



THE VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER

# COUNCIL COURIER

SEPTEMBER 2022



A Publication of the Brevard Veterans Council & Veterans Memorial Center



WHAT'S INSIDE

## Even on Sundays

The BVC/VMC stays busy with events; the Jazz Society and Quilts of Valor are two of our favorites!

— page 10

## VMC Scholarship Awards

The annual award ceremony recognized outstanding academics with scholarships for further education.

— page 11

## Growing the JROTC and Similar Programs

Encouraging and educating our youth is part of our mission, and we are encouraged to see these programs growing in Brevard.

— page 13

## Elevation Church Elevates the VMC Grounds

*Volunteers are central to everything we do at the VMC. We are always honored when those outside our organization come and volunteer to help us as has Elevation Church.*

*We thank them for the many, many man hours and funds that have helped our grounds shine!*

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SEPTEMBER 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 Those submissions received after that date will not be published.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](mailto:brevardvmc@gmail.com)

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## Our Organization

As of 1 Sept 2022:

[List of Board Members 2022-2023](#)

As of 9 August 2022:

[Committee Department Assignment 2022-2023](#)

As of 1 September 2022:

[BVC VMC Org Chart 2022-2023](#)



## 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)



## Happy 75th birthday to the Air Force, memorials and VMC grounds improvements!

August was another busy month at the Veterans Memorial Center and September will have a couple of major events with the remembering 9/11 event and the dedication of the new Allied Forces Monument on Saturday, September 17th. September 16th is also POW/MIA day!

September 18th is the United States Air Force 75th birthday. Their Motto is "Aim High.....Fly-Fight-Win". They are no longer the "junior service" since the United States Space Force was formed on December 20th, 2019.

Progress is being made on the Park improvements, as I just witnessed the

surveyors beginning work for the next phase of construction and eventually the amphitheater. I am sure you have noticed the parking lot landscaping improvements just completed by a great effort by Elevation Church Melbourne on August 27th. Their volunteers also assisted with the gift boxes that Oasis packed up for the troops overseas. Bravo Zulu to both groups!

Just had a gentleman walk in today and donated a sextant and compass, along with a Bluejacket's Manual that his father used in WWII. That is exactly how our museum has received the majority of its artifacts! Thanks to the generosity of our veterans and their goal to preserve military history.

I hope everyone had a chance to enjoy the summer and got some time off. I will take some time off myself and will be on vacation from 7 to 20 September and will miss the events mentioned above.

Thanks to all volunteers for your dedication and hours served. We could not survive without you!

## VMC/BVC CONTACTS

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[FACEBOOK](#)

[WEBSITE](#)

[YOUTUBE](#)



## 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 a reproduction American Revolution uniform, donated by Bob Chorney.



## 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 Positive Impact, But More to Strive For

*As the weeks and months go by, it is easy to get caught up in the day to day and not step back to check our BVC/VMC course from time to time.*

There is no doubt that because of our volunteers, and many more who help us extend our missions, we have become a special organization in Brevard County. **I hope you are as proud as I am to be an active member of the BVC/VMC.**

Despite that, we should take time this fall to measure our success in our core missions: supporting and teaching veterans, youth and our community.

Here are just a few ways we can measure how effectively we are doing and thus how far reaching is our impact:

- **Programs and Events:** Working with many partnerships, the VMC puts on some very significant events with many more planned the rest of the year. Let's check attendance figures, media coverage and comments from attendees to see how impactful the events will be.
- **Financial Management:** The VMC has received many generous donations of late for unrestricted

use and also for specific programs. The BVC/VMC Departments and Boards are looking at options we have to improve the physical plant and the quality of programs using such funds. Lists are being compiled and prioritized so that we can budget accordingly once the funds are fully received, hopefully before the new year begins.

