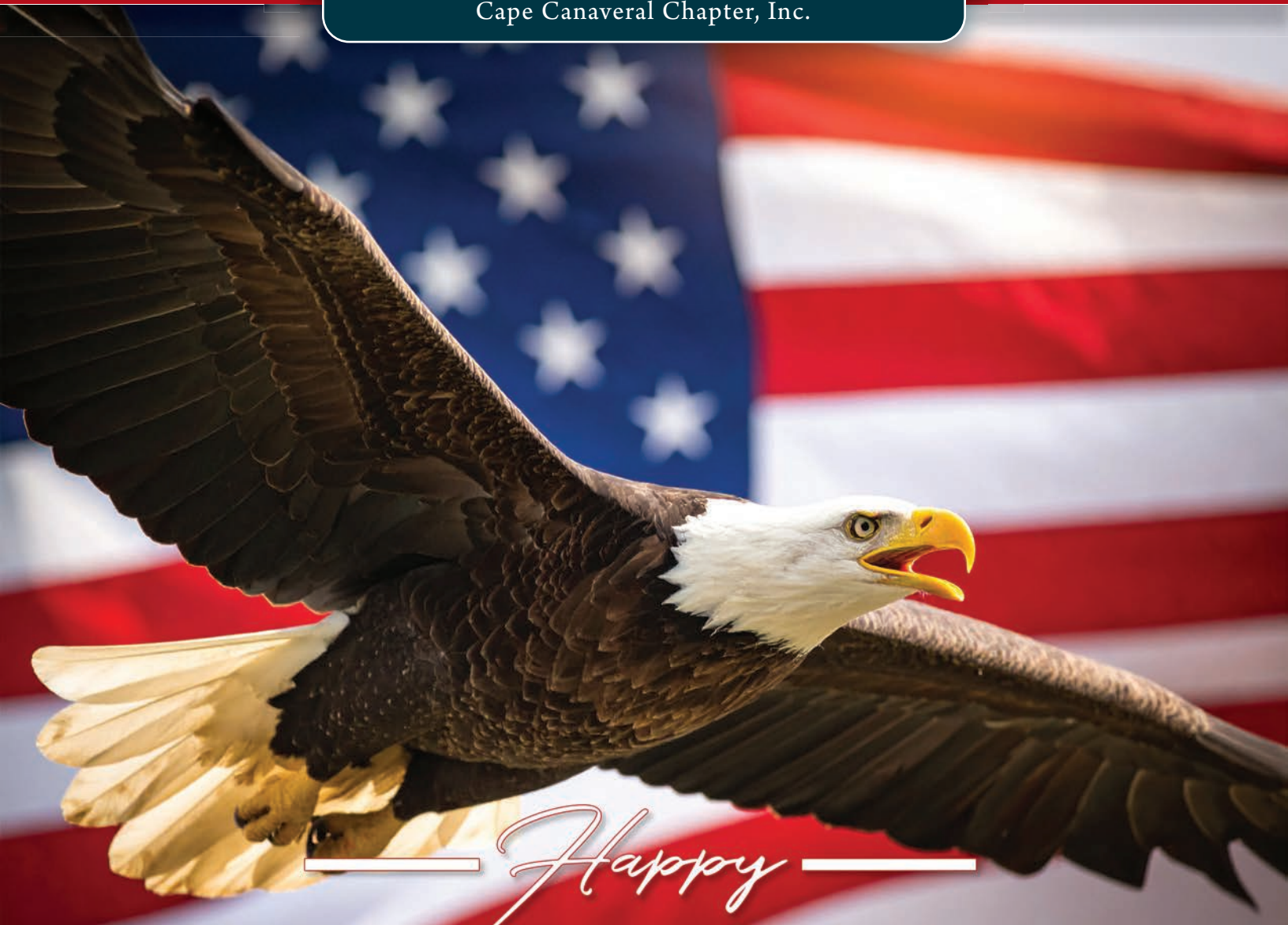




# The INTERCOM

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA  
Cape Canaveral Chapter, Inc.



*Happy*  
**INDEPENDENCE DAY**



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## PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

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

### Our Flag - Duty and Purpose Reflection on our MOAA Mission



Hello again, and welcome to the July 2025 edition of the INTERCOM.

As we celebrate our National Independence Day, it is appropriate to call a **Time Out** to reflect on our **Duty and Purpose** as members of the best MOAA Chapter in the country.

The first three bullets of the **Preamble** of our National MOAA **Bylaws** provide as follows:

- To inculcate and stimulate love of our country and the **FLAG**:
- To defend the honor, integrity, and supremacy of our National Government and the **Constitution** of the United States;
- To advocate military forces adequate to the defense of our country . . .

Just think for a moment: It has been a very long time since we (or our family members) raised their Right Hand to enlist or accept a military officer's commission to "Support and Defend" the Constitution. What a **turning point** that was for each of us, which truly "set the stage" for future development and service for the rest of our lives.

So, this 4th of July let's reflect and be proud of our service and always remember that "Freedom is Not Free." It takes a continuing effort from all of us to sustain and protect our nation's liberty.

Thank you so much for your service and dedication to MOAA, truly the nation's **largest and most influential** association of military officers.

### CONTINUING DUTY & OPPORTUNITY TO INCREASE OUR MEMBERSHIP

Hans Hunt reports that we have several new members this month. We are getting much closer to our goal of increasing our MOAACC membership to 1000! So please help, invite a friend and bring them to one of our many events.

*Looking forward to seeing you soon! ~Steve*



## EDITOR'S NOTE

John Franco, COL, USAF (ret)

Happy Independence Day 2025 and Happy 250th Birthday to the US Army. I trust the month of June gave you the time you needed to rest up from our very busy May. I've been a member of other volunteer organizations, but none come close to MOAACC and what it accomplishes. Let's admit it, we are not young bucks, but you never know it from what this chapter gets done.

Here we are in July, the month of our Nation's birthday. For many the 4th of July is just a day to watch fireworks displays, spend time at the beach or go boating, picnics with family and friends along with many other activities. But this July is the beginning of America's 250th anniversary as an independent nation. What a great start we had June 14 with the celebration of the US Army's 250th birthday and the impressive parade in Washington, DC commemorating this event. Let's celebrate all year!





## JULY EVENTS

(Click Event for Details)

- 7/3 **Current Affairs Forum - 8 AM**  
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 7/8 **On-The-Go Luncheon - 11:30 AM**  
@ Charlie & Jake's Barbeque, Satellite Beach
- 7/10 **TMBC - 8 AM**  
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 7/15 **MOAACC B.O.D. Meeting - 9:30 AM**  
@ Indian River Colony Club - Chapel
- 7/15 **MOAACC Luncheon - 11:30 AM**  
**Scholarship Award Presentations**  
@ Indian River Colony Club - Colony Hall
- 7/17 **TMBC - 8 AM**  
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 7/24 **TMBC - 8 AM**  
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 7/31 **TMBC - 8 AM**  
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole

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

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

## INTERCOM Photo & Article Submission Rules

### PHOTOS:

- Photos must be in "High Resolution" in .jpg format and sent as an **"Attachment."**
- When sending photos, select "actual size" on computer or cell phone and send as **"Attachment."**
- Submit only up to two photos per article. More photos may be accepted if necessary.
- All photos must have "captions" of who, what, when, where and why.

### ARTICLES:

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

### DEADLINES & SUBMISSION EMAIL:

- Photos & Articles are **DUE NO LATER THAN the 15th of each month or sooner.** Please send ALL submissions **ONLY** to the following: [intercom@moaacc.org](mailto: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
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- Comments and suggestion are welcome. Contact EXECUTIVE EDITOR: [intercom@moaacc.org](mailto:intercom@moaacc.org)

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CHAIRMAN: John Franco

INTERCOM EDITOR: John Franco

ASSOCIATE EDITORS: Rita Shapiro and Fran Majcher

LAYOUT/GRAPHICS: Jeremiah Zeleny

PRESS RELEASES & MEDIA LIAISON: Marilyn Sanford

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## FINANCIAL LITERACY

**CAPT Bob Houle, USCG (Retired)**

### Invert, Always Invert: A Strategic Mindset for Smarter Investing

Military service taught us to evaluate every mission from multiple angles—especially the downside risks. That mindset is captured perfectly by mathematician Carl Jacobi's advice: *"Invert, always invert."* Instead of asking only how to succeed, ask how to avoid failure.

