

INTERCOM



MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA Cape Canaveral Chapter, Inc.







PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Rosa M. Reich, Capt, USAF (Former)

Happy New Year! First, I would like to extend my gratitude to CAPT Steve Cusick, USN (Ret) for his exemplary leadership in 2025. Steve once shared that the key to the success of the chapter was the dedication of its members and their volunteerism. The commitment of our members who consistently fulfill essential roles is reflected in the chapter's continued service to our local military and veteran community. These efforts have been recognized by local groups and MOAA's national awards for our chapter. Upon joining the chapter, I was impressed by the extent of our efforts dedicated to serving the community. I look forward to seeing what we do in 2026.



EDITOR'S NOTE

John Franco, COL, USAF (ret)

If there is one word that I think best describes 2025 for our chapter, it is "momentum." We began with just over 900 members in January and finished with over 1,020; construction of the amphitheater park at BVMC that began in 2025 is virtually complete; Good Deeds Foundation giving and outreach continues to grow; the mass military service enlistment in May was a "first" and there are plans for the next one; our relationship with Brevard County schools is great with all high schools in possession of the GDF-supplied America-250 flags to fly on their campus' flagpoles; MOAACC is the leader in legislative advocacy; and the GDF Veterans Recognition Dinner fund raiser was a big success. Our country's 250th birthday is the ideal time to take advantage of this momentum to really demonstrate how "success breeds more success." Great work MOAACC!



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

JANUARY EVENTS

(Click Evefnt for Details)

- 1/8 Current Affairs Forum 8 AM @ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 1/10 MOAACC 2026 Installation Banquet 5 PM @ Indian River Colony Club - Colony Hall
- 1/13 On-The-Go Luncheon 11:30 AM @ Urban Prime Marketplace & Restaurant
- 1/15 TMBC 8 AM

 @ Indian River Colony Club 19th Hole
- 1/20 MOAACC B.O.D. Mtg. 9:30 AM @ Indian River Colony Club - Chapel
- 1/20 MOAACC Luncheon 11:30 AM @ Indian River Colony Club - Colony Hall
- 1/22 TMBC 8 AM @ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 1/29 FCoC Leadership 2026 Training Seminar &
- -1/31 Convention @ Rosen Centre Hotel Orlando, FL
- 1/29 TMBC 8 AM @ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 1/31 20th Annual MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation
- -2/7 Fundraiser Cruise @ Celebrity Apex - Depart Port Canaveral

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

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

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PHOTOS:

- Photos must be in "High Resolution" in .jpg format and sent as an "Attachment."
- When sending photos, select "actual size" on computer or cell phone and send as <u>"Attachment."</u>
- 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 that 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

INTERCOM PUBLICATION:

- THE INTERCOM is published 12 times annually by the Cape Canaveral Chapter, Inc. (MOAACC), an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) Alexandria, VA
- Contents of the Intercom articles are opinions solely of the authors and do not express the policy or official views of MOAA or The the Cape Canaveral Chapter (MOAACC)
- The advertisements that appear in this publication do not reflect an endorsement by MOAA or by MOAACC
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FINANCIAL LITERACY

CAPT Arnold Lim, USNR (Ret)

Roth IRA Conversions, Part III

We finish up on our look at Roth IRA Conversions.

When is one's retirement phase? Do you have sizable tax-deferred assets? Do you have years after you have quit working but before you are taking income (like pensions, Social Security (SS) benefits, and RMDs)? Because of RMDs, the biggest annual bill of many wealthy retirees is not housing costs nor insurance but instead is taxes. RMDs now kick in at age 73 or 75 years old, depending on your birth year. Use this "sweet spot" window of years, where you are likely to have relatively low income, to perform Roth conversions and fill in those low-income years, using up the low tax brackets each year.

<u>Who?</u> If there is a big age gap between a married couple, the older member should normally perform Roth conversions on his IRAs first.

Widow tax: The strong probability for a married couple that one spouse dies before the other, and then the surviving spouse now has essentially the same assets and annual income (except for maybe loss of one SS benefit) but now must deal with filing as single, no longer MFJ. More tax burden, with little solutions.

Ok, now that one has decided to go ahead and perform a Roth IRA conversion this year, the next obvious question is how much to convert? This is a complex topic, with many facets. But IMO there is no single absolute correct \$ answer; instead, more likely to be a range of worthy solutions that will be present. And these solutions typically are related to getting near the top of a targeted tax bracket. The 10% & tax brackets are very attractive, and the 24% tax bracket is huge, up to ~\$400k of earned income for MFJ.

Next consideration is how to pay the associated additional taxes that will come from executing Roth conversions. This too is complex. The best option is: 1) have a stash of ready cash, non-qualified monies; or next best 2) use tax-deferred monies. For the latter, that means that you will have to withhold monies to pay the tax, to pay the tax. It can be self-perpetuating. But because of the law of 59 1/2, one should only do this option 2) if you are that age or older, else must pay a 10% penalty (in addition to the regular taxes); never a good idea.

