



The INTERCOM

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
Cape Canaveral Chapter, Inc.



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PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Rick Kniseley, Colonel, USAF (Ret)



How Much Do You Remember About July 4th?

We celebrate July 4th as America's Holiday. In school we learned The Second Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence on July 4th, 1776. The 13 Colonies declared their independence from England. But adopting the Declaration of Independence wasn't the only important historic event that took place on a July 4th. How many of you remember these events that all happened on or around a 4th of July?

1. Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and James Monroe, the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th U.S. presidents all died on a 4th of July. In fact Jefferson and Adams both died on Jul 4, 1826.
2. The United States Military Academy at West Point officially opened on Jul 4th 1802.
3. The Louisiana Purchase was announced on Jul 4, 1803 for \$15M for land west of the Mississippi River.
4. The 3-day battle of Gettysburg (Jul 1-3, 1863) claimed the lives of more than 50,000 men making it the deadliest battle of the Civil War. It's often described as the War's turning point.
5. The Statue of Liberty was presented to the United States by France on Jul 4, 1884. It stands as a commemoration of the friendship between our countries and has become the welcoming symbol for millions of immigrants who came to America seeking a new life.
6. On Jul 4, 1960 the 50th Star was added to the American Flag representing Hawaii, our 50th State.
7. The NASA Mars Pathfinder was the first stationary lander and rover to go beyond the Moon and landed on Mars on Jul 4th, 1997. Its mission was to analyze the Red Planet's atmosphere, climate, and geology. It demonstrated a low-cost way to explore the planet. The Pathfinder cost \$265M.

During your 4th of July celebrations see how many of your guests remember these events that happened on a 4th of July. As you celebrate the 4th of July don't forget MOAACC members and families will be participating in the Brevard County Sheriff's 4th of July parade. It starts at 10:00 A.M at Merritt Island High School and ends to Edgewood Jr/Sr High School. Come out and join them.

Have a safe 4th of July, America's Holiday.

EXECUTIVE EDITOR & PAO

Amir M.Pishdad, CW3, USA (Ret)



Sacrificing to Celebrate

The Declaration of Independence was adopted on July 4th, 1776. On June 6th, 2024, the NATO Allies commemorated the 80th Anniversary of D-Day at Normandy. We are reminded that both events have something in common: Human Sacrifice at its highest level.

Achieving our Independence during the Revolutionary War from 1775 – 1783, 25,000 Americans lost their lives.

For the Allies to achieve success and start the slow progress toward Freeing Europe from the Nazis, more than 9,000 Allied soldiers were killed or wounded in the first 24 hours during the D-Day Landing on Normandy Beaches in France.

As we celebrate July 4th, 2024, let us not forget the human cost of freedom.



JULY EVENTS (Click Event for Details)

- 7/09 O-T-G Luncheon - 11:30 AM
@ Charlie & Jake's Bbq - Satellite Beach
- 7/11 Current Affairs Forum - 8 AM
Sons of the American Revolution
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 7/11 The Candidate Forum Series - 9:15 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - Colony Hall
- 7/16 MOAACC B.O.D Mtg. - 9:30 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - Chapel
- 7/16 MOAACC Luncheon - 11:30 AM
Scholarship Award Presentations
@ Indian River Colony Club - Colony Hall
- 7/18 TMBC - 8 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 7/18 The Candidate Forum Series - 9:15 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - Colony Hall
- 7/25 TMBC - 8 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 7/25 The Candidate Forum Series - 9:15 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - Colony Hall

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>

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



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

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

PUBLIC RELATIONS & MARKETING COMMITTEES**INTERCOM:**

EXECUTIVE EDITOR & PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER FOR

INTERCOM: Amir M. Pishdad, Sr.

INTERCOM CONTENT EDITOR: Rita Shapiro

LAYOUT/GRAPHICS: Jeremiah Zeleny

PRESS RELEASES & MEDIA LIAISON: Marilyn Sanford

DISTRIBUTION: Jan Clark

WEB LINK AND ELECTRONIC DISTRO: Mike Schroeder

PHOTOGRAPHERS: Skip Taylor, Amir Pishdad, Jr., Gloria Makowski, Tim Pishdad, Jose Prieto

ADVERTISING: Larry Jackson

Other Media Related Roles:

ADVERTISERS/SPONSORS: Donn Weaver, Mike Schroeder, Larry Johnson

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FIVE THINGS: Steve Bond

FACEBOOK: Tim Pishdad

MOAA/Florida Council of Chapters Liaison: Marilyn Sanford



LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

John R. McMahon, BG, USA (Retired)

The National DEBT—Economics or Politics?

The national debt seems to be a prominent topic these days and has prompted Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle to vote in various ways over time. In our case, it has motivated our two US Senators and Congressman Posey to generally vote “No” on any bill that adds to the annual deficit and, thence, the national debt. What appears to be an economic problem is actually a political problem and one that invokes the necessity to have a proper perspective in understanding it.

First, the current \$34 Trillion national debt looks like a large number until it is viewed in a historical and international context. Interestingly, unlike individuals, governments never have to pay off their debt. For example, the debt from World War II never paid off, but as a percentage of GDP, it is markedly lower, thanks to growth and inflation. Next, to stabilize debt as a percentage of GDP for the next 30 years, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that we would need to increase taxes or cut spending by 2.1 percent of GDP. Even this isn't a big number because America collects a much smaller percentage of its GDP in taxes than most other rich countries; collecting an extra two percentage points would still leave us a low-tax nation and would unlikely hurt the economy. Stabilizing debt seems hard because our deeply divided politics makes even modest steps toward responsibility extremely hard to take.

To be serious about the national debt, Congress would address it with several simple steps in the near term and take the difficult steps in the coming years. It goes without saying that wasteful or frivolous government spending should be halted and that our defense budget is woefully inadequate. Beyond that, permanently extending the 2017 Trump era tax cuts, most of which are scheduled to expire after 2025, would substantially worsen the fiscal outlook. Such a balanced approach to spending and revenue generation seems to make sense, along with continuing to adequately fund the Internal Revenue Service so that it can crack down on tax cheats.

The Social Security Trust Fund reported in May that unless action was taken, benefit cuts of roughly 20 percent will start in 2033 under current law. At the same time, entitlements (Social Security and Medicare) are producing deficits that just added \$1 Trillion to the national debt in eight months. If Congress did nothing to fix Social Security, we would still get most of your promised benefits because most of the money financing Social Security comes from the payroll taxes being paid regularly by working people. Income from the system's trust funds, which are dwindling, supplements it.

