



The INTERCOM

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
Cape Canaveral Chapter, Inc.



Happy Veterans Day

Nov 11



Happy 100th Birthday, George!

World War II and Korea Veteran

More on Page 13



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PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Steve Cusick, Captain, USN (Ret), President, MOAACC

Your MOAA Chapter Connection

November - A special month on the calendar. Hello again and welcome to the November 2025 edition of the INTERCOM. November is designated as National Veterans and Military Families Month to honor the commitment, sacrifice and resilience of our military members, veterans and their families. As frequently pointed out by our national president, Lt.Gen. Brian T. Kelly, USAF (Ret), our motto is of course:

“Never Stop Serving”

This is not just the MOAA motto, it is a mindset exemplified across our membership. An outstanding example of the dedication, commitment and resilience of one of our members is the life story of Major George Rosenfield, USA, (Ret) who recently celebrated his 100th Birthday last month. George is a WW II and Korea veteran who served in the U.S. Army's famed Tenth Mountain Division during combat operations in northern Italy. An engineer and scientist, he has received numerous professional awards, and is still an active member regularly attending chapter events.

I strongly encourage you to take advantage of the many Veterans Day events and celebrations, especially our Good Deeds Foundation Veterans Day Recognition Dinner at the Holiday Inn Viera Conference Center on Saturday November 8th. For reservation details please visit the weblink provided online. <https://gdfd.org>

By the way, our MOAACC website also serves as the “focal point” for our Chapter to our many events. To keep up to date on these events, please visit our website: <https://moaacc.org> or review our November Events listings in this month's INTERCOM.

Again, thank you so much for your support and we look forward to seeing you soon. May you and your families have a joyful and bountiful Thanksgiving!



EDITOR'S NOTE

John Franco, COL, USAF (ret)

Question: Hasn't October been a great month? The weather has been great with no hurricanes; the US Navy celebrated its 250th birthday with a fabulous dinner dance; Israel and Hamas have agreed to a ceasefire (albeit fragile) with all living hostages returned; we've had great attendance at our TMBC meetings; and speaking of birthdays, we got to celebrate George Rosenfield's 100th birthday with him and his family. We also had a very informative and motivating luncheon and presentation this month making sure surviving spouses are not left with a bureaucratic mess following a member's death. For those who have not updated or completed Pat's checklist, let's get on it.



NOVEMBER EVENTS

(Click Event for Details)

- 11/6 Current Affairs Forum/TMBC - 8 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 11/6 Veteran Administration Claims Forum - 10:30 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - Colony Hall
- 11/8 Cape Canaveral 2025 Veterans Day Parade
11:10 AM @ Holiday Inn Viera Conference Center
- 11/8 1st Annual Vystar MOAACC Veterans Day
Recognition Dinner - 5 PM
@ Holiday Inn Viera Conference Center
- 11/9 NVHS 8th Annual 5k for Veterans - 8 AM
@ Eau Gallie Square, Melbourne
- 11/11 On-The-Go Luncheon - 11:30 AM
@ Squid Lips, Melbourne
- 11/13 TMBC - 8 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 11/18 MOAACC B.O.D. Mtg. - 9:30 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - Chapel
- 11/18 November MOAACC Luncheon & Annual
Membership Business Mtg. - 11:30 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - Colony Hall
- 11/20 TMBC - 8 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 11/27 TMBC - 8 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole

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

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See more in the online version
at <https://moaacc.org>

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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 and send as **"Attachment."**
- Submit only up to two photos per article. More photos may be accepted if necessary.
- All photos must have "captions" of who, what, when, where and why.

ARTICLES:

- Articles must be in Microsoft "Word" format in Times New Roman 12 font. **PDF NOT ACCEPTED**
- LIMITS: One article per email, not more than 375 words. Each Article must include Author Name & Rank

DEADLINES & SUBMISSION EMAIL:

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- **DO NOT SEND Cc TO EVERYONE**

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FINANCIAL LITERACY

CAPT Arnold Lim, USNR (Ret)

Roth IRA Conversions, Part I

A common question asked on tax-filing day, 15 April, is: "How can I minimize my tax burden this year?" A better set of questions might be to take the longer-term, bigger picture stance: "How can I minimize my taxes over my remaining lifetime?" or "How can I maximize the wealth transfer to my legacy/kids?" With this in mind, one of the more dominant questions of financial shows these days is Roth IRA Conversions. Over the next 3 months' articles, we will examine this complex topic.

Roth Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA) were introduced in 1997; Senator William Roth sponsored the idea of retirement accounts made with after-tax contributions and that thus allowed for future withdrawals to be tax-free, given that certain rules are followed. [Conversely, Traditional IRAs are made with pre-tax contributions, and thus, all future withdrawals must eventually be taxed as ordinary income.] The huge advantage of Roths is that monies in it can grow tax free for the rest of your life (or even your beneficiary's life, if inherited); no small thing.

First, let's examine the 2 methods to fund Roth IRAs; Conversions and Contributions:

Conversions take withdrawals from a Traditional IRA and immediately transfer those monies to a Roth IRA. But any conversion is no longer reversible, i.e., cannot re-characterize Roth conversions like one could years ago. Conversions may be performed by anyone, regardless of age or amount of earned income, as long as one has Traditional IRA funds. Importantly, there is no maximum amount allowed. Each conversion for each tax year is confined to its calendar year (01 Jan - 31 Dec).

Comparatively, Roth IRA Contributions have several restrictions. Just like contributions to Traditional IRAs, one must have "earned income" to be eligible to contribute. And how much one may contribute each year is limited; the max started at \$2k back in the 1990's and has steadily increased to \$7k, with an additional catchup contribution of \$1k per year for taxpayers age 50+ years old. Contributions for each tax year can be made from 01 Jan all the way up to 15 April of the next year (i.e., 15.5 months).

