



The INTERCOM

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
Cape Canaveral Chapter, Inc.



Group Photo by Jeremiah Zeleny, Indian River Colony Club Marketing

Inset Flag Photo by John Franco

MOAACC members, following their Thursday morning meeting, gather at the Indian River Colony Club (IRCC) flag pole to wish IRCC Happy 40th Birthday and to dedicate an "America 250" flag presented by the MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation.



**To take action with MOAA, visit: <https://moaa.quorum.us/>
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PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Rosa M. Reich, Capt, USAF (Former)

On January 29-31, fifteen of us attended the Florida Council of Chapters (FCoC) Leadership Training Seminar and 49th Annual Conference. We had an opportunity to network with chapter members from across Florida, attend presentations on a variety of topics, and meet with MOAA CEO and President, Lt Gen Brian T Kelley, USAF (Ret).



Participating in round table discussions, our chapter leadership team shared best practices and received in return ideas for our chapter.

Along with the camaraderie, there were discussions on one of our core missions – advocacy. MOAA's ongoing work to hold the line on service-earned benefits has resulted in a 19th-straight appearance on the annual Top Lobbyist list published Dec. 11 by The Hill, a leading Washington, D.C. news outlet. This recognition is due to several factors; one key fact is the involvement of members participating in the Legislative Action Center (LAC).

Kudos to our members since Cape Canaveral leads the state in the most participants. But we can't just pat ourselves on the back and settle on the current number. Our chapter doesn't lead the state in percentage of members going into the LAC.

We served to protect the US Constitution. In the Bill of Rights, we are guaranteed freedom of speech, making it possible for us to voice our opinions to political leaders. Please consider exercising that right on behalf of veterans, active duty, and their families.

EDITOR'S NOTE

John Franco, COL, USAF (ret)

I'm sure most of us have seen the commercials for "Wounded Warriors" and "Tunnel to Towers" and seen videos of service members and first responders that suffered severe injuries and physical loss in line of duty. From testimonies members have shared, some of you have witnessed these tragedies personally. At our



February luncheon we got to see and hear, "up close and personal" from a dad sharing his son's experience surviving his tank's explosion in Iraq, his recovery, rehabilitation and especially, his determination to live. Indeed, it was an honor and privilege to host SSG P. Russell Marek, his dad, and brother, that day. For those who missed this luncheon, go to our MOAACC website and view the presentation.

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Health of the Chapter

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

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

Ellie Joy, SSM • eajoy1012@gmail.com • (321) 757-0193



MARCH EVENTS

(Click Event for Details)

- 3/5 Current Affairs - 8 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 3/10 On-The-Go Luncheon - 11:30 AM
@ Pane E Vino Restaurant, Melbourne
- 3/12 TMBC - 8 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 3/13 3rd Annual Healthcare on the Rocks - 5 PM
@ Urban Prime Marketplace & Restaurant, Melbourne
- 3/14 Medal of Honor 5K - 8 AM (Classic car show after race)
@ BVMC, Merritt Island
- 3/17 MOAACC B.O.D. Mtg. - 9:30 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - Chapel
- 3/17 MOAACC Luncheon - 11:30 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - Colony Hall
- 3/19 TMBC - 8 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 3/21 243rd Commemoration of the Last Naval Battle of
the Revolutionary War - 10 AM
@ BVMC, Merritt Island
- 3/26 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>

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 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:

- Photos & Articles are **DUE NO LATER THAN the 15th of each month or sooner.** Please send ALL submissions **ONLY** to the following: intercom@moaacc.org
- **DO NOT SEND Cc TO EVERYONE**

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- 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: intercom@moaacc.org

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FINANCIAL LITERACY

CAPT Bob Houle, USCG (retired)

Tax and Aid Alert: Why ‘Tax-Free’ Beats ‘Tax-Deferred’ for Your Grandchild’s Future

I. Inverting the Financial Mission

In our previous discussions, we emphasized that the duty of leadership, the call to “Never Stop Serving!”, extends to mentoring the next generation in financial security. Last month, we focused on securing the immediate advantage offered by the new **Trump Account (TA)** and the power of starting early.

Now, as we begin a new year, it is time for a sophisticated strategic analysis, applying Carl Jacobi’s principle: “**Invert, always invert**”. Instead of asking only how to maximize financial returns, we must ask: “**What mistakes should I avoid?**”. The greatest mistake a sophisticated investor makes is focusing solely on growth rates (return *on* money) while ignoring the drag of future taxes (the return *of* money).

II. Mistake 1: The High Price of Tax-Deferred Growth

The structure of the Trump Account (TA), created under the *One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA)* signed in July 2025, requires careful scrutiny. TAs function similarly to traditional Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs). This means funds grow tax-deferred until the child turns 18.

While tax deferral is valuable, it is **not** the same as tax-free growth. When the child begins withdrawing the accumulated earnings in the future, those earnings will be taxed entirely as **Ordinary Income**. This means the investment growth—the largest portion of the portfolio after decades of compounding—will be subject to their highest marginal income tax rate at that time. This hindsight realization reinforces the lesson that for young investors with decades of growth ahead, the goal should always be to aim for **Tax-Free** savings whenever possible.

III. Alert: Taxing the “Free” Money

We must clarify the tax status of the \$1,000 federal seed contribution, which is a key component of the Trump Account pilot program for children born 2025 through 2028.

While the \$1,000 federal seed is a non-taxable deposit when the child receives it, this amount is **fully taxable** (along with all earnings) upon withdrawal. You should view this \$1,000 as a tax-deferred government contribution. Although the money is an excellent launchpad because of the compounding growth it generates over decades, we must understand the full tax liability tied to that “free money” in the future.

IV. Caution: The FAFSA Risk (Mistake 3 Anticipated)

Financial planning demands **situational awareness** of rules and regulations. A critical, currently **unanswered question**, surrounds how the Trump Account balance will be treated when the beneficiary applies for college financial aid (FAFSA).

Unlike a parent-owned 529 Plan, if the Trump Account is structured as a **custodial student asset**, a large balance could

significantly reduce the grandchild’s eligibility for need-based federal financial aid. This risk needs to be anticipated before committing substantial personal funds to the TA beyond the \$1,000 federal seed.

V. The Strategic Family Portfolio

To counter the drag of future ordinary income taxes and manage potential FAFSA risk, a disciplined family must employ a strategic mix of savings accounts, practicing smart **asset location**. This strategic portfolio utilizes all three primary vehicles, prioritizing the **Tax-Free** options for family contributions:

- 1. The Custodial Roth IRA:** This is the highest priority for maximizing **tax-free retirement wealth**. Contributions are made after-tax, but all growth and qualified withdrawals are entirely tax-free. (Note: The child must have earned income to contribute to a Roth IRA).
- 2. The 529 Plan:** This remains the superior vehicle for education planning. The ability for funds to be withdrawn **tax-free** if used for qualified education expenses makes the 529 the most powerful option for tuition and related costs.
- 3. The Trump Account (TA):** This account is best utilized to capture the **\$1,000 federal seed** and for its flexible, penalty-free withdrawals starting at age 18 for certain purposes, such as **Higher Education** (unlimited) or a **First-Time Home Purchase** (up to \$10,000).

By diversifying your accounts just as you diversify investments, you create a strategic hedge against future tax and legislative changes. Take the \$1,000 federal bonus but direct all additional family contributions to the Roth IRA and 529 Plan first.

Never Stop Serving!

Strategic Comparison: Saving for the Next Generation

Feature	Trump Account (TA)	Custodial Roth IRA	529 Education Plan
Tax Structure	Tax-Deferred (Grows tax-free until 18)	Tax-Free (Growth never taxed)	Tax-Free (For education)
Withdrawal Tax	Ordinary Income (All gains + seed)	Tax-Free (Qualified)	Tax-Free (Qualified Edu)
Liquidity	Locked until Jan 1st of Age 18	Flexible (Contributions accessible)	Available (With 10% penalty)
Income Required	None (Includes \$1,000 Seed)	Earned Income Required	None
Primary Goal	Capture Fed Seed / First Home	Retirement / Long-term Wealth	K-12 & College Tuition
FAFSA Risk	High (Likely student asset)	Low (Exempt from FAFSA)	Low (Parental asset)
Best For...	The "Free" \$1,000 Federal Bonus	Maxing out tax-free compounding	Guaranteed tuition funding

Disclosure: This material is for educational purposes only and is not intended as financial, investment, or tax advice. The author is not a licensed financial advisor. Financial decisions should be made based on individual circumstances and in consultation with a qualified professional.



LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

John R. McMahon, BG, USA (Retired)

Doubling Down

While the specter of another government shutdown has passed with an almost complete set of appropriation bills signed into law, it hardly matters that the one covering DHS is stalled over provisions the Democrats want to impose on how they operate due to funding that was authorized under the Big Beautiful Budget Act earlier this year. So, what if TSA employees and a few others are not getting paid on time, a bit callous and not the best way to keep the trains (planes in this case) running on time. Is good governance a thing of the past when compromising to achieve win-win solutions was the name of the game?

In any event, these are issues of little consequence when compared to the recent analysis released by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) outlining projections on how the national debt will continue to grow in the next 10 years. In his second term, President Trump has begun to radically reshape America's economy by slashing taxes, raising tariffs, canceling federal spending, limiting immigration, and pressuring the Federal Reserve to lower interest rates. According to CBO, these initiatives will not cause dramatic changes to the overall federal budget even though government borrowing (and higher than preferred interest rates) continue to cause alarm amongst economists there, a presumably nonpartisan scorekeeper. Compared with its projections from January 2025, the federal government is now expected to run a \$23.1 Trillion shortfall over the next nine years, rather than a \$21.8 Trillion one, a \$1.4 Trillion wider gap.

As this debt continues to accumulate, CBO projects our debt will become much larger than the annual output of the economy, reaching 120 percent of gross domestic product in 2036, surpassing levels reached in the aftermath of World War II. Most of that debt was subsequently paid down. CBO said it could also put the world's most important economy at risk of destabilizing debt crisis. Furthermore, while the recently passed permanent tax cuts costing roughly \$4.7 trillion over the next nine years, tariffs are only projected to raise roughly \$3 Trillion over that same time frame. Significantly, the tariffs are mired in deep legal and political uncertainty, and the Supreme Court (SC) could soon throw many of them out. Whatever the outcome of the SC decision, they could be replaced by different levies, or a future president could simply abolish them.

Either way, a far more meager revenue source would exacerbate the debt crisis, not to mention the added budget crunch created by Social Security (SS), the most expensive federal program. For years, money spent on the retirement program has outpaced the amount of tax paid into it by younger working Americans, driving wider deficits, and

the SS Trust fund is now expected to run out in 2032, a year earlier than previously expected. The exhaustion of the trust fund will force Congress to decide on a new way of financing Social Security to avoid a deep, across-the-board cut to benefits. The current crackdown on immigration is also putting pressure on America's fiscal situation because the American population will have 5.3 million fewer people in 2035 than it previously expected, reducing projected tax revenue, with an overall budget hit of roughly \$500 Billion over that time frame. CBO is tracking all these balls in the air as the situation unfolds.

Finally, the bond market, where investors buy and sell the government's debt, will determine what happens to interest rates. In FY 2025, the net cost of interest on the debt was nearly \$1 Trillion, ranking it on par with Social Security and Medicare as the government's biggest expenses. The United States already spends more financing its debt than it does on defense. By 2036, CBO projects that interest costs could nearly match the total discretionary spending approved by Congress every year. With the Fed focused on setting interest rates to hold down inflation and keep employment stable, as opposed to reducing borrowing costs for the federal government, the perception of its independence could further worry investors, leading to higher long-term interest rates, thus adding to the government's borrowing costs. We are in a pickle here and time is not on our side. While it's nice to regularly hear from our Senators and Representative about what they have been doing in the Congress, addressing these issues seems to be of the utmost importance. Recommend you write to them soon about what is on your mind.

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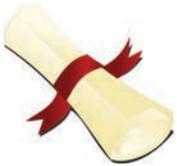
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SCHOLARSHIP

Col D Brent Baysinger, USAF (Ret)

Help Students Beat Inflation with Scholarships in 2026

According to U.S. News & World Report, for the 2025-2026 school year, the average annual cost of college varied from \$11,371 for in-state tuition; \$25,415 for out-of-state tuition; and \$44,961 for a private college. This reflects a 3.3% increase for private colleges over the 2024-2025 school year, and a 3.3% and 3.7% increase for in-state and out-of-state public colleges respectively. A MOAACC scholarship will go a long way in helping awardees pay for the burgeoning cost of college academics and extracurricular pursuits.

This year we modified our scholarship application period from just over five months in past years to two months: from April 15 through June 15, 2026. The MOAACC Scholarship Corporation campaign for eligible candidates will culminate in the 43 rd Annual Scholarship Awards Luncheon this summer. In 2025, we awarded 11 scholarships of \$7,500. Our July awards presentation provided an excellent opportunity for our scholarship winners, donors and MOAACC members to honor the awardees with some well-deserved pomp and circumstance.

Lastly, as we enter tax season it's a great time to review or establish your planned giving for 2026. 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 2026!

POINTS TO PONDER

Kenneth V. Lewis, LCDR, CHC, USN (Ret.)

Service Is Advocating for Others

MOAA is about service to our military members, veterans and their families. It really is not about us. The mission we provide is often advocating for others. Certainly, veterans have sacrificed, often deployed in harm's way. Current military members serve, and our military families have given greatly to care for others. Military spouses are often unsung heroes; The sacrifice and duty of military spouses is often unrecognized, while what they provide is essential to unit function and integrity during deployment and times of armed conflict. Most often they perform their duties without pay or recognition, serving because they believe what they do is important. It is essential.

While I was a chaplain with marines in Iraq in 2003, I had the opportunity to take care of others at several forward operating airfields. I was not a combatant, did not shoot or repair anything, I did not plan operations, I was not medical staff, although I did provide some first aid during mass casualty situations. Prior to becoming a chaplain, I had been a hospital corpsman and trained as a combat medic; one USMC gunnery sergeant called me Chaplain Doc. My primary role was to be present with and advocate for my marines and sailors. I was called to represent concepts and realities larger and higher than myself.

I was present with my marines to be in their midst and to advocate on their behalf. As Moses was present in the wilderness to remind the Israelites that the Almighty was mindful of them, chaplains and their teams are present with those they serve to remind them of God's presence, even in war and crisis. The members of MOACC serve to remind others that there is a sisterhood/brotherhood of those who have served their country and are willing to stand beside them and advocate in their behalf. Service is a calling, an honor, a privilege, and a sacred duty. That mission is to remind others that they are not alone, not forgotten, and that there are those who will be present with them and speak for them. We represent ideas and realities greater than ourselves, and we do so because we care.

Mark Your Calendar!

Save the Dates for Upcoming MOAACC 2026 Events:

(See our website events calendar for details)

- 15 April: Scholarship Application Process Opens
- 18 April: Retiree Appreciation Day
- 21 April 2026: ROTC & JROTC Awards Ceremony
- 19 May 2026: MOAACC Luncheon to Honor Students with Service Academy Appointments or ROTC Scholarships
- 15 June 2026: Scholarship Application Process Closes
- 21 July 2026: Scholarship Award Presentations
- 7 November 2026: GDF 2nd Annual Heroes for Veterans Dinner
- 17 November 2026: MOAACC Luncheon & Annual Member Business Meeting
- 11 December 2026: MOAACC Annual Christmas Dinner Dance
- 17 December 2026: Annual Spouse & Surviving Spouse Christmas Tea



SAVE THE DATE

ENLISTMENT CEREMONY OF THE SPACE COAST

JOIN US IN HONORING AND CELEBRATING
THE MEN AND WOMEN ENLISTING THIS YEAR
IN OUR ARMED FORCES

**VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER
AMPHITHEATER**

**FRIDAY APRIL 17
5:00PM**



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*243rd Commemoration of
The Last Naval Battle of
the Revolutionary War*



Saturday, March 21, 2026
Brevard Veterans Memorial Center
400 S Sykes Creek Pkwy, Merritt Island, FL
1000-1100 a.m.

Event will include a Parade, Music, Speakers and Naval Ceremonial Salute



*America's
Semiquincentennial*





MOAACC MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

WELCOME

Welcome our New Members!

