



VETERANS BULLETIN

A Monthly Publication of the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center



ON THE COVER: Champion JROTC Drill Team Group Photo

The JROTC Drill Team and Rifle Team started 2026 as Champions.

Read more on page 11

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CHECK OUT DECEMBER
EVENTS ON PAGE 15

FEBRUARY 2026

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ADVERTISE IN THE VETERANS BULLETIN

Business Card: \$50 per year
 Quarter Page Color: \$100 per year
 Half Page Color: \$200 per year

The Veterans Bulletin is a monthly publication prepared and distributed in both print and electronic forms by the BVMC. It reports the ongoing projects by the many committees and departments.

Articles for submission and request for advertisement must be sent to the address listed below. The deadline is the 25th of each month.

Please send submissions to:
 brevardvmc@gmail.com

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Our Organization

As of 1 December 2025:

[List of Board 2025-2026](#)

As of 31 December 2025:

[BVMC Committee Departments 2025-2026](#)

As of 1 December 2025:

[BVMC Org Chart 2025-2026](#)



Mission Statement

The Brevard Veterans Memorial Center (BVMC) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. BVMC's mission is to maintain and operate a premier facility to educate the public, and provide a vibrant memorial to the service and sacrifice of all military veterans and their families through a museum, memorial plaza, library, and veterans park. To work in conjunction with area veterans, local government, and other veterans' organizations to support and promote the interests and welfare of Brevard County veterans and their families.

Brevard Veterans Memorial Center, Inc.
 400 South Sykes Creek Parkway
 Merritt Island, FL 32952-3547
 Office 321-453-1776
 DAV Service Office 321-452-1774



VMC President's Report

Dean Schaaf, LCDR, USN (Ret)

Please accept apologies for this short article. I had to make a trip to attend the funeral of my 82 year old sister. It has been a challenge with 8" of snow and 40 mph winds. At the gravesite service it was 5 degrees with wind chill of -15 degrees. But I survived that only to be challenged with getting to the airport and dealing with delays and cancellations. So far one of each.

My wife, Susan, is having surgery today on a badly broken wrist and I am not there for her. Can it get any worse? I guess we are still having problems with getting power to the park, but there are millions dealing with power outages due to the storms.

Thanks for listening (reading) about my (our) woes. Big event coming up on March 14, the team has it well in hand. Thank you. Way to go Hoosiers as NCAA National Champs!

Go Navy, Beat Army



Vice President's Report

By Don Pearsall, USA (Fmr)

This first month of the year has gone by fast. The BVMC is busier than ever and we are gearing up for many large events. The biggest for this first quarter will be the Tribute to our Medal of Honor Recipients planned for the 13th and 14th of March. Organized by the BVMC events committee and Maurice Morris, Son of Medal of Honor recipient Melvin Morris, will feature many interesting aspects of honor.

First, will be a Friday evening dinner at the center, This catered event will start at 6:00 P.M. and will also feature ongoing raffles and museum tours. Tickets are limited and selling fast as expected. Members and tenants of the BVMC are invited and thanks to Kristi, can sign up and pay on the BVMC website. This fundraiser was sanctioned by the United States Medal of Honor Society and all proceeds will benefit Brevard county veterans and families.

The following day with a State Police and Sheriff's escort, they will be transported to the BVMC from their hotel to the center where they will enjoy watching the 5 K run organized by Maurice, Kristi and Paul Julian. Also a JROTC event and a car show, along with food trucks

and organizational informational tables. While Dean is enjoying his vacation in the snow I am realizing how much a president does.

I also noticed how much we rely on our volunteers. Without them, there would be no BVMC. Your officers would like to thank all the volunteers that make this place work. My Daddy once told me that " if you don't know how to do something, surround yourself with people that do" None of us know every aspect of every job, every problem, or every solution. I don't know everything about the library, or the museum, I don't have to, because I know we have competent departments heads like Hank, Ed and others to are good at what they do, just like they know we are there to run interference or clear roadblocks when they encounter them.

This is a growing organization. We took in several new members and our tenant Rolling Thunder, just authorized funds to have all their Board of Directors become members. We also brought in eight new volunteers since mid December to date. We hope to have another successful year helping our Veterans and families.

