



THE VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER

COUNCIL COURIER

FEBRUARY 2022



A Publication of the Brevard Veterans Council & Veterans Memorial Center



WHAT'S INSIDE

Notable History: Buffalo Soldiers

Read about the origination and little-known contributions of the Buffalo Soldiers.

— page 11

In Honor of Mary Bevan

U.S. Marine and World War II Veteran Mary Bevan passed away on 28 November 2021 and was interred at Ascension Catholic Church on 15 January 2022.

— page 18

PTSD Indicators

In our society, post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is becoming more and more common, especially among military veterans.

— page 09

Space Force JROTC Comes to Brevard County

In a historic ceremony, the first Space Force JROTC in Florida was activated on 21 January 2022.

The new JROTC will inspire the next generation of space visionaries and leaders.

— page 12

February 2022

COURIER CONTENTS

President's Report • Page 3
 Chairman's Report • Page 4
 Secretary's Report • Page 5
 Operations Report • Page 6
 Book Report • Page 6
 Treasurer's Report • Page 7
 Library Report • Page 8
 Chaplain's Corner • Page 9
 Museum Report • Page 10
 Patriot Report • Page 13
 Event Calendar • Page 16
 Plaza and Park Report • Page 17
 Board Membership List • Page 19
 Boosters • Page 22

The Courier is a monthly publication prepared and distributed in both print and electronic forms by the VMC/BVC. 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 third Wednesday of each month. Those submissions received after that date will not be published.

Please send submissions to:
brevardvmc@gmail.com

© 2022



Editor's Note

Welcome to the new format of the VMC/BVC's Council Courier Newsletter! While things may look different in the revamped publication, all the pertinent information you've enjoyed over the years will continue to appear in these pages. Including content from you.

Yes, you! If there are any Veteran activities in Brevard you snap a photo of, or have some information to pass on about achievements, benefits, or things that would be of interest to the Veteran community, please email us at brevardvmc@gmail.com and we'll do our best to include your article.



Mission Statement

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 VMC 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.

Brevard Veterans Council, Inc. & 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

LCDR Dean Schaaf, USN (Ret)

The holidays are over, and we are heading into a very busy February with some key events. Look to Donn Weaver's report on the next page to see more information on each of these special events.

On a personal note, I contracted COVID/Omicron over the holidays during my trip to Texas. What a battle it has been! I have been vaccinated, boosted, infused, and tested both using the home tests and in the drive through at the Merritt Island Mall. The last trip through was 2.5 hours. Caught up on my reading!

My symptoms were shortness of breath, a tremendous head cold and never-ending cough. I finally tested negative on a PCR test, results received on Saturday, 15 January.

Many of my complications could be that my system was so immunocompromised from the kidney transplant back in May and the antirejection meds I must take.

I cover this, because we all still need to wear masks when appropriate to protect ourselves and others. This pandemic is still not over!

I feel like I have been out of the office forever and I need to catch up on numerous things. It is great to know that the Center was in good hands when away for so long. We have a great volunteer and paid workforce. Keep up the splendid work!



HONORING VETERANS THROUGHOUT HISTORY

Veteran's Memorial Center

Sunday, February 6, 2022

1100 - 1700

Many Different Events

Integrated Into A Special Celebration

The VMC is located at

400 South Sykes Creek Pkwy

Merritt Island (behind the mall)

CONTACT: 321-453-1776



Wreaths Across America/Mobile Education Unit Presentation (11 - 5 pm)

☆☆☆☆

One Blood Donor Bus To Support Those In Need: Special Gifts (11 - 6 pm)

☆☆☆☆

Honoring Women Who Are Vietnam Veterans: Museum (1 - 2 pm)

☆☆☆☆

Quilts of Valo1 Program/Presentation

Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Pin Presentation by The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) (3 - 4 pm)

☆☆☆☆

Commemoration of the FOUR IMMORTAL CHAPLAINS of WWII including Keynote Speech by Disabled American Veterans (DAV) National Commander (2-3pm)

☆☆☆☆

Patriot Guard Riders Salute

VENDORS - SPECIAL DISPLAYS- VET ORGANIZATIONS- FOOD TRUCKS



Sunday, February 6, 2022

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Brevard Veterans Memorial Center

All donors will receive a OneBlood Long Sleeve T-shirt and a \$20 eGift Card! Plus, a wellness checkup including blood pressure, temperature, iron count, pulse and cholesterol screening!

Appointments are encouraged, please visit www.oneblood.org/donate-now and use sponsor code 866418

[OneBlood Drive VMC Event on Facebook](#)

Council Chairman's Report

by **Donn Weaver**
Captain, U.S. Army (Fmr)

As we return from holidays with family and to our many volunteer roles or membership engagement with the Veterans Memorial Center, get ready for a very busy time ahead.

You can see from our Veterans Events Calendar, two posters of big events elsewhere in this February Edition of the Courier, we are getting back on a busy and very forward leaning program of events and more and more bookings at the VMC and Park. These are exciting times as we also await huge Park upgrades and the new Amphitheater in the 18 months ahead.

There are three events I would like to share with you and ask you consider joining us for them and/or spreading the word to others.

Honor Veterans Throughout History

First, on 06 Feb 1200-1600 a very unique and diverse series of events is planned to "Honor Veterans Throughout History." Here are some details not in the Poster:

BACKGROUND: For the past six years the Veterans Memorial Center has hosted a nationally recognized ceremony to honor "The Four Immortal Chaplains" of WWII fame. This year, with many seeking ways to hold outdoor ceremonies, the day has been expanded to include a number of other very special events described below and in the poster above. We even expect more additions once the public event takes place.

Here are just a few of the programs on tap...



THE FOUR IMMORTAL CHAPLAINS:

A ceremony and telling of the story of four US Army Chaplains from different faiths who stood together and who gave up their life vests and winter gear, and their lives, to the soldiers and sailors aboard to save others.

DAV NATIONAL COMMANDER

KEYNOTE: Andy Marshall, the US National Commander of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV), will offer an address.

NATIONAL WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA MOBILE EDUCATION EXHIBIT

WOMEN VIETNAM VETERANS RECOGNITION

DAR HONORS ALL WITH VIETNAM ERA SERVICE

ROTC Rifle Competition

Then, on 12 February, VMC will host over 150 JROTC Cadets in the Park for a **Sprint Target Relay Air Rifle Competition** from 0800-1200 hours. Our support to youth is a key mission and the VMC is proud of hosting such events.