A very important disadvantage of executing a Roth Conversion is that the money is considered as a distribution; you'll receive a 1099-R tax form from

your IRA holder. The amount converted is considered ordinary income, and thus, taxes most definitely will be due, which goes back to understanding tax brackets; more on this later.

Why

It is not uncommon for many retirees to have an overwhelming portion of their assets in pre-tax, Traditional retirement accounts (IRAs/401k/403b/etc). This can create a ticking time bomb dilemma that may go off later in your retirement years due to Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs). Admittedly, this is a good problem but a problem nonetheless.

How to Decide to Convert or Not

The primary question to ask for deciding whether to perform a Roth Conversion: First compare the tax rate of what you pay today versus what you think you might pay in the future. This leads to understanding the progressive nature of federal tax rates. Last month's article briefly reviewed the now-permanent tax brackets from the One Big Beautiful Bill (OBBB) Act's passing. So the topic of whether tax rates will change or remain the same is at least initially answered; no change for the time being. (In previous recent years, financial advisers were saying to take advantage of the low tax rates of 2017-2025, before the tax rates rose.)

Next month we will discuss some take-away thoughts on Roth Conversions



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LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

John R. McMahon, BG, USA (Retired)

What's really behind the Government Shutdown?

While the government shutdown continues unabated, there has been a whirlwind of “information” swirling about in the media, attempting to provide some cogent explanations for the various positions taken by Democrats and Republicans in the Congress. I encountered one very helpful diagnosis recently in a WSJ commentary by Ge Bai, a professor of accounting and health policy at Johns Hopkins University. In the tradition of the old “military information paper,” I thought it useful to highlight his insights into the matter so that we can all have the facts to consider in judging who is on the “right side” of this issue and respond accordingly in our communications with Congress. After all, the continuation of this shutdown debacle has no one’s best interest in sight.

Since Obamacare (i.e. the Affordable Care Act (ACA)) was passed in 2010, only people whose household incomes are between 100-400% of the federal poverty level (FPL) were eligible to receive federal subsidies for premiums for health insurance policies purchased under ACA. However, at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, in March 2021, the American Rescue Plan temporarily extended premium subsidy eligibility to those with incomes above 400% of the federal poverty level, allowing people at any income level to receive subsidies originally intended for those with modest means. In August 2022, the Inflation Reduction Act extended those subsidies through December 2025. Professor Bai explains: “Letting the subsidies go away merely restores the original Obamacare premium-support structure. That preserves access to subsidies for low-income populations, who already comprise 93% of the 24 million who get health insurance through the Obamacare exchanges. The expiration will affect roughly 1.6 million current enrollees. These are the people with incomes above 400% of the federal poverty level who have been receiving subsidies that cap their premium contributions at 8.5% of income. A family of four in Arizona making \$600,000, a married couple in West Virginia making \$580,000, and a single individual in Vermont making \$180,000 all qualify for subsidies.” He concludes: “Congress is debating whether to let Covid-era Obamacare premium subsidies expire as scheduled at the end of 2025. These subsidies—costing taxpayers more than \$400 billion over the next decade—have enticed higher-income Americans into unaffordable plans and distorted insurance markets. They belong in the dustbin of history.” In my mind, this seems to be an “open and shut case” for common sense

to prevail. You be your own judge. Bai also explains why Obamacare premiums continue to rise, attributing it to “the inflationary provisions of the Affordable Care Act—such as the medical loss ratio, mandated ‘essential’ benefits, community rating, and premium subsidies—have inhibited insurers from offering affordable and flexible options. The law’s regulatory burdens on providers have also fueled consolidation and driven up service prices. These structural flaws have long been recognized and are a major reason why the ACA, the American Rescue Plan and the Inflation Reduction Act have all failed to gain bipartisan support.”

Finally, Bai offers some ideas for structural reform of Obamacare that Congress should consider in any future negotiation. “Masking the true price of Obamacare plans, Covid-era premium subsidies have distorted insurance markets and trapped people in plans they don’t want. When Americans start to understand how expensive these plans really are, they will begin demanding genuine insurance that covers only major events at affordable premiums. Innovative options—such as direct primary and specialty care, association plans, health-share ministries, and crowd-sharing arrangements—will emerge organically. Congress has a duty to end this fiscal recklessness, halt further market deterioration, and restore a regulatory environment that fosters innovation and affordability. Give Americans access to health plans that they genuinely need and want.” Nuff said.



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POINTS TO PONDER

MAJ (Chaplain, USAR Ret.) Bill Adams

In your time in military service, were you touched, shaped or strengthened by a chaplain or other form of military ministry? I sure was! As an 18-year-old, new Christian, I was very much influenced by an outstanding ministry that is still going strong: OCF, the Officers Christian Fellowship. Allow me to offer a short tribute to this organization that has positively impacted our military in untold ways.

Headquartered in Colorado Springs, OCF's vision is the military community positively impacted through Christlike leaders. Their mission is to engage military leaders in biblical growth to equip them for Christlike service at the intersection of faith, family, and profession. OCF runs two beautiful conference centers: Spring Canyon, Colorado and White Sulphur Springs, Pennsylvania. At each of our service academies, the ministry is active and focused on the future officers of our armed forces. That was much to my benefit as a young cadet at WestPoint. OCF Bible studies, personal fellowship, spiritual retreats, and one-on-one discipleship gave me a tremendous boost in "walking the walk" and not just "talking the talk" as a believer in the military ranks. COL (ret.) John George, U.S. Army Infantry and Vietnam vet was my OCF mentor. I honor the strength of his military leadership coupled with the intensity of his personal, and public, faith.

