



The INTERCOM

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
Cape Canaveral Chapter, Inc.



FCOC President, COL Steve Bond meets with Congressman Mike Haridopolos

On Friday, January 31 2025, FCOC President, COL Steve Bond met with Congressman Mike Haridopolos (FL-8) in his district office at his request. "Mentioned Indian River and part of Central Florida chapters also being part of FL-8 with Cape Canaveral encompassing Brevard County. We discussed the committees he was appointed on (Finance & Space—was elected chairman of the Space committee). He asked about MOAA's priorities, and I gave him a copy of the article on MOAA's Priorities for the 119th Congress and briefly went over the 5 tier one issues, Richard Star Act, Arlington expansion, and protecting Tricare. Told him I would be up for Advocacy in Action (AiA) on 9 April. Meeting included his MLA, Rob Medina and VA Casework Manager, Kieth Van Buren. He also wants to be scheduled to speak/visit at a Cape Canaveral Chapter Luncheon in the near-term and will work with the Cape Canaveral Chapter to schedule that. He is very interested in the Veterans in his district and expect him to be veteran friendly during his term in Congress," says Bond.



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**

Spring Has Sprung



HELLO AGAIN!

Looking at the calendar today, I really can't believe it is already March, and that Spring is **right around the corner**. First of all, I want to **"Thank You"** for your strong support and dedicated work making the MOAA Cape Canaveral Chapter truly the **Best** in the nation. Do you think that I am kidding, or exaggerating our sustained success?

Well, we have just completed our package for the MOAA **"FIVE STAR – Levels of Excellence Award"** which provides ample evidence that we are indeed the **BEST!**

Some important facts:

DID YOU KNOW THAT?

- We have won the MOAA Five Star Award for 22 consecutive years (ever since the program began)?
- We are a chapter of nearly 1,000 members with 18 committees and two outstanding 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations, The Good Deeds Foundation (GDF) and The Scholarship Corporation?
- In 2024 we had our best year ever for charitable giving, with over \$217,000 given back to our local community.
- Our chapter leads the nation in MOAA Legislative Advocacy; our members continue to lead the way sending hundreds of emails to our elected officials in Washington in support of the MOAA National legislative agenda?
- We work very closely with VA and other military organizations to sponsor burials with military honors for "forgotten veterans" at Cape Canaveral National Cemetery?
- We always transmit our Thursday Morning Breakfast Club (TMBC), and Board of Directors Meetings over the Internet using the friendly **"ZOOM"** video conferencing system? (For easy access to join us, just click "Events & Activities" on our website: <https://moaacc.org>)

Fellow members, NOW it is time to **SPRING INTO ACTION** . . . to **NEVER STOP SERVING**.

That is, **Spring forward** (Just Like the Daylight Savings Time clocks!)

P.S. A challenge goal: Please invite your eligible friends and neighbors to join us, bring them to a meeting or luncheon, and let's increase membership to over 1000 this Spring.

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Rita Shapiro, CAPT (ret)

Transparent

Transparency is a critical leadership attribute. It helps to build trust, and it's a prerequisite for building a constructive, high-performance culture.

If transparency is what everyone "wants and demands" then why is it that when that transparency leads to exposure of wrongdoings by certain people, many begin to flutter, point



fingers and attempt to intimidate by means of deterrence of those charged with the task of bringing about transparency?

We are always at such crossroads in our lives and the only way forward to the correct road is to swallow the false pride and accept responsibility of our actions. Yes, the glass can get dirty, but it only takes a little glass cleaner and elbow grease to make it transparent.

MOAACC Current Affairs Forum February 2025



From left to right: MOAACC President Steve Cusick, Attorney Robin M. Petersen, Esquire, and Attorney Ann M. Howard.

Estate Planning presented by Robin Petersen and Ann Howard from the **Estate Planning and Elder Law Center of Brevard**. The photo captures the presentation of the **MOAACC coin**.

MARCH EVENTS

- 3/6 Current Affairs Forum w/Dr. Jeffery Saluck - 8 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 3/11 On-The-Go Luncheon - 11:30 AM
@ Pane e Vino Italian Restaurant - Melbourne
- 3/11 Health Care on the Rocks - 6 PM
@ Pizza Gallery & Grill - The Avenues, Viera
- 3/12 Honoring National Vietnam Veterans Day! - 5 PM
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 3/13 TMBC - 8 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 3/15 The 242nd Commemoration of The Last Naval
Battle of the Revolutionary War - 10 AM
@ Veterans Memorial Center - Merritt Island
- 3/18 MOAACC BOD Mtg. - 9:30 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - Chapel
- 3/18 MOAACC Luncheon - James W Draper Museum
Director for the Cape Canaveral Space Force
Museum - 11:30 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - Colony Hall
- 3/19 VA Modernizes Online Sign-In Experience for
Veterans - hands-on support/training - 9 AM
@ Viera Outpatient Clinic - D211
- 3/20 TMBC - 8 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 3/22 2025 Retiree Appreciation Day - 8 AM
@ University of Central Florida, Student Union Center
- 3/27 TMBC - 8 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole

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

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

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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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LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

John R. McMahon, BG (Retired), USA

It Has Only Been a Month

In my last update, I briefly mentioned the current debt limit dilemma faced by the Congress which needs more elucidation as Members and the Administration begin to tackle it. For perspective, the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 suspended the debt ceiling, the legal limit on the amount of debt the federal government can accumulate, through 1 January 2025. On 2 January, the debt limit was reinstated at the amount of debt outstanding – a whopping \$36.104 Trillion. Since then, the Department of the Treasury (TREAS) has been closely monitoring the situation and making plans for using accounting maneuvers known as extraordinary measures (EM) to temporarily keep the federal government from defaulting on its debt. On 21 January, the debt limit was breached. Now, the Congress must pass legislation that either raises or suspends the debt limit to avoid a default. TREAS estimates the use of extraordinary measures is likely to stave off the threat of default for a few months at which time a failure to act on the debt ceiling would have severe negative consequences for the U.S. economy and the nation's global standing. So, the sky isn't exactly falling...yet.