This approach is just as valuable in investing. Rather than focusing solely on, "How can I make the most money?", invert the question:

#### **"What common mistakes should I avoid?"**

- Speculating instead of investing
- Chasing trends instead of researching quality
- Letting emotions drive decisions
- Lacking a long-term strategy

Avoiding these pitfalls shifts our focus to what does work: investing in high-quality companies with consistent growth, strong leadership, and durable business models.

That's the foundation of the Financial Literacy (FinLit) program, a partnership between the MOAACC and the North Florida Chapter of BetterInvesting™. Through educational articles and optional webinars, FinLit introduces veterans and their families to disciplined, time-tested investing principles rooted in teamwork, education, and long-term thinking.

Many participants deepen their learning by joining investment clubs—collaborative groups that study companies together, ask questions, and build skills in a no-pressure, sales-free environment.

Whether you're managing a Thrift Savings Plan, an IRA, or a taxable account, the objective is the same: make informed choices that lead toward financial independence.

So the next time you review your investments, apply Jacobi's mindset. Ask: *"What do successful investors avoid—and am I avoiding it?"* This simple inversion may boost both your results and your confidence.

#### **Your Input Matters**

As we grow the FinLit program, your voice is essential. What topics would you like us to cover? Are there financial challenges you're facing—or strategies you're curious about—that we can explore in future articles or webinars?

Let us know by completing this quick, anonymous survey: [CLICK HERE!](#)

Your feedback helps shape the program to better serve the MOAACC community. Together, we'll continue building a well-informed, financially confident membership—just as we once built operational readiness: through learning, leadership, and shared purpose.

**Stay engaged. Stay informed.  
And as always—Never Stop Serving.**



## LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

**John R. McMahon, BG, USA (Retired)**

### Two Ticking Time Bombs

The House passed its reconciliation package, officially titled the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" (OBBBA), on 22 May by a vote of 215-214; it now rests with the Senate to compile its own reconciliation bill. The announced goal is to complete the reconciliation process by the 4th of July recess, planned to run from 29 June through 7 July. As the internal discussions and negotiations continue inside the Senate, it is difficult, if not impossible, to predict what might ultimately "be in or out" of the Senate's final version. However, it is probably safe to say the Senate version will be markedly different from what the House passed. On the same note, it is hardly worth addressing what's in the House version and what its impacts might be because it is all destined to change once the two versions are passed and House and Senate negotiations begin to resolve the differences. A special conference committee will be formed, comprised of members from both chambers, who will either negotiate a compromise bill, or simply approve one version or the other. Once they reach that point, a sensible analysis can be made about what the impacts will be, good and bad.

Meanwhile, our Treasury Secretary testified to Congress last month that they should deal with the nation's borrowing limit by mid-July to prevent the federal government from defaulting on its bills, anticipated to occur in August while Congress is again on recess—this time from 4 August to 1 September. He indicated that Congress should either increase the debt limit by a new dollar amount or suspend the current debt limit for a new specified length of time. The national debt sits at \$36.2 Trillion currently and the Treasury Department has been employing "extraordinary measures" since January to avoid default but even these will fail in August. Republican leaders in the House and Senate have included a measure to deal with the debt ceiling time bomb in their respective budget reconciliation packages, but it remains unclear as to when they will become law.

Needless to say, the Congress has its work cut out for it in the near term on these major issues; at the same time, there is more to be done as a follow-up to the passing of the PACT Act in 2022. As we know, this Act, which was prominently supported by MOAA and your own advocacy efforts online, expanded coverage for veterans exposed to the toxic effects of burn pits and other environmental hazards on the battlefield. Specifically, MOAA notes, "it directed new research, required toxic exposure screenings, expanded access to care by the VA, and formally acknowledged several new categories of exposure". However, MOAA asserts, "it did not create the lasting legal structure needed to proactively identify new presumptives and prevent



veterans from facing the same delays experienced by previous generations”.

MOAA has proposed “codifying a clear, science-based framework for the presumptive-making process” in three phases with specific timelines and decision points. These phases are:

- Acknowledgement of possible toxic exposure risk
- Concession of exposure to a toxic substance
- Presumption of service connection between exposure and disease(s)

So, while the PACT Act of 2022 was a significant achievement supported by both chambers of Congress on a bipartisan basis, there is more to do. If anything was apparent from watching the Army’s 250th Birthday celebration and parade in Washington, DC, on 14 June, it is that our Soldiers (Sailors, Airmen and Marines) are “our crown jewel”, to quote General Stanley McChrystal in a recent interview. What more reason could we need to protect, support, and care for them when they go into harm’s way on our behalf?



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## HEALTHY LIVING

**CAPT (ret) Rita Shapiro, MA, DPT**

### July Is UV Safety Awareness Month



Living in southern/central Florida further makes us prone to excessive sun exposure. Why is that? Well, one of the simplest reasons is that the Brevard county lies between 28° and 29° N Latitude. Why is that important to know?

Specifically, after the summer solstice, the angle of the solar rays is virtually at 90° which from geometry we know is the shortest distance hence the rays are most concentrated. Making us vulnerable to the harmful exposure of the UV rays progressively worsening from sunrise to noon followed by a very gradual increasing angles towards the sunset. As we know the days are longer hence more danger of exposure.

#### Understanding UV Radiation:

- Ultraviolet (UV) radiation is a form of energy from the sun that can cause skin damage, including sunburn, premature aging, and an increased risk of skin cancer.
- There are three types of UV radiation: UVA, UVB, and UVC.
- UVA rays penetrate the skin and are associated with aging and sun damage.

- UVB rays cause sunburn and can increase the risk of skin cancer.
- UVC rays are mostly absorbed by the atmosphere and are not a significant source of damage to humans.

#### Protecting Yourself from UV Radiation:

- **Seek Shade:** During peak hours (10 a.m. - 4 p.m.), when UV rays are strongest, find shade from trees, buildings, or umbrellas.
- **Wear Protective Clothing:** Wear long-sleeved shirts, pants, and a wide-brimmed hat to cover exposed skin.
- **Use Sunscreen:** Apply a broad-spectrum sunscreen with an SPF of 30 or higher to all exposed skin. Reapply every two hours, or sooner if swimming or sweating.
- **Wear Sunglasses:** Choose sunglasses that block 99-100% of UVA and UVB rays, especially those with wrap-around frames.
- **Be Mindful of Reflections:** Water, snow, and sand can reflect UV rays, increasing exposure.
- **Consider the UV Index:** Check the UV index for your area to understand the level of UV radiation and take appropriate precautions.

Reference: American Academy of Dermatology (<https://www.aad.org/member/advocacy/promote/uv-awareness>)

## POINTS TO PONDER

MAJ (Chaplain, USAR Ret.) Bill Adams

### Semper Paratus

We continue our series on our beloved service songs...

The story of the Coast Guard song begins in the winter of 1922 aboard the Cutter Yamacraw. In a moment of creative inspiration, Captain Francis Saltus Van Boskerck crafted a poem recounting the legendary feats of America's coastal guardians. Van Boskerck served from "Aztec shore to Arctic zones" as the poem reflects. He likely battled "surf and storm and howling gales" commanding the famed Cutter Bear during his Bering Sea patrol in 1921.

While stationed at the Alaskan town of Unalaska, Van Boskerck, with the musical assistance of two U.S. Public Health Service dentists, sat down at the piano to compose the musical score to Semper Paratus, "Always Prepared." Van Boskerck's last tour was Captain of the Norfolk Port—there *Semper Paratus* made its public debut in 1927 at a meeting of the League of Coast Guard Women.

Van Boskerck presented his composition to the publisher of the Coast Guard magazine, Lt. Col. Harvey Miller, in Washington, D.C. With the help of the U.S. Naval Academy bandmaster, Miller developed a full orchestral presentation and held a gala to formally premiere *Semper Paratus*. The presentation featured a storm scene with a quartet dressed in lifesaving garb!

