



The INTERCOM

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
Cape Canaveral Chapter, Inc.



August MOAACC Luncheon



Photo by Amir Pishdad, Sr.

Congressman Mike Haridopolos (Center-Right) visits with the Cape Canaveral Chapter at their August Luncheon at the Indian River Colony Club in Melbourne. Captain Steve Cusick (USN-Retired) Chapter President is at the Far-Right, Colonel Steve Bond (USA-Retired), Florida Council President and Chapter Past President is at Center-Left, and Kieth Van Buren, VA Coordinator for Congressman Haridopolos is at Far-Left.

See the full story on Page 10



To take action with MOAA, visit: <https://moaa.quorum.us/>
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PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

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

Your MOAA Chapter Connection

Looking Ahead – Key Events

Hello again, and welcome to the September 2025 edition of the INTERCOM. This month I would like to look ahead to the next few weeks of special MOAACC and veteran events during September and October, our busiest period of the year.

But first, thank you for the record turnout at the recent MOAACC Luncheon with our honored guest speaker, Congressman Mike Haridopolos. This was the **Largest IRCC** lunch turnout in recent memory, and I want to personally thank each one of you for your participation and interest.

September

- Our **“On-the-Go”** luncheon at 1130 on **Tuesday, Sept 9** will be held at Tuscany Grill, 6630 Colonnade Ave in Viera. This is a great opportunity to get to know your fellow members and we would love to have you join us. Please call Toni Lowe at (321) 474-6888 for reservations and more information.
- **9/11 Remembrance Ceremony** will be held 1800-1930 at the Brevard Veteran Memorial Center (BVMC) featuring Fife and Drum corps, police and fire color guards, speakers who were there on scene, and much more. Please contact Donn
- Weaver at BVMC (757) 871-6576 for more information about this interesting event.
- Our **MOAACC Luncheon** at 1130 on 9/18 features Dr. Doris Newman, campus Dean of the new Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine at Florida Tech. This is the first MEDICAL School in Brevard County, and she will explain these unique facilities and the future of medical education in our local area. I hope you can join us for her interesting presentation.

October

- Our expert helicopter pilot, Jose Prieto will present his perspective on **Operation Urgent Fury (Grenda)** at our TMBC meeting at 0800 on **Thursday, October 2nd**. Held each Thursday morning at the IRCC At Ease Club, you are always welcome and we hope to see you there.
- **October 3rd** please save the date for the 10 th Annual “Rescuing Veterans Lost in America” Gala to be held at 5 PM at the Radisson Resort at the Port sponsored by the National Veterans Homeless Support team. Please see the NVHS or MOAACC webpage (moaacc.org) for more information.

That’s all for now, I’m looking forward to seeing you at one of these events soon!



EDITOR'S NOTE

John Franco, COL, USAF (ret)

At our last MOAACC Board Meeting, our president said we were about to enter our busy season. As for me, I haven’t noticed any let up in our chapter’s activities. However, to use President Cusick’s scale, everyone needs to “buckle up for the ride” as we embark on a busy Autumn-Fall season. The United States Coast Guard’s birthday was last month. Happy Birthday “coasties.” At a recent TMBC, Dan McIntyre provided our members with a brief history of the US Coast. I asked Dan to provide a written summary of that history and it is included in this Intercom edition. Thank you, Dan.



SEPTEMBER EVENTS

(Click Event for Details)

- 9/4 Current Affairs Forum - 8 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 9/9 On-The-Go Luncheon - 11:30 AM
@ Tuscan Grill - Melbourne, FL
- 9/11 TMBC - 8 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 9/12 Tuskegee Airmen - 7th Annual Charity Golf
Tournament - 7:30 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club
- 9/16 MOAACC B.O.D. Mtg. - 9:30 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - Chapel
- 9/16 MOAACC Luncheon - Guest Speaker Dr. Doris
Newman, DO, FAAO, Florida Campus Dean - 11:30 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - Colony Hall
- 9/18 TMBC - 8 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 9/25 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 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:

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- **DO NOT SEND Cc TO EVERYONE**

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CHAIRMAN: John Franco

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: Amir Pishdad, Sr.

INTERCOM EDITOR: John Franco

ASSOCIATE EDITORS: Rita Shapiro and Fran Majcher

LAYOUT/GRAPHICS: Jeremiah Zeleny

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FINANCIAL LITERACY

COL John C. Murphy, USASF (Ret)

Why the First Step in Your Estate Planning Shouldn't Be Drafting a Will

In the coming years, the United States will witness one of the largest transfers of wealth in ones. This “great wealth transfer” will reshape the financial landscape for millions of families. But without preparation, heirs could wait months—or even years—before receiving their inheritance. Here's the surprising truth: **having a will guarantees probate.**

What is probate? Probate is the court-supervised process of settling a deceased person's estate—paying debts, distributing assets, and validating the will. Even in straightforward cases, probate typically takes around 12 months. In more complex or contested situations, it can drag on for two years or longer. Probate is also costly—often consuming 3% or more of the estate's value, not to mention legal fees. And creditors get first claim on assets during the process.

The good news? Probate can often be avoided.

One of the simplest and most effective strategies is to **name beneficiaries on your accounts**—not only for retirement accounts, IRAs, 401(k)s, and life insurance policies (where it's routine), but also for:

- **Checking and savings accounts** – use a POD (“Payable on Death”) designation.
- **Brokerage accounts** – use a TOD (“Transfer on Death”) designation.

By naming beneficiaries—primary, secondary, and even tertiary—you allow these assets to pass directly to your chosen heirs, bypassing probate entirely. This means faster access to funds, lower costs, and far less red tape. You can even specify the percentage of the account each beneficiary will receive.

What about joint accounts? Joint ownership is another probate-avoidance tool, but it comes with a caution: always name contingent beneficiaries. For example, if you and your spouse share a joint checking account and both pass away in the same accident or close in time, a named beneficiary ensures the funds go where you intend.

Accessing the funds

When the account holder dies, the beneficiary typically presents a certified death certificate, personal identification, and a few forms to the financial institution—gaining access to the funds almost immediately.

The bottom line

The *first* step in estate planning isn't drafting a will—it's naming beneficiaries on every eligible account and asset. Then, with that foundation in place, you can move

on to creating your will, trust, and other estate planning documents (as discussed in last month's article).

The more intentional you are now, the easier it will be for your loved ones later.

Your future. Our focus.



Susan Morse

Senior Vice President—
Wealth Management
321-722-5426
susan.morse@ubs.com

Indian River Wealth Management Group

UBS Financial Services Inc.
6905 North Wickham Road
Suite 200
Melbourne, FL 32940
321-729-6770

Daniel Levy, CFA, CPWA®

Financial Advisor
US Navy Veteran
321-722-5427
daniel.levy@ubs.com



advisors.ubs.com/indianriverwmg

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LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

John R. McMahan, BG, USA (Ret)

Summer Recess Activities

With the congressional summer recess in full swing, I was tempted to take a break myself until I realized my sole mode these days is “On break”. However, as our MOAA President and CEO reminds us in a recent YouTube video clip, the summer Advocacy in Action (AiA) campaign is underway; “it’s a time for action”, LTG (Ret) Brian Kelly says. Kelly points to MOAA’s top three priorities: getting the Major Richard Star Act into the NDAA; improving care for military personnel and their families, as addressed in two bills introduced this year; and tweaking the Military Spouse Hiring Act. Kelly stresses these are “readiness issues” because while the military recruits the soldier, it retains the family. True to my duties as your MOAAC’s Legislative Liaison, I went to the MOAA legislative advocacy website (<https://moaa.quorum.us>) to punch out a few letters, especially because two of our three US Congress officials are new to the game.

I sent letters to all three of our members in less than five minutes. I recommend you do the same ASAP. As MOAA’s top priority this summer, the Major Richard Star Act is a “critical bill that would end the unjust offset, reducing DoD retirement pay for over 50,300 combat-injured veterans. These veterans—many of whom are seriously disabled—earned their retirement pay through years of service. Yet, they see it reduced dollar-for-dollar because of the VA disability compensation they receive. In some cases, it’s eliminated entirely. This bill has been introduced as an amendment to the Senate’s version of the FY 2026 NDAA, and your support is critical to ensure it is included in the final version of the annual defense bill. This is quoted verbatim from the letter I sent, which was drafted automatically by MOAA.

