



The INTERCOM

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
Cape Canaveral Chapter, Inc.



REMEMBERING



Arlington, U.S. Army Photo by Elizabeth Fraser

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MAY EVENTS (Click Event for Details)

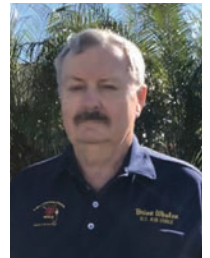
- 5/4 Florida's 35th Annual All Veterans Reunion
@ Wickham Park, Melbourne, FL
- 5/4 Current Affairs Forum/TMBC (In-person &
via Zoom) - 8 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 5/9 On-The-Go Luncheon - 11:30 AM
@ Charlie & Jakes Barbecue (Beachside)
- 5/11 TMBC (In-person & via Zoom) - 8 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 5/16 MOAACC Board of Directors Meeting - 9:30 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - Chapel
- 5/16 MOAACC Luncheon to Honor Students with
Service Academy Appointments or ROTC
Scholarships - 11:30 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - Colony Hall
- 5/18 TMBC (In-person & via Zoom) - 8 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 5/19-21 MOAA Florida Council of Chapters Convention
@ Renaissance Hotel World Golf Village, St.
Augustine, FL
- 5/20 Armed Forces Day Event - 3 PM
@ Veterans Memorial Center, Merritt Island, FL
- 5/25 TMBC (In-person & via Zoom) - 8 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 5/29 Memorial Day Ceremony - 9:30 AM
@ Veterans Memorial Center, Merritt Island, FL

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

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at <https://moaacc.org>

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



Brian Whalen, LtCol, USAF (Ret)

We've been recognizing JROTC Cadets at their school awards ceremonies in April and May, and of course at our April Awards Luncheon. This month we will recognize high school students receiving academy appointments and ROTC scholarships. I need to thank Dan McIntyre for his tireless efforts in getting this information for the April and May luncheons and coordinating the medal presentations at the schools. We have seen, and will see, some of the finest young people in our county and it has been great!

Participating in local events is a great way to build camaraderie and get to know more about other chapter members. We will have several opportunities to enjoy focused camaraderie in May. You get to learn a lot about a person when you're sitting under a canopy and talking for a couple of hours.

Florida's 35th Annual Vietnam and All Veterans Reunion will be at Wickham Park the first week in May. We will be laying the MOAACC wreath in front of the Wall on May 1, wreath laying begins at 1800. Our canopy will be up from 4-6 May, and we need people to man the canopy and talk to prospective members. I encourage people to come out and enjoy this event. Remember every member is a recruiter, so carry your membership forms with you.

On May 20, at Armed Forces Day, we will be participating in the Space Coast Military and Family Appreciation Day and BBQ at the Veterans Memorial Center (VMC). Our canopy will be up and we will be recruiting new members. The Florida Council of Chapters Convention is also this weekend, so we will be spread thin and really need volunteers to help out at the VMC.

We end this month on a solemn and respectful note with Memorial Day. There will be many events in the local community to honor our fallen. Assisted living facilities and other groups will be looking for speakers. We will have a MOAACC contingent at the VMC's Memorial Day Remembrance. More information will be available as the month progresses and I encourage everyone to participate in these events and to wear your MOAACC shirt and be visible in the community.

In closing I want to wish all the Moms a Happy Mother's Day.

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



EXECUTIVE EDITOR & PAO

Amir M. Pishdad, CW3, USA (Ret)



MEMBERS ONLY CORNER

The new page, **MEMBERS ONLY CORNER (MOC)** was established in the electronic section of April INTERCOM. So far, there is excitement for those that have seen it. We need more photos to make this page more popular and interesting. If you would like to submit a photo for the MOC page, please send the full-size photo to: intercom@moaacc.org. Please also be sure to provide names and a short caption for your photo.

