



THE VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER

COUNCIL COURIER

JUNE 2023



A Publication of the Brevard Veterans Council & Veterans Memorial Center



WHAT'S INSIDE

Back Brevard Heroes Event

Giving back a day of appreciation and fun to our police and first responders in Brevard. – page 11

Honoring a Leader

A bench installed to remember a friend and leader in the Veteran community, JJ Justice. – page 15

A Successful 5k Site

The VMC is the host location for yet another successful 5k for Brevard runners and fundraisers. – page 14

In Honor of the Fallen Memorial Day at the VMC

Many events to honor our fallen soldiers are held on the Space Coast on Memorial Day; those held at the VMC were especially moving this year with many in attendance over the three day weekend.

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Photo by Robert Scruggs

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 Those submissions received after that date will not be published.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

May was an extremely busy month, especially the last two weeks with Armed Forces Day and the Memorial Day programs with the Rolling Thunder Ride for Freedom. The planning for the Armed Forces Day was especially taxing with many meetings with the Cocoa Beach Chamber of Commerce and the active-duty units. This was a major undertaking for the Chamber as we have not held an Armed Forces Day program of this magnitude in my memory. Obviously, at the time of this writing, it hasn't happened yet. However, I am certain it will be a huge success just as the Memorial Day events will be.

Thanks to all who was involved in the election cycle, especially Rich Tomasso for the slate of officers and to Dorothy Walsh for keeping us straight with the by-laws. Congratulations to the new electives and I look forward to working with each and every one of you this next year.

July 4th Parade Prep

It is time to start planning for the annual Merritt Island 4th of July parade which is again being sponsored by Sherriff Wayne Ivey. It will start at Merritt Island High School and proceed to Edgewood

High School. For those who want to proceed on to the VMC, cookout is in the planning for our facility.

Ampitheater and Park Updates

We are still waiting for notification that our request for \$1,000,000 for the Amphitheater has been signed by Governor DeSantis. It has passed the House and Senate and is on the Governor's desk. The groundbreaking is still slated for the first week in October. Fingers crossed!

The county has finished with the playground and adult exercise areas of the park. I expect to see everyone working out after their shift to get in to shape. I think that was a New Year's resolution of mine that has not been fulfilled.

Keep up the outstanding work and thanks for all the volunteer hours you are donating to the center and to veterans in general. Hope you all have a great Memorial Day weekend. I will be departing on 31 May for a trip to Indiana and Texas and hopefully will be back for the general meeting on June 14.

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



ERDMAN AUTOMOTIVE



MIKE ERDMAN

Mike Erdman



MIKE ERDMAN
TOYOTA





Council Chairman's Report

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

May was very busy, but also very productive. In addition to the many events hosted at VMC, we have seen some great progress in many areas.

Elections

First, thanks to our Nominating Committee Chaired by Rich Tomasso with Dave Boyd and Jay Longway we ended up with a nearly full slate of new officers and Board members.

The VMC and BVC Board also recommended trying to fill the Vice President and Vice Chairman positions with other than the President and Chairman being each other's Vice as was done for at least 20 years. Thanks to Jim Carlton (BVC) and Paul Julian (VMC) for stepping up to those slots. Congratulations to them and Ted Suzor who was elected as the 2023-24 BVC Chairman.

It turned out there were no contested positions so the election was held at the May General Meeting, and you can see all the details in this edition. We are still looking at Committee slots, so please use the July transition to see if you have time to volunteer for new roles next leadership year.

Other Updates

There were some other good news items in May:

- We nearly completed our numerous upgrades using the BCSO funds, the results of which can be seen all over.
- Two churches, the Boy Scouts and others stepped up to help with more landscaping and other projects.
- Our emergency relief fund helped two veterans and their families in dire straits.
- The State approved the \$1M for Amphitheater and Park Infrastructure cost increases as we await the Governor's signature; they reported groundbreaking on some aspects this summer and on the amphitheater by September.

Will leave some comments reflecting on the end of my 10 years in VMC leadership positions, with thanks to so many, until July when our new officers and Board will be sworn in. But, as Past Chair on the Board for another year, I promise to support a smooth transition.

Looking forward to many summer events, especially the BCSO/ VMC July 4th Parade and Purple Heart Ceremony on 06 August as the pace at VMC never really slows down.



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

Gold Star Sponsorship: \$10,000

Silver Star Sponsorship: \$5,000

Bronze Star Sponsorship: \$1,250

Dinner: \$100 per person

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

A VMC Memorial Day Weekend Like No Other

The VMC Memorial Day Ceremony attended by about 400 on 29 May capped an amazing weekend. The event, like all others which began on Friday, 26 May, was well covered in the media including some on TV. The Space Coast Live broadcasts are still available on the net.

The weekend began Friday morning at Erdman Motors in Cocoa when four great speakers spoke about the meaning of Memorial Day, including VMC President Dean Schaaf. All were generously presented \$2500 checks for their organizations by Erdman Motors.

