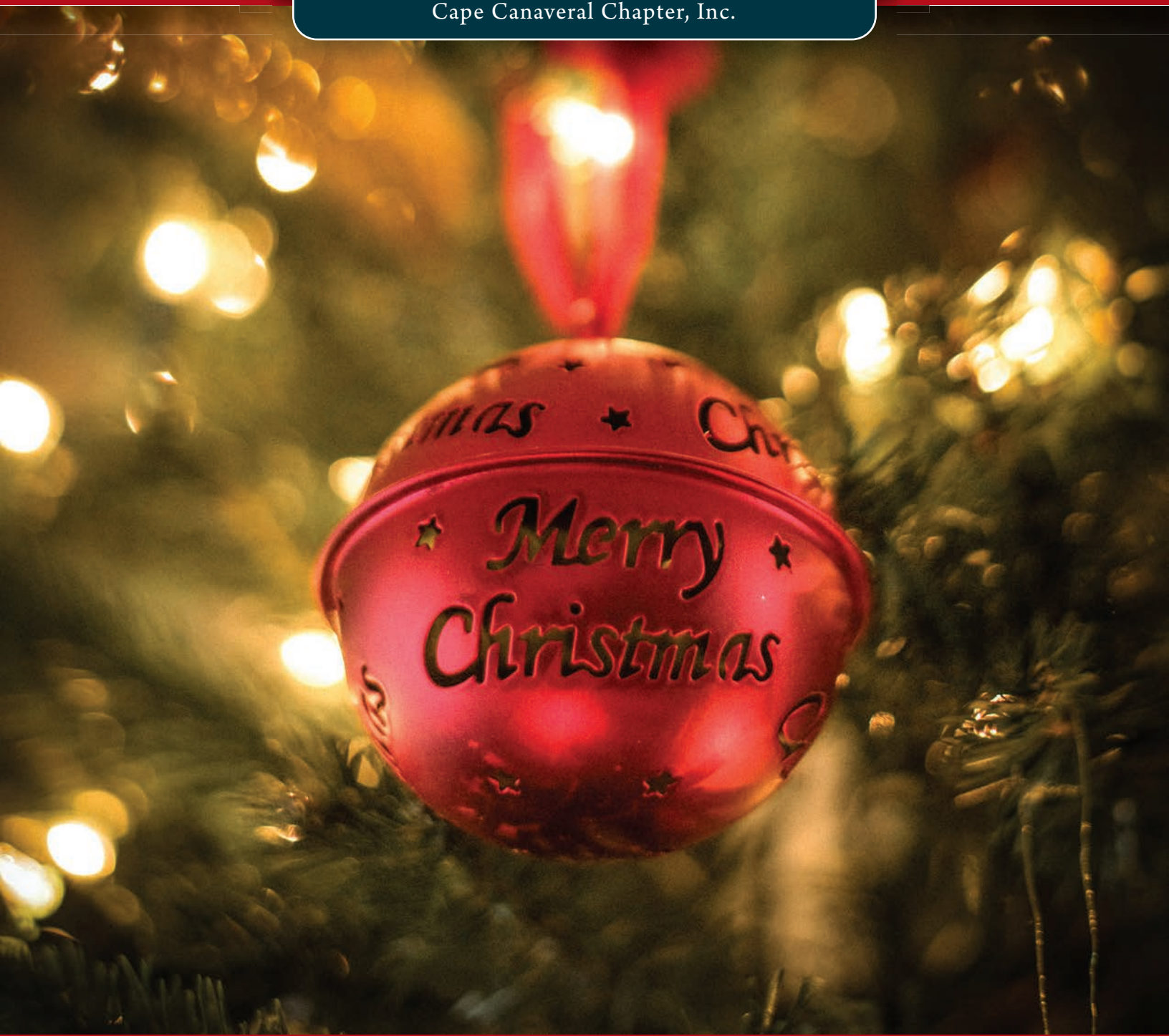




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PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

**Rick Kniseley, Colonel, USAF (Ret),
President, MOAACC**



A Christmas Memory

I'm sure each of you has a military memory of when you served a Christmas holiday. When I was stationed in Colorado Springs I served in the NORAD Cheyenne Mountain Complex. I was in charge of a crew of 12 responsible for the worldwide space tracking network observing more than 2500 satellites, rocket bodies, and space junk. As with the military

worldwide we were on alert on a Christmas Eve. Our Canadian Command Director wanted crews to extend our 12-hour alert to 14 hours to allow the day crews to get home early to celebrate Christmas Eve with their families. We were happy to do it.

Before we took alert I received an intelligence briefing. The briefer said during our shift we could possibly expect a Soviet space launch, decay and reentry of a Soviet satellite, and maybe even a telephone call asking when Santa Claus would deliver Christmas presents. I had a good laugh. I knew NORAD Public Affairs were manning telephone calls from children worldwide to get the latest word.

We started our alert at 1600. The orbital analysts kept updating the positions of space objects and producing a Plus or minus 2-hour prediction when the decaying satellite could reenter the atmosphere. No Soviet launch yet. Even children didn't call us.

Then at 1800 it started. Analysts produced an updated prediction for the decaying satellite. The satellite was now predicted to decay earlier around 1900 in the Western Pacific. The potential of it breaking up into pieces was unknown. Soviets still hadn't launched a satellite. But we got call 1 from a nice girl asking when Santa would fly over Dayton, Ohio. Ohio? We were prepared. We had a short script to tell her everything was going well with Santa and the reindeer. Our computers said he was now over Kansas. We predicted Santa would be over Dayton in 90 minutes. Then we got call 2, asking about Salt Lake City. Call 3 asked about London. We were getting continuous calls to an unused telephone number in our Center. Calls kept coming; in fact I had to have a rotating shift of people to answer Santa calls.

It was now 1900 and we got a report from a tracking station in California scheduled to track the decaying satellite. They did not track the Soviet satellite. That was good news because it meant the object either burned up in the atmosphere or decayed into the Pacific Ocean. Later we determined it burned up in the Pacific. A fishing trawler saw it crash into the ocean.

Then it happened. We got an alert of a launch from the Soviet Union. We used the information to alert NORAD tracking stations of the launch. The first site tracked it right on schedule. Number 2 saw it as predicted. Site 3 confirmed the satellite was

in orbit. We gave the satellite a number and it would be tracked for the life of the satellite in space.

Oh yes, the Santa line kept ringing until midnight. We successfully completed the Santa mission. We found out later from NORAD Public Affairs a New York newspaper wrote a story how NORAD tracked space objects including Santa Claus. They included an unapproved telephone number if children wanted to find out the location of Santa. The article was picked up by newspapers all over the US.

The best part of this Christmas Eve was NORAD accomplished its mission. And our crew was relieved on time and everyone able to get home and spend Christmas with their families.

Cheryl and I wish you a safe holiday season and a bright 2025.

