



THE VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER

COUNCIL COURIER

FEBRUARY 2023



A Publication of the Brevard Veterans Council & Veterans Memorial Center



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Stand Up to Stand Down Event a Success

Despite the hurricanes and postponements, the Stand Down to Stand Up event finally went on and successfully served our at-need veteran community.

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FEBRUARY 2023

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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 Those submissions received after that date will not be published.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 12 Sept 2022:

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

As of 1 Feb 2023:

[Committee Department Assignment 2022-2023](#)

As of 1 November 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)

The new year started off with a bang, we were busy. The 25th Stand Down to Stand Up was a major event and took hours and hours of volunteer time. We held the event on Saturday, January 21st, serving 60 veterans that were either homeless or on the edge. It took over 200 volunteers to pull this off. Many thanks to all who worked long hours to support this event. See more information and pictures in this issue of the Council Courier. Bravo Zulu to all!

We are continuing our upgrades to the facility and our amazing grounds. The Library upgrade is progressing and will take on a more appealing look. There are many more upgrades needed, please let us know if you have any ideas for us to consider.

An update on the Park and Amphitheater: the County needs to break ground by October and it is promising that we will meet the deadline. Donn and I attended a meeting of a delegation comprised of state officials on January 11 to request an additional \$1,000,000 to offset inflation and supply chain issues. Keep your fingers crossed that the state again supports the

veterans of Brevard County to further upgrade this amazing facility and park. If you haven't seen the new playground in the park, it's worth a trip out there. It is one of the largest in the county and with military themes abound.

Some events coming up this month of interest are the Four Immortal Chaplains event on Sunday, February 5th and Pioneer Day at Sam's House and St. Lukes Episcopal Church on north Merritt Island. The VMC will be there promoting our museum with an exhibit, including our Jeep.

A few months ago, we voted to admit the Museums of Brevard (MOB) as a tenant organization. Well, the MOB has received our accreditation to become a 501(c)3 organization. The MOB is made up of 22 museums, historical homes and cultural centers in Brevard County. There are newly updated brochures available to learn more about this organization.

Thanks to all volunteers that keep this center running, we couldn't do it without you.

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



Museum Highlights

Steinway and Sons produced specially-built pianos for the American troops called Victory Veritcals. They were sometimes airdropped onto the battlefields to provide a bit of relaxation.

Stienway produced more than 3,000 of these pianos between 1942 and 1953--the first one was dropped in 1942 complete with tuning equipment and instructions. See the piano generously donated by Atlantic Music Center and read more about it at the museum!





Council Chairman's Report

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

Halfway through our leadership year, I cannot express how appreciative your Executive Committee has been of our volunteers, partners and supporters. Thank those of you who read this!!!

Stand Down to Stand Up

Our long delayed VMC Central Brevard Stand Down to Stand Up was the best example of that teamwork and focus in several years. It was a VMC show with core VMC volunteers putting in hundreds of hours when we started planning in August 2022, up until four days before the event start in October when we had to postpone due to hurricanes, through delivery 20/21 January 2023.

In addition, dozens of VMC members came to set up the day before and otherwise support the mission. Here is what I wrote to over 230 volunteers and vendors from VMC and dozens of other organizations which supported the SDSU:

Subject line: A Big Thank You

On behalf on the 60 homeless and at-risk veterans we helped and the entire Veterans Memorial Center, thank you for all you did to prepare and conduct the most effective Stand Down in my five times doing it.

As we said, and as was echoed by the VA, NVHS, VOA and many other vendor partners, the fact only 60 came was a credit to all of you and many more in Brevard County who help veterans all year round. Every veteran who came was grateful as best I could see.

Special thanks to Cocoa High JROTC cadets Color Guard and 20 work crew members who helped serve two meals, park cars and clean up the Armory in record time.

As you no doubt will also do, VMC will monitor the challenges veterans face and decide when and if another SDSU is needed. As the shirt you received reflects, No One Left Behind, will drive us. "

Coming Up at the VMB

This month and beyond, big events and more and more activity will happen at the VMC and Park and will continue through 2023. Knowing you are there to handle the numerous regular volunteer roles as well as support our events is not just reassuring but makes everything happen!!!

