



The INTERCOM

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
Cape Canaveral Chapter, Inc.



MOAACC Luncheon Guest Speaker

Eva M. Rey, M.P.A., Vice President of Community Management and Communications
explains The Viera Company history present and future developments

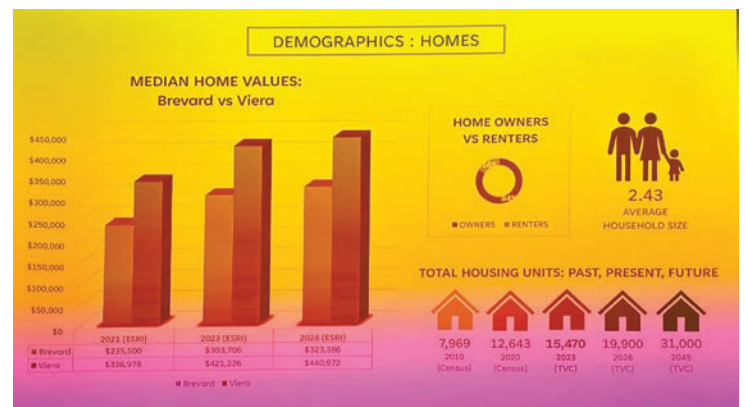
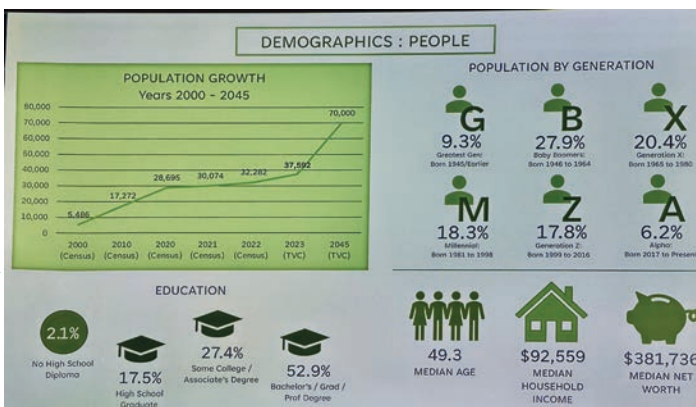


Announcement of VIERA in 1989



History & Growth of Viera, FL

MOAACC Photos by Pish Pishdad



See the story on page 9



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



APRIL EVENTS

(Click Event for Details)

- 4/4 Current Affairs & TMBC - 8 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 4/9 On The Go Luncheon - 11:30 AM
@ Pane e Vino Italian Restaurant
- 4/11 TMBC - 8 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 4/16 MOAACC B.O.D. Mtg. - 8 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - Chapel
- 4/16 MOAACC Luncheon w/ ROTC & JROTC
Awards Ceremony - 11:30 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - Colony Hall
- 4/18 TMBC - 8 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 4/18 MOAACC Member Social - 5:30 PM
@ One Senior Place
- 4/20 Iraq and Afghanistan War Memorial of
Florida Dedication Ceremony - 12 PM
@ Veterans Memorial Park, Port St. Lucie
- 4/25 TMBC - 8 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole

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

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

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



Rick Kniseley, Colonel, USAF (Ret)

What Does it Take to be a JROTC instructor?

A parent from Tallahassee asked Steve Bond why even the top students from her child's school seemed to have difficulties getting ROTC scholarships or Service School appointments. Steve asked Hans Hunt and me as former JROTC instructors what does it take to receive these valuable scholarships/appointments to attend college. Hans suggested that the school apply for a JROTC program (regardless of the Service). I agreed and suggested that they should hire the right retired officer/enlisted to lead their JROTC. Both Hans and I agreed that a valuable addition to their school would be a retired service member with at least 15 years of military experience. But there is more than that when you see what is required to be a JROTC instructor.

- JROTC program focuses on to building better citizens for America; educate cadets in citizenship, community service, and instill responsibility, character, and self-discipline.
- JROTC Instructors should be retired officer/enlisted: with at least 15 years of Service; with at least a bachelors degree (many have masters degrees) and experience in teaching while in the Service
- Although JROTC instructors receive Service guidance in running a JROTC program, flexibility is key to program success in educating high school students.
- JROTC instructors are employees of the high school and responsible to school authorities and their Service for conduct of the program. This means ensuring that the school Principal and JROTC are satisfied with the unit's success.
- Instructors usually have contracts from 10-12 months per year.
- Units must have at least 100 students enrolled or 10% of the school enrollment.

But every instructor learns quickly to be a success. They have to be prepared to work before school begins, after school ends, and on weekends. They are the guide to cadets in leading and preparing them for success after graduation whether joining the military, enrolling in college, working in industry, starting a business, or a family. In other words the cadets learn from their JROTC instructors how to be a success regardless of whether the cadet is in Army, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, or Coast Guard JROTC.

A JROTC Cadet never forgets their leaders in JROTC. They always say the best part of high school was their JROTC instructors.

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

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 • (321) 961-2962

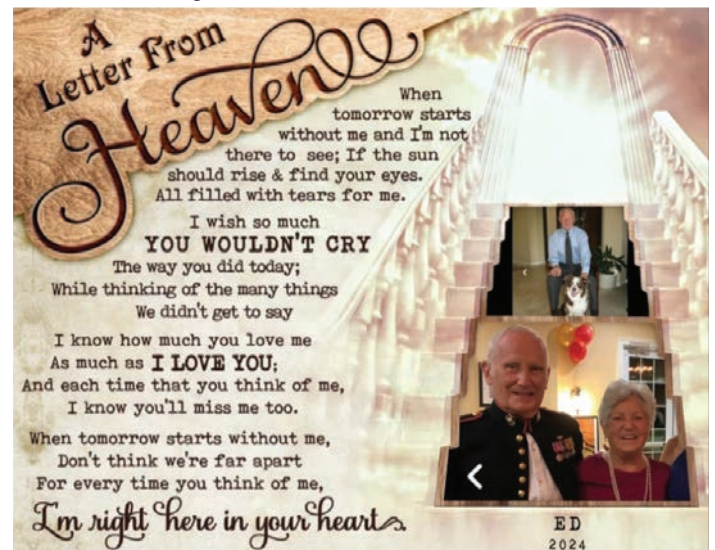
EXECUTIVE EDITOR & PAO

Amir M. Pishdad, CW3, USA (Ret)

LETTER FROM HEAVEN...

Paying tribute to Col. D. Ed Baker, U.S. Marine for 30 years. He recently passed away. I attended this dear friend's memorial. He was a true "Semper Fidelis" he loved his flag, family and friends.

I was very much impressed by the wall-to-wall of his Mementos from his career which were displayed during his celebration of life in IRCC, where he and his wife Shirley live. Among the family display of photos, one stood out among all others:



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FINANCIAL LITERACY

CAPT Arnold Lim, USNR (Ret)

Direct File for Federal Taxes

The month of April to many means it is time to file your tax return. The U.S. is slowly adopting a method to simplify federal tax reporting, similar to use by other developed countries. See if this free online direct tax filing service called Direct File could work for you.

The U.S. has a paperwork heavy, even if it's electronic, difficult process for filing our income taxes with our federal government. There is a drive to have our income taxes automatically figured by the IRS. Now in the United States, we're in a cycle of a great deal of distrust in institutions of all kinds, including government entities. So there's a lot of reluctance on people's part to use what's known as Direct File. It is available in a pilot this year in the United States and is completely optional. If you're not freaked out that the IRS would compute your tax return for you, then you can do Direct File under certain circumstances, and for the tax year 2023, you can only do it in 12 states and only for certain characteristics of tax returns. For example, if you own your own business, you're not doing this. This is for people who get a W2 from a place of work, or they get Social Security; Unemployment income is okay if you were unemployed part of 2023, you can do it; and if you earned a small amount of interest on savings accounts, you can do it.

You can use Direct File if you have one or more of these types of income for tax year 2023: 1) Income from an employer (Form W-2); 2) Unemployment compensation (Form 1099-G); 3) Social Security benefits (Form SSA-1099); 4) \$1500 or less in interest income or US savings bonds or Treasury obligations (Form 1099-INT, boxes 1 and 3).

You can't use Direct File if you have other types of income for tax year 2023 that are not listed above. For example, you won't be able to report any other types of income, such as: 1) Income received from payment apps, online marketplaces, or payment cards (Form 1099-K); 2) Income from independent contractor and gig work (Form 1099-NEC); 3) Income from rent, prizes, awards, and more (Form 1099-MISC); 4) Income from pension and retirement account distributions (Form 1099-R); 5) Alimony that is required to be included in your income.

Residents of the following states are eligible this year: Arizona, California, Florida, Massachusetts,

New Hampshire, New York, Nevada, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, and Wyoming.

When using Direct File, you can only take the standard deduction. i.e., Direct File supports standard deductions but not itemized deductions. Also, there are income limits; depending on one's filing status, the maximum allowed threshold starts at \$125k.

Summing up, if you have a relatively simple streamlined return, Direct File may be a good option in the coming years. Collecting of stacks of paperwork and going to an accountant who does taxes, or using tax preparation software from sites like TurboTax or H&R Block might be avoided for some tax payers. For more details, see <https://directfile.irs.gov>



SURVIVOR ASSISTANCE LESSONS LEARNED

Lt Col Chuck Shaw, USAF, (Ret)

When you lose your spouse, there can be emotions that are overpowering. This month we will touch on anxiety. Unlike Grief, that is hard to deal with beforehand, anxiety can somewhat be prepared for. The more you prepare for the inevitable by addressing things that cause anxiety, it makes dealing with unforeseen things that come up less disruptive. Probably addressing your financial security is one of the most common sources of anxiety. Each month The Intercom has a great article on "Financial Literacy" that is well worth your time to read. The SAT Lessons Learned articles address the preparations to deal with Military and Governmental related Benefits, like the Survivor Benefits Program, VA benefits, Social Security, etc. Both the Intercom articles stress preparations to deal with the future to make things go better.

The earlier you start these preparations, the less distracting and the better the job you can do, and the less chance you will get overwhelmed when the inevitable happens. Things like rounding up the documents you will need to submit along with the benefits claims and things like medical records, and filing for a VA Disability if you are eligible, and simply making arrangements for funeral and burial activities.

These SAT Lessons Learned articles hopefully break down the seemingly daunting and confusing aspects of dealing with the inevitable. And if you do have questions, the Survivor Assistance Team is here to help both beforehand and afterwards.



LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

John R. McMahon, BG, USA (Retired)

Progress or Procrastination?

