



THE VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER

COUNCIL COURIER

APRIL 2023



A Publication of the Brevard Veterans Council & Veterans Memorial Center



WHAT'S INSIDE

Library Renovations

See a few shots of our new and improved library at the VMC. – page 6

JROTC District Championship

Kudos to all the cadets that participated and all that are continuing on to state competition. – page 11

Together, We're Better

Tennants of the VMC work together to accomplish bigger things. – page 15

The Last Naval Battle Remembered at the VMC

The ceremony of the Last Naval Battle of the American Revolution is a piece of history kept alive for the community, memorialized annually so that we may all remember.

– details page 9

Photo by R. Scruggs

APRIL 2023

COURIER CONTENTS

President's Report • Page 3
 Chairman's Report • Page 4
 Library Report • Page 6
 Chaplain's Report • Page 8
 Operations Report • Page 10
 Book Report • Page 12
 Veterans Store Report • Page 13
 Plaza and Park Report • Page 14
 Patriot Report • Page 16
 Event Calendar • Page 18
 Boosters • Page 19

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 Those submissions received after that date will not be published.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

© 2023



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)

March was a fairly busy month with the annual Last Naval Battle of the Revolution on Saturday, March 18 and preparations and planning for many more events in the coming months.

If you haven't been in the Library recently, please take a look at the improved paintings and repainting around the library above the shelves. We have also added a projector and screen for events that meet in the Library.

The Library is hosting a speaker on 25 April with the first of many in a Library Discussion Series. This first event covers the "Turning Point of the Revolutionary War: The Battle of Saratoga."

I unfortunately missed the LNB because I was on a 7-day cruise on the Royal Caribbean's Wonder of the Seas. If you get a chance, sail on this ship out of the port. It is presently the world's largest and literally dwarfs its sister ships. It was a very pleasant experience. We went with a group of 22 from the Military Officers Association of America Cape Canaveral (MOAACC) on a Good Deeds fundraising cruise.

We had a 6th grade teacher, Julie Pafford, from Audubon Elementary on Merritt Island, bring over banners that were painted by 41 students for our veterans. They are impressive and are on display in the area of the Museum where we display all other student tributes to veterans.

April is the Month of the Military Child and on April 1st is a Fun Fest sponsored

by AVET at Cocoa Beach Country Club 1700-2000. The event is on our Brevard VMC Vets calendar. There should be several other opportunities to honor our military children during the month.

Another interesting event coming up is the Shrimp Feast sponsored by the Propeller Club of Cape Canaveral on 14 April from 1800-2100 at terminal 5 at the Port. Great food, raffles, auction, prizes, sponsors, etc. Tickets are required and available through the Propeller Club on [this ticketing site](#).

Stand by for a busy month in May with our Armed Forces Day event in partnership with the Cocoa Beach Regional Chamber of Commerce (more details in the future) and several Memorial Day commemorations.

Thanks for all the volunteers' efforts in making this Veterans Center what it is in the county. I would especially like to thank the Museum crew and Docents for managing many school tours this last month.

Dean Schaaf

VMC/BVC CONTACTS

BVC Chair/VMC Vice President
Donn Weaver
donnweaver2020@gmail.com
757-871-6576

VMC President/BVC Vice Chair
Dean Schaaf
dschaaf@brevard.net
321-794-4371

BVC/VMC Secretary
Kristi Blanchard
brevardvmc@gmail.com
321-453-1776

BVC/VMC Treasurer
Dave Clayton
bvmctreasurer@gmail.com
321-453-1776

Operations Manager
Robert Doyle
vmcoperationsmgr@gmail.com
321-276-7814

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



ERDMAN
AUTOMOTIVE



MIKE ERDMAN

Mike Erdman



MIKE ERDMAN
TOYOTA



**SUPPORTING VETERANS
AND JROTC IN BREVARD COUNTY**



Council Chairman's Report

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

Keeping Perspective

Hope all VMC members and others who read this message are doing well and enjoying the special weather offered by Florida springtimes.

As usual, this column is a good chance to offer thanks for all our volunteers, now numbering close to 80, and our tenant organizations, now expanded to 16. Be sure to check out their great new logo signs at the VMC Main Entrance. The VMC and Council are moving forward and supporting more visitors and events than ever before, something that promises to grow the center even further and faster when the final Park Phases, including the Amphitheater, are completed.