Now EM accounting maneuvers are not as sanguine as they sound as TREAS must rely on its cash on hand, a moving target as revenues are collected and payments are made. In the past, these measures include a declaration by TREAS of a "debt issuance suspension period" for the Civil Service Retirement Disability Fund and the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund, which allows TREAS to suspend new investments and redeem existing investments in the funds earlier than scheduled. TREAS has also suspended reinvestment in the Government Securities Investment Fund, halted the daily reinvestment of the Exchange Stabilization Fund, and stopped issuing State and Local Government Series Treasury securities savings bonds. While only temporary, EM can delay the restrictions imposed by the debt limit up to several months which worked for 135 days during the last debt limit crisis in 2023. Nonetheless, the clock is ticking.

Meanwhile, the House Budget Committee released a draft budget resolution that contemplates \$4.5 Trillion in tax cuts and up to \$2 Trillion in mandatory spending reductions over 10 years, along with an increase of the debt ceiling by \$4 Trillion. But the House proposal employed a gimmick to hold the overall cost down, using 2034 as the end date (instead of 2035), which cuts off the most expensive year of the 10-year budget window. This proposal would give Congress enough room to fully extend Trump's 2017 tax reductions (costing at least \$3.9 Trillion in lost revenue), but probably not all the new tax cuts he promised on the campaign trail—an end to taxation on tips, Social Security income and overtime (costing \$900 Billion to \$5 Trillion, depending on how the provisions were carried out). Eliminating the State & Local Tax (SALT) deduction would cost between \$200 Billion and \$1.2 Trillion—all told, \$5 Trillion to \$10.1 Trillion in new deficits over 10 years. Deeper cuts in spending would be needed to cover these. But allowing up to \$3.3 Trillion in new deficit spending would be a big step in the wrong direction.

Then reality sets in; since the pandemic, the United States now owes its creditors nearly the total value of all the goods and services Americans produce in a year. At the same time, current interest rates have increased threefold to 4.5 percent since February 2020. Thus, to service its debt, the government spent \$882 Billion in fiscal 2024, up from \$345 Billion in fiscal 2020. The government now spends more on interest payments than on Medicare or defense. And even with a strong economy and no need for economic stimulus, Congress allowed a budget deficit last year of \$2 Trillion. Deficit-financed tax cuts are just as bad for the economy as is deficit-spending. They create inflationary pressure and reduce the capital available to private businesses. Government borrowing crowds out private investment, soaking up funds that businesses could use to innovate and grow. Less investment means lower future profits and less corporate tax revenue, making a hard fiscal problem even harder. They also could push up interest rates for both public and private borrowers—politically disastrous when inflation remains stubbornly high, and the average mortgage rate is hovering just under 7 percent. Without our finances on a sustainable footing, debt service costs will squeeze out other policy priorities. Just stabilizing our debt at the current level of 100 percent of GDP would require about \$7 Trillion in deficit reduction between now and 2034. Reducing it would require even more ambitious action.

Congress must be vigilant about our fiscal future and should not pass any tax cuts without fully offsetting the cost — and then some to reduce the debt. Alternatively, why cut taxes at all given the situation? No one should argue against eliminating all government fraud, waste and abuse, a parallel thrust by the new Administration that could make these possible. But will it actually be enough?

Your future. Our focus.



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FINANCIAL LITERACY

CAPT Bob Houle, USCG (retired)

The Strategic Investor: Applying Military Decision-Making to Financial Success (Part 1)

For military officers, strategic thinking is second nature. Whether leading troops, planning operations, or navigating complex missions, success depends on a disciplined approach to decision-making. The same principles apply to achieving long-term financial security. By applying military frameworks—such as the OODA loop—to investing and financial planning, MOAACC members can enhance their ability to make informed and confident financial decisions.

Understanding the OODA Loop in Investing

Developed by Air Force Colonel John Boyd, the OODA loop (Observe, Orient, Decide, Act) is a proven method for rapid and effective decision-making in dynamic situations. It is applicable to investing and wealth management, where market conditions, tax laws, and financial instruments are constantly evolving.

- 1. Observe** – The first step in strategic investing is gathering information. This includes monitoring economic trends, analyzing stock market performance, reviewing personal financial statements, and staying informed about investment opportunities. Just as battlefield awareness is critical, financial awareness ensures that investors recognize risks and opportunities.
- 2. Orient** – In financial decision-making, orientation involves assessing how external factors impact personal goals and risk tolerance. This step requires aligning investment strategies with financial objectives, whether preserving wealth, funding retirement, or planning for heirs. Personal biases, past experiences, and economic conditions must be considered when adjusting.
- 3. Decide** – Once the data is gathered and analyzed, an investor must decide. This could involve adjusting a portfolio, selecting new investments, or planning for tax-efficient withdrawals. Like in military operations, decisions should be based on strategy, not emotion. A disciplined, well-researched approach ensures that financial choices support long-term objectives.
- 4. Act** – Execution is key. Implementing financial decisions requires taking decisive steps, whether reallocating assets, revising estate plans, or adjusting savings strategies. Moreover, just as military leaders continually reassess the battlefield, investors must regularly review and refine their financial plans to stay ahead of changing conditions.