- **Better Calendars/More Bookings:** We have a great new, on line calendar system (thanks Kristi!!) that shows wonderful promise in being able to deconflict scheduling and maximize the positive impact the many great venues we manage can have for all our missions. The sheer volume of requests for events at the VMC and Park we get every week shows us much about impact. That will only grow as Phase III Park upgrades and the Amphitheater are completed in 2023.
- **More Volunteers/More Taking on Work:** We are now ahead of pre-covid numbers in signed up and active volunteers with 66. We also have several new Board members. In my nine years at VMC, a much higher percentage of our Board members and volunteers go beyond the minimum. With many large events we need volunteers to come to them and help support our missions with assist the public. We can and should continue to improve in this area.
- **Bench Strength:** While some committees are flush, some need help and we should have more people ready to take on key jobs to support vacations, expansion and transitions. Impact will be greater when the workload is shared more broadly and when more understand how we get so many things done.

So, let's take a look at this list again in the new year to measure progress, hoping to better impact our missions.

Thanks for "listening,"  
Donn







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
- ❖ Van Transportation
- ❖ Outdoor Pet Services
- ❖ Women Vets Services
- ❖ Much more...

8 October 2022  
7:30 am – 2 pm

For Homeless or Distressed Veterans  
and Families

### SPONSORED BY

THE VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER AND  
MANY OTHER VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS

06 SEPTEMBER	VMC LIBRARY 5-6:30 PM
20 SEPTEMBER	VMC GRAY HALL 5-6:30 PM
27 SEPTEMBER	ARMORY 11 AM – 12:30 PM
07 OCTOBER	SET UP ARMORY 12-5 PM
08 OCTOBER	EVENT – ARMORY 7:30 AM – 2PM

### LOCATION

Cocoa Armory  
308 North Fiske Boulevard, Cocoa  
32922

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Non-Monetary Donations  
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To Volunteer  
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## Chaplain's Corner

by Chaplain Chip Hanson  
USMC (Fmr)

The VMC will hold its  
9/11 Memorial Service  
from 1700-1900 on  
September 11th at the VMC  
in an outdoor ceremony.

*The events of 9/11 and their impact will stay with our country for generations to come. We honor those that lost their lives and the heroes that were created that day.*

It was a quiet Tuesday morning; everyone was either at work or on their way to work or just settling in with a warm cup of coffee. Little did we know that a group of men had boarded at least 4 aircraft, not for the purpose of travel but for the purpose of death and destruction. The following timeline was found on Wikipedia:

7:59: Flight 11, a Boeing 767 carrying 81 passengers and 11 crew members, departs 14 minutes late from Logan International Airport in Boston, its destination being Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) in Los Angeles, California.

8:46:40:[10] Flight 11 crashes at roughly 466 mph (790 km/h or 219m/s or 425 knots) into the north face of the North Tower (1 WTC) of the World Trade Center, between floors 93 and 99.

9:03:02: Flight 175 crashes at about 590 mph (950 km/h, 264 m/s or 513 knots) into the south face of the South Tower (2 WTC) of the World Trade Center, between floors 77 and 85.



9:03: FAA's New York Center notifies NORAD (NEADS) of the hijacking of Flight 175, at the same time it crashes.

9:04 (approximately): The FAA's Boston Air Route Traffic Control Center stops all departures from

9:06: The FAA bans takeoffs of all flights bound to or through the airspace of New York Center from airports in that Center and the three adjacent Centers—Boston, Cleveland, and Washington. This is referred to as a First Tier ground stop and covers the Northeast from North Carolina north and as far west as eastern Michigan.

9:08: The FAA bans all takeoffs nationwide for flights going to or through New York Center airspace. ABC News reports later that the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, the agency that runs the New York-area airports, asked the FAA for permission to close down the New York Center airspace.

9:24: The FAA notifies NORAD's Northeast Air Defense Sector about the suspected hijacking of Flight 77. The FAA and NORAD establish an open line to discuss Flight 77, and shortly thereafter Flight 93.

9:26: Flight 93's pilot, Jason Dahl, replies to Ballinger's text message, "Ed, confirm latest mesg plz--Jason."

9:28: Hijackers storm the cockpit on Flight 93 and take over the flight. The entry of the hijackers is overheard by flight controllers at Cleveland.

