



The INTERCOM

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
Cape Canaveral Chapter, Inc.



NATO-SHAPE Officers' Association visit the Space Coast

The U.S. Chapter of the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) Officers' Association (SOA) visited the Space Coast from March 9th to 12th and MOAACC was on hand to welcome them.

Read the full story on page 12



General John A. Shaud, USAF (ret) (front center), President of Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE), is pictured with SHAPE 2023 attendees.

D. Keith Winsten, Executive Director of Brevard Zoo, Spoke at Last Month's Monthly MOAACC Luncheon

Due to his extensive work, he has garnered national awards and helped in development of professional training programs in the United States, Brazil, and China.

Since his arrival in Brevard County in 2004, he has served on the Citizen Oversight Committee for the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program, and as a member of the Space Coast Tourist Council where he is currently chair of the Marketing Committee.

See more photos on page 10



MOAACC Photo by Pish Pishdad

To take action with MOAA, visit: <https://moaa.quorum.us/>
MOAA and MOAACC are non-partisan organizations

MARCH EVENTS

(Click event for details)

- 4/6 Current Affairs, TMBC (w/Guest SPKR) - 8 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 4/11 On-The-Go Luncheon - 11:30 AM
@ Grills Riverside, Melbourne, FL
- 4/13 TMBC (In-person & via Zoom) - 8 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 4/18 MOAACC B.O.D. Meeting - 9:30 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - Chapel
- 4/18 MOAACC Luncheon, ROTC & JROTC
Awards - 11:30 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - Colony Hall
- 4/20 TMBC (In-person & via Zoom) - 8 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 4/27 TMBC (In-person & via Zoom) - 8 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 2 President's Perspective
- 3 Article Submission & Rules,
Editor's Note
- 4 Legislative Affairs
- 5 Financial Literacy,
Points to Ponder
- 6 Survivor Assistance,
Scholarship
- 7 April Luncheon, Mark Your
Calendar!
- 8 Good Deeds Foundation
- 10-11 MOAACC Photos
- 15 Membership Brief
- 17 Directory
- 18 TAPS
- 19 Membership Form

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

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



Brian Whalen, LtCol, USAF (Ret)

This month, MOAA will send teams of state council leaders to Washington, D.C., to meet with their legislators at the Capitol as part of their Advocacy in Action (AiA) efforts. Chapter Member Steve Bond will be part of the Florida Council of Chapters delegation. This year's two primary goals are: increase basic allowance for housing (BAH) to 100%, restoring the BAH reductions from 2015-2019; and to reverse the TRICARE pharmacy cuts. Please visit the MOAA website to get more information on these topics to be better informed. Reach out to Steve and to our Chapter Legislative Affairs Team, John McMahon and Tim Pishdad. MOAA considers these endeavors as supporting recruiting and retention efforts by ensuring the promises made to our service members are kept.

To support the MOAA's Advocacy in Action (AiA) efforts, please reach out to your elected officials and ensure they are aware of your concerns. The easiest way to stay abreast of the pending legislation of interest is to visit the Legislative Action Center (<https://moaa.quorum.us/>) on MOAA's webpage. Here you can find draft e-mails to send to your Senators and Congressman. I urge you to do a little homework before you hit send as sometimes the list of cosponsors will change and the letter's don't get updated immediately. You can lose creditability by asking your representatives to sponsor legislation they are already sponsoring. In this instance we need to thank them for their support and let them know we notice and appreciate what they are doing for us.

We will be presenting the MOAA Medals and Grants to some very deserving cadets at the April Luncheon. These are the future leaders of their organizations and are outstanding individuals. The Hardman Family Foundation donated \$3,000 to support this program, this is the second year they donated to this program. We are very grateful to them and to Amir "Butch" Pishdad Jr. who spoke at an event they sponsored in Mexico. We also appreciate our other donors and the people who purchased 50/50 tickets though out the year as the proceeds go to support the MOAA Medal Grant program. The Good Deeds Foundation has stepped up to support and lead this effort. Their help and leadership are greatly appreciated.

We support MOAA's aims by advocating for national and state legislative actions protecting the rights and interests of veterans, uniformed services retirees, active duty personnel, and their dependents and survivors.

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 than 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 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



Editor's Note

I hope by now most of the membership has seen and reviewed the new formats, photos and layouts in February and March Intercom. The changes were made, making sure that all articles and photos are included according to our checklist and complies with the MOAACC Intercom handbook. Also making sure that our readers can locate related news in same page or nearby. We appreciate everyone adhering to our earlier deadline. This gave more time for editing.

New Idea For Membership:

Starting in May, Intercom will accept quality photos & caption from your recent activities. Photos will be published space available in the Intercom electronic section on a trial. This could help to generate readership. (Editor reserves the right of refusal.)

Photo Ideas: Golf, Sports, Travel, Cruise, Vacation, Information.

Please see photos RULES on this page.

Submit photos, comments & suggestions any time to the Editor: intercom@moaacc.org

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ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Rita Shapiro

LAYOUT/GRAPHICS: Jeremiah Zeleny

PRESS RELEASES & MEDIA LIAISON: Marilyn Sanford

DISTRIBUTION: Jan Clark

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LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

John R. McMahon, BG, USA (Retired)

The Budget Process Kicks Off

President Biden released his Fiscal Year (FY2024) Budget request in early March which totaled a whopping \$6.89 Trillion to begin the annual budget cycle for which the Congress is responsible. This budget proposal has been touted for reducing the National debt by \$3 Trillion and for raising taxes by almost \$4.7 Trillion over 10 years, a significant bump up to revenue. However, key Republicans in the House and Senate have reportedly dubbed this proposal as dead on arrival and “an unserious proposal that is a road map for fiscal ruin” (Senator Grassley (R-IA) and top Republican on the Budget Committee). Speaker McCarthy (R-CA) noted “we must cut wasteful government spending” and “our debt is one of the greatest threats to America” while asserting “Washington has a spending problem, not a revenue problem”. Truth in lending is we have both (a spending and a revenue problem) that both parties need to reconcile with in order to put our financial future into some semblance of stability, credibility and reliability. House Republicans have committed to publishing their own budget proposal in early April so the jury is out on the details and implications of their approach.