Preparing for Part 2

In the next installment, we will explore how sophisticated

investors apply the OODA loop to manage risk, avoid financial pitfalls, and adapt to evolving economic conditions. By maintaining a disciplined and proactive approach, MOAACC members can navigate financial challenges with the same strategic mindset that has served them in their military careers.

Never Stop Serving!

POINTS TO PONDER

MAJ (Chaplain, USAR Ret.) Bill Adams

Hi! Hi! Hey!

Army personnel will recognize those words from rising to sing “The Army Goes Rolling Along.” The chorus enjoins, “Then it’s hi! hi! hey! The Army’s on its way. Count off the cadence loud and strong; for where’re we go, you will always know that the Army goes rolling along.”

As an old “Redleg” (Field Artilleryman), I feel some kinship with the original song written in 1908 by 1LT (later BG) Edmund L. Gruber a descendent of Franz Gruber, composer of “Silent Night.” During a route reconnaissance through the Zambales Mountains on Luzon, LT Gruber scrambled to higher ground to observe his advancing artillery battalion. As the horse-drawn caissons and cannons thundered in the valley, Gruber could hear a sergeant shout out above the din, “Come on! Keep ‘em rolling!”

Gruber named his composition the “Caisson Song,” and soon it became popular throughout the Army ranks. In 1917, John Philip Sousa transformed the song into a march, renaming it “The Field Artillery Song.” The Army adopted it as its official song in 1952. Retitled “The Army Goes Rolling Along,” the updated lyrics tell the story of the Army’s proud past, present, and future.

I first sang those words in the late 70’s as a member of the West Point Glee Club. I recall our director, Bill Cosby (not the famous one), pulling everything out of us musically as we performed the stirring song in concert. When we reached the third chorus, he would quiet us to be slowly deliberate about every word—then crescendo in a soul-stirring, unforgettable musical moment for the audience!

The lyrics of that final chorus are sobering: “Men in rags, men who froze, still that Army met its foes, and the Army went rolling along. Faith in God, then we’re right, and we’ll fight with all our might, as the Army keeps rolling along.” Note that soldiers can be bold and unashamed about their dependence on God in fighting to accomplish the right in defeating the wrong, no matter the sacrifice, suffering or deprivation.

To accomplish their military mission, all of our uniformed services have continued to heed what that Redleg sergeant barked out back on Luzon: “Keep ‘em rolling!” Note: This is the first in a series on our beloved armed forces songs.



MOAACC GOOD DEEDS FOUNDATION

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

Good Deeds Foundation Plans and Progress

Thanks to some generous donations over the last couple months, as well as a final total of \$27,000 plus earned at our 2024 Golf Tournament, your Good Deeds Foundation (GDF) is close to our FY 2025 budget goal of \$180,000 - another record year for GDF since our 2014 founding.

During February we were able to make some unique grants including funding to help a wounded warrior Veteran attend a special Montana based Big Sky retreat for two weeks, sponsor at the silver level the NVHS Golf Tournament to help prevent veteran family homelessness and help 700 PSFB personnel enjoy an Awards Ceremony at the PSFB Beach House. We also received great thank you notes from the 10 causes we helped in January outlined last month and expanded our support to all the JROTC units with purchasing more trophies and medals for USAF Drill teams competing at Melbourne HS on 15 March.

Look for full details next month as the GDF Board, working with MOAACC's leadership and Board, began to finalize a novel and very community based 2025 fundraiser slated for 08 November 2025. We will need help from many in MOAACC to make the plan work, but not only should it be a great way to possibly earn more than our last year's golf tournament but give MOAACC/GDF/Scholarship much more exposure to Space Coast civic, business and non-profit organizations.

We hope we can count on you in November, but also all year round to continue to support your GDF do so much to support youth, active duty, veterans in distress and other organizations that deal with veteran issues. See the GDF Board member list in this Intercom issue — welcome this year to Dan Wilson and Jay Welch — and donation address for any check contribution you would like to send and thus be part of the GCF mission.



**The 242nd Commemoration of
The Last Naval Battle
of the Revolutionary War**

Saturday, March 15, 2025

Veteran's Memorial Center

400 S Sykes Creek PKY, M.I., FL

1000-1100 a.m.

**Presented by the Sons, Daughters, and
Children of the American Revolution**



Based on MOAA and FCOC comments last month, your GDF is the biggest such program of any MOAA Chapter in the United States. Thank you!! Let's keep going.

**Exclusively Serving Veterans And
Military Families Like Yours.**

Experience Unparalleled
Personal Service From a
Team of Seasoned
Professionals

**- Focused Solely on the
Military Community.**

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Mark Your Calendar!

Save the Dates for upcoming MOAACC Events:

6 March 2025: Current Affairs Forum w/Dr. Jeffery Saluck

11 March 2025: Health Care on the Rocks

12 March 2025: Honoring National Vietnam Veterans Day!

15 March 2025: The 242nd Commemoration of The Last Naval Battle of the Revolutionary War

22 March 2025: Retiree Appreciation Day, UCF, Student Union Center

15 April 2025: ROTC & JROTC Awards Ceremony

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

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

15 June 2025: Scholarship Application Process Closes

15 July 2025: Scholarship Award Presentations

18 November 2025: MOAACC Luncheon & Annual Membership Business Meeting

5 December 2025: MOAACC Annual Christmas Dinner Dance

Space Coast Navy Wives' Club

Please join us for our March luncheon. It will be held on **FRIDAY, MARCH 21st at THE TIDES**. Social hour begins at 11:30am and lunch served at noon.

This will be our annual fashion show. The fashions will be from **CHICO'S**, featuring their spring line. As always, a few of our members will be modeling.

