



Military Officers Association of America
Cape Canaveral Chapter

VETERANS BACK TO CLASS

A Program of Community Support
In The Classroom

Grades K–12

Making It Work For You

- ◆ The volunteers can cover one class, all classes in one day, rotate teachers, or combined groups in larger spaces
- ◆ All grade levels and many standards can be addressed by the volunteers
- ◆ Pocket Constitutions, small American flags and other materials can be provided thanks to the Joe Foss Institute
- ◆ With lead time, you will work via email directly with your volunteer to design the session with him or her to meet YOUR needs
- ◆ By booking early for the “Veterans Day - Freedom Week” time frame, you can support your state statutes and mandates in an innovative way
- ◆ Our volunteers can also speak on topics related to their extensive experience beyond the military that include teaching, NASA, the US Foreign Service, and many other S.T.E.M. careers
- ◆ All volunteers are registered with BPS as well as JFI
- ◆ Panels for large assemblies can be arranged
- ◆ Flexibility is what our volunteers offer as they relish the chance to meet with today’s young people and America’s future. You make the calls and help them bring added value to your class (and perhaps a bit of a break for you, we hope!)

CONTACT:

Donn Weaver, Program Coordinator
321-613-2403; 757-871-6576
jdweaver@cl.rr.com

Dylan Dalzotto, Joe Foss Institute in Arizona
480-348-0316



“Whether you’re looking for a fact-based presentation or for a way to personalize different components of American history, the Brevard Veterans Back to Class presenters are an excellent way to bring a new dimension to student learning. The speakers are engaging, intelligent, and willing to tailor their presentation to your specific needs. Two different speakers visited my English classes and the experience was an excellent one.”

-Blythe Grossman, AP English, MIHS



One English teacher at Merritt Island High School in August 2018 assigned her class to read a book about combat operations in Vietnam. She contacted Vets Back to Class to help design her program. One Vietnam era veteran presented to her two AP English classes on the history of the Vietnam War, the American scene during the build up years and other perspectives. Ten days later, as the students were completing the book, COL Jeff Rogers, US Army, Retired who was an Infantry Officer in extensive combat in Vietnam spoke of his experiences, linking them to the author’s story.

We decided to include this one of dozens of programs over the past three years as an indication of what can be done by using imagination and our flexibility to make your vision happen.



Military Officers Association of America
Cape Canaveral Chapter
P.O.Box 254186
Patrick AFB, FL 32925-4186

It works in Brevard County (July 2019)

MOAACC and the Veterans Memorial Center (VMC) of Brevard County created a special program in 2015 in partnership with the Joe Foss Institute (JFI) in Arizona. Four years later it *has* proven its value in dozens of schools on the Space Coast, including public, private and home schooling groups. We call it Brevard Veterans Back to Class (BVBC).

- ◆ In 2018-19 fourteen veteran volunteers visited 24 schools including elementary, middle and high schools and talked with 2890 students.
- ◆ In 2017-18 we held programs for 19 schools (many new ones) and met with 2492 students. (Note: Hurricane Irma and delays in Teacher Fall work days until winter hampered our plans that year).
- ◆ In 2016-17 our volunteers visited 19 schools including elementary, middle and high schools and talked with 6280 students
- ◆ In 2019-2020 we plan to produce a BVBC/JFI hard copy and online APP that will include bio and photos of all our veteran volunteers as well as options to request members to support classes.
- ◆ JFI covers costs of supporting materials and provides lesson plans as needed. They certify volunteers and can help with scheduling in local schools. All our volunteers are approved by BPS.
- ◆ The Program offers links to the teachers who describe their needs for the presentations and offers at least 5-10 minutes each class period to the volunteer veteran to tell their story of service and how being a veteran has impacted their lives.



JOE FOSS INSTITUTE

For More Information contact:

Donn Weaver (MOAACC and VMC): 321-613-2403

Dylan Dalzotto (JFI) 480- 348-0316

In 2015 The Brevard Vets Back to Class program partnered with the Joe Foss Institute based in Arizona to create a support network to help our currently 16 veteran volunteers.

The **Joe Foss Institute** is a nonprofit organization in the [United States](#) that aims to promote an appreciation among students for the American tradition of [liberty](#), the country's military history, and [patriotic](#) values. It was founded in 2001 by [flying ace](#) and politician [Joe Foss](#), and is headquartered in [Scottsdale, Arizona](#). The institute lists its five values as *freedom, patriotism, integrity, service, and character*, and targets its programs at military veterans, students, and teachers.

