



The INTERCOM

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
Cape Canaveral Chapter, Inc.



2023 MOAACC Installation and Awards

COL Steve Bond, USA (Ret)

On Tuesday, January 17th, for the sixty-fifth time since our founding, we conducted the formal change of the chapter's leadership and presented outstanding volunteers with awards at our Installation and Awards Luncheon in Colony Hall, Indian River Colony Club. Maj Gen Ed Wilson, USAF (Ret), the former Commander of the 45th Space Wing officiated the swearing-in of the Chapter's 2023 leadership team where CDR Ken Lowe (USNR-Ret) turned the Chapter Presidency over to Lt Col Brian Whalen (USAF-Ret). Other chapter officers and directors were also sworn-in to their positions on the Board of Directors. See page 17 for the full listing of all the Chapter's 2023 Officers and Directors.



Front Row L-R: LDR Kenneth Lowe MOAACC past president looks on as the gavel is presented to the incoming MOAACC president LtCol Brian Whalen by the installing officers Maj Gen Ed Wilson USAF (RET).

Back row L-R: 2nd Vice president CAPT Stephen Cusick USNR (RET), and 1st Vice president Col Richard Kinseley USAF (RET)



Back Row L-R:

CDR Robert B Vanasse USCG, Asst. Treasurer

Major Timothy D Pishdad USA, Director

CAPT Arnold Lim, USNR, Secretary

CW4 Jose Prieto Master at Arms, USA

LT COL Joseph "Jo" Tichich USAF, Director

CDR Kenneth Lowe, past President/Board Senior Advisor

CAPT Rita Shapiro, USPHS

LCDR Dan Levy USN, Director

LCDR Dean Schaaf USN, Director

LTC David "DAVE" Koby USA, Director

Front Row L-R:

COL Richard Kinsley, 1st Vice President

LTCOL Brian Whalen, USAF, MOAACC President

CAPT Stephen Cusick, 2nd Vice President



LDR Kenneth Lowe presents the chapter's highest award, the Distinguished Service Award, to Mary McIntyre (SM) for her diligent and faithful service as the luncheon and events Chair.

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

FEBRUARY EVENTS

(Click Event for Details)

- 2/2 TMBC (In-person & via Zoom) - 8 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 2/3 Robert C. Hughes, Sr. Celebration of Life
11:30 AM @ Suntree United Methodist Church
- 2/9 TMBC (In-person & via Zoom) - 8 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 2/14 On-The-Go Luncheon - 11:30 AM
@ Amici's Italian Restaurant & Pizzeria
- 2/16 TMBC (In-person & via Zoom) - 8 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 2/21 MOAACC Board of Directors Mtg - 9:30 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - Chapel
- 2/21 MOAACC Luncheon - 11:30 AM
@ The Tides Collocated Club
- 2/23 TMBC (In-person & via Zoom) - 8 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 2/24 Gary Powers Jr on New Cold War Revelations
from the U2 Incident - 6:30 PM
@ Veterans Memorial Center

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
- 8 Survivor Assistance,
Membership Brief
- 9 Mark Your Calendar!
- 12 Good Deeds Foundation
- 17 Directory
- 18 TAPS
- 19 Membership Form

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

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



Brian R. Whalen, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)

Maj Gen Wilson did a great job installing our Officers and Board of Directors. His comments set the right tone for the coming year.

Legislative advocacy is a focal point for MOAA. Our legislative affairs efforts under the leadership of BG John McMahon, USA (Ret) and MAJ Tim Pishdad, USA (Ret) will keep us informed and primed for action. You will be asked to get involved in non-partisan efforts to protect veterans' earned benefits and other MOAA led legislative efforts.

One of the benefits of being active in Chapter efforts is the opportunity to get to know and work with some truly unique and inspiring people. There are a lot of interesting people in our chapter and we need to get to know one another better.

On Jan 17 1991 we transitioned from Operation Desert Shield to Desert Storm. This seems like yesterday to me, but it was 32 years ago. We just helped commission four 2LTs at FIT who were born in 1999 and 2000. So, the events of 9/11 are becoming history as are Desert Storm and preceding conflicts and as will our recent involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan. While these events become memories, they will continue to impact the veterans who served in them and we need to make sure they are not forgotten. Legislative advocacy is one way to keep these memories alive as is active involvement in the community. I hope we will be active and visible when we are supporting veteran related activities.

Speaking of visibility and community involvement, CPT Donn Weaver, USA (Fmr) will continue as the President of the Good Deeds Foundation and RADM Wayne Justice, USCG (Ret) is the new President of our Scholarship Corporation. These outstanding charitable institutions are often the face of our organization in the community. They do great things and I look forward to working with Donn and Wayne in the coming year. I encourage all chapter members to support their efforts and activities.

I am humbled to be your new Chapter President. Thank you for the outstanding Board you've elected to guide our chapter. I look forward to serving you and getting to know more of you and more about you and our partners in the community.

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

DEADLINES & SUBMISSION EMAIL:

- Photos & Articles are DUE NO LATER THAN the 20th of each month. Please send ALL submissions to BOTH of the following emails:

pish104@bellsouth.net (Pish Pishdad)

shapiro.rb@gmail.com (Rita Shapiro)

NOTE: Please **DO NOT** Cc or send entries to moaaccintercom@greenmancreations.com.

