

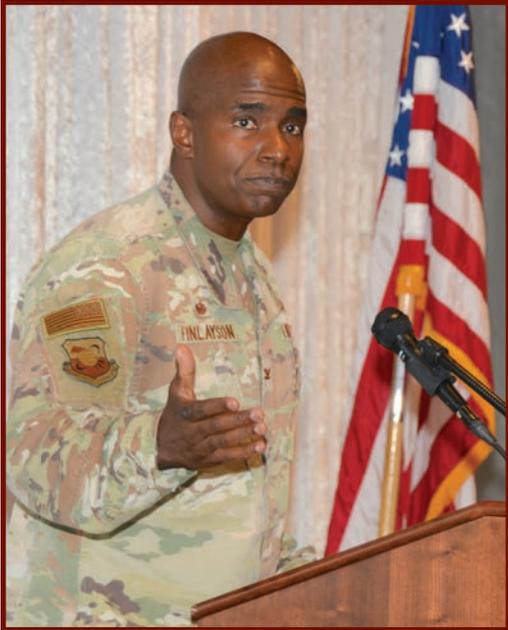


The INTERCOM

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
Cape Canaveral Chapter, Inc.



Commander, Air Force Technical Applications Center



Col. Finlayson addressing the MOAACC Members



Col. Finlayson was presented an appreciation MOAACC Plaque and Coin by MOAACC 1st VP Colonel Richard Kniseley, USAF Ret (left), and President Lt Col Brian Whalen USAF Ret (right)

80 MOAACC members were present at Tides for February luncheon to hear from our own Patrick Base Commander.

Colonel James “Cobra” Finlayson is the new Commander, of Air Force Technical Applications Center, Patrick Space Force Base, Fla. AFTAC operates and maintains the United States Atomic Energy Detection System to monitor foreign compliance with various treaties limiting nuclear testing. The focus of AFTAC’s more than 1,000 professionals is to detect special events in the atmosphere, underwater, underground, and in space to determine if they are nuclear and to report them to U.S. senior decision makers. Prior to assuming his current command, Colonel Finlayson was the Vice Commander of the 17th Training Wing at Goodfellow AFB, Texas. He received his commission in 1997 from the United States Air Force Academy.

MOAACC Photos by Pish Pishdad
More Photos on Page 10



MOAACC members watching the luncheon presentation

To take action with MOAA, visit: <https://moaa.quorum.us/>
MOAA and MOAACC are non-partisan organizations

MARCH EVENTS

(Click Event for Details)

- 3/2 Current Affairs Forum/TMBC w/Guest Speaker, Mr. Ayad Saad, Financial Advisor and Senior VP - 8 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 3/9 TMBC (In-person & via Zoom) - 8 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 3/14 On-The-Go Luncheon - 11:30 AM
@ Asian Time Restaurant (Formerly Thai Thai)
- 3/16 TMBC (In-person & via Zoom) - 8 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 3/21 Board of Directors Meeting - 9:30 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - Chapel
- 3/21 Luncheon w/Guest Speaker, D. Keith Winsten, Executive Director, Brevard Zoo
@ Indian River Colony Club - Colony Hall
- 3/23 TMBC (In-person & via Zoom) - 8 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 3/30 TMBC (In-person & via Zoom) - 8 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole

To see details for these events, visit
<https://moaacc.org/events>

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at <https://moaacc.org>

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



Brian Whalen, LtCol, USAF (Ret)

It has been busy. The 100th Issue of Five Things was published on 30 Jan – thank you Steve Bond! We had our February luncheon at the Tides and will be meeting at Indian River Colony Club for the rest of the year. The Valentine's Day On-the-Go Luncheon at Amici's restaurant was great– thank you Toni Lowe!

At a TMBC, Tom Unrath discussed “Step Therapy” also called “fail first” which is mentioned in the February MOAA magazine (page 30). This involves trying lower cost medications before going to more expensive medications. This sounds reasonable depending on how it is implemented. If you try to refill an effective medication and you are switched to a lower cost medication that is either ineffective or not as effective, that is a problem. This is a major issue when dealing with chronic issues where once you lose functionality, it cannot be regained. If you run into barriers getting your long-term medications re-prescribed, please e-mail legis@moaa.org and share your experience.

The Survivor Benefit Plan/Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (SBP/DIC) is gone and we can thank MOAA and The Military Coalition for this accomplishment. I mention this because the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has listed options to reduce the deficit, and reducing the deficit is good. The negative aspect is some of their cost cutting measures include: TRICARE for Life (TFL) enrollment fees; minimum out of pocket TFL expenses; means testing for VA disability compensation; eliminate VA disability pay for veterans with low disability ratings; tax VA disability pay; and more. Just because the CBO has identified something, doesn't mean action will be taken, but we need to be aware of these recommendations and engage our representatives if any of these options get traction. We need to stay informed and not get complacent. Visit the Advocacy area of the MOAA website, read the FCOC Newsletter and read our updates. We need to pay attention when John McMahon and Tim Pishdad give us the legislative updates and be ready to act.

A lot of activities will be taking place this year and there will be many opportunities to participate. I hope you will take advantage of them; they are a great way to get to know more one another and to get involved in the community.

We support MOAA's aims by advocating for national and state legislative actions protecting the rights and interests of veterans, uniformed services retirees, active duty personnel, and their dependents and survivors.

