The Voice of Experience
VETERAN VOICE

35 cents

VOL. 1/ISSUE 48

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2013

Hot stuff

Mitch Kloorfain/chief photographer

The finale of the Vero Beach Air Show was a race on land air between U.S. National Aerobatic champion Patty Wagstaff flying inverted, Skip Stewart flying through the middle in Prometheus and Neal Darnell racing across the runway in his 12,000 horsepower Flash Fire Jet Truck all in front of a pyrotechnics show with heat that was also felt by the bystanders. More photos inside.

Government shutdown hurts veterans

Patrick McCallister
FOR VETERAN VOICE
patrick.mccallister@yahoo.com

Editor's note: *This story was completed by Monday, Oct. 7. It's possible that there have been significant developments since press time. For up to date information about the Department of Veterans Affairs during the federal government's shutdown, visit its web site, va.gov, and see the "Veterans Field Guide to Government Shutdown," or related pages.*

It might not feel like it to many, but the federal government shutdown hits the Treasure and Space coasts in a lot of ways. Examining just one is looking at 121,500 veterans.

"(I'm getting) lots of phone calls," Wayne Teegardin, manager of St. Lucie County's Veteran Services Office, said. "The first question they ask is, 'Is my check still going to be here?'"

Congressman Patrick Murphy, Democrat from Jupiter representing Florida's 18th District, is getting that question a lot, too. He got an email from a Fort Pierce veteran that captured the uncertainty and frustration many are feeling.

"(The veteran) said, 'I'm literally about to go on food stamps," Murphy said in a telephone interview.

On Oct. 4 he read that email on the floor of the House of Representatives.

"'I am currently receiving (Department of Veterans Affairs) disability (compensation) for service-connected injuries, or at least I was before the government shutdown yesterday,'" Murphy read. "I rely on my disability to survive and now I don't even know when the next payment will arrive.'"

Murphy's office declined to identify the veteran beyond "Joshua." The email's author served in the Navy until a few months ago, the congressman's office said.

The answers to the veterans' questions about the shutdown means more than $40 million a month for the area. The Florida Department of Veterans Affairs — which isn't associated with the federal veterans department — reports that Brevard, Indian River, St. Lucie, Martin and Okeechobee counties have nearly 121,500 veterans among them collectively receiving about $431 million a year in pensions and benefits. That doesn't include the federal dollars that flow into the area through VA programs such as medical facilities.

Murphy recently joined with other Florida representatives in

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The National World War II Memorial on the National Mall is likely now America's most visible and famous monument to the men and women who've served our nation in uniform during times of war, thanks to the Honor Flight controversy. However, there are other war memorials on closed National Park Service lands, which raises questions of fairness. Should the National Park Service make and generally enforce equalized rules for visiting all war memorials, or due to differences among them should there be individual guidelines for each?

Send your thoughts to:
info@veteranvoiceweekly.com

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OUR MISSION STATEMENT
AND OUR OBJECTIVE

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. Veteran Voice 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 ***news@veteranvoiceweekly.com*** or mailing your comments to us at **1919 S.W. South Macedo Blvd., Port St. Lucie, FL 34984.**

IMPORTANT NUMBERS ...

County Veterans Service Officers
St. Lucie County, Wayne Teegardin
Phone: (772) 337-5670
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
Mon., Tues, Thurs, Fri * 8:30 am-4:30 pm
Wed * 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
Mon. and Fri. * 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
Mon., Tues. and Thurs., 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
Wed. and Fri, 8 a.m.-noon
Manager: Glenn McGuffie

Indian River County
Joel Herman
Vero Beach
2525 St. Lucie Ave.,
Vero Beach, FL 32960
Ph: (772) 226-1499
Fax: (772) 770-5038

Sebastian Square
11602 U.S. 1, Sebastian, FL 32958
Ph: (772) 589-6597 Fax: (772) 581-4988

Martin County
Tony Reese, Veterans Service Office Supervisor
Nick Ciotti, Veterans Service Officer
(772) 288-5448

Veterans Services Office
Martin County Community Services
435 S.E. Flagler Ave., Stuart, FL 34994
Office Hours: Mon-Fri, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

VA Life Insurance Ctr., Phil., PA - 1-800-669-8477

VA Regional Office - 1-800-827-1000

VA Medical Ctr, 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

Stuart VA Clinic - (772) 288-0304
Okeechobee County

Veterans Services office
(863) 763-6441, Ext 5.
Fax: (863) 763-0118.