9:32: A radio transmission from Flight 93 is overheard by flight controllers at Cleveland: "Ladies and gentlemen here... is the captain please sit down... Keep remaining [sic] sitting. We have a bomb on board. So sit."

9:33–9:34: A tower supervisor at Reagan National Airport tells Secret Service operations center at the White House that "an aircraft [is] coming at you and not talking with us," referring to Flight 77. The White House is about to be evacuated when the tower reports that Flight 77 has turned and is approaching Reagan National Airport.

Knowing that the aircraft was not returning to an airport as the hijackers claimed, a group of passengers and flight attendants

planned an insurrection.

One of the passengers, Thomas Burnett, Jr., told his wife over the phone that "I know we're all going to die. There's three of us who are going to do something about it. I love you, honey." Another passenger—Todd Beamer—was heard saying "Are you guys ready? Let's roll" over an open line.

Sandy Bradshaw, a flight attendant, called her husband and explained that she had slipped into a galley and was filling pitchers with boiling water. Her last words to him were "Everyone's running to first class. I've got to go. Bye."

The passengers fought the four hijackers and are suspected to have attacked the cockpit with a fire extinguisher. The plane then flipped over and sped toward the ground at upwards of 500 miles per hour, crashing in a rural field near Shanksville in western Pennsylvania at 10:10 a.m.

9:35: Based on a report that Flight 77 had turned again and was circling back toward the District of Columbia, the Secret Service orders the immediate evacuation of the Vice President from the White House.

9:37:46: Flight 77 crashes into the western side of the

Pentagon at 530 mph (853 km/h,

9:45: United States airspace is shut down. No civilian aircraft are allowed to take off, and all aircraft in flight are ordered to land at the nearest airport as soon as possible.

9:58:59:[10] The South Tower of the World Trade Center collapses, 56 minutes after the impact of Flight 175.

**Freedom itself was attacked this morning by a faceless coward, and freedom will be defended.**

**-George W. Bush**

**"In God I trust and am not afraid. What can man do to me?" (Psalm 56:11)**

NEVER, NEVER FORGET. To this day terrorists are still killing Americans on our own soil every chance they can.

**GOD BLESS AND PROTECT  
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**  
Chaplain Chip Hanson

## 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**







**The 2022, Brevard County 9/11 21st Anniversary  
Memorial Tribute will be held at:**

## The Veteran's Memorial Park

**Located at:**  
**400 South Sykes Creek Pkwy**  
**Merritt Island, FL 32952**

CITIZENS OF BREVARD COUNTY JOIN US  
AT 4:00PM ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2022  
SUPPORTING AND REMEMBERING THE FIRE, POLICE, EMS,  
CIVILIANS, AND MILITARY WHO LOST THEIR LIVES ON 9/11  
AND ALL THOSE AFTERWARDS WHO SUFFERED  
THE LOSS OF LIFE AND MEDICAL 9/11 CHALLENGES.

**UNIFORM CEREMONY BEGINS AT 4PM.**





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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](http://SpaceCoastJazzSociety.org)



# FRIDAY NIGHT Dances

PROUDLY PRESENTED  
BY THE VMC

## SEPTEMBER 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.





## Library Notes

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

Our library monthly staff meetings have been productive this summer with several projects taken on by our library staff volunteers. Bill Wilkening has taken on the task of the Coordinator of Library Online in our collaboration with Brevard Libraries.

After receiving input from the other library staff members, he plans to begin work on a brochure that we could make available to Brevard County libraries. The brochure would highlight our Brevard Veteran Center website links to our online resources found at <https://veteransmemorialcenter.org/>. Among these links are our library's [online book catalogs](#), [Veterans Back to Class](#) teaching videos, and [Veterans History Project](#) videos.

## Stand Up to Stand Down

Jill Rippon has offered her secretarial skills to the Stand Down to Stand Up Event coming up at the Cocoa Armory. Meetings to prepare for the event will begin on Tuesday, Sept. 6th, 5:00–6:00 PM at the library.



