

# DeLand, Florida—USA



## DNAS Museum News - APRIL & MAY 2022



**MAY 30, 2022**  
**MEMORIAL DAY**  
REMEMBER & HONOR



*We Will Not Forget You*

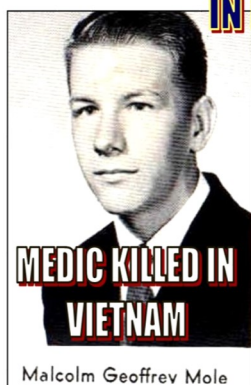


# A TIME TO HONOR AMERICAN HEROS

The DeLand Naval Air Station Museum is dedicated to honoring all of our Veterans everyday. On this Memorial Day we remember those who died while serving our country during all wars and conflicts. We hold a special tribute for our local men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving our country.

Malcolm Geoffrey Mole, Born in 1947, grew up in DeLand, and enlisted in the U.S. Navy. He was sent to Vietnam in 1967, stationed in Quang Tri Province of South Vietnam. He was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 26th Marine Regiment, Hospital Corpsman Third Class. On January 21, 1968 his battalion came under attack and he was killed by a rocket propelled grenade as he responded to aid an injured soldier. The death of the 20 year old DeLandite is documented in the book *Last Stand at Khe Sanh* by Gregg Jones. Many who knew Mole have left tribute messages to him over the years on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund website, a virtual wall dedicated to remembering every person whose name is inscribed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

"I TRIED" is a tribute to Malcolm Mole by a fellow corpsman who tried to save his life.



**IN MEMORY - MALCOLM MOLE**

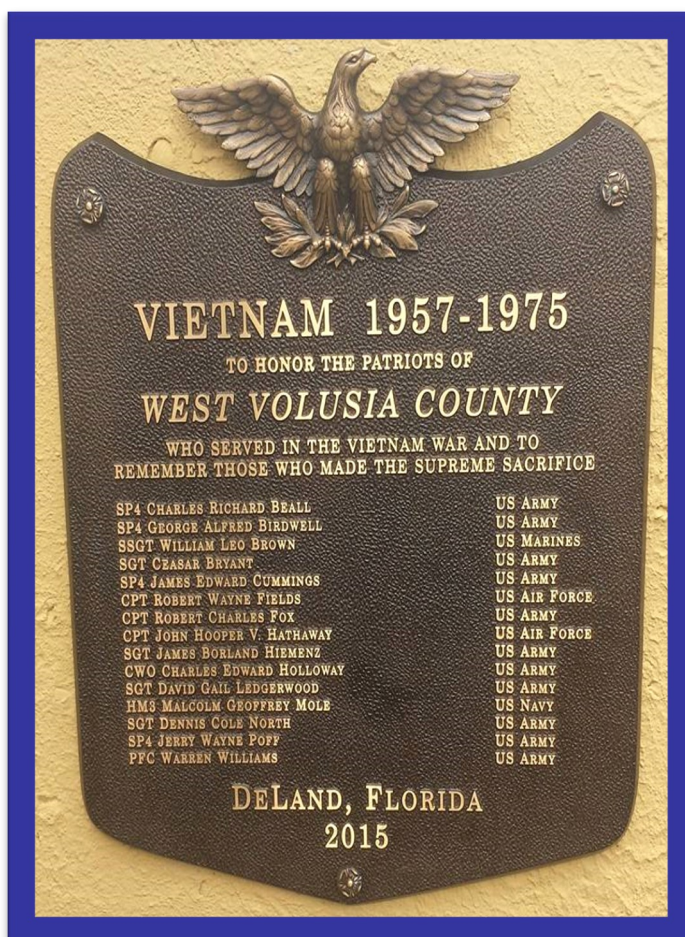
**DeLAND, FL**

**"I TRIED"**

**"I TRIED" my best to  
save you,  
Both you and God  
know "I TRIED",**

**"I TRIED" to stop the hand of death,  
As I knelt there by your side,  
"I TRIED" everything that I could do,  
During the fire-fight in Nam that day,  
But no matter how hard "I TRIED",  
There was nothing I could do or say,  
I stared deep into your eyes,  
I held you as you died,  
And though no words were spoken,  
I believe you know "I TRIED".**

Submitted by R. Keith Miller - Corpsman - K 3/26. Written by Loyde P. "Snake" Arender - K 3/26 Machine-gunner, USMC. IN REMEMBRANCE OF OUR K 3/26 KIA. In appreciation of "Doc" (Dedicated to all of our K 3/26 Corpsmen).



