

# Brevard Veterans Council/



**Veterans Memorial Center**

## Council Courier

June 2021



## Iwo Jima "Island of Terror"

**WARNING:** This feature article may trigger a PTS or C-PTS state of mind.

The Courier is a publication of the  
Brevard Veterans Council & Veterans Memorial Center  
Merritt Island, FL 32952

Don Pearsall — Editor (321) 313-2444

Best viewed at 100%

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The Wonders of Our America  
from Sea to Shining Sea



Yellowstone National Park / Wyoming

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## Mission Statements

**Brevard Veterans Council:** The mission of the Brevard Veterans Council is 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.

**Veterans Memorial Center:** The mission of the Veterans Memorial Center is to maintain and operate a premier facility to support veterans and their families, educate the public, and provide a vibrant memorial to the service and sacrifice of all military veterans through a museum, memorial plaza, library, and park.

## The Council Courier

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

Articles for submission must be sent to the address listed below.

The deadline is the 25th of each month. Those submissions received after that date will not be published.

All Submissions Please Send To:

Don Pearsall at [djp32927@gmail.com](mailto:djp32927@gmail.com)

# Council Chairman's Report



By: Donn Weaver  
Former Captain U.S. Army



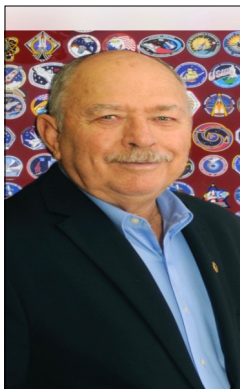
The month of May has been incredible:

- We worked with our tenant organization Rolling Thunder FL-1 to complete raising POW/MIA at all 86 schools in Brevard;
- Young Marines camped in our Park for three days and helped us retire over 3000 American flags;
- Our Museum was the site of swearing in of 15 new US Army recruits;
- We hosted 4000 people and 1000 motorcycles during Ride for the Fallen;
- We staged a great Memorial Day Ceremony on 31 May attended by over 400 people;
- Museum visitors and donations were way up;
- Six students volunteered and were trained to help is during the summer;
- We made great Facebook and other high tech related progress;
- We returned to at home VHP recordings;
- Following CDC and county guidelines we returned to full capacity, masks recommended, full service catered meals in the Gray Hall as we marked 14 months since the initial Covid 19 outbreak;
- And much, much more. Quite a record from a great team of now 55 regular volunteers not counting the super work DAV 123 does with its 21 trained workers.

I'll end with a challenge. During June and early July look at our organizational table, committees, etc. Can you step in to help one or more of them? Are there missions we should be undertaking in 2021-22, our new management year? Do you have ideas to improve things? I just heard of a great suggestion at add the Space Force Emblem to our Memorial Plaza without disrupting the beautiful brick patterns.

As the new officers and boards are sworn in on 14 July 2021, we want tp have a good game plan to continue to improve and look for imaginative solutions on how to do more to support veterans, educate the public and inspire our youth. We hope to fine tune the great structure we have already in positive and more efficient ways.





## VMC Presidents Report

By Former LCDR Dean Schaaf  
Veteran United States Navy Aviation

Our VMC President Dean Schaaf received transplant support from a donor in the early morning of Saturday, 22 May. He is already home and recovering well. It is wonderful news and a very special gift from the family of a young donor. Prayers answered. Get well Dean.

Due to risk of infection Dean is not to be around groups of people for 60-90 days, but calls, texts and letters of good wishes are welcomed since he can only read so many books per week and watch the complete seasons of TV dramas so long. Dean will be on zoom if tech support allows at upcoming Board and General Meetings as well at planning/ events going forward — Donn Weaver

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## Facts About Hurricane Hunters



It is the Department of Commerce organization tasked with flying into tropical storms and hurricanes! The Hurricane Hunters are able to monitor three tropical storms, carrying out observations and gathering data twice a day. They fly straight through the eye walls of the fiercest hurricanes

These planes are generally not destroyed by strong winds while in flight. ... It's the shear, or sudden change in horizontal or vertical winds, that can destroy an aircraft, or cause its loss of control. That's why NOAA's Hurricane Hunter aircraft do not fly through tornados

The P-3s and G-IV are based at NOAA's Aircraft Operations Center (AOC) in Lakeland, Florida. AOC is part of NOAA's Office of Marine and Aviation Operations, which includes civilians as well as officers of the NOAA Corps, one of the nation's seven uniformed services.





### **BVC/VMC Leadership Team**

BVC Chair/VMC Vice	Donn Weaver	613-2403	donnweaver2020@gmail.com
VMC Chair/BVC Vice	Dean Schaaf	452-0365	dschaaf@brevard.net
Past Chairman	Don Pearsall	313-2444	djp32927@gmail.com
Secretary	Kristi Blanchard	449-1226	kblanc3@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Ted Schmid	863-3640	tedschmid88@gmail.com
Chaplain	Chip Hanson	543-7505	chipvietnam68@aol.com

### **Brevard Veterans Council Board of Directors**

3 Year	Ted Suzor	271-4327	dolfyns21@cfl.rr.com
3 Year	Les Beecher	452-1806	les.acp@gmail.com
3 Year	Kristi Blanchard	449-1226	kblanc3@yahoo.com
2 Year	Alex Terrero	759-5543	aja3@bellsouth.net
2 Year	Bryant Faulkenberry	423-6723	Law.faulken.19mil@outlook.com
2 Year	Brian Whalen	205-5986	whalenbri@hotmail.com
1 Year	Ed Pingston	794-9401	ed@pingstonservices.com
1 Year	Ray Norman	452-5376	normanrayl@yahoo.com
1 Year	Rich Tomasso	452-8543	rich4400@gmail.com

### **Veterans Memorial Center Board of Directors**

3 Year	Dorothy Walsh	426-6736	dwalshusa@gmail.com
3 Year	Harry Beaver	507-4228	sgmbeaver@netzero.net
3 Year	Lou Rossi	604-1814	No email
2 Year	Doris Hendricks	458-1138	dorisroses@yahoo.com
2 Year	Chris Gibson	503-467-6102	dasgibby@hotmail.com
2 Year	Jay Longway	449-9037	jpl3x@yahoo.com
1 Year	Mike Schulze	202-255-3158	mcschulze@verizon.net
1 Year	Ernie Hoffman	203-962-9000	ernest-hoffman@hotmail.com
1 Year	Mary Ann Tucker	986-9494	wellmare@aol.com

### **Veterans Center Non-Voting Supporting Organizations**

DAV Chapter 123	Bill Benagh	NA	NA
Fleet Reserve 263	Dave Clayton	NA	ddcri@aol.com

### **Veterans Center – Non-Voting Support Positions**

Asst. Secretary	Julie Adamson	446-4663	Juliecladamson@gmail.com
Asst. Treasurer	Kristi Blanchard	449-1226	kblanc3@yahoo.com
Operations Director	Bob Doyle	276-7814	vmcoperationsmgr@gmail.com
Security/Asst, Operations	Ted Suzor	271-4327	dolfyns21@cfl.rr.com
Museum Curator (Assoc.)	Alex Terrero	759-5543	aja3@bellsouth.net
Website	Kristi Blanchard	449-1226	kblanc3@yahoo.com
Museum Curator	Ed Pingston	794-9401	ed@pingstonservices.com

# Chaplin's Corner



By: Chaplin Chip Hansen  
United States  
Marine Corps

Breakfast & Lunch Donna & Robert Lahr Owners

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Mary Consolato (321) 305-6009 office  
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**unity**  
of Merritt Island

A positive, practical approach  
to Christianity based on Jesus's teachings  
and the power of prayer.

