



THE VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER

# COUNCIL COURIER

NOVEMBER 2022



A Publication of the Brevard Veterans Council & Veterans Memorial Center



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This year's celebration will be a party to attend!

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## Hurricane Support Mission by Local JROTCs

*The JROTC from Brevard County partners with the VMC and other local groups to collect and distribute needed supplies for those touched by Hurricane Ian this month.*

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NOVEMBER 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 Those submissions received after that date will not be published.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 12 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)



We are approaching my favorite time of the year. Remembering our veterans on Veterans Day, spending time with family and loved ones on Thanksgiving and Christmas and the END OF HURRICANE SEASON!

October was a busy and eventful month with hurricane IAN and dealing with the aftermath of the storm. With the eye going right over us, we dodged a bullet as it was only a tropical storm at that point. Don Pearsall, Dorothy Walsh, Bob Doyle, and others spent many hours volunteering to assist SW Florida. Donn Weaver worked with the local schools to set up the Raider challenges that the JROTC units held in our park that brought in a lot of supplies that were shipped to the Fort Meyers and other areas. Thanks to all who brought

in much needed supplies and to the volunteers who sorted and packed the donations. We are complete with our support to the SW Florida area and will now support the flood victims along the St Johns River communities who suffered devastating losses. And finally, the highlight of the month, Don and Dorothy got married and had a beautiful ceremony at the VMC. Congratulations! The Hawaiian dancers where a nice touch.

I hope many of you took advantage of Merritt Island High School's "Honoring Veterans through Portraits" program sponsored by their Art Department. This program included portraits made from pictures that veterans submitted, and photographs of the veteran taken at several points around their campus. The Honoring Veterans through Portraits exhibit will be held in the museum at the VMC from November 11-13th.

The Veterans Memorial Center will be a voting location on November 8th, so be aware of the increased traffic (and parking). DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!!!

Thanks to all volunteers for your dedication and hours served. We could not be the Center we are without you!

## VMC/BVC CONTACTS

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[FACEBOOK](#)  
[WEBSITE](#)  
[YOUTUBE](#)



## Vietnam War and Education Center

There is a small museum dedicated to the Vietnam Experience in Melbourne near the Pineda Causeway that is worth a visit. Ben Bydalek has put together a Vietnam War Exhibit & Education Center and recently joined the Museums of Brevard (MOB). See more info at [vietnamwarexhibit.com](http://vietnamwarexhibit.com) for times and location.



## Council Chairman's Report

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

### In Need of Thanksgiving

As our country faces a critical election, as prices rise and economic uncertainty looms, we hope all of you will draw comfort, strength and support this Thanksgiving holiday season from your family, friends, fellow veterans and VMC volunteers.

Hopefully many of you feel as I do. We have developed a community at the VMC, not just a place to volunteer. With Veterans Day (and a busy week of events) as a prelude, let us all remember how much we can be thankful for because of veterans throughout our history and those who serve on active duty and as first responders today.

Wherever or however you pause with family and friends to give thanks on 24 November, hopefully you will reflect on how lucky we are to be American, live in Florida and, in many, many cases be able to help others this season and more.

Jeanne and I are going on an extended 6-day Thanksgiving trip to be with all our children and most of our grandchildren in Virginia for that long weekend. We hope each of you from our 70 volunteers in all forms, to our 500 members to the 72,000 veterans in Brevard that VMC represents, will have a very special Thanksgiving Holiday--this year, especially. There IS much to be thankful for!!

**Very Respectfully,**  
**Donn**



## VMC/BVC Secretary's Report

**CPT Kristi Blanchard,**  
**USA (Fmr)**

Happy Veterans Day! Happy Thanksgiving! As I reflect on two wonderful holidays in November that celebrate distant and near family, I am thankful for the camaraderie I find here at the VMC through my interactions with the many Veterans and families of veterans that I meet daily. Especially the interactions with Dean Schaff, Donn Weaver and Dave Clayton as part of the Executive Committee, but also the Curator, Board of Directors, DAV service officers, Tenant and Partner organizations, Gift Store staff, Museum Docents, and Library Staff. I can't name everyone who works here but in the spirit of celebrating some of those folks who work tirelessly and without fanfare, I'd like to thank **Julie Adamson**

for her dedicated support as Assistant Secretary during our twice monthly meetings; Jalaine Spears for her devoted support as Assistant Store Manager; Roger Scruggs for tirelessly attending events to get the perfect photo to share online; the public facing Manager on Duty staff who are here daily from opening to close - Sandy Eliason, Faron Petteys, Anda Ray, Eustace King, Greg Hendricks, Bob Caldo, Ken Shor, Coleen Seitter, and Don Marr; and our paid employees, Bob Doyle and Kelly Martin, who assist the Executive Committee with the daily operations and maintenance of our facility, plaza and park. As Americans, let's enjoy our holidays and look forward to another great year of fellowship here at the VMC.





# A Unique Veterans Day Celebration Planned at the VMC

On 11 November starting at 0930 at the Veterans Memorial Center Plaza, a very different Ceremony to Celebrate Veterans Day is planned. In addition to the ceremony there will be a theme of "Veterans Throughout History" with many short presentations taking place away from the podium. We hope many will turn out on this special holiday for America to celebrate its veterans and to witness nostalgia, pride, and commitment to keeping American and American veteran history relevant to where we are today.

