



THE VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER

COUNCIL COURIER

AUGUST 2022



A Publication of the Brevard Veterans Council & Veterans Memorial Center



WHAT'S INSIDE

New Board Members for 2022-2023

The BVC/VMC has elected its 43rd board of directors. Look back on how far we've come!
— page 12

Thanks to all our Volunteers

The annual volunteer ceremony recognized many with awards for their service to the VMC.
— page 10

New Partnership for Good

Build Back Brevard partners with the VMC to help veterans and first responders. — page 9

Fourth of July at the VMC: It's Good to be Back!

After a long hiatus, the rolling Fourth of July parade and festivities returned to Merritt Island.

VMC proudly sponsored the event and celebration after.

— details page 13

Photo courtesy of Robert Scruggs

AUGUST 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 Those submissions received after that date will not be published.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 27 July 2022:

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

As of 27 July 2022:

[Committee Department Assignment 2021-2022](#)

As of 27 July 2022:

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



Mission Statement

Brevard Veterans Council: The Brevard Veterans Council (BVC) is a 501(c)19 veterans organization.

BVC's mission 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)



Summer parades, birthdays, interns and scholarships are on the mind of the VMC!

Thanks to everyone who participated in the July 4th Merritt Island parade and helped with the BBQ we had at the VMC afterward. It was good to see the crowds back lining the roads to observe the parade. Lots of kids turned out.

Happy Birthay USCG!

August 4th is the 232nd Birthday of the United States Coast Guard. The USCG is one of the oldest organizations of the Federal Government, established in 1790. August 5th will be the USCG picnic at the Coast Guard station, Port Canaveral from 1000-1500.

Thanks to our Interns

I want to thank all the summer interns that are assisting the VMC in the museum, library, and other general assignments. We look forward to your return each summer!

VMC Scholarship Selection

The Veterans Memorial Center Educational Scholarship Program had 16 applications submitted this year. The committee, consisting of Doris Hendricks, Dean Schaaf, Rich Tomasso, Ray Norman, Mary Ann Tucker, Jay Longway and Garet McKimmie, is in the process of selecting the awardees. The presentation of the scholarships will be conducted at the August 10th general meeting.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and take that much needed break before school starts again. Thanks to all 60+ volunteers for all you do for the Center.



Highlights from the VMC Museum

Uniforms from all of our military service branches and eras can be found at the museum. The uniform to the right is US Army infantry uniform from 1965 worn in the IA-Drang Valley South Vietnam.



VMC/BVC CONTACTS

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Robert Doyle

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[FACEBOOK](#)

[WEBSITE](#)

[YOUTUBE](#)



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 NEW YEAR BEGAN 13 JULY

Hope you all are having a good summer with family visits, travel and enjoying life despite all the challenges we seem to face these days.

If you were not there, please check out the several articles and many photos from our traditional swearing in of new officers and boards on 13 July and a short historical piece about BVC/VMC which takes us back 43 years to the first official swearing in by Brevard County Officials. That was for the first six veterans that began the Brevard Veterans Council. 13 July 2022 was a great day and a good start to a new year.

This year, we expect or have in hand substantial and unexpected grants from the BCSO, a local church, Erdman Motors and others which will give our new leadership the chance to brainstorm for some great upgrades and program improvements during August and September, then begin to carry out the approved projects. We hope to report back to our wonderful donors exactly what we accomplished with that money by the end of the year and invite them to our Annual Christmas Party to honor and thank them once again.

We are now up to 64 volunteers, with additional help from nine students this the summer. These volunteers and so many others help us maintain, improve and upgrade the biggest and best Veterans Memorial Center and Park in Florida.

Vinny Bonck
321-536-1752
VinnyBonck@gmail.com

Vinnys Tech Services Inc.

Computer repair and much more!

Combined with the \$3.9 million the County, MIRA and TDC have already obligated for more major Park upgrades. And don't forget our crowning jewel - a \$2.3 million amphitheater. Are we blessed or what!!!!?

Please share ideas with any board member for future improvements, but also for any new programs you would like to see BVC and VMC undertake as we begin our 43rd year. We are working on the shoulders of hundreds of veterans and volunteers who came before us, so let's make it a great year for the VMC.



Save the Date - August 12th 2022 National Veterans Homeless Support 7th Annual Dinner Fundraiser

Hosted by Brevard's Constitutional Officers
Property Appraiser Dara Blickley
Sheriff Wayne Ivey
Clerk of Court Rachel Sadoff
Tax Collector Lisa Cullen
Supervisor of Elections Lori Scott
State Attorney Phil Archer
Public Defender Blaise Trettis

Friday, August 12th
Radisson Resort at the Port
8701 Astronaut Blvd. Cape Canaveral
5:30pm Cocktails 6:15 Dinner

Platinum Sponsorship: \$25,000
Gold Star Sponsorship \$10,000
Silver Star Sponsorship: \$5,000
Bronze Star Sponsorship: \$1,000

Dinner: \$100 per person or \$1000 per table of 10
Program ads: Full page- \$250 or Half page - \$150
For advance reservations or to place camera-ready ads in the program, reach out to us:

www.nvhs.org/events
or email events@nvhs.org
or call the NVHS Office at 321.208.7562



25TH ANNUAL CENTRAL BREVARD

STAND DOWN TO STAND UP

FREE SERVICES TO VETERANS

- ❖ Transportation To and From
- ❖ Medical
- ❖ Dental
- ❖ Legal
- ❖ Hearing and Eye Exams
- ❖ Haircuts
- ❖ Clothing
- ❖ Survival Supplies
- ❖ Employers Hiring
- ❖ VA Benefits Assistance
- ❖ Women Vets Services
- ❖ Much more...