## New Veterans History Project Interview: Ray Norman



Ray Norman, active with the Brevard Veterans Council for the past 30 years, recently sat for an interview for the Veterans History Project.

Ray enlisted in the US Naval Reserves in Birmingham Alabama when he was 17 Years old and was trained to support Aviation Ordinance on Naval Aircraft during

the Korean War Era. He later enlisted in the Alabama and Florida National Guard.

After relocating to Florida and enlisting in the Army Reserves, he became a Flying Warrant Officer aboard Beechcraft King Air RU-21 aircraft. Ray did surveillance for the Army Reserve when deployed during the Cuban Missile Crisis and Gulf War.

Ray currently works to see that veterans are recognized for their service and receive proper burial sites and services.

[Click to see the Ray's full Veterans History Project interview.](#)



## COURIER ADVERTISING RATES

**Business Card:** \$50 per year

**Quarter Page Color:** \$150 per year

**Half Page Color:** \$250 per year

## 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.

# Even on a Sunday: The VMC and Our Community

As you can tell by our new calendar, very few days go by, even on the weekends where interesting and special events do not take place at the VMC or Park.

14 August was no exception. That Sunday afternoon a record 64 people attended the Space Coast Jazz Society concert the Gray Hall while at the same time about 20 people came to watch two veterans - one from Vietnam and one from the GWOT - receive their Quilts of Valor from Karmen Sower's special organization.

How many other veteran organizations can match that for community support and engagement on a warm summer Sunday afternoon in Florida?



**Pictured:** BVC Chairman Donn Weaver presents VMC Challenge Coins to the two recipients of their Quilts of Valor



**Pictured:** Our VMC Photographer Roger Scruggs captures the appreciation and joy of the Jazz Concert. The Space Coast Jazz Society is booked at VMC one Sunday a month through 2023, so check the calendar and enjoy one of their concerts. They are a major advertiser in our Courier Newsletter as well.





## 2022-23 VMC Scholarship Awards



At a special ceremony on August 10th at the Veterans Memorial Center, VMC President Dean Schaaf awarded checks to ten of the sixteen scholarship recipients in front of their families, the VMC Board of Directors, and VMC members and partner organizations. The students had already demonstrated remarkable achievement and will now be able to use the scholarship money where they have the most need (tuition, books, fees or room and board) in this next phase of their journey.

Thanks again to the VMC Selection Committee and the generous support and donations from the Friday Night Dancers, Bridge Club, and all other generous donors.



### 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 are so proud of all our scholarship recipients.  
Best of luck in the new school year!



## QUIZ

What Service Branches are included in the Brevard JROTC Programs?

Army (7)

Air Force (4)

Space Force (1)

Navy (2)

Marine Corps (1)



Pictured: The VMC members in the photo are Dean Schaaf (far left), Wayne Justice (light blue shirt near Dean) and Donn Weaver (Royal Blue Shirt center). In the light grey shirt between Justice and Weaver is Tim Thomas, Melbourne City Councilman and Viera HS JROTC Lead Instructor who swore the new Board in last month. You may also know him as VMC's Dancing with the Space Coast winner in June at the BCSO Gala.

# Engaging JROTC and Cadet Programs More Each Year

by Donn Weaver

The VMC, along with many other veteran organizations like the Good Deeds Foundation of the Military Officers Association, works with fifteen Brevard County JROTC programs, five Sea Cadet (2), Civil Air Patrol (2) and Sea Scout Ship (1) and other cadet units. The veteran groups provide financial support, awards, field trips and much more.

Prior to the start of the 2022-23 school year on 10 August, VMC, MOAACC/GDF and other organizations met with all the JROTC Instructors at their In Service Training at Viera High School. They received great financial support from GDF (\$1800 per school for the year) but also from the VMC.

We sometimes forget that there are several Brevard Public and Private High Schools with no JROTC programs like West Shore, Edgewood, Trinity, MCC, MI Christian which we try to reach out for tours, scholarships and special events. Florida Prep is a Private High School that does include an Air Force JROTC and we hope to see them visit VMC a couple times this year.