As your Chaplain, also a Marine Corp combat Veteran, I find the division of our Great Nation, abhorrent, that our 245-year-old society is in a state of unrest, to a point of anger, hatred, and even violence.

It appears that our great society is breaking at the seams. This is not the first time that we have been at odds with each other. When I returned from Vietnam, after a 13-month tour of duty, our great Nation was very angry. Mostly at those of us who served, and wore the uniform. It remained that way until 1990 when the first President Bush conducted Operation Desert Storm.

Our Nation once again found its patriotic pride and support. Eleven years later on 9-11-2001 we were attacked in New York at the Twin Towers in Washington DC at the Pentagon and another attack was stopped by some very brave airline passengers who gave their lives to keep the airliner from attacking who knows where and what, For the first time since WWII, we as a nation were angry, this time at an enemy that was hidden. We came together as a nation.

It did not matter who you were, or what you believed in, we had been attacked. Our loyalty to our Country and to each other, lasted for about 15 years. In the last 4 or 5 years our nation has evolved into a nation that is worse now the and any time in modern history.

To all who reads this, please set aside all of our discriminatory feelings, beliefs, angers and hatreds. Whether you are a Jew, Christian, Agnostic or a nonbeliever, Democrat or Republican, Our Nation was formed for the benefit of all who are Citizens of the U S A. We can and we must show a display of unity, not only in meetings , also when we are in public discussing anything concerning us or our Country. And hopefully others will follow by example.

[Philippians 2:3](#) ESV

Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.

GOD BLESS AMERICA  
Chaplain Chip Hanson

## UNOFFICIAL BREVARD VMC VETS CALENDAR (MAY AND BEYOND)

Contact VMC for any additions or other information.

**11 Jun** — Melbourne Vet Center sponsored Pride Drive Thru (1000 - 1400) in the Parking lot in front of the King Center. This event is intended to reconnect the community of veterans and to highlight diversity, including LGBT+ . Contact Veteran Outreach Specialist Tabitha Miller on 321-254-3410 for more information.

**24 Jun** — Sen. Rubio's representative holds office hours (1400-1600) in the VMC Library to support veterans in need of federal attention or to pass along ideas to the Senator. Contact Maria Montano on 407-254-2573 for more information.

**03 Jul** — Third Annual Merritt Island Independence Day Parade sponsored by BCSO and VMC (0900-1100). Static display of the "Parade" in front of Mall in the inner lane as two lanes pass by east bound on Rte 520. Registration forms on line with BCSO foundation.

**22 Jul** — Sen. Rubio's representative holds office hours (1400-1600) in the VMC Library to support veterans in need of federal attention or to pass along ideas to the Senator. Contact Maria Montano on 407-254-2573 for more information.

**08 Aug** — Annual Military Order of the Purple Heart Ceremony at the VMC and Memorial Plaza to recognize 10 recipients of the Purple Heart after combat operations (1400- 1600). Contact VMC for more information.

**26 Aug** — Sen. Rubio's representative holds office hours (1400-1600) in the VMC Library to support veterans in need of federal attention or to pass along ideas to the Senator. Contact Maria Montano on 407-254-2573 for more information.

**TBD Sep** — Space Coast Honor Flight hopes to return to operations in September with possible 2021Honor Flights. Check their website : [SpaceCoastHonorFlight.org](https://SpaceCoastHonorFlight.org) for updated information.

**11 Sep** — Rockledge Remembering 9/11 Ceremony 1030 at Rockledge City Hub — The 20th Anniversary of the Events on 11 September 2001.

**11 Sep** — Patriots Day and 9/11 Commemoration at the VMC 1630-1900. Sponsored by Club 1013 Ret NYPD and the VMC. Full details in July. This event marks the 20th anniversary of the attacks on America and almost 20 years since America took the fight to enemies in Afghanistan. It will be a special Remembrance and Ceremony.

**23 Sep** — Sen. Rubio's representative holds office hours (1400-1600) in the VMC Library to support veterans in need of federal attention or to pass along ideas to the Senator. Contact Maria Montano on 407-254-2573 for more information.

**25 Sep** — The Space Coast Food Festival 1600-2000 at the VMC and Veterans Memorial Park. Sponsored by the Cocoa Beach Regional Chamber of Commerce, this popular, community event has been held at the Port and other large venues. Room for organizational tables and canopies as well as good entertainment and great food to sample. POC is Jennifer Sugarman of CBRCC 321-459-2200.



**16 Oct** — NVHS Sponsored 2021 6th Annual Dinner Fundraiser 1730-2100 at the Radisson Resort at Cape Canaveral. The National Veterans Homeless Support non-profit event includes Sheriff Ivey and many Brevard officials who strongly support veterans in need. Table and other level of sponsorships are available. Register on line at [Kasey@nvhs.org](mailto:Kasey@nvhs.org) or call Kasey Corson 321-208-7562 for more info.

**29 Oct** — Sen. Rubio's representative holds office hours (1400-1600) in the VMC Library to support veterans in need of federal attention or to pass along ideas to the Senator. Contact Maria Montano on 407-254-2573 for more information.

**TBD** — **MIAP-FL:** The March 2020 Missing in America Project - FL Call to Honor Ceremony (CTH) was the last one of four held in Brevard over the previous three years. In Brevard we continue to research dozens of abandoned veteran cremains in our area. We hope the next CTH Service for the MIAP-FL at the Cape Canaveral National Cemetery will occur by October or early in 2022.

**TBD** — The Stand Down to Stand Up event was postponed twice due to COVID 19 in 2020/21. The VMC Boards and EXCOMM decided it was better to postpone the event until Fall 2021 due to uncertain COVID conditions that could impact such a large, indoor gathering. We hope many veterans, organizations and others will find ways in the meantime to help Homeless and at risk Veterans in Brevard County. Planning meetings begin in Early August at the VMC.

**11 Nov** — VMC Veterans Day Ceremony at VMC (0930-1100) Food and refreshments provided; Special events and displays.

**18 Nov** — Sen. Rubio's representative holds office hours (1400-1600) in the VMC Library to support veterans in need of federal attention or to pass along ideas to the Senator. Contact Maria Montano on 407-254-2573 for more information.

**04 Dec** — The 2021 Veterans and Military Support Golf Tournament sponsored by Good Deeds Foundation of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAACC) at the Cocoa Beach Country Club (0800-1400) This tournament funds MOAACC GDF support to all JROTC and related units in the county; active duty military needs not covered by DoD; and support to veterans in urgent need. Sign up for the event and sponsorship levels at [moaacc.org](http://moaacc.org).

**Jan 2022 TBD** — The Fourth Annual Key Lime Pie Festival at the Veterans Memorial Park at VMC. Proceeds support the VMC and major Park improvements should make the event very special. Please help us spread the word and advise of any new events as we see 2022 bringing back many events lost in 2021.