A deeper look into what’s in the President’s budget proposal provides some interesting insight into his priorities as he purportedly plans to run for re-election in 2024. The best moniker one can give his budget proposal would probably be a good Bernie Sanders budget that spends way more than it should on new and growing social programs while attempting to cover the spending growth with new taxes that mirror what was ultimately rejected by a Democratically controlled Congress last year. Selected highlights from the Spending and Revenue/Taxes sides of the equation follow along with some takeaways from MOAA Headquarters’ perspective.

With a projected deficit of \$1.8 Trillion in FY24, spending grows to 25.2% of GDP (compared to a 50 year average of 21%) which includes rising interest costs on the federal debt and new and increased entitlements such as universal pre-K and free community college (\$300 B), child care (\$400B), paid family leave (\$325B), elder and disabled home care (\$150B), expanded health care assistance for Obamacare (\$400B) and housing (\$100B). Proposed Defense outlays are \$842B, a 3.2% increase but with sector inflation running at 5%, this is an actual cut! It includes \$7B more for Ukraine support (to be further supplemented throughout the year) and \$23.6B for modernizing our nuclear weapons triad by the Energy Department.

The budget proposal allocates \$144B (11.5% increase) Health and Human Services for negotiating drug prices and to expand permanent subsidies for Obamacare, adds \$11B to eliminate hepatitis C in 5 years, and allocates \$1.4B (10% increase) to the Social Security Administration to improve customer service and add staff to process disability claims. It also increases certain taxes (see below) to extend Medicare solvency and Social Security long-term viability. It stipulates \$25B for Customs Enforcement, Border Control and Immigration Enforcement including the

hiring of 350 more agents and 460 processing assistants, a new \$4.7B contingency fund to deal with migrant surges, \$1.5B for the backlog in immigration court cases, and \$7.3B for settling illegal unaccompanied minors. It proposes \$4.5B for clean energy workforce and infrastructure projects, \$16.5B for climate science and clean energy research, and \$23B for climate resilience against floods, wildfires and storms. It also includes \$19.4B over 10 years to help local police departments hire more officers and \$5B for community programs to fight violence, and \$17.8B for the Justice Department including \$2B to combat gun violence. It increases funding to the Transportation Department for increasing funds to states for roads, bridges and transit systems, including a network of charging stations for electric vehicles and a modest increase for railroad safety; it grants \$7.5B to Amtrak and boosts FAA modernization programs. Finally, there is a \$27.2B (7% increase) allocation to NASA for the Artemis lunar mission and space tug to retire the space station in 2030.

On the revenue side, President Biden has resurrected some old proposals. These include: a new wealth tax (25% minimum on Americans with more than \$100M in wealth); hikes in the personal income and capital gains taxes (tax capital gains as ordinary income for those making more than \$1M and raise the top rate from 37% to 39.6% on personal income above \$400K); extends the 3.8% surtax currently applied to investment income for couples making more than \$250K to business income; and increases the top Medicare payroll rate to 5% for those earning more than \$400K. The budget proposes corporate rate increases to 28% from 21%, and the minimum on foreign earnings of US multinational corporations to 21% from 10.5%. There is also a four-fold tax increase to 1% on corporate stock buybacks as well as several other nuanced tax changes that raise hundreds of billions more in tax revenue. Raising all these taxes is one thing if they are intended to bring down the deficits and the national debt; but such tax increases make no sense if they are purely intended to increase spending on hard-to-justify social programs. Close scrutiny by the Congress is warranted.

For Military personnel, MOAA reports a 5.2% pay raise for uniformed servicemembers and the federal civilian workforce as well; military end strength is increased by 12,335 personnel. There is funding to expand community based child care fee assistance and address child care capacities. The budget proposes \$1.45B to subsidize commissary operations, a \$27M increase. For Veterans, the budget increases to \$325B, a 5% increase including \$142B for veterans’ health care and \$183B to cover compensation and pensions, benefits, insurance and indemnities. There are also provisions for implementing the toxic exposure reforms approved last year, and to modernize and fully fund the VA, expand servicemembers’ consumer protections and help reserve component members access their full benefits. There is also \$12.1B allocated to sustain readiness, resilience and capability for the US Coast Guard. The next step in the Budget process will involve hearings by the Congress for Department Heads to justify their requests.



FINANCIAL LITERACY

CAPT Arnold Lim, USNR (Ret)

SECURE 2.0 Takeaways, Part 2

Last month, we started examining the Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement (SECURE) Act 2.0, which became law in December 2022. This month, we continue to look at some of those retirement and tax-related provisions:

* Employers oftentimes match the contributions that their employees make to their retirement plans, typically in the range of 3-6%. These employer match dollars for retirement plan contributions can now go into Roth 401(k)s, 403(b)s or 457s. Beforehand, all of any employer match dollars was mandated to go into pre-tax (not post-tax like a Roth part); on the other hand, the employee contributions can continue to go into either pre-tax or post-tax, depending on what the retirement plan of any particular company offers and what option the employee chooses. These match dollars will be immediately vested. One important impact of this provision: the employee will foot the tax bill for this new employer match contribution to Roths; be careful since this effective increase in net income might bump someone up into a higher tax bracket.