Since its founding in 2001, the Institute has served nearly 1.5 million students through in-classroom presentations, educational materials and scholarships.

The Institute engages veterans and teachers across America to educate the country's youth on history and civics, and inspire them to become responsible and engaged citizens.

History

The Institute was founded in 2001 by [Medal of Honor](#) recipient General [Joseph J. Foss](#) and his wife Donna Foss. Throughout his high profile career, General Foss always made time to visit classrooms and speak with the students – America's future leaders. His goal was to ensure the children understand America's freedoms and the importance of public service, integrity and patriotism.

The Joe Foss Institute was created to carry on that vision by offering free educational programs and curriculum for schools and youth groups nationwide. General Foss recognized the importance of preparing our children to be informed and engaged citizens.



Military Officers Association of America
Cape Canaveral Chapter

VETERANS BACK TO CLASS

**VOLUNTEER
BIOGRAPHIES**



MALCOLM E. BAIRD

LT US Navy, Retired (1968 –
1988) Submarine Force

Indian Harbour Beach
321-779-2145



Malcom Baird joined the Navy after my third semester at the University of New Hampshire for a technical education in computers and advanced electronics and to qualify for the GI Bill to pay for the rest of his college degree. His father had served in the Navy during WWII and used his GI Bill to get his college degree. He requested submarine duty because during his junior summer in high school (1965), he participated in a two month internship at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, NH, and was extremely impressed with the submarine technology he observed and the technical training of the submarine crews. Coincidentally, 1965 was the first year of Star Trek on TV, and he noticed some similarities.

Malcolm was assigned to the USS Thomas A. Edison (SSBN 610 Blue Crew), operating out of Rota, Spain on a 100 day patrol cycle. The off crew training periods were at Submarine Base Groton, CT. After completing the initial submarine warfare qualification during his first two patrols, he continued to take college courses during the next four patrols through the Navy's Program for Afloat College Education from Boston University, Harvard, University of Washington and Berkley. At the end of his initial six year obligation, he reenlisted for shore duty at Naval Ordnance Test Unit, Port Canaveral, FL, supporting the submarine launches off the coast. At NOTU, he completed his BS in Mathematics and General Science at night at Rollins College Extension, Patrick AFB, FL and was immediately selected for 19 weeks of Officer Candidate School at Newport, RI. He served on several other submarines and ship and shore duty stations.2) operating out of Port Canaveral as the Launch Area Support Ship for all submarine test launches in the Atlantic Fleet.

After retiring from the Navy, Malcolm was hired as a manager by Computer Sciences Raytheon on the Air Force Eastern Test Range at Cape Canaveral. IHe used the GI Bill to complete a MS in Management in his spare time at Florida Tech. For a few years, he taught a continuing education course at night at Brevard Community College on the subject of Project Management and Leadership and volunteered at local high schools with Junior Achievement. After several years with CSR, Malcolm became a Financial Advisor with Merrill Lynch in 1995.



M. DOUGLAS BISSET 1LT

US Army Transportation Corps

1969-1973

Retired as Managing Director

JP Morgan Investment Management, NYC, NY



Cocoa, FL

321-208-7554

Douglas Bisset began military involvement in the ROTC program at Lafayette College 1965-69. Was a Distinguished Military Student and recipient of the SAR Leadership Medal and the Marksmanship Trophy for the highest score in the ROTC Summer Camp. May, 1969, was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant in the US Army Reserve- Transportation Corps branch of service.

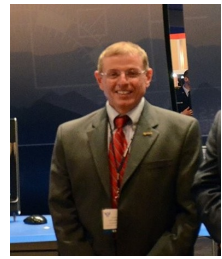
1970-71 Served in the 202nd Transportation Battalion(TML), Inchon, Korea. Was Port Documentation Officer, Installation Transportation, Payroll and Customs Officer at the US military port of Inchon. Awarded Army Commendation Medal.

After release from active duty spent 2 years in the inactive reserves. Utilized GI Bill benefit to obtain a Masters Degree in Business Administration at the University of Tennessee. Pursued various marketing, transportation and real estate positions over 40 years of civilian life. Retired as Managing Director at JP Morgan Investment Management.

Military served as a great foundation for finding my potential. I learned leadership and technical skills not possible in civilian life. I always had, and continue to have, a patriotic need to serve this great country.



