



The INTERCOM

MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
Cape Canaveral Chapter, Inc.



Happy Holidays!

Photo by Pish Pishdad



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DECEMBER EVENTS

Click Event for Details

- 12/7 TMBC & Current Affairs - 8 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 12/9 2nd Annual Space Force T-Minus 10-Miler - 8 AM
@ Cape Canaveral Space Force Station
- 12/12 On-The-Go Luncheon - 11:30 AM
@ The Dove III Restaurant
- 12/14 TMBC - 8 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 12/15 MOAACC Surviving Spouses/Spouses
Christmas Tea - 2 PM
@ Indian River Colony Club
- 12/19 MOAACC Board of Directors Mtg. - 9:30 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - Chapel
- 12/21 TMBC - 8 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole
- 12/28 TMBC - 8 AM
@ Indian River Colony Club - 19th Hole

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

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

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



Lt Col Brian R. Whalen, USAF (Ret)

An Amazing MOAACC Year

November was busy. Together with VITAS and One Senior Place, we had with an event to prepare spouses for the Final Chapter. Mike Tucker coordinated the effort and Chuck Shaw was the primary speaker with excellent support from Ellie Joy. They answered all questions and posed some that weren't asked to get people thinking. The National Cremation Society and DAV 123 also provided excellent information.

Chapter Member Lt Col Tim Thomas, USA (Ret) and his Viera HS JROTC unit planned and executed a great veterans appreciation event at a Viera HS football game. There was a ceremonial check presentation from the Good Deeds Foundation prior to the game. A lot of veterans were in attendance and your chapter was well represented.

Veterans Day events were plentiful, and our chapter did a great job supporting them. VITAS and St Francis came up with a list of assisted living facilities that wanted speakers for Veterans Day and Steve Bond coordinated the speakers – people were busy doing great things in our community. Our Student Affairs Team coordinated chapter participation at several schools in the county. Then there was the Veterans Day Event at the Veterans Memorial Center. Rick Kniseley and I joined Jose Prieto who carried the MOAACC flag in the massing of the colors. It was great seeing our chapter members at the event.

The On-the-Go Luncheon was another success, thank you Toni Lowe! Richard Proctor from AAFMAA, one of our advertisers, drove down from Winter Park to get to meet more of us. We also had chapter members leading and participating in the inaugural Brevard No One Veteran Left Behind service at Cape Canaveral National Cemetery. The Good Deeds Foundation Golf tournament was held at IRCC in November as well. Finally, we reviewed the State of the Chapter and elected our officers and board members for 2024. Hopefully many participated in some of these events. Be sure to read about them.

We will ease out of the year in December. CAPT Andy Petruska, USN (Ret) will talk to us about Pearl Harbor perspectives on December 7th. This will be Andy's third time speaking to us and he's always interesting. The last major event will be the Surviving Spouses/Spouses Christmas Tea on December 15th at 1400, be sure to sign up. We had a busy 2023, rest up and be ready for 2024.



INTERCOM Photo & Article Submission Rules

PHOTOS:

- Photos must be in "High Resolution" in jpg format and sent as an "Attachment."
- When sending photos, select "actual size" on computer or cell phone.
- Submit one photo per article, or more if absolutely necessary.
- All photos must have "captions" of who, what, when, where and why.

ARTICLES:

- Articles must be in Microsoft "Word" format. PDF NOT ACCEPTED.
- LIMITS: One article per email, not more than 375 words. Each Article must include Author Name & Rank

NEW DEADLINE & SUBMISSION EMAIL:

- **Photos & Articles are DUE NO LATER THAN the 15th of each month, to give our staff enough time for editing. Do not send your submission to Jeremiah, Rita, or Pish. Please send ALL submissions to the following email address:**

intercom@moaacc.org

INTERCOM PUBLICATION:

- THE INTERCOM is published 12 times annually by the Cape Canaveral Chapter, Inc. (MOAACC), an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) Alexandria, Va.
- Contents of the Intercom articles are opinions solely of the authors and do not express the policy or official views of MOAA or The Cape Canaveral Chapter (MOAACC)
- The advertisements that appear in this publication do not reflect an endorsement by MOAA or by MOAACC.
- Comments and suggestion are welcome. Contact EXECUTIVE EDITOR: pish104@bellsouth.net

Health of the Chapter

Do you know of a member who is ill, in the hospital or in rehab?

Let 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)

ARE YOU A VETERAN ??



Under Title 38 of the U.S. Code, a veteran is defined as a "person who served in the active military, naval, air, or space service, and who was discharged or released honorably."

Also National Guard and Reserve members will have veterans status

In Service Before September 8, 1980

There is no minimum length of service required to be considered a veteran.

Enlisted after September 8, 1980

A minimum service requirement exists. Service members must have served a minimum of 24 months of active duty to be considered a veteran.

Veterans Day (originally known as *Armistice Day* before WORLD WAR II) It is a federal holiday in the United States observed annually on November 11, for honoring military veterans of the United States Armed Forces.

PUBLIC RELATIONS & MARKETING COMMITTEES

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FACEBOOK: Tim Pishdad

MOAA/FLORIDA COUNCIL OF CHAPTERS LIAISON :
Marilyn Sanford



FINANCIAL LITERACY

Captain Bob Houle, USCG (retired)

Investing for Retirement: Setting Year-End Goals

Last month we featured strategic asset allocation as the foundation for long-term investment success. Now, as the year draws to a close, it's time to take those principles to the next level and set clear investment goals for the upcoming year, especially as they pertain to our retirement planning.

