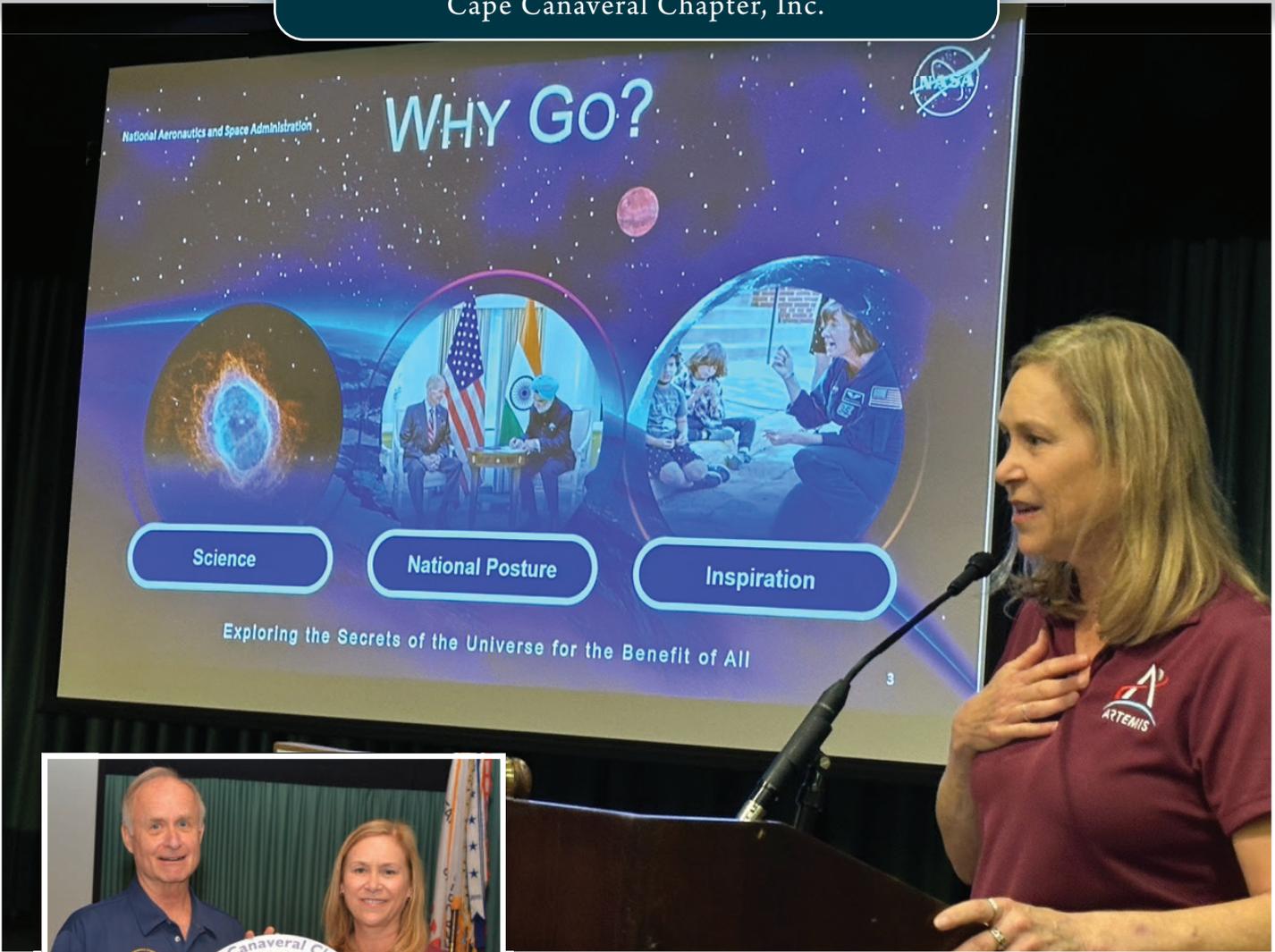




The INTERCOM

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
Cape Canaveral Chapter, Inc.



MOAACC Photos by Pish Pishdad

Above: 11th Director of the NASA John F. Kennedy Space Center, Janet Petro addressing the MOAACC members during the October Luncheon at Indian River Colony Club (IRCC).

Left: Colonel Rick Kniseley Presents the MOAACC Challenge Coin to Janet, and a plaque for appreciation.

See more photos on page 10. [Click Here for Video & Charts](#)



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



NOVEMBER EVENTS

(Click Event for Details)

- 11/1 Veteran Surviving Family Educational Seminar -
"Preparing for the Final Chapter" - 2 PM
@ One Senior Place
- 11/2 Current Affairs Forum/TMBC w/Susan
Dabrowski - Space Force Update - 8 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 11/3 Salute to Military Veterans - 7 PM
@ Viera Hawk Stadium
- 11/7 Florida Tech ROTC Panther Battalion to hold
virtual Town Hall on ROTC Scholarships - 8 AM
@ Virtual Townhall (Zoom)
- 11/9 TMBC - 8 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 11/11 VMC Honors Veterans Day 2023
"Pass In Review" - 11 AM
@ Veterans Memorial Center & Park
- 11/14 On-The-Go Luncheon - 11:30 AM
@ Longhorn Steakhouse, Viera
- 11/16 TMBC - 8 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 11/18 MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation's VyStar 2023
Military and Veterans Support Golf Tournament -
8 AM @ Indian River Colony Club
- 11/21 MOAACC Board of Directors Meeting - 9:30 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - Chapel
- 11/21 MOAACC Luncheon & Annual Membership
Business Meeting - 11:30 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - Colony Hall
- 11/23 TMBC CANCELLED - Happy Thanksgiving!
- 11/30 TMBC - 8 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole

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

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at <https://moaacc.org>

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



Lt Col Brian R. Whalen, USAF (Ret)

November will be busy, so get ready to update your calendars! We will begin the month with an informational seminar at One Senior Place on Nov 1 at 1400. It will cover things to know before becoming a Surviving Spouse. Chuck Shaw will be the primary speaker and Mike Tucker has been leading the planning effort. On Nov 2 Col Susan Dabrowski, USAF (Ret) will give us a Space Force update. On Nov 3 Viera High School will recognize veterans at half time in their football game against Titusville. Start time is 1900 and all veterans are encouraged to attend. On Nov 11, MOAACC be celebrating Veterans Day at the VMC, hope to see many chapter members come out and support this event. On Nov 14 we will have an On-the-Go Luncheon at Longhorn Steak House, this is a great opportunity to for casual (no business) camaraderie. Toni Lowe always hosts a great luncheon, so come out and join us! The Good Deeds Foundation's Golf Tournament will be taking place at Indian River Colony Club (IRCC) on 18 Nov and hopefully we will have a lot of volunteers answer the call. We will get an update on the State of the Chapter and elect our Officers and Directors for 2024 at the Membership Meeting and Luncheon on Nov 21 at IRCC. We celebrate Thanksgiving on Nov 23, and we have much to be grateful for.