Fixing Social Security is no big deal with an increase in the 12.4 percent Social Security payroll tax of 3.5 percentage points — half borne by employers and half by employees. Such a tax increase for Social Security will never be a popular move. More repugnant is the prospect of cutting benefits, which ought to be ruled out because the overall picture of retirement readiness is dismal with

only about half the workers in the United States covered by any retirement plan aside from Social Security. In any case, it would be a lot better for everyone if the repair job happened sooner rather than later.

Social Security received its last major overhaul in 1983 when Congress and President Reagan ultimately agreed on a few key changes. These included increasing payroll taxes to their current rate, cutting benefits in subtle ways and building a surplus in the trust fund. But that fix relied on assumptions that have not played out. Specifically, income inequality in the United States rose far more rapidly than economists predicted. In 1983, the Social Security payroll tax was imposed on 90 percent of the country's wage income. Today with taxable wages capped at \$168,600, only about 82.5 percent of the nation's wage income is taxed for Social Security. If the cap were raised above \$300,000 to get us back to the 90 percent coverage, the 3.5-percent tax increase needed to fully fund Social Security would be as little as 2.45 percent. Freezing cost-of-living adjustments temporarily might prevent the system's finances from getting out of whack again. The key is the payroll tax which provides the bulk of Social Security's funding.

It all matters to us, or at least it should, because the national debt is intimately connected to how we, the people, view what the Nation spends on Defense, collects in taxes, and keeps its promises embedded in Social Security and Medicare. These are our meat and potato issues. America, with its huge economy and relatively low taxes, isn't facing a fundamental problem of fiscal sustainability. Given the political will, we could resolve debt concerns quite easily. It is time to return to the bipartisan spirit of Social Security reform.



SURVIVOR ASSISTANCE LESSONS LEARNED

Chuck Shaw, LtCol, USAF, SAT Team Lead

Periodically, the Survivor Assistance Team and the Financial Literacy Team combine their efforts to provide the MOAACC membership information that overlaps each team's goals to help the members. This time it is the June and July 2024 Intercom articles.

The July 2024 SAT Article is focused on making sure the information that you gathered in the June SAT Lessons Learned article can be used in forming the July Plan for managing your Estate in the scenarios the Financial Team pointed out. If you were not able to find and understand all the information in the “Key Planning Documents, Paperwork & Actions Checklist”. Will you still able to address the Part 2 scenarios? If not, go back and try again, and focus on finding and actually hold in your hand the missing documents and try to use them to build a “Plan” to cope with those scenarios. The result is you will build confidence that your Estate Management Plan will improve those you leave behind!!!



FINANCIAL LITERACY

CAPT Bob Houle, USCG (Ret)

Stress Testing Your Estate Plan - Part 2

Well, how did your stress testing go last month? Did you give yourself a passing grade in both scenarios? Be honest because success in Part 2 depends on taking, and passing, your Part 1 tests.

To recap, your mission last month was to stress test your estate plan in two scenarios: Scenario 1 was you dying; Scenario 2 was your spouse dying. In each scenario you were tasked to imagine the unimaginable, that you are now alone and need to execute the estate plan. Were you able to find all the key documents, accounts, and access information? Were you able to access your spouse's phone and computer? Did you find the keys to your safety deposit box? Did you check what was in the box? Was your contact list up to date? Email passwords? Did you refamiliarize yourself with all the documents, and properly archive them so they are accessible when needed?

We hope so. Now, on to Part 2.

This time, you're both dead, dying in the same accident. How you, working together, prepared for this scenario really does affect how you both will be remembered and honored. Think this won't happen? If you think there's yet another option, okay, but do you have a plan for that option? Remember, not having a plan is not an option. There is always a plan. Your state's intestate succession laws are the state's plan to decide where your money goes. And how much of it will go to them.

Most likely, it will not be practical to have your trustee/executor run around your home to find everything they'll need. But do they even know that your estate plan exists? Do they know where to find it? Have you shared with them what they need to know to be able to carry out your directions in the plan? Did you explain your rationale and hopes and intentions about bequests and inheritances, if not beforehand, at least in your estate plan? Assuming yesses so far, have you made provisions for them to have access to everything that you found in the Part 1 exercises?

Don't put this off because you don't want to share with them how you divided your assets or how much money they will (or will not) inherit. There is no legal or even moral requirement to do so.

Bottom line: you want control over what happens next. By having a plan, ready to be executed, you control who gets what and when/how they get it. And you make sure that *the state* is not part of your inheritance plan. Your reputation is on the line, even after you're gone.

In future articles we'll discuss "*the talk*" that your heirs want to have with you.

Never Stop Serving!

POINTS TO PONDER

MAJ (Chaplain, USAR Ret.) Bill Adams



This July 4th we celebrate the 248th birthday of our nation. We owe much to the character of those who made us a free people, enjoying the blessings of liberty to this day. Many of the founding fathers were God-fearing, faith-filled soldiers, scholars, statesmen and clergy. We recount their words and deeds that launched a republic...

On June 7, Richard Henry Lee (VA) proposed that the Continental Congress make a declaration of independence from the British crown. John Adams (MA) seconded the proposal. While the representatives went home to determine the will of their people, Adams, Jefferson (VA), Franklin (PA), Livingston (NY), and Sherman (CT) drafted the declaration, including: "The separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them...all men are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights...appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions...for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence..."

As Congress debated, Adams rose with great conviction: "Before God, I believe the hour has come. My judgment approves this measure, and my whole heart is in it...live or die, survive or perish, I am for the Declaration. It is my living sentiment, and by the blessing of God it shall be my dying sentiment!"

Two late arrivals determined the outcome of the vote. One was Presbyterian Minister John Witherspoon (NJ) who announced on behalf of his delegation, "In our judgment, the country is not only ripe for independence, but we are in danger of becoming rotten for the want of it..." Caesar Rodney (DE), ill with a facial cancer, was half-carried into the hall in Philadelphia; he barely uttered, "I vote for independence!" The vote was unanimous, and in that moment the Thirteen Colonies became the United States of America.

At the signing, and as the delegates pledged their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor, Sam Adams (MA) rose to declare: "We have this day restored the Sovereign, to Whom alone men ought to be obedient. He reigns in heaven and... from the rising to the setting sun, may His Kingdom come."

To which, all who treasure the life we as Americans have been given add a resounding, "AMEN!"

Your future. Our focus.