STEPHEN J. (Steve) BOND
Colonel, United States Army (Retired)
Melbourne, FL
321-831-7572



Steve Bond is a retired Colonel and a 29-year veteran of the United States Army. He was initially commissioned as a Second Lieutenant through ROTC in 1975. He joined the Army for adventure and to travel around the world--He accomplished that goal.

Over his military career, Steve led and commanded units from the junior Lieutenant (O-1) level as an Airborne Infantry Platoon Leader with 40 soldiers assigned, to the Colonel (O-6) level leading over 450 assigned soldiers while serving in Airborne, Infantry, Military Intelligence, and Joint Service units. He also served in key staff positions in Military Intelligence, Special Operations, and Joint Commands. He is a veteran of combat operations in Panama (1989-90) and Saudi Arabia/Kuwait (1990-91), as well as humanitarian/peacekeeping operations in St. Croix (1989), and Haiti (1994). He was assigned to posts across the United States, and in Italy, Germany and Japan. He is a Military Jumpmaster and Master Parachutist, and Ranger qualified.

After Steve retired from the Army in 2004, he worked for Northrop Grumman Corporation as a Director of Business Development in Melbourne, FL from 2004-08, and again from 2009-17. There he worked closely with the company's military customers and provided advice to the program and engineering teams developing equipment and systems for the military.

From February 2008 to March 2009, Steve served in a US Government Senior Executive position as the Director of the Intelligence Transition Team and Senior US Intelligence Advisor to the Iraqi Ministries of Defense (MOD) and Interior (MOI), while assigned to the Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq (MNSTC-I), Multi-National Force-Iraq (MNF-I) during Operation Iraqi Freedom. In this position, he led a 120-member team of US Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Government and Contract Civilians, and worked with key coalition partners to advise and assist Iraqi intelligence organizations in order to improve their performance and capabilities, and expedite the departure of US Forces from Iraq.

Steve holds a Master's Degree in History from the Univ. of Kansas, and a Bachelor's Degree in History from the Univ. of Utah. His military education includes the Army Command and General Staff College, and the Army War College. His military awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal, among others. In 2001, he was the Department of Defense's Advanced Concept Technology Demonstration Operational Manager-of-the-Year. For his civilian service in Iraq, he received the Meritorious Civilian Service Medal and the Global War on Terror Civilian Service Medal.

Steve tells young people that the military offered him the opportunity to work with talented, motivated, and smart individuals, who shared common values, understood teamwork, and focused to accomplish any assigned mission. In his case, he was able to learn unique skills, travel throughout the world, and was offered educational opportunities as well. He says that while military service isn't for everyone, for those who do join the military, it will definitely broaden their horizons and offer life skills to succeed at anything. He often uses a quote from Pres. Ronald Reagan: *"Some people spend an entire lifetime wondering if they've made a difference. The Marines don't have that problem."* That comment applies equally to the other US Armed Forces.



ROBERT W. FAULKENDER

US Army 1952- 1977
Infantry, Air Borne
Viera, Florida 32940

321-241-6155



Robert Faulkender is a retired Army officer, businessman, and college professor. He graduated from West Point and earned a masters degree in Operations Research Systems Analysis at Georgia Tech.

His military career included two tours in Vietnam. As a businessman he bought a broken home health care company, returned it to solvency and sold it to a publicly traded corporation. After two years with a project management firm in Cairo Egypt, he returned to Atlanta, Georgia to become an adjunct professor at American Intercontinental University (AIU).

Bob taught for over ten years including a summer on the AIU-London campus. He has written two books: *Filtered by Time*, about his year as an advisor in a small river town in the Mekong Delta, and *Barnyard Economics*, a short discussion on microeconomics explaining in street language why the little red hen is right; if you don't work you don't eat.

Bob is an active member of Cape Canaveral chapter of MOAA and serves most frequently as guest speaker at community organizations such as the Oue Galle Yacht Club and Rockledge Rotary Club. As a Joe Foss guest instructor he has taught at the Lutheran Academy in Sanford and JROTC at Cocoa Beach High School.

Bob lives with his wife Luanne at Indian River Colony Club in Viera, Florida where he spends his free time writing and mentoring local youth.