Recently Vic Rogers, a docent and librarian at the Veterans Museum, was commissioned to do a full color portrait of Colonel Shannon DaSilva. Shannon is the daughter of another museum docent Garet McKimmie. Garet wanted to present her daughter with a one-of-a-kind promotion gift. The color portrait would be significant for such an occasion.

Colonel DaSilva served in our United States Air Force for 17 years before transferring to the new United States Space Force this past October. She currently works in the Strategy and Plans Directorate in the Office of the Secretary of Defense for Space Policy at the Pentagon. In this role, she advises senior leaders on important policy decisions involving military space related matters and coordinates space strategic messaging.

Vic Rogers had studied portraiture at the New England School of Art and Design in Boston and was honored to be asked to create this portrait for Garet. Many hours of detailed painting paid off as the portrait became a reality.

The portrait was presented with the Artists pride that Shannon's family will treasure this artwork. The painting signifies the many accomplishments that Shannon has achieved and will continue to achieve in the new United States Space Force.



## Milestones

This is a new piece that features our VMC /BVC members that do something special to advance their own careers or enhance the job they do here. If you know of anyone, please nominate them to me.

VMC Operations Director Bob Doyle (Circled) recently took the oath of office for the Veterans of Foreign Wars, as Junior Vice Commander of District 8 at a ceremony in St. Cloud.

District 8 includes 14 VFW posts in Brevard and Osceola Counties. Bob is the former post commander of post 12167 on Merritt Island, and has accomplished much for all the veterans organizations. We wish Bob the best in his latest promotion







Greg Hale from the Valiant Air Command recently purchased the Humvee.

Greg is a VFW member of the Merritt Island Post and works with several other VMC members at the Warbird Museum rebuilding a UH 1 Huey Helicopter for the *"Return to Flight Project"*

He is retired from the US Army and NASA

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Dean Schaaf (left) and Donn Weaver accept the award for Business Champion of the month from the Cocoa Beach Regional Chamber of Commerce.

(Below) Proud volunteers hold up the banner that accompanied the plaque



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# Unique Mission Accomplished

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## Raising POW/MIA Flags at Every Brevard Public School:

On May 11, 2021, at about 1:30 pm, the American Flag at Mims Elementary School was lowered and the striking black and white POW/MIA Flag was attached below it and both raised to the top of the pole while the Mims School Orchestra beautifully played the National Anthem. Thus ended a project first planned before Covid struck in March 2020 to have the ceremonies, present flags and teach students and staff about the flag and what veterans have done at ALL 86 Brevard Public Schools (BPS).



It was an effort led by Rolling Thunder FL- Chapter 1 of the Space Coast - the biggest in Florida. President JJ Justice, Mike Schulze, Billy Van Doren, Bob Ericson and five area team leaders from Palm Bay to Mims led the mission with great support from veterans groups including the Veterans Memorial Center, the Cape Canaveral Chapter of MOAA, the VFW and American Legion. These groups raised the over \$3300 needed to purchase all 86 POW/MIA Flags. For almost five months teams from 5-6 or 60-70 visited every school during a carefully orchestrated effort to meet the Goal. Based on surveys taken by many, there was no other such mission in Florida or the entire country that matched this project, especially during the pandemic.

Nothing even happens if Florida did not decide to open schools last fall or if leaders like Dr. Mark Mullins, himself a veteran, does not see merit in conducting the ceremonies. All were held outdoors with plenty of social distancing and mostly with masks. The challenge was kicked off last Dec 15, when the flag was raised at the BPS Admin Building in Viera with well over 100 in attendance. By then, BPS senior administrators Kimberly Garton and Christina Uttlinger were asked to lead the challenging matrix fix to match the RTFL-1 teams and the schools leadership to the best dates and times, making sure every elementary, middle and high school was covered, rain or shine. It all worked. At the beginning, the end, and at Bayside HS Ceremony in the middle, the ceremony teams were joined by dozens of officials, other veterans, Sheriff Ivey, County Property Appraiser Blixley the School Board Members and others. Brevard is clearly a county that supports veterans and the honor veterans who remain missing in action (over 80,000 since WWII) deserve. The schools have been asked to keep the POW/MIA Flag flying for years and years to come with each school replacing any worn or faded flag as needed. As the program came close to ending, BPS released this statement:

*"On May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Rolling Thunder Florida Chapter 1 will raise the final three POW/MIA flags at three BPS campuses (Jackson, Pinewood, Mims). Part of a joint initiative between the school district and Rolling Thunder, a POW/MIA flag has been raised and will continue to fly on every BPS campus. Beginning with the district various student groups. Elementary safety patrols, musical ensembles, JROTC programs, social studies classes, student government leaders and more helped to make the event a success on each school campus. School board leaders, community partners, local veterans organizations, law enforcement and others we always out to support. In what has been a tough year for all, every school has expressed that this time spent raising the POW/MIA flag and learning more about this topic, has been one of the bright spots."*

*School board leaders, community partners, local veterans organizations, law enforcement and others we always out to support. In what has been a tough year for all, every school has expressed that this time spent raising the POW/MIA flag and learning more about this topic, has been one of the bright spots."*

Every ceremony had its unique character. Here are but a few examples:

- Bayside HS had its entire orchestra, JROTC Navy Cadets Corps and dozens of other Students attend, their JROTC Color Guard later supported a nearby Elementary School Ceremony. (That began some great competition among the 15 JROTC units at Brevard High Schools).
- Cape View Elementary produced art work to give to RTFL-1 and had students read their own reports on the POW/MIA Flag
- Cocoa High School invited many area vets and had their Army JROTC cadets Parade in the 50 State Flags with band support and more than 300 in attendance.
- Many Elementary schools had the majority of their students witness the ceremony and some had honor students hold the POW/MIA Flag as it was attached.

Many faculty and staff of the BPS schools learned too, and in one case met former students: At the final ceremony in Mims, BPS secondary social studies school adviser, Kimberly Garton, introduced the RTFL-1 and other veterans to her former student: Mims Assistant Principal Javier Alfonso. Ms. Garton taught history at Viera High School in 2007, her first year of teaching. Mr. Alfonso was a good student there!! She told the vets - It was truly a wonderful "what goes around comes around" moment in Mims that day.



Congratulations to the membership of Rolling Thunder on a job well done that will live on forever.







Florida Chapter 1 of Rolling Thunder recently honored our POWs and MIAs by raising a POW Flag at Melbourne International Airport. The POW/MIA Memorial Flag Act of 2001 (S.1226) This bill was signed into legislation by President George W. Bush in part due to Rolling Thunder®, Inc. lobbying efforts. The main force behind this bill was Senator Campbell and Congressman Dan Burton. Rolling Thunder, Inc. was highly instrumental in passing legislation to ensure that the POW/MIA flag will fly below the American Flag any day the American flag is flown in Washington, D.C. at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the Korean Memorial and the WWII Memorial.

Displaying of the POW/MIA Flag over Federal Buildings and Military Facilities Rolling Thunder®, Inc. was highly instrumental in passing legislation requiring that Federal buildings, all Post Offices, the Vietnam and Korean Memorials in Washington, D.C. and military facilities fly the POW/MIA flag on all six National holidays. Bring Them Home Alive Act of 2000



By; Paula Suzor

At this time flights to Washington DC are cancelled thru August 2021. We are expecting an update in mid June on when flights may resume. If permitted, we will have 3 flights this season.

