

INTERCOM



MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
Cape Canaveral Chapter, Inc.



MOAACC Members, Col. Jerry & Barbara Gill, U.S.A, Celebrating 55th Anniversary in Advance
Photo of the Gills by Nerissa Johnson. Composite by Pish Pishdad & Jeremiah Zeleny. Pumpkins from Patrick SFB Commissary.





OCTOBER EVENTS Click Event for Details

- 10/5 Current Affairs Forum & TMBC 8 AM @ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 10/6 2023 NVHS Fundraising Dinner 5 PM @ Radisson Resort at the Port
- 10/10 On-The-Go Luncheon 11:30 AM @ Fujiyama Steak House
- 10/12 TMBC 8 AM @ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 10/17 Board of Directors Mtg. 9:30 AM

 @ Indian River Colony Club Chapel
- 10/17 MOAACC Luncheon 11:30 AM
 w/Guest, Janet E. Petro, Director, John F.
 Kennedy Space Center
 @ Indian River Colony Club Colony Hall
- 10/19 TMBC 8 AM @ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 10/21 4th Annual Support Committee at Cape
 Canaveral National Cemetary Fall Fundraising
 BBQ 6 PM
 @ American Legion Post 1, Titusville
- 10/26 TMBC 8 AM @ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole

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

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 at https://moaacc.org

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE





Lt Col Brian R. Whalen, USAF (Ret)

It was recently announced that our Chapter received the Five Star Levels of Excellence (LOE) Award for 2022. This is a great reflection on the leadership of Past President Ken Lowe and the accomplishments of last year's foundations, committees, and board members. Having helped make the submission for this award in the past, I can tell you the foundation and structure built by past leaders has been a key element in the chapter's continued outstanding performance. Each year we build on past successes, tweak our processes, and accomplish even more as we continue to move forward. Congratulations to the Chapter on the recognition for your accomplishments!

So, what can we do to improve? We need to have more Chapter Members become MOAA National members. The cut off is 95% of the Chapter Members must be MOAA Members. We get close, over 90% but that's not enough. Becoming a member of MOAA National will give you access to MOAA newsletters and other information on their website. Another thing we need to do is enroll on the MOAA Legislative Action site, review the MOAA supported legislation. Then reach out to your legislators on the items you believe are important -- let your conscience be your guide. We need to be active in this area as the number of voices speaking for active duty and veterans' issues is diminishing as is the presence of former military in the Halls of Congress. The other thing we can do is look for ways to improve things for active service-members, veterans and the youth in our community. As we stay involved in our community, I believe this last area will take care of itself.

National Hispanic Heritage Month runs through 15 October. This is a time to reflect on the significant contributions and sacrifices Hispanic Americans have made, and continue to make, to the United States. There are 59 Hispanic/Latino Medal of Honor recipients.

On October 13, 1775, the Second Continental Congress authorized the construction of two warships, the USS Alfred and the USS Columbus, marking the birth of the United States Navy. Every year on October 13th, the Navy celebrates its birthday with ceremonies and events all over the world. Happy 248th Navy! **Non Sibi Sed Patriae**, Semper Fortis!

INTERCOM Photo & Article Submission Rules

PHOTOS:

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

ARTICLES:

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

NEW DEADLINE & SUBMISSION EMAIL:

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

intercom@moaacc.org

INTERCOM PUBLICATION:

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

Health of the Chapter

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

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

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



EXECUTIVE EDITOR & PAO

Amir M.Pishdad, CW3, USA (Ret)

I remember the horror of 9/11

Twenty-two years ago, as my wife was fixing breakfast, I watched the morning news. Suddenly, an announcer came on, showing a plane hitting one of the World Trade Center's Twin Towers. Right when I called my wife, I saw the second plane hit the second tower. It was then I realized this was no accident. We hugged and watched in shock.

Today, on the 22nd Anniversary of 9/11, I am glued to the TV, reliving what transpired then, and seeing what new information has been learned in all these years. I am happy to see the love we have for those that perished is still alive. I am very happy to see the younger family members of those that perished participating in the memorial with government leaders.

We will never forget that horrific act of hate. We will always remember!

Cover Photo

Barbara and Jerry both are from Indiana. They married on December 29, 1968. He completed OCS with the Indiana National Guard, receiving a commission. Jerry served in the Indiana Army National guard, and later in the National Guard Bureau, retiring as the grade of Colonel (06) after 28 years, in 2001. In 2013 he moved to Melbourne, residing in Indian River Colony Club (IRCC). Jerry and Barbara enjoy clowning. They are members of several Clown Fraternal Associations, including the World Clown, Clowns of America International. They are well-known around IRCC, Viera, and Brevard Communities. "The clown Couple," Barbara (Tinkerbell) and Jerry (BOGO)

Send articles and photos to: intercom@moaacc.org

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EXECUTIVE EDITOR & PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER FOR

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LAYOUT/GRAPHICS: Jeremiah Zeleny

PRESS RELEASES & MEDIA LIAISON: Marilyn Sanford

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LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

John R. McMahon, BG, US Army (Retired)

The New "Regular Order"

