



# The INTERCOM

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA  
Cape Canaveral Chapter, Inc.



*January MOAACC Luncheon Speaker, CAPT Winston Scott, USN, Astronaut  
"Reflections from Earth Orbit"*



Scott with other American and foreign Astronauts on mission

Mrs. Marilyn & Winston Scott, 2024 MOAACC President Col. Richard Kniseley & Mrs. Cheryl Kniseley

MOAACC Photos by Fish Fishdad



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



## FEBRUARY EVENTS

(Click Event for Details)

- 2/1 TMBC - 8 AM  
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 2/8 TMBC - 8 AM  
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 2/8 Honor America Patriot Awards Dinner - 6 PM  
@ The Grand Manor - Melbourne
- 2/13 OTG Luncheon - 11:30 AM  
@ Florida Seafood - Cocoa Beach
- 2/15 Current Affairs/TMBC - 8 AM  
Guest Speaker: Scott Tilley  
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 2/20 MOAACC BOD Mtg - 9:30 AM  
@ Indian River Colony Club - Chapel
- 2/20 MOAACC Luncheon - 11:30 AM  
Guest Speaker: Florida Tech President,  
Dr. John Nicklow  
@ Indian River Colony Club - Colony Hall
- 2/22 TMBC - 8 AM  
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 2/29 TMBC - 8 AM  
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole

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

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

## PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



Col Rick Kniseley, USAF (Ret)

### An Unexpected Service



I have had the honor of service thru active duty in the Air Force, community service thru MOAACC and service to God thru church membership.

On a recent visit with an elderly member of my church who lives alone and isolated because of health and mobility issues. My expectation of service this day was to present information to her about how our church ministries

could help and support her with her challenges.

She greeted me at the front door and was extremely pleased for the visit as she shared that she does not see many visitors. "No one comes to the door. And the rare phone call I get is someone selling insurance or a robot call. I don't get out of the condo except to go to a doctor's appointment or take the trash to the dumpster!"

Listening to her at that moment, I realized really the most beneficial service I could provide to her was the service of just visiting with her. We continued visiting for another half an hour or so talking and listening to each other, sharing thoughts about our families, histories and whatever else came to mind.

As I was leaving, she gave me a hug, thanked me for coming and said that I had made her day.

WOW!

Thank you to all those who serve. As I continue to learn, service to others can occur in sometime unexpected ways at unexpected times.

"Listen" for your opportunities!



## 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 (Times New Roman, font 11).
- 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](mailto: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 Ellie Joy know and she will be happy to send them a card from the chapter.

Ellie Joy, SSM • [ejoy@cfl.rr.com](mailto:ejoy@cfl.rr.com) • (321) 961-2962

## EXECUTIVE EDITOR & PAO

**Amir M. Pishdad, CW3, USA (Ret)**

Looking forward receiving lots of exciting photos from MOAACC 2024 cruise.

Also, I would like to remind all members don't forget to check out pages of THE INTERCOM ELECTRONIC Section after printed page 20.

LOG ON TO MOAACC.org , THEN FOLLOW THE PROMPTS.



## PUBLIC RELATIONS & MARKETING COMMITTEES

### INTERCOM:

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(Includes other MOAACC Missions as well as Intercom)

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FACEBOOK: Tim Pishdad

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## FINANCIAL LITERACY

COL John C. Murphy, USAR (Ret.)

### Estate Planning Checklist: Get Your Affairs in Order

Estate planning is one of the most important things you will do during your lifetime. Making a plan ahead of time can help you to protect your assets and preserve your legacy. Here are the primary steps to secure your legacy.

#### 1. Identify the Steps Necessary to Protect Your Wealth

You may wish to protect your assets against 1) Nursing Home costs, 2) creditor claims, 3) an irresponsible heir doesn't unwisely spend their inheritance, 4) reduce or avoid estate taxes (2026), 5) avoid the probate process. You need to choose the right tools to keep your money and property safe.

#### 2. Consider the Needs of Your Heirs

You will need to consider any unique circumstances that could affect the people who will inherit your wealth or your ability to provide for them. Issues that could affect your planning include: 1) Leaving money or property to minors who cannot yet manage the funds, 2) someone who you don't trust to be responsible, 3) a special needs heir receiving means-tested government benefits such as SSI or Medicaid. Anticipating the circumstances of heirs allows you to make informed choices about the kinds of tools to use for what happens after your death.

#### 3. Make a Plan for the Transfer of Assets

Armed with knowledge of your heirs' needs and the potential threats to your wealth, you can make an estate plan. Your plan may include last will and testament, pay-on-death accounts, jointly owned property, revocable trust, special needs trust or even an irrevocable trust.

