

INTERCOM

Five Star Chapter

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
Cape Canaveral Chapter, Inc.

NEVER FORGET



Photos of the 9/11 Memorial at the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center, in Merritt Island, FL. Courtesy of Pish Pishdad





SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Click Event for Details)

9/7 Current Affairs/TMBC w/Claude Schmid - 8 AM

@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole

- 9/11 Brevard County 9/11 22nd Anniversary Tribute 6 PM @ Veterans Memorial Center & Park
- 9/12 On-The-Go Luncheon 11:30 AM

 @ Skewers Mediterranean Grille
- 9/14 TMBC (In person & via Zoom) 8 AM @ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 9/15 Space Coast Navy Wives Luncheon 11:30 AM @ The Tides - Patrick SFB
- 9/19 MOAACC Board of Directors Mtg. 9:30 AM @ Indian River Colony Club - Chapel
- 9/19 MOAACC Luncheon w/Guest Speaker LaTonya Daniel, Exec. Director, Space Coast American Red Cross - 11:30 AM @ Indian River Colony Club - Colony Hall
- 9/21 TMBC (In person & via Zoom) 8 AM @ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 9/28 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)

Our 03 August our current events forum was on the Tunnels to Tower Foundation and Firefighter Stephen Gerard Siller. It was presented by Larry Jackson and was a very moving story about a firefighter who ran through the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel to the World Trade Center in his full fire gear and was killed while saving lives in the towers. This Foundation was established to honor his memory and has several worthwhile programs. I encourage you to visit *t2t.org* to learn more about this Foundation and its amazing back story.

We celebrated the Coast Guard's 232 birthday at Coast Guard Station Port Canaveral on 4 August. While it was a bit warm, it was a great day to be at the port and talk to vets, active-duty members, and people there to support and celebrate with the Coast Guard. We met the commander of the Marine Safety Unit, recently upgraded from a detachment, and we hope to see more of her. The station has changed quite a bit in the last few years. The new multi-mission facility is nearing completion and I know they are looking forward to moving in and enjoying the air conditioning. Semper Paratus!

This year is 22nd anniversary of the 9-11 attacks on our country. We remember the victims of 9-11 and the heroes who risked their lives to save others. We also reflect on the actions and sacrifices made in response to those attacks. The 9-11 attacks were a horrific act of terrorism, that brought out the best in America. In the days and weeks that followed, the country came together in a way that few had ever seen before. People from all walks of life volunteered to help, and there was a renewed sense of patriotism and unity.

There will be several 9-11 remembrance functions this month and I hope you will attend one or more of them. We will have our canopy at the Veterans Memorial Center (VMC) and I encourage you to come out and join us at this moving event from 1800-1930. This event is sponsored by Club 1013, our Good Deeds Foundation and be hosted. by the VMC.

On September 18 the Air Force celebrates its 76th birthday. Aim High \dots Fly-Fight-Win

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

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- The advertisements that appear in this publication do not reflect an endorsement by MOAA or by MOAACC.
- Comments and suggestion are welcome. Contact EXECUTIVE EDITOR: 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)

Dedicated to those who perished.

"Maui on my mind" (See more on page 27 online)

"It's not the will to win, but the will to prepare to win that makes a difference." This quote by famous football coach Paul "Bear Bryant" rings profoundly true in this new world of Computers, cell phones, all the hustle and bustle of a growing world population, food shortages, never ending wars, and the unforgivable powers of nature. We must plan smarter, wiser, and re-examine our future goals and challenges, hold ourselves and others accountable in what we do that may put peoples life in danger, and never forget that "life is a breath away" Persian proverb.

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

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LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

John R. McMahon, BG, US Army (Retired)

As the Congress and the rest of the country wade through their summer recesses, important news is being sidelined. For example; the Iran hostage deal, wherein the US releases \$6B in frozen assets, ostensibly for humanitarian purposes, in exchange for the freedom of 4 US citizen hostages (what were they doing in Iran in the first place?!) seems suspect.

New vaccine recommendations from the CDC (yes, I still trust them) for the impending "flu/COVID/ other respiratory diseases" seasons are out as well. The slowly unfolding Ukrainian counteroffensive and the Biden Administration's latest \$20.6 B request to Congress for additional funding for new military aid and additional economic, humanitarian and security assistance for Ukraine and other countries affected by the war are similarly newsworthy if not diluted in coverage.

Did you hear that the Atlantic hurricane forecast for the current season has been significantly upgraded by NOAA from its previous estimate of "near-normal" to "above normal" in spite of contradictory signs of warmer than average ocean temperatures which fuel hurricanes in the face of the "El Niño" climate pattern that usually tempers the Atlantic hurricane season? That means 14 to 21 named storms this year, of which six to 11 will become hurricanes, including two to five major hurricanes.