Since the Congress returned from its winter recess, significant progress has been made on the FY2024 budget appropriations albeit under looming self-imposed deadlines after kicking the can down the road more than a few times. At the same time, President Biden submitted his overdue FY2025 Budget (Presbud) Request after delivering his annual State of the Union address to the Congress ostensibly to outline his priorities, but more of a campaign kick-off speech than anything else. All of this happened while the proverbial kick in the groin was delivered by the Republican-controlled House (followed quickly by an equally complicit Senate) rejecting a bi-partisan effort in the Senate led by Senators Lankford (R-OK), Murphy (D-CT) and Sinema (I-AZ) to address the immigration and border crisis promulgated by Biden's lax policies. This effort to address the long-ignored need for immigration reform was begun last October after Republicans made it clear that additional military and humanitarian aid for Ukraine would only be considered if the southern border crisis was ameliorated by new legislation. Lot of kicking and screaming ensued. The facts are striking: Ukraine's self-defense is teetering, the border crisis and its consequences (fentanyl and bad actors streaming into the country) festering, Israel's insistence on complete victory at the potential peril of more civilians threatening to expand, the ever-growing debt of the US remaining unabated, Europe's once ironclad support for Ukraine showing signs of wavering, and China casting its watchful eye on American intransigence.

The good news last week that was that the House and Senate passed a \$459B package of spending bills for the ongoing FY2024 for the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Energy, Housing and Urban Development, Interior, Justice, Transportation and Veterans Affairs, thereby avoiding a partial government shutdown. Curiously, neither Florida Senators, Rubio and Scott, nor Congressman Posey, voted to support the package. Beyond that, this only accounts for about 30% of the Government budget. The remaining 70%, which includes the Departments of Defense, Homeland Security and State, is more contentious, and must be addressed before the deadline of 22 March, pending another partial government shutdown. US aid to Ukraine and Israel, humanitarian aid for the Palestinians, as well as the US border situation, make it so difficult. The prospect of another episode of "kick the can" may ensue. To his credit, House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) followed his predecessor's lead in sticking to the same top-line discretionary spending limit of \$1.7T that was negotiated last spring by then-Speaker McCarthy and President Biden in order to suspend the nation's debt ceiling. That spending ceiling applied to some of the \$459 B package. Social Security and Medicare programs were not included because they are not subject to annual approval by Congress. The FY2025 Presbud request is \$7.3T and includes \$61B

for Ukraine. It proposes universal Pre-K education, 12 weeks of paid family and medical leave, expanded tax-credits for the impoverished, and a new tax break for first-time homebuyers. It also envisions new taxes on the wealthy and big corporations and purports to cut \$3T from the national debt over 10 years. It is considered "dead on arrival" as long as Republicans control the House or the Senate. The big elephant in the room continues to be out-of-control spending and its accompanying interest burden. In a recent Senate Budget Committee hearing, Senator Mitt Romney (R-UT) suggested the Administration support his proposal for a bi-partisan, bi-cameral commission to "look for ways to hold the debt as a percentage of GDP at a constant level" while noting the Presbud "has no chance of passing". The FY025 Presbud also includes a "solvency plan" for Medicare, but not for Social Security. A "Re-do" of a previous Biden proposal, it would increase taxes on the wages, investment gains and self-employment income of people earning more than \$400,000, and would extend the solvency of Medicare "indefinitely". In terms of MOAA's legislative priorities, the FY2025 Presbud includes a 4.5% pay increase for the uniformed services consistent with the statutory Employment Cost Index, but no increase for BAH beyond the 95% floor required by law. There was also no increase in TRICARE fees. At any rate, this is only the opening salvo in the next budget fight. Let's count on our elected representatives to get the job done on the remaining FY2024 budget appropriations first, and hold them accountable for working through all the sticky wickets of the FY2025 budget through compromise.

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HEALTHY LIVING

CAPT (ret) Rita Shapiro, MA, DPT

April Health Awareness

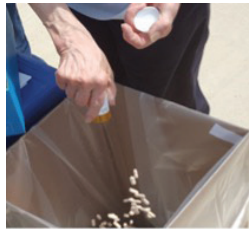
April 5-11 is National Public Health Week:

Public health infrastructure provides the necessary foundation for all public health services—from vaccinations to chronic disease prevention programs to emergency preparedness efforts.



April 27th is National Prescription Drug Take Back Day:

If you have unused or expired prescription medications, find out how and where to dispose of them safely: www.health.mil/drugtakeback #PrescriptionDrugTakeBackDay #DrugTakeBack



The Satellite pharmacy on Patrick Space Force Base has a box in the lobby, where you can drop your unwanted and/or expired medications.

POINTS TO PONDER

MAJ (Chaplain, USAR Ret.) Bill Adams

No April Fool

I'm not a big fan of April Fool's Day. Having fun at someone else's expense kind of bothers me. And yet, there have been some pretty funny pranks committed that infamous first day of April. A sampling through history...

In the early 1700's, astrologer John Partridge made a bogus prediction that a deadly fever would sweep London on April 1. In response, satirist Jonathan Swift predicted that on March 29 Partridge would die of a raging fever. Partridge called Swift a fraud, so on the night of March 29, Swift published an elegy announcing that Partridge had died, admitting on his deathbed that he was the fraud! This went back and forth a while, but the whole escapade discredited Partridge who stopped publishing his lies.

On April 1, 1905, a German newspaper reported that thieves had dug a tunnel underneath the U.S. Federal Treasury in Washington, D.C. and stolen all of America's silver and gold. They said U.S. authorities were trying to find the thieves while covering up the fact that the country had been robbed. The story spread quickly through European newspapers before people realized that it was an April fools' prank by a New York correspondent.

On April 1, 1957, the BBC announced that Ticino, a Swiss region near the Italian border, had seen a massive spaghetti crop that year. Film showed people happily picking spaghetti off trees and bushes then gathering to enjoy their "real, home-grown spaghetti." Some viewers complained that the BBC had aired a farse during a serious news program, but others inquired as to how they could grow their own spaghetti at home.

On April 1, 1980, the BBC broadcast that London's most famous landmark was getting a facelift. To help tourists tell the time, Big Ben was going digital and would henceforth be known as "Digital Dave" with bongs replaced with beeps. Many Brits called in to express their outrage. A BBC spokesperson commented, "Surprisingly, few people thought it was funny."

In an ironic twist, some Bible believers have dubbed April 1 "National Atheist's Day." Why...? Well, because "the fool hath said in his heart, there is no God." (Psalm 14:1a) Happy April to all!

MOAACC On-the-Go Luncheon

9 April 2024, 11:30-1:00, at:
Pane e Vino Italian Restaurant
 1800 W. Hibiscus Blvd. Melbourne, FL 32901
 (The Oaks Shopping Center)
 Call Toni Lowe for reservations:
 321-474-6888



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Mark Your Calendar!

MOAACC Luncheon To Honor Outstanding Local Students (ROTC & JROTC Awards Ceremony) At Indian River Colony Club, on 16 April 2024, 11:30 AM - 01:00 PM

At our April Luncheon we will pay tribute to the outstanding military cadets from Brevard County ROTC, JROTC, Sea Cadet Units, and Civil Air Patrol Squadrons. These young men and women are the best of the best and will be our future leaders. We now offer support to a total of 20 units that are developing our future leaders. Each cadet and their military science instructor are invited to attend this luncheon as our guest. In addition, family members are invited to attend at their own expense. Each cadet will be recognized and presented with a certificate for their achievement. In addition, ROTC and JROTC cadets will receive the MOAA Medal and ribbon at a later date at a local unit's award ceremony.

Show your support for these outstanding young scholars by attending this luncheon. Meet and congratulate them, their instructors, and their families. At a later date, each of these organizations will have their own awards program to honor their military students. Our chapter and many other civic and military organizations will participate in each of these events when possible.

The Luncheon is Tuesday, 16 April 2024. Please arrive by 11:30 AM for check-in and seating. The Call-To-Order is promptly at 12 noon. Lunch will be served at 12:05 PM and the program begins at 12:25 PM.

Reservations are required by the deadline 11 April to receive meal service.

Luncheon Details (Cost: \$25):

Meal choices are:

1. Meatloaf with Mashed Potatoes/veggies
2. Taco Salad with Shell w/Salsa, Sour Cream, Guacamole
3. Vegetarian meals available upon request

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

Please **RSVP/cancel by 11 April 2024**, 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

SPACE COAST NAVY WIVES' CLUB

Please join us for our luncheon on Friday, April 19th at **THE TIDES** on A1A at Patrick Space Force

Base. Social hour begins at 11:30am and lunch is served at noon.

Our speaker will be Jeanne Weaver. Jeanne is an author, painter and a Gold Star Mother. We look forward to her presentation.

Our menu selections are Harvest Salad with mixed greens grilled chicken, sliced apple, candied walnuts with Blue Cheese or Penne Pasta with meatballs and garlic bread. Dessert will be a Fruit Cobbler.

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

Reservations must be made no later than noon, Tuesday, April 16th.

Remember friends and spouses are always welcome.

Ellie Joy (321) 757-0193

Save the Dates for upcoming MOAACC Events:

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

MOAACC Annual Golf Tournament

19 November 2024

Annual Membership Business Meeting

7 December 2024

Annual Christmas Dinner Dance

MOAACC Speakers—Speaking of National Security

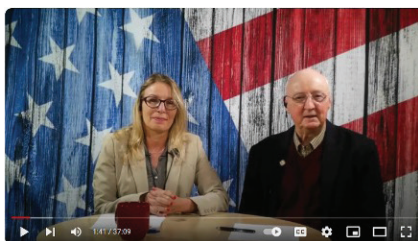
By Colonel Steve Bond (USA-Ret)

The MOAACC Speakers Bureau performs a valuable service in our community and often, well beyond. Many of our speakers, now retired or in second careers, have served in positions requiring them to stay abreast of ongoing and potential national security issues both in and out of uniform. They continue to offer their insights and assessments of current events and national security issues to educate others—often with first-hand, on the ground experience.

Two of our speakers—LT Larry Sanford (USN, FMR) and CAPT Bill Toti (USN, Ret) recently discussed the Israel-Hamas conflict on [The American Security Council Foundation \(ASCF\) Peace Through Strength Podcast](#). Larry, in addition to being a former Navy Officer, also served in the Central Intelligence Agency. He and ASCF co-host Joy Votrobek, interviewed Bill about the on-going conflict in Gaza, which included Bill's personal account of his visit into the Hamas Tunnels in 2016. To listen to the podcast, go to the ASCF YouTube Channel link here: <https://youtu.be/nX1Z9quNxy4>.