Remember to take advantage of Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) if you are charitably minded. This author has written about this option in previous articles. So that is a reason NOT to convert 100% of your tax-deferred assets to tax-free accounts; keep some assets in tax-deferred accounts, to be able to perform QCDs every year if desired.

Note: With the recent passing of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, one aspect has been reduced: The federal tax brackets will remain the same, at least for the immediate future. So that one risk of tax brackets raising has been reduced.

In closing: If you have sizable tax deferred assets, rather than doing a huge Roth conversion of all of it in one tax year, it is likely better to do a series of smaller conversions over multiple years, never exceeding your targeted acceptable tax rate (i.e., tax bracket). Reassess your tax situation at the end of every year.

Roth Conversions are a complex financial topic but are worthy of your financial attention. Judicious use of them can save you tons of tax dollars sent needlessly to the IRS and instead keep them in your pockets.





LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

John R. McMahon, BG, USA (Retired)

Inching Forward

There are nine remaining annual government funding bills to be passed before the expiration of the current Continuing Resolution (CR) on 30 January 2026. The Christmas recess seemed to sneak up on the Congress since the longest government shutdown ended on 12 November 2025 with several ill-fated attempts in the Senate to extend Obamacare subsidies which expire on 31 December 2025. As part of the CR extension deal, FY2026 funding was authorized for Military Construction and Veterans Affairs; the Food and Drug Administration, Agriculture and Rural Development; and the Legislative Branch.

Small steps of progress were made before the Christmas recess on five of the remaining nine bills needed to fund the rest of the government through the end of FY2026, specifically a five-bill "minibus" to fund Transportation and Housing and Urban Development; Defense; Labor, and Health and Human Services; Commerce and Justice; Science and Interior. However, it has stalled, purportedly due to it having some \$5 billion in earmarks, a construct that was banned more than a decade ago (in 2011) only to be resuscitated under a new moniker, Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS), with its own set of "rules of the road". It was, and remains, the "grease" that oils the wheels of governance through compromise. On a positive note, the 2026 National Defense Authorization Act, authorizing \$900.6 billion for defense programs, moved through a series of hurdles after the House passed its version by a vote of 312-112, a sure sign of bipartisan support.

Meanwhile, the Republican controlled Senate is under pressure to eliminate the tried-and-true filibuster, a potent legislative tool that gives the minority party in the Senate some leverage, if not outright veto power. As described in an op-ed by the Treasury Secretary, Scott Bessent notes that Senate Democrats most recently used it to hold the country hostage during the latest government shutdown which inflicted "tremendous harm on the nation", including: \$11 billion in permanent economic damage; an estimated 1.5 percentage points in lost GDP growth in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2025; 9,500 canceled flights; and the delayed paychecks to 1.4 million federal workers. He dubs it "a historical accident that has evolved into a standing veto for the minority and a license for paralysis" and calls for Republicans to acknowledge that the filibuster no longer serves the country — and should end it for the following reasons.

The filibuster is not in the Constitution. And, while its defenders argue that it ensures compromise, encourages bipartisanship, and protects minority rights, in today's charged political environment, the minority party has abused it to the

point of rendering the Senate "almost useless as a deliberative body". And the filibuster has not been sacrosanct in the recent past, given the tit-for-tat efforts to eliminate it in 2013 for presidential nominations other than Supreme Court justices by Democrats, and in 2017 for Supreme Court nominations by Republicans. Bessent observes that "each side justified its move as a response to unprecedented obstruction by the other and that each time, the Senate survived". Hence, while some senators are reluctant to go further for fear the opposition will one day use the same power against them, they ignore the fact that that power will be leveraged against them whether they end the filibuster or not. The bottom line is that the filibuster prevents the Senate from functioning as intended, given the sad fact that major legislation is now passed only through reconciliation, executive fiat, or brinksmanship, while the 60vote threshold has become a convenient excuse for inaction. Bessent argues that the test will come soon enough by 30 January 2026 when the current CR expires. "If Democrats refuse to negotiate in good faith and close the government on 30 January, then Republicans must instantly abolish the filibuster." My sense is "be careful what you wish for" because the script could be flipped sooner rather than later given the upcoming November 2026 elections.



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SCHOLARSHIP

Col D Brent Baysinger, USAF (Ret)

2026 Scholarship Corporation Updates

Leadership Update. As we begin 2026, the MOAACC Scholarship Board of Directors fondly remembers the leadership and contributions of RADM Wayne Justice, USCG (Ret.) as our President. His determination to maximize our impact in the community led to new recordsetting scholarship awards each year during his tenure. Following Wayne's passing in November 2025, VADM Don Hagen, USN (Ret.) has answered the call and will serve as Scholarship's new President. Under Don's leadership the Scholarship Corporation leadership will continue to support the higher educational pursuits of the children and grandchildren of MOAACC members and retired military servicemen in Brevard.

Changes to application open season. Starting with the 2026 season, applications will now be accepted over a two-month period from April 15 through June 15. Previously we had accepted scholarships from January 1 through June 15. Following a review of our policies and procedures, the board determined a shorter open-application period would be more efficient for both students and the Selection Committee staff. The Corporation will continue to strategically promote the scholarship within MOAACC and Brevard. Additionally, we will continue to utilize and rely on the help of current MOAACC members spreading the word.