I realize this information is available in the calendar and will be discussed in the TMBC and Five Things. I believe it is worthwhile to emphasize these upcoming chapter activities and hopefully you can deconflict appointments and be able to attend. These events are a great way to get to learn more about one another and learn about what is going on in our community and have a positive presence in the community.

We will likely need to reach out to our federal legislators again in November and remind them that continuing resolutions impact readiness and they need to get appropriation bills passed. Please visit the MOAA Legislative Action Page and support the MOAA endorsed legislation by contacting our legislators concerning this legislation. MOAA's preformatted e-mails are a great starting point for your correspondence.

Happy 247th Marines, Semper Fi!

INTERCOM Photo & Article Submission Rules



EXECUTIVE EDITOR & PAO

Amir M. Pishdad, CW3, USA (Ret)

PHOTOS:

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

ARTICLES:

- Articles must be in Microsoft “Word” format. PDF NOT ACCEPTED.
- LIMITS: One article per email, not more 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



SQUEAKING WHEEL GETS THE OIL

Support MOAACC Legislative Advocacy to Help protect your benefits and those who Served!

In fact, I personally followed these instructions, and found out that we can indeed communicate with our legislative representatives in Washington, and get an answer back, almost in the same day!

Please follow these rules, and you'll be impressed.

[See the instructions on page 25](#)

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Marilyn Sanford



LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

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

Can you believe this?!

Back in the day, the ABC Wide World of Sports would tout “the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat” as its lead in to entice potential viewers to tune in. Last month, we witnessed another thrill of victory as the House, avoided the catastrophe of another government shutdown to pass a Continuing Resolution (CR) to keep the government funded at FY23 levels until mid-November with help from centrist Republicans and the entire Democratic caucus. The CR was subsequently passed by the Senate and signed into law by the President. Of local interest, Rep. Bill Posey voted “No” to the CR and our two US Senators, Rubio and Scott, voted “Yes.”

Following the passage of the CR, 8 Republican and 208 Democrats voted to remove the Republican Speaker from office. As a result of this unprecedented action, we were without a Speaker of the House and could take no Congressional Action for a period. Hopefully this legislative foolishness will be resolved by the time this is published. Some of the implications of this mess follow:

The upshot of all this looms on the immediate horizon, exacerbated only by emerging and pressing matters such as US support for Israel following the attack and murder of innocent civilians in Israel by hordes of terrorists from Gaza. There’s also the question of additional military and economic aid for the beleaguered Ukrainians who continue their heroic fight to reinstate their borders against Russian aggression, not to mention the ongoing debacle at the U.S. southern border with Mexico which has seen over one million people illegally cross into the US in the past year. This problem alone, rightfully a priority within the Republican caucus, grows as it strains public services while leaving these people in limbo as they wait for their cases to be heard, and negotiate a lengthy process to obtain legal permission to work. And, we would be remiss in not re-mentioning the delayed FY24 budget battle currently ameliorated by the CR.

Without a speaker, the House cannot conduct business, meaning no bills can be brought to the floor for a vote. It seems there always is some reason or reasons for the US Congress to derelict its fundamental duty to appropriate for and fund the government. We need a functioning Congress, and from my foxhole, the only viable approach is one that puts the country (not to mention the world) ahead of partisan politics and internecine party intransigence. MOAA maintains its non-partisan focus on advocating for veterans, active, guard and reserve service-members, and retirees as well as for a strong national defense. We members should demand that our elected representatives get on with it or pass the torch on to some that will.

It’s difficult not to be cynical.



FINANCIAL LITERACY

Captain Bob Houle, USCG (retired)

As each year winds down, successful investors routinely assess their financial situation, adjust as needed, and plan for the upcoming year. A critical part of this assessment is *strategic asset allocation*. It’s a fundamental investment strategy that significantly impacts on our financial success. This month we’ll highlight some key concepts and strategies associated with asset allocation. Next month we’ll run through a checklist for setting our goals for the upcoming year. Don’t miss it. Making informed decisions is critical to successfully plan our financial future.

Understanding Asset Allocation. Asset allocation involves distributing our investments among different asset classes, such as stocks, bonds, real estate, and alternatives, to achieve a balance between risk and return. The basic idea is simple: don’t put all our eggs in one basket. By diversifying across various asset classes, we reduce the risk associated with any single investment.

Assessing Risk Tolerance. Before determining our asset allocation, it’s crucial to assess our risk tolerance. Risk assessment is nothing new to the military. It is situational. We have varying financial goals and timelines, so understanding our comfort level with risk is essential. Higher risk tolerance may lead to a more aggressive allocation with a greater emphasis on stocks, while a lower risk tolerance might result in a more conservative allocation with a higher bond component.

Diversification: The Power of Spreading Risk. Diversification is a cornerstone of asset allocation. Instead of putting all our money into a single investment in any one asset class, diversify our holdings across a range of quality holdings in each asset class. This spreads risk and can help mitigate the impact of a poor-performing asset on our overall portfolio. Diversification doesn’t guarantee profits or protect against losses, but it’s a time-tested strategy for managing risk.

Choosing the Right Investment Vehicles. Active-duty military officers have access to various investment vehicles, including the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP), 529 College Savings Plans, various forms of IRAs, the Savings Deposit Program (for those who qualify) and brokerage accounts. Retirees and former officers have similar civilian options for investing. Each comes with its own tax advantages and restrictions. When deciding on our asset allocation, we need to consider how these accounts fit into our overall tax reduction strategy. TSP accounts offer low-cost index funds, making them an attractive first choice for the core of our portfolio for those eligible.

Tax-Efficient Investing. Taxes can eat into our investment returns, so it’s important to consider tax-efficient investing. This includes placing tax-inefficient assets in tax-advantaged

accounts and using tax-efficient investment vehicles where possible in the non-tax advantaged accounts. It's a way to keep more of our hard-earned money working for us.

Review and Rebalance Regularly. Asset allocation isn't a fire and forget strategy. It requires periodic review and rebalancing to maintain our desired risk profile. Market fluctuations can cause our asset allocation to drift from our target, so adjust as needed to stay on track and inside our investment planning envelope. Quarterly reviews for most people are sufficient. Don't let your review go beyond a year, which is why this is a timely article to make adjustments before year end.

A Long-Term Perspective. Finally, maintain a long-term perspective. Investing is a marathon, not a sprint. Market volatility is inevitable, but reacting emotionally to short-term fluctuations can derail our long-term goals. Stick to our asset allocation strategy and adjust it only when our financial situation or goals change significantly.

Strategic asset allocation is a critical component of long-term investment success. By diversifying our investments, assessing our risk tolerance, and making use of tax-efficient strategies, you can navigate the path to financial security with confidence. Remember, the road to financial readiness is built on informed decisions and disciplined planning and execution. Asset allocation is our compass for the journey.

