



NEWS

- HOME
 - NEWS**
 - SPORTS
 - ENTERTAINMENT
 - COMMUNITY
 - PHOTOS
 - VIDEO
 - MOBILE
 - CLASSIFIEDS
 - AUTOS
 - REAL ESTATE
 - JOBS
 - SHOPPING
-
- METRO**
 - BUSINESS
 - FLORIDA
 - GEORGIA
 - NATION
 - WORLD
 - MULTIMEDIA
 - OPINION
 - COLUMNISTS
 - LEGISLATURE
 - OBITUARIES
 - WEATHER
 - ELECTIONS
-
- DATABANK
 - CRIME & PUBLIC SAFETY
 - FIRST COAST FUGITIVES

Home > News > Metro > Story

Share This E-mail Story Print Story Post Comment Most Popular

METRO

Last modified 3/19/2008 - 5:35 am
Originally created 031908

Veterans get help with their benefits from Project Salute

[Click-2-Listen](#)

The program assists them in dealing with federal benefits issues

By Jessie-Lynne Kerr, The Times-Union

Charlie Sledge gave 33 of his 72 years to the Army, two of them on active duty in Korea and 31 in the reserves. During his service to the country, he suffered a severe injury to a knee that still gives him trouble.

But the retired Jacksonville Sheriff's Office corrections officer has been unable to get veterans disability benefits because his records were lost in the disastrous 1973 fire at the St. Louis warehouse where the government stored military records.

"I have gone from pillar to post with no results," Sledge said Tuesday, grasping two 3-inch-thick accordion files bulging with papers detailing his efforts.

He was among more than 200 veterans who jammed the hallways at the Mary Singleton Senior Center in downtown Jacksonville seeking assistance from Project Salute.

A project of the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law, the program is on a national tour to provide free assistance to veterans enmeshed in federal benefit issues.

Staffed by two faculty lawyers and three law school students, the project will continue from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. today to see more veterans at the Singleton Center.

Another veteran seeking assistance Tuesday was retired Jacksonville ophthalmologist Tom Edwards. He was an ROTC student in college and in medical school and began four years of active Army duty in June 1950, followed by 31 years in the reserves.

Edwards served as a medical adviser to the South Korean army for 10 months during the Korean War.

But it was while serving as an officer on the tuberculosis ward at Brooke Army Hospital in San Antonio that Edwards lost vision in his right eye.

He was treated with early forms of corticosteroids, which restored some of his vision, but doctors later learned the substance also causes bone and cartilage to degenerate.

Today, Edwards, 79, must use a walker to get around since portions of both of his legs

are paralyzed and he has degenerated cartilage in his spine.

Edwards said his beef with Veterans Affairs is that it deducted his 30 percent disability benefit from his longevity pay because of changes in



JOHN PEMBERTON/The Times-Union
Vietnam veteran Seymour Groover goes through paperwork Tuesday while waiting to see a counselor from Project Salute at the Mary Singleton Senior Center. A project of University of Detroit Mercy School of Law, the program helps veterans enmeshed in federal benefits issues.

Click Thumbnails to View



St. Luke's Hospital
and
St. Vincent's HealthCare

ST. VINCENT'S
HEALTHCARE

sponsored links

[Car Insurance Quotes Online](#)
Compare auto insurance quotes from top companies online.
www.insurance.com

[Refinance and Save \\$1,000S](#)
\$150,000 Mortgage for \$483/month. Compare up to 4 free quotes.
www.pickamortgage.com

[Refinance \\$300,000 for Only \\$965/Month](#)
\$300,000 Mortgage for only \$965/month. Save \$1,000's - No obligation.
www.HomeLoanHelpLine.com

Ads by Yahoo!

Top Jobs
RECEPTIONIST - needed for answering phones, light typing & fill...
[\[View all Top Jobs \]](#)

Top Homes
Real Estate Auction 7023 DEAUVILLE RD, JACKSONVILLE, FL 3BR ...
[\[View all Top Homes \]](#)

Top Autos
Ford Expedition, Eddie Bauer '97, 4x4, 5.4 liter V8, AM / FM / C...
[\[View all Top Autos \]](#)

Top Stuff
POWER WHEEL CHAIR PERMOBIL C500- 1 yr old front whl dr w/ stand...
[\[View all Top Stuff \]](#)

The BEST Companies in Town...

The BEST Deals in Town...

All on ONE Website

the law.

"It is all very confusing," he said, "and I am hoping to get things straightened out."

The project group on the tour is headed by Joon Sung, a law clinical professor at the university's Veterans Legal Clinic.

"We hope to see as many veterans as we can to find out what problems they are having in getting benefits," Sung said.