INTERCOM Photo & Article Submission Rules

PHOTOS:

- Photos must be in “High Resolution” in jpg format and sent as an “Attachment.”
- When sending photos, select “actual size” on computer or cell phone.
- Submit one photo per article, or more if absolutely necessary.
- All photos must have “captions” of who, what, when, where and why.

ARTICLES:

- Articles must be in Microsoft “Word” format. PDF NOT ACCEPTED.
- LIMITS: One article per email, not more than 375 words. Each Article must include Author Name & Rank

NEW DEADLINE & SUBMISSION EMAIL:

- **Photos & Articles are DUE NO LATER THAN the 15th of each month, to give our staff enough time for editing. Do not send your submission to Jeremiah, Rita, or Pish. Please send ALL submissions to the following email address:**

intercom@moaacc.org

INTERCOM PUBLICATION:

- THE INTERCOM is published 12 times annually by the Cape Canaveral Chapter, Inc. (MOAACC), an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) Alexandria, Va.
- Contents of the Intercom articles are opinions solely of the authors and do not express the policy or official views of MOAA or The the Cape Canaveral Chapter (MOAACC)
- The advertisements that appear in this publication do not reflect an endorsement by MOAA or by MOAACC.
- Comments and suggestion are welcome. Contact EXECUTIVE EDITOR: pish104@bellsouth.net

Health of the Chapter

Do you know of a member who is ill, in the hospital or in rehab?

Let Mary Dunagan know and she will be happy to send them a card from the chapter.

Mary E. Dunagan • 321-775-3896 • kwaj13@aol.com



Editor's Note

Thank you to the many that are taking the time to submit articles, photographs and news to be included in the monthly MOAACC INTERCOM. As your Editor, I bring my over 35 years of Newspaper Photojournalist experience and Military Public Affairs background to improve our INTERCOM, inspire and recognize our members leadership in our community.

This would require not only changing the LOOKS of the INTERCOM, it will also entail ensuring the best, interesting, short but informative content, short Articles with Quality photos, design and layouts. The placement of important reader information, reminders and event notifications will be placed on special pages that will be easy to read and locate.

Please note:

We have changed the deadline for submission of photos and articles from 20th of the month, to the 15th of each month.

This was necessary to give our staff more time for editing and Intercom printed on time.

Comments & suggestions are welcome.

Pish Pishdad - Pish104@bellsouth.net

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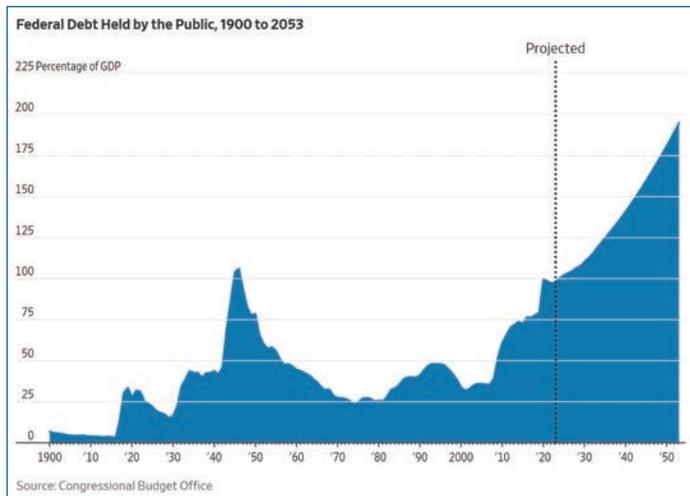
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

John R. McMahon, BG, USA (Retired)

Reality Check

Lately, this column has been focused on our Nation's financial situation and all the potential catastrophic outcomes that abound if or when the Congress and the President fail to reach agreements for moving forward. Unfortunately, to date, key Members of Congress and various Administration officials seem to be doing more posturing than paying serious attention to such bread-and-butter issues--specifically, a timely and realistic annual budget, the debt ceiling crisis, prudent defense spending, corporate and individual tax issues, inflation, interest on the federal debt, and the future of Social Security, Medicare and Veterans' earned benefits. This month, as the annual federal budget process kicks off (a month late based on when the Biden Administration plans to submit its FY 2024 Budget proposal), we look at what some are positing as ways to address these quandaries while protecting essential programs and investments. In doing so, I am reminded of the sage wisdom found in the adage: No pain, no gain.

On the negative side of the equation, a look at the Federal Debt picture depicted below paints a gloomy picture. We are spending way more than we take in as revenue and hence have been borrowing against our future and that of our posterity. The projections are hideous! Every year of deficit spending and every new program adds to the problem.



In his State of the Union address, President Biden said his FY2024 Budget proposal will erase \$2 Trillion in deficits over the next 10 years without reducing SS or Medicare benefits or raising taxes on those making less than \$400K per year. Of course, the devil is in the detail. President Biden and Speaker McCarthy have begun talks about reducing spending in exchange for raising the debt ceiling once again. The Republicans will also release their own FY2024 Budget Proposal sometime in mid-April. Talking

and negotiating our way out of this situation before June is a must if the U.S. is to avoid default and another downgrade of its creditworthiness.