Last Name	First Name	Prefix	Service (C)	Component (C)	Duty Status (C)	Membership Level	Membership Sponsor
Baker	Ronald	Lt Col	Air Force	National Guard	Retired	Annual	Tim Pishdad
DeGavre	Tim	Colonel	Air Force	Regular	Retired	Annual	Ken Frey
Martines	Jack	Colonel	Air Force	Regular	Retired	Annual	Hans Hunt
McCready	Dan	LT	Navy	Regular	Former	Annual	Rick Kniseley
Pere	Richard	MAJ	Army	Regular	Retired	Annual	Denny Tharp
Peterson	Robert	LCDR	Navy	Regular	Retired	Life	Eric Gardner
Prokopowicz	Joella	Mrs	"Surviving Spouse"	Other	Surviving Spouse	"Surviving Spouse (Auxiliary)"	
Shaw	Jerome	Lt Col	Air Force	Regular	Retired	Annual	Denny Tharp

TAPS

Mrs. Marilyn C. Hayes, MOAA Surviving Spouse Life Member ID #025588620 died on 2 February 2026. She resided at 103 Anona Place, Indian Harbor Beach Fl., 32937-4101. She is survived by family members.

Mrs. Enrica Christensen, MOAA Surviving Spouse Member ID #06642919 died on 13 February 2026. She resided at 5603 N. Banana River Road, Melbourne FL., 32931-3807. She was a life member. She is survived by family members.



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Current Affairs

Current Affairs Forum Highlights: AC-130H Spectre Gunship

The MOAACC Current Affairs Forum featured an outstanding presentation by **Major Kevin G. Fox, USAF (Ret.)**, who shared firsthand experiences from his distinguished career flying the **AC-130H Spectre gunship**. His presentation was exceptionally well received, with strong engagement and focused attention from the TMBC audience throughout the session.

Major Fox offered vivid operational insights drawn from extensive joint and special operations service. As a former AC-130H pilot with the 16th and 19th Special Operations Squadrons at Hurlburt Field, he flew missions in **Panama, Operation Desert Shield, Operation Desert Storm, Bosnia, and Somalia**, providing context that only a seasoned combat aviator can deliver. His discussion combined technical detail, mission perspective, and personal reflection, making for a compelling and educational forum.

Major Fox is a graduate of **The Citadel** (B.S. Computer Science, 1987) and later served in the USAF Admissions Liaison Program with the 9001st Air Reserve Squadron, mentoring and evaluating students across Central Florida. His career includes service on both the AC-130H Gunship and the MC-130P Shadow, followed by a civilian aviation career as a Southwest Airlines captain.

The chapter was honored to recognize Major Fox's service and contributions.



Rosa Reich, President, MOAACC, presents the chapter's coveted MOAACC challenge coin to Major Kevin Fox, joined by Mike Kahanca, Current Affairs Chairman.



Major Fox displays representative munitions and artifacts associated with the AC-130H gunship while discussing operational experiences.

MOAACC thanks Major Fox for an informative, professional, and memorable presentation that exemplifies our commitment to lifelong learning and service—*Never Stop Serving*.

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← Check out the MOAACC website for more information.

MOAACC February Luncheon

Plight of a “Wounded Warrior” – SSG P. Russell Marek

By: Col John Franco, USAF (Ret)

As mentioned in my Editor Note, those of us at the February Luncheon got to hear a presentation by the father of a son, SSG P. Russell (Russ) Marek who barely escaped death while on duty on his last mission in Iraq in 2005. Complete with charts and moving narrative, he outlined the progression of events that led to Russ’s tank exploding after running over an improvised explosive device (IED). So great was the blast that it blew the 23-ton turret of the body of his tank. Remarkable as that was, Russ’s rescue, recovery and especially rehabilitation was even more.

Unfortunately, the other members of his crew died in the explosion. Russ, though alive, ended up having his right leg amputated, 3rd degree burns and traumatic brain injury. Later his right arm was amputated and the brain injury shut down all functions on his left side. After 25 months of therapy (5-6 days, 7 days a week) he learned how to speak and swallow again and finally stand.

Russ was present at the luncheon where we all could witness firsthand that he was articulate and able to walk with a cane. Quoting from one of the presentation’s charts “We all came to realize the ‘battle in life’ is never ‘outside’ us...but ‘within’ us...in that 4-5 inches that is between our ears!!”

Today, Russ is actively engaged in the community helping other wounded warriors, has sky-dived, enjoys fishing, golfing, and surfing. and even an active social life. Truly remarkable!



Cocoa Beach HS Color Guard: Cadet Cpl Claire Nobs, Cadet SFC Tim Loftus, Cadet Cpl Jed Klassen, Cadet 2Lt Tommy Henderson



LTC Robert Irick, JROTC Instructor



SSG P. Russell Marek's father, gives presentation



Marek, MOAAC President Ros Reich, Russell Marek



*Morning After the Attack "REMAINS" of Russ's tank ...
TOTALLY DESTROYED INCLUDING THE CULVERT AND THE ROAD*

Honoring Outstanding Members

Recognizing Essential Technical Support

At the **February 17, 2026 MOAACC Luncheon**, the Cape Canaveral Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America honored the **IRCC Audio Visual Support Services (AVSS) Team** for their outstanding partnership and unwavering support of chapter programs. MOAACC President **Rosa Reich** presented **Sam Ginsburg** with a **Certificate of Merit** and a **\$1,000 donation** on behalf of AVSS in appreciation for the team's exceptional service.



MOAACC President Rosa Reich presents Sam Ginsburg with the Certificate of Merit and a \$1,000 donation on behalf of the IRCC Audio Visual Support Services team in recognition of their exceptional technical support to the Cape Canaveral Chapter.

For years, the AVSS team has provided dependable, professional audio-visual support for MOAACC luncheons, ceremonies, and special events—both on-site and at alternate venues. Their technical expertise, rapid responsiveness, and meticulous attention to detail have ensured that guest speakers, presentations, and ceremonies are delivered clearly and effectively. Members often experience the results without noticing the effort behind the scenes, a testament to the team's professionalism.

The chapter's ability to host high-quality programs and maintain strong member engagement has been greatly enhanced by AVSS's reliability and commitment. Recognizing the importance of their work, the chapter accompanied the Certificate of Merit with a \$1,000 contribution to help maintain and improve AVSS audio-visual capabilities for future events.

MOAACC extends its sincere gratitude to the IRCC AVSS team for their continued partnership and for helping the chapter deliver informative, engaging, and professional programs to its members and guests.

Honoring Outstanding Volunteer Service

During the **MOAACC Luncheon on February 17, 2026**, the Cape Canaveral Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America proudly recognized **Fran Majcher** for her exceptional dedication and service to the chapter. MOAA President **Rosa Reich** presented Majcher with the prestigious **Certificate of Merit**, acknowledging the meaningful and lasting impact she has made on the organization and its members.



MOAACC President Rosa Reich presents the Certificate of Merit to Fran Majcher.

Fran's contributions have been both visible and lasting. She has led the chapter's popular **50/50 program** with professionalism and enthusiasm, helping create a welcoming and engaging atmosphere at chapter gatherings. Beyond that role, she has been a driving force behind several special events — most notably the annual **MOAACC Christmas Dinner Dance** — where her initiative, creativity, and attention to detail significantly enhanced the experience for attendees.

Her efforts have strengthened camaraderie among members while directly supporting the success of chapter activities and programs. Through her willingness to step forward whenever help is needed, Fran exemplifies the very best traditions of volunteer service and commitment within MOAACC.

MOAACC extends its sincere gratitude and congratulations to Fran Majcher for her continued dedication and for setting an inspiring example of service to others.



MOAACC GOOD DEEDS FOUNDATION

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

Your Good Deeds Foundation (GDF) Already in Full Gear in 2026

After more detailed planning, including time on the GDF cruise when 30 MOAACC members brainstormed their ideas, our Board will launch the Call for Sponsors for the VyStar Veterans Recognition Dinner on 7 November at the Melbourne Rialto near the airport. Check out our fact sheet for early information below. Thanks to Larry Jackson, the VRD Event Chairman and his committee, which includes all GDF Board members and several more from MOAACC. We know it will be a great event and surpass our \$34,000 net from the 2025 event.

GDF was there on 14 Feb to launch the JROTC Drill Meet season at BVMC Park. We hope, by the district meet on 14 March, to be able to utilize the entire new Park, including the Amphitheater. The building is complete and is awaiting power and turnover to the county,

Check this Intercom issue and in future months for the unfolding stories of JROTC impacting the community.

GDF led the effort to raise \$2K to provide Enlistment Ceremony Challenge Coins. We expect 300 Brevard area high school graduates to attend the 17 April all military branches event at the BVMC Park.

Special thanks to our very busy GDF Board as the pace picks up yet again. As noted last month, we anticipate a record \$180,000 budget for FY26 to be given to the many causes we support. This amount is unsurpassed by any MOAA Chapter in the country. I am blessed to be the GDF President in such an environment.

