenzy tour** at the St. Lucie County Aquarium featuring the Smithsonian Marine Exhibit. Watch underwater residents enjoy their morning meal. A volunteer or staff person will provide information on the Exhibit's daily menu, as well as share stories and provide insight on

the area's constantly changing ecosystems. Feeding Frenzy tours are free with paid admission. 420 Seaway Drive 445024911168030, Fort Pierce. *For more information, call (772) 462-FISH.*

## Saturday, Dec. 8

**Santa Claus at the Port St. Lucie Botanical Gardens** Noon to 2 p.m. Free. Pictures with Santa, cookie decorating, crafts and carols sung by the German American Club choir. 2410 S.E. Westmoreland Blvd., Port St. Lucie. *For more information, call (772) 337-1959.*

**Community Green Market** at the Port St. Lucie Civic Center. Rain or shine. 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Locally grown fruits and vegetables, seafood, fresh baked goods and arts and crafts. Free admission and parking. 9221 S.E. Civic Center Place, Port St. Lucie. *For more information, call (772) 465-5658.*

**Patriot Productions Gun Show** at the St. Lucie County Fairgrounds 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$6. 15601 W. Midway Road, Fort Pierce. *For more information, visit patriotshow.com54703001*

## WREATHS from page 9

tor of WAA.

It was in 2007 that WAA was granted their 501(c)3 status and received enough donations to sponsor 34,000 wreaths. The steady growth over the following years may be impressive, but it is no surprise to founder Morrill Worcester, who says, "There is one thing we all agree on, and know is important, and that is we owe everything to the men and women of the military and the sacrifices made by them and their families. I think that's why people join in and it grows."

This year, the organization has more than 800 participating locations in all 50 states and nearly 30 locations overseas. They are currently on pace to lay between 355,000 and 401,000 wreaths across the country. In 2011, 90,000 wreaths were handed out and placed at Arlington by over 15,000 volunteers in little over an hour's time. The total number of volunteers is expected to be even greater this year.

"We are overwhelmed

with the support and patriotic gesture by people from all over the country," said Karen. "This year, individuals and organizations have shown great support for local cemeteries, but our numbers for Arlington may come in lower than anticipated. It's always heart-wrenching to place the last sponsored wreath and leave the next grave bare. I'm always afraid that a relative who visits their loved one's grave after hearing about our program, and finds it without a wreath, will wonder why they were not honored," she said.

Despite WAA's continued growth nationwide, Karen's fear could become a reality at Arlington National Cemetery. The organization says it still needs help to reach their goal of placing 140,000 wreaths there, where it all started. They will continue to accept donations for this year's wreath laying at Arlington through December 13.

Follow Wreaths Across America on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/WAAHQ> and on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/WreathsAcross>.

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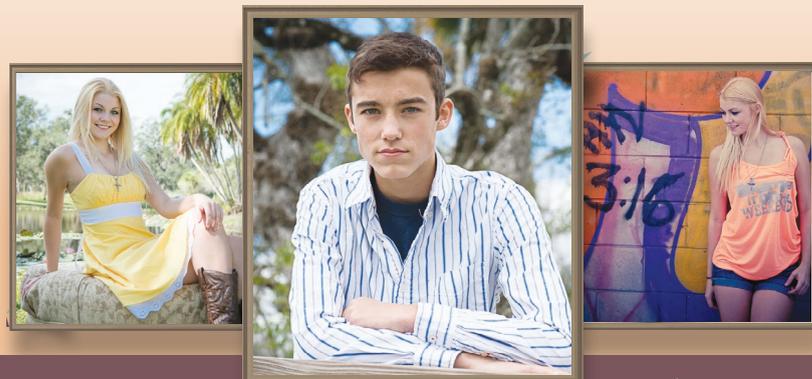
Mr. Repoli is a Certified Public Accountant and also an EA enrolled to practice before the IRS. He is a member of the Florida Institute of CPA's, National Association of Tax Professionals, and other tax organizations and has been dealing with the IRS for over 40 years.