* Similarly, employees can now make Roth contributions (i.e., post tax) to SIMPLE and SEP IRAs. Previously only pre-tax was allowed for these. So more types of retirement accounts can be "Rothified," which is good.

* Small employers will get a new credit of up to \$500 per for making military spouse employees immediately eligible for retirement plans. This credit applies for up to three years for non-highly compensated employees.

* Roth 401(k)s and Roth 403(b)s will no longer have Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs). (Previously, RMDs were required for such accounts, even though not taxed; on the other hand, for comparison, Roth IRAs have never had RMDs.)

* IRA catch-up contributions for savers age 50 and over will be indexed to inflation, rather than just being a flat \$1,000 catch-up amount. In 2025, catch-up contributions for employees age 60-63 will be increased to at least \$10,000. Note, for highly compensated employees, catch-up contributions will be required to be Roth contributions beginning in 2024.

* Employers will be allowed to match student loan payments into 401(k)s, 403(b)s, Simple IRAs, and 457 plans if they choose to do so, which would allow savers to still receive an employer match if they pay off student loans, instead of contributing to their 401(k).

* You'll be able to take emergency withdrawals of up to \$1,000 per year from your 401(k) and IRA without penalty. Acceptable reasons will be up to the individual.

* In 2025, automatic (i.e., default) enrollment for new employees will be the norm, and also automatic annual increases to contributions in new 401(k) and 403(b) plans will be added. Employees will be able to opt-out.



POINTS TO PONDER

Ch, LtCol, Tom Unrath (USAF Ret)

April this year is a month of many Holy Days, holidays, and observations. I suppose the most universally recognized by residents of the USA is that referenced by good ol' Ben Franklin, "nothing is certain but death and taxes." The 15th is when our government, through auspices of the IRS, asks us to do our part to keep it functioning. Many of us grouse about it, but it keeps the military, with pay and benefits, going. It also keeps retired pay, VA and Tricare benefits coming our way as well as Social Security. Not too shabby.

April also includes Earth Day on the 22nd. This can, I hope, remind us that this planet we call home is one of God's greatest gifts to us, and we are called to care for it.

Three of the world's great religions also have Holy Days in April this year. They move with a lunar calendar.

March 22 through April 21 is Ramadan for those of the Islamic faith. Fasting during Ramadan is one of the five pillars of the faith, along with the statement of faith, the pilgrimage to Mecca, praying 5 times a day, and the giving of alms. Ramadan shows the Muslim identity as follower of Allah and brings a sense of unity among the faithful.

The Jewish faith remembers Passover in April from the 5th to the 13th this year. This holy time reminds the Jewish people of God's rescue of God's people from enslavement in Egypt and establishing the covenant between God and the people.

Then on April 9th Christians celebrate the highest Holy Day of their year, Easter. It proclaims God's greatest gift to humanity in the Resurrection of Jesus after his death on Good Friday. God re-establishes the promise of life with God for all people.

Whatever your faith background, may God bless you and your family this season and for years to come.



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SURVIVOR ASSISTANCE LESSONS LEARNED

Lt Col Chuck Shaw, USAF, (Ret)

This month is aimed at the Beneficiary or the Executor for the Surviving Spouse, and assuming the Surviving Spouse was receiving income from their SBP annuity, and since eligibility for Survivor Benefit Plan Annuity Pay ends with the death of the annuitant, prompt reporting of the death of the annuitant's death can help avoid delay in the final settlement of the annuity. All outstanding checks or Direct Deposits must be returned to DFAS before a settlement of "Arrears of Annuity" may be made. See the last three paragraphs in this article and the Internet link for more AOA info.

Follow these steps:

- STEP 1: Call 800-321-1080 and select the option to report the death of the annuitant.
- STEP 2: Send a copy of the Annuitant's Death Certificate showing the cause of death. Ask the Funeral Director to obtain the Certificate.
 - Mail to: DFAS U.S. Military Annuitant Pay
8899 E 56th Street
Indianapolis, IN 4649-1300

Also call:

- Social Security Administration at 800-772-1213
- Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) at 800-538-9552
- Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) If the Annuitant was receiving DIC payments. Call at 800-827-1000

Arrears of Annuity (AOA) is any pay due the SBP beneficiary (or annuitant) but unpaid at the time of their death. Because annuitants do not keep a designated beneficiary on file, AOA will be distributed in accordance with the federally-mandated Order of Precedence.

Annuitant pay stops on the last day of the month prior to the annuitant's death. Therefore, DFAS automatically recoups all pay deposited after the date of death from the annuitant's checking account. Any remaining amount owed will be calculated and paid after a complete audit of the account.

Once the annuitant's death has been appropriately reported to DFAS, send DFAS the following to apply for any AOA benefits that may be due to you.

SF1174 claim form for each beneficiary. <https://www.gsa.gov/forms/trackform/32798>

The person filing the claim can at the same time and in the same envelope for sending in the Death Certificate to the DFAS Military Annuitant Pay office.

Give this month's "Lessons Learned" to the person that will be taking care of your affairs...



