

INTERCOM



MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Cape Canaveral Chapter, Inc. MOAACC Photo by Pish Pishdad

Celebrating his 64th birthday, CWO2 Richard "Rick" Kurt Mariani was born on Patrick Air Force Base- now Space Force Base, on July 4, 1959. Rick joined the army in 1979 and served in the European and Middle Eastern theaters as an Operations Specialist. He retired after 20 years of service. A long time member of MOAACC, he is also very active in the church and community and serves on the Patrick SFB Protestant Advisory Council and Delta 45 board. Costume by Jack & Sandy Garfield of IRCC.





JULY EVENTS

(Click Event for Details)

- 7/4 4th of July Parade & Celebration 10 AM

 @ Merritt Island
- 7/6 Current Affairs Forum/TMBC 8 AM @ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 7/11 On-The-Go Luncheon 11:30 AM @ BJ's Restaurant - Melbourne
- 7/13 TMBC (In person & via Zoom) 8 AM @ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 7/18 Board of Directors Meeting 9:30 AM
 @ Indian River Colony Club Chapel
- 7/18 July Luncheon-Scholarship Awards 11:30 AM@ Indian River Colony Club Colony Hall
- 7/20 TMBC (In person & via Zoom) 8 AM @ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 7/27 TMBC (In person & via Zoom) 8 AM @ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole

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

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 at https://moaacc.org

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE





Lt Col Brian R. Whalen, USAF (Ret)

At the Florida Council of Chapters Convention in St. Augustine one item discussed was virtual chapters. MOAA has six virtual chapters: the Uniformed Services Nurse Advocates Virtual Chapter; the Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter; the Public Health Service Virtual Chapter; the Chaplains Virtual Chapter; the Judge Advocate Virtual Chapter; and the Advocacy for Servicewomen and Military Families Virtual Chapter. Go to the MOAA website and get information about each of these virtual chapters. I know Ellie Joy attends the Surviving Spouse Virtual Chapter, so ask her about her experience with a virtual chapter. We were told these virtual meetings often get participants from MOAA national subject area experts and leaders, so they are a good source of current information.

When you login to the MOAA website, at the top of the page is an "Email Subscription" link. Previously you either had to opt in or everything or opt out of everything. I've had members tell me they opted out of MOAA e-mails as they were tired of the advertisements. Now you can tailor your e-mail subscription to get information you want. Go opt out of receiving advertisements and opt in to get MOAA updates. There are about 14 items you can select. I get the MOAA Newsletter weekly and have opted out of receiving mail from MOAA Trusted Partners.

While you are on the MOAA webpage, hit the Advocacy link. Then review the pending legislation and let your representatives know you want them to support these initiatives. Make your voice heard. Legislative advocacy is an important part of being a chapter member, it's one of the ways we keep serving.

This month we celebrate Independence Day. This is a time to reflect on our country and what it is to be an American. I want to leave you with the words of President Reagan from a speech on July 4, 1986, when he said, "the things that unite us, America's past of which we are so proud, our hopes and aspirations for the future of the world and this much-loved country. These things far outweigh what little divides us." Then he ended with an exhortation to have some fun on Independence Day. So have some fun, participate in events on the 4th and be safe.

INTERCOM Photo & Article Submission Rules

PHOTOS:

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

ARTICLES:

- Articles must be in Microsoft "Word" format. PDF NOT ACCEPTED.
- LIMITS: One article per email, not more that 375 words. Each Article must include Author Name & Rank

NEW DEADLINE & SUBMISSION EMAIL:

 Photos & Articles are DUE NO LATER THAN the 15th of each month, to give our staff enough time for editing. Do not send your submission to Jeremiah, Rita, or Pish. Please send ALL submissions to the following email address:

intercom@moaacc.org

INTERCOM PUBLICATION:

- THE INTERCOM is published 12 times annually by the Cape Canaveral Chapter, Inc. (MOAACC), an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) Alexandria, Va.
- Contents of the Intercom articles are opinions solely of the authors and do not express the policy or official views of MOAA or The the Cape Canaveral Chapter (MOAACC)
- The advertisements that appear in this publication do not reflect an endorsement by MOAA or by MOAACC.
- Comments and suggestion are welcome. Contact EXECUTIVE EDITOR: pish104@bellsouth.net

Health of the Chapter

Do you know of a member who is ill, in the hospital or in rehab?

Let Mary Dunagan know and she will be happy to send them a card from the chapter.

Mary E. Dunagan • 321-775-3896 • kwaj13@aol.com



EXECUTIVE EDITOR & PAO

Amir M.Pishdad, CW3, USA (Ret)

As a first timer as the Exc. Editor and PAO of our MOAACC chapter monthly publication, THE INTERCOM, I enjoyed attending the MOAA Florida Council of Chapters (FCOC) convention in The Ancient City Chapter St. Augustine, Florida, May 19-21. My participation was well worth the time to experience the comradery and fellowship, especially because of the knowledge I gained. Meeting the MOAA President, Lt. Gen Brain Kelly, and Mrs. Kelly, Pat Kleuver, FCOC President, and Nancy Sike, Mayor of St. Augustine, was the "Icing on the Cake."