8 October 2022
7:30 am – 2 pm

For Homeless or Distressed Veterans

SPONSORED BY

THE VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER AND
MANY OTHER VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS

LOCATION

Cocoa Armory

308 North Fiske Boulevard, Cocoa, FL 32922

CONTACT US

Non-Monetary Donations
Donna Longway | boosterx2002@gmail.com

CONTACT US

Funding / Donations
Donn Weaver | (757) 871-6576 |
donnweaver2020@gmail.com



VOLUNTEER MEETING DAYS – 5-6:30 pm

02 AUGUST	VMC LIBRARY
16 AUGUST	VMC LIBRARY
06 SEPTEMBER	VMC LIBRARY
20 SEPTEMBER	ARMORY
27 SEPTEMBER	ARMORY
07 OCTOBER	SET UP 12-5 PM – ARMORY
08 OCTOBER	EVENT – ARMORY

CONTACT US

To Volunteer
Jill Rippon | jillrvmc@gmail.com

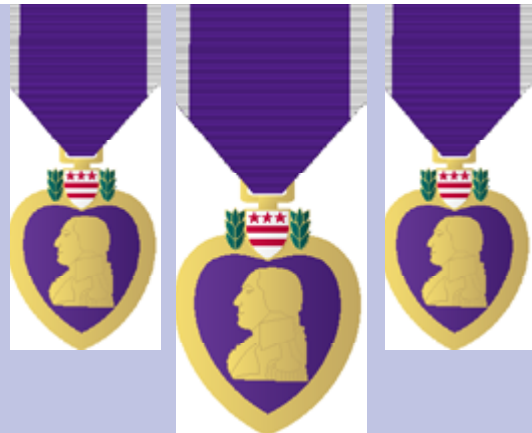
247th MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION



Saturday 12 November 2022
6:00-9:00 PM
Radisson Resort at the Port
8701 Astronaut Boulevard
Cape Canaveral, FL 32920

Hosted by:
Brevard County Detachment 513
Marine Corps League

\$34.00 Per Person
(Cash, check or PayPal®)
For more information contact
MCLBrevard513@gmail.com



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!



Chaplain's Corner

by Chaplain Chip Hanson
USMC (Fmr)

Visit the VA at
<https://www.va.gov/burials-memorials/veterans-burial-allowance/>
to read how to apply for
burial allowances

The VA takes special care to pay lasting tribute to the memory of Veterans who served and sacrificed and that of their families. Here is important information to know about VA burials.

The VA meticulously maintains 155 VA national cemeteries in 44 states and Puerto Rico and is working to increase access to accommodate Veterans and eligible family members close to home. Currently, more than 94 percent of Veterans have a burial option in an open VA, state, or tribal veterans cemetery located within 75 miles of their home.



Burial Benefits for Veterans

Burial benefits available to veterans include a gravesite in any of our National Cemeteries with available space, opening and closing of the grave, perpetual care, a government headstone or marker, a burial flag, and a Presidential Memorial Certificate all at no cost to the family. Some Veterans may also be eligible for Burial Allowances.

Burial benefits available for spouses and dependents buried in a national cemetery include burial with the Veteran, perpetual care, and the spouse or dependents' name and date of birth and death inscribed on the Veteran's headstone at no cost to the family. Eligible spouses and dependents may be buried, even if they predecease the Veteran.

Cremation as an Option

Cremated remains represent about 75% of interments in National Cemeteries. They receive the same honors as casketed remains. However, with cremated remains, there are 4 separate ways of interment:

- They can be buried in the same manner as a casket, with the same headstone as a standard casket grave.
- The cremated remains can be placed in the columbarium (a wall with areas for the urns).
- The ashes can be buried in the Ossuary (a Memorial Garden) and the name placed on the Memorial Wall.
- Finally, if the Family chooses to spread the ashes in a manner that cannot be visited (such as spreading them around in the ocean or a meadow or other ways the Veteran wanted to interment), the name of the Veteran can be placed on the Memorial Wall.

Important things to remember about veteran burials:

- The Ossuary and the Memorial Wall are available in National Cemeteries completed after 2007.
- There is never a charge for any interment at a National Cemetery or the Memorial Wall.
- Burial in a civilian cemetery only includes a government headstone, marker, or medallion.
- Included in all Veteran interments are a burial flag and a Presidential Memorial Certificate.

Please note that gravesites in a VA National Cemetery cannot be reserved in advance. The only exception to this rule is if both spouses are Veterans, the surviving spouse may reserve a space next to the deceased Veteran.

The highest tribute to the dead is not grief but gratitude. --Thornton Wilder

Ecclesiastes 3:8 - A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.