#### 4. Prepare for Potential Incapacity

Preparing for your possible incapacity should be a key part of your estate planning. You can do this by signing a durable power of attorney, and a living will. Appointing a healthcare surrogate, and a pre-need guardian. Being prepared can ensure your family doesn't have to go to court, prove you are incapable, and have a guardian appointed.

It's very important that you take action on your checklist, because, once you become incapacitated or pass away, it will be impossible for you to go back and do the things you missed.



## LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

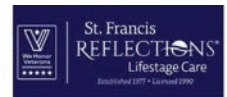
John R. McMahon, BG (Retired), USA

It's a new year and time to return to a basic premise that undergirds our membership in MOAACC, that leg of the 3-legged stool entitled Legislative Advocacy. What follows is taken from the MOAA website, <https://moaa.quorum.us>

With more than 350,000 members from every branch of service - including Active Duty, National Guard, Reserve, retired, former officers, and their families - MOAA is a powerful force speaking for a strong national defense and representing the interests of military officers at every stage of their careers. Retirees and their dependents deserve the full earned pay and benefits their decades of service and sacrifice entitle them to.

For more than 90 years, MOAA has engaged with Congress to protect pay and benefits from budget-driven threats, continued access to quality medical care, and countless other areas of concern to retirees, those currently serving, and the wider uniformed services community. MOAA will also continue to inform Congress of the importance of protecting and expanding benefits for those who have served, and of preserving earned benefits such as COLA increases for retirees and survivors and the commissary benefit that frequently become targets for cost cutting.

Honored to provide  
specialized care  
and recognition  
to our *nation's heroes.*



See our hospice care quality scores at  
[www.medicare.gov/care-compare](http://www.medicare.gov/care-compare)

#### OUR SERVICES

Hospice  
Palliative  
Grief Support  
We Honor Veterans



[www.ReflectionsLSC.org](http://www.ReflectionsLSC.org) | 321.360.4240  
Reflecting Life, Love, and Compassion



MOAA's advocacy priorities for retirees in the 118th Congress include:

- Ensuring pay at or above Employment Cost Index, allowances, and programs necessary to recruit and retain a quality force.
- Concurrent Receipt of military retirement pay and VA disability pay.
- Maintaining the hold on medical billet reductions until required reports clarify how any cuts will fully support both readiness and beneficiary access to care.
- Reversing the degradation of the pharmacy benefit, specifically ensure access and achieve limits to copay increases.
- Requiring DoD to establish a transparent and well-publicized problem reporting system for TRICARE beneficiaries experiencing access challenges within the direct care system of military hospitals and clinics, including an annual report to Congress on the number and types of beneficiary access problem reports by MTF and steps taken by DHA to address systemic access problems.
- Monitoring recent major legislation enacted such as the PACT Act in the areas of health care, compensation, and follow-on support for surviving spouses and families and seek statutory or policy changes as required.
- Compelling Congress and VA to accelerate caregiving and whole health care services, and modernization of VHA workforce and facility infrastructure to improve veterans access to high quality care.
- Improving congressional support for uniformed services families: enhancing programs to support spouse employment, ensuring implementation of an effective basic needs allowance, and providing accessible, affordable childcare options.
- Overcoming the lack of effective problem-reporting mechanisms and resolution systems in the Military Health System.
- Repealing the recoupment of last month's paycheck after retiree's passing, and continue to improve SGLI/VGLI updates to match inflation.
- Improving DIC baseline to align with other government entitlements' baseline of 55%.

The combination of this sustained legislative advocacy in Washington, DC, coupled with your individual efforts to stay informed and to influence our elected representatives in both chambers of Congress, using this website above, for example, to "pen" cards and letters urging appropriate action and positions creates the force necessary to ensure our collective voice is heard. We are counting on your continued support and action. Thank you.

## POINTS TO PONDER

**MAJ (Chaplain, USA Ret.) Bill Adams**

### My Valentine



It was the spring of '79, my "yearling" year at West Point. As I sat alone on Trophy Point with its majestic panorama of the Hudson River, it seemed every cadet and officer was walking about with a girl on his arm.

I wished I had a girl too, but not a date—I'd had enough of dating. What I really wanted was to find my wife...my forever Valentine!

Two young ladies strolled up and sat nearby. My radar locked on the beautiful dark-haired one, but I was in anguish, too shy to start up a conversation. The dark-haired girl glanced over and noticed me holding a Christian magazine; she wondered if I might be a believer in Jesus like herself.

Suddenly, the bushes next to us erupted as a birds started squawking and fluttering. I looked up, startled. She looked up, startled. Our eyes met. I said lamely, "It sounds like a jungle out there." She politely agreed and got right to the point, "Do you know Jesus?" Nine months prior I would have had to violate the Cadet Honor Code to say yes. But by His grace, I was able to say with confidence, "Why, yes I do."

