"First-Coast Arrow

Newsletter of Special Forces Association – Chapter 88- Northeast Florida – JAN - FEB 2021 - Vol 21-1

2021-2022 Officers

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Vacant

Membership Chair / Newsletter -
Vacant (S1 temp)

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President's Message

Willy P. Rothrock SFC (Ret)

First, on behalf of the Chapter, Congratulations to SFA Decade Member David W. "Doc" Butler, COL, MSC (Ret) from Green Cove Springs, FL on being awarded SFA's 2020 Philip Neri Award for his achievements!! Bravo Zulu Doc!!!

My name is William Paul Rothrock. One of my uncles was an artillery officer in the Army and he called me Willy P. The nickname didn't really stick until I joined the Army and it is my preferred name. However, I will not object to being called William or "His Excellency." Any one of them will suffice. I will be the Chapter President for two years. In that two years I intend to make a difference. I will not do something simply because "that is what has been done in the past." There must be solid logical purpose behind action. That purpose must be connected to an end state. The end state must be a measurable condition that makes the world a better place than when the action began. I believe the best way to make the world a better place is to make the next generation better than your own. That includes the next generation of Green Berets.

I did not seek out the Chapter Presidency. I was nominated by a member for whom I have a great deal of respect. A previous president stepped up and told me he would do it if no one else would. Dewy's offer struck a chord with me and I felt like I could, and should, take the position given that other board members had carried a great deal of my responsibilities as the chapter's public affairs officer while I was in law school. I will continue to seek the guidance and mentorship of my predecessors Dewey Walker and Mike Ricketts and others with SFA National and SFA Region 5 presidents. They built the foundation I stand on.

I looked at our roster and saw no shortage of proven leaders. Becoming a Green Beret was one of the easiest things I have done. Being a Green Beret, to this very day, is the hardest thing I have ever done and will ever do. Every one of you at some point in your life were, and most of you still are, proven leaders. It is an honor to wear the Green Beret, it is a tremendous responsibility to bear it and represent its legacy. I am confident you have all heard the saying "it is better to have an army of sheep led by a lion than an army of lions led by a sheep." The Special Forces Regiment is an army of lions led by lions. Lions are similar to your typical house cats; they are a pain in the butt to heard. However, when the pride set their eyes on prey, they act instinctively, often in unison, to tackle that prey. The prey nourishes the pride making them stronger. Purpose is the Chapter's nourishment, and our purpose must be to make our world a better place, a land of the free and our Nation the home of the brave.

President's Message
Continued

My priorities as this chapter's president are, first, to increase our member's involvement in the organization's activities. That means that I would like to see more members attending meetings and other social activities. For instance, our members now can attend meetings virtually. Second, I would like to see more of our members volunteering for positions on the board and as officers in the chapter. We currently need several positions to be filled. No other committees or positions will be created until our vacant positions are filled by a volunteer. My third priority is in line with the Association's priority which is to increase our number of members. We currently have many members who have not renewed their membership. Just renewing your membership or becoming a life member is an easy step to accomplish that goal. My fourth and final priority is to increase our chapter's funding for the purpose of giving back to our community and charities. Our priorities in supporting charities should be first to local charities, then national, and finally foreign/ international charities. Our future depends on how we raise our kids. That is why I will support just about any reasonable effort to better our Nation's youth. When possible, I would like to connect any charitable effort with the efforts of our current active duty and National Guard Green Berets.

I believe this chapter should continue to live by our regiment's motto, De Oppresso Liber, to free the oppressed. While many of us are no longer on active duty and only a hand full are serving in law enforcement, we do not need to take up arms to accomplish this task. Slavery is recognized as a crime against humanity. A crime against humanity is an act that is an egregious violation of human dignity for which no nation in the world may establish an exemption from or relaxation of its prohibition. A crime against humanity also means that the specified act is so evil, that in areas where no nation has jurisdiction, such as the high seas, any nation can and should take action to combat the evil. Human trafficking is modern-day slavery. It is specifically listed and internationally recognized as a crime against humanity by the International Criminal Court in Chapter 7 of the Rome Statute. Combatting human trafficking and assisting victims of this modern-day slavery should be one of our chapter's major function. Florida is a major hub for human trafficking in the United States due to its many ports of entry. For this reason, I believe we should partner with local charities that help victims of human trafficking recover after their liberation.

