



THE VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER

COUNCIL COURIER

MAY 2022



A Publication of the Brevard Veterans Council & Veterans Memorial Center



WHAT'S INSIDE

Supporting our Youth

Courageous Division Sea Cadets get a helping hand. – page 15

Rolling Thunder Leaves its Mark

Veteran club posts POW flag at Space Coast Stadium. – page 12

Glenn Sandler's Legacy Lives On

We continue to give our heartfelt thanks to Glen and his family for their generous support over the years. – page 13

Remembering the Start of the Space Shuttle Program

Sixty years have elapsed since the first planning meeting that started the Space Shuttle Program.

Astronauts, scientists and military veterans involved in the project gathered to mark the anniversary in April with an amazing collection of minds that launched us to space.

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May 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 Those submissions received after that date will not be published.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 20 April 2022:

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

As of 20 April 2022:

[Committee Department Assignment 2021-2022](#)

As of 20 April 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 Veterans Memorial Center (VMC) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. VMC's mission is to maintain and operate a premier facility to educate the public and provide a vibrant memorial to the service and sacrifice of all military veterans and their families through a museum, memorial plaza, library, and veterans park.

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)



We had some major events in April, but I particularly want to single out one, and that is the **Senior Expo** that was held at Club 52 in Melbourne on April 8. Many thanks to Harry Beaver, Ray Norman, and Maggie Funderburk for staffing our museum booth. Attendance was good and many new contacts were made.

Speaking of Space

I was one of the speakers at the **60th Anniversary of the Dawn of the Space Shuttle Program** held on Saturday, April 16. My discussion centered on support of the landing sites for the shuttle, both planned and emergency landings. It was well attended by astronauts and key NASA and Contractor Managers of the Space Shuttle Program.

Many May Happenings

May will be another busy month at the VMC and around the county. All events are listed in the Chairman's Brevard Vet's Calendar, but I want to draw your

attention to some that I hope you will support: **Battle of the Badges** on April 30, **Back Brevard Heros** on May 1st, and the **34th All Veterans Reunion** at Wickham Park from 5-8 May. The Vietnam Moving Wall will be on display along with wreaths from many veterans organizations. The VMC will have a booth to spread word of our museum and many other projects to support veterans. Volunteers to staff the booth are needed.

On May 14, there will be a new event at the center, the Children's Charities 5K run. The run will take place around the Mall and end up in the Veterans Park.

Scholarship applications are starting to come in, we have four 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. Applications are due on July 5th, 2022.

Our brick sales are picking up and the docents in the museum are doing an excellent job in promoting the program. Attendance to the Museum and donations to the Center are also increasing.

Thank you to all who contribute and especially, thanks to all our volunteers. We could not do it without your tireless work.

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[FACEBOOK](#)

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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)

Election Season

The Brevard Veterans Council was chartered by Brevard County as a 501(c)19 in 1979 with the Veterans Memorial Center added as a 501(c)3 in 1990. Throughout those 43 years, our organization (let's call the combined version VMC) has relied on leaders willing to devote time, energy and their past experience to continue to move our many missions, and impact in the entire veteran community and county forward.

Recently, the Boards approved a revised Mission Statement for the BVC and VMC which is posted in the Center main lobby. Please read it, and if not already a volunteer, consider joining us to continue that long line of accomplishments and contributions by the VMC. There are so many ways to volunteer and serve beginning with just a few hours per week.

Politics aside, 2022 is an important election year for our country, as is every year for the VMC. Each year six total BVC/VMC Board Positions rotate off and every position in the Executive Committee comes up for vote. This year, per our

by-laws, I appointed a great BVC/VMC Nominating Committee made up of Rich Tomasso, Chairman, Paul Julian, Dave Boyd and Ted Schmid. None are running for office. They have also assembled a team to support the Election Day event. Thanks to them for already surveying dozens for consideration in the nominating process.

Please contact any of them if you are interested in learning more about Board and other elected positions. Nominations will close with a final call from the floor at our 11 May 2022 VMC General Meeting. The candidates will be announced thereafter via email to our 500 members and will be posted in the June Courier. The Election will be held at our June Membership meeting on the 8th. Swearing in of our new leadership will be conducted by a county official at our July Membership Meeting.

I hope you agree, as we get close to our 45th anniversary, that we have come a long way. Several iterations of generational leadership, with lots of volunteer teamwork, has led that process to very visible and positive results. I know the 2022 evolution will keep things moving forward so we can all be proud that we volunteer at THE VMC.



The Dover Detail gets a Boost from the Good Deeds Foundation

Dean Schaff, (LTCMDR, USN, Ret) Brevard Veterans Memorial President & Donn Weaver (Captain, USA, Ret) Vice President, both members of MOAA (Military Officer's Association of America) presented a check for \$1000 to Jerry Vaughan, Marine Corps League Associate Member, CEO & Founder of The Dover Detail from MOAA's Good Deeds Foundation.