SCHOLARSHIP CORPORATION

Col D Brent Baysinger, USAF (Ret)

We have now passed the halfway mark in our 2023 scholarship application season. The Scholarship Selection Committee is hard at work reviewing applications for completeness in preparation for the awardee selection in June. As a reminder, the MOAACC Scholarship board recently expanded the eligible students and the award is now available for qualified prospective college juniors, seniors, graduate students, and PHD students. With inflation over 8% in the past year, students need more help than ever!

A question we often receive on the Scholarship Corporation is "Who is actually eligible for the Scholarship?" The most frequent type of applicant we see is a child or grandchild of a MOAACC member. However, there are actually three eligible groups of candidates, of which only one requires a MOAACC membership sponsor:

- The descendants and wards of living or deceased MOAACC members;
- The descendants and wards of active duty or retired veterans residing in Brevard County;
- Residents of Brevard County who are the descendants of deceased retired veterans or who are the descendants of uniformed service members who died on active duty

I've highlighted the three groups to show that we do extend the scholarship opportunity to the descendants of the larger veteran community in Brevard County which includes retired enlisted military members as well as non-MOAACC retired officers. (While we hope any MOAACC-eligible officers would consider joining, it is not a requirement.) So we ask that if you come into contact with a worthy student who is the child or grandchild of a retired veteran living in Brevard, please let him or her know about Scholarship Corporation!

More information can be found on the Scholarship website at www.moaacc.org/scholarship.

MOAACC Scholarship Donors:

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Don England

Peter Peterson

Barbara Tim

Thank you



MOAACC On the Go Luncheon

Grills Riverside Seafood Deck & Tiki Bar
6075 N. US Hwy 1, Melbourne, FL. 32940

April 11th, 11:30 a.m.

Please contact Toni Lowe
at 321-474-6888 for reservations.

SPACE COAST NAVY WIVES' CLUB

Please join us for our April Luncheon on **Friday, April 21st** at **THE TIDES** at Patrick Space Force Base. Social hour begins at 11:30am and lunch is served at noon.

Our speaker will be Brevard County Sheriff Wayne Ivey. We are so excited to have Sheriff Ivey, who will speak on topics of interest for all. Remember to bring your friends and family.

Our menu choices will be Spaghetti and Meatballs with garlic bread or a BLT Sandwich with House Fried Chips. Dessert will be Chocolate Cake.

For more information and to make reservations, please call Rebecca Kersey at (207) 607-0006 no later than noon, Tuesday, April 18th.

We look forward to seeing everyone for this exciting presentation.

Ellie Joy

(321) 757-0193

18 April 2023 Annual MOAACC ROTC & JROTC Awards Luncheon



Please join us at Indian River Colony Club, Colony Hall on Tuesday, 18 April, 1130-1300 to honor distinguished FIT and JROTC Cadets who will be awarded Medals from the Military Officers Association of America. Social gathering begins at 1130, with the meeting starting promptly at 1200 and lunch served at 1205. MOAACC will pay tribute to the outstanding military cadets from Brevard County ROTC, JROTC, Sea Cadet Units, Sea Scout Ship and Civil Air Patrol Squadrons. This is an opportunity to meet and congratulate them, their instructors, and their families. If you wish to attend, please RSVP NLT April 12th online at moaacc.org or by contacting Grace Catron at events@moaacc.org or by calling 417-294-0798. Cost for the lunch is \$20 per person. You can [pay online](#) with a Credit Card, pay at the door with cash, check or credit card or mail a check to: MOAACC Attn: Luncheon Coordinator, P.O. Box 254186, Patrick SFB, FL 32925-4186. Prior reservations are required. All are welcome.

APRIL LUNCHEON:

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

1. Meatloaf, mashed potatoes-gravy & vegetables
2. Chef Salad
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 April 2023, online, or by contacting Grace Catron at events@moaacc.org or (417) 294-0798. 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



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MOAACC GOOD DEEDS FOUNDATION

CPT Donn Weaver, USA, Fmr, President GDF

Good Deeds — Momentum Builds

With nine grants totaling \$7900 made to a wide range of causes in February, your Good Deeds Foundation (GDF) is staying busy. Details about the grants and follow up actions will be reported in future Intercoms, as well as this April Issue.

Next month we will launch full details and sponsor and golfer sign up information for our 18 November GDF Military and Veterans Support Golf Tournament at the IRCC Course, but in early 2023 we have been blessed by a number of donations, including the most recent of \$5000 by MOAACC Members Bill and Elizabeth Cook. Thank you!!!

On 08 March MOAACC, including GDF and the Scholarship Corporation officially joined the Veterans Memorial Center and a lifetime Organizational Member which will allow us to participate in more events (Such as a recent March Car Show at Veterans Memorial Park), work with more partners to promote MOAACC goals and perhaps even help recruit some new members.

Indeed, the first quarter of 2023 has been a very good one for GDF and MOAACC.



One of four GDF Missions: Supporting our youth - Here the winning CBHS JROTC Drill Team with all trophies covered by GDF



MOAACC/GDF Partners with the VMC and Back Brevard Heroes which staged this 07 March Car Show to support First Responders and Veterans.



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Support to Dover Detail — A Final Tribute



(L to R) Dean Schaff, Jerry Vaughn, Donne Weaver

For the second year your Good Deeds Foundation provided a \$1000 grant to Dover Detail, a unique 501c3 mission in Brevard County led by Navy Veteran, Jerry Vaughn, through his Down the Road Thrift store in Titusville. Dover Detail was formed to provide families of the veterans, who pass away, an opportunity for a final tribute to be buried in full military uniform and all appropriate awards.