Meanwhile, there is the very real probability that the 2017 Trump Tax Cuts, which are due to expire in 2025, may be extended; estimates hold that such an extension would add about \$3 Trillion to the Federal Debt over 10 years. This would worsen the debt problem at the same time Republicans are trying to address it—what gives? One interesting thing about these Tax cuts is that, even though they were touted as paying for themselves by way of economic growth (and additional tax revenue), and even though they were supposed to help the middle-class taxpayers like you and me, they did not; especially when one factors in the cap it included on state and local tax deductions! They mostly benefited corporations and wealthy households instead. By the way, the corporate Tax cuts were made permanent and the individual Tax cuts temporary, a “slight of hand” ploy to make it painful to any politician who allows the cuts to lapse. Public perceptions aside, conventional wisdom dictates that nobody in Congress or the Administration will let these Tax cuts lapse in 2025, adding to the Debt Problem.

So, what to do? Frankly, the Nation needs to spend within its means and get the growing debt under control—this will cause some pain, but it should not be attempted on the backs of those of us who have earned benefits by our service, blood, sweat and tears! First, be courageous enough to let the Tax cuts expire in 2025. Then, look at reversing the permanent corporate Tax cuts, at least to match what 136 Nations have agreed to as a Global Minimum Corporate Tax rate of 15%--this way, there is no tax avoidance benefit to multinational corporations by eliminating so-called tax havens. The obscene salaries, bonuses and retirement packages that corporate executives take seem to be more than enough proof that these companies can afford to pay more of their fair share of the burdens we all have. Whatever additional revenue is generated by increasing taxes should not be license to spend more or start new programs as some have suggested—e.g. free college tuition. And do not undercut the Internal Revenue Service by cutting the recent uptick in their budget to fight against Tax-cheats and others who abuse the system. Let's agree to a respectable federal budget ASAP that begins to curb spending--we need to restrain spending growth in every program except national defense! Furthermore, let's not forget that just as the House Republicans are now attempting to leverage the looming debt crisis as a means to getting spending under control, so too did the House Democrats leverage the last debt crisis in 2017 to boost domestic spending. There is plenty of precedent so let us just work it out—soon!



FINANCIAL LITERACY

CAPT Arnold Lim, USNR (Ret)

SECURE 2.0 Takeaways, Part 1

The Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement Act, or the SECURE Act, was passed by Congress in December 2019. At the end of 2022, President Biden signed a \$1.7 trillion bill into law; this Secure Act 2.0 comes with a lot of retirement and tax-related provisions. In this month and next, we'll look at some of those changes:

* Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) age has changed for those who are not already at least 72 years old: For those born between 1951 and 1959, RMDs now begin at age 73, starting in 2023. For those born 1960 and later, RMDs now begin at 75, starting in 2033. Also, the penalty for not taking your RMD is now reduced from the current setting of 50% of the amount of your RMD that you neglected to withdraw to just 25%. Furthermore, the penalty may be as low as 10% if one corrects a RMD withdrawal error in a timely manner. These changes are for the better for all taxpayers.

* New exceptions were created to the 10% early withdrawal penalty before age 59½. These exemptions are for terminal illness, survivors of domestic abuse, and corrective distributions of excess contributions and earnings. In 2026, you will also be able to make penalty-free early withdrawals for long-term care premiums, up to \$2,500 per year.

* Annual limits (previously static at \$100k per year per individual) for Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD) are now indexed to inflation.

* Allow excess 529 funds to be rolled over into a Roth IRA; a maximum of \$35,000. If one has money sitting in a 529 plan (typically for a beneficiary to pay for college expenses) that is unused, to get the money out of the 529, you would have to pay taxes and penalties on the earnings because it is an after-tax contribution. SECURE Act 2.0 allows you to potentially move that money into a Roth IRA. However, the maximum allowable contribution limit via this method in a given year is \$6,500, and one also has to have that amount of earned income. The funds to roll have to have been in the 529 plan for at least 15 years, and the last contribution needs to have been made at least 5 years prior. So, while this sounds overall like an excellent provision, with so many catches and caveats here, the percentage of 529 holders to actually make use of this is likely to be low.

Part 2 is presented next month.



POINTS TO PONDER

CH (MAJ) Bill Adams, USAR (Ret.)

America the Beautiful

Every week at TMBC we sing two songs. I wrote about "God Bless America" before, so now let us take a look at "America the Beautiful."

Did you catch Super Bowl LVII? R&B legend Babyface performed this American anthem for about 113 million viewers. Since the early 20th century, "America the Beautiful" has been popularized by such icons as Bing Crosby, Frank Sinatra, Elvis Presley, Ray Charles, Barbara Streisand, Mariah Carey, Whitney Houston, and Charlie Rich.

But where did it originate?

In the late 1800's, Massachusetts schoolteacher Katharine Lee Bates took a study tour to Colorado Springs. Crossing the fruited plain and ascending the purple mountain majesties of Pikes Peak, she was inspired to write a poem by that name. The poem was really a prayer for her beloved country.

About the same time, New Jersey church organist and choirmaster Samuel A. Ward rode the ferry from Coney Island to Manhattan. Inspired by the grandeur of the great, shimmering city, he composed the music for the hymn "O Mother Dear, Jerusalem."

Someone of genius combined Ward's melody and Bates's poetry, named it "America the Beautiful," and sang out what today is among the most popular of U.S. patriotic songs. By 1931 it was even considered a candidate for our national anthem.

You might know the first and last stanzas. As men and women of faith, and as defenders of our great nation, consider the middle two stanzas from the 1911 version:

"O beautiful for pilgrim feet, whose stern, impassioned stress, a thoroughfare for freedom beat across the wilderness. America! America! God mend thine every flaw, Confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law."

"O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife, who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life. America! America! May God thy gold refine, till all success be nobleness, and every gain divine!"