The Dover Detail is an Extension of Down the Road Thrift Inc, a registered 501(c)3 non profit organization whose singular mission is to provide a complete and accurate Uniform for any deceased member of the Armed Forces. The Good Deeds Foundation is a 501(3)C organization that provides monetary support to youth, active duty military and veteran programs here in Brevard County.



Pictured: Brevard County Detachment member, Commandant Dennis Herring, Jerry Vaughan, Junior Past Commandant Vinnie Howard, Dean Schaff, and Donn Weaver.



VMC/BVC Secretary's Report

CPT Kristi Blanchard,
USA (Fmr)

This is a wonderful time of year to live here in Brevard County and hope you're all enjoying time outdoors. Happy Mother's Day, too!

Protect Your Sensitive Accounts

This month's report begins with a word of caution about your email and other sensitive accounts. One of our BVMC computers was attacked by a virus that was launched when a volunteer clicked on an email link, and another volunteer lost Facebook access after her personal account was hacked.

If you get an unexpected email from your bank, Microsoft, PayPal, or Amazon never click on a link – simply open PayPal's application or your bank's web site and verify for yourself. Also, put two-factor authentication on important online

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accounts like Facebook, your email, or your bank sign-in. Two-factor authentication requires two different authentications (like a password and a mobile text) before allowing you access, which prevents hackers who guess only your password from getting into your account. Learn about Facebook two-factor authentication here: <https://www.facebook.com/help/148233965247823>

VMC Automated External Defibrillators Volunteers Needed

Good news--our building now has two Automated External Defibrillators (AED), which are portable electronic devices that automatically diagnose life-threatening cardiac arrhythmias and save lives. With only four certified volunteers, we need additional volunteers and members to become AED certified.

Requirements are simple - just take a free 3-hour online self-paced Red Cross First Aid Class and then attend instructor-led training at the BVMC. Once you complete both parts, you're certified. Our goal is to have at least ten volunteers certified by year-end. Please send me an email at brevardvmc@gmail.com if interested.



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Pictured: 7 April 2022 Marine Corps League Detachment Session. The unveiling of the bricks the Detachment purchased to honor Past Commandant Mary Bevan & Past Chaplain Dan Mix. Mary's son, daughter-in-law and daughter were in attendance. The Detachment Honor Guard, SVC Dennis Herring, JVC Rick Bedford and JA Carlos Rivera did the flag folding as Chaplain Doyle and Commandant Howard read from the MCL Ritual book.

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

**MAY
5 AND 20
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 (Fmr)

Very busy times are ahead as the schedule is almost full for the next few months with a growing list of activities.

Alligator Advisory

In the park, we had our first alligator issue. A fisherman was retrieving a fish and the gator followed it all the way up the shore. The county will be trapping the rather large alligator and finding a more suitable place for it. Be advised it is mating season and there are still 3 that we know of about 6 feet each in the area. We have also had numerous and various snake sightings around the path.

We are in need of volunteers to work Memorial Day in several areas so please step up and assist.



Library Notes

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

We have seen an increase in visitors to the library during April. Wearing of face masks has become much less evident at the VMC library and may account for some of the increased traffic as people seem more comfortable meeting and gathering again. Many, including myself, have gotten used to living with Covid and it is no longer the concern that it was in the past.

Photo Archives

Librarians have been learning how to use the new scanner to archive our Photos collections. Doug and Norm have completed their Korean War assignment and looking to continue to other topics.

Paul and Joe completed archiving a Photo collection property of Linda Sabatini's father, J. J. Patterson. Mr. Patterson collected Photos during his career in the Navy beginning with his enlistment in 1924 thru 1954. Paul and Joe were able to digitize Mr. Patterson's Photos which included many underway Battleships used during WWI and WWII.



New Veterans History Project Interview: Linda Sabatini

Linda Sabatini Served during the Vietnam War Conflict as a Hospital Corpsman stationed at Orlando Naval Hospital. She was born at the Naval Air Station in Jacksonville, Florida to WWII Veteran J. J. Patterson. Linda served as a Respiratory Specialist. [Click to see the her full Veterans History Project Interview.](#)



New Veterans History Project Interview: Don Williams

US Navy Veteran Don Williams served during the Korean War. Donald tells his story of service aboard the Destroyer USS Benner, as a Storekeeper in the Atlantic and Mediterranean Seas. [Click to hear his Veteran History Project interview.](#)





Chaplain's Corner

by Chaplain Chip Hanson
USMC (Fmr)

The United States Military is composed of six branches with more than 1.3 million active-duty service members and 800,000 reservists stationed in the United States and around the world.

With the idea citizens would come together and thank our military members for their patriotic service in support of our country, President Harry S. Truman led the effort to establish a patriot's holiday. The one-day celebration then stemmed from the unification of the Armed Forces under the Department of Defense. On August 31, 1949, Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson announced the creation of an Armed Forces Day to replace separate Army, Navy, Marine Corps, U.S. Coast Guard, and Air Force Days in a move to a single national holiday.