Tying this all together is the important work that Congress must tackle in the near term. On the Ukraine situation, the traditional approach of avoiding politics in carrying out the Nation's national security mandate seems to be eroding in some camps, in particular the far-right wingers in the Republican Party. In addition to the latest funding for Ukraine, The White House has also requested more than \$12 billion for disaster relief and other emergency domestic funds, including hurricanes, as well as tens of millions of dollars to improve pay for firefighters on the front lines of the wildfires that have hit many parts of the country. This seems apropos in light of the fires that devastated parts of Maui recently and in anticipation of the big change in the Atlantic hurricane forecast. Against the odds of their slim majority with the potential loss of only four votes in the House, some form of palatable packaging must be laced up within the Republican House majority, such as a supplemental request tacked onto another must-pass item, say the yearly flood insurance reauthorization program, which might pressure

enough Republicans to go along with it rather than deny aid to states affected by disasters this summer. This may be wishful thinking on my part.

Speaker McCarthy has his work cut out for him and may have to rely on Democrats' help as he did in avoiding the recent debt crisis. That "deal", which set discretionary spending for fiscal 2024 at \$1.59 trillion, has already begun to run into headwinds as the House Appropriations Committee, in open revolt against the speaker, subsequently cut that number to \$1.47 trillion—fiscal 2022's spend-ing level—despite two years of high inflation. So could it be another round of "here we go again" relying on the Continuing Resolution Authority (CRA) to keep the government limping along without a FY2024 budget until some reasonable compromise can be struck. Wasn't that the whole point of the last round of brinksmanship? In any case, the democratic-controlled Senate seems to be more amenable to supporting the president's request even though some are questioning President Biden's vow to support Ukraine "as long as it takes" with a "This can't go on forever" mantra. The best approach is to arm the Ukrainians with the weapon systems (read F-16s) to get the job done (whole territorial integrity) as fast as possible while they still have the will and the resilience to fight (probably not forever).

Finally, while nobody knows the extent to which the coronavirus, flu and R.S.V. will be resurgent this fall, Federal health officials are recommending widespread adoption of a single annual immunization (no boosters) with the latest version of the vaccine. They assert, this immunization will preclude another "triple endemic" of respiratory illnesses, like the one seen last winter. The good news is the vaccine should be available for free for people with insurance. Specifically, experts say "Everyone should have at least the flu and Covid shots this fall". The annual flu vaccine is recommended for everyone 6 months and older, but it is most important for adults ages 65 and older, children under 5 and people with weak immune systems. Updated Covid shots are expected this fall from Pfizer, Moderna and Novavax, and all are designed to target XBB.1.5, the Omicron variant most prevalent today. The experts advise to get the shots early enough in the fall to build immunity against the pathogens. So, consider receiving the flu and Covid shots at the same time, in the September-October timeframe, so you are prepared to face either virus. Such a deal!



FINANCIAL LITERACY

CAPT Arnold Lim, USNR (Ret)

College costs have long been expensive and have been rising. For this month and next, we'll look at types of accounts to use, as well as options if these funds are not used up.

Essentially two types of accounts specifically dedicated for college savings exist: Coverdell Education Savings Accounts (ESA) and 529 plans. Both allow funds to grow tax free. Any funds contributed are not tax deductible, but the funds can be later withdrawn and used tax free if used for qualified higher education expenses (e.g., tuition; room and board; computers; class books); else penalties will apply.

* ESA, orginally also known as Coverdell IRA, were created back in 1997 as part of the Taxpayer Relief Act. The annual contribution limit is fairly low, was originally only \$500, but now sits at at \$2k per child, regardless of how many ESAs are be opened for one child. One can be opened for any child (aka beneficiary) who is less than 18 years old; obviously the younger the child, the better, to allow for more compound growth. Funds can be used for primary, secondary, and college bills. An important disadvantage is that the account's funds must be used up by year that the beneficiary turns 30 years old, else the ESA has to be closed, and funds are distributed and taxable to the child. Also, income limits exist for the donor: for 2023, eligibility phases out if taxable income for single person is above \$95k and stops at \$110k, or for married filing jointly, phases out at \$190k and stops at \$220k. Recently, Vanguard no longer supports creating new ESA accounts nor transferring beneficiary. Advantage: ESAs allow for more options on what the funds can be invested in; similar to a self directed IRA (vs regular IRA), one can direct the investments of an ESA into assets like real estate, crypto currency, and of course stocks/bonds/funds.

* 529 plans: first created in 1996. Advantage: Have much higher contribution limits that are determined by the state that administers each plan. Thus, can allow for larger amounts of money than ESA. 529 plans themselves come in two flavors, pre-paid and a savings account. In the pre-paid variety, one pays premiums to later get the tuition, regardless of any potential increases in that tuition; in essence, protected from cost increases. In the savings account, you make contributions of whatever amount you decide and then later take withdrawals or distributions from the account to pay for any college-associated costs like tuition on your own. Disadvantage is that the investment choices are limited to what the plan administrator allows, similar to how an IRA is very open while a 401(k) is also limited to the plan's option(s). Each of the 50 states can manage a 529 plan. Noted consumer expert Clark Howard has a website with an analysis of which states have better (e.g., more cost efficient) programs. https://clark.com/personal-finance- <u>credit/investing-ret*irement/529-plan/</u> I personally used Utah's plan, which is very strong.

