Military & Veteran Affairs Committee

Wednesday, March 22, 2006
2:15-3:15 PM
24 HOB

Action Packet

Allan G. Bense
Speaker

Stan Jordan
Chair

COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT

Military & Veteran Affairs Committee

3/22/2006 2:15:00PM

Location: 24 HOB

Attendance:

	Present	*Absent*	*Excused*
Stan Jordan (Chair)	X		
Kevin Ambler	X		
Gus Bilirakis	X		
Greg Evers	X		
Audrey Gibson	X		
Richard Glorioso	X		
William Proctor	X		
Irving Slosberg	X		
Totals:	**8**	**0**	**0**

Committee meeting was reported out: Wednesday, March 22, 2006 3:38:08PM

COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT

Military & Veteran Affairs Committee

3/22/2006 2:15:00PM

Location: 24 HOB

Other Business Appearance:

Discussion of Military Funeral Honors Support
SGM (ret) Daniel Blackman (At Request Of Chair) - Information Only
Military Funeral Honors Coordinator
310 Charlotte St.
St. Augustine Florida 32084
Phone: (904) 823-0630

Discussion of Military Funeral Honors Support
Glenn Sutphin - Information Only
Legislative Director Dept. of Military Affairs
400 S. Monroe St. The Capitol
Tallahassee Florida 32399
Phone: (850) 414-9049

Discussion of Military Funeral Honors Support
Celia M. Graham - Information Only
Teacher, Mother, and Daughter of Veteran
6845 Oakcrest Way
Zephyrhills Florida
Phone: 813-943-5970

Committee meeting was reported out: Wednesday, March 22, 2006 3:38:08PM

COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT

Military & Veteran Affairs Committee

3/22/2006 2:15:00PM

Location: 24 HOB

Summary: No Bills Considered

Committee meeting was reported out: Wednesday, March 22, 2006 3:38:08PM

MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS

Military Funeral Honors Program

State of Florida

"Honoring Those Who Served"

MISSION STATEMENT

The Florida Army National Guard *Military Funeral Honors (MFH) Program*:

- Provide Florida Military Veterans with appropriate military internment honors
- Assist active duty components with funeral honors as requested/required
- Perform Honor Guard duty, state funeral, and other state ceremonial functions

Florida's Budget and Services

Funded by National Guard Bureau (NGB)

FY03, Approximately 28K	Provided 47 MFH
FY04, Approximately 52K	Provided 412 MFH
FY05, Approximately 70K	Provided 1272 MFH
FY06, Approximately 140K	As of 28 Feb 839 MFH

MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS

Month's FY05	83rd Command	STARC Command	164th ADA	53rd Inf Command	50th AGS Command	Monthly Total
Oct	9	12	18	17	19	75
Nov	8	10	20	20	22	80
Dec	9	5	11	21	36	82
Jan	6	3	36	9	32	86
Feb	7	11	44	9	31	102
Mar	9	11	34	20	33	107
Apr	11	6	33	26	37	113
May	5	7	23	29	32	96
Jun	11	21	36	37	42	147
Jul	7	22	24	18	47	118
Aug	11	14	23	31	52	131
Sep	13	25	32	32	40	142
	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total 1279

MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS

Month's FY06	83rd Command	STARC Command	164th ADA	53rd Inf Command	50th AGS Command	Monthly Total
Oct	11	25	28	31	23	118
Nov	11	30	20	60	50	171
Dec	10	34	27	46	49	166
Jan	16	33	38	68	50	205
Feb	11	42	28	57	41	179
Mar						
Apr						
May						
Jun						
Jul						
Aug						
Sep						
	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total 839

MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS

Who is eligible for Military Funeral Honors?

Reservists, National Guard

Active Duty Soldiers

Vets who served one tour of duty

And was honorably discharged

The Honors Request Process

1. Call the Casualty Assistance Center (CAC) at Ft. Stewart, Ft. Benning, or Ft. Rucker and request Honors. Funeral Directors may contact my office directly.
2. Detail information is passed to MFH Office (FL) for assignment.
3. Copy of DD 214 (Honorable Discharge).
4. NGB Form 22.
5. Any other document to verify service.