Never Stop Serving!



POINTS TO PONDER

MAJ (Chaplain, USAR Ret.) Bill Adams

As I pondered what to write in this autumn season, my mind went to Thanksgiving and all that we should be thankful for. Then my heart went to something greater: Who we are to be thankful to: "Every good and perfect gift is from above and comes down from the Father of lights" (James 1:17).

But now, as I write, a horrendous Hamas terror attack on Israeli civilians has been unleashed and Israel is responding with devastating firepower. While I'd prefer to remain pondering Thanksgiving, I must address the developing crisis in the Middle East.

Through my years of studying the Bible, exploring the Land of Israel, and building friendships with Israelis, I can unequivocally state that the Jewish people are one of those "good gifts" the Father of lights has given from above. No more perfect than any other people, they are yet something very special. Check the record: God fashioned this people as His channel of blessing into the world—the redemption of mankind.

But sadly, for the 4,000 years since Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, much of the world has hated them for their standing before God and their chosen role in redemption. It's no cakewalk to be chosen, especially for such a weighty purpose. It has generated at least as many foes as friends, as the dark history of antisemitism, pogroms, inquisitions, the Holocaust, and the current jihad attests.

And now we mourn the thousand-plus Jews in their sovereign state and sanctified homes who were slaughtered by terrorists who got loose from their Gaza enclave a mile or so away. We also grieve with the families whose loved ones were taken hostage and are being systematically tortured to death.

Thank God, most of the free world is supporting Israel's necessary response: Attack decisively to permanently neutralize Hamas. While this is acting with moral clarity, it is also of strategic necessity since these sacrificed Jews, including over 20 Americans, are only the front line a global jihad backed and funded by Iran, Russia, China, and North Korea. The aircraft carrier battle groups being sent to the eastern Mediterranean demonstrate America's necessary resolve to project strength in the region, not only to ensure Israel's survival, but to hold back the forces of evil that threaten all free peoples.

There is a time for peace and a time for war. Sadly, this is the time for war that has been forced upon Israel. I pray for a swift and sure victory for the Israeli Defense Forces. Only then can Israel restore the peace—Shalom—that it so longs for.

"Peace be upon Israel" (Psalm 128:6).



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SURVIVOR ASSISTANCE LESSONS LEARNED

Lt Col Chuck Shaw, USAF, (Ret)

When you lose your spouse, emotions can be quite overpowering. This month we will touch on anxiety. Unlike grief, that is hard to deal with beforehand, anxiety can somewhat be prepared for. The more you prepare for the inevitable by addressing things that cause anxiety, it makes dealing with unforeseen things that come up less disruptive. Probably addressing your financial security is one of the most common sources of anxiety. Each month The Intercom has a great article on "Financial Literacy" that is well worth your time to read. The SAT Lessons Learned articles address the preparations to deal with Military and Governmental related Benefits, like the Survivor Benefits Program, VA benefits, Social Security, etc. Both the Intercom articles stress preparations to deal with the future to make things go better.

The earlier you start these preparations, the less distracting and the better the job you can do, and the less chance you will get overwhelmed when the inevitable happens. Things like rounding up the documents you will need to submit along with the benefits claims and things like medical records, and filing for a VA Disability if you are eligible, and simply making arrangements for funeral and burial activities.

These SAT Lessons Learned articles hopefully break down the seemingly daunting and confusing aspects of dealing with the inevitable. If you do have questions, the Survivor Assistance Team is here to help both beforehand and afterwards.



GDF Sponsors Cape Canaveral National Cemetery Wreaths Across America Ceremony on 18 November

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

Bette Nelson, CCNC Location Coordinator for Wreath Across America (WAA) accepts a GDF Check from Pres Donna Weaver for \$2000 to support the 18 November WAA Ceremony at the VA Cemetery in Mims. Last year over 1200 people attended the ceremony as WAA placed more than 9000 wreaths to honor and remember veterans. Costs this year include golf cart rentals, 600 chair rentals, audio system and much more. The WAA Ceremony is not an official VA/NCA function, so without such support, it could not happen. Any funds left over will be used to purchase wreaths at \$17 each next year. To get involved in the WAA mission contact Donn on 757-871-6576.

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Mark Your Calendar!
**MOAACC Luncheon & Annual
Membership Business Meeting**
21 November 2023
11:30 AM
Indian River Colony Club
Colony Hall
1936 Freedom Drive
Melbourne, FL 32940

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

1. Herb Roasted Chicken with Rice & Vegetables
2. Turkey Cobb Salad
3. Vegetarian/Gluten Free Meal Upon Request Only

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

Please RSVP/cancel by 15 November, 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

Salute to Military Veterans

The 3rd of November 7PM Viera HS home football game against Titusville will be our Salute to Military Veterans game. Come to the Viera Hawk Stadium to be honored and recognized for your sacrifices to our great nation.

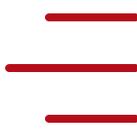
Veterans get free admission to the game by showing their VA ID Card. Veterans will also be recognized in a very special ceremony at halftime.

You don't want to miss this game and patriotic event that will make you proud to be an American.

See you 7PM at the Viera Hawk Stadium on the 3rd of November.



See more upcoming events in the Unofficial Brevard VMC Vets Calendar on page 16, in the extended digital version of this issue online at moaacc.org, and on the Calendar or Events List pages on moaacc.org.


**MOAACC
On-the-Go
Luncheon**

The November OTG will be held on 14 November 2023 at 1130-1300 at Longhorn Steakhouse, 6691 Lake Andrew Dr., Viera FL, 32940. Please contact Toni Lowe for reservations (321) 474-6888, by Friday the 10th. Thank you.

SPACE COAST NAVY WIVES' CLUB

Please join us for our November luncheon which will be held on November 10th, the second Friday of the month. We will meet at THE TIDES on route A1A at PSF Base. Social hour begins at 11:30 am and lunch served at noon.

Our speaker this month will be Jeanne Weaver. Jeanne is a painter, Gold Star Mother and author of Losing Todd-a-Mother's Journey. We look forward to her presentation.

Lunch selections are Harvest Salad with Grilled Chicken or Meatloaf with mashed potatoes and vegetables. For dessert we will have pumpkin pie.

For information and reservations call or text Rebecca Kersey at (207) 607-0006 no later than noon, Tuesday, November 7th. Friends and spouses also are always welcome.

Ellie Joy
(321) 757-0193

MOAACC SPOUSES CHRISTMAS TEA

MOAACC Surviving Spouses are hosting the annual Christmas Tea at Indian River Colony Club. This is for all spouses of MOAACC. The date is Friday, December 15th at 2PM. Cost is \$25 per person.

We look forward to seeing you at this English Tea. This will be a wonderful way to start the Christmas season.

For reservations and information, please call Ellie Joy at (321) 757-0193 no later than noon on Friday, December 8th.