EXECUTIVE EDITOR & PAO

Amir M. Pishdad, CW3, USA (Ret)

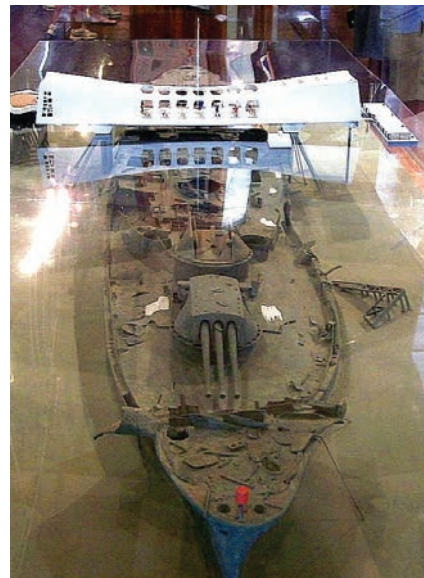


The day of INFAMY

Sunday, December 7, 1941 at 7:55am, the surprise military attack on the US Naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii began with the first wave of Japanese aircraft. The second wave struck at 8:50am, making the attack just under two hours. The

Japanese destroyed or damaged 19 US warships, including 8 battleships, and 300 US aircraft.

When Doris 'Dorie' Miller's ship came under fire, he carried wounded crew to safety and began firing an anti-aircraft gun at the Japanese planes. This mess attendant on the USS West Virginia became the very symbol of courage and defiance, earning the Navy Cross for his actions.



USS Arizona Battleship, named after 48th State, Arizona

DECEMBER EVENTS

(Click Event for Details)

- 12/5 TMBC - 8 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 12/7 MOAACC Annual Christmas Dinner Dance - 5 PM
@ Indian River Colony Club - Colony Hall
- 12/10 On-The-Go Christmas Luncheon - 11:30 AM
@ Suntree Country Club
- 12/12 TMBC - 8 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 12/17 MOAACC Board of Directors Mtg. - 0930
@ Indian River Colony Club - At Ease Club
- 12/17 MOAACC Surviving Spouses & Spouses
Christmas Tea - 2 PM
@ Indian River Colony Club
- 12/19 TMBC - 8 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 12/26 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.
- Submit one photo per article, or more if absolutely necessary.
- All photos must have "captions" of who, what, when, where and why.

ARTICLES:

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

NEW DEADLINE & SUBMISSION EMAIL:

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intercom@moaacc.org

INTERCOM PUBLICATION:

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- Contents of the Intercom articles are opinions solely of the authors and do not express the policy or official views of MOAA or The the Cape Canaveral Chapter (MOAACC)
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WEB LINK AND ELECTRONIC DISTRO: Mike Schroeder

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LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

John R. McMahon, BG, USA (Retired)

Lame Duck Session Looking Forward

The 2024 elections are in the rear-view mirror now with its results mostly tallied giving the Republicans command of the Presidency and the Senate (53-45-2) while the House will look much the same as it does in the current Congress, projected to be about 221-214 or so. Incumbents generally prevailed even though several seats flipped but the end state is markedly the same. Mike Haridopolos (R) will be our new Congressman in January, and he will be faced with a plethora of hard choices as the new Congress begins with a resurrected President Trump at the helm. The US Senate will be in the capable hands of Senator John Thune (R-SD) as its new Majority Leader, replacing Mitch McConnell who will serve the remainder of his Senate term. The picture is clouded somewhat as President-elect Trump nominates members of Congress to his cabinet including Senator Marco Rubio as Secretary of State, and former Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-FL) as Attorney General, among others. For Rubio's seat, Gov. Ron DeSantis will appoint an immediate successor who will serve until a special election can be held in 2026 to complete Rubio's current term which ends in 2028. Interestingly, the recently re-elected Gaetz resigned from Congress last week and said he would not take the oath of office in the new Congress in January; his seat will be filled by another DeSantis appointee.

As for Trump's nominees, the media circus has begun with all sorts of scenarios being bandied about in anticipation of how they will be considered in the Senate as it conducts its hearings as part of its "advice and consent" role. The newly seated Senate under Republican control will be charged with this duty beginning as early as January 3, 2025, with Committee hearings and their votes, and then a full floor vote by the Senate sometime on or after inauguration day, January 20th. The new Senate Leader, John Thune, will be tested throughout this process.

The so-called 'trifecta' of one-party control of the Presidency, the House and the Senate is not a new phenomenon in recent history. In fact, it was held by the Democrats during the first two years of Biden's presidency (Jan '21-Jan '23) and by the Republicans during the first two years of the first Trump presidency (Jan '17-Jan '19). The results probably speak for themselves and are typically short-lived with the upshot best summarized by Senator John Cornyn (R-Texas) who was quoted recently: "We've got a two-year window of opportunity and it's going to be hard". In any event, there is much on the early agenda starting with the prospect of passing fiscal 2025 spending bills as another Continuing Resolution is set to expire before the new Congress and President are even sworn into office—it expires Dec. 20th. There's little incentive for the Republicans to seriously address the FY25 budget before they take control given their long-held intention to reduce spending and pare down the debt—at least

that was their mantra. Some kind of band-aid short-term fix will be needed to avoid a government shutdown in the interim.

Extending the tax cuts passed during Trump's first term which are set to expire in 2025 would further exacerbate the budget deficits and add to the debt, but there seems to be some vocal support for such a move. Perhaps the prospect of ferreting out and slashing government waste under the leadership of Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy and their "department of government efficiency" will enable the Republicans to finally have their cake and eat it too. With discretionary spending consuming only 26% of the federal budget (\$1.76 Trillion) and the FY2024 track record where the federal government spent \$6.75 trillion with revenue at \$4.92 Trillion and a deficit of \$1.83 Trillion, the new department has its work cut out for it. Perhaps the department will also consider mandatory spending (Social Security and Medicare for example). Whatever unfolds on this front, the Congress will be decisively involved in it.

Finally, and more locally, the buzz amongst retirees has been about the new Patrick SFB pharmacy procedures, undoubtedly a product of the CR passed to keep the government afloat until Dec. 20th. Staff (specifically contractors) have been drastically cut and the process to activate new prescriptions now involves texting "Get in Line" to (833)-464-1562. There's no apparent person "in the loop" to assist unless you make a trip to the satellite pharmacy, get a number and wait to be called forward. In a word, it's a mess. Perhaps we can get Congressman Posey involved?

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FINANCIAL LITERACY

CAPT Bob Houle, USCG (retired)

“The Talk” - Part 1: Sharing Your Estate Plan with Your Heirs

Our July FinLit article completed the series on stress testing your estate plan, focusing on ensuring your heirs can find your plan and all associated documents. This December/January series focuses on “The Talk,” where your heirs learn about your estate plan’s existence. Part 1 addresses what you, the plan owner, should do to inform your family. Part 2 addresses the situation where you haven’t initiated this conversation, leaving your heirs in the difficult position of broaching the subject with you.

