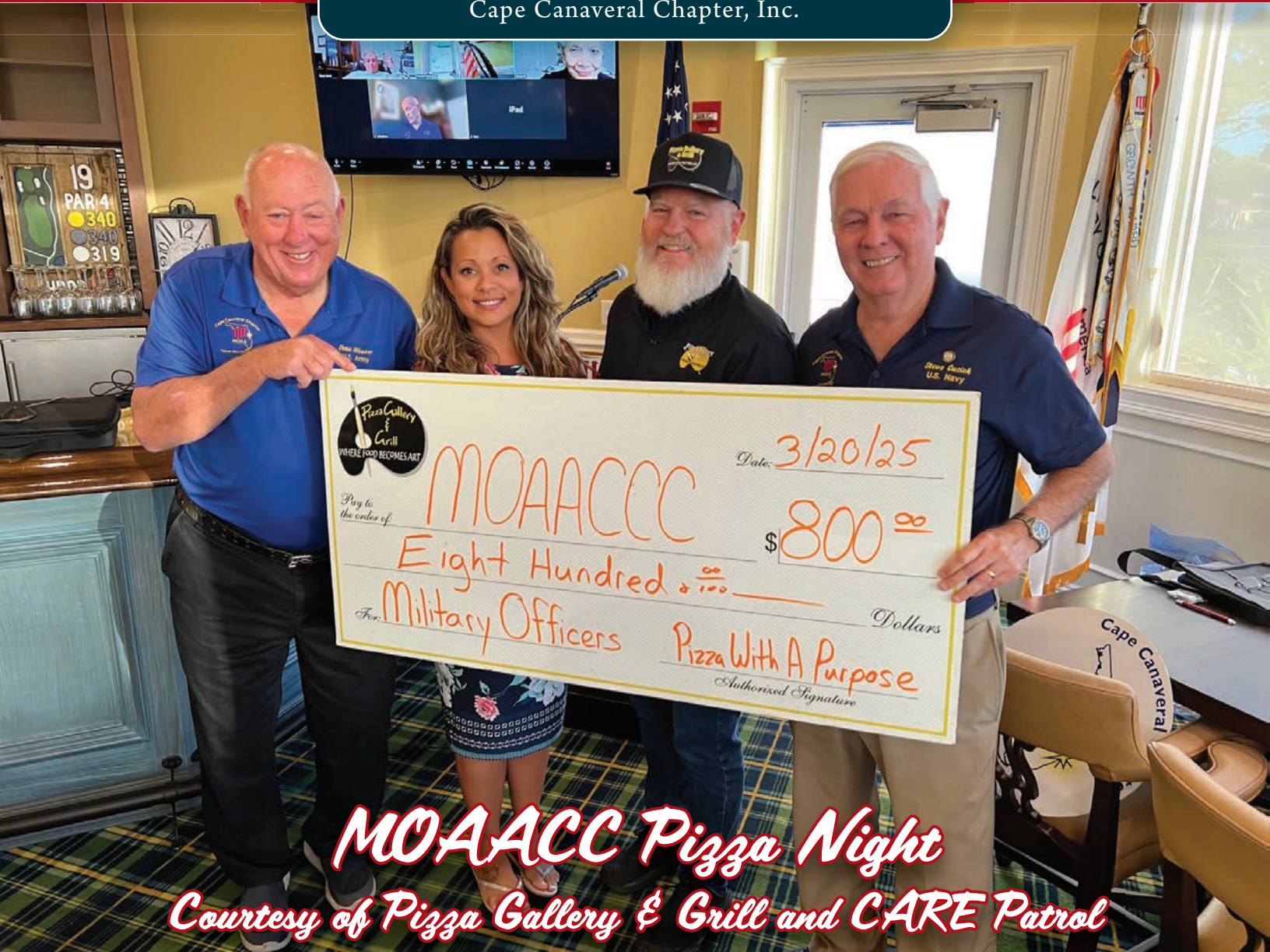




The INTERCOM

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
Cape Canaveral Chapter, Inc.



MOAACC Pizza Night

Courtesy of Pizza Gallery & Grill and CARE Patrol

On March 11th, Pizza Gallery and Grill in Viera partnered with CARE Patrol to host a pizza night in support of MOAACC. Together, they presented \$800 to the Good Deeds Foundation at TMBC. Pictured from left to right: Donn Weaver, President of the Good Deeds Foundation; Jeanna Rodriguez, Senior Care Advisor at CARE Patrol; Chris Conneen, Owner of Pizza Gallery & Grill; and Steve Cusick, President of MOAACC.



To take action with MOAA, visit: <https://moaa.quorum.us/>
MOAA and MOAACC are non-partisan organizations



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

**Steve Cusick, CAPT, USN (Ret),
President, MOAACC**

ALWAYS REMEMBER OUR VETERANS & NEVER STOP SERVING



A recent important policy statement from MOAA Headquarters dated March 5, 2025, made the following cogent points which I quote in pertinent part:

“Budget constraints must be addressed – even within DoD and the VA, but cuts should not come at the expense of those who have given so much”...“MOAA stands ready to work in a bipartisan way to ensure that we as a nation, fulfill

the promises made to those who serve and have served – along with their families. Now is not the time to erode our servicemembers’ earned benefits. Rather, it is time to find solutions” (End quote, emphasis added)

Among MOAA’s legislative priorities for this year include the following:

- Fixing numerous problems and challenges with Health care delivery systems.
- Improve housing funding and condition transparency for servicemembers in unaccompanied government quarters.
- Ending the VA Wait for the processing of claims of Toxic-exposed Veterans.
- Plus, strong MOAA advocacy regarding emerging pay and benefit issues.

Of course, I am truly proud that our chapter leads the nation in MOAA Legislative Advocacy; by our sending hundreds of emails to our elected officials in Washington in support of the MOAA National legislative agenda. Let’s keep it up during the MOAA Advocacy in Action campaign.

Please be advised that through constant efforts, MOAA will always seek to ensure that servicemembers, veterans, retirees and their families - *“who have sacrificed so much”* – continue to receive the pay and benefits earned through their loyal service.

Fellow members, NOW it is time to SPRING INTO ACTION and protect our benefits. In other words, in a bipartisan way, please always remember to **NEVER STOP SERVING**.

P.S. - A CONTINING CHALLENGE goal. Please share the MOAACC message and LET’S INCREASE OUR MEMBERSHIP TO OVER 1000! Remember, every one of us is a recruiter. Hans Hunt is standing by to build our membership and will gladly accept new member referrals. Please invite your eligible friends and neighbors to join us, refer them to Hans or better yet personally bring them to an event or luncheon. Thank you very much!

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Rita Shapiro, CAPT (Ret)

A Note of Gratitude

It appears that just the other day I was offering my gratitude for the opportunity to serve the Mighty MOAACC as the new executive editor for the wonderful Intercom Newsletter. Now I must share that I have decided to relocate back to colder climates as soon as I am able to sell my house. So sadly, I must pass the “pen” for this magazine to another. John Franco has kindly offered to shoulder this worthy task. Fortunately, this offers a period of time for us to have a good transition. We will also have more people, Fran Majcher and Dave Coby who will be helping with actual editing of the submitted articles.