And so, we pray together, "America, America, God shed His grace on thee. And crown thy good with brotherhood, from sea to shining sea." Amen.



SURVIVOR ASSISTANCE LESSONS LEARNED

Lt Col Chuck Shaw, USAF, (Ret)

A Surviving Spouse has a lot to address in the short term after losing their spouse. Having full access to the money in their bank accounts can be one of the most important things that needs to be assured beforehand!

However, occasionally banks will not give a Surviving Spouse access to an account that the Surviving Spouse was able to fully access before the passing of their Spouse. It can be a worrisome process to restore that access during already a very difficult time. To avoid getting into such a situation, it is important that before anyone passes away, the couples should meet with each of the financial institution(s) they use. That can assure they have things set up in line with the policies of the financial institution to assure the Surviving Spouse has complete access to the couple's financial accounts. If you use more than one financial institution (banks, credit unions, investment accounts, Trusts, etc.) their policies may be quite different from other institutions. So, you need to meet with ALL of the financial institutions.

If you use "points" you earn through credit cards, etc., be sure you have access to all those credit cards and points. Be sure you have at least one credit card in the Surviving Spouse's name as well as debit cards.

If you put a down payment on a vacation for the two of you, be sure you can get a refund if one of you passes away. The more preparations you can jointly make beforehand, the better!!



SCHOLARSHIP CORPORATION

Col D Brent Baysinger, USAF (Ret)

Building on Momentum in 2023

In 2023, we continue to see new faces doing new things within the Scholarship Corporation. We welcome Wayne Justice as the new President and Scott Hartley as the Chairman of the Selection Committee! In addition, I will be taking over the duties of Treasurer from Steve Turner and Roslyn Bates. I have big shoes to fill as Steve and Roslyn have been doing this for many years and I will never be able to replicate heartfelt letters of thanks to all donors, that Roz responds to. Please join me in thanking these two individuals for all they have done for our kids and the corporation over the years!

March, 2023 marks the third month of our annual six-month MOAACC Scholarship Corporation campaign for eligible candidates which culminates in the 40th Annual Scholarship Awards Luncheon this summer. In 2022, we awarded 10 scholarships of \$5,000 for the third consecutive year. This July we endeavor to repeat this while honoring the awardees with some well-deserved pomp and circumstance.

According to U.S. News & World Report, for the 2022-2023 school year, the average annual cost of college varied from \$10,423 for in-state tuition; \$22,953 for out-of-state tuition; and \$39,723 for a private college. Meanwhile, 2022 cost of living as measured by Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased 6.5%. A MOAACC scholarship will go a long way helping awardees pay for burgeoning cost of college academics and extracurricular pursuits. For 2023, the Scholarship Corporation has further expanded eligible candidates by making prospective sophomores through PhD students eligible to receive the scholarship.

Lastly, now is a great time to review or establish your planned giving for 2023. Please consider a donation to the Scholarship Corporation! We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit and your donations are tax-deductible. (Make sure you consult, as applicable, your accountant, attorney and financial advisor to make your contribution as tax-efficient as possible.) With continued donor support from the MOAACC community, we will continue to meet our goals:

- To assist worthy students who are descendants or wards of members of the U.S. uniformed services;
- To achieve the established annual scholarship objective through donations and endowment income;
- To recognize donors for their contributions to the Fund

Please consider supporting the MOAACC Scholarship Corporation in 2023!

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Thank you

MOAACC On the Go Luncheon

March 14 2023, 11:30 am.

Location: Asian Time Restaurant (formerly known as Thai Thai) 6365 N. Wickham Rd. Unit 107. Melbourne, FL. 32940.

Call or text Toni Lowe for reservations at 321-474-6888

SPACE COAST NAVY WIVES' CLUB

Please join us for our Annual Fashion Show at THE TIDES at PATRICK SPACE FORCE BASE on **FRIDAY, MARCH 17th, 2023**. Social hour begins at 11:30am and lunch is served at noon.

This year the fashions will be from PSFB Base Exchange. Spring is almost here and it will be nice to see the latest styles. Most of the brands being shown are also available at local stores.

The menu choices are Caesar Salad with Shrimp or Bruschetta Chicken with Roasted Potatoes and Sautéed Spinach. Dessert will be Pound Cake.

For more information and to make reservations, call Rebecca Kersey at

(207) 607-0006 no later than noon, Tuesday, March 14th.

Remember, friends and family are always welcome.

Ellie Joy (321) 757-0193



Mark Your Calendar!

MOAACC Luncheon

21 March, 11:30 AM

Colony Hall - Indian River Colony Club

**Guest Speaker, D. Keith Winsten,
Executive Director, Brevard Zoo**

D. Keith Winsten is the Executive Director of the Brevard Zoo in Melbourne. With over 30 years' leadership experience in non-profit administration, communications, wildlife conservation and environmental education, he has worked in New York and Massachusetts, and at zoos in Rhode Island and Chicago.



Mr. Winsten earned a B.S. in Biology from Yale University, and a M.S. in Public Health from the University of Illinois, Chicago.

Due to his extensive work, he has garnered national awards and helped in development of professional training programs in the United States, Brazil, and China.

Since his arrival in Brevard County in 2004, he has served on the Citizen Oversight Committee for the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program, and as a member of the Space Coast Tourist Council where he is currently chair of the Marketing Committee.

Professionally, he's active in the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, where he chaired the Conservation Education Committee and as a Board Member.

He is a proud father of three children and 2 dogs.

