



Rotor and Scalpel

WINTER/SPRING NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2016

FROM THE PRESIDENT

First and foremost, I am hoping this newsletter finds all my brothers and sisters doing well. It certainly has been a rough couple of years for many of us.

Dustoff hosted The Vietnam and All Veterans State Coalition Meeting and Annual Banquet again this past January and will most probably be hosting the meeting again next year. Dustoff was presented with a plaque (hosting a meeting in 2015) and a Certificate (participation). In addition, Art Smith, Doc Custer and Chris Hamrick were also presented certificates for their contributions to the Coalition. Our very own Ruari Voisey was one of several children recognized for volunteering and contributing to the betterment of Veterans by awarding them with a Junior Member of the Year award. Along with Ruari were Isabella and Madelynn Earrusso, Destiney Carter, Anthony Mathews-Carter and Jake Burton. Each one of these children and/or young adults has been involved in various aspects of veteran organizations and the Coalition since they were toddlers. Congratulations to them all.

For those of you that do not go to the State Coalition Meetings, they are very productive and quite informative. We had a great time and I would like to congratulate Roberta and all her helpers from the VVB, the Vietnam Brotherhood and The USA River Rats on a job well done. They helped set up meeting room and hospitality suite and helped pack up everything afterwards. A **BIG** and special thanks goes out to Jacque and Ralph Earrusso, Al and Rose Diaz, Michelle Wakefield, Van and Kiki Carter,

Bill and Hjordis Sauerwine, Doc Custer and Bobbi Jo Dino (I hope I did not forget anyone) Roberta could not have done it on her own as it is a large undertaking. Roberta moved from one function to another – Set-up and preparing food for the Friday night and then cleaning up – setting up the meeting room. Breaking down the meeting room and immediately preparing for the banquet, breaking down the banquet and then returning to the hospitality room Saturday night, began breaking it down and then began packing Saturday Night and finished on Sunday. She was constantly on the go, of course with help along the way. The banquet was awesome, and the food was great. All in all the meeting was a wonderful success and a lot of information was disseminated. I have been reelected as President and Roberta has been reelected as the Secretary of the Coalition.

Preparations have already been in motion for the Reunion. I am hoping that as many members of Dustoff will be attending as the turnout was good last year. Remember, the By-Laws have been amended so if in the future you would like to run for President or Vice-President, we must have a **copy of your CERTIFIED DD-214** on file **prior to the election** (Make sure it is a copy as it will be retained in our files in case there may be any questions down the road.) Those eligible must have been attached to an Aero-Medical **or** Medical Unit during their service (this includes support) and must have been honorable discharged. In addition, it was voted on last year that **ALL MEMBERS OF DUSTOFF who served must provide their CERTIFIED DD-214**. As of now, Roberta has received only a small handful. The only offices up for election this year are secretary, treasurer and membership chair.

On behalf of Dustoff, several packages were sent to our troops in Okinawa for the Holidays. The packages consisted of Holiday candies and homemade cookies, personal hygiene items and gifts for children that are stationed there with their families. We also made donations this past year to Wreaths Across America and Honor-Release-Return, The Ride Home. This donation helps sponsor a former POW to participate at the POW Recognition Ceremonies in Georgia at Andersonville.

Roberta has signed up Florida Dustoff as a fundraiser for Wreaths Across America. This year's Nation Wide Remembrance Ceremony will take place on **December 10, 2016**. Our Group ID number is: **FL0179**, Location ID is **FLENSE** and of course our group name is Florida Dustoff Association. Anyone can go online to www.wreathscrossamerica.org and locate the sponsorship form to make a donation. You must enter our Group ID and Location ID on the form in order for us to obtain credit for the donation. We are not receiving monies for this, we selected the option for every two wreaths that are purchased under Florida Dustoff's ID, a third wreath will be donated.