(Remember the criteria: Font: 12 pt Times New Roman, Size: no more than 375 words, photos in .jpg format and with proper captions e.g. who, what, where)

I’m so grateful for the opportunity to have worked with each of you. Your support and friendship have made my time here truly special. Thank you for all your help, guidance, and support. I’ve learned so much from each of you. I am thankful for the memories and experiences we’ve shared and will cherish them always.

You all epitomize our motto “Never Stop Serving”

~ Humbly ~ Rita Shapiro

CURRENT AFFAIRS



MOAACC-TMBC Current Affairs Presentation - March 2025

Dr. Jeffrey Saluck of St. Francis Reflections provided an insightful discussion on hospice and palliative care, addressing common misconceptions and emphasizing the benefits of early intervention. He also highlighted the “We Honor Veterans” program. The photo captures the presentation of the coveted MOAACC challenge coin.

Pictured (L-R): Steve Cusick, MOAACC President; from St. Francis Reflections - Dr. Jeffrey Saluck, Joy Casey, and Elana Pitcher.

APRIL EVENTS

(Click Event for Details)

- 4/3 Current Affairs Forum w/Dr. Kevin Hrabinski OD, Optometrist (Patrick SFB Family Eye Care) - 8 AM @ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 4/8 On-The-Go Luncheon - 11:30 AM @ Niki's Rainbow Restaurant, Satellite Beach
- 4/10 TMBC - 8 AM @ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 4/15 MOAACC Board of Directors Meeting - 11:30 AM @ Indian River Colony Club - Chapel
- 4/15 MOAACC Luncheon ROTC & JROTC Awards Ceremony - 11:30 AM @ Indian River Colony Club - Colony Hall
- 4/16 National Healthcare Decisions Day - 10 AM @ Crescent Wood Senior Living - Titusville
- 4/17 TMBC - 8 AM @ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 4/18 Senior Resource Fair - 1 PM @ Indian River Colony Club - Colony Hall
- 4/24 TMBC - 8 AM @ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole

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

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

INTERCOM Photo & Article Submission Rules

PHOTOS:

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

ARTICLES:

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

DEADLINES & SUBMISSION EMAIL:

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

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- THE 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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- The advertisements that appear in this publication do not reflect an endorsement by MOAA or by MOAACC
- Comments and suggestion are welcome. Contact EXECUTIVE EDITOR: intercom@moaacc.org

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FACEBOOK: Tim Pishdad

MOAA/Florida Council of Chapters Liaison: Marilyn Sanford



LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

John R. McMahon, BG (Retired), USA

Moving Forward

Last week, the Senate passed a Continuing Resolution (CR), previously approved on a largely partisan basis by a narrow margin of 54-46 votes, in the Republican-controlled House, to fund the government through the end of September. It replaced the previous existing CR which expired on 14 March. Since the turn of the century, this is the fourth time a “full year” CR has been used to fund the government instead of relying on the “normal” appropriations process. Full-year CRs were enacted for FY2007, FY2011, and FY2013, and they seem to have “worked” in the sense that they avoided a government shutdown with its attendant furlough of federal workers, shuttered agencies, and uncertainty over programs. This full-year CR did all that in part to prevent supercharging the chaos and dysfunction we’re currently seeing in Washington, which could only worsen with the expanded executive authority during a government shutdown.

This CR funds the government based on appropriations levels set last year. The bill provides FY2025 appropriations for federal agencies and extends various expiring programs and authorities. It also includes several additional provisions that increase or decrease funding for various programs compared to FY2024 levels. Specifically, it cuts \$13 Billion in non-defense spending while increasing defense spending by \$6 Billion and gives the President more flexibility for direct funding, including a recent Administration request for more money for Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

In addition, the bill extends several expiring programs and authorities, including:

- several public health, Medicare, and Medicaid authorities and programs.
- the National Flood Insurance Program.
- authorities related to the Commodity Futures Trading Commission whistleblower program.
- the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) National Cybersecurity Protection System.
- authorities for DHS and the Department of Justice to take certain actions to mitigate a credible threat from an unmanned aircraft system.
- and several immigration-related programs and authorities, among others.

The good news is that baseline government funding is secured for the remainder of the fiscal year. Meanwhile, the Republicans’ reconciliation plan, which has a lower threshold (a simple majority instead of 60 votes in the Senate) to pass must be addressed with a solid plan and a united front with the Democrats.

The Reconciliation process has begun with competing Budget Resolutions. Both the House and the Senate have released their Budget Resolutions, passed on a partisan basis. The Senate Budget

Committee introduced a budget resolution for FY 2025 on 12 February. The House Budget Committee introduced a budget resolution for FY 2025 on 13 March. A budget resolution from one chamber of Congress can include reconciliation instructions to committees in the other chamber but does not have to. The FY2025 House budget resolution did not include Senate instructions. However, the Senate’s budget resolution’s instructions to the House were included and mirrored their own targets. If approved by both the House and Senate, the reconciliation process will proceed enabling major tax-and-spending legislation to fast track and bypass the Senate’s 60-vote filibuster rule with a simple majority.

While the reconciliation bill’s ultimate deficit impact is yet to be determined, the topline instructions in the Senate allow for an up to \$515 billion deficit increase over 10 years. Due to overlapping instructions between two Senate committees, the reported topline is an up to \$342 billion deficit increase, the difference attributable to separate tax policy to come in a second bill later in the year. House Republicans hope to leverage the reconciliation process this year to extend and expand on expiring tax cuts, with the topline allowance for an up to \$3.3 trillion deficit increase over 10 years.

What must follow is a coordinated Budget Resolution with some deference by one chamber to the other if the process is to unfold as the Republicans intend. And with the tight margins in the House, the Republicans may struggle to keep together a majority for their plan. They did so in this last round of passing the full year CR for FY 2025 with the capitulation by the Senate Minority led by Senator Schumer (D-NY) so their momentum may carry them forward to successive victories. More to follow.

Your future. Our focus.



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FINANCIAL LITERACY

CAPT Bob Houle, USCG (retired)

The Strategic Investor: Applying Military Decision-Making to Financial Success (Part 2)

In Part 1, we explored how the OODA loop (Observe, Orient, Decide, Act) serves as a valuable framework for financial decision-making. Now, we shift our focus to what truly defines a **sophisticated investor**—one who not only manages risk but also continuously refines their financial strategy through education, discipline, and adaptability.

The Sophisticated Investor's Mindset

Sophisticated investors understand that financial success is not about reacting to short-term market fluctuations but about maintaining a disciplined, informed approach. This means continually assessing risk, identifying opportunities, and making calculated adjustments based on data rather than emotions. Just as military strategy requires foresight and adaptability, financial planning benefits from continuous learning and strategic execution.

- 1. Thinking Long-Term** – Short-term market movements can be unpredictable, but long-term trends provide valuable insight. A sophisticated investor focuses on overarching economic shifts, tax policy changes, and retirement planning strategies rather than day-to-day stock price fluctuations.
- 2. Risk Awareness & Management** – Recognizing risk is not the same as avoiding it. Successful investors use diversification, asset allocation, and contingency planning to mitigate potential downsides while positioning themselves for sustainable growth.
- 3. After-Action Reviews (AARs) for Financial Decisions** – In military operations, AARs are used to analyze what went well and what can be improved. Sophisticated investors apply the same approach by periodically reviewing their financial decisions, evaluating past investment choices, assessing portfolio performance, and learning from mistakes to refine their strategies.
- 4. Financial Literacy & Continuous Learning** – The best investors never stop learning. Whether it's understanding new investment vehicles, tax laws, or estate planning techniques, ongoing education is a hallmark of financial sophistication.

