



The INTERCOM

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
Cape Canaveral Chapter, Inc.



Photo by Amir Pishdad Jr.

MOAACC Honors Military Cadets on ROTC and JROTC, Sea Cadets and CAP

At our April Luncheon, we honored outstanding military cadets from Brevard County ROTC, JROTC, Sea Cadet Units, and Civil Air Patrol Squadrons. These remarkable young men and women represent the future of leadership. We are proud to support a total of 20 units dedicated to developing our next generation of leaders. Each cadet and their military science instructor attended as our honored guests, alongside their families. Cadets were recognized and received certificates for their achievements, with ROTC and JROTC cadets also receiving the MOAA Medal and ribbon at local unit award ceremonies.

Front Row L to R: C/Daniel Reid, C/Lori-Ann Wright, C/Misha Hamid, C/Ember Michaels, C/Alecia Trespalcios

Middle Row L to R: C/Jaden Krekow (FIT), C/Kenton Bailey (FIT), C/Grace Reek, C/Rachel Devold, C/Haleigh Ruggles, C/Alondra Viera

Back Row L to R: C/Ari Camejo, C/Paul Shorty, C/T'Mari Bowe, C/Bella Letizio

More Photos on Page 10 & 11



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



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

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

NOTU Change of Command & Retirement Ceremony

Hello again and Welcome to the May 2025 edition of the INTERCOM. Dean Shaaf and I were honored to attend this recent ceremony at Port Canaveral on 28 March 2025. As stated in the official announcement:



CONTINUING OPPORTUNITY – TO INCREASE OUR MEMBERSHIP
LT Heather Morris, NOTU Admin Officer discusses joining the MOAACC chapter with CAPT Steve Cusick

LET'S INCREASE OUR MEMBERSHIP TO OVER 1000! Your friends and neighbors are always welcome to attend our events and luncheons

The Naval Ordnance Test Unit (NOTU) hosted a Change of Command and Retirement Ceremony on March 28 along the Port Canaveral waterfront on the Cape Canaveral Space Force Station side. During the traditional Change of Command ceremony, CAPT Jason Schneider relinquished command of NOTU to CAPT Douglas Pratt. After which, Schneider was presented with a Certificate of Retirement after completing 30 years of service to the U.S. Navy. Strategic Systems Programs Director Vice Adm. Johnny Wolfe was the presiding officer for both events.

I am extremely proud of NOTU's contribution to our nation's defense over the years. Celebrating its 75th year of service in support of the US & UK Polaris and Trident nuclear submarine programs, the command's official mission is to:

Provide integrated testing and evaluation capabilities for Strategic Weapons Systems

The outgoing Skipper, Captain Jason Schneider continues as a BIG supporter of MOAACC and specifically recognized our own Dean Shaaf (President of the Brevard Veteran's Memorial Center (VMC) for all his personal dedication to the active-duty members of our community. If you haven't visited the VMC lately, I highly recommend you check out their comprehensive Webpage: <https://veteransmemorialcenter.org> for all the exciting veterans event happening soon.

CURRENT AFFAIRS



Dr. Kevin J. Hrabinski, OD, delivered an engaging and informative update on optometry services and support at Patrick Space Force Base, drawing on over 30 years of professional experience. His presentation provided valuable insights to assist MOAACC members in making informed eye care decisions.

The photo also captures the presentation of the coveted MOAACC coin to Dr. Hrabinski in appreciation for his time and contributions. Pictured left to right: Steve Cusick, CAPT, U.S. Navy (Ret), MOAACC President; Dr. Kevin J. Hrabinski, Optometrist; and Mike Kahanca, MAJ, USA (Ret), Chairman, Current Affairs Forum.

EDITOR'S NOTE

John Franco, COL (ret) USAF

Welcome to the May 2025 edition of the *Intercom*. By now I was hoping to have a little more experience in developing this edition; Covid had another thing in mind for me last week. Thankfully for Paxlovid, the symptoms and contagion were short-lived. As you know, Rita Shapiro announced in the last edition that she was planning to move. Thankfully, for the *Intercom*, its readers and me, she is still here. I want to thank her and Mike Schroeder, along with Jeremiah for all their efforts in the production of this outstanding monthly publication.

We have entered the busy season of JROTC/ROTC awards and recognition, new officer commission ceremonies and Memorial Day observances. On May 14, 4:30 PM, we will be having a "meet and greet" gathering at One Senior Place in Viera. This is a great opportunity to get acquainted with our new members, invite a potential member and share with them the opportunities MOAACC offers. This function is free of charge.

MAY EVENTS (Click Event for Details)

- 5/1 Current Affairs Forum w/Marta Demopoulos,
Supervisory Librarian Patrick Space Force Base - 8 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 5/8-11 37th Annual All Veterans Reunion - 8 AM
@ Wickham Park, Melbourne
- 5/8 TMBC - 8 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 5/13 On-The-Go Luncheon - 11:30 AM
@ Grills Riverside, Melbourne
- 5/14 New MOAACC Member Meet and Greet - 4:30 PM
@ One Senior Place, Melbourne
- 5/15 TMBC - 8 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 5/20 MOAACC B.O.D. Mtg. - 9:30 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - Chapel
- 5/20 MOAACC Luncheon to Honor Students With
Service Academy Appointments or ROTC
Scholarships - 11:30 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - Colony Hall
- 5/22 TMBC - 8 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 5/26 Memorial Day Ceremony - 9:30 AM
@ VMC Plaza, Merritt Island
- 5/29 TMBC - 8 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole