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LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

John R. McMahon, BG, USA (Retired)

Back in Session

Things have been slow in the halls of Congress as it has been on recess since the end of March; it launched back into session beginning Monday, 17 April, following the Easter/Passover break. As it reconvened, the agenda is packed full of hearings in both chambers on the President's Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Budget proposal and other pressing matters. Meanwhile, the looming debt crisis continues to hover over Washington and the Nation's economic outlook. There was some recent good news on the rate of inflation abating down to about 5.0% but the Fed will probably continue to inch rates upward in order to get it closer to its annual rate target of about 2%. The epic battle has begun between the Administration and within the split Congress on WHAT to negotiate on the enormous spending side of the budget and to "frame the narrative" in politically advantageous terms. There seems to be agreement on at least one thing—the Debt Ceiling will be raised. But it needs to be done in a timely manner to avoid any hint of default which would necessarily "nuke" the hobbling economy—and this points to the need to negotiate NOW! There is also a growing sense that the economy will slip into recession sooner or later this year which will only be exacerbated by the prospect of default. So, as much as I hate to sound like a broken record, the time is now to get this debt ceiling crisis behind us.

A recent Congressional Budget Office (CBO) report on the first 6 months of FY2023 presents an ugly picture with the deficit already hitting \$1.1 Trillion, some \$430 Billion more than this time last year. The culprit is a combination of new spending emanating from the Democrats' four big spending bills since the end of the Trump administration and the first two years of the Biden administration. That HUGE 6-month deficit included \$308 Billion in interest payments on the debt and increases in spending for Social Security (up 10% or \$61 Billion), Medicare (up 14% or \$49 Billion) and Medicaid (up 8% or \$22 Billion). The rate of inflation is eating our lunch as are relaxed eligibility rules for Medicaid. Revenues were down by 3% in the same period.

This revenue situation will be addressed over the next ten years as the IRS announced its plans for its \$80 Billion infusion focused on improving customer service and cracking down on wealthy tax evaders. This overhaul is part of President Biden's agenda to reduce the Nation's \$7 Trillion of uncollected tax revenue and make tax collection "fairer". The 80,000-employee IRS is 20% smaller than it was in 2010 and its new Commissioner, Daniel Werfel, intends to hire new staff (accountants, attorneys and data scientists) to pursue high-income and high-wealth

individuals, complex partnerships and large corporations that are not paying the taxes they owe. Werfel has pledged not to increase the historic audit rate on households or small businesses making less than \$400K.

Finally, the recent Banking crisis involving "smaller, regional banks", seems to have at its core a problem with declining values of their loan portfolios and/or declining values of their equity portfolios, both of which are driven by rising interest rates. When people sense that their bank has assumed too much risk and is accumulating too much imbalance in their portfolios, a "bank run" can ensue causing bank liquidity challenges that must be addressed immediately; or else. Or else happened recently at no fewer than two large regional banks and the FDIC had to step in to take over the banks. Insured and uninsured deposits were backed up by the government in an unprecedented way that calls into question what exactly is insured. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen promised "the intervention necessary to protect the broader US banking system and similar actions could be warranted if smaller banks suffer deposit runs that pose the risk of contagion". Fed Chairman Jerome Powell assured the Nation that the banking system was "sound and resilient". Given the state of the teetering economy, such problems are unfortunate and must be managed closely if not aggressively as was done in these cases. Stay tuned.

Retire your way

Start with a plan

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



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FINANCIAL LITERACY

Captain Bob Houle, USCG (retired)

Situational Awareness Nudges and Sludges - Part 1

Situational awareness was a lifesaving habit in our military career. Being aware of our surroundings and the potential threats helped us choose a course of action, often under stress, that led to mission success and protected our team.

Situational awareness is also a critical financial literacy skill. When faced with financial choices it is often difficult to know what is truly in our best interest. This is where the behavioral concept of “nudging” comes in. A nudge is a small change in the way information is presented to us that is intended to influence our behavior in a favorable way.

For example, a financial advisor might use a nudge to encourage us to save more money by offering an investment plan with automatic enrollment and a small initial contribution. This makes it easier for us to save money without requiring a lot of effort or decision-making.

Nudges can be a powerful tool for promoting positive behaviors, such as saving money or making healthier choices. However, they can also be used to manipulate behavior in a negative way, such as getting us to sign up for a financial product that do not meet our needs.

It is important to be aware of these tactics when evaluating financial products. Here are some tips for navigating nudges in financial products:

- **Research.** Understand the terms and potential risks. Seek unbiased sources of information, such as consumer protection websites.
- **Consider alternatives.** Don't assume the first option offered is the best. Compare features and fees to find the one that best meets our needs.
- **Watch for hidden fees.** Make sure we understand the total cost before signing up.
- **Never unsubscribe if you didn't first subscribe.** You're being tricked into letting them know you exist.
- **Be alert for nudges.** Know when we are being manipulated so we can know that the nudge is well intended and for our benefit.