## Highlights of the VMC Veterans Day Plans:

- Keynote by CWO DaWalt, CO USCG Station Port Canaveral
- Confirmation of a new Patriot Monument by the Daughters and Sons of the American Revolution in period attire
- Re-dedication of the VMC Civil War Monument with Blue and Grey Civil War descendants members in uniforms of that day
- Explanation and Highlight of the new US Allied Forces Monument – how to honor those who fought alongside American forces since 1775.
- Dedication of a POW/MIA newly planted tree with a 1973 County Marker to reflect on Vietnam and the POW/MIA program that began in that era with Rolling Thunder FL-1 and the Elevation Church
- Conclusion of a Ruck March from Cocoa Village to honor veterans of all branches
- Great music and patriotism
- Drinks and snacks by VMC partners
- Lunch by Chick-Fil-a on Route 520 – gratis!!
- Special Desserts by Longhorn Steakhouse on Route 520 for \$5 with proceeds going to VMC
- Dedication of several new VMC partner granite markers
- NOTU submarine ceremonial deck gun battery salute
- Quilts of Valor awards in the museum after the ceremony

All this and more will be going on at the center. We hope to see you at the VMC on 11 November to celebrate all those who have served our country with what will surely be a fantastic party.



## Celebrating Veterans Throughout History



November 11, 2022  
0930 - 1100  
Veterans Memorial Center  
Merritt Island

# THANK YOU !

Join us to remember those veterans who created and maintained this great country.

- Special Guest Speaker CWO Phillip Dawalt, Commander USCG Station
- Rededication of Revolutionary, Civil, and Viet Nam Era War Monuments – includes. period dress by volunteers from those organizations
- Celebration and thank you for companies, churches, and organizations who support Veterans in Brevard County and the VMC.
- Lunch courtesy of Chick-fil-A, Rte 520 and dessert by Texas Longhorn Steakhouse with proceeds to the VMC
- Art Show on Veteran portraits by Merritt Island High School
- Many other special exhibits and booths



## 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.



# Chaplain's Corner

by Chaplain Chip Hanson  
USMC (Fmr)

The most powerful weapon the citizens of the United States of America have is to vote. Early voting in Brevard County began on October 24th. Election day this year is November 8. **Be sure to VOTE!**

**"We do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate."**  
– Thomas Jefferson

**The history of voting rights in America is as follows:**

- **August 2, 1776: Declaration of Independence Frames Voters' Rights.** In the Declaration of Independence, signed on this day, Thomas Jefferson writes, "Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed."
- **June 21, 1788:** Males, who own property and are older than 21, are the only group allowed to vote. Article II establishes the Electoral College.
- **July 9, 1868:** Citizenship Granted to All US-Born and Naturalized.
- **February 3, 1870: Black Men Granted the Right to Vote.** The 15th Amendment is ratified, however, laws, including poll taxes, literacy tests, and grandfather clauses, are enacted in mostly Southern states, suppressing Black voting rights until 1965.
- **August 18, 1920: Women Get the Right to Vote**
- **June 2, 1924: Native Americans were Granted the Right to Vote**
- **1943 Chinese Exclusion Act Ends.** Barring Chinese from becoming citizens since 1882, it is finally repealed, and they can vote.
- **March 29, 1961:** Washington, D.C. Residents Can Vote in Presidential Election
- **January 23, 1964:** Poll Taxes Banned in the 24th Amendment
- **Voting Rights Act of 1965.** Banning literacy tests and enforcing the 15th Amendment on a federal level. Facing a flurry of legal challenges, the U.S. Supreme Court upholds its constitutionality in several rulings from 1965-1969. In 1970, Section 5 is extended for five years.
- **July 1, 1971:** 18 and Up Can Vote
- **August 6, 1975:** Rights for Non-English-Speaking Voters
- **June 29, 1982:** Voting Rights Act Extended for 25 years
- **September 28, 1984:** Voting Is Made Accessible for the Elderly and Handicapped
- **May 20, 1993: Voter Registration Through DMVs,** also known as the "motor voter" law, requires state motor vehicle agencies to offer voter registration opportunities, states to offer mail-in voter registration applications, states to maintain current and accurate voter registration lists, and opportunities to register to vote at certain state and local offices.
- **October 29, 2002: Help America Vote Act.** Mandates that the U.S. Election Assistance Commission improve and certify voting equipment, maintain the National Voter Registration form, and administer a national elections clearinghouse with shared practices, among other items. It provides states with funds to meet the new standards and provisions.
- **Supreme Court Walks Back Voting Rights Act 2013** in *Shelby County v. Holder*, the U.S. Supreme Court, in a 5-4 vote, ruled that Section 4(b) of the Voting Rights Act is unconstitutional, holding that the constraints placed on certain states and federal review of states' voting procedures, known as preclearance, are outdated. Seen as a blow to civil rights activists, since the ruling, which affected nine states and several counties and townships, a federal commission found at least 23 states had enacted "newly restrictive statewide voter laws." These include polling place closures, voter ID laws, limiting early voting, and more.

**Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies . Romans 8:33**

Happy Birthday Marine Corps! 10 November

**GOD BLESS AMERICA**  
Chaplain Chip Hanson

## References

Voting Rights: A Short History, Carnegie Corporation  
The Fight for the Right to Vote, Pence Law Library Guides  
The 19th Amendment, U.S. National Archives  
History of Federal Voting Rights Laws, U.S. Department of Justice  
The Twenty-Sixth Amendment, U.S. Constitution Center

## Veterans History Project Highlight: Colonel Danny McKnight



In this captivating interview, Army Ranger Danny McKnight tells about his time in combat in Mogadishu and in Somalia where they used Blackhawk Helicopters to capture enemy leadership in downtown Somalia. Colonel McKnight led the ground force operation that fought in the streets.