Recently I observed how many volunteers feel obligated to let us know when they cannot make it due to personal reasons of many types, because they are so committed to what they do

here to help our missions.

This reminds me to remind you: put family first and follow through with your own vacations and goals. We are blessed to rarely have less than two people covering our various sections open to the public, so we can always take up the slack.

I decided to take my own advice recently and planned a road trip to Ohio, Washington, D.C. and Virginia for a week in April. We will visit our parents' grave sites, the pro football Hall of Fame and all of our three children and their families spread all over Virginia. But most of all, we will not pass up a once in a lifetime opportunity - to watch one of our grandsons play his final College Baseball game on Senior Day at Christopher Newport University in Newport News, VA. That trip will be a good week spent "keeping things in perspective." Hope all of you will do similar things throughout the year.



VMC LIBRARY DISCUSSION SERIES

The Battle of Saratoga

The Turning Point of the Revolutionary War

Veterans Library, Merritt Island, FL
April 25, 2023 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

...it's 1777 and the war is not going very well for the Americans. Pushed out of New York and about to lose Philadelphia, they were also facing a massive invasion by the British from Canada led by Gen John Burgoyne...

This presentation and discussion will be based on the book "Saratoga" and will focus on tactics and strategies of both armies and how the personalities of leaders of both sides influenced the ultimate outcome. Highly recommended for anyone interested in the events that helped create the United States of America.

Save the Date - October 6th

2023 National Veterans Homeless Support 8th Annual Dinner Fundraiser

Hosted by Brevard's Constitutional Officers

Property Appraiser Dana Blickley

Sheriff Wayne Ivey

Clerk of Court Rachel Sadoff

Tax Collector Lisa Cullen

Supervisor of Elections Tim Bobanic

State Attorney Phil Archer

Public Defender Blaise Trettis

Friday, October 6th

Radisson Resort at the Port

8701 Astronaut Blvd. Cape Canaveral

5:30pm Cocktails 6:15pm Dinner

Platinum Sponsorship: \$25,000

Gold Star Sponsorship: \$10,000

Silver Star Sponsorship: \$5,000

Bronze Star Sponsorship: \$1,000

Dinner: \$100 per person or \$1,000 per table of 10

Program ads: Full page - \$250 or Half page - \$150

For advance reservations or to place camera-ready ads in the program, reach out to us:

www.nvhs.org/events

or email events@nvhs.org

or call the NVHS Office at 321-208-7562

ARMED FORCES DAY

THIS FAMILY-FRIENDLY EVENT HONORS SERVICE
MEMBERS ACROSS THE SIX BRANCHES OF MILITARY.

BREVARD VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER
400 S SYKES CREEK PKWY, MERRITT ISLAND

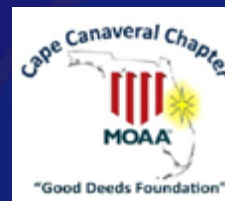
MAY 20, 2023

GATES OPEN 3:00PM
CEREMONY 4:00 PM
MUSIC 5:30 PM

Special activities include:

Static Displays Vendors
Kid's Zone Food Trucks

Live musical performance by Rockie Lynne,
Veteran and Country Music Artist



GENERAL ADMISSION \$5
FREE TO MILITARY COMMUNITY



Pictured: Library volunteers hold newly framed art to be hung on the walls of the renovated library

New Veterans History Project Interview: Doug Bisset



Doug Bisset is a Vietnam era veteran who served in the Army Reserves from 1970 to 1975. Doug entered the Army ROTC program at Lafayette college in Easton, PA. After attending the US Army Transportation School at Ft. Eustis, VA, 1Lt. Bissett was sent to Inchon, Korea to handle unloading ships and moving equipment inland. Inchon has very high tides, so heavy equipment and additional boats were needed to move equipment through locks.

In his interview, Doug is wearing the same fatigue uniform that he wore as a 24-year-old in charge of transportation. We can still make out the US Army stripe above his left pocket, however, the Bisset name stripe is faded out above his right pocket. During his interview he holds up several photos that explain what transportation is all about in Korea. One of the photos is of himself in the same uniform in the same fatigues.

Doug is one of our library volunteers and very active in our VMC outreach to local School ROTC programs.

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



Library Notes SGT Joe Davie, USAF (Fmr) VMC Librarian

March kept the library busy with ongoing upgrades of multimedia presentation equipment and completion of the Vic Rogers led art displays. Everyone pitched in to help with getting things done. We were to install the new projector and screen as well as hang up our Military artwork collection.