Stay tuned for Part 2 of this article, where we will explore the more nefarious side of behavioral product and service design, known as “sludge.”

Lead by your example to help others become financially secure and independent. ***Never Stop Serving!***



POINTS TO PONDER

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

Comfort Zone

What is your comfort zone? And what might God want you to do about it?

In ancient Israel, General Joshua had a leadership challenge on his hands when seven of the twelve tribes were hanging out in their comfort zone. As a result, they were failing to go forth and fight for their portion of the land of Canaan.

“Then Joshua said to the children of Israel, ‘How long will you neglect to go and possess the land which the Lord God of your fathers has given you?’” (Joshua 18:3)

The Israelite comfort zone was Shiloh, which had a lot to offer: The Tabernacle of worship; the manifest presence of God; access to the national leader team; a zone already cleared of Canaanites. In short, it was the known and familiar.

Today, Shiloh is at the heart of the most disputed territory on the planet: The so-called West Bank. It is actually biblical Samaria, and is where Abraham, Isaac and Jacob worked out God's covenant concerning this very land. This also is where Jesus met the woman at the well. But in between, Joshua needed the seven tribes to get out of their comfort zone. For it was God's intent to have His people possessing all of His land for His redemptive purpose for all of the earth.

With this in mind, ask yourself: What is my comfort zone? What is it to which I am over-attached? By remaining there, what other part of life and calling am I failing to possess? If I step out of my comfort zone, can I trust God to bring me into the new place and new relationships that He wants for me?

I try to remember that this is not all about me and my comfort, but about God and how He wants me to fulfill His purpose for being on the earth. So, step out of the comfort zone into the fullness!



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Visit our MOAACC Chapter website: www.moaacc.org

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SURVIVOR ASSISTANCE LESSONS LEARNED

Lt Col Chuck Shaw, USAF, (Ret)

October 2021 marked the 20th anniversary of TRICARE For Life (TFL). However, TFL has been under threat for years. Federal courts have held there is no legal basis for the claim to free health care for life for retirees and their dependents. However, an appellate court acknowledged the validity of retirees' claims and urged Congress to fulfill its moral obligation to the retirees. After a long battle, TFL was established in the FY 2001 NDAA to provide wraparound coverage to pay unpaid Medicare costs. Recently there have been calls for a TFL enrollment fee and other beneficiary costs that increases the costs for Medicare-eligible retirees who currently rely on TFL.

According to the MOAA magazine, it was announced by Express Scripts in 2022 that nearly 15,000 pharmacies would be dropped from the TRICARE network because of contract renegotiating. These servicemembers, retirees, and families were being forced away from their neighborhood pharmacies. This "disproportionately impacts rural families, the elderly, those disabled, and those with chronic medical conditions".

A Surviving Spouse has enough challenges to face as things are, but having medical costs go up (for instance an expensive annual enrollment in TFL) and potentially having a hard time to find and access a trustworthy pharmacy does not help, especially if it's a long drive trying to care for someone with an acute illness.

Consider these things when you make your preparations for your family to face the inevitable!

For more information use this link:

<https://www.moaa.org/content/publications-and-media/news-articles/2021-news-articles/65-and-beyond-understanding-medicare-and-tricare-for-life/>

Look for information on the two proposals:

1. TFL Enrollment Fee \$575 individuals, \$1,150 family/yr
2. TFL Cost Sharing now up to \$4,675/yr

CBO= Congressional Budget Office



MOAACC GOOD DEEDS FOUNDATION

CPT Donn Weaver, USA, Fmr, President GDF

MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation Shifts to Higher Gear

As you follow the Good Deeds Foundation (GDF) grants and contributions in the Intercom every month we would like to ask two things of our great MOAACC members.

- A. Please consider any size contribution year-round to the GDF missions using the website or sending along a check to us at the address under GDF Board listing.
- B. Our only major fundraiser is the 18 November Military and Veteran Support Golf Tournament. Please help us focus on getting sponsors by raising it with your favorite businesses or professional contacts and provide Larry Jackson or Mike Gautreaux (see Leadership pages) and we will take it from there. Signups to play start in June and we can always use help at the event.