2nd Annual Heroes for Veterans Dinner

Honoring the Brevard County Organizations, Projects, and Volunteers Who Support Our Veterans

Join Us for an Evening of Recognition, Inspiration, and Community Impact

- **Date:** Saturday, November 7, 2026
- **Time:** 5:00 PM – Cocktail Reception | 6:00 PM – Dinner & Program
- **Location:** Hilton Rialto Place, Melbourne, FL
- **Tickets:** \$125 per Seat (*Tables of 10 available for purchase*).
-
- **Highlights of the Evening:**
 - **Prestigious Awards:** Celebrating Brevard County Veterans Organizations, Projects and Outstanding volunteers
 - **Inspirational Program:** Featuring Veterans Day videos, the official GDF video presentation, and heartfelt stories of service.
 - **Live Auction:** Exciting items to bid on – your support makes a difference!
 - **Gourmet Dinner:** Multi-course Buffet dinner prepared by Hilton Rialto's award-winning chefs.
 - **Commemorative Program Booklet:** 30+ pages of stories, ads, and sponsor highlights (\$250 ad opportunities available).

Sponsorship Opportunities:

Elevate your support and gain visibility!

- **Named Sponsor:** \$10,000 – Exclusive naming rights + premium benefits
- **Gold Sponsor:** \$5,000 – Complimentary table + ½ page ad
- **Table Sponsor:** Purchase a table for \$1,250 and sponsor the evening

Proceeds benefit veteran support initiatives in Brevard County. All tables must be reserved and paid online at least 3 weeks prior. No tables to donors – purchase required. RSVP deadline: October 31, 2026.

GDF Letter to JROTC Units



Dear JROTC Team,

By now you have all received two America 250 Flags from the joint SAR/MOAACC-GDF Project. One is for your unit and one we hope will fly at your school or be hung in the library to remind cadets and students about this milestone for America. Thanks to all who helped make this happen. FYI to MOAACC, GDF, SAR, BVMC.

On 9 December we held a Flag Raising Ceremony at Brevard Public Schools (BPS) District Office in Viera with Dr Mark Rendell and many staffers present. This ended the distribution of 44 flags valued at over \$1,700 to every public and private high school in Brevard, as well as to the BVMC, SAR, etc. Senior Life/Viera Voice covered the BPS event, so we expect some nice media reporting as well. Articles have been written for the BVMC Bulletin and the MOAACC Intercom. As best we know, this is the first Florida county and perhaps the country to do something of this scope. Thanks to Hans Hunt who learned Hawaii vet orgs gave such flags to all JROTC programs a few months back. We took it further.

CHALLENGE COINS: You will recall that Dr. Rendell announced at our August planning session at BVMC that he supports all JROTC programs obtaining Unit Challenge Coins to be given to every graduating senior each year or as you see fit. At the flag raising he promised to help GDF raise some funds for this mission next semester. Cocoa High School has already completed their order and GDF provided reimbursement.

In January and before 15 February, please design your unit challenge coin, if not already on hand, and order a quantity, sending the invoice to Donn Weaver at GDF for reimbursement or direct payment with advance word. The Cocoa HS order ran about \$700. Donn will work with the BPS staff and Foundation on helping pay for all this, together with GDF.

Meanwhile, thank you for a great first semester and for all you do for America's years beyond 250 to equip good citizens. Have a very Merry Christmas, Joyous Holidays and a wonderful New Year!! We will be there to support you next year, even more we hope!!

Respectfully,

Donn

Healthcare on the Rocks Returns March 13, 2026

Mark your calendar for an enjoyable evening of networking, music, and community impact! Care Patrol will host the 3rd Annual Healthcare on the Rocks on Friday, March 13, 2026, from 5:00–8:00 PM at Urban Prime Marketplace's Restaurant, 2435 Metfield Dr., Melbourne.

This lively gathering brings together healthcare professionals, community partners, and supporters for a relaxed night of conversation and connection. Guests will enjoy festive libations, live music by DJ Malibu, and opportunities to win great prizes through raffles and a silent auction.

Proceeds from the evening will benefit the Military Officers Association of America, Cape Canaveral Chapter, supporting its ongoing work serving veterans, military families, and the local community.

We encourage members and friends to attend, invite colleagues, and help strengthen relationships that make our community stronger. We hope to see you there for a great cause and a great time!



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2435 Metfield Dr. Melbourne, FL 32940

WHEN: Friday, March 13 2026
5:00 pm-8:00pm

Join us for a fresh take on networking. A silent auction & raffles will benefit The Military Officers Association of America, Cape Canaveral Chapter, live music by DJ Malibu and festive libations.

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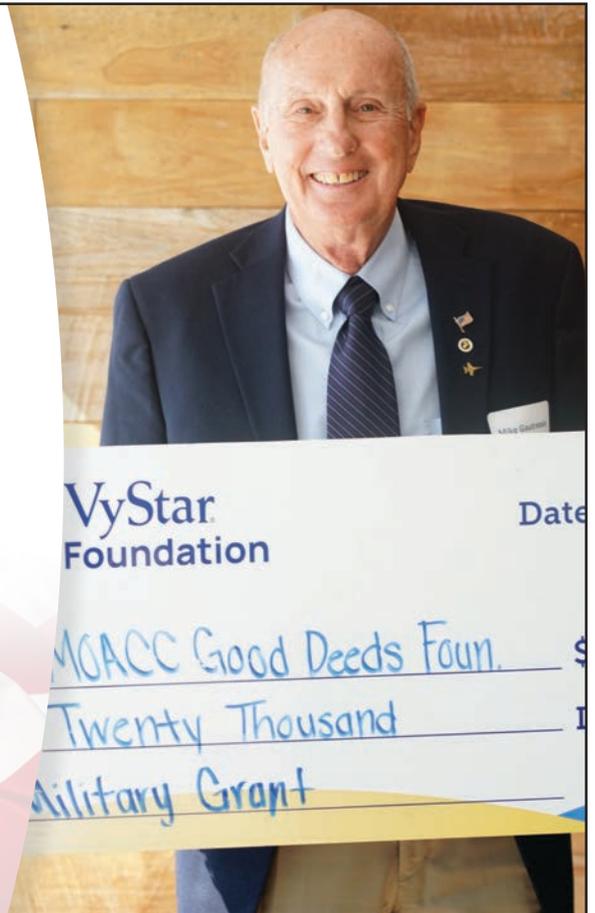
Thank you to all other sponsors: Balanced Wellbeing, Brevard Geriatrics, The Brookshire, Cardio Renal Vision, Cornerstone Caregiving, Grand Villa of Palm Bay, Landshark Realty, Stellar Transport, Viera Health & Rehabilitation, Wound Management Specialists

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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A Tribute to Apollo 1, Challenger and Columbia Astronauts

by Dr. Jane Hodges & Capt Crystal Salierno



Dr. Jane Hodges places wreath at Titusville Memorial



Dr. Hodges with Dr. Jan Davis showing her recently published/autographed book, "Air Born," of her WWII pilot/POW father.

Dr. Jane Hodges & Captain Crystal Salierno paid tribute to our lost astronauts from the Apollo 1, Challenger and Columbia accidents in January at four special events. The Astronaut Memorial Foundation (AMF) ceremony was held at the Atlantis Exhibit at Kennedy Space Center with numerous astronauts and family members attending. Astronaut and former KSC CD Bob Cabana was keynote speaker. Guests then placed flowers at the Space Mirror in their honor. The premier of "Apollo 1" was shown at the Astronaut Memorial Center with VIP guests including Lowell Grissom, brother of Gus, Sheryl Chaffee, daughter of Roger, other family



Captain Salierno with Astronaut Winston Scott, keynote speaker, at LC-34s honoring the Apollo 1 astronauts.

members, and Astronaut Jan Davis. Dr. Davis was also keynote speaker at the American Space Museum memorial service at Space View Park in Titusville. All the lost space heroes were honored with tributes and flowers. Dr. Hodges honored her friend Astronaut Ellison Onizuka, lost on the Challenger, where she also recently visited his final resting place at Punchbowl Cemetery in Honolulu. The Apollo 1 astronauts were honored at a moving ceremony at LC-34 where the fire of the capsule occurred. Astronaut Winston Scott was keynote speaker and a moving bagpiper played in the background with the pad lit with red, white and blue lights and candles in their honored kit by Mark Grissom, Gus' son. We honored our military and astronauts during the month of January.