JENNIFER FRANSDEN

United States Navy
CTISN – 1986-1988
Palm Bay, FL



Jennifer Frandsen joined the Navy directly out of high school as employment options in the small town she was living in were limited and her family could not afford college. Jennifer tested for language aptitude and was enlisted as a cryptographic technician interpreter. After basic training in Orlando, Florida, she was assigned to the Defense Language Institute, Monterey Bay, California. She studied Mandarin Chinese for a year and graduated with honors. During her time at A school in San Angelo, Texas, she was diagnosed as pregnant. Since my orders were for flight crew, she was unable to continue the assignment. As the Navy had no provisions for a pregnant female interpreter, Jennifer was given an honorable discharge in 1988. Her time in the military taught her the importance of being a team member, of being ready and prepared for any situation and about the importance of being a part of her country and community.

Since her time in the military, Jennifer has continued to serve her country. While she and her active duty husband were assigned to Angeles Air Force Base, Philippines, she served as a trainer for the American Red Cross and as the Navy Ombudsman. In her thirty plus years of being an active volunteer, she has served the Red Cross, Habitat for Humanity, Junior Achievement and the Joe Foss Institute among many others. Jennifer has traveled the world and continued her language skills far past her time in the Navy. In 2017, she traveled to China as part of a business college course. Jennifer enjoys interacting with children and teaching them about civics, personal responsibility, the constitution and their responsibilities as citizens. She thinks it is important for children to have both male and female role models and is proud to serve Joe Foss as a female military veteran. Jennifer is currently a small business owner and runs Look Sew Good Costuming. She works with both stage and screen and recently served as the costumer for the Brevard County Schools Summer Fine Arts production of Chess at Satellite Beach High School.



JOHN F. FRAVEL, JR.

US Army

LTC, Special Forces

1965 – 1989

Suntree Area

321-259-2816



John Fravel was born and raised in Philadelphia, PA. First in family to graduate HS and go to college where he was a painting major at Tylor School of Fine Art, Temple Univ. and also played football. After being unable to play football because of multiple injuries, and not knowing what he wanted to do, he quit college after 2 ½ years and enlisted in the Army.

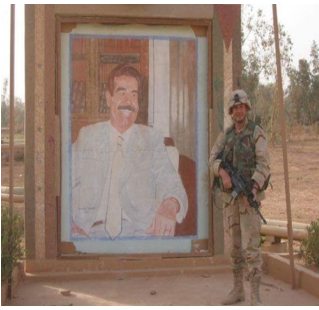
After initial training, he was selected to attend leadership school, promoted early to sergeant, then selected to attend Office Candidate School. Commissioned initially in Corp of Engineers, then completed airborne training, followed by selection and completion of the Special Forces Qualification Course, and assignment to 3d Special Forces. Served in Vietnam 1967 – 1969. On return from Vietnam, served with 6th SFG and as instructor at the Center for Special Warfare, Ft Brag, NC, followed by assignment to University of Tampa to complete BS degree in Economics, and then attend the Officer Advanced Training.

After serving 3 year tours in both the 3d Inf Div, Germany, and the 4th Inf Div, Ft Carson, CO; served as National guard Advisor; Completed Command & General Staff school; completed MS degree, in Management Science, and did post graduate studies in psychology and education at University of Chicago; then served as Prof of Military Science Leigh University for 4 years. John's final assignment was Chief of Psychological Operation, Special Operations Command, Pacific, & J367, PACCOM, Hawaii.

Retiring to Brevard County, he initially taught Management and Economics at Kiser College while pursuing post doctorate studies in Political Science, and doctorate in education and educational psychology. He taught basic and special education in Juvenile Dentation Center, and in Florida Dept. of Corrections in Sharps; and, History and Social Studies in Brevard County Schools. As a Professor at Rollins College, he taught psychology and education courses for 10 years. Then as a final career, small business operator, running tours and teaching scuba diving.

John has traveled and /or worked in over 65 countries in Africa, Europe, and Asia. He has participated as member of Civilian Emergency Response Team; American Red Cross; Instructor, Dept. of Agriculture Confidence training program; Security diver at Port Canaveral, of course got involved in a number of civic organization.

His current passion is promoting programs and awareness to help military personnel deal with post-traumatic stress, and moral injury; and, promote good citizenship and understanding of the constitution, and the need for a strong defense.