Last Naval Battle Remembrance

Mark your calendars to relive local history on 12 March when we will host the Sons, Daughters, and

Brevard Veterans Memorial Center YouTube Channel



The Veterans History Project conducted over 200 interviews with Brevard County Veterans who served in war time. [The Center's YouTube channel](#) includes some of these fascinating interviews, making them accessible to everyone.

Recently added: an interview with **Llyod Stafford**. Lloyd tells his story of service in the Air Force as an officer in civil engineering during Vietnam.

[Click here to see the full interview](#)



Children of the American Revolution organizations as they hold the annual remembrance of the Last Naval Battle of the American Revolution fought in 1783 off the coast of Cape Canaveral.

Finally, please welcome Paula Biggs, our new Courier Editor, who is working with our Online Media and Publications Chair, Kristi Blanchard, to make your new look Courier something special every month.



VMC/BVC Secretary's Report

CPT Kristi Blanchard, USA (Fmr)

As I've settled into the Secretary role, I've decided to draw on my computer science background to enhance how we communicate to our membership and community in our online media and publications. It's an iterative process to get us away from paper handouts and relying solely on email - while growing our popularity within and outside of Brevard County.

The first step is to update our very own Council Courier with the help of an experienced copy editor, Paula Biggs. She brings over two decades worth of experience in corporate communications, blog writing, websites and magazine layouts. We welcome her and are excited to continue improving our constituent communications about our beloved VMC.

Additionally, I'm testing new website layouts to modernize our pages for both tablet and mobile phones. I hope that you'll favorite and return often to the [Upcoming and "next big event,"](#) [Veteran Services](#) and other links featured in the Council Courier or our executive correspondence. Never miss an event whether you're attending or volunteering.

Joe Davie, Head Librarian, and I are also working on improving our ranking in Google, which is long term process. Our popularity grows as you visit and share links from our [website](#), [Facebook](#) and subscribe to our [YouTube videos](#)! Please share the links with your family and friends too:

- **Website:** www.veteransmemorialcenter.org
- **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/Veteransmemorialcenter/>
- **YouTube:** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcU8D6wOy22FE8awO3YU5xA>

Advertising Policy for Courier Effective Feb 2022

The VMC monthly Courier Newsletter will include a new policy for advertising starting 01 March 2022.



We appreciate having our corporate sponsors or veteran friendly businesses support us and hope they will consider advertising in the 2022 Courier. Please contact Donn Weaver (757.872.6576) if you might be interested or have questions.

RATES

Business Card: \$50 per year

Half Page Color: \$250 per year

Quarter Page Color: \$150 per year

Notes: 2021 advertising expired, so the Feb issue has no ads. Our emailed newsletter reaches hundreds, including vet organizations, government officials, 500 VMC members and more.

Ads are in support of the VMC, a 501(c)3 organization, and may be tax deductible. Funds will be used to improve the Courier and expand circulation in 2022 and beyond.





Operations Report

CPL Robert W. Doyle, USMC (Fmr)

With the resignation of Ted Suzor as my Security Manager and Operations Assistant, I will be looking for volunteers to work in each area. I need someone who can work the big events as Security Manager and assist in Manager on Duty. Also someone who would like to assist in Operation matters.

Things are happening as the center is rapidly filling up with bookings. Many large events are on the horizon starting on February 6th. There will be many things going on that day and it will be busy.

We will need many volunteers to assist in security and operational matters throughout the day during

these event. So if you are going to attend, consider volunteering as well to make the events run more smoothly.

If you look at the park you will see they have planted a lot of trees around the water. Things are picking up and they will soon start expanding the playground and pavilion areas.

Tenant groups please remember to assist in donating flats of water to the facility for daily and event use.

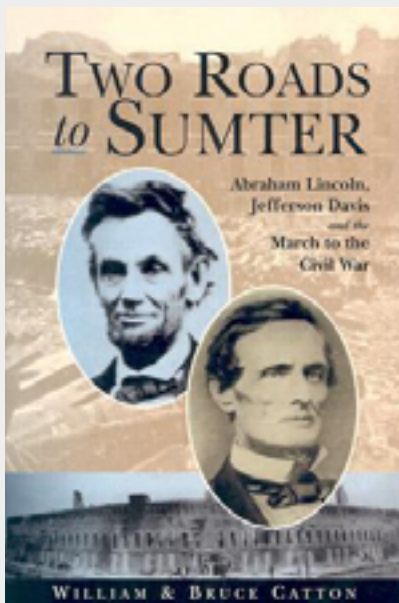


Pictured: Newly planted trees in the Park are part of ongoing improvements.

Book Report

***Two Roads to Sumter* by William and Bruce Catton**

Report by Bill Wilkening, VMC Library Staff



Using Kentucky as a backdrop, this book written in 1963 focuses on the many moderate political initiatives undertaken from 1842 to 1860 that failed to prevent the outbreak of The American Civil War.

It opens as the young Henry Clay moves from Hanover County, Virginia to Kentucky and opens a law office and closes as the first shots are fired on Fort Sumter. Perhaps the best way to describe this book is to quote a few passages from the Introduction.

"Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis did not bring the war about. They were, as the word went then, moderates, sharing a common vision of

the ultimate country, hoping that the country could compose its differences without loss of blood. But the war came, partly in spite of these men and partly because of them, and when it came, they fought one another, and led others to fight, so tenaciously that the nation had its most fearful trial by combat.

So the country tried to work out a solution by violence. The solution it finally got was imperfect and is today incomplete, and we still have problems. As we grapple with these problems we are driven to go back and try to see how the whole thing happened – to explore the terrible drift toward war, to try to understand why Americans a little more than a century ago defined freedom in ways so different that they had to fight."

This book examines that terrible drift toward war.



2022 VMC/BVC Annual Budget

SCPO (SS/SW/AC)
David D. Clayton,
USN (Ret)

The annual budget for 2022 has been set by the Finance Committee and the Executive Committee. Thanks to Kristi Blanchard, the Assistant Treasurer, the budget has been streamlined to make it a more working document.

Revenue has increased somewhat since COVID, however, we are still playing catchup with donations and general revenue such as the Bridge Club's weekly card games, bookings of the Grey Hall and the Park. We have seen an uptick with brick, bench, and tree sales.

Kristi and I will be keeping a close eye, along with the Finance Committee on our spending practices.



