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LAKE MARY, FL 32795



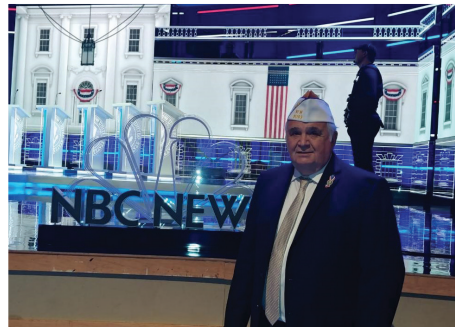
Democratic Veterans Caucus of Florida

Newsletter

July - September 2019

DVCF President Phil Giorno attends Democratic Debates

Democratic Veterans Caucus of Florida President Phil Giorno was selected to attend the first 2020 Democratic Presidential Debate. The debate included 20 candidates and took place over two nights, June 26 and 27. Ten candidates participated both nights. The debate took place at the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts of Miami Dade County, Florida. The event aired live on NBC, MSNBC and Telemundo. President Giorno is pictured with Florida Democratic Party Chair Terrie Rizzo. Also, Sally Garcia is shown with Candidate Beta O'Rourke.



**Democratic Veterans Caucus
of Florida 2020 Retreat**

Save the Date!

February 21st - 23rd, 2020

**Orlando Marriot Lake Mary
1501 International Parkway
Lake Mary, FL 32746**



Learn more on Facebook
@FLDemocraticVets or
Contact President Phil Giorno
at 386-717-3979 or
presdvctgiorno@gmail.com

Paid for and approved by the Democratic Veterans Caucus of Florida
and not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee.

Florida Democrats 2019 State Convention

October 11 – 13, 2019

Disney's Coronado Springs Resort

To Sponsor or RSVP Contact Lisa Fishman at

LFishman@Floridadems.org

www.FloridaDems.org

Florida Democratic Party

PO Box 10814 | Tallahassee, FL 32302

PALM BEACH COUNTY

The Palm Beach Democratic Veterans Caucus made two trips to Bay County to assist in hurricane Michael recovery. President Carlton Cartwright lead an effort to photograph the devastation of the area and also document the experiences of citizens in the area to use in a documentary to assist in gaining funds to help aid the recovery. The group had also collected many supplies from south Florida to distribute to needy families. The group made a large donation to Trinity Lutheran Church. Photographs include Dr. Albert Mapp, Jr., a Physician at Gulf Coast Regional Medical Center talking about the medical situations caused by the hurricane and its recovery. Also speaking is Mr. Skip Eckartz, the owner of the Appliance Center. He spoke about the changes in business opportunities because of the hurricane. He spoke in a local Bay County museum.



A Night to Unite

Rebuild Bay County Inc. is the lead organization directing long term recovery efforts in Bay County Florida from hurricane Michael in October 2018. Rebuild Bay County is sponsoring A Night to Unite on October 10, 2019, the one year anniversary of the hurricane coming ashore near Mexico Beach. A Night to Unite will take place at 6PM at Tommy Oliver Stadium in Panama City. The event will celebrate the recovery efforts from the storm and allow locals to show appreciation for recovery. All are welcome at the event. For those that want to donate to the continuing recovery efforts, tax deductible donations can be made to Rebuild Bay County, Inc.

DVCF Leadership

<i>President</i>	Phil Giorno presdvcfgiorno@gmail.com
<i>Vice President</i>	Elena McCullough
<i>Treasurer</i>	Marian Williams mmj9244@aol.com
<i>Secretary</i>	Vacant
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Reuben Sparks

To submit articles, pictures or suggestions
Contact Reuben Sparks at

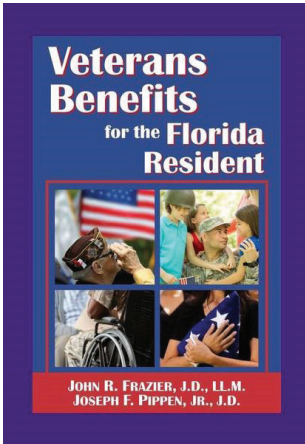
RbnSparks@aol.com or Cell 850-624-3715

Please visit our website:

demvetsfl.org

Like us on Facebook:

Democratic Veterans Caucus of florida - DVCF



*"Veterans Benefits for the Florida Resident"
by Largo attorney and veterans advocate
John R. Frazier has won honors.*

Largo Attorney Authors Award-Winning Book On Veterans Benefits

By D'Ann Lawrence White, Largo Patch Staff | June 21, 2018

LARGO, FL -- The Independent Book Publishers Association has announced that the book, "Veterans Benefits for the Florida Resident," by Largo attorney and veterans advocate John R. Frazier, is a Silver Award winner in the Professional & Technical category of the 2017 IBPA Benjamin Franklin Awards. The distinguished indie book award program recognizes excellence in books published during 2017.