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

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



MIHS ART DEPARTMENT  
PRESENTS

# *Honoring Veterans through Portraits*

.....  
ART STUDENTS WANT TO CREATE A PORTRAIT TO HONOR YOU.

PLEASE SHARE A PHOTOGRAPH OF YOURSELF  
EMAIL PHOTOGRAPH [SOREY.LAUREN@BREVARDSCHOOLS.ORG](mailto:SOREY.LAUREN@BREVARDSCHOOLS.ORG)  
OR SHARE A PRINT ATTN: LAUREN SOREY

OR SIGN UP TO HAVE YOUR PORTRAIT TAKEN AT  
[HTTPS://WWW.SIGNUPGENIUS.COM/GO/30E084AA9AD2FA7FF2-HONORING:](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E084AA9AD2FA7FF2-HONORING)  
OCT 17-20 & OCT 24-27

TIME SLOT 1: ARRIVE TO SIGN IN THE FRONT OFFICE 8:50AM & HAVE YOUR PORTRAIT TAKEN 9:05  
TIME SLOT 2: ARRIVE TO SIGN IN IN THE FRONT OFFICE 12:45PM & HAVE YOUR PORTRAIT TAKEN 1:00  
TIME SLOT 3: ARRIVE TO SIGN IN THE FRONT OFFICE 1:45PM & HAVE YOUR PORTRAIT TAKEN 2:00

HONORING VETERANS THROUGH PORTRAITS EXHIBIT WILL BE HELD AT THE BREVARD  
VETERANS MEMORIAL NOVEMBER 11-13TH





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*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)



PROUDLY PRESENTED BY THE VMC

# FRIDAY NIGHT Dances

**NOVEMBER 4 AND 18 2022**

TICKETS \$7.50 PER PERSON. BYOB.

**DOORS OPEN AT 6:30PM**

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





## Library Notes

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

We received a large donation of books in October that included approximately two dozen historical novels about WWII. We are no longer collecting novels, so we are offering these books free to anyone that wants them. They are located on the low shelf near the library door. Please stop by the library and look to see if you are interested in taking home some of these books.

Hank Rhodes, one of our volunteers, has reviewed our rare book collection to see if we are able to pass on the titles that do not pertain to US military history. He was able to eliminate incomplete sets of Encyclopedias and Official Military Records. Due to Hanks' efforts we have gained much-needed space in our rare books

collection so that we may add more relevant tomes.

VMC has received a generous donation from the Brevard County Sheriff's department fund raiser that will be used to complete upgrades to our facility. The library would like to do a few upgrades to the artwork hung on the walls above our bookshelves. We need more paintings of US Military history that we could frame and hang on the wall above our bookshelves. Please let us know if you would like to donate any artwork that would add to our collection.



*Historical WWII novels are available to anyone interested in the VMC library.*

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Create  
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## Operations Report

**CPL Robert W. Doyle, USMC (Fmr)**

As many people know, October has been a busy and sad month. Hurricane Ian has shown us the extreme devastation that a major storm can bring. The State of Florida will have to reassess the mapping of the State due to the extreme shifting of the west coast. Fortunately, the loss of life was low, but the loss of property was very high with officials advising that most of the damaged areas will never be the same.

### VMC's Hurricane Response

Our VMC members activated and responded with food and supplies to the hurricane stricken area. This started on Friday the 30th when Ian was still in Central Florida moving North. That Saturday a second delivery of supplies departed our area enroute to the West Coast. Our teams were one of the first to be in the affected areas setting up command posts for relief

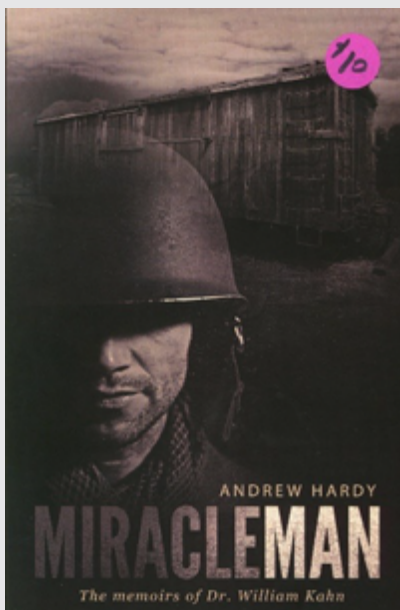
efforts. Saturday while enroute, Donn Weaver was notified of the situation, and he started the drive to get programs together to help fill the command posts with needed items. As we slow down now that the State is fully mobilized, remember, other than local Law Enforcement it was Veterans from the Brevard County Memorial Center and Veterans of Foreign Wars who were the first to lead the way.

The VMC fared very well with only minor water leakage in the Gray Hall but a lot of natural debris outside. Our Maintenance Supervisor Kelly took up the reins on Saturday, and with a small work crew, managed to put the outside areas back in order. It is a major job to keep this facility going, but to add a 3-day party sponsored by Mother Nature leads to a big cleanup. To date, there was no one injured in this area and our members have fared well.

Also, we are not fully out of the circle of damage caused by Ian, here in Central and Northern Florida there are flooded and inaccessible areas still. Some officials have stated that it may be months or years before most of the flooded areas will be back to near normal levels. The VMC continues to receive and distribute supplies for the Titusville flood victims. With this in mind, let's keep the many people who have died, been injured, or been displaced and lost everything in our prayers.