Orlando VA Medical Cente
5201 Raymond St., Orlando, FL 32803
(407) 629-1599 or (800) 922-7521

Telephone Care
(407) 599-1404
8 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon. - Fri. (800) 645-6895
8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Mon - Fri (321) 637-3625

Viera patients
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West Palm Beach Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center
7305 North Military Trail, West Palm Beach, FL 33410
(561) 422-8262 or (800) 972-8262

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Viera VA Outpatient Clinic
2900 Veterans Way, Viera, FL 32940
Phone: (321) 637-3788
1 (877) 878-8387
Mon. - Fri. - 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
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Stuart, FL 34997
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Vero Beach Community Based Outpatient Clinic
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Treasure Coast residents react to shooting in Washington, D.C.

Nearly 200 area residents in the Capitol for a congressional hearing on cleaning up local waterways when incident broke out

Nicole Rodriguez
STAFF WRITER
nrodriguez@YourVoiceWeekly.com

WASHINGTON, D.C. — As the loud crackle of gun shots pierced the air around the U.S. Capitol Building last week, pedestrians on the building's south side ran for cover, some visibly shaken, sobbing and stopping to catch their breath.

Among the crowd were dozens from the Treasure Coast in the District to lobby congressional support for the deteriorating Indian River Lagoon.

Most were departing from the press triangle of the Capitol building's yard where an afternoon press conference held by U.S. Rep. Patrick Murphy, D-Jupiter, just concluded. The conference followed a congressional briefing on the pollution plight facing the lagoon.

St. Lucie County Commissioner Chris Dzadovsky said he smelled the unmistakable scent of gun powder in the air.

"No question, no question in my mind," Dzadovsky said of the scent.

Dzadovsky was walking with Murphy toward the congressman's office in the Longworth building.

"At the end of the press conference, we were walking away from the area, as we were, Congressman Murphy was ahead of me," Dzadovsky said. "We heard probably six

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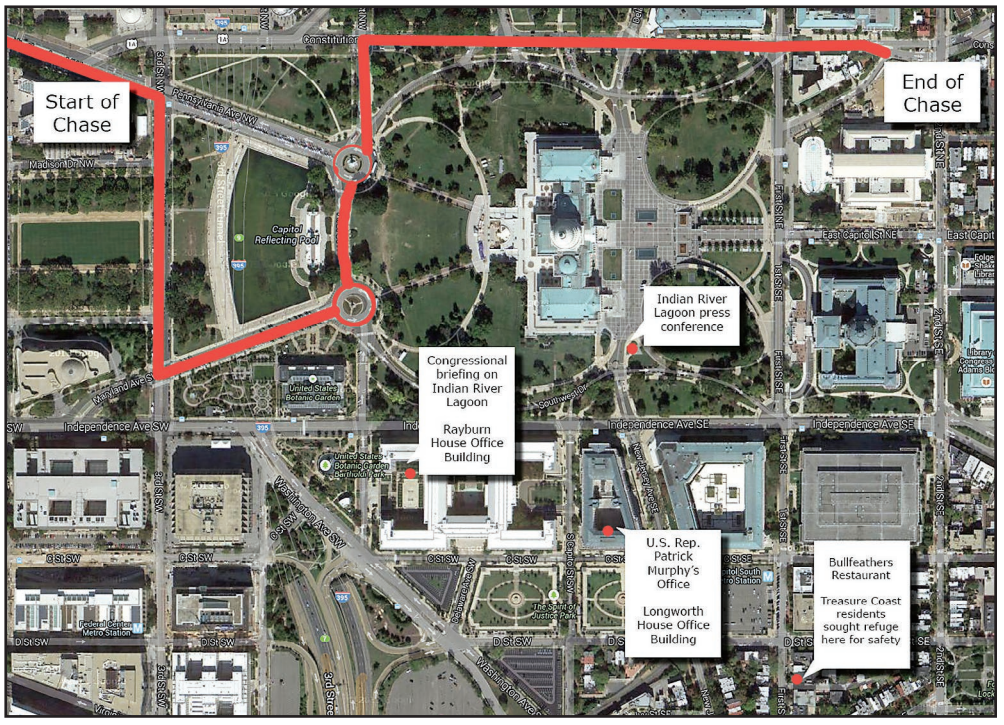

Photo courtesy of Google Maps/graphics created by Your Voice News & Views
Map depicting where the Oct. 3 Capitol Hill car chase and shooting began and ended. Map also shows where Treasure Coast residents in the immediate area were during the moments surrounding the shooting.