Larry is the Senior Analyst for [The American Security Council Foundation](#) located in Sebastian, FL, where he writes position papers and articles, as well as conducting podcasts on National Security issues. Bill does his own podcasts on World War II history and is a frequent commentator for the NewsNation channel, where he has provided insights into the Russia-Ukraine and Israel-Hamas conflicts, among others. His podcasts on the “Unauthorized History of the Pacific Theater of World War II” dives into the subject of the Pacific War by exploring lesser told stories of the largest battlefield in human history. His podcasts are available on YouTube at www.youtube.com/@UnauthorizedHistoryPacificWar.

More information about our Speakers Bureau can be found on our webpage at www.MOAACC.org/about/speakers-bureau/.



Joy Votrobek and Larry Sanford (at Left) interview CAPT Bill Toti (Right), on the Israel-Hamas conflict.

Advice for the life you lead

Advice. Beyond investing.

As a U.S. Navy Veteran, I thank you for your service! You have a vision for how you want to live for today, tomorrow and beyond. I start by asking the right questions to uncover what's most important, and then work with you to create a plan to help you pursue it. Along the way, I offer advice that addresses every aspect of your financial life, at every stage of your life. It's what we call: Advice. Beyond investing.

For some of life's questions, you're not alone. Together we can find an answer.



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History & Growth of Viera, FL



Andrew Duda Senior and his family in 1916

The story of Viera starts in 1909, when a Polish immigrant family, Andrew Duda, Sr. and his three sons, Andrew, Jr., John, and Ferdinand, the Dudas settled in Central Florida and began farming.

With persecution, hard work, and diversification, the small family farm grew to an international agricultural corporation.

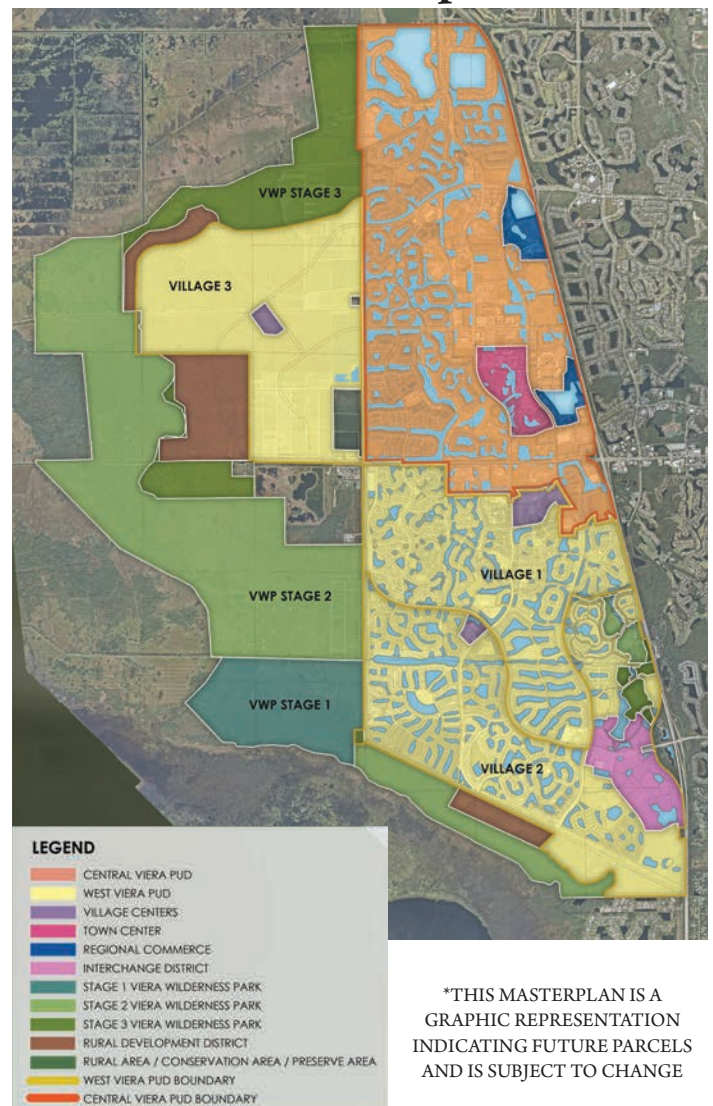
In 1989, the Cocoa Ranch, belonging to Duda and Son, broke grounds and named it VIERA. With a master plan to develop the best way for its residents, Brevard County, and saving the legacy of the generation of the Duda family (Viera meaning "faith" in Slovak to honor Andrew Duda Sr.).

The Viera population growth chart shows 5,486 in year 2000, 37,592 in 2023, and an estimated 70,000 by year 2045.



Brothers, Andrew Junior, John & Ferdinand

Viera Masterplan



***THIS MASTERPLAN IS A GRAPHIC REPRESENTATION INDICATING FUTURE PARCELS AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

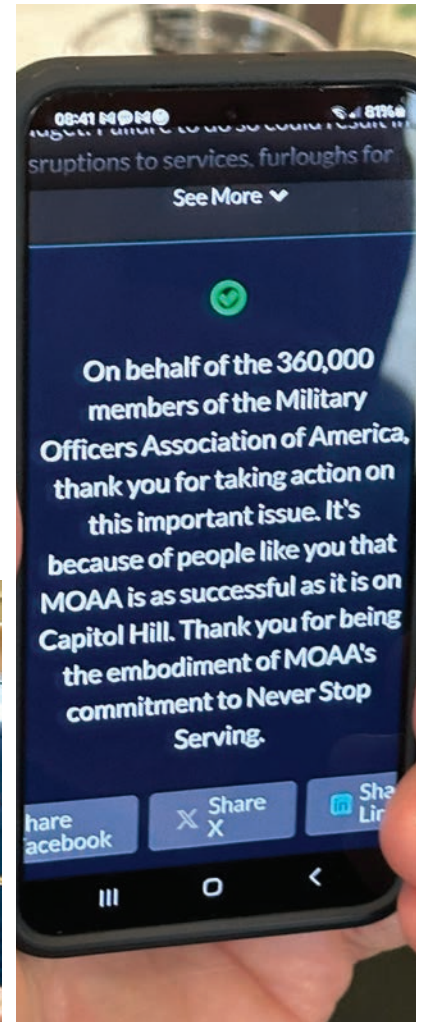


Andrew Celery - This is a picture of Andrew Duda taken in the 1950's holding a couple of stalks of celery.

LISTEN UP!

*MOAACC Members...
Be an Advocate! Here is How:*

Past President Tim Pishdad, and currently State Legislative Liason for MOAACC, conducts training on how to contact federal legislators using the MOAA website. With the assistance of Past President and current Florida Council First Vice President, Steve Bond, and MOAACC member, Cynthia Watkins-Pishdad, members used a printed instruction sheet and personal assistance to help them navigate the online MOAA legislative liaison action page.





Maj George Bowdren, Maj, USA (ret) MOAACC senior member presents a \$12,000 check to the MOAACC good deed foundation.

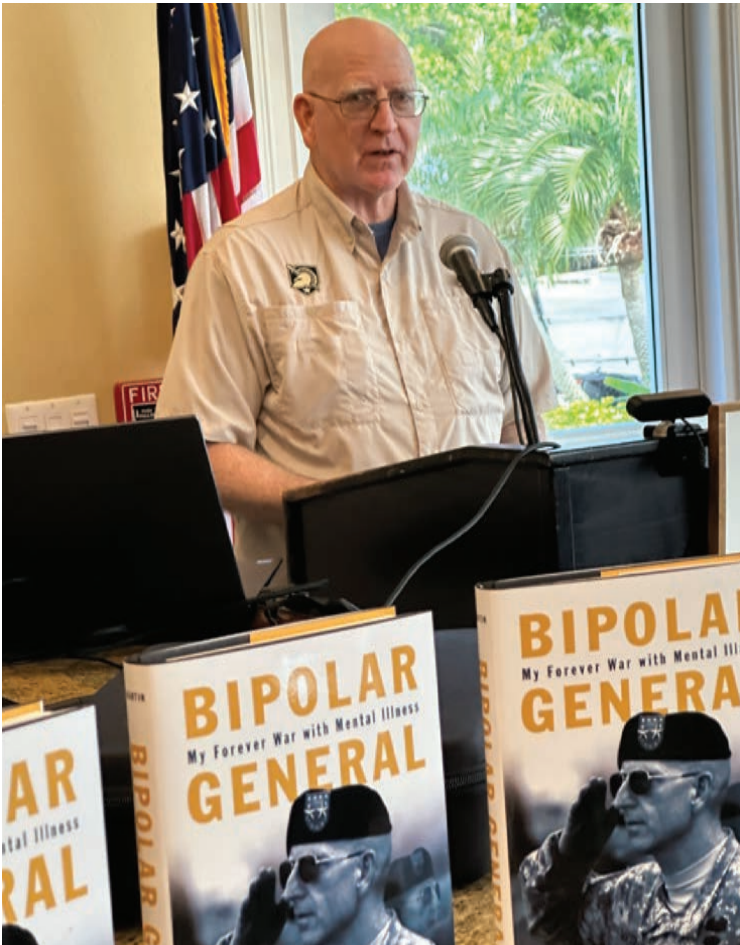
Others are CW4 Dan McIntyre USGC (ret) and MOAACC treasurer Col Mike Schroeder USA (ret).



COL Steve Bond presents George Rosenfield with well deserved Combat Engineers badge.

MOAACC Photos by Fish Pishdad

March 7th TMBC & Current Affairs Forum Speaker, General Greff Martin



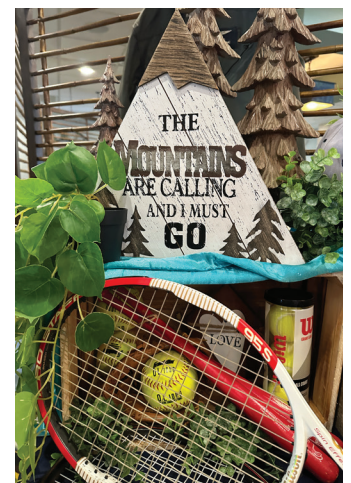
MOAACC Photos by Fish Pishdad

The March 7th TMBC Current Affairs Forum speaker was retired General Gregg Martin. Having endured the life-long challenge of bipolar disorder, General Martin engaged our members with a personal portrayal of his journey and his mission to increase awareness of cognitive fitness. After the very insightful talk, General Martin was presented an MOAACC challenge coin by CAF Coordinator Don Reott.