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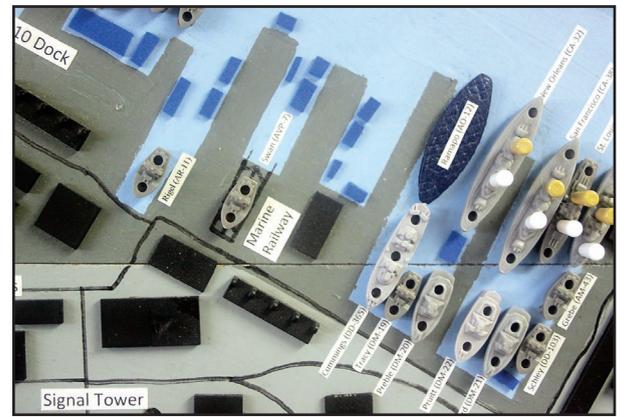
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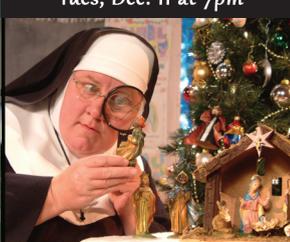
# Dec. 7, 1941

*Editor's note: This is a photo of the layout of the Naval base at Pearl Harbor prior to the Japanese attack on display at the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center and Council.*

This project is on loan and was completed by Sean D. Wilkin of Merritt Island in March 2009 (estimated 800 hours research and labor). He made it for his senior project at Edgewood Jr./Sr. High School. Sean is currently attending Flagler College in St. Augustine, where he plans to major in history. His career goal is to be a military historian (branch undecided) with hopes to eventually pass on his love of history through teaching and coaching soccer.



The National Circus of the People's Republic of China:  
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Col. Paul Tibbets, airplane commander of this Army Air Force, B-29 super fortress from the 509th Composite Group on Aug. 6, 1945, dropped the 13-kiloton atomic bomb, nicknamed 'Little Boy' on the Japanese city of Hiroshima, decimating it. To drop the 'Little Boy' atomic bomb, Maj. Thomas Ferebee used a standard 'Norden M-9B' bombsight coupled to the pilots' C-1 autopilot to lock in the aim point in central Hiroshima.

Inset: Enola Gay crew members Theodore J. Van Kirk, navigator; Morris R. Jeppson, bomb electronics officer, and Paul W. Tibbets, pilot and mission commander, pose in the cockpit of the Enola Gay at the National Air & Space Museum's Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center in 2005.

At left, a copy of the *Honolulu Star-Bulletin's* extra edition published Dec. 7, 1941. All items are on display at the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center and Council, located on Sykes Creek Parkway behind the Merritt Square Mall in Brevard County.

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# ABATE Toy Run 2012



Staff photo by Tammy Raits

Buffalo Soldiers MC of Central Florida were among the estimated 6,000 bikers who gathered at Merritt Square Mall on Merritt Island Sunday, Dec. 2, for the 31st annual ABATE of Florida Toy Run. Members of the military and law enforcement motorcycle club posing for the group photo, above: Steve Duke, Cocoa; John Joyner, Cocoa; 'Instigator,' Port St. John; Ray Moultrie, Melbourne; Charles Williams, Melbourne; 'DJ Man,' Orlando; Darryl Spivey, Port St. John; Dan Taylor, Fort Pierce; Robert Daniels, Rockledge; Calvin Martin, Rockledge; Will Strawnzer, Rockledge; 'Draco,' Melbourne; Linda Williams, Melbourne; Bruce Sanford, St. Cloud; Lucius Harris, Fort Pierce; Terris Bodrick, Rockledge; Anita Jackson, Rockledge, 'Candy Apple,' Orlando; 'Buffy,' Cocoa; 'Jazzi Lady,' Lakeland; Deborah Scott, Palm Bay; Debbie Williams, Port St. John; Lori Bodrick, Rockledge; Robbie Daniels, Rockledge; Harold 'Chi-Town' Moore, Clermont; Venetta Valdango, Merritt Island; Jacques 'Apollo' Weaver, Poinciana; and Catman,' Rockledge, in front.

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Staff photo by Tammy Raits  
A Buffalo soldier surveys the crowd gathered at the Merritt Square Mall parking lot Sunday, Dec. 2, for ABATE of Florida's annual Toy Run. An estimated 200,000 toys were donated by the 6,000 or so bikers who participated in this year's run. The toys will be donated to the Shriners Hospital for Children, the Cocoa Police Department, AVET and the Brevard Sharing Center.



Above, an estimated 6,000 bikers turned out for ABATE of Florida's 31st annual Toy Run Sunday, Dec. 2. Bikers staged in the parking lot of Merritt Square Mall starting just after 8 a.m.. Bikers traveled on State Road 520 to U.S. 1 and over to Wickham Park in Melbourne. At left, Barb Mohr of the American Legion Post No. 394 of Palm Bay is dressed for the occasion.