New Online Veterans Sales Store

Sales were good for the museum gift store over the holidays. New clothes racks were put in to hold the polo shirts to make it easier for customers to get the correct size. Stop by and check out our improvements.

New merchandise in the shop includes 60x60 blankets for your car or outdoor picnics. We also have coozies for beverages and water bottle holders for hikers or bikers.

New Online Store

Our online store has now launched. Items can be viewed online and purchased for shipping or pick up at the museum.

Profits from sales in the Veterans Sales Store benefit the Veterans Memorial Center Museum and the Brevard Veterans Council Scholarship Fund.

Community Outreach by Donn Weaver

VMC active in youth and high school sports, receives recognition

At the VMC General Meeting in January, VMC Assistant Secretary and "super mom" Julie Adamson presented the Center the 2021 Award from the Merritt Island Youth Football and Cheerleading Programs. The award was based on a number of VMC members contributing to the program. Check out the plaque in the VMC lobby.

Julie reported that the Merritt Island Cheer team went all the way to the Florida State youth cheering championships. Her son Noah was



Caption: Don Weaver accepts the 2021 Merritt Island Youth Football and Cheerleading Community Award from Julie Adamson

often the quarterback of the football team, which had a winning season as well.

VMC has recently been contacted by three local High Schools to sponsor their baseball teams with a banner so maybe we can get some more VMC advertising and community engagement with another sport this Spring.



Library Notes

**SGT Joe Davie, USAF (Fmr)
VMC Librarian**

Bill Ellis, one of our new librarians, is currently evaluating a personal collection of books from Jerry Anderson, a local veteran, that has offered them to the VMC library as a donation. This collection is large, containing both hard back and leather-bound books with the main topic of World War II.

Bill is using our catalog system to look up the books to see if we already have them in our WW II collection of over seven hundred volumes. Included are volumes 1-15 of "History of United States Naval Operations in World War II," by Samuel Eliot Morison.

The VMC library is currently accepting book donations if we do not already have them in our collection, and if they are still in serviceable condition. Books should be non-fiction topics that pertain to United States Military History.

Merritt Island Library Outreach

Library staff will participate in an outreach program put on by the Merritt Island public library on Monday Feb. 14, 2-6 PM. and Monday Feb. 21, 11 to 3 P.M. VMC Library staff will be present during these times to educate people about veterans and services available for veterans at the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center.

Black History Month

February is Black History Month, and Wayne Rowe, one of our Librarians, has partnered with the Cape Canaveral Public Library to loan the books needed from our library to build a display in the Cape Canaveral Public Library. We were able to loan the Cape Canaveral Library more than a dozen volumes on topics such as Buffalo Soldiers, Tuskegee Airman, and Colin Powell's biographies.

Colin Powell, who passed away recently, is admired by many as the man that the country would most like to draft to be President of the United States. Born in Harlem to immigrant parents from Jamaica, Colin Powell joined the Army after ROTC, serving as a young Lieutenant in Germany.

We currently have a copy available in the library of his autobiography ***My American Journey*** where we go on patrol with him into the jungles of Vietnam. Embedded with South Vietnam forces as an American advisor he



Pictured: New volunteer librarian Bill Ellis is retired Air Force, having also served as enlisted in the Navy. He can be found helping visitors to the library most mornings at the Veterans Memorial Center library.

trains them to be effective soldiers facing the enemy.

Powell rose to become a four-star general and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Called on many times by Presidents of both parties from Reagan to Bush for advice on military matters, he is looked up to by many as the embodiment of the American Dream.



**JOIN US IN HONORING AMERICA'S HEROES
WITH THE WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA
MOBILE EDUCATION EXHIBIT!**



**SUNDAY FEBRUARY 6, 2022
11AM - 5PM
400 SOUTH SYKES CREEK PKWY
MERRITT ISLAND, FL**



WREATHS across AMERICA

The Wreaths Across America Mobile Education Exhibit is a rolling exhibition that brings the local community, veterans, active duty military and their families together through interactive exhibits, short films, and shared stories. The exhibit serves as a mobile museum, educating visitors about the service and sacrifice of our nation's heroes as well as to serve as an official "welcome home" station for our nation's Veterans. All veterans, active-duty military, their families, and the local community members are invited and encouraged to visit, take a tour and speak with WAA representatives and volunteers. They can also share more about the national nonprofit, and the work its volunteers do to support our heroes and their communities overseas.

Public access for the MEE is free and open to the public with social distancing, sanitation and COVID-19 safety protocols in place to protect the health of all visitors in accordance with the CDC's recommendations for large gatherings ensuring from concerns surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. Members of the media, agencies, veterans and other interested groups are invited to come, ask questions, share stories and experience this one-of-a-kind exhibit.

HONOR A HERO AT:

www.wreathsafteramerica.org/FL0320



Chaplain's Corner

by Chaplain Chip Hanson
USMC (Fmr)

The VA set up the National Center for PTSD to aid individuals in helping find treatment for PTSD. Visit it at <http://ptsd.va.gov>.



In our society, post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is becoming more and more common, especially among military veterans.

According to health.com there are ten indicators of PTSD. Please read the following and see if you or anyone you know fits these symptoms. If you or someone you know falls into one of these categories, it is OK to seek help.

One of the first symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder is **detachment from others**. This can happen for a myriad of complicated reasons. Often, those with PTSD are afraid of how they might behave in front of other people. They worry that they might become angry or react strangely to normal occurrences.

Flashbacks are another symptom of PTSD. The symptom causes a person to relive a traumatic event. The emotional response is different for everyone. However, flashbacks often cause feelings of panic, extreme stress, and physical issues like fainting, heart palpitations, and high blood pressure.

Frequent nightmares are a common symptom of PTSD. These nightmares may focus on the event that created the trauma or they may appear unrelated. Nightmares are different from flashbacks in that they occur on a subconscious level during sleep, while flashbacks take place while the mind is alert and awake.

Someone with PTSD may **avoid situations that remind them of the events around the trauma**. For example, if the traumatic event happened at work, then the person with PTSD may have difficulty returning to their job. Additionally, they may not want to be around family or friends they associate with the traumatic event. This symptom can interfere with one's livelihood and social life.

Sleeping too much or generally losing interest in day-to-day activities and hobbies about which one used to

feel passionate can be an indicator of PTSD or another condition such as depression. If someone experiences this symptom over the long-term, on a regular basis, it may be advisable to seek professional help or advice.

