

# UCF VETERANS LEGACY PROGRAM CURRICULAR MATERIALS

[UCF.VLP.CAH.EDU](http://UCF.VLP.CAH.EDU)

**VA**



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
National Cemetery Administration



UCF

**Department  
of History**

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

# **Florida Heroes:** Stories of Veterans who were born, served, or died in Florida

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# What is a Veteran?

Directions: Use the following website to answer the questions about veterans.

<https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/veteran/>

1. Define “Veteran”.

a person who has served their country in a military capacity

2. What are the five branches of the U.S. armed forces?

- Army
- Navy
- Air Force
- Marine Corps
- Coast Guard

3. When is Veterans Day? **November 11**

4. The Department of **Veterans Affairs** helps veterans and their families after they return home.

5. A “large scale armed conflict” is also known as a **war**.

# What is a National Cemetery?

Directions: Use the following slides to answer the questions about veterans.

<https://vlp.cah.ucf.edu/instructionalmaterials/UCF-VLP-MiniToursClassroomIntro.pdf>

1. What is a national cemetery?  
a cemetery where Veterans and their families can be buried, where they are honored and memorialized
2. How many national cemeteries are there in the United States? 155
3. Can a spouse (husband or wife) of a veteran be buried in a national cemetery? yes
4. When is the earliest known burial in St. Augustine National Cemetery? 1828
5. The Dade Pyramids are believed to be the oldest memorial in any national cemetery.

# Researching Veterans

Researching Veterans, especially those who lived decades (or even centuries) ago, can be like piecing together parts of a puzzle. There are MANY different resources that can be used to find the pieces, and even then, we will always only know a small part of that person's life.

Reading about, researching, and writing about Veterans is a way to keep their stories alive and to honor their legacies. One resource that does just this is the UCF Veterans Legacy Program. Today, we will explore their website and practice some research skills!

Directions:

1. Go to <https://vlp.cah.ucf.edu/>.
2. Click on "Biographies" at the top of the page.
3. Read the "Welcome" section and think about how it connects to building that "puzzle".
4. Scroll down and click "Data Cards" in the "Display Results As" filter.
5. Scroll down and click "Search".

This is a list of ALL of the biographies currently available on this site.

**Return to the previous page and discuss with your neighbor ways that we could narrow our search.**

# Let's Be Detectives!

Directions: Use the filters on the UCF VLP "Biographies" page to answer the questions below.

1. Find a Veteran that served in the Spanish-American War.  
**William H. Walden**
  - a. In which year was he born? **1866**
2. How many Veterans with biographies served in the Civil War and are buried in the St. Augustine National Cemetery?  
**three**
3. Who is the Veteran from Italy that served in WWII and is buried in the Florida National Cemetery?  
**Charles Leonetti**
4. Jane Margaret Gadde is buried in Bay Pines National Cemetery. In which two conflicts did she serve?  
**WWI** and **WWII**

# Alexander Ramsey Thompson

## Seminole War Veteran

Use the VLP Biography website to search for Alexander's biography and answer the questions about his life.

### About Alexander

1. Born (when and where): **around 1793; New York City**
2. Died: **1837**
3. Branch: **Army**
4. Rank(s): **Captain, Major, Lieutenant Colonel**
5. Interred at: **the U.S. Military Academy Post Cemetery (West Point, NY)**

### Dive Deeper!

6. In which of the "Florida Wars" did Thompson fight?  
**The Second Seminole War**
7. During which battle did Thompson die?  
**The Battle of Okeechobee**

### Reflection

8. In what ways did Alexander "follow in his father's footsteps"?  
**His father was also a soldier, and he worked at West Point where Alexander was a cadet.** Do you have any future plans or similarities like this to your parents or other family members?

# Abram (William) Lancaster

## Civil War Veteran

Use the VLP Biography website to search for Abram's biography and answer the questions about his life.

### About Abram

1. Born (when and where): **around 1863; St. Augustine, FL**
2. Died: **July 20, 1904**
3. Branch: **Army**
4. Rank(s): **Private, Corporal, and Sergeant**
5. Interred at: **St. Augustine National Cemetery**

### Dive Deeper!

6. What city did Lancaster's regiment capture in March of 1863?  
**Jacksonville, FL**
7. Abram is referred to by two other first names. Can you find them?  
**Abraham** and **William**

### Reflection

8. Lancaster was an African American fighting with the Union.  
**Abram's pay was not equal to white soldiers' until 1864.**  
Would you have continued to fight if you were still not treated fairly?



# William H. Walden (Waldon)

## Spanish-American War Veteran

Use the VLP Biography website to search for William's biography and answer the questions about his life.

### About Jane

1. Born (when and where): **around 1866; Vigo County, Indiana**
2. Died: **July 17, 1898**
3. Branch: **Army**
4. Rank(s): **Blacksmith**
5. Interred at: **St. Augustine National Cemetery**

### Dive Deeper!

6. Before the Spanish-American War, William served with the Tenth US Cavalry as part of the **Buffalo** Soldiers.
7. Why was Walden's rank as blacksmith important during the war against Spain?  
**He was able to make new shoes for the cavalry horses.**

### Reflection

8. Theodore Roosevelt's white unit, the **Rough Riders**, received a lot of the credit that the Buffalo Soldiers deserved. How do you think Walden felt about this? Have you ever had credit for something you did given to someone else?

# Carl Oscar Anderson

## WWI Veteran

Use the VLP Biography website to search for Carl's biography and answer the questions about his life.

### About Abram

1. Born (when and where): **March 3, 1893; Orange County, FL**
2. Died: **October 3, 1918**
3. Branch: **Army**
4. Rank(s): **Private**
5. Interred at: **The Meuse - Argonne American Cemetery (France)**

### Dive Deeper!

6. What does "Nous resterons là" mean and why is it significant to Anderson's Division?  
**"We will remain here." His division held a key position when being attacked by Germans.**
7. Carl is one of how many Central Floridians that died in World War I? **23**

### Reflection

8. Anderson was born in Florida, but his parents were **Swedish** immigrants. Do you know anyone who immigrated to the United States?

# Jane Margaret Gadde

## WWII

Use the VLP Biography website to search for Jane's biography and answer the questions about her life.

### About William

1. Born (when and where): **August 17, 1888; Ludington, MI**
2. Died: **September 2, 1963**
3. Branch: **Army Nurse Corps**
4. Rank(s): **Nurse**
5. Interred at: **Bay Pines National Cemetery**

### Dive Deeper!

6. In which other war did Gadde serve? **WWI**
7. Jane held many leadership roles for which volunteer Veterans organization in Florida?  
**The Jane A. Delano American Legion Post #122**

### Reflection

8. Gadde experienced a life of learning and serving others, beginning with her attendance at what professional school?  
**The Ferris Institute** Who is an inspirational woman in your life? Why do you look up to them?

# Women, Immigrants, and African American Veterans

Use the VLP Biography website to search for Veterans that we have not yet read about. Find one woman, one immigrant, and one African American Veteran that has a connection to Florida in some way. Add some notes about their story below. Be ready to share what you find!

**Woman Veteran:**

**Immigrant Veteran:**

**African American Veteran:**