We will be making some minor purchases prior to the reunion this year as there are several much needed items (besides the norm) – we need a new cooler (believe it or not, Roberta pulled a handle on one and it just about came off in her hand), all new stakes for the awnings and all new bungee cords. We believe the grill will make it another year or so (with any luck). If there is anything I have forgotten that you remember we need, please contact me.

PLEASE remember to pay your dues if you are an annual member as *you must be a member in good standing to vote. Please make sure that the dues are paid **prior to the start of our annual meeting***. If you would like to pay them now, please forward your payment in the amount of \$20.00 payable to Florida Dustoff Association to 2304 Woodland Drive, Edgewater, FL 32141. If you join us for the meeting and have not paid your dues, you are not eligible to vote.

Our general membership meeting will be held 1 hour after the close of opening ceremonies at the campsite on the 23rd and we will have our auction at that time. The auction is extremely important to our bottom line as the reunion is really our only source of fundraising and in order to keep this organization afloat, we need to have as many members present for this event and bidding on the items. In addition, if you have something you would like to contribute to the auction, please see Roberta or Doc Custer. We also will have our Dustoff and RED Friday T-Shirts, key chains and other items for sale.

VERY IMPORTANT – Every year Roberta and I bring the trailer to Wickham Park the day before the Escort. Last year, with the help of John, Doc, Chris Hamrick, Chris Bischoff and members of the Vietnam Brotherhood (I hope I am not forgetting anyone else), we basically set up the campsite

(awning, tents, cooking area). This worked out extremely well as when Roberta arrived on Friday, we did not have to set up the site and then she had to hurry to get everything ready to prepare dinner for that night. It is too hard on her with little or no help. We are planning to do the same thing this year....PLEASE...come to the campsite, Saturday the 16th between 11 and 12 to help us set up the campsite. We need at least 8 or so people in order to put up the awnings. If you can only be there for an hour or two to help out, it would certainly be appreciated as I for one cannot do as much to help with the set up as I used to due to my Parkinson's.

This will be my last President's Message to you all as per our By-Laws, the helm is being turned over to Doc Custer at the Reunion and I will become your Vice President. I want to thank you all for having faith in me for all these years (way too many to count !!) and I hope you all feel that I have served Florida Dustoff well as your President.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on the 16th and the rest of you at the reunion.

DUSTOFF FOREVER

Bob (Doc) Neitzel

FROM THE EDITOR

I am sure it has been a very busy year for all and I hope a healthy one. The reunion is just around the corner and I am certainly looking forward to seeing everyone. We heard recently from a long lost member, Eddie Wallace..he is doing well and with any luck, maybe we will see him this year.

If you received this by snail mail and have an e-mail address please e-mail it to me at Hdwizrd8@aol.com and PLEASE indicate Dustoff in the subject line. I really need people to update their information with me as it is much easier to e-mail the newsletter than to send it by mail.

As always, we will have our general membership meeting on Saturday approximately an hour after the end of the massing of the colors. If you plan on attending the reunion this year, please contact Bob Neitzel at (386) 424-1989 or by e-mail (Hdwizrd7@aol.com). We will need to know if you need a campsite and how many people will be attending with you. At this point in time, we know of two wet sites and two dry sites that have been reserved (we were advised of this last year), but we would appreciate everyone reconfirming. It is quite difficult to plan a dinner (as usual, Friday and Saturday nights) without having an idea of a head count. The reunion dates are April 21-24 at Wickham Park. The VVB already has most of the reunion info posted at www.vietnamandallveteransofbrevard.com.

Remember the parks department are enforcing some rules – no more than one motorhome/trailer or tent per site and no more than four adults and two children per site (remember this if a ranger should come up and ask

!!!!) This does not mean that people cannot come and go as they please into the site, but this is the maximum amount of people "camping" per site!!