That evening saw VMC host an emotional but wonderful dinner for 38 Gold Star Families. The event was sponsored by Rolling Thunder FL Chapter 1 (RT) as the kickoff for Ride for Freedom Weekend. Dorothy Walsh Pearsall and Don Pearsall planned the event with help from Rolling Thunder and American Legion 344 Aux.

Day two was postponed due to weather but saw the arrival of the moving Vietnam and Global War on Terror Wall. The wall was provided by the Patriot Guard Riders of Central Florida and was the backdrop of a moving Flame Ceremony through

continued on next page



Pictured: Rolling Thunder FL-1 Chapter at the bench dedicated to JJ Justice.



Pictured far left: VMC President Dean Schaaf

Pictured middle: Dutch motorcycle Club dedicating a wreath at the Allied Monument on Memorial Day

Pictured above: The Dutch motorcycle Club.



continued from previous page

to monuments in the Memorial Plaza to the walls. More than 150 attended that event in the evening as Golf Star families lit a candle from the flame and said aloud the name of the fallen loved one.

Sunday, 28 May was special as 600 motorcycles and riders, including twelve from Holland, roared out of the VMC/Mall parking lots as a B52H Air Force bomber flew overhead. (Those aircraft in Vietnam began the term "Rolling Thunder.")

In addition to six other events in Brevard on Memorial Day itself, the VMC ceremony was not only well attended but received many positive comments.

The Dutch riders joined 40 Rolling Thunder members to place a wreath at the Fallen Allies Memorial in the VMC Plaza before the program. Dean Schaaf and Council Chair Donn

Weaver were co-MC's as Sheriff Wayne Ivey, LTC Tim Thomas (a JROTC Instructor who lost friends in Iraq) along with Weaver offered talks.

The event concluded with the BCSO rifle honor squad presenting a 21-gun salute to the fallen and Bob Doyle, VMC Operations Manager.

It was a moving, somber yet uplifting weekend with the VMC the center of the show, including more than 1000 spectators and much media coverage seen by thousands more. It was a fitting and special Memorial Day Weekend indeed!



Pictured above: The B52 bomber flyover was a highlight of the Sunday event.



NVHS
RESCUING VETERANS
LOST IN AMERICA ©

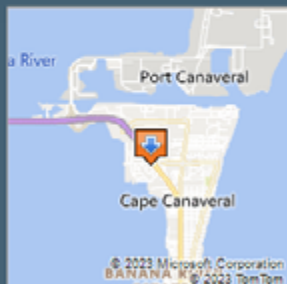
When

Friday, October 6, 2023 from 5:30 PM to 9:00 PM EDT

[Add to Calendar](#)

Where

Radisson Resort at the Port
8701 Astronaut Blvd
Cape Canaveral, FL 32920



[Driving Directions](#)

Contact

Kasey Corson
NVHS
321-208-7562
kasey@nvhs.org

8th Annual Rescuing Veterans Lost in America Dinner

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

[Register Now!](#)



Operations Report

CPL Robert W. Doyle, USMC (Fmr)

Welcome to the start of the busy season for the center. Many events are occurring over the next 8 weeks and they will fully deplete the water supply at the center. All tenant groups are requested to please donate 5 flats of water to keep our supplies on hand not only for events but for your meetings also.

Jerry Johnson is on board as the Custodian and Maintenance supervisor now. He is trying to keep up with the many things that need to be done.

The exercise area is done in the park and final cleaning is being accomplished as we speak.

If you have not renewed your yearly contact sheet with current staff please do so as soon as possible as we are ready to change the security codes and must have current information on file.

Be safe and watch the weather.



Library Notes

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

Norm Desmaries presented the first lecture in the library on the revolutionary war Battle of Saratoga on Tuesday April 26. He used the new projector to show his PowerPoint and lecture to the group that gathered to listen. There was a lively discussion that followed as the group showed an interest and knowledge of the Revolutionary War.

We will be having more lectures in this series that are scheduled in the library on the last Tuesday of each month beginning at 6:00 PM. Hank Rhodes will follow on Tuesday May 30 with The Mexican American War and Wayne Rowe on Tuesday June 27 Civil War Naval Operations. Joe Davie is planning to present Andrew Jackson and the Battle of New Orleans to the discussion group on Tuesday July 25. These lectures will present interesting views of the people and events that took place in our military history.



New Veterans History Project Interview: *Jason Bottorff*

Jason Bottorff was an Army combat veteran who served in the Gulf war and Afghanistan where he served as a 1st Lieutenant Scout Platoon Leader and patriot Missile Operator. Jason sustained service related injuries to his back as a result of his Vehicle exploding an IED while on patrol. See Jason's Video from the link Below.