OCF supports military chaplains, offering prayer, encouragement, and participation in chapel-sponsored and workplace ministries. It encourages its members to serve as spiritual teammates to chaplains. As a Field Artilleryman, I had the privilege of coming alongside several chaplains to encourage and strengthen them personally as they spiritually strengthened the military community on land, sea, and air. I was privileged to serve my fellow officers in unit assignments in the Regular Army. I led Bible studies, taught at retreats, and helped run conferences in the US and overseas. Post active duty I was mostly disconnected from the ministry until arriving at the Space Coast. That's when OCF headquarters reached out to say they needed a local coordinator for Patrick (then) Air Force Base. I said I was willing, but not being USAF wondered if I qualified for the role. The operations head, an Army man himself, assured me that would work fine and that "those flyboys need some grounding" anyway! May God bless the OCF, and God bless all our military officers, active and retired.

HEALTHY LIVING

CAPT (ret) Rita Shapiro, MA, DPT

What is the significance of the month of November besides fall is in the air and filled with delectable spices and aromas with a distinct reminder of upcoming Harvest and Thanksgiving fests. November is also significant for Diabetes Awareness, Pancreatic Cancer Awareness and not forgetting November 20th as the Great Smoke out day. But what I would like to focus on this month is Men's Health and MOVEMBER.

If you were not already aware, here is a reminder - MOVEMBER is an annual, month-long event in November where men grow moustaches to raise money and awareness for men's health issues, including prostate cancer, testicular cancer, and male suicide. The name is a blend of "moustache" and "November." Participants, known as "Mo Bros" and "Mo Sisters", also raise funds through other challenges like walking or running 60 miles (to honor the 60 men who die from suicide each week) or hosting events.

So, go out there and walk just two miles a day every day in November. And guys! Perhaps grow a moustache to bring an awareness to men's health.

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Mark Your Calendar!

Save the Dates for Upcoming MOAACC 2025/2026 Events:

(See our website events calendar for details)

- 8 November 2025: 1st Annual VyStar MOAACC Veterans Day Recognition Dinner
- 9 November 2025: NVHS 8th Annual 5k for Veterans
- 18 November 2025: MOAACC Luncheon & Annual Membership Business Meeting
- 5 December 2025: Annual Christmas Dinner Dance
- 11 December 2025: Surviving Spouses & Spouses Christmas Tea
- 13 December 2025: 4th Annual Space Force 10-Miler
- 10 January 2026: MOAACC Installation Banquet (New Leadership Installation Ceremony)
- 29-31 January 2026: Florida Council of Chapters Leadership Training Seminar and Convention
- 31 January 2026: 20th Annual MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation Fundraiser Cruise

On-the-Go-Luncheon November 11, 2025

Squid Lips

1477 Pineapple Ave
Melbourne, FL 32935

This month's 'On-the-Go' we will meet at Squid Lips-Melbourne. For reservations or additional information phone Toni Lowe at (321) 474-6888. Cut off for reservations, cancellations is the Friday prior, so she can inform the restaurant on how many are coming. Cost: Per individual. As always, please honor your reservation or call Toni if you cannot attend so she can inform the restaurant in a timely fashion. Everyone is invited so please join us.

On the Go Luncheons - we meet the second Tuesday of each month; watch our website or The Intercom for future event details.

MOAACC Spouse/Surviving Spouse Annual Christmas Tea

Please join us for the Annual Spouses and Surviving Spouses Christmas Tea on Thursday, December 11th, at 1pm in the At Ease Club at Indian River Colony Club. It will be a wonderful way to kick off the holiday season, Come and enjoy and English Tea, fun and entertainment. Maybe we will sing a few carols.

For information and reservations, please call Ellie Joy at (321) 961-2962 no later than Thursday, December 4th.

STAY UP TO DATE - VISIT:

www.MOAACC.org

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MOAAC MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Welcome our New Members!

Last Name	First Name	Rank	Service	Component	Status	Membership Level	Membership Start
Bagley	Anne	LCDR	Navy	Reserve	Retired	Annual	10/16/2025
Darling	Janice	Lt Col	Air Force	Nat'l Guard	Retired	Annual	09/18/2025
Fox	Kevin	Major	Air Force	Regular	Retired	Annual	10/02/2025
Johnson	Jimmie	1LT	Army	Regular	Former	Annual	09/16/2025
McBee	Lillian	LT	Navy	Regular	Active	Annual	09/16/2025
McElheran	Amanda	2LT	Army	Reserve	Active	Annual	09/19/2025
Newgent	Matthew	CPT	Army	Regular	Former	Annual	09/19/2025
Parsons	Carla	Mrs	*	Other	*	**	10/06/2025

*Surviving spouse ** Surviving spouse auxiliary

MOAAC Past Presidents Dinner: Celebrating Leadership



MOAAC Past Presidents gathered at the 2025 Past Presidents Dinner at IRCC.

Front row, left to right: Colonel Gary Eppler, USAF, 2018; Colonel Susan Neuneberger, USAF, 2011; Colonel Steve Bond, USA, 2021; Captain Robert Watts, USN, 2015.

Back row, left to right: Captain Steve Cusick, USN, current president; Colonel Jeff Rogers, USA, 2014; Captain Don Weaver, USA, 2016; Colonel Rick Kniseley, USAF, 2024; Commander Ken Lowe, USNR, 2022.

On October 4, 2025, MOAAC hosted its annual Past Presidents Dinner at the Indian River

Colony Club in Viera, Florida. This event brought together the chapter's past and current leaders for an evening of camaraderie, reflection, and recognition.

Held in the elegant At Ease Club Main Dining Room, attendees shared stories, celebrated the chapter's legacy, and honored those who have shaped MOAAC over the years. The dinner highlighted the dedication and service of past presidents while inspiring current and future leaders to continue supporting the military community. The evening underscored the chapter's commitment to leadership, service, and tradition—values that remain the foundation of MOAAC's mission to support veterans, active duty personnel, and their families.

