



THE VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER

COUNCIL COURIER

APRIL 2022



A Publication of the Brevard Veterans Council & Veterans Memorial Center



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JROTC on the March

Local JROTC units compete for the right to march on to states. — page 14

In Memoriam: Glenn Sandler

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A Helping Hand for Samaritan's Closet

Aiding those who make it their mission to help others: VMC supports Sandy Noble and her cause. — page 11

Last Naval Battle of the American Revolution Commemoration

The Battle of the Shores of Cape Canaveral is remembered by Revolutionary enthusiasts in partnership with the VMC.

A visual event, period costumes, a ceremonial 21 gun salute and Parade of Flags are highlights of this celebration of history.

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Photo by Robert Scruggs

April 2022

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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 Those submissions received after that date will not be published.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

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Our Organization

As of 17 January 2022:

[List of Board Members 2021-2022](#)

As of 14 February 2022:

[Committee Department Assignment 2021-2022](#)

As of 14 February 2022:

[BVC VMC Org Chart 2021-2022](#)



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.

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 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)



April is here, but March Madness is still going on as I write this article. Go Purdue Boilermakers! The other March madness is trying to recover from that hour of sleep that I lost and will never get it back. Let us stay on one time!

Events at the VMC

We had some great events in March, with the Last Naval Battle and the Meet the MOB event.

April will have more exciting events like the Senior Expo at Club 52 on April 8 and the Propeller Club sponsored Shrimp Festival on April 8 from 6-10 PM at Terminal 5 Port Canaveral. The Brevard County Sheriffs Office (BSCO) will have an event in the Park on Saturday, April 16. Fun for all.

Scholarship Program

Scholarship applications are starting to come in, we have two so far. If you know of a senior that is graduating and has

been accepted to a college or university, remind them of our Scholarship program.

The Park

Take note of the new signs erected at the west end of the Park on Fortenberry and at the entrance to the Veterans Center on Sykes Creek. We continue to try to promote our great facility and encourage more participation in the way of rentals and bookings of our facility and park. Also note that the County Parks and Recreation Department replaced the rotted and partially collapsed fence along the front of our property.

Our brick sales are picking up and the docents in the museum are doing an excellent job in promoting the program. Donn and I want to congratulate Garet McKimme for all she is doing, coordinating with us and C-Spray to get the bricks ordered, engraved, and installed. Bravo Zulu!

Bob Doyle and his team are doing an excellent job keeping the property looking clean and nicely trimmed. All hands can assist in keeping the Veterans Memorial Center looking sharp, both inside and outside.

Again, thanks to all our volunteers, we could not do it without your tireless work.

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[FACEBOOK](#)

[WEBSITE](#)

[YOUTUBE](#)



Highlights from the VMC Museum

The uniform of WASP Pilot Helen Snapp, Class 43-4. Helen frequently flew tow-target missions over the Atlantic, as gunners on the beach fired live ammunition at her cloth target. Read more about Helen's accomplishments [here](#). See her uniform in person at the museum.



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.



Council Chairman's Report

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

A Very Special Park

Hope you are all well and finding ways to negotiate the many challenges this year is bringing to everyone. I thought sharing some very positive news would be a great idea as a theme for April and its spring growing time. Our Veterans Memorial Park is nothing short of special and more and more people are discovering its value.

The Center and 82 acre Veterans Memorial Park adjacent, is more and more demand. Check the VMC Vet Events Calendar for more details of each program and consider marking your calendars to attend. Here are just a few highlights:

- Each day more than 200 people visit Veterans Memorial Park (VMP) to jog, picnic, bike, walk, fish and otherwise enjoy a safe and beautiful environment.
- More than 600 JROTC cadets from 11 high schools used

VMP for various events from January through March. Two major Scout campouts were held with more planned.

- The Brevard County Sheriff's Office will host two major events at Veterans Memorial Park: Their Annual Easter Egg Hunt for Visually Impaired Children of Brevard, (Contact BCSO Foundation to register. Features eggs with sound emitters!!) and on 30 April the Battle of the Badges in a series of events pitting BCSO and Police against the Fire Department.
- Back Brevard Heroes will then host a huge bbq and party to honor all first responders and their families the day after the "Battle" ends.
- Memorial Day (30 May) and July 4th BCSO/VMC Parade after party will wrap up a great half year of events and activities at VMP.

Enjoy!!!



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VMC Women Veterans Support Committee Gets a Boost

In 2021, the Veterans Memorial Center (VMC) created the first ever VMC Women Veterans Support Committee. Christine Tate, an Air Force Veteran, VMC and MOAACC partner through St. Francis Reflections, took the chair position as their program and impact expands.