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Air show antics

Mitch Kloorfain/chief photographer

Geico Skytypers Airshow team pilots Ken Johansen, U.S. Navy retired, Steve Salmirs, U.S. Air Force retired, Tom Daly and Bob Johansen, U.S. Navy retired, sign autographs for the visitors of the inaugural Vero Beach air show before the precision flight performance Sunday, Oct. 6.

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Geico Skytyper pilots Larry Arken, U.S. Air Force retired and Ken Johansen, U. S, Navy retired put on an aerial display over Indian River County before the start of the Vero Beach Air Show Friday, Oct. 4. The Geico team was a popular featured act at the inaugural event held at the Vero Beach Municipal Airport.

Mitch Kloorfain/chief photographer
Jerry 'Jive' Kerby, former U.S. Air Force pilot, comes out of a series of aerobatic maneuvers during the Vero Beach Air Show Sunday, Oct. 6 at the Vero Beach Municipal Airport.

VETERAN'S HELP NEEDED

Veteran Voice, our weekly subscription newspaper for veterans and the military minded, is looking for one or more hard working, dedicated and SMART individuals to help take this paper to the next level. Serving a four county area from Brevard south to Martin Co. We need a professional "jack of all trades" to help promote this publication, generate subscriptions and editorial submissions, sales leads, etc. Full time or part time position, flexible schedule. Send a resume or letter to serlanger@yourvoiceweekly.com

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to seven shots."

The commissioner feared for Murphy's safety.

"My concern first was for Congressman Murphy. He was directly in front of me and the shots came from that direction," Dzadovsky said. "I was relieved to see him walking very quickly in my direction and staff had him corralled, basically. I felt very comfortable that he was safe."

Police officers, already out patrolling in large numbers, descended north within seconds.

They told bystanders to move quickly southward and take cover indoors.

"At that point, what I believe to be Secret Service and Capitol Police immediately whisked us away to the south and we evacuated as quickly as possible," Dzadovsky said.

Murphy remained calm during the ordeal, taking a large role in leading his entourage to safety, Dzadovsky said.

"The Congressman was certainly concerned for the safety of others, but as importantly, he also knew he had to continue to move in the right direction. I was very proud of him and I was very proud of his staff," he said.

Murphy took to Facebook within the hour to let the public know he was safe.

"Thank you for the calls, emails, and expressions of concern. My staff and I are all safe. We hope everyone is OK and thank the Capitol Police for keeping us safe," Murphy wrote.

Dzadovsky and other fellow Treasure Coast residents sought refuge at a tavern on First Street, named Bullfeathers. There they learned from televised news reports that the barrage of bullets were fired from police who were in pursuit of a car that rammed the barriers of the White House just blocks away.

A woman with her 1-year-old daughter in her car was fatally shot by police on the north side of the Capitol building after the Oct. 3 car chase ended. It is suspected the unarmed woman, identified as Miriam Carey, 34, of Stamford, Conn., suffered from postpartum depression and other mental illnesses.

The chase came just two weeks after the Navy Yard shooting that claimed the lives of 12.

Lagoon activist and Port St. Lucie resident Nyla Pipes said her first call was to her father, who was several blocks north at the Hyatt Regency hotel.

"I'm clear on the other side of the Capitol building and we have no idea how we're going to get back in that direction," said Pipes, who was also at Bullfeathers.

Fort Pierce resident Don Voss, a Vietnam Army veteran who received a Purple Heart for injuries he sustained from a mortar attack, said he never felt he was in immediate danger.

"Shots were fired, I'm a combat veteran. They were shots. We heard them. It sounded like a series of two, maybe two rips of about seven shots each time. They (police) told us to go south, and south we went," Voss said.

"I knew it wasn't pointed toward us because it was a diluted sound."

Stuart native and Oviedo resident, Steve Edmonds, said the high adrenaline event happened in a flash.

"We heard some shots and some squealing (of tires). We saw some Capitol Police cars going crazy," Edmonds said.