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



VMC/BVC Secretary's Report

CPT Kristi Blanchard, USA (Fmr)

Nominating Committee Chairman Rich Tomasso presented the 2023-2024 Board of Director nominations at the May 10th General Membership Meeting as follows:

a. Ted Suzor – BVC Chairman
 Jim Carleton – BVC Vice-Chairman
 Dean Schaaf – VMC President
 Paul Julian – VMC Vice-President
 Kristi Blanchard – Secretary
 Dave Clayton – Treasurer
 BVC 3-year Board of Directors – Bill Pollock and one vacancy to be appointed
 VMC 3-year Board of Directors – Garett McKimmie and Harry Beaver

b. Nominations were closed by the presiding officer, BVC Chairman Donn Weaver.

c. According to the bylaws, it will not be necessary to have an election in June since all positions are uncontested.

d. The new Board of Director nominees will be installed on July 12, 2023 at the General Membership Meeting.



Pictured: 21st Merchant Marine Day celebration at Rusty's

Maritime Day at Port Canaveral

Dean Schaaf, who is the Navy League President as well as VMC President, led the Maritime Day Ceremony at Port Canaveral this year. The ceremony is held each year in late May to remember those seafarers from all maritime services who died during the year.

About 40 attended the annual ceremony and most joined in a Port cruise afterwards to throw a memorial wreath and individual flowers in the water.



Pictured: Dean Schaaf presenting as the President of the Navy League and member of the Propeller Club

Vets Back to Class

Vets back to Class finished strong this May including at Heritage High School with presentations done on 19 May by Donn Weaver and Doug Bisset. The VBC/JFI 2002-23 school year report card will be issued in June, but more than 2000 students in 17 schools were impacted, along with 13 school visits to the VMC Museum!!!





Chaplain's Corner

by Chaplain Chip Hanson
USMC (Fmr)



Often referred to as "addiction," substance use disorder (SUD) is a disease that causes people to have difficulty controlling their use of alcohol, drugs, and other substances, including opioids. Untreated, this misuse can begin to influence many aspects of life.

Substance Abuse in Veterans

Over one in ten US veterans have been diagnosed with SUD, and deployment is associated with risky behaviors and unhealthy behaviors like smoking, drinking, and drug use. After service, veterans are more susceptible to alcohol use (56%), with 7.5% heavily drinking or binge drinking. Around 30% smoke tobacco or vape. The period of readjustment and the stress of trying to reintegrate back into normal life, Substance Abuse in Veterans along with suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder and other issues due to relocation, deployment, and lack of sufficient support when returning home are all factors in veterans drug abuse statistics as well.

Management of this significant problem among our nation's military veterans varies. Among psychotherapeutic approaches, behavioral interventions for the management of SUDs typically involve short-term, cognitive-behavioral therapy interventions. These interventions focus on the identification and modification of maladaptive thoughts and behaviors associated with increased craving, use, or relapse to substances. Additionally, client-centered motivational interviewing approaches focus on increasing motivation to engage in treatment and reduce substance use. A variety of pharmacotherapies have received some support in the management of SUDs, primarily to help with the reduction of craving or withdrawal symptoms.

Once you learn to quit, it becomes a habit."
– Vince Lombardi

Proverbs 20:1 - Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.

GOD BLESS AMERICA
Chaplain Chip Hanson

Signs and Symptoms of SUD

- Increased urge to drink or to use drugs.
- Inability to stop drinking or using drugs.
- Drinking or using drugs in hazardous situations (e.g., drinking and driving).
- Change in relationships due to drinking or drug use.
- Feeling depressed or anxious about your substance use.
- Feeling sick and experiencing withdrawal symptoms when drinking or drug use stops.
- Increased tolerance, refers to the need over time for more alcohol or stronger drugs to achieve the desired effect.



ATLANTIC MUSIC CENTER

atlanticmusiccenter.com

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



Pictured: Members of the DAV visit the wall to lay wreaths.



Pictured: VMC President Dean Schaaf recovers the VMC Wreath after closing ceremonies at the Vietnam Reunion and Wall on 07 May.

Vietnam Memorial Wall At Wickham Park

The moving tribute to Vietnam War fallen soldiers was in Wickham Park May 4-7th as part of the 35th annual Florida Vietnam and All Veteran's Reunion. The 3/5 scale Wall, had many wreaths laid on it from various veteran and community organizations, including the DAV and the VMC.

The traveling wall is same as the one in Washington, D.C., but stands six feet tall and 300 feet long and is an enduring reminder of sacrifices made in the Vietnam War.



VMC LIBRARY DISCUSSION SERIES CIVIL WAR NAVAL OPERATIONS

Tuesday June 27, 2023
6:00-7:30 PM

The Library, Veterans Memorial Center
Merritt Island, FL

A multi-media presentation that will take you on a wild and colorful journey to learn about the key people, ships, and events where the Navy played a significant role in the Civil War. To be discussed: Blockade and Coastal Operations, Riverine Operations, Confederate Commerce Raiders, Technology, Submarine Warfare, and Mine Warfare.