For military families—whether active duty, retired, or widowed—open communication about financial matters is essential for smooth transitions and preventing future complications. Many parents hesitate to discuss their finances with their children, but delaying these conversations can lead to confusion, missed opportunities, or even legal issues. Sharing important financial information early provides clarity, reduces stress, and ensures your family is prepared for the future.

Why This Conversation is Crucial

- **Preparing the Next Generation:** Military benefits like pensions, Survivor Benefit Plans (SBP), VA benefits, and TRICARE often have specific processes and requirements. If your children are expected to manage these benefits in case of your illness, incapacitation, or death, they need to know how they work and where to find important documents.
- **Preventing Family Conflict:** When financial plans are unclear, disputes can arise, especially concerning military pensions or survivor benefits. Openly discussing your estate plan allows you to explain your decisions and reduce misunderstandings.
- **Navigating Unique Financial Structures:** Military families often have unique financial situations. Your children need to understand how benefits like retirement pay or disability compensation might affect their roles in managing the estate. Preparing them with this knowledge empowers them to make informed decisions and carry out your wishes effectively.

Overcoming Resistance and Barriers

Despite the benefits, many parents resist these conversations. Emotional discomfort around discussing mortality or a fear of losing control can lead to avoidance. Some parents may view their finances as private. In military

families, where discipline and privacy are highly valued, these feelings can be even more pronounced.

How to Start the Conversation

- **Start Small:** Begin by sharing basic information like the location of important documents or your financial advisor’s contact information. Gradually introduce more detailed topics like wills, retirement benefits, and specific military benefits.
- **Consider Professional Help:** Involving a financial advisor or estate planner can make the conversation easier by providing a neutral, expert perspective.

By starting this dialogue early, military families can ensure that their children are well-prepared to manage financial responsibilities and that their wishes are clearly understood.

Next month, we’ll discuss how your children can open up the dialogue with you if you haven’t yet addressed this important topic with them.

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POINTS TO PONDER

Chap, LtCol, Thomas Unrath USAF (Ret)



The Light

“In the beginning.” Those words are the first words in the Hebrew and Christian scriptures. (Genesis 1:1) Those scriptures then continue with the stories of God’s creation. The Quran also is very clear that it is God, Allah, who brings the world and all of creation into being. (Surah 10:5) The first thing God creates is light, and God calls it “Good.” In the Gospel of John, Jesus is called “The Light.”

Light is celebrated in all religions in some way. The solstices are revered in the earliest religions as light returns to vanquish darkness. Today we celebrate with candles, lanterns, lamps, and strings of lights. We put them on buildings, houses and even on trees brought indoors, or assembled, for the occasion.

We want light to shine in our lives in ways we don’t or can’t express. We need to drive out darkness from our own lives. This time of year we often do that with jolly parties and gift exchanges which we might use to make ourselves feel better. These can help us to feel better; especially when they are accompanied with repairs to broken relationships. Still this time of year can heighten awareness of the shattered areas we still face. Our lives lack a wholeness we all seek. We need to be integrated, to live with integrity. The better we can do that, the better we can bring light into others’ lives and our own.

“Never Stop Serving” is our motto as MOAA members. We sometimes might fumble about to see how that can happen in our particular situation. Be a light. Bring light to others. Move away from those things which can, and do, divide us. Repair relationships. Take the first step. Be “the beginning” of a new light in your and others’ worlds. The light is still “Good.”

HEALTHY LIVING

Rita Shapiro, CAPT (ret)

Patrick SFB Pharmacy Change of Operations

Hours of Operations
 Clinic Pharmacy: Closed
 Satellite Pharmacy Lobby: 0830-1500
 Q-Anywhere: 0730-1630
 Pick Up Drive thru: 0730-1700

Prescription Turnaround Times:
Same Day for Active Duty Members *New Prescriptions Only* and All Acute Prescriptions: Antibiotics, ER, Urgent Care, & Post-Operation Care.
3 Duty Days for all other New, Renewal, Maintenance Prescriptions.
4 Duty Days for All Refills.

Please note that all refills can be processed up to 21 days early for a 90-day supply.

Improving Health and Building Readiness. Anytime, Anywhere – Always

New Pharmacy Operations at Patrick SFB

There have been some recent changes to the pharmacy operations at Patrick SFB. Please note the change in hours above. Beyond that, the pharmacy is closed every Wednesday morning for training. Normal operations start at 1230.

Process:

ALL New Prescriptions and All Renewals of Prescriptions MUST be activated. Text “Get in line” to 833-464-1562 and after that follow instructions from the text responses.

ALL Refills can be renewed by calling 321-321-4774 or in person at the pharmacy lobby. Or go to [MyMHSGenesis](https://www.mhs.genesis.com) patient portal to submit the request on-line.

Do not wait until you are out of medication to request refill. You can submit request for refills up to 21 days ahead for a 90-day supply.

If you are not comfortable with texting, or getting online on the computer, please go to the Satellite Pharmacy and pull a ticket at the kiosk by clicking NEW for the prescription. **DO NOT CLICK THE REFILL BUTTON** or you will not get the ticket.

STAY UP TO DATE - VISIT:

www.MOACC.org



Mark Your Calendar!

Save the Dates for upcoming MOAACC Events:

7 December 2024: Annual Christmas Dinner Dance

10 December 2024: On-The-Go Christmas Luncheon

17 December 2024: MOAACC Surviving Spouses/ Spouses Christmas Tea

4 January 2025: MOAACC 2025 Installation Banquet

17-19 January 2025: MOAA FCoC Training Seminar & Mini-Convention in Orlando

MOAACC SPOUSES AND SURVIVING SPOUSES

Please join us for the Annual Christmas Tea on Tuesday, December 17th, at the AT EASE CLUB of Indian River Colony Club, at 2:00 PM. This is open to MOAACC spouses and surviving spouses.

Come and enjoy an English Tea and relax for an afternoon with friends. We will have Christmas entertainment and sing a few carols.

For information and to make a reservation, please call Elie Joy at (321) 757-0193 no later than noon, Thursday, December 12th.

Space Coast Navy Wives' Club

Please join us for our Christmas Luncheon, on Friday, December 13th, at THE TIDES. Social hour starts at 11:30 AM and lunch is served at noon.

Our luncheon presentation will be the MUDDY RIVER BOYS QUARTET. They will be entertaining us with songs of the Christmas season.

Menu choices are grilled steak with roasted potatoes and glazed carrots or GRILLED MAHI with rice and glazed carrots. For dessert we will all have pecan pie.

For more information and to make reservation, call Phyllis Banks at (321) 783-7028 no later than noon, Tuesday, November 12th.

Remember friends and spouses are always welcome.

On-The-Go Christmas Luncheon 10 December 2024

Suntree Country Club
300 Country Club Drive
Melbourne, FL 32940

Menu Selection and Payment Instructions for the Christmas Luncheon:

The price is \$30 per plate, which includes sales tax and service charges. Reservations and payments must be received no later than November 29, 2024. Please note that all reservations must be paid in advance; payments will not be accepted at the luncheon. If payment is not received by November 29, we will have to cancel your reservation due to non-payment.