We can all be pleased that the Brevard JROTC program is among the best and has a higher level of participation than almost any other Florida county and among most states. While numbers are not available yet, the average was more than 140 cadets at each school last year.

## VMC Support programs for the JROTC and Other Cadet Units:

- Color Guard during the year (\$200 grant each). Set for 2022-23 at this meeting
- 7 Veterans Memorial Park Events Oct- April (Raider Challenge, Drill, Rifle Sprint Relay)
- Vets Back to Class
- Museum Tours and Park Outings/Training
- Research thru Veterans History Project (250 stories) via YouTube online
- Traveling Trunk
- Support at major events
- Host to Courageous Division Sea Cadets
- Scholarships to an average of 5 JROTC graduating cadets
- Support to several JROTC Ceremonies, especially around Veterans Day

Pictured: Dan McIntyre (l) and Donn Weaver present support and invitations to Dean Fitzgerald, JROTC Instructor on the Florida Prep Campus.







# The Patriot Report

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

## What the Camp Lejeune Justice Act Means for Veterans and their Families

The Camp Lejeune Justice Act of 2022 set up a two-year timeframe from the date of the law's enactment during which Veterans, their families, and others exposed to contaminated drinking water on the military base could commence legal action. This window is critical because it removes legal technicalities, like North Carolina's statute of repose, which have barred claimants from receiving compensation despite having both a history of exposure and a relevant medical diagnosis.

### Who Can File a Camp Lejeune Lawsuit?

To have the grounds for a Camp Lejeune Lawsuit, you must have been exposed to contaminated water while living or working at Camp Lejeune base, and you must have suffered harm that is linked to the toxic chemicals with which the water at the military base was contaminated. This means a rational medical opinion based on sound medical evidence stating your medical condition is caused by exposure to the chemicals found at Camp Lejeune.

### What constitutes exposure in Camp Lejeune claims?

You (or the loved one on behalf of whom you are seeking compensation) must have been exposed to water from contaminated systems at Camp Lejeune for at least 30 days. You must also present evidence you were physically present at Camp Lejeune for at least 30 days between the dates of August 1, 1953, and December 31, 1987.

The contaminated treatment plants and distribution systems on the base were the Hadnot Point and Tarawa Terrace plants. The Hadnot Point system sometimes supplemented water distributed by the Holcomb Boulevard system, expanding the scope of potential contamination to Veterans and families served by this water system.

The water in these systems during the period between 1953 and 1987 was found to have contained volatile organic chemicals (VOCs) at levels, in excess of, what is considered safe for drinking water. The specific toxic chemicals detected in Camp Lejeune drinking water include trichloroethylene (TCE), tetrachloroethylene (also called perchloroethylene, or PCE), vinyl chloride, and benzene.

*There is a two year time frame to establish claims in the Camp Lejeune lawsuit; be proactive in becoming involved so the window is not missed.*

*This article outlines those that may be eligible and under what circumstances they can make a claim in the lawsuit.*

Each of these chemicals has been linked to serious medical conditions. Research findings sufficient to establish causation exist in the case of several medical conditions, according to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

TCE has been shown to cause non-Hodgkin lymphoma, kidney cancer, and cardiac defects. Additionally, research findings have uncovered sufficient evidence to suggest but not definitively conclude a causal relationship between exposure to TCE and leukemia, multiple myeloma, liver cancer, scleroderma, end-stage renal disease, and Parkinson's disease.

Causation has been established between exposure to PCE and bladder cancer, while evidence suggests but is not currently sufficient to definitively conclude causation of non-Hodgkin lymphoma and end-stage renal disease.

Evidence exists that demonstrates causation between vinyl chloride exposure and liver cancer. Other health conditions that have been linked to vinyl chloride exposure by at least one research study include lung cancer, brain cancer, soft tissue cancer, and liver cirrhosis.

