



POST-EVENT REPORT

STAND DOWN 2024

Presented by the Tallahassee Veteran Organization (TVO)

The North Florida Homeless and At-Risk Veterans Stand Down was held July 12 & 13 at the Al Lawson Multi-Purpose Center on the campus of Florida A&M University. The event was initially scheduled for May 17 & 18, but had to be postponed due to the aftermath of the tornadoes that hit Tallahassee on May 10. Fortunately, all parties involved made the necessary adjustments to hold a successful event providing services to our local veterans.

The Opening Ceremony was moderated by Doug Apple, General Manager of WAVE 94 (94.1 WAKU) Radio. Greetings were brought by Jennifer Gerrib, Assistant Director for the North FL/South Georgia Veterans Health; Larry Robinson, President at Florida A&M University; City Commissioner Curtis Richardson; County Commissioner Brian Welch; Judge Nina Ashenafi Richardson; Donna Barron, President of TVO and Colonel Washington Sanchez, Jr., Vice President of TVO. The Posting of Colors was presented by the Leon High School Marine JROTC under the direction of Anthony Reaves, Retired Gunnery Sergeant; National Anthem, Ms. Keturah Poole; Pledge of Allegiance, Debra Mann; and Invocation by Terrence Milton, Retired Master Sergeant and Senior Pastor.

Other special guests in attendance were: Judge Tiffany Baker-Carper; Judge Jason Jones; Judge Lance Neff; Assistant State Attorney Jon Fuchs; and Pastors Steve and Yvonne Dow of All Nations Church.

Julian Wilson, Silver Titan Productions, was presented with a plaque to recognize the excellent work he does for TVO. Julian has produced a Stand Down documentary and continues to share stories of other veterans on film.

288 Veterans participated in Stand Down 2024! We are also thankful to have had over 60 local agencies and businesses, and 118 volunteers to support the planning and implementation of this event. And, of course, a great deal of gratitude is owed to our sponsors, both monetary and

in-kind, for their contributions. Here are some of the numbers from the agencies reflecting their interactions and important points with veterans throughout the two-day event:

1. 211 Big Bend (53)
2. 344th Engineer Company Family Programs (100)
3. AARP (150)
4. AKA (151)
5. American Legion (36)
6. Apalachee Center (32)
7. Assurance Wireless (22)
8. Barbering by Elishia Pla' (19)
9. Big Bend Cares (180)
10. Big Bend Habitat for Humanity (20)
11. Big Bend Hospice (75)
12. Big Bend Society for Human Resource Management (15)
13. Big Bend Voting Rights (35)
14. Bond Community Health Center (13)
15. Capital Medical Society Foundation (50)
16. Career Source (21)
17. Culley's Meadowwood (52)
18. Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 5 (31)
19. Elder Care Services (50)
20. Family Promise of the Big Bend (58)
21. FAMU MMERI (240)
22. Florida Department of Health (240)
23. His7finisher -Refurbished Bicycles, Helmets & Locks (20)
24. Infinity Speaks (46)
25. Legal Services of North Florida (25)
26. Leon County Clerk of Courts (42)
27. Leon County Property Appraiser's Office (40)
28. Leon County Veteran Services (85)
29. Medicare Done Right (30)
30. Neighborhood Medical Center (30)
31. North Florida Office of Public Guardian (39)
32. Northwood Animal Hospital (17)
33. Office of U.S. Senator Marco Rubio (21)
34. Office of U.S. Senator Rick Scott (52)
35. Palmer College of Chiropractic (40)
36. Red Cross (200)
37. Riverside Recovery of Tampa (65)
38. Second Harvest (200)
39. Tallahassee Lenders' Consortium (71)
40. Tallahassee Senior Center Foundation (50)
41. Tallahassee National Cemetery (42)
42. VA/ Mental Health (56)
43. VA/Suicide Prevention (184)
44. VA Outreach/HUDVASH (10)

- 45. Volunteers of America/Tallahassee Vet Village (25)
- 46. WellCare (55)
- 47. Women Veterans Unite (20)

An appreciation dinner was held on August 8, 2024, to express appreciation to the service providers and volunteers and celebrate the success of SD 24.

TVO Board of Directors

Donna Barron, President
Retired COL Washington Sanchez, Jr. Vice President/Treasurer
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Donna Carroll Barron
SD 2024 Director

COL Washington J. Sanchez, Jr. USA (Ret.)
SD 2024 Assistant Director

Event Coordinator, Jevelle Robinson