The Role of MOAACC's Financial Literacy (FinLit) Program

For over five years, the MOAACC Financial Literacy (FinLit) program has been a vital resource for chapter members, offering practical guidance on financial security and independence. Through **educational articles, webinars, curated resources, and interactive discussions**, the program equips members with the tools they need to make informed decisions. Whether navigating retirement, estate planning, or investment strategies, FinLit provides actionable insights tailored to the needs of our diverse membership.

Your Input Matters

As we continue to refine and expand our FinLit offers, we want to hear from you. What financial topics interest you most? Are there specific challenges or investment strategies you'd like us to explore in future articles and programs? Your feedback will help shape upcoming discussions, ensuring we address the most relevant and valuable topics for our MOAACC community. Please take a couple of minutes and share your ideas with us by filling out [this survey](#).

We encourage you to reach out with your ideas, and together, we'll continue building a financially informed and prepared membership. Stay engaged, stay informed, and keep applying the strategic mindset that has served you so well in your military career to your financial future.

Never Stop Serving!

 Exclusively Serving Veterans And
Military Families Like Yours.

Experience Unparalleled
Personal Service From a
Team of Seasoned
Professionals
- Focused Solely on the
Military Community.



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POINTS TO PONDER

Chap, LtCol, Thomas Unrath USAF (Ret)



Last month Chaplain Bill Adams began a series of “Points to Ponder” articles featuring each of the service songs from our military branches. Of course he started with the Army song, “The Army Goes Rolling Along.”

This month we continue with the Air Force song. I’m from the Air Force, I’m not just a retired AF chaplain. I grew up in the USAF. My father was a career logistics officer. I was first introduced to the words and music at an age before my conscious memory began:

“Off we go into the wild blue yonder,
Flying high into the sun;
Here they come zooming to meet our thunder
At ‘em now, give ‘em the gun!
Down we dive, spouting our flame from under,
Off with one helluva roar!
We live in fame or go down in flame. Hey!
Nothing will stop the US Air Force!”

In 1937 Brig Gen Hap Arnold, Assistant Chief of the Air Corps, convinced his boss, Air Corps Chief Maj Gen Westover, that they needed a song for their Corps like the other services had. A contest was set up with a gift of \$1000 from Liberty magazine as the prize. A committee of senior officers’ wives was given the task of selecting the winner. In 1939 a music instructor, Robert Crawford, submitted his composition which was chosen.

There are four verses to the song and most people only hear or know the first. Verses 1, 2 and 4 are a sprightly, march-time song with the same melody. The second and third verses look to the past. The third verse has a different melody and a more somber text:

“Here’s a toast to the host
Of those who love the vastness of the sky.
To a friend we send a message of the brave
Who serve on high.
We drink to those who gave their all of old
Then down we soar to score the rainbow’s pot of gold.
A toast to the host of those we boast, the US Air Force!”

This song not only gives the USAF members a rousing number to sing and march to, it gives us an opportunity to remember we are part of a long line of Airmen who have served previously and gotten us to where we are. We know our time in the USAF is included in this gathering of those before and after us.

HEALTHY LIVING

Rita Shapiro, MA, DPT

Manage Your Back Pain - Do Not Let it Manage You!

Low back pain (LBP) is one of the most common health problems among older adults that results in pain and disability. Older adults, aged 65 years or above, are the second most common age group to visit physicians for LBP.

There are things people can do to help themselves:

1. **Adequate Activity:** Simple activities such as walking and stretching are much better than bed rest. Activities help produce endorphins which are a body’s own pain killer.
2. **Ice and Heat Therapy:**
 - **ICE:** Most episodes of acute severe low back pain tend to be related to a spike in inflammation. To control that apply ice or even a frozen bag of peas or corn. (Ice is not recommended for older adults with diabetes or other nerve conditions)
 - **HEAT:** Low back pain is commonly related to muscle spasms or stiffness from osteoarthritis. Application of a heat pack will relax muscles and increase the range of motion of the lower back. (Heat is not recommended for people with dermatitis, heart condition or diabetes)
3. **Exercises:**
 - **POOL:** Gentle exercises in a warm swimming pool are as effective as other supervised exercises. The buoyancy provided by the aquatic environment is a safer alternative for older adults.
 - **DYNAMIC and CORE STABILITY:** Older adults who perform dynamic stability exercises have stronger muscles and can better avoid injury from falls. Strengthening the core muscles helps improve overall stability, posture, and steadiness while walking.
 - **AEROBIC:** Simple as walking, riding a stationary bike or group water exercises can be crucial to managing back pain.



Remember: MOTION IS LOTION – so KEEP MOVING



Mark Your Calendar!

Save the Dates for upcoming MOAACC Events:

15 April 2025: ROTC & JROTC Awards Ceremony

08-11 May 2025: 37th Annual All Veterans Reunion

20 May 2025: MOAACC Luncheon to Honor Students with Service Academy Appointments or ROTC Scholarships

15 June 2025: Scholarship Application Process Closes

15 July 2025: Scholarship Award Presentations

18 November 2025: MOAACC Luncheon & Annual Membership Business Meeting

5 December 2025: MOAACC Annual Christmas Dinner Dance

Space Coast Navy Wives' Club

Please join us for our next luncheon on Friday, April 11 2025 at The Tides. Social hour begins at 11:30am and lunch is served at noon. Please note the change, as we will be meeting the second Friday of the month instead of the third.

Our speaker will be from Beasley Floral.

Menu choices are Chicken with potatoes and vegetables or Tuna Salad on a croissant with a side of pasta salad. Dessert will be Lemon Meringue Pie.

For more information and reservations, please call or text Ellie Joy at (321) 961-2962 no later than noon, Tuesday April 8th.

Remember friends and spouses are always welcome.

MOAACC On-the-Go-Luncheon

The April On-the-Go-Luncheon (OTG) will be on 8 April 2025 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at:

Niki's Rainbow Restaurant

570 Hwy A1A

Satellite Beach, Florida 32937

Contact Toni Lowe: 321-474-6888

Remember, the OTG is a social event for everyone to gather and enjoy the company without the encumbrance of any business. So please come and join your fellow members, families and friends and enjoy a lovely luncheon.



