



The INTERCOM

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
Cape Canaveral Chapter, Inc.



More photos online, on Page 28

MOAACC & VMC Honor Vietnam Traveling Wall



Florida Council of Chapters named Colonel Steve Bond as New President - Story on page 12

MOAACC Photos by Pish Pishdad



To take action with MOAA, visit: <https://moaa.quorum.us/>
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JUNE EVENTS

(Click Event for Details)

- 6/06 **Current Affairs & TMBC - 8 AM**
Aviation Safety - CAPT Steve Cusick, USN, Ret
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 6/11 **On-The-Go Luncheon - 11:30 AM**
@ La Catrina Mexican Restaurant
- 6/13 **TMBC - 8 AM**
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 6/18 **MOAACC B.O.D. Mtg. - 9:30 AM**
@ Indian River Colony Club - Chapel
- 6/18 **MOAACC Luncheon - 11:30 AM**
Guest Speaker: Greg Donovan
@ Indian River Colony Club - Colony Hall
- 6/20 **TMBC - 8 AM**
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 6/27 **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>

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



Rick Kniseley, Colonel, USAF (Ret)

*Feliz 2025! Glücklich 2025!
Bonne année 2025! Happy 2025!*

You probably think I must be crazy wishing you a Happy 2025! and its only June. But in MOAACC we always do what we can for active, retired, former military and their families. The first thing we do is to get the right people in the right places to lead. Your Board of Directors, committees, and the MOAACC members freely give their time and dedication. Each year, we place members in different positions and add new members to ensure the strength of MOAACC continues. Members on BOD, committees regularly want to continue serving in their current positions. Many want to be involved in new areas serving the chapter. Many members are very busy but want to serve as their time permits. Just as important we need to get our new members involved in serving. But we can't wait to fill key BOD positions, committees, and part time supporters until January. We need to get volunteers signed up, trained and ready for January.

To find volunteers rests with the 2025 Nominating Committee of Gary Eppler, Jeff Rogers, and Dan McIntyre. As we all know everyone in MOAACC is a volunteer. We know you not only serve MOAACC you also serve many other important groups including organizations like VFW, VA Clinic, Voter registration, Red Cross, Churches and Synagogues, BPS, and a myriad of other vital groups. This shows how valuable you are for Brevard County.

For those who are serving this year you're doing a tremendous job and we thank you. Keep going full speed for the rest of the year. But think about next year.

When Gary, Jeff, and Dan contact you to ask you to volunteer please don't quickly tell them "I'm too busy". Remember there are areas you can do for MOAACC where you don't have to be a "full time" volunteer. You can be a "part time" volunteer for opportunities like set up and take down at a Veterans and Memorial Day Ceremony; volunteer to help with sign in at monthly luncheons; or representing MOAACC at JROTC/CAP Ceremonies, etc. It just needs you to volunteer.

For our new MOAACC members or members who have been taking a short "time out" now is the time to be an active MOAACC volunteer. In MOAACC we give without ceasing, and you feel good about doing for others.

Speak with Gary, Jeff, and Dan
Happy 2025!

INTERCOM Photo & Article Submission Rules

PHOTOS:

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

ARTICLES:

- Articles must be in Microsoft “Word” format (Times New Roman, font 11).
- LIMITS: One article per email, not more than 375 words. Each Article must include Author Name & Rank

NEW DEADLINE & SUBMISSION EMAIL:

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

intercom@moaacc.org

INTERCOM PUBLICATION:

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

Health of the Chapter

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

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

Ellie Joy, SSM • ejoy@cfl.rr.com • (321) 961-2962

EXECUTIVE EDITOR & PAO

Amir M. Pishdad, CW3, USA (Ret)



It's a plane, it's a bird... it's a drone.

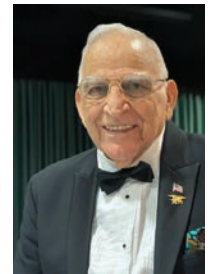
The MOAACC Delegation, had just finished laying the ceremonial MOAA wreath at the 36th annual Traveling Memorial Wall in Wickham Park in Melbourne, Florida.

Suddenly, an object whizzed by me. Not seeing anything, I continued with my photography of MOAA wreath. Looking up slightly I noticed a drone above me.

At this point, curiosity took over and I kept looking around for the perpetrator. It didn't take long to discover my fellow photographer, Roger Scruggs, photographer from the Veterans Memorial Museum taking aerial photos with his drone. Cautiously, I approached him, and ask him to lower his drone so I could capture a photo of him operating it.

Another lesson learned from this: In the AI, modern society, you never know who is watching you.

ALWAYS LOOK UP.



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LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

John R. McMahon, BG, USA (Retired)

The Richard Star Act: Why It's Still Important to All of Us

The 2024 Florida Council of Chapters (FCoC) Convention in Daytona Beach just concluded (13-15 May 2024) and what follows is hot off the presses. As an aside, the convention was another big success in spite of the lower-than-expected numbers in attendance. The convention is open to all members and most of the 37 chapters in Florida were represented. MOAACC was also well represented and our own past president, Steve Bond, was elected President of the FCoC for the next two years. MOAACC was again recognized as a 5-star chapter by the MOAA President and Chairman of the Board, General (retired) Gary North, who also shared some words of wisdom about the importance of continuing to serve our veteran, retiree and active-duty constituents and their families in every capacity. This continued service is greatly appreciated by all.

Before taking a deep dive into the Richard Star Act, the recent announcement by Congressman Bill Posey (R-FL) of his impending retirement from Congress at the end of the current session in December 2024 is noteworthy. There are five "qualified" candidates to replace him: three Republicans—John Hearton, Joe Babits and Mike Haridopolos; and two Democrats—Sandy Kennedy and Daniel McDow. To qualify as a candidate, a prospective candidate must meet certain criteria and filing deadlines according to the Florida Division of Elections website: <https://dos.fl.gov/elections/>

The Richard Star Act (H.R. 1282/S. 344) continues to be a top priority of MOAA especially as the 2025 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) is being formulated in committee. As you know, this bill would allow combat-injured veterans to receive their earned retirement pay AND their VA disability compensation without any offset. In a word, this offset is unjustified in light of the unfathomable sacrifice made by the combat-wounded on top of decrementing the earned benefit of retirement pay, even for those whose 20-year career potential was cut short by the injury. In spite of the fact that the Richard Star Act has broad bi-partisan support in both chambers of Congress with 72 Senators (including Senators Rubio and Scott) and 327 Representatives (including Rep. Posey) as co-sponsors, the legislation suffers from several pieces of mis-information.

This mis-information begins with the perception of serious cost concerns promulgated by the Congressional Budget Office which projects a \$9 Billion estimate over ten years, real money in the context of an ever-growing annual deficit and the out-of-control national debt. Several factors ameliorate this estimate. There is a five-year phase-in period which reduces the cost estimate significantly. It also assumes all 52,304 combat-injured veterans covered by the legislation would move out of the tax-free Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) to Concurrent Retirement and Disability Pay (CRDP) without offset. For some, the move would not be advantageous, resulting in no additional cost to the government.