It used to be that one of the most important functions of the Congress, passing timely appropriations bills to fund the government and all she does, was performed under what was known as "Regular Order", the traditional stepby-step legislative process of conducting business. This involved the consideration of individual spending bills, which were debated and formulated in various committees or subcommittees, and subsequently presented on the floor for further debate, amendment proposals, and votes, until that spending bill was approved or rejected, and ultimately passed onto law. The NEW "Regular Order" is anything but traditional, and more aptly described as hyperbolic, devil may care, and akin to brinksmanship, as the spending limit "deal" promulgated by President Biden and Speaker McCarthy back in May is being scuttled by more than a few ultra-conservative members of the House. Even the Senate has fallen victim to this disruptive strategy, after a 91-7 vote recently to bring three spending bills to the floor of the Senate, each of which had been carefully negotiated, only to be side-tracked by a single senator who objected to considering the three bills together. The endgame is clear give us what we want or we will shut the government down. Could anything be more frustrating and catastrophic?

In the meantime, something unusual is happening with the annual federal deficit—it's growing in the midst of economic growth. After record government spending in 2020 and 2021 related to covid-19, the deficit dropped in 2022 from almost \$3 Trillion to about \$1 Trillion, but it is expected to jump up to \$2 Trillion this year! Typically, when the economy grows, businesses (and consumers) pay more taxes on robust corporate profits while the government pays out less to a smaller unemployed population; hence the deficit shrinks. The opposite is happening even though the US economy is expected to grow by 2.1% this year, with low unemployment and no big emergency spending needs like the covid-19 response, the 2008 financial meltdown, or the huge spending associated with winning WWII. What is actually happening to create this deficit growth situation includes a number of causes: taxes collected last year on the basis of the stock market boom were much higher last year than this year with the stock market's slump; trillions of emergency covid aid expired last year reducing government spending (a good trend); the prospect of another election year looms with accountability to the voters along with the irrational notion of some that extending \$3 Trillion in tax cuts approved in 2017 is a good idea when deficits are ballooning; and Social Security, indexed to inflation, is paying out more, along with increased government expenditures in education, veterans benefits and health

care, and the bipartisan infrastructure law (with its misnomer, the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act).

The upshot of all this begins with the realization that we have big problems to address and they can only be adequately dealt with through bi-partisan cooperation, getting the best ideas and solutions onto the floor for a vote. The kind of brinksmanship and devil may care attitudes that seem to "order" the day are counterproductive to working out solutions for all of us. Additionally, these big problems are inter-connected in subtle and complex ways e.g., bigger deficits exacerbate the debt problem and are contrary to fiscal responsibility that again demand the best and the brightest rise to the occasion. When I was on active duty, the name of the game was "get 'er done" and not be concerned about who gets the credit (and the promotion) or making others look bad in the process; it was a TEAM environment wherein there is no "I" in TEAM. We need our elected leaders, each and every one of them, to embrace this mantra of "get 'er done" with their teammates on the other side of the aisle. That is bi-partisanship and should be the national standard.





FINANCIAL LITERACY

CAPT Arnold Lim, USNR (Ret)

Saving For College Costs, Part II

For this month, we conclude our examination on accounts to use for College Costs, and other options if these funds are not used up:

Last month, we looked at Coverdell Education Savings Accounts (ESA) and 529 plans.

- * One could also use funds from a Roth IRA (of the child) to pay for college expenses without penalty. But it is both so hard to get significant funds into a Roth IRA and are really supposed to be used one's retirement expenses (vs education expenses) Hence, is generally not the best option.
- * One could also use a regular taxable (brokerage) account, but any growth will not be tax-free.

Thus, since both ESAs and 529 plans allow for tax-exempt growth, they offer stronger options. Which type is better is subject to opinion. Note that one can contribute to both of these types of accounts for one child in the same year; there are no restrictions against that.

Roles: "Responsible individual" (e.g., the parent of the child), who makes all of the decsions, like what the funds will be invested in and when funds are withdrawn. "Depositor" (e.g., the parent or anyone else, like a grandparent, who wishes to donate funds. "Beneficiary" is the specific child who is designated to use the funds.

<u>FAFSA</u>: For tuition assistance considerations, both ESAs and 529 plans are considered to be in the responsible individual's account (and not the child's asset) and are thus counted at about 6%. Compare this to accounts in the student's name, like a Uniform Transfer to Minors Account (UTMA), which is counted at a higher (20%) rate, and the ESA/529 plans have the advantage.

What to do if not all of these funds are used? Admittedly, this is a good problem to have. The child may have used other funds such as Montgomery GI Bill funds from a parent, or earned scholarship(s) or a military academy appointment, or may have not gone to college at all. Or one just saved more funds than were actually spent on the child's college expenses, and a remainder exists.

1. Change the account's beneficiary to another family member, like a sibling, spouse, parent, first cousin or the child's (future even) child. This new beneficiary could then use the funds to pay for their college costs.

A variation of this is to transfer an ESA to a 529 account (to avert the age 30 penalty), and just leave the account to grow for another generation to use in 25+ years and then change the beneficiary to a relative still to be born in the future.