I believe that people are entitled to their dignity and respect. There is currently a polarization in our nation's politics. Any polarized issue that our nation's adversaries are capable of exploiting to the point of causing civil unrest should be a matter of national security. Many of our chapter members are Vietnam Veterans. During the Vietnam era and for years afterwards, those veterans were not given the respect they were due. I believe our nation's law enforcement is currently not receiving the respect they are due. I believe our Vietnam Veterans have a lot to teach our law enforcement about serving our nation in a period when some consider it unpopular to serve. I would like to connect our chapter's Vietnam Veterans with law enforcement in order to allow their stories of resiliency be heard. This is how I would like to ensure respect is given where it is due.

I will end my initial president's message with a portion of St. Augustine of Hippo's sermon on the anniversary of his consecration in 340 AD. This message was delivered over 1,600 years ago and is where our regiment derived its motto.

The turbulent have to be corrected,
the faint-hearted cheered up,
the weak supported;
the gospel's opponents need to be refuted,
its insidious enemies guarded against;
the unlearned need to be taught,
the indolent stirred up,
the argumentative checked;
the proud must be put in their place,
the desperate set on their feet,
those engaged in quarrels reconciled;
the needy have to be helped,
the oppressed to be liberated,
the good to be given your backing,
the bad to be tolerated;
and all must be loved.

Regards – "Willy P." Rothrock, SFC Ret, SFA88 Chapter President --- De Oppresso Liber

SFA88 MEMBER OF THE ISSUE (MOI)
"TIP OF THE BERET" to:
"WILLY P" ROTHROCK

Willy P was born in Arlington Texas and raised in the Dallas/ Fort Worth area. He graduated from Trinity High School and immediately joined the Army attending Infantry basic training and AIT at Ft. Benning Georgia. He spent the first half of his Army career as an infantryman being stationed in Panama, Ft. Drum, Italy and Ft. Benning as a Ranger Instructor. Willy P conducted a non-combat jump into Kosovo with the 173rd out of Italy and a combat deployment to Afghanistan with the 10th Mountain Division.

He met and married his wife Cinzia while stationed in Italy. Somehow, Willy P convinced her to sell her marry him, sell her bakery and move to Ft. Drum New York in the middle of winter. What a lucky girl. They have one daughter, Emma, who attends Fleming Island High School. Emma is active in JROTC and the high school robotics club. They currently live in Fleming Island Florida.

Willy P spent the second half of his career with Special Forces as an 18C, Special Forces Engineer Sergeant. He was assigned to 3rd SFG ODA 3135 where he deployed several times to Afghanistan. He was a Combat Dive instructor in Key West Florida at the Special Forces Under Water Operations Center and ended his career teaching military science and running the Pre-Scuba program at the United States Military Academy at West Point.

Willy P attended law school at Florida Coastal School of Law 15 days after retiring and passed the Florida Bar Exam on his first attempt. He is currently licensed to practice law in Florida and has started working at the Wilner Law Firm in downtown Jacksonville. The firm hired Willy P to assist them with lawsuits against the big tobacco industry. He is the current chapter president and public affairs officer. He is also the in house, pro-bono, legal counsel for the Combat Diver Foundation which has the goal of building a museum in Key West to preserve the history of combat divers.

Willy P with his daughter Emma and his wife Cinzia taking a Green Ramp photo prior to deploying with 3rd SFG.

His brother was always jealous of Willy P's Cobra Kai feathered haircut and glasses. They constantly had to fight off the ladies.

Attending the Belizean Jungle warfare school, Willy P thoroughly impressed the Belizean Defense Force with his high and tight.

Willy P helped these two Afghan gentlemen save 15% on their car insurance by switching to Geico.

2021 GREEN BERET CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

Dedicated to Memory of JSO Officer Lance Whitaker - End of Watch May 15th, 2018 .

SFA88 SUPPORTS 'THIN BLUE LINE' NE FLORIDA POLICE

NEW DATE: *FRI 14 MAY 2021-*

Sign up at: https://green-beret-charity-golf-tournament.perfectgolfevent.com/

SIGN UP AND GET THE WORD OUT TO FRIENDS AND SPONSORS OF THE GBCGT DATE!!