## Book Report: "Miracle Man: The Memoirs of Dr. William Kahn" by Andrew Hardy



*Available in the BVC bookstore for \$10.*

This book is a testament to the belief in God and the travails of a 1923 born guy.... drafted into the WWII conflict. Became a German POW and survived. His origin is a first generation born US citizen from European parents. German was a preferred language in the home, which helped him in his POW experiences.

Kahn (pronounced Kon) was an OK student, usual kid's games, etc. he was drafted into the Army in 1944.... Army took him to Ft. Bliss

(Oh, how do I remember a two week exercise from Ft. Bliss to White Sands, NM). Kahn grew up in the Chicago suburbs and was exposed to his father's retail gas station and restaurant business. He was also exposed to the criminal side of the gangland but stayed on the right side of the law.

After he moved to the Sarasota area became a deputy sheriff, non-profit founder, pilot and much more. His adventures and education continued to FSU with a PhD in business acumen. (You may have eaten at one of his restaurants in the Orlando area.) He is a dedicated Christian. His travels and adventures would make Tom Sawyer jealous and I hope that you like this quick read: only 149 pages total but could have been a much longer and deeper book. Again Miracle Man is available at the BVC Museum Bookstore for purchase. I think you will like it.

**-Ray Norman**

# Brevard Cadets and Vets on a Mission for SW Florida



**Pictured:** Staging for initial loading happened outside the doors of the VMC.



**Pictured:** Donn Weaver helping out by moving small items to the truck from the Park where the JROTC Raider Challenge was held.



**Pictured:** Good loading job, cadets!

While Hurricane Ian's eye passed over Brevard County, then only as a tropical storm, we already knew the devastation was horrendous in Southwest Florida and they would need lots of help. Even before the storm hit Florida, the FL Army National Guard Infantry Unit in Cocoa was on the road. The next weekend was available for a mission which would involve the Veterans Memorial Center, the JROTC Units at all 15 Brevard High Schools, and other veteran and school organizations.

## Operation Brevard JROTC to the Rescue

On 3 October "Operation Brevard JROTC to the Rescue" was activated and plans made to conduct a month-long effort.

As relief supplies began to be dropped off at the Veterans Memorial Center that week, the plan took wings. Hundreds of pounds of supply donations were anticipated 08 October at the first of three JROTC Raider Challenge meets at Veterans Memorial Park.

The Good Deeds Foundation of the Cape Canaveral Chapter of the Military Officers Association provided funds for packing materials, gas and UHaul truck rentals for four 20-foot trucks. The Veterans Memorial Center and JROTC received collections and volunteers to help, and Brevard County Parks and Rec Central area official Fred Ameigh, along with his brother Bill, volunteered to drive all the trucks over the course of the month and make sure the goods went to the central locations most needed by the people in Ft. Meyers, Naples and Sanibel Island.

When the JROTC Raider Challenge meet was held on a clear and cooler Saturday morning of 08 October, it included 11 high schools, 26 teams and more than 200 cadets, some of whom helped pack and load the relief supplies. The six hours and five events were grueling for the cadets, but the victory went far beyond trophies that day. It was repeated on 22 October and 05 November, with more donations to come.

As with any military operation, success of the Cadets and Vets Operation depended on teamwork, community generosity and support, volunteers and determination.

## Mid-Mission Update and Adjustment

On 19 October the second truck load of disaster relief supplies raised through the "Operation Brevard JROTC to the Rescue" arrived near Sanibel Island to support those devastated by Hurricane Ian. Thanks to Parks and Rec Supervisor, Fred Ameigh,

*(continued on next page)*





**Pictured:** Our JROTC and military community is amazing. Pulling the community together, they were able to gather many supplies for those in need on the other side of the state.

*(continued from previous page)*

for again driving the truck down and taking photos. He also organized his Melbourne neighborhood in a drive to collect needed items and that huge amount of goods topped off our JROTC truck. It was earlier filled from items collected at Melbourne HS through the JROTC and entire school the week before.

FEMA, FLNG, VFW and others now report the available storage areas in SW Florida are full and the people's needs are being met in their long recovery process. The "Operation" still had two weeks to run and there was a new and emerging need here in Brevard County. Flood waters in the northern part of the county had not yet crested and the damage was ongoing.

### Wrapping up the JROTC Drive

What a success story! At the 22 October Raider Challenge Meet at VMC Park, in front of 250 JROTC Raider Cadets; hundreds of parents and friends; MOAACC/GDF and VMC leaders; and JROTC Instructors from 11 schools, we were able to report:

- After two 20 ft truckloads of relief supplies, support in SW Florida is no longer needed.

*(continued on next page)*

## 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](mailto:MCLBrevard513@gmail.com)

## Veterans' Day Event



**Melbourne Vet Center Parking Lot**  
2098 Sarno Road, Melbourne, FL 32935  
**Thursday, 10 November 2022**  
**1000—1400 hrs**

**Mobile Vet Center**  
**Vendors**  
**Meet our Staff**

**Gifts**  
**Refreshments**  
**Fellowship**



**POC: Pat E. Spencer, VOPS (407) 719-3847**

(continued from previous page)

- The Formal SWF Operation can thus end with collections as of 22 Oct.
- In order to focus on the District RC Meet, no relief supplies will be collected 05 Nov.
- Northern Brevard is still experiencing lan flooding with relief supplies being requested by early November. Supplies collected since 21 Oct will be packed for that requirement.
- The VMC will take any JROTC or HS collected supplies not turned in through 04 November with drop off at the Merritt Island VMC Center any work day. Please indicate lan Relief for such items.

Raiders dispersed to 5 events on 22 October. Great Competition and tune up for 05 November District Raider Challenge meet 0600-1330 hours VMP.