I escorted the dark-haired girl named Liz Scott with her friend to the Cadet Chapel. Entering the soaring Gothic cathedral, Lizzie somehow knew she was going to get married there. But next came a terrible discovery that crushed all my hopes of ever being the one to marry that girl: I was 19; she was 20—an older woman! I thought a guy had to find a girl his age or younger. We exchanged addresses, but I never would have written her.

My ignorance caused God to work overtime that day. That evening, while Lizzie was working in a bookstore far away, a young guy came in looking for directions. In chatting, Lizzie discovered that this guy was a West Point cadet who knew me. When our paths crossed two weeks later, he said, "Hey, I met a girl you know...Liz Scott. What a great Christian gal. Some Christian guy here ought to get to know her." My world tilted--in that moment I knew God had given me a second chance.

The rest is history: I wrote her; she wrote back. I asked her to marry me; she said yes. She became a wonderful Army, missions, and ministry wife, mother of seven, plus 16 grandbabies (and counting).

We have returned many times over the years to Trophy Point with family and friends to recount the miraculous story of our meeting. The place forever holds a most special place in my heart, for there God was so kind to give me my Valentine.



## HEALTHY LIVING

**Rita Shapiro, PT, MA, DPT**



Cardiovascular disease (CVD) remains the leading cause of death in the United States, accounted for 928,741 deaths in the year 2020.

For American Heart Month, the American Heart Association and other organizations reinforce the importance of heart health, the need for more research and efforts to ensure that millions of people live longer and healthier.

Here are just a few examples of how you can work toward living with a healthy heart:

- Do at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity a week (or, just getting started and working your way there!)
- Eat healthy: Look for the “heart check” items in the grocery store
- Do not smoke or vape
- Maintain a healthy weight
- Control blood sugar, cholesterol and blood pressure
- Make an appointment with your doctor during this month to get your heart, blood pressure, blood sugar and cholesterol levels tested.
- Learn [Hands-Only CPR](#)
- Find ways to relax and ease your mind, such as meditation, yoga or Tai-Chi

Source: American Heart Association

Prepared and submitted by: Rita Shapiro, MA, DPT



## Mark Your Calendar!

### SPACE COAST NAVY WIVES' CLUB

Please join us for our first meeting/luncheon of 2024. We will meet at **THE TIDES** at Patrick Space Force Base on A1A, on Friday, February 16th. Social hour begins at 11:30am and lunch is served at noon.

Our speaker will be T J Logan, a Brevard County resident, who is an award-winning author of Romantic Suspense books. Her stories are filled with military heroes. She grew up in military family and her son graduated from the Naval Academy.

Menu choices are Grilled Shrimp with Jasmine Rice and Green Beans or Beef Stew. Our dessert will be Chocolate Cake.

Reservations must be made no later than noon, Tuesday, February 13th. Please call Rebecca Kersey or text at (207) 607-0006 or email at [oceanspruce@protonmail.com](mailto:oceanspruce@protonmail.com).

Remember friends and spouses are always welcome.

Ellie Joy (321) 757-0193

## Save the Dates for upcoming MOAACC Events:

**20 February 2024**

MOAACC Monthly Luncheon

**16 April 2024**

ROTC & JROTC Awards Ceremony

**21 May 2024**

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

**16 July 2024**

Scholarship Award Presentations

**5 October 2024**

Past Presidents Dinner Dance

**16 November 2024**

Good Deeds Foundation's Veterans and Military  
Support Golf Tournament

**19 November 2024**

Annual Membership Business Meeting

**7 December 2024**

Annual Christmas Dinner Dance



# MOAACC Luncheon

## At Indian River Colony Club, on 20 February 2024, 11:30 AM - 01:00 PM

### Luncheon Speaker

#### Florida Tech's Sixth President: Dr. John Nicklow



John Nicklow, Ph.D.

John Nicklow, Ph.D., became the sixth president in Florida Institute of Technology's 65-year history on July 1, 2023.

For seven years prior to joining Florida Tech, President Nicklow served as president and CEO of the University of New Orleans (UNO). His priorities focused on enrollment growth and student success,

strengthening the campus' research enterprise, and expanding partnerships with alumni, the community, and regional business leaders.

President Nicklow has 25 years of higher education experience as a faculty member in engineering and an academic administrator, with a proven track record in research, enrollment management, student success initiatives, fundraising, external partnerships and academic program innovation. He previously served as provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at Southern Illinois University, as well as earlier administrative appointments, including chief enrollment officer and leadership positions in the College of Engineering and Department of Civil Engineering at that institution.

President Nicklow has participated in many local and regional nonprofit and economic development organizations including GNO Inc., the Jefferson Chamber of Commerce, the New Orleans Chamber of Commerce, the Business Council of New Orleans, the New Orleans Business Alliance, the Louisiana Committee of 100, the Rotary Club of New Orleans and the board of directors of Benjamin Franklin High School. He has served as chairman of the Greater New Orleans Higher Education Consortium.