GOD BLESS AMERICA
Chaplain Chip Hanson



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380 N Courtenay Pkwy, Merritt Island, FL 32953



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



FRIDAY NIGHT *Dances*

PROUDLY PRESENTED
BY THE VMC

AUGUST 5 AND 19 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)

Water Still Needed

Thank you to the few tenants who stepped up and brought water into the facility for use. To the rest, we ask not much but help in keeping bottled water stocked up for the many people we interact with continually. Almost everyone has at some time gone back and retrieved a cold bottle of water. But what happens if there is none available? That is what happened last week. Most of you pay no meeting fees and at times garner a few extra meetings from us.

We ask that you now budget for at least 5 flats of water on a quarterly basis to assist in our day to day operations and our events. After this issue of the Courier, an email will follow for those tenants who have not yet donated. Please help.

Park Renovations and Event Reminders

Many trees have been planted in the park as the renovation continues. Sprinklers and power should be coming soon and then the bigger projects will start.

Remember: Every 2nd Sunday we have a Jazz concert at 2pm and every 1st and 3rd Friday we have a dance starting at 7PM. Come on out and get the knee joints oiled.

Events are picking up fast and the rest of the year is almost booked on the weekends. If you have an event in mind, get it planned soon before we fill up.



Library Notes

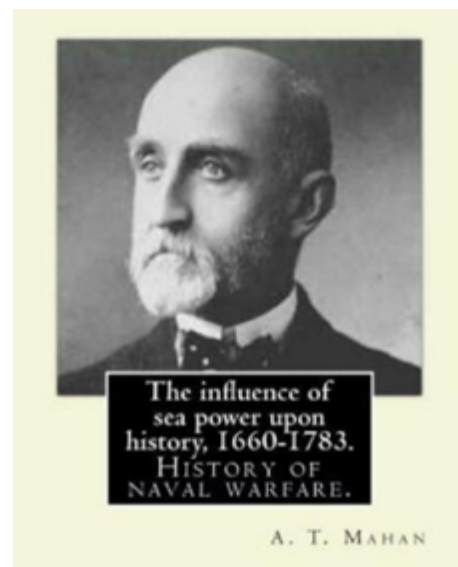
**SGT Joe Davie, USAF (Fmr)
VMC Librarian**

Summer is upon us and the library staff has been taking some time off with family and doing some traveling. We have had to make adjustments to the schedule to keep the library staffed this summer. Thanks to the staff for willing to fill in and make changes when needed. I was able to take a 4th of July weekend cruise out of Port Canaveral to Nassau and Coco Kay islands. The water was warm and I enjoyed seeing the tropical fish at the Islands and the food aboard ship.

Summer interns have been helping us this summer in the library doing whatever is needed. Hank Rhodes and Bill Ellis gave the students (Simon & Claudia) the task of completing an inventory of the rare book locker.

A Rare Book Find

From the list we discovered that we had a copy of a classic book, *The Influence of Sea Power Upon History, 1660-1783* by CAPT. A. T. Mahan. Still considered a valuable resource used for studying Naval warfare, it is used by our Navy today as



a reference book. This book has been on our wish list for collecting for some time as it has been requested by visitors. We now have it cataloged and available for checkout in our NAVY section.

Note that the library is still accepting books in many areas in our library and your books reports are also welcome on books on US Military History that we have in our collection.



A Growing VMC Partnership: Back Brevard Heroes 2022-23

After a great 01 May celebration for first responders and veterans at the VMC, we are working with Back Brevard Heroes (BBH), a 501(c)3 organization, to expand our new partnership. In July the BBH leadership team presented the VMC a check for \$729, representing our share of the proceeds from donors after expenses from 01 May.

If you check the VMC calendar, you will already see plans for a BBH fundraiser in February 2023 and the annual appreciation for first responders and veterans in May 2023.

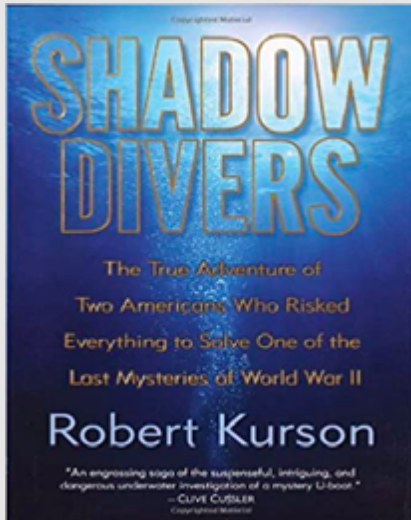
Meanwhile, an unexpected need to support a KSC firefighter and his family facing huge medical bills from cancer treatment came up, so on 13 August 2022, VMC Park will be the scene of a BBH fundraiser for them.



Pictured: Dean Schaaf and Donn Weaver flank Back Brevard Heroes President Sherri Centore and VP Kimberly Tucker after they present the BBH Check.



Book Report: “Shadow Divers” by Robert Kurson



The Book *Shadow Divers* tells the story of a German Submarine which was sunk off the coast of NJ during WWII. The story of U-869, it's commissioning, its voyage, its sinking and discovery is so well documented with crew lists, photos and a visit with some of the survivor's family in Germany...when I first read it, I thought it was so well documented. This has to be one of the best war stories ever chronicled.