Daytona will host the 2024 convention.

Send articles and photos to: <u>intercom@moaacc.org</u>

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LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

John R. McMahon, BG, USA (Retired)

They (but not ours) Did It!

News Flash—H.R. 3746, the Fiscal Responsibility Act, became Public Law 118-5 on 3 June 2023 after being passed in the House (314-117) and the Senate (63-36-1). This was the result of the epic battle in Congress to avoid default on our national debt and stop payments to US creditors and recipients of earned military retirement, social security and Medicare payments, sending our economy into a tailspin under the continuing threat of inflation and recession. The breakdown of votes in the US Senate and the US House is interesting with 16 Republicans and 47 Democrats in the Senate supporting it and 149 Republicans and 165 Democrats in the House supporting it. But noticeably absent, or shall I say irresponsible, amongst the YEA votes were our two US Senators, Rubio and Scott, and our Congressional Representative, Bill Posey. Whatever their reasons for voting NO, one can only surmise that they were more important than maintaining the fiscal solubility of the US government, a grave breach in our trust and confidence by each one of them!

Speaking of Senator Rubio, I recently corresponded with him about the continuing viability of the All-Voluntary Force (AVF) and restoring Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) to 100% for active duty servicemembers. I used the MOAA website to launch my letters to both US Senators and Representative Posey which was simple, user-friendly and allowed me to tailor them with my own edits—go to MOAA's Legislative Action Center at https://moaa.quorum.us/ to access it. In any case, Senator Rubio provided updates on some of his recent legislative initiatives which follow.

In his usual fashion, Senator Rubio acknowledges how my input helps him to better represent the people of Florida in the United States Senate, and notes that his "job in Congress is to enact policies that ensure our men and women in the armed forces have what they need to protect our great nation". In addressing the "drastic recruiting crisis", Rubio alleges "the Biden Administration's divisive policies at the Pentagon, including critical race theory and identity politics" and offers a "report titled, 'Woke Warfighters' that details how Biden Administration officials are turning our military into a left-wing social experiment through woke virtue signaling rather than bolstering a lethal and ready fighting force" as a "waste of taxpayer dollars that threatens our military's readiness to fulfill their mission in providing for the common defense". This report can be found at https://www.rubio.senate.gov/public/_cache/ files/ee1d7a86-6d0c-4f08-

bd15-24e5b28e54b7/3756824FA9C21B819BB97AAB1 6221530.woke-warfighters-report-3.pdf.

Next, Senator Rubio notes that "Congress overturned the COVID-19 vaccine mandate as part of the *National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year* 2023 (FY23 NDAA)" which

he supported. He then mentions that he "reintroduced the Rachael Booth Act (S. 286) to close a loophole in current law with regard to dependents of service members convicted of domestic abuse in civilian courts with a bipartisan bill to ensure standard eligibility to receive Transitional Compensation; this legislation would create pathways to significantly reduce the time that these claims are decided". In regard to the rising tensions between Taiwan and the Chinese Communist Party, and their increasingly aggressive military exercises, Senator Rubio is concerned about protecting U.S. bases across the Indo-Pacific against pre-emptive missile strikes by the PRC. To prevent this, Senator Rubio recently introduced the Deterring Chinese Preemptive Strikes Act (S. 1566) which would direct the U.S. Department of Defense to harden U.S. facilities in the Indo-Pacific to protect our service members and military equipment in the event of such PRC strikes. Finally, more locally, Senator Rubio cosponsored and re-introduced a bill, the Space National Guard Establishment Act (S. 503), to consolidate units handling space missions under U.S. Space Force jurisdiction, ensuring Space Force can identify requirements and needed resources for personnel, training, equipment and more for its associated National Guard units.

In closing, I say "Happy 248th Birthday to the United States Army", celebrated on 14 June 2023.



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FINANCIAL LITERACY

COL John C. Murphy, USAR (Ret.) Do I need a Will? Yes!

Having a will package is arguably one of the most important things you can do for yourself and your family. No one likes to think about death or health problems. A will package legally protects your spouse, children, grandchildren, and assets. A will package is crucial to ensuring your family is provided for and that your wishes are honored both while living and after you pass. Documents typically included in a will package may include:

Last Will and Testament: In a Will you decide how your estate will be distributed and name your personal representative (PR) to administer your estate. If you die without a will your assets will be distributed according to Florida Statutes rather than your wishes.

Power of Attorney (POA): A POA delegates your legal authority to someone else. If incapacitated or mentally incompetent, the trusted person makes decisions on your behalf. If you do not have a POA and can no longer act for yourself, a guardianship will have to be filed and a Court order to have someone appointed to act for you.

Health Care Surrogate (HCS): A HCS designates the individuals to make health care decisions on your behalf in the event you cannot make these decisions for yourself. The HCS allows decisions to give, withhold or withdraw any type of health care, treatments, interventions and hospitalization.