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.
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- The advertisements that appear in this publication do not reflect an endorsement by MOAA or by MOAACC.
- Comments and suggestion are welcome. Contact EXECUTIVE EDITOR: pish104@bellsouth.net

Editor's Note

DEAR MOAACC MEMBERS:

I appreciate the opportunity to be the INTERCOM Executive editor and public affairs officer for our chapter. I intend to follow in the same footsteps as Donn Weaver, while promoting the various old and new military news, retiree veterans' activities and Good Deed Foundation Programs, among many others, including the "Centerfold" for promoting Member's submitted Functions, Activities and Highlights. All inputs will receive top priority for publication in the monthly MOAACC INTERCOM. Community newsworthy articles will also be shared with local media.

I welcome members ideas, recommendations, and improvements.

Pish Pishdad

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FACEBOOK: Tim Pishdad

MOAA/FLORIDA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS LIAISON : Marilyn Sanford

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





LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

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

Let the Games Begin

Well, we have a Speaker of the House, Kevin McCarthy, R-CA. That's the good news which could be even better if the Republican-controlled House of Representatives got down to business. The jury is still out on that question. The first order of business should be to address the debt ceiling which has already necessitated the Secretary of Treasury, Janet Yellen, to undertake extraordinary measures to ensure that long-standing debts and fiscal obligations are met in a timely way. The Republicans surely are on to the case for getting spending under control and forcing the Nation to live within its means, as does every household in America.

It appears that the best course of action for the Members of Congress is to do their jobs and negotiate an arrangement to achieve this end, as painful as it may be. However, to expect any significant progress in reducing the debt and balancing spending with revenues in any given year is at best a long-term proposition. The last thing any of us want to see is our hard-earned benefits (military retirement, VA benefits, social security and/or Medicare) delayed, or worse denied, because reasonable people cannot work out a reasonable, long-term solution.

This déjà vu moment occurred most recently in 2011 when Congress passed the Budget Control Act (BCA) to reduce the deficit, avoid default, check the pace of growth in spending and bring the rising debt under control over time. As now, Republicans insisted on spending cuts as their condition for raising the debt ceiling. Back then, the national debt was \$14.8 Trillion; today it exceeds \$30.8 Trillion, more than double what it was just twelve years ago! Make no mistake, both parties are responsible for creating this HUGE hole. While the BCA resolved the debt ceiling crisis of 2011 in the short term, it was quickly end-run by the Congress to avoid and/or delay certain actions and was ultimately trashed after the so-called sequestration process proved too painful. Another negative and immediate outcome of the BCA was the downgrading of the nation's credit rating for the first time in US history. And it wreaked havoc on defense spending at a time when we were still at war in Afghanistan. Finally, by kicking the can down the road again, Congress triggered another debt-ceiling crisis in 2013. Hopefully, they learned a few things and will avoid the pitfalls of the past going forth.

None of this paints a pretty picture for going forward. The economy is showing signs of sputtering and the winds of Recession are in the air, albeit an uncertainty thus far. The US and global economies are further threatened by the ongoing war in Ukraine (and what may follow in reconstruction), inflation and wildly fluctuating oil and energy prices. With interest rates continuing to climb as the Fed's fight against inflation continues, the payment of interest on the national debt itself becomes more daunting and problematic in light of everything else.

There is one piece of good news here in Florida promulgated by our Republican Governor, Ron DeSantis, and his fellow Republicans in the state legislature. Constructive insurance reform was achieved to prevent the state's property insurance market from collapsing, an ongoing threat as hurricane damage accrued, and third-party contractors and their attorneys caused numerous insurers to become insolvent and abandon the Florida market with more than 100,000 lawsuits. Greed and frivolous lawsuits are now a thing of the past and homeowner insurance premiums should stabilize. Florida homeowner insurance premiums are already the highest in the US and three times the US average. DeSantis' reform eliminates the ability to assign one's rights to claim to a third party and the requirement that insurance companies pay plaintiff attorney fees if they lose. It will ultimately stabilize the legal environment in Florida and attract more private insurers to the state thereby increasing competition and lowering premiums. Let's hear it for our common-sense Governor!



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FINANCIAL LITERACY

CAPT Arnold Lim, USNR (Ret)

Quick Strategies for Financial Freedom

As we start the new year, let me share a list of worthy financial advice that I came across long ago:

- Invest early and automatically (e.g., each month). This takes advantage of dollar cost averaging and also the magic of compound growth.
- Watch your debt. Keeping a balance on credit cards is a no-no. If you use credit cards, pay off the balance in full each month and thus avoid interest payments.
- If you are married/have kids, save for your own retirement before college for the kids. Worst case, the kids can get loans to pay for tuition and housing costs; it does not work that way for funding your retirement.
- Know your risk tolerance for investing. Get a feel for how you will react in times of stress, like the markets of 2022. If you cannot sleep at night in times of turmoil, then lower risk beforehand by changing to more stable assets.
- Diversified portfolio class (e.g., stocks, bonds, cash, real estate). Come up with a target asset allocation, based in strong part by your risk tolerance, age, and situation.
- Know your needs at retirement. How much spending or expenses do you have, to be compared against expected income.
- Re-balance your portfolio periodically (e.g., once per year).
- Look at long-term lens, and do not get flustered by short-term events. For example, 2022 was indeed a challenging year, for both the stock and bond markets.
- Spend less than you earn. This is the big one. It is kind of obvious but not always attainable. Invest wisely the difference (e.g., buy and hold strategies, low-cost index funds).
- Use stocks to outpace inflation.