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

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

INTERCOM Photo & Article Submission Rules

PHOTOS:

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

ARTICLES:

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

DEADLINES & SUBMISSION EMAIL:

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

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- THE INTERCOM is published 12 times annually by the Cape Canaveral Chapter, Inc. (MOAACC), an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) Alexandria, VA
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- The advertisements that appear in this publication do not reflect an endorsement by MOAA or by MOAACC
- Comments and suggestion are welcome. Contact EXECUTIVE EDITOR: intercom@moaacc.org

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LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

John R. McMahon, BG (Retired), USA

There is a Plan

In baseball parlance, it is challenging to keep an “eye on the ball” these days—the ball being what’s happening in Congress—with all the media coverage of tariffs, the stock market, and the prospects of entering a recession, among other things. As an aside, one pundit predicted that this administration may be remembered for their free-trade policies, given their reliance on certain theories that result in numerous trade deals. Whatever unfolds in the coming months, according to the Treasury Secretary, there is a plan that has not been widely reported in the media.

In a recent “All-In” podcast aired on 19 March, the Secretary laid out his 3-legged “stool analogy” in a way that was, at times, thought-provoking. Here, I intend to paint the administration’s “big picture” he described in the podcast and his insights into the role of the current Congress. In a nutshell, the three legs of this “stool” are: Reducing Government Spending; Deregulation of the financial system; and Leveling the playing field in international trade.

The previous administration’s approach to spending could potentially lead to higher taxes and economic challenges, particularly for the bottom 50% of the American populace who don’t own equity—in the financial markets and/or in a home. It created an “unfair and unstable” situation that eviscerated the middle class, spewing individual debt, financial insecurity and hopelessness of ever getting ahead. Additionally, largely uncontrolled immigration was allowed to the point where “the problem was too big to make them go home”. The American Dream was vanquished for too many Americans.

Reducing Government Spending: We have a spending problem that is out of control and getting worse with annual interest on our debt at \$1.2 Trillion. We must cut spending in a controlled way without causing a recession to bring down the debt. By 2028, we should have a Deficit-to-GDP ratio of 3-3.5% (now at 6.3%) and an 18% Spending-to-GDP ratio (now at 25%). Part of cutting spending is shedding excess government labor; (the effort being undertaken by DOGE); some jobs will be subsumed by the private sector in time. DOGE, “run by real businesspeople”, must act quickly to avoid the inevitable “quicksand” of “Moving the Cheese”. Real results of this effort will not be realized for 9-12 months. Tax cuts should be extended to avoid the “largest tax increase in US history” and will further stimulate growth.

Deregulation: Government regulations are a corset (something that controls or restricts rigidly) and need to be loosened and/or eliminated. In banking, regulations and regulators (with no incentive for growth or common sense) treat the 3 biggest US banks (which have assets exceeding \$1 Trillion) the same as small, community banks (which only have assets of (\$100 Million). Lending is over-regulated for small banks where 70% of agriculture loans and 40% of small business loans originate. Energy production and delivery (oil, gas, wind, solar, geothermal, nuclear) costs are too high and unnecessary and should be ameliorated by tax incentives and de-regulation. Federal assets (leases, land) should

be leveraged and monetized. The combination of cheap energy, lower government spending, deregulation and tax cuts will reduce inflation, and generate more government revenue by growing the GDP past 3%; and lower our interest payments on the national debt. Low and predictable taxes are the key. Safe, sound, and smart government deregulation is the goal which can be achieved by asking the question “why?”

Leveling the Playing Field: International trade agreements in the past have put the US economy at a disadvantage and a reset is long overdue to level the playing field. This will unleash American ingenuity, initiative, and capital, both foreign and domestic, to grow our economy, export goods and services on an equal footing, and bring manufacturing jobs back to the US, re-invigorating the economically depressed middle class. The Federal Reserve must continue to be strong, independent, and robust on monetary policy while acknowledging its mistakes and sluggish response to inflationary pressure in the recent past. Effective tariffs must be targeted to bring other countries in line and negotiate reasonable solutions in the short term. Notwithstanding the pockets of inflationary pressure caused by tariffs, getting real wages up for working people should overcome the affordability crisis.

Finally, the Treasury Secretary acknowledges the instinct of Members of Congress to “bring home the bacon” to their home districts. Congress needs to be patient and work collaboratively over time while playing its Constitutional role in governance. The House’s recent successes in passing the full-year Continuing Resolution for FY 2025 and forging a unified FY 2026 Budget Guidance document with the Senate demonstrates effective leadership.

Conclusion: There is indeed a plan, and time will tell whether a compromise between the Executive and Legislative branch can be achieved to yield the intended results.

Your future. Our focus.



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FINANCIAL LITERACY

COL John C. Murphy, USAR Ret

Intestate, Without A Will

Executive Summary: Dying intestate surrenders control and distribution of your assets to state laws.

More than half of Americans are believed to die without a will. No will (intestate) is often brought up for discussion using as an example the death of the musician, Prince. He had an estate exceeding \$300 million plus. Prince's sister appears to be the beneficiary but there is a guy in California claiming a \$1 billion interest in Prince's estate. For the typical person, the worst consequence is relatives fighting for control. Another issue is spouses from subsequent marriages being pushed aside by adult children. What makes Prince's lack of a will surprising is that things he valued, charitable giving and control of his music, may be lost in probate. For most of us, the issues are a blended family, children with special needs or the exclusion of a child as a beneficiary.