MOAACC MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

New Members for the Month of March

Following new members were approved by the Board of Directors on 18 March 2025, for the MOAACC membership:

Last Name	First Name	Prefix	Service	Component	Duty Status	Membership Level	Member's Sponsor
Andolina	Carrie	LTC	Army	Reserve	Retired	Annual	Ken Lowe
Beasley	Diana	Mrs	Surviving Spouse	Other	Surviving Spouse	Surviving Spouse (Auxiliary)	Ellie Joy
Hoybach	Brian	Colonel	Air Force	Regular	Retired	Annual	Mike Schroeder
Humphrey	Mark	Lt Col	Air Force	Regular	Retired	Annual	Steve Bond
Johnston	Joseph	COL	Army	Regular	Retired	Annual	Steve Cusick
Kaiser	Franck	CPT	Army	Reserve	Former	Life	Mike Schroeder
Lanoue	Richard	Lt Col	Air Force	Regular	Retired	Life	Don Hagen
McCall	Robert	MAJ	Army	Reserve	Former	Annual	Brian Whalen
Papritan	James	COL	Army	Reserve	Retired	Annual	Mike Schroeder
Parks	Monica	Mrs	Surviving Spouse	Other	Surviving Spouse	Surviving Spouse (Auxiliary)	Ellie Joy
Steckler	Teresa	Mrs	Surviving Spouse	Other	Surviving Spouse	Surviving Spouse (Auxiliary)	Ellie Joy
Tharp	Denny	Lt Col	Air Force	Regular	Retired	Life	Brian Whalen




Former, Active, Retired Military Officers,
Warrant Officers & Spouses

JOIN MOAA CAPE CANAVERAL CHAPTER (MOAACC)

- Advocacy from the National to the State and Local levels
- Philanthropy and Community Service
- Comradery with a Purpose


NEVER STOP SERVING

Visit us at: www.MOAACC.org/membership

TAPS

**MOAA CAPE CANAVERAL CHAPTER
MEMBER, AUXILIARY, and SPOUSE DEATHS**
February 2025 deaths listed
for April 2025 Intercom

NONE TO REPORT



As Military Officers, our shared experience of service forms a bond like no other. An 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



**2025 MOAA Signature Group
Burgundy & Provence River Cruise**
September 14-21, 2025

LEARN MORE
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MOAACC President and 1st VP Present the MOAACC Coin pictured L-R: 1st VP Rosa Reich, Mr. James Draper, Pres. Steve Cusick



Chaplain Unrath offers invocation before the luncheon activities



Melbourne High School JROTC Color guard march the Colors

MOAACC March Luncheon

For the MOAACC March Luncheon Mr. James W. Draper the Museum Director for the Cape Canaveral Space Force Museum, was our speaker. He presented his duties at the museum which is administered by Space Launch Delta 45 at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station. He shared his vision for the Museum and also the process for management of prized collections and exhibits at the 30 Museum facilities, including the Sands Space History Center and Hangar C. He also shared the process to obtain tours for the museums located inside the CCSFS.



Presentation of Colors

Every Day is Veterans' Day

On 28 February 2025 the President of the Florida Council of Chapters of the MOAA, Steve Bond, COL (ret) USA, was the keynote speaker the "Every day is Veterans' Day" while Amir Pishdad Jr. LCDR (ret) USN was the Emcee for the event held at the Space Coast Health Foundation in Rockledge, FL.

COL Bond honored and recognized all the veterans present at the event while honoring veterans of the conflicts from WWII to present with these words:

"As we know, Veterans are called on--in times of darkness and danger, and they serve as well as in quieter times. But what ALL American's count on is for our Armed Forces to always be there--protecting and defending our freedoms and taking the fight to our foes when needed. In doing that, they endure hardship and, in some cases, unimaginable challenges that came with their service. They stood shoulder-to-shoulder with their comrades knowing--at times--their very lives were on the line. They faced the uncertainty of war, the grief of loss, and the struggle to reintegrate back into civilian life. Their service spans every decade--going back to the Minutemen who fought the British on the commons of Lexington and Concord during our Revolutionary War--and they have continued to serve every day of our country's existence."

He remembered and honored the lives lost: In WWI - 53,000 deaths, 205,000 wounded and 63,000 who died from illnesses relating to diseases and other war related injuries. The fighting in that war stopped on the 11th hour, of the 11th day, of the 11th month of 1918. That is why the 11th of November is the day each year our country pauses and officially remembers all of America's Veterans.

In WWII – over 407,000 American Servicemembers were killed, 670,000 wounded.

In Vietnam War that ended 50 years ago with over 58,000 of our Military were killed in that conflict.

Finally in the War on Terror that began on 9-11-2001, our Military went to far off places like Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, and others for the Global War-on-Terror, to keep our country safe, and to protect our way of life. In doing so, the military has sustained about 8,000 killed, along with countless injuries—both physical and psychological.

That war continues with no end in sight. Members of OUR Armed Services train and deploy around the world to protect all of us and our freedoms, and our way of life. They sacrifice so much in terms of time, sweat, and sometimes with blood and their lives to serve for something much greater than themselves —This Country and All of US!

And that is why Every Day should be Veterans Day.

Following this poignant speech, all veterans in attendance and their family members were presented with their special US Flag pins pinned on by either veteran volunteers, or the members of the event sponsors. The Brevard Pipe and Drums stole the show with beautiful patriotic music. All present, were then served a box lunch they also heard from the sponsors on various topics such as financial care, medical care, legal care, long-term care and end of life care.

This is an annual event, so make sure to attend next year!



Color Guard Ready to present Colors



Presenting Colors



Cynthia Watkins Pishdad LTC (ret) USA, sings the National Anthem



Steve Bond presents the Keynote Speech



Steve Bond honors all Veterans



MOAACC VP Rosa Reich and Brian Whalen standing ready to pin the flags



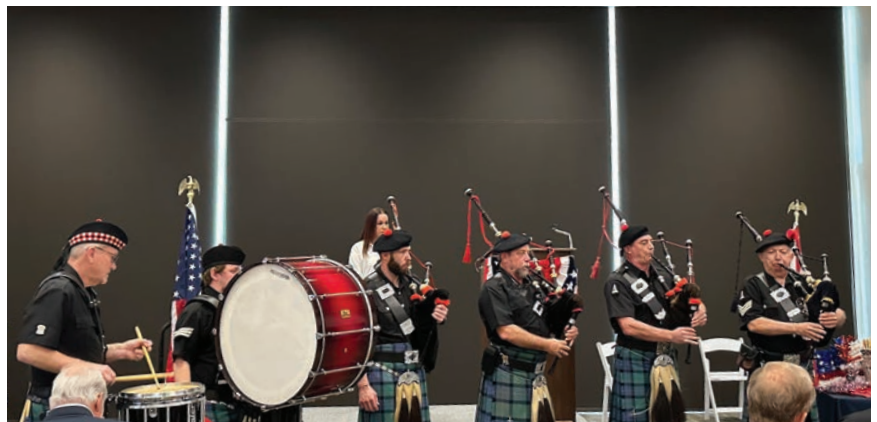
Tim Pishdad talks with a Guard member



Dean Schaaf receives his Flag Pin



Brian Whalen and Rita Shapiro display the special flag card with star



Brevard Pipes and Drums

MOAACC Luncheon Honoring Outstanding Local Cadets

ROTC & JROTC Awards Ceremony

Tuesday, April 15, 2025, | 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Indian River Colony Club

Join us for a special luncheon as we honor the outstanding cadets from Brevard County's ROTC, JROTC, Sea Cadet, and Civil Air Patrol units. These exceptional young men and women represent the future leaders of our nation, demonstrating excellence in leadership, academics, and service.

MOAACC proudly supports 20 cadet programs dedicated to developing tomorrow's military and civilian leaders. Each honored cadet, along with their military science instructor, is invited as our guests. Family members are welcome to attend at their own expense. During the luncheon, each cadet will be recognized for their achievements and presented with a certificate of excellence. Additionally, JROTC cadets will receive the prestigious MOAA Medal and ribbon at their respective unit's award ceremony.