On 16 March 2022, they were provided \$800 from the Good Deeds Foundation (GDF) of MOAACC to cover cards, a pop up sign, posters, other costs as their numbers expand.

Look for a future article about their activities. They are clearly helping more and more women veterans as they work through their VMC home base.



Pictured: L-R, Dean Schaaf a GDF Board member and President of VMC, presents the check to Christine Tate and one of her Committee Members, Dorothy Walsh, as VMC Treasurer Dave Clayton looks on. VMC will manage the funds as the committee draws when needed to expand their mission.

Advertise in the Courier

We appreciate having our corporate sponsors and 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

Quarter Page Color: \$150 per year

Half Page Color: \$250 per year

Our emailed newsletter reaches hundreds, including veteran organizations, government officials, 400 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.



FRIDAY NIGHT Dances

PROUDLY PRESENTED
BY THE VMC

APRIL 15th 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.



Operations Report

CPL Robert W. Doyle, USMC

Water Donations for the VMC

Through some generous donations we have water to last for awhile. If you did not donate, you can do so financially by giving a donation to the WATER FUND. This is not a big ask to our tenant groups who use meeting space, and the support in this area goes a long way. Please give!

Park Improvements and Facility Rentals

Things are happening now in the Park. You will see many more trees as they are planted along the edge of the water. Fishing has improved according to many fishermen and bass seems to be in big demand at the moment. Wood railings and some wood structures are being replaced and upgraded.

Our facility is almost booked solid for the next few months and a few spots still remain. If you have an event that you are considering, please call to see if a spot is open for you.

Please remember the Veterans Memorial Center is not a dog park and only Service Dogs on a leash are permitted on the grounds.



Some new signage has been completed at the front of the facility and down at the end of the park advertising our grounds.

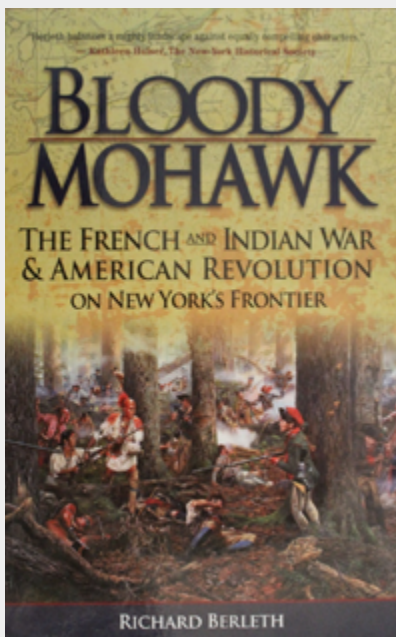
Life is picking up fast--as as the weather improves we hope to see our facility packed on a daily basis. If you don't already, consider volunteering and helping your center grow. I am in need of a Security Staff and Assistant Operations Staff if anyone is interested.

Flag Retirement Update

A gentle reminder that we are no longer accepting synthetic flags (i.e., 70% nylon/30% cotton, 100% polyester) in our flag drop box because they are made of petroleum-based products and are dangerous to the environment and our Scouts when burned. However, you can retire your own synthetic flag with a pair of scissors and by following the instructions on [this Boy Scout website](#). We are still accepting 100% cotton flags for retirement in the VMC firepit.

Book Report

Bloody Mohawk by Richard Berleth (REV-53)



European settlers and Native Americans competed for control of the strategic Mohawk River Valley in upstate New York as major conflicts such as the French and Indian War and the Revolutionary War raged throughout the region.

Bloody Mowhawk begins its tale in 1732 with the arrival of William Johnson from County Meath, Ireland who held a charter to over 500 acres on the north side of the Mohawk River. In short order, British, Irish, Scots Irish, Highland Scots, Germans and even escaped slaves founded competing settlements in the valley.

Unlike many other settlers, Johnson befriended the native tribes. Comprised of six native nations centered in upstate

NY, the Iroquois Confederation was one of Johnsons alliances. These tribes dominated the interior of the continent and Johnson may have been the first European the natives escorted to their confederation compound as an honored guest.

Johnson was one of the few people who could navigate between the native tribes, the English authorities and the Dutch in Albany. Because of this, during the French and Indian War, Johnson was appointed as a **General in the New York Militia** and was credited with winning the Battle of Lake George.