Susan Morse

Senior Vice President - Wealth Management
321-722-5426
susan.morse@ubs.com

Daniel Levy, CFA, CPWA®

Financial Advisor
321-722-5427
daniel.levy@ubs.com

UBS Financial Services Inc.
6905 N Wickham Road, 2nd
Floor, Melbourne, FL
32940-7552
321-729-6770

advisors.ubs.com/indianriverwmg



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HEALTHY LIVING

CAPT (Ret) Rita Shapiro, MA, DPT

July Healthy Living Observances:

Plastic Free Day – 14 July: Plastic Pollution is not just waste or harm to the environment, and being that we have so many bodies of water surrounding us, plastics also pose a significant danger to marine life. There is also evidence of plastics being a public health issue. (<https://www.plasticfreejuly.org/blog/plastic-is-a-health-hazard/>)

Take the plunge to stop using plastic products in July! Here are a few tips:

- Use reusable bags for grocery shopping.
- Use refillable bottles for water
- Do not use plastic straws



International Self-Care Day July 24: The U.S. Senate designated July 24 as International Self-Care Day in 2014. This annual celebration is an opportunity to raise awareness about the importance of self-care. The National Institute of Mental Health defines self-care as “taking the time to do things that help you live well and improve both your physical and mental health.”



(Source: [International Self-Care Foundation](https://www.internationalselfcarefoundation.org/))

Note to Readers:

Is there a specific topic you would like to read about in the upcoming Healthy Living? Please let us know by emailing to intercom@moaacc.org

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Mark Your Calendar!

Congressional Forum Series

Come meet the Candidates! The primary elections are coming up and our Legislative Affairs Committee has invited the local qualifying candidates for the FL-08 Congressional Seat (being vacated by Congressman Posey) to discuss their platforms with our members in separate sessions. In keeping with our legislative advocacy mission and non-partisan policy, all five of the candidates—Three Republican and two Democrats—are invited to discuss their backgrounds and qualifications, vision, and priorities—including how they plan to support veterans. The first session was held with Democrat Attorney Sandra Kennedy from Cocoa on Thursday, June 27th.

Here is the current schedule:

- Thursday, July 11th – Republican College Professor/ State Senator Mike Haridopolos from Melbourne
- Thursday, July 18th – Republican Attorney Joe Babits from Vero Beach
- Thursday, July 25th – Republican Businessman/ Technologist John Hearton from Satellite Beach

The sessions start at 0915, after our regularly scheduled Thursday Morning Business Meeting. Come out and meet the candidates to be our local representative in Congress—the sessions are open only to our members and IRCC residents. Be watching our events calendar as we lock in the other candidates as well.

Save the Dates for upcoming MOAACC Events:

09 July 2024

On-The-Go Luncheon 11:30 AM - 01:00 PM ET

16 July 2024

Scholarship Award Presentations
MOAACC Luncheon

17 August 2024

MOAACC Chapter Picnic Social

20 August 2024

MOAACC Luncheon - Speaker Jim Viola - Vertical Aviation International, Vision, Purpose and Values

5 October 2024

Past Presidents Dinner

16 November 2024

MOAACC Annual Golf Tournament

19 November 2024

Annual Membership Business Meeting

7 December 2024

Annual Christmas Dinner Dance

MOAACC Luncheon Scholarship Award Presentations

07/16/2024 11:30 AM - 01:00 PM

Location:

Indian River Colony Club

1936 Freedom Drive

Melbourne, FL 32940

Building Number: Colony Hall

Cost is \$25.00 for luncheon. Meal choices are:

1. Fried Chicken with Mashed Potatoes and Slaw
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 July 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



2024 VyStar Good Deeds Foundation Golf Tournament

**Benefiting Brevard County Military,
Veterans and ROTC/JROTC Units**

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2024

INDIAN RIVER COLONY CLUB Golf Course

4 PERSON SCRAMBLE

\$125 Per Player

8:00 AM SHOTGUN START



REGISTER TODAY TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT IN THE TOURNAMENT

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Tournament Director
larryj59@gmail.com
321-242-1331**

**To Register
Go To
GDFGolf.com**



MOAACC GOOD DEEDS FOUNDATION

CPT Donn Weaver, USA Former

Setting the Stage: Preparing for Record Setting Support to ROTC and Military Academy Programs

This summer your Good Deeds Foundation (GDF) will be working with generous donations we received so far to plan for the 2024-25 School Year. GDF will support FIT ROTC, 14 High School JROTC and four military academy programs in Brevard. We will be able to exceed the more than \$40,000 given last year, which included purchasing trophies and medals for all JROTC competitions (10 total).

Beyond funding support is the year-long MOAACC/GDF help for special programs like the military academies, ROTC, and other military leadership options seminar; a good presence at all JROTC competitions and award programs; and helping schools with individual projects during the year.

While GDF also supports active-duty units, veterans, and other 501c3 organizations which support the military and veterans, our greatest effort (and many might say most important) focuses on our youth. They are the future of America. Many say that, in today's America, youth need all the support we can muster. MOAACC and GDF is also proud to support the substantial Brevard Veterans Back to Class (VBC) program more of which you can read about in this issue. Our VBC volunteers engaged more than 4200 students in nine schools last year.

Most MOAACC members are parents and grandparents so we all know how important our youth mission really is. Your 10 GDF board members will make sure the upcoming investments have the greatest impact. The grant process begins on 05 August when GDF meets all JROTC Instructors to present the checks for the programs and to plan for the school year the week before students return from their summer break. It will be a great day.

The 24 August program is planned for HS 10-12 grade levels students in all categories of schooling, public, private, charter and home. The topics will be to include the processes to obtain ROTC scholarships, and academy appointments upon graduation from high school. We expect a great turnout. The poster is below. Thanks to the MOAACC Student Affairs Committee chaired by Mike Tucker for partnering with us to make the third annual running of this event the best ever. *See Flyer on Page 15.*

VyStar Foundation is a proud sponsor of MOAACC

On behalf of The Military Officers Association of America (MOAACC), we extend our heartfelt gratitude for VyStar Foundation's support of The Good Deeds Foundation, allowing us to continue our mission of service and camaraderie. As Vice President of the Good Deeds Foundation and a VyStar member for four decades I am proud of their unwavering support of the military community. Thank you for standing with us as we serve and support those who have served our nation.

