



**First Baptist Academy**  
OF JACKSONVILLE

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124 West Ashley Street, Jacksonville, FL 32202

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Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc.  
PO Box 440625  
Jacksonville, FL 32222

Dear Board Members:

This letter is to express my excitement and gratitude for your commitment to honoring our city's heroes – those who sacrificed much, some even their lives, to defend and protect us all. Recently, I've learned of the plans to enhance the existing POW/MIA Memorial Park located on the property of Cecil Field. As a citizen, and a child of a veteran who retired from Cecil Field after 28 years of faithful service, I am deeply grateful for the efforts going into this memorial. However, additionally, as an administrator of a school, I am excited about the educational opportunities this will provide to not only our students, but students throughout this Bold City and The Sunshine State.

Educators are consistently seeking to extend students' learning beyond the classroom, and this would provide an excellent opportunity to do so. Whether it's a civics lesson for our Middle School students or a lesson on state history for our Lower School students, this memorial will teach them about sacrifices made on their behalf by courageous men and women and their families. It could also prompt some to exercise that same courage and enlist in the armed services in the future.

In closing, I remember when I learned that Cecil Field was on the list of possible base closures, and I was extremely disappointed to see it finally close. First, the disappointment came from the pride of growing up in a military town where citizens honored these heroes and took seriously their own responsibilities as productive citizens. Second, the disappointment came from knowing that the heritage of Jacksonville would change without the strong presence of the military.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you for bringing this memorial back to life and for your commitment to preserve it so that citizens, both young and old, can visit to learn and/or remember those who sacrificed greatly for all Americans.

All for His glory,

  
Susan Johnson  
Head of School

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Therefore, take up the **FULL ARMOR OF GOD**, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on **THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the **GOSPEL OF PEACE**; in addition to all, taking up the **SHIELD OF FAITH** with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. And take the **HELMET OF SALVATION**, and the **SWORD OF THE SPIRIT**, which is the **WORD OF GOD**.