The Importance of Goal Setting. As a military officer, we understand the importance of setting objectives to achieve mission success. The same principle applies to our financial future. Setting specific, measurable, achievable, timely and realistic investment goals is a critical step toward realizing our retirement dreams and meeting critical milestone goals along the way. Here's our end-of-year check list to get us started:

- **Assess Our Progress:** Begin by reviewing our current financial situation. How close are we to our retirement goals? Assess the performance of our investments over the past year and evaluate whether we are on track to meet our objectives.
- **Refine and Validate Our Retirement Goals:** Clearly define what we want our retirement to look like. Consider factors like the age at which we want to retire, the lifestyle we desire, and any specific financial milestones we hope to achieve during retirement. Make (and document) adjustments that are needed.
- **Fine Tune Our Investment Plan:** Once we have a clear picture of our retirement goals, we need to work backward to determine how much we need to save annually to reach them. Consider factors such as our expected investment returns and inflation to ensure our calculations are realistic. We don't want to fall short!
- **Diversify Our Income Sources:** A diversified retirement income strategy can provide added security. Explore options like Social Security, pensions, and additional sources of passive income, such as rental properties or dividend-paying stocks.
- **Risk Management for Pre-Retirees:** As we approach retirement age, managing risk becomes crucial. Review our asset allocation and consider gradually shifting to a more conservative portfolio to protect our savings from market volatility.
- **Risk Management for Retirees:** In retirement we are more concerned about the return of our money, not the return on our money. Future articles in this series will provide ideas for your consideration. Also, we've posted online a video that our partners in the North Florida Chapter of BetterInvesting produced recently on our website. You can find it [here](#) (or click to [play it](#)

[now](#), starts at time 17:50).

- **Tax-Efficient Withdrawals:** Develop a strategy for tax-efficient withdrawals in retirement. Determine the order in which we'll tap different types of retirement accounts to minimize tax liability.
- **Legacy Planning:** If leaving a financial legacy is important to us, we need to create a plan, now, for how we'll pass on our assets to loved ones or charitable causes.
- **Estate Planning:** We need to be the decision maker on who gets what, when, how and how much after we are no longer on the scene to make those decisions. Planning now is smart planning. That's estate planning. Don't depart without one.
- **Stay Informed:** The financial landscape and tax laws can change. We need to stay informed about updates that might impact on our retirement plans. For some of us, that may mean we need to engage a professional planner to keep us informed.

By setting clear investment goals and strategies for the year ahead, we can build on the foundation of the asset allocation discussed last month. Our goals provide a roadmap, guiding our investment decisions and ensuring that we remain on track to achieve the independence, financial security and retirement lifestyle we desire.

Remember, investing for retirement is a journey that requires discipline and periodic adjustments. Regular reviews of our progress and the willingness to adapt our strategies as needed to stay on track are the key. With careful planning and a commitment to our financial objectives, we can approach retirement with confidence and look forward to a financially secure future.

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LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

John R. McMahon, BG (Ret), USA

Changes but no Changes

“Breaking News”: The House passed another stopgap measure - Continuing Resolution (CR) to keep the federal government funded through the holidays into early 2024. A shallow victory for its new Speaker, Rep Mike Johnson, R-LA, who was elected a mere three weeks ago and relied on support from the Democratic caucus to avert a government shutdown. Our Congressman, Bill Posey, voted “No” along with 94 other Republicans and 2 Democrats. 127 Republicans supported it as did 209 Democrats. The Senate voted on 15 November, also to pass the CR that will keep the Veterans Administration, Transportation, HUD and Energy departments funded as well as Military Construction at the 2023 levels until 19 January 2024. However, the rest of the government will remain funded until 02 February 2024.

Meanwhile, as Senator Joe Manchin (D-WVa) announced his decision not to seek re-election, he wrote a letter published in the WSJ explaining why he decided not to run again, and more importantly, what is happening in the Congress. He described the many big problems that our country faces: inflation, a wobbly economy, immigration, and a border crisis tied to illegal drugs killing our citizens, unsafe communities, and the national debt out of control. He also noted the critical aid we are providing two of our allies fighting wars for their survival while we attempt to avoid being pulled into war ourselves. These problems, among others, are not Republican not Democrat challenges, but American challenges which he says “we need to face together”.

Then, Manchin turns his attention to the games being played by our elected leaders in Washington that are “standing in the way of so many obvious and popular solutions” asserting “country should always come before party”. Basically, as the Senator sees it, “the incentives in politics reward bad behavior and demand party purity at the expense of problem-solving”. Politicians “are no longer responsive to the people” who elected them because they are beholden to the money that keeps them in office and the power they wield as they grow in seniority. Finally, he stresses that “our country is not as divided as Washington wants you to believe [and that] we share common values of family, freedom, democracy, dignity and a belief that we can overcome any challenge together”.

At the same time, the wheels of progress continue to roll forward in the face of this sad situation. Recently, MOAA announced its top VA health care priorities for this session of Congress, which ends December 2024, in the form of two critical bills:

1. **Elizabeth Dole Home and Community Based Services for Veterans and Caregivers Act (H.R. 542 and S. 141)** —a bipartisan, bicameral bill that would help veterans

and their caregivers transition between caregiver support programs, assess the level of care they need, expand mental health services, and improve communication and coordination between veterans and their families and veteran service organizations like MOAA.

2. **Expanding Veterans’ Options for Long Term Care Act (H.R. 1815 and S. 495)** — a bipartisan, bicameral bill that would allow the VA to launch a pilot program to look at the effectiveness of paying for assisted living services. Currently, the VA is unable to pay room and board expenses at these facilities.

MOAA requests each of us to get to its Legislative Action Center at <https://moaa.quorum.us/> to send letters of support for these measure to our two US Senators, Rubio and Scott, and to Representative Posey. It’s a quick and easy task to go the site, click on the Tab for Legislative Actions, select these House and Senate bills, review the letters and send them off electronically. I did so last earlier this week and received almost immediate acknowledgements for our elected leaders who promised to follow up. There is also an Action Center Tutorial near the top of the page to help get you started. I commend this action to your attention. Thank you!

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SURVIVOR ASSISTANCE LESSONS LEARNED

Lt Col Chuck Shaw, USAF, (Ret)

The MOAACC Survivor Assistance Lesson Learned back in the August Intercom addressed Military Burials. One of the goals of planning for the inevitable is to make things as simple as possible for your survivors, especially in the immediate days after your loss. If, after reading about Military Burials, you want to be buried in a National Cemetery, the first part of setting up for that process for the future is to make sure you (and your surviving spouse) are eligible to be buried in a National Cemetery. If you have any concerns about eligibility, you should fill out a VA Form 40-10007, which is titled: "Application for Pre-Need Determination of Eligibility for Burial in a VA National Cemetery". "Burial" means interment or inurnment. You can get one of these forms at the following link: <https://www.va.gov/vaforms/va/pdf/VA40-10007.pdf>. The actual form is only one page long, but has a second page with all the instructions for completing the form and where to send it in. Do NOT complete this form if the individual is already deceased. Instead contact a funeral home or the National Cemetery Office at 1-800-535-1117.