TAPS

LTC James E. Parsons, USA (Ret). He is survived by his spouse, Carla.

Marilyn Sanford, MOAAC (spouse member, Media Liaison). She is survived by husband, Larry.

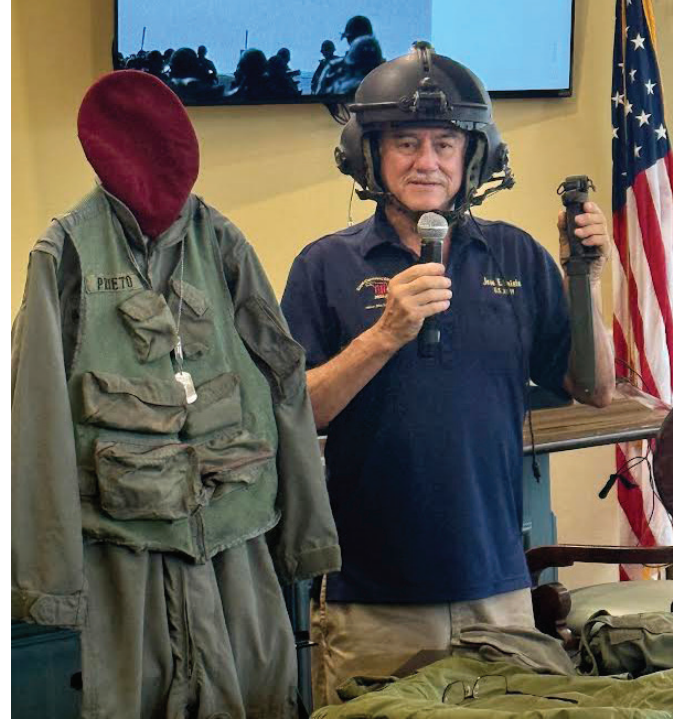
Steven Tuller, survived by his spouse, Ann (also a MOAAC member)



Current Affairs



Jose pictured with Chapter President Steve Cusick



Jose pictured giving his presentation with manikin in flight uniform

Chief Warrant Officer Four (Ret) Jose Prieto is a member of the local Military Officers of America Cape Canaveral Chapter (MOAACC). During the October Current Affairs Forum (CAF) held on Thursday, October 2, 2025, he gave a presentation on Operation Urgent Fury about the October 25, 1983 US invasion of the Island of Grenada. CW4 (Ret) Prieto was a helicopter pilot with the 82nd Airborne Division and flew during the invasion.

First Annual VyStar Recognition Dinner

By Capt (Fmr) Larry Jackson, USAF – Recognition Dinner Chair

On Saturday, November 8, 2026, the MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation (GDF) will host its First Annual VyStar Recognition Dinner at the Viera Holiday Inn Conference Center.

The purpose of this special evening is to honor those who exemplify service to our veterans and community by recognizing the Brevard County Veterans Projects, Veterans Organizations, and Veterans Volunteers of the Year.

Our guest speaker will be Congressman Mike Haridopolos, U.S. representative for Florida's 8th congressional district. Admiral Wayne Justice will serve as Master of Ceremonies, and Sheriff Wayne Ivey will take the stage as our lively auctioneer.

This dinner marks the Good Deeds Foundation's premier fundraising event, replacing the annual golf tournament. To ensure its success, we're inviting all MOAACC members and supporters to get involved:

1. Purchase a table (\$1,250) and invite friends, family, or business associates to join you.
2. Attend individually – bring a guest or come on your own and purchase a seat for \$125.
3. Honor a veteran by purchasing a commemorative ad (\$125) in the dinner program booklet.
4. Spread the word! Share our flyer with your church, civic group, doctor, or dentist and encourage them to sponsor a table or purchase an ad (\$250).

For more information, please visit GDFD.org or contact Larry Jackson at larryj59@gmail.com.

Your support enables the Good Deeds Foundation to continue its mission of assisting youth programs (JROTC and ROTC), active-duty military members and their families, veterans' organizations, and veterans at risk. Together, we can make a lasting difference for those who serve and have served.

October MOAACC Luncheon



Photo by John Franco

L to R: Rosa Reich 1, Vice President and Programs Chair; Steve Cusick, President; Pat Green, FCoC Director, Surviving Spouse Programs and Resources ; Ellie Joy, Chapter Surviving Spouse Liaison



Photo by John Franco

L to R: Cadets Emily Olds, Joe Williams, Genesis Hernandez, Alandra Viera



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Photo by John Franco

Pat emphasizing chart information during presentation

Chart depicting MOAA pamphlets for Surviving Spouse planning

Melbourne Launch of Space Coast Honor Flight: Something Special



ADM Jim Hart (l) accepts MOAACC GDF Check from Jay Welch, Donn Weaver and Mike Kahanca



The 11 October 2025 Space Coast Honor Flight (SCHF) was just the second from Melbourne Orlando International Airport but was an amazing success. SCHF has offered 84 trips from Brevard for veterans to visit their Wash DC monuments since Oct 2010. This flight made the total taken on that mission 2255 Veterans!!

The group that Saturday assembled 0400-0500 AM in the main lobby of the airport and headed upstairs to board the aircraft right on schedule. There were 49 veterans on board who were honored, each had a guardian to assist. Two were Korean War Vets, 41 were Vietnam Era veterans and 6 served after Vietnam. The largest number of women veterans (six) were included this flight while 10 of the veterans were retired with 20 or more years of military service.

Two were over 90 years of age and one commanded three nuclear submarines during the Cold War.