Often times such families lack the finances or expertise so Dover Detail is there. In the past year they have supported dozens of such funerals and received uniform donations from IRCC, the VMC and other thrift stores with the ribbons and medals being the primary cost driver. As Vaughn noted when receiving his FY 2023 donation from GDF, our funds plus help from others will likely enable him to always say yes to such requests.

MOPH Chapter 453 Gets Extra Funds from GDF to Support Homeless and at-Risk Veterans and their families



Donne Weaver (center), Pat Keane (R)

At a February meeting of the Chapter 453 Brevard Military Order of Purple Heart (MOPH), the Brevard Good Deeds foundation provided \$1500 for their unique program to provide support to the veterans and their families living in transitional housing and in financial crisis, especially during these challenging economic times. In the past two months they had given holiday meals, gift cards, and more to about 30 people on average including 10 children who live at the transitional veterans housing facility.

MOPH also plans monthly support for the residents and a big back to school program in August for the kids. A number of MOAACC members also are members of MOPH 453. Including Pat Keane, who is the Treasurer of MOPH 453 and office holder for 20 years.

SLD 45 Annual Awards Ceremony Gets GDF Boost

On 02 February for than 400 Space Force, Air Force and DoD Civilians attended the SLD 45 Annual Awards Ceremony held at a large hangar on Patrick SFB. MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation sponsored the event with a \$500 Donation as many were recognized for exceptional performance during 2022, a very busy year for PSFB and America's Space Program. GDF set up a table at the event and also handed out materials about MOAACC and The Veterans Memorial Center on Merritt Island. MOAACC's new Space Force Liaison Officer Col Susan Dabrowski, USAF, Ret represented MOAACC along with GDF President Donn Weaver. Great photos were taken at the uplifting event by Intercom Chief Editor, Amir Pishdad, Sr.

Supporting active duty military units is one of four GDF pillars and missions.

GDF Comes through for a Veteran and her family

Sometimes veterans and their families during financially hard times cannot reach out to the VA, NVHS, Churches, etc for help since such organizations have strict rules and limits that must be followed. In Late February GDF provided \$1000 to an 8 year veteran of the USCG and her family which included two children and her veteran father in desperate medical straits. She lived in NW Florida and did not have the funds to relocate so she could support her invalid dad and aging mother in Brevard as she looked for a new job and reasonable place to rent.

At the same time , paying over half of all household moving costs, GDF was able to connect her to VA reps looking to hire veterans due two recent laws changes and she is very suited and on a good track to possible long term federal employment. She settled into her new home in early March and all in her family are appreciative as well as optimistic.

MOAACC Photo by Pish Pishdad



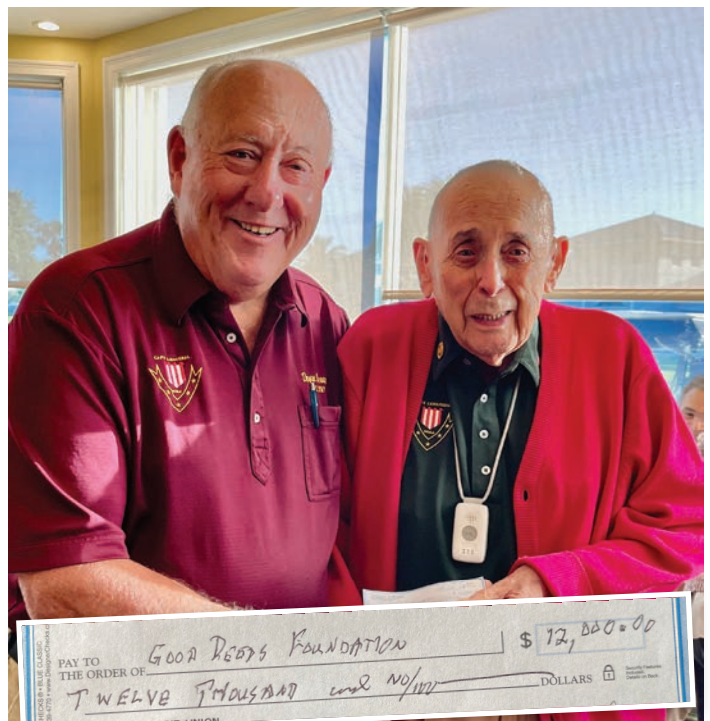
March Luncheon speaker D. Keith Winsten, Executive Director of Brevard Zoo, greets two MOAACC members Gloria Makowski (left) and Roslyn Bates (right). The ladies were volunteers at the Brevard Zoo in 1992. Gloria proudly displayed a vintage Brevard Zoo t-shirt.

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW KEITH'S PRESENTATION](#)

MOAACC Photo by Pish Pishdad



MOAACC First Vice-President Rick Knisley presents Chapter Appreciation Plaque to D. Keith Winsten, Executive Director of Brevard Zoo.



CPT Donn Weaver, USA (Fmr), President GDF, accepts a very generous \$12,000 donation from MOAACC life member Maj. George B Bowdern, USA (Ret), for the Good Deeds Foundation

MOAACC Photo by Pish Pishdad



MOAACC member Michael Tucker (left) presents aWW2 German Dagger to MOAACC President (Center) Brian Whalen, who in turn, presents it to Dean Schaaf (Right), curator of The Veterans Memorial Center in Merritt Island, Florida for display and safe keeping.

Tucker's grandmother came to possession of the dagger from her late husband. The dagger has German inscription which reads, "My Honor Is Loyalty" according to history was from the Waffen SS Oath.