You can fill out the form on line and then print it out (recommended), or print the blank form out and fill it in by hand. Then simply sign it and mail it to the office address in St. Louis that is shown on the form. You should include a COPY of your form DD-214 to make the process go faster, but if you cannot find the DD214, submit anyway as the VA will attempt to obtain your records. Each Claimant must submit a separate VA Form 40-10007.

If approved, you will get an Approval Letter back. Give this to the Funeral Director when needed. The Lesson Learned for October is that having a Pre-need approval will avoid potential delays in proving your eligibility at an already stressful time for your survivors. A favorable Pre-Need determination of eligibility does not guarantee burial in a specific national cemetery. Burial in a specific VA national cemetery will be scheduled at the time of need. If you provide an email address, VA may use your email address to communicate with you about your claim and burial benefits.

More details can be found at:

<https://www.cem.va.gov/>

and at:

https://www.cem.va.gov/cem/burial_benefits/eligible.asp



SCHOLARSHIP CORPORATION

Col D Brent Baysinger, USAF (Ret)

MOAACC Scholarships Wrapping up 2023

As 2023 comes to a close, I'd like to thank the MOAACC community for making this another successful year for the MOAACC Scholarship Corporation. At our scholarship luncheon in July, we presented \$60,000 in scholarships to twelve well-deserving students. This was our largest annual award and we are extremely proud of the hard work and donations of the Corporation's supporters.

Looking into 2024, we will continue to review our qualification criteria for our candidates. Over the last few years, we have increased eligibility from prospective college juniors now all the way up to PhD candidates. As you all take well-deserved vacations going into the holiday season and New Year, I'd like to ask you all to be on the lookout for potential scholarship candidates. As MOAACC members, both YOU and YOUR families represent the greatest audience for which the scholarship exists to serve. In addition, eligible candidates can also be the children or grandchildren of retired veterans residing in Brevard County. We hope you will consider the scholarship opportunity and share it with eligible members of your families as well as with other eligible candidates in MOAACC and those in Brevard who may not have a MOAACC sponsor.

Lastly, you can also support the Scholarship Corporation with your generous contributions. You can become a 'Distinguished Donor' by donating \$1,000 or more and you can become a 'Named Scholarship' donor by donating \$10,000 or more. Both contribution types are recognized on our website as well as put on display at the annual luncheon. In addition, you can support the Scholarship Corporation with your time. If you are interested in getting involved, please reach out to a Scholarship board member. We are always on the lookout for motivated individuals, especially within the Selection Committee.

MOAACC SCHOLARSHIP DONORS

Joe & Ruth Oblack

Ellen Naylor-Holt

Thank you



MOAACC On-the-Go Luncheon

12/12/2023 11:30 AM - 01:00 PM ET

The Dove III Restaurant

836 E New Haven Ave
Melbourne, FL 32901

For reservations or additional information phone Toni Lowe at (321) 474-6888. Cut off for reservations, cancellations is the Friday prior, so she can inform the restaurant on how many are coming. Cost: Per individual. As always, please honor your reservation or call Toni if you cannot attend so she can inform the restaurant in a timely fashion. Everyone is invited so please join us.

MOAACC SPOUSES CHRISTMAS TEA

MOAACC Surviving Spouses are hosting the annual Christmas Tea at Indian River Colony Club. This is for **ALL** spouses of MOAACC. The date is Friday, December 15th at 2 PM. Cost is \$25 per person.

We look forward to seeing you at this English Tea. This will be a wonderful way to start the Christmas season.

For reservations and information, please call Ellie Joy at (321) 757-0193 no later than noon on Friday, December 8th.

Ellie Joy (321) 757-0193

SPACE COAST NAVY WIVES' CLUB

Please join us for our annual Christmas Luncheon on Friday, December 8th. Please note that this is on the **Second Friday of the Month**. We will meet at THE TIDES on route A1A at Patrick Space Force Base. Social hour begins at 11:30am and lunch served at noon.

Entertainment will be provided by Showtime Entertainment. We will be singing Christmas songs and carols.

Menu selections are Grilled Steak with potatoes and green beans or Grilled Mahi with rice and carrots. Dessert will be pound cake with fruit.

For information and reservations call Phyllis Banks at (321) 783-7028, Cell (321) 223-5910 or email at eightoaks41@gmail.com no later than noon, Tuesday, December 5th.

Remember our luncheon is on the 2nd Friday of December, and friends and spouses are always welcome. Ellie Joy (321) 757-0193

See more upcoming events in the Unofficial Brevard VMC Vets Calendar on page 16, in the extended digital version of this issue online at moaacc.org, and on the Calendar or Events List pages on moaacc.org.

ATTENTION GOLFERS: DATE CHANGE FOR GDF GOLF TOURNAMENT!

Please help us spread the word to MOAACC members and all others who may have signed up to support this Tournament. Golfers and Sponsors have already been notified.

WHAT: Tournament Postponed at IRCC Direction to 02 December with 0800 Shotgun Start;

0630 support needed.

WHY: Walkthrough 17 Nov morning caused IRCC to close the course, given more than 7 inches of rain and drainage concerns.

SOLUTION: The Tournament will be held on 02 December and IRCC was able to also offer Colony Hall. Thus, we shift gears and have the tournament in two weeks between the holidays.

We appreciate your support planned for 17/18 Nov and ask you to see if your calendar allow same 01/02 December. If so, no need to respond. Any questions, please email **Donn Weaver ONLY** at: donnweaver2020@gmail.com

Our time in the military taught us all to be flexible and that weather can often impact our battle plans. In this case we will adjust; juggle the golfers who cannot make the new date and invite new ones; and keep our goals of sponsors and golfers intact. We greatly appreciate the teamwork between IRCC Golf and our GDF Golf Committee over a few hours this morning to make this all work.

STAY UP TO DATE - VISIT:

www.MOAACC.org





MOAACC GOOD DEEDS FOUNDATION

CPT Donn A. Weaver USA (Former), President, Good Deeds Foundation

Your Good Deeds Foundation Increases Pace and Results heading into Holidays

Check out this Intercom Issue for all kinds of Good Deeds Foundation good works and fundraising efforts. The 18 November was are only major fundraiser of the year — the VyStar GDF Military and Veteran Support Golf Tournament at IRCC. Thanks to all MOAACC members and friends who helped out and who played, sponsored and otherwise supported the great event. The December Intercom may have some photos and in January we will provide the full report of success!!