Sufficient evidence exists to show causation between benzene exposure and leukemias and non-Hodgkin lymphoma. Research studies have also suggested causation between benzene and multiple myeloma, although the evidence is not sufficient  
*(continued on next page)*



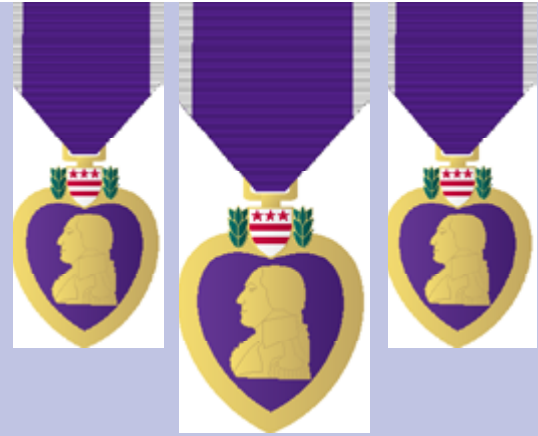
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to definitively conclude a causal relationship with this health condition. At least one research study has linked benzene exposure to miscarriage, aplastic anemia, and myelodysplastic syndromes.

Under the Camp Lejeune Justice Act of 2022, the plaintiff must be able to provide evidence showing either that there is a causal relationship between the toxic exposure resulting from Camp Lejeune contaminated water or "...that a causal relationship is at least as likely as not." As such, research findings on the health effects of these VOCs are integral to the success of a Camp Lejeune lawsuit.

In light of the ongoing legislative developments, attorneys are currently reviewing potential Camp Lejeune lawsuit claims. If you believe you may have the grounds for a claim, either under current law or once the new legislation is enacted, consider consulting a Camp Lejeune lawyer who is knowledgeable about these unique legal situations to learn more about your legal rights. Remember also, this lawsuit is separate from the VA claims you may have.

**George Furis**  
Department of Florida Service Officer (Retired)



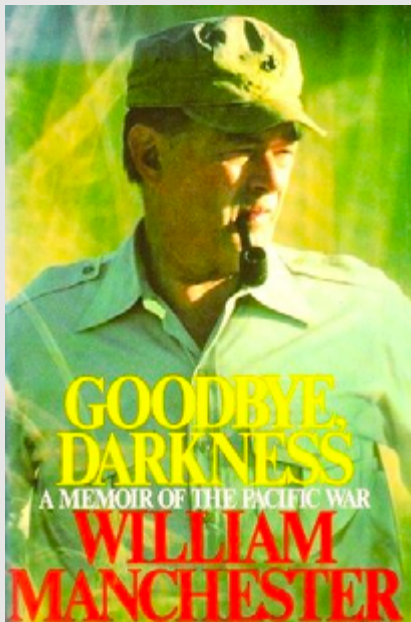
## ATTENTION!

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: "Goodbye, Darkness" by William Manchester Catalog # Marine-36



Another WWII Pacific Theatre book - but this book demonstrates the reality of the horror, commitment, and accomplishments in the war against Imperial Japan.

William Manchester, author of "AMERICAN CAESAR" (MacArthur) is so good with this autobiography that I have read it twice, partly because I had so many family members serving at the time.

Weaving his own story in the Marine Corps,

particularly in the Okinawa Invasion, he thoroughly covers the chronology of events at both the big picture and at the trenches level. Marines fought and died from bad planning, inexperience, horrible weather, and inadequate resources, but with amazing

perseverance and good training and leadership.

Personally, visiting each of the island battlefields 25 years later, he is, for the most part, horrified at how little is still recognized there, partly due to remoteness. Equally awful is how little effort was made by the US government to memorialize the battlefield locations.

A favorite chapter, and history few people ever have heard, is about the New Guinea Campaign where the advancing Japanese Army was turned back in the Morgan Stanley Mountain range from their advance in Australia.

Overall, the reader is captivated by the author's ability to bring the true memories alive. This book is not for the faint of heart, as much of the detail is graphic. For Veterans who have experienced front-line action, this book could bring back bad memories. For politicians who talk of warfare so loosely, this should be required reading!