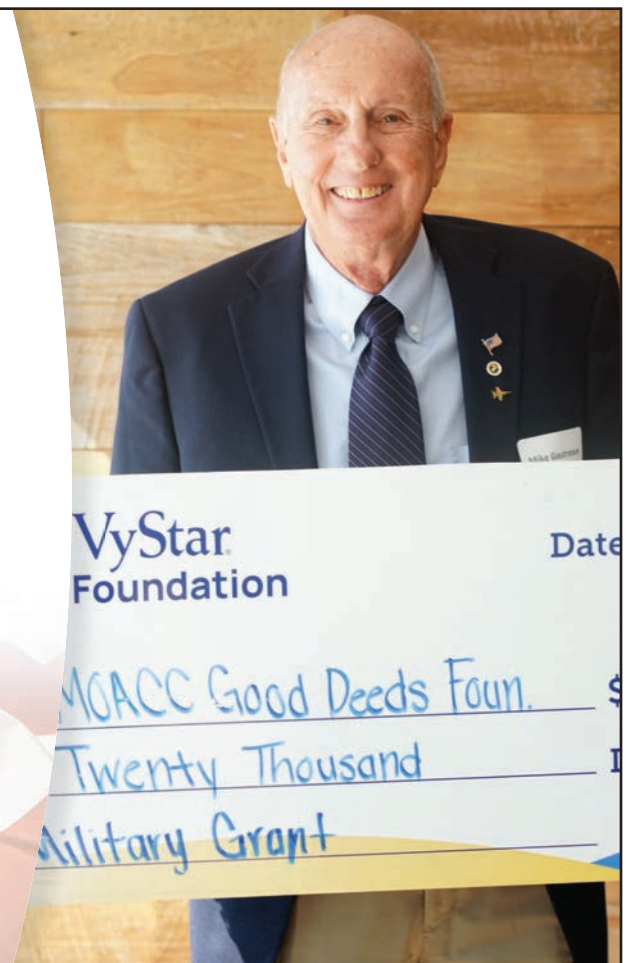
Mike Gautreaux

Colonel, USMC (ret)

Vice President, MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation



VyStar
Foundation



MOAACC Luncheon - June 2024



Courageous Division of the Navy; Sea Cadets, Merritt Island, Florida provided the color guard for the MOAACC Luncheon on 18 June 2024



MOAACC President Rick Kniseley welcomes every one with opening remarks



Members and guests listen on



MOAACC 1st Vice President Steve Kusik thanked Mr. Donovan for his valuable time to come and speak with the MOAACC members, and presented him with traditional MOAACC coin and a copy of Aviation Safety Book.

Executive Director of the Orlando Melbourne International Airport, Greg Donovan provided our chapter members with a, "inside baseball" view of our "Hometown" airport with a variety of information and facts.

The economic advantages to our community by having our very own airport, as Mr. Donovan stated was significant in jobs and economic impact.

His organization, who runs the airport strives to provide the best customer service. Keeping operating costs low for the airlines to operate and constantly advocating and encouraging new airlines and established airlines to come and make Melbourne their home.

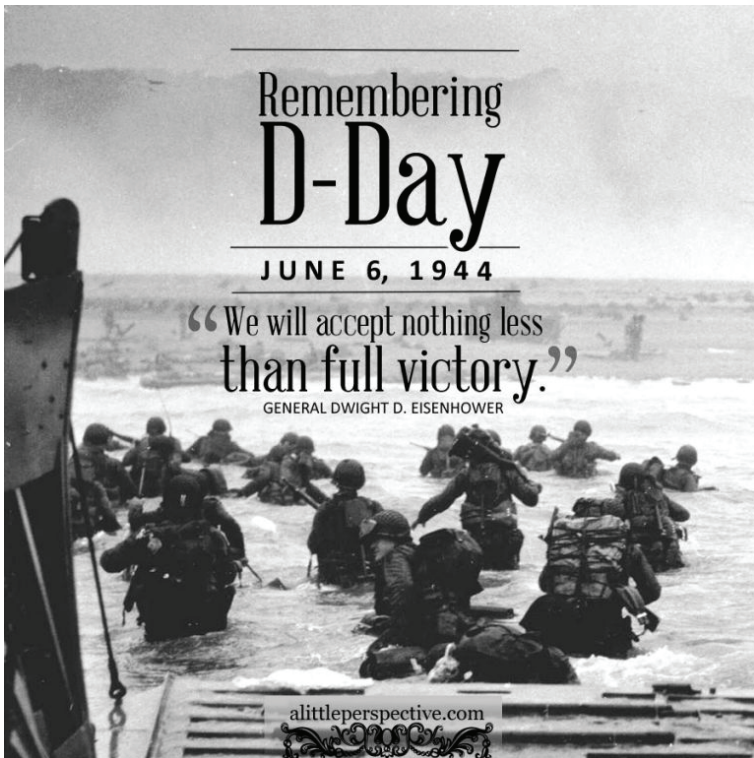
He was very generous by providing many raffle giveaways, including a \$200 gift card on Delta Airlines!



Mr. Greg Donovan, AAE, Executive Director of Melbourne Orlando International Airport (MLB) presented background history and future plans and direction for the MLB

[Click Here for Video & Presentation](#)

Remembering D-Day



*Reinactment of D-Day, June 6, 2024
Soldiers brought wreaths instead of guns.*



President Biden with US World War II Veteran



French President awards American WWII veteran Dick Rung with the Legion of Honor during an international ceremony at Omaha Beach, Thursday, June 6, 2024 in Normandy near Saint-Laurent-sur-Mer. Normandy is hosting various events to officially commemorate the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings that took place on June 6, 1944. (AP Photo/Virginia Mayo, Pool)



Photos Courtesy of Wire Services

Awards & Nominations for MOAACC Members!



CAPT Rita Shapiro USPHS received a Certificate of Merit for her work on the Intercom



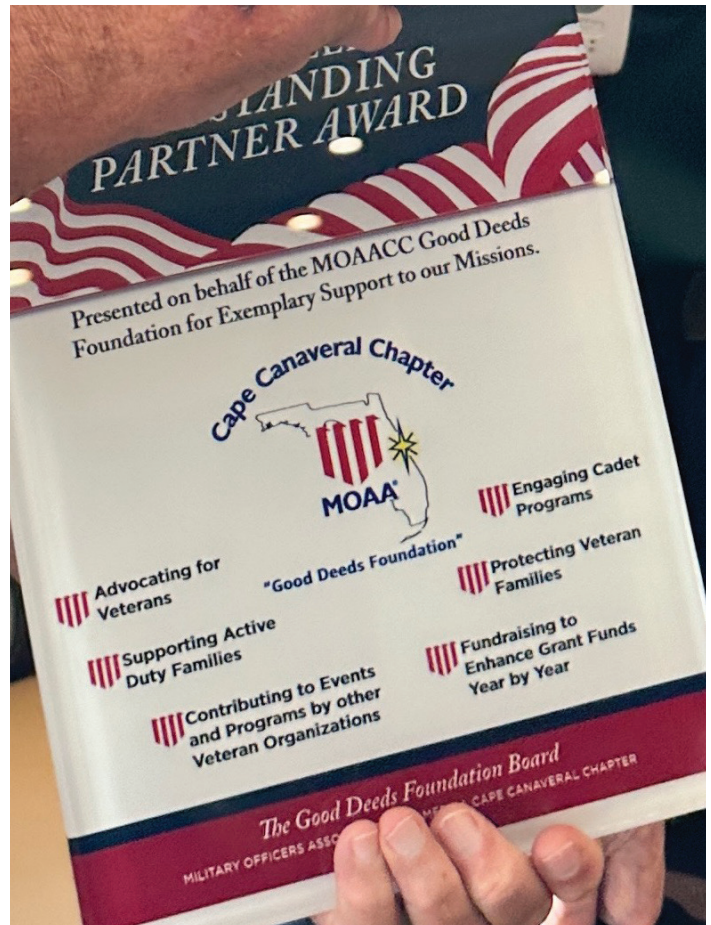
On 14 June, MOAACC members Tim Thomas and Donn Weaver received the 2024 Space Coast Community Hero Award from the Melbourne Regional Chamber. While 47 awards were presented only six covered veteran categories.