If you can also attend the week prior, you may also wish participate in the Vietnam And All Veterans Reunion Memorial Walls Motorcycle Escort on Sunday April 17th at Eastern State College Cocoa Campus, Clearlake Road at 10 am (formerly Brevard Community College). Line-up is at 9:00 am and they will leave 10:00 am. Arrive at Wickham Park, Melbourne, About 11:00 am. For those who want to help set up the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall Other Memorials and Displays. It is well worth the experience if you are able to do so, ask Doc Custer, Snake or John Patton and Nancy Church as they have participated in the escort before.

Please take a look at the reunion website page at VVOF.ORG and there is a link to the reunion home page, or go right to the source at the VVB website.

I have been given the tentative schedule of events for the reunion already and have attached a copy for all of you (if you received this by e-mail). I look forwarding to seeing all at the Reunion!!!

Roberta Neitzel

Meals for the Reunion: The cost for dinners this year will be \$6.00 for Friday Dinner (ziti, salad, garlic bread) and \$10.00 for Saturday Dinner – which is going to be a surprise. As I have done in past years, I will make some pasta salad and a macaroni salad and will leave them in the coolers so anyone can help themselves to it as a side for their lunch. *I am not aware at this time of any plans for breakfast, however, if breakfast is provided donations need to be made for the meal so at least the cost of the food is covered...*

CAMPSITE FEES FOR 2016 - price has been increased

WET SITES: \$45.00 per night per motor home, camper or tent
DRY SITES: \$35.00 per night per motor home, camper or tent

The prices have been increased as our cost for the sites were increased by Wickham Park.

To remind all everyone should contribute and bring two 12 packs (beer, soda, water, etc.) to donate to the coolers at reunion. It has worked out great for the past few years and I for one did not hear any complaints.

We will be presenting colors at the opening ceremonies again and if anyone is interested in participating, please contact Bob Neitzel at hdwizrd7@aol.com or by phone to let him know in advance. As the flight suits we have are rather "slim" in nature, we would like at least one or two to present in the flight suits and all others to be in BDU's, and would like all to be in boots.

We will be having our raffle and auction as well as a 50/50 and if anyone would like to donate any items please see Doc Neitzel, Doc Custer or Bert at the campsite.

Important Information to Pass On

We try to forward as much information as possible throughout the year that we received which we deem important. Some though, do not have a computer, therefore are not receiving a lot of information. I would like to note here several items that I felt were worth sharing:

For all our women veterans, there is a new website designed specifically for them <https://womenvetsusa.org/>. It is full of information pertaining to benefits specifically for woman veterans and has numerous links. Please, pass this information to all the female vets you know.

As most of you who live in Florida may be aware, Governor Rick Scott has been travelling around the State present the Governor's Veterans Service Award. This is a medallion that Rick Scott personally presents to each veteran that attends as a way to thank you for your service. All Honorably discharged Veterans of all ages are welcome to attend. Wearing of Veteran-related headgear is encouraged and you must provide some form of identification that validates your veteran status (DD-214, VA ID Card, Retirement ID, Military ID, etc...). You are also permitted to bring up to three guests. I had been hesitant to go as I believed it would be a typical political event. There was an event in Deland recently and Roberta suggested (actually insisted) I attend. To my surprise, there were over 300 veterans that attended, no political BS...There was several dignitaries who each said a few words, the Governor arrived, made his opening statement and then one by one, we went up on the stage and he thanks us for our service, shook our hand, placed the medallion around our neck, and took a photo with each one of us. You were not asked to stay for all presentations. These events take place every few months and the location does change so you do not have to travel too far, the Governor's office announces it about a month in advance and they request you fill out a brief online registration/reservation form. I would suggest if given the opportunity you attend the ceremony and receive the Veterans Service Award.

Roberta, for the coalition, has updated a list of establishments that give a discount to veterans. Some are only for active duty, while others are for anyone with a military/VA ID. It is several pages long and it is attached to this newsletter if you are receiving it my e-mail. She will make copies and have it available at the Reunion if anyone is interested in obtaining a copy.