BVMC CONTACTS

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Secretary's Report

Kristi Blanchard
USA (Fmr)

\$25 EARLY BIRD PRICING ENDS 2.26

JROTC WILL BE PARTICIPATING

MEDAL OF HONOR 5K RUN & WALK
HONORING THOSE WHO HAVE GONE ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY

- SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2026 | 8AM**
- BREVARD VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER**
- CLASSIC CAR SHOW AFTER RACE**

2026

CRUISE-IN CAR SHOW

MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS: MELVIN MORRIS, EARL PLUMLEE, & PARIS DAVIS
SPECIAL GUESTS: REAR ADMIRAL DENISE HINTON & ROB MEDINA

ALL PARTICIPANTS RECEIVE A MEDAL. AFTER FEBRUARY 26, ENTRY FEE IS \$35.
REGISTER AT VETERANSMEMORIALCENTER.ORG/MEDAL-OF-HONOR-5K/

Join us for our inaugural 5K Run / Walk in support of veterans and community programs at the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center.

Whether you're running, jogging, or walking, your participation helps honor and support those who have served.

Event Details

Date: 14 March 2026
Time: 7:00-7:45 AM – final packet pickup and 8:00AM start. No same day registration.
Location: Brevard Veterans Memorial Center & Park.

** The day of the event, park in the Merritt Square Mall parking lot across the street from the BVMC (near UHaul).

Packet Pickup: the BVMC Museum 12-13 March, 10 AM-4 PM.

Awards & Recognition

Awards will be presented to the following participants:

- Top Overall Male Runner
- Top Overall Female Runner
- Top 3 Finishers in Each Age Group – Male & Female

Age group awards will be based on official race results. Awards will be presented following the conclusion of the race.

Registration Fee

\$25 per participant (\$35 after Feb 26, 2026)

Registration includes:

- Official 5K entry
- Event T-shirt and participant medal
- Event support and coordination
- Support of veterans programs

How to Register

[Click on Register & Pay](#) to complete your participant information form and to pay securely 5k register & pay

Important Information

- Event is rain or shine.
- Shirts are limited to first 200 registrants and sizes are not guaranteed.
- Registration fees are non-refundable.
- Participants take part at their own risk.

Thank you for your support – we look forward to seeing you at the starting line!



VMC Librarian Report

Hank Rhodes
USN (Fmr)

In December 2025 (the most recent month for which data is available), the library hosted 144 visitors.

On Tuesday February 24, Professor and author Mary Jane Ingui is scheduled to present "Trauma and Tenacity in Vietnam: A Surgeon's Story - 1968-1969" in the BVMC Library.

Post-production in progress on recent Veterans History Project (VHP) interviews. Our VHP team leader, Jim Pirrotti wished to specifically commend Karen Croft for her hard work in preparing the logs. This is a somewhat tedious and time-consuming job necessary to meet the requirements for acceptance set by the Library of Congress, where the VHP interviews will reside in perpetuity (we hope). Karen takes on this difficult task in stride.

Jim also wished to commend the other members of the team: Paul Julian (Videographer), Joe Davie (Tech Support), Wayne Rowe (Tech Support), Amanda Saul (Admin Support), Bill Wilkening (Admin Support) and Norm Desmarais (Admin Support).

Finally, Bravo Zulu (sailor talk for "Great Job!") to Jim for his leadership of the VHP team.

Book of the Month: *My American Journey* by Colin Powell

Reviewed by H. V. Rhodes

Colin Powell earned his Army commission through the Reserve Officer Training Corps at City College of New York. His career spanned 35 years during which he served as National Security Advisor and as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, being the first African-American to hold either position. He was America's senior military officer during the Persian Gulf War in 1991.

His autobiography, *My American Journey*, is a story told on three levels. At the surface, it is a narrative of a distinguished career from Cadet to four-star General. On a deeper level it expresses the philosophy and principles of a highly successful leader.

At its core, *My American Journey* is a love song to a nation that welcomed an immigrant couple from Jamaica, accorded them all the rights and responsibilities of citizenship, and enabled their son to rise to the highest levels of government by merit and hard work.

From the jungles of Vietnam (where he served two tours) to the corridors of power in Washington DC, General Powell provides fascinating insights. As a young officer at the end of the Jim Crow Era, he notes there were many places in the south where he and his family could not eat a meal nor spend the night, but these despicable practices ended as soon as he entered the gate of an Army base.

Of particular interest to a Cold Warrior is General Powell's account of negotiating with the Soviets in the twilight of their regime.