**Doug Bisset**  
-VMC Library Staff



# Unofficial Brevard VMC Vets Calendar September 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.

## SEPTEMBER

**10 Sep — Remembering 9/11 Ceremony with the Space Coast Symphony Orchestra** at The Scott Center of Holy Trinity Church and School at 1900 Hours. The school is located at 5625 Holy Trinity Drive in Melbourne along side the Pineda Causeway near Wickham.

**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.

**30 Sep — Second Annual NVHS Golf Tournament Fundraiser** to support homeless and at risk veterans at Rockledge Country Club 0700-1400. Sign up as sponsor, player or supporter at [nvhs.org/events](http://nvhs.org/events)

## 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.

**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.**

## NOVEMBER

**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.

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**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 perperson. 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.

**17 Nov – Office of Sen. Marco 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. No office hours at VMC in December.

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



## Veterans Sales Store

by Jalaine Spears

Hard to believe summer is almost over and the kids are back in school. We had many families come and visit the museum and enjoy the almost 5000 artifacts. We heard lots of praises on how wonderful it was to learn about them. We have new Space Force tee shirts, books by local authors, magnets, decals, hats and mouse pads. Stop in to see us and check out our military displays and store items.

We had our first online sale of a t-shirt to a buyer in Tennessee. It's great that supporting our mission is valued around the country!



## Brevard County Detachment 513: Happy 40th Anniversary!

Brevard County Detachment 513 of Merritt Island, Florida celebrated its 40th Anniversary as a member of the Department of Florida (15 August 1982-15 August 2022). We signed up 2 members, had a nice dinner, cut a cake, displayed several types of uniforms and had our Detachment History book, Americanism Book and a variety of items that we use to make our Detachment a huge success in the Veteran Community!

**Semper Fidelis,**  
**Vinnie Howard**  
 Junior Past Commandant





# Park and Plaza Report

by Donn Weaver

By the time you read this report, you will have SEEN the work! Just some highlights of the past month alone in the Plaza, Park and general area stand out:

## Plaza

After the 07 August Purple Heart Ceremony, 11 bricks were installed at the MOPH monument, and an addition 12 bricks installed along with some bench and section upgrades. The Georgianna Church, which donated \$10,000 to the VMC, was recognized with a granite piece on the plaza wall.

## Allies Monument

The Cement was laid for the new monument near the tank and chaplains monument. The completed monument is expected to be dedicated on 17 September.

## Elevation Church

On 27 August, 50 volunteers from Elevation Church spent \$10,200 of their outreach money for landscaping materials and altered forever the look and feel of landscaping around our main parking area. During that process, they moved 20 tons of decorative stone into position. They plan quarterly volunteer work projects at the VMC and will soon be honored with their own granite piece on the plaza wall of supporting partners.



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The team also planted a memorial tree for a special tribute to America's POW/MIA which will be dedicated with the help of Rolling Thunder FL-1 on Veterans Day, 11 Nov.

#### Tree removal

More excitement on 27 August: while Elevation Church and OASIS volunteers were working hard, VMC President Dean

Schaaf, his son Charles and VMC Maintenance Supervisor Kelly Martin took out most of a huge tree that had been endangering our Huey Helicopter. Thanks to that work, we can now also get the helicopter and all other Plaza artifacts repainted next month!! Great job guys with no injuries and completing the projects before the rains came!!



**Pictured Top :** Cement in the process of being laid for the Allies Monument

**Pictured Middle :** Volunteers from Elevation Church place 20 tons of decorative stone into the parking lot median.



**Pictured Bottom:** The parking lot before and after the renovations by the Elevation Church volunteers.

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## Boosters

Bateman, Skip & Ruth July, 2026	Rathbun, Don & Barbara Dec, 2023
Bisset, M Doug Sept, 2023	Roseland, Tom & Patrice Jan, 2023
Clayton, David & Anne July, 2023	Schaaf, Dean & Susan July, 2023
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, 2023
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	

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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) \_\_\_\_\_