Finally, in the midst of the burgeoning recruiting crisis faced

by the military (all services except for the USMC and with DoD offering huge bonuses to retain certain Naval Aviators for example), it makes no sense to telegraph a message of "your service is being discounted". Rather, the passage of this bill would demonstrate a continued commitment to those who served and endured the additional pain and suffering of being wounded in combat. Anyone considering a career in the Armed Forces of the United States should be encouraged to pursue it with the knowledge that the Nation has their back. And all of us who have served have a sacred duty to push hard for the passage of this restoration of earned benefits and full compensation for wounds received in the line of duty. Go to <https://moaa.quorum.us/> to send a letter to Congress in support of the Richard Star Act. Let your support be heard.

Enough said!

HEALTHY LIVING

CAPT (ret) Rita Shapiro, MA, DPT

June is National Safety Month

What does safety mean to you? Being safe in your home? Being safe on the road? Most of all Safety first and foremost is, as we say in the military, having situational awareness. Let us look at that in these situations:

1. **Safety at Home:** To prevent falls- make sure to not have any loose or slippery rugs. Wear proper footwear. If you have balance issues, **"do not be vane - use a cane!"**

Make sure all your medications are properly labeled and stowed in a safe area.

2. **Safety on the Road:**

When a pedestrian – Always use cross-walks to cross the road and look before moving.

When a driver:

- Wear your seatbelt and make sure your passengers do also.
- Be courteous on the road to other drivers and watch out for motorcycles and pedestrians.

Do you like to walk for your wellness and fitness?

Florida and especially our area is very pedestrian friendly, with all the beautiful and wide sidewalks/walking paths built for your convenience and safety. **Stay off the roads** when walking even in your own gated neighborhood/communities. Vehicles, golf carts etc. still drive on those roads and can cause harm. Prevent a disaster – Be aware of your surroundings!!





SURVIVOR ASSISTANCE LESSONS LEARNED

Lt Col Chuck Shaw, USAF, (Ret)

“Key” Planning Documents, Paperwork & Actions Checklist

* Assemble important papers in one place:

- Immediate notification list with contact information
- DD Form 214 Certificate of Release; or Retirement Orders; or Discharge papers from Active Duty
- Birth Certificates for both if married
- Marriage Certificate (original)
- VA disability rating decision letter (s), if applicable
- Social security cards, passports, voter registration cards
- Life insurance policies and pension plan numbers and contact info
- VA life insurance policy numbers (VGLI/SGLI)
- Titles and Registrations for any Automobiles or Titled items (like boats/trailers, RVs etc.)

* Maintain current legal documents (for Service Member AND Spouse):

- Will - Allocates assets and to fulfill a person's final wishes
- Living Will - Pertains to life-sustaining procedures
- Durable Power of Attorney - Appoints a person (agent) to conduct affairs
- Durable Health Surrogate - agent to make health care decisions
- Copy of Recorded Pre-Need Guardian Directive

* Financial affairs:

- Identify bank accounts/account numbers, and passwords that are jointly or individually held
- Review account beneficiaries and contact information
- Have sufficient cash available for 2 to 3 months worth of bills (retired pay & allotments will stop)
- Document other sources of revenue (savings accounts, insurance policies, stocks)
- Completed Planning Worksheet from one of the following Publications:
 - “MOAA Personal Affairs Guide” (800)-234-6622)
 - “DAV123 Survivor's Guide and Family Preparation Worksheets” (321-452-1774)

* Pre-planning responsibilities:

- Compare prices of at least two funeral homes (If uncomfortable, ask a relative or friend to assist you)
- Maintain funeral director's name and phone number and copies of any pre-paid arrangements
- Plan funeral and burial arrangements: how, where, who, what etc. Make final wishes known:
 - Cremated in uniform: Yes or No; Memorial Service: Yes or No; If desired, draft obituary and file with important papers.
 - Private Cemetery or a National Cemetery.
- Receipts for any additional arrangements

* Document contents of safety deposit box and/or safe and computers.

- Make sure Survivor can access ALL important information!

After death of veteran or spouse, assemble these additional documents:

- Military ID Cards for Spouse and Veteran
- Several “Long Form” Death Certificates with cause of death (obtain from Funeral Director) + regular certificates
- Receipt from Funeral Home with itemized list of services rendered and costs, Marked Paid in Full.
- Certificate of Cremation (if performed) showing paid in full.
- Driver's license and vehicle registration for any vehicles titled jointly or in Survivor's name

POINTS TO PONDER

Chap, LtCol, Thomas Unrath USAF (Ret)

“God is With Us”

We're vulnerable in many ways. Most of us in MOAACC are at an age when diseases, physical limitations, and pure age at times cause difficulties in our lives. Family members and friends are experiencing the same. Some of them, even us, have become permanently disabled. Some of them even died.

I wonder how many of them, or us, have wondered “Why is this happening to me? What did I do to deserve this?” I'm sure we have all seen interviews with family members of people who have died in a shooting or other tragedy. On air they raged, “They didn't deserve this! How could this happen? It is so unjust!” When my daughter, Nicole died, my wife Anita, and I wondered “How could God let this happen?” That thought, for all of us, comes from a place deep within that believes only really bad people deserve bad things. Good things should come to good people -- and I'm good.

Suffering can happen to anyone. We who spent time in the military have seen it. We've even heard of survivor's guilt, “Why them and not me?” Honestly, bad things can happen to anyone. Accidents, illnesses, criminal acts, natural disasters – any of them could happen to any of us at any time.

If bad things happen to good people, the thing gnawing in our guts, the depths of our soul, is the question, “Where is God?” For that question there is always an answer. God is with you! God's tears mingle with our own. We probably don't feel it at the time, but we have God's promise! We can know it, trust it, and count on it always.

Moses led the people of Israel out of Egypt but he never entered the Promised Land. Before he left the people he told them God's promise, “I will never fail you nor forsake you.”

God is with us too. Jesus promised his disciples, “I am with you always.” And so, he is.

Yes, we're vulnerable. Anything can happen to us at any time. Still, we're never alone. God is with us always to share whatever happens -- anywhere. That's a promise!



FINANCIAL LITERACY

CAPT Arnold Lim, USNR (Ret)

Stress Testing Your Estate Plan - Part 1

This summer is an appropriate time to stress test our estate plan because **Steadfast Defender 24** (the successor to the Cold War era REFORGER exercises) just ended in May. This exercise tested the readiness of NATO to quickly deploy forces to defend every inch of its territory. It is not a war college tabletop exercise; it is the real movement of over 90K troops from all 32 NATO Allies.

With that mindset, stress testing your estate plan involves the same direct, hands-on activity on our part. It is not a checklist exercise, it is the actual locating, checking, processing and proper restowing of all critical items and information.

In Part 1, we're going to stress test two scenarios. Successfully completing Part 1 prepares us for an even more stressful estate plan stress test (we'll get to that in our , Part 2 article -- we don't want to stress you out too soon).