My American Journey ends with General Powell's retirement from the Army in the 1990s. One wishes a second volume had been published detailing his subsequent service as Secretary of State in the George W. Bush administration. Unfortunately that book will never be written due to the General's untimely death in the COVID pandemic.

My American Journey (Bio-Powell-01) is a fascinating read.

Park and Plaza Report

By Donn Weaver

After more than 10 weeks of delay and with 98 percent of the \$8.2 M BVMC Amphitheater Park Project completed, finally Florida Power and Light began work on their phase on 20 January to hook us up to the grid.

As you will see in another article this month, we had a very successful Sneak Preview Event on 17 January when more than 5,000 people attended the Original Key Lime Pie Festival. Check out the calendar which lists more than 10 big park events from Feb - May.

Our new BVMC Park Committee had its inaugural meeting on 28 January - thanks to the eight volunteers that will help us make the transition.

Other good news:

- Three More benches ready in early February.
- Plans for 22 Memorial Trees to be dedicated in late February looking good.
- The Flag Pole at the Amphitheater was installed on 20 Jan and the Eagle Scout and CSpray will complete the mission in February.
- Started Vet Org fundraising for the 17 April Military Enlistment Challenge Coins at the Amphitheater where we expect at least 400 new recruits for all branches of the service.

Please contact Donn Weaver, Park Committee Chair with questions. We think the County will plan a huge Ribbon Cutting program for the grand opening.



Partnered with Brevard Public Schools & Museums of Brevard (MOB)

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

Providing opportunities from Kindergarten to Career across Brevard County

ECAC Goals

- Expose students to Brevard Museums
- Engage veteran & civic groups
- Expand STEM opportunities

Brevard Education, Civic & Funding Opportunities
Find & finance your future
www.becfo.org

Tammy Dennis
ECAC Coordinator
tdennis@brevard.net

Heroes for MILITARY KIDS
5k/Kids Dash

April 11, 2026 at 8am
at The Avenues Viera

AMET Project
AMERICAN MILITARY ENLISTMENT CHALLENGE

2025-AMET PROJECT INC 501(c)3 Nonprofit P O BOX 254555, PALM, FL 33425 WWW.AMET.ORG/CLC

One Senior Place Raises Funds for BVMC

Thank you, One Senior Place!

Each year, One Senior Place hosts an annual Give Back Fundraiser to support a local nonprofit that is making a meaningful impact in our community. Last year, together with our resident businesses and attendees, we raised nearly \$2,000 for Grandparents Raising Grandchildren and this year we raised more than \$2,000 for the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center!

Here's how Baskets of Cheer: Giving Back to Veterans worked:

- Raffle baskets are donated by local businesses and will be displayed in our lobby from November 1 – November 19.
- On November 20th from 9:00–10:30 AM, we'll host a Celebration Breakfast, where winners will be drawn and a check presentation will be made.
- Dean joined us that morning to share about the mission and impact of the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center, and connect with attendees.



GAMES INCLUDE:

Card Games:

- Hand & Foot
- Hearts
- Bridge
- Spades
- Poker
- Mahjong
- Rummikub
- Mexican Train
- Dominoes

Other Games of Your Choice

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THE CLUB
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All men & women are welcome to join us for fun, fellowship, & coffee

WEEKLY ON MONDAYS
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Invite your friends, make new friends, & learn a new game



BVMC Officers receive a generous donation from One Senior Place.



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Wreaths Across America

By Dorothy Walsh

For the past seven (7) years, Brevard County Honors Veterans – a Brevard County location coordinator group of Wreaths Across America, has held a special Wreaths Across America program at Pinecrest Cemetery in Cocoa to honor Medal of Honor recipient and Korean War Veteran, Emory Bennett, and his family. In 2024 the National Wreath Across America program opened the program to honor Gold Star families and First Responders.



For the 2025 ceremony, the Purple Heart Space Coast Chapter 453, joined Their Voice of Hope to honor Emory Bennett, his family, and all the heroes laid to rest in Pine Crest Cemetery. Keith Van Buren, President of the Purple Heart Society, opened the ceremony by welcoming those in attendance and asked USMC Veteran and Chaplain, Chip Hansen to lead us in prayer. Following prayer colors were presented by the Marine Corps League Honor Guard, the National Anthem was then led by USAF Veteran, Sanjanette Scott. Keith then introduced the guest speaker, SFC Scott Robinson, Purple Heart Recipient, who gave a very moving speech.