MOAA's tagline is "Never Stop Serving." Another similar great slogan is: Always keep learning, in this new year and beyond. I am reminded of a proverb:

He that knows not, and knows not that he knows not, is a fool. Shun him.

He that knows not, and knows that he knows not, is a

student. Teach him.

He that knows, and knows not that he knows, is asleep.

Awaken him.

He that knows, and knows that he knows, is wise.

Follow him.



POINTS TO PONDER

Chaplain, LtCol, Tom Unrath USAF (Ret)

As I thought about this article for February, I decided to look at the calendar for February holidays to consider. February has just Three holidays most of us recognize. Of course, Valentine's Day, Presidents' Day, and perhaps Groundhog Day. There are lot of observances, Iwo Jima Day, National Bacon Day and many others.

The most significant Observance is Black History Month. As I thought about it, I realized this was the observance to consider here. I am not an expert on this observance. I can research but I am a white man and have not lived, have not experienced the life of a black person. I decided to ask a mentor, a tutor, friend and former Boss, Capt. Robert Watts, USN (Ret) and MOAACC Past President to write a perspective for us to "Ponder".

As you read, I hope you will gain some knowledge and appreciation for the gifts and service of these Black Americans who fought, were wounded, and even died in our nation's wars. Also take to heart as you ponder; God made all of us and does not treat any of us differently based on skin tone, heritage, origin, gender or any other physical characteristic. God created and cares for us all equally.

Black History Month

A Military Perspective

February is dedicated as Black History Month, honoring the triumphs and struggles of Black Americans throughout U.S. History. This article is a condensed chronology of the contributions of Black Americans in the history of the U.S. Military from its early years through World War II.

Although Black Americans fought in every American conflict, they were not initially allowed to enlist due to racist policies and laws in place at the time of the conflicts. However, as manpower shortages arose these laws and policies were modified to allow Black Americans (Freedmen and slaves) to initially enlist in segregated units commanded by White officer and eventually into the integrated forces with President Truman signing Executive Order 9981 which officially ended segregation in the Armed Forces in 1948.

American Revolution (1775-1783)

- In July 1775, George Washington assumed command of the early Continental Army encamped outside of Boston and initially prohibited bringing Blacks into the Army's ranks. When Virginia's British Royal Governor, Lord Dunmore,

issued a proclamation that he would free any slave who left his master to serve alongside British forces. Washington decided to permit enlisted free Blacks to remain in the army and recruitment of free Blacks opened up.

- The U.S. Army History Office estimates around 5,000 warriors in the American Revolution were Black. Black Americans served with distinction for the American cause from the opening engagements at Lexington and Concord to the climactic siege of Yorktown eight years later. These men served in the artillery (the most advanced branch of service during the period), the infantry, as laborers, and even musicians.
- In July 1778, the 1st Rhode Island Regiment, the first all-Black military unit in America, was assembled under the command of white officers. Unlike their white counterparts, Black Soldiers did not receive any compensation for their service after the war.
- Over 10% of the Continental Navy was comprised of Black American, a higher percentage than in the ground services. The Continental Navy recruited both Freedmen and enslaved Blacks, partly out of a need for laborers and partly because many of them were experienced seafarers, having sailed before with the Royal Navy, state navies, and merchantmen.
- There were 2,000 Continental Marines and at least thirteen were Black Americans. No Black Americans would serve in the Marine Corps again until 1942.

War of 1812 (1812-1815)

- Black Soldiers served in both integrated regiments as well as in all-Black regiments.
- Many Black Soldiers fought in the Battle of New Orleans. Slaves, as well as free Black Soldiers comprised the majority of two battalions and three companies, collectively referred to as Free Men of Color, and served in integrated Louisiana militia units.
- Blacks represented one-sixth of naval personnel in this conflict. They distinguished themselves at the Battle of Lake Erie and other significant campaigns. Of the 6,000 American prisoners of war held at Dartmoor Prison in England, historians have estimated that 1,000 were Black men.

Civil War (1861-1865)

- Black Americans were not officially allowed to participate in the war until after President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, Jan. 1, 1863.
- Approximately 186,000 Black Soldiers, including 94,000 former slaves from Southern states, ultimately served in the Union Army and 38,000 were killed in action.
- In early 1863, the 54th Massachusetts Infantry, an all-Black regiment of the Union Army, was activated. More than 1,000, about 25 percent of whom were former slaves, from 24 states and several countries enlisted in the regiment. The 54th

proved their bravery during the storming of Fort Wagner on James Island, S.C., July 18, 1863. More than a third of the regiment were killed or wounded during the fighting.

- Twenty percent of the U.S. Navy sailors were Black Americans. Black Sailors served on 700 ships in the U.S. Navy and eight received the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Indian Campaigns (1866-1891)

- In 1866, Congress authorized the formation of regiments of Black Soldiers: the 9th and 10th Cavalry Regiments and the 24th, 25th, 38th, 39th, 40th and 41st Infantry Regiments to deploy in the west to fight the Indians. The infantry regiments were later consolidated into the 24th and 25th Infantry Regiments.
- Altogether, some 5,000 Black Soldiers, 10 percent of the total force, guarded the western frontier. Black Soldiers fought so bravely and ferociously during a battle with Cheyenne warriors in 1867 that the Cheyenne nicknamed them "Wild Buffalo." Over time, the term "Buffalo Soldiers" was used for all Black Soldiers who served during the Indian Wars. Buffalo Soldiers had the lowest desertion rate in the Army, despite their poor living conditions on the frontier.

SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR (1898)

- Black Soldiers, of the 9th and 10th Cavalry Regiments and the 24th and 25th Infantry Regiments, fought in the Spanish-American War. The four regiments comprised 12 percent of the total force during the invasion of Cuba.
- The 10th Cavalry Regiment proved themselves in battle against the Spanish in Cuba and later came to the rescue of the "Rough Riders" commanded by future U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt.
- 2,000 Black Sailors served in the Navy; they comprised 7.6 percent of all sailors. They messed and berthed with shipmates from a variety of races and ethnicity, including white sailors, Japanese, Chinese, and Filipinos.

World War 1

- Even though the Army operated under a policy of racial segregation 404,000 Black officers and enlisted men served during World War 1 (an estimated 11% of the total force).
- On Dec. 27, 1917, the 369th Infantry Regiment, dubbed the "Harlem Hellfighters", became the first all-Black U.S. combat unit to be shipped overseas during World War 1. Because there was no official combat role at this time for America's Black Soldiers, Gen. John J. Pershing responded to France's request for troops by assigning the 369th and the 93rd Division's other regiments to the French army.
- The Germans dubbed the unit the "Hellfighters" because during 191 days of duty at the front, five days longer than any other regiment in the AEF, no men were captured nor ground taken. But almost one-third of the unit died in combat. The French government awarded the entire regiment the Croix de Guerre along with 171 individual

awards for exceptional gallantry in action.

- Six thousand seven hundred and fifty Black Sailors served in the U.S. Navy during the First World War (1.2% of the Navy's total enlistment) but were only allowed to serve as coal heavers, messmen, stewards, and cooks. There were no African American Navy officers.

World War II (1941-1945)

- Despite the proven valor of Black troops, Black Soldiers represented only 1.5% of the Army in June 1940, and roughly the same percentage of the Navy. The Marine Corps and Air Corps, on the other hand, were off limits completely. However, Executive Order 8802 signed June 25th, 1941 reaffirmed the policy of no discrimination in the employment of workers in defense industries or government because of race, creed, color, or national origin..." and opened the door for the recruitment of Black Americans into all military branches.
- Airmen of the 332nd Fighter Group broke down the barrier for Black pilots and air crews. Products of the segregated Tuskegee Army Airfield (which gave them the nickname of the "Tuskegee Airmen"), the 332nd would fly over 15,000 sorties, destroy 261 enemy aircraft and be awarded more than 850 medals. Unfortunately, the 477th Bomber Group, comprised of all Black crews, would never see combat, as the war ended prior to their deployment.
- On the ground the 761st Tank Battalion "Black Panthers." would earn their place in American military lore. In October of 1944 the all-Black tank battalion would reach France and serve under Gen. George S. Patton to fight in 183 days of continuous combat including the Battle of the Bulge and the Battle of the Rhine. The 761st soldiers were awarded 11 Silver Stars, 69 Bronze Stars, 300 Purple Hearts, a Presidential Unit Citation and one Medal of Honor.
- The first Black American Marine recruits arrived at the segregated recruit training camp at Montford Point in Jacksonville, North Carolina in August 1942. Once the men left Montford Point, they were shipped overseas to the Pacific. The Montford Pointers took full responsibility and performed at the highest combat level eradicating racial myths. Out of the 20,000 trained at Montford Point, 87 were killed in action. At war's end, all but 1,500 were discharged by the government.
- The 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion was the only all-Black Women's Army Corps unit to serve overseas in World War II. When the women arrived in Birmingham, England, they found warehouses crammed from floor to ceiling with mail that hadn't moved in a year or two. They were given six months to break the logjam; the 6888th did it in three. The unit kept mail flowing to the nearly seven million Soldiers in the European Theater of Operations.
- In 1942 the Coast Guard recruited its first 150 Black volunteers to serve in capacities besides the rates of

Stewardsmate or Messman. Over 5,000 Black Americans served as Coast Guardsmen in WW II, about 965 of whom were petty or warrant officers.

The story does not end here. This chronology is not all encompassing as it focuses on unit achievements. The history of Black American individual and unit achievements in our military continues to be written. The following resources are just a fraction of the source documents for this article:

- <https://www.army.mil/blackamericans/timeline.html>
- <https://armyhistory.org/fighting-for-respect-african-american-soldiers-in-wwi/>
- <https://www.history.navy.mil/browse-by-topic/diversity/african-americans/chronology.html>
- <https://www.usmcmuseum.com/uploads/6/0/3/6/60364049/africanamericanmarinesresources.pdf>
- <https://www.af.mil/News/Commentaries/Display/Article/2676311/a-short-history-of-integration-in-the-us-armed-forces/>
- <https://www.history.uscg.mil/Browse-by-Topic/Notable-People/Minorities/African-Americans/African-American-History-Chronology/>

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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SURVIVOR ASSISTANCE LESSONS LEARNED

Lt Col Chuck Shaw, USAF, (Ret)

This month there is both good news and not so good news. First the good news! Feb. 1 benefits checks won't have the so-called "widow's tax" reducing income for the surviving [spouses](#) of military retirees who participate in two programs.

