



The INTERCOM

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
Cape Canaveral Chapter, Inc.



Merry



Christmas!



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PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

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

Hail & Farewell

Hello again and welcome to the December 2025 edition of the INTERCOM.

The military tradition of a **Hail & Farewell** celebration seems like a very appropriate message this month. First, I want to recognize (i.e. HAIL) all our new members who joined our chapter this year!

As the largest MOAA Chapter in the country, I am so very pleased about our membership growth and many accomplishments this year. I would also say a special thank you to all the loyal members who remain to support us and **Never Stop Serving!**

But best of all, I want to extend our congratulations to Capt Rosa Reich, USAF and her team who are indeed FIRST RATE and eager to lead us as we move into 2026.

By the way, I strongly encourage you to take advantage of the many Holiday events and celebrations that are detailed in this issue of the INTERCOM and are always available in our award winning website: <https://www.moaacc.org>

When I took the helm as your **Skipper**, I had no idea how much I would enjoy the year, and all the wonderful things we were able to do together. It was a true honor to serve the chapter.

But I am pleased to report, this is not truly a FAREWELL because I look forward to seeing you soon in my new job as your Past President.

So, in keeping with the nautical theme, I wish you always... **Farewell & Following Seas.**

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!



EDITOR'S NOTE

John Franco, COL, USAF (ret)

We're about to finish another successful year as the leading MOAA chapter which gives us every reason to be proud. The wonderful holiday of Thanksgiving that we just celebrated gives us many reasons to be humbly thankful for all that we enjoy: our family; country; our health; our military members, both active and retired; our friends and neighbors; our business community and especially our sponsors/advertisers, schools/JROTC detts; MOAA; our vibrant MOAACC chapter and members; and certainly not least, our faith in the God we trust and believe in. I think you get my point, but I know you and I could list many more things. Thank you to our chapter leaders who have done "yeoman's work" this year. Now, as we prepare to celebrate the holidays this month, do enjoy your special occasions with family, give extra hugs and by all means, be safe.



TRIBUTE TO WAYNE JUSTICE

**CPT Donn A. Weaver USA (Former)
President, MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation**

Even when you graduate from the US Coast Guard Academy and command three Cutters and USCG Stations, it is very rare to rise to the rank of Rear Admiral. Wayne Justice, MOAAC volunteer extraordinaire did it. For him, those 37 years were just the beginning. On 16 December there will be a celebration of life for our friend and community pillar, followed by burial at the Cape Canaveral National Cemetery. The family will release details later, but I wanted to include what I would have said in a eulogy.

Wayne Justice was engaged with grace and effectiveness in everything he did here on the Space Coast after his military retirement. Whether serving two terms as a Commissioner in the largest cruise port in the world, guiding the CivMil and Propeller Clubs: speaking with passion about his Coast Guard, the port or MOAACC; or serving as Good Deeds Treasurer and Scholarship President, Wayne Justice was "Always Ready" to quote the USCG motto. He fell too soon at age 70, but let Barbara and the family be comforted by a Ralph Waldo Emerson quote: "It is not length, but depth of life." Wayne Justice lived a full life and he reach depth that few can match.

DECEMBER EVENTS

(Click Event for Details)

- 12/4 Current Affairs Forum/TMBC - 8 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 12/5 MOAACC Annual Christmas Dinner Dance
5-9 PM @ Indian River Colony Club - Colony Hall
- 12/9 On-The-Go Christmas Luncheon - 11:30 AM
@ Suntree Country Club
- 12/11 TMBC - 8 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 12/11 Annual Spouses & Surviving Spouses Christmas Tea
1 PM @ Indian River Colony Club - At Ease Club
- 12/13 4th Annual Space Force 10-Miler - 7:30 AM
@ Cape Canaveral Space Force Station
- 12/16 MOAACC B.O.D. Mtg. - 11:30 AM
@ Perkins - 8200 N. Wickham Rd.
- 12/18 TMBC - 8 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 12/25 CANCELLED: NO 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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FINANCIAL LITERACY

CAPT Arnold Lim, USNR (Ret)

Roth IRA Conversions, Part II

We continue with last month's topic of Roth IRA Conversions. To help decide whether conversions are warranted or not, we discussed the primary concern of comparing the tax rate of what you pay today versus what you think you might pay in the future.

How: Perform a cash flow analysis, meaning first determine how much money you need/want to spend per year (all the typical expenses: housing; insurance; food; utilities; travel; gifts; taxes; etc.). Then determine what income you can expect (e.g., pensions; social security benefits; personal brokerage account withdrawals; rental home income). Any positive difference between your expected expenses and income is often called the "gap," and that gap will likely need to be filled by distributions from accounts, be they retirement or non-retirement. In fact, a negative difference means your expenses are all covered and that you have more funds that you will likely need; but you will also likely be a strong candidate to benefit from Roth conversions.