Rep Mike Haridopolos led the group of dignitaries and sponsors on hand to welcome and honor the veterans heading out as SCHF CEO ADM Jim Hart led the Ceremony from Roll Call to departure with many SCHF volunteers helping. Several major sponsors were recognized, including MOAACC's Good Deeds Foundation which provided SCHF \$3200 to support 8 Guardians travel in 2026 from Florida Tech's ROTC and VA Psych PhD programs. To learn more about this amazing 501c3 organization and mission, or to register for the flight as an honoree or guardian, contact schf.org.



SCHOLARSHIP CORPORATION

Col D Brent Baysinger, USAF (Ret)

MOAACC Scholarship Recipient Closes in on Army Commission



Senior ROTC Army Cadet Daniel Weaver, soon to be commissioned 2 Lt

After receiving his \$5000 MOAACC Scholarship Award in July of 2024, Senior ROTC Army Cadet Daniel Weaver, is on track for success. In May of 2026 he will be commissioned as a 2LT and graduate from Christopher Newport University with a BA. Weaver credits his scholarship with being able to reduce work time during the school year and focus on his studies and some major accomplishments in the ROTC Program. Weaver returned to college in 2023 after a combat deployment in SW Asia of 13 months with his National Guard Unit, a part of the 29th Infantry Division. His ROTC BN Commander, LTC Patrick Tillman, USA, Ret, sent a recent update to Weaver's proud grandparents, MOAACC members, Donn and Jeanne. After a summer of training and leadership experiences including airborne, air assault and three weeks in a special training program along the DMZ of South Korea, Weaver's ROTC stock has soared:

- #1 of 18 Senior Cadets at CNU
 - #2 of 36 Senior Cadets in Tide Water, VA (five colleges)
 - #4 of 822 in the 4th Army ROTC Brigade with six states
 - #21 of 5538 Senior Army Cadets Nationally
- Hats off to Cadet Weaver and to his well spent MOAACC Scholarship.



Proud grandpa, Donn Weaver, as a young captain



MOAACC GOOD DEEDS FOUNDATION

Donn Weaver, CPT USA (fmr), President Good Deeds Foundation

GDF Fundraiser Dinner is Here — Final Call and Update on FY 2026 Plans

After months of planning and thanks to help from many MOAACC members, we are less than two weeks away from your Good Deeds Foundation VyStar Veteran Recognition Dinner at the Viera Holiday on 8 November 1715 hours. There is still time to order seats or contribute an ad or memorial to our Program. All the information is noted in this issue and below. We hope to report great success for the December Intercom, thanks to MOAACC members and our sponsors.

If the results match our expectations, FY 2026 will be another record-breaking banner year for GDF as we plan for a budget over \$150K. How far we have come from the first year GDF became a separate 501c3 with MOAACC in 2017 with a budget under \$30K.

Already this FY (which began 01 Oct 2025) GDF has:

- Provided \$3200 to Space Coast Honor Flight for FIT Guardians in 2026
- Given \$4000 to Their Voice of Hope Women Veterans Organization for coming year programs
- Supported veteran family holiday parties for needy vets through American Legion Auxiliary
- Sponsored the 2025 All Military Ball at KSC Visitors complex via the Space Coast Top 3
- Advanced \$5000 to Veterans' Connections to help veterans and families on the edge of
- poverty and to avoid homelessness
- Sponsored the NVHS Dinner (\$2500) and the 5K (\$1000) to assist their missions in support

of the homeless, provide holiday meals and hotel breaks, and prevent more veterans and their families from that plight.

Enjoy a great family Thanksgiving knowing that your GDF is on point to make sure more veterans, junior enlisted, JROTC and other cadets do as well.

GDF is looking for a couple more MOAACC members interested in joining our Board in January 2026. Please reach out to Donn Weaver or any Board Member if you are even just considering that option for 2026. Regards, Donn. 757-871-6576.

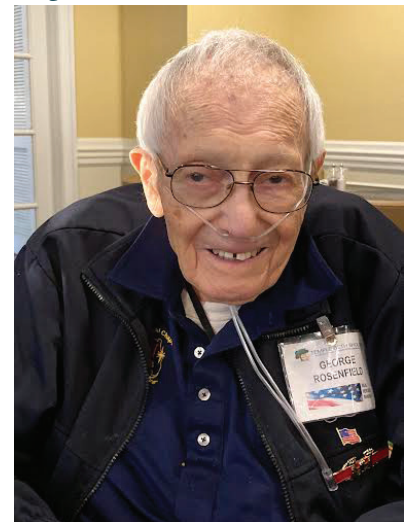
Happy 100th Birthday, George!

George's journey is one marked by courage, adaptability, and a steadfast commitment to service—both to his country and to his family. Drafted into the U.S. Army in December 1943, George's life was forever changed by the events of World War II. He volunteered for the elite ski troops and was assigned to the renowned 10th Mountain Division, where he faced the harsh realities of combat in the mountains of Italy as an automatic rifleman. His valor and skill earned him the Combat Infantryman Badge, a testament to his dedication and resilience.

As the war in Europe drew to a close, George's unit prepared for the daunting prospect of invading Japan. Fate intervened, and the war ended before he was called to another front. Returning home, George seized the opportunity to pursue higher education, excelling in college and earning his commission through ROTC. His career as a combat engineer began, and so did a new chapter in his personal life—he married Carolyn, the love of his life, and together they looked forward to a future filled with promise. But history had other plans. The outbreak of the Korean War in 1950 found George once again answering the call to serve. By August, he was a Second Lieutenant combat engineer at the Pusan Perimeter, one of the most critical battles of the conflict. He participated in the breakout, advanced deep into North Korea, and endured the grueling retreat when Chinese forces intervened. Through the stalemate and shifting front lines, George's resolve never wavered.