The story jumps ahead to when the borders of New York, New England,

continued on next page

continued from previous page

Canada and Pennsylvania were more theoretical than actual. After the French and Indian War, the Governors of Pennsylvania and Virginia sought to mediate a peace treaty between the Iroquois Confederation in the north and the native tribes of the south. They turned to two individuals from the frontier of the Mohawk Valley: a Mohawk native named Shickellamy and a European named Conrad Wiser to negotiate.

Wiser spoke several native languages and Shickellamy spoke English. The two traveled between Albany, New York City,

Philadelphia, Williamsburg and the country's interior and were successful in fending off a full-scale native war.

If you are interested in the little-known story of how the people of a relatively small valley in upstate New York and their competing interests helped shape our Nation, *Bloody Mowhawk* will be an extremely interesting read.

Bill Wilkening
Library Staff



Library Notes

SGT Joe Davie, USAF (Fmr)
VMC Librarian

The library continues to video veterans telling their stories as part of the **Library of Congress Veterans History Project**. Paul interviewed Stanley Borucki on February 24th in our library.

Stanley served over 20 years in the US Air Force between Active Duty and the Reserves. He enlisted and received both his Basic Training and Security Training at Lackland AFB. After serving stateside at Griffiths and in Canada in base security, he applied and was accepted to provide security guarding Air Force One and Air Force Two at Andrews AFB in the Washington, DC area.

Stanley flew on Air Force Two whenever it was in the air. He tells numerous stories of flying to many foreign countries with US dignitaries on board and meeting his security counter parts abroad. Stanley's VHP interview can be viewed here <https://youtu.be/5ikfH7xgngo>

New Technology in the Library

Librarians are learning to use our new Plus-Tech scanner to begin a new category of Collections for our library. In addition to our Objects Collections

used by the museum and our Books Collections used by the library, we are beginning to catalog a new category called **Photo Collections**.

We have held donations of photos for some time and are now beginning to catalog the photos into similar topics using the same type methods seen in the Museum and library.

We have in our collections photos of WWII, the Korean War, and Vietnam War and the Wars on Terror. Special topics will include the WWII Campaigns: Holocaust, Africa Medical Corps, Bunta New Guinea and the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan.

Photo Collection Goals

The long-term goal of this project is to create a public resource and share these photos online using web pages for display.

So far, the librarians that have pitched in to help in the organization are Joe, Wayne, Bill, Jill, Garett, Vic, Bill E, Norm and Doug. Cataloging such a collection is certainly a team effort!



Veterans History Project Feature: Stanley Borucki



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.

This month's feature: an interview with **Stanley Borucki**

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



Chaplain's Corner

by Chaplain Chip Hanson
USMC (Fmr)

This year, and for the third time this century, the Jewish celebration of Passover and the Christian holiday Good Friday fall on the same calendar day. The two previously coincided in 2012 and 2015.

When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "It is finished," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit. (John 19:30)

Good Friday is one of the most important days in the Holy Week, which begins on Palm Sunday and ends on Easter Sunday. In short, Good Friday marks the crucifixion and dying of Christ. On this day, many Christians reflect upon Christ's sacrifice for their sins. This year, Good Friday falls on April 15th.

Passover is part of the Jewish tradition of remembering how the angel of death passed over all to kill the first-born sons, unless a certain sign was placed over the doorway of each believer's home.

That ye shall say, it is the sacrifice of the LORD'S Passover, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt, when he smote the Egyptians, and delivered our houses. And the people bowed the head and worshipped. (Exodus 12:27)

Easter is a Christian Celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ on the first day of the week the third day after his Crucifixion on the Cross. This year, we will celebrate Easter on April 17th.

"Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him." (Mark 16:6 | NIV |)

Pray for peace in Ukraine.

GOD BLESS AMERICA
Chaplain Chip Hanson



The Space Coast Jazz Society presents:

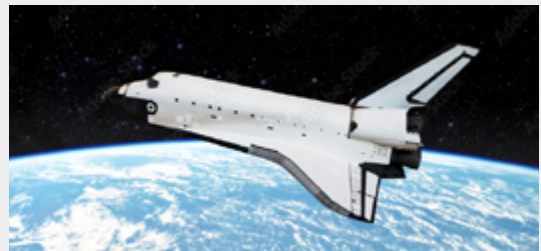
Monthly LIVE JAZZ Concerts by a variety of professional bands

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**\$5 discount for members of
the Veterans Memorial Center**

Open to the Public

Schedule & details at:
SpaceCoastJazzSociety.org



Remembering the Space Shuttle

Many veterans in our area were or are involved in the Space Program. Please help us spread the word about a unique event to relive the Space Shuttle Program at an event in Titusville on 06 April, 0900-1700 with several panels included.