Our menu selections are Blackened Salmon with mango pineapple salsa, rice and vegetable or a salad with steak, feta and tomatoes. For dessert we will have cheesecake with berries.

Remember, family and friends are always welcome.

For more information and to make a reservation, please call or text Ellie Joy at (321) 961-2962 no later than noon, Tuesday, March 18th.

MOAACC On-the-Go-Luncheon

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

Pane e Vino Italian Restaurant

1800 W Hibiscus Blvd

Melbourne, FL 32901

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 MOAACC Members for January 2025

Last Name	First Name	Prefix	Service	Component	Duty Status	Member's Sponsor
Bedard	Michael	Colonel	Air Force	Regular	Retired	Bill Adams
Cox	William	CDR	Navy	Reserve	Retired	Steve Bond
Huss	J. Rowland	CAPT	Navy	Regular	Retired	Steve Cusick
Hutchens	Frances	Ms	Surviving Spouse	Other	Surviving Spouse	Mary Dunagan
Jaeger	Michael	Lt Col	Air Force	Regular	Retired	Tim Pishdad
King	Graham	LT	Navy	Regular	Active	Steve Cusick
Leach	Eugene	COL	Air Force	Regular	Retired	Life Member
Mlynarczyk	Michael	Dr	Air Force	Regular	Former	Susie Dabrowski
Pierce	Charles	CPT	Army	Regular	Retired	Hans Hunt
Robinson	Christopher	CWO3	Coast Guard	Regular	Active	Dan McIntyre
Salierno	Crystal	1st Lt	Space Force	Regular	Active	Jane Hodges
Scarpate	Jerry	Lt Col	Air Force	Regular	Retired	Hans Hunt
Udvardi	Christine	COL	Army	Reserve	Retired	Hans Hunt
Vargas	Christian	CPT	Army	Regular	Active	Donn Weaver & Tim Pishdad

HEALTHY LIVING

Rita Shapiro, MA, DPT

National Nutrition Month

More than one-third of American adults are not getting enough sleep each night. Lack of proper sleep leads to decreased energy, poor metabolism leading to increased risk of developing chronic conditions, such as obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, stroke, and frequent mental distress. Good nutrition can lead to good health, good sleep and prevent many conditions.

March is the National Nutrition Month. During the month of March, everyone is invited to learn about making informed food choices and developing healthful eating and physical activity habits. The department of Veterans' Affairs has outstanding resources for nutrition, and healthy eating.

To learn more visit:

<https://www.nutrition.va.gov/National-Nutrition-Month.asp>

TAPS

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

NONE TO REPORT



MOAACC February Luncheon



(L) MOAACC Pres. Steve Kusick and (R) MOAACC 2nd VP Hans Hunt present Mr. Ernie Dorling (C) with the MOAACC Coin

Ernie Dorling was our February 2025 guest speaker at our monthly MOAACC luncheon. He has over 25 years of experience in the Criminal Justice system. Ernie has worked for the Defense Criminal Investigative Service (DCIS) and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (BATF). When he retired from Law Enforcement, he became an Instructor at Henry Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensics at the University of New Haven, West Haven, CT. Ernie published the Criminal Investigations textbook for university students as well as other notable publications to include: *Murder: A Family Affair*, *With Consciousness of Guilt*, *The Truth is Always Negotiable*. He also served in the Marine Corps from 1969-1975.

He spoke about “Paying it Forward” and how numerous people impacted him throughout his career, especially his former Marine Corps Captain and Sergeant Major who got him started on his path to education. This eventually led him into a career in local and Federal Law Enforcement. He acknowledged MOAACC for being examples in our community and encouraged us to continue to Pay it Forward as we have an impact on our Military, Veterans, Students and our community members.



Mr. Dorling Presenting his topic “Paying it Forward”

2024 Class of Florida Veterans Hall of Fame Inducted



Carl Miller, combat wounded USMC Vietnam Veteran and past teacher is honored.

Since 2013 Florida has inducted veterans with outstanding military, other career, and volunteer service to Florida and to the 1.4 million veterans of our state, into the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame in Tallahassee. On 07 Feb 2025, the seventh veteran from Brevard County was inducted. He is Carl Miller, Commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Chapter 453 based at the VMC. His eight family members were in attendance to share in that special moment. MG John Cleland USA, Ret and Past President of MOAACC was in the first FVHOF class of 2013. Juan Santiago, Skip Taylor and Donn Weaver of MOAACC were among others from Brevard to be honored in previous classes. Details of the FVHOF can be found on the website: floridaveteranshalloffame.org



Brevard's Class of 2023 (L) Donn Weaver and Class of 2024 (R) Carl Miller shake hands at the ceremony.

[illegible]A soldier in full combat gear, including a helmet and camouflage uniform, is kneeling on one knee in a prayerful pose. The soldier's hands are clasped in front of him. The background features a large American flag with prominent stars and stripes, and a silhouette of an aircraft flying in the sky. The overall tone is solemn and patriotic.

**GREATER LOVE
HAS NO ONE
THAN THIS: TO
LAY DOWN
ONE'S LIFE FOR
ONE'S FRIENDS.**

JOHN 15:13



MOAACC-March Luncheon Speaker:

Mr. James W. Draper serves as the Museum Director for the Cape Canaveral Space Force Museum, administered by Space Launch Delta 45 at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station. He develops and implements an overall dynamic, sustainable vision for the Museum. Mr. Draper's responsibilities include drafting budgets, strategic plans, and agreements with mission partners. He coordinates the Museum Volunteer Association, liaises with the supporting Museum Foundation, and guides staff to meet and exceed USAF/USSF Heritage Program standards. Mr. Draper collaborates with local and national cultural organizations to expose larger audiences to Cape Canaveral's rich history. He oversees all collections management, exhibition, and restoration activities. Over 30 Museum facilities, including the Sands Space History Center and Hangar C, fall under his management. Mr. Draper shares Cape Canaveral history through online content, exhibition development, community presentations, specialty tours, and inquiries from students and scholars of aerospace history.