Until 2020, survivors couldn't receive the full amount of two survivor benefits at the same time. Under the rule known as the [Survivor Benefit Plan](#) (SBP) "offset," the government reduced payments that were part of that program by the amount of [Dependency and Indemnity Compensation](#) (DIC) that beneficiaries received from the [Department of Veterans Affairs](#).

DIC is generally for the families of veterans who died in the line of duty or as the result of a service-connected injury or illness. With the Defense Department's SBP, by contrast, veterans elect whether to pay premiums that will guarantee their spouses or other beneficiaries a percentage of their retirement pay after they die. That choice is typically made upon retirement.

The monthly DIC payment for a veteran who died on or after Jan. 1, 1993, is \$1,562.74 for 2023. Without the change in law, the government would have reduced SBP beneficiaries' payments by that much.

The "not so good news" is the extra \$1,562.74 may come in handy if the 13 options that MOAA identified are enacted in the Congressional Budget Office recommendations to lawmakers. Some of the options are: Introduce enrollment fees for Tricare for Life (TFL), and minimum out of pocket requirements, Means-test VA disability for Veterans with higher incomes, include VA disability payments in taxable income, and increase prescription drug copayments for all Veterans.

Read the full CBO report at:

www.cbo.gov/publication/58611

Editor's note: Portions of this article are by Amanda Miller and originally appeared on [Military.com](#), a leading source of news for the military and veteran community, and from the February 2023 MOAA MILITARY OFFICER.



MEMBERSHIP BRIEF

MAJ Tim Pishdad, USA (Ret)

We welcome 19 new members this month:

COL Cheryl Anne Creamer, USA (Ret)
Col Susan E Dabrowski, USAF (Ret) – Life Member (Jane Hodges)
CDR Robert Dillow, USN (Ret) – Life Member
CDR Douglas R Jenkins, USN (Ret) – Life Member (Tim Pishdad)
LT Jeffrey E Malone, USN (Ret) – Life Member
LTC Stephen Arthur Oliva, USA (Ret)
CW02 Dane Owens, USA (Ret) (James Mitchell)
Mrs. Sherry Owens, Spouse Member (James Mitchell)
Lt Col Jeffrey S Pearce, USAF (Ret) (Tom Unrath)
2LT Nathan Johnson, USAR (FIT Commissioning)
2LT Jared Blanco, ARNG (FIT Commissioning)
2LT Jonathan Shimer, ARNG (FIT Commissioning)
2LT Julia Seibold, USA (FIT Commissioning)
LCDR Jessica R Shapiro, USN (Rita Shapiro)
Gen John Raymond, USSF (Ret) – 1st Commander of Space Force (Tim Pishdad)
Lt Col Marcus D Smith, USAF (Ret)-renewal (Tim Pishdad)

Surviving Spouses:

Mrs. Carley Starr, Mrs. Treva Seals, Mrs. Diane Manahan

Note: Sponsor in ()



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Cape Canaveral Ladies' Christmas Party

Eleven MOAACC women attended the Cape Canaveral Ladies' Christmas Party, held at the Veteran's Memorial Center. The purpose of the women is to stand as a "silent witness" at the final resting place of our honored veterans and their spouses.



Denise Almeda, Mary Dunagan, Helen Hanesworth, Gail Holder, Ellie Joy, Diane Manahan, Cozette Merritt, Susan Neugebauer, Ruth Oblack, Cecelia Palma, and Liz Whalen

How many MOAACC women can you identify?



Mark Your Calendar!

The 240th Commemoration of the
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Saturday, March 18, 2023
Veteran's Memorial Center
1000-1100 a.m.

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MOAACC On-The-Go Luncheon

Tuesday, February 14, 2023

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Call Toni Lowe (321) 474-6888 for reservations.

SPACE COAST NAVY WIVES

By Ellie Joy

Please join us for our February Luncheon at THE TIDES on FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH. Social hour begins at 11:30am and lunch is served at noon.

Our speaker will be Maria Geraci. Maria is a local author of contemporary romance, women's fiction. Mysteries are written by her alter ego Maggie March.

Our menu choices are Beef Stew with Carrots and Potatoes or Quinoa Salad with Mint Cucumber Dressing. 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, February 14th. Friends and family are always welcome.

MOAACC Awards Presentations

MOAACC Photos by Pish Pishdad



Pishdad (on right)

**MOAACC Award Plaques
were presented to:**

- **MAJ Tim Pishdad, USA (Ret), Chapter Past President (2020), State Legislative Affairs lead, and 2022 Membership Chair**
- **MAJ (Chaplain) Bill Otis, USA (Ret), for his long service as MOAACC Chaplain (Not Pictured)**



Shaw (on right)

**MOAACC Leadership Awards
were presented to:**

- **Lt Col Charles Shaw, USAF (Ret), Survivor Assistance**
- **COL Jeffrey Rogers, USA (Ret), MOAACC Past Chapter President (2014) and Nominating Committee Chair (2023)**



Rogers (on right)

MOAACC Photos by Pish Pishdad



Ginsburg (on right)



Lowe (on right)



Prieto (on right)