Supporting Scholarship. You can support the Scholarship Corporation and our future leaders 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 board member. We are always on the lookout for motivated individuals, especially within the Selection Committee.



POINTS TO PONDER

Ch, LtCol, Tom Unrath, USAF (Ret)



I was sitting on my back porch and had just finished my second cup of morning coffee. I was watching all the local resident and migrating birds coming to our feeders. It is a relaxing, joy-giving time for me. They wouldn't be here if it weren't for all the many different plants my wife, Anita, has established here. The plants are, by far, mostly native varieties chosen to create a native habitat for the birds, insect pollinators, and other wildlife that visit. This wonderful diversity of plants and wildlife is a truly joyous spectacle to behold. Anita and I have participated in the Cornell Lab of Ornithology "Feeder Watch" which runs Nov 1 – Apr 30 since 2022. We've identified about 40 species of birds and 4 mammals in our yard.

Some people have said certain of our visitors are plain, ordinary, even ugly, or a nuisance. I don't see it that way. We enjoy their visits, playfulness, and variety of behaviors equally. When we put the food out all are welcome.

I'll admit we didn't always feel that way. It seemed, for instance, the squirrels came and stole the food we put out for the birds. We concluded, with our prejudiced mindset, they were plain, ordinary thieves, and we wanted to scare them away. The birds didn't mind though. They shared, willingly, with squirrels, rabbits, and more, even eating out of the same feeders and dishes at the same time. Finally, the squirrels' lively antics won us over.

We've now come to enjoy the whole diversity of plants and animals. We try to treat them equally and truly enjoy including them in our lives.

I think diversity, equity, and inclusion work well with people too. When we serve with an openness to care for all people willingly, appreciative of God's variety of gifts, then, I believe, the benefits accrue to us all.

Save the Dates for Upcoming MOAACC 2026 Events:

(See our website events calendar for details)

10 January 2026: MOAACC 2026 Installation Banquet

20 January 2026: MOAACC Luncheon - Guest Speaker CAPT Doug Pratt, USN, NOTU Commander

29-31 January 2026: MOAA FCoC Training Seminar & Convention in Orlando

31 January – 7 February 2026: 20th Annual MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation Fundraiser Cruise

27 February 2026: Every Day Is Veterans Day!

15 April: Scholarship Application Process Opens

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

17 November 2026: MOAACC Luncheon & Annual Membership Business Meeting

12 December 2026: MOAACC Annual Christmas Dinner Dance

HEALTHY LIVING

CAPT (ret) Rita Shapiro, MA, DPT

Here we are another year behind us, and we have 2026 to look forward to. People tend to make some resolutions to start the New Year off to a good start. January is National Blood Donor month. Wintertime, since about 1970, has been a challenging time for the national blood banks to have necessary blood products in stock to save lives. So, let us make a resolution (if you are able and OK'd by your doctor) to donate blood at least once this year.

Next, people make resolutions to work out regularly, or to eat healthy, or to go on walks, and so on! In this new year, make a promise to yourself that you can keep. Be realistic about what you can and want to accomplish.

Eating Healthy: Challenge yourself to get away from preprocessed foods full of dyes and preservatives.

Exercising Regularly: Make a promise to yourself to give yourself at least 45-60 Minutes of time every day to walk, bike, stretch, lift weights or whatever form of exercise you enjoy.

YOU ARE WORTH THE TIME!!!!





MOAACC MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

2VP Final Report for 2025:

MOAACC Membership: 1022

New Members 21 Oct- 17 Nov: 13 (See Attached

spreadsheet)

New Members 18 Nov - 15 Dec: 11 (See Attached

spreadsheet) Non-renewal: 40 New Members since 1 Jan 2025: 144

1. Keep up the full court press on recruiting.

2. Keep a copy of our MOAACC Pamphlet in the car, pocket, purse, gym bag, etc.

3. Every member is a recruiter.

Hooah! Hans

Welcome our New Members!