MARCH LUNCHEON:

Cost is \$20.00 for luncheon. Meal choices are:

1. Chicken Lo Mein
2. Oriental Salad w/ Gr. Chicken
3. Vegetarian/Gluten Free Meal Upon Request Only

All meals include rolls & butter, coffee & tea and the Chef's sweet choice for dessert. Cash bar available.

Please RSVP/cancel by 15 March 2023, online, or by contacting Grace Catron at events@moaacc.org or (417) 294-0798. You can [pay online](#) with Credit Card, pay at the door, or mail payment with RSVP to:

MOAACC

c/o Michael J Schroeder, Treasurer

PO Box 254186

Patrick SFB, FL 32925

MOAACC Supports NOTU 1QFY23 Sailors of the Quarter



By LCDR Dan Levy, USN (former)

On Wednesday, January 11th, MOAACC participated in the Naval Ordnance Test Unit (NOTU) Mission Partners Social and Quarterly Awards Ceremony held at the Greenhouse at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station. MOAACC members in attendance included Lt Col Joseph Tichich, USAF, LCDR Dean Schaaf, USN, and LCDR Dan Levy, USN. MOAACC presented certificates of recognition and \$50 awards each to the 1QFY23 Junior and Senior sailors of the Quarter: LSS2(SS) Bakari Khalfani and MT1(SS) Christian Briggs. The event was hosted by NOTU Commanding Officer, CAPT Jason Schneider, USN, who highlighted the accomplishments of the two awardees while recognizing the community support by MOAACC and all of the Mission Partners. MOAACC's Good Deeds Foundation issued the cash awards. The next event will be Wednesday, April 12th, 2023 at 3pm. If you are interested in attending, please contact Dan Levy.

\$3,000 Donated by Dot & Lam Hardman Family Foundation to Benefit the JROTC Program

MOAACC Photo by Pish Pishdad



MOAACC Motivational Speaker, Lieutenant Commander Amir Pishdad Jr, US Navy SEAL (Ret) (left), proudly presents a \$3,000.00 check on behalf of the "Dot & Lam Hardman Family Foundation" to benefit the JROTC Medal Program. Receiving this donation are Speaker's Bureau Chairman Col Steve Bond, US Army (Ret) (center) and MOAACC President LtCol Brian Whalen, USAF (Ret) (right).

Amir and Lam established a friendship during Amir's "Leadership and Teamwork" Keynote presentation at a 2021 Wealth Management convention that was held in Cancun Mexico. Since then, the Hardman Family Foundation has been a significant contributor to the success of the JROTC Medal Program that honors the Top JROTC Students.

The MOAACC Speakers Bureau typically reaches out within the local community to deliver motivational and inspirational talks about particular military service and MOAACC Programs that are promoting camaraderie and leadership.



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MOAACC GOOD DEEDS FOUNDATION

CPT Donn Weaver, USA, Fmr, President GDF



JROTC team celebrates coming out on top of Nine Schools and 17 teams.

February continued to be a very active month for your Good Deeds Foundation Board. At the 14 Feb GDF meeting the Board approved 10 Grants totaling over \$7900 for a wide range of programs and veteran related needs. These stories will unfold with photos during March for publication in April when MOAACC /GDF will be hosting MOAA National medal winners at our Luncheon on 18 April for 15 JROTC High Schools and special awards for honor cadets from five other county programs we support.

Many of our efforts focused in early 2023 around supporting JRPOTC programs including at three drill meets with trophies and other help at the Veterans Memorial Center Park. Left photo – one victorious team celebrates coming out on top of Nine Schools and 17 teams.

We hope MOAACC Members will consider donating to the GDF all year round and are very happy to report after

earning a record \$28,300 net from our 2022 December Golf Tournament, several other great donations came in during January and February and we are on track for our FY 2023 budget year which ends 30 Sep 2023.



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MOAACC Photo by Pish Pishdad

Members of Cocoa Beach High JROTC color guard support MOAACC luncheon at Tides. Blake Anderson, Sophia Ricks, Raegan Fish and Rhys Gallant



MOAACC Photo by Pish Pishdad



MOAACC Photo by Pish Pishdad

Colonel James Finlayson, guest speaker at the February MOAACC Luncheon.



MOAACC Photo by Pish Pishdad



MOAACC Photo by Pish Pishdad

MOAACC Members at the February Luncheon



Cocoa Beach HS JROTC Raider Challenge ladies team training for 2022 State Championship.



80 MOAACC members attended the February luncheon at Tides.



MOAACC Photo by Pish Pishdad

Finding a Treasure: MOAACC Board Member Dean Schaaf, Past President Ken Lowe and Good Deeds Current President Donn Weaver show off an item found in MOAACC storage!!

President's Day flag raising ceremony @ Shell Harbor Retirement Community

Photos and captions provided by Jane Hodges



Dave Hutton raising flag



Over 40 residents witnessed the flag raising & more joined indoors to enjoy flag cake!



COL Hal Gibson led Pledge



Col John & Betty Lee, (daughter Kim & David) with Col Hal Gibson, Carley Starr (survivor of Maj Richard Starr) Jane Hodges...all MOAACC members: John (100), Hal (98), Richard (recently passed @ 99), all WWII Veterans!

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Atomic Veteran Award Recipient, Major George Bowdren



MOAACC Photo by Pish Pishdad

Maj George B. Bowdren (ret) US Army, and a long-time resident of IRCC in Viera, FL. is a life member of Military Officers of America and the local chapter MOAACC.

