



November 2022

Alachua County Veteran Services

Veterans Community Newsletter

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friends and family and enjoy food and festivity and reflect on what we are thankful for.

I am thankful for my family, including my huge Veteran family. I am thankful to live in a wonderful community where people are mostly kind to one another and where we strive to make it a better place every day.

I wish you all a Happy Veterans Day and Happy Thanksgiving.

-Kim Davis (USN, FLARNG)
Director,
Alachua County Veteran Services

Message from the Director

Greetings from
Alachua County
Veteran Services.



November is here!!!
We have many
Veteran and family
events this month so
wear your red, white
and blue and embrace your brother or
sister Veteran for we are a family.

There are opportunities to see fellow
Veterans get honored, to celebrate our
Veterans and to learn about resources
and services created to help Veterans.

Towards the end of our month our
national holiday, Thanksgiving is on the
25th and it is a time to gather with

November Veteran Events

November 1st, The *Gainesville Annual Veterans Appreciation Luncheon* will be at Trinity United Methodist Church 4000 NW 53rd Ave Gainesville, FL 11:30-1PM brought to the community by the Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce.

On November 8th, the members of Beta Pi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Beta Pi Charities Inc and a host of military organizations will join in with conducting the Brigadier General Charles Young Celebration. The theme for Veterans Day 2022 is centered

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Director Kim Davis kdavis@alachuacounty.us

around "Honor". The celebration is open to the public and will include from 7:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M. ***How to file for PACT ACT Claims***

Zoom ID 3641867186

Passcode722303

November 9th Paychecks 4 Patriots is a Veteran Dedicated Hiring Event from 10:00 A. M. to 1:00 P.M. at the Alachua County Veterans Memorial Park located at 7400 SW 41st Place Gainesville, FL 32608. Interested job seekers can register at www.employflorida.com .

November 9th As part of Santa Fe College's Veterans Day celebration, Student Life's Civic Engagement and Service Office will host a Veterans Day tabling expo from 11:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. in the S-Breezeway on their Northwest campus. The purpose of this event is to highlight organizations throughout the community that serve veterans. For more information contact **Sarah Blanc**, Civic Engagement and Service Specialist, Saints Food Share, Student Life at Santa Fe College (352) 381-3660

November 10th at Parker Elementary, formerly JJ Finley Elementary, Director Kim Davis and the Korean War Veteran of America Color Guard will be guest speakers for their annual Veterans Day Concert. This allows some of our future leaders to meet those servicemembers who served in the Korean War and to learn more about service to our nation

from those who served and celebrate our Veterans.

November 10th through the program from Beta Phi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc, Veterans will share their military experiences in classrooms with Students Caring and Sharing School 1951 SE 4th ST Gainesville, FL.

November 11th from 8:30 A.M. -10:15 A.M. there will be a ***Veterans Breakfast*** at the Martin Luther King J Center. The cost for non-veterans is \$20.00. There is no cost for veterans' meals. For more information contact Mr. Gene Garvin (352) 246-0507 or Charlie Jackson (352) 494 -5005 and from 10:15AM to Noon at 1028 Cotton Club Museum and Cultural NE 14th St Gainesville, Center Presentation FL there will be the Armed Forces Equipment Displays and Veteran Resources.

November 11th Alachua County Veteran Services in collaboration with multiple Divisions in Alachua County, The Department of Veterans Affairs and multiple not for profit organizations will present the ***Annual Veterans Day Celebration*** at the Veterans Memorial Park, formally known as Kanahapa Veterans Memorial Park located at 7400 SW 41st Place Gainesville will have our annual Veterans Day Celebration honoring all of our Veterans. This event will include many service organizations, displays and resources for Veterans starting at 9AM. There will be live music, skydivers, drill team demonstrations, singers and speakers.

The formal program begins with the Skydivers bringing the American Flag at 11:00 Sharp. This event is open to the public and welcomes all who wish to honor and celebrate Americas Veterans and the freedoms that their service and sacrifice have brought to our great nation.

November 13th Bikers on Parade an event that benefits Americas Veterans, First Responders and Fire Fighters will start their patriotic ride at Santa Fe College with staging between 8:30 A.M. and 10:30 A.M. and kickstands up at 11:00 A.M. This patriotic ride will be through Alachua County to the City of Newberry who have a wonderful Welcome and Thank you to Veterans, First Responders and Fire Fighters event planned. The Destination is Country Way Town Square. There will be live entertainment- Clay Brooker, food, give aways, drawings... and all who bring a new unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots are entered to win a patriotic cooler. See www.ourahva.org for more information.

Toys for Tots

Alachua & Tri-County US Marine Corps Toys For Tots campaigns provided Christmas toys to over 4000 children in our local communities in 2021. They have expressed their gratitude for their partners, sponsors and everyone in the community who volunteered their time and services to make this possible! Their goal is for the 2022 Christmas season to be just as memorable for all of our

friends and neighbors in the Alachua, Gilchrist, Dixie & Levy Counties. Since 1947, Marines have been making Christmas wishes come true for needy children. The gift of a shiny new toy means to a child that someone cares, that he/she hasn't been forgotten, that Christmas hasn't passed him/her by. Toys for Tots truly makes a difference in the lives of the less fortunate children of our community, and The Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots believe that "every child deserves a little Christmas"

The local Toys for Tots campaign are seeking Volunteers and donations. They can be contacted to see where volunteers can help. The campaigns are ran independent of each other and we are in need of volunteers and sponsors for each!

Alachua Campaign:

AlachuaCountyToysForTots@gmail.com

Tri-County Campaign:

TriCountyToysForTots@gmail.com

For information on the Marion County campaign please visit: <http://ocala-fl.toysfortots.org/>

For the Columbia County campaign, please visit: <https://lakecity-fl.toysfortots.org/>

To find other campaigns by county, please visit: https://www.toysfortots.org/request_toys/toys-city-county.aspx?txtState=FLORIDA

For families seeking to register children, the Toys for Tots pre-registration has started. Individuals must pre-register at <https://newberry-fl.toysfortots.org/local-coordinator-sites/lco-sites/request-toys.aspx>

Ask your VSO

Dear VSO,

Oh my gosh, the prices of everything are going up. I am on a fixed income with my service-connected compensation at 70%. That is all I have to live on! What can I do?

Answer:

We can certainly understand the stress of prices and gas going up. There will be an 8.7% increase in Cost of Living starting January of 2023 so hopefully this will help some. We do recommend you reach out and schedule with one of our VSO's to review your current compensation to see if you may qualify for an increase.

Alachua County Veteran Services Advisory Board Meetings

Alachua County Veterans can feel good to know that there are monthly meetings to discuss the needs of the Veteran Community.

Every 2nd Monday at 4PM at the Community Support Services building located at 218 SE 24th St in Gainesville, FL there is a meeting of the Veteran Services Advisory Board. This meeting is open to the public and may be joined via zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87829270295?pwd=Vzh0WkNHha3pUaktxT2xrNlhlenRnQT09>

Meeting ID: 878 2927 0295

Passcode: 909751

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 878 2927 0295

Passcode: 909751

Find your local

number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87829270295?pwd=Vzh0WkNHha3pUaktxT2xrNlhlenRnQT09>