James W. Draper

Mr. Draper began his professional museum career as Site Manager of the Swiss Historical Village in New Glarus, Wisconsin. He later took on the role of Curator of Collections and Exhibitions at the Rock Country Historical Society, Janesville, Wisconsin. Mr. Draper's federal service started in 2003 as Museum Registrar at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Over the next 16 years, he managed a collection of 20,000 artifacts, oversaw all artifact digitization, coordinated thousands of artifact loans, managed the Padnos Museum Internship Program, and served as project manager for many core and temporary exhibition projects.

Mr. Draper's career reveals a lifelong devotion to history through the preservation and interpretation of material culture. He advances strategies to preserve and use artifacts to increase public understanding of the past. His commitment is exemplified in awards, publications, and demonstrated success in the museum field.

EDUCATION

- 2018 – Textile Conservation Certification, Center for Collections Care, Beloit College, WI
- 2016-2017 - Preservation Professional Development, International Preservation Studies Center, IL
- 2014-2015 - Preservation Professional Development, Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies, IL
- 2001 - Master's Degree, Historical Administration, Eastern Illinois University, IL
- 1999 - Bachelor's Degree, History and Anthropology, Grand Valley State University, MI

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- 2024 – Earned Professional Performer – Delta Staff Agency Vertical Inspection.
- 2024 – Received inaugural Space Force Heritage Award for exhibit improvements.
- 2022 – Award For Civilian Achievement for support of the inaugural United States Space Force T-Minus 10-Miler.
- 2021 – Awarded the U.S. Air Force Exemplary Civilian Service Award.
- 2020 – Managed the design and installation of a U.S. Space Force exhibit through Innovation Funds.
- 2020 – Coordinated four significant aerospace restorations.
- 2018 – Helped create the *In Step with Betty Ford* centennial exhibition.
- 2018 – Led first team of museum professionals into Houghton County Museum flood salvage operation.
- 2017 – Awarded *Archivist's Achievement Award*, National Archives, for team effort in a seven-year process of planning and implementing a full core exhibit renovation and facility expansion of Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum.
- 2015 – Co-curated *Taking of the Seas* temporary exhibit on 100 years of American aircraft carrier history.
- 2014 – Awarded *The Guardian Award*, National Archives, for completion of 100% inventory of artifact collections at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum.
- 2010 – Secured all artifact loans for *America and the Cold War* special exhibition.
- 2007 – Participated in the State Funeral for President Gerald R. Ford.

Cocoa Beach Army JROTC Unit Shines during Major US Army Inspection



*The CBHS Drill Team performed for the inspector.
Shown here their awards last year from Weaver at the VMC.*

Every three years, an inspector from the Southeast region inspects all 14 JROTC units in Brevard County. On 08 Feb it was Cocoa Beach Army JROTC time in the barrel for the six hour up close look at the unit and their cadets. Senior Army Instructor, LTC Robert Irick, USA, Ret, who is a MOAACC Member, incited GDF President Donn Weaver to attend. One phase of the inspection is community involvement and support through service hours, etc. With both Veteran Memorial Center and MOAACC connections Weaver was able to provide information and enjoyed a great morning with members of the CBHS JROTC leadership team, including past and future winners of the MOAA medal. CB

has 213 cadets at the smallest JROTC high school in Brevard with only 790 students. The program does very well every year and has the highest percentage off cadets to students in the State of Florida for schools below 900. Come and check out CB and all the JROTC Programs by attending Drill meets, the April and May cadet focused luncheons as we take pride in supporting future leaders of our country. See all details on the MOAACC website for events and activities.

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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.

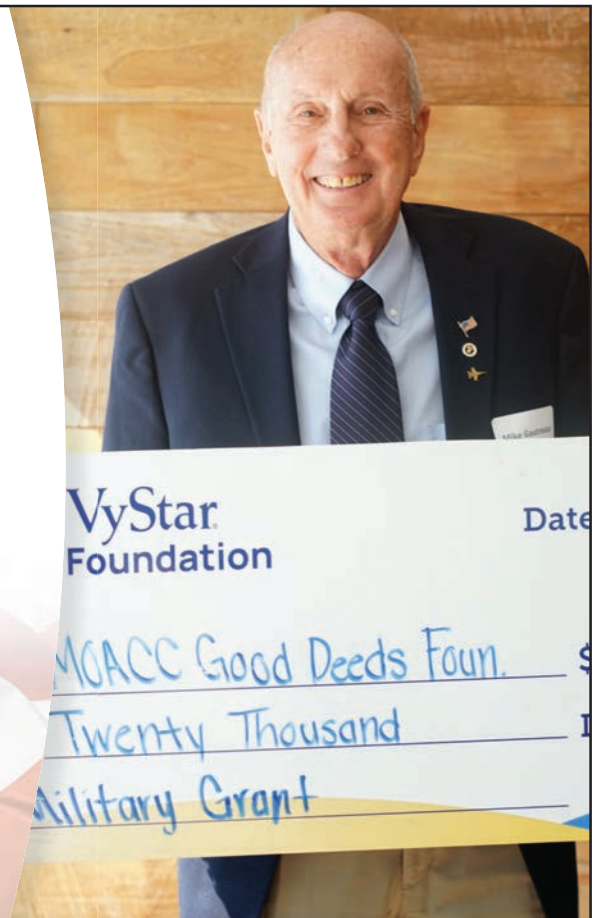
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1. **Prospective school year and degree.** Will you be considered a college sophomore, junior or senior, a graduate or doctoral degree student in the upcoming fall semester?
2. **Candidate's Sponsor.**
 - Are you a descendant or ward of a currently serving active duty or retired member of the Uniformed Services of the United States, (includes Regular, National Guard or Reserve enlisted and officers of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, Space Force, NOAA or USPHS) OR
 - Are you a descendant or ward of a deceased member of the Uniformed Services of the U.S., who died while on active duty or in retired status, OR
 - Are you a descendant or ward of a current member (or was, if deceased) of the Military Officers Association of America Cape Canaveral Chapter?
3. **Candidate's relationship to Sponsor.**
 - Are you a legal resident of Brevard County, Florida, OR
 - Are you a descendant or ward of a current member (or was if deceased) of the Cape Canaveral Chapter of MOAA?
4. **Degree requirements.**
 - Are you accepted by an accredited college or university as a full-time student (minimum 12 semester credit hours or the equivalent) in a program leading to a baccalaureate degree OR
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Selection will be made based on the merits of the whole person to include scholarship, citizenship, leadership attributes, work experiences and extracurricular activities. Please direct qualified candidates to apply online by clicking on the scholarship tab at www.moaacc.org. The deadline for all forms is **June 15, 2024**.