Details are on the Poster on the following page. MOAACC and the VMC are especially proud to see LCDR Dean Schaaf, USN, Ret. and NASA, Ret. was selected for one of the key talks about the Space Shuttle Emergency Landing Recovery Team. Dean was with NASA for virtually the entire Shuttle Program.

Astronauts
Memorial
Foundation



CELEBRATE WITH US

Sat. April 16, 2022

9 am to 5 pm

Open to the Public

**American
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GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY of the DAWN of the SPACE SHUTTLE ERA

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*U.S. Congress approved the Space Transportation System in April 1972
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TALKS

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Special 3 pm panel with

Launch Directors - Jim Harrington Bob Sieck Mike Leinbach

KSC Dir. Jay Honeycutt & Astronaut/USA Pres. Mike McCulley

Scheduled to appear

Hugh Harris, PAO

Terry White OPF Mgr

Dean Schaaf TAL

Jean Wright TPS

"Triple T" White Room



Vendors

Ken Havekotte

JL Pickering Books

More to come

Contact: marq@americanspacemuseum.org



Members of the MOB

Veterans Memorial Center, Park, Library
and Museum

Liberty Bell Memorial Museum &
Melbourne Memorial Park

Brevard Museum of History and Natural
Science

Warbird Museum Valiant Air Command

American Space Museum & U.S. Space
Walk of Fame

Sands Space History Center

Air Force Space & Missile Museum

Museum of Dinosaurs and Ancient
Cultures

American Police Hall of Fame & Museum

Florida Surf Museum

Library of Florida History

The Moore Cultural Center & Museum

Cape Canaveral Lighthouse

Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge

Historic Pritchard House

Sams House at Pine Island
Conservation Area

Field Manor

Lawndale H. S. Williams Home

Historic Rossetter House Museum

Green Gables at Historic Riverview
Village

Museums of Brevard Together We are Better

by Dean Schaaf

The Museums of Brevard, known as the MOB, is a loosely organized member organization made up of twenty museums, historical centers, cultural centers, historic homes and the Cape Canaveral light house in Brevard County.

The MOB formed several years ago and meets monthly to exchange information and ideas, promote our partners in the organization and strive to educate our community and younger generation students.

Bi-monthly, our Collections Managers and Curators meet to exchange ideas and share different methods of preserving, storing, and displaying artifacts. Basically, attendees are getting a crash course in "Museum 101," or how best to run and operate a museum or historic home. With so many of our organizations led by volunteers with

experience in areas other than running a museum, this sharing of information is vital to improving the quality of our centers.

The MOB is working with Lead Brevard, a group of businesses and education leaders in the community to assist in creating a improved organization that will possibly become a 501c(3), LLC, or other type of entity.

Find the MOB's colorful brochure available at all MOB venues, Chambers of Commerce, and visitor centers.



Caption: MOB meetings are informative for all in attendance. Improving the quality of our museums and educating the public is the ultimate goal.

Staying on the Road and Getting Storage Help for a Unique Mission

For more than 25 years, the Cocoa Cavalry Church and other organizations have supported Sandy Noble and her Samaritan's Closet passion. She has delivered food, clothes, personal effects, household items and much more to thousands of at risk or homeless veterans and their families during that period. Sandy operates a storage facility in Cocoa where many come to collect such necessities.

The Veterans Memorial Center and National Veterans Homeless Support (NVHS) have happily supported Ms. Noble with storage rental. We also enjoy her support--she is always one of the biggest vendors during the Central Brevard Stand Downs operated through VMC for 25 years. Our next "Stand Down to Stand Up" returns 7-8 Oct at the Cocoa Armory after a three year COVID required hiatus. Sandy Noble will be ready as she collects from donors, including the VMC drop off point where she often can fill her trailer and vehicle.

Learn more about Samaritan's Closet [on their website](#) or contact VMC or NVHS leaders who depend on and support that program.

Rising gas prices in 2022 hit the program very hard since Sandy drives hundreds of miles every month from Titusville to Palm Bay on her mission of heart. So, this year another supporting partner has arrived. **The Good Deeds Foundation (GDF)** of the Cape Canaveral Chapter of Military Officers Association of America provided a grant of \$1000 to defray high fuel costs at the rate of \$100 per month from March- Dec 2022. VMC is handling the funds to make sure Sandy gets those funds each month!