Enter Gary Gentile...a real pioneer deep diver. *Shadow Divers Exposed....* and the Real Saga of the U-869 by Gary Gentile. This guy is a veritable walking and diving historical guru. He has dove on so many wrecks in deeper water than I have ever heard.

In Appendix 5 he has documented so many errors of fact and opinions that one might consider ditching *Shadow Divers* as a drug influenced mysterious novel...maybe something like Clancy would write. However, Gentile has thirteen books on shipwrecks, thirteen on shipwreck and nautical history...and more ...the list goes on.

Regarding U-869 he posts that the boat was sunk by two, American destroyer escorts. Seven crewmembers of those aggressive ships have supplanted official records with their personal recollections. Gentile presents data that explains why the 869 could not have sunk by a circular run of its own torpedo as presented in *Shadow Divers* as those uninformed readers are led to believe.

Hope our librarians keep these two books together for your interest.

--Ray Norman

The author Robert Kurson has a BA in philosophy from the U of Wisconsin and a LLB from Harvard. He describes the discovery of the U-boat in exquisite detail at 230 ft depth. These dives eventually caused several deaths.

Accessing the identification of the sub in the motor room was awe inspiring description. The validation of the authenticity of the boat was confirmed. *Shadow Divers* was published in 2004 so the information was assumed to be factual, accurate and recent.

The VMC
Volunteers
collectively
served more than
18,700 hours
this year. THANK
YOU!



Pictured: President's Volunteer Service Points of Light Gold Award recipients. Front Row - S. Eliason, D. Hendricks, D. Clayton, Back Row - G. McKimmie, J. Spears, D. Schaaf, D. Boyd, K. Blanchard, D. Weaver, B. Pollock, E. Pingston. Not Pictured: J. Davie, R. Norman, T. Suzor.



A Great Ceremony to Start a New VMC Year

The VMC Volunteer Recognition Ceremony coincided with the changing of the Board of Directors on July 13th. In 2021-2022, eighty-seven volunteers served more than 18,700 hours with four volunteers serving more than 1,000 hours!

On this page you'll see volunteers who attended the ceremony to receive the President's Volunteer Service Points of Light Certificate and Pin or a VMC Certificate. Thirty-nine volunteers served more than 100 hours between May 31, 2021-June 1, 2022. The

Bronze Award was designated to volunteers at 100-249 hours; the Silver Award at 250-499 hours and the Gold Award at 500+ hours. A VMC Certificate was also awarded to 11 volunteers at 50-99 hours.

In addition, Doris Hendricks and Alex Terrero were recognized with VMC Certificates to thank them for their contributions during their latest 3-year term on the Board of Directors from 2019-2022. Lou Rossi received an award for his contributions over the last thirty plus years.

Pictured (top left): Silver Award recipients. (L to R) V. Rogers, D. Walsh, VMC President D. Schaaf, M. Tucker, B. Whalen, B. Ellis, M. Wrazen. Not Pictured: A. Spence, R. Whisenant.

Pictured (middle): Bronze Award recipients. (L to R) B. Wilkening, J. Adamson, J. Longway, D. Longway, J. Rippon, P. Julian, R. Tomasso, R. Amelio, VMC President D. Schaaf. Not Pictured: H. Rhodes, H. Beaver, H. Magner, J. Greene, R. Shapiro, T. Schmid and W. Rowe.

Pictured (bottom): VMC Certificate Award recipients. (L to R) E. Hoffman, D. Pearsall, D. Herring, N. Aycock, VMC President D. Schaaf. Not Pictured: D. Bisset, N. Desmarais, B. Finke, M. Funderburk, B. Porter, G. Schlegel.



Our New Board

(continued on next page)

Photos from the 2022-2023 Board of Directors swearing-in at our July General Meeting. Melbourne City Councilman Tim Thomas did the swearing in honors this year. Check the Courier on page 19 for a complete list of the 2022-23 BVC/VMC Leadership and Boards Team.

In addition to the Ceremony and honoring our volunteers with Presidential Awards, we used this great day to highlight the role VMC plays within the community to supports veterans.



Pictured: Bob Doyle and Chip Hanson present a \$1000 check from the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs they arranged for a donation to Jennifer Taylor, Vice President of the Brevard National Veterans Homeless Support 501(c)3.



Pictured: Doris Hendricks as an outgoing board member being presented a VMC Certificate.



Local Student Inspired by VMC Volunteerism

Emma Brandenburg volunteered at the VMC in past years and was so engaged by the museum and volunteers that she wrote a book on the "War on Terrorism" for her senior project for her Diploma of Distinction from Edgewood Jr/Sr High School. She stopped by in late July to donate a copy of the book to the library and present a copy to the VMC executive staff. Emma enlisted in the Navy after graduating. Coincidentally, her sister Sara is at Officer Candidate School. Congratulations to the Brandenburg family on this exciting new chapter for their family.

Veterans Memorial Center and Park: A Short History of a Gem on Merritt Island

Forty-three years ago, Brevard County officially created the Brevard Veterans Council (BVC) in the aftermath of America's divisive war in Vietnam.