On MOAA’s second priority for the summer AiA campaign, there are two bipartisan bills “that would strengthen access to health care for servicemembers and their families. Both measures are included in the House Armed Services Committee chairman’s mark of the FY 2026 NDAA, and your support is critical to ensuring they remain in the final bill.” Continuing to quote from my letter: “The TOTAL Care Act (H.R. 1699) would eliminate the TRICARE Prime referral requirement for OB/GYN care to streamline access to essential women’s health care. Service members and their families should not face unnecessary delays when seeking OB/GYN or prenatal care. Yet TRICARE

Prime currently requires a referral for OB/GYN services, a burden not faced by civilians in comparable plans. This results in lost duty time, delayed care, and administrative hurdles that degrade servicemember health and focus.” The other bipartisan initiative is “the Improving Access to Prenatal Care for Military Families Act (H.R. 4381 / S. 2239), which would designate pregnancy as a qualifying life event (QLE) under TRICARE. This would give families flexibility to switch between TRICARE Prime and Select when timely prenatal care is not available at their assigned military treatment facility.” Notably, both bills deliver improvements in health care access without altering covered benefits or adding significant costs.

Finally, on MOAA’s third priority of the summer AiA campaign, please add your support to the Military Spouse Hiring Act, (H.R. 2033) to assist military spouses as a target group under the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) program. This simple change would directly incentivize employers to hire military spouses, helping to reduce the 20% unemployment rate they currently face — five times the national average.”

As my old 2-star boss used to say, “let’s get it done!” Thanks for your continued support of the MOAA Legislative agenda!



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POINTS TO PONDER

MAJ (Chaplain, USAR Ret.) Bill Adams

Chaplain Tom and I have been bringing you the stories of our beloved service songs. We've covered the Army, Air Force, Marines, Navy, Coast Guard and Space Force, so that should just about do it. But wait! There are two more uniformed services we don't want to miss.

This month we feature the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps. PHS officers advance our nation's public health, serving in agencies across the government, as physicians, nurses, dentists, veterinarians, scientists, and engineers. The Corps boasts 6,000 officers in 800 duty locations around the globe. Another 50,000 civil servants help get the job done. Together, their mission is to protect, promote, and advance the health and safety of the nation.

Eight major agencies make up the PHS: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), National Institutes of Health (NIH), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Agency for Health Care Policy and Research (AHCPR), and Indian Health Service (IHS).

The PHS grew out of a need for healthy seamen in our new republic which relied on the sea for trade and security. In 1798 Congress established the Marine Hospital Service in port cities to care for sick seamen. Through a later reorganization, the MHS became a separate bureau of the Treasury Department under the supervision of the Supervising Surgeon. The title was changed to Surgeon General in 1902.

The PHS does not have an official anthem with lyrics, but it does have the PHS March and the Centennial Fanfare "Anchor and Caduceus," both composed by Coast Guard Senior Musician George King III. King was stationed at the Cape May Coast Guard facility and was faced with the problem of what to play at dinner when there were visiting PHS dignitaries. He composed the march and presented the copyright to the Surgeon General, making the PHS the only uniformed service in which the copyright is held by the titular head. For his service to the PHS, King was presented the PHS Achievement Medal, the only Coast Guard enlisted person to receive such an honor. We honor the service and sacrifice of our fellow PHS officers. And to all, here's to your health!

HEALTHY LIVING

Rita Shapiro, MA, DPT

What are the 5 pillars of healthy aging?

While some resources may include topics like sleep and lifelong learning, there is typically a consensus on what is a core common five pillars to healthy aging: physical activity, nutrition, social engagement, cognitive stimulation and mental well-being.

September is the national nutrition month so we will examine the nutrition portion of healthy aging in this brief note. Eating reasonable amounts of a variety of nutritious foods and getting physical activity every day can go a long way toward staying healthy as you age. Studies have shown that the healthiest diet is the Mediterranean style diet as it contains more fruits, vegetables, and seafood and less dairy than the Healthy U.S.-Style Eating Pattern. (Ref: USDA)

For a sample of the mediterranean style recipes please visit:

www.americastestkitchen.com/mediterranean

You will find some really fun and easy recipes to make that do not cost an arm and a leg to make, and most of all they are delicious.

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Mark Your Calendar!

Save the Dates for upcoming MOAACC Events:

(See our website events calendar for details)

04 September 2025: Current Affairs Forum - w/Rose Bobier - ClinCloud Clinical Research

12 September 2025: Tuskegee Airmen - 7th Annual Charity Golf Tournament

16 September 2025: MOAACC Luncheon w/Dr. Doris Newman, DO, FAAO. Dean

3 October 2025: 10th Annual Rescuing Veterans Lost in America Gala

08 November 2025: 1st Annual VyStar MOAACC Veterans Day Recognition Dinner

18 November 2025: MOAACC Luncheon & Annual Membership Business Meeting

5 December 2025: MOAACC Annual Christmas Dinner Dance

11 December 2025: MOAACC Surviving Spouses & Spouses Christmas Tea

13 December 2025: 4th Annual Space Force 10-Miler

29-31 January 2026: Florida Council of Chapters 2026 Leadership Training Seminar and Convention

31 January 2026: 20th Annual MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation Fundraiser Cruise



Indian River Colony Golf Club

1936 Freeman Drive, Melbourne, FL 32940

Join us as we celebrate the Legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen. Come be a part of the Seventh Annual Charity Golf Tournament. Experience the natural preserves, abundance of wildlife which provides a pleasant respite as you proceed around the course. You will remember each hole for its own unique personality traits.

7:30 AM-Registration Check-in

8:30 AM-18-Hole 4-person shotgun

Registration

\$130 per individual

\$500 foursome

*Post-tournament luncheon after play.
All proceeds to benefit our youth outreach programs*



For more information and to register, visit tai-cfl.org

MOAACC Spouse/Surviving Spouse Annual Christmas Tea

Save the date. December 11, 2025 at 1pm will be our annual Christmas Tea at IRCC. We look forward to seeing you there, For more information, and if you would like to help, please contact Ellie Joy at (321) 961-2962 or eajoy1012@gmail.com.

On-the-Go-Luncheon September 11, 2025

Tuscany Grill

6630 Colonnade Avenue
Melbourne, FL 32940

This month's 'On-the-Go we will meet at Tuscany Grill. For reservations or additional information phone Toni Lowe at (321) 474-6888. Cut off for reservations, cancellations is the Friday prior, so she can inform the restaurant on how many are coming. Cost: Per individual. As always, please honor your reservation or call Toni if you cannot attend so she can inform the restaurant in a timely fashion. Everyone is invited so please join us.



MOAACC MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

WELCOME

Welcome our New Members!

Last Name	First Name	Prefix	Service	Component	Duty Status	Membership Level	Member's Sponsor
Baldwin	Warren	CWO3	Coast Guard	Regular	Retired	Annual	Dan McIntyre
Beard	Dan	LT	Navy	Reserve	Former	Annual	Steve Cusick
Donohue	Joan	Mrs	Surviving Spouse	Other	Surviving Spouse	Surviving Spouse (Auxiliary)	Ellie Joy
Dunn	Peter	Lt Col	Air Force	Regular	Retired	Annual	Steve Cusick
Dunning	Michael	LTC	Army	Regular	Retired	Annual	Ellie Joy
Gandee	Linda	LtCol	Marines	Regular	Retired	Annual	
Gardner	Dale	Mrs	Spouse	Other	Other	Life	Eric Gardner
Glendy	Terry	CW2	Army	Regular	Retired	Annual	Ken Lowe
Heng	Winson	CDR	Navy	Regular	Retired	Life	Dave Kobey
Jordan	Gerald	CW3	Army	Regular	Retired	Annual	Hans Hunt
Knight	Richard	MAJ	Army	National Guard	Active	Life	Michael Schroeder
Kniseley	Cheryl	Mrs	Spouse	Other	Other	Spouse	Rick Kniseley
Lane	Michael		Air Force	Regular	Retired	Life	
Lavaliere	Sharon	Mrs				Surviving Spouse (Auxiliary)	
Lawlor	Elizabeth	Mrs	Surviving Spouse	Regular	Surviving Spouse	Surviving Spouse (Auxiliary)	Ellie Joy
Motley	Robert	LtCol	Marines	Regular	Retired	Annual	Dan McIntyre
Paquin	Joan	Mrs	Surviving Spouse	Other	Surviving Spouse	Surviving Spouse (Auxiliary)	Dave Kobey
Pierce	Robert	Lt Col	Air Force	Reserve	Retired	Annual	
Rivera	Javier	CW3	Army	Regular	Retired	Annual	Hans Hunt
Seitter	Coleen	CW3	Army	Regular	Retired	Annual	Hans Hunt
Suga	Kyle	CWO2	Coast Guard	Regular	Active	Annual	Dan McIntyre
Thompson	Paul	MAJ	Army	Reserve	Retired	Annual	Dan McIntyre
Tyler	Ina	CDR	Navy	Reserve	Retired	Annual	Don Reott
Wilson	Robin	Mrs	Spouse	Other	Other	Spouse	Dan Wilson
Wirsch	Glen	1LT	Army	Regular	Former	Annual	Steve Cusick

Aug 7 Current Affairs Forum



Photo by Amir Pishdad, Sr.