Living Will: A Living Will is your written declaration directing what kind of medical treatments you do or do not want to receive in the event that you suffer from a terminal illness, end-stage condition, or are in a permanent vegetative state.

Declaration of Pre-Need Guardian: This document designates individuals to serve as your guardian (person and/or property) in the event you become incapacitated.

Avoid Probate: A Will can avoid probate if you properly title assets and designate beneficiaries.

Trust: A trust is another (more expensive) technique used to avoid probate. I will discuss Trusts next month.

Procrastination and the unwillingness to accept unexpected death or disability as part of life are common reasons for not having the proper documents. Sometimes the realization comes too late, so take action! Enjoy your 4th of July!



POINTS TO PONDER

CH (MAJ) Bill Adams, USAR (Ret.)

More Blessed to Give

Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:36). I'd like to share a story about that.

I was preparing a study tour focused on Israel's battles and warriors. Included was a gift for soldiers in a unit we would meet at their army base. Shortly before tour departure, the IDF (Israel Defense Forces) changed policy concerning gifts for soldiers: No Gifts Allowed!

Then came a second disappointment: My tour guide, Ronen, informed me that he would miss our first day of the tour so he could fulfill a family commitment. I was not a happy camper. He had arranged a substitute, but I didn't like starting our tour with an unknown guide.

Upon arrival in Tel Aviv, our substitute guide, Charlie, met the group—he really was a great starter for our battlefield tour. He also told us all about his son, Shahar, who was training to be an IDF officer. Such a proud papa! When Ronen caught up with us the second day, it was already time to say farewell to Charlie. I barely remembered to pass the hat as we do for those who want to throw in something extra to tip our guide.

Israeli culture makes it hard for a person to receive a gift, so I gave Charlie the small wad asking him to take Shahar out for dinner as our thanks for being a defender of Israel. I never even counted the offering—I just hoped there was enough there to cover a decent meal!

Next day, I got a message from Charlie saying he had given all the money to his son. Day after that, I received this astounding message from Shahar: "Thank you so much for the gift. It will enable me and my fellow officers to purchase combat equipment from the highest level to be prepared... and thanks to you, I guess we are not alone."

See what God did? We complied with the IDF policy and didn't give a gift, but that didn't hinder God from making our meager "pass the hat" His multiplied gift of blessing for soldiers. Truly...it is more blessed to give.



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SURVIVOR ASSISTANCE LESSONS LEARNED

Lt Col Chuck Shaw, USAF, Ret.

The MOAACC Survivor Assistance Team (SAT) stands ready to help with the intimidating paperwork mill of claims forms, reports, and applications for services. All it takes is a simple request to the SAT for assistance. However, most of that paperwork also requires some type of certification/information documentation to be submitted along with the forms. Most documentation is usually readily available, such as a driver's license, or a military ID. But for some you may not be able to easily find, such as an original copy of a marriage certificate, or actual social security cards, or a copy of a military member's DD form 214.

The problem is, in most cases, the deceased member's retirement income ceases when their death is reported, and most of the surviving spousal benefits do not start automatically. They have to be applied for with all those forms. The claim forms to get those benefits started cannot be submitted/approved without the required documentation included.

Hence, to minimize the time a surviving spouse must to go with very little, if any, income, or to facilitate getting services like having Military Honors at the funeral, the forms and all required documentation need to be submitted as soon as possible.

The Lesson Learned is that all of the documentation that is required to be submitted with the claims needs to be readily available to the surviving spouse.

Some of these documents that have proven to slow things down trying to find them are:

- DD Form 214 (a copy is OK), or a letter of Retirement Points, or Separation Orders showing type of discharge.
- Marriage Certificate (original or certified copy)
- VA disability Rating Letter showing disability
- Social Security Cards, Voter Registration Cards and Passports (if applicable)
- Current Car Registration (usually in the car, but is it?)
- Two currently valid forms of government picture ID (dependant military ID and Driver's license, etc.)

Probably the most important thing is to have ready access to enough funds to pay the bills for 60-90 days since the Government Bureaucracy sometimes moves VERY slowly!!

Prepare ahead, and make sure that all of the documents listed above are gathered and placed in a folder or a safe location with ready access. Make and keep copies as back up.



SCHOLARSHIP CORPORATION

CAPT Scott Harley, USCG Ret 2023 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES ANNOUNCED

On behalf of the Selection Committee, I am pleased to announce the award of twelve (12) \$5,000 MOAACC Scholarships for 2023! The competition was intense this year with the return of 17 completed packages. The selection committee completed a difficult task when they gathered on 21 June and selected this year's recipients. Please thank them for their hard work when you see them, and encourage anyone who applied, but was not selected, to try again next year, if they still qualify.