We are pleased to announce luncheons will resume June 1, 2021. All luncheons are at 11:15 A.M. (See schedule on right)

	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Smokey Bones	1	6	3	7	5	2	7
Red Lobster	3	1	5	2	7	4	2
Capt Hiram's	15	20	17	21	19	16	21
ixie Crossroads	17	15	19	16	21	18	16





# Other VMC Activities

## BREVARD



### *Brevard's*

#### *33rd Annual Veterans Reunion*

Brevard's DAR, SAR and Captain John Barry Chapters participated in the opening and wreath presentation ceremonies at the 33rd Annual Veterans Reunion at Wickham

Each year the reunions starts out with an escort of the Vietnam Memorial Wall. Escort started at the Eastern Florida State College Cocoa Campus. Law enforcement stopped traffic for the procession to travel from the Cocoa Campus, to US1 and onto Wickham Park. News media referred this convoy as miles long. In the past only motorcycles could escort the 35' trailer, however this year four wheeled vehicles were also allowed to join in on the motorcade. Brevard's Jeep and Corvette clubs joined in this year's procession.

The moving wall is 3/5 scale, it is 288 feet long and 6 feet high. Once the caravan arrives volunteers under the supervision of the Wall's caretakers erect the monument in about 2-2 1/2 hours.. The base of the Wall is beautifully landscaped to honor those to be remembered and provide a place for those who wish to leave keepsakes for their loved ones who are inscribed on the Wall.

In front of the Wall is a memorial dedicated to the dogs who served during our wars. Being a very important asset during times of conflict, dogs can smell and sense dangers around them and will alert their handlers of the situation. At the opening ceremonies multiple Veterans had dogs of the same breed as they used during their service while on active duty.



This year's reunion had over 50,000 visitors over the course of the week's activities

## NEW ARMY RECRUITS SWORN IN

A week before Memorial Day 2021, 15 Brevard County high school juniors and seniors took the oath of enlistment into the US Army at the Veterans Memorial Center Museum. With recruiting cadre nearby and after some sporting activities and a free lunch courtesy of Chick-Fil a of Merritt Island, former Army Captain Donn Weaver administered the oath and Florida Veteran Hall of Fame Member SFC Juan Santiago offered encouragement. Next stop in June at various Army induction bases once school is out. A few of the group are high school juniors who will take Basic Training this summer and Advanced Individual Training the summer after graduation. Good luck and thanks for your upcoming service to our country.



*"It takes courage to grow up and become who you really are"*

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### **Do You Know The Origin Of the Term " Under the Weather" ?**

Being unwell or feeling worse than usual, being sick.

The term *Under the Weather* is a nautical term from the days of old the sailing ships. Any sailor who was feeling ill or seasick would be sent below deck to protect him from the cold or rainy weather. So, being below deck, the sailor would literally be "Under the Weather."

**How about This One?** Where does the expression **"The Whole Nine Yards"** come from? The bullets for the machine guns used in American combat planes of WW2 and ever since were in chains twenty-seven feet in length. Thus if a pilot was able to fire all his bullets off at one target he was said to have given his adversary 'The Whole Nine Yards'.



# Special Memorial Day Issue





# Memorial Day 2021

***"Memorial Day isn't just about honoring veterans, it's honoring those who lost their lives. Veterans had the fortune of coming home. For us, that's a reminder of when we come home we still have a responsibility to serve. It's a continuation of service that honors our country and those who fell defending it." — Pete Hegseth Fox News***

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Don Pearsall (Center) and Emcee Brian Whalen (Left) post colors and introduce special guests including Keynote Speaker RADM Wayne Justice USCG Retired, Brevard County Sheriff Wayne Ivey, FL State Senator Dist 14 Tom Wright, FL State Rep, Dist 51 Tyler Sirois, Danny McKnight Col USA Retired, and Rob Medina representing US Congressman Bill Posey.



Despite threatening weather, the VMC Memorial Day Ceremony was held at 0900 on Monday. Several WWII and Korean Veterans were on hand to remember their friends and Brothers in arms. A special thanks to Bob Doyle for setting up the stage and chairs in the Gray Room in case the weather turned nasty.







(Left) Danny McKnight in Blue Shirt, from the real *Blackhawk Down*, told the captive audience about his battle time in the streets of Mogadishu , Somalia and how six of his Army Rangers made the ultimate sacrifice to save the crew of the Blackhawk shot down by Somali Gorilla factions

(Below) Wreathes placed on the plaza wall by various organizations.



Always popular, our Sheriff Wayne Ivey and his Blood Hound “Junny” Here, he led his faithful companion onto the stage for photo ops.



Guest Speakers wait as program commences. (Left to right), Sheriff Ivey, with “Junny” Tom Wright, Tyler Siros, Rob Medina, (Back Row) Admiral Justice, Danny McKnight, and VMC Chaplin Chip Hanson





**(Left) Meeting of two Army Rangers. (Right) Col Danny McKnight and Sgt E5 Bryant Faulkenberry recently injured by a hit and run driver.**

**Below Bob Doyle plays Taps from top of the tower during the Memorial Day ceremony**



**(Right) Special Thank You to Beyel Bros for the crane hoisting the American Flag for the weekend**



**(Left) an awesome job of presenting the colors from the Marine Corps League, a tenant organization at the VMC**



# ROLLING THUNDER RIDE FOR FREEDOM XXXIII

## *A Review of this Epic Event at VMC*

### *The Gold Star Family Vigil*



The Veterans Memorial Center and Rolling Thunder FL- Chapter 1 came together with only weeks notice to put on a unique event in the annals of the Space Coast.

Special thanks to the great RTFL-1 RFF Committee led by Lance Armstrong , other RTFL Chapter leaders and to Ray Addison, State of Florida President for their prep and execution support. RTFL-1` will doubtless send more reporting from their perspective after a little R&R, but I wanted to offer these highlights from an early VMC optic. Here are some notes we wanted to share:

A. We learned DC relented and large numbers did ride this weekend on a tailored down version of RFF in our Nation's Capital. As of this writing, however, we have no information that there were any other major RFFs in other States.

B. Riders from at least ten states were confirmed.

C. There was fantastic Media Coverage in Print, on-line, TV and internet broadcasts. Thanks to all our media contacts who care about veterans. They allow us to spread the Memorial Day Message: "A soldier never dies unless he is forgotten".

D. Port Canaveral: The Kick off with 200 "Bikes" was held on Friday evening. Chip Hanson blessed the bikes and Dr. Lance Armstrong led the ride.





(Left) Rolling Thunder Freedom Ride XXXIII Chairman ,Dr. Lance Armstrong leads the bike parade to the Veterans Memorial Center.



A busy weekend for the VMC and Chapter 1 of Rolling Thunder as they presented the *33rd annual Ride for Freedom*. There

were food trucks, live entertainment, vendor displays galore and many activities revolving around the POW and MIA program for Florida.

Everything from Blessing of the Bikes to community rides, something for everybody. The three day event concluded Sunday





the first ride south toward many people cheering and welcoming them at the VMC. Rolling Thunder FL Chapter 1 of the Space Coast is the biggest in Florida with 105 members and Florida has the MOST Chapters in the country.