Advertise in the Courier

We appreciate having our corporate sponsors and veteran friendly businesses support us and hope they will consider advertising in the 2022 Courier. Please contact Donn Weaver (757.872.6576) if you might be interested or have questions.



RATES

Business Card: \$50 per year

Quarter Page Color: \$150 per year

Half Page Color: \$250 per year

Our emailed newsletter reaches hundreds, including vet organizations, government officials, 500 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.



New Veterans History Project Interview: Joseph Olsen



Joe Olsen enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1969 soon after high school and was sent to Vietnam the same year. He served in a Rapid Reaction Force in the Second Battalion 4th Marines, Third Marine Division. Joe was in combat the Highlands surrounding Khe Sanh Fire Base and also guarded the perimeter around Hue City during the Tet Offensive.

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



Library Notes

SGT Joe Davie, USAF (Fmr) VMC Librarian

Ongoing Veterans History Project

The Every Veteran has a story to tell, and families are especially interested in hearing their father's or mother's stories of military service. As part of the interview, we give a DVD recording to the veteran, send a copy to the Library of Congress, and upload the video to our Brevard Veterans Memorial Center YouTube Channel. You may forward a link to anyone that you would like to view.

We are available on Tuesdays and Thursdays, schedule permitting, to use the VMC library to make the video recording. **Contact Joe Davie or Paul Julian if you are interested in having us prepare a video recording of your military service.**

Welcome Back, Wayne!

We are happy to have Wayne Rowe back with us in the library on Wednesday afternoons. His military service includes duties as a librarian and has been very

helpful in organizing our VHP and catalog record keeping.

Cocoa Beach Library Outreach

Together with Kristi, our secretary and IT professional, we met with the Brevard County Library outreach team in January. We explored a partnership with them regarding our special library resources. They were especially interested in hearing about our Events such as the Stand Up To Stand Down coming in January. We are planning to provide informational presentations for the Cocoa Beach library patrons about our resources and services in February and March.

Seniors Who...

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Work
Learn
Travel

Laugh
Savor
Shop
Create
Share
Garden
Cook
Enjoy life...

Also read SENIOR SCENE

Seniors all around town are talking about their FREE magazine that has it all! You know how to reach them with what they want to read most, in places they frequent most. That's why advertising in Senior Scene works, and why our distribution has rapidly grown to now include the Space Coast!

Also read it at www.seniorscenemag.com

Pick up your FREE copy at the places you visit most!

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.



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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



**FRIDAY
NIGHT
Dances**

PROUDLY PRESENTED
BY THE VMC
**FEBRUARY
3 AND 17
2023**

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.

VA IS HIRING!!!!

WITH PREFERENCE TO VETERANS & ELIGIBLE SPOUSES

In support of the Congressionally approved "Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act" the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) will soon recruit veterans and qualified military spouses to fill federal civil service jobs ~ and are seeking qualified candidates possessing the following skill-sets:

- Information Technology Specialists
- Customer Services (Medical Claims Examiners/Representatives)

- Logistics (Supply Chain Management) Specialists
- Acquisition/Inventory Management Specialists
- Management and Program Analysts
- Specialty Medical Staff

**In many instances, employment opportunities will offer remote (virtual) work locations, and you can work from home.

To expedite the process, you are highly encouraged to create an account and load your resume within **USA-JOBS.Gov.**



Pictured: VMC President Dean Schaaf spoke at the Army Women's Club IRCC luncheon about the VMC and MOACC, and received a VMC donation.

IRCC Army Women Continue to Give to VMC

In the past two months, the Army Women of IRCC have provided the Veterans Memorial Center more than \$2000 in total grants to support Stand Down to Stand Up and other VMC programs. They invited VMC President Dean Schaaf to attend their 27 January meeting and luncheon at IRCC. Dean spoke not only about VMC and our missions, but about other veteran programs in the county and his experiences in the Navy and with NASA. True to their promise, the IRCC Army Women even turned over their 50/50 proceeds to the VMC. We truly appreciate their support.