The first observance of Armed Forces Day on May 20, 1950, launched with parades, open houses, receptions, and air shows.

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy established Armed Forces Day as an official holiday.

Memorial Day is a separate American holiday, observed on the last Monday of May, honoring the 2,852,901 men and women who died and 40,031 still missing in action while serving in the U.S. military. Originally known as Decoration Day, it originated in the years following the Civil War and became an official federal holiday in 1971. Many Americans observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries or memorials, holding family gatherings and participating in parades. Unofficially, it marks the beginning of the summer season.

Please remember to pray for all those who are in the defense of Ukraine, the children who have lost their parents, and all of those who have lost hope.

It is foolish and wrong to mourn the men who died. Rather we should thank God that such men lived."

-- George S. Patton

John 15:13 (Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.)

GOD BLESS AMERICA

Chaplain Chip Hanson



MEMORIAL DAY

REMEMBER AND HONOR

Monday, May 30
0930 - 1030 AM
located behind
Merritt Square Mall

- Moving Stories of Veterans, KIA, WIA & Special Service**
- VMC Tenant Organizations**
- Ruck March Stop & Reflect**
- Fallen First Responders (Sheriff Ivey)**
- Sea Cadet Color Guard**

Patriotic Music

TAPS

Special Exhibits & Vendors; VMC Partners; Refreshments; Promises for Good Weather.
Contact VMC at 321-483-1776
www.brevardveteransmemorialcenter.com

REFLECTIONS ON SACRIFICE
MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY
VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER

ATTENTION!

If you have been awarded one of these,
DID YOU KNOW

There is a MOPH Chapter
at the Veteran Center on Merritt Island?

Call 321-480-3669
We want to know you!

Book Report

Get Yamamoto by Burke Davis (Catalog # WWIIPD-09)



This book is about one of the most harrowing and probably now mostly forgotten events in April 1943. The end result of this carefully planned effort was the shooting down of the aircraft carrying Admiral Yamamoto, the top Naval officer in Japan and the planning genius of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

The book starts at the times leading up to the event, where Americans had cracked the Japanese code. With access to secret Japanese intel, Americans discovered information on the Yamamoto plan to tour advanced bases in the Solomon Island area. This led to a hurried effort to intercept and kill him.

While American Marines and Air Forces were fighting to hold Guadalcanal, a plan was hatched to use the new P-38 Lightning aircraft with auxiliary gas tanks. Flying 500 miles from Henderson Field on Guadalcanal, pilots successfully intercepted and shot down the bomber carrying the Admiral.

The book is an exciting re-creation of the deadly encounter that may have changed the course of the war. The story is personally of interest to me as my father (a Marine Corps artillery Captain) was in the bunker at Henderson Field, Guadalcanal, which planned and directed the attack. Enjoy!

Doug Bisset, VMC Library Staff

The Space Coast Jazz Society presents:

Monthly

LIVE JAZZ Concerts

by a variety of professional bands

at Veterans Memorial Center, Gray Hall
400 S. Sykes Creek Pkwy, Merritt Island

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

Open to the Public

Schedule & details at:
SpaceCoastJazzSociety.org



Deep Thanks and Gratitude

The VMC wanted to take the opportunity to thank **Pat Suit and William Schick** for leaving a legacy to the Veterans Memorial Center.

In their passing, Pat and William cited BVMC as their charity, giving us much needed funds to continue our mission in service of veterans and the community.



Remembering the Anniversary of the Beginning of the Space Shuttle Program by Donn Weaver

Many astronauts, space pioneers, engineers and scientists were and are also veterans. On 16 April at the Hyatt Place Hotel in Titusville, more than 100 people, many of them former NASA and Space Contractor employees, gathered to reminiscence and likely share some information that used to be national secrets about the Space Shuttle Program from its inception.

The program was sponsored by the American Space Museum, which along with the Veterans Memorial Center (VMC) Museum and many others, is a member of the Museums of Brevard. It was an historic event broadcast to listeners in dozens of countries. Plans have already begun to do it again every year in the spring.

Among the veterans and former NASA employees who spoke was VMC President and MOAACC member LCDR Dean Schaaf, USN, Ret. Dean spent over 20 years in the Navy in enlisted service and as an officer after graduating from Purdue University. He then spent more than 20 years in the Space Shuttle Program with NASA. Dean moved to Brevard County in 1987 with the US Navy where he was stationed at Patrick AFB at the test range as military liaison. NASA picked him up without having to pay moving expenses from his Merritt Island home.

After the Shuttle Program and his second retirement, Dean took on a third career with no pay as a volunteer in many organizations. He was recently elected as President of the Navy League, based at VMC.

Dean shared a 45 minute presentation with Lee Solid, a well

known rocket motor systems engineer in our space program since the 1960's. Dean focused on his NASA work as a GOM: Ground Operations Manager. He was responsible for creating and manning during launches five different emergency shuttle landing sites in Africa, Hawaii and Spain.