President Nicklow has been widely recognized at the university level, nationally by the American Society of Civil Engineers, and by industry for his teaching and research accomplishments. At UNO, he held the rank of professor in the Department of Civil Engineering and held an endowed chair in environmental modeling, which he used to support graduate students and a post-

doctoral fellowship. His research interests are focused on advancement of STEM education and on optimization of environmental and water resources systems. He has published more than 75 articles and is the author of four books. He is a registered professional engineer (P.E.), a certified professional hydrologist, a fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers, and a diplomate of the American Academy of Water Resources Engineers.

A native of western Pennsylvania, President Nicklow earned B.S. and M.S. degrees in civil engineering from Bucknell University in Pennsylvania and a Ph.D. in civil engineering from Arizona State University. He has been inducted to the Academy of Distinguished Alumni at Arizona State University's School of Sustainable Engineering and the Built Environment, and he is a recent recipient of the NCAA Champion of Diversity Award. He began his career as an environmental engineering officer with the U.S. Public Health Service. He and his wife, Stacy Nicklow, Ph.D., have one son, Ethan.

#### Luncheon Details:

(Cost: \$25)

Meal choices are:

1. Lasagna with Meat Sauce
2. Par 3 Salad with Fruit
3. Vegetarian Meal Upon Request

All meals include rolls & butter, coffee & tea, and the Chef's sweet choice for dessert. Cash bar available.

Please **RSVP/cancel by 14 February 2024**, online, or by contacting Grace Catron at [events@moaacc.org](mailto: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

### MOAACC On-the-Go Luncheon

February O-T-G will be on 13 February 2024 at:

**Florida Seafood**

480 W Cocoa Beach Causeway, Cocoa Beach, FL 32931

Please contact Toni Lowe at 321-474-6888 to sign up.



## MOAACC GOOD DEEDS FOUNDATION

**Donn Weaver, Cpt (fmr) USA**

### Leaping into 2024 — Good Deeds Moving at High Speed

With February 2024 being a Leap Year, your Good Deeds Foundation has an extra day to do well in the community throughout the years. Our final net earnings from the GDF VyStar Golf Tournament in November were over \$18,600. With some major donors such as VyStar, we are able to begin the new year with more resources than GDF has ever had since our 2014 inception as part of the MOAACC. Please read about a number of GDF projects in this edition including Wreaths Across America at the Cape Canaveral National Cemetery (\$2500 donation) and many more.

At our 09 January GDF Board meeting we confirmed our three officers, Vice President Mike Gautreaux, Treasurer Wayne Justice and President Donn Weaver will continue to lead our now 11-member Board. We bade fond farewells to Norm Easton and Joe Tichich for their service. We also agreed to host another GDF Military and Veterans Golf Tournament at IRCC on Saturday, 16 Nov 2024 and will need help from many other MOAACC members to recruit sponsors, encourage golfers to sign up and create a committee for raffle and auction items. That effort will begin in earnest in April so we can try to beat last year's total.

GDF President Weaver provided a Quarterly Update on GDF Financials and plans for 2024 on 16 January and was pleased to be sworn in as 2024 GDF President as part of the 06 January Installation Banquet.

With your help, your GDF will again have a record year surpassing the \$110,000 worth of grants in 2023 to active-duty families, cadet and youth programs, veterans' families in crisis, and great veteran organizations in Brevard County, like Space Coast Honor Flight, Wreaths Across America, National Veterans Homeless Support and many others that do so much for Brevard veterans and the public.

We hope you will continue to support and be proud of what we believe is the best 501c3 MOAA Chapter Program of its nature in the country - an opinion shared with us from time to time by Florida Council of Chapters and MOAA National.



*SAR President Joel Etherton (center) Receives the GDF grant from Doug Bisset (left) and Donn Weaver (right) at the VMC library on 12 Jan. Bisset and Weaver are also SAR members.*



*Donn Weaver presents the GDF grant to 920 RQW Foundation President Holly Viet outside the PSFB gate.*



*Flanked by the Raider Challenge State Championship Trophies Weaver presents GDF Ring contribution to ISG Kevin Staddie, CBHS JROTC Instructor and Coach of the Raider Teams. Staddie confirmed, as a senior NCO, that is the best smile he has!!*



## Putting Real Meaning into National Day of Service - MLK Holiday: Restoration Work and Ceremony at Oak Hill Saints and Sinners Cemetery.