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)

The VA set up the National Center for PTSD to aid individuals in helping find treatment for PTSD. Visit it at <http://ptsd.va.gov>.

In our society, post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is becoming more and more common, especially among military veterans.

It wasn't until 1980 that the American Psychiatric Association added Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) to its manual, making this disorder a comparatively new one that many in the public still misunderstand. There are numerous resources that can provide you with a better glimpse of the clinical nature of PTSD, but sometimes the words of those who (unfortunately) know PTSD most intimately can give you a more accurate idea of what it's like to deal with the insidious issue.

According to health.com there are ten indicators of PTSD. Please read the following and see if you or anyone you know fits these symptoms. If you or someone you know falls into one of these categories, it is OK to seek help.

One of the first symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder is **detachment from others**. This can happen for a myriad of complicated reasons. Often, those with PTSD are afraid of how they might behave in front of other people. They worry that they might become angry or react strangely to normal occurrences.

Flashbacks are another symptom of PTSD. The symptom causes a person to relive a traumatic event. The emotional response is different for everyone. However, flashbacks often cause feelings of panic, extreme stress, and physical issues like fainting, heart palpitations, and high blood pressure.

Frequent nightmares are a common symptom of PTSD. These nightmares may focus on the event that created the trauma or they may appear unrelated. Nightmares are different from flashbacks in that they occur on a subconscious level during sleep, while flashbacks take place while the mind is alert and awake.

Someone with PTSD may **avoid situations that remind them of the events around the trauma**. For example, if the traumatic event happened at work, then the person with PTSD may have difficulty returning to their job. Additionally, they may not want

to be around family or friends they associate with the traumatic event. This symptom can interfere with one's livelihood and social life.

Sleeping too much or generally losing interest in day-to-day activities and hobbies about which one used to feel passionate can be an indicator of PTSD or another condition such as depression. If someone experiences this symptom over the long-term, on a regular basis, it may be advisable to seek professional help or advice.

An individual with PTSD may **exhibit irritability and anger in varying degrees** and at sometimes unexpected intervals, often to a greater degree than they once did. This can happen for a variety of reasons and can impact interpersonal relationships and job performance.

Memory loss can be associated with PTSD. Often, an individual will mentally block out the traumatic event temporarily or permanently. This presents challenges in diagnosis, acceptance, and recovery, as many mental health professionals encourage their patients to face and discuss the circumstances that led to the condition. In addition, people with PTSD may have difficulty recalling recent events unrelated to the trauma.

People with PTSD may find that they feel jumpy or are never completely at ease. This often occurs when a traumatic event that caused the condition is particularly frightening and life-endangering. For example, many soldiers who have spent time in active war zones and other dangerous situations may experience PTSD and, as a result, loud noises and stressful situations reminiscent of the trauma can trigger emotional and physical responses.

Sometimes, people with PTSD turn to self-medication in the form of recreational drugs and excessive alcohol consumption. This is another sign that professional medical care is necessary as soon as possible. The excessive use of drugs and alcohol can exacerbate feelings of depression and other dangerous symptoms that can lead to suicide or otherwise put an individual's life in danger.

A simple phone number to remember is (988). This is the suicide prevention line.

Dwayne Johnson (THE ROCK):

"Asking for help when you're down or when you're feeling wobbly or when you're depressed is actually the most powerful thing you can do." In a conversation about his Depression.

Proverbs 1:33. "But whoever listens to me will dwell secure and will be at ease, without dread of disaster."

GOD BLESS AMERICA

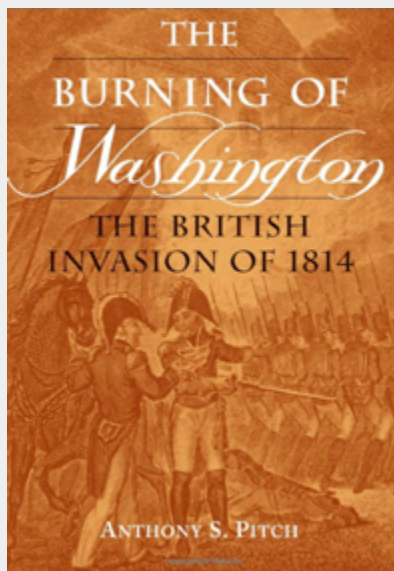
Chaplain Chip Hanson



Book Report

The Burning of Washington: The British Invasion of 1814

Report by Raymond Norman



Anthony S Pitch has written a wonderful, well researched book (298 pages) about the British Invasion of Washington, DC in 1814. The detail is exquisite-if you can call murder, mayhem, arson, torture, brutality and downright thuggery "exquisite."