An individual with PTSD may **exhibit irritability and anger in varying degrees** and at sometimes unexpected intervals, often to a greater degree than they once did. This can happen for a variety of reasons and can impact interpersonal relationships and job performance.

Memory loss can be associated with PTSD. Often, an individual will mentally block out the traumatic event temporarily or permanently. This presents challenges in diagnosis, acceptance, and recovery, as many mental health professionals encourage their patients to face and discuss the circumstances that led to the condition. In addition, people with PTSD may have difficulty recalling recent events unrelated to the trauma.

People with PTSD may find that they feel jumpy or are never completely at ease. This often occurs when a traumatic event that caused the condition is particularly frightening and life-endangering. For example, many soldiers who have spent time in active war zones and other dangerous situations may experience PTSD and, as a result, loud noises and stressful situations reminiscent of the trauma can trigger emotional and physical responses.

Sometimes, people with PTSD turn to self-medication in the form of recreational drugs and excessive alcohol consumption. This is another sign that professional medical care is necessary as soon as possible. The excessive use of drugs and alcohol can exacerbate feelings of depression and other dangerous symptoms that can lead to suicide or otherwise put an individual's life in danger.

Proverbs 1:33. "But whoever listens to me will dwell secure and will be at ease, without dread of disaster."

GOD BLESS AMERICA
Chaplain Chip Hanson





VMC Cocoa Beach Color Guard

During a recent monthly VMC/BVC meeting, we were honored and delighted to have a highly decorated all-female color guard for the first time in recent memory from Cocoa Beach High School.

Pictured from left to right:

- **Cadet Private Madelynn Earrusso:** Drill Team and a member of our mixed team for Raiders
- **Cadet Master Sergeant Kaitlyn Staddie:** Platoon Sergeant, Color Guard Commander, District Champion Drill Team Commander, member of State Champion female Raider Team
- **Cadet 2LT Aubry Forsyth: S5,** District Champion Drill Team Commander
- **Cadet 2LT Isabella Earrusso: S3,** District Champion Drill Team member, Varsity Rifle Team.
- **1st Sergeant Kevin Staddie,** US Army (Ret), JROTC Instructor.



Organizational Meeting Schedule

The VMC is home base for a number of Brevard County Veterans Organizations. These organizations meet at the VMC on a monthly basis; see the [Events & Meetings page online](#) for a full listing of times our hosted organizations meet.

FRIDAY NIGHT *Dances*

PROUDLY PRESENTED
BY THE VMC

FEBRUARY 4 AND 18 2022

TICKETS \$7.50 PER PERSON. BYOB.

DOORS OPEN AT 6:30PM

DANCES TO BE HELD THE 1ST AND 3RD FRIDAYS OF EVERY MONTH
 The funds collected are donated to the VMC/BVC fund after paying for the cost of set up, take down and clean up. Each year the VMC awards scholarships for college bound or continuing college students from Brevard County who meet the BVC-VMC criteria.

Notable History: Buffalo Soldiers

by CPT Ed Pingston, USA (Ret)

Buffalo Soldiers were originally members of the 10th Cavalry Regiment of the United States Army, formed on September 21, 1866 at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. This nickname was given to the Colored Cavalry by Native American tribes who fought in the Indian Wars. The term eventually became synonymous with all of the African-American regiments formed after the Civil War in 1866:

- 9th Cavalry Regiment
- 10th Cavalry Regiment
- 24th Infantry Regiment
- 25th Infantry Regiment
- Second 38th Infantry Regiment

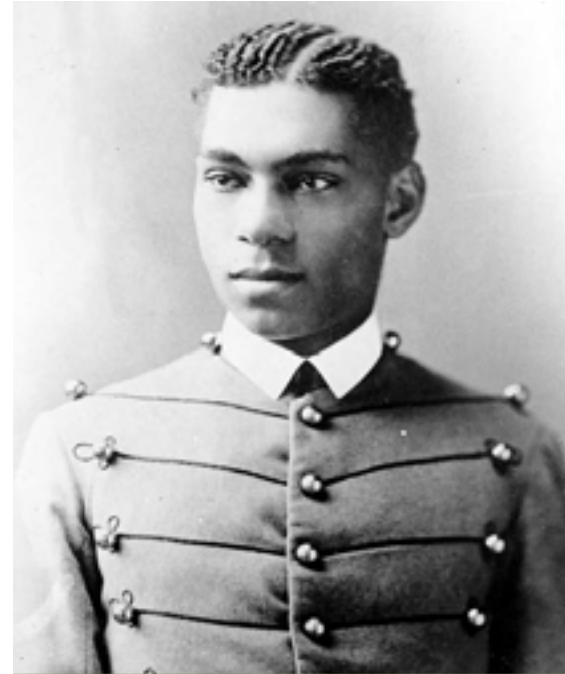
During the peacetime formation years (1865-1870), the black infantry and cavalry regiments were composed of black enlisted soldiers commanded by white commissioned officers and black noncommissioned officers. These included the first commander of the 10th Cavalry Benjamin Grierson, the first commander of the 9th Cavalry Edward Hatch, Medal of Honor recipient Louis H. Carpenter and Nicholas M. Nolan. The first black commissioned officer to lead the Buffalo Soldiers and the first black graduate of West Point, was Henry O. Flipper in 1877.

Indian Wars

From 1867 to the early 1890s, these regiments served at a variety of posts in the Southwestern United States and the Great Plains regions. They participated in most of the Indian Wars campaigns in these areas and earned a distinguished record. Thirteen enlisted men and six officers from these four regiments earned the Medal of Honor during the Indian Wars.



Interesting Buffalo Soldier fact: The main tasks of the Buffalo Soldier serving on the western frontier after the Civil War were to help control the Native Americans of the Plains, capture cattle rustlers and thieves, and protect settlers, stage coaches, wagon trains and railroad crews. (Source: History.com)



Pictured: First black West Point graduate and first black commissioned officer to lead the Buffalo Soldiers, Henry O. Flipper.



Another little-known contribution of the Buffalo Soldiers: they were some of the first national park rangers. Eight troops of the 9th Cavalry Regiment and one company of the 24th Infantry Regiment served in California's Sierra Nevada performing the same duties as white platoons. In 1899, Buffalo Soldiers from Company H, 24th Infantry Regiment briefly served in Yosemite National Park, Sequoia National Park, and General Grant (Kings Canyon) National Parks.