Then compare your income number against the federal tax brackets. From this, you can determine what initial tax rate the next dollar of any Roth conversion that you might perform will be taxed at.

Besides this initial tax rate as captured in your tax bracket, there are many other provisions that may add to any Roth conversion's cost. Some are IRMAA; NIIT; ACA tax benefits; and Hope Scholarships for dependents. [After retirement, but after age 65, now it is wise to take into consideration Income Related Monthly Adjustment Amount (IRMAA). Look back for 2 years to calculate your premium for this year's Medicare coverage. Also, take under consideration Net Investment Income (NIIT), an additional 3.8% tax that kicks in when non-active investments like dividends exceed \$250k for MFJ or \$150k for single filers.] Consider each of these provisions' dollar cost as just another tax, to be added to your tax bracket rate, to then arrive at a final tax rate. Because of the many variables, this is not always a simple topic to grasp, but software tools can definitely help.

Some rules of thumb:

- 3 broad types of accounts exist: Pre-Tax (traditional IRAs); Tax-free (Roth IRAs); Taxable (personal brokerage accounts). Keep your more growth-oriented (and thus risky) assets in Roth accounts,

so they will grow the most. Conversely, have your less growth-oriented assets, like bond mutual funds, in Pre-Tax accounts, where their dividends aren't taxed each year. They are taxed deferred until you make a withdrawal.

- If one has large holdings in non-Roth retirement (Traditional IRA; 401(k); 403(b); 457) accounts, the more it is worth considering performing Roth Conversions. The larger, the more imperative the need.
- Almost always a good idea to take advantage of the first two (10 & 12%) tax brackets, which are both low rates when compared to historic tax rates. For the next higher set of rates (22 & 24%), it gets iffy. For the highest 3 rates (32, 35, & 37%), one must have extreme situations.
- IMPORTANT: The risk of tax rates increasing in the future, especially considering the growing national debt -- that risk is hard to predict. But performing a Roth conversion now allows one to lock in the (hopefully low) tax rate you would paid today and thus remove that risk.

Next month, we will finalize our discussion on Roth Conversions.



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LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

John R. McMahon, BG, USA (Retired)

Back in Action

The full Congress is back in session, and the US government is back in business, after the longest government shutdown in history. Discerning who is to blame and who blinked first are among the lines of reporting in the US media, but the truth is nothing was resolved, especially as it relates to the big issue of rising healthcare insurance costs. Democrats sought to extend health insurance subsidies that are scheduled to expire at the end of the year. To get past the impasse, Senate Majority Leader John Thune (R-SD) agreed to at least give the Democrats a vote on the tax credits sometime in December. But the promise of a vote does not guarantee that legislation will be passed while any measure to address health care subsidies faces long odds in a Republican-controlled Congress.

What was passed was a simple stopgap spending measure that would fund the government at existing levels until 30 Jan, so the clock is ticking again. Democrats were able to secure language that would restore the jobs of thousands of federal workers who were laid off during the shutdown and bar further reductions through 30 Jan, while guaranteeing back pay for hundreds of thousands of others who were furloughed, as required by law; they also won protection for the Government Accountability Office, an agency that helps Congress keep track of federal spending. The bipartisan compromise also combines three full-year funding measures for specific parts of the government into one package, along with a stopgap funding bill for the rest of it through 30 Jan.

In a short MOAA article online, this compromise is the first step in rebuilding a broken trust between lawmakers and the uniformed services and veteran communities. Beyond that, they recommend three moves Congress should make to further the trust-building process. First, Congress should pass a Full Budget for FY 2026, and every year thereafter, to break their inefficient and ineffective pattern that's lasted decades. Lawmakers haven't passed a full slate of appropriations legislation on time since FY 1997, and the resulting continuing resolutions have lasted

anywhere from a few days to a full year. Next, while that step may be a bridge too far, Congress should ensure servicemembers and their families are protected from future funding-lapse fallout – not through emergency bills introduced as the budget clock ticks down, but through bipartisan legislation passed outside the frenetic appropriations cycle. Servicemembers should never have to work without a timely paycheck; it's bad for morale if not immoral. Finally, while most of us military retirees received our well-earned retirement pay during the shutdown, retired USPHS and NOAA Commissioned Corps members and survivors did not, even though they served honorably. This must change. Let your voices be heard. Write our Members of Congress and tell them to do their jobs, pass budgets on time, and protect those serving and retired.



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SCHOLARSHIP

Col D Brent Baysinger, USAF (Ret)

Finishing Another Year Strong

As we enter the final month of another successful scholarship calendar year, the country and economy remain cautiously optimistic. Thankfully, inflation has remained low relative to the highs of over 9% in 2022. While both death and taxes remain a given, so too are the rising costs of college and advanced education. Thankfully, the MOAACC Scholarship Corporation remains a source of support for students of the MOAACC family striving to start or advance their careers and effect positive outcomes in their local communities. This year we awarded \$82,500 in scholarships to 11 students. When applications open next year, we hope to match and exceed the dollars awarded in 2025. Over the last few years, we have increased the pool of eligibility from prospective college sophomores all the way up to PhD candidates.