RECIPIENT	SCHOOL	SPONSOR
Patrick Baney	Letourneau	CWO4 Dan
	University	McIntyre
Paula Biggs	University of	SMSgt Philip
	Maryland	Leatherbury
Miles Brinkley	Vanderbilt	CMSgt Terrance
	University	Plummer
Elena Fentress	University of Florida	Capt Gloria
		Lorenzo-Luaces
Kelsey Kressler	Embry Riddle	Lt Col Neil Norum
Megan Lee	University of Florida	CAPT Carl Lee
Andrew Lim	UC San Diego	CAPT Arnold Lim
Meaghan McIntyre	University of West	CWO4 Dan
	Georgia	McIntyre
Jaelyn Mitchell	Howard University	Lt Col James
		Mitchell
Megan Murphy	University of North	COL John Murphy
	Florida	
Natalie Timm	Florida State	Barbara Timm
	University	
Ian Vogt	University for Peace	LT Eugene Vogt

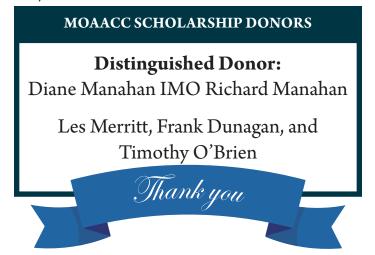
Each year beginning in 1984, MOAACC Scholarship Corporation has awarded scholarships to descendants and wards of active duty or retired members of the Uniformed Services of the United States (includes Regular, National Guard or Reserve enlisted and officers of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Space Force, NOAA or USPHS). The quantity and value of the scholarships vary from year to year. Between 1984 and 2023 (40 years), MOAACC Scholarship Corporation awarded \$910,000 to 305 students attending 81 different colleges throughout the nation.

This month, we will recognize these deserving scholars at our annual MOAACC Scholarship Awards Luncheon! Mark your calendars for Tuesday, 18 July

at 11:30AM at Colony Hall in the Indian River Colony Club. The cost is a mere \$20 to come see our 12 deserving scholarship recipients be rewarded for their hard work thriving in the challenging environment of Post-Secondary Education. Please RSVP/cancel by 12 July 2023, online here or by contacting Mary McIntyre at events@moaacc.org or (321) 254-6997. You can pay online with Credit Card, pay at the door or mail payment with RSVP to:

MOAACC c/o Treasurer PO Box 254186 Patrick SFB, FL 32925

See you there!





Mark Your Calendar!

— MOAACC — On-the-Go — Luncheon

BJ's Restaurant

July 11, 2023

1700 W. New Haven Avenue Melbourne, FL 32904

For reservations or additional information, phone <u>Toni</u> <u>Lowe at (321) 474-6888</u>. Cut off for reservations/ cancellations is the Friday prior, so she can inform the restaurant on how many are coming.

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.

JULY MOAACC LUNCHEON

Scholarship Award Presentations

July 18, 2023 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Indian River Colony Club Colony Hall Venue 1936 Freedom Drive Melbourne, FL 32940

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

- 1. Fried Chicken, mashed potatoes, Cole Slaw
- 2. Par 3 Salad/fruit
- 3. Vegetarian/Gluten Free Meal Upon Request Only All meals include rolls & butter, coffee & tea, and the Chef's sweet choice for dessert. Cash bar available.

Please RSVP/cancel by 12 July online, or by contacting Mary McIntyre at events@moaacc.org or (321) 254-6997. You can pay online with credit card, pay at the door, or mail payment with RSVP to:

MOAACC

c/o Michael J Schroeder, Treasurer

PO Box 254186

Patrick SFB, FL 32925



MOAACC GOOD DEEDS FOUNDATION

Donn Weaver, CPT, USA (Fmr) Mid-Year and Looking Good for GDF

When you read this article about MOAACC's very special Good Deeds Foundation, we will have sent in photos and articles that should appear in the MOAA National Magazine about what your GDF and Scholarship Corporation have done the past year. Both are amazing and unequaled by any other Chapter in the MOAA. We recently learned that the GDF gave as much funding to our active duty, youth, needy veteran and selected 501c3 Veteran organizations as MOAA National gave in grants to chapters in the entire country in the same time period.

We even received a MOAA grant of \$2500 to help veterans and families in need since they know in DC that we have great impact with GDF through the National Veterans Homeless Support organization in Cocoa.

One of our longest serving GDF Board members, Dean Schaff, due to his increasing responsibilities continuing as the VMC President 2023-24; a MOAACC board member as well as being active in many other veteran organizations, will be stepping away from GDF. COL (ret) Joe Tichich, USAF has graciously joined the GDF as he prepares to assume the key role in Student Affairs from Dan McIntyre in August. Dan will stay with us to boot and Dean will be a strong source of information about GDF on the MOAACC Board.

Please continue to read about GDF efforts in the past month or so and look for our August report which will include a record-breaking program to support all JROTC, ROTC and various youth cadet programs in Brevard for the 2023-24 School Year.

Thanks for your ongoing support in any amount at any time and please reach out to any GDF Board Member for more information or to me if you want to join our Mission.