Ellie Joy
(321) 757-0193



MOAACC GOOD DEEDS FOUNDATION

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

Good Deeds at Brightline Speed

I saw my first operation Brightline Train speed through Melbourne in early October and reflected that your Good Deeds Foundation is moving very fast as well. With our FY 2023 (01 Oct 2022- 30 Sep 2023) grants logged in at more than \$103,000. Our 18 November IRCC Golf Tournament Fundraiser is approaching quickly; and more than \$26,000 has been approved for 15 grants. With lots of photo ops before the New Year, GDF remains on a fast track too.

Please check our column this issue for a wide range of grants in support of active-duty military, youth, veterans in need and special other veteran organizations like NVHS, WAA USO and many more. Also, you can view our record setting FY 2023 impact list on the MOAACC Website. Please check through those ten pages of details to whom, why and to what impact we presented grants last FY.

On 17 October I presented the FY 2023 story and our plans for the next year to the MOAACC Board. The GDF Board will also be delighted to share that same report with many MOAACC members at the 21 November Annual Membership and Elections for 2024 meeting at IRCC.

Please consider donating at years end to your Good Deeds Foundation using the MOAACC website or sending a check to:

MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation
PO Box 320358
Cocoa Beach, FL 32932-0358

Also, while our Golfing quota is full (124 !!!) please consider helping us get more sponsors and coming to the event anytime between 0900-1300 to take a chance with the 50-50 raffle (Last year over \$500 won); silent auction prizes and to cheer the golfers and the purpose. Thanks to all the GDF Board and many other MOAACC members who will help work that event as we seek to break the record \$30,000 earned at the 2022 tournament.

VyStar 2023 Military and Veterans Support Golf Tournament

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



Tournament Proceeds Used to Support



- Junior ROTC Programs
- Active Duty Military and Their Families
- Veterans at Risk of Homelessness

Register Your Team Now!

Just Go To GDFGolf.com
Click "Register Now"

or

Fill out Team Registration Sheet on Back



★ **December 16, 2023** ★

National Wreaths Across America Day



Help WAA Cape Canaveral National Cemetery honor local heroes!

Sponsor a wreath today to be placed on a Veteran's grave this December at Cape Canaveral National Cemetery.

Scan the QR code to the right to make a donation online or visit www.wreathscrossamerica.org/FL0320P



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October MOAACC Luncheon Speaker

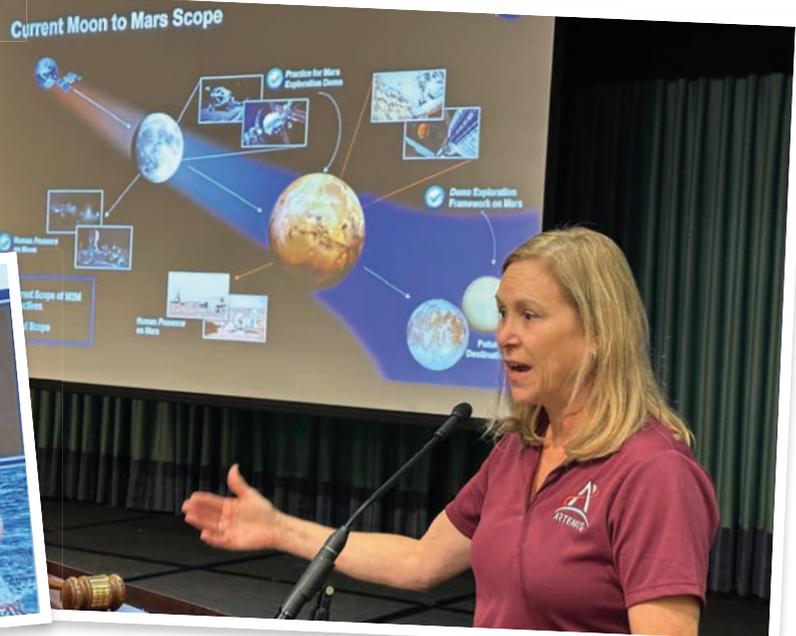


MOAACC Photos by Fish Pishdad

It's a Small World

It was completely coincidental that the Air Force JROTC color guard happened to be from the same local school high school (Satellite High), where our October luncheon speaker, Janet Petro, the 11th Director of JFK Space Center had attended and graduated, when she was age 17 in 1977.

They are L-R: Warren Keith, with U.S Flag, Gideon Pike, Gavin Gel-fond, Ava Numan. Center: Janet E. Petro 11th Director of JfK Space center.



MOAACC Past Presidents Dinner



MOAACC Photos by Pish Pishdad

The Dinner was held on 7 October, at Indian River Colony Club (IRCC).

Above photo, far left standing, LtCol Brian Whalen USAF, 2023 President, joined the annual photograph with ten other Past presidents.

Front Row : L-R Maj. Joe Oblack USAF 2010, Col Susan Neugebauer USAF 2011, Col Steve Bond USA 2021, MAJ Tim Pishdad USA 2020

Back Row : 2nd from L-R CPT Donn Weaver USA 2016, COL Jeffrey C. Rogers USA 2014, CDR A Courtney Yelle USN 2013, CAPT Robert D. Watts USN 2015, CDR Ken Lowe USNR 2022, and Col Gary Eppler USAF 2018



Donn Weaver, Named Florida Veterans Hall of Fame for 2023!

The 2023 inductees to the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame were recently announced by the Governor's Office, including our former MOAACC Chapter President, CPT Donn Weaver (USA) (FAR RIGHT)

Four other Hall of Famers from past years were also recognized in the ceremonies on Tuesday, October 24th, at the Brevard County Commissioners meeting in Viera, Florida.

L-R: LTC Harry "Skip" Taylor USA (2022), Sergeant First Class Juan Santiago, USA (2019), Chief Master Sergeant Eugene Cecil Johnson, USAF (2014) and Major General John Cleland, USA (2013).

2nd from left, Rita Pritchett, Chair, Commissioners, presented the Resolutions.

Florida Governor Ronald DeSantis will formally recognize Captain Donn Weaver during a ceremony on November 14th, in Tallahassee Florida.

(more photos on page 27)



See more member photos online, starting on page 27



GDF continued

JROTC Competition at VMC Park Biggest Ever



1st Sgt Colon (Heritage) and LTC Pavone (Cocoa)

More than 200 JROTC Cadets from 12 high schools participated in the first Raider Challenge of the school year at VMC Park on 30 September 2023. Heavy rains at the end did not dampen the spirit, and might have added to the fun for cadets competing as 10 person teams in the 5K run, Tire Flip, Drag and carry, Litter carry and Rope Bridge Events. The teams included male, female and mixed with several schools fielding multiple teams.

MOAACC's Good Deeds Foundation, along with the Veterans Memorial Center, were the sponsors and supporters of this initial JROTC event. There are six events planned at the VCM Park through March 2024 including Raider Challenge, Run and Shoot and Drill, and several others at Palm Bay High School for Air Rifle Competition. All events are listed in the VMC Calendar. All, especially veterans are encouraged to come out and support America's future leaders.