One reason that I read this book is that I have (through no fault of my own, just genetic ancestry) about five or maybe six ancestors who were patriots during the US Revolution. As a member of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), I am very proud of this lineage leading back to the foundation of the USA. Whether my ancestors were involved in repelling the Brits in the sack of

Washington, DC in 1814 I cannot say at this time...research continues.

Author Pitch has 298 pages of the US Naval Institute Press in his book "Burning" published in 1998. His seventeen chapters with many, many citations of documents that you or I will never see - were made available by sources who have positions securing historical documents. Documents and artifacts were in areas with limited access to the public. It took Pitch five years to write the story. It is amazing to me that he could limit the volume to the book as small as it is.

This event started with the Boston tea party where colonists attacked then later attacked British government facilities in Canada. The Washington City revenge event began on Wednesday, August 14, 1814. From what I gather

is that the "Burning" of Washington City by the English was initiated by the colonies who attacked British facilities in Canada after "1776" and prior to the War of 1812.

The Brits were incensed that the colonists had sacked Canadian facilities. The Brits then made retribution very, very expensive to the US. The Brits were intent on destroying all US public buildings, and they almost succeeded. Many buildings were burned...we are led to believe that some burn marks are still on the White House but I cannot verify that. A quick Internet query has several notes about the 1814 event if you want a quick overview or additional information. The most horrific attacks to one human to another was the hot tar poured on General "Light Horse" Harry Lee. The tar was poured on his head and on one eye which he lost in the process. The story ends with the composition by Francis Scot Key and his poem which is now our national anthem.

The book has been donated to the BVC library in honor of the many of my ancestors involved in attaining and keeping the freedoms that you and I enjoy today.

Veteran Exemptions from Property Taxes

- **Disabled Ex-Service Member \$5,000 Exemption**
- **Service-Connected, Total and Permanent (T&P) Disability**
- **Veterans 65 and Older with a Combat-Related Disability**
- **Surviving Spouse of Veteran Who Died in the Line of Duty**
- **Deployed Active Military Exemption**

What You Will Need to File

- **VA Award Letter**
- **Florida Drivers License or Florida ID Card**
- **Vehicle Registration**
- **Social Security Card**
- **Copy of Deed**
- **If Dwelling in Manufactured Home, Title or Registration**



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(321) - 264 - 6700



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**Deadline to Apply:
March 1**



The 240th Commemoration of the The Last Naval Battle of the Revolutionary War



**Saturday, March 18, 2023
Veteran's Memorial Center
1000-1100 a.m.**

**Presented by the Sons, Daughters, and
Children of the American Revolution**



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Park and Plaza Report

by Donn Weaver

Additional funding is needed for the amphitheater project to be completed correctly.

Plaza New Items and Repairs

While the numbers of brick orders have leveled off in our Memorial Plaza, efforts to improve it and develop ongoing annual plans to spruce each section up over time have continued. The Plaza has never looked more beautiful and special.

Last month we completed the Erdman Motor Group Logo imprint on one of our \$10,000 or more granite sponsor positions as well as coordinated new projects involving the Space Force in the Center Monument area. Repair of the Wind Chimes damaged by a reckless and likely repentant driver in December were completed in January as well.

Park Improvements



In the Park, MIRA and the County announced infrastructure construction on electrical, irrigation, new building, adult fitness apparatus and other things planned for the VMP along with the Amphitheater would begin in March 2023. Since the original budget was approved for this huge combined project at almost \$4 Million, inflation, construction labor and cement and supply chain issues have forced costs to go much higher. In January Donn Weaver and Dean Shaaf spoke with State level representatives formally seeking an additional \$1M to make sure the project is done properly. We should know the answer by June, but seems to have received great support from Space Coast area State Senators Mayfield and Wright as well as all the Representatives. Keep your fingers crossed.