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Unofficial Brevard VMC Veteran Events Calendar

March 2026 & Beyond

NOTE: All Events planned for the expanded Brevard Veterans Memorial Center Park are subject to confirmation/approval by the County Parks and Rec, as well as Completion of the project and pending turnover of the Amphitheater and other new construction to the County.

MARCH

13 Mar — Welcome Dinner for Medal of Honor Day 5K Sponsors including four special guests who received the Congressional Medal of Honor (1600-2100) BVMC Gray Hall. By Invitation and Ticket Only.

14 Mar — 5k and Car Show to Recognize National Medal of Honor Day. 5K in Park (0800-1000); Car Show also included in Park, 0900-1500. Register and pay here: <https://veteransmemorialcenter.org/medal-of-honor-5k/>

Four Medal of Honor Recipients expected to attend with proceeds going to support local veterans in need, veteran 501c3 projects and cadet youth of Brevard County. Contact BVMC Vice President Don Pearsall for more information or to help sponsor in the meantime on 321-453-1776, ext 1.

14 Mar — JROTC District Championships Drill Meet, BVMC Park 1000-1300 after Medal of Honor 5K Fundraiser. Support more than 200 cadets from at least 10 schools as they compete in Color Guard, Squad and Platoon Drills as well as Rifle Demonstration. The JROTC will also support and be engaged in the MOH 5K, including several runners from all 14 JROTC programs. Courageous Division Sea Cadets also assist MOH 5K. Best time to see all JROTC Action and help award trophies is 1200 - 1330. Contact Donn Weaver 757-871-6576 for any questions.

14 Mar — Bataan Death March Remembrance 0800-1100 at Space Coast High School. All Air Force JROTC Units join Space Force JROTC of Space Coast to walk in commemoration of one of the major tragedies of WWII. MOAACC Good Deeds Sponsoring. Contact Donn Weaver for more information.

21 Mar — Last Naval Battle Remembrance 0930-1100 BVMC Park. Presented by the Brevard Sons, Daughters and Children of the American Revolution. Contact SAR and Donn Weaver for any questions.

26 Mar — National Vietnam War Veterans Day Honoring Their Service and Legacy, 1630-2000 at the Eau Gallie Civic Center, 1551 Highland Ave, Melbourne. Sponsored by DAV Chapter 32 with guest speaker Colonel Mike Lane, a Hanoi Hilton POW for over 6 years, Auctioneers Sheriff Wayne Ivey and DAV National Cmdr Andrew Marshall to raise funds for DAV Veteran Services and support of vets and families in distress. Includes Dinner, Vietnam War Exhibit, Purple Heart Exhibit and the Missing Man Table.

28 Mar — American Legion AUX 344 Easter Egg Hunt for Vet Kids. NEW VENUE. Kiwanis Park 0900-1300.

28 Mar — Special Event. Admission Required - Boots, Beer, Bourbon and BBQ Festival. Music, food trucks, fun and more. 1200-2200 BVMC Park. Check Social Media and Space Coast Daily Website.

APRIL

4 Apr — Easter Egg Hunt presented by Georgianna Church for almost 1000 kids. BVMC Park. 0900- 1300

10 Apr — 2026 Shrimp Feast sponsored by the Propeller Club 1800-2200 at Gator's Portside in Cape Canaveral Port. Event helps Propeller Club Maritime Education Programs while enjoying great seafood and having fun with door prizes, live auction and dancing. Cocktails at 1800 with Shrimp Dinner beginning at 1830. Tickets much be purchased in advance at \$50 each before 17 March and \$60 each after that date. contact 321-698-5286 or register at www.spacecoastshrimpfest.com.

11 Apr — Heroes for Military Kids 5 K Kids Dash. 0800-1030 at the Avenues in Viera. Sponsored by AVET. Check out www.avet-project.org.

17 Apr — Second Annual Space Coast Military Enlistment Ceremony 1500- Check in; 1600-1800 Ceremony. Brevard Veterans Memorial Center Amphitheater and Park. Support more than 300 young men and women who have elected to enlist in all military service branches at or near high school graduation. Contact Donn Weaver, 757-871-6576 for more information.

MAY

3 May — Hero Fest by Back Brevard Heroes to honor all first responders. 1000- 1600. BVMC Plaza, Gray Hall, Park.

22-24 May — In the BVMC Park and Plaza: Florida wide Ride for Freedom presented by Rolling Thunder FL- 1. Friday focus is ride in, Gold Star Family Dinner and Flame Walk to the Walls and Monuments. Saturday is Rally with food, music and much more. Sunday, 25 May, motorcycle ride for freedom starting at BVMC Plaza and Merritt Island Mall 0900-1100.

25 May — BVMC Memorial Day Ceremony BVMC Plaza 0930-1100.

JUNE

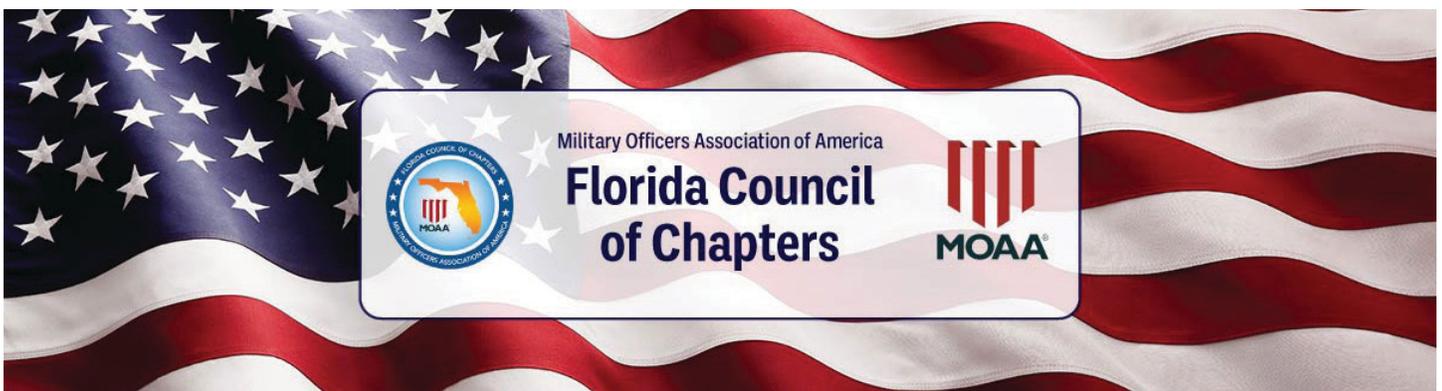
6 and 7 Jun — Special Event. Admission Required Merritt Island Fest at the Amphitheater at the BVMC Park 1200-2200. See Space Coast Daily Web Site

12 Jun — Celebration and Lunch for our Military Women at the Avenues in Viera 1130 -1300. Contact www.avet-project.org

**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 Members Attend Florida Council of Chapters 2026 Leadership Training Seminar & Conference



Pictured is the MOAACC delegation at the Saturday evening formal ball, a highlight of the conference that celebrated service, leadership, and camaraderie. From left to right are Steve Bond and his wife Jane, President of the Florida Council of Chapters; Lt Gen Brian Kelly, President of MOAA; Rosa Reich, President of the MOAA Cape Canaveral Chapter; board member Larry and Linda Wright; former Chapter President (2022) Ken and Tony Lowe; Mike Schroeder; Hans and Sabrina Hunt, with Hans serving as First Vice President; former Chapter President John Murphy (2001); and Jose and Lupe Prieto, with Jose currently serving as Second Vice President.

Members of the Military Officers Association of America, Cape Canaveral Chapter (MOAACC), participated in the Florida Council of Chapters (FCoC) Leadership Training Seminar and Conference held in Orlando, Florida, at the Rosen Centre Hotel. The three-day event brought together chapter leaders from across the state for in-depth training, collaboration, and fellowship.

The conference featured comprehensive leadership training, updates on state and national legislative affairs affecting military officers, veterans, and their families, and valuable opportunities to share best practices among chapters. Attendees returned with renewed focus and tools to better serve their members and advance MOAA's mission.

Sincere appreciation is extended to the staff of the Florida Council of Chapters for an outstanding event, and to the Rosen Centre Hotel team for their professionalism and exceptional hospitality throughout the weekend.