George served in the 6th U.S. Constabulary Regiment during WWII and served for 26 years on active-duty military service to our Country.

George was recently awarded the newly authorized Atomic Veterans Commemorative Service Medal and Certificate. This award recognizes veterans, who during their military duties directly participated in the detonation of an atomic device, were exposed to radiation from either an atomic accident or detonation, or were exposed to radiation from the use of atomic weapons.

George was awarded this medal for his service while he attended Atomic Devices Training in 1953 in Nevada where Operation Upshot-Knothole Grable was detonated with a yield of 15 kilotons on 25 May.

Prior to the scheduled detonation George's unit underwent detailed orientation and were informed of the various buildings used to test materials. One of the items being tested were uniforms. Interestingly, small piglets, whose skin is closest to humans were being tested with the uniforms. Due to the rapid growth in pigs, the test could not be delayed otherwise the pig uniforms would require to be remade. To test the eyes, rabbits were used as their eyes are similar to humans. Rabbits were staked out and faced toward the blast site. Their noses were tied in place so they faced forward. However, the rabbits fall asleep when their nose is held down. So, each rabbit was fitted with its own alarm clock set to ring at the same time as the blast!

A 280 mm cannon fired the atomic artillery projectile. George and his unit were told that trenches would be available for them. Their instructions were to kneel down in the trench, put their heads down, and cover their eyes. George also had a towel over his head to keep the loose dirt out. However, he still could see the bright light from the blast even through his closed and covered eyes. He stood, leaned against the front of the trench and could see the blast wave coming across the desert floor. When the blast reached the trench, he was slammed from front to the back. Despite the training and protection, he was reported to have been exposed to 0.40 cSv of gamma radiation.

George was very excited to receive this Atomic Veteran award and the recognition for this unique part of his military service. He had heard about this new award from another veteran and applied to be considered for the award on 02 January 2023.

There are probably many other retired veterans or their descendants who are also eligible for this recognition but do not know about it. For more information, anyone interested should contact: <https://www.dtra.mil/About/Mission/Nuclear-Test-Personnel-Review/Atomic-Veterans-Commemorative-Service-Medal-Information/>



MOAACC Photo by Pish Pishdad



MOAACC GOOD DEEDS FOUNDATION - continued

Marine Corps Veteran Gets Immediate GDF Help



GDF Board Member Dean Schaaf (l) presents the check to MCL Des 513 Commander Dennis Herring (center) and his Vice at the VMC on 23 Jan.

In late January, Detachment 513 of the Marine Corps League of Brevard Country contacted the Good Deeds Foundation with a unique and urgent request. One of their members was facing major heart surgery at the VA and did not have the funds to fly his spouse and daughter from overseas to be with him during and after the procedure. GDF provided the Marine \$1000 toward the air tickets and the MCL came up with the remainder. Since time was crucial, the GDF action was accomplished via email vote in 16 hours and the veteran Marine had the funds within 3 days.

MOAACC and GDF Supports 45 SLD Quarterly Awards Program



MOAACC USSF Liaison Susan Dubrowski (center) flanked by Tom Rozek (l) and Doug Bisset of GDF ant their table.

On 27 January, several MOAACC and GDF members set up an information table and showed our support to the active-duty forces of the US Space Force when 45 SLD held their quarterly awards program at the PFSB Sharkatorium.

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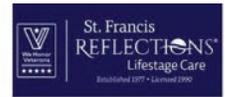
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The China Marines After WWII

By Bill Muckler, Captain USMC



The China Marines were assigned to guard the Yokosuka Japanese Navy Base near Tokyo following the surrender of Japan. They performed this duty from 2 September 1945 through 14 February 1946 until the 6th Marine Division (MARDIV) was deactivated, dissolving the regiments under its operational command.

The 4th Marines, were reactivated at Camp Pendleton in 1951, carrying the lineage of both old and new 4th Regiments, and assigned to the 3rd MARDIV. It returned to Japan in 1952, remaining until the Korean Armistice Agreement was signed on 27 July 1953.

The 4th Marines were sent to Korea on 23 August 1953 to defend South Korea in the event hostilities resumed and returned to Japan on 27 July 1954. Although they saw no combat, the 4th Marines are entitled to fly the Korean Service streamer from their regimental colors.

When the 3rd Marine Division relocated to Okinawa in 1955, the 4th Marines were assigned to the 1st Marine Brigade at the Kaneohe Bay Marine Corps Air Station. They remained there until deployment to Vietnam in 1965 as part of the 3rd MARDIV. The 4th Marines landed near Chu Lai and served in the I-Corps region of South Vietnam under the III Marine Amphibious Force, first at Da Nang, then in 1966 at Phu Bai. In 1967 the regiment moved to Dong Ha, where they participated in operations throughout Quang Tri Province.

Major operations for the regiment were Operation Starlite, Hastings, and Prairie. In 1967 and 1968, Operations Prairie IV, Hickory, and Kentucky. The 4th Marines also provided security for the construction of the McNamara Line.

The two major enemy units they battled were the 324B and 320th NVA Divisions. They left South Vietnam in November 1969 with 10 Marines and 1 Hospital Corpsman receiving the Medal of Honor.

In 1972 the 4th Marines were sent to Okinawa to serve as part of the 3rd Marine Division. Except for operational deployments, the 4th Marines have served in Okinawa to the present.