Weaver was nominated by USSSA Space Coast Stadium Manager Bob Grey (left)



WWII Vet Maj. George Bowdren, USA (ret) receives MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation Outstanding Partner Award



TAPS

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

Gene K. King, SSM
8 May 2024

Graham Schatz, Col, USAF Ret
17 May 2024



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SCHOLARSHIP CORPORATION

CAPT Scott Harley, USCG Ret

2024 Scholarship Awardees Announced

On behalf of the Selection Committee, I am pleased to announce the award of eleven (11) \$7,000 MOAACC Scholarships for 2024! The competition was intense this year with the return of 24 completed packages. The selection committee completed a difficult task when they gathered on 19 June and selected this year's recipients. Please thank them for their hard work when you see them, and encourage anyone who applied, but was not selected, to try again next year, if they still qualify.

RECIPIENT	SCHOOL	SPONSOR
Dameon Buhl-Strubbe	University of Texas San Antonio	Col Gary Eppler
Amanda Fentress	University of Florida	Capt Gloria Lorenzo-Luaces
Ava Franco	University of Central Florida	1st LT Gloria Makowski
Emma Gradt	Florida State University	Lt Col Kevin Gradt
Kathryn Hibbard	Florida State University	Lt Col Karen Hibbard
Dylan Quiroga	The Citadel	MSG Mari Quiroga
Lucia Rabolli	University of Southern California	CDR Ken Lowe
Marisa Ricks	University of Florida	CWO4 Matthew Ricks
Justin Schverak	University of Florida	LTC Christine Schverak
Daniel Weaver	Christopher Newport University	Capt Donn Weaver
Carter Yaskovic	Embry-Riddle University	MAJ Anthony Sweers

Each year beginning in 1984, MOAACC Scholarship Corporation has awarded scholarships to descendants and wards of active duty or retired members of the Uniformed Services of the United States (includes Regular, National Guard or Reserve enlisted and officers of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Space Force, NOAA or USPHS). The quantity and value of the scholarships vary from year to year. Between 1984 and 2024 (41 years), MOAACC Scholarship Corporation awarded \$987,000 to 316 students attending 83 different colleges throughout the nation.

This month, we will recognize these deserving scholars at our annual MOAACC Scholarship Awards Luncheon! Mark your calendars for Tuesday, 16 July at 11:30AM at Colony Hall in the Indian River Colony Club. The cost is a mere \$25 to come see our 11 deserving scholarship recipients be rewarded for their hard work thriving in the challenging environment of Post-Secondary Education. Please RSVP/cancel by 11 July 2024, [online here](mailto:events@moaacc.org) 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 Treasurer
PO Box 254186
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See you there!

MOAACC SCHOLARSHIP DONORS

Distinguished Donors

- Diane Monahan IMO Dick Manahan and IHO Chuck Shaw

Donors

- Donald and Karen Hagen
- Don England
- Elaine Lee Reis-El Bara

Thank you



MEMBERSHIP BRIEF

Following New Members were approved by the MOAACC Board of Directors on June 18, 2024

Name	Service	Status	Sponsor
CAPT Carl Cramb	US Navy	Retired	Dean Schaaf
Mrs. Phyllis Mather		Surviving Spouse	
Mrs. Susan Schatz		Surviving Spouse	
MAJ Nancy Lawson	US Air Force	Retired	Dave Kobey

In High School? Want to Become A Military Officer?

Join Us For a Seminar on the application process and hints to attend U.S. Military Academies; compete for ROTC College Scholarships and other paths to getting a commission in all military branches.

Save
The
Date

WHO: 2024-26 HS Sophs/Jrs/Seniors
WHAT: 2 two hours seminars
WHEN: Sat, August 24, 2024
Either 1-3 pm or 3-5pm
WHERE: Brevard VMC (see below)
WHY: Help students and parents know the ropes.
HOW: Reps from all academies, several colleges and special Mil programs



Sponsored by the Cape Canaveral Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America

VMC: Veterans Memorial Center, 400 S. Sykes Creek Pkwy, Merritt Island (behind Merritt Square Mall)



More details/time slot registration when school starts in August.

In the meantime:
Contact/ Questions:
donnweaver2020@gmail.com



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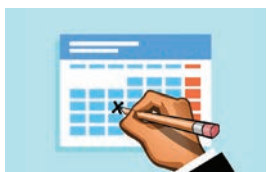
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Unofficial Brevard VMC Vets Calendar

JULY 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.

JULY 2024

04 Jul — Annual BCSO and VMC Merritt Island Independence Day Parade and party. 1000-1230. Begins at Merritt Island HS 0900 staging. Break off parade (1100) at Edgewood HS, continue to Veterans Memorial Center with food and festivities. Contact BCSO to register or for more information (www.bcsosociety.org / 321-264-7755) and VMC Donn Weaver (757-871-6576) for info about the after-parade activities.

04 Jul — Melbourne 4th of July Independence Day Parade 1000-1100 am Downtown Melbourne. Starts at Liberty Bell Museum (1601 Oak St) with Ceremony and Awards there afterwards. Route along Hickory to New Haven East, ending at New Haven and Municipal. Grand Marshalls Green Gables and Larry/Jeanette Jarnes. Celebrate Americana.

05 Jul — Palm Bay 2024 Independence Day Celebration at East Florida State College, Palm Bay Campus 1700- 2100. Food, music, vendors, FIREWORKS and much more. Vendor Sponsorships available. Contact Daniel Waite on 321-626-2912 or daniel.Waite@palmabayflorida.gov to register as a sponsor or for more information.

AUGUST 2024

03 Aug — Annual Coast Guard Birthday and Family Day at Coast Guard Station Port Canaveral 1000-1500. USO, MOAACC Good Deeds, VFW 10131 and many other sponsors and booths. Free food and fun, great activities for kids. Come celebrate the USCG Birthday and support the Station's people and families. Access and parking just before closed entrance to Space Force Launch CC south gate.