You can [make payment here by credit card](#) or mail your payment to MOAACC, c/o Mike Schroeder, 1378 Pilgrim Ave, Melbourne, FL 32940. If mailed, please add a note indicating attendee(s) name(s) and meal choice.

Menu Options:

1.) London Broil

Choice flank steak, sliced and topped with a red wine mushroom sauce.

2.) Chicken Piccata

Breast of chicken, sautéed with lemon, butter, and white wine sauce.

3.) Strawberry Salmon

Pan-seared salmon with a strawberry and balsamic glaze.

All entrees are complemented by a house salad, assorted rolls, the chef's choice of potato or rice, seasonal vegetables, and include freshly brewed coffee, iced tea, and soft drinks.

We invite you to join us for our first Christmas luncheon at Suntree Country Club. As the venue requires menu selections to be made in advance, please follow the link to select your lunch item and submit your payment. Remember, reservations and payments must be made prior to the luncheon and cannot be accepted after November 29 or at the event.

Thank you, and we look forward to celebrating with you!



MOAACC MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

WELCOME

Following eight new members joined the MOAACC in November 2024

Name	Rank	Service	Status	Sponsor
Haley Aukland	2LT	Army	Active	Steve Bond
Mark Bontrager	Colonel	Air Force	Retired	
Silas Cullum	2LT	Army National Guard	Active	Steve Bond
Donna Silver	LTC	Army	Retired	Mike Schroeder
Paul Silver	LTC	Army	Retired	Mike Schroeder
Olivia Troisi	2LT	Army	Active	Steve Bond
David Welch	Major	Air Force	Former	Jay & Dee Welch
Marco Zavala	2LT	Army	Active	Steve Bond

TAPS

MOAA CAPE CANAVERAL CHAPTER
MEMBER, AUXILIARY, and SPOUSE DEATHS
October 2024 deaths listed
for December 2024 Intercom

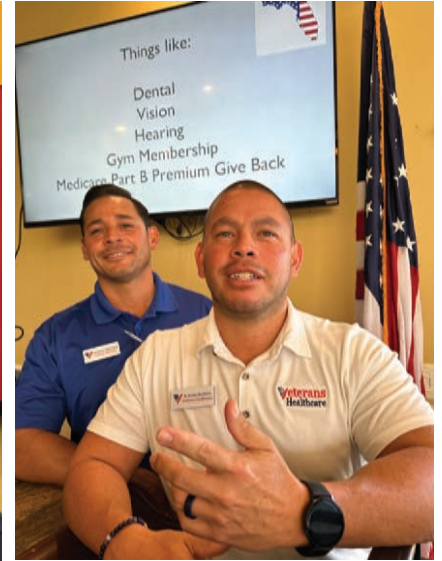
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TMBC Speakers



Captain Bill Toti, USN (Ret)

*L-R:
Christian Martinez and M. Josiah Martinez,
Veterans Healthcare*

Veterans Day Event Speakers

MOAACCC Speakers were out in force again on and around Veterans Day, at ceremonies around the county...and across the nation--to remind our friends, family members, neighbors, and our community at large of what it means to earn the title of "Veteran."



*Tim Pishdad at the Alura Senior Living
Veterans Event*

*Lou Hoffman at Wuesthoff Brevard
Hospice and Palliative Care*

*Skip Taylor in his hometown of Omaha, Nebraska at the Veterans
Day Ceremony there makes the News with a shout out to MOAA!*



Steve Bond (Front-Right in Uniform) with the Veterans of Shell Harbor Senior Living

Annual VyStar MOAACC Good Deeds Golf Tournament



MOAACC Photos by Pish Pishdad

Awards Luncheon



MOAACC Photos by Pish Pishdad

Veterans Day 2024: VMC Ceremony Shines



Brevard County was the scene of at least 10 major events during the long Veterans Day Weekend of 2024. There were parades, bbqs, ceremonies, high school programs and much more to honor and celebrate veterans and their service to America.

The Veterans Memorial Center was the venue for one of the bigger events with over 300 attending the "Honoring Our Veterans Ceremony on Veterans Day. BVC Chairman Don Pearsall was the MC with VMC President Dean Schaaf and VP Donn Weaver in supporting roles. Diverse and interesting talks began with Maj Steve Celeste, USA, Ret and Rockledge JROTC Instructor. Celeste served combat tours in SW Asia and grooms 150 Army JROTC Cadets at "The Rock" to learn about leadership, teamwork, the military and what veterans have done for our country.

Retired USAF Senior NCO Linda Hagen spoke about her experiences and the many role of women in our military which now number close to 20 percent of our active duty forces. BVC Vice Chair and Vietnam veteran Jim Carleton shared some experiences including the contrast of American support to veterans today, vice what happened when he was released from the hospital after months of recovery from combat wounds in 1970.

More than 15 cadets from the Sea Cadet Courageous Division and Patrick SFB Civil Air Patrol Sq joined to learn and to help with set-up, programs and other tasks, There were many other younger family members in attendance as well as the VNC works to present this and other programs in past to pass along the veteran ethos and contributions to our youth, most of whom do not have a veteran in their immediate family.

We were delighted the Ceremony received great media coverage from Space Coast Daily, Health First Media, Florida Today and Senior Life. Their work impacted thousands in Brevard County who did not make it to any Veteran Day event, but might be moved to do so next year.

Photos courtesy of R. Scruggs



Steve Celeste led off, with all Speakers on stage.

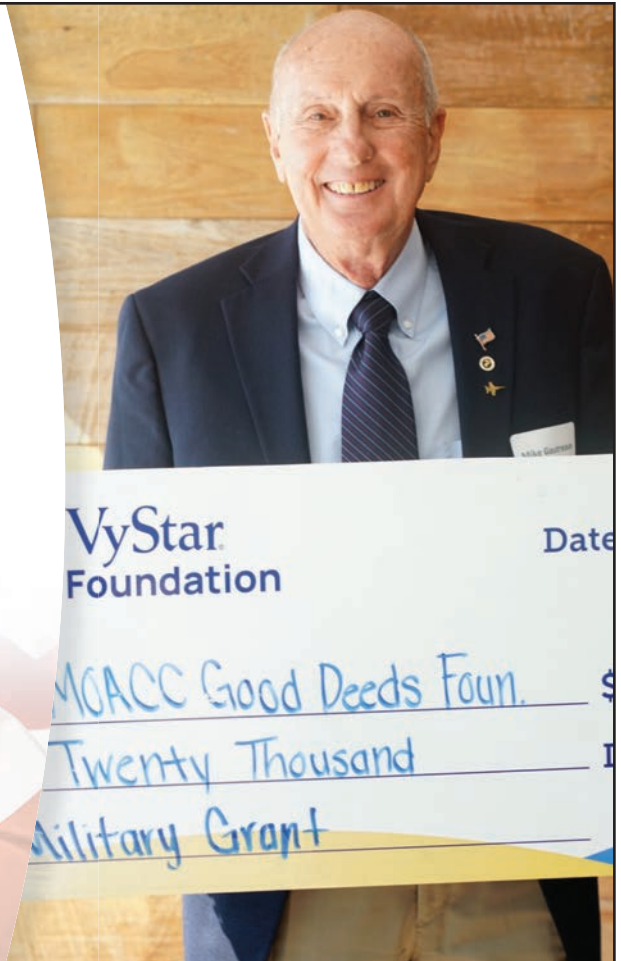


VyStar Foundation is a proud sponsor of MOAACC

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.