Teamwork among veteran organizations is evident with this project in support of Sandy and her Closet. That makes it better for all the veterans and families who are in distress that she serves. God Bless Sandy Noble, her Church and the Samaritan's Closet!!



Veterans Sales Store

Business and sales for the museum store have picked up with Spring Break and the cruise ships sailing again. We've seen visitors from Canada, England, Ireland, Sweden, and many northern states.

We have new items on hand, including VMC coffee mugs, patriotic sunglasses, and a collection of wooden Americana decorative pieces.

Tourist brochures from local hotels include coupons for the gift store and several have been redeemed. Great advertisement for us.

Don't forget to visit our online shop at <https://vetsales.square.site/>



Pictured: Suspect you will know it is Sandy Noble in the middle of this photo in the VMC library as she receives a \$1000 check in two versions. L-R, VMC Librarian Joe Davie and VMC Ops Director Bob Doyle represent the VMC while GDF members Dean Schaaf and Donn Weaver use their MOAACC hats to pass the bucks.



American History Remembered: The Last Naval Battle of the American Revolution, 239 Years Later

by Donn Weaver

The weather forecast on Saturday, March 12, was terrible with major rains, thunderstorms and even some tornado warnings. Even so, a few hundred brave citizens came to participate in and enjoy the 239th Commemoration of the Last Naval Battle of the American Revolutionary War.

The Brevard Chapter of the **Sons of the American Revolution (SAR)**, the **Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR)** and one of the **Childrens of the Revolution (CAR)** were the primary presenters and organizers of the event, but were greatly assisted by the VMC and the Good Deeds Foundation.

In attendance were the Chaplain General of the National SAR, Dwight Elam, and Brevard SAR President James Ward, both of whom were key speakers. A number of the SAR, DAR and CAR participants created great atmosphere for the event by dressing in period attire. They were in contrast to the crisp whites and fatigues of today's US Navy,

Test Unit (NOTU) and their Commanding Officer CAPT Jason Schneider, another primary speaker.

The Navy Marine Corps League Color Guard, Courageous Division of the US Naval Sea Cadets, dozens of SAR, DAR and CAR members and five local Veteran organizations joined NOTU in an impressive Parade of Flags and Wreath Laying for those who died in the 1783 Battle of the Shores of Cape Canaveral.

Thanks to MOAACC, American Legion/Aux, St Francis Reflections and the FSU School of Social Work/OneBlood Big Red Bus who were also participants in the day despite the weather. Veteran Connections to a New Life provided a great bbq and will use its proceeds to help veterans in crisis in Brevard County.

NOTU brought their Ceremonial Deck Guns and fired a 21 Gun Salute, while VMC Ops Director Bob Doyle and his daughter Danielle played TAPS to end the ceremony just before torrential rains began. Photos tell the story. We hope more will learn about this historic event in Florida history and attend the ceremony next year at the VMC!



Pictured: A Parade of Flags, period costumes, and a 21 gun salute by NOTU were among the memorable sites at the event.

Special Gifts to VMC from an American Patriot

Leaving a legacy, Glenn Sandler's support of veteran causes will be remembered.

Five years ago, Glenn Sandler, CEO of GI Tax in Melbourne, met VMC leaders during an Honor Flight where he volunteered as a Guardian four times.

After hearing about the VMC Expansion in 2015-18, he wanted to help. Over the course of two years, GI Tax donated more than \$5000 to the VMC. He is honored with a granite piece on our Memorial Plaza Wall. Glenn also hosted a BBQ for over 300 people at no charge at a VMC Memorial Day Ceremony.

Glenn was not a veteran, but his dad and father-in-law were. Inspired by his family, he created his company with a veteran



Pictured: Glenn Sandler with his van.

focus and began to support veteran organizations in Brevard County.

Although we did not hear the news until February, we are deeply saddened to hear of Glenn Sandler's passing at age 61 last November. His wife Lauren will be a special guest at an upcoming VMC General Meeting. In the mean time, she donated more than \$3,000 worth of flags, military memorabilia and table decorations to the VMC. Many of these items are now for sale at our Museum Store, making sure Glenn's legacy of supporting veterans continues.

The VMC will soon place a brick in Glenn's memory in the Plaza.



Space Coast Jazz Concert at VMC: A Great Way to Spend a Sunday Afternoon

Last month the VMC Courier included an article and new advertisement about one of the newest organizations to rent our beautiful Gray Hall space: the Space Coast Jazz Society.

Several VMC members attended the 13 March performance by the Jazz Society at the VMC to see what they had to offer. The attendees were not disappointed!