Please Join
Sheriff Wayne Ivey & Junny
At The Annual

4TH OF JULY

10:00 AM START

PARADE ROUTE:
MERRITT ISLAND HIGH SCHOOL,
HEAD SOUTH ON COURTNEY PKWY.
AND THEN EAST ON MERRITT
AVENUE ENDING AT EDGEWOOD
JR/SR HIGH

Food Trucks at
**VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER
AFTER THE PARADE**

For More Information or To Register
www.bcsociety.org/july4th



VMC Hosts Special Back Brevard Heroes Event

After months of planning and a Car Show Fundraiser in our Park, Back Brevard Heroes (BBH) delivered a wonderful event to honor and support all First Responders and Military at the VMC on 07 May. This event had more vendors, action, and fun for the kids than the previous running with free BBQ for all. It made the front page of Florida Today and was covered live and now recorded on the web by Space Coast Daily Friday Night Locker Room. More than 100 volunteers supported the hundreds of families who came and VMC had a great work crew to set up, support and clean up the event — a 12-hour day for them.

BBH is a 501(c)3 in its 7th year of operation in our county. Their Board is led by President Sherri Centyore and VP Kimberley Tucker — great job ladies. Pictures are better than words so here is the rest of this report, which features VMC Freedom, our new Eagle mascot. Win a free visit to the museum if you can name who wore the costume last BBH!!



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www.FPHOTO.com
Flickr/v8rtv
youtube/surf4tv

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**.

In High School? Want to Become A Military Officer?

Join Us For a Seminar on the application process and hints to attend U.S. Military Academies; compete for ROTC College Scholarships and other paths to getting a commission in all military branches.

Save
The
Date

WHO: 2023-24 HS Juniors/Seniors
WHAT: 2 two hours seminars
WHEN: August 26, 2023
Either 1-3 pm or 3-5pm
WHERE: Brevard VMC (see below)
WHY: Help students and parents know the ropes.
HOW: Reps from all academies, several colleges and special Mil programs



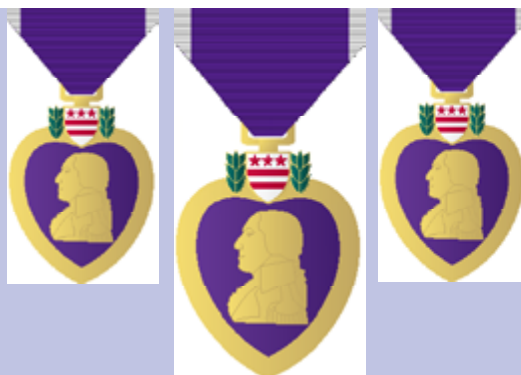
Sponsored by the Cape Canaveral Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America

VMC: Veterans Memorial Center, 400 S. Sykes Creek Pkwy, Merritt Island (behind Merritt Square Mall)



More details/time slot registration when school starts in August.

In the meantime:
Contact/ Questions:
donnweaver2020@gmail.com



ATTENTION!

If you have been awarded one of these,
DID YOU KNOW
There is a MOPH Chapter
at the Veteran Center on Merritt
Island?

Call 321-480-3669
We want to know you!

Georgianna Church Still Supporting VMC

Even after their \$10K donation to VMC last year Georgianna Church proved on 14 May they are far from done. Their M2M (Men to Men) Fellowship Group rented the Gray Hall for a breakfast meeting and then asked how they could help.

Over 90 men attending spent an hour and a half weeding and spreading dozens of bags of mulch to greatly improve the looks for our parking and plaza area. They also promised to come back again in the summer to support other projects.

BVC Chair thanked and spoke to the group about the VMC and our partnership with Georgianna Church, which is located on Merritt Island but not connected to the Georgianna Cemetery--our VMC Cemetery Support Committee works to upgrade the veterans' graves there.

Many of the members also toured the museum and bought some items in the store, while also making some donations. Thanks to Georgianna Church!!! We are proud to have you on our Plaza Wall of Honor and Support!



Pictured: M2M members help with parking and Plaza area improvements at their meeting.



Audubon Students Honor America's Fallen

Thanks to the students and staff, led by Lynn Higgins, of the Audubon School on Merritt Island for a special gift as Memorial Weekend approached. The beautiful art work was on display on the Veterans Memorial Center Museum from May 24-31 and was after hung elsewhere near the museum.

Teaching youth about veterans and the cost of freedom is a VMC Mission and we are so happy the same happens at Audubon. This past school year we at 13 major field trip visits from schools to our museum and we hope that trend will increase and more students visit with their families over the summer.