Joint Forces Enterprises – https://jfeusa.com/
Bullseye Indoor Range & Gun Shop – https://bullseyegun.com/
Veterans United Brewery – https://bullseyegun.com/
Mission BBQ https://mission-bbq.com/
Culhane's Irish Pubs - https://www.culhanesirishpub.com/
Alhambra Dinner Theater https://www.alhambrajax.com/ -
First Coast News – Ch 12/25 - https://www.firstcoastnews.com/
San Sebastian Winery - https://www.firstcoastnews.com/
XL1010 (92.5 fm) JAX Sports Radio- https://www.1010xl.com/
MOJOs Bar B Que - Jax Bch - https://www.mojobbq.com/
Henry Arms - https://www.henryusa.com/
Zabatt Power Systems - http://www.zabatt.com/
Rachael Geller – Vanguard Realty https://www.coldwellbanker.com/Coldwell-Banker-Vanguard-Realty,-Inc.-11671c/Raquel-Geller-442065a
SUBURU of Jacksonville - https://www.subaruofjacksonville.com/
Louisiana Brand http://www.louisiana-brand.com/
GROM Technologies (Ted Cordano Chapter member) –http://www.grom.com
WQIK, JAX Country Radio fm 99.1 https://991wqik.iheart.com/
Matt McClintock Foundation - https://mcclintockfoundation.org/
ROY's – Jax Beach - https://www.roysrestaurant.com/
Whiskey Jack's Kitchen & Cocktails - http://whiskeyjax.com/
Isabella's Fine Imported Cigars - https://foursquare.com/v/isabelas-fine-imported-cigars/4ef4e5e52c5b6efc378161dd
TAT 3D Advanced Targets - http://tat3dats.com/
First Coast Motor Sports (St Aug) - https://www.firstcoastmotorsports.net/
725 Photography -https://725photography.net/
On Target Sports - https://otsrange.com/
BONE FISH GRILL – Jacksonville Beach
https://www.bonefishgrill.com/locations/fl/jacksonville-beach
Black Rifle Coffee -https://www.blackriflecoffee.com/

IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW ARE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A "COMMUNITY PARTNER" WITH *SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION – CHAPTER 88 "NORTHEAST FLORIDA GREEN BERETS"* -

SFA 88 - XO John Pagesmgjhpage@aol.com
by mail SFA 88, PO BOX 17748, JAX FL 32245
or "contact" on our website.
https://www.sfachapter88.org/ -
Contact email – sfa88contact@gmail.com

FRIENDS & COMMUNITY PARTNERS

SFA88 HAS MOVED ALL OUR PARTNER'S BUSINESS LOGOS BRANDS AND CONTACT INFORMATION TO OUR UPDATED WEBSITE
https://www.sfachapter88.org/

Chaplain's Corner

WAITING – NO ONE LIKES IT

One of the things I learned early in my Army career was that waiting was a very normal situation. Hurry up, and wait. Many are the times that I have I arrived at 0400 to prepare for a parachute jump at 0800? Was usually suited up and ready to go by 0530, then would lie out on the edge of the runway waiting for the plane that would take us aloft. Waiting, no one likes it.

We don't like waiting. We want what we want, and the sooner the better. But there is something absolutely positive about waiting. It is a Biblical fact that waiting is often God's training ground for strengthening our faith, especially if we are on speaking terms with the Lord. As we wait we can learn to trust God more. We may not really understand what is going on round about us or why we have to wait, but we can remind ourselves that God is in control and that His plans for us are plans for good. Also, during a season of waiting we can practice speaking to the Lord who is always near, and thereby become more aware of His presence and His Biblical promises for the lives of His children: **But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.** (Isaiah 40:31). Maybe I am not so adverse to waiting as I thought. Let us wait upon the Lord and be blessed!

May almighty God bless you and your families.
Chaplain Davis (COL, Chaplain Corps Ret.)

P.S. … Thank you Leland Stanford and Ben Scoates who have filled in for me these many months of my missed meeting due to COVID and my and Virginia's health.

JROTC NEWS

JROTC KEEPS KIDS IN SCHOOL!!

JROTC Keeps kids in school and the SFA88 Medal of Excellence is outstanding credential for job and college applications, especially for Service Academy applications.

As we start 2021 we are still dealing with COVID impacting SFA88 Medal of Excellence (underclassmen) and Sr. Cadet scholarships. SFA88's "Call for Candidates" went out to twenty five Northeast Florida JROTC Programs of all Service Branches. As the Medal Candidates are identified and award ceremonies are scheduled XO John Page will be contacting members to volunteer to be a presenter!