The pictures show the assembly crew putting it together and installation above the bookshelves. Our new projector is visible hanging from the ceiling; it will be a great new addition for presentations and meetings.





MISSION

The Veterans Memorial Center (VMC) offers a special Veterans History Project (VHP) in coordination with the American Red Cross and Library of Congress (LOC) at no charge. The VHP mission is to collect, preserve, and make accessible the personal accounts of American veterans of all services and periods of history. Thus, future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the realities of war and other military service. After the recorded interview the veteran and family will receive their own DVD, one will be kept at the VMC library, and electronic copies will be downloaded to the LOC.



TO PARTICIPATE

If you are a veteran, simply contact us and we will arrange a video recorded interview in the VMC library or, in special cases, at your home. The conversation can last thirty minutes or two hours. That is up to you. The story can include your service and how your life was spent after the military. Remember hundreds of veterans have told their stories which are preserved forever on VHP DVD's at the VMC Library and LOC.

CONTACT US

To arrange an appointment please contact either:

Joe Davie	321-626-5462	jdavie@cfl.rr.com
Paul Julian	321-749-7369	pjulian54@yahoo.com

VIDEOGRAPHERS

Joe Davie	321-626-5462	jdavie@cfl.rr.com
Paul Julian	321-749-7369	pjulian54@yahoo.com

VHP SUPPORT

Bill Wilkening	321-428-3422	Hank Rhodes	321-799-1219
----------------	--------------	-------------	--------------



Chaplain's Corner

Not all wounds from war are visible. Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) can be just as serious and painful as a gunshot. A diagnosis of PTSD requires exposure to an upsetting traumatic event, including directly experiencing an event, witnessing a traumatic event happening to others, or learning that a traumatic event happened to a close family member or friend. It can also occur as a result of repeated exposure to horrible details of trauma, when such as police officers are exposed to details of child abuse.

Symptoms and Diagnosis

Symptoms of PTSD fall into the following four categories.* Specific symptoms can vary in severity.

Intrusion: Intrusive thoughts such as repeated, involuntary memories; distressing dreams; or flashbacks of the traumatic event. Flashbacks may be so vivid that people feel they are reliving the traumatic experience or seeing it before their eyes.

Avoidance: Avoiding reminders of the traumatic event may include avoiding people, places, activities, objects, and situations that may trigger distressing memories. People may try to avoid remembering or thinking about the traumatic event. They may resist talking about what happened or how they feel about it.

Alterations in cognition and mood: Inability to remember important aspects of the traumatic event, negative thoughts and feelings leading to ongoing and distorted beliefs about oneself or others (e.g., "I am bad," "No one can be trusted"); distorted thoughts about the cause or consequences of the event leading to wrongly blaming self or other; ongoing fear, horror, anger, guilt or shame; much less interest in activities previously enjoyed; feeling detached or estranged from others; or being unable to experience positive emotions (a void of happiness or satisfaction).

Alterations in arousal and reactivity: Arousal and reactive symptoms may include being irritable and having angry outbursts; behaving recklessly or in a self-destructive way; being overly watchful of one's surroundings in a suspecting way; being easily startled; or having problems concentrating or sleeping.

Many people who are exposed to a traumatic event experience symptoms similar to those described above in the days following the event. For a person to be diagnosed with PTSD, however, symptoms must last for more than a month and must cause significant distress or problems in the individual's daily functioning. Many individuals develop symptoms within three months of the trauma, but symptoms may appear later and often persist for months and sometimes years. PTSD often occurs with other related conditions, such as depression, substance use, memory problems, and other physical and mental health problems.

**Sourced from the American Psychiatric Association.*

These are three important numbers to keep:

1. (211) When someone is in the need of help of any kind
2. (988) A crisis line such as suicide
3. (911) An emergency call line.

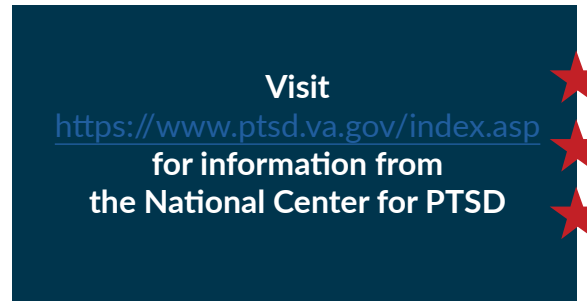
"We were not allowed to speak of the unseen wounds of war. We were not allowed to prepare for them."