Types of Service

Full Honors:

- Pall Bearers
- Firing Party
- Playing of Taps
- Flag Folding
- Flag Presentation

Reserved for:

Recipients of the Medal of Honor

Soldier died while on Active Duty

Retirees Of US Armed Forces

Types of Service

Modified Honors:

- Playing of Taps
- Flag Folding
- Flag Presentation
- Two or Three Person Team

Reserved for:

All Veterans with an Honorable Discharge

Manning Requirements

Full Honors no less than 16 Soldiers
1 Officers
1 NCOIC
6 Pallbearers
7 Person Firing Detail
1 Bugler

Modified Full Honors no less than 9 Soldiers;
1 Officer
1 NCOIC
6 Pallbearer/Firing Detail
1 Bugler

Pay and Allowances

Soldiers are paid one days base pay based on their Rank

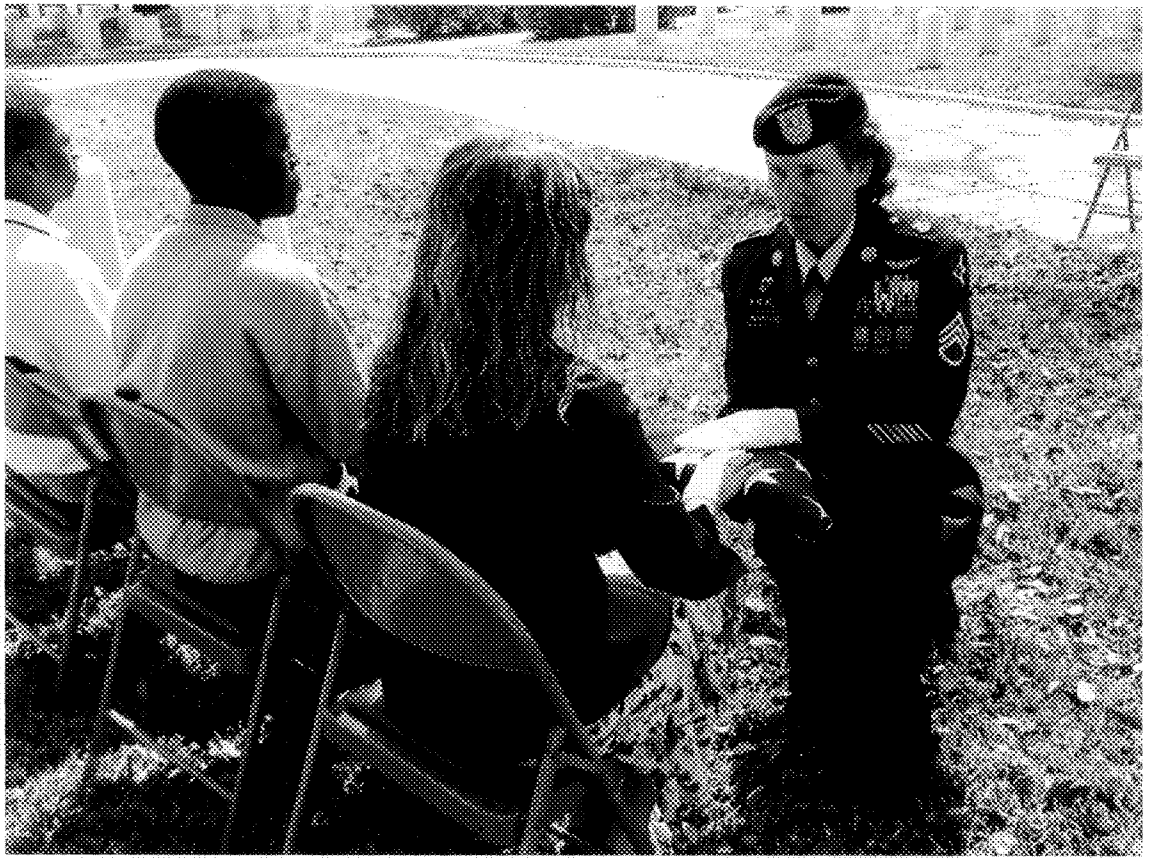
Retired Soldiers are paid a $50 Stipend per day

