

PATRIOTS IN THE PARK

Memorable Moments in and around Veterans Memorial Park & LeRoy Collins, Jr. Veterans Museum and Hillsborough County's Veterans Resource Center



A local Vietnam Vet drove to the park from Apollo Beach in support of the Veterans Council. Dave Braun raised the Purple Heart Flag, and Gerard Abbett read the proclamation for Aug. 7, 2018.



During a recent training event, Navy Recruiters made time to salute Korean War sailor and pre-eminent museum docent/park volunteer, Marty Sullivan who's "Making Retirement Great Again!"

Welcome Tampa's newest Marine Recruiting Station to the neighborhood! They find inspiration in our memorials and appreciate our hospitality during promotion ceremonies. Oorah!



In memory of volunteer coordinator Gene Wheeler, the Vet Council's "coffee mess" has now been lovingly memorialized as *Gene's Canteen*. He is greatly missed, and volunteers are needed.



Special thanks to COL Matt Reudi and CENTCOM Public Affairs for making 2018's Memorial Day Observance a huge success: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ufin96xug3Y>.



July's FIELD OF HONOR was supported by Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office, Army Brigadier General Paul Pontrager (CENTCOM), the Young Marines color guard, and Gold Star Sister Stephanie Kocab (Tampa Police). Thanks as always to Cody Palmer Sound & Music.



Take a golf cart tour with Rudy Latorre! This former Army artillery specialist works the front desk of the Veteran Resource Center every Wednesday. MORE volunteers are needed – apply within!



Sharing blue skies and comradery helped lift up patients and staff from James Haley VA Hospital.



Commissioner Murman's Challenge by SAMSHA and the VA: officials, advocates, and mental health experts united at the Veteran Resource Center to discuss Veteran suicide prevention.



Pssst! She's b-a-a-a-ck ...three cheers for our own Tracey Coley who just returned from a Special Ops mission with Gen. Joseph Votel (ok, so just kidding about that last part....) But welcome back!



More than 70 national Sea Cadets (boys/girls ages 13-17) toured our park and memorials as part of a special MacDill AFB/Tampa Bay tour. Special thanks to Walt Raysick, Marty Sullivan, Dave Braun, Bill Sarver, Joshua Hernandez and ranger Brian “Stoney” Andrews for inspiring them!



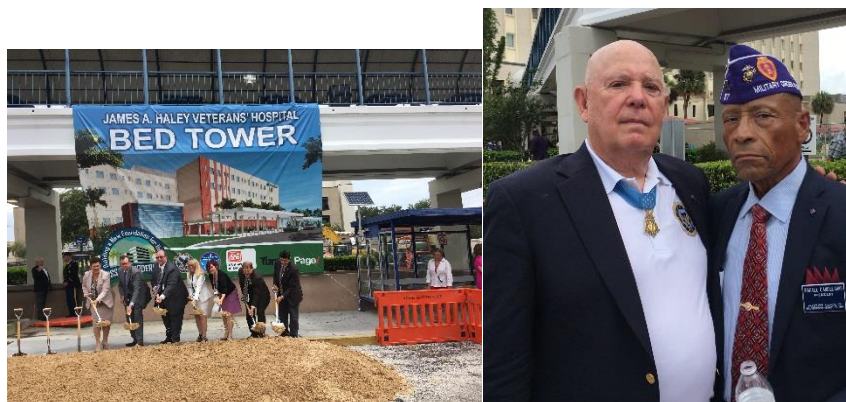
And in case you missed it, FOX 13 covered this year's Korean War Remembrance in the park:
<http://www.fox13news.com/news/local-news/veterans-hopeful-for-diplomacy-on-korean-war-remembrance-day>



It takes a village with community partners like MetLife, Quality Controls, and South Central A/V! Special thanks to ranger Roger Cramer, Irene Morejon, and *Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful*.



Congratulations to our partners at JAHVA on a great groundbreaking event. SgtMaj Rafael Candelario was priveleged to meet Medal of Honor recipient and keynote speaker CSM Gary Littrell



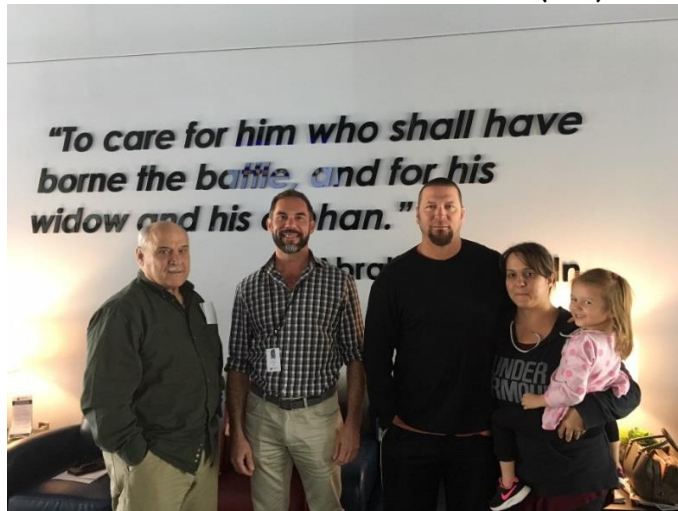
July was Military Consumer Appreciation Month. Need free assistance? Our investigators serve across the county, including at the Veteran Resource Center. Call (813) 635-8316.



Hillsborough County's Marine Safety Unit is also under the Consumer & Veterans Services umbrella and comprised of highly experienced Veterans from the U.S. Coast Guard. Check out their new video tip series: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NchlEJ57Gaw>.



Meet our newest county VSO - Veteran Service Officer Dennis MontRos (*below second from left*). Dennis is bilingual and a former U.S. Air Force Military Police Officer. Find him Monday-Friday from 8 - 4:30 in the Veteran Resource Center: (813) 635-8316.



What does it take to fly this larger-than-life Old Glory at our park events? The generosity and patriotism of STEPPS Towing and the muscle of the county's Resource Management Division. The Veterans Council and the community salute you for honoring our military and helping to make Tampa's Veterans Memorial Park a stand-out destination for visitors and guests. Great job!