- **Vendors:** By Saturday morning we had 12 food trucks and a total of 53 vendors!!
- **Candlelight Vigil:** At the VMC Plaza 16 Gold Star Family Members, including some originally from Vietnam who lost brothers in the war with our troops against the North Vietnamese, the Unforgettable Memories Group, led a procession of about 200 through the Plaza. The vigil stopped at monuments to the conflicts in Vietnam, Afghanistan and Iraq. There was a beautiful passing of the lit torch among the Gold Star Families who said aloud the names of their fallen loved ones. That torch was the same one used in Wash DC 33 years ago at the first Ride for Freedom. Echo TAPS at the end from the Museum Tower was an emotional moment as was Delinda Griffis stirring singing of our National Anthem.
- **Two Special Walls:** The Vigil and the weekend were highlighted with two “Moving Walls” transported by the Patriot Guard Riders of Florida and escorted in on Friday morning by the BCSO motorcycle team and other Police units from Cocoa. Thousands saw those wall during the weekend as they searched for names of fallen loved ones from the 1962- 75 War in Vietnam the Global War on Terror from 9/11/2001 - Present.
- **During a very Festive Saturday** there was super DJ Music and four area bands which made a great, if very warm, day at the newly upgraded Veterans Memorial Park, memorable and special. We estimated just over 4000 attended during the day. With storms threatening the last band played until 9pm.
- **Final Ceremony:** Led by MC and Event Chairman Lance Armstrong, at 0900 am on Sunday, the wrap up ceremony with several hundred present took place. Sheriff Ivey wished the riders well. LTC Timothy Thomas, USA Ret, who served on MIA collection missions in Vietnam and North Korea set the stage for the final event. The Ride For Freedom: As the weekend continued, more and more People from many veteran organizations, as well as on their own, registered or joined the RFF in progress on Sunday. There were about 1000 as the Bikes left the VMC on a 30 mile ride along 520/US1, Pineda and A1A back to Port Canaveral. The end of a very special event — the Rolling Thunder on the Ride for Freedom.



File Photos of POW School Project



# Melbourne Air Show with American Legion Auxiliary Unit 344

(Left) VMC Members Dorothy Walsh and Don Pearsall were asked to be managers of the Flight line VIP beverages. They received training on Wednesday prior to the event. A great privilege to have such a special job.

(Below) members of the **American Legion Auxiliary Unit 344** based at the Veterans Memorial Center participated in a fundraiser selling beverages in the static display area.



Many dignitaries were on hand for the show such as Tim Thomas, Rob Medina, Carl Van Dussen (Left) a Hurricane Hunter pilot and Rachel Sadoff, the first Female Clerk and Comptroller in Brevard County's 167 year history



The 2021 Melbourne Air show was catered by Veteran owned Mission BBQ. People raved about having such awesome BBQ. Dinners. They are from Orlando and Port St Lucie but hope to make another home in Brevard County





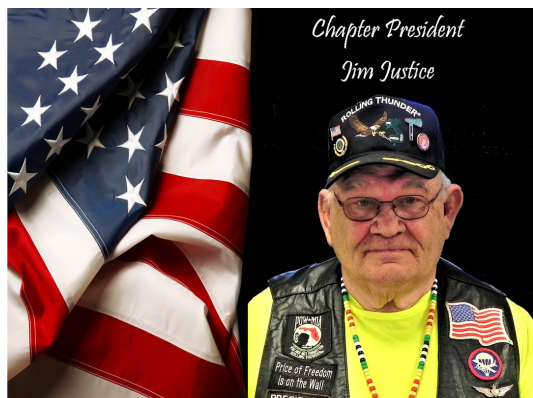
## A Rolling Thunder Moment To Remember



**Billy VanDoren, Board Member of Rolling Thunder  
Reports:**

*"It was a grand day for our chapter when I received the Pow/Mia flag from the paratroopers at the Melbourne Air show on this Sunday.*

*I could hear our chapter being praised on the loud speaker with over ten thousand spectators looking on. I also did kind of like when he said my name representing our chapter . I was presented the flag to bring home to our chapter."*



(Left) Rolling Thunder  
Chapter 1 President  
JJ Justice

## Return To Flight Resurrection Project



In order to get the UH1 Huey at the Titusville War Bird Museum to fire it's Turbine, and fly again, certain electronic parts were needed.

The static display cockpit in the front of the VMC happen to have just what was needed by the Air Command's project.

With the cooperation of Ed Pingston the VMC Museum Curator, they removed the part and replaced it with a non-working duplicate.

They wish to thank the Veterans Memorial Center and hope they can maintain a great working relationship for the benefit of all veterans





# Governance

By: Dorothy Walsh - Chairperson  
Governance Committee

Well, it's been a long and tedious road, but we have completed this year's review and update of the Council and VMC bylaws. Thank you to everyone for your support. Our next task is to review and update committee and department documents, standard operating procedures and manuals. We will ensure that the Council and VMC are up to date on all procedures and requirements. Stay tuned.



Scouts helping the VMC with flag retirement at the burn pit.



## History of the MRE (Meal Ready to Eat)



Before MRE (Meal, ready to eat) came into being, soldiers stomachached different foods, some of which were not popular. In 1900, soldiers used to eat field rations known as reserve rations, including a single pound of dehydrated meat and a biscuit. Such created a nutritional deficiency leading to the development of a C ration in 1938. C ration was a canned, contained and pre-cooked meal intended for limited consumption.

Several years later, C ration developed into another product known as MCI (Meal Combat Individual), which was better than the former. Although many soldiers disliked it, it remained in use until MRE emerged in 1983. It is noteworthy that the first MRE was manufactured in 1975. MCI included wet rations boasting 1200 calories each. Large-scale production of MRE began in 1975, while the first delivery came years later. Since then, a nutritionist has been making some improvements on MRE to make it widely acceptable. Several tests in 1986 led to increased consumption and acceptance.

Starting in 1988, the Department of Defense made several adjustments to the MRE. For example, they changed entrée size from 5oz to 8 oz. They also added commercial candies and hot sauce to four menus. As if that was not enough, they included cold beverage bases to 12 menus. After further testing, from Operation Desert Storm the feedback, they made more changes. For example, commercial freeze-dried coffee replaced mil-spec spray-dried coffee. They also added a hot source to all 12 menus and replaced dehydrated fruits with wet packed fruits. More importantly, they included commercial candy in four more menus. MRE is an important food in the military to provide nourishment for troops. Several creative tests brought better tastes to increase acceptability. At face value, MRE is a mere brown plastic bag full of food and a flameless heater. This food has unique qualities such as withstanding cold and hot temperatures. MRE is a symbol of hope as it gives optimism to military personnel working under extreme conditions to stay energetic and serve their purpose. It happens to be an alternative way of replenishing energy without much activity, such as cooking and washing dishes.

# Library Report

By: Joe Davie and Paul Julian



It will probably be a few more months until we see a significant increase in the usage of VMC facility in general and VMC Library in particular. Until this time, we are continuing to improve or otherwise enhance our Library and Museum.

We conducted just one VHP interview last month. Dominick Demonaco, 90-year-old WWII Veteran Army Air Corps Ordinance Loader, was interviewed towards the end of last month. During the war years he was stationed in England, Scotland, France Belgium, and Holland. According to Dominick, The British were afraid that their planes that they lost were not being replaced, however, he said that they received new planes from California and new Jersey.