He said Tuesday's turnout, plus at least that many expected today, "demonstrates the need for our services."

And, Sung added, "the VA is listening. The day after a newspaper reported the plight of a veteran in Houston who came to see us, the VA cut him a check for \$96,000."

According to the project's spokesman, Dick Jefferson, there are about 1.75 million military veterans in Florida, with more than 157,000 of them living in Jacksonville. Nationwide, he said, more than 500,000 veterans who are eligible for benefits are not receiving any.

jessie-lynn.kerr@jacksonville.com

com, (904) 359-4374



REAL Cities
Click here to visit other Real Cities sites

Did You Know?

Using a Buyers Agent could save you **5%** on a home purchase in Florida.

Find It Now

More help today

10 a.m. to 4 p.m., veterans benefits assistance, Mary Singleton Senior Center, 150 E. First St.,

Jacksonville Lawyer training

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, veterans benefits seminar for lawyers, Jacksonville Area Legal Aid, West Adams Street, Jacksonville

MORE STORIES

Metro Headlines

- » [Each of them knows pressure of blazing trails](#)
 - » [Sleep, read, watch TV while you get dialysis](#)
 - » [Jury finds errors in Baptist care](#)
 - » [West Nassau High School teen dies in Georgia auto wreck](#)
 - » [College scholarships await low-income Duval seniors](#)
- [[More Metro Headlines](#)]

Florida Headlines

- » [5 injured in crane accident at Miami skyscraper construction site](#)
 - » [The day in Tallahassee, Tuesday, March 25, 2008](#)
 - » [5 injured in crane accident in Miami](#)
 - » [4 charged in \\$34 million mortgage fraud scheme in Fla.](#)
 - » [House's proposed education budget cuts less than feared](#)
- [[More Florida Headlines](#)]

Most Popular Stories

- » [Deadly shooting on the Westside](#)
 - » [Mother killed in SUV wreck; daughter taken to hospital](#)
 - » [Fernandina Beach woman arrested with suitcase full of weed](#)
 - » [Update: Police officer shoots person in Arlington](#)
 - » [West Nassau High School teen dies in Georgia auto wreck](#)
- [[More Most Viewed Stories](#)]



TABLE OF CONTENTS				
<p>Jacksonville.com</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advertisement Policy • Copyright • How to use this site • Jacksonville.com History • Online Feedback Form • Online Staff Directory • Community Photographer Directory • Privacy Policy • User Agreement <p>Florida Times-Union</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact Us • Copyright • Employment Opportunities • Florida Times-Union History • Mission Statement • Speakers Bureau • Today's Front Page <p>Guest Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advertising/Media Kit • Subscriptions/Circulation • Contact Us • Employment • Forms • Help • History • Legal • Resources 	<p>News</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archives • Columnists • Databank • Elections • First Coast Fugitives • Georgia • Jax2Go - Mobile • Legislature • Metro • Multimedia • Nation • Opinion • Obituaries • Podcasts • RSS Feeds • Slideshows • Traffic • Video • Weather • World <p>Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business Licenses • Business News • Career Track • In The Pipeline • Indexes • Unclaimed Property • Stocks 	<p>Entertainment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerts • Dining • Events Calendar • Games • Horoscopes • Lifestyles • Lottery • Movies • Personals • Travel Directory • Visitor's TV • What's on TV <p>Sports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseball • Basketball • College Sports • Fantasy Sports • Football • Golf • Jacksonville Jaguars • Jacksonville Suns • Odds • Outdoors • Racing <p>Community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MyArlingtonSun • MyClaySun • Community Calendar • Community Express 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MyMandarinSun • MyNassauSun • MyNorthsideSun • MyStJohnsSun • Shorelines.com • MySouthsideSun • MyWestsideSun • Pets <p>Classifieds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Autos • Jobs • Real Estate • Legal Notices • Business Finder • Autos Directory • Health & Medicine Directory <p>Shopping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circulars • Company Store • Newspaper Ads • Photos <p>Special Interests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blogs • Columnists • First Coast Pets • Letters to the Editor • Message Boards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hope Fund • Opinion • Personals • Photos • Straight Talk • T-You <p>Publications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Car Paper • Career Paper • CBWW Buyer's Guide • Discover Jacksonville • Eco Latino • H for Health • Jax Air News • Kings Bay Periscope • Mayport Mirror • Newspapers • Newspapers In Education • Prime Time • Print Publications • Skirt! Magazine • Special Sections • Water's Edge <p>Our Partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Coast News • St. Augustine Record • National Diversity Newspaper Job Bank • WJCT

© [Copyright](#) The Florida Times-Union. All rights reserved. [Privacy Policy](#). [Local Business Listings](#)