During these final weeks of year, please consider donating to the Scholarship Corporation. In addition, those of you with retirement accounts with Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) can consider making a Qualified Charitable Deductions and not only donate to a great cause but more efficiently minimize your taxable income for the year. Please consult your CPAs, financial advisors and/or attorneys about your specific situation.

Lastly, you can also support the Scholarship Corporation with your generous contributions. You can become a 'Distinguished Donor' by donating \$1,000 or more and you can become a 'Named Scholarship' donor by donating \$10,000 or more. Both contribution types are recognized on our website as well as put on display at the annual luncheon. In addition, you can support the Scholarship Corporation with your time. If you are interested in getting involved, please reach out to a Scholarship Corporation board member. We are always on the lookout for motivated individuals, especially within the Selection Committee.

The Brevard Veterans Memorial Center (BVMC) and MOAACC

Good Deeds Foundation (GDF) Support Two Special 5 K Races in 24 hours



Major players supporting veterans in Brevard held their annual 5K fundraisers on the weekend of 08-09 November. Saint Francis Hospice staged its event at the BVMC in the Plaza and the portion of the Park not under construction. They recruited 457 runners and many sponsors, making it their best 5k ever. BVMC and MOAACC members Paul Julian and Kristi Blanchard were among the winners in their categories. Kristi even medaled the next morning.

National Veterans Homeless Support (NVHS) held its money-making race in the Eau Gallie Park with the steep bridge over the Indian River on the route along the Eau Gallie Causeway. NVHS also set a record with 431 runners, 129 of which were veterans, and more sponsors than ever. GDF Pres Donn Weaver was asked to offer the invocation.

Both were great events for the runners of all speeds and types, and for the spectators over the busy Veterans Day weekend. They were two of the 11 major Brevard County Veterans Day celebrations from 07 -12 November.

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Mark Your Calendar!

Save the Dates for Upcoming MOAACC 2025/2026 Events:

(Click Event to see our website events calendar for details)

5 December 2025: Annual Christmas Dinner Dance

9 December 2025: On-The-Go Christmas Luncheon @ Suntree Country Club

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



MOAACC MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

WELCOME

Welcome our New Members!

Last Name	First Name	Prefix	Service (C)	Member's Sponsor
Chasak-Wright	Linda	Mrs	Spouse	Larry Wright
Davenport	Bruce	Lt Col	Air Force	Gary Eppler
Erndt	Thomas	CPT	Army	Don England
Flaherty	Sasha	LT	Coast Guard	Dan McIntyre
Froning	David	LT	Coast Guard	Dan McIntyre
Hiebert	Linda	Mrs	Surviving Spouse	
Justice	Barbara	Mrs	Surviving Spouse	Mike Gautraux
Lewis	Ken	LCDR	Navy	Tom Unrath
McIntire	Jason	CWO3	Coast Guard	Dan McIntyre
Perez	Pablo	CWO3	Coast Guard	Dan McIntyre
Prieth	Geraldine	CWO3	Surviving Spouse	
Snith	Karen	Mrs	Surviving Spouse	

TAPS

Mark Hiebert Col USAF (Ret)
died 2 November 2025 at age 67.

Wayne Justice RADM USCG (Ret)
died 8 November 2025 at age 70.

Mrs. Donna E. Book, wife of LCDR Roy I. Book USN (Ret),
died on 18 November 2025. She is survived by her husband, Don England CAPT USN Ret.



Current Affairs



Denny sharing his experiences with charts and photos



Boomer view refueling a B52

LTC Denny Tharpe, USAF, (Ret) gave MOAACC members attending the Nov 8 TBMC a very interesting presentation of his experiences as a KC 135 and EC47 pilot. He talked about his deployments, including three in Southeast Asia. Fifty percent of his remaining two years of active duty were spent on nuclear alert with the Strategic Air Command. He and his wife, are the exception as few of the 26KC135 co-pilots remain married to the same person today.



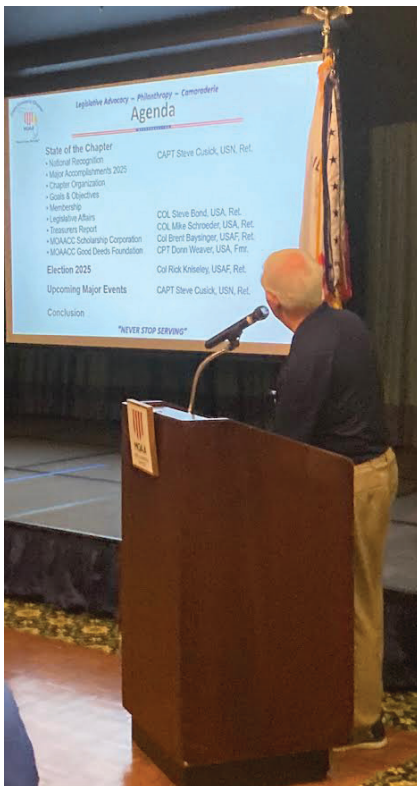
Boomer view refueling an F4



Steve Cusick pictured with Denny Tharpe

MOAACC Annual Meeting

The annual business meeting of the MOAACC chapter was held at the Indian River Colony Club Hall and included a luncheon and presentations by chapter president, CAPT Steve Cusick, USN, retired followed by Good Deeds Foundation, Scholarship Corporation, Membership and Financials. [CLICK HERE](#) for recording & full presentation.