If you die intestate (without a will), Florida's laws of descent and distribution determine who receives your property. These laws vary from state to state, but in Florida the distribution would be to your spouse and children, or if none, your parents then your siblings and then to other family members. A state's particular plan reflects the legislature's guess as to how people would dispose of their estates and builds in protections for certain beneficiaries, particularly spouses and minor children. Florida's plan may or may not reflect your actual wishes. A will allows you to alter Florida's default plan to suit your personal preferences. It also permits you to exercise control over a myriad of personal decisions that Florida's default provisions cannot address.

Do we really need a will? YES!!! Having a will is arguably one of the most important things you can do for yourself and your family. No one likes to think about death or health problems, a will legally protects your spouse, children, and assets. Procrastination and the unwillingness to accept unexpected death or disability as part of life are common reasons for not having the proper documents. As you get older, you may worry about your assets and if your loved ones will have access to them if you were to pass away. Florida Law will decide where your assets go if you die without a will. You can make things easier with estate planning and creating a will. If you were to die, it may be difficult for the people who love you. You can make things easier with proactive estate planning. Sometimes realization comes too late.

HEALTHY LIVING

Rita Shapiro, MA, DPT

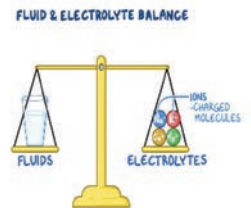
Staying Salty

As we approach the hotter temperatures compounded with the Florida's high humidity remember that when we sweat, or as ladies would say perspire, we are not only losing water from our bodies but electrolytes also. So after or during a round of golf or walking or just being outdoors, we must replenish both the fluid and electrolytes. (Electrolytes include - Sodium, Potassium, Calcium, Magnesium, Chloride and Phosphate)

Why is that important? When we only replenish the fluids such as only with water, we are diluting the balance of electrolytes from our body, and that leads to fatigue. When we get that balance right, we notice that we have more energy, sharpens focus and clarity, boosts recovery, improves sleep quality and protects against cramping.

Signs of electrolyte imbalance are Muscle Cramps or spasms, Dizziness or light headedness, Irregular Heartbeat, Fatigue or Weakness, Numbness or Tingling and worst of all Confusion or Mental Changes

How to replenish? The simplest way to replenish the electrolytes is with drinks such as: Gatorade, Propel and numerous powder products like Liquid IV that you can add to a bottle of water. But be extremely careful to avoid the electrolyte drinks with sugar. Also check with your healthcare provider if you are on any medications that might interfere.



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POINTS TO PONDER

Bill Adams MAJ (Chaplain, USAR Ret.)

Guarding Heaven's Streets

This is the third in our series on the story behind our beloved Service Songs.

The oldest official song in the United States military is *The Marines' Hymn*, the authorized anthem of the United States Marine Corps. You can be sure that every Marine will be standing ramrod straight at the singing of their beloved song. Even so, the third verse is used as a toast during formal events like the birthday ball.

The nation's most renowned band leader, John Philip Sousa, served as the 17th Director of "The President's Own" Marine Corps Band from 1880-1892. He composed the national march *The Stars and Stripes Forever* and the official march of the Marine Corps *Semper Fidelis*.

Of *The Marines' Hymn*, Sousa wrote: "The melody of the 'Halls of Montezuma' is taken from Offenbach's comic opera...and is sung by two gendarmes." Indeed, the hymn's melody originated in 1859 France with the opera, *Geneviève de Brabant* written by German-born, Jewish-French composer Jacques Offenbach.

We must rely on legend for the author of the lyrics. Perhaps it was a Marine fighting in the Mexican American War, 1845–1847. The song does not appear in the historical record until the late 1860s. After the war with the Barbary pirates in 1805, the Colors were inscribed "To the Shores of Tripoli." After the capture of Mexico City and the Castle of Chapultepec (aka the Halls of Montezuma) in 1847, the words were changed to "From the shores of Tripoli to the Halls of Montezuma." The songwriter simply flipped the history to make the lyrics fit!

In 1929 the Commandant of the Marine Corps authorized the first official version of *The Marines' Hymn*. In 1942, the line "On the land as on the sea" was revised to "In the air, on land, and sea," affirming the role of aviation within the Corps.

The Marine's song makes this declaration in its final verse: "If the Army and the Navy ever look on Heaven's scenes, they will find the streets are guarded by United States Marines." As an Army guy who looks forward to resting in peace, I'd like to personally thank my esteemed USMC brethren for keeping heaven safe and secure for the rest of us.



GENERATIONAL SERVICE AND SACRIFICE

Join us on Monday, May 26
For a Memorial Day Ceremony
Veterans Memorial Center Plaza
0930 - 1030

PROGRAM

- Patriotic Music
- Guest Speakers:
COL Jeff Rogers, USA, Ret
Vietnam Combat PLT LDR
- LTC Hans Hunt, USA, Ret
Global War on Terror Vet
- Brevard VMC
Color Guard, Folded Flag/ TAPS
- Located at 400 South Sykes Creek
Parkway on Merritt Island - behind the
mall



Remember
Our
Fallen



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Mark Your Calendar!