The six founders of the BVC were led by COL John Howard, USA, Ret, who was the son of the head of all US Army Chaplains in WWII. The group met in homes, restaurants, churches and training rooms at the Merritt Square Mall. As their numbers grew, the County and Merritt Island Redevelopment Agency (MIRA) looked at a potential building site.

Building the Property

A real estate down turn in the late 1980s opened the door to the state and later MIRA to take over property along Sykes Creek, leading to the opportunity to give the Veterans Memorial Center and the BVC their own home in 1990.

The next year, the Veterans Memorial Center (VMC) 501(c)3 was created and veterans joined in droves creating a museum, library and facilities to meet and rent out. Since the beginning, it was decided veterans and the public would not be charged to visit, but the organization recognized revenue was needed to operate and grow.

The beautiful Veterans Memorial Plaza was dedicated in 2011. A few short years later in 2016, the 6000 sq foot military museum and 82 acre Veterans Memorial Park were opened on that Veterans Day.

Now with 500 members in the BVC/VMC, representing 72,000 veterans and 16,000 active-duty military personnel in Brevard County, the VMC has become a gem on Merritt Island and is considered by many to be the biggest and most beautiful VMC in Florida.

Looking to the Future

On 13 July 2022, the 43rd BVC/VMC annually elected team of Officers and Board Members was sworn in to guide. The officers will act as part of the government/veteran partnership started in 1978 and bring the VMC and Park into a new wave of improvements. By the end of 2023, Park improvements will include a major amphitheater, lighting, irrigation for memorial trees, hundreds of new plants and trees, a food concession area, more restrooms, exercise stations along the existing 5K trails and much more.



Pictured (top): Rob Medina, Palm Bay Mayor, and Wayne Justice, Port Canaveral Commissioner, honor WWII Merchant Marine Vet and his wife Shirley at the VMC 2022 Swearing in Ceremony with the WWII MM Gold Medal.

Pictured (bottom): Rob Medina, Tim Thomas, Dean Schaaf, and Donn Weaver cut into the celebratory cake.

All this has happened because of an amazing partnership started four decades ago that includes:

- Brevard County Commission
- MIRA
- Tourist Development Council
- 11 Tenant Veteran Organizations including the largest DAV Chapter in Florida
- Many VMC partners and supporting corporations (see the Plaza Wall of Honor)
- JROTC, Sea Cadet, etc. High School Units
- And Many More (the VMC Lobby has a great list of major donors)

Come and visit the gem and help spread the word. The future is bright and the possibilities for events and activities in a new "Downtown" Merritt Island are endless.

THE FOURTH Is the BEST!

After two COVID framed, static BCSO/VMC Independence Day Parades in 2020 and 2021, the Fourth annual effort turned out to be the best.

While the Monday morning of 04 July was perhaps the hottest to date of the year, more than 90 units, including about 30 with VMC and other veteran connections, drove/walked the mile plus route.

They moved along Courtney Boulevard on Merritt Island, with perhaps several thousand individuals and families with children cheering and waving as the various floats, vehicles, motorcycles, fire trucks, etc passed by.



Pictured above: One of about 15 vendors at the VMC following the parade.

Pictured top right: the American Legion at the VMC BBQ following the parade.



Pictured bottom: The MOAACC and MOPH convertible, WWII Veteran and Grand Marshall George Rosenfield (right front); Keith Van Buren, MOPH member and Rep Posey staffer, driving; and MOAACC President Ken Lowe and his wife Toni waving to the crowd.

The VMC After Party

A few of the participants made their way to the VMC after the parade itself to become static floats. A total of about 250 spectators enjoyed great music from the Lonnie and Delinda Beach Band and good bbq food from Don Pearsall's Veteran Connections to a New Life (VCNL). All profits generated were used to support homeless and at risk veterans

and their families. The parade was well covered by Florida Today ([Check out their on-line coverage of 05 July 2022](#)) and was recorded from the Starting Line by the Space Coast Daily/Friday Night Locker Room broadcast cameras which can be viewed on the link to the 04 July Parade.



Our WWII Jeep only made it 3/4 of the way through the parade, but finally arrived and repairs began. Kelly Martin (center) recovers the relic and starts to figure out what went wrong.

VMC President Dean Schaaf rode in the command seat of the jeep while VMC VP Donn Weaver drove. Both were inside cooling off when this shot was taken.



Unofficial Brevard VMC Vets Calendar August 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/>

NOTE: Due to Senate Election Year Rules, Sen Rubio's Team must suspend VMC Office Hours until November. Call Mr. Tom Self at 497-254-3753 directly if you have questions during the gap in office hours directly as needed.

AUGUST

01 Aug — Brevard County Property Appraiser Q and A on Homestead and Veteran Exemptions at VMC Library 0900-1400. Bring paperwork to process possible exemptions.

07 Aug — Fourth Annual Military Order of Purple Heart Brick Honoring Ceremony (1400-1600) VMC Gray Hall which will recognize and learn the stories of 10 Purple Heart Recipients then inducted into the MOPH VMC Plaza Monument Walkway.