Keith Van Buren conducted the laying of the wreaths ceremony, where a wreath was laid in memory of each fallen service member. A Veteran of each branch of service laid the wreath of their service branch. The First Responders wreath was placed by a member of the Cocoa Police Department. While the Gold Star family wreath was placed by Gold Star fathers, Donn Weaver, and Don Pearsall, Gold Star mother Jeanne Weaver read a very moving poem.

The mission of the Wreaths Across America program is to Remember, Honor and Teach. So, each year the Antlers, the Juniors Program of the Elks, lay the wreaths on the graves of Emory Bennett and his family while US Navy Veteran Monica Armstrong plays taps. A very moving ceremony.



Thank you to all who participated. Mark your calendar and save the date for Sunday, December 19, 2026.

For God and Country,

Dorothy Walsh



USMC Hosts Toys for Tots Drive in December



Toys for Tots including donations from the BVMC



(L-R) Vinnie Howard, Denise Farias and Santa (Ray House)



Detachment 513 at the BVMC



Vinnie Howard (L) and Bob Doyle (R) with Mr and Mrs Claus at the Melbourne Airport



Nelson Bruce (Sitting in picture with handle bar moustache)



Store Updates & Jeep Display

By Jalaine Spears

The Jeep was one of the most vital tools of World War II. Between 1941 and 1945 about 640,000 to 650,000 Jeeps were produced by Willys-Overland and Ford to meet the massive military demand for a light-weight, wheel drive reconnaissance vehicle. Willys MBs final design utilized the powerful 60 hp Go Devil engine. Because Willys couldn't keep up with the demand, Ford was contracted to build the vehicle using the Willys Design and the vehicle was designated as Ford GPW. The flat stamped-steel grille is now synonymous with Jeep which was originally a Ford design and adopted for mass production.

The Jeep was designed to be rugged, simple and capable of traversing nearly any terrain. It weighed about 2,450 lbs. and reached speeds of 55-60 mph. The drivetrain was a 3-speed transmission with a 2-speed transfer case for four-wheel drive. Beyond troop transport, it was used as a field ambulance. It was used as a field ambulance, a platform for machine guns and mortars, a tractor for pulling artillery and even as a small railroad engine when fitted with special wheels. Jeeps Were in every theater of war and used by every branch of the US military and many Allied Forces (UK, USSR, Free French) under the Lend Lease Program. Its compact size allowed for loading on aircraft and gliders, making it crucial for the D-Day invasion.

After the war, the Jeeps success led Willys to create the CJ-2A (Civilian Jeep) in 1945, the first mass-produced civilian 4x4 which started the modern SUV and RV off-roading movement. About 15,000 original World War II Jeeps are estimated to still exist worldwide today. Come to the museum and see our Ford GPW Jeep and have your picture made in it. Hope to see you soon!

Their Voice Their Hope Updates

By Dorothy Walsh

Their Voice of Hope has been extremely busy with our ongoing programs to support our women Veterans. Many people ask me, "What about male Veterans?" Our programs are designed to give women Veterans their own safe space. Too many of our women Veterans are PTSD survivors and need to have a space where they feel safe and secure. That's what Their Voice of Hope and our partner organizations strive to do. And our women Veterans are very appreciative of it. It doesn't mean we don't help male Veterans, because I work with many male Veterans whom I try to help and supply with necessary resources, information, and many times, just an ear to listen.

For 2026 we are continuing to build our Health & Wellness program with:

- Mindfulness classes with the American Red Cross
- Monthly Yoga classes in Cocoa Beach with Yoga with Dena and Palm Bay Yoga with Eva
- Healing Thru Art expression classes at Sonata Viera
- Crochet Classes at Sonata East
- Fishing and kayaking at the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center
- Peer Support Groups

In 2026 we have started our "Taking Back Our Power" program:

- Gun & Shooting Safety Classes will be held quarterly at Frog Bones, and training will be provided by Paramount Training Group.
- Self-defense classes by Paramount Training Group will be held quarterly.
- Support Groups.

Of course, we still have our ongoing luncheons. Our next one will be on Friday, February 20, 2026 from 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM at the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center. Please be sure to register.

If you know of a woman Veteran who would like to receive information about our programs and receive our monthly newsletter and events calendar, please ask them to scan the QR code or email events@theirvoiceofhope.com.