2. Withdraw the funds but face 10% penalty on the earnings

portion of what is left as well as taxes. Note that, for 529 plans, the dollar amount of any scholarship(s) earned can be withdrawn tax-free and that non-qualified withdrawal will not be subject to a 10% penalty, as normally would apply.

3. Starting in 2024, as was outlined in our article on SECURE Act 2.0 changes in the March Intercom, the IRS will introduce a third choice. One will be able to roll over 529 funds into a Roth IRA, up to \$35k. Very new and details are still solidifying.

www.SavingForCollege.org is an excellent website on the college savings topic in general.



POINTS TO PONDER

Chap, LtCol, Thomas Unrath USAF (Ret)

October 4th is the feast day of St. Francis. Most people, even non-Catholics, know about St. Francis' love of animals. Some people aren't aware of his love of all God's creation. October has been declared "Care of Creation" month. The three Abrahamic faiths, all acknowledge our Creator, "Yahweh, God, Allah," (I'll use God) as THE Creator. God pronounced all of creation, including humans, as good. God then directed humans to protect and care for creation as God does. All three of these religions have directions to care for God's creation.

We can do this in many ways. We usually hear the negatives: don't pollute, don't litter, don't fertilize here during the summer, and others. There are positives too. Plant native plants. Especially important are those plants which attract pollinators. Seed-bearing plants attract birds too. Enjoy the beauty of God's creation.

God later gave us the gift of having THE God as our God and asked us to put God first. Then God gave us another gift, "Love your neighbor as yourself," Pretty much all religions have some form of this "Golden Rule:" treat others as you want to be treated. That rule is intended to protect all of us humans. Someone once asked Jesus, "Who is my neighbor?" Jesus' answer indicated that all people are our neighbors. There are no boundaries. He later said, "Love one another as I have loved you." Again, no boundaries.

Even so, we continue to put boundaries between us and others. We find many ways to do that. We use religion, race, gender, sexual identity/orientation, political parties, social class, economic status, etc. God sees none of those. God sees only people to be loved by each other as God loves us. Many astronauts have said that you can't see national boundaries from space. It should be thus among humans.

MOAA has an excellent motto concerning this: "Never Stop Serving." Notice, here again, there are no boundaries. Let's serve others, and all of creation, as if there are no boundaries. It is what we are called to do.



SURVIVOR ASSISTANCE LESSONS LEARNED

Lt Col Chuck Shaw, USAF, (Ret)

One of the things I all too often hear from a recently widowed spouse is that they know there is a lot to do, but have no idea what all they need to do, or how to do it! There are a lot of helpful sources of information for preparing for the inevitable, but they can be very intimidating because of the details they contain. So, I thought it might be helpful to provide a very high level simplified "Big Picture" to help put into perspective the types of things that need to be done and what to expect. I have found that it helps to think of all of this as "Phases" of a bigger process (the examples are in no way complete, but are to give you a feel about types of things):

Preparations beforehand:

- Funeral and burial decisions and arrangements
- Gathering and securing all the important documents and info that will be needed
- Estate related decisions (Wills, Trusts, Insurances, Titled property, SBP elections, etc.)

• Notifications after the death:

- Urgent (Funeral Director, family, friends, Clergy, Military/Gov. Pay, estate management, etc.)
- Important, but not urgent (Insurances [life, auto, loans, credit cards, etc.]

Submittal of Benefit and Insurance Claims:

- Military/Gov. SBP, Social Security, civilian pensions, VA Disability, Life Insurances, etc.
- Sorting out the day-to-day myriad of changes in day to day living:
- Social Activities, Household activities, financial management. Etc.

The mission of the MOAACC Survivor Assistance Team is to help with the details of the first three of these phases. The better the Preparations beforehand are done, the easier all the rest of the phases will go.



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As Military Officers, our shared experience of service forms a bond like no other. And while MOAA is based in Washington, D.C., the heart and soul of our organization lies in our local community.

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



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Mark Your Calendar!

OCT 2023 MOAACC LUNCHEON

17 October 2023 11:30 AM

Indian River Colony Club Colony Hall 1936 Freedom Drive Melbourne, FL 32940



Guest Speaker, Janet Petro Photo credit: NASA

Janet Petro the 11th Director of the NASA John F. Kennedy Space Center will be our guest speaker for the October 2023 luncheon. She hails from Michigan, but grew up in Satellite Beach FL.

Ms. Petro is a 1981 graduate of West Point where she was awarded a B.S. in engineering. She was in the 2nd class of West Point graduates to include women. She

has also been awarded an MBA from Boston University. During her time in the Army, she was assigned to the Army's Aviation Branch where she served 5 years as a helicopter pilot. After leaving the Army she worked in various management positions for SAIC and McDonnell Douglas. In April 2007 she was named Deputy Director at KSC. NASA Administrator Bill Nelson announced her selection as the current KSC Director in June 2021.

She is a recipient of awards including 2022 Dr. Kurt Debus National Space Club Florida Committee, President's Distinguished Executive Award, and the astronaut-selected Silver Award for Flight Safety. In 2018 she was inducted into Florida 's Women's Hall of Fame.