Photo by Amir Pishdad, Sr.

Speaker Dr. Brandon Wormsbacher, MD, FFAFP, Chief Medical Officer at the Viera VA Health Care Center and Palm Bay VA Outpatient Clinic since January 2025. He oversees one of the busiest outpatient clinics in the U.S.



Photo by Amir Pishdad, Sr.

Dr. Brandon Wormsbacher was presented with a MOAACC challenge Coin.
L-R: LTC Harry "Skip" Taylor, Viera Clinic liaison officer; Dr. Brandon Wormsbacher, MD, FFAFP; and VADM Don Hagen

Advocacy in Action!



Photo by Amir Pishdad, Sr.

Congressman Mike Haridopolos, FL 8, (Standing) addresses the Cape Canaveral Chapter Luncheon on August 19th at Indian River Colony Club in Melbourne. 136-chapter members and guests attended the luncheon.

The Cape Canaveral Chapter hosted Congressman Mike Haridopolos (FL District 8) at its luncheon on August 19th. Congressman Haridopolos serves on the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology where he is the Chairman on the Space and Aeronautics Committee, and on the Financial Services Committee where he serves as the Majority Whip. He was accompanied by his district director, Pam Persse and Keith Van Buren, VA Coordinator. The visit was timely to support MOAA's Summer Advocacy in Action Campaign and he was provided with the MOAA AiA issue papers. He stated he would support and co-sponsor the measures. Congressman Haridopolos said at the beginning of his remarks that his top priorities upon arriving in Washington were securing the border, affordability for Americans and the US becoming Space-dominant. He mentioned: the 99% reduction in illegal border crossings; the significant increase in foreign investment in the US economy; the positive impact of the "Big Beautiful Bill (now Act)", especially tax policy; and the \$10B increase for NASA. Following his remarks he answered questions from the audience. There were 136-chapter members and guests at the luncheon at the Indian River Colony Club in Melbourne.



Photo by Amir Pishdad, Sr.

Congressman Haridopolos mixes with members and guests following his remarks



Photo by Amir Pishdad, Sr.

Florida Council of Chapters President, Steve Bond presents the MOAACC Challenge coin to Congressman Haridopolos as a token of appreciation

August 2025 MOAACC Luncheon



Photo by Jeremiah Zeleny, IRCC Graphics



Photo by Amir Pishdad, Sr.

Congressman Haridopolos shares his priorities with the audience

Annual Members MOAACC Picnic

Veterans Memorial Center, Aug 16, with about 85 members in attendance.





MOAACC GOOD DEEDS FOUNDATION

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

GDF at Warp Speed In August — We Need Your Support



Purple Heart Ceremony in the Museum at VMC on 10 August

When you read this September Issue you will hopefully be proud of what your Good Deeds Foundation is doing. August was a huge month, with much more on the horizon. We will prepare our FY 2026 Budget to launch on 01 Oct 2025. We also enter the final stretch of preparations for our new, and crucial, for continued or expanded GDF Impact, Veterans Day Recognition Dinner on 08 November. Our Event Chairman, Larry Jackson has a great report and flier in this the event. You can choose purchasing individual or small groups of seats and having entries to recognize someone special in the program. Let Larry, GDF members or I know if you have questions on the event. The key is simple; Go to GDFD.org to see the many ways you can contribute to the success of the event and make your GDF even better next year.

Meanwhile, check out how GDF spent August with our amazing \$48,000 JROTC and other Cadet launch on 06 August and four support to a fantastic Purple Heart Ceremony in the Museum at VMC on 10 August. Several other GHDF grants are reported in this issue as well.

By the way, if you want to focus your support on the JROTC program which assists 14 Brevard High Schools and over 2500 JROTC cadets, please see our new JROTC Support Project described in a flier in all issues on the Intercom. Speaking of JROTC support, how about going beyond the financial and reorient MOAACC at the 27 September JROTC Raider Challenge Event at the Veterans Memorial Park on Merritt Island. If you come anytime between 1030 and 1300, there will be time to see some events, interact with cadets and JROTC instructors and help us passive out trophies and ribbons which GDF purchases for all JROTC events during the entire school year.

Hope you had a good summer and are ready for a great Fall season.



VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER UPDATE

Partners in Education Kickoff



ECAC table l-r, Stephanie Robinson (Works Force Brevard and STEM); Tammy Dennis (USAF/SF and ECAC Coordinator); Donn Weaver (MOAACC, BVMC, Vet Liaison for Enlistment Ceremony)

Over 690 vendors and 200 visitors from the Brevard educational community, non-profits and businesses attended the Partners In Education (PIE) Kickoff Fair at the Viera School Board Meeting Room. The major veteran participant was the Education and Citizenship Armed Forces Coalition of the Space Coast (ECAC). Operating now for three years with strong support of the BPS leadership, veterans' organizations like MOAACC, SAR, VFW and Brevard Veterans Memorial Center, had a table at the Fair and shared information with over 100 teachers and administrators from 50 schools. ECAC

has produced a website linked to all things military from getting into the academies to training via delayed enlistment and much more; active duty/recruiters; the Museums of Brevard; and the annual Space Coast Military Enlistment Ceremony. Check out www.becfo.org for the website details.



The 2025, Brevard County 9/11 24th Anniversary Memorial Tribute will be held at:

The Veteran's Memorial Park

Located at:
400 South Sykes Creek Pkwy
Merritt Island, FL 32952

CITIZENS OF BREVARD COUNTY JOIN US
 AT 6:00PM ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2025
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 CIVILIANS, AND MILITARY WHO LOST THEIR LIVES ON 9/11
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UNIFORM CEREMONY BEGINS AT 6:00PM.



Amphitheatre progressing at VMC

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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.

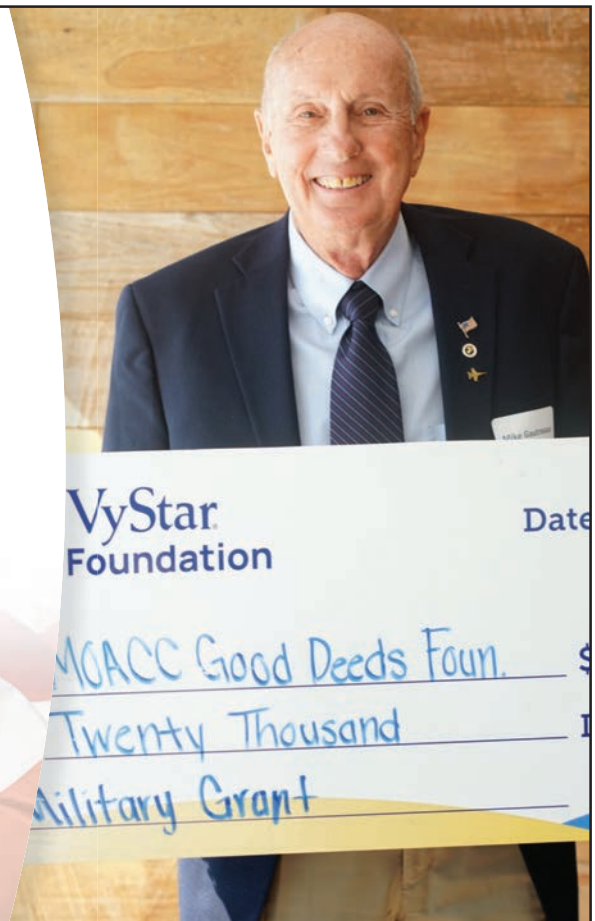
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GDF continued

First Annual VyStar Recognition Dinner

Larry Jackson, Capt (Fmr) USAF, Recognition Dinner Chair

On Saturday, 8 November 2026, the MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation (GDF) will be hosting a dinner at the Viera Holiday Inn Conference Center. The purpose of the dinner is to increase community awareness by recognizing the Brevard County Veteran's project, Veteran's organization and Veteran's volunteer of the year. Our speaker will be a US Senator or Congressman. Admiral Wayne Justice will be the MC and Sheriff Wayne Ivey will be our auctioneer. This will be GDF's major fundraising event replacing our annual golf tournament. We are asking all MOAACC members to participate to make this event a success. You can help us by:

1. Purchasing a table for \$1,250 and inviting friends and family to join you
2. Purchasing an ad for \$125 in our dinner booklet to commemorate a relative who was a veteran
3. Sharing our flyer with your church, civic organization, doctor or dentist and asking them to purchase a table or an ad for \$250.