In most military families, one partner manages the household while the other pursues their military career. With extended periods of separation, there's not much time for cross-training each other on running the household. Even when there is time, there is the natural resistance to relinquishing control over household affairs to someone that could be called away at a moment's notice. And this role relationship often continues after retirement.

Scenario 1: In this scenario, the military member is dead (no time for euphemisms). Benefits are lost that day, notifications must be made within days, arrangements must be made, living adjustments must be executed ... the list goes on and on. That's why we have checklists (the estate plan) and our MOAA Chapter's Survivor Assistance Team (SAT). But life goes on, the standard of living is adjusted to the new income stream. The stressful irritants in this scenario include timely notifications, locating vital documents (DD214, insurance policies, etcetera), and processing the paperwork. Here, the survivor must be able to lay hands on all the critical documents. The SAT helps with the checklist part but only you can locate the documents. **To pass this test**, locate the key documents. If you can't find them, get them. That's it ... for right now.

Scenario 2: The homemaker is dead. The military member is confronted with three major stressors (beyond emotional loss): disruption of the military career, caring for any children, and the need to now manage the household. The member's Service, our MOAACC SAT, and family members on both sides can help. But the major impediment to eventual recovery is finally appreciating all that the homemaker was contributing to support the family and the career. **To pass this test** make sure you know all the facets of running the household and have full access to all household accounts, including account numbers, usernames, passwords.

Both scenarios require action, not simulation. The time is now because no one knows when the time will come. Failing either test has the dubious benefit of shortening the grieving process, with sadness being replaced by anger and recrimination.

Next month, Part 2. Make sure you pass the tests in Part 1 to be ready for what could come next.

Never Stop Serving!



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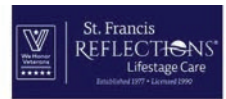


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Mark Your Calendar!

Current Affairs Forum w/CAPT Steve Cusick, USN, Ret

Aviation Safety: "The Boeing Dilemma"

06/06/2024 08:00 AM - 09:00 AM ET

Location:

Indian River Colony Club
1936 Freedom Drive
Melbourne, FL 32940
Room Number: 19th Hole
Building Number: At Ease Club

On-The-Go Luncheon at La Catrina Mexican Restaurant

06/11/2024 11:30 AM - 01:00 PM ET

Location:

Catrina Mexican Restaurant
315 W Cocoa Beach Causeway
Cocoa Beach, FL 32931

Space Coast Navy Wives' Club

The board hopes you enjoyed yourselves this year. We will be working on new programs for our upcoming year, starting in September.

Hope you all have a wonderful summer and we look forward to seeing you in September.

Ellie Joy (321) 757-0193

Save the Dates for upcoming MOAACC Events:

16 July 2024

Scholarship Award Presentations

5 October 2024

Past Presidents Dinner

16 November 2024

MOAACC Annual Golf Tournament

19 November 2024

Annual Membership Business Meeting

7 December 2024

Annual Christmas Dinner Dance

MOAACC Luncheon



Guest Speaker:

Greg Donovan, Executive Director of
the Melbourne Airport

06/18/2024 11:30 AM - 01:00 PM

Greg Donovan's Linked In Biography: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/greg-donovan-494b33170/>

Melbourne Orlando International Airport: <https://www.mlair.com/>

Location:

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

Cost is \$25.00 for luncheon. Meal choices are:

1. Beef Stroganoff w/Vegetables
2. Caesar Salad with Grilled Chicken
3. Vegetarian meals available upon request

All meals include rolls & butter, coffee & tea and the Chef's sweet choice for dessert. Cash bar available.

Please RSVP/cancel by 13 June 2024, online, or by contacting Grace Catron at events@moaacc.org or (417) 294-0798. You can [pay online](#) with Credit Card, pay at the door or mail payment with RSVP to:

MOAACC

c/o Michael J Schroeder, Treasurer

PO Box 254186

Patrick SFB, FL 32925

STAY UP TO DATE - VISIT:

www.MOAACC.org





MOAACC GOOD DEEDS FOUNDATION

Donn Weaver, CPT (USA) Former

Good Deeds Never Stop at MOAACC

During the past month, your Good Deeds Foundation (GDF) has found more and some new ways to impact our community and support our missions. Supporting our new Student Affairs Committee again at the May Luncheon to honor Academy Appointment and College ROTC Scholarship recipients was an especially gratifying effort. Check out the details of that luncheon and some special young Brevard citizens in this issue.

GDF also arranged great dinner to celebrate all JROTC Instructors, especially three leaving their second careers after 15 plus years of service at Grills Restaurant on 10 May. During that same period, GDF funds helped three more veteran families with 8 children involved to avoid homelessness and transition to better jobs. We also identified AVET, a veteran support organization, whose work has great impact by helping them (\$1000) recognize the military child and women veterans with special events.

Planning for the 16 November GDF Golf Tournament Fundraiser expanded with more sponsors indicating they will sign up and a new poster to begin golfer signups as well as encourage more sponsors. See below. Also, check put the MOAACC website for an updated posting of your GDF Impact list for FY 24. You will be amazed.

Please consider sponsoring a hole at the golf tourney or just contributing to GDF this summer. Our biggest season is just ahead in August when we calculate the best ways, appropriate amount of funding and greatest impact to support our ROTC, JROTC and other cadet communities.

Contact any GDF Board member if you have questions.

Advice for the life you lead

Advice. Beyond investing.

As a U.S. Navy Veteran, I thank you for your service! You have a vision for how you want to live for today, tomorrow and beyond. I start by asking the right questions to uncover what's most important, and then work with you to create a plan to help you pursue it. Along the way, I offer advice that addresses every aspect of your financial life, at every stage of your life. It's what we call: Advice. Beyond investing.

For some of life's questions, you're not alone. Together we can find an answer.



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Navy SEAL Museum Memorial Day

Lieutenant Colonel Cynthia Watkins-Pishdad is pictured below, singing national anthem during the memorial event at the UDT Navy SEAL museum at Fort Pierce.



Photo by Tim Pishdad

[Click Here For More Photos & Video of Ceremony](#)

MOAACC'S ANNUAL AWARDS LUNCHEON 21 MAY 2024 FOR MILITARY ACADEMY APPOINTMENTS AND ROTC SCHOLARSHIPS



MOAACC Photos by Pish Pishdad

U.S. Military Academy Appointments

Photo Above (L-R):

Kaitlyn O'Connor/USMA, Colin Kearns/USNA, Nathan Boonsanguan/USMA, Edison Vinje/USMA, Jacob Zegarski/USNA, William Struble/USMA, Branden Ayers/USNA

JROTC Scholarship Recipients

Photo on Right (L-R):

Carly Foglia, Caleb Maruzzella, Christain Carey, Joel Freeland, Brennon Curtis, James Captain, Holly Berry

Not present were:

Jacob McKee, Chloe D'Entremont, Shayne Gorrell, Valeria Irizarry, Kaden Koby, Zaley Werling, Dailya Wydner, Charles Smith, Izaiah Bish



[Click Here For Photos & Video of Ceremony](#)

Awards Presentations



The MOAA Levels of Excellence Award for 2023 was presented to LT Col. Brian Whalen



MOAA Col. Marvin J. Harris Communication Award for 2023 was presented to Col. Mike Schroeder



The Strength from Within Award was presented to Col. Pat Keane, in recognition of his continued support throughout the 2023-2024 School Year

Lateral Approach Knee Surgery



Our guest speaker was Dr. Pasquale F. Reino LDCR USN. He is a MOAAC member and among few selected surgeons that performs total knee replacements using a lateral approach.