MAJ. CHRIS GIBSON

USA Retired

MIHS Graduate
Served in Iraq
And Afghanistan



Chris Gibson was Born and raised in Merritt Island Florida and Graduated from Merritt Island High School in 1990. He attended Basic Training and Military Police School in FT McClellan Alabama the same year. After Graduation he was stationed in Germany and later at Fort Drum New York. While enlisted he was deployed in support of Operation Restore Hope (Somalia, Africa) and Operation Uphold Democracy (Haiti). After completing his five year active duty contract he returned home to Merritt Island and joined the Florida Army National Guard. He completed college at Brevard Community College and the University of Central Florida. While attending UCF he joined the ROTC program and received his commission as a Army 2LT. He was then Assigned as an Ordnance officer at FT Bragg, NC with the 82d Airborne Division. He deployed to Operation Iraqi freedom (OIF). After completing the Captains career course he was stationed on Wheeler Army Airfield, Hawaii with the 25th Infantry Division where he commanded Headquarters and support company for the 209th Aviation Support Battalion.

Chris later completed the Psychological Operations Officer (PSYOP) course at the John F Kennedy Special Warfare College and was then assigned to the 1st Psychological Operations Battalion as a detachment commander. While serving with 1st Battalion he deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), Afghanistan and was attached to the 7th and 20th Special Forces Groups, the Military Information Operations Support Task Force, Afghanistan. Afterwards he served and a Military Information Support Team for Central America where he worked in Honduras, Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua. He then deployed again to Afghanistan as the Media Director for the NATO Psychological Operations Task Force. He later had many training missions.

He retired from the Army in 2015 and returned once again to Merritt Island where he became involved with the Brevard County Veterans Center and the Vets Back to Class Program with the Joe Foss



WAYNE JUSTICE

Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard (ret)
1977-2010
Canaveral Port Commissioner
2015-present

Cocoa/Cocoa Beach
757-474-5777



1973-2010-US Coast Guard: Graduated from the Coast Guard Academy in 1977 and retired in 2010 as a Rear Admiral (O-8).

1977-2006 (Ensign to Captain), staff and operational assignments, including 12 years of sea time on six cutters; commanding four (378ft, 270ft, 110ft, 95ft) of them. Sea time included eight years specifically in the Caribbean, with hundreds of Search and Rescue cases, 39 drug seizures, and thousands of migrant interdictions safely completed

Spent three years in the White House (90-93) as a Military Aide to the Presidents Bush and Clinton carrying the "nuclear football".

1998-2000 As a Captain (O-6), was Chief of Programs, Coast Guard HQ. Worked with DOT and OMB developing all phases of the annual Coast Guard Budget.

2005-2010 As a Rear Admiral- Chief of Operational Policy, Chief of Capability, and Commander 5th Coast Guard District (NJ to SC)

2010-present-
Maritime Consultant/Expert Witness.

2015-present-

Canaveral Port Authority Commissioner elected for 2 four year terms year term representing Port District 3. Chairman for 2018. Port Canaveral is a world-class gateway for cruises, cargo, recreation and logistics, as well as a gateway to new frontiers, including space. Port Canaveral hosts more than 4 million revenue cruise passengers through its state-of-the-art terminals and 5.5 million of tons of cargo annually, including bulk, break-bulk, project, and containerized. The 2017 revenues were \$92M.

Community Activities:

Current:

- Board of Directors, Port Canaveral Propeller Club
- Board of Directors, Space Coast Navy League
- Board of Directors, Crosswinds Youth Services
- Board of Directors and Legislative Liaison for the 1450 person Military Officer's Association of America (MOAA) of Brevard County
- Member CIVMIL community leader group

Education:

- BS Management Coast Guard Academy 1977
- MA Human Resource Management Nova SE University 1983 (honors)
- MS Strategic Studies Naval War College Newport RI 1996

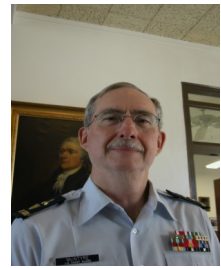
Family:

Wife Barbara



DAN McINTYRE

CWO4, USCGR (Retired)



Dan McIntyre:

- Enlisted in the USCG Reserve in 1960. Advanced to CWO4 Naval Engineer.
- Eight years active duty. 42 years total in the Coast Guard Reserve.
- 32 Years of service with Xerox Corporation. Engineering, Management and Technical Training.
- 10 Years of service in the USCG Auxiliary.
- USCGR, Law Enforcement, Search and Rescue, Naval Engineering, Leadership Consulting and Leadership Training.
- MOAACC Student Affairs and USCG Auxiliary Public Education and Recruiting.
- Education: Southern Technical Institute (Engineering Extension Division of Georgia Tech) AS in Mechanical Technology. Rochester Institute of Technology Mechanical Engineering (no degree).
- Awards/Decorations: Meritorious Service Medal, Coast Guard Commendation Medal, Coast Guard Achievement Medal, Commandant's Letter of Commendation
- Hobbies and Interests: Travel, Spectator Sports (College Football) Children and Grandchildren Activities.