Please visit our website: GDFD.org or contact me at larryj59@gmail.com

The Good Deeds Foundation needs your support to continue our mission of support for youth activities (JROTC, ROTC), Active Duty Military Members and their families, Veterans organizations and Veterans at risk.

MOAACC Cape Canaveral GOOD DEEDS FOUNDATION

FIRST ANNUAL VETERANS DAY RECOGNITION DINNER

Join us at this special event. All proceeds will go to support for military veterans, JROTC/ROTC and active duty projects in Brevard County

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Larry Jackson
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Bayside Navy JROTC Receives “Launch” Money



On 18 August GDF Pres Weaver (yellow visitor tag) handed the \$3000 Good Deeds Support Grant check to Bayside HS Navy JROTC Instructor and MOAACC Member LTC Paul Fenech, USN, Ret with two new Cadet leaders standing by. Bayside begins the 2025-26 school year with 171 cadets, the highest number ever!!

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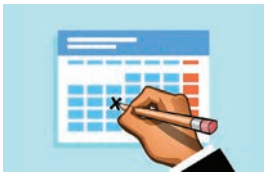
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MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation

PO Box 320358

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Unofficial Brevard VMC Vets Calendar

September 2025 & 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.

SEPTEMBER

06 Sep — NEW TIME AND VENUE. Space Coast Honor Flight Send Off 0400 -0530 hrs at Melbourne Airport Terminal. Honors 20 plus veterans and guardians with travel to Wash DC to visit their monuments and memorials. check out SCHF.org for more info.

10 Sep — DAV Chapter 329-11 Special Event and Remembrance 1700-1930 at Eau Gallie Civic Center , 1531 Highland Ave, Melbourne. FREE EVENT for Veterans, first responders and families. Food at 1700, Ceremony with guest speakers at 1800. Raffles, Silent Auction , Military Art Auction and more. RSVP to mail@fldav32.org

11 Sep — 09/11 Remembrance Ceremony BVMC Plaza and Gray Hall 1300 - 1430 (NOTE NEW TIME) Sponsored by Retired NYPD Club 1013, MOAACC/GDF and BVMC. Featuring Police and Fire Color Guards, Fife and Drum Corp and much more with speakers who were there in NYC and DC on 9/11. Contact Donn Weaver at BVMC 757-871-6576 for more information.

11 Sep — Patriot Day Firearms Fun Night, family friendly, at Frogbones Shooting Center 404 S Harbor Blvd, Melbourne 1730-2030. Free to active duty military and veterans. Others are \$100 which includes dinner, gun rental, prizes and much more. Fundraiser event by AVET. Contact AVET at www.avet-project.org to register and get more information.

12 Sep — Seventh Annual Tuskegee Airmen Golf Tournament Fundraiser, 0730 - 1300 at the Indian River Colony Golf Club in Viera. Celebrate the legacy of the Tuskegee Airman along a beautiful course. Registration of \$130 per golfer; \$500 per foursome. Luncheon after play with all proceeds benefiting Youth Outreach programs. Contact tai-cfl.org for info and to register.

15 Sep — "We Love our Community Fundraiser" at Texas Roadhouse 1975 Viera Blvd in Rockledge 1630-2100 hours. Come and enjoy a great meal with portion of proceeds going to the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center in honor of their support for many years of the 9/11 commemoration ceremony. Thanks to Art Greci , BVMC member and former LAPD Officer who served in NYC after 9/11. Contact Donn Weaver, 757-871-6576 for info.

27 Sep — First JROTC County Raider Challenge Invitational Meet at BVMC Park 0630- 1230. NOTE: At least 12 schools from three counties and over 300 JROTC cadets are expected.

While the Amphitheater project will still be underway, the 3.5 K long pathways and plenty of other field space will be available. Contact Donn Weaver of BVMC on 757-871-6576 for any questions. Veteran organizations pass out trophies and are welcome to support our youth. Most action including awards ceremony takes place 1030-1230.

30 Sep — BVMC Discussion Series at the Library 1800-1930. The US Navy 250th Anniversary will be explained and celebrated including details about the six places that claim to be the Navy's birthplace. Contact Hank Rhodes, BVMC Librarian for more details. Refreshments and special cake.

OCTOBER

03 Oct — Annual NVHS Dinner and Fundraiser to support homeless and at risk veterans and their families. Save the Date. The Difference a Decade Has Made. 1700 -2100 at Radisson Resort by the Port. Hosted by Brevard's Constitutional Officers Semi to formal attire. Seating limited at \$125 per chair. Contact www.nvhs/events.org

11 Oct — NEW TIME AND VENUE Space Coast Honor Flight Send Off 0400 -0530 hrs at Melbourne Airport Terminal. Honors 20 plus veterans and guardians with travel to Wash DC to visit their monuments and memorials. MOAACC/Good Deeds will present annual SCHF and FIT guardians support check. See SCHF.org for more info.

11 Oct — Second JROTC County Raider Challenge Invitational Meet at BVMC Park 0630-1230. Expect 12 schools from three counties and over 300 JROTC cadets. While the Amphitheater project will still be underway, the 3.5 K long pathways and plenty of other field space will be available. Veteran organizations pass out trophies and are welcome to support our youth. Most action including awards ceremony takes place 1030-1230. Contact Donn Weaver of BVMC on 757-871-6576 for any questions.

28 Oct — BVMC Discussion Series at the Library 1800-1930. The US Marine Corps 250th Anniversary will be explained and celebrated including tables of Marine memorabilia and a commemorative cake cutting ceremony. Marine Corp League Members will be there to answer questions and discuss Marine History and ethos. Vinnie Howard is organizing the evening.

**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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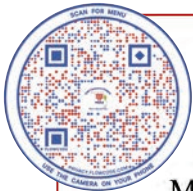
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50-59	\$400	90-99	\$75
60-69	\$330	100+	No cost
70-79	\$235		

Life membership payable over three consecutive months. Make checks payable to MOAACC or pay online at MOAACC.org. Dues and Fees include subscription to **THE INTERCOM** News Magazine and Five Things e- Newsletter.

“Sam I Am”



Photo by Amir Pishdad, Sr.

Our last issue of the Intercom contained a small picture of a “big” individual who really needs no introduction to many individuals and groups that meet at Indian River Colony Club (IRCC). His name is Sam Ginsburg, but is known at IRCC as “Sam I Am.” You can find him in the audio visual booth any time a major event is taking place at Colony Hall, just like the luncheon recently with Congressman Mike Haridopolos. Last

month, Sam was recognized and presented an award by RADM Wayne Justice, USCG (Ret), President, Scholarship Corp., for his dedicated service in addition to his very sizable contribution to MOAACC’s Scholarship Corporation. Thank you, Sam I Am!



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USCG

Dan S. McIntyre, MOAACC USCG Liaison



This article includes content from the Association of the United States Navy birthday wish for the USCG with additional information added.

In 1775 the United States Navy was born and continued to serve as an armed ocean-going service during the Revolutionary War. In 1985 the Navy was disbanded due to lack of funding. The sailors were sent home and most of the ships were sold. This left only the United States Army as the continuing military service. The Navy was reestablished in 1794.

During the absence of an armed ocean-going service the USA was experiencing a heavy wave of countries refusing to pay their import taxes and tariffs. On August 4, 1790, at the request of Alexander Hamilton, the first secretary of the treasury to President Washington the first U.S. Congress authorized the construction of 10 vessels to enforce tariff and trade laws, prevent smuggling, and protect the collection of federal revenue. That force was known initially as the Revenue Marine and later as the Revenue Cutter Service. A new name – the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) – emerged from the 1915 merger with the U.S. Life-Saving Service, creating a single nautical service dedicated to the safety of life at sea and enforcing national maritime laws. Responsibilities were further expanded in 1939 when the Lighthouse Service became part of the USCG and, again, in 1946, with the addition of the Commerce Department Bureau of Marine Inspection and Navigation.