Special thanks to:

- Don Pearsall and Dorothy Walsh for being in SW Florida and directing best drop off points.
- Great VMC packing up team at the events and over three weeks to allow donations to be shipped properly.
- Jimmie Vickers UHaul for giving us good rates on rental trucks for multiple uses.



Pictured: At Melbourne HS, JROTC load a school wide donation take.

- MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation and a IRCC Army Women for the funds needed to carry out the missions.
- Fred Ameigh of Parks and Rec for driving twice 600 miles round trip
- JROTC cadets, instructors, and other HS leaders for getting behind the donation drive and helping with pack up and loading.

In early November as we all think about Thanksgiving, hopefully, Brevard County, especially our youth, will be able to look back at Operation Brevard JROTC to the Rescue, and know that the effort treated provide some mini-Thanksgivings in SW Florida before the real one.



Pictured: BVC Chair Donn Weaver thanks to Young family and their Church for the generous donations to the SW FL supply effort. The VMC is grateful to our helpers in the community!

## Elevation Church Drops off First Supplies to Help SW FL

While you read about our month long effort with the Brevard JROTC Units to muster a major donation program in the county, Danny Young and his family dropped by the VMC on Sunday 02 October to deliver some very special items from their Elevation Church group for us to get to SW Florida. The church made 300 goodie bags of snack food to create smiles and provided 8 boxes of children's sanitation kits.

We found a VFW volunteer to take half of the supplies a couple days later and the remainder was loaded on our first UHaul truck headed SW on 10 October. You will remember Elevation Church did the huge landscaping upgrade in our parking lot. You will see them again on 11 November in a special ceremony with Rolling Thunder and as their Plaza Wall Sponsor Plaque is dedicated.

## A Very Special Donation to the VMC

A Bronze Double Eagle sculpture, titled "Rapture", was donated to the Veterans Memorial Center by the family of LTC Richard Arlen Kiefer, USAF (ret) this past month.

LTC Kiefer purchased the sculpture in October 2003. It was created at the American Bronze Foundry in Sanford, Florida as number 286 of 299. The authenticity certificate is included. It is on display in the entry to the Veterans Memorial Center.

What a great gift that will spark comments and patriotism for decades to come!!



**Pictured:** "Rapture" donated by the family of LTC Richard Arlen Kiefer, USAF (ret) made by the American Bronze Foundry. The foundry has most recently built statues for the Seminole County Fallen Heroes Memorial Park, the National Navy UDT-SEAL Museum, and the Apollo Veterans Monument.

## The 25th Anniversary of Global Walk

*Danny Garcia "The Walking Man" and Jackie salute you.*

**D**anny and Jackie C. Garcia are inviting you to a Gala and Concert on Dec 12, 2022 from 6 - 9 pm at the Crowne Plaza, Melbourne, FL. We will thank and honor God, veterans, first responders, and their families. The evening is FREE of charge for our guests, compliments of Global Walk and our friends Brad & Alisha Fairman of Iconic Home Advisors.

At this free event, you will be entertained by Grammy Nominee Bruce Stephen Foster. Tickets are limited so please register ASAP if you would like to



attend as our guests of honor. Dress is semi-formal and social hour is 5 pm. For those receiving this invitation through the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center, please indicate Company as "Brevard Veterans" so we can seat you together.

**Registration link with full details:**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/global-walk-25th-anniversary>



## JROTC Raider Challenge Awards

**V**eterans Memorial Park was very busy on 22 October with 250 cadets from 11 high school JROTC programs as they completed the Raider Challenge. The BVC Chairman helped pass out Overall Winner Trophies to the tired by very proud few.

Brian Whalen (I), VMC member and MOAACC 1VP, and Dan McIntyre of MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation wait their turn to reward the winners. The GDF funds all the trophies for most JROTC meets during the year.





**Pictured:** The Washington State area team cheering the Ceremony



**Pictured:** Ditto the opposition that day!!



**Pictured:** Dana Blickley, Amanda Hernnkind and JJ Justice



**Pictured:** RTFL-1 Entourage after the Ceremony



**Pictured:** Lance Armstrong (2nd row Center) and Donn Weaver (2nd row right) emcee the ceremony with Rolling Thunder and MOAACC Members in attendance.

## POW/MIA Seat Dedicated and Veterans Honored at Space Coast Stadium

During the All-Military World's Slow Pitch Softball Championships in late September, over a hundred U.S. military teams from around the world participated in the event in a variety of categories.

On the final weekend of the event, the Space Coast Stadium hosted a ceremony with Rolling Thunder FL-1 (RTFL-1) and MOAACC members in attendance during a unique ceremony. With Lance Armstrong of RTFL-1 and Donn Weaver of MOAACC/the Veterans Memorial Center as MC's, the stadium officially designated a permanent seat behind home plate to honor and remember America's POW and MIA personnel from all wars.

The ceremony was also to honor all veterans and was observed by two Championship teams--one from the Washington State area and one hailing

from the Virginia area. The photos tell the story of a unique event that most have never seen at a professional baseball/softball stadium, and the seat will be a steadfast reminder of our veterans and their sacrifices in the years to come. Thanks to Bob Grey of USSSA and the Stadium for offering this special event and recognition.



**Pictured:** Dana Blixley (Center), Brevard County Property Appraiser and big supporter of veterans is surrounded by the Virginia area military team.