MOAACC Photo by Pish Pishdad



Our first MOAACC speaker for the 2023 Current Affairs Forum was Mr. Ayad Saad, a Financial Advisor and Senior Vice President with Morgan Stanley. Mr. Saad, an investment professional with decades of experience, presented an outlook on investment implications and strategies for this year, at our TMBC on March 2nd.

Mr. Saad was presented with a MOAACC appreciation plaque by MOAACC president LtCol Brian Whalen, USAF(Ret) Right, at left, is Current affair chair CDR Don Reott USN (Ret).

MOAACC GDF Cruise



22 members were onboard the Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines from Port Canaveral. They visited St. Kitts, St. Thomas and Cocoa Cay. The Cruise raised \$700 in donations for the Good Deeds Foundation.

SHAPE Officers' Association visit the Space Coast

By COL Steve Bond, USA-Ret.

The U.S. Chapter of the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) Officers' Association (SOA) visited the Space Coast from March 9th to 12th and MOAACC was on hand to welcome them. SOA has previously held their winter meetings in Tampa but decided for a change this year. MOAACC and SOA member, LTC Skip Taylor (USA-Ret), organized the visit that included meetings and social activities at the Indian River Colony Club (IRCC), and area attraction visits. Distinguished visitors included Gen John Shaud (USAF-Ret), SOA President and SHAPE Chief of Staff from 1987-90; U.S. Chapter President Col Gene Gay (USAF-Ret); and LT GEN Robert Chelberg (USA-Ret) a Floridian and currently the President of Wounded Veterans Relief Fund.



MOAACC Speakers are thanked at SOA Visit. (L-R) Gen Shaud (President of SOA), Maj Gen Ed Wilson-Keynote Speaker, Dr. Jane Hodges, Col Gene Gay (President US Chapter of SOA), and Col. Susie Dabrowski.

The theme of the gathering was Space and who better than our Speakers Bureau to provide presentations to the group! The keynote speaker was Maj Gen Ed Wilson (USAF-Ret), former commander of the 45th Space Wing and the Eastern Range, and civilian Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Cyber Policy, providing an update on the Space Program. Dr. Jane Hodges (MOAACC-SSM), former public affairs representative at the Kennedy Space



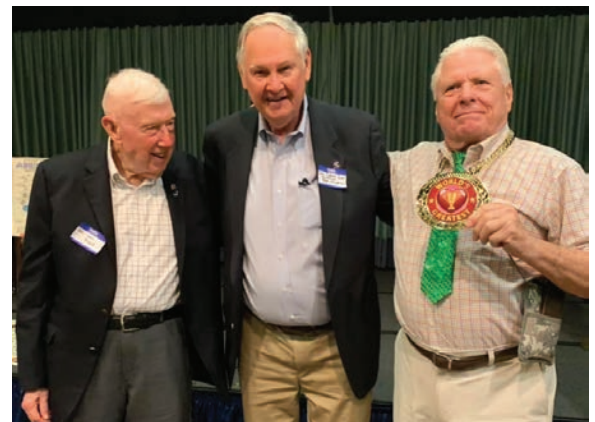
The group held a St. Patrick's Day themed dinner on Saturday at IRCC with entertainment by the IRCC Colleens and Uke Group on Saturday, March 11th.

Center spoke on the Shuttle and Artemis Programs. Col. Susie Dabrowski (USAF-Ret), MOAACC Liaison to the 45th Space Launch Delta provided an update on the Space Force. The group also heard an insightful update on the Ukraine situation by a SOA member currently serving as an advisor in Eastern Europe. SOA also remembered MOAACC member, Mary Beth Taylor, who passed away last year.

If you want to find out more about SOA , contact us at admin@MOAACC.org.



MOAACC President Brian Whalan and Wife Liz enjoy dinner with Beverly and Gen Shaud at IRCC on March 11th.



Gen Shaud (L) and Col Gay (C) thank MOAACC and SOA member, Skip Taylor (R) for his efforts as organizer of the visit.



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The First Indochina War

By Bill Muckler, Captain USMC

The Vietnam War traces its roots to the end of World War II. Indochina, a French colony comprised of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia, was occupied by the Japanese Army during World War II. The Vietnamese nationalist movement, the Viet Minh, was formed by Ho Chi Minh in 1941 to resist the Japanese occupiers. Ho Chi Minh, a communist, waged guerilla warfare against the Japanese with support from the United States.

Ho Chi Minh proclaimed the independent Democratic Republic of Vietnam on September 2, 1945, hours after the Japanese signed their unconditional surrender in World War II. He hoped to prevent the French from reclaiming their former colonial possession.

However, in 1946, he reluctantly accepted a French proposal allowing Vietnam to exist as an autonomous state within the French Union. Fighting broke out when the French tried to reestablish colonial rule by shelling the city of Haiphong in December, 1946.

The French forcibly reentered the capital of Hanoi. These actions in 1946 caused the conflict between the French and the Viet Minh, which became known as the First Indochina War, which lasted until 1954. The Vietnamese referred to it as the Anti-French War.

The Viet Minh fought an increasingly effective guerrilla war against France in 1949. They were aided with both military and economic assistance from the newly formed Communist China. The United States, deeply concerned by the spread of Communism, supplied the French military in Vietnam with advisors and funded its efforts against the communist Viet Minh.

The First Indochina War went disappointingly for the French. Rene Mayer, who served briefly as French Prime Minister in 1953, dispatched General Henri Navarre to take command of the French military in Vietnam in May, 1953.

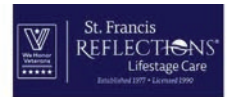
Navarre found a long-term plan did not exist to defeat the Viet Minh when he arrived in Hanoi. The French forces simply reacted to the moves of the Viet Minh. He believed he was tasked to defend neighboring Laos as well.