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.

09 Aug — Annual National Veterans Homeless Support Fundraising Dinner 1715-2100 Radisson Resort at the Port. Hosted by Brevard County Constitutional Officers including Sheriff Wayne Ivey. Sponsorships and individual tables/seats available. \$100 per seat, \$1250 for Sponsor tables. Silent auction, Live Auction, 50/50 raffle and a great dinner!! Visit www.nvhs.org/events to register or email events@nvhs.org.

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 Soph'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.

24 Aug — Bowling for Heroes Charity event by Heroes United to Heal Foundation at Palm Bay Shore Lanes 4851 Dairy Rd, Melbourne 1300-1500. Five-man team entry fee is \$70 for each lane with grand prizes available in Juniors (under 21). Corporate/Private Business, Hero (Vets and First Responders) categories. Register your team by email: admin@hu2h.org. The event is aimed at "Striking Out" the stigma of PTSD and vet/first responder suicide.

27 Aug — VMC Library Discussion Series 1800-1930. 9/11 Missed Warnings and its Impact on Three American Generations. — A Gold Star Perspective and 9/11 Perspective. CAPT Bill Toti. USN (Ret) and Donn Weaver, Gold Star father. Drinks and snacks served.

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.

11 Sep — Annual 9/11 Remembrance and Patriots Day Ceremony at VMC Plaza 1700-1830. Sponsored by Club 1013 of retired NYPD Police Officers many of whom were in NYC on 9/11/2001. Details in July.

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. BCSO conducts monthly shred services at various locations and will release their 2024 schedule in January.

NOVEMBER 2024

11 Nov — Veterans Day Ceremony at VMC Plaza 0930 - 1100. Many others in Brevard as well.

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

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. More details in August.

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

Donn Weaver

donnweaver2020@gmail.com



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CAREER SUPPORT RE Transition (TCS)

Vacant

VETS BACK TO CLASS (JOE FOSS)

CPT Donn Weaver, USA Fmr

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LCDR Dean Schaaf, USN Ret

CPT Donn Weaver, USA Fmr

VETERANS TREATMENT COURT

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VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER UPDATE

Countdown to a Major VMC Park Upgrade

By Dean Schaaf, Pres. VMC and Donn Weaver



In early August the Brevard County Commissioners are scheduled to meet and finally approved the largest upgrade ever to Brevard's Veteran Memorial Center 82-acre Park. Funds from the State, County and Tourist Development Council now total over \$8M and are in place for the final decision to build a major amphitheater with more restrooms and picnic buildings, electrical upgrades, lighting, irrigation and major additional tree and shrub plantings.

The project was first laid out and approved in part in 2019, but covid and cost increases created delays which hopefully will end in August with a ribbon cutting soon after. Ivey's Construction, which built our museum in 2015-16 as well as Phase I of the Park, is the primary contractor and has a fantastic record of finishing on time and on budget, so we are hopeful by Memorial Day of 2025 all will be ready.

In other VMC news, we are now up to having over 30 VMC members who also belong to MOAACC. We just held our VMC Elections for 2024-25 with many MOAACC members in leadership positions, including Dean Schaaf as President, Kristi Blanchard as Treasurer and Donn Weaver, returning to VMC leadership after year only as a Board Member, as Vice President.

Last month the VMC welcomed the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) as our 19th partner/member organization. AUSA also includes many MOAACC members.

This summer please be sure to visit the VMC Military Museum and other facilities and learn more about why it is almost a MOAACC north branch!! While there, check out our MOAACC/GDF Program Wall display in the lobby near the library.

Brevard Refuses to Forget One Veteran

By Donn Weaver, CPT, USA (Fmr)



(L-R) Donn Weaver passes BNOVLB empty urn to Pastor Tim Kroll, Chaplain David Rodriguez.

On 01 June a Memorial Service was held to honor and remember an Army veteran of the Vietnam Era. The story of what brought about 60 people together for that service at Christ Central Church in Cocoa was amazing.

Howard Richard Browning was born in Ohio just before WWII began. He died, with no next of kin on hand or available to claim his remains, on the 4th of July 2023. Browning joined the Army in 1963 and served in the Ohio Army National Guard until 1969. He then served for more than 35 years in the US Postal Service before retiring first to North Carolina and finally to Brevard County alone about 8 years ago.

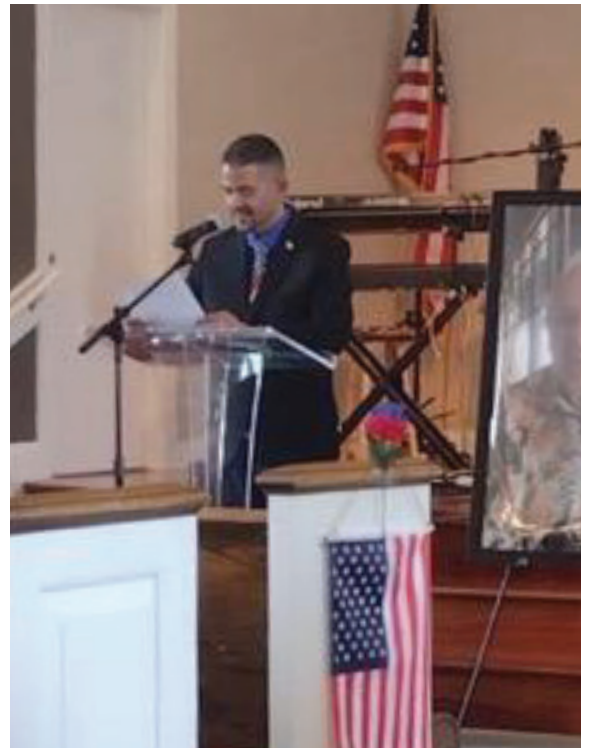
Just about a week before Browning died, US Army veteran, retired Brevard law enforcement Officer and now Chaplain David Rodriguez met him by happenstance at Ruby Tuesdays. Browning by then was in a walker and eating alone a few tables away from Rodriguez. A short conversational exchange led to sitting down together and learning Browning had also served in the Army. Plans to meet again were made and a photo taken. Months passed and Browning did not reach out. Rodriguez decided to do some research on the internet and eventually came across the funeral notice, posted days after the meeting.