Last Name	First Name	Prefix	Service (C)	Component (C)	Duty Status (C)	Membership Level	Membership Start Date	Membership Sponsor
Chasak-Wright	Linda	Mrs	Spouse	Other	Other	Spouse	21-Oct	Larry Wright
Davenport	Bruce	Lt Col	Air Force	Regular	Retired	Annual	6-Nov	Gary Eppler
Erndt	Thomas	СРТ	Army	Regular	Former	Annual	30-Oct	Don England
Flaherty	Sasha	LT	Coast Guard	Regular	Active	Annual	21-Oct	Dan McIntyre
Froning	David	LT	Coast Guard	Regular	Active	Annual	21-Oct	Dan McIntyre
Hiebert	Linda	Mrs	Surviving Spouse	Other	Surviving Spouse	Surviving Spouse (Auxiliary)	14-Nov	_
Justice	Barbara	Mrs	Surviving Spouse	Other	Surviving Spouse	Surviving Spouse (Auxiliary)	13-Nov	Mike Gautrauex
Lewis	Ken	CH (LCDR)	Navy	Regular	Retired	Annual	6-Nov	Tom Unrath
McIntire	Jason	CWO3	Coast Guard	Regular	Active	Annual	21-Oct	Dan McIntyre
Miller	William	Mr	Navy	Regular	Retired	Associate	10-Nov	_
Perez	Pablo	CWO3	Coast Guard	Regular	Active	Annual	21-Oct	Dan McIntyre
Prieth	Geraldine	Mrs	Surviving Spouse	Other	Surviving Spouse	Surviving Spouse (Auxiliary)	6-Nov	_
Smith	Karen	Mrs	Surviving Spouse	Other	Surviving Spouse	Surviving Spouse (Auxiliary)	4-Nov	_
Krekow	Jaden	2LT	Army	Regular	Active	Annual	3-Dec	Steve Bond
Krekow	Julia	2LT	Army	Regular	Active	Annual	3-Dec	Steve Bond
Lasher	Ethan	ENS	Coast Guard	Regular	Active	Annual	21-Nov	Dan McIntyre
Maero-Fetzer	Louise	Mrs	Spouse	Other	Other	Spouse	5-Dec	Hans Hunt
McGuire	ВЈ	LtCol	Marines	Regular	Retired	Annual	4-Dec	Skip Taylor
Reeser	Nicholas	ENS	Coast Guard	Regular	Active	Annual	21-Nov	Dan McIntyre
Smith	Mark	LTJG	Coast Guard	Regular	Active	Annual	21-Nov	Dan McIntyre
Tatara	Mark	LCDR	Coast Guard	Regular	Active	Annual	2-Dec	Dan McIntyre
Teague	Patricia	СРТ	Army	Regular	Retired	Annual	5-Dec	Rosa Reich
Vilgats	Janice	Mrs	Surviving Spouse	Other	Surviving Spouse	Surviving Spouse (Auxiliary)	11-Dec	_
Villamor	Manuel	2LT	Army	National Guard	Active	Annual	3-Dec	Steve Bond

Current Affairs

TMBC Presentation on Disable American Veterans (DAV)Organization

By: Col John Franco, USAF (Ret)





DAV1 BJ McGuire addresses TMBC attendees

DAV3 l-r, Mike Kahanka, BJ McGuire, Mike Gautreaux, Steve Cusick

BJ McGuire, Chapter Commander, DAV 123, provided attending MOAACC members with an excellent, informative presentation of the role and mission of the DAV. The chapter is in Merritt Island and isa a non-profit organization to provide assistance to disabled veterans including free advocacy and benefit assistance. The assistance can include: help with disability compensation; filing new claims and appeals; locating evidence and medical documentation; and free representation. For those transitioning out of active-duty service, they provide guidance for new veterans, help with the VA system, peer mentorship, family support, and employment services. BJ made a point that DAV is not in competition with any other veterans' organization such as the VA but strives to work with others to achieve the best outcome for the disabled veteran.

Sunrise Point Wall of Honor Dedication



COL Steve Bond, USA (Ret) at the Sunrise Point Wall of Honor Dedication in Rockledge on December 2nd. In the picture are the Police Chief and Fire Chief of Rockledge, along with staff members from Sunrise Point and St. Francis Reflections.

IN MEMORIAM

Canaveral Port Authority Chair, Retired Coast Guard Admiral Wayne Justice Passed Away Nov. 8

By Space Coast Daily // November 20, 2025

SERVED 11 YEARS AS A PORT CANAVERAL COMMISSIONER, INCLUDING THREE TIMES AS CHAIRMAN



Rear Admiral Wayne Edward Justice, U.S. Coast Guard (Ret.), 70, of Cocoa Beach, Florida, died peacefully on Saturday, November 8, 2025, at Health First's Holmes Regional Medical Center in Melbourne, Florida. He served in the U.S. Coast Guard for 37 years and 11 years as a Port Canaveral commissioner, including three times as Chairman.

Admiral Justice was born in Seattle, Washington, raised in Staten Island, New York, but called Brevard County, Florida, his home. He was a proud graduate of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, Class of 1977, and played football on the Coast Guard Bears team. Wayne was passionately proud of commitments to service, especially military members, first responders, and his beloved Coast Guard, and had an enduring enthusiasm to energize young people to carry the torch of service for their community and country.

Wayne's dedication to inspiring the next generation of leaders was recognized by U.S. Senator Rick Scott, who appointed Wayne to serve on his selection committee for students seeking a Congressional appointment to our nation's military academies. While serving in the Coast Guard, Wayne most enjoyed his time at the White House and in Key West. Among the many roles and responsibilities he had throughout his military career, he loved commanding cutters. He also cherished carrying the "football" that contained the nuclear codes for Presidents H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton.

Wayne was proud of his 2014 election to the Canaveral Port Authority, where he served for 11 consecutive years, including three times as Chairman. He made many contributions to the Space Coast community, including promoting the space industry, the safety and benefits of LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas) as a marine fuel, the Brevard Zoo, and the importance of port security. He was also a tireless supporter of the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center, an active member of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) and MOAA Cape Canaveral, and its Good Deeds Foundation.