# Park and Plaza Report

by Donn Weaver

October continued to be very busy in terms of additions and improvements to the Plaza and events in the Park. **Just to name a few Plaza Notes:**

- Completed upgrades to the Purple Heart Monument
- Refurbished the four plus year old Chaplains Monument
- Completed plans for a Merritt Islanders Killed in Action Bench for Legion Posts on MI
- Added more than 25 new bricks
- Completed pressure washing painting and other upgrades for Veterans Day
- Contracted with a Titusville Painting company to paint all helicopters and army vehicles on 21 November.
- New Donor Support plaques on Plaza Wall etched for announcement on Veterans Day
- New Space Force emblem installed
- Added a forgotten 1740's war, the Pequot War, which created the first alliance among some of the colonies.

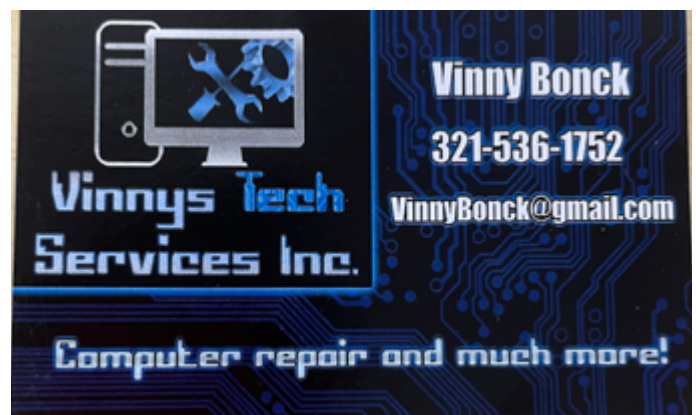
## In the Park:

- Held two of three JROTC Raider Challenge Meets with Hurricane Ian Relief Supplies donations (see full story in this Courier)
- Conducted Boy Scout camp out
- Damaged trees were repaired
- Construction of big new playground with covers was begun
- Six major events scheduled between December and May in the Park

In both the Park and Center area, we have improved overall upkeep with our Maintenance Team led by Kelly Martin with volunteers and with help from AARP workers. Thanks to all!!



**Pictured:** The five year old Four Immortal and all Chaplains Monument in your expanding Memorial Plaza gets a great makeover by CSpray.







# The Patriot Report

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

## Intent to File

The Department of Veterans Affairs has a procedure to allow Veterans to establish an effective date of a claim up to one year before they file the claim. It is called an "Intent to File" and is done on a VA Form 21-0966 which allows a Veterans or their dependents the option to file a claim for compensation, pension, DIC or a survivors pension up to one year before they have the evidence to submit the claim. An intent to file is a notification to the Veteran's Administration (VA) that a claimant is planning on filing an application for compensation within the next year. The intent to file a claim is not claim-specific.

Once the file for Intent is received by the VA that date becomes the effective date of claim. The VA will send the applicant a letter advising them that they have one year to get the evidence they need and submit the proper claim form to complete the intent. If the claim was for an increased rating for an existing claim or a new claim, compensation would be retroactive back to that date if the claim is granted. If no claim is submitted within the one-year period, the case is closed.

**The claim could also be denied.** If you do not get a favorable decision and your claim is denied, all is not lost. You can appeal the VA's decision. But that will undoubtedly extend the length of time for the process and the time you are not receiving compensation. The odds of winning an appeal are not great. In 2020, only 33% of appeals were approved. By having the security of an Intent to File in place, you will be free to take your time and develop a carefully detailed claim. The first completed application form for the selected general benefit received by the VA is considered filed as of the date of receipt of the Intent form.

The VA has set up three ways to submit your Intent to File to make the process accessible to all veterans and surviving spouses. The quickest method to submit is by entering the information into the online form on the eBenefits website. The VA receives your form instantly, and the effective date will be the same day.

You can also mail the paper form to your local VA Regional Office. Most likely, the VA will receive it in a few days, and the date they receive it will be your effective date.

**I do not recommend either of those options. I recommend you pay a visit to the DAV Service Officer of your choice and file the 21-0966 with him or her.**

*Pay a visit to your DAV  
Service Officer to take  
advantage of the benefits  
of an Intent to File and  
establish the effective date  
of your VA claim.*

## Individual Unemployability (TDIU)

What is TDIU? Total Disability Individual Unemployability (TDIU) is a unique VA disability compensation program that allows the VA to pay certain Veterans compensation at the 100 percent rate, even though VA has not rated their service-connected disabilities at that level. If you are granted "TDIU" or "IU" (same thing) it does NOT mean that you will be rated as "P&T" (Permanent & Total). A "P&T" rating has additional benefits for the Veteran's dependents such as CHAMPVA (medical insurance) and educational benefits.

### Who Is Eligible for Individual Unemployability?

You must be a Veteran and you must be unable to hold gainful employment because of service-connected disabilities. Both must be true:

- You have at least 1 service-connected disability rated at 60% or more disabling, or 2 or more service-connected disabilities, with at least 1 rated at 40% or more disabling and a combined rating of 70% or more

and

- You can't hold down a steady job that supports you financially (known as substantially gainful employment) because of your service-connected disability. The VA considers odd jobs marginal employment and do not count to prevent you from applying.

In certain cases, for example, if you need to be in the hospital often or miss work often because of



your service-connected disabilities, you may qualify at a lower disability rating.

One disability must be rated at 60 percent or more or multiple disabilities, with one disability rated at 40 percent or higher, and they all combined to a total rating of 70 percent or more.

### What Are the Evidence Requirements?

You must have medical evidence that supports the service-connected disabilities and that meets the scheduler requirements. You must also prove the service-connected disability or disabilities alone prevent you from getting or keeping substantially gainful employment. Gainful employment usually means you not only receive a compensation, but you receive other benefits as well.