Our April meeting grants were amazing in range if not amount. The stories will unfold in future Intercoms but expect you will be pleased to know two examples:

1. Purchase 11 Memorial Bricks (\$1500) for the VMC Plaza for Purple Heart recipients from conflicts since Vietnam to be unveiled at the 06 August MOPH ceremony.
2. Fund funeral expenses for a USAF vet with no family and limited estate in probate (\$900). Link the vet cremains into a new county wide program with several other vet organizations called "Space Coast No Veteran Left Behind Committee" for honors burial later this year at the VA Cape Canaveral National Cemetery.



See details for the GDF Golf Tournament at:
<https://secure.moaacc.org/np/clients/moaacc/event.jsp?forwardedFromSecureDomain=1&event=19547>



MOAACC On-the-Go Luncheon

May 9th, 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Charlie & Jake's Barbecue
490 E Eau Gallie Blvd
Indian Harbour Beach, FL 32937

SPACE COAST NAVY WIVES' CLUB

Please join us for our final luncheon of the season on Friday, May 19, 2023. We will be at THE TIDES at Patrick Space Force Base on A1A. Social hour begins at 11:30am and lunch will be served at noon. Our menu choices are Chef Salad with ham, turkey, cheeses, and tomatoes. The second choice is BBQ Pulled Chicken with Home Fries and Apple Slaw. The dessert will be Key Lime Pie.

We will install our new board followed by BINGO. This is always a fun day and we hope to see you there.

For more information and reservations, please call or text Rebecca Kersey at (207) 607-0006.

You may email her at oceanspruce@protonmail.com. Reservations must be made no later than noon, Tuesday, May 16th.

Remember: friends, spouses, and family are always welcome.

Ellie Joy (321) 757-0193

MAY MOAACC LUNCHEON

MOAACC Luncheon to Honor Students with Service Academy Appointments or ROTC Scholarships

Dan McIntyre, CWO4, USCG (ret)

Join us on Tuesday, May 16th at the regular monthly luncheon when the chapter celebrates and honors the Brevard County students that have received an appointment to a military academy or an ROTC Scholarship to a college or university. These students have undergone a rigorous selection process and represent the top performing students in the local area. During the program, each student will receive a personalized letter of congratulations from the MOAACC President, Brian Whalen and a MOAACC challenge coin in recognition of their achievement.

Chapter members are strongly encouraged to attend the luncheon and celebrate with these future officers/military leaders.

The luncheon will be held at Indian River Colony Club, 1936 Freedom Drive, Viera, FL. [Make your reservations by going to the MOAACC website](#), or mailing in the reservation form included in this publication, or by calling Grace Catron at 417-294-0798 or [emailing events@moaacc.org](mailto:events@moaacc.org) NLT Tuesday, May 10th 2023.

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

1. Salisbury Steak with Mushroom Gravy, mashed potatoes & vegetables
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 10 May 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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VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER UPDATE

Dean Schaaf and Donn Weaver

Memorial Day Events and More

ARMED FORCES DAY CELEBRATION

THIS FAMILY-FRIENDLY EVENT HONORS SERVICE MEMBERS ACROSS THE SIX BRANCHES OF MILITARY.

BREVARD VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER
400 S SYKES CREEK PKWY, MERRITT ISLAND

MAY 20, 2023

GATES OPEN 3:00 PM
CEREMONY 4:00 PM
MUSIC 5:30 PM

Special activities include:

Static Displays Vendors
Kid's Zone Food Trucks

Live musical performance by Rockie Lynne,
Veteran and Country Music Artist

GENERAL ADMISSION \$5
FREE TO MILITARY COMMUNITY

As you will see from the UNOFFICIAL VMC Brevard Veterans Calendar the month of May, capped off by Memorial Day weekend, is very busy with many veteran related events at the VMC.

Please check out the Posters on some of these events at the VMC and Veterans Memorial Park (VMP) on Merritt Island. The MOAACC will have a table at the 20 May Armed Forces Day Celebration at the VMP, and we look forward to great attendance. The MOAACC will also be represented during the 4-7 May Vietnam Moving Wall Tribute at Wickham Park.

MOAACC, along with its 501 c3 groups, Scholarship Corporation and Good Deeds Foundation, became a lifetime organizational member of the VMC. There are also 25 current MOAACC members who are lifetime members of the VMC.