On April 16, 2015 the Florida house passed CS/HB 471 and subsequently passed the Senate on April 24, 2015. The bill exempts a vehicle displaying a Disabled Veteran "DV" license plate issued under s. 320.084, F.S., from paying parking fees charged by a county, municipality, or any agency thereof, in a facility or lot that provides timed parking spaces outside of certain conditions. The bill was

approved by the Governor on June 10, 2015, Ch. 2015-114, L.O.F., and became effective on July 1, 2015. The original wording of the bill was confusing, so Senator Dorothy Hukill's office had an assistant from the Department of Highway and Motor Vehicles contact Roberta for clarification. This applied to DV tags with and without the wheelchair on it.

The statute is as follows: A state agency, county, municipality, or any agency thereof, may not charge a fee for parking in metered parking spaces or on the public streets or highways if the vehicle displays any of the below disabled parking permits or disabled license plates.

- Out of state or out of country disabled license plate or disabled parking permit as recognized under s. 316.1958, F.S..
- Disabled parking permit issued under s. 320.0848, F.S.
- Disabled veteran license plate issued under s. 320.084, F.S.
- Disabled veteran license plate stamped with the international wheelchair user symbol issued under s. 320.0842.
- License plate stamped with the international wheelchair user symbol issued under s. 320.0843, F.S.
- Paralyzed Veterans of America license plate issued under s. 320.0845, F.S.1 This only applies to vehicles transporting the person who has a disability and to whom the disabled parking permit or license plate was issued.

The driver of a vehicle, as provided above, that is parked on the public streets or highways or in any metered parking space may not be penalized except in clearly defined:

- bus loading zones;
- fire zones;
- access aisles adjacent to the parking spaces for persons who have disabilities;
- areas posted as "No Parking" zones or as emergency vehicle zones; or
- for parking in excess of the posted time limit.

Several exceptions are provided in current law for when a parking fee may be charged to a vehicle displaying a disabled parking permit. They are:

- When a state, county, or municipal parking facility or lot is being used for an event at a convention center, cruise- port terminal, sports stadium, sports arena, coliseum, or auditorium.
- In a parking facility that leases a parking space for more than one week.
- An airport that owns, operates, or leases parking facilities, or any other parking facilities that are used for air travel. However, the governing body of each publicly owned or publicly operated airport must grant free parking for a vehicle with specialized equipment, such as a ramp, lift, or foot or hand controls, or for utilization by a person who has a disability or whose vehicle displays the Florida Toll Exemption permit.
- A county, municipality, or any agency thereof, may charge for parking in a facility or lot that provides timed parking spaces for any vehicle that displays a disabled parking permit. An exemption is made for any vehicle with

specialized equipment, such as ramps, lifts, or foot or hand controls, for use by a person who has a disability, or vehicles displaying the Florida Toll Exemption permit.

When an on-street parking meter restricts the duration of time that a vehicle may be parked, a vehicle properly displaying a disabled parking permit is allowed a maximum of four hours at no charge. However, local governments may extend such time by local ordinance.

A parking facility that restricts the number of consecutive days that a vehicle may be parked can impose the same restriction on a vehicle that displays a disabled parking permit.

Effect of Proposed Changes The bill amends s. 316.1964(8), F.S., exempting a vehicle that displays a Disabled Veteran "DV" license plate issued under s. 320.084, F.S., from paying parking fees charged by a county, municipality, or any agency thereof, in a facility or lot that provides timed parking spaces outside of certain conditions.

Please note that if the parking facility is privately owned (airport, cruise ship terminal, etc) it is their discretion to charge for parking. Rule of thumb...ASK.. We traveled to OIA several times recently and when we were leaving the garage, we asked the toll booth operator if they charged for a vehicle with a DV tag and she stated no, she asked for Bob's driver's license, gave Bob a form to sign and write in his phone number and off we went. It takes a few extra minutes, but saved us a lot of money.