Dean spoke about many adventures in that role, including once when he was in the midst of a bloodless West African coup d'état as a Shuttle was lifting off. Luckily his landing facility was not needed that day or on any of the other 135 Space Shuttle flights. Dean travelled more than 1 Million air miles in that role and is still using the mileage points! His only regret: he never got to be the GOM in Hawaii.

Great presentation, Dean.



Pictured: Memories and Pride together: Some of the guests and participants in the Space Shuttle Program. Can you spot the astronauts?

Dancing With Brevard: VMC Chosen for Major BCSO Charitable Event

As you have noticed in our calendar for several months, LTC Tim Thomas, USA Ret, JROTC Instructor at Viera High School and Melbourne City Councilman, will be the VMC entry with his partner at the 04 June Annual Brevard County Sheriff's Office Charitable Foundation's "Dancing with Brevard" Gala. Along with three other non-profits, the VMC will be given a split of the proceeds which has been substantial in previous years.

The event will start at 1730 hours on Saturday, 04 June at the Clemente Center on the Campus of Florida Tech in Melbourne.

We need your help to get people to buy tickets together for various tables on line through BCSO but also get sponsors for the event. A Flyer should be out by early May and will be forwarded.



Veterans Sales Store

We have new items on hand, including VMC coffee mugs that are perfect for mother's and father's day gifting! Stop on in and see the whole selection and don't forget to visit our online shop at <https://vetsales.square.site/>



Teamwork Pays Off

On 26 April VMC President Dean Schaaf and Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) Secretary Brian Jensen met at Decks & Docks Lumber Company in Merritt Island who donated the wood for the VMC/SAR trailer.

The trailer was recently repaired and the BCSO will install the wood at no charge. Teamwork in the Community continues to make a difference in time for the Independence vDay Parade!!!



Pictured: Dean Schaaf and Brian Jensen picking up a wood donation for the SMC/ SAR trailer.



Pictured: VMC and RTFL-1 Chaplain Chip Hanson Offers the Invocation in Center Field

VMC Based Rolling Thunder's Many Missions

by Donn Weaver

The VMC is very proud of its ten veteran and related organizations that call the Center their home base. We invite each organization to offer a Courier article and photos when they have special events well worth sharing.

On 8 May, Rolling Thunder Florida Chapter 1 (RTFL-1)--the biggest in the state at over 100 members--conducted the first ever POW/MIA Flag Raising Ceremony at Space Coast Stadium in Viera before a softball championship tournament began. They are scheduled for another big event there when the All Works Military Softball tournament returns to USSSA Space Coast Stadium in the Fall.

RTFL-1 has five major events to support in in May including the Daytona Speedway Heroes Honor Festival and the VMC Memorial Day Ceremony on 30 May.

Here are some photos from the big evening at the Ball Game where the POW/MIA flag will from now on always fly.

Twenty Three RTFL-1 members attended the event at Space Coast Stadium; they average well over 50 at every monthly meeting at the VMC. Rolling Thunder meets the Fourth Sunday each month, but 15 May at 1400 hours.

Many VMC active volunteers are also members of RTFL-1, which is not a motorcycle club and includes veterans and non veterans. All members share the passion to remind our government and the American people to continue to search for the remains of service members Missing in Action or last reported as Prisoners of War. There remain over 80,000 in those categories since WWI. At their May Meeting, VMC President Dean Schaaf and his wife Susan were awarded their RTFL-1 Boot Patches for participating in RTFL-1 events in their first year of membership.



Pictured: RTFL-1 Vice President Cindy Flowers (l) and President Lance Armstrong (r) award Dean and Susan Schaaf the patches.



Pictured: RTFL-1 assembled at Space Coast Stadium.

One Family with Patriotic Hearts

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

As readers are aware from earlier articles in the Courier, Glenn Sandler was a very special friend to the VMC and all veterans. Before his unexpected death at age 60 last November he and his company had provided the VMC over \$5K in funds and in kind support and hosted a few hundred to a BBQ at one of our Memorial Day Ceremonies. His GI Tax engraved black granite piece will forever adorn our Memorial Plaza Wall and his brick of honor is on the right side of the Plaza entry way.

At our VMC General Meeting on 13 April we were honored to host his widow, Lauren Sandler and extended family and friends. Since Glenn's death, Lauren has donated over \$4K worth of military related materials, flags and poles with bases, coolers, gifts and more. Many of those items are bringing in funds and are for sale in our Veterans Store.



Pictured: At the April general meeting, history was made when the Space Coast Space Force JROTC Color Guard came to the VMC for the first time to present the colors. Their program is the only one in Florida, and among only 10 in the entire country to convert to the Space Force from USAF. LtCol Joseph Stevens, USAF, Ret, introduces his Guardian Cadets after Dean has handed him our traditional \$200 check to assist JROTC programs.

In a ceremony to celebrate Glenn Sandler's life, Lauren spoke about his and her families veteran history and how much Glenn did to help veterans, including discounted prices on tax preparation.

VMC President Dean Schaaf awarded her a VMC engraved Challenge Coin and she was warmly welcomed by our members.