Staff photos by Tammy Raits

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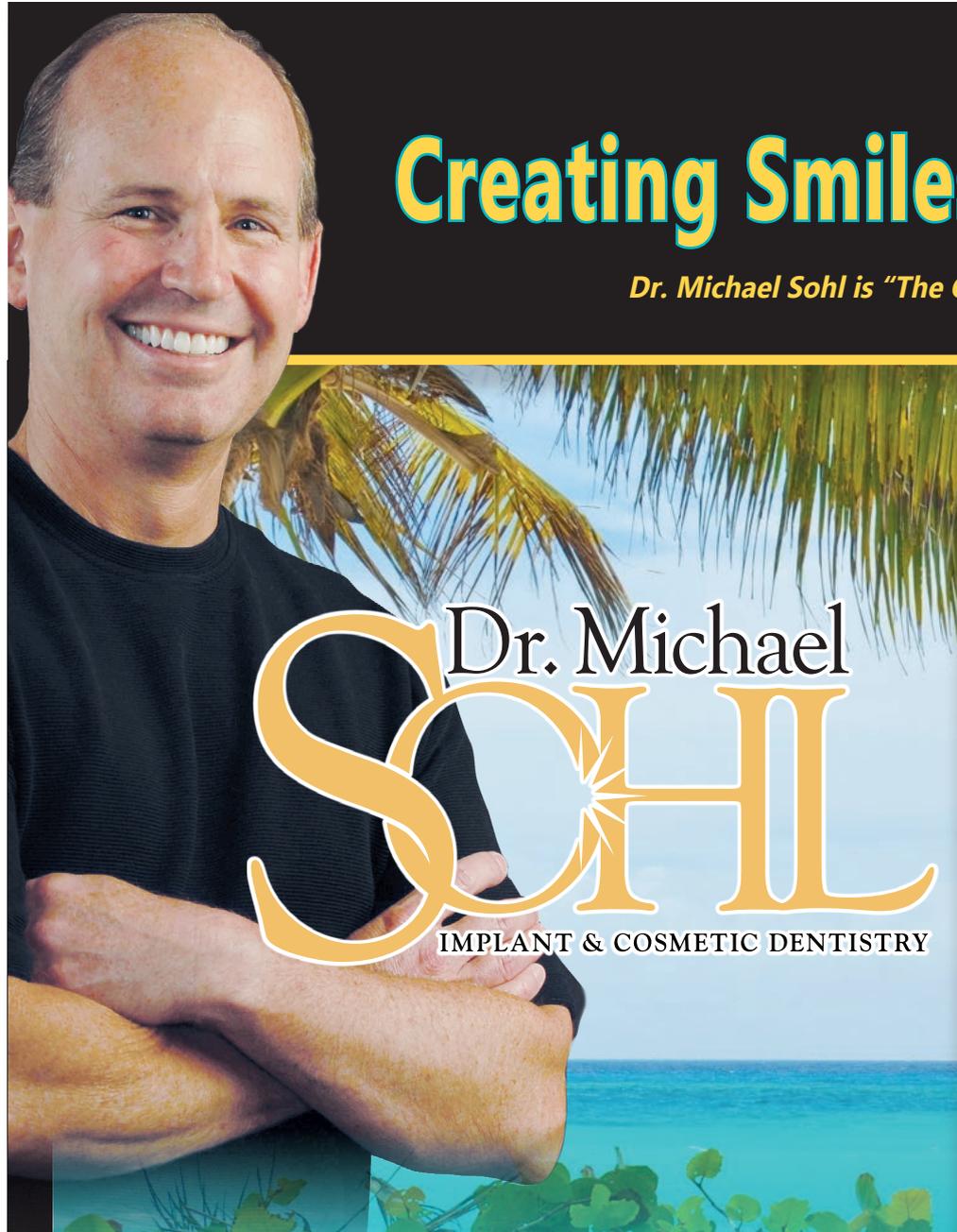
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## Your Oral Health Tip Of the Week

### CERAMIC CROWNS, INLAYS, ONLAYS.

Do you have a tooth or some teeth that are badly damaged or decayed? Would you like to restore those teeth to their original size, shape, and strength? If so, our Stuart cosmetic dentist Dr. Michael Sohl might have the perfect solution for you. Dr. Sohl would like to share some information about ceramic crowns, inlays, and onlays.

Dr. Sohl offers a variety of cosmetic, restorative and preventive services. Schedule your appointment today.

- RESTORATIVE
- PREVENTION CHECK-UPS
- COSMETIC DENTISTRY
- DENTAL IMPLANTS
- NITROUS OXIDE • ORAL SEDATION