The Coast Guard remained under the control of the Treasury Department until 1967 when it was moved to the Department of Transportation and then to Homeland Security in 2003. There are claims that the Coast Guard is older than the Navy. Although first established by the Continental Congress in 1775. The naval force was disbanded in 1785 after the Revolutionary War and then re-established in 1794. (No USN for 9 years)

As the only military branch of our government to operate under the Department of Homeland Security, the Coast Guard serves both as a military force abroad and as a law enforcement agency at home. Duties of this branch include:

- Control the U.S. border and maritime approaches
- Protect America's ports and waterways
- Conduct military operations to defend the nation
- Save lives (From 1790 to 2007 the USCG saved 1,000,000 lives)
- 33,000 rescues in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in 2006.
- Enforce federal law interdicting illegal migrants and drugs and fishing laws
- Lead in national emergencies
- Maintain the flow of maritime commerce to ensure America's economic prosperity

A workforce of approximately 41,100 active-duty service members, 8,000 reservists, 20,000 volunteer Auxiliarists, and just under 9,000 civilian employees supports the operation of an extensive fleet of roughly 250 coastal and ocean-going cutters, patrol ships, buoy tenders, tugs, and icebreakers, along with nearly 2,000 small boats and specialized craft. The Coast Guard also has over 150 land-based units, more than any other branch of the United States military. The USCG also maintains an aviation division consisting of more than 200 helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft. While in terms of membership this service is the second smallest of the U.S. military branches, the Coast Guard by itself is the world's 12th largest naval force.

Semper Paratus! AUSN applauds this hard-working branch of our military that is always ready on our nation's behalf to save the good people and arrest the bad people.

Happy 235th!

US Coast Guard Celebrates 235th Birthday

Despite being one of the hottest afternoons of the year and both cutters away from port on missions, Monday, 04 August, was a banner day at the USCG Station Port Canaveral. About 200 Coast Guard sailors and family members attended and got great support from over 20 vendors and veteran organizations.

AVET deserves special recognition for providing and cooking all the BBQ meals of hot dogs, chicken and much more. The USO had great giveaways for the kids, and the music was festive with short speeches of appreciation and lots of raffle prizes.

As always, the Brevard Veteran Memorial Center and MOAACC were set up side by side. The Good Deeds Foundation of MOAACC contributed \$1000 to the USCG Station Foundation in support of that birthday and USCG Family Day. GDF also regularly supports AVET and USO for all they do for active-duty military and families.

One highlight of the event was the USCG Station Fire Suppression Truck breaking out the hoses for the kids to seek out and cool down, along with a big water slide. Thanks to Hans Hunt of MOAACC and Harry Beaver of BVMC for being the primary organizers to make sure we showed our sincere support for what the Coast Guard members and their families do for our country. Semper Paratus.

Check out these photos taken by Donn Weaver and Dean Schaaf.



Remember VJ Day — 80 Years Later



On 14 August 2025 the Veterans Administration (VA) held ceremonies at every VA National Cemetery in the country to remember a very important date in American military history — the surrender by Japan 80 years earlier to end WWII. About 40 people attended the event at Cape Canaveral National Cemetery (CCNC) that began early on a usual warm morning.

Cindy VanBibber shared moving comments about the war's end and the huge impact that day had on millions of veterans who knew they were headed home, while over 400,000 of their buddies did not. VanBibber also referred to the solid obligation of our country and the VA to keep veteran history alive as she listed many of the key battles of the Second World War. Among the over 19,000 veterans and spouses now laying in honored rest at CCNC, as of 31

July, 2,157 of them are WWII veterans. Their number includes one Tuskegee Airman and his spouse who were re-buried at CCNC during a moving 2019 ceremony.

The North Brevard Color Guard rendered the 21 Gun Salute after a symbolic wreath was laid by an amazing Brevard County Resident. Now 103 years old, Cam Pelletier was a Navy Seabee which served in combat during three major island campaigns in the South Pacific. His job was to help build airstrips and fighting positions for American aircraft and troops as they moved closer to the Japanese main islands.

Pastor Jerry Hanson led prayers for the fallen and wounded, but also for the decision of surrender which likely saved hundreds of thousands more lives. The beautiful Caisson shared by Tom and Denise Fitzgerald was flag draped and in place to honor all WWII veterans then and now.

The WWII VJ Day Ceremony is held every five years by all VA cemeteries. Those who attended hoped they would make the next one and many more would attend as well.



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What you need to know about the Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan (RCSBP)

By DFAS Cleveland

Get the most up-to-date information about Retired and Annuitant (R&A) Pay at <https://www.dfas.mil/RetiredMilitary> on the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) website. Whether you are still drilling, in the Gray Area, or receiving your retired pay, it is important to understand how the Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan (RCSBP) benefits your loved ones and what you need to do if you go through a life changing event. The R&A page (<https://www.dfas.mil/RetiredMilitary/>) contains all the needed information including the benefits paid, the costs, and what you need to do if something changes regarding your beneficiaries.

It is critical that you notify your Retirement Services Officer (RSO) of any changes if you are still in the Gray Area, or DFAS, if you are already receiving your retired pay. Some changes have a one-year time limit, and once that time limit is reached, the change is permanent. For example, if you get married, you have one year from the date of marriage to add your new spouse or decline coverage if you previously had a spouse. After one year, the election defaults to your election when you first became eligible, and it cannot be changed. Likewise, if you gain your first child, you only have one year to add child coverage, otherwise children will be excluded from future coverage. Please know if you gain an additional child and already have child coverage, the new youngest child will automatically be covered and there is no change in cost. However, you do still need to notify DFAS and your RSO of the new child. If your marriage ends due to the death of your spouse or divorce, you must let DFAS and your RSO know about that as well so the premiums can be adjusted and coverage type changed.

Please visit the DFAS website (<https://www.dfas.mil/RetiredMilitary/provide/rcsbp/>) to read all about RCSBP and our website for more information.

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The importance of antiterrorism awareness for Retired Soldiers

By U.S. Army Office of the Provost Marshal General, Antiterrorism Division Retired Soldiers, having dedicated a significant portion of their lives to national security, possess a unique understanding of potential threats and vulnerabilities. Their training and experience make them valuable assets in the ongoing effort to combat terrorism. Maintaining antiterrorism awareness is not only a matter of personal safety for these veterans, but also a civic responsibility.

Retired Soldiers are often familiar with military installations, security protocols, and common indicators of suspicious activity. This knowledge can be invaluable in identifying and reporting potential threats in their communities. They may also be more likely to recognize the subtle signs of radicalization or recruitment efforts within their social circles. Their past experiences can also aid them in quickly assessing a situation and taking appropriate action, whether it's reporting suspicious behavior or activity to law enforcement or helping those in need. Moreover, Retired Soldiers often maintain close relationships with active-duty personnel and military communities. This connection can facilitate the flow of information regarding potential threats or security vulnerabilities. Their insights can help bridge the gap between the military and civilian sectors, fostering a more cohesive and effective national security enterprise. In an age where threats can evolve rapidly, this continued vigilance and awareness is crucial.

The threat of terrorism extends beyond traditional battlefields. Retired Soldiers can play a key role in community-based initiatives aimed at preventing violent extremism. They can volunteer in local organizations, participate in neighborhood watch programs, or mentor young people who may be vulnerable to radicalization. By staying informed and engaged, Army veterans can help build resilience within their communities and reduce the appeal of extremist ideologies.

In addition to their community involvement, Retired Soldiers must also prioritize their personal security. Terrorists may target individuals with military backgrounds due to their perceived symbolic value or specialized knowledge. Therefore, it is essential for Retired Soldiers to remain vigilant in their daily lives, practice situational awareness, and take precautions to protect themselves and their families. This includes being mindful of their online presence, avoiding the

Continuing education and training are also vital for Retired Soldiers. Antiterrorism tactics and strategies are constantly evolving, and it is important for veterans to stay abreast of the latest developments. Army installation antiterrorism officers can help to keep Retired Soldiers informed through antiterrorism awareness outreach programs.

In conclusion, Retired Soldiers possess a unique combination of skills, knowledge, and experience that makes them invaluable assets in the fight against terrorism. Their continued awareness, vigilance, and community involvement are essential for protecting both themselves and the nation. By staying informed, remaining engaged, and prioritizing personal protection measures, these veterans can continue to serve their country long after they have left active duty.

Don't wait ... Create your myAuth account now

By DOD News

Over the next 14 months, the Department of Defense (DOD) will replace the legacy DS Logon system, used to authenticate more than 20 million users onto more than 200 DOD and Veterans Affairs websites with a more modern and flexible system called myAuth. The new authentication system will offer a range of features, simplifying the login process for those who use it, including military personnel, DOD civilians, military and civilian retirees, family member beneficiaries, contractors, and vendors alike.