Next month, we will continue our look at these account types, as well as what to do with excess funds in these account types.



POINTS TO PONDER

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

"A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead." (Luke 10:30)

A teacher of the law had asked Jesus how to get eternal life. The two then had a healthy discussion about the most important things in God's law, and in life: Loving God and loving your neighbor.

It was going great until the law teacher asked Jesus the wrong question: "And who is my neighbor?" We know that was the wrong question because Jesus never answered wrong questions! Instead, he would ask a question back, thereby checking the heart.

Jesus did that here, but first he told a story called "The Parable of the Good Samaritan." In his story, Jesus used the Samaritan's compassionate actions to rescue a wounded Jew, in contrast with the self-righteous inaction of the religious leaders, to teach the teacher what it means to be a neighbor.

It wasn't a question of who is my neighbor (like, who do I have to love), but as Jesus asked him back, "Which one was a neighbor?" The law teacher answered Jesus correctly: "The one who showed mercy." Jesus responded, "Go and do the same."

And so, the question for you and me is not who is my neighbor, but am I being a neighbor. Not, who do I have to love, but am I loving. Am I a neighbor like the merciful Samaritan of Jesus' story, even more, like Jesus, the ultimate rescuer?

Just understand that the way to be like Jesus is to have him living in you, and loving others through you. This can happen in your life. Should you ever find yourself wondering, like the teacher of the law, how to gain eternal life, you can talk with a friend, a pastor, a priest, or a chaplain. Hopefully we won't be like the self-righteous religious leaders of Jesus' story but more like the merciful Samaritan. We'll care for you...just like a good neighbor.

"So, he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him." (Luke 10:34)



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SURVIVOR ASSISTANCE LESSONS LEARNED

Lt Col Chuck Shaw, USAF, (Ret)

In a number of articles in the past, I tried to encourage couples to try getting the Veteran and the surviving spouse to make their preparations for the inevitable. The most emphasis on a couple's preparations often address the veteran's benefits that benefit the surviving spouse but may not adequately address the end-of-life plans for the surviving spouse after losing the Veteran. Sometimes, even though the surviving spouse was able to deal with the Veteran's end of life care, it is occasionally hard for the survivor to deal with their own care. For example, even though she has a will, no decisions were made about a proxy or for her care. Family members can help things. If something happens to a loved one and they no longer can communicate for themselves, you should not have to guess what their wishes would be in a crisis.



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Mark Your Calendar!

— MOAACC — On-the-Go — Luncheon

Skewers Mediterranean Grille

September 12, 2023

144 5th Avenue Indialantic, FL 32903

This month's "On-the-Go", we will meet at Skewers Mediterranean Grille. For reservations or additional information, phone Toni Lowe at (321) 474-6888. Cut off for reservations/cancellations is the Friday prior, so she can inform the restaurant on how many are coming

Cost: Per individual. As always, please honor your reservation or call Toni if you cannot attend, so she can inform the restaurant in a timely fashion. Everyone is invited, so please join us.

SPACE COAST NAVY WIVES' CLUB

Please join us for the September Luncheon on Friday, September 15th at THE TIDES on A1A Patrick Space Force Base. Social hour begins at 11:30am and lunch is served at noon.

Our speaker will be Staves Kinsella Millengen, daughter of member Nancy Kinsella. Stacey is a commercial interior designer from Jamaica and will show us how to make center pieces' and other ideas.

Menus choices are Creamy Pesto Chicken over Alfred Linguine, or Salad Nicoise with Green Beans, potatoes and Tuna. Everyone receives Key Lime Pie.

For more information, please call or text Rebecca Kersey at (207) 607-0006. Reservations must be made no later than noon, Tuesday, September 12th.

Remember friends and family are always welcome.

Ellie Joy (321) 757-0193

SEP 2023 MOAACC LUNCHEON

Guest Speaker LaTonya Daniel, Executive Director, Space Coast American Red Cross

September 19, 2023 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

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

Ms. LaTonya Daniel will be the guest speaker at the MOAACC September Luncheon.

Ms Daniel is the Executive Director of the Red Cross Space Coast Chapter. She began her career with the Red Cross in 2020 as a Community Volunteer Leader with the Greater Orlando Chapter. She holds a B.S. in Psychology from the University of Alabama, Birmingham and an MBA from Argosy University. In addition to her Red Cross work, she volunteers her time with other nonprofit human and social services. In her current responsibilities she is responsible for the Central Florida and the US Virgin Islands serving 19

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

Florida counties through 5 chapters.

- 1. Chicken & Mushroom Crepes with vegetable
- 2. Taco Salad NO SHELL, Salsa, Sour Cream & guacamole
- 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 13 September <u>online</u>, or by contacting Grace Catron at <u>events@moaacc.org</u> or (417) 294-0798. You can pay <u>online</u> 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)

See more GDF content online, on page 21

Summer for GDF Ends with a Bang

As kids went back to school your Good Deeds Foundation had open of its busiest months ever. Check out the stories below about our record \$38,600 grant to JROTC and other cadet programs as well ongoing efforts to help veteran families in distress through the National Veteran Homeless Support program in Brevard, supplemented by a \$2500 grant MOAACC got from MOAA National this year for that purpose.