After leaving Korea in October 1951, George returned to San Francisco and reunited with Carolyn. Together, they began their family, welcoming two sons and building a life shaped by the lessons of war and peace. George's service did not end with his military career; he retired as a Major and embarked on a second career as a geospatial expert, contributing to NASA and various missile programs.

This brief memoir is the story of a man who faced extraordinary challenges with humility and strength, who found love and purpose amid uncertainty, and who dedicated his life to making a difference in the world. Through George's eyes, we witness the sweep of history and the quiet moments that define a life well-lived. Happy 100th Birthday, George.



Never Forget: Some Gold Star Families Share Their Stories

CPT Donn A. Weaver USA (Former)



The last Sunday in September every year was declared by the US Government to be Gold Star Mother and Family Day. On 28 September, members of ten such families gathered for a dinner, candlelight ceremony and time of remembrance at the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center on Merritt Island. The event was hosted by BVMC and fully funded by Good Deeds Foundation of MOAACC. Olive Garden catered a great meal as the family members shared stories of how they lost their loved ones with only others who have travelled on that tough journey. The stories ran from WWII to just a couple years ago. Pictures brought in helped all to focus on the life lost in, or because of, military service to our country.

Each guest received a special Gold and Blue Star Information card (see picture) which defines the Gold Star concept begun after WWI. Families were given photos from the evening and provided details about the BVMC Gold Star Family Christmas and Holiday Tree that will be set up again for one month on 07 December 2025 in the BVMC Museum and the new outdoor Merritt Island Community and Gold Star Family Tree that will be planted this fall and illuminated for the first time, with many years to follow, on 13 December at 1900.

Thanks to Gold Star Mom Jeanne Weaver for organizing and decorating for the event. Contact Donn Weaver, 757-871-6576 for more information.

Service Flags



The term Gold Star family evolved from the service flags/banners first displayed by family members in WWI. The banner hung in a window and a star was placed on it for each family member serving in a war or conflict. If there was a death, the blue star was replaced with a gold star. This observance is still practiced today.



The Gold Star lapel pin is issued to family members who lost a service member serving in a conflict zone during war or periods of armed hostilities, as a result of an international terrorist attack or while serving in a military operation outside the U.S. as part of a peacekeeping force.



The Next of Kin lapel pin is issued to the family of a service member who lost his or her life while on active duty or while assigned in the National Guard or Reserve in a drill status.

VyStar Foundation is a proud sponsor of MOAACC

On behalf of The Military Officers Association of America (MOAACC), we extend our heartfelt gratitude for VyStar Foundation's support of The Good Deeds Foundation, allowing us to continue our mission of service and camaraderie. As Vice President of the Good Deeds Foundation and a VyStar member for four decades I am proud of their unwavering support of the military community. Thank you for standing with us as we serve and support those who have served our nation.

Mike Gautreaux

Colonel, USMC (ret)

Vice President, MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation



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JROTC Raider Challenge Meet Sets Record

Donn Weaver, CPT(former) United States Army



On a muggy, but clear morning of 27 September at the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center Park, not impacted by construction, over 335 JROTC cadets from 11 high schools competed with determination and grit in five grueling events. With over 600 parents, siblings and friends also cheering the cadets along, it was a record setting event. Two more Raider Meets will take place on 11 October and on 1 November when the winners will advance to State competition before Thanksgiving. Rockledge High School, led by JROTC Instructor MAJ Steven Celeste, USA, Ret, led this event which included an opening 3 KM run followed by the Rope Bridge, Stretcher carry, Pull and Drag and a new combat simulated track with six different movements and equipment to negotiate. Trophies were provided by MOAACC's Good Deeds Foundation which also funded Porta Johns, when water was not available due to the Amphitheater Construction Project, and the Coastal/Merritt Island EMT support. The first meet usually has some minor injuries, as eight cadets were treated, but none had to be moved to the hospital. The event included three high schools from other counties!! While mostly Army JROTC programs were involved, the Space Force (Space Coast Jr-Sr HS), Marines (Palm Bay Magnet School) and Air Force (Satellite HS) also worked earning several trophies. The Formation to award trophies began with a push up contest despite all the efforts by all cadets during the five-hour event. All left tired, but content they did their best to begin the new school year of JROTC Competitions.

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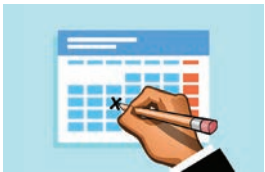
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MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation

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Unofficial Brevard VMC Vets Calendar

November 2025 & Beyond

Contact VMC for any additions or other information.

NOTE: Some Events Change in-between our monthly mailing of the BVMC Calendar.

Keep up to date with those changes using our web link:

<https://veteransmemorialcenter.org/upcoming-veterans-events/>

Contact donnweaver2020@gmail.com for more information or to participate.

NOVEMBER

1 Nov — District Championship JROTC Raider Challenge Invitational Meet at BVMC Park. 0630-1300. Veteran organizations pass out trophies and are welcome to support our youth. Most action including awards ceremony takes place 1030-1300. Contact Donn Weaver of BVMC on 757-871-6576 for any questions.

7 Nov — Boomer Bash Senior Expo 0900-1300 at the War Bird Museum Titusville Airport. Exhibits, Museum Tours, Activities, food, music and much more. Sponsored by Senior Life Magazine with themes from the 1940's and 50's. Contact 321-242-1235 for more information and register a booth.

8 Nov — Space Coast Honor Flight Send Off 0400-0530 hrs at Melbourne Airport Terminal. Honors 20 plus veterans and guardians with travel to Wash DC to visit their monuments and memorials. Check out SCHF.org for more info.