There's a touch of irony on the business side of the Coast Guard's anthem: While the initial copyright was held by the Coast Guard, Col. Miller sold it without authorization. The music publisher still owns the rights to the song and charges the Coast Guard a fee every time their band performs it!

The chorus of *Semper Paratus* proclaims: "We're always ready for the call, We place our trust in Thee. Through surf and storm and howling gale, High shall our purpose be. *Semper Paratus* is our guide, Our fame, our glory too. To fight to save or fight and die, Aye! Coast Guard we are for you!" By placing "our trust in Thee," the Guard is declaring that they are dependent on the Almighty to see them through to mission accomplishment.

This trust in God to the point of personal sacrifice is reflected in the last words of *Semper Paratus*: "To sink the foe or save the maimed, Our mission and our pride. We'll carry on 'til Kingdom Come, Ideals for which we've died."



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# Mark Your Calendar!

## Save the Dates for upcoming MOAACC Events:

15 July 2025: Scholarship Award Presentations

19 August 2025: MOAACC Luncheon w/ Congressman Mike Haridopolos - 8th District

16 September 2025: MOAACC Luncheon w/Dr. Doris Newman, DO, FAAO. Dean

3 October 2025: 10th Annual Rescuing Veterans Lost in America Gala

08 November 2025: 1st Annual Vystar MOAACC Veterans Day Recognition Dinner

18 November 2025: MOAACC Luncheon & Annual Membership Business Meeting

5 December 2025: MOAACC Annual Christmas Dinner Dance

11 December 2025: MOAACC Surviving Spouses & Spouses Christmas Tea

13 December 2025: 4th Annual Space Force 10-Miler

### MOAACC Summer Picnic

Join fellow chapter members for our Summer picnic on Saturday, August 16, 2025 at the Veterans Memorial Center, 11 am to 2 pm. We will be grilling hotdogs and burgers and serving other sides and refreshments. There will be indoor seating available. Donations accepted at the door.

Hope you will enjoy socializing with members as well as taking the opportunity to visit the museum and static displays. There will be a tour of the JROTC obstacle course, funded by the MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation, located on the grounds of the VMC, as well as a preview of the amphitheater under construction.

Please register on through our Events Calendar at [www.MOAACC.org](http://www.MOAACC.org)

Rosa Reich

1st Vice President

MOAA Cape Canaveral Chapter

### MOAACC

### On-the-Go-Luncheon July 8, 2025

**Charlie & Jake's Barbecue**

490 E Eau Gallie Blvd  
Satellite Beach, FL 32937

This month's 'On-the-Go' we will meet at 11:30 at Charlie and Jake's Barbecue. For reservations or additional information phone Toni Lowe at (321) 474-6888. Cut off for reservations, cancellations is the Friday prior, so she can inform the restaurant on how many are coming. Cost: Per individual. As always, please honor your reservation or call Toni if you cannot attend so she can inform the restaurant in a timely fashion. Everyone is invited so please join us.

**STAY UP TO DATE - VISIT:**

**[www.MOAACC.org](http://www.MOAACC.org)**

**Are you receiving the MOAACC Five Things e-News?**

**Are you a published MOAACC Author?**

**← Check out the MOAACC website for more information.**



## MOAACC MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

### MOAA Cape Canaveral Chapter

Engage, Serve, Connect — “Never Stop Serving®”

#### Discover the Power of Active Membership

As a current, former, or retired officer — or as a spouse or surviving spouse of a member — you are part of a proud and dynamic military community. The Cape Canaveral Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), the largest chapter in the nation, offers you a unique opportunity to stay engaged, make a difference, and build lasting connections.

Located in beautiful Brevard County, Florida — a patriotic community rich in history and support for our Armed Forces — our chapter combines camaraderie, service, and purpose in everything we do.

Active membership is flexible, fun, and impactful. Whether you're looking to volunteer, socialize, give back, or just stay connected, there's a place for you here.

#### Ways to Get Involved

##### Chapter Volunteer Opportunities

- Survivor Assistance Team – Support families during times of loss and transition.
- Vets Back to Class / Joe Foss Institute – Share your story and inspire students.
- Speakers Bureau – Represent the chapter at schools, clubs, and civic events (we receive 60+ speaker requests each year).
- Transition & Career Support – Help fellow veterans adjust to civilian life.
- ROTC, JROTC, Sea Cadets, Civil Air Patrol – Mentor tomorrow's military leaders.
- Newsletter & Communications – Assist with editing and distributing The Intercom.
- Special Events – Participate in ceremonies on Memorial Day, Veterans Day, Armed Forces Day, and more.

##### Community Engagement

- Veterans Memorial Center – Volunteer at this local treasure in Merritt Island.
- USO Support – Help at Orlando and Melbourne airports.
- Cape Canaveral Ladies – Honor veterans at the Cape Canaveral National Cemetery.
- Veterans Court Mentorship – Guide and encourage fellow veterans in need.
- Local Advocacy – Represent MOAA at the Cocoa Beach Military Affairs Council or Melbourne Chamber Veterans Resource Council.

##### Philanthropy and Giving

- Scholarship Corporation (501(c)(3)) – Help provide college scholarships to 10+ local students annually.
- Good Deeds Foundation (501(c)(3)) – Fund vital programs for veterans, active-duty families, and youth leadership.
- Annual Golf Tournament – Play or volunteer for our largest fundraiser of the year.

#### Camaraderie, Education & Events

- Weekly Thursday Morning Breakfast Club
- Monthly Luncheons at Colony Hall – Hear from civic, military, and community leaders.
- Rotating Luncheons at Local Restaurants – Casual meetups across the area.
- Current Affairs Forum – Discuss pressing issues in national and world affairs.
- Military Balls & Celebrations – Holiday parties, Oktoberfest, cruises, and more.
- Spouses' Activities & Guest Speakers – Meaningful engagement for all.
- Shooting Club & Hobby Groups – Share your passions with fellow veterans.

#### Live the MOAA Motto: Never Stop Serving®

Active membership is about more than attending meetings — it's about making a difference on your terms, alongside those who've walked the same path. Whether you contribute a few hours or take on a leadership role, your involvement enriches our mission and strengthens the bonds of our military family.

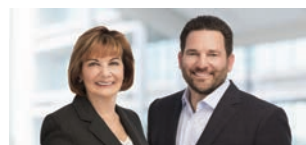
To learn more or get involved, contact any committee chair listed in The Intercom or reach out to a board member. We'd be honored to welcome you.

MOAA Cape Canaveral Chapter

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Melbourne, FL 32940  
321-729-6770

#### Daniel Levy, CFA, CPWA®

Financial Advisor  
US Navy Veteran  
321-722-5427  
[daniel.levy@ubs.com](mailto:daniel.levy@ubs.com)

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## Welcome our New Members!

Last Name	First Name	Prefix	Service	Component	Duty Status	Membership Level	Member's Sponsor
Celeste	Steven	MAJ	Army	Regular	Retired	Annual	Tim Thomas
Dillon	Jerome	CH (CDR)	Navy	Regular	Retired	Annual	Steve Cusick
Donovan	Nancy	Mrs	Surviving Spouse	Other	Surviving Spouse	Surviving Spouse (Auxiliary)	
Dressler	Susan	CPT	Army	Regular	Former	Annual	Skip Taylor
Garrett	Silas	LT	Coast Guard	Regular	Active	Annual	Dan McIntyre
Greenwood	Bruce	CDR	Navy	Reserve	Retired	Annual	
LeClair	Ernest	Major	Air Force	Regular	Retired	Annual	Steve Cusick
Lee	Betty	Mrs	Surviving Spouse	Other	Other	Surviving Spouse (Auxiliary)	
Rendell	Mark	1LT	Army	Regular	Former	Annual	Donn Weaver
Tran	David	ENS	Coast Guard	Regular	Active	Annual	Dan McIntyre
Williams	Robert	Captain	Air Force	Regular	Former	Annual	Denny Tharpe

## June Current Affairs Forum

Editor's comment: As the featured speaker at our Thursday Morning Breakfast Club (TMBC) on 5 June, COL Jeff Rogers, US Army Ret presented an outstanding overview of the US Army's participation in wars and conflicts from the time of the Revolutionary War to the present. From a small militia to a global force, he illustrated how the Army shaped US history through wars, peace, political unrest and innovation. It was a timely reflection of this history especially on the eve of the US Army's 250th Birthday.