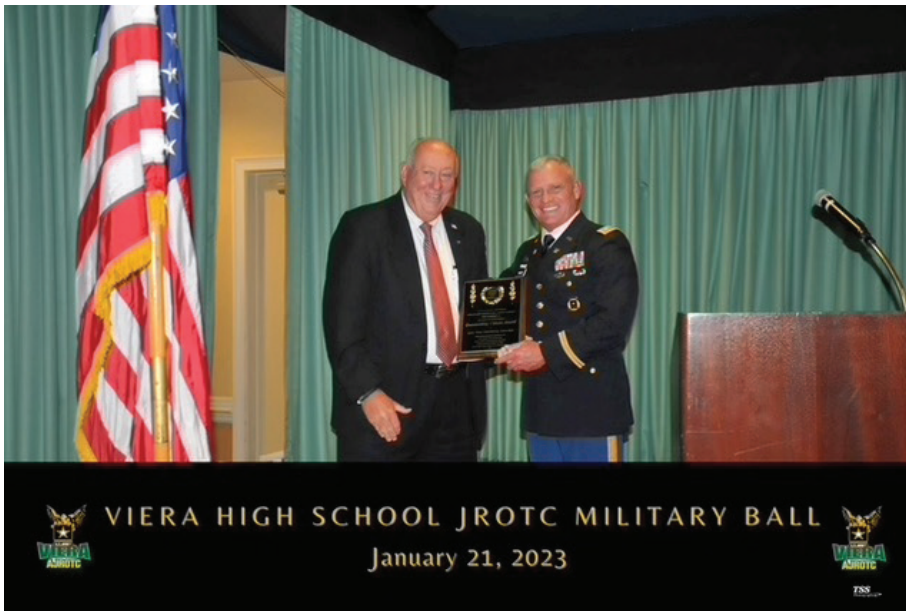


Whalen (on right)

MOAACC "Certificates of Merit" were presented by CDR Ken Lowe to:

**Maj Sam, USAF (Ret), and Betty Ginsburg for their generous support to MOAACC charities,
Toni Lowe (SM), our On-The-Go Luncheon Coordinator,
CW4 Jose Prieto (USA-Ret), our Master-at-Arms,
LtCol Brian Whalen, USAF (Ret), current MOAACC President,
and COL Pat Keane (USA-Ret) for assisting Veterans in Need (Not Pictured)**

MOAACC 2022 Outstanding Citizen Award



MOAACC member LTC Tim Thomas, USA (ret) received the prestigious 2022 MOAACC Outstanding Citizen in very special setting, the Viera JROTC Army Ball at IRCC on 21 January. The award was presented by former MOAACC President Donn Weaver on behalf of the MOAACC Board and Immediate Past President Ken Lowe, at the 2023 JROTC Military Ball attended by 150 JROTC cadets and their family members.

The citation highlighted that Thomas had an amazing year creating the "JROTC to the Rescue" county- wide program to provide relief supplies for hurricane Ian and Nicole victims southwest Florida and northern Brevard County. He also helped raise \$400,000 for charity while dancing for the Space Coast in June at the annual

The MOAACC Outstanding Citizen Award was presented to LTC Tim Thomas (USA-Ret) for his fundraising effort with Brevard Dancing with the Stars, and organization of JROTC support for Hurricane Ian relief

Brevard County Sheriff's Office gala fundraiser. In addition to storm relief and fundraising, Thomas also is the senior JROTC VHS Instructor and elected member of the Melbourne City Council.



MOAACC President, Ken Lowe (center), receiving the FCOC Leadership Awards for MOAACC Members from Gen North, USAF (Ret) (left), and MOAA Chairman of the Board and CDR Patrick Kluever, USN (Ret), President, FCOC. (Right)

USCG Port Canaveral Sailor of the Quarter

USCG Station Port Canaveral Florida's Sailor of the Quarter, MK2 Alexander Ellis USCG, is recognized for his excellent performance in maintenance and repair of the station's boat engines and other equipment. His outstanding mechanical and organizational skills directly resulted in significant financial savings while avoiding excessive downtime of the station's boats.



Pictured with MK2 Ellis, is the Crew of the Coast Guard Ship, and two other Coast Guard Sailors, who each received recognition for their superior performance.

Holding Certificates L-R: MK1 Guy, MK2 Ellis, SN McLoughlin



MOAACC GOOD DEEDS FOUNDATION

CPT Donn Weaver, USA, Fmr, President GDF

Good Deeds Foundation's Great Start in 2023

Your MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation (GDF) began the new year with four major grants (See notes and photos below) and another \$32,000 in donations on top of the \$25,000 cleared at the December Golf Tournament.

The GDF Board met in January and voted to hold the 10th annual GDF Golf Tournament Fundraiser, this year at the IRCC Golf Course on Saturday, 18 November 2023. The GDF Golf committee has looked at ways to continue to improve the event and how better to focus on more sponsors which is a big key to revenues.

We welcomed Mike Schroeder to his first full GDF Board meeting as our numbers on the Board grew to 13, the highest in MOAACC GDF history. GDF President Donn Weaver was endorsed by the MOAACC Board at the Installation Luncheon on 17 January while Wayne Justice continues at Treasurer and Mike Gautreaux as Vice President.

Please consider donating to the MOAACC GDF which has great plans to make 2023 the best year ever as we support:

- Veterans in Need
- Active-Duty Military Personnel and their Families
- The youth of the Space Coast through JROTC, other Cadet and Academy/ROTC Prep programs
- Other proven organizations that have similar missions.