During the Gulf War (1990 to 1991), the 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines was attached to the 8th Marines as part of the 2nd MARDIV. In March 1991, it participated in the Liberation of Kuwait as part of Operation Desert Storm.

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VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER UPDATE

Dean Schaaf and Donn Weaver

The Legacy of Four WWII Chaplains Lives on in Brevard County



Shown in framed photos are L-R: Chaplain Fox, Goode, Poling and Washington

On Sunday, February 5th, it rained hard most of the day along the Space Coast which kept attendance down, but several veteran organizations still held a unique ceremony of remembrance, including at the Veterans Memorial Center (indoors) on Merritt Island.

Eighty Years ago, on February 3/4, 1943, the USAT Dorchester troop transport vessel pressed into service during World War II was sunk by torpedoes from a German UBoat about 120 miles southwest of Greenland. Hundreds of American soldiers on their way to England and Navy crewmen perished in the explosions or in the icy waters as the vessel sank. Thanks to US Coast Guard Cutters and many acts of heroism may were also saved. It is often described as the second worst maritime disaster for the United States in WWII.

On that night several eyewitnesses reported on an amazing sight — four US Army Chaplains from three different Protestant and the Jewish faith were seen locking arms and praying together as the bow of the ship slipped under the Atlantic Ocean surface. Before that they had given up their cold weather gear and life jackets to army soldiers and helped organize as many lifeboats as they could. Witnesses later confirmed they indeed saved many lives as the sacrificed their own.

After the war, the story spread and it was decided to always honor and remember these “Four Immortal Chaplains” through ceremonies around the country every early February. Completely funded by donations a Chapel and Museum was built in Philadelphia over the years which is now a foundation. Details about this amazing story now 80 years removed from the incident can be found on the website: fourimmortalchaplains.org. In 2001 the Chapel was moved to the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard.

In 2018 the Veterans Memorial Center created a monument with donations of more than \$22,000 to honor the Immortal Four and All Chaplains. Like an older memorial in Sebastian, FL, that monument was endorsed by the Four Immortal Chaplains Foundation and tells the story with some information about the chaplains.

Ruled ineligible for the Medal of Honor due to rules about direct combat, the Four Immortal Chaplains received many awards including the Purple Heart. Decades later Congress approved creating a special Gold Medal of equal weight to the Medal of Honor to the families of the Four.

At the 2023 VMC Ceremony, Marine Corps League Detachment 513 of Brevard conducted the ceremony and reenactment of survivors returning the life jackets to the four chaplains. MCL Det 513 is led by Dennis Herring, pictured below in the red jacket on the far right.

A number of MOAACC Members attended and/or were part of the Ceremony including Dan and Mary McIntyre, Dean and Susan Schaaf, Skip Taylor, Brian and Elizabeth Whalen, Paul Julian and Donn Weaver.





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for Contact Information](#)

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For more information about us and what we do, visit our website at www.MOAACC.org

TAPS

MOAA CAPE CANAVERAL CHAPTER MEMBER, AUXILIARY, and SPOUSE DEATHS

Reported 1 Jan 2023 thru 31 Jan 2023
(Names are listed by chronological date of death)

Joseph John Reis Jr., CDR, USN Ret
30 May 2022

Robert Manahan, LTC, USA Ret
06 January 2023

William F. Seals, Capt, USAF Fmr
06 January 2023

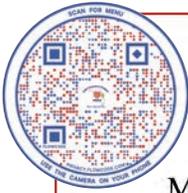
Nathaniel Hudson, MAJ, USA Ret
13 January 2023

Charles E. Pearce, Lt Col, USAF, Ret
20 January 2023

John P. Younger, Lt Col, USAF Ret
22 January 2023

Helen M. Ball, SSM
26 January 2023

Robert J. Winglass, LtGen, USMC Ret
27 January 2023



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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/ INFORMATION UPDATE.



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Signature _____ Date _____

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Age	Fee	Age	Fee
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50-59	\$400	90-99	\$75
60-69	\$330	100+	No cost
70-79	\$235		

Life membership payable over three consecutive months. Make checks payable to MOAACC or pay online at MOAACC.org. Dues and Fees include subscription to **THE INTERCOM** News Magazine and Five Things e- Newsletter.



MOAA Florida Council of Chapters (FCoC)
46th Annual Convention, May 19th-21st
At the Renaissance Hotel & Convention Center
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Come join us at the gathering of Florida MOAA Members in Florida's Oldest City, St. Augustine, from Friday, May 19th through Sunday, May 21st. There are low hotel rates available for MOAA members before, during, and after the Convention. The Convention promises to be a fun and memorable event at the Renaissance Hotel and Convention Center at the World Golf Village, just off I-95 in St. Augustine. There is a Golf Tournament on Friday on one of the world-class courses and tours of the Old City. On Saturday there is a bourbon tasting event and a Military Ball! MOAA President and CEO, Lt. Gen. B.K. Kelly is the guest speaker. There will also be a memorial service for MOAA members in Florida that we lost in 2022, Surviving Spouse and Legislative Affairs updates by MOAA representatives. We are hearing there will be Pirates too with lots of other things to see and do!

Reservations are now open and can be made on the MOAA Florida Council website at www.moaaf.org/Convention.Year=2023.

Photo Courtesy of Ted Pappas

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Unofficial Brevard VMC Vets Calendar

March 2023 and Beyond

Contact VMC for any additions or other information.