Joe Davie continues to work with Kristi Blanchard's social media committee on improving the BVC/VMC website. The committee has launched the "Brevard Veteran's Memorial Center YouTube channel". YouTube videos of VHP interviews, Veterans back to class, and the new museum periscope may be found at the following link <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcU8D6wOy22FE8awO3YU5xA/videos> Also please take a look at our VHP featured interviews of Danny McKnight and Donn and Jeannie Weaver at our main center website <http://veteransmemorialcenter.org/veterans-history-project>

Retired Army Lt. Colonel Vic Rogers has once again filled a need by agreeing to volunteer on Friday afternoons. Volunteers Eleanor Fadok and Adrienne Davison & her mother Diane are always positive and productive people, ready, willing and able to help out wherever they are needed. As we move further along into the Spring and approach Summer, three of our Library volunteers – Doug Bisset, Norm Desmaris and Diane have returned to their "other" homes up north. They are expected to return sometime this Fall. Bill Wilkening has returned on Wednesdays and is a key Member of the VHP and BVC and VMC archives project. Bill will fill the vacancy left by Doug on Wednesdays. Although we will have student interns for the summer we still need volunteer coverage for Monday mornings and second and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday afternoons.

Joe Davie was appointed the new Library Director. Joe has been with us since we started with a room which was little more than a conference room with donated books that were piled on shelves. After several months of work and with the assistance of Hank and other Librarians, we were able to transform this book and record "storage" area into a pleasant meeting room with a Library of over 4,600 books and DVDs. Paul is now on the VMC board of directors.

Finally, we would like to invite all BVC and VMC volunteers to visit their Library to see what may be of interest to them. We welcome any comments on ways to improve or enhance our Library.

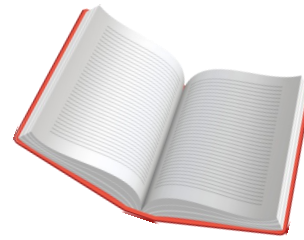
*"A library outranks any other one thing a community can do to benefit its people. It is a never failing spring in the desert."*

*Andrew Carnegie*



# Book Report

By Bill Wilkening



## The Stories of 26 Women Who Served in Vietnam by Keith Walker (section and reference number - Women in Service-11)

In describing this book, the "US ARMY Magazine" stated, "The women tell their stories with emotion, candor, and often with vivid description. Anyone who served in Vietnam will find familiar scenes and experiences."

Some of the women you will meet include: ☐ Georgeanne Duffy Andreason, Special Services, Vinh Long, who came under mortar fire during the Tet Offensive two months after her arrival. ☐ Christine McGiniley an Army Nurse in the surgical unit of the 95 th Evac Hospital in Da Nang. ☐ Pat Johnson an Army Nurse assigned to the 18th Surgical Hospital in Pleiku in 1966. ☐ Jeanne Brokina Christie who served with the American Red Cross in Nha Trang, Da Nang and Phan Rang. ☐ Bobbie Jo Pettit an Entertainer in an All-Female Band who went on two USO Tours in Vietnam, one in 1967 and another in 1971. ☐ Sandra Collingwood who served with Catholic Relief Services and tells of living with Vietnamize civilians and being trapped as she witnessed guerrilla tactics of the Viet Cong. ☐ Maureen Walsh a Navy Nurse serving at the Navy Support Hospital in Da Nang. ☐ Jane Hodge an Army Nurse at the 95 th Evac Hospital in Da Nang who describes calling the families of disfigured soldiers.

Micki Voisarrrd a civilian Airline Flight Attendant who would fly from Travis, AFB to Japan and from there to Cam Ranh Bay, Bien Hoa, Da Nang and Tan Son Nhut. Whether you are a man or woman, this book provides courageous and inspiring stories from what many consider our most unpopular war. Please come by and at least peruse this very interesting book!

Submitted by Bill Wilkening, Library Staff

## Membership

By: Sandy Eliason

BVC-VMC membership is now 504 members. We welcome you all here at the VMC, together we can make a difference in each other's lives and our community. As membership chair I'm really having a difficult time in up dating email addresses, phone numbers, home address if you moved. Some of our information is from 1991. Please email or text me your current information

[sandyk.eliason@gmail.com](mailto:sandyk.eliason@gmail.com) (321) 750-4724



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Christy Moore  
Ted Schmid

If you know of anyone in the hospital or any member deceased, Please call Chaplin Chip  
Hanson at (321) 543-7505

## **It's Trivia Time**

1. Name the 6 axis powers during WW II ?
- 2 What is the US Navy slang term for someone who never crossed the equator ?
- 3 Name the first U.S Army's aviator ?
- 4 During WW II What was the significance of the "Luftwaffe Stomp" ?
- 5 There are seven states that comprise the 6th Naval District, name them

*Answers on the next page*



# Trivia Answers

1. Japan, Italy, Hungary, Bulgaria, Rumania, Annexed Austria
- 2 Pollywog (After you cross, you are a Shellback)
- 3 LT. Sally Woolfolk became a helicopter pilot on June 1974
- 4 Combat maneuver that allowed a stall and turn, thereby allowing a fighter plane to get on the tail of his adversary.
- 5 Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, North and South Carolina



## Veteran Support



By: Don Pearsall Sgt E-5,  
1st Cavalry, US Army Aviation

### *March / May accomplishments by the Independent agency Veterans Connections to a New Life Inc.*

The agency assisted a total of 16 veterans, assisted 1 veteran with a electric FPL reconnection payment, Purchased groceries for three families in need, Distributed 8 meal boxes, Distributed 2,225 MRE Meals, Loaned out a generator to veteran who was renovating his home, Distributed 32 blankets to homeless camps in Brevard County, Purchased text books for veteran going back to school, Purchased Gasoline card for veteran traveling to VA.

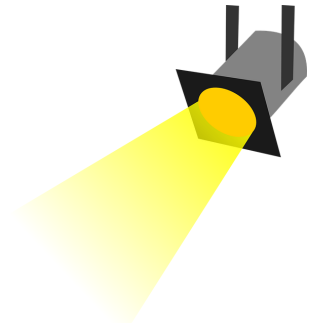
*Veterans Connection to a New Life* is a non-affiliated 501 C (3) Non-Profit foundation that oversees many Veterans Assistance programs in the county. They are the only agency in the county that is totally funded exclusively by private donations. Having no administration or employee compensation costs, allows 100% of the donations to go to the benefit of area veterans in need.

