



Why Senior Leadership is Needed

Try as we might, there is always more we can do to promote the wide array of elder care services available in Brevard County. Five years ago, Helping Seniors was founded to inform, educate, and connect seniors and those who care for them to the many helpful resources in our community. Having so many programs to serve those in need is wonderful, but it is equally important to tell everyone about the unmet needs that still exist in our county.

Many of us mistakenly believe that all have access to health care and can afford the cost of daily living. I wish that were true. Or we assume that if there are needs, programs like Meals on Wheels can fix them. However, the Kaiser Foundation and Meals on Wheels indicate that funds are shrinking and costs are rising. Two weeks ago the Florida Medicaid Managed Care program had a waiting list of 50,000; now it is 62,000. What is significant is that the number of people needing services is increasing, while the funds to provide help are decreasing.

We all want lower taxes, but few will admit that the provision of necessary services may require more taxes. In a recent article in Florida Today, John Byron proposed a tax increase to help pay for road improvements. This recommendation was made in part to avoid a reduction in Community Based Organization (CBO) funds, which are given annually to assist non profits in providing services. What the article did not reveal is how current CBO funding for such services is already inadequate – \$500,000 out of a budget

of over \$1,000,000,000.

What is rarely discussed is the amount of funds in the county's one billion dollar budget that are already designated for spending and can be used for no other purpose. Of the one billion, only about \$220,000 is available to meet general needs. County salaries, some parts of healthcare, and roads are in that \$220,000. I attended the recent town hall meeting sponsored by Commissioners Tobia and Isnardi. It was a well run meeting. Questions were answered, and both Commissioners stated the need to prioritize spending in the budget.

I fully support the need to prioritize, but based on the mandatory spending requirements, the available money may fall short of the needs of our citizens, especially the elderly, disabled, and those who need some type of assistance such as Meals on Wheels. In developing a budget, I believe that any prioritization must be based on established needs. When one considers that 50% of Brevard County is classified as senior according to AARP, then it follows that seniors should be involved in prioritizing spending. For that to happen, we need better senior leadership to accurately determine senior needs.

Joe Steckler is the President of Helping Seniors of Brevard, a non profit organization designed to advocate, educate, and fundraise on behalf of Brevard's senior citizens. Feel free to contact us at info@helpingseniorsofbrevard.org or calling 321-473-7770. **SS**

Vietnam and All Veterans of Brevard Presents:
Florida's 30th Annual
Vietnam and All Veterans Reunion
 The Nation's Largest Veterans Reunion
 Supported by the Vietnam and All Veterans of Florida, Inc. - VVOF.org
May 4th – May 7th

Additionally, come visit The Vietnam Traveling Memorial WALL April 30- May 7

LIVE MUSIC
FOOD & DRINKS
MILITARY VENDORS
MILITARY DISPLAYS
POW / MIA CEREMONIES
THE LAST PATROL
THE MOVING TRIBUTE



Wall Escort April 30, 2017 Leave at 10am
Eastern Florida State College Cocoa Campus
Also visit the Reunion Web Page at:
floridaveteransreunion.com

Wickham Park
 321-255-4307 - Melbourne, FL
 Take I-95 to Exit 191 or old Exit 73
 No Coolers, Glass or Pets allowed
 in the Reunion Area
 Per Wickham Park: Golf Carts Permitted
 For the Handicapped Only And Must
 Abide By FL Highway Laws

Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall
<http://travelingwall.us>
 Vietnam and All Veterans of Brevard, Inc
 PO Box 237225

Cocoa, FL 32923-7225

Call For Info
 321-408-2698
 321-652-4185
 Vendor call 321-652-4185
Vet.reunion.vendor@gmail.com
RaRusso1962@gmail.com
Candy1540@yahoo.com
Club Escort Lineup Info.
reunionescort@aol.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

14 Night New Zealand and Australia Cruise Celebrity Solstice - Nov 11th-25th, 2017 - Join Jean as she sails down under starting in Auckland sailing to the Bay of Islands, Tauranga, Wellington, Akora, Dunedin, Dusky-Doubtful-Milford Sounds, then onto Australia with an overnight in Melbourne and ending with overnight in Sydney. I will be going to New Zealand before the cruise and staying on in Australia at the end so be ready for an adventure! Limited space still available, Call today

11th Annual Key West Trip - Dec 3rd-6th, this trip will include roundtrip motorcoach, lunch on the way there and on return, dinner first night upon arrival at the hotel, 3nights accommodations at the Fairfield Inn and Suites that has the trolley stop at, breakfast daily, and a Behind the Scenes tour at the Mel Fisher Museum. There will also be an optional excursion offered for female impersonator show at La Te Da as this was a huge hit last year. Non-refundable deposit of \$100 per person is now being accepted. Minimum of 40 passengers needed for this trip. Will have flyer with cost and more details soon.

***Taking \$25pp deposits for Dr Phillips Center reservations for 2017-18 season for On Your Feet!** The story of Emilio and Gloria Estafan; Andrew Lloyd Webber's Love Never Dies, The Phantom Returns; Waitress; and Something Rotten , see our website for more information.

BOOK TODAY!

Visit our website or call today
(321) 631-8080
 1240 US1, Suite 6, Rockledge

www.allaboutyoutravelunlimited.com