Wayne was also a "baller." Not only did he enjoy watching and supporting his New York Giants and New York Yankees, but you could find him on most Mondays and Thursdays playing basketball in the Old Farts Basketball League in Cocoa Beach, FL.



Wayne loved everything on the water, including boating, lobstering in the Florida Keys, a red sunset, and charbroiled oysters. Blessed with the gift of conversation, he could easily engage with anyone, telling stories of his endless adventures.

Wayne is survived by his wife, Barbara; daughter, Justice Behrmann (Katie Behrmann); son, Michael Justice (Alexa Staubus). A private memorial service will be held on December 16, followed by a full military honors burial at Cape Canaveral National Cemetery in Mims, Florida.

MOAACC Christmas Dinner-Dance









MOAACC's very own centenarian, George Rosenfield enjoying the party





The Amazing Veterans Memorial Park Amphitheater Set to Open In January

Donn Weaver, now Chairman of the BVMC Park Committee

As you may recall, the groundbreaking for the \$8.2M upgrades to the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center Park on Merritt Island took place 13 months ago. Although a 6-week delay caused by FPL to complete electric construction and tie the new Park into the grid has been frustrating, almost all else is close to completion so a late January 2026 Ribbon Cutting Opening is still possible. Check out these photos taken on 19 December as we all hope for a late Christmas Present for the community in early 2026. Happy New Year.







MOAACC GOOD DEEDS FOUNDATION

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

Good Deeds: Year End Update



Seated L-R from bottom: Larry Jackson, Tom Rozek, Skip Taylor, Mike Gautreaux , Dan Wilson, Mike Schroeder, Dan McIntyre, Jay Welsh and Don Hagen (advisor).

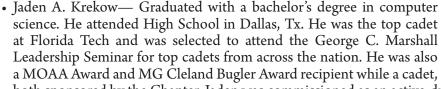
With 2025 now in history books, your Good Deeds Foundation can report on an amazing wrap up to our best year ever. It was sadly also marked by the unexpected loss of one of the most impactful MOAACC and Space Coast Community members, RADM Wayne Justice, USCG, Ret. Our sincere condolences and promises of support extend to Barbara and the family.

The GDF year end wrap up includes many great highlights, the details of which you will read about in this and subsequent Intercom issues:

- We presented \$17,500 to four active duty PSFB Foundations to help events and junior enlisted personnel.
- Our donations to Wreaths Across America at the Cape Canaveral Cemetery helped make sure a great 13 December ceremony was held and the goal of covering every grave site (11,900) with a wreath was met.
- Proceeds from our 8 November Veteran Recognition Dinner exceeded \$35,000, the most ever, causing us to already decide to stage the second annual such event at a new venue in Melbourne on 7 Nov 2026.
- Working with the Sons of the American Revolution we purchase and distributed 44 *America 250* flags to all 14 JROTC programs and to all public and private high schools in the county as we work to mentor our youth and better understand American history and the veteran's role.
- GDF Board welcomed two new members, Don Reott as our Treasurer and Ken Morris. Don Hagen also volunteered to help us with fundraising support for our 2026 Dinner.

Florida Tech ROTC Commissions three new Army Lieutenants

The Florida Institute of Technology Army ROTC Panther Battalion held their spring commissioning ceremony for three new Army Second Lieutenants on Friday, December 12th. The ceremony was held in the Student Union Building on the Florida Tech campus. The new lieutenants took their commissioning oath of office and pinned on new "gold bars"—the rank insignia of Second Lieutenants in the ceremony. Families, friends, ROTC instructors, and other cadets were present to witness the event. All three of the new Army Officers completed requirements to graduate with bachelor's degrees at the Florida Tech Commencement Ceremony held on December 13th. In the commissioning ceremony, they heard messages and congratulations from the President of Florida Tech, John Nicklow (Ph.D.), and the Guest Speaker was, Lt. Commander Amir Pishdad Jr (USN SEAL, Retired), one of our MOAACC Speakers. The new Army Second Lieutenants, Florida Tech Graduates, new MOAA and Cape Canaveral Chapter Members are:





Commissioning Guest Speaker, Lt. Commander Amir Pishdad (USN)

both sponsored by the Chapter. Jaden was commissioned as an active-duty officer in Military Intelligence, detailed to the Infantry.

- Julia M. Krekow—Graduated as a Distinguished Military Graduate (Top 20% of all cadets) with a bachelor's degree in oceanography. She attended High School in Wheaton, Il. She was commissioned as an active duty. Military Intelligence Officer.
- Manuel Salvador E. Villamor--Graduated with a bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering. He attended High School in Junction City, Ks. He was commissioned as a National Guard Officer in the Signal branch.

LTC Rob Stillings, Florida Tech Professor of Military Science (PMS), also congratulated the new Lieutenants. Colonel Steve Bond, US Army-Retired, Past President of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) Cape Canaveral Chapter (MOAACC), and current President of the MOAA Florida Council was on hand congratulate the new officers and present them with "Gold Bar" commissioning sets provided by the chapter, and their membership in MOAA and the Cape Canaveral Chapter.