This can be due to inability to perform either mental or physical tasks. However, this does not mean because you drove a spaceship prior to your disability and you can no longer drive a spaceship, you now qualify for IU. Now you may be able to flip burgers at the local Burger Biggie for pay and work benefits.

However, if you cannot drive a spaceship because due to your back condition you cannot stand at the meteor blaster and you also cannot stand to flip burgers, you may qualify for IU. In other words, you may not be able to return to your previous line of work, but you still may be able to obtain gainful employment at a different occupation. This is a bit ridiculous but it serves to illustrate a point.

There are certain circumstances where this benefit may be granted with a lower disability rating than required. Evidence must show that applying the normal requirements is unreasonable. Examples that may be considered include major interference with employment and frequent hospitalizations. These are considered on a case-by-case bases. Veterans can use their receipt of Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) as evidence to support their VA claim for individual unemployability benefits. In fact, the VA is required to consider this as evidence.

Being able to describe in heartfelt detail how their disability affects their ability to work is a key piece of evidence in establishing TDIU. The Veteran can explain the day-to-day challenges of their disabilities, how often flare-ups occur, what they need to do to mitigate symptoms, and similar information.

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



## What is MOB?

Over six years ago, many of the museums established in Brevard County met to come up with ways to help each other to tap into the local and tourist visitor pools. The result was an organization calling themselves the MOB (Museums of Brevard). The group has grown to over 20 member museums, including military related museums like the Veterans Memorial Center, the Warbirds Museum and Liberty Bell Museum.

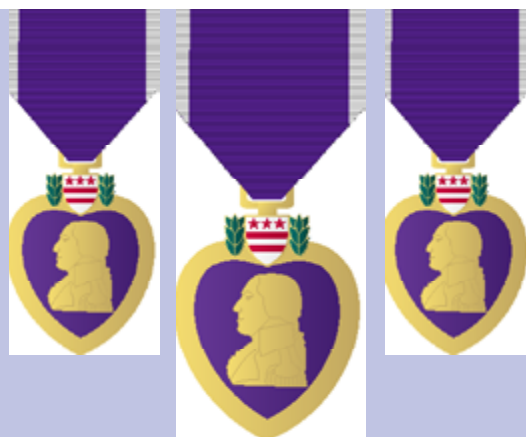
### How the Veterans Memorial Center Fits In

The VMC is working with the other museums in the county to cross promote events with advertising events in our newsletters and social media so we can all benefit from the exposure to the residents of Brevard and beyond.

### Come Meet the MOB!

**On 20 November 1300-1500 the museums will all have tables at the Warbirds Museum in Titusville for a "Meet the MOB" event.** It will be a great way to see all the rich cultural opportunities Brevard County offers that you may not be aware of and support the gems that make our county such a great place to live. Hope to see you there!

For more on the MOB, see our article in the [April 2022 issue of the Council Courier](#) or visit them on [Facebook](#).



## 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!



# Unofficial Brevard VMC Vets Calendar November 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:** Initial Raider Challenge Meets to launch "OPERATION BREVARD JROTC to the RESCUE" to aid victims of hurricane Ian in SW Florida and elsewhere were held 08 Oct and 22 Oct. The Operation runs until 05 Nov. See Poster or contact VMC/Donn Weaver for more info: 757-871-6576.

**NOTE:** Central Brevard Stand Down to Stand Up Rescheduled for 20-21 January 2023 at the Cocoa Armory. See details in the January listings. The National Guard in Cocoa was called up for hurricane relief one week before the 07-08 Oct schedule.

## NOVEMBER

**05 Nov — Raider Challenge JROTC District Championship Meet #3** in Veterans Memorial Park 0700-1300. Final Meet to support collection for Operation Brevard JROTC to the Rescue.

**05 Nov — A Beacon of Brevard's History Fundraiser for the Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation** held at the Muscle Car Museum in Melbourne 1800-2030. Food, Beer, Wine, Silent and Live Auction. For tickets at \$100 contact eventbrite.com or email cclighthousefoundation@gmail.com

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

**09-14 Nov — Art Showing "Honoring Veterans Through Portraits"** by students at Merritt Island High School 1000-1600 Daily in the VMC Museum. Contact is MIHS Art Teacher Lauren Sorey.

**10 Nov — A Red, White and Blue Day to Celebrate Veterans** at Wuestoff Brevard Hospice 8060 Spyglass Road, Viera 1100- 1400. Food Trucks, vendors, music, door prizes, etc. Contact Sara Leidich via email at sara.leidich@lhcgroupp.com

**10 Nov — Veterans Day Event at the Melbourne Vet Center,** 2098 Sarno Road in Melbourne, 1000-1400. Vendors, prizes, gifts, refreshments, meet the staff and great veteran

fellowship.

**11 Nov — VMC Veterans Day Ceremony** 0930-1100 with lunch by Chick fil a, dessert by Texas Longhorn Steak House, drinks and refreshments, special exhibits, speeches and vendors.

**11 Nov — Melbourne Veterans Day Parade in downtown Melbourne** to Liberty Bell museum 0930-1100. See Melbourne City Web site for more details.

**11-13 Nov — WarBird Air Museum Open House for Veterans Day weekend.** Special displays and flybys, active duty, vets and families free, 0900-1700. Space Coast Regional Airport (TICO Road) Titusville.

**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.

**20 Nov — Meet the MOB: Museums of Brevard (MOB) Exposition** with many member museums participating. Warbird Museum, Vietnam Hangar 1300- 1500. Meet with reps from 21 Brevard County Museums and what they offer. Contact Dean Schaaf at VMC for any questions.