GDF operates on the USG Fiscal Year Cycle so in October look for our yearend report via the GDF FY 23 Impact List as well as our new budget for next year which we hope will include more than \$30K earned at our 18 November Military and Veteran Golf Fundraiser at IRCC.

August ended with a great event at the Veterans Memorial Center sponsored by MOAACC Student Affairs and GDF for High Schoolers looking at Military Academies, College ROTC programs and other paths to military education and leadership. Look for details and photos in the October Intercom.

As Fall begins, please consider supporting your GDF so we can reach even more in our four pillars of focus"

- Youth through JROTC and More
- Active-Duty Forces and families
- Veterans in distress
- Special Veteran and Military Support Organizations

Have a great Labor Day holiday and please consider coming to a special 9/11 Ceremony at the Veterans Memorial Center at 1800-1930 on Sep 11 for the 22nd Remembrance Day of the attacks on America still impacting so many lives.



Dean Schaaf (1) and Donn Weaver (r) present retired NYPD Brevard Club 10-13 with \$1000 from Good Deeds Foundation to support what promises to be a great 22nd Anniversary Remembrance of the day that changed America and its ongoing impact and cost.



GDF President Weaver (r) travels to Bayside HS on 11 August to present LCDR Paul Fenech and his Bayside Bear Navy JROTC cadets the SY Grant money. Bayside begins school with 162 cadets!!!



Steve Bond (second l) and Donn Weever (second r) flank 1SG Juan Torres and his cadets as Merritt Island Army JROTC Receives their \$2,200 School Year boost. The Mustangs begin with 146 cadets for the new year.



Over the summer vacation Brevard Public Schools built a \$100k building for the Marine JROTC program which will become the home for meets for Air Rifle Competition for all JROTC teams in the county.



Outside view of the new Rifle Range



On 14 August Michael Tucker (blue shirt left) and Donn Weaver (r) present the \$2200 Good Deeds 2023-24 grant to Palm Bay Magnet School's Marine Sgt Maj Roy DeYoung (center) and some of his 110 cadets.



The 2023, Brevard County 9/11 22nd Anniversary
Memorial Tribute will be held at:

The Veteran's Memorial Park

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

CITIZENS OF BREVARD COUNTY JOIN US
AT 6:00PM ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2023
SUPPORTING AND REMEMBERING THE FIRE, POLICE, EMS,
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The MOAACC monthly Luncheon was held at the Indian River Country club (IRCC) on Tuesday 15 August.

Above: MOAACC President LtCol Brian Whalen presents the chapters appreciation plaque to Left, Jim Malcom and Right, Bud Murphy for their outstanding presentation on crime prevention for the seniors during the the MOAACC monthly luncheon.

Left: Astronaut High School Color Guard (L-R) Cadet Holly Berry, Cadet Ryan Krisingha, Cade Wyatt Tucker, Cadet Tyler Lasher, CMS Sean Branham

Current Affairs Speaker, Larry Tackson



Mr. Jackson was presented a MOAA challenge coin by Current Affairs Chair Don Reott.

Larry Jackson spoke at the August 3rd TMBC Current Affairs Forum about the Tunnel to Towers Foundation. Larry serves as an Ambassador for Tunnel to Towers and works to promote the organization's many charitable projects that support First Responders and Veterans.

MOAACC Supports NOTU 3Q FY23 Sailors of the Quarter



By LCDR Dan Levy, USN (former)

On Wednesday, January 12th, MOAACC participated in the Naval Ordnance Test Unit (NOTU) Mission Partners Social and Quarterly Awards Ceremony held at the Greenhouse at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station. MOAACC members in attendance included LCDR Dean Schaaf, USN, and LCDR Dan Levy, USN. MOAACC presented certificates of recognition and \$50 awards each to the 3QFY23 Junior and Senior sailors of the Quarter: BM2 Neika Burke and MT1 Bret Orozco. The event was hosted by NOTU Executive Officer, CDR Sammie Green, USN, who highlighted the accomplishments of the two awardees while recognizing the community support by MOAACC and all the Mission Partners. MOAACC's Good Deeds Foundation issued the cash awards. The next event is set for Wednesday, October 11, 2023 at 3pm. If you are interested in attending, please contact Dan Levy.

(L-R) Dan Levy, MT1 Orozco, BM2 Burke

ROTC Scholarship and Academy Appointment Education Forum





On Saturday, August 26, a packed house of local student juniors and seniors were present at the Veterans Memorial Center in Merritt Island, for 2 two-hour seminars. to hear from 15 representatives of all US military academies, colleges, and special military programs

The free seminar is annually sponsored by MOAA Cape Canaveral Chapter, MOAACC, to help interested students with hints, ideas and hear first-hand from reps towards military scholarships.

Left: The events were moderated by CPT. Donn Weaver USA (RET), who has devoted many years towards this outstanding seminar.