Commissioning Ceremony for New Army 2nd Lieutenants (Center), with Florida Tech, ROTC cadre, and MOAACC members at the Florida Tech Commissioning Ceremony on December 12th. (Left to Right) Guest Speaker, Lt. Commander Amir Phisdad Jr. (USN SEAL, Ret); Joe Matthews, ROTC Instructor; Colonel Steve Bond (USA, Ret), MOAACC; MAJ Matthew Evans, Ass't Professor of Military Science, SFC Jason Watson, ROTC Instructor; CPT Zachery Smith, Ass't PMS; 2LT Stephen Wortendyke. Recruiting Officer; Ms. Dana Washington, Human Resources Assistant; Florida Tech President, John Nicklow, Ph.D.; LTC Rob Stillings, Professor of Military Science; and Gary Eppler (USAF, Ret), MOAACC.

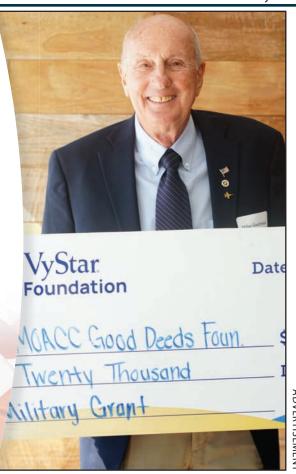
VyStar Foundation is a proud sponsor of MOAACC

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





* * EVERY DAY IS VETERANS DAY! * *



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One Senior Place

- Information & resources for seniors
- Daily events and seminars
- Free consultation with a Certified Nurse Care Manager
- Dozens of senior-focused businesses on site
- · Free assistance with veterans benefits



ADVERTISEMEN

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.

Your future. Our focus.



Susan Morse

Senior Vice President— Wealth Management 321-722-5426 susan.morse@ubs.com

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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



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MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation

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Unofficial Brevard VMC Vets Calendar

January 2026 & 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 <u>donnweaver2020@gmail.com</u> for more information or to participate.

JANUARY 2026

08 Jan — Veterans Resource Roundtable at the Resource Center, 1344 S. Apollo Rd, Suite 2C, Melbourne 11-1230. Sponsored by Synergy Home Care with speakers on Honor flight, BVMC, NVHS, MAC and motor. Coffee and donuts provided. RSVP to Carlos Questa by 31 Dec. 321-340-3828 ext 101.

17 Jan — Original Brevard Key Lime Pie Festival — BVMC Park. Again, pending completion and Parks and Rec Approval. 1000-2100. Arranged by the Cocoa Beach Based Key Lime Pie Company, this event returns after three happenings before the current construction. See details in social media. Military and BCSO displays planned.

27 Jan — BVMC Library Discussion Series 1800-1930. Topic: The US Invasion of Grenada. The presentation will include a "first-hand" account and perspective by Army Officer Jose Prieto. The lecture in the BVMC Library will begin at 6pm and conclude no later than 7pm. Jose will take questions and lead a discussion from 7pm until 7:30pm. Bottled water and cookies will be provided. If you have any questions, please contact Library volunteer Paul Julian or Librarian Hank Rhodes.

FEBRUARY 2026

02 Feb — Immortal Four Chaplains Ceremony BVMC Plaza and Gray Hall. 1400- 1530. Supported by the Marine Corps League, Brevard Detachment 513.

07 Feb — JROTC Run and Shoot, BVMC Park 0700-1200. Support more than 200 cadets from at least 10 schools as they combine running with air rifle rifle marksmanship. Best time to see all and help award trophies is 1030-1200. Contact Donn Weaver, 757-871-6576 for any questions.

07 Feb — 14th Annual Pioneer Day at Luke's Episcopal Church and Sam's House/Pine Island 1000-1500. History exhibits, guided tours, food, pioneer parade and much more. Check out mipioneerday.com

13 Feb — Third Annual Valentine's Day Senior Expo 0915-1300 Party at the Nyami Nyami River Lodge of the Brevard Zoo. Free Parking and admittance excluding Zoo. Exhibits, prizes, music and surprises plus flowers for the ladies. Call 321-242-1235 for more info and to register exhibits or info tables.

14 Feb — JROTC Drill Meet #1, BVMC Park 0630- 1230. 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. Best time to see all and help award trophies is 1030-1200. Contact Donn Weaver, 757-871-6576 for any questions.

27 Feb — Every Day is Veterans Day presented by One Senior Place, 8085 Spyglass Rd, Viera. 1000-1330 . Vendors with tents in outdoor layout, door prizes, food and lots of valuable information for veterans who are senior. Call 321-751-6771 for more information and to register as a vendor.

28 Feb — JROTC Drill Meet #2. BVMC Park 0630-1230 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. Best time to see all and help award trophies is 1030-1200. Contact Donn.

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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ENROLLING NOW: Alzheimer's Disease, Asthma, Healthy Adults, Liver Disease

Joint Sons of the American Revolution/Good Deeds Foundation

Mission Completed — America 250 Flags in All High Schools



L-R: Hans Hunt (SAR and MOAACC),. Donn Weaver (SAR, MOAACC and BVMC) Dr Rendell, also a veteran, and Doug Bisset (SAR, MOAACC and BVMC) Prepare for the event.

