



Veteran Services Advisory Board

Annual Work Plan and Accomplishments

2025-2026

Olajuwon White,
Veteran Services Director

September 23, 2025

Mission

- Make recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners regarding veteran issues
- Prepare Annual Work Plan and Accomplishments.
- Review provisions for the operation of the Advisory Board.
- Receive staff reports from Alachua County Veteran Services.
- Promote community awareness of the Alachua County Veteran Service Office, and Veteran organizations.
- Carry out the responsibilities of a Community Veteran Engagement Board, to work with the Department of Veterans Affairs

- Representatives of veterans' organizations :
 - The American Legion
 - Disabled American Veterans
 - Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States
 - North Florida South Georgia Veterans Health System-Malcolm Randall VA Medical Center
 - Marine Corps League
 - Vietnam Veterans of America
 - Korean War Veterans of America
 - Post- Secondary Educational Institution (Veteran's Program)
 - Citizen-at-large Meetings are held monthly, and administrative support is given by Veteran Services, Community Support Services.

Accomplishments (2024-2025)

- **Veterans Day Celebration**

- Held at Veterans Memorial Park on November 11, 2024.
- Former Chair, Mary Alford, provided welcoming comments.
- The City of Gainesville, ribbon cutting of the new playground.
- The Veteran Memorial Committee presented the new Gold Star Families Memorial.
- Event included: skydivers, wreath laying, flag ceremony, helicopter tours, food vendors and patriotic music by Lincoln Middle School.
- Special thanks to our BoCC, County Administration, guest speakers and many volunteers.

Veterans Day 2024

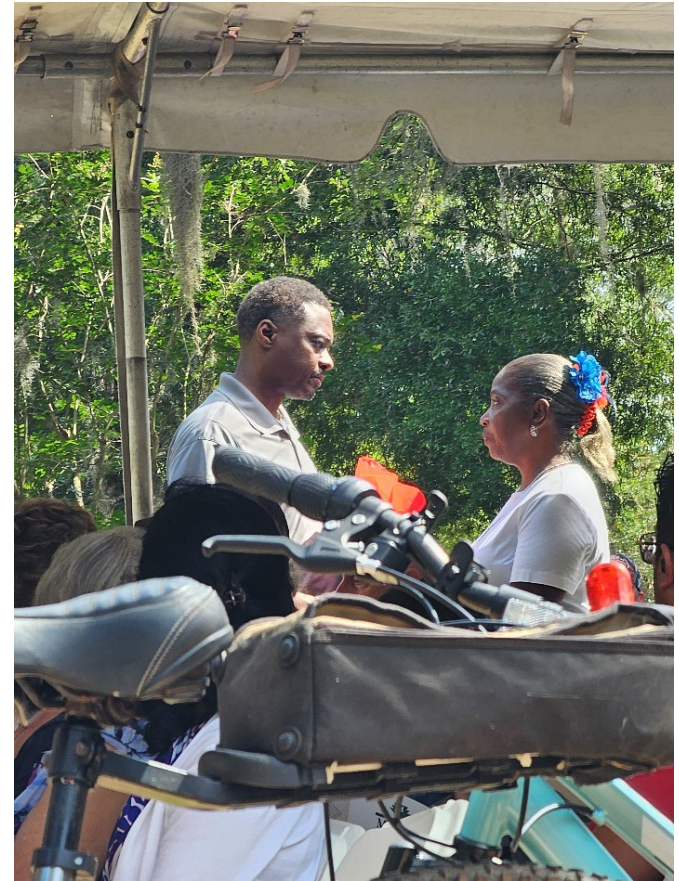
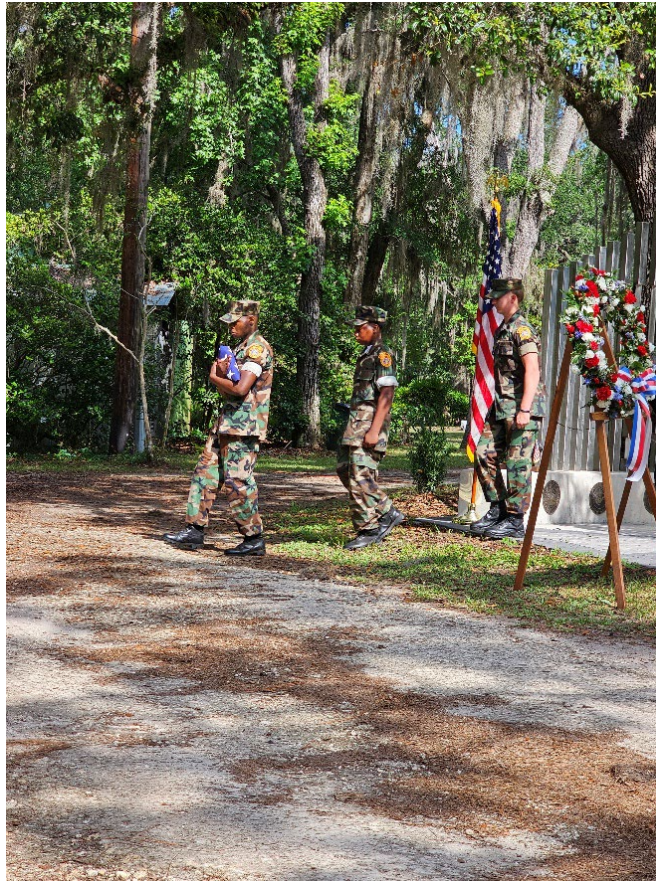


Accomplishments (2024-2025)

Memorial Day 2025

- Held at Evergreen Cemetery at 401 SE 21st Avenue.
- Chair, Charles S. Chestnut, IV, provided welcoming remarks.
- Veteran Services Advisory Board member Sandra Torres-Pintos served as President.
- The event was a collaborative effort of Alachua County and the City of Gainesville, Vystar, and Evergreen Cemetery, .
- Special thanks to Milam Funeral Home for food donations and service.
- Special thanks to VSAB member Fred Judkins who played Taps and the Milton Lewis Young Marines for presentation of the colors, the Pledge of Allegiance, and the flag ceremony.
- Special thanks to county staff including BoCC, County Administration, CSS Divisions, Communications, Public Works, Public Safety, Facilities, VA Chaplain, Santa Fe Community College Veteran-Students, and wonderful volunteers.

Memorial Day 2025



Goals and Objectives 2025-2026

- Maintain an active board that engages veterans of all eras, veteran families, and supporters.
- Serve as a liaison between the BoCC, veterans' organizations, veterans, veteran families, and community,
- Promotion of veteran events including Veteran Stand-down, Memorial Day and Veterans Day.
- Collaborate with the University of Florida, Santa Fe College, and organizations that serve veterans.
- Promote the PACT ACT

Goals and Objectives 2025-2026

- Support veteran initiatives
- Support veteran housing and mental health initiatives
- Support healthcare and dental care initiatives that benefit local veterans
- Assist county staff with outreach efforts