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"Salute to Service": A Patriotic Event at Space Coast Stadium Receives Acclaim

By: Donn Weaver, Cpt USA (fmr)



R SCRUGGS

On a clear, warmer day after a week of cold and rain, about 1500 people gathered from all over Brevard and from many states in the country. The reason was the opening ceremony and first game of the 2025 Challenge Cup slow pitch softball championships. Organized by the USSSA led by Bob Grey, which runs Space Coast Stadium and the complex that once housed Washington Nationals Spring Training games, the opening ceremony really resonated with those in attendance.

The tournament pitted 20 teams of first responders and active duty/military veteran teams from as far away as California. The first game was a contest between Patrick Space Force Base and Brevard Sheriff, Fire, EMT and police members. Sheriff Ivey managed the First Responder Team and threw out one of the ceremonial first pitches coordinated with Army veteran Donn Weaver.

The Opening ceremony set the stage and included:

MOTORCYCLES: 30 bikes from Rolling Thunder FL-1 and Combat Vets 20-1 who did a great job and made a huge impact.

GOLOR GUARDS: The theme was Past/Present and Future presented by the Sons of the American Revolution - SAR); Veterans (Marine Corps League) and the Viera HS Army JROTC. They also had 25 cadets in support and together with the color guard troops from all three organizations, brought a huge cheer.

NATIONAL ANTHEM: Great job by Delinda Griffis of the Lonnie and Delinda Beach Band and a Brevard Parks and Rec employee.

FIRST PITCHERS: Kristi Blanchard, Jim Carelton, Dave Clayton, Susie Dabrowski, Ernesto Bottoms and Donn Weaver threw out other ceremonial first pitches to honor the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force and Coast Guard respectively.

VENDORS: More than 15 vendors from veteran organizations and 501 c3 nonprofits who help so many set up before the game.

Plans have already begun to make this an annual event as the USSSA National Headquarters in Viera as it seeks to offer a great venue to produce a "Salute to Service" celebrating so many who put military and first responder service before self.



R SCRUGGS



R SCRUGGS

Sea Cadets Inspection Ceremony



Pictured seated in center are two NOTU representatives, LT Heather Owen, unit commander, and in his white uniform, Paul Julian, adjutant and MOAACC member.

On 01 Feb the Courageous Division Naval Sea Cadets underwent their annual inspection and passed with flying colors. The unit is based at the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center and has grown to 26 cadets this year. MOAACC's Good Deeds Foundation provided the Courageous Division \$3000 so far this school year and was recognized as among the unit's biggest supporters. GDF funding included our annual support to all 19 JROTC and other cadet units in Brevard, along with \$1000 to repair their trailer at the BVMC.

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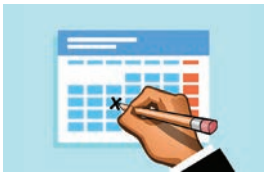
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Unofficial Brevard VMC Vets Calendar

MARCH 2025 AND BEYOND

Contact VMC for any additions or other information.

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

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

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

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

MARCH 2025

5 Mar — Annual Last Naval Battle of the Revolutionary War Celebration/Commemoration at VMC Plaza. Sponsored and staged by the Brevard Sons of the American Revolution with assistance from VMC and MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation.

08 Mar — JROTC District Drill Meet with hundreds of cadets in competition in five events. VMC Park 0700-1200.

12 Mar — A Tribute to Vietnam Veterans Commemorating National Vietnam Veterans Day, 12 March 17-1900 hrs. Eau Gallie Civic Center 1551 Highland Ave. Sponsored by DAV Chapter 32. Featuring speakers who are all Vietnam Veterans, two former DAV National Commanders and a former POW who spent 6 years in the Hanoi Hilton. RSVP via email to mail@fldav32.org or to sponsor and get more info: commander@fldav32.org

15 Mar — Annual Commemoration of the WWII Bataan Death March at Space Coast HS 09009-1300. Air Force and Space Force JROTC units only come together for a long ruck March to remember this tragic chapter in American military history and reflect on the sacrifice of our prisoners of war. NOTE: Date and Venue Change made 07 Feb due to military vehicles scheduled to be on display. Previously at VMC Park 15 Feb.