12 Aug — 2022 National Veterans Homeless Support 7th Annual Dinner Fundraiser 1730- 2100 Radisson Resort at Cape Canaveral. Sponsorships available and tables at \$1000 or seats at \$100. Call 321-208-7562 or email events@nvhs.org. VMC and MOAACC are setting up Veterans Tables. Please register for that table if interested and contact Donn Weaver 757-871-6576

13 Aug — Special Back Brevard Heroes Fundraising Event in Veterans Memorial Park 1600-2000 to help pay medical expenses for the family of a KSC Firefighter stricken with cancer with some bills not covered by insurance.

14 Aug — Special Jazz Society Concert Gray Hall VMC 1400-1600.

14 Aug — Quilts of Valor Presentations by Karmel Sowers Team to deserving veterans in the VMC Museum 1500-1630.

27 Aug — OASIS packing of "care boxes" for deployed overseas troops 0830-1100 in VMC Gray Hall. Supporting will be 60 members of the Elevation Church Outreach Program who will also provide major landscaping support to the VMC grounds.

SEPTEMBER

11 Sep — Remembering 9/11, 21 Years Later: Honoring the Fallen on that Day and those who fell later as a result of those attacks, as well as those who went to the fight for over 20 years thereafter. VMC Center, Outdoor Ceremony 1700-1900.

17 Sep — Unveiling and Dedication of America's Monument to Fallen Allies in the VMC Gray Hall and Plaza 1000- 1230 hours.

17 Sep — Seminar 1300 - 1700 VMC Gray Hall to inform rising High School Juniors about the admissions process for US military academies and College ROTC scholarships. Sponsored by MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation. Contact Donn Weaver, VMC and GDF (757-871-6576) for more information.

OCTOBER

07-08 Oct — The Central Brevard "Veteran Stand Down to Stand Up" (Formerly known as Stand Down) event will be held at the Cocoa Armory on 07 October (set up) and 08 October for the actual activity. This event, with a 25-year history, was postponed due to COVID 19 in 2020/21. As many as 200 homeless and at-risk veterans usually attend the event with more than that number of volunteers providing a wide range of services from the private sector, the VA, the Medical Community, charitable organizations, etc. The Veterans Memorial Center (VMC) is the primary organizer of the event, but partners with National Veterans Homeless Support (NVHS) and dozens of others to help the program support many veterans in need. Planning meetings begin in July 2022 at the VMC. This event will focus on homeless and at-risk veterans and their families, while matching the veterans with job options on the Space Coast. Contact BVC Council Chairman Donn Weaver 757-871-6576 for more information.

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08 Oct – Raider Challenge JROTC County Meet #1 in Veterans Memorial Park (0700-1230)

15 Oct – Support Committee Cape Canaveral National Cemetery (SC/CCNC) VMC
Gray Hall Dinner and Fundraiser - 1600-2000

22 Oct – Raider Challenge JROTC Invitational Meet #2 in Veterans Memorial Park (0700-1230)

27 Oct – BCSO Free Shredder Event at the Veterans Memorial Park 0900 - 1100.

27 Oct – BCSO Free Shredder Event at the Veterans Memorial Park 0900 - 1100.

NOVEMBER

08 Nov – Election Day including at VMC which is a polling station.

11 Nov – VMC Veterans Day Ceremony 0930-1100 with lunch and refreshments.

05 Nov – Raider Challenge JROTC District Championship Meet #3 in Veterans Memorial Park 0700-1300.

08 Nov – Election Day including at VMC which is a polling station.

11 Nov – VMC Veterans Day Ceremony 0930-1100 with lunch by Chick-fil-a and refreshments, special exhibits, speeches and vendors.

12 Nov – 247th Marine Corps Birthday Celebration 1800-2100 Marine Ball at Radisson Resort Cape Canaveral. Tickets required in advance NLT 01 Nov at \$34.00 per person. Contact MCLBrevard513@gmail.com for more information and to register.

12 Nov – St Francis Reflections Veterans Dash for LIFE 5K (0800-1200) in the Veterans Memorial Park to celebrate Veterans Day week, honor veterans and raise funds for SFR county wide veteran support programs. Contact Gloria Lorey of SFR 321-423-0506 for more information.

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



Veterans Sales Store

by Jalaine Spears

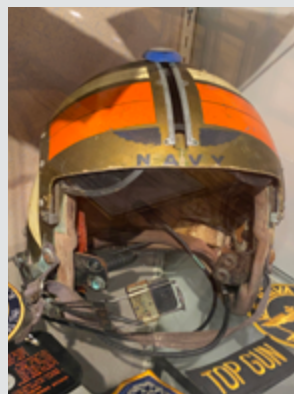
It's been an enjoyable summer with lots of families visiting to help educate their children about our history and what the museum has to offer. The kids have enjoyed photos in the helicopter and the jeep. They also received small tokens of dog tags, silver challenge coins and the American flags upon completion of our scavenger hunt, that made learning more fun. Shirts, hats and toysales have done well. We have had great help from our high school students to stock our shelves and greet guests. We wish them the best as they return to school.



Museum Highlights

The Museum at the VMC holds an immense number of historical military items to peruse, like this 1950s U.S. Navy pilot's helmet. It was worn by CDR Benjamin C. Miles while flying S-2F aircraft on Soviet anti-submarine search and destroy missions near Washington, D.C.

See this helmet and other uniforms, medals and equipment on display at the museum daily.