On 15 January, at a small, historically African American Cemetery in the tiny town of Oak Hill, Florida, 10 miles north of the VA Cape Canaveral National Cemetery, something very special happened. More than 85 people including many veterans from Volusia and Brevard Counties as well as the community, came together to restore headstones from vandalized and sunken veteran grave sites. They were also there to honor the veterans and hold a re-dedication and remembrance military burial ceremony for one family who had missed that promised ceremony decades earlier.

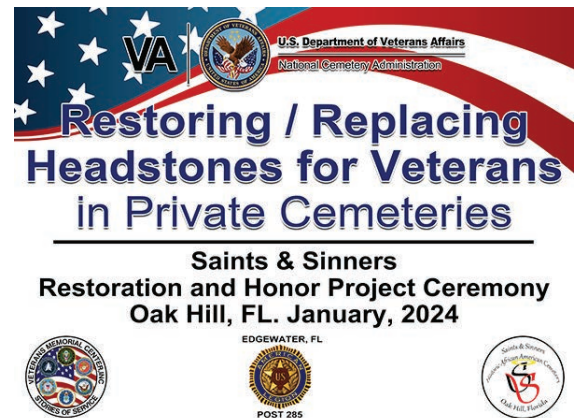
This year the VA National Cemetery Administration (VA/NCA) chose the tiny Saints and Sinners Cemetery in Oak Hill on MLK Day, to support with a new headstone in the case of one family and ongoing support to repair 21 veteran grave sites damaged by vandalism, floods and neglect over many decades. Dan Devine, the VA/NVA Outreach Director organized the support and came to Florida for the Ceremony. Most of the veterans laid to rest in this cemetery were from WWI and WWII.

There are five million veterans who rest in peace at carefully maintained VA Cemeteries, but millions more are buried in private cemeteries. All are entitled to a military service and proper headstone or marker. On that day, two such headstones were brought to VA/NCA standards, one was raised from being almost fully sunken in the flood prone area, and another provided a brand-new headstone by the NCA after having been crushed by vandals.

More than 20 descendants of Army SP5 Blaise Merrick Cook drove from Miami and Jacksonville to see the new headstone unveiled and to be honored by American Legion Post 285 of Edgewater, FL with their Honor Guard. They performed folding the flag and presenting it to her sister, the rifle salute and Taps. In addition, the Fitzgerald family of Mims provided their beautiful caisson while Doug Bisset and Hans Hunt of the Brevard Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) connected the first veterans in America (their ancestors) with uniforms and the firing of a miniature Revolutionary War Cannon in honor of Ms. Cook.

Numerous veteran organizations from both counties planned and conducted the event. Special thanks to Dru-Ann Welch and others from the Oak Hill Saints and Sinners Historic African American Cemetery Restoration, Inc Committee. They began their work 18 months ago and still have months ahead to finish all 21 veteran grave-sites in the still active cemetery. More than 35 veterans and others came north from Brevard to provide logistical support and funding from the Good Deeds Foundation of the Cape Canaveral Chapter of the Military Officer's Association of America, one of the largest in the country.

It was truly a case of many communities, including many veterans, coming together. When the 45-minute ceremony was over and the work continued there were many smiles and some tears, but all were happy they spent that holiday in service in a very unique way and place.





# 2024 MOAACC



Opening prayer led by Chaplain Lt Col Tom Unrath, USAF (Ret.)

## Swearing In of MOAACC Officers & Directors by Colonel Richard Kniseley II, USSF

1st Row L-R: Asst Treasurer LTC Bill Vanasse, USA (Ret.), Director LTC Dave Kobey, USA (Ret.), Director MAJ Timothy Pishdad, USA (Ret.);

2nd Row L-R: President Col Richard Kniseley, USAF (Ret.), 1st Vice President CAPT Stephen Cusick, USNR (Ret.), 2nd Vice President Capt Rosa Reich, USAF (Fmr.);

3rd row L-R: Director Lt Col Joe Tichich, USAF (Ret.), Director Lt Col Brian Whalen, USAF (Ret.) past President, Director LTC Hans Hunt, USA (Ret.)

Those not in the photo are pictured below.



Secretary  
CAPT Arnold Lim, USNR (Ret.)



Asst. Secretary  
Capt William Muckler, USMC (Fmr.)



Treasurer  
COL Michael Schroeder, USA (Ret.)



Master-at-Arms  
CW4 Jose Prieto, USA (Ret.)



# Installation Banquet

MOAACC Photos by Pish Pishdad



National Anthem - LtCol Cynthia Watkins Pishdad



COL Steve Bond USA (Ret.) is the recipient of the MOAACC 2023 Distinguished Service Award. Presented by LT.Col Brian Whalen USAF (Ret.), 2023 President of MOAACC.



Elizabeth Whalen, wife of LT.Col Brian Whalen USAF, receives a bouquet from Capt Rosa Reich, USAF.