Quilts of Valor return to VMC

In the past five years, the VMC has supported five ceremonies presented by the Space Coast Quilts of Valor. On 23 April, Karmel Sowers and her QofV team awarded four quilts to veterans with distinguished service in Vietnam and the Cold War.

She told the stories of each recipient as well as the crafters of the quilt and their beautiful design.

The group also awarded three Vietnam Era veterans Welcome Home pins.

The next QofV event is expected at VMC during the Veterans Day Ceremony on 11 Nov 2022.



Pictured: Lauren Sandler (near the Flag in Red and Black) and her family flanked by VMC President Dean Schaaf and BVC Chairman Donn Weaver.

JROTC Cadets Air Rifle Competition



Pictured: MOAACC/GDF's Dan McIntyre awards the team trophy to MIHS JROTC Instructor LTC Antonio Austin after his cadets had left to get ready for the MIHS Prom



Pictured: GDF President Donn Weaver awards a team trophy to Palm Bay Cadets JV Team.



Pictured: Just after the meet, Astronaut JROTC cadets hold up a new banner provided by GDF to help identify their team during future meets. GDF hopes to so offer banners to all JROTC Units in Brevard before the 2022-23 school year begins with a new round of active competition.



Pictured: MOAACC/GDF's Col Mike Gautreaux, USMC, Ret fittingly provides the overall team trophy to the Marine JROTC Palm Bay varsity air rifle team.



Caption: All the Sea Cadets share the moment.



Caption: GDF President and VMC Chairman Donn Weaver (l) presents the GDF Check to Cadet Southerland (r) with Paul Julian and Jacob's proud Mom in between.



Highlights from the VMC

Uniforms from all of our military service branches can be found at the museum. Above are a few from the Marine Corp. Below, from the US Navy. Visit the VMC Museum to explore them all!



Courageous Division Sea Cadets Get Support

The US Naval Sea Cadets of Courageous Division have been based at the Veterans Memorial Center for over six years. They have supported dozens of events there and all over the county. In return, the VMC and other organizations support this unique program to help youth from central and northern Brevard learn about maritime service, the military, leadership, organization and so much more. Look for a future article in more depth about the Division, led by Heather Owen, with support from several other adults, including VMC and MOAACC member Paul Julian.

Two activities on 16 April show how support to these cadets can go a long way. Cadet Jakob Southerland and his family have been working for months to raise funds needed for him to attend a national level cadet leadership school this summer. MOAACC's Good Deeds Foundation (GDF) came through with a portion of that amount to realize Jakob's dream.

Meanwhile, CWO4 Dan McIntyre, USCG, Ret a MOAACC and GDF Board members, and US Coast Guard. Aux members provide a day full of boating safety and other maritime teaching segments to the cadets.

McIntyre, who is MOAACC's Student Liaison Chair, averages 3 high schools and other units per month in that program. Supporting our youth are key missions for VMC and MOAACC. Thanks to all in both organizations who are so involved.





The Patriot Report

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

If you are even a little bit considering filing a claim for VA disability, lock in your effective date today by submitting a VA Intent to File.

Do You Need to File a VA Intent to File (VA Form 21-0966)?

George Furis
Department Service Officer (Ret.)

The VA disability claim process can be a long and arduous affair. We've all heard the horror stories about the long wait times, repeated correspondence exchanges, red tape galore, denials and appeals involved in the process. Fortunately, you can learn from other's experiences and follow some best practices to help set yourself up for success to get your claim approved and money in your pocket as soon as possible.

One of those best practices the VA opened up recently is the Intent to File (ITF) (VA 21-0966) process. What is a VA Intent to File? Simply put, it is a notification to the VA that you plan on submitting a future claim for compensation, pension, Survivors pension, or Dependant Indemnity Compensation. By contacting a DAV Service Officer and providing some basic data, you can complete ITF Form and have it submitted in a matter of minutes. After submitting the ITF, you'll have one year to gather all your evidence and complete a formal application.

The importance of the ITF is that it locks in an effective date for benefits, which the VA will use to calculate how much back pay is owed to you should your claim be approved. With current processing times hovering around 125 days, you can see how back pay could add up from the time you submit Intent to File Form and the time your claim gets approved!

How does a VA Intent to File work?

As mentioned above, the ITF serves as a notice to the VA that you plan on submitting a disability claim when it is ready. Think of it as drawing a starting line in the race and saying, "here's where my claims route begins."

Your DAV Service Officer will inform you as to what type of evidence you will need to gather to complete your claim. Next, you will complete all the necessary steps in the process: gathering medical documents, gathering personnel records, getting buddy letters if necessary, etc. It may take you a while to get it all together.

The good news is the ITF is holding that effective date for 1 year while you take the time to put together the most detailed claim you can, making sure that it gets approved the first time. Even if you take the entire year to prepare, that's a year of back pay you'll get if your claim is approved.