Dedication of Grave Marker for 'Doc Mole'



On Saturday, January 21st, the dedication of the grave marker for 'Doc Mole', a Vietnam War casualty, was held at Daytona Memorial Park. HM3 Malcolm G. Mole was in an unmarked grave for 55 years after serving a Navy medic embedded with the Marines and killed at Khe Sahn during the Tet offensive in January 1968.

For whatever reason, a grave marker was never ordered or requested until this situation was discovered in Spring of 2022.

The day of the dedication was the 55th anniversary of his death.



Pictured: Brevard County Detachment Members Tom Fitzgerald (Along with his father, U.S. Army Corporal Bill Fitzgerald) Danny Garcia and Vinnie Howard, and others from the Department of Florida, Marine Corps League attend the headstone dedication.



Pictured: Ready to start the event!

2023 VMC Stand Down to Stand Up Finally Happens

After almost three years of postponements due to Covid and hurricanes, more than 230 volunteers came together on 20/21 January at the Cocoa Armory to provide a fantastic venue to support homeless and at-risk veterans. Over 40 different organizations had tables ranging from medical evaluation to haircuts and transitional housing to VA support.

Something strange happened and may be a very good thing. Despite having rented vans and months of advertising, only 60 veterans came with another 20 or so supported by duffle bags full of clothes and supplies taken to them by volunteers. The last SDSU in 2019 had more than 150 veterans participate. As VA, VMC and other leaders discussed, perhaps veterans in need, including the homeless, get so much support on a regular basis in Brevard County that Stand Downs no longer have the urgency once seen. That could be a good thing that we will check out in 2024.

Thanks to all who supported the Central Brevard VMC 2023 SDSU in so many ways. The veterans who came got first class support and knew that in Brevard, "No One is Left Behind".



Pictured: Escort literally carries the load in support of a veteran in need.



Pictured above: Preparations on Friday, January 20th.

Pictured left: Great contingent from VA Orlando and the local VA handled check in, benefits and several medical points.





The Patriot Report

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

The C & P Exam

Veterans filing disability claims may feel a sense of relief when they submit their claim but get an anxiety attack when they get the letter stating they have a Compensation and Pension Exam scheduled. Now what? Not sure what to expect? I know you will still have lingering questions about what comes next in the claims process. Perhaps this will help.

Many Veterans wonder what will happen at their VA claim exam (also known as a Compensation and Pension, or C&P exam). To help answer these questions, VA has updated two websites which provide current information on frequently asked questions:

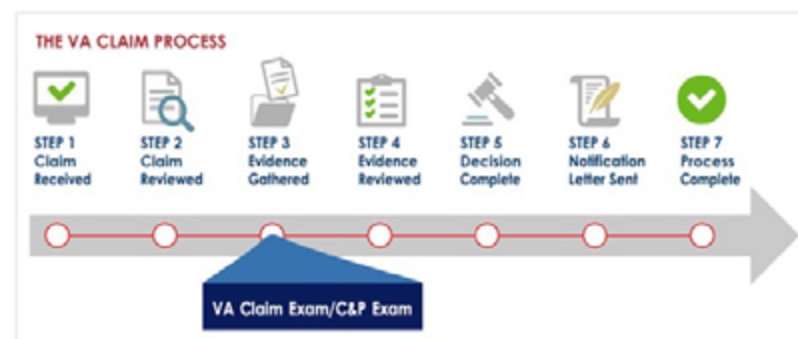
[Claim Exam Information – Compensation \(va.gov\)](https://www.va.gov/claim-exam-information-compensation)

[VA Claim Exam \(C&P Exam\) | Veterans Affairs](https://www.va.gov/vaclaimexam)

VA claim exams are an important part of the claims process. VA's updated websites provide Veterans with answers about why a claim exam may or may not be needed, who contacts Veterans about scheduling exams and how Veterans will be contacted. These new webpages contain answers to additional questions such as:

- What to do if should I miss the exam.
- How to reschedule an appointment.
- What to bring to the exam and how to prepare for it.
- Who completes the exam.
- Costs or travel expenses, and more.