Save the Dates for upcoming MOAACC Events:

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

14 May: MOAACC Meet and Greet at One Senior Place Viera

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

15 June 2025: Scholarship Application Process Closes

15 July 2025: Scholarship Award Presentations

18 November 2025: MOAACC Luncheon & Annual Membership Business Meeting

5 December 2025: MOAACC Annual Christmas Dinner Dance

Space Coast Navy Wives' Club

Please join us for our "FAIRWELL LUNCHEON" on Friday, May 16th at THE TIDES. Social hour begins at 11:30am and lunch is served at noon.

As this is our final luncheon, we will have members tell us short stories of their life being a Military Spouse, and if you're not, tell us what the club had meant to you. If you would like to participate, please call or text Rebecca Kersey at (207) 607-0006.

The menu choices are Grilled Flank Steak, mashed potatoes and vegetable or a Chef Salad. For dessert we will have a special cake.

For more information and to make reservations, please call Phyllis Banks at (321) 783-7028 or text to (321) 223-5910. Reservations must be made by noon, Tuesday, May 13th.

The Board looks forward to seeing everyone for this last luncheon. Remember friends and spouses are always welcome.

Ellie Joy (321) 757-0193

MOAACC On-the-Go-Luncheon

May 13, 1130-1300

Grills Riverside Seafood Deck & Tiki Bar

6075 N US Hwy 1,

Melbourne, FL 32940

Note: May Reservation Contact is LtCol Brian Whalen (321) 205-5986.

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



MOAACC MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

WELCOME

New Members for the Month of April

Following new members were approved by the Board of Directors on 15 April, 2025, for MOAACC membership:

Last Name	First Name	Prefix	Service	Component	Duty Status	Membership Level	Member's Sponsor
McCune	Todd	CAPT	US Navy	Regular	Retired		Tim Pishdad
Brown	James	CPT	US Army	Regular	Retired		Mike Schroeder



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

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

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Visit us at: www.MOAACC.org/membership

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

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



TAPS

MOAA CAPE CANAVERAL CHAPTER MEMBER, AUXILIARY, and SPOUSE DEATHS

March 2025 deaths listed
for May 2025 Intercom

NONE TO REPORT





MOAA's Advocacy in Action—2025

Colonel Steve Bond (USA, Ret)



AiA Team Florida on April 10th from Left Front: Tony LaVecchia, Pat Green, Steve Bond, Joe Golasch, Eunice Patxot, and Pierre Louis.

On April 10th, MOAA's annual signature legislative event—Advocacy in Action or AiA—occurred on Capitol Hill. Team Florida was out in front to meet with our elected Congressional Representatives or their staffers in their Washington offices. The Team Florida was represented by me, Florida Council President, Steve Bond; Tony LaVecchia, Council Vice President; Pierre Louis—Council Legislative Affairs Chair; Eunice Patxot—West Central Florida Area Vice President, and we were ably assisted by other Florida members--Joe Gollash, Vice President of the MOAA Virtual Council, and Pat Green, Council Surviving Spouse Liaison and MOAA Surviving Spouse Advisory Board Member. Together, Team Florida represented all our thirty-seven chapters in the state and the 38,000 MOAA Members in Florida. Our mission was to advocate for all veterans and their families to ensure the promises made to veterans are kept and to highlight MOAA's strength in numbers.

Advocacy in Action started well before our team arrived on Capitol Hill. There were "Calls to Action" where MOAA's 363,000 members were asked to TAKE ACTION by sending email messages or by calling their representatives to voice support for the issues. Proudly, Florida sent the most email messages through MOAA's Legislative Action Center—Did you send yours?

The day on Capitol Hill was cold, long, and tiring (I logged over five miles walking!) for meetings held in the congressional office buildings on Capitol Hill. Lt Gen Brian Kelly (USAF, Ret), MOAA President and CEO commented after the event--"This [event] shows what MOAA can do... The power of this organization is our ability for our members to speak with one voice."

Participating in AiA made me proud to be a MOAA member, making a difference and working to protect the earned benefits for all veterans and their families. However, our work is not done. We need all our members to participate in Advocacy in Action this year, and every year. If you have not done so, we need you to TAKE ACTION. Register and contact our elected representatives by going to this link: <https://moaa.quorum.us/>.

Legislative Advocacy is MOAA's primary mission and one way we show we "Never Stop Serving!"



Steve Bond (Right) and Pat Green (Left) met with Congressman Haridopolos' (FL-8) Legislative Assistant, Luke Wilt (Center) to discuss the AiA issues.

MOAACC Luncheon Honoring Outstanding Local Cadets



Photo by Amir Pishdad, Jr.



A luncheon to honor the outstanding cadets from Brevard County's ROTC, JROTC, Sea Cadet, and Civil Air Patrol units was held at the Indian River Colony on Tuesday 15 April 2025. These exceptional young men and women represent the future leaders of our nation, demonstrating excellence in leadership, academics, and service.

MOAACC proudly supports 20 cadet programs dedicated to developing tomorrow's military and civilian leaders. Each honored cadet, along with their military science instructor, were invited as our guests. During the luncheon, each cadet was recognized for their achievements and were presented with a certificate of excellence. Additionally, JROTC cadets received the prestigious MOAA Medal and ribbon at their respective unit's award ceremony.

This was an amazing event that demonstrated outstanding support for these exceptional students. As well as an amazing opportunity to meet their instructors, families and celebrate their accomplishments as future military leaders.