--Army Psychologist Brig. General Loree Sutton

Psalm 23 4. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

GOD BLESS AMERICA

Chaplain Chip Hanson



ATLANTIC MUSIC CENTER

atlanticmusiccenter.com

Brian Gatchell, Owner
150 East Drive, Ste C
Melbourne, FL 32904
321.725.5690

Remembering the Last Naval Battle: 240 Years Later

The history that established our community is always worth remembering and we are grateful local organizations continue to keep our history alive.

The Brevard Veterans Memorial Center was the scene on March 18th for the annual ceremony to remember and teach about the Last Naval Battle of the American Revolutionary War fought off the coast of Cape Canaveral.

Sponsored by the Brevard chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), the six Space Coast chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), the Good Deeds Foundation of the Cape Canaveral Chapter of the Military Officers Association (GDF/MOAACC), and the Veterans Memorial Center (VMC), the event was exceptionally covered by the media (Florida Today, Space Coast Daily, Senior Scene and others). The well attended ceremony was witnessed by over 220 people, including SAR and DAR participants from six states.

The event was informative and festive, the highlight of dedicating the first "250 Patriot Marker" in Florida by the Regent of DAR for Florida, Cynthia Anderson, and the Space Coast Council Past Regent, Lona Burnett. The monument remembers the descendants and patriots who have supported America since the Revolution in advance of America's 250th Anniversary on July 4, 2026. See the Park and Plaza report for more information and photos!

The Naval Ordnance Test Unit (NOTU) from Port Canaveral were major participants with their Color Guard, Commanding Officer CAPT Jason Schneider as keynote Speaker and their Ceremonial Submarine Deck Guns which fired off a 21 gun salute at the end of the ceremony.

Joel Etherton, President of the Brevard SAR Chapter, was master of ceremonies. More than 70 participants joined the Parade of Flags, wreath laying and photos around the new monument in the VMC Memorial Plaza in colonial era dress — quite a visual history lesson in itself.

The first Last Naval Battle Ceremony was at Port Canaveral in 2007. In 2015, when the LNB monument and Cannon Replica were moved to the VMC, the ceremony moved with it. It was even held in March of 2020, just days before the Covid 19 "Stay at Home" directives took effect.

The entire event is on line through Space Coast TV Friday Night



Photos by R. Scruggs



Locker Room Show. [Click here to view the video.](#)

Whalen, Skip Taylor, Vinnie Howard, and others all remarked it was among the best VMC ceremonies in the 7 years it has been done there, but all were disappointed the rain which likely kept many spectators away.

Senior Life Boomer Bash

Veterans Memorial Center showed our colors and all we that we do at the well-attended Senior Life Boomer Expo at the Melbourne Rialto Hotel on 17 March. The VMC table was visited by hundreds, and many took our trifolds and fliers along with numerous Memorial Brick order forms, so we hope many will visit and donate!!

VMC was represented by Kristi Blanchard and her mom, Sandra Blanchard (widow, US Air Force, Ret.) and Donn Weaver. They VMC volunteers also supported Bette Nelson at the Wreaths Across America/CCNC table next door since WAA/CCNC is a tenant organization of VMC.

Hank Rhodes, one of our librarians, stopped by and joined in the photo shoot.

It was a good event with lots of green but no green beer.



Pictured: (LtoR) Sandra Blanchard, Kristi Blanchard, Hank Rhodes and Donn Weaver



Operations Report

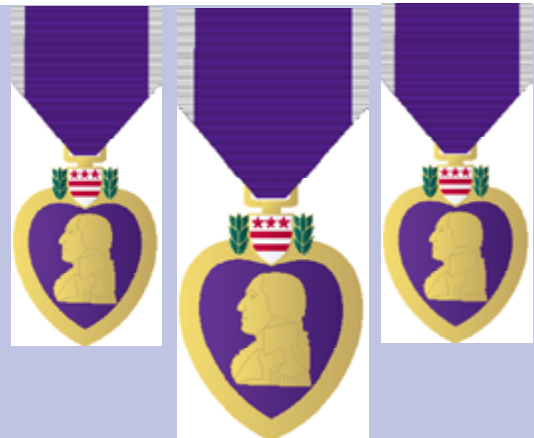
**Robert W. Doyle,
Operations Manager**

Construction is beginning on the concrete exercise pads in the park. When completed, they will become exercise stop stations when walking to stay fit. Many events are gearing up in the future and volunteers are always needed to work. Cart drivers, setup and takedown and security monitors.