Zachary R. Gill, the branch chief of identity credential access management and partner services within the Defense Manpower Data Center, said one of the most significant advantages of myAuth is that it provides secure access for individuals, such as retirees and beneficiaries, who may not have a common access card (CAC) or for various other reasons, cannot authenticate into a system using certificates contained within a CAC. "With myAuth, you would be able to provide an alternative credential, and therefore, you'd be able to access the Defense Travel System (DTS), for example, from your personal cellphone and update your travel orders or make changes," Gill said.

Starting with milConnect and ID Card Office Online (IDCO), myAuth is being implemented in phases. Over time, all DOD systems that use DS Logon will be transitioned to myAuth. You'll notice new, streamlined account creation processes, but don't worry, you'll continue to use your DS Logon account with other applications until everything has transitioned to myAuth. To create your new myAuth account, you will need to verify your identity. This is an important part of making sure your personal information stays safe and secure. myAuth allows you to use your CAC or your DS Logon credentials to confirm your identity while establishing this new account.

Visit https://myaccess.dmdc.osd.mil/identitymanagement/help/topics/myauth_setup_step_2.htm to set up your account today!

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JROTC Gets Big Boost from BVMC, MOAACC, ECAC and Others to Start 2025-26 School Year



During a half-day meeting at the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center (BVMC) Museum on 06 August, the community joined in providing support to all 14 Brevard County JROTC Units. Classes started the next Monday for the 7 US Army, 3 Air Force, 2, Navy, 1 Marines and 1 Space Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps programs. The JROTC Instructors got a head start in getting funds, completing event schedules, learning about BPS, Good Deeds Foundation (GDF) and Education and Citizenship Armed Forces Coalition of the Space Coast (ECAC) as well as Service recruiters and others support.

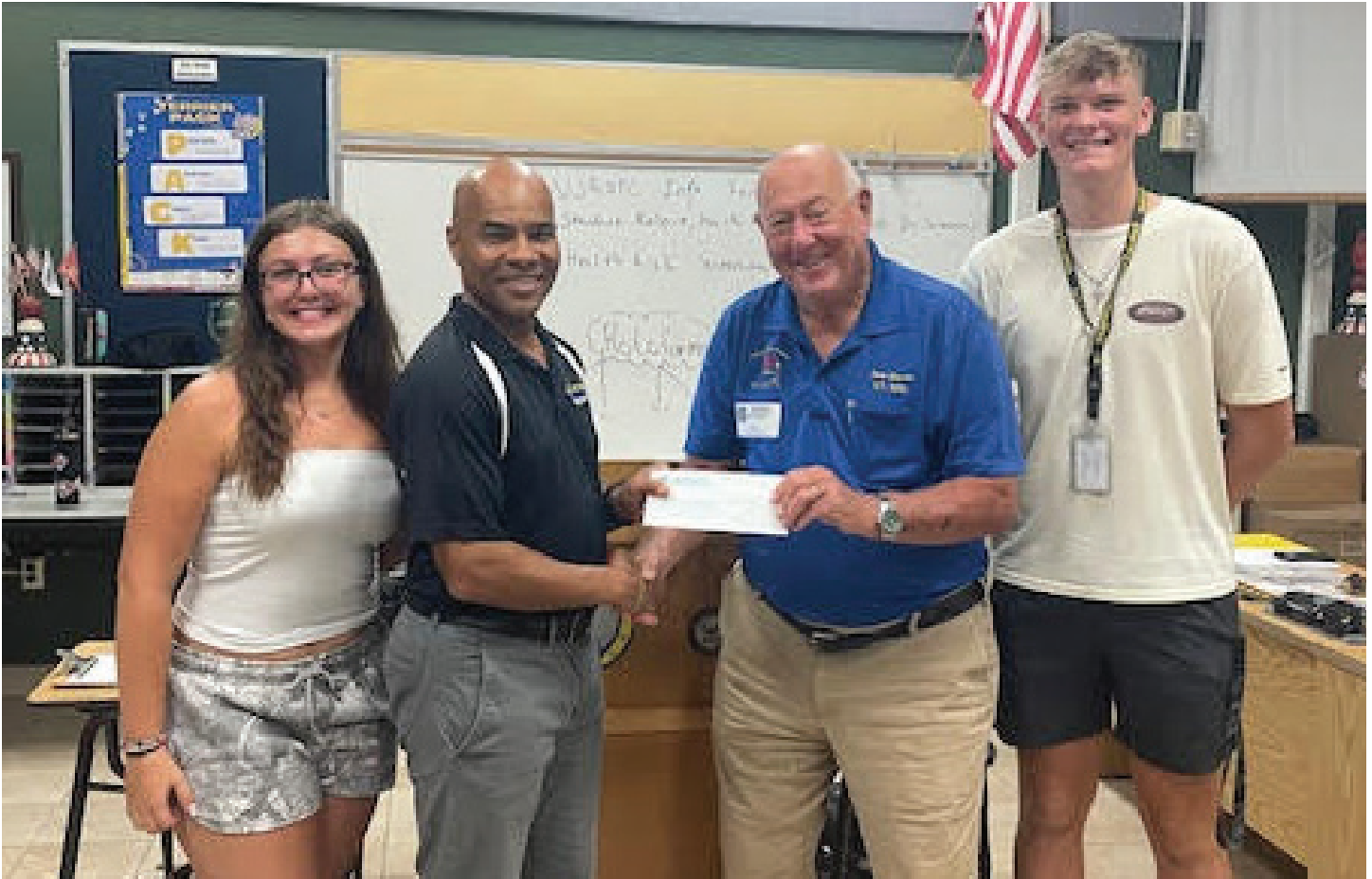
Dean Schaaf, President of BVMC briefed on the status of the \$8.2 M BVMC Park Amphitheater and related Park upgrades, which will support numerous JROTC events starting in late September. He also encouraged museum tours, service projects and support to major events like 9/11 Remembrance, Last Naval Battle of the Revolution, Veterans and Memorial Day events at the BVMC and Park.

MOAACC's Treasurer, RADM Wayne Justice, USCG, Ret and GDF President Donn Weaver spoke about plans to support JROTC with major cash grants (\$42,000 total), purchasing all trophies, ribbons and medals, \$20K for 15 major events, special JROTC projects during the year, and possibly another cash infusion for the second semester. MOAACC's

Student Affairs Committee including Dan Wilson, Hans Hunt, Mike Broski and Scott Waggoner, spoke about special events, awards, service hour options and much more. BPS Superintendent Mark Rendell made a surprise visit to encourage the JROTC Instructors with their important missions for the year ahead and to announce a new program. With the help of the veteran community, he will support a unique Challenge Coin program for every JROTC school to award to stellar cadets and all seniors who serve two or more years as cadets when they graduate. That would become their "first" official military challenge coin. Some will get another if they choose to join any military branch next year at the Ceremony noted below.



Navy JROTC Receives Support from GDF



On 14 August Donn Weaver (the old guy) presents GDF check for \$3000 to support the Navy JROTC program at Titusville HS for the new year. Chief Petty Officer David Thrush accepts the donation with the unit's cadet commanders joining — first week of school so no uniforms yet!!

The two Navy schools, Titusville and Bayside could not attend our 06 August JROTC Launch meeting at the BVMC which appears in this issue, so we wanted to waste little time before catching them up.

Important Reminder for Retirees, Spouses and Dependents regarding Military ID cards

Military retirees are encouraged to update their Uniformed Services Identification (USID) cards to the **Next Generation USID card**.

The Department of Defense has transitioned from its legacy paper-based Uniformed Services Identification (USID) card to a more secure, next generation USID card. The Next Generation USID card incorporates an updated design and security features to deter counterfeiting and fraud, and is printed on a plastic cardstock. USID cards are issued to retired and reserve members, dependent family members of uniformed Service members, and other eligible individuals in accordance with DoD policy to facilitate access to benefits, privileges, and DoD bases. The Next Generation USID card does not change the populations who are eligible to receive the current card.

Legacy USID cards remain valid through their expiration date, however, individuals with an indefinite (INDEF) expiration date on their legacy USID card may replace those ID cards with a Next Generation USID card.

USID cards may also now be renewed online. Please see the [online USID card renewal page](#) for more information.

There are several ways to make an appointment to get a new ID card. (1) You can visit the RAPIDS ID Card Office Locator website to find the closest office and either call them to make an appointment or (2) schedule your own appointment using the website <https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/> To make an appointment using this site select the "ID Card Office Locator & Appointments" block. - do it now!