Space Force ROTC Comes to Brevard County

One of only 10 Space Force JROTC programs in the country was officially been activated right here in Brevard County in a historic ceremony.

Several MOAACC and VMC leaders joined about 400 people, including a number of active duty Space Force personnel, to witness a unique ceremony on 21 January. The Air Force JROTC Unit at Space Coast Jr/Sr High School (SCJSHS) was officially deactivated (it began in 2008) and the new FL-20082 Space Force JROTC was activated in a moving ceremony on a cloudy but beautiful day.

In an unreal moment, all assembled witnessed the launch of a ULA Atlas 5 DoD Rocket two minutes after the official ceremony ended!

The VMC and MOAACC, with its Good Deeds Foundation, supports all 15 high school JROTC units in the county. The SCJSHS has 120 cadets in the program and is one of only 10 Space Force JROTC activated in the entire country for the 2021-22 school year, and the only one in Florida.



Top Picture: The Chorus and Color Guard Prepare

Bottom Picture: Singing of the National Anthem.

Newsletter cover: Celebrating the JROTC unit activation.



Pictured: New Guidon.



The Patriot Report

Disabled American Veterans (DAV), Space Coast Chapter 123, Inc.

VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (VA DIC) for Spouses, Dependents and Parents

DIC eligibility for survivors of Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans

If the VA denied your Blue Water Navy Veteran's service-connected disability claim in the past, you may be eligible for DIC benefits based on the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019.

Veterans who served on a Blue Water Navy vessel offshore of the Republic of Vietnam, or on another U.S. Navy or Coast Guard ship operating in the coastal waterways of Vietnam between November 1, 1955, and May 7, 1975, are now entitled to a presumption of service connection for illnesses related to Agent Orange exposure. This is a result of Public Law 116-23, also known as the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019.

Are you eligible for VA DIC as a surviving spouse, dependent or parent?

As a surviving spouse

You may be eligible for VA benefits or compensation if you meet these requirements.

One of these must be true:

- You lived with the Veteran or service member without a break until their death, or
- If you're separated, you were not at fault for the separation

AND one of these must be true:

If you're the surviving spouse, child, or parent of a service member who died in the line of duty, or the survivor of a Veteran who died from a service-related injury or illness, you may be able to get a tax-free monetary benefit called VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (VA DIC).

Find out if you can get VA benefits or compensation. Drop by and speak to a DAV Service Officer at any DAV Chapter or the DAV Office at any VA Clinic.

- You married the Veteran or service member within 15 years of their discharge from the period of military service during which the qualifying illness or injury started or got worse, or
- You were married to the Veteran or service member for at least 1 year, or
- You had a child with the Veteran or service member

As a surviving child

You may be eligible for VA benefits or compensation if you meet these requirements.

All of these must be true:

- You aren't married, and
- You are not included on the surviving spouse's compensation, and
- You're under the age of 18 (or under the age of 23 if attending school)

Note: If you were adopted out of the Veteran's or service member's family, but meet all other eligibility criteria, you still qualify for compensation.

(continued on next page)

(continued from previous page)

Evidence

You'll need to provide evidence with your claim showing that one of these descriptions is true for the Veteran or service member. Evidence may include documents like military service records, doctor's reports, and medical test results.

Provide evidence showing that one of these is true:

- The service member died while on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive-duty training, or
- The Veteran died from a service-connected illness or injury, or
- The Veteran didn't die from a service-connected illness or injury, but was eligible to receive VA compensation for a service-connected disability that was rated as totally disabling for a certain period of time

Note. If the Veteran's eligibility was due to a service-connected disability rated as totally disabling, they must have had this rating:

- For at least 10 years before their death, or
- Since their release from active duty and for at least 5 years immediately before their death, or
- For at least 1 year before their death if they were a former prisoner of war who died after September 30, 1999

Note: "Totally disabling" means the Veteran's injuries make it impossible for them to work.

As a surviving parent

You may be eligible for VA benefits or compensation if you meet these requirements.

Both of these must be true:

- You're the biological, adoptive, or foster parent of the Veteran or service member, and
- Your income is below a certain amount

Note: We define a foster parent as someone who served in the role of a parent to the Veteran or service member before their last entry into active service.

Evidence

You'll need to provide evidence with your claim showing that one of these descriptions is true for the Veteran or service member. Evidence may include documents like military service records, doctor's reports, and medical test results.

Provide evidence showing that one of these is true:

- The service member died from an injury or illness while on active duty or in the line of duty while on active duty for training, or
- The service member died from an injury or certain illnesses in the line of duty while on inactive training, or
- The Veteran died from a service-connected illness or injury

What benefits are available?

First you'll need to fill out an application for benefits. The application you fill out will depend on your survivor status. Your DAV Service Officer can select the correct form depending on your status. There is no time limit to file for benefits for an eligible survivor if the veteran passed from a service connected condition.

If you qualify, you can get tax-free monetary benefits. The monetary amount you receive depends on the type of survivor you are.

If you're the surviving spouse or child of a service member who died while on active duty, your military casualty assistance officer will help you to complete an Application for DIC, Death Pension, and/or Accrued Benefits by a Surviving Spouse or Child (VA Form 21P-534a). The officer will help you mail the form to the correct VA regional office.

Should I submit Intent to File form?

You may want to submit an Intent to File form before you apply for DIC benefits. This can give you the time you need to gather your evidence while avoiding a later potential start date (also called an effective date). When you notify VA of your intent to file, you may be able to get retroactive payments.

(Source: Veterans Benefit Newsletter, January 2022)

The 238th Commemoration of the
**The Last Naval Battle
of the Revolutionary War**



Saturday, March 12, 2022
Veteran's Memorial Center
1000-1100 a.m.

**Presented by the Sons, Daughters, and
Children of the American Revolution**





Unofficial Brevard VMC Vets Calendar Feb 2022 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/other-veterans-events/>

FEBRUARY

04 Feb — St Francis Reflections Presents The Beatles Tribute Band from Liverpool in concert as part of their "Honor Veterans Program" at 1900 at Space Coast Stadium in Viera. Buy tickets at text 41444 or RelectionsLSC.org/Beatles.

06 Feb — HONORING VETERANS THROUGHOUT HISTORY at the VMC 1100-1700. Includes Ceremony to honor the Immortal Four Chaplains; Recognizing Women Veterans of the Vietnam Era; DAR honoring Vietnam Vets and Survivors in Welcome Home; the National Wreaths Across America Mobile Educational Team; Keynote speech by DAV National Commander Andy Marshall; ONE BLOOD Donor vehicle; Quilts of Valor, Patriot Guard Riders and more. See REVISED Flyer or contact VMC for more details.