He was moved to action. He and Pastor Tim Kroll reached out and

eventually the funeral home confirmed there were no immediate next of kin but there was a phone number of a step daughter in North Carolina. Under US laws the funeral home could not pass that contact information, but promised to let Karen Connell know about Rodriguez. She gave approval to the home this spring to release the remains of Browning to Pastor Kroll. He and Rodriguez were about to arrange at their cost internment at a local private cemetery with a veteran's section when they learned about Brevard No One Veteran Left Behind (BNOVLB). BNOVLB is a county wide program sponsored but the VMC, MOAACC and the Support Committee of the CCNC.

Donn Weaver of BNOVLB met them at the Veterans Memorial Center Library in late May to hear the amazing story and provided a veteran hand carved urn for Brownings Ashes. He attended the service along with some neighbors, Combat Vets and other veteran motorcycle group members and others from the church. Thus, Browning's Celebration of Life had many to serve real witness. Only three people who attended said they had ever met Browning. His step daughter was too ill to travel but watched on zoom and shared her story when Browning married her mother and she was a rebellious teenager at that time.

This story, hopefully, will end in late September 2024, when BNOVLB plans to include Browning with other veterans not claimed by families in a special service at the Cape Canaveral National Cemetery to try to insure no one vet is left behind.

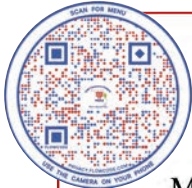


Chaplain Rodriguez offers remarks



The Celebration of Life on 01 June

Please Renew Your 2024 Membership!



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Cape Canaveral Chapter (MOAACC)
P.O. Box 254186, Patrick SFB, FL 32925-4186
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/ INFORMATION UPDATE.

☐ New Chapter Annual ☐ New Chapter Life ☐ **ANNUAL RENEWAL** ☐ Change of Information

Name _____ Spouse's Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Rank _____ Service _____ Member DOB _____

Check appropriate box:

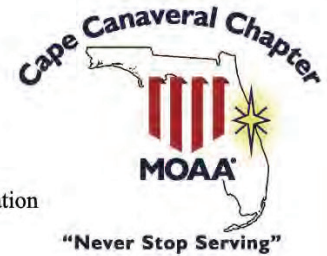
☐ Retired ☐ Active Duty ☐ Widow (er) ☐ Spouse of Member

☐ Regular ☐ Reserve ☐ Nat'l Gd ☐ Former Officer

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

Signature _____ Date _____



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More GDF!

MOAACC Good Deeds Merits Major Grant for the VyStar Foundation

By: Donne Weaver, Pres. GDF



VyStar Foundation Officials Award GDF \$20K in Jacksonville on 13 June. GDF VP Mike Gautreaux (second from left) and Pres. Donn Weaver (2nd from right) are all smiles.

On 13 June, Vice President of Good Deeds, Mike Gautreaux and his wife Phyllis and President Donn Weaver drove to Jacksonville, FL to accept a major Award Grant of \$20,000 from the VyStar Credit Union Foundation. While 12 awards worth over \$200,000 for Florida and Georgia winners were given out at the VyStar downtown Headquarters building, only GDF and the Jacksonville Navy League received funds for veteran organizations.

VyStar Credit Union also sponsored our 2023 GDF Golf Tournament Fundraiser and will do so again at \$10,000 for the 16 November 2024 Tourney at IRCC. That makes a total of \$40,000 for GDF from the VyStar in a one-year period!!

GDF Vice President has been a VyStar Member for 40 years and spent many hours last year working with them to sponsor the Gold Tournament and filled out a challenging and very competitive VyStar Foundation Grant Application over several weeks in the spring. Thanks to Mike again, we won.

Check out the new VyStar ad in this edition of the Intercom and Mike's testimonial therein. We hope for a great partnership with VyStar for many years to come.

Zachary M. Martin Annual Memorial 5K Run/Walk to Benefit Veterans Suffering from Post-traumatic stress Disorder

By: Donn Weaver, Cpt, USA (Fmr)



Runners Take Your Marks



Other Ways to Donate

The 2024 Zachary M. Martin Annual Memorial 5K Run/Walk at Viera Regional Park on 08 June featured more than 120 registrants and another 100 supporters came to cheer and support this special event, including 10 members of Rolling Thunder FL Chapter 1. It was a run with a purpose, organized by Paul and Heidi Martin to honor their son, who died as a result of military service in June, 2022.

This year, the parents of another service member who lost his battle against PTSD, Kenny and Kari Green joined the Martins in helping organize and advertise the event. The Martins and Greens plan to hold the run every June and are hoping to stage the event at Veterans Memorial Center Park in 2025. The Martin Foundation is an official 501c3.

More than \$9000 was raised at the event this year including runner fees, a silent auction and other donations. Proceeds will go to the Stop Soldier Suicide foundation and organizations helping veterans with PTSD. The Greens have created a moving web site about Zachary and their decision to make positive come from tragedy: zacharymartinmemorial.com

The run was organized by Southern Timing and drew some very serious runners - the winner clocked in at under 18 minutes! It also included some families, walkers and several parents and grandparents of veterans.

It was indeed a case of taking action, despite the loss, to benefit others in the face of sadness. Hats off to the Martins and the Greens and all who participated.



Rolling Thunder FL-1 shows support without doing the race!!

Vets Back to Class – Year in Review

By Donn Weaver, Cpt, USA (Fmr)



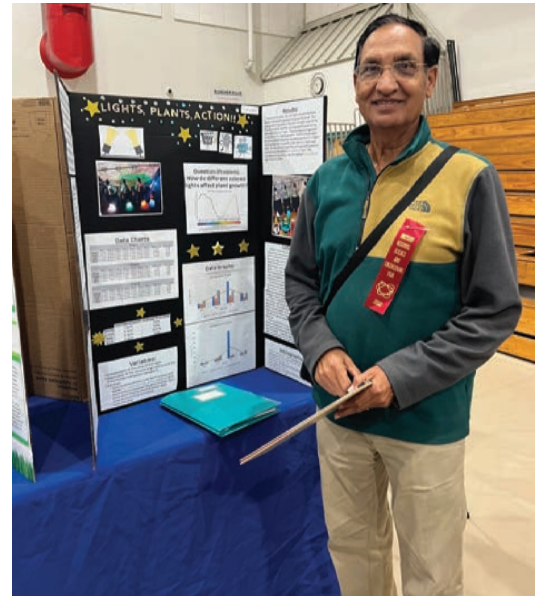
VBC Volunteer and Army veteran Doug Bisset presents a class on WWII at Heritage HS

subjects. During their presentations, these veterans discuss not only the history of our Nation, but their own personal history, with a focus on how being a Veteran has impacted their life. Oftentimes, they bring with them combat era trunks filled with actual artifacts that help to bring history to life for students. During the pandemic, the group got creative and filmed 18 Veterans covering key topics of value for our school systems. The video resources and other tools offered by VBC are always available online for teachers at BPS and other school systems.