This is a wonderful opportunity to show your support for these exceptional students, meet their instructors and families, and celebrate their accomplishments. Many of these units will also host their own awards ceremonies in the coming weeks, and MOAACC, along with other civic and military organizations, will participate whenever possible.

Luncheon Details:

- Date: Tuesday, April 15, 2025
- Time: Check-in 11:30 AM | Be Seated by 11:55 PM | Program begins promptly at 12:20 PM
- Location: Indian River Colony Club, Colony Hall, 1936 Freedom Drive, Melbourne, FL
- Cost: \$25 per person

Menu Options:

1. Meatloaf with mashed potatoes and vegetables
2. Taco Salad served in a crispy shell with salsa, sour cream, and guacamole
3. Vegetarian Meal (available upon request)

All meals include rolls & butter, coffee & tea, and the chef's dessert selection. A cash bar will be available.

Reservations & Payment:

- RSVP Deadline: April 10, 2025 (to receive meal service)
- Cancellation Deadline: April 11, 2025
- Ways to RSVP:
 - Online: <https://secure.moaacc.org/np/clients/moaacc/event.jsp?event=29269>
 - Email: Grace Catron at events@moaacc.org
 - Phone: (417) 294-0798

Payments can be made online via credit card, at the door, or by mailing a check with your RSVP to:

Michael J. Schroeder

MOAACC Treasurer

1378 Pilgrim Avenue

Melbourne, FL 32940

Join us as we recognize and celebrate the dedication and achievements of these remarkable young cadets. Your presence will make this event even more meaningful!



MOAACC GOOD DEEDS FOUNDATION

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

Good Deeds Has Great Second Quarter of FY 2025



GDF orchestrated our support to the Last Naval Battle 15 March Ceremony (See separate article) with our support to active-duty units, in this case members of the NOTU Saluting Battery which rang out in great 21-gun salute to close the celebration. Above, Linda Jensen of DAR and her granddaughter present the NOTU team a replica of the first official US Navy Flag of 1776-7.

6-7 veteran families from being homeless through Veteran Connections; to \$1500 for the final VA/USG approved Vietnam Veteran welcome home at the Cape Canaveral National Cemetery on 29 March where at least 800 are expected; to funding Navy JROTC Trophies for a Brain Brawl Tournament at Bayside High.

Finally, please help your GDF identify worthy and appropriate military, youth and veteran related community needs that we might be able to support assuming donations pick up. Your GDF is already the best such MOAA organization in the nation, and we want to enhance our impact each year. Check out a number of GDF stories in this issue.

Larry Jackson Donation to GDF



At the TMBC on 13 March Larry Jackson (Center) presented a \$1500 check to the Good Deeds Foundation. GDF President Weaver and MOAACC President Cusick join in appreciation. For many years Larry and his Wife Lynda of Cruise Holidays of Viera, have organized cruises to support GDF and Scholarship Corp. They use a portion of their funds to donate to us Thanks for all that support. Check out the 2026 GDF cruise sign up on the website.

As we head into April, your Good Deeds Foundation (GDF) continues on a great roll in terms of impact, but we need your help to continue the pace through and beyond September. While we have received some great donations year to date, we are behind last year and are looking at private grant options (anyone with such experience, please contact us) and more donations from more MOAACC members. MOAACC has over 940 members now, but less than 40 have given to support our GDF 501c3 the past year.

Next month, look for details about our 08 Nov Veterans Day Recognition Dinner and Fundraiser at the Holiday Inn Viera. By helping to recruit sponsors, getting your other organizations to buy tables, chipping in silent auction items and much more you can help make this the best GDF Fundraiser ever.

This month we want to thank Larry and Lynda Jackson of Cruise Holidays of Viera for their generous donation to GDF of \$1500 as proceeds from the GDF January 2025 Cruise. Check out the photo and story in this issue. We were pleased to support four programs this month ranging from preventing

Rockledge Army JROTC Military Ball



As Brevard's 14 JROTC Schools continue their busy winter/spring programs, on 01 March Rockledge Army JROTC hosted their annual Military Ball at the Cocoa Beach Hilton Oceanfront. More than 220 cadets and their guests attended the festivities shown above just after the formal program ends with the retirement of the colors. LTC Steve Celeste, USA Ret, on the far right orders the retirement of the colors so the dancing can begin. The program included recognition of community partners including the MOAACC GDF and the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center. Celeste, a MOAACC member, also announced a Spring Training program for the Rockledge Raider Team for 2025-26 school year and plans to send Drill Units to State and National meets. Cadet enthusiasm ran high during that celebratory evening.



SCHOLARSHIP CORPORATION

Col D Brent Baysinger, USAF (Ret)

Supporting the Next Generation

Unless you've been stranded on an island you know we've been experiencing generational highs in inflation over the last three years. This price-increasing journey began in 2021, peaked in 2022, yet has persisted and inflation has remained stubbornly elevated through 2025. Despite the deceleration of inflation, I'm sure you are still frustrated by the cost of eggs, meat and everything else at the grocery store compared to pre-Covid.

Just like groceries, college costs continue to rise and the importance of the MOAACC Scholarship Corporation awards remains a vital, meaningful source of funds to help the next generation prepare to enter the workforce. With 10 weeks remaining in the application process, we reiterate to all MOAACC members to help spread the word in reaching eligible candidates. This includes prospective college sophomores up all the way through doctoral students. As a reminder, a scholarship candidate can be eligible through his or her MOAACC sponsor (parent/grandparent); or through a retired military sponsor (parent/grandparent) where the candidate or sponsor resides in Brevard county. It's not too late to apply.

Lastly, a financial contribution to the MOAACC Scholarship Corporation will support future generations and relieve some of the worry students face while reaching for their goals. Further, the Scholarship Corporation is a 501(c)3 organization. Thus, your contributions are fully tax deductible and can help to optimize your tax strategy for the year. Always consult with your financial planner to see how this would work best for you. Contributions of any amount are welcome, but please consider becoming a Distinguished Donor (\$1,000 or more) or a Named Donor (\$10,000 or more). Thank you for your consideration!

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- (None for April)

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Air Rescue Annual Family Day Sets Records

By Donn Weaver, CPT (fmr) USA



GDF Board Member Tom Rozek heading into the event.



More than 10 vehicles and 6 bounce houses were on display for the kids and family to enjoy and learn about up close.