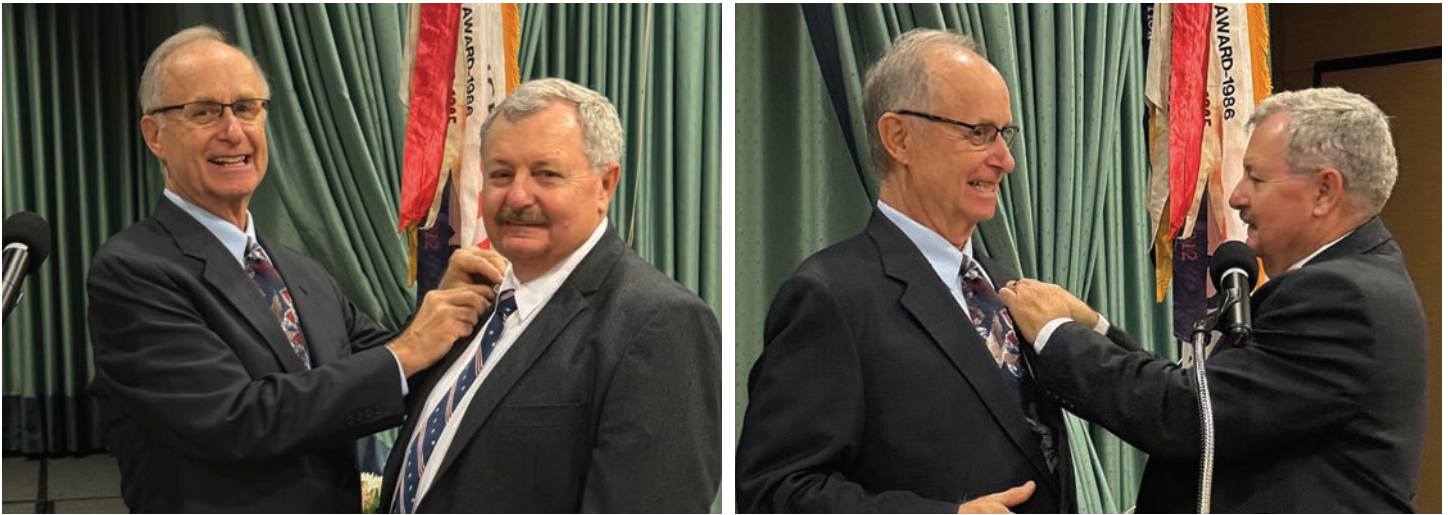


MOAACC President Col Richard Kniseley, USAF (Ret.) receives gavel from son, Colonel Richard Kniseley II, USSF

More photos on next page



## *More 2024 MOAACC Installation Banquet Photos*



*Pinning of the Past President and New President*



*Col Richard A. Knisely II, USSF with mom, Cheryl Kniseley.*



*Col Richard A. Knisely II, USSF was also the only representative of the Space Force at the luncheon to sing the Space Force Medley song*



## THE ROLE OF AIRCRAFT IN WWI

By Bill Muckler, Captain USMC



*Brigadier General Billy Mitchell in Cockpit of a Thomas Morse Pursuit Plane*

Both sides of The Great War, between the Central Powers, which included Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, and the Ottoman Empire, and the European Allied Forces quickly recognized the advantages of creating air superiority which was not known before 1914. They worked relentlessly throughout the world to develop bigger, faster, and deadlier fighters and bombers. The airplane had only existed for about a decade before the outbreak of World War I but winning the war in the skies became a tactical necessity by the end of the confrontation. Reconnaissance was the main military role of aircraft in World War I. Hot air balloons had been deployed by the military for more than a century, including during the Civil War, to get a panoramic view of the battlefield. However, fixed-wing aircraft with a pilot, and an observer up front manning the binoculars and taking notes, provided the ability to fly far behind enemy lines to map terrain and track troop movements.

British Royal Flying Corps reconnaissance planes alerted British and French commanders in 1914 of German troops preparing for a siege of Paris through Belgium. This enabled the Allied armies to outflank the Germans, resulting in the critical victory of the Battle of the Marne.

Handwritten drawings and on-the-fly observations weren't always accurate but proved critical in some early operations. Soon thereafter cameras were mounted to reconnaissance planes, taking dozens of aerial photos that would be developed and stitched together to create panoramic battlefield maps. Those increasingly sharp and zoom-in images presented field commanders with unprecedented intelligence for positioning artillery and planning troop movements.

In the beginning reconnaissance planes were such a novelty that enemy pilots would wave at each other as they crisscrossed the front lines. It didn't take long for the strategic importance of spy planes to sink in. This created a need to shoot the enemy's aircraft out of the sky. Fighter planes didn't exist until 1915. After the Marne, military commanders began to take seriously the idea of eliminating enemy spy planes. Early on, slow-moving reconnaissance planes would take potshots at each other with service pistols and rifles. Ground crews mounted machine guns for the observers but they were difficult to aim around the propeller, wings, and struts. (Next month: the big breakthrough.)