Thank you to all our supporters - without you, we would not be able to do the work we do.



JROTC Air Rifle Competition Brings Out the Best

During the winter months, virtually all 14 JROTC units representing all the military services compete or host Air Rifle shooting matches. Bridging Raider Challenge Meets in the Fall and Drill Meets in the Spring, hundreds of cadets practice and compete in Air Rifle events using standing, kneeling and prone positions. In 2024-25 several JROTC programs expanded their Air Rifle facilities, and results in early 2026 suggest great cadet improvement this year.

In Brevard County, the premier JROTC Air Rifle Team for years has been the Marines of Palm Bay Jr/Sr Magnet High School. However, others have been improving as well and dozens of Brevard JROTC cadets are off to regional and National JROTC Air Rifle Competition in separate service locations.

The Palm Bay Marine Team, led by Senior Instructor Sgt Maj Roy DeYoung, USMC, Ret, hosted special Champions Cup events which qualified cadets from several schools to move on to regional and national events. Palm Bay won its 11th consecutive County Championship in that early January series with Cadet Misha Hamid placing first in the County with a score of 563!! That score earned her a spot in the National JROTC Marine Air Rifle Championship in February.

Congratulations to all JROTC Air Rifle Teams for the 2025-26 school year.



Key Lime Pie Festival at the Amphitheater

More than 5000 people attended the fourth Original Key Lime Pie Festival at Veterans Memorial Park on a beautiful day just before a cold front, 17 January. Despite more than two months delay of the new park opening fully, the event was a big hit. More than 130 vendors and food trucks along with five musical groups and one giant plastic gator to ride, made sure all had fun. Most visitors which included hundreds of kids reported a great time and many vendors were smiling when the park was emptied at 10:30 PM that night.

Check out Facebook and other media entries for the good results. Thanks to KLP Cocoa Beach CEO Louis Moorhead and his team for making it happen, despite so much adversity and extra expense. It was a great "Sneak Preview" of the new park which should be fully open in March.



“Trauma and Tenacity in Vietnam: A Surgeon’s Story”

