St. Augustine National Cemetery Mini-Tour Teacher Notes

NB: Before you begin preparations for your tour or classroom lesson please note we have created a short orientation presentation. If you plan to go to the cemetery, you may want your students to do the [UCF VLP Mini Tour Cemetery Tour Intro](#). It provides helpful information for any tour. If you plan to do your lesson in your classroom, please use the [UCF VLP Mini Tour Classroom Intro](#). If you would like an editable PowerPoint version of this presentation, please reach out to Dr. Amelia Lyons at UCF ucf.vlp@ucf.edu.

People Memorialized in SANC

Florida State Standards

SS.2.A.1.1 Examine primary and secondary sources. SS.2.A.2.1 Recognize that Native Americans were the first inhabitants in North America.

Overview of the Tour

This tour will go over veterans who are memorialized in St. Augustine National Cemetery but are not necessarily all buried there.

Flagstaff

Begin Tour at Flagstaff. Welcome to the Saint Augustine National Cemetery! This historic site honors the service and sacrifice of our nation's military Veterans. The cemetery was in use as early as 1828, and is the final resting place for hundreds of brave men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces and Native Americans.

To begin our tour, please direct your attention to the flagstaff at the center of the cemetery. This flagstaff serves as a monument honoring the Veterans who have given so much in the name of our nation, and remains lit 24 hours a day, signifying the continuous respect for the veterans buried there.

A National Cemetery, like the one we stand in today, is designated for the burial of military personnel and their families. Saint Augustine National Cemetery is considered a closed cemetery, meaning there are no new burials. Only eligible individuals that have family already buried here may be buried here at this time. These cemeteries are created with the purpose of setting a specific space for those who have served, have an honorable resting place, and can be remembered for their sacrifice throughout history.

As we move through the cemetery it is important to maintain respectful behavior. This includes a low volume level, and does not touch the gravestones or monuments. Follow any posted guidelines. Thank you for being a part of the tour. As we proceed to our first stop of our honored veterans, we will briefly discuss some of the wars that our honored veterans have fought so bravely in.

Historical Context

Read aloud: "As we begin making our way to our first set of stops, we will talk briefly about the history of the Wars that our Memorialized Veterans fought in."

Wars and descriptions:

The Second Seminole War:
-   The Second Seminole War took place in the years 1835-1842. This was a conflict between the United States and the Seminole tribe in Florida, primarily over the attempts by the U.S government to relocate them to a territory West of the Mississippi River.

World War I:
-   Our Veterans also fought in World War I. World War I took place from 1914-1918, and started between the Allied Powers of Great Britain, France, Russia, Japan, Italy and the United States and the Central Powers, consisting of Germany, Austria, Hungary, Ottoman and Bulgaria. The tipping point that

started this war included the rise of Germany and decline of the Ottoman Empire, disturbing the balance of power globally, and the assassination of Franz Ferdinand, the Archduke of Austria-Hungary.

World War II:
- World War II took place from 1939-1945. This war involved over 30 countries and 100 million people. It was the deadliest war in history, eventually won by our Allied powers (US Great Britain and the Soviet Union against the Axis powers (Nazi Germany, Italy and Japan).

The Korean War:
- The Korean War took place from 1950-1953. It was the first major conflict of the Cold War, beginning when North Korea invaded South Korea. The war ended in a stalemate, a situation where neither side can win, after three years of fighting. The border of the two countries still strictly remains till this day in Korea between North and South.

The Vietnam War:
- The final war our memorialized Veterans fought in was the Vietnam War. This took place from 1955-1975. Although the United States did not officially get involved until 1965, the war stemmed from a long conflict in Southeast Asia that eventually involved the allies of both North Vietnam and South Vietnam against one another. This war started due to influences of the Cold War and decolonization, and lasted for 20 years as a costly "conflict" for the United States.

Additional Notes

A **cenotaph** is a type of monument to those who served during a war and are buried elsewhere.

Many of the headstones on this tour are cenotaphs as well as the obelisk near the Dade Pyramids which memorialized all those who died during the Second Seminole War.
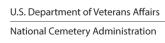
Stop One: Leadley Henry Ogden (MA 1F)

The students will have access to the basic facts about each veteran. The notes included in this version of the tour are meant to be supplemental and read alongside what is included in

the powerpoints.

Read Aloud:

Welcome to our first stop of our tour. Here we see the headstone of Colonel Leadlay Henning Ogden.

Colonel Ogden served in several major conflicts, including WWII, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. His career is impressive, starting in WWII, serving in England, Germany, and France focussing on bomb disposal work! This work was dangerous and critical for ending each conflict.