As of mid-December, all public and private high schools in Brevard County were provided America 250 Flags, with many already flying. As far as we know, Brevard is the first county in Florida, and perhaps the continental US, to have done such a project.

The project involved purchasing 44 flags for about \$1,700 by the Brevard Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) and MOAACC's Good Deeds Foundation (GDF). Thanks to members of both organizations, home based at then Brevard Veterans Memorial Center (BVMC), where the flag also flies, who helped with the project designed to encourage youth to understand more about the history of our country. The inaugural event was a flag raising ceremony at Brevard Public Schools in Viera on 9 December where Superintendent Dr. Mark Rendell was

presented with a flag and helped raise it there. In addition to the schools, all 14 JROTC programs in the county received its own flag.





29-31 January 2026

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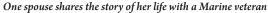
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University of Central Florida (UCF) History Department's Veterans Legacy Program Shines at Brevard Veterans Memorial Center (BVMC)







Three generation remember and create the story to last forever

BVMC and MOAACC members, along with members of the UCF Veterans Legacy Program (VLP) spent two busy days at the BVMC 21-22 Nov. UCF History Professor Dr. Barbara Gannon, an Army veteran, presented a lecture about the history and realities of American Veteran Cemeteries since the Revolutionary War. The UCF/VLP, with Cindy VanBibber, Director of the Cape Canaveral National Cemetery

(CCNC) involved, conducted three lengthy oral interviews with the families of veterans interred

at the CCNC and scanned hundreds of related documents. BVMC and MOAACC members were also interviewed on their connections and feelings about CCNC. More than 20 UCF students, staff and faculty members came for two days to begin a new grant from the Veterans Administration/NCA for the project of telling the stories of veterans through the eyes of their loved ones. Their mission: "Help, make sure those veterans are never forgotten."



GDF Helps Create a Special 920RQW Thanksgiving

CPT Donn A. Weaver USA (Former)





During the recent government shutdown, the reserve and national guard members were not paid prompting the 9820 Air Rescue Wing on PSFB to reach out to the Good Deeds Foundation. We provided them \$1500 so that they could put together a special Thanksgiving meal for all airmen and their families to boost morale and show them we care. It was a big hit as the photos below show. Sometimes, the GDF mission takes unusual forms. We were happy our donors allowed this to be one such effort. (Photos by CMSgt George Taylor Jr. of 920RQW.)

GDF Supports THREE Active-Duty Foundations in One Day.

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



GDF Honorary Membership Tee Shirts

Early morning on 4 December your Good Deeds Foundation (GDF) was able to meet with representatives of three of the major active-duty foundations on PSFB. The meeting was held at an off-base facility with members of the First Sergeants Council, Space Coast Top Three and Space Coast Chiefs Group in attendance. These three foundations support junior enlisted/ families throughout the year with emergency needs and sponsor special events. Last month GDF also sent a grant to the Knucklebusters Club Foundation for the 920 USAF RQW when they hosted a special Thanksgiving Dinner for families of their units all over the southeast affected by the shutdown. They were not being paid given their reserve and national guard status.





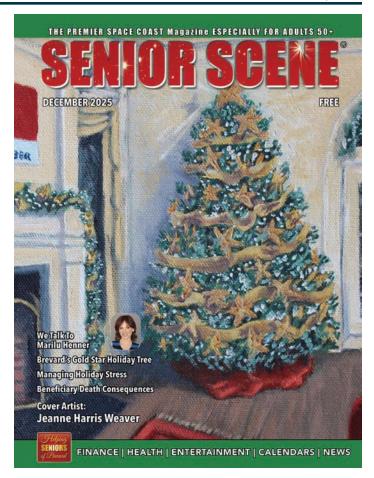


MSgt Javi Rodriguez received the Space Coast Chiefs Group Grant. MOAACC began helping the First Sergeants Council for their Operation WarmHeart more than 25 years ago when it was TROAA. That first payment was \$1000. Through GDF the amount grew over the years to a record \$12,000 on 04 Dec. The 920 RQW received \$1500; the Space Coast



Space Coast Top III Rep MSgt Jordan Schraner picks up their donation.

Top III \$4000 and the Chiefs Group \$1500. That total of \$19,000 for FY 26 is a record MOAACC can be proud of. GDF President Donn Weaver and Board Member Doug Bisset arrived to present the checks and were awarded "Honorary Membership" in the First Sergeants Council. It was quite an early morning event to support some very special NCO leaders who go above and beyond their challenging line duties to support their junior people and families. Hats off to them!!!





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: 2-690-8353

Jim Pirotti Paul Julian 321-452-9414

Jim.P-Midstate@hotmail.com pjulian54@gmail.com

Good Deeds Foundation Events Calendar

January

17 Jan — Key Lime Pie Festival — BVMC Park. Again, Park completion and Parks and Rec Approval.

February

2 Feb — Immortal Four Chaplains Ceremony BVMC Plaza and Gray Hall. 1400- 1530. Supported by the Marine Corps League, Brevard Detachment 513.