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

- 1. Beef Stroganoff over PASTA with vegetables
- 2. Par 3 Salad w/fruit
- 3. Vegetarian/Gluten Free Meal Upon Request Only All meals include rolls & butter, coffee & tea, and the Chef's sweet choice for dessert. Cash bar available.

Please RSVP/cancel by 11 Oct online, or by contacting Grace Catron at events@moaacc.org or (417) 294-0798. You can pay online with credit card, pay at the door, or mail payment with RSVP to:

MOAACC c/o Michael J Schroeder, Treasurer PO Box 254186 Patrick SFB, FL 32925

- MOAACC - On-the-Go - Luncheon

October O-T-G will be on Tuesday 10 October, 1130 to 1300 at

Fujiyama Steak House 5000 North Wickham Road #111, Melbourne, Florida 32940

SPACE COAST NAVY WIVES' CLUB

The next luncheon of the Space Coast Navy Wives' will be on Friday, October 20th at **THE TIDES**. Social hour begins at 11:30am and lunch is served at noon.

Our speaker is Charmaine Malone, our newsletter editor, who will speak on Women's Self Defense. This will be a very interesting presentation.

Menu choices will be a Spinach Salad with Chicken or BBQ Chicken with Sweet Potatoes and Coleslaw. The dessert will be Chocolate Cake.

For reservations and more information, please call or text Rebecca Kersey at (207) 607-0006. You can also email her at oceanspruce@protonmail.com. Reservations must be made no later than noon Tuesday, October 17th.

Remember friends and spouses are always welcome.

Ellie Joy

(321) 757-0193





MOAACC GOOD DEEDS FOUNDATION

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

No Time to Slack Off

After an amazing series of grant presentations to all Brevard JROTC and other cadet units (\$38,000 total) in August and September, which you Support read about in the last issue, there is no time to rest. The Good Deeds Foundation has to accelerate planning for our 18 November big fundraiser - the Military and Veteran Support Annual Golf Tournament Fundraiser. This year it will be held at IRCC from 0800 -1400. If you are a golfer, we hope you will sign up per the poster below.

If you visit a company or professional office that might be willing to sponsor us, please contact any GDF Board Member listed in every issue. If you just want to help, come bid on the silent auction, support the 50/50 raffle and cheer for the gofers or even help us the day of the event with managing check in and much more.

Our goal this year is to net \$28,000 from the tournament so we can continue or perhaps increase the "Good Deeds" we can do in 2024.

2023 Military and Veterans Support Golf Tournament



Saturday,
November 18, 2023
Indian River Colony Club
4 Man Scramble
8:00 AM Shotgun Start
\$100 per_player









Tournament Proceeds Used to Support

Junior ROTC Programs

Active Duty Military and Their Families

Veterans at Risk of Homelessness

Registration Includes:

18 holes of golf includes cart Range Balls

Awards Luncheon after the Tournament

Goodie Bag includes a sleeve of golf balls Hole in One contest sponsored by Erdman Motors

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On course water, beer, and soft drinks

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larryj59@gmail.com

or Call Larry Jackson at 321-242-1331

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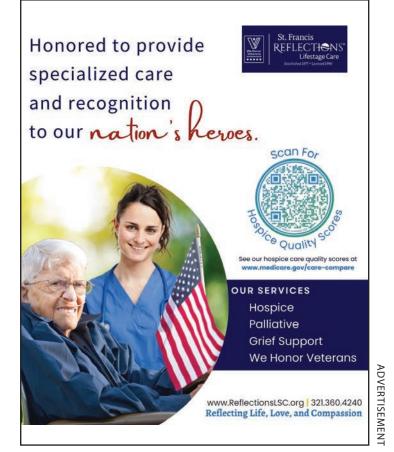
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9/11 Ceremony at VMC



Over 350 people attended the 2023 9/11 Remembrance Day Ceremony at the Veterans Memorial Center. MOAACC members were in evidence with several helping to organize the event and Wayne Justice and Donn Weaver among the speakers. The Good Deeds Foundation contributed \$100—to make the event special.

Emotional and moving eye witness accounts were shared as speakers, including Sheriff Wayne Ivey, reminded everyone there we can never forget 9/11 as a country and need to remind newer generations not yet born or too young to understand, how it changed America. The ceremony also remembered hundreds who died of toxic exposure after 9/11/2001 and thousands who took the fight abroad in dozens of countries to the extremists who still believe terrorism is going to succeed. Thanks to Amir Pishdad Sr for some great photos of the very moving 90-minute tribute.

September 2023 MOAACC Luncheon



American Red Cross Regional Program Manager (orange top), and LaTonya Daniel, Executive Director for Florida Space Coast Chapter, were September MOAACC guest speakers Held at the Indian River Colony Club (IRCC). The two ladies with aid of slide presentation explained the mission of the Red Cross, especially the power of their volunteers and generosity of donors.





MOAACC 1st Vice president Col Richard Kniseley welcomes September guest speakers





MOAACC Photos by Pish Pishdad

Sep 7th TMBC Speaker



Claude Schmid spoke at the September 7th TMBC Current Affairs Forum about the Veteran's Last Patrol organization. Col, Schmid a US Army (RET) founded the organization in 2019 with the mission to befriend, honor, and support Veterans in end-of-life care.