Mike Gautreaux

Colonel, USMC (ret)
Vice President, MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation



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MOAACC GOOD DEEDS FOUNDATION

Donn Weaver, CPT (USA) Former

Good Deeds Caps Off a Great Year with Record Breaking Golf Tourney Fundraiser

Although at press time the final net proceeds of the VyStar Good Deeds Golf Tournament at IRCC are not yet known, we will very likely top the 2023 record of \$24K. Check out the photos and the highlights below for what was a great day for MOAACC, Good Deeds and the community.

Here are some Golf Highlights:

- A. Larry Jackson led a great Golf Committee with planning and hard work for almost for one year. We ended up with 108 PAID Up Golfers and a great sponsor list led by VyStar.
- B. The IRCC Golf Club and Event Staff did a fantastic job ranging from smooth start to great BBQ.
- C. Sea Cadets from Courageous Division came out in the biggest numbers ever and made a huge hit.
- D. Space Coast First Sgt Council came in force to help us and to help GDF show all in attendance how much supporting Operation Warm Heart at PSFB means to MOAACC/GDF. They got a record grant from us of \$10K with some nice icing of \$3K from IRCC — and a free lunch and Event Hats.
- E. Women Veterans from the VMC Committee had six reps who did a great job with auction stuff and clearly drove up the bidding — several even bought prizes themselves!!!
- F. In the set up on Friday and during the waiting time for the golfers to return for lunch, we had the most helpers ever!!

Thanks to all who helped, signed up to golf and generously contributed in many ways.

Meanwhile some other year ending news:

- At the annual MOAACC Membership Meeting and 2025 Elections GDF was able to confirm we donated a huge record \$130,000 in FY 2024 to active duty, vets in need, youth, and great vet related organizations. The complete FY 2024 Impact list is available on the MOAACC Website. We also reported, with the expected Golf proceeds and other potential donations in the coming years, GDF has projected a possible \$180,000 budget for FY 2025. WOW!!!
- During the month of November GDF contributed \$10K to Operation Warm Heart at PSFB; \$3000 to AVET, \$1000 to MOPH for Holiday events and meals at the transitional facility; \$800 for vets in need families through American Legion Aux Post 344 for kid holiday parties; \$500 to PSFB Combined Enlisted Support Foundation for all service junior enlisted holiday dinner and party and much more!!
- We are looking for a few new GDF Board members in 2025 so please consider this outstanding program and contact GDF President Weaver for any questions.

Your GDF wishes you very Happy Holidays and looking forward to another record setting year of giving in 2025.



Sea Cadets from Brevard Supporting GDF Golf Tournament

See more photos in the online section

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Seven Years in the Making: Ground Breaking for VMC Amphitheater and other Park Upgrades



More than 100 people attended a milestone event at the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center Park on 29 October. The occasion was the end and result of a seven year process to raise State, County, MIRA and Tourist Development funds in the amount of \$8.2 M to begin the construction of the new VMC Park Amphitheater, another major restroom and food prep building and major upgrades including power, irrigation, a new entrance, parking, trees and much more.

The Ground Breaking was organized by Director Mary Ellen Donner and her Parks and Rec Team. It drew many who supported the efforts over the years including Fl State Sen Debbie Mayfield, former Parks Director Chuck Nelson, Sheriff Wayne Ivey, District 2 Commissioner Tom Goodson, the VMC leadership Team and many from veteran organizations based at the VMC like Rolling Thunder, MOAACC and others.

Merritt Island Redevelopment Agency (MIRA) Director led off the guest speakers as he described the hosiery and vision for the project. He was followed by Sen Mayfield, Sheriff Ivey, prime contractor Ivey's Construction VP Steve Stergis, BVC Chairman Don Pearsall, VMC VP Donn Weaver and Ms. Donner. They and many others joined in the ceremonial gold painted shovel event after the speechmaking.

The event starts and expected. 10 month construction effort with hopes to have the Ribbon Cutting before Veterans Day 2025. The new amphitheater will be used for major professional concerts, Space Coast Symphony performances, special events like the Key Lime Pie Festival and much more including JROTC and other special events. The VMC will get the chance to reserve dates for military reacted events, but the new Park will truly be a community and Central Brevard entertainment Gem.

Stay tuned for updates on this very special collaborative effort between government, the private sector and veterans of Brevard. It will be amazing and Unique, adding significantly to what is already a great County Park.

Photos courtesy of R. Scruggs





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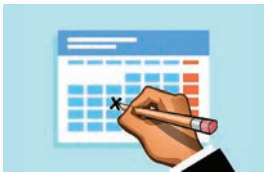
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MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation

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Unofficial Brevard VMC Vets Calendar

DECEMBER 2024 AND BEYOND

Contact VMC for any additions or other information.

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

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

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

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

DECEMBER

13 Dec — JROTC District Air Rifle Championship 1200- 1700 Palm Beach Jr/Sr Magnet School. State Qualifier Meet.

14 Dec — Wreaths Across America Day in many Brevard Locations. Largest event is the Ceremony at Cape Canaveral National Cemetery 1000-1200. Families of veterans resting at CCNC will have opportunities to place wreaths Friday 13 Dec afternoon and before the Ceremony. Contact Donn Weaver at 757-871-6576 for more info.

14 Dec — JROTC District Invitational Air Rifle Meet at Palm Bay HS 0800-1200. Support dozens of cadets from 10 or more High Schools compete at the indoor range for marksmanship team honors.

14 Dec — EAA Chapter 724 31st Annual Merritt Island Airport Breakfast and Toys for Tots USMC drive 0830-1100. Servant Air Ministries Hangar, 471 Manor Drive, MI. Admission ios new unwrapped toy with all toys going to Toys for Tots. Call Don White 321-266-7410 for questions and info.

14 Dec — Second Annual Merritt Island Holiday Tree Illumination and Celebration. VMC Plaza area 1500-2000. Sponsored by the Community Advocacy for Merritt Island (CAMI) and Veterans Memorial Center . Free Community Concert by PINK, Christmas Market, Food Trucks, Tree Lighting and Much More. Special recognition for Gold Star Family Members. More info at ca4mi.com

15 Dec — Wreaths Across America at Pinecrest Cemetery/ Brevard County Honors Veterans 1400 - 1600, 815 Clearlake Road, Cocoa. Honors also Medal of Honor Recipient Emory Bennett, and all deceased veterans and Gold Star Families of veterans as well as First responders . Rolling Thunder FL-1 Chapter will escort the wreaths from VMC with KSU at 1300. Contact Dorothy Walsh for more information through the VMC.