Memorial Service for Col. D. Edward Baker



L-R: Dave Baker, Diana Baker, Shirley Baker, and Jeff Baker





MOAACC GOOD DEEDS FOUNDATION

Donn Weaver, Cpt (USA) fmr

Good Deeds Focus on All Missions During Busy Spring

After a flurry of activities by MOAACC's Good Deeds Foundation as the first quarter of 2024 ends, we can report some outstanding donations, the initial plans for our 16 Nov 2024 Golf Fundraiser and a wide range of grants and events reflected in part in this Intercom issue.

We rely on MOAACC members to continue to be encouraged by the works of your Good Deeds Foundation and make donations as you are able year-round. Thank you for that consideration and for your support to the Missions of GDF as well.

In April and May GDF will work closely with MOAACC's Student Affairs Committee led by Mike Tucker to support two very special and inspiring events at the MOAACC luncheons those months: April to present the MOAA Medal and other Cadet recognitions (Sea Cadets, Civil Air Patrol); May to honor those Space Coast Students accepted into the 2024 programs at all US Military Academies and receiving ROTC Scholarships.

Supporting our youth is a major focus of GDF and MOAACC and these two events crystallize those efforts. At the April Luncheon also look for the First Annual Award of the MOAACC John Cleland/Dan McIntyre JROTC Program of the year!!

Please contact GDF President Donn Weaver or any Board member about GDF and our plans for the future.

Education & Citizenship Armed Forces Coalition of the Space Coast (ECAC)

After months of planning, a new project in Brevard launched on 15 Feb 2024. It is the Education & Citizenship Armed Forces Coalition of the Space Coast (ECAC). The group will eventually include leaders and key contacts from all schools, public, private and home school at all grade levels, DoD military education outreach units, DoD contractors, STEM focused program leaders, many veteran organizations, and other groups that sponsor scholarships and other youth programs etc. The program is set to fully launch in August when the new 2024-25 school year begins. A Museum attendance and service hours program is set to begin in June 2024.

The ECAC has three goals:

- A. Steer students toward the more than 23 Brevard County Museums to both visit for credit and to perform service hours.
- B. Engage all veteran and many civic groups to provide details of their student scholarship and awards programs as well as military track training programs from Academies to STEM programs to be compiled in a list including deadlines, details and how to apply information. This will then be made available to all guidance counsellors and other teachers in all schools, including home schooling to encourage a wider range of participation. All this will be intended to help students find and fund more education. Military educational and service options will be highlighted.
- C. Expand opportunities for STEM related learning through new programs in the Brevard Public Schools; an outreach STEM program at PSFB; and other organizational STEM programs like the Civil Air Patrol, Fleet Reserve at Titusville HS and more.



Brevard School Board Member Matt Susin leads the first ECAC meeting at the VMC Museum with several MOAACC members including Pres Rick Kniseley, Dean Schaaf and Donn Weaver



Dean Schaaf speaks about the VMC-Museums of Brevard and Vet organizations we hope will join ECAC



Networking with others and with history after the meeting

The next planning meeting of ECAC will be 02 May at the VMC Museum 1800-2000, when more members outlined above will be invited to join and sign up their programs.

Contact MOAACC, Vets Back to Class and VMC Rep to ECAC, Donn Weaver. (757-871-6576), for more information.



SCHOLARSHIP CORPORATION

Col D Brent Baysinger, USAF (Ret)

MOAACC Scholarship Eligibility: Get the Word to Your Eligible Descendants NOW

Since 1984 your chapter has awarded **306** scholarship grants totaling **\$910,000** to deserving applicants. We are more than halfway through the application season and are looking forward to awarding more scholarships in July. As a MOAACC member, your children and grandchildren are eligible for this generous scholarship. To be eligible for consideration, applicants must be able to answer YES to the following numbered questions:

1. **Prospective school year and degree.** Will you be considered a college sophomore, junior or senior, a graduate or doctoral degree student in the upcoming fall semester?

2. **Candidate's Sponsor.**

- Are you a descendant or ward of a currently serving active duty or retired member of the Uniformed Services of the United States, (includes Regular, National Guard or Reserve enlisted and officers of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, Space Force, NOAA or USPHS) OR
- Are you a descendant or ward of a deceased member of the Uniformed Services of the U.S., who died while on active duty or in retired status, OR
- Are you a descendant or ward of a current member (or was, if deceased) of the Military Officers Association of America Cape Canaveral Chapter?

3. **Candidate's relationship to Sponsor.**

- Are you a legal resident of Brevard County, Florida, OR
- Are you a descendant or ward of a current member (or was if deceased) of the Cape Canaveral Chapter of MOAA?

4. **Degree requirements.**

- Are you accepted by an accredited college or university as a full-time student (minimum 12 semester credit hours or the equivalent) in a program leading to a baccalaureate degree OR
- Are you enrolled in graduate or doctoral studies as a part-time or full-time student in a program leading to a graduate or doctoral degree.

Selection will be made based on the merits of the whole person to include scholarship, citizenship, leadership attributes, work experiences and extracurricular activities. Please direct qualified candidates to apply online by clicking on the scholarship tab at www.moaacc.org. The deadline for all forms is **June 15, 2024**.

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Thank you



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WELCOME

Welcome 4 new members:

Shirley Baker, Surviving Spouse

Joseph Giddings, Captain, Marines

Martha Hiestand, Surviving Spouse

Jessica Pike, Dr, Air Force, Retired

TAPS

**MOAA CAPE CANAVERAL CHAPTER
MEMBER, AUXILIARY, and SPOUSE DEATHS
February 2024 Deaths listed for April 2024 Intercom**

**Burl Zorn, COL, USA Ret
23 February 2024**

**Inge Haney,
Spouse of Howard Haney, CW3, USA Ret
25 February 2024**



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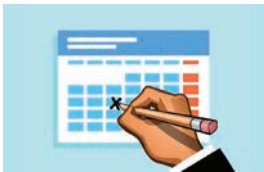
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Unofficial Brevard VMC Vets Calendar

APRIL 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/>

or contact donnweaver2020@gmail.com for more information or to participate.

APRIL 2024

06 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 — 0130 hours at the Senior Center in Wickham Park, Melbourne. Contact SCHF on 321-456-7031 or info@spacecoasthonorflight.org for more information.

12 Apr — National Veterans Homeless Support (NVHS) Third Annual Golf Tournament Fundraiser. For more info and to register for any NVHS event, see latest events and updates at nvhs.org.

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.

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

27 Apr - Brevard Parkinson's Alliance 5K Walk and Run Fundraiser VMC Park Gray Hall, Plaza 0700-1200. Contact Barbara Fradkin on 262-501-1244 to sign up or for more information.

27 Apr — VETTES on the Island Car Show 1000-1400 Merritt Square Mall Dillard's Lot. Portion of the proceeds go to Veterans Memorial Center. VMC will have an info booth. Registration is \$25 with 200 cars expected for a great outing. Contact Peter Lenhard, Car Show Chair, on on 321-626-5632 for entry forms and info.

27 Apr — Celebrate April as the month of the Military Child at First Christian Church, 470 Brevard Ave, Cocoa Beach 1100-1300. Sponsored by AVET with food/stem and many activities for the whole family. Please RSVP and learn more at info@avet-project.org

MAY 2024

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

05 May: Back Brevard Heroes (BBH) Hero Fest Celebration and BBQ to honor first responders and veterans at the VMC Plaza, Buildings and Park. 1000 - 1600. See Poster in March.

27 May: Memorial Day Ceremony at VMC Plaza 0930-1100. Poster and details in April.

JUNE 2024

08 Jun — 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 — 0130 hours at the Senior Center in Wickham Park, Melbourne. Contact SCHF on 321-456-7031 or info@spacecoasthonorflight.org for more information.

08 Jun — Zachary M. Martin Memorial 5 K Run/Walk at Viera Regional Park (2300 Judge Fran Jamieson Way) in Melbourne 0800-1000. Proceeds will benefit Stop Soldier Suicide and help Brevard County veterans with PTSD. visit zacharymartinmemorial.com to register and for more information about this 501c3.

12 Jun — Military Women Veterans Recognition Day Celebration and Luncheon 1130-1330 at the Nyami Nyami River Lodge at the Brevard Zoo, 8225 N. Wickham, Melbourne. Details and sponsorship information at info@avet-project.org.

JULY 2024

04 Jul — Annual BCSO and VMC Merritt Island Independence

Day Parade. 1000-1200 with details in May. Start at Merritt Island HS and finish at Veterans Memorial Center with food and festivities.

AUGUST 2024

04 Aug — Annual Purple Heart Recognition Ceremony at the VMC Gray Hall 1400-1600 sponsored by Chapter 453 of the Military Order of the Purple Heart. Special recognition of 10 PH recipients and ceremony to tell their stories and recognize their sacrifices. Contact Donn Weaver, 757-871-6576 for more information.

14 Aug — Senator Marco Rubio's Staff Mobile Office Hours at the VMC 1300-1500, specifically for Veterans and their families.

24 Aug — Seminar for High School Sop's, Juniors and Seniors on Military Academy, ROTC Scholarships and other military paths to education and leadership. VMC Gray Hall, Foyer and Library 1300-1700. Details in June.

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 — 0130 hours at the Senior Center in Wickham Park, Melbourne. Contact SCHF on 321-456-7031 or 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 — 0130 hours at the Senior Center in Wickham Park, Melbourne. Contact SCHF on 321-456-7031 or 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.

NOVEMBER 2024

10 Nov — Seventh Annual Homestretch 5K for At-Risk and Homeless Vets. For details and to register see Latest Events and Updates on: nvhs.org

11 Nov: Veterans Day Ceremony at VMC Plaza 0930 - 1100 (pending)

16 Nov — Annual MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation Golf Tournament Fundraiser at the Indian River Colony Club 0800-1300. Save the date. Details this summer. Looking for sponsors. Contact Donn Weaver, 757-871-6576.

25 Nov — Senator Marco Rubio's Staff Mobile Office Hours at the VMC 1300-1500, specifically for Veterans and their families.

DECEMBER 2024

14 Dec — Wreaths Across America Day in many Brevard Locations. Cape Canaveral National Cemetery 1000-1200 with details on all WAA events in October.

14 Dec — Second Annual Merritt Island Community and Gold Star Family Tribute Christmas Tree Illumination and Holiday Party. VMC Park 1500- 2000.