12 Feb — Brevard County JROTC Sprint Target Relay Air Rifle Competition in the Veterans Memorial Park (0700- 1200). Will include numerous JROTC teams from various services in a special competition of skill and endurance. Coordinated by LTC Brian Whalen, USA, Ret Army JROTC Instructor at Rockledge HS.

12 Feb — Tenth Annual Pioneer Day at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Sams House/Pine Island on Merritt Island north of 528 off Courtney Blvd. 1000 - 1600. Exhibits and Special Events, food and kids games, etc. Contact Martha Pessaro 321-505-2418 for questions or to register an exhibit.

NOTE: Forever Remember 9/11: A Salute to First Responders FundRaiser Dinner. Postponed until August from 13 Feb.

17 Feb — Honor America Patriot Awards Dinner 1800-2100 at The Grand Manor, 1450 Sarno Road in Melbourne. Sponsored by Liberty Bell Museum. Dinner \$50 per person with table sponsorships at \$500 available. Call 321-373-2311 or honoramericafl@gmail.com for reservations and information. Proceeds

support the re-opened Liberty Bell Museum.

24 Feb — Office of Sen. Mario Rubio monthly office hours for veterans to report issues and questions to the senator. VMC Library 1400-1600. POC: Tom Self 407-254-2573. Appointments encouraged.

MARCH

12 Mar — Commemoration of the Last Naval Battle of the American Revolution 1000-1100 Veterans Memorial Center Plaza Outdoors area. Sponsored by the Brevard Sons of the American Revolution Chapter with SAR and DAR Units from all over Florida expected to attend. Food Trucks and other festivities planned. Contact the VMC, Donn Weaver, for more information.

31 Mar — Office of Sen. Mario Rubio monthly office hours for veterans to report issues and questions to the senator. VMC Library 1400-1600. POC: Tom Self 407-254-2573. Appointments encouraged.

APRIL

28 Apr — Office of Sen. Mario Rubio monthly office hours for veterans to report issues and questions to the senator. VMC Library 1400-1600. POC: Tom Self 407-254-2573. Appointments encouraged.

30 Apr — "Battle of the Badges" at the VMC and Park 1000-1400. Public Welcome to watch a variety of events as Brevard's Police and Sheriff personnel challenge the Brevard Fire Teams in a variety of competitive events. Food and drinks available for all fans and contestants at nominal costs — no betting authorized!! Look for more details in late February. Part of a special FIRST RESPONDERS WEEKEND at the VMC.

For events beyond April, please visit the [VMC online event calendar](https://veteransmemorialcenter.org/other-veterans-events/).



Pictured: VMC Presiden Dean Schaff cuts the ribbon at the official opening of phase 2 of Veteran's Memorial Park in 2021. He was accompanied by other member of the board.

Park and Plaza Report

by Donn Weaver

In the past month, we have received donations for three more Park Memorial Benches, one more Park Memorial Tree, and 14 Memorial Bricks in the Plaza. Two more improvement Phases in the Park will be completed in 2022-2023.

In the past month, we have received donations for three more Park Memorial Benches, one more Park Memorial Tree, and 14 Memorial Bricks in the Plaza. Our contractor for the Plaza work, C-Spray, run by Chad and Kitty Stoudt, has been with us from the beginning of the Plaza in 2009. They are working on a contract plan to continue to annually upgrade, maintain and improve the Plaza in addition to regular brick engraving.

Next month we will have an update on the new **Monument to Fallen Allies** which is slated to be installed near the **Chaplains Monument** in the Plaza.

Park Bench Memorials

Regarding our new Park Benches, we will obtain the plaques to mount on the four benches soon, as they are on order. We've been permitted to mount one of our memorial plaques on the one bench we have outside the museum, allowing prospective donors to see what a lasting and special tribute the benches will be.

Memorial Trees

We now have 23 orders paid for with markers on hand. We are awaiting the March county ground breaking in the Park for electrical and irrigation upgrades. At that time, we hope to dedicate the trees as part of our 30 May Memorial Day Ceremony.

Ribbon Cutting in the Park

On the Park, thought you might enjoy seeing our March 2021 Ribbon Cutting Phase II photo again with the promise of two more to come in 2022-23: Phase Three with all the other upgrades, including more trees; an expanded playground and cover; a food preparation station, water, power, lighting, more restrooms, more parking; trail workout stations and more (Phase III) and the Amphitheater in Phase IV.





In honor of Mary Bevan, United States Marine

Mary was an integral part of the Brevard County Detachment Commandant, Marine Corps League, and Woman Marines Association

U.S. Marine and World War II Veteran Mary Bevan passed away on 28 November 2021. She was interred at Ascension Catholic Church on 15 January 2022.

Mary was a very active member in her church, Veterans activities/benefits, the Marine Corps League and the Woman Marines Association. She was a Past Commandant for the Brevard County Detachment when they met in Melbourne. Her leadership and Esprit de Corps were second to none.

The members of her Detachment made the request to her son John that they would be honored if they could do the Final Honors in her memory rather than our Active Duty counterparts. It was granted.

A video of Mary's funeral can be found [here](#).