At the annual MOAACC Officer and Board election and report to members, GDF provided a 21 November report and reminded all to check the web site for the impressive FY 23 GDF Impact list. The first quarter of FY24 has already set records for that. time of year for GDF grants to very worthy causes.

Thanks to all there GDF Board members for great work all year long. We will not have a December GDF Board meeting with so many planning holiday travel and all earning a break. But, your GDF will bet back running at full speed in the first weeks of the New Year. Speaking of the New Year, it is great time to consider a donation in any amount to the GDF. Our Address:

MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation

PO Box 350358

Cocoa Beach, FL 32932-0358

All contributions are tax deductible and we can promise you high impact for every dollar. Please call Donn Weaver, Mike Gautreaux or Wayne Justice if you have any questions.



The Military Officers Association of America

Cape Canaveral Chanter (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

Member of National MOAA? Y / N Member

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

Signature _____ Date _____



Chapter Membership \$20

Active Duty/Drilling Reserve:

First Year - No Cost

Life Membership

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

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

New MOAACC Officers Announced!

MOAACC Photo by Pish Pishdad



The new MOAACC officers for 2024 were announced during November 21, MOAACC business meeting in IRCC. They will be fully installed in January 2024.

2024 MOAACC Officers (Pictured above, L-R)

President:

Col Richard ("Rick") Kniseley, USAF (Ret)

1st Vice President:

CAPT Stephen ("Steve") Cusick, USN (Ret)

2nd Vice President:

Capt Rosa Reich, USAF (Fmr)

Secretary:

CAPT Arnold Lim, USNR (Ret)

Assistant Secretary:

Capt William ("Bill") Muckler, USMC (Fmr)

Master-at-Arms:

CW4 Jose Prieto, USA (Ret)

Treasurer (not pictured):

COL Michael ("Mike") Schroeder, USA (Ret)

Assistant Treasurer (not pictured):

LTC William ("Bill") Vanasse, USA (Ret)

Join us for the Annual Installation Banquet, **5:00 PM, Sat, Jan 6, 2024** honoring the outgoing 2023 MOAACC officers and welcoming the new 2024 MOAACC officers.

Installing Officer: COLONEL RICHARD A. KNISELEY II, US Space Force

Enjoy a social hour, dinner and fun at this evening of fellowship and celebration.

Location: Indian River Colony Club (Colony Hall), 5:00 PM, Saturday, January 6, 2024

Sequence of Events:

- 5 PM Cocktails (Cash Bar)
- 6 PM Dinner
- 7 PM Installation of Officers
- Entertainment - Lonnie and Delinda Band - <https://beachresortband.com/>

Dress: Service Dress, Coat and Tie, Cocktail Dress

Menu Choices:

- Prime Rib with Roasted potatoes and Asparagus (\$55.00)
- Red Snapper with Tomato Pesto Cream, Rice Pilaf and Asparagus (\$50.00)
- Vegetarian Stuffed Peppers with roasted potatoes (\$45.00)

Each entrée includes House Salad, Apple Pie, Coffee/Tea

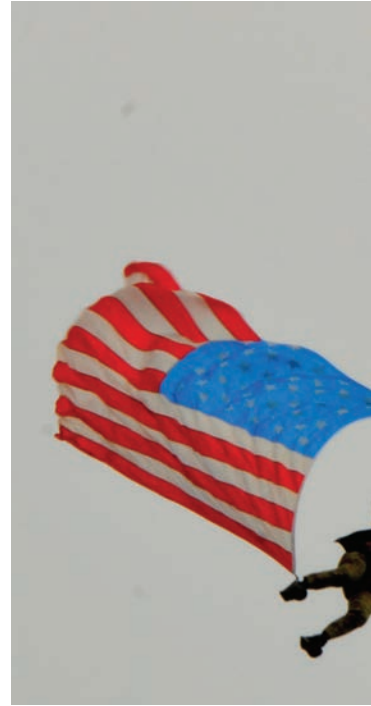
RSVP Requirements

Please RSVP/cancel by 1 January 2024, online here or by contacting Mary McIntyre at events@moaacc.org or (321) 254-6997. You can pay online with Credit Card or mail payment with RSVP to:

MOAACC
c/o Treasurer
1378 Pilgrim Ave
Melbourne, FL 32940

Reservations and payment are required by cutoff to receive a meal. Also, if RSVP'd and later need to cancel, please do so by 1 January 2024 to ensure no additional costs are incurred.

Veterans Day Activities at the VMC, Suntr



MOAACC Photos by Pish Pishdad



Suntree CC, Seal Museum, and Church at Viera



MOAACC Speakers—Engaging the Community

Veteran Week Speaking Activities

COL Steve Bond, USA (Ret)--Speakers Bureau Chairman



The MOAACC Speakers Bureau is a community service provided by our chapter. Our speakers are in high demand for area clubs, luncheons, dinners, and special events. This outreach helps to familiarize our friends and neighbors with the military, while we share with them our values, experiences, and expertise. Requests for speakers come primarily from the local area, sometimes across Florida, and we even received a request to provide a speaker to a corporate event in Cancun, Mexico two years ago!

MOAACC Speakers are available to talk on a variety of topics, including leadership, teamwork, history, patriotic themes, and skills they learned in and out of the military. Peak times for speaker requests are around Veterans and Memorial Days with requests to participate in area events to honor other veterans. Over the past Veterans Week, our speakers participated in twenty-two area events! We currently have 25 Speakers in our Speakers Bureau, many of whom also participate in the Brevard Veterans Back to Class program and several have authored books and are members of our Authors League.

If you would like to find out more about our Speakers' Bureau, go to our webpage at: www.MOAACC.org/about/speakers-bureau/. From there requestors can view our roster of speakers and make requests for events. We are always looking for more chapter members to serve in this volunteer capacity. Let us know if you would like to become one of our speakers by contacting us at: SpeakersBureau@moaacc.org.

Thank you, Speakers, for this tremendous support and community service!