It was in Germany that he met his wife, Sonny. During the Korean War he was recalled to service to continue his work, but took on leadership within the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Division at Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland.

He continued to serve through the Vietnam War. He served as General of the United States Army Missile Command at Redstone Arsenal in Alabama, overseeing development of missile systems. Afterwards, he served in the Inspector General's Office at the Army Ordnance Missile Command and was part of the Nuclear Weapons Surety Group ensuring the safety of the nations Nuclear Arsenal.

Ogden passed away at the age of 77. He is survived by his wife, children and grandchildren. HIs dedication and contributions to the U.S. military are commemorated here at the Saint Augustine National Cemetery.

Stop Two: Michael George Longardt (MA 10)

Read Aloud:

Longardt was a Retired Commander Pilot in the US Navy. He was born on April 5, 1946 in Berlin, Germany. He immigrated to the United States in 1953 with his parents George and Gertrude. He went on to become a US citizen in 1959. Eventually, he graduated from Franklin High school in Pennsylvania. From there he went on to join the Naval Academy, in Annapolis, Maryland, where he graduated in 1968. Afterwards, he married his wife, Nancy.

While working in the navy, Longhardt made over 400 traps as a pilot. He also became sick with Hodgkins, a type of cancer which affects the lymphatic system, but did not allow that to take away his love of flying. After a 5 year battle with the disease, he

went into remission and was able to return to flying for another decade.

However, the cancer returned and he died December 25, 1985. In 1990, the Commander Strike Force Wing Atlantic, one of the navy's fighter jet training facilities, Mike Longardt Leadership Award was established, by his peers. It is a yearly award that is given to the man who possesses qualities of loyalty, courage and determination, like Longardt. His widow shared with VLP, she once gifted a Rolex to Longardt. After his death she added it to the award. Every year, the watch is passed on to that year's recipient.

Stop Three: Phillip Lester Brinson (MA 3)

Read Aloud:

Phillip Lester Brinson was born in Mayport, Florida on November 16th,1917. He completed 2 years of highschool and enlisted on March 4 1941.
He was classified as a tail gunner for the 476th Squadron. He was deployed on many missions while overseas fighting in WWII. On September 10, 1943, Brinson was aboard a B-26 Bomber on a mission to Boulogne, France. His aircraft was hit by flak. Flak is derived from the German word for "air defense cannon." The explosive shrapnel created by these artillery guns created a dangerous field to navigate for pilots. The aircraft had severe damage and flipped over, crashing into the English Channel.

Phillip was awarded the Air Medal, with Oak Leaf Cluster for his service. This medal was presented to his sister to accept the award. This medal is a military decoration awarded to personnel in any branch of the military for single acts of heroism while in flight.

While his remains were unaccounted for, he is memorialized here, at the Saint Augustine National Cemetery to be honored alongside other brave individuals who sacrificed so much for their county.

Stop Four: John Carmen Buckhalt (MA 5)

Read Aloud:

John Buckhalt, known as "Carmen," was born March 23 1923. When Carmen turned 18, he

quickly enlisted in the Marines, eager to join the service and contribute to defending the nation in WWII.

On January 15 1942, sixty four young men, including Buckhalt were sworn into the Marine Corps as the "McCarthy Platoon". Buckhalt was well liked within the platoon and often brightened spirits with his tap dancing and imitations. Buckhalt was loved by his platoon, and his death August 19, 1942 was a devastating loss. He was killed in action near Papanggu Village, Guadalcanal on August 19 1942 due to fatal injuries to his arm and head.

He, along with fellow fallen soldiers were buried where the battle took place, his friends and platoon mates said their goodbyes on the field. A search and recovery team was sent to find their remains, however they were never recovered. Though his remains may be forever unrecoverable, his memory and sacrifices made for his country will be forever memorialized here, at Saint Augustine National Cemetery.

Stop Five: William Arthur Thomas Jr. (MA 6)

Read Aloud:

Thomas was born in Florida on January 23, 1940, to William Sr. and Peachie. He had a younger brother Charles.

Thomas was a Captain in the United States Air Force, during the Vietnam War in 1962-1972. Military records have him listed as married. During his time in the military he was part of the Headquarters Squadron, the 18th Tactical Fighter Wing, 13th Air Force. He worked as a pilot on a tactile aircraft.

He died on April 21, 1972, when his aircraft crashed at sea. His body was eventually recovered. Thomas is listed on the Vietnam Memorial in Washington DC on Panel/Line 4W/131.