MOAAC Photos by Pish Pishdad

MOAA Council of Florida Chapters 47th Annual Convention in Daytona Beach

Former Cape Canaveral Chapter Presidents are Council President & Vice President



Photos Courtesy of Florida Council of MOAA

General Gary North (USAF-Ret), Chairman of the Board of MOAA (Foreground) installs the new officers of the Florida Council of the Military Officers Association of America into their positions. Newly installed officers are from L-R: Colonel Gary Nolan (USAF-Ret), SW Area/Cape Coral; Colonel Joe Napoli (USA-Ret), SE Area VP/Miami; Major Lorraine Holland (USA-Ret), East-Central Area VP/Orlando; Colonel John Murphy (USA-Ret), Council Vice President; Colonel Steve Bond, Council President, and the Outgoing Council President Commander Pat Kluever/Fleet Landing.

MOAA Members representing Florida's 39 Chapters, including members from Georgia and Tennessee gathered in Daytona Beach from May 13th -15th for the MOAA Florida Council of Chapters (FCoC) 47th Annual Convention. The Cape Canaveral Chapter was well represented and recognized. General Gary North (USAF-Retired), Chairman of the Board of MOAA attended the Convention. He provided a MOAA update, presented the Levels of Excellence Awards and Harris Communications Awards to Chapters receiving these distinctions, and installed the newly elected Council Officers into their positions.

Convention Highlights:

- Newly elected/installed Florida Council leaders included our very own Chapter Past President (2021) Steve Bond, as the President of the Council, and John Murphy, Chapter Past President (2001) as the Council Vice President. CDR Pat Kluever (USN Ret), moved from the President of the Council to Immediate Past President. MAJ Lorraine Holland (USA Ret) was re-installed to continue as the East Central Florida Area Vice President, the area that includes Cape Canaveral Chapter.
- Our Chapter received its 2023 Five Star MOAA Chapter Levels of Excellence Award and Harris Communications Awards for the Newsletter and Website from General North. Chapter President Rick Kniseley and The Intercom Associate Editor Rita Shapiro received the awards for the Chapter at the Convention. Our Chapter has received these awards of distinction from MOAA every year since they started recognizing chapters for excellence in communicating with members.

Look for more information on the Convention in FCoC's June Council Communiqué. Pictures and presentations from the convention can be found on the Florida Council Website (www.FLMOAA.org).

(See more photos on page 29, in the online section.)



Newly installed Council President of the Florida Military Officers Association of America, Colonel Steve Bond (Center) with Council Vice President Colonel John Murphy (L), and Outgoing Council President Commander Pat Kluever (R) at the State Convention in Daytona Beach on May 15th. Bond and Murphy are Past Presidents of the Cape Canaveral Chapter of MOAA—the largest chapter in MOAA.

Sea Cadet Receives Award from MOAACC



RADM Wayne Justice presents the MOAACC Award and \$250 in cash to Sea Cadet Leader Penney at the 19 May annual Courageous Division Awards Ceremony. GDF President talks about MOAACC /GDF support at the same event attended by over 120 cadets, family, leaders and other veteran organizations presenters, including many MOAACC members — Jose Prieto (VFW), Michael Tucker (SAC), Doug Bisset (SAR) and Pat Keane (MOPH)

Bayside High School Color Guard at May MOAACC Luncheon



Ronnier Palmares, Anand Singh, Gebriella DuFrane, Chese Gambie



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SCHOLARSHIP CORPORATION

Col D Brent Baysinger, USAF (Ret)

Once again, we find ourselves jumping into June which means it's the final weeks for eligible candidates to apply for a 2024 MOAACC Scholarship. Eligible candidates include prospective college sophomores up all the way through doctoral students. 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! We want to serve as many deserving students as we can, and we can only achieve this goal with our MOAACC members advocating among their families to utilize this membership benefit.

Once the submission period closes on June 15, our Scholarship Selection Committee will immediately begin working diligently over the next week to examine all applications and identify the awardees. One of the most rewarding aspects of the scholarship process is reviewing all the achievements and goals of the applicants who will be our future leaders. We still have room for more volunteers to help with the process, so please consider volunteering for this year's selection by emailing us at moaaccscholarships@gmail.com!

Lastly, we continue to seek financial contributions. The MOAACC Scholarship Corporation will support our future leaders while helping to combat high inflation raging through the economy. As the Scholarship Corporation is a 501(c)3 organization, 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, and 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 and good luck to all applicants!

MOAACC SCHOLARSHIP DONORS

Named Donors

- Samuel and Betty Ginsburg

Donors

- Anonymous IMO Gerald Timm, in honor of his birthday
- Timothy L. O'Brien



MEMBERSHIP BRIEF

WELCOME

New Members for May 2024

Name	Service	Status	Sponsor
CAPT Wayne Allen	Navy	Retired	
Mrs. Judi Bickmore		Surviving Spouse	Amir Pishdad
CDR Pat Burtch	Navy	Retired	
MAJ Steven Celeste	Army	Retired	Tim Thomas
ENS Nicholas Damschen	Coast Guard	Active	Dan McIntyre
Capt Frank Dessauer	Air Force	Retired	
Col Daniel Fetzter	Air Force	Retired	
2LT James Pillow	Army	Active	Steve Bond
2LT Jose Pina	Army	Active	Steve Bond
2LT Jose Quites	Army	Active	Steve Bond
Mr. William Rice	Air Force	Former	
2LT Quinn Sellers	Army	Active	Steve Bond

TAPS

MOAA CAPE CANAVERAL CHAPTER
MEMBER, AUXILIARY, and SPOUSE DEATHS
April 2024 Deaths listed for June 2024 Intercom

Wendell Koontz, Lt Col, USAF Ret
1 April 2024

Albert Bickmore, Maj, USMC Ret
19 April 2024



Get The Intercom Online!

Contact the MOAACC Treasurer to change from paper to web Visit our MOAACC Chapter website: www.moaacc.org

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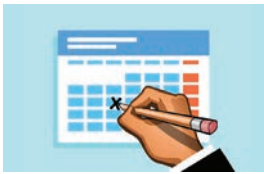
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Unofficial Brevard VMC Vets Calendar

JUNE 2024 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/>

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

JUNE 2024

04 Jun — Career Source Brevard Job Fare Including For Veterans 1000-1300 in the Melbourne Auditorium. Contact Lori Robinson via careersourcebrevard.com

08 Jun — Space Coast Honor Flight to Wash DC for selected veterans to visit their memorials. Guardian volunteers and other supporters welcome for ceremony to launch the flight — 0130 hours at the Senior Center in Wickham Park, Melbourne. Contact SCHF on 321-456-7031 or info@spacecoasthonorflight.org for more information.