COL Steve Bond Receives Florida 2024 Levels of Excellence (LOE) and Harris Communications Awards



On April 10th, COL Steve Bond USA Ret (Center), President of the Florida Council of Chapters, received the Florida 2024 Levels of Excellence (LOE) and Harris Communications Awards from Gen. Thomas D. Waldhauser, USMC Ret (Left) MOAA Chairman of the Board, and Lt Gen Brian T. Kelly, USAF Ret (Right) MOAA President and CEO. Florida received more awards than any other state, with the Council and 22 Chapters receiving LOE awards, and 24 Chapters receiving Harris Communications Awards. The awards included the highest Five Star Awards for the Cape Canaveral Chapter (again) for LOE, Newsletter, and Website!

The VyStar Central Florida Partnership Team



Left to right: Amoy Guthrie, Branch Vice President Melbourne; Nikole Harrington, Branch Vice President Titusville; Kimberly Burwell, Regional Community Engagement Manager, Dawn Ofodile, AVP Regional Community Engagement.

VyStar Credit Union, as of two years ago, has become a partner of the Good Deeds Foundation as the Named Sponsor of the Golf Tournament and by contributing through its Foundation. In total they have contributed \$40,000 and have agreed to be the Named Sponsor of The Veterans Day Recognition Dinner this fall.



MOAACC GOOD DEEDS FOUNDATION

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

MOAACC and Good Deeds Foundation Sharpens Focus on Youth

While supporting ROTC/JROTC and other cadet units is a MOAACC Student Affairs Committee and Good Deeds Foundation (GDF) mission throughout the year, April and May are special with the MOAACC Medal winners in April and the service academy and ROTC Scholarship winners honored in May. Check out other pages of this issue for the JROTC and in June for the ROTC.

MOAACC and GDF members are also heavily involved in planning a special 15 May enlistment ceremony at Viera HS football field and in planning several Memorial Day ceremonies this year. Check out posters and the BVMC Calendar for those events. At the enlistment ceremony, we hope to honor at least 300 Space Coast high school seniors and others enlisting into all branches of the services. All enlistees will receive their first military challenge coin thanks to GDF, VFW, AUSA and other vet organizations.

April continued to be a busy month for GDF with some special grants you can read about in these pages and in previous and future Intercom editions. GDF also finalized plans for our 2025 fundraiser dinner to recognize veterans and organizations that have had special impact. This event will be held on November 8, 2025, at the Holiday Inn Conference Center in Viera. Check out the Poster of that event and consider donating or helping us get sponsors to make it a huge success for us and for the entire community.

Please contact any member of the GDF Board, we are now up to a record 12 members, on how you might donate, help with the auction and dinner or otherwise support what might be the most active and impactful program of any MOAA Chapter in the country and your Good Deeds Foundation. Incidentally, we are on track this year to reach our budget goal of \$180,000 for supporting youth, active duty, veteran families in need and special military and veteran programs/events. That is not just a record amount, but a measure of our commitment to "Never Stop Serving."

GDF Recognized at Space Coast Space Force JROTC Military Ball

On 05 April at the Tides, over 95 Space Coast SFJROTC Cadets and their dates attended the annual Military Ball. MOAACC and the Good Deeds Foundation were lauded for our support and GDF Pres Donn Weaver (though a former Army officer) was the guest speaker. He spoke about following dreams, thinking of others before self, and using the lessons of JROTC no matter where life will take the Cadets in the future. GDF was awarded a special plaque of appreciation and a SF JROTC Challenge Coin. It was a great evening and reinforced the impact of GDF support to our many county cadet programs.



GDF Focus on Youth as reflected across three generations — GDF President Weaver salutes a JROTC Cadet for his victory at the individual rifle drill meet at VMC Park in April, with his parents in the background.



During toasts and "sharing Grog" no alcoholic challenges, LtCol Joe Stevens USAF, Ret and MOAACC member (center) contemplates the cadets leading the entire ceremony.



Cadets stand at attention during toasts



SCHOLARSHIP CORPORATION

Col D Brent Baysinger, USAF (Ret)

We are down to approximately six weeks remaining in our 2025 scholarship application season which closes June 15. Meanwhile, the Scholarship Selection Committee is hard at work reviewing applications for completeness in preparation for the awardee selection in June. The MOAACC Scholarship continues to be available for qualified prospective college juniors, seniors, graduate students, and PHD students. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics college inflation hit over 8.2% in the past five years and students need more help now than ever!¹

A question we often receive on the Scholarship Corporation is "Who is actually eligible for the Scholarship?" The most frequent type of applicant we see is a child or grandchild of a MOAACC member. However, there are actually three eligible groups of candidates, of which only one requires a MOAACC membership sponsor:

- The descendants and wards of living or deceased MOAACC members.
- The descendants and wards of active duty or retired veterans residing in Brevard County.
- Residents of Brevard County who are the descendants of deceased retired veterans or who are the descendants of uniformed service members who died on active duty.

I have highlighted the three groups to show that we do extend the scholarship opportunity to the descendants of the larger veteran community in Brevard County which includes retired enlisted military members as well as non-MOAACC retired officers. (While we hope any MOAACC-eligible officers would consider joining, it is not a requirement.) So, we ask that if you come into contact with a worthy student who is the child or grandchild of a retired veteran living in Brevard, please let him or her know about Scholarship Corporation!

You can direct eligible candidates and find more information on the Scholarship website at www.moaacc.org/scholarship.