Stop Six: Francis Alan Ford (MA 9)

Read Aloud:

Francis Ford was born on January 28, 1898 to Francis and Josephine Ford in Maine. As a young boy, Ford already hit hero status when he rescued two people on two different occasions from drowning. He graduated high school in 1916 before working as a Gunnery officer in WWI. After the war, he entered the Naval Academy in

Annapolis, Maryland, where he graduated in 1921. Later, he went on to study at the University of Grenoble in France.

In 1933, he reported for duty as a French Instructor at the Naval Academy. He married his wife Marian in 1934. He had a son Randolph, who died in Vietnam in 1968, after spending time as a prisoner of war (POW), when his plane went down. He is also buried in St. Augustine National Cemetery Section E 31-A.

In addition to his son, Ford also had two daughters. Gwendolyn and Charlotte. He also had 8 grandchildren. After retirement from the military in 1941, Ford became a teacher. He eventually became a Dean of Faculty at Northwestern Military and Naval Academy in Wisconsin. He went on to write a Book titled "Know your Navy". He died on January 27, 1980 in Florida.

Additional Context

Vocabulary Check:

Prisoner of War (POW): A prisoner of war is as the name suggests, a soldier or third party imprisoned during or after combat by an enemy force. Despite there being international laws in place to ensure that POWs are not treated badly, many are put in very dangerous and hard situations to bear.

Stop Seven: John Wiliam Larner Location (B 694)

Read Aloud:

John William Larner, Jr. was born in Bronx, New York, on September 8, 1927, the youngest of four children born to John William Larner, Sr., a WWI Navy veteran, and Emilie Susan Brambach. John was a teenager when World War II began and left high school at 16 to work. He was an aircraft assembler when he was drafted, entering the Army at the age of 18. Many members of his extended family were working for Pratt & Whitney building airplanes for the war effort and his father was a test pilot.

John was a military policeman (PFC) and served in Company C, 793rd Military Police Battalion, 3rd Army, with the Occupation Forces after World War II. He traveled to Germany aboard the *S.S. Marine Perch*, and arrived at Bremerhaven on 29 May 1946

before he rode in railroad boxcars south to Nuremberg.

He was stationed at the War Crimes Prison and the Palace of Justice in Nuremberg during the last six months of the trials. John returned stateside in February 1947 on board one of the Victory ships as he recalled the words "Bethlehem Steel" stamped in the beam above his hammock and the rough seas of the winter voyage.

Additional Historical Context:

The Nuremberg Trials were a set of judicial proceedings which tried former high-ranking Nazi officers for their abetting of crimes against humanity.

Stop Eight: Dade Pyramids & Southern End of cemetery

Read Aloud:

On Dec 28, 1835 during the Second Seminole War, 108 Army soldiers led by Francis Dade, were dispatched from Fort Brooke in Tampa to relieve the detachment in Fort King in Ocala. They were surprised by a large group of Seminoles. All except for three soldiers and an interpreter were killed.

On Aug 15,1842, all were reinterred (moved from original burial spot to a new resting place), with others killed during the war, under these three stone pyramids, made from coquina. The ceremony marked the end of the conflict.

Additional Historical Context:

Additional historical context is given however how much of such to relay is up to teachers' discretion.

- ● What years did the Second Seminole take place?
  - ■ 1835-1842
- ○ What was the cause?
  - ■ A series of treaties with undesirable results for the Seminole, that aimed to remove or relocate them all from Florida, led to the

Dade Battle in 1835, where over 100 American soldiers were killed. Battles continued, and multiple American generals were sent to Florida to rid it of Seminole. After multiple attempted treaties, deception, and years of violence, the war finally ended in 1842. The remaining Seminole were permitted to live in Southwest Florida.

What is the Dade Monument Obelisk?

- On December 28, 1835 a 'column' (formation of soldiers) of 108 officers and men were headed from Fort Brooke on the Tampa Bay to Fort King in present-day Ocala. Their commander was Brevet Major Francis Langhorne Dade. On the way, they were attacked by 180 Seminole warriors in a pine forest in current day Bushnell. All but three soldiers were killed and only six Seminole warriors fell during the battle. In 1835 it was named 'Dade's Massacre,' and now is known as Dade's Battle. This event marked the start of the Second Seminole War.
- The Dade Monument Obelisk was erected in 1844 after the close of the Second Seminole War. It is in memory of Major Dade and his men who died during Dade's Battle, as well as others that perished during the period of conflict with the Natives of Florida. This monument has special meaning because its construction was funded with the pay of soldiers and officers of the barracks. Many men donated a day's pay towards the construction.

What is the obelisk's message?

