

**Brevard County Government Center
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Melbourne, Florida 32940**

Brevard County Board of County Commissioners

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**Honoring Brevard County
Florida Hall of Fame Members**

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

On December 6, 2022, the County Council of Volusia County held a special tribute for the six veteran residents of Volusia County that have been inducted into the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame. During that tribute a framed Proclamation was given to each of the veterans and a large physical space adjacent to the building main entrance rotunda was dedicated to them. Mounted high on the wall is the inscription "The Florida Veterans Hall of Fame, Volusia County Members" and below the inscription is a color photograph of each of the six veterans.

Brevard County is very unique in as much as it is the home of four members of the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame and they are, in no special order:

- 1. Major General John R. D. Cleland, US Army, Class of 2013;**
- 2. Chief Master Sergeant Eugene Cecil Johnson. US Air Force, Class of 2014;**
- 3. Sergeant First Class Juan Santiago, US Army, Class of 2019;**
- 4. Lieutenant Colonel Harry "Skip" Taylor, US Army, Class of 2022.**

Major General Cleland is the same Florida Hall of Fame member that had the Pineda Causeway Memorial Bridge dedicated in his name on September 26, 2020.

So why am I here today with information about the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame and identifying the four Brevard County veteran residents that have been inducted into this select group? When Volusia County held its tribute for the six of us I was extremely moved, honored and humbled by the recognition that the County Council had given us by acknowledging our induction into the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame, our military service, and our life time civic contribution to Florida. Now, I *respectfully* request this Honorable Brevard County Council to *consider* having its own special tribute for the Brevard County's members of the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame. Allow them, these, my brothers in arms, to experience the same Honor and Recognition that was afforded us in Volusia County.

Thank you Brevard County Commissioners for allowing me to present this *idea* of a formal recognition *from* Brevard County, to *your* resident veteran's, that have been inducted into the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame.

I wish this Commission continued success in all future endeavors.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Hahnel

Florida Veterans Hall of Fame Member, Class of 2020

If there are NO questions I then *yield* the balance of my time back to the Brevard County Commissioners.

Reference:

**Mr. Jeff Obos, Florida Department of Veterans Affairs, Public Information Administrator,
(850) 487-1533**

**Ms. Pat Kuehn, Volusia County Community Information Specialist/Spokeswoman,
(386) 748-3989**





WHEREAS, Frank Hahnel is a true American patriot who served honorably as a U.S. Marine with the 1st Tank Battalion during the Vietnam War, and

WHEREAS, this valiant and compassionate man witnessed the horrors of war and vowed to help fellow veterans deal with post-traumatic stress disorder, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hahnel retired to DeBary after a long career as an electrical engineer and continues to reach out to veterans in need, and

WHEREAS, he provided assistance in nominating former U.S. Air Force Pilot Richard Brian Hopper and U.S. Marine Corporal Mario R. Jenkins for the Medal of Honor, even offering to give up his Arlington National Cemetery entitlement to Corporal Jenkins, and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida established the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame in 2013 to recognize and honor those military veterans who, through their works and lives during or after military service, have made a significant contribution to the State of Florida, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hahnel is one of only 137 veterans inducted into the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame, **NOW THEREFORE**,

WE, THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF VOLUSIA COUNTY, FLORIDA, do hereby proclaim December 6, 2022, as

"FRANK HAHNEL DAY"

in Volusia County and urge all residents to honor this outstanding man for serving his country, community and local veterans.

Dated this 6th day of December, A.D. 2022

COUNTY COUNCIL
VOLUSIA COUNTY, FLORIDA


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