MOAACC BBQ and Sea Cadets on the Same Day

On 16 August at the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center MOAACC held its quarterly BBQ get together function with a record 52 attending. On the same day the Courageous Division of the Naval Sea Cadets held their first drill of the new school year and has grown to 25 cadets. Good Deeds Foundation took advantage of both and presented our annual grant of \$1500 to the Sea Cadets with many MOAACC Members smiling and watching. Donn Weaver GDF Pres) bright blue shirts center, hand the funds to Sea Cadet Commander LTJG Heather Owen. I counted 17 MOAACC members in the early photo before the food was served. How about you? Check for more details and photos in another article in this issue. Special thanks to 1VP Rosa Reich and her team for organizing the event. Fifteen MOAACC members even got a Golf Cart Tour of the new Amphitheater and Park. Thanks also to a Sea Cadet adult leader for the photo in crowded conditions.

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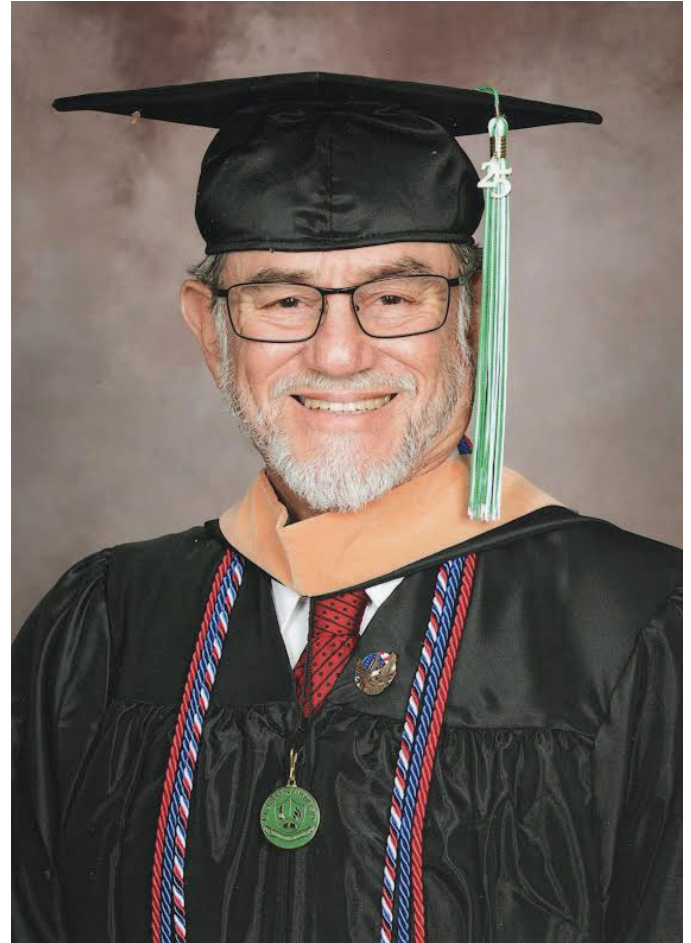
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Jose E. Prieto Earns Master of Business Administration in Aviation Management

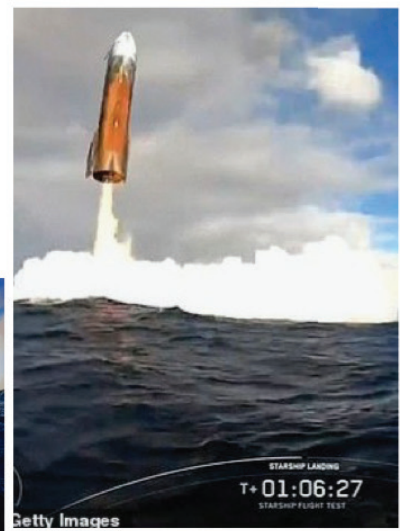
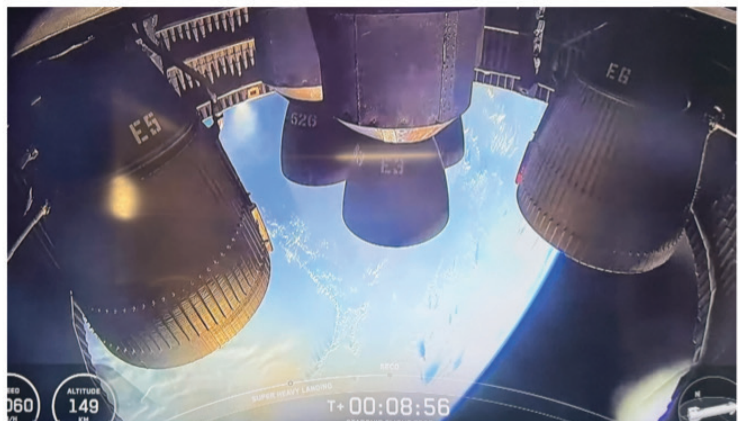
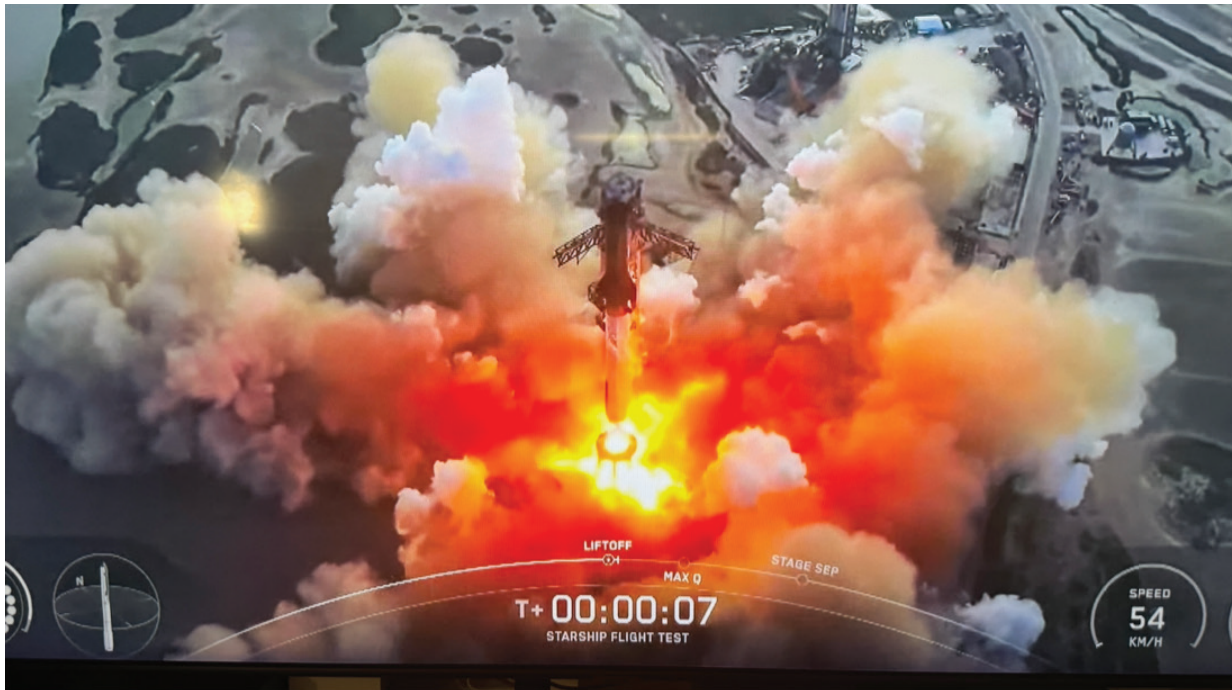
Merritt Island, FL — Jose E. Prieto, a member of the Military Officers Association of America – Cape Canaveral Chapter and accomplished aviation professional, has earned his Master of Business Administration (MBA) with a concentration in Aviation Management. This academic achievement marks a significant milestone in a distinguished career spanning over four decades in military and civilian aviation. He is a graduate of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University with a Bachelor of Science in Professional Aeronautics. His new MBA strengthens his leadership and strategic capabilities as he continues to expand his aviation consulting practice both domestically and internationally.



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 4. When Shopping Cart appears, verify your item, and click "**edit**" below shirt information on left.
 5. Enter your name and Branch (U.S. Air Force, etc.), click on the color of shirt you desire, select your size by placing the number of shirts you are ordering in the box of the appropriate size. Click "**Add to Cart**"
 6. Click "**Check Out**" in black box in center of screen.
 7. Review Product (price, color, size) and click "**Check Out**"
 8. Complete Shipping/Billing Info, check first two blocks at bottom of page and then click "**Proceed to Shipping Method**".
 9. Select "**Pick up at Your School**" (for store pickup) or **FedEx Shipping** (additional charge shown) Select "**Proceed**".
 10. Go to Payment info and complete. Click "**Proceed to Check Order Info**"
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- If you are interested in long sleeve shirts, sweaters, jackets or other apparel, please email Bartman Enterprises, papanole@aol.com, and they will send you catalog pictures and prices.