In June we launched the Golfer Sign up Web Site for our 18 November Fundraiser Golf Tourney at IRCC which joined our Sponsor outreach launch the month before. The GDF will need plenty of help for that event from MOAACC members Please stay tuned for the calls for action in the fall.

Have a great summer and know that your GDF will be helping hundreds every month of the year.

MOAACC Award and GDF Cash Presented at Sea Cadet Ceremony



On 03 June, at the Naval Sea Cadets Courageous Division Annual Awards Ceremony Dan McIntyre re-presented the MOAACC award and \$150 in Good Deeds Foundation Cash to Cadet Heather Chapin. The ceremony was held at the Veterans Memorial Center with over 100 attending including the cadets, parents, siblings and about 15 presenters from various veteran organizations.

Retire your way

Start with a plan

I ask the right questions to help you understand what you need for the retirement you want. Then I show you how to get there. For some of life's questions, you're not alone Together we can find an answer.



Daniel Levy, CFA®, CPWA® Financial Advisor 321-722-5427 daniel.levy@ubs.com

Indian River Wealth Management Group UBS Financial Services Inc. 6905 N Wickham Road

2nd Floor Melbourne, FL 32940-7552 321-729-6770 800-456-6770

advisors.ubs.com/indianriverwmg



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Save the Date - October 6th

2023 National Veterans Homeless Support 8th Annual Dinner Fundraiser

Hosted by Brevard's Constitutional Officers
Property Appraiser Dana Blickley
Sheriff Wayne Ivey
Clerk of Court Rachel Sadoff
Tax Collector Lisa Cullen
Supervisor of Elections Tim Bobanic
State Attorney Phil Archer
Public Defender Blaise Trettis

Friday, October 6th
Radisson Resort at the Port
8701 Astronaut Blvd. Cape Canaveral
5:30pm Cocktails 6:15pm Dinner

Platinum Sponsorship: \$25,000 Gold Star Sponsorship: \$10,000 Silver Star Sponsorship: \$5,000 Bronze Star Sponsorship: \$1,000

Dinner: \$100 per person or \$1,000 per table of 10 Program ads: Full page - \$250 or Half page - \$150 For advance reservations or to place camera-ready ads in the program, reach out to us:

<u>www.nvhs.org/events</u> or email <u>events@nvhs.org</u> or call the NVHS Office at 321-208-7562



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June 2023 Luncheon Guest Speaker, COL Myron "Ron" Fortson, USAF-Ret



L-R Moaacc 1st VP COL Richard Kniseley, Speaker Ron Fortson, and MOAACC Pres. LtCOL Brian Whalen

COL Myron "Ron" Fortson, USAF-Ret was our guest speaker for the 20 June MOAACC luncheon at IRCC.

Ron is the Director and General Manager of Launch Operations for United Launch Alliance (ULA). He leads more than 700 employees integrating and launching ULA's launch vehicles Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida, and Vandenberg Space Force Base in California.

Upon graduation from the USAF Academy in 1987 Ron was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant, receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in Astronomical engineering and subsequently he also earned a Master of Business Administration from Chapman University, CA in 1995.

During his USAF career he served a variety of assignments in engineering, operations, acquisition and staff units including

ICBM trajectory engineer in Strategic Air Command, Space Test Program mission planner and spacecraft project engineer at the Space and Missile Systems Center at the Los Angeles Air Force Base and as a deputy director of engineering for satellite operations and a spacecraft and launch program manager for a joint space-based radar program at the National Reconnaissance Office in VA. At Cape Canaveral Air Force Station (now Cape Canaveral Space Force Station) he served many assignments including Commander of the 1st Space Launch Squadron for the Delta II launch systems and also as Deputy Commander for the 45th Operations Group conducting range operations. Ron returned to Los Angeles as the Chief of Evolved Expendable launch in the vehicle Engineering and Operations for Atlas V and Delta IV launch systems. He retired as a Colonel in 2013 following 26 years of commendable service.







Courageous Sea Cadets: Jakob Southerland, Mailynn Penney, Brody Birdsell and Aaron Edwards

Ron Fortson, Director & General Manager of Launch Operation ULA

June On-the-Go Luncheon









MOAACC members enjoyed the On-the-Go Luncheon at Carrabba's Italian Grill, on June 13, 2023.

Friends of Children of Brevard





Representatives from Friends of Children of Brevard, Board President Dave Smith, and Board Secretary Kathy Matson, spoke at the June 1st TMBC Current Affairs Forum about the nonprofit organization's support of the Guardian-ad-Litem program and the children in foster care in Brevard County. After their informative presentation, the two were presented MOAA challenge coins by Current Affairs Chair Don Reott.

USCG Sailor of the Quarter



HS2 Dustin B. Kinney, USCG Sailor of the Quarter presented by CWO4 Dan McIntyre, USCGR (Ret)

HS2 Kinney provided treatment and care for 496 people saved at sea during a period of historic migration in support of Operation VIGILANT SENTRY. He saved the lives of eight people suffering from life-threatening dehydration and hypoxia with intravenous saline solution and oxygen. He also identified dangerous complications with a pregnant woman, administered care and ultimately arranged for medical evacuation that saved the lives of both mother and child.