**Tribute Plaque  
DeLand Memorial Hospital  
& Veterans Museum**

**IN MEMORY OF ALL WHO SERVED**





# MEMORABILIA DONATED



**Tony Johns Donates Vintage Radio Bulb Collection**

Our thanks to Tony Johns for donating his vintage radio bulb collection. He obtained the collection from an elderly Veteran over 30 years ago and we appreciate being able to display this interesting collection for public view. All memorabilia items on display at the museum are donated by the public.

## Navy Veteran Visits From Greensboro, PA Served on the U.S.S. Dwight D. Eisenhower



21 Year Navy Veteran, Steve Edson tours the DNAS Museum with family and friends.

**21 Year Navy Veteran Stands By Hat Display for U.S.S. Dwight D. Eisenhower**







# ERAU Riddle Redeemers Student Volunteers Recognized

## F-14 Replica Building Project



## Teamwork Results In F-14 A-9 Replica



## Redeemers Receive Certificate of Appreciation & Tomcat Patch



## Tom Cat Tweakies



## Matthew Passes Presidency to Audrey



We appreciate the volunteer hours donated by student members of the Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Riddle Redeemers Restoration Club. The outgoing President, Matthew Robinson welcomes the new 2022-2023 President, Audrey Dixon. Audrey is majoring in Aerospace Engineering with a minor in Aviation Safety. Mathew will remain active until he graduates to ensure a smooth transition and continued promotion and recruitment of new Riddle Redeemers. A special thanks to Captain Greg Gerard, Lee Huffman and all of our great Volunteers who mentor our students.



# ERAU RIDDLE REDEEMERS RESTORATION CLUB CONTRIBUTE MANY VOLUNTEER HOURS TO DNASM



## Graduating Seniors & Students Honored With Pizza & Cake



## Henry Thomas Graduates & Begins His Aviation Career



Henry Thomas graduated from ERAU with a Bachelor of Science in Aeronautical Science. He is returning to Dallas, Texas to pursue a flight instructor certificate in helicopters, and eventually fly rotor wing aircraft for a career in flight instruction, aerial work, and eventually firefighting. He expressed his appreciation for his volunteer experience at DNAS Museum ***"In his own words":***

***I've been with the museum for three years, and during that time I have grown technically and personally. I've gone from washing artifacts to fabricating replicas and designing exhibit accessories.***

***That progress in ability and drive is due in no small part to the passion for dutiful stewardship exhibited at the museum; both by fellow student volunteers and the long term staff. Their expertise, courtesy, and generosity have fostered in me and my classmate volunteers an environment of not just historical learning, but a sandbox to grow our own skills. I can think of no better compliment to education in aeronautics or engineering than my time with the DNASM. Leaving DNASM back in Florida will be with great sadness as I pursue my career in aviation. I do wish everyone at the museum, as well as the classmates that will inherit our work, the best of luck and blue skies."*** Henry Thomas



# NEW DNAS MUSEUM LIFETIME MEMBER

## Ronnie Padgett - DeLand High Class of 1967

Ronnie Padgett  
"Ole Sarge"



The DeLand Naval Air Station Museum volunteers welcome Ronnie Padgett as a new lifetime member. Ronnie joins several classmates from DeLand High Class of 1967 who are also volunteers at the museum. Ron retired from the Army as a Master Sergeant (E-8) after serving for 21 years, 1970-1991. He holds a BS degree in Business & Psychology and a MA degree in Military Studies (History). We look forward to seeing him at the museum as a volunteer.