¹ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

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JROTC Leadership Course Happens After All — GDF to the Rescue

By: Donn Weaver, Cpt USA (fmr)



Boarding the Bus



Ropes Leadership Challenge



Ropes Challenge

A temporary DoD freeze on funding during the Spring Break in Brevard this year prevented JROTC programs from attending a Leadership and Confidence Camp in March. But two JROTC school - Rockledge and Cocoa - decided not to give up. Each program sent 20 incoming cadet leaders for the 2025-26 school year to a mini camp in Central Florida 18-21 April. DoD came through with buses and medics, but the trip would have been scrubbed without \$4000 total from MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation. Check out the photos of the cadets heading out and on the first obstacles. Supporting JROTC and other youth programs is huge for MOAACC as will be clear in this issue with our ROTC/JROTC/Other Cadet Luncheon report. This will be the final support for this school year, but in early August GDF will meet with all the JROTC Instructors before school resumes and provide them all with substantial funds to help jump start the next classes of young people on a solid high school track.

VyStar Foundation is a proud sponsor of MOAACC

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

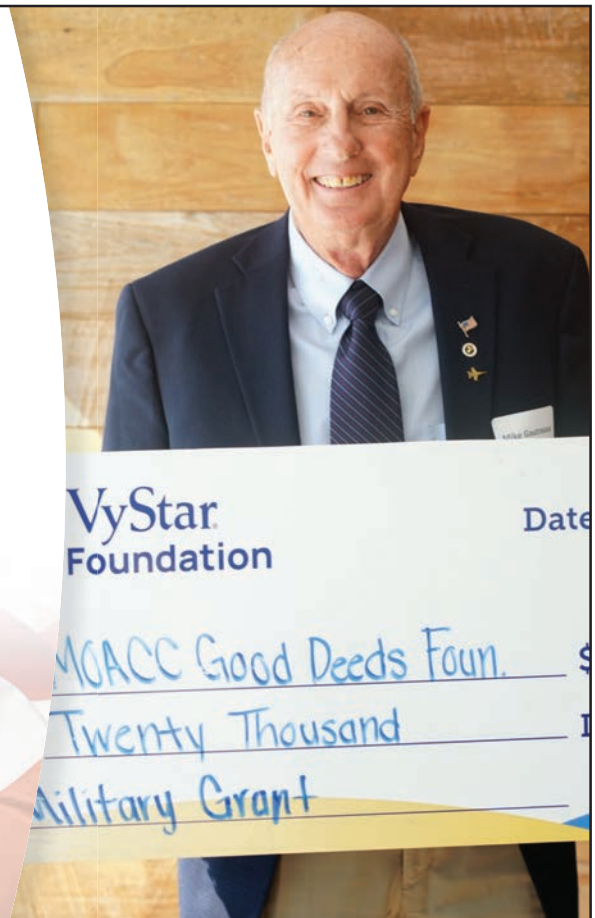
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Colonel, USMC (ret)

Vice President, MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation



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NVHS Golf Tourney a Big Success with MOAACC/GDF as Silver Sponsor

By Donn Weaver, CPT, USA (fmr)



List of Sponsors joining GDF for the Golf Tourney



Golfers discussing strategies



Kasey Orson of NVHS (center) led the effort and confirmed NVHS has two more fundraisers which GDF will support

The 11 April National Veteran Homeless Support (NVHS) Golf Tournament Fundraiser at the Rockledge Country Club exceeded expectations. The field maxed out at 144 golfers including MOAACC/GDF member Larry Jackson and his golfing partner. The Golfers bid on various raffle prizes, a 50-/50 raffle and numerous silent auction items to bolster the profit margin. Your Good Deeds Foundation was pleased to be a Silver Sponsor with \$1500, to assist a major partner in our programs to support veterans in need. Larry's team did not place for the top three prizes, but we took solace when those who did, averaged about 30 years of age per golfer!! Kasey Orson of NVHS led the effort and confirmed NVHS has two more fundraisers which GDF will support. Look for the 03 October NVHS Dinner and 09 Nov 5K Race in Eau Gallie.

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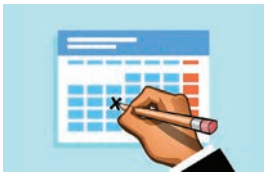
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Unofficial Brevard VMC Vets Calendar

MAY 2025

Contact VMC for any additions or other information.

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

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

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

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

MAY 2025

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

06 May — Their Voice of Hope, Healing Through Art Expression Event 1130- 1330. Contact dorothy@theirvoiceofhope.com to register and for more info. No cost to register.

08-11 May — 37th Veterans Memorial Reunion, Wickham Park 0900-1800 day. Formerly Vietnam Veterans of Brevard Vietnam Reunion. Now hosted by a new organization — Veterans Memorial Reunion, Inc (VMRI) a new 501c3. Vietnam and Global War on Terror Some Gave all walls included. Escort and wall construction on Sunday 04 May from EFSC to Wickham Park. Vendor registration required and more info at veteransmemorialreunion.org.

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

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

20 May — Their Voice of Hope and Yoga with Dena — Yoga for women veterans and first responders. Contact dorothy@theirvoiceofhope.com for more information and registration. No cost to participate.