Thanks MOAACC!



Lt Col Brian Whalen, CPT Donn Weaver, and LTC Skip Taylor hold up a sign created by MOAACC ladies, to thank the leadership



MEMBERSHIP BRIEF

The Nominating Committee Chair, CAPT Robert Watts, USN (Ret) presented the slate of officers for 2024 to the MOAACC Board of Directors in accordance with our Chapter Handbook. The enclosed letter from the Nominating Committee fulfills their commitment to the Chapter to submit a slate of nominees in time for publication in the October Issue of The Intercom and for election at the November Annual meeting.

I want to thank the Nominating Committee of CAPT Robert Watts, USN (Ret); Col Gary Eppler, USAF (Ret); and LTC Harry "Skip" Taylor for their diligent and timely efforts to ensure the Chapter's continued success. Thank you for a job well done, now onto the November election!

Very Respectfully,

BRIAN R. WHALEN, Lt Col, USAF (Ret) President, MOAACC

WELCOME

Welcome 7 new members:

Last Name	First Name	Prefix	Service (C)
Adcock	Brian	Lt Col	Air Force
Aycock	Arlene		Surviving Spouse
Baker	Zachary	ENS	Coast Guard
Granko	Delaney	2LT	Army
Irtz	Frederick	LTC	Army
McEachin	Kevin	ENS	Coast Guard
Stillings	Robert	LTC	Army

TAPS

MOAA CAPE CANAVERAL CHAPTER MEMBER, AUXILIARY, and SPOUSE DEATHS

(Names are listed by chronological date of death)

Judy Lee Garland, Spouse of John M. Garland, CDR, USNR Ret. 25 July 2023

Nancy Cote, Spouse of Robert Cote, CAPT, USN Ret. 8 August 2023

Floyd Wells, LTC, USAR, Ret. 12 August 2023

Mamie Garvin, SSM 15 August 2023

> Sue S. Kraisel 15 August 2023

Carole Stafford, Spouse of Lloyd Stafford, Maj, USAF Ret. 14 July 2023

> Betty C. Zajac, SSM 17 July 2023

Herman E. Jackson, MAJ, USA Ret. 23 July 2023

Samual F. Powel, CAPT, USN Ret. 22 July 2023





MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

CAPE CANAVERAL CHAPTER, INC. P.O. BOX 254186 PATRICK AFB, FL 32925-4186

3 August 2023

MEMORANDOM FOR: MOAACC President

The Chapter Nominating Committee is pleased to present the slate of nominees to lead the Cape Canaveral Chapter for 2024. The following candidates are offered as the slate of nominees to the General Membership for election at the Annual Business Meeting on Tuesday, 21 November 2023.

President Col Richard ("Rick") Kniseley, USAF Ret 1 st Vice President CAPT Stephen ("Steve") Cusick, USN Ret

2 nd Vice President Capt Rosa Reich, USAF Fmr Secretary CAPT Arnold Lim, USN Ret

Assistant Secretary Capt William ("Bill") Muckler, USMC Fmr
Treasurer COL Michael ("Mike") Schroeder, USA Ret
Assistant Treasurer LTC William ("Bill") Vanasse, USA Ret

Master-at-Arms CW4 Jose Prieto, USA Ret

Directors

Immediate PP Term expires 2024 Lt Col Brian Whalen, USAF Ret

Term expires 2024-2026 CDR Kenneth ("Ken") Lowe, USNR Ret

Term expires 2024-2026 LCDR Dean Schaaf, USN Ret
Term expires 2024-2026 LTC Hans Hunt, USA Ret

Previously Elected

Term 2023-2025 LTC David ("Dave") Kobey, USA Ret
Term 2023-2025 MAJ Timothy ("Tim") Pishdad, USA Ret
Term 2023-2025 Lt Col Joseph ("Joe") Tichich, USAF Ret

Chaplains who were previously appointed by Chapter President:

Lt Col Thomas ("Tom") Unrath, USAF Ret MAJ William ("Bill") Adams, USA Ret

CAPT Robert Watts, USN Ret

Committee Chair

Copy to:

COL Gary Eppler, USAF Ret

LTC Harry ("Skip") Taylor, USA Ret



GDF continued

MOAACC Recognized at Viera High School JROTC Family Dinner

The Viera High School (VHS) JROTC Hawk Battalion held their back-to-school family dinner on September 14th, to welcome cadets and family members. At the dinner, the JROTC activities and schedule for the school year were introduced by the instructors and new cadet battalion leaders. Notably, MOAACC and our Good Deeds Foundation (GDF) were recognized for the support offered to the cadets. LTC Tim Thomas (USA, Ret), VHS Senior JROTC Instructor thanked the chapter for the gracious support over the years and the \$2,200 from the GDF the battalion received to start the school year. Donn Weaver, President of GDF and Steve Bond, Chapter Army Liaison were in attendance as invited guests.

The Hawk Battalion Family Dinner was sponsored by the VHS JROTC Parent Booster Club and attended by over 150 cadets, along with parents and other family members. This year, GDF provided every high school JROTC program with \$2,200, and five other area cadet programs with \$1,200 each. GDF is also providing an additional \$4,000 to pay for all trophies and medals for county and district JROTC meets during the year—A record total of \$38,600 to support cadet youth programs county-wide, thanks largely to the generous donations by our members!