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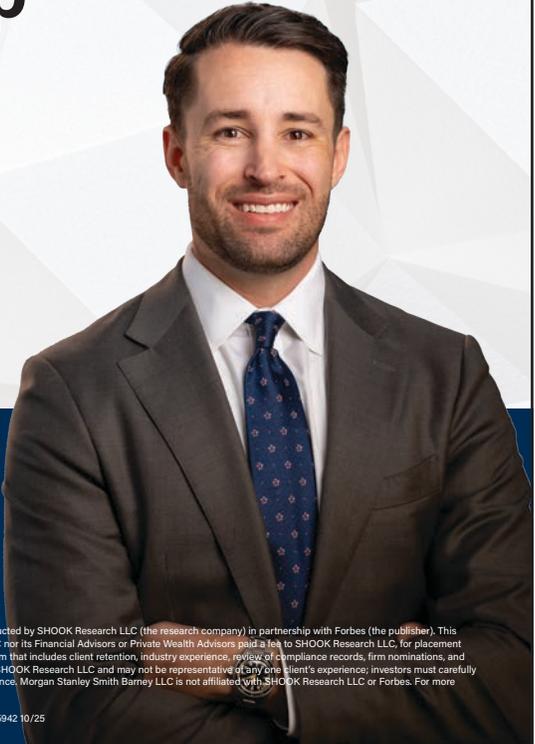


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Veteran Groups and Eagle Scout Come Together to Create a Special Flagpole

By: CPT Donn A. Weaver USA (Former)



Justin Gregoire after the project completed



With the \$8.2 Million project to build an amphitheater and other huge improvements to the Veterans Memorial Center Park on Merritt Island nearly complete, there was a special item not in the contract won by Ivey's Construction. in 2024 because the BVMC already had a flagpole by the older buildings, no provision for one outside the amphitheater could be made. So, veterans of the county came together to raise over \$3,000 for the pole and related pavers, while working closely with Eagle Scout candidate Justin Gregoire of Troop 343 on Merritt Island to also make it part of his project.

On 8 February the pavers surrounding the flagpole, many already engraved, were placed by 15 Scouts, led by Justin, to have the great addition in place before the expected grand opening of the new Park in March. Funds, including for the pavers, were provided by the Good Deeds Foundation of the Military Officers Association of America Cape Canaveral Chapter, VFW Post 10131 of Cape Canaveral, Rolling Thunder FL Chapter 1, Military Order of the Purple Heart Chapter 453, Association of the United States Army Space Coast Chapter, Brevard Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution and the Eagle Scout Project.

Many thanks to Bob Meyer and the Ivey's Construction team for the pole installation and precise measuring for the paver space and to Chad and Kitty Stoudt of CSpray who trained the scouts and engraved the pavers as they have done for hundreds at the BVMC plaza since 2011. When the expanded Park, with a capacity is over 3000 for concerts, officially opens and the flagpole has lights, a large American Flag will fly atop followed by the POW/MIA Flag and, for the rest of this year, an America 250 Flag. Regardless of the event, the project will remind thousands who visit in the coming months and years.



Proud group after 5 hours of making it happen. Justin in center with other scouts and parents. On far right, Donn Weaver and Doug Bisset (rear) of MOAACC, SAR and BVMC.

Changes to the MOAACC Surviving Spouse Assistance Program

Col Gary D. Eppler, USAF (Ret), Project Officer

We extend our sincere appreciation to Chuck Shaw for his many years of dedicated service supporting our surviving spouses following the loss of a loved one. During one of life's most difficult moments, Chuck provided compassionate guidance as families navigated the complex process of ending the retired service member's relationship with the U.S. government, benefits agencies, and related organizations. His patience, respect, and understanding made a meaningful difference to many families. Thank you, Chuck, for representing our chapter so well.

The MOAACC remains firmly committed to this mission. We are currently transitioning the program and rebuilding the support structure to ensure surviving spouses continue to receive timely assistance and personal contact. Several members have already stepped forward to help, and three volunteers are actively working with surviving spouses today. However, as our chapter continues to grow, additional volunteers will be essential to fully restore and expand this important service.

Our goal is not only continuity — but a renewed and strengthened program that ensures no surviving spouse feels alone while working through benefits, resources, and next steps after a loss.

If you are willing to assist or would like to learn more about supporting surviving spouses, please contact the chapter. Your involvement can make a lasting difference during a critical time in someone's life.

Trophies Provided by Good Deeds Foundation



Bayside Navy JROTC Instructor, CMDR Paul Fenech, in Revolutionary War Naval uniform, organizes the trophies for the top winners of the 24 Jan Annual NJROTC Statewide Brain Brawl. Nine Navy JROTC programs with over 100 cadets total participated, each fielding four-member cadet teams in round robin competition. While neither Bayside nor Titusville, the two Brevard schools, placed in the event, the trophies provided by Good Deeds Foundation were well earned by other schools and much appreciated. The questions were wide ranging and spiced by Navy related terms and history. GDF President Weaver attended and would not have placed!!



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

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JROTC Drill Season Off to Good Start



On a beautiful 70 degree day with no humidity, the west side of the Brevard Veterans Memorial Park was the scene of the first JROTC drill meet for the 2025-26 school year. The event included all seven US Army JROTC programs, more than 200 cadets and several hundred family members. Hopefully there will only be one more JROTC event — the 28 Feb Second Drill Meet — that will have to be staged without full use of the new Park and amphitheater. Fingers are crossed for the ribbon cutting and grand opening of the \$8.2M project this month. Nine JROTC events have been held at BVMC Park West Side since construction began in Nov 2024.

The first meet included 10 Color Guard Teams, unharmed squad drills and individual and pair rifle

Early morning drill team competition

demonstrations competing for trophies and medals provided by MOAACC's Good Deeds Foundation (GDF). The meet was organized by the Rockledge Raider JROTC program led by Maj Steve Celeste, USA Ret. Celeste, a MOAACC member, was careful to recognize his wife, who spent the morning at the meet on that Valentine's Day. Their daughter is a West Point cadet!!

Thanks to the BVMC for sponsoring the event and coordinating Brevard Park and Rec approvals for that and all JROTC events for 2026. Ivey's Construction was kind enough to approve transit through the nearly complete building area for cadre to bring in tents and heavy gear and the Mall allowed parking of 500 cars in another community effort. Grading cadre included several volunteers from Patrick Space Force Base.

New MOAACC President, Capt Rosa Reich, USAF, (former) joined GDF Vice President Col Mike Gautreaux, USMC, Ret, and GDF Pres/BVMC Park Committee Chairman CPT Donn Weaver, USA, (former), in providing trophies to the winning teams and supporting the program and cadets.

It was a great start for the drill season with Heritage and Astronaut on tap to sponsor meets on 28 Feb and 14 Mar. The latter will be the District Championship prior to the State meet in early April.



Getting ready for awards



MOAACC President Rosa Reich presents one of the first place trophies. Mike Gautreaux looks on.

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MISSION
The Brevard Veterans Memorial Center (BVMC) offers a special Veterans History Project (VHP) in coordination with the Library of Congress (LOC) at no charge. The VHP mission is to collect, preserve, and make accessible the personal accounts of American veterans of all services and periods of history. Thus, future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the realities of war and other military service. After the recorded interview the veteran and family will receive a link to the interview on the BVMC YouTube Channel and (upon request) their own digital copy uploaded to a USB Flash Drive. A digital copy will also be provided to the LOC.



TO PARTICIPATE
If you are a veteran, simply contact us and we will arrange a video recorded interview in the BVMC library (400 South Sykes Creek Parkway, Merritt Island, 32952) or, in special cases, at your home. The conversation can last thirty minutes or up to two hours depending on your preference. The story can include your service and how your life was spent after the military. Remember hundreds of veterans have told their stories which are preserved forever on the BVMC YouTube Channel and in the LOC.

CONTACT US
To arrange an appointment please contact:

Jim Pirotti	732-690-8353	Jim.P-Midstate@hotmail.com
Paul Julian	321-452-9414	pjulian54@gmail.com

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National Champions!

Congratulations to the Palm Bay Magnet High MCJROTC Air Rifle Team



Brevard Public Schools (official)
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🎉 NATIONAL CHAMPIONS! 🎉

Congratulations to the **Palm Bay Magnet High MCJROTC** Air Rifle Team: the 2026 National Champions at the MCJROTC National Service Air Rifle Championship! 🏆

Led by Sergeant Major Roy DeYoung, the **Palm Bay Magnet HS** Pirates demonstrated incredible precision, discipline, and teamwork on the national stage.

👤 Your Champion Team:
Misha Hamid • Lacy Pulkkinen • Bruce Costa • Emily Coombe • Odalis Velez

👏 Special Shoutout:
Lacy Pulkkinen made school history as the first Pirate to advance to the Top 8 Final and earned her Gold Distinguished Badge – an extraordinary accomplishment!