Please be aware, you are not required to submit Intent to File. If you happen to have all the documents and information you need and are ready to submit your claim in a day, you can do that also. But most often, claimants will need some time to find medical documents, military orders, and other vital forms to fill out their claim correctly. The Intent to File gives you some peace of mind to get organized and carefully complete the disability claim application.

How do I submit a VA Intent to File?

Submitting a VA Intent to File is one of the easiest things you'll do in the disability claims process. Technically, you don't have to submit anything if you file your claim online through the VA's website. When you begin an online application for VA disability compensation, an ITF automatically generates, notifying the VA

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through the online system.

If you don't want to submit your ITF online, you can fill out and submit it through the mail, fax, or in person at your VA regional office. You can even call a VA representative at 1-800-827-1000 and tell them you want to file an "Intent to File." There are multiple methods available to fit a range of veterans' needs. What do you need to complete the form? Just your name and contact information. It's as easy as that.

However, I do not recommend you this yourself. Most importantly, you want to prepare a concise but detailed claim that paints a clear picture of your disability and your military service that caused or aggravated your condition. Here's where your DAV Service Officer can be of great help assisting you!

Limitations

There are limitations on filing an Intent to File. You can only use the ITF Form for the type of issues in paragraph 2 (compensation, pension, Survivors pension, or Dependant Indemnity Compensation). You cannot use it to file an Appeal. Or if you are reopening a claim for a disability that you received a rating decision on more than 1 year ago and have not appealed the rating decision. If you have never filed for any disability with the VA then an Intent to File is appropriate.

Conclusion

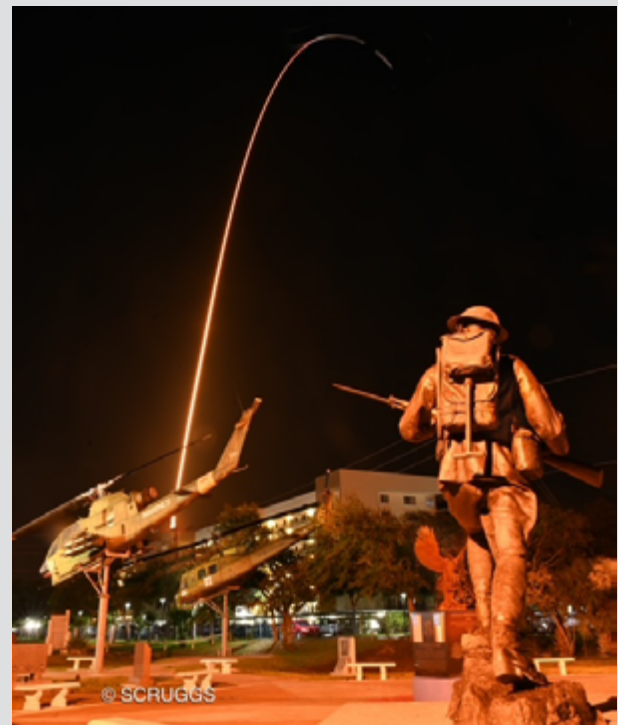
Many veterans have never heard about an Intent to File and believed they must have all the information and documents together before beginning a claim for VA disability compensation. As you now know, this is not true!

With a VA Intent to File in place, you can take the time you need to find all your records, attend the necessary exams and appointments, and submit the best disability claim possible. Not only will this method help reduce stress and errors, but it helps to get you the full amount of disability compensation that you deserve.

If you are even a little bit considering filing a claim for VA disability, lock in your effective date today by submitting a VA Intent to File.



Navy Veteran Jerry Vaughan, CEO & Owner of both The Dover Detail & Down the Road Thrift, made the donation of this piece of needed exercise equipment to aid another Veteran Support Group, the Sheepdog Program (of Cocoa) on 15 April 2022.



Pictured: R. Scruggs captures a SpaceX rocket night launch from the VMC grounds.



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/>

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.

01-02, 5-8 May – Florida's 34th Annual All Veterans Reunion with The Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall and GWOT Wall sponsored by VVB at Wickham Park in Melbourne. Set up on Sunday, 01 April with Wall escort from EFSC; Wreath Laying Ceremony sign up 1400 and starts 1800 02 April; with vendors, Vet org exhibits, music and much more 0900-1900 from 05 - 07 May, with take down on 08 May. Contact 321-690-0805 for more info or 321-652-4185 to register as vendors.

14 May – First Annual Children's Charities 5K walk/run at the Veterans Center Memorial Park. 0730-1200. Sponsored by the Rockledge-Viera Kiwanis Club and the Cocoa Beach Optimist Club with all funds received going to support local youth. The Running Zone is lining up the event. Check flyers in the local media for more details, especially on line at Florida Today Page A3 on 08 April 2022.

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.

27-28 May – Heroes Honor Festival at the Daytona Speedway featuring Friday evening tributes to the Fallen; military flyovers, Toby Kieth, Justin Moors, LTG Jerry Boykin, Ann-Margaret and many more to honor Vietnam and all veterans in the "Biggest Baddest Most Patriotic Celebration. Tickets required but veteran

discounts and even free tickets for Vietnam veterans are available. Check the Heroes Honor Festival 2022 web site. The event is open to everyone.