Chapter President Steve Cusick



Color Guard



Legislative Advocacy – Philanthropy – Camaraderie

Accomplishments 2025

- Largest MOAA Chapter, over 1,000 members, recognized for continued Excellence by MOAA!
- 27 MOAACC Guest Speakers and 60+ Speakers Bureau engagements to date
- In-Person Meetings Supplemented by Video Continue
- Website www.MOAACC.org receiving recognition; new members
- And the Chapter Keeps Rolling Along!
 - THE INTERCOM; Five Things e-Newsletter; Weekly Meetings; Monthly Luncheons; Installation Luncheon; Past Presidents Dinner; Recognition for Students, JROTC, Scholarships; Good Deeds, Christmas Dinner Dance & Christmas Tea...

"NEVER STOP SERVING"



Legislative Advocacy – Philanthropy – Camaraderie Chapter Officer Nominees --2025

President: Capt Rosa Reich, USAF, Fmr.
1st Vice President: LTC Hans Hunt, USA, Ret.
2nd Vice President: CW4 Jose Prieto, USA, Ret.
Secretary: CDR Eric Gardner, USN, Ret.
Assistant Secretary: CAPT Arnold Lim, USNR, Ret.
Treasurer: COL Michael "Mike" Schroeder, USA, Ret.
Assistant Treasurer: LTC William "Bill" Vanasse, USA, Ret.
Master-at-Arms: Lt Col Mike Nottley, USAF, Ret.
Assistant Master-at-Arms: CPT Larry Wright, USA, Fmr

"NEVER STOP SERVING"



Legislative Advocacy – Philanthropy – Camaraderie

Recognition of Excellence

- MOAA's COL Martin J. Harris Communications Award for 2024
 - MOAA's Highest Award for Communication with members:
 - The Intercom Monthly Newsletter – Amir Pishdad Sr. Editor
 - www.MOAACC.com website – Mike Schroeder, Webmaster
 - Honorable Mention: MOAACC Five Things bi-weekly e-Newsletter – Steve Bond, Editor; MOAA Facebook Page, Tim Pishdad, Page Editor
- MOAA's Five-Star Level of Excellence Chapter Award for 2024
 - MOAA's Highest Award for Chapter Excellence
 - Awarded to MOAACC every year since award began in 1994



"NEVER STOP SERVING"

VyStar GDF Veteran Recognition Dinner - 8 November

Photos by Amir Pishdad, Sr.



National Veterans Homeless Support (NVHS)



Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Chapter 32 Melbourne



American Veterans Empowerment Team (AVET)



Brevard Public Schools and Education and Citizenship Armed Forces Coalition of the Space Coast (BPS/ECAC)



Their Voice of Hope (TVOH)



Space Coast Honor Flight (SCHF)



Caisson — Tom and Denise Fitzgerald

VyStar GDF Veteran Recognition Dinner - 8 November

Photos by Amir Pishdad, Sr.



Quilts of Valor — Karmel Sowers



OASIS (Packages to troops abroad)



Cape Canaveral Ladies



North Brevard Honor Guard



Florida Chapter Army Officer Candidate School Association of America



Donn Weaver MOAACC/GDF Award for Lifetime Achievement

[Click Here for Additional Photos](#)

Supporting Veterans Day Events

November is National Veterans and Military Families Month and Veterans Day was on Tuesday, November 11th. Throughout the county there were LOTS of events and activities to celebrate and honor veterans for their service! Our chapter was called on for many of the events—Our Speakers Bureau and Brevard Veterans Back to Class (BVBC) supported twenty speaker events and four BVBC requests surrounding Veterans Day! The events were both large and small but served to recognize all veterans and their families in our community and remind others of what it means to earn the title of “Veteran.”

Thank you to all our Speakers and Veterans Back to Class members! If you would like to help us make an impact in the community, consider joining us by sending an email to admin@MOAACC.org.



Left to Right—Lt Col Denny Tharp (USAF, Ret) at Shell Harbor with Monica Craig (Shell Harbor), Charles Craig (Shell Harbor), Elana Pitcher and Chaplain Ann Taylor Owen (both St Francis Hospice), and Mary Hall (Shell Harbor)



LT Larry Sanford (USN-Former) at the Indian River Center with Carlos Robles (JROTC Instructor at Heritage High School).