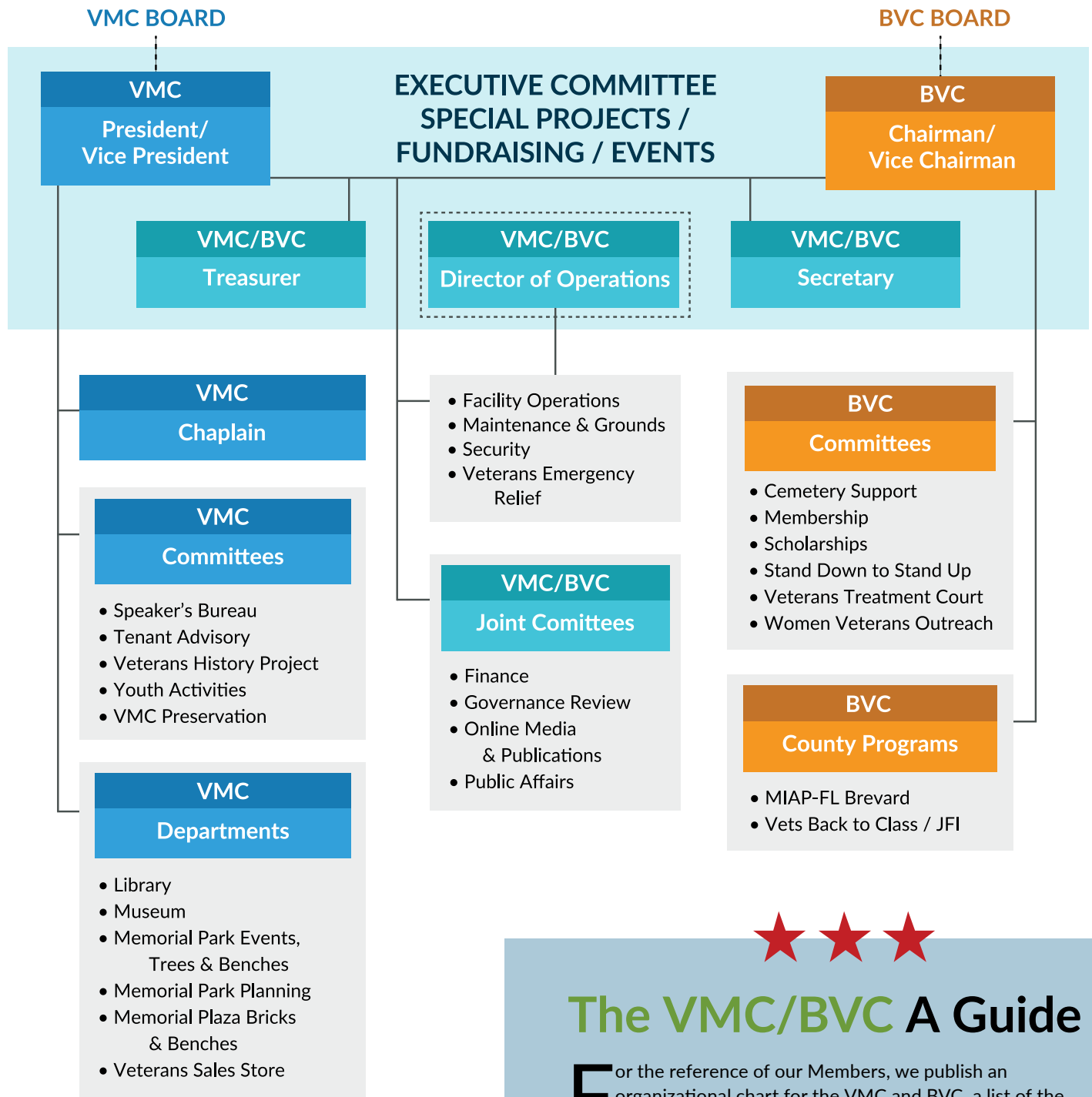


Pictured: Detachment member Marine Gary Corbett plays TAPS as Marines Vinnie Howard and Carlos Rivera prepare to fold the flag. Kimberly Benton and Tom Fitzgerald perform Color Guard duties.





Veterans Memorial Center/ Brevard Veterans Council Organizational Structure



Brevard BVC/VMC Directors 19 Jan 2022

BVC/VMC Leadership Team			
BVC Chair/VMC Vice Pres	Donn Weaver	757-871-6576	donnweaver2020@gmail.com
VMC President/BVC Vice Chair	Dean Schaaf	794-4371	dschaaf@brevard.net
BVC/VMC Secretary	Kristi Blanchard	449-1226	brevardvmc@gmail.com
BVC/VMC Treasurer	Dave Clayton	401-255-5461	bvmctreasurer@gmail.com
Brevard Veterans Council Board of Directors			
3 Year	Ed Pingston	794-9401	ed@pingstonservices.com
3 Year	Ray Norman	452-5376	normanrayl@yahoo.com
3 Year	Ted Schmid	863-3640	tedschmid88@gmail.com
2 Year	Bill Pollock	352-258-6414	wrp50@yahoo.com
2 Year	Rich Tomasso	720-6944	rich4400@gmail.com
2 Year	Ted Suzor	271-4327	dolfyns21@cfl.rr.com
1 Year	Alex Terrero	759-5543	aja3@bellsouth.net
1 Year	Mike Schulze	208-8441	mcshulze@verizon.net
1 Year	Vic Rogers	603-707-2304	itcret@yahoo.com
BVC Chaplain	Chip Hanson	543-7505	chipvietnam@aol.com
DAV Chapter 123	Rodger Pickett	795-3108	rpickett@davfla.com
Immed. Past BVC Chair	Donn Weaver	757-871-6576	donnweaver2020@gmail.com
Veterans Memorial Center Board of Directors			
3 Year	Dave Boyd	266-3825	dboyd52@outlook.com
3 Year	Mary Ann Tucker	986-9494	wellmare@aol.com
3 Year	Paul Julian	749-7369	pjulian54@yahoo.com
2 Year	Dorothy Walsh	426-6736	dwalshusa@gmail.com
2 Year	Harry Beaver	507-4228	sgmbeaver@netzero.net
2 Year	Lou Rossi	394-1669	No email
1 Year	Doris Hendricks	458-1138	dorisroses@yahoo.com
1 Year	Garet McKimmie	571-239-9991	garetmck@yahoo.com
1 Year	Jay Longway	449-9037	jpl3x@yahoo.com
VMC Advisory Chair	Dennis Herring	693-7209	dmherring7602@sbcglobal.net
Immed. Past VMC Pres	Dean Schaaf	794-4371	dschaaf@brevard.net
Veterans Center - Non Voting Support Positions			
Asst. Secretary	Julie Adamson	446-4663	Juliecladamson@gmail.com
Asst. Store Mgr	Jalaine Spears	258-1139	jkspears1@gmail.com
Asst. Treasurer	Kristi Blanchard	449-1226	bvmctreasurer@gmail.com
Librarian	Joe Davie	636-8644	jdavie@cfl.rr.com
Maint & Grounds Supervisor	Kelly Martin	813-263-0832	bosnmate68@yahoo.com
Membership	Sandy Eliason	750-4724	sandyk.eliason@gmail.com
Museum Curator	Ed Pingston	794-9401	ed@pingstonservices.com
Museum Curator (Assoc.)	Alex Terrero	759-5543	aja3@bellsouth.net
Online Media & Pubs	Kristi Blanchard	449-1226	brevardvmc@gmail.com
Operations Director	Bob Doyle	276-7814	vmcoperationsmgr@gmail.com
Photographer	Roger Scruggs	795-6545	scruggs@tvphotog.com