We're incredibly proud of these outstanding Pirates and grateful for the leadership that guided them to this national title.

Sailor of the Year for the USCGC ALERT



CWO4 Dan McIntyre USCGR (ret) presents MOAA Sailor of The Year to MK1 Kyle Ford USCG.



MK1 Kyle Ford receives USCG Commendation Medal from CDR Mario Gil CO of USCG Cutter ALERT.

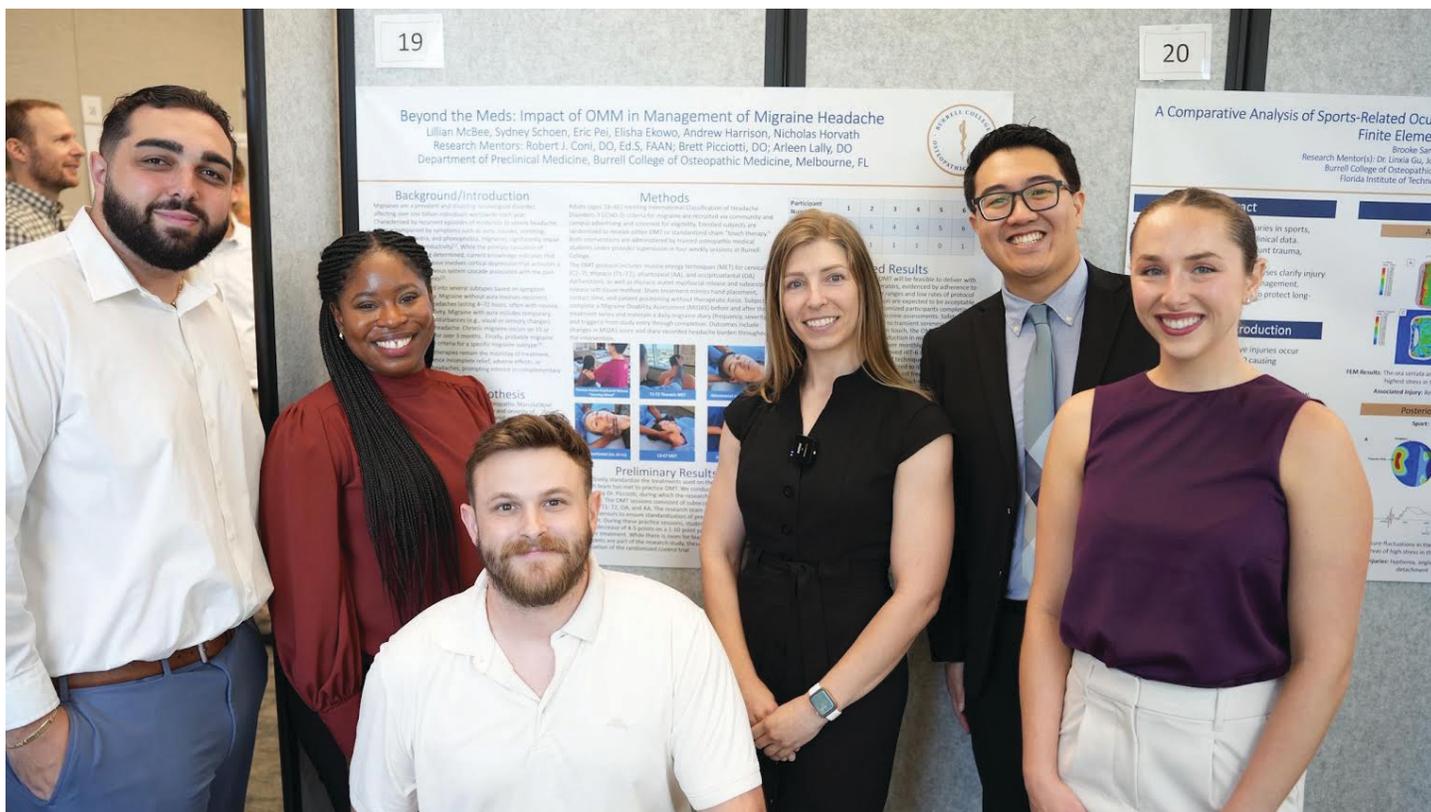
Petty Officer FORD is cited for superior performance of duty while serving as Leading Petty Officer of the Auxiliary Machine Shop aboard CGC ALERT from January 2025 to January 2026. Demonstrating exceptional technical expertise and remarkable ingenuity, Petty Officer FORD spearheaded a novel in water repair approach to the ship's rudder posts, preventing catastrophic flooding and averting an emergency dry dock. Exhibiting outstanding leadership and technical acumen, he flawlessly directed critical depot level repairs to the Dual Point Davit without augmented support, completing all work within five days and enabling ALERT to sail on schedule. He further restored shipboard habitability by completing depot level repairs to the air conditioning units while underway.

Committed to mission execution, he served as cutter boat engineer during the interdiction of a Mexican vessel illegally fishing in U.S. waters and during 12 at sea transfers, where he assisted in consolidating 10 case packages, 13 suspected smugglers, and 578 bales of illicit contraband weighing over 20,000 pounds onto a single asset — contributing directly to the largest offload in Coast Guard history. An exceptional instructor on the Damage Control and Engineering Training Teams, his superb mentorship was instrumental in training more than 80 crew members in basic and advanced damage control skills and qualifying over 16 engineering watch standers.

Petty Officer FORD's diligence, perseverance, and devotion to duty are most heartily commended and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.

Paid Migraine Research Study Seeking Local Military Community Participants

by: LT Lillian McBee, USN



From left to right: Nicholas Horvath, Elisha Ekowo, Andrew Harrison (Army enlisted veteran), Lillian McBee (Navy officer veteran), Eric Pei, and Sydney Schoen.

Migraines are a common yet often debilitating condition affecting many active-duty service members, retirees, and military families. To help advance non-pharmacologic treatment options, a new clinical research study is now enrolling adult participants in Brevard County who experience migraines.

The study is being conducted by MOAACC member Student Doctor Lillian McBee through Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine (BCOM) and is designed to evaluate the effects of hands-on osteopathic interventions on migraine frequency and severity. Participants will attend four to six in-person intervention sessions and will be asked to maintain a simple migraine diary during the study period. Session scheduling is flexible, with weekday and weekend options available, and all sessions will be conducted on the Florida Institute of Technology (FIT) campus.

All participants are screened and monitored by a board-certified neurologist at no cost prior to enrollment to ensure eligibility and safety.

Qualifying participants must be at least 18 years old, experience migraines, and cannot be pregnant. Participants who complete the study may earn up to \$120 in compensation (via Visa gift card) for their time and participation. This research aims to contribute meaningful data toward improving migraine care, particularly for individuals seeking integrative and non-opioid treatment approaches. Participation also supports ongoing medical research within our local community and helps train future physicians in evidence-based, patient-centered care.

Members of the Military Officers Association of Cape Canaveral and their families who meet eligibility criteria are encouraged to inquire. Those interested in learning more or beginning the screening process may contact the study coordinator directly.

For more information, please email Student Doctor Lillian McBee at lillian.mcbee@burrell.edu

USCG Sailor of the Quarter



ME3 Hayden Clookey, USCG with CWO4 Dan McIntyre, USCGR (Ret) USCG Liaison.

Maritime Enforcement Specialist Clookey was recognized for outstanding performance in seizing illegal drugs during drug interdiction operations at sea. Pictured with him is Dan McIntyre, MOAACC USCG Liaison

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Satellite JROTC hosts Annual Run and Shoot Competition



Weaver with the Melbourne AFJROTC First Place Team

Although the event does not count in formal JROTC Competitions, for more than 20 years Brevard JROTC units have participated in a demanding “Run and Shoot “ Event. This year it was on 07 Feb at Satellite High School. MOAACC Good Deeds provided the trophies as five high schools competed including Satellite, Cocoa, Melbourne, Titusville and Eau Gallie with two four member teams each. The cadets have to run a mile, shoot accurately and run another mile, all while being timed and evaluated for target accuracy. For many years the event was held at BVMC Park and will return there in 2027 with the air rifle shooting on the Amphitheater Stage. GDF Board and BVMC volunteers Doug Bisset and Donn Weaver attended the meet and presented trophies. Photos thanks to JROTC cadets.



Doug Bisset Awards Second Place to Satellite AFJROTC Team.