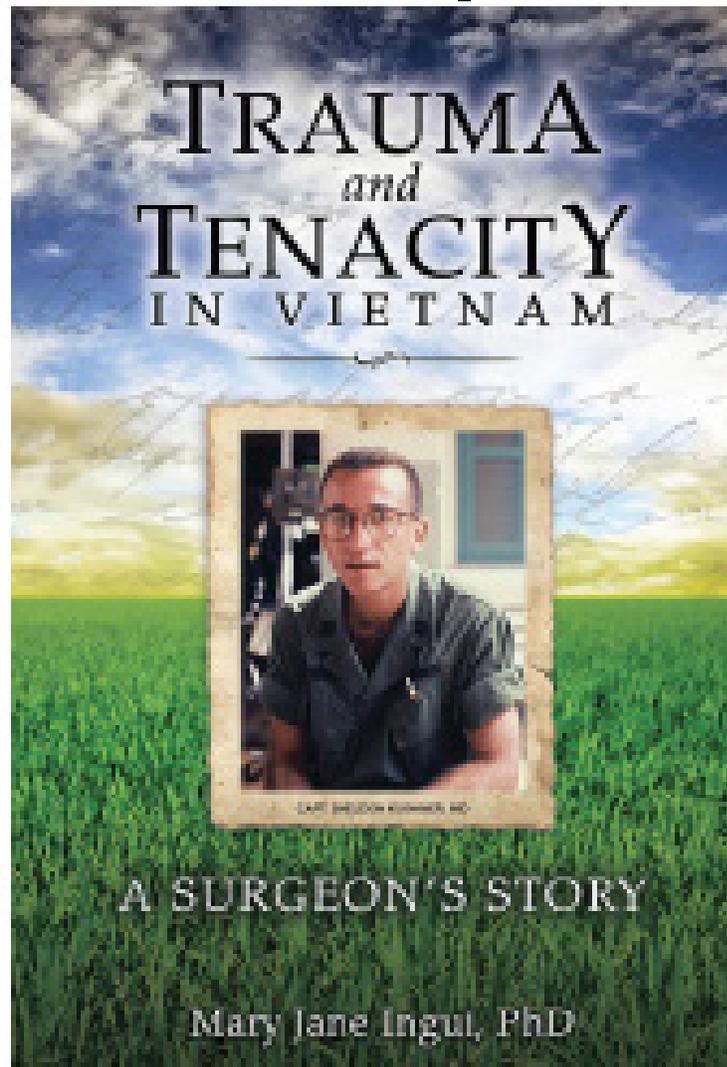
BVMC Library, 24 February, 6 PM

Mary Jane Ingul, PhD

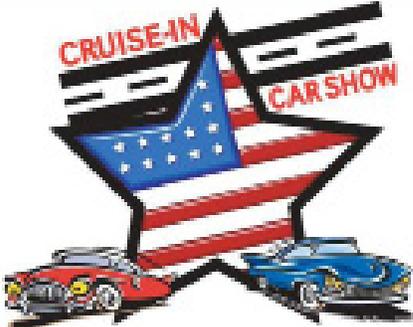
Adelphi & Lehigh University’s, Florida news Writer and Correspondent

2017 President’s First Place Award from the Florida Author’s & Publisher’s Association

WWW.TraumaAndTenacityInVietnam.com



A GREAT READ: “Discover the true story of a U. of Alabama Medical School graduate and surgeon in Vinh Long, S. Vietnam, from 1968-69, working with medical teams (M&LPH&P) embedded in towns throughout S. Vietnam, to provide needed medical assistance to the civilian population during the Vietnam war.”



End Your Winter Blues With the Most Prestigious Car Show and Meet & Greet of 2026

**Meet Those Who Received Our Nation's
Highest Military Award**

The Medal Of Honor

*Proceeds from this one of a kind event benefits local
Veteran and Family Support Organizations*

SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2026

- Drive and Park Starts 8:00 A.M.
- Amphitheater at Veterans Memorial Park
400 S. Sykes Creek Pkwy,
Merritt Island
- Pre-Registration \$ 20.00
Day Of Registration \$ 30.00

To Register Call or Text :
Veterans' Connections (321) 313-2444 or
(321) 753-1776 Ext 1 / Email: djp32927@gmail.com



Partners in Service Resources for Those Who Served

Join us for a welcoming brunch and panel discussion designed to connect veterans and their families with trusted local resources.

This informative conversation will cover topics such as VA healthcare, veterans benefits, care management, end-of-life planning, and community support.

Meet Our Panelists



Brandon Wormsbacher, MD, FAAFP
Chief Medical Officer - Viera VA & Palm Bay
Orlando VA Healthcare System

Lisa Peake, RN, CCM
One Senior Place Care Manager

Ron Skitewski
National Cremation Society

Roger Klaffka
Veterans Disability Attorney

Tony Therrien
Space Coast Honor Flight

Mike Tocker
VFW Post 10131



Astronaut Memorial Sand Point Park Titusville, Florida

Sunday,
Jan. 25, 2026
1 pm EST

**Patriotic & Reverent
Honoring our
Astronaut Heroes**

Keynote Speaker

Jan Davis
Astronaut, Author
STS-47, 60 & 85



Watch live on ASM YouTube

**Tuesday, February 10th
10:30 AM
One Senior Place**

8085 Spyglass Hill Rd, Viera, FL 32940

Brunch Sponsored by:



Call 321-751-6771 to RSVP | OneSeniorPlace.com

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*Please Join Heroes United to Heal
As We Unite for Heroes
A Gala of Hope & Healing*

Saturday, February 28, 2026, 5pm - 10pm
Radisson Resort at the Port
Cape Canaveral, Florida

Hosted by
Brevard County Clerk of
Court & Comptroller
Rachel Miller Sadoff
and
Brevard County Sheriff
Wayne Ivey

With Two Powerful
Keynote Speakers

American Sheriff Mark Lamb and
Retired US Navy SEAL, Master Chief Ross Munro,
SEAL Team SIX

And Special Honored Guest
Former POW Jessica Lynch

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www.hu2h.org

Or Scan Here →

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AMERICA 250
1776-2025
CENTENNIAL OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
200th Anniversary
1776-2025
SOCIETY OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

CAR
COUNCIL OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

*243rd Commemoration of
The Last Naval Battle of
the Revolutionary War*

Saturday, March 21, 2026
Brevard Veterans Memorial Center
400 S Sykes Creek Pkwy, Merritt Island, FL
1000-1100 a.m.