Remember D-Day: June 6th

More than 150,000 Allied troops land on the beaches of Normandy, France, as part of the largest seaborne invasion in history. Known as "D-Day," the landscape of the area still bears the scars of the battle. Looking up the coast at Pointe du Hoc and all the obstacles the Allied forces had to overcome, it is awe inspiring to imagine the bravery and tenacity these men had to possess to march to victory. And those that made the ultimate sacrifice to ensure they were able. May we never forget!



Pictured: The scene, ready to go, before the race.



Pictured: Ready, set, race!!

VMC Hosts Successful Parkinson's Awareness 5K Fundraiser

After months of planning and coordination with the Brevard Parkinson's Foundation, the Veterans Memorial Center and Park hosted their annual 5K fundraising event on 29 April. It was a great success.

The first race, the 5k, had 140 runners and the second, a 1K Walk to combat Parkinson's, had over 80 participants. Sponsors and runners helped raise over \$40K because of the event. Over 20 vendors, four food trucks and a great DJ were on the scene to help set a festive atmosphere for the well-received event.

Paul Julian ran the 5K representing VMC. We provided not only the facility, tables, chairs and the stage, but also workers to help set up and take down. It was indeed a good day in terms of weather and results as VMC continues to partner with many other organizations to hold exceptional events.



Seniors Who...

Play
Work
Learn
Travel
Laugh
Savor
Shop
Create
Share
Garden
Cook
Enjoy life...

SENIOR SCENE

We Have Arrived!
Senior Scene Celebrates
its Newest Issue
On The Space Coast...
Hail It!

INSIDE:
Linda Watery
On Duty
Norman Winter
Guides Watery
Elections
Celebrating
Centennial Photos
Meet
Health Articles
Hobbies
Events
Dr. Ernest
Dr. Ernest
Space Coast History

**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.



Honoring a Leader

Several months ago, a stalwart in the Brevard veteran community and combat veteran of Vietnam, SFC JJ Justice, USA, Ret., died unexpectedly. One of his many accomplishments was serving for many years as President of Rolling Thunder FL Chapter 1 which he helped grow from around 30 to over 100 members. For JJ, RTHFL-1 was family. He left behind his widow Dreama and a great family to carry on his legacy.

The RTFL-1 Chapter, home based at the Veterans Memorial Center, decided immediately to make sure JJ would not be forgotten. Among their actions was a memorial brick in the VMC Plaza and purchasing a Memorial Park Bench Honoring him. The bench came in record time and will be installed later in a permeant place chosen by Dreama and RTFL-1, now led by President Lance Armstrong.



The bench was unveiled at the 21 May RTFL-1 meeting and for now sits just outside the main entrance of the VMC where JJ frequently visited for Board Meetings, RTFL-1 meetings, special events and more. Rest in honored peace and know you are remembered, soldier!!

Book Report

The Long Arm of America by Martin Caidin, Catalog # JMA-017 Report by Raymond Norman



The Long Arm of America is something of a historical review of the creation of the famed Lockheed C-130. The 130 was the "go to" short takeoff and landing Air Force carrier that hauled everything troops and equipment. It wasand still is... as historical as the DC-3 "Gooney" bird of WWII fame. The 130's first flight was in

1954. Since that time the C-130 became the fifth aircraft to mark 60 years of continuous service with its original primary customer - the US Air Force. The 130 is now being produced as the Lockheed Martin C-130 Super Hercules. A historical development from the WWII Chase XCG-20 Avitrucc designed as a cargo glider in 1947 has proceeded to the Boeing C097 Stratofreighter which has rear ramps for

vehicle drive on. The range for the plane was 1270 miles and could and still does operate from short unprepared strips and snow paths in the Arctic and Antarctic.

The 141 however, is still going strong and some of the readers will have been crew or passenger on this aircraft which was manufactured in Georgia...just north of Atlanta in Marietta. Combining the jet engine with propellers was a new deal when the plane was developed...a boxy odd-looking creature. It became the master of the short takeoff and landings in rough terrain. A quick Google search indicates that the majority of the whole world nations have used the plane in their military, rescue and commercial air activity. The book is an older version of Caidin's work and worn a bit but the data, even the black and white photos and drawings are descriptive. This book is a welcome background for aviation historians. Please note that a short review for the Courier does not do the aircraft justice and a Google search will lead you to some outstanding narratives including a Carrier landing.... if you can believe that!!

Park and Plaza Report

by Donn Weaver

Several major reports and some upgrades were completed in the Plaza during May along with more than 15 memorial brick orders and the approval of the Cement Bench to be dedicated in July by the National Sons of the American Revolution Delegation visiting VMC during their annual conference in Orlando.

Landscaping and other maintenance work by our team as well as churches and other organizational partners that provide fantastic support continues to keep our facility looking as best many have seen it in several years, despite the growing number of events every week.

Check out the Chairman's message on page 3 for good news about the Park!



Pictured: Thanks to the efforts of our team and many volunteers, our Plaza is looking better than ever!