29 March — JROTC District Championship Drill Meet at VMC Park 0700-1300. State Championship Qualifier.

29 Mar — Annual and Final Vietnam Welcome Home Ceremony at the Cape Canaveral National Cemetery 1000-1100 with a program to remember the service and sacrifice of the Vietnam War with the anniversary of the American withdrawal in 1975, fifty years ago.

APRIL 2025

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

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

11 Apr — 2025 Shrimp Feast 1800-2200 at Port Canaveral Cruise Terminal 5 (8445 Rowland Dr. Port Canaveral). Cost is \$50 for early birds through 17 March at \$60 afterwards. No tickets at the door. Have fun and support our Propeller Club

of Port Canaveral Maritime Education Programs. Cocktails, Shrimp Dinner, Door Prizes, Live. Auction and Dancing. Email propellerclubcanaveral@gmail.com to register and for more information out call 321-698-5269. Also See web site: www.spacecoastshrimpfest.com

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

MAY 2025

04 May — Back Brevard Hero Fest VMC Plaza 1000-1600. Details in March.

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.

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

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

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

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

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

**Donn Weaver
Vice President**

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

JROTC Cadets Enjoy Unique Run and Shoot Competition at VMC Park



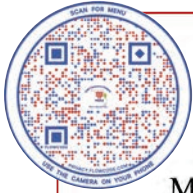
Starting at sunrise the JROTC students ran the ½ mile track around the Amphitheatre before the shoot ending with big smiles with the trophy awards.

On a cool day, JROTC cadets from Melbourne, Rockledge, Space Coast and Satellite High Schools came out to have some fun and compete with each other. The event “Run and Shoot” has a 30-year history in Brevard County and is not an event on the State or National JROTC programs like Drill, Air Rifle or Raider Challenge.

This year’s event, which includes a half mile run, penalty laps if any of 10 shots are missed and standing air rifle shooting with pellets into paper targets, is timed and scored for accuracy. This year the course had to be modified to accommodate large scale Amphitheater Construction leaving only the small west parking lot and limited vehicle access available at the VMP. There is still more than enough room to do all JROTC events that follow into next Fall until the project is completed. So, it was game on with this event, three drill meets and three Raider Challenge meets between now and November, when the project is expected to be completed.

Each school had two teams of five each with Melbourne HS taking away first place and Satellite and Space Coast splitting other trophies. Rockledge also gave out special medals to its team members. All awards were funded by the MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation, which will cover every trophy and medal for every JROTC event in Brevard this school year with the total likely surpassing \$17 K. MOAACC and VMC members Doug Bisset, Joe Tichich and Donn Weaver supported the event and handed out the awards to some very energized and happy cadets. They seemed to be glad they gave up a Saturday morning of sleeping in.

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Great Start to JROTC Drill Meet Season



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

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

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

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



Color Guard Ready to Present Colors



Drill teams from each school ready to parade



Drill team put through required actions



Awaiting the results

JROTC-Military Balls



Palm Bay Marine JROTC Cadets appreciate Good Deeds Foundation's donation of \$1000 to support their Air Rifle Range used by many JROTC schools in Brevard and beyond.



Many MOAACC members were invited to speak at the JROTC Military Balls. Here, GDF President Donn Weaver encourages Melbourne AF JROTC cadets to hold onto their dreams and set goals through all phases of their lives.



On 01 Feb Bayside High School hosted the Navy JROTC only State Brainiac Bowl Championship. The event poses questions to teams of five on wide ranging civics, military, history and cultural topics as seen on TV shows like Jeopardy. MOAACC President Steve Cusick along with Donn Weaver presented the Third-Place trophy to the Bayside team with NJROTC Instructor Paul Fenech looking on far right. It was a great event with GDF providing all the trophies.

MOC

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Photos submitted by MOAACC members.

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- Send to: intercom@moaacc.org

NASA Memorial Service for Fallen Astronauts

By Jane Hodges

January was a month of memorial services for the fallen astronauts of the Apollo 1, Challenger, and Columbia tragedies. Services were hosted by the Astronaut Memorial Foundation-Center for Space Education at KSC Memorial Mirror, and at the LC 39 pad for the Apollo 1 astronauts, and at Titusville' Sand Point Park hosted by the American Space Museum and City of Titusville Flag & Memorial Committee. MOAACC members Jane Hodges, Bob Sieck (Shuttle launch Director) and Dean Schaaf attended the ASM services, laying flowers at the memorial of these fallen heroes whom they knew and worked with during their employment at NASA. Astronaut Andy Allen, former Marine aviator and lieutenant colonel, presently CEO of Aerodyne Industries, was keynote speaker. CAP Cadets participated in the service, along with many other local dignitaries. The memorial service at KSC was attended by many NASA retired employees,



Jane Hodges laying flowers on astronauts' memorial plaques



Jane Hodges in her silver space suit and husband Dave in his Neil Armstrong suit

hosted by Thad Altman, President and CEO of the AMF and Col. Eileen Collins was keynote speaker. An additional event honoring the first female pilot and commander of a Space Shuttle was held for Col. Collins: the premier of her life story, 'Spacewoman', along with book signing of her autobiography. This was another reflective event for Dr. Hodges, who has worked in aerospace education for over 55 years, indicated the movie was heartfelt and highly recommends it. On a more fun note, the AMF also hosted the premier of the new Star Trek movie, Section 31. Dressed in Dr. McCoy's silver spacesuit (replica), gave Jane the opportunity to give a recorded interview for upcoming publicity! Shuttle Astronauts Andy Allen, Anna Fisher, Winston Scott, John Herrington and Bob Cabana and Gen Raja Chari, SpaceX astronaut, as well as the newly appointed acting director of KSC Kelvin Manning also attended the various events.