JANUARY

11 Jan — Second Annual Stop the Traffic 5K Fundraiser, VMC PARK 0700-1200. Organized by Edgewood HS students and parents to raise money to bring awareness and action to help stop human trafficking, a growing problem even in America. More details in November.

10-11 Jan — Palm Bay JROTC Air Rifle Commanders Cup Match, PM Friday; 0800-1200 Saturday at Palm Bay Jr/Sr HS.

FEBRUARY

Feb — Free Eighth Annual Every Day is Veterans Day Event at Space Coast Center for Collaboration 1100 Rockledge Ave, US Rte 1, Rockledge. Celebrate veterans with food, drinks and many informational booths. Sponsored by One Senior Place. Call 321-251-6771 to register as a vendor or RSVP for attendance.

01 Feb — County wide JROTC Air Rifle Run and Shoot Competition at VMC Memorial Park. 0700-1200. Hosted by Satellite HS JROTC.

02 Feb — Annual Ceremony to Commemorate the Immortal Four Chaplains of WWII. VMC Plaza 1400-1500. Marine Corps League and VMC Sponsors and Presenters.

15 Feb — Annual Commemoration of the WWII Bataan Death March at VMC Park 0700-1100. 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.

22 Feb — JROTC District Drill Meet at VMC Park 0700-1200. See many teams compete in Color Guard, Squad and Platoon drills.

22 Feb — USAF JROTC State wide Drill meet for Air/Space Force programs at Melbourne HS 0800-1300.

MARCH

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

15 Mar — Annual Last Naval Battle of the Revolutionary War Celebration at VMC Plaza. Sponsored and staged by the Brevard Sons of the American Revolution with assistance from VMC and MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation. Details in December 2024.

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

For further upcoming events, visit

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

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

Donn Weaver

BVC Immediate Past Chair

Veterans Memorial Center

donnweaver2020@gmail.com

Cocoa JROTC Turkey Shoot



Two winning teachers

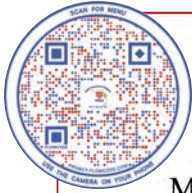


The Good Deeds Foundation provided Turkeys and eats for the second annual Cocoa HS JROTC and faculty Turkey Shoot on 19 Nov. JROTC Instructor LTC Joe Pavone, USA Ret and MOAACC Life member reported 52 teachers and staff participated including Principal Belinda Stewart. She told GDF President Donn Weaver (here taking air rifle aim with a JROTC cadet coach, how much she and the faculty appreciate this holiday, bonding event.



1. Teachers Lining up to Shoot for the Turkeys and Trophies

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19 November Partners in Education Meeting



The VMC Hosted over 40 business owners and Brevard teachers for the 19 November Partners in Education Meeting. This group meets monthly during the school year to help with fundraisers and other connections to provide community support to our schools. MOAACC/Good Deeds funded the breakfast goodies as Donn Weaver and Doug Bisset represented VMC and MOAACC. They conducted library and museum tours after the meeting. Supporting youth are major missions for VMC and GDF.

Veteran Connections



GDF President Weaver joins l-r Don Pearsall of Veteran Connections, Dorothy Walsh of Their Voice of Hope, Dean Schaaf VMC President and MOAACC member to receive thank you certificates. TVOH supports the Women Veterans Program at Veterans Memorial Center which receive help from many veteran groups. Good Deeds provide them \$3000 for events and activities during 2025.

Their Voice of Hope



In front of 70 people attending the 11 Nov VMC Veteran Day Ceremony, GDF Pres Weaver presents a \$1500 check to Dorothy Voice of Their Voice of Hope to prevent a veteran with spouse and two kids from becoming homeless later that week. The VA, NVHS and TVOH had no way to cover that cost in time, so requested help from GDF — we delivered.

During Veterans Day Weekend



During the Veterans Day Weekend, many MOAACC members spoke at schools and retirement communities. Here Steve Celeste, Rockledge JROTC Instructor and Life MOAACC member leads over 50 veterans at a 08 Nov Ceremony at McNair Middle School.

GDF Provides Support to JEAD and USO



On 01 November Patrick Space Force Base Hosted their annual Junior Enlisted Appreciation Day with hundreds of active duty USAf, USSF and other branches on the Space Coast enjoying much of the day off. The event is organized by the Space Coast Top 3, a volunteer non profit made up of senior NCO's and supported by the community.

Your GDF was a silver sponsor for the event at \$400 but we also used the occasion to present a GDF annual check of \$3000 to the Central Brevard USO, which was there and which provides so much all year round to active duty personnel and their families in assistance and fun.

One of the most popular games that morning at the Beach Side Villa was the dunk tank. Members of the PSFB First Sergeants Council (Shirt), who are the MSgt level and the major line NCOs of all the military services in the area, volunteered to get dunked!! There were plenty of takers.

JEAD events took place all day at many PSFB venues and included kids once they got out of school. MOAACC/GDF is pleased to support several such events each year as part not our way to give back to the people protecting our country today.

GDF Brings Cheer on Halloween



On Halloween from 1500-1800 more than 40 kids from veteran families attended the annual “Trunk or Treat” party and BBQ. The event is put on through Their Voice of Hope which supports women veterans and their families. The MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation provided \$500 to support the fun which included more adults than kids!! All had a great time and a good hot dog meal.

The celebration took place in the Veterans Memorial Center Park and included a huge bounce house and many games for the kids as well as way too much candy.

USCG Sailor of the Quarter



Steve Cusick MOAACC 1st VP (L) Presented October US Coast Guard sailor of the quarter award to MK2 Grant Burns on October 30

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JROTC Raider Challenge Championship: What Rain?



After two postponements and one cancellation due to Hurricane Milton, the third try was the charm. On 02 November the District JROTC Raider Challenge Championships were held at the Veterans Memorial Center and Park. While the kick off 5K run took place with no rain, a steady drizzle started and lasted for all four of the other grueling event: Tire Flip, Run/Carry/Drag, Litter Carry and Rope Bridge.

Nine Brevard High School JROTC programs filled male, female air mixed teams with over 190 cadets competing. All seven Army programs were joined by Satellite (USAF) and Palm Bay (USMC). The cadets showed amazing improvement and teamwork compared to the first meet held five weeks earlier and with no other meets possible in between.

Florida Tech Army ROTC sent 7 cadets to help grade and hand out trophies. Brevard Fire and Rescue provided EMS support but despite the rain and because of all the practice, there were no injuries requiring treatment by them. Seven MOAACC and several VMNC members were on hand to cheer on the cadets and help present the Overall Championship trophies funded by the Good Deeds Found action (\$1700).