We received this information from the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs: The Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS) was to be modified on February 8th, 2016 to implement the VA Service-Connected Disability. The EDRS will allow the funeral director to notify the certifying physician that the decedent may have a service-connected disability.

The VA brochure has been modified and is intended to educate the deceased veteran's families and the physicians with identifying possible service related disabilities when filling out cause of death on death records. All EDRS users will receive an e-mail explaining the enhancement to e-vitals and how to notify the certifying physician.

Basically, if the check box on the decedent tab, for "Was Decedent Ever in U.S. Armed Forces?" is checked, then EDRS will open another check box asking "Did a service-connected disability contribute to the veteran's death?". If the service-connected disability checkbox is checked too, doctors are notified two different ways:

- 1) If the certifier is an online doctor, EDRS will send an email message with verbiage related to the cause of death and a service-connected disability possibly being a contributing factor should be indicated in the cause of death portion; or
- 2) if the certifier is offline/fax attestation, then the funeral

director will fax a generic letter to the doctor with the same verbiage in the email to the online doctor. This generic letter may be printed from EDRS directly or they can photocopy extras to keep on hand. This letter is manually faxed to the offline doctor by the funeral director and is not sent automatically by EDRS. EDRS users include funeral directors, medical examiners and online physicians.

For this program to be as effective as possible, it is imperative that the veteran and their families provide all physicians providing care a copy of the VA Disability Rating Letter so they are familiar with their disability. If the veteran dies, the family should remind the physician and the funeral director that the veteran had service-connected disabilities. Hopefully, this change will assist veteran's families in obtaining benefits and compensation due to them. A copy of the VA Brochure is attached...please print it out for your referenced and share it via e-mail with all your friends.

THE RIDE HOME -ANDERSONVILLE GA

National Prisoner of War/Missing in Action (POW/MIA) Recognition Day is Friday, September 16, 2016. In honor of that day, the National Park Service, the Friends of Andersonville, and Georgia Southwestern University (GSW) are hosting the 2016 National POW/MIA Convocation at 11 a.m., Wednesday, Sept. 14 in Convocation Hall of the Student Success Center (Storm Dome) on the campus of Georgia Southwestern University.

The Ride Home is an annual event in the area of the park to honor former POWs and the families of those still MIA in conjunction with National POW/MIA Recognition Day. For more information, please visit <http://www.theridehome.com/>

Honoring all former Prisoners Of War and Remembering those still Missing In Action September 16-18, 2016

The Chapters of Rolling Thunder® host a special weekend to honor all former Prisoners Of War and to remember those still Missing In Action. This weekend is called The Ride Home.

The goal each year is to invite former POWs and MIA families offering a weekend of honor and recognition commensurate with their extraordinary courage & valor.

About the Ride Home

The Ride Home began in 2002 as a retreat and rededication. Our founding members chose the National Historic Site at Andersonville, GA, home of the National Prisoners of War Museum.

We took up the challenge of a Presidential Proclamation, "I call upon the people of the United States to join me in honoring and remembering all former American prisoners of war and those missing in action who valiantly served

our great country. I also call upon Federal, State, and local government officials and private organizations to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities."

Our goal each year is to invite, as our guests, former POWs and MIA family members, offering recognition commensurate with their extraordinary courage and valor; to increase the number of participants paying tribute; and to increase public awareness and commitment that we will never forget.

For more information, contact: www.theridehome.com

The RIDE HOME, Inc. a Florida not-for-profit corporation (the "Corporation") is organized and shall be operated for the purposes of the promotion of social welfare within the meaning of Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future tax code, for the purpose of honoring and remembering all former American prisoners of war (POW) and those who are missing in action (MIA) who valiantly have served the United States of America, with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Attendance to this event is open to all to pay tribute to our former POWs and MIA families, who are brought to this event from all over the country to attend. From those that have attended we have heard that it is a very humbling and educational experience. We wanted to pass on the information in case anyone is interested in attending. Their website lists hotels, restaurants and when updated will contain a list of the schedule of events that take place.