*COL Rogers Sharing his Knowledge*

Jeff is a 5th generation Army officer of a family whose service spanned the Revolutionary War, Civil War, World Wars I & II, Korean War, himself in Vietnam and his three sons in Iraq and Afghanistan. He graduated from West Point in 1968 and obtained a master's degree in business from Northern Colorado in 1974. He was Commissioned as an Infantry officer and served in various light & heavy Infantry and Ranger units to include a tour as a combat Infantryman

(rifle platoon leader) in the Central Highlands of Vietnam. Later assignments included Commander 106th Finance Battalion in Germany, Commander 175th Theater Finance Command in Korea, and Commandant U.S. Army Finance School. His military education included the Infantry Basic, Airborne, & Ranger Courses, CGSC, and the National War College. The following is from an article Jeff shared with our MOAACC chapter in 2019 titled "The Korean Experience."

Each year, as the month of June approaches, I find myself reflecting on "The Korean Experience." You may remember that it was the 25th of June in 1950 when the North Korean army invaded the Republic of Korea (South Korea). South Korea was woefully unprepared, as was her ally the United States, in its ability to support the ROK. This is eerily similar to where our nation had been heading recently, but hopefully is now starting to wake up. I served as a commander in the Republic of Korea (ROK) in the early 1990s. Aside from my having served, there is also a special family connection in that both my late father-in-law and my late father fought in Korea -- one on the frontend of the war and the other at the backend thinking of them at this time is

kind of fitting as well since Father's Day is also in June). My father-in-law (then 1st Lieutenant Carl B. Nerdahl) was an Infantry officer who fought on the frontend. He was one of the very few American officers on the 38th parallel the day of the invasion (25 June 1950) advising the 6th ROK Division which actually performed quite well in spite of the circumstances. Not only was my father-in-law one of a small number of American officers on the parallel that day, but he was one of the very few who in fact survived those days (actually not sure there were any other U.S. officers that far forward who were not killed or captured). My father-in-law went on to fight in Korea for another year (promoted twice) as Eighth Army fell all the way back to the Pusan Perimeter and then returned to north of Seoul following the Inchon Landing. My father (then Captain Harry L. Rogers III) commanded a 200-man rifle company toward the backend of the war. In September 1952 his company successfully conducted an incredibly complex and dangerous operation -- an all-night attack for the capture of a mountain top called Old Baldy, not far from Pork Chop Hill. It was the last American retaking of Old Baldy with his Soldiers showing extraordinary heroism. In fact, three were awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for their valor that night; others were awarded Silver Stars.

So as June approaches and I consider the Korean experience (my own and that of my family), I think about how our nation must stay sufficiently prepared for conflicts that we can't even foresee such as in June 1950. Our great Chapter and MOAA must continue to be a strong voice to effect the requisite readiness our nation needs.



*L-R-Steve Cusick, Jeff Rogers, Mike Kanhanka*

# The Army's 250th Anniversary Ball at IRCC

Hans Hunt LtCol (ret) US Army



Photos by Jeremiah Zeleny, Timeless Focus Photography

*Members of the Sons of the American Revolution led by LTC (Ret) Hans Hunt conducted the presentation and posting of the Colors*

The Continental Army was formed on June 14, 1775, by a resolution passed by the Second Continental Congress, meeting in Philadelphia after the war's outbreak at the Battles of Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775. They voted to establish the Continental Army to provide for the common defense of the colonies. On June 15, 1775 Congress unanimously elected George Washington commander-in-chief of the Continental Army. To commemorate this historic event of the formation of the Army, IRCC held an Army Ball on 14 June 2025 to commemorate its 250th birthday.

The evening began with a social hour and a welcome was given by COL (Ret) Bill Greenwald and COL (Ret) Teresa Ortiz. Then members of the Sons of the American Revolution led by LTC (Ret) Hans Hunt conducted the presentation and posting of the Colors. Since 1775, American Soldiers have represented the very best of our nation. They embody courage, sacrifice and strength. Sworn to defend the Constitution and our core American values, American Soldiers have fought against anyone who might threaten our country. They are the most lethal land fighting force the world has ever seen. The U.S. Army has upheld this legacy for 250 years, and we will carry this legacy into the future. From the Revolutionary War to the Global War on Terrorism the United State Army has been at the forefront of numerous wars to preserve peace in our nation and the world. Those who have served our country in the Army have dedicated their time, talents and leadership to the Army in support of the preservation of our country. As members of the United States Army we have

taken an oath to support and defend the constitution against all enemies foreign and domestic in support of our nation's strategic aims. There are 190 streamers on the Army Flag representing the Major Campaigns and Wars the Army has participated in.

The traditional military toasts were made and a reading was made in honor of our fallen at the fallen comrade table. Many of us have lost comrades, family and friends and it is them that we also honor for their service to our nation. Following the toast we took a moment to honor the memory of our IRCC Army family members who have passed into eternal rest over the past year.

Cadets from Viera High School JROTC brought in the cake for the ceremonial cake cutting. The Cake Cutting was conducted by MAJ (Ret) George Bowdren who was the oldest soldier present and representing the youngest soldier was 1LT Gerald Hemp (PAARNG). This represents the passing of experience and knowledge from the Old Guard to the young of our Army. 1LT Hemp accepted the ceremonial 1st piece of cake to honor leadership and guidance of all senior and superiors in the chain of command.

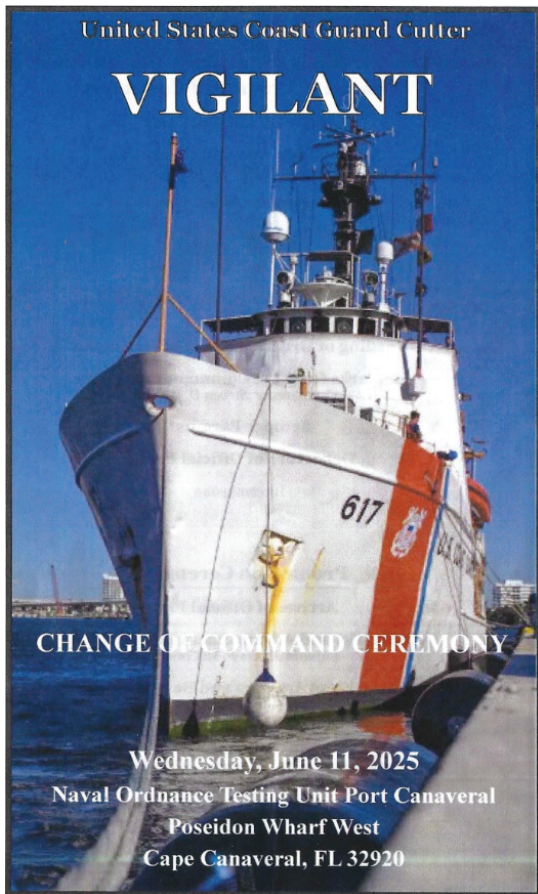
As the night closed and we reflect on the history of our Army. We are inspired by numerous men and women that have served and continue to serve. We respect the fact that service to our nation in the Army is the most noble of professions. We, the Soldiers in service to our nation, are part of the Army's great history and legacy. God bless the Army and the United States of America! This We'll Defend.







# USCG Cutter "Vigilant" Change of Command - 11 June 2025



National Anthem



SEMPER VIGILANS



CAPT James McCormack Presiding Official and CDR Jon Potterton, VIGILANT Commanding Officer. Relieved of command, received Meritorious Service Medal and promoted to CAPT.