COL Jeff Rogers (USA, Ret-Back Center) at Orlando Health Melbourne Regional Hospital with Staff Veterans.



LTC John Fravel (USA, Retired) speaking to assembled veterans at Buena Vida Estates



CWO4 Dan McIntyre (USCG, Ret-Standing-Left)—assists with veterans pinning at Viera Health and Rehab Center.



COL Steve Bond (USA, Ret—Center) with Veterans at Americana Resorts.

Brevard Veterans Memorial Center (BVMC) Veterans Day Events

CPT (former) Donn Weaver, USA



Despite Cold Weather, Veterans Day at the BVMC was a big success. More than 230 people braved the coldest Florida Day in 20 years to attend the annual Brevard Veterans Memorial Center Veterans Day Ceremony. A great parade of flags began outdoors in the Plaza. It included the BVMC Color Guard; the Courageous Division Sea Cadets American Flag History demonstration; the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution in period costume; and 14 members of the Trail Life Troopers youth group. Thanks to the Lonnie and Delinda Beach Band with great music and the National Anthem and to all the marchers who reflected the theme this year — America and American Veterans over 250 years. The indoor event included a great speech by Merritt Island High School Senior Army JROTC Instructor, MAJ Lonnie Spangler USA, (Ret) who talked about service and commitment of veterans.

Autumn House Vets



CAPT Steve Cusick, USN (ret) speaking – honoring veterans and their families for their dedicated service.



Col J.C. Cherniga USAF (ret) and CAPT Steve Cusick in front of the "Veteran Wall of Honor"

Twenty Veterans celebrations were held during the period 6 November to 14 November throughout Brevard County. At Autumn House we had 16 veteran residents with: photos of each Veteran on the wall. Songs and music were abundant, including the National Anthem, God Bless America; and songs for each military service. Service songs were a bit hit with the veterans, for example, "Anchors Away" "Off we go into the Wild Blue Yonder" etc as appropriate for each veteran. Col J.C. Cherniga USAF (ret) led all the singing with his beautiful baritone voice.

Cape Canaveral Veterans Day Parade



MOAACC GOOD DEEDS FOUNDATION

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

November for Good Deeds Foundation: Marked by Great Success and Sadness the Same Time

You will read in these December Intercom pages about the wonderful success and community engagement from our 8 November VyStar GDF Veteran Recognition Dinner, and simultaneous sadness of losing our GDF Treasurer and pillar of the entire community, RADM Wayne Justice, USCG, (Ret). Our foundation focuses on, and is so effective in supporting so many youths, active duty, veteran families in distress and great projects by other 501c3s, that we sometimes forget why we all do it — to pay it forward.

From my Heart: In the two weeks leading up to our huge fundraiser at the Holiday Inn Viera Conference Center, we were very busy and meeting all the time in hopes of making that night more successful in sparking the community as well as in raising funds. On 27 October at about 1330 I went to Wayne's Cocoa Beach home to pick up some checks and pass some other documents. Business done, we chatted about how lucky we were to be veterans in Brevard County and how being retired but still working nearly full-time without pay is so rewarding and rigorous, if not frustrating for our spouses. He also confirmed that evening he would head to a local gym and play his usual weekly basketball pick-up game with Sheriff Ivey, among others. Within three hours after I left, Wayne Justice had collapsed and would never regain consciousness. Wayne died on 8 November. Rest in peace Wayne. You were such a crucial member of the Good Deeds Foundation. Well done for your faithful service to our country, Port Canaveral, MOAACC, Good Deeds Foundation and the Space Coast community. Our 10 Nov GDF Board Meeting was surreal. We paused to honor Wayne, launched our after-action report on the event which exceeded all expectations and decided to do another, Second Annual Vet Dinner in 2026.

Special thanks to Larry Jackson, Event Chair and his team along with all GDF Board members, and many in the MOAACC that helped us shatter records and create lasting memories for 240 people on 8 November.

We sincerely welcome Don Roett to the GDF Board and thank him for volunteering to be our new Treasurer. He brings treasurer and quartermaster experience from several other volunteer organizations.

Have fantastic holiday times this month and keep your friends and family close. Your GDF Board will do the same.

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.