Life Care of Melbourne event with Karla Black, Activities Director; CWO4 Dan McIntyre (USCG-Ret); Mary McIntyre, MOAACC; and Jennifer Allen, VITAS Representative.



LCDR Dean Schaaf (USN-Ret) speaks to a group of scouts about military service after hours at the Veterans Memorial Center.



Colonel Steve Bond (USA-Ret) Center at Victoria Landing event with Christine Normando, St. Francis Reflections left and Chandler Langevin, St. Francis Reflections Veterans Coordinator right.



Special Veteran Pinning for MOAACC Member Major George Rosenfield (USA-Ret), WWII and Korean War Veteran. George was in good spirits although hospitalized at Holmes Regional Medical Center over Veterans Day. George was back at TMBC on the following Thursday!



MOAACC Member Dr. Jane Hodges (R) and Cheryl Navo (L-spouse of MOAACC Member MAJ Tom Navo, USA-Ret) at the Shell Harbor Veterans Day event. Jane was the featured speaker and Cheryl sang the National Anthem.



Captain Steve Cusick (USNR-Ret) Center and CWO5 Mike Tucker (USA-Ret) far Right, VITAS Veterans Coordinator and Chapter Member, provides a veteran a lapel pin to recognize his service at the Zon Beachside event.



MEMBERSHIP BRIEF

WELCOME

Welcome 8 new members:

COL Mark Baaden, USA

MAJ Ralph Barnes, USA, Ret.

Mrs. Susan Johnson, Surviving Spouse

Mrs. Nancy Koch, Surviving Spouse

CAPT Darren Moore, USCG, Ret.

Mrs. Robyn Peterson, Surviving Spouse

CDR Jonathan Potterton, USCG

LCDR Dimitrios Wiener, USCG

TAPS

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

**October 2023 Deaths listed
for December 2023 Intercom**

**Benjamin Abramowitz, COL, USA, Ret
01 October 2023**

**Laura Baranek, Spouse of David Baranek,
CDR, USN, Ret
16 October 2023**

**Peter C. Peterson, CAPT, USN Ret.
23 October 2023**





GDF continued

2023 JROTC District Championship - Raider Challenge



As the sun rises, all nine JROTC tents are up and ready for the first event- The SK Run

On a relatively cool and beautiful on 28 October, all day, nine Brevard High Schools came together with over 140 JRTOTC Cadets. Their mission was to compete and try to win the 2023 JROTC District Championship in the Raider Challenge. Teams had been practicing since early August and had two previous meets, also at the Veterans Memorial Center 82-acre Park.

In addition to outstanding competition and great effort by all teams and individual cadets, the meet had some special moments. For the first time there were teams competing from Army, USAF, Marine and Space Force JROTC programs in this event. It also included more spectators than seen in many years (VMC began hosting three meets per year in 2018) with hundreds of cars surrounding the area from 0600-1400. The Kona Ice truck we invited also had record sales!

When the dust cleared, Cocoa Beach came away with the most trophies by four schools qualified to go on to the Florida State Raider Meet in Tampa later in the year.

With strong support from the VMC and MOAACC's Good Deeds Foundation which purchased all the trophies, the JROTC programs in Brevard have found a good home for their determined compatriots. The VMC will be hosting four more JROTC meets in early 2024. Check the veterans' events calendar for details and plan to come out and support these young people as they go well beyond what most high school students accomplish.



Trophies for first second and third team finishers in all five events for male, mixed and female are ready to award. VMC/MOAACC member Donn Weaver(center) makes a final check and MOAACC Good Deeds member Dan McIntyre swaps out one as Cocoa Beach Army JROTC cadet leaders prepare to call the combined cadet formation to attention.



MOAACC President Brian Whalen (center) and MOAACC Good Deeds Board Member Dan McIntyre present Overall trophies



JROTC Instructors ISG Kevin Staddie and LTC Jim DesJardins (seated and kneeling center) proudly share the moment with their Raider Teams from Cocoa Beach.



The joy of victory!!

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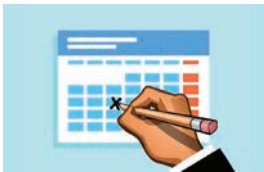
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Unofficial Brevard VMC Vets Calendar

DECEMBER 2023 AND BEYOND

Contact VMC for any additions or other information.

NOTE: Some Events Change in-between our monthly mailing of the VMC Calendar.

Keep up to date with those changes using our web link:

<https://veteransmemorialcenter.org/upcoming-veterans-events/>

December

08 Dec — World Changers Concert to support Veterans at the Saint Augustine Amphitheater 1700-2100. Presented by Danny Garcia, the Walking Marine and featuring The Long Run Rock Band and dinner. Tickets on sale at www.theamp.com

09 Dec — Merritt Island Community and VMC Inaugural Christmas Tree lighting and Gold Star Tree Ceremony in Veterans Memorial Park 1600-1900. Includes music, singing, food trucks and community spirit. More Details in October/November.

13 Dec — 0930- 1200 Gray Hall at VMC: Annual Veterans Memorial Center Christmas Party during our monthly general membership meeting.

16 Dec — 1200 -1600 American Legion Auxiliary Unit 344 annual children's Christmas party, complete with a visit from Santa Claus. To participate or donate please contact ALA Unit 344 President, Rose Marie Hill at rmhill@cfl.rr.com.

16 Dec — Wreaths Across America at the VA Cape Canaveral National Cemetery 1000 -1200 in Mims and other veteran cemeteries in the area. Each year CCNC expands by almost 1200 veterans and spouses and we hope to raise the funds to have a wreath at every grave site. Contact Donn Weaver, 757-871-6576, for more information.

17 Dec — Wreaths Across America Special Ceremony 1500-1630 at Pinecrest Cemetery on Clearlake Road in Cocoa. Honors Brevard Native Korean War Medal of Honor Recipient Emory Bennett and other veterans laid to rest in that cemetery. RTFL: -1 Motorcycle wreath escort from VMC at 1400. Contact Dorothy Walsh at dorothy@theirvoiceofhope.com.

January

27 Jan — Historic Preservation and Heritage Tourism Seminar VMC Gray Hall 0800-1600. Sponsored by Museums of Brevard (MOB) Contact Dean Schaaf VMC President and MOB officer on 321-453-1776 ext 5.