Lunch



CWO4 Dan McIntyre USCGR (ret), LCDR Eric Balcunas USCG, RADM Wayne Justice USCG (ret)



RADM James Underwood USCG (ret), CWO4 Dan McIntyre USCGR (ret), RADM Wayne Justice USCG (ret)



CAPT Potterton and his daughter





## MOAACC GOOD DEEDS FOUNDATION

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

### **Six Months of 2025 over already — GDF Increases Pace for 08 November Fundraiser.**

As we get older the months seem to fly by faster. The year 2025 may be setting a record. From your Good Deeds Foundation optic, we may have fewer major events to support as summer continues, but there are only really about FOUR months until our major fundraiser for 2025. We need your help!!! Please see how you can get engaged below and visit our updated [GDFD.org](https://GDFD.org) Web Page on the event. Thanks in advance for helping your Good Deeds Foundation meet or exceed our 2026 fundraising goals.

During our June meeting, we did approve one new grant request to the PSFB Space Coast Top III to host an active-duty November All Services Military Ball. We are gold level sponsors at \$1500 which will help many junior enlisted personnel from every branch (all have some presence in Brevard) attend a very special, but costly evening at the KSC Visitors Center Conference and Catering room.

Back to our Fundraiser. — the 08 November GDF/VyStar Veterans Day Recognition Dinner.

In order to reach our 2025-26 goals to support Active Duty, ROTC/JROTC, Veteran families in need and major organizations that support veteran, we ask you to consider:

- A. Direct donations in any amount to GDF at PO Box 254708, Cocoa Beach FL 32932. or
- B. Support our 08 November Veterans Recognition Dinner at Holiday Inn Viera conference center. You can get full details online with MOAACC and at [GDFD.org](https://GDFD.org).

For the dinner to be successful you can purchase tables and later seats, create/place an In-Memorial ad in the program, help us find community sponsors and talk with other military and community organizations you are involved with to do the same.

Any questions please, contact Event Chair Larry Jackson 321-242-1331.

Thanks in advance for your support.

### **The Good Deeds Foundation to Host Veterans Day Recognition Dinner in Brevard County**

The Good Deeds Foundation (GDF), the philanthropy arm of the Military Officers Association of America Cape Canaveral Chapter, is proud to announce its Veterans Day Recognition Dinner on Saturday, November 8, 2025, at the Holiday Inn Viera Conference Center. The event begins with a reception at 5:15 PM, followed by dinner at 6:00 PM. Tickets are \$125 per person.

This special evening serves a dual purpose: raising funds for GDF's initiatives and increasing public awareness of organizations and projects supporting U.S. Military Veterans in Brevard County. As a 501(c)(3) organization, GDF provides grants to JROTC, ROTC, Sea Cadets, Civil Air Patrol units, Active Duty Military units, and Veterans support organizations throughout the region.

Held the weekend before Veterans Day, the dinner will honor outstanding contributions to the veteran community with awards in three categories: Veterans Organization of the Year, Best Veterans Project of the Year, and Most Outstanding Veterans Affairs Volunteer of the Year.

"We are excited to celebrate the remarkable work being done to support our veterans and active-duty military in Brevard County," said Donn Weaver, GDF President.

"This event is an opportunity for our community to come together, recognize these efforts, and contribute to their continued success. Last year we were able to provide \$130,000 in grants exclusively here in Brevard County. We are hoping to raise enough funds to match that amount for the coming year."

GDF is seeking sponsors to make this event a success. Sponsorship opportunities include:

- Platinum Sponsor: \$10,000 contribution
- Gold Sponsor: \$5,000 contribution
- Table Sponsor: \$1,250
- Full Page Program Ad: \$250

Interested sponsors can visit [GDFD.ORG](https://GDFD.ORG) for more information or contact Larry Jackson, Recognition Dinner Chair directly at 321-242-1331 to participate. Contributions can be mailed to: Good Deeds Foundation PO Box 320358 Cocoa Beach, FL 32932-0358 EIN: 46-5148264

Join us in honoring our veterans and supporting the mission of the Good Deeds Foundation. For additional details or to purchase tickets, please visit [GDFD.ORG](https://GDFD.ORG).



## SCHOLARSHIP CORPORATION

**CAPT Scott Harley, USCG Ret**

### 2025 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES ANNOUNCED

On behalf of the Selection Committee, I am pleased to announce the award of eleven (11) \$7,500 MOAACC Scholarships for 2025! The competition was intense this year with the return of 20 completed packages. The selection committee completed a difficult task when they gathered on 18 June and selected this year's recipients. Please thank them for their hard work when you see them, and encourage anyone who applied, but was not selected, to try again next year, if they still qualify.

RECIPIENT	SCHOOL	SPONSOR
Hannah Bedard	University of Florida	Col Michael Bedard
Hunter Crook	Milligan University	Lt Col James Crook
Ryan Flammini	University of Central Florida	TSGT Charles Flammini
Brooke Ehlers	Lake Erie College	CAPT David Ehlers
Hadlee Fuller	University of Florida	Col Mandi Fuller
Amanda Gostel	The Ohio State University	CAPT Juluis Gostel
Keely Hunt	Brigham Young University	Lt Col Hans Hunt
Evan Lanoue	Clemson University	Lt Col Richard Lanoue
Astrid Lim	South University	CDR Alan Lim
Aaron Luther	University of Florida	VADM Donald Hagen
Carson Waggoner	Clemson University	Lt Col Scott Waggoner

Each year beginning in 1984, MOAACC Scholarship Corporation has awarded scholarships to descendants and wards of active duty or retired members of the Uniformed Services of the United States (includes Regular, National Guard or Reserve enlisted and officers of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Space Force, Coast Guard, NOAA or USPHS). The quantity and value of the scholarships vary from year to year. Between 1984 and 2025 (42 years), MOAACC Scholarship Corporation awarded \$1,069,500 to 327 students attending 85 different colleges throughout the nation.

**This month, we will recognize these deserving scholars at our annual MOAACC Scholarship Awards Luncheon! Mark your calendars for Tuesday, 15 July at 11:30AM at Colony Hall in the Indian River Colony Club. The cost is a mere \$25 to come see our 11 deserving scholarship recipients be rewarded for their hard work thriving in the challenging environment of Post-Secondary Education. Please RSVP/cancel by 10 July 2025, online here or by contacting Mary McIntyre at [events@moaacc.org](mailto:events@moaacc.org) or (321) 254-6997. You can [pay online](#) with Credit Card, pay at the door or mail payment with RSVP to:**

MOAACC, c/o Treasurer

PO Box 254186, Patrick SFB, FL 32925

**See you there!**

#### MOAACC SCHOLARSHIP DONORS

##### Named Donors

- Sam & Betty Ginsburg

##### Distinguished Donors

- Dan McIntyre

##### Donors

- Gary D Eppler
- Don Hagen

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## 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



**VyStar**  
Foundation

VyStar  
Foundation

Date

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Twenty Thousand  
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## VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER UPDATE

### VMC Construction Update: Half-Way There: Construction of a Crown Jewel on Merritt Island on Track



Six months into the \$8.2 Million Project to build a major Amphitheater and many other upgrades at the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center (BVMC) Park, shows the project ahead of schedule and creating more excitement. Barring hurricane slowdowns this summer and fall, an ahead of schedule grand opening and ribbon cutting for the amazing project could happen on November 11 — Veterans Day this year.

As you may have read in these and other media pages over the past year, this project, approved by the County Commissioners in August 2024, was 7 years in the making and included major grants from the State of Florida, the Tourist Development Council, Brevard County and Brevard Parks and Recreation. The BVMC Park is already one of the best county parks in Brevard and since 2016 has been managed and kept up by the volunteer veterans of BVMC with financial and major maintenance help from Parks and Rec. Once the Amphitheater is completed, Parks and Rec will have a greater role in scheduling major events whose proceeds will in part also help with what will be higher support costs. The BVMC Park has always been a community as well as “veterans” park and has seen thousands of visitors since opening on Veterans Day 2016.

Those using the Park until now include the public from dawn to dusk walking, jogging, fishing, using the playground and adult work out areas, etc. Every year the Park hosts 10 major high school JROTC events and many special events including the Key Lime Pie Festival (3 years); 5K fundraisers; Car Show, Back Brevard Heroes Celebration of First Responders, Merritt Island Grand Illumination in December and many more veteran and community events.

With the amphitheater in place at least by early 2026, all the above will continue and increase, but the BVMC Park will also be the scene of major concerts and other professional events with ticketing as crowds up to 5000 can be accommodated. In the meantime, anticipation is building, and a major media push is underway through the county on the expanded BVMC Park to attract acts and interest upon completion.