The Society hosts the jazz concert the second Sunday of every month from 1400-1600 hours. The music is great, you can bring wine and cheese or whatever snacks you want, the cost is nominal and the 50/50 raffle enticing. All of which makes for a great change of pace for a couple of hours. Please come and check it out as the numbers attending continue to grow. Check out their ad in this issue for more information.



The VMC depends on the community to move forward. Few in the community did as much as Glenn Sandler.

Our condolences go to Lauren and the Sandler family along with our appreciation for their gifts and the chance to have known him.



Pictured: Glenn Sandler was a staunch supporter of veterans causes. Here he donated and served food for VMC's Memorial Day Event.





Pictured: The JROTC Cadre of Brevard ready to go in the Regional Drill Meet at VMP



Pictured: Brian Whalen (MOAACC/VMC) and Donn Weaver (GDF and VMC) present the first place Drill Overall trophy to CBHS.

Brevard County JROTC Cadets on the March

by Donn Weaver

Since January, JROTC cadets who tried out and made their unit's Drill Teams have walked and marched many miles. They have practiced individually before and after school, and in regular practices in their drill categories (Platoon, Armed, Unarmed, Squad, Color Guard, and individual performance) during school and after hours.

Some of them also found time to compete in Air Rifle Competition, and in the case of Palm Bay's Marine JROTC unit, in a unique Raider challenge endurance Event on 05 February. Eight schools also staged a unique 12 February Sprint Relay Event combining long distance running and timed air rifle shooting at Veterans Memorial Park (VMP) on Merritt Island.

Last Fall, three of five endurance tests of the Raider Challenge were held at VMP. Cocoa Beach qualified for State competition, where their Female Team WON the title and Male Team came in Second. Very impressive given the large number of JROTC Teams in Florida.

Air Rifle season for the Region ends 26 March 0800-1200 at Palm Bay High School. Fifteen schools are expected to compete and attempt to qualify for the State Air Rifle Championships in April.

JROTC classes on top of sports and other activities is tough enough for high school students, but working on one of the three competing teams (Drill, Raider Challenge and Air Rifle) requires real effort and time management. Hats off to all those cadets who accept those added challenges.

Organized Drill activities began on 05 February with a seven school practice drill meet at VMP. The District Meet was held 26

Feb and the Regional Drill meet at VMP on 05 March. Cocoa Beach won the overall Drill title with Cocoa coming in a strong second. They, and other schools, qualified and will "March to The State" finals on 02 April. Good Luck.

The VMC supports these events. The Good Deeds Foundation (GDF) of the Cape Canaveral Chapter of the Military Officers Association (MOAACC) provides trophies, and American Legion Post 344 of Merritt Island covers the medals for the Sprint Relay Event. For veterans, there are few things more important than supporting our next generation.



Pictured: The winning Cocoa Beach Jr/Sr HS JROTC Drill Team at Regionals.



The Patriot Report

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

The VA has been working to expand its medical foster home program that allows caregivers to care for Veterans in their own home.

Anticipating Boom of Aging Veterans, VA to Expand Care, Services for the Elderly

**Patricia Kime and
Department of Veterans Affairs | By Tim Hudak**

The Department of Veterans Affairs is planning to expand several programs that allow senior veterans to age in their homes or live in home-like settings as alternatives to elder care facilities. VA officials announced Monday, January 24, 2022 they will expand the Home-Based Primary Care and Veteran-Directed Care programs, which provide medical care and caregiver services to housebound older veterans, and its Medical Foster Home program, which provides housing and services to veterans who otherwise would be in nursing homes.

Most Veterans do not want to go in to an institution for their aging care, so VA has been working to expand its medical foster home program that allows caregivers to care for Veterans in their own home. It's a win-win situation for both VA and the Veterans that chose the option, as they are able to receive personalized care in a home setting and it is less expensive than institutionalized care.

"Veterans love this program because it gives them an opportunity to be a part of a loving family," said Beau Williams, the Medical Foster Home Program coordinator for the Tampa, Florida, VA Medical Center. Williams is charged with not only marketing the program and placing the Veterans in these loving homes, but also interviewing and approving the caregivers. "I look for caregivers with not only the qualifications required, but most importantly that they have a good heart," Williams said.

The expansion is needed, said officials with the VA's Office of Geriatrics and Extended Care, to ensure that the department can support a growing number of veterans eligible for nursing home care. By 2039, the number of elderly veterans is expected to double from 2 million to 4 million.