In 2021 SFA88 extended the ARMY JROTC $500 Senior Cadet Scholarship to one additional school; St. Augustine High School. Scott Eder is getting with the Sr. Instructor of Raines, Wolfson, Englewood, Paxon and St. Aug to inform worthy Senior Cadets of the scholarship for future studies.

As you know John Page and SFA88 initiated USAF acceptance of the SFA Medal of Excellence on authorized wear list in 2020.

SFA88 will be writing a letter to Sen. Rubio, Sen. Scott. US Congressional Representatives; Kathleen "Kat" Cammack (3rd), John Rutherford (4th), Al Lawson (5th)and fellow Green Beret Mike Waltz (6th) to highlight the SFA Medal of Excellence criteria for Service Academy applications.

On January 26th, new SFA88 President Willy Rothrock was invited by Sr. Instructor LCDR Robert Peterson to attend Ridgeview High School Navy JROTC "Pass in Review Ceremony" Willy reported at the February meeting that he was impressed by the 150 plus Midshipmen drill precision and poise.

In this modern "Fatherless" society of single mothers and absent fathers, JROTC Cadre serve an important duty! They teach Cadets, discipline and personal responsibility!

THANK YOU JROTC Cadre of all NE Florida High Schools for what you do!!

NEWS FROM 20 TH SFG(A)

Invitation from 20th SFG Alumni

Mar25, 2020 Thursday – 1300 – 1800 20Th SFG Alumni BBQ and Shrimp Boil, CBJTC SF Airborne Training Area – RSVP Unit POC 1SG Ron Evans by Text 813-323-6709 ,,

S-1 needs to provide a list of SFA88 Participants who do not have CAC or Retired ID Cards member Names to 1SG Evans for the front gate security NLT Mar 25th !!!!

3/20th CJ Hurst is Lead Jumpmaster for RCPT-USA. CJ Hurst joined the U.S. Army in 1994 and is currently assigned to 3rd Bn 20th Special Forces Group (Airborne). CJ is a graduate of the United States Army Special Operations Command (USASOC) Jumpmaster School. CJ has served in various duties including PJM, AJM, DACO, MACO, DZSTL, DZSO, BAR, SAT, JMR & Helocast Ops. Airframes include C-17, C-130, C-27, UH-60, CH-47, KC-130, C-182 and UH-1. Additionally, CJ has served as a Primary Instructor (PI) with the Multijurisdictional Counter Drug Task Force Training (MCTFT), where he trained servicemembers and law enforcement nationwide to combat terrorism.

SFA88, 3Bn/20th SFG and RCPT Partnership:

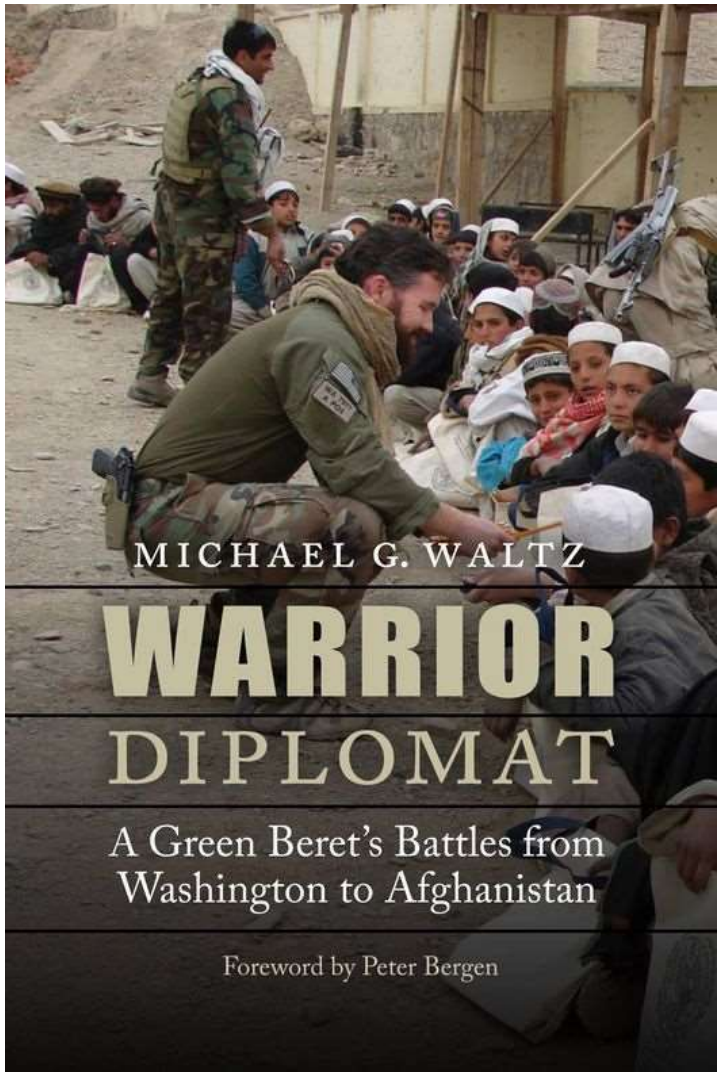
LTC Bill Markham (Right) with SFA88 Past Pres Mike Ricketts are both 3/20th Alumni. Bill is of Contact for RCPT at Palatka FL and Horse Soldier liaison.