"… Now that I'm looking at it, I'm thinking, I hope it was taken care of and nobody was hurt."

SHUTDOWN from page 1

approving legislation that'd largely insulate the VA from cutbacks during the shutdown and likely upcoming debt-ceiling showdown. Treasury Secretary Jack Lew has warned that if the Congress doesn't raise the federal borrowing limit by around Oct. 17, some of the government's bills will go unpaid and programs unfunded.

Stuart Burns is chief of staff at Congressman Bill Posey's office. Posey is a Republican from Rockledge representing Florida's 8th District. Burns said during the shutdown there's been much bipartisan concern in the House about keeping the VA fully operational during the shutdown.

"What we did last night, we passed a bill on the floor that basically would fund the rest of VA," he said in a phone interview. "That was passed on the House floor and was sent over to the Senate. Posey voted for it, and Murphy voted for it as well."

He added, "It would assure that all veterans would get paid (their full benefits)."

That bill, which had other provisions, would have to pass the Senate and get President Barack Obama's signature to be law. At press time, Democratic leadership in the Senate is refusing to consider individual spending bills from the House, insisting instead for a complete continuing resolution to keep the federal government fully operational. Burns said until then the Senate and President should move along with agreement points between House Republicans and Democrats as all seek a way to end the shutdown.

"For us not to move on it because we want one big bill doesn't make sense," he said.

What's not at any risk for shutting down until next October is the Veterans Health Administration, VHA, said Joe Violante, legislative director of the Disabled American Veterans.

"If we are in a long-term government shutdown, the only thing that won't be affected for veterans will be their health care," he said in a telephone interview.

That's because the VA healthcare system receives advance appropriations from Congress. Ray Kelley, national legislative director of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, said the VHA's advance appropriations — which were enacted by Congress in 2009 to shield veterans' health care from federal budget battles, such as the current shutdown — is more than a big IOU.

"VA has money in the bank," Kelly said in a phone interview. "That advance appropriation carved off some money and put it in the bank."

Posey voted for advance appropriations. Murphy wasn't in Congress at the time.

But, to get VA health care, veterans must apply for it. Their claims go to the Veterans Benefits Administration, VBA, which doesn't receive advanced funding. Nick Ciotti, veterans service officer for Martin County, said that by press time, he'd noticed no differences at VBA.

"They said at the (VA St. Petersburg Regional Office), it's not open to outside people, but personnel are still there," he said in a phone interview. "Business as usual for them, as I understand it."

For now.

Murphy said that even a short federal shutdown can have disastrous consequences on the VA's infamous claims backlog.

"I don't think the pensions and benefits will stop flowing," he said in the phone interview. "I do fear new claims not getting processed and that backlog growing again. They've worked so hard to get that down."

That's a concern for Teegardin as well, no matter how smooth things seem to be running for now.

"(The regional office is) answering the phone," he said. "They're estimating that if this goes on, this is impacting the claims backlog. It's slowing them down on the backlog and that, of course, slows new claims."

Collette Burgess, public affairs officer at the VA's St. Petersburg office, said no matter what happens with the government shutdown and possible debt-ceiling battles, the VA has funding for processing claims and making payments for compensations and pensions, along with educational and vocational rehabilitation programs, until late October. However, the VA has cut its expenses.

"We are not working overtime," she said. "Due to the shutdown, the Veterans Benefits Administration will not be able to continue overtime for claims processors."

Violante said that's how the shutdown is going to pain veterans even if it's short. In May, the VA mandated overtime for its claims adjusters to reduce the claims backlog.

"Right now VA has some essential personnel able to process claims," Violante said. "They've cut out overtime. That was one of the vehicles they were using to attack this backlog."

A couple years ago, the VBA had about a million claims that had awaited decisions for more than six months at any given time. Aggressive efforts, including

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October 12, 2013 | 6:00 a.m. Registration

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Veterans have new tool to locate each other

Patrick McCallister
FOR VETERAN VOICE
patrick.mccallister@yahoo.com

Jerry Mullenix, deputy adjutant of the American Legion Department of Florida, hopes to see a lot of veterans through walls soon. He didn't get X-ray vision. Rather, he got a new social-media application on his mobile phone.

"POS REP provides something unique that I've not seen in any other app or social media to connect veterans," he said. "People you would not know were there. If you're using this app, it gives veterans a chance to meet who otherwise wouldn't meet."