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

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



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VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER UPDATE

Donn Weaver, CPT, USA (fmr)

History Stays Alive at Last Naval Battle Remembrance at VMC



Parade Participants Ready to Begin

With about 300 people attending, on a beautiful day at the Veterans Memorial Center on Merritt Island, the 241st anniversary of the last naval battle of the American Revolution was remembered.



Daughters of American Revolution

This annual event has been held for decades starting at the Space Center and Jetty Park in Cape Canaveral, and now at the VMC to allow more people to join and learn. The event is sponsored by the Brevard Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), whose President Joel Etherton was the Master of Ceremonies this year. More than 30 representatives from Florida SAR and many other states (two came from Boston), as well as dozens of members of the Daughters (DAR) and Children (CAR) of the American Revolution joined in the parade of flags. They also laid wreaths to remember the March 10, 1783 US Navy triumph over the British which allowed funding for George Washington's troops and set up the final battle at Yorktown, VA.

songs and 25 Sea Cadet from Courageous Division helped set up and conduct the opening Color Guard. The CAR members and other children were also in audience and seemed to enjoy the story and pageantry. LT Adam Ashburn, USN of the Naval Ordnance Test Unit at Port Canaveral was the key note speaker linking details of that battle to the challenges of our modern US Navy now and into the future. The brand new VMC Color Guard, commanded by Don Pearsall, made its debut leading the veteran organizations contingent.

More than 70 SAR, DAR and CAR members were dressed in colonial American attire and helped bring to life the courage and sacrifices of our forefathers who laid the foundation of the United States of America.

The Good Deeds Foundation of the Cape Canaveral Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAACC/GDF) provided substantial funds to pay for the event and the VMC supplied plenty of volunteers and support. Elevation Church and the Sea Cadets also pitched in to help make the ceremony successful.

After TAPS was played, many adjourned to the ceremonial cutting of the LNB cake and a chance to reflect on what remembering that battle is all about.



TAPS Played to conclude the Ceremony

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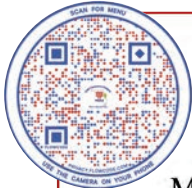
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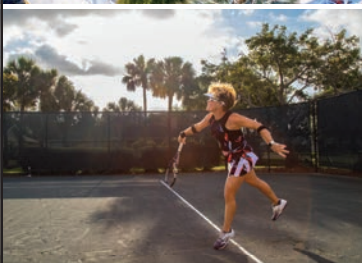
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More GDF!

VMC and MOAACC Good Deeds Support Successful Back Brevard Heroes Fundraiser



GDF Pres Donn Weaver presents the "check" to Kim (left) and Sherri (right)

For the past four years, the Veterans Memorial Center has hosted, and. MOAACC's Good Deeds Foundation has provided financial support to a unique organization in Brevard: Back Brevard Heroes (BBH).

Led by Pres Sherri Centore and VP Kimberley Tucker, BBH offers special support and recognition to the first responders of Brevard and also honors veterans during their annual event — BBH Hero Fest. This year the event will be held at the VMC on 05 May from 1000-1500. There will be many events, music, festivities and a BBQ meal prepared free for all First Responders and Veterans and. their families who attend.

BBH provides services and support all year round. Their 501c3 organization has created loyal sponsors, donors and many volunteers to make things happen. This year

BBH also held a Car Show and Craft Fair Fundraiser to support their programs at the Veterans Memorial Park on 02 March. Rainout forced a two-week delay from late February, but still 114 cars entered the show along with 20 craft vendors and six food trucks. All had great fun and a team of judges, including Sheriff Wayne Ivey, had a tough time picking 10 overall winners.

The Good Deeds Foundation led off the car show with a donation of \$1500!! With \$20 for each car and over \$500 made on the 50/50 raffle, along with gift baskets and other drawings, it was a great financial success on a day with terrific weather as well.

For more information about BBH Hero Fest on 05 May or to volunteer or donate, check out: backbrevardheroes.com



VMC Park filled with autos and vendors



Sheriff Ivey (center) with BBH Leadership



1556 VMC Heroes Autoshow

Family Day for 920 RQW a Big Hit with Major GDF and USO Support



People visiting USO Booth



People Enjoying a tour of C-130



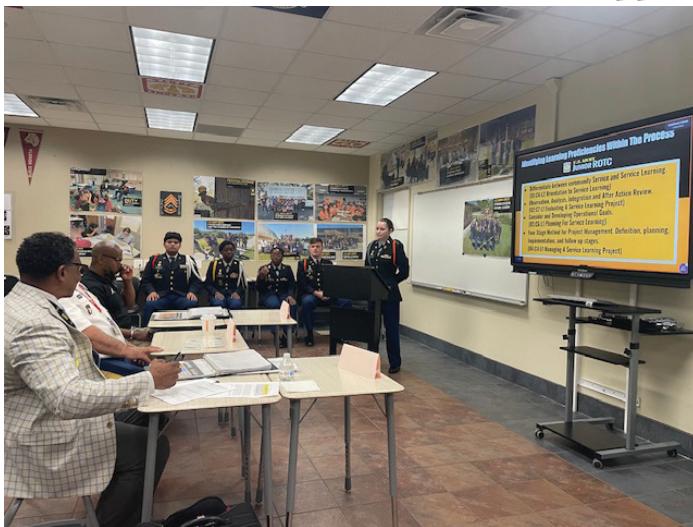
Many Active Duty and Families

Using one of the huge hangars on PSFB that supports the 920 RQW (Air Rescue) Reserve Unit, more than 500 airmen and their families attended the annual 920 RQW Family Day.

Events included games and exhibits for kids and family members, dozens of support group tables and plenty of free BBQ meals and snacks. The Good Deeds Foundation supported the event in part with their \$2500 donation to the 920 RQW Foundation for 2024 events. The USO was also in a big support role made easier by a GDF contribution to the USO Brevard of \$3000 for this and many other active-duty military events.

Being able to help active-duty troops and their families, especially during such tough economic times is a big part of the GDF Mission.

MOAACC/GDF Supports JROTC Inspection Events



Cocoa JROTC Cadet Leaders Present Inspection Modules



Rockledge Drills for the Inspector and Active Duty Recruiters help evaluate

During a busy week beginning 27 Feb, MOAACC GDF President Donn Weaver served on a community panel of JROTC supporters at three Brevard High Schools: Cocoa, Rockledge, and Viera. To maintain the JPA accreditation, each JROTC program must be inspected by the JROTC Battalion at Ft Gordon, GA every three years.

The cadets present most of the program lasting about 5-6 hours, including drill team demonstrations and evaluations. Service programs, logistics, participation rates and much more are examined in detail with grades issued later to make sure each program is not only accredited, but also prepared to improve. Early indications are that all three schools received high marks.

Our MOAACC/GDF role was to brief the Inspector on the Army JROTC's involvement in and support to the veteran and community as a whole. In that process Weaver spoke about Color Guards, GDF Grants to every unit, service hours, Vets Back to Class, special events involving JROTC and much more. The Inspector commented that in his 27 years in this position it was his first visit to Brevard and he was very impressed by how closely JROTC and the veteran community support each other. That is not always the case, he noted.

Veteran Community Support to Two FIT Programs



MOAACC Member at FIT PhD student, 2LT Delaney Bennett Granko leads a module



FIT Students Gather for the Special Class

On February 23rd there was a special didactic presentation for the Clinical Psychology PsyD program at Florida Institute of Technology (FIT). The 90-minute seminar was conducted in the Health Sciences Research Center. Through several presentation segments, including on line from various military locations in the US and abroad, more than 100 FIT students, some of whom are also FIT ROTC Cadets, learned about various areas of military psychology and pathways to choose. The session also incorporated the Space Coast Honor Flight (SCHF), and the Good Deeds Foundation (GDF) of the Cape Canaveral Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America. The latter two made presentations designed to further the relationship with students as potential future guardians to travel with veterans from several generations to see their monuments and memorials in Washington DC on 2024-25 SCHF Flights. After the seminar, several more FIT students signed up to join the waiting list to become SCHF Guardians.

Organizing the event, through Dr. Richard Elmore's office, was 2LT Delaney Bennett Granko, a graduate of FIT and the University of Florida ROTC program a master's degree. She is currently completing her Doctorate as part of her military service. The SCHF team, led by Navy veteran Lorena Dugan, spoke about their mission and why Guardians learn so much about veterans and their families when they travel on the flights. Donn Weaver, President of GDF, outlined the now four-year-old history of providing the financial support to SCHF so that five PsyD Program members and five ROTC Cadets can fly at no cost as Guardians for individual veterans each year. He announced that GDF was hoping to be able to increase that number in 2025.

The event showed the value in FIT's outreach to the community of veterans and their appreciation for the FIT training of future military leaders and clinical psychology specialists.



GDF and NVHS to Keep Two Vet Families from Being Homeless

As we are all aware, the challenges of today's economy play a big toll on many young families. In February an Air Force Veteran and his family of four faced eviction when medical bills took away from the rent and just before a new, promising job was started. A Navy veteran with three children had no funds to cover utility bills and a portion of his rent despite a deal worked out with the landlord. His spouse had been laid off and he was just finishing his college degree. Both had good jobs ready in mid- March.

Both families turned to the National Veterans Homeless Support office in Cocoa, which in turned requested MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation to split the costs needed to keep both families from having to live on the streets. GDF and NVHS evenly split the cost: \$1500 each in one case and \$810 in the other. The veterans came to NVHS to say thank you in early March. It was quite a moment.

Photo: Kasey Corson of NVHS (left) and GDF Pres Donn Weaver (right) share smiles with the two veterans.

GDF Supports Annual PSFB Awards Ceremony on the Beach!!!