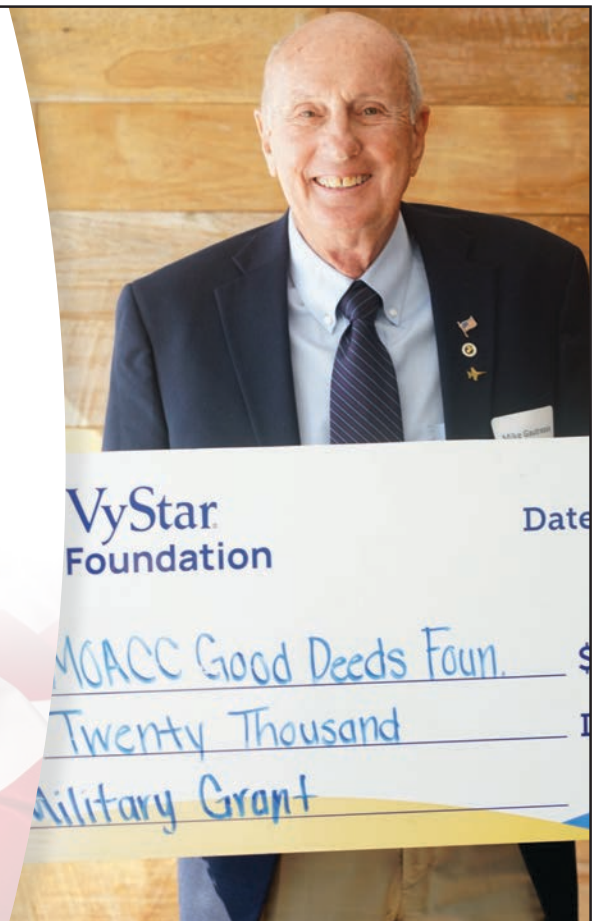
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Vice President, MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation



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Passing the Torch—MOAACC Army Veterans Meet with Florida Tech ROTC Cadets at Field Training



Florida Tech Panther Battalion Cadets pose with visiting MOAACC members during their recent field training exercise in Malabar.

Recently, the Florida Tech ROTC Panther Battalion hosted its pre-summer camp field training exercise in Malabar. The exercise was designed to prepare the cadets for their upcoming summer camp and focused on field craft, patrol base operations, squad tactics, and both day and night land navigation.

Members of MOAACC, including retired U.S. Army Colonel Steve Bond, LTC Hans Hunt, MAJ Mike Kahanca, CW4 Jose Prieto, and LTC Tim Thomas, were invited to engage with the cadets during their training. Over coffee and donuts provided by the MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation, the veterans discussed personal experiences of their service, ranging from the Cold War era, operations in Grenada, Panama, Desert Shield and Desert Storm, to the Global War on Terror.

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Colonel Steve Bond, (ret) USA: “These cadets will soon join the Long Green Line of Army leaders. This is one way we can pass the torch to the next generation.”

LTC Rob Stillings, Professor of Military Science at Florida Tech, expressed gratitude to MOAACC and the visiting veterans for their continued support of the Panther Battalion. He emphasized to the cadets the importance of connecting with veterans as they advance in their military studies and prepare for their future leadership roles.



MOAACC Members (L-R) Steve Bond, Mike Kahanca, Jose Prieto, Hans Hunt, and Tim Thomas at the Florida Tech ROTC Malabar FTX site.



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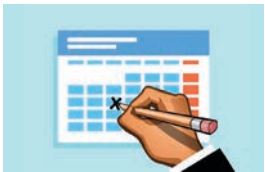
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MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation

PO Box 320358

Cocoa Beach, FL 32932



Unofficial Brevard VMC Vets Calendar

December 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.

DECEMBER 2025

06 Dec — Gold Star Family Indoor Christmas/Holiday Tree set up 1400-1600 at Brevard Veterans Memorial Center Museum to stay up until 03 January. Contact Donn Weaver 757-871-6576 for more details and to arrange for a loved one's Star if you lost them as a result of military service.

06 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 emceeing the parades again this year!

Brevard County Parks and Recreation Central Area Operations

840 Forrest Avenue, Cocoa, FL 32922 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>

13 Dec — Holiday Illumination 5K at Brevard Veterans Memorial Center Park 0700-1000. Sponsored by CAMI and managed by Running Zone. Registration and Information in November. Includes the Plaza Area of BVMC, portions of the Mall and newly upgraded BVMC Park.

13 Dec — Merritt Island's Annual Holiday Illumination Celebration Presented by Community Advocacy for Merritt Island (CAMI) (1600-2030) Includes Community Tree Illumination at the BVMC Plaza with possible chance to visit the new live Space Coast Gold Star Family Christmas and Holiday Tree if available for a small ceremony. There will be plenty of music, food trucks, things for kids and much more for this great event.

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.

2026 EVENTS

16 Apr — Second Annual Space Coast Military Enlistment Ceremony 1600- Check in; 1700-1900 Ceremony. Brevard Veterans Memorial Center Amphitheater and Park. Support more than 200 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. Additional details in February.

More 2026 Events Coming Soon!

**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



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They Will Never Be Forgotten: Brevard's Gold Star Holiday Indoor Tree

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



For the past 12 years, the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center on Merritt Island, and other Veteran Organizations, have supported a project launched from the heart. Led by Gold Star Mom, Jeanne Weaver, the stars on the tree have now reached over 20. Jeanne's painting of another Gold Star Family Tree adorns the cover of the December issue of Senior Scene Magazine. For 2025-26 she also created a spiral notebook with one page each of details about the fallen remembered on the tree.