The event was coordinated by Cocoa Beach Jr/Sr High School JROTC Instructors. Their Female Team again scored first place and qualified for the State Championship on 16 Nov. Three other Teams from Merritt Island and Viera also qualified which depends on times for the events and few if any point deductions.

More than 300 parents, grandparents, siblings and friends came to watch. While there were plenty of umbrellas and soggy clothes in evidence, the spirit and determination by the cadets and the joy in watching them was very evident. It was a day to remember. For the veterans there, it proved the value in finding many ways to support our youth and America's leaders of tomorrow.

Veterans Day Weekend: Two 5K Races Will Make a Difference



Runners Take Your Mark for NVHS 5 K on 10 Nov

Over the 2024 Veterans Day weekend, St Francis Reflections Life-stage Care (SFR) and National Veterans Homeless Support (NVHS) held 5K races to raise funds, staged by Running Zone at the Veterans Memorial Center and in Eau Gallie, respectively. Each was a great success with many veterans around the county either running or supporting the raffles and other aspects of the events.

SFR provides year-round support to hundreds of veterans around the county in their latter stages of life through their "Honor Veterans Program" the focus of their 5K. On 09 Nov over 60 volunteers joined a SFR race record 330 paid runners for the race and to honor over 80 veterans in attendance afterwards in a moving pinning ceremony in the VMC Plaza.

NVHS also hosted a record of nearly 400 signed up runners who started in the Eau Gallie Art District and ran over and back the steep causeway bridge nearby.

NVHS supports homeless and at-risk veterans and their families all year long. Their focus is to help homeless veterans, assist in transition to stable lives and prevent homelessness when crises arise. The runners included 89 veterans. NVHS CEO George Taylor Jr, led a moving pre-race ceremony that including the Viera JROTC Color Guard.

At least one veteran ran both 5 K races: Kristi Blanchard, VMC Secretary and MOAACC member. She finished close to the top in both races in her category and reflected the spirit in Brevard: find ways for the public and other veterans to help their brothers and sisters in arms through SFR and NVHS.



Runners' pre-race briefing at VMC on 09 Nov

Well-done! and thanks from the thousands of veterans in Brevard County to both organizations.

CROSSING THE DELAWARE

By Bill Muckler, Captain USMC



General George Washington and his ragged army had experienced only defeat and despair in the winter of 1776. With failure following failure, the War for Independence was not going well. Washington wanted to conduct a surprise attack upon the Hessian garrison of 1,400 soldiers located in Trenton, New Jersey. He hoped that a quick victory at Trenton would bolster sagging morale and encourage more men to join the ranks of the Continentals. Washington set the date for the river crossing for Christmas night.

Washington's plan of attack included three crossings of the Delaware River. Colonel Cadwalader was to lead his force of 1,200 Philadelphia militia and 600 Continentals across the river near Burlington, New Jersey. His role was to harass and prevent the British and Hessian units near the town from racing north to support the Hessians at Trenton.

General James Ewing's force of 800 Pennsylvania militia was to cross the river at Trenton and take up defensive positions along the Assunpink River and bridge. Ewing's soldiers would work to prevent the Hessians from retreating from Trenton.

Washington and his 2,400 soldiers would cross at McConkey's and Johnson's ferries, roughly 10 miles north of Trenton. They would march south to Trenton to surprise the garrison at dawn. This was an ambitious plan that well-rested and experienced troops would have difficulty executing.

Cadwalader and Ewing's forces were unable to cross the ice-choked river. However, Washington's main force managed to cross, but it was delayed by more than three hours.

The boats to be used for the crossing were gathered earlier in the month in compliance with Washington's orders. Various types of boats were collected; most notable were the large, heavy Durham boats used to carry pig iron down the Delaware. Washington assembled his troops near McConkey's Ferry to prepare for the crossing. By 1800, 2,400 troops began crossing the ice-choked river. The operation was slow and difficult due to the condition of the river. An abrupt change in the weather forced the men to fight their way through sleet and a blinding snowstorm. These obstacles proved to be too much for the supporting brigades led by Cadwalader and Ewing. Washington and his men successfully completed the crossing and marched into Trenton on the morning of December 26, achieving a resounding victory over the Hessians. By moving ahead with his bold and daring plan, Washington re-ignited the cause of freedom and gave new life to the American Revolution.

MOC MEMBERS ONLY CORNER

Photos submitted by MOAACC members.

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Left: Joe Tichich was awarded MOAACC's Outstanding Citizen Award, presented by Brian Whalen.

Above: A closer look at the award.



Tim Bobanic, Brevard County Supervisor of Elections



Left, Shahrooz Banapoor accepts a bouquet of flags representing all U.S military branches of service as a token of appreciation for supporting veterans. Presented by CW3 Amir Pishdad, Executive editor of the Intercom magazine for MOAACC.

Mr. Banapoor is the local owner of the Perkins bakery and restaurant on Wickham Rd., which 28 years ago was near Patrick Air Force Base.

Banapoor established the free breakfast program for members of the military, which continues on the 4th of July and Veterans Day.

Navy SEAL Veterans Day activities



Veterans Day/Armistice Day

The major hostilities of World War I formally ended at the 11th hour, on the 11th day, of the 11th month, of 1918, named Armistice day. U.S. President Woodrow Wilson declared that the first anniversary of the event, in 1919, be remembered as a day of reflection, gratitude, and honor for the millions who had served. In 1954, the Congress of the United States passed a law renaming Armistice Day to Veterans Day. It is celebrated every November 11 as a legal holiday in U.S



L-R: Rick Woolard Captain USN (Ret), President of Board Museum, Amir Pishdad CW3 (Ret) and Thomas R.Norris LT USN (Ret) MOH 1976



Navy UDT-Seal Museum celebrates 39th annual Muster on 1 & 2 November 2024 in Fort Pierce, Fl. Over 5,000 were present on 2 November, to watch the tactical skill demonstration & K9 show

22 November MOAACC On the Go Luncheon



MOAACC Volunteer Members Supporting the Good Deeds Vystar Golf Tournament



MOAACC Officers at lunch following the golf tournament



L-R: Mike Schroeder, Liz Whalen, Barbara Gill and Jerry Gill checking people in for lunch

MOAACC Photos by Pish Pishdad

Bill Muckler's Recent Achievements



Bill Muckler with new novel "Six Soft Targets."



Bill Muckler (r) receives the Highland County Florida Veteran of the Year Award from MOAA Chapter President Bob Brooks on 7 November 2024



Bill Muckler (l) and Dave Totin (USAF) present the Space Force Emblem to the Veterans Wall at the Bluffs of Sebring.



Bill Muckler (l) receives the Florida Veterans Service Medal from President Bob Doyle of the Florida Veterans Foundation at the Space Coast Convention Center on 15 November 2024. <https://www.helpflvets.org/>

Blue Origin

by Dr. Jane Hodges



Standing in front of the BE-E test engine are Jane Hodges with JoAnn Morgan, the only woman in the firing room during Apollo days and Senior Executive at KSC, both retired. JoAnn was a mentor/role model for Jane during her employment at KSC Public Affairs Directorate.