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



PROUDLY PRESENTED
BY THE VMC

FRIDAY NIGHT Dances

JUNE 2 AND 16 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.



Erdman's Generous Memorial Day Commemoration

For the 7th year, Mike Erdman hosted veteran organizations at his Toyota Cocoa dealership to commemorate Memorial Day on 26 May. VMC President Dean Schaaf gave a great presentation along with Lance Armstrong (RTFL-1), Don Pearsall (Veteran Connections) and LTC Joe Pavone, USA (Cocoa HS JROTC Instructor). Erdman Motors then presented \$2500 grants to all four organizations!!



Pictured: Veterans Honored at Mike Erdman



Military and Families Appreciation Day

VMC hosted Military and Families Appreciation Day on 20 May. More than 250 came to support the active duty members and families who came along with the general public. Media releases are coming later but here the Patrick Civil Air Patrol Squadron presenting the colors and the nine high school seniors in front were thereafter sworn in to join the active duty US Army this summer.

Later that evening, those attending heard Rocky Lynn, an Army veteran and CW singer offer some great musing in the Park. In the photo to the left, he and some guests are honoring Vietnam War veterans.

Gold Star Mom's Paintings Displayed at Florida's Capitol and Porcher House

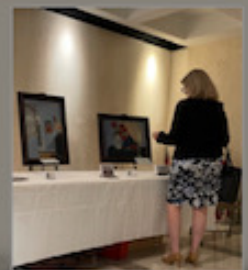
From 26-28 April all 21 of the original oil paintings created by Gold Star Mother and artist, Jeanne Weaver were seen by hundreds on the third floor Rotunda of our State Capitol Building in Tallahassee. Sen Debbie Mayfield and her staff arranged the showing to coincide with them final full week of nigh Florida Legislative session in the spirit of the upcoming Memorial Day weekend.

The series, called Losing Todd: A Mother's Journey, were created over a year long period after 1LT Todd William Weaver, US Army was Killed in Action in Afghanistan on 09 Sep 2010. Later the College of William and Mary in Virginia , Todd's Alma Mater, created a book with the same title with articles from many, including former Secretary of Defense Robert Gates.

The paintings have been shown in the Brevard area and in Virginia and Wash DC previously. They also were on display 24-31 May at the Porcher House in Cocoa Village near the Riverfront Park over Memorial Day Weekend.

Jeanne is a member of MOAACC's authors group and her books are available through her or at the VMC Sales store.

She hopes her paintings inspire rather than sadden viewers since it was her way to work through unimaginable grief to create a lasting legacy about her son, but also to help others who have experienced loss and to remind Americans of the personal cost of freedom.



VMC Educational Scholarship Program Applications Open



Every year, the VMC is thrilled to support our local students in achieving higher education goals. Throughout the year many factions of the VMC raise money through events so that we may award six to eight \$1000 scholarships to help defray the costs of tuition, books or room and board.

To be eligible for a scholarship, you or a member of your immediate family must be or have been an active duty member of the U.S. Armed Forces or Merchant Marines

and will be listed as your sponsor. Additionally, you or your sponsor must be a Brevard County, Florida resident or former resident.

Download your scholarship application on the VMC website: <https://veteransmemorialcenter.org/scholarships/>

Submissions are due no later than 1 o'clock on June 30, 2023.



ARMY OCS Graduate?

The U.S. Army Officers Candidate Schools Alumni Association is looking for OCS graduates to join its Space/Treasure Coast Chapter (STCC).

Our goals are to help preserve the OCS legacy of service and sacrifice, increase Army leadership's appreciation of the OCS program's crucial role in developing future leaders, assist local veterans in need, and provide opportunities to enjoy the camaraderie and friendship of fellow OCS graduates.

STCC is open to all Army OCS graduates - Active, Reserve, National Guard. We hail from many walks of life

but share the common experience of OCS, no matter which OCS we attended or when we graduated. We were founded in June 2021 and presently have over 30 members, five of whom are OCS Hall of Fame inductees. We especially welcome veterans of the Desert Storm, Iraq, and Afghanistan conflicts and the Global War on Terror

We hold three general meetings per year, plus informal social gatherings. Our area of operation includes Volusia, Brevard, Orange, Indian River, St. Lucie, Martin and Palm Beach Counties. Interested or need more information? Visit our website: ocsalumnispacoast.com or contact Rob McCall at (305) 923-9057 or Donn Weaver at (757) 871-6576.





The Patriot Report

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

*Contact the DAV for
assistance in filing claims,
reviewing information or
for questions regarding
the PACT Act.*

What is a Medicare Flex Card?

Even though it is called a Medicare Flex Card, this prepaid debit card is issued by Medicare Advantage plans, not the U.S. government. It's offered through some, not all, private Medicare Advantage plans to help pay for specific expenses, such as over-the-counter (OTC) medications, a grocery allowance for healthy food purchases, and copayments for dental, hearing and vision care.