Ceremony Honors and Remembers the Four Immortal Chaplains of WWII and All Chaplains



The four chaplains' photos were held during the honor ceremony

Chaplains in 1942. After they shared all, they had to save others, they linked arms in a unity of different faiths and were swallowed by the sea. Some of the few survivors saw their actions and the four were eventually awarded congressional gold medals.

The Marines read their names and bio while lighting a memory candle and placing a symbolic life vest on three crosses and the Star of David. MCL Commandant Rick Bedford served as MC as the Martens presented colors, carried the life vests and played TAPS.

This year seven Chaplains were also recognized for their service 82 years later and stood behind the photos of the Immortal Four as their bios were read. With over 150 years as chaplains or in other ministry, they too have served and are rarely recognized for their crucial roles, which began when George Washington requested Chaplains be assigned to the Continental Army in 1775.

Donn Weaver, VMC VP read their names and talked about some special Chaplain stories, including a report from the current Chief of all 2800 Chaplains in the US Army, MG Bill Green. He noted the Army Chaplains have unity of purpose though they come from and represent 110 faith groups.

On 02 February about sixty people attended a very special ceremony at the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center (VMC). The solemn program began with the Brevard Marine Corps League Detachment 513 telling the story of four Army Chaplains of different faiths who gave their life jackets and more to save other soldiers. Their troop transport ship was attacked on the night of 03/04 Feb off the coast of Greenland by German U Boats and sunk in less than two hours into the icy North Atlantic.

After the war, the 4 Immortal Chaplains Foundation began at the Chapel of the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard. Its mission has been to remember every year the heroic efforts of these four men who left their churches and a synagogue to join the Army as



*MOAACC Members attending Four Immortal Chaplains 02 Feb Ceremony:
L-R Donn Weaver, JB Krump, Bill Adams, Tom Unrath, Rick Kniseley and
Dean Schaaf.*



Tom Unrath, Ann Taylor, and others visit and view the memorial

In 2019 the Philadelphia based Four Immortal Chaplains Foundation officially added the monument at the VMC plaza designed by Gold Star Mom Jeanne Weaver into their registry. The monument also recalls the missions of all military chaplains from the Revolution to the War on Terror.

For the VMC the historic connection to this sad by inspiring event in 1943 is more than just a remembrance once a year. Please check out the monument in the VMC Plaza and the Chaplains Display in the second floor of the VMC Military Museum. We hope next year many more will come to learn about the Four Immortal Chaplains and the very special role in times of fear, danger, stress, family crises and combat/ other deaths performed by all Chaplains.

MOAACC Members Visit Brevard Emergency Operations Center



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

Dr. Jane Hodges Introduces New MOAACC Member, Lt Crystal Salierno

The newest MOAACC member, Lt Crystal Salierno was introduced at a meeting by Dr. Jane Hodges. They met at the 'special invitation only' memorial service for Apollo 1 astronauts, Gus Grissom, Roger Chaffee and Ed White, held at the LC 39 complex, CCSFS, on Jan. 27. Lt Salierno had the honor of escorting the Grissom family. She also had the honor of wearing the new Space Force uniform to the Presidential Inauguration where she represented Cape Canaveral Space Force Stations (CCSFS). She had a great view of the Commanders Ball witnessing President Trump and Melania's first dance and the President and Vice President Vance cutting the military cake with sabers. It was an event she will never forget! Lt Salierno served 16.5 years enlisted in the Air Force rising to the rank of Chief Master Sargent while receiving her Bachelors and Masters Degrees in Aeronautical Science from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University before being commissioned as an officer in the Space Force. She said her dream since a little girl was to work in the space program so is thrilled to be selected to serve with Space Force. She even had the privilege of working console on the most recent Blue Origin and Space X launch doing her current job as Range Operations Commander. She looks forward to contributing to our MOAACC chapter as a speaker and providing updates with Col. Susie Dabroskie on happenings with CCSFS and PSFB. Dr. Hodges, who retired from KSC and has been active in aerospace for over fifty years, looks forward to introducing Lt. Salierno to other space-related events in the area where she knows will be a great asset.



Lt. Crystal Salierno at Launch Complex 39 during the Memorial Service for the fallen Apollo 1 astronauts



The 242nd Commemoration of
**The Last Naval Battle
of the Revolutionary War**

Saturday, March 15, 2025

Veteran's Memorial Center

400 S Sykes Creek PKY, M.I., FL

1000-1100 a.m.

**Presented by the Sons, Daughters, and
Children of the American Revolution**



The Last Naval Battle of the Revolutionary War took place off the Florida Coast, south of Cape Canaveral on March 10, 1783.

The fight began when three British ships sighted two Continental Navy ships, the Alliance commanded by Captain John Barry and the Duc De Lauzun commanded by Captain John Green sailing northward along the east coast of Florida. The Alliance, a 36-gun frigate and the Duc De Lauzun, a 20-gun ship, were loaded with 72,000 Spanish silver dollars they were bringing from Havana, Cuba to Philadelphia to support the Continental Army. One of the British ships, the HMS Sybil, a 28-gun frigate, commanded by Captain James Vashon, chased the Alliance and the Duc De Lauzun to the south. The HMS Sybil fired first, exchanging shots with the slower Duc De Lauzun. Then in a daring strategy Captain John Barry, aboard the Alliance, reversed course, and while under fire, positioned his ship between the HMS Sybil and Duc De Lauzun. When the Alliance was alongside the Sybil and within 1/2 pistol range the Alliance returned fire with a greater number of canon. The battle lasted less than an hour, with the HMS Sybil, outgunned and badly damaged, broke off from the battle and fled. The Alliance and Duc De Lauzun continued on their mission at dawn on March 11, 1783.



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