All Veterans, including those who have been through a VA claim exam in



*Please visit the VA
updated websites to
learn more about VA
claim exams and to find
answers to frequently
asked questions.*

the past, will want to check out the new websites to get the latest information on how VA conducts claim exams. In addition to examiners at VA medical facilities, VA Medical Disability Examination Office (MDEO) also has highly trained health care professionals across the country and overseas completing claim exams. These contract examiners are trained to ensure exams are conducted promptly, professionally and at a location near the Veteran's home of record. VA has also implemented modernizations, such as telehealth exams. During a telehealth exam, the examiner can meet with a Veteran via video to complete certain types of exams instead of traveling to an in-person exam.

Claim Exam Information

The VA provides Compensation and Pension Exams if they need more information to decide your claim.

During Step 3 of your claim process, the VA may ask you to have the exam. They may request this to help them determine if a claimed disability is related to your service and/or to determine the severity of your disability.

They will base your rating on how severe your disability is, and your rating will affect how much disability compensation you will receive. * Compensation may include other related benefits like monthly payments for dependents and enrollment in the VA health care program.

If you take a medication for the condition you are being given a C & P exam, stop taking the meds a few days before the exam. You do not want your meds to mask the true status of your condition. You would not want to wear hearing aids during an audio C & P exam would you?

(continued on next page)

HINT; If you take a medication for the condition you are being given a C & P exam, stop taking the meds a few days before the exam.

If the VA requests you to have an exam, they will schedule your appointment at one of their facilities and/or with one of their contracted medical examiners.

Not every claim requires an exam. It depends on what medical evidence is already in your file and what you included with your application. They will ask you to have a claim exam only if they need more information to decide your claim. If you have enough medical evidence in your file to support your claim, they will follow the Acceptable Clinical Evidence (ACE) process. This means they will review your medical records and ask you to submit more evidence if needed, instead of asking you to have an exam. Medical evidence may include doctor and hospital reports, test results, and other documents.

The provider will write up an exam report of the findings and send it to the VA. The VA will review all the evidence in your file, including the exam report from the provider. Then they will make a decision on your claim and send you a decision letter. The processing time for your claim depends on how complex your claim is and how many conditions you've claimed.

Examinations and Medical Disability Examination Contractors

A contractor will contact you by email or phone to schedule your appointment. If they can't reach you in one of these ways, they will schedule your appointment and mail you the details about it.

They use several contractors to provide claim exams:

- Loyal Source Government Services, customer service number 833-832-7077.
- OptumServe Health Services, customer service number 866-933-8387 (TTY: 711).
- QTC Management, customer service number 800-682-9701.
- Veterans Evaluation Services, customer service number 877-637-8387. If you are outside the continental U.S., customer service number +1-713-255-5656.

Note: The contractor list here is not an official recommendation or endorsement. If the VA determines that you need an exam, they will assign a contractor to you based on location and availability. You cannot request a specific contractor.

During the claims process, they may contact you through an email notification system called govDelivery. The VA will email you to tell you in advance about phone calls and text messages you will get from their contractors about your disability exam.

This email informs you that one of their contractors will contact you to schedule an exam. To receive email notifications from the VA, please provide a valid email address on your claim form or call the VA at 1-800-827-1000.

If you think the VA should not have contacted you, or you would like to confirm that you need to have a claim exam, please call the VA at 1-800-827-1000. You can also contact your nearest regional office.

Will I need more than one VA claim exam?

You may need more than one exam in these situations:

- If you submit a claim for more than one condition, you may need more than one exam. They will try to schedule all your exams on the same day.
- For some conditions, you may need follow-up exams (called "review exams"). In a review exam, the provider will determine whether the severity of your condition has changed since your last exam.
- If you request a decision review of your claim decision, the VA may ask you to have another exam.