Reimbursed for: POV Fuel, Meals, Toll Tickets

MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS

MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS

MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS



MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS

State Regions and Area Coordinators

Region 1, 83rd Troop Cdr
SFC Robert Ponder
(904) 334-0398

Region 2, STARC (-)
SSG Carl Davis
(904) 823-0630

Region 3, 164th ADA
SGT Regina Simpkins
(386) 747-8213

Region 4, 53 INF BDE
SFC Danny Paul
(727) 235-9201

Region 5, 50th ASG
SPC Terella Brown
(954) 914-3544

MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS

Military Funeral Honors Coordinator

SGM (Ret) Daniel Blackman

310 Charlotte St.

St. Augustine, FL 32084

Office (904) 823-0630

Fax (904) 829-1855

MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS

Military Funeral Honors Program

Questions

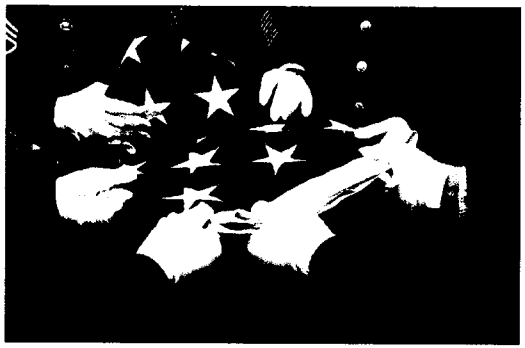
State of Florida

"Honoring Those Who Served"

Who is eligible for Honors?

Veterans are eligible for military honors if they meet one of the following requirements:

- Currently serving on active duty or in the Selected Reserve (drilling with a unit).
- Discharged from active duty under conditions other then "Dishonorable."
- Completed at least one term of enlistment or period of initial obligated service in the Selected Reserve under conditions other than "Dishonorable."
- Discharged from the Selected Reserve due to a disability incurred or aggravated in the line of duty
- Retired from active duty or the Selected Reserves



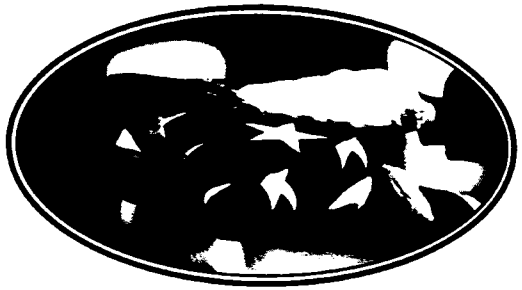
Needed Documentation

Active Duty or Reservists
DD Form 214

National Guardsman
NGB Form 22
or
NGB Form 55
or
Memorandum Eligibility for Retired Pay

SGM (Ret) Daniel Blackman
Military Honors Coordinator
310 Charlotte St.
St. Augustine, FL 32084
Phone: (904) 823-0630
Cell: (904) 814-7759
Fax: (904) 829-1855

Florida National Guard Military Honors Program



On behalf of a grateful nation

Our Mission

To provide and coordinate the appropriate final tribute to eligible Florida Veterans, the paying of respect and final demonstration of the country's gratitude to those who, in times of war and peace, have faithfully served the State of Florida and our Nation. The provision of military honors is a total force mission and both active and reserve component members may perform this mission.

Stipend Program for Volunteers

The performance of Military Honors for at least two hours a day entitles, Florida National Guard members to the greater of $50 per day or the equivalent of one days base pay for their grade; Armed Forces retirees are authorized a $50 stipend a day; and Veteran Service Organization members are reimbursed for expenses incurred.

If you are interested or know of anyone willing to serve as pallbearers, in the rifle detail, or as a bugler, please contact your unit, local National Guard armory or base, or the State Military Funeral Honors Coordinator.

MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS

A standard military honors ceremony consists of the firing of three rifle volleys, the sounding of "Taps," the folding of the flag and the presentation of the flag to the next of kin. Due to availability of personnel, a rifle detail is not always possible.

Each veteran is entitled, by law, to at least two uniformed service personnel who will sound "Taps," fold the flag and present it to the next of kin. The family needs to express the desire to have uniformed personnel present to the funeral director, who in turn will contact the Military Honors Program for coordination of the military honors ceremony.

Arranging Military Honors

The process starts when a family expresses its desire for military honors to a funeral director. The funeral director then only needs to call the toll-free Department of Defense access system at 1-877-645-4667. If the deceased was a present or former Florida National Guard member call the State Military Honors Coordinator at (904) 823-0630.

Program Background

On January 1, 2000, Military Funeral Honors became a statutory benefit to all veterans with the signing of the National Defense Authorization Act. The law requires that, upon the family's request, every eligible veteran receive a military funeral honors ceremony to include folding and presenting the United States burial flag and the sounding of taps. Also, the Department of Defense recognized the valuable role that Armed Forces retirees and members of Veteran Service Organizations can play honoring our veterans as volunteers for Military Funeral Honors details.

Military Honors Training

This program provides training and honors refresher courses to current national guard members, armed forces retirees and veteran service organization members. This includes both flag folding and rifle team training. Call our office to learn more about our program.