Cadets Getting Ready for next run

MOC

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TMBC



MOAACC members at recent Thursday Morning Breakfast Club (TMBC) meeting

Past MOAACC President Receives Outstanding Lawyer Award



At a Feb ceremony, attorney and past MOAACC President (2017) CPT Scott Robinson USA, (Former), was awarded the J. Preston Silvernail Civility Award as the outstanding lawyer in Brevard for 2025. Nearly every judge in Brevard and 10 past winners as well as family and friends attended the event in Courtroom 3 in the Viera Courthouse. More than 120 people heard testimonials about Robinson and his humble response. It was quite an honor for the busy trial attorney and his wife, Sarah, who now works in his firm, as they raise two children 8 and 4. Well done Scott!! Photo and caption courtesy of Donn Weaver.

Members Enjoy The Go Luncheon at Florida Seafood in Cocoa Beach on Monday, February 10, 2026.



Certificate of Merit Presented to Mike Kahanca



From left to right: Rosa Reich, President, MOAACC; Mike Kahanca, Chairman, Current Affairs Forum; Steve Cusick, MOAACC First Past President (2025).

The MOAA Cape Canaveral Chapter (MOAACC) proudly presented a Certificate of Merit to Mike Kahanca, Chairman, Current Affairs Forum, in recognition of his outstanding leadership and dedicated service to the chapter.

Mike Kahanca currently serves as Chairman, Current Affairs Forum and has been instrumental in organizing and managing MOAACC's monthly Current Affairs Forum. Through his leadership, the program consistently delivers engaging speakers, timely and relevant topics, and professional coordination that significantly enrich chapter discussion and member engagement.

His initiative, preparation, and sustained commitment have made the Current Affairs Forum a valued and respected resource for MOAACC members, fostering informed dialogue and strengthening the chapter's mission.

The MOAA Cape Canaveral Chapter extends its sincere appreciation to Mike Kahanca for his continued dedication and meaningful contributions to the success of the chapter. His service exemplifies the professionalism and spirit of leadership that define MOAACC.

Good Deeds Foundation Winter Cruise, 31 Jan-7 Feb 2026

By: Col John Franco, USAF (Ret)

Several members, spouses and friends opted to escape the brutal cold that struck the east coast of the United States by signing up for this Caribbean cruise back in the Fall. No, they were not clairvoyant—just lucky. Although the weather was cool and wet in Porto Plata and San Juan, it was sunny and warm in St. Kitts. It was great to have a change in our environment, enjoy camaraderie with fellow members, have wonderful food and desserts (sometimes twice a day) and great entertainment. There was also time set aside for a brainstorming session to help plan for the next fundraiser Veterans Recognition Dinner on November 7. Recommendation: Do it. You'll be glad you did.



Larry Jackson speaks on November fundraiser and next winter cruise



Don Hagen speaks on the Scholarship Corporation while Larry Jackson listens



VADM Don and Karen Hagen



Joan Nordin, Brian and Elizabeth Whelan, Lois Eberhart, and Marty Cooley



John and Suzy Franco



Sam Ginsburg, Elsa Coppersmith, Joan Paquin, David Kobey, Karl Bryan



David Kobey, John Stoever

Past MOAACC President Joe Oblack Receives St. Francis Reflections Award

Joe Oblack, past MOAACC President and recipient of the Chapter Distinguished Service Award, in 2018 by was honored recently with the St. Francis Reflections Award for his military service. His wife, Ruth Oblack, also received an award. The ceremony was held at their home due to Joe’s current health limitations. The award was presented by Chapter Member Jeff Eisenbeis. A group photo of those attending Joe’s award presentation is provided.

Joe served as MOAACC President in 2010 and was presented with the Chapter Distinguished Service Award at the January 2015 Installation Banquet by MOAACC former President, Jeff Rogers. In addition, Joe and Ruth—herself a Distinguished Service Award recipient and former Chapter webmaster—made significant contributions to the Chapter over many years, including coordinating luncheons and organizing numerous successful social events, such as the annual Oktoberfest celebrations.



Jeff Eisenbeis Presents Award to Joe Oblack



Jeff Eisenbeis Presents Awd to Ruth Oblack from St Francis Reflections



Left to Right behind Joe Oblack: Betty Clement, Gail Holder, Gene Anderson, Joy Dickson, Diane Manahan, (Reflections), Frank Holder, Carlie Rogers, Ruth Oblack, Jeff Rogers, Joe Oblack (center), Kneeling in front of Joe Oblack: Elaine McAuliffe



Is Your Email Address Still “@cfl.rr.com”? Here’s What You Need to Know

Many of our members have used Roadrunner-style email addresses (such as cfl.rr.com, @rr.com, or roadrunner.com) for years. These accounts were originally created through Bright House and Time Warner Cable and are now part of Spectrum. While these email addresses still work today, they are considered legacy accounts, and several changes in recent months have affected their reliability.

What’s Happening?

- Spectrum no longer creates new Roadrunner-style email addresses. Some users have reported trouble connecting these older accounts to email apps like Outlook, Apple Mail, or smartphones. Spectrum support has indicated that parts of the old Roadrunner system are being phased out or migrated to newer platforms. In some cases, if a customer stops Spectrum internet service, the old “rr.com” mailbox may be shut down.

Why This Matters

For many long-time users, the cfl.rr.com address has been stable for decades. But as the legacy system ages, the risk of service interruptions grows. Losing access to an email account can also mean losing password recovery options, contacts, subscriptions, and important messages. Additionally, within MOAACC we are now seeing a noticeable increase in “bounce-backs” when sending out chapter communications. Emails sent to cfl.rr.com addresses—including the Intercom, Five Things, event notices, and other important updates—are bouncing at a higher rate than in the past. When an email “bounces,” it means the message did not reach the member. As a result, some members may not be receiving critical chapter information without realizing it.

Recommendations

If your cfl.rr.com email is still working, you do not need to give it up immediately. However, now is an excellent time to begin preparing for the future:

1. Set up a new, modern email account. Consider creating a free and reliable account such as Gmail (Google), Outlook.com (Microsoft), or Yahoo Mail. These are well-supported and are not tied to your internet provider.
2. Update your important accounts gradually. Begin updating your email address with banks, medical portals, Social Security, recurring bills, and newsletters. Take your time—this transition does not need to happen all at once.
3. Save or forward your important messages. Make sure any vital information stored in your old Roadrunner mailbox is backed up or forwarded to your new address.
4. Keep your Roadrunner address active if it works. Continue checking it for any notices from Spectrum and for messages from contacts who have not yet updated their records.

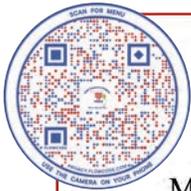
Bottom Line

Your cfl.rr.com address may continue to function for now, but it is part of an older system that could eventually be discontinued. Taking a proactive approach—while the account is still working—will help ensure you don’t lose important messages or miss essential chapter communications. If you need help setting up a new email address or forwarding your old messages, please [click here](#) for step-by-step instructions, or reach out to us directly. We’re happy to assist.

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1. Click on this link: <https://moaacc.deco-apparel.com/>
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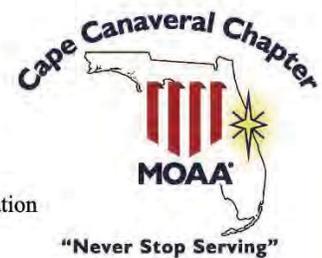
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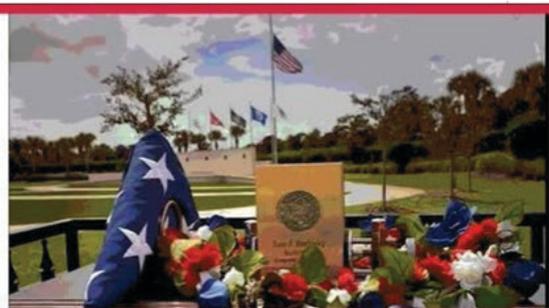


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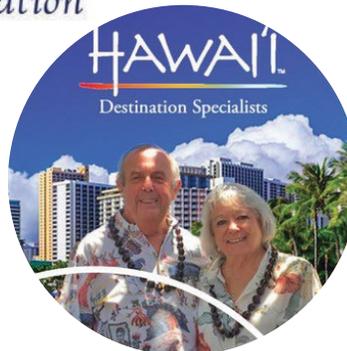
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The INTERCOM is the primary communications vehicle for the Chapter. Copies are mailed to members, friends and other MOAA Chapters throughout Florida and the United States. Additional copies are disseminated at facilities on Patrick SFB and throughout 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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