POS REP, which means "position report," is a social-media application aimed at connecting veterans in numerous ways. It has components similar to more familiar social-media websites and applications, such as Twitter. But what makes it different is that veterans can use POS REP to let other veterans in a 5- to 50- kilometer area know they're around.

The Legion's Department of Florida is working with POS REP to promote the app, and to verify that those joining are, in fact, veterans. Anthony Allman, co-founder and CEO of POS REP said the app is primarily aimed at getting younger veterans connected to one another, along with getting them connected to services and organizations in their communities.

"We started development of the application in June of 2012," he said. "It was inspired by the suicide of a friend of ours named Clay Hunt."

Hunt was a well-known veterans advocate in Texas. The 28-year-old Marine and veteran of operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom appeared in a public-service announcement telling other veterans that they're not alone and to reach out for help when despondent. Then he killed himself in March, 2011.

"Clay was very well known," Allman said. "He was an advocate. He was speaking at events about living with (post-traumatic stress syndrome). (His suicide) sent shockwaves through the community. If it could happen to Clay, it could happen to anybody."

Allman, Jake Wood and William McNulty pooled their talents to come up with a way to prevent future veteran suicides. The Department of Veteran Affairs reports that there are about 20 "completed suicides" a day among veterans. That's only those which are verified suicides. The count doesn't include unsuccessful attempts, which are much harder to track. Evidence suggests that when veterans go to commit suicide, they're successful more often than others.

"When my partners went to the funeral, they ran into like three Marines who lived within a few miles of one another," Allman said. "(Hunt's) brothers were right there, but he didn't know them, and they didn't know him."

That inspired the three to develop and market a social media tool that lets veterans tell others they're in the proverbial neighborhood.

"We're leveraging the GPS technology in every millennial's smart phone," he said.

That's a great idea, John Haddox, former Martin County veterans service officer, said.

"Anything that connects veterans, I'm for," he said.

But…

"I could see some ways it could be misused," Haddox added. "Like an ex-spouse getting a friend to locate you."

Allman said veterans keep a lot of control over how much information they reveal through the app at all times. He said veterans have to scroll through options to initiate parts of the app that'll give others an idea of where they're at. If users choose, they can reveal their exact locations to others.

"There are privacy concerns," Allman said. "We built in privacy into the app. You can do what we call 'pop a flare' on your app, and that shows your exact location. It says there's a veteran at this exact location who's willing to meet up. I give it the equivalent of putting a bumper sticker on your car. This is the modern equivalent."

That function is primarily for organizing meetings and other events. Allman said with many veterans in colleges now, many likely will "pop flares" during breaks to make acquaintances at their schools.

See APP page 11

SHUTDOWN from page 8

the mandated overtime, greatly reduced that number to less than half by the end of the federal government's 2012-2013 fiscal year, Sept. 30. In an email, Violante said that last fiscal year the VBA processed almost 1.2 million claims, or about 12 percent more than it had the two previous fiscal years. In September alone, the VBA processed 129,488 claims.

Some claims are initially denied, for various reasons, but veterans have options for appealing those decisions. That's stopped for now.

"During the shutdown, no decisions on claims appeals will be issued by the Board of Veterans' Appeals," Burgess said.

Violante said veterans have been harmed by stalled progress in many areas for the last few years, because of the legislative and executive branches' seemingly unending budget stalemates, sequestration and continuing resolutions to keep the federal government in operation.

"Even running the government on continuing resolutions, which they've done for years now, creates a hardship," he said. "Veterans and their families are feeling immediate impacts from this."

Burns said that even if the shutdown continues and Congress is stymied for weeks or months over increasing the federal borrowing limit, the executive branch will still have money it can spend for veterans, so there's no reason for any portion of the VA to shut down. He said the Treasury receives about $185 billion a month from various taxes and fees and the executive branch has much latitude in which programs will and won't get some of that money.

"It's at their discretion," Burns said. "They can pay what they want to pay."

Murphy said that he was uncertain how much latitude the executive branch has with spending without a budget, or continuing resolution, from Congress.