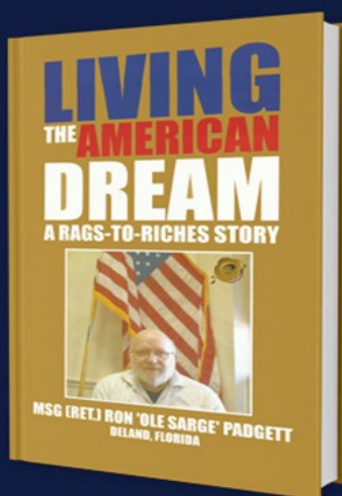
As a history buff, Ron has used his writing skills to self-publish a book about his Home Church in DeLand titled 'The History of Calvary Baptist Church, 1938-2011', and a second book titled 'Living the American Dream ~ a Rags to Riches Story'. The book chronicles his life and military career, zeroing in on his life growing up in DeLand, Florida and starting from humble beginnings. The theme of the Book is 'if I can make it, you can too! 10% of sales go to the Wounded GI's projects.

Ron is available as a motivational speaker. He also serves as the Salute of Service (SOS) Comfort Kit Director for DeLand's First United Methodist Church (1st Church), sending small toiletry kits to GI's that are overseas in combat zones. Local merchants are welcome to donate as well as local churches for this important community project.

Ron has currently ventured into two other nonprofit special projects. The first project is Ole Sarge Baseball Gear for Kids (OSBBGK). He buys slightly used baseball gloves and other sporting goods from Goodwill and Habitat for Humanity outlets and distributes out to various little league programs in Florida and now Georgia; and hopefully way beyond. Ron says he does not want kids to go without the equipment they need.

Ron is also working on a second venture of obtaining funding support for American Indian Schools. Ron genuinely cares about his community and strives for the highest of standards. As mentioned above, 10% of sales of Ron's 'Rags to Riches' book, goes toward funding these projects.

To donate sporting goods, make a cash donation or purchase his book to support these worthy projects visit Ron's website at [olesargeronnnpadgett.com](http://olesargeronnnpadgett.com). If you buy through Ron locally, the cost is only \$10.00, a savings of almost \$3.00. To order locally contact Ron by email at [pigeon4226@att.net](mailto:pigeon4226@att.net) or by phone at (386) 717-0490.



### Living the American Dream A Rags-to-Riches Story

- ~Ole Sarge gets it done.
- ~Ole Sarge says don't leave a fallen comrade
- ~Ole Sarge says if you work hard enough your dreams will come true
- ~Ole Sarge says stay focused on what's before you, and you will be successful

[Buy Online](#)



# WWII HISTORY - DeLAND NAVAL AIR STATION



U.S. Navy airmen training on a Douglas SBD *Dauntless* during WWII. The SBD was equipped with guns, radio and other equipment, and was used for plane familiarization in the ARM school. Known as "90 Day Wonders", the pilots were assigned to DeLand NAS for 90 days to train on aircraft carrier landings before they continued training on the Wolverine wooden top makeshift carrier located in Lake Michigan. Approximately 15,000 pilots were trained on Lake Michigan from 1942 to 1945. 150 planes crashed during training and many of them are still submerged in 2022.



## WWII Historic Watch Tower



Over the years, many unauthorized advertising signs were removed from the towers.

There were approximately 15,200 watch towers built in 1941 to line the U.S. Coast during WWII. One of the historic towers still exists near the 2100 block of Ocean Shore Boulevard in Ormond-by-the-Sea in Volusia County. The heart pine wood structure was last restored in 2004. It is believed to be one of only three towers still standing in Florida. The other two are in Stuart and Melbourne Beach. The towers were manned by civilian lookouts armed only with binoculars and a telephone, ready to alert the Coast Guard to any incoming threats from German U-boats and enemy aircraft. Many locals remember volunteering in the towers when they were in high school.