26 May — Brevard Veterans Memorial Day Ceremony VMC Plaza 0930 -1030. Generations of Service and Sacrifice for America featuring Vietnam and GWOT guest speakers with music and remembrance the focus. Contact Donn Weaver 757-871-6576

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

26 May — Parade and Memorial Day Ceremony Cocoa Village and Riverfront Park 1500 Parade and 1700 Ceremony.

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

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

Donn Weaver

Vice President, Veterans Memorial Center

757-871-6576 | donnweaver2020@gmail.com

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Good Deeds There for First Space Coast Honor Flight of 2025



The Most GDF Support ever

Very early on Saturday, 05 April, about two hundred people gathered to honor and launch 30 veterans of WWII, Korea and Vietnam on their Space Coast Honor Flight, Mission number 81. SCHF began operations as a 501c3 in Oct 2010. When the Mission 81 veterans departed on two busses from the Wickham Park Senior Center at 0300 hours, they joined 2098 other veterans honored for a very special day in our nations capitol. They saw 6 monuments and special events including the changing of the guard at Arlington National Cemetery and the Women's Military Memorial.

The oldest veteran was almost 98 and fought in WWII. Five were over 90 with many veterans of the Cold War and 26 with tours in or around Vietnam. SCHF has grown in sponsorships with one of the biggest coming from MOAACC's Good Deeds Foundation. For four years in a row GDF has funded Florida Tech ROTC Cadets and PhD Veteran Students in VA sponsored programs. On that night GDF presented a check for \$6400 to cover 8 students from each group to be Guardians on the six flights scheduled through October 2025. Two FIT PhD students were booked on Mission 81.

The SCHF President RADM Jim Hart, USN ret. led the program to prepare for the flight and praised the MOAACC/ GDF partnership with SCHF. Many MOAACC members have taken the flight as honorees and have served as Guardians over the years. On that night, GDF Board members Jay Welch and Donn Weaver represented GDF and all of MOAACC to launch another year for this very special event.

Contact SCHF.org directly to sign up as an honoree or guardian and GDF members for more information.

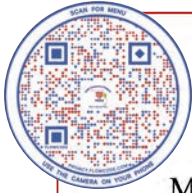


Getting Ready



RADM Hart with Welch, Weaver and the two FIT Grad students.

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VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER UPDATE

American History and Civics Return to Brevard Public Schools

By: Donn Weaver, Cpt USA (fmr)



Hans Hunt, Doug Bisset, Jennifer Jolley (Social Studies BPS Coordinator), Nic Mihora and Donn Weaver are there to present the books and thus help encourage young people to learn more about America.



Each book included a certificate signed by SAR President Christopher Ratzel

The Brevard Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) which includes a number of MOAACC and BVMC members, made a special presentation of 18 copies of "Killing England" for all Brevard Middle Schools on 14 April 2025. The ceremony was held at the BPS Headquarters in Viera days before the 250th Anniversary of the beginning of the American Revolution, when "shots heard round the world" were fired in Massachusetts.

An Early Start to Easter Joy



Easter Egg Set-up

On 12 April, the VMC based American Legion Auxiliary Post 344 hosted their annual Easter Party on the west side of VMC Park. Over fifty children enjoyed the event which included a giant bounce house, games, face painting and a cookout. Dozens of parents and helpers made sure things went well with support from Elevation Church, Their Voice of Hope and the MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation. The weather was beautiful and the cause in support of veterans' families terrific!



Face Painting

Final JROTC Drill Meet at VMC Impresses

By Donn Weaver, CPT, USA (fmr)



MOAACC/VMC Team L to R: Bisset, Eppler, Weaver, Tichich and Tucker with the Stafford Trophy awarded to Cocoa Beach HS JROTC Cadets

Almost 200 JROTC cadets from eight high schools put it all on the field on 29 March at the VMC Park, West side. Events included individual and dual rifle skills, drill teams, armed and unarmed squad and platoon drills in male and female categories. Hundreds of parents and family joined the instructors, and MOAACC/VMC team in congratulating the cadets on their great efforts. This meet was among the best many had seen in years.

The performances resulted in five schools placing teams in the various categories that would have qualified for the State Championship, but this year the event was shelved given ongoing examination of DoD funding links. Plenty of trophies were handed out and the cadets were very much engaged throughout the morning. Next year the new VMC Park Amphitheater will be the venue for the awards ceremony and Brevard will likely again qualify many teams for State.

The teams came from Astronaut, Cocoa, Cocoa Beach, Rockledge, Heritage, Merritt Island, Satellite and Viera High Schools with Cocoa Beach narrowly beating out Astronaut for the annual MOAACC Stafford Texas AM Sabre Award as the outstanding District JROTC Drill team of the school year. The award was provided by Lloyd Stafford a MOAACC member now living in Virginia. This was the third straight year Cocoa Beach earned the coveted trophy.

Thanks to MOAACC and VMC members who came to the event and helped pass out trophies: Mike Broski, Mike Tucker, Doug Bisset, Joe Tichich, Gary Eppler and Donn Weaver. What a great day in terms of weather results and satisfaction in seeing our veteran support to our youth pay off.