08 Jun — Zachary M. Martin Memorial 5 K Run/Walk at Viera Regional Park (2300 Judge Fran Jamieson Way) in Melbourne 0800-1000. Proceeds will benefit Stop Soldier Suicide and help Brevard County veterans with PTSD. visit zacharymartinmemorial.com to register and for more information about this 501c3.

12 Jun — Military Women Veterans Recognition Day Celebration and Luncheon 1130-1330 at the Nyami Nyami River Lodge at the Brevard Zoo, 8225 N. Wickham, Melbourne. Details and sponsorship information at info@avet-project.org.

14 Jun — Celebration of the US Army's 249th Birthday at Broken Barrel in Palm Bay 1800-2000. Sponsored by the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) which will also hold a General Membership Meeting. AUSA is the newest partner of the VMC. Contact Shaun McKinney for more information.

JULY 2024

04 Jul — Annual BCSO and VMC Merritt Island Independence Day Parade. 1000-1200 with details in May. Start at Merritt Island HS and finish at Veterans Memorial Center with food and festivities.

AUGUST 2024

04 Aug — Annual Purple Heart Recognition Ceremony at the VMC Gray Hall 1400-1600 sponsored by Chapter 453 of the Military Order of the Purple Heart. Special recognition of 10 PH recipients and ceremony to tell their stories and recognize their sacrifices. Contact Donn Weaver, 757-871-6576 for more information.

09 Aug — 9th Annual Rescuing Veterans Lost in America Dinner. For more information on any event go to nvhs.org/events

14 Aug — Senator Rubio's Staff Mobile Office Hours at the VMC, 1100-1300, specifically for Veterans and their families.

24 Aug — Seminar for High School Soph's, Juniors and Seniors on Military Academy, ROTC Scholarships and other military paths to education and leadership. VMC Gray Hall, Foyer and Library 1300- 1700. Details in June.

27 Aug — VMC Library Discussion Series 1800-1930. 9/11 Missed Warnings and its Impact on Three American Generations. — A Gold Star Perspective. Drinks and snacks served.

SEPTEMBER 2024

07 Sep — Space Coast Honor Flight to Wash DC for selected veterans to visit their memorials. Guardian volunteers and other supporters welcome for ceremony to launch the flight — 0130 hours at the Senior Center in Wickham Park, Melbourne. Contact SCHF on 321-456-7031 or info@spacecoasthonorflight.org for more information.

11 Sep — Annual 9/11 Remembrance and Patriots Day Ceremony at VMC Plaza 1700-1830. Sponsored by Club 1013 of retired NYPD Police Officers many of whom were in NYC on 9/11/2001. Details in July.

OCTOBER 2024

12 Oct — Space Coast Honor Flight to Wash DC for selected veterans to visit their memorials. Guardian volunteers and other supporters welcome for ceremony to launch the flight — 0130 hours at the Senior Center in Wickham Park, Melbourne. Contact SCHF on 321-456-7031 or info@spacecoasthonorflight.org for more information

31 Oct — BCSO Shred Event in VMC Park 0900-1030. BSCO conducts monthly shred services at various locations and will release their 2024 schedule in January.

NOVEMBER 2024

10 Nov — 7th Annual Homestretch 5K for At-Risk & Homeless Vets. For more information on any event go to nvhs.org/events

11 Nov — Veterans Day Ceremony at VMC Plaza 0930 – 1100 (pending)

16 Nov — Annual MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation Golf Tournament Fundraiser at the Indian River Colony Club 0800-1300. Save the date. Details this summer. Looking for sponsors. Contact Donna Weaver, 757-871-6576.

25 November: Senator Rubio's Staff Mobile Office Hours at the VMC, 1400-1600, specifically for Veterans and their families.

DECEMBER 2024

14 Dec — Wreaths Across America Day in many Brevard Locations. Cape Canaveral National Cemetery 1000-1200 with details on all WAA events in October.

14 Dec — Second Annual Merritt Island Community and Gold Star Family Tribute Christmas Tree Illumination and Holiday Party. VMC Park 1500- 2000

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



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CAREER SUPPORT RE Transition (TCS)

Vacant

VETS BACK TO CLASS (JOE FOSS)

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LCDR Dean Schaaf, USN Ret

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MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation

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VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER UPDATE

Donn Weaver, CPT, USA (fmr)

EAA Chapter 724 Honors Special Veteran and First Responder's Children



EAA Chapter 724- L-R Donne Weaver, Veteran Children and Shaun McKinney

These children learned about aircraft safety, avionics and were flown for approximately 30-40 minutes over Merritt Island, Port Canaveral, the Banana River and the Indian River Lagoon. Chapter 724 honors these children with wonderfully positive and safe experiences. May 11th was a beautiful day for each of these children.

Each child received a certificate documenting their flight and a formal Logbook with the date of the flight, pilots' signature and the amount of flying time. When the children are old enough, the national EAA Headquarters offers them free online ground school worth several hundreds of dollars. Lastly, the flights of these children and the other 2.3M children are placed into the EAA's world's largest Logbook, online with their name, date, pilot's name, and the type of plane they flew in, <https://www.eaa.org/eaayouth/freeye-flights/eaayoung-eagles-logbook>.

The third annual Young Eagle event for children of specific military and first responder parents is scheduled for February 22, 2025. The Brevard Veteran Memorial Center and the Space Coast Chapter of the Association of the US Army, is honored to bring these veterans and first responders' families together with EAA Chapter 724's unique program. Photograph by Rogers Scruggs, roger@tvphotog.com, phone number 321-795-6545.

Shaun McKinney and Donn Weaver



Michael and Dwayne Waters



Young Eagle Flight

HERO FEST 2024: A Huge Success at VMC on 05 May



Fun with Foam-photo courtesy of VMC photographer Roger Scruggs

More than 800 people came to the Veterans Memorial Center (VMC) on May 5 to be recognized, to support or to just honor the county’s First Responders and their families. The event was the fifth annual HERO FEST sponsored by Back Brevard Heroes (BBH) , Inc, led by President Sherri Centore, her amazing BBH Board , and over 100 volunteers.

BBH raises funds all year round and welcomes many donors who support not only Hero Fest , but many other programs to support local law enforcement, fire departments and EMS personnel. This year they raised enough funds and had in kind help during a February Car Show and through many companies and organizations, including the VMC and Good Deeds Foundation of the Cape Canaveral Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America, to break all records.

Thus BBH could include more events, food and fun than ever before. A total of 640 free meals were served. At least 400 first responders and their families from Mims to Palm Bay attended and were given donated gift baskets as well. Quite a day to recognize those who willingly help others and put their own safety at risk whenever necessary.



