



Navy Wives Clubs of America

A National Organization for spouses of Enlisted Navy, Marine Corps & Coast Guard Personnel

April 20, 2017

To Whom It May Concern,

The members of Navy Wives Clubs of America, Daughters in Dixie #300 have reviewed and are in support of the proposal from Mike Cassata regarding the project for Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial, Inc. It is very worthwhile and its mission to care for the memorial, honor the men that were Prisoners of War and Missing In Action during the Vietnam and Desert Storm conflicts, and to distinguish the history of NAS Cecil Field as a base. Preserving the major support and combat roles that NAS Cecil Field provided throughout the years is an exciting idea that will be supported by many veterans and military veteran organizations as well as the community. Florida is home to over 1.5 million retired veterans and their families and it would be an easy drive from anywhere in the state to visit the Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial and Museum and the future events that will be held there.

Navy Wives Clubs of America, Inc is a National Organization and our aims and goals are Educational and Charitable. NWCA has been an important part of military bases throughout the United States and overseas since 1936. The first NAS Cecil Field wives club #121 was chartered on base from 1953-1963 when many military families were arriving for training to the Master Jet Base. After many years of being together the club disbanded, due to member's husbands receiving orders to new duty stations. Just a few years later another group of dedicated military wives rechartered the same club again aboard base from 1968-1981 and they continued to be an integral part of the base providing support to the military families and community throughout the Vietnam War.

Our current club, Daughters in Dixie #300 was formed from local NWCA members from NAS Jacksonville and NS Mayport that were transferring and retiring to the Westside. The club chartered on March 18, 1985 our organization was active again at NAS Cecil Field and remained vital to supporting the families during Operation Desert Storm and up until the base decommissioned. We held many chili dog, lumpia and bake sales as well as operating the base Thrift Shop. Those sales enabled us to contribute to many local and military charities throughout the years. Our club has remained active in the Jacksonville area attending veteran's events and donating to the community and military families in need.

The Cecil Field Chapel was the location for many of our club installations, weddings, funerals and retirements. To see it refurbished and used again would be delightful. Many of our current member's husbands were stationed at Cecil and we are dedicated to this project that is near and dear to our hearts! We are volunteering to assist with the fundraising for this Cecil Field POW/MIA Memorial project creating a cookbook, making quilts to sell and holding Spirit Nights at local restaurants and any other events we can support and participate in.

The purpose of this letter is to ask you to help support this great project. Should the idea of honoring our POW/MIAs and distinguish the history of Cecil Field touch your heart the way it did ours, please do whatever you can to further develop this needed project. Our club is proud to say we are formerly from NAS Cecil Field and we are helping to bring its history back to the Jacksonville area in an awesome way!

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Misty Sanders".

Misty Sanders, President DID#300

"They also serve, who stay and wait."