NASA Alumni League members Jane Hodges, JoAnn Morgan, John & Melinda Tribe and two other retirees, were given a private tour of Blue Origin by Bill Wroble, VP, and Susan Farley, Executive Assistant, on Oct. 23, 2024. Blue Origin was founded by Jeff Bezos with the vision of enabling a future where millions of people are living and working in space. The massive facility includes the integration and mission control for New Glenn with very impressive consoles and state of art equipment, giving the feeling of stepping into the future. (The West Coast facility monitors the New Shepherd program.) For more information on the launches and the company see: blueorigin.com

The Blue Moon lunar lander, intended to carry humans to the Moon led by the Blue Origin consortium facility near KSC, is currently under development with plans to land on the Moon in 2025. The larger version carrying 4 astronauts with the NASA Artemis V mission is planned for 2029. Note the feather symbolizes the perfection of flight representing freedom, exploration, mobility and progress.

Quotes of inspiration on the factory walls:

Amelia Earheart "The most effective way to do it, is to do it."

Nikola Tesla "The present is theirs, the future for which I really worked, is mine."

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Florida MOAA 2025 Convention in Orlando, January 17th-19th *Casino Night Fundraiser for The MOAA Foundation on the 17th*

The 2025 Florida MOAA Convention is just around the corner! The Convention is at the Rosen Centre Hotel on International Drive in Orlando from January 17th to 19th. All MOAA members and guests are invited. The 2025 convention is combined with a leadership training seminar, offering participants both a fun and learning experience, as well as an opportunity to mingle with MOAA members from around the state. The Convention will include:

- Educational sessions with MOAA, Legislative Affairs, Chapter Management, Surviving Spouse updates, and the annual business meeting of the Florida Council.
- A Casino Night--play for charity--fundraiser supporting [The MOAA Foundation](#).
- A Memorial Service to remember those chapter members we lost in 2024
- An awards reception, a MOAA-sponsored dinner with MOAA President, Lt Gen "BK" Kelly (USAF, Ret) as the guest speaker.

To keep prices low for participants, food will be provided for the Friday Night events, and MOAA is funding the Saturday night dinner. The cost to stay at the Rosen is a negotiated low rate of \$156 a night. The attire for the sessions is Florida Casual (slacks & MOAA polo shirts), except the Saturday MOAA Dinner, which is Coat and Tie with Service/Dress Uniforms optional (and admired!), and similar/appropriate attire for the ladies. Go to the Florida Council website: www.FLMOAA.org to register. If you cannot attend, consider making a donation to The MOAA Foundation on the Convention Registration Page--Any donations to the Council made on this page will be used to support The MOAA Foundation fundraiser.

Come over to Orlando and find out what being a MOAA member in Florida is all about!



Florida Council of Chapters
Military Officers Association of America



**Join The MOAA Florida Council and our Chapters
 for a Casino Night-Charity Fundraiser in support of
 The MOAA Foundation**

- Blackjack
- Texas Hold'em
- Roulette
- Craps
- Slots



**Support
 Veterans!**

Play for Prizes, Net
 Proceeds Support
 The MOAA Foundation

Complimentary
 Hors d'Oeuvres &
 Cash Bar

Entry Fee: \$40
 (Includes \$500 in
 "FCOC Bucks"!)



at the

**Rosen Centre Hotel, International Drive, Orlando,
 Friday, January 17th from 7 PM to 9 PM
 All MOAA Members and Guests Invited!**

**For More Information and to Register,
 Go to: www.FLMOAA.org**

The MOAA Foundation (TIN 46-4219250), is a 501(c)(3) charitable subsidiary of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). It offers grants to MOAA, its councils and chapters in support of veterans' community outreach programs and services. In Florida, The MOAA Foundation is at the forefront of relief to individuals veterans impacted by natural disasters. In 2024, The MOAA Foundation provided 15 Community Grants, and over \$40,000 to Florida Chapters, to directly aid Veterans in Florida.

The MOAA Florida Council of Chapters (FCoC) (TIN 85-8012673081C-9) is a 501(c)(19) nonprofit veterans service organization that represents 37 MOAA Chapters across Florida.



The Florida Council is on facebook!



facebook @ MOAA Florida Council of Chapters

Information, News, & Updates for MOAA Members in Florida



- Legislative Advocacy across the State
- Philanthropy and Community Service Activities
- Council Events and Activities
- Find a Chapter Near You

Be sure to Follow and Like Us!



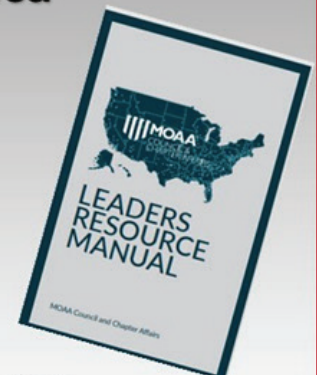
SAVE THE DATES!



Military Officers Association of America
Florida Council of Chapters (FCoC)

**Leadership Training Seminar &
Mini-Convention!**

17-19 January 2025



Chapter Leader Training, Remembering those we lost in 2024, Casino Night Charity Fundraiser for The MOAA Foundation; Awards Presentations, MOAA Dinner, and MORE — For all MOAA Members and Guests!

Rosen Centre Hotel | Orlando, Florida

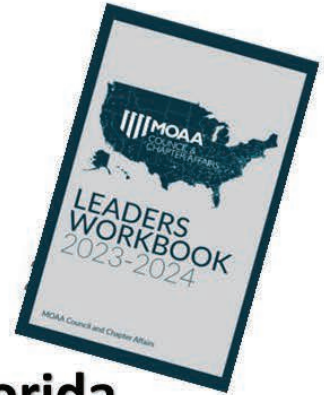


Florida Council of Chapters



Leadership Training Seminar & Convention!

17-19 January 2025



Rosen Centre Hotel | Orlando, Florida

Registration is OPEN on our Website

www.FLMOAA.org

- Training for Chapter Leaders
- Information on MOAA
- Annual Business Meeting & Election of Area Vice Presidents (AVPs)
- Board of Directors Meeting
- Awards Presentation & Reception
- Memorial "Taps" Service for Chapter Members lost in 2024
- Low Room Rates-\$159/Night
- Hospitality Suite w/Snacks & Beverages
- Casino-Themed Charity Fundraiser for The MOAA Foundation
- Interact with Other MOAA Members and Leaders
- Opportunity for Shopping and Visiting Orlando-area Parks

All MOAA Members & Guests Invited, Chapter Leaders

Encouraged to attend





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The MOAACC is comprised of 1,200 members of active, retired, former officers, their spouses and auxiliary members. The Chapter is the largest in Florida and one of the largest in the United States.

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

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