DPAA Reaches Full Operation Capability Status

By Lt. Col. Eric Bjorklund
Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency

Feb. 1, 2016 --

In the year since being established as a Defense Agency on Jan. 1, 2015, the **Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA)** has accomplished a critical milestone, reaching "full operational capability" or "FOC" on Jan. 8, 2016. This declaration signifies the completion of the reorganization of the Department of Defense's legacy past conflict accounting organizations into a single, unified defense agency.

During the reorganization efforts of 2015, the DoD never ceased its efforts to account for missing personnel from past conflicts and provide information to the families of our missing, but the full establishment of DPAA as a defense agency now enables the mission to be done more effectively and efficiently.

"I'm very excited about achieving FOC status as it postures the [Defense] Department's accounting community in a better position to fulfill our noble and important mission," DPAA Director, retired Army Lt. Gen. Michael Linnington, said. "Now is the time to sharpen our focus, increase our efforts, and

maximize all aspects of our accounting efforts to better provide answers to the families of our missing.”

Over the last year, DPAA has steadily attained many milestones that have led to FOC.

The Secretary of Defense approved the name and establishment of the agency on Jan. 29, 2015, and the next day the interim director, now Vice Adm. Michael Franken, held a small ceremony declaring that DPAA had achieved “initial operational capability,” or “IOC.”

Since then, the agency consolidated many administrative functions and developed a new organizational structure. DPAA is now anchored around two regional, multi-disciplinary teams that enable collaboration among researchers, planners, operators, scientists, and a host of other professionals. One region is focused on Asia and the Pacific while the other is Europe-focused.

“This new regional, multi-disciplinary approach will ensure improvement in operations, as team members are not only focused on their specific region, but are also working together in the same location,” said Army Col. Chris Forbes, director of the Europe-Mediterranean regional directorate. “We are now able to work face-to-face, making it easy to interact and conference as needed.”

Another key decision for the new POW/MIA accounting agency was the Deputy Secretary of Defense’s April 2015 decision to clarify the DoD’s policy on disinterring American Unknowns from cemeteries around the world. This decision addressed multiple family concerns about the difficulty of gaining approval to disinter their loved one’s remains, for the purpose of individual identification. The immediate result of this decision was the disinterment of the Unknowns associated with the sinking of the USS Oklahoma at Pearl Harbor, on Dec. 7, 1941.

Establishing unity of purpose under a single agency director for the accounting community was one of the drivers for the Secretary of Defense and Congress’s decision to reorganize. With the appointment of Linnington as the first DPAA Director (in June 2015) and subsequent arrival of his two deputies, Army Brig. Gen. Mark Spindler and Mrs. Fern Sumpter Winbush, this critical objective was met. “I’m proud of all the hard work our team members have put into this reorganization,” Linnington said. “Their dedication and passion for their work made the past year undeniably successful.”

While the reorganization tasks are complete and the agency is operating at full strength, there is still much work to do. The merging of different organizational cultures from the various legacy organizations will take some time to cultivate.

“Each of the three separate organizations naturally had their individual ways of approaching the accounting task,” said Army Lt. Col. Eric Bjorklund, consolidation team

leader. “But there was never any dispute about the importance in accomplishing this mission. Now as one team, we can focus on the same priorities and perform the mission better than ever.”

Some of the key recommendations for the new agency to implement will take more years to be fully integrated. For example, the case management system that will improve efficiency to workflows and communicate case information to the families of the missing has begun development, but is expected to take several months to become fully functional.

Another key initiative that is now under development, and is expected to grow significantly in the coming years is the agency’s strategic partnerships with external organizations (public and private) to augment and assist current capacities in all areas of our accounting mission. The Strategic Partnership office was established last summer and is implementing several partnership programs for 2016.

