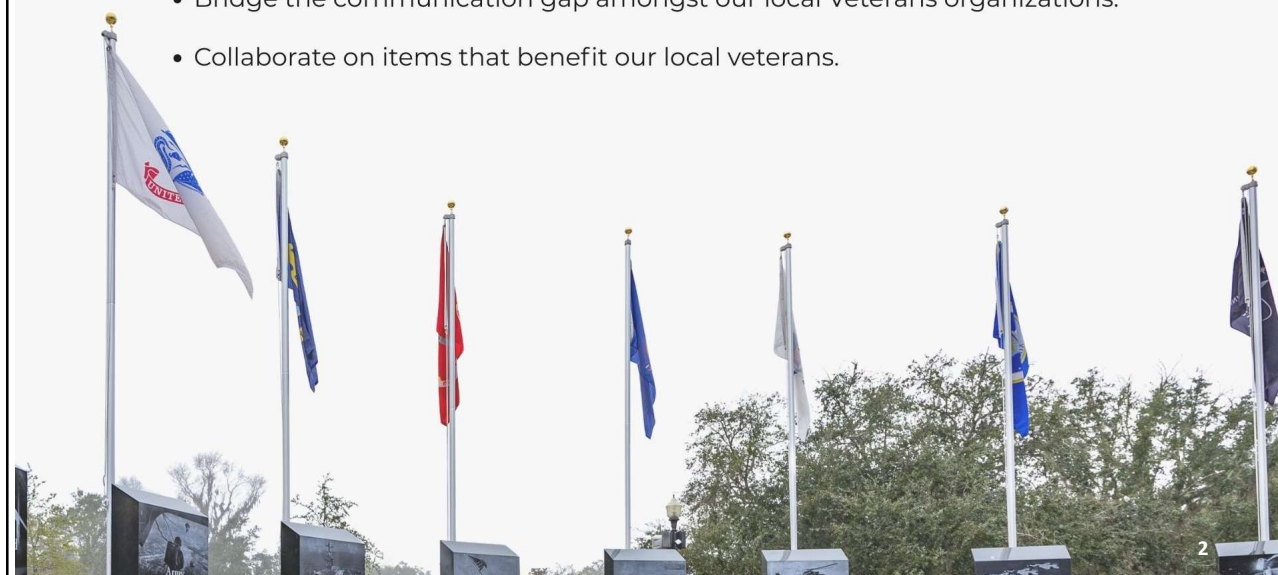




VETERANS QUARTERLY MEETINGS

- Bridge the communication gap amongst our local Veterans organizations.
- Collaborate on items that benefit our local veterans.





WHY A LOCAL VETERANS HALL OF FAME?

- To honor military veterans who have made significant contributions to Marion County through their service, leadership, or community involvement.
- The program recognizes not only military achievements but also civic, business, and public service contributions that benefit the county.
- The local level would create a pipeline of applicants to be submitted at the State level.



FLORIDA STATE VHOF

- **Purpose:** Honors Florida veterans who made significant civic, business, or public contributions to the state.
- **Created:** Established by the Florida Legislature in 2011.
- **Run by:** Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs with a dedicated advisory council.
- **Eligibility:** Honorably discharged veterans (including National Guard) with strong ties to Florida.
- **Process:** Nominations reviewed yearly; Governor & Cabinet approve inductees.
- **Recognition:** Inductees' names displayed in the Florida Capitol.



WHY A MARION COUNTY EVENT?

- Reputation
- Neutrality & Fairness
- Broader Community Representation
- Established Public Accountability
- Long-term stability
- Ability to Coordinate Across Multiple Veteran Organizations
- Preservation of History & Records



APPLICATION PROCESS

- Nominations for the Marion County Veterans Hall of Fame open through **January 31, 2026**, or until the number of maximum applications is met.
- Nominations must use the official form available on the county website and be submitted by mail or email. Forms and submissions can be done on our website located at: MarionFL.org/VetsHallOfFame
- The nomination packets and attachments become the property of the Marion County Veterans Hall of Fame and will not be returned. **Please do not send original documents.**

Marion County Veterans' Hall of Fame Nomination Form 2026

Be sure to read the Nomination Guidelines prior to completing this form. All nominations must be received no later than _____.

Nominee's Full Name _____

Mail Address _____

Nominee's City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Main Phone # _____

Was Nominee born in Florida? YES. NO. If No, is Florida the nominee's official state of residence? YES. NO.

Nominee was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Armed Forces? YES. (Attach copy of DD-214 or other Discharge Document). NO. (Honorably Discharge is required for nomination).

Nominee's Date of Birth _____ Nominee is deceased YES. NO. If yes, Year of Death _____

Please attach to this nomination form a typed summary of the nominee's achievements and contributions as outlined in the Nomination Guidelines. Include copies of any other supporting documentation. Note: Any packet which does not comply will not be considered and will be returned.

Also, recommendation letters without an extensive supporting narrative will not be considered. Multiple nominations for the same nominee are discouraged.