June brought some initial good news on that score when the outstanding Space Coast Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Aaron Collins, volunteered to play a full patriotic concert at the ribbon cutting and will start using the new amphitheater as its outdoor home base. That was among the many reasons why the project was first endorsed and partially funded in 2019-20.

The “New BVMC Park” will clearly be a huge asset for Brevard residents, visitors, tourists and veterans of all ages and interests in the months and years ahead.





# Directory

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Vacant

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CDR Fred J. Reeg, USN

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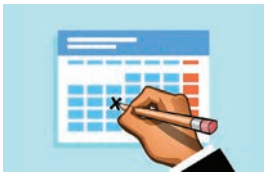
P.O. BOX 254708

Patrick AFB, FL 32925-4708

### **MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation**

PO Box 320358

Cocoa Beach, FL 32932



## Unofficial Brevard VMC Vets Calendar

### July 2025 & 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/upcoming-veterans-events/>

Contact [donnweaver2020@gmail.com](mailto:donnweaver2020@gmail.com) for more information or to participate.

#### JULY

**04 Jul** — Annual BCSO Merritt Island Independence Day Parade 1000 start at Merritt Island HS with finish at Edgewood HS or on to BVMC. Details in early June.

**05 Jul** — Cocoa Beach Independence Day Parade - Through the Decades 1000-1130. Details and register in early June.

**15 Jul** — Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation third Annual Christmas in July Fundraiser 1700-1900 at Rising Tide Tap and Table, 523 Glen Cheek Dr Port Canaveral. Event is a raffle drawing party with each ticket at \$100 which admits two people for plenty of food, drinks, live auction. Great raffle prize. Purchase tickets (limited to 250) from CCLF Board Members or [info@CanaveralLight.org](mailto:info@CanaveralLight.org). 321-351-5052.

#### AUGUST

**03 Aug** - Annual Military Order of Purpose Heart Honor Ceremony 1400 at VMC Gray Hall. Program details in June. Nine Purple Heart Recipients from Vietnam to Afghanistan will be recognized.

#### SEPTEMBER:

**11 Sep** — 09/11 Remembrance Ceremony BVMC Plaza and Gray Hall 1630 - 1900. Sponsored by Club 1013, MOAACC GDF and BVMC. Program details in July.

#### OCTOBER

**03 Oct** - Annual NVHS Dinner and Fundraiser to support homeless and at-risk veterans and their families. Save the Date. The Difference a Decade Has Made. 1700 -2100 at Radisson Resort by the Port. Hosted by Brevard's Constitutional Officers Semi to formal attire. Sign up starting in July.

#### NOVEMBER

**08 Nov** — Annual St Francis Reflections 5K Fundraiser at VMC Plaza and Park. 0800 - 1200 Includes veteran recognition and pinning. Details in August.

**08 Nov** — Veterans Day Recognition VyStar Dinner at Holiday Inn Viera Conference Center 1715-2030. Sponsored by MOAA Cape Canaveral Chapter Good Deeds Foundation. To honor and express our and community gratitude to individuals, associations and projects that make a significant impact on military veterans in Brevard County. Sponsors at levels from \$10K, to \$5K to Tables of 10 at \$1250. to become a sponsor out seek more information go to [GDFD.ORG](http://GDFD.ORG) or contact event chair Larry Jackson on 321-242-1331 or [larryj59@gmail.com](mailto:larryj59@gmail.com).

**08 Nov** — Annual VFW Post 10131 and City of Cape Canaveral Veterans Day Parade 1000-1130. Details in August. This year VFW Post in Cape Canaveral is hosting and managing the event.

**09 Nov** — 8th Annual Homestretch 5K by NVHS for Homeless and at-Risk Veterans. 0800-11100. Eau Gallie Arts District at the Square Park. Save the date. For more info and to sign up as a sponsor and/or runner see: [runsignup.com/Homestretch5K](http://runsignup.com/Homestretch5K)

**11 Nov** — VMC (and many other) Veterans Day Ceremony. 0930 - 1030 VMC Plaza/Park. Details in August with possible Parade of Colors that afternoon in the new Amphitheater/Park. May also serve as Ribbon Cutting for the Amphitheater and expanded VM Park.

#### DECEMBER:

**06 Dec** — Merritt Island Community and Gold Star Family Christmas Tree Grand Illumination at expands Veterans Memorial Center Park an Plaza Detail in September.

**13 Dec** — National Wreaths Across America Day at the Cape Canaveral National Cemetery and five other Brevard Locations. Details in September.

**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](mailto:donnweaver2020@gmail.com)



# Memorial Day 2025 - All Over Brevard

By Donn Weaver, Cpt (fmr) USA

The 26 May Brevard Veterans Center Memorial Day Ceremony drew 300 people and was held under sunny, but hot skies on Monday morning, 26 May. Speakers included Vietnam Combat Vet Jeff Rogers, GWOT Combat Vet Hans Hunt, VMC Pres Dean Schaaf, Chaplain Chip Hanson and VMC VP Donn Weaver as MC. Several local officials attended, and 99-year-old WWII Veteran George Rosenfield received special recognition. The entire program can be seen on Space Coast Daily TV on YouTube. Due to excessive heat, the event only lasted 45 minutes but many shared with VMC volunteers how special they thought it was. The MOAACC was very well represented with over 15 members watching, the two keynote speakers, the MC and Welcome speakers, Wayne Justice as Port Commissioner and of course George Rosenfield!!



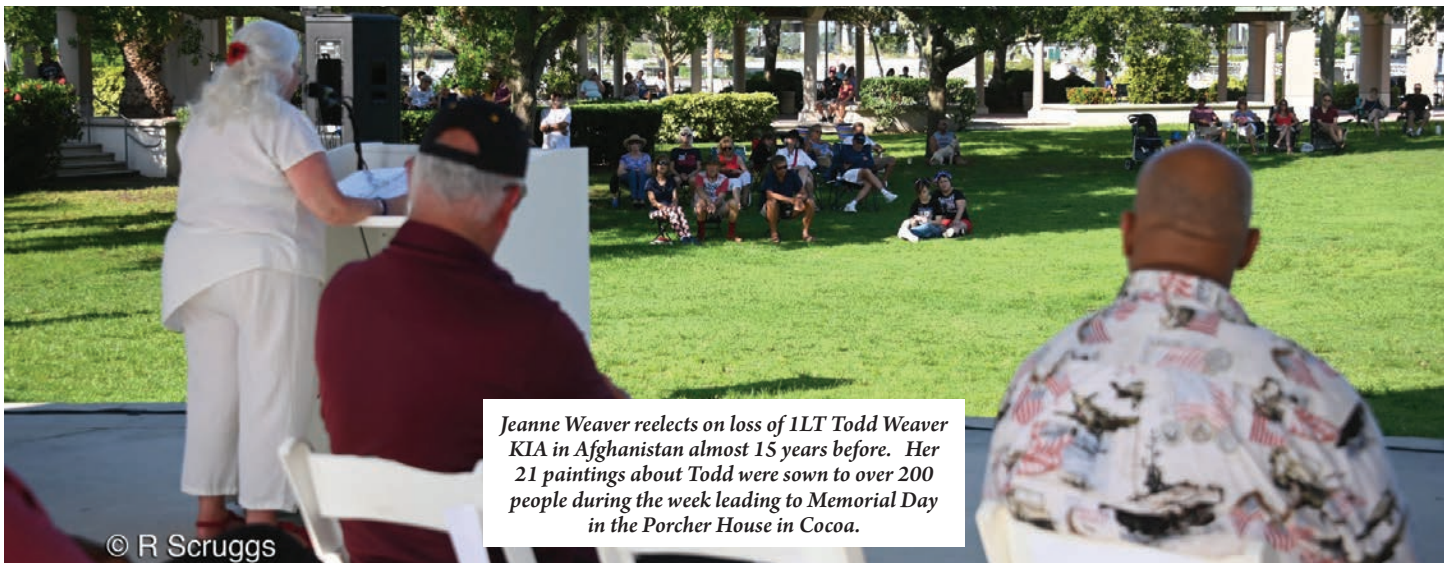
*Jeff Rogers provides moving comments about Sacrifice in Vietnam.*



*Hans Hunt reflects on similar memories of friends lost since 9/11*

On the same Day, the Cocoa Riverfront Ceremony was held in front of 200. Weaver was again the MC and Gold Star Mother Jeanne Weaver the keynote speaker. St Francis Reflections Hospice and Life-Stage Care veterans' leader and MOAACC coordinator for SFR, Joy Casey also spoke.