Check out the VMC this month to see the results of some major improvements thanks to a grant from the BCSO foundation of \$62K last year. Please contact Dean Schaaf or Donn Weaver for more information about the VMC and VMP or to arrange a personalized tour. It is truly a veterans' gem within the state of Florida.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Submitted by Doug Bisset 1st LT USA (Former)



I could not help being inspired by a short article (Pg. 6) in the April 2023 MILITARY OFFICERS Magazine and feel it worthy to repeat in the MOAACC and VMC Newsletters:

WORDS THAT UNIFY US - By Janet Apolonia Flatley

"In the February MILITARY OFFICER, The Member Spotlight is on Lt. Col Enoch Woodhouse, a Tuskegee Airman. I was struck by what he was quoted as saying. While Woodhouse is often asked to share his story for Black History Month, he seeks to desegregate the record books. "It is not Black History. It is not White History... It is American History."

"When I became a US citizen at 16, (she writes), I pledged allegiance to "one nation indivisible". When my late husband served in the Marine Corps, he took an oath to support and defend the Constitution. It pains me to see deliberate divisions sowed among Americans. Separating us by categories does very little to unify us."

"I thank Lt. Col. Woodhouse; his words deserve to be emblazoned on a billboard and in all our military bases- indeed, all over the nation."

I could not have said it better!

★ ★ EVERY DAY IS VETERANS DAY! ★ ★



Every day is Veterans Day at One Senior Place and its trusted affiliate, Senior Partner Care Services. On site, you'll find a full-time VITAS veterans liaison, a large selection of veterans benefits & resources and your personal invitation to our annual salute to veterans event!

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A Symbol of Remembrance through Art for Memorial Day

One of twenty-one paintings to be exhibited soon in the Florida State Capitol, is the above the painting, "Terra Nova," an original oil painting (24x36) by artist, Jeanne Harris Weaver, in Honor of her son, Army 1LT Todd William Weaver, which depicts the Boot Memorial service held at Kandahar, Afghanistan near where 1LT Todd Weaver was killed in action on September 09, 2010. Jeanne is a spouse member of MOAACC and her husband is CPT. Donn Weaver, USA (Ret), past President of MOAACC and Good Deeds foundation.

A depiction of the painting was used to create a bronze monument, "The Monument To The Fallen," which stands on the Memorial Path at Cape Canaveral National Cemetery in Mims, FL. The monument was dedicated on 9/11/2021.

(...continued on page 12)

Sailors of the Quarter

Sailor of Quarter Winner of MOAA award
MK2 Dustin E. Benecke, USCG from USCGC
VIGILANT



OS3 Devon I Brooks, USCG from USCGC VIGILANT
Presenting the award were Left, RADM Wayne Justice
and right, CWO, Dan McIntyre



NOTU Sailor of the Quarter
Left - MT1 (SS) Joel L McDoanld - Senior SOQ
Right - ETV2 (SS) John T McMillen - Junior SOQ
Middle - Pat Keane, COL USA (ret)

MOAACC Photo by Pish Pishdad



◀ The April Current Affairs Forum speaker was Dr. Seth Hickerson, a cognitive fitness expert and co-founder of MySteadyMind. He spoke on how advances in brain research has led to new approaches for mental fitness training. His group offers a multi-faceted program providing tangible tools and executable techniques for high performers.

Below, Dr. Hickerson was presented with a MOAACC appreciation plaque by Current Affairs chair CDR Don Reott USN (Ret) left.

MOAACC Photo by Pish Pishdad



*April MOAACC Luncheon Color Guard:
Members of Space Coast High Space Force JROTC*



MOAACC Photo by Pish Pishdad

MOAACC Photo by Pish Pishdad



ROTC, JROTC, Sea Cadets, and Civil Air Patrol Cadets Recognized

Military Officers Association of America, Cape Canaveral Chapter, MOAACC Award luncheon was held at the Indian River Colony Club (IRCC) on April 18, 2023.

19 Cadets from Brevard County military affiliated units were recognized for good academic standing, high moral character, demonstrated high degree of loyalty to their unit, and their country. In addition, they have demonstrated exceptional potential for military leadership.