While the number of Veteran Volunteers ebbs and flows from year to year, the program itself continues to grow. During the 2023/2024 school year, VBC added STEM related programs including five special science fairs for BPS students at the VMC. In addition to the science fairs, veteran volunteer lectures, educational videos, and historical trunks of artifacts, the VBC also facilitated 14 school field trips to the VMC to further bolster students' knowledge of their Country's history. Furthermore, the Education and Citizenship Armed Forces Coalition of the Space Coast (ECAC), was developed this year in partnership with MOAACC, VMC, BPS, and other military and Department of

Defense (DoD) entities to bring additional education and career opportunities to students in Brevard County. In August, ECAC will be taking full effect with BPS. Over the summer, VBC is encouraging students and their families to check out local museums like the VMC, the Liberty Bell Museum, and more, to gain a better understanding of the rich history of Brevard County.

Developed in 2015, the VBC program was created by MOAACC and the Veterans' Memorial Center (VMC) to provide educational outreach to the students of Brevard County. Over the course of nine years, the program has grown, evolved, and proven its value by educating kids of all ages in public, private and home school settings on topics ranging from the creation of our Constitution to the World Wars and War in Afghanistan. Veteran volunteers have donated their time and experience throughout the years, bringing a personal touch to history and military education by coming into the classroom setting to teach about these important



VBC Volunteer Pankaj Sharma evaluates entries at one of six BPS Science Fairs he supported the past year



VBC volunteer and Navy Corpsman veteran Chandler Langevin teaches home schoolers about the Civil War with help from a passer by

The VBC Program offers links to teachers where they can describe their classroom needs for these historical presentations. By offering a personal connection to the materials being learned, students will come away with a more intimate understanding of the history of our Nation and the men and women who helped to shape it and pave the way for others.

The Role of Aircraft in WWI (Part 6)

By Bill Muckler, Captain USMC

THE LAFAYETTE ESCADRILLE. Hundreds of Americans traveled to France in a quest to join the famed squadron. Unable to accommodate the flood of volunteers within the original unit, French Air Service leaders formed the Lafayette Flying Corps, in an effort that saw more than two hundred American volunteers join a variety of French squadrons. Their contribution to the war was undeniable, with the volunteers shooting down 199 German aircraft.

These were the trailblazers of a significant shift in the West. America's unparalleled effort, a historical achievement, evolved into a monumental crusade. Every eligible man enlisted under the Stars and Stripes, not for personal gain or world dominance, but for the noble ideals that formed the bedrock of civilization. The nation's entire resources were wholeheartedly committed to securing victory.



The Lafayette Escadrille Emblem

When the United States entered the Great War in 1917, the pioneering airmen of the Lafayette Escadrille laid the foundation for American combat aviation. Clad in United States Air Service uniforms, these seasoned flyers continued to fly and fight, sharing their combat aviation expertise with their newly arrived counterparts. This ongoing service was pivotal, with American airpower playing a decisive role in a series of battles that ultimately led to the Allied victory in November 1918.

The men of the Lafayette Escadrille came to France's aid at the height of the First World War, when the debilitating cost of attrition warfare threatened to push Allied nations to the brink. With vast trench-bound armies locked in a bloody stalemate, commanders sought to harness the air domain as a new front to secure victory.

With no nation possessing a monopoly on the aerial province, leaders had to consider how to counter hostile forms of airpower. Initially, airmen improvised by taking rifles and pistols with them on their patrols. Aerial duels erupted above the trench lines as opposing flyers spontaneously fired at one another. This approach was eventually superseded when aircraft designers devised methods of installing fixed machine guns in their latest designs. (Next month: The Role Of Aircraft In WWI. Part 7)

Celebrating Women Veterans



June 11 was Women Veterans Recognition Day and Indian River Colony Club honored 35 women veterans, including two guests. Nine veterans spoke about their active-duty experiences.

Pictured are Bobbie Greenwald, President of Army Women, spouse of Bill Greenwald, COL, USA and Dr. Jane Hodges, Major in USAF/CAP, who served 25 years as a Search and Rescue pilot and Director of Aerospace Education



Twenty-four IRCC Women Veterans of IRCC were in attendance.

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Memorial Day Ceremonies All Around Brevard County

By Donn Weaver, Cpt, USA (fmr)



Naval Ordnance Test Unit Commander, CAPT Jason Schneider speaking at the Liberty Bell Museum

civic locations. The Liberty Bell Museum saw about 250 attend their annual ceremony. Naval Ordnance Test Unit Commander, CAPT Jason Schneider and Gold Star Dad Donn Weaver were guest speakers. The ceremony included reading the names and tolling of bell for each of the 22 Brevard connected military members who lost their lives in combat since 9/11. That remembrance was repeated at the Cocoa Riverfront Park that evening.

The Veterans Memorial Center held a very moving ceremony with about 300 looking on and LTC Tim Thomas, USA (Ret) offering his thoughts about the day and his combat experiences including the loss of his soldiers.



Memorial Day at the VMC

There were five major Memorial Day Ceremonies this year all over Brevard County and perhaps the best attended such ceremonies in several years. One at the Cape Canaveral National Cemetery with about 750 observers and about 300 at several others.

The weekend began on Friday, 24 May at Erdman Automotive in Cocoa with about 150 watching a moving ceremony. It included guest speakers from, Space Coast Honor Flight (Christine Tate), the US Coast Guard (CDR Sarah Brennan), the AVET Project (Garren Cone) and Gold Star Mom, artist and author (Jeanne Weaver). In addition to a great contingent from Erdman Automotive, local VFW, American Legion, MOAACC and VMC veterans also attended. The complete event is available to view on line at spacecoastdaily.com Friday night lights.

There were four big events on Memorial Day itself on 27 May which took place from Melbourne to Mims as well as many smaller ceremonies at various veteran and



Gold Star Parents Donn and Jeannie Weaver offering remarks at the Liberty Bell Museum

The CCNC event was the best attended in over four years and included speakers CAPT William Toti, USN (Ret), a former submarine commander, with Esther Bower, Fox 35 Orlando News, serving as Emcee.

The final event took place in the evening as the 18th Annual City of Cocoa Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony. Major speakers were COL Steve Bond, USA (Ret) who served in several recent combat areas and Chandler Langevin, former US Navy Corpsman who saw combat in Afghanistan supporting Marine units. He now serves with St Francis Reflections Life Stage care helping veterans in many ways. More than 500 attended the Parade and Ceremony.

In all, the true meaning of Memorial Day was on display all over our county. Thanks to all who made these events happen and all who chose to take some time during that special weekend to remember its purpose.

More photos on next page



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