Navarre sought an effective method for interdicting Viet Minh supply lines through the region. Working with Colonel Louis Bertel, the "hedgehog" concept was developed. This called for French troops to establish fortified camps near Viet Minh supply routes.



Inspection of French troops in Vietnam.

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MOAACC Members Among Those Feted at 2023 Patriot Awards Dinner



Dinner Scene



Dinner Scene featuring Viera HS Army JROTC Color Guard

On 23 February, a number of MOAACC members attended the 2023 Honor America, Inc, Patriot Awards Dinner. The event was also a fund raiser for Liberty Bell Museum in Melbourne, one of the 21 Museums of Brevard Members, including VMC Military Museum. Two MOAACC members received Awards, along with a key Good Deeds Foundation partner: National Veterans Homeless Support.

The Winners:

Cozette Merritt - Founder Cape Canaveral Ladies (MOAACC SSM)

Don Pearsall - Founder and CEO Veterans Connections

Dorothy Walsh - Veterans Victim Advocate (VMC Board Member)

George Rosenfield - WWII and Korean War Vet active with MOAACC

George Taylor, Jr. — NVHS GDF Partner. Accepting was his wife Jennifer Taylor

The event was held with over 220 attending at the Grand Manor in Melbourne and was a great success. Congrats to the winners and here's hoping Liberty Bell Museum will be able to open more days and continue to be a good partner with the Museums of Brevard. VMC Museum.



MOAACC Legend and WWII/Korean War Vet regales the crowd at age 97



Jennifer Taylor accepts the NVHS Award — MOAA National and GDF provided NVHS \$13,000 last year for their amazing Missions.



Cozette Merritt thanks the audience and her team of over 50 Cape Canaveral Ladies



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TAPS**MOAA CAPE CANAVERAL CHAPTER
MEMBER, AUXILIARY, and SPOUSE DEATHS****Reported Feb 1, 2023 thru Feb 28, 2023**

(Names are listed by chronological date of death)

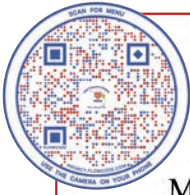
**Gertrude E. Walsh, Spouse,
Eugene R. Walsh, LTC, USA Ret.
01 February 2023**

**Beverly Rawson-Dibble, SSM
01 February 2023**

**Helen M. Ball, SSM
14 February 2023**

**Elizabeth Mary Taylor, Spouse,
Anthony D. Taylor, LTC, USA Ret.
16 February 2023**

**Richard Steuart, LTC, USA Ret.
20 February 2023**



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50-59	\$400	90-99	\$75
60-69	\$330	100+	No cost
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Life membership payable over three consecutive months. Make checks payable to MOAACC or pay online at MOAACC.org. Dues and Fees include subscription to **THE INTERCOM** News Magazine and Five Things e- Newsletter.



MOAA Florida Council of Chapters (FCoC)
46th Annual Convention, May 19th-21st
At the Renaissance Hotel & Convention Center
World Golf Village in St. Augustine, FL



Registration Closes April 27th!

Come join us at the gathering of Florida MOAA Members in Florida's Oldest City, St. Augustine, from Friday, May 19th through Sunday, May 21st. There are low hotel rates available for MOAA members before, during, and after the Convention. The Convention promises to be a fun and memorable event at the Renaissance Hotel and Convention Center at the World Golf Village, just off I-95 in St. Augustine. There is a Golf Tournament on Friday on one of the world-class courses and tours of the Old City. On Saturday there is a bourbon tasting event and a Military Ball! MOAA President and CEO, Lt. Gen. B.K. Kelly is the guest speaker. There will also be a memorial service for MOAA members in Florida that we lost in 2022, Surviving Spouse and Legislative Affairs updates by MOAA representatives. We are hearing there will be Pirates too with lots of other things to see and do!

Reservations are now open and can be made on the MOAA Florida Council website at www.MOAAFL.org/Convention.aspx?ConvYear=2023

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irina.parker
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Ayad B. Saad
Senior Vice President
Financial Advisor
P: 321-751-2007
ayad.saad@morganstanley.com
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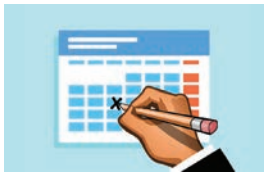
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Unofficial Brevard VMC Vets Calendar

April 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/>

April Events

01 Apr — American Legion AUX 344 annual Easter Egg Hunt at Veterans Memorial Park 1300-1500

01 Apr — Military Family Appreciation Dinner to Celebrate the Month of the Military Child and Fun Fest sponsored by AVET at Cocoa Beach Country Club 1700-2000. email: info@avet-project.org

14 Apr — ShrimpFest at Port Canaveral by Propeller Club Great food, raffles, auction, prizes, sponsors, etc., Fundraiser. Details in early April.

16 Apr — Tough Ruck Boston 26.2 For The Fallen. Steve Celeste a Brevard County GWOT veteran will be among 1000 doing a Tough Ruck March during the Boston Marathon to raise money for the children and families of the fallen. Donation and information through: <https://runsignup.com/steveceleste>.

21 Apr — Greggie and the Jets Elton John Tribute Rockin the Sunset Concert for a Cause: We Honor Veterans of St. Francis Reflections 1900-2100 Space Coast Main Stadium in Viera. Tickets through: ReflectionsLSC.org/Eltonjohn. Or Text "EltonJohn" to 41444.