8 Nov — Annual St Francis Hospice Foundation Dash 5K In Life Fundraiser at VMC Plaza and Park. 0800 - 1200 Includes veteran recognition and pinning. Focused on Devotion, Admiration, Service and Honor for Veterans in support SFH We Honor Veterans Program. sign up at <https://run.signup.com/Race/FL/MerriottIsland/SKDashHonoringVeterans>.

8 Nov — Veterans Day Recognition VyStar Dinner at Holiday Inn Viera Conference Center 1715-2030. Sponsored by MOAA Cape Canaveral Chapter Good Deeds Foundation. To honor and express our and community gratitude to individuals, associations and projects that make a significant impact on military veterans in Brevard County. Sponsors at levels from \$10K, to \$5K to Tables of 10 at \$1250. Seat are \$125 and are now available. To register and get more information go to GDFD.ORG or contact event chair Larry Jackson on 321-242-1331 or larryj59@gmail.com.

8 Nov — Annual VFW Post 10131 and City of Cape Canaveral Veterans Day Parade 1000-1130. Entry Details in September This year VFW Post in Cape Canaveral is hosting and managing the event. Food and music at the Post after the parade.

8 Nov — The Support Committee at the Cape Canaveral National Cemetery will hold their annual Fall Fundraiser at the American Legion Post 1 in Titusville on 1281 N. Washington St. 1730- 2100. Includes a silent auction, 50/50 raffle, music and fellowship. Funds from the event will help build a storage shed to house Flags For Fallen Veterans which are placed on individual graves at CCNC around every Memorial Day every year. Contact SC/CCNC for more information and to sign up through the Secretary Priscilla Southworth: saavik31324@yahoo.com or 321-543-4563. Tax deductible donations are welcomed if you cannot attend the event.

9 Nov — 8th Annual Homestretch 5K for Veterans by NVHS for Homeless and at-Risk Veterans. 0800-1100. Eau Gallie Arts District at the Square Park. Sponsors, Volunteers, Runners needed. Last day to sign up as a sponsor is 10 October. SEE: runsignup.com/Homestretch5K

11 Nov — BVMC Veterans Day Ceremony. 0930 - 1030 VMC Plaza. Celebration of the 250th Anniversary of America and our Veterans with a Parade of Colonial Era Flags by the Sea Cadets Courageous division, a special guest speaker and the Missing Man Table Remembrance Ceremony by Rolling Thunder FL Chapter 1. NOTE: While the Amphitheater and Park will not be completed by this Veterans Day, wait until next year with possible Parade of Colors that afternoon in the new Amphitheater/Park. NOTE: Stay Tuned for new Date for Ribbon Cutting in the expanded Brevard's Veterans Memorial Park with Amphitheater either in mid-December or early January 2026. The Space Coast Symphony Orchestra plans to perform at that event.

11 Nov — Celebrate Veterans Day with the United States Air Force Jazz Band! The U.S. Air Force Jazz Band invites you to join them for an unforgettable evening of LIVE music, performed by the country's finest Airmen musicians at the: Maxwell C. King Center for the Performing Arts 865 N. Wickham Road, Melbourne, FL 32935. Veterans Day / Nov. 11, 2025. Doors Open at 6 Pm Show Starts at 7 PM. FREE and open to the public! Come honor those who served! Click here to secure your spot today. All seating is general admission and provided on a first-come, first-served basis.

12 Nov — FREE CONCERT "Music at Noon" & Snacks Veterans and others join us at the Martin Andersen Senior Center in Rockledge to continue celebrating Veterans Day. 1200-1300, 1025 S Florida Avenue, Rockledge, FL 32955. The New Horizons Band of Rockledge and JD Daniel is a keyboardist, vocalist & composer who resides in Titusville and performs regularly at Heidi's in Cocoa Beach will perform his new recording "The Bells of Freedom".

15 Nov — Brevard County Marine Corps League Detachment 513 250th Marine Corps Birthday Ball 1800- 2200. Space Coast Convention Center, 301 Tucker Lane Cocoa. Guests Business Casual dress. Dinner includes two choices, with cash bar, music and dancing. Cost \$50 per person payable in advance by 08 November. Advanced Paid Reservations only with no payment at the door. Contact MCL or VMC on 321-453-1776 to learn more and how to register.

DECEMBER:

6 Dec — Gold Star Family Indoor Christmas/Holiday Tree set up 1400-1600 at Brevard Veterans Memorial Center Museum to stay up until 3 January. Contact Donn Weaver 757-871-6576 for more details and to arrange for a loved one's Star if you lost them because of military service.

6 Dec and 13 Dec — 2025 Holiday Parades

MERRITT ISLAND PARADE: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2025 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

COCOA - ROCKLEDGE PARADE: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2025 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Join us for the 2025 Holiday Parades; this year's parade theme is 'Rockin' Around the Holidays'!

The Merritt Island parade will be on Saturday, December 6, 2025, beginning at Merritt Island High School at 10:00 AM, and ending at Edgewood Jr./Sr. High at approximately 11:30 AM.

The Cocoa - Rockledge parade will be on Saturday, December 13, 2025, beginning at Rockledge High School at 10:00 AM, and ending at Lee Wenner Park at approximately 11:30 AM.

Mindy from Lite Rock 99.3 will be emceeding the parades again this year! Brevard County Parks and Recreation Central Area Operations 840 Forrest Avenue, Cocoa, FL 32922

13 Dec — Holiday Illumination 5K at Brevard Veterans Memorial www.brevardparks.com For more information or to register to be in the parade, please call (321)633-1874. Registration also available online at <https://registration.brevardfl.gov>

Center Park 0700-1000. Sponsored by CAMI and managed by Running Zone. Registration and Information in September. Includes portions of the Mall and newly upgraded BVMC Park with Amphitheater.