Drill Team ready to begin



Drill Team demonstrating expertise



Trophies ready for awarding



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OF THE SPACE COAST**

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THE MEN AND WOMEN ENLISTING THIS
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Thursday, May 15, 2025

6pm-8pm

Viera High School Stadium

PLEASE ARRIVE BY 5:30PM



OASIS Mission Continues to Support Deployed Troops

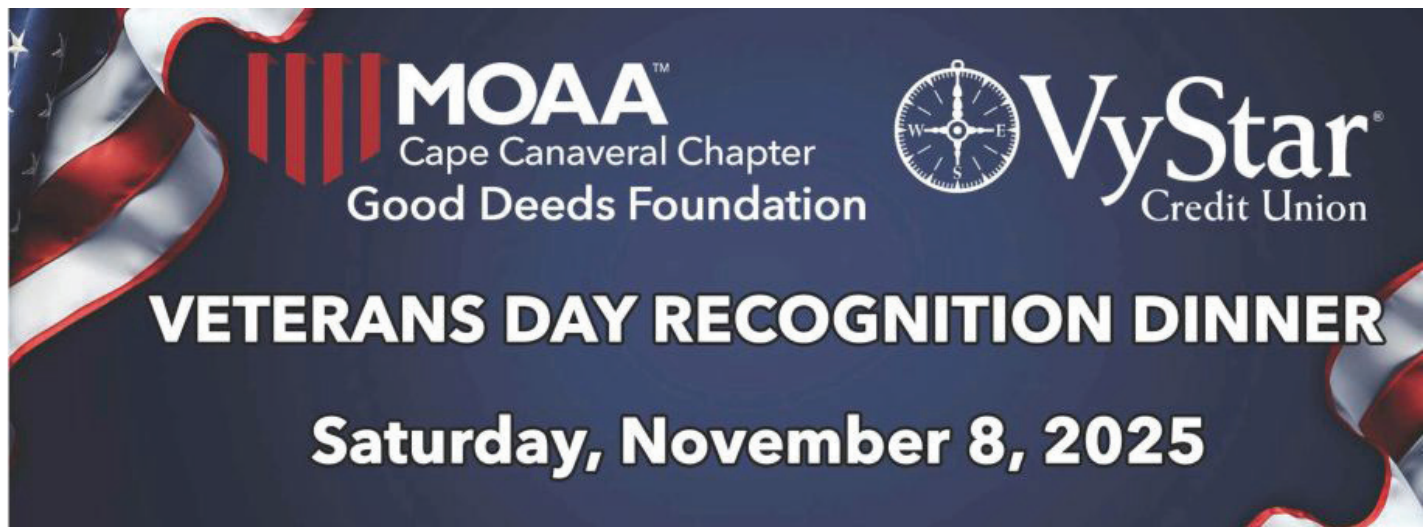


Over 50 people from the OASIS 501c3 Troop Support organization, a local middle school and Courageous Division Sea Cadets came to the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center on an early Saturday morning on 05 April. They all came together for a great mission. Stuffing and sending “care” packages to troops currently deployed overseas. The boxes totaled 130 that day and the visitors included a special guest, Army ROTC Cadet Daniel Weaver. He and his battle buddies had RECEIVED several boxes two years before, when he was deployed as an enlisted Army soldier in Djibouti.

OASIS is led by Tess Heribaka who, as a military mom, began sending care packages to her two deployed sons starting in 2008. They have long since left the military, but her and the OASIS Mission go on . Five times per year, for more than 12 years, they have sent out boxes to as many troops as they can locate and have donations to support. The Brevard Veterans Memorial Center hosts one such event every year and the MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation provides annually over \$1500 to help with mailing costs. What a great mission and event to bring the community together as we continue to support our troops in harm’s way 24 years after 9/11.



OASIS volunteers (L) with ROTC Cadet Danial Weaver and his 1LT US Army girlfriend, Talia on (R)



Location: Holiday Inn Viera Conference Center

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



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

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

Sponsorship Opportunities

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

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

Platinum Sponsor – \$10,000

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Larry Jackson

larryj59@gmail.com

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Amphitheater at Veterans Memorial Park



The Amphitheater at Veterans Memorial Park as shown in mid-April is ahead of construction schedule. With more than 28 MOAACC Members also members at the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center there is some real synergy going on. For example the Good Deeds Foundation, together with other veteran organizations and an Eagle Scout candidate are funding a Flag Pole for the amphitheater and a Community and Gold Star Family Christmas Tree Marker nearby the fantastic structure. All is on track for a November ribbon cutting.

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- Send to: intercom@moaacc.org

Army Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame

Several MOAACC Members are included in the National Army OCS Alumni Association Hall of Fame with CPT Donn Weaver being the Latest. On 28 March at Infantry OCS Wigle Hall at Ft. Benning, Donn Weaver was inducted into the 2025 Class of the National Army OCS Alumni Association Hall of Fame. MOAACC includes a number of members who are also in the OCS Hall and/or the Florida Chapter of the Army OCSAA. Rob McCall is the Florida Chapter Commander and Phil Kearns, the adjutant.

This year there were 26 inductees in four categories. Weaver was the most junior Army veteran among 20 retired General Officers and Colonels since the Hall included a new category a few years ago — Lifelong Service to the Country. OCS graduates are encouraged to contact Weaver or McCall if you are interested in joining the 4 year old OCSAA Florida Chapter, which now includes over 100 members.



Weaver and his wife Jeanne share the moment



Weaver in front of the "Follow Me" Statue at the National Infantry Museum

Viera High School JROTC recruiting for US Coast Guard



MST3 Joshua Kirkpatrick USCG, CWO4 Dan McIntyre USCGR (ret), LCDR Hilary Smith USCG (ret)



LTC Todd Balog, JROTC Sr Instructor, MST3 Joshua Kirkpatrick, USCG Port Canaveral, CWO4 Dan McIntyre USCGR (ret), SFC Carl Thomas, JROTC Instructor, LCDR Hilary Smith USCG (ret) Six classes with a total of 119 cadets learning about the missions and achievements of the USCG.



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