"Veterans Benefits for the Florida Resident" is a self-help resource for veterans and their families. More than 1.6 million U.S. veterans of all ages live in Florida, which is the third largest population of veterans in the U.S. Many of these veterans, their surviving spouses or dependents may be eligible for disability compensation, pension and other more obscure or "hidden" benefits and services provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (the VA) and the State of Florida.

"Most veterans are aware of the basic health care, housing, and education benefits the VA offers," said Frazier. "Still, countless veterans and their families do not know about some lesser-known yet extremely important programs. Many financial benefits are also available that can better the lives of disabled or elderly veterans and their loved ones while reducing otherwise crippling costs. One example is the Aid and Attendance benefit, where hardly any people know they're entitled to it. "Our wounded, aging and disabled veterans need efficient access to the benefits they deserve," said Frazier. "I present 'Veterans Benefits for the Florida Resident' to help ensure Florida veterans get a fair deal."

Frazier is a VA-accredited attorney and a member of the National Organization of Veterans Advocates Inc., the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, the Academy of Florida Elder Law Attorneys and the Florida Bar Elder Law Section. He can be reached through his website estatelegalplanning.com.

Pasco County Democratic Veterans Caucus receives certification

The Pasco County Democratic Veterans Caucus received its certification. The certification was announced at the recent conference in Orlando by Marian Williams, Certification/Membership Chair. Bob Keenan was elected President and a full slate of officers was announced. They are off and running, and are looking forward to the upcoming important elections.

Pasco County had a fundraiser sponsored by the Pasco DEC. The event was on August 23, at the Hilton Garden Inn. The guest speaker was Congresswoman Val Demings (D) from Orlando. She serves on the Congressional Judiciary Committee that is investigating Donald Trump. She has proclaimed that she is in favor of impeachment so there was some discussion of that topic.

Pasco County has been invited to a Marine Corps sponsored Stand-down scheduled for October. They will be performing VOTER REGISTRATION and helping with the donations of clothing. This is a large yearly event that attracts many Veterans in need of clothing and other small wares. They will also be assisted by the newly formed Veterans Caucus in Hernando County.

Bob Keenan, President
Pasco DVCF

Upcoming Events

Jul – Sept 2019 Newsletter

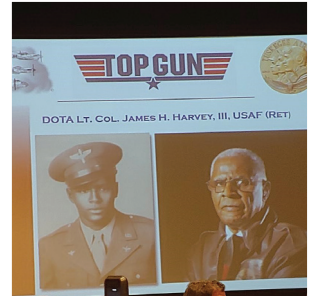
A Night to Unite
Tommy Oliver Stadium
Panama City, FL
Oct 10, 2019

FDP 2019 State Convention
Disney's Coronado Springs Resort
Orlando, FL
Oct 11-13, 2019

DVCF Retreat
Orlando Marriott Lake Mary
Lake Mary, FL
Feb 21-23, 2020

The Tuskegee Airmen “Top Guns”

The Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. National Convention took place in Orlando in August. Bay County Democratic Veterans Caucus President Sparks was in attendance. The convention highlighted the 70 year anniversary of the first Aerial Gunnery Meet sponsored by the US Air Force in 1949. During this highly segregated time in the US, the 332nd Fighter Group, the Tuskegee Airmen were allowed to participate. Jet technology was being introduced therefore two fighter divisions of the meet were arranged, the jet division and the propeller division. The 332nd Fighter Group was flying the outdated P47 in the propeller division and competed against more advanced aircraft but the Tuskegee Airmen won their division. Official Air Force records listed the winner of the 1949 Aerial Gunnery Meet propeller division as unknown until the mid to late 1990's. The official records and score cards were found and the Tuskegee Airmen were given credit for winning the meet. Two pilots from the 332nd Fighter Group Team, Lt Col Harry Stewart and Lt Col James Harvey told the audience of their experience participating and winning the meet. They spoke of the frustration of not being acknowledged for so many years. The movie “Top Gun” with Tom Cruise popularized the title “Top Gun.” The Tuskegee Airmen pilots were considered the “Top Guns” for their meet. The leader of the team, Lt Col Alva Temple who is now deceased, came in second in the individual meet. This presentation was truly a significant event for all that attended and a glimpse into American History as told by those who lived it.



DVCF Business Notes September 2019

Marion, Osceola, Hernando, Sarasota and Charlotte Caucuses will be certified at the Florida Democratic State Convention in October. Pasco County was certified on June 9. Chair of Clubs and Caucuses Organization, Marian Williams officially certifies the caucuses with full rights and voting privileges. Welcome to the DVCF.



P.O. BOX 36151
PANAMA CITY, FL 32412-6151