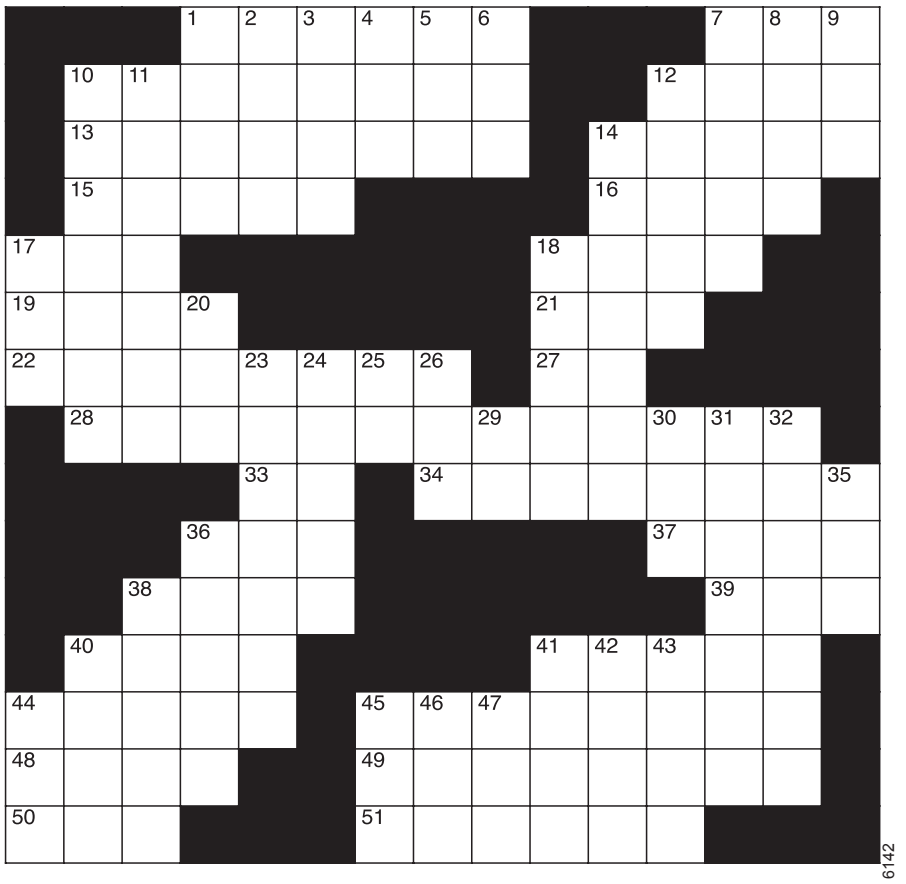
"I know they can allocate it in certain ways, but I'm not sure how they can pick and choose certain agencies," he said.

While it's largely symbolic, perhaps the most visible affect of the shutdown on veterans has been on those visiting the World War II Memorial at the National Mall. It's closed during the shutdown, but Honor Flight veterans have famously defied the closure to visit the monument.

Two area Honor Flight hubs plan to take World War II veterans to Washington D.C. in October. The Southeast Florida Honor Flight,

See SHUTDOWN page 11

CROSSWORD



CLUES ACROSS

1. Most favorables
7. 23rd Greek letter
10. Rated higher
12. Immature herring
13. Malignant skin neoplasm
14. Orange-red spinel
15. Hunted beings
16. Be obedient to
17. Excavate with a shovel
18. = to 100 cauris
19. Lose hold of
21. Highest card
22. Western Union message
27. The "Show Me" state
28. Early photo process
33. A public promotion
34. A group of statues
36. A single thing
37. Ireland
38. A raised speaking platform
39. Leavened bread
40. Farm animal shelter
41. Oral polio vaccine
44. Chinese fine silk silver
45. Chocolate-colored acidic pulp pod
48. ____ off
49. Hagiographa
50. Manuscripts, abbr.
51. Over the sea

CLUES DOWN

1. Stare impertinently
2. Address a deity
3. Converts hide into leather
4. Matrimonial response
5. 13th Hebrew letter
6. Dentist's organization
7. Fleshy fungus caps
8. Kill violently
9. License & passport
10. Refereed
11. Arbor framework
12. Luxuriant dark brown fur
14. Group purchasing protest
17. Insecticide
18. An island group of the S Pacific
20. A wooden hole plug
23. A purine base found in DNA and RNA
24. Spanish park
25. Atomic #18
26. Married woman
29. And, Latin
30. Cantonese dialect
31. Causing physical hurt
32. Short trips or tasks
35. Small craving
36. Paddled
38. Leuciscus leuciscus'
40. Parting phrases: good-____
41. Figure skater Yuka
42. Opera song
43. Create social or emotional ties
44. Opposite of LTM
45. Icahn's airline
46. Air Reserve base (abbr.)
47. Russian manned space station

SUDOKU

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Photo courtesy of David Bjorgen

Four eagles carry a wreath in each of the end cap arches of the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.