Right: LTC T. Waggoner, ROTC Rep, gives some pointers to Student Ryan Day and parents, Janice and Patrick Day



MEMBERSHIP BRIEF

Welcome 2 new members:

LTC Bob Essick - Army

Mrs. Myra Mason - Surviving Spouse



TAPS

MOAA CAPE CANAVERAL CHAPTER MEMBER, AUXILIARY, and SPOUSE DEATHS

(Names are listed by chronological date of death)

Carole Stafford, Spouse of Lloyd Stafford, Maj, USAF Ret. 14 July 2023

> Betty C. Zajac, SSM 17 July 2023

Herman E. Jackson, MAJ, USA Ret. 23 July 2023

Samual F. Powel, CAPT, USN Ret. 22 July 2023



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



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

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Visit us at: www.MOAACC.org/membership

As Military Officers, our shared experience of service forms a bond like no other. 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



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Cristina Cantees, APRN Evelyn Torres, APRN





VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER UPDATE

Donn Weaver, CPT, USA (fmr)



VMC Prepares for Massive Expansion

All systems are a GO for a 02 October 2023 major ground breaking ceremony for the Veterans Memorial Park Amphitheater and other Phase III upgrades. This latest phase should be completed by Fall 2024 and will transform the Park for events and the community. A copy of the site plan is below.

Check out stories in this edition as well on the JROTC 04 August event at VMC hosted by MOAACC/Good Deeds Foundation and the Purple Heart Ceremony a couple days later which included several MOAACC members as presenters.

The usual summer slowdown does not seem to affect the VMC where events happen every day and 26 DAV volunteers work M-F 0800-1200 helping hundreds of veterans and survivors every month negotiate the VA with the PACT-Act and such. MOAACC members also serve in the DAV Chapter 123 and at the VMC and the museum.

Please help spread the word and the Center and Park reminding visiting the Museum and other facilities there is always free and always open 7 days each week 1000-1600 M0Sat; 1200 - 1600 Sunday.

Twelve Honored at Purple Heart Ceremony at VMC



The Recipients with Carl Miller seated in USMC Uniform

The tradition of recognizing bravery of soldiers began when George Washington awarded cloth patches to wounded Revolutionary War soldiers. Since then, more than 1.8 million Americans have received the Purple Heart as a result of combat wounds, many times fatal.



Karmel Sowers (r) presenting the quilt to a special family: Marc Gray with his wife and daughter in a very unique shirt.

On August 6, 2023 twelve recipients of military Purple Hearts from WWII to Iraq were honored at the 7th seventh annual ceremony at the Veterans Memorial Center in Merritt Island.

The Brevard Chapter 453 of the Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) held this unique ceremony on the Sunday afternoon closest to National Purple Heart Day (August 7). This year more than 160 attended the indoor event as emotional stories of how each veteran received their Purple Hearts (in one case three) were read by fellow Purple Heart Recipients or MOPH members.



The Ceremony begins

Each person honored saw an engraved brick that will later be placed at the Purple Heart Monument in the VMC Memorial Plaza. After their stories were read, Karmen Sowers and her Quilts of Valor volunteer group presented the veterans with beautiful handmade patriotic themed quilts. Emotions and stories of valor in combat ran high during the ceremony.

Carl Miller, Commander of MOPH 453 was there Master of Ceremonies introducing the readers and

recipients. Family members and friends joined as the stories were read, some learning details for the first time. Dean Schaaf, VMC President welcomed all noting the VMC is home to MOPH 453 and 16 other veteran organizations.

The recipients:

• Sister and Mother of Jeremiah Johnson, KIA, US Army (USA), Niger, West Africa 2017

• Ralph Clark: USMC, Vietnam • David Crib: USA, Vietnam

• Marc Gray: USA, Iraq

• Sonny Hartwell: USMC, Vietnam

• Franck Kaiser: USA, Vietnam

• Charles Lynchard: USA, Vietnam

Michael Maguire: USA, WWII

• Don Pearsall: USA, Vietnam

• Bruce Schwanda: USMC, Vietnam

• Buddy Story: USA, Vietnam

Douglas Sykes: USA, Vietnam

MOPH 453 is looking for other Purple Heart Recipients who now live in Brevard County to join their Chapter of very special veterans. Contact VMC on 321-453-1776 for more information.







Unofficial Brevard VMC Vets Calendar

SEPTEMBER 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/

September

11 Sep — Patriot Day Brevard County 9/11 22nd Anniversary Remembrance Ceremony at VMC Plaza area 1800-1930. Sponsored by Club 1013 and the MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation and hosted. by VMC. Remembering those lost on 9/11/2001 and all those who fell later as. a result of toxic exposure or while taking the fight to the terrorist abroad. See Poster.

11 Sep — AVET sponsored Patriot Day Firearms Friendly Fun Night at Frogbones Family Shooting Center 1700-2000. Venue is located at 404 South Harbor City Blvd, Melbourne. Evening focused on remembering 9/11 and its impact on so many who went to the fight thereafter, as well as a fun evening to help raise funds for the AVET missions year-round.