Committee/Department Assignments 17 January 2022

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EX COMM)		
Ad Hoc Committees as needed		Donn Weaver, Dean Schaaf, Dave Clayton, Kristi Blanchard
Events		Donn Weaver, Dean Schaaf, Dave Clayton, Kristi Blanchard
Fund Raising		Donn Weaver, Dean Schaaf, Dave Clayton, Kristi Blanchard
Special Projects		Donn Weaver, Dean Schaaf, Dave Clayton, Kristi Blanchard
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE (OPS COMM)		
Facility Operations/Maintenance & Grounds/Security	Bob Doyle	EX COMM Rep, MOD, CSW, AARP, Security, Kelly Martin (Maint & Grounds)
Veterans Emergency Relief	Bob Doyle	EX COMM
ORGANIZATIONAL ELEMENT	LEAD	VOLUNTEERS
CENTER DEPARTMENTS		
Library	Joe Davie	Bill Wilkening, Bill Ellis, Norm Desmarias, Doug Bissett, Eleanor Fadok, Hank Rhodes, Jill Rippon, Vic Rogers, Wayne Rowe, Paul Julian
Museum	Ed Pingston	Alex Terrero, Kristi Blanchard, Ted Schmid, Allen Spence, Docents
Memorial Park Events, Trees & Benches	Donn Weaver	Dean Schaaf, Dave Clayton, Garett McKimmie, Jalaine Spears
Memorial Park Planning	Dean Schaaf	Donn Weaver, Dean Schaaf, MIRA, County (Parks&Rec)
Memorial Plaza Bricks & Benches	Donn Weaver	Dean Schaaf, Sandy Eliason, Garett McKimmie
VMC Preservation	Jay Longway	Ted Schmid, Dean Schaaf, Ed Pingston, Ray Norman, Bill Pollock, Don Pearsall, Doug Bisset
Veterans Sales Store	Dave Boyd	Jalaine Spears (asst mgr), Chris Gibson, Donna Longway, Ray Norman, Jay Longway, Mike Wrazen, Vic Rogers, Garett McKimmie
JOINT COMMITTEES		
Finance	Dave Clayton	Jay Longway, Rich Tomasso, Ed Pingston, Kristi Blanchard, Dave Boyd
Governance Review	Dorothy Walsh	Ernie Hoffman, Ray Norman, Ted Suzor, Chip Hanson, Harry Beaver, Kristi Blanchard (EX COMM Rep), Ted Schmid, Mike Schulze
Online Media & Publications	Kristi Blanchard	Joe Davie, Doris Hendricks, Roger Scruggs, Courier Contractor
Public Affairs	Harry Beaver	Chip Hanson, Ray Norman, EX COMM Rep
COUNCIL ONLY COMMITTEES		
Cemetery Support	Chip Hanson	Dorothy Walsh (Brevard), Donn Weaver (CCNC), Ray Norman (MI), Bob Doyle (VFW), Dave Pincheck (AL), Rosemarie Hill (AL Aux)
Membership	Sandy Eliason	Kristi Blanchard, Dave Clayton
Scholarships	Doris Hendricks	Dean Schaaf, Ray Norman, Rich Tomasso, Mary Ann Tucker, Jay Longway, Garett McKimmie
Stand Down to Stand Up	Donn Weaver	Dean Schaaf, Bob Doyle, Ted Suzor
Veterans Treatment Court	Brian Whalen	Skip Taylor, Dorothy Walsh, Kelly Martin
Women Veterans Outreach	Christine Tate	Dorothy Walsh, Amanda Herrnkind, Adrienne Leonhardt
CENTER ONLY COMMITTEES		
Speaker's Bureau	Paul Julian	Norm Desmarias, Donn Weaver, Dean Schaaf
Tenant Advisory	Dennis Herring	DAV 123, FRA 263, other current tenant orgs
Veterans History Project	Paul Julian	Donn Weaver, Chip Hanson, Julie Adamson, Joe Davie
Youth Activities	Paul Julian	Bob Doyle, Dean Schaaf, SCYM Leader
COUNTY PROGRAMS		
MIAP-FL Brevard	Donn Weaver	Chip Hanson, Doris Hendricks, Rich Tomasso, Paul Julian
Vets Back to Class / JFI	Donn Weaver	Dean Schaaf, Chris Gibson, Doug Bisset, Paul Julian, Joe Davie, Norm Desmarias, Hank Rhodes

BECOME A BOOSTER TODAY and help defray the cost of producing our newsletter.
Only \$10.00 per name, per year.



Boosters

Bateman, Skip & Ruth July, 2026	Mueller, Mel & Dora Mar, 2022
Bisset, M Doug Sept, 2023	Neugebauer, Susan Mar, 2022
Clayton, David & Anne July, 2022	Rapp, Gary (USMC) Aug, 2022
Davison, Dianne & Adrienne Feb, 2022	Rathbun, Don & Barbara Dec, 2023
Donovan, Charles & Nancy Feb, 2022	Roseland, Tom & Patrice Jan, 2023
Eliason, Sandra July, 2022	Schaaf, Dean & Susan July, 2022
Fadok, Eleanor Dec 2022	Sherman, John S. (Tank) Sept, 2022
Fleet Reserve Branch 263 July, 2023	Sherman, Rheta Campbell Sept, 2022
Fugaro, Joan & Ricardo Nov, 2022	Schmid, Ted Jan, 2023
Kaufmann, John & Cindy Mar, 2022	Space Coast Honor Flight May, 2023
Leonhart, Rick Mar, 2023	Tootle, Jim & Ann Feb, 2022
Longway, J.P & Donna Dec, 2023	Tucker, Mary Ann Mar, 2022
Malpass, Dick & Louise May, 2022	Weiler, Philip R. Feb, 2023
Martin, John & Roberta Nov, 2022	Weaver, Donn & Jeanne Sep, 2022

If you feel your name is missing and that you paid for Booster sponsorship this year, please contact the Treasurer. Thank you for your forbearance and understanding. Fill in your names and send to the BVC along with your check.

Please make your check payable to: Brevard Veterans Council (Boosters).

Single Name per year- \$10.00 / Double Names – \$20.00

Name(s) _____