This year on the morning of Saturday, 06 December Jeanne and other Gold Star Families will put up the beautiful indoor tree at the BVMC Military Museum. It will remain in place through mid January 2026, reminding hundreds of visitors the price of American freedom. Each star has the name, unit and photo of those who died in combat, or as a result of military service, who have close family left to remember on the Space Coast. Costs have been covered by the Good Deeds Foundation of MOAA Cape Canaveral Chapter, Rolling Thunder FL-Chapter 1, and the Cape Canaveral 10131 Post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

If you have driven by the BVMC lately, you will be amazed to see the Amphitheater and other major upgrades wrapping up construction by early January. Plans are underway near the Amphitheater to plant a live pine tree.

That tree will be seen all year round by thousands

and a sign will call attention to it — The Space Coast Gold Star Family Holiday Tree. There will be pavers near by for any Gold Star family to donate and have engraved their loved ones information.

If you are a Gold Star Family member as spouse, parent, child, sibling of a military member who died in that service, and would like to honor your loved one or share their story, please contact Donn Weaver 757-871-6576 for more information about the tree and related programs. The ancient Greeks are credited with a saying: "A soldier never dies unless he is forgotten". In Brevard County we hope to make sure our fallen are not forgotten.

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.



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Source: Forbes.com 2024 and 2025 Forbes Best-In-State Wealth Management Teams ranking awarded in 2024 and 2025. Each ranking was based on an evaluation process conducted by SHOOK Research LLC (the research company) in partnership with Forbes (the publisher). This evaluation process concluded in March of the previous year the award was issued, having commenced in March of the year before that. Neither Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC nor its Financial Advisors or Private Wealth Advisors paid a fee to SHOOK Research LLC, for placement on its rankings. This ranking is based on in-person and telephone due diligence meetings to evaluate each Financial Advisor qualitatively, a major component of a ranking algorithm that includes client retention, industry experience, review of compliance records, firm nominations, and quantitative criteria, including assets under management and revenue generated for their firms. Investment performance is not a criterion. Rankings are based on the opinions of SHOOK Research LLC and may not be representative of any one client's experience; investors must carefully choose the right Financial Advisor or team for their own situation and perform their own due diligence. These rankings are not indicative of the Financial Advisor's future performance. Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC is not affiliated with SHOOK Research LLC or Forbes. For more information, see www.SHOOKResearch.com.

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Vets Back to Class - Busy during Veterans Day Week



Coquina Elementary School K-6, Titusville

Brevard County was the scene of more than a dozen major Veterans Day activities from 07 - 13 November. Among the lesser-known programs was the Vets Back to Class support to several high schools, an elementary school and a private K-8 Academy. The high school events included major assemblies in the auditorium with JROTC leading the program; a breakfast in support of veterans; and JROTC leading a Veterans Day Program at a nearby middle school. Vets Back to Class even led a program at the New Neighbors Club in Cocoa where over 10 female vets were in the audience. All together there were more than 1100 kids and adults that attended these programs.

Ribbon Cutting - Air Force JROTC Air Rifle Range at Eau Gallie HS



Over the past year, thanks to donations from Good Deeds Foundation, local business and shooting clubs, the Air Force JROTC air rifle range at Eau Gallie HS is ready just in time for the season. Here, GDF President Donn Weaver shares the ribbon caution with Principal Kieth Barton, Cadet Commander Thomas Good with two other cadets holding their new America 250 Flag (see details on flag in this issue).

Cadet Good is also an Eagle Scout, and the project was his choice for obtaining that rank. He is bound for the USAF Academy next summer.

All Military Service Meet or Exceed 2025 Recruitment Goals

Sources: National Review and The Federalist

In fiscal year 2025, which ended on September 30, the Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Space Force all reached their recruiting goals. In June, the Army announced that it surpassed its goal of 61,000 new soldiers four months before the deadline. The U.S. Coast Guard experienced its best year for recruitment in more than three decades.

JROTC Raider Challenge



Cadets from nine Brevard High School JROTC Raider Challenge Teams competed at the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center (BVMC) Park on 1 Nov for the chance of going on to the Florida State Championships. More than 200 cadets, along with 4-500 parents and friends, came out on a beautiful and cool day to complete the five events that make up the Challenge. MOAACC Good Deeds provided all the trophies presented by 11 MOAACC members. This was the final JROTC BVMC Park event in conjunction with Amphitheater and Park major construction. All will be ready by late January 2026 when the JROTC Run and Shoot and Drill competitions get started. Cocoa Beach placed two teams with Rockledge and Viera one each that moved on to the state competition.



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USCG Sailors of the Quarter



*CWO Dan McIntyre, OS3 Mike Arys, RADM Wayne Justice
Marine Safety Unit Port Canaveral 2nd Quarter 25 Sailor of the Quarter*



*CWO4 Dan McIntyre, MST1 Alex Christensen, RADM Wayne Justice
Marine Safety Unit Port Canaveral Sailor of the Quarter Q3 CY 2*



*Dan McIntyre, Wayne Justice, Matthew Zinn, Mike Arys, Brian Fairchild,
Dimitrios Wiener*



McIntyre, Zinn, Christensen, Fairchild, Justice, Wiener



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

MOC

MEMBERS ONLY CORNER

Photos submitted by MOAACC members.