**ALL Services are  
Free for veterans**

- Transitioning from military to civilian life
- Family Acceptance and understanding
- Financial Services Assistance with expenses
- PTSD Counseling
- Substance Abuse Counseling
- Moving from the bush to a home or apartment
- Helping families adjust to the transition
- Substance Abuse Programs
- Legal Services
- Assistance with VA Issues
- Wellness Programs
- Equine Therapy
- Service and Comfort animals
- Career Support Specialties
- Reiki, Holistic and Meditation Therapy
- Peer Support Case Worker.
- New and used furniture free to veterans
- Rides to VA Appointments available
- Bus Passes for public transportation
- Shelter for cold or inclement weather
- Supplies and equipment for homeless veterans

# Museum Report

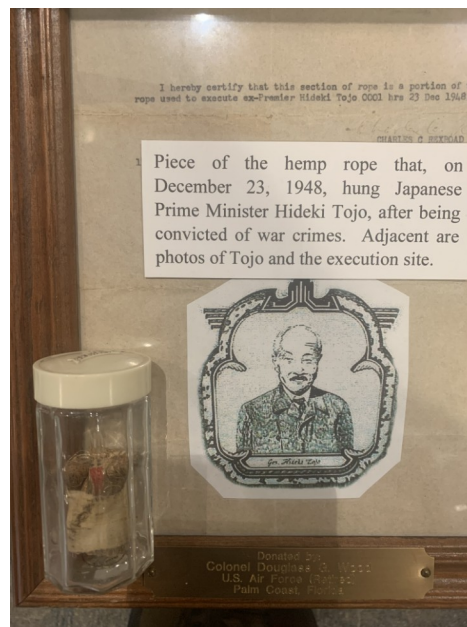
By: Ed Pingston  
Former Captain, U.S. Army  
Retired 20



( Left and Below) Studying Iwo Jima, the museum at the Veterans Memorial Center has many Japanese artifacts from WWII. Stop by and see the awesome collection of WW II memorabilia.



(Below) Iwo Jima survivors autograph a drawing of the Marines raising the American Flag on Mount Suribachi. There are about 19 survivors in Brevard County according to archive records



(Left) a piece of the rope that hung Prime Minister Hideki Tojo after WWII is one of hundreds of unique displays at the VMC Museum.

Many artifacts are one of a kind. Also, stop by and take a look through the submarine periscope, a recently acquired piece and installed on the main floor.



# 硫黄島地獄への玄関口

Iōjimajigo ku e no genkan kuchi

## Iwo Jima Gateway to Hell

The Battle of Iwo Jima was an epic military campaign between U.S. Marines and the Imperial Army of Japan in early 1945. Located 750 miles off the coast of Japan, the island of Iwo Jima had three airfields that could serve as a staging facility for a potential invasion of mainland Japan. American forces invaded the island on February 19, 1945, and the ensuing Battle of Iwo Jima lasted for five weeks. In some of the bloodiest fighting of World War II, it's believed that all but 200 or so of the 21,000 Japanese forces on the island were killed, as were almost 7,000 Marines. But once the fighting was over, the strategic value of Iwo Jima was called into question .



According to postwar analyses, the Imperial Japanese Navy had been so crippled by earlier World War II clashes in the Pacific that it was already unable to defend the empire's island holdings, including the Marshall archipelago. In addition, Japan's air force had lost many of its warplanes, and those it had were unable to protect an inner line of defenses set up by the empire's military leaders. This line of defenses included islands like Iwo Jima. Given this information, American military leaders planned an attack on the island that they believed would last no more than a few days. However, the Japanese had secretly embarked on a

new defensive tactic, taking advantage of Iwo Jima's mountainous landscape and jungles to set up camouflaged artillery positions. Although Allied forces led by the Americans bombarded Iwo Jima with bombs dropped from the sky and heavy gunfire from ships positioned off the coast of the island, the strategy developed by Japanese General Tadamichi Kuribayashi meant that the forces controlling it suffered little damage and were thus ready to repel the initial attack by the U.S. Marines, under the command of Holland M. "Howlin' Mad" Smith.



## Facts about Iwo Jima

- The island has an area of just eight square miles, making it all the more surprising that the battle lasted 36 days.
- Located in the north-west portion of the Pacific Ocean, Iwo Jima is 660 miles south of Tokyo and roughly equidistant from Japan and the US territory of Guam.
- The modest response to the initial US beach landings led the Americans to presume that their bombardment had seriously impaired Japanese defenses. In fact, the Japanese were holding back. Once the beach was full of troops and landing craft Kuribayashi signaled the commencement of a heavy artillery assault from all-angles, exposing the invading force to a nightmarish barrage of bullets and shells.
- US forces were frequently surprised to find that bunkers they'd apparently cleared with grenades or flamethrowers were swiftly reoccupied thanks to the Japanese network of tunnels.
- The M2 flamethrower was considered by US commanders to be the single most effective weapon in the Iwo Jima engagement. Each battalion was assigned a flamethrower operator and the weapons became the most effective means of attacking Japanese troops in pillboxes, caves, buildings and bunkers.
- From May 1942, the US utilized Navajo code talkers. Because Navajo grammar is so complex, mutual intelligibility and code breaking is virtually impossible. The speed and accuracy of the Navajo code talkers was indispensable at Iwo Jima – six code talkers sent and received over 800 messages, all without error.
- The summit of Suribachi, which has an elevation of 528 feet, marks the island's highest point. The American flag was raised there on 23 February 1945, but the US wouldn't claim victory in the battle until more than a month later, on 26 March.
- Over the course of the 36-day engagement there were at least 26,000 US casualties, including 6,800 dead. This made Iwo Jima the only battle of the Pacific War in which American casualties outnumbered Japanese, although the number of Japanese soldiers killed – 18,844 – was almost three times greater than the US death count.





- The ferocity of the fighting at Iwo Jima led to 22 US Marines and five members of the US Navy being awarded a Medal of Honor – the highest military decoration in America – for their bravery during the engagement. That figure makes up more than a fifth of the total 82 Medals of Honor awarded to Marines over the course of the entire war.
- After the battle, Iwo Jima served as an emergency landing site for US bombers. During the remainder of the Pacific campaign, 2,200 B-29 planes landed on the island, saving the lives of an estimated 24,000 US airmen.
- Two Japanese soldiers remained in hiding on the island for six years. They finally surrendered in 1951.
- The US military occupied Iwo Jima until 1968. At that point it was returned to the Japanese. Today, Japan operates a naval air base on the island, which is also used by the US Navy.
- The black beaches that faced American troops were far more challenging than anticipated. US plans seriously underestimated the beach terrain that their landing force would meet at Iwo Jima. Rather than the “excellent” beaches and “easy” progress predicted by planners, the force faced black volcanic ash that failed to provide safe footing, and steep 15-foot high slopes.

## Death at Japan's Doorstep

The most iconic photograph of WWII has become famous worldwide. The photograph, which won the Pulitzer Prize in 1945, served as inspiration for the United States Marine Corps War Memorial, in Arlington Ridge Park, Virginia. The memorial was unveiled on Feb 23, 2021.



*The Few, The Proud*



# Iwo Jima Today



Iwo Jima today is simply beautiful. Their main source of income is derived from tourism, as many U.S Servicemen have returned to the site. No one permanently resides there, as the government controls the whole island.

Over the years, museums and historical sites have been built to honor both sides of the conflict, and many sites like bunkers and gun emplacements have been either restored or kept in the original condition.



# Visit our Museum Gift Shop

**By: Former Major Chris Gibson, (L) U.S. Army Veteran PSYOP 20 years.**



**Dave Boyd, (R) Veteran U.S. Army Specialist 4th Pershing Missiles**



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# The Patriot Report



By: Holly Petrucci  
DAV Service Officer



Questions about the Veterans Affairs Burial Benefit Program for the National Cemetery? VA burial benefits can help service members, Veterans, and their family members plan and pay for a burial or memorial service in a VA national cemetery. Family members can also order memorial items to honor the service of a Veteran. Find out how to apply for the burial benefits you've earned.