27 Jan — JROTC County Wide Run and Shoot Competition in Veterans Memorial Park 0700-1230. Details in December.

29 Jan — Guest Lecture Series at VBMC Gray Hall — 1300-1430: Gary Powers Jr, so off the late, famed U-2 Pilot shot down over the Soviet Union at the height of the Cold War. Newly unclassified materials, his new book and an update of analysis about why, what happened after his father's capture, took decades to unravel as the truth.

February

04 Feb — Hearts to the Troops SK Fundraiser sponsored by OASIS 0700-1000 at VMC Park. Packing Valentine boxes of goodies for deployed troops afterwards for mailing overseas. Sponsorships and information available at 321-243-7753 or via cofounder@oasisofcfl.org. OASIS supports troops deployed in harm's way all year round with a number of packing events with the goodies and postage purchased through grants and via such Fundraisers.

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

10 Feb - 4 Feb — JROTC Squad Drill Meet 0700-1230 with 10-12 Schools Expected and more than 150 cadets in the Veterans Memorial Park on MI. Supported by MOAA Cape Canaveral Chapter Good Deeds Foundation (all trophies) and the VMC.

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

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

March

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

16 Mar — Ceremony to Remember the Last Naval Battle of the American Revolutionary War fought off the Coast of Cape Canaveral in 1783. 1000-1200 at the VMC Plaza Area with food and drinks and a parade pf colors and wreaths with many in colonial attire. Put on by the Sons of the American Revolution Brevard Chapter along with the DAR and VMC. Contact Donn Weaver 757-871-6576 for more information.

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



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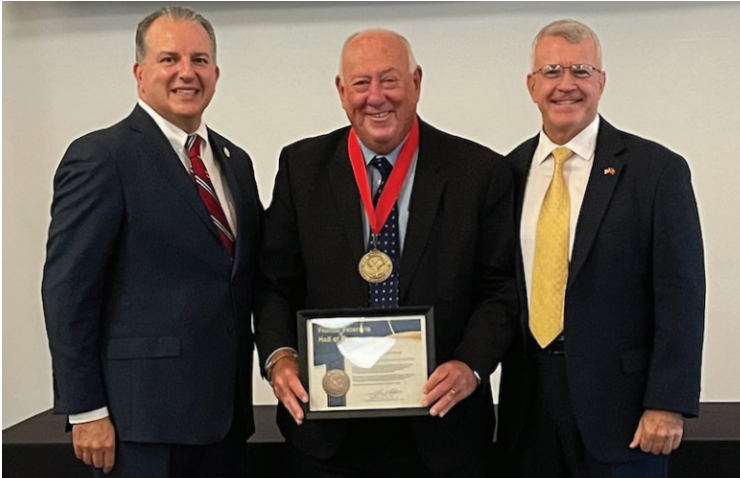
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Brevard County Adds Another to Florida Veterans Hall of Fame



Weaver receives the medal and Certificate

The Florida Department of Veterans Affairs and the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame Society inducted 21 new members in the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame on 14 November, 2023 at the FL Capitol building in Tallahassee.

The new class included Donn Weaver. Joining him from Brevard to recognize all the honorees and many other HOF members, in attendance were, Skip Taylor (HOF 2021), Juan Santiago (HOF 2019) Carmen Santiago, Sen Debbie Mayfield, Chandler Langevin, and the Veteran Outreach Officer for St Francis Reflections. Weaver became the fifth veteran from Brevard so honored with MG John Cleland, USA, Ret starting that list in the inaugural HOF class of 2013.

The HOF now has 151 members with approximately 30 deceased, sadly including two from the 2023 class just recognized. The HOF Society was created in 2018 to

support the ceremonies and help others, including a scholarship program for Florida State University veterans who need assistance. Weaver has been a member of that committee.

Florida Lt Gov Jeanette Nunez was the presiding official. The FDVA and HOF Society Officials handled the ceremony which can be viewed on line on the Florida Channel from 14 Nov.

Earlier in October the County of Brevard Commissioners recognized the five Brevard HOF members with a proclamation. With Brevard being such a great place for veterans to live, it is no coincidence perhaps that Brevard likely has the highest number of HOF members per capita.

Congratulations to all of class of 2023 inductees!



The Ceremony



The Florida Veterans HOF wall in the Capitol Building

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October and November TMBC Current Affairs Speakers



October 5th TMBC Current Affairs Forum Kevin Smith, Brevard County Recycling Coordinator, was presented a MOAACC challenge coin by Don Reott, CAF Chair. Kevin provided an engaging and informative presentation about Brevard County solid waste management with an emphasis on recycling. Visit <https://www.brevardfl.gov/SolidWaste/Recycling> for information on improving our environment through recycling.

November 2nd TMBC Current Affairs Forum speaker was Susan (Susie) Dabrowski, Vice President, Southeast Region, Space Force Association. Susie, also an MOAACC member, provided a very informative presentation on the United States Space Force covering topics from its inception as a separate component of the DoD to the selection of Patrick Space Force Base as the new headquarters site for the Space Training and Readiness Command.

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Sailors of the Quarter



MOAACC Supports NOTU 4QFY23 Sailors of the Quarter

By LCDR Dan Levy, USN (former)

On Wednesday, October 18th, MOAACC participated in the Naval Ordnance Test Unit (NOTU) Mission Partners Social and Quarterly Awards Ceremony held at the Greenhouse at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station. MOAACC members in attendance included LCDR Dean Schaaf, USN and LCDR Dan Levy, USN. MOAACC presented certificates of recognition and \$50 awards each to the 4QFY23 Junior and Senior Sailors of the Quarter: MT2 Jacoby Sherman and ETV1 Olivia Otto. The event was hosted by NOTU Commanding Officer, CAPT Jason Schneider, USN, who highlighted the accomplishments of the two awardees while recognizing the community support by MOAACC and all of the Mission Partners. In addition, those in attendance celebrated the U.S. Navy's 248th birthday. MOAACC's Good Deeds Foundation issued the cash awards. The next award event will be in January, 2024. If you are interested in attending, please contact Dan Levy.



BM2 Jarrett M. Gosnell, USCG

Sailors of the Quarter Continued



Sailor of the Quarter ending September 2023 was presented by CWO4 Dan McIntyre to SK1 Ronny Martinez for outstanding performance during a 62-day patrol in support of Operation MARTILLO. SK1 Martinez managed significant ordering and delivery of critical parts and supplies and served as an interpreter with Spanish Speaking migrants. He also qualified and served in several operational roles outside of his primary assignment.