- While there was no official "end" to the war in the typical sense of a treaty or defeat, the monuments represented to the U.S. that the conflict was over and offered a sense of resolution. The Seminole did not see the end of the war as a defeat and did not surrender to the U.S. You can take some time to read (or have students read) the sides of the obelisk. The four sides of the obelisk share messages to memorialize those lost in the wars. It references a list of officers buried here or elsewhere, which has only just recently been rediscovered and used to further identify and honor these men.
- The author of a published version, Colonel John Titcomb Sprague, is also buried in SANC. As you complete a circle around the obelisk, stop between the pyramids and the obelisk to view the pyramids.

What are the Dade Pyramids?

- In 1842, at the end of the Second Seminole War, Dade and his men were reburied (reinterred) here. At the time, the site was still called the St. Francis Barracks, which was eventually designated as the St. Augustine National Cemetery in 1881. The three pyramids we see here were built above their burial sites as a memorial - which is believed to be the oldest memorial in any national cemetery.
- The pyramids were constructed of coquina and were originally stuccoed white as seen in the photograph from 1873. Over time, the white stucco has worn off, and today the pyramids appear in their original exposed coquina.

What is coquina? Why is it important to St. Augustine?

- The coquina found in St. Augustine was created from the remains of dead clams native to the area who lived thousands of years ago. These remains settled to the bottom of their habitat where they mixed with sediment and other natural materials. Similar to limestone, it is very porous.
- The importance of coquina to St. Augustine history cannot be understated. The material was used in many of the older structures found in the city. The Castillo de San Marcos (or as it is referred to later in this tour as Fort Marion) is the largest coquina structure in the world, built over 300 years ago and still standing.
    - **What is stucco?**
        - Stucco is a mixture of cement, sand, and water. It is plaster, used on outdoor projects.

Who is buried here?

- The plaque under the pyramids states that 1,468 men are buried here, however, according to the recent research and discoveries of Dr. Amy Larner Giroux, Associate Director of the Center for Humanities and Digital Research at the University of Central Florida, there are actually closer to 140 men buried in this location. Different sources will share discrepancies of whether 2 or 3 men survived Dade's Battle.
- As research continues to properly identify the men buried under the pyramids, more information is being gathered about their identities. The UCF Veterans Legacy Program is working to identify and document the stories of these Veterans to preserve their legacy. Currently, there are seven published biographies through the UCF VLP specifically about Veterans interred under the Dade Pyramids. They can be accessed here: https://vlp.cah.ucf.edu/biographies.php

- John Craig (1805–1835)
- Edwin DeCourcy (1808–1835)
- Cornelius Donovan (1813–1835)
- Samuel Hall (1810–1835)
- John Keirns (1805–1835)
- Michael Kenny (1802–1835)
- Richard Bourke (1808–1835)

Stop Nine: Russell Bagby Palmes Jr. (D 94)

Read Aloud:

We have reached the final stop of our tour.

This stop honors the life of Russell Bagby Palmes Jr. Russell was born September 19, 1916 in Tyrone, New Mexico to his parents Russell Palmes Sr. and Golda Anne Palmes.

He enlisted in the United States Navy Reserve and served as a Chief Storekeeper in WWII. During the war, he served on the USS Frederick C. Davis, a destroyer escort involved in anti-submarine warfare and escort missions. The USS Frederick C. Davis was struck by a torpedo from the German submarine U-546, leading to the loss of 126 crew members, including Palmes.

He was awarded a Purple Heart and is honored in Battery Park in New York, as well as being memorialized here in Saint Augustine National Cemetery. As you can see, his name is memorialized on the back of a headstone, his brother's, Jere F Palmes, who also sacrificed his life for his country in WWII.

Russell Palmes' mother, Golda, was recognized as a double Gold Star Mother and was honored as the President of Gold Star Mothers to flip the illumination switch at the flag ceremony in Saint Augustine Florida. A Gold Star Mother is a mother who has lost a son or daughter in military service. This flag illumination took place in 1975, to honor deceased war veterans. Starting Aug 26th of that year, the flag was illuminated constantly. Only 10 cemeteries across the country were selected for this honor, and Mrs. Palmes was able to illuminate this flag to honor her sons.

ACTIVITY:

➔ Return to Flagstaff.

Our wrap up section is an interactive area where students can get involved and be directly connected to their veteran. Students are given a penny to place on any Veteran's headstone to symbolize they visited their grave. Students should say the Veteran's name and place the penny on top of their headstone. Students can then come back together and share one fact about their chosen Veteran and why they chose this particular person.

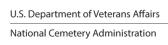*For more information, refer back to the [UCF VLP Mini Tour Cemetery Tour Intro](#).*

Bibliography for Teacher/ Student Use and Further Reading

Additional sources and resources for World War I from the UCF VLP:https://vlp.cah.ucf.edu/instructionalmaterials/UCF-VLP-WWIBibliography.pdf

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