COL JEFF ROGERS,

US Army Ret
1968-1992

West Point Graduate
Vietnam War
Combat Infantryman



COL Jeffrey C. Rogers U.S. Army Retired, comes from a long line of Regular Army officers (5th generation) and West Pointers (3rd generation). He grew up at numerous Army posts throughout the world, graduated from West Point in 1968, and obtained a Masters Degree in Business from the University of Northern Colorado in 1974.

Commissioned Infantry upon graduation from West Point, COL Rogers served in various light & heavy Infantry and Ranger units to include a tour as a combat Infantryman (rifle platoon leader) in the Central Highlands of Vietnam. Later assignments included Commander of the 106th Finance Battalion in Germany, Commandant of the U.S. Army Finance School, Commander of the 175th Theater Finance Command in Korea, and Chief of Program & Budget for U.S. Army Europe. COL Rogers' military education includes the Infantry Officers Basic, Airborne, & Ranger Courses, Command and General Staff College, and the National War College.

In the private sector following retirement from Active Duty COL Rogers served as a Senior Program Manager, Vice President for Program Management, and mentor for aspiring executives with the Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC). COL Rogers moved to Melbourne (Suntree) sixteen years ago in 2002. He married the former Carlyle ("Carlie") Nerdahl -- an Army daughter he had known since age five -- in 1968 following graduation from West Point. Both feel blessed to have three sons and six grandchildren. All three sons are married and are graduates of West Point having served numerous combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan.



DEAN SCHAAF
LCDR US Navy Ret
NASA, Ret



Dean Schaaf graduated from High School in 1964 and was drafted in October 1965. He was planning on attending college but did not have a draft deferment. Dean was motivated to get an education, so he enlisted in the Navy, for the 6-year obligation as an Electronics Technician. He attended 76 weeks of Electronics Technician Schools prior to his first assignment at Naval Facility, Keflavik, Iceland. He then applied for a commissioning program called Naval Enlisted Scientific Education Program (NESEP), was accepted and attended Naval Academy Preparatory School and subsequently Purdue University. Dean was an E-5 while attending Purdue as an Officer Candidate and earned a degree in Electrical Engineering. He then attended Naval Flight School in Pensacola Florida and was awarded his wings as a Naval Flight Officer (NFO). After a tour at NAS Key West, Florida as an air intercept controller, he was sent to NAS Jacksonville, Florida to the P-3C anti-submarine aircraft community. Dean ended up flying P-3Cs for 18 years before retiring from the Navy in 1991 as a Lieutenant Commander (LCDR) with 26 years' service.

Dean last three years in the Navy, he was stationed at Patrick AFB, Florida in the Department of Defense Space Shuttle Contingency Support Office (DDMS). He was working with NASA on manned space flight support and astronaut rescue. After retirement from the Navy, he was hired by NASA as a Ground Operations Manager (GOM) in the Space Shuttle Program. Dean supported 126 shuttle missions in the Landing Support Office and finished his NASA career as the Landing Recovery Manager in the Shuttle Program. He retired at the end of the Shuttle program with 21 years with NASA.

Dean is now the President of the Veterans Memorial Center and Museum Curator. He continues to be active in veterans' affairs with the VMC, Fleet Reserve Association, American Legion, Military Officers Association, Navy League and as a Moose Legionnaire.



ROBERT WATTS

CAPT, US Navy, Ret

Naval Aviator
Educator
Melbourne



Robert Watts was born in Brooklyn, New York, but moved to Farmingdale Long Island, NY in his early teens where he graduated from Farmingdale High School in 1969. Immediately after graduating from high school he attended the United States Naval Academy and graduated in June 1973 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Analytical Management. Robert earned his Master of Science degree in National Resource Strategy from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces (ICAF) in 1998.