2022-23 VMC Scholarship Awards

by Doris Hendricks

This Year's VMC Scholarship Recipients

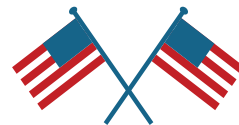
*Morgan Bentley
Aston Desmul
Bruno Goodwin
*Keith Happel
Christopher Hoffman
Joseph Hunt
Timothy Jinkins (wife*)
Sarah Joy
Patrick Kelly
*Stephanie Knaffl
Morgan Lewis
Samantha Noble
Sean Noble
Stacy Norman
Andon Picheco
Jadyn Schuijt

*The * indicates the recipient also received a scholarship from the VMC in 2020-2021 year. Names listed in alphabetical order.*

We have had a very successful year for the Scholarship Fund. All together we had 16 applicants this year and were able to give to each of them funds for their upcoming school year. We could not have done this without your generous support and donations.

I want to thank everyone that worked with us on the committee this year. Dean Schaaf, Ray Norman, Rich Tomasso, Jay Longwood, Garet McKimmie, and Mary Ann Tucker.

You are the best of the best without a doubt. Thank you to the Friday Night Dancers, Bridge Club, and all very generous donors. This could not have happened without you!



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.

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.



THE VETERAN'S MEMORIAL CENTER

COUNCIL COURIER

FEBRUARY 2022



A Publication of the Howard W. Hanes Council & Veterans Memorial Center

COURIER ADVERTISING RATES

Business Card: \$50 per year

Quarter Page Color: \$150 per year

Half Page Color: \$250 per year



Park and Plaza Report

by Donn Weaver

Bookings are up, brick donations are up, and the Plaza and grounds are looking up!!

With our maintenance crew working hard and with a new outdoor landscaping effort, you will be seeing major upgrades to an already cleaned up and improved grounds area around the VMC main buildings and Plaza. In addition to the maintenance crew, a 60 member volunteer group from Elevation Church receives our gratitude for the immense ammount of help they provided in beautifying our spaces.

The Plaza will soon see more than 30 bricks etched and installed in less than thirty days. Eleven bricks dedicated to Purple Heart Recipients will be unveiled at the 07 August Purple Heart Ceremony in the Gray Hall.

New Monuments in Progress

VMC and the County also approved a "America Patriot 250" marker sponsored by the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) honoring 250 years of American Patriotism since our founding. The marker will be similar in size and composition to the Last Naval Battle of the American Revolution historical marker near the Plaza entrance and the canon replica. Dedication for that new "monument" is planned for 18 March 2023, during the Last Naval Battle Commemoration.

Meanwhile, check out the progress on the "Monument to Honor America's Fallen Allies" next to the tank and Chaplains' monument. Cement pouring

should be completed when you read this and the gray granite engraved pillar and globe, along with 300 plus bricks installed. This will all happen before the planned 17 September dedication of that monument, still seen as the only one like it in Florida.

Ampitheater Update

The County expects to begin phases of the third major Veterans Memorial Park upgrade in September after an unexpected three month delay due to engineering staffing shortages. Recent efforts to move the amphitheater plan forward suggest designs and bids will soon be solicited, but ground breaking for that will likely be mid-2023 after all infrastructure is in place.

Still, we already have a beautiful Park. Check the calendar to see how many have booked it for 2022-23, including eight JROTC events!!