Opening Ceremony with Dean Schaaf (center) and Donn Weaver (mic) welcoming the crowd



BBH Board of Directors

Those who came saw Sheriff Wayne Ivey get soaked in a dunk tank at least three times; the jaws of life at work by a volunteer fire department; a local acrobatic team: K-9 dog team demonstrations; foam frenzies with kids; a petting zoo; USCG Aux boat show; BCSO Diving Team programs; five fire dept vehicles and much more. While people came and went during the 1000 am — 3 pm event, no one left without smiles.

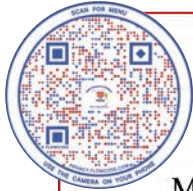
BBH announced at the event they had been able to provide relief funds in a new annual program to six first responder families that faced hardship after injuries or illnesses and needed an extra boost.

The theme of the day, and for BBH throughout the year, was to recognize and appreciate our First Responders. Also to let them know how what they accomplish and sometimes risk themselves for, helps all who live or visit Brevard County every day.



VMC Pres Dean Schaaf wins the Hero Fest \$050 Raffle!!! Surrounded by BBH officers

Please Renew Your 2024 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 _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Rank _____ Service _____ Member DOB _____

Check appropriate box:

Retired
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 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
Active Duty/Drilling Reserve:
 First Year - No Cost

Life Membership

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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Florida Tech ROTC Commissions Four new Army Lieutenants

By Colonel Steve Bond (USA-Ret), MOAACC Army LNO



New Army Lieutenants at the Florida Tech Commissioning Ceremony on May 5th with guests and ROTC cadre. From Left Front—BG Mark Holler (USA-Retired), New Second Lieutenants Pillow, Quiles Vazquez, Sellers, Piña; Dana Washington (FLA Tech ROTC cadre), and COL Steve Bond (USA-Retired) from MOAACC; Back Row from Left—Major Daniel Gil, CPT Zachery Smith, LTC Rob Stillings, MSG Alan Roche, Michael Johnson (all FLA Tech ROTC cadre).

The Florida Institute of Technology Army ROTC Panther Battalion held their spring ceremony to commission four new Army Second Lieutenants on Friday, May 3rd. The Ceremony was held in the Hartley Room of the Student Union building on campus with families, friends, ROTC instructors, and other cadets present to witness the event. The new Lieutenants took their commissioning oath of office and pinned on new “gold bars”—the rank insignia of Second Lieutenants in the ceremony. Three of the new Lieutenants met the requirements to graduate from Florida Tech at the May Commencement, and one graduated from Eastern Florida State College. In the ceremony they heard messages and congratulations from the President of Florida Tech, John Nicklow (Ph.D.) and Guest Speaker, Brigadier General Mark A. Holler (USA, Retired), former deputy commanding general for operations of 8th US Army.

The new Army Second Lieutenants and MOAACC members are:

- José Piña— José is a 2017 graduate with honors from Heritage High School and graduated from Eastern Florida State College with a Bachelor of Science degree in Organizational Management. He was commissioned through the Florida Tech ROTC program as a Military Intelligence officer in the reserves and his first duty assignment will be at Fort Buchanan, PR.
- James Pillow III—is a graduate of Cocoa High School. He earned a Bachelor of Science Degree from Florida Tech in Strategic Communication with a minor in General Psychology and was commissioned as an active-duty Infantry Officer. He was sworn in by LTC Joe Pavone, US Army-Retired, senior JROTC instructor at Cocoa High School.
- Jose Quiles Vazquez—initially graduated from the University of Puerto Rico and enlisted in the U.S. Army. He received his Master of Science degree from Florida Tech in Logistics Management while completing ROTC requirements there. He was commissioned as a Transportation Officer and his first duty assignment will be Fort Bliss, TX.
- Quinn Sellers—Quinn graduated from High School in Alabama and graduated from Florida Tech with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration with a focus in Marketing. She received a commission as an active-duty Quartermaster Officer.

The new Lieutenants were also congratulated by LTC Rob Stillings, Florida Tech Professor of Military Science. The Cape Canaveral Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) was on hand to present the new Lieutenants with “Gold Bar” commissioning sets and membership in MOAA and the Cape Canaveral Chapter. Colonel Steve Bond, US Army-Retired, Past President of the MOAACC presented the Gold Bar sets and wished the new officers luck as they begin their journey as Army officers.



More GDF!

Special Recognition of JROTC Instructors



MOAACC-GDF-Sponsor Dinner for JROTC Instructors

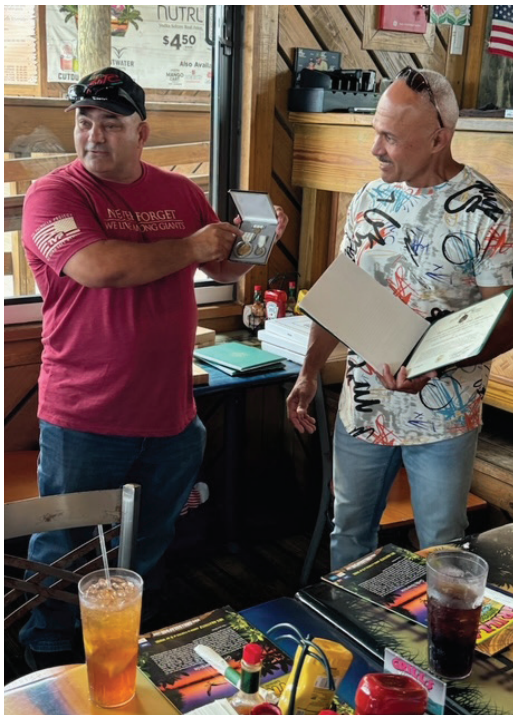
As the 2023-24 School year closed, veterans of MOAACC, the VMC, American Legion and others wanted to recognize the tremendous work JROTC Instructors do in the 14 Army, Navy, Air force, Marine and Space Force JROTC programs in Brevard County. Their cadets were recognized at award ceremonies at all the schools in April and May. Many other veterans' organizations also presented high achieving cadets with special awards at the April and May MOAACC luncheons.

Working with LTC Joe Pavone, USA, Ret, who leads the Cocoa HS JROTC program, the MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation (GDF) sponsored a special appreciation dinner on 10 May at The Grills in Viera for all the JROTC instructors. More than 35 were in attendance, including many from the MOAACC and VMC communities to honor the JROTC Instructors.

The event also served to bid farewell to three of the very best among them: LTC Tim Thomas of Viera, LTC Jim DesJardin of Cocoa Beach and 1SG Juan Torres of Merritt Island. They are all retiring for a second time after an average of 15 years as

JROTC Instructors. At the event the three men received US Army certificates, special service medals and a local JROTC plaque. American Legion Post 344 at the VMC also presented 1SG Torres with a beautiful wooden, etched plaque and a gift certificate for dinner for two. GDF gave the three honorees a \$200 gift certificate each with orders to give them to their spouses, who have supported them and also served thousands of long days.