NOMINATOR'S STATEMENT: I hereby affirm the information contained herein is accurate to the best of my knowledge and understanding, and in conformance with the Nomination Guidelines. I agree to provide additional information if felony convictions of a nominee.

Nominator's Name _____ Relationship to Nominee _____

Telephone Number _____ Email Address _____

Nominator's Signature (Required) _____ Date _____

Statement from living nominee or next of kin in the case of a deceased nominee:

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have read the foregoing Marion County Veterans Hall of Fame nomination form and that the facts stated in it are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Nominee's Signature (Required) _____ Date _____

(In the case of deceased nominee, signature by next of kin is required). Email or mail this form and completed packet to:

PublicRelations@marionfl.org or
 Marion County Board of County Commissioners
 Attention: Veterans Hall of Fame
 601 SE 25th Avenue
 Ocala, FL 34472

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NOMINATION GUIDELINES

Eligibility Criteria:

- Must be a Marion County resident for at least 3 years and currently reside in the county.
- Must meet the Florida Statute 1.01 definition of a "Veteran" with proof of service (DD-214 or NGB-22).
- Must have an honorable discharge with official documentation.
- Must demonstrate good moral character.
- Posthumous nominations accepted with verifiable service records.
- Self-nominations are ineligible.



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ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Selection Process Summary:

- The Veteran's Services Director will form a selection committee composed of one representative from each of four local veteran 501(c)(3) organizations along with one Marion County resident who has been inducted into the State of Florida Veterans Hall of Fame.
- The committee will present its selected inductees to the Marion County Board of County Commissioners at a regular Commission meeting.
- We are proposing a maximum of 3 inductees in addition to those who have been inducted at the state level or any posthumous nominations.
- Additionally, one local business will be recognized yearly at the dinner for their contributions to the local veteran community.



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CEREMONY

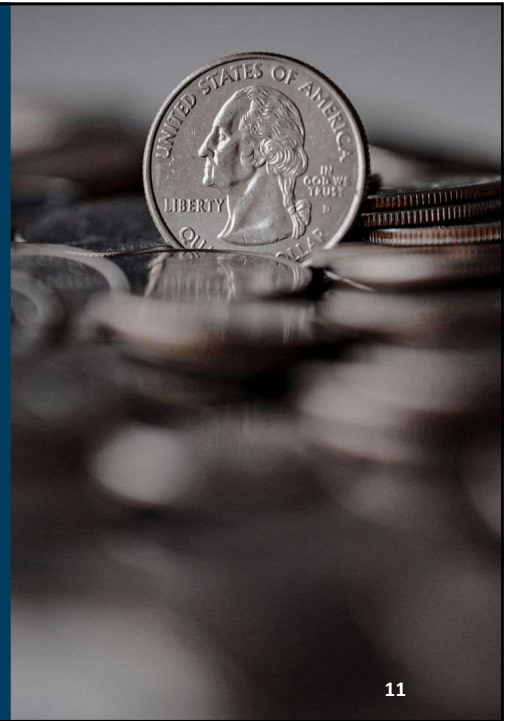
- To be held in **March of 2026 at the SELP auditorium**
- Featuring a full dinner
- Dedicated keynote speaker
- Presentation of Hall of Fame inductees and video highlights
- Presentation of the Hall of Fame rings
- Posthumous awards for families of nominees



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BUDGET & FUNDING

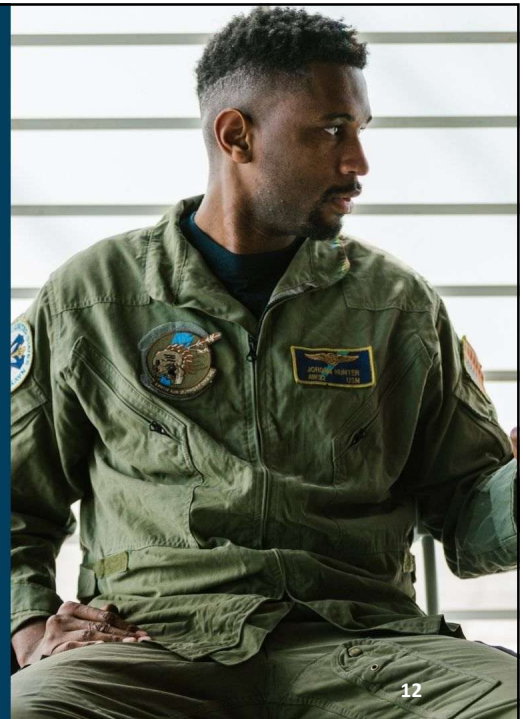
- Seed money to come from **Vets Helping Vets**
- Donations and sponsorships can be collected for the event.
- Funding received from the donations and sponsors to go towards paying back the seed money first and then in a designated account for the Annual Hall of Fame Ceremony.



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VETERANS GROUPS

- Encouraged to be a part of the event!
- All Veteran organizations will be listed in the program with resource phone numbers and information.
- Encouraged to volunteer to serve/help the night of event.
- Can purchase a table for your organization and enjoy the evening with your team
- Can participate in the donation drive specifically for the event.



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