The first Raider Challenge Event was sponsored by Cocoa Beach High School JROTC with two more to go on 14 and 28 October. The final event will be for the District Championships and the right of the top two teams in Male, Female and Mixed to go on to the State Championships in November. Brevard County is considered among the strongest for Raider Competition. This year two JROTC units from East River and Umatilla High Schools in the Orlando area came to maximize the competition level for their cadets.

The event set up began at 0600 and the first competition was the 5K run starting at 0800. The MOAACC reps Ken Lowe and Donn Weaver handed out trophies to the overall school winners in the three categories. While all were fully soaked by then, smiles and high spirits won the day with many such moments captured on film. The last group of cadets did not leave the VMC until 1430.



5K first team out!!



Litter carry at full pace



Rope Bridge - Teamwork crucial



Exhausted but glad they came and awaiting results



What Rain??



MEMBERSHIP BRIEF

WELCOME

Welcome 5 new members:

- Mrs. Irene Abramowitz, Surviving Spouse**
- Colonel John Franco, USAF, Retired**
- Mrs. Annette Kintigh, Surviving Spouse**
- CH (Lt Col) Nick LoPresto, USAF**
- Lt Col Jerry O' Halloran, USAF, Retired**



On 21 September, one week before the first JROTC Raider Challenge Meet of the year, VMC President Dean Schaaf delivers three huge tires for the "Tire Flip Event". Thanks to Gatto's Tires of Cocoa, the tires were donated at no cost. Now, for the first time in six years supporting JROTC meets, the VMC will have on hand their own tires to support the cadets and avoid transport costs at every event. Thanks to 1st Sgt Torres of Merritt Island Army JROTC for the tire loan and transportation all previous years.

Raider Challenge Meets are being held 30 Sep, 14 and 28 Oct at the Veterans Memorial Park. MOAACC's Good Deeds Foundation provides all the trophies to all those and other rifle and drill meets throughout this school year.

VMC



Paul Julian, VMC Vice President and MOAACC member, led the discussion along with Ben Bedalyk who operates a Vietnam Research display along US-1 in Rockledge

TAPS

MOAA CAPE CANAVERAL CHAPTER MEMBER, AUXILIARY, and SPOUSE DEATHS

September 2023 Deaths listed for November 2023 Intercom

Marie Louise Ward, SSM
11 September 2023

Donald Gilleland, Lt Col, USAF Ret.
14 September 2023

Joe Aycock, LCDR, USN Ret
17 September 2023

David D. Kintigh, Lt Col, USAF Ret
19 September 2023



Brevard Veteran Community Supports NVHS



The MOAACC table with Donn Weaver, Dean and Susan (not pictured) Schaaf, Alan and Margie DeFend, Don Reott, Skip Taylor, Brian and Liz Whalen and Jeanne Weaver (taking photo). Wayne Justice, Scott Robinson, and Tim Thomas were among other MOAACC members seated at other tables.

More than 550 people came together on 06 October 2023, for a major fundraiser dinner at the Cape Canaveral Radisson. Their mission was unified: Support the activities of National Veterans Homeless Support (NVHS), Inc. throughout the next year.

The NVHS is Cocoa based 501c3 organization founded in 2008 by George Taylor Sr, himself once a homeless veteran. Despite the name, NVHS operates only in Brevard County working with many partners and supporters. NVHS strives to bring veterans and families out of homelessness and in assisting veterans and their families with rent, utilities and other issues to prevent them from becoming homeless.

The event raised thousands of dollars through sponsors, dinner ticket prices (\$100 per seat), a silent auction and a live auction led by Sheriff Wayne Ivey. There were more than 140 veterans in attendance as the event opened with a roll call with each stating their name and service. MOAACC was one of many sponsors for a table, and members paid for their own seats. Several other veteran groups as well as Rolling Thunder FL-1, which includes many veterans, were also sponsors. Every sponsor was recognized throughout the evening. Each year NVHS also recognizes the "NVHS Veteran Advocate of the Year. Donn Weaver of MOAACC, Veterans Memorial Center and other veteran organizations received the 2023 Award.

The evening featured the moving story of what NVHS has accomplished in Brevard County:

- Worked with over 100 veterans to find paths out of being homeless in 2023
- Drew down Veteran Homelessness from 1800 in 2008 to 65 before the pandemic and 200 today as the economy takes its toll.
- Helped 419 veterans and many families among them to **avoid** becoming homeless in 2023
- Supported the Veterans Memorial Center and MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation to provide extensive services, clothes, medical support etc. to 70 homeless vets in the January 2023 Stand Down to Stand Up.
- Worked with over 100 veterans to find paths out of becoming homeless in 2023.

For more information about NVHS, the results of this event, as well as an upcoming NVHS 5K fundraiser in November check out the website at: NVHS.ORG



Half the Audience



Donn Weaver with Brevard County Property Appraiser Dana Blickley and NVHS CEO George Taylor Jr. accepting the Award.



The Missing Man Table Ceremony with LTC Tim Thomas and Viera JROTC Cadets



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Unofficial Brevard VMC Vets Calendar

NOVEMBER 2023 AND BEYOND

Contact VMC for any additions or other information.

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

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

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

November

11 Nov — SFR Veterans Day 5K VM PARK and Center - 0600-1000; Merging to:

11 Nov — VMC Veterans Day Ceremony Plaza, Center, Gray Hall with lunch courtesy of Chick-Fil-A 1000—1200

11 Nov — First Annual City of Cape Canaveral and VFW Post 10131 Veterans Day Parade and festival afterwards at VFW Post in Cape Canaveral; Details and entry information in September. Free food and drinks; sponsors sought. Contact VFW Post 10131 for more information.

11 Nov — Rock'n Vet Music evening at H&D Roadhouse 1811 E. Merritt Island Causeway rte 520, from 1500- 2300. Live music of all kinds, raffle, food, and fun. Sponsored by American Legion Post 344 based at the VMC, Contact Legion 344 for more information.

11 Nov — 248th USMC Birthday Ball 1800-2200 at the Radisson Conference Center in Cape Canaveral on A1A. Sponsored by Marine Corps League Detachment 513 of Brevard. Cost \$40 per person. Reservations and payment required. Contact MCL at the VMC for more information to join in this special event.

12 Nov — Sixth Annual NVHS Homestretch 5K for Homeless Veterans. 0700-1200 in the Eau Gallie Square. More Details in August. Call NVHS 321-208-7562 for more info.

15 Nov — Inaugural Brevard No One Veteran Left Behind (BNOVLB) Committal Service for the unclaimed cremains of 20 veterans and spouses. Held at Cape Canaveral National Cemetery in Mims 1400-1600 as Brevard honors the final promise to all veterans - an honorable resting place and remembrance. Contact BNOVLB coordinator Donn Weaver on 757-871-6576 or donnweaver2020@gmail.com for more information or to participate.