26 Sep — VMC Library Discussion Series, 1800-1930. The presenter and topic TBD

October

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.

31 Oct — VMC Library Discussion Series, 1800-1930. The presenter and topic TBD

November

11 Nov — SFR Veterans Day 5K VM PARK and Center - 0600-1000; Merging to:

11 Nov — VMC Veterans Day Ceremony Plaza, Center, Gray Hall with lunch courtesy of Chick-Fil-A 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.

18 Nov — 20-23 Veterans and Military Support MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation Golf Tournament at IRCC 0800-1400. Primary GDF Fundraiser of the year with sponsorships, hole sponsorships, golfing slots and auction/raffle prizes. Proceeds Support the GDF: A 501(c)(3) charitable organization supporting the aims of the Cape Canaveral Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAACC). It has provided direct support and grants to area military (primarily in enlisted ranks), veterans, and their families; ROTC, JROTC, Sea Cadet, Civil Air Patrol, as well as other Veteran organizations and groups since 2014.

28 Nov — VMC Library Discussion Series, 1800-1930. The presenter and topic TBD

December

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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Sergeant Reckless: A Reckless Hero

By Bill Muckler, Captain USMC

Marine 1st Lieutenant Eric Pedersen was the commander of a recoilless rifle platoon in Korea. The recoilless rifle was six feet long and weighed more than a hundred pounds. Carrying it required three to four Marines. Lugging it was dangerous, but necessary, because that rifle, which the Marines nicknamed "reckless," could fire a 75mm shell thousands of yards with surgical precision. It was one of the Marine Corps finest munitions.



SGT Reckless beside a 75mm recoilless rifle

The commander of the Recoilless Rifle Platoon, Eric

Pedersen, knew there had to be a better way to use it on the battlefield. The better way came in the form of an offer from a stable boy from the racetrack in Seoul. The boy's sister had lost her leg when she stepped on a land mine. The family couldn't afford a prosthetic, so the boy, to help his sister, offered Pedersen the horse he owned and was training to race. He had named it "Ah Chim Hai," or "Morning Flame." In October 1952, Pedersen received permission from Colonel Eustace P. Smoak to purchase a horse for his platoon. Pedersen paid \$250 out of his own pocket for the small chestnut mare. He didn't want to race her, he wanted to train her to carry that giant gun. The skinny, underfed horse had one of the biggest and bravest hearts they'd ever known, and one of the biggest appetites. Pedersen had a number of men in his unit who knew how to care for and train horses. Together, they trained the horse to carry the gun and nine of the heavy 24-pound shells, but to lie down when under fire, avoid barbed wire and crouch in foxholes, and to run for cover when there was incoming fire as well. They nicknamed their horse "Sergeant Reckless," and though she wasn't actually a sergeant, after two years of service, the commander of the 1st Marine Division was so impressed and grateful to the horse that he gave her an official battlefield promotion to the rank of sergeant.

Her fellow soldiers took the rank seriously enough to threaten others with court martial for disrespecting her rank. There was a standing order that no Marine was allowed to ride on her, not only out of respect for her rank, but because she was too valuable of an asset to risk injury.



Tunnel To Towers Foundation

Larry Jackson, Capt. (Fmr), USAF Tunnel to Towers Ambassador

As we approach another anniversary of the 9/11 tragedy, I would like to familiarize you with the Tunnel to Towers Foundation (T2T). Last year I was honored to be appointed as a T2T Ambassador. In that capacity I work to increase awareness of the mission of our organization.

Tunnel to Towers was founded by the family of Stephen Siller, an off-duty New York fireman who raced on foot through the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel to the World Trade Center Towers where he gave up his life saving others. Stephen's life and heroic death serve as a reminder to us all to live life to the fullest and to spend our time here on earth doing good – this is his legacy.

Our mission is twofold: "Do Good" and "Never Forget"

Since 9/11, we have been helping America's heroes by providing mortgage-free homes to Gold Star and fallen first responder families with young children and by building specially-adapted smart homes for catastrophically injured veterans and first responders. We are also committed to eradicating veteran homelessness and helping America to Never Forget September 11, 2001.

The Foundation has committed \$500+ million to its projects including 1,000+ mortgage free homes delivered or in progress. Most importantly, when you make a donation to T2T 95% your donation goes to the projects. This high rate has earned us a 100% Accountability and Transparency Rating by Charity Navigator.

For more information or to make a donation please go to T2T.org.

The Military Officers Association of America Cape Canaveral Chapter (MOAACC) P.O. Box 254186, Patrick SFB, FL 32925-4186

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GDF continued

Record Breaking Support to Brevard JROTC and other Cadet Programs



Plenty of smiling faces as \$38,600 divided up. Surrounded by JROTC Instructors are (l) Dean Schaaf, VMC President and MOAACC Board Member with Donn Weaver, GDF President and VMC Board (holding check left) and Wayne Justice GDF Board and VMC Member.

Brevard County has likely one of the largest and most active high school JROTC program in Florida and most states. As the 2023-24 school year begins, the 14 programs in Brevard Public Schools expect another active turnout and busy year with their cadets averaging over 160 in each school.