The ROTC Cadet and the JROTC Cadets were presented with a Military Officers Association of America achievement certificate, and medal. In addition, the JROTC Cadets each received a \$300 grant from generous donations from the Dot & Lam Hardman Family Foundation, Inc. and MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation to assist with college enrollment or pursuit of a military career. Sea Cadets and Civil Air Patrol Cadets received a Certificate of Military Merit and a MOAACC challenge coin.

19 cadets in Brevard County came from ROTC Florida Institute of Technology, 15 JROTC high schools, one Sea Cadet Battalion and two Civil Air Patrol Squadrons.

*(A Symbol of Remembrance through Art for Memorial Day...
continued from page 10)*

Jeanne Weaver is proud to announce that her series of oil paintings, **Losing Todd: A Mother's Journey**, created in honor of their son, 1LT Todd William Weaver, is going to the Florida State Capitol. Twenty-one paintings will be exhibited in the Rotunda April 26 through April 28, while the Legislature is in session.

In addition, for Memorial Day, the series will be exhibited locally in Cocoa at the Porcher House. The Porcher House will be open for the exhibit Thursday, May 26 through Tuesday, May 30. Jeanne will be present at the Porcher House each day from 2:00 - 5:00 pm. She will have her book of the same title and speak with visitors. She hopes many of you will come by for a visit.

The Porcher House, is located at 434 Delannoy St. in downtown Cocoa, was built in the early 1900s in the 20th century classical revival architecture. Jeanne is happy to have her series return there after ten years. It is a lovely venue for the paintings.



GDF continued

Deployed Troop Care Packages are on Their Way Thanks to OASIS

On 01 April more than 30 volunteers gathered at the Veterans Memorial Center (VMC) Gray Hall to sort and pack up 120 boxes of Treats to be sent all over the world to deployed active duty military members. The event was even filmed by Channel 13 News and will appear on TV over the Memorial Day weekend.

OASIS has been operating for many years to make sure those serving our country with roots on the Space Coast know they are appreciated. Most often the care packages sent 4-5 times per year are shared with many other unit members in some very isolated and often dangerous places.

OASIS is led by Tess Brady Heribaka who is the mother of veterans who were deployed during the GWOT and she just keeps going with great group of volunteers and sponsors. OASIS stands for "Operation of Americans Standing In Support". The group carries where they hold packing mornings which is a real sight to behold as the assembly line cranks up.

The VMC supports one or more such events per year and one of the key sponsors is the Good Deeds Foundation of the Cape Canaveral Chapter of MOAA. GDF provided \$1000 to defray mailing costs for the Easter Gift event.



MEMBERSHIP BRIEF

Welcome 7 new members:

LTC Austin Akers, USA (Ret)

Colonel Charles Earl, USA (Ret)

LTC John Rizzuto, USA (Ret)

Spouses:

Mrs. Elizabeth Craven

Surviving Spouses:

Mrs. Malvene Lewis

Ms. Nancy McCarley

Mrs. Carol Schoenmann



TAPS

MOAA CAPE CANAVERAL CHAPTER MEMBER, AUXILIARY, and SPOUSE DEATHS Reported Mar 1, 2023 thru Mar 31, 2023

(Names are listed by chronological date of death)

Carroll Cooley, Lt Col, USAF, Ret
01 March 2023

Joe Brubaker, CDR, USN Ret
01 March 2023

Norbert Violette, CW4, USA Ret
05 March 2023

Joyce Batti, SSM
11 March 2023

Dotty Gillette, SSM
12 March 2023

Donald Bullen, CW4, USA (Frm)
12 March 2023

Rosalie Garman, SSM
13 March 2023

Robert Godwin, 1LT, USA (Frm)
18 March 2023

Donald Schoenmann, LCDR, USN Ret
21 March 2023

**Nancy Abernathy,
Spouse of John B Abernathy, LtCol, USAF Ret**
22 March 2023

Celesta Bernard, SSM
23 March 2023

**Elizabeth Ann Zabinski,
Spouse of Henry J. Zabinski, Col, USAF Ret**
24 March 2023

Peter Diaz, Maj, USAF, Ret
28 March 2023



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- Philanthropy and Community Service
- Comradery with a Purpose

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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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“When Blue Star Turns to Gold Star”

In 1947 a Gold Star Lapel Pin was designed and created to represent a loved one who gave the ultimate sacrifice and was killed in combat. The pin shows a gold star on a field of purple surrounded by gold laurel leaves.