30 May – Memorial Day Ceremony at the VMC 0930-1030. Reflections on Sacrifice will include stories of KIA, WIA and Special Veterans who have died in service to our country via VMC tenant veteran organizations. First Responders who have fallen also honored by Sheriff Ivey. A unique Ruck March of 5K will pause and reflect with each participant carrying the photo and name of a fallen post 9/11 hero. Special exhibits, VMC partners, refreshments will add to the atmosphere. See Poster.

30 May – Cocoa Riverfront Park Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony 1600-1800 to honor and reflect on those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our country and their Gold Star families.

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 501(c)3 organizations that will benefit from the proceeds of this great fundraiser. Details of the event, tickets, and how to support the VMC sponsored dancers in this issue. Special thanks to Sheriff Ivey and his team for selecting the VMC in 2022!!!! LTC Tim Thomas, USA, Ret is the VMC Dancer so vote and donate for his team.

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.

(continued on next page)



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JULY

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

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



Park and Plaza Report

by Donn Weaver

April was another busy month for our Memorial Plaza with 18 donated bricks installed and two white benches upgraded and sealed as our efforts to maintain the plaza throughout the year continues.

One of the new bricks honors Glen Sandler, a major donor over the years. See the story about our honors to his wife and family at our 13 April general meeting. They recently donated over \$3000 worth of items from his business that worked with veterans - GI Tax.

We made plans with the Daughters of the American Revolution for them to install a Butterfly Garden at the Center so look for the results in May. Lockheed Martin and a Scout Troop volunteered to send out workers to help spruce up the Plaza, Center and Park on May 13 and 14.

We appreciate the support of the community and how having such groups allows us to do more than just keep up with the 82 acres we are blessed to manage.

Lockheed may send as many as 100 volunteers for the entire morning including a pressure washing machine and team.

The County Parks and Rec people were able to expand the size of the new playground and coverings working with MIRA to create some cost reductions. Bids are now out for that project as well as other Phase III VMP upgrades leading toward the Amphitheater by 2023. Even without all that, our Park is now booked for three 5K major events and many other programs the rest of 2022.