We are in need of managers on duty in the front lobby area Every morning from 8am-12pm and Thursday from 12-4pm. If you have time and would like to participate in our daily activities and support our Veterans, please let me know as soon as possible.

The weather is warming up and the flying insects are again out in force. Take care to wear bug repellent when on the property, especially in the park. The family of squirrels are doing fine and appears to have grown to around 18. So if you are visiting, especially in the mornings, watch carefully as they are at their high point of activity.

On a final note: It is time to request water donations again. All tenants are asked to donate water to the facilities day to day operations.



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!



Pictured: Donn Weaver, Doug Bisset and Dan McIntyre present the major trophy to CBHS JROTC Cadet

District JROTC Championship Drill Meet at Veterans Memorial Park

On 04 March, seven Brevard Army JROTC Programs fielded teams for the District Championship at Veterans Memorial Park. Two earlier meets had more schools and cadets competing, but scores earned at previous did not allow others to attend the selective district meet.



Pictured: Getting ready for the awards

Following through on a pledge made early this school year, the Good Deeds Foundation of MOAACC provided funds for every trophy at all eight meets from September to March for the 15 JROTC High Schools competing in Raider Challenges, Air Rifle and Drill meets. The \$3400+ in funds included money for a new, GDF perpetual trophy to recognize the annual winner of the drill competition, named after MOAACC member Lloyd Stafford, a Texas A&M graduate who provided his Aggie Sabre as part of the trophy. GDF member Doug Bisset created the new trophy which was presented at the final JROTC drill meet for the 2022-23 School Year. The meet was also supported by the VMC.

Cocoa Beach Jr/Sr Army JROTC Drill Team won the GDF trophy for 2023. They, and most of the six other JROTC programs (Cocoa, Rockledge, Heritage, Viera, Astronaut and Merritt Island), placed seven separate teams that won first place in categories ranging from Color Guard to Platoon Armed Drill to individual demonstration. Those seven teams are headed for state competition in late March. Congratulations to all the 120 JROTC cadets who competed--when most of their high school classmates were at home in bed on a beautiful Saturday morning.

Of special note was the Drill Team from Cocoa Army JROTC. Three nights before the meet, one of their own, Cadet Kiara Terwilliger was killed at her home in Cocoa. The team decided to compete in her honor, and performed quite well. A moment of silence was held in memory of Ms. Terwilliger as the Cocoa team and supporters released balloons into the air.



Pictured: Jay Longway hands out the Third Place Trophy to Viera Army JROTC

Parents, cadets and instructors heartily thanked MOAACC and VMC for support at all meets held at the VMC Park this season¹. It was quite a school year for so many JROTC cadets and teams.

Did you know...?

The **Women's Army Corps (WAC)** was the women's branch of the United States Army. It was created as an auxiliary unit, the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) on 15 May 1942, and converted to an active duty status in the Army of the United States as the WAC on 1 July 1943. However, the Army actually needed women to free soldiers for combat duty overseas. So despite all rejections the Congress established the Women Army Auxiliary Corps on 14 May 1942 by Public Law (PL) No.77-544.

The law passed with a slight majority of 11 votes. The demand of a military status was too progressive to find consent. Just an auxiliary organization with the immediate strength of 25,000 women was authorized, with an ultimate strength of 150,000 when needed. Its first director was Oveta Culp Hobby, a prominent woman in Texas society. The WAC was disbanded in 1978, and all units were integrated with male units.

See our WAC displays in the museum!



Book Report

Woman in Wartime London: The Diary of Kathleen Tipper 1941-1945 Report by Raymond Norman



kid know about coupons...I had just started grade school. ... it was cold and I was alone. I was scared! Mom had to take the one gallon can and walk down th 20th street hill to a gas station to get just enough gas to ge us home...she did...we did.

So, there I was, an 8 year old kid in the back seat of an old car, scared because my Mom had just left me alone after setting the hand brake on the old jalopy. We were on a hill in Birmingham, AL.