## MEMBERSHIP BRIEF

# WELCOME

### Welcome 7 new members:

**Johnathan Tice, LCDR, USCG**

**Joseph Gulinello, USA (Ret)**

**Nicholas Rutsis, Captain, USMC (Fmr)**

**Bonita Keefe-Layden, COL, USA (Ret)**

**Julian Simerly III, MAJ, USA (Fmr)**

**Jessica Spitler, Colonel, USAF (Ret)**

**Gil Castillo, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)**

## TAPS

### MOAA CAPE CANAVERAL CHAPTER MEMBER, AUXILIARY, and SPOUSE DEATHS

**Raye Wynne Adams, SSM**

**24 November 2023**

**Connie L. Dobrin,**

**Spouse of Michael Dobrin,**

**LtCol, USAF, Reserve**

**27 November 2023**

**Dorothy F. Hutchens, SSM**

**5 December 2023**

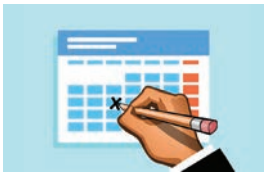
**Betty Gale Pound, SSM**

**8 December 2023**

**Carolyn V. Baney,**

**Spouse of LCDR R. Baney**





# Unofficial Brevard VMC Vets Calendar

## FEBRUARY 2024 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/upcoming-veterans-events/>

### FEBRUARY 2024

**03 Feb** — JROTC County Wide Run and Shoot Competition in Veterans Memorial Park 0700-1230. Sponsored by Satellite AFJROTC with support from VMC and MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation.

**03 Feb** — Hearts to the Troops Package Stuffing Event for deployed troops sponsored by OASIS 0900-1200 at Elks Lodge, 345 Kilmarnoch Lane, Titusville FL. Contact OASIS to support with funding or labor their events six times per year at [www.oasisofcfl.org](http://www.oasisofcfl.org)

**04 Feb** — Anniversary to Remember the Immortal Four Chaplains of WWII 1400-1530 in the VMC Plaza. They went down with their transport ship helping troops in 1943 after a German Torpedo attack in then icy Atlantic. Sponsored by VMC with support from the Marine Corps League of Brevard County.

**10 Feb** — JROTC Squad Drill Meet 0700-1230 with 10-12 Schools Expected and more than 150 cadets in the Veterans Memorial Park on MI. Supported by MOAA Cape Canaveral Chapter Good Deeds Foundation (all trophies) and the VMC.

**10 Feb** — 12th Annual Pioneer Day 1000-1600 at St Luke's Church and Sam's House Conservation Area off North Courtney on Merritt Island. Exhibits, kids' activities, food trucks, tours, nattier walks and much more. Hosted by Museums of Brevard Member Pine Island/Sam's House Society. more information at [www.mipioneerday.com](http://www.mipioneerday.com).

**17 Feb** — Second Annual Back Brevard Heroes Fundraiser Car Show in Veterans Memorial Center Park 1000 - 1500. Registration details in early January. BBH support First Responders and Veterans.

**24 Feb** — JROTC Squad and Platoon Drill Meet 0700-1230 with 10-12 Schools Expected and more than 150 cadets in the Veterans Memorial Park on MI. Supported by MOAA Cape Canaveral Chapter Good Deeds Foundation (all trophies) and the VMC.

**27 Feb** — VMC Library Discussion Program 1800-1930, Topic and Speaker TBD

### MARCH 2024

**09 Mar** — JROTC District Drill Meet with all disciplines 0700-1300 with 10-12 Schools Expected and more than 150 cadets in the Veterans Memorial Park on MI. Supported by MOAA Cape Canaveral Chapter Good Deeds Foundation (all trophies) and the VMC.

**16 Mar** — Ceremony to Remember the Last Naval Battle of the American Revolutionary War fought off the Coast of Cape Canaveral in 1783. 1000-1200 at the VMC Plaza Area with food and drinks and a parade pf colors and wreaths with many in

colonial attire. Put on by the Sons of the American Revolution Brevard Chapter along with the DAR and VMC. Contact Donn Weaver 757-871-6576 for more information.

**26 Mar** — VMC Library Discussion Program 1800-1930, Topic and Speaker TBD.

### APRIL 2024

**13 Apr** — Space Coast Honor Flight to Washington DC for selected veterans to visit their memorials. Guardian volunteers and other supporters welcome for ceremony to launch the flight at 0130 hours at the Senior Center in Wickham Park, Melbourne. Contact SCHF on 321-456-7031 or [info@spacecoasthonorflight.org](mailto:info@spacecoasthonorflight.org) for more information.