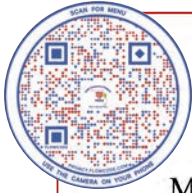
Elsewhere in the county, more than 600 attended the Memorial Day Ceremony at the Cape Canaveral National Cemetery; 200 in Titusville, 150 at the Liberty Bell museum and several others.



*Jeanne Weaver reflects on loss of 1LT Todd Weaver KIA in Afghanistan almost 15 years before. Her 21 paintings about Todd were sown to over 200 people during the week leading to Memorial Day in the Porcher House in Cocoa.*



## Please Renew Your 2025 Membership!



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

☐ New Chapter Annual ☐ New Chapter Life ☐ **ANNUAL RENEWAL** ☐ Change of Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

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City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Service \_\_\_\_\_ Member DOB \_\_\_\_\_

Check appropriate box:

☐ Retired ☐ Active Duty ☐ Widow (er) ☐ Spouse of Member

☐ Regular ☐ Reserve ☐ Nat'l Gd ☐ Former Officer

Member of National MOAA? Y / N Member

If No, may we sign you up for a no-charge MOAA National Basic Membership? \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



**Chapter Membership \$20**

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Age	Fee	Age	Fee
40-49	\$460	80-89	\$155
50-59	\$400	90-99	\$75
60-69	\$330	100+	No cost
70-79	\$235		

Life membership payable over three consecutive months. Make checks payable to MOAACC or pay online at MOAACC.org. Dues and Fees include subscription to **THE INTERCOM** News Magazine and Five Things e- Newsletter.



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**January 31-Feb 7,  
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## Email Security: A Guide for Seniors

By: Michael Schroeder, COL (ret) US Army

In today's connected world, email is a vital tool for staying in touch with family, friends, and managing personal matters. However, seniors who are not as familiar with computers may find it challenging to navigate the online landscape safely. The good news is, by following a few simple guidelines, you can keep your email account secure and avoid common threats like scams and identity theft.

1. **Recognize Phishing Scams:** Phishing emails are attempts to trick you into sharing personal information, such as passwords or bank account details. Be suspicious of emails that urge you to act quickly or ask for sensitive information. Legitimate businesses never ask for personal details through email.
2. **Verify the Sender:** Before clicking on any links or opening attachments, always double-check the sender's email address. A common tactic used by scammers is to disguise their email address to look like a legitimate one, so be extra cautious with unfamiliar names or addresses that look slightly different from trusted sources.
3. **Use Strong, Unique Passwords:** Create passwords that are difficult to guess, and avoid using the same password for multiple accounts. A strong password combines upper and lowercase letters, numbers, and special characters. Consider using a password manager to help keep track of your login details securely.
4. **Enable Two-Factor Authentication (2FA):** Two-factor authentication adds an extra layer of security by requiring a second verification step (like a text message or authentication app) in addition to your password. Enabling this feature is an effective way to prevent unauthorized access to your email account.
5. **Be Careful with Attachments and Links:** Never open attachments or click on links in emails from unknown senders, as they may contain harmful software (malware) or lead to phishing websites. If you are unsure about an email, delete it without interacting with its contents.
6. **Keep Your Software Updated:** Make sure your computer's operating system and antivirus software are up to date to protect against the latest security threats. Regular updates help patch any vulnerabilities that scammers may exploit.
7. **Use Secure Connections:** Avoid using public Wi-Fi networks when checking email or entering sensitive information. If possible, use a Virtual Private Network (VPN) to enhance security.

By following these steps, you can enjoy email communication with confidence and avoid falling victim to common scams. Stay informed, stay cautious, and always prioritize your security online.

## MOAACC Supports NOTU 2QFY25 Sailors of the Quarter

by LCDR Dan Levy, USN (former)

On Wednesday, May 14th, MOAACC participated in the Naval Ordnance Test Unit (NOTU) Mission Partners Social and Quarterly Awards Ceremony held at the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center in Merritt Island. MOAACC members in attendance included Lt Col Joe Tichich, USAF, LCDR Dean Schaaf, USN, and LCDR Dan Levy, USN. MOAACC presented certificates of recognition and \$100 awards each to the 2QFY25 Junior and Senior sailors of the Quarter: MT1(SS)Alberto Laborda Rosado and ETV2(SS) Ben Bolden McMillan. As MT1 Laborda Rosado is on temporary duty assignment, he was represented by his section chief, Chief Petty Officer James Hearing.

The event was hosted by the new NOTU Commanding Officer CAPT Doug Pratt, USN, who highlighted the accomplishments of the two awardees while recognizing the community support by MOAACC and all the Mission Partners. In addition, NOTU continues to celebrate their 75th (diamond) anniversary of the command and its predecessor units. MOAACC's Good Deeds Foundation issued the cash awards.

The next event is set for July 16, 2025 at 3pm and will return to the Greenhouse on Cape Canaveral Space Force Station. If you are interested in attending, please contact Dan Levy.



## 6th BDE US ARMY JROTC HQS Division Recognizes Cape Canaveral Chapter

In late May the Cape Canaveral Chapter of MOAA received an unexpected and rare award. Our Chapter, and its Good Deeds Foundation (GDF, )received a Certificate of Appreciate and a Brigade Challenge Coin from the 6th BDE HQS of the Army JROTC program for the entire southeast portion of our country.

The Certificate read in part that the GDF has contributed thousands of dollars and many hours in support of the Cocoa High School JROTC Tiger BN. It recognized GDF's "Outstanding support to cadet learning and achievement and the personal thanks" of COL Josua Olander and his staff at the Brigade.

In response, GDF President Donn Weaver wrote:

*To 6th BDE Army JROTC Leadership,*

*On behalf of the nearly 1000 members of MOAACC, the largest MOAA Chapter in the country, and our Good Deeds Foundation, thank you very much for the citation and challenge coin. We appreciate you acknowledging our determination to support all seven Army JROTC units, as well as 7 others in Brevard County.*

*While supporting youth is our most important pillar in the GDF, and is very rewarding in itself, getting so recognized means a great deal. Last FY we were able to contribute over \$55,000 and lots of other support in events to the combined JROTC programs and hope to do even more next year.*

*There are few post Army career jobs that can equal that of a good JROTC Instructor. Brevard county has the highest percentage of JROTC cadets to overall student populations in Florida, so their work is demanding and crucial. Keep sending the cadets great instructors.*

*CPT Donn A. Weaver USA (Former)*



*The Award is presented as school ended for the year.  
(L-R: SFC Freddy Moreno, Weaver, COL Joe Pavone, and SFC David Mercer)*

## Sea Cadets Host Festive Awards Ceremony at IRCC

The Navy Sea Cadets Corps of Courageous Division hosted their annual Awards Banquet at IRCC on 31 May, 2025. The Division has grown to 25 cadets with only one graduating this year. The MOAACC Challenge coin and GDF \$250 in cash was presented to Cadet Williams by Jerry Gill. Williams will have a key leadership role in the 2025-26 school year. Other MOAACC members attended the event including Jose Prieto who presented VFW and AM Legion Awards and Paul Julian who is part of the Sea Cadets leadership team. GDF Pres. Donn Weaver congratulated the cadets and promised more support next year including from the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center, home base of Courageous Division.





## Women Veterans Day Celebration

### Rosa Reich, Capt USAF (fmr), 1st VP MOAACC



On June 12, 1948, the Women's Armed Services Integration Act was signed into law by President Harry S. Truman. The act made way for women to serve as military members and making them deserving of full recognition as veterans. An exception to this act was that women were not to serve in combat.

Though women had served in all conflicts, they were not considered as part of the regular military. For example, during WW II, they were to serve for the "duration plus six months."