"These evidence-based programs allow veterans to age-in-place, avoid or delay nursing home placement and choose the care environment that aligns most with their care needs, preferences and goals," said Dr. Scotte Hartronft, the office's executive director, in a press release.

Since 1999, the Department of Veterans Affairs has been required to provide nursing home services to veterans who qualify for VA health care and have a service-connected disability rating of 70% or higher, or are considered unemployable and have a disability rating of 60% or higher. This care is provided through short or long-term nursing home facilities, respite care, VA community living centers, private assisted living facilities, state veterans homes and the Medical Foster Home program.

Medical foster homes are places where veterans live full time in a home setting with a caregiver licensed to provide 24-hour support, meals, housing, help with daily living and companionship. The program places veterans in houses belonging to or managed by caregivers that are licensed by their states as assisted-living facilities.

To be eligible for the program, veterans must be enrolled in VA health care and have a complex disabling medical condition that requires coordination of care across VA services and is severe enough to need a nursing home level of care.

Because medical foster homes are not considered institutional care, the VA cannot pay the cost directly. The veterans can use their VA disability compensation, Social Security income and savings to pay the cost, which covers room and board and support.

The VA has faced challenges increasing the number of Medical Foster Homes because of the rigorous regulations and requirements of the facilities and caregivers.

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The process for becoming a home provider is rigorous: They must pass a federal background check, complete 80 hours of initial training and 20 hours of additional training each year, and maintain certifications in first aid, CPR and administering medications. Home caregivers must live on-site, are required to provide around-the-clock supervision and care for their veterans, and have relief staff for when they go on vacation or need to conduct other business.

Veterans in the Medical Foster Care program must also use the VA's Home-Based Primary Care program, which provides a team of health professionals to treat veterans in their homes. A VA study found that this type of home-based care yielded a 31% reduction in hospital admissions for veterans in the program and 59% drop in VA in-patient hospitalization days.

VA officials said that more veterans have elected to use the in-home medical care and caregiver programs during the pandemic, as well as the Medical Foster Care program, to reduce their risk of contracting COVID-19 and to have more flexibility in medical treatment.

"Veterans using these programs have experienced fewer

hospitalizations and emergency department visits, reduced hospital and nursing home days and fewer nursing home readmissions and inpatient complications," Dr. Hartronft said.

More information on these programs is available at the VA's Office of Geriatrics and Extended Care website.

http://www.va.gov/geriatrics/guide/longtermcare/medical_foster_homes.asp#

ON SALE IN THE VETERANS STORE

Gray service tee shirts (running/ gym) for all services have been reduced to \$10 for small thru XL and \$12 for 2X-3X.



Veterans' Children's Easter Party

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 344 Annual Veterans' Children's Easter Party Saturday April 9, 2022 from 1:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M. Veterans Memorial Park, 400 South Sykes Creek Pkwy. Merritt Island

All Veterans' children are welcome, we just need to know you'll be there so please RSVP by Tuesday, April 5th Call Diane: (607) 382-3405

There will be games, crafts, lunch, and an Easter egg hunt with the Easter Bunny

Contributions of individually wrapped candy (no chocolate), small Dollar Tree type Easter baskets, and candy filled plastic Easter eggs can be left at the MOD office at the Veterans Memorial Center. Please be sure to mark it for Diane Davison, ALA 344



Spring Bake Sale

Date: Wednesday, April 13, 2022

Time: 9:00 AM until all goodies are gone

Where: Veterans Memorial Center
400 S Sykes Creek Pkwy, MI

All proceeds will benefit our Veteran and Children & Youth Programs



Unofficial Brevard VMC Vets Calendar April 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/>

APRIL

06 Apr — Golden Anniversary of the Dawn of the Space Shuttle Era. 0900- 1700 at the Hyatt Place Titusville on Route 1 Conference Center. Many veterans were and are part of the Space Program. VMC President Dean Schaaf will be a key speaker. Contact marq@americanspacemuseum.org for more information.

08 Apr — **Senior Expo 1000-1600 at Club 52 in Melbourne.** Dozens of vendors and information related to seniors and senior veterans. Sponsored by Senior Life, Bluewater Group.

08 Apr — **SHRIMPFEAST:** ShrimpFeast is back!!! Mark your calendar for Friday, April 8, 6 - 10 pm at Cruise Terminal 5! Fishlips will be the caterer and Wild Ocean Seafood is supplying the Shrimp! Live music by The Beach Bums! Door Prizes, Silent Auction, and the Hawaiian/Tropical Shirt contest! Register online at this link: [SHRIMPFEAST 2022](#). Tickets are \$60 per person and will NOT be sold at the door, pre-registration is required!