Starts 22 March 0730 until 28 March 1800 -

ROUND CANOPY PARACHUTE TEAM – USA –

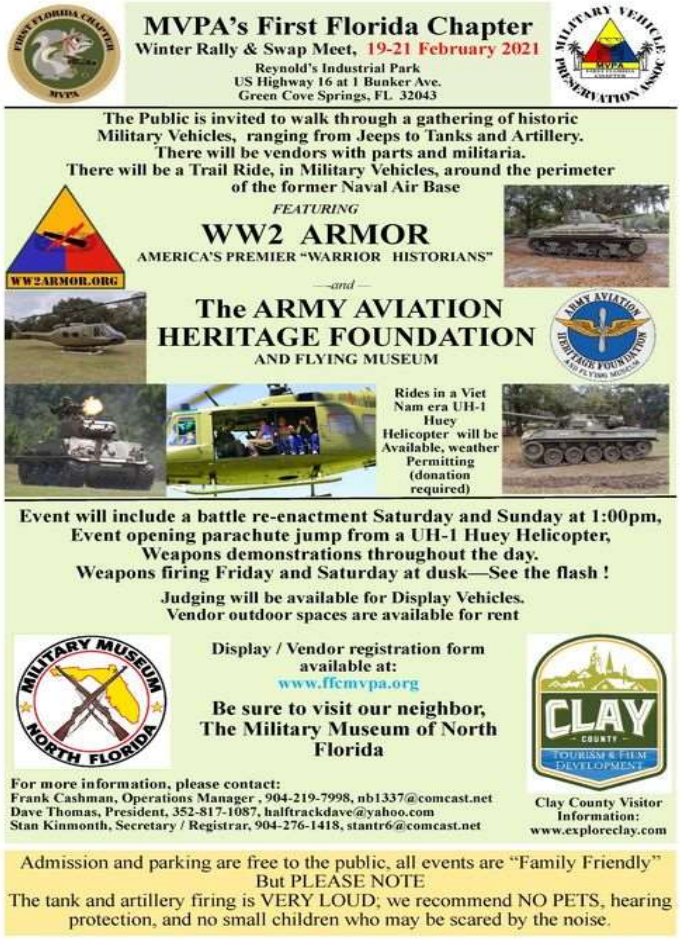
Operation Sandsnake -V

C47 Static Line Jumps Location Kay Larkin Field Skydive Palatka, Florida see website for prerequisits **https://rcptusa.org/event-4048640** Register on line or Call RCPT/SFA88 Member "Bill" Markham c-904 814-6047 for more info.



US Congressman Michael Waltz 6th District Florida was the virtual Guest of Honor for the Jan 15, 2021 SFA88 – 1st Special Forces Regimental Ball.

When you get your COVID 19 shot, don't forget to thank the FLARNG Soldier/Airmen Citizens who are running many of NE FL County Vaccine Sites. A simple "Thank you for your service to Florida's Citizens" will bring you a nice smile and let them know we appreciate them!!



BELOW – SFA88 cake cut at Regimental Ball ….

PUT THIS DATE IN YOUR CALENDAR!!