“Our goal is to have many additional professional organizations helping us with the recovery process,” Dr. Tom Holland, director of Strategic Partnerships, said. “We greatly appreciate their expertise, resources and enthusiasm for bringing home the remains of our missing war heroes.”

As DPAA starts 2016 as fully operational, there is great optimism that the agency is better positioned to fulfill its mission to provide the fullest possible accounting for our missing personnel to their families and the nation.

Support Florida’s Veterans and Our Mission by Supporting the Walk of Honor

The Florida Veterans Foundation’s main mission is to provide [emergency assistance](#) to Florida veterans and their families who are having financial difficulties which cannot be resolved by the veteran or other veteran service organizations. Most of these situations will develop into a catastrophic situation such as homelessness, if the situation is not solved promptly. Many cases that the Foundation handles involves Service Connected Disabled Veterans. Read more about our emergency assistance program go to <http://www.floridaveteransfoundation.org>. After receiving a bona-fide [application for assistance](#) from a veteran, the Foundation responds to the emergency within 24 to 48 hours with a solution as warranted by the facts of the situation. Last year, the Foundation expended well over \$200,000.00 helping Florida’s veterans and their families, and assisted over 700 Florida Veterans by providing financial support to those who fit Foundation guidelines, or by providing information on veteran resources such as; available benefits for disability claims, benefits to widows, education resources, housing, etc. Because of the vast amount of services we provide, the Foundation needs your help. You can help support our efforts to Serve, Support and Advocate for our Florida Veterans by [donating](#), [volunteering](#) or by [purchasing a brick](#) to honor a

loved one. Please help us make a difference in our Florida heroes' lives.

The Florida Veterans Walk of Honor will accommodate 25,000 engraved bricks. There are presently 1.5 million veterans residing in the State of Florida. Your engraved brick will be placed on a first come, first serve basis. Therefore, the first 25,000 engraved bricks will be the ones placed in the Florida Veterans Walk of Honor at our State Capitol. *On November 12, 2014*, Governor Scott placed the first memorialized engraved brick into the Florida Veterans Walk of Honor. The Veterans Walk of Honor measures 12 feet wide by 500 feet long, and connects both the old and new Capitol buildings, the House and Senate Buildings and the Florida Veterans Memorial. The heart of the Veterans Walk of Honor will consist of engraved bricks which are being offered to veterans, families and friends of veterans. The proceeds from the sale of the engraved bricks will go to the Florida Veterans Foundation, the Direct Support organization to the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs to help further the Foundation's mission to Serve, Support and Advocate for our Florida Veterans. To order your brick to go <http://www.floridaveteransfoundation.org>.

The Florida Veterans Foundation is composed of all volunteers, with the exception of one (1) Executive Assistant to the volunteer Chairman. The majority of the Foundation Directors are retired military disabled veterans who volunteer their time to provide aid and assistance to our Florida Veterans who are less fortunate than themselves. Most of our Directors work more than 48 hours per week on the Foundation's mission.

We urge you to help the Foundation get the word out to all of our brave Veterans and military personnel who have, and still are, putting their lives on the line each and every day to protect our citizens. These brave men and women signed a blank check, up to and including their lives. Many Florida veterans that we assist have debilitating injuries, have PTSD or other service related injuries, with some who are having difficulties re-integrating back into society. It is the Foundation's mission to ensure that none of our Florida Veterans are left behind or forgotten. We need your help.

If our office can answer any questions on the Walk of Honor program, please call (850) 488-4181 or email ridleyr@fdva.state.fl.us

BITS AND PIECES

Bob, Ruari and I participated in the 2015 Veterans Day Parade with the Vietnam Brotherhood representing Dustoff and the Coalition and were amazed at the turnout,

not only the participants, but the crowd lining the streets. For those of you who do not know, this is the second largest Veterans Day parade in the Country. Ruari handed out American Flags to the children and Veterans along the parade route and stopped at the review stand to hand flags to each of the dignitaries. While doing this, News Channel 13 was broadcasting live from this area and she was on TV, which was then re-broadcasted nationwide. When it was done, she asked Chris Bischoff if she could do the parade again next year— she is looking forward participating in 2016 !! It is our understanding that the Mayor's Parade Committee was still talking about the little girl handing out the flags for a month or two after the parade. The Vietnam Brotherhood also presented Ruari with a necklace consisting of their logo on one side and the five branches of the military on the other.