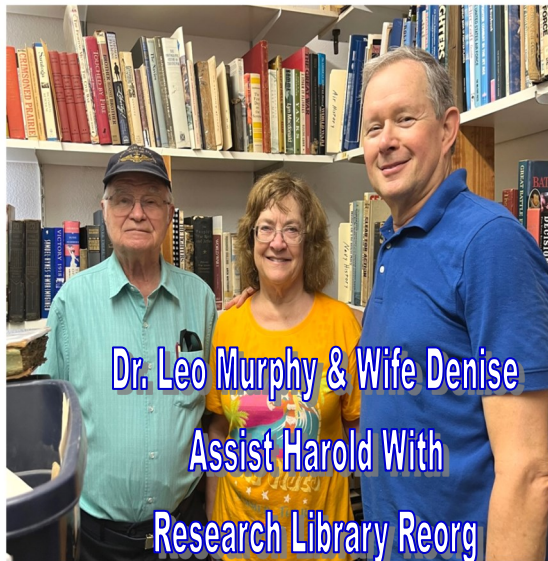


# DNASM Volunteers Continue Projects & Public Educational Tours

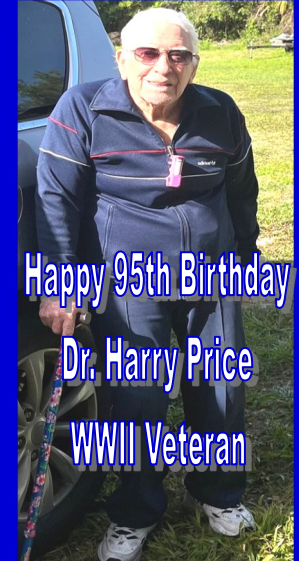
The DNASM Museum is an all volunteer museum and we rely 100% on Community Support. You can support the museum by renewing your membership. Even if you can't participate, please consider becoming a supporting member, make a donation through our website [www.delandnavalairmuseum.org](http://www.delandnavalairmuseum.org) or mail a donation to DNASM Museum, 910 Biscayne Boulevard, DeLand, FL 32724. **CONSIDER END OF YEAR TAX DEDUCTION.** Use AmazonSmile orders and choose DNASM for Cash Award.



Gutter Cleaning Day



Dr. Leo Murphy & Wife Denise  
Assist Harold With  
Research Library Reorg



Happy 95th Birthday  
Dr. Harry Price  
WWII Veteran



Frank Repairs  
PTF-3 Wood



DeLand WWII  
SBD-5 Plane Crash  
Lake Recovery  
Project Team Meets



Gene Explains B-24 Bomber  
He Worked on During WWII



Thank You Volunteers For The Many  
Hours You Donate To Our Community

**Volunteers Needed - Couples Welcome**

Share Your Skills on Wednesday and Saturday Mornings as a Tour Guide,  
Landscaping, Maintenance, Office Duties and Restoration Projects







## Persimmon Hollow Woman's Club Supports DNASM

Diane Lewis & Sandra Pierce Present Check to DNASM



Together we make a difference!



Forming Bonds of Friendship while Serving the West Volusia County Area, FL Since 2009

**WHAT'S IN A NAME?**  
Over 130 years ago, the town we know and love as DeLand, was then identified as Persimmon Hollow. During those early years persimmon trees were abundant bearing a delicious fall fruit. The Persimmon Hollow Women's Club, Inc. chose to celebrate the mission with that name.

**f**  
VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE  
[facebook.com/PersimmonHollowWomansClubIncDeLandFlorida](https://facebook.com/PersimmonHollowWomansClubIncDeLandFlorida)

Email: [PersimmonHollowWomansClubInc@gmail.com](mailto:PersimmonHollowWomansClubInc@gmail.com)  
Mail: PO Box 3353, DeLand, FL 32721

PHWC, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) corporation approved by the IRS for charitable purposes. Exempt from Federal Income Taxes and FL State Sales Tax.

A special thanks to the Persimmon Hollow Woman's Club for their generous donation to the DeLand Naval Air Station Museum. We greatly appreciate the ongoing support from this great community organization. The club welcomes new members to help them serve our community. Visit their Facebook or email [PersimmonHollow-WomansClubInc@gmail.com](mailto:PersimmonHollow-WomansClubInc@gmail.com)

**THANK YOU COMMUNITY PARTNER**  
**PERSIMMON HOLLOW WOMAN'S CLUB**



# THANK YOU SPONSORS & COMMUNITY PARTNERS

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**Rotary Club of DeLand**  
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**DeLand Breakfast Rotary Club**  
[wildgamefeast.org](http://wildgamefeast.org)