7 Feb — JROTC Run and Shoot, BVMC Park 0700-1200

7 Feb — 14th Annual Pioneer Day at Luke's Episcopal Church and Sam's House/Pine Island 1000-1500. History exhibits, guided tours, food, pioneer parade and much more. Check out mipioneerday.com

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28 Feb — JROTC Drill Meet #2. BVMC Park 0630-1230

March

- 14 Mar Florida Iteration for National Medal of Honor 5K Awareness Day. 0700-1000
- 14 Mar JROTC District Championships Drill Meet, BVMC Park. After MOH 5 K.
- 21 Mar Last Naval Battle Remembrance 0930-1100 BVMC Park. Presented by the Brevard Sons, Daughters and Children of the American Revolution.
- 28 Mar Am Legion AUX 344 Easter Egg Hunt for Vet Kids BVMC. Park 0900-1300

Cape Canaveral National Cemetery Receives the NCA Organizational Excellence Award



The CCNC Team led by Cindy Van Bibber (left), receive their award on 03 Dec.

Cape Canaveral National Cemetery (CCNC) continues to honor veterans and eligible dependents, providing a dignified resting place for over 11,900 individuals as of this year. Organizations such as MOAACC Good Deeds and BVMC actively support CCNC's special programs, ensuring that the legacy of our veterans is preserved. Many of our former members now rest at CCNC, reflecting the deep connection our community shares with this sacred site.

We are pleased to announce that CCNC has received the NCA Organizational Excellence Award from the Department of Veterans Affairs. This award recognizes national cemeteries and service offices that demonstrate superior performance in operations, facility maintenance, and customer service, providing an exceptional final resting place for veterans and their families. In April 2025, CCNC underwent a rigorous review and was found to exceed standards in management and operational excellence, exemplifying the VA's core values. On December 3, 2025, Southeast District Executive Director Stephan Frank presented Director Cindy Van Bibber and the entire CCNC team with the NCA Organizational Excellence Award, on behalf of the Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs. This honor reflects the team's dedication to maintaining shrine standards and providing outstanding service to our nation's veterans.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude and congratulations to the CCNC team for their commitment to excellence and for upholding the highest standards in perpetuity for those who have served our country.

Christmas Wreath-Laying Ceremony at Cape Canaveral National Cemetery







CWO 3 Dan McIntyre, USCG (Ret) lays USCB Wreath with Escort LTCOL Hans Hunt, USA (Ret)



Crowd during Color Guard ceremony by Civil Air Patrol, Patrick Composite Squadron

Brevard Public Schools (BPS) Recognized for its Outstanding Enlistment Ceremony



Brevard Public Schools (BPS) is proud to announce that it has been recognized with the 2025 Best Special Project Award for its outstanding Enlistment Ceremony. This prestigious honor celebrates BPS's commitment to supporting students who choose to serve our nation through military careers.

The award was presented during the First Annual VyStar Good Deeds Foundation Veterans Day Recognition Dinner, an event hosted by the Military Officers Association of America Cape Canaveral Chapter (MOAACC) and the Good Deeds Foundation. This special evening brought together community leaders, veterans, and advocates to honor service and dedication.



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

Last On the Go Luncheon of 2025









MOAACC held its last On the Go Luncheon of 2025 at the Suntree Country Club on December 9th. Many thanks to Toni Lowe and Thomas (Tom) Rozek for arranging this memorable event. Photos by Jose Prieto

Ordering MOAACC Shirts

- 1. Click on this link: https://moaacc.deco-apparel.com/
- 2. Click "Start Shopping" below the MOAACC Logo
- 3. Select your shirt: men's or women's, pocket/no pocket and then click "Add to Cart"
- 4. When Shopping Cart appears, verify your item, and click "edit" below shirt information on left.
- 5. Enter your name and Branch (U.S. Air Force, etc.), click on the color of shirt you desire, select your size by placing the number of shirts you are ordering in the box of the appropriate size. Click "Add to Cart"
- 6. Click "Check Out" in black box in center of screen.
- 7. Review Product (price, color, size) and click "Check Out"

- 8. Complete Shipping/Billing Info, check first two blocks at bottom of page and then click "**Proceed to Shipping Method**".
- Select "Pick up at Your School (for store pickup) or FedEx Shipping (additional charge shown) Select "Proceed".
- 10. Go to Payment info and complete. Click "**Proceed** to Check Order Info"
- 11. Confirm that all information is correct and click "Complete Order"

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

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 Roadrunnerstyle 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.



GDF Funds New FIT ROTC Display Case and four years' worth of Gold Bar Sets.

On 12 Dec, COL Steve Bond took this photo when he attended the semi-annual commissioning of Florida Tech ROTC Cadets. (See separate article). The photo is of the Good Deeds Funded Display Case and Army 2LT Gold Bar Sets. ROTC Lead Instructor, LTC Robert Stillings, USA Ret, request the funding support and confirms the display already serves as a great motivator for his cadets to take ROTC all four years and get "Their Own by Name" Gold Bar set.

Renew Your Membership!

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