Chris, our only active duty member, has spent another year in Alaska and was home on leave for 3 weeks at Christmas. It certainly was nice having him home for such a long visit. He is tentatively scheduled for another deployment this fall.

Florida Dustoff presented (via mail) a Florida Dustoff T-Short to Dan Gower, former President of National Dustoff. For those of you that do not know, he was instrumental in having our flags made several years ago.

If you need to express yourself, or have something worth sharing, please e-mail Roberta at Hdwizrd8@aol.com, or call me at 386-424-1989.

THE DUSTOFF PRAYER

Penned by Chaplin Connie Walker

Kind and Merciful Heavenly Father, thank You for "calling" and "sending" DUSTOFF Teams on missions of mercy, under the most hostile conditions, in a deeply Dedicated and Unhesitating Service To Our Fighting Forces of all ages and ranks. Lord, history has us standing on the shoulders of the faithful and courageous DUSTOFF Teams who have gone before. Bless them forever. We follow their stalwart leadership steps. Lord, may each of us hear afresh Your Summons, "Follow Me." Heroic cries like "When I have your wounded..." captivate and ring in our ears, hearts and prayers, even today as we fly on missions of mercy to Life for Life and Hope. Heavenly Father, we trust in Your saving and sustaining Grace, now and forever. In the Name of our Great God, Redeemer and Holy Spirit. Amen!

ELECTED OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

Robert (Doc) Neitzel	President	Hdwizrd7@aol.com
Ron (Doc) Custer	Vice-President	Custer_ron@yahoo.com
Roberta Voisey-Neitzel	Secretary/Treasurer	Hdwizrd8@aol.com
Roberta Voisey-Neitzel	Newsletter Editor	Hdwizrd8@aol.com
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Ron (Doc) Smith	Board Member	Bigdocs@aol.com
Ed (Gunny) Ryan	Board Member	GunnyRyan@aol.com

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2304 Woodland Drive
Edgewater, FL 32141

All inquiries, questions or comments may be directed to the President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer. All articles printed in our newsletters are strictly the opinion of the author and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Dustoff Organization.
Updated September 17, 2006

FLORIDA DUSTOFF MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NEW _____ RENEWAL _____ LIFETIME _____ ANNUAL _____
NAME: _____ DOB: _____ AGE: _____
SPOUSE: _____ DOB: _____ AGE: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
PHONE: () _____ E-mail: _____
CELL: () _____
BRANCH OF SERVICE _____ RANK _____ DATE OF ASSIGNMENT (FROM/TO) _____
ATTACHMENTS: _____

If Dustoff and/or Medevac what capacity did you serve? Pilot ___ Crew Chief ___ Medic ___ Maintenance ___
Supply ___ Door Gunner ___ Flight Ops ___ Clerk ___ Commo ___ Cook ___ (check one or more)

If this is a renewal is this a change of address/information ? _____

_____ I know a former Dustoff/Medic/Corpsman/Pilot/Nurse or other potential member and have listed their name, address and telephone number below.

Enclosed is \$20.00, my membership dues for one year () initial

Enclosed is my Lifetime membership dues as follows Age 55 and Below \$100.00 () Age 56-75 \$75.00 () Age 76 and above \$50.00 ()

Mail application and payment to: Florida Dustoff Association
c/o Roberta Neitzel
2304 Woodland Drive
Edgewater, FL 32141

For Information Call Robert or Roberta Neitzel (386) 424-1989

***Checks should be made payable to Florida Dustoff Association
Please make sure to include a copy of your DD-214***