**CHRIS STUBBS FAMILY**

IN MEMORY OF WWII COMMANDER HARRY K. STUBBS

DOUG & SARAH LANTIER, MARTY TORBETT FAMILY & FRIENDS  
IN MEMORY OF KENNETH S. TORBETT, WWII DNAS LINE CHIEF

**SANDRA TITCOMB & FAMILY** IN MEMORY OF  
ELLWOOD TITCOMB, 1ST DNAS MUSEUM PRESIDENT



[briansbbq.com](http://briansbbq.com)



[jacobhac.com](http://jacobhac.com)

THOMAS C. RYAN  
HONORING WWII COMMANDER  
THOMAS J. & MARY RYAN

NANCY K. WHEATON  
HONORING  
PAUL F. KEITH, USMC



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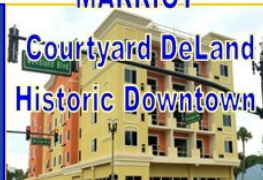
**Mainstreet DeLand Association**  
[mainstreetdeland.org](http://mainstreetdeland.org)



MARRIOTT



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[marriott.com/dabdl](http://marriott.com/dabdl)



[delandhouse.com](http://delandhouse.com)



HAVEN HOSPICE  
[beyourhaven.org](http://beyourhaven.org)



[sunviking.com](http://sunviking.com)



Winn/Dixie



**Sun Viking Lodge Daytona Beach**

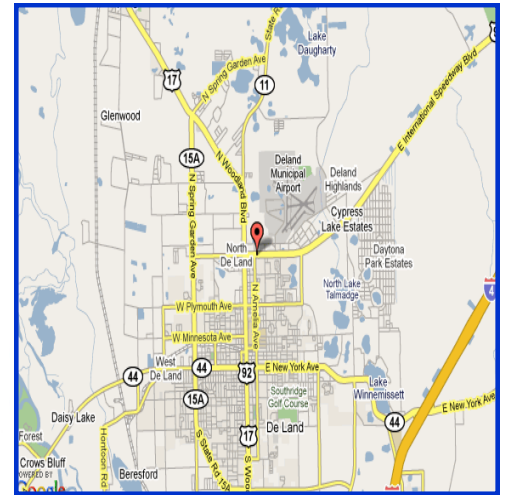
African American Museum of the Arts  
 Anointed Olive, LLC DeLand  
 Athens Theatre - [athensdeland.com](http://athensdeland.com)  
 Atria Senior Living Orange City  
 Bahama House—Daytona Beach  
 Barberville Pioneer Settlement  
 Bill Fraser Construction 386-717-1197  
 Busch Gardens Tampa  
 Central Florida Metal Detecting Club  
 Crankin A's Model A Club-Fred & Nancy Clark  
 DeLand Regional Library  
 Daytona Beach Area Visitors Bureau  
 Daytona Beach Navy League  
 DeLand Historic Trust, Inc.  
 DeLeon Springs State Park  
 Fountain of Youth ECO Tours  
 Diamond Productions - Dr. Harry Price  
 Dottie's Florist—[dottiesflorist.com](http://dottiesflorist.com)  
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Lightner Museum St. Augustine  
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 Orlando History Center  
 Ponce de Leon Inlet Lighthouse & Museum  
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**Thank You Volunteers !!**



# Support DNASM With Memberships & Donations



**National & Local Register  
of Historic Places**

**Funded In Part By**

**DeLand Municipal Airport**



**The DeLand Naval Air Station Museum, Inc.**

**Serving DeLand, Volusia County and the State of Florida**



**Preserving Military & Local History  
In Memory of ALL Who Served**



**DeLand Naval Air Station Museum, Inc.**

**910 Biscayne Boulevard**

**DeLand, FL 32724**

**Phone: 386-738-4149**

**[www.delandnavalairmuseum.org](http://www.delandnavalairmuseum.org)**

**JOIN US ON FACEBOOK!!**

**Museum public tours continue on  
Wednesday and Saturday  
mornings from 8:00 AM—Noon  
(Last Tour at 11:00 AM.) Large  
Groups & ECHO Ranger please call  
or email for appointment to  
schedule volunteer tour guides.**

**JOIN TODAY OR DONATE  
(DONATE WITH CREDIT CARD ON WEBSITE)**

**Thank You Museum Volunteers !!**

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**Your Purchase Gives Cash Back To Support Museum**