29 Apr — Brevard Parkinson's Alliance 5K to raise funds to beat Parkinson's. 0700-1200 Veterans Memorial Park, Center and Plaza. 0800 5 K Run with Running Zone and 1000 1K Walk/Stroll for those with Parkinson's. Register on line at secure.runningzone.com.

29 Apr — 2nd Annual NVHS Charity Golf Tournament. Details in late March. Call NVHS on 321-208-7562 for more info.

May Events

01-07 May — Florida's 35th Annual Vietnam and All Veterans Reunion at Wickham Park, Melbourne. Traveling Wall, both, food and drinks, entertainment,

displays, and more. Contact VVB Quartermaster Faye Nelson for more information. Schedule, Sunday 01 May — Escort and Assemble Wall; 02 May 1500-1700 Wreath Laying and Ceremony first come first served. Register via email at vzbquartermaster@gmail.com. after 11 April; Reunion 04-08 May all day.

07 May — Back Brevard Heroes Festival to honor First Responders and Veterans, VMC Plaza, Gray Hall and Park 0930- 1400.

20 May — Space Coast Military and Family Appreciation Day and BBQ — On Armed Forces Day 2023, From 1500-1900 at the VMC and Park. Featuring CW Award winning singer Rocky Lynne!!!! "Heroes Come from Small Towns" and "Proud to Be a Soldier: Active duty unit displays, music, food, kids games, many special activities to honor our active duty forces and their families who eat free. Co-sponsored by CBRCC/ MAC, VMC, MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation and Military Recruiters.

26 May— Ride For Freedom and Torch Walk for the Fallen (1700-2000) VMC Plaza and Center with Rolling Thunder FL-1 as first events of Florida Wide Ride for Freedom.

27 May— Space Coast Harley Davidson Ride for Freedom Festival (1000-1700). Details in March., Sponsored by RTFL-1.

28 May — Ride for Freedom Kicks Off VMC 0900 -1200 via plaza, mall and Gray Hall Ceremony

29 May — Memorial Day Remembrance VMC 0930-1030

29 May— Memorial Day Ceremony at the Cape Canaveral National Cemetery in Scottsmoor/Mims 0900-1000

June Events

03 Jun — Annual Courageous Division NSCC Sea

Cadet Awards Ceremony, VMC Gray Hall and Library
0800- 1500

24 Jun — Military Appreciation Night at Space Coast Stadium in Viera during USSSA Pride Professional Women's Fast Pitch Softball Game. Honoring Active Duty and Veterans. Details in early May.

July Events

04 Jul — Annual BCSO/VMC Independence Day Parade - Details in May. AVET BBQ for Vets planned after the Parade at VMC.

August Events

06 Aug — Purple Heart Remembrance Day by MOPH Brevard at the VMC Gray Hall and Plaza 1400-1600. Details in June.

September Events

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

October Events

06 Oct — Eight Annual NVHS Rescuing Veterans Lost in America Dinner and Fundraiser. Details in June. Call NVHS 321-208-7562 for more info.

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

November Events

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 on Route 520 — 1030—1230

12 Nov — Sixth Annual NVHS Homestretch 5K for Homeless Veterans. Details in August. Call NVHS 321-208-7562 for more info.

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

Donn Weaver, BVC Chairman 757-871-6576



GDF continued

GDF Helps Wrap of the JROTC Drill Meet Season in a Big Way

Following through on a pledge made early this school year, the Good Deeds Foundation provided funds for every trophy at 8 meets from September to March for the 15 JROTC High Schools competing in Raider Challenges, Air Rifle and Drill meets. That total passed \$3400 and included a new, GDF perpetual trophy to recognize the annual winner of Drill competition named after MOAACC member Lloyd Stafford, a Texas AM graduate who provided his Aggie Sabre as part of the trophy. GDF member Doug Bisset created the new trophy which was presented, along with dozens of others, at the final Drill Meet for JROTC of the 2022-23 School Year. The meet was held at Veterans Memorial Park and supported also by the VMC.

Cocoa Beach JrSr Army JROTC Drill Team won that trophy for 2023. They and most of the six other JROTC programs (Cocoa, Rockledge, Heritage, Viera, Astronaut and Merritt Island) placed seven separate teams that won first place in categories ranging from Color Guard to Platoon Armed Drill to individual demonstration. Those seven are headed for State Competition in late March. Congratulations to all the 120 JROTC cadets who competed when most of their HS classmates were at home in bed on a beautiful Saturday Morning.

Of special note was the Drill Team from Cocoa Army JROTC. Three nights before the meet, one of their own, Cadet Kiara Terwilliger was killed at her home in Cocoa. The team decided to compete for her and did quite well. A moment of Silence was held in memory of Ms. Terwilliger as the Cocoa Team and supporters released balloons into the air.



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*Mrs. Susan Schaaf, wife of LCDR Dean Schaaf,
during the MOAACC cruise*



Jane Hodges and friend celebrating St Patrick's Day



MOAACC Intercom Associate Editor, CAPT Rita Shapiro, USPHS Ret, enjoyed her vacation traveling in Switzerland and Italy.



*I love this Robo Dog ... Never eats, Never POOPs
-Amir M. Pishdad, Sr.*



MOAACC Member and WWII Veteran Peter Diaz talks to COL Steve Bond (USA-Ret) at the Blake at Viera on March 8th. Steve was there speaking to a group of Veterans about recent legislation impacting veterans. Peter moved to the Blake in December and attended the meeting. He asked Steve to tell all the MOAACC members hello and he is doing well!