It was a great event and a good way for the JROTC Instructors to know the veteran community cares and will do our best to support the programs now and into the future.



1SG Torres receives awards for LTC Pavone



LTC DesJardin and his wife Lori share in the joy and emotion of leaving the JROTC ranks



GDF President and Legion Post 344 1Vice Donn Weaver presents the Legion Awards to 1SG Torres



LTC Thomas accepts his plaque

MOAACC Long Standing Support to NVHS


Over the past 12 years at least MOAACC and our Good Deeds Foundation (GDF) have provided growing support the unique Brevard based National Veterans Homeless Support (NVHS) organization. In 2023 GDF provided more than \$16,000 to NVHS to help a dozen veterans and their families. That total included a special \$3K grant from MOAA National which recognized our efforts.

As you know, MOAACC's core mission includes support to veterans and their families in need. Un-matched MOAACC efforts to promote Legislative Advocacy; ROTC/JROTC and Youth; Active Duty as well as Camaraderie missions, which should make all us proud.

With today's economic challenges, NVHS needs more community support than ever to prevent homelessness and keep veterans and their families moving forward when living on the edge, less than paycheck to paycheck. In 2024 they have two Golf Tournament Fundraisers and their annual Dinner Gala to help have the resources needed along with GDF, business support and many private donors.


Pease consider joining us at least one MOAACC table of 10 to support NVHS at their 04 August Gala Dinner and Fundraiser. Tickets are \$125 each but include an amazing dinner and evening at the Space Coast Convention Center hosted by NVHS and all the Brevard Elected Officers with Sheriff Wayne Ivey as MC.

Check out the Flyer below and contact Brian Whalen or Donn Weaver to sign up. It will be a great event for a special cause. Do not sign up individually so we can all sit together with spouses and guests very much welcomed. Let Donn know if you any questions: 757-871-6576.



You Are Cordially Invited
to the 9th Annual Rescuing Veterans
Lost in America Dinner Fundraiser for the
National Veterans Homeless Support

Hosted by Brevard's Constitutional Officers
Property Appraiser Dana Blickley
Sheriff Wayne Ivey Tax Collector Lisa Cullen
Clerk of Court Rachel Sadoff Supervisor of Elections Tim Bobanic



Friday, August 9th, 2024
Radisson Resort at the Port
8701 Astronaut Blvd. Cape Canaveral
5:15pm Cocktails 6:15pm Dinner

Sponsorship levels available
Accepting donations for silent and live auctions
Dinner: \$100 per person or \$1,250 per table of 10
Program ads: Full page - \$250 or Half page - \$150
Register online for the event and place camera-ready ads in the dinner program at:
www.nvhs.org/events or email events@nvhs.org

★ Silent Auction ★ Live Auction ★ 50/50 Drawing ★

Veterans' Kids Enjoy a Day at the Ranch



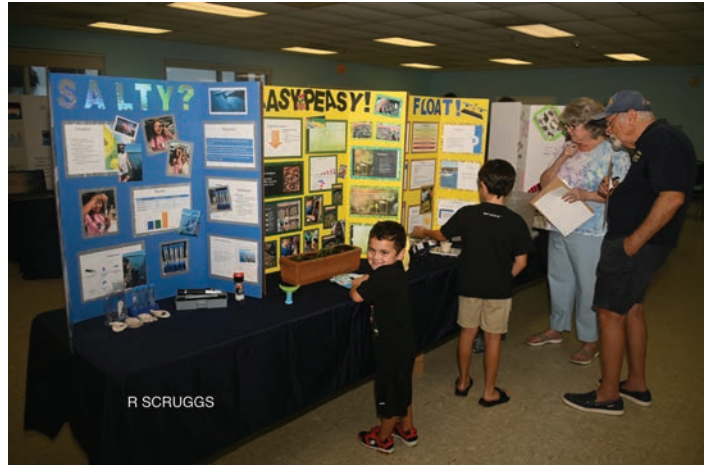
Veterans Kids Day at the Ranch, sponsored by GDF and MOAACC

GDF was a major sponsor for a special veteran family event on 20 April to recognize April as the Month of the Military Child at a ranch in Mims. 40 children from 27 families attended and enjoyed games, horseback rides, face painting, special treats, a bounce house and a great cookout. GDF was happy to contribute and see our impact expanded to the kids. The event was hosted by the ranch owner and Their Voice of Hope charity which supports women veterans and their families.



Veterans Kids Enjoy Petting Farm Animals

VMC Science Fair



VMC Hosted and Good Deeds Sponsored the 18 May Brevard Science Fair and Museum adventure. There were 15 kids focused before, 13 great entries and lists of fun for families over five hours just before the heavy rains came. MOAACC member and Vets Back to Class volunteer, retired IUS Navy Nuclear Submarine officer Mac Baird (1) was one on the STEM judges.

CHRISTIAN SMALL GROUP


NO GREATER LOVE

For active duty military men and women, veterans, and their spouses

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Weekly on Monday evenings
6:30 - 8:30 PM | STARTING SEPTEMBER 9, 2024

Registration opens in July at
[HTTPS://CHURCHATVIERA.COM/GROUPS/](https://churchatviera.com/groups/)



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Cocoa Beach Raider Teams Honored

Your Good Deeds Foundation was a major sponsor for purchasing rings for all members of the State Champion Cocoa Beach HS Army JROTC Male and Female Raider Teams. The ceremony was held on 24 April at Kiwanis Park with GDF providing \$1200 of the final cost for the rings which the cadets will likely treasure forever.

The last time one high school won first place in the State Raider Challenge Meet for both male and females was decades ago. The CBHS female Raider Team won for the Third Year in a row!!! Congratulations to the CNBHS JROTC Program and to all our 14 Brevard JROTC units who enter many competitions throughout the school year.



Cocoa Beach Raiders JROTC State Championship Rings - Male Team



Cocoa Beach Raiders JROTC State Championship Rings - Female Team



Cocoa Beach Raiders JROTC Color Guard

JROTC



Before the 10 May Cocoa Beach Jr/StrHS JROTC Awards Ceremony, we took this photo of the School entrance. CBHS JROTC proudly displays the MOAACC JROTC Cleland/McIntyre Program of the Year Award along with their male and female State Raider Challenge Championship Trophies. All make a great first impression to students, teachers and visitors.

GDF President Donn Weaver helps unveil the new Space Force JROTC Ceremonial Flag at the 10 May Space Coast jr/sr HS JROTC Awards Ceremony. GDF funded the Flag (\$1000), which completes the three year transition from USAF two USSF for the Program

Civil Air Patrol Cadet Receives Military Merit Certificate from MOAACC



MOAACC Past President Briam Whalen and CW4 Dan McIntyre presented certificate and a \$250 cash award to Cadet Ephraim Liu of the TiCo Comp. Sq. of the Civil Air Patrol



AVETS provided fun activities

AVET Hosts Military Child Event

At another event to support active-duty military families including children, AVET welcomed over 50 families from active-duty units and all branches of service at a Kids Fun Fest on 27 April at a Cocoa Beach Church. The event was led off with the presentation off colors by the Patrick Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol which so helped with the younger kids at many events. GDF was a key sponsor with \$500 and recognized in the ceremony and along the sponsors walkway. Serving in the US military has always been challenging for families and it seems appropriate to elect one month a year to recognize and appreciate them. Your Good Deeds Foundation was happy to help and visit the events to see lots of smiling children.