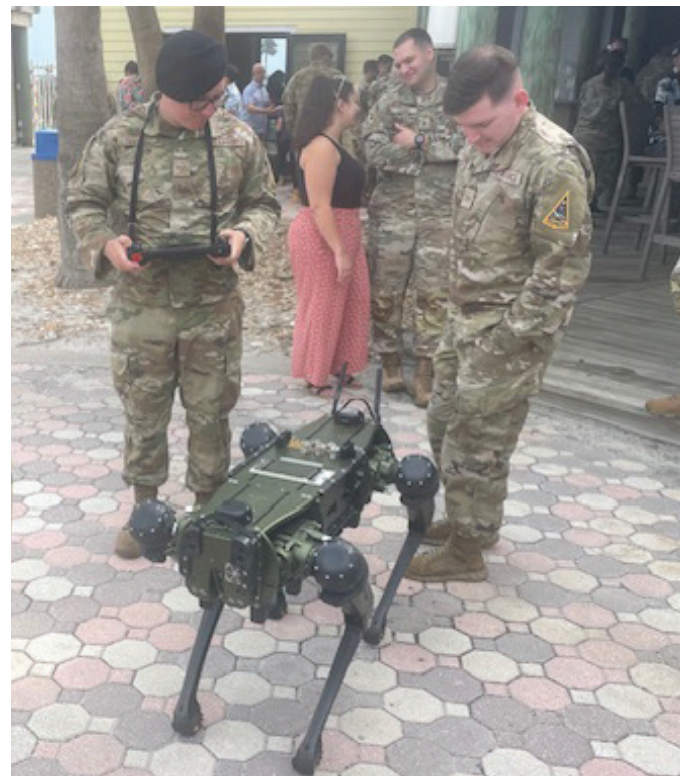
What a backdrop for the Ceremony as it kicks off

On a beautiful Friday afternoon on the beach off Patrick Space Force Base, MOAACC's Good Deeds Foundation found a new way to support our active-duty forces from all branches of service. On 01 March, the Space Coast Top 3 hosted the event with sponsors including USO and GDF covering expenses which could not be picked up by DoD events, like awards, food and goodies.

More than 300 attended the event as awards were given out to the various units and services that make up the PSFB and surrounding bases. GDF presented \$500 check before the festivities began. One of the highlights before the awards ceremony was the demonstration of USAF PSFB Security Unit's Robotic Dog. Rumor has it the robot will kick if you try to pet it!!



PSFB Officers accept the GDF Check from the old guy



Watch Out!!

JROTC Bataan Death March



On 09 March, Space Force JROTC Unit FL-20082 hosted their annual Bataan Death March at the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge. Over 200 cadets from 4 JROTC programs (3x Air Force, 1x Space Force) completed 15.2 miles on an unseasonably high 88°F Day. The Veterans Memorial Center and MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation are big supporters of all the JROTC Units. Several years ago, AF JROTC at Satellite HS hosted the Remembrance at Veterans Memorial Park. A big hand for the cadets and their great leadership. Thanks to John E. Werner, SMSgt, USAF (Ret) of Space Coast HS for this submission.

JROTC Ball



MAJ Steve Celeste USA, Ret Army JROTC Instructor at Rockledge HS (left) Opens the 2024 Rockledge JROTC Military Ball at the Marriott in Cocoa Beach on 16 March. Over 200 attended the gala event as MAJ Celeste offered comments on the “amazing” support the program receives from MOAACC/GDF

GDF Supports Space Coast High School Space Force JROTC



MOAACC's Good Deeds President presents the Space Coast High School Space Force JROTC a GDF check for \$1000 to support the unit's final transition from a USAF to only one of ten in the country USSF JROTC Units - LtCol Joe Stevens, USAF Ret and senior JROTC Instructor at the school accepts the donation in front of his very sharp USSF JROTC Color Guard.

Space Coast Honor Flight Appreciation BBQ



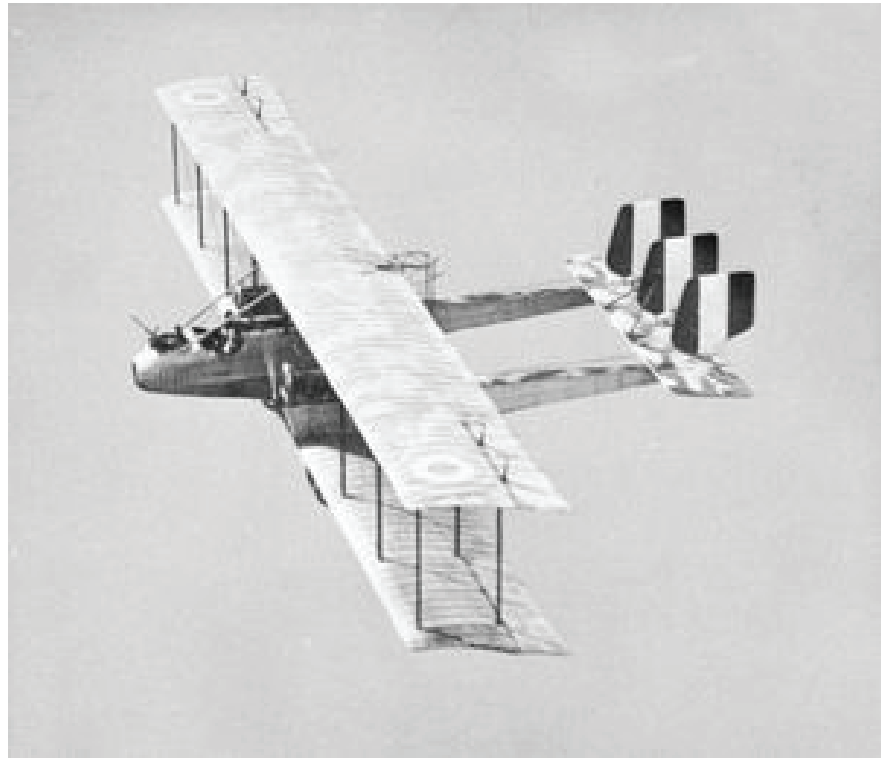
The Space Coast Honor Flight hosted an appreciation BBQ at the Wickham Park Senior Center on 03 March 2024 for over 100 volunteers and major donors including MOAACC GDF

THE ROLE OF AIRCRAFT IN WWI (Part 3)

By Bill Muckler, Captain USMC

The first bomber planes began as reconnaissance aircraft that were loaded with more and more weaponry because they had to fight their way back from behind enemy lines.

The first type class of bombers carried heavy disposable loads over long distances to be effective. Eventually, specific missions required bombers but this evolution was slower to develop. The first bombing raids to achieve significant success flew into enemy countries. Airmen of the Royal Naval Air Service, RNAS, flew from Belgium bases on October 8 and November 21, 1914. Their mission was to destroy the Zeppelin works at Friedrichshafen in Germany.



Italian Caproni bomber of World War I

Their spectacular success was due more to the highly flammable nature of the zeppelins than to the destructive power of dropping 20-pound bombs. These raids prompted the Admiralty to commission the development of the first specialized heavy night bomber, the Handley Page H.P. O/100, which flew for the first time in December 1915.

At the same time, other air forces began building and placing into service strategic day bombers. Among the first were French Voisins. The type L was used in early 1915 to carry about 60 kg (130 pounds) of small bombs that simply lay in the bottom of the cockpit until the time came for the observer to drop them overboard. Later models had more powerful engines and were equipped alternatively as attack aircraft, carrying up to 300 kg (660 pounds) of bombs or having a 37-mm (1.5-inch) gun mounted in the nose. None flew faster than 135 km (85 miles) per hour, so the Voisins operated mainly under cover of darkness in the last year of the war.

Italy was quick to appreciate the value of bombing attacks on enemy targets. Its big three-engine, twin-tailboom Capronis were among the finest bombers of World War I. The Russian Ilya Muromets bombers of the tsar's Squadron of Flying Ships were even larger. They were designed by Igor Sikorsky, who is now remembered as the pioneer of helicopters. The Muromet biplanes had a wingspan of 100 feet. They were the next generation of the "Russky Vityaz" of May 1913 which was the world's first successful four-engine airplane.

The best-known German strategic bombers of World War I were twin-engine Gotha "pusher" biplanes, which made daylight raids on London during the summer of 1917 before reverting to night operations. (Next month: the zeppelins.)

MOC

MEMBERS ONLY CORNER

Photos submitted by MOAACC members.

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- Please provide names and captions
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Captain Bill Muckler, USMC with Col. Raul Torres of the Venezuelan Marine Corps attending the South Central Florida Chapter Annual Gala Banquet in Sebring, Florida on 2 March 2024.

Dan McIntyre Awarded Military Honor Brick



Legacy Brick Certificate



MOAACC Member Dan McIntyre is awarded a Military Honor Brick in the Military Honor Plaza at St. Augustine Lighthouse and Maritime Museum.

In the Fall of 2023, the CEO of Diamond Scientific, Mr.

Ray Rivera, learned that the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum would be opening the Military Honor Plaza on Veterans Day 2023 to honor members of the United States military.

He requested from the employees and associates of Diamond Scientific, to submit names of military veterans from the Marine Corps, Navy, Coast Guard, Army, and Air Force to honor veterans by having their names engraved on commemorative bricks that were then laid at the plaza.

Capt. Teresa V. Espy Finance Officer, Group IV, Florida Wing FL-267, Florida Wing submitted CWO4 McIntyre's name because she remembered meeting him at one of her Civil Air Patrol squadron meetings and appreciated his dedication and support to the cadets of the squadron.

Because of the support from the MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation for The Titusville Civil Air Patrol, CWO4 Dan McIntyre USCGR (Ret) was awarded a Military Honor Brick at the St Augustine Lighthouse & Museum on March 2nd, 2024.

Below is a link to the St. Augustine Lighthouse Military Honor Plaza's webpage.

<https://www.staugustinelighthouse.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Military-Honor-Plaza-Informational-Flyer.pdf>



MOAACC Photo by Rich Richland



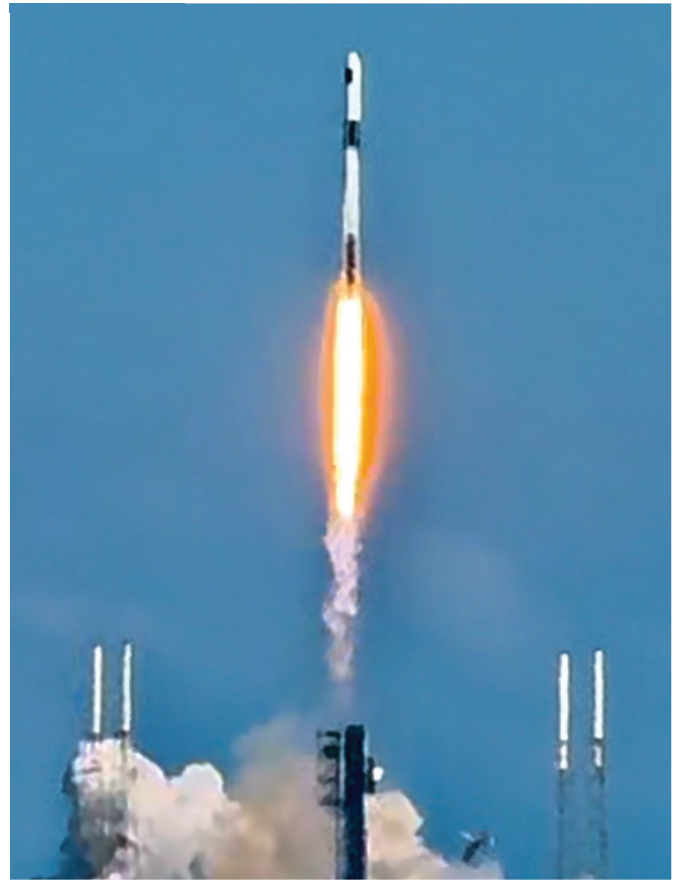
L-R: Teresa Espy, Dan McIntyre, Eric Provost



L-R: Mary McIntyre, Dan McIntyre, Holly Baney, (Dan's daughter)

Because of our support for The Titusville Civil Air Patrol, CW4 Dan McIntyre (USCG) was awarded a Military Honor Brick at the St. Augustine Lighthouse & Museum on March 2nd.