MOAACC's Donn Weaver addresses attendees at the VHS Hawk Battalion Family Dinner. Steve Bond (L) and Tim Thomas (R) look on.



L to R: SFC Carl Thomas, USA, Ret, Donn Weaver, Steve Bond, Tim Thomas.



LTC Tim Thomas (L with microphone) welcomes Cadets and Family Members at the VHS JROTC Hawk Battalion Dinner, September 14th.

Good Deeds Adds to All Active Duty Junior Enlisted Appreciation Day Fun

By: Donn Weaver

You Good Deeds Foundation provided a silver sponsorship of \$500 to the 2023 revamped Junior Enlisted Appreciation Day at Patrick Space Force Base on 15 September. Hundreds of members of the USAF, USSF, USCG, USA, USN and likely a few Marines from DEOMI, and their families took most of a Friday off to either support the event or be appreciated.

This year was the first-time efforts were made to make sure all Space Coast Active-Duty Unit personnel E-6 and below were invited, not only those who work so hard on PSFB. The kids enjoyed bounce houses, dunk tanks with softball throwing, water slides and several movies to cool off. Adults enjoyed a great BBQ of all they could eat, corn hole, replay races and even some dance offs with a DJ despite some pretty intense heat.

Support to active-duty units, especially focused on junior enlisted and their families is a huge pillar for MOAACC and its GDF. Stay tuned for much more of what GDF is doing in this arena as the Holidays approach.



Ir-Enlisted Day at PASFB





Unofficial Brevard VMC Vets Calendar

OCTOBER 2023 AND BEYOND

Contact VMC for any additions or other information.

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

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

https://veteransmemorialcenter.org/other-veterans-events/

October

- **06 Oct** Eighth Annual NVHS Rescuing Veterans Lost in America Dinner and Fundraiser. 1730-2100 at the Radisson Resort at the Port. 8701Astronaut Blvd, Cape Canaveral. Sponsorships available. \$100 per place fundraiser. email event@nvhs.org or Call NVHS 321-208-7562 for more info.
- 14 Oct Space Coast Honor Flight Mission to DC. Ceremony starts at 0215 AM at the Wickham Park Senior Center in Melbourne. Help support the WWII, Korea, Vietnam and other veterans with health issues be honored and provided a special flight and full day to see all their monuments in Washington, DC. check schf.org or contact Ted/Paula Suzor on 321-877-1828 for more details.
- **14 Oct** JROTC Raider Challenge Meet in VMC Park 0800-1230. Features many High School Teams with support from VMC and MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation for all trophies. (County Meet).
- **21 Oct** Support Committee at Cape Canaveral National Cemetery Annual Fundraiser at American Legion Post 1 on Route 1, Titusville 1800- 2100. Raffle, Door Prizes, Silent Auction. BBQ full dinner included for \$20 per person. Mail Checks to SC/CCNC, PO Box 554, Mims, FL 32754
- **24 Oct** Women Veteran Outreach Program and Luncheon VMC Gray Hall 1130-1430. Sponsored by VMC and Their Voice of Hope. For women veterans only please. Questions and RSVP to Dorothy Walsh via email: dwalshusa@gmail.com
- 26 Oct BCSO Shredder Event VMC PARK 0900-1030.
- **31 Oct** VMC Library Discussion Series, 1800-1930. The presenter and topic TBD

November

- **11 Nov** SFR Veterans Day 5K VM PARK and Center 0600-1000; Merging to:
- **11 Nov** VMC Veterans Day Ceremony Plaza, Center, Gray Hall with lunch courtesy of Chick-Fil-A 1000—1200
- 11 Nov First Annual City of Cape Canaveral and VFW Post 10131 Veterans Day Parade and festival afterwards at VFW Post in Cape Canaveral; Details and entry information in September. Free food and drinks; sponsors sought. Contact VFW Post 10131 for more information.
- 11 Nov Rock'n Vet Music evening at H&D Roadhouse 1811 E. Merritt Island Causeway rte 520, from 1500- 2300. Live music of all kinds, raffle, food, and fun. Sponsored by American Legion Post 344 based at the VMC, Contact Legion 344 for more information.

- 11 Nov 248th USMC Birthday Ball 1800-2200 at the Radisson Conference Center in Cape Canaveral on A1A. Sponsored by Marine Corps League Detachment 513 of Brevard. Cost \$40 per person. Reservations and payment required. Contact MCL at the VMC for more information to join in this special event.
- **12 Nov** Sixth Annual NVHS Homestretch 5K for Homeless Veterans. 0700-1200 in the Eau Gallie Square. More Details in August. Call NVHS 321-208-7562 for more info.
- **15 Nov** Inaugural Brevard No One Veteran Left Behind (BNOVLB)) Committal Service for the unclaimed cremains of 20 veterans and spouses. Held at Cape Canaveral National Cemetery in Mims 1400-1600 as Brevard honors the final promise to all veterans an honorable resting place and remembrance. Contact BNOVLB coordinator Donn Weaver on 757-871-6576 or donnweaver2020@gmail.com for more information or to participate.
- 18 Nov 20-23 Veterans and Military Support MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation Golf Tournament at IRCC 0800-1400. Primary GDF Fundraiser of the year with sponsorships, hole sponsorships, golfing slots and auction/raffle prizes. Proceeds Support the GDF: A 501(c)(3) charitable organization supporting the aims of the Cape Canaveral Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAACC). It has provided direct support and grants to area military (primarily in enlisted ranks), veterans, and their families; ROTC, JROTC, Sea Cadet, Civil Air Patrol, as well as other Veteran organizations and groups since 2014.
- **28 Nov** VMC Library Discussion Series, 1800-1930. The presenter and topic TBD