18 Nov — 20-23 Veterans and Military Support MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation Golf Tournament at IRCC 0800-1400. Primary GDF Fundraiser of the year with sponsorships, hole sponsorships, golfing slots and auction/raffle prizes. Proceeds Support the GDF: A 501(c)(3) charitable organization supporting the aims of the Cape Canaveral Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAACC). It has provided direct support and grants to area military (primarily in enlisted ranks), veterans, and their families; ROTC, JROTC, Sea Cadet, Civil Air Patrol, as well as other Veteran organizations and groups since 2014.

28 Nov - VMC Library Discussion Series, 1800-1930. The presenter and topic TBD

December

16 Dec — Wreaths Across America at the VA Cape Canaveral National Cemetery in Mims and other veteran cemeteries in the area. Details in September.

17 Dec — Wreaths Across America Special Ceremony 1500-1630 at Pinecrest Cemetery on Clearlake Road in Cocoa. Honors Brevard Native Korean War Medal of Honor Recipient Emory Bennett and other veterans laid to rest in that cemetery. RTFL: -1 Motorcycle wreath escort from VMC at 1400. Contact Dorothy Walsh of VMC for more info.

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

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www.MOAACC.org





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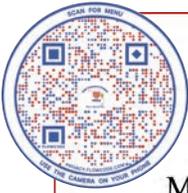
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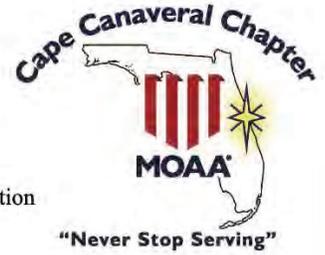
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PO Box 320358

Cocoa Beach, FL 32932



The Military Officers Association of America
 Cape Canaveral Chapter (MOAACC)
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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/ INFORMATION UPDATE.



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

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Telephone _____ Email _____

Rank _____ Service _____ Member DOB _____

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

Signature _____ Date _____

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 First Year - No Cost

Life Membership

Age	Fee	Age	Fee
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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.



Get The Intercom *ONLINE!*

Contact MOAACC Treasurer to change from paper to web

Visit our MOAACC Chapter website: www.moaacc.org

HEALTHY LIFESTYLE

November is National Healthy Skin Month

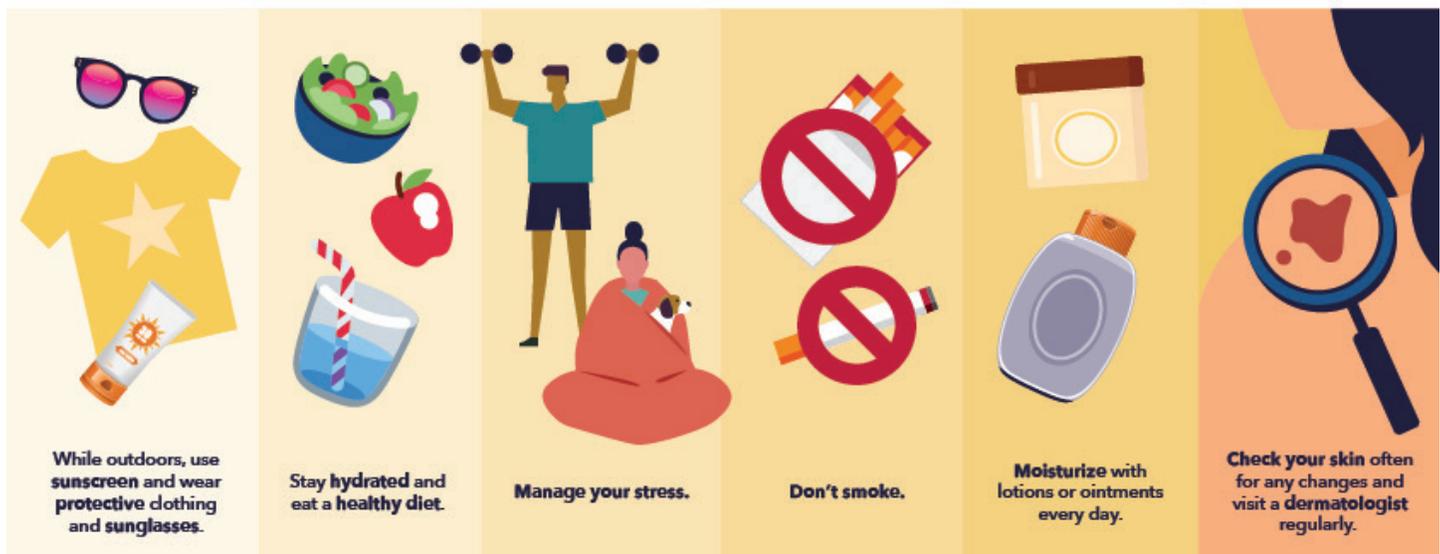
By: Rita Shapiro, MA, DPT

Skin is the largest organ in our body and plays very important role in maintaining our body fluid balance, keeping harmful germs out. There are numerous conditions that can cause problems with our skin, such as Acne, Eczema, Psoriasis, Scleroderma to name few. However, another major condition that can affect the skin and lead to disastrous conditions, that being skin cancer. Especially, living in Florida, the Sunshine State, our skin is constantly being bombarded by the Sun's harmful rays.

As we get older, skin care is of utmost importance. As we age, the skin loses fat in the subdermal layers and becomes thin and fragile. It becomes of utmost importance that we take care of our skin and protect it from damage. Hence remember: ***Protect from Sun***, ***Hydrate***, ***Manage Stress***, ***Do Not Smoke***, ***Moisturize Daily***, and ***seek advice from the Dermatologist immediately if you see any unusual changes in your skin.***

<https://www.nia.nih.gov/health/infographics/tips-healthier-skin-you-age>

Tips for Healthier Skin as You Age



Find more information about taking care of your skin:
www.nia.nih.gov/health/skin-care-and-aging

 National Institute on Aging

#NIAHealth

November is also National Diabetes Awareness Month. The best option is to PREVENT diabetes by eating healthy and exercising regularly. To learn more and to take the online Type 2 diabetes risk, visit the American Diabetes Association at: <https://diabetes.org/diabetes-risk-test>