MEMBERSHIP BRIEF

Welcome 9 new members:

MAJ Ronald Burgy, USA, Ret.

LCDR Jean Cusick, USN, Fmr.

LCDR Paul Fenech, USN, Ret.

CW4 Harold Huser, USA, Ret.

1LT Melinda Huser, USA, Fmr.

CDR Ina Tyler, USN, Ret.

CDR Donald Mumma, USN, Ret.

Captain Gloria Lorenzo-Luaces, USAF, Fmr.

Mrs. Martha Spruitenburg



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



JOIN MOAA CAPE CANAVERAL CHAPTER (MOAACC)

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

NEVER STOP SERVING

Visit us at: www.MOAACC.org/membership

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

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



TAPS

MOAA CAPE CANAVERAL CHAPTER MEMBER, AUXILIARY, and SPOUSE DEATHS

Reported Apr 1, 2023 thru Apr 30, 2023 (Names are listed by chronological date of death)

Bennett L. Lewis, LTG, USA Ret 5 April 2023

No MOAACC Deaths reported during May 2023



Carl Saladino, MD

Internal Medicine-Primary Care

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Cristina Cantees, APRN Evelyn Torres, APRN





VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER UPDATE

Donn Weaver, CPT, USA (fmr)

A VMC Memorial Day Weekend Like No Other

The VMC Memorial Day Ceremony attended by about 400 on 29 May capped an amazing weekend. The event, like all others which began on Friday 26 May, was well covered in the media including some on TV and Space Coast Live broadcast still available on the net.

The weekend began Friday morning at Erdman Motors in Cocoa when four great speakers spoke about the meaning of Memorial Day, including VMC President Dean Schaaf. Mr. Erdman presented \$2500 checks to each speaker for their organizations.

That evening saw VMC host an emotional but wonderful dinner for 38 Gold Star Families. The event was sponsored by Rolling Thunder FL Chapter 1 (RT) as the kick off for Ride for Freedom Weekend. Dorothy Walsh Pearsall and Don Pearsall planned the event with help from RT and American Legion 344 Aux.



Dedicating the Dutch Wreath at the 3 VMC Monument not Fallen Allies

The Dutch riders joined the RT to place a wreath at the Fallen Allies Memorial in the VMC Plaza before the program. Dean Schaaf and Council Chair Donn Weaver were co-MCs as Sheriff Wayne Ivey, LTC Tim Thomas who is a JROTC Instructor and lost friends in Iraq, along with Weaver offered talks.

The event concluded with BCSO rifle honor squad presenting a 21-gun salute to the fallen and Bob Doyle, VMC Operations Manager.

It was a moving, somber yet uplifting weekend at the VMC with more than 1000 spectators and much media coverages to be seen by thousands more. It was a fitting and special Memorial Day Weekend indeed!



The Pre-Ceremony before Memorial Day at the VMC — Ride for Freedom with Dutch Riders in Orange

Day two saw arrival of the moving Vietnam and Global War on Terror Wall. They were provided by the Patriot Guard Riders of Central Florida and were the backdrop of a moving Flame Ceremony through to monuments in the Memorial Plaza to the walls. More than 150 attended that event in the evening as Goldstar families lit a candle from the flame and said aloud the name of their fallen loved one.

Sunday, 28 May was special as 600 motorcycles and riders including 12 from Holland, roared out of VMC/Mall lots as a B52H bomber of the Air Force flew overhead. It was these aircrafts in Vietnam that began the term "Rolling Thunder."

Despite six other events in Brevard County on Memorial Day itself, the VMC ceremony was not only well attended but received many positive comments.



Rolling Thunder Before the Ceremony

Mike Erdman Honors the Fallen in a Special Ceremony



About 150 attended, including most Erdman employees. The Ceremony began with the Flag raising.



Presenters receive their checks (l-r) Don Pearsall of Veteran Connections, Joe Pavone, Dean Schaaf, Mr. Mike Erdman and Dr Lance Armstrong of Rolling Thunder FL-1

For the past 5 years, Mike Erdman Motors Group in Cocoa has hosted a unique Memorial Day Ceremony at the base of their giant American Flag. Erdman is a long time sponsor of the MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation Golf Tournament as well and direct contributor to GDF and the Veterans Memorial Center. On 26 May, four speakers including MOAACC members Dean Schaaf (VMC President) and Joe Pavone (JROTC Cocoa High Instructor) gave talks related to Memorial Day. Each received \$2500 from Mike Erdman to support their organizations in 2023.



Steve Wilson of Space Coast Daily TV, Friday Night Locker Room films the event which can be seen on their web site in full for next few years.