Donations can be made on the MOAACC web site under Good Deeds or by mail to:

MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation
PO Box 320358
Cocoa Beach, FL 32931-0358

First Annual Armed Forces Day Family Celebration

On 20 May 2023, Armed Forces Day, the community will come together to host a big event at the Veterans Memorial Center and Park on Merritt Island to honor and celebrate active-duty military members of all branches, and their families. It will feature displays from all the services, special entertainment, various competitions, a big kids' zone and much more to show our appreciation to those who currently serve in active, reserve and FL National Guard capacities. Food and drink will be provided free of cost. More details will follow for this first such event in Brevard County being held not on a military installation.



The event is being organized by the Cocoa Beach Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Veterans Memorial Center with fund raising underway to make the day very special. The MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation was the first to donate to the event presenting the CBRCC a check for \$2000 on 17 January.



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MOAACC GOOD DEEDS FOUNDATION - continued

Veterans in Distress Get a GDF Boost

Brevard County has a number of approved and active 501c3 organizations that help veterans and their families cope with hardships related to food, housing, utilities, etc. One that has been very active for the past several years is Veterans Connections, led by CEO and Army Vietnam combat veteran Don Pearsall. They have helped dozens of veterans and their families with needs not covered by the VA.



On 17 January, MOAACC's Good Deeds Foundation presented a check for \$3000 to the Veterans Connections for their 2023 missions. They provide quarterly reports on the impact of those funds which we will share later this year.

The GDF Supports Annual US Service Academies Military Ball



The Central Florida Parents of the US Military Academies held a Military Ball at the Hilton in Cocoa Beach on 27 December, while their sons and daughters were home on leave. Twelve USAF Academy cadets, 5 West Point Cadets, 3 Annapolis Midshipmen and two cadets from the Merchant Marine Academy, and their families and friends, as well as veteran and community leaders attended the event. The GDF provided the Parent Group \$500 to help with this very successful evening.

GDF President Donn Weaver and MOAACC member Tim Thomas attended the ceremony while Cocoa Beach JROTC Cadets performed the Color Guard duties and learned a lot about what some of them hope for the future.

This event will be one for GDF to consider in the future and link to our planned August 2023 Academy and ROTC Scholarship program for rising High School Juniors. Perhaps some of them might also attend the 2023 Military Ball and get additional motivation.

The dedication and enthusiasm of the vacationing cadets was highly encouraging to the young JROTC cadets and to understand that that these current academy cadets will soon be leaders in our military services.



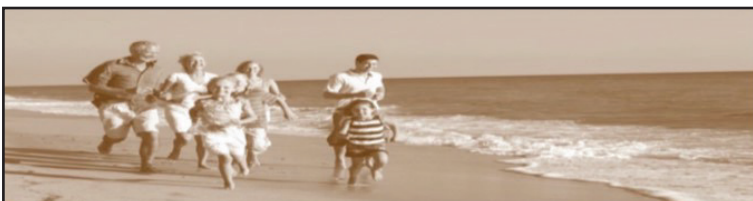
MOAACC GOOD DEEDS FOUNDATION - continued

JROTC Rifle Matches County Championship



During December and January, the JROTC Air Rifle Teams competed in several meets culminating in the County and District Championship on 14 January 2023. During the season, nine JROTC programs in Brevard participated with Palm Bay Marine JROTC coming out on top and headed to the State Championships.

Good Deeds Foundation covered the costs of all trophies and medals for the three events and was represented by VP Mike Gautreaux in Palm Bay for the County Championship.



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Brevard.com](http://www.ElderLawCenterBrevard.com)**



Christmas Tea

By: Susan Neugebauer

A lovely Christmas Tea was held at Indian River Colony Club hosted by Ellie Joy, Surviving Spouse Liaison. After welcoming everyone, she gave an overview of MOAACC activities available to all members. The IRCC Hawaiian Dancers and Musicians provided entertainment and led the group in singing Christmas songs. Honored guests were incoming MOAACC President, Brian Whalen and his wife, Elizabeth. Everyone enjoyed the delicious finger sandwiches and delectable desserts. Ellie thanked everyone for attending and wished the group a wonderful holiday season and best wishes for New Year.



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

TAPS

MOAA CAPE CANAVERAL CHAPTER MEMBER, AUXILIARY, and SPOUSE DEATHS

Reported 1 Dec 2022 thru 30 Dec 2022:
(Names listed in chronological order of date of death)

Clara K. Cleland, 1LT, USA Fmr
11 December 2022

Richard Starr, MAJ, USA Ret
23 December 2022

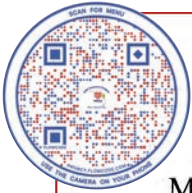
Ester R. Mason, SSM
25 December 2022

Helen G. Kuttas, 2d Lt, USAF, Fmr
26 December 2022

Robert C. Hughes, Lt Col, USAF Ret
28 December 2022

Eloise J. Hoiem, SSM
29 December 2022

Leo Rivera, CW3, USA, Ret
31 December 2022



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Cape Canaveral Chapter (MOAACC)
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50-59	\$400	90-99	\$75
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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.

MOAACC Photo by Pish Pishdad



Navy Veteran Jim Garner from NJ was a PO3 US Navy photographer. Recently, he moved into the retired community of Sonata East assisted living in Viera.

Christmas morning, he found himself surrounded by members of MOAACC chapter, who had volunteered to serve the residents their Christmas lunch.