SpaceX Launch



MOAACCC Photos by Pish Pishdad

CW3 Amir Pishdad, Sr. (PISH) was invited by NASA to view a launch of CRS-30 from Pad 40 on 21 March. Pish being a famous award winning news photojournalist of 35 years took advantage of the opportunity and took his camera along. CW3 Pish is also the Executive Editor for The Intercom Magazine and PAO for the MOAA Cape Canaveral Chapter.



After the launch, Pish got a chance to thank the director of NASA, Janet Petro, for her VIP launch invitation (yellow top).
As a bonus, he also got to greet the honorable Jeanette Nunez, the Florida Lt. Governor (purple top).

Volunteering at Harvest Time International



Jose E. Prieto CW4, USA (ret), MOAACC Master at Arms recently volunteered to help out at Harvest Time International in Sanford, FL. This is an international organization that helps families that are down on their luck. This was done as a community project from Prieto's university, Everglades University.



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DAY 4	At Sea - Cruising Tue, Jan 28, 2025	DAY 5	Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic Wed, Jan 29, 2025 Docked: 8:00AM to 6:00PM	DAY 6	Labadee, Haiti Thu, Jan 30, 2025 Docked: 7:00AM to 4:00PM
	DAY 7	At Sea - Cruising Fri, Jan 31, 2025	DAY 8	Orlando (Port Canaveral), Florida Sat, Feb 1, 2025 Arrival: 7:00AM	

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Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly
USAF (Ret)
President and CEO



Protect TRICARE For Life for Medicare-Eligible Military Families

TRICARE For Life (TFL) is part of the military health care benefit and provides Medicare wraparound coverage. Not only is TFL vital to seniors using it today, it has also been a key component of the compensation and benefits package that sustained the all-volunteer force throughout two decades of war. Current and future seniors are counting on TFL to be there for them during their advancing years. Maintaining the military health care benefit is a national obligation to those who earned it through decades in uniform, and it is critical to ensuring military retirees — key influencers in the recruiting process — are not discouraged from recommending service to current and future generations.

WHAT IS TFL?

TFL is Medicare-wraparound coverage for TRICARE-eligible beneficiaries who have Medicare Parts A and B. Enrollment is not required for TFL — coverage is automatic and starts the first day Medicare Parts A and B are in effect.

There is no enrollment fee for TFL, but beneficiaries must pay Medicare Part B premiums. Military retirees face a significant monthly cost increase when transitioning to TFL — monthly fees jump from

\$30-\$60 per month for TRICARE Prime or Select family coverage to at least \$174.70 per month for individual Medicare Part B enrollment. Some people pay more based on income.

TFL beneficiaries can visit any authorized provider — Medicare pays its portion and TFL then pays the provider for TRICARE-covered services. Generally, there are no out-of-pocket costs for services that both Medicare and TRICARE cover, but TFL beneficiaries do have copays for prescription medications obtained via mail order or at retail pharmacies.

THE NEED FOR TFL

Congress created TFL in 2001 to address the loss of free medical care when more than half of military medical facilities closed due to downsizing, leaving many military retirees age 65+ with no military health care benefit despite decades of service.

Congressional intent with the creation of TFL was clear. In the FY 2001 NDAA conference report, the conferees instructed: "While extending TRICARE/CHAMPUS eligibility to Medicare eligible beneficiaries, the conferees direct the Secretary of Defense to refrain from using deductibles and copayments, in recognition of their participation in Medicare

Congress: We need your help

Protect the TRICARE For Life benefit to fulfill our nation's military health care commitment to career servicemembers and retirees.

MOAA Contact



Karen Ruedisuel
Director,
Health Affairs
KarenR@moaa.org
703.838.8164

TFL Fees: A credible threat

In its report, *Options for Reducing the Deficit 2023-2032*, the Congressional Budget Office included two concepts to generate mandatory spending savings through unprecedented TFL fees:

- An annual enrollment fee would require Medicare-eligible beneficiaries who choose to enroll in TFL to pay \$575 for individual coverage or \$1150 for family coverage per year.

Adding an
\$850
deductible?

- A cost-sharing concept would introduce an \$850 deductible. TFL would not cover any of the first \$850 of a beneficiary's Medicare cost sharing. After the deductible was satisfied, TFL would cover only 50% of the next \$7,650 in Medicare cost sharing. This means TFL beneficiaries could face up to \$4,675 in cost sharing per year.

DoD included TFL fee proposals in five consecutive administration budget requests from FY 2013 to FY 2017. We appreciate Congress repeatedly denying these requests and maintaining TFL for current and future military retirees.

Part B as a condition of participation." Congress has maintained this stance, repeatedly denying five consecutive DoD budget request proposals for TFL enrollment fees from FY 2013-2017, thus solidifying expectations for TFL among career servicemembers and retirees.

THREATS TO TFL

MOAA takes a balanced approach to TRICARE fee increases. We understand health care costs are rising and don't oppose indexing existing TRICARE fees by annual military retired pay cost-of-living adjustments. MOAA advocates against changing the terms of the health care benefit after it has been earned, including the creation of unprecedented TRICARE fees and disproportionate fee increases that diminish the overall retirement package via health care costs that outpace military retired pay.

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has outlined two concepts for a new TFL enrollment fee and beneficiary cost sharing (see box on page 1). These concepts are not legislative proposals, but CBO's messaging poses a threat to TFL. Not only were TFL fee increases part of CBO's biennial report on deficit reduction measures, but they were also featured prominently in written testimony CBO submitted for a July 2023 hearing on potential budgetary efficiencies within DoD personnel programs.

Past DoD budget requests have included a variety of proposals for TFL enrollment fees to reduce spending by shifting health care costs to beneficiaries. We appreciate past actions by Congress to block these unacceptable proposals to cut the benefit after it has been earned. With the Military Health System budget under pressure, MOAA fears DoD will resurrect TFL proposals that would slash the military retiree health care benefit and reduce protections for current and future retirees. Servicemembers, retirees, their families and survivors are counting on Congress to block any future attempts to cut TFL.

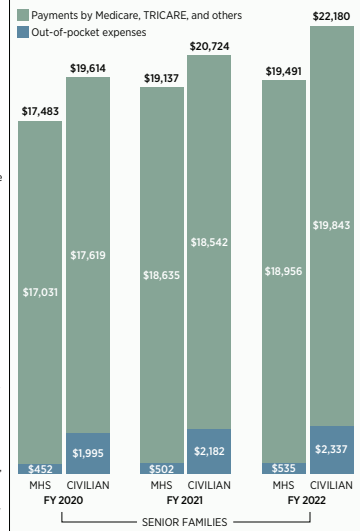
The small percentage of citizens who handle 100% of our national defense have earned a high-quality, low out-of-pocket-cost health care benefit. Maintaining TRICARE and demonstrating our nation will fulfill obligations to military retirees is not only a moral imperative but critical to sustaining the all-volunteer force. ■

The Overutilization Myth

Proponents for TFL cost sharing have contended that no/low out-of-pocket costs lead TFL beneficiaries to overutilize medical services. The Congressional Budget Office alludes to this point in their TFL cost-sharing concept when they note higher out-of-pocket costs would lead beneficiaries to use fewer medical services.

But data from TRICARE's annual report to Congress shows military senior families actually have lower utilization than civilian senior families. In 2022, TFL senior families used 12% less in medical services than their civilian counterparts despite relatively low cost sharing.

COINSURANCE AND HEALTH CARE UTILIZATION FOR SENIOR FAMILIES VS. CIVILIAN COUNTERPARTS



SOURCE: CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE, TRICARE PROGRAM FY 2020 REPORT TO CONGRESS. GRAPHIC: JOURNALISM/CORRECT

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UPDATED: 05-11-2024



2024 Team Packet

Congress: We need your help

Our nation expects 100% from servicemembers. Ensure they get 100% of their housing allowance by supporting the BAH Restoration Act.

- Cosponsor H.R. 2537
- Cosponsor S.1823

Pay Full Housing Costs for Servicemembers

MOAA seeks to restore the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) to 100%.

BACKGROUND

In 2019, DoD reduced the BAH as a cost-saving measure. The reduction in BAH hit military families hard as housing costs and utilities increased and on-post housing quality declined. There should be no shortcuts when it comes to the all-volunteer force, the backbone of our nation's defense, which stands at a critical juncture. Servicemembers and their families face financial struggles at the same time the services face recruiting challenges. It's time for DoD to double down on investing in people, to honor the commitment of those currently in uniform and to ensure the sustainability of the all-volunteer force. It's time to fully fund BAH.

MILITARY PAY FUNDAMENTALS

Servicemembers have a job like few others, and they require a unique compensation package to match their risks and requirements. They receive three distinct pays: BAH, Basic Allowance for Subsistence (BAS), and basic pay.

BAH is paid to cover housing costs at their duty station, along with utilities — BAH has a "with dependents" rate that covers a larger residence when applicable. BAS is a monthly stipend to cover food costs for the servicemember (not dependents). Finally, base pay is ultimately the salary they get to take home each month.

While all servicemembers receive basic pay, BAH and BAS are generally not paid to the servicemember if the government is covering the costs when deployed or while training. BAH and BAS are non-taxable, which creates a tax advantage unique to servicemembers. These three pays, plus the tax advantage, constitute the Regular Military Compensation (RMC) package.

AN INCREASE IS NOT A RAISE

To ensure servicemembers' compensation is not

eroded by rising costs, each of these pays is annually adjusted according to distinct government metrics meant to follow the changes in wages, food costs, and housing. The adjustments do not represent a net raise.