(continued on next page)

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## DECEMBER

**03 Dec — First Annual Veteran Benefit Car and Motorcycle Show** by VMC and American Legion Post 344 at VMC Park 10-1600. Up to 100 cars and 100 motorcycles, food, music by Doc Holiday, vendors and much more. Contact Mike Hriciso at 321-350-6163 or [mhricis02002@yahoo.com](mailto:mhricis02002@yahoo.com) to register and for more information.

**10 Dec — MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation Veterans and Military Support Golf Tournament.** Cocoa Beach Country Club 0730-1400. Sponsorships and Hole Sponsor signs available. To sponsor or play connect to [moaacc.org](http://moaacc.org) for Golf Tournament out call Donn Weaver 757-871-6576. GDF provides funding to support veterans in need, active duty special events, JROTC and all youth organizations in Brevard as many veteran organizations that help veterans with special efforts like NVHS, Space Coast Honor Flight, Wreaths Across America and many more.

**10 Dec — American Legion Auxillary Christmas Party** for needy veteran families children at VMC Gray Hall 1300- 1500.

**10 Dec— Inaugural Space Force T-Minus 10-Miler from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station.** Register until 01 November at [runspaceforce.com](http://runspaceforce.com). Full details of this unique event to support our military on that website.

**17 Dec — JROTC Sprint Relay in Veterans Memorial Park (0730-1200)** with combat pack run followed by air rifle target shooting. American Legion Post 344 to sponsor trophies.

**17 Dec — Wreaths Across America Ceremonies and laying out at Cape Canaveral National Cemetery (0800-1100)** and many other Brevard areas and cemeteries with WAA Location Coordinators. Contact VMC for more information and [was.org](http://was.org) to donate a wreath for \$15.

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

## Planets & Moon Featured at Stargaze at the VMC



The American Space Museum and Brevard Astronomical Society host a "Planetpalooza" stargaze on Saturday, Dec.

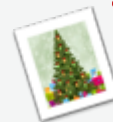
3 at the park adjacent to Veterans Memorial Center on Merritt Island. Coinciding with the conclusion of the Antique Car Show and with darkness happening around 5:30 pm, the stargazers and their telescopes will thrill viewers with sights of craters on the Moon, the rings of Saturn and Moons of Jupiter—as well as the polar caps and land features on Mars!

The "Planetpalooza" will officially be from 5 pm until 8 pm, and admission is free. ASM & BAS will have a booth during the car show to answer questions about space or stargazing.

Submitted by Mark Marquette

Photo courtesy of the American Space Museum.

## Holiday Support for Military & Veteran Families in Need



**American Legion Auxiliary Unit 344**

**together with the Veterans Memorial Center and many other Veteran organizations are coming together to ensure that in these tough times our**

**veterans and their families have a wonderful Holiday.**

**Children's Christmas party complete with food, crafts, games, gifts and a visit from Santa Claus.**

**Saturday, December 10, 2022 from 1:00—3:00**

**At the Veterans Memorial Center**

**400 S Sykes Creek Pkwy, Merritt Island**

**Pre-registration strongly encouraged**

**Questions? Want to volunteer to help or offer a donation? Please contact Rose Marie, unit 344 President at [rmhill@cfl.rr.com](mailto:rmhill@cfl.rr.com)**

### Party Registration

**(complete and return to the MOD office at the Veterans Memorial Center or email to [rmhill@cfl.rr.com](mailto:rmhill@cfl.rr.com) by December 1, 2022)**

**Child's First Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Child's Age:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Gender:** \_\_\_\_\_



**The Spartan Pledge**

I will not take my own Life by my own hand until I talk to my Battle Buddy first. My mission is to find A mission to help My Warfighter family



Every day 22 veterans commit suicide across the country. AVET Project is asking ALL Americans, Veteran Owned Business & Service Organizations to ALL come together and support those who have and are serving our country **Because of the BRAVE** we live in the land of the FREE.

**PLEASE SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR THEM TODAY**

AVET Project Veterans Educational Cruise to the Bahamas this Veterans Day Nov 11-14, 2022 to help our military families THRIVE  
We NEED YOUR HELP to cover the cost of \$1100 for 2 adults or \$1282 for 2 adults one child. Prices subject to change



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**SPONSORSHIP**

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DIAMOND	\$5K
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GOLD	\$2500
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NICKEL	\$1000
COPPER	\$500

Tax deductible

*Cruise Being Hosted By* **VETERANS DAY CRUISE 2022**











**AVET PROJECT**

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REALTY AGENT  
FOR THE  
**SPACE COAST**



Brandon Lape



















Please Make your Donation Checks Payable to: AVET Project

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Email: [info@avet-project.org](mailto:info@avet-project.org)

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Fadok, Eleanor Dec 2022	Weaver, Donn & Jeanne Sep, 2023
Fleet Reserve Branch 263 July, 2023	Florida State University College of Social Work April, 2023
Fugaro, Joan & Ricardo Nov, 2022	Norman, Ray April, 2027
Leonhart, Rick Mar, 2023	Sherman, John S. (Tank) Oct, 2023
Longway, J.P & Donna Dec, 2023	Sherman, Rheta Campbell Oct, 2023
Martin, John & Roberta Nov, 2022	Eliason, Sandra Oct, 2023
Rathbun, Don & Barbara Dec, 2023	Kenneth Huffman, USN – Nov, 2023
Roseland, Tom & Patrice Jan, 2023	
Schaaf, Dean & Susan July, 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).

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

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_