Gen. Eisenhower told Congress after the war, that when the formation of women's units was first proposed, "I was violently against it." Then he added, "Every phase of the record they compiled during the war convinced me of the error of my first reaction." Eisenhower went on to fight for a permanent place for women in the US Armed Forces.

As of 2020, women veterans make up approximately 9% of the total veteran population in the United States. However, this percentage is projected to increase to 18% by 2040. Recent enlistments have a rate of approximately 20% women joining the military.

The first celebration of Women Veterans Day occurred on the 70th anniversary of the act, June 12, 2018. While it is not yet a federally recognized celebration, we have been celebrated in Brevard County since 2023. Organized by AVET Project, a Brevard County nonprofit that supports veterans, this year's celebration was held at the Holiday Inn Melbourne-Viera Conference Center. Close to 150 women vets attended the lunch. Several MOAACC members were also in attendance, sitting at the MOAACC Good Deed's sponsored table. The toast to the women veterans was delivered by Donn Weaver.

The event was also a chance for camaraderie and learn about services available to veterans. As an attendee to this event the past three years, it has been my honor to meet so many women showing their pride at having served, and thanks to that act in 1948, be recognized as veterans.

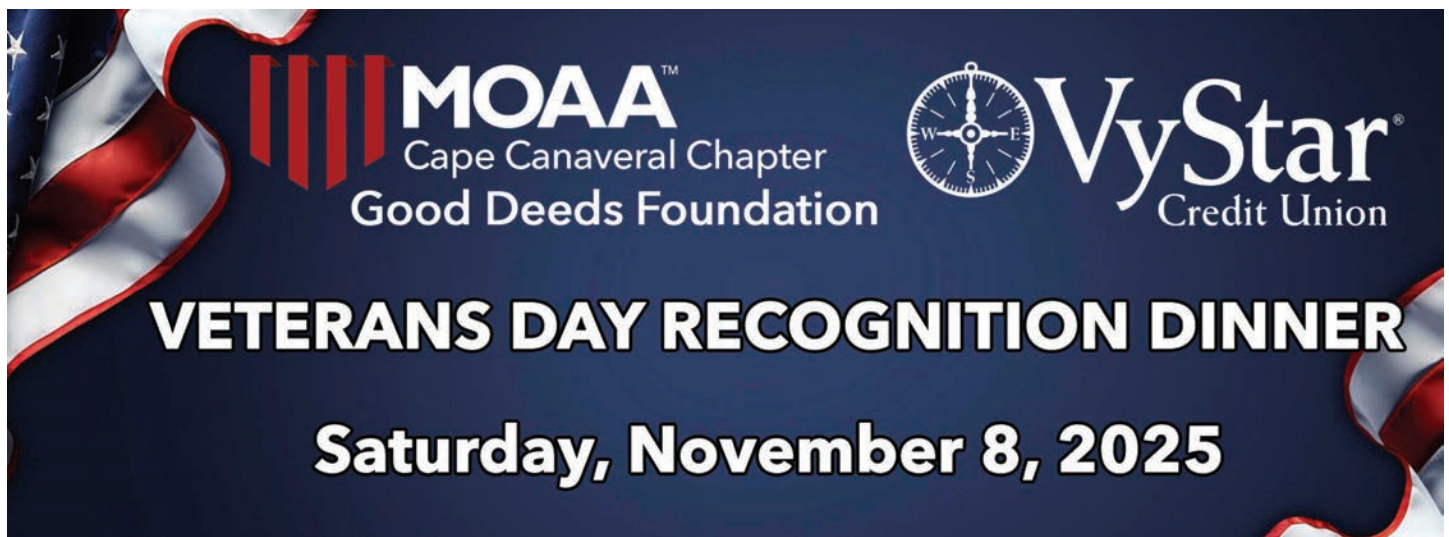


*The MOAACC Table*



*Civil Air Patrol Presents the Colors*





**Location:** Holiday Inn Viera Conference Center

**Cocktails:** 5:15 PM **Dinner:** 6:00 PM

Join us for an evening of honor and gratitude as we recognize individuals, associations, and projects that make a significant impact on military veterans in Brevard County. This special event will feature awards based on public nominations, and all proceeds will directly benefit the Military Officers Association of America, Cape Canaveral (MOAACC) Good Deeds Foundation (GDF).

**GDF provides funding for JROTC/ROTC, Active Duty Military and Veterans Assistance programs in Brevard County.**

## Sponsorship Opportunities

Our dinner presents a unique opportunity for corporations, service organizations, and community groups to contribute to this meaningful cause while gaining visibility in the Brevard County community.

**MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation is a registered 501(c)(3) organization.**

### Platinum Sponsor – \$10,000

- Two tables (20 seats)
- Full-page ad in the dinner program
- Logo featured in all recognition dinner advertisements
- Lobby display table at the event
- Listing on the MOAACC website Sponsors page

### Gold Sponsor – \$5,000

- One table (10 seats)
- Half-page ad in the dinner program
- Logo featured in event advertisements

### Table Sponsor – \$1,250

- One table (10 seats)

**To Become a Sponsor**

Go to [GDFD.ORG](http://GDFD.ORG)

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4. When Shopping Cart appears, verify your item, and click "**edit**" below shirt information on left.
5. Enter your name and Branch (U.S. Air Force, etc.), click on the color of shirt you desire, select your size by placing the number of shirts you are ordering in the box of the appropriate size. Click "**Add to Cart**"
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8. Complete Shipping/Billing Info, check first two blocks at bottom of page and then click "**Proceed to Shipping Method**".
9. Select "**Pick up at Your School** (for store pickup) or **FedEx Shipping** (additional charge shown) Select "**Proceed**".
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\$500 foursome

Post-tournament luncheon after play.  
All proceeds to benefit our youth outreach programs



For more information and to register, visit [tai-cfl.org](http://tai-cfl.org)

## VMRI Opens with Moving Wreath Laying Ceremony at Wickham Park

By: Donn Weaver, Cpt (fmr) USA



MOAACC group with our recruiting and information canopy at the All Veterans Reunion in Wickham Park on Saturday, Melbourne on 10 May



The 37th Annual Vietnam and GWOT Walls opening ceremony may have had a different feeling on 05 May when the Wreath Laying Ceremony Began, but it was well attended and moving as always. For the first time in 37 years of history of the event in Brevard, Vietnam Era veterans

had passed the torch to a new generation of veterans from Desert Storm and later who create a new Organization for the event All Veteran Reunion Memorial, Inc (VMRI). The new leaders staged a great ceremony with many traditional elements, but some very different than years past when the Vietnam and All Veterans of Brevard (VVB) ran the huge event which attracts thousands over the course of a full week (04-11 May).



More than 115 Veteran and Civic Organizations paid their respect to the more than 58,000 KIA in Vietnam and more than 8000 so far killed in combating terrorism since the USS Cole. The events wrapped up just as rain began to fall about 1930 that night: An appropriate end to the ceremony.







## MEMBERS ONLY CORNER

Photos submitted by MOAACC members.

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- Please provide names and captions
- Send to: [intercom@moaacc.org](mailto:intercom@moaacc.org)

### *Sailor of the Quarter*



**Sailor of the Quarter DC2 Christopher O'Conner USCG presented by CWO4 Dan McIntyre USCGR (Ret)**

Please Join  
Sheriff Wayne Ivey & Saint  
At The Annual

**4<sup>th</sup> of July**  
★★★★ Parade

**10:00 AM START**

PARADE ROUTE:  
MERRITT ISLAND HIGH SCHOOL,  
HEAD SOUTH ON COURTNEY PKWY.  
AND THEN EAST ON MERRITT  
AVENUE ENDING AT EDGEWOOD  
JR/SR HIGH

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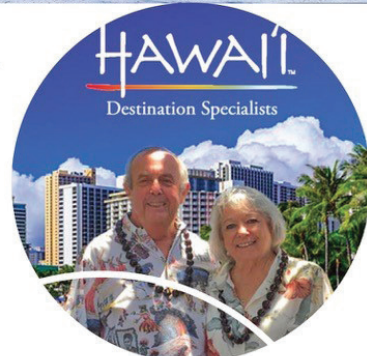


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