BM3 Logan Geary, USCG

Coast Guard offloads nearly \$500 million in illegal narcotics at Port Everglades



MIAMI — The crew of U.S. Coast Guard Cutter James offloaded over 33,200 pounds of cocaine and 12,400



More GDF!

Viera High JROTC Salutes Veterans in a Memorable Ceremony



Pregame Check Presentation with Donn Weaver, GDF President in the middle between LTC Thomas and SFC Thomas



The Salute Begins

The Viera JROTC program is the biggest in Brevard and is led by LTC Tim Thomas USA, Ret and SFC Carl Thomas USA, Ret. With invitations extended to the veteran community, this was perhaps the best attended "Salute" in the many years Viera has done the program. A tight football game between Titusville and Viera and VHS Senior Night brought out a great crowd to support the veterans. Brevard County Fire Department helped out with their ladder truck and huge garrison American Flag.

It was quite an evening which began more than 15 Veterans Week programs throughout Brevard through November 11 — the designated Veterans Day. Every veteran who came that night was smiling and happy to salute the crowd as well as to honor America's Fallen as TAPS concluded the evening.

On a beautiful fall evening for football, the Viera High School JROTC program invited veterans of all eras and services to come to their annual "Salute to Military Veterans". Over 150 veterans, ranging from one WWII veteran to several who left the military this year, came to the November 3rd event and were honored by over 200 JROTC cadets lined up and saluting as they passed, as well as several thousand fans.

The evening began with a ceremony before kick off when the Good Deeds Foundation (GDF), of the Cape Canaveral Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAACC), presented a symbolic check for \$38,400. This amount was the GDF donation to support all 14 JROTC and 5 other Cadet programs in the county as well as for purchasing all trophies and awards for JROTC 2023-24 competitions. As all veterans understand, supporting our youth is crucial to the future of America. JROTC cadets are a great investment.



MOAACC Members posed with game Referees before the second half begins



More GDF!

MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation Provides Record Support to Active-Duty Military Families in Challenging Times



(R-L) Mike Gautreaux, Donn Weaver and MOAACC President Brian Whalen Present checks totaling \$13,000 to support junior enlisted members and families of all branches to the leaders of the First Sergeant Council and Space Coast Top 3 Foundations on Patrick Space Force Base.

In the challenging economic times we are all facing, junior enlisted service members and families are being squeezed. Salaries and Housing Allowances are not keeping up so active-duty foundations often have to step in to assist. Thankfully, there are three such organizations on Patrick Space Force Base: First Sergeant Council, Space Coast Top 3 and The Chiefs Group. In this era of Joint Commands, all the organizations support USAF, USSF, Marine, Navy, Army and Coast Guard needs as well.

On 28 October, as the holiday season approaches, MOAACC's Good Deeds Foundation (GDF) was able

to provide a record amount which more than doubled in two years of \$13,500 for FY 2024. In addition, GDF provided USO in Brevard County \$3,000 for special active-duty events and another \$3000 directly to active-duty events such as Junior Enlisted Appreciation Day and Family Day at USCG Station Port Canaveral. The total \$19,500 demonstrates the MOAACC GDF Commitment to our active-duty forces.

MOAACC's history of supporting junior enlisted needs on PSFB goes back more than 25 years before the Space Force, before MOAA and before our Good Deeds Foundation. In the 1980's our Chapter of TROAA began to provide the First Sergeant Council funds every December for their "Operation Warm Heart" project. From the low \$100's it grew to \$6000 in 2023 to this year's record.

Just like MOAA National, MOAACC/GDF has pillars focused on supporting Active-Duty families; ROTC/JROTC and other cadet youth programs and veterans in crisis. Never Stop Serving is more than a motto at the Cape Canaveral Chapter.

GDF Makes Halloween Better



Surrounded by witches and goblins, GDF President Donn Weaver (second from left !!) supports the set up for the Veterans Memorial Center Park vent on 31 October for which GDF provided \$500 for lost of food and goodies.



The First Sergeant Council crafted to above "thank You" to MOAACC and the Good Deeds Foundation

A Promise Kept: 12 Veterans and Spouses Finally Laid to Rest



The United States of America pledges to every eligible veteran, whether he she dies in combat or after a long life, an honorable military funeral service at an appropriate resting place.

Many families decide to inter their veteran and veteran spouse loved ones in family plots at private cemeteries. More and more in East Central Florida are deciding to take advantage of the service provided at the six-year-old, beautiful VA Cape Canaveral National Cemetery (CCNC) in Scottsmoor, FL. It serves five counties and after it was opened in 2016, no Florida resident is now more than 75 miles away from a National VA Cemetery.

Sadly, some veterans and spouse are not claimed by anyone and Funeral Homes are required to store those urns unless someone or organization helps to determine they are VA eligible for inurnment. Most such abandoned urns are not veterans. New rules indicate that such cases will not go beyond one year in the future, but decades have gone by before those changes.



It is estimated a number likely around 500 eligible veterans and spouses are in abandoned urns in funeral homes and related facilities in storage in our county. That is why Brevard Veterans undertook a five-month program, working closely with CCNC Director Ed Lyons, to create Brevard No One Veteran Left Behind (BNOVLB) for this county. Other organizations all around the country, including in Florida are devoted to the mission, but clearly the more engaged, the sooner the sad story ends.

The Inaugural BNOVLB Service was held at CCNC on 14 November in between heavy winds and rain, which likely kept many away. Still, 90 attended, 30 of whom were bearers of the urns, folded flags and flowers or other positions to make sure the Service went well. Nine veterans and three spouses were finally laid to rest that day. One WWI veteran had enjoyed a long life after combat, but was abandoned for 47 years. Now he and the others rest in honored peace at CCNC. As one witness noted, saying they were happy they came despite the weather, the service was moving and being there was important to confirm the life, service and sacrifice of each and every eligible veteran and spouse. They now rest in well-kept surroundings with their brothers and sisters forever.