December

- **16 Dec** Wreaths Across America at the VA Cape Canaveral National Cemetery in Mims and other veteran cemeteries in the area. Details in September.
- 17 **Dec** Wreaths Across America Special Ceremony 1500-1630 at Pinecrest Cemetery on Clearlake Road in Cocoa. Honors Brevard Native Korean War Medal of Honor Recipient Emory Bennett and other veterans laid to rest in that cemetery. RTFL: -1 Motorcycle wreath escort from VMC at 1400. Contact Dorothy Walsh of VMC for more info.

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



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Sergeant Reckless: Part 2 Training

By Bill Muckler, Captain USMC (ret)



Sergeant Reckless in Combat

Staff Sergeant Reckless, a decorated war horse, who held official rank in the United States military, was a racehorse mare of Mongolian breeding. Reckless was trained to be a pack horse for the Recoilless Rifle Platoon, Anti-Tank Company, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division.

The Marines renamed her "Reckless" as a contraction of the name of the Recoilless rifle and a nod to the daredevil attitude associated with those who used the gun. Her primary trainer was platoon Gunnery Sergeant Joseph Latham. Private First Class Monroe Coleman was her primary caretaker. In addition to Pedersen, Latham, and Coleman, Lieutenant Bill Riley and Sergeant Elmer Lively were involved with the training and care of Reckless.

Pedersen's wife shipped a pack saddle from their home in California so Reckless could fulfill her primary role as

a pack animal. The recoilless rifle platoon's medical corpsman, Navy Hospitalman First Class George "Doc" Mitchell, provided the majority of medical care for Reckless.

The four-legged equine braved minefields and hailing shrapnel to deliver ammunition to her unit on the frontlines. She performed fifty-one trips up and down treacherous terrain and rescued wounded comrades-in-arms one day. Reckless demonstrated her devotion to the Marines who had become her herd.

When not on the front lines, Reckless packed other items for the platoon, and was particularly useful for stringing telephone wire. Carrying reels of wire on her pack that was played out as she walked, she could string as much wire as twelve men on foot. She became the first horse in the Marine Corps known to have participated in an amphibious landing hundreds of miles south of Inchon.

Sergeant Reckless showed herself more than willing to carry ammunition. As cannons thundered and shells flew through the air, she marched into battle becoming the only animal ever to officially hold military rank. The Marines, especially Latham, taught Reckless battlefield survival skills such as how not to become entangled in barbed wire and to lie down when under fire.

Staff Sergeant Reckless was awarded two Purple Hearts for her valor and was officially promoted to staff sergeant twice, a distinction never bestowed upon an animal before or since. She also received a Navy Unit Commendation and a Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal.

USCG Recruiting presentation at Heritage High Army JROTC on 20 September. Six periods with a total of 112 cadets.



Left to right; MKCS Carlton Prescott USCG, CWO4 Dan McIntyre USCGR Ret, LTC Michael Dunning, USA Ret Senior JROTC Instructor, SFC Carlos Colon-Robles Ret USA JROTC Instructor



Left to right: MKCS Carlton Prescott USCG, Officer in Charge, Orlando USCG Recruiting Office, CWO4 Dan McIntyre USCGR Ret, MOAACC USCG Liaison, LCDR Hilary Smith USCG Ret., Naval Academy Graduate

The Military Officers Association of America Cape Canaveral Chapter (MOAACC) P.O. Box 254186, Patrick SFB, FL 32925-4186

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Sgt. Reckless: America's War Horse: The Little Mare That Could

Author: Robin Hutton Reviewed by Lee Boyland

This review was prepared by me as a Military Writers Society of America book reviewer.

Sgt. Reckless: America's War Horse is a beautiful story about an amazing horse and the meaning of the Marine Corp's motto, Semper Fidelis; but most importantly, it is a story of compassion and loyalty—traits which make American fighting men and women the best in the world. American soldiers are known for their affection toward animals and children in war zones, and so it was during the Korean Conflict.

Reminded of the childhood story, *The Little Engine that Could*, which taught the value of determination and hard work, I couldn't help but think that this brave little Mongolian-Korean horse, *Ah-Chim Hai* (which translates Flame in the Morning), exemplified those very traits. Purchased by a Marine lieutenant to haul 75mm Recoilless Rifle ammunition up the steep Korean hills to the guns, Flame took to the job and quickly learned her duties. Fearless and with an indomitable will, *The Little Mare That Could* became a Marine and met the enemy head on. Time after time the heroic little mare braved combat and incoming fire–usually alone–to deliver ammunition to her Marines on the front lines. *Ah-Chim Hai* needed an American name and she was named Reckless after the 75mm Recoilless Rifles (a/k/a Reckless Rifles) she supported. Sometimes she returned from a mission carrying a wounded Marine.

