
Alachua County Veteran Services Advisory Board

Annual Work Plan and Accomplishments Report: 2024-2025

Chair: John Murdoch

Board Liaison: JP Dunn

Brief History of Board/Committee

The Veteran Services Advisory Board was established by Resolution 83-50 on July 12, 1983.

Responsibilities and Duties

1. Prepare and update an Annual Work Plan and Report of Accomplishments.
2. Review provisions for the operation of the Advisory Board.
3. Make recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners regarding the Veterans Community in Alachua County.
4. Receive reports from Alachua County Veteran Services.
5. Assist and advise the County on future policies and directions concerning Veterans.
6. Promote community awareness of the Alachua County Veteran Service Office, and Veterans organizations.
7. Carry out the responsibilities of a Community Veteran Engagement Board, in order to work with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Prior Year Accomplishments

- Supported Alachua County Veteran Services for Veterans Day Celebration, through individual organizations coming together in harmony and successfully assisting in “Veterans Row”, Parking assistance and other supporting roles. The event drew over 600 visitors and provided a backdrop for the Ribbon Cutting ceremony for the new children’s park and the dedication of the Gold Star Families memorial.
- Promoted the PACT ACT legislation throughout the Alachua County Veteran Services community, creating a greater understanding of VA benefits and how they relate to Alachua County Veterans thereby helping to encourage Veterans and dependents to come to Alachua County Veteran Services.
- Promoted and participated as individual organizations at the Veterans Resource Fair and Homeless Veteran Stand Down. This event assisted 48 Veterans in accessing resources such as Veteran services, housing, employment, counseling, medical benefits etc.

- Promoted the Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans event in Newberry which drew Vietnam Veterans to a celebratory gathering connecting them with resources and services and giving them the welcome home that they deserved long ago.
- Integral in getting the Veteran organization community the information about the need for the donation of two picnic tables for Santa Fe Colleges Veteran and military Success Services with resulted in area Veteran organization donating the additional outdoor seating and lounging for student Veterans further connecting them with the comradery they need and the services they earned.
- Promoted the Alachua County Memorial Day Ceremony put on by Alachua County Veteran Services with assistance from the City of Gainesville and area organizations. This meaningful and solemn event drew well over 100 people and provided support and comfort to our community.

Goals for Upcoming Year

- Make recommendations to the BoCC about items of interest to the Veterans community.
- Continue to promote and support Alachua County Veteran Services.
- Assist in dissemination of information for the Veteran community throughout Alachua County.
- Provide information and feedback to the VA Hospital about Veterans care and services.
- Continue to support Veterans events as planned and presented by Alachua County Veteran Services.
- To support and encourage BoCC support for the Alachua County Veteran Service Office, their staff and program.
- Strengthen ties with Veteran Services and Veteran Success Offices at the University of Florida and Santa Fe College to better assist veteran students who are not residents of Alachua County.
- Expand Veteran Service presence outreach to the individual cities in the County.
- Reinvigorate Veteran Service Office work-study and volunteer programs to enhance veteran presence and military service literacy in the County.



Figure 1 Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Event in Newberry FL

Figure 1: 2024 Veterans Day Celebration



Figure 3: 2024 Veterans Day Celebration



Figure 4: 2024 Veterans Day Celebration