Event will include a Parade, Music, Speakers and Naval Ceremonial Salute

America's
Semiquincentennial

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
200th Anniversary
1776-2025
SOCIETY OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION



Unofficial Brevard VMC Vets Calendar February 2026 and Beyond

Contact BVMC for any additions or other information.

NOTE: Some events change in between our monthly mailing of the BVMC Calendar. Keep up to date with those changes using our web link: <https://veteransmemorialcenter.org/upcoming-veterans-events/>

PLEASE NOTE: As of December, 2025, The Brevard Veterans Memorial Center can no longer book the pavilion or the Veterans Memorial Park. Please send your request to Terry Lane at terry.lane@brevardparks.com and/or call Central Area Parks and Recreation, 321-633-1874.

FEBRUARY

07 Feb – JROTC Run and Shoot, NEW LOCATION: Satellite High School 0700-1200. Support more than 100 cadets from at many schools as they combine running with air rifle marksmanship. Best time to see all and help award trophies is 1030-1200. Contact Donn Weaver, 757-871-6576 for any questions.

07 Feb – 14th Annual Pioneer Day at Luke's Episcopal Church and Sam's House/Pine Island 1000-1500. History exhibits, guided tours, food, pioneer parade and much more. Check out mipioneerday.com

07 Feb – Lights in the Night Gala presented by St Francis Hospice at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex 1800-2200. A night of shimmering lights and purpose. SFH supports veterans around the county and this evening will be highlight of caring and purpose. Contact Danika Warren for more information at DWarren@ReflectionsLSC.org or 321-634-2211.

08 Feb – Immortal Four Chaplains Ceremony BVMC Plaza and Gray Hall. 1400- 1530. Supported by the Marine Corps League, Brevard Detachment 513.

13 Feb – Third Annual Valentine's Day Senior Expo 0915-1300 Party at the Nyami Nyami River Lodge of the Brevard Zoo. Free Parking and admittance excluding Zoo. Exhibits, prizes, music and surprises plus flowers for the ladies. Call 321-242-1235 for more info and to register exhibits or info tables.

13 Feb – Valentine's Dinner and Bunco Fundraiser 1800-2030 at 470 South Brevard, Cocoa Beach. Sponsored by

AVET. Couples, \$50 includes dinner and child care (\$10); singles \$30 with Table for 4 guests available to sponsor for \$200. Active Duty Military Free. See www.avet-project.org

14 Feb– JROTC Drill Meet #1, BVMC Park 0630- 1230. Support more than 200 cadets from at least 10 schools as they compete in Color Guard, Squad and Platoon Drills as well as Rifle Demonstration. Best time to see all and help award trophies is 1030-1200. Contact Donn Weaver, 757-871-6576 for any questions.

19 Feb – The 2026 Liberty Bell Museum Patriot Awards 1800-2100 at The Grand Manor, 1450 Sarno Rd, Melbourne. Sponsorships and tickets are available via RSVP at 321-373-2311 or honoramericafl@gmail.com

24 Feb – BVMC Library Discussion Series 1800-1930: Trauma and Tenacity in Vietnam: A Surgeon's Story. Presented by Prof Mary Jane Ingui. Prof. Ingui is on the staff at UCF and has written a book about her Vietnam experiences. Look for more details too, Contact Paul Julian and BVMC for any questions.

27 Feb – Every Day is Veterans Day presented by One Senior Place, 8085 Spyglass Rd, Viera. 1000-1330. Vendors with tents in outdoor layout, door prizes, food and lots of valuable information for veterans who are senior. Call 321-751-6771 for more information and to register as a vendor.

28 Feb – JROTC Drill Meet #2. BVMC Park 0630-1230 Support more than 200 cadets from at least 10 schools as they compete in Color Guard, Squad and Platoon Drills as well as Rifle Demonstration. Best time to see all and help award trophies is 1030-1200. Contact Donn Weaver 757-871-6576 for more info.

28 Feb – United for Heroes: A gala for Hope and Healing 1700 - 2100 Radisson Resort at the Port 8701 Astronaut Blvd. Dinner, special Guest Speakers". Sheriff Mark Lamb, US Navy Seal Ross Munro, MC by Rachel Sadoff and auction by Sheriff Wayne Ivey. Proceeds to help end veteran and first responder suicides. Contact email: contact@hu2.org or on web site www.hu2h.org.

For more events, [visit our website!](https://veteransmemorialcenter.org/upcoming-veterans-events/)

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