Armed Forces and Family Appreciation Day at VMC, 20 May 2023



Opening Ceremony with Civil Air Patrol Color Guard and with Rocky Lynn, an Army Vet and professional CW singer performing the National Anthem. GDF President Donn Weaver on stage far left

The Veterans Memorial Center, MOAACC's Good Deeds Foundation (a \$2500 sponsor) and the Cocoa Beach Regional Chamber of Commerce hosted the first Armed Forces Day event in Brevard not on a Base in at least there post ten years on 20 May, the annual Armed Forces Day in America.



Nine Brevard are high school seniors are sworn in as they join the US Army directly out of school during this summer. In uniform are active-duty troops, who with their families, enjoyed a free picnic and many vendors including a kids' zone, veterans organizations area (including VMC and MOAAC and a great performance by Rocky Lynn in the Veterans Memorial Park.



Rocky Lynn sings to honor all veterans, especially those who served in the Vietnam Era, being welcomed home by the crowd; Rolling Thunder; Gold Star Families and all active-duty troops, and families

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The First Indochina War: The Battle of Dien Bien Phu (Part 3)

By Bill Muckler, Captain (ret) USMC



Viet Minh commander General Vo Nguyen Giap Giap's offensives sputtered out before the tenacious resistance of French paratroops and legionnaires. On April 6, horrific losses and low morale among the attackers caused Giap to suspend his offensives. Some of his commanders, fearing American air intervention, began to speak of withdrawal.

The Chinese, in search of a spectacular victory to carry to the Geneva talks scheduled for the summer, intervened to stiffen Viet Minh's resolve. Reinforcements were brought in, as were Katyusha multitube rocket launchers. The Chinese military engineers retrained the Viet Minh in siege tactics. When Giap resumed his attacks, human wave assaults were abandoned in favor of siege techniques that pushed forward webs of trenches to isolate French strong points. The French perimeter was gradually reduced until, on May 7, resistance ceased. The "Rats of Nam Yum" also became POWs when the garrison surrendered.

The dramatic loss of a garrison of an estimated fourteen thousand men caused the shock and agony that allowed French Prime Minister Pierre Mendes to muster enough parliamentary support to sign the Geneva Accords of July 1954. This ended the French presence in Indochina and resulted in the end of the First Indochina War which was waged from 1946 through 1954 and became the precursor to the Vietnam War.

The Defeat at the Battle of Dien Bien Phu was a disaster for the French. Losses at Dien Bien Phu numbered 2,293 killed, 5,195 wounded, and 10,998 captured. Viet Minh casualties were estimated at 23,000. The defeat spurred peace negotiations which were ongoing in Geneva. The resulting 1954 Geneva Accords partitioned the country at the 17th Parallel and created a communist state in the north and a democratic state in the south.

The resulting conflict between these two regimes ultimately led to the first phase of the Second Indochina War, better known as the Vietnam War, or the American War in Vietnam which began in 1959 when North Vietnam's first guerilla attacks occurred against the South and concluded with the fall of Saigon in 1973. American ground forces were directly involved in the war between 1965 and 1973.



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Unofficial Brevard VMC Vets Calendar

LATE JUNE, JULY 2023 AND BEYOND

Contact VMC for any additions or other information.

NOTE: Some Events Change in-between our monthly mailing of the VMC Calendar. Keep up to date with those changes using our web link:

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

Late June 2023

24 Jun — Military Appreciation Night at Space Coast Stadium in Viera during USSSA Pride Professional Women's Fast Pitch Softball Game 1830- 2100. Honoring Active Duty and Veterans. Dedication of Permanent POW/MIA installed seat behind home plate featuring Rolling Thunder FL-1.

29 Jun — City of Cocoa hosts the US Army Band 1900-2100 for an evening of patriotic music as Independence Day approaches. Bring lawn chairs and blankets to spread the family out and enjoy one of the best military bands in the world in a rare visit to Brevard County. Contact the Cocoa City Hall for more information.

July 2023

04 Jul — Annual BCSO/VMC Independence Day Parade - AVET BBQ for free for first 200 planned after the Parade at VMC. To participate in the Parade contact www.bcsocharity.org/july4th. Starts at 1000 from Merritt Island High School with Official route ending at Edgewood jr/sr HS, but most continuing to Veterans Memorial Center for more partying and the BBQ by AVET.

August 2023

06 Aug — Purple Heart Remembrance Day by MOPH Brevard at the VMC Gray Hall and Plaza 1400-1600. Contact Donn Weaver (757-871-6576) for more information. By Invitation Only.

September 2023

11 Sep — Patriot Day 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony at VMC 1630-1900. Details in Aug.

October 2023

06 Oct — Eighth Annual NVHS Rescuing Veterans Lost in America Dinner and Fundraiser. 1730-2100 at the Radisson Resort at the Port. 8701Astronaut Blvd, Cape Canaveral. Sponsorships available. \$100 per place fundraiser. email event@nvhs.org or Call NVHS 321-208-7562 for more info.