13 Dec — Merritt Island's Annual Holiday Illumination Celebration Presented by Community Advocacy for Merritt Island (CAMI) (1600-2030) Includes Community and Gold Star Family Tree Illumination at the expanded Brevard Veterans Memorial Center Park/Amphitheater. Food Trucks, Games, Kids Events and much more. More details in November.

13 Dec — National Wreaths Across America Day at the Cape Canaveral National Cemetery and four other Brevard Locations. Details in Mid-November. Family preference afternoon 12 and morning 13 Dec with the Ceremony beginning at the Flag Assembly area at 1100-1130 hours. Contact WAA/CCNC Deputy Location Coordinator Donn Weaver 757-871-6576 for more information or to buy wreaths or donate to the ceremony.

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

Donn Weaver

Vice President, Veterans Memorial Center
757-871-6576 | donnweaver2020@gmail.com

MOAACC Visit to Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine



Photo L-R: LT Lillian McBee (USN, Student at the College, and MOAACC Member), MAJ Mike Kahanca (USA-Ret and GDF Board Member), Lt Col (Dr) Tom Hoffman (USAF-Ret), Doris Newman (DO and Melbourne Campus Dean), and COL Steve Bond (USA-Ret).

MOAACC representatives visited the Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine at Florida Tech in Melbourne on October 7th. The College is co-located on the campus of Florida Tech. The military services send future Doctors of Osteopathic Medicine (DOs) to the school to complete their studies to become military doctors. At present, thirteen officer/ students from the Army, Navy, and Air Force are enrolled at the campus.



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&

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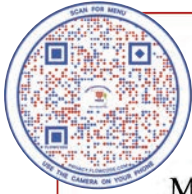
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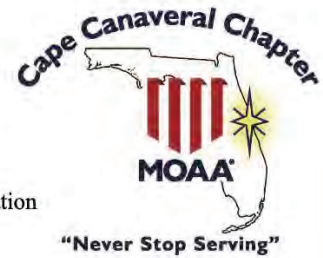
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70-79	\$235		

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Voice of Hope



On 26 September 2025 Donn Weaver MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation President, along with Don Pearsall, Vice President of the Brevard County Veterans Memorial Center presented a check for \$4,000 from Good Deeds to Dorothy Walsh. Ms. Walsh is the founder and president of Their Voice of Hope, whose mission is to advocate for veteran victims and others in need. The organization provides a variety of activities and meets at the Brevard County Veterans Memorial Center.



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Vets Back to Class and STEM Impact



For several years the Brevard Vets Back to Class Program has expended a STEM feature focused on all grade levels. MOAACC's Good Deeds Foundation is a sponsor of that effort for FY 2026. VBC STEM lead is Dr. Pankaj Sharma, retired Purdue Engineering Professor. On 27 Sep he supported a major STEM event at the FPL Solar Energy Center in Melbourne. Dr Sharma provided some interesting details:

EVENT: RESEARCH RULES! 2025

A Science Fair Conference for Students in Grades 4–8, Their Parents, and Teachers - Organized by the Space Coast Science Education Alliance (SCSEA)

Date: September 27, 2025

PURPOSE

- Inspire Brevard County students to explore what scientists do
- Promote inquiry-based learning and original student research
- Build long-term interest in STEM fields

IMPACT

- Attendance: 150+ parents and students
- Representation: 100+ Brevard Public Schools

SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

- Florida Solar Energy Center, UCF
- Brevard Zoo
- Legoland Florida Resort
- SeaWorld
- Orlando
- Route 7 Caring and Entertainment
- Kennedy Space Center
- Brevard Public Schools
- Brevard County Solid Waste, Discovery Education
- Space Coast Science Education Alliance
- Military Officers Association of America – Cape Canaveral Chapter
- Veterans Memorial Center

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- Send to: intercom@moaacc.org



Hans Hunt (Chapter 2nd VP) and Jeff Rogers just prior to Jeff's presentation on the History of the U.S. Army 250 Years for the Sons of the American Revolution on 4 October 2025.

Ordering MOAACC Shirts

1. Click on this link: <https://moaacc.deco-apparel.com/>
2. Click "**Start Shopping**" below the MOAACC Logo
3. Select your shirt: men's or women's, pocket/no pocket and then click "**Add to Cart**"
4. When Shopping Cart appears, verify your item, and click "**edit**" below shirt information on left.
5. Enter your name and Branch (U.S. Air Force, etc.), click on the color of shirt you desire, select your size by placing the number of shirts you are ordering in the box of the appropriate size. Click "**Add to Cart**"
6. Click "**Check Out**" in black box in center of screen.
7. Review Product (price, color, size) and click "**Check Out**"
8. Complete Shipping/Billing Info, check first two blocks at bottom of page and then click "**Proceed to Shipping Method**".
9. Select "**Pick up at Your School**" (for store pickup) or **FedEx Shipping** (additional charge shown) Select "**Proceed**".
10. Go to Payment info and complete. Click "**Proceed to Check Order Info**"
11. Confirm that all information is correct and click "**Complete Order**"

If you are interested in long sleeve shirts, sweaters, jackets or other apparel, please email Bartman Enterprises, papanole@aol.com, and they will send you catalog pictures and prices.

U.S. Navy 250th Birthday Ball at Indian River Colony Club



Colony Hall beautifully decorated for the grand ball - Photo by Jeremiah Zeleny



The oldest and youngest Navy members of the party cut the birthday cake. - Photos by Terry Melloy

Educational Tour for St. Hilda's Anglican School



The picture shown is a group of students from the St. Hilda's Anglican School for Girls in Perth, Australia who traveled to the United States on an educational tour. MOAACC Space Force Liaison, Susie Dabrowki had been asked to provide a presentation on her experiences as an Air Force officer and her pioneering role in space and nuclear operations. They were especially interested on how women can see themselves successful in these fields that are predominantly male oriented.



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