US Coast Guard Cutter Confidence Celebrated for 58 Years of Service During Heritage Recognition Ceremony



USCG Cutter Confidence Ceremony



USCG Cutter Confidence

05/03/2024 09:30 AM EDT

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — The Coast Guard held a heritage recognition ceremony, Thursday, in Cape Canaveral to honor the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Confidence (WMEC 619) and recognize its 58 years of service. The ceremony was presided over by Cmdr. Thomas Martin, commanding officer of Confidence, and served to celebrate the Confidence's contributions to the service and Nation in the presence of cutter leadership, current and former crew members, families, and friends.

The event also marked the ship's exit from active-duty service for an indeterminate time, placing it in commission, special status. The 210-foot Confidence operated as a Coast Guard Atlantic Area command asset, based in Portsmouth, Virginia, and was most recently homeported in Cape Canaveral.

The Role of Aircraft in WWI (Part 5)

By Bill Muckler, Captain USMC

THE LAFAYETTE ESCADRILLE. Dr. Edmond Gros, an American expatriate living in France in 1915, along with Norman Prince of Boston, Massachusetts, and William Thaw of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania conceived the idea of The Lafayette Escadrille. They lobbied Parisian officials to create an all-American squadron within the French Air Service to aid the Allied cause. The three recognized the need for more combat forces and they were equally aware of the positive propaganda value Americans flying under the French flag would bring to acquire United States support for the Allied cause. French officials approved the concept on August 21st, 1915.

The Lafayette Escadrille, officially designated N.124, was formed eight months later under the command of French Air Service Captain George Thenault. A few of the Americans joining the new squadron previously served in the French Air Service, however, most were beginner aviators having just mastered the most basic elements of flight. Captain George Thenault, now Commanding Officer of the Lafayette Escadrille stated, "Since the formation of the American Escadrille, I have tried to exalt the beauty of the ideal which brought my American comrades to fight for France.

Their first combat patrols saw the new aviator's strain to master their aerial craft amidst a hail of enemy gunfire, nevertheless, these amateur airmen rapidly matured into seasoned veterans. Kiffin Rockwell scored the unit's first victory on May 18, 1916. Operating from austere bases close to the front lines, the airmen took to the sky to secure air superiority during some of the war's largest campaigns, including the Battle of Verdun, the Somme Offensive, the Nivelle Offensive, the Aisne Offensive, and the Ypres-Lys Offensive. The American Flyers escorted Allied bombers as they struck targets deep behind enemy lines as well. Some units experienced casualty rates greater than 400 percent. The risks associated with daily combat operations were pronounced. Flying amidst such odds yielded a stark understanding regarding dedication to duty and sacrifice.

Stories of the Lafayette Escadrille spread around the globe. These young flyers were perceived to be noble champions of the Allied cause. The Squadron's famous mascot, a lion cub, rescued from a local circus grew into a rather large cat. (Next month: The Role of Aircraft In WWI. Part 6)



Captain Thenault



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MOAA Council of Florida Chapters 47th Annual Convention in Daytona Beach

(continued from page 12)



Presentation of Cape Canaveral LOE and Harris Communications Awards. L-R: General Gary North, Rick Kniseley, Rita Shapiro, Lorraine Holland (EC Area VP), and Pat Kluever (Council President).



MOAACC Member reunion with Volusia County Resident and Chapter Member Gloria Makowski at the Convention. L-R: Steve Bond, Gloria, John Murphy, Liz Whalen, Brian Whalen, Rosa Reich, and Rita Shapiro.



John and Cathy McMahon (Center) at the Convention Military Ball and Installation Ceremony on June 15th.

Photos Courtesy of Florida Council of MOAA

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MOAACC officers render salutes at the wreath laying ceremony at the Traveling Vietnam Wall on 06 May 2024 at Wickham Park:

Left to Right: Wayne Justice, Dean Schaff, Marty McAlwee, Tim Pishdad, Jeff Rogers, Rick Kniseley and Tim Thomas

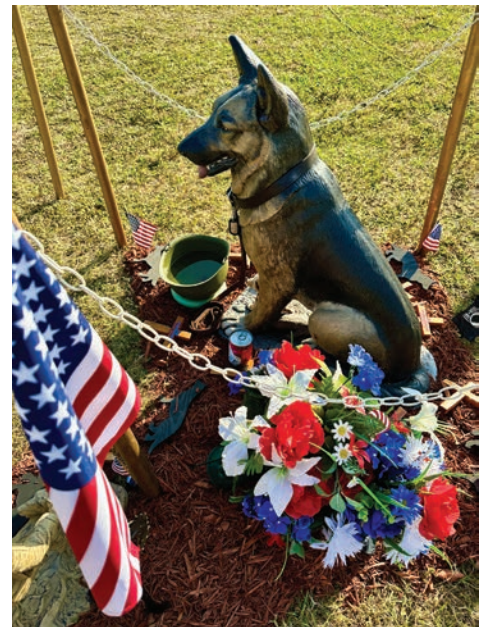


K-9 CORPS

Over 4000 military dogs served in Vietnam as Scouts, Sentries, Trackers and Patrol Dogs. Mostly German Shepherds and Labrador Retrievers, they were involved in over 90,000 missions. It has been estimated that their service prevented over 10,000 casualties. They were responsible for finding more than 2000 VC bunkers, secret tunnels and countless booby traps. The K-9 Teams proved so effective that the Viet Cong began placing cash bounties on the dogs and their handlers.

Of the 4000 dogs who served in Vietnam, only a handful were returned home. When the war ended, the government refused the handlers pleas to bring the dogs home, and ordered them left behind as "surplus material". In America's haste to GET OUT of Vietnam, we left about 500 with the South Vietnamese and the rest were euthanized. These were very special Soldiers and will always be remembered in the hearts of those who served with them.

On Point and Forever Forward: The K-9 Corps



MOAAC Photos by Pish Pishdad

19TH ANNUAL MOAACC GOOD DEEDS CRUISE



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DAY 4	At Sea - Cruising Tue, Jan 28, 2025	DAY 5	Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic Wed, Jan 29, 2025 Docked: 8:00AM to 6:00PM	DAY 6	Labadee, Haiti Thu, Jan 30, 2025 Docked: 7:00AM to 4:00PM
	DAY 7	At Sea - Cruising Fri, Jan 31, 2025	DAY 8	Orlando (Port Canaveral), Florida Sat, Feb 1, 2025 Arrival: 7:00AM	

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