26 Oct — BCSO Shredder Event - VMC PARK - 0900-1030.

November 2023

11 Nov — SFR Veterans Day SK VM PARK and Center - 0600-1000

11 Nov — VMC Veterans Day Ceremony Plaza, Center, Gray Hall with lunch courtesy of Chick Fil a on Route 520 — 1000—1200

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

December 2023

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

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



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Contact the MOAACC Treasurer to change from paper to web

Visit our MOAACC Chapter website: www.moaacc.org

The Military Officers Association of America Cape Canaveral Chapter (MOAACC) P.O. Box 254186, Patrick SFB, FL 32925-4186 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/ INFORMATION UPDATE. New Chapter Annual New Chapter Life ANNUAL RENEWAL Change of Information "Never Stop Serving" Spouse's Name Name Chapter Membership \$20 Street Address Active Duty/Drilling Reserve: State Zip City First Year - No Cost Telephone Email Life Membership Service Member DOB Rank

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Gold Star Mother over Memorial Day Weekend

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MOAACC spouse member Jeanne Weaver had a very busy 2023 Memorial Day Weekend. Her 21 Original Oil paintings honoring her son 1LT Todd Weaver USA, KIA on 08 Sep 2010 in Afghanistan were shown for a week at the historic Porcher House in Cocoa Village and she was the keynote speaker at the Melbourne Liberty Bell Museum Memorial Day Ceremony. More than 100 people saw her paintings during the hours she was on site and about 200 attended the Liberty Bell event.

Pictured at left – Jeanne Weaver speaking about her "Rendezvous with Destiny" which is the Motto of the 101st Airborne/Air Assault Division, where her son was serving when he fell.



Before the ceremony- Jeanne Weaver right front, MOAACC's Steve Bond (in uniform) was also a guest speaker and helped introduce Jeanne.



Porcher House with People Checking out the Paintings.



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Veterans Back to Class/Joe Foss Institute : Still working in Brevard County After 8 Years (Aug 2023)



MOAACC and the Veterans Memorial Center (VMC) of Brevard County created a special program in 2015 in partnership with the Joe Foss Institute (JFI), now a part of Arizona State University. Eight years later it has proven its value in dozens of schools on the Space Coast, including public, private and some home schooling groups. We call it Brevard Veterans Back to Class (VBC). With Covid in 2020-21, BVBC turned to filming 18 veterans covering key

topics of value to schools which have become additional tools available to all BPS teachers..

- In 2022-23 eleven VBC volunteers spoke to 2140 students in 15 schools, sometimes bringing VMC Museum combat era trunks to share. Teachers also continued to show our 18 video units on topics ranging from the Constitution to WWII to the GWOT.as well. VBC also helped spark 11 school fields trips not the VMC Museum.
- Since 2015 VBC volunteers have presented programs to over 20,000 students at all grade levels and handed out more than 1000 pocket constitutions and 600 hand held American flags thanks to JFI/ASU support.
- Our best year was 2016-17 when our volunteers visited 19 schools including elementary, middle and high schools and talked with 6280 students.
- JFI covers costs of supporting materials and provides lesson plans as needed. They certify volunteers and can help with scheduling in local schools. All our volunteers are approved by BPS.
- The Program offers links to the teachers who describe their needs for the presentations and offers at least 05 10 minutes each class period to the volunteer veteran to tell their story of service and how being a veteran has impacted their lives.

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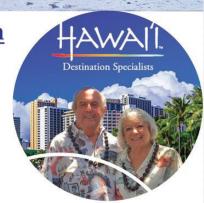
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The Memorial Day Observance and Veteran Recognition Pinning at Life Care Center of Melbourne was on Friday, 26 May. Event was sponsored by Wuesthoff Hospice. Technical Sergeant Brandon R. Fluellen (USAF) and COL Steve Bond (USA-Ret) spoke at the event and did the pinning. Photos captured by Pish from TV News



Cynthia Watkins-National Anthem at Seal Museum

Memorial Day at Liberty Bell

Steve Bond and Jeanne Weaver spoke at the Liberty Bell Museum on Memorial Day.





Steve Bond and Gloria Makowski

Steve Bond and Jeanne Weaver

B-52 Flyover at VMC





On 28 May 2023, this USAF B-52 Flew at low level above the Veterans Memorial Center on Merritt Island to kick off the 2023 Florida Ride for Freedom

Over 650 motorcycles from as far as a Holland (Orange Shirts) came to the VMC and Merritt Square Mall that morning to join in a tradition that began in the 1970's in Washington DC. The event reminds our leaders and the public from the thousands still missing and last seen as POWs from all wars since WWI. During the Vietnam War, B-52s conducted regular, high intensity and impact bombing runs which the locals in SE Asia called Rolling Thunder. That name was adopted by the national organization known as Rolling Thunder which includes riders and non-riders anxious to keep MIA/POW memories alive. RTFL-1, which was formed in Brevard County in 1978. Melbourne was the "birthplace" of the national Rolling Thunder movement. In 2019 over 1.5 million cycles went to Washington DC over the Memorial Day weekend and led to the US Government demanding that the Ride for Freedom from then on be held in individual states. The VMC hosted in 2021 with Daytona hosting in 2022



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