In 1973, a new pin was approved and called the Next of Kin Deceased Personnel Lapel Pin. This pin represents those armed service members to include Reserves and National Guard units in drill status, whose lives were lost while on active duty. The pin depicts a GOLD STAR on a gold background surrounded by four oak sprigs.

Both lapel pins have been authorized by an Act of Congress. The legal distinctions between the two pins are based on the place, time, and circumstances of the service person's death. Eligible family members include widow, widower, mother, father, stepparent, parent through adoption, foster parent in loco parentis, son, daughter, stepchild, child by adoption, brother sister, half-brother, half-sister. No other family members are legally eligible to receive the pin.

The title for this article is taken from a song which was released in 1918 during WWI. During times of war, family members would place BLUE STAR banners in their windows. The banners, originally made from silk, represented a loved one in service to our country at war. If that loved one was killed in service, the blue star was changed to gold. Each Star represents a family member actively serving Our Nation.

Lyrics to the Song:

When Blue Star Turns To Gold

When a blue service star turns to gold,

What a tale of affection is told!

Duty to country has cost one his all,

While others at home are bowed

down with the call

In their sorrow, the one's left behind,

Voice a pray'r that is e'er borne in mind

Til souls meet on high,

they must whisper "Good-bye"

When a blue service star turns to gold



WWII Blue Star Banner



Gold Star and Deceased Personnel Lapel Pins

The First Indochina War: 1953

By Bill Muckler, Captain USMC

French Forces sought an effective method to interdict Viet Minh supply lines in French Indochina. The “hedgehog” concept was developed. It called for French troops to establish fortified camps near Viet Minh supply routes.

French troops blocked Viet Minh’s supplies, compelling them to fall back. This concept was based on the success at the Battle of Na San in late 1952. The French held the high ground around the Na San fortified camp which was supplied by air. They were able to repeatedly beat back assaults by General Vo Nguyen Giap’s Viet Minh. troops.

The new French commander, General Henri Navarre, believed the approach used at Na San could be enlarged to force the Viet Minh to commit to a large, pitched battle where superior French firepower would destroy Giap’s army.

Major General Rene Cogny first proposed the idea of creating a “mooring point” at Dien Bien Phu in northwest Vietnam in June 1953. Cogny envisioned a lightly defended airbase, but Navarre seized on the location for trying the hedgehog approach. Though his subordinates protested, pointing out that unlike Na San they would not hold the high ground around the camp, Navarre persisted, and planning moved forward.

Operation Castor commenced on November 20, 1953 when 9,000 French troops were dropped into the Dien Bien Phu area. With Colonel Christian de Castries in command, they quickly overcame local Viet Minh opposition and began building a series of eight fortified strong points transforming their anchoring point into a fortress by setting up seven satellite positions. Each was allegedly named after a former mistress of de Castries, although the allegation is unfounded. The eight names begin with letters from the first nine of the alphabet (all but F).

The fortified headquarters was centrally located, with positions “Huguette” (west) “Claudine” (south), “Dominique” (northeast), “Anne-Marie” (northwest), “Beatrice” (northeast), “Gabrielle” (north) and “Isabelle” (3.7 miles to the south), covering the reserve airstrip. Colonel de Castries’ garrison increased to 10,800 men supported by artillery and ten M24 Chaffee light tanks.

Next month: The Battle of Dien Bien Phu.



French Forces Parachute into Dien Bien Phu area in 1953.

Shuttlefest

By: Dr. Jane Hodges

MOAACC members attended Shuttle-Fest April 15 at the Titusville Hyatt Place, sponsored by the American Space Museum and Space Walk of Fame. (Dr. Hodges name is inscribed at the memorial as the 2021 recipient of the National Space Club Lifetime Achievement awardee!) The event showcased the Space Shuttle Legacy with CNN Space Reporter, KSC lead educator, and space photographers and artists. The Mobile Launch Platform documentary was premiered and a DVD of the show is available for a later MOAACC viewing.



Dean Schaaf, Rita Shapiro, Jane Hodges with Chris Callee art.