It was late. It was dark...very dark! Black out conditions in WWII. We ran out of gas....ration coupons? What is an eight-year-old

Kathleen Tipper, the author of *Woman in Wartime London*, had similar experiences during WWII even though we were an ocean apart. (She was a little older than I.) She was in London, UK, where it was also cold, also very wet or snowy....or wet and snowy. The UK had to contend with V-1 bombs and later V-2s. The V-1s were not that bad unless you heard the motor stop, then...lookout.

Kathleen's job was volunteering with the YMCA, which she referred to as YM. Her somewhat detailed story is described in the book, truncated in several places for readability. The description of the London area geography is worth remembering if you have been there.

The author served the various military personnel from several countries and does a good job relating the events for the reader. There was a program to record your individual experiences called "Mass Observation" and Kathleen took part from 1941 until the war was over. She records the activities in fog (really bad fog), driving a lorry, etc. A quick read...editors truncated the diary well. Hope you enjoy.



Pictured: Middle school field trip visitors to the VMC.

Museum Attendance Goes Up, Average Age Down

From 21-23 March, more than 120 students from Central Middle School visited our VMC Museum and Plaza. There have been a an increasing number of school and other organization group tours as the word about our great museum spreads. Thanks to the Museum docents each day as well as Ed Pingston, Kristi Blanchard and Dean Schaaf for making sure the kids got the most out of their visit (and left with no damage.) With the VMC Park growing and more people than ever coming to the VMC, we hope to get more and more youthful tours.

On a related note, Julie Pafford, a teacher at Audubon Elementary School on Merritt Island dropped off two long banners with kids drawings and thank yous, which are hanging in the hallway outside the museum restrooms for all to see. (pictured below) She and the kids also left a \$100 donation to the VMC!!!



Veterans Store Report

Welcome spring, and Happy Easter! Our visitors are enjoying the upgrades to the museum store that include easier access with the newly installed revolving shelves. We now have retiree military t-shirts for all branches. Also, we have lots of submarines, jeeps, planes and soldiers for all the visiting grandkids. We have a complete line of Space Force goods including Challenge coins. Come and see for yourself the new improvements in the museum gift store.

Jalaine Spears
Asst Store Manager

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

Vinnys Tech Services Inc.

Computer repair and much more!

Park and Plaza Report by Donn Weaver

March was another big month for our Memorial Plaza and Park. The Plaza saw major upgrades on many old benches, repainting of another series of historical timeline in ground stone markers, 17 new brick donations and great improvement thanks to Wayne Fried in our memorial brick online log in system. We hope the latter will eventually mean visitors can enter the dedicated name for any brick and quickly confirm it exists in our plaza and exactly where it is - a far cry from hit and miss handwritten systems over the last 20 years.

The plaza was also the scene of the dedication of the first "Patriot 250" by the National Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) during the Last Naval Battle of the Revolutionary War Ceremony. See the full story on the event, but you can see pictured on the right the new marker. It is located in the plaza right near the LNB nationally recognized landmark and replica cannon.

The Veterans Memorial Park was the scene of the final JROTC event of the 2022-23 school year — the District Drill Meet as well many special events ranging from birthday parties to Crawfish Cookouts and Jeep Club's annual vehicles blessing event. On many days, especially during March Spring Break, dozens of kids and their parents can be found at the new VMP



Pictured: DAR SAR Monument.

playground, the biggest such county playground in Brevard. Major progress was made in final permitting and plans for the VMP Phase III upgrade and hopefully we'll break ground for the new Amphitheater by 01 October 2023. All that will make the VMP simply amazing when completed in 2024.

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

APRIL 7 AND 21 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.

Stepping Up: VMC Tenants Show the Meaning of Teamwork and Support

When the national convention for the Marine Corps League (MCL) was scheduled in Daytona Beach for mid-2023, our local detachment knew we would be heavily involved with welcoming Marines, Corpsmen, Chaplains, and Associates from all over the United States and abroad.

The detachment, Detachment 513, took on this task hoping to ensure these visitors to our state were properly welcomed and made to feel at home. To that end, our mission was to assemble a welcome package representing many of the exciting activities from the area. This could be an overwhelming job for a relatively small organization such as ours.

To assist us, we turned to our partners at the Veterans Memorial Center (VMC). Since we are one of the sixteen Tenant Organizations with the VMC, we were well vetted within this community.

The first entity we approached, St. Francis Reflections welcomed our request and whole-heartedly supported our project. Their outreach to the veteran community is so committed that they eagerly came to our assistance as we expressed our needs. In a very short time, we had welcome gifts of bags filled with items from all around the surrounding area. Their generosity was exceptional and made our mission an instant success at the convention.