SHUTDOWN from page 9

which covers the Treasure Coast area, and Space Coast Honor Flight hubs have separate flights planned for Oct. 19. Neither responded to interview requests by press time.

Murphy said it was important to get the government and memorial reopened.

"The think that because of our petty arguments, because we can't get along, that (veterans) can't experience this," he said in a personal interview. "I forgot the exact number, but there are hundreds if not thousands of (World War II) vets dying a day. The longer this goes on, these petty fights, the more folks that aren't going to see these memorials."

Posey has posted pictures of himself on Facebook moving barricades from the National World War II Memorial. Kelley said the VFW appreciates the sentiments of representatives who've made such public protests and appearances with veterans at the memorial, but would prefer they stay at the Capitol and work out an end to the shutdown.

"It does frustrate us," he said. "Really, you shut down the government and you're going to go down to the World War II Memorial like you're doing something terrific?" he said.

Violante said during the shutdown the DAV leadership is generally steering clear of public appearances with members of Congress.

"We've been trying to stay out of the politicking going on on both sides of the aisle, wanting to selectively pay for this or that," he said.

During the shutdown Murphy is donating his congressional pay to the Renewal Coalition, a veterans reintegration program in Jupiter. A press release said he's doing so because federal employees aren't getting paid.

The House has passed bills to retroactively pay federal employees after the shutdown.

— Reporter Nicole Rodriquez contributed to this story.

APP from page 9

The app is still in the beta, or public-testing, phase, and has about 3,500 users. It's free to download and has no advertising. It's only available for Apple's iPhone, iPod and iPad for now. Allman said it's more difficult to perfect applications for devices using the Android operating system, but the company is working on that and POS REP will soon be available for them. After that, the company may expand to other mobile operating systems, such as Windows.

POS REP is a for-profit venture. Allman said the company didn't want to compete with veterans service organizations for donors. Allman said POS REP will always keep the app free, and avoid swamping users with ads that aren't veteran-related. It hopes to generate revenue by introducing paid add-on features and selective advertising.

Mullenix, who is 36, said he's found POS REP easy to use. He's looking forward to seeing numerous users throughout the state, so he can meet more veterans. Haddox said he'll look into joining POS REP … after some of his friends do.

To learn more, go to pos-rep.com.

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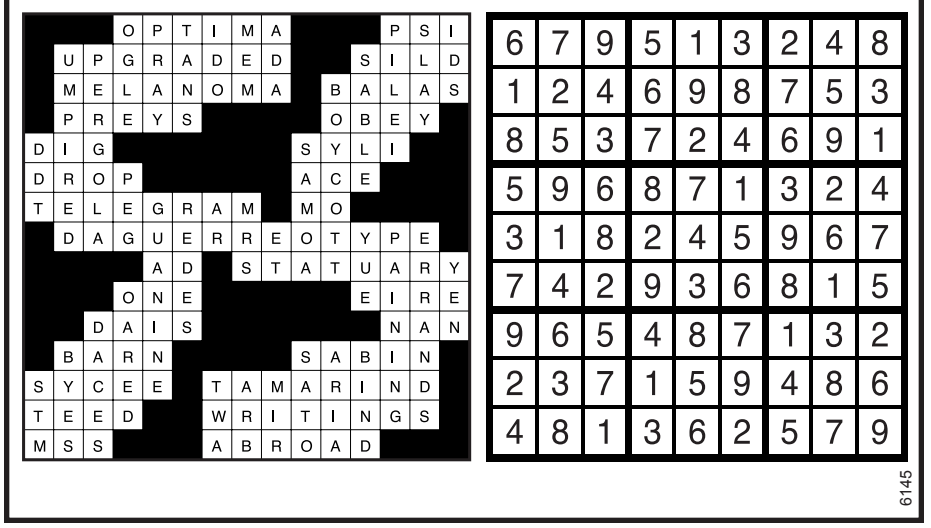

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