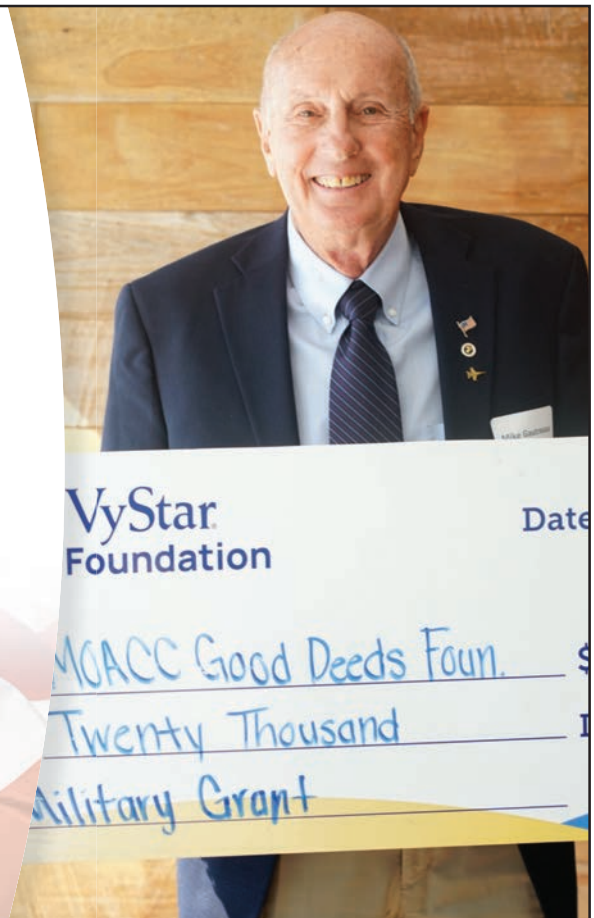
On the beautiful day of 02 March, well over 1000 members of the widely dispersed 920th Air Rescue Wing, their families, friends and supporters enjoyed a very special “Annual Family Day”. There was a great BBQ lunch and dozens of vendors and military aircraft and vehicles on display. GDF members Tom Rozek and Donn Weaver represented MOAACC after the GDF had presented \$1500 to support the event. Tougher security controls on base access caused some to wait over one hour to get to the site with many walking long distances. Once there all seemed happy and enjoyed themselves while honoring and supporting the Air Rescue unique mission. Satellite HS JROTC even had a table and supported the event, giving Rozek and Weaver time to talk to the cadets about upcoming Drill events at VMC. We also had a great discussion with Rescue Foundation President Holly Viet about the event and GDF plans to support them next year. For your Good Deeds Foundation this was indeed a high impact event.

VyStar Foundation is a proud sponsor of MOAACC

On behalf of The Military Officers Association of America (MOAACC), we extend our heartfelt gratitude for VyStar Foundation’s support of The Good Deeds Foundation, allowing us to continue our mission of service and camaraderie. As Vice President of the Good Deeds Foundation and a VyStar member for four decades I am proud of their unwavering support of the military community. Thank you for standing with us as we serve and support those who have served our nation.

Mike Gautreaux

Colonel, USMC (ret)
Vice President, MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation



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Remembering History: JROTC Cadets Say Spring Break?

By: CPT Donn A. Weaver USA (Fmr), President,
Good Deeds Foundation

On 15 March, 227 JROTC cadets from all the Air Force and Space Force Schools used their second day of Spring Break like no other high school students in the county or perhaps country. Cadets from Melbourne, Eau Gallie, Satellite and Space Coast High Schools walked 14 miles at Space Coast High School's athletic fields after a class on the tragic Bataan Death March of WWII. Next year the event will take place at the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center Amphitheater Park with a completed 3.5 km pathway.

While one cadet had to be treated for a heat injury all seemed glad that they came but were full exhausted and ready to begin the next day of their 10-day spring Break.

One cadet shared his family story of have a great uncle perish on their infamous march after the fall of the Philippines.

Each Cadet received a special T-Shirt which marked the 27th year this remembrance has been conducted by AF/SFJROTC Units in Brevard County. BVMC and MOAACC Good Deeds Support helps events like this happen.



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CAREER SUPPORT Transition (TCS)

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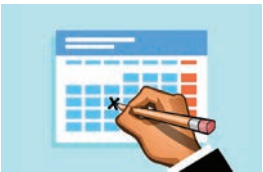
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Unofficial Brevard VMC Vets Calendar

APRIL 2025 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/upcoming-veterans-events/>

Contact donnweaver2020@gmail.com for more information or to participate.

APRIL 2025

TBD April — Back Brevard Heroes Car Show Fundraiser 1000-1500 in the U-Haul and Mall Parking Spaces of Merritt Square Mall. More details and registration info in March.

11 Apr — 4th Annual Golf Tournament Hosted by National Veterans Homeless Support (NVHS) and Sponsored by Northrup Grumman Management Club. Rockledge Country Club 0800- 1300 with Scramble Start. Proceeds Support NVHS 2025 Missions. Prizes and sponsorships available. \$100 per player registration fee. Win a New Car with a Hole in One. Sign up to play or sponsor at: nvhs.org/events

11 Apr — 2025 Shrimp Feast 1800-2200 at Port Canaveral Cruise Terminal 5 (8445 Rowland Dr. Port Canaveral). Cost is \$50 for early birds through 17 March at \$60 afterwards. No tickets at the door. Have fun and support our Propeller Club of Port Canaveral Maritime Education Programs. Cocktails, Shrimp Dinner, Door Prizes, Live. Auction and Dancing. Email propellerclubcanaveral@gmail.com to register and for more information out call 321-698-5269. Also See web site: www.spacecoastshrimpfeast.com

29 Apr — Scouting America Central Florida Council Golden Eagle Dinner at Florida Tech Conference Center 150 W. University Blvd Melbourne, 1800-2100. Fundraising Dinner and Auction to support our youth involved in scouting, many of which are also in JROTC or other Cadet Programs. Donate or Sign up at www.cflscouting.org

29 Apr - BVMC Library Discussion Series 1800-1930 VMC Library. Sandy Straus presents her moving research on the “Treblinka Nazi Death Camp and Its Implications for Today”. Original maps and research will be shared and questions and discussion welcome. Please join this very special event at this time in history — Past and Present. Ms. Straus is a PhD Engineer who works in our Space Program. She had relatives at Treblinka. Contact Paul Julian of VMC for more information.

MAY 2025

04 May — Back Brevard Hero Fest VMC Plaza 1000-1600. Entertainment, food, food trucks, music, special events for kids and much more all to honor our county first responders many of whom are also military veterans.

08-11 May — 37th Veterans Memorial Reunion, Wickham Park 0900-1800 day. Formerly Vietnam Veterans of Brevard Vietnam Reunion. Now hosted by a new organization — Veterans Memorial Reunion, Inc (VMRI) a new 501c3. Vietnam and Global War on Terror Some Gave all walls included. Escort

and wall construction on Sunday 04 May from EFSC to Wickham Park. Vendor registration required and more info at veteransmemorialreunion.org.

15 May — First Annual Military Enlistment Celebration of the Space Coast to recognize and honor those high school seniors or recent graduates from area counties who have enlisted in all six branches of our military services. Viera HS Football Stadium 1730-2000. Free Admission, drinks and snacks available as we witness the initial swearing in of from 2-300 young adults who have chosen to begin their post high school years serving our country. All family members, friends, veterans and the public are welcome to share in this special moment where focused young people have chosen Service before Self. Full details in mid-April. Sponsored by Brevard Public Schools and the veteran community for students of all categories — Public, Private, Charter, Virtual and Home Schooling. Contact Shaun McKinney or Donn Weaver at the Brevard VMC for more information at 321-783-1776.

19-27 May — Gold Star Mother and Artist Jeanne Weaver display of 21 paintings - Losing Todd: A Mother’s Journey. 1LT Todd Weaver, USA was killed in combat in Afghanistan 09 Sep 2010. Porcher House in Cocoa Village 0900-1500 daily. More details in March.