**15 Apr** — Deadline to sign up to as vendor/participant in the 36th Annual Florida All Veterans Reunion at Wickham Park featuring VVB's Traveling Walls from Vietnam and GWOT. Contact Doc Russo 321-652-4185 or [RARusso1962@gmail.com](mailto:RARusso1962@gmail.com)

**23 Apr** — Vietnam Welcome Home Ceremony at Cape Canaveral National Cemetery in Mims 1000-1130 hrs. Details in March.

### MAY 2024

**05-12 May** — Traveling Wall and Reunion at Wickham Park. Details in March. See above 15 April to register and for info.

**24 May** — Annual Gold Star Family Dinner and Ceremony at VMC Gray Hall and P{lava 1700-2100 hours. Details and Registration in April.

### SEPTEMBER 2024

**07 Sep** — Space Coast Honor Flight to Washington DC for selected veterans to visit their memorials. Guardian volunteers and other supporters welcome for ceremony to launch the flight at 0130 hours at the Senior Center in Wickham Park, Melbourne. Contact SCHF on 321-456-7031 or [info@spacecoasthonorflight.org](mailto:info@spacecoasthonorflight.org) for more information

### OCTOBER 2024

**12 Oct** — Space Coast Honor Flight to Washington DC for selected veterans to visit their memorials. Guardian volunteers and other supporters welcome for ceremony to launch the flight at 0130 hours at the Senior Center in Wickham Park, Melbourne. Contact SCHF on 321-456-7031 or [info@spacecoasthonorflight.org](mailto:info@spacecoasthonorflight.org) for more information

**31 Oct** — BCSO Shred Event in VMC Park 0900-1030. BSCO conducts monthly shred services at various locations and will release their 2024 schedule in January.

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### Building on Opportunities in 2024

February 2024 marks the second month of our annual six-month MOAACC Scholarship Corporation campaign for eligible candidates which culminates in the 41st Annual Scholarship Awards Luncheon this summer. In 2023, we awarded 12 scholarships of \$5,000 each. Our July awards presentation provided an excellent opportunity for our scholarship winners, donors and MOAACC members to honor the awardees with some well-deserved pomp and circumstance.

According to *U.S. News & World Report*, for the 2023-2024 school year, the average annual cost of college varied from \$10,662 for in-state tuition; \$23,360 for out-of-state tuition; and \$42,162 for a private college. This reflects a 4% increase over the 2022-2023 school year. A MOAACC scholarship will go a long way helping awardees pay for burgeoning cost of college academics and extracurricular pursuits.

For 2024, the Scholarship Corporation has further expanded its focus on supporting worthy college students by making prospective college sophomores through PhD students eligible to receive the scholarship, and now including both part- and full-time graduate students. Furthermore, the board continues to expand its outreach for eligible candidates and increase awareness in our community through media and strategic networks. We appeal to our MOAACC members, to aid in spreading the word and help drive as many eligible candidates as possible to apply.

Lastly, as we begin the New Year it is a great time to review or establish your planned giving for 2023. Please consider a donation to the Scholarship Corporation! We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit and your donations are tax-deductible. (Make sure you consult, as applicable, your accountant, attorney and financial advisor to make your contribution as tax-efficient as possible.) With continued donor support from the MOAACC community, we will continue to meet our **goals**:

- To assist worthy students who are descendants or wards of members of the U.S. uniformed services;
- To achieve the established annual scholarship objective through donations and endowment income;
- To recognize donors for their contributions to the Fund

Please consider supporting the MOAACC Scholarship Corporation in 2024!



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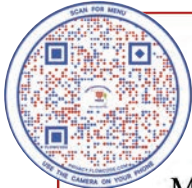
The January 4th TMBC Current Affairs Forum speaker was MOAACC member, Larry Sanford. Drawing on his in-depth experience in international relations, Larry provided an engaging presentation on China and the threat China poses to our nation. After the informative talk, Larry was presented an MOAACC challenge coin by CAF Coordinator Don Reott.



Donn Weaver and Amir Pishdad, Jr., present a \$5,000 check from The Dot and Lam Hardman Family Foundation, Inc.



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## *Indian River Colony Club Rifle and Pistol Club Annual Banquet*



January 20, 2024 at the Indian River Colony Club Rifle and Pistol Club held its Annual Banquet. Club President Amir Pishdad Jr, Lieutenant Commander Navy SEAL, presented guest speaker Tim Thomas, Lieutenant Colonel USA, (who is the Senior Instructor of the Viera High School JROTC Program), with a \$500.00 check to help with the Viera JROTC expenses.

To date, The Gun Club has donated \$3,000.00 to the Viera Program.

Additionally, Colonel Thomas was presented a Special Plaque and a personalized Glock Knife for his dedication and service to the Viera Community.



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