NOTE: Some Events Change in-between our monthly mailing of the VMC Calendar.
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<https://veteransmemorialcenter.org/other-veterans-events/>

MARCH AND APRIL 2023

04 Mar — JROTC Drill Meet in Veterans Memorial Park District Championship (0700-1300)

17 Mar — Boomer Guide Senior Expo 0900-1230 Hilton Rialto Place near the airport; Ballroom. Exhibits, Veteran Info, Free Parking and Admission - VMC and MOAACC/GDF will have a table. Call 321-242-1235 for more info and to register vendors.

18 Mar — Commemoration of the Last Naval Battle of the American Revolution 1000-1300 VMC Plaza, Museum and Gray Hall

25 Mar — Space Coast Jeep Club Show and Blessing at VMC Plaza area 1000-1400.

25 Mar — Medal of Honor Tribute Annual Spring Fling at Veterans Memorial Park (North Central) 1100-1600. Food, Drinks, Bounce House, Games etc, as fundraiser for the MOH Monument. Contact USA River Rats at VMC (Don Flammio) for more information.

29 Mar — Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home Ceremony and pinning at Cape Canaveral National Cemetery on Scottsmoor/Mims 1530-1630.

01 Apr — American Legion AUX 344 annual Easter Egg Hunt at Veterans Memorial Park 1300-1500

01 Apr — Military Family Appreciation Dinner to Celebrate the Month of the Military Child and Fun Fest sponsored by AVET at Cocoa Beach Country Club 1700-2000. email: info@avet-project.org

14 Apr — Shrimp Fest at Port Canaveral by Propeller Club Great food, raffles, auction, prizes, sponsors, etc. Fundraiser. Details in March.

21 Apr — Greggie and the Jets Elton John Tribute Rockin the Sunset Concert for a Cause: We Honor Veterans of St. Francis Reflections 1900-2100 Space Coast Main Stadium in Viera. Tickets through: ReflectionsLSC.org/Eltonjohn. Or Text "EltonJohn" to 41444.

29 Apr — Brevard Parkinson's Alliance 5K to raise funds to beat Parkinson's. 0700-1200 Veterans Memorial Park, Center and Plaza. 0800 5 K Run with Running Zone and 1000 1K Walk.Stroll for those with Parkinson's. Register online at secure.runningzone.com.

29 Apr — Limited Vietnam Commemoration Ceremony at Cape Canaveral National Cemetery in Scottsmoor/Mims 0900-1000. Details in late March.



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MAY-JUNE 2023

01-07 May — Florida's 35th Annual Vietnam and All Veterans Reunion at Wickham Park, Melbourne. Traveling Wall, both, food and drinks, entertainment, displays, and more. Contact VVB Quartermaster Faye Nelson for more information. Schedule, Sunday 01 May — Escort and Assemble Wall; 02 May 1500-1700 Wreath Laying and Ceremony first come first served. Register via email to vvbquartermaster@gmail.com after 11 April

07 May — Back Brevard Heroes Festival to honor First Responders and Veterans, VMC Plaza, Gray Hall and Park 0930- 1400.

20 May — Space Coast Military and Family Appreciation Day and BBQ — On Armed Forces Day 2023, From 1500-1900 at the VMC and Park. Featuring CW Award winning singer Rocky Lynne! "Heroes Come from Small Towns" and "Proud to Be a Soldier: Active-duty unit displays, music, food, kids' games, many special activities to honor our active-duty forces and their families who eat free. Co-sponsored by CBRCC/ MAC, VMC, MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation and Military Recruiters.

26 May— Ride for Freedom and Torch Walk for the Fallen (1700-2000) VMC Plaza and Center with Rolling Thunder FL-1 as first events of Florida Wide Ride for Freedom.

27 May — Ride for Freedom events at VMC and Other Locations: Details in March

28 May — Ride for Freedom Kicks Off VMC and other Location: Details in March

29 May — Memorial Day Remembrance VMC 0930-1030

29 May— Memorial Day Ceremony at the Cape

Canaveral National Cemetery in Scottsmoor/Mims 0900-1000

03 Jun — Annual Courageous Division NSCC Sea Cadet Awards Ceremony, VMC Gray Hall and Library 0800- 1500

24 Jun — Military Appreciation Night at Space Coast Stadium in Viera during military world softball tournament. Details in May.

JULY 2023 ONWARD

04 Jul — Annual BCSO/VMC Independence Day Parade - Details in May. AVET BBQ for Vets planned after the Parade at VMC.

06 Aug — Purple Heart Remembrance Day by MOPH Brevard at the VMC Gray Hall and Plaza 1400-1600. Details in June.

11 Sep — Patriot Day 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony at VMC 1630-1900. Details in July.

26 Oct— BCSO Shredder Event - VM PARK - 0900-1030.

11 Nov — SFR Veterans Day 5K VM PARK and Center - 0600-1000; Merging to:

11 Nov — VMC Veterans Day Ceremony Plaza, Center, Gray Hall with lunch courtesy of Chick Fil a on Route 520 — 1030—1230

***Please help us spread the word
and advise of any new events.***

Donn Weaver, BVC Chairman 757-871-6576



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The *INTERCOM* is the primary communications vehicle for the Chapter. Copies are mailed to members, friends and other MOAA Chapters throughout Florida and the United States. Additional copies are disseminated at facilities on Patrick SFB and throughout Brevard County. The *INTERCOM* is also posted to our award-winning website (www.moaacc.org) and distributed to over 1,500 email subscribers. Members are patriotic and professional. We encourage our members to support businesses that support MOAACC.

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