Get your photos featured in the Intercom!

- Send us your high resolution photos
- Please provide names and captions
- Send to: intercom@moaacc.org



COL Steve Bond, US Army, (Ret) and President, Florida Council of Chapters, visited MOAACC chapter member, Bill Muckler in Sebring at the MOAA South Central Chapter Annual Business Meeting and Dinner on Nov 6th. Bill sent his regards to his friends in MOAACC--He is doing well and working on a new book!



Bill Muckler attended the First Annual Florida Medal of Honor Dinner held on October 23, 2005 in Sebring, Florida.

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**"
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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.

Space Program Presentations

Dr. Jane Hodges



Speakers Bureau Dr. Jane Hodges and Lt. Crystal Salierno recently gave presentations on the space program. Dr. Hodges gave a historical look at the Space Shuttle program and gifted lots of space memorabilia to the Rotary Club of Melbourne. Lt. Salierno was the speaker for the AF Women's Club of IRCC (attended by many MOAACC members) and provided an update of Space Force. Both PowerPoint presentations are available upon request. (An excellent video on YouTube was shown: "Behind the Scenes of a Space Force Rocket Launch!")



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.

Joy Casey of St Francis Among Those Honored with Quilt of Valor



Joy Casey with her quilt with Karmel Sowers second from left.



Over 40 people attended the ceremony. Photo by Donn Weaver, who also welcomes the guest for BVMC.

The Brevard Veterans Memorial Center Military Museum was the scene on 16 November off a very special ceremony. Eight veterans from Vietnam and GWOT conflicts received their Quilts of Valor from the Brevard leader Karmel Sowers and her team. Honorees included Army, Marines, Navy and Air Force Vets. Among them was Air Force and still serving Reservist, Joy Casey. She is the coordinator of the county wide "We honor Veterans" program for Shot Francis Hospice. Casey iOS SFH liaison for MOAACC and BVMC. Ms. Sowers and her unit were recently recognized for outstanding individual program at the 08 Nov Good Deeds Vet Recognition Dinner. Congrats and thanks to her and all the eight veterans who served in harms way while protecting our country.



Cocoa JROTC Holiday Faculty Morale Booster

With funding for MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation, the JROTC Instructors at Cocoa High School held their third annual Turkey Shoot at their indoor air rifle range on 19 Nov. Over 85 percent (57 total) of the faculty members participated for a Turkey, trophy and gift cards. Congratulations to all the winners, three of four of which were ladies!!



With Good Deeds and Sea Cadet Support OASIS, Holds Great Stocking Stuffer Event



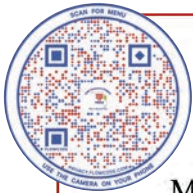
The packing process



Weaver presents the Good Deeds check to Santa's helper, Ms Brady

Active since 2004, OASIS of Brevard County has been packing and sending thousands of boxes to deployed US troops overseas. Led by Tess Heribacka Brady, OASIS had about fifty volunteers stuff stockings and 155 boxes to be mailed out in time for the holidays. Courageous Division Sea Cadets, based at BVMC, were at Beef O' Bradys on Merritt Island by 0800 on 22 Nov to lend a big hand. MOAACC/Good Deeds provided their annual \$2000 check to help cover mailing costs all year round. OASIS sends such packages five times per year. Our deployed soldiers receive not just goodies and useful items, but know they are appreciated by our citizens.

Renew Your Membership!



The Military Officers Association of America

Cape Canaveral Chapter (MOAACC)

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Chapter Membership \$20

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60-69	\$330	100+	No cost
70-79	\$235		

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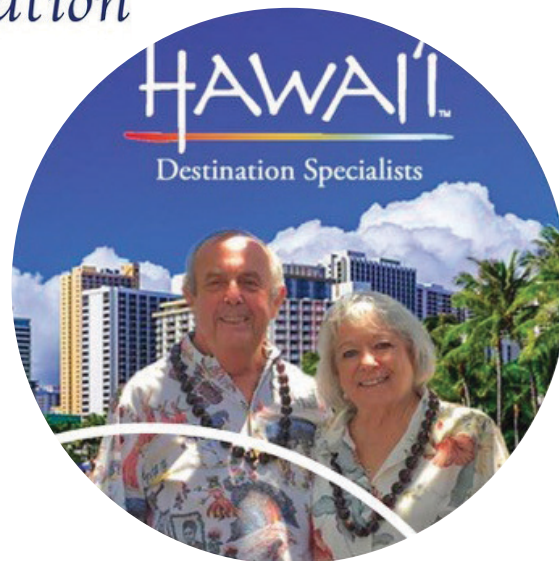
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