Website information

VA wants to bridge any gaps in communication by giving Veterans a comprehensive and easily accessible resource for all VA claim exam questions. Please visit their updated websites to learn more about VA claim exams and to find answers to frequently asked questions.

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





Unofficial Brevard VMC Vets Calendar February 2023 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/>

FEBRUARY

04 Feb — JROTC Drill Meet in Veterans Memorial Park
(0700-1230)

05 Feb — Immortal Four Chaplains Ceremony 1400-1600
VMC Plaza and Gray Hall.

18 Feb — JROTC Drill Meet in Veterans Memorial Park
(0700-1300)

23 Feb — Liberty Bell Museum Patriot Awards Dinner 1800-2100
Grand Manor Catering 1450 Sarno Road, Melbourne. Details follow to register and help honor local volunteers who support veterans in many ways.

24 Feb — Gregg and the Jets Elton John Tribute Rockin the Sunset Concert for a Cause: We Honor Veterans of St. Francis Reflections 1900-2100 Space Coast Main Stadium in Viera. Tickets through: ReflectionsLSC.org/Eltonjohn. Or Text "EltonJohn" to 41444.

25 Feb — Back Brevard Heroes Fundraiser in Veterans Memorial Park 0900-1700

MARCH

04 Mar — JROTC Drill Meet in Veterans Memorial Park District Championship (0700-1300)

18 Mar — Commemoration of the Last Naval Battle of the American Revolution 1000-1300 VMC Plaza, Museum and Gray Hall

APRIL

01 Apr — American Legion AUX 344 annual Easter Egg Hunt
at Veterans Memorial Park 1300-1500

29 Apr — Brevard Parkinson's Alliance 5K to raise funds to beat Parkinson's. 0700-1200 Veterans Memorial Park, Center and Plaza. 0800 5 K Run with Running Zone and 1000 1K Walk. Stroll for those with Parkinson's. Register on line at secure.runningzone.com.

MAY

07 May — Back Brevard Heroes Festival to honor First Responders and Veterans, VMC Plaza, Gray Hall and Park 0930- 1400.

20 May — Space Coast Military and Family Appreciation Day and BBQ — On Armed Forces Day 2023, From 1500-1900 at the VMC and Park. Featuring CW Award winning singer Rocky Lynne!!!! "Heroes Come from Small Towns" and "Proud to Be a Soldier: Active duty unit displays, music, food, kids games, many special activities to honor our active duty forces and their families who eat free. Co sponsored by CBRCC MAC, VMC and Military Recruiters.

29 May — Memorial Day Remembrance VMC 0930-1030

JUNE

03 Jun — Annual Courageous Division NSCC Sea Cadet Awards Ceremony, VMC Gray Hall and Library 0800-1500

JULY

04 Jul — BCSO/VMC Annual Independence Day Parade on Merritt Island. Details coming in May.

For events beyond July, please visit the [VMC online event calendar](https://veteransmemorialcenter.org/other-veterans-events/).

BECOME A BOOSTER TODAY and help defray the cost of producing our newsletter.
Only \$10.00 per name, per year.



Boosters

Adair, Mark and Karen Croft, IMO
MSGT Edmond Adair, USAF, RET Feb, 2025

Bateman, Skip & Ruth July, 2026

Bisset, M Doug Sept, 2023

Carleton, Jim Feb, 2024

Clayton, David & Anne July, 2023

Eliason, Sandra Oct, 2023

Fadok, Eleanor Dec, 2023

Fleet Reserve Branch 263 July, 2023

Florida State University College of Social Work
April, 2023

Huffman, Kenneth, USN Nov, 2023

Leonhart, Rick Mar, 2023

Longway, J.P & Donna Dec, 2023

Norman, Ray April, 2027

Rathbun, Don & Barbara Dec, 2023

Schaaf, Dean & Susan July, 2023

Sherman, John S. (Tank) Oct, 2023

Sherman, Rheta Campbell Oct, 2023

Weaver, Donn & Jeanne Sep, 2023

Space Coast Honor Flight May, 2023

Weiler, Philip R. Feb, 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) _____