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MOAACC/GDF Finds New Youth Group to Support



GDF President Donn Weaver, center, presents \$500 Good Deeds Support check to Jeremy Spencer and the rest of the leadership of Sea Scout Ship 179

Over the summer MOAACC Student Affairs Chair and former Navy SEAL, Dan Wilson, discovered there was a new Sea Scout Ship No 179 established in Titusville. Led by Jeremy Spencer, with the help of six adults, this Ship is a spin off off the Scouting America program with heavy support from the USCG and other veteran organizations. They currently have nine Scouts but hope to grow with the year just beginning. GDF provided initial funding at their 14 August meeting which was held at the Kennedy Point Yacht Club in Titusville. Weaver talked about MOAACC and our SAC as well as possible future GDF support in 2026 if special projects are identified. See also another article about GDF support to a different organizations sponsored by the US Navy - Courageous Division Sea Cadets based at the BVMC.



Joined by the Sea Scouts

GDF Fills the Gap for One Veteran in Crisis



The NVHS Case worker on this complex case, Janet Thurman, received our share of the funds from GDF Pres Weaver on 14 August, along with our appreciation for her professionalism and patience in seeing the case through.

Late on a Friday evening GDF President Weaver received an urgent email request from Rep Mike Haridopolos' Veteran Coordinator Keith VanBuren, a combat veteran himself and new Commander of the Military Order of the Space Coast Purple Heart Chapter 453. They confirmed the VA, without notice, withheld over \$3000 from the vet's August pension since they had made an error over one year. The Vet served in the US Army and is a 100 per cent disabled. His electric power would be cutoff in two days and his only window air conditioner was broken beyond repair. Further, he would be evicted in five days if rent not paid by 02 August. GDF jumped into action with National Veterans Homeless Support, Veterans Connections and the veteran himself to fill, on a one time basis, that gap in VA funding. Within five days GDF and NVHS split the rent, power and new AC costs and the VA worked out a one year repayment for the remainder erroneously paid. This story is likely to be shared at the 03 October NVHS Dinner where MOAACC will have 26 members in attendance for the sold out event. GDF hopes there will be no repeats of this crisis, but in this case GDF made the difference and was the go to link for Van Buren.

Patrick Composite Civil Air Patrol Supports and Gets Supported by MOAACC



Photo by Amir Pishdad, Sr.

At the August Luncheon, GDF President Weaver presented a \$1,500 grant to the Patrick Composite Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol. The award is part of our annual donation to all JROTC units and other cadet groups for the new school year. Accepting the check with his CAP Cadet Color Guard is TSgt Garrett Pomichter. Details of the GDF 2025-26 school year support program are reported in this issue.

Honoring Heroism and Sacrifice - Purple Heart Stories Told

At the ninth annual National Purple Heart Recognition Day held at the Museum of the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center, seven combat veterans were recognized and honored. Each had received the award originated by George Washington — The Purple Heart. Over 130 people attended as their stories of sacrifice were told and a beautiful program handed out.

This particular ceremony was the idea of Past Commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Marine veteran Carl W. Miller. The 2025 Ceremony was named for him as it was also noted Mr. Miller was recently inducted into the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame.

The following men received an engraved brick (which will be placed in the BVMC plaza) ; a beautiful Quilt of Valor; Challenge coins from the Sons of the American Revolution and Rep Haridopolos; a framed certificate from Senator Debbie Mayfield; as well as special Purple Heart Items.

Lloyd Lasenby	Vietnam
Pasquale Coniglio	Vietnam
Jeff Patterson	Desert Storm
Tom Thompson	Vietnam
Ray Burkhard	Korea
John Mansur	Laos/Vietnam
Mark Braden	Iraq/Afghanistan

New MOPH Chapter 453, Keith Miller was the Master of Ceremonies as seven other MOPH members told the stories above. Several played key roles in the moving tribute, including Mayor Rob Medina of Palm Bay and our Congressional Office, Senator Debbie Mayfield's staffers, Brian Jensen of SAR, Karmel Sowers and her QOV members, BVMC President Dean Schaaf, Pastor Tom Countryman and the Marine Corps League Color Guard led by Rick Bedford.

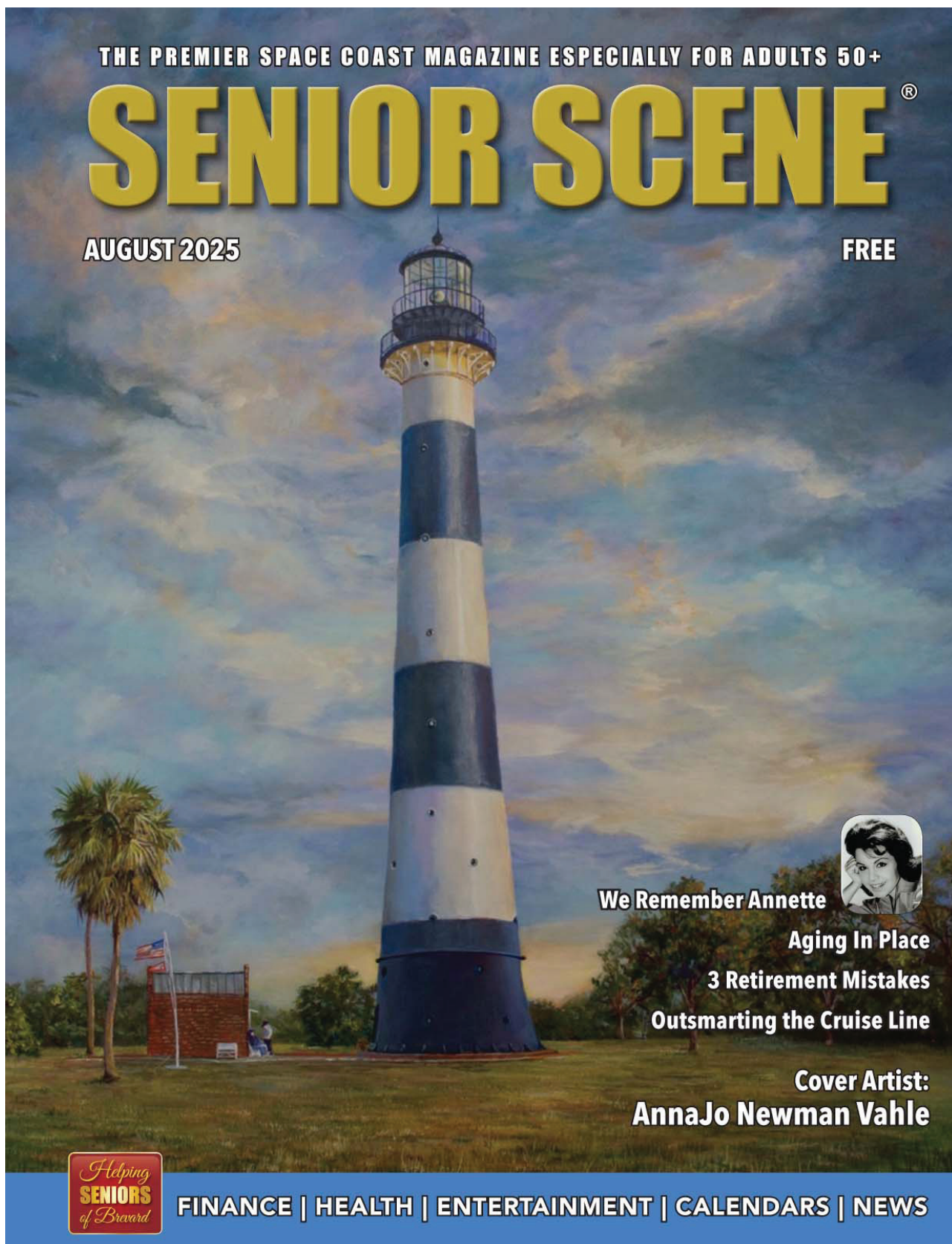
It was a very special event with good media coverage. Ironically broken air conditioning led to the decision to hold the ceremony in the 6,000 square foot museum which required many hours of moving items and sets uno, but the ambiance was spectacular and the decision made to hold it there for the 10th annual iteration in 2026.




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