The stand-alone card is different than your Medicare card or health insurance card from Medicare Advantage, Medigap or another health plan.

What Can I Use a Medicare Flex Card for?

While their use varies by Medicare Advantage plan, flex cards typically contain quarterly or annual allowances for OTC medications, drugstore items, healthy food, meal delivery, transportation, and other extra benefits. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, 87 percent of Medicare Advantage plans cover OTC drugs and 71 percent provide a meal benefit in 2023.

Almost all Medicare Advantage plans provide some coverage for dental, hearing and vision care, while some plans use flex cards to cover copayments or certain eligible expenses with an annual dollar limit, such as \$225 for eyeglasses and contact lenses.

How Does a Medicare Flex Card Work?

Like prepaid debit cards, flex cards are loaded with a predetermined amount to cover expenses within a specified time. But they also come with rules on what the money can be used for. You may be able to use your flex card for OTC medications at certain pharmacies, for eyeglasses and contact lenses at select optical centers, or for copays with in-network dentists. Find out from your plan about requirements for using the card. If you receive a quarterly allowance for OTC medicine and other drugstore items, say, \$50 a quarter, scan the flex card at checkout; the money will automatically be applied to eligible items. Some flex cards work with online purchases too.

Some Medicare Advantage plans offer flex cards only to certain members, such as those with chronic conditions. In 2020, Medicare Advantage plans began offering chronically ill patients special supplemental benefits that aren't directly tied to medicine, such as food and produce, meal delivery and nonmedical transportation. But you need to qualify for these benefits. They're not available to all members.

Keep in mind...

The flex card is one of many benefits to consider when deciding between original Medicare and Medicare Advantage. When choosing a Medicare Advantage plan, compare how the plan covers your regular medical expenses and medications, as well as its coverage for major medical issues. And find out whether the plan's provider network covers the doctors and hospitals you want to use.

Beware of flex card scams if someone claims to be from Medicare offering one of these cards. It could be an ID thief trying to steal your personal information.

Source: AARP MEDICARE QUESTION AND ANSWER TOOL

Veterans in Suicidal Crisis Can Go to Any VA or Non-VA Health Care Facility for Free Emergency Health Care

WASHINGTON – Starting Jan. 17, Veterans in acute suicidal crisis will be able to go to any VA or non-VA health care facility for emergency health care at no

(continued on next page)

*Preventing Veteran suicide is
VA's top clinical priority and
a top priority of the current
Administration.*

cost – including inpatient or crisis residential care for up to 30 days and outpatient care for up to 90 days. Veterans do not need to be enrolled in the VA system to use this benefit.

This expansion of care will help prevent Veteran suicide by guaranteeing no cost, world-class care to Veterans in times of crisis. It will also increase access to acute suicide care for up to 9 million Veterans who are not currently enrolled in VA.

Preventing Veteran suicide is VA's top clinical priority and a top priority of the Biden-Harris Administration. This effort is a key part of VA's 10-year National Strategy for Preventing Veteran Suicide and the Biden-Harris administration's plan for Reducing Military and Veteran Suicide. In September, VA released the 2022 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report, which showed that Veteran suicides decreased in 2020 for the second year in a row, and that fewer Veterans died by suicide in 2020 than in any year since 2006.

"Veterans in suicidal crisis can now receive the free, world-class emergency health care they deserve – no matter where they need it, when they need it, or whether they're enrolled in VA care," said VA Secretary for Veterans Affairs Denis McDonough. "This expansion of care will save Veterans' lives, and there's nothing more important than that."

Protecting Your PACT Act Benefits

Have you seen television commercials, social media posts, or other advertisements from companies telling you to "act now" to claim your Camp Lejeune or PACT Act benefits? Are you wondering if you're eligible for the new presumptive benefits and need their legal representation? Here's the information you need to know to protect yourself from predatory third-party companies.

How to safely file for and claim your PACT Act Benefits
VA wants you to know there are some predatory companies, not recognized by VA, that are targeting you by offering to assist you with your VA benefit claim. These companies charge absurd fees or require you to pay a portion of your VA benefits. VA will never charge you to apply for the benefits you may be entitled to. If you think you're entitled to benefits, please review the following preventive measures to help guard against

fraud and scams.