16 Apr — **BCSO Annual Easter Egg Hunt for Visually Impaired Children of Brevard at Veterans Memorial Park, MI 0900-1400.** Contact BCSO Foundation to register. Features eggs with sound emitters!!

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.

29, 30 Apr and 01 May — Vero Beach Air Show featuring The Blue Angels and much more. 0900-1600 daily at the Vero Beach Regional Airport. Tickets and Parking passes required. Available on Line at Vero Beach Air Show 2022.

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.

MAY

01 May — **Third Annual First Responders Appreciation BBQ** at the VMC and Park 12-1500. Free for all First Responders, Active Duty and Veterans including BBQ, drinks, music, special kids events, vendors that support First Responders and veterans. Done in partnership with Back Brevard Heroes and the VMC. Contact backbrevardheroes@gmail.com for more information.

14 May — **The Space Coast Food Festival** 1400 - 1830 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 CBRCC 321-459-2200.

26 May — **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 May — **Memorial Day Ceremony** at the VMC 0930-1030.

JUNE

04 Jun — **BCSO Sponsored "Dancing for the Stars"** annual event and fundraiser for selected charitable organizations. 1700-2100 at Clemente Center on the FIT Campus. VMC is one of three 501c.3 organizations

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Park and Plaza Report

by Donn Weaver

THE PLAZA

Check out the recent landscaping and other upgrades to our plaza in March. In addition to more than 18 memorial bricks being installed, CSpray has done a great job edging and trimming and has sealed two of the now 13 year old cement benches including repainting, repairs and re-letting the tops.

Take a special look at one new brick in the Plaza entry way: In Memory and Honor of Glenn Sandler, who died suddenly late last year. He contributed over \$8000 to the VMC Expansion and other events, including many gifts from his business, GI Tax. His story appears in this issue of the Courier.

THE PARK

We now have completed our Memorial Park Bench purchase program thanks to Doug Bisset's help. We hope more people will come forward to purchase these beautiful, sturdy and maintenance free benches to honor loved ones and offer more places to relax in the Park, including among the Memorial Shady Trees (23 purchased so far) once irrigation is installed this summer.

NOTE: VMC now offers VMP Memorial Benches as the Park Expands (5 purchased so far) in addition to Memorial Trees once the new irrigation system is installed at VMP and the Memorial Bricks in our Plaza. There is a sample bench located outside our Museum along with photos and costs of all the options.

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that will benefit from the proceeds of this great fundraiser. Details of the event, tickets, and how to support the VMC sponsored dancers follow in March. Special thanks to Sheriff Ivey and his team for selecting the VMC in 2022!!!!

30 Jun — 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.

04 Jul — Fourth annual VMC/BCSO Merritt Island Independence Day Parade 0900-1100. Details follow in March.

For events beyond July, please visit the [VMC online event calendar](#).



Highlights from the VMC Museum

Uniform of SSG Lafayette Pool, US Army, 1944, 3rd Armored



SSG Pool was an American tank-crew and tank-platoon commander in World War II and is credited with 12 confirmed tank kills, 258 total armored vehicle and self-propelled gun kills, over 1,000 German soldiers killed and 250 more taken as prisoners of war. He received many medals, including the Distinguished Service Cross, the Legion of Merit, the Silver Star, the Purple Heart, the Belgian fourragère, and the French Legion of Honour. **On display at the VMC Museum.**



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Only \$10.00 per name, per year.



Boosters

Bateman, Skip & Ruth July, 2026

Bisset, M Doug Sept, 2023

Clayton, David & Anne July, 2022

Eliason, Sandra July, 2022

Fadok, Eleanor Dec 2022

Fleet Reserve Branch 263 July, 2023

Fugaro, Joan & Ricardo Nov, 2022

Leonhart, Rick Mar, 2023

Longway, J.P & Donna Dec, 2023

Malpass, Dick & Louise May, 2022

Martin, John & Roberta Nov, 2022

Rapp, Gary (USMC) Aug, 2022

Rathbun, Don & Barbara Dec, 2023

Roseland, Tom & Patrice Jan, 2023

Schaaf, Dean & Susan July, 2022

Sherman, John S. (Tank) Sept, 2022

Sherman, Rheta Campbell Sept, 2022

Schmid, Ted Jan, 2023

Space Coast Honor Flight May, 2023

Weiler, Philip R. Feb, 2023

Weaver, Donn & Jeanne Sep, 2022

Florida State University College of Social Work
April, 2023

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) _____