SATURDAY 10 April 2021

SFA88 Chapter Meeting & FAMILY PICNIC

11:00 AM – 14:00 at **Camp Chowenwaw 1517 Ball Road, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043** see Chowenwaw.claycountygov.com;

SFA88 Life Member DAVID "DOC" BUTLER COL MSC(Ret) was recipient of the 2020 Special Forces Regiment's Highest Award Gold Medal - Order of St. Philip Neri

Above, "Doc" and his beautiful wife Gail

– "The St. Philip Neri Award Program was established by the United States Army Special Forces Command in 2002. SF Patron St. Philip Neri was selected as Patron Saint of Special Forces because he embodied the traits of the ideal Special Forces Soldier, Selfless, Superb Teacher, and Inspirational Leader. The Medal was first awarded at the SFA 50th Anniversary Banquet with three Gold Medal Awards. On 26 May 2003, General Lambert, CG USASFC, officially turned over the program to the SFA for their administration and implementation. Order of Saint Philip Neri Gold Medal—… is the most distinguished of the three levels of the Military Society of Saint Neri. It recognizes the select few who stand above their brethren of the Silver or Bronze Order. The specific criterion for accession into the Gold Order is to have performed conspicuous, twenty years or more long-term service for or on behalf of the United States Army Special Forces or the Special Forces Association. The Gold Order is reserved for an elite few whose careers have embodied the spirit, dignity and sense of sacrifice and commitment epitomized by Saint Philip Neri. Only one nominee will be awarded the Gold Order per calendar year. Additionally, one Gold award may be presented posthumously following the same criteria. The Saint Philip Neri Selection Committee may approve, disapprove or downgrade the nomination to the Silver Order, as they deem appropriate. This award may only be presented to veterans of Special Forces who have been awarded the Green Beret and Special Forces Skill Identifier or Special Forces Tab." (editor SPN Award Info

SFA President - Kevin Harry presenting the SFA 2020 Order of St. Phillip Neri - Gold Neck Medallion to Col. David Butler at Jan 15 Regimental Ball.

SFA88 President Willy Rothrock Presenting the Gold order Order of St Phllip Neri certificate to Doc Bultler

For those of you members who don't know Doc he is a legdend in the 20th SFG (A) and FLARNG. He enlisted in the FlARNG 20th Group in 1963 and was an ODA Commo. He volunteered and served in Republic of Viet Nam with 5th Special Forces Group, returned and wen to PA school on GI Bill but stayed in FLARNG. He is the founder and owner of a chain of Urgent Care Walk-in Centers in NE Florida. DOC Butler retired from FLARNG as a Colonel assigned to Tampa Medical Unit in 2004

Doc keeps in touch with many of the 20th SFG Alumni he served with and is a annual fixture as the Captain of his foursome at the Annual Green Beret Charity Golf Tournament and usually volunteers the use of his big white ice chests for SFA88 functions. CONGRATULATIONS "Doc" … Well deserved, life well lived … Thank you for your service to USA and Florida!! DOL

The Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial

Invites You to an Event

Commemorating the 30th Anniversary

of

Operation Desert Shield and Storm

In August 1990, the United States launched Operation DESERT SHIELD, leading 35 nations to stand against an unprovoked Iraq invasion and occupation of Kuwait. This operation build-up culminated on 17 January 1991, with the unleashing of Operation DESERT STORM, comprising the largest coalition of allied nations as a single combat force since World War II. On 28 February 1991, President George H. W. Bush declared the suspension of offensive actions, signaling the end of hostilities, and the successful liberation of Kuwait. The participation of Jacksonville military community alone included 27 squadrons, 14 Naval and Military Sealift Command ships, and countless staff and medical detachments.

To honor the 30th anniversary of Operation DESERT SHIELD and Operation DESERT STORM, and specifically those who served from the Jacksonville area units, the Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial is hosting a remembrance ceremony commencing at 1030 on Saturday, February 27, 2021. The ceremony will be held at the Chapel of the High-Speed Pass and on the future site of the National POW/MIA Memorial and Museum. This tribute will include the dedication of the new Aircrew Memorial, and a Gold Star Families Memorial. A BBQ Luncheon will be served to attendees.

Date and Time

February 27, 2021
10:30 am until 1:00 pm

Location

Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial Property
6112 POW-MIA Memorial PKWY
Jacksonville, FL 32221

Event Activities

Commemoration of 30th Anniversary of Desert Shield and Storm
(Inside Chapel)
Dedication of the New Aircrewman Memorial
Dedication of a Gold Star Families Memorial
(Outside)
BBQ Luncheon
(Tent Area)

Uniform of the Day

Flight Jacket
Business Casual

Event Registration

https://www.powmiamemorial.org/storm30anniversary