- Apply directly to VA. If you plan to file a claim, you may submit your claim in person at any regional office or online. VA will help you gather the evidence you need to support your claim. There are no costs or hidden fees to file a claim for benefits.
- Be cautious of media advertisements from companies who provide information about the recent changes in law for toxic-exposure benefit claims and suggest Veterans can only obtain VA benefits with their help. These companies may not be recognized by the VA and may be trying to charge Veterans illegal fees. Use the VA Office of General Counsel (OGC) Accreditation Search to confirm and validate the credentials of anyone offering claims assistance.
- Do not sign a contract agreeing to pay an unauthorized company a fee to help you with your VA claim. There are accredited Veterans Service Organizations, agents and attorneys who may assist you.
- Only VA-accredited agents and attorneys may charge Veterans for assistance on their VA claim, and only when they provide assistance in connection with a proceeding after VA has made an initial decision on a Veteran's claim. No individual or organization may charge a claimant a fee for filing an initial VA claim.
- Be cautious of companies claiming to be contacting you on behalf of VA. Contact VA directly at 1-800-827-1000 if you are unsure about the authenticity of a message you've received.
- Review all documents thoroughly. Never sign a blank form for someone else to complete later. They should always review the completed form before signing and retain a copy of the completed form for their records.

Helpful resources and tools

Veterans and survivors who think they might be eligible should apply for PACT Act benefits right now. Go to www.va.gov/PACT or call 1-800-MYVA411 for more information. If you are ever uncertain about a contact or believe you or someone you know is a victim of VA benefits scams, please contact the VA Office of Inspector General at (OIG) Hotline (va.gov).

If you suspect a company is using predatory practices, file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission and the Better Business Bureau. For more information on how to avoid scams, go to <https://www.fcc.gov/veterans-targeted-benefits-scams>.

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



Healing the Wounded Heart

June 5, 7, 9, 12, 14, 16
1:00 – 3:00 pm

Redeemer Lutheran Church
560 South Tropical Trail
Merritt Island

To register or to learn more, call:
Jamie Pritchett 321-961-8763
David Rosenbaum 321-961-1708

The term “wounded veteran” calls up images of combat casualties lying in a hospital bed, hobbling on crutches, or learning to overcome a disability.

Wounds that cannot be seen are unlikely to draw empathy. Yet a veteran who appears physically whole may be hiding a heart and a soul that have been shattered

Heart wounds can result in disabilities that cripple relationships and crush the capacity for joy. Trauma—how one reacts to events that cause intense fear, helplessness, or horror—may confuse one’s confidence about how to function in society.

“Healing the Wounded Heart” is one way to address trauma. A small group (up to 12) meets for six sessions to learn about the nature of heart wounds, grief, loss, and forgiveness. It is a place to unload burdens long carried in silence, guilt, and shame.

Trained facilitators lead the class, but the healing comes from interaction between participants. The Bible is a key resource, but you need not be a Christian to benefit. The need for confidentiality is stressed.

There is no fee, but a freewill offering will be received at the end of the class, when you have been able to judge how much value you have received from the program.

The six sessions follow in quick succession to improve retention of the material. If the times and dates below don’t work for you, tell us what works better for future classes. Class size is limited to 12, so register early.

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.



Unofficial Brevard VMC Vets Calendar May 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/upcoming-veterans-events/>

JUNE

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

12 June— Women Veterans Recognition Day : Celebrate Our Women Veteran Heroes at a Luncheon with vendors, sponsors and swag. At the Brevard Zoo 1130-1300 . Contact AVET Kim Cone at info@avet-project.org. to register and for more information.

14 Jun — VMC General Meeting VMC Gray Hall 0930

24 Jun — Military Appreciation Night at Space Coast Stadium in Viera during USSSA Pride Professional Women's Fast Pitch Softball Game. Honoring Active Duty and Veterans. Dedication of Permanent POW/MIA installed seat behind home plate featuring Rolling Thunder FL-1.

JULY

04 Jul — Annual BCSO/VMC Independence Day Parade — Details in May. AVET BBQ for Vets planned after the Parade at VMC.

12 Jul — General Meeting, Volunteer Awards and Installation of New Officers, VMC Gray Hall and Library 0930

AUGUST

06 Aug — Purple Heart Remembrance Day by MOPH Brevard at the VMC Gray Hall and Plaza 1400-1600. Details in June.

26 Aug - Military Academy/ROTC Seminar for High School Juniors/Seniors, VMC Gray Hall, 1-3pm or 3-5pm. contact Donn Weaver at donnweaver2020@gmail.com for details.

SEPTEMBER

11 Sep — Patriot Day 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony at VMC 1630-1900. Details in July.

OCTOBER

26 Oct— BCSO Shredder Event — VM PARK — 0900-1030.

NOVEMBER

11 Nov — SFR Veterans Day 5K VM PARK and Center — 0600-1000

11 Nov — VMC Veterans Day Ceremony Plaza, Center, Gray Hall with lunch courtesy of Chick Fil a on Route 520 — 1030—1230

12 Nov — Sixth Annual NVHS Homestretch 5K for Homeless Veterans. Details in August. Call NVHS 321-208-7562 for more info.

DECEMBER

16 Dec — Wreaths Across America at the VA Cape Canaveral National Cemetery in Mims and other veteran cemeteries in the area. Details in September.

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





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



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Space Coast Honor Flight May, 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) _____