Reckless became Sergeant Reckless when she was officially inducted into the Corps and gained the undying loyalty of every U.S. Marine who served with her.

During the worst day of one of the fiercest battle in Marine history, Sgt. Reckless made 51 round trips up and down steep slopes from the ammo resupply point to her Marines and their 75mm guns. Covering a total of 35 miles, she delivered a total of 9,000 pounds of badly needed ammo. Often she returned with a wounded Marine on her back. Sgt. Reckless was a true Marine and was recognized as one.

Because my parents had horses in my early years, and my wife and I raised two fillies from birth, my memories and understanding of horses enhanced my enjoyment of the adventures of the little Mongolian mare. Reading about Reckless' voracious appetite, preference for beer and comical exploits brought back many memories. When Reckless grabbed a t-shirt off a clothesline and ran through the camp with it in her mouth, I roared with laughter. Josey, one of our fillies, had done the exact same thing when she grabbed the shirt I'd left lying on a tractor seat and ran around the pasture with it in her mouth. Then there was my parent's Shetland pony, a former CCC camp mascot, who, like Sergeant Reckless, also loved beer; and my Pinto who drank her beverage of choice, a Coke, straight from the bottle. These experiences made this story both realistic and personal.

Sgt. Reckless' deeds won the respect and admiration of the Marine Corps, and many, many others. She shared the men's trenches, bunkers and tents, often sleeping by their stoves; was known to eat in the mess tent; and even visited the officer's bar on least one occasion. Always hungry, she ate anything, including her Aussie bush hat. She was partial to beer, cake, pie, and chocolate. If someone had food or candy on their person, she would smell it and follow them until he shared most of it with her. Know for her escapades, bravery and sense of duty, she became a Marine Corps legend.

Returning to America as a war hero after the Armistice, she retired as a staff sergeant (E-5) in 1960 at Camp Pendleton, California. She was the only animal to be awarded a military rank. Sgt. Reckless was awarded food and lodging in lieu of pay and lived out her days enjoying beer, coke, cake, flowers (especially the commanding officer wife's flower garden), candy, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, scrambled eggs, milk, coffee, and anything else that caught her fancy. She passed away in 1968 at the age of twenty and is buried on Camp Pendleton where a memorial headstone sits at the entrance to Stepp Stables. Her medals and decorations included two Purple Hearts, National Defense Service Medal, U.S. Service Medal, Korean Service Medal, French fourragére, and numerous unit citations.

Finally immortalized in 2013, thanks to the efforts of author Robin Hutton and her TEAM RECKLESS, a 10-foot bronze statue likeness of Staff Sgt. Reckless now proudly stands in the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, Virginia. This review is but a thumbnail sketch of Reckless' adventures. The book is filled with many, many more, including her visit to the Bohemian Club in San Francisco.

Sgt. Reckless: America's War Horse is a great read, an inspiration for our children, and a book that will permanently reside on my bookshelf.

Healthy Living

By: Rita Shapiro, MA, DPT - CAPT (ret) USPHS

We all (almost all) dread to hear our doctor say "So sorry but you have....."

Unfortunately, we may have been dealt some genetic cards that bring us face to face with some unwelcome diseases/conditions. However, it is still in our power to prevent or to offer a darned strong defense against the manifestation of unwanted/undesired diseases. As is the strategic military thought process "A strong offense is a good defense", our bodies also respond to the same principles.

Studies have shown that when we: Eat Healthy, Maintain A Good Body Weight, Exercise Regularly, Have Strong Emotional and Spiritual Support and most of all Laugh a Lot; we can overcome anything.

Is it easier said than done? Not really! We just need to make up our minds and get on with it and have that strong offense against many illnesses/conditions!











Note: October is Breast Cancer Awareness month and it is also <u>National Physical Therapy Month</u> – **Get Physical!**





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MOAACC Chaplain Volunteers for Services Aboard Viking Saturn



On Sunday 17 September 2023, Chaplain Tom Unrath led church services on board the Viking Saturn. He volunteered to lead the "unhosted" worship service and preach on Sunday afternoon! There is a short prayer service in a bulletin on the ship, to which he added the lectionary readings and presented a homily.

After all, an Eagle Scout is always prepared, and The Military Officers' Association's motto is "Never stop serving."

National Space Club Florida Chapter, September 12, 2023



National Space Club Florida Chapter, September 12 at the Radisson at the Port, keynote speaker was Janet Petro, Kennedy Space Center Director (right).

She presented an update of the Center's activities, commercial launches & plans to return to the Moon. At left, is MOAACC members Dr. Jane Hodges



Also attending the luncheon, pictured are Colleen Ward, spouse of LtCol Tom Ward, USM, with former Marine and Astronaut Andy Allen.

AMERICA REMEMBERS 9/11 AFTER 22 YEARS SINCE ATTACK









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