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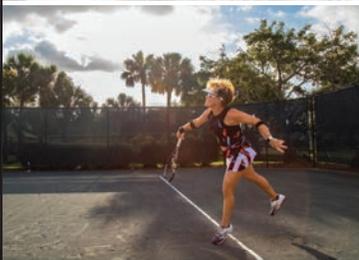
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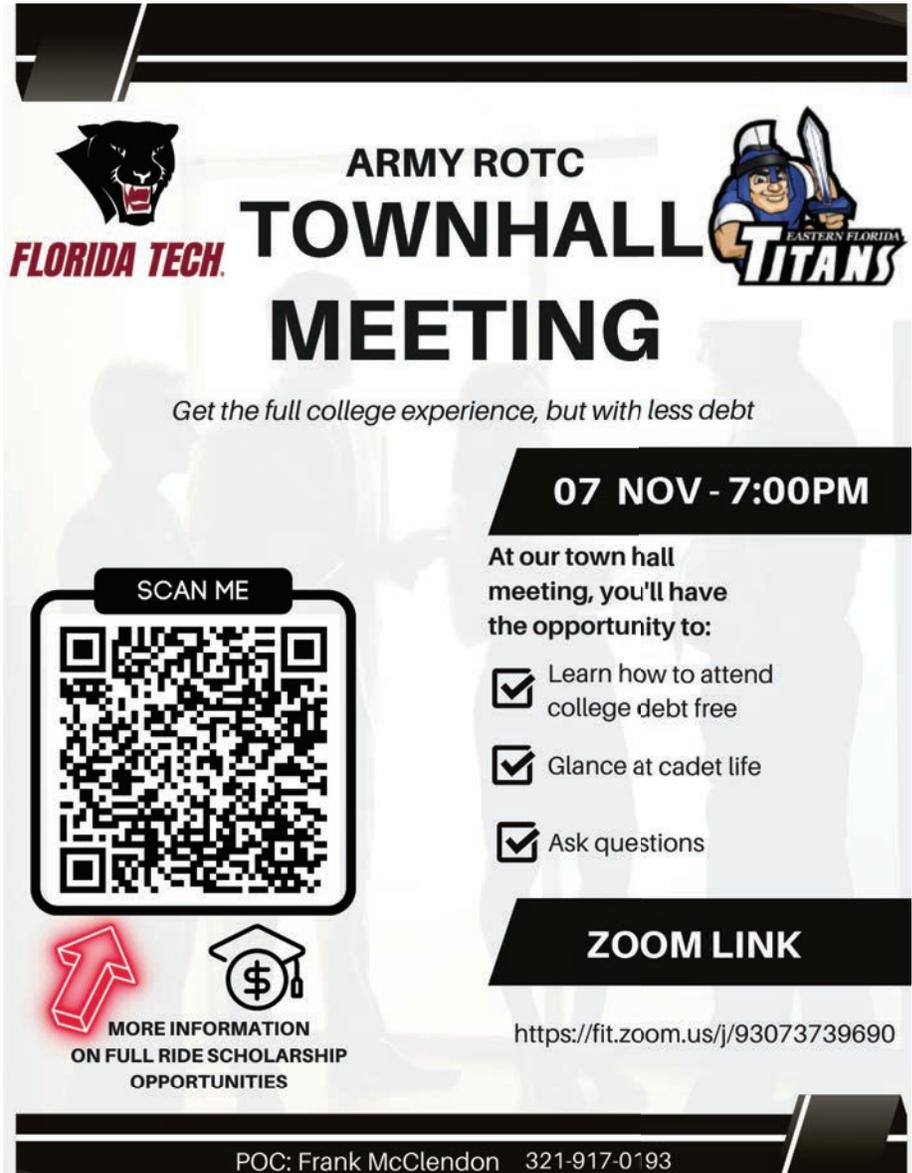
Florida Tech ROTC Panther Battalion to hold virtual Town Hall on ROTC Scholarships

The Florida Institute of Technology Army ROTC Panther Battalion is hosting a virtual town hall on November 7th, 2023, at 7 PM to provide information to parents, prospective and current students, and athletes about scholarships to Florida Tech, Eastern Florida State College, and other schools through the Army Reserve Officer Training Program (ROTC). While college is costly, the ROTC program offers full scholarship opportunities. These scholarships can be worth over \$260,000, including full tuition and fees, a \$1,200 yearly book stipend, and a \$420/month living stipend, dorms, and meals.

Many of us are products of ROTC and other officer training. Army ROTC develops future leaders for the United States and our communities. ROTC students get hands-on leadership training, but more importantly are surrounded by a family of support to help keep them safe and on track at college. Upon Commissioning as an Army Officer, starting salaries can be up to \$70,000/year. The Army also provides 30 vacation days annually, comprehensive healthcare, housing assistance, cash allowances to cover the cost of living, GI Bill benefits, family services, and career support after you serve.

The Army's Officer Corps has over 20 broad career fields, provides funded advanced degree options, grants Secret Security Clearances, and allows your service obligation to be part time through the National Guard and Reserves in a state of your choosing.

If you are a grandparent, parent, or know of a current college or high school student interested in this amazing opportunity, join the Florida Tech ROTC Panther Battalion leadership at <https://fit.zoom.us/j/93073739690> on the November 7th at 7 P.M. See the flyer for more details.



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07 NOV - 7:00PM

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ZOOM LINK

<https://fit.zoom.us/j/93073739690>

SCAN ME



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More GDF!

Cape Canaveral Ladies Get a GDF Boost



During their meeting at the Veterans Memorial Center in September, The Cape Canaveral Ladies find a nice way to say thanks to MOAACC's Good Deeds Foundation

Since their inception in 2016, MOAACC's GDF has supported the Cape Canaveral Ladies (CCL) who attend every service at the VA Cape Canaveral National Cemetery all year long — more than 1200 in 2022. Founded by MOAACC Surviving Spouse member Cozette Merritt, the CCL has not wavered.

It is one of only three such organizations know to operate with the Arlington Ladies of Arlington National Cemetery being the largest and longest serving. Look for upcoming articles offering more details about our amazing CCL volunteers, many of whom have MOAACC connections.

This year GDF provided the CCL team \$750 which covered one year's worth of their special printed cards of condolence they offer to all families who attend the funeral service at CCNC. The services are conducted virtually every weekday of the year. What a very special job they do. It is one GDF will always be pleased to support.



GDF joined the Civil Air Patrol of Titusville at their meeting on 18 Oct to present the Unit \$1200 for 2023-24 school year expenses. They first held a formation outside their Space Coast Airport Trailer



Dorothy Walsh, the Treasurer of American Legion Aux Post 344 based at the Veterans Memorial Center, accepted three GDF checks from Donn Weaver for \$700 to support their annual holiday party for active duty and veteran kids at the VMC in early December, \$500 to support their 31 October Trunk or Treat Party for kids at the VMC and a check of \$1200 from GDF for Their Voice of Hope annual operations, an organization that supports women veterans in many special events including equine therapy and outings and luncheons to connect women veterans with others and leverage support to them as/if needed.



GDF President Weaver presents the 2024 FY support check of \$3,500 to Don Pearsall, CEO of Veteran Connections which supports veterans in severe financial and housing distress as well as facing PTSD challenges.

