

# FLAGLER BOCC HEADLINES



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## VETERANS DAY CEREMONY TO FEATURE DAV CHAPTER 86 COMMANDER BILL MAY

The Flagler County Board of County Commissioners, the City of Bunnell, and the City of Palm Coast invite residents to gather for a blended Veterans' Day Ceremony at 10 a.m. Saturday, November 11, at the historic Coquina City Hall in Bunnell. For the first time in decades the day's events will begin with a parade to honor the men and women who bravely served in the country's military.

The parade will travel east on Moody Boulevard and conclude at the Government Services Building where the traditional ceremony will begin. U.S. Representative Michael Waltz will be the grand marshal of the parade and will share a few words at the ceremony.

Also at the ceremony that follows, the "Flagler County Colonel Gary E. DeKay Veteran of the Year" award recipient will be announced.

"This will be a truly wonderful day because of the partnerships with our cities, county veterans, and our residents," said Veterans Services Officer David Lydon. "On behalf of the Flagler County Veterans Advisory Council, we would like to announce our special guest speaker will be retired United States Army Lt. Colonel Bill May, a Vietnam War veteran and the current Commander of our local DAV (Disabled American Veterans) Chapter 86."

May is a decorated Vietnam War veteran helicopter pilot, who received the Legion of Merit and Bronze Star among other awards. He is originally from Clarksburg, West Virginia, and served in the Army from 1967 to 1988.



## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ACCREDITED BY EMAP - EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

Flagler County Emergency Management has earned its accreditation through the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP). Accreditation is valid for five years.

"I am beyond proud of not just the Emergency Management team, but the entire Emergency Management program – which includes all county departments, municipalities, partners, and our entire community," said Emergency Management Director Jonathan Lord.

To achieve accreditation, applicants must demonstrate through self-assessment, documentation, and peer-assessment verification that its program meets the Emergency Management Standard that is certified by the American National Standard Institute (ANSI) and complies with EMAP's mission to build safer communities through credible standards of excellence.

"We used the accreditation process to objectively validate the capabilities of our disaster preparedness and response systems," Lord said. "Our Emergency Management Program has demonstrated its accountability and focus on the areas and issues needed to heighten our preparedness efforts toward any manmade or natural disaster that may affect our Flagler County community."

The accreditation process evaluates emergency management programs on compliance with requirements in sixteen areas including: planning; resource management; training; exercises, evaluations, and corrective actions; communications and warning; and administration.

"Congratulations to those programs that have joined the elite leaders in emergency management having earned accreditation through the Emergency Management Accreditation Program," said EMAP Commission Chair Angee Morgan. "Through their commitment and leadership, they have proven to their communities that their programs are sustainable and that they continue to focus on their communities' best interests."

## 'TUNE IN' TO MEETINGS

NOVEMBER 6: BOCC REGULAR MEETING AT 9 a.m.  
NOVEMBER 14: PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT AT 6 p.m.  
NOVEMBER 20: BOCC REGULAR MEETING AT 5 p.m.  
DECEMBER 4: BOCC REGULAR MEETING AT 9 a.m.

### LIVE STREAM

[www.youtube.com/flaglercounty/live](http://www.youtube.com/flaglercounty/live)

## COUNTY CONTINUES COLLABORATIVE APPROACH PRESENTING ITS 2024 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Flagler County for the second year is continuing its collaborative approach with the five municipalities in presenting its 2024 legislative priorities to the state delegation – Senator Travis Hutson and House Speaker Paul Renner – to ensure a unified approach that represents all county residents. Flagler created a single 48-page document that provides countywide appropriations and funding requests, as well as policy priorities.

Renner and Hutson use the backup data provided for each request to advocate for critical infrastructure needs, as well as for the health, safety, and well-being of the community throughout the legislative session.

“Historically, Flagler County has enjoyed a good working relationship with our Legislative Delegation,” said Chief of Special Projects and Library Director Holly Albanese, who is also the legislative liaison. “They have provided us with continual support for the needs and interests of our residents and businesses and we are extremely appreciative.”

Flagler County focuses on issues that will have the highest impact for citizens while fostering collaborative relationships with local municipalities as well as private partners in lobbying for legislative support. A chief concern for Flagler County is maintaining home rule by which, constitutionally, local government can exercise powers to protect the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens.

“The ability to maintain home rule and avoid unfunded mandates are central to Flagler County’s federal and state legislative priorities and advocacy needs,” said County Administrator Heidi Petito. “Collaboration on legislative priorities to address the community needs, with a strong focus on home rule, is essential for effective governance. Each year Flagler County works alongside Florida Association of Counties (FAC) and the Small County Coalition of Florida during the Legislative Session to help support all legislative policy statements.”

While the Board of County Commissioners sets the priorities for Flagler County, Albanese tracks the progress of them during the legislative session and works with lobbyists to ensure the county’s voice is heard. The 2024 regular session convenes on January 9, and the final day of the session – day 60 – is March 8. The last day for regularly scheduled committee meetings is February 27.

## 'DO DATE' EVENTS

11/4/23

### **The White Table Ceremony Held in recognition of Veterans' Day**

Performed by PIO/MIA Honor Guard detachment  
of 157 Air Force ROTC of Embry-Riddle

**11 a.m. at the Library, 2500 Palm Coast Pkwy NW**

## BREAKERS

[Flagler County Fire Rescue Chief Michael Tucker completes international designation process for Chief Fire Officer](#)



Flagler County Fire Rescue Chief Michael Tucker has been redesignated as a “Chief Fire Officer” through the Commission on Professional Credentialing, an entity of the Center for Public Safety Excellence.

“Chief Tucker was originally designated as a Chief Fire Officer in 2010 and this is his fifth time earning this important professional designation,” said CPC Program Manager Mike Higgins. “Chief Tucker continues to be recognized as one of only 1,858 Chief Fire Officers worldwide.”

The Designation program is a voluntary program designed to recognize individuals who demonstrate their excellence in seven measured components including: experience, education, professional development, professional contributions, association membership, community involvement, and technical competence. In addition, all applicants are required to identify a future professional development plan.

“The Commission on Professional Credentialing awards the designation only after an individual successfully meets all the organization’s stringent criteria,” Higgins said. “Achieving this designation signifies Chief Tucker’s continuous career commitment to fire and emergency services.”

The designation is valid for three years.

“I am very honored to be redesignated a Chief Fire Officer,” Tucker said.