Robert entered Navy flight training in January 1974 and received his coveted Naval Aviator "Wings of Gold" in March 1975. He served in a number of aviation assignments ashore and at sea. Operationally he flew the H-46 A/D Sea Knight, and has also qualified in the T-34 B/C Mentor/Turbo Mentor, TH-57 Bell Sea Ranger, and UH-1 "Huey" Iroquois. He has amassed over 3300 flight hours. He also held senior level leadership positions in aviation squadrons, recruiting and various personnel assignments. He has commanded three organizations (two Navy and one Joint, Department of Defense).

During his active Navy service, Robert was awarded the Legion of Merit (three), Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (two), Navy Commendation Medal (two), Navy Achievement Medal, and various theatre and service medals. Robert retired from the Navy as a Captain in 2005 after 32 years of active service. He and Karen moved to Cornwall on Hudson, New York where he became the 13th Superintendent of the New York Military Academy. He served in that position for five years, 2005-2010, before retiring to Melbourne, Florida.

Robert is married to Karen (Mann) Watts, originally from Farmingdale, Long Island, NY (his childhood sweetheart who lived across the street). They have been married over 45 years and have two children and two grandchildren. Robert and Karen currently reside in Indian River Colony Club, Melbourne, FL where he is a part time Independent Travel Consultant. In his leisure time Robert enjoys fishing.

Robert's current affiliations include: Indian River Colony Club Board of Directors, Military Officers Association of America, Cape Canaveral Chapter (MOAACC), National Naval Officer Association (NNOA), Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. (TAI), and the United States Naval Academy Alumni Association.



CPT DONN A. WEAVER

Infantry

US ARMY 1969 - 1972

Served 13 months
DMZ IN KOREA



Donn Weaver enlisted in the Army after college at UCLA and was selected for Infantry Officer's Candidate School at Ft. Benning Georgia. He served his first tour along the DMZ in Korea with the Second Infantry Division (1969-70) leading combat patrols, barrier operations and guard post security assignments. He was then assigned to Ft. Dix, New Jersey, where CPT Weaver was a Basic Training Company Commander leading the training for more than 2400 American soldiers in those two years. With Vietnam winding down and rumors of massive force reductions, CPT Weaver and his wife Jeanne left the Army. He enrolled in graduate school at Florida State where he earned a MA in International Affairs; a Florida Teaching Certificate; and all but dissertation PhD using the GI Bill.

Mr. Weaver, with Jeanne and their four children, began a 40 plus year career in the Foreign Service with the Department of State in Washington DC in 1974. After 18 years overseas in eight countries, visiting 102 others and learning five foreign languages, Mr. Weaver and his wife retired and moved back to Cocoa Beach in 2014. They had grown up in Brevard and were married in Cocoa Beach in 1970. Jeanne graduated in 1965 from Cocoa Beach High School. Both sons, Glenn and Todd, served as US Army officers during the Gulf War (Glenn) and in Iraq and Afghanistan (Todd). With degrees from William & Mary, Old Dominion, Yale, Cambridge and Glasgow, their four children have gone on to have successful careers in the Foreign Service (Glenn), FDA (Adrianna) and University of Virginia (Kristina). Todd was killed in combat in Afghanistan on 09 September 2010.

Additional Veteran Volunteers

In addition to the volunteers whose biographies are entered for 2019-2020, the Veterans Back to Class Program includes many other volunteers whose names appear below and are joined by new members on a regular basis. Bios can be obtained directly from those listed below as classroom options are considered.



Dan Goodrich — Veteran and STEM focus



Danny McKnight — US Army; recognized speaker and teacher; Black Hawk Down Commander



Rob Spence — Veteran and experienced teacher

Beyond the Classroom



In Brevard County we are blessed to have perhaps the best Veterans Memorial Center and Park in Florida. It is located behind Merritt Square Mall on Merritt Island just off Route 520. It is all free to the public and features:

- ◆ A 6000 sq. ft. two-story military museum
- ◆ A Memorial Plaza reflecting the history of America's military and conflicts
- ◆ A 3500 volume research library with free books and DVDs to check-out
- ◆ The Veterans History Project with 160 plus DVD interviews of veterans from WWII and beyond for original research on site
- ◆ Special student tours and a scavenger hunt to spark learning
- ◆ An beautiful 82 acre park with picnic areas and much more!!
- ◆ Please consider a field trip. Contact our museum staff at 321-453-1776 for more information. Come by for what the military would call a "Recon Mission" and let them know you are there. Open everyday 9 am - 4 pm M-F; Sat 9 am - 4 pm; Sunday 12 noon- 4 pm. All free, all the time!!