26 May — Brevard Veterans Memorial Day Ceremony VMC Plaza 0930 -1030. Details in March.

26 May — Memorial Day Ceremony at the Cape Canaveral National Cemetery in Mims 1000-1100. Details in March.

26 May — Parade and Memorial Day Ceremony Cocoa Village and Riverfront Park 1500 Parade and 1700 Ceremony. Look for details of the program in March.

27 May — VMC Library Discussion Series “Salute to the First American Service: 250 Years of the US Army”. 1800-1930 hours in the VMC Library. Presented by Army veteran Donn Weaver. An inside look at the history and progression of our largest service branch. Fifty years ago, Weaver taught Basic Training troops about our 200-year-old Army and has managed to keep current. The actual birthday is in June, but this is your chance to get a jump on the crowds and help us cut and eat a special US Army - 250 Cake.

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

**Donn Weaver
Vice President**

**Veterans Memorial Center
donnweaver2020@gmail.com**

Patriot of the Year Awards

With more than 250 in attendance, the Honor America/Liberty Bell Museum Board presented seven Patriot Awards on 27 Feb at the Grand Manor in Melbourne. Sheriff Wayne Ivey was the MC and Liberty Bell Museum Board President Jay Freeland guided the presentations.

The oldest recipient who shall not be named in this space, is closing in on 80. The youngest is a senior at Merritt Island HS and just turned 18. It was a great group of seven recognized for truly exceptional volunteer service to the Space Coast community:



Sheriff Wayne Ivey offering Remarks



Dean Schaaf

is amazing — 27 years in the US Navy enlisted and commissioned, 21 years at NASA, Ret and two decades of volunteer service often over 40 hours per week. Brian Jensen, also a VMC member and senior leader of the Brevard Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution has combined volunteer service for SAR in Brevard. Congratulations to all winners and Good Luck to Liberty Bell Museum and the Honor America Foundation.

John Casey (Businessman and Philanthropist)

Brian Jensen (SAR and Veterans Groups)

Mark Pieloch (Muscle Car Museum/Philanthropist)

Dean Schaaf (VMC Pres and many Vet Groups)

Rose Yeary (American Legion for decades)

Joel Freelans (MIHS Grad; Eagle Scout; ROTC College)

Alex Gregoire (MIHS Senior; Full ROTC Scholarship)

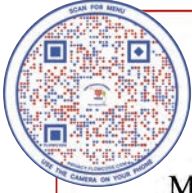
As Veterans Memorial Center (VMC) President as well as MOAA Cape Canaveral Chapter Board Member and many more organizations,

Dean's resume



Sheriff Ivey (L) Congratulates and thanks all seven Patriot Award recipients

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History Remembered: 242nd Anniversary of Special Naval Battle of Florida Coast

By **Donn Weaver, Cpt USA (Fmr)**

Though many in Brevard County are not aware, a crucial naval battle between two American Ships supported by a French Frigate, against two British Ships took place off the SE coast of Cape Canaveral in 1783. Every year the Brevard Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) supported by the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center (BVMC) and the MOAA Cape Canaveral Chapter Good Deeds Foundation (GDF) hosts a ceremony to remember that crucial event and honor the fallen. The battle actually took place after the British surrendered at Yorktown (no internet then), but the American ships contained Spanish gold coins for crucial troop payments enroute from Mexico to New York.



A C-A-R Member views the Parade of Colors

This year on 15 March about 200 attended the event on a beautiful day. SAR Chapters from three states along with Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) from several Florida Chapters as well as the Central Florida Children of the American Revolution with over 80 members



21 Gun Salute with the Canon from NOTU

total in colonial uniforms and garb led a parade of flags and rendered honors with wreaths. The Martine Corps League Det 513 presented the colors along with color guards from the USCG Aux, Sea-Cadets and the BVMC. The XO of the Naval Ordinance Test Unit (NOTU), CDR Brian Purvis, presented a moving keynote address with the full history and linkages to today's navy. The Saluting Battery of NOTU (submarine deck guns on a trailer) ended the pageantry with a 21-gun salute with Don Pearsall of the BVMC playing TAPS!!!

SAR President Christopher Ratzel was the MC while SAR and VMC/MOAACC member organized the wreath and brought his replica 1780 working cannon. The Lonnie and Delinda Beach Band provided the music, audio and a great rendition from a 1783 song about the Queen and her America daughters cutting the cord and dumping tea and more. Dean Schaaf, VMC President and Donn Weaver MOAACC GDF Pres and VMC VP brought greetings and thanks for all who attended and competed with a big boat show in the Merritt Square Mall parking lot.

The media covered the event, and the entire ceremony can be seen on Space Coast Daily website by checking 2025 LNB. In all, it was quite a morning.



Participants in Garb of the time



The NOTU XO, Donn Weaver and Dean Schaff on stage

MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation Supports U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Program at Florida Tech

By: Dan McIntyre, USCG (Ret)

In January 2025, Melbourne-Palm Bay USCGAUX Flotilla 17-2 received a \$3,000 grant from the Good Deeds Foundation to support Auxiliary University Program (AUP) students who are pursuing commissioning in the Coast Guard, NOAA, or Navy. The grant is currently being used for the following purposes: (1) equip students with duty uniforms that include ODUs and Flight Suits; and (2) to cover membership dues for the students.

The Flotilla's goal is to assure that FIT students have minimal costs while participating in AUP. Flotilla leadership additionally cover travel and lunch costs, as well as provide unit T-Shirts (as a morale booster and source of unit pride). We now have 7 students equipped with ODUs as well as some additional uniform items.

AUP students routinely wear their Coast Guard uniforms on campus as do other ROTC cadets. The campus response has been positive, and our AUP members are routinely approached by students curious about the Coast Guard's presence on campus. We're now adding one new student monthly, in part, because of uniform wear and increased awareness.

Florida Tech is a military-friendly university with active outreach programs for military remote learners as well as a veteran supportive environment on-campus. FIT programs feed the local aerospace and defense community on the Space Coast. AUP's focus is to recruit from the greater university population, and from neighboring Eastern Florida State University.



AUP Members in their new uniforms! When classes go long, we throw in lunch as a team building exercise. For those who stay around, we have a lot of fun while continuing to talk about the program, managing careers, and sharing military experience and "war stories."



AUP Member Jadon Duff is sworn into the Auxiliary at the March Flotilla meeting. Flotilla Commander John Kachenmeister (MOAA member – USA ret.) congratulates Jadon while Vice Commander Jamie Robertson looks on (earlier in the day she was performing as a food service professional serving TEAM Coast Guard at Station Port Canaveral). Jadon is a "fast mover," having completed BQ-II, air crew observer, and Program Visitor qualifications while embarking on AUXOP studies. He is a dual computer and aviation science major, and he's beginning a paid internship with Lockheed Martin.

Great Start to JROTC Drill Meet Season

Nearly 180 JROTC cadets from nine Brevard High Schools participated in their first major JROTC Drill meet of the Spring Season. Amphitheater construction required adjustments to the parking and portions of the Veterans Memorial Park being utilized, but all went well, and the cadets showed that they had been practicing hard already. Events including Color Guard, Individual rifle skills, Squad armed and unarmed drills with male, female and mixed teams signed up.