## Eligibility Requirements

- You paid for a Veteran's burial or funeral, AND
- You have not been reimbursed by another government agency or some other source, such as the deceased Veteran's employer, AND
- The Veteran was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable, AND
- The Veteran died because of a service-related disability, OR
- The Veteran was receiving VA pension or compensation at the time of death, OR
- The Veteran was entitled to receive VA pension or compensation, but decided not to reduce his/her military retirement or disability pay, OR
- The Veteran died while hospitalized by VA, or while receiving care under VA contract at a non-VA facility, OR
- The Veteran died while traveling under proper authorization and at VA expense to or from a specified place for the purpose of examination, treatment, or care, OR
- The Veteran had an original or reopened claim pending at the time of death and has been found entitled to compensation or pension from a date prior to the date of death, OR

The Veteran died on or after October 9, 1996, while a patient at a VA-approved state nursing home.

**NOTE:** VA does not pay burial benefits if the deceased:

Died during active military service, OR

Was a member of Congress who died while holding office, OR

Was a Federal prisoner

Link for more information: [Eligibility for burial in a VA national cemetery](#)

## Burial Benefits

### Service-related Death

VA will pay up to \$2,000 toward burial expenses for deaths on or after September 11, 2001, or up to \$1,500 for deaths prior to September 11, 2001. If the Veteran is buried in a VA national cemetery, some or all of the cost of transporting the deceased may be reimbursed.

### Non-service-related Death

### References:



What does burial in a VA national cemetery include link [What does burial in a VA national cemetery include?](#)

VA will pay up to \$796 toward burial and funeral expenses for deaths on or after October 1, 2019 (if hospitalized by VA at time of death), or \$300 toward burial and funeral expenses (if not hospitalized by VA at time of death), and a \$796 plot-interment allowance (if not buried in a national cemetery). For deaths on or after December 1, 2001, but before October 1, 2011, VA will pay up to \$300 toward burial and funeral expenses and a \$300 plot-interment allowance. For deaths on or after April 1, 1988 but before October 1, 2011, VA will pay \$300 toward burial and funeral expenses (for Veterans hospitalized by VA at the time of death).

#### Evidence Requirements

Acceptable proof of death as specified in [38 CFR 3.211](#), AND

- Receipted bills that show that you made payment in whole or part, OR
- A statement of account, preferably on the printed billhead of the funeral director or cemetery owner. The statement of account must show:
  - The name of the deceased Veteran for whom the services and merchandise were furnished, AND
  - The nature and cost of the services and merchandise, AND
  - All credits, AND

The amount of the unpaid balance, if any

#### What does burial in a VA national cemetery include?

When a Veteran, service member, or family member qualifies for burial in a VA national cemetery, they receive certain burial benefits at no cost to their family.

- At the time of need, the person planning the burial can also request other [VA memorial items](#) as well as [military funeral honors](#) provided by the Department of Defense. These items and honors have other eligibility requirements. For more information [Download the National Cemetery Administration brochure \(PDF\)](#)

#### Find out if you Qualify for a Burial Allowance

Link <https://www.va.gov/burials-memorials/veterans-burial-allowance/>

#### How to Apply

You can apply [online at Vets.gov](#), OR

To submit a paper application, download and complete [VA Form 21P-530, Application for Burial Allowance](#) and mail it to the [Pension Management Center](#) that serves your state, OR

Work with an [accredited representative](#), OR

You may also go to your [local regional benefit office](#) and turn in your application for processing.

#### Additional Information:

Other information regarding VA burial benefits such as flags, headstones and markers is provided by the [National Cemetery Administration](#).

Make an appointment with a Chapter Service Officer to discuss the VA Burial Benefit Program. Call 321-452-1774 for an appointment. DAV Chapter 123 is not open and fully operating as yet. We are open on an appointment basis only!

If you aren't sure your condition rates an increase, sometimes it is best not to kick a sleeping dog; it's best to leave it just lie there.

Holly Petrucci  
Service Officer





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*- Boosters -*

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In memory of Noel Lee Bateman

In Memory of Robert M. Best

M.D. Bisset (Sept 2021)

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Mary Consolato (June 2021)

Bob Estes (April 2021)

Rick & Joan Fugaro (Oct 2021)

John & Cindy Kaufmann (Mar 2022)

J.P. & Donna Longway (Dec 2023)

John & Roberta Martin (Nov 2022)

Fleet Reserve Branch 263 (May 2022)

Rick Leonhart (March 2021)

Ted Schmid ( March 2023)

Susan Neugebauer March 2022

Raymond (Ray) Norman December 2022

Mel & Dora Mueller (Mar 2022)

Gary W. Rapp, USMC (Aug 2022)

Don & Barbara Rathbun (Dec 2023)

Jeff & Yvonne Rathbun (Dec 2021)

Tom & Patrice Roseland (Jan 2023)

Space Coast Honor Flight (Mar 2021)

Jim & Ann Tootle (Feb 2022)

Dean & Susan Schaaf (May 2021)

John S. (Tank) Sherman (Sept 2022)

Rheta Campbell Sherman (Sept 2022)

Philip Weiler (Feb 2021)

William C Weimer (Dec 2021)

Donn and Jeannie Weaver (September 2021)

Diane & Adrienne Davison (December 2021)

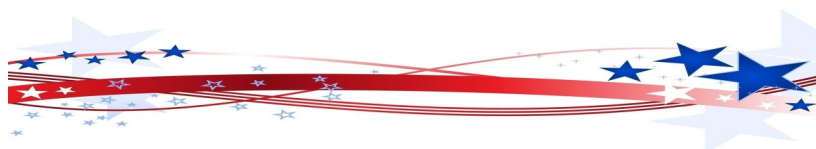
Maryanne Tucker (March 2022)

Dick & Louise Malpass (May 2022)

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Brevard Veterans Council. *Single Name per year- \$10.00 / Double Names – \$20.00*

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_





# Organizational Meetings Time and Dates

American Legion Post 344 (Last Thursday of Month at 1800 Hours)

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 344 (2nd Thursday of Month at 1730 Hours)

Combat Veterans Motorcycle Club (3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday at 1100 Hours)

DAV Chapter 123 (2nd Thursday of Month at Noon)

The Fleet Reserve Association Branch 263 (1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of Month at 1800 Hours)

Marine Corps League Detachment 513 (1st Thursday of Month at 1800 Hours)

Military Order of the Purple Heart (4<sup>th</sup> Monday of Month at 1100-1330 Hours)

Navy League (1<sup>st</sup> Monday of Month at 1800 Hours)

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of Month at 1800 Hours)

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Exec. Meeting (Last Wednesday of Month at 1800 Hours)

Rolling Thunder FL Chapter 1 (Fourth Sunday of Month at 1400 Hours)

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 12167 (Last Thursday of Month at 1700 Hours)

Non-Veteran Organizations Meeting Times at the VMC Cape Canaveral Ladies

U.S. Power Squadron (1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month at 1800 Hours)

Sea Cadets (2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of Month at 1800 Hours)



**We thank Those  
Who Tonight, Are Guarding  
The Gates Of Freedom**