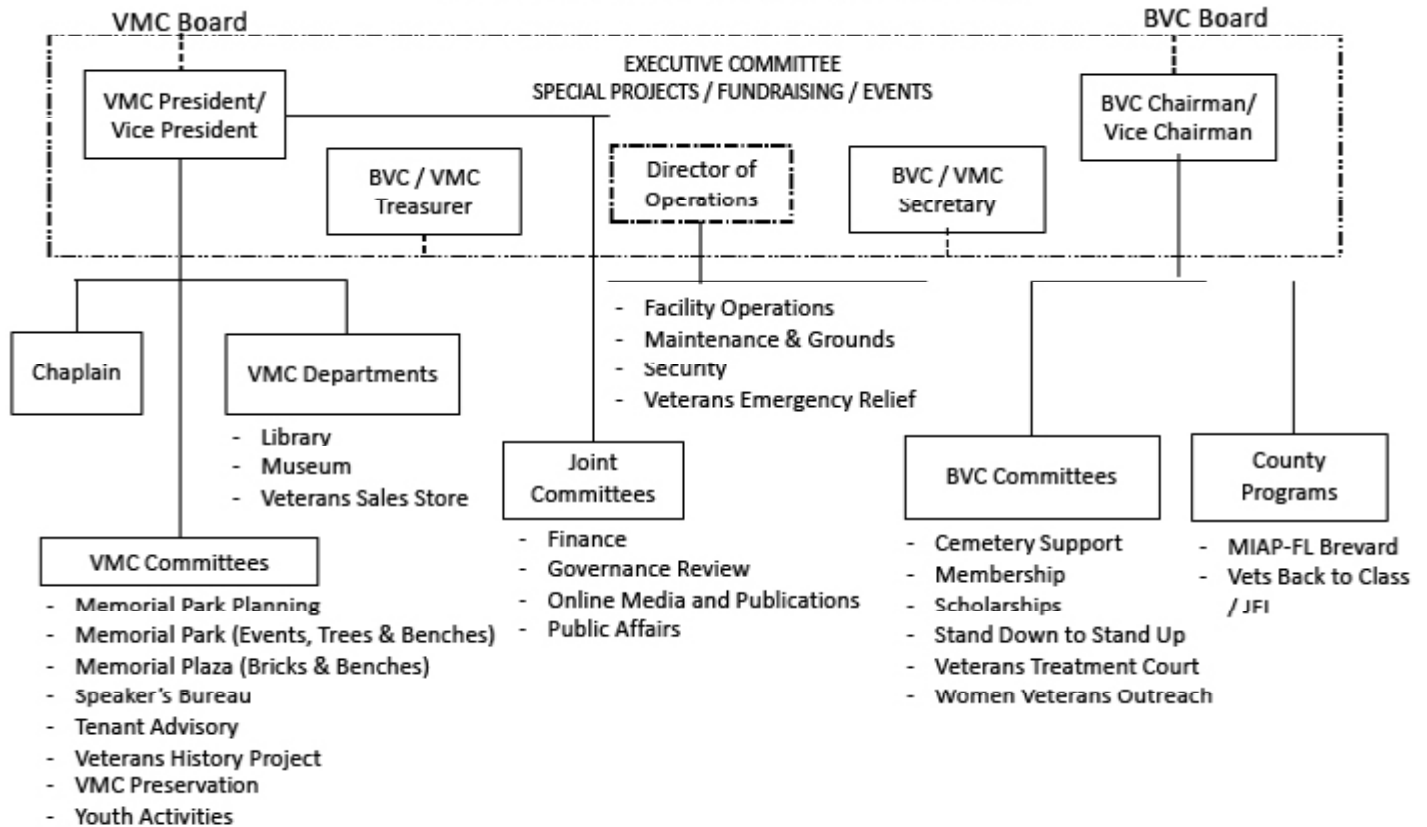
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VMC / BVC ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



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 Committees, and contact information to get in touch with the people in charge. It is our honor to be of service to our community.

2022-23 COMMITTEE / DEPARTMENT ASSIGNMENTS

27 July 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), 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	To Be Appointed	Ernie Hoffman, Ray Norman, Ted Suzor, Chip Hanson, Harry Beaver, Kristi Blanchard (EX COMM Rep), Ted Schmid, Dorothy Walsh
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 Herrnkind, 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	Ed Pingston	Ted Schmid, Dean Schaaf, Ray Norman, Bill Pollock, Don Pearsall, Jay Longway
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, Doug Bissett, Paul Julian, Joe Davie, Norm Desmarias, Hank Rhodes

2022-2023 Organization

as of 7/27/2022

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 ext 5	brevardvmc@gmail.com
BVC/VMC Treasurer	Dave Clayton	401-255-5461	bvmctreasurer@gmail.com
Brevard Veterans Council Board of Directors			
3 Year	Joe Davie	636-8644	jdavie@cfl.rr.com
3 Year	Vic Rogers	603-707-2304	itcret@yahoo.com
3 Year	To Be Appointed		
2 Year	Ed Pingston	794-9401	ed@pingstonservices.com
2 Year	Ray Norman	749-7121	normanrayl@yahoo.com
2 Year	Ted Schmid	863-3640	tedschmid88@gmail.com
1 Year	Bill Pollock	352-258-6414	wrp50@yahoo.com
1 Year	Rich Tomasso	720-6944	rich4400@gmail.com
1 Year	Ted Suzor	271-4327	dolfyns21@cfl.rr.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	Garet McKimmie	571-239-9991	garetmck@yahoo.com
3 Year	Jay Longway	449-9037	jpl3x@yahoo.com
3 Year	Jalaine Spears	258-1139	jkspears1@gmail.com
2 Year	Dave Boyd	266-3825	dboyd52@outlook.com
2 Year	Mary Ann Tucker	986-9494	wellmare@aol.com
2 Year	Paul Julian	749-7369	pjulian54@yahoo.com
1 Year	Dorothy Walsh	426-6736	dwalshusa@gmail.com
1 Year	Harry Beaver	501-9156	sgmbeaver@netzero.net
1 Year	To Be Appointed		
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 ext 5	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	Roseland, Tom & Patrice Jan, 2023
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Clayton, David & Anne July, 2022	Sherman, John S. (Tank) Sept, 2022
Eliason, Sandra July, 2022	Sherman, Rheta Campbell Sept, 2022
Fadok, Eleanor Dec 2022	Schmid, Ted Jan, 2023
Fleet Reserve Branch 263 July, 2023	Space Coast Honor Flight May, 2023
Fugaro, Joan & Ricardo Nov, 2022	Weiler, Philip R. Feb, 2023
Leonhart, Rick Mar, 2023	Weaver, Donn & Jeanne Sep, 2022
Longway, J.P & Donna Dec, 2023	Florida State University College of Social Work April, 2023
Martin, John & Roberta Nov, 2022	Norman, Ray April, 2027
Rapp, Gary (USMC) Aug, 2022	
Rathbun, Don & Barbara Dec, 2023	

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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).

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Name(s) _____