Coupled with St. Francis Reflections, we requested assistance



Pictured: Dennis Herring presents an award to St. Francis Reflections for their much appreciated assistance in the success of the MCL national convention.

from the Melbourne Chamber of Commerce and the Brevard Achievement Center and, here too, these organizations opened their arms with assistance to our cause.

At the end of the day, we successfully walked away from what we thought would be huge task, knowing that there are great organizations in our communities that will support the veterans throughout our country with vigor, hope, and relentless effort.

Dennis Herring
Commandant
Detachment 513
Marine Corps League

Seniors Who...

Play
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.



The Patriot Report

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

The Never- Ending Scams

It's Tax time and scammers are at their peak operating time. However, it's more than your or should I say our taxes their after. The fraud watchers at AARP are warning us that a crime called "check washing" is on the rise across the country. This is how the thief uses this low-tech "check washing" procedure that almost anyone can do. The bad guy(s) steal the checks you place in the mailbox for the mailman to pick up. Then they use bleach or acetone (used as nail polish remover) they erase the payee's name and the amount of the check, leaving the signature intact. After drying, the checks are rewritten for more money and deposited or cashed at a bank, check cashing businesses that offer check-cashing services. The washed checks look perfect.

Check washing is soaring because the bad guy(s) who stole government stimulus and unemployment checks during the pandemic are now looking for new sources of income. Many people do not realize their checks have the routing number and their checking account number on them which can lead to more grief. The size of their bank account may be revealed so the bad guy(s) know how much they can withdraw.

Do not put your mail with checks in them on your mailbox for your post man to pick up! This is a bad practice! Take them to your post office and use an inside mail drop box. Use a pen with blue or black non-erasable gel ink to complete the checks. This soaks into the paper and will prove more difficult to remove. Do not let delivered mail sit in your mailbox. This is an easy crime to prevent!

Source: AARP Bulletin March 2023

More Scam News

March 9, 2023, was National Slam the Scam Day and was created to focus on raising awareness to avoid fraud and scans. I received an email the other day about confirming for a USPS package delivery. The email said there was some postage due of \$1.96 on the package. I decided to open it and see what the scam was up to. The first couple of clicks wanted my name and address. The Red Flags went up! If they had a package to deliver to me why do they need my name and address? Don't they already have

*Please be aware of scams
that are highly active
this time of year, and
use special care with any
items that have personal
information and bank
account numbers.*

it on the package? Then we got to the meat of the issue. They wanted my credit card number and information to make sure the postage due of \$1.96 on the package was paid before delivery. A big Red Flag on this one!!! Having worked for the U.S. Postal Service I knew they do not deliver "Postage Due" mail. It will always be Return to Sender (RTS, or Finger Mail as we called it because it was stamped with a finger pointing toward the return address) for insufficient postage. At this point I opted out and deleted the mail.

We have become bombarded with this type of phishing mail. Know this: when it comes to Social Security and other government agencies they will never:

- Call you unsolicited to suspend your Social Security number or tell you about crime(s) committed in your name or offer to resolve identity theft or a benefit problem in exchange for payment.
- Insist you pay fines, fees, or debts immediately with retail gift cards, pre-paid debit cards, wire transfers, internet currency, or by mailing cash.
- Insist on secrecy about a legal problem or tell you to make up stories to tell family, friends, or store employees.

The Federal Trade Commission Offers Theses Clues That Someone Has Stolen Your Information

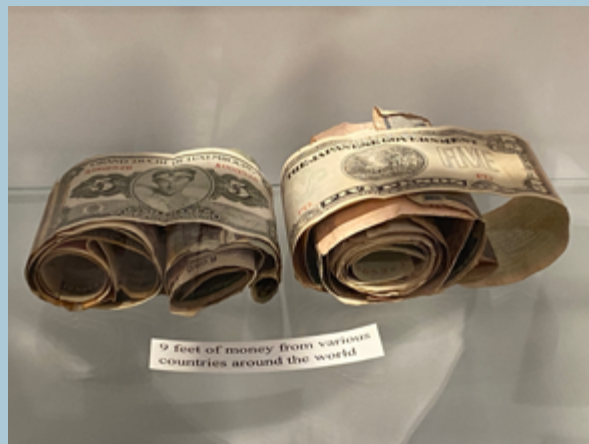
- You see withdrawals from your bank account that you can't explain.
- You don't get your bills or other mail.
- Merchants refuse your checks.