MOAACC Good Deeds Continues Mission to Support Cadet Groups

On 11 October the Good Deeds Foundation presented \$1,200 the Patrick Wing of the Civil Air Patrol. The support is part of the more than \$38,000 total GDF gave for this school year to 19 different JROTC and other Cadet Units. CAP Patrick has 44 cadets on the roster and a busy year planned, so our funds were much appreciated.



Getting Ready for the Ceremony.



GDF President Weaver (r) Presents the check in two forms to the CAP adult and cadet leaders with Dan McIntyre looking on. Dan stayed on to provide USCG recruiting information. Thanks to MOAACC member, a USCG aviator and USNA Blue and Gold Rep Hillary Smith for taking the photo.

A Unique Way to Support the Space Coast Honor Flight



(L-R) Donn Weaver (GDF/MOAACC) Jim Hart (SCHF President) Delaney Granko (FIT PhD Program) and Brian Whalen (MOAACC Pres)

On 14 October, the annual tradition of pre-flight ceremony at Wickham Park began at 0215 hrs for the 75th Mission of the Space Coast Honor Flight (SCHF).

As always, the focus was on another 30 veterans (1948 since 2010) as they prepared to travel to Washington DC to see their memorials and to be honored in many ways through a very long, but lifetime memory type day. The oldest veteran served in WWII and had his 100th birthday two months before. He joined two Korean War; 24 Vietnam War era and three Cold/GWOT veterans. They visited the Navy, USAF, WW II, Korean War, Vietnam War Memorials and monuments along with Arlington National Cemetery, where one was chosen to lay the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Each one had a Guardian. For the third straight year the Good Deeds Foundation (GDF) of the Cape Canaveral Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAACC) provided RADM James Hart, President of the SCHF, a check for \$4000. These funds will provide the airfare and expenses for another ten Guardians during 2024. Those Guardians come from two special organizations: ROTC College students at Florida Tech and military veterans who are undertaking PhD level training through a VA program at FIT. Thus, four organizations combined a one mission before 3 am that morning.

The 14 October Flight included four Guardians from FIT and one previous Guardian, now defending her PhD dissertation, Delaney Bennett Granko. She attended to help with the festivities, Delaney became engaged when a fellow ROTC Cadet from the University of Florida, and now husband, John Granko, proposed in Wash DC during an Honor Flight several years ago. GDF was represented by its President Donn Weaver. Brian Whalen, President of MOAACC also shared the special moment.

For more information about qualifications to be honored with a SCHF or to be a Guardian in the future check: schf.org



Preparing to depart: 30 Veterans; 30 Guardians, SCHF volunteers and many more well-wishers.

Sergeant Reckless: Part 3 In Combat

By Bill Muckler, Captain USMC

Staff Sergeant Reckless learned to run for a bunker upon hearing the cry, "Incoming!" The platoon called it her "hoof training" and "hoof camp." The horse was initially kept in a pasture near the encampment. Reckless had a gentle disposition and soon developed such a rapport with the troops that she was allowed to freely roam about the camp and entered tents at will, sometimes sleeping inside with the troops, and even lying down next to Latham's warm tent stove on cold nights. She was fond of a wide variety of chow, entertaining the platoon by eating scrambled eggs, and drinking Coca-Cola and beer. She ate bacon, buttered toast, chocolate bars, hard candy, shredded wheat, peanut butter sandwiches and mashed potatoes.



Sergeant Reckless at Happy Hour

route, Reckless would only need someone to lead her a few times. Afterward, she would make the trips on her own. There was a standing order not to ride Reckless, but in early December 1952, someone violated that order and took Reckless on a ride that included a sprint through a minefield. Fortunately, she was not injured during the unauthorized ride.

Her most significant accomplishment came during the Battle of Panmunjom-Vegas during the three-day period of March 26–28, 1953. Reckless made 51 solo trips carrying a total of 386 recoilless rounds, 9,000 pounds, and four to eight 24-pound shells on each trip covering 35 miles that day.

George "Doc" Mitchell advised the platoon that she not be given more than two bottles of Coke a day. Her tastes were not confined to foodstuffs; she once ate her horse blanket, and on another occasion ate \$30 worth of Latham's winning poker chips.

Reckless's baptism under fire came at Hedley's Crotch, near the villages of Changdan and Kwakchan. Loaded down with six recoilless rifle shells, she initially "went straight up" and all four feet left the ground the first time the Recoilless Rifle was fired. When she landed she started shaking, but Coleman, her handler, calmed her down. The second time the gun fired she merely snorted, and by the end of the mission that day appeared calm and was seen trying to eat a discarded helmet liner. She even appeared to take an interest in the operation of the weapon. When learning a new delivery



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How: Sign letters to your Congressman/Senators in support of MOAA Goals and Objectives

1. Type: moaa.quorum.us in the long Address bar at the top of the page in your browser: Chrome, Duck Duck Go, Edge, etc

You will see a MOAA Logo in the top left and “Active Legislative Campaigns” in Large **RED LETTERS**

Scrolling down the page, you will see many separate letters. Each one is highlighted with a short Synopsis of what the issue is.

2. To start signing the letters, go to the far right of the first letter and click the blue box that has the word “Write” in it to take you that letter

Before you can complete the first letter, you will have to give personal information so the computer will recognize you on the following letters and find your correct Legislator based on your address and zip code.

3. Once the form is completed, at the bottom of the form, click in the Blue Box that says: “Submit”

Now the system will take you to the first letter to sign

4. Scroll down and click “Submit Selected Letters” or “Submit” for individual letters in the long blue bar

After you clicked “Submit Selected Letters”, scroll down to the bottom of the new page, click on “back to home page” in a long red bar.

5. Scroll down to find the next letter to complete and again click on the blue box that says “Write”

Since the system remembers you, you do not have to fill out the personal information form again and the letters are quick to finish by clicking “Submit Selected Letter”, then going back to Home page and continuing to the next letters in order. You can read and/or edit the letters if you like.

In some cases, they ask for personal experience. You can skip those if you have nothing to add. Some letters may not apply to you directly, but **ALL** are important for MOAA Advocacy, so please complete each one. In 5 minutes you will be finished! Congratulations!





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- Please provide names and captions
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October On The Go Luncheon, and Steve Cusick's Birthday



Brevard County Board of County Commissioners Resolution



Steve Bond took a trip down memory lane while in Dahlonega, Georgia while at the Georgia MOAA Convention hosted by the Georgia Mountain Chapter. Dahlonega is also home of the US Army Ranger Training Camp. Some 40-plus years ago, Steve turned 21 here while going through Ranger training



MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA CAPE CANAVERAL CHAPTER (MOAACC)

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The *INTERCOM* is the primary communications vehicle for the Chapter. Copies are mailed to members, friends and other MOAA Chapters throughout Florida and the United States. Additional copies are disseminated at facilities on Patrick SFB and throughout Brevard County. The *INTERCOM* is also posted to our award-winning website (www.moaacc.org) and distributed to over 1,500 email subscribers. Members are patriotic and professional. We encourage our members to support businesses that support MOAACC.

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