As JROTC instructors plan their year, costs of many activities are not fully covered by BPS or the military services that sponsor them, so fund raisers like car washes, parent contributions or help from veteran organizations are required each year. Besides 7 US Army, three USAF, Two Navy, One Marine and One Space Force JROTC Units, Brevard also as five other "cadet" programs which operate to support our youth — two Sea Cadet, two Civil Air Patrol and one Sea Scout Ship.

Thanks to record breaking donations in 2023 and their 2022 Golf Tournament Fund Raiser, the Good Deeds Foundation of the Cape Canaveral Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAACC) was able to prove \$2,200 to very JROTC Unit, \$1,200 to the five other Cadet Units and \$4000 set aside to purchase all trophies and medals for 2023-24 School Year competitions in Raider Challenge, Drill and Air Rifle. The total is \$38,600 for this school year!

Many other veteran organizations support the cadets because they all know molding our youth to be good citizens is crucial to the future of our amazing country. They also understand how valuable the role of all the JROTC and other Cadet Instructors is with support from the service branches and BPS. With significant funding support, Instructors and cadet leaders can focus more on their training and education missions and less on wondering where the needed extra money will come from.

In Brevard the Veterans Memorial Center, Military Museum and Park is another treasure for JROTC units since many major competitions, museum field trips and other programs are offered there free of charge.

On 04 August, one week before school began, most of the JROTC instructors came to the VMC to get their donations, learn about other support programs and plan the year ahead. It was a great way to start the 2023-24 school year.



MOAACC/GDF used the meeting to unveil a new perpetual Trophy for the best JROTC Unit each year starting in 2024. Donated by the family of former MOAACC President MG John Cleland, USA, Ret, and also named in honor of CWO4 Dan McIntyre USCG, Ret, the new award will be presented in April at the MOAACC JROTC/Cadet Award Luncheon to the top school in terms of annual performance as percentages of cadets.



The New MOAACC Student Affairs Team:

(L-R) Jose Prieto, Michael Tucker, Hans Hunt, Joe Tichich, GDF Pres Weaver and Dan McIntyre

A group of JROTC Instructors will help GDF develop the criteria this Fall.

Dan served as an outstanding MOAACC Student Affairs Chair from 2016
-2023 when he turned over the program on 04 August to Joe Tichich, Hans
Hunt, Michael Ticker and Jose Prieto which in itself shows how much Dan did.
Thanks to Gary Eppler for re-purposing the trophy. Look for more about Dan
in another section of the Intercom.

OASIS and Elevation Church Team Up at VMC



GDF President Donn Weaver Presents OASIS founder Tess Heibaka a GDF check \$1500 to help cover shipping costs all over the world.

For several years the Good Deeds Foundation has been supporting a unique organization called OASIS by providing postage funds. At the Veterans Memorial Center, with several MOAACC members involved, on 22 July OASIS packed and prepared for shipment Halloween Goodie Boxes to troops deployed overseas. Almost 50 people from the OASIS and Elevation Church came to donate, help pack and include hand written letters for more than 150 boxes. For the past five years OASIS has used the VMC for one of their annual missions of about 5 per year to bring morale and goodies to troops without family serving abroad. Elevation Church has donated huge numbers of people for landscaping work in the Plaza area and the Park for almost two years and purchased more than \$15,000



Two organizations making the work go quickly

work of landscaping supplies for the VMC through Home Depot in the process.

VMC brought the two great service organizations together about one year ago. Now Elevation Church helps OASIS at every event throughout the year. Thanks to both of them for caring about active-duty troops deployed so far from home. As Tess Heribaka, co-founder of OASIS and

a military Mom, said during the event, "today some may receive family care packages, but many do not and the OASIS boxes remind them they are in the thoughts of the American people" even though 23 years have passed since many such deployments began. Erin Kelly organized the Elevation team and nearly came to tears when she spoke of what the boxes mean to lonely troops. She is a veteran, herself deployed in harm's way before.

MOAACC Supports Army Veteran Family in need



Mike Schroeder and Donn Weaver surround a young Army veteran family after MOAACC provided \$800 to augment additional funds provided by National Veteran Homeless Support, Inc (NVHS) to provide funds needed to avoid eviction just before the dad found a good job that will get them back on their feet. The funds came from a special \$2500 MOAA National Grant we received this year. Both parents of 4-month-old John are Army veterans of the Military Police and just moved to the area after separation earlier this year. Not being Florida Residents yet, and other State/ VA rules has made it difficult along with the challenging economy. Things are looking better now and MOAACC is working to perhaps help Dad link up for a career with the Brevard County Sheriff's Office.



18th Annual MOAACC Good Deeds Cruise







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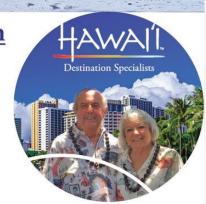
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MOAACC Scholarship Fund Letter of Appreciation



Lieutenant Commander Navy SEAL (RET) Amir Pishdad Jr presented a Certificate of Appreciation and a MOAACC challenge coin to Lam Hardman of Athens Georgia, on behalf of Cape Canaveral Chapter.