Three to four BNOVLB Services are planned for 2024. The Veterans Memorial Center, the Support Committee of the CCNC, and the Cape Canaveral Chapter of MOAA and its Good Deeds Foundation, came together with Director Lyons to make the new organization happen through a Steering Committee with two members from each organization. Services will be listed in the VMC Monthly Calendar or contact Donn Weaver (757-871-6576) to volunteer or learn more.

Great Week For Veterans Back to Class/Ceremonies at Brevard Schools.

Veterans Day events and Vets Back to Class (VBC) Visits began on 03 November and lasted the entire week through 11 Nov. Many Veterans from MOAACC also supported Vet Day programs at assisted living facilities and other venues, with several doing both.

While the VBC First Semester Report Card will come out in mid- December the Veteran Day Week events alone bear some highlights and thanks to all who helped. There were several major ceremonies as well where MOAACC, VMC and VBC members participated in major school ceremonies:

03 Nov. Home Schoolers at Calvary Chapel 40 students 3-8th grade.

03 Nov Viera JROTC Vet Salute Night at Football Game — 150 vets, 3000 fans.

09 Nov. Rockledge JROTC hosts Vets Appreciation Assembly — 600 students from Kennedy Middle School

09 Nov. CBHS JROTC Veterans Day event. — 600 attendees

09 Nov. Ocean Breeze Elementary School Vet Day — 350 K-6 with 86 Sixth Graders getting an extra hour

10 Nov New Hope Academy K-8 80 students.

Classroom visits about the meaning of Veterans included 5 High Schools, One Middle, One Elementary and two private schools for a total of 570 students impacted by 5 VBC members. Check out some photo highlights:



Kennedy Middle School Ceremony.



Ocean Breeze Elementary Ceremony



Cocoa Beach JROTC Class



*Viera High School FB Game Halftime
Vet Ceremony*



*CBHS Honors RADM Wayne Justice USCG, Ret as their
Vet Day Keynote Speaker*

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all things and to be in good health, just as
your soul prospers." 3 John 1,2

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MCL Detachment 513 Conducts Special Marine Corps Ball

On Saturday night, 11 November after a busy day of Veterans Day Ceremonies all over Brevard and 24 hours after the US Matron Corps 248th Birthday, Marine Corps League Detachment 513 outdid themselves.

With over 80 people as guests the MCL hosted a fabulous dinner and dancing ceremony event at the Cape Canaveral Radisson ballroom. There was a silent auction and raffle that raised perhaps a record in funds for the Detachment and the guests enjoyed a great dinner, but the pageantry is what it is all about. Great job MCL Det 513!!

Of special note was the choice of keynote speaker — Capt Bill Muckler, USMC, former, who joined the Corps in 1958 and who is an established author and veterans advocate now living in Sebring, FL. He remains in contact with the Veterans Memorial Center where he served for years on the Board and as Secretary. Muckler is also the Assistant Secretary of MOAACC attending many meetings and even taking minutes via zoom.

Needless to say, MOAACC and many other VMC partners were well represented any the event and enjoyed it all, including the traditional cake!

Below: Guests enjoy the remarks of Bill Muckler.



Sergeant Reckless Part 4: In Combat

By Bill Muckler, Captain USMC



Sergeant Reckless in Dress Uniform

Staff Sergeant Reckless was wounded twice during the Battle of Vegas Hill. She was struck by shrapnel over the left eye. The second wound was on her left flank. For her accomplishments during the battle, Reckless was promoted to corporal.

When not on the front lines, Reckless packed other items for the platoon. She was particularly useful for stringing telephone wire. Reels of wire carried on her pack were played out as she walked. She could string as much wire as twelve men on foot.

She became the first horse in the Marine Corps known to participate in an amphibious landing when the 5th Marine Regiment moved from Camp Casey to Inchon. The commanding officer of the transport halted loading operations when he saw the platoon on the dock with Reckless. He refused to take her on board his clean ship, which had won an award for being the cleanest ship for the previous two years. She was allowed on board after the Marines produced the loading plan, approved by him, which specifically listed Reckless and her equipment. Once the ship was underway, she became sick, making a mess on the ship's decks during the first part of the voyage. She could not be disembarked due to a storm, but soon became accustomed to the motion of the ship at sea and had no more problems.

The 1st Marine Division was moved to a rest area soon after the move, and while there some platoon members posed with Reckless and a sign challenging the Thoroughbred Native Dancer to a race. They called their race the "Paddy Derby", the field "Upsan Downs," and the conditions differed from a typical horse race: 1.5 miles over paddies and hills, carrying 192 pounds of ammunition but no riders. The Marines never received a reply, Native Dancer came in second in the Kentucky Derby, and went on to win the Preakness Stakes and Belmont Stakes.

General Randolph M. Pate, the commander of the 1st Marine Division, gave Reckless a battlefield promotion from corporal to sergeant in a formal ceremony, complete with reviewing stand, on April 10, 1954, several months after the war ended. More information and photos are available at: <https://cowgirlmagazine.com/incredible-mare-sergeant-reckless/>



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More Photos from the Veterans Day Activities!



MOAACC Members Trip to France



MAJ Tim Pishdad (R) and LTC Cynthia Watkins Pishdad (R) sitting on an old stone, part of La Cité de Carcassonne, in the south of France. The photo is side by side of a painting hanging in the Hôtel de la Cité Carcassonne, painted in 1944.



LTC Cynthia Watkins Pishdad (R), CW2 Richard Mariani (R) and his wife, Maren Mariani, poke their heads out of the Castle Wall, as part of La Cité de Carcassonne.



MAJ Tim Pishdad (R) and LTC Cynthia Watkins Pishdad (R) standing on an old stone bridge overlooking La Cité de Carcassonne, in the south of France.



LTC Cynthia Watkins Pishdad (R), CW2 Richard Mariani (R) and his wife, Maren Mariani, and MAJ Tim Pishdad, playing in a gaming cafe in Carcassonne, France. The game is called: Carcassonne!



Representing MOAACC at NJROTC Military Ball celebrating Navy's Birthday.

MOAACC Members Named Florida Veteran HALL OF FAMERS!



L-R LTC Skip Taylor (USA), 2021; CPT DONN Weaver (USA), 2023; and SFC Juan Santiago (USA), 2019



Captain Bill Muckler, USMC cuts the traditional Birthday Cake on 10 November 2023 at the Military Sea Services Museum in Sebring, Florida.



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