L-R Capt. Rita Shapiro, LtCol. Jo Tichich, Col Steve Bond, and LtCol. Brian Whalen.

Stand Up to Stand Down



Karen Croft (left) and Rose Marie Hill, both in green tops, help two military wives in need with the selection of their needed items.

The Florida National Guard Armory in Cocoa was the site of distribution center for Stand Up to Stand Down, 20-21 January 2023

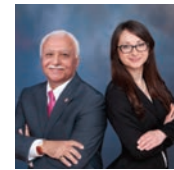
MOAACC Photo by Pish Pishdad

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The China Marines on Okinawa (Part 2)

By Bill Muckler, Captain USMC (ret)



China Marines on Okinawa: 1945

There were more than 240,000 casualties in the campaign for Okinawa. American losses amounted to 49,151; of those 12,520 were killed, or missing, and 36,631 were wounded in action. Marines of the III Amphibious Corps suffered 16,507 battle casualties. 2,779 killed and 13,609 wounded.

Corporal Richard E. Bush, 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, was among the wounded. He enlisted in the USMCR on 22 September 1942, in Bowling

Green, Kentucky. He received basic training at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego, CA, and later was transferred to a replacement battalion at Camp Elliott, CA for training as an armorer.

He served with the Marine Corps Raiders in the Pacific, where he was promoted to corporal. On 16 April 1945, Cpl Bush, serving in the 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 6-MARDIV as a rifle company squad leader, led his men in a charge against an enemy stronghold during the final assault against Mount Yaetake in northern Okinawa. During that action, he was seriously wounded and evacuated to a nearby medical aid area for treatment.

President Harry S. Truman, presented Corporal Bush with the Medal of Honor for "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty" the reads in part:

"Rallying his men forward with indomitable determination, Cpl. Bush boldly defied the slashing fury of concentrated Japanese artillery fire pouring down from the gun-studded mountain fortress to lead his squad up the face of the rocky precipice, sweep over the ridge, and drive the defending troops from their deeply entrenched position. With his unit, the first to break through the inner defense of Mount Yaetake, he fought relentlessly in the forefront of the action until seriously wounded and evacuated with others under protecting rocks. Although prostrate under medical treatment when a Japanese hand grenade landed in the midst of the group, Cpl. Bush, alert and courageous in extremity as in battle, unhesitatingly pulled the deadly grenade to himself and absorbed the shattering violence of the exploding charge in his body, thereby saving his fellow marines from severe injury or death despite the certain peril to his own life."

Bush survived the blast with severe wounds, losing several fingers and sight in one eye. He was also awarded a second Purple Heart Medal.

(Next month: The China Marines in Korea and Vietnam)



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United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps Celebrates 134th Birthday on 04 January 2023:

Submitted by CAPT (ret) Rita Shapiro



The United States Public Health Service was founded in 1798 when John Adams signed into law the Act for the Relief of Sick and Disabled Seamen triggering the creation of marine Hospitals along major American waterways. In 1889, the 50th Congress passed a bill to create the Commissioned Corps, organized along military lines, within the Marine Hospital Service. Today, the Commissioned Corps serves and protects the health of the nation whenever and wherever they are needed. Most recently they fought threats from various pandemics, supported public health at the southern border, cared for repatriated refugees, and worked in some of the most remote areas of our country caring for marginalized persons in great need. They are stronger and better than ever and ready to meet every health challenge of the future.

Photo and information courtesy of the Commissioned Officers' Association

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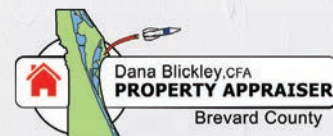


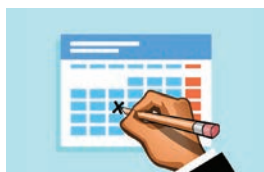
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**Deadline to Apply:
March 1**





Unofficial Brevard VMC Vets Calendar

February 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/>

04 Feb — JROTC Drill Meet in Veterans Memorial Park (0700-1230)

05 Feb — Immortal Four Chaplains Ceremony 1400-1600 VMC Plaza and Gray Hall.

18 Feb — JROTC Drill Meet in Veterans Memorial Park (0700-1300)

23 Feb — Liberty Bell Museum Patriot Awards Dinner 1800-2100 Grand Manor Catering 1450 Sarno Road, Melbourne. Details follow to register and help honor local volunteers who support veterans in many ways.

24 Feb — 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.

25 Feb — Back Brevard Heroes Fundraiser in Veterans Memorial Park 0900-1700

04 Mar — JROTC Drill Meet in Veterans Memorial Park District Championship (0700-1300)

18 Mar — Commemoration of the Last Naval Battle of the American Revolution 1000-1300 VMC Plaza, Museum and Gray Hall

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

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

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.

29 May — Memorial Day Remembrance VMC 0930-1030

03 Jun — Annual Courageous Division NSCC Sea Cadet Awards Ceremony, VMC Gray Hall and Library 0800- 1500

04 Jul — Annual BCSO/VMC Independence Day Parade - Details in May

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 from 1030-1230

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

Donn Weaver, BVC Chairman 757-871-6576



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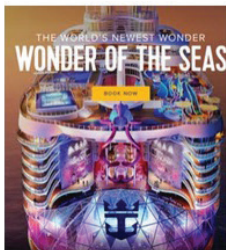
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