(continued on next page)

- Debt collectors call you about debts that aren't yours.
- You find unfamiliar accounts or charges on your credit report.
- Medical providers bill you for services you didn't use.
- Your health plan rejects your legitimate medical claim because the records show you've reached your benefits limit.
- A health plan won't cover you because your medical records show a condition you don't have.
- The IRS notifies you that more than one tax return was filed in your name, or that you have income from an employer you don't work for.
- You get notice that your information was compromised by a data breach at a company where you do business or have an account.

We assume no liability for the any errors or inaccuracies of the information provided.

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



There's a Story Here...

In one of our display cases there are two rolls of money made up of currencies from around the world that measure out to around 9 feet long. They once belonged to Capt Jayne Stickrod of the American Red Cross (a fascinating figure on her own!) **Stop by the VMC museum and chat with a docent to find out why these rolls are included in our military artifacts.**

Spring Bake Sale

Date: Wednesday, April 12, 2023
Time: 9:00 AM until all goodies are gone
Where: Veterans Memorial Center
 400 S Sykes Creek Pkwy, MI

All proceeds will benefit our
 Veteran and Children & Youth
 Programs

TEAM UP
for Parkinson's Disease!
5K RUN / 1K WALK

Brevard Parkinson's ALLIANCE

SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2023
VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER
 400 SOUTH SYKES CREEK PKWY, MERRITT ISLAND
8 AM RUN / 10 AM WALK

Race Amenities	Fees
• Tshirts	• 5K Adult \$30/\$35
• Awards	• 5K Child \$25/\$30
• Participant Medals	• 1K Stroll \$10/\$15 (untimed)
• Food Trucks/DJ	
• Tour the Brevard Veterans Memorial Museum and Park - FREE	

RACE MANAGEMENT BY
Running Zone

Brevard Parkinson's ALLIANCE

Melbourne Terrace
 REHABILITATION CENTER

VITAS Healthcare
 SINCE 1959

Register online at [Running Zone](https://www.runningzone.com) or secure.runningzone.com



Unofficial Brevard VMC Vets Calendar April 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/>

APRIL

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

01 Apr – Military Family Appreciation Dinner to Celebrate the Month of the Military Child and Fun Fest sponsored by AVET at Cocoa Beach Country Club 1700-2000. email: info@avet-project.org

14 Apr – Shrimp Feast at Port Canaveral by Propeller Club Great food, raffles, auction, prizes, sponsors, etc Fundraiser.

16 Apr – Tough Ruck Boston 26.2 For The Fallen. Steve Celeste a Brevard County GWOT veteran will be among 1000 doing a Tough Ruck March during the Boston Marathon to raise money for the children and families of the fallen. Donation and information through: <https://runsignup.com/steveceleste>.

21 Apr – Reggie 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.

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.

29 Apr – 2nd Annual NVHS Charity Golf Tournament. Call NVHS on 321-208-7562 for more info.

MAY

01-07 May – Florida's 35th Annual Vietnam and All Veterans Reunion at Wickham Park, Melbourne. Traveling Wall, both, food and drinks, entertainment, displays, and more. Contact VVB Quartermaster Faye Nelson for more information. Schedule, Sunday 01 May – Escort and Assemble Wall; 02

May 1500-1700 Wreath Laying and Ceremony first come first served. Register via email yvqbqartermaster@gmail.com. after 11 April; Reunion 04-08 May all day.

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, MOAACC Good Deeds Foundation and Military Recruiters. 26 May– Ride For Freedom and Torch Walk for the Fallen (1700-2000) VMC Plaza and Center with Rolling Thunder FL-1 as first events of Florida Wide Ride for Freedom.

27 May– Space Coast Harley Davidson Ride for Freedom Festival (1000-1700). Sponsored by RTFL-1.

28 May – Ride for Freedom Kicks Off VMC 0900 -1200 via plaza, mall and Gray Hall Ceremony

29 May – Memorial Day Remembrance VMC 0930-1030

29 May– Memorial Day Ceremony at the Cape Canaveral National Cemetery in Scottsmeer/Mims 0900-1000

JUNE

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

For events beyond June, 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

Fugaro, Ricardo and Joan April, 2024

Huffman, Kenneth, USN Nov, 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

.....

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) _____