Lam, who represents The Dot & Lam Hardman Family Foundation, met Amir two years ago during a MOAACC public speaking engagement. The Hardman Foundation generously donated \$3000 to MOAACC' Scholarship fund and has continued yearly.

Photos submitted by MOAACC members. Get your photos featured in the Intercom!

- Send us your high resolution photos
- Please provide names and captions
 - Send to: intercom@moaacc.org

Cruise Donation



MOAACC Photo by Pish Pishdad

Larry Jackson, who arranged the 2023 Good Deeds Cruise in the Spring of 2023(Left) presents the \$800 check from Royal Caribbean Cruises, LTD, to Don Weaver, President GDF as their donation at \$50 per cabin for all the cabins sold. Thanks to Larry and Royal Caribbean for making this happen at the 17 August TMBC Meeting.

Lady Veterans Share Stories at Luncheon



The Women Veteran Outreach Program hosted an event attended by over 30 female veterans on August 18, 2023 at the Veterans Memorial Center. The program gave attendees an opportunity to connect with their fellow veteran sisters to share their stories, needs, and learn about resources. Many women shared how they had not been aware of resources available to them or how to best access those resources.

The lunch was sponsored by the Brevard Veterans Council, the Veterans Memorial Center, and Their Voice of Hope. Three MOAACC members were in attendance, Rita Shapiro, Susie Dabrowski, and Rosa Reich.

Past Prez Takes a Trip



MOAACC Past President Kenneth Lowe and wife Toni shares a photos from their trip, enjoying dinner in Library of Celsius, Ephesus which was an ancient Roman Port city in Turkey.

USCG Birthday Celebration at IRCC



On Friday August 4,2023, an audience of fifty from all branches of the Armed Services gathered at the Indian River Colony Club for a birthday celebration. On this day 233 years ago, the United States Coast Guard was founded as the United States Revenue Marine making it our nation's oldest continuous seagoing service.

While the USCG is the smallest of the armed forces and most probably the least understood, the day's program served to educate all in attendance. Steve Tuller, with forty years of military and civilian service with the Coast Guard, provided introductory remarks that were highly informative and of historical perspective, and the "When, Why and How" the Coast Guard evolved. CWO4 Dan McIntyre, USCGR (ret), a Naval Engineer with forty-two years active and reserve service and LCDR Hilary Smith, USCG (ret), a Coast Guard helicopter pilot having graduated from the Naval Academy as USMC 2nd LT, later transferred to USCG, were the featured speakers. They provided illuminating facts about today's Coast Guard and shared a few captivating and white-knuckled sea stories.

Suffice to say, the departing sentiments of the group include "I never knew that about the Coast Guard!" or most importantly, "I wish that I had known about the Coast Guard as a young person!" In closing, a good time was had by all. Semper Paratus – USCG.

Written by: Ann Tuller

Coast Guard Birthday Celebration Gets Community Support

On 04 August US Coast Guard Station Port Canaveral hosted over 400 people including dozens of children for the annual USCG Birthday and Family Day Picnic and Celebration. Many in the community ranging from private businesses to the USO and AVET were there to cheer for the Coast Guard and its great people and families despite scorching mid-day heat.

Prominent among those in support was the Veterans Memorial Center and the MOAACC with its Good Deeds Foundation. The festivities opened with remarks from Station Commander CWO3 Phillip DaWalt, USCG and RADM Wayne Justice, USCG, Ret who is a VMC and MOAACC member.



Brian Whalen, Michael Tucker and Joe Tichich cover the MOAACC table

Highlights of the fun afternoon included:

- A giant water slide for the kids to have fun sliding and cool off in the process.
- The USCG signed up for a golfing foursome to join the 18 November MOAACC/GDF Military and Veteran IRCC Golf Tournament Fundraiser.
- CWO3 DaWalt cutting the USCG Birthday Cake
- USO provided 60 backpacks to USCG kids as they prepare to get back to school
- Plenty of free sandwiches, Pizza, drinks and snack provided by several donors
- and much more!!!

Check out some pictures as we honored the Coast Guard and enjoyed the fun. MOAACC/GDF provided \$1000 to the USCG Foundation to support this and other events at the Station as well \$3000 to the USO for this and other active-duty events in 2023.

Happy Birthday United States Coast Guard!



CWO3 DaWalt Does the Honors



Children having fun on the giant water slide at USCG-Station

"Maui on my mind"











Editor's dedication to those who perished in wild Fires.

"It's not the will to win, but the will to prepare to win that makes a difference." This quote by famous football coach Paul "Bear Bryant" rings profoundly true in this new world of Computers, cell phones, all the hustle and bustle of a growing world population, food shortages, never ending wars, and the unforgivable powers of nature. We must plan smarter, wiser, and re-examine our future goals and challenges, hold ourselves and others accountable in what we do that may put peoples life in danger, and never forget that "life is a breath away" Persian proverb.

ROTC Scholarship and Academy Appointment Education Forum

(Continued from Page 11)



















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