The next JROTC Drill meet is scheduled for 08 March with the District Championship with State Qualifiers competing on 29 March. VMC and MOAACC members are encouraged to visit the meets between 0930-1200 to see the cadets in action and help us present ribbons and trophies.

MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation, as with all JROTC meets, provided the trophies and ribbons with Donn Weaver, Jay Welch and Mike Broski on hand to support the event and help give out awards. The same day, Dan Wilson of MOAACC/SAC led a group supporting the regional USAF/ USSF JROTC Drill meet at Melbourne HS. Almost 500 cadets were involved in both events with many rising before 0500 to get there — not a typical teenager Saturday morning ritual. Look for USAF JROTC photos in the April Edition.



Instructor and Grader Briefing with Jay Welch and Mike Broski from MOAACC on right.



Color Guard Ready to Present Colors



Drill teams from each school ready to parade



Drill team put through required actions.



Awaiting the results

JROTC Drill Meet Shows Mid-Season Form



On 08 March 2025, a picture-perfect Florida “Winter Day”, approximately 300 JROTC cadets from 11 High Schools in three counties came to the Veterans Memorial Center Park (VMP) to compete with their hearts and determination. They also saw great progress on the construction of a \$8.2 Million Amphitheater, Concession Building and many other upgrades to the VMC Park. The VMP Goal of completion by early November 2025, seems more realistic every week.

The 82-acre Park still had plenty of room for this drill meet and the 29 March JROTC State Qualifying Drill Meet. Soon thereafter the available portions on the VMP will host two huge Easter Egg hunts in April for kids of all ages.

In addition to all seven Brevard based Army JROTC Units, the Drill Meet included Satellite HS Air Force Color Guard, and three Army JROTC programs from Indian River and Orange Counties.

The events included Color Guard, Individual and dual rifle drills, armed and unarmed squad and platoon drills as well as teams comprised of all males, all females and mixed. Trophies, ribbons and individual medals were handed out to the top performers who honed their skills and experienced topflight competition in preparation for the 29 March District Championship.

The Good Deeds Foundation of MOAA Cape Canaveral Chapter passed out and sponsored all trophies and awards and strong support from the VMC staff helped make for a memorable morning. Hats off to these cadets who woke at 5:00 am on a Saturday morning when most of their classmates were still sleeping and dreaming about Spring Break.

The event and construction earned some special “drone” coverage.



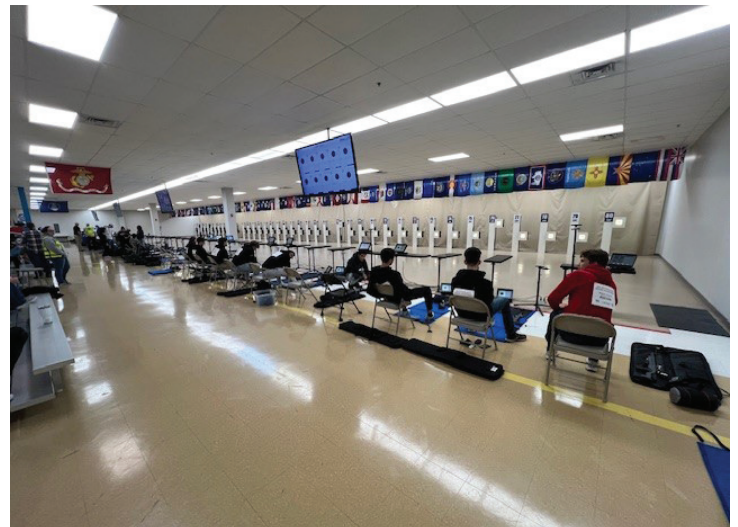
USAF JROTC-Drill Championship



On 27 February 2025, the Melbourne HS Football was the scene of the annual USAF/USSF JROTC Color Guard and other Drill Units State Championships. Over 15 schools travelled to Melbourne with more than 250 cadets competing. The MOAACC GDF provided \$2400 for all the ribbons, medals and trophies awarded that fantastic day. Student Affairs Chairman and GDF Board Member Dan Wilson, though a Navy guy and former SEAL represented MOAACC and was there for 7 hours of amazing effort by America's future leaders.

USAF-JROTC-Air Rifle Championships

Space Coast HS JROTC Cadets competed in late February and won fourth place in the SE area USAF and USSF JROTC Air Rifle Championship, qualifying them to go to the National Championship in Ohio in April. MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation provided the team range upgrades and travel funds totaling over \$2300 to support this amazing program, already among the best in Florida, after only a few years of adding the team and facility. Congratulations to the cadets and the JROTC Instructor Team who motivated them LtCol Joe Stevens, USAF Ret and CMSgt John Werner, USAF Ret.



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MOAACC Member Selected to be an Astronaut Applicant

By: Dr. Jane Hodges



Lt Crystal Salierno, MOAACC member, was honored to become a Space Force astronaut selectee. She was chosen by the US Space Force to become an astronaut and is currently in a pool of applicants to undergo training at NASA's Johnson Space Center Astronaut Selection Program. Lt. Salierno already has almost twenty years of active-duty service, and if selected, will remain on active duty to complete astronaut training. Dr. Jane Hodges presented Lt. Salierno a gift basket of NASA memorabilia, including a personalized Astronaut Barbie bearing her name at the March 6th Thursday morning MOAACC meeting. CAPT Steve Cusick, USN (Ret) and LCDR Dean Schaaf, USN (Ret) and NASA retiree, were at hand for the presentation to Lt. Salierno with Dr. Hodges.

L-R: Dr Jane Hodges, MOAACC Pres. Steve Kusick, Lt. Salierno, Dean Schaaf

March On-The-Go Luncheon



Members of MOAACC got together for the monthly on-the-go luncheon at the Pane E Vino Italian Restaurant in Melbourne on March 11, 2025.

MOAACC Members Visit Brevard Emergency Operations Center



On 19 February 2025, fifteen MOAACC members toured the Brevard Emergency Operations Center, in Rockledge, Florida. The EOC, which opened last year, replaced the decades-old facility located nearby. Members learned how Brevard County partners with municipalities, law enforcement, Patrick SFB and other groups during emergencies.



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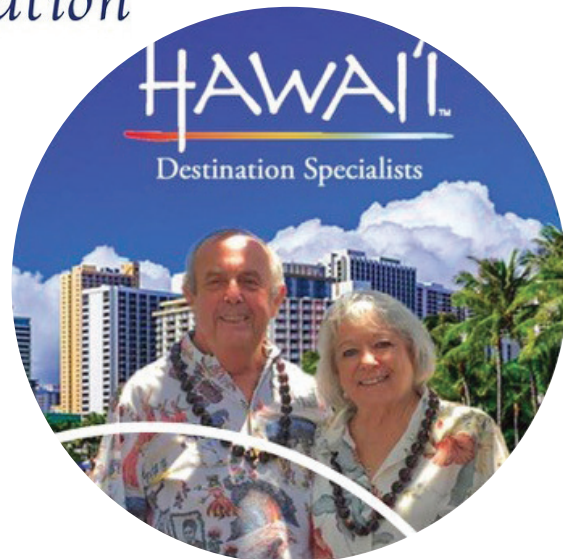
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