THE COMPENSATION ROLLER COASTER

From 2005 to 2015, during the height of the war on terror, DoD provided servicemembers with a housing allowance intended to cover 100% of local housing and utility costs. Led by Defense Secretary William S. Cohen, this was part of an effort in the early 2000s to "improve servicemembers' quality of life" and "make military housing privatization more attractive." In a move authorized but not required by Congress, DoD implemented a 5% BAH cost share from 2015 to 2019 to "balance the growth in compensation costs." Now DoD is once again issuing memos about how to strengthen support to servicemembers and their families and facing criticism over failures of the Military Housing Privatization Initiative. It's time to acknowledge the immediate benefits restoring BAH would have on financial security for troops and their families.

Over the past decade, a greater financial burden has shifted to servicemembers and their families:

- Pay increases from 2014-2016 fell short of inflation, leading to a 2.6% pay increase decrement.
- In 2015, DoD started reducing BAH by 1% each year until 2019.
- In 2018, the Blended Retirement System (BRS) essentially required new servicemembers (those not eligible for the legacy retirement plan) to contribute 5% of their paychecks to the Thrift Savings Plan to maximize matching contributions from DoD.

PUTTING THIS IN REAL DOLLARS

Due to these factors, servicemembers are compensated less than they were a decade ago (adjusted for inflation). The chart on the facing page shows the compound effect of reduced BAH, base pay increase

decrements, and the effect of BRS contributions.

For a married E-5 with dependents, the aggregated effect of these changes in 2024 is a \$373 per month decrease in take-home pay.

Note: While MOAA is supportive of the BRS matching program, we recognize the added short-term strain this places on servicemembers seeking to receive a retirement equivalent to their predecessors.

REAL-WORLD EXAMPLE

The average married E-5 with four years of service will receive 40% of their compensation through their BAH and BAS. Using government estimates for total monthly expenses, an E-5 (in a military housing area representing the national average) is \$471 short on what they need to make ends meet each month. They would not have this shortfall if not for the compensation changes from 2014-2019.

According to DoD data, the average E-5 will pay \$118 a month out of pocket toward housing costs to cover the 5% of the bill not footed by the Pentagon.

Note: Methodology for these figures is available at MOAA.org/BAHbudget. Addressing this shortfall is critical to caring for our servicemembers. Eliminating the out-of-pocket costs and restoring BAH to 100% is one of the fastest ways to address quality of life challenges.

FINANCIAL STRAIN ON THE FORCE

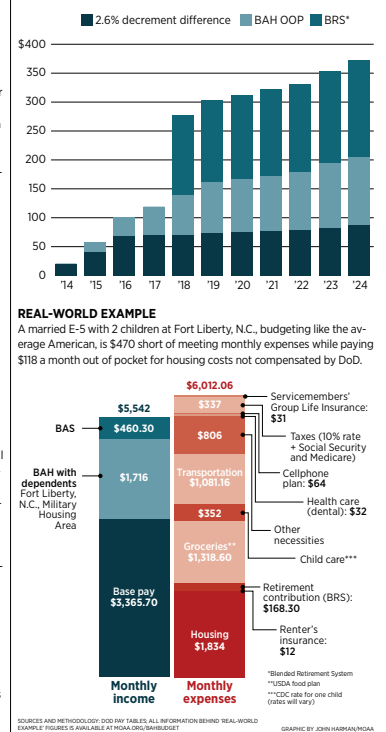
Lengthy commutes and financial stress are just a couple of outcomes of an insufficient housing allowance that directly affect servicemembers and their families. Like the rest of the country, communities near military installations experienced housing challenges due to the pandemic. The rental market is beginning to level, but it's far from recovered. Housing shortages in off-base communities mean military families "compete" for rental properties and actively consider leaving the military.

LESSONS UNLEARNED

From improvements in Temporary Lodging Expenses and Dislocation Allowance to years of last-minute BAH increases and the Basic Needs Allowance to address food insecurity, it is apparent DoD recognizes the financial strains on servicemembers and their families. However, all these efforts are substandard solutions to a self-inflicted problem. DoD reduced BAH and has spent the years since working to address second- and third-order effects of decisions that placed increased financial burden on the backs of their own servicemembers. ■

ADDED FINANCIAL STRAIN TO SERVICEMEMBERS

A married E-5 with dependents may see a \$373-a-month cut in take-home pay due to out-of-pocket costs from BAH cost-sharing, compounded by base pay increase decrements and retirement contributions.



SOURCES AND METHODOLOGY: DOO PAY TABLES, ALL INFORMATION BEHIND "REAL-WORLD EXAMPLE" FIGURES IS AVAILABLE AT MOAA.ORG/BAHBUDGET. GRAPHIC BY JOHN HARRIS/NOGA

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Lt. Gen. Brian T. Kelly,
USAF (Ret)
President and CEO



Support Combat-Injured Veterans by Passing the Major Richard Star Act

Background: Combat-injured veterans forced into early retirement by their injury are not receiving their vested longevity pay. Reducing retirement pay because of a disability is an injustice. The Major Richard Star Act (H.R. 1282/S. 344) will correct this injustice.

UNDERSTANDING THE STAR ACT

The Major Richard Star Act will allow combat-injured veterans to receive their earned retirement pay and their disability compensation without offset.

DoD is responsible for retired pay, and VA is responsible for disability compensation. These are two different payments for two different purposes.

Reducing DoD retirement pay due to a combat injury, for the group of veterans that should be most protected, breaks faith with those who serve and will serve in the future. DoD data shows 65% of youth will not serve due to concerns of injury. Fixing concerns from parents and influencers is important in addressing a key recruiting challenge.

The Major Richard Star Act has overwhelming support in Congress and would end an unjust offset. This bipartisan legislation will support 52,304 combat-injured veterans who receive combat-related special compensation (CRSC) and are not eligible to receive retired pay and VA disability pay without offset.

These individuals, often seriously disabled, are subject to an offset where their retirement pay is reduced for every dollar of VA disability received. In some cases, their retirement pay is eliminated. DoD is responsible for retired pay covering vested years of service (in the past), while the VA is responsible for disability compensation covering a lifelong injury (in the future).

Congress partially fixed this injustice in the FY 2004 NDAA. What wasn't corrected includes those who were injured in combat and forced to retire before completing 20 years of service, resulting in an offset where their retirement pay is reduced for every dollar of disability provided by the VA.

MAJ. RICHARD STAR, USAR (RET)

Maj. Star was an Army combat engineer who led route clearance and route construction missions in Afghanistan and Iraq. He was an energetic advocate for fellow combat-injured veterans. He died in 2021.

COST CONCERNS

Some lawmakers and staffers point to the projected cost of the Major Richard Star Act (\$9 billion over 10 years) as a reason it has not moved forward. MSOs/VSOs reject this approach for two reasons:

- The wrong message to servicemembers: Cost should not be a factor when addressing a long-term injustice faced by those injured in service. It's especially damaging during recruiting challenges.

- The wrong math: The Congressional Budget Office estimate fails to include a five-year phase-in, which will significantly reduce the full cost of the legislation. It assumes all 52,304 combat-injured veterans who'd be eligible to switch from CRSC to Concurrent Retirement and Disability Pay (CRDP) would do so. It's not a guarantee — about half of the veterans could benefit; the rest may choose to retain tax-free CRSC at no additional cost to the government.

The Star Act will authorize these combat injured for the existing DFAS annual CRSC/CRDP open season; each veteran can choose which option best fits their financial needs. The Star Act is not retroactive, does not include back pay, and is actually sound.

MOAA'S POSITION

Our combat-injured veterans earned their vested retirement pay for dedicated years of service and earned their disability compensation through extraordinary personal sacrifice. MOAA remains committed to working with Congress to find solutions to enable these retirees to receive the compensation they earned through their service and sacrifice.

Congress:

Support H.R. 1282/S. 344,
The Major Richard Star Act, to ensure combat-injured veterans receive the vested retirement pay they earned and are no longer punished financially due to their injuries or illnesses. Authorize the Star Act in the National Defense Authorization Act.

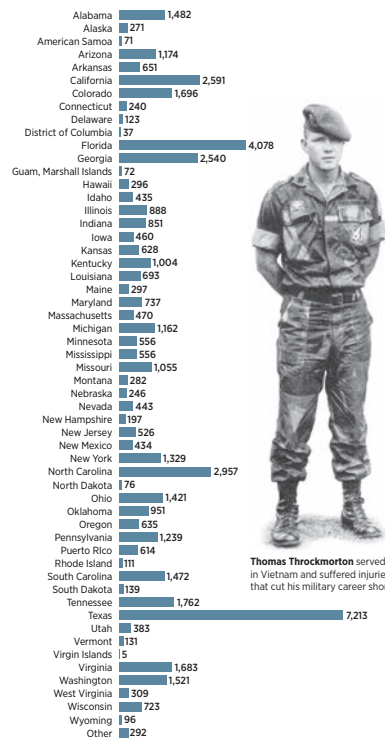
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COMBAT-INJURED RETIREES BY STATE



Thomas Throckmorton served in Vietnam and suffered injuries that cut his military career short.

Combat-Injured Retirees Span Generations of War

Thomas Throckmorton, a young and career-focused Army officer, did not want to miss combat in Vietnam. It was 1964, and he believed the war would soon be over. He sought an overseas assignment and served alongside paratroopers in the 5th Vietnamese Airborne Battalion. On this first trip to Vietnam he survived a bullet to the stomach.

He healed, continued his career, and deployed again to Vietnam in 1969. This time, small arms fire pierced a helicopter he was riding in. The helo crashed in a paddy field and he was thrown out the open door. His pelvis broke in 24 places, his hip was destroyed, and his prior bullet wound added complications.

"Well that's the end of your Army career," a doctor quipped as Throckmorton arrived for surgery. Though Throckmorton was able to serve a few more years, the injuries led to a premature end to his career.

"I never forgot that. Of course, I was in it for the duration," said Throckmorton, a medically retired officer and Chapter 61 retiree whose retirement pay is offset due to his VA disability pay. After 13 years in, his career aspirations were cut short. His retirement pay has been shortchanged for decades.

Because Throckmorton's injuries occurred in combat, he would be among those retirees to benefit from the Major Richard Star Act. The beneficiaries of this law would span generations.

"I'm ... at the end of my life, so it's not going to help me that much. But it will be nice for people to get it," said Throckmorton.

While Congress attempted a partial solution for combat vets with the Combat-Related Special Compensation program, it doesn't come close to fulfilling the offset, Throckmorton stressed.

"The thing that I never could quite understand is why, if they enacted Combat-Related Special Compensation, to replace the concurrent receipt ... why not make it fairly similar?"

— By Tony Lombardo, MOAA staff

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SOURCE: DOD OFFICIAL REPORT ON THE WELLS - OCT 30, 2022

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