VMC Road Show

Set up at the Brevard County Senior Expo

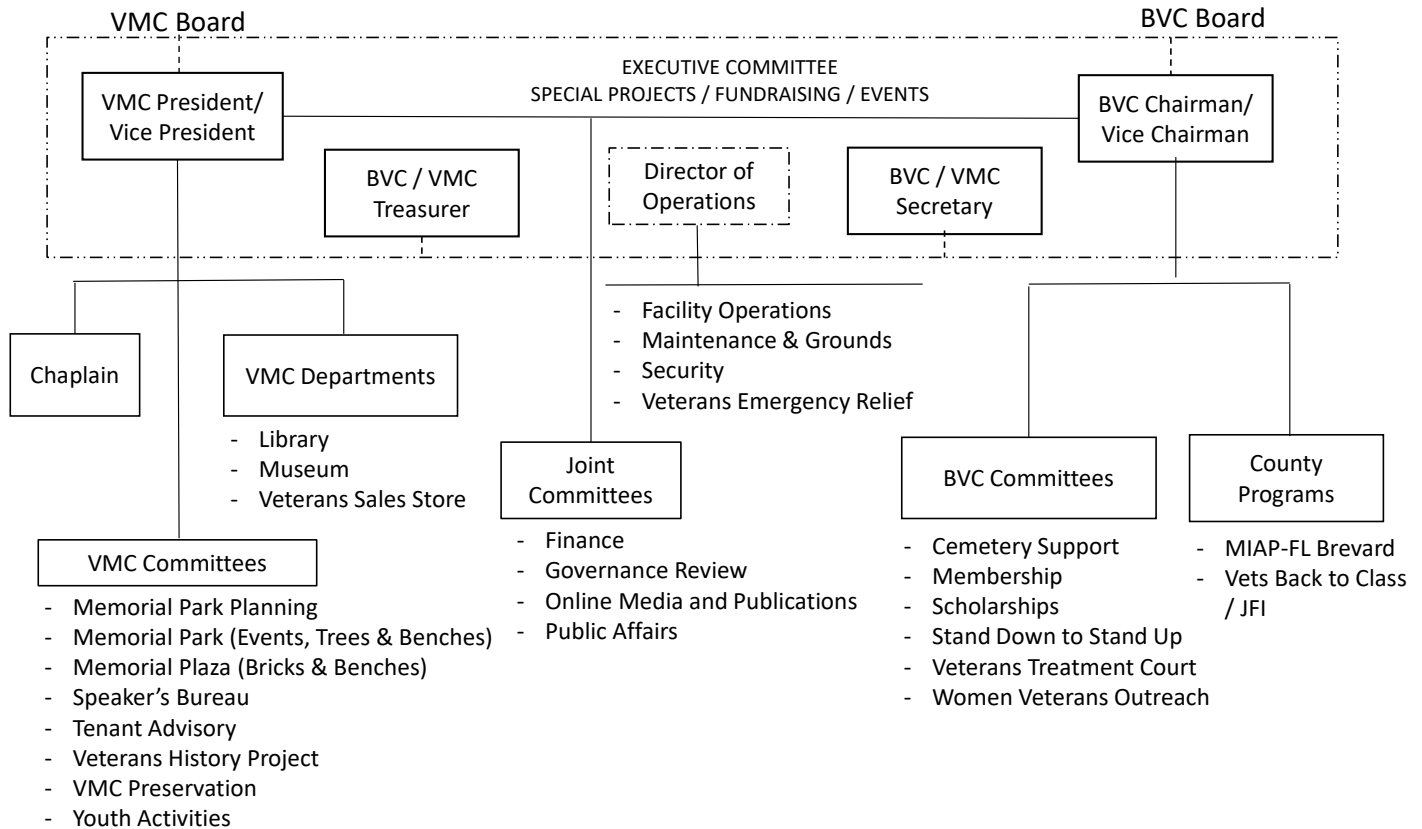


Hortencia's Cleaning Services

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CALL FOR A QUOTE!



VMC / BVC ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



20-Apr-22



The VMC/BVC A Guide

For the reference of our Members, we publish an organizational chart for the VMC and BVC, a list of the Board Members and Committes, and contact information to get in touch with the people in charge. It is our honor to be of service to our community.

COMMITTEE / DEPARTMENT ASSIGNMENTS

18 April 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
Veterans Sales Store	Dave Boyd	Jalaine Spears (asst mgr), Chris Gibson, Donna Longway, Ray Norman, Jay Longway, Mike Wrazen, Vic Rogers, Garet 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, Paula Biggs, Dave Boyd
Public Affairs	Harry Beaver	Chip Hanson, Ray Norman, EX COMM Rep
COUNCIL ONLY COMMITTEES		
Cemetery Support	Dorothy Walsh	Dorothy Walsh (Brevard), Donn Weaver (CCNC), Ray Norman (AL, MI), Bob Doyle (VFW), Chip Hanson
Membership	Sandy Eliason	Kristi Blanchard, Dave Clayton
Scholarships	Doris Hendricks	Dean Schaaf, Ray Norman, Rich Tomasso, Mary Ann Tucker, Jay Longway, Garet McKimmie
Stand Down to Stand Up	Donn Weaver	Dean Schaaf, Bob Doyle, Don Pearsall
Veterans Treatment Court	Brian Whalen	Skip Taylor, Dorothy Walsh, Kelly Martin
Women Veterans Outreach	Christine Tate	Dorothy Walsh, Amanda Herrkind, Adrienne Leonhardt
CENTER ONLY COMMITTEES		
Memorial Park Events, Trees & Benches	Donn Weaver	Dean Schaaf, Dave Clayton, Garet McKimmie, Jalaine Spears
Memorial Park Planning	Dean Schaaf	Donn Weaver, MIRA, County (Parks&Rec)
Memorial Plaza Bricks & Benches	Donn Weaver	Dean Schaaf, Sandy Eliason, Garet McKimmie
Speaker's Bureau	Paul Julian	Norm Desmarias, Donn Weaver, Dean Schaaf
Tenant Advisory	Dennis Herring	DAV 123, FRA 263, other current tenant orgs
VMC Preservation	Jay Longway	Ted Schmid, Dean Schaaf, Ed Pingston, Ray Norman, Bill Pollock, Don Pearsall
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

2021-2022 Organization

as of 4/20/2022

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	453-1776	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	749-7121	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	501-9156	sgmbeaver@netzero.net
2 Year	Lou Rossi	616-5131	No email
1 Year	Doris Hendricks	848-7865	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	453-1776	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

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Bateman, Skip & Ruth July, 2026	Rathbun, Don & Barbara Dec, 2023
Bisset, M Doug Sept, 2023	Roseland, Tom & Patrice Jan, 2023
Clayton, David & Anne July, 2022	Schaaf, Dean & Susan July, 2022
Eliason, Sandra July, 2022	Sherman, John S. (Tank) Sept, 2022
Fadok, Eleanor Dec 2022	Sherman, Rheta Campbell Sept, 2022
Fleet Reserve Branch 263 July, 2023	Schmid, Ted Jan, 2023
Fugaro, Joan & Ricardo Nov, 2022	Space Coast Honor Flight May, 2023
Leonhart, Rick Mar, 2023	Weiler, Philip R. Feb, 2023
Longway, J.P & Donna Dec, 2023	Weaver, Donn & Jeanne Sep, 2022
Malpass, Dick & Louise May, 2022	Florida State University College of Social Work
Martin, John & Roberta Nov, 2022	April, 2023
Rapp, Gary (USMC) Aug, 2022	Norman, Ray April, 2027

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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) _____