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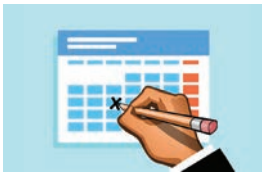
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Unofficial Brevard VMC Vets Calendar

May 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/>

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: vvbquartermaster@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 – Day ONE: Ride for Freedom and Flame of Honor Ceremony at VMC Plaza area 1700- 2000. Rolling Thunder FL-1 Sponsor of 3 Day event. First Motorcycle Rally at 1600 at Fishlips at Port Canaveral with travel to VMC. Vietnam and GWOT Moving Walls from Patriot Guard Riders on Display at VMC with Gold Star Family and MIA/POW Remembrance Torch March through the VMC Memorial Plaza.

27 May – Day TWO: Ride for Freedom Rally Space Coast Harley Davidson Ride for Freedom Festival (1000-1600). Includes Food, Drinks, Music, Announcement of Motorcycle Raffle winner and much more. Sponsored by by all 7 RTFL Chapters.

28 May – Day THREE: Motorcycle Ride for Freedom Kicks Off in the Merritt Square Mall Parking Lot adjacent to the VMC 1000 with apical events prior and after the Ride for Freedom departs VMC. 0900 -0930 Gray Hall Ceremony. Breakfast snacks and drinks available. Route of travel TBD.

29 May – Memorial Day Remembrance VMC 0930-1030

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

29 May – Memorial Day Ceremony and Display downtown Cocoa Riverfront Park 1600-1800

03 Jun – Annual Courageous Division NSCC Sea Cadet Awards Ceremony, VMC Gray Hall and Library 1200-1900

24 Jun – Military Appreciation Night at Space Coast Stadium in Viera during USSSA Pride Professional Women's Fast Pitch Softball Game 1700 - 2100. Honoring Active Duty and Veterans. Dedication of Permanent POW/ MIA installed seat behind home plate featuring Rolling Thunder FL-1.

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

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

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

06 Oct – Eighth Annual NVHS Rescuing Veterans Lost in America Dinner and Fundraiser. 1730-2100 at the Radisson Resort at the Port. 8701 Astronaut 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 - VM PARK - 0900-1030.

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.

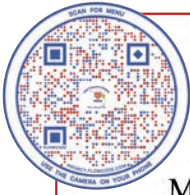


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Check appropriate box:

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Member of National MOAA? Y / N Member

If No, may we sign you up for a no-charge MOAA National Basic Membership? _____

Signature _____ Date _____



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Age	Fee	Age	Fee
40-49	\$460	80-89	\$155
50-59	\$400	90-99	\$75
60-69	\$330	100+	No cost
70-79	\$235		

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



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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Vietnam War Veterans were honored at the Indian River Colony Club on March 29, 2023. Over 175 veterans and family members attended this wonderful tribute to the over sixty vets attending. Among the attendees, Colonels Lane and Vogel, also survived as POWs in Vietnam's infamous Hanoi Hilton. Not only were the living vets recognized and many told stories of their time in-country, but many family members remembered their lost ones. Photos provided by Dr. Jane Hodges

On the Go Luncheon

Betty Baldwin started OTG many years ago. Currently Toni Lowe is the coordinator for the OTG when MOAACC members and souses get together every month to have lunch. It is an informal event with no business agenda. 32 members attended our April OTG at Grills Riverside Seafood Deck and Tiki Bar on U.S. 1.





A Memorial Day Tribute to the Fallen. MOAACC Photo by Pish Pishdad.



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Eastern Florida State College Cocoa Campus**

Reunion Web Page at:

floridaveteransreunion.com



Wickham Park

**321-255-4307 - 2500 Parkway Dr
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**No Coolers, Glass or Pets allowed
in the Reunion Area**

**Per Wickham Park: Golf Carts Permitted
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**Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall
<http://travelingwall.us>**



Call For Info

321-690-0805

321-652-4185

Vendors call 321-652-4185

RaRusso1962@gmail.com

VVBSecretary@gmail.com

Club Escort Lineup Info

vvbreunionescort@gmail.com

All Vietnam and Veterans Reunion, May 1st - 7th

Florida's 35th Annual All Veterans Reunion will occur in Wickham Park in Melbourne, from May 1st through the 8th. The event will include live music, food and drinks, military vendors, and displays. The travelling Vietnam Memorial Wall will be on display in the park from May 1st through the 7th. **MOAACC chapter** will